

# TEXAS

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

## HIGHWAYS

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### For THE ROAD

THIS MONTH'S TOP PICKS AND PLACES

#### Mariachi!

ON ANY GIVEN DAY IN SAN ANTONIO, you're likely to find yourself serenaded by traditional mariachi groups on the River Walk, at your favorite Mexican restaurant, or in downtown's Market Square. But from November 30 through December 6, during the 14th Annual **Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza**, the joyous sounds of mariachi seem to resonate in nearly every corner of the city.

That's because more than 1,000 mariachi musicians and vocalists from the United States and Mexico are here participating in workshops, competitions, and performances throughout San Antonio—many of which are free to the public. During the weeklong event, you can take



COURTESY MARIACHI VARGAS DE TECALITLÁN

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, a 12-piece group founded more than a century ago in Mexico, will perform with the UTSA Symphony Orchestra on December 6 at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium.

part in a mariachi Mass at Mission San José, enjoy performances at the River Center Mall lagoon, and admire the mariachi-themed art at Centro Cultural Aztlán—not to mention attending the big show by the festival's honorees—Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, a 12-piece group founded in Mexico more than a century ago.

Why the enthusiasm? "I heard a gentleman once describe mariachi as a combination of opera, symphony, and Mexican folklore," says extravaganza producer Cynthia Muñoz. "When the musicians perform, it sounds like a full symphony."

This will be especially true on December 6, when Mariachi Vargas will perform with the 70-member UTSA Symphony Orchestra at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium. "The meeting of the classical music of Europe with the mariachi tradition of Mexico is a really beautiful acquaintance," says symphony director Gene Dowdy.

Call 210/225-3353; [www.mariachimusic.com](http://www.mariachimusic.com).

—L.M.

## Hill Country Holidays

The Hill Country Museum in Kerrville

