

- THE QUEEN OF LATINA CHICK-LIT
- 1 COOL NIGHT, 3 SHARP OUTFITS
- HOT-ROD GIRLS WITH WRENCHES

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SEPTEMBER 2003



HOW TO FLAKE OUT

(AND WHERE YOU NEED TO DO IT)



At Santa Fe's Inn of the Five Graces, traditional New Mexican exteriors blend with interiors that echo Islamic, as well as Asian, influences.



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line the adobe abodes. The 22-suite newcomer Inn of the Five Graces lends a wealth of exotica via Tibetan-carved columns, Afghan carpets, and Buddhist art (from \$295, 505-992-0957, www.fivegraces.com). Among outings, take in the recently opened Awakening Museum (505-989-7636) housing one massive painting by artist Jean Claude Gaugy. And sip with the swells who gather at Swig lounge (505-955-0400).

Wild In The Country: Two wine-country newcomers decant. Spend a weekend tubbing at Calistoga Ranch, opening in February. The Upper Napa Valley luxury compound of 47 cabins in the woods relies on foliage to shelter outdoor Jacuzzis (from \$550, 800-942-

4220, www.calistogaranh.com). The spa is only the second in the country to channel its own mineral hot springs to therapeutic effect. The first new resort in the Carneros growing region in 20 years, soon-to-open Carneros Inn outfits 96 cottages with wood-burning fireplaces, flat-screen TVs, outdoor showers, and Ethernet ports on the porches. From \$375, (707) 299-4900, www.the-carnerosinn.com.

Go Ahead, Mess With Texas: Bike rolling terrain, climb Enchanted Rock, kick 'em up at the state's oldest dance hall, and sample some good wines on the Texas Hill Country tour with adventure softies Go Xplor. From \$889, (866) 469-7567, www.goxplor.com.

Bay Watch: Forget the drones on Nob Hill and the *fashionistas* at Union Square. Join San Francisco's tourist circus at the newly opened in-the-heart-of-it Argonaut Hotel on Fisherman's Wharf, housing the new Maritime National Historical Park Visitors Center. Brick walls and plank floors mimic wharf style, porthole mirrors and captain's chairs riff on the nautical, and Bay-view rooms spy the Golden Gate Bridge. More to locale: The cable car turnaround lies across the street, as does an Irish coffee warm-up at Buena Vista Café. From \$149, (415) 563-2800, www.argonauthotel.com.

COLD PLAY

Backcountry In The USA:

Do Park City, Solitude, Brighton, Alta, and Snowbird in one wicked day on the little-known Interconnect Adventure Tour. Weather permitting, a guide leads a dozen advanced skiers to five adjacent areas via backcountry entrances. A bargain at \$150 including guide,

lunch, and lift ticket. (801) 534-1907, www.skiutah.com.

Pie In The Sky: Sleeps 30 with pizza delivery via snowmobile to your door: Ridgeline Log Cabin at New Hampshire's Ragged Mountain Resort. \$750 per night, (800) 400-3911, www.raggedmountainresort.com.

Shacking Up, Packing Up: Make for Manhattan like you own it by shacking up in the trendiest of 'hoods. You can peer out of the porthole window of your room at the nautical-inspired Maritime Hotel to see what's going on in Chelsea (from \$200, 212-242-4300, www.themaritimehotel.com). And come December, the Hotel Gansevoort opens in the Meatpacking District, where the