

HOLIDAY 2026

ACTIVITY GUIDE

DECEMBER 19, 2026 - JANUARY 1, 2027

WELCOME TO ALISAL RANCH

We are excited to welcome our guests to Alisal Ranch this Christmas Break!

To make the most of your stay, we encourage you to book activities and dining times prior to your arrival with our Ranch Concierge Team RanchConcierge@Alisal.com or (805) 693-4209.

While you are on property, our Front Desk and Ranch Concierge team are here to assist you with any questions you may have to ensure you have a memorable stay with us. For your convenience, you can now text (805) 691-0067 from your cell phone available 24/7.

Remember to refer to the Ranch Daily while on property for the most up-to-date schedule of activities offered at the Ranch, including shuttle times, Arts & Crafts activities, Spa/Fitness center hours and Family Fun evening activities that do not require advance sign ups.

If there is anything I can do for you personally, please always feel free to call or stop by the Front Desk.

Sincerely,

David Merklinger
General Manager
(805) 201-9468





Note: All activities are subject to change. Please check the Ranch Daily for updates.
**indicates sign-up and or fee is required in advance. Please contact Ranch Concierge at ext.7700*

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Reindeer Scavenger Hunt

December 21st - 27th

Join the Spa & Wellness team for a festive Reindeer Scavenger Hunt beginning at the Spa and continuing throughout the ranch. Ten little reindeer will be hidden across five locations, with two reindeer at each stop. Find them all, snap a photo of each one, and bring your pictures back to the Spa to receive a special gift. Enjoy the fresh air, explore the ranch, and help us round up Santa's runaway reindeer!

Letters to Santa

December 1st - 24th

It's Holiday magic at Alisal! Kids can write a special letter to Santa during their stay and drop it in Santa's mailbox at the Front Desk. On Saturdays, families can visit Santa's Workshop in the Adobe during the Signature Breakfast Ride to meet Santa, take photos, and enjoy inclusive festive activities celebrating the season. Keep and eye out, you never know when Santa might stop by the Ranch.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

Holiday Hot Cocoa Making*

1:00 p.m. | Pool Lawn | $25

Get into the holiday spirit and learn how to make your very own delicious hot cocoa mix at home! Choose from a wide variety of festive flavors and fun toppings to create the perfect cocoa for the season. Bring your creativity, make something delicious, and enjoy a little holiday cheer along the way! Come mix, create, and make your holidays extra cozy.

Holiday-Inspired Western Hat Making*

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Pool Pavillion | $100 per hat

Join us for a fun, hands-on hat-making workshop! Families can decorate their own western hats with fall-inspired touches like feathers, ribbons, and rustic accents. Enjoy the cozy autumn vibes and take home a one-of-a-kind keepsake from your time at the ranch.

Holiday Nog House

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | Oak Bar

Join us in the Oak Room on Friday and Saturday evenings for a festive glass of eggnog, complete with all the fixings! Come cozy up, sip, and celebrate the holiday season with us.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

Caramel Apple Making*

2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. | Oak Room | $25 per person

Join us on the Creekside Lawn every Sunday for family fun! Create your own caramel apples and top them with a delicious variety of sprinkles, nuts, candies, and drizzles

Candle Making*

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Spa Deck | $85 per candle

Spend a leisurely afternoon with Montecito artist Tara Rose Toner during a hands-on candle-making experience. Using natural coconut wax and a selection of seasonal scents, guests will create a custom candle to take home while enjoying champagne and wine. A relaxed and creative way to savor the season.

Family S'mores Night

8:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. | Pool Pavillion

Gather under the stars for a cozy winter evening. Roast marshmallows infused with seasonal flavors like maple and cinnamon, and craft your perfect s'more with a variety of chocolates and grahams. Enjoy the crisp evening air and the warm glow of the fire, complemented by seasonal treats and warm beverages.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

Clash of the Continents: The Old World vs. New World Blind Tasting Challenge*

4:00 p.m. | Oak Room

Put your palate to the test in this interactive, high-stakes blind tasting event! Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or a casual wine lover, join us for an engaging exploration into how geography, climate, and winemaking tradition shape what ends up in your glass. You'll be served three mystery pours—concealed in blind tasting sleeves—featuring classic varietals set up in direct contrast. Using an easy-to-follow scorecard, we'll analyze sight, aroma, fruit intensity, acidity, and structure to help you decipher each bottle's origin.

Alisal Family Bingo

8:00 p.m. | Yurt | Bingo Cards: $1 each (cash only)

Get ready for an evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition! Join us in the Cottonwood Room for classic bingo—a favorite for guests of all ages. Try your luck, win prizes, and make memories with the whole family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

Alisal's Zoo to You

11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. | Grassy Oval

Bring the wonders of the wild to the Ranch! Zoo to You is an interactive, educational program that brings live animals directly to our community. Guests of all ages can enjoy hands-on experiences, learn fascinating facts about wildlife, and discover the importance of conservation.

Cocktail Making*

3:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. | Oak Room

Raise a glass to the seasons at Alisal Ranch every Tuesday with this interactive mixology experience. Each class highlights a featured spirit or seasonal theme, as our bartender demonstrates how to craft a perfectly balanced cocktail. Guests then step behind the bar to shake, stir, and garnish their own.

Family Line Dancing

8:00 p.m. | Yurt

Kick up your heels and join the whole family for a lively line dancing session! Learn easy steps, move to upbeat music, and share plenty of laughs. No experience needed—just bring your energy and get ready to dance together!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

Charcuterie & Wine Pairing Workshop*

3:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. | Oak Room | $50 per person

Celebrate every Wednesday the flavors of the season in this hands-on culinary workshop dedicated to the art of charcuterie. Participants learn how to select, and arrange a variety of cured meats, cheeses, and seasonal accompaniments- whether it be autumnal fruits, spiced nuts, festive holiday jams, or bright spring produce. Attendees also discover the essentials of wine pairing, with guidance on choosing the perfect varietals to complement their seasonal boards. The result is a charcuterie experience that is as perfect for festive entertainment as it is for enjoying as a special treat year-round.

Alisal Magic Show

8:00 p.m. | Yurt

Join us for an enchanting magic show full of astonishing tricks, laughter, and audience participation. Perfect for guests of all ages, this magical experience will leave you amazed and smiling.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE

Pizza & Pinot*

1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. | Creekside Lawn | $75 per person

Hands-on pizza-making experience that celebrates the flavors of Fall. Every Thursday guided by our culinary team, participants learn the art of hand-stretching dough, layering fresh seasonal toppings, and baking pizzas to perfection. Guests also enjoy tasting Central Coast wines throughout the class, perfectly paired to complement their creations.

Walking Christmas Caroling on property

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Front Office

Let's celebrate Christmas singing some of our favorite songs. Dress warmly, wear good walking shoes, and bring your best singing voice!

Santa Time

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | Oak Bar

Gather your family and get your camera ready for some pictures with Santa. This is a great opportunity for the kids to see Santa and let him know how good they have been all year long.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY

Guacamole & Margarita Making*

3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. | Oak Room | $25 per person

Bring a little fiesta to your Friday in this hands-on class, where guests prepare guacamole, salsas, and a traditional margarita. Using fresh ingredients and traditional techniques, each session highlights seasonal twists-like bright winter citrus, or summer garden favorites. Along the way, guests learn how to balance flavors and textures to create dips and drinks perfect for any occasion.

Holiday Nog House

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.| Oak Bar

Join us in the Oak Room on Friday and Saturday evenings for a festive glass of eggnog, complete with all the fixings! Come cozy up, sip, and celebrate the holiday season with us.

Movie: How the Grinch Stole Christmas

7:30 p.m. | Yurt

Grab a seat and get cozy to watch a timeless classic movie with your family.





SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

Little Reindeer Yoga (Ages 4-12)*

11:00 a.m. | Spa Studio | $30 per person

Celebrate the season with a festive 30 minute yoga adventure just for kids. Through playful holiday inspired poses, games, music and imagination, children will stretch like a Christmas tree, balance like a reindeer and enjoy a joyful North Pole inspired flow before ending with a cozy moment of relaxation.

Holiday Hot Cocoa Making*

1:00 p.m. | Pool Lawn | $25 per person

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

Caramel Apple Making*

2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. | Oak Room | $25 per person

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Jewelry-Making with Rachel Kett of Hammered Hoops*

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Spa | $100 per person

Join local jewelry artist and designer Rachel Kett of Hammered Hoops for a hands-on jewelry-making experience. Guests will explore the art of handcrafted design while creating a unique piece inspired by Rachel's signature style 14k gold and love of beautiful materials. A relaxed and creative way to design something special to wear and take home.

Family S'mores Night

8:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. | Pool Pavillion

Gather under the stars for a cozy winter evening. Roast marshmallows infused with seasonal flavors like maple and cinnamon, and craft your perfect s'more with a variety of chocolates and grahams. Enjoy the crisp evening air and the warm glow of the fire, complemented by seasonal treats and warm beverages.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

Taste of the Central Coast*

3:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. | Oak Room

Join us every Monday for an intimate tasting experience featuring a curated selection of our favorite local wines and the passionate winemakers behind them. Discover unique varietals, hear the stories behind each bottle, and celebrate the vibrant wine culture of our region.

Alisal Family Bingo

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3:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. | Oak Room | $50 per person

Celebrate every Wednesday the flavors of the season in this hands-on culinary workshop dedicated to the art of charcuterie. Participants learn how to select, and arrange a variety of cured meats, cheeses, and seasonal accompaniments- whether it be autumnal fruits, spiced nuts, festive holiday jams, or bright spring produce. Attendees also discover the essentials of wine pairing, with guidance on choosing the perfect varietals to complement their seasonal boards. The result is a charcuterie experience that is as perfect for festive entertainment as it is for enjoying as a special treat year-round.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST - NEW YEARS EVE

East Coast Ball Drop Family Party

8:00-10:30 p.m. | Yurt

A fun family friendly evening with music, karaoke, games, drinks and more. Help us count down east coast time to the new year. We will have hats, noise makers, and more!

Pizza & Pinot*

1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. | Creekside Lawn | $75 per person

Hands-on pizza-making experience that celebrates the flavors of Fall. Every Thursday guided by our culinary team, participants learn the art of hand-stretching dough, layering fresh seasonal toppings, and baking pizzas to perfection. Guests also enjoy tasting Central Coast wines throughout the class, perfectly paired to complement their creations.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST

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SEE YOU AT THE RANCH
RANCHCONCIERGE@ALISAL.COM - ALISALRANCH.COM/ACTIVITIES