

At Colorado's six member hotels, visitors will find Rocky Mountain trout, house smoked meats, lamb, and Anasazi beans on the menu. At the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, N.M., blue corn tortillas and homemade green chili accompany many of the entrees. Wyoming is bison country.

Look for buffalo prepared in a variety of ways: burgers, chili and tenderloin steaks at the seven lodges that span the state from Cody to Glacier.

Rainbow trout plucked from Montana's teeming rivers take center stage at the table as does elk, venison, wild bird entrees and huckleberries. While in South Dakota, the Seattle's Best Café located in the lobby of The Hotel Alex Johnson Hotel is a popular spot for autumn themed coffees and bakery items.

Along with the change of seasons comes the inevitable change in temperatures. Historic Hotels of the Rockies offer guests a pleasant respite from cold with warming cocktails, cordials and coffee.

Many of the hotel bars have been restored to their former glory: copper counters, tin ceilings, dark wood accents, brass foot rests and at the Historic Occidental Hotel in Buffalo, Wyo., guests can still see the 23 bullet holes left over from a particularly rowdy night. Ask the barkeep to retell the story of the night Frank Canton almost died.

Other places to enjoy a nightcap include the Strater Hotel in Durango, Colo., where the The Office Spiritorium is an especially luxurious place to sip a sherry or port. Paddy O'Neill's in the Hotel Alex Johnson in Rapid City, S.D., is a purveyor of upscale beers and fine whiskeys, and the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, N.M., invites guest to enjoy fine cigars in the Bryon T Saloon.

A sampling of Historic Hotels of the Rockies menu selections (<http://www.historic-hotels.com/recipes>) showcases the bounty of fall at its finest, which includes the following.

■ Rocky Mountain Trout with Shrimp Florentine – Castle Marne,

Denver, Colo.

■ Cross Six Ranch of Meeker rack of lamb with local organic rosemary fingerling potatoes – Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs, Colo.

■ Elk tenderloin with wild blueberry demi-glaze – Strater Hotel, Durango, Colo.

■ Rocky Mountain trout with pistachio crust – New Sheridan Hotel, Telluride, Colo.

■ Buffalo chili – Delaware Hotel, Leadville, Colo.

■ Sally's crock pickles – Peck House, Empire, Colo.

■ Roast saddle of venison with cranberries – Historic Elk Mountain Hotel, Elk Mountain, Wyo.

■ Braised pheasant and creamed roasted red pepper soup – Nagle Warren Mansion, Cheyenne, Wyo.

■ Buffalo lunch buffet that includes buffalo lasagna and bread pudding in whiskey sauce – Irma Hotel, Cody, Wyo.

■ Wyoming bison strip steak and fall harvest salad – Historic Plains Hotel, Cheyenne, Wyo.

■ Mylo's Coffeehouse biscotti – Historic Hotel Greybull, Greybull, Wyo.

■ Pan roasted local duck with shiitake mushrooms sticky rice and snap peas drizzled with pineapple-sesame sambal – Grand Union Hotel, Fort Benton

■ Elk medallions with huckleberry demi-glaze with apple and toasted walnut risotto – The Pollard, Red Lodge

■ **Cowboy cut ribeye served with caramelized onions sautéed in a whiskey reduction – Sacajawea Hotel, Three Forks**

■ Huckleberry pancakes, Montana style potatoes with Rocky Mountain apple bread, and thick sliced bacon – Izaak Walton Inn, Essex

Learn more about all 20 vintage hotels that are members of Historic Hotels of the Rockies at historic-hotels.com.

—Item submitted, with expanded information about the Sacajawea Hotel added by Belgrade News staff

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