

Courtesy of [Robert Kenyon](#) of [Willis Allen Real Estate](#)

The Rancho Santa Fe Community

The community of [Rancho Santa Fe](#) comprises some 6,200 acres populated by approximately 1780 homes. It is located approximately 30 miles to the north of downtown [San Diego](#) and approximately 10 miles east of the coastline. The homes enjoy great swaths of openness between them, with the average lot size being over 2 acres of land. The homes vastly differ in size with square footage ranging from 1,700 to 15,000 square feet in size. There are some 86 Condominiums located within what is referred to as the Village.

Local residents refer to their community as "[The Ranch](#)". Its exclusivity, low profile lifestyle and privacy has long been coveted as one of the favored communities within the nation. It has miles of rural roads, which interlace the prestigious estates, with no sidewalks or street lights to be found outside of the Village center. The main street in the Village is named Paseo Delicias, with several restaurants, banks, boutiques and any number of realty offices. The centerpiece within the Village is the [Inn at Rancho Santa Fe](#), which is a [Lillian Rice](#) creation and has withstood the test of time in fine fashion. Outside of the Village, horses trails meander across some 51 miles of footpaths, following aside the property lines of multi-million dollar estates and the beautifully adorned [Rancho Santa Fe Golf Course](#).

The History of Rancho Santa Fe

In the early 1900's, the [Santa Fe Railroad Company](#) purchased much of the land now known as [Rancho Santa Fe](#) for the purpose of farming Eucalyptus trees to be used as railroad ties for the rail line. The company planted some 3,000,000 of these fast growing trees only to find that they easily cracked under the weight of the carriage. In 1921, the company chose to hire L.G. Sinnard, an expert renowned for land redevelopment to manage the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company. Over the next several years the company mapped out estate subdivisions, including some fifty miles of meandering roadway that kept a rural, secluded look to the developed environs.

As Ranch property was offered for sale, purchasers were required to agree to deed restrictions on how the properties were to be developed and the Company hired on the architectural firm of Requa and Jackson to oversee the local community development. [Lillian Rice](#) was assigned the project and her landmark designs have proven their worth for generations.

A detailed report on the historical development of [Rancho Santa Fe](#) is a worthy read.

The History Behind the Covenant

The Rancho Santa Fe Protective Covenant was assembled, approved and recorded on much of the community's land area by the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company and a number of area property owners in 1928. Alternatively, the term "Covenant" is also often used to describe the properties to which the Protective Covenant applies. Its preamble states the objective of the Covenant founders as, "preserving, continuing and maintaining the character of the community and rare landscape features and upholding the quality of all future architecture and improvements and of restricting the use, height and bulk of buildings."

A more detailed and highly interesting summary of the [Covenant](#)'s history provides one with a fascinating look at the development of the Rancho Santa Fe community, which boasts some of the finest [luxury estates and custom homes](#) within the nation.

The Art Jury

If you are a purchaser of land within the Rancho Santa Fe Protective [Covenant](#), you will be required to follow the rules and regulations as inscribed by the [Rancho Santa Fe By Laws](#), which have established resolutions, regulations and a community plan to aid interpretation, implementation and enforcement of the Protect Covenant.

The Covenant and your property's Covenant acceptance agreement provide the [Rancho Santa Fe Association](#) land use regulatory powers that could affect whether and how you can build on, divide or use your land.

As such, in determining whether certain changes or development may be allowed on any given property within the Covenant or a property annexed after 1928 with a Covenant acceptance agreement, the Association has formed an Art Jury to consider applications for those sought-after changes or development by the property owner. The [Art Jury](#) is made up of five volunteer members of the community nominated by the [Rancho Santa Fe Association Board](#) and appointed by the President of the Board of Directors. The Art Jurors each serve a three-year term.

A complete description of the role the Art Jury plays in determining how the By Laws are to be implemented and a long list of additional frequently asked questions can be found by on line at [The Rancho Santa Fe Association](#).

Schools Associated with the Covenant

While there are a number of private schools within and nearby [Rancho Santa Fe](#), which for various reasons some parents within the Rancho Santa Fe Covenant prefer over the public school system of the [Rancho Santa Fe District](#), the [Covenant school](#), handling classes from K-8 maintains an excellent standard of teaching. Class sizes on the average number 18 students per class, with specialized teaching assistants assigned to each class, together with workshops taught by teachers who have an expertise in the defined area.

Although the Rancho Santa Fe School District draws its funds from the state as all other public schools, the [Rancho Santa Fe Educational Fund](#), which is fully funded by parents, residents and teachers within the Rancho Santa Fe School district provides an enormous additive to the funds required to maintain the high standards that the Covenant school has been able achieve and maintain. The Foundation focuses on small class size, literacy enrichment, specialized teachers, links to local educational opportunities, such as the school's affiliation with the [Scripps Oceanographic Research Facility](#) as well as a wide variety of enrichment programs that help provide each child with the finest educational opportunities presently available.

Students who complete their schooling within the school normally matriculate to [Torrey Pines High School](#), [Canyon Crest Academy](#), [San Dieguito Academy](#) or [La Costa Canyon](#) for public school choices to complete their classes in at the high school level. Canyon Crest and San Dieguito being assigned by lottery and Torrey Pines and La Costa Canyon by district location.

The Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club

The [Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club](#) is located north of San Diego, in the heart of the village of [Rancho Santa Fe](#). The spectacularly endowed "natural" golf course was carved from the rolling terrain of a eucalyptus forest and is surrounded by horseback riding trails and beautiful estates.

The championship course is an eighteen hole 7,073 yard, par 72 layout, distinguished as one of the finest "walk able" designs in the world. The course was extensively renovated in 2002, elevating it to one of the top 20 best golf venues in California according to Golf Digest Magazine. The practice facilities include a double-ended driving range, practice putting green, and a newly constructed two-acre short game practice area. It is the original site of the Crosby "Clambake", predecessor to the AT & T Pebble Beach Tournament and host to a number of prominent championship events, notably the 2006 USGA National Junior Amateur Championship.

Membership in the Club is available only to members of the [Rancho Santa Fe Association](#) by virtue of ownership of [Covenant](#) property.

The [Club](#) is dedicated to providing the members and guests a first-class golf experience. We welcome your interest in the Club and hope you consider becoming a member soon!

Who has Access to the Equestrian Trails

The Rancho Santa Fe Equestrian Trails, which meander some 51 miles throughout the Covenant of Rancho Santa Fe are for the use of Rancho Santa Fe Association members only and the guests that they choose to accompany while on trail.

A detailed list of trails etiquette and a map of the trail system can be obtained from the [Rancho Santa Fe Association](#) offices.

Restaurants in the Village

There are several delectable restaurants within the Village of Rancho Santa Fe, a number of which provide both excellent cuisine and an opportunity to socialize with those who reside and who frequent the Rancho Santa Fe area. Each is renowned for the superlative cuisine that they offer and are placed in alphabetical order.

[Delicias Restaurant](#)

6106 PaseoDelicias
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
858-756-8000

[Inn At The Ranch](#)

5951 Linea Del Cielo
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
858-756-1131

[Mille Fleurs](#)

6009 PaseoDelicias
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
858-756-3085

[Pantry Restaurant](#)

6024C PaseoDelicias
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
858-756-1221

[Thyme In The Ranch](#)

16905 Avenida de Acacias
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
858-759-0747

Accommodations in the Village

Not only are there accommodations within the Village of [Rancho Santa Fe](#), the available lodging is five-star quality and has consistently maintained and embellished its presence within the Rancho Santa Fe community as the icon of architectural delights created by [Lillian Rice](#) with a reputation for graceful and elegant service to its guests and visitors.

Rancho Santa Fe: Where a Bygone Era of Gracious Rural Living has Never Gone By

The [Inn at Rancho Santa Fe](#) is just 25 minutes north of San Diego, hidden in the golden foothills of Old California. It is a place where time ceases to tick and begins to flow, where the San Diego weather does a perfect imitation of Eden, and where the natural beauty of the surroundings couldn't be more romantic. Welcome to The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe.

Since its debut in 1924 as La Morada, "The home with many rooms," The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe has grown more storied, playing host to Presidents, Royalty and Hollywood's Elite.

Located just four miles inland from the Pacific, the romantic Spanish style property overlooks 23 pristine acres of rolling hills, bridle trails and winding pathways that inspire nature lovers, sunset lovers and romantics of all ages.

While the historic Main Building has kept its country inn living room and bar, The Inn's Dining Room has been handsomely updated. You can enjoy a light California Bistro menu in a relaxed, romantic courtyard or sample a European-inspired tasting menu that features delicacies from local harvests. You'll also want to savor Terrace dining with its sweeping view of The Village.

With so many activities to choose from, there's something for everyone. Unpack your racquet and clubs for a few sets of tennis or rounds of golf in our incomparable setting. Try your hand at lawn croquet on our manicured course. Go for a walk or jog around the breathtaking grounds. Talk to our fitness instructor about setting up a personalized regimen. Finish things off with a cool, refreshing dip in the pool.

For guests that need to stay in touch from our little corner of Paradise, The Inn provides complimentary wireless high speed Internet connection.

If you have an appetite for shopping or dining, we're happy to oblige. The boutiques and antique shops in the nearby Village of [Rancho Santa Fe](#) offer store after store filled with tempting selections. You're bound to find favorite dishes and wines among its many award-winning restaurants.

One of the most memorable ways to take in the area is from horseback along the miles of surrounding equestrian trails. Just a few miles south, the charms of San Diego await you. Spend an afternoon cheering the thoroughbreds at fabled [Del Mar racetrack](#). Play a round of golf at legendary [Torrey Pines](#). Take in pristine La Jolla's coves and beaches, galleries and Scripps Aquarium. Visit The San Diego Zoo, Wild Animal Park, Legoland or Mission Bay. Discover Old Town San Diego, bustling downtown San Diego, Balboa Park with its Old Globe Theater, museums and exhibits--or cross the Bridge to charming Coronado Island.

If you've ever wondered whether all of life's most romantic moments are random, the answer is "No." The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe is one you actually choose.