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*Inspired by the wilderness ethic that gave rise to the Great Camps of the Adirondacks in the late 1800s, the Great Camps of the Smokies include a collection of high end vacation retreats that showcase the remoteness and beauty of the locale.*

# Ah, Wilderness

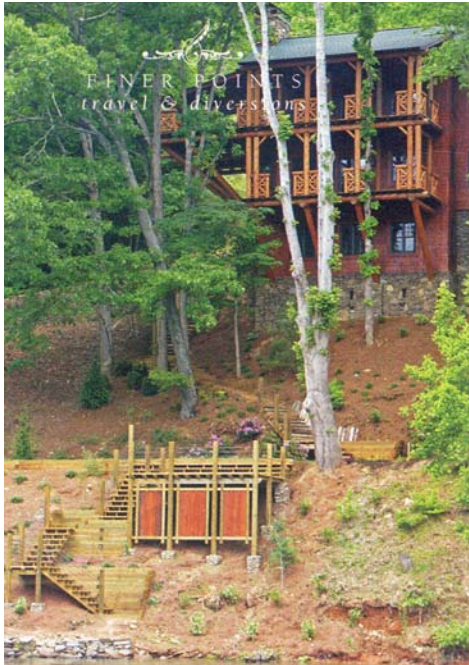
By Natalie Rushing



LAKE SANTEETLAH, NC—Located in the wilderness paradise of Graham County, Great Camps of the Smokies is a collection of high-end wilderness retreats designed with a sustainable approach that harmonizes luxury residences with natural settings. Surrounded by national forests and protected land, Great Camps honors the distinctive native settings and adheres to an innovative land stewardship program, incorporating practices such as land preservation, a woodland trail system and low-impact natural landscaping.

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Surrounded by North Carolina's Nantahala National Forest, Great Camps' communities include Santeetlah Lakeside, Frank's Creek, Thunderbird Mountain Villages—comprised of Wachacha Village and Black Bear Village—and Cochran's Mountain. The Santeetlah Canoe Club & Marina will provide amenities and access to the 3,000-acre Lake Santeetlah for all Great Camps residents and guests.



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The Treehouse Cottage at Great Camps of the Smokies was built on a slope between preserved trees. It mimics a tree house and blends in with the natural environment.

#### Wilderness—continued

“Instead of offering large lots and typical amenities,” says developer Jose Rosado, “we are targeting 80 percent of each property to be designated as a preservation area with common land owned by residents and conserved as gardens, parks, meadows and natural havens under an established land stewardship program. As a result, our owners can enjoy uninterrupted spaces of woodlands, pastures and other green areas, maintenance-free.”

Not only are the communities part of the land stewardship program, but so are the homes and cottages. All require the use of natural materials—including reclaimed wood in some cases—and those on the steeper lots mimic treehouse structures. Each home blends in with the environment, to the point of being invisible at first glance. “Great Camps is a place where one can reinvent himself. While someone may enjoy fast cars, five-star hotels and the finest custom suits in the city, in our mountains, it is enjoying a morning cup of coffee while watching the hummingbirds, fly fishing and hiking with the family.” says Rosado. “I found myself here by being able to connect with my family and with nature. I look forward to sharing it with others who appreciate these gifts.” For information call 866-908-2437.

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