



## *e-newsletter: Holiday 2011*

YOUR PERSONAL TAOS CONNECTION

Taos, New Mexico

*#1 Real Estate Company in the Taos Area*

## **NORTHERN NEW MEXICO PUEBLOS CELEBRATE**



As tradition unfolds, the holidays center around many of the cultural events in New Mexico. The Pueblos are wonderful gatherings to experience. With snow covered grounds and the crispness in the air, northern New Mexico comes alive throughout the holiday season. Travelling between Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos, you pass several Indian pueblos or villages. Throughout the year there are feast days, dances and other public events to which visitors are always welcome.

### ***Calendar of Events***

**Dec 12** Pojoaque Pueblo: Guadalupe Feast Day; Jemez Pueblo: Matachines dances

**Dec 24** Sundown torchlight Procession of the Virgin, Vespers and Matachines Dances at Taos, Picuris and Ohkay Owingeh/San Juan Pueblos; Acoma Pueblo luminarias and dances; Mass and dances at Laguna, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Tesuque Pueblos

**Dec 25** Matachines and various dances at Laguna, Picuris, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Ohkay Owingeh/San Juan, Tesuque, Taos and Zia Pueblos

**Dec 26** Turtle Dance at Ohkay Owingeh/San Juan Pueblo; various dances at Santo Domingo Pueblo

**Dec 28** Holy Innocents Day; children's dances at Santa Clara and Picuris Pueblos

**Jan 1** Most Pueblos: Various dances, Transfer of Canes of Authority to new Tribal Officers

**Jan 1** Taos Pueblo: Turtle Dance, marking the beginning of the new year

**Jan 1** Santo Domingo Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan) Pueblo: Corn Dance

**Jan 6** Most pueblos: King's Day Celebration in honor of new Tribal Officers, Antelope, Buffalo, Deer dances

**Jan 6** Taos Pueblo: Deer or Buffalo Dances

## The Story of the Matachines



Dancers known as Matachines appear, in many-colored silk capes and streaming ribbons, are led by a blanket-draped figure holding a cross. Amid pulsating flames and clouds of white smoke, the dancers throw fantastic shadows on the adobe walls, as the silent crowd of Indians look on. There are always 10 dancers, two masked clownlike figures called arbuelos, Toro the bull, and Malinche, a little girl dressed in white communion clothes. Music is provided by one fiddler and one guitar player.

The Matachine, described by one anthropologist as a "midwinter drama from Iberia," is the dance most often seen. Of medieval Hispanic-Moorish origin, it was brought to Central America and the Caribbean by the Spaniards and, in 1598, crossed the Rio Grande into New Mexico. Introduced to the Pueblo Indians by Franciscan friars as a counter to the "devilish, heathen" ceremonial dances of the Indians, it was quickly adopted by the Pueblos as an integral part of their rituals.

Each dancer wears a headdress that is shaped like a bishop's miter, decorated with silver and turquoise ornaments and adorned with a feather on each side. From the top and back of the headdress flutter long multicolored ribbons, and over the dancers' shoulders are draped blue, pink and green shawls of shining silk. In one hand the Matachines carry a three-pronged wooden wand, which they wave back and forth in rhythm with the music. In the other hand they hold a gourd, which rattles softly. The dancers' faces are hidden by black eye-fringes and silk bandanas worn "bandit style" over nose and mouth. The Matachines' leader, called Monanca, is distinguished by his fully beaded Plains Indian vest and special miter topped with a small crucifix.

Malinche, named after Cortes's famous Indian interpreter and companion is usually played by a girl about 10 years old, wearing a white dress and white deerskin moccasins and leggings, a sparkling diadem upon her head. As she daintily performs her dance patterns, Malinche represents goodness and purity. Her opposite is Toro the bull, played by a boy with a horned buffalo headdress. He supports himself on two sticks, his "forelegs." As Malinche stands for chastity, the little bull represents violence and lust. As the Matachines weave back and forth in parallel lines, the two arbuelos, carrying long whips, do a little clowning and untangle the dancers' ribbons whenever needed.

The Taos Matachines dance around a 15-foot-high pole reminiscent of European Maypoles. Long sashes, fastened to the pole's top, are wound and unwound as the Matachines dance around it.

## SKI NEW MEXICO

### "Make Santa Find You This Year"

New Mexico ski areas make the news: Mother Nature gives us the boost and best early snow in years. Press "ctrl" button on web addresses below and click.

First hand report – skiing at Taos Ski Valley is terrific for so early in the season!

[www.onthesnow.com/new-mexico/skireport.html](http://www.onthesnow.com/new-mexico/skireport.html)

Oprah considers Taos Ski Valley as one of the *other* "8 wonders of the world".....

<http://www.oprah.com/world/8-Places-to-Escape-the-Holidays/1>

[N.M. ski season off to a stellar start](#)

MSNBC Mon, 28 Nov 2011 12:26 PM PST

From Red River and **Taos** south to the mountains around Ruidoso, New Mexico's ski areas enjoyed a stellar start to what many thought would be a questionable season given the dry conditions that have plagued the state for the past year.



## **WHAT'S NEW AT PRUDENTIAL TAOS REAL ESTATE**

**QR Codes:** Whip out your smart phone, go to your app, scan and see our website!

**1<sup>st</sup> timer?** Download FREE a QR Code Reader by visiting your app store.



## **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Property Management for long-term rentals is part of Prudential Taos Real Estate. Finding tenants for our clients' properties is something we have done for 24 years. We have found that many properties are becoming rentals because they are slow selling, yet expenses don't go away.

We have the services of handyman, contractor, bill paying, credit checks, security, and emergency contacts under one umbrella. With web advertising, including a rental division on the [www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com](http://www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com), we can make connections.

Hire the people you have trusted. We can save you time, work and stress. You are shielded from tenant concerns, Prudential being your contact. We look forward to a professional relationship between Company and property owner as well as Company and tenant. As a service industry, the team at Prudential Taos Real Estate is here to accommodate your property needs.

***"Do business with the real estate professionals who are doing the business."***

## **Information**

**Taos Multiple Listing Service:**

(MLS) from the website, [www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com](http://www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com) enabling you to experience "one-stop" shopping and total view of all properties currently listed in Taos and its surrounding areas.

**Prudential website:**

[www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com](http://www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com) is updated on a daily basis bringing you the real estate offered by Prudential Taos Real Estate "up, front and personal". Virtual tours of many of our properties are all on the site. Residential, land, commercial and investment properties are all featured.

## Real Estate Guide:

Featuring all current Prudential listings in a magazine format. Perfect as a reference guide including a calendar of events for the upcoming season and trends affecting the real estate market. This guide can be seen at: [www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com](http://www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com)



Prudential Taos Real Estate is the leader in Taos real estate to provide RealBiz360 **virtual tours** of residential and commercial listings. These property "videos" are posted on our website, [www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com](http://www.PrudentialTaosRealEstate.com), and [www.realtor.com](http://www.realtor.com). New tours are added on a regular basis and new listings are added daily, so check the website often to see what's new! Please come and visit us soon! Call us toll free: 1-800-530-8899



What is **GREEN**? Solar energy, passive & active, recycled materials, off- the grid, sustainable. It is about being friendly with your environment and being pro-active in thinking about the future. All of us can help to sustain our environment. It is available and affordable. Rain catchment systems taking gray water to your garden & trees, tram walls capturing heat with southern exposure windows, vent & heat mass, alternative/recycle building materials such as tires, pumice, rastra block & strawbale, all are adaptable means of being energy efficient.

Look for our green logo throughout our publications and websites. It will take you one step closer to economic, ecologic and sustainable living.

*All the Beautiful Properties are at One Address:*  
**[www.PrudentialTaosRealestate.com](http://www.PrudentialTaosRealestate.com)**

## Contact

- 314A Paseo del Pueblo Norte, Taos, NM 87571
- Office 575-758-1924
- Fax 575-758-4833
- Toll free 1-800-530-8899

## Links

[www.realtor.com](http://www.realtor.com); [www.skitaos.org](http://www.skitaos.org); [www.taosvacationguide.com](http://www.taosvacationguide.com)