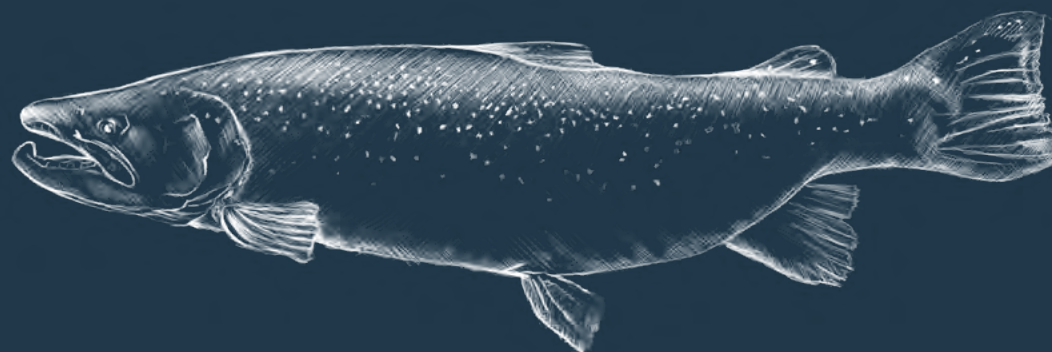




NERVOUS WATERS
A HIGHER FORM OF FISHING

VILLA MARIA LODGE

RÍO GRANDE, TIERRA DEL FUEGO, ARGENTINA





VILLA MARIA LODGE

If you are tough enough

Villa María was 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.

Villa María Lodge gives anglers access to the closest private waters of the Río Grande near the Atlantic Ocean estuary, where sea-run trout enter the river bright, strong, and silver. A secluded haven for just six anglers—great company and the pure joy of swinging two-handed rods where the fish arrive first.

WHY CHOOSE VILLA MARIA LODGE?

- An intimate lodge setting for only six anglers, with private access to 20 km of the finest fly water on the lower Río Grande — an exclusive haven for small groups of discerning fishermen.
- A Spey angler's paradise: long, low-gradient pools mean less casting and more fishing.
- The longest, most productive pools hold sea-run brown trout fresh from the ocean.
- Anglers rotate through new beats every morning and evening, ensuring fresh water and varied challenges.
- Multiple beat options make it easy to find stretches where the wind helps rather than hinders your cast.
- Your arrival day includes an evening warm-up session to get you tuned in and ready.
- Maximize time on the river with our beautiful Riverside House — a warm, comfortable place for lunch and siestas, just steps from the water, with panoramic views of the Tierra del Fuego wilderness.
- Stay at Estancia José Menéndez, a historic Patagonian sheep ranch founded in 1894 — a place rich in tradition, character, and the spirit of Tierra del Fuego.
- Premium lodge services and hospitality, an exquisite à la carte menu, and five-star accommodations — reasons why over 80% of our anglers return year after year.
- A team of top local and international guides combines regional expertise with world-class technique. Guides rotate daily, so you'll have the chance to fish with them all.
- Complimentary use of high-end fishing equipment and state-of-the-art loaner gear.



Depending on water levels, Villa María's waters can also be effectively fished with single-handed or switch rods.



The main lodge, located on Estancia José Menéndez, provides single rooms by default for groups of up to six anglers.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Although it retains the look and charm of a traditional Patagonian ranch, Villa María Lodge is today a modern, comfortable fishing retreat in every sense. The lodge accommodates six anglers in six well-appointed en suite bedrooms, featuring smart furnishings, cozy spaces, and inviting living areas.

Each day begins and ends with the warmth of our dedicated team. After a hearty breakfast, you'll head to the river well-prepared for battle with the Río Grande's legendary trout. Evenings bring a roaring fire, fine wines, and exquisite meals crafted by our talented chef — a perfect close to a day on the water.

The lodge also features a fully stocked fly shop offering quality rods, reels, lines, flies, apparel, and local crafts, as well as a fly-tying table and secure gear storage for guests' use.

- 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 and gear room, and a fully equipped fly-tying table.
- Annex: Sitting room and mudroom for waders and gear.
- Services: Full maid and laundry service.
- Dining: Gourmet Argentine cuisine featuring grass-fed beef, Patagonian lamb, fine wines, traditional asados, homemade desserts, and an exquisite à la carte menu crafted daily by our chef.
- Guides: Professional local and international guides offering instruction with both single- and two-handed rods (Spey casting).
- Fly Shop: Fully equipped with flies, rods, reels, lines, suitable clothing, and Argentine crafts.
- Vehicles: Comfortable Toyotas' 4WD crew cab trucks, fitted with rod racks and radios.
- Wildlife: Exceptional birdwatching and wildlife viewing (condors, foxes, guanacos, and more).



Gourmet Argentine cuisine at its best — wood-fired flavors, homemade pastries, and a chef-crafted menu that changes daily to honor the spirit of Patagonia.



THE RIVER HOUSE

In addition to the main lodge, Villa María features a River House, located right on the banks of the Río Grande. This charming day lodge is used during the daily fishing rotation, offering anglers a comfortable retreat for lunch and siestas between sessions. The River House includes three rooms — two with queen beds — and a cozy sitting area overlooking the river.

Guests may relax here at midday, enjoy a traditional asado of lamb or steak cooked over open coals, or simply step outside and continue fishing the pools right at their doorstep.



ESTANCIA JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ

Villa María stands out as a bright white landmark in the heart of the historic Estancia José Menéndez, one of Tierra del Fuego's most emblematic sheep ranches. Established in 1894, this was the first property owned by ranching baron José Menéndez, marking the beginning of large-scale sheep ranching on the island.

In its early days, the ranch center was a lively settlement, home to the families, shepherds, and workers who managed this vast Patagonian enterprise. Among them was John Goodall, the ranch's slaughterhouse manager and a true visionary, who in 1940 introduced the first trout eggs into Tierra del Fuego's rivers—laying the foundation for what would become one of the world's most celebrated trout fisheries.

Today, the property still encompasses over 120,000 acres of open steppe, grazed by 40,000 sheep and 1,500 head of cattle, and sits gracefully beside the Río Grande. With its white fences, wind-bent trees, and colorful gardens, the ranch feels like a scene from a bygone era—rich in history and Patagonian spirit.

The building that now houses Villa María Lodge was once the ranch manager's family home. It has been carefully restored and transformed into a modern fishing lodge, preserving its classic character while offering the comfort and warmth expected of a world-class sporting destination.



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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.



GETTING THERE

Villa María Lodge weeks run from Friday to Friday.

Guests begin their journey by flying into Buenos Aires, with most arriving in the morning. We recommend that guests fly into Ushuaia (USH, 3-hour flight.) on Thursday afternoon or evening and spend the night exploring this charming city, known for its superb culinary offerings. Convenient flights are available from both Jorge Newbery Aeroparque (AEP) and Ministro Pistarini International Airport (EZE), with several departures daily.

On Friday morning, we will meet you at your Ushuaia hotel for the approximately 3-hour drive to Villa María Lodge. Upon arrival, you'll be welcomed with refreshing cocktails and a delicious lunch, followed by an orientation by the Villa María Lodge Manager. The afternoon will feature a warm-up session by the river. At the end of your week, you'll head back to the airport early on Friday morning.

THE FISHING

Our target species at Villa María is the sea-run brown trout—averaging around 8 lbs and frequently reaching 25 lbs or more. These remarkable fish spend most of their lives in the ocean, yet they retain the curious temperament and complexity of their resident brown trout cousins. Moody and powerful, they demand precise presentations and reward patience and persistence with unforgettable takes.

The Río Grande isn't a large river, which makes it perfect for a wide range of techniques. Its smooth, gravel bottom allows for easy wading, and conditions often change from week to week as water levels fluctuate through the season. A single pool may require a deep, slow presentation one hour and a skated fly the next — adaptability is key.

Anglers are encouraged to experiment with fly choice, line, drift, swing, and retrieve until the right combination is found, always following the guidance of our expert guides, whose single goal is to help you hook and land more fish.

Sea-run browns typically hold near cut banks during the day, moving to faster necks and shallower tails in the low light of morning and evening. As a general rule, “tails in the morning and heads at night” is a sound approach. On calm, overcast days, fish may spread throughout the pool; while on sunny days, subtle adjustments in angle and presentation often make the difference.

Every hook-up here is earned — but each one is worth it. Few experiences compare to watching a chrome-bright trout surge from the depths of the Río Grande, or feeling its weight bend a two-handed rod in the wind.

Villa María is a 100% catch-and-release fishery. Guides are equipped with landing nets and trained to assist with safe handling, weighing, and releasing of all fish to ensure their continued health and longevity in the river.



Target Sea-Run Brown Trout fresh from the sea, averaging 8lbs and weighing up to 30+lbs.



Sea-runs are strong specimens, often jumping more than once and easily taking you to the backing.





Many of these fresh chromers are caught on surprisingly small nymphs—often as small as size 10, and sometimes even sizes 12 or 14.



ESTIMATED DAILY ITINERARY

Guests will leave the Lodge around 6:45 am after breakfast and will fish till around noon. Following lunch and a siesta (the duration depends on the season), guests return to the river in the late afternoon and fish until dark.

Fishing hours will change slightly depending on the time of year, conditions of the river & weather. Upon your return to the lodge, dinner and cocktails will be served according to the season — typically around 11:30 p.m. in January and early February, and gradually earlier later in the season, between 10:00 and 11:30 p.m.

Dec / Jan & early Feb

- 6:00 am Breakfast
- 6:45 am Depart for fishing
- 12:30 pm Lunch and Siesta
- 6:00 pm Fish till dusk

Feb & early March

- 6:30 am Breakfast
- 7:15 am Depart for fishing
- 1:00 pm Lunch and Siesta
- 5:30 pm Fish till dusk

Late March

- 7:00 am Breakfast
- 7:45 am Depart for fishing
- 1:15 pm Lunch and Siesta
- 5:00 pm Fish till dusk

RATES 2027

December 25th, 2026 - March 26th, 2027

Dec. 25th to Jan. 8th	\$ 13,950 *
Jan. 8th to Mar. 5th	\$ 14,950 *
Mar. 5th to Mar. 26th	\$ 12,950 *

* Rates are in USD per person per week, based on 7 nights and 6,5 days fishing, and include single room (subjected to availability) and shared guide.

* Friday to Friday weeks include:

CHOOSE 1 OPTION 1 – DELTA ECO-LODGE (Argentina)

1-night stay at Delta Eco-Lodge (shared rooms). 1 full day of guided dorado fishing (subject to availability; allocated on a first-come, first-served basis). Includes: lunch, dinner, breakfast, and open bar (beer, soft drinks and fine Argentine wines). Does not include: transfers from Ezeiza International Airport (EZE) to the marina, and from the marina to Aeroparque Domestic Airport (AEP). Transfers available based on a 2-person minimum at US\$200 per person

OR 2 – DOVE SHOOTING LODGES (Argentina & Uruguay)

2-night stay at any of our six dove shooting lodges (shared rooms), subject to availability on a first-come, first-served basis. Includes: breakfast, lunch, dinner, and open bar (beer, soft drinks and fine Argentine wines). Does not include: transfers to/from the nearest lodge's airport, hunting licenses, gun rental, & ammunition.

NON-ANGLER: \$650 per person per night

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

Airfares; fishing license (\$550 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.

OUR OTHER SPORTING DESTINATIONS



Born of passion, backed by ownership.

With more than 30 family-owned, high-end sporting lodges across Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico & The Bahamas, **The Kautapen Group** brings together a lifetime of experience dedicated to fly fishing, wingshooting, and big-game hunting. Through **Nervous Waters**, **David Denies Bird Hunting**, and **Red Stag Patagonia**, we deliver best-in-class guiding, authentic hospitality, and the consistency that comes only from operating our lodges under our own ownership and uncompromising standards. Each experience reflects our commitment to excellence, conservation, and the values that have guided our family for more than four decades.



NERVOUS WATERS

A Higher Form of Fishing

With 13 signature fly-fishing lodges and counting, Nervous Waters continues to expand into new horizons across Argentina, Chile, The Bahamas, and Mexico. Pursue sea-run browns, wild browns & rainbows, dorado, & other exotic freshwater species as well as the ultimate flats species—bonefish, permit, tarpon, & snook—guided by the most experienced teams in the field. Our lodges offer a level of service on par with the finest boutique hotels of the world, yet each shines with its own personality.



DAVID DENIES

A Higher Form of Wingshooting

Comprising 13 world-class lodges across Argentina & Uruguay, David Denies redefines the art of wingshooting. From high-volume dove and wild pigeon shooting in northern Argentina, to the fertile wetlands of Buenos Aires Province—where marshes and swamps fill with ducks in remarkable numbers—to the rolling pastures of Uruguay, home to the world's greatest concentration of hard-flying perdiz over pointing dogs, we deliver the ultimate wingshooter's paradise. All with a level of style, service, and attention to detail found nowhere else.



RED STAG PATAGONIA

A Higher Form of Hunting

Red Stag Patagonia sets the standard for authentic Big Game hunting in South America. Operating across Argentina and Chile, our carefully curated programs deliver truly wild, fair-chase hunts throughout the breathtaking peaks of Patagonia and the vast Argentine Pampas, targeting free-range red stag, axis deer, blackbuck, fallow deer, and other select game species. Whether you prefer spot-and-stalk, horseback pursuits, or vehicle-assisted outings, we tailor every experience to all skill levels—always providing the finest wild and fair-chase hunting adventures.



BEYOND SEA TROUT

For those visiting Argentina during the sea-trout season, there's much more to experience with [The Kautapen Group](#) and our sister brands [Nervous Waters Fly Fishing](#), [David Denies Bird Hunting](#) & [Red Stag Patagonia](#)—all sharing the same standard of service, guiding, and hospitality.

From January to April, northern Argentina offers exceptional fly fishing for golden dorado, pacú, and pirá pitá at lodges such as Pirá, Suindá, and Delta —each delivering a different facet of this unique species across the Iberá Marshlands and Paraná River system.

Farther south, Patagonia's trout season is in full swing, with superb dry-fly fishing for brown and rainbow trout at Futa and Chime Lodges, set against the dramatic backdrop of the Andes and Chilean valleys.

Meanwhile, central Argentina and Uruguay deliver the finest wingshooting with David Denies Bird Hunting—high-volume doves in Córdoba, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán, and Carmelo in Uruguay.

And if your travels bring you to Argentina in late March or April, keep in mind it's peak red stag season—an ideal time to experience our world-class big-game lodges.

Whichever path you choose, every destination within The Kautapen Group delivers the same attention to detail, authenticity, and excellence that define Villa María and all our lodges.

THE SPORTSMAN'S SEASONAL CALENDAR

ARGENTINA, CHILE & URUGUAY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SEA-RUN BROWN TROUT	• •	• •	• •	•								•
DORADO	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •
TROUT	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •						• •	• •
DOVES	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •
DUCKS					• •	• •	• •	• •	•			
PERDÍZ					• •	• •	• •					
PIGEON					•	• •	• •	• •	• •	•		
BLACKBUCK ANTELOPE					• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	•
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			• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •		
SNOOK		• •								• •	• •	

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