

Rancho Camulos

Piru, CA

<http://www.ranchocamulos.org/>

The Gold Coast Heritage Roses Group has arranged a tour of Rancho Camulos on Sunday, April 20, 2007, at 11 a.m. Conference attendees are welcome to join in the tour. To reserve space in the tour group, please contact Jeri Jennings at heritageroses@gmail.com – or call 805-482-2066.

The phrase “*Old California*” calls up romantic images of the period between the breakup of the Franciscan mission system and the Americanization of California. The “Rancho Period” lasted less than thirty years, but its image remains a defining one for California.

Alone among California’s remaining “Rancho” adobes, Rancho Camulos remains original, un-restored, and continues to function as the heart of an active agricultural operation.

The present 1,800 acre Camulos Ranch, established by Ygnacio del Valle in 1853, was carved out of the 48,612 acre Rancho San Francisco, granted in 1839 to Ygnacio's father Antonio del Valle.

Through drought and political change, the del Valle family held Rancho Camulos, developing a diverse agricultural operation. The first oranges grown and shipped commercially from what is now Ventura County were sent from the Camulos Ranch in 1876. In addition to citrus, almonds, walnuts, apricots, peaches, wheat, corn and barley, grapevines were cultivated, for the production of wine and brandy. An 1870 census records the Camulos Ranch winery as the largest of the four vintners in the San Buenaventura Township of Santa Barbara County, with 45 tons of grapes resulting in 6,000 gallons of wine and 800 gallons of brandy.

In 1924, friction and deaths within the family forced the sale of the ranch to the August Rübél family, its current owners. The Rübels have continued the proud agricultural and historic tradition of Rancho Camulos.

Roses have always been a part of Rancho Camulos. They were grown by the del Valle ladies in the 19th Century, and by the Rübél family in the 20th Century. Many of the roses now growing here were planted from the mid-1800’s through approximately 1950. Many remain unidentified, but the Pernetiana group is a prominent part of the 20th-Century plantings.

Camulos Public Tours - Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays 1 - 4 PM

**Regular Museum hours for public tours are
Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 1 - 4 PM**

Docent-led tours of approximately one hour length give visitors an opportunity to experience Camulos. Tours include the main adobe built in 1853, the chapel, the winery, the schoolhouse and grounds. Hear about Helen Hunt Jackson and her novel **Ramona** – the book that made Camulos the “*Home of Ramona*” and changed California forever.

Rancho Camulos is the only Mexican land grant rancho in California that is open to the public and still preserved in its original rural environment. The site contains 15 historic structures and is Ventura County's only National Historic Landmark.

Suggested donation: \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children.

**The museum is closed during inclement weather (rain, high winds, etc.) and
At the present time is not wheelchair accessible.**

**For more information email: ranchocamulos@earthlink.net or call
(805) 521-1501**

RANCHO CAMULOS has been designated a **NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**
This residential complex possesses national significance in commemorating the history of the
United States of America.