



### Mi Adobe Hacienda

We are in the United States, but not quite. Once upon a time, this piece of beautiful high desert land in southern Arizona, where Rancho de la Osa sits, was part of Mexico. Before that it belonged to Spain, and still before that, the Navajo Indians made this place their home. Like all borderlands, the rugged valley between the Baboquivari peak and the Sierra Mountains retains an unexpected mix of cultures and folkways. You can taste them in the Rancho's daily menu, where ancient ingredients like Navajo corn and beans blend with Latin spices and servings of succulent meat (the big business here, until recently, was cattle ranching) roasted on mesquite wood chips. Rancho de la Osa is a place to immerse yourself in this unique American borderland culture; here, you can wander among old adobe buildings, sit under shady eucalyptus trees, listen to the gentle sounds of ranch life: the ring of the mission bell, voices chattering in both English and Spanish, the hoofbeats of horses. The horses, of course, are one of the Rancho's biggest attractions – it is a working dude ranch, where horses have been raised and trained for more than 300 years (In the 1920s and 1930s, Western movies were shot here, and the singing cowboy Tom Mix was a regular guest). There's a staff of vaqueros – that's cowboys to you – who will help you saddle up and ride into the surrounding grasslands and hills (the room rate includes two rides a day). If you are not a seasoned cowboy, at Rancho you can take riding lessons, and you can even borrow cowboy boots ("Shake them out before using," warns the Rancho guest manual.) Good advice, in any language.

**Book to pack:** "The Milagro Beanfield War" by John Nichols. Novel about the history of the American-Mexican borderlands; made into a Robert Redford movie.

#### Rancho de la Osa

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DIRECTIONS	Located about 92 miles (150 km) southwest of the Tucson, Arizona airport.
RATES	From \$215 per person, incl. all meals and scheduled activities, 3 nights minimum stay.
ROOMS	19 mountain-view guest rooms, most with fireplaces; each one is different and filled with Mexican antiques.
FOOD	Modern Southwestern American-style meals – tortilla soup, mesquite grilled meats – are served in the ochre-walled dining room in the main hacienda building.
HISTORY	The ranch is more than three hundred years old, and dates back to the time of the Spanish missions.
X-FACTOR	Stunning desert nights, old Spanish Southwest culture.