

ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

SITES & SIGHTINGS

The Great Thanksgiving Escape

A quartet of holiday-weekend getaways to make you gobble for joy

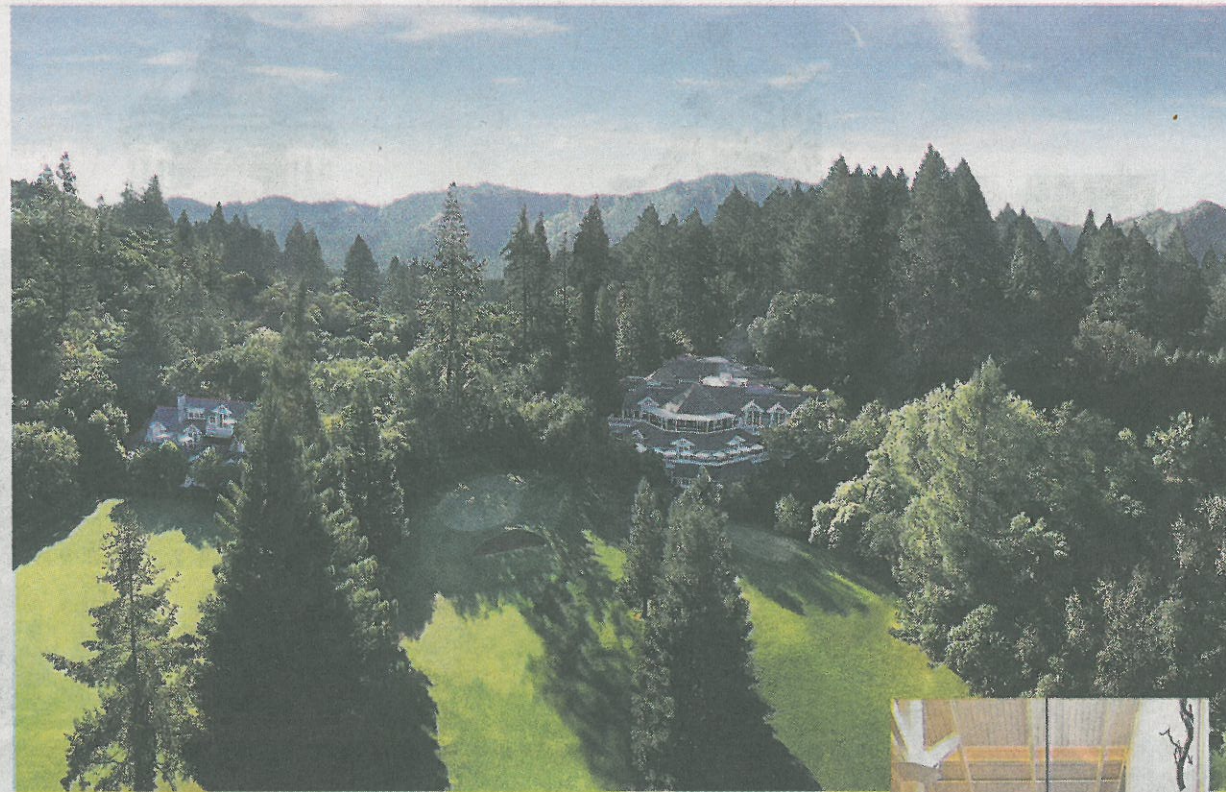
SPENDING HOURS in front of a hot stove isn't everyone's idea of bliss. For the kitchen-weary, or those who have yet to warm to the idea of cooking on an industrial scale, the long Thanksgiving weekend affords a prime opportunity to explore a new part of the country, or simply enjoy the quiet—and cushy—comforts of hotel living. These four domestic escapes offer top-notch Thanksgiving dinners as well as plenty of ways to stay busy while someone else does all the cooking. Another bonus: no dishes.

—Elizabeth Gunnison



Creature Comforts in Colorado, Plus Heli-Skiing: Dunton Hot Springs

Explore the great outdoors at this all-inclusive resort in a revamped ghost town just across the mountain from Telluride, Colo. Up to 44 guests can lodge in log cabins that juxtapose modern luxury with vintage charm. Activities range from heli-skiing to horseback riding, fly fishing to lounging in the hot springs. On Thanksgiving, watch pro football games projected on a jumbo screen in the town's Dance Hall, then play staff-versus-guests touch football before sitting down to a family-style dinner, served at one big communal table. *Rates from \$550 per cabin per night, all-inclusive; duntonhotsprings.com*



Northern California Luxury: Meadowood Napa Valley

Enjoy wine country after the harvest crowds have dissipated and before temperatures turn frigid at Meadowood, in St. Helena, Calif. Unwind with daily wine tastings; use of the resort's golf, tennis and croquet facilities; and appointments at the full-service spa. A traditional Thanksgiving dinner is served family-style in front of a roaring fire. Guests looking for a world-class culinary splurge can book a table at the Restaurant at Meadowood, the resort's three-Michelin-starred temple of modern American cuisine. On Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, Meadowood's holiday tree will be delivered by horse-drawn carriage, accompanied by festive music and hay rides for children. *Packages from \$1,575 for a three-night stay, including Thanksgiving dinner for two; meadowood.com*



Old-Fashioned Family Fun in West Virginia: The Greenbrier

Thanksgiving weekend at the Greenbrier, in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., features a family scavenger hunt, holiday dinner dance and Christmas concert in addition to the vast array of family-friendly activities that are always on offer, ranging from tennis lessons to children's art classes. Choose from a wide selection of Thanksgiving Day menus served at the resort's several on-site dining venues. They're all overseen by executive chef Richard Rosendale, who in January will compete as America's delegate to the prestigious Bocuse d'Or culinary competition in Lyon, France. Guests can tour Mr. Rosendale's on-site Bocuse d'Or training kitchen to see Team USA's state-of-the-art culinary gadgetry firsthand. *Rooms from \$400 per night; greenbrier.com*



Quiet in Coastal Maine: Camden Harbour Inn

A pair of Dutch owners reinvigorated this 19th-century inn in Camden, a picturesque seaside town 80 miles north of Portland. Spend your days hiking, viewing the work of Andrew Wyeth and other notable Maine artists at the nearby Farnsworth Art Museum and taking private yoga classes at the hotel. Thanksgiving dinner is a five-course affair prepared by chef Geoffroy Deconinck, who trained in Paris and New York under Alain Ducasse and Daniel Boulud before moving to Maine. *Thanksgiving dinner and two nights' stay from \$347 per person; camdenharbourinn.com*

