

SCHOOL BULLYING: WHAT EVERY PARENT MUST KNOW

# SAN DIEGO<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE

## 25 Fun Things to do for Under \$25



Shawne Merriman's  
Electric Comeback

The University Club's  
Centennial Birthday

An All-Star Dinner  
for Adrian Gonzalez

SEPTEMBER 2009 \$4.95



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## Destination: Santa Fe, New Mexico

# Get an Altitude Adjustment

TALK ABOUT MOUNTAIN HIGHS. At Encantado, a luxury resort of 65 casitas a few gently mountainous miles outside Santa Fe, New Mexico, a member of the international staff bragged about the light show wheeling through the heavens at midnight. "If you stand on your toes and really stretch, you can snatch one or two stars from the



The main lodge

sky," he says. And from an altitude of 7,000 feet, Orion and his cohorts certainly seem close.

For guests who find the lofty location a bit breathtaking, Encantado's elegant spa offers an "Altitude Adjustment" treatment that does the trick — although it's not as much fun as an hour-long, \$155 massage-and-therapy session based on India's ancient Ayurvedic medicine. The treatment commences when the therapist intones, "Now I'm going to drip hot oil over your third eye" (the center of the forehead). Even a guest who usually declines spa experiences smiled and laughed through the multiple massages and facial wraps, to the point that on returning to his casita, he beat a gleeful rhythm on the sizable, authentic tomtom that doubles as a coffee table.

The Auberge hotel group (which now manages San Diego's La Valencia and Rancho Valencia) built each ca-



Guest suite

sita with timeless Santa Fe architecture that includes a wood-burning, beehive-shaped fireplace and pleasant amenities like the bowl of crisp apples in the bar. Take a few along to fuel a bracing wilderness hike led by Santa Fe Mountain Adventures, whose cheerful guides coddle tenderfoots.

Encantado chauffeurs guests between hotel and Santa Fe in shiny Mercedes-Benz vehicles. The 2-square-mile heart of town, celebrating its 400th anniversary, features Canyon Road, lined with sculptures that turn the thoroughfare into an outdoor museum.

The more important of the city's 240 art galleries are located on this engaging street, along with top restaurants like Geronimo's, which localizes juicy pork tenderloin with a roasted blueberry-jalapeño mustard. International shops abound, along with enough clothing, jewelry and artifact boutiques to bedazzle dedicated shoppers.

A vast collection of restaurants includes eateries like Coyote Café (where a "short stack" of spicy white shrimp on griddled corncakes can be followed with peppery elk tenderloin) and trendy establishments around the new Railyard District, Santa Fe's epicenter of contemporary art and home to a Saturday farmers' market that seems to draw half the town. It's a lively place with stalls dedicated to handmade goat cheeses, truly cute baby carrots and wild honeys. Memorable live music is sung in Spanish and played evocatively by a string quartet. The scene plays beautifully in 2009, just as it probably did in the Santa Fe marketplace of 1609. ■



Spa lounge

### If You Go

Encantado is at 198 State Road 592, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 877-262-4666, [encantadoresort.com](http://encantadoresort.com). Santa Fe Mountain Adventures can be reached at 505-988-4000, 800-965-4010 or [santafemountainadventures.com](http://santafemountainadventures.com).