

NEW MEXICO MERRIAMS



When the Signature Events program was created, we had one goal in mind – provide unmatched, world-class outdoor events for our CLUB Members. Placing an extra emphasis on world-class has always been a staple for the program. Whether it be lodging, food, logistics or harvest opportunity, we do everything in our power to make sure our CLUB Members have an unforgettable experience. Recently, we took a group of 5 CLUB Members to the picturesque mountains of northern New Mexico for an action packed adventure chasing pure bred Merriam's with the Lodge at Chama.

The Lodge at Chama and world-class go hand in hand, and that is exactly what our guests experienced. As they drove up the winding mountain road, they reached an opening where the nearly 27,000 sq. ft. lodge sat tucked back in the aspens and pines. As they were greeted by their CLUB Host and LAC staff, guests were captivated by the impressive amount of trophy's adorning the walls – from 400" elk above the fireplace to 200" mule deer above the bar, all taken off that very ranch. A leather bound book with their name on it waited for them on the check-in table where they each picked their main course for the evening meal – a process that would continue each evening. Folks got cleaned up in their spacious rooms, before a cocktail hour and welcome reception to kick off the hunt. As guides were introduced to their hunters and plans were set for the morning, the group was already eager with anticipation.

As the morning came early, guests were greeted at the breakfast table with hot coffee and made-to-order breakfast before heading out in pursuit of their ivory-tipped trophy. It wasn't long and guests found themselves below 15-20 birds, gobbling from the roost as the crisp mountain air was cut by the sunrise. "Right in the action" as some might say, is putting it lightly. As the beads of each hunters barrels made their way onto each of their turkeys throughout the morning, all hunters sat down for their evening cocktails tagged out after only one day of hunting. It was then 2 more days of relaxing at the lodge, enjoying the spa and fitness center, traveling to nearby attractions and taking in the beautiful scenery to pass the time. After 7 inches of snow fell the second day, we were happy to have had the success we did on opening morning, and to experience northern New Mexico in the springtime.

As guests that arrived as strangers conversed like old friends by the final evening, numbers were exchanged and plans to complete the turkey slam together were being made. Another 4 course meal was served and laughs were had as stories were told from the hunt, both present and past. Goodbyes were said the following morning and guests left with not only a proud trophy, but a handful of new friends and a memory card full of unforgettable moments. Again, when we say "world-class", the New Mexico Merriam's hunt at the Lodge at Chama is just that and so much more. If a pure-bred Merriam's gobbler is still on your list, this is the place to get it done. And we can't wait to be a part of it.



