

Bishop's Lodge



Get swept away by the peace and splendor of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

By Suzanne Wright

Santa Fe, with its evocative landscapes, friendly people, creative cuisine, diverse culture, rich history, talented artisans and inviting spirit has long been one of my favorite places on earth. Its appeal is



enduring and timeless. Would it surprise you to know that the automobile license tag logo is "Land of Enchantment"? Or to know that the town has its own poet laureate? Not if you've ever been.



Part of the allure of Santa Fe is undeniably its lodging. A magnet for vacationers—many of whom are repeat visitors—the city of around 71,000 boasts an enviable selection of high-end properties, from bed-and-breakfasts to resorts. Among the best is Bishop's Lodge, a historic and secluded ranch retreat in the forested foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Yet it is located just minutes away from the downtown Plaza, the heart of the city and home to the best people-watching

and shopping in the state (and arguably the region).

The resort, named one of the best in the nation by *Travel & Leisure* magazine, is true to the spirit of the Southwest with a muted palette that takes its cues from the earth with richly textured Navajo rugs and glowing stone fireplaces. Appealing in every season—spring and fall are especially glorious and less crowded—Bishop's Lodge

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ONTravel

offers an ideal respite for active families.

ON Magazine Editor-in-Chief Nancy Modesti and her family spent a week in March at



"Women, in particular, will enjoy the pampering of **The SháNah Spa**, which is steeped in the Native American traditions of the Pueblo tribes."

Bishop's Lodge and happened to run into several fellow Collin County-ites. (Dallas is just a one-hour flight or a 10-hour drive from Santa Fe.) In addition to late winter skiing in fine conditions, the whole family enjoyed an afternoon of horseback riding.

"It was a thrilling ride to the top of the highest hill on a narrow path," says Modesti. "Our guide Tony was friendly and did a great job taking time to actually teach novice riders 'the ropes'. The horses were not average trail horses and the ride wasn't either—straight



up and then strait down - a bit harrowing and a total thrill! My hind end took a bit of

a beating, but it was worth it." Campfire rides—complete with s'mores—are also offered several nights a week.

In addition to riding, kids will enjoy many other fun and educational outdoor activities at Camp Appaloosa during the busy summer months. Activities include fishing, potato sack racing, a rodeo, water basketball, hula hoop contests, arts and crafts classes, family obstacle challenges, scavenger hunts, poolside bingo, bubblegum blowing contests, ice cream socials, nature hikes and drive-in movie nights.



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Ron Bullard, Owner



Adults have plenty of options, too. Women, in particular, will enjoy the pampering of The ShāNah Spa, which is steeped in the Native American traditions of the Pueblo tribes. Treatments incorporate natural



healing remedies, herbs, sweat baths and teas. Modesti tried the purification wrap, which includes hydrotherapy, exfoliation and massage and says, "The spa was amazing. There is just something spiritual about Santa Fe, and the peace the place exudes lends itself to a particularly enjoyable spa experience. The therapists were seasoned pros." Men can get in on the relaxation and stress reduction with special spa treatments designed for them, such as the native stone massage. There are also miles of hiking trails, tennis courts, a fitness center and a skeet and trap range.

Gastronomy is another hallmark of the Bishop's Lodge experience. Modesti praised the duck at Las Fuentes Restaurant & Bar, a Santa Fe favorite, along with a menu of fine sipping tequilas which took the chill off the evening. A perfect night ended quietly with another warming ritual.

"After dinner, the staff built us a fire in a chimenea and we sat out under the renowned ink black Santa Fe sky," she says. "We were even treated to two shooting stars." What a perfect end to a getaway in the "Land of Enchantment". ■

For more information, visit www.bishopslodge.com.