

OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

Did You Know?

1. The breathtakingly beautiful Ojai Valley was portrayed as the mythical Shangri-La by Frank Capra in his 1937 film *Lost Horizon*.
2. The Ojai Valley is known for its “Pink Moment,” which occurs every evening at sunset when the valley’s mountains are bathed in a pink and mauve glow.
3. Tons of avocados, oranges and lemons from nearly 3,000 acres of groves leave the Ojai Valley every season for markets around the world.
4. The Ojai Valley was home for thousands of years to the Chumash Indians who believed the valley had mystical powers.
5. Since its founding in 1947, the Ojai Music Festival has held its concerts in the Libbey Bowl, marked sacred by the Chumash Indians, and safeguarded by the “Wedding Tree,” a sycamore thought to have taken root at the same time our nation took root in the western world.
6. The Ojai Music Festival has presented many of music’s legends—everyone from Igor Stravinsky and Aaron Copland through Olivier Messiaen, Pierre Boulez and Ravi Shankar, to Michael Tilson Thomas and Steve Reich—who have made the Festival famous for pushing the musical envelope..
7. At the Ojai Music Festival, audiences can always expect the unexpected. In 2007 a team of local college students got together to wind up 100 metronomes for a rare performance of Gyorgy Ligeti’s *Poem symphonique*.
8. Bart’s Books, a Parisian-style open-air bookshop and a collector’s delight, known as “the world’s greatest outdoor book store,” stocks more than 100,000 used (and some new) books on every topic imaginable. Shopping after hours? A friendly sign suggests you use the honor system and just toss your coins inside the gate.
9. The crinkly white California native flower—the Matilija Poppy—was named after an ancient Chumash village located in Ojai.
10. The local cemetery is the resting place for Ojai’s last full-blooded Chumash Indian elder, as well as a half-dozen Confederate soldiers.
11. During World War II the 134th infantry set up their training camp from 1942-1945 on the golf course of the Ojai Country Club.
12. Tennis greats Pancho Gonzalez, Tracy Austin, Jack Kramer, Billie Jean King, Arthur Ashe, Stan Smith, Alex Olmedo, Chris Evert, Jimmy Connors, and Michael Chang have all played in the Ojai Valley’s annual tennis tournament.
13. And golf greats Arnold Palmer, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Tom Weiskopf, Al Geiberger, Dave Stockton and Gary Player, are among the army of golf legends who descend on Ojai every year for the Senior PGA Tour.

14. The town of less than 8,000 boasts five of the nation's top private, college prep schools (one founded by Aldous Huxley) in addition to its 12 public schools and the World University of America.