

SAN YSIDRO RANCH



SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA
A TY WARNER PROPERTY

SAN YSIDRO RANCH

A HISTORY OF LEGEND, NOSTALGIA AND ROMANCE

The story of San Ysidro Ranch is told through the history books of Old California. Nostalgia, romance, legend and myth intertwine here, creating the ambiance that makes the Ranch an icon of California and one of the state's most desirable retreats.

Originally part of land titled in 1769 by the King of Spain, the Ranch served as a way station for Franciscan monks in the late 1700s, a working citrus ranch in the 1800s, and hosted its first guests in 1893.

The San Ysidro Citrus Ranch, which would later become the Johnston Fruit Company, harvested an average of 300,000 oranges and 100,000 lemons annually. In 1889, a large sandstone packing house was built to handle the citrus production – which today houses the Ranch's acclaimed Stonehouse Restaurant.

The origin of the Ranch's name is embodied in the legend surrounding its namesake, Saint Isidore. San Ysidro (Spanish for Saint Isidore) was born into poverty in Madrid in 1070. He worked as a farm laborer in the fields of a wealthy nobleman. According to legend, because Isidore spent much of his time tending to the sick and needy, the Lord sent an angel to help him plow the fields. Hence, San Ysidro, the patron saint of farmers, is always shown surrounded by a plow, oxen, and an angel.

A retablo depicting the legend of Saint Isidore hangs above the fireplace in the Plow & Angel restaurant, honoring our namesake, Saint Isidore.

In 1825, an adobe ranch house was constructed by Thomas Olivier, the son of a Presidio soldier, and remains today as a California Historical Landmark and one of the most unique dining rooms on the West Coast. In 1892, a ranch house was built that would become The Hacienda, the focal point of today's Ranch where guests check-in and gather to relax and socialize.

In the 1930s, Hollywood actor Ronald Colman and hotelier and former Senator Alvin Carl Weingand acquired the Ranch and transformed it into a hospitality haven – known for its idyllic setting, service and guarding of guest privacy – for celebrities. The famous guests over the years range from Audrey Hepburn, Lucille Ball, Bing Crosby and Groucho Marx to Winston Churchill, Somerset Maugham and Sinclair Lewis. Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier were married at the Ranch, John and Jacqueline Kennedy honeymooned there and John Huston completed the script for *African Queen* during a three-month stay.

Entrepreneur Ty Warner acquired the Ranch in 2000 and made it part of the exclusive collection of Ty Warner Hotels & Resorts, LLC. Under Warner's guidance, the Ranch has undergone a major restoration to ensure it remains one of the most acclaimed luxury hideaways for discriminating travelers.