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Photo courtesy of Romantic River/Song



Cozy & Close Getaways

The best of Colorado
B&Bs and inns to warm
up your winter

BY JULIE BIELENBERG

Colorado is blessed with a fresh blanket of snow this winter, and there's nothing better than cozying up by a warm fire at a B&B with your loved one. *DLM* selected only the most qualified B&Bs and inns, which means we had to narrow our search to authentic, registered establishments. So this season, go urban, go mountain, go rugged, go anywhere, and find romance with the Centennial State's unique offerings for intimate escapes.

URBAN ROMANCE

Sometimes it just isn't realistic to travel far for a getaway. Anyone, especially parents, can understand how a quiet haven, just minutes from home, can be an ideal solution.

Table Mountain Inn, Golden

When the opportunity arose for a weekend away while my folks watched the children, this hotel was our quick escape. Historic downtown Golden's Table Mountain Inn has a well-known, well-awarded restaurant, Table Mountain Grill & Cantina. The service is spectacular and the food is worthy. The rooms and, specifically, the suites are spacious with fireplaces and soaking tubs. Hiking trails are accessible from just down the street. tablemountaininn.com

Highland Haven Creekside Inn,

Evergreen

An award-winner for years, Highland Haven exudes romance. My best friend spent her wedding night at this Bear Creek retreat in the heart of Evergreen. Proprietor, Gail Riley, has her own cookbook; enjoy her edible legacy in the privacy of your own cabin or in the three-story treehouse suite. With 18 rooms and a mouthwatering breakfast, its romance and proximity to the city will spoil any couple. highlandhaven.com

Edwards House B&B, Fort Collins

This historic B&B, smack in the center of Fort Collins, was built in 1904 and has eight rooms with private bathrooms in two buildings. Couples enjoy elegant breakfasts as well as daily wine and cheese with freshly baked cookies for the taking. The airy space is especially nice on winter afternoons. You will want to double dip in the cookie jar. edwardshouse.com



Della Terra Mountain Château, photo by This Modern Life Photographers



Patterson Inn, Denver

I actually took a haunted tour of this B&B and felt more romance than spookiness even on a blustery evening in October. The décor and attention to historic detail is fantastic, yet the inn doesn't lack modern amenities. I recommend relaxing in the library. I've always been a fan of the board game, "Clue," and this room pays homage in a sleek, sexy way. pattersoninn.com

MOUNTAIN ROMANCE

Take to the ski slopes for the day and cozy up at night. All located in or around the big ski resorts, these accommodations allow for a personalized, romantic weekend.

Wild Horse Inn, Frasier

Nestled just minutes from the Winter Park ski area, Wild Horse Inn is a luxurious, 10-room inn and cabin experience. The breakfast is plentiful, the bottomless cookie jar is always freshly restocked and spacious, luxurious rooms certainly warrant this as a warm winter getaway. wildhorseinn.com

Abbett Placer Inn, Breckenridge

This national historic B&B has five rooms and suites, all with access to the new hot tub overlooking Peaks 8 and 9 at Breckenridge Ski Resort. Abbett is a colorful little inn that's a deep contrast to other local accommodations. Sip hot cocoa and relax in Abbett's cozy backyard after a day on the slopes. And, of course, the breakfast is noteworthy or it wouldn't be on the list. abbettplacer.com

The Ruby of Crested Butte, Crested Butte

The darling husband and wife duo that run this six-room guesthouse—which includes complimentary cruiser bike rentals to explore the town—nailed it with their cooking. Always highly rated among a wide demographic, it's hard for anyone not to feel romantic in the heart of beautiful Crested Butte. Ski, snowshoe and soak in a spring... you've got it all at your bike pedals at The Ruby. therubyofcrestedbutte.com

Mariposa Lodge, Steamboat Springs

It's hard to compete in a town known for its remote, rugged beauty. However, darling Mariposa Lodge is a great find in this mountain mecca, with four rooms decorated with classic wood furniture and

beds. The breakfast and hospitality bring back the lovebirds. Known for their baked sourdough French toast with peaches, this is the place to load up on homemade goodies and head out to adventure. steamboatmariposa.com

Vail Mountain Lodge, Vail

When seeking Vail Valley romance, look no further than Vail Mountain Lodge with only 27 rooms and condos, all with fireplaces and soaking tubs as well as daily breakfast from Terra Bistro. This authentic inn along Gore Creek has a serene, private ambiance. Add amenities such as a steam room, sauna, spa, fitness center and more, and it's no surprise that it's a go-to Vail Valley love nest. vailmountainlodge.com

COLORADO ROMANCE

Let Colorado set the stage for passion this season. The following getaways are all classic Centennial State offerings, representing quintessential lodging in the most ideal settings.

Blue Lake Ranch, Hesperus

A member of the distinct Select Registry™ (Published Inns of North America) group, this 16-suite B&B is spread across 200 gorgeous acres just outside of Durango and a 30-minute drive from legendary Mesa Verde National Park. My husband and I spent a New Year's in the Lake View Suite years before our children, and it was astounding. Breakfast in the dining area is filled with sunlight, enticing smells and endless coffee. Onsite games and a store add to the fun of this must-visit spot. bluelakeranch.com



We Had to Gush

This lodge did not quite fit the criteria of a B&B or an inn, but it deserves a mention.

The Outlook Lodge

Located in Green Mountain Falls, minutes from downtown Colorado Springs, this charming retreat is impeccably decorated and offers a roaring outdoor fire with starry views. We spent a sub-zero weekend there in January and romance literally exuded from the walls, even with my folks and children in tow. That's right; we rented out the entire main house, which includes a three-bedroom suite, two rooms with TV-equipped bunk beds, a game room and sunporch.

For a more private getaway, book one of six guest rooms and enjoy Outlook's newest year-round offering, the Romantic Complement. This add-on fosters romance with a rose petal turndown, a bottle of Treveri Brut Champagne, his and her robes and a s'mores roasting kit. outlookgmf.com



Sundance Trail Guest Ranch,

Red Feather Lakes

Sundance Trail and their gorgeous four-legged beauties certainly deserve a spot on this list as the guest ranch turns into a B&B come winter. With provided meals, horseback riding and accommodations, take the romance trotting this winter and enjoy the majestic atmosphere and one another in the secluded wilderness.

sundancetrail.com

Leroux Creek Inn & Vineyards,

Hotchkiss

Leave it to French-born Yvon and his wife Joanna to inspire romance. Located in Delta County, this winery has a darling Southwest adobe, five-room B&B. Stroll through more than 50 beautiful acres of property, then head to the wine cellar with Yvon, sample grape juice and learn about wine-making. With a quaint pond and secluded setting, the vino can come to you! lerouxcreekinn.com

The McCreery House, Loveland

Located in the nation's Sweetheart City, how could this town not offer romance? Loveland is an accessible destination for lovebirds. The historic B&B in the heart of town allows guests to stroll among the main street's quaint shops, galleries and restaurants. With only four rooms and a gourmet breakfast, it's intimate and truly a location to support after last year's floods.

mccreeryhouse.com

ROMANCE FOR A CAUSE *in Estes Park*

Get romantic while giving back. Coloradoans are rebuilding from a year of natural disasters. From fire to flood, it's economically challenging for the affected towns. However, Estes Park, Lyons, Loveland and other areas are open for business! Help these regions recover and book one of these gems. The entrance to hikes, snowshoeing, fly-fishing and more awaits guests of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) in Estes Park.

The Lodge at The Stanley

Let the friendly ghosts of the infamous Stanley Hotel stay next door while you and your loved one book The Lodge. Adjacent to the main hotel, this newly remodeled lodge—with breathtaking

Photo courtesy of The Lodge at The Stanley

views of Longs Peak—comes with an unbelievable breakfast, coordinated by Innkeeper, Midge Knerr. This woman knows her Blueberry Scones, Nutella Croissants and Colorado Cherry Cream Cheese Danishes. stanleyhotel.com/the-lodge

Della Terra Mountain Château

Open five years this June, one of Estes Park's newest lodging options is steps from the Fall River Road Entrance to RMNP. Hosting more than 200 weddings a year, mostly during the warmer months, the owners have the time to create personalized breakfasts in the snowier months. The 14-room B&B includes a theater, sauna and spa, but the romance is in the spacious suites with gorgeous views. dellaterramountainchateau.com

Taharaa Mountain Lodge

This has been one of my favorite B&Bs for nearly a decade. We've spent amazing autumn weekends at the 18-room/suite resort with my folks. The rooms have California King beds, and the lodge has a standout wine and cheese hour. Taharaa's breakfasts are still vivid in my mind, years later, as the authentic Southwest dishes quietly awaited us in the dining room filled with morning sunlight. This place is exceptionally romantic; guests must be 18-years-or-older. taharaa.com

Romantic RiverSong

No matter what, leave the kids at home for this getaway! Children are not allowed, and for good reason. This is by far one of my favorite romantic spots in Colorado; actually, one of the most romantic in the West. Gary and Sue Mansfield were, shall we say, avant garde with their Select Registry™ property. Nearly 19 years ago, the couple decided to provide more-than-luxurious bathrooms in each of the 10 suites. The result: spacious, themed rooms with views of elk and the roaring Big Thompson River. Innkeeper, Kerry Abdow, helps prepare a Champagne brunch that is outrageously tasty. Combine this with a soak in RiverSong's Jacuzzi tub after a day hiking in RMNP and you truly can't beat this spot. romanticriversong.com 



Photo courtesy of McCreery House B&B