

# Hidden Gems

If this summer calls for a getaway that's close to home, check out these hidden treasures—each with its own personality—tucked into the hills of the Ozarks. **BY SAMANTHA GOEHRI**  
freelance@417mag.com

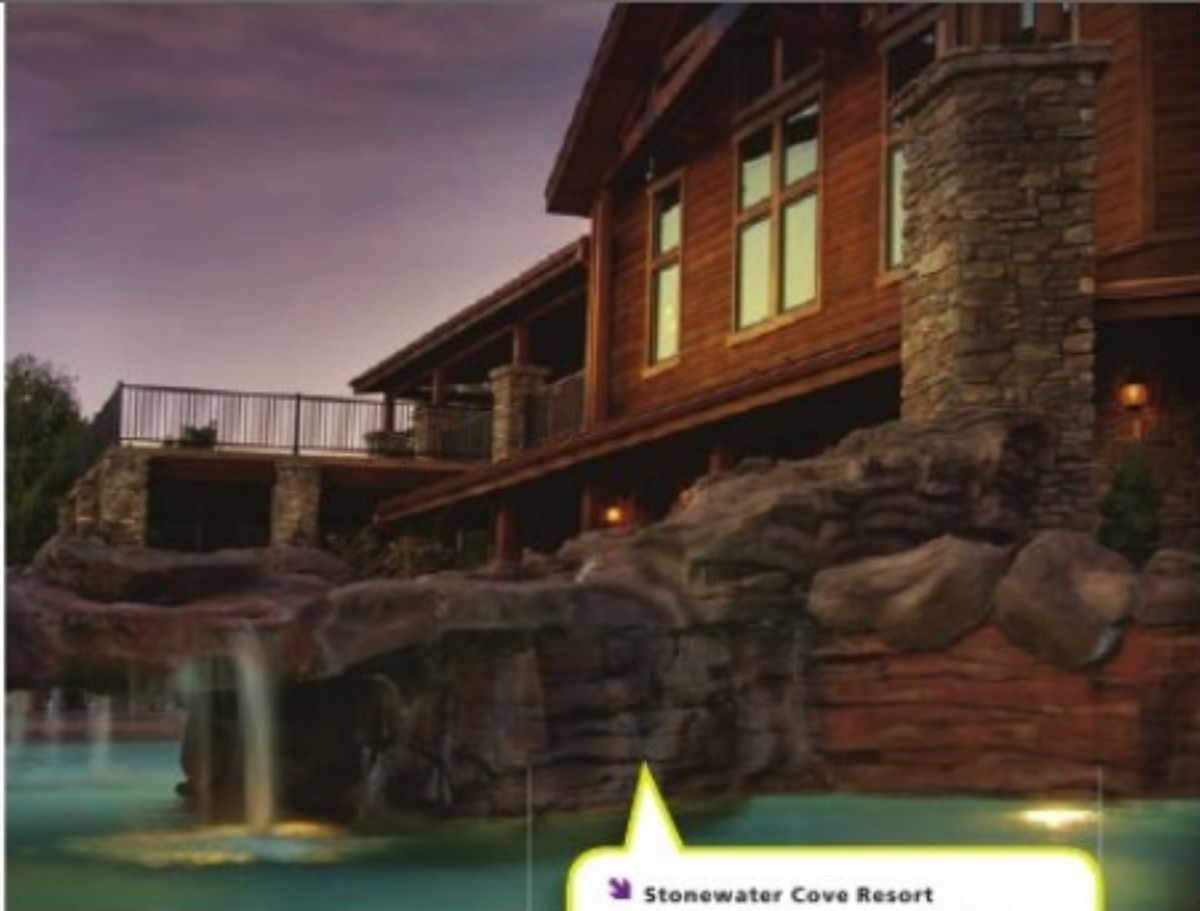
If an exotic vacation isn't in your budget, consider this: Southwest Missouri has some great treasures tucked away in its hills. There is a gorgeous lakeside getaway, a spring creek hideout and a spunky destination resort right in 417-land.

## MORE THAN JUST A FISHIN' HOLE

Sitting on more than 100 acres, Jenkins Creek Resort is filled with forests, meadows, the banks of a spring, and a cave, all nestled into the heart of the Ozarks. The headwaters of the Jenkins Creek are on the property, contained in three springs. Greg Fauvergue, the owner of the resort, takes great



**Jenkins Creek Resort**  
417-548-3181, 1222 County Loop 95, Carthage, jenkinscreekresort.com. Call for rates and reservations.



**Stonewater Cove Resort**  
1-800-792-3956, 1257 Sunset Timbers Trail, Shell Knob, stonewatercove.com. Call for rates and reservations.

pride in keeping the springs well-stocked with rainbow trout. Some days are better than others for fishing, but Fauvergue is confident that everyone should be able to catch at least one fish. The resort is a great place to eat a gourmet French meal at John Henry's Restaurant (or not so gourmet at the Pro Shop Grill) or try a wine tasting. No matter what you decide to do, you will certainly enjoy the natural setting at this peaceful outdoor getaway. The property surrounding Jenkins Creek even has an interesting history. There is a legend that starts before the Louisiana Purchase and ends with a still-hidden buried treasure.

## THE ADVENTURE RESORT

Stonewater Cove Resort is for adrenaline junkies who like a little luxury. Top-notch accommodations and gourmet food can end a day spent zip lining and riding horses or ATVs on 25 miles of forest trails throughout the nearly 500 acres of the property. Or, take to the water and water ski, kayak or wake board. There's even an evening cruise perfect for you and your honey.

The resort's restaurant tags its food offerings as "gourmet comfort food," with everything from cookouts with burgers and s'mores to four- or five-course menu dinners.

Kristi Bond, marketing and PR director at the resort, says the resort's upscale amenities (like whirlpool tubs and rainfall showers) are unexpected at an outdoorsy locale.

## THE QUIRKY GETAWAY

Caboose Junction Resort is located on Table Rock Lake and has some very unusual lodging

options: Real cabooses. At this resort, you have the opportunity to stay in one of the cabooses-turned-cabins and enjoy water activities all day—like rope-swinging and deck-diving. Each caboose has a kitchen area, table, a few armchairs and bunk beds. If you need more space, Caboose Junction also rents cabins.



**Caboose Junction Resort**  
1-800-777-4922, 162 Caboose Lane, Lampe, caboosjunctionresort.com. Call for rates and reservations.

In addition to the rope swing, water slide and sun deck, Caboose Junction also offers paddleboat, kayak, fishing boat and pontoon boat rentals, so you don't have to worry about bringing anything except sunscreen.