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It takes the fur of approximately four yaks to make one blanket.

# Something *to* YAK ABOUT

Hangai Mountain Textiles aims to make yak wool the next must-have in the world of luxury fibers.

*By Christine Benedetti*

Move over cashmere goats, yaks are the new fine fiber providers in town. That's because Betina Moreira Infante and her husband, William, have introduced yak wool into the hotel rooms and design studios of Aspen, and they're making a national push on a boutique level as well. The couple has lived in Mongolia for the past 10 years—after stints elsewhere that included representing The Asia Foundation, being a U.N. ambassador to Serbia and surviving Thailand's tsunami—where they discovered the power of yak wool as a luxury fiber. They recently moved to Basalt, yet continued their relationship with herders and purveyors in Mongolia, aiming to introduce yak to Americans while helping to create a sustainable economic foundation at its source. "Rare yak fiber is our passion; it's exquisitely soft, warm and exotic," says Betina. "The yak down used to weave and knit our throws and blankets is sourced largely from the Hangai Mountains in Mongolia's heartland, which inspired our brand name." Hangai Mountain Textiles (hangaimountaintextiles.com) now works with more than 3,000 herders and five co-ops to create soft, natural blankets, which can be found in the Hotel Jerome, Aspen Design Room and specialty shops around the country. *$300-$630, Aspen Design Room, 625 E. Main St., Ste. 101, aspendesignroom.com*