

La Cantera: Luxury in the Hill Country

The Westin La Cantera is a world-class resort, situated atop San Antonio's highest hill.

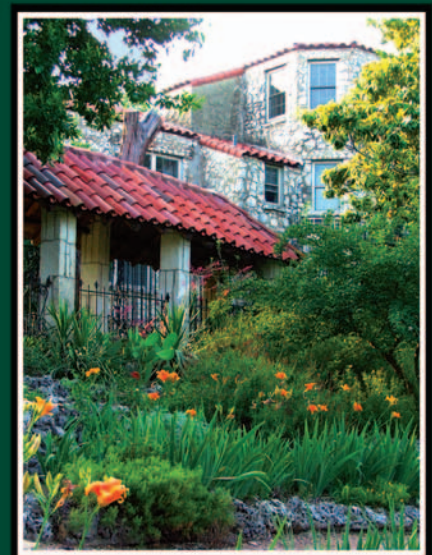
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By RONA DISTENFELD

Just a short drive away, atop one of San Antonio's highest hills, a world-class resort draws golf enthusiasts, business travelers, families, and romancing couples from around the world. Park the car — you won't need it. The Westin La Cantera offers all the action and relaxation you'll want, and convenient shuttle buses are on call to take you around the resort and off-site to explore the renowned Shops at La Cantera or enjoy the thrills of Fiesta Texas.

From the moment you arrive the friendly, helpful staff is waiting to pamper your whole family. Settle in for a drink in one of the many lounge areas throughout the resort. Large, deep armchairs and couches make you want to put your feet up, and in the cooler months you can toast your tootsies by a roaring fire.

Then head for dinner at Francesca's. The resort's signature restaurant has been a AAA Four Diamond Award winner four years in a row, and boasts an impressive wine list. You can make a meal just trying all the amazing appetizers, such as the Ancho Simmered Venison Chili, the Ahi Tuna 'Poke' Heart of Palm Timbale, and the Banana Leaf Wrapped Yucatan Chicken Tamale. Be sure to get there early enough to catch the sunset, too. Every table has a view of the sky streaking pink and purple as the sun dips below the Texas hills.

More casual dining is also an option at the La Cantera Grille and Brannon's Café. After dinner, be sure to stop by Steinheimer's Bar for a libation, a visit to the cigar bar, and a good look at the map on the ceiling. Maybe you'll be the lucky one who one day finds Karl Steinheimer's buried gold!

Workout or Get Worked On

The resort's Castle Rock Health Club & Spa boasts a state-of-the-art facility with more than enough equipment to keep you moving. A Reebok Core Training Zone is at the heart of the Westin *WORKOUT* (SM), with specially designed equipment to



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give you a complete workout. You can arrange to work with one of the fitness specialists to tailor a program or to refine what you're already doing.

With or without a workout, be sure to take advantage of the many spa offerings. From foot reflexology to seaweed facials to full body massage, the spa offers something for every part of your body. The therapists are professionally trained and very experienced. They understand that no two people are exactly alike and they focus on making your experience perfectly suit your needs and expectations.

Tee Off on Two Award-Winning Courses

The resort boasts two top-rated golf courses, making this a Golf Magazine Gold Medal Resort for 2004–2005 and putting it on Conde Nast's Gold List for "Top Golf Resorts Around the World". The Palmer Course, designed by golfing legend Arnold Palmer, challenges skilled golfers from tee to green. This Par-71 course is set among spectacular views of the natural landscape.

The Resort Course, designed by golf course architect Jay Morrish and PGA Tour professional Tom Weiskopf is host to the PGA's Valero Texas Open at La Cantera. The course winds through the Texas Hill Country and is known for its breathtaking views, the most famous being the sheer, 80-foot drop from the 7th tee to the fairway.

Don't Worry About the Kids

While you're getting your time to relax, your kids have their own special activities. If they're between the ages of five and twelve, you can enroll them in the resort's seasonal Enchanted Rock Kid's Club. There are 2 four-hour sessions each day, plus an evening session on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Trained activity coordinators get your kids involved in both indoor and outdoor activities, from arts and crafts to nature hikes. Plus, every child gets a gift — a child-size backpack with a beverage container that may be filled free at every meal, a resort passport where they can keep of record of what they did, a disposable camera, and more.

Or spend time with your kids at the Quarry Pool. A long, curving water slide is a favorite with kids of all ages, and you can keep on eye on them from the comfort of one of the many poolside chaise lounges. The inside of the waterfall is a favorite spot for taking a breather, and there are balls, float tubes, and a volleyball net to encourage water games.

There are two other pools and a hot tub for adults only so you don't have to worry about disturbing grown-up guests.

Fiesta Texas is just a quick shuttle ride away, too. No parking hassle, just ride the shuttle right to the door.

Shopping as an Outdoor Activity

The Shops at La Cantera is an outdoor setting offering many of your favorite national retailers as well as local merchants. This colorful arcade is designed to remind you of the outdoor markets of Mexico, but with lovely upscale shops instead of stalls.

Benches are strategically placed so you can stroll and relax at will. A large and colorful playscape invites younger children to let off some energy while their parents watch from shaded vantage points.

With shops offering merchandise from around the world and a world-class resort to pamper you, there's no need to travel far for a memorable get away. Come for a week or week-end and you'll see why Conde Nast Traveler put the Westin La Cantera on the Gold List of "The World's Best Places to Stay" for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

If you go:

Westin La Cantera
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