

and vacuum-seals your harvest, so you can take it home more easily.

Bienville Plantation White Springs, Florida

The vast wetlands of Bienville Plantation — hidden on a bend on the Suwannee River, just south of the Georgia border — are a popular pit stop on the waterfowl flyway into eastern Florida. But to focus on the 14 species of ducks that frequent there would only be telling part of the story. Its hardwood hammocks and pine forests teem with birds, and its 4,000-acres of bass fishing are unequaled in the state. Lodgings consist of five Southern-style 5-bedroom cottages with beamed ceilings, pine walls, and long front porches. Alligator hunting is also available on the property. There are 45 deer stands on property, and the deer population is healthy and large — due to the limited access to Bienville Plantation, and because hunters are only allowed to shoot bucks with an 8-point rack or higher.

Cheyenne Ridge Pierre, South Dakota

Akin to Graceland for Elvis fans and Napa Valley to wine aficionados, South Dakota is where wing shooters go for America's finest pheasant hunting. Without question, a premier setting for wing shooting is Cheyenne Ridge Signature Lodge, which has more than 4,000 acres of diverse hunting terrain.

Among the meadows, cornfields, river bluffs, creek bottoms and rolling hillsides near the lodge, you'll find North America's largest population of Chinese ring-necked Pheasant. When autumn comes around, there may not be a more electric feeling in the air than when you and your hunting buddies push through the fields, flushing literally hundreds of birds into the air. During a season, additional



Pine Hill Plantation was recommended by The Orvis Company to CNBC for a story on "The Business Behind High-End Quail Hunting."

birds are released and join with the wild pheasants to make for an incredible wing shooting adventure.

The first hunting lodge in the world to receive a Beretta Trident for excellence in upland bird hunting, Cheyenne Ridge Signature Lodge was awarded its second of three possible Beretta Tridents earlier in 2011. Similar to the Michelin Star program for fine dining and accommodations, the Beretta Trident assures guests they'll have an exceptional visit. Fewer than 5 percent of destinations worldwide would merit a single Trident.

Not only is the family-owned and operated lodge distinguished from other pheasant hunting lodges in South Dakota by its Beretta Trident rating, it also has 33 guest rooms and suites, each comfortably appointed and designed for single occupancy with a private bath. After being welcomed by the staff, guests gravitate to the Great Room, whose two-plus story height alone is enough to impress. Massive hewn beams and posts, hardwood floors and large windows combine with two leather couches, a pair of leather chairs and a "conversation island" in front of the fireplace with additional seating to make you feel right at home.

Deer Creek Lodge Sebree, Kentucky

Native Americans knew the hilly Deer Creek Basin of northwest Kentucky as fertile hunting grounds, and the reputation still stands today. The Deer Creek Lodge sits among prime habitat for upland game birds, waterfowl, and whitetails. On the property, it maintains more than 500 acres of native grasses, clover, and alfalfa, and it plants corn, milo, wheat, and sunflowers, which provide food and cover. The main building was built in the early 19th century, and Deer Creek Lodge became a commercial operation 25 years ago. Only eight hunters are accepted per hunt, with 8-point minimum harvests. The upland bird hunting is no-limit, and you can expect 18 to 24 coveys flushed in a full day.

For added privacy, there's the 10-year-old auxiliary lodge, with three bedrooms, two baths, kitchen and full bar.

Pine Hill Plantation Donalsonville, Georgia

What makes Pine Hill Plantation south Georgia's finest quail hunting destination? Here are the highlights: Authentic south Georgia plantation quail hunting experience from horse back and mule drawn wagon; private, luxury plantation lodges with private house staff and dining; and, finally, Georgia's best wild quail and early-season release with lots of covey rise shooting opportunity. Explore 6,000 acres of natural quail habitat for the ultimate sporting experience.

Pine Hill Plantation was handpicked by The Orvis