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**FROM MISSIONS TO MINIATURE HORSE FARMS
A WEALTH OF YEAR-ROUND ATTRACTIONS AWAIT ALISAL GUESTS**

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CA – If there were ever a reason to leave the untouched beauty of the Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort, the neighboring towns of Ballard, Buellton, Los Olivos, Santa Ynez and Solvang make for a great day of play.

SIP IN THE WINE COUNTRY

Grab a bicycle and head out for a day of wine tasting at one of Santa Barbara County's 70+ premium wineries. Steeped with idyllic weather conditions and world-class winemakers, the region boasts an incredible lineup of award-winning Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs. The variety of micro-climates also welcomes a wealth of other tasty varietals, including Zinfandel, Syrah, Merlot, Riesling and an eye-popping cache of other Rhone varietals.

Many wineries have tasting rooms and picnic sites. Two of the nearby tasting routes include the **Santa Ynez Valley Wine Trail**, with Gainey Vineyard and the lavender-imbued Sunstone Vineyards and Winery, and **Foxen Canyon Wine Trail**. Bikers especially enjoy a spin along Foxen Canyon Road with its sylvan setting, grazing long-horn steer and graceful oak trees swathed in blue-green moss. For a celebrity sighting try Fess Parker Winery & Vineyard, where the actor-cum-vintner is on tap for weekend signing sessions. Also worth a taste tour is Zaca Mesa Winery or Foxen Vineyard, the latter which is set in a small roadside-style shed.

Two festivals celebrating the wine country are well worth venturing out for. The annual **Vintner's Festival** in April blends a weekend of live entertainment with wine and food tastings, vintner dinners, open houses and a silent auction. The **Celebration of Harvest**, held each October, uncorks with a county-wide alfresco wine tasting, traditional grape crush, incredible line-up of culinary treasures and gourmet dinners.

Just a horseshoe throw away from The Alisal is **Solvang**, a town dipped in Danish charm, right down to the **Hans Christian Andersen Museum**. Cobblestone streets, gas-lit street lamps, traditional windmills and waist-enhancing bakeries await the eager traveler.

One way to see the town is by horse-drawn carriage via the **Painted Pony Carriage Company**. A good time to visit is September, although the city offers a wealth of year-round events tailored to varied palates. The annual **Danish Days** (September) unfolds with an aebleskiver pancake feast along Main Street followed by a parade, entertainment, dancing, and frothy brews.

Solvang is also home to one of the three stages of the acclaimed **PCPA Theatrefest**, which presents a variety of first-rate comedies, drama and musicals in the 700-seat amphitheater, Solvang Festival Theatre. For endeavors of a different style, pop into The Solvang Antique Center on First Street for exceptional finds from throughout the world.

Situated nearby is the areas most treasured jewel, **Old Mission Santa Ines** founded in 1804. Guests view artifacts preserved from early civilizations including fragments from the original church including the altarpiece, arrowheads, crucifixes and candlesticks. The chapel designed by native Indian artists, features original adobe walls, floor tiles, hand-painted murals and priceless works of European art and sculpture from the 17th and 18th centuries.

SPORTS ADVENTURES

If horseback riding, fly fishing, golf and tennis aren't enough, Alisal guests can cut away on a bicycle and tour the area's many backroads. Wineries, Mission Santa Ines, Solvang and the country western town of Santa Ynez are all within easy tooling distance. Many companies offer guided tours of the rolling terrain.

Just four miles from the resort on Alisal Road lies an incredible feast for the eyes -- **Nojoqui Park**. Follow the dirt trail and falls through meandering California live oaks set next to a lulling stream. Cross the bridge and in about 15 minutes a sparkling 100 ft. waterfall appears, splashing into the rocks below. This is a great stop for foot chilling, photos and lunching. Picnic tables are available at the front of the park as well.

Travelers with a taste for high points might consider a glider ride at Santa Ynez Airport. Located off Highway 246, a few miles east of the Alisal, **Windhaven Glider Rides** will put you up in a perch overlooking the Pacific, Lake Cachuma and the lush Santa Ynez Mountains for \$85.00. Novices might consider a pre-lunch excursion. Nearby off San Marcos Pass (Highway 154) lies **Lake Cachuma**, a haven for anglers, boaters and wildlife enthusiasts. Seasonal wildlife and bald eagle boat tours are available, as are various hiking trails.

APPLES TO ANIMAL FARMS

Step out for a day of play with the family at a local apple orchard. Throughout the region a variety of growers welcome day-pickers including the **Ballard Apple Farm and Apple Lane Orchard**.

Dittmar Apple Farm also offers tastings of locally-grown gems. Harvest begins in August and continues through November; 14 different varieties are available. For a taste tour of all varieties, don't miss "**A Day In The Country**" held each October in Los Olivos where the growers come together to sell their cream of the crop.

A few ranches down from the Ballard Apple Farm lies **Quicksilver Ranch**, one of the largest miniature horse ranches in the West Coast. This 20-acre state-of-the-art breeding facility -- all 34 inches tall! Through the centuries, these horses were bred by royalty as driving (they can pull ten times their weight) and exotic toy horses. Today, the horses are bred for show and enjoyment. Guests are welcome from 10:00 a.m., to 3:00 p.m., daily.

Llama, ostriches and emu make a strong showing in the Santa Ynez area as well. Nearby on Highway 246 is **Ostrich Land**, a 33-acre breeding farm with plenty of feathered friends. Kids enjoy the back pen which houses a motley crew of gawky baby ostriches. There is also a smattering of emu running rampant. A small store sells eggshell paintings, fresh ostrich meat and other orin-inspired art. Huge ostrich eggs are also available, for whipping up the equivalent of a 22-egg omelet.

ART ALONG THE BACKROADS

Los Olivos, in Santa Barbara's vine-swept wine country, is a charming small town reminiscent of its days as a stagecoach stop. Many fine art galleries line the street offering a selection of both classic and contemporary works. Try the local tasting rooms which offer a multitude of local wines and plenty of personality or the Los Olivos Wine & Spirits Emporium, located in an old shack-style building just one mile down the road.

Another small town worth exploring is **Santa Ynez**. The local gallery showcases a variety of oil paintings of Jake Copass, noted wrangler at the Alisal, the upscale Dennee's home furnishings, a few good eateries such as Grappolo's Italian and Longhorn for morning coffee, fine shopping at Anna's and the heel-kickin' Maverick Saloon. Tie up your bike and hoof it around.

Visitors also find the **Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum** of interest. This small but fascinating museum is devoted to native Indian culture, including Chumash artifacts and an extensive basket collection. A display of 19th century Santa Ynez Valley life is also showcased. The nearby **Carriage Museum** offers a collection of stagecoaches, wagon and horse-drawn carriages.

PALATE PLEASURES

Intrepid touring always requires a little fuel. When lunch hits, consider a visit to **Cold Spring Tavern**, a 100-year-old stagecoach stop turned tavern atop San Marcos Pass. On Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, live blues and country western music strikes up to a cross-section of executive bikers, locals and tourists. Expect a menu packed with wild game, from Montana black bear to wild boar and venison.

Nearby in **Buellton** is the **Hitching Post**, an institution among locals and well-known for its thick and juicy steaks, Santa Maria-style beans and proprietary Pinot Noir.

The town of **Ballard** offers a romantic hideaway at the quaint Ballard Inn. **Cafe Chardonnay** welcomes guests with a crackling fire and perfectly-seared fresh ahi or the Executive Chef Budi Kazali succulent lamb.

In Los Olivos, **Mattei's Tavern** offers hearty fare in a rustic Old West setting. Originally a stagecoach stop en route to San Francisco, this multi-room restaurant also has a welcoming bar area with couches and a fireplace. Another tasty treat located in Los Olivos is the **Los Olivos Cafe**.

Wood-burning pizza and delicious rotisserie chicken, paired with an alfresco setting can be found at **Trattoria Grappolo** in Santa Ynez. Pastas are a specialty of owner brothers Leonardo and Alfonso Curti.

Whether searching for a bit of history or savoring the fruits of the valley, travelers discover that a visit to Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort and its environs is well worth the trip.

Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort offers 73 telephone- and-television-free guest cottages and suites, the brand new Alisal Fitness Center & Spa featuring weight and cardio equipment, fitness classes, and indulgent massage and facial treatments; two 18-hole championship golf courses; six tennis courts, and a 100-acre spring-fed private lake with water sports, including fly fishing, canoeing, and kayaking, as well as archery, and an air-riffle shooting range. Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort has long been considered the premier full-service guest ranch for couples, families, and conferences since it opened in 1946. This secluded hideaway is one of the few places where time seems reluctant to move forward.

For additional information, contact the Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort at 800.4.ALISAL, email reservations@alisal.com, or visit www.alisal.com.

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