



Photo courtesy of Bella Pictures

## Relive the California Center Experience at the Los Angeles River Center & Gardens

Near the junction of the 5 and 110 freeways, minutes from downtown Los Angeles, is a hidden gem of tranquil beauty, a place with a unique history, and the perfect setting for all of your private events. Lawry's Catering welcomes you to the Los Angeles River Center & Gardens, formerly Lawry's California Center.

Surrounded by high ivy covered walls and set among lush gardens, the Early California style courtyards, patios and buildings originally showcased restaurants, live entertainment, and shops promoting Lawry's Seasoned Salt and other Lawry's Foods, Inc. products.



Photo by Joelle Leder Photography

Today, the River Center displays important exhibits about the L.A. River's natural and human history. Yet, it still retains all the unique character that made the "old" California Center a beloved gathering spot for people from all over the city and a mandatory stop for tourists visiting Southern California.



Entering the grounds for the first time, it's easy for anyone to see why the memory of Lawry's California Center is close to the hearts of so many Angelinos. At the end of the flowerlined drive is a brick roundabout under the great limbs of a half-century old ficus tree that offers cooling shade and pleasant relief from the heat of the day.

Passing through the thirty-foot tall wrought iron gate, you feel transported into a world apart as you enter a small courtyard with its murmuring fountain and a jungle of plant life in every corner. Another gate just ahead leads you into the Main Courtyard, an ideal spot for your party. A three-tiered fountain set in a blue tiled lined pool, beds of roses, day lilies, California pepper trees, and a stunning bell tower provide a background for photos a Hollywood director would envy.

The San Fernando Courtyard, a patio with an ample lawn enclosed by tree-line walls, is perfect for ceremonies or cocktails. This intimate space can easily host smaller events as well. For indoor celebrations, there is the California Building featuring a Mexican tiled floor and flooded with natural light through arched windows and an impressive skylight. The building's open second floor looks down on the main reception area and is a dramatic space in its own right. The adjacent Los Feliz Room can accommodate smaller meetings and conferences.

Because of our unique heritage, Lawry's Catering enjoys a singular connection to today's River Center. We certainly understand why new visitors are entranced by it. At the same time, we know as well as anyone why long-time patrons of the California Center still miss it so much.

For your dining pleasure, we feature our famous Prime Rib as one of a wide selection of entrees and appetizers on a specially crafted California Center menu. Those of you who remember the California Center restaurants will

be excited to know we can recreate many of your favorite dishes from Las Portales and La Barbacoa Bar and Patio on request.

For your next private event, let Lawry's Catering take you back to the "old" California Center, the Lawry's way, at Los Angeles River Center & Gardens.

**Contact Melissa Navarro for information and reservations:  
310.360.6281 ext. 5 or [MNavarro@LawrysOnline.com](mailto:MNavarro@LawrysOnline.com)**

**Event Reception Capacity**

Reception Seated | Seated | Ceremony Seated

**Main Courtyard** 400 | 500 | 350

**San Fernando Courtyard** 250 | 300 | 300

**California Building** (indoor) 200 | 300 | 250

*Page 2 photos by Susan Frank*

