

LASSOS & LEGENDS

ALISAL RANCH



“
*There's just
something special
about
Alisal Ranch.*
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Dear Friend,

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a longtime friend of Alisal Ranch, we're thrilled you're here. We can't wait to help you make unforgettable memories.

There's just something special about Alisal Ranch. We've been welcoming guests for over 75 years and we're honored to be a part of so many guests' lives. We've watched wide eyed toddlers turn into teens, grown up, and then return with their own families. Alisal Ranch has been a part of so many generations of families, and we're delighted to share some of those stories in the pages of this latest issue of *Lassos & Legends*.

Of course, the Ranch's magic isn't lost on us, either. I felt it the first time I rounded the corner and still feel it every day. It's one of the many reasons we have so many beloved staff members, who you'll also get to meet on these pages. From cocktail recipes and savory dishes to our latest line of botanical-inspired amenities, it's all here.

And, when you're ready to make a few new memories, let us know. We're here to help you every step of the way.

Kathleen Cochran

General Manager



The history of **ALISAL RANCH**



NESTLED IN THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY,
bordered by a river on the northeast and a coastal mountain range on the southwest,
the land now home to Alisal Ranch was first inhabited by the Chumash people.
They used the land for hunting and gathering, calling it “Nojoqui” (Na-ho-wee),
meaning “Honeymoon Place.”



The land transferred hands several times before Henry Pierce bought it in 1868, restoring 1,300 head of cattle and adding 5,000 sheep and 90 head of horses. To expand Rancho Nojoqui, Pierce bought 70,000 additional acres of neighboring land. He needed water, and revolutionized area ranching with an innovation that leveraged the Santa Ynez River. In 1882, Pierce renamed the ranch The Alisal after the Chumash word meaning “sycamore grove.”

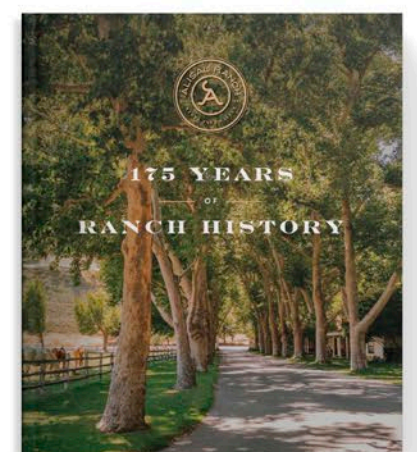
His family owned the ranch for nearly 40 years before selling in 1910 to John Murphy. Charles Perkins, the director of the Southern Pacific Railroad, bought the ranch in 1926. An internationally known stock and saddle horse magnate for his steeplechase prospects and thoroughbred breedings, Perkins headquartered his horse, Flying Ebony, at the Alisal. Flying Ebony won the Kentucky Derby in 1925, officially putting the Ranch on the world map.

When Perkins died in 1943, his sister became sole owner, and put the ranch on the auction block. Alisal’s current owners, Ann and Pete Jackson, purchased the title and took the reins. The sophisticated couple, who played polo and enjoyed the social scene in Montecito, were guided by friend and fellow polo player Lynn Gillham who helped the Jacksons imagine Alisal as a guest ranch while remaining a working cattle ranch.

On July 6, 1946, with accommodations for just 30 people, plus barns and rodeo fields, Alisal opened its doors. It quickly became a popular getaway for American families and a host of notable celebrities. Clark Gable was married in the library in 1949, and the guest book reads like a Who’s Who of Hollywood, including Groucho Marx, Gregory Peck, Mickey Rooney, Ava Gardner, Kirk Douglas, and Walt Disney.

Alisal Ranch has expanded over the years but it remains owned and managed by the Jackson family and still functions as a working cattle ranch. Resort activities have expanded well beyond horseback riding to include golf, boating on Alisal Lake, tennis, fishing, and swimming. With no televisions or telephones in the rooms, Alisal Ranch harkens back to a simpler time and remains a rustic retreat for those who seek a getaway to the California of yesteryear.

Alisal Ranch: 175 Years of Ranch History
will be published later this year and will be available for sale
in the Mercantile or online at ShopAlisalRanch.com





ONE PLACE. A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES.

FOR THE NEYS
AND THE RITTERS,
THERE'S NOTHING
LIKE ALISAL RANCH

It all began with two families: the Ritters and the Neys. Tex Ritter, the patriarch, was a singing cowboy recording artist in the 30s and 40s. His wife, Dorothy Fay, was an actress who performed in Western movies. The Ritters worked in Hollywood and lived in Los Angeles, and when Deren Ney's mother and grandmother had nowhere to land, Tex and Dorothy invited them into their home. It was a place filled with cowboy culture, and Deren's mom, who grew up with her cousins, John and Tommy, was swept up in it.

When Tex passed away in 1974, John Ritter, who had become a beloved actor thanks to shows like *The Waltons* and *Three's Company*, started taking the family to Alisal Ranch. "It was their way of touching back to Tex," explains Ney. "That was the world they grew up in."



Deren's mother started bringing her family, too. "The first time I went was in 1984. I was five and it was the same year we went to Disneyland, but I thought Alisal was a million times better. I couldn't believe it wasn't fake! It was a real ranch and I got to feel like I was a little cowboy," he says.

"We always talked about how it was a thing that was important to our families." As is often the case, aligning schedules proved difficult, so the Ritter and Ney families visited separately for the next ten years. Still, Alisal Ranch made an impression on the young Ney. "I still play pool left-handed because the kid who taught me at Alisal was a lefty," he shares. The two came the same week every year and by year two, "we were fast friends." Spoiler alert—they're still friends more than four decades later.

Over the years, the Ritters and Neys continued visiting Alisal at separate times, but when John Ritter died unexpectedly in 2003, it was Alisal Ranch that brought the families back together. "We started going again together in 2004, and that was why. We realized how important this place had been and how special it was."

The two families, most of whom work in the entertainment business, shifted from the summer to the holidays. "In this business, it's the only time of year that everyone can get together. It's so hard for us to see each other and nearly impossible for those with kids. Jason (John Ritter's son and a TV and film actor) is working on a show in Los Angeles, his wife Melanie Lynskey is on a show in Vancouver, everyone is super busy, but there is this one week that's carved out."

The family Alisal visit is now sacred. "Jason is sort of notorious for going to extra lengths to get here. He'll drive up from Los Angeles for dinner, hang out for a bit, play a few games, and then drive back home that same night. It really means that much to us." Ney himself once woke before dawn to drive down just for the breakfast ride. "I can't miss it."

Alisal is where the family catches up and recharges, but it's also where they share important news. "It's where I first learned that my cousin was pregnant," says Ney. "Sometimes we wait to share big news because we know it's the one place we'll all be together." The family has grown rapidly, with more than a dozen now making the annual trip. Melanie's family now comes, too.

What keeps them returning each year? "When we came back in 2004, we were on a breakfast ride. The cowboys remember all the guests from over the years, and I guess they remembered us, too. They started playing all of Tex's songs on the ride," he says.

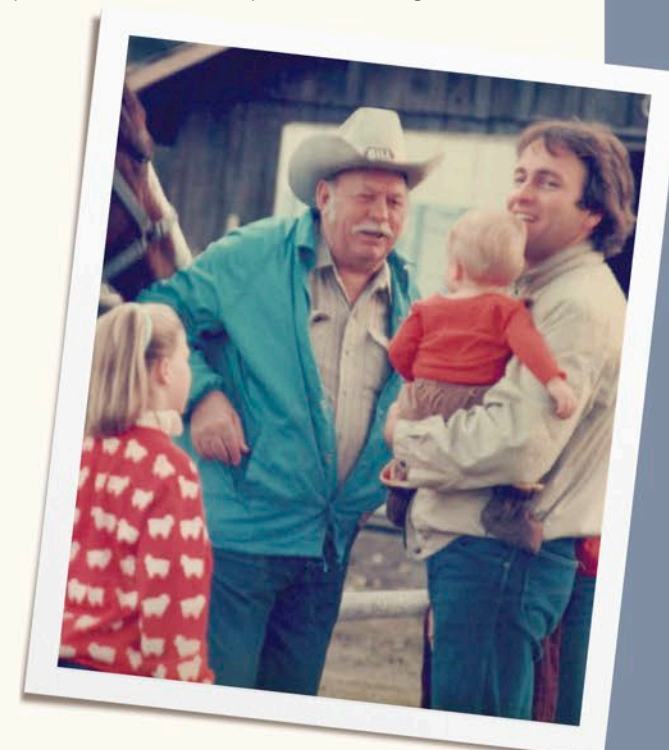
The ranch's timeless appeal is another reason. "When I take the hay wagon on the breakfast ride, I really stop and look out at how far those hills go without seeing anything. Looking at those sycamore trees and the Spanish moss waving in the wind and realizing this is not a park where you pull up and pay to get in—and that nobody else is there and nobody else is coming after you—there's nothing else like that."

Of course, it's not just misty memories that make Alisal Ranch so meaningful to the family; it's also the promise of future memories. "We're all in our 40s and they all have kids," says Ney. "We're watching them run around and it's the same place where I was running around when I was five. It's just a rare joy. I don't think we really appreciated it until we came back a second time."

Daren laughs when he thinks of how things have come full circle. "We used to keep the bartenders up late. Now, we do a lot of porch perching on the lane, watching the kids."

Unless bingo is running, that is. "My cousin Jason loves games—all the Ritters are good at games—and one of the times he came, he left dinner unannounced. Everyone was wondering where he went, but I knew exactly where he was," he says. Jason had snuck out of dinner to catch the end of bingo. "We found him there with all of these boards, competing with six-year-olds," he laughs. "But as a kid, he loved it. It was the most thrilling thing, and when we caught him, he said, 'I'm just going to do it for one more round.'"

"This is why we can't ever go anywhere else. We've talked about going to other places but we can't. There is truly no replacement. There is this place and nothing else."





BONDED PAIR: THE BALD EAGLES OF ALISAL LAKE

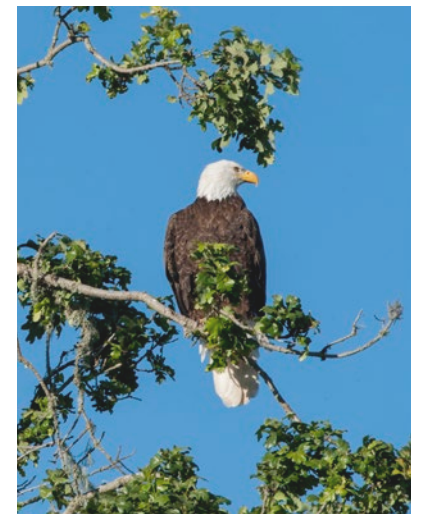
Did you know bald eagles mate for life?

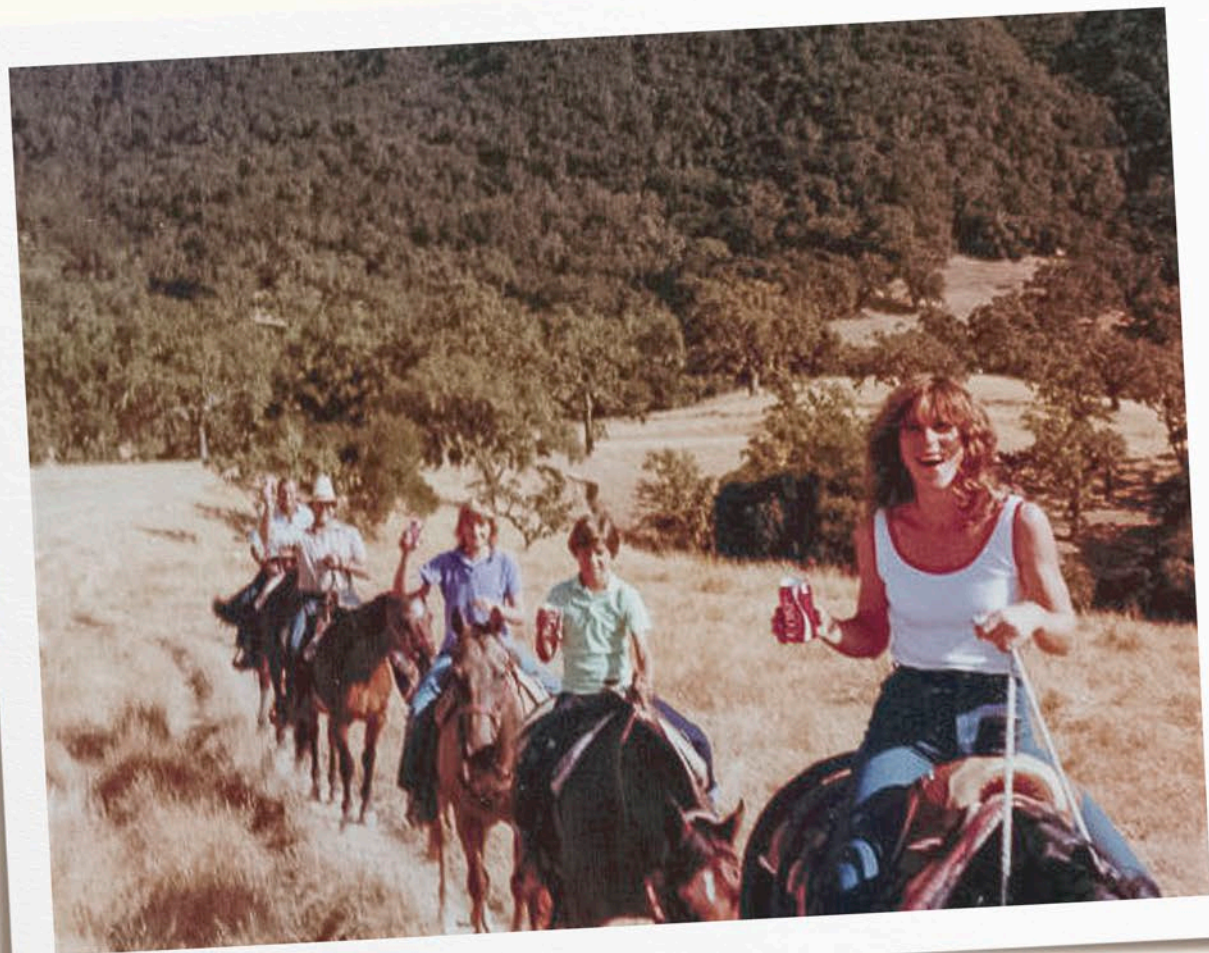
From deer and foxes to bobcats and coyotes, Alisal Ranch is home to a wide variety of wildlife, but it's the Lake that calls to birders.

Here, egrets and herons are common, but the true stars of Alisal Lake are certainly the bald eagle pair. Lake Manager Mitch Giese isn't certain how long the pair has been here, but "they've been here for as long as I have (13 years) and a former manager believes they could be the same pair that built the nest in 1989."

Bald eagles mate for life, and this pair has produced 1-2 eaglets every spring. Here year-round, "they are always catching fish off the surface of the lake, as well as working in tandem to hunt coots (small duck-like birds). I've also witnessed one carrying a blue heron across the lake."

Want to spot the eagles in their nest? It's located on the far side of the lake about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way from the boathouse.



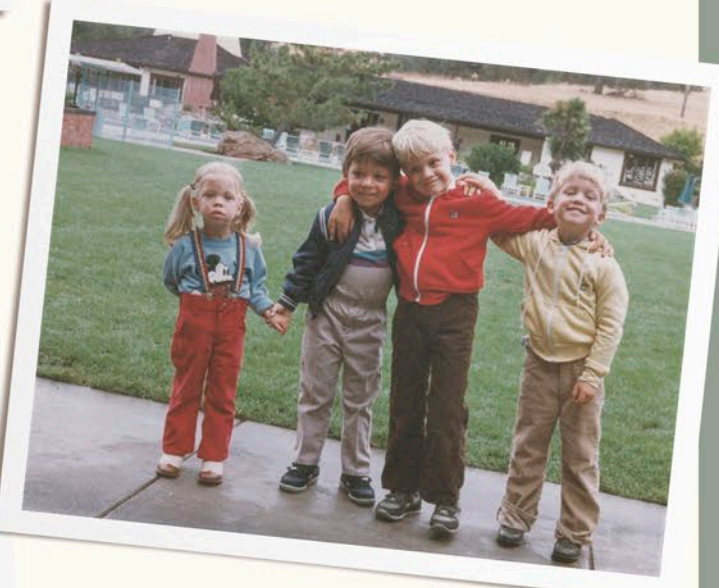
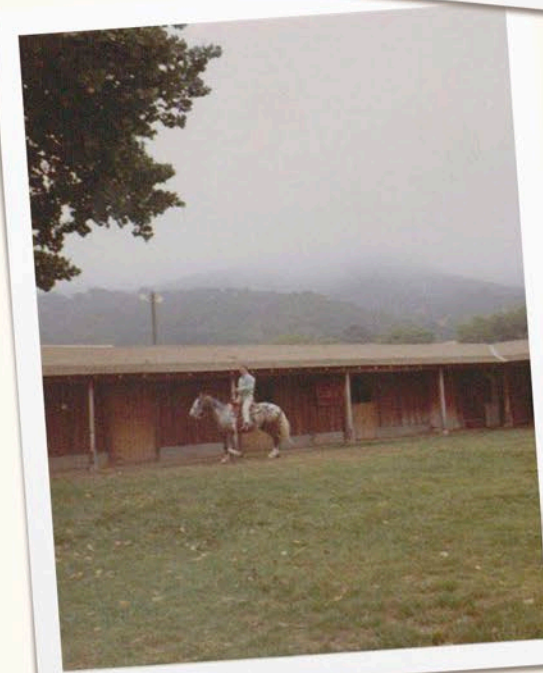


A Special Spot for Five Generations of the Daphne Family

Kres Daphne first visited Alisal Ranch when she was just two years old. “I learned recently that my family started going to Alisal Ranch in 1954,” she explains. She and three sisters and parents spent two weeks every August here. “Some of my earliest memories are of staying in a cabin on the golf course at Alisal Ranch,” she says. “They delivered coffee and pastries every morning.”

Five generations of the Daphne family have vacationed at Alisal Ranch. “It started with my grandparents and my parents, then my family and kids, and now we come with my grandchildren,” she explains. They spend three weeks here each year. “It is still heaven on earth. It would be nice if life were like it is at Alisal.”

They were especially drawn to the horses. “My mother would take us all riding. I learned all of my riding there,” she says. She remembers the rides fondly. “There is so much good riding out there.” Daphne was thrown three times and one time a horse fell asleep and toppled over—with her in the saddle. “I must have been around 8, but I laugh about that now.”



While Daphne spent plenty of time in the barn, she was also drawn to other spots. “There was always ping pong and pool playing, and swimming at the pool. It was about the freedom that young kids had there.” One year, the Daphne family even brought home an unusual memento from their time at Alisal Ranch—a cat. “There were cats running around the golf course. The staff didn’t want them there, so we grabbed one, hid it in our bathtub during our stay, and brought her home. She ended up having kittens.”

Daphne even honeymooned at Alisal Ranch in 1976, and later brought her own young family. They missed a few years in the 1980s and after the tragic loss of her son, the family returned. Though you never fully recover from the loss of a child, Alisal was a balm for their soul. “It’s where we started healing from losing him,” she says. “Alisal is very special in so many ways.”

Now, decades after she spent her summer days in the barn and on horseback, her grandchildren, ages 6 and 4, are the ones who make a beeline for the horses, goats, and other animals at the barnyard. And, while Daphne still rides, it’s not the horses that she can’t wait to see—it’s the staff members. “We stay so long that we get to know them so well. They are always in good moods and smiling, and they’re just wonderful.”

*We consider them
close friends
of ours now.*



AN ALISAL LOVE STORY

It's a love story that seems ripped straight from a novel. Originally from Los Angeles, Artemio Semder grew up visiting the Santa Ynez Valley. He loved the scenic landscape and laidback lifestyle, and longed to return one day as an adult. In the summer of 2019, he traded city life for a saddle and a pair of boots, and joined Alisal Ranch as a wrangler.

Claire Smittle initially visited Alisal Ranch on a whim, hoping to catch a break from the frenetic pace of city life. It didn't take her long to fall in love with the area. Fast-forward a few months later, and she decided to move here full time, joining the wrangler staff that same summer.

Sparks flew. From horses to wide open spaces, Artemio and Claire had so much in common, and before long, they were inseparable. A few years later, Artemio asked that ever-important question while exploring Arizona's Kaibab National Forest. When deciding where to celebrate their marriage, they knew it could only be here, where it all began. They were married on April 4, 2024 at Alisal Ranch and live nearby on a ranch of their own.

Celebrate your love at Alisal Ranch. Plan your wedding at [alisalanranch.com](https://www.alisalanranch.com).



Inspired by Nature

Alisal Ranch's 10,500-acre property is a breathtaking landscape bordered by a river on the northeast and a coastal mountain range on the southwest. Here, in these rolling hills dotted with valley oaks and hundred-year-old coastal live oaks, plants and wildflowers thrive.

Inspired by this majestic setting, we partnered with local Ojai-based GARA Skincare to create a wellness product line enhanced with scents extracted from aromatic plants native to Alisal Ranch. "When we were invited to the Ranch, we were immediately struck by the vast, untouched beauty of the land," says Emilee Dziuk-Barnett, Creator of GARA Skincare. "Alisal's commitment to preserving its rich history and the diverse flora and fauna that thrive here is truly inspiring. We wanted to honor this stewardship and evoke a sense of reverence for those who lived on this land long before."

THE PROCESS

Emilee and her team developed the signature scent by "walking its trails and riding on horseback to its more remote areas. Observing what thrived in the wild, we carefully selected plant and tree essences that embodied the spirit of the Ranch. From this, we crafted a unique Alisal scent using 100% essential oils and natural extracts, capturing the essence of this extraordinary place. Immersing ourselves in the natural habitat of these plants allowed us to gather inspiration for the Alisal scent, one that would ground people in the essence of the land and create a sensory bridge back to it—no matter where they are."



THE PLANTS

“*The land's rich history unfolded through the presence of sage, a sacred plant long used for its healing properties. Clary sage, in particular, stood out for its calming effects on the nervous system. Among the grounds and rooms, we noticed the abundance of roses, whose delicate scent offers a heart-opening quality.*

"To pay homage to the Ranch's heritage of grazers and cowboys, we anchored the scent with sweet, leathery tobacco and smoky oak moss. Finally, the vastness and uplifting energy of Alisal inspired us to include neroli, bringing a bright, floral note that balances the earthy foundation.

THE RESULT IS A SCENT DEEPLY ROOTED IN NATURE—
GROUNDED YET ETHEREAL, MASCULINE YET FEMININE—
A HARMONIOUS REFLECTION OF THE LAND ITSELF."

THE PRODUCTS



Alisal Ranch Shampoo
"CEDAR WOOD & ROSE"

Alisal Ranch Conditioner
"NEROLI & CEDAR WOOD"



Alisal Ranch Body Wash
"CLARY SAGE & ROSE"



Alisal Ranch Lotion
"ROSE & NEROLI"

Alisal Ranch Trading Co. products are available
in all guest rooms and for purchase in the spa.



Fifty Years of Memories

PAUL &
LOUELLEN
HESSE

Now longtime regulars, Paul and Louellen Hesse were first introduced to Alisal Ranch by friends who convinced them to spend a weekend here more than fifty years ago. "Then we found out that Alisal was great during the summer months to bring our children," says Louellen. They usually visit three times a year, but one year they managed to make it here five times. "I arranged to have our kitchen remodeled during that time so we could come to Alisal during the Christmas holiday," she laughs.

Perhaps it's appropriate that the Hesse family opted to spend Christmas here, as they feel like they're coming home. "It is always nice to come back and embrace the ambience of Alisal and see the wonderful employees again who make us feel so welcomed—it is basically a family reunion with them," adds Louellen. Their list of beloved "family" members runs long. "First, there is Kathleen and Lily Larralde is our special friend who always makes time to see us during our stay. Margaret Roberts makes such an effort to get us our room whenever she can arrange it, and Toni in the office is always there to welcome us and share any news we should know. Will is a newer employee since we have been coming but always makes a point of saying hello and asking if we need him for anything."



Meals are special to the Hesse family too. "In the dining room, we love to talk with Jack and Ramiro. Sandy is our favorite waitress for breakfast and always tries to be at our table when we are there. We love all the waiters but especially Rob, Nestor, Primo, Abe, Juan, Marcos, and Orlando." In fact, the dining room plays host to one of their most treasured memories. "One year we brought Paul's mother (who only speaks German) for a visit with our children. Our waitress at that time was Donna, and at some point during our visit she motioned to Paul's mother to follow her and took her into the kitchen. We later found her perched on a chair having a marvelous time conversing with the Chef, Urs, in German! Donna said she recognized that the Chef spoke the same language in which she heard Paul talking to his mother. Mother later told us it was the best vacation she ever had! We loved it."

With fifty years of visits, there are so many special moments. "Memories are what Alisal is all about. There are millions of them, starting in the 1970s to now our golden years," she adds. "Maria has a special place in our hearts as she used to clean Room 39 when we were there with our children." Today, Paul and Louellen visit with their daughters' families, returning each Spring with each of their two daughters and their families, as well as their nephew's family.

Alisal Ranch is a wonderful place to visit. We always said that it is the people who make this place so wonderful. There is no other place like it in the world.



“

*You can have my part of city life
With all the comforts of its kind
But I prefer the open spaces
Where the sun is sure to shine.*

”

~ Jake Copass





A TOAST TO THE RANCH

*RECIPES FROM
THE OAK ROOM
AND RANCH ROOM*

Whether you're pulling up a chair in the Oak Room or pouring a drink at home to reminisce about your time at Alisal Ranch, discover two of our signature cocktails made with local products below and seasonal recipes on the following pages.

"Here in California, we have some of the best craft distilleries in the country, making everything from gin and whiskey to vodka and agave spirits," shares Michael Cutuli, manager of food and beverage at Alisal Ranch. "Our spirit menu has been tailored to include a variety of local spirits to showcase the amazing craft spirit brands we have here on the Central Coast."



THE OLD ADOBE

"This is a staple on our cocktail menu that changes seasonally. We always use our Alisal Label Rod and Hammer Bourbon as a base and change the bitters and sweetener to highlight seasonal themes. It's aged in a 5-gallon Rod and Hammer charred oak whiskey barrel."

INGREDIENTS

2 ounces Alisal Label Bourbon
4 dashes Angostura Bitters
2 dashes Fee Bros. Orange Bitters
½ ounce maple syrup

DIRECTIONS

Add all ingredients to a mixing beaker with ice and stir. Strain into a rocks glass with a large ice cube and garnish with an orange twist over the rim and a Luxardo cherry.



SPICE BLOSSOM

"This is a great springtime cocktail that combines the floral and aromatic Wilder gin with the unusual hint of spice that complements this light and cocktail. It's perfect for a sunny and brisk spring afternoon."

INGREDIENTS

1.5 ounces of Wilder Gin
.75 ounce of elderflower liquor
(We use St. Elder, but St. Germain works as well)
½ ounce lime juice
½ ounce agave
2 wheels of fresh jalapeño with seeds

DIRECTIONS

Add jalapeños to a shaker tin and muddle. Add all other ingredients and ice to the tin and shake vigorously for 20 seconds. Fine strain into a Collins glass with ice and garnish with a dehydrated jalapeño and a small edible flower.



BEEF CHEEK PASTA

INGREDIENTS

3 large beef cheeks
1 white onion, diced
6 cloves of garlic, smashed
1 cup carrot, peeled and diced
1 ½ cups red wine
1 ½ cups beef stock
1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes
2 tbsp. tomato paste
1 bay leaf
1 tbsp. crème fraîche
Pappardelle pasta
Parmigiano Reggiano, grated
Chopped parsley

DIRECTIONS

Trim any large pieces of fat off the beef cheeks. Dry with paper towels and season with salt and pepper. Heat a large Dutch oven pot over medium high heat and add grapeseed oil to lightly coat the pot. Sear the beef cheeks on both sides and set aside. In the same pot add the carrots and cook until slightly softened, then add onions and soak until translucent. Add the garlic last and sauté for one more minute (being careful not to burn the garlic). Add the tomato paste and stir to coat all the veggies. Cook for 1-2 minutes. Add the red wine and reduce by half. Add the tomatoes, beef stock and bay leaf. Add the beef cheeks back into the pot and bring to a simmer, then cover with a lid. Place the pot in the oven at 300 degrees and braise for 3 hours or until tender. Remove the beef cheeks from the pot and cool slightly before shredding the meat. Meanwhile, place the pot back on the stovetop and simmer on low heat until the sauce/braising liquid is thickened. Cook the pappardelle pasta in boiling salted water until al dente and add to the sauce with the beef cheeks. Stir in the crème fraîche until fully incorporated. Place the pasta in beef cheek sauce into bowls and garnish with the Parmigiano Reggiano and parsley.

Note: The beef cheek sauce can be made a day ahead so all you need to do is cook the pasta and add to the reheated sauce with the crème fraîche.



GRILLED SANTA BARBARA SPOT PRAWNS

INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. Santa Barbara Spot Prawns,
head on tail on
2 cloves garlic, minced
Pinch of dried chili flakes
5 tbsp. Extra Virgin Olive Oil
3 tbsp. Tequila
2 tbsp. chopped cilantro
Salt

DIRECTIONS

Using a paring knife, butterfly the prawns from the tail to the base of the head, leaving the peel and head on the prawns. Devein. Heat the oil and sauté the garlic and chili flakes until fragrant but not burnt. Add the oil, garlic, and chili flakes to a bowl with the tequila and cilantro. Add the prawns to the bowl and toss to gently coat with the marinade. Let sit at room temperature for 30 minutes. Prepare your grill to high heat and grill the prawns while basting with the marinade from the bowl. Cook until pink and just barely cooked through. Transfer to a platter and serve as an appetizer or side at your next BBQ!





Lily LARRALDE

ON THE *magic* OF ALISAL RANCH

Lily Larralde was a neighbor before she joined the staff at Alisal Ranch. She and her husband purchased property near the Ranch when they first moved to the Santa Ynez Valley more than four decades ago. “I drove by Alisal every day and thought, ‘this place looks really cool,’” she says. When her young children went to school, she decided to stop by and see if there were any job openings. “I was looking for a little job to keep me busy,” she says. That was on April 24, 1980, and she’s been with Alisal Ranch ever since. “It’s pretty easy to do something that makes people happy all the time,” she beams.

Lily has been in many roles at the Ranch, from front office clerk to executive assistant, reservations and marketing. Today, she is the director of guest relations, and while her job description may not say it, she’s a keeper of the flame. “Everybody – from the guests to the employees – has an incredible story here,” she says.

Welcoming guests and having a part in their Alisal Ranch experience is something Lily finds especially rewarding. Whether she’s seeing a familiar face or meeting someone new, it’s that personal connection that keeps her engaged. “The kids are really special,” she says. “The word ‘magic’ is passed around a lot but it’s true here, and the kids really feel it.”

Forty-five years has flashed by in an instant, and while some things have changed, others haven’t. “The quality of our food is so much better and the rooms are so much nicer, but the core of who we are has not changed,” she says. “We are a place to make memories with your family. The longtime guests recognize that but I see it with the new guests. They can’t believe they didn’t discover this place sooner,” she laughs.

She also believes it’s the little moments that often make the biggest impact. “We were doing yoga up at the lake one day and all of a sudden, a bald eagle flew down and caught a fish. That happens to people when they come – it’s these aha moments.”

Of course, for Lily it all comes back to the people. “You can have a great place with great rooms and service but if it’s not run by people who have a heart, you can feel it. Alisal has that.”

And while it’s one of the reasons why guests keep coming back, it’s their stories that keep her coming back every day. “There is a room off the bar that has all of these old photos of guests, and one day a longtime guest told me that she was in one of those pictures. Now, her son is getting married here this year. That’s the story of the Ranch. People come when they’re little, then they grow up and bring their kids...it’s 50 to 60 years of people coming here. This is what’s important, and what the ranch does for people—both employees and guests. It creates these bonds that continue for years.”

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*We are a place to make memories
with your family.*

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COASTAL

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01.

THE GREAT - HORSE LODGE CARDIGAN

This soft cotton cardigan from The Great features hand-embroidered horses and is inspired by a 1960s kids' sweater. **\$425**

02.

ROUND SIDEWAYS HAMMERED HOOPS

Each 14K gold-fill hoop is carefully hammered by hand, crafted locally with care, making every piece truly unique. **\$101**

Live the coastal cowgirl lifestyle with these, and other items, from the Alisal Ranch mercantile. Visit the mercantile while on property or visit shopalisalranch.com.

05.

FEMININE GRIT SILK SCARF

In-house brand with terracota floral design. 36" x 36" **\$92**



03.

WESTERN LOVELY BIRD HAT

This custom hat is crafted from 100% wool felt, featuring a deer tan leather hatband, and adorned with a turkey feather. **\$270**



04.

ALISAL RANCH + ACE RIVINGTON UNISEX DENIM UNISEX DENIM WESTERN SHIRT

Mid-weight denim with silver engraved Alisal logo snap buttons, crafted in collaboration with Santa Barbara-based Ace Rivington. **\$159**



06.

ALISAL RANCH BODY WASH "CLARY SAGE & ROSE"

Invigorate your skin with this refreshing body wash. **\$19.95**



07.

FRYE BOOTS

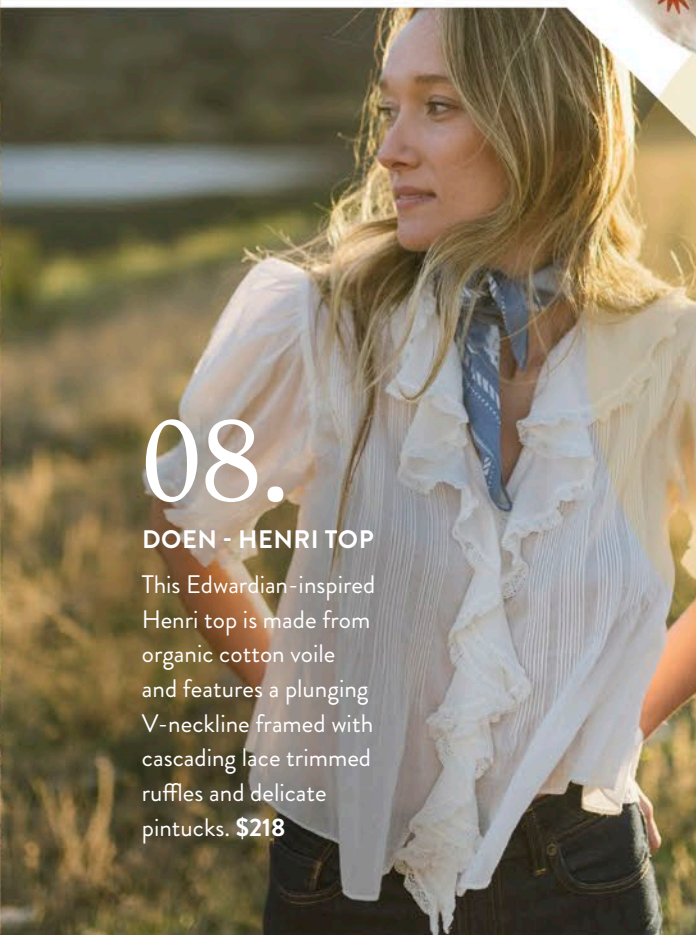
Cognac Billy crafted of washed oil vintage leather **\$298**

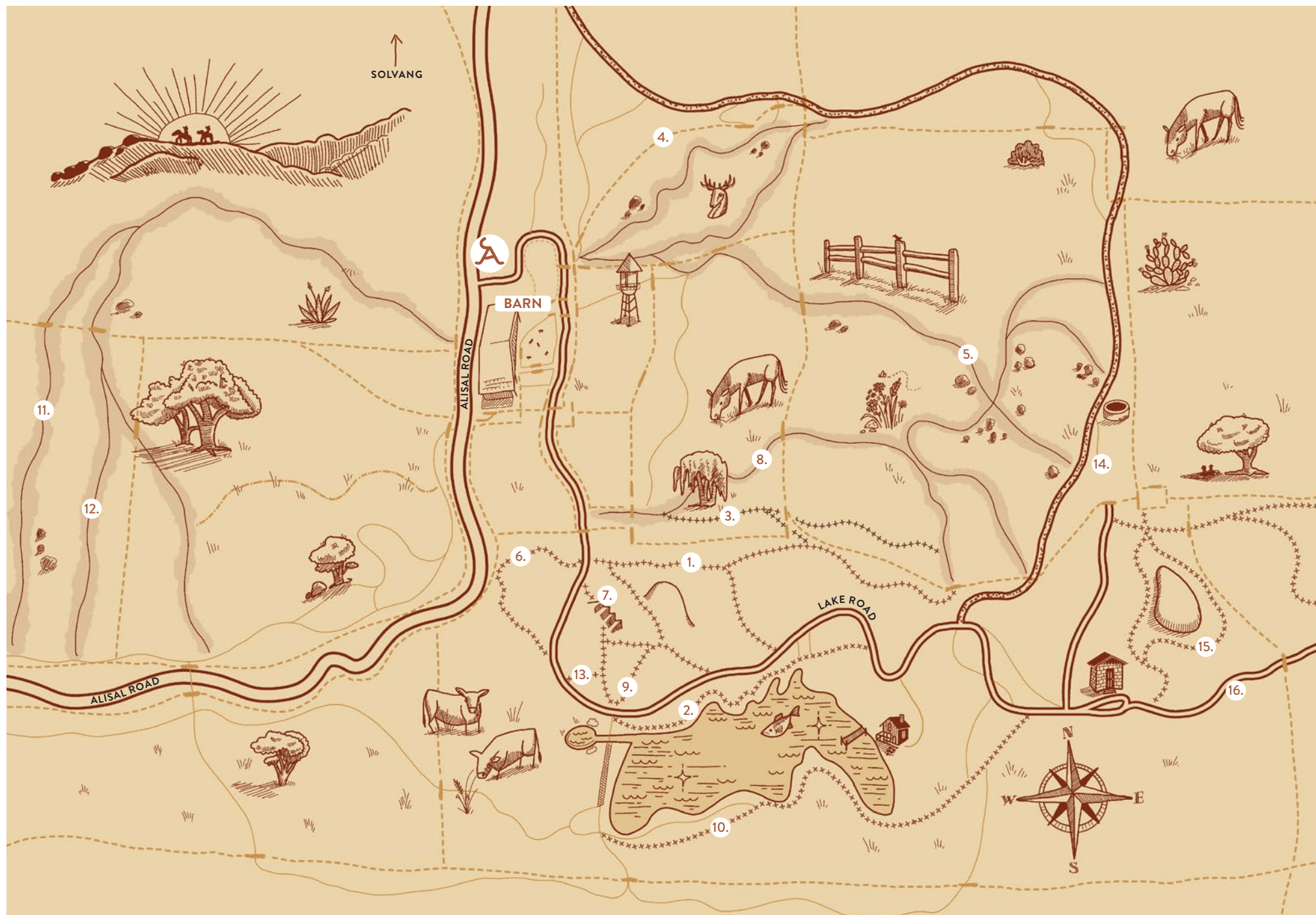


08.

DOEN - HENRI TOP

This Edwardian-inspired Henri top is made from organic cotton voile and features a plunging V-neckline framed with cascading lace trimmed ruffles and delicate pintucks. **\$218**





3. **I-5:** The quickest and widest route to and from the Adobe for our breakfast rides.
4. **VISTA POINT:** One of the high point lookouts in Deer Canyon that overlooks the valley. On a clear day you can see Solvang, Santa Ynez, and Buellton.
5. **BOBCAT CANYON:** Named for the bobcat den that was once located off this trail.
6. **INSTRUCTIONAL:** The mellowest of the trails, its gentle hills and flat stretches are ideal for guests to experience their first ride or pick up their first trot with a wrangler's instruction.
7. **STAIRCASE:** This trail earned its name from its steeper slope that quickly gets riders up to the high point of the hill.
8. **HANGING TREE:** Named after a tree that had branches that hung down over riders on this trail.
9. **PROPOSAL POINT:** A scenic resting spot overlooking the lake that it is a favorite spot for photos and romantic proposals.
10. **LAKE TRAIL:** Bordering the back side of the lake, it's a guest favorite as it goes right under the eagles' nest, home to our two resident bald eagles and the 1-2 eaglets they raise annually.
11. **LONG CANYON:** The longer west ride loop.
12. **SHORT CANYON:** The shorter west ride loop.
13. **SAND HILL:** This sandy hill leads to a steady trail that follows the lake road and overlooks the lake.
14. **INDIAN CAMP:** A historic landmark on the ranch that pays tribute to the Chumash Indians who once lived on this land. While riding through the boulders, look for the mortar and pestle or milling stones that were used to grind acorns into flour.
15. **EAGLE MESSA:** Named after the golden eagles that once resided on the plateau at the top of the trail. They left Alisal after the bald eagles were reintroduced to the area, but have been recently spotted once again!
16. **BEHIND THE ADOBE:** A trail once used by cowboys to ride to the adobe for their meals while rounding up the cattle.

ALISAL RANCH TRAILS

Whether they meander past a rushing stream, under a shady tree, or along the lake, our trails snake their way through some of the most scenic property in the Santa Ynez Valley. A path to serenity, they're also a walk down memory lane. Named for important figures in Alisal Ranch's past and present, honoring wildlife and other points of interest, each trail provides something special.

Horseback Riding Trail Names

1. **BOHANNON:** Mark Bohannon, our herd manager, has been an employee of Alisal Ranch for many years. His father was one of the original wranglers when Alisal first began welcoming guests. Mark's dad cut this trail and he brought it back when he started working here.
2. **TURTLE WALK:** Bordering the lake, it's where the turtles are often found sunning themselves.

2025 EVENTS CURATED RANCH EXPERIENCES



6-9 | April

THE UNBRIDLED RETREAT®

Harnessing the healing power of horses, equine coach Devon Combs helps women to heal, find clarity, and move forward.



4-6 | May

BBQ BOOTCAMP

Bringing together top chefs and pitmasters for a classic ranch experience.



Summer 2025

CALIFORNIA RANCH COOKOUTS

Join us this summer as we team up with incredible guest chefs to craft unforgettable dining experiences.



26-29 | August

21-23 | November

SUMMER + FALL WELLNESS AT THE RANCH



2-5 | September

STEVEN RAICHLEN: BARBECUE UNIVERSITY®

An intensive three-day course named “the #1 cooking experience in America” by the *Food Network*.



14-16 | September

ACT 2 AT ALISAL

This inspirational event empowers women to embrace midlife.



5-8 | October

WILDWONDER™

This women's retreat features female artisans, chefs, wellness leaders, and other fearless women.



19-22 | October

THE UNBRIDLED RETREAT™

Share transformative moments with horses and women, uncover new paths, and embrace your most courageous, authentic self.



26-29 | October

WOMEN OF THE RANCHO

Designed for like-minded women who love to ride and seek a deeper connection with nature, trail riding, and mindful living—led by Janet Solie.

“
*Alisal Ranch hearkens back
to a simpler time and remains a rustic
retreat for those who seek a getaway to the
California of yesteryear.*
”

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SINCE 1946

ALISAL RANCH