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Santa Fe's Inn of The Five Graces



By Angela Gaudio

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Step 1 of 5 Check into Inn of The Five Graces



The inn is located on the oldest street in the United States.

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Four-hundred-year-old adobe buildings stand in stark contrast against sprawling violet-blue Southwestern skies in the foothills of the magical Sangre de Cristo Mountains. In the heart of Santa Fe's most historic neighborhood, The Inn of the Five Graces, a [Relais & Chateaux](#) hotel, brings new meaning to New Mexico's moniker, Land of Enchantment.

With a nod to Tibetan tradition, its name refers to the five ways to experience the world—sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch—and the Inn sees to it that every sense is thoroughly sated.

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From unique handcrafted furnishings and mesquite-burning kivas to a flourish of ethnic textiles and colorful mosaics that meld East-West influences, the Five Graces may well be one of the most romantic and hospitable hotels for couples looking for the ultimate getaway.

These days, when [five-star hotel](#) luxury often translates to bland palettes with minimalist décor, The Five Graces is refreshingly distinctive and warmly sumptuous with an

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authentic sense of place. Private patios and stone path courtyards are dotted with comfy chaises, trickling fountains, indigenous flora, and magic is everywhere in this high-desert oasis. Simply put, it's a treasure hard to top.

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Photo Credit: Susan Breslow Sardone.



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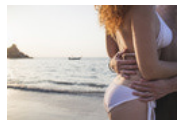
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Step 2 of 5 Guest Quarters at Inn of The Five Graces



Turndown time in Citrine suite at the Inn.

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The Five Graces' 24 guest accommodations range from superior to premium suites. Signs mounted on antique pine doors announce evocative room names such as Citrine, Camellia, Birdsong, Jasmine, or Moonstone that welcome you into spacious quarters.

Adorned with hand-carved armoires and painted cabinets, richly textured armchairs, embroidered bedspreads and ethnic rugs, king-sized feather beds, baths with deep-soaking tubs and Gaudí-like tiles, the Inn is a luxurious home away from home. Turkish cotton Frette towels, plush robes, and geranium, lavender and peppermint-scented toiletries further pamper guests.

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The two-level Luminaria House fit for VIPs is 2,000 square feet of jaw-dropping splendor, with five kivas, two master bedrooms, a full designer kitchen, and two decks and patios. A Chihuly-style hand-blown glass chandelier contributes more wow factor, illuminating an inlaid lapis ceiling over the living room below.

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Step 3 of 5 Satisfying Appetites at the Inn of the Five Graces



Blue corn flapjacks made to order.

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Every guest room comes with a fully stocked, complimentary mini fridge brimming with snacks that include fresh salsa and chips and plenty of bottled water. (With Santa Fe's 7,000-foot elevation, it's a reminder to stay hydrated.) Wi-fi, daily housekeeping, turndown and concierge services, valet parking, as well as gratuities and all amenities are included, along with a 24-hour concierge.

Guests can have items from the daily complimentary breakfast menu served in the Inn's dining room, courtyard or the comfort of their room. Choose eggs or blue corn and piñon flapjacks with strawberry butter and maple syrup, French toast, steel-cut oatmeal, fresh fruit, or artisan breads. Locally roasted coffee or tea help start the day in good form.

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Santa Fe Bed & Breakfast

www.madeleineinn.com
Full Breakfast/ Wine & Cheese Hour
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The Bobcat Inn - Santa Fe

www.nm-inn.com
Quiet country B&B 7.5 miles-Plaza

Lunch and Dinner

[World-class restaurants](#) abound in Santa Fe, and locally grown and organic choices are emphasized. The city's varied history and culture continue to inspire culinary talent. Case in point, fine dining takes on a French twist at the [315 Restaurant & Wine Bar](#) less than a block from the inn.

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gardens, gourmet breakfast, view

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Luminaria restaurant at the [Inn and Spa at Loretto](#), Canyon Road's [The Compound](#), global fusion outpost Geronimo and contemporary Southwestern Coyote Café and Café Pasqual are other frontrunners in town. Sample Spanish tapas at La Boca & Taberna and the [Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi](#) restaurant, where imaginative cocktails are also an art form.



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Corner of the graceful courtyard.

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With Santa Fe considered one of the loveliest wedding destinations in the country, the Five Graces plays host to smaller romantic fetes from 25 to more elaborate galas of 110. Whether it's a traditional wedding, a vow-renewal, or an anniversary celebration, the Five Graces is equipped to host everything from spur-of-the-moment elopements to Native American rituals and Buddhist observances.

Customized menus, exquisite flowers and celebratory bottles of chilled Cristal or Veuve Clicquot await couples. For large gatherings, the entire inn can be reserved.

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In its 20-year history, the Five Graces has even successfully secured the city's blessing to close off East De Vargas Street for orchestras or bands and large numbers of guests. Fountains and chaise lounges can be strewn with rose petals, and designated staff is at the ready to formally officiate ceremonies within *farolito*-lit spaces and gated tree-lined courtyards.

These days, says manager Sharif Seret, about half of the weddings that take place

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are celebrating gay unions, as New Mexico is at this writing the only state in the region that legalized same-sex marriage.

The pet-friendly Inn permits furry family members just in case they're required for ring-bearer duties. Although children ages 5 and up are welcome at the Inn, the Five Graces is generally better suited for mature, well-heeled folks in search of serene and discreet environs. For these reasons it may also be preferred by adult couples on a romantic getaway.

Following the nuptials or simply a busy day shopping, hiking, skiing, or golfing, couples can repair to the Inn's intimate Tibetan Spa, blending eastern ritual with contemporary amenities. Customized treatments or healing massages such as an Ayurvedic hydration treatment with soothing oil infusions and botanicals can also be administered en suite. A brand new 5,200-square-foot fitness center is also on the premises, integrating the latest cardio and multi-gym equipment with the Inn's genial style and aesthetic.

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Traditional ristras of chile peppers.

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150 East De Vargas Street
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Phone: 866-992-0957
[Official Hotel Website](#)

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As is common in the travel industry, the writer was provided with complimentary accommodation and meals for the purpose of reviewing those services. While it has not influenced this review, About.com believes in full disclosure of all potential conflicts of interest. For more information, see our [ethics policy](#).

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