

## Romancing the Southland review summary

Don't be misled by the title word "romancing," Badal doesn't mean it just in the sense of juicy spots for trysts and rendezvous, but for wonder, adventure, and discovery.

*Riverside Press-Enterprise*

As anyone who actually lives in Southern California will tell you, the Southland is not a state of mind, it is a state of being, physical and multidimensional. It requires the use of all available senses--seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting. Robert Badal's *Romancing The Southland* is not for casual visitors or wanabes. It is for those that ate at Jake's before Colorado Boulevard was hip, for those who remember when Cantor's Kibitz Room was actually for kibitzing, for those who know the difference between Pinks and Cupids and the relative merits of each, the difference between Duttons and Barnes and Noble, for those who take their kids to Grand Central Market because their parents took them, for those who know--or want to know--what to do in Little Saigon, San Pedro, Santa Paula, Koreatown, Inglewood, Cabrillo, or South Central. In short, Badal has created a guide for those who know that a city is defined by its residents, rather than its theme parks. Pick any page at random and go. Its worth the price of admission.

*Dr. Matthew Cahn, Director, Center For Southern California Studies, California State University Northridge*

What makes his work more effective than any tourist brochure is his grouping of activities under months of the year. The book's strength lies in the fact that it seeks to be not only comprehensive but also its efforts to set them in perspective. This gives the reader information that even a long time resident might not have. *Romancing...* is useful, easy to read, and worth the price.

*India Journal*

Leaf through the days of the calendar in Robert Badal's new 750 page book *Romancing The Southland* and you'll find plenty of romantic and unusual events to whet your appetite for a year.

*San Bernardino Sun*

An eclectic collection of month by month listings.

*Ventura Star-Free Press*

Robert Badal's *Romancing The Southland* will inspire you to try new places.

*Connie Martinson Talks Books*

A proud, detailed, amusing, incredible book of a sub continent that is Southern California.

*The Book Reader*

A regional classic among travel books.

*California Map and Travel*

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Terrific! "The" authority.

*Pasadena Library Association*

A combination almanac, guidebook, and cultural overview of everything that makes Southern California unique. The book covers the area from San Diego to Santa Barbara, offering more than 1,350 references. He writes about little-known history of the region while delivering the bizarre, ethnic, natural, and the elegant; the most romantic spots for lovers, plus offbeat things to do and hidden places to visit.

*Daily Breeze Rave!*

The book is a calendar and tour guide for what goes on around here, beginning with the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day and winding up with a celebration of the next New Year's Eve with "The World's Largest Champagne Glass" at the Lawrence Welk Museum in the Resort in Escondido.

*Los Angeles Magazine, Best of L.A. '95*

*Romancing The Southland*, an up-to-date guide that rambles lovingly from the gift shop at the Police Academy to *Nouruz*, the festival celebrating the Persian New Year, to sightings of the Shogun Santa, a Claus with a Samurai helmet, in Little Tokyo.

*L.A. Weekly, Best of L.A. '95*

A fun, fact-filled guide to planning great dates.

*Pasadena Weekly, Best of Pasadena '96*

In the encyclopedic book, Badal introduces readers to everything from Chinese miniature teapot shops to gondola rides, from Native American cave paintings to helicopter dinners over downtown L.A. He offers tips on events and outings from Santa Barbara to San Diego with the authority of a person who has lived in every place he discusses.

*Long Beach Press-Telegram*

He wrote the book on romance.

*Los Angeles Times*

As a 4th generation Southern Californian, I thought I knew all of the great romantic places in our region. However, Robert Badal is in a whole other league with his extraordinary knowledge of every seductive spot from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

*Larry Mantle's "Airtalk," KPCC.FM*

The book is almost an encyclopedia of every known and unknown gem in Southern California, from San Diego to Santa Barbara. But besides serving as just a reference book, it also provides the rich history behind many of its listed sites and events.

*Hollywood Independent*