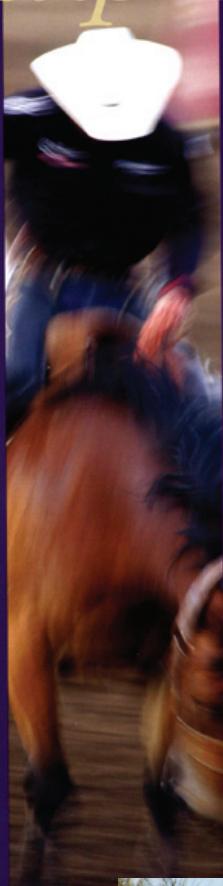


COLORADO

expression



101ST
STOCK
SHOW

DENVER'S
LEADERS

OBERMEYER
SPORT
TURNS 60

HOT
COCKTAILS

C LAZY U
RANCH

C Lazy U Ranch

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO UNFORGETTABLE COLORADO GETAWAYS

SNOWFLAKES SHINE as they trickle down on the tip of a well-worn, newly polished black cowboy boot resting on the porch as steam dances in the air from a cup of coffee keeping a couple of hands warm. This is how you loaf at the C Lazy U Ranch near Granby. The 8,000-acre guest and working dude ranch in the Peuceful Valley offers plenty of views to keep eyes busy while dreaming of a white Christmas.

At 8,200 feet, C Lazy U is carved by Willow Creek. Trail Mountain is to the north, and the Indian Peaks range, including the Continental Divide, is to the east. During the holidays, the cozy ranch in the heart of the mountains turns into its own little Bavarian village, according to Jude Dwyer, C Lazy U office manager. Pine boughs with ornaments drip from the guest cottages, which are mainly scattered in the hills near the main lodge.

"The snow is really sparkly," says Lori Fowler, manager of the C Lazy U store, Luis Old Place. "Every inch of the ranch feels like Christmas."

STORY: MEREDITH DARNELL

92 COLORADO EXPRESSION DECEMBER 2006/JANUARY 2007

GRANBY'S DUDE

RANCH FEATURES

AMERICAN-

WESTERN CUISINE,

HORSEBACK RIDING

AND MORE SNOW

SPORTS THAN

YOU CAN SHAKE A

SHOVEL AT

A Christmas star hangs on the tip of the red barn, and white lights trim some of the trees outside and the main lodge. Inside the rustic elegant lodge is a large Christmas tree and decorations from the Murray family's Christmases past. Brian Murray is the ranch president while his brother Craig serves as

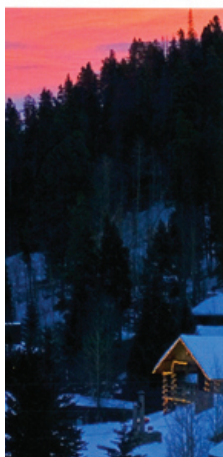


DECEMBER 2006/JANUARY 2007
FOUR DOLLARS



vice president. Their late parents, Peg and Clark Murray, bought the C Lazy U in 1988. Weeks are spent giving the ranch that Western Winter Wonderland touch. But it's the guests—and horses—who bring it to life.

YOUR PLAYGROUND Sledgers race down the main road of C Lazy U. "They start at the top of the road and go whizzing



past," says Dwyer, who has a perfect view from her office. Families skate on the pond during the day and night. Guests go trap shooting. Groups go horseback riding, take horse-drawn sleigh rides and go cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on groomed and untracked trails. "They don't spend much time in their rooms," Dwyer says.

And guests don't have to worry about bringing any equipment. The ranch has Flexible Flyers, ice skates, snowshoes, cross-country skis, dusters and boots. They also offer tubing on the back of a snowmobile. "That's something (kids) look forward to everyday," says Lance Schofield, assistant general manager. Guests also can take part in activities off the ranch. Daily shuttle service is provided to Winter Park and Sol Vista.

C Lazy U offers a kids' program that gives them the feel of being at their own camp, even though their parents are close by. Families spend time together at meals, and then the youths are whisked away to activities led by camp counselors. They have their own

THE DETAILS

GETTING THERE: C LAZY U RANCH IS OUTSIDE GRANBY, APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS FROM DENVER.

CONTACT: 970-887-3344, RANCH@CLAZYU.COM, WWW.CLAZYU.COM

game room where they can play billiards, table tennis and table hockey. They can learn to ski. And they can even have their own horse to ride during the week.

"They ride all the same country the adults do," says Bill Fisher, head wrangler. "It's a great opportunity to learn to ride in a beautiful setting."

With 165 horses, the ranch matches up riders based on their abilities and the horse's temperament. The winter trail rides for everyone are determined by the amount of snowfall.

"You can go on slow, scenic rides," Dwyer says, "or on long rides until you turn blue." On days guests don't want to trot and lope through powder and the wind, they can giddyup in the 12,000-square-foot, heated indoor arena and hone their skills.

When finished, there's an outdoor and indoor hot tub nearby at the patio house waiting to soothe any sore muscles. There's also a heated pool and sauna. With an appointment and for a separate fee, a masseuse will rub any worries away.

NO BUNKHOUSE IN SIGHT Guest rooms vary from cottage to cottage, but all