UNIQUE Places

BY CHRISTINE AEBISCHER



AS THE DRIVE BEGAN FROM THE BOISE AIRPORT TO MCCALL, the passing landscape was exactly what someone who has never been to Idaho would expect: sprawling cattle ranches with houses few and far between. But as my destination drew nearer, the mountains became green with soaring ponderosa pines and a rushing river paralleled our route to the charming town of McCall, where glimpses of the sparkling Payette Lake could be seen between the momand-pop shops. Within the first moments of my arrival I was stunned by the natural beauty of the area, and by the end of my trip I was completely hooked.

McCall is a true hidden gem of the Northwest, which is exactly how residents like it, but it is drawing increasing interest through the **Whitetail Club and Shore Lodge**. "McCall is being found, there's no doubt about it," says Joe Carter, Whitetail Club's real estate sales director. Specifically designed to maximize a year-round, outdoor lifestyle, Whitetail Club is a 1,300-acre private mountain community. Nestled in the heart of the Salmon River Mountains, the community is near the southern shores of Payette Lake and the largest area of protected wilderness in the continental U.S., with three major river systems and natural hot springs.

Residents have countless recreational options, from golfing the Andy North-designed course to ski-



ing the nearby Brundage Ski Resort. During my stay, I explored some of the community's 10 miles of mountain biking trails, hiked in nearby Ponderosa State Park, tried my hand at fishing and enjoyed a boat ride on the Payette Lake. Whitetail Club also has access to the neighboring Shore Lodge, which offers the Forbes Travel Guide 4 Star spa, The Cove; beach and marina access; the only theater in town; and some of the finest dining options around.

Whitetail Club offers turnkey cabins, which start in the mid \$800,000s; semi-custom, camp-inspired home designs by renowned architect Jerry Locati, which start at \$1 million; and homesites for buyers to design a completely custom home, which start in the low \$200,000s and extend to over \$1 million. A limited selection of sites feature golf, lake and/or mountain views. Membership options at Whitetail Club include a resident social/sport membership for \$40,000, resident full membership for \$75,000 and non-resident full membership for \$150,000. With their membership, residents enjoy all of the community's amenities, plus the exceptional service that is synonymous with Whitetail Club and Shore Lodge.

"We supply everything. If you want to go skiing, we've got it all for you and your guests. Sleighs, sleds, skates, boats – it's all part of the membership," says Carter. A calendar of events also brings exclusive entertainment, such as a summer concert series, to members. And because the community enjoys a debtfree status, members cannot be assessed.

Whitetail Club members also have access to a 6,000-square-foot Fish & Swim Club and a 14,000-square-foot indoor tennis and fitness center. whitetailclub.com The Cove features indoor and outdoor saltwater immersion pools lined with ldaho granite boulders, which are inspired by the area's natural hot springs. **shorelodge.com**