



First Course

SOUP OF THE SEASON

chef's autumn selection

SEASONAL SALAD

locally inspired

MIXED GREEN SALAD

Tomatoes | cucumbers | carrots | red onions | honey lime vinaigrette

TRADITIONAL CAESAR SALAD

romaine | parmesan cheese | herbed croutons

Second Course

Pan Seared Duck Breast

savory bread pudding | port wine grilled apple | apricot glaze | haricot verts

Piñon Crusted Trout

sweet ancho chili sauce | cowboy caviar | sautéed asparagus | artichokes

Pan Seared Bison Tenderloin

fingerling potatoes | sautéed asparagus | demi glaze

Elk Striploin Medallions

crispy polenta | tomato | tomato confit | haricot verts | poblano puree

Grilled Ranchero Beef Rib Eye

red pepper beurre blanc | potato gratin | grilled asparagus

Country Fried Quail Knots

roasted garlic mashed potatoes | grilled corn | new mexican green chili gravy

Desserts

Flourless Chocolate Torte

Vermejo Carrot Cake

Ice Cream Selection

Seasonal Fresh Pie

Crème brûlée

*New Mexico State Law prohibits outside wine or alcohol in the dining facility



Vermejo Park Ranch

Purchased by Ted Turner in 1996, Vermejo Park Ranch is a private ranch located in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. It spans approximately 585,000 acres, making it the largest Ted Turner Expeditions (TTX) vacation property and one of the best ranches in the West. Vermejo welcomes families and groups of all ages, offering unparalleled opportunities to enjoy and explore nature. The land is home to abundant wildlife including large herds of elk, deer, pronghorn antelope and bison, along with black bears, mountain lions, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

Our story begins in 1841, Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda petitioned the Mexican government for the entire southern half of the Plateau, including what is now Vermejo Park Ranch. Beaubien and Miranda were officially awarded the territory in 1843, but never developed the land. Miranda fled New Mexico in 1846, as war broke out between Mexico and the United States, while Beaubien ceded his portion to son-in-law and frontiersman Lucien B. Maxwell in 1842.

Maxwell built a house at Rayado in 1849, then relocated to nearby Cimarron, New Mexico. Maxwell encouraged Anglo families to move onto the property, and they formed small groups of dispersed homesteads. Over the following 15 years, Maxwell purchased grant shares from other Miranda and Beaubien heirs, and in 1865, Maxwell became the sole owner of more than 1.7 million acres. Perhaps as a result of concerns over its legality (but more likely owing to financial misfortunes), Maxwell sold the land to an English syndicate called the Maxwell Land Grant and Railway Company in 1870.

When the company deemed the Anglo homesteaders as squatters and tried to remove them from the property, violent clashes (known as the Colfax County War) broke out, escalating through the 1870's until the United States Supreme Court affirmed the grant's legitimacy in 1887. Once the Maxwell Land Grant and Railway Company had legal right to the land, most of the settlers abandoned their homes, though a few stragglers remained on the property into the early 20th century.

Chicago businessman William H. Bartlett purchased the present-day Vermejo Park Ranch – some 205,000 acres of land at the time – from the Maxwell Land Grant Company in 1902. Bartlett and his two sons reintroduced elk (which had been hunted to extinction in the 19th century), and developed most of the lakes above Vermejo's headquarters. The Bartletts built Casa Grande and Casa Minor in the main complex, and later built the original Costilla Lodge for high-mountain fishing and hunting excursions. Bartlett and his two sons died between 1918 and 1920, leaving the estate to his younger son's widow, Virginia Bartlett.

Virginia Bartlett sold Vermejo to a consortium of individuals led by Los Angeles Times publisher Harry Chandler in 1926. Chandler formed the Vermejo Club, and members such as Herbert Hoover, Harvey Firestone, Cecil B. DeMille, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford used the Ranch as a private haven for several years. Many members built homes on the property before the Great Depression forced the Vermejo Club to disband; during the 1930s, the buildings were shuttered and the land was leased to cattle ranchers.

Texas industrialist W. J. Gourley then purchased Vermejo in 1948, expanding the Ranch's livestock operations. After years spent remodeling and transforming Vermejo's elegant stone structures into guest accommodations and restocking Bartlett's lakes, Vermejo reopened as a fishing and hunting retreat in 1952. Gourley believed big game hunting was the Ranch's main attraction, and therefore, purchased several hundred head of elk from Yellowstone National Park in the late 1950's. After Gourley's death in 1970, his widow sold Vermejo to the Pennzoil Corporation in 1973.

Under Pennzoil's 23-year ownership, Vermejo maintained its cattle operations and continued to serve as a sportsmen's resort. Pennzoil deeded more than 150 contiguous square miles of the Ranch to the U.S. Forest Service in 1982. Much of this parcel is now known as the Valle Vidal, a wildlife management unit located in the Carson National Forest.

Rebuilt in 1991, after a fire destroyed the original structure, the Main Lodge maintained its rustic, ranch-inspired charm; the Main Lodge houses the reception area, dining room, lounge, and the Vermejo Company Store, stocked with outdoor apparel, Vermejo-branded items, souvenirs and more, on the first floor.

In 1996, current owner Ted Turner purchased Vermejo Park Ranch from the Pennzoil Corporation, after which, Turner established a variety of forestry and wildlife management programs that are ongoing and phased out cattle operations in order to restore Vermejo's original ecology.