



U.S.A.

**COW-GIRLS**

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paralolezero





Varian's ranch. The ranch welcomes groups of cowgirls during weekend where they can ride and have fun together.

When you realize that everything you always believed about the Far West is wrong

Rural California, between Merced County and Yosemite Park, up to the buttresses of the Sierra Nevada, is a tough landscape, a place of baking hot summers and icy winters. This is cowboy country. But here being a cowboy isn't necessarily a man's job. For many years now this work has also been done by women who, in spite of people's prejudices on the subject, are used to driving vast herds of cattle over thousands of acres, and spending endless days in the saddle.

They are also used to grounding calves with a lasso, managing a team of cowboys and balancing the books of the ranch, which are increasingly under threat from climate change. Today Californian cowgirls manage millions of acres of pasture land. It is more than a craft, it is an art handed down from mother to daughter. And it has roots that go back to the start of the last century. In an age in which women couldn't vote but they could ride horses, these women inspired the feminist movement in the United States.





Varian's ranch, Kathryn's horse.



Diane Bohna and her husband Abe, who works with her.







Varian's ranch. The ranch welcomes groups of cowgirls during weekend so that they can ride and have fun together.



Look At The World Through  
The Eyes Of A Cowboy









Diane Bohna at the ranch.









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Varian's ranch. Zee and her husband built the ranch 60 years ago



It's a family business. Diane, her daughter and cousins are vaccinating, branding and castrating the calves.









Varian's ranch. Zee's granddaughter Kathryn, 17 (with her father) is a lasso and rodeo champion who sometimes works at the ranch.









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Varian's ranch. Zee was one of the first women to graduate from the Californian agricultural university. The photo shows her riding a horse at the age of five.

JULIAN SMITH AGE 7 & ZERA SMITH VARIAN AGE 5

1942 SUNSET STABLES, CULVER CITY, CA.







Diane Bohna at home.







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