

## New Mexico Tourism Contacts

Nicole Barker, Media Relations Manager | [Nicole.Barker@TD.NM.GOV](mailto:Nicole.Barker@TD.NM.GOV) | 505-469-2739

Marissa Le-Baca, Public Relations Representative | [mlebaka@theabbiagency.com](mailto:mlebaka@theabbiagency.com) | 575-528-8682

# NEW MEXICO TRUE

## NEWS & UPDATES

### LODGING

- [Hotel Willa](#) (Taos): Once a 1940s motel, and today reimagined as a 51-room, local art-filled upscale boutique hotel with curated indoor and outdoor spaces in the Taos historic district. The restaurant, developed in collaboration with husband-and-wife duo , Chef Johnny Ortiz-Concha and Maida Branch of SIEMPRE Design, will serve seasonally sourced dishes infused with the spirit of Taos as New Mexico's newest destination dining venue. Opened May 2025.
- [Hotel Flora](#) (Santa Fe): Located in Santa Fe's burgeoning Railyard district, known for its breweries, outdoor events, eclectic retail shops, and artisan and farmers' markets, Hotel Flora will offer elegantly appointed rooms and suites, complete with cozy fireplaces and private balconies overlooking garden courtyards. Anticipated to open in Fall 2025.
  - There will also be three Food & Beverage outlets in Hotel Flora serving hotel guests and the local community:
    - The Lobby Bar will be exclusive to hotel guests and offer complimentary breakfast, locally inspired beverages and small plates in the evening.
    - Railyard Social will be an open-air communal courtyard offering dishes designed for sharing and socializing.
    - Green Rabbit, an underground cocktail lounge will serve craft cocktails and offer an exclusive wine list paired with shareable plates.
- [ARRIVE Albuquerque](#) (Albuquerque): Formerly known as the historic Hotel Blue, the soon-to-open ARRIVE Albuquerque by Palisociety infuses the city's vibrant culture with modern boutique charm. Known for creating thoughtfully designed spaces and unique programming that embrace the local character, ARRIVE immerses its guests in the design, style, tastes, and culture of Albuquerque on the city's famous Central Avenue known as the modern-day Route 66. Opened in
- [Bernal Lake Cabin, Vermejo](#) (Raton): Vermejo, a half-million-acre reserve part of the [Ted Turner Reserves](#) collection, opened its newest residence in April 2024. This rustic yet luxurious two-suite cabin has window-wall lake views, private decks, a gas fireplace, heated floors, and two in-suite soaking tubs. Outside, a cedar soaking tub and outdoor living area complete the dream. More [here](#).
- [Art City](#) (Tucumcari): A new destination glamping and immersive sculpture park outside of Tucumcari featuring works from internationally renowned artists. Nestled along Route 66, Art City is a fresh take on an art studio by The Most Famous Artist and is an indoor/outdoor haven where people gather to create art.

- [The Mystic](#) (Santa Fe): Formerly the Silver Saddler Motel, Santa Fe’s latest newly renovated hip roadside motel embraces its Route 66 roots. Complete with two time-capsule rooms designed by co-owner Amanda Tucker, these spaces transport guests to the 1940s and 1950s with vintage cowboy curtains, a Roy Rogers lunchbox, and other nostalgic touches.
- [Hotel Andaluz](#) (Albuquerque): Placed on The National Register of Historic Places and originally constructed by New Mexico native Conrad Hilton, this hotel is undergoing an approximately \$7 million restoration and renovation to bring new life to one of the Southwest’s iconic buildings. The remodel includes an updated lobby, sleeping rooms, corridors, meeting space, second-level mezzanine and gift shop. The restaurant bar and second-floor rooftop bar will be reopened with new concepts during the renovations, and a lobby bar will also be added during the renovations. Expected completion by the end of summer 2025.
- [Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado](#) (Santa Fe): The premier destination for lavish getaways in Santa Fe is now home to the city’s newest guest rooms with the completion of a multimillion-dollar revitalization encompassing all 65 intimate casitas. The exquisitely transformed casitas mark the first guest room renewal since the resort’s 2008 opening. Now available to book, the new pueblo-inspired design elegantly blends modern elements with timeless style. All rooms have been significantly enhanced with new coral and rust color palette, custom-made furniture, technology, lighting, paint, window treatments, artwork and more. Completed in Spring 2024.

## MILESTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

- [Route 66 Centennial](#) (Tucumcari, New Mexico to Gallup, New Mexico): Cruising Route 66 is a truly Americana experience. With 465 miles, the Land of Enchantment hosts more of the historic route than any other state. In 1926, the iconic, 2,400-mile “Mother Road” was born, connecting roads from Chicago through New Mexico to Los Angeles. In New Mexico, celebrations ahead of the 2026 centennial will kick off in 2025 with special events, nostalgic stays in hip, newly renovated vintage roadside motels, and a massive effort to restore the route’s beloved neon signs.
  - Route 66 Festival @ [Santa Fe Railyard](#): A 3-day centennial celebration of The Mother Road on October 10–12 including a beer and Americana music festival, pop-up food diner, antique car show and vintage souvenir market. The festivity kicks off on Friday night with a fundraising gala like no other—dust off your dancin’ shoes, put on your best High Desert cocktail attire (jeans and boots are most welcome here), and get ready to give back to our local farming community through the Santa Fe Farmers’ Market Institute with barbeque, local wine and beer, live music, dancing and barnyard games!
  - [TourABQ](#) is offering Route 66 Speakeasy tours to celebrate the centennial. Hop aboard the [ABQ Trolley Co.](#) and cruise to three different speakeasies, each with its own unique charm and delicious drinks.
  - Route 66 Summerfest in [Nob Hill](#) (on Central Avenue) will occur twice during the Route 66 Centennial Celebrations — July 2025 and July 2026. This exciting annual event celebrates the iconic Mother Road with a spectacular blend of music, food, art and fun. Typically held on the third Saturday of July, the day is

filled with lively festivities that capture the spirit of Route 66 and the vibrant culture of Albuquerque.

- The new [West Central Route 66 Visitor Center](#), scheduled to open its doors in summer 2025, adds an exciting stop for road trippers and neon sign enthusiasts. A collaborative effort between Bernalillo County, the City of Albuquerque and local stakeholders, the recently built 21,000-square-foot, \$13.1 million West Central Route 66 Visitor Center includes a banquet/event hall, outdoor amphitheater, Route 66 museum, taproom and gift shop. The outdoor market areas, including the parking lot, will be utilized for a makeshift drive-in theater, car shows, artisan pop-ups and other outdoor events. An official opening date is coming soon.
- [National Championship Air Races](#) (Roswell): The Reno Air Racing Association (RARA) proudly announces that Roswell, NM will be the new home of the world-renowned National Championship Air Races (NCAR). Following a lengthy selection process by RARA, and after demonstrating its commitment to carry forward this one-of-a-kind event, Roswell has been chosen to host the return of the air races in 2025. The event will continue to feature seven classes of racing, static displays, military demonstrations and more, welcoming fans back to the stands as the world's fastest motorsport takes to the skies once again.
- [Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum](#) (Albuquerque): The world's premier balloon museum facility dedicated to the art, culture, science, history, sport and spectacle of ballooning will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2025 and is planning a renovation to include an outdoor playground and children's exhibit.
  - The milestone will be celebrated throughout the year with exciting new additions, including a theater showcasing films about global ballooning and the museum's history, as well as the debut of an immersive exhibit, 20 Years of Joy, exploring the museum's past, present, and future.
  - During Balloon Fiesta 2025, the museum will host a variety of special events, including STEAM Night: The Art of Ballooning and the Lift Your Spirits Craft Cocktail Festival, offering unparalleled views of Balloon Fiesta Park. Returning by popular demand, VR Balloon Rides will also be available daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- [Heritage Inspirations](#) (Santa Fe, Taos, Chaco Canyon, and Albuquerque): 2025 is the 10th Anniversary of woman-led immersive tour operator, Heritage Inspirations. Heritage Inspirations ethos is centered around "traveling for good" and giving visitors a deeper sense of place.
  - Plus: New Day Tour of Acoma Pueblo Day Tour + Chaco Canyon: Join Heritage Inspirations and experience the full Pueblo story, from both modernity and ancestral Puebloan cultures. Visit the ancestral Pueblo world—Chaco Canyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that had a diverse thriving culture and served as the spiritual and ceremonial place for Chacoan people—and the present-day Acoma Pueblo.
- [Cocktails and Culture Festival](#) (Santa Fe): 2025 marks the tenth anniversary of New Mexico's first and only mixology festival weekend featuring chefs and spirits from Santa

Fe, Albuquerque, and beyond. The weekend opens with Taco Wars on Friday, May 30 at the Santa Fe Farmers' Market, and is followed by two days of tastings, seminars, and fun events. The festival then leads into [New Mexico Cocktail Week](#) (May 31 - June 8). This features bars and restaurants around the state.

- [Edelweiss Lodge & Spa](#) (Taos Ski Valley): Celebrating 20 years of high-alpine, ski-in/ski-out excellence, Edelweiss Lodge & Spa offers unpretentious luxury lodging and dining inspired by founder Dadou Mayer. The lodge also hosts the Taos Opera Institute's summer concert series in its charming outdoor courtyard.
- [The Spanish Colonial Arts Society](#) (Santa Fe): Celebrating its centennial in 2025, the Spanish Colonial Arts Society (SCAS), which owns and operates the Nuevo Mexicano Heritage Arts Museum (NMHA), has spent the past 100 years collecting, showcasing, and promoting the heritage arts of New Mexico on a global stage. Founded in 1925, SCAS acquired its first piece in 1928 and has since cultivated an unparalleled collection representing the rich artistic and cultural history of the region.
  - The centennial celebration includes a robust calendar of events and the February debut of **100 Years of Collecting, 100 Years of Connecting**, an extraordinary exhibit curated by Jana Gottshalk. The exhibit not only showcases the society's renowned collection but also highlights the untold stories and connections behind its history.
  - Notably, the exhibit will feature SCAS's first acquisition, José Rafael Aragón's **Altar Screen** (circa 1840), returning from its nearly century-long display at the Palace of the Governors. Other sections will explore SCAS's founding ties to the School for Advanced Research, the Indian Arts Fund, and its role in shaping the Spanish Market and New Mexico's cultural identity.
- [Rio Grande Theater](#) (Las Cruces): 100th anniversary of the Rio Grande Theater. The oldest operating 2-story theater in the nation.
- [Chile Drop New Year's Eve](#) (Las Cruces): Jan. 1, 2025 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year ringing in the New Year with the Las Cruces Chile Drop. His beloved tradition has become a staple in New Mexico ever since its debut in downtown Las Cruces.
  - A 19-foot chrome chile pepper covered in 2,400 sparkling LED lights is lowered in downtown Las Cruces as a unique and unforgettable way to welcome the new year. Every year, before the chile drops, the public must guess whether the chile pepper will be red or green. This is a homage to the official state question: "Red or green?":
- [Truth or Consequences](#) (Sierra County): In 2025, Sierra County will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the town of Hot Springs' name change to Truth or Consequences, NM, a publicity stunt for the 1950s radio game show of the same name. The milestone will be commemorated during the Truth or Consequences Fiestas, coordinated by Main Street, in May.
  - Truth or Consequences remains America's most affordable spa town. This small resort town, with a year-round population of just over 8,000, offers a variety of lodging options. From larger, name-brand motels to charmingly restored spa hotels in the Historic Hot Springs and Downtown District

## ART & CULTURE

- [SWAIA Native Fashion Week](#), May 7-11, 2025 (Santa Fe): A dynamic extension of the renowned SWAIA Indian Market, this event merges haute couture with Indigenous artistry. With a vision to establish Santa Fe as the Native fashion capital of the world, SWAIA Native Fashion Week celebrates the innovation, craftsmanship, and cultural heritage of Indigenous designers on a global stage.
  - By SWAIA, the 101-year-old organization that puts on Indian Market
- [New Mexico Women in the Arts](#) (Santa Fe): In March 2025, the NMC will host its first world-class juried exhibition at the internationally acclaimed Turner Carroll Gallery on Canyon Road in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The exhibition features works selected by a panel of three distinguished jurors from submissions by 172 women artists, all New Mexico residents and members of the NMC registry. Ultimately, 33 artists from across the state were chosen, representing cities and communities such as Taos, Santa Fe, Estancia, Las Vegas, Madrid, Jaconita, Cerrillos, Farmington, Medanales, and Las Cruces. More [here](#).
- [Whitefeather Native Cultural Tours](#) (Taos): Kevin Whitefeather provides deep, insightful insights into the history and traditions of the Red Willow people of the Taos Pueblo. Sit streamside on family land and you'll be immersed in an ancient culture's way of life. Kevin's verbal sharing of his people's history is entrancing and enlightening.
- New Santa Fe Event: Celebrate Indigenous creativity and culture on August 15-16 with a weekend of exciting events at the Santa Fe Railyard. Highlights include an [Indigenous Ways](#) concert in partnership with Lensic360, the 2nd Annual [4Kinship](#) Indigenous Futures 4Ever fashion show, a NextGen Market featuring young makers from Diné College, Diné Skate Garden Project demos, a Wings of America 5k fun run, and wellness activities like Powwow Fitness with Notorious Cree and a yoga class led by award-winning dancer Acosia Red Elk. Stay tuned for details on an Indigenous fashion symposium and a red-carpet film feature.
- [Santa Fe International Film Festival](#) (Santa Fe): Named an Academy Award®-qualifying festival in October 2024. SFIFF is the only festival in New Mexico or Arizona that currently holds the esteemed recognition, and otherwise the nearest Academy Award®-qualifying festival to Santa Fe is in Aspen, CO. 2025 SFIFF will take place October 15-19. Press releases can be found [here](#).
- [Farmington Museum](#) (Farmington): In 2025, the Farmington Museum will host [Dibé Bígħaa': The Weaving of T'iis Názbas](#), a stunning exhibit celebrating the artistry and heritage of Navajo weaving. This immersive display will also feature workshops throughout the year, offering visitors hands-on opportunities to connect with this rich cultural tradition.
  - Additionally, the Museum of Navajo Art & Culture is planning a new exhibit for 2025, with input from the Navajo Nation shaping its development. This upcoming exhibit will further highlight the vibrant traditions and stories of the Navajo people.
- [Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site](#) (Mesilla): Located on the **historic** plaza in Old Mesilla, the **Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site** is currently undergoing renovations and will re-open in November 2025 and embodies the rich **history** and **heritage** of the Southwest borderlands.

- [SITE Santa Fe International](#) (Santa Fe): The biennial SITE Santa Fe International, formerly the SITE Santa Fe Biennial, returns in 2025 after a seven-year hiatus. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the 12th edition will open in summer 2025 and run through early 2026. Since its inception in 1995, the exhibition has been a pioneer in international contemporary art, inspiring similar events worldwide. Known for its artist-centric approach, the International has become a cornerstone of SITE Santa Fe's year-round programming, providing a platform for artists to create work they couldn't produce elsewhere.

## CULINARY

- [Juliette](#) at Hotel Willa (Taos): Opening in May 2025, Juliette offers a refined take on Northern New Mexico cuisine in a warm, welcoming space. Honoring the nurturing spirit of its namesake, the restaurant embraces seasonal, locally sourced ingredients - including produce from its on-site garden - to create a vibrant gathering place for locals and travelers alike. The destination dining venue was developed in collaboration with husband-and-wife duo and Taos locals, Chef Johnny Ortiz-Concha and Maida Branch of SIEMPRE Design.
- [The Bavarian](#), [192 at The Blake](#) (Taos Ski Valley): The Bavarian and 192 at the Blake - the two iconic mountain eateries in Taos Ski Valley - are being run by bright and rising culinary leaders either born and raised in Taos or very longtime residents! (Andy Lynch and Noah Pettus at 192, and Tim Wooldridge and Chris Smith at the Bavarian.) At a time when many restaurants turn to senior talent from major urban centers like New York City, these local innovators are proving that world-class culinary excellence thrives right in the heart of Taos Ski Valley.
- [Park Square Market](#) (Albuquerque): Opening in March 2025, this highly anticipated food hall in Albuquerque's Uptown area is set to become a standout addition to New Mexico's burgeoning culinary scene. Following the success of Sawmill Market, developer Heritage Hotels and Resorts aims to create a "cosmopolitan-style" experience, blending high-end retailers with diverse dining options.
- [ACEQ](#) + [Saltos](#) (Arroyo Seco): Chef-owner Elijah Safford and executive chef Gabe Farkash are redefining Taos-area dining with elevated modern cuisine and craft cocktails. From the intimate charm of ACEQ to the newly acquired Saltos, these standout spots are must-visits for experiential dining in Arroyo Seco.
- [As Above So Below](#) (Santa Fe): Santa Fe's As Above So Below Distillery is a hidden gem founded by master distiller Caley Shoemaker. With a career in craft spirits since 2009, Caley has mastered every aspect of the production process, from grain selection to fermentation, distillation, and bottling. After overseeing the build-out of a new distillery in 2014, she created unique spirits showcasing diverse botanicals and distilling techniques. Now in Santa Fe, Caley runs her own distillery and craft bar in the Railyard while serving as President of the New Mexico Distillers' Guild.

## OUTDOORS

- [Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument](#) (Cochiti Pueblo): Now open as of late 2024 after a 4-year closure. Visitors are welcome to begin making reservations through [Recreation.gov](#) for their future visits. Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, is famous for its scenic cone-shaped formations, composed of pumice, ash, and tuff deposits from volcanic eruptions six to seven million years ago. Picnic tables, shelters, and toilets are available at the Monument. The Monument includes a National Recreational Trail for hiking only. The Trail contains two segments that provide opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, geologic observation, and plant identification.
- [Valles Caldera National Preserve](#) (Los Alamos): As the gateway to three National Parks, Los Alamos invites summer travelers to discover the celestial beauty of Valles Caldera National Preserve, an [International Dark Sky Park](#) as of 2021. By day, the preserve is a haven for fishing, hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing. By night, it transforms into a stargazer's paradise, with sprawling views of stars and constellations from six designated pullouts. Enhance your visit with astronomy programs, full moon hikes, and other night sky events throughout the year. View a full line-up of night sky programs [here](#).
- [Elephant Butte Dam Site Historic District](#) (Elephant Butte): The Bureau of Reclamation is set to complete significant upgrades to the Dam Site Historic District by Spring 2025. The revitalization includes newly paved roads, upgraded casitas, dark-sky-friendly lighting, and improved water utilities. These enhancements aim to preserve the district's historic charm while providing a more comfortable and eco-conscious experience for visitors.
- [Trees Lake](#) (Deming): This five-acre lake in downtown Deming is a popular spot for fishing, picnicking, and family-friendly activities. Ongoing development includes new trails and amenities, along with an exciting new inflatable water park for all ages.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- [Camels at Coronado Fundraiser](#) (Bernalillo): In April 2025, at Coronado Historic Site, the nonprofit group [Friends of Coronado and Jemez Historic Sites](#), which acts as a fundraising arm for the Dept of Cultural Affairs, is hosting a fundraising event in April with the goal of educating the public about New Mexico's historical use of camels, when they were bought to the state in the 1800s as part of the gold rush.
  - The Friends group is working with the Camel Corps to bring Bactrian camels to the Coronado Historic Site for one day only, April 12. The day prior, they will invite school groups to interact with and learn about the camels' role in trade in the state's history.
- [Graze Days at Railyard Park](#) (Santa Fe) With the use of grazing sheep and goats, Railyard Park Conservancy's project aims to restore the Park's 2.1 acres of native grasslands, while educating the community on the many benefits of prescribed grazing both in working and urban landscapes.

## WELLNESS

- [Cañon del Rio](#) (Jemez Springs): In the heart of Jemez Springs, Cañon del Rio Retreat offers a serene escape enriched by the region's unique therapeutic waters. Originating from beneath the Valles Caldera National Preserve, just 17 miles up the mountain, the mineral-rich waters are the result of ancient seawater trapped and infused with minerals over millennia. Guests can unwind in four therapeutic mineral water pools, each featuring built-in seating and maintained at soothing temperatures between 98–105°F. This tranquil setting provides an unparalleled opportunity to relax and rejuvenate amidst the natural beauty of Jemez Springs.
- At the [Stream Dance Spa](#) (Bishop's Lodge in Santa Fe), Shamanic practitioner Matt Campos will partner with and channel his spirit guides to help bring balance and healing power back into your life through Sound Healing, Spiritual Energetic Empowerment, Extraction and/or Soul Retrieval with the Shamanic Healing service. Alternatively, the Journey Into Shamantism service is an experiential workshop that teaches you how to meet spirit guides to receive guidance and healing. Learn how to communicate, nurture and grow your relationships with these guides.

## ATTRACTIONS & TOURS

- Heritage Inspirations + Inn of Five Graces [Glamping](#) Excursion (Santa Fe & Chaco Canyon): Experience the ultimate blend of luxury and adventure with a stay at the globally inspired [Inn of Five Graces](#) in Santa Fe, followed by a curated glamping excursion in the awe-inspiring Chaco Canyon with [Heritage Inspirations](#). This unparalleled partnership featuring an immersive adventure to the "Macchu Pichue of North America" promises an unforgettable New Mexico journey.
- [Mesilla Valley Wine and Brew Tours](#) (Las Cruces): Just launched a Margaritas of Mesilla tour, adding to its lineup of beverage-focus tours throughout Southern New Mexico - the oldest wine-producing region in the nation
- The New Mexico History Museum's (Santa Fe) new culinary exhibit, "[Forks in the Road: A Diner's Guide to New Mexico](#)," features interactive displays to explore the sites, sounds, and smells of NM's iconic restaurants. The exhibit includes a replica dining booth that is perfect for selfies, a large state map showing restaurants nominated by the public, a listening station with recordings of favorite restaurant experiences, a smell station with scents like piñon and biscochito, and more.

## BEYOND 2025

- [Georgia O'Keeffe Museum](#) (Santa Fe): In the nearly 30 years since its opening, museum attendance has seen a dramatic increase, recently welcoming more than 100,000 guests a year and outgrowing the roughly 5,000-square-foot facility. Slated for late 2026 or early 2027, the rare *new* build in historic downtown Santa Fe will have 13,000 square feet of gallery space, classrooms, program spaces, and more. The museum will reflect the downtown historic area's architecture, built with adobe to create a building both iconic and respectful of historic Downtown Santa Fe. The new meeting space will be an asset to Santa Fe meetings/conventions.

- New Mexico Wine's 400th anniversary in 2029: Boasting the oldest wine-making region in the country, New Mexico has a surprising wine scene, with more than 50 wineries and grapes that prosper in high elevations and sandy soil. It first began in 1629, when Spanish monks secretly planted vines to grow grapes for sacramental wine. Today, local wine-makers are evolving their methods from traditional European roots.



### [2025 WHAT'S NEW](#) IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

[Visitalbuquerque.com/media](https://visitalbuquerque.com/media)

#### **New Hotels & Renovations**

- The **Marriott Element Albuquerque Uptown Hotel** is now open. It features seven stories with 126 rooms. A rooftop bar called **Volaré** is located on the seventh floor. It serves hand-crafted cocktails. The hotel has an outdoor pool, electric vehicle charging stations and bikes for rent. There is also a meeting room that can accommodate 50 people.
- **Home2 Suites by Hilton Albuquerque Airport** is now open for business. The four-story, 108-room hotel is near the Albuquerque International Sunport, offering rooms from \$159 to \$259 a night.

#### **Culinary**

- Albuquerque's Nob Hill neighborhood is on the rise. Lucky Goose recently opened a vegan breakfast joint, Goose Nest. Mission Winery expanded its Nob Hill tasting room. Oak & Ivy is a new lounge and restaurant open in Nob Hill. The **Smoky Note** is a sleek lounge located in the old Monte Vista Fire Station building.
- **Little Bear Coffee** opened a fourth location inside **Sawmill Market**. It replaced La Plata Coffee.

- **Tula's Kitchen** opened a second location in Northeast Albuquerque. The restaurant is located off Pan American Fwy. in a space that was previously Nick and Jimmy's restaurant.
- Roni's Mac Bar is open in Nob Hill. The restaurant serves customizable mac and cheese bowls.
- **New Mexico Wine** opened its first storefront and tasting room in Old Town Albuquerque this fall. The location sells products from New Mexico Wine's 50 member wineries and promote the state's wine culture and history. The Viva Vino Wine Studio The Wine Studio serves as the center for wine education and wine tasting experiences, giving guests the opportunity to explore a carefully curated selection of New Mexico wine.
- Dripline Brewery recently opened in the Downtown area in the Wells Park neighborhood. Arepas el Pana opened along Central Ave., and serves arepas, chicken wings, empanadas and more. On The Route is now open at Central and Fourth. The restaurant specializes in Mexican and New Mexican cuisine. Taco Santo is serving tacos and tequila in east Downtown, in the location previously occupied by Holy Burger.
- La Luz Coffee is now brewing in the North Valley. This community-focused coffee shop offers fresh-brewed coffee drinks inspired by Albuquerque.
- **D.H. Lescombes Winery and Bistro** opened a second location on the Westside on Coors Bypass and Alameda Road. The bistro has seating for about 400 customers. There is a private party room and east and west patios. This is the winery's sixth location in the state, with a third Albuquerque location planned for 2025.

### **Attractions & Facilities**

- Happy Cat Hotel and Spa recently opened its first New Mexico location. The hotel offers individually themed hotel rooms for cats. Services during the cats' stay include daily brushing, play, affection, daily staff updates and enrichment activities. The hotel also offers spa services, such as grooming and nail trimming.
- Phase one of the new state-of-the-art Australia exhibits at the **ABQ BioPark** is open. Australian Shores features little blue penguins and other seabirds. A lorikeet exhibit is also now open at the zoo.

- **Tent Rocks National Monument** is back open. The monument has been closed for four years. Visitors must make an **online reservation** in advance.



## 2025 STORY IDEAS FROM SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

[Santafe.org/media](https://www.santafe.org/media)

**Santa Fe Photo Library:** <https://platform.crowdriff.com/m/tourism-santa-fe>

- 2025 is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Santa Fe being named a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art ([santafe.org/unesco-creative-cities-network](https://www.santafe.org/unesco-creative-cities-network)) and The City Different will celebrate this designation with a series of *Creative City Encounters*, inviting residents and artists to explore how communities are supporting workforce development and economic growth through sustainable tourism, how climate resiliency is incorporated, as well as how to practice responsible consumption in the heritage arts. Santa Fe was the first city in the United States to receive a UNESCO Creative City designation in 2005.
- Speaking of the arts and anniversaries, the **12th SITE SANTA FE International** (formerly its Biennial) launches *Once Within a Time* on June 27, 2025. Led by Cecilia Alemani, an Italian curator based in New York City, the onsite and partner space exhibition invites contemporary artists to delve into the lives of a collection of pivotal New Mexico figures. See [sitesantafe.org](https://www.sitesantafe.org).
- Coming Fall 2025, the Santa Fe Railyard sees further enhancements with new and hip spots to lay your head and vibe on good food and drink including **Hotel Flora**, a boutique environment with cozy fireplaces and private balconies featuring views of a garden courtyard and its restaurant, **Railyard Social**, an open-air concept with dishes designed for sharing ([hotelflorasantafe.com](https://www.hotelflorasantafe.com)). Across the street, **Milk of the Poppy** ([milkofthepoppybar.com](https://www.milkofthepoppybar.com)) opens as an addition to George R.R. Martin's collection of entertainment-focused businesses. It promises to be a "new medieval apothecary bar and event space."