

Haciendas - A Parade of Homes 2007

by Kurt Faust

Santa Fe is fortunate to have one of the best "Parade of Homes" events in the country and is the largest real estate event in Northern New Mexico. It features a wide variety of new homes and remodels in many styles, price ranges, and locations in the City and surrounding areas. Unlike many parades across the country, ours is made up of mostly of custom homes.

Our first parade event coincided with Indian Market in 1993, and featured just a few homes. Fifteen years later, it has grown to be an exciting event anticipated by many locals and visitors. People come from all over the world at this time to see our unique style of building. As many as 5,000 people attend the various homes in a given year. Most of Santa Fe's best builders have participated at one time or another. These are the designers and builders who continue to define Santa Fe Style.

This self-guided tour is a great opportunity to meet the local builders, designers, architects, lenders, Realtors, suppliers, and other service providers. Whether you are considering buying, building or just getting ideas for remodeling you will see that everyone involved is interested in helping you find what you need. You can get advice on Green Building, the difference between frame and adobe construction, the many alternative wall materials and answers to many of your other questions.

Each home is part of a judged competition, so the builders often include one-of-a-kind extras which make the house unique. The panel of judges is made up of six professional designers and architects from nearby states. This year awards are given in each price range for Most Green, Best Planning/Circulation/Livability, Best use of Surface/Materials/Finishes, Most Creative/Innovative, and Best Exterior Character. In addition there is one home which is deemed the overall best home and given the "Grand Hacienda" award. These awards will be announced at a Gala dinner at La Fonda beginning at 5 pm on Tuesday August 14. There is also a "Peoples' Choice" award you can participate in by voting on-line at santafehometours.com after the parade begins.

The 2007 tour dates and times are August 10 - 12 and August 17 - 19 open from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. There will be an evening "Twilight" tour on Thursday, August 16 with the hours of 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Official Haciendas tickets are fifteen dollars and entitle you to admission to all homes for the entire event. Part of the proceeds will benefit local non-profits such as local High School booster organizations, and other community youth . Tickets can be purchased at the Lensic box office (988-1234) or at any of the Hacienda homes or any sponsor location.

All of the events are open to the public, so call the Santa Fe Area Homebuilders Association at 982-1774 for ticket or event information.

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