

News Release
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Liz Witte
970-385-2131
lwitte@durangomountain.com

Iron Horse and Durango Mountain Resort Team Up to create the Quarter Horse to Purgatory

A new bicycle race added to the Iron Horse Weekend!

Durango, CO – The Iron Horse Bicycle Classic and Durango Mountain Resort have teamed up to offer, starting in May 2009, a new bicycle tour, the **Quarter Horse to Purgatory**. This race will be added to the schedule of bicycle races and festivities held annually during Memorial Day weekend in Durango, Colorado.

The Quarter Horse to Purgatory ride will begin in downtown Durango and conclude in the Purgatory alpine village main plaza next to the new Purgatory Lodge. The distance of approximately 25 miles includes a vertical rise of approximately 2,300 feet. Although shorter than the ride to Silverton, the Quarter Horse features its own “heart break hill” up the last half mile entrance road to the ski resort plaza. Proceeds from the Iron Horse festivities will support the Mercy Diagnostic Breast Care Center.

The Quarter Horse race will start at the blast of the train whistle at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 23 and follow the same route out of town as the Iron Horse Durango to Silverton race and tour. The fee for the Quarter Horse ride will be \$50 and racers can register online at <http://www.ironhorsebicycleclassic.com/register/>.

Durango Mountain Resort will sponsor a celebration plaza for cyclists as they complete their journey from Durango. All finishers will receive awards and a special Quarter Horse to Purgatory t-shirt. The Iron Horse will announce its 2009 schedule, including the Quarter Horse on Monday, December 1 via e-mail.

Durango Mountain Resort is also offering a special Friday night, May 22 Pre-race Feast at the new Purgy's Restaurant at Purgatory Mountain. A “carbo load” feast of pasta, salad and dessert will be offered for only \$18.

Purgatory is going to offer special Iron Horse/Quarter Horse weekend lodging pricing with king and studio units starting at \$63 per night, 1 bedroom at \$95 per night, and two bedroom units starting at \$143 per night. **Please call 1-800-525-0892 to make your reservations.**

-www.durangomountainresort.com-