

Circle Z Ranch Fence Lines

Fall 2014

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What's New On the Ranch

Hello from Circle Z! Once again, we've had a busy summer improving our Ranch to make your stay even better—we hope to see you soon so you can see for yourself.

We've completely resurfaced our tennis courts—you could roll a dime across these babies they're so smooth! If you have a love for the game, pack your racket and come hit some balls. The court is playing very well, and we're always up for a game.

The Ramada near the pool has been enclosed, and we will be using this area as a recreation room for kids and adults, including our pool tables and foosball tables. Both sides of the cantina will now be used for our fun and fabulous cocktail hours, parties and “adult only” space.

As you arrive for your vacation this year, you will notice the new paint on the exteriors of all cottages, as well as the lodge and cantina. We have also been busy painting and sprucing up the interior walls in cottages and the lodge.

For your convenience, and to make our cottages more homey, we have installed refrigerators, hairdryers, irons and ironing boards in all rooms. Casa Rosa now has ceiling fans to keep that desert air flowing, and Cottages Three and Four have been carpeted. We've also added a new ADA room in Cottage 4.

Tony converted the “phone booth” next to the office into our new gift shop, incorporating historic pieces rescued from the cottage 4 remodel. Circle Z shirts, home grown mesquite honey, and mugs, to name a few items, will make fabulous stocking stuffers and bring back great memories!



Jennie and Diana accepting the Trip Advisor Award

Trip Advisor Award

Thanks to the many wonderful reviews by you, our guests, the Circle Z Ranch was presented with the Certificate of Excellence Award by Trip Advisor, the World's Largest Travel Site, for our Five Star rating. We can't tell you how much we appreciate your enthusiasm about Circle Z—we are humbled by all your fabulous feedback. We love reading the reviews, so if you haven't had a chance to go on Trip Advisor, we urge you to do so at www.tripadvisor.com.

Welcome Chef Raymond!

A big welcome to our new chef, Raymond Rivera! Raymond, a graduate of the Western Culinary Institute in Portland, comes to us with a wealth of experience and most recently was the executive chef at Rancho De La Osa. "I've been cooking since I was a child," he says. "My grandfather was a fine cook, and I learned from him. I was the oldest of seven siblings, so I started cooking for them and never looked back." Raymond will be continuing with our "Fresh, Local and Delicious" mantra, and adding his own creative flare to the ever-changing menu at Circle Z. He'll also be taking advantage of the fresh produce from our Casa Rosa Garden, Monsoon Garden and the Terrace Garden, fruit from our apple, peach, fig, pear and cherry trees, and desert wildflower and mesquite honey from our very happy and prolific bees.



Introducing our new executive chef, Raymond Rivera



The Lorta Family:
George, Jennie,
Miko, Yesenia and
Camila

Jennie and George Lorta take over the day-to-day management of the ranch

We are so pleased to be working with the Lortas as our on-site, day-to-day managers of the Circle Z Ranch. With their love of the Ranch, and in-depth knowledge of all the inner workings, the transition has indeed been smooth.

"We'd like to take the time to express our gratitude to the Nash Family for giving all of us the opportunity to expand our roles. George and Jennie look forward to developing new skills as General Managers while continuing to join in on rides. Miko will play a stronger role as Corral Manager which will ensure we continue to provide the finest riding experience. Yesenia will be assisting Jennie in the office, and last but not least, Camila will be joining in a few picnics! The Lorta Family could not be more excited for such a special opportunity; it is a blessing to have three generations team together to help Circle Z and its wonderful guests."
Warm regards, George, Jennie, Miko, Yesenia and Camila Lorta

Raymond's Chili Recipe

- 2 lbs. ground beef or boneless top round*
- 2 c. chopped yellow onion
- 1 c. each chopped red and green bell pepper
- 2 jalapenos, seeded and diced
- 4 cloves of minced garlic (about 1 tablespoon)
- 2 c. diced canned tomatoes (un-drained)
- 1 c. tomato sauce
- 1 8 oz. can tomato paste
- 2 c. cooked pinto beans
- 2 c. cooked kidney beans
- ¼ c. ketchup
- ¼ c. chili powder
- ½ tsp. dried basil
- 2 T. cumin
- ¼ c. red wine vinegar
- 3 T. brown sugar
- 2 oz. dark chocolate

*(if using top round, freeze partially and slice against the grain, thinly.)

In a large heavy pot, brown beef. Until browned, add onion and cook until translucent, but not brown. Add bell peppers, garlic and jalapenos. Stir in tomatoes, paste and sauce. Add spices, bring to a boil, and then add beans, ketchup and vinegar. Turn down to simmer. Cook for 30-40 minutes; stirring to prevent scorching and sticking. Stir in brown sugar and chocolate. Adjust heat by adding a little cayenne or another jalapeno.

Serve with chopped green onion and shredded jack or cheddar cheese.

Message from the Nash Family

This summer has been a whirlwind, and we couldn't be happier with all the progress that has been made at the ranch. The Lortas have put together a fantastic crew for the season, which is evident in the team work and laughter that has permeated the walls as we ready the ranch for our guests. There is a great deal of excitement as the momentum builds to our opening date, and we can't wait to include you in the buzz.

Over the summer, we worked on some fun marketing pieces, including the magazine "American Cowboy," which did a feature story on the Circle Z as an historic ranch. Look for it in the October/November issue! Our website has been revamped, and is now mobile responsive for those who like to schedule on the fly. Check it out, and let us know what you think.

We also commissioned Chris Robitaille, a world renowned artist, to hand draw an illustrated map featuring what makes this ranch so special. We will have a limited supply on sale in our gift shop, so don't miss out. Christmas is right around the corner!

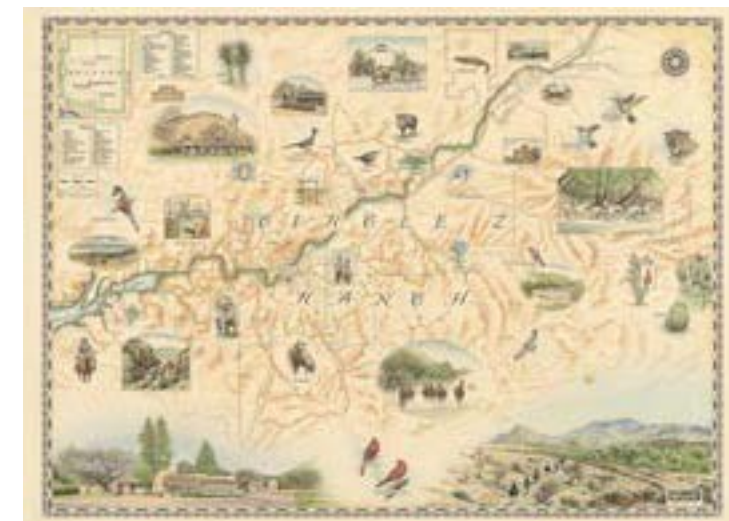
Lucia spends her days at home in Cleveland. While at the ranch, we are daily reminded of her unselfish passion for preserving this property for future generations to enjoy. Preston is happily settled into a fabulous prep school, ripping it up on the varsity tennis team and excelling in academics. Rick and Diana will be here on site for most of the season, working with the Lortas to make this the best season ever!

Diana, Rick and Preston Nash



Horse Talk

This year we had a great monsoon season, with a record amount of rain. This means that Sonoita Creek is flowing freely, and the horses are fit and happy after summer filled with lush grazing and roaming their pastures. Jennie and George have been working to extend the corrals and they've added a new shed. They've also been busy working with young Boomer (age five), who will be great for guests in a couple of years. The yearlings in the Patagonia pasture are doing well, and frisky Mima and Levina (both age two) are starting to be ridden and are showing great promise. We are proud to continue the tradition of raising and training our own horses—a practice long forgotten for most ranches.



Chris Robitaille's hand drawn historic map of Circle Z

CONSERVATION EASEMENT WITH ARIZONA LAND AND WATER TRUST

The Nash family put into conservation easement over 3000 acres of land surrounding the Circle Z Ranch this past summer. Most of the acreage is home to the trails that we all have ridden. What does this mean? Protection from development, protected viewscapes from Patagonia to the ranch proper, protection for the riparian area, protection for migratory and nesting bird species, and habitat protection for hundreds of species of plants and animals.

Staff Updates

Yesenia is new to our office, working her magic with reservations and keeping the office orderly. Meg, our bookkeeper of several years, has taken over the business management end of things. Kelly and Miko will be at the corrals, wrangling, shoeing and training the young horses. Raul will be helping out on an as-needed basis so he can be home with his two young children. Charlotte will return as head housekeeper. Dianne will be greeting you with her beautiful smile in the dining room and out on the grounds. We will be welcoming some new wranglers, wait staff and housekeepers, all top notch and ready to provide the great hospitality you've come to know at Circle Z.

Santa Cruz Film Festival

A little known fact about Circle Z is that it has been used as a location for films like "Broken Lance," "Red River" and "Oklahoma!" The Santa Cruz County International Film Festival, which takes place October 16-19, will feature documentaries and Independent films filmed in Santa Cruz County since 1913, including a screening of "Broken Lance." The festival also includes site tours of the Circle Z, and we are happy to share our fabulous and famous landscape! We will be showing the film "Broken Lance" throughout the season, and guests can see what Spencer Tracy's grave looked like in the 50's!

New Bed & Breakfast Option and Rate!

Join us for the perfect getaway, for \$140 per person or \$160 per couple each night. Guests can tour the award- winning wineries in nearby Elgin and Sonoita, hike on our seemingly endless trails, play tennis on our courts, or simply relax by pool. Horseback riding, lunch and dinner also available at à la carte pricing. Although you'll want to stay longer, we do have a two night minimum stay.

We have numerous specials going on this fall—check out our website at www.circlez.com to learn about our new packages such as the Weekday Sneak Away, the Pre-holiday Rejuvenation Getaway, and the Lone Star Long Weekend.

Happy Trails from all of us at Circle Z!



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CIRCLE Z RANCH

