



NERVOUS WATERS

A higher form of fishing

# VILLA MARÍA LODGE

RÍO GRANDE, TIERRA DEL FUEGO, ARGENTINA





*Villa María Lodge sits on the lower section of the Rio Grande, where powerful chrome sea trout enter the river system.*



## VILLA MARÍA LODGE

*If you are tough enough*

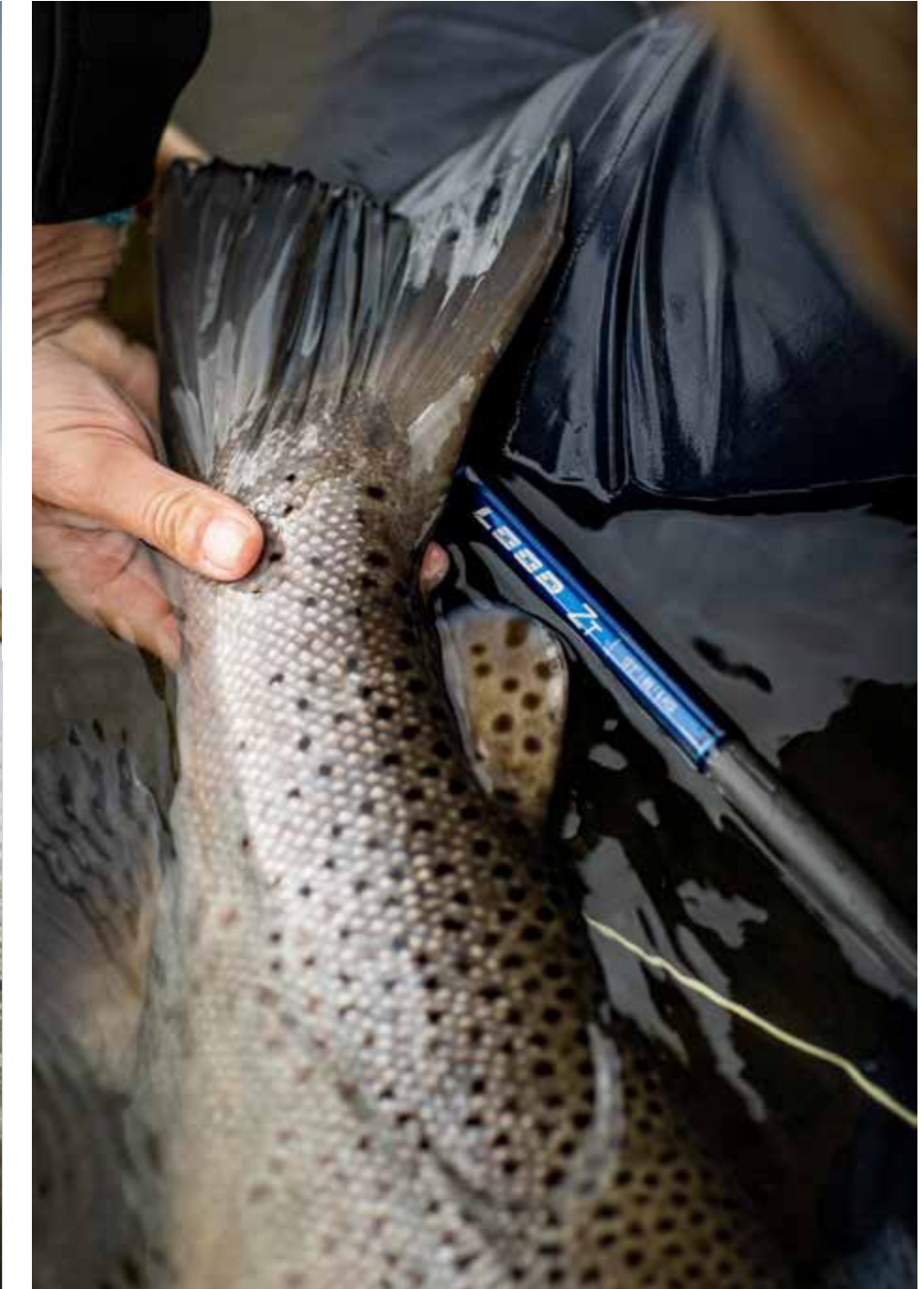
Villa María is the second of the De Las Carreras family lodges to open on the Río Grande after Kau Tapen, and has offered small private groups exciting fishing on some of the most productive pools in the lower river since 1994.

Unlike Kau Tapen, which is located on the middle river, Villa María offers anglers first crack at newly arrived Sea Trout on the lower Río Grande. For fishermen who enjoy the challenges and rewards of two-handed rods, this is a dream come true! With friendly and dedicated house staff and guides, Villa María is very well suited to caring for small groups of friends and family.



# WHY CHOOSE VILLA MARÍA LODGE?

- Intimate lodge setting with space for only 6 anglers and private access to 20km of the best fly water on the lower Río Grande, an exclusive haven for small groups of discerning anglers.
- A Spey angler's paradise! Long, low-gradient pools equal less casting and more fishing.
- The longest pools with Sea-Run Trout fresh from the sea.
- Anglers fish new beats each morning and evening.
- Extensive beat options make it possible to find pools where wind assists vs hinders the angler's casting.
- Arrival day begins with an evening warm-up session.
- Maximize your time on the river! We have a gorgeous river house for lunch and siestas so you can fish more and drive less, while enjoying a stunning setting in the wilds of Tierra del Fuego.
- Premium lodge services and hospitality, exquisite a la carte menu and five-star accommodations — the reasons why more than 80% of our anglers are repeat guests.
- A mix of the world's best sea-run brown trout guides, both local and international, to make sure we combine local knowledge with world-class technique. Guides rotate daily, so you'll get to fish with them all.
- Superb fishing gear and leading fishing equipment, available at no extra cost.







## FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Though it appears to be a traditional ranch structure on the outside, make no mistake that Villa María Lodge is a modern, comfortable fishing lodge in every way today with 6 en suite double and single rooms, smart furnishings, and spacious living areas. Delightful meals are prepared daily by the lodge's dedicated chef, so you will fish each day well fortified for battle with the Río Grande's giant trout. Each evening, a roaring fire and well-stocked bar will welcome you back from the day's adventures. The lodge has a tackle shop stocked with Loop rods, quality reels, flies, lines, clothing, and other on and off water gifts and essentials. In addition, guests have the full use of the lodge's fly-tying table and gear storage rooms.

*Villa María Lodge offers 3 en-suite double rooms and 3 single en-suite queen bedrooms.*

*Guanaco Tartar – Each dish is prepared with an artisan's touch and influenced by the earthiness of the surrounding landscape.*

- Capacity: 6 rods.
- Rooms: 6 Bedrooms (3 en suite double rooms and 1 single in the Main House, plus 2 single en suite queen bedrooms in the Annex).
- Main House: Dining room, sitting room, bar, wader/gear room, and fully equipped fly-tying table. Annex: sitting room and mud room for gear/waders.
- Gourmet Dining with Argentina's famed beef and fine wines, traditional Asados (BBQs), and delicious desserts.
- Professional Guides, who can give casting instructions with single and two-handed rods (Spey casting).
- Fly Shop fully equipped with flies, rods, reels, lines, suitable fishing clothing, and Argentine crafts.
- Comfortable crew cab 4-wheel trucks, fitted with rod racks and radios.
- Full maid service with laundry service available.
- Unparalleled bird watching and rich wildlife (Condors, foxes and guanacos).



And if one lodge was not enough, Villa María also boasts a day lodge on the river bank that is utilized to augment the daily fishing rotation. The day lodge is a small house with three rooms, including two queen-bedded rooms for midday siestas.

Guests use the day lodge each afternoon, and doing so increases the fishing time and allows our anglers a place to relax at midday. Anglers may also choose to keep right on fishing after enjoying midday lunches that may include steaks or lamb cooked over open coals.



*In order to maximize your time on the river, there is a cabin on the river bank for lunch and siestas.*



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## ESTANCIA JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ

Villa María stands out immediately as a bright white building located in the heart of a cluster of buildings that is the José Menéndez Estancia. This ranch has a storied history. It was the first property for ranching baron José Menéndez in Tierra del Fuego and began operation in 1894. The ranch center was once a bustling village that supported enough family, laborers, shepards, and staff to run the vast sheep ranching operation that began on Tierra del Fuego's barren landscape.

The Menendez property also played host to a rather noted employee – slaughter house manager John Goodall – who first planted trout eggs in Tierra del Fuego's rivers in 1940. A true visionary! Still surrounded by over 120,000 acres of grazing land, and still host to 40,000 sheep and 1500 head of cattle, the ranch property sits by the Río Grande and looks like a tidy movie set with white picket fences and colorful flower gardens. The lodge building that is now Villa María was once the ranch manager's family home and has been completely renovated into a modern fishing lodge.





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## LOCATION

The lodge is located on the banks of the Río Grande, in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, just a few miles above the tidal influence. Starting with the opening of Kau Tapen Lodge in the early '80s, the Río Grande has become the most productive sea-run trout fishery in the world. While trout numbers fluctuate with conditions at sea, tides, water levels, and a host of other natural factors – the fact is we release 20-pound trout at Villa María each week of the season. A fish or two a day is the norm given average water conditions – but 6-8 fish days happen all the time! Anglers will fish both banks. Big pools and two-handed rods are the norms.

The lodge itself reminds many of the world's best salmon camps; warm, cozy, and accompanied by cuisine and service at a very high level. Guides know the pools and the fish intimately. Days are spent on the water, with classic “huts” for midday breaks. The Río Grande flows from west to east, down from the Andes to the Atlantic Ocean through approximately 60 miles of Argentine territory. The landscape of Tierra del Fuego is reminiscent of Wyoming or the Scottish low country. It includes sparsely populated wilderness, large sheep farming estancias, and wild herds of llama-like Guanacos, as well as plentiful fox and condor populations.



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## GETTING THERE

Guests fly into Buenos Aires, Argentina, and typically overnight there, with a day to spend touring this wonderful city. Arrival day at Villa María is set for Friday. Commercial airlines fly from Buenos Aires to the airport of Río Grande (3-hour flight), where a lodge representative will meet you. The transfer from Río Grande airport to the lodge takes 30 minutes. On arrival at the lodge, guests are welcomed with cocktails by the entire Villa María staff.



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# THE FISHING

Our target species is Sea-Run Brown Trout, averaging 8lbs and weighing up to 30lbs. Although most of their lives are spent in the ocean, sea-run brown trout seem to retain more of the eccentricities of resident browns than, for instance, steelhead do of resident rainbows. Moody fish, they must be shown flies the way they want to see them at the precise time they're ready to take.

The Río Grande isn't a big river. Thus, it's compatible with a wide range of techniques; critical since a large sea-run brown trout may demand that a fly be fed to it on the bottom one hour but rise to a skating fly the next. Water levels can change from week to week and they generally drop as the season progresses. The river offers easy wading on fine gravel bottom.

Vary your presentations in each pool fished until you find the right formula of fly, line, drift or swing, and retrieve. Also heed the advice of your guide, whose primary aim is to recommend methods that will help you hook and bring more fish to the net. By and large, the Río Grande's sea-run brown trout seem to lie near cut banks during the middle of the day, though in low water they will also lie in the faster necks of pools. They typically move into these areas during the early morning, evening, and nighttime hours.



Generally, “tails in the morning and heads at night” is a good rule. Also look for fish distributed throughout pools on calm, overcast days. On sunny days, one theory holds that sea-run brown trout will take best if they don't have the sun in their eyes, although this theory, like others, is often affected by the number of fish in a particular pool and the number of “takers”.

Villa Maria is strictly a catch and release fishery. Guides are equipped with nets and will assist guests in weighing and releasing the fish without harming them.





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## DAILY ITINERARY

The typical trip does not fish on arrival or departure. Usually, you'll be shuttled from the airport to the lodge where you can check into your room, prepare gear, and spend an afternoon relaxing on the lodge grounds. Here is a sample schedule of the daily program:

- 8:00 am Breakfast
  - 9:00 am Depart for fishing
  - 1:00 pm Lunch and Siesta
  - 5:00 pm Fish till dusk
  - 11:00 pm Dinner
- \* *Approximately 8-9 hours fishing daily. Fishing hours will change slightly depending on the season.*



*The river house offers gorgeous views of the wilds of Tierra del Fuego. Enjoy the stunning setting while having a delicious lunch and drinks with friends.*





## RATES 2025

December 29th, 2024 - March 28th, 2025

Dec. 29th to Jan. 3rd	\$ 12,950*
Jan. 3rd to Mar. 7th	\$ 14,950*
Mar. 7th to Mar. 28th	\$ 12,950*

\* Rates are in USD per person per week, based on single room and shared guide.

\* Friday to Friday weeks include: 1 night at Delta Eco Lodge (shared rooms), with one day of guided dorado fishing (subjected to availability; first-come basis) with lunch, dinner and breakfast included – open bar.

Does not include transfer Ezeiza (EZE) Intl. Airport to Marina - Marina to Aeroparque (AEP) Domestic Airport (based on 2 pax min. at \$ 200 p/person).

- **NON-ANGLER:** \$650 p/night subject to availability

- **INCLUDED**  
Lodging; all meals and beverages (Open Bar); transfer from Río Grande airport to the lodge; professional guided Fishing; loaner fishing Equipment (rods, reels and lines).

- **NOT INCLUDED**  
Airlines; fishing license (\$595 approx. per angler); gratuities for guides and house staff; in-house laundry service; 1st night in Ushuaia or Rio Grande based on single occupancy, if needed. Any items of a strictly personal nature; cost of itinerary modifications requested by the passenger.

### PAYMENT TERMS

Reservations are confirmed with a 50% deposit. All deposits & payments are 100% non-refundable under any circumstances. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. At this point, participants are responsible for total land costs and no refunds will be made for unused land transportation, accommodations, or meals.



## INTERESTED IN VARIETY?

Nervous Waters Fly Fishing, David Denies Bird Hunting, and Red Stag Patagonia are all proud members of **The Kautapen Group** - a single team of dedicated professionals focused on maintaining the highest standard of service and elevating your sporting experiences.



If fly fishing is your passion—consider the **Nervous Waters** family of lodges. Nervous Waters is the leader in international Fly Fishing destinations, with nine special lodges spread out across **Argentina, Chile,** and the **Bahamas**. We offer a plethora of coveted gamefish including bones and tarpon, sea-run and resident brown trout, rainbow trout, and golden dorado, pacu, and pira pita.

## David Denies BIRD HUNTING

**David Denies Bird Hunting** comprises 12 world class bird hunting lodges across **Argentina & Uruguay**. From dove shooting in the hills surrounding Córdoba, to the wetlands of Buenos Aires province, to the rolling pastures of Uruguay, we bring you to the ultimate wingshooting paradise, with an impeccable style and attention to detail, and dependability outfitting that is simply not found elsewhere.



**Red Stag Patagonia**, outfits some of the best Red Stag hunts in both **Argentina** and **Chile** as well as best free-range Black Buck and Axis Deer hunting in South America. Our four operations are located in Chile, Northern Patagonia, Mendoza and Buenos Aires. All of Red Stag's hunts are fair chase, open country hunts in magnificent terrain, and their success rate speaks for itself.



# SEASONS BY SPECIES

## ARGENTINA, CHILE & URUGUAY

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SEA-RUN BROWN TROUT	• •	• •	• •									•
DORADO	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •
BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •						• •	• •
DOVES	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •
DUCKS					• •	• •	• •	• •	•			
PERDÍZ					• •	• •	• •					
PIGEON				•	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	•		
WILD BLACK BUCK					• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	•
AXIS DEER					• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	•
RED STAG			• •	• •	• •	•						
FALLOW DEER			• •	• •	• •	•						
WILD BOAR					• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	•

## BAHAMAS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BONEFISH	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	•			• •	• •	• •

## MEXICO

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
PERMIT		• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	
TARPON			• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •		

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