

CASTLE TOUR

Visit to Hearst Castle by Theresa Martin

Last year, I had a great trip to Hearst Castle at San Simeon in California. Hearst Castle was built by William Randolph Hearst between 1922 and 1939, at a cost of more than \$30 million - about \$277 million today.

I spent all day looking around, but it was enough. There was so much to see. Hearst Castle is really four houses. The main house, "Casa Grande", is much bigger than the other three, which were used for guests. Many of these were Hollywood film stars, and they often came to Hearst's parties.

At Hearst Castle, there are 56 bedrooms, 61 bathrooms and 19 sitting rooms. There are also beautiful gardens, a garage for 25 large cars and two swimming pools, one inside and a larger one outside. I loved the one outside, the "Neptune Pool" - it was a pity we couldn't go swimming!

I found the tour very helpful. The guide told me that Hearst, at the age of ten, toured Europe with his mother, looking at paintings and castles. He never forgot this tour and decided that he wanted his house to look like a castle.

Hearst died in 1951 and Hearst Castle was given by his family to the people of California. It is now a museum.

| | RIGHT | WRONG | DOESN'T SAY |
|---|-------|-------|-------------|
| 1 Hearst Castle was cheap to build. | X | X | X |
| 2 Theresa wanted to spend more time at Hearst Castle. | X | X | X |
| 3. Hearst Castle is on a mountain near the sea. | X | X | X |
| 4 Hearst's guests stayed in "Casa Grande". | X | X | X |
| 5 The swimming pools are the same size. | X | X | X |
| 6. Theresa thought the tour was very useful. | X | X | X |
| 7 Hearst enjoyed living at Hearst Castle. | X | X | X |
| 8 Hearst remembered his trip to Europe all his life. | X | X | X |
| 9 Hearst died in Hearst Castle. | X | X | X |
| 10 The Hearst family still living at Hearst Castle. | X | X | X |

