

By MARY LOGAN WOLF

RIVER'S BEND RESORT

Luxury Accommodations in a Rustic Environment

TOSS OUT THOSE PRECONCEIVED notions about primitive mountain getaways. At River's Bend Resort, it's strictly posh, provincial, and private—and it's all framed with a perfect view of south-eastern Oklahoma's Glover River, heralded by environmentalists as Oklahoma's last free-flowing river.

Located nine miles west of Broken Bow and only fifteen minutes from grocery stores, restaurants, and shops, River's Bend Resort's plush accommodations blend seamlessly into the Kiamichi Mountains in a manner more Frank Lloyd Wright than Grizzly Adams.

No log cabins here—instead, guests can choose from three upscale Arts and Crafts-style riverfront bungalows with wraparound decks and tall cathedral windows with French doors. All this luxury invites visitors to drink in the star-studded night sky, calm down to the sound of falling water, and thrill at the sight of whitetail deer, bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers, and the occasional lumbering black bear.

Open for business in 2003, River's Bend is designed for the discriminating traveler. Owners Charlette and Brad Hearne of Broken Bow are dedicated to providing what they describe as the “ulti-

mate backwoods getaway.” Says Charlette, “Everything about our cabins is strictly high end.”

Two of the bungalows have loft bedrooms; the other a king bed, all draped with European linens. After a day of adventure, guests can indulge in a steamy, hot shower complete with full body spray and built-in back and foot massagers, then whip up a meal in a kitchen with all the amenities, including dishwasher and elegant granite countertops.





Afterward, they can warm their tootsies in front of a roaring fire and catch a favorite program on satellite television or plug in a video in the DVD/VCR combo.

For all its finesse and comfort, the main attraction at River's Bend remains the wilderness.

Anglers appreciate the Glover River's feisty smallmouth bass, bluegill, crappie, and catfish, while hikers, mountain bikers, and ATV fans are free to explore hundreds of miles of logging roads and trails in the nearby 450,000-acre Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area. Recreational types can enjoy easy access to their own canoe and paddle for miles along the Glover's unspoiled waters.

The Hearnes say their future plans include constructing more luxury cabins. But for now, they're content to share their slice of river paradise as is.

"We have a special place out here," says Charlette. "We don't want to see this river get overpopulated."

Designer's Challenge

Charlette Hearne designed all three River's Bend cabins. The Pine, right, features Peacock Alley Egyptian cotton towels and 500 to 600-thread-count sheets.



