

### Thank you Letter From **Teri Love – Cooking Classes**

It is easy to write about Geraldine Gilliland.

Driving up Corral Canyon (where Geraldine lives & holds her cooking classes) is beautiful, but the best part is situated at the top of the road at Rancho Chiquita.

The Ranch is located in the Malibu Mountains, with unending views of the coast as well as the gorgeous Pacific Ocean.

There is an outdoor kitchen next to the infinity pool where Geraldine works her culinary magic on the days she conducts outdoor classes.

Upon entering the casa, there is music flowing through the speakers, the dining room table in front of a roaring fire place & incredible paintings has a sampling of what is in store: what is being served to drink, brochures, recipes, upcoming events & classes, etc.

The warm and inviting kitchen is colorful with tiles, artwork, cooking bowls, and the enticing aromas of the menu for the afternoon.

Geraldine is speaking in her lyrical lilting Irish accent about what delights we are going to learn about and eventually taste. Her laughter & cheerful personality surrounds you making everyone feel part of the family.

The recipes are explained fully and completely. Questions are welcomed and answered by Geraldine as she is demonstrating. There are 2 monitors set up on either side of the kitchen so everyone can see what is going on as if looking down onto the counter and stovetop from a bird's eye view.

I participated when invited to bring my wines to be paired with the yummy recipes Geraldine was cooking up that afternoon.

Geraldine was a victim of the most recent fire, along with 54 of her neighbors. She has risen from the ashes and heartbreak of losing her guesthouse, and is in the process of rebuilding and helping her neighbors as well. She hosted a gathering of neighbors this past weekend at her ranch, where a potluck was enjoyed after a neighborhood meeting and lesson on firefighting. She and the others that attended have purchased fire trucks and fire-fighting equipment to be used by the attendees in the event of another blaze.

Geraldine is also one of my heroes in regard to animal rescue. She has several lovely dogs that have the run of the house and ranch that she has given a second chance of life.

The people that work with Gerri at her restaurants have been with her for 20 years or more. This is another testament to how amazing she is as a person.

It is no wonder her passion comes through in her extraordinary culinary ability.

I wholeheartedly recommend a visit to the ranch to attend one of Geraldine's cooking classes. You will enter as a student and leave a friend that will return again and again.

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