

# A Little Bit of Heaven

by Colleen Brooks



Of all the places to be during the cold winter months, I can't think of a more enchanting and inviting place than Texas Hill Country. The winter temperatures are more forgiving than most, allowing still plenty of time to get out and about. In addition, the small town traditions and unique celebrations all add to the charm of the season.



A trip to Wimberley is a must this time of year. This idyllic little town is best known for its art galleries, local merchants, beautiful cypress trees, and performing arts. The EmilyAnn Theatre and Gardens hosts their annual Trail of Lights from November 28 to December 29, in addition to "The Christmas Carol" November 28 - December 20, and "Narnia: The Musical" from January 29 - February 21. Wimberley's speciality stores such as Kiss the Cook, Cypress Creek Reserve Rum Distillery, Wimberley Glass Works and the Wimberley Pie Company all offer unique gifts and seasonal accompaniments. For a special evening out, The Leaning Pear provides a locally sourced meal that can be enjoyed inside their dining room, outdoor patio, or in their woody inspired "treehouse" overlooking

Cypress Creek. Trattoria Lisina, located just outside of Wimberley in neighboring Driftwood, is the perfect place to celebrate a romantic dinner for two.

The town of New Braunfels also has a lot to offer! The Long Shot Wine Bar and Tasting Room is the historical site of New Braunfels' oldest house, which was built in 1847. Naegelin's Bakery is Texas' oldest bakery and has been in the business for 147 years. Their bakery case and shelves will tempt and satisfy your taste buds with many seasonal classics. For unique gifts and accessories, stop by the Perky Peacock, Uptown Chic Boutique, or design your own keepsake at Painting with a Twist. Blue Moose Italian Pizza Kitchen is a must for a nice evening out, where fresh homemade pasta is made daily. Myron's Prime Steakhouse is a very popular destination to unwind or to simply enjoy a romantic dinner.

Gruene is magical any time of year, and the winter months are no exception! This former cotton gin town is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is home to Texas' oldest dancehall, Gruene Hall. In addition to its rich history, Gruene also offers plenty of shopping where you can find handcrafted Texas accessories and home accents. Gruene Lake Village is home to several speciality shops such as Alibi Boutique, The Purple Chair Children's Bookstore, and The Republic Cigar Humidor Shop. For a memorable dining experience, Executive Chef Collin Campion and his staff at The Gruene Door will cook up a delicious meal made from scratch. On one of our warmer days, stop by the Gristmill River Restaurant and Bar in the Gruene Historic District to enjoy great food showcased with a beautiful hill country view.

There's truly something for everyone in Texas Hill Country, and we're sure glad you're here. Enjoy your time in our "little bit of heaven!"