



CHECKING IN

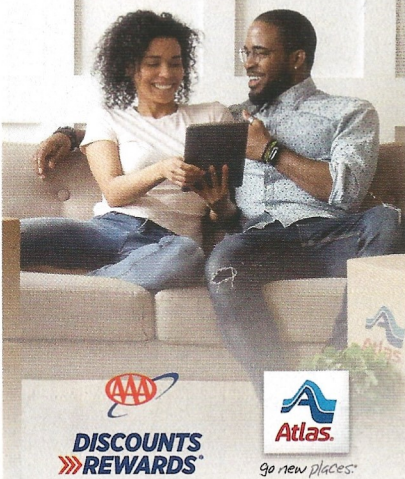
Next-Level Luxury

Some hotels celebrating a 100th birthday might be tempted to sit back and bask in the attention. Not Santa Fe's La Fonda on the Plaza. The AAA Four Diamond property recently launched a whole new level of hospitality called **The Terrace Inn at La Fonda**. With a separate check-in and concierge, this "hotel within a hotel" features 15 luxurious rooms and suites complete with an exclusive rooftop retreat facing the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The rooms are a mix of old and new, with refinished 100-year-old pine floors and contemporary window coverings displaying the work of award-winning Crow painter Del Curfman. Each room opens to a private balcony or patio with views of historic St. Francis Cathedral or The Loretto Chapel. Rates start at \$500, including breakfast. lafondasantafe.com. ▶ PAUL ZIEKE

As part of a centennial speaker series, La Fonda will host a talk about architect John Gaw Meem at 2 p.m. on May 13. Check the website for more centennial events.

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A Railway Revival

With Santa Fe on the brink of losing a historic rail line, a team of local visionaries, including novelist George R.R. Martin, came to the rescue last fall. They combined personal resources to transform the 1880 Santa Fe Southern Railroad into an entertainment attraction called **Sky Railway**. This train now aims to transport locals and visitors beyond the limitations of its humble 18-mile track from Santa Fe to Lamy with original and imaginative onboard experiences.

The train's whimsical exterior, painted by Santa Fe mural artist Joerael Numina, is the first clue that this rail line has changed. That sense of playfulness continues to the interior, where carved dragons and wolves decorate the armrests. The journeys last 1.5-3 hours, and current themed trips include stargazing, a murder-mystery experience, and performances by The Exodus Ensemble, a theatrical troupe. "I think what it is really offering is a much more immersive entertainment experience," said Joanne Hudson, public relations manager for Tourism Santa Fe. "They're really going to connect with fantasy and adventure, and not just taking people on a trip from Point A to Point B." Tickets start at \$45. skyrailway.com.



▶ CYNTHIA J. DRAKE

FROM TOP: PETER OGILVIE; COURTESY TOURISM SANTA FE