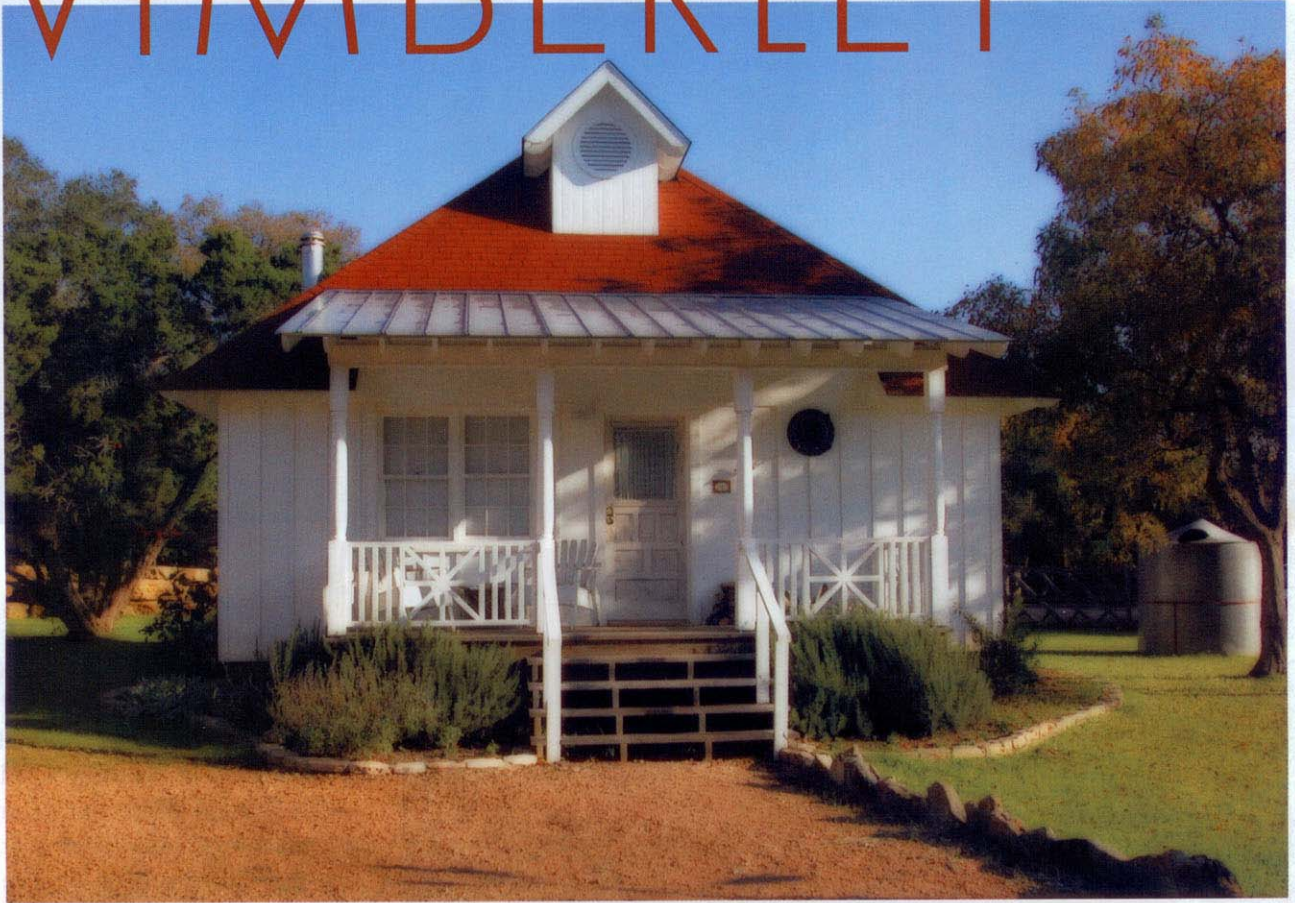


weekend in
WIMBERLEY



As The Lodge at Creekside prepares to sell its one-of-a-kind cabins, doors are opening for those wanting a small-town escape of their own.

Text by Taylor Bowles



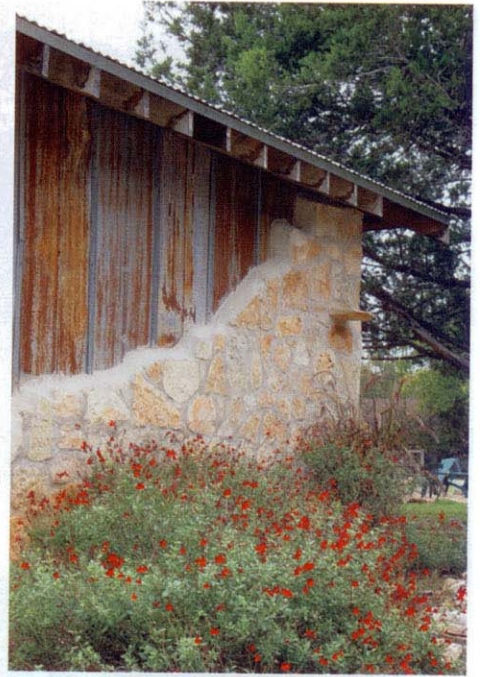
A nursing student, a writer, and a librarian walk into a bar.”

Except replace “bar” with “Hill Country property with plenty of promise.” It’s the beginning of what would admittedly make an awful joke, but has made The Lodge at Creekside one of Wimberley’s most sought-after accommodations. And to the chagrin—or perhaps delight—of The Lodge’s longtime guests, those accommodations are now for sale. Weekending in Wimberley can be yours, year-round.

Sisters Sally and Ashley Gibson (the nursing student and writer, respectively) and their mother Merry (a former librarian and high-powered sales exec) stumbled upon The Lodge’s riverfront property in 1994. “We were always the kind of people who drive down a road just to see where they go,” says Ashley. “And this road went to a ‘For Sale’ sign.”

The original 3.5-acre property featured two log houses and a cabin. Fast-forward to 1998, and the Gibsons’ real estate had expanded to 6 acres, including eight small cabins (“Done in the ‘70s,” rues Ashley) that the increasingly seasoned innkeepers quickly sold off.

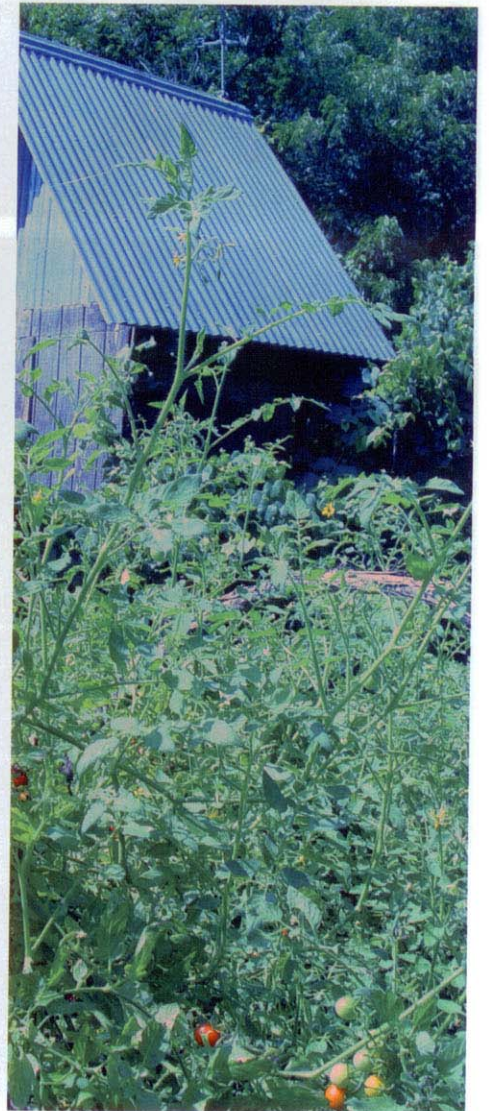
What came next would set The Lodge at Creekside apart: Seven custom-built cabins, small in stature but big on amenities, style,



Opening page: The Boat House, one of the cabins soon being put up for sale at the former Lodge at Creekside B&B, features a board-and-batten exterior and a porthole window the current owners found at Wimberley's Market Days.

Facing page: The Creek House is a traditional Hill Country cabin made of stone and cedar-plank walls and a tin roof. Cypress Creek offers a cool respite on hot summer days.

This page, clockwise from top left: Natural beauty abounds on the 6-acre property in Wimberley. A dogtrot, designed to catch cooling summer breezes, links the Trapper's and Miller's cabins. The property is landscaped with native Texas plants. Summer tomatoes are ripe for the picking. The Mill Race suite is a rustic log cabin with luxurious amenities.





and comfort. All share a sense of regional belonging, but none succumbs to a cookie-cutter, “Hill Country B&B” look.

“We love to travel Texas,” says Sally. “We’ve encountered so many different styles in different parts of Texas that make it what it is—and we’ve kept that, and brought it here to Wimberley.”

Clean, simple, and elegant were the guideposts for the design and construction—and the sisters assiduously avoided anything theme-like. “I think often B&Bs try to do theme rooms,” says Sally. “It doesn’t really work.”

(What, you may wonder, does a nursing student-turned-innkeeper know about design? As it happens, plenty. The construction and design of the cottages piqued Sally’s interest; she returned to school at Texas State University and received her degree in Interior Design.)

Each cottage, then, has a distinct look, save the Miller’s and Trapper’s cabins: A dogtrot style porch connects these mirror-image buildings. All the cabins share a sense of history. The board-and-batten style of the Boathouse, for example, often has visitors wondering whether the cabin was formerly a school house or church.

“People always ask, ‘Where did y’all get that? Where did you move it from?’” says Sally. “It was built with such attention to detail that you’d think it came from 1885—and it didn’t.” Cedar slabs, tin roofs and siding, and rock walls all echo Hill Country traditional homes in the Miller’s and Trapper’s cabins and the Creek House, while the Hunt House speaks with the accent of Fredericksburg’s German heritage.

Top: The Gardener’s Cottage, with hand-plastered walls and traditional Sunday House style, is a glimpse of the English countryside in the middle of Texas.

Left: Each cabin features an outdoor seating area from which to enjoy the view—and a cold drink.

The historical ambience of the cabins was aided by the use of architectural salvage. True locals, the Gibsons found most of the antique doors and windows used in the cabins at Wimberley's Saturday Market Days. The discoveries would sometimes dictate design, as was the case with the Boathouse's porthole window.

Antiquing stopped, however, when comfort came into question. The interior design of the cottages kept simple luxury in mind—and will translate seamlessly as the cabins are sold. Low-maintenance concrete floors, stained a Coca-Cola brown, are easily cleaned and hold heat well in the winter (and are surprisingly cool in the summer months). "Color-wise, nothing is shocking," says Sally; rather, muted tones created an atmosphere of simplicity and calm.

Even outside, the landscaping meets the standards of any smart Hill Country homeowner: "It's drought-proof and deer-proof!" laughs Ashley.

In preparation for sale, the cabins are being updated so that even a month-long stay will be perfectly comfortable. While bathrooms already had separate showers and two-person Jacuzzi-style tubs, the kitchenettes are receiving stone countertops and full-size refrigerators. And according to the innkeepers, that's what future cabin-owners desire: Anecdotes from B&B guests suggest that a luxurious bedroom and sitting room and a place for cold wine and beer are all that's required. "No one we talk to wants to cook!" Ashley says.

For those buyers who want to refurnish the interiors of the cabin, Sally suggests keeping the size of the space in mind. "I think something fluffy and comfortable, but appropriately scaled," she says. The Gibsons may consider selling the cabins furnished—and with top-of-the-line Sferra Bros. sheets and Chandler Collection bedding, a prospective homeowner may be wise to jump at the offer.

But even sheets with a sky-high thread count and perfectly designed interiors can't compete with Wimberley's outdoor charm. The Gibsons don't underestimate the importance of comfortable, attractive



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outdoor space—made all the more crucial by the petite size of the cabins. “We don’t want the cabins so big that it’s like taking care of another house,” says Ashley.

Though the cabins already sport rocking chair-worthy front porches and are a stone’s throw from both Cypress Creek and the Lodge’s Zen-like fire ring (both ideal for an icy Lone Star or rich Pinot), plans are underway for a gazebo-style barbecue pavilion. The Gibsons envision the pavilion as an extension of the homes, offering an entertaining space that allows for bigger get-togethers without the hassle or cleanup that comes with indoor soirees.

Proximity to the town square, too, makes The Lodge’s cabins an ideal second home. A quarter-mile to the Wimberley’s “city center” (read: adorable antique shops and casual cafes) makes an easy trip by car, foot, or even canoe.

Buyers will be lucky to call one of The Lodge’s cabins their own—and while Sally, Ashley, and Merry may miss their seven sweet buildings, their attentions will soon turn to renovating the main building, turning it from a dining and lounge area back into a home.

“There are many guests that say, ‘I wouldn’t change a thing,’” says Sally. And while the Gibson women may see the merits of leave-well-enough-alone, such a hands-off approach would leave us with ... well, a nursing student, a writer, and a former librarian.

Admirable, yes. But nothing compared to the gift they’ve given the town of Wimberley—or to the seven happy buyers they’ll please in the upcoming months. TH&L

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