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NEW WEB SITE INVITES GOLFERS TO STAY AND PLAY IN THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Special Golf and Lodging Packages Offered in The Heart of “Sideways” Wine Country on California’s Central Coast

SANTA MARIA, CA—Some of the best kept secrets in California golf are now revealed as the Santa Maria Valley Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) offers a new web site showcasing the diverse courses, stunning scenery and affordable rates that define the Santa Maria Valley golf experience—which is at its finest amid the temperate summer and fall seasons.

Here on California’s Central Coast, amid the picturesque Santa Barbara County wine country featured in the hit movie *Sideways*, weekend duffers and scratch players alike can easily find a course to suit their swing by logging onto www.CaliforniaGolfVacation.com or calling the VCB at (800) 331-3779. The web site also features special lodging packages geared toward golfers.

To enjoy the refreshing mix of attributes that defines the Santa Maria Valley golf experience, all you have to do is step up to the picturesque first tee at Rancho Maria Golf Club. Here at this 18-hole championship course amid the rolling foothills along scenic Highway 1 in northern Santa Barbara County, rates top out at \$32—a steal compared to most courses of similar scope and charm.

Rancho Maria is not alone in its combination of stunning scenery, affordable rates and relatively uncrowded fairways. For example, at Marshallia Ranch Golf Course at Vandenberg Air Force Base, rates hold at just \$37 on both weekdays and weekends. Considered the third most challenging military course in the world, Marshallia bedevils golfers with blustery ocean winds and giant eucalyptus trees. The course is open to the public.

Meanwhile, Blacklake Golf Resort in nearby Nipomo—a 27-hole championship course that highlights the rugged beauty of the Central Coast—offers rates starting at just \$50 on weekdays, while weekend and holiday rates begin at \$65. Blacklake’s three nine-hole sections offer challenges for all skill levels. Here, dark woodlands, coastal hills and sparkling ponds dot the landscape.

La Purisima Golf Course in Lompoc, acclaimed by Golf Magazine as one of the nation’s top 100 public courses, is another relative bargain, with fees starting at \$55 for 18 holes Monday through Thursday while weekend rates are \$70. Developed by Kenneth H. Hunter, Jr. in 1986, this scenic course meanders across 300 acres of ancient sand dunes and oak woodlands, and is one of the highest ranked courses on California’s Central Coast.

Other excellent courses in nearby areas include the new Monarch Dunes Golf Club in Nipomo, (18 holes, par 71), Avila Beach Golf Resort (18 holes, par 71) at Avila Beach and the River Course at Alisal (18 holes, par 72) in Solvang—the setting for the humorous golf scenes in *Sideways*.

Visit www.CaliforniaGolfVacation.com or call the Santa Maria Valley VCB at (800) 331-3779 for information on courses, rates and special packages. Visit www.SantaMaria.com for more information on visiting the Santa Maria Valley.

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