

Taking Refuge

El Monte Sagrado (www.elmontesagrado.com / (575) 758-3502) was the hotel of choice for all three nights of my stay in Taos. I had heard about this place since the mid-2000s and was very excited to finally visit. It is said to have been a long standing property purchased by Kessler Hotels, who then glam'd it out in rustically authentic decor that blends well with the southwestern setting. And from the moment I arrived it was obvious that owner-Richard Kessler and the team he assembled succeeded in their intentions.



Laden with artifacts reminiscent of southwestern couture, El Monte Sagrado is a very friendly, Marriott managed resort spa environment. As with the entire area, most of the buildings throughout the resort campus are clay colored, adobe type structures reminiscent of an urban setting in a rural environment, all of which hits you in the heart immediately. With mountainous backdrops adding further delight to the sacred circle, the grounds are beautifully managed in a natural, totally uncontrived sense.



To coincide with original Pueblo architecture, the newest collection of connected buildings house the 48 Taos Mountain Rooms. Modern flair is celebrated outside and inside, where oversized Jacuzzi tubs with room enough for two are included in every spacious room. The rooms are adorned in bejeweled sconces, leather headboards, stunning animal skin covered furniture and fireplaces accented by white river stones atop of which hangs an animal skull covered in eye catching turquoise. From every angle in every room an array of beauty is waiting for you to behold. You can't help but smile and stare through the big sliding glass doors for a picture perfect view of the mountains calling for your soul to rejoice.

For the total of 84 guest rooms throughout the entire property, accommodations are further categorized into 18 Native American Suites, six Casitas and 12 Premiere and Global Suites. With absolute certainty, I can tell you that each unit in every category will take your breath away, with the Premier and Global Suites leading the pack as the true creme de la creme of world culture. Rich hand carved wood furniture, fabrics that shimmer, glass that sparkles and minerals to enlighten are set off on muted backgrounds to keep it real and southwestern.