

# Warming winter cocktails

BY ROBERT COOK

**N**ow that the holidays are behind us, winter fun in Vermont is just beginning! The Green Mountain State has so much to offer for everyone from skiers and snowmobilers to those who just want to get outdoors and chase away the winter blabs.

Here are some fun things to do this winter and some great winter cocktails to warm you up when you come off the trail or slopes, to make any Vermont winter getaway even more enjoyable.



## Fat Biking in the Snow

Thanks to fat bikes, mountain-biking enthusiasts no longer have to put away their two-wheelers come fall. Kingdom Trails in East Burke offers 31-plus miles of snowmobile groomed trails to make for a great deal of fat biking through the Vermont woods. Hot cider and bourbon is a great choice to warm up after conquering these Northeast Kingdom trail networks.

### Hot Spiced Cider with Maple Bourbon ►

This spirit combines the tasty ingredients of cider, nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon, heating them up with maple bourbon whiskey.

2 cups apple cider

¼ teaspoon whole cloves

⅛ teaspoon ground nutmeg

1 cinnamon stick

2½ ounces Maple Bourbon Whiskey

Add everything but the bourbon to a saucepan and let it come to a boil. Simmer uncovered for 10 minutes. Strain the cider through a sieve to remove the spices. Add the bourbon and stir.



## Glow Tubing Anyone?

Snowtubing is a must for those who want to experience the thrill of coasting down a snow-covered hill. But how cool would that be if you could do it at night and tube past a dazzling array of LED lights? At Smugglers' Notch, glow tubing is offered at Sir Henry Hill. After making several runs, a hot spirit is certainly in order back at the lodge.

### ◀ Maple Rum Irish Coffee

A Maple Rum Irish Coffee that uses Vermont maple rum instead of traditional Irish Whiskey to go with a tablespoon of maple syrup is sweet, toasty and provides some caffeine, so you can enjoy more of your winter evening.

1 cup hot coffee

1½ ounces Maple Rum

1 tbsp. maple syrup

Heavy cream, slightly whipped

Brew your favorite coffee, the bolder the better.

Add rum, coffee and syrup to a cup.

Top with about an inch of whipped cream.

## Outdoor Swimming and Hot Tubs Galore!

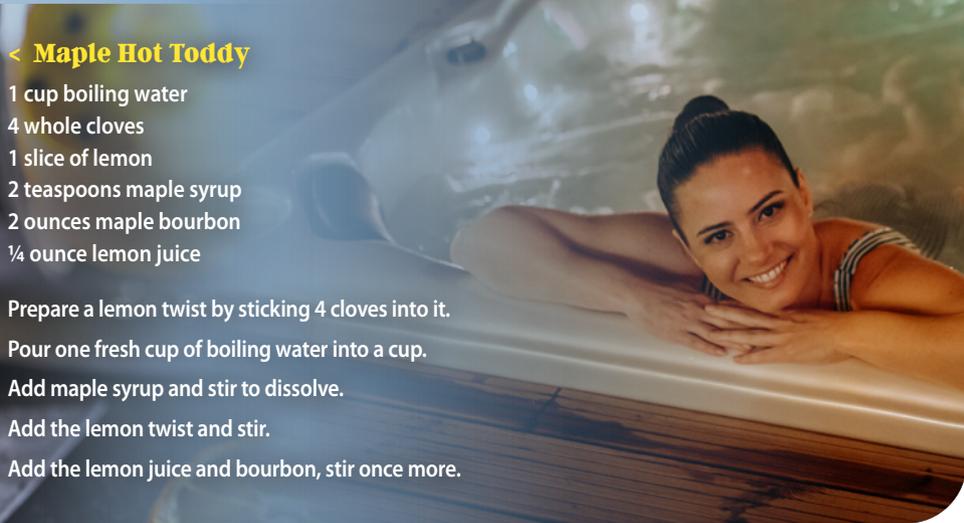
Many of Vermont's hotels and inns sport outdoor heated pools and hot tubs that allow their guests to go for a swim or enjoy a relaxing moment as they enjoy winter in Vermont beneath clear, starlit skies. Only the frigid Vermont air can interrupt this warm oasis after a soak. A maple hot toddy will counteract any sudden chill you may experience.



### < Maple Hot Toddy

- 1 cup boiling water
- 4 whole cloves
- 1 slice of lemon
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup
- 2 ounces maple bourbon
- ¼ ounce lemon juice

Prepare a lemon twist by sticking 4 cloves into it.  
Pour one fresh cup of boiling water into a cup.  
Add maple syrup and stir to dissolve.  
Add the lemon twist and stir.  
Add the lemon juice and bourbon, stir once more.



## Dog Sledding Is for Everyone

Meanwhile, up in Hinesburg, October Siberian Sled Dog Adventures is waiting to take you out for a two-hour tour with your own sled dog team so you can experience another side of Vermont winter that only professional mushers get to see. After experiencing this "Call of the Wild," you deserve to enjoy a unique cocktail to toast the sport that author Jack London made famous.

### Salty Sled Dog >

- 4 ounces fresh-squeezed grapefruit juice
- 2 ounces gin
- 1 tsp. birch syrup (you can replace with simple syrup)
- Pink Himalayan or sea salt for rim

Cut a wedge from your grapefruit and run it along the edge of a martini glass. Dip glass in sea salt. Fill a cocktail shaker halfway with ice and add grapefruit juice, gin and birch syrup. Shake well. Strain into prepared martini glass.



Photo courtesy  
[www.articgardenstudio.com](http://www.articgardenstudio.com)



## Let's Go on an Old-Fashioned Sleigh Ride

Few things bring people closer to a traditional Vermont winter experience than going on a sleigh ride through the woods. At Adams Family Farms, they have been taking families and couples for sleigh rides with their team of Belgian

draft horses for nearly 40 years. Sleigh rides take place in Little River State Park in Waterbury. The Vermont Sleigh Ride Cocktail is not included with this dashing-through-the-snow jaunt, but it is a must to complement an unforgettable outing.



### < Vermont Sleigh Ride Cocktail

7 cups whole milk  
½ cup maple syrup  
1 whole clove  
1 cinnamon stick  
1 bay leaf  
1 pinch nutmeg  
1 pinch ground ginger  
6 ounces rye whiskey  
Maple syrup and raw sugar, for garnish

In a pot, heat the milk, maple syrup, clove, cinnamon stick, bay leaf, nutmeg, ginger and rye until steamy but not boiling.

Pour into mugs, garnish with maple syrup and raw sugar, and serve warm.

## Vermont's Largest Ice Skating Rink

Ice skating is a great option for those who love to glide on man-made rinks. But, if you want to be immersed in the beauty of Vermont, try skating on Lake Morey in Fairlee. The 4.3-mile loop is one of the longest skate trails in the United States and yields panoramic views of winter. There is only one après ice skating cocktail for hearty skaters.



### Hot Chocolate with Peppermint Schnapps >

1 cup of milk  
2 scoops organic hot chocolate  
1½ ounces peppermint schnapps

Add milk and cocoa powder to a saucepan and heat until just under a boil.

Pour cocoa into your favorite mug or Hydro Flask and add the schnapps.

