

# Scientology's inland empire

Once a haven for Hollywood moguls, a former resort near Hemet is now a major Church of Scientology base of operations. It includes international management offices, movie production facilities and a \$9.4-million mansion that ex-members say was built for the expected return of the religion's late founder, L. Ron Hubbard. In the last seven years, the church has poured at least \$45 million into expanding the facility, which each year produces 10 million DVDs and other training materials for Scientologists worldwide. Tom Cruise spent extensive time studying at the complex in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

## Scientology compound



Photographs by DON KELSEN Los Angeles Times

### 1 Golden Era studio

Known as "The Castle," this \$10.8-million, 70,000-square-foot facility is where Scientologists shoot a dozen educational and training films each year, along with other video features and promotional productions.

### 2 Staff apartments

Construction that began about a decade ago remains unfinished on buildings designed to house about 1,000 of the church's Sea Organization members who staff the Golden Era complex. They continue to live in apartments in Hemet.

### 3 The villas

Scientology's ecclesiastical leader, David Miscavige, maintained living quarters in these renovated buildings left over from the resort. Miscavige's accommodations included furnishings custom-made to his size and tastes, a former Scientology interior designer says.

### 4 Guest cottages

Ex-members say Cruise stayed in a specially renovated cottage in the late 1980s and early 1990s while studying Scientology and undergoing training. A nearby field of wildflowers was planted for Cruise and Nicole Kidman to romp before their marriage in 1990, ex-members say.

### 5 Management building

The \$18.5-million building houses upper-level management offices of the Church of Scientology International. It includes space for the Religious Technology Center, which owns the lucrative Scientology and Dianetics trademarks and is overseen by Miscavige.

### 6 Bonnie View

This \$9.4-million structure was built as a home for what Scientologists believe will be the late Hubbard's eventual return, ex-members say. The building, which includes a lap pool and movie theater, is a museum that houses most of Hubbard's belongings.