

# History of the Inn at Rancho Santa Fe

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe traces its roots to Rancho San Dieguito, an 8,824-acre land grant deeded by Spain in 1840 to Juan Maria Osuna, the first mayor of Pueblo de San Diego.

In 1906, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad purchased the land to cultivate eucalyptus trees for converting into railway ties. When the wood proved too soft, the railroad formed the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company to develop the property. To give the dream shape, the Land Company retained the San Diego architectural firm of Requa and Jackson in 1922. A gifted young architect named Lilian Rice oversaw the initiative.

The first building, a guesthouse in the Spanish Revival Style was called La Morada, "the house of many rooms." Originally intended to provide accommodations to prospective property owners and later to become a clubhouse, La Morada was transferred to private ownership in 1940 and renamed **The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe**.

In 1958, Stephen W. Royce purchased the Inn at Rancho Santa Fe. Prior to that, Royce attended Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. After spending one season as a pitcher for the New York Giants, Royce earned his law degree from the New York Law School. Royce also served as an officer in the Army Air Force during World War I. The Royce family managed the Inn until 2012.

In April of 2012, the Inn was purchased by JMI Realty. John Kratzer, chairman and CEO of JMI Realty said, "We are very pleased that the Royce family, who are such a part of the legacy of The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, felt comfortable with us as the next steward of this beloved community asset. Many of us live in Rancho Santa Fe and understand the importance of The Inn to the community and are committed to continue the family's legacy in that regard. We will be investing significant capital in the property; kicking off an extensive restoration of the rooms at the end of the summer and revitalizing the spa. Our goal is to continue catering to the upscale traveler with expanded group meetings, business at The Inn and a continued focus on upscale weddings and social events." Delawie Interiors, the San Diego design firm in existence for over a half a century, and MKA Inc. Architecture & Planning of San Diego were engaged in the restoration.

The Inn is situated at the heart of the Village of Rancho Santa Fe, known locally as "The Ranch" and frequently referred to as "the most desirable place to live in America." Within the Village are charming boutiques, galleries and quaint antique stores, as well as superb dining at award-winning restaurants.

Since 2016 The Inn has been managed by HEI Hotels & Resorts.

The Inn Became a Starwood Tribute Portfolio Hotel on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.