

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hearst Castle ® and Vikingsholm Named Two of America's "10 Amazing Castles" by Forbes Travel.com

Hearst Castle ® and Vikingsholm were named two of America's "10 Amazing Castles" by Forbes Travel.com.

One of California State Parks' top attractions, Hearst Castle ® is on Highway 1, north of San Simeon. It was the home of publishing giant William Randolph Hearst. Famed architect Julia Morgan designed the castle, which took 28 years to complete.

Vikingsholm is part of Emerald Bay State Park in Lake Tahoe. This magnificent "castle" is a unique blend of spectacular natural beauty and human architectural ingenuity. Located among towering pines and cedars, was built as a summer home by Mrs. Lora Josephine Knight in 1929.

Forbes notes about Hearst Castle, "Quite possibly the nation's most famous castle, William Randolph Hearst went to great lengths to bring back the best of European architecture—most notably ceilings from churches and monasteries—which were pieced back together in California to create his highly eclectic Central Coast getaway. 'With our current economy, it's difficult to take a trip to Europe,' said Dan Eller, Director of Communications at Hearst Castle. 'Visitors are looking to their own soil for something spectacular to see.'"

California State Parks offers guided tours of the 165 rooms, the art collection and 127 acres of gardens. Reservations are strongly suggested. For tours and tickets call (800) 444-4445 or go online to: www.hearstcastle.com Accessibly designed tours are available.

Hearst Castle ® also features free parking, free exhibits at the park visitor center, museum and gifts shops, espresso and snack bars, and a giant-screen theater.

About Vikingsholm, Forbes notes, "The fjord-like setting of the Emerald Bay property reminded Lora Knight of her many trips to Scandinavia, which set her on a quest to erect a summer home to complement her surroundings. The result was Vikingsholm, considered one of

the finest examples of Scandinavian architecture in the nation, complete with dragon beams, exquisite ceiling paintings, and an authentic sod roof.”

Tours of Vikingsholm Castle are available seven days a week from mid-June until the end of September. The first tour of the day starts at 10 a.m. and the last tour at 4 p.m. All tours are guided tours and take approximately one-half hour. The tour fee is \$5 for adults and \$3 for youths 6 to 17. Children under 6 are free. The maximum number of people on a tour is 49. The Vikingsholm Visitor Center phone number is (530)541-6498.

The Vikingsholm website is <http://www.vikingsholm.com>

The Forbes “Top 10 Castle” story – with slideshow – is on line at <http://www.forbestraveler.com/luxury/americas-castles-story.html>

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