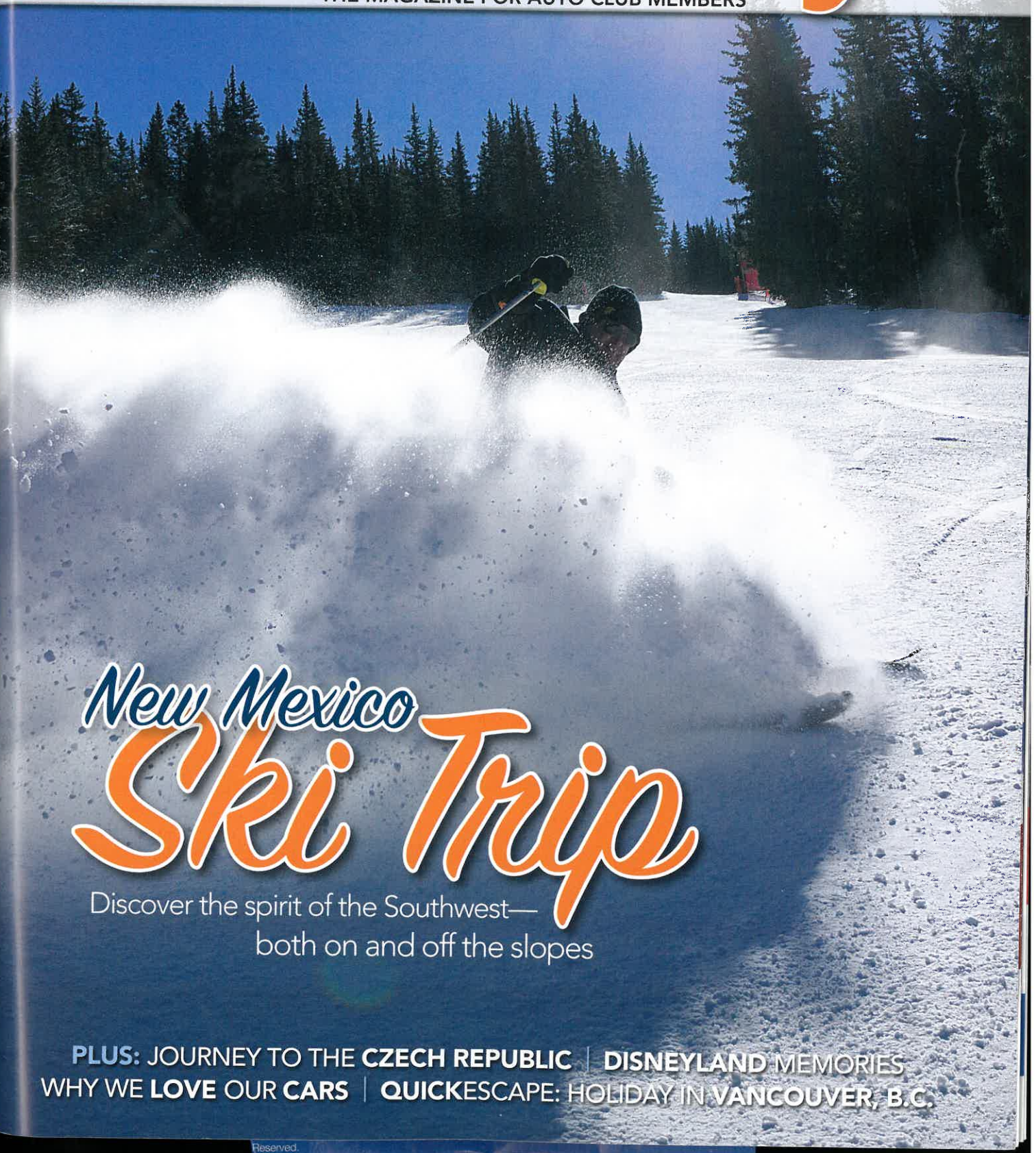




NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

Westways

THE MAGAZINE FOR AUTO CLUB MEMBERS



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Moby

BY NICK RUFCA

Richard Melville Hall, 50, better known to millions of fans around the world as the artist Moby, has had a long and successful career in electronic music. After breaking through the mainstream with his hugely popular album *Play*, Moby has not slowed down, consistently releasing new music, scoring hit songs, and touring the world. Born and raised on the East Coast, Moby now calls L.A. home. A devoted animal-rights activist, he recently oversaw the opening of his Silver Lake vegan restaurant, Little Pine (2870 Rowena Avenue, Los Angeles; littlepinerestaurant.com).

A lot of your music inspires relaxation. How do you find solitude in a huge, busy city like L.A.? One of the things I do love about L.A. is the availability of nature. Whether that's Griffith Park or someone's backyard in Silver Lake, being able to see green trees and plants 365 days of the year is where I find a lot of my peace.


What do you say to those who are considering a vegan lifestyle, but find it a challenging diet to take on? It's funny how many things we eat that are already vegan. There's also an irony in the fact that a lot of what makes animal products taste so good is the vegan stuff. Imagine a hamburger that didn't have ketchup, a bun, pickles, and lettuce. The things that make a hamburger good are actually the non-hamburger things. Vegan food is much more ubiquitous than we realize.

What is a common misconception that people have about veganism that you don't find to be true? That vegans are weak and

frail. To that, I just need to say that Venus Williams went vegan years ago. Mike Tyson is a vegan. There are so many vegan athletes, and many are vegans specifically for performance reasons.

Do you have a favorite vegan place to visit in L.A.? There's a really interesting vegan cheese shop called Vromage in West Hollywood. My current favorite dessert is the vegan ice cream from KindKreme, which is available at [the vegan eatery] Sage. There are so many great organic juice places, health food stores, and vegan and vegetarian restaurants in this city that I could go on and on.

Do you find there to be similarities between chefs and musicians? If you're a chef and you make food that doesn't make people happy, you'll be unemployed. If you're a musician and you make music that people don't love, you'll be unemployed. That may not be what most chefs and musicians wake up thinking, but ultimately that's the criteria that's applied to their work. **W**

 For more Q&A with Moby, visit AAA.com/conversations.



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