

A Spectacular View Enhanced by the Rugged VERSA-LOK Mosaic Wall System



A massive retaining wall has helped restore visitor access to the impressive Dante's View overlook at Death Valley National Park in California. Dante's View, providing one of the most panoramic vistas in the park, was temporarily closed in 2018 to address erosion control, stabilization and safety concerns at the popular overlook.



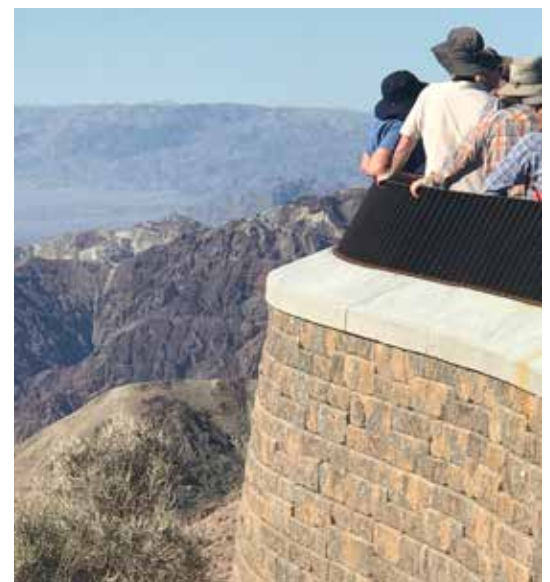
Set 5,600 feet above Badwater Basin, the lowest point in North America, Dante's View in Death Valley National Park sports a VERSA-LOK Mosaic wall overlooking some of the nation's most spectacular scenery!

The overlook closed in January and reopened in May 2018 after the retaining wall and access project were installed to protect the site from further erosion. The project was completed by S.T. Rhoades Construction Inc., of Redding, Calif.

"The site was in desperate need of stabilization and now provides a much better visitor experience," said Death Valley Superintendent Mike Reynolds. "We are very excited to work with a contractor so familiar with Death Valley's unique needs and landscape."

Years of visitor access at Dante's View had resulted in crumbling sidewalks, and the site was dangerous because it had no railing or barrier for safety. In addition, the hillside was eroding, and the native landscape was endangered.

To stabilize the peak, the solution included VERSA-LOK Weathered Mosaic retaining walls, which are known for their random, natural stone appearance. Geogrid soil stabilization was used, and the product was chosen for its ability to incorporate curves into the design without special pieces.





The approximately 5,000 square foot wall is designed in a serpentine shape, and includes two overlooks that jut over the hilltop. A thick cement cap and railing are mounted on top of the retaining wall to protect visitors. A large plaza for walking and parking was reconstructed and new seating was installed for the site. A tactile map made of bronze, designed by artist Bridget Keimel, was a new addition to the site's interpretive signage.



Some half-million visitors a year drive up to Dante's View, located 5,600 feet above Badwater Basin on the north side of Coffin Peak along the crest of the Black Mountains. Almost a mile above the valley, the scenic location was included in the 1977 movie, "Star Wars: A New Hope." The California site is 125 miles west of Las Vegas. "The new overlook will serve millions of visitors for many years to come," Superintendent Reynolds said.

The project was funded by private donations, including The Death Valley Natural History Association and The Fund for People in the Parks, as well as federal matching funds and park entrance fees.



Death Valley National Park is the homeland of the Timbisha Shoshone and preserves national and cultural resources, exceptional wilderness, scenery and learning experiences in the nation's largest conserved desert landscape and some of the most extreme climate and geographic conditions on Earth. The park was established as Death Valley National Monument in 1933, and today covers 3,400,000 acres. Learn more at www.nps.gov/deva.

S.T. Rhoades, based in Redding, California, is a 100% Native American owned company. S.T. Rhoades specializes in city, county, state and federal construction projects and performs jobs of all sizes all over the western United States.

Location: Death Valley National Park, California
Owner: National Park Service
Contractor: S.T. Rhoades Construction, Redding, Calif.
Manufacturer: American Builders Supply/SiteOne Landscape Supply, Bakersfield, Calif.
Solution: VERSA-LOK Mosaic SRW system
Product color: Toscana
Square feet: 5,000 sq. ft.


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VLS-220