

# Global Vision

02

11

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

\$ 6.00 £ 3.50 € 4.00



■ BRITISH ROYAL WEDDING ■ POLE2POLE EXPEDITION ■  
 AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 150TH ANNIVERSARY ■ TRAVEL ■  
 TABLET COMPUTING ■ PHILANTHROPY ■ MONTENEGRO IN  
 FOCUS ■ LUXURY RANCH IN MONTANA ■ 2011 ST. MORITZ  
 AWARDS ■ AFRICA: AHMED REDA CHAMI, ROSA WHITAKER,  
 AFRICA ENTREPRENEURSHIP ■

---



---

## HOME AT THE RANCH: A WEEKEND AT AMERICAS MOST EVOCATIVE

BY JEFFREY BRADFORD



# WESTERN RANCH GETAWAY

---



---

### DAY ONE:

Long Island claims to have America's oldest – though today Montana definitely has the most Luxurious active cattle ranch and exclusive vacation destination in the United States. Home to billionaire Ted Turner who owns land equivalent to three times the state of Rhode Island and Bill Foley builder of Fortune 500 company Fidelity National Financial, Montana is probably the stealth-wealth state in America.

The Ranch at Rock Creek which is the newest in Montana, located near Philipsburg is a ten mile square active cattle ranch with five-star luxury service. Jim Manley, Chairman, CEO and founder of Atlantic-Pacific Capital, Inc. is the low-key owner of The Ranch whom spent near twenty years searching for the ideal home – not expecting to start a resort. Not at too high an altitude that guests risk suffering

altitude sickness on a short stay, land that is ideal for cattle ranching, containing an entire valley within its boundaries and a river running through it, near a mining town for authenticity and well located for travelers from across America and internationally, who can fly commercially into Missoula or Butte airports. We arrived by private jet from New York and after a short 45 minute journey from Anaconda airport, staring at the wide open spaces and blue skies of Montana arrived at The Ranch at Rock Creek.

The Ranch itself has a central house, The Granite Lodge containing some of the accommodation, a gorgeous bar, restaurant and spa. The staff are all engaging and the trip from modern transit to comfortable, traditionally decorated room was fast. The room itself was very tastefully decorated with all modern amenities – whether you want to relive the past or luxuriate in today's luxury the accommoda-

tion covers both generously. After a simple though well executed dinner by Chef Josh Drage whose skills and attention to detail are reflected in menu items not to be found at any other Montana vacation ranch, such as Montana elk rib eye with Flathead cherry demi-glace, watermelon and fennel salad, and white chocolate macadamia nut brownies. The meal coupled with a brief discussion about the activities available at the Ranch and celebrity events such as Idol franchise creator Simon Fuller who held his 50th birthday here recently, rumored to have cost \$1 million where chef Thomas Keller of French Laundry fame reputedly was flown in to provide the fare and the fresh air brings to take its toll...

#### DAY TWO:

**U**p early and it is time for breakfast after enjoying a freshly made muffin and piping hot coffee by the fire roaring the bar and then a quick sit down in the Restaurant eating a menu

focused on local fare it is time to explore the Ranch and its both wide and varied antiques collection. We take a hike outdoors – though in winter aided by sleigh and up into the hills behind the Granite Lodge in the fresh air we head off uphill to a ridge finding spectacular views of the valley. We see deer running about though in this low-alpine area there are no snakes, bears or mountain lions to encounter – another attraction for owner Jim Manley in selecting this property.

After lunch and a tour by designer Jet Zarkabas we took advantage of clay target and rifle instruction from the team at the Ranch to feel less City-slicker and more at ease in Big Sky.

With the aid of the well-trained staff to learn practical issues of safety and marksmanship, starting with the smallest .22 calibre rifle and pistol and working our way up to something more substantial firearms including an M-14 combat rifle and Magnum handguns up to the eponymous .44 of Dirty Harry fame – more scary than exciting for some! Targets obliterated plus a brief session learning the art of archery coupled with the sun dropping behind the ridge we regroup at the central ranch house for a welcome bath and pre-dinner drinks to catch up with others on the experiences of the day. After dinner, of which in the summer there are a bewildering number of indoor and outdoor choices, we retreat to the Silver Dollar Saloon – a bar with a bowling alley, pool tables, movie theatre and most importantly – a barman named Tony equally skilled in mixing drinks and singing Karaoke...



#### DAY THREE:

**W**e start the day with a cross country ski run. The Ranch at Rock Creek has a fully-stocked outfitters for just about any conceivable activity which takes the stress out of planning a vacation and includes new clothing and equipment such as boots and gloves. Suitably organized it's time to ride across the valley and then up into a narrower inlet and through to a scenic lake. As we ski we pass the corral which is home to some fifty horses belonging to the Ranch and the luxury canvas cabins available for use by guests in the summer months near the river.

On closer investigation the canvas cabin accommodation is very, very luxurious in nature – leaving the word 'canvas' quite inadequate. The tent-like cabins are designed with an exterior frame and canvas roof, with the actual inner cabin you stay in suspended underneath the canopy – you can be assured you are not going to be staying under canvas here with rain listening to it fall directly onto the roof. The other surprise

is how warm the canvas cabins are – though unnecessary in summer, in the winter months they have a cast iron stove pumping out heat and a bed covered in warm linens and furs. For larger groups there are a number of individually unique and themed log homes designed to perfection. After the invigorating cross country expedition it is time for a well deserved brunch at the restaurant and to try a 'ranchers breakfast' – a spicy Bloody Mary cocktail with asparagus dressing. Very enjoyable and preparation for the trip to Philipsburg and sadly onto the airport all too soon to return to New York.

The final treat is in Philipsburg, a former mining now ghost-town which plays host to one of the

most unique candy stores, The Sweet Palace – the second largest in the US, if not indeed in the world. A bewildering array of fudge and candies laid out like a classic western store is the opportunity to load up on the gifts I forgot to obtain for those who are enjoying the Hamptons and should come and see this for themselves...

#### **For more information contact:**

*The Ranch at Rock Creek*  
79 Carriage House Lane  
Philipsburg,  
Montana 59858  
USA  
T: 1-877-786-1545  
E: [info@TheRanchatRockCreek.com](mailto:info@TheRanchatRockCreek.com)  
URL: [www.theranchatrockcreek.com](http://www.theranchatrockcreek.com)