



*What's New on the Oldest Hotel Corner in America?*



*La Plazuela Dining Room – La Fonda on the Plaza*

## La Playuela

Santa Fe: There has been an inn or *fonda* on the corner of San Francisco and Water Streets in Santa Fe, New Mexico for the past 400 years. This historic corner was the terminus of the legendary Santa Fe Trail and if walls could talk, they would speak volumes. There was the Independence Hotel in the mid 1800s, followed by the Exchange Hotel in the late 1800s and the US Hotel in 1900, all a magnet for the famous and infamous. In 1926, La Fonda took pride of place on this corner, drawing Santa Fe society in droves to its gaming tables and luxurious salons.



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Today, this historic and charming hotel, filled with art, vintage furnishings and nostalgia is still very much a gathering place for Santa Feans and their guests who want a truly authentic Santa Fe experience. The heart of this Old World hospitality is the hotel's award-winning dining room, La Plazuela, which just re-opened after an extensive five-month, multi-million dollar renovation - the "new" kid on this 400-year-old corner.

The restaurant is stunning, infused with natural light that filters down from a sky lighted ceiling. Twenty-foot ficus trees stand on either side of a charming tiled fountain, a tribute to the one that held court in the hotel's 1920s patio. All the Spanish-inspired furnishings were hand-made and the handsome fabrics are replicas of historic New Mexico textile designs. The flagstones that grace the dining room floor match those from the 20s, which were mined just outside of Santa Fe. Local artisans were brought in to create all the extraordinary details of this handsome dining room – hand-forged iron railings, wrought iron chandeliers and sconces, dramatically carved beams and corbels; even the door handles and hinges were forged by hand. And the restaurant's signature windows, painted by the hotel's artist-in-residence, still encircle the room. *It is a masterful transformation that celebrates and honors the rich lore of this unique hotel ensconced on the oldest hotel corner in America.*

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