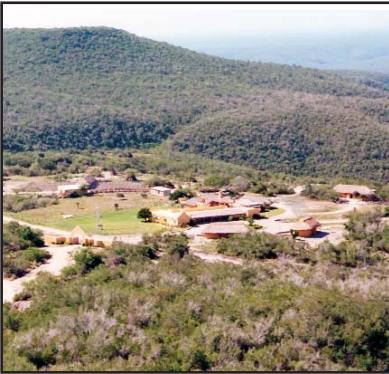


Rancho  Caracol
The Ultimate Mexico Hunting Experience

HUNT PLANNING GUIDE

Welcome To Our Hacienda!



Rancho Caracol

The Ultimate Mexico Hunting Experience

Dear Fellow Sportsman:



Thank you for your interest in Rancho Caracol – the finest wingshooting lodge in all of North America, bar none.

Nestled in the rugged, rolling foothills overlooking Northern Mexico's Lake Las Alazanas, our 100% American-owned and operated ranch is easy to reach, yet impossible to beat when it comes to natural beauty, comfort and hospitality. Whether it's whitewing dove, wild bobwhite quail or mourning dove, my staff & I take great pride and care in ensuring that each and every one of our guests experiences the wingshooting adventure of a lifetime – and our high percentage of repeat guests tells us that we're doing a good job of it. Currently, we are the only Orvis-endorsed wingshooting lodge in Mexico, and one of just 24 in the entire world.

As my father, Barry, defined our mission on the day we opened in 1999: "Our guests may arrive at Rancho Caracol as visitors, but they'll leave as members of our family."

The following pages should provide you with most everything you'll need to know in order to plan your wingshooting adventure. If you should have any additional questions or require more information, please don't hesitate to call me directly at (888) 246-3164.

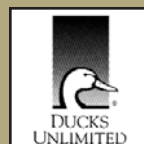
We look forward to meeting you here at Rancho Caracol!

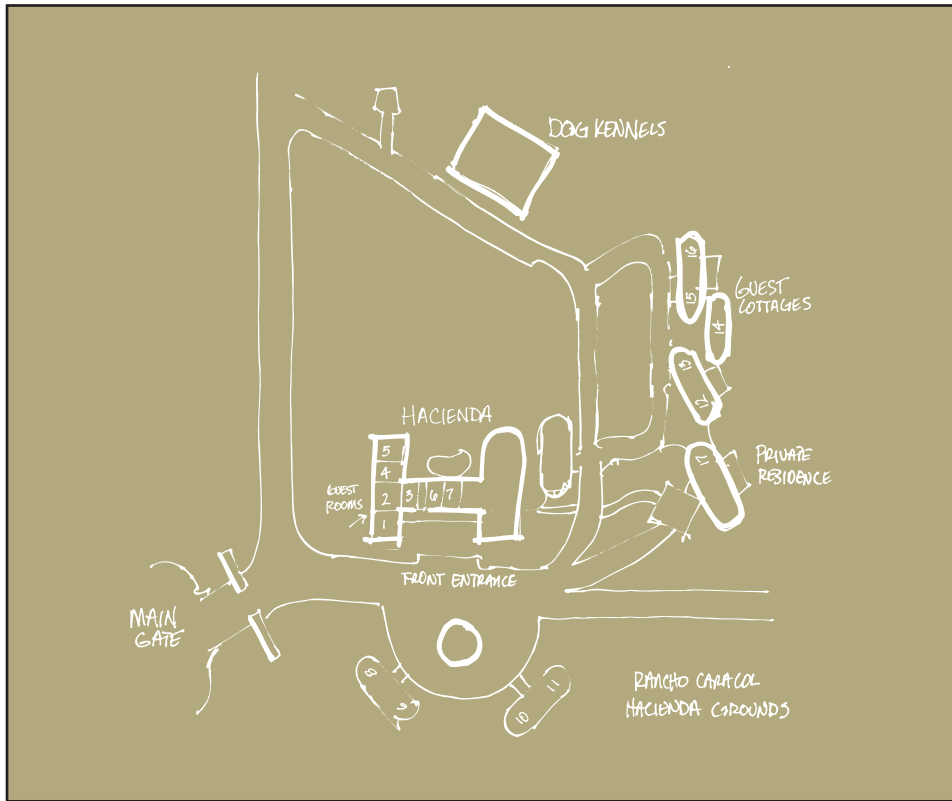
Mi Casa Es Su Casa,

Dean Putegnat

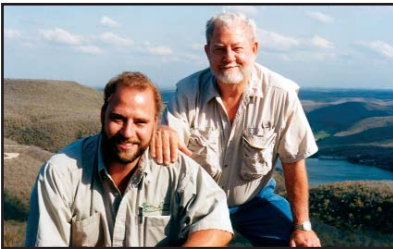
Dean Putegnat

MEMBERS





Our History



Dean & Barry Putegnat

In English, Rancho Caracol translates to “Snail Ranch,” so named because of the slow, winding road that leads down from the lodge to our picturesque, cliff-lined lake. The lodge itself is perched atop the breathtaking Mesa Las Alazanas, the original staging site for the construction of the Las Alazanas Dam back in the 1960s. After the dam was completed, the site was abandoned for several years before being converted to a bustling cattle ranch. When the cattlemen moved on some years later, nature soon reclaimed the terrain. Now, after two decades, the property has returned to its original, rustic beauty.

Having hunted the Tamaulipas region for more than 50 years, our family has long known how special this area really is, and when the opportunity presented itself in 1998, we purchased an 11,000-acre expanse. Since then, we have spent countless hours clearing, planting and enhancing the natural habitat for our native population of whitewing dove, bobwhite quail, mourning dove, turkey, deer and javelina.

Our hacienda was painstakingly built from the ground up, and today stands as a luxurious oasis in the middle of the vast, wild territory. We are constantly working to maintain and improve the property, from the construction of new, private villas overlooking the lake to the completion of clean, modern kennels for our 40 hunting dogs. No detail is overlooked in making Rancho Caracol the friendliest and most comfortable hunting lodge in Mexico. We are very, very proud of what we have accomplished.



“The best whitewing shoot I’ve ever had!”

Fred Pauling, MD, Houston, Texas

Whitewing Dove

August through October



The ranch property is adjacent to the largest whitewing nesting area in the world, and plays host to legendary flocks of these birds during their fall migration southward. From our experience, there is no better dove hunting anywhere in North America than right here in Tamaulipas.

There are three types of dove hunts at Rancho Caracol: field hunts, brush hunts, and waterhole hunts. Field hunts take place around the local corn, sunflower and sorghum fields, where the dove are harvested as they come in to feed. Brush hunts are held in the denser scrub areas, where the birds

gather among the thickets to feast on the natural abundance of seeds and berries. Waterhole hunts are set up around the birds’ major drinking sources. Hunting areas are determined on a daily basis, based on reports from our four expert scout teams, who survey the region to locate the biggest concentrations of birds hours before the hunt even begins. We equip our hunters with an ammo box and swivel chair, a cooler full of ice cold drinks and two experienced bird boys (known as “palomeros”) to retrieve birds, help reload shell bags and see to our guests’ every need.

With access to over 500,000 surrounding acres of prime dove habitat, fast action is virtually guaranteed. Expect to give yourself – and your gun – a real workout!



“An unforgettable father-son experience...”

Eric Badofsky, International Sportsman’s, Inc.





“The ranch lies in the heart of the best wild quail country in Mexico...”

Dr. Ron Haaland, in Quail Unlimited Magazine

Quail & Mourning Dove



November through February



When it comes to quail hunting, Rancho Caracol offers an experience that is second to none. Our rich population of Southern bobwhites is all wild... no pen-raised or released quail here!

Quail hunts take place in two immense, irrigated valleys, and also on the area's vast cattle ranches. In the valleys, we hunt the lush canal banks, hedgerows and abandoned agricultural fields. On the cattle ranches, we hunt primarily on improved pasture. Our modern, Texas-style quail rigs carry 3-4 hunters each, and come fully equipped with dog cages and top-mounted seats. Seasoned guides are included on every hunt to handle the dogs, along with two experienced assistants to look after every detail.

Hunting takes place both from the rig and by walking the terrain, depending on the location of the birds and the weather conditions. You can expect to raise 10-25 coveys per day, so be ready for lots of fast action and excitement!

Our kennel of more than 40 professionally-trained English pointers are all steady to wing and shot. We include 8 dogs per rig on our hunts, so you're always assured of fresh, reliable and eager companionship in the field.

Interested in some variety during quail season? Consider one of our quail & dove combination hunts! The Tamaulipas region hosts large populations of mourning dove at this time of year, which are hunted in the same fashion as our famed whitewings. There is no additional charge for a combo hunt, and we'd be happy to set it up for you upon request.

“I've hunted...the world over, including Russia, Scotland, Argentina and more. Rancho Caracol offered the best hunt I've ever been on...”

James Hulbert, Longview, Washington

Accommodations

Rancho Caracol is, without a doubt, the best lodge I've ever stayed in. My only complaint: the food was so good, I ate too much!"

Larry Brunson, DDS, Woodlands, Texas



Before building Rancho Caracol, we traveled to a variety of other hunting lodges and resorts around the world, then took the best features of each and combined them into our property. We are extremely proud to offer our guests what we consider the finest accommodations of any wingshooting lodge, anywhere.

The beautiful stone patios, intricate tile designs and traditional thatched roofs of our hacienda will give you the ambience of Old Mexico without sacrificing the modern-day luxuries you'd expect from a world-class lodge. The gorgeous swimming pool, patios and rooftop bar offer a welcome retreat after a long day's hunt, and our hot tub will work wonders on the sore shoulders and legs that come with a successful day in the field. The view overlooking Lake Las Alazanas is nothing short of spectacular.

Spacious, air-conditioned guest rooms feature high quality linens, private bathrooms, full-sized beds, fresh drinking water, daily maid service and, of course, classic Mexican styling. We also offer comfortable and convenient amenities such as satellite TV in our great room, a wingshooting library, telephone and fax service and a fully-stocked hunting accessory and gift shop.

The food? Incomparable. You'll dine on a wide variety of traditional Mexican cuisine, wild game, fresh fish and a plethora of delicious appetizers, salads and desserts. Fine wine is served with dinner, and the bar – always well-stocked with top shelf liquor – is always open. From breakfast to dinner, our chef and staff will make sure you never go hungry!

For hunting and non-hunting guests alike, our beautiful setting allows for other activities such as hiking, photography, bird-watching, swimming, poolside reading and relaxing at the bar enjoying the breathtaking views.

"You can expect all world-class treatment from this world-class location..."

Safari Times





Travel



The ranch is located approximately 150 miles south of Brownsville, Texas. The most convenient point of embarkation is modern, easy-to-reach Valley International Airport in Harlingen. From there, our uniformed drivers will meet you at the luggage carousel, load your gear into our clean, roomy passenger vans and take you directly to the ranch. The safe, leisurely journey takes about 3 ½ hours, and the roads along the way are scenic and very well-paved. If you prefer, you may also fly your own aircraft or charter a private plane from Harlingen to an airstrip located just minutes from the ranch.

The ranch is located approximately 150 miles south of Brownsville, Texas. The most convenient point of embarkation is modern, easy-to-

Crossing into Mexico by van is fast, safe and virtually effortless. All you need is a travel visa, which we will take care of for you before you arrive. Typically, the border crossing process takes only a few minutes.

We do suggest that you take advantage of the free use of our fine Beretta shotgun collection at the ranch, but if you have a favorite gun you can't hunt without, we can secure the proper permits and firearm transport for you at an additional fee.

For guests that would like to bring their own dog(s), we have a set of clean, modern guest kennels at the lodge, and all you need is a veterinary health certificate to cross the border. We'll make sure your dogs are pampered and well-fed during your stay, and a nearby veterinarian is also available in the unlikely case of emergencies.



Packages

At Rancho Caracol, we try to make our guests as comfortable as possible by providing most everything they'll need for a worry-free trip. All of our hunt packages include:

- Ground Transportation from Harlingen, Texas
- Use of our Top-Grade Beretta Shotgun Collection
- First Class Accommodations
- Twice Daily Maid Service
- All Meals and Soft Drinks
- Open Bar with Top Quality Beer, Wine & Liquor
- Transportation to the Hunting Fields
- Guides and Bird Boys (dove hunts)
- Guides, Assistants and Dogs (quail hunts)
- Game Cleaning and Preparation

The only items that are not included in the cost of our packages are hunting licenses, shells, pro and gift shop items and optional staff gratuities. If you are taking wild game home, you will also need a cooler, which you may bring with you or purchase new at the lodge for a nominal fee.



What to Bring



There are a few items and clothing tips that we suggest to make your trip as enjoyable as possible:

- Proof of Citizenship
- Field Bag (small)
- Ventilated, Wide-Brimmed Hat
- Shooting Glasses
- Personal Toiletries & Medications
- Small Flashlight
- Lightweight Shooting Vest
- Sunscreen
- Pocket Knife
- Insect Repellent
- Hearing Protection
- Sturdy, Comfortable Boots
- Camera/Video & Lots of Film
- Lightweight Rain Suit



Clothing for Whitewing Dove Season

We recommend light, comfortable hot-weather clothing in natural and/or camouflage colors, as well as a wide-brimmed, ventilated hat. Your bird boys will retrieve your birds, so you can wear shorts without worrying about sharp branches and thorns. You may also consider a shoulder-worn recoil pad because of the amount of shooting you'll be doing.

Clothing for Quail/Mourning Dove Season

The temperatures during quail season can range anywhere from the 30s to the 90s, so we suggest you bring a variety of comfortable, all-weather clothing. You should also bring a hat and/or vest in blaze orange, two pairs of very comfortable walking boots and either snake boots, chaps or gaiters to protect your lower legs.

Book Your Wingshooting Adventure Today!

Because of the high repeat guest rate and the limited space available for both dove and quail seasons, we recommend that you make your reservations as soon as possible to secure your most preferred dates. Current rates are included in the back pocket of this brochure, and we offer three easy ways to book your hunt:

By Phone: (888) 246-3164
By Fax: (956) 542-5765
By E-Mail: info@ranchocaracol.com

Terms & Conditions

- 50% deposit due when making initial reservation
- Remaining balance is required by the following dates, according to species/season:
 - July 1st for whitewing season (August through October)
 - Oct. 1st for November/December quail & mourning dove hunts
 - Nov. 1st for January/February quail & mourning dove hunts

Please note that all deposits and balances are non-refundable. If you cancel 45 days prior to your hunt, rescheduling within the current season is offered (subject to availability).

Hunt Reservation Form

Use this form to make your reservations by fax. Please refer to the rate card in the back pocket of this brochure for current package pricing. Hunt dates are subject to availability and package rates are subject to change without notice.

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____
E-Mail Address _____

Species: Whitewing Dove Quail/Mourning Dove
Number in Party _____ Hunters _____ Non-Hunters _____
Preferred Date(s) _____

50% Deposit Method:

Check Money Order
Charge my VISA MasterCard Discover

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Total Amount of Deposit _____

We will contact you immediately upon receipt of this reservation form to confirm your preferred dates and answer any questions that you may have.





Rancho Caracol

(888) 246-3164

www.ranhocaracol.com