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WILDERNESS RETREAT

At The Resort at Paws Up in Montana, discover how romantic ranch living can be **BY EMMA SLOLEY**

BIG SKY COUNTRY IS REALLY, really big. Obvious maybe, but I'm finding it something of a revelation. To a life-long city girl, used to having her sky delivered in small patches between buildings, the notion that there could be something so impressively and humbly big had never really struck a chord. But as we proceed down the long, tree-lined entrance to the sprawling, 37,000 acre ranch Paws Up in Greenough, MT, I finally understand.

My husband, Adam, and I are here thanks to another recent revelation: You don't necessarily have to cross oceans and dust off your passport to find romance. We'd heard rumors from seasoned traveler friends who rhapsodized about luxurious yet pastoral lodgings, excellent food and

the chance to just take time out and breathe, and we'd decided that our next getaway would be spent in such a magical place. So here we are, traveling through the Blackfoot Valley, our cares sloughing off with every deep lungful of crisp mountain air. Our driver delivers us to a clutch of large rustic buildings set fetchingly among pine and fir trees. We check in at the cozy reception barn located near the Cook Shack, which houses the resort's two world-class restaurants.

We're greeted warmly and shown to the sizeable piece of real estate that is our room. It is one of 10 Big Timber Homes, classic wooden cottages tucked away in the forest. (During summer months, guests can also opt to camp out at the resort's Tent City

or River Camp, both of which offer an upscale outdoor experience that's more five-star than frugal.) Inside, our cabin is a series of rooms decked out in ranch-chic style: roomy leather sofas, handwoven textiles, cowhide rugs, a stone fireplace already ablaze. The beds are covered with sumptuous throws. The huge walk-in shower looks out onto the wilderness. The refrigerator is stocked with gourmet treats and fine wine. We feel like the luckiest homesteaders ever.

When night falls—a patchwork of stars wheeling in the inky darkness—
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READY TO GO "GLAMPING"?

This is the word used by The Resort at Paws Up to describe the experience it excels in: glamorous camping.