

GLAMPING



Luxury camping under New Mexico skies. Right: the Rio Grande Gorge.

ON THE RIO GRANDE

BY ANDRÉA R. VAUCHER

The first time I camped was on the Sea of Cortez, on a paddle boarding trip through a marine World Heritage site. At night in my tent at the water's edge on a pristine island beach, I'd gaze at the stars as the sound of the waves lulled me to sleep.

Then about three days in, on a rockier-than-usual beach, I started missing my mattress, my pillows and my linens. Glamping, which puts the glamour in camping with actual beds and duvets and tents you can stand up in, seemed like the way to go.

And it was.

Last August, I discovered Heritage Inspirations, a company that combines glamping with a cultural and spiritual element derived from owner/founder Angelisa Murray's deep respect for Northern New Mexico and

its original inhabitants. Operating out of Taos, one of my favorite places in the United States, Angelisa orchestrates glamping experiences at the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and in Chaco Canyon, the Machu Picchu of North America. I signed up for a trip during the annual Perseid Meteor Showers.

Heritage Inspirations recently partnered with Heritage Hotels and Resorts, which owns luxury properties around the state. Both companies celebrate the rich, multi-cultural heritage of the Southwest, so it was a good fit. (It also meant my stay at El Monte Sagrado in Taos before and after glamping was offered at a discounted rate!) The hotel, one of the country's very first eco-luxury resorts, was created 20 years ago by an eccentric billionaire and his team of artists, architects, landscape designers, dowsers, shamans,

