

THE AUTHORITY ON LIFESTYLE

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\$15.00



*Top Left: The Kootenai's Lindbergh Cabin is a masterfully restored five-bedroom waterfront home rumored to have housed the famous aviator when he visited the grounds.*

*Top Right: Tranquil on-site pool located outside the Kootenai Lodge.*

*Below: The awe-inspiring Kootenai Lodge is centerpiece of the lake-front community. Once a hunting lodge frequented by the likes of John D. Rockefeller and famed artist Charlie Russell, it is now a fully restored amenities building.*

# RESTORED TO PERFECTION

THE KOOTENAI TAKES ITS PLACE AS THE MOST EXCLUSIVE SECOND HOME COMMUNITY IN THE WEST



**T**ucked away in Montana's Flathead Valley is The Kootenai, an exclusive second home community that is unlike any other. Situated on 42 acres of virgin forest along the crystal clear waters of Swan Lake and just outside Bigfork, Montana, The Kootenai has stood for more than 100 years. Once a private retreat for two of the wealthiest mining icons in the country, this lakeside oasis has been restored to become one of the most sought after residential communities in the West.

Perhaps what makes The Kootenai most unique is that it will ultimately be home to only 42 families, making it a close-knit community. Drawn together by a respect for history, a love of Montana and an affinity for crystal clear lakes, these neighbors share the one-of-a-kind experience that is The Kootenai.

The Kootenai was originally built in 1906 when 2,700 acres of Montana wonderland were purchased by Lewis Orvis Evans and Cornelius Kelley, colleagues at the Anaconda Copper Company. Known as "The Copper Kings," they rubbed elbows with the biggest names of the day: Vanderbilt, Morgan, Astor, Carnegie, Rockefeller; and many of these friends were guests at The Kootenai. In 1919, Kelley created a centerpiece for the property that would become a hunting lodge and gathering place for guests. The Kootenai Lodge has since become a perfect example of rustic log architecture.

After changing hands several times, The Kootenai was purchased by brothers Paul and Bob Milhous of The Milhous Group in 2005. The brothers had a passion for the restoration of antiques as well as a successful history in residential real estate development, and thus immediately began restoring The Kootenai. Most of the original buildings onsite were in significant disrepair: foundations had crumbled, roofs were leaking and windows were shattered. With a commitment to using as much of the original materials as possible, the brothers set to work restoring the

Lodge and cabins. After several years of painstaking craftsmanship, The Kootenai's ten cabins, stately barn and Great Lodge have been restored to exceed their original perfection. In addition, The Kootenai is adding 32 new homes designed in the spirit of the original structures. All of the homes are four to five bedrooms with square footage ranging from 3,800 to 6,300. Pricing begins at \$2 million for an unfurnished cabin and up to \$7 million for a fully furnished cabin.

Similar architectural elements unify all of The Kootenai's cabins, yet each is distinctive. One home boasts a wrap-around deck while another features a more generous use of stone. Some homes consist of extra-large rooms for entertaining, while others enjoy cozier spaces such as reading nooks. Both the old and new homes uphold the 1910 ambiance, with features like hardwood floors, rock fireplaces and high open ceilings. Despite the emphasis on history, each home features modern conveniences such as state-of-the-art appliances and computerized lighting systems.

The Kootenai is flush with amenities. The Kootenai Museum is filled with antiques and mementos that belonged to The Copper Kings. There is a heated pool and croquet court as well as a Nature Center, offering programs such as trail safety and birdwatching safaris. There is an on-site, full-service Concierge who can arrange anything from catered in-cabin dinners to canoe tours of Swan Lake.

The 14,000-square foot Lodge is the heart and soul of the community. Its wrap-around deck overlooks Swan Lake and its half-dozen spacious rooms include a card room, media room and lounge and bar. In the center of the Lodge is the outdoor Russell Courtyard, an ideal place for celebrations of all types.

For more information, please visit [www.thekootenai.com](http://www.thekootenai.com) or call (406) 837-3000.