



mountain PEEKS

The Home Stretch

- Ben Martin

If you are a big fan of Olympic track and field, you know the excitement of the home stretch – where the runners give it all they have for the final 100-200 yards of the race. Well, the ranch construction projects are “kicking in” the final lap, and we are very excited. From the reclaimed oak floors of the Great Room, to the new windows and finishes of the dining room, to the new floors and redesign of the kitchen, there is a sense of anticipation in the air. We are having a blast watching it come together after 2 years of planning (and revising). No matter how nice it is, however, it is not intended to bring us comfort and relaxation – that is where you folks come in. As I said to the staff on a number of occasions – “Buildings and facilities are not what it’s all about, but a means to an end. They simply give us a place to create relationships and experiences.” We are really looking forward to enjoying hot coffee and conversation in the cool early morning, and a glass of wine and laughter by the warmth of the big fireplace after dinner. There will be more dining room space, so you can enjoy an intimate dinner, or a larger table with friends and family. The indoor riding arena offers us shaded and protected riding year ‘round, and our staff is benefitting from additional staff room space. In a nutshell, there is reason to be excited. We have endured the mud, sweat, and tears of our big construction phase – it is time to enjoy!

Wine Recommendation

While Chef Rob was out in San Francisco for a two-week intensive bread making class, he found a little time to take a side trip to Napa. Between fresh breads and vino, he sent a note to pass along to all of you about a wine he discovered. He’s looking forward to pairing the Mt. Veeder 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley with a grilled pork rib chop, sweet potato soufflé, sautéed summer vegetables and topping that with a light cherry glaze. Cheers!



Staff Notes

Dace Starkweather

One of the positive affects of our current economic downturn as an HR guy is that you have a myriad of high caliber applicants who want to work for you! We’ve become quite proactive in our search for the best staff team possible for our 2009 summer. Historically, Vista Verde has always had a number of east coast applicants and since Jerry and Peggy hail from the land of the Hoosiers, the Midwest has been strong recently. As our guests are from all around the United States, we aim to have our staff represent this as well. This year we began to target some southern cities like Athens, GA, Knoxville, TN and Birmingham, AL in an attempt to recruit some of that “southern hospitality.” We’re hoping to establish a presence on major university campuses and we held our first recruiting effort at the University of Georgia in February. In addition, we’re really making a concerted effort to interview people in person as much as possible. This winter, in addition to the South, I was able to meet with students in the frigid northern state of Minnesota, as well as Michigan and Indiana. California and its west coast companions signify the last frontier that our recruiting efforts hope to reach in the days to come.



It’s shaping up to be one of our best crews ever! As we get into June, we’ll have the staff bios for the summer crew posted on the website. If you have any places you think merit a recruiting effort... or any people you think are VVR caliber, feel free to drop me a line: jobs@vistaverde.com

Wild Yoga



Tune in to our ranch blog (www.vistaverderanch.wordpress.com) and find out more about Wild Yoga, the new Climbing Wall and more ranch news. While you’re at it, please join the Vista Verde fan page on Facebook!



Comes a Horseman



Vista Verde has sure been fortunate to have a talented group of managers that make Ben and Dace look good! Whether it is Steve guiding you on bikes, Rob serving up culinary delights, Kelli's awesome kid's programs, or all of the other "behind the scenes" managers that

make your VVR experience top notch, we have always held to the philosophy that we can't afford to NOT have the best people leading the charges. Continuing with that line of thinking, we are pleased to announce that renowned horseman and clinician Terry Wegener will be joining our management team. Terry brings with him a wealth of experience and success in training and showing horses, and his easy-going manner and love of people and horses are a perfect fit for us. Terry will be leading horsemanship clinics, and will be available to help you become a better rider and overall horseperson. He will also be training and maintaining our remuda, and making sure that our horses are safe and a joy to ride all year long. He will also be heading up our new horse breeding program. By next year, you will enjoy watching our brood mares caring for their spunky little colts as you come up the drive. Who knows – in a few years, that colt may be your horse for the week! Terry, head wrangler Rusty, and the wrangling staff will be available to answer questions and get you involved in as many horse activities as you please. Let's ride!

Business Retreats

With the Great Room up and running we are better equipped to host meetings and retreats. If you have ever thought of bringing your team out to the ranch for some meeting time, or just to get away and have fun together, now is the time. We will be offering special introductory rates for the fall and winter, so please contact Stephanie to receive our corporate information packet.

Extra Person Special

We've come up with a win-win special to help make a ranch visit lighter on your wallet! During our adult only times in the summer, and from early-January through the end of the winter we have a deal you can't beat. The first two people in a cabin are at our regular rate. But, bring an extra person or two and their stay is ½ off! How about a girl's weekend, or find another couple you like to travel with and save....a lot! For more specials and our [Emotional Stimulus Plan](#), check out specials on the website.



Calendar Photo Contest

Many of you have received our annual calendar, a special gift we've given our summer return guests at the campfire Saturday night. Because so many people have asked for them, we are going to make them available to all our guests this year. And, we're giving you the chance to showcase your special shot for the 2010 calendar. Submit your favorite hi-res photo from your time at the ranch and if we pick it for the calendar, we'll give you \$100 off your next VVR stay (and photo credit of course)!

PO Box 770465 • Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 • 800.526.7433
www.vistaverde.com • reservations@vistaverde.com

Vista Verde Ranch
 P.O. Box 770465
 Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

