

Santa Barbara

MAGAZINE

ROCK
ON!

**KATY
PERRY**
TOPS
THE
CHARTS



ART OF THE
MODERNIST
HOME

TRAIL RIDES
Backcountry
to Beach

CHILL OUT
Homemade
Ice Creams

AUG/SEPT 2008 \$4.95





WAY OUT WEST

UTAH UTOPIA

The panoramas at **Sorrell River Ranch** take in majestic red buttes, the swift-flowing Colorado River, a pretty grove of cottonwoods, and the distant rock formations made famous by director John Ford in countless Westerns. It's a setting that makes you want to get out and enjoy the landscape, which is exactly why most people come to the nearby town of Moab. Hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, river rafting, horseback riding, jeep excursions, and tours of Arches or Canyonlands national parks are just a few of the options in this corner of Utah, an adventurer's dream destination.

The ranch itself dates back to 1903, when it was part of a frontier homestead. Bought as a private getaway in 1994, the owner later turned it into a three-room bed-and-breakfast, and in 2000, opened it as a larger guest lodge. Today, there are 55 rooms and suites in luxurious two-story redwood cabins aligned beside the river. Inside, there's a tone of rustic elegance with leather couches and copper fixtures, fireplaces, and rugged log furniture.

The Western theme continues in the main lodge, where the River Grill Restaurant serves fish, meat, and game with a view of the Colorado just outside. Besides the pool and tennis courts, there's a tranquil spa, whose cool green decor and array of treatments embrace not just the West but also the East. But this is Moab! The resort's large equestrian facility invites horseback explorations of the high desert surroundings. So why not saddle up and gallop off toward a red-rock sunset? -J.T.

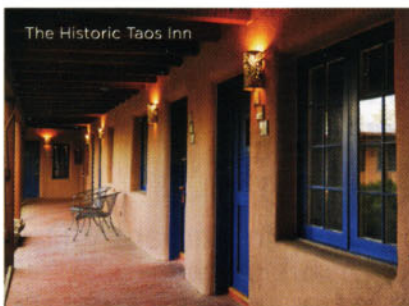
SORRELL RIVER RANCH Moab, UT, 877-359-2715, sorrellriver.com. Rates: From \$309.

THE HIGH ROAD: SANTA FE TO TAOS

There's something alluring about northern New Mexico, with its mountainous landscape, luminous blue skies, and classic adobe buildings. Artists have long flocked to both Taos and Santa Fe, and around the venerable plazas of the towns, the rich mix of Native American, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures is reflected in the galleries and boutiques full of traditional and contemporary arts and crafts.

In August, sophisticated Santa Fe welcomes the luxe **Encantado**. Located on the site of a longtime ranch, the 62 contemporary adobe casitas evoke the prevailing architecture with wood-beam ceilings and kiva fireplaces but add expansive baths with soaking tubs and private terraces with views of the mountains. The 10,000-square-foot spa—laid out with courtyards, fountains, pools, and a meditation labyrinth—highlights locally inspired treatments. In the signature restaurant, Terra, chef Charles Dale serves modern rustic cuisine that emphasizes fresh, local, and seasonal ingredients. After dinner—of cumin-roasted pheasant breast, say—guests can move to the terrace outside Betty's Bar (named for a former owner of Rancho Encantado) and sip a nightcap around a fire pit under the stars.

In nearby Taos, visitors often savor their cocktails at the Adobe Bar, in the two-story lobby of the **Historic Taos Inn**, as the sounds of live jazz play in the background. The hostelry began in 1890 as the residence and office of the town doctor, Thomas Martin. About 40 years later, his widow turned the collection of adjacent adobe buildings and courtyards into an inn that has remained a local favorite since. A National Historic Landmark, it has 44 rooms and suites appointed in chic southwestern decor. At the restaurant, Doc Martin's, chef Zippy White's artful menu presents contemporary American cuisine with southwestern flair. The Taos plaza is just steps from the hotel's front door, while several museums and galleries fill the village streets. About a mile away is Taos pueblo itself, perhaps 1,000 years old, whose sunbaked adobe dwellings have inspired generations of painters and travelers to explore the riches of the Southwest. -J.T.



ENCANTADO 198 State Rd. 592, Santa Fe, NM, 877-262-4666, encantadoresort.com. Rates: From \$250.

THE HISTORIC TAOS INN 125 Paseo del Pueblo Norte, Taos, NM, 505-758-2233, taosinn.com. Rates: From \$75.

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