



[Opening Scene]

In the Pink

Ojai locals call it the “pink moment.” Visitors are often too stunned to comment. No matter what the name is of this kaleidoscopic SoCal sunset phenomenon, anyone can experience it at **Meditation Mount**, a hilltop nonprofit sanctuary with expansive views of the Ojai Valley and the Topa Topa range. The mountains here align in an east-to-west manner that boosts the fading sun’s red tints, and the landscape’s pale crags act as a canvas for sunset hues. Arrive about an hour before sundown to meander in the International Garden of Peace, where you’ll find cacti and other succulents en route to the grassy promontory. Spectators rest here on benches and prepare their cameras for the moment. As the sun nears the bluffs, everything warms to honey tones as if by Midas’s touch. The garden’s sandstone boulders then blush fuchsia, overhead clouds resemble fairground cotton candy, surrounding mountains pop pink, and even white clothing seems rose-steeped. Just before twilight, vivid crimson, gold, and coral streaks tie-dye the sky. Blink, and you’ll miss it. If so, there’s always tomorrow. Meditation Mount is open 10 a.m. to sunset, Wednesday to Sunday. Free admission (\$2 donation suggested). 10340 Reeves Road, Ojai. (805) 646-5508; meditationmount.org. —Lora Shinn