

57°



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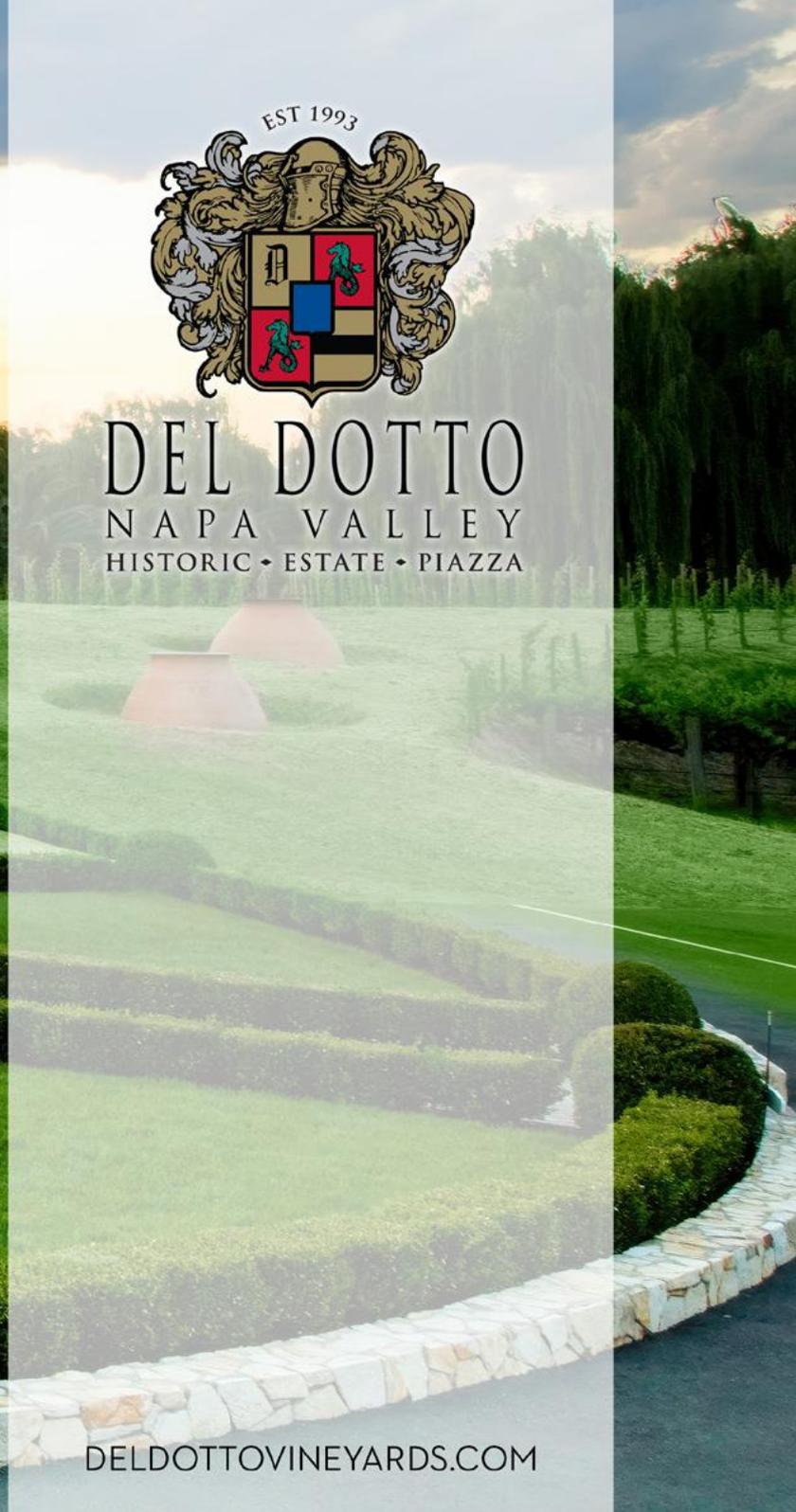




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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel

As we transition from a busy summer to the calm beauty of autumn, the cooler weather brings a slower pace of life—but certainly not a boring one. This season invites more intimate gatherings and a deeper connection with our surroundings.

We're proud to congratulate Ben Zoller of Monterey Coast Realty for being part of a record-breaking \$45 million property sale this year. Our community is also in good hands with Carmel Cares, an organization with a new power-washing program that is helping to keep our city pristine.



Local businesses continue to shine. Rise + Roam, a woman-owned and-operated bakery and pizzeria, recently earned a Monterey Bay Stars Award from What's Up Monterey. Chef Ray's Scallops and Sweet Potato Risotto is a must-try this fall, while Patrick James keeps the peninsula fashionable with autumnal designs, blending science and artistry. Furniture designer Ashley Yeates impresses with her modern Monterey studio, showcasing custom-made pieces with a minimalist aesthetic.

The wine world also has exciting news. Bernardus Winery, led by Robert van der Wallen after the passing of its founder, Bernardus Pon, continues to produce some of the USA's finest chardonnays, pinot noirs, and sauvignon blancs. Over in Napa, The Meritage Resort and Spa has unveiled a \$25 million renovation centered around Ember Steak, creating a true food and wine destination.

In service to the community, Whitney Diver McEvoy, President and CEO of the Yountville Chamber of Commerce, also serves as chair of the board of directors for the Western Association of Chamber Executives. Her dedication to community is a reminder of the importance of local leadership.

Lastly, don't miss our editor's dog-friendly wine tour from Paso Robles to Yountville, offering luxury for both you and your furry companions.

Here's to a season of beauty, connection, and community!



# 57°

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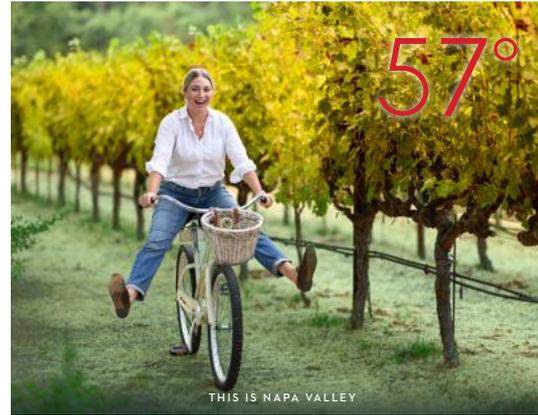
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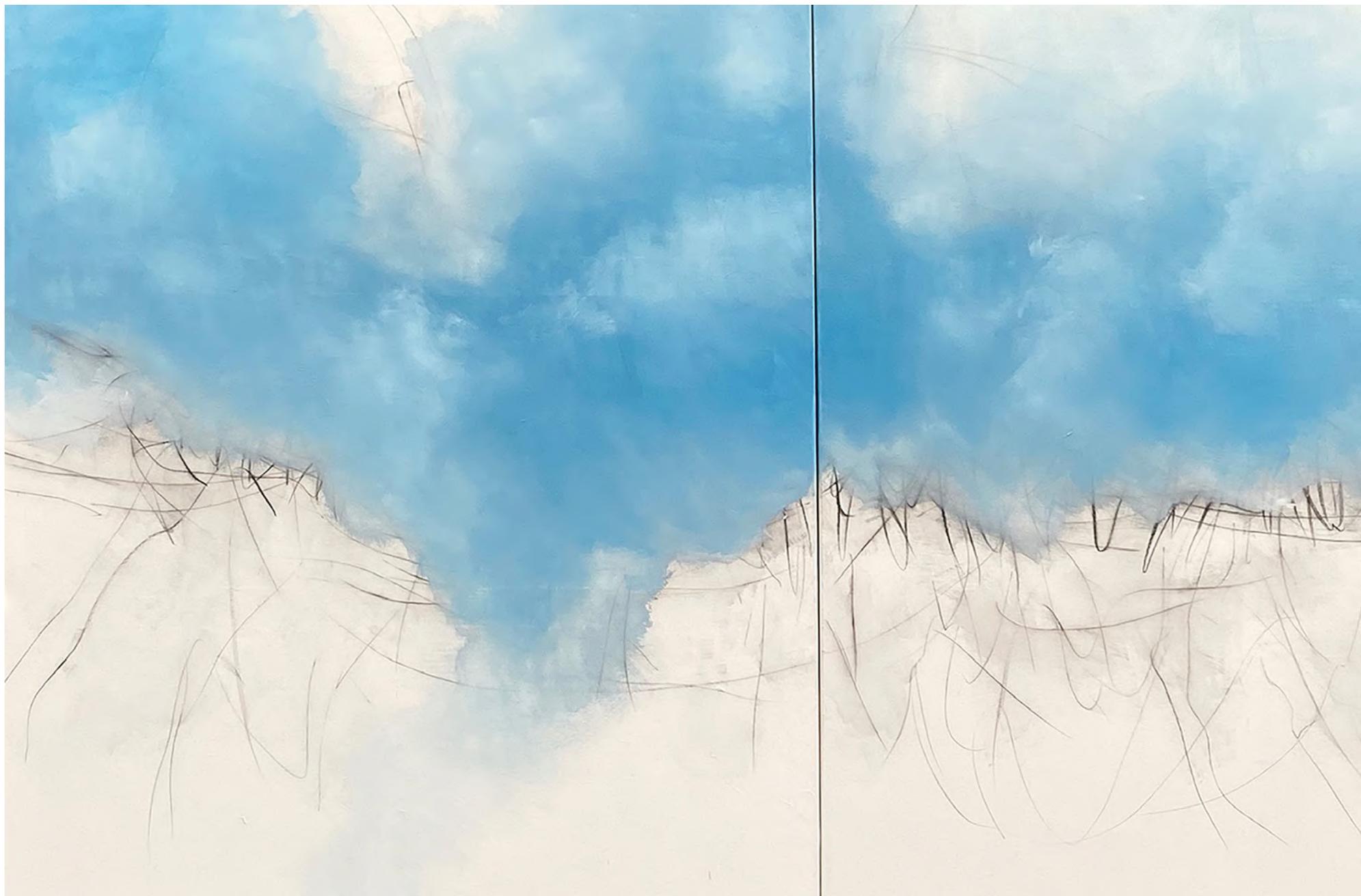
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# The Sky's the Limit

By Tabitha Parent | Photos Courtesy of Isabelle Maynard

Growing up in a small French village nestled between Bordeaux and Toulouse, artist Isabelle Maynard never imagined herself as a professional painter. On a trip to Paris at age 18, Maynard became captivated by the city's vibrant art schools and began her artistic adventure. She dabbled in architecture before pursuing her formal training at the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Montpellier, where she fully immersed herself in painting.

Inspired by French, Spanish, Japanese, and Chinese artists, Maynard's work seems boundless. Her art has been showcased on land and in the skies, including inside Airbus™ private jets. From gallery shows in Paris, Barcelona, Geneva, Montreal, and in cities on both coasts of the United States, Maynard has drawn inspiration from abstract impressionists of myriad backgrounds. Her art has been described as choreographic, and she admits that painting is a form of self-expression similar to dancing.

Recently, the Carlton Cannes showcased her works, commissioning a series for its penthouse suite. The commission, which took a year to complete, required that Maynard combine inspiration from local French Riviera flowers and perfume (Chanel N°5, specifically) and its sensory impact. The final works, which feature an interplay of light and colors and were influenced by scents such as sandalwood and lavender, were met with acclaim from the client, who Maynard said felt it exceeded expectations.

Keeping her artistic spirit happy, she splits her time between Toulouse and Napa Valley and finds that her surroundings deeply influence her practice. "I need to be fed by everything around me," says Maynard.

Maynard returned to Napa Valley in mid-September and continues to harvest her talents. Grounded in the terroir of her artistic ethos, she offers encouragement to emerging artists: "Don't forget yourself. Never stop dreaming." These words reflect her own journey—one of perseverance, geographical inspiration, and an unwavering commitment to her craft.

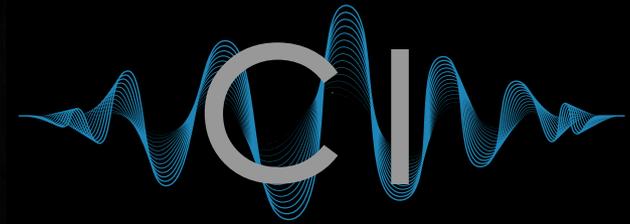
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# Have Pooches—Will Travel

By Andrea Stuart

Embarking on an adventure through Wine Country, our blended family—including eight legs, two tails, and a flurry of fur named Pepper and Rosie—set out from Paso Robles to Yountville. The goal: to create a dog-friendly vacation worthy of any bon vivant.

We started at Adelaida Vineyards & Winery, perched at a breathtaking 2,200 feet. As we sipped wine, the Santa Lucia Range presented as a living canvas. Legend has it that Jesse James once sought refuge in the valley where Adelaida's Tír na nÓg vineyards now thrive. The panoramic views provided a stunning backdrop to our tasting experience, complete with charcuterie, dried fruits, and artisanal cheeses. Among them, the creamy Tête de Moine curls—crafted using a girolle machine—were a revelation.

Our palates danced through a symphony of flavors, starting with the 2021 Sparkling Wine Signature. Next came the 2022 Picpoul Blanc, crisp and refreshing, then the 2020 Anna's Red Signature, a blend that whispered secrets of sun-soaked vineyards. The 2019 Syrah Signature, bold and velvety, left an indelible mark, and the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Signature, boasting 96 points from Robert Parker Wine Advocate, was masterful. We concluded with the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah Signature, a harmonious blend that lingered on our tongues as Rosie and Pepper napped beneath the oaks.

Seeking respite from the summer heat, we stumbled upon the California Coast Beer Co. Casual eats and well-rounded brews awaited, and our pups stole the show. As local duet Paso Libre strummed their guitars, passersby couldn't resist pausing to give our dogs pets.



In Yountville, North Block hotel welcomed us with open arms—and wine glasses. The staff showered Pepper and Rosie with compliments. The dog-friendly amenities were a testament to thoughtful hospitality: a plush dog bed large enough for a royal sprawl, two plush squeaky toys (souvenirs to cherish), water and food bowls, and bottles of filtered water. A personalized welcome note addressed to us and our dogs sat tableside, a charming touch that made us feel like cherished guests.

During our stay, we explored the Yountville Art Walk. Thirty-eight impressive artworks adorned the streets. As we strolled, Pepper and Rosie wagged their tails in approval, adding a whimsical layer to the experience. Of note: Circle of Trust by Hilde DeBruyne caught our attention with its geometric sculpture of broken circles, symbolizing the challenge of rebuilding trust.

Wining and dining in Yountville with dogs was easy. At The Restaurant at North Block, we enjoyed serene patio dining with regionally sourced coastal cuisine: oysters on the half shell paired with a Valley to Sea-Tini and Maple Leaf Duck Breast with the Tropical Negroni. The kitchen happily served up a dog-friendly protein.

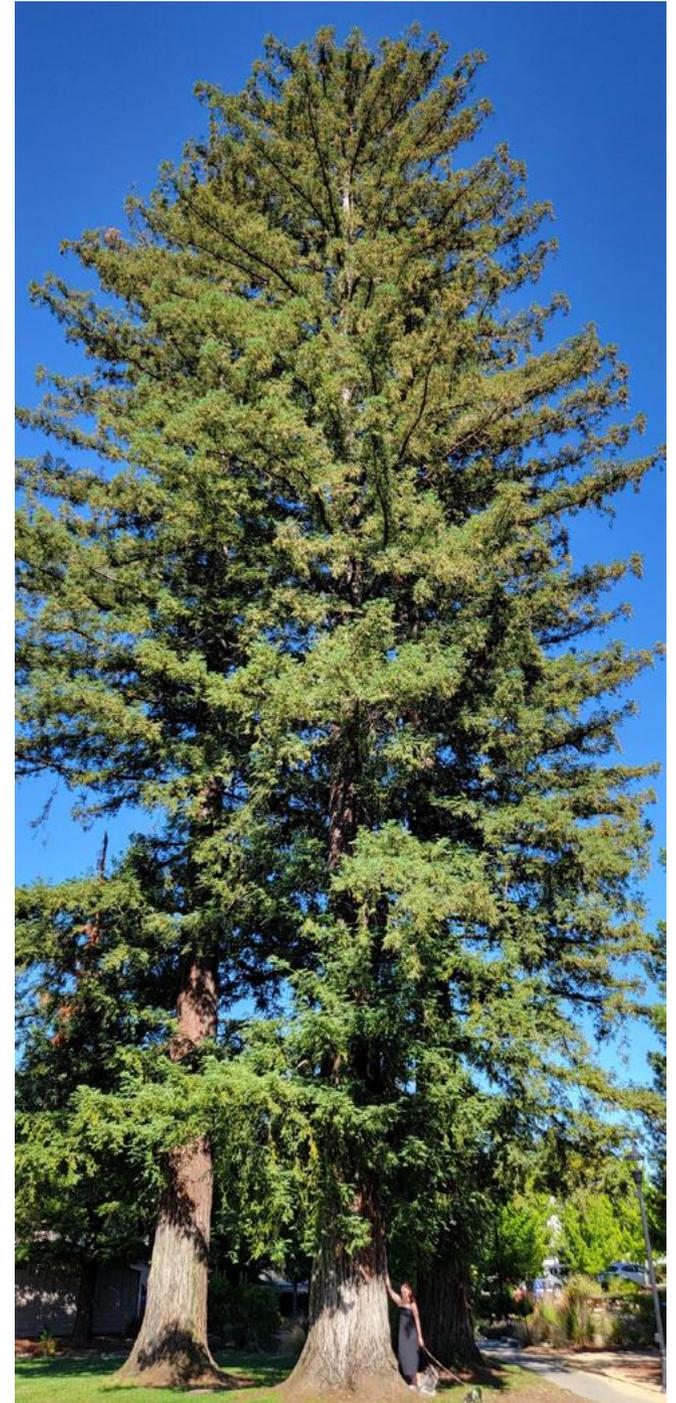
At Hestan Vineyards, which is solar-powered, we soaked up educational tasting experiences indoors with the pooches. The tasting salon's extensive collection of wines were elegantly presented with friendly wine stewardship.

Nearby, Priest Ranch offered a playful, decadent Bacon and Wine Experience. While the 2019 Double Barrel paired with Mango and Custard Bacon married well on the tongue, each thick, tender cut of bacon paired effortlessly with Priest Ranch's chosen wines. Pepper and Rosie enjoyed some tastes themselves.

At Silver Trident, unique pairings for humans and dogs stole the show; we indulged in potato chip pairings and added puppy pairings. Our dogs were greeted with enthusiasm in the stately tasting room adorned in Ralph Lauren®'s Home collection. We left with a case of wine, souvenirs for the pups, and a feeling of belonging.

On our last evening, we dined at Bardessono's Lucy Restaurant and Bar, and our furry companions were treated royally. The Barkessono menu (dog menu) featured signature canine-friendly fare; Rosie and Pepper's favorites were Baker's bacon & spinach and Mary's chicken & rice. Knowing the dogs were eating as decadently as we were heightened our enjoyment.

Thus, our escapade—a blend of art, wine, and wagging tails—unfolded. As we raised our glasses to sunsets over rolling hills and shared laughter under star-studded skies, we knew that this journey was a celebration of life, love, and the joy of sharing with our treasured pooches.





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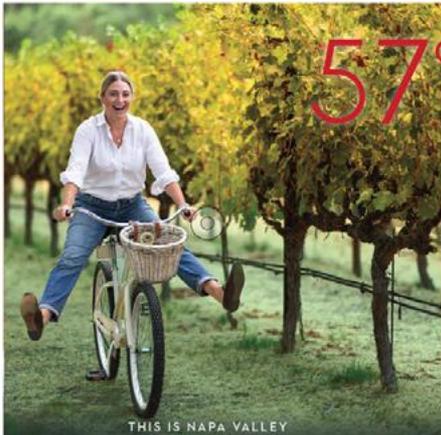
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EMBER STEAK





# A Classic Steak House with Spark

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos Courtesy of Ember Steak

Fire can be a symbol of warmth, light, and even love. In the culinary world, fire is also the necessary element for transformation. Drawing inspiration from those multifaceted qualities, the newly opened Ember Steak in Napa sets the perfect stage for kindling connection while sharing a meal to remember. Debuting in June 2024 at The Meritage Resort and Spa, the intimate restaurant embodies the warmth and glow of fire while also highlighting the element's power to transform. That power is on full display in the execution of steak house classics punctuated with creative and luxurious flourishes, while the mood-evoking, elegant décor envelops diners in its warm embrace.

Long known as Napa Valley's largest resort, The Meritage Napa recently unveiled a multiyear, \$25 million renovation, with Ember Steak anchoring an extensive food and wine experience centered in the resort's Village. "Ember opened [in June 2024], however, the idea of a steak concept at the property was in the works for a long time," says Joe Leinacker, managing director of The Meritage Resort and Spa. "With its cozy atmosphere and indulgent menu, Ember aims to be a place for celebrating life's moments—both large and small—that are deserving of that special extra spark."

That extra spark runs throughout Ember Steak, from its sophisticated design to its carefully curated food and beverage selections. Executive Chef Cary Roy brings a bounty of global culinary and hospitality experience, from Hawai'i to the Philippines, to his vision for Ember's menu. A selection of sushi rolls riffs on tradition with the addition of ingredients such as charred Wagyu beef, while classic steak house appetizers, such as a wedge salad and colossal shrimp cocktail, go bold in flavor and presentation. The stars of the show, however, are the prime cuts of meat, including the 45-ounce Black Angus tomahawk ribeye and the Library collection's offering of cuts that are dry-aged on-site by the chef. Sides and sauces range from a fresh herb-flecked béarnaise to the decadent Ember bone marrow presentation.

Continued next page

Not to be outdone by the food, the wine and cocktail offerings at Ember Steak likewise showcase an extra spark of creativity. “At Ember Steak, our beverage program is crafted to elevate the dining experience with a robust selection of wines and innovative cocktails,” explains Andrzej Lewczyk, assistant food and beverage director. The wine list gives emphasis to a rich array of Napa Valley wines, along with notable selections from around the world to appeal to every palate. Upgrading classics with inspired flavor combinations, the cocktail menu entices with such creations as the Walnut Old Fashioned, the Smoked Negroni, and the signature Meritage Martini—a dreamy combination of cucumber and dill infused Absolut Elyx vodka, Carpano Antica Blanco dry vermouth, and house-made brine, accompanied by a lobster, caviar, and avocado parfait, all created in collaboration with the chef. “Each beverage is thoughtfully crafted to enhance the flavors of our cuisine,” says Lewczyk.

For visitors and hotel guests who wish to add even more sparkle to their revelry, the new tasting room in the centerpiece of the Village is the perfect stop before or after a meal at Ember Steak. A fun, flirty lounge dedicated to the art of the bubble, the Sora Napa tasting room serves sparkling wine, Champagne, innovative cocktails, and creative flights, all set against a colorful backdrop. A waterbird native to the Napa wetlands, the sora is small but boisterous, much like the new lounge.

***For more information, visit [embersteak.com](http://embersteak.com).***

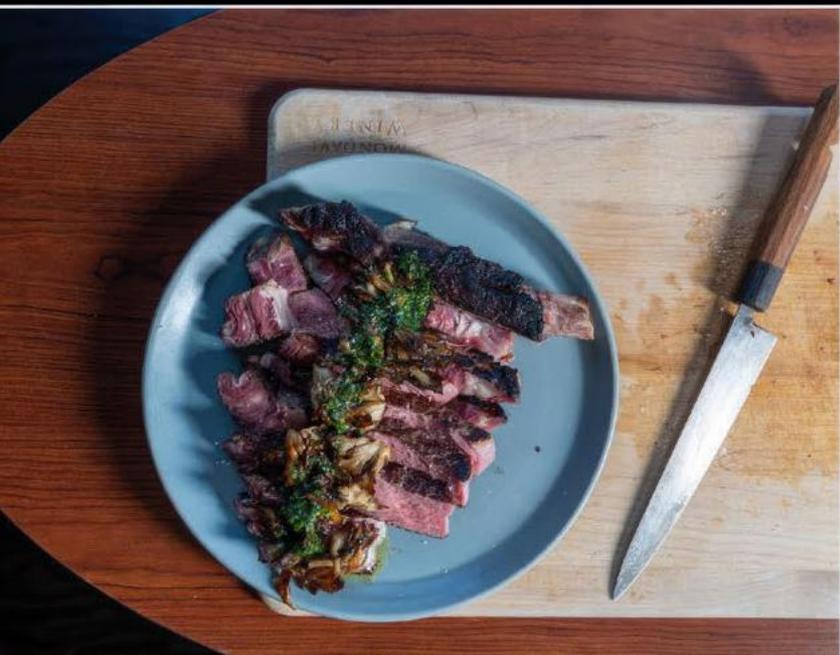
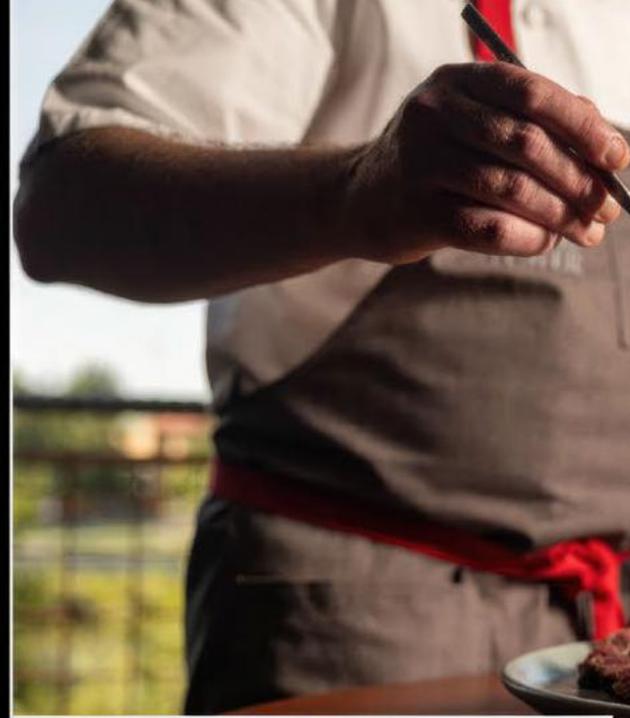




Photos by Bob McClenahan









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## Beyond the Vines

By Betsy Reynard

As the sun sets on summer and the 2024 grape harvest begins, Napa Valley buzzes with a plethora of activities beyond the vines.

On the arts and culture scene, the Napa Valley Museum is expanding to St. Helena with the opening of the MAC (Napa Valley Museum of Art and Culture) in late fall. Be ready to whet your appetite with the exhibit *Julia Child: A Recipe for Life*. Now 51 years young, the museum's original Yountville location houses the museum's permanent collection and hosts special events and exhibits.

On the fitness front, the St. Helena to Calistoga leg of Napa Valley Vine Trail is officially open! Pedal the 8.2-mile route, taking time to stop at one of the wineries en route. When the hunger pangs set in, grab a bite at Violetto restaurant in the Alila Napa Valley hotel. Offering a variety of dining experiences, Violetto's cuisine pays homage to the Italian and French influences on viticulture and cuisine in Napa Valley. Don't miss the expansive outdoor bar and lounge; it's a great spot to take a breather from the biking.

Not to be missed in Calistoga is the newly renovated Calistoga Depot. Established in 1868 by Calistoga's founder, Sam Brannan, the Depot is the second oldest train depot in California. Step inside to find a distillery, a plant-based café, a caviar and oyster bar, and artisan chocolates as well as live music. This is a terrific place to gear up for a ride or wind down when the pedaling is done.

If Yountville is on the itinerary, then pop into the Mad Fritz Tap House for a refreshing, unique cold brew. On the other end of town, be ready to rendezvous at The Rendez Veuve Spa at Estate Yountville, where spa treatments come with bubbles! The time has come to exhale, relax, and enjoy the tranquility of the Napa Valley.











# Wine, Dine, Play, and Relax

By Trevor Felch | Photos Courtesy of Silverado Resort

The Napa Valley's signature resort might not be new—the property dates back to 1870 and became a resort in 1967—but it is a fantastic destination for an incredible getaway full of activities, gorgeous mountain scenery, and wonderful wine and food.

Silverado Resort is best known for its 36 holes of golf and being Northern California wine country's only PGA Tour venue. However, with an expansive spa, 10 swimming pools, several notable food and drink options, and 345 charming rooms and suites, it is much more than just a place to drink and sleep after a round of golf.

Nestled at the base of Atlas Peak, just northeast of downtown Napa, its sprawling grounds are centered around a historic, white mansion built in the late nineteenth century by the retired military general John Franklin Miller. That stately building is now home to the Mansion Bar (one of the few bars in Napa Valley that stays open after 10 p.m.) and a terrace with a stellar view of one of the golf courses, the Vaca Mountains, and Milliken Creek, where occasionally one might see a river otter swimming by.

The biggest issue with a stay at the resort is one that's delightful: how to choose between so many amenities and activities. "Silverado Resorts' unique, natural setting, surrounded by rolling hills, golf courses, vineyards, and towering oaks, sets it apart from other Napa Valley hotels and resorts," says Todd Shallen, Silverado Resort's vice president and managing director. "As the region's premier sports, recreation, and culinary destination, here, our guests will find 1,200 acres thoughtfully evolved to enliven an active Napa Valley lifestyle, including award-winning golf and racquet sports, diverse fitness, and epicurean delights."

For first-time guests, it's best to explore Silverado Resort with a map, as the accommodations and amenities are spread out across four

neighborhoods. Directly across Atlas Peak Road, a five-minute walk from the Mansion, is the impressive Spa at Silverado, which features 15 treatment rooms and an extensive roster of soothing services. The spa area also includes fitness features, including a spacious outdoor lap pool for swim workouts and several bocce, tennis, and pickleball courts.

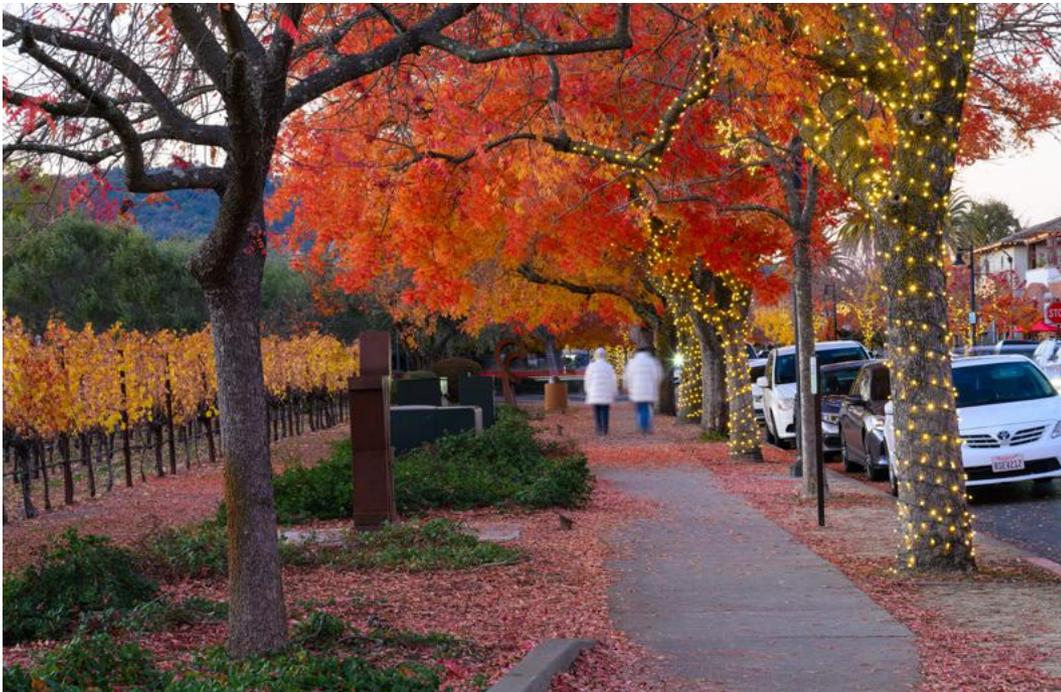
Silverado Resort's rooms and suites are a thoughtful mix of rustic and sleek that quietly fit right in with the surrounding natural environment. Suites have their own fireplaces and balcony or patio, and all the rooms are designed with a calming color palette—lots of white, gray, and tan. Even the smallest guestrooms are substantial in size.

As this is the heart of wine country, it's particularly important to eat and drink well. Many of the ingredients for the four restaurants' and bars' menus come from the chef's garden alongside one of the golf courses. As with the amenities, it can be challenging for guests to make easy menu decisions, given the plethora of alluring options.

Executive Chef Patrick Prager advises on this. "[T]he signature dishes Wine Country travelers must try while they're staying at Silverado are the burrata margherita wood-fired pizza at Forno [Pizza at the Market], the house-made Tater Tots with cured salmon mousse and trout roe at the Mansion Bar, the short rib lollipop at The Grill, and also the amazing carrot cake dessert."

Whether it's a massage, the exquisite carrot cake crafted by Devon Pritchard, acclaimed pastry chef, or the local wines served alongside a majestic view, there's something to thrill everyone during a stay at Silverado Resort. And they cannot wait to return for more adventures.

***For more information, visit [silveradoresort.com](http://silveradoresort.com).***



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# Tasting Life in Yountville

By Betsy Reynard | Photos by Bob McClenahan

Beginning with Whitney Diver McEvoy's childhood in Chicago, food, hospitality, and service have played central roles in her life. Growing up, Diver McEvoy learned valuable first aid training from her mother, a nurse, and cooking skills from her father, a classically trained chef. Now, as president and CEO of the Yountville Chamber of Commerce, Diver McEvoy's office is just steps away from some of the finest spas, hotels, and wine and food establishments in the world. It is a profession and lifestyle she treasures.

"My favorite thing about the Napa Valley is that it is a small town. I never experienced that, growing up," says Diver McEvoy. "There are many things that make Napa Valley special, and what rises to the top for me is the natural beauty and close-knit community." Community is what originally drew Diver McEvoy to Chamber work, shifting from a career in political operations, events, and fundraising following a move to San José from Sacramento with her husband, Matt. When Diver McEvoy learned that the San Jose Chamber of Commerce was hiring an events manager, she jumped at the opportunity. Helping the community, connecting people, and a touch of politics were the perfect fit.

Several years later, the couple moved to Napa Valley for Matt's job with the PGA Tour, and Diver McEvoy applied for the position with the Yountville Chamber of Commerce. Since 2016, she has been a leader in the field, overseeing more than 300 Chamber members in Napa Valley and





beyond. Tirelessly working for its members, Diver McEvoy is focused on strengthening community connections and providing valuable tools for success, including data gathering, community building, and member services. In addition to her Chamber work, she volunteers and serves as the chair of the board of directors for the Western Association of Chamber Executives, a regional organization dedicated to the professional development and growth of Chamber staff and executives. The organization has had a tremendous impact on her professional development, including forging important relationships between chamber CEOs across the country.

On the sporty side of her life, Diver McEvoy, who met her husband while coaching youth volleyball, recently celebrated 15 years of owning SynergyForce Volleyball Club, the youth volleyball club the couple founded in Sacramento. She enjoys the outdoors, and as a child, she spent much time roller blading, biking, and building snow forts in the winter as well as cooking with her siblings and parents and watching the original *Iron Chef* cooking show with English subtitles. Now, with so many balls in the air, finding the right balance between work and commitments is a priority for Diver McEvoy. “I enjoy practicing yoga, hiking, cooking, and traveling,” she says. “I would love to spend more time golfing and playing pickleball. Maybe in 2025!”

Always striving to help others, relationships and integrity are everything to Diver McEvoy. “Keep at it! Your hard work and dedication will always pay off!”— these are the values that she shares with her community in Yountville and incorporates into her life in the Napa Valley. This is Whitney Diver McEvoy’s recipe for success.

# SKY DEVIL



# SKY DEVIL



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NICCA



# Building Integrity

By Tabitha Parent | Photos Courtesy of Ethan Hare

Often, our strongest relationships didn't emerge from projects that went perfectly," says Ethan Hare, President/CEO of Hare Construction. "It's about when we hit a bump in the road and how we handled it together." This philosophy of handling challenges with integrity and collaboration is what sets Hare Construction apart from other companies in the industry.

Founded in 2006 by Hare, the company has grown from a small construction business into one of the leading contractors on the Northern California coast. Over its 18 years, Hare Construction has left its mark on the state, from the rugged beauty of Big Sur to the lush landscapes of Napa Valley, all while maintaining an unwavering commitment to exemplary standards and craftsmanship.

Currently, Hare Construction is engaged in an array of prestigious projects along the Monterey Peninsula and Pebble Beach, including the Spyglass Garden House and Water Bridge House on the Spyglass Hill Golf Course. These homes feature modern designs and stunning water features, including a glass-enclosed floating bridge over a reflection pond from which the Water Bridge House takes its name. The company is also offering innovative luxury homes via a new partnership venture, NICCA, which will break ground on its first three projects in Napa Valley later this year.



In addition to luxury residential builds, Hare Construction has also made significant contributions to the commercial landscape of the Monterey Peninsula. The company is frequently engaged at the Del Monte Center, tasked with building new restaurants and commercial spaces. Noteworthy recent projects include crafting Chez Noir, the Tickle Pink Inn's Cliffside Deck with a striking glass butterfly roof, and the new Dunes Shelter restaurant at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, a project that will mark Hare Construction's 39th restaurant build, a milestone Hare calls "an honor."

Beyond building stunning structures, Hare Construction has consistently prioritized sustainability. Working within the natural beauty of Monterey, Napa, and the Bay Area, the company incorporates environmentally friendly practices.

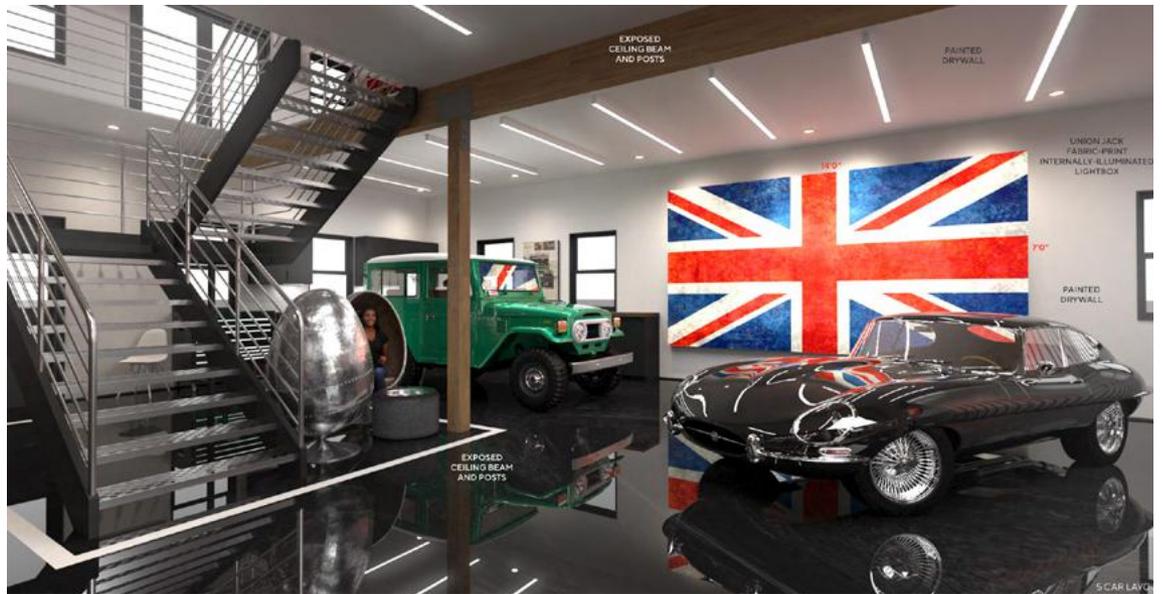
At the core of Hare Construction's success is its commitment to collaboration and fostering lasting relationships. This client-centered approach, combined with their dedication to quality, has fueled the company's growth and distinguished it as a trusted name in California's construction industry.

*For more information, visit [hareconstruction.com](http://hareconstruction.com).*



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Monterey Coast Realty's collaboration, trusted reputation, and commitment to community are the pillars of our company. Ed shares these same core values and is proud to be a part of a company that gives back.

As a former East Bay resident and current Monterey Peninsula resident, Ed makes sure to give back to both communities, both with his time and financial support. He currently volunteers coaching youth baseball at Stevenson High School in Pebble Beach. Ed works with these young men to teach them not only baseball, but also life skills like composure, presenting yourself with dignity, and how to be a part of a team.

Philanthropy has been a cornerstone of Monterey Coast Realty since its inception, investing in the local community through volunteerism, financial support, and other charitable actions. Monterey Coast Realty, sister brokerage of Carmel Realty Company, is an integral part of the Carmel Realty Foundation. A portion of every Monterey Coast Realty real estate transaction goes to the foundation to distribute annually to local organizations in need and ensure that the local communities will continue to grow and thrive for years to come.

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*\*based on sales volume according to 2024 MLSListings*









# A Family of Twelve

By Betsy Reynard | Photos Courtesy of Primum Familiae Vini

It all began with a walk in the vineyard, a walk that inspired the creation of Primum Familiae Vini (PFV). Established in 1992 by founding members Robert Drouhin and Miguel Torres, PFV is composed of 12 historic European wine producers, all entirely family owned, who gather annually to address concerns facing family-owned businesses in a world of globalization.

Focused on shared experiences and exchanging views on the daily challenges facing winemakers, PFV travels the world, promoting its wines while supporting local charitable causes. On a recent visit to Napa Valley, Primum Familiae Vini hosted a series of events, including a luncheon and auction at the Napa Valley Reserve that raised approximately \$800,000 for The Invictus Fund NV, benefiting the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation. This record-making auction offered a single lot containing the Primum Familiae Vini Haute Couture Case and Passport. Handcrafted in Cognac, France, the wooden Haute Couture Case contains a bottle of wine from each of PFV's 12 members; the Passport provides the opportunity to





visit and dine with each PFV family at their respective properties. Since its inception, PFV has raised more than \$4 million for charities worldwide.

Led by its newly appointed president, Charles Symington of Symington Family Estates (Douro and Alentejo, Portugal), PFV's mission is to represent the highest level of excellence in the world of wine, to be synonymous with both exquisite quality and sustainability, to blend family heritage and innovation, and to be aspirational through its vision and passion.

In addition to Symington Family Estates, members consist of Marchesi Antinori (Tuscany, Italy); Baron Philippe de Rothschild (Bordeaux, France); Maison Joseph Drouhin (Burgundy, France); Domaine Clarence Dillon (Bordeaux, France); Egon Müller Scharzhof (Moselle, Germany); Famille Hugel (Alsace, France); Pol Roger (Champagne, France); Famille Perrin (Rhône Valley, France); Tenuta San Guido (Bolgheri, Italy); Tempos Vega Sicilia (Ribera del Duero, Spain); and Familia Torres (Penedes, Spain).

***For more information, visit [pfv.org](http://pfv.org).***



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# A Legendary Future

By Sarah Gillihan | Photos Courtesy of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars

Few wineries have helped define Napa Valley and New World winemaking more than Stag's Leap Wine Cellars. A legendary foundation, one remarkable historic moment, and an attention to detail has led this storied property into a bright future.

According to local lore, the winery and subsequently the appellation take its name from the tale of a nimble, noble buck that leapt over the volcanic palisades that define the region. In many ways, this story mirrors the historic moment when Stag's Leap Wine Cellars shot onto the world wine scene. From vineyards just three years into production, founding winemaker Warren Winiarski's wines bested the French counterparts in the 1976 Judgment of Paris, sending shock waves through the wine world.

The Stags Leap District is home to some of the leading names in Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon: Shafer Vineyards, Clos du Val, Cliff Lede Vineyards—it's an attractive neighborhood indeed. But a 1973 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars cabernet first brought acclaim to the vineyards and wines of the region at the historic 1976 blind tasting. The wine world finally took New World wines seriously, and with good reason. The Napa Valley wine industry was in a period of remarkable investment and innovation in the 1970s, an era that saw the establishment of such names as Silver Oak, Caymus Vineyards, Chateau Montelena, Cakebread Cellars, and Spottswoode.





In this period of innovation and discovery, the winery's first vineyard, Stag's Leap Vineyard, was established by the late Winiarski. Apparently, after he tasted wines from an adjacent vineyard owned by Nathan Fay, he snapped up the adjoining ranch for his vineyard. This vineyard produced the 1976 Judgement of Paris winner. Now, the parcel that he purchased in 1970 is planted to 35 acres of cabernet sauvignon and 1.5 acres of cabernet franc and still produces the winery's flagship wine, the S.L.V. cabernet sauvignon (currently selling for \$250 per 750ml). Head winemaker Marcus Notaro crafts wines that are generous on the nose and complex on the palate. The S.L.V. cabernet sauvignon expresses hallmarks of the appellation—a velvety, lush texture and a smooth, graceful finish. As with all Stag's Leap Wine Cellars' wines, there is a high degree of ageability.

Ironically, while the appellation is planted primarily to cabernet sauvignon today, it wasn't thought to be warm enough for cabernet sauvignon by earlier vintners. Fay took a chance on the thick-skinned variety when he planted the ranch in 1961, proving that the magical combination of weather, soils, and aspect in the region could grow a great cabernet. In 1986, when presented with the opportunity, Winiarski purchased the vineyard and named it FAY, in the pioneer's honor. Today, FAY Vineyard, alongside Stag's Leap Vineyard, forms the backbone of the winery's estate production.

In as much as legends, stories, and history inform the future, they are inherently past. Today, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars is part of Napa Valley's future of fine wine and gracious hospitality, with significant investments in protecting this fabled land. After years of work, the winery is on track to gain certification by the California Certified Organic Farmers and become Regenerative Organic Certified® in 2024 for 110 acres of its estate vineyards. The winery has also recently undergone a renovation of its visitor center, which now allows guests to soak in the beauty and power of the Stag's Leap Vineyard and the imposing palisades from a gracious patio and lounge. It is an experience where history, present, and future come together in a single sip.

*For more information, visit [stagsleapwinecellars.com](https://stagsleapwinecellars.com).*



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# Pole Position

Photos Courtesy of My Yacht Group

It's the race every driver wants to win, and the eighty-first running of the Monaco Grand Prix provided plenty of thrills for drivers, teams, and fans in a race that, finally, saw homegrown hero Charles Leclerc, driving for Ferrari, clinching victory. His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco wrapped him in a big hug in the winner's box with tears in his eyes as Monaco's national anthem rang out from the podium for the first time since 1931. A prolonged cacophony of horn blasts from all the yachts in the harbor joined in to honor the local hero.

One such yacht was the floating home of My Yacht® Group (MYG). The luxury superyacht events company renowned for "Connecting The World's Most Interesting People®," celebrated its seventeenth year in Monaco aboard its 48-meter/158-foot tri-deck superyacht moored directly on the track—the demand for such a premium trackside slip cannot be overstated. From this premium vantage point, an extraordinary selection of international (U)HNW guests from over 30 countries enjoyed up-close views of the cars as they exited the tunnel, navigated the tight chicane, and sped along the road course's only straightaway during a memorable few days of sporting action. With the road closed, access to the yacht was only possible from the water, and superfast Xtenders, the lightweight, custom carbon superyacht tenders that use Formula 1 technology, ensured swift transfers between shore and ship.

While the on-track high jinks are the primary reason for sold-out hotel rooms throughout the principality, the social aspects of the F1® extravaganza are just as important. MYG began the weekend with a curated dinner at the exclusive Yacht Club de Monaco, designed by renowned architect Sir Norman Foster





and itself resembling a yacht. Friday evening's traditional reception welcomed special guest of honor HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, who relaxedly mingled with fellow Olympians as well as local and visiting (U)HNW guests.

Ensuring a convivial atmosphere, large-format bottles of Château d'Esclans' Whispering Angel and Rock Angel, magnums of 100% Champagne Regi Grand Cru, plus vintage Camus cognac flowed throughout, accompanying exquisite catering by Monaco's own Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mers, and ameliorated by Numero Uno caviar served on mother-of-pearl spoons. Guest favorite The Odd Sox International, the Côte d'Azur's number one strolling band, kept the tunes—and energy—going late into the night. Saturday evening saw guests welcomed to a private villa reception that showcased new state-of-the-art residential superyacht *Ulyssia* (featured in 65°/57°'s last issue), which is set to become the most exclusive residential community at sea. And, in grand Monaco tradition, Sunday evening ended at world renowned Jimmy's Monte-Carlo, with DJ Black Coffee and race winner Leclerc celebrating at the next table.

The eighty-second running of the Monaco Grand Prix is currently slated for May 23–25, 2025, then Monaco must renegotiate its deal with Formula 1. Given the history, glamour, and tradition, we hope that this will be on the calendars in the coming years.

***For more information, visit [myyachtgroup.com](http://myyachtgroup.com) or email [Info@MyYachtGroup.com](mailto:Info@MyYachtGroup.com).***

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# The Hearts of the Napa Valley

By Tabitha Parent | Photos Courtesy of Yountville Art Walk

A year-round, visual feast for fervent art appreciators to casual admirers, the Yountville Art Walk boasts an ever-changing display of sculptures from artists around the globe. The outdoor exhibition, which stretches along Washington Street in downtown Yountville, invites visitors to master the “art of the stroll,” immersing them in a diversity of expression.

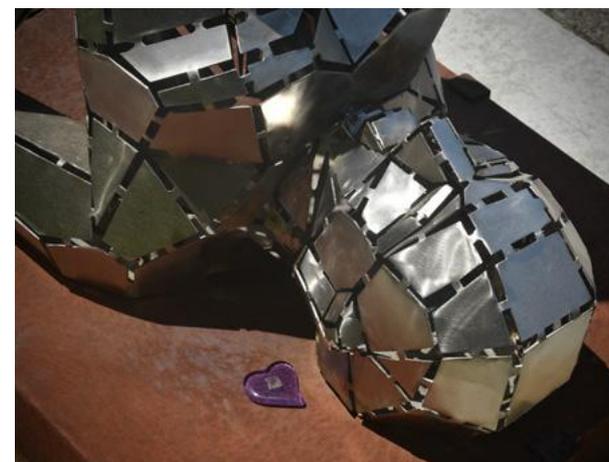
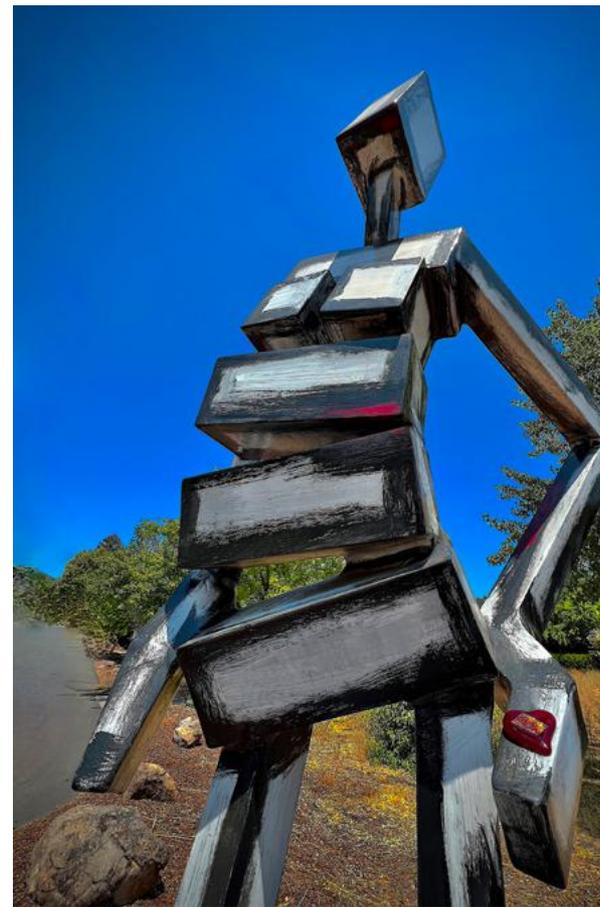
Yet Yountville Arts has found another way to make the walk more interactive and perhaps even a tad competitive. Back for its third year, in February 2025, Yountville Arts will host its popular “Find Your HEART in Yountville” (inspired by Yountville’s nickname, “The Heart of the Napa Valley”) along the Yountville Art Walk. Each weekend, the scenic outdoor gallery will host a playful quest to discover handmade glass hearts for visitors to keep and treasure; this year’s hearts are created by local glass artist Janis Adams.

The Art Walk is the ideal place to hunt for the miniature treasures. Yountville art commissioners discreetly hide signed, numbered hearts among the sculptures on the Art Walk, just in time for eager searchers to begin their pursuits. “Residents and visitors to town would often come out very early in the morning to begin their search,” says Yountville Arts Commissioner Noel Resnick. “They would see if they could find one of us scattering hearts. It got to be a bit competitive!”

One weekend in February will also feature a large, yellow, standout glass heart that searchers should keep an eye out for. The heart represents the region’s vibrant mustard season and the city’s participation in the Napa Valley Mustard Celebration. The lucky finder of the golden treasure will be awarded a special prize.

“‘Find Your HEART’ remains a lively way to actively engage our community and our visitors,” says Resnick. “We’re always striving to elevate the arts, because, just as food and wine, art is an ever present and joyful adventure on a visit to Yountville.”

*For more information, visit [yountvillearts.com](http://yountvillearts.com)*





# Copper Cane Wines & Spirits

Photos Courtesy of Copper Cane Wine & Spirits

Joe Wagner is a legendary fifth-generation winemaker who has shaped a renowned collection of wines and spirits. He has been immersed in the industry his entire life, learning the ropes from his father who co-founded the iconic Caymus Vineyards in 1972. Since starting Copper Cane in 2014, Joe has launched numerous new wines, each with a distinct nod towards his personal style as he takes a hands-on approach to cultivation, winemaking, and marketing. Copper Cane Wines & Spirits' current portfolio includes Belle Glos, Napa Valley Quilt, Böen, Elouan, Steorra, Beran, Carne Humana, Islacalifa, Gryphon & Grain, Bishop's Eden, and Avrae.

***Belle Glos Clark & Telephone Pinot Noir 2022:*** Known for its signature striking red-wax-sealed bottle, Belle Glos showcases distinctive wines perfect for elevating any tablescape. Toast with this rich, well-balanced wine with notes of raspberry jam, candied cranberry, wild bramble, and a lingering pepper finish.

***Böen California Pinot Noir 2022:*** Böen, with its ripe fruit flavors, bright acidity, and hints of toasty oak, is the purest expression winemaker Joe Wagner's signature style. The first sip of the California Böen Pinot Noir envelops the mouth with a velvety richness. Flavors of bright cherry, dried herbs, and hints of vanilla, this wine is supple and sumptuous, to the finish.

***Elouan Screen Print Pinot Noir 2021:*** Elouan is the result of California winemakers venturing up to Oregon, one of the world's renowned grape growing regions. Garnet in color, this wine opens up with aromas of bright cherry, plum pie, cocoa nibs, and hints of baking spice.

***Napa Valley Quilt Fabric of the Land Red Wine:*** Drawing from a patchwork of prime vineyards across the region, Napa Valley Quilt is Joe Wagner's tribute to the character of Napa Valley and its patchwork of vineyards. This full-bodied blend has rich flavors of blackberry, dried cherry, tobacco, and dark chocolate with subtle hints of clove.

***Napa Valley Quilt Chardonnay 2022:*** A tribute to the character of Napa Valley, Quilt exemplifies classic and decadent wines from the region. This Chardonnay is bright, medium-bodied, and rich with smooth and generous layers.



# PIERRE MARTIN FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY



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# Mid-Century Charm with Modern Amenities

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Carmel Realty Co.

Carmel Realty Company's "Sunlit Hills" property is picture-perfect, so it should be no surprise that it's available not only for vacations but also for film shoots and private events. Located on eight sprawling, secluded acres deep in Carmel wine country, Sunlit Hills is close to golf ranges, stables, and Carmel Valley Village.

From the point of entry, it's clear that Sunlit Hills is an extraordinary property. The porte-cochere style entry courtyard includes a lit bridge fountain, and the front door is flanked by sculptural freestanding mosaic murals made by famed California mid-twentieth-century mosaic artist Millard Sheets. His mosaics are scattered throughout the house, and all evoke the Carmel-by-the-Sea art scene of the 1960s.

Notwithstanding the mid-century-modern motif, the home has been completely updated and has Heath Ceramics dimensional tile, a mirrored, formal dining room, restored wood-paneled walls, and a brightly lit Calacatta Borghini marble kitchen. Situated in the middle of the kitchen is a seven-by-seven-foot marble island, making Sunlit Hill a perfect place to cook for large groups. And there's plenty of space for overnight guests with four large bedrooms with en suite baths. Two rooms feature king-sized beds and two host queen-sized beds.

During the day, guests can lounge in the den, work out in the yoga room, or simply cozy up in front of one of the four fireplaces—the one in the living room is marble. Visitors can wander through the wide-open area, which is easily maneuverable with film equipment, past a custom





bar, and over to the living room's sliding doors that open to the pool and grounds below. The pool deck contains not only a spa but also a pool house. Inside the pool house are a bedroom with double bunks, a kitchenette, and a bathroom.

At the main house, the back porch's runway layout overlooks a picture-perfect Slim Aarons-style poolscape with unspoiled, dramatic views of the Santa Lucia Mountains behind and the property's open meadow below. A private patio lines the full length of the home—there's a firepit seating area snuggled against a potted cactus garden and a breeze-block.

For film and event crews, there's ample space for load-in and load-out, due not only to the layout of the property's interior but also to its three-car garage and two-car carport.

Strolling through Carmel Realty Company's Sunlit Hills is a delight for the senses because of its small hobby vineyard, tiered stone rose garden, olive groves, and organic kitchen garden. That's in addition to four acres of terraced gardens with formal and informal outdoor eating areas and a bocce court.

Guests can wander down a cobblestone path to explore the four acres of wild riparian meadow dotted with California sycamore, coast live oaks, and willow trees. If they amble far enough, visitors will arrive at nearly 300 feet of Carmel River frontage. Along the way, bird lovers will likely spot California quail, red-tailed hawks, and wild turkeys.

[carmelrealtycompany.com/vacation-sunlit-hills-2864.htm](https://carmelrealtycompany.com/vacation-sunlit-hills-2864.htm).



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# Celebrating 60 Years of Excellence

By Betsy Reynard | Photos Courtesy of Sterling Vineyards

High above Highway 29 and reachable only by aerial tram sits Sterling Vineyards, the Calistoga winery established 60 years ago by founders Peter Newton and Michael Stone. Basking in the Napa Valley light, the winery, modeled after the white stucco houses of Mykonos, Greece, is celebrating not only its rich heritage but also a rebirth after a three-year dormancy following the 2020 Glass Fire.

On a recent summer evening, wine enthusiasts gathered to celebrate six decades of winemaking, history, and service. Transformed into a jazzy supper club for the evening, Sterling's Hilltop Tasting Room and Terraces hummed with excitement for the next chapter in the winery's story while exploring its historic past. Guests enjoyed an interactive dinner experience, a nod to Sterling's food and wine program that was first established in 1989. With Napa Valley views at every turn, guests were served dishes crafted by the in-house culinary team and paired with a selection of current release wines, wine from the Platinum series, and gems from the cellar, including the 2005 Three Palms Merlot, 1996 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon, and 1980 and 1973 cabernet sauvignons. Guests were also invited to sit for a "vignette du vin," a personalized portrait painted using Sterling red wine—a unique souvenir from the soiree.

Following a path of innovation since 1964, the winery continues to fine-tune its vision with advancements in winemaking, sustainability, and the visitor experience, leaving an indelible mark on the Napa Valley. Happy sixtieth anniversary, Sterling Vineyards!

*For more information, visit [sterlingvineyards.com](https://sterlingvineyards.com).*





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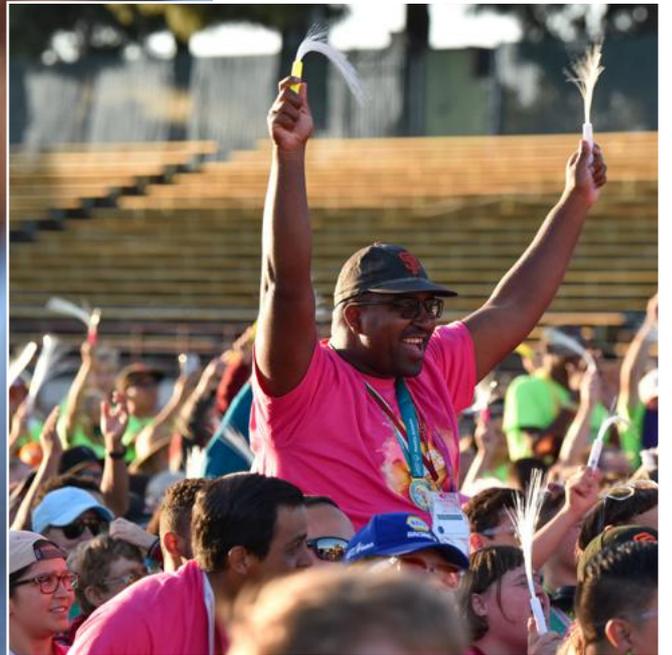
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# A Beloved Movement Continues to Grow

By Atissa Manshour

Photos Courtesy of Special Olympics Northern California

From the tumult of the late 1960s emerged one of our nation's most cherished and uplifting nonprofit organizations: Special Olympics. Founded in 1968 on the belief that people with intellectual disabilities benefit from participation in sports, Special Olympics grew from the groundbreaking, decades-long work of Eunice Kennedy Shriver to advance recreational and education opportunities for those with intellectual disabilities. Formally recognized by the International Olympic Committee, Special Olympics operates on a separate calendar from the Olympics and Paralympic Games, which take place in tandem every four years. Another key difference: in addition to its flagship international event, Special Olympics also offers year-round training and activities, much of which is accomplished through its regional chapters, including Special Olympics Northern California (SONC).

Although the larger, global Special Olympics organization is well over 50 years old, SONC will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary in 2025, as Special Olympics California divided into northern and southern chapters in 1995. Now serving over 31,000 participating athletes ages two and older each year, with a broader community of over 135,000 students (both with and without intellectual disabilities), SONC's overall mission is to create an inclusive community where people with and without intellectual disabilities can make connections, develop a healthy lifestyle, achieve success, and experience the joy of sports. These goals come to life on playing fields, in swimming pools, and in gymnasiums through year-round sports leagues, competitions, and community events; they are also embodied in the organization's considerable outreach work.

The organization's ongoing "Do Something Special" campaign powerfully demonstrates how Special Olympics brings people together in ways that erase lines of division and isolation. The messaging—delivered through





billboards, videos, and an online interview series with professional and high-profile athletes—addresses the preconceived notions of what it’s like to live with an intellectual disability and features real athletes reclaiming the word special as a thing of power: The message, “Special isn’t what we are. It’s what we do” says it all. Most importantly, the campaign invites the audience to get involved by joining the SONC community (as an athlete/athlete’s family or caretaker), by volunteering (as a coach, day-of event volunteer, or ongoing volunteer), or by donating (time and/or money).

As one of the most athletic and philanthropic regions in the nation, the Northern California community is uniquely poised to support the positive impacts of Special Olympics’ mission through health and wellness and athlete leadership programs that complement the sporting events. Such efforts include free health screenings, diet and nutrition resources, and social and behavioral activities, among others. “Our vision is to live in a world where the values of unity and respect are woven into the NorCal community and brought to life through the power of sports,” says David Solo, president and CEO of SONC. “We envision positivity and inclusivity beyond the playing field, where the unique gifts of people with and without intellectual disabilities are all joyfully celebrated together.”

For community members interested in getting involved, the fall season brings an exciting schedule of events offering participation opportunities for athletes, families, fans, and supporters. The annual Bike the Bridges & Brewfest event takes place in Martinez on October 5, with the Fall Games and Guardian Games coming up in Sacramento on November 9. The first quarter of 2025 will see the return of the signature Polar Plunge series, an organization-wide fundraising event.

Opportunities to support and celebrate the incredible athletes of SONC are abundant. Whether by participating, volunteering, or simply cheering from the sidelines, every action contributes to a more inclusive and joyful community—one where we are all truly doing something special together.

*For more information, visit [sonc.org](http://sonc.org).*



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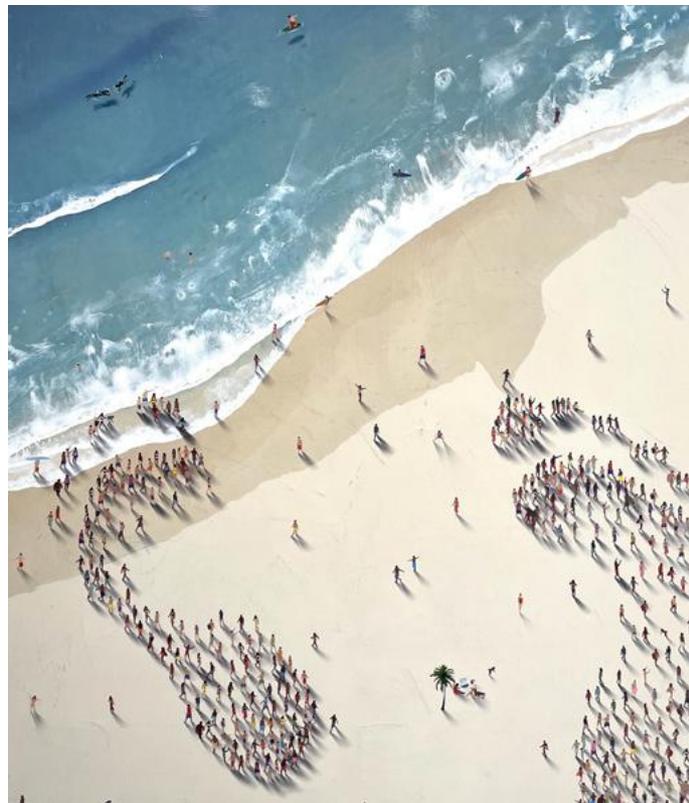
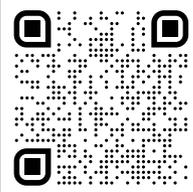
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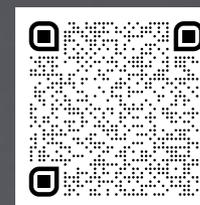
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# Capturing Moments

By Keira Silver | Photos Courtesy of Tom Betts



For artist Tom Betts, focusing his art on hyperrealism means preserving exact moments from life. Merging photo references and still lifes to create paintings realistic to photographs, he demonstrates various tones within. It seems that his paintings give the impression that they can move, showcasing the presence of life. “To be able to get to that level of detail is just incredible,” he says.

In a year, he creates about 12 paintings. Each of his subjects in a painting is a metaphor for himself and the philosophical idea of having a sense of wonder. When working in his studio, painting at night, Betts controls the lighting for a focused environment. He divides the colors on his palette into horizontal lines of paint dots representing one night of work.

One series on display features a hyperrealistic Mickey Mouse. Titled “Park Night,” it portrays the character during a time when the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the closure of the famous theme park. Inspired by the joy that Disney provides young people, Betts highlighted the pride of Southern California. He wished to preserve the memory of the place he enjoyed.

His current series in production, “Oceanside Series,” consists of a teacup sitting among rippling water. He presents the floating teacups in the Great Salt Lake. It parallels the notion of where he will float next in life. “There’s so much complexity in one single moment in time that, for me, it expands my mind, calms me, and takes me to that place that’s really just unique,” he says.

Originally from Utah, Betts studied painting and drawing at the University of Utah. He taught at his alma mater, Laguna College of Art and Design, and at Santa Ana College. His paintings are represented by galleries in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California; Park City, Utah, and London, England.

*For more information, visit [tombetts.com](http://tombetts.com).*





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# Cliff-Top Views and Blissful Relaxation

By Trevor Felch | Photos by Kodiak Greenwood

The name might initially suggest that it's a quaint, pastoral bed-and-breakfast, but the splendid Post Ranch Inn is one of the most iconic luxury getaways in California.

With 40 rooms and suites, the inn is hidden and intimate yet boasts exceptional amenities. Tim Lee, Post Ranch Inn's general manager, perfectly sums up the one-of-a-kind destination: "[It's] the perfect getaway for adventure seekers and laidback wanderers alike, given its robust activity schedule, acres of open space amid nature, two extraordinary infinity pools, award-winning dining and spa, first-rate hospitality, and distinctive sense of place in a wondrous woodland environment, unlike any other hotel in the world."

Beyond the spa and three pools (one for swimming and two spectacular cliff-top basking pools 1,200 feet above the ocean), the in-house mindfulness and wellness options are bountiful for guests seeking to escape from day-to-day stressors. On the more leisurely end are forest meditation classes, morning yoga, and edible garden tours. More active pursuits include a unique falconry program and guided nature hikes. Besides its spectacular views, the Big Sur region is best known for its artistic heritage, which is well represented in the Post Gallery, adjacent to the Chef's Garden. The gallery features rotating fine art exhibitions, such as the current one with the photography of Heather Summerz.

Guests can enjoy three meals a day at the celebrated Sierra Mar restaurant, with its dramatic coastal views. Breakfast is complimentary for guests, while lunch and dinner are also available to the public.

Director of Culinary Reylon Agustin is a familiar name for many Bay Area diners, from his time as the executive chef at a pair of restaurants in San Francisco's Presidio, Arguello and The Commissary. Now, he's overseeing the menus for one of California's most revered dining





rooms. “We take great care and pride in ensuring that every dish is infused with the essence of the Central Coast—including sourcing from an array of local farmers, fishermen, foragers, and purveyors, and operating our own garden on-site,” explains Agustin. “The dramatic cliffs and expansive ocean views inspire me daily, pushing me to create culinary moments that honor and reflect this stunning landscape. We use ethically sourced, sustainable ingredients, including fresh Pacific seafood and foraged herbs, to craft signature dishes like our abalone.”

As a founding member of the Beyond Green<sup>SM</sup> group of sustainability-focused hotels, Post Ranch Inn leads by example when it comes to incorporating natural materials such as wood, stone, and Corten<sup>®</sup> steel into its architecture and other aspects, including pumping water on-site and using native plants for drought-resistant landscaping. Moreover, the property’s 100 acres provide a habitat for several endangered local species.

The various kinds of guest rooms and homes reflect the special climate and terrain within this singular locale. “Each accommodation at Post Ranch Inn has a unique sustainably focused design and layout tailored to its specific location and view,” explains Lee. “However, all share a common thread of luxury, comfort, and a deep connection to nature.” Some are creative in terms of design. The Tree Houses are triangular and elevated nine feet above the ground, on stilts. And The Ocean Houses are some of the most architecturally noteworthy accommodations on property, featuring their own living roofs with grass and wildflowers. Each of the Northern rooms features a private deck with an outdoor tub, while the Southern rooms include an indoor tub and a double-sided fireplace to warm you while you’re in the tub or in bed. At Post Ranch Inn, all the rooms include fireplaces and many rooms include private terraces or decks with outdoor tubs.

In this technology-driven age, Post Ranch Inn maintains its tradition as a timeless luxury, nature-centric destination by not having televisions. It’s not an issue because each room boasts a magnificent ocean or mountain view—and no television show could possibly compete with the grand show of breathtaking Big Sur.

***For more information, visit [postranchinn.com](http://postranchinn.com).***

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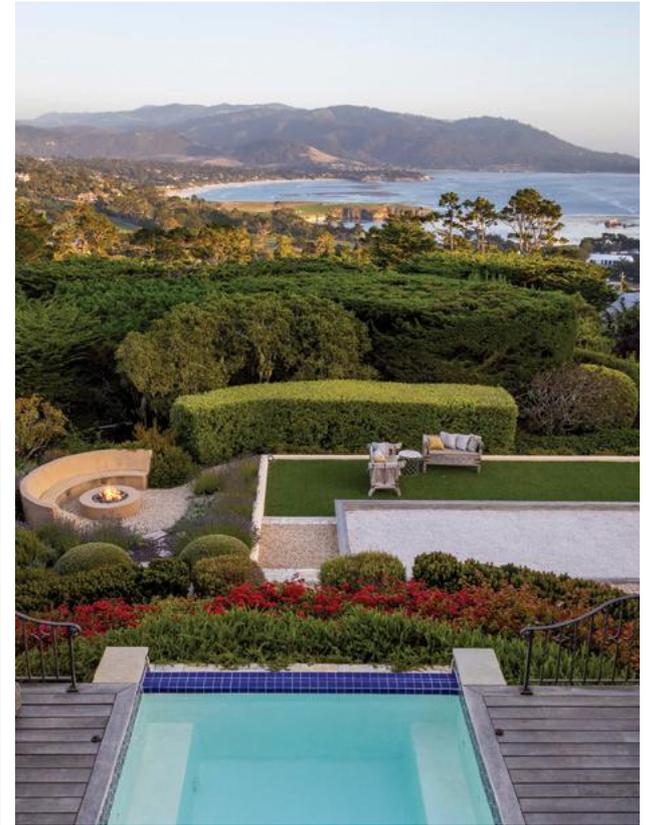
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# Concours & Cocktails, a Colossal Affair

By Tabitha Parent | Photos by Manny Espinoza



On August 15, against the backdrop of the seventy-third, world-renowned Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance—the flagship event of Monterey Car Week—nearly 300 guests and Preserve Club members gathered at The Hacienda on the Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel-by-the-Sea to revel in their love of cuisine, libations, and all things automotive at the exclusive Concours & Cocktails event.

The premier, invitation-only event, held in partnership with Luxury Rally Club, has become one of the most coveted invitations of Monterey Car Week. Guests experience a unique level of intimacy afforded by close-up views of a formidable collection of classic cars, supercars, and other extraordinary vehicles. The experience was enhanced by the festive, social atmosphere and live music by Wes Kelly.

Guests mingled over culinary delights crafted by Marc Johnson, The Preserve’s executive chef, and marveled at the automotive lineup presented by sponsors Lucid Motors, Flatrock Motorclub, Burgess Yachts, Luxury Lease Partners, Jet Agency, and Passium. Attendees sampled an array of appetizers and indulged in decadent fare. A colossal raw bar and Tsar Nicolai Caviar were star attractions, while braised short rib, ibérico pork katsu, Lobster Mushroom Cavatelli, and Teriyaki Swordfish Skewers, and a wood-fired oven completed the dining experience when paired with champagne, spirits, and fine wines.

The nearly 100-year-old Spanish colonial-style hacienda provided a flawless setting in which to display the automobiles, curating an atmosphere of historic charm and modern luxury.

Hand-painted chocolates by Santana Rodriguez of Qouign ensured a sweet ending to an already delectable evening. “Guests have the opportunity to watch the sunset, see all the amazing cars up close, and spend time with friends—all in an unrivaled atmosphere,” says Trevor Johnson, cofounder of Luxury Rally Club.

*For more information, visit [luxuryrallyclub.com/the-preserve-concours-cocktails-2024](https://luxuryrallyclub.com/the-preserve-concours-cocktails-2024),*

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# Listening on the Green

Ben Zoller, a professional of Monterey Real Estate

A homegrown familiarity with the Monterey Peninsula, a relaxed mood, and knowledge of the region's luxury neighborhoods and golf courses ensure Ben Zoller has the ability and opportunities to pair buyers with the perfect property.

"I take time to listen to clients to figure out what they want, from proximity to excellent tennis courts to foggy mornings in summer. I take pride in steering people to properties that suit their lifestyle," says Zoller, a Realtor<sup>®</sup> with Monterey Coast Realty (MCR).

One key to understanding the region is knowing most destinations are within a 10-minute drive. "You want to introduce clients to people with whom they'll enjoy spending their time. You also want to be consistent and take a level-headed approach," says Zoller, who has been with MCR for eight years.

One of Zoller's favorite places to spend his free time is the Tehama Golf Club in Carmel, of which he is a member. "I played golf for Stevenson School [Upper Division, grades 9-12] and at the University of Denver. Being a knowledgeable golfer draws people to you and creates a bond





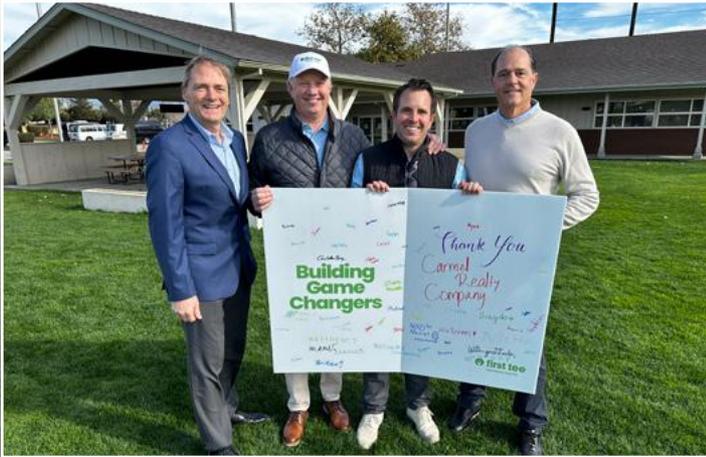
with them. There is something special about golf and the relationships it creates,” says Zoller.

Golf is also a way for Zoller to give back to the community. He serves on the board of First Tee - Monterey County, a Salinas-based nonprofit that teaches youth ages 4 through 17 life skills through golf. “The tradition of building a community with golf goes back to my grandfather, John Zoller. He co-founded First Tee - Monterey County in 2004 and instilled the importance of giving back in me,” says Zoller.

Recently, Zoller became engaged to Shannon Moore, a photographer and school psychologist for Carmel Unified School District. Zoller has relied on Moore and their three dogs as a wonderful support system as he continues to succeed in the real estate business. Zoller’s advice for buyers is to ask residents why they love Monterey Bay Peninsula.

“It’s a small community. Everyone who’s here wants to be here. My goal is to help people achieve their desires in places they want to call home,” says Zoller.

*For more information, visit [benzollerproperties.com](http://benzollerproperties.com).*



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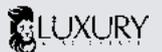
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# Links with Nature

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Sherman Chu & Manny Espinoza

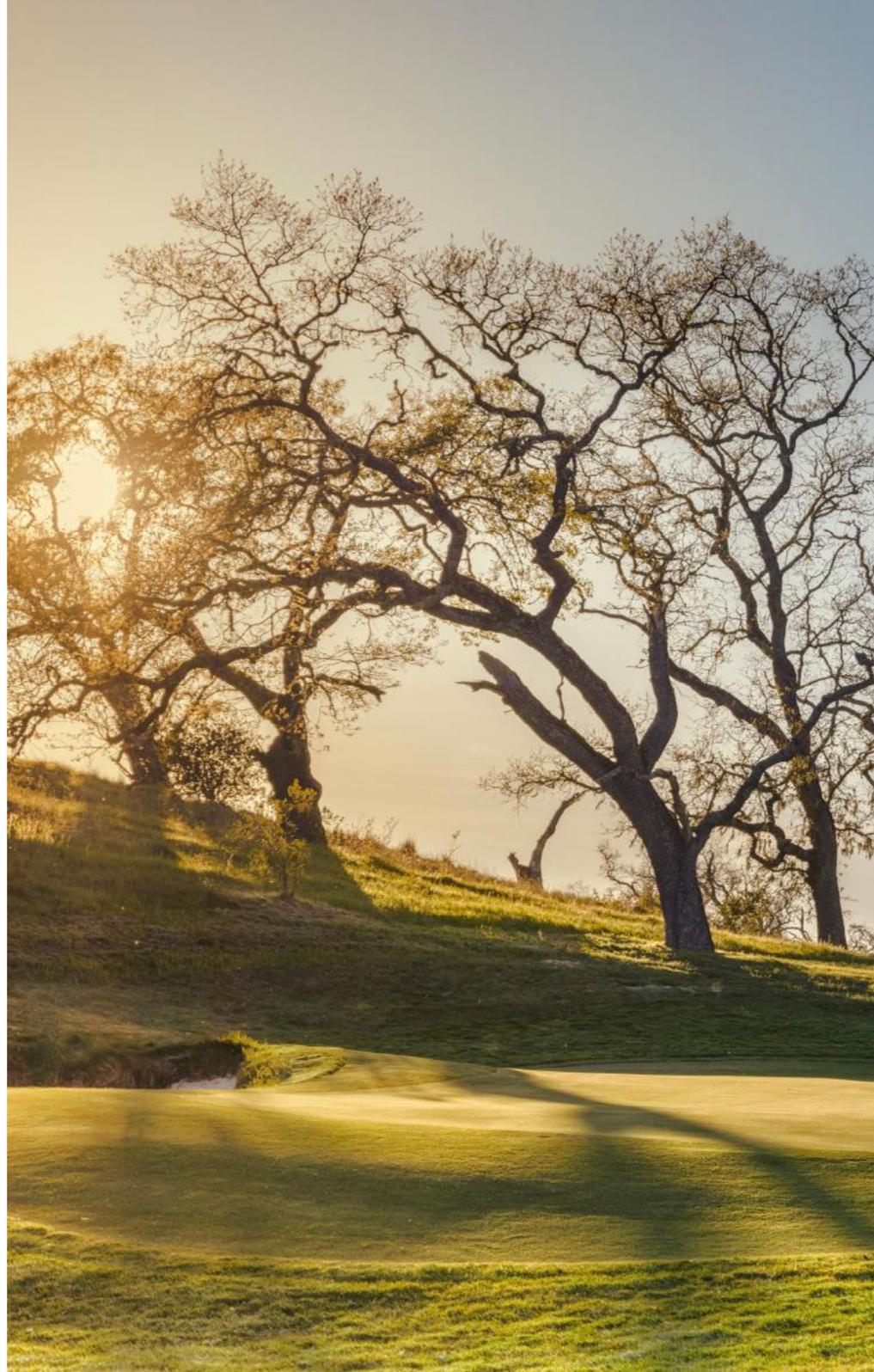
Forrest Arthur has two photographs of his workplace framed in his home. When you learn that he's been COO and general manager of the pristine Santa Lucia Preserve Golf Club since 1998, then those photographs make perfect sense.

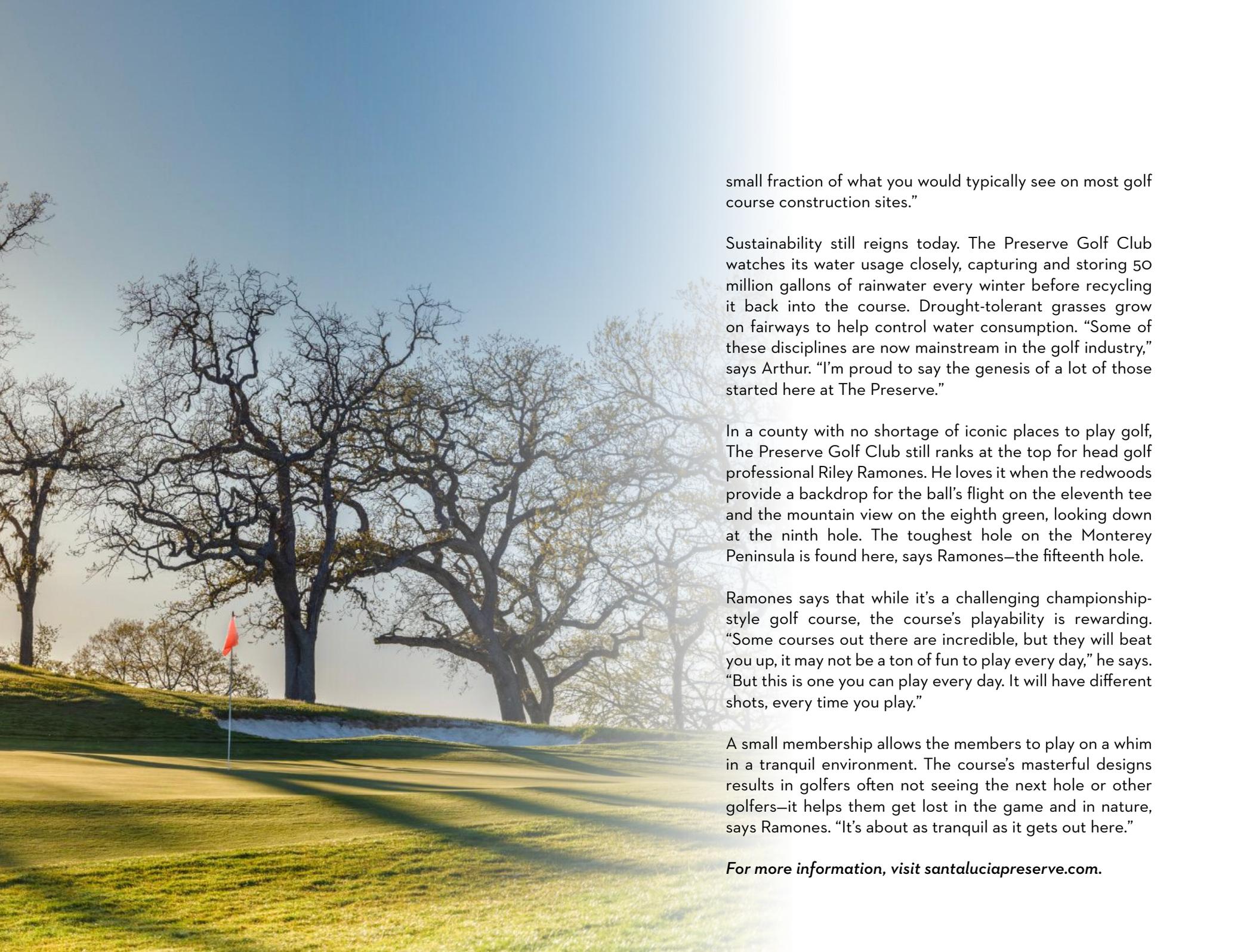
However, if you have the chance to look closer at the images, you may still be puzzled. The framed piece presents a before and after of hole three, but the two images are nearly identical. "Nothing had to be carved out or fabricated," says Arthur, "those holes were sitting there forever."

A sense of predestination surrounds The Preserve Golf Club, a private golf club located on 365 of the 20,000 acres of The Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel-by-the-Sea. The Preserve Golf Club is one aspect of the lifestyle of living in The Preserve, which was established in 2000 and includes fitness and equestrian activities at the Ranch Club and a community of fewer than 300 families.

From its beginnings, The Preserve Golf Club blazed a new trail for golf course development. Legendary golf course architect Tom Fazio prioritized conservation above all else, long before sustainability concepts were commonplace. "Fazio's goals were conservation minded, to work with the contours of the land as it existed," says Arthur. "You can see that today when you play the golf course. It flows with the valleys, and it's a very natural feel."

That natural feel has nontraditional elements as well; the original design included no paths for golf carts and no sand-filled bunkers. While the course welcomes carts today, the basic vision remains. "It was more of a golf walk," says Arthur. "At the end of the day, we only moved about 300,000 cubic yards of earth, which is a very





small fraction of what you would typically see on most golf course construction sites.”

Sustainability still reigns today. The Preserve Golf Club watches its water usage closely, capturing and storing 50 million gallons of rainwater every winter before recycling it back into the course. Drought-tolerant grasses grow on fairways to help control water consumption. “Some of these disciplines are now mainstream in the golf industry,” says Arthur. “I’m proud to say the genesis of a lot of those started here at The Preserve.”

In a county with no shortage of iconic places to play golf, The Preserve Golf Club still ranks at the top for head golf professional Riley Ramones. He loves it when the redwoods provide a backdrop for the ball’s flight on the eleventh tee and the mountain view on the eighth green, looking down at the ninth hole. The toughest hole on the Monterey Peninsula is found here, says Ramones—the fifteenth hole.

Ramones says that while it’s a challenging championship-style golf course, the course’s playability is rewarding. “Some courses out there are incredible, but they will beat you up, it may not be a ton of fun to play every day,” he says. “But this is one you can play every day. It will have different shots, every time you play.”

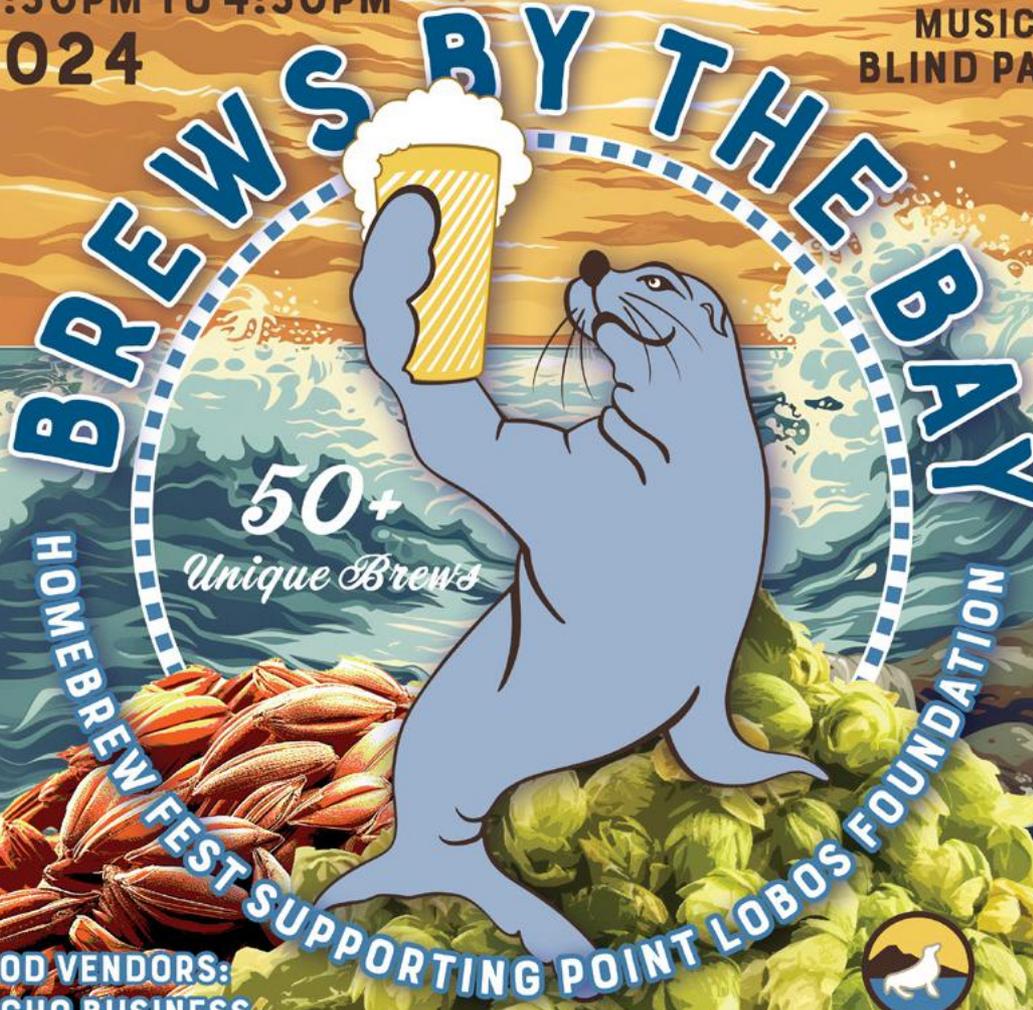
A small membership allows the members to play on a whim in a tranquil environment. The course’s masterful designs results in golfers often not seeing the next hole or other golfers—it helps them get lost in the game and in nature, says Ramones. “It’s about as tranquil as it gets out here.”

***For more information, visit [santaluciapreserve.com](http://santaluciapreserve.com).***

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# Power in Partnerships

By Keira Silver | Photos by Manny Espinoza

When Dale Byrne founded Carmel Cares, his goal was simple yet heartfelt: to preserve the city's charm for residents and visitors. Now, the environmental nonprofit has grown into an energetic force, establishing citywide partnerships to ensure Carmel's beaches and streets remain pristine.

Carmel Cares collaborates with the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea and local businesses to keep the village's sidewalks clean. Resident Tony Enea, who owns On-The-Spot Carpet Cleaning, preserves the town's charm by ensuring the walkways and corridors remain clean.

Trujillo Landscaping collaborated with Shirley Moon, the project manager of Restoration and program manager of the Pick Up Posse with Scenic Pathway, to construct an old-growth redwood landscape barrier and widen the pathway for pedestrians. "The magnificent redwood, repurposed from naturally fallen logs in Northern California's forests, were hand-selected and provided at reduced cost by Carmel resident Jeffrey Sogge of Pacific Redwood Products, adding a unique touch of natural beauty," says Carmel Cares president Dale Byrne.

The Pollinator Pathway project is transforming under the leadership of resident and landscaping consultant Alan Wheat and funded by local sponsors and the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Byrne and Wheat have added native plants and boulders to Ocean Avenue's medians to encourage a sustainable environment for local pollinators. This project furthers Carmel's dedication to environmental sustainability.

*For more information, visit [carmelcares.org](http://carmelcares.org).*



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# This Fall's Colors: Earth Tones

By Rebekah Moan | Phot Courtesy of Patrick James

Determining fall fashion is both a science and an art, according to Patrick James Mon Pere Jr. The upscale men's clothing and lifestyle brand designer says that it all starts with evaluating what did and didn't work during the previous fall season. He says that items can fail due to pricing, fit, and fabrication. "Our customers have become our inspiration," he adds. "They are constantly challenging us to meet their changing lifestyle needs."

He and his team then work with 120 to 150 separate vendors, brands, and manufacturers to pick the best items. Samples are brought in and then they narrow down the selection. "This is why specialty stores exist," explains Mon Pere Jr., "to be the eyes and ears of the customer and to search the world for the best items from a quality and value standpoint."

What his store, Patrick James, landed on for fall 2024 are supple leathers, suedes, corduroy, cashmere, and extra fine merino. This season's colors are greens, earth tones, and wine shades in addition to the ever-present blues. Mon Pere Jr. recommends complementing the palette with bold pops of color, such as red, purple, and orange.

It's hard to pick favorites, but in outerwear, one of his is a pine green, suede blouson made by Hagen. "It's our first time carrying the line, and this piece sealed the deal on us picking the line up," he says. "The feel and color are exemplary."

Another piece Mon Pere Jr. recommends is a reversible quilted corduroy vest by Faherty. "There are too many great overshirts/CPOs to list, but my favorite might be our own Reserve check shirt jacket," he says. "It's just perfect for almost any guy's wardrobe."

In sports coats, a mink-colored peak lapel in the Reserve label also stands out. "It just oozes sophistication," says Mon Pere Jr.

*For more information, visit [patrickjames.com](http://patrickjames.com).*





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# Creating Memorable Connections

By Tracy Gillette-Ricci | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines serendipity as "the faculty or phenomenon of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for." It is often perceived as a stroke of chance or luck. This perfectly embodies how Melissa Smith, known as Mel to everyone, found her role at Serendipity Wines.

Smith is a spirited, dynamic individual who believes that sharing a glass of wine is the perfect setting for unfolding stories and creating memorable connections. Her enthusiasm for seizing opportunities first led her to Folktale Wine Group, where she worked as a supply representative, and later to Serendipity in her role as wine sales specialist.

Serendipity Wines is a boutique distributor serving California and Texas. It is dedicated to curating and delivering exceptional brands, each telling a unique and captivating story. In its 20-year history, the company has built a portfolio showcasing 354 producers from 21 countries and 89 regions across five beverage categories, consisting of wine, spirits, cider, sake, and nonalcoholic specialty beverages. The portfolio boasts an array of the world's most renowned winemaking masters, including Canard-Duchêne, an illustrious label from France's Champagne region.

Smith says that there is growing enthusiasm for organic and additive-free wine. Frey Vineyards, nestled in Mendocino

County, stands as a premier exemplar of biodynamic farming practices. The approach emphasizes working with the land's natural resources and avoiding the use of chemicals, herbicides, pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, and fungicides.

Another standout, according to Smith, is from the Sonoma Coast: Fort Ross Vineyard and Winery, particularly its Fort Ross pinot noir. It features rich flavors of black cherry, juicy plum, and subtle hints of toasty oak and offers a refined drinking experience, whether savored on its own or paired with wild salmon. Locally, the NV Folktale Sparkling Brut from Folktale Wine Group has become a beloved choice for brunch at La Playa Hotel. Its effervescent bubbles and tasting notes of green apple, banana, and kiwi, layered over peach tarts, create an effortlessly refreshing profile that complements a wide array of dishes.

Smith aims to merge the Serendipity vision with the needs of hotels and restaurants to create exceptional experiences for their customers. She views herself as a connector—"A remarkable wine, coupled with a compelling story, creates truly memorable moments," she says.

***For more information, visit [serendipitywines.com](http://serendipitywines.com).***







A modern, multi-story residential building is shown at dusk. The building features a mix of light-colored stucco and dark brick accents. Large windows and glass doors are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. In the foreground, a tree is lit up with string lights, and a paved walkway leads towards the building. The sky is a soft mix of purple and blue.

# View from the Top

By Andrea Stuart | Photos Courtesy of Shea Homes

Shea Homes is redefining coastal living with the unveiling of Rooftops, an innovative new community nestled in The Dunes on Monterey Bay. Located on California's picturesque Central Coast, Rooftops blends contemporary architecture and thoughtful design with the relaxed charm of beachside living. As part of the larger master-planned community at The Dunes, Rooftops offers a range of home styles and layouts tailored to modern lifestyles.

The Residences offer two- and three-bedroom homes, each featuring an expansive rooftop deck that invites relaxation while savoring the area's stunning sunsets. For those seeking flexibility, Home+ includes a ground-level guest suite in addition to the primary residence, perfect for accommodating family or friends. Meanwhile, the Live/Work-Retail option provides a unique blend of residential and retail space, ideal for business owners or creatives seeking to work where they live.

"The Dunes has a village-square feel with dining, shopping, and the beach is just minutes away," says Don Hofer, Vice President of Shea Homes Northern California.

The homes at Rooftops are thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of today's homeowners. Floor plans feature open-concept kitchens, spacious living areas, and primary suites with elegant details. Many homes come with rooftop decks, perfect for entertaining or simply enjoying the coastal breeze. Equipped with SheaConnect smart home technology, these residences offer a blend of style, functionality, and tech-forward convenience.

As part of the adaptive reuse of the former Fort Ord Army Base, The Dunes on Monterey Bay has evolved into a lively, walkable community with a rich history. Residents enjoy easy access to Promenade at The Dunes, an area filled with shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues. The Dunes offers a tranquil, family-friendly environment while still being conveniently located near the beach.

*For more information, visit [TheDunesonMontereyBay.com](http://TheDunesonMontereyBay.com).*





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# Green in the Heart of Carmel

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos Courtesy of AYI & Associates

Furniture and interior designer Ashley Yeates' glossy, modern Monterey studio shows off her chic aesthetic and penchant for minimalism. "There's so much you can do to make things special with a little extra effort," she says. "Buy it right and buy it once."

But one particular piece of furniture at AYI & Associates, her sustainably focused design firm, seems to defy Yeates' sleek style: her grandmother's ornate dining table. "There's no way I would give up that dining table," she affirms. "It's my connection to her when she was living."

For Yeates, interior and furniture design hold deep meaning and fresh ways to honor each client's individuality and everyone's collective future. "What I'm hoping to do is help people think of a story with each thing they add to their home," she says. "If I can help people shift how they see furniture, I can shift how they see waste. Then we can focus on homes that are more thoughtful and have more value because they are curated with quality."

Yeates grew up in a West Texas ranching family. She spent time outdoors and among her grandmothers, whom she calls eccentric, and a "crazy mom who made sculptures in the backyard." It helped make Yeates a nature lover, born to create, dreaming up elaborate ways to redecorate her room, with green carpet and wood-paneled walls. "In a town of 3,000 people, no one was doing that," says Yeates laughing. "There's something exciting about building things."

These influences didn't immediately land her as a sustainable design expert living in Carmel-by-the-Sea. She first pursued a career in broadcast journalism in New York City, then shifted to studying law in Texas. She was working in oil and gas law by day and hosting a radio show by night when she took on a renovation project. Suddenly, she was back in her childhood happy place, designing organic, thoughtful spaces.





Yeates was asked why she wasn't doing this for a living. She was told that she has a natural eye, an understanding of space. "Sometimes, you find your true calling when you remember what you loved when you were young."

A business trip brought Yeates to Carmel-by-the-Sea 19 years ago. Within 30 days, she moved to California with her young daughter and three dogs and started AYI & Associates

In addition to running the firm, Yeates makes custom furniture. Her collections of handmade, nontoxic stools, beds, benches, and more were born out of her Monterey Peninsula clients' needs. "The quality of furniture was not matching the house," she says, comparing the average person's furniture choices to those of fast food. "[It's] made furniture shopping less special and more accessible. Mass-produced, outsourced furniture compromises quality, but there were no other alternatives."

Ashley Yeates Collection strives to return furniture to its place as both an investment and a piece of art. Her classic silhouettes feature natural and eco-conscious materials such as leather, mohair, metal, wood, and glass. The finishes also reflect this, as Yeates chooses milk paints and plant-based foam.

After more than two decades of working with local clients, Yeates is heartened by their willingness to adopt forward-thinking sustainability elements in the designs. She is currently juggling four diverse projects, all united by their innovative eco-friendly measures, such as fire-resistant tiles and window screens and wool insulation. "It's super exciting that people want to be a part of this shift," she says. "The only thing we can do that will last beyond us is leaving something that is innately good."

***For more information, visit [ayistyle.com](http://ayistyle.com).***



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# Delighting the Tastebuds

By Rebekah Moan | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Rise + Roam Bakery and Pizzeria seeks to delight the taste buds using only the finest and freshest ingredients. Instead of choosing to be just a bakery or just a pizzeria, it was a natural evolution to be both, according to owner Xanthia Decaux. “With our commitment to organic ingredients, we were already making the best dough,” she says.

Rise + Roam is a woman-owned and -operated business, with Decaux at the helm and Jessica Haney as executive pastry chef and general manager. Decaux took over the business from the previous owners in 2023 and says that the Carmel community has always held a special place for her and her team. “Like so many, we came here as visitors and fell in love,” she says. “It was a series of fortunate events that led us to this opportunity. We are so grateful to be a part of this historic town and hopefully create our own history that others will enjoy.”

Thus far, she’s succeeding. In 2023, the business won a Monterey Bay Stars Award from *What’s Up Monterey*. “We truly appreciate the many kind words and support we have already received from our customers and look forward to many years of service to our community,” says Decaux.

Some of Rise + Roam’s most popular menu items from the bakery are the seasonal scone, raspberry cheesecake cruffin, and cinnamon sugar morning bun. From the restaurant, two popular items are the roasted turkey bacon panini pizza and the Chinese chicken salad. Soon, the menu will expand, with an under 12 menu and a happy hour menu that will feature wines from Folktale Winery & Vineyards.

“At Rise + Roam, we want to craft experiences that transform customers into lifelong fans,” says Decaux.

***For more information, visit [riseandroamcarmel.com](http://riseandroamcarmel.com).***





[theannexcarmel.com](http://theannexcarmel.com)





Chef Raymundo Jimenez | [7dsteakhouse.com](http://7dsteakhouse.com)

## Chef Ray's Scallops and Sweet Pepper Risotto

Yields 2-3 Servings

### Ingredients:

1/4 cup butter, plus 2 to 4 tbsp for searing the scallops  
1/2 cup onions, diced  
1/2 cup arborio rice  
3/4 cup dry white wine  
1 quart chicken broth  
1.5 oz minced Thyme  
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
3 bell peppers (1 red, 1 green, and 1 yellow)  
3 scallops per serving; 9 for 3 servings  
Oil for searing the scallops

### Method:

Preheat oven to 365° F. Roast the bell peppers under a broiler or on a grill until the skins blister (about 10-15 minutes), then peel and julienne. Set aside cup of each for the final dish.

Rinse the rice with cold water and drain. Melt 1/4 cup butter over medium heat in a medium pot.

Add the onions and sweat them until they are translucent (about 2 minutes).

Pour the rice into the pot and let it cook for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent burning.

Add 1/2 cup of wine and 1/2 cup chicken broth, stirring occasionally. Add a teaspoon of thyme and let simmer.

Stir in 1/2 cup of parmesan once the liquid is absorbed.

Sear the scallops in a pan with 1 tbsp oil and 2 to 4 tbsp butter until golden brown on one side, then flip until golden brown on the other side. Serve on top of risotto with bell peppers and enjoy!

# Becoming

By Bettina McBee | Photo by Randy Tunnell

Patricia Qualls, a contemporary expressive abstract painter, embraces her feelings, allowing the colors to dance onto her large-scale canvases. She starts each painting with a base layer of thick white paint. Staying present in the moment, she focuses on her movements and emotions, letting the painting speak to her. A flurry of brushes, palette knives, and rich pigments work together, creating an artwork that invites the viewer in.

“I let the painting take me where it wants to go,” says Qualls. “I stay open with my relationship with the work, free of judgment, and I let the piece become its own.”

Qualls draws from her many life experiences, from working on a 200-acre farm in her home state of Tennessee as a child, to working in the stock market, to practicing as a clinical psychologist in California. During an intuitive painting class at Hidden Valley, nestled in Carmel Valley, she, in her words, “became unshackled.” It marked the beginning of her love of artistic expression. “It’s the most freedom I’ve ever had,” she says. “It’s unconditional acceptance.”

Qualls works primarily in her 2000-square-foot Carmel Valley studio, which she refers to as her sanctuary. Starting work early in the morning, she lets the state of the world, her surroundings, and the beauty of Carmel Valley sweep over her and onto the canvas. “Sometimes, I find myself painting the issues of the world,” she says. “It’s easier to convey it onto the canvas.”

Qualls is represented by collectors in New York, Chicago, Phoenix, Dallas, Houston, San Francisco, and Montecito, as well as in Switzerland. Her works are also part of the George Blair permanent collection at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.

*For more information, visit [patriciaqualls.com](http://patriciaqualls.com).*

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# Enduring Legacy

By Felicia Adamos

Photos Courtesy of Bernardus Winery & Manny Espinoza

The wines of Bernardus Winery are known to celebrate the intensity of flavor from the thoughtful cultivation of grapes within each of its distinct growing regions. A mix of sustainable farming practices are maintained on the estate vineyards and with partner winegrowers located in the Carmel Valley, Santa Lucia Highlands, and Arroyo Seco appellations.

After former owner and namesake Bernardus Marinus “Ben” Pon died in 2019, his friend and business partner Robert van der Wallen took the reins. “I took over a legacy from a great friend; [it’s] one that I will nurture and continue to grow alongside Bernardus Golf,” says Van der Wallen.

Today, Van der Wallen, who, like Pon, hails from the Netherlands, carries on the vision of Bernardus Winery, producing a wide portfolio of robust cabernet sauvignons and pinot noirs and crisp sauvignon blancs and chardonnays. Visitors and locals can enjoy Bernardus wines every day in the tasting room or at local fine restaurants throughout the county.

“Ben and Robert met at an event in the Netherlands and instantly connected, despite their 30-year age difference. Both entrepreneurs shared a passion for golf and wine,” says Marco van Bilsen, director of marketing at Opportunity Partners, an investment company of Van der Wallen’s that includes the Bernardus brand. “Ben Pon had been searching for someone to take over his winery as he had no children. Robert was eager to carry on the legacy





Ben had built and saw the opportunity to link it with the golf course he was developing, which he also named Bernardus. Together, they set out to build a global brand in both wine and golf.”

Van der Wallen was born in a southern province of the Netherlands, a region where many people appreciate fine food and wine. His passion for both grew during his international career—sharing excellent food and wine with colleagues and business partners became an important way for him to build relationships.

Early in his career, Van der Wallen moved to Hong Kong to work for an international company in the loyalty industry, serving global retailers. Over the course of 20 years, he grew it into a world leader in the field. Following that success, he invested in a broad portfolio of companies across food, retail, technology, and sports.

Van der Wallen’s deep personal connection with Pon eventually led him to Carmel Valley. Like many who visit the region, he was captivated by its stunning land- and seascapes as well as the passionate craftsmanship of the people working in the wine industry.

“We are focused on enhancing the overall quality of our wines while gradually expanding our distribution in California,” says Van Bilsen. Our goal is to strengthen our brand as a top producer of some of the best chardonnay, pinot noir, and sauvignon blanc in the USA.”

***For more information, visit [bernardus.com](http://bernardus.com).***

# Finding Sanctuary

By Faisal Nimri | Photos by Keira Silver & Manny Espinoza

Nestled in the heart of Carmel-by-the-Sea, the United Methodist Church of the Wayfarer has been a sanctuary of community spirit for over a century. This year, Carmel's oldest Protestant church will celebrate its 120th anniversary, commemorating its evolution alongside the town over the generations.

Founded by real estate developer and philanthropist J. F. Devendorf, who played a major role in the development of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Edmund Earl, the Church of the Wayfarer was born from the pair's desire to provide the town's residents with a Protestant place of worship. In its early days, the church's services were held outdoors, beneath the Monterey pines, long before the tranquil chapel and biblical garden became its defining features.

The charming wooden chapel that now stands, with its white stucco walls and Carmel stone patio, has witnessed countless changes over the years but has always reflected the landscape and the spirit of the community in which it serves. Initially a Mission Revival style in 1905, the chapel today sits in Carmel-by-the-Sea's natural beauty and features vibrant stained-glass windows that depict biblical stories and local icons of nature.

Serving as a beacon of hope and tranquility, the church's outreach has expanded over the years,

offering a range of programs and services reflecting its core values of compassion, belonging, community, inclusion, and acceptance. Led by Rev. Karla Lundin, the church's second female pastor, the church remains rooted in its original goal to be a community pillar for residents. Regular Sunday services feature and uplift local musicians, and the church partners with local organizations such as I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program) and Joining Hands Benefit Shop and provides merit scholarships to high school seniors in Monterey County. Its offerings of counseling, addiction support groups, and pastoral care reflect the church's deep commitment to fostering equality and justice for all.

The church's official 120th year celebration is on Sunday, November 10 and starts at 11 a.m., after the Sunday service. Local community members, other Methodist and faith leaders, musicians, and local politicians are invited. The church has also planned for renovations, in honor of its anniversary, and hopes to restore the historic green tile roof over the sanctuary.

"We are thankful for all of our donors: past, present, and future," says Rev. Lundin. "We look forward to another 120-plus years in wonderful Carmel-by-the-Sea!"

*For more information, visit [churchofthewayfarer.com](http://churchofthewayfarer.com).*









# Friuli

italian wines

[friulitalianwines.com](http://friulitalianwines.com)

# Painting Icons

By Keira Silver

Carmel-by-the-Sea resident Edi Matsumoto never planned on becoming an artist, let alone owning an art gallery. But after her husband encouraged her to pursue art, Matsumoto began taking classes at Monterey Peninsula College and then at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. What started as an effort in personal enrichment turned into a Master's of Fine Arts. After dedicating nearly 30 years to health care, she is now a full-time painter, creating artworks to inspire joy and laughter for her customers and the community.

Matsumoto's gallery, located in Carmel-by-the-Sea on Mission Street between Fifth and Sixth, across from Katy's Place, opened this spring. Aside from her paintings, the gallery features wearable art—a line of items featuring artistic patterns and paintings—including kimonos, scarves, and tote bags. Her popular works include portraits and her “otter series,” a series of otter figures based on classic paintings, celebrities, and other well-known characters. Some of her works include Vincent van Gogh, Princess Leia, Albert Einstein, Clint Eastwood, Elvis Presley, and the Mona Lisa. “People stop at the display window and look at them and giggle,” she says. “That really gives me joy, to make people happy.”

Her motto is “Create to inspire, inspire to create.” She motivates many who visit her gallery to create their own art and pursue their passions, and she believes that every person has an art form in which they can express themselves. “I can do all of those things here, just the way I want it,” she says.

Matsumoto gives back to the community by displaying local students' and emerging artists' works on a wall to help them gain publicity. She also hosts small group programs, called Creative Connections, where people can connect with each other and talk about their own art forms, be it photography, poetry, gardening, or business.

For more information, visit [edimatsumoto.com](http://edimatsumoto.com).



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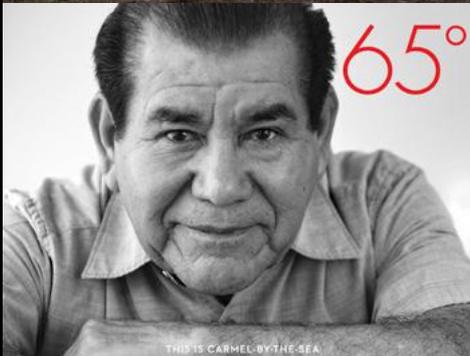
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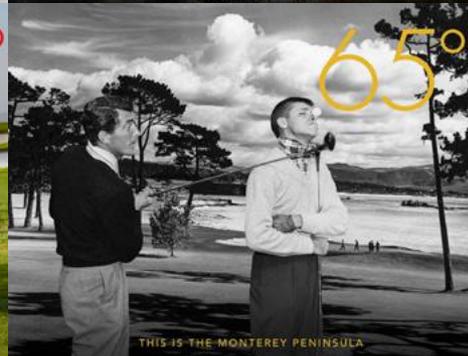
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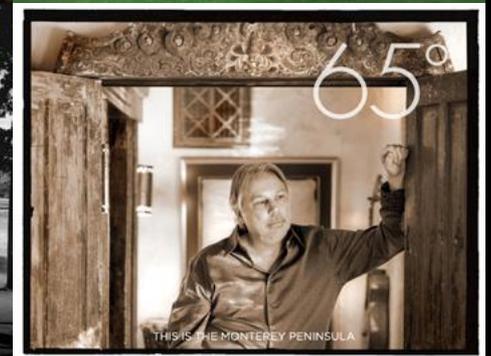
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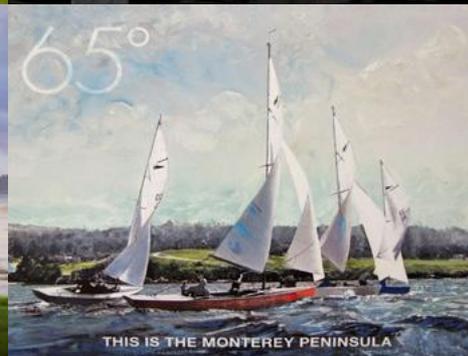
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