

wide open spaces

The highly anticipated opening of this

exclusive adults-only Montana refuge resort

will change your mind about roughing it.

BY STACIE STANDIFER
PHOTOS BY TIM NICHOLS



The arrangement feels a bit like a wilderness cul-de-sac, with the Social Haus being the ‘clubhouse’ for visitors staying in the ‘socially-distancing’ private structures nearby. The privacy factor is totally dialed up here -it almost feels as if you have the whole place to yourself. It’s an easy walk down to the ‘hub’ under massive evergreens. Once you arrive, firepits are glowing on the deck, and the open-fire kitchen is almost always buzzing with activity from the talented culinary team led by Executive Chef Brandon Cunningham.

The food (like the setting) is casually elegant. Tasting menus are offered each night with wine pairings from a thoughtful cellar collection. Dishes are based on local, sustainable ingredients prepared to be a feast for the eyes and the palate. Their smash burger was a daily craving from Round Haus, and on a rainy evening, we opted to order in from their artisanal pizza menu. Everything we tasted was incredible, but the biggest hit in our ‘Haus’ were the apricot and almond handmade ice cream sandwiches that magically appeared in the freezer at night.

The setting is so tranquil you feel entirely undisturbed, and that is by design. But suppose a break from the quiet and a bit of action is more your speed. In that case, you can fill your days with activities -from horseback riding, rafting, or shooting to nights with group bonfire barbecues or live music. I suggest some browsing time at the Outpost, which carries fashion-forward outdoor gear, boots, and fine jewelry designs that you won’t find elsewhere. Ditto for the candles and oils at the spa! Green O provides all guests with a new Lexus SUV throughout the stay to toil around all that acreage to check out what’s happening on the grounds of the larger resort. There’s a seasonal calendar of events, fitness and spa experiences, and culinary adventures online, with activities mapped out months in advance. Honestly, just driving around the property is a mini vacation. With mountain ranges, wildlife, and soaring blue skies to soak up, it’s easy to get lost in the beauty of it all – while finding a more relaxed, happy version of yourself along the way. thegreeno.com | pawsup.com

If you’re one of the countless viewers lured into Kevin Costner’s Yellowstone series (and wanting to stay there), then a visit to the vast expanses of land that make up the great state of Montana may be the ideal location for your next vacation. A short road trip from the show’s gorgeous shooting sites is another lesser-known part of the state. It was here that private owners created a dreamy, activity-oriented resort that draws repeat visitors each year. In fact, the destination of Paw’s Up first coined the phrase ‘glamping.’ The allure of combining the ultimate in luxury with a serene natural setting has been their calling card for years, with a regular stream of repeat guests swearing by the experience here for a chance at both rejuvenation and deep connection. That seems especially true for families, which occupy most Paw’s Up reservations annually.

But it’s the resort owner’s latest development (on a different parcel of the 37,000+ acre property) that prompted me to research the locale as a spot for an adult escape.

For starters, The Green O name isn’t about ecology (although it could be), but instead after the town (Greenough). The adults only enclave includes less than a dozen individual architectural gems referred to by shape, as each cottage-like dwelling is unique in design and setting. We were fortunate to land the Round Haus - curved walls, outdoor decking, and floor-to-ceiling windows. Although there’s no one to peek inside, remote shade systems are in each room- just one of the many conveniences that up the wow factor of the accommodations. The art, furnishings, custom luxe bedding- the dual rain head shower fixtures, hot tub, fireplaces, and endless other high-end appointments combine here in a way that doesn’t feel fussy or fancy. Instead, the surroundings meld with the natural surroundings and are set up to feel cozy despite considerable square footage. Inclusions I especially appreciated that were less ‘luxury’ and more ‘user friendly’ were a new washer/dryer, kitchen drawers with refrigeration, and icemakers built-in. There’s none of that troublesome going out, or calling for ice, or dealing with laundry service. I personally embraced the nonexistent television. Conversations and personal downtime to unwind are much nicer without sports or news in the background.

