



This Month — Hideaways in the U.S. and Canada



Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report®

A connoisseur's worldwide guide to peaceful and unspoiled places

Our 25th Year

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In This Issue

1

The American West
Lodge at CordeValle
The Big EZ Lodge
Triple Creek Ranch
Amangani
The Lodge at Chama
Kachemak Bay

4

The American South
The Goodstone Inn & Estate
Blackberry Farm
The Swag

5

The American Northeast
Wheatleigh
Blantyre
Stonover Farm
Twin Farms
The Point
Glendorn

7

Canada
Hastings House
Kingsbrae Arms
King Pacific Lodge

8

Reader Requests
Hotel & Travel Watch

Andrew Harper's Favorite Summer Sanctuaries in the United States and Canada

For 24 years, *Hideaway Report* has featured an array of distinct resorts to suit the varied tastes of its readers. That said, many of you have always been curious to know your editor's own personal hideaway preferences. All of my favored worldwide escapes will be revealed in our special 25th Anniversary Issue next June. In the meantime, I now share with you some of my favorite summer retreats in the U.S. and Canada with fewer than 50 rooms. As you will see, I am a sucker for private and scenic settings!

Private Golfing Haven

Lodge at CordeValle San Martin, California

Cloistered in a picturesque valley 20 miles south of San Jose (an hour from San Francisco and the Monterey Peninsula), this private 1,700-acre resort offers world-class golf in undisturbed and uncrowded surroundings. CordeValle is not a hotel in the traditional sense, but rather an exclusive invitation-only club that makes its luxurious lodging and leisure facilities quietly available to non-members.

Managed by Auberge Resorts (owners of Auberge du Soleil), the stunningly designed 36,000-square-foot lodge houses just 28

accommodations, along with a sophisticated health club/spa, outdoor lap pool, elaborate locker facilities and an indoor/outdoor restaurant and bar-lounge overlooking the strikingly designed championship golf course that ranks among Robert Trent Jones' finest masterpieces. Few private homes have been built along the fairways to inhibit vistas of the gorgeous terrain, which is laced with rolling oak-studded hills, sculpted canyons, meadowlands and meandering creeks.

Towering beamed ceilings, acres of polished wood and stone/rock accents highlight the interior of the grandly styled lodge, while the 700-square-foot guest units (called "Bungalows") each feature a fireplaced sitting area, plush bath, DVD/CD player, stocked refrigerator, scenic patio and a host of other thoughtful amenities. Also available: five super-spacious villas with full living rooms.

Guest Bungalow for one or two, \$425, meals extra; Villa, \$750. For optimum enjoyment, book a quieter Sunday-Thursday midweek stay. Contact: Lodge at CordeValle, 1 CordeValle Club Drive, San Martin, CA 95046. Tel. (877) 255-2626 or (408) 695-4500. Fax (408) 695-4578.



Andrew Harper's Favorite Rocky Mountain Summer Hideaways

The Big EZ Lodge Near Big Sky, Montana

For sensational Big Sky vistas, warm hospitality and uncommon wilderness comfort, nothing quite compares to this very private mountain sanctuary crowning a panoramic 7,500-foot forested ridge bordering the Gallatin National Forest, less than an hour north of Yellowstone National Park. The dramatic 4,300-acre setting is pure magic, with the heroically proportioned lodge artfully hewn from native timber and rock.

The scale is equally grand inside, yet the overall feel is intimate and inviting. Lofty exposed beams, deep-seated sofas and a blazing river rock fireplace bid you welcome to the relaxing Great Room, where expansive picture windows gaze out on the pristine terrain framed by towering peaks and a seemingly endless blue sky. Noteworthy meals can be enjoyed in the adjacent dining room, screened-in Tuscan porch or on a scenic deck.

Twelve comfy-cozy bedrooms and one prized suite comprise the handsome Western-style accommodations, all individually decorated with colorful quilts, distinctive trunks and eclectic artwork relating to the U.S. states for which they have been named. "Montana" and "Tennessee" are personal favorites, along with the "Lone Star Suite," which boasts a separate fireplaced living area, full kitchen, oversized bath (whirlpool tub, spa shower), private outdoor hot tub and workout room. Thoughtful amenities in all units range from lounging robes and slippers to DSS TV/VCRs and laptop computers with high-speed Internet access. This is clearly a place where you can get away from the world, but still keep in touch.

In addition to memorable doorstep hikes and wildlife viewing (elk, moose, eagles and more), the lodge possesses a mammoth free-form outdoor hot tub, fitness salon, stocked trout ponds and a unique, spectacularly sited 18-hole, par-72 championship putting course. Off-site activities include golf at the Arnold Palmer-designed Big Sky course a short drive away, wilderness horse-back riding, rafting/kayaking and guided fly-fishing in the famed trout streams lacing the region.

Double/Single, \$300-\$350, full breakfast included. Lone Star Suite, \$900. The airport in Bozeman, MT is an hour's drive north via picturesque Highway 191 and is serviced by nonstop flights from Denver (United), Minneapolis (Northwest), Salt Lake City (Delta) and Seattle (Horizon). No indoor smoking. **Contact:** The Big EZ Lodge, P.O. Box 160070, Big Sky, MT 59716. Tel. (877) 244-3299 or (406) 995-7000. Fax (406) 995-7007.

Triple Creek Ranch Near Darby, Montana

Romantic woodland cabins and a wonderfully caring staff highlight this sublime hideaway ranch, which fronts a vast wilderness area in the beautiful Bitterroot Mountains of western Montana. Tucked amid serene fir-studded grounds and meadows, the 20 charming accommodations offer an array of unexpected amenities. Be sure to opt for one of the eight "Luxury Cabins," each featuring a scenic furnished deck with a private hot tub, separate living room with a woodburning fireplace, TV/VCR and daily-stocked complimentary wet bar/refrigerator, plus a large master bath with his-and-her vanity/toilet alcoves separated by a steam shower for two! Add in soothing in-cabin massages and it's little wonder some couples never want to leave these comfortable log-hewn cocoons.

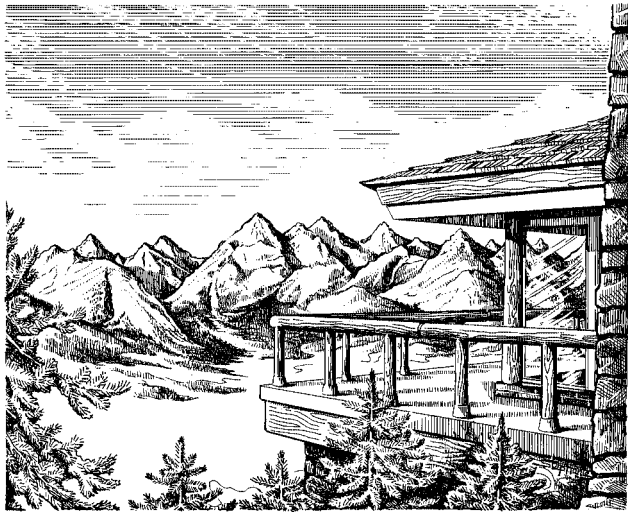
An impressive cedar lodge straddles a rushing creek near the cabin enclave and serves as the focal point for social activity. Edged by tiers of delightful balcony decks, the soaring cathedral structure shelters a convivial bar-lounge loft, CD/video library and stylish fireplaced dining room enhanced by warmhearted and obliging service. Recreational facilities include a heated outdoor pool, tennis court, fitness room, hiking trails and a stable of horses for guided rides through the majestic mountain passes. Fly-fishing, daylong cattle drives and rafting can also be arranged.

Luxury Cabin for two, \$850, all meals and unlimited bar drinks included; El Capitan or Sapphire (two bedrooms/two baths), \$995. The airport in Missoula, MT is 90 minutes north and is serviced by nonstop flights from Denver (United), Minneapolis (Northwest), Salt Lake City (Delta) and Seattle (Horizon). **Contact:** Triple Creek Ranch, 5551 West Fork Road, Darby, MT 59829. Tel. (800) 654-2943 or (406) 821-4600. Fax (406) 821-4666.

Amangani Jackson Hole, Wyoming

From its eagle's-nest setting atop a 7,000-foot butte, this refined and stylish lodge affords magnificent alpine views of the Teton Pass and Snake River pasturelands far below. The formidable peaks of Grand Teton National Park dominate the landscape to the north, with the shops and art galleries of downtown Jackson just a 15-minute drive away.

Stunning stonework and vast swaths of richly hued redwood reinforce the clean, contemporary lines of the lounges, restaurant and zinc-topped bar, which are trimmed with tall picture windows and intriguing Western/Native American decorative art objects.



Forty wood-trimmed suites (actually spacious junior suites) offer all the usual Aman gadgetry, as well as fireplaces, lavish baths and scenic covered decks. On-premise enticements focus on a health/fitness center augmented by a wondrous 115-foot heated outdoor pool and quartzite-tiled spa set at the edge of the breathtaking sunset-facing bluff. Tennis and horseback riding are also available, as well as nearby championship golf, National Park hikes, fly-fishing excursions, river rafting and more.

Suite for one or two, \$700, meals and 10% service charge extra; Grand Teton Suite, \$1,100. During the summer, major carriers from Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston and Salt Lake City service the airport in Jackson Hole, WY. Contact: Amangani, P.O. Box 15030, Jackson Hole, WY 83002. Tel. (877) 734-7333 or (307) 734-7333. Fax (307) 734-7332.

The Lodge at Chama Chama, New Mexico

Secluded on a pristine, 8,000-foot spruce and aspen-cloaked ridge in the rugged San Juan Mountains of northern New Mexico (2 hours north of Santa Fe near the Colorado border), this undiscovered sporting retreat encompasses a far-flung 36,000-acre ranch that represents a summer nirvana for outdoor enthusiasts. Anglers will revel in 14 private high-country lakes and miles of pure, crystalline streams brimming with full-bodied native trout, while hikers and horseback riders will find an unlimited network of picturesque trails for exploration. Deer, black bear, grouse, wild turkey, bison and one of America's largest elk herds also thrive in the unspoiled setting and can often be viewed from the lodge itself.

The atmospheric 27,000-square-foot stone and timber compound features 21 attractive guest quarters connecting to two mammoth cathedral lounges/dining areas embellished with soaring beams, 20-foot-wide rock fireplaces, comfy leather furnishings,

trophy mounts and original works of Western art. A workout room and oversized whirlpool spa round out the amenities, along with delicious hearty meals served by a friendly, down-home staff.

Double, \$450, all meals and unlimited bar drinks included; Single, \$325. Master Suite, \$550. Add \$250 per person for a full day of guided fishing, wildlife-viewing hikes or horseback riding. Autumn elk, bear and turkey hunting details on request. The closest major airport is Albuquerque, NM, an easy 3-hour drive to the south. Contact: The Lodge at Chama, P.O. Box 127, Chama, NM 87520. Tel. (505) 756-2133 or Fax (505) 756-2519.

Back of Beyond

Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge China Poot Bay, Alaska

Commanding a splendid panorama of mountains and sea, this captivating wilderness outpost nestles under towering stands of Sitka spruce along an unblemished cove of China Poot Bay near the southern tip of the renowned Kenai Peninsula (reached via ferry boat from the fishing village of Homer). Owned and operated by knowledgeable naturalists Mike and Diane McBride, the enclave's central lodge harbors a relaxing fireplaced lounge, seafood-specialty open kitchen and countrified dining room overseen by a kindly, dedicated staff. Colorful homemade quilts, woodstoves and private shower-baths accent a handful of cozy guest cabins, with extra-private "Cliff House" tucked away on a rocky outcropping accessed via a quaint wooden footbridge.

Exhilarating days are spent on a myriad of guided hikes and cruises to observe the abundant birdlife, wildflowers and mammals that inhabit the primeval forest, untracked beaches and fjords (where sea lions, otters and occasional porpoises and whales can be spotted). Kayaking and salmon/trout fishing are also offered. This is a sensuous and timeless escape for those seeking an authentic taste of Alaska's true wilderness.

Five-Day Package: \$2,800 per person, all meals, naturalist-guide services and 25-minute boat transfers to/from Homer included. The lodge also operates solitary Loonsong Mountain Lake Camp, which can be booked in conjunction with a stay at Kachemak. Homer, AK is serviced by regularly scheduled shuttle flights from Anchorage. Contact: Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, P.O. Box 956, Homer, AK 99603. Tel. (907) 235-8910 or Fax (907) 235-8911.

Memorable Retreats in Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina

The Goodstone Inn & Estate Middleburg, Virginia

Nestled within a genteel and marvelously scenic 265-acre estate, this casually elegant retreat hides outside the engaging historic village of Middleburg, in the heart of Virginia horse country (60-90 minutes west of Washington, DC). A creatively restored Carriage House and several vintage stone dwellings sequester 14 guest quarters decked out in an alluring English/French provincial style, many enlivened with rich colorful fabrics, a complimentary bar, TV/VCR, CD player, whirlpool tub/shower, robes and more.



In addition to five accommodations (request Corner Suite #1 or #2), the Carriage House also cossets an inviting cathedral lounge opening onto a deck overlooking Goose Creek and the bucolic surroundings. Other lodging choices include Dutch Cottage (two bedrooms, fireplaced sitting room, kitchen, rocking-chair porch), Spring House (four bedrooms, fireplaced living room, large kitchen/dining area, porch) and exquisite French Farm Cottage (three bedrooms, vaulted living room with two stone fireplaces, open kitchen, outdoor hot tub). For ultimate privacy, each cottage can be reserved on an exclusive basis.

Outdoor diversions include a heated garden pool, mountain-view Jacuzzi, canoes and nature trails. A variety of riding pursuits and nearby golf can also be arranged. Breakfast is the only meal served, but many fine restaurants are just a short drive away.

Double/Single, \$250-\$350, depending on time of year, full breakfast included. Carriage House Suite, \$345-\$425. Exclusive use of Dutch Cottage, \$450-\$600; French Farm Cottage, \$750-\$975; Spring House, \$975-\$1,275. Rates higher for Friday/Saturday night stays. No indoor smoking. **Contact:** The Goodstone Inn, 36205 Snake Hill Road, Middleburg, VA 20117. Tel. (877) 219-4663 or (540) 687-4645. Fax (540) 687-6115.

Blackberry Farm Near Walland, Tennessee

A refined and gracious sanctuary to be sure, Blackberry Farm snuggles amid an idyllic 1,100-acre estate bordering Great Smoky Mountains National Park (less than 30 minutes from Knoxville Airport). Done up in a distinctive English country house motif, the 44 accommodations are divided among two handsome stone structures and a cluster of woodland cottages. Select antiques and heavenly feather beds grace the stylishly decorated units, the special Holly Glade Cottage Suites (actually junior suites) augmented by woodburning fireplaces, stocked refrigerators/pantries, whirlpool soaking tubs and covered porches. Picture-window living room-lounges and an award-winning restaurant occupy the rambling main house.

Enhancing the joy of a stay are an outdoor heated pool, four tennis courts, a fitness center, full-service spa, riding stable, trout fishing and an extensive network of hiking trails. There is also much to be said for admiring the mist-shrouded Smokies from the comfy rocking chairs on the panoramic terrace. King Estate Room for two, \$795-\$845, depending on time of year, all meals included; Single, \$100 less. Cottage Suite, \$965. **Contact:** Blackberry Farm, 1471 West Millers Cove Road, Walland, TN 37886. Tel. (865) 380-2260 or Fax (865) 681-7753.

The Swag Near Waynesville, North Carolina

The setting is almost mystical at this fetching mountaintop aerie secluded on the North Carolina side of the Smokies, an hour west of Asheville. Capping a solitary 5,000-foot ridge overlooking Great Smoky Mountains National Park, this blissful hideaway yields spectacular 50-mile vistas from its broad porch set with handcrafted rockers. Miles of scenic walks scamper off into the embracing forests and meadows, including a private path connecting up with the park's own 800-mile trail system.

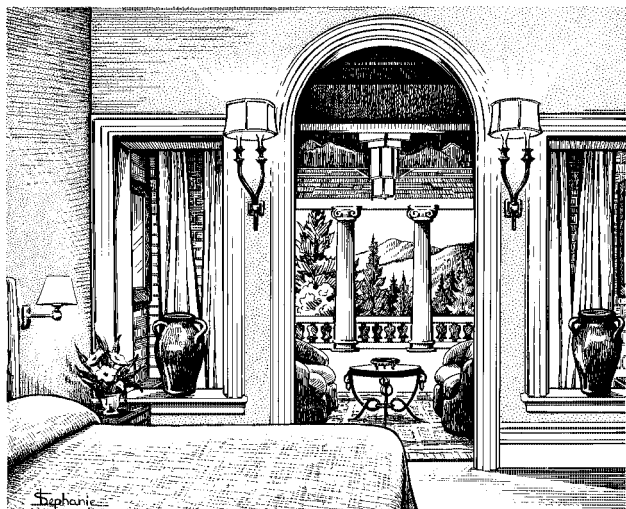
Exposed beams, rustic planking and a huge stone fireplace trim a lofty timbered lounge and convivial dining room serving down-home Southern cookery. Appalachian crafts, whimsical folk art pieces and assorted books add to the restful homey ambience. Fifteen amenity-rich guest quarters tuck into several structures, many of the rooms featuring sweeping decks, rock fireplaces, refrigerators, CD players and steam showers/whirlpool tubs. "Two-Story" is a personal favorite. Deluxe Double/Single, \$470-\$560, all meals included; rates \$75 higher on weekends. No indoor smoking. This is a dry county, but guests are welcome to bring wine and spirits. **Contact:** The Swag, 2300 Swag Road, Waynesville, NC 28785. Tel. (828) 926-0430 or Fax (828) 926-2036.

Stately Escapes in the Massachusetts Berkshires

A music lover at heart, your editor enjoys setting aside several days every July or August to visit Tanglewood, the enchanting summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (www.bso.org), tucked away on a private estate in the glorious Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts. The pleasure of the performances is often accompanied by an indulgent stay at nearby Wheatleigh or Blantyre, though both merit a visit most any time of year due to the area's year-round cultural attractions, art galleries and specialty boutiques. For something more informal and less pricey, take note of Stonover Farm, a new bed-and-breakfast discovery. All three lodgings are in Lenox, just a few minutes from Tanglewood.

Wheatleigh

Standing amid a serene parkland, this stately 19th-Century Italianate palazzo has been stunningly restored and revitalized over the past few years and now offers 19 exquisite accommodations in tandem



with brilliant cuisine and obliging service in the grand European tradition. Contemporary and traditional furnishings, striking modern art and objets d'art from around the world accent the eclectic and elegantly understated Great Hall and central lounge opening onto a terrace affording superb views of the bosky landscape. Dining options include an intimate library-café and award-winning French/American restaurant that expands out from a formal room to a glass-enclosed, Palladian-columned porch. In addition to fitness and massage salons, the hotel sports a heated outdoor pool and tennis court. Deluxe Double/Single, \$695. Junior Suite, \$895. Rates higher on Tanglewood and special autumn foliage weekends. No indoor smoking. **Contact:** Wheatleigh, Hawthorne Road, Lenox, MA 01240. Tel. (413) 637-0610 or Fax (413) 637-4507.

Blantyre

Another sophisticated Berkshire mansion-retreat, aristocratic and graciously serviced Blantyre sits on a picturesque knoll embraced by more than 100 acres of manicured lawns and specimen woodlands. Ornamental friezes and stone gargoyles outline the imposing Tudor façade, which gives way to splendidly appointed baronial living areas and a formal dining room/breakfast conservatory embellished by rich paneling, Oriental rugs, heirloom furnishings and interesting objets d'art. Eight of the 25 decorator-designed guest quarters are in the manor (up a grand oak staircase highlighted by 20-foot-high leaded windows), the remainder in a rejuvenated carriage house and several private, extra-spacious cottages.

A small outdoor heated pool, four tennis courts and championship croquet lawns dot the comely estate grounds, along with some woodland walking paths. Main House Deluxe Double/Single, \$600-\$650, continental breakfast included; Paterson Suite, \$800. Carriage House Suite, \$410-\$450. Cottages, \$600-\$650; Ice House Suite (with fireplaced living room, kitchen, screened-in porch), \$950. No indoor smoking. **Contact:** Blantyre, P.O. Box 995, Lenox, MA 01240. Tel. (413) 637-3556 or Fax (413) 637-4282.

Stonover Farm

A charming and more casual value-priced alternative to Wheatleigh and Blantyre, this appealing bed-and-breakfast inn sits on eight pastoral acres adjacent to a serene duck pond, near Tanglewood and many fine Lenox dining establishments. Affable owner-hosts Tom and Suky Werman (he a successful former record producer) have beautifully restored the Victorian farmstead, which now incorporates three first-class suites, a guest lounge, library, conservatory and indoor/outdoor breakfast venues. Decorated to the highest standards, each accommodation features a separate sitting room, marble/slate bath and state-of-the-art entertainment center.

For greater privacy, request "Rock Cottage," boasting its own fireplaced living/dining area, fully equipped kitchen, scenic furnished deck, king-bedded master bedroom with bath and a small second bedroom (no bath) in the turret that's ideal for children. Suite for one or two, \$225, full country breakfast and afternoon wine/cheese included; Rock Cottage, \$300. During July/August (Tanglewood season) and October, suites are priced at \$325 and Rock Cottage \$450. **Contact:** Stonover Farm, 169 Under Mountain Road, Lenox, MA 01240. Tel. (413) 637-9100.

Ultimate Northeast Sanctuaries for Celebrating Special Occasions

To celebrate milestone anniversaries and birthdays in memorable style, few places in North America match intimate and ultra-luxurious Twin Farms and The Point. For family reunions or a convivial gathering of good friends, opt for Glendorn.

Twin Farms Barnard, Vermont

Snuggled by 300 acres of verdant meadows and forests in a lush valley near Woodstock (an easy half-day drive from New York and Boston), Twin Farms represents the most exclusive hideaway resort in New England. Profusions of American folk art, hand-painted murals, contemporary oils and wonderful antiques/artifacts decorate its lounges, timbered dining hall and raftered library-den, the latter's soaring windows gazing out to Mount Ascutney. Beyond the terrace, a covered iron bridge spans the creek to a nifty pub with a self-service bar and Wurlitzer jukebox. Fascinating objets d'art and handcrafted furnishings also grace the 15 romantic and creatively designed guest accommodations, the very best being the nine privately sited stone and timber cottages tucked into the woodlands. These lavishly comfortable lodgings offer king-sized feather beds, vast amenity-laden baths and striking fireplaced sitting areas opening onto screened porches.

Other on-premise enticements include a well-equipped fitness center, a pine-scented furo with Japanese-style soaking tubs and a spa offering facial, hydrotherapy and body treatments. Hiking, tennis, lake swimming, canoeing and fly-fishing options also await, as do championship golf and shopping in Woodstock 15 minutes down the road. Cottage for two, \$1,500, all meals, drinks and sporting facilities included, 15% service charge extra. The Chalet (a grand 3,000-square-foot cottage built atop a sweeping knoll), \$2,600. Smart casual attire for dinner. No smoking, except on cottage porches. **Contact:** Twin Farms, Barnard, VT 05031. Tel. (800) 894-6327 or (802) 234-9999. Fax (802) 234-9990.

The Point Upper Saranac Lake, New York

This renowned Adirondack hideaway curls up on a tranquil and solitary balsam-studded peninsula fronting Upper Saranac Lake, 45 minutes from Lake Placid. Built in the early 1930s by the Rockefeller family as a grand "summer camp," the stunningly restored compound recaptures the chic North Woods splendor of a bygone era. Bold architectural detailing outlines the heroic log-hewn manse, its spruce-beamed Great Hall enhanced by blazing fires, casual oversized sofas and select handcrafted trappings. The atmospheric lounge also serves as the site for

table d'hôte candlelit dinners, preceded by sunset cocktail cruises aboard a party barge.

The main lodge and several outbuildings cloister 11 junior suites, each distinguished by chiseled stone fireplaces, custom furnishings, plush baths and beguiling decorative touches. Among the summer/fall pastimes: lake swimming, canoeing, waterskiing, sightseeing in a vintage mahogany runabout, tennis and shoreline walks. Be forewarned, a jacket/tie is mandatory for dinner and black tie attire suggested for Wednesday and Saturday nights. Deluxe Double, \$1,600, all meals, drinks, sporting amenities included, 18% service charge extra. **Contact:** The Point, P.O. Box 1327, Saranac Lake, NY 12983. Tel. (800) 255-3530 or (518) 891-5674. Fax (518) 891-1152.

Glendorn Bradford, Pennsylvania

Hidden away in northwest Pennsylvania (90 minutes south of Buffalo), this historic 1,300-acre estate was once the legendary "summer camp" for five generations of the Dorn family, founders of Forest Oil Corporation. Dominated by an imposing Great Hall, the magnificent 1930s redwood lodge sports a massive living/dining room flanked by a two-story sandstone fireplace where four-foot logs merrily blaze away on chilly evenings. In the summer, dinners are enjoyed on an adjoining screened porch overlooking the peaceful grounds. Seventeen rustically handsome guest quarters are spread among the main house and several richly paneled one- to three-bedroom cabins, all featuring en suite baths with Aveda toiletries and cozy sitting areas warmed by woodburning fireplaces.

Impressive on-site recreational facilities include a 60-foot outdoor pool, two tennis courts, a fitness gym, massage salon, professional trap and skeet range (instruction provided), trout-stocked lakes/streams (Orvis fly-fishing guides available), woodland hiking/biking trails and a classy game room with several billiards and pool tables. Golf can also be arranged at a nearby private club. This is an evocative and informally relaxing countrified retreat that lends itself well to family and friend reunions during the summer and fall. Double, \$495-\$595, all meals included, 17½% service charge extra; Single, \$100 less. Deluxe Lodging (request the Dorn or Green Suite, Miller Cabin, Roost or Hideout), \$695. Rate for exclusive use of entire estate on request. Pets welcome. **Contact:** Glendorn, 1032 W. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701. Tel. (814) 362-6511 or Fax (814) 368-9923.

A Trio of Very Special Canadian Getaways

Hastings House Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

A sublime spot to while away the summer, this casually elegant estate enclave sits above peaceful Ganges Harbour on Salt Spring Island (90 minutes by car and ferry from Victoria). A half-timbered Tudor-style English manor takes in an atmospheric lounge and two formal dining rooms, with first-rate meals also served in the more casual *Veranda* restaurant and on a scenic garden patio. Most of the 18 guest quarters reside in charmingly restored cottages and annexes punctuating the pastoral landscape. Favorites are "Farm East," Farm West" and the new "Hillside Suites," all featuring separate fireplaced sitting rooms, private water-view porches and nicely equipped baths. Picnic hikes, sailing/fishing charters, kayak rentals and nearby golf and tennis can easily be arranged. There are also many craft shops and artists' studios in the village of Ganges. Deluxe Hillside Suite for one or two, US\$440, meals extra; Premier Farmhouse Suite, US\$510. Contact: Hastings House, 160 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada V8K 2S2. Tel. (800) 661-9255 or (250) 537-2362. Fax (250) 537-5333.

Kingsbrae Arms St. Andrews, New Brunswick

A convivial and personalized luxury gem for sophisticated travelers visiting Atlantic Canada, this gloriously restored 1897 hilltop manor fronts 27 acres of prized gardens overlooking the engaging seaside resort town of St. Andrews (near the Maine border, 2 hours from Bar Harbor). Each of the eight period-style accommodations comes with a lavish marble bath, four-poster canopy bed, separate sitting area, gas fireplace and many extra touches, divine "Pinnacle" enhanced by his-and-her baths and an expansive top-floor balcony affording sensational views of the exuberant gardens and sea beyond.

Downstairs, Oriental carpets, well-chosen antiques and an eclectic collection of objets d'art accent the fireplaced parlor, paneled library and superb dining room, where guests gather en famille each evening for table d'hôte dinners spotlighting fresh bounty from the sea and produce/herbs from a flourishing kitchen garden. A heated outdoor pool and nearby championship golf course invite relaxation, as does St. Andrews, which is noted for its stately vintage dwellings and quaint waterfront lined with craft studios and specialty shops. Junior Suite for two, US\$630, full breakfast, four-course dinner included; Luxury Suite, US\$730; Premier Suite, US\$830. No indoor smoking. Contact: Kingsbrae Arms, 219 King Street, St. Andrews, NB, Canada E5B 1Y1. Tel. (877) 529-1897 or (506) 529-1897 or Fax (506) 529-1197.

King Pacific Lodge Princess Royal Island, British Columbia

Secluded on a gorgeously picturesque inlet in the middle of nowhere, King Pacific represents nirvana for discerning anglers and wilderness lovers alike. The unique 15,000-square-foot lodge is actually built atop a barge the size of a football field that is towed to this remote spot for the four months of summer! The arrangement protects the area's incredibly pristine coves, glacial waterfalls and ancient forests inhabited by all sorts of mammals, including the rare white-furred "Spirit Bear" revered by the indigenous GitGa'at tribal people.



Fringed by a panoramic wraparound porch, the lodge possesses a handsomely understated look, with cedar paneling, leather sofas, crackling fires, piles of books/magazines, and Native American art fostering a decidedly civilized ambience in the lofty Great Room. The 17 guest quarters are equally comfortable and boast surprisingly luxurious slate baths (soaking tubs, separate showers), plus sitting areas gazing out on the primeval forest or serene island-dotted bay. Guests enjoy an exciting menu of guided activities, from world-class salmon/trout fishing to naturalist-led hikes and nature cruises to view whales, otters, bears and more. End the day with a soothing massage, informal gourmet dinner and blissful night's sleep in a king-sized bed topped by a down duvet.

A variety of 3, 4 and 7-night packages include all meals, drinks, guided hiking/kayaking excursions, wildlife-viewing cruises and floatplane transfers between Prince Rupert and the lodge. Rates for three nights begin at \$2,300 per person, with helicopter forays and guided saltwater fishing extra. Contact: King Pacific Lodge, 255 West 1st Street (Suite 214), North Vancouver, BC, Canada V7M 3G8. Tel. (888) 592-5464 or (604) 987-5452. Fax (604) 987-5472.



Reader Requests

Readers are welcome to send letters of request for vacation advice to: Editor, P.O. Box 50, Sun Valley, Idaho 83353 USA. Fax [406] 862-3486. We regret that your questions can only be answered in this monthly column.

European Family Biking Vacations

Q We want to take our children (ages 5 to 15) on a biking trip to Europe. Any ideas? L.P.

A Butterfield & Robinson are specialists when it comes to first-class biking and walking tours around Europe. And the company's "With The Kids" programs are aimed at families just like yours, who would like to share a European adventure together. A variety of flexible itineraries are available throughout France, Italy, Spain and Ireland, giving young children and teens the opportunity to not only meet kids their own age, but experience another culture in a leisurely and informal fashion. All necessary support services are provided, from kid-friendly hotels and soccer balls to specially trained childcare guides and fun sights that will particularly appeal to the younger set. For complete details, Tel. (800) 678-1147 or (416) 864-1354. www.butterfield.com

Scottish "Golfer's Delight" at Gleneagles

Q What are your birthday travel thoughts for an avid golfing husband turning 50? H.M.

A For something truly unique, consider giving him the special "Golfer's Delight" package offered by Gleneagles, Scotland's premier golf and leisure resort. The gift package includes 3 nights in a luxurious Estate Room, all meals, four rounds of memorable golf on the resort's three famed championship courses, a private one-hour lesson with a seasoned pro and the services of a knowledgeable caddy on the first day, a post-game massage and an after-dinner whisky nosing of four single malts accompanied by real Cuban cigars (e.g. Upmann or Montecristo). As mementos of the stay, he will also be given a video of his lesson and a monogrammed Gleneagles wool sweater. The all-inclusive price is \$2,003 for one and \$2,600 for two, taxes included. The "Golfer's Delight" offer expires October 31. For reservations, dial the toll-free number direct to Gleneagles at (866) 463-8734. www.gleneagles.com

British Lighthouse Lodgings

Q I understand that some British lighthouses can be rented as lodgings. Please advise. B.W.

A Many of the old lighthouses dotting Britain's rugged coast have been automated and the vacant caretaker's cottages modernized and smartly refurbished as unique self-catering vacation lodgings. For details, go to www.ruralretreats.co.uk and click on "Lighthouses," or Tel. (44) 1386-701177.

Hotel & Travel Watch

This quarterly column summarizes the firsthand observations of readers and does not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of your editor. Based on the hundreds of timely letters and critique cards sent us each month, the following properties received the most positive and/or negative comments (as indicated by the representative quotes) —

- ↑ The Lowell (NY) -- This "small and super" East Side "jewel" boasts "beautiful appointments" and "a very caring staff." Tel. (212) 838-1400.
- ↑ White Barn Inn (Kennebunkport, ME) — It's "charming," "impeccably serviced" and the restaurant is "just divine." Tel. (207) 967-2321.
- ↑ Woodlands (Nr Charleston, SC) — A "terrific," "stylish mansion-resort" embodying "Southern hospitality at its best." Tel. (843) 875-2600.
- ↑ Cap Juluca (Anguilla) — "The best of the best in the Caribbean" is "nothing short of fabulous." "A real 10!" Tel. (264) 497-6779.
- ↑ Alvear Palace (Buenos Aires) — A "truly grand hotel" offering "Old World service" and "perfection throughout." Tel. (11) 4808-2100.
- ↑ La Bobadilla (Spain) — "The crown jewel of Andalusia" is a "gorgeous village-style resort" that's "the lap of luxury." Tel. (958) 321861.
- ↑ Royal Malewane (South Africa) — A "lavishly comfortable" safari lodge enlivened by "great game" and a "kindly staff." Tel. (15) 793-0150.
- ↓ Die Swaene (Bruges, Belgium) — A "frumpy place" with "faded furnishings," dispensing "mediocre food" and "merely average service."
- ↓ Beaconsfield Inn (Victoria, BC) — "Tired rooms" and "indifferent service" add up to "a real disappointment" at this "once lovely" B&B.

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