

RANCHES

How about a winter ranch reunion?

If you're planning a reunion during the heart of the winter, warmer climates of the Southwest feature horseback rides and cattle drives. Ranches in the central or northern Rockies offer adventure-packed excursions into the snowy high country. Ranches in more northerly states are open for the winter season with an emphasis on guided snowmobile tours, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horse-drawn sleigh rides, ice climbing or downhill skiing. Some ranches also offer guided elk- and deer-hunting.

At many ranches you'll find an all-inclusive vacation experience that includes wine cellars and pairings, sumptuous meals and relaxing massage treatments in addition to the cowboy experience.

Ranch cuisine is often an unexpected experience for many first-time guests. Numerous ranches combine ranch fare with gourmet cuisine. Ranch cuisine has evolved into multi-course gourmet dishes and healthy alternatives, alongside all the old ranch classics like barbecues. "Never-empty" homemade cookie jars, other homemade treats and bowls of fresh fruit are always on hand. In addition, many ranches utilize organic and/or local produce and some employ farm-to-table practices.

Many ranches have their own wine cellars featuring international and domestic wines, and offer wine pairings as well as, in some cases, wine tours to local wineries.

The Colorado Dude & Guest Ranch Association (CDGRA) is comprised of 28 certified ranches located throughout the mountains and mesas of Colorado. For more information and/or to request your free Colorado Dude & Guest Ranch vacation guide and DVD, visit www.duderanching.org.



The Kades love C Lazy U Ranch

Known for its "Five Spur Service," Granby, Colorado's C Lazy U Ranch (clazyu.com) is another popular reunion locale and hosts groups large and small year-round. The Kade family has had more than 15 annual Christmastime reunions at the ranch. Four generations, 25 total, travel from as far away as Maryland to visit the ranch, approximately two hours from Denver. The Kades' favorite activities include riding the ranch's Snowcat, skiing, sledding and snow tubing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, playing a friendly ice hockey match and skating on C Lazy U's Zamboni-groomed pond. The older generation enjoys watching the youngest generation experience the same winter experiences they did earlier, especially the magical moment each Christmas Eve when Santa arrives at the Lodge in a horse-drawn sleigh. Some of the children have come back as seasonal employees to work at C Lazy U Ranch.



Winter reunions at C Lazy U Ranch are cold, crisp and exciting!

Tanque Verde Ranch is a Travel Channel Top Ten for Families

Tanque Verde Ranch, Tucson, Arizona (tanqueverderanch.com), is an all-inclusive upscale dude ranch-resort that takes pride in offering something for everyone in the family. For bonding time, families can partake in the ranch's newest group activities: Ride and Seek takes teamwork to solve clues and make your way to designated locations found on the ranch map, and Horseshoe Hunt turns the entire resort into a scavenger hunt on horseback; find painted horseshoes and exchange them for prizes.

Tanque Verde's children's programs for Buckeroos (ages four to six) and

Wranglers (ages seven to eleven) include daily horseback lessons, trail rides, tennis, swimming, games, arts and crafts, hiking, educational nature programs and more. Offered daily from 7AM to 3PM, activities include breakfast and lunch in the children's dining room. Parents are welcome to accompany their children for activities or pursue other activities.

Tanque Verde Ranch features 76 well-appointed rooms and suites, all with breathtaking views of the Sonoran Desert and Rincon and Catalina Mountains. All-inclusive room rates include all meals, snacks, daily activities and evening entertainment.

LIST YOUR REUNION FREE!

Email (editor@reunionsmag.com) Contact name, address, phone, reunion name, date, and place. Check us out at www.reunionsmag.com