

RIATA RANCH

Santa Margarita

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I visit the property?

Riata Ranch is a working ranch and private vacation retreat. Because of the nature of our business, and out of respect for our guests, all visits to the property are arranged by appointment. We also want to make sure that one of our Ranch Ambassadors is available to show you the many entertaining areas and answer any questions you might have.

What event equipment do you provide?

Each of our wedding and event packages provides you with some essentials to make your planning easier. For a complete list of amenities, please refer to our Amenities list. We are happy to provide resources and logistical support as you plan your event and we encourage you to book from our Preferred Vendor list (on the Weddings tab on our website).

Does Riata provide wedding coordination services?

While we are happy to provide logistical support, we do not provide wedding coordination services. We require that a professional planner be hired for any event held on the property with 50 or more guests.

How do I get Special Event Insurance?

If you have a preferred insurance company you are welcome to purchase your liability insurance through them. If not, we recommend TheEventHelper.com. Your policy should include coverage of no less than \$1,000,000 effective for the period during which your event takes place naming La Bella Grand, LLC DBA Riata Ranch as additional insured. If you are serving alcohol, you need to include "Host Liquor" coverage in your policy.

Do my vendors need to have Liability Insurance?

Yes. All vendors are required to provide a Certificate of Liability insurance naming La Bella Grand, LLC DBA Riata Ranch as additional insured. Vendors proof of insurance should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the event.

Does Riata staff set up and break down our event?

Even though we do provide tables and other event equipment for your use, Riata Ranch does not set up or break down for your event. Set up and break down is the responsibility of your coordinator and/or your caterer. Riata staff will stack tables and chairs at your event site for easy access.

Will we need to rent a generator?

We do recommend that event hosts rent their own generator to fulfill all of their electrical needs.

Do I give all of my vendors and guests the gate code or will the gate be open for them?

Once you provide a vendor delivery schedule, we will make arrangements for the gates to remain open during that time. We will keep the gates open starting one hour before the start of your event for your guests' arrival.

Can we have pictures taken with the horses?

Due to the unpredictability of these large animals, we cannot allow for pictures to be taken inside of pastures.

What is the smoking policy?

This is a no smoking property. There is absolutely NO SMOKING ALLOWED in any of the buildings on the property. If you know you have guests that smoke, we will work with you on setting up a designated, outdoor smoking area. Please ask us about the designation of an approved outdoor smoking area. The violation of this policy in any of our buildings or in a non-approved designated smoking area jeopardizes the return of your security deposit following your event. It is your responsibility to inform your guests of this policy.

Do we have to rent our own bathrooms?

Riata Ranch provides restroom facilities for up to 150 people. At the Grand Tipis, we have a permanent structure with two restrooms. At the Ranch House, we will provide two portable restrooms. We ask that your event guests not use the restrooms inside the Ranch House. Additional restrooms needed to accommodate more than 150 guests, or premium trailer restrooms, will need to be rented by Event Sponsor and paid for in advance.

Do we need to rent our own security?

We will provide security for up to 200 guests. Event sponsors will be charged for any security officers who are needed to serve above and beyond that limit.

Can I add additional nights at the Ranch House to my event package?

Absolutely! If we have availability, we welcome you to add to your package. Let us know if you are interested in staying longer and a special rate will be available to you as our wedding guest.

What is your policy on COVID-19 and the refund policy regarding COVID-19?

We are following County COVID Guidelines. If we are unable to host your event due to County restrictions, we will offer you the options of rescheduling. If you are not able to reschedule, we will refund any payments you have made.

Could we book an event for the Tipi Site and book the Ranch House through VRBO?

No. Our packages cover all fees and liabilities for events. We ask that you either buy the “Ultimate Riata Ranch” package of the whole property or just the package for one of our sites.

Can we bring in our own alcohol?

Yes, we are a bring your own alcohol venue. You may supply your own beer, wine, and liquor. We do require that all alcohol served in the event areas be served by a licensed bartender and/or caterer. We ask that last call occur at least 30 minutes before the scheduled end of your event for safety and liability reasons.

What time does my event need to end?

Per County guidelines, all amplified music must be turned off at 10:00 pm and we ask that all guests leave by 11:00 pm, with the exception of overnight guests (12 maximum) staying at the Ranch House if you are renting the house as part of your package.

Can I leave decor, rentals, or personal items (food + alcohol) in the event space after my event?

No, all items are to be removed from the property by 11:00pm on the night of the event. Exceptions to this include when there are rentals being picked up on a different date than the event date. In this case, items can be stored in an area designated by our Ranch Ambassador for rental pick-up. Failure to remove decor, equipment or supplies from the event area could result in the event security deposit not being returned.

In addition to this, we do not allow any equipment whatsoever to remain on any of our lawn areas overnight. This includes chairs, tables, arches, trailers, and any other equipment or decor. If you or your planner have any questions regarding event area access or equipment storage, please let us know.

For Ranch House events, ALL food, wine, flowers, and decorations must be removed from the property at guest checkout.