

## Ranch at Rock Creek: The Bear Trap Cocktail

Located on 6,600 acres, the lavish Ranch at Rock Creek offers incredibly stylish rooms, suites, houses and tented accommodations in what is a personal and gorgeous interpretation of a Wild West adventure, surrounded by pure Big Sky Montana, with soaring mountain and sloping hillsides, fairy-tale pine forests, seemingly endless meadows and, of course, a river that runs through it all, that happens to be one of the premier sporting streams in the region.

*Montanans take pleasure in foraging for seasonal ingredients. Guests who visited us in the spring might have enjoyed cuisine filled with flavorful morel mushrooms, gathered in the local forest. Once Flathead cherries season wraps up, huckleberry season will be upon us. As late July turns warmer, the berries will ripen and will disappear fast thanks to foraging animals—bears and humans alike. Huckleberries grow on small, mountain bushes that float just a few feet above the ground, making them labor intensive to pick.*

*They are favored by bears, who either grasp the berries in bunches or strip the berries from the branches by pulling the entire branch through their mouth, leaves and all. Although grizzly bears don't call The Ranch at Rock Creek home and black bear sightings are rare, we have a drink on the Great Room menu that might beckon our ursine friends to cocktail hour. The Bear Trap features local ingredients, like huckleberry preserves, fresh sage and our favorite regional vodka.*



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### **RECIPE:**

- 1.5 oz of 44° North Idaho Huckleberry Vodka, or other local vodka
- 2-3 sage leaves, muddled
- ½ oz of fresh lemon juice
- 1 heaping spoonful of huckleberry preserves, about 2 tsp
- Club soda

### **METHOD:**

1. Combine vodka, huckleberries, lemon juice and sage leaves in a cocktail shaker, half-filled with ice.
2. Shake vigorously until combined.

3. Strain into a rocks glass filled with ice.
4. Add club soda until glass is full.
5. Before garnishing, slap the sage leaf between your palms. This will stir up the leaf's essential oils and enhance the leaf's fragrance.
6. Garnish with a sage leaf and serve.  
and improves your overall mood and sleep patterns.