



# BORREGO RANCH

## RESORT & SPA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** KRISTIN RUST/JORDAN BLAKESLEY  
[kristin@turnerpr.com](mailto:kristin@turnerpr.com)/[jordan@turnerpr.com](mailto:jordan@turnerpr.com)  
(303) 333-1402

### **BORREGO SPRINGS' HISTORY STEEPED IN LEISURE AND THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE** *Home to the New Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa*

In November 2008, Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa debuted to travelers looking for a warm, sunny, carefree escape. *A California Tradition* continues on as it has for decades, as travelers gravitate to the awe-inspiring beauty and peace of the California desert.

The Borrego Valley has seen little change since it was first discovered by the Spaniards in the 1700's. Today, the laid-back, no-stoplight town of Borrego Springs is home to only 2,800 year-round residents, and its pristine countryside makes for a destination unlike any other—located just 85 miles from San Diego, 150 miles from Los Angeles and 80 miles from Palm Springs, in the heart of the 650,000-acre Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

“Borego” first appears on a county map in 1883 as a misspelling of the Spanish word “borrego” which means a yearling lamb. It has long been assumed that the spring was named after the desert bighorn sheep known to inhabit the area, but the term borrego refers to domestic, not wild sheep. More likely, “Borrego Springs” was so named because of the shepherders who watered their flocks at the local spring in the late 1800's.

In 1774, Juan Bautista de Anza discovered one of the first land routes from Mexico to California through the Borrego Valley. Returning in 1776, Anza led a group of soldiers, colonists, horses, cattle and mules on an epic 1,600 mile march from Culiacan, Mexico, through Borrego Valley, eventually founding the Pueblo of San Francisco.

In 1937, in the heart of the mission revival period, the first structure in the Borrego Valley was built by Dana Burks, an early developer of Palm Springs. The simple adobe house was originally named the Desert Lodge.

In 1960, Copley Press (owner of *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, *The Borrego Sun*, *Today's Local News* and *Enlace*), purchased the Desert Lodge and officially changed the name to La Casa del Zorro Desert Resort. “El Zorro,” or “the fox” in Spanish, was the nickname of James Copley's mistress who made her home in this desert retreat. La Casa del Zorro Desert Resort quickly became a coveted desert oasis and romantic escape. Throughout the 47 years Copley owned and operated La Casa Del Zorro, numerous improvements were made, including the renovation of deluxe rooms and casitas, and the addition of tennis courts, pools, a meeting center and more.

In 2007, GH Capital purchased La Casa Del Zorro from Copley Press. The resort was closed temporarily in July 2008 to transform this boutique hotel into what is now Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa.

### ***About Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa***

Nestled in the stunning desert playground of Borrego Springs, California, comes a California Tradition with a new twist. Much more than a vacation retreat, Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa is California's newest luxury destination, offering a blend of simple pleasures and extraordinary experiences for adults only. Less than two hours from San Diego, Borrego Ranch is set in the heart of the magnificent 650,000-acre Anza Borrego Desert State Park. Here, healthy living and active vacationing meet the luxury lifestyle. You can invigorate your mind, body and soul with hiking, mountain biking, tennis, swimming, yoga, Tom Fazio Signature golf, cutting edge health and fitness programs, gourmet dining and pampering spa treatments. Visionary and industry innovator Joseph DeNucci, former COO of Miraval resort, leads a talented team of fitness, culinary and leisure experts dedicated to creating a unique and personalized stay for each and every guest. The resort offers 63 luxury rooms and casitas featuring wood-burning fireplaces, multiple on-site dining options, and countless luxury amenities. Californian Spanish-revival architecture of the 1940s meets modern spa techniques, a creative approach to destination travel, unforgettable cuisine and a vast array of adventurous, cultural and creative experiences. For more information please visit [BorregoRanchResortandSpa.com](http://BorregoRanchResortandSpa.com) or call (800) 824-1884.

### ***About Borrego Ranch Golf***

Ranked one of *Golf Digest's* "Best New Courses" in 2008/2009, the 18-hole Tom Fazio Signature Golf Course offers spectacular desert and mountain views and 600 feet of elevation change. Golfers of all levels will enjoy the remarkably diverse combination of holes that include unique and bountiful water features, as well as Fazio's trademark mounding and bunker complexes. Playing over 7,000 yards with more than 40 acres of maintained desert flowers, along with tall fescue grasses that frame the corridors of several holes, Fazio masterfully highlights the natural terrain of the untouched state park. The Director of Golf at Montesorio is PGA and Calloway Master Professional, David Hunter, who has been recognized by Golf Magazine as one of "America's Most Outstanding Golf Teachers."

### ***About Borrego Springs and the Anza-Borrego Desert***

The 650,000-acre Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest in the contiguous United States. Over 500 miles of dirt roads, 12 wilderness areas and 100 miles of riding and hiking trails provide visitors with an unparalleled opportunity to experience the wonders of the desert. The park features wildflowers, palm groves, cacti and sweeping views where visitors may spot roadrunners, golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer, bighorn sheep, desert iguanas and chuckwallas. Located just two hours from San Diego, and three hours from Los Angeles, the scenic drive to Borrego Springs has been, rated among the top ten in the nation by Rand McNally. Boasting 350 days of sunshine a year, average winter highs in the low 70s, a population of 2,800 and virtually no congestion or pollution, Borrego Springs offers a true desert escape. The absence of light pollution makes for spectacular stargazing and qualifies the region as a Dark Sky Community nominee by the International Dark Sky Association. Only one other community on the planet has been awarded this distinction.

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