

GOING BIG ON A SMALL SCALE

FOR THE OWNERS OF SPACIOUS HOMES, VILLAS AND EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES NOW OPEN TO MEETINGS AND EVENTS, THESE ARE MORE THAN JUST SPACES...THERE'S A PERSONAL ATTACHMENT. **BY BETH BUEHLER**



THERE SEEMS TO BE A TREND UNDERWAY on the range and in the hills of Colorado. Large residences and equestrian facilities are being transformed and even built with meetings and events in mind in some cases. These one-of-a-kind spaces are big on ambiance and privacy and will stay etched in guests' memory banks long into the future.

ALPINE VILLA

This expansive mountain getaway located in Breckenridge was built specifically for corporate retreats and groups. Owners Mike and Elizabeth Hawkins constructed a vacation home in the popular ski town in the early 1990s and found it handy to host sales reps and management teams from IBM, where Mike worked before establishing a consulting firm.

The Hawkins decided to make a business of it and built a new seven-acre retreat, melding elements that integrate fun, relaxation and productivity. A rock-climbing wall, billiard room, gym/racquetball court, Roman bath and three

home theaters complement a high-tech meeting room, dining hall, commercial kitchen, wet bars, and sleeping space that includes eight suites and four additional sleeping rooms at this sprawling property. Outside, guests can indulge in eight heated decks, 360-degree mountain views, a fire pit and trout fishing on the Swan River.

Opened three years ago, Alpine Villa has hosted major companies with locations in Colorado such as Coors and Xcel Energy and some from as far away as California, New York and Texas. The Hawkins live on-site to ensure top-notch customer service.

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