Contents

14 Editor’s Letter

SIMPLY NOW

17 News: Public Display of Affection
Sandy Springs unveils a cool new outdoor sculpture gallery

20 Travel Far: The Peak of Chic
The Resort at Paws Up is the authority on experiencing Montana’s wilderness in style

24 Staycation: Savoring Stone Mountain Park
From championship golf courses to a dazzling laser light show, this 3,200-acre local park has attractions galore

27 15 Minutes With: Michelle A. Middlebrooks
The Atlanta Fire Rescue Department battalion chief talks about blazing new trails

28 Approved: Bug Brigade
Six killer products for keeping unwanted pests away

30 Kids: Birthday Bash With a Bang
Buckhead-area venues that make party planning a piece of cake

SIMPLY LIVING

32 Home: A Serendipitous Spot
A Brookhaven couple takes a chance and succeeds with their first family home

36 Bulletin Board: After-Hours Home Shopping
Engel & Völkers offers weekend open houses to Atlanta buyers

38 Tastemaker: Magic Carpets
Mohamad Gavahi of Atlanta Fine Rugs reveals how to shop for a quality Oriental rug

SIMPLY STYLISH

42 Fashion: Making Waves
Gamine McKenna designs swimwear inspired by her Brazilian roots

44 Wellness: Accelerating Fitness
Put the pedal to the metal with these five in-car exercises

46 Beauty: In Fine Form
A new beauty studio is primed to transform Buckhead bodies

SIMPLY ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

56 On Stage: Life is Rich
A comedian’s podcast pursues happiness with money

62 Art: Picture This
Long before camera phones, a local group was promoting the joys of photography

SIMPLY DELICIOUS

78 Review: Pure Pleasure
There’s something to taco ‘bout at Brookhaven’s Pure Taqueria

80 Drinks: All Hail the Negroni
Celebrating the centennial of the classic cocktail

SIMPLY HAPPENING

89 Events: Places to go and things to do

93 Charitable: A spotlight on philanthropic and social gatherings
TRAVEL FAR

THE PEAK OF CHIC

The Resort at Paws Up is the authority on experiencing Montana’s wilderness in style

STORY: Jennifer Bradley Franklin

A nyone who knows me well knows that I don’t camp. I can trace my disinterest for sleeping outdoors to my first, and so far only, true camping trip in my early 20s. A friend organized the details (“I’ll be fun,” he said), but the reality included a 6-mile hike in the North Georgia mountains carrying a heavy backpack and scant dehydrated sustenance (“It keeps the packs lighter,” he said), and fumbling in the chilly pitch black to use nature’s “facilities.” Still, I crave seeing wildlife up close, feeling the exhilaration of fishing in a teeming river or mastering a new skill. It’s just that I prefer those things with the trappings of a proper shower, a cozy bed and a fresh meal.

So imagine my delight when a friendly camping butler at The Resort at Paws Up led the way to a 1,030-square-foot, two-bedroom canvas tent that included a plush king-size bed, river view and spacious bathroom, complete with heated tiles and a deep soaking tub. I shouldn’t have been surprised. After all, the 37,000-acre property in western Montana’s pristine Blackfoot Valley is credited for inventing the now ubiquitous travel category “glamping” (“glamorous camping”). For those who prefer a more permanent structure, the resort also offers cabins and estates of various sizes and bedroom configurations tucked among the majestic Ponderosa pines and Douglas fir trees that pepper the resort’s rolling hills.

After settling in, I was eager to experience some of the dozens of activities offered. There’s everything from archery and rappelling to white-water rafting and hot air ballooning. My first order of business was to get the lay of the land by horseback. I saddled up for a tranquil hour-long trail ride as the sky changed from blue to shades of yellow and pink.

Back at Pinnacle Camp, my fellow glampers and I were in for an unexpected treat: That night around a communal fireplace, over Old Fashioneds made with local Fireweed bourbon, a pair of Nashville-based singer/songwriters joined us as part of the resort’s Campfire Stars programming. Hearing Jessi Alexander, who has penned chart-toppers such as Miley Cyrus’ “The Climb” and Blake Shelton’s “Mine Would Be You,” sing these hits, and her husband, Jon Randall, sing his hauntingly beautiful “Whiskey Lullaby” (famously recorded by Brad Paisley and Alison Krauss) was a moment I won’t soon forget.

The highlights kept coming for the duration of my three-day stay at the service-oriented adventure property. I learned how to cut cattle (calling an animal out of the herd) on a three-hour cattle drive. I spent a morning at a sporting clay course shooting a 20-gauge shotgun as neon targets released in various configurations tested my skill and concentration. Another day I bundled up for a four-hour fly fishing float trip that at times passed through Class II rapids in the search for a trophy trout on the Blackfoot River, the same body of water that inspired Norman Maclean to pen A River Runs Through It.

Unlike on my ill-fated camping trip more than a dozen years ago, the food at Paws Up was a major pleasure. Every bite was memorable, though perhaps no meal more so than the dinner on my last night, when a vintage chuckwagon became the epicenter for a jaw-dropping meal. While chefs oversaw tomahawk steaks, ribs, corn and berry cobbler in cast-iron crocks over an open flame, the other guests and I tried our hands at hatchet throwing. As I listened to the rushing river and the happy chatter of new friends over a world-class meal, I knew I’d found my outdoor nirvana.

Above: Adventurous outdoor activities are paired with stylish accommodations at The Resort at Paws Up near Missoula, Montana.

Right: The writer takes aim at the sporting clay course.

pawsup.com

THE RESORT AT PAWS UP