



Fishing Lodge BOARDWALK LODGE

It took seven years to build Alaska's Boardwalk Lodge on the shores of Prince of Wales Island. Every log was personally selected for quality and character, then, accompanied by flotillas of killer whales and squadrons of bald eagles, towed by boat to Thorne Bay where it was hewn into shape and fitted in place by hand in true sourdough fashion.

Since opening to guests in 1990, the lodge has truly become an international class destination for not only the quality of its fishing, but for its comfort and gourmet dining. Imagine days of marvelous fishing capped off with alder-smoked prime rib, pan-seared Alaska coho salmon or sesame crusted halibut. Only 35 minutes by air from Ketchikan, Boardwalk Lodge features a fleet of sturdy and comfortable enclosed-cabin 28-foot boats for going after salmon and halibut, and its top-notch guides also have access to 23 lakes, rivers and streams for superb fly fishing opportunities.

Orvis-endorsed, as well as a membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited, the lodge embodies not only the spirit of America's Last Frontier, it embodies the standards and ethics that will guarantee that the same spirit of adventure will be available to your children and their children's children for centuries yet to come. — *Bob McKinney*

Rifles - BLASER R8

There is only so much you can do to improve upon the modern hunting rifle. Converting wood, steel, brass and bullets to electronics and laser beams is not going to win many hearts and minds. So how do you compare, how do you judge, how do you decide which rifle represents the best in any one year?

Truth be told, there are no consistent criteria, no standard benchmarks. Selecting a winner hinges on feelings, hunches and esthetics as much as engineering and statistics. Yet all those things came together this year for us gun aficionados at *Sporting Classics* when we chose the Blaser R8 as recipient of our 2010 Rifles Award of Excellence.

Somehow the Blaser engineers have managed to combine just the right proportions of innovation, engineering and design with just the right classic traditions and esthetics in producing the lightning-fast R8. Unlike some new firearms, the R8 doesn't sacrifice classic lines for the sake of novelty. Yet it pushes hard against convention with its unique dropout trigger/magazine; its switch barrel, modular design; its unusual straight-pull bolt and its strong, rotary locking lugs. The removable trigger and cocking mechanism make it one of the safest bolt-action hunting rifles in the world. And, of critical importance to hunters, its total engineering and precision manufacturing make it one of the most accurate, out-of-the-box rifles in history. — *Ron Spomer*

