



RANCHO VALENCIA
An Auberge Resort

RANCHO VALENCIA ANNOUNCES RENOVATION PROJECT

Southern California's Famed Luxury Resort to Feature Redesigned Guest Rooms, Restaurant, Bar, Ballroom and Meeting Spaces as well as Expanded Fitness Facilities

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. (October 28, 2011) – The award-winning Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa, an Auberge Resort in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., will embark on a six-month approximately \$20 million renovation beginning in January 2012. Nestled among 45 acres of rolling hills and lush gardens, the famed Southern California hideaway will undergo a makeover that will include remodeled suites as well as new and enhanced reception, dining, fitness and meeting spaces. The project is expected to be completed by Summer, 2012.

Rancho Valencia's renovation will include refreshed interiors and enhanced exterior living areas in the guest casitas. Changes to Rancho Valencia's meeting and event spaces will include a new conference room, remodeled ballroom and boardroom and enhanced patio for weddings, social functions and corporate meetings. The resort will also unveil a new restaurant concept that will feature a stand-alone bar with an enlarged outdoor seating area and a redesigned private dining room with patio, creating more *al fresco* dining locations. In addition, the resort's award-winning spa and fitness center will be further expanded with the addition of a new yoga pavilion, pilates studio and expanded workout facilities.

In May 2010, the 49-suite luxury resort entered a new era when a San Diego-based investment group led acquired it by Jeff and Hal Jacobs, two former high-tech executives and longtime San Diegans. The group's additional general partners are hospitality entrepreneur and co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Fiji Water, Doug Carlson, and San Diego real estate developer and entrepreneur Jeffrey Essakow.

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“With the renovation of Rancho Valencia, we’re committed to bringing renewed energy into this beloved Southern California getaway and continuing the tradition of providing the gracious personalized service and exclusive experiences that guests of Rancho Valencia have come to know and cherish,” said Jeff Jacobs, former Chief Marketing Officer of Qualcomm. “It is our intent to build upon the resort’s unique charm, character and authenticity while maintaining its original architectural integrity.”

Spearheading the design is Todd-Avery Lenahan, Principal, ABA Design Studio, a North American-based interior architecture and design firm specializing in landmark luxury hotels and resorts. Avery will collaborate with one of Rancho Valencia’s original architects, Doug Mansfield, to preserve the Southern California landmark’s unique charm and sense of style that reflects the beautiful landscape surrounding the property.

The last major renovation at the resort was the opening of the world-class Spa at Rancho Valencia in 2006. The 10,000-square-foot retreat features Italian fountains, pools, outdoor soaking tubs and showers, 10 treatment rooms with private patios and an extensive selection of fitness classes.

Since its opening in 1989 by developer and previous owner Harry Collins, Rancho Valencia has built a reputation for providing impeccable service in a luxurious yet comfortable environment. The resort has attracted some of the most celebrated entertainers, politicians and business leaders, including Bill Gates, President Clinton, Michael Jordan and Rene Russo. The resort is a member of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux and is the only Relais & Châteaux property in Southern California. Auberge Resorts, a California based luxury resort operator with hotels located in the U.S and Mexico has operated the resort since 2008.

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About Rancho Valencia

Set in the exclusive idyllic valley of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., Rancho Valencia sits on 45 lushly landscaped acres. The resort features 49 luxuriously appointed guest casitas averaging approximately 1,000 square feet, each with a fireplace and private garden terrace, an award-winning tennis program, a world-class spa and playing privileges at three nearby golf courses. Rancho Valencia recently was ranked #11 Best Small Hotel in the United States by *Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report* and #52 Best Hotel in the United States by *Travel + Leisure*, garnering the highest score among San Diego Hotels making the list. Rancho Valencia consistently has been ranked as a favorite North American resort by readers of *Tennis* magazine, who ranked Rancho Valencia the #1 Tennis Resort in the U.S. for the fourth consecutive year. The resort is a member of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux collection and is the only Relais & Châteaux property in Southern California. For more information about Rancho Valencia, visit www.RanchoValencia.com or call (800) 548-3664.

About Auberge Resorts

Auberge Resorts is a collection of exceptional hotels, resorts and private clubs, each with a unique personality that assures a memorable guest experience. While Auberge Resorts nurtures the individuality of each establishment, all are characterized by a set of communal elements: intimate, understated elegance; captivating locations that inspire exceptional cuisine and spa experiences; and gracious yet unobtrusive service. Among the Auberge collection of distinctive properties are: Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley, Calif.; Calistoga Ranch, Napa Valley, Calif.; Encantado, Santa Fe, N.M.; Esperanza, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, Bluffton, S.C.; Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.; Element 52, Telluride, Colo.; and the Aspen Club, Aspen, Colo., with several others currently in development. For more information about Auberge Resorts, please visit www.aubergeresorts.com.

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