

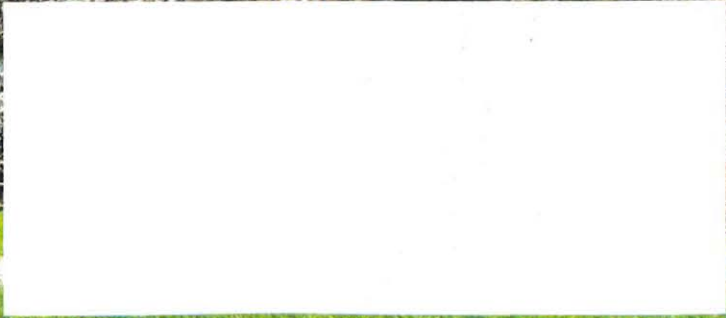
# TRAVEL + LEISURE

Double  
Issue

# MEXICO

DESTINATION OF THE YEAR

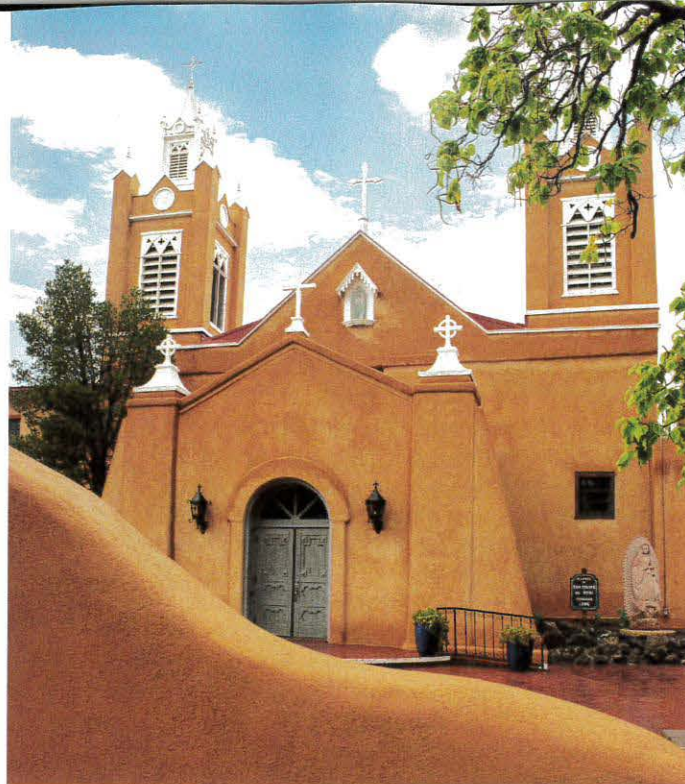
DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022





# All About ABQ

Albuquerque might be best known as the setting for *Breaking Bad*, but the city also has an abundance of only-in-New Mexico food, art, and design. Here, T+L's picks in Old Town—the city's historic adobe heart—and the new Sawmill District development next door. **By Hannah Wallhout**



*Clockwise from above: The 18th-century San Felipe de Neri Church, in Old Town Albuquerque; tacos at Sawmill Market; turquoise jewelry at the Silver Artichoke; Level 5, the rooftop restaurant at Hotel Chaco.*

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## SAWMILL MARKET

This food hall occupies the soaring former warehouse of the Frank Paxton Lumber Co. Stop by for snacks (from arepas and banh mi to a classic New Mexico breakfast burrito), plus local beers and wines, live music in the courtyard, and even mixology and culinary classes. [sawmillmarket.com](http://sawmillmarket.com).

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## HOTEL CHACO

The design mission of this 118-key property is to pay tribute to New Mexico at every possible turn. The lobby calls to mind the kivas—circular rooms used for ceremonial purposes—at Chaco Canyon, a massive Puebloan archaeological complex northwest of the city. Common spaces are filled with art from each of the state's 19 pueblos; flights of regional wine are served in the lounge; and in case you need a reminder of where you are, the rooftop restaurant has some of the best views in town. [hotelchaco.com](http://hotelchaco.com); doubles from \$199.

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## TINY GROCER ABQ

Opened during the pandemic, this store offers locally roasted Moons Coffee and small-batch food products from the surrounding region. Stock up on lavender seltzer from BlueFly Farms, in Peralta; flavored vinegars from Artemisia Herbs, in Dixon; and kimchi from Mi Young's Farm, in Jaconita. [tinygrocerabq.com](http://tinygrocerabq.com).

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## SILVER ARTICHOKE

Silver and turquoise abound in New Mexico, but it's sometimes hard to judge quality or know who made (and who's getting paid for) the jewelry for sale. Owned by fourth-generation Navajo silversmith Nicholas Jackson, the Silver Artichoke displays his and other Native artists' work, from classic bolo ties and pendants to inventive pieces like cuff links made from old Buffalo nickels. [thesilverartichoke.com](http://thesilverartichoke.com).

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## ALBUQUERQUE MUSEUM

The permanent collection explores the state's intersecting cultural and artistic influences—threading a narrative between ancient artifacts, colonial religious iconography, 20th-century masters like Georgia O'Keeffe and Raymond Jonson, and contemporary Native artists like beadworker Teri Greeves and ceramist Janice Ortiz. [cabq.gov](http://cabq.gov).

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## NIZHÓNÍ SOAP COMPANY

The brainchild of 13-year-old Kamia Begay, this vegan bath-products company opened up in Albuquerque earlier this year. Nizhóní's flagship product is a fragrant soap infused

with Navajo tea—dried greenthread, a desert plant—and other ingredients harvested within the Navajo Nation. [nizhonisoaps.com](http://nizhonisoaps.com).

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## BACK ALLEY BRUJAS

A new shop filled with surprising finds like hand-painted Ghanaian movie posters and screen-printed *Thelma & Louise* tees, plus Southwestern-inspired accessories and plenty of crystal-and-candle vibes. [instagram.com/backalleybruja](http://instagram.com/backalleybruja).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF EXPLORA PATAGONIA NATIONAL PARK; RYAN GOBUTY/COURTESY OF HOTEL CHACO; DOUGLAS MERRIAM; JEN JUDGE; DOUGLAS MERRIAM. ILLUSTRATION BY LARA COSTAFREDA





A guided bike tour through Patagonia National Park, now managed by luxury travel company Explora.

## WIDE-OPEN SPACES

With new management and a revamped lodge, one of Chile's crown-jewel parks reaches even greater heights.

By Elizabeth Cantrell

IN THE 1990S, outdoor-world power couple Kristine McDivitt Tompkins (former CEO of clothing brand Patagonia) and Douglas Tompkins (founder of the North Face and Esprit) began buying large swaths of land in Chile and Argentina for conservation purposes. In 2018, three years after Douglas's death, the couple's non-profit, Tompkins Conservation, struck a deal with the Chilean government: it would donate more than 1 million acres of its land back to the public, as long as the government promised to set aside additional territory and create a chain of national parks.

Chile ended up matching the contribution ninefold—

and five new parks were born, including Patagonia National Park, a stretch of 750,000 pristine acres of mountains, glaciers, lakes, and grasslands along the country's southern tip. As of October, the park is operated by Explora, the hotel group that operates luxury properties in some of the continent's most remote areas, including Chile's Torres del Paine and El Chaltén, in Argentina.

"Explora was born in Patagonia nearly thirty years ago," CEO Gonzalo Undurraga says. "So this is a dream come true." The company was awarded a 25-year contract and will put millions into infrastructure upgrades. In fact, Explora has already renovated a 10-room lodge in the Chacabuco Valley, a grassy steppe that's still home to traditional ranchers and farmers. Guests can spend their days on adventures mapped by dedicated guides, including kayaking and trekking the High Lagoons Trail, where it's common to spot condors and eagles. [explora.com](http://explora.com); doubles from \$927 per person, all-inclusive.

## ALBUQUERQUE

