

Travel Review

Sierra Vista Chalet Lives Up To the Hype...and Then Some

By Shawn Arnold

This past summer I had the opportunity to stay at a chalet in June Lake, California. I normally stay in a hotel in June Lake but since I was with my wife and another couple I thought I might step it up a tad. Someone in town had told me about the Sierra Vista Chalet and while it may cost a little more than staying in a hotel I decided to take the plunge. And boy am I glad I did. This place called the Sierra Vista Chalet is absolutely beautiful. It has all the amenities anyone would want when staying in the mountains. The Chalet is perfect for summer or winter. And sharing the cost with another couple certainly makes it more appealing.

When we pulled up to the chalet, my friend Joe who was following me in his car had his kids get out

of the car. The first thing they said is 'we are staying in a mansion'. The chalet has nearly 4,000 square feet of living space on nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre. Located just one mile past June Lake Ski Resort it is close to town, the ski resort and numerous lakes if you are there in the summer and ready to catch your limit of trout in the clear alpine lakes there.

Fishing abounds as June Lake, Silver Lake, Gull Lake, Grant Lake, Rush Creek and Reverse Creek are all within a 20 minute drive. And Mammoth and its fine fishing is only 30 minutes away.

After a hard days fishing or skiing you can slip into the relaxing outdoor hydrotherapy pool. My guess is that it could fit 8 but we really did not try to find out. It was very big though. The views of towering granite peaks and listening to the rippling creek only adds to your relaxation.

There are three bedrooms all with memory foam beds and their own bathrooms. The room we stayed in also had a Jacuzzi in it along with wonderful views of the mountains. The three bedrooms were upstairs while downstairs was the fully equipped kitchen and a giant dining room with a 11'5" pine table that we ate dinner at one night then played cards on afterwards.





There was much much more downstairs including a great entertaining room that included a bar and had 35' ceilings. It also had a big screen TV, DVR, all types of games, a fireplace, a couple of very comfortable couches and chairs. The downside for some about the TV will be the fact that it does not get reception. The DVR works if you want to watch a movie and there was a nice selection of movies generally for 13 year olds and over. Who comes to the mountains to watch TV though??

In the summer you should be out hiking, fishing and enjoying the outdoors. And if you really need a TV to watch your favorite team the chalet has wifi so you can possibly watch it on your computer. If not the Sierra Inn and the Tiger Bar both 7 minutes away in town have most sports on so you can get your fix that way.

The kitchen had all new appliances. The oven worked great for Joe as he cooked the boys my 3-1/2 pound trout I had caught that morning in Silver Lake. What was really cool is that the boys Michael age 9 and Blake age 4 caught their first trout that day.

What really impressed me about the place is that it had geothermal heating. The owner takes pride in heating the house in this green way. His house is one of two in Mono County with geothermal heat pumps. What does that mean you might ask. A geothermal heat pump, ground source heat pump (GSHP), or ground heat pump is a central heating and/or cooling system that pumps heat to or from the ground. It uses the earth as a heat source (in the winter) or a heat sink (in the summer). This design takes advantage of the moderate temperatures in the ground to boost efficiency and reduce the operational costs of heating and cooling systems, and may be combined with solar heating to form a geosolar system with even greater efficiency. Ground source heat pumps are also known as

"geothermal heat pumps" although, strictly, the heat does not come from the center of the Earth, but from the Sun.

The chalet also had the lights programmed like they do in the freezer section in the grocery store. The went on when you were in the room and went off when you left to save energy.

One thing the owner told me was a big plus in the winter is that unlike many other June Lake residences you may be considering, they are on the highway. So the road gets plowed during the winter. They also hire professional plowing services to plow out the driveway. The combination of these two features means that on a powder day you don't need a 4x4 or have to shovel for hours to get to the resort and do some downhill runs. As mentioned earlier June Lake Ski Resort is only one mile away and it offers 2580 feet of vertical feet of ski terrain for all levels. World class back country and cross country skiing are within easy reach.

For more information about the Sierra Vista Chalet check out www.sierravistachalet.com. You can contact them at reservations@sierravistachalet.com or look them up on Facebook.

