

"Surely, of all the wonders of the world,
the horizon is the greatest."
— Freya Stark

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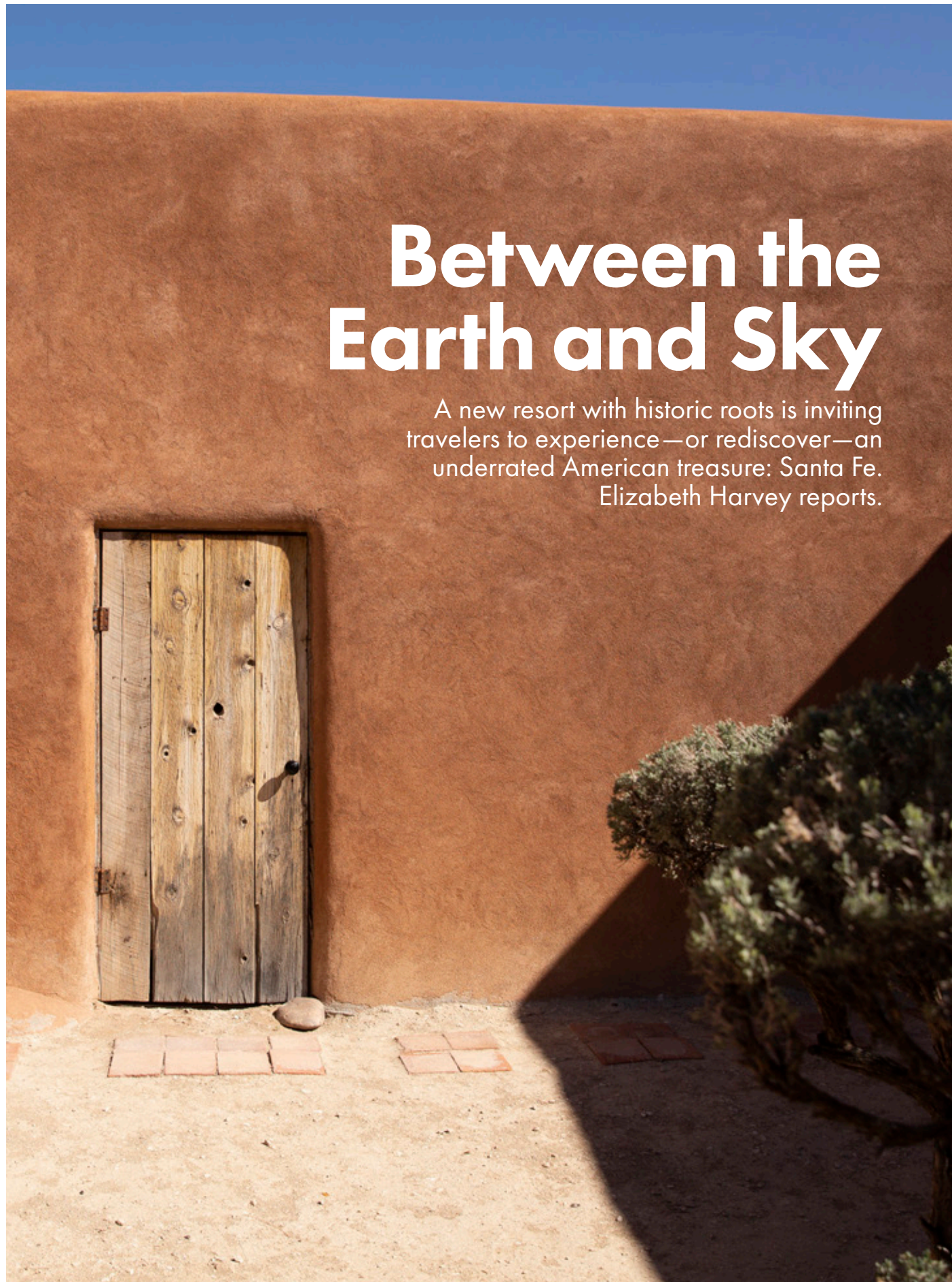
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EPIC FAMILY TRIPS

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Between the Earth and Sky

A new resort with historic roots is inviting travelers to experience—or rediscover—an underrated American treasure: Santa Fe. Elizabeth Harvey reports.



A lounge area at Bishop's Lodge. Opposite: A courtyard at Georgia O'Keeffe's Abiquiú studio.

GEORGIA O'KEEFE MUSEUM



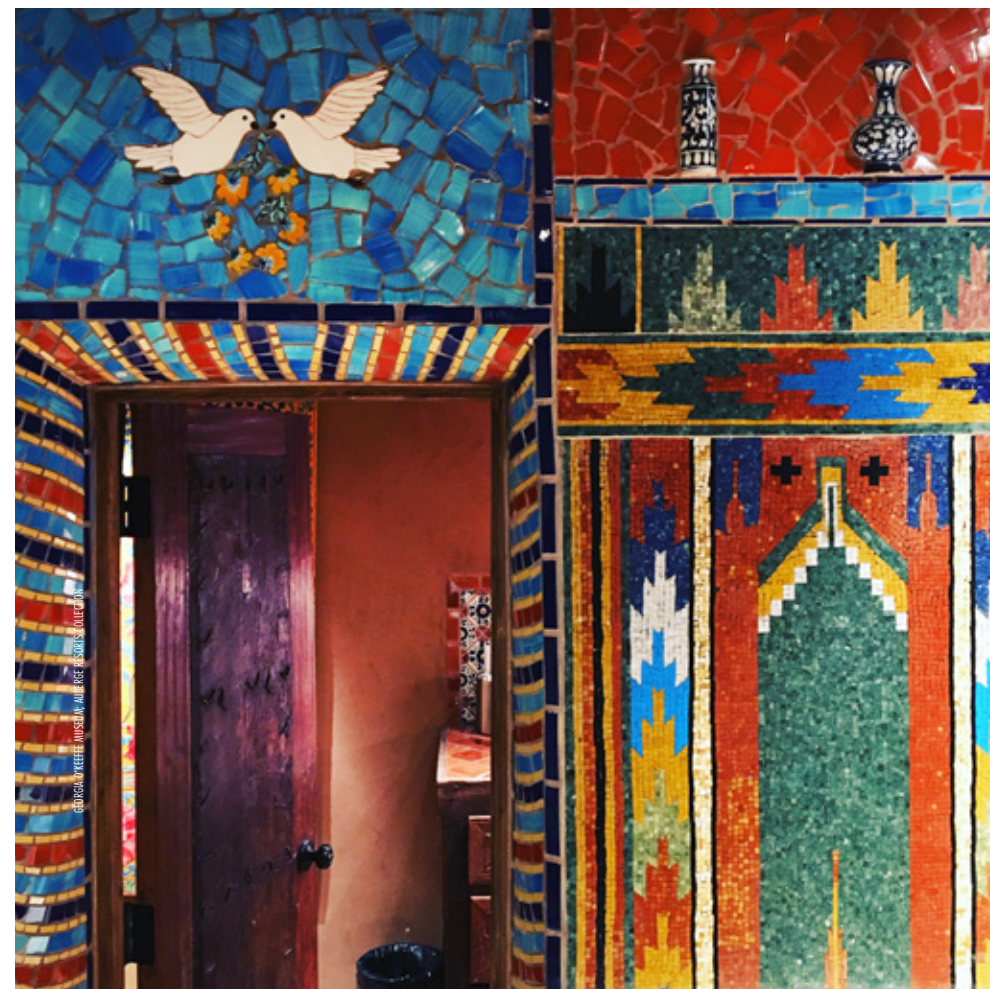
HERE THE SANGRE DE CRISTO

mountains meet the foothills of the southern Rockies, rust-colored mesas, mauve ridges and sprawling sagebrush sweep over the space between the earth and sky that comprises New Mexico—and just east of where the Rio Grande cuts through the land lies a cluster of flat-roofed adobe homes, Gothic cathedrals and plazas draped in twinkling lights: Santa Fe. While this city of “Sacred Faith,” today nicknamed “The City Different,” was on my radar as a charming and creative artists’ hub with vibrant food and festival scenes, it was not, admittedly, at the top of my travel list. But when Omicron derailed holiday plans to visit Scandinavia, I found myself shelving visions of snow-dusted cobblestones and mulled wine by the fire to make space for the promise of chile margaritas sipped side-saddle on a saloon barstool and strolling along the glowing orange lanterns of the famous Christmas *farolitos*. After two years of living and traveling in a pandemic, I’ve learned to embrace the advantages that spontaneous trips can afford.

Upon arrival, I began to feel increasingly foolish for how little I knew about how much Santa Fe has to offer. Beyond the artsy-chic aesthetic, cowboy glamour and generally pleasant year-round weather—and that ever-alluring romance that beckons every American at one point or another to go west—Santa Fe is heavy with history and culture. It’s defined by a multiethnic legacy that can be found in few other places in the country. Founded between 1607 and 1610, Santa Fe is the oldest capital in the U.S. and our second-oldest city overall (preceded only by St. Augustine, Florida). Its colonization under the Spanish Empire and its proximity to present-day Mexico make the place feel foreign—especially to East Coasters like myself—and that seemed peculiar, until I recalled that New Mexico only became a U.S. state in 1912. In moments, looking at the Spanish street signs and plazas, I could have imagined myself to be in Sevilla or San Miguel de Allende, but every glimpse of the purple mountain majesties in the distance was a reminder that these lands were first inhabited by the Navajo, the Apache, the Hopi, the Pueblos and their ancestors. Their descendants continue to live in Sante Fe and sovereign territories nearby, and their influence is everywhere. How all of this—the Native American, the Mexican and the Spanish—came to be wrapped up together in the star-spangled banner is a chapter of history that visitors must contend with; nonetheless, the result is a multilayered and beautiful thing.



A living room in Georgia O’Keeffe’s Abiquiú studio. Clockwise from above left: A firepit at Bishop’s Lodge; Sante Fe architecture; a bedroom at Bishop’s Lodge; mosaic tilework.





Santa Fe Top Tables

In town, these are the names to know:

Geronimo: Excellent New American in a 250-year-old landmark adobe building on Canyon Road

Sazón: Contemporary Latin American cuisine from Mexico City-born chef Fernando Olea, nominated this year for a James Beard Award

Arroyo Vino: A farm-to-table bistro and wine shop a short drive from town

Restaurant Martín: Elevated regional cuisine from legendary Santa Fe chef Martín Rios

Paloma: Mexican plates and cocktails in a vibrant, relaxed space

La Boca: Spanish tapas and wine bar, with live music events

Radish & Rye: Fresh flavors from the garden and an extensive bourbon menu

The Shed: A casual Santa Fe classic (walk-in only—go early!)

Cafe Pasqual's: Another Santa Fe institution serving Mexican fare in a historic adobe building

Although Santa Fe contains much to fascinate across interests, it has lacked a wealth of luxury hotels, with travelers choosing between the Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi, which opened in 1990 on the main plaza, and the Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado, which was established in 2012 in an enclave just north of town. Now, an opening from Auberge Resorts Collection is providing a new contemporary retreat. Bishop's Lodge launched last summer on 317 acres bordering the Santa Fe National Forest, less than 10 minutes by car from downtown, on a 19th-century estate that was cultivated by the Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy. After passing through many hands (including the

Pulitzer family's), the property has been reborn through a \$75 million renovation and restoration led by Dallas's Nunzio Marc DeSantis Architects and designers Mary Alice Palmer and Natalie Smith.

With a terraced layout that evokes the Lodge at Blue Sky, its modern sister in Utah, Bishop's Lodge consists of adobe buildings, as well as the original chapel, accommodating 100 guest rooms, suites and three- and four-bedroom casitas. Interiors emphasize Native American design, with white-clay kiva fireplaces, sturdy wood and leather furnishings and covetable Navajo rugs (which can be found in town at galleries like Shiprock and Malouf on the Plaza). Guests who are willing to conquer a steep hill to reach their rooms will be rewarded by the Kivas: three 750-square-foot, stand-alone suites that have private outdoor plunge pools overlooking the resort to the mountains (one of the best views on-property). Meanwhile, multigenerational families will find their home-away-from-home in the 12-bedroom reclaimed barnwood Bunkhouse, with vaulted ceilings that fit a two-story stone fireplace and great room (and 24 adults, and up to 12 children).

The beating heart of the property—and the place where I found myself whiling away the hours—is the main lodge, where a large hearth, cushy armchairs and a pair of olive-green velvet couches invite card games, reading and chats with fellow guests over craft mezcal cocktails. It is here that a hungry traveler will also find the SkyFire restaurant. Design touches like exposed wood beams, thick tavern tables, bunches of mountain wildflowers and custom ceramics from local brand Whiskey + Clay give the space an immediate intimacy that is bolstered by the kind and personable staff. Another standout is the curation of artwork, including early- and mid-20th-century pieces from the property's original collection. Highlights include prints from Santa Fe icon Gustave Baumann and a series of large oil paintings depicting Pueblo life by Warren Eliphalet Rollins, the first recorded artist to have a formal exhibition in Santa Fe. According to local legend, Rollins offered the paintings to the estate in lieu of payment for his lodgings—and today they stir the spirit with the same energy that vibrates in the murals of Rivera, Siqueiros and Orozco, his celebrated Mexican contemporaries.

Equally energetic is the cuisine from chef Pablo Peñalosa, whose résumé includes time in Mexico City (his hometown), Catalunya and San Sebastián, with stints at El Celler de Can Roca and Martín Berasategui, both of which have earned three *Michelin* stars. The menu reflects Southwestern and Santa Fe traditions, with international and farm-to-table influences, featuring dishes like buffalo

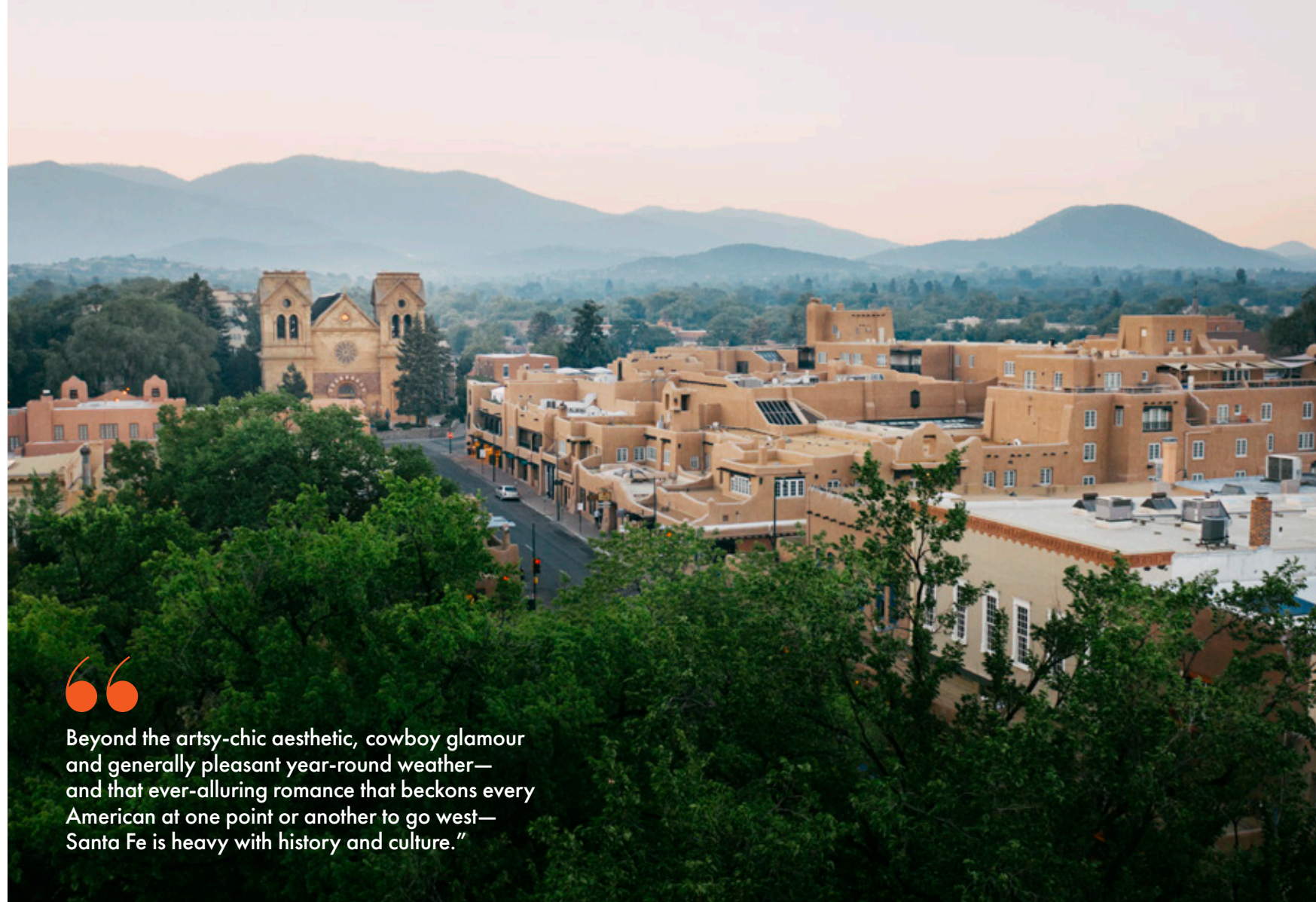


The hearth at Bishop's Lodge. Opposite: Shrimp tacos at SkyFire, the Bishop's Lodge restaurant.

tenderloin with Yukon Gold purée, cauliflower *adovada* with *salsa verde*, *hamachi*, coconut and ginger ceviche and rustic Italian pastas. Though I loved exploring Santa Fe's dynamic restaurant scene, more than once, I found myself opting to return "home" to try something new—and for yet another pairing by the tiny but formidable sommelier and wine director, Ella Raymont (who all but ruined other white wines for me with the introduction of a perfectly balanced, bright skin-contact Pinot Grigio from Collio producer Venica & Venica). And those seeking Santa Fe's famous chiles will not be disappointed here: in addition to serving the classic red and green rivals (as well as a long list of hot sauces of diverse provenance and heat), the restaurant also advertises the unique services of a "Chile Host," who can curate pepper pairings to taste.

Beyond the dining room, Bishop's Lodge hosts a variety of experiences, from hiking, mountain biking, fly-fishing and horseback riding to massages or meditative drumming at the spa, outdoor mindfulness sessions, raku pottery and watercolor classes and chocolate tastings. A quick trip downtown brings guests to the densest concentration of art galleries in the world, with 250 in just two square miles along the famed Canyon Road, as well as prime shopping (this is the place to amass a Western-glam wardrobe) and over 20 museums. While there are several excellent collections to explore, including the Museum of International Folk Art and the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, the most sought-after is undoubtedly the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Opened in 1997, just over a decade after the Modernist artist's death, the museum celebrates O'Keeffe's body of work and her deep connection to New Mexico. In addition to inspiring some of her most celebrated paintings—such as *Ram's Head*, *White Hollyhock-Hills*—Santa Fe and its surrounds were O'Keeffe's refuge, and she maintained two homes here during her lifetime—in Abiquiú and at the edge of the 21,000-acre Ghost Ranch. The Abiquiú studio is open to the public; plus, the museum recently announced plans for an ambitious 54,000-square-foot facility, to be complete by the end of 2025, which will enable a greater display of the collection and rotating exhibitions of diverse artists, as well as integrated community programming.

Why has this area become such a muse for so many creatives over generations? Georgia O'Keeffe shared her answer in the March 4, 1974, issue of *The New Yorker* in an interview with Calvin Tomkins: "It was the shapes of the hills there that fascinated me[.] The reddish sand hills with the dark mesas behind them. It seemed as though no matter how far you walked you could never get into those dark hills, although I walked great distances." For all its culture, Santa Fe is still a wild place, with areas of



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harsh topography where elk, mountain lions, coyotes, rattlesnakes, golden eagles and peregrine falcons rule over forests of piñon pine and juniper, fighting upward along rugged escarpments. The land's contours are wind-whipped and ethereal, and the unique composition of the rock—the result of a prehistoric volcanic eruption—makes the canyons malleable, creating mysterious patterns of holes that were later carved out by the early Pueblos into dwellings. These nomadic communities grew into sophisticated cities that were immaculately planned in alignment with the movements of the planets and the stars—a staggering example of citywide time- and calendar-keeping.

One of the finest places to marvel at this phenomenon is Bandelier National Monument, an hour's drive west of Bishop's Lodge. As my guide conveyed the history of these Pueblos—pointing out narrow paths etched along the cliffs, trodden by a people who must have been very deft-footed—I once again felt humbled by my ignorance of the significance of this region. I learned that Bandelier, and

TODD/SAN FÉ

New Mexico at large, contain some of the earliest evidence of human presence in the Americas. I also discovered that Santa Fe is the site of the only successful Native uprising to occur against a colonizing power in North America. After suffering years of increasing oppression, forced conversion and massacre, the Pueblo tribes united in 1680 in a coordinated attack that drove the Spanish out of Santa Fe for 12 years. Although they were eventually reconquered, the revolt empowered the Pueblos to negotiate land grants and a greater degree of political and religious freedom. It is because of this that the Pueblo tribes are said to be the only indigenous peoples in the U.S. today who were never displaced from their ancestral lands.

Over the course of my weeklong stay at Bishop's Lodge, I felt the force of Santa Fe that has moved so many others beginning to exert a pull on me, as well. I was burned out by a long year of feigned normalcy—and by finding myself, seemingly, right back where I started one year prior: border-bound by the outbreak of another variant. As I felt my

Left to right: Downtown Santa Fe; an art gallery on Canyon Road.



curiosity, and hope, coming back to life, I asked myself: *What is it about this place?* Georgia O'Keeffe may have said it was the vistas—but she moved to Santa Fe with the aim of resuming her painting, after spending over a year fighting depression and hospitalization, because she had discovered that her husband and collaborator, Arthur Stieglitz, was having an affair. What she really found in those hills, as the Pueblos did before her, was a stronghold of resilience. It's a sacred faith that burns there—somewhere between the earth and sky. ■

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Contact your Trip Designer or email bookings@indagare.com to inquire about planning a visit to Bishop's Lodge in Santa Fe. Our team can help secure the right rooms for you, provide restaurant and touring recommendations and more.