

spirit

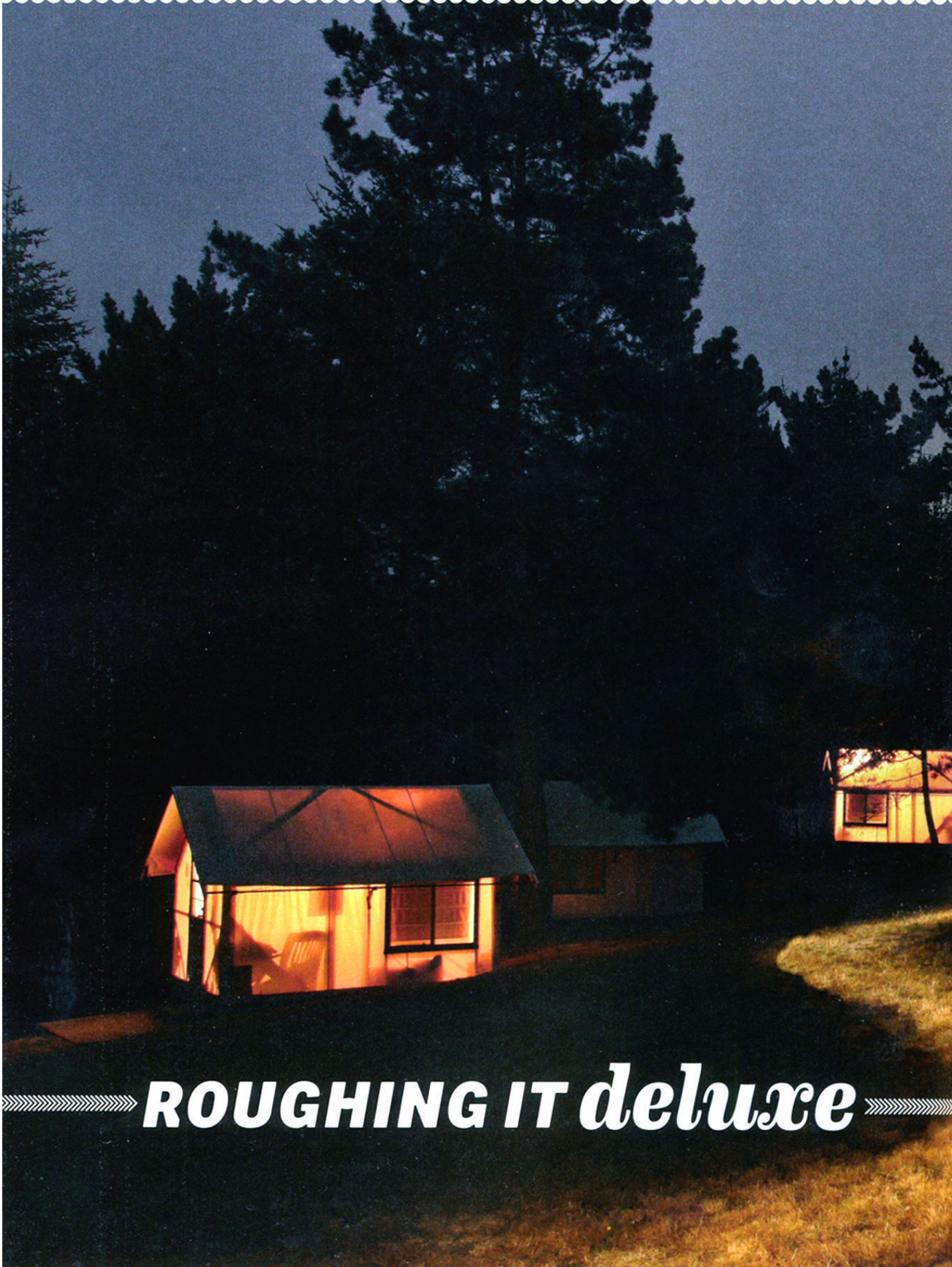
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

A Shot at Redemption

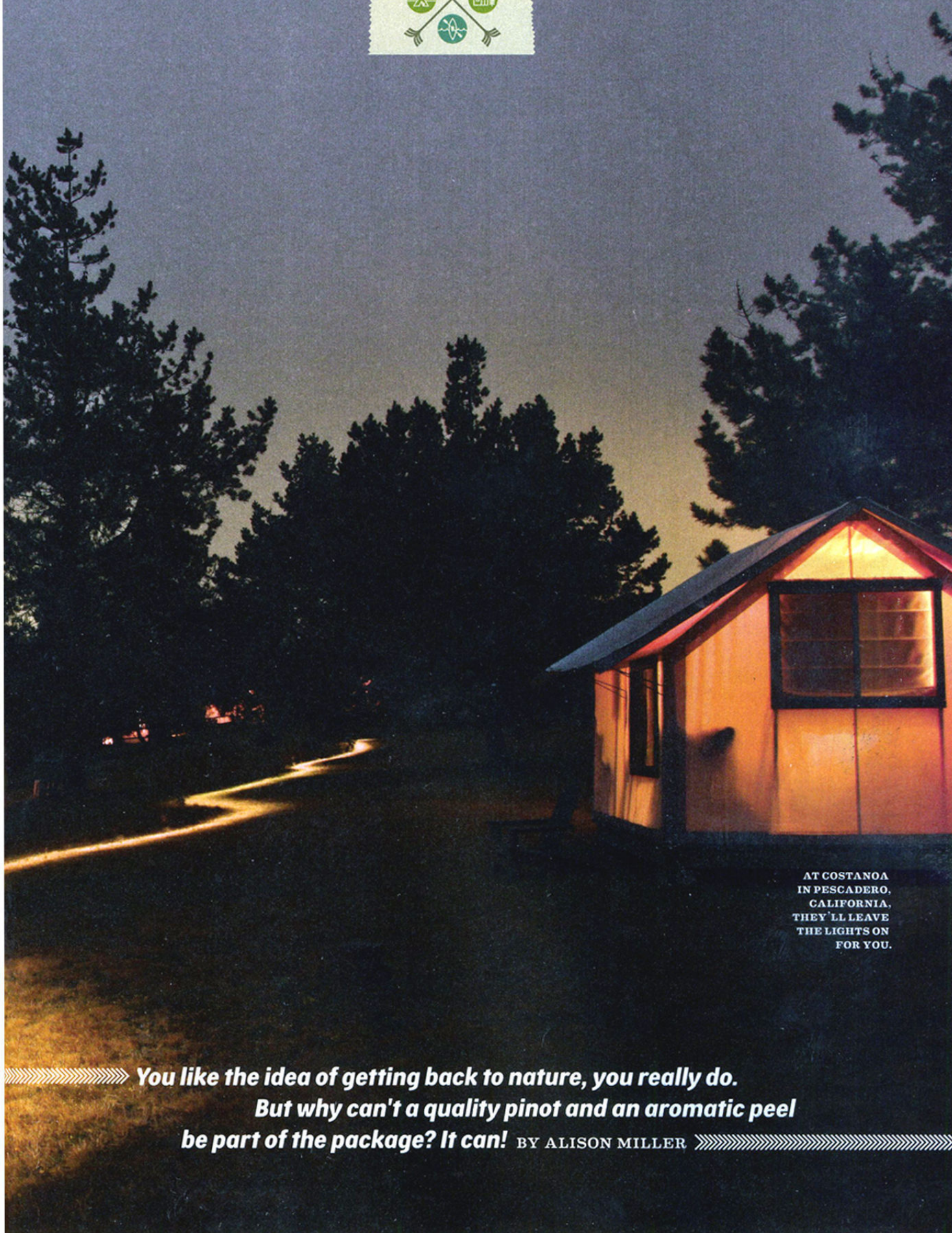
Life, like golf, is all about how you play out of the rough.

Taking the scenic route on hole 17 at Pinehurst's celebrated No. 2 course.

SEPTEMBER 2012



»»»» ***ROUGHING IT deluxe*** »»»»



AT COSTANOA
IN PESCADERO,
CALIFORNIA,
THEY'LL LEAVE
THE LIGHTS ON
FOR YOU.

» You like the idea of getting back to nature, you really do.

But why can't a quality pinot and an aromatic peel
be part of the package? It can! BY ALISON MILLER »

AS

ANY BIOLOGIST will tell you, we animals love “edge,” that boundary between land and sea, forest and meadow, mountain and valley. Vacations make a kind of edge as well. It’s an in-between time, when we can have our cake and eat it too—on a beach. Vacations aren’t about either/or. They’re about both/and.

That may seem obvious to you, but it took my wife and me 27 years of marriage to figure it out for ourselves. I like water; Dorothy likes dry land. I prefer a week without seeing a soul; she wants to socialize. I think the most delicious meal on Earth is a fish you caught and cooked yourself; she thinks any meal is delicious if somebody else cooked it—preferably without showing her the carcass. Tomato, tomahto, let’s call the whole vacation off. She would pack the kids up and go somewhere comfortable while I strapped on a backpack and went off into the wilderness.

After our children grew up and moved away, we felt ridiculous. “We’re happily married,” Dorothy said. “Why can’t we be happily married when we’re not working?”

So I searched for things we both liked. I offered cruises, luxury resorts, even shopping trips in New York and Dallas. “You hate shopping,” she pointed out.

“But I love you,” I said. (I’m not above scoring a few points.)

“Still, vacation shouldn’t be a sacrifice,” she said. “Find a way that I can see people and you can get away from people; where we can eat really well and maybe I can be pampered a little bit. Find all of that, and we have our perfect trip.”

It sounded like more of a perfect paradox. And yet I actually found a solution—one that could change your vacationing life.

In my case, the solution lay in the non-profit Appalachian Mountain Club, which owns three wilderness lodges in Maine. You stay in little cabins by remote lakes.

The staff feeds you breakfast and dinner and gives you fixings for a packed lunch. I wasn’t sure if it was for Dorothy—electricity is sparse and most of the cabins don’t have bathrooms—so I booked a week at one of the camps, followed by a weekend at the cushy Blair Inn in Greenville, Maine. All week I went off in a canoe while she sat in an Adirondack chair and read. We got together for cocktails and dinner in the evenings. After that, we luxuriated at Blair Hill, where we witnessed a double rainbow over Moosehead Lake just before our gourmet breakfast. We had reinvented vacation for ourselves: roughing it, followed by deluxe.

Is it possible to have your cake and eat it at the same time? That is, experience the wonders of nature and the big outdoors and get a massage on the same day?

That’s the great thing about working on a magazine like this. People are eager to find out for you. And that’s what the following pages are about: adventure and pampering, the yin and the yang of ideal vacationing. Go on, live on the edge. Both sides of the edge. —Jay Heinrichs



DASHBOARD

Use our system to find your blend of rough and luxe.



AMENITIES



Looking to scrub your own utensils or be pampered? This scale indicates whether you can expect (from left to right) tents or plush digs, beans or fine dining.



ADVENTURE



Do you like leisurely nature walks or muscling through white water? The left end of this scale means you’ll be chillin’, the right—grunt.

PICK YOUR PLEASURE

From sleeping in a treehouse and foraging for fungi to luxuriating in a spa after a high-elevation hike, we’ve listed the following 15 trips in order from rough to luxe.



VERTICAL HORIZONS TREEHOUSE PARADISE CAVE JUNCTION, OR

DEEP IN THE coniferous Siskiyou Mountains of Southwest Oregon, Phil and Jodie Moskios have created a treehugger’s dream: three cabins built high above the forest floor (two are literally constructed around towering Douglas firs) and 23 acres of unbridled nature for exploring. Each of the arboreal aeries comes with board games, books, and hot chocolate, and guests are encouraged to relax and enjoy the view (or play disc golf, volleyball, and horseshoes). Entertain your Tarzan tendencies

with a tree-climbing lesson or a restful slumber in a hammock-like “tree boat.” In late fall the area is rife with edible fungi, and a seasoned local will guide you on a mushroom hunt. Bring back your funky finds, then roast them on your charcoal grill or ask Phil to toss them into your a.m. omelet. From \$225, including breakfast; treehouseparadise.com



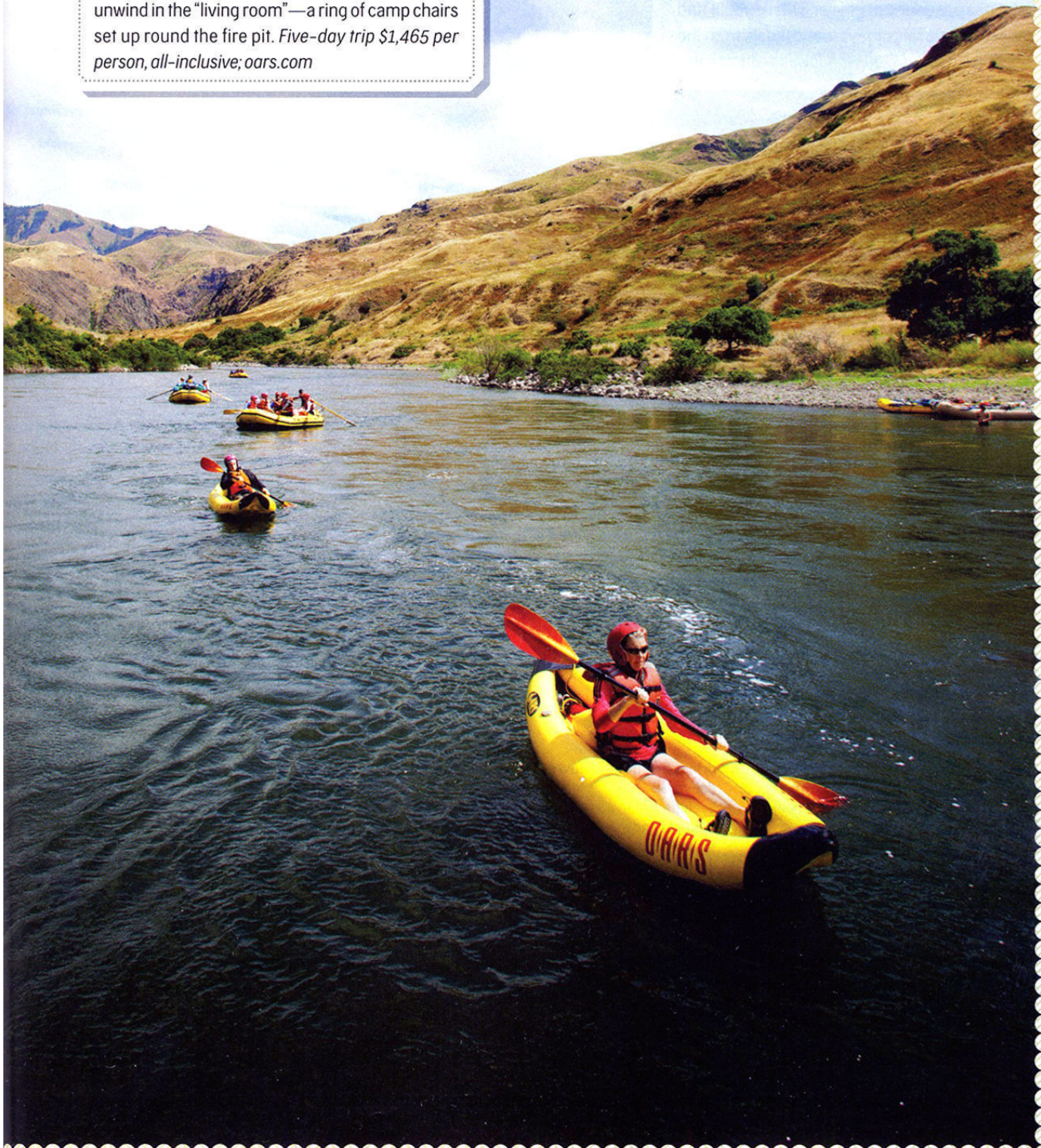
YELLOWSTONE UNDER CANVAS WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT

SIX MILES OUTSIDE the legendary national park’s west entrance sits a cluster of teepees and tents,



O.A.R.S.

HELLS CANYON, ID On select overnight rafting excursions, Outdoor Adventure River Specialists enlists a wine expert and culinary team to satiate its guests. The Hells Canyon tour takes you down the stunning Snake River, which borders Idaho and Oregon. Between rapids, you'll stop to eye Nez Perce pictographs and an early 20th century homestead. After the nightly, wine-paired multi-course meal, unwind in the "living room"—a ring of camp chairs set up round the fire pit. *Five-day trip \$1,465 per person, all-inclusive; oars.com*





CAMP WANDAWEGA

ELKHORN, WI Tereasa Surratt and David Hernandez spent nine years artfully appointing this historic lake resort with authentic furnishings from the '20s through the '60s. Amusements here are of a bygone era—think croquet, canoeing, and shuffleboard—and everything is retro, right down to the antique fishing rods. Complete the time-travel experience by riding one of the squeaky vintage Schwinn's to the nearby gourmet grocer, where you'll find produce from local purveyors and meats from the owners' farm. *From \$200; wandawegarentals.com*



serenely assembled alongside the South Fork of the Madison River. But these aren't the bed-sheet forts of your childhood. Each 10-foot-tall teepee can fit up to four cots and is equipped with a table, lantern, and safari chairs; every plank-board-floored safari tent comes with a king-size bed (or two twins), plus—in true Teddy Roosevelt-style—bedside tables, a chest of drawers, and an Oriental or cowhide rug. Yellowstone Under Canvas has partnered with local outfitters for easy access to park pursuits like kayaking, horseback riding, and fly-fishing. And for a reasonable fee the staff will happily prepare you a picnic lunch or serve you a sundowner:

drinks and hors d'oeuvres delivered at sunset to a nearby secluded spot. Book your trip for next year now—the camp closes for the season in mid-September. *From \$89; mtundercanvas.com*



ADVENTURES ON THE GORGE NEW RIVER GORGE, WV

WEST VIRGINIA MAY be almost heaven for most, but for folks in search of white-water rapids it really is utopia—especially in fall. That's when the Summersville Dam unleashes a torrent of water into

the Gauley River, setting the stage for some of the country's preeminent paddling. (Those with kids in tow can opt for the calmer upper area of the New River.) Over the past decade, the area's top adventure outfitters have joined forces to create an easily navigable resort that offers rafting, rock-climbing, zip-lining, and more. Accommodations range from platform tents to cabins with full kitchens, stacked-stone fireplaces, and hot tubs. Swap stories of rushing adrenaline over meals in the communal dining room, where dishes like molasses-and-maple-glazed pork loin defy wilderness resort expectations. *From \$159 per person, all inclusive; adventurewestvirginia.com*



"It's Dirty Dancing meets Moonrise Kingdom," say owner Tereasa Surratt.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARBARA BARETT



COSTANOA
PESCADERO, CA

ON A WINDSWEPT landscape an hour south of San Francisco sits a family-friendly compound called Costanoa (meaning “dancing on the brink of the world”). Choose from a lodge guest room, a fireplace-equipped cabin, or a canvas “tent bungalow” wired with electricity. When nature calls, you won’t be running for the woods: Bathhouses have saunas, heated concrete floors, and private indoor and outdoor showers. The activities here are enviro-minded. In one, a member of the Bat Conservancy of Coastal California leads an info session; in another, kids make plantable paper flecked with wildflower seeds. Just down the road, you can visit Big Basin Redwoods State Park, the tide pools of Whitehouse Creek Beach, and Año Nuevo, the nation’s largest mainland breeding colony of elephant seals. Back at camp, retire to the Pine Tent, where local musicians jam out under a blanket of stars. *From \$79; costanoa.com*



AUSTIN-LEHMAN ADVENTURES
BRYCE CANYON & ZION NATIONAL PARKS, UT

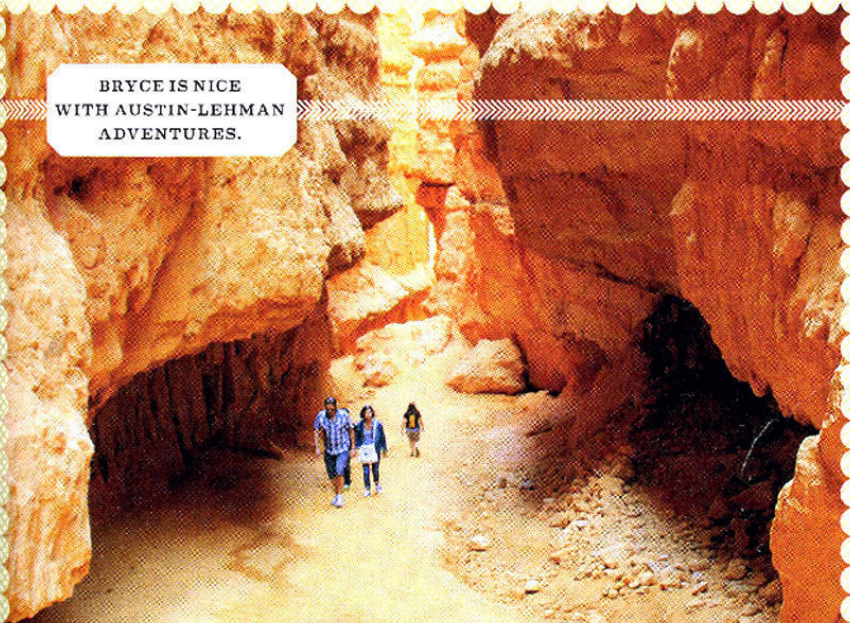
YOU CAN REST assured that, after 20 years of leading trips through this exquisite, otherworldly landscape, the veteran guides of Austin-Lehman Adventures know the ins and outs of every slot

canyon, sand dune, and arch. On foot, traverse natural formations like the Virgin River Narrows (16 miles long, up to 2,000 feet deep, and at times only 20 feet wide) and the thrilling Angel’s Landing, on which you’ll scale the spine of a towering rock ridge flanked by daunting drop-offs. On two wheels, you’ll travel between Bryce and Zion via the spectacular Red Canyon, as well as ride the wide-open roads between park sights. (The edible niceties—think picnic lunches and fresh-churned ice cream—will be well-earned.) Every night, you’ll be shuttled to a plush park lodge where you can unwind with a soothing hot-tub soak. *Six-day trip \$2,098 per person, all-inclusive; austinlehman.com*



TREEBONES
BIG SUR, CA

IT’S A CABIN! It’s a tent! No...it’s a yurt! The domed structure has its origins in ancient Central Asia, but lately its popularity has risen here in modern America. This particular cluster of canvas shelters, set on a bluff above the Pacific, comes with an infinity pool, full-service restaurant, and outdoor sushi bar. Each of the 16 yurts has a 13-foot ceiling, a queen-size bed, and a deck. Treebones recommends several local tour companies who lead private excursions, ranging from hiking to sea kayaking. Arrive on bicycle and get a free bottle of wine—a thank-you from the owners for being eco-friendly. *From \$189, including breakfast; treebonesresort.com*



BRYCE IS NICE WITH AUSTIN-LEHMAN ADVENTURES.

PACKING LIST

“Be prepared” is the Boy Scout motto. Add ease and style to your trip with these tasteful tagalongs.



Fire Starters Made of natural resin and the stumps of cultivated pine trees, Light My Fire’s TinderSticks are chemical-free and sustainable. Because let’s be honest: Gathering kindling is so 1868. \$5; lightmyfireusa.com



Charcoal Grill Leave it to high-design kitchenware company Bodum to stylize outdoor cooking. The Fyrkat charcoal grill’s 15-inch frame ensures easy traveling, while its eye-catching exterior incites campground envy. \$70; bodum.com



GPS Watch With Garmin’s new Fenix watch, you can navigate between marked locations or go off the grid and then use the TracBack function to retrace your steps. Sure beats the Reese’s Pieces method. \$400; garmin.com



Movable Warmth Pendleton’s Yakima Camp Blanket was inspired by the ones once used by shepherders. A leather carrier makes it easy to haul on your shoulder—or on the saddle of your trusted steed. \$98; pendleton-usa.com



Espresso Maker A tiny engine powered by air cartridges allows this handheld device to reach the pressure levels of a professional espresso machine. Fill with grounds, add boiling water, and squeeze the trigger. \$169; mypressi.com



Classic Flask Stanley’s utilitarian drinking vessels exude timeless workman style. Fill this stainless steel beauty with eight ounces of your favorite spirit, then toast to the great outdoors. \$20; shopstanley-pmi.com



Trail Tote Thanks to an adjustable strap, Topo Designs’ Cinch Bag can be worn over the shoulder or around the waist. Each mini-carryall is handmade in a LEED-certified facility in Colorado. \$29; topodesigns.com



CICLISMO CLASSICO
THE BERKSHIRE
MOUNTAINS, MA

A PRIME LOCALE for leaf-peeping, the bucolic Berkshires are also known for winding roads, elegant inns, and yes, James Taylor, who resides in the town of Washington. Your home base for this two-wheeled, four-day trip? The Victorian-era Rookwood Inn in Lenox. Every day, you'll cycle 35 to 40 miles as you make your way to local attractions like Tanglewood Music Center (site of countless JT performances), Hancock Shaker Village (of meticulous furniture-making fame), and the Norman Rockwell Museum. By night, indulge in some of Lenox's most respected restaurants—after showering, or course. *Four-day trip \$1,795 per person, all-inclusive; ciclismoclassico.com*



BACKROADS
SANTA FE AND TAOS, NM

THIS LONG-RUNNING multisport tour is a celebration of nature, as well as Spanish, Mexican, and

Anglo culture—all taken in on foot and by mountain bike. The literal (and figurative) high points: ancient petroglyphs and dwellings carved into the cliffs of Bandelier National Monument; 9,820-foot-high Bobcat Pass; and Ghost Ranch, the beauty of which Georgia O'Keeffe captured in many of her paintings. Guests also traverse a gorge favored by red-tailed hawks, porcupines, and mule deer, and are given plenty of time to properly browse the galleries and shops of Santa Fe and Taos. Your digs for the duration? Modern domiciles with adobe-style architecture and amenities galore. *Six-day trip \$2,898 per person, all-inclusive; backroads.com*



EQUINOX RESORT & SPA
MANCHESTER VILLAGE,
VT

FRESH FROM A \$20 million renovation, this white-columned spread has been entertaining the adventurous elite for more than 200 years. Amateur avian enthusiasts can learn how to handle birds of prey at the on-site British School of Falconry. After an introductory lesson, you can participate in a hawk walk, in

which trained Harris hawks follow you from the forest, returning to your gloved hand every so often for a meaty treat. Equinox is also home to an archery center, a Land Rover driving school, and an Orvis fly-fishing and shotgun-shooting academy. A 10-room spa ensures restorative soothing after a day full of civilized sport. *From \$299, activities extra; equinoxresort.com*



**MOHONK MOUNTAIN
HOUSE**
NEW PALTZ, NY

NINETY MILES NORTH of New York City, this grande dame rises like a brick-walled beacon above the Hudson River. Around the turn of the century, well-to-do New Yorkers would ride north for month-long furloughs; these days, the resort caters to more of a weekend crowd, offering predesigned vacation packages to suit an array of interests. One transports guests to the rocky Shawangunk Ridge (known locally as "The Gunks") to scale a towering cliff called Sky Top. Climbers have mapped 300 routes on its north face. Thankfully, you'll be escorted by a nimble guide from Alpine Endeavors, a local outfitter with which Mohonk has an exclusive partnership. Afterward, settle in at the hotel's 30,000-square-foot spa (lauded as one of the country's best), and ask for the Mohonk Red: After evergreen aromatherapy and a full-body massage, towels infused with witch hazel (which grows naturally here) are applied to your face and feet, easing you into a power nap. *From \$210 per person per night, including meals; guided half-day climbs from \$220 per person; mohonk.com*



HOTEL COMMONWEALTH
BOSTON

THOMAS KELLER, Daniel Boulud, Grant Achatz—these are some of Island Creek Oysters' most loyal customers. Despite its humble beginnings, the farm sells more than 100,000 oysters a week, many of them to the country's most celebrated restaurants. Thanks to a special package at Boston's Hotel Commonwealth, inquisitive gourmands can see what all the fuss is about. On a skiff ride out into Duxbury Bay with an all-knowing



SEAFOOD STANDS OUT
AT BOSTON'S HOTEL
COMMONWEALTH.



LAKE AUSTIN SPA RESORT

AUSTIN, TX Set on 19 acres fronting a docile lake, this acclaimed retreat is known for its sprawling, yet cozy, spa. Relaxation is earned with high-impact activities: Kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, and hydro-bikes are available for guests; and ever-changing, daily fitness classes range from "Ballet Body" to "Burn 300." This month, the four-day Quench! program brings about aquatic options like wakeboarding and PiYoChi, which puts yoga, pilates, and tai chi to work in the pool. *Three-night stay from \$1,720 per person, all-inclusive; lakeaustinspa.com*



farm employee, you'll learn how oysters get from estuary to eatery. (You'll also suck down a fresh sample or two right there on the boat.) Back in Beantown, dinner reservations are waiting at the hotel's own Island Creek Oyster Bar, where you'll feast on a locally sourced seafood supper. The stay also includes a bottle of homemade rose vermouth and a one-on-one cocktail class with the head bartender of Eastern Standard, the Commonwealth's seriously respected bar. Because what goes better with oysters than a carefully crafted cocktail? *From \$2,000 for two people, two nights, including all of the above; hotel commonwealth.com*



PARK HYATT BEAVER CREEK RESORT AND SPA

AVON, CO

IN THE STATE OF Colorado, there are 54 mountains whose peaks rise above 14,000 feet. They're called 14ers, and certain calloused and committed hikers have made it their mission to scale every last one. The achievement is not to be underestimated. With that in mind, the plush, chateau-style Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa (elevation: 8,100) created an experience for its guests that nudges them up their first

Colorado high peak. The plan: five nights in a balconied room, three days of guided hiking (two "training" hikes, then a 14'er), a reflexology foot treatment, and a massage designed to relieve the discomforts of high-altitude hiking (think hot stones, deep tissue work, and eucalyptus steam). The package also includes a daily protein-packed breakfast, a knapsack filled with energy bars and sunscreen, usage of hiking poles and proper boots, plus three picnic lunches hauled up by your guide and served at the summit. *Five-night stay from \$1,900 per person, including all of the above; available by request, weather permitting; beavercreek.hyatt.com*



Soothing music plays in the pool barn, where you can swim 25-meter laps.