

PEOPLE
ARE
TALKING
ABOUT



POINT BREAK
A VIEW OF
THE BOATHOUSE
AT THE POINT,
BELOW, LAKE
PLACID'S SERENE
SHORELINE.

TRAVEL

into the woods

A century after the Vanderbilts set up camp, the Adirondacks are experiencing a new gilded age.

For Vanderbilts and Morgans, establishing a "camp" in the Adirondacks was once as de rigueur as acquiring a "cottage" in Newport. Veritable duchies staffed by hundreds were carved out from the great New York wilderness. Tables set with the finest china sparkled beneath vaulting wood ceilings in a distinctly American blend of elegance and rusticity that became synonymous with the Adirondack Great Camp.

Today, a new generation of magnates is heading north to enjoy the backwoods in style. Giving Lake Placid its reputation as the Aspen of the East is the Lake Placid Film Festival, which will feature special guest Martin Scorsese this summer. This month, the Adirondack Living Show, a haven for antiques hounds, returns, while blue bloods will mingle with the likes of Bruce Springsteen and Glenn Close at the Lake Placid Horse Show. Afterward, one can dine, as Bill and

Hillary Clinton did recently, on the veranda of the Veranda (518/523-3339).

For an authentic Gilded Age sojourn, the Point on Upper Saranac Lake can't be surpassed. Originally William Avery Rockefeller's Camp Wonundra, its four lodges are hidden on a 75-acre peninsula. Whether in the stately Lookout suite with its outdoor terrace or the antler-bedecked Mohawk (Rockefeller's favorite), you'll be treated to breakfast in bed and stunning mountain views. Teak launches are on hand for private lake excursions, while energetic guests can now play tennis on the Point's newly renovated outdoor courts. Rooms range from \$1,250 to \$2,500 per night for two, with meals (800/255-3530). A handful of spectacular camps have recently come onto the rental market. Camp Runnamuck, Humdinger Hill, and Camp Birch Point are all vast multilodge estates that rent for \$6,500 to \$8,000 a week. To make your vacation worthy of a Whitney, catering and maid staff can be arranged (Merrill L. Thomas Inc., 518/523-8140). And if you fancy setting up your own Great Camp, Ann Stillman O'Leary, author of *Adirondack Style*

and owner of Evergreen House Interiors, can introduce you to the latest in wilderness chic, from sliding "stargazing" roofs to heated granite floors. She can also, of course, help you find that perfect Adirondack chair (518/523-4263).—PAUL GREENBERG *pata* ▶72

