



Mammoth 'musement

“What an incredible *PAINTING!*” I think—only to realize that I’m *looking* out the window of my cabin at Tamarack Lodge and Resort. The snowcapped peaks of California’s Sierra Nevadas *STAND* like the crests of waves against a sky that can only be described as *picture-postcard* blue.



ESCAPE-O-METER

TAMARACK LODGE AND RESORT, MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

Location On the eastern side of the Sierra Nevadas, Tamarack Lodge and Resort (Twin Lakes Road, 800-626-6684 or 760-934-2442, www.tamaracklodge.com) is popular with residents of (or people flying into) San Francisco, Los Angeles and Reno, Nevada, as are the nearby attractions of Mammoth Mountain.

Money One-, two- and three-bedroom refurbished cabins run \$125–\$360 a night. Stylish and modern deluxe cabins run \$290–\$360.

Local Knowledge Rental equipment is available for fishing, canoeing, golf, tennis and mountain biking. Cabins include fully furnished kitchens, so pick up fresh produce and local wine on the way.

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Mammoth Lakes 24

frost and fire working together in the making of beauty.”

Alternatively, we could stay close by, say, riding mountain bikes on the 80 miles of trails in the area or hiking to the lava-extruded columns of the Devil’s Postpile National Monument. Less aerobic would be a round of golf or a gondola ride to the 11,053-foot-high summit of Mammoth Mountain. Or we could always try angling for rainbow trout right in front of our cabin.

Putting a glass of wine in my hand, Anne points out that we could stay even closer and still get some exercise by walking—about 100 feet—to Tamarack’s award-winning Lakefront restaurant and wrestling with the decision of whether to eat French chef Frederic Pierrel’s quail, elk or wild boar.

She has a point. Sipping cab and watching a stellar jay chase the ground squirrels wins out—at least until suppertime.—David Bailey

