



ESTANCIA
LOS POTREROS
CÓRDOBA - ARGENTINA





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Estancia Los Potreros is a 6,000-acre working cattle farm and has remained in the same family for four generations. The Estancia is secluded, on the top of the "Sierras Chicas" the oldest mountain range in South America, nestled between the pampas and the Andes in the heart of the beautiful region of Córdoba.

The Estancia dates from 1574 when breeding mules for the silver mines in Peru was the principal activity. Today the family home sets a high standard of professionalism in accommodation, food, riding and equine care, offering special attention to every guest's needs.

Some visitors come to relax and soak up life on the estancia, others take full advantage of the superb riding, walking and outdoor life. Birdwatchers are never disappointed; there are lots of activities, from picnics and wine tasting, to swimming and stargazing.

The Farm is a central base to explore the region. Jesuit churches and interesting villages are set in fascinating countryside and worth exploring. Los Potreros will provide you with a true insight into rural life in Argentina.

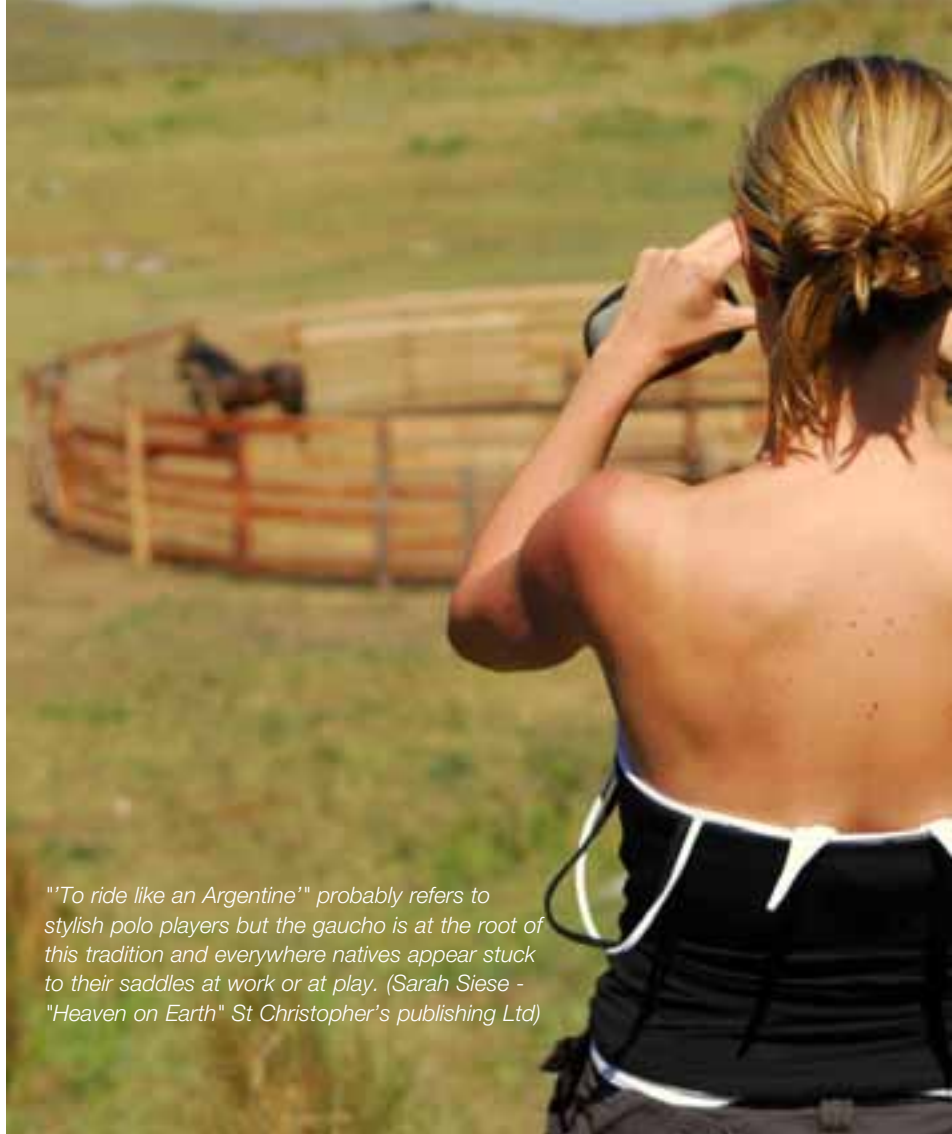
Cover picture: Angel bit made by Broqua Scholberg y Cia 1882 and the horse is a stallion called Tukanka Templador the Los Potreros Peruano de paso stallion.





On the far right is Robert Begg holding his son Robin and beside him, riding sidesaddle is his wife Margaret 1893.





"To ride like an Argentine" probably refers to stylish polo players but the gaucho is at the root of this tradition and everywhere natives appear stuck to their saddles at work or at play. (Sarah Siese - "Heaven on Earth" St Christopher's publishing Ltd)



RIDING WITH GAUCHOS

"We wanted every ride to go on for ever" (Valery Grove - The Times)

Riding is usually centred round the estancia life with occasional overnight excursions. Longer expeditions can also be arranged. If on a trail ride you could expect to be in the saddle between five to six hours a day. Nights away from Los Potreros are spent camping or in local dwellings allowing the visitors to experience another way of life.

The estancia is known for its exceptional horses. All bred on the estate, they are well mannered but very responsive and sure-footed, most are either Criollos or Paso Peruanos with some crossbreeds. "The unique Peruano, unlike any other horse, can take you at a canter speed whilst still walking, unbelievable!"

The tack is English with sheepskins over polo or British army saddles; the riding is western and very relaxed. There is a vast area to explore across the Sierras and beginners are welcomed.

FLORA AND FAUNA



The Córdoba hills are in the centre of Argentina and are famous for their healthy climate and wonderful scenery. The land rises sharply from the plains to plateau at the top of the sierra offering breathtaking views of the pampas.

The higher land is bare of trees and covered in long straw like grass called 'paja brava', which the animals eat in the winter months. There are a number of tree varieties; acacias, cocos and molles are the most common, with wild flowers covering the hills from early spring to autumn. There is a huge variety of bird species from vultures and eagles down to the most brightly coloured humming birds. Condors today have returned to the hills while partridge and dove are plentiful. Foxes and hares can often be seen, though the puma, wild boar and small deer are more elusive.

"Above us, the sky was immense. Eagles, vultures and the occasional condor rode the hot breeze with lazy nonchalance. Below, the horses detonated astonishing bursts of minty, sagey, lemony scent from the herbs and grasses crushed beneath their hooves." (Trevor Grove - Daily Mail)





















ACCOMMODATION, FOOD, WINE AND TRADITION

All rooms have private bathrooms and are in keeping with a time past. In attending to visitors nothing is too much trouble for the staff. Meals are varied and delicious with plenty of opportunity to try regional dishes. The local winery makes "Los Potreros" wine, a Malbec and a Torrontes. These with a variety of other local wines, make for fascinating tasting.

"It's much more than a holiday, its an experience you should not miss". (Lesley Bayley - NFU Countryside)



WEATHER YEAR ROUND

The estancia is open all year round, and the Córdoba region is known for its great weather and healthy climate; "siempre de temporada" - always in season, is the old slogan. Winter is short with generally dry sunny days and crisp nights, whilst summer brings beautiful warm days kept fresh by a light mountain breeze. Summer is also the rainy season, which brings spectacular colours to the Sierras.

"The horses have everything you could ask for in the way of ancient comfort produced by generations of breeding and a life time of good schooling". (Jasper Winn - Irish Field)



PROGRAMMES



There is a host of riding activities throughout the year incorporating local events; other programmes such as polo and trail rides can be tailored to the guest's wishes.

Those less interested in riding, or simply wanting a break, will enjoy walking in the hills and exploring the streams, watching the exotic bird life or just lying by the pool.

Unspoilt and only one hour away is the University City of Córdoba the second largest city in Argentina, once a principal staging post between Lima (Peru) and Buenos Aires.

Popular local sites to explore include the national Jesuit Museum and Estancia Sta. Catalina (1662) as well as the folklore festival and rodeo at Jesus María. Cattle sales and the annual branding on the farm are events well worth experiencing.



Los Potreros

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For reservations and more information contact:

"This is a magical place, caught in time between continents".
(Melinda Stevens - Tatler's 101 best hotels.)

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