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## PRIVATE PROPERTIES

# Taos Ranch Goes to the Auction Block

Known as Blackstone Ranch, the New Mexico property is heading to auction with a reserve price of \$19 million—a 65% reduction from its original asking price.



A New Mexico ranch is slated to go on the auction block in December. PARAMOUNT REALTY USA

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By *Katherine Clarke*

Sept. 6, 2018 10:48 a.m. ET

A sprawling 190-acre ranch near Taos, N.M., is slated to go on the auction block Dec. 6 with a reserve price of \$19 million, a 65% haircut off its original asking price.

The property first listed last summer for \$55 million, then was taken off the market after a few months, according to Misha Haghani of Paramount Realty USA, the auction house handling the sale. The seller had listed the property himself.

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Known as Blackstone Ranch, the property comprises 15 structures, including a roughly 27,000-square-foot main house, a nearly 10,000-square-foot guest house, a

greenhouse and barns for horses and livestock. The main house is adobe style and has traditional Southwestern details such as hand-carved wood furniture and native prints. It also comes with a yoga and a meditation room and a dining room that could accommodate up to 150 people, according to Paramount.

The ranch is located about half a mile from the town of Taos, which is known as Santa Fe's hipper sister and has attracted residents like Georgia O'Keeffe and D.H. Lawrence. It is about 20 miles from the Taos Ski Valley and about 50 miles from Santa Fe. Mr. Haghani said the ranch is permitted for multiple alternative uses, including as a corporate wellness retreat or a conference or religious center. It could also be an operational ranch.

The seller is Samuel P. Black III, an investor in the biodiesel industry. He bought the land in 2003 and constructed most of the structures from scratch, to the total tune of about \$45 million, Mr. Haghani said.

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