

RANCHO VALENCIA RESORT & SPA: WHERE ALL THINGS BLOOM

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. – The 40 acres of grounds at Rancho Valencia have an Old-World look of classical splendor and offer views that are reminiscent of the rolling hills of southern France. Lush beds of impatiens, agapanthus, hibiscus and geraniums line wide green lawns and wildflowers are plentiful and burst forth along the hillsides.

The resort's entry is bordered by Brazilian and California pepper trees that provide a graceful and elegant introduction to the property and fits in well with the Mediterranean theme. Another noteworthy focal point is the large Florida ficus tree that graces the turnaround circle in front.

“The success of this garden is a result of careful planning combined with a willingness to go with the flow,” said Beverley Matthews, general manager of Rancho Valencia. “In fact, many plants have been moved four or five times before finding their final homes.”

Trumpet flower vines in red, orange and pink surround the tennis courts and casitas and are a favorite nesting and perching place for hummingbirds which are attracted to the nectar provided by the large tubular flowers. Fragrant honeysuckle is also abundant.

The Fountain Courtyard, a favorite sitting area for guests, is adorned with large mazeta pots filled with colorful bougainvillea. Shrubs include purple lantana mixed with dark purple sage contrasted by Mexican marigolds, rockrose, lion's tail and the monkey flower.

As one strolls around Rancho Valencia's garden-like grounds, some time should be set aside for a walk along its spring-fed stream that falls down the face of a large outcropping of volcanic rock. The observation point overlooking the fall and pond is a delightful spot to enjoy a glass of wine and listen to the songbirds, including red tail hawks and morning doves that inhabit the area that separate the Palm Courts from the resort. Matthews adds, “Our eight- member landscape staff is passionate about the resort's gardens and hopes to create an aura of lushness and grandeur.”

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About Rancho Valencia

Set in the idyllic valley of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., Rancho Valencia features 49 luxuriously appointed suites, each with a fireplace and private garden terrace, an award-winning tennis program, a spa and playing privileges at three nearby golf courses. The resort is a member of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux collection and is the only Relais & Châteaux property in Southern California. Rancho Valencia consistently has been ranked as a favorite North American resort by readers of *Tennis* magazine, who ranked Rancho Valencia the No. 1 Tennis Resort in the U.S., *Wine Spectator*, *Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report* and *Travel + Leisure*.

For more information about Rancho Valencia, please 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. Among the distinctive properties are Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley; Esperanza, Cabo San Lucas; Calistoga Ranch, Napa Valley; The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina; Encantado, Santa Fe; Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., with several others currently in development. 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. For more information about Auberge Resorts, please visit www.aubergeresorts.com.

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