

Robb Report

Home & Style

LUXURY RESIDENCES AND FINE DESIGN

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Radiant Retreats

BRIGHT DESIGNS IN NEW ZEALAND,
VIRGIN GORDA, MEXICO, AND MORE



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Santa Fe

A multicultural magnet for connoisseurs of art

❖ **As the northernmost** outpost of Spanish colonialism and the southern terminus of its namesake trail from Missouri, Santa Fe has been a cultural crossroads for centuries. The intermingling of Spanish decor with indigenous adobe construction resulted in a Pueblo-Spanish style that defines the look of this oldest U.S. capital city. In the early 1900s, city planners bolstered the style when they encouraged developers to incorporate elements such as adobe walls, flat roofs, and heavy rafters called vigas—a design typified by the New Mexico Museum of Art (above). Today, Santa Fe's sun-splashed landscapes, along with its cultural openness, make the area a haven for native and transplanted artists. With a vibrant art scene and more than 200 galleries within 2 square miles, Santa Fe is a mecca for art lovers. [KAREN CAKEBREAD]

COMPOUND

Chef and owner Mark Kiffin, a James Beard Foundation Award winner, serves American classics such as beef tenderloin, as well as signature dishes like tuna tartare with osetra caviar (shown), in an adobe compound that was transformed into a restaurant by the architect Alexander Girard. Sculptures by the Chiricahua Apache artist Allan Houser adorn the back patio. 505.982.4353, www.compoundrestaurant.com



Geronimo

A favorite of gallery owners and gallerygoers, this fine-dining establishment is a fixture on the historic Canyon Road. Leather seating and kiva fireplaces warm up the elegant interior of the landmark adobe building, built in 1756, where chef Eric DiStefano presents what he terms "global fusion" cuisine. Not to be missed is the peppery elk tenderloin. 505.982.1500, www.geronimorestaurant.com

GEORGIA O'KEEFFE MUSEUM

The institution possesses more than 3,000 of the painter's works and artifacts, many of which are displayed to maximum effect on the adobe walls of this serene space, which is the most visited museum in New Mexico. Other holdings are O'Keeffe's Ghost Ranch house and her Spanish colonial compound and studio in Abiquiu, about an hour outside Santa Fe. 505.946.1000, www.okeeffemuseum.org

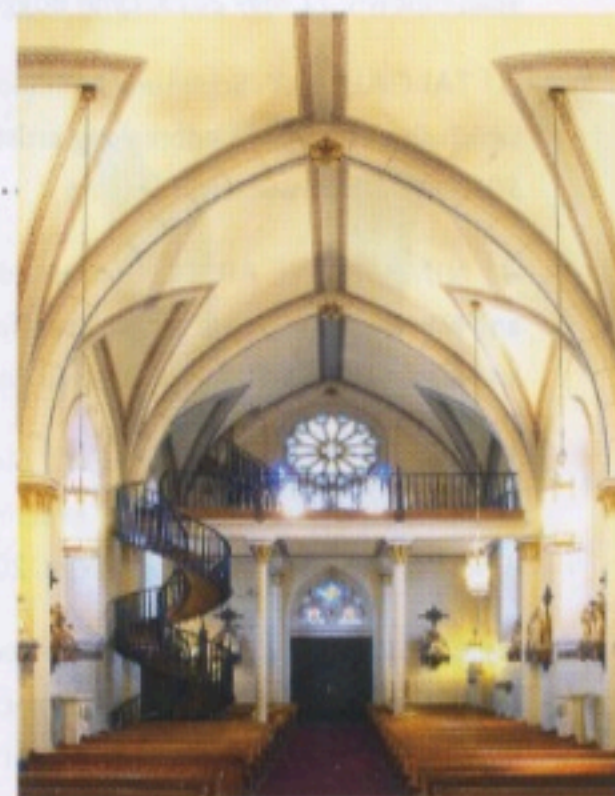


Inn of the Five Graces

A kaleidoscope of color greets guests who enter one of the 25 chambers at this compound of buildings in the country's oldest inhabited block. Tapestries and mosaic tiles cover nearly every surface to form a lavish crazy-quilt backdrop for the furnishings that the owners have gathered from around the world; the imaginative tableau shows how decorative patterns from everywhere on Earth can play well together. A cozy Tibetan spa offers Ayurvedic high-altitude treatments. 866.992.0957, www.fivegraces.com

La Posada de Santa Fe Resort & Spa

This inn calls itself "the Art Hotel," referencing its more than 600 artworks—many of them for sale and all overseen by the hotel's staff curator, who changes exhibits periodically. The 6-acre spread incorporates 158 accommodations, mostly casita-style, and a full spa (shown). Some rooms are located in the Staab House, a Victorian mansion built in 1882 whose owner, Julia Staab, has never left: Her ghost is said to haunt the area near her former bedroom on the second floor. 855.274.5276, www.laposadadesantafe.com



LORETTO CHAPEL

Famous as a wedding chapel, Loretto is even more renowned for its "miraculous" staircase. The legend goes that the 19th-century Sisters of Loretto, seeking to build a staircase to complete their new Gothic-revival chapel, prayed to St. Joseph the carpenter, and after nine days a stranger showed up and built them a stairway with no visible central support and held together with only wooden dowels. He disappeared without accepting payment, and his identity remains a mystery. 505.982.0092, www.lorettochapel.com