

FIELD TO VASE DINNER TOUR 2018

American Grown Flowers' annual dinner tour makes two stops in California in April.

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PHOTOS BY CARRIE MCCUSKEY PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF CERTIFIED AMERICAN GROWN FLOWERS

A Mountain of Flowers and Fun Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers, Fallbrook

On April 7, the **2018 American Grown Field to Vase Dinner Tour** kicked off at **Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers** in Fallbrook, Calif., where 154 guests experienced a spectacular evening on **Mel Resendiz's** flower farm.

Flower farming in this region is an extreme – harvesting high in the hills in extremely steep terrain, always mindful of the rattlesnakes that inhabit the hillsides. As such, guests were in for a special treat, but they had to go the extra mile (or five) in order to experience this extraordinary location.

It didn't disappoint. After a 25-minute drive up the side of



René van Rems, AIFD, designed the table décor as well as floral installations throughout the dinner site at Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers. He used "The Limo," an abandon Dodge truck that had been converted to an RV decades ago and became a hit with guests who posed in front of it, as his base of operations.

a mountain, guests were greeted with a glass of champagne as they took in incredible views from atop the hills of Fallbrook – in the middle of one of Resendiz's flower fields. Bales of hay were placed to help prevent guests from falling down the steep hillside where pincushions (*Leucospermum*) were growing.

Guests were in awe. Renowned floral designer **René van Rems**, AIFD, worked for two days with a team of people to prepare the table arrangements and floral installations throughout the dinner site, pulling flowers right from the fields as needed.

Mel Resendiz welcomed guests, sharing that he was moved by having so many people for dinner on his farm. "I could not



Mel Resendiz was thrilled to welcome guests to his flower farm.

imagine this," he said. "It is wonderful for me to have all of you here."

As flower-focused events, the American Grown Field to Vase Dinners are helping translate people's passion for sustainable, quality, homegrown food to flowers. Connecting people with flowers grown on American farms, the farmers who grow them and the opportunity to see what it takes to be a flower farmer is what makes these events unique and so memorable for those who attend.

And everyone leaves with flowers; guests were invited to take the centerpieces as well as a hand-tied bouquet from Resendiz Brothers. There was no doubt that guests enjoyed a field-to-vase experience they would never forget.



The reveal of the dinner's location was worth the drive up the mountain. One-hundred-fifty-four people attended the April 7 dinner.