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# BOERNE

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## BUSINESS MONTHLY

**Ye Kendall Inn**  
Boerne's Home of Hospitality, Cuisine and Lodging Since 1859

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## Ye Kendall Inn

Boerne's Home of Hospitality, Cuisine and Lodging Since 1859

by Lauren T. Stumberg

**T**he historical ambiance is what initially attracts most visitors to the Ye Kendall Inn, however it is the combination of the unique atmosphere and modern luxuries that keep them coming back. For over 150 years the Kendall Inn has served those looking for an idyllic environment to relax and unwind. Today, the newly restored Kendall Inn has everything both guests and locals could desire.

Since purchasing the property in 2000, owners Ed and Elisa McClure and Dr. Pete Leininger have made millions of dollars of improvements to the Inn. Those improvements include Kendall Halle, a completely modern convention center capable of accommodating up to 400 people, the addition of 18 guest rooms for a total of 36 rooms, suites and cottages, a mercantile building that houses The Loft Salon, Spa and Pilates, and dramatic improvements to enhance the charm and allure of the property. On-site at Ye Kendall Inn there is also Tavern 128 which is a full-service bar, the Kendall Provisions Company and the award-winning Limestone Grille.

Situated right in the middle of Boerne on the Town Square and the Cibolo Creek, Ye Kendall Inn is perfectly positioned to provide out of town guests with a true hill country experience and convenient enough for locals to partake of all that it

PICTURED ABOVE: Dr. Pete Leininger, Elisa McClure, Taylor McClure-Covington and Ed McClure. Photo by Ron Pritchett, Pritchett Photography

has to offer as well.

The Inn's historic charisma and beautiful setting make it a popular destination for weddings, family reunions and corporate retreats. "The charm of the place is hard to get past," says Dr. Leininger. Though the grounds of the Inn do most of the enticing, Ed and Elisa's daughter Taylor McClure-Covington, the Director of Catering and Wedding Specialist, is invaluable in making sure that the rest of the details are taken care of. A large part of Ye Kendall Inn's business comes from these special events and catering, and Taylor works tirelessly to make sure they go off without a hitch!

"All the events at the Inn can be completely customized," says Taylor. "Many people assume we only do really high-end, upscale events. However, we can do anything from hamburgers or bar-b-que to lobster and multi-course dinners." Their culinary team will customize menus and venues to meet your needs, whatever they may be. From dining under the stars in the courtyard, to relaxing after a productive day by our outdoor fireplace, the experienced staff of the Kendall Inn will assist you in planning a successful event.

In addition to catering, the Kendall Inn is home to the Limestone Grille, which is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant rivals all in the Hill Country with a unique menu that is comparably priced to others in the area. Mike McClure, Ed McClure's brother, is the Chef of the Limestone Grille. He, along with Ed, Elisa and Dr. Leininger all work together to create an experience that is both diverse and delicious.

The wine list available at the Limestone Grille stands out among any restaurant, which has been proven by their 9-year run as a recipient of the prestigious *Wine Spectator Magazine's* Award of Excellence. According to Elisa, "We have really carved out a unique niche when it comes to our wine list. We have special monthly wine dinners in which we feature superb wine selections paired with impeccable food."

Another fabulous amenity the Kendall Inn offers is the availability of The Loft Salon, Spa and Pilates. Here, guest of the Inn and locals alike are invited to delight in the art of pampering. The convenience of The Loft is phenomenal. It eliminates the need to travel beyond Boerne for a professional salon and spa. Their knowledgeable staff will help to plan the perfect experience, even suggesting the best sequence of your treatments. Services include everything from hand and foot rituals, waxing, massage, body and spa treatments, hair and styling, makeup and tinting, hydro-therapy and even medical spa treatments and a Power Pilates Studio.

Kendall Provisions Company, located inside

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## Historical Significance

The Kendall Inn is one of the few remaining 19th century hotels in Texas. It is both a Texas and a national landmark that has given shelter to many famous people including Jefferson Davis, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Robert E. Lee.

The history of the Kendall Inn begins in 1859 when John James sold the land where the Kendall Inn stands to Erastus and Sarah Reed for \$200. The Reeds came to Boerne from Georgia, where they had operated and managed hotels. They began construction of the two-story inn shortly after their arrival and used the local buttery yellow limestone for the structure's walls. The "Reed House" had wide galleries and tall windows, which opened to take maximum advantage of the area's steady breezes. The inn faced south on Boerne's main square, where stagecoaches, cattle drives and army supply convoys congregated. Boerne was an ideal location for a hostelry, located in the halfway point on the main road from San Antonio to Fredericksburg and the Inn prospered.

Reed permitted cattlemen to pen their livestock near the hotel, and the ranchers and trail bosses would sleep in the hotel while the cowboys remained outside with the cattle. Cattle, however, were not the only variety of livestock, which were driven along the San Antonio road. During this time the experimental Camel Corps of the Southwest made a stopover at the Kendall Inn. Major H.C. Wayne of the U.S. Cavalry was in charge of the importation of camels for use at the forts in the southwest. The project was the inspiration of Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis. The camels were staked in front of the Inn on Boerne's Main Plaza and were tended to by two Arabs and a Turk who were hired to train cavalry in the proper use of camels. Col. Robert E. Lee, stationed at Fort Mason in the Hill Country, was also a frequent visitor of the Inn and was a patron of the Inn's dining room shortly before he resigned his Army Commission on the eve of the Civil War.

In 1869 Col. Henry C. King purchased the Inn from the Reeds and advertised Boerne's dry Mediterranean climate as an ideal resort for asthma sufferers, victims of tuberculosis and other respiratory ailments. He renamed the hotel the "King Place" and arranged to have the hotel made a stagecoach stop. King did not remain in Boerne long, however, because he was elected to State Senate in 1872. His wife, Jean Adams Portland King remained in Boerne and managed the hotel hosting a widely varied clientele. King's prolific Senate career included appointments to the Committee on Indian Affairs, the Commission for Canals and Ditches, the Commission on Navigation and Irrigation and the Commission for the Sale and Lease of School Lands, which funded the State's infant university system. In 1875, King was a delegate to the State's Constitutional Convention, which was the basis for the return of local

government after Reconstruction. From 1877 to 1879, King was editor of the San Antonio Express, one of the State's largest daily newspapers. President Benjamin Harrison appointed King as the Democratic Commissioner from Texas to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, his last public office before retirement.

In 1878, J.C. Roundtree and W.L. Wadsworth, two Dallas businessmen, purchased the Inn from King and added the two flanking wings which housed the guest rooms. The wings were harmoniously proportioned and significantly were built in the same vernacular Greek Revival style as the original main block.

Greek Revival was by 1878 a very conservative style, even in Texas where it enjoyed great popularity. The austere simplicity of the Inn was an unusual contrast to the more exuberant Victorian styles, which were coming into vogue in Texas at that time. Roundtree and Wadsworth obtained regular stagecoach service with the hotel as an overnight stop. The name of the Inn was changed to the "Boerne Hotel," and livery stables were constructed near the square for guests and stage line horses.

In 1884 the Inn was purchased by James T. Clark, a financier, and placed under the management of two men named Brown and Woolfs. The hotel was advertised as a health resort and special arrangements were made to accommodate different dietary regimens prescribed by various doctors. Free daily stagecoach service was provided to and from San Antonio, and a staff of local doctors remained on call for the hotel's guests. As a special service, nurses and servants were accommodated at half price.

Dr. J.H. Barnitz of San Antonio acquired the Inn in 1909 and maintained it as a health resort. Dr. Barnitz gave the Inn its present name and installed electrical wiring and community bathrooms.

In 1922 Robert L. and Maude Hickman purchased the Inn. Mr. Hickman was Mayor of Boerne in the 1920's and 1930's and arranged to have the municipal swimming pool built near the Inn. They also began many important steps to modernize the hotel, including the installation of private baths.

Mrs. W.F. Grinnan bought the Kendall Inn in 1960 and made her home there. She closed the Inn for repairs and restoration of the extensive galleries, which face the square and planned to reopen the Inn to the public.

Some little know facts about the Kendall Inn include evidence in the cellar of a tunnel which is said to connect the old hotel with another building a block away. The tunnel was used for protection against wandering bands of hostile Indians.

The main structure is constructed of native rock walls, which are 20' thick. The front porch facing south has excellent exposure for staying cool in the hot summers.




of Ye Kendall Inn is a great place to find an incredible selection of wines and eclectic gifts. Wine selection includes the awesomely affordable to the most collectible from around the world. You can even purchase the Limestone Grille's own food products to take home and enjoy.

All the Ye Kendall Inn offers makes it a favorite destination for corporate retreats and conferences. "In 2007 we added a Challenge Course for use by corporations and universities looking to incorporate team building exercises into their programs," says Ed McClure. The Kendall Inn's over 5,000 square foot of indoor meeting space in their Kendall Halle includes a flexible floor plan, dividable into 4 separate rooms, built in sound system, high speed wireless internet, flexible lighting, and availability of audio/visual equipment. The Inn also offers several open air, outdoor settings for breaks or smaller gatherings.

Something exclusive to Ye Kendall Inn is their Club 128 Rewards Program. Here, loyal customers can sign up to earn points at any of the 5 retail locations on the Kendall Inn campus. Membership is simple and free, all you have to do is sign up and begin earning points on all of your purchases at Kendall Inn, Limestone Grille, Kendall Provisions Company, and The Loft Salon, Spa and Pilates. As a member you will earn one point for every dollar spent. When you earn 500 points, they will reward you with a gift of \$25.00 to use when you are here. Club 128 Rewards members will also be eligible for special "members only" promotions and offers simply by presenting their

Pictured Left to Right: Interiors of The Loft Salon, Spa and Pilates; The Rose Room at Kendall Inn

Club 128 Rewards card. Your birthdays and anniversaries are cause for celebration and Kendall Inn celebrates BIG by sending you exclusive gifts to honor those occasions. Club 128 is their way of saying thank you for being a member and visiting Kendall Inn.

It's clear that the owners of Ye Kendall Inn are constantly trying to improve the facility and add to its appeal. Dr. Leininger shares, "The opportunity presented itself for us to get involved in this wonderful and intriguing piece of history. We saw it as a great way to develop a business, all the while doing something nice for both the Inn and the city of Boerne." 

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**[www.YeKendallInn.com](http://www.YeKendallInn.com)**

To receive emails regarding special promotions at Ye Kendall Inn, email [info@yekendallinn.com](mailto:info@yekendallinn.com) and request to be added to their email promotions list.



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