

A recipe for **overindulgence**: Take one 330-foot cruise ship, add 72 skiers and several tons of ski gear. Send ship across planet's most notoriously violent stretch of water to Antarctic Peninsula. Pour contents liberally over ice. Observe ensuing mania.

ANTARCTICA

BY SAM BASS | PHOTOS BY KEOKI FLAGG



Kipp Garre, John Morrison and Andrew McLean, wondering how penguins stay so fat.

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EVER HAD A GROCERY-STORE BIRTHDAY CAKE? The kind that seems to have more icing than cake? The kind that's responsible for so many kids' parties ending in tantrums, stomachaches and cocktails for the parents? Antarctica is that writ large, except the too-sweet goo is eons-old ice topped with a smear of snow. Ice covers everything. Where advancing glaciers spill off escarpments, ice cliffs hundreds of feet thick reduce any rock beneath to visual insignificance. Ice spills into the coastal waters in giant pale-neon bergs. And on the Antarctic Peninsula—that talon of rock and ice jutting north toward South America's tip—it drapes the jagged topography with thousands of square miles of the kind of ski terrain that makes otherwise reasonable adults froth at the mouth.



Penguin guano is tough to wax for

MCLEAN, GARRE AND MORRISON weren't the only skiers headed to the White Continent. They had 69 skiing shipmates. Filling a ship with skiers was the brainchild of Tahoe skier and international ski guide Doug Stoup, founder of Ice Axe Expeditions (for more on Stoup, turn to page 66). The *Clipper Adventurer* and its sister ships—all built in the '70s in Yugoslavia—typically take penguin- and-iceberg sightseers to Antarctica; Stoup's trip was the first large-scale ski assault on Antarctica. Word of his plan passed among his friends and clients until nearly every berth had been booked by Tahoe skiers. As Morrison—a Squawillywood taxpayer himself—put it, "It was like going on a school field trip."



Sure, winter is cold (like minus 129 degrees cold). But the summer corn sure is sweet. Morrison gets a taste.