

Watery Abliss

No need to feel landlocked this summer, even if a beach isn't on the dossier. Three lakeside getaways show off the best in heartland luxe

| By *Connie Dufner and Alison Miller* |



Stonewater Cove is nestled on a hillside overlooking Table Rock Lake in the Ozarks.

The Show-Me Resort

On a whirlwind trip to southern Missouri's remote-plush **Stonewater Cove**, we wondered just whose vacation it was—ours or the enthusiastic Bond family who own the property. Every family member has a job—adult children handle management, sales and marketing; mom Ruth is decorator, and dad James is not only gracious host, but chomping at the bit to unleash his inner daredevil in the sunlit forests surrounding the 500-acre property in the Mark Twain National Forest, about 60 miles south of Springfield. Stonewater Cove is a pristine pocket



The elegant-rustic lodge at Stonewater Cove is a gathering spot for fine dining and cocktails.

of luxury not far from—and yet a world away—from Branson. A visit there yields aggressive pampering (think cloudlike beds and deep jetted tubs); culinary sophistication (homemade croissants for breakfast—delish!); a playground for young and old alike (we got the adrenaline rush in an afternoon of ATV-riding and zip-lining); and all manner of water play on Table Rock Lake. With 18 rooms, a helicopter pad, doting employees and a spa opening June 1, this is one don't-miss lark in the Ozarks. *Rates from \$470, 800.792.3956 or stonewatercove.com*

Paddle Up!

The only hotel in the Midwest to earn the coveted stamp of approval from discriminating Relais & Châteaux, **Canoe Bay** is a string of glassy cedar cottages—some designed by Frank Lloyd Wright protégé John Rattenbury—tucked into the woods two hours east of Minneapolis. The vibe is at once discreet and indulgent, and whether you opt for the vaulted-ceiling Lookout Cottage or the sprawling Edgewood Villa, (with a wraparound deck that nearly matches the 2,000 square feet of living space), the high-flying treatment's the same. The chef adheres to the tenets of all-natural, locally sourced and certified wild, and dinner is a standout event. Days are left to your freewheeling discretion: Curl up with one of the 2,000 volumes from the resort's library, meander the forested trails, or—most appropriately—paddle a canoe on one of three glistening spring-fed lakes. *Rates from \$350, 800.568.1995 or canoebay.com*



Smokies Get In Your Eyes

Rustic exclusivity rules at **Blackberry Farm**, a serene summer camp of sorts for the South's most pampered set, situated on 4,200 acres, 20 miles south of Knoxville, Tennessee. Expect farmhouse-style digs fitted with Italian linens and fieldstone fireplaces, and a staff that's wagering you'll eat some of the best meals of your life during your stay. The biggest news for

2010 is the revamped roster of events, ranging from a weekend of Italian food and drink with Joe Bastianich, Mario Batali's right-hand man, three days of wine tasting alongside famed New York chef Daniel Boulud. Still, it's the simple daily rituals—like watching the sun set over the Great Smokies from the string of white rockers facing the hills—that keep folks coming back. *Rates from \$795, 800.648.4252 or blackberryfarm.com* ■