

↓ SINGLES IN THE CITY MEET 10 CHARMING BACHELORS AND BACHELORETTEES

San Antonio

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101 FUN
THINGS TO DO,
INCLUDING

FESTIVALS FULL OF
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TO TAKE

FUN WAYS
TO GET FIT

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POP CONCERTS,
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travel

DESTINATION

RANCH RETREAT

A luxurious home-away-from-home on the range

By BECCA HENSLEY



Texans love their ranches. It can also be nice to leave the Lone Star State and roam with the buffaloes in other wide-open expanses—such as Montana.

In “big sky” country, the luxurious Resort at Paws Up spreads across 37,000 arcadian acres. With cowboy butlers, s’mores ingredients served on a silver platter, and tents with heated floors and retrofitted with regal king-sized beds, this ain’t your typical ranch.

And thank goodness. Camping isn’t for everyone, and neither is the ranch life, but Paws Up likely will change your definition of roughing it. Embracing some of the same trails explored by Lewis and Clark, Paws Up is wedged into the Black Foot Valley, some 45 minutes east of Missoula. An abundance of juniper and ponderosa, towering mountains, 10 miles of riverbank and 100-plus miles of trails at the unspoiled resort welcome elk, cattle, horses, hawks and other wildlife as its everyday residents.

Indoors, Paws Up subdues the wilderness by offering first-class amenities: en suite bathrooms, real beds, gourmet meals, soaking tubs and unparalleled activities in a *River Runs Through It* landscape. Bunk up in commodious, fully outfitted homes or tony suite-style tents. The homes, or cabins, each distinct, cater to large groups or families who wish to stay together. Featuring multiple bedrooms, leather seating, hot tubs and heated granite tile floors in the bathroom, their style is rough-hewn elegance. Fully outfitted kitchens seal the deal. Some of these getaway homes include slow speed cars for transporting “cow pokes in training” across the ranch’s immense territory, though most guests prefer to traverse the ranchland on horseback, bike, ATV or equine-drawn carriage. A bit less brick-and-mortar, the tents (and tent camps) give credence to the trendy term “glamping.” Canvas-sided, with Western decor, heated floors, princess-in-the-pea-worthy beds, and luxurious bathrooms, the tents are lorded over by chap-wearing butlers ready to serve.

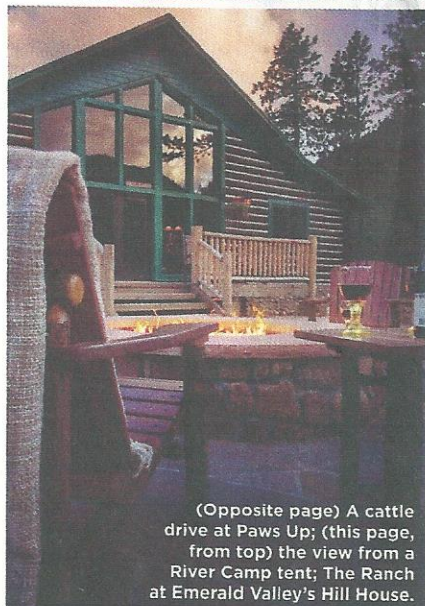
While the cabins dot the terrain like individual wildflowers, the tents occupy enclaves, each exuding a theme. Kid-

cossetting River Camp, poised beside the rushing water, comprises four two-bedroom family tents, as well as two one-bedroom tents. The camp provides nature-weary children a technological fix via a dedicated tech-savvy game room. Tranquility-seeking guests prefer Moonlight Camp, which emanates a nostalgic air. Those with a tryst in mind will enjoy romantic bliss at Pinnacle Camp, but the newest camp, Cliffside, might set hearts aflutter even more with its jaw-dropping views and copper bathtubs (available in the one bedroom tents).

Trail rides, clay shooting and campfires are de rigueur activities on a ranch. But at this working spread, you can also whiz through white water on rafts, rappel down mountains, finagle fly fishing, play paintball, water ski, wakeboard or kayak. Wannabe cowpunchers can join wranglers for a real cattle drive. The meditative can float

able feast up a notch with dishes like Angus prime rib and asparagus.

While families and honeymooners relish Paws Up at any time, foodies will hanker after the resort’s savory Montana Master Grillers weekend May 23–26. Trade your cowboy hat for a toque when you go one-on-one with a coterie of some of the best chefs, “smokologists,” beer brewers, wine makers and distillers in America. Flame-kissed fare, food pairings and plenty of ranch activities round out the holiday. Yippee-ki-yay! ★ pawsup.com



(Opposite page) A cattle drive at Paws Up; (this page, from top) the view from a River Camp tent; The Ranch at Emerald Valley's Hill House.

ROUND UP

The Wild West is a great big, sprawling place. If Montana just isn't where your heart is, try one of these other spots for mixing the regal with the rugged.

THE RANCH AT EMERALD VALLEY

Colorado Springs, Colorado
Ensnconed in Pike National Forest, the Ranch at Emerald Valley borrows pedigree from its sister property, the five-Star, AAA five-diamond Broadmoor. This 10-cabin getaway eschews grandeur for rustic chic and ranch-style intimacy. With a main lodge, lake views, hot tubs and upscale cuisine, the Ranch has access to the biking and hiking trails of Pike National Forest. Ride horses, fly fish, or just sit by the fire pit at night and count the stars in the low-hanging sky. broadmoor.com/ranch-at-emerald-valley

CM RANCH

Dubois, Wyoming
Adopt the pioneer spirit at CM Ranch, in a secluded valley near Yellowstone National Park. Family-owned and -operated since 1927, the homespun dude ranch reminds guests to revel in the simple things. With log cabins for shelter and nature's largesse for entertainment, the casual retreat leads pack trips, trail rides and more. cmranch.com