

HOUSE & GARDEN

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by
Design*



*A guide to the most beautifully
designed hotels in the world*

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OUTWARD BOUND



IN A SECLUDED COLORADO CANYON ON A PRIVATE STRETCH OF RIVER, THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE ELEVEN EXPERIENCE COLLECTION OF ADVENTURE LODGES COMBINES FIVE-STAR COMFORT WITH A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

TEXT JEN MURPHY | PHOTOGRAPHS SIMON UPTON

BOTH PAGES Kokanee Lodge, the main gathering space, is anchored by a large stone fireplace and decorated with a mix of wall-mounted antlers, fur throws and vintage photographs and books. Al-fresco meals can be served on the deck, followed by drinks in the games room (opposite)



ong summer days are meant to be spent outdoors, but sometimes even the most rough and tumble outdoorsmen crave an alternative to tents and campfire cooking. Taylor River Lodge is that rare combination of wilderness setting and five-star service. It is the newest property from Eleven Experience, a growing portfolio of exclusive adventure lodges in destinations including

Iceland, the Bahamas and the French Alps. It debuted last September, 15 miles south-east of Crested Butte, Colorado, home to Eleven's ski-focused flagship, Scarp River Lodge.

Tucked away in a secluded canyon, near the sleepy town of Almont, the lodge is blissfully remote, with no mobile-phone signal. At first glance, it could easily be mistaken for any other Rocky Mountain dude ranch, with rustic log cabins and a large campsite with fire pits. But a three-year renovation transformed the camp into a property that ticks all of the boxes of Chad Pike, the London-based American financier and founder of Eleven Experience. When he founded the collective in 2011, he wanted every property to tap into his own personal passions – sports (particularly fly fishing and off-piste skiing) and family (he has four children) – and his discriminating five-star tastes.

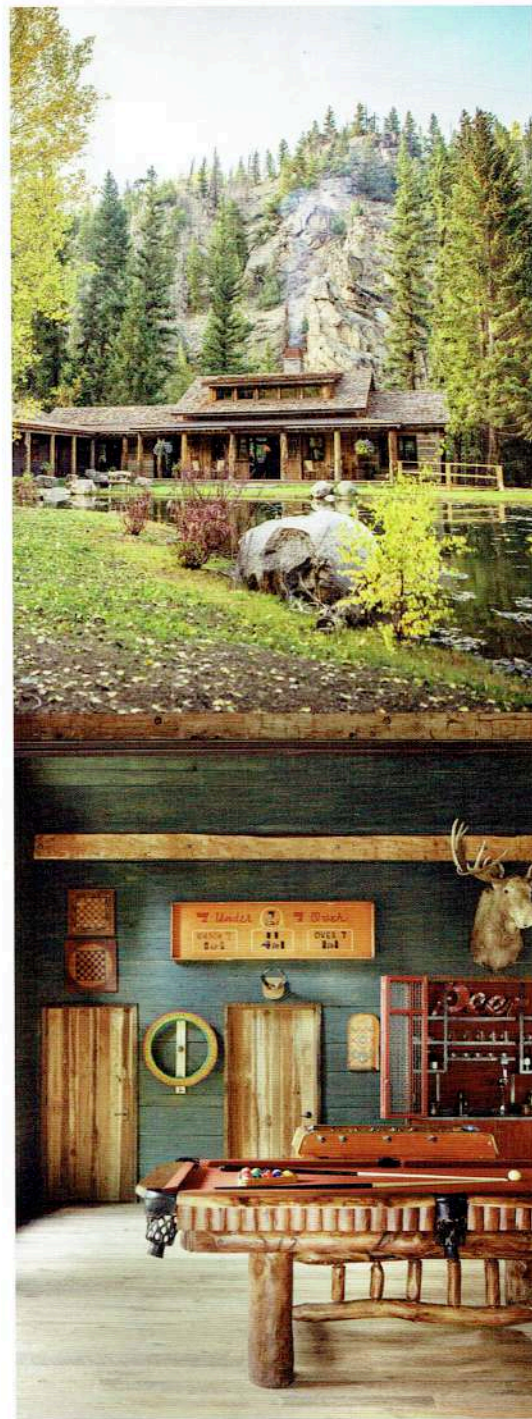
His wife, Blake, reimagined the basic cabins, creating cosy yet stylish spaces. Six cabins – three with twin beds in a loft – feature beds that combine Indian block-printed pillows with Moroccan textile-covered headboards. Antler-framed mirrors, stuffed trophy trout and other classic Western touches are used discreetly, and vintage books with titles like *How to Play in the Woods* replace televisions. The Rainbow Cabin, with two queen suites and a room with four bunk beds, and the Green Drake, which has two king suites and a bunk room, are ideal for families. The extra space in the latter allows for added features like a luxurious deep cedar wood bath, stone fireplaces and a study nook with a vintage writing desk.

While cabins are dens of privacy, the rest of the property is one big communal playground. A large games room meets the amusements of all ages, with a pool table, darts and table football. A moose head hangs above the bar, which is stocked with local spirits. The main gathering space, Kokanee Lodge, overlooks the property's trout-filled lake and evokes the feeling of an exclusive hunting lodge with its bearskin rug, stone fireplaces (indoor and out), horseshoe-shaped bar and photographs of Taylor River adventures from the Fifties and Sixties.

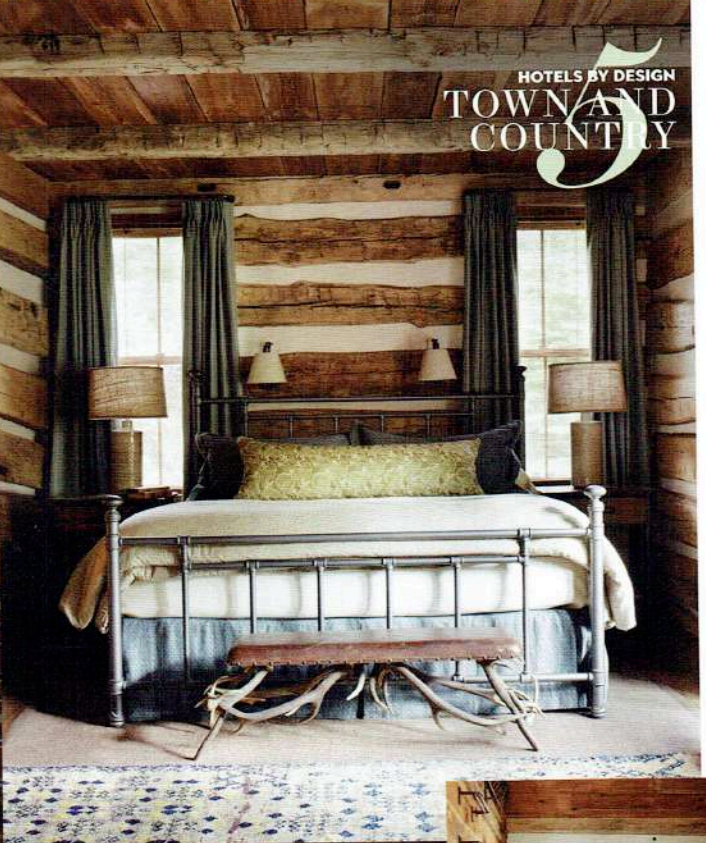
Outdoors, guests can scramble up a climbing wall or test their aim with archery, BB-gun shooting or even axe throwing. There is an on-site shop kitting out guests in the appropriate clothing for any adventure and Eleven's exceptional guides lead mountain biking, white-water rafting and, of course, fly fishing trips either steps away on the lodge's semi-private stretch of the Taylor River or further afield in the Gunnison Valley. After a day in the wild, guests can unwind in the Bath House, complete with a sauna, steam room, and salt-water pool, before a farm-to-table meal under the stars. The great outdoors has never been so civilised □

Individual cabins cost from \$1,720 a night, based on double occupancy. elevenexperience.com

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FROM TOP The lodge is set within the remote Taylor Canyon; Kokanee Lodge looks out over its trout-filled lake. The games room, with its popular pool table, vintage games and bar stocked with small-batch Colorado spirits



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
LEFT A seating area in
Kokanee Lodge. A suite in
the Green Drake cabin features
wood-paneled walls and a
stool with antler horns.
Indian block-printed pillows
and Moroccan textile-covered
headboards decorate beds.
The spacious Green Drake has
a deep cedar bath and a study
area (bottom right). The Bath
House, with its saltwater pool

