

“Nature...Abstracted” Art Retreat with Jennifer McHugh

Rancho la Bellota, Baja California



About Rancho la Bellota: Rancho la Bellota is a beautiful, rustic working horse/guest ranch in Baja California, just north of the Valle de Guadalupe wine country between Tecate and Ensenada. It's nestled in an oak-lined canyon - off the grid, meaning no electricity or Wi-Fi, and this makes the whole experience even better. Don't worry, there's hot water and solar lanterns, and plenty of candles! The owners, Raul and Caroline, are a wonderful couple and the most gracious hosts. They make us feel truly spoiled the whole weekend!



Accommodations: Accommodations are charming adobe guest cabins with private bathrooms. Each cabin has a double bed and a bunk bed, so one person sleeps under a bunk.

Art workshop description: While observing & soaking up the ranch's beauty, colors and patterns, we will create two abstract landscapes over the course of the long weekend. One landscape will be a mixed-media painting on canvas, using acrylic paint, paper, fabric and various tools for mark-making to create texture & patterns. The other landscape will be a painting on paper, blending layered washes of fluid paints to capture colorful personal moments at the ranch. Although I encourage lots of photo-taking to have inspiration at your fingertips, these landscapes will not be planned ahead. Our intention is to be fully immersed in the process, watching our landscapes evolve intuitively. No prior experience is needed, just an open mind and willingness to explore in a very relaxed and fun atmosphere.



Horseback riding: About 30 horses roam the ranch land and when it's time to ride, Raul wrangles them up and brings them to the corral. These horses are well-trained, gentle and know the trails very well...but you must be in good physical health to ride & you must be able to mount your horse from the ground to participate. Safety is number one! The ride is about 2 hours and absolutely picturesque every step of the way. It's always my favorite part of the stay!



Basic itinerary:

Thursday: 11 a.m. caravan to Tecate border & leave cars in secure lot on U.S. side, our hosts meet us at the border to drive to RLB, cantaritos await us, relax/get familiar with the ranch/dip in pool, ranch-style dinner, tequila tasting, campfire under the most amazing starlit sky

Friday: ranch-style breakfast, art time, lunch, drive to Valle de Guadalupe for wine tasting & dinner al fresco, relax at ranch, campfire

Saturday: ranch-style breakfast, art time, lunch, relax/dip in pool, horseback ride, ranch-style dinner, campfire

Sunday: coffee/fruit/pastries, art time, brunch, pack up/leave around 1- 1:30



Cost: \$775 includes all transportation in Mexico, 3 nights shared accommodations and 8 meals at Rancho la Bellota, adult beverages (cantaritos, margaritas, beer, tequila), professional workshop instruction, horseback riding, wine tasting & dinner al fresco in Valle de Guadalupe wine country. Wine/dinner pairing at Tres Mujeres included, but any additional wine purchases are paid on your own. All art materials provided.



I can't wait for you to experience my art retreat at Rancho la Bellota! xo Jen