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Borrego Springs' La Casa del Zorro is no more



Something grand is about to bloom in the tiny desert town of [Borrego Springs](#), and it's not a rare cactus flower.

It's [Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa](#), the new name of the former La Casa del Zorro, the charming desert lodge owned for 47 years by Copley Press, owners of the San Diego Union Tribune. The name alone hasn't changed; the whole idea of the place has.

Now the resort, 150 miles from Los Angeles and 80 miles from [Palm Springs](#), will operate as a luxury destination resort and spa focused on healthy, but sometimes decadent, living, said Joseph DeNucci, president and general manager. Decadent can mean staring endlessly into the desert sky's millions of stars, having a gourmet breakfast in bed, or never leaving your private casita.



Still, why change the name of a beloved institution?

"We didn't want to relaunch something that never was," he said. "This isn't just a new and improved Casa del Zorro. We're doing something completely different."

New owner Gregory Perlman, of the Sherman Oaks real estate investment firm GH Capital, brought in DeNucci partly for his experience at [Miraval](#), a destination resort spa in Arizona.



The lodge closed this year on June 30 to renovate the 44 poolside guest rooms and 19 private casitas. Perlman spent \$10 million to renovate the 63 guest rooms, and has upgraded the existing 18-hole golf course designed by Tom Fazio, five swimming pools, six tennis courts and archery range.

The new operators plan to exploit the remote setting, the privacy earned by the surrounding 650,000 acres of [Anza-Borrego Desert State Park](#), and the resulting absence of light pollution.

The resort is scheduled to have a soft opening in November, with all details complete by the January grand opening. For more information on the resort, call (800) 824-1884.

– Valli Herman, Los Angeles Times staff writer