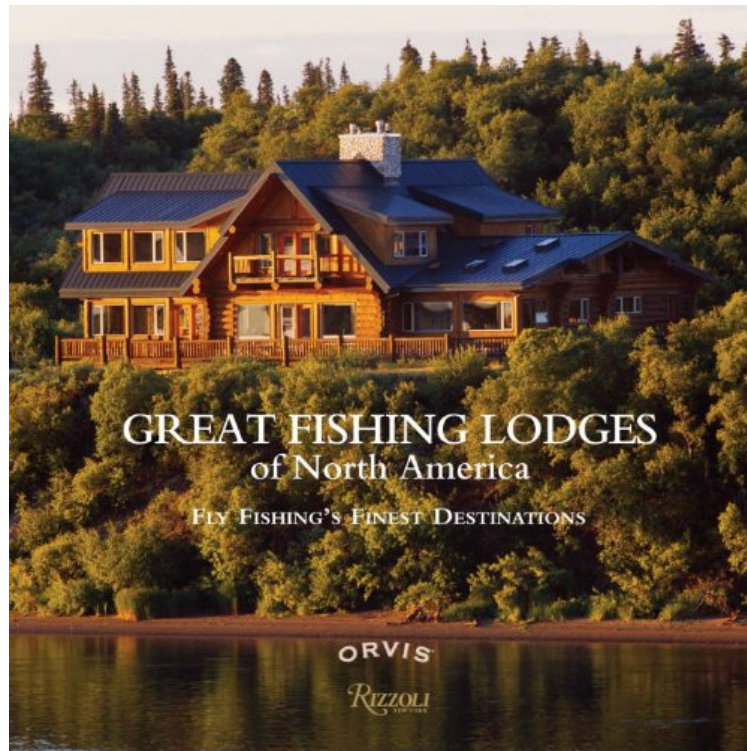


# Great Fishing Lodges of North America: Fly Fishing's Finest Destinations

*Paul Fersen*

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**Paul Fersen : Great Fishing Lodges of North America: Fly Fishing's Finest Destinations** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Great Fishing Lodges of North America: Fly Fishing's Finest Destinations:

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing  
By Andrew Schonbek  
While this is a pleasant enough coffee table book, it falls short as a description of "Fly Fishing's Finest Destinations". Let me elaborate on the basis of the two profiled resorts that are in my neck of the woods... The Essex, Vermont's Culinary Resort and Spa is a nice enough place to stay when you're in the vicinity of Burlington. But I can't imagine anyone mistaking it for a fishing lodge by any stretch of the imagination. While it's located near Lake Champlain (the city of Burlington is right on the lake) it's nowhere near any particularly notable water for the three "target species" (brown, rainbow and brook trout) that are identified. There's lots of great fishing in Vermont, but to get at it from the Essex, you'll be getting into a car and going for a long drive. This doesn't seem to be the experience that most are seeking when they book a reservation at a fishing lodge. Not surprisingly, who you'll run into at the Essex are travelling business people with appointments in Vermont, locals eating at the restaurant, and a general mix of tourists. I've been there a lot (my company used to use its conference rooms for business meetings) and have never spotted anyone who looked vaguely like a fisherman. What is surprising is that Orvis couldn't do better in their home state. The Lake Placid Lodge is a similar story. Yes, it's a beautiful place to stay, and yes, the Adirondacks offer a lot of great fishing, but the LPL is not

really where you'd want to set up shop to access it. It's true that the West Branch of the Ausable is "minutes" from the lodge. How many minutes is a function of the traffic you'll hit driving through Lake Placid in the summer. And the section of the river you'll get to will be crawling with fishermen whose presence is betrayed by their vehicles parked all along the roadside. A pristine fishing destination it surely is not. The West Branch has some great fishing in private water sections further downstream, but to gain access to them you'll have to stay at the Hungry Trout, an OK motel with a good restaurant and a great bar. All you'll meet around the bar is fly fishermen, and the tall tales are told long into the night (as they should be at any real fishing lodge). While the accommodations aren't at a level that would justify inclusion in a book such as this, it's a far finer fly fishing destination than the Lake Placid Lodge. So if you're just interested in daydreaming and looking at pretty pictures, go ahead and leaf idly through the pages of Great Fishing Lodges of North America. If you want to plan your next angling adventure, look somewhere else. Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die is a better bet. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Fishing Lodges of North America By Cynthia E Collins I have a son that goes on Fly fishing trips with friends he has had since the age of 5 every year. He is 35 now. There are 4 of them. He is beyond an avid Fly fisherman. The photos are beautiful. They choose a new place to visit every year to fish. This book was a pleasant surprise for me to give him. He absolutely loved the book !0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great! By BTI bought this for my husband for Christmas. He fly fishes and we love traveling and the outdoors (not to mention good photography), so after a lot of looking around and researching the best fly fishing book to get him, I decided on this one. In his words, he likes it more every time he looks at it, and he gives it 5 stars.

This exclusive tour of North America's most storied fishing lodges puts you on the premiere streams, rivers, lakes, and coasts with a fly rod in hand. Escape on the fishing trip of your dreams with Great Fishing Lodges of North America. From Alaska to Florida, Montana to Maine, and across Canada, this is a must-have for the fisherman who dreams of taking the once-in-a-lifetime trip, or wants to bring the "lodge lifestyle" home. With text by Orviss Paul Fersen, Great Fishing Lodges of North America offers fascinating profiles of each destination, including detailed information on the local waters and its game fish, the lodge, amenities and activities, unique recipes, and game species and wildlife in the area. Images of each lodge and the surrounding countryside complement the beautiful, on-the-water photography by some of America's best outdoor photographers.

"In *A River Runs Through It*, author Norman Maclean considered fly fishing almost as a religion. It's not for everyone but those who do practice the method are passionate about it. In this book, Paul Fersen offers portraits of nearly 50 fly fishing lodges that have been endorsed by Orvis, the sporting goods mail order and retail firm that began in the 1850s as a fly fishing company. Organized into six broad geographical regions, Fersen chooses lodges that are unique in character and ambiance. He begins in Alaska and ends in New Brunswick. Each entry is accompanied by a map and the species of fish in the area. Some of the lodges, such as the Essex in Vermont, double as culinary resorts and spas, while others such as Weatherby's in Maine are a bit more rustic. The area of Montana that Maclean wrote about, the Blackfoot River, also is represented here. The color photography often is magnificent much like the landscapes themselves. Spectacular photographs of the Madison River Valley in Montana or the Grand Tetons in Wyoming are breathtaking in their beauty." ~Chicago Tribune "If you need to feast your imagination on angling destinations where the quality of fishing is matched by the quality of accommodations, dining, and fireside creature comforts, treat yourself to Orviss *GREAT FISHING LODGES OF NORTH AMERICA: FLY FISHINGS FINEST DESTINATIONS* (Rizzoli International Publications, hardbound, 240 pages, \$50). This book stands on its artistic merits as a beautiful photographic album of fly-fishing in North America. But its main purpose is to identify 47 top-drawer fly-fishing venues, some at the edge of what's left of wilderness and some tucked away remarkably close to what passes for civilization. You'll find not only the obvious allure of Alaskan lodges but also of Chatham's Bar Inn on Cape Cod, the Homestead in western Virginia, Blackberry Farm in the Great Smoky Mountains, and the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo. The mountain west and southwest are well represented with more than 20 lodges, ranches, and resorts for all sorts of piscine quarry as well as a half dozen camps and lodges in Canada. Author Paul Fersen offers crisp, informative descriptions of each venue, including, of course, the species to be fished for in these stunning settings. Fersen's book will considerably lengthen your bucket list." ~Gray's Sporting Journal "When it comes to fly fishing, legendary Vermont-based sporting outfitters Orvis is the recognized authority. The company celebrates nearly 50 Orvis-endorsed fly-fishing lodges across the U.S. and Canada in a nifty new book for the armchair angler, *Great Fishing Lodges of North America*. The perfect tool for planning your next outing as well as a rich visual feast for anyone interested in sport fishing or the lodge lifestyle, the book highlights the best destinations from Alaska to Florida, Montana to Maine, and across Canada." ~Luxist About the Author Paul Fersen has been with The Orvis Company for sixteen years. He has been published in *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Fly Fisherman*, and *Fly Fish America*, writes a column for *Stratton Magazine*, co-authored the book *The Art of Fly Fishing*, and wrote *A Peach Tree in an Apple Orchard*. The Orvis Company began in 1856 as a fly-fishing company and is now the nation's oldest mail-order

business.