

THE STORIED HISTORY OF BISHOP'S LODGE RANCH RESORT & SPA

SANTA FE, N.M. – [Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa](#) – Santa Fe's only authentic ranch resort offering a genuine Southwestern experience minutes from downtown – sits in the heart of the Little Tesuque Valley, a site first traversed hundreds of years ago by the ancestors of today's Pueblo Indians.

In 1540, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado led an expedition of Spanish Conquistadors into the "New" Mexico searching for the "Seven Cities of Gold." All he found for his trouble was mud-walled villages like Tesuque. The Spanish returned to settle in 1598. A capital for this "kingdom," La Villa Real de Santa Fe de San Francisco de Assisi, was founded in 1610. The new masters set about naming the features of their domain, for the most part, after their faith, as in "Sangre de Cristo" ("Blood of Christ") and "Santa Fe" (Holy Faith), but the pretty stream and valley above the Tesuque were named for their pueblo.

The first known Spanish settler at what is now Bishop's Lodge was Urbano Montaña who received a grant of land in the "Cañoncito de Tesuque" from Domingo de Mendoza, the Governor, on October 2, 1743. The Little Tesuque Valley remained removed from the changes and chaos of the times: Mexico's long fights with Spain for independence, Mexico's bitter loss of Texas, and finally, Mexico's ceding of New Mexico to the United States after the war of 1846.

Years later, a French missionary priest known as Jean Baptiste Lamy, was chosen by the Vatican as the first bishop for its newly created diocese for the American southwest. When he arrived he was well met by the people, but not by the local clergy, who refused to recognize his documents. In his lifetime, Lamy worked for the welfare of all within his "Desert Diocese." The establishment of the first schools and a hospital were among his priorities. The Loretto Chapel and St. Francis Cathedral in Santa Fe reflect his efforts to bring fine architecture to what was then thought to be an architecturally impoverished area.

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 Pintoresca, which he had begun to acquire 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. Lamy enjoyed having visitors out to his lodge and his many guests were invited to partake in the pleasure of his gardens, orchard, fish-pond and the natural serenity of his country estate. In 1889, when Bishop Lamy passed away, his beloved Villa passed to the Archbishopric, which by 1905 had sold it to private interests.

Later came James R. Thorpe, a Denver mining man, intrigued by "Old Santa Fe" who was determined to establish a fine Southwestern resort. Acquiring the property in 1918, Mr. Thorpe restored Bishop Lamy's Chapel, added to the original buildings and christened his endeavor, "Bishop's Lodge." After 80 years of Thorpe family ownership, Bishop's Lodge was sold in January of 1998. Current owners are dedicated to preserving the heritage and beauty of Lamy's ranchito and the traditions of hospitality that he initiated so long ago.

Today's Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa is an authentic, historic destination ranch resort nestled at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Wrapping around Lamy's 156 year-old historic chapel, the resort includes 15 Santa Fe adobe-style lodges housing 91 rooms, many with kiva fireplaces, private courtyards and quaint balconies as well as eight gated villas. A member

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of Historic Hotels of America, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and brand of Preferred Hotel Group, Bishop's Lodge boasts serene meeting spaces including four conference rooms totaling 8,000 square feet. Outdoor spaces are accessible for receptions and activities, with business support services, full-service catering and culinary planners available.

Bishop's Lodge is home to Las Fuentes Restaurant and Bar, offering contemporary, creative Nuevo Ranchero cuisine created by Executive Chef Christopher McLean in an inspired environment featuring majestic beamed ceilings and authentic Navajo rugs. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the poolside Sunflower Bar & Grill serves fresh sandwiches, salads and specialty drinks. Bishop's Lodge is also home to SháNah Spa, inspired by the Native American word for vitality and energy. The stables at Bishop's Lodge allow guests to experience the ranch's 450 acres of spectacular alpine scenery on horseback, with group, private, sunset and special children's rides available year-round.

For more information on Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa, call 800-732-2240 or visit bishops lodge.com. Follow facebook.com/bishops lodge and twitter.com/bishops lodge for special offers.

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