

Las Sillas and the Saturday Market

Welcome to the picturesque town of Las Sillas, California (population 68,221)! Pronounced "lass sill-uhs," the town sits nestled in California's beautiful Central Valley. Las Sillas is known for its annual Gardenia Festival and its local specialty, cucumber tacos.

In the 1910s and 20s, Las Sillas was a minor railway hub, being located on a secondary route to Phoenix. But during the Great Depression, service cutbacks cut off the town from all outside industry, leaving only a small farming population. Eventually, the Interstate was built 10 miles away from town, bringing in out-of-towners, and Las Sillas slowly developed into a popular stop for freeway travelers.

The Las Sillas Saturday Market began as a way for farmers to peddle their goods to the travelers stopping into town, and slowly gained popularity. Today, it has become a model for organic farmer's markets nationwide. According to Michael Pollan, "you can't find better fresh produce anywhere on the West Coast than at Las Sillas, and I make a point of stopping there every time I'm heading home."