

RECIPES FOR FALL PARTIES

# Sunset



## THE TRAVEL ISSUE

207 Ways to Experience the West

Rad Ranches, Beach Retreats, Mod Motels, Wine Country Escapes, Top Tables, Perfect Parks, and more!

+ What's new in Waikiki and Joshua Tree

THE CHICEST  
A-FRAME

THE COZIEST  
COTTAGE

THE CUTEST  
KITCHEN GADGETS

# TRAVEL & ESCAPES

WHERE TO STAY.....64

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK.....76

WHERE TO GO.....80

WHAT TO DO.....84

HOW TO GET THERE.....86



## Travel Awards

Hot hotels, new and classic restaurants, and the top destinations and activities from the desert to the coast—these are the 125 best ways to experience the West now.

Murrieta Hot Springs



## NATURE LOVERS LODGING

### Nat Hab's Alaska Bear Camp

Located in a remote and beautiful corner of Lake Clark National Park, this wildly unique camp provides exclusive access to observe coastal brown bears in their natural habitat. Guests stay in comfortable safari-style tents equipped with modern amenities, enjoying guided bear-viewing excursions led by expert naturalists. The camp emphasizes sustainability and conservation, providing an unforgettable adventure for wildlife enthusiasts seeking an intimate encounter with Alaska's most majestic residents.

### Aspen Meadows

Designed by legendary Bauhaus architect Herbert Bayer, Aspen Meadows is a cultural haven in Aspen's West End. Newly restored to its midcentury glory, it offers 98 suites, a restaurant with mountain views, and free guest access to the Bayer Center museum and its exhibitions celebrating Bauhaus design. In addition to providing ski shuttles and a serene retreat, it also hosts the Aspen Ideas Festival making it a perfect getaway for culture-loving adventurers.

### Inn the Ground

A new wave of regenerative travel is taking hold in the Willamette Valley, with this design-forward, eco-conscious nine-room inn at the forefront. The hotel component works in tandem with their restaurant and sprawling sustainable permaculture project that includes multiple natural springs supporting grass-fed and -finished cattle, heritage-breed hogs, and pasture-raised laying hens. There's also a massive garden growing heirloom



fruits and veg for the farm-fresh breakfasts, making for an experience that feeds the soul and the belly.

### Outlook Inn

Outlook Inn on Orcas Island offers luxurious accommodations in an iconic Pacific Northwest vacation destination. With spacious rooms overlooking Fishing Bay it's an idyllic oceanfront getaway. Guests enjoy locally inspired cuisine at New Leaf Café, easy access to shops, galleries, and outdoor adventures. For the ultimate experience, book the Water's Edge Deluxe Suites

for stunning views and upscale amenities.

### Harvest Hosts

Discover the charm of the West with this unique RV membership program that allows #vanlifters to park overnight at unique stays at over 5,000 locations across North America, including vineyards, farms, and quaint museums. Imagine waking up at a lavender farm in California, a Wyoming ranch, or a desert winery in Arizona, all while supporting small business owners along the way.



West while being just 20 minutes outside the resort town of Vail. Activities range from horseback riding and fly-fishing to simply relaxing while roasting s'mores underneath the clearest Colorado night skies.

**Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge**

Reconnect with nature, dine finely, and relax in the sauna while immersed in Alaska's breathtaking landscape at Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. Here you can access the stunning seacoast wilderness of Kenai Fjords National Park. Enjoy whale-watching, marine wildlife tours, and views



access and dark-sky stargazing, Ambiente provides a harmonious and luxurious escape in Sedona's breathtaking landscape.

**The Sea Ranch Lodge**

The iconic '60s utopian housing development situated on 53 acres of dramatic Sonoma coastline is home to the newly resorted and super stylish Sea Ranch Lodge. With guest rooms redesigned by Nicole Hollis, a dining room serving elevated coastal California cuisine, and a meadow with epic views of the sea, this architectural gem blends rustic elegance with modern comforts in a stunning natural setting. An essential Northern California architectural pilgrimage.

**Trailborn Rocky Mountains**

This year has seen a bevy of design-forward boutique properties opening up within close proximity to National Parks and monuments, and Trailborn Estes Park is well worth the visit. Its flagship outpost in Colorado has access to snow-capped peaks, alpine lakes, and 300 miles of hiking trails. In addition to the restaurant, bar, and cafe, there are two retail markets offering a selection of curated local products and grab-and-go items, plus outdoor pools, patios, porches, and communal firepits, all with views of the surrounding Rockies.

**Collective Vail**

Rugged luxury makes this Rocky Mountain retreat stand out from the rest. Surrounded by 1,000 pristine acres of high desert landscape, guests get an authentic sense of the American

of Pedersen Glacier from the lodge. Adventurers can hike and kayak, while the nearby Pedersen Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary ensures unique wildlife encounters.

**Lodge at Marconi**

The Lodge at Marconi in West Marin is the latest high-end lodging on Tomales Bay. Recently renovated, the sprawling hillside compound feels like a summer camp for grownups with a lobby stocked with board games, views of the bay, local artisanal snacks, and natural wine. With hiking trails, stylish appointed rooms, multiple event spaces, and no televisions, the Lodge is the perfect place to unplug and unwind.

**Sacred Rock Inn**

Perched above the dramatic Mendocino Coast, the newly renovated and expanded Sacred Rock Inn in Elk, CA, offers luxury seaside accommodations in a charming compound comprising serene gardens, historic bungalows, and a Victorian mansion—all with breathtaking views of this stretch of sea that's home to the gray whale migration route. Use this as your home base for exploring Anderson Valley wine country before returning to unwind at the Inn's New Californian restaurant Greenwood.

**El Capitan Hotel**

El Capitan Hotel in Merced, CA, offers modern rooms and amenities in a historic turn-of-the-century property. Located on Main Street, it serves as a gateway to Yosemite and features dining options like Rainbird, Native Son,

**Ambiente Sedona**

Designed to blend with its natural surroundings, the adults-only resort features floor-to-ceiling windows and rooftop decks on guest suites offering stunning Red Rock views. Guests enjoy courtesy transportation, dining at Fortyl, poolside relaxation, and pampering at Velvet Spa. With hiking trail

FROM TOP: JEFF ZARUBA; THOMAS J. STORY