



SMART SITES DECEMBER 2009

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The High Lonesome Ranch and Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa

Cowboy Country

It sounds like something out of an old-time Western movie, with coyotes howling in the distance, cowboys singing around a campfire and the white-hatted hero riding off into the sunset. But when the name of your property is **The High Lonesome Ranch**, romantic notions of the wide-open West are sure to come to mind. And the 300-square-mile ranch in western Colorado near Grand Junction and the Bookcliff Mountains, has plenty of sagebrush, purple hues and acres of pine forests to make sure any planners drawn by the name don't go away disappointed.

A further attraction for groups is the new corporate meeting center on-site that can accommodate up to 30. There's also a private guest office equipped with high-speed wireless Internet via satellite, computer and land-line (for weak signals). The property consists of an 18-room guest house, a five-bedroom Pond House, two two-bedroom Forshay log cabins, as well as several other multi-room cabins.

But the name of the game at the ranch is outdoor activities with big-game hunting, fly-fishing and white-water rafting on the Colorado River. Whether your attendees are avid hunters or not, there's still plenty of wildlife to spot, including mule deer, elk, bears, eagles, cougars and falcons. And you can venture into the wilderness either by hiking, biking or on horseback—harmonica optional. thehighlonesomeranch.com

Desert Flower

In the heart of the 650,000-acre Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in Borrego Springs, and just west of the Salton Sea in Southern California, you'll find an oasis of high-end seclusion otherwise known as the **Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa**. The newest resort to appear on the scene in the region, the 42-acre ranch comes complete with an 18-hole Tom Fazio Signature Golf Course, ranked as one of the best new courses for 2008-2009 by *Golf Digest*. Besides golf, meeting attendees can take advantage of the spectacular desert setting and state park with activities such as hiking, mountain biking and rock climbing, or stay closer to home with tennis, yoga and treatments at Morado spa.

The splashy new property features 44 rooms and 19 private casitas in a classic Southwestern-style design, each with a fireplace, balcony or patio, marble bath and large-screen plasma TV. For meetings, the resort offers space for groups up to 160, including the Executive Conference Center and De Anza Ballroom, as well as outdoor venues with the Rose Garden Patio, tennis pavilion and palm-lined event lawn. Groups can also take advantage of three on-site restaurants: La Cantina and Fox Bar, Cimarrón and the more casual Morado Café. Find your cool spot in the desert here borregoranchresort.com



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