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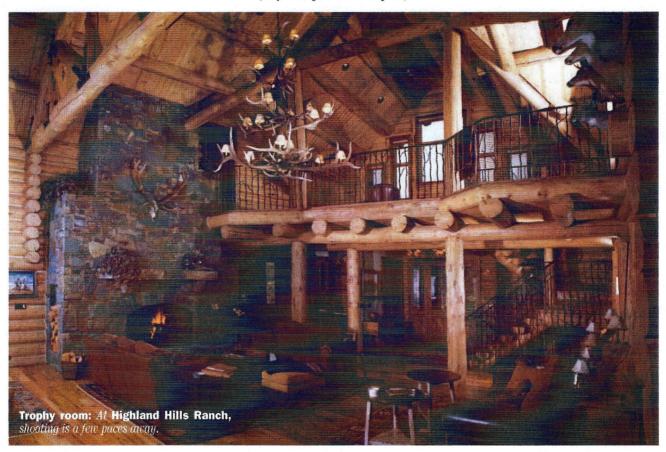
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TRAVEL

Big Game, With All the Amenities

(the following has been excerpted:)



Highland Hills Ranch, Condon, Ore. toll free number: 866-478-4868 e-mail: info@highlandhillsranch.com web address: www.highlandhillsranch.com

SAMPLE PACKAGE: Three-day/four-night bird hunting, \$2,940

Hunting may be declining in the U.S. the number of licensed hunters is down 10% since peaking in 1982—as suburbs have expanded and prime hunting land has diminished. Oddly, that's all good news for destination resorts like Highland Hills. Built in 2002, the 10,000-square-foot lodge has hand-peeled lodgepole pine timbers and a cellar full of Pacific Northwest wines. Lunch (chicken soup with handmade noodles) was prepared in the open kitchen by chef Merlin Theurer, and could be eaten on a deck overlooking cherry orchards.

The hunting is pretty unrestrained: There's no limit on the number of birds you can shoot here, and if you manage to bag one of each (pheasant, chukar, Hungarian partridge and valley quail) you win a Highland Hills "grand slam" award—a pheasant-claw necklace. But careful where you're aiming: You can hunt within sight of the lodge.

ROUGHING-IT MOMENT: FedEx doesn't pick up here, so shipping your birds home may take a bit longer

NICE TOUCH: Cigars and whisky at the outdoor fire pit