



REAL ESTATE | COMPARISON SHOPPING

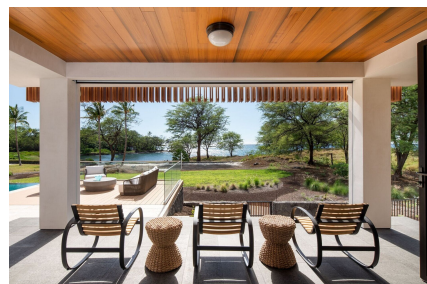
Hotel-Quality Vacation Rentals, Without the Hotel

Luxury renters seek out properties with resort-like amenities

It was around the birth of their third child that staying in a hotel stopped making sense for Joe and Shannon Batal, both 40. Mr. Batal, a sales manager for a home builder in Denver, still wanted hotel-quality amenities, however, and found them in luxury vacation rentals.

The family of seven uses [Inspirato](#), a travel subscription service, to find properties that offer resort-like features. Recently, for example, they stayed at a residence in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, which counted an infinity pool, lounge seating and an outdoor kitchen among the backyard amenities.

“We can just relax and go at our own pace, and not worry about our kids being loud and what not, because they have the place to themselves to play their own music, things like that,” said Mr. Batal.



At Palmetto Bluff, a community in Bluffton, S.C., outdoor amenities such as outdoor kitchens, fire pits and screened-in porches are in high demand, said Bryan Byrne, the broker-in-charge at Palmetto Bluff Real Estate Company. They are so popular that Palmetto Bluff Builders is building eight additional residences adjacent to the Montage Palmetto Bluff hotel.

For rental owners, these luxuries come with challenges. Angie Berlin Brandenburg, 51, a marketing director in Atlanta, owns several properties in the Florida Panhandle along with her husband, Doug Brandenburg, 51. One property, which they share with two other couples in Rosemary Beach, has a pool. It is a feature that the homeowners and renters alike enjoy, but it requires maintenance.

If something, such as a pool pump or heater, breaks at home, it might get put off until it absolutely has to be dealt with. With a rental, however, that is not possible. For them it is worth it, though, as people are willing to pay a premium to stay there, and the co-owners enjoy using it, too. “There’s been labor and heartache and money and investment, but we do love it,” said Ms. Berlin Brandenburg.

Four Luxury Properties for Rent

Scottsdale, Ariz. // \$1,139 average per night

Adjacent to the outdoor pool of this 3,905-square-foot house is a ramada, a roofed shelter that is open on all sides, with a fireplace, built-in barbecue, lounge seating by the outdoor television and a dining area. The pool can be heated for an additional \$225 per night when the house is booked for three or more nights.

In addition to seating areas around the pool, the backyard features a hot tub, outdoor shower, sports court and putting green. There are five bedrooms, an office, four bathrooms and one half-bathroom. The kitchen has granite countertops and a six-burner range. The property is listed by VRBO.

Jackson Hole, Wyo. // \$5,752 average per night

A flat-stone patio, with views of the Teton Range of the Rocky Mountains, sits along the back of this 13,721-square-foot main house. There is an outdoor kitchen, a grill, a bar and lounge areas. The 118-acre property also has ponds, aspen groves, creeks and waterfalls. A marble-surrounded swim jet pool is indoors, along with a wet bar, water feature and hot tub, and opens to the outdoor patio.

Between the main house, the adjacent apartment and the guesthouse there are 10 bedrooms, 12 bathrooms and two half-bathrooms. The main level of the home features a double-sided moss rock fireplace as well as a kitchen with commercial-grade fireplaces, a breakfast bar and two islands. The property is listed by VRBO.



Puako, Hawaii // \$6,419 average per night

The outdoor amenities of this 2-acre property on the Big Island feature a tennis court, a hammock on the beach, a heated pool, outdoor showers and a deck with lounge seating. The house is 7,500 square feet with five bedrooms and six bathrooms.

In the kitchen is a built-in Miele espresso machine, an island and a breakfast bar. Inside, there is a game room and outside there are lawn games such as bocce. The property is listed by VRBO.

Crane Hill, Ala. // \$350 average per night

Located on a 40-acre property is this treehouse that sits 15 feet off the ground. The treehouse has a deck and amenities found on the grounds include a fire pit lounge area, an outdoor shower and a pavilion with a grill connected to the house by a swinging bridge.

There is also access to nature trails and a lake. The house itself has one bedroom and 1½ bathrooms. The property is listed by [Airbnb](#).