



The Hacienda, the social hub of the community

## WELCOME TO THE SANTA LUCIA PRESERVE IT'S ALL NATURE HERE

*A private gated community for 300 families, offering a signature Fazio course and a thriving 18,000-acre conservancy peppered with majestic redwoods and golden eagles.*

By Mark Pazdur, Publisher

MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA: Every so often, there are special moments in life that remind us of how fortunate we are to experience this wonderful world in which we live. I had one of those moments during my visit to the Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel, California.

As I drove the eight mile, curvy road from the community's entrance to the clubhouse, a rain shower had just ended and the brilliant sun peaked through the billowing clouds. I was witnessing nature in 3D high-definition. The centuries-old redwood trees looked ever-more majestic.

"To this day, I have never been involved in a project of this magnitude," explained Tom Fazio, designer of the Santa Lucia Preserve golf course. "The scale, topography, variety of wildlife, and terrain makes for a very special environment. I have never seen a piece of land like this! My course

meanders through 360 acres of the development."

The Santa Lucia Preserve dwarfs any other golf community in the country. It is set on 20,000 acres, about two miles from downtown Carmel. To put the community's sheer size into perspective, it is larger than Manhattan, New York, and larger than the entire Monterey Peninsula—and will be home to only 300 families.

"We are a debt free, member-owned community," extolled Tony Dawson, CEO of the Santa Lucia Preserve. "Our amenities are modern, complete, and available now."

### **THE SANTA LUCIA PRESERVE RESIDENTS ENJOY:**

- *The Equestrian Center:* a rustic, handsomely-designed facility. Amenities include three, center-aisle barns with 30 owner stalls; a 150 by 260 foot main arena; a regulation dressage arena; a round training pen; an exercise

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track; a dozen irrigated pastures for daily turnout; and 100 miles of hiking and riding trails.

- *The Swim Center:* includes a lap pool; kids' pool with bubblers, fountains, and a water slide. The tennis courts, croquet lawn, horseshoe pits, and bocce ball court are located nearby.

- *The Sports Center:* barn-like buildings that include a yoga and fitness studio, weight room, and men's and ladies' locker rooms.

- *The Golf Clubhouse:* a cluster of Monterey/Carmel influenced, Hart/Howerton designed buildings that sit on a low knoll with broad views over the 1st and 18th greens. The buildings and interiors are exemplary of Monterey's architectural history evoking the sense and feel of 1830's architecture.

- *The Hacienda:* a ranch house, built in 1920, offers a warm ambience and is considered the social hub of the community. It includes sixteen luxuriously appointed guest rooms for members and their guests.

- *The Tom Fazio Golf Course:* a walkable design that plays through rolling hills, oaks, and redwoods. Caddies are available year-round.

### **A MAGICAL PLACE**

"My wife Zan and I have always loved Carmel," declared Jack Peat, member at the Santa Lucia Preserve. "A couple of years ago, we were in town on vacation and I went for a run. By luck, I passed the entrance to the community and it peaked my interest. A year later, we came back for another look. We owned horses and I love golf. As we toured the community, we both looked at each other at the same time and uttered, 'Hmm...this is the place for us.'"

"Our community gives my family the opportunity to enjoy one of the greatest places in the country," said Peat. "We have four children and five grandchildren. There is so much to do here. Our problem is getting them to stop doing what they are doing and go to bed."

"I was in the club management business for 25 years and the real estate business for the last decade," continued Peat. "The private club industry has been a tough business to be in the last four years. However, I do not believe the business model is 'broken' for all clubs. There will always be families who seek this lifestyle. The 'key for success' for private communities is to offer a differentiating amenity. Our most obvious advantage is the



The 11th hole

“18,000 ACRES HAVE BEEN PROTECTED IN PERPETUITY WITH THE CREATION OF THE SANTA LUCIA CONSERVANCY.”

—JACK PEAT, MEMBER



The 18th hole and the clubhouse beyond

community’s 20,000 acres, of which 18,000 acres have been protected in perpetuity with the creation of the Santa Lucia Conservancy. This non-profit, independent conservation trust is financially supported by a \$25 million endowment to manage and protect the land.

“Santa Lucia Preserve’s open space gives you a ‘glimpse of the past’ of what California looked like before ‘the human footprint’ started dotting the landscape,” said Peat. “The lay of the land has changed little from the 1770s, when Carmel Mission cattle grazed here.”

**MOTHER NATURE’S MONA LISA AT THE SANTA LUCIA PRESERVE**

“The loop of holes 7-12 could hold a typical golf course,” commented John Pietro, director of golf. “Mr. Fazio’s

design is more of a golfing trail. You will commonly encounter golden eagles, bobcats, deer, and even a wild boar or two. It is ‘all nature’ here. The course explodes with color in the spring. The lupine, buttercup, and poppy flowers carpet the landscape.

“The sun is an integral part of life at the Santa Lucia Preserve,” continued Pietro. “Monterey is known for its foggy and cool weather. Although we are only a couple of miles from the ocean, when it is 60 degrees on the beach, it’s in the 80s here. About four miles into your drive from the gatehouse to the clubhouse, you climb almost 2,000 feet and crest the marine layer and rise above the fog. As you cross the other side of the Santa Lucia Range and enter the San Francisquito Flats [where the golf course sits] the temperature can rise by 20 degrees.”



Dining in the Redwood Grove



Vintage car show at The Santa Lucia Preserve



“It is the perfect climate for golf and The Preserve has a much longer golf season than other courses just a couple of miles away,” exclaimed Fazio.

“After you experience the course, you will put it in a completely separate category of golf courses you have ever played. The combination of rolling hills, stately oaks, and gorgeous redwoods creates so much drama,” said Fazio. “It is a real show-stopper.”

**THE SIMPLE THINGS**

“We were one of the initial families to join the community,” remembered Ed Zander, member at the Santa Lucia Preserve. “At the time, I was working in Silicon Valley and my wife and I were looking for an escape to get away and ‘breathe and unwind.’ I was raised in the city, worked in

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the city, and I was not an outdoor guy by any means. It took us a good year to ‘get our heads around’ if we should purchase here. It was one of the best decisions we ever made. The community has a tremendous asset base, but many days, it is the simple things I enjoy doing with my family. The air, enjoying the quiet, or taking a walk in the forest is so invigorating. The Preserve is in an environment that is one of a kind,” touted Zander. ■

*Traveling to the Santa Lucia Preserve: The club is a two-hour drive from the San Francisco Airport (SFO) and just 35 minutes from the Monterey Airport (MRY).*

*For more information, visit [santaluciapreserve.com](http://santaluciapreserve.com), or you may call (831) 620-6762.*