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OUTDOOR ROOMS

August 2011

\$4.95 US

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THE RANCH AT ROCK CREEK

Philipsburg, Montana

Taming the Wild West is an art form at this homestead in the heart of western Montana's ranchland. With names like "Palomino," "Derringer" and "Wrangler," private cabins, log homes and guest rooms in the Granite Lodge might reference iconic Western themes, but they're decorated beautifully, with a light, fresh touch. Flat-screen televisions and king-size beds prove they're present-day.

Creature Comforts: Regional gourmet cuisine, a full-service spa and a concierge staff to arrange for myriad activities, from fly-fishing and horseback riding to gem mining and ghost-town exploring.

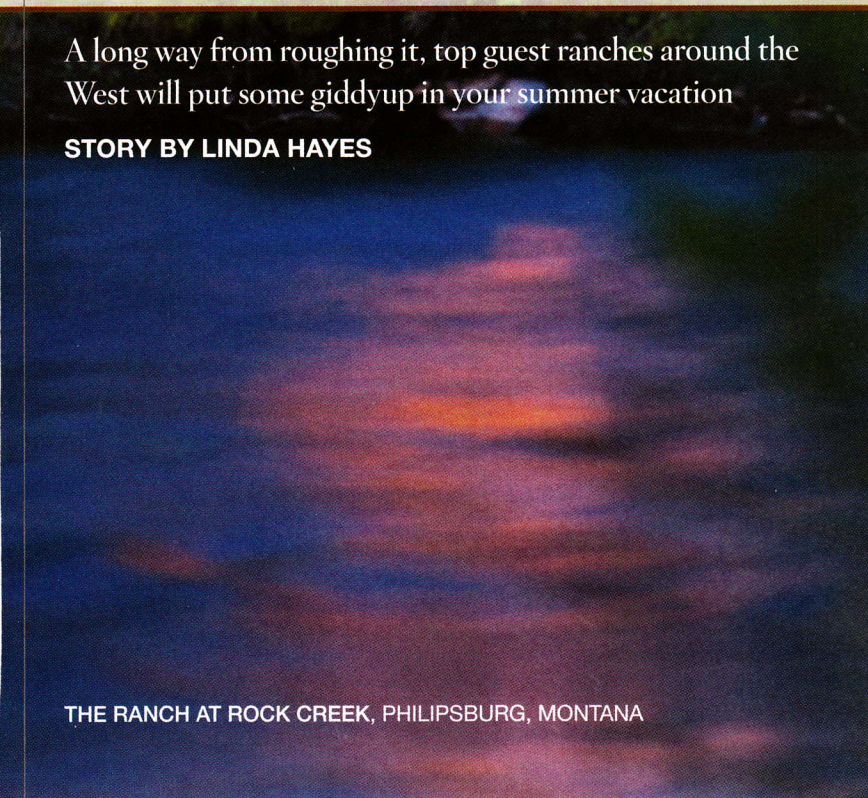
Insider Tip: Luxury tents, called "canvas cabins," along Rock Creek take the concept of camping to new heights.

From \$900 per night, per person
877-786-1545
theranchatrockcreek.com

INSIDER'S GUIDE to the WEST'S BEST RANCH GETAWAYS

A long way from roughing it, top guest ranches around the West will put some giddyup in your summer vacation

STORY BY LINDA HAYES



THE RANCH AT ROCK CREEK, PHILIPSBURG, MONTANA

TANQUE VERDE RANCH

Tucson, Arizona

Sixty thousand acres of dramatic desert landscape among the Rincon Mountains is the singular setting of this spirited ranch resort, which mixes Santa Fe-style architecture with Western sensibilities and amenities that are decidedly civilized. Perfect for family getaways, guest rooms and suites sleep up to six and feature beautiful mountain and desert views.

Creature Comforts: Tasty Southwestern cuisine (don't miss the weekly ranch barbecue) and hot-stone massages using local Rincon Mountain rocks at La Sonora Spa.

Insider Tip: The horseback-riding programs are top-notch. With a herd of 160 horses to choose from, wranglers easily match each rider with the right mount.

From \$390 per night, double occupancy
800-234-3833
tanqueverderanch.com >>



PHOTO COURTESY SMITH FORK RANCH

SMITH FORK RANCH, CRAWFORD, COLORADO

SMITH FORK RANCH

Crawford, Colorado

When you're not fly-fishing, horseback riding or hiking at this private luxury ranch in the North Fork Valley, take part in its unique farm-to-table experience. The produce you help harvest from the organic farmstead garden (with more than 80 varieties of herbs, fruits and vegetables to choose from) will star in ranch chef Seth Bateman's gourmet meals.

Creature Comforts: Choose your lodging from a collection of meticulously restored historic cabins and guest houses, each with Western furnishings and antiques and downy featherbeds.

Insider Tip: Get another taste of the area's bounty via tours of local farms and wineries.

From \$3,200 per three-night stay, double occupancy
970-921-3454
smithforkranch.com

INSIDER'S GUIDE to the **WEST'S** BEST RANCH GETAWAYS**RED HORSE MOUNTAIN RANCH**

Harrison, Idaho

You'll feel right at home on the ranch at Red Horse, an hour south of Coeur d'Alene, where log cabins and lodge suites are wonderfully rustic—and comfy to boot. Stay busy with fly-fishing, kayaking, archery, horseback riding or whitewater rafting, or put your feet up on the porch rail and just kick back.

Creature Comforts: Seasonal, regional ranch fare means everything from biscuits and gravy to weekly seven-course dinners.

Insider Tip: Special all-inclusive "Wine Tasting Weeks" feature 30 wines from the Pacific Northwest, gourmet meals and, of course, ranch activities.

From \$1,000 per person, per half-week stay
888-689-9680
redhorsemountain.com

THE LODGE AND SPA AT BRUSH CREEK RANCH

Saratoga, Wyoming

A stay at this grand resort under the wide Wyoming sky imparts a taste of the historic American West. Set on 13,000 private acres of a 19th-century working cattle operation, the ranch preserves its spirited history with everything from campfire cookouts to barn dances and hunting excursions. No detail has been overlooked here, from the luxe interiors of hand-hewn log cabins to finding you the perfect spot to cast your fly.

Creature Comforts: Satisfy your culinary cravings with everything from chuck-wagon dinners to formal meals paired with wines from an 800-bottle cellar.

Insider Tip: Reconnect with the energy of the earth during a "smudging ritual" in a Native American teepee.

From \$1,200 per night, double occupancy
307-327-5284
brushcreekranch.com



Visit mountainliving.com and discover 10 more of our favorite high-country ranches.