

GEORGIA QUAIL



A sense of tradition is something an outfitter can't bring into their camp, you either have it or you don't – and tradition is what the Signature Events program was built upon. The tradition of bringing strangers together in the outdoors and leaving as if they've known each other a lifetime, and of conservation and the importance of enjoying and respecting the natural wonders of our world. When we went searching for a southern quail hunt after high demand from guests, "tradition" was at the top of our list of criteria. Three years and 9 events later, Branhill Plantation near Denton, GA has perfected the art of "tradition".

As guests drove down the red-clay road parallel to miles of Georgia pines, they pulled up to the rustic lodge, sitting atop an acre fishing pond and tucked back in the trees. Welcomed by the Signature Events and Branhill teams, guests were shown to their spacious rooms with attached baths, and before they knew it, a cold drink was in their hand. The complimentary gear packages sat on their bed and as a special surprise for this event, all guests received a pair of Oakley Standard Issue shooting glasses donated by our friends at Sunglass Outfitters.

Adorned with taxidermy taken off the Branhill property, the walls of the cabin told guests a story of many hunting adventures in those woods. The woods they would soon be chasing coveys of bobwhites in. Soon after all guests had arrived, Branhill's chef Jesse gathered everyone around and said a blessing for the food and upcoming days of hunting. From 28 oz. steaks, smoked porkchops and fried shrimp and grits, guests never once questioned if they were going to go home hungry. True southern fare should be expected when in southern Georgia, and true southern fare is exactly what you get on this hunt, and then some. Guests relaxed by the fire pit and shot a few rounds of sporting clays before heading to bed in anticipation of the next morning's hunt.

Operated as a preserve, Tony and the Branhill team ensure that the shooting is plentiful, but remains challenging and sporty. Guests notice and appreciate the quality of hunting year after year. Each pair of guests was partnered up with their guide, hopped onto the buggy with a case of shells, and headed off into the pines and palmettos to start the hunt. In no time, they were on the heels of world-class setters, pointers and spaniels flushing their first coveys. As they moved from field to field, the smiles grew as fast as the pile of birds in the cooler. After returning for another hearty lunch, guests relaxed for an hour or so before heading back out for another afternoon of hunting. As the day ended, the group sat around the fire, drink in hand, laughing and telling stories about who had the best shot (and biggest miss) of the day. Friends were forming after only 24 hours in camp, and there was still another day of hunting left. After the quail hunt the next morning, guests then finished the afternoon off with a European-style tower shoot for pheasants – a fun, relaxed, easy-going way to end the trip.

As the group lined up for a group photo on the front porch of the lodge, it was as if they had been friends for years. A group of strangers brought together with similar interests, and leaving with much more than that. Goodbyes were said and numbers were exchanged, as talks of future hunts together were already in the works. Like I said earlier, it's not every day you come across an outfit that encompasses "tradition" with such perfection, and this Signature Event with Branhill captures just that. If you're an upland hunter and enjoy great food, great company and great hunting, then look no further than this cultural quail hunt in southeast Georgia – trust me. See you in camp.

Jordan Holzfaster

CLUB Event Coordinator



