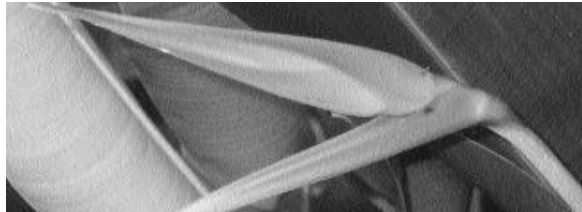


HIGH, COOL HILLS

Mountain Pine Ridge and Chiquibul Wilderness in Cayo District



Featuring

- Caracol Maya ruins • Waterfalls • Caves • Deluxe lodges
- Cool temps • Mountain biking • Hiking

Ratings

Ratings are on a scale of 0 to 10. Best is 10. Ratings are relative, comparing each feature with the same feature in other areas of Belize, both on the mainland and the cayes.

Natural Beauty:	8
Wildlife & Birding:	7
Hotels:	6
Restaurants:	2
Beaches:	0
Bugs:	8
Health & Hygiene:	7
Fishing:	1
Diving & Snorkeling:	0
Maya Sites:	8
Attractions:	2
Adventure:	9
Value:	6
Safety:	9
Cultural Tourism:	2
Shopping:	0
Overall Rating:	8

What to Expect

Many visitors to the Mountain Pine Ridge are surprised by what they find. Instead of low-lying, bug-infested tropical vistas, they find hills and low mountains with few mosquitoes and temperatures that can dip into the 40s F. in winter. Instead of lush Tarzan-style jungle, in some parts of the region they find pine woods, sparse grass and red clay mindful of the Southern Appalachians. Once into the Chiquibul wilderness or the Maya Mountains, the vegetation turns to broadleaf rainforest, more like the jungle you've seen in the movies. All of it is rough, unpopulated country. At the same time, it is beautiful country, with isolated waterfalls where you can slip in for a skinny dip, incredible cave systems, unpolluted rivers and blue skies. When England's Prince William was in Belize in mid-2000, he spent a week on maneuvers with the Welsh Guards in the Pine Ridge.

Except for a small settlement at Augustine/Douglas de Silva, groups of workers living at the area's four lodges and some remote squatter settlements occupied by illegal immigrants from Guatemala, few people live in the region. Some of the land is government owned, and some is owned, mostly in large tracts, by foreign interests. All of the roads in the region are former logging roads, most hardly better than dirt tracks. Controlled logging continues, and the area is also the site of occasional Belize Defence Force or U.S. Army training exercises. In the dry season, usually March to late May or early June, the area sees higher temperatures (though still cooler than in most of the rest of inland Belize), and forest fires are a frequent threat.

Lay of the Land

What we're considering here as one region is actually three different areas: 1) The Mountain Pine Ridge proper, 2) the Western Uplands (including the Chiquibul National Park wilderness and Vaca Plateau) and 3) the northwestern part of the Maya Mountains. Together, it's the largest protected reserve area in Belize.

The Mountain Pine Ridge is the first area you enter, coming from San Ignacio. "Ridge" in Belizean use refers not to a topographical feature, the top of a mountain, but to the dominant type of tree in an area, in this case the mountain pine (*Pinus oocarpa*). The pine beetle unfortunately has hit the pines very hard, and many trees are dying. Elevations here range mostly from 1,800 to 3,000 feet. Due to the elevation, the weather is almost always cooler than elsewhere in Belize, and the humidity lower. In winter, especially when it rains, a fire in the fireplace feels good. With all the pines and the clay and sand soils, this area, including where the four jungle lodges are located, may remind you of North Georgia. Still, with orchids, giant bromeliads and the occasional fer-de-lance, you're definitely not in North Georgia, Toto.

As you go farther into the region by road, you enter the Western Uplands. This is mainly deciduous or semi-deciduous broadleaf forest, with elevations of

about 600 to 2,400 feet. Here you'll see cohune palm, sapodilla, mountain cabbage palm, ironwood and other exotic trees. The boundaries are loose, but the northern part is the Vaca Plateau and the southern part, the Chiquibul wilderness. About 200,000 acres of this area has been designated as the Chiquibul National Park. Here at the edge of the Vaca Plateau, near the Guatemala border, are the magnificent ruins of Caracol. Beyond Caracol are some of the most incredible caves in the world, little explored and difficult to reach. *National Geographic* did a pictorial essay on the Chiquibul caves in 2000. The caves exist thanks to karst. Karst is a distinctive topography in which the landscape is shaped by the dissolving action of water on carbonate bedrock, typically limestone or dolomite. This geological process, occurring over thousands of years, results in unusual surface and subsurface features — sinkholes, disappearing streams and complex underground drainage systems and caves.

There is a point where you can see two separate geological systems meet: At Hidden Valley Falls (also known as 1,000 Foot Falls) two ecosystems are divided by a geological fault line, marking the edge of a 1000-foot escarpment. Below the escarpment is lush tropical forest, and above is the pine forest.

To the southeast are the rugged Maya Mountains, with their broadleaf forests. They continue on south to Stann Creek and Toledo districts.

30-Second History

At one point, more than 150,000 Maya, many of them part of a prosperous Maya middle class, lived in the area around Caracol. After they abandoned this great city, a rival to Tikal, the area remained isolated and deserted. Some chicle gathering took place in the early part of the 20th century. After the chicle trade declined, there was an increase in exports of pine logs, spurred by the devaluation of the British Honduras dollar in 1950. Large tracts of Pine Ridge land, owned mostly by Americans, were logged. Some logging continues today.

How to Get There

To explore the Mountain Pine Ridge on your own, you must have a car. Two roads lead to the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve. The first, the Pine Ridge Road (also known as the Chiquibul Road) turns off the Western Highway at Georgeville, at about Mile 63. This road, unpaved and very rough in places, depending on when it has rained and when it was last scraped, runs past the Barton Creek area, large farms and the Slate Creek preserve, leading to the entrance of the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve. It's about 10 miles from Georgeville to the reserve gate, where you must stop and register with the guard, who will take your name, vehicle information and destination, but there is no entrance fee.

The other route to the Pine Ridge is the Cristo Rey Road, which turns off

the Western Highway at about Mile 68 1/2, at Santa Elena just before you enter San Ignacio. The road, equally unpaved and rough, runs through Cristo Rey and San Antonio villages. It is about 12 1/2 miles by this route to the junction with the Pine Ridge Road, and then another 1 1/2 miles to the reserve gate, the same gate you would reach from Georgeville.

Which is the better route to take? They're about the same in terms of the condition of the road. With Cristo Rey and San Antonio villages, there is a bit more to see on the Cristo Rey Road. As the Pine Ridge Road from Georgeville is a few miles shorter, if you're coming from the east this might be the better choice.

From the Pine Ridge gate, you continue on an unpaved road. At some points the road bed is sandy, and at others red clay. If you are going to Hidden Valley Inn or Hidden Valley Falls, about 4 miles into the reserve you turn left (watch for a sign) and go a few miles to the lodge or falls. If, instead of turning, you go on, you'll soon see the Pine Ridge Lodge, on the right, a little more than 4 miles past the entrance gate. About 1/2 mile farther, there's a turn to the right to Blancaneaux Lodge; Five Sisters Lodge is a little farther on the same spur road. If you continue on the "main road" rather than turning on the spur road to Blancaneaux and Five Sisters, you will pass near the Rio On, a popular swimming area, and the Rio Frio cave. At about 14 miles into the



Cohune palm (left) frames Maya Mountains in distance

reserve, you'll reach Douglas De Silva (formerly called Augustine), a village of small white frame houses with tin roofs. Turn left here and you'll be on your way to Caracol. Ten miles from Douglas De Silva, you cross the Macal River and are in the Chiquibul wilderness. Caracol is about 50 miles from the reserve entrance gate.

Keep in mind that all of the roads in this region are logging roads. After heavy rains, the clay sections in particular can become extremely slick and difficult to negotiate, even with a four-wheel drive vehicle.

If you do not have your own vehicle, you can take a taxi from San Ignacio (around US\$75 round-trip for up to four or five people). The **Mesh** bus makes two trips daily except Sunday from San Ignacio to Cristo Rey and San Antonio villages (about US\$1.50, ask at Eva's for exact schedule). It gets within about 1 1/2 miles of the Mountain Pine Ridge entrance gate.

The four lodges in the Pine Ridge also provide transfers from Belize City to the Pine Ridge (about US\$120 to \$150 per party, one-way). Hotel packages usually include transfers from Belize City. You also can charter a plane and fly to Blancaneaux's airstrip.

What to See and Do

Sightseeing and activity ratings are based on a scale of one to five stars.

- ☆☆☆☆☆ Extraordinary — don't miss it.
- ☆☆☆☆ Outstanding — one of the best of its type in Belize and worth a detour.
- ☆☆☆ Noteworthy — worth your time.
- ☆☆ Interesting — above average of its type.
- ☆ Try to visit if in the area.

Hundreds of square miles of unspoiled nature are yours to explore in the Mountain Pine Ridge and adjoining areas. If you have a car (or a mountain bike), you can spend the day exploring, with a picnic along the way.

☆ **1000-Foot Falls:** These falls, also known as Hidden Valley Falls, get a big hype as the tallest falls in Central America, but the reality is disappointing. From the viewing area, the falls look pencil-thin. Up close, they're more impressive, but getting to them is difficult and potentially dangerous. There are other waterfalls in the area, but the easiest to get to are on private land — owned by Hidden Valley Inn and Five Sisters Lodge. Five Sisters usually charges a small fee to visit its falls; you can ask at Hidden Valley for permission to hike to falls on the estate's property. *Directions: About 4 miles into the reserve, turn left at sign to Hidden Valley Inn and falls. Admission US\$1.50.*

☆ **Rio On:** This is a fine place for a swim, in pools formed among large granite boulders. *Directions:* *Rio On pools are about 8 1/2 miles from the reserve entrance gate; they're close to the road. Free.*

☆☆☆ **Rio Frio Cave:** This is more of an open chamber, with a river running through it, than a real cave, but beautifully spooky nonetheless. You can clamber along the side of the river *Directions:* *About 1 mile west of Douglas De Silva/Augustine, on a spur road (watch for signs).*

☆☆ **Other Mountain Pine Ridge Caves:** There are a number of caves in the Pine Ridge, including Blancaneaux Cave and Skeleton Head Cave. Other than the Rio Frio Cave, caves in this area should be visited only with an experienced guide. Bol's Jungle Tours at Mile 9 of the Pine Ridge Road, just before you reach the reserve entrance gate, may be able to arrange a trip. Ian Anderson's crews (*see Belmopan section*) also do trips to caves in this area.

☆☆☆☆ **Chiquibul Cave Systems:** The wildest and probably largest cave systems in Belize are beyond Caracol, in the Chiquibul wilderness. The extent of the caves is unknown, but they probably extend for 25 miles or more. You MUST have government permission to enter caves in the Chiquibul National Park, and, of course, go with an experienced guide.

☆☆ **Mountain Biking:** This is the best place in Belize for mountain biking. Several of the lodges in the area rent bikes, or offer them free to guests. For rentals, check with Pine Ridge Lodge (*see below*) or Chaa Creek or Crystal Paradise (*see Cayo section*.) Expect to pay US\$15 to \$25 a day for rentals. Chaa Creek's bikes have the reputation of being in the best condition.

Maya Sites

☆☆☆☆☆ **Caracol**

History: Caracol (Spanish for "snail") was one of the dominant city-states in Mesoamerica during the Classic era (250-950 A.D.) Records show its warlords defeated Tikal in 562 A.D. and Naranjo, also in Guatemala, in 631 A.D. The Maya developed an immense agricultural field system and elaborate urban area, where a well-fed and well-to-do middle class lived. The area was capable of supporting a population of 150,000 or more.

Excavations: Caracol was not rediscovered until 1936, when *chicleros* stumbled upon it. A.H. Anderson explored and named the site in the late 1930s. Several expeditions from U.S. and English universities did preliminary work at the site in the 1950s and 1970s. Diane and Arlen Chase of the University of Central Florida began the first full-scale excavations beginning in 1985; these continue today, typically from January through March or April. The Chases maintain a Caracol Web site at www.caracol.org.

What You Can See: In its prime time, around 650 AD, the city of Caracol was about 12 miles wide, much larger than present day Belize City and with more than twice Belize City's present-day population. Today, only the central part of the city is open to visitors, but this contains some four dozen structures. The largest pyramid at Caracol is Canaa, the tallest known Maya structure in Belize and still today higher than any other building in Belize. Not far away is an enormous ceiba tree, thought to be seven centuries old. Only a small part of Caracol has been excavated so far. Much of what you can see around the site are mounds covered with grass and jungle growth. A visitor center, constructed by volunteers from Raleigh International, has displays on the archeology of the site. Caretakers or, sometimes, student researchers, will give you a guided tour of excavated areas of Caracol.

How to Get There: From the gated entrance to the Mountain Pine Ridge, go 14 miles to Douglas De Silva village. Turn left (look for sign to Caracol) and go 10 miles to the Macal River bridge. At that point you enter the Chiquibul Forest. Continue approximately 25 miles to Caracol. After heavy rains, the road may be closed.

Hours and Cost: Open most days 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission US\$5. For information, call the Department of Archeology in Belmopan (tel. 501-8-22106).

Crime and Personal Safety

Except for thieves who steal Maya artifacts, crime in this area is almost non-existent. It is, however, one of the most remote and unpopulated areas in all of Central America. An illness or injury here can be serious, since there are no medical facilities.

Water and Electricity

Most of this part of Belize is not on the power grid and does not have municipal water supply. Lodges generate their own electricity (if they have any) and get water from wells, cisterns or streams. Blancaneaux has the most sophisticated infrastructure, with a hydroelectric plant and its own water system.

Lodging

Price categories are for in-season double without meals, not including 7% hotel room tax or service charge, if any. To make comparisons equitable, rates for hotels which include meals or other items in the tariff are adjusted, reflecting an estimated cost for room only. However, specific rates shown in the listings below are actual rates but do not include 7% hotel room tax, 8% sales tax on meals or service charge, unless otherwise stated.

Most hotels listed, except low-cost budget places, receive a star rating of from one to five stars. Only a few hotels in the country are rated five stars. Keep in mind that, although there is no direct correlation between the price of a hotel room and the hotel's star rating, three- to five-star hotels are likely to be considerably more expensive than average. Some travelers may be willing to accept a lower level of amenities and services in exchange for a lower price, or they may even prefer staying in inexpensive lodging to better appreciate the local culture.

- ★★★★★ One of the top hotels in the Caribbean, well-run with striking location and/or facilities.
- ★★★★ One of the best hotels in Belize, with a dependably high level of hospitality.
- ★★★ Excellent accommodations, with above-average amenities, service and/or hospitality.
- ★★ Good accommodations and often a very good value.
- ★ Functional accommodations, meeting basic needs, and often a good value.

Under US\$200

★★★★★ **Blancaneaux.** Francis Ford Coppola ought to win a sixth Oscar for his incredible lodge, to add to the collection he won for the *Godfather*



Anne Wood, manager of
Blancaneaux

movies and other parts of his *oeuvre*. Coppola has said Belize reminds him of the verdant jungles of the Philippines, where he filmed *Apocalypse Now*, the movie that best caught the crazed atmosphere of the Vietnam war. In 1981, he bought an abandoned lodge, spent a fortune on fixing it up and reopened it in 1993. Mexican architect Manolo Mestre created the jungle chic look, and Francis and Eleanor Coppola themselves chose the Mexican and Guatemalan furnishings for the villas and cabañas. The result is simply one of the most extraordinary lodges in the world. It seems impossible, but Blancaneaux looks better and better

each time we visit. The grounds are beautifully maintained, with native flowers accenting pathways. On our last stopover, we stayed in one of the villas, where we dreamed about selling that screenplay to Hollywood. Our villa had

two huge bedrooms. They look even larger than they are, because the thatch roofs soar more than two stories high. Each has a screen deck area with views of the Privassion River. The tiled Japanese-style baths are probably the only baths of their kind in Belize, perhaps in Central America. Between the two bedrooms is a great room with kitchen and an unscreened deck (mosquitoes are rarely a problem in the Pine Ridge.) The regular cabañas, though far less spacious and luxurious than the villas, are pleasant for a couple, especially with their new decks and recently remodeled bathrooms. They're also less of a burden on your credit card, at US\$150 to \$210 in-season (\$115 to \$185 May 1-Nov. 1) as opposed to US\$350, double occupancy, for the villas in-season (US\$300 off-season); all rates plus 7% hotel tax and 10% service. Included is a continental breakfast. The lodge has 24-hour electricity provided by a hydro-electric plant. Staffers can enjoy satellite TV, but nothing so pedestrian is available in the guest lodging. A fireplace, nice during the coolish winter months, has been installed in the expanded dining room in the main lodge building, joining the one already in the bar area. By the way, when you're in the bar, note the slate bar top carved by the Garcia sisters. The Italian dishes in the restaurant are excellent, if a little pricey, and gradually a wider variety of choices has been added, a boon to those staying for more than a few days. You can even get real espresso and pizza from the only wood-burning pizza oven in Belize. Most of the fruits and vegetables served are grown in the lodge's organic gardens. Wines from the Niebaum Coppola Estate Winery in Napa Valley are available. The hotel and restaurant service, under Anne Wood's calm Scot's hand, is excellent. Many tours are available. AE, MC, V accepted. *P.O. Box B, Central Farm, Cayo, tel. 501-9-23878, fax 9-23919, or in the U.S., 800-746-3743; e-mail blodge@btl.net; www.blancaneauxlodge.com.*
Directions: From San Ignacio, go 12 1/2 miles to the entrance to the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve, then 4 1/2 miles (watch for sign) and turn on dirt road, approx. 1/2 mile to the lodge. You also can fly here via charter plane, as the lodge has an airstrip.

Under US\$150

★★★ **Five Sisters Lodge.** Some say this lodge plays second banana to its neighbor, Blancaneaux, and in a few ways it does, but if you're looking for a romantic spot at a reasonable price, rather than a splurge at an extraordinary lodge, you may prefer Five Sisters. It's less luxe than Blancaneaux, true, but then its rates for lodging and meals are considerably lower. The setting, above the five small waterfalls in the Privassion River which give the lodge its name, is certainly as beautiful as Blancaneaux's, though the grounds may not be quite as painstakingly cared for. Five Sisters is the only lodge in the Pine Ridge that is Belizean-owned; Carlos Popper, who opened the lodge in 1995, is a retired Belize government worker. There are 14 cabañas in the pine woods, all with thatch roofs and simple decor, plus less expensive rooms with shared baths in

the main lodge building. The food is tasty Belizean fare, with casually friendly service. The restaurant and bar are in the main building, with a deck featuring great river views. Rates: cabañas, US\$105 to \$175 double Dec. 1-Apr. 30, US\$75 to \$145 rest of year. Lodge rooms with shared bath, US\$60 double Dec. 1-Apr. 30, US\$45 rest of year. Rates are plus tax plus 10% service charge. Meals US\$6 breakfast, US\$7.50 lunch, US\$17.50 dinner. AE, MC, V accepted. *P.O. Box 173, San Ignacio, Cayo; tel./fax 501-9-12005; in U.S. tel. 800-447-2931; e-mail fivesislo@btl.net; www.fivesisterslodge.com.*

Directions: From San Ignacio, go 12 1/2 miles on Cristo Rey Rd. to the entrance to the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve, then 4 1/2 miles (watch for sign) and turn right on dirt road, approx 1 mile to Five Sisters. This lodge is on same spur road as Blancaneaux.

★★★ **Hidden Valley Inn.** This lodge has the grandest setting of any lodge in the Pine Ridge, amidst 18,000 acres of private land, waterfalls and 90 miles of wild trails, all owned by the Bull Headley family, who also have timber interests in Florida and Georgia. The facilities, including the main lodge and 12 cottage rooms, are first-rate. That it's not the best lodge in the Pine Ridge is due in part to spotty management and to uncertainty about what will happen with the ownership of the property. More than 100 creeks and streams are on the estate, and no one is sure how many waterfalls there are. Beautiful falls are yours to explore, but only if you are a guest — especially Butterfly Falls, about a 1 1/2 hour hike or short drive and 1/2 hour hike from hotel, where you can swim in a clear mountain pool under the waterfall. Other waterfalls on the estate include 1000-Foot Falls (about two hours on foot from the lodge), King Vulture Falls (45-minute walk) and Tiger Creek Falls (30-minute walk). A small man-made lake, where you can try your luck fishing, is about a 30-minute walk from the lodge. There's no thatch at this lodge — the rooms are in duplex units of hand-laid marle daub construction with tin roofs, tile floors, fireplaces and ceiling fans. Cottages have no phones, TVs or air-conditioning. Generators are run 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; after that, lights are on DC battery system. The central lodge building is attractive, with library, bar, restaurant and television room showing ecovideos. When we've been here, the food has been basic lodge fare, good but not exceptional. Dinner is by candlelight. Coffee, along with bananas, grapes and other fruit are grown on the estate. Rates: US\$207 double, including breakfast, dinner, tax and service. Packages including tours, transfers from Belize City, taxes, service and all meals also are available, from US\$1,012 double for two nights. *P.O. Box 170, Belmopan; tel. 501-8-23320, fax 8-23334; in U.S. 800-334-7942; e-mail info@hiddenvalleyinn.com; www.hiddenvalleyinn.com. Directions: From San Ignacio, go 12 1/2 miles on Cristo Rey Rd. to the entrance to the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve, then 4 miles (watch for sign to Hidden Valley Falls and Inn) and turn left on dirt road to the lodge.*

Under US\$100

★★ **Pine Ridge Lodge.** This is the least expensive lodge in the Pine Ridge, and it's a good value. There are seven thatch cottages near a small creek, close to the road. All have private baths, hot showers and simple but attractive furnishings. Lighting is from kerosene lamps. The American owners have renovated and upgraded the cabañas and have added plantings to the grounds. A thatch palapa serves as restaurant, bar and check-in area. We've often stopped by for a soft drink (Pepsi, no Coca-Cola products here) on the road to Caracol. Rates US\$75 double mid-Nov. to mid-May, US\$55 rest of the year, plus tax and 10% service charge. Rate includes continental breakfast. Lunches are US\$7, dinners US\$17.50. *P.O. Box 2079, Belize City, tel. 501-9-23310, or in the U.S. 800-316-0706; e-mail prlodge@mindspring.com; www.pineridgelodge.com. Directions: From San Ignacio, go 12 1/2 miles on Cristo Rey Rd. to the entrance to the Mountain Pine Ridge reserve, then 4 miles to the lodge, which is beside the road.*

RV Parks/Campgrounds

Ranger Station at Augustine/Douglas deSilva. This collection of frame houses is about 14 miles into the Pine Ridge Reserve. A bed in a bunk house here is US\$7.50, and camping is US\$1. To camp you'll need to get a permit (free) from a ranger when you arrive. We've seen fer-de-lances around the station, so think twice before you camp on the ground. *No telephone.*

Restaurants and Nightlife

The only places to eat in the Mountain Pine Ridge are at the lodges. Hidden Valley Inn's restaurant is for guests only, but the restaurants at **Blancaneaux, Pine Ridge Lodge** and **Five Sisters Lodge** are all open to the public, though it's best to stop in or call ahead if you are not a guest. Blancaneaux's restaurant is a lovely place for a splurge dinner, and both Five Sisters and the Pine Ridge Lodge serve good food at moderate prices (though even at these places dinner for two with a beer and tax will run US\$50.) The only nightlife in the Pine Ridge is watching the stars.

Mountain Pine Ridge Practicalities

Banks: The nearest banks are in San Ignacio.

Internet Access: Lodges may have limited Internet access, but you best forget about checking your e-mail until you get back to civilization.

Groceries: Stock up in San Ignacio.

Real Estate: Most of the land in this area is either government-owned land that is not for sale or is a part of large tracts owned by foreigners. Reportedly the Hidden Valley Inn property is for sale.

Medical: The closest hospitals and physicians are in San Ignacio.

Information: The www.belizex.com Web site has information on the Pine Ridge.

What Readers Say

It is startling to drive and drive down a dusty, dirt road then suddenly turn into the flower-lined driveway leading to the sweeping, beautifully landscaped grounds of BLANCANEUX LODGE perched above a swift-flowing stream. It is an odd dichotomy of primitive rain and pine forest and sophisticated dining and lodging. This resort was featured in *Architectural Digest* in the early 90s and is, if anything, more beautiful now because the landscaping has had a chance to mature. The architecture of the villas is striking with the completely open-air decks overlooking the rushing stream, the soaring ceilings that are beautifully thatched and go up to at least 25 feet, the Japanese baths that are wonderfully tiled and open to the view and smell of towering pine trees, the beautiful furniture that is built to cuddle you in comfort you while you read your favorite book or just gaze at nature and her wonders, and the decoration of bright Guatemalan, Mexican, Honduran, and Belizean handicrafts and woods.

Catherine McCabe and Steven Helm, Van Nuys, California

We recently spent nine days in Belize on our honeymoon and enjoyed every minute of it. The first three nights we spent at BLANCANEUX. It was very nice. The restaurant there has good food. We were on the meal plan, and we felt like we got our money's worth. *Michele and David Chapuis, Stephens City, Virginia*



“Swimming pool” in Privassion River at Blancaneaux