



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Garden

Modjeska Canyon, CA 92676
Mailing address:
c/o 25151 Serrano Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630-2534
949-923-2230 or
949-923-2232

HISTORIC
PARK

OFFICE HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. | TOUR RESERVATIONS: 949-923-2230

Tucked away amidst a live oak grove on the banks of Santiago Creek in Modjeska Canyon lies the century-old home of world-renowned actress Madame Helena Modjeska. Named for the grounds' resemblance to the Forest of Arden in the Shakespearean play, "As You Like It," Arden is designated a National Historic Landmark.



THE BIRTH OF ARDEN.

Helena's successful debut in San Francisco was soon followed by performances in New York, London, and countless rural opera houses and small theaters across America. Over the next two decades, she became one of America's most beloved actresses.

Returning to Orange County after nearly a decade on the road, Helena and her husband, Charles "Count" Bozenta Chlapowski, bought a ranch home in a shady canyon. They then hired friend and famed New York architect Stanford White to redesign the existing ranch home into the picturesque Modjeska house. The beauty of the surrounding oak groves reminded Helena of the Forest of Arden in the Shakespearean play, *As You Like It*, and when the house was finished, she christened it Arden.



*"I have acted Lady Macbeth and Portia now for many years. The lines have a charm that's like my California home. I never wish to forget or cease to be fond of either."
- Helena Modjeska*

THE LIFE OF ARDEN.

From 1888 to 1905, Arden hosted many prominent visitors, including fellow actress Maud Durbin, famed pianist Ignace Jan Paderewski and many more.

In 1906, Helena and Count Bozenta sold their beloved Arden and moved into a bungalow in Newport Beach, where Helena Modjeska died in 1909 at the age of 68.



THE CONTINUING LIFE OF ARDEN.

Over the years, Arden changed hands several times. Minimal alterations have occurred, and in 1986, Arden was sold to the County of Orange for the purpose of establishing a historic park. The County of Orange did just that, and on December 14, 1990, the National Park Service honored Helena Modjeska's beloved former home by naming it a National Historic Landmark.



EXPERIENCE THE FOREST OF ARDEN.

We offer docent-led tours of this historic house and gardens four times a month, by advance reservation only. You'll relive the years Madame Modjeska resided in her canyon home, as you walk the rock-lined pathways of what she so fondly called the Forest of Arden.



The ruby glass that Madame Modjeska installed in the bathroom imparted a rosy glow that she jokingly explained was a beauty treatment.



Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens is located in a residential setting and is not open on a daily basis. Tours are given by advance reservation only. Directions to the park and information on parking is provided when making reservations.

For reservations, please call 949-923-2230. Fee is \$5.00 per person for a docent-led tour. 866-OC PARKS | ardenmodjeska@ocparks.com • www.ocparks.com/modjeskashouse

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OC Parks has been entrusted with the care and protection of this park. Help us preserve our county's natural and cultural resources for you and your fellow guests' future enjoyment. Please check with your Park Ranger for this park's specific rules, or see them online at www.ocparks.com.

