



**LONESOME VALLEY**  
CASHIERS, NORTH CAROLINA

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## **FACT SHEET**

### **LONESOME VALLEY**

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Lonesome Valley has been a natural work in progress for millions of years. The granite faces of its high cliffs have been polished by glaciers, sculpted by wind and rain, and burnished by the sun. The property serves as a haven for those who seek a closer connection with nature, a simpler way of life and the satisfaction of time well spent with family and friends.

[www.lonesomevalley.com](http://www.lonesomevalley.com)

#### **HISTORY:**

Lonesome Valley is the last remaining expanse of a primeval forest that has remained in one family's nurturing hands for four generations. Originally encompassing much of the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, the 35,000-acre property was purchased by Pittsburgh oilman E.H. Jennings and a group of his industrialist friends in the late 1800s. In the 1920s, Jennings' son, Richard, started developing the family properties and built five incredible inns, including The Toxaway Inn on Lake Toxaway, The Fairfield Inn in Sapphire and The Franklin Inn in Macon County.

Two decades later, Richard Jr., a Yale-educated engineer, returned to the majestic mountains determined to preserve the remaining 800 acres of his family's property. "Pa," as Richard Jr. was affectionately known, married Frances in 1950, and they had three children: Sally, Richard III (Dick) and Binford. Pa rode, fished and hunted his property, and began mink farming and raising trout for food. Life as a young family in Lonesome Valley took on an almost pioneer existence. The Cashiers Valley Trout Farm sustained them, and to this day, the Jennings' trout farming continues under the leadership of daughter Sally Jennings Eason at Sunburst Trout Farm in Waynesville, N.C.

Over the years, Richard Jr.'s three children managed Lonesome Valley. In order to preserve their father's commitment to stewardship of the land, the family decided that if change and development were inevitable, they would prefer to oversee the effort themselves. Today, Lonesome Valley is a true southern Appalachian farmstead with conservation areas, dedicated

common spaces, responsible deed restrictions and thoughtful architectural guidelines that ensure the Jennings' legacy will be protected for future generations.

#### **PROPERTY:**

Lonesome Valley is a private, 800-acre gated community in Cashiers, N.C., framed by verdant forests and meadows encircled by thousand-foot granite cliffs. When fully developed, fewer than 180 homes will be built, with the remainder of the land being held in conservation.

Lonesome Valley's architectural designs reflect the rich, regional tradition of Southern Appalachia. The Jennings family and Lonesome Valley's Architectural Review Program created a purposeful design of expansive home sites and nearly 300 acres of common green areas that reflect an uncommon respect for the land and all who reside upon it. Each detail has been thoughtfully considered with an eye toward creating harmony with nature, such as timbered bridges, tin roofs, poplar bark siding, stacked stone chimneys and native landscaping. All utilities, including electric, phone and Internet, are underground, along with environmentally-responsible central community water and wastewater systems. Homes and outbuildings blend with their natural settings and exist in proper scale within their environment.

#### **CASHIERS AREA:**

Cashiers is located on a massive 3,500-foot plateau in the Blue Ridge Mountains, with hundreds of waterfalls, serene lakes, granite-faced mountains and rich flora and fauna. The charming area is known for its variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, skiing, fly fishing, mountain climbing, golf, tennis and croquet. Cashiers is also home to an array of arts and cultural festivals.

Less than 10 miles away is Highlands, a popular mountain community with a walkable downtown offering boutique shops, fine dining, museums, galleries, theater and live music venues. Cashiers and Highlands offer more than 25 restaurants to choose from, including Lonesome Valley's own Canyon Kitchen. The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is located between the towns, and offers state-of-the-art care and some of the leading specialists in the nation.

Also nearby is [Summit Charter School](#), offering an extraordinary education for K – 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Summit Charter School, founded in 1997, prepares students beyond the Common Core and N.C. Essential Standards and instills a sense of responsibility and stewardship. Summit Charter School was one of the first charter schools in North Carolina. The beautiful 25-acre campus is located a few miles from Lonesome Valley.

#### **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Lonesome Valley's natural environment beckons you to explore the outdoors, including its lake, fly fishing, rock climbing, hiking, boating, and gardening. Just beyond Lonesome Valley's gates are additional opportunities for adventure. Nearby, Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests offer

hundreds of thousands of acres of nature waiting to be discovered for mountain biking, hiking, river rafting, snowboarding and more. Indoors, residents and visitors enjoy Lonesome Valley's workout facility, featuring state-of-the-art equipment.

<http://lonesomevalley.com/project/recreation>

#### **DINING:**

Chef John Fler opened Lonesome Valley's Canyon Kitchen in May 2009 in the rustically elegant Jennings Barn, located at the front of the 800-acre property. John continues to provide direction and support to Canyon Kitchen. In 2015, Adam Hayes was named executive chef.

Canyon Kitchen is located in one of the most beautiful restaurant settings in the country, with views of forest, meadows and granite cliffs softened with old-growth evergreens. Located within Jennings Barn, Canyon Kitchen is positioned at the front of the 800-acre property, where the dress code is "mountain casual," in keeping with the landscape. The culinary team uses fresh produce and organic selections from the community garden, the apple orchard and the surrounding area of western N.C. to create extraordinary farm-to-table menus. Sample menu selections include Spring Strawberry Salad with wild arugula, Looking Glass Chèvre, fig vincotto, sunflower seeds and orange sabayon dressing; Sunburst Trout Roulade with Wild Ramp Remoulade; Ashley Farms Chicken Ballotine with grilled asparagus, farro and spinach, oyster mushrooms, creamed ramps, preserved lemon jus and crispy Vidalias; and Truffle Brioche Doughnut with Caramelized White Chocolate and Black Truffle Dulce De Leche.

Canyon Kitchen is open May – October, and hosts special events and wine dinners throughout the season.

#### **EVENTS:**

Voted "Best Wedding Venue in North America," by BizBash (a leading resource for the event and meeting industry), Lonesome Valley forms the perfect backdrop for weddings, corporate meetings, executive retreats and intimate gatherings. Nestled in the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains, Lonesome Valley's rustic yet elegant locale is home to Jennings Barn <http://lonesomevalley.com/events/>. The Barn is a delightful event facility, consisting of large indoor and outdoor-stacked stone fireplaces; massive exposed ceiling beams; unique rope basket light fixtures; and multiple barn doors that open to create a pavilion-style atmosphere.

#### **CANYON SPA:**

Canyon Spa opened its doors to the public in June 2014. Housed in the newly renovated Caretaker's Cottage in the front of the community, Canyon Spa offers a full array of natural body and facial treatments, therapies and products, all promoting wellness and relaxation. The boutique spa has three treatment rooms, intimate waiting areas and changing rooms. Many of Canyon Spa's handcrafted, nurturing treatments will use farm-fresh ingredients from the garden of Canyon Kitchen. For more information or reservations, please call (828) 743-0006.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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Open May through October. <http://lonesomevalley.com/project/canyon-kitchen/>

Canyon Spa: 828-743-0006

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