

# New Mexico

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MAGAZINE

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## Hidden Gems

Our road-trip expert reveals his favorite lesser-known spots to eat, stay, ride horseback, and hit the links.

BY ANDREW COLLINS

### SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS

**Cliff River Springs**, a 1,200-acre guest ranch in rugged La Madera, has been in the family of genial proprietor Hope Atterbury for generations. Warmly appointed, tin-roofed casitas with full kitchens encircle a grassy plaza that has chairs and benches, fruit trees, birdfeeders, and an outdoor grill and dining area. It appeals to solitude-seeking travelers as well as groups that rent

the entire place. Take in spa treatments and soaks at nearby Ojo Caliente, or explore one of the hiking trails leading from the property. I'm a fan of the moderately challenging climb to the summit of nearby Cerro Tecolote, where you'll encounter few other souls besides the occasional lizard or coyote. Cool off afterward with a swim in the property's spring-fed pond. (505) 583-0002; cliffroversprings.com