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GENTRY

THE BRIDGE SCHOOL CONCERT

The Young's Cherished Cause Brings Hope & Promise

(And Some Mighty Fine Music!)

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AUGUST 2015

Neil Young



The Ranch Reimagined

While Carmel Valley Ranch has been a favorite getaway spot for decades, the resort has recently emerged as something more than a traditional escape—it's now a place dedicated to the idea of play.

BY CORRINE E. MEHIGAN

Upon arrival at the new-and-improved Carmel Valley Ranch, it's impossible not to drink in heady fragrance of fresh lavender growing on the nearby hillside. Indeed, all of your senses will come alive as you realize the limitless possibilities for spending precious time in this special place. Carmel Valley Ranch has introduced 30 superb indoor-outdoor guest suites and studios designed by Rodrigo Vargas Design, with architectural design by SB Architects and The Paul Davis Partnership. The new spaces are a marvelous mix of casual elegance. Drop your bags and breathe in the serene outdoor living area with stunning valley and vineyard views, a concrete soaking tub, indoor-outdoor fireplaces, and rustic-elegant furnishings.

The best spot to see-and-be-seen upon arrival is the resort's social hub and heart, its reimagined restaurant, Valley Kitchen. Good food isn't hard to come by in California, but there's nowhere else you'll find such fine dining in Carmel. Voted "Best Chef in Monterey County 2015" by the annual Monterey County Weekly, Chef Tim Wood continues to dazzle with his fresh, natural, and seasonal menus that combine the area's freshest and best ingredients. When he is not foraging the Ranch's organic gardens, fruit trees, salt house, vineyards, and chicken coop collecting ingredients, he can be found hard at work in the kitchens creating delectable dishes. Guest favorites include Swank Farms Heirloom ➤➤





Tomato and Burrata Salad with garden basil, Carmel Valley olive oil, aged balsamic, and Carmel Valley Ranch salt house crystals, followed by Line-caught Big Eye Tuna Poke with jalapeño and citrus Ponzu, wakame seaweed salad, avocado, and garden crisps. Pair those dishes with a lavender-infused martini for a real kick.

After a sensational night's rest, it's time to engage. Play at Carmel Valley Ranch has the ability to reinvigorate. It's fun, but it's also sophisticated. The popular Hunger Games novels and movies have made archery the thing to do these days, and Carmel Valley Ranch's new archery program doesn't miss a hip beat. Guests are encouraged to discover this ancient sport in a fun outdoor setting located near the property's River Ranch Clubhouse. Taught by expert instructor-facilitators of 2020 Archery London, guests will learn the discipline, skill, and pure enjoyment that comes from target-based archery. Even if you miss, you'll have a ball.

The Ranch's expanded equestrian program includes the Equine Perspective—a fascinating new workshop that explores spiritual well-being and the combined power of mindful energy, self-awareness, and creativity. Guided with joy and compassion by Jill Rivoli, horses and program participants alike discover the magic of the present moment as they let go of daily stresses to cherish being in the presence of each other. Not only is it utterly unique, it's an experience that promotes self-awareness and melts hearts.

Then move on to steal a kiss with your sweetheart in the butterfly garden featuring an array of butterflies—including monarchs, painted ladies, anise swallowtails, and Smith's blues—that flourish in the Santa Lucia chaparral. The Ranch's vineyard is taking center stage for the first time with vineyard-inspired programming, including new educational and epicurean experiences that showcase the resort's four-acre pinot noir vineyard. This September, guests will be able to join the Harvest Celebration & Dinner. This delightful event will take place at Carmel Valley Ranch's organic garden and will feature wine tastings, a wine label-making contest, meet-and-greets with the artisans of The Ranch, and vineyard games, including barrel rolling and grape stomping. A three-course, family-style dinner in the garden follows the fun and games.

Always a must during any Carmel Valley Ranch visit, Spa Aiyana introduces wellness among the vines with a new outdoor spa cabana tucked on the vineyard hillside and a new spa treatment aptly named the Ranch Ritual. This deeply relaxing and energizing treatment includes a Thai yoga massage and gentle pressure to alleviate muscle and joint tension. Couples can enjoy an after-hours spa treatment under the stars on a private heated wooden deck fronted by ancient oak trees, as if tucked away in their own cozy tree house. Celebrate a romantic evening with two glasses of wine and a dessert to share. Dreamy. ♦



Chef Tim Wood