

TRAVEL

Big Game, With All the Amenities

(the following has been excerpted:)



Trophy room: At Highland Hills Ranch, shooting is a few paces away.

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 whiskey at the outdoor fire pit*