The Restless Man

ADVERTISEMENT

(The Next Adventure)

Your last boring vacation was your last boring vacation

CHILE White-water rafting in the winter? Hell, yeah. In northern Patagonia, the Rio Futaleufú snakes out of Argentina and into Chile for 100 miles before dumping into the Pacific. The "Fu" is Caribbean clear, a soft emerald green, and along 50 miles of its nastiest twists and slides, Eric Hertz will take you bucking over the best class IV and V rapids in the Americas—quite possibly in the world. Earth River was the first group to complete a successful raft descent of the Fu back in 1990. Eric was so inspired that he bought hundreds of acres and built a stylish, eco-friendly adventure playground. At spots along the river, Hertz has built giant tree houses, kitschy rock shelters, and cave dwellings high in the cliffs. You can also go rappelling, get a massage, eat a steak, go horseback riding, take a zip line across the foam, or try your luck in one of the crys-tal pools crawling with brown trout. And after you spend a long day on the river, Hertz recommends climbing into a wooden hot tubs, which are warmed by wood-burning furnaces. There's also another reason Hertz bought this land, and that was to save the Fu. Because of Chile's ongoing energy crunch, the area is a prime target for a hydroelectric plant, which would dam the river, convert-ing it into a reservoir, flooding communities and prime forestland in the Futaleufú Valley. The best way you can help is by coming out and having fun. (800-643-2784; earthriver.com —B. M.

ADVERTISEMENT