

Santa Barbara

MAGAZINE

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star
ZOEY
DEUTCH
gets
our
vote

PLUS Kick off your boots at The Alisal, Rancho La Zaca hospitality, and our fall guide to all things wine country



Western Exposure

THE ALISAL
GUEST RANCH
& RESORT adds
designer flair to its
longstanding getaway
pleasures

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A timeless scene in the Santa Ynez Valley: Ranch riders climb an oak-studded hillside on their way to a cowboy breakfast.

Lynn Harris savors a cup of joe. OPPOSITE TOP TO BOTTOM: Nathan Turner and Elizabeth Chambers sport shades; an outdoor setting whets hearty breakfast appetites.



rail rides, barbecues, and summer rodeos are all part of local Western traditions at The Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort. The renowned Santa Ynez Valley property has been entertaining visitors with its ranch hospitality since it opened in 1946, attracting Hollywood celebrities like Clark Cable and Doris Day and bringing back families year after year to enjoy the tranquil yet exhilarating outdoor atmosphere. Now entertaining guru and author Nathan Turner has added his sophisticated touch to the property's mix of accommodations, designing a luxurious three-bedroom cottage appointed with California-Monterey furnishings. To herald the unveiling of the Turner House suite, a dozen or so friends came to take part in a celebratory weekend, beginning with an evening party and followed the next morning by a breakfast ride to the Old Adobe, one of the historic structures on the 10,500-acre ranch. Once there, the



"It was a proper cowboy breakfast in the most beautiful setting. The music and storytelling set the tone for a wonderful meal with incredible company." —Elizabeth Chambers



Minnie Mortimer and Stephen Gaghan. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A stellar pair of boots; Nathan Turner surveys the scene; the table awaits hungry riders; a flapjacks and fruit plate.



“Alisal Ranch embodies everything you could have possibly imagined from your most bucolic Wild West fantasy.” —Zoe de Givenchy

group found seats at the long table under the trees and tucked into a feast of the Alisal’s acclaimed flapjacks, eggs, bacon, and wake-you-up coffee. To heighten the mood, they were entertained by a campfire singer and cowboy poet.

“It was a proper cowboy breakfast in the most beautiful setting,” says Elizabeth Chambers, one of the guests. (She hails from Texas, so she ought to know!) She adds, “The music and storytelling set the tone for a wonderful meal with incredible company and the best apple fritters I’ve had in a long time.”

As for Turner House, the designer took his inspiration from his years growing up on a northern California ranch. Turner is a fourth-generation Californian, and he filled the suite (from \$1,000 per night, including breakfast and dinner) with vintage refinished furniture, Indian rugs and baskets, Ralph Lauren fabrics, and Pendleton accessories, then added dramatic accents like reclaimed barnwood paneling and river-rock facing on a fireplace in the great room. The result is rustic but refined; it seems as though the rooms have always looked this way.

“I designed the Turner House so that you feel as though you’re stepping into your own ranch house,” he says, “yet one with all of the wonderful benefits that make the Alisal so special.”

Updating the cottage in a traditional way is completely in keeping with the overall ambience of the ranch, which maintains a no-telephone, no-television serenity in its accommodations. “The Turner House truly embodies the Jackson family’s

dedication to providing an authentic ranch experience for families and friends,” says Kathleen Cochran, Alisal’s general manager.

The effect hasn’t been lost on guests like Zoe de Givenchy, who came for the Turner House’s inaugural weekend. “Alisal Ranch embodies everything you could have possibly imagined from your most bucolic Wild West fantasy,” she says. “It’s the sort of place one wants to sit



Wranglers relax while they keep an eye on the string of steeds.





“I designed the Turner House so that you feel as though you’re stepping into your own ranch house, yet one with all of the wonderful benefits that make the Alisal so special.” —Nathan Turner

by a campfire under the sycamores and recite Arthur Chapman poetry. Nathan has created rooms that are luxurious and utterly authentic. I cannot get it out of my mind since we left. The weekend we spent in Alisal and Nathan’s hospitality is undoubtedly the most special weekend escape from Los Angeles we’ve had. Unforgettable!” •



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: In the living room of Turner House, blanket patterns cover the easy chairs in front of the fireplace with its river-rock façade; textures and patterns in rugs and baskets add vitality to the decor; denim and Western garb set the style as Minnie Mortimer, Zoe de Givenchy, Tessa Tooley, and Georgia Tapert Howe gather near a campfire at Alisal’s Old Adobe. OPPOSITE: Carlotta Espinosa and other riders return to the Alisal stable after their cowboy-for-a-morning experience.

