



September 28, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Lynn Strauss
Phone: (505) 412-0319
Email: lynn.strauss@browndogs.org
Website: www.bishopslodge.com

**Santa Fe celebrates 400 years:
Bishop's Lodge, an intriguing part of Santa Fe's history**

Santa Fe, NM – In the next year, Santa Fe will commemorate 400 years of culture beginning with Spanish settlement in 1610. The city and many cultural organizations will host events through the remainder of 2009 and 2010.

Among Santa Fe's many historic and cultural destinations to visit in Santa Fe during the 400th commemoration is the Lamy Chapel at Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa.

In 1851 Jean-Baptiste Lamy came to New Mexico by orders of the Vatican as the first bishop of the new Southwest Diocese. Over the years, as he traversed his diocese, bringing improvements and humane necessities to the territory, Bishop Lamy worked on his little ranch, the Villa Pintaresca, which he had begun to acquire in bits and pieces, in the Little Tesuque Canyon in 1853.

His lodge, on a little hill with a splendid view of the distant Jemez Mountains, consisted of a small dwelling attached to his tiny, private chapel. He laid out gardens and an orchard of apricot, apple, peach and pear trees; and brought grape vine cuttings from France which have survived to this day. Historic records show that Lamy enjoyed having visitors out to his lodge they were invited to partake in the pleasure of his gardens, orchard, fish-pond and the natural serenity of his country estate.

Bishop Lamy made a huge impact on Santa Fe history as he started schools, social services, Santa Fe's first hospital and the cathedral that graces the historic Santa Fe plaza. After his death, the property was sold several times before the Pulitzer Family bought it as a summer home for three years, and then a mining man named James Thorpe from Denver bought the property and named it "The Bishop's Lodge." He and his heirs maintained it as a family ranch resort until 1998 when the current owners purchased it.

Lamy's Chapel still stands at the heart of the Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa -- a unique and inviting destination resort. It is listed on the National Historic Register and is recognized as a historic site by the City of Santa Fe and the state of New Mexico.

Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort and Spa is minutes from downtown Santa Fe and offers gracious accommodations, a world-class spa, a variety of recreational and children's activities, and fine dining.

Accommodations range from deluxe rooms to exclusive villas. Santa Fe charm and contemporary features grace the 15 unique lodges and 111 rooms. Resort activities include horseback riding, tennis, skeet shooting, and lawn games. Amenities include a swimming pool, hot tub, award-winning spa and a children's program.

The SháNah Spa and Wellness Center opened in 2002, and was honored with **Condé Nast Johansens' "Most Outstanding Spa Award** in North America and Caribbean." "SháNah" means "vitality and energy" in Navajo and the spa is steeped in Native American traditions incorporating natural healing remedies, herbs, and baths.

Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa celebrated its 90th anniversary last year. It is managed by Prism Hotels & Resorts. To make a resort or spa reservation, call 800-732-2240 or visit www.bishopslodge.com.

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