



## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Evergreen Lodge at Yosemite Completes New Expansion & Enhancements**

*Historic lodge offers upscale mountain experience ideal for reconnecting,  
unwinding and rediscovering one of America's favorite national parks*

**YOSEMITE, Calif., Mar. 24, 2009** – [Evergreen Lodge](#), an historic Yosemite resort, completes a significant expansion along with many upgrades this spring. In May, 24 new cedar cabins carefully spaced among towering old growth trees will open and bring the Evergreen's accommodation roster to 90. Other enhancements and additions include a new outdoor dining area and plaza, restored tavern, outdoor event area, spa cabana, and a new games and entertainment hall, among other upgrades.

This classic Yosemite lodge, dating back to the 1920s and located on the western border of Yosemite Park near the [Hetch Hetchy Valley](#), was purchased by San Francisco-based First Light Destinations in 2002. A revived and restored Evergreen Lodge reopened in 2004 with new spacious cedar cabins, as well as the area's first [guided Yosemite recreation program](#). This second expansion, started last year and completed this spring, is part of Evergreen's evolution into an upscale mountain experience with expansive guest and group amenities, services, recreation and accommodations.

"It has been an incredible experience to transform Evergreen Lodge from a few tired summer cabins to the year-round resort we have today," says Lee Zimmerman, partner and owner. "Guests rave about the Evergreen experience and, through our recreation program, discover hidden swimming holes, serene trails and more. As today's travelers are looking not just for better value, but to reconnect with family and nature, we expect our new cabins will be a welcome addition to the available lodging in the Yosemite National Park area."

The 24 new cabins are set in a beautiful old-growth forest and include 10 two-bedroom units and 14 couples cabins, all fully furnished and featuring king beds. The couples cabins feature gas fireplaces. Lead designer for the interiors is the renowned Charles de

Lisle of De Lisle, Philpotts & Staub Interiors in San Francisco. [Room rates](#) for the new and original cabins range from \$99 to \$299 depending on the season and type of cabin.

The enhancements and upgrades start with a new covered outdoor dining area; renovations to the historic tavern; expanded restaurant; and a larger kitchen that now boasts, among other things, a state-of-the-art smoker for fish and game.

The adjacent outdoor plaza was upgraded with a new 1,200-square-foot deck and beer garden, creating a casual gathering spot for guests under the trees. A new kids' play area includes 12-foot native Miwok bark teepees called umachas.

When guests are not outside enjoying the magnificent setting, there is the newly renovated Tuolumne Hall, which is now a games and entertainment area with an impressive range of activities. The hall features a 25-seat movie theater, pool table, shuffleboard, foosball, ping pong and arts & crafts area, a selection of board games and game tables, a dedicated toddler play zone, as well as comfortable sitting areas and guest computers with complimentary Internet for those who must stay connected.

Coyote Hill is a new 3,000-square-foot outdoor event area and is ideal for al fresco gatherings or can be tented when the weather does not cooperate. And finally, a new open-air massage cabana nestled in a private forested area expands the Evergreen's spa services.

The [expanded Evergreen Lodge](#) is an attractive base from which to discover the wonders of Yosemite. Guests can explore on their own or join the Evergreen's [guide service and outdoor recreation](#) program, the most comprehensive in the area. The resort's guided activities offer guests the rare opportunity to experience both Yosemite's most famous attractions and its hidden gems. For more information and cabin reservations, call (800) 93-LODGE or email [info@evergreenlodge.com](mailto:info@evergreenlodge.com).

### **About Evergreen Lodge**

Located on the western border of Yosemite Park near the Hetch Hetchy Valley, the Evergreen is a serene Yosemite destination that blends the modern comforts of a resort, the relaxed approach and activities of a dude ranch and the timeless warmth of a historic 1920s lodge. Evergreen features 90 fully furnished cabins and 15 custom campsites.

First Light Destinations, based in San Francisco and founded by Brian Anderluh, Dan Braun and Lee Zimmerman, purchased the property in 2002. The Lodge is a socially minded business that finances and operates an innovative, behind-the-scenes on-site Youth Employment Program in which a group of high-potential young adults from urban backgrounds work as paid interns, gaining work experience while receiving career and life counselling.

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