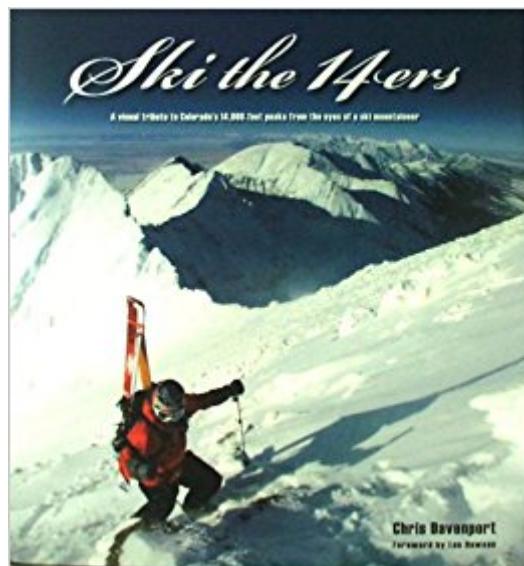


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## Ski The 14ers



## Synopsis

Ski The 14ers tells the story of Chris Davenport's epic adventure through stunning photography and first hand trip reports of Colorado's most spectacular mountains and ranges. Between January 22, 2006 and January 19, 2007, Aspen's Chris Davenport completed a remarkable journey. He skied all 54 of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks within one year. To successfully ski the 14ers one must have a combination of big mountain skills including accurate avalanche forecasting ability, careful route selection and inexhaustible tenacity. To accomplish the goal, Davenport and his companions faced every condition from water ice to powder, from bluebird days to subzero temperatures and intense winds. He climbed over 200,000 vertical feet during his ascents and often the very difficult routes had minimal snow cover. The true scope of this accomplishment is known by only a handful of experienced alpinists and skiers. Colorado ski alpinist Lou Dawson was the first to climb and ski all 54 peaks, which took him 13 years to accomplish. Others have attempted to ski all the 14ers and have come close. This book is an extraordinary photo exposé of all the 14ers in winter. The trip reports gives the reader a window to this rare accomplishment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ski The 14ers is a big bold audacious coffee table book, 12½" x 13 inches, 144 pages, with over 200 color photos. Yep, this book is about images. Sure, I'm indeed honored by Davenport including a foreword I penned, and each peak has text written by Dav that runs the gamut from straight reporting to soulful insight. But wow, the photos are fantastic! For example, ever wondered what the Landry Route on Pyramid Peak really looks like (especially after trying to check it out using the tiny black and white photo in my old 14er guidebook)? Just flip to page 73 and there she be, glory,

thanks to photog and Dav trip partner Neal Beidleman. And with Pyramid it's not only about the photo, but also the historic second descent of the Landry Route 28 years after the first. Ditto for Capitol Peak, which Davenport and Beidleman skied a new and super tough line on. The book is organized with a chapter for each range along with a section for each peak. One thing that struck me is the excellent combination of downhill ski images, climbing shots and lifestyle vignettes. Book designer Art Burrows took a risk by not packing this pub with cliche ski porn, but it works. I love climbing, many of you blog readers love climbing, so why not show more photos of how we spend most of our days in the mountains? I guess in some cases publishers such as movie makers just can't do that, probably because many so called big mountain skiers wimp out and spend their careers riding helicopters. --wildsnow.com

Chris Davenport, of Aspen, Colorado, is considered one of the world's most accomplished big mountain skiers. A former alpine downhill racer, Chris first made his mark in the skiing community when he won the 1996 World Extreme Skiing Championships in Valdez, Alaska. In 2000, he managed to land on the podium in each Freeskiing World Tour event he participated in, and concluded the season by winning his second World Championship at the 2000 Red Bull Snow Thrill of Alaska. Chris has also been honored five years in a row by Powder Magazine with its Reader's Poll Award. In addition to his competitive prowess, Chris has been featured in over twenty feature ski films, including those from Warren Miller Entertainment and Matchstick Productions, and is also a reporter and color commentator for ESPN and ABC Sports. His writing has been published in many outdoor magazines, from Powder to Men's Journal. He is an avid climber and mountaineer, with ascents of summits around the globe under his belt, and now guides clients on exotic ski trips. When not traveling around the world, Chris recreates around Aspen and Snowmass with his wife Jennifer and his sons Stian and Topher.

There is a serious problem with this book. As soon as I opened it and started to read it, I instantly wanted to leave my living room and move to Colorado. You've been warned. Read the book and you'll be looking for flights or thinking about renting a moving van. The book is seriously real and seriously enticing. *Ski the 14ers* is a totally different version of the typical Colorado coffee table book, not that there's anything wrong with the typical Colorado coffee table book. First, *Ski the 14ers* is all about winter. Second, it's about an adventure, specifically Chris Davenport's quest to climb then ski all of Colorado's mighty 14ers. Some are relatively easy but most require what amounts to skiing down the side of a skyscraper. The photos accurately capture the risk involved. The photography,

layout, design, and writing are strong. The book works on many levels. First for the skier or ski mountaineer. Second, for the armchair skier or ski mountaineer. Third, for the adventurer. Fourth for the lover of all things mountain-ish. Fifth, for those who want to see what the 14ers look like in mid-winter, often from the top. But what I liked the most about the book is that it's about one guy who decided to try something really adventurous right in his backyard. The world needs more of this and simply following the quest was, and is, fun and inspirational, although the photos of skiing down Pyramid Peak inspire me NOT to do that! Ditto Capitol Peak and many of the other mountains! If you like skiing, then you'll love the book. It also makes a great gift. Once again, be warned. Read this book and you'll be booking a trip to Colorado very soon.

I've been following Chris Davenport's progress on his website and really looked forward to this book. I was expecting more dialog about the routes and descents. I expected more and better pictures than the website. Especially disturbing was this book is a coffee table type book, yet many of the full page pictures are distorted and pixelated. Why? Like they took a poor digital picture and made it worse.

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