

# INCIRCLE NEIMAN INCIRCLE

PUBLISHED FOR NEIMAN MARCUS INCIRCLE MEMBERS FALL 2005





## Inn of the Five Graces

This charming Santa Fe oasis satisfies all the senses BY ALISON MILLER PHOTOGRAPHED BY GREY CRAWFORD

COZY QUARTERS AND A WARM RECEPTION are the standard at almost any inn, but the Inn of the Five Graces in Santa Fe has the market cornered. Situated in Barrio de Analco, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, the inn is part luxury hotel, part relaxed weekend visit at a best friend's house.

I knew my visit was going to be extraordinary when I received a call

from innkeeper Niall Reid a few days prior to my arrival. In his charming Irish accent, Niall, who formerly managed Lake Placid Lodge in upstate New York, asked whether I had any preferences before he stocked my suite's private pantry. When I asked for vegetarian options, he offered some suggestions.

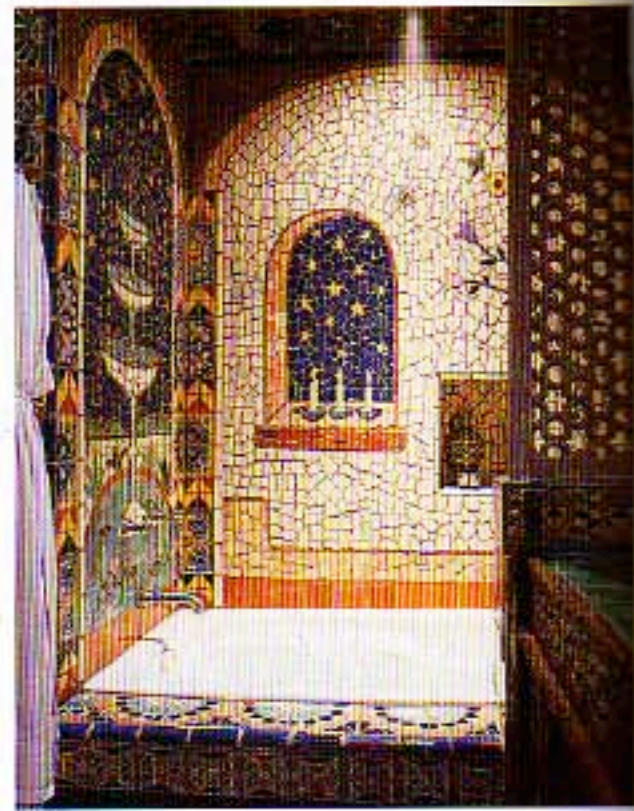
I arrived to find that the quaint honey-walled adobe compound barely hints at

the exotic interiors where East truly meets West: Hindu and Buddhist antiques mingle with American Indian and Mexican pottery; Pueblo and Navajo weavings hang on walls; and Afghan dhurries and Turkish kilims dress the beds. Combined with a reverence for the "five graces," a Tibetan tradition that celebrates the five senses, the effect is rustic yet otherworldly.

I admit, when I spotted the king-size

Above, left to right: Each of the 22 guest suites possesses a unique name—and sometimes a ghost story; read the spooky tale at bedtime, if you dare. The inn's adobe buildings, centuries old, are connected by lush courtyards and quiet corners for stealing a peaceful moment.

# American Journey



Left to right: Quaint one- to three-bedroom suites feature sitting rooms, patios, and kitchens. Innkeeper Niall Reid and his Newfoundland, Dublin, make guests feel right at home on the intimate 16,000-square-foot property. Hand-laid mosaic tiles complete a luxurious bath.

featherbed covered in colorful Belgian linens, I did a less-than-graceful swan dive square into its center. (I'm not the only one. The Garrett Hotel Group, which owns the inn, sells the \$4,000 top-of-the-line mattresses like most hotels sell robes.) I fell into the pillows and opened my eyes to the sun peeking in through a set of skylights. After turndown, a faint glow from the fireplace bounced off the carved wooden doors and river-rock walls and I began to ease into hibernation mode.

My first afternoon in Santa Fe was cold and snowy. The innkeeper's wife, Susie, graciously loaned me a coat, a hat, and gloves to brave the fickle mountain climate that I hadn't prepared for. But the coming days brought warm sun and the watercolor sunsets that I'd heard about—Georgia O'Keeffe couldn't have captured a better azure- and magenta-streaked sky.

Each afternoon at 4 p.m., Niall and his dog Baby lead guests on an hour-and-a-half walking tour of the city. The tour is a mile, so bring your walking shoes. My favorite stop was Seret and Sons, an antiques and imports shop that will look

very familiar to inn guests because many of the furnishings were bought there.

Niall and Susie invite guests to the library in the reception area each evening for complimentary wine and cheese. Night after night I met new people and we exchanged restaurant recommendations (the inn does not currently offer dining but plans to open a tapas restaurant in 2006). One of my most favorite meals was at the nearby Compound Restaurant, where I feasted on farmer's cheese ravioli and butternut squash cheesecake.

To experience the inn's five graces, guests can schedule private cooking classes with a local chef, a half-day workshop behind the pottery wheel, photography lessons, or a private concert program for two. On my last evening at the inn, I was less than ambitious and chose to indulge in the in-room stone massage beside a warm crackling fire. Later, as I snuggled into my bed, I found myself dreaming of a return trip. After all, I have four other graces to gratify.

*Inn of the Five Graces, 150 East DeVargas St., 505/992-0957, [www.fivegraces.com](http://www.fivegraces.com).* ■

## THE SOUL OF SANTA FE

Just a stone's throw away from the inn is one of the country's oldest churches, **San Miguel Mission**. 401 Old Santa Fe Trail, 505/983-3974

Visit the revered **Loretto Chapel** and its "miraculous staircase." 207 Old Santa Fe Trail, 505/982-0092

Situated in a 240-year-old restored adobe, **Geronimo** is quite possibly the city's best in fine dining. 724 Canyon Rd., 505/982-1500

Art lovers will enjoy a taste of the city's renowned art community at the gallery district on Canyon Road. East off Paseo de Peralta, [www.canyonroadarts.com](http://www.canyonroadarts.com)

**Compound Restaurant** is as rich in heritage as it is in flavor. 653 Canyon Rd., 505/982-4353

Ira and Sylvia Seret collect pieces from around the world for their shop, **Seret and Sons**. 224 Galisteo Street, 505/988-9151, [www.seretandsons.com](http://www.seretandsons.com)

A visit to O'Keeffe country isn't complete without the **Georgia O'Keeffe Museum**. 217 Johnson St., 505/946-1000