



A traditional mariachi leads the wedding procession of Fort Worth residents Cathy and Hal Sewell through the streets of Santa Fe. Red chile peppers, pictured dried in ristras, at right, are the backbone of Santa Fe cuisine.

Photo by Blue Rose Photography



Rediscover Santa Fe

It's a familiar place, one we started to take a little bit for granted. But a magical weekend allowed us to see The City Different in a new light. Maybe you can do the same.

By Tiffany Figueiredo Photos by Ralph Lauer

I

t was something akin to a Mardi Gras parade — Santa Fe style.

Instead of a Dixieland jazz band, we followed a strumming, singing group of decked-out mariachis. Rather than winding our way down Bourbon Street, we strolled through the historic downtown plaza past shops, street vendors, bars, restaurants and loads of smiling, waving, picture-snapping tourists. Decked out in wedding finery, our little procession made for quite the celebratory spectacle. We had just witnessed the nuptials of Fort Worth residents Cathy Anderson and Hal Sewell in the old and beautiful Loretto Chapel, and as the mariachis led us blocks away to a pretty courtyard reception, we couldn't help thinking that as many weddings as we'd all been to, this one in The City Different was just about perfect.



Photo by Ralph Lauer

When Cathy and Hal decided to tie the knot last summer, they wanted a destination wedding that would be a celebration of their fun, relaxed relationship and would appeal to their families, including her parents, all of their children, whose ages ranged from 5 to 25, and Hal's toddler granddaughter. They also wanted their mixed bag of friends — couples, singles, those with kids and without — to have a great time.

Cathy and Hal's first trip together was to Santa Fe and after having visited several more times, they felt it an ideal place to gather for a weekend of wedding activities. When Santa Fe was mentioned, it didn't



Adobe architecture is still one of the hallmarks of Santa Fe and you'll find it in abundance in and around the city. The new Auberge Resorts-run Encantado brings a certain contemporary chicness to Santa Fe's lodging options.

take long before about 80 people, half of us from Fort Worth, were booking flights in anticipation of a June wedding.

Most of us had been to Santa Fe before, some quite often. After all, it's an easy trip from Dallas-Fort Worth to the beautiful and eclectic city nestled in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. With its mix of eccentric artists, well-heeled residents and Native American, Southwestern and Spanish influences, Santa Fe is renowned for its art, food and culture and is a haven for outdoor lovers from Texas. Those of us who had been before delighted in sharing our favorite Santa Fe haunts with those who hadn't, and Cathy and Hal, with help from friends who live in Santa Fe year-round, introduced us all to some new favorites.

While we all, of course, came for the wedding, we also used it as an excuse for a fun vacation experience. And whether we hoped the weekend would be a family-oriented trip, a romantic grown-up getaway or an art-buying extravaganza, Santa Fe delivered on all counts. Here's how to have a weekend in Santa Fe that delivers on all your dreams, too.

Where to rest your head

The eccentric and bohemian Inn of the Five Graces is a fabulous hotel for couples. Originally opened by an importer of Oriental furnishings and his designer wife, it has 24 unique suites, each outfitted with hand-carved furniture, feather beds, elaborate hand-painted tile mosaics, colorful textiles and Asian and Native American objets d'art. Meanwhile, Rosewood Hotel's more staid four-star Inn of the Anasazi enjoys a fantastic location next to the historic Santa Fe Plaza. The 58 rooms are housed in a classic pueblo building and kitted out with kiva fireplaces and New Mexico artwork and furnishings. Also near the plaza, the Inn and Spa at Loretto underwent a \$7.5 million renovation last year but managed to keep its charming traditional Southwestern style. Several onsite shops and galleries sell everything from traditional



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Café Pasqual's has been a colorful fixture on the dining scene in Santa Fe for 30 years. The chicken mole enchiladas at Pasqual's are part of what owner Katherine Kagel (below) calls her Equatorial food, a mix of Mexican, Asian, Central American and New Mexican flavors.



jewelry and folk art to fine art photography, paintings and sculpture.

If the hustle and bustle of downtown doesn't appeal, quieter lodging options are available just outside town. Five minutes away is the family-friendly Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort and Spa, built in the 1800s as a retreat for Santa Fe's first archbishop and later used by the Pulitzer family as a private holiday getaway. Set on 450 scenic acres, the sprawling resort offers miles of hiking

and horseback riding trails, skeet and trap shooting, tennis and a large pool. About 12 miles from town and bordered by the Tesuque Indian Reservation, Hacienda del Cerezo has only 10 oversize suites, making for an intimate getaway. Highly individualized service, three gourmet meals a day, and a spectacular setting at the end of a long dirt road will make you feel like a wealthy hacienda owner in Old Mexico.

Santa Fe has never had a truly chic hotel

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option, but that changed with the opening of Auberge Resorts' contemporary Encantado just outside town. It's everything you'd expect from Auberge, with a restaurant helmed by James Beard Award-nominee Charles Dale, a spa and an outdoor sculpture garden.

Santa Fe is full of holiday rentals, too, and Casas de Santa Fe leases some of the best. From charming one-bedroom casitas blocks from downtown to a sleekly decorated six-bedroom compound near the Santa Fe Opera House, each property comes with hotel-like amenities, such as fully stocked toiletries and concierge services.

Where to get your fill

Guadalupe Cafe is the best place to try the fiery, sinus-clearing red and green chile pepper dishes that are at the heart of Santa Fe cuisine. Delicious sour-cream chicken enchiladas, cheese-stuffed ancho chile peppers and huevos rancheros are all topped with the stuff. Lunching in the beautiful outdoor courtyard at La Casa Sena, where Cathy and Hal held their reception, is a must in warm weather. Try one of the seafood dishes or the Sena Sampler, with three New Mexico specialties. Santa Fe's oldest, and certainly one of its most eclectic, eateries is Plaza Café. Run by a Greek family, this classic diner is a multicultural smorgasbord serving up everything from Greek moussaka to Mexican posole to American burgers. The cafe is one of Santa Fe's favorite breakfast spots as well, but you'll have to wait for a table. Colorful, busy, beloved Café Pasqual's makes for a fun, if crowded, breakfast or lunch experience. Sit at the communal table and order one of the mole-sauced dishes. For dinner, head to one of the city's newest and hottest restaurants, La Boca, an unpretentiously chic spot serving simple but tasty tapas, some with distinctive, locally grown ingredients. The venerable fine dining establishment Geronimo is always a good bet for a leisurely white-tablecloth dinner with excellent food. The Pink Adobe, housed in a 300-year-old rose-colored building and owned by the creative minds behind Inn of the Five Graces, has a homey, romantic atmosphere and a menu of steaks and seafood in classic preparations.

Todos Santos Chocolates and Confections owner and top chocolatier Hayward F.

Simoneaux shows off a box of the beautiful little edible-goldleaf-coated dark chocolate milagros he creates in his colorful shop.

Ten Thousand Waves spa, modeled after a traditional Japanese onsen, brings water-based relaxation to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.





Santa Fe is all about the doors. Colors and textures abound at every entrance.

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Guide to Santa Fe

Where to lay your head

Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort and Spa Bishop's Lodge Road; 505-983-6377; www.bishopslodge.com

Casas de Santa Fe 505-466-3666; www.casasdesantafe.com

Encantado 198 State Road 592; 877-262-4666; www.encantadorort.com

Hacienda del Cerezo 100 Camino del Cerezo; 505-982-8000; www.haciendadelcerezo.com

Inn of the Anasazi 113 Washington Ave.; 505-988-3030; www.innoftheanasazi.com

Inn of the Five Graces 150 E. DeVargas St.; 505-992-0957; www.fivegraces.com

Where to get your fill

Café Pasqual's 121 Don Gaspar Ave.; 505-983-9340; www.pasquals.com

Guadalupe Cafe 422 Old Santa Fe Trail; 505-982-9762.

La Boca 72 W. Marcy St.; 505-982-3433.

La Casa Sena 124 E. Palace Ave.; 505-988-9232; www.lacasasena.com

The Pink Adobe 406 Santa Fe Trail; 505-983-7712; www.thepinkadobe.com

Plaza Café 54 Lincoln Ave.; 505-982-1664.

SantaCafé 231 Washington Ave.; 505-984-1788; www.santacafe.com

Thai Café 329 W. San Francisco St.; 505-982-3886.

Where to spend your cash

Back at the Ranch 209 E. Marcy St.; 505-989-8110; www.backattheranch.com

Jackalope 2820 Cerrillos Road; 505-471-8539; www.jackalope.com

Packard's 16 Old Santa Fe Trail; 505-983-9241; www.packards-santafe.com

Todos Santos Chocolates and Confections 125 E. Palace Ave.; 505-982-3855.

Where to feast your eyes

Bellas Artes 653 Canyon Road; 505-983-2745; www.bellesartessgallery.com

Collectors Guide to Santa Fe www.collectorsguide.com

Nedra Matteucci Galleries 1075 Paseo de Peralta; 505-982-4631; www.matteucci.com

Patina Gallery 131 W. Palace Ave.; 505-986-3432; www.patina-gallery.com

Peyton Wright 237 E. Palace Ave.; 505-989-9888; www.peytonwright.com

Shidoni Arts 1508 Bishops Lodge Road; 505-988-8001; www.shidoni.com

Wiford Gallery 403 Canyon Road; 505-982-2403; www.wifordgallery.com

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum 217 Johnson St.; 505-946-1000; www.okeeffemuseum.org

Loretto Chapel 207 Old Santa Fe Trail; 505-982-0092; www.lorettochapel.com

Museum of International Folk Art 706 Camino Lejo; 505-476-1200; www.internationalfolkart.org

New Mexico Museum of Art 107 Palace Ave.; 505-476-5072; www.mfasantafe.org

Where to make memories

The Santa Fe Opera 505-986-5900; www.santafeopera.org

Santa Fe School of Cooking 166 W. San Francisco St.; 505-983-4511; www.santafeschoolofcooking.com

Santa Fe Rafting Co. 888-988-4914; www.santaferafting.com

Ten Thousand Waves 3451 Hyde Park Road; 505-992-5025; www.tenthousandwaves.com

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areas are home to many galleries and are worth visiting as well. Those interested in sculpture must make the short drive north to the village of Tesuque to visit Shidoni Arts, a fascinating working bronze foundry and sprawling indoor-outdoor sculpture gallery. On Canyon Road, Wiford Gallery has a large outdoor sculpture garden featuring the works of several high-caliber artists. Also on Canyon is Bellas Artes, a lovely gallery that for more than 25 years has specialized in contemporary sculpture, painting and works on paper. Peyton Wright carries both modern art and antiques. Particularly noteworthy is the gallery's collection of religious artwork and icons and its "Art of Devotion" and Russian icons exhibitions. Nedra Matteucci Galleries specializes in 19th- and 20th-century American art with an emphasis on Western art, Impressionism and Modernism. The elegant Patina Gallery has a large but carefully edited selection of fine crafts,

including jewelry, textiles and metal, clay and wood sculpted objects such as bowls and vases. The well-known and enormous Gerald Peters Gallery has the feel of a museum, but everything here, from the Charles Russell western paintings to the Ansel Adams landscape photographs, is for sale.

As a vibrant art city, Santa Fe is home to 10 museums. Those worth a special trip include the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, which houses the works of the artist who so beautifully captured the New Mexico landscape. The Museum of International Folk Art houses the largest collection of ethnic crafts in the world: an astounding 125,000 objects are on display here. The Girard wing offers a such a floor-to-ceiling kaleidoscope of colorful dolls, Day of the Dead figures, masks, toys and other objects that one can hardly take them all in during one visit. The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture showcases

history and culture through both artifacts and contemporary art. The New Mexico Museum of Art has a large permanent collection of 20th-century works

produced in New Mexico, particularly by artists in Santa Fe and Taos, and mounts numerous special exhibitions throughout the year. It is fittingly housed in a 1917 pueblo. Another must-see historic building is the Loretto Chapel, home to a legendary winding staircase said to have been built in the late 1800s by a lone carpenter who appeared in answer to the nuns' prayers for a way to get up to the choir loft.

Where to make some memories

If you develop a taste for Santa Fe's famous cuisine, the popular Santa Fe School of Cooking can show you how to make it at home. Hands-on classes are offered several times a day. Thrill seekers will love white-water rafting on the Rio Grande. Santa Fe Rafting Co. can arrange lazy float trips or Class IV rides and everything in between. If high-octane rafting (or too much shopping) leave your body tired, Ten Thousand Waves, a traditional Japanese spa, provides rejuvenation with hot baths, massage and soothing body treatments. From early July through late August, hear Verdi performed by virtuosos in a truly breathtaking setting: under the stars at a performance of the Santa Fe Opera. In one of the most remarkable opera experiences in the world, the highly acclaimed company performs at sunset in an open-air hall, complete with pitch-perfect acoustics and amazing views. This summer features the world premiere of Paul Moravec's *The Letter*, as well as *La traviata*, *The Elixir of Love*, *Don Giovanni* and *Alceste*.



The world renowned Santa Fe Opera is a performs in a breathtaking, open-air setting amongst the piñon trees north of the city.