

RANCHO SANTA FE: A CELEBRITY HIDEAWAY RICH IN HOLLYWOOD HISTORY

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. – Originally known as Rancho San Dieguito, the 8,824 acres that eventually would become Rancho Santa Fe were awarded as a land grant to Juan Maria Orsuna in 1841. Planning to plant and harvest Eucalyptus trees to be used for railroad ties, the Santa Fe Railway purchased the entire land grant from the Orsuna family in 1906. However, it was soon determined that the wood was too soft to hold railway spikes. In an effort to re-coup its losses, the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company was formed, and the San Diego architectural firm of Requa and Jackson was hired to develop a planned community of country estates. Lilian Rice, an employee of the firm, worked from 1920-1930 designing and overseeing the construction of the village center and several surrounding homes.

Over the years, several other luxury communities have grown around Rancho Santa Fe, including the community of Fairbanks Ranch. The area was “discovered” in the early 1900s by movie director Theodore Reed. He suggested that his friend, screen idol Douglas Fairbanks, purchase the property as an investment. In 1924, Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks bought 800 acres, named their property “Rancho Zorro” and planted 300 acres with Valencia oranges.

In 1989, adjacent to these historic acres, developer Harry Collins and architect James Morton built Rancho Valencia and several homes in the surrounding area. Working with interior designer Hank Milam and landscape architects Abby Drewliner and Bill Burton, they meticulously planned every resort detail, from the many antique furnishings, the hand-painted tile work, to the positioning of each of the suites and the lush landscaping.

In May 2010, the resort entered a new era when it was acquired by a San Diego-based investment group led by Jeff and Hal Jacobs.

Since its opening, the resort has built a reputation for providing impeccable service and attracts some of the most celebrated entertainers, politicians and business leaders.

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In keeping with the resort's reputation of providing uncompromising service and accommodations, Rancho Valencia opened The Grove in April 2002—six new casitas with 12 suites. The resort has earned numerous national awards and rankings from publications such as *Gourmet*, *The Robb Report*, *Tennis*, *Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Zagat Guide*, *Wine Spectator*, American Express Platinum Card Division and tennisresortsonline.com.

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.aubegeresorts.com.

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