November

FEATURES

54
ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND
Surreal vistas, heart-racing climbs, and one dreamy base camp. Utah's Zion is anything but ordinary. By Lauren Ladocceur

62
L.A. MAKERS
A new wave of artists aren't flocking to the city to work in movies or music—they're here for the clay. Meet the rising stars of Los Angeles's booming ceramics scene. By Martine Bury

70
THANKSGIVING AT THE BREWERY
In Oregon's Willamette Valley, Wolves & People pairs a feast with farmhouse ales. By Margo True

At Utah's Under Canvas Zion, swing-like "cocoons" overlook juniper-dotted red-orange mesas and canyons.
8 CONVERSATIONS

BEST OF THE WEST

11 THIS MONTH’S PICKS
Urban homestead shop, botanical crafts, a cast-iron camping kit, cozy and bright fall decor, and more

TRAVEL

19 MILE MARKER
The Waggy is back! But for some, the Wagoneer never really left.

24 HERE + THERE
A tail of two cities: Boulder vs. San Diego

26 GUIDEBOOK
Newly revitalized, a 21st-century Tijuana is just a stone’s throw south of the border.

HOME & GARDEN

39 MAKEOVER
To renovate a fixer-upper on a budget, a couple rolled up their sleeves and hit the Internet.

46 FALL COLOR
As the weather cools down, a Northwest garden comes into its own.

48 GARDEN CHECKLIST
What to do in your garden in November

FOOD & DRINK

83 MASTER CLASS
How to transform an average chuck roast into succulent prime rib—with sous vide

88 IN THE SUNSET KITCHEN
Tips from our team, like a last-minute turkey rub

90 PEAK SEASON
In a month of big eating, this kale-wrapped, herb-braised cod is a welcome relief.

92 FAST & FRESH
Three quick weeknight meals, including a turkey melt with beer sauce

96 GATHER
Let your centerpiece do double-duty as dessert.

100 SIP
Our top bottles for your Thanksgiving table

108 UP NEXT
Win a four-night getaway for two to Snowmass, Colorado!

THIS MONTH’S RECIPES

APPETIZERS
Mussels Baked with Hazelnut Herb Butter LC...78
Oysters with Ginger-Shallot Mignonette LC...78

SALADS
Chicory Salad with Pickled Squash GF/LC/V/VG...81
Green Salad with Olive Vinaigrette GF/LC/V...86

SIDES
Japanese Turnips with Maple-Miso Butter LC/LS/V...80
Oyster Stuffing with Chestnuts and Chinese Sausage...79
Potatoes Noisette on Potato Purée GF/V...80

MAINS
Burrata Bourguignon "Steaks"...85
Cod Bundles with Mushroom Ragout GF/LC...90
One-Pan Paella
Mushroom Shepherd’s Pie V...92
Porchetta-Style Roast Turkey LC...78
Slow-Cooker Split Pea Soup with Smoked Turkey LC/LS...94

DESSERTS
Deconstructed Pie...98
Malted Whipped Cream...81
Pie-Crust Curried Cookies...99
Pie-Crust Leaf Cookies...99
Shiny Candied Nuts...99
Toasted Hazelnut and Honey Torte LC/V...81

PANTRY
Fennel and Rosemary
Turkey Rub...88
Lazy Quince Sauce...88

RECIPE GUIDE
GF: Gluten-free; LC: Low calorie; LS: Low sodium; V: Vegetarian; VG: Vegan

Our full guide to nutrition and good cooking:
sunset.com/cookingguide.

On our cover
Top dog towns page 24 Fall escapes page 24, 26, 32, 54 Zion glamping page 54 Thanksgiving with beer page 70 Garden design inspiration page 46 Budget home makeover page 39

With a view toward Cougar Mountain, the aptly named Stargazer tent is one of 48 at Under Canvas Zion. Just steps from Zion National Park’s west entrance, the 196-acre glamping resort opened this summer. Photograph by Rachel Weill
ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

SURREAL VISTAS,
HEART-RACING CLIMBS,
and one
DREAMY BASE CAMP.

ZION
IS ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY.

By LAUREN LADOCEOUR Photographs by RACHEL WEILL
that comes with age, though, is there's no shame in admitting that you might need a little hand-holding—and a big, cushy bed to collapse into after a day of exploring. And that's how I wound up leaving my backpacking tent at home and doing something my 22-year-old self might have balked at: glamping.

I arrived at my destination, a new 196-acre property called Under Canvas Zion, a few days before I was set to rappel down the area's slot canyons. Less than a minute's drive from the park's west entrance, this is the company's fifth glamping location. (Already well-established spots include Glacier, Moab, and Yellowstone.) I entered my safari-style tent to discover a space complete with leather butterfly chairs, a bathroom, hardwood floors, and a deck from which I could see the magic hour painting Tarnacle Dome pink in the distance. The general manager—perhaps sensing that I was already wilting from the afternoon heat—showed me how to work the tent ceiling's water misters. At this, I thought, "Backpacking, schmackpacking."

Once evening fell and the temperature dropped, I made my way out to the common area. A large group of Italians gathered around tables by the camp's restaurant to smoke cigarettes; two teenage boys huddled around cell phones while their parents sipped white wine; and another couple, Lucy and Robert Baneulos from Murrieta, California, were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary with a plate of what were Lucy's first's mores.

"I'm a big scaredy-cat," said Lucy, a fit-looking salon owner with long painted acrylics and memories of going trailer camping with Robert and their two kids in the desert years ago. "I tried tenting it once in Yosemite with inflatable mattresses, and I did not enjoy it. But I love, love, love and appreciate nature."

So as a last-minute decision, the couple drove six hours from Southern California to Under Canvas Zion to try a different mode of camping, one that comes with room service and a soaking tub to enjoy after a multi-mile hike. Their tent happens to be within range of cell service, so they had also been busy sending Snaps of their trip to their friends back home. "After this trip, I think we've found our new hobby in glamping," says Robert, who owns a construction company. "It's been profound."

**OF ALL THE NATIONAL PARKS, Zion has always intimidated me most. Its 229-square miles cover a Flintstones-esque metropolis of mesas and rock formations. Many of the hikes come with steep drop-offs and precarious switchbacks. Meanwhile, the river that cuts into the park and its surrounding public lands often swells during monsoon season's flash floods. Add to that high elevation (as much as 8,726 feet) and temperatures that can stay well into the 90s during fall in some parts, and there's plenty to make you think Zion is only for cargo-clad backcountry adventurers. But it's also one of the most spectacular parks, thanks to big green splashes of cottonwood trees, golden grasslands, camel-colored sand dunes, and cliffs that seem to change from blue to yellow to bright orange as the sun crosses the sky.**

Natural beauty was guaranteed but, in my mind anyway, survival was not. The nice thing
Okay, so I'm not the only one giving in to comforts in the wild. And I'm certainly not the first. Abroad, safaris have long brought cushy amenities to far-flung wildernesses—a experience that Under Canvas founders Jake and Sarah Dusek saw missing in America. "The U.S. has some of the most beautiful natural wonders and iconic landscapes, and we wanted to offer an opportunity to explore them in a memorable way," says Sarah, who grew up in England and did relief and development work in Zimbabwe for several years. Today, she and Jake live in Bozeman, Montana, where they're raising two children. "Camping near a national park doesn't have to feel like hard work."

Instead, the idea is to leave the gear at home, relax, and use the stay as a base camp from which to explore "the crown jewels of this nation," says Sarah. All that raw majesty makes it easy to get caught up in the dreaminess of this place—the sunsets! The winding roads dotted with prickly pear cactus! The shooting stars! But the truth is that for all its beauty, Zion is also a land of some very dramatic reality checks.

"OH SWEETIE, YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD," said Hannah at the front desk, when I stumbled into the lobby tent on my second day, on the cusp of heatstroke. It wasn't even noon, but my consistent chugs of water were no match for the intense sun.

And that's where my memory fades to black. The next thing I remember, I was reclining in the lobby with cold towels draped over my head and feet, a banana smoothie at my right side, two electrolyte drinks at my left, and three rows of misters showering me from above. Pathetic, I thought. How could I—Ms. Grand Canyon Backpacker 2010, Ms. Sleep In The Back of Her Station Wagon on Road Trips 2014—have let this happen? It ended up taking several hours to bounce back, during which time every person on staff asked how I was doing, shared their own stories of heatstroke (apparently it's common, even for locals), or insisted I have another smoothie. Clearly, I'd lost my street cred.

By the next day, I'd mostly recovered and had enough wits and water about me to go sightseeing with Larry Pugh of Zion Outback Safaris and Jeep Tours. About 15 minutes into the park, he pulled his rugged red Jeep onto an ungroomed dirt road—if you can call it that—and drove until we reached an unnamed vista that looked southwest over the Smith Mesa. Together, amid the juniper trees and sagebrush, we began naming rock formations after the animals they resembled. With salt-and-pepper hair and a khaki uniform, Pugh has the look of a much-loved TV sitcom dad, though one of few, well-chosen words. "Spend less time taking pictures," said the Kentucky native, who moved here full-time after a drive during a real estate business trip took him through Zion. "Your memories will last longer."

Had we met earlier this year, his words would have been all the more true. At the beginning of 2017, the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the public lands on the outskirts of the park, was considering leasing out more than 4,000 acres to gas and oil companies looking to tap into the area's natural resources. If accepted, Zion's vistas would have been obstructed by drilling stations and tankers. The Salt Lake Tribune reported on an outcry from the community opposing the decision, including a last-minute plea from the state's governor, asking the BLM to "protect these parcels, protect these public lands and not open them for leasing." In June, the proposal was shut down, and the lands remain intact. At least for now.

"It could have been a terrible thing," said Pugh. "It's good that people not take this place for granted. It takes vocal opinion sometimes to keep things from happening."

The leasing of the public lands would have also affected the park's gateway towns like Virgin. (This is Mormon country, and at times it seems every landmark and city has a spiritual meaning.) Here, businesses such as horseback-riding outfitter Zion Canyon Trail Rides at Jacob's Ranch are built on being able to take visitors like me through public lands and the western border of the park for views of Zion you wouldn't normally see if you were right in the thick of it. In my case, the view came courtesy of a paint horse named Blue Eyes. Slowly but not so gracefully, I placed my left boot into a stirrup, swung my right leg over the western saddle, and began making my way through a reed-filled creek that leads up to a meadow. Blue Eyes must have been inspired by the sight of the open field, because very quickly we went from a trot to a canter. I took the fact that I remembered how to shift up and down in rhythm with the horse's gait as a sign that I'd still got "it"—or at least some of it.

BUT THE REAL TEST COMES at the tippy top of the Lambs Knoll slot canyon that Rasmussen has led me up to. We've already hiked a

---

**LEFT**

The lobby tent at Under Canvas Zion features a sunken indoor fire pit, misters, cold eucalyptus-scented towels, a hydration station, suspended hammocks, and the Embers restaurant.
mile up and over the water course and traversed out to a rappel start, where we squeezed through what climbers call a rock doorway. "At this point, we're committed," he says. "Once we pull this rope down, we have to keep on continuing down a crevasse. It's the only way out." Remembering Rasmussen's stories of how people tend to freak out once clipped into the rope system and start walking backward toward the ledge to begin their descent, I'm sure what's coming next for me. Never mind the panicked lady over here, boys and girls!

But suddenly, my anxious mind goes silent. In the shade of the canyon, the breeze feels cool and my harness downright reliable. I find myself simply observing the mineral-like aroma in the air. Dare I say I'm even relaxed? I take a half-squat stance and let out a little slack in the rope to make my first steps down, Batman-style, without looking back.

"Nice work. Check out the view!" cheers on my guide. I can't just yet—still wary of tempting this surprising bit of risk-taking. After a few jogs down the wall, though, I stop and gaze down on a humbling display of nature. It's a pit, really, one that formed over millions of years as an ocean slowly turned sand into hardened rock, where untold creatures and sea plants might have thrived. Today, it supports brush or cactus that make a home here between the cracks.

Above, Rasmussen is ready to snap some photos if only I were to look up at him. No, thanks—I know what I look like. Instead, I decide the real money shot is the one seen through my own eyes. So I take a mental picture, exhale, and push off the wall to lower another few feet—this time with a little more confidence and a lot more bounce.

**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE**

Looking northwest from the base of Red Butte via Zion Outback Safaris and Jeep Tours, zionjeeptours.com; SAW Zion guides squeeze through slot canyons, sazzion.com; one of 48 safari-style tents at Under Canvas; western saddle rides go through the national park and its outskirts.
H Y D R A T I O N  A 3-liter water bladder that can slip into a day pack goes a long way. Throw in a couple of electrolyte tablets to keep your systems in balance when the heat gets intense.

E T I Q U E T T E  A certified guide can take you into parts of the area that you wouldn't normally find on your own. Whether you're canyoneering, horseback riding, or sightseeing, thank your guide with a tip ($50 for a half-day excursion, or $100 for a full day is about right).

S H A D E  At elevation, with the sun blazing, sunglasses with UV protection are all the more important. So, too, is a wide-brimmed hat with a chin strap to keep rays off your neck.

C A L M  This high above sea level, it's not uncommon for your breath to become shallow and your energy to plummet, even on a short, groomed hike. It may sound counterintuitive, says one of SAW Zion's guides, Griffin Rasmussen, but think about breathing in through your nose and exhaling through your mouth to help soothe nerves and give your breath a healthy rhythm.

S T Y L E  It can be tempting to upgrade your low-cut trail runners for a stiff, waterproof pair that covers ankles, but stick with the basics. They'll be lighter and more breathable, keeping your feet cool while you navigate Zion's terrain.

O U T L O O K  Get a 360° view of the author's Zion experience and the hidden beauty of southern Utah's canyons at sunset. *com/zion.*