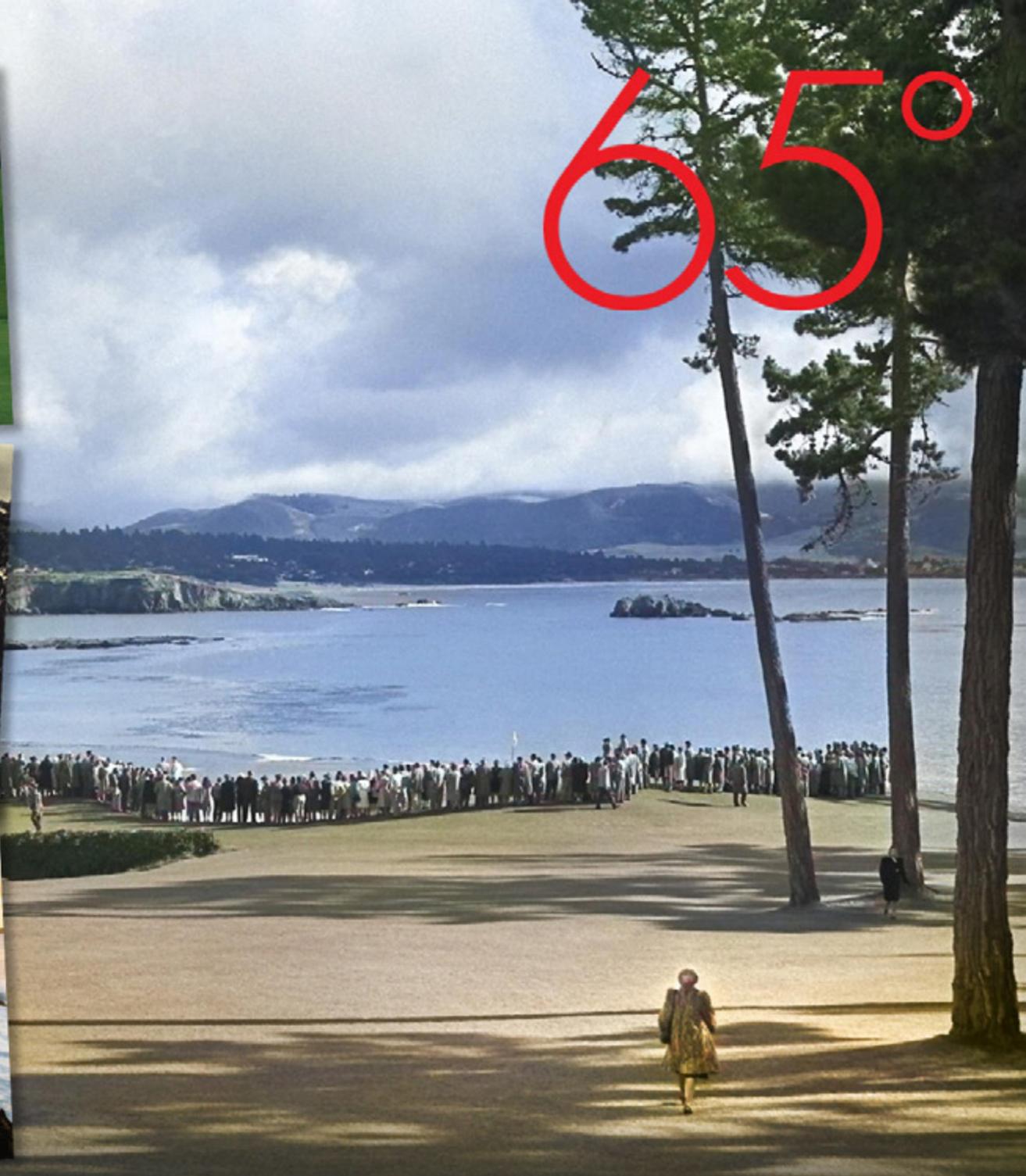


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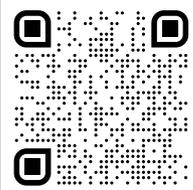
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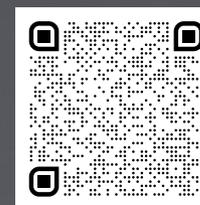
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Honoring a Daughter with Prom Dresses

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STAY

A Loving Blend of Past and Future

By Adam Joseph



Photos Courtesy of 65° Magazine

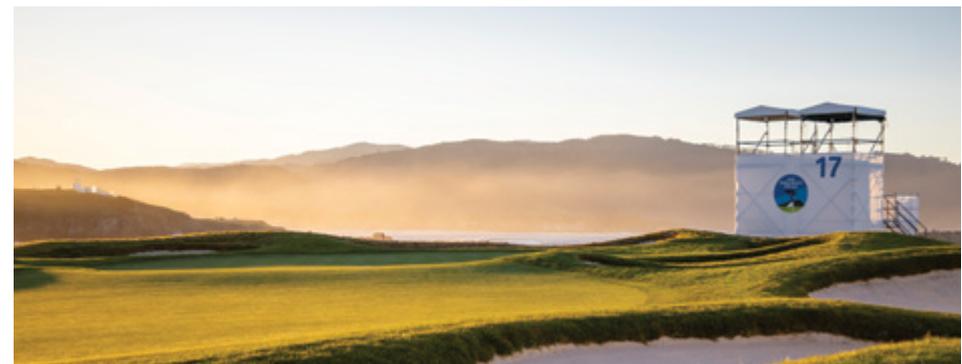


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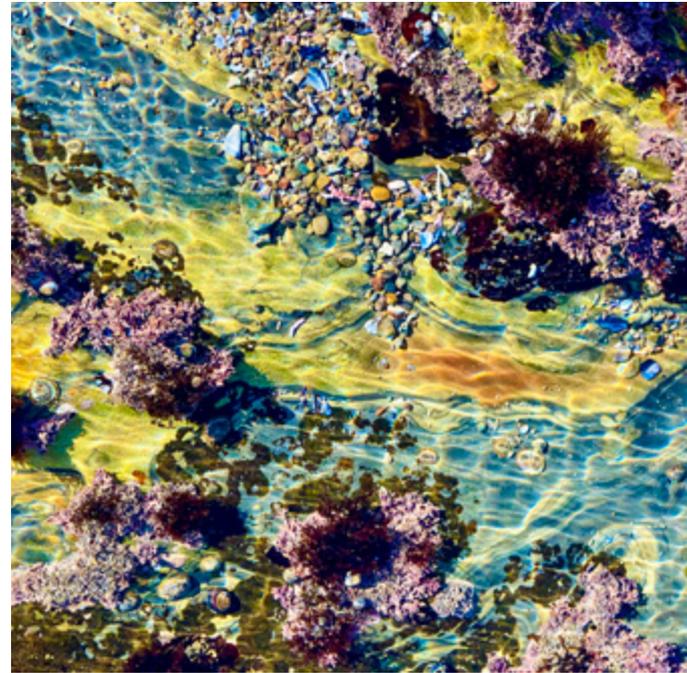
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Capturing Beauty in the Here and Now

By Rebekah Moan | Photos by Monica Vigna

For Monica Vigna, photography is about slowing down and seeing the beauty all around. When she was young, she went hiking and camping in the High Sierra, and that taught her to notice small details, which she started capturing on film at roughly age 14. She doesn't use sophisticated equipment and prefers her iPhone because her photo shoots aren't preplanned.

"They're instantaneous," she explains. "I never have a goal, but I always have my phone with me. There's so much material because I'm always seeing something. I capture moments that take my breath away and share them." What takes Vigna's breath away might not be noticed by others. It could be the movement of water, some textures, tide pools, or a dilapidated fence.

"I look at patterns, vistas, and movement," she says. "It's not intentional, it just comes upon me." Part of the magic of Vigna's photographs comes from her mindset when she's in nature. She approaches

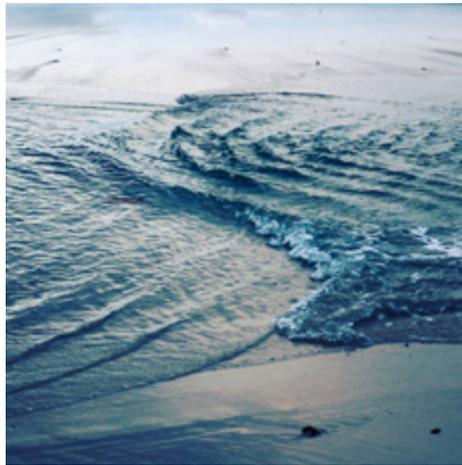
the great outdoors with openness, curiosity, and awareness. In doing so, she'll spot a heart-shaped rock or seaweed snaking across the beach.

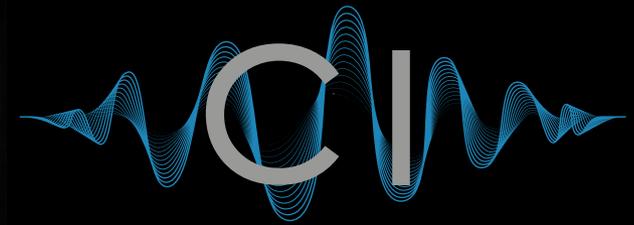
A self-taught photographer, Vigna started posting her images to Instagram and received a positive response. "People told me, 'I like what you're posting. You should do something with your images,' So I did," she says. She started hand printing cards and small prints, which are available at Beachwood Home; Blackbird Art and Design; Bee, Bark & Moss; Big Sur Vineyards; and The Lodge at Pebble Beach.

"Every day, I try to post something inspirational as a reminder to slow down and capture moments that are special," she says. "Part of my art is being present. We're moving

so fast, but there's so much beauty, if you stop and notice it."

For more information, follow Monica Vigna on Instagram at @Beinthenow1.





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Photo © Joann Dost









Santa Lucia Success Story

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos Courtesy of Hahn Family Wines

Cooled by the ever-reliable afternoon gusts sweeping in off Monterey Bay, the Santa Lucia Highlands claim a unique microclimate defined as much by the wind as the sunshine. The two elements battle on a near daily basis in this 18-mile expanse of east-facing alluvial benchland—early fog yields to warm, sunny mornings, which in turn concedes to chilly, windswept afternoons. Spanish missionaries first seized on the area’s fertile possibilities in the 1790s, planting vinifera wine grapes in its resilient soil, and the area thrived as a vegetable-growing region for the next two centuries.

In the late 1970s, just as Northern California was beginning to assert itself as a winemaking powerhouse on the world stage, a Swiss-born couple with a passion for wine arrived in Monterey County. Recognizing that the daily dance between fog, sun, and wind made the Santa Lucia Highlands the perfect place to grow premium wine grapes, Nicky and Gaby Hahn set about investing in the land and building a winery. In the process, they built a lasting family legacy and were instrumental in helping to establish the Santa Lucia Highlands as its own American Viticultural Area (AVA) in 1991.

Using grapes from their first two estate vineyards, Smith and Hook, the Hahns produced their inaugural vintage of commercially available wine in 1980. In the ensuing decades, they increased the vineyard holdings to nearly 1,100 acres, comprising six estate vineyards, two of which are in the nearby Arroyo Seco AVA, and then pivoted from producing cabernet and merlot to focus primarily on the varietals that grow best in their land: pinot noir and chardonnay.

“To bring a great wine to life, it all starts in the vineyard. I learned long ago it’s best to concentrate your efforts there,” says Paul Clifton, general manager

and vice president of winemaking, capturing the spirit of Hahn Family wines, which are defined by their intensity and complexity. With both pinot noir and chardonnay being notoriously finicky to produce in high quality, the Hahn Family winemakers incorporate artisanal techniques alongside the newest technology, always applied with a self-described fanatical attention to detail. The approach has earned the wines glowing reviews and wine scores in the 90s, not to mention a loyal following of enthusiasts who await their releases each year.

One of the first Santa Lucia Highlands wineries to have all its estate vineyards Sustainability in Practice Certified®, Hahn Family Wines operates under the belief that the health of the environment and the land contributes to the high quality of the wines. According to Philip Hahn, chairman of Hahn Family Wines and son of Nicky and Gaby Hahn, “Practicing sustainability forces you to pay attention to the details, to take note and evaluate every step from vine to bottle. By doing so, we improve the health and quality of our vines, our vineyards, our grapes, and ultimately our wines.”

With a second generation of family now at the helm, Hahn Family Wines offers a variety of wines at different price points and has come to be closely associated with the AVA they helped to establish. The winery recently made industry waves with news of its acquisition by another well-known family business, E. & J. Gallo Winery, in a deal noted to include the Smith & Hook, Hahn, and Hahn SLH brands of Hahn Family wines but not the vineyards. It’s an inspiring success story for a Northern California family business.

For more information, visit hahnwines.com.









The Real House Sellers of Carmel-by-the-Sea

Buyers and sellers of Carmel-by-the-Sea's luxury coastal properties know that Zak Freedman and Nicole Truskowski, a top Sotheby's International Realty team, have extensive knowledge of local gems, from ocean view estates to charming cottages.

They showcase homes from Pebble Beach to the Carmel Highlands, with unique offerings such as Golden Girl Betty White's Carmel beach house and listing and selling a \$40 million estate in the Highlands that broke the all-time local sales record.

The Truskowski-Freedman team has 45 years of combined real estate experience and a unique, added benefit: extensive experience in development and renovation. Truskowski and her interior design partner, Sheila Robinson, lead a team that has built Carmel estates from the ground up. Truskowski-Freedman's clients have exclusive access to the development group, giving them an advantage when preparing a home for market or remodeling after purchase.

The duo excels in "emotional intelligence" sales—they understand how to connect at a deeper level with their clients, matching client goals with the perfect lifestyle. Their in-depth knowledge of the community is showcased in the Estates of Carmel blog, which insightfully describes the nuances of the local scene.

One of their biggest challenges is helping nonlocals understand the rarity of inventory here. "The property may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and haste is essential," says Truskowski. "Getting folks up to speed quickly is imperative for our clients to succeed in this competitive market." On the listing side, both Truskowski and Freedman are innovative and nimble. They excel at launching a property to market and positioning it correctly, based on global economic conditions.

It doesn't get more local than these two. Freedman grew up in Carmel and graduated from Carmel High; he and his wife are raising their family in Carmel Valley. Once in a while, you can find him catching a wave at a local surfing hot spot. Truskowski has been a full-time resident of Carmel-by-the-Sea for 15 years. When she can squeeze it into her intense work schedule, she belts a backhand wallop on the tennis courts and perfects her swing on one of the world-class Monterey Peninsula golf courses.

For more information, visit estatesofcarmel.com.



★ CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA ★



Feed the Soul

By Andrea Stuart | Photos by Manny Espinoza



Vital communities require access to a variety of nutritious foods to thrive. Limited or uncertain access to safe and nutritious food—a condition known as food insecurity—impacts entire communities. Largely affecting vulnerable populations, food insecurity results in higher rates of diet-sensitive chronic conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, limited access to necessary medical care, as well as poor physical, emotional, and developmental outcomes. According to the Food Bank of Monterey County, a study conducted by University California San Francisco shows that hunger is costing Monterey County over \$65 million.

Monterey County, long referred to as “The Salad Bowl of the World,” ranks the highest among all of California’s 58 counties for food insecurity. Forty percent of Monterey County residents face food insecurity, which damages people’s health and undermines the community’s socioeconomic stability. Many residents must often choose between paying rent and eating.

The Food Bank of Monterey County works with 160 partners to get high-quality, fresh food to the people who need it. Hosting a range of nine programs, from free farmers markets and mobile produce pantries to weekly produce deliveries to children and seniors, The Food Bank distributes over 15 million pounds of food each year.

In December, The Ipsen family and The Pocket Carmel hosted Feed the Soul, a holiday kickoff event benefiting The Food Bank of Monterey County. Festivities took place in The Pocket Residences courtyard and featured curated food with world-class wines, specialty cocktails, live music, a silent auction, and a long-drive contest in The Pocket Residences’ golf simulator.

When the Pocket management team approached Kent Ipsen, president of both Skipolini’s Inc. and The Pocket Carmel Inc., about hosting a community giveback event, Ipsen jumped at the opportunity. “There is such a need for food in many of our underserved communities,” he says. “We thought that The Pocket Carmel and The Food Bank were a perfect handshake.”

The event raised over \$80,000 due to overwhelming generosity from local businesses and community support. “This event will surely be the hottest ticket in town next year, so plan ahead because tickets are limited.”

For more information about food insecurity in Monterey County, visit foodbankformontereycounty.org.

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Honoring a Daughter with Prom Dresses

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Susan Ramey Dakis

On the last night of Bella Zoe Dakis' life, the 16-year-old lent her prom dress to a young woman who couldn't afford to buy one. That act of kindness spawned Project PROM the Bella Zoe Experience.

On April 9, 2010, Dakis died in a car accident along with her best friend, Genevieve Giammanco. Giammanco's parents set up the Genevieve Giammanco Foundation, which provides scholarships for athletes, but Dakis' mother, Susan Ramey Dakis, wasn't sure what to do to honor her daughter. "While Bella played golf, she was not known for her athleticism or for being a studious student," says Ramey Dakis. "I couldn't think how to keep her memory alive."

But 13 years later, an idea emerged. "Bella never missed any school events, and it was her friendships where she excelled," says Ramey Dakis. "She gave her own prom dress away because she cared about her friends that much, and I wanted to continue giving back like she did." Prom is a special occasion that everyone remembers and symbolizes a rite of passage for youth, as they will soon be entering adulthood, explains Ramey Dakis. She created the Project PROM the Bella Zoe Experience nonprofit (which isn't attached to other project proms) so that youth in the Salinas Valley can have beautiful memories and experiences without worrying about the cost.

This was especially clear to Ramey Dakis after speaking with administration at Salinas High School, where her daughter attended school. She learned that a cluster of teenagers live in cars with their parents. "It broke my heart," she says. "I've been helped in the past, above and beyond anything I expected. I know what it's like to receive, and now it's time to give back."

Giving back in this instance means supporting teenagers who otherwise wouldn't be able to go to the prom by giving them free formal wear and

offering accessories. And Ramey Dakis isn't doing this alone—many people have been donating dresses, gift certificates for hair styling, manicures, and more. The high school is now considering opening its gym for people to shower, and Project PROM will provide soap, shampoo, and conditioner for those who need it.

In early March 2024, a pop-up shop in a to-be-determined location will be held, with racks of dresses, suits, and bowties, and nail polish and other accessories, to ensure that every prom accoutrement is provided. Ramey Dakis is continuing to accept clothing donation. As of this writing, she has 275 prom dresses. "It's amazing. It's just happening so easily," she says.

As for people who don't have formal attire to donate, they may purchase a dress or suit from the Project PROM Bella Zoe Experience Amazon wish list. Ramey Dakis hopes to receive 600 to 700 outfits, helping that many teenagers. "In my mind, every dress or suit will be used," she says.

The 2024 prom is the first that Ramey Dakis is supporting, and she hopes that it's the first of many. As part of fundraising for the nonprofit, an adult prom will be held on April 6 at Rustique Winery on River Road along with a taco truck and DJ. All proceeds will go directly to providing tickets for students to attend their proms.

"If something good happens in a community, it creates a domino effect," says Ramey Dakis. "If my Bella can make an impact on others, then her name will continue to live on, and she will always be remembered for how much she loved to pay it forward."

For more information, visit the [Project PROM the Bella Zoe Experience Facebook page](#).





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PERSONA

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The Olympian Next Door

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Marcus Greene

On a Thursday evening in October, Lauren Billys Shady wraps up another long day preparing for an international three-day eventing competition. It will be at Galway Downs in Temecula—a premier equestrian center on the short-list to host events during the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

“It’s the finale of our season,” says Billys Shady, who, between herself and the students that she helps train, has nine horses attending the competition. “And I have some bones to pick with Galway. I’m riding much better than a year ago.”

That is an understatement. Last summer, Billys Shady won the gold medal in three-day eventing at the Central American and Caribbean Games. The California native competes for Puerto Rico, and she earned the first gold in eventing for Puerto Rico. “[Winning gold] felt like a big elevation in my career,” she says. “I’m riding better this year than I’ve ever ridden. It’s an exciting time.” The gold medal joins other accolades, including being named the 2015 Puerto Rican Female Equestrian Athlete of the Year and competing in the 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Billys Shady took the reins of her equestrian potential early on, achieving her Olympic dream 20 years after taking her first riding lessons in Woodlake. She recalls setting her sights on the Olympics when she was in eighth grade, even though her parents, both doctors, did not own a horse or ranch. “I visualized being at the Olympics every single day until my 20s,” she says. “Finally getting there is hard to articulate. It’s the most addictive magic.”

Graduating at the top of her class at California State University, Fresno, Billys Shady double-majored in enology and chemistry. After placing 44th at the Rio Olympics, she considered pursuing a PhD in wine chemistry, but her future quickly became clear to her. “[Competing in

the Olympics] really sealed things,” she says. “I’m doing this forever.”

In 2015, Billys Shady relocated to Carmel-by-the-Sea to live and train closer to Bea and Derek Di Grazia, her mentors since college. Most days, she rides for 10 hours, developing the skills needed in all three of the disciplines of eventing.

The first discipline is dressage, or intricate horse “dancing,” where horse and athlete must demonstrate grace and cooperation. The second discipline, which occurs on day two, is cross-country, a steeplechase-like race with varying terrain requiring speed and accuracy. “When you’re galloping 25 miles an hour at a solid obstacle, life becomes very simple,” says Billys Shady with a laugh. The third and final day requires show jumping in an arena.

This horse triathlon, a grueling test of horse and rider that was originally used to test horse-mounted cavalry members, is risky and riveting, and it also can reveal deeper lessons. “Life doesn’t get easier, it just goes in waves of learning, getting better, and making mistakes,” says Billys Shady. “It’s the rhythm of life and of competing horses.”

Currently, Billys Shady is focused on long-term preparations for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Unlike other Olympians, she must take responsibility for training and raising money to support two athletes: herself and her horse. She is currently organizing funding and a team for the five-year journey of taking two horses to the Olympics.

At the Olympic Games, eventing features the oldest athletes and is the only co-ed sport. “There are people in their 60s. I’m just starting,” says Billys Shady. “Laying it all out there on the world stage with your best friend. If it goes bad or goes great, I always want to get back out again.”

For more information, visit laurenbillys.com.



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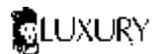
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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
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Aviation Access Unlocked

By Nora Heston Tarte | Photos Courtesy of MPI Jet

MPI Jet, a private jet services company based in Monterey, is bringing aviation to children across the county through a new partnership with local Boys & Girls Clubs.

In September 2023, MPI Jet hosted a creative drawing contest with third through eighth graders in the Seaside Chapter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County. Participants were asked to draw what it would look like if their dreams took flight. Some students drew images of themselves becoming teachers or influencers; others, inspired by a visit from local pilots, drew pictures related to aviation.

The idea was fueled by the passion that Matt McIntyre, co-owner of MPI Jet, has had since he was a child for the aviation industry and his desire to share that passion with children today. The point of the competition was to not only fuel the dreams of students but also make aviation accessible. For many, careers in aviation are hard to achieve, and many children aren't exposed to the industry and the opportunities it offers.

After the competition, the youth were invited to a BBQ at the aircraft hangar, where they toured MPI Jet's fleet of private aircraft and heard from female professionals who aspired to grow their careers in the aviation industry. Speakers talked about their respective paths in aviation and future goals.

"They were just ecstatic to be at the airport," Jessica Bronner, director of marketing for MPI Jet, says of the 50 children who visited. "Their curiosity was contagious, and witnessing their excitement for something new was truly inspiring." None of them had been on a private aircraft before, and a majority had not flown on a commercial flight. "I don't think I saw one kid without a smile on their face," says Bronner.

The efforts were the first of many between MPI Jet and the Boys & Girls Clubs. Bronner says they have plans to offer additional visits to members

from both local chapters and to offer scholarship opportunities for high school students to help fund flight school for those interested in becoming pilots.

For more information, visit mpijet.com.



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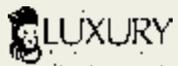
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Big Changes at the Pro-Am

By Adam Joseph | Photos by Marc Howard

“The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am is evolving in [2024],” says Lily Hansen, senior marketing manager for the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, the nonprofit that organizes the annual golf event and allocates the proceeds to local charities.

Evolution has been consistent since the 1937 inception of the Pro-Am, initially named the Bing Crosby Pro-Am. A decade after its birth in Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego County, it moved to the Monterey Peninsula—Crosby was already a member of Cypress Point Club—where it was unofficially rebranded as The Clambake.

It also had a different focus: supporting local businesses. The original concept of Crosby playing golf with his famous buddies, such as Dean Martin, stuck, resulting in an event that had mass appeal beyond golf fans. The Pro-Am has always attracted both golf lovers and celebrity chasers. Over the years, some of Hollywood’s most iconic stars have teed off at Pebble Beach.

“Here’s Jack Lemmon, about to hit that all-important eighth shot,” ABC’s Jim McKay reported during a live telecast in 1969. Bill Murray has become so much of a Pro-Am fixture that people ask questions during the rare years he hasn’t participated.

The 2024 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, scheduled for February 1–4, might mark the tournament’s most significant evolution yet.

Golf purists have been vying for years for the Pro-Am to become one of the PGA Tour’s eight Signature Events so that it would bring many more of the world’s best pro golfers to Pebble Beach. The rallying has paid off; the Pro-Am has been ushered in as one of 2024’s Signature Events, replacing the Phoenix Open. Many tweaks have been made to get there—it’s unknown whether these changes will be permanent or apply only to the 2024 event.

You will not see Bill Murray putting in fluorescent orange parachute pants on the greens. In fact, you won’t see any celebrity entertainers

and star athletes from other sports participating. There will also be fewer participants: 80 pros, down from the usual 156. And amateurs will play over two days instead of all four.

The event will occur at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Spyglass Hill Golf Course on Thursday and Friday and at Pebble Beach only on Saturday and Sunday. Monterey Peninsula Country Club’s Shores Course will not be used.

Meanwhile, the winner will receive 700 FedExCup points and \$3.6 million of a \$20 million total professional purse, enough to attract commitments from some of the game’s most dominant pros, including Rory McIlroy, Matt Fitzpatrick, and defending Pro-Am champion Justin Rose.

Tournament officials knew that the only way to lure more elite players—the complete roster has yet to be released—was increased prize money and a distraction-free weekend sans the likes of Aaron Rodgers and Justin Timberlake. For the first time, the Pro-Am’s central focus will be on the top players from the PGA Tour competing at Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill.

The Pro-Am has evolved, but its commitment to changing lives through charity remains strong. All proceeds will continue to support charities in communities in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. Throughout its 2022–2023 fiscal year, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation distributed nearly \$18 million through more than 200 grants across all categories of giving, including \$1 million for emergency relief to help people following the historic rainfall and flooding that devastated communities up and down the Central Coast.

Ghostbusters and *Groundhog Day* fans might disagree, but this is a massive win for the Pro-Am, Pebble Beach, and Monterey County.

For more informations, visit attpbgolf.com or montereypeninsulafoundation.org.





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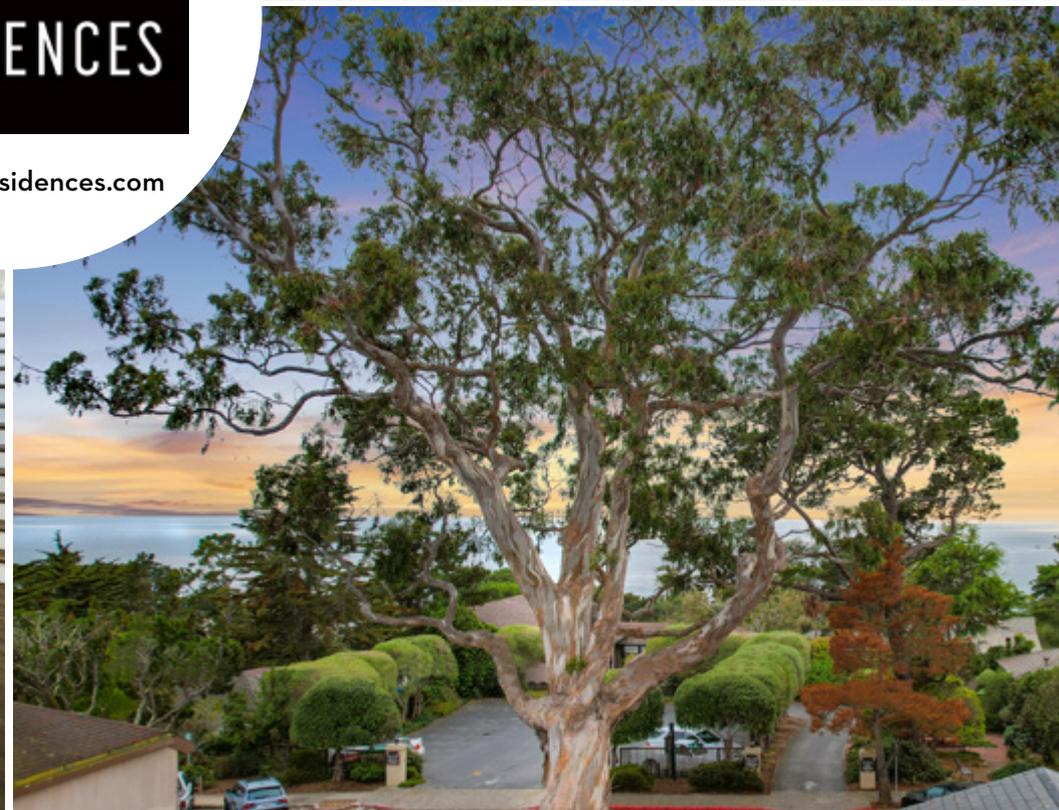
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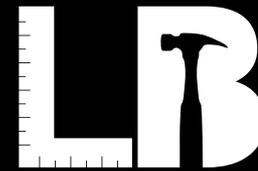


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Nature's Wonders from Inside River's End

By Rebekah Moan | Photos by Marlena Montaney

Crossing the threshold and stepping into the River's End home, you are immediately surrounded by elegant simplicity. The owners spent five years in collaboration with Ehrlich Yanai Rhee Chaney Architects (EYRC) to realize their dream. In 2023, their labor of love earned them the coveted California Honors Award of Architectural Housing Design from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the organization's highest honor.

The entire home was remodeled using the existing foundation to maintain its footprint in this sensitive coastal environment. "There is a sense that nature is within reach from every room," says Andrea (Andy) Nygard, Managing Partner of Haute Shelter Property Management, Inc., the company that manages this special property.

Floor-to-ceiling glass reveals views of the Carmel River Lagoon and the terminus of the Carmel River, complementing this three-bedroom, three-bath home. On days when the sun is shining, the glass walls fold into each other letting the gentle north westerlies fill the house with scents of the ocean.

Transit the series of cascading decks to reach the infinity pool that appears to be flowing right into the lagoon below. "The landscaping surrounding this home is completely natural, which creates a Zen-like harmony with both the exterior and the interior," says Nygard.

For those days when the coastal fog slips ashore and chills the air, you can pad around the house in bare feet, warmed by the in-floor radiant heat. Hot-water heaters are powered by a solar array on the roof, which also meets the home's other energy demands and includes an energy storage system.

"The home lives like a five-star resort, which fits nicely with the rest of our inventory of special properties," says Nygard. "We have wonderful and unique properties and this home is a great example.

For more information, visit hauteshelter.com/listings/rivers-end.

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A Loving Blend of Past and Future

By Adam Joseph | Photos by Chris Mottalini

A commemorative plaque hangs on one of La Playa Hotel's banquet rooms. It reads, "In this room, Steve Jobs unveiled the MacIntosh computer prototype during a development team retreat and ceremoniously christened it with a bottle of La Playa Carmel water."

La Playa was a favorite spot for Apple during the company's early years. According to Frank Rose, author of *West of Eden: The End of Innocence at Apple Computer*, things got a bit rowdy at the 1983 christening. There was skinny dipping and an impromptu beach bonfire—police eventually shut it down. The hotel operators at the time weren't pleased, and Apple was officially banned from La Playa until 2013 when the hotel's ownership changed. Classic Hotels & Resorts invited the tech giant back with a message: "All is forgiven."

Anecdotes such as this reveal the heart and soul that has powered this Grande Dame of Carmel-by-the-Sea and inspired creatives and innovators for over a century. The hotel's storied history—a balance of quiet meditation and decadent countenance—was a muse for Post Company, the award-winning design studio that recently completed a \$15 million renovation.

"We focused on letting the building lead us to a design that supports the stories of the past while infusing thoughtful amenities to meet the modern traveler's expectations," explains John Grossman, president of Marc & Rose (formerly Classic Hotels & Resorts). "We could not have transformed this property without the keen eye of Post Company, whose integrity and respect for the history of the building itself and the town of Carmel is beautifully embodied in the resulting design concept."

Post Company revitalized the historic 75-room resort with a modern design while keeping the charm of its past alive. It's an environment where guests are "welcome to celebrate and mingle as the hotel's past kindred spirits did while being able to experience every space as their own," says Grossman.

"Our design honors the hotel's history and vernacular while ushering in the works and objects of contemporary artists and muses," Jou-Yie Chou, Leigh Salem, and Ruben Caldwell, partners at Post Company, offered in a statement. "Each space is a singular and inviting design—much like the diverse cast of patrons and local characters engrained in its extensive past—resulting in an eclecticism that is a deeper reflection of what has always been and paves the way for a new generation to gather, create, and explore."

The playful amalgam of La Playa's bohemian history and a refreshing nod to the future begins in the lobby and public spaces, evoking an individual personality through nuanced materials and tones. Dark, intimate ceilings and terra-cotta floors framed by bright walls and lush plants bring the outdoors in. A grand fireplace and seating area anchor the main lobby; an adjacent sculptural staircase also conjures the beauty of the past. La Playa's grounds—views from the Pacific Terrace of Carmel Point and Monterey Bay are prevalent—invite exploration. Basket-woven brick paths, lit by lanterns at night, are throughout the property

Post Company approached Bud's Bar, a local institution, with the utmost respect for its past. The reimaged watering hole is a fusion of dark and moody, with splashes of brightness and mirrors with slight amber tones that reflect the dim lighting, emitting a warm glow. In addition to the Game Room and Breakfast Room, the 2,160-square-foot Pacific Room can host up to 200 wedding guests.

La Playa was built in 1905 by landscape painter Chris Jorgensen for his wife, chocolate heiress Angela Ghirardelli, initially as a personal artist's studio and retreat to foster creativity. More than 115 years later, Marc & Rose keep the couple's original intention alive in every nook and cranny throughout the hotel.

For more information and bookings, visit laplayahotel.com.



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And the Light Washes Everything

By Chris and Maria Fafard, Annandale, Virginia

As the sea washes the rocky shore, wave by wave
storm by storm, we are washed of the city-busy
in each crashing minute.

In each piercing cry of seabirds
in each blue of sea against a blue of sky
in each bottomless rattle of stone in the surf
in each draught of sage or redwood bark
in each mist of morning teasing light,
our senses are shocked into presence,
even into immanence.

Our hearts are made new each time we visit,
as the sea washes the rocky shore,
and the light washes everything.

There's something about the pacific slope sun. It seems to infuse everything—the rocks and the trees, wildflowers and bright birds, the otters and even the ocean waters so cold—with an inner light. This includes the people—docents and members—of the Point Lobos Foundation, who epitomize the warmth and ease we always find in the folks of the West Coast.





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VIN.
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VIN.

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Pouring Fine Wines and Imported Gems

By Rebekah Moan

The only tasting room in Carmel to feature exclusive wines from all over California including Napa, Sonoma, and Paso Robles, plus imported gems from France, Italy, Spain, and Germany, VIN presents a highly curated collection of 100-plus small production wines. Each one is available via tasting flights, by the glass, or by the bottle, along with a variety of accompanying lite bites.

Considered Carmel's premier bottle boutique, VIN boasts an ever-changing list of wines to pique the palate of local and visiting wine enthusiasts. Guests and Winetourage Club members are treated to a variety of events each month, such as Meet the Winemaker, Live Music Sundays, and oyster and caviar pop-ups, along with private parties and charity events.

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For more information, visit vinbarcarmel.com.

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Nestled in the heart of Carmel-by-the-Sea, the Manzoni Cellars tasting room offers an inviting experience for wine enthusiasts. The spacious tasting room offers guests their choice of a private setting, the large wine bar, or outdoor seating on the patio overlooking lush gardens and the fountain.

Known for its exceptional wines, Manzoni Cellars' offerings include estate wine from the Heart of the Highlands and neighboring areas. Each sip tells a story, a testament to the artistry of winemaking that defines this coastal gem. The Manzoni tasting room prides itself with exceptional hospitality and in providing each guest with an outstanding tasting experience.

Beyond the regular offerings, Manzoni Cellars hosts special and private events that elevate the wine experience. From exclusive wine pairings to group guided tastings, every event is crafted to provide an immersive journey into the world of wine. The spacious venue allows for intimate gatherings, ensuring that each event is a celebration of both the wine and the hosted group.

In this haven that is Carmel-by-the-Sea, every glass of Manzoni wine reflects the vineyard's excellence as well as the spirit of community brought together by a shared love of exceptional wine.

For more information, visit manzoniwines.com, email Manzoni.wines@gmail.com, or call the tasting room at 831-620-6541.



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Intimate, Elevated Tastings

By Nora Heston Tarte

In 2021, Bernardus Winery revamped its approach to hosting wine tastings. Instead of a dynamic, standing room only bar setting, tastings are now offered as a relaxed experience where guests are invited to sit in the courtyard patio or inside as they sip through four two-ounce pours of single vineyard estate wines (wines that cannot be found in stores or restaurants).

While it started as a way to accommodate COVID-19 regulations and keep guests safe, the tasting format remained long after the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention restrictions were lifted. Walk-ins are welcome; however, making a reservation ensures a hassle-free, personalized experience.

“It’s a lot calmer, and people enjoy it more,” says Heather Rammel, tasting room manager at Bernardus Winery. Among the award-winning wines featured this winter is the 2015 Marinus, a bordeaux blend that won Top Red Wine at the Texas Rodeo Wine Competition against 8,000 other entries.

In addition to wine quality, what sets Bernardus apart is the staff’s knowledge, says Rammel. Bernardus Winery is conscientious about employing individuals with a high-level of wine knowledge, of Monterey County overall, and of Bernardus. As a result, the tasting experience is imbued with a personal touch and allows the guests to learn about the wines and where they were grown.

Wine club members taste for free at all Bernardus wine tastings with an unlimited number of tastings each year for up to four guests. Members also benefit from discounted event tickets and two complimentary annual events that are open to club members only.

To learn more or inquire about membership, visit [Bernardus.com](https://www.bernardus.com).



THE ANNEX

AT SEVENTH & DOLORES

CARMEL • CALIFORNIA

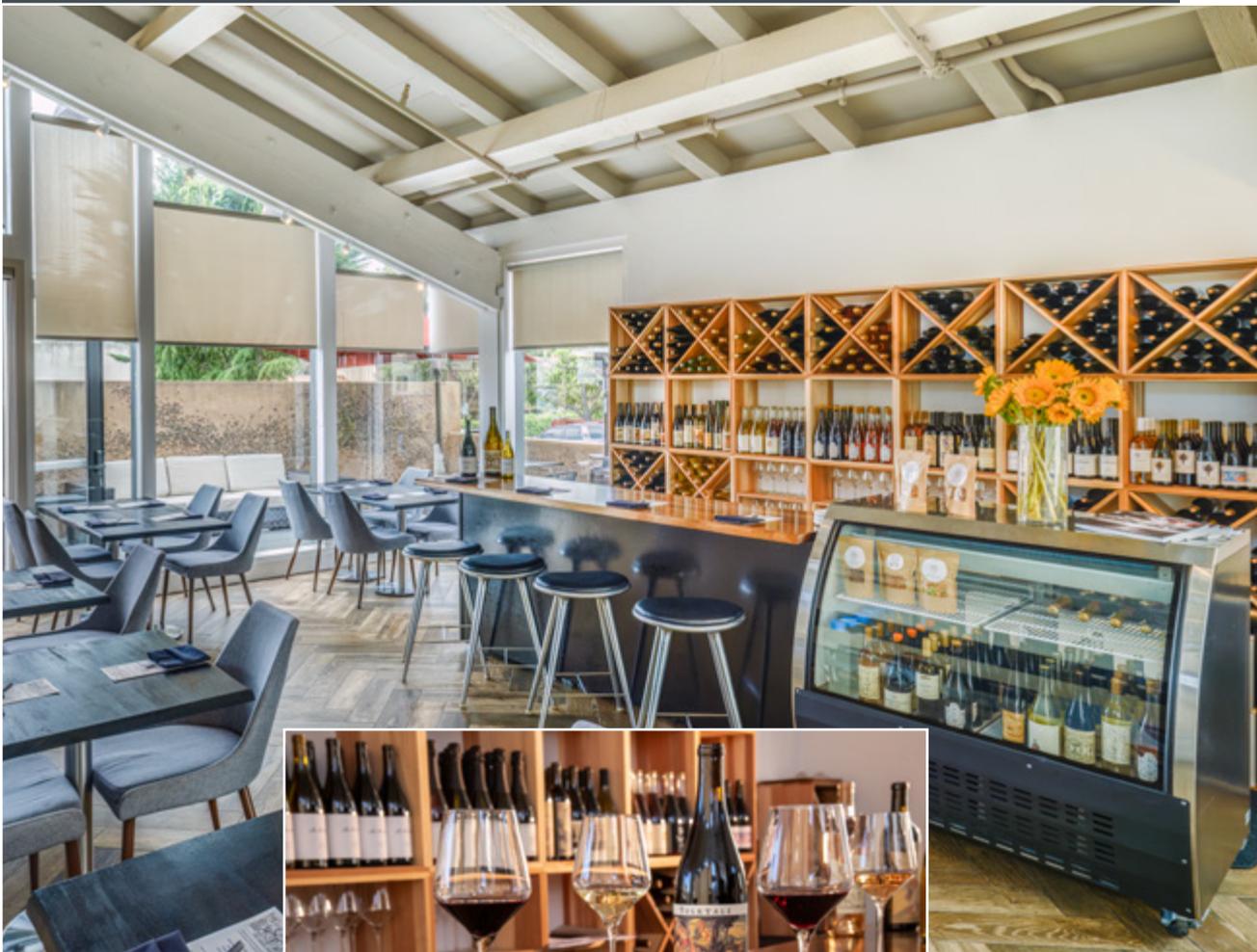
The Annex Wine Bar is the newest addition to Carmel's vibrant wine scene. An extension of two culinary institutions, Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse and the popular Folktale Winery, both owned by Greg and Madigan Ahn, The Annex resides inside of the transformed community room behind Seventh & Dolores. A contemporary wine bar, The Annex is perfect for hanging out, discovering wines, and enjoying great food.

The focus is on Folktale's award-winning wines, yet The Annex also draws from the extensive restaurant wine list for global offerings. Wines are paired with upscale delights from the Michelin-recognized kitchen. Guests looking for small plates, a delicious lunch, or a relaxed happy hour will soon become fans of The Annex's quaint, comfortable wine café atmosphere. Management has brought back the long-missed, glorious 7D burger, another guest favorite in addition to the steak tartare and oysters paired with Folktale's crisp sparkling rosé.

Since The Annex opened in fall 2023, Folktale Wine Club members have turned it into downtown's place to be. The interior is comforted by a modern fireplace and friendly staff. It also has a charming wrap-around patio warmed by heaters and a fire pit.

"We wanted to make the community room into a place for everyone, with exquisite food and wine," says Greg Ahn.

To learn or inquire about membership, visit theannexcarmel.com



The Annex Wine Bar

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To taste the award-winning wines yourself, travel to the one-of-a-kind tasting room in Carmel. Located just 1.5 blocks off Ocean Avenue, the tasting room is located in a cozy cottage that opens up to the sights and sounds of downtown. The extensive wine portfolio features many single varietal wines, unique blends, and sparkling and dessert wines. You can pair the wine with locally sourced small bites while you're at it.



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Acacia Apartments Parkland Setting and Herb Garden

Working with Judy Glanville of AG Davi and their team, Greenscape California recently completed a major landscape renovation for the residents living in the Acacia Apartments in Salinas, California.

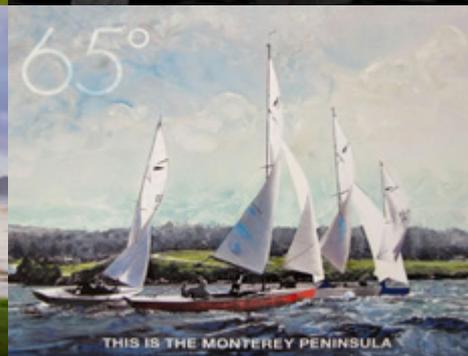
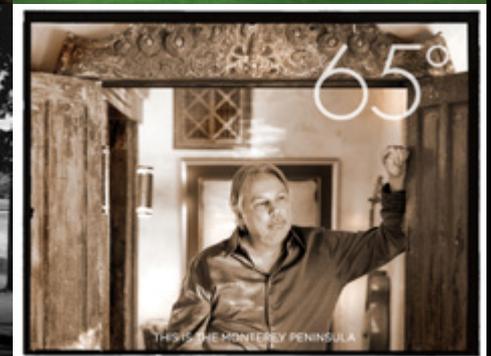
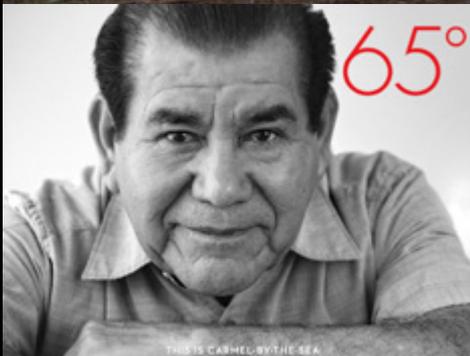
“The Landlord desired to create an outdoor living space that was both inviting and beneficial for the residents,” says David Bach, owner of Greenscape CA. “Working with Judy and the AG Davi team was fun and very helpful in developing the overall design plan.”

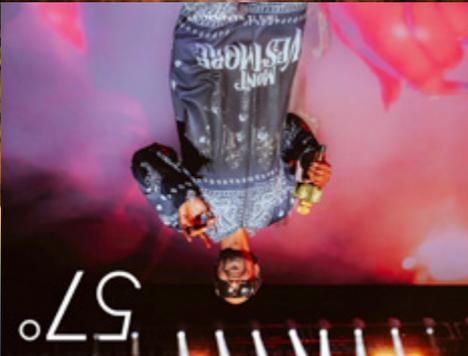
The residents are thrilled with the new space and the Herb Garden, which, allows them to grow their own vegetables and teaches their children how to create a more eco-friendly lifestyle. “We always enjoy win-win outcomes, and this was definitely one of them!”



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57° DEPARTMENTS

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ART

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VACAY

Whale Watching in Comfort

By Rebekah Moan

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel

The Monterey Peninsula is warming up for this winter's Pebble Beach AT&T Pro-Am, which means golf clubs will soon swing, and crowds will gather along the Pebble Beach greens in anticipation. But this year looks a little different. Ushered in as a 2024 Signature Event—big news—the Pro-Am has a few changes up its sleeves. Wait until you read about the exciting things ahead.

When you can't hit the links, sometimes the perfect antidote for a chilly winter day is a glass of wine. Whether sipping a glass fireside, relaxing on a patio in the crisp air, or toasting at a table with friends, wine warms the spirit with its tannins and enlivens the mood with stories imbued in its flavors.



This issue, we're featuring some of the peninsula's signature wine tasting rooms. From local to imported wines, the area offers tasting experiences for a variety of palates and preferences. We also take you inside Robert Mondavi Winery's new Arch & Tower riverside tasting room in downtown Napa. And you'll get a peek at Orin Swift's rock-paper-scissors themed tasting experience at their new tasting room in St. Helena. If you're curious about how best to get around from winery to winery, read up on Glidesdale Adventures, Napa Valley's unique electric glider bike winery tour experience.

If a charitable touch warms your heart, we think you'll enjoy the story about Project PROM the Bella Zoe Experience. Founded by Susan Remey Dakis, the organization was created in the memory of her daughter Bella Zoe Dakis, a generous young soul whose spirit lives on in the project's mission.

Finally, peek at La Playa's \$15 million renovation, and take a ride with Olympic equestrian Lauren Billy as she shares what life looks like at 25 miles per hour while riding toward an object.

We hope you stay warm as you sip, savor, and socialize. Cheers!

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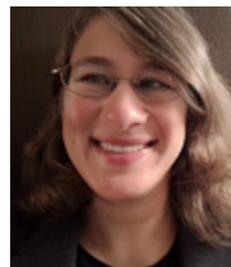
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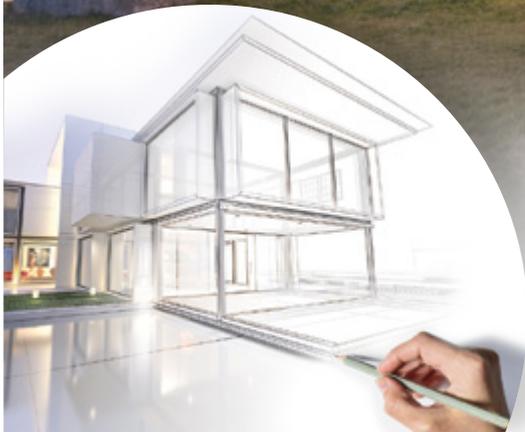
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Multi-Dimensional Living Gallery

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of ÆRENA Galleries & Gardens

While meandering through ÆRENA Galleries & Gardens' sculpture garden at the luxury hotel Auberge du Soleil, one might find a gigantic eggbeater stretching up over 10 feet in height. David Tanych's massive steel with rust patina sculpture is one of 70 works by 30 artists featured amid a grove of heritage olive and oak trees.

One of the top two galleries in Napa and Sonoma, ÆRENA Galleries & Gardens is known not only for its large sculptures but also for its paintings. That's unusual, in that most galleries tend to focus more on one art form. Michael Polenske, creative director, chairman, and founder of ÆRENA Galleries & Gardens, says, "We like to showcase pieces that illustrate beautiful craftsmanship and put a smile on your face."

That's abundantly clear from pieces such as Tanych's as well as Lizabeth Eva Rossof's Lieutenant Batman, a 21-inch play on Chinese terra-cotta warriors in which Batman's head sits on a Chinese warrior's body.

"Buyers like playful pieces, but they also want landscapes that remind them of their time in Napa," says Polenske. Landscapes, be they abstract or more realistic, are some of ÆRENA's biggest sellers. The artists are mid-career and established. Some are local to Napa or Sonoma, and others live elsewhere, including abroad.

The way that ÆRENA presents its pieces sets it apart from other galleries. Instead of a traditional white wall gallery, ÆRENA uses a "living gallery" concept, where 2D artwork is interspersed with 3D pieces, antiques, and vintage furnishings. It displays authentic antique and vintage pieces in a living room, library, or office setting, so that art connoisseurs may purchase not only a painting but also perhaps a desk, a chair, a set of bowls, and more.

"One of our biggest collections in particular is mid-century modern [i.e., 1950s and 60s], which is very much in vogue right now," says Polenske. "There's been a big renaissance with that." Related to mid-century modern furnishings is ÆRENA's Modern Masters collection, which includes works from Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and other blue-chip artists of that ilk who are recognized on a global scale. "We don't represent those artists or their estates, but we have access to pieces from the secondary market," says Polenske. "It's a good part of the business we do."

People interested in ÆRENA's offerings don't have to make a special trip to Napa. They may also browse the company's website or visit online art marketplaces.

For more information, visit aerenagalleries.com.



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Home Away from Home

By Timothy J. Narup | Photos by Drew Altizer

Family House, a charitable organization that lends support to families of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, held its 27th Annual Cabernet for Connoisseurs at Silverado Resort in Napa. The event honored Pamela and George Hamel of Hamel Family Wines while raising close to \$1 million.

Providing temporary housing to families of seriously ill children who receive treatment at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Benioff Children's Hospital, Family House was founded in 1981 as a nonprofit organization. It strives to provide family-centered care for all patient families.

While families of children undergoing bone marrow transplants, chemotherapy, and radiation are the most common guests, families of children facing other life-threatening childhood illnesses may also join the program. The organization provides a supportive community and a caring environment for the entire family while the child undergoes treatment, and its residence is just a short walk to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Mission Bay.

Providing 80 bedrooms, each with an en-suite bathroom, the 92,000-square-foot LEED-certified Platinum building hosts a 9,000-square-foot outdoor courtyard providing families the space they need to get in exercise, a Teen Room that offers a hangout for older children, family parking, communal living, dining, laundry facilities, and Fozzy's Toy Room. These amenities help families feel more at home during their critical time away.

Attended by 250 people, this year's celebratory event provided exquisite gourmet dinners, exceptional wines, and well-organized live auctions that were not to be missed. Attendees wore the desired attire, titled "White with a Splash of Red." A highlight of the evening was provided by the Grammy® Award-winning band Train, with lead singer Pat Monahan and instrumentalist Jerry Becker especially pleasing the crowd as they performed one of their most popular songs, "Calling All Angels."

For more information, visit familyhouseinc.org/cabernet-for-connoisseurs-2.

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What are the advantages of a 1031 exchange?

Potential to defer capital gains tax: This is the biggest advantage of a 1031 exchange. When properly structured by the 1031 exchange company and your tax advisor you may have the opportunity to defer federal and state capital gains taxes until such time as the business is sold outright.

Increased purchasing power: The fact that you may be able to minimize your capital gains tax on the sale of your property means that you may have more money to invest in your replacement property. This may allow you to buy a more expensive property, or to buy multiple properties.

Flexibility: May be used for a variety of purposes such as upgrading to a larger or more expensive property or diversifying your portfolio.

To navigate 1031 exchanges effectively, it's crucial to follow specific steps, and I'm here to provide assistance throughout the entire process.

Some possible examples of how California real estate investors can benefit from 1031 exchanges:



- A landlord who owns a single-family home in a high-growth area may exchange it for a multi-family apartment building in a lower-cost area, generating more income and increasing their net worth.



- A commercial property owner can exchange their aging office building for a new industrial warehouse, taking advantage of the growing demand for e-commerce space.



- A real estate developer may exchange a vacant lot for a piece of land with existing zoning approvals, accelerating their development timeline.



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Pick Your Own Wine Tasting Experience

By Rebekah Moan | Photos by Dan Quinones

Orin Swift Cellars in St. Helena has created a fun, accessible, collaborative, and unpretentious new tasting experience based on the game rock-paper-scissors. The newly opened tasting room offers something for everyone, whether it is at the bar or tucked away in a speakeasy lounge.

The *rock* portion is the basic tasting experience. For \$40 per person, the 45-minute standing tasting at the bar introduces guests to several Orin Swift wines. The next level, *paper*, costs \$60 per person and is seated. Lasting an hour, this tasting dives deep into Orin Swift's most artistically crafted wines and the stories that inspired their creation.

Not a part of the rock-paper-scissors theme but included in Orin Swift Cellar's tasting is the vault experience. For \$80 per person, guests experience a 75-minute seated tasting that showcases the best of the label's wines, featuring magnums and library selections meticulously aged to perfection. The extended tasting time allows visitors to fully immerse themselves in the nuances and stories behind each wine. The vault is only offered Fridays through Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The most private tasting experience is *scissors*. Upon arrival, guests are greeted by a host who guides them to a tucked-away, speakeasy-style lounge. At \$125 per person, visitors can sample Orin Swift's most exclusive wines and hear the stories behind each. Orin Swift founder Dave Phinney expounds on the creative process behind the wines, and each scissors experience is curated based on guests' preferences and palates, so it will look and feel different for everyone.

"I have pored over the details of every inch of this space—from the naming of the experiences to the art and décor, and the wines and

stories," says Phinney. He designed the tasting venue from floor to ceiling. He thrifted furniture, reclaimed wood, and reused metal fixtures for design elements. He also restored an Art Deco facade from the building's past life that he discovered during construction. "My goal in putting together the original Orin Swift tasting room was to find the right natural components for the space that integrated well together," he says. "It just so happens that the materials were stone, metal, and wood."

The new tasting room is one for exploration and lingering, says Phinney, and he wants people to uncover layers of design in addition to layers of complexity in the winemaking. Phinney is well-versed in the complexity of winemaking and first learned about wine in 1995, when he spent a semester studying abroad in Florence, Italy. Once he learned how wine was made, he was hooked. After graduating from college, he became a field worker for Robert Mondavi Winery in Napa Valley to immerse himself in the world of wine. He studied every area of wine production that he could and applied it to his own wine label, Orin Swift Cellars, in 1998. The name stems from his father's middle name, Orin, and his mother's maiden name, Swift.

Phinney prizes family connection and hopes that Orin Swift Cellars will become a multigenerational brand. "I love the idea of people passing on their affinity for Orin Swift wines," he says. "We hope to build relationships and foster advocacy for many years to come."

For more information, visit orinswift.com.







Mount Veeder Estate

In the heart of Napa Valley, a Mount Veeder estate boasting architectural brilliance, premium cabernet vineyards, and panoramic views, awaits new owners. Offered for \$22 million, this 130-plus acre property spans two legal parcels, stands as a testament to innovative design and artistic synergy, and is on the market for the first time in over 20 years.

The villa residence serves as the focal point, defying convention while blending modernism, art deco, and deconstructivism in a sculptural masterpiece. Designed by UK architect David Connor, the main residence is a white monument on a lush lawn with a striking Fletcher Benton *Folded Circles* sculpture. Featured in prestigious architectural publications, the residence has hosted luminaries, including the Dalai Lama.

Inside, angular lines and a dark marble foyer set an unforgettable tone. The villa comprises four bedrooms, four and one-half bathrooms, a library/office, a gym, and captivating dining and entertaining spaces. The main living area offers iconic views framed by a 360-degree

“eagles’ nest” guest tower, the tallest structure in Napa County.

Between these architectural marvels, an inviting swimming pool serves as a tranquil oasis. Enhancing the allure, eight-plus acres of meticulously tended cabernet vineyards produce award-winning wines. The property includes an updated caretaker’s home on an adjoining parcel.

This estate weaves a narrative of contrasts—bold and understated, classic and avant-garde—and offers extraordinary possibilities to its next owner. Ideal for art lovers, collectors, and those who appreciate stunning architecture, commanding views, and fine wines, the Mount Veeder estate is an architectural masterpiece.

The offering includes the villa, guest tower, pool, eight-plus acres of cabernet vines, caretaker’s home, two-vehicle garage, log cabin, and ample water. The package also comprises the iconic Benton sculpture, an extensive estate wine library, and the promise of a lifestyle defined by architectural grandeur and Napa Valley’s finest wines.

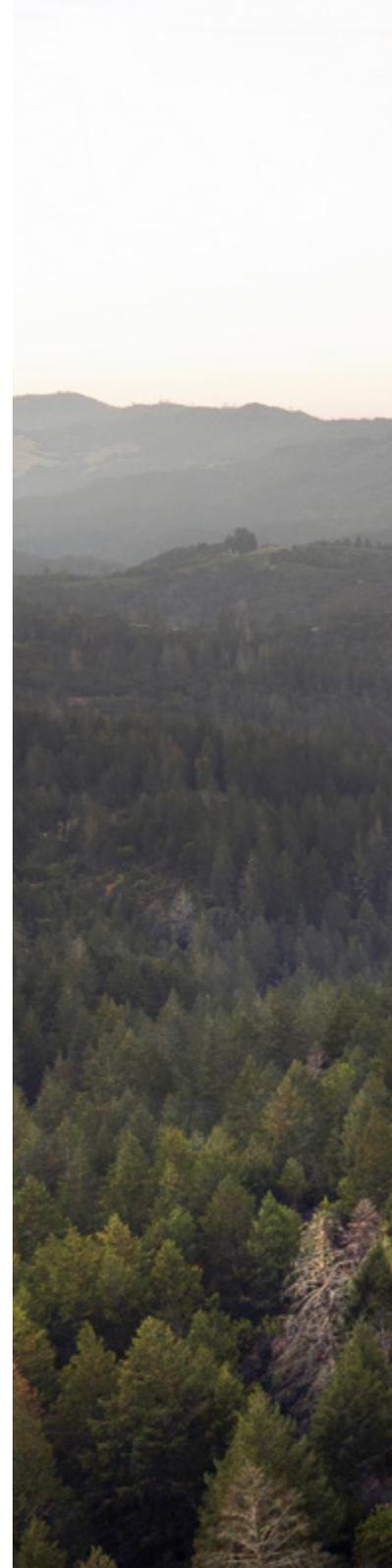


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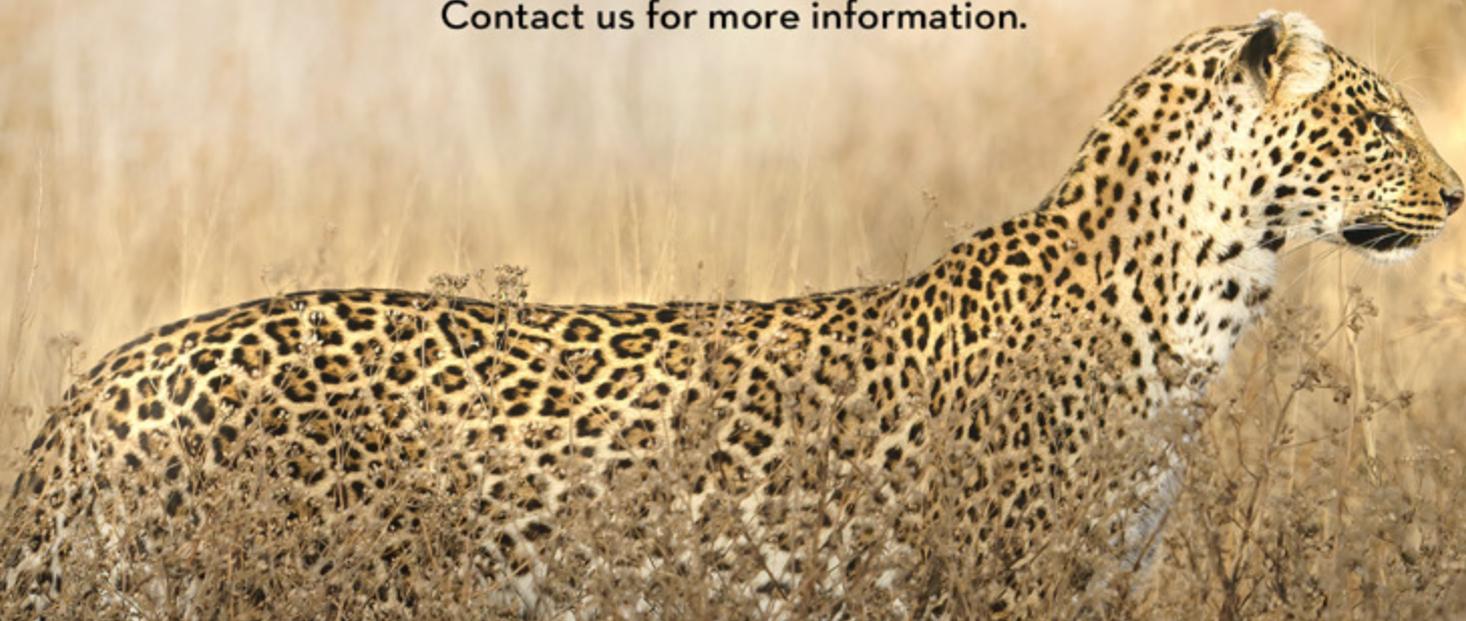




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A Taste of Tuscany

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Kenwood Inn & Spa

Kenwood Inn and Spa, located in the Sonoma Valley, is a place that guests return to over and over, according to General Manager John Kennedy. “It’s one of those true destination properties that, once you walk in, you’re transported somewhere else,” he says. “Every guest is taken on a tour of the property, and once they see the landscaping, the fruit trees, and the courtyards, their jaws drop.”

Since it opened in 1989 as a bed and breakfast, the property has matured over the years such that the landscaping is fully developed and the avocado, pear, fig, and apple trees all bear fruit. That’s in addition to flowers bursting into bloom and ivy snaking up columns. Starting in 2017, Kenwood Inn and Spa became a property of Four Sisters Inn, which owns 17 distinctive inns and small hotels throughout California. Despite the change in management, Kenwood Inn and Spa remains true to its roots and continues to attract repeat clients.

Some guests visit more frequently—every month—whereas others return to celebrate vacations or anniversaries. Recently, one couple who was married at Kenwood Inn and Spa 10 years ago checked in, was shown to their room, and remarked, “This is the room we had on our wedding night!” They started tearing up. One of them pulled out a phone and showed Kennedy what the room looked like before the property underwent its major renovation in June 2023. “It made me feel so happy to know we didn’t take away a memory but enhanced a memory,” says Kennedy.

The two-and-a-half-acre property is reminiscent of Mediterranean villas found in Tuscany, as Kenwood Inn and Spa overlooks rolling vineyards, lush orchards, and ancient oaks. The 2023 renovation included upgrading the interior and exterior, revamping all of the public spaces, expanding the spa, and new furniture everywhere.

Besides the luxurious accommodations, guests can enjoy trickling fountains, verdant greenery, sparkling pools, and lounge chairs, as well as bistro tables for semiprivate moments. “We paid homage to what was here before, but we also elevated the entire experience to make it modern, fresh, and appealing,” says Kennedy.

The number of guestrooms and suites (29) has remained the same, and so have the separate entrances that ensure a private experience for all visitors. Now, though, guests may book themselves a couples massage, choose from more food and beverage options, and soon, schedule facials as well as body treatments. What hasn’t changed is that every guest is greeted with a beverage and fresh-baked cookies upon arrival.

There’s not much reason to leave Kenwood Inn and Spa, with its extensive gourmet menu, afternoon wine hour, and spa services. But for guests who would like to make dinner reservations or go sightseeing, a concierge can help with the planning.

Kennedy says that what makes Kenwood Inn and Spa such a special place is the attention to detail and the white glove service for every guest. Staff are available 24 hours a day to help guests with whatever they need. “People are genuinely excited when they come here, and that makes us feel appreciative of the environment and the property,” says Kennedy. “We take good care of the property, and it takes good care of the guests.”

For more information, visit kenwoodinn.com.

Lenny Kravitz
LENNY KRAVITZ

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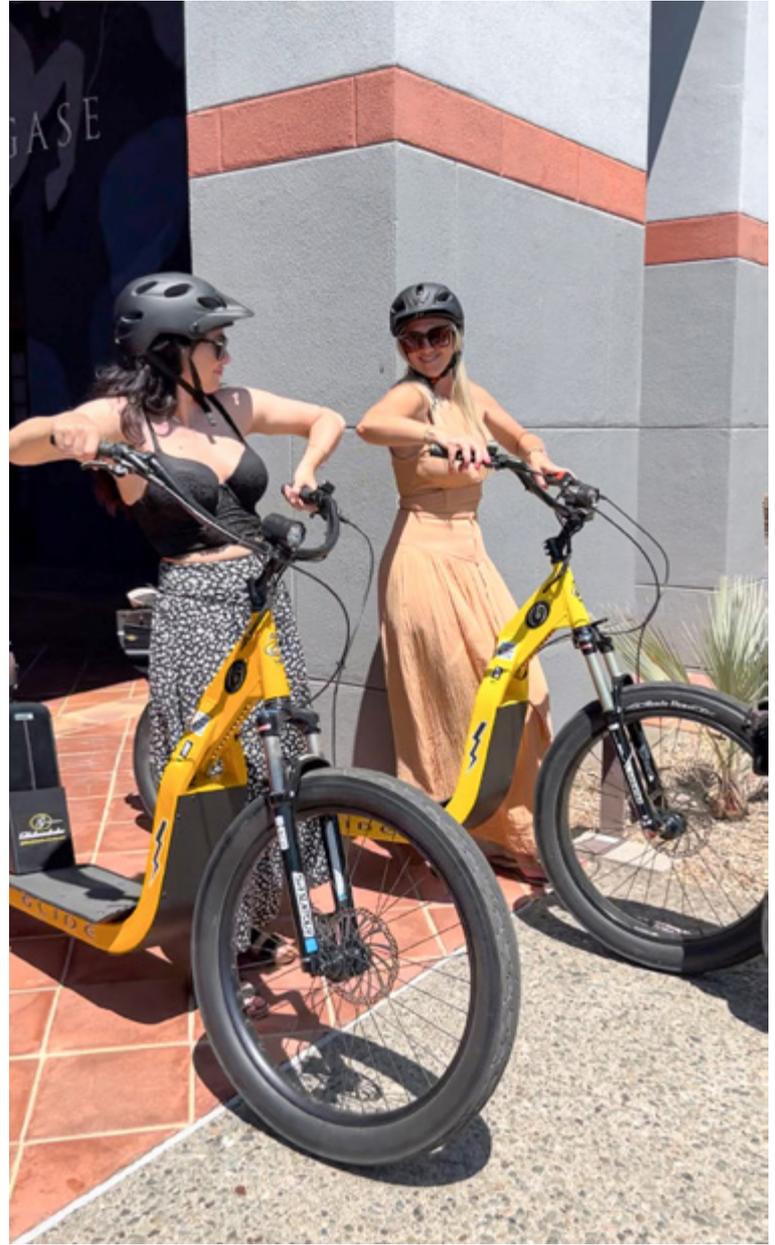


THE ART OF WINE...

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A Glided Tour through Napa Valley

By Elizabeth Davis Reynard | Photos Courtesy of Glidesdale Adventures

Glidesdale Adventures, the electric glider bike operator in Napa Valley, was born after founder Steve Hatalla grew weary of seeing tired and hot bicyclists pedal around the Valley. Confident that he could create an experience that allowed for winery visits while enjoying the beauty of Napa alfresco, the glider was born. “I’ve often said it sounds romantic to do a wine bike tour . . . until you have to pedal!” says Hatalla.

Determined to develop a unique product, Hatalla called upon an inventor friend based in Sacramento, and together they created the electric gliders from the ground up. Now patented, the Glidesdale gliders took nearly six years to build and were launched in late 2019. American made and eco-friendly, the bikes are speedy, reaching up to 20 mile per hour and placing them in the type 2 e-bike category.

A day with Glidesdale Adventures includes being hosted by three wineries, indulging in a gourmet picnic lunch, and gliding around the Valley on a personally guided tour that is led by the founder. “I’ve met people from all over the world on my tours—Australia, Argentina, Chile, Israel, Ukraine,” says Hatalla.” It’s the best part of the job.”

First launched in 2020, Glidesdale Adventures is cruising along, with all-day tours offered in Calistoga and in downtown Napa. Plans are to expand the leisure business to include a variety of tours and a presence in Sonoma County. The gliders are now being used by the Berkeley and Fairfield police departments, and Hatalla envisions more gliders and fewer cars in our future. “I have the coolest company that no one has ever heard of!” he exclaims. That’s about to change.

For more information, visit glidesdalenapa.com.

Editor's Winter Sipper

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Highest Beauty Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon

Appearance: Deep ruby

Aromas: Dark cherry, bay leaves, rose, and vanilla

Flavors: The wine is rich in dark fruit, including blackberries and plum, with notes of cacao, leather, and cassis. Velvety tannins, minerality, and high acidity lend the wine to a long, graceful finish. Open now, then open a bottle every year for the next two decades.

—Jeremy Stuart, CSW, CWAS



Editor's Experience

Pairing: Wine-braised beef short ribs with sautéed mushrooms, rustic herbed potatoes, and butternut squash soup complement the wine's full-bodied mouthfeel. —*Courtesy of Renee Saia*

Find the recipe at [Instagram.com/yogidrea](https://www.instagram.com/yogidrea)



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Celebrating Darioush

By Timothy J. Narup | Photos by Alexander Rubin

Proprietors Darioush and Shahpar Khaledi of Darioush Winery, located in Napa Valley, celebrated the winery's twenty-fifth anniversary by holding a dinner series from June to September to acknowledge this important milestone in developing and successfully growing their business. The dinner menu was provided by Executive Chef Sean Massy and featured creative seasonal dishes paired with the winery's earliest vintages of cabernet sauvignon, shiraz, and the estate's most loved, Darius II.

Setting roots in Napa, California, in the late 1970s, the couple worked hard to establish Darioush Winery, focusing on Bordeaux and Rhone varietals grown in Napa Valley's southern appellations, realizing that cooler temperatures combined with the diverse soils could bring complexity to the wines. They currently own 120 vineyard acres spanning Mt. Veeder, Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley, and Coombsville American Viticultural Areas and employ 30 hospitality hosts with Wine & Spirit Education Trust Levels II and III certifications as well as multiple diploma-level sommeliers to complement their extensive culinary tasting experiences.

Darioush Winery is well known for its individualism, ambition, and complexity in making wine, setting the standard for modern luxury, fine wine, and impeccable hospitality by intertwining old-world traditions with today's winemaking. Come visit—it's truly an experience not to be missed.







Rooted in Community

By Atissa Manshoury | Photos Courtesy of Jeri Hansen

For Jeri Hansen, connecting to the land started at an early age, during her childhood spent in and around Sonoma County among generations of cattle ranchers. Her grandfather managed the actor Fred MacMurray's famed ranch in Healdsburg, and she and her family showed registered Black Angus cattle at fairs and expositions across the country. "I had some of my best times as a child and young adult at these fairs," she recalls, "and I realized, at some point during high school, that people actually get paid to run these things." Channeling that realization towards her education at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, Hansen earned a degree in agricultural business with a specialization in agricultural policy, along with a concentration in fair management.

She leapt into her dream first job, working for several years at the Solano County Fair in Vallejo mainly on exhibits and educating the public about agriculture. She followed that with roles at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau and the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission before making her way to Napa Valley in 2000 for a position at Napa Valley Vintners (NVV). As public affairs manager for the venerated trade association, Hansen cultivated people skills and a talent for strategic thinking while getting to know the personalities behind wine country's biggest brands. Auction Napa Valley was the organization's marquee event during those years, and Hansen found inspiration in the camaraderie and community that she witnessed among the vintners. "It was incredible to watch everybody work, shoulder to shoulder, to just get stuff done," she says. "At the end of the day, we're all still just farmers."

Hansen's deep understanding of the agricultural business served her well at the NVV, where she helped start the Napa Green sustainability certification program and became increasingly involved in local and industry-wide discussions around sustainable agricultural practices.

When the Gasser Foundation, a local community foundation, began to envision a sustainability initiative benefiting Napa Valley, Hansen was the perfect person to bring everything together. Sustainable Napa County, an independent nonprofit, was formed in 2008, with Hansen as CEO. It grew, she says, out of a need to share information about sustainability, including what the term meant. "Everyone was asking 'what does it mean to be green?' They all had their own definition," she recalls. She brought stakeholders together to discuss sustainability through three key lenses: environment, economy, and equity. During her 12-year tenure, she worked with local businesses and government on policies to support a healthier, more sustainable Napa Valley. The organization wound down in 2020, having accomplished its mission.

Hansen launched her own consulting company in 2020 to work on issues she cared about in the community she loved. Her first client was the Napa Chamber of Commerce, with whom she had already worked closely, and in early 2023, she accepted the position of president and CEO of the organization. Back in her element, conducting strategic planning and consensus building, Hansen is leading the Chamber in efforts to support its members, attract new businesses that bring diversity and vitality to the community, and invite new sectors to plant their roots in Napa. As ever, she says, the magic happens when people and businesses connect.

Among her many career highlights, Hansen was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the Napa Valley Exposition Board of Directors in 2014, and she currently serves as its board president. Events of this kind occupy a unique space in American culture, she says. "Fairs are a reflection of our community, of our heritage and history, but also of our future."

For more information, visit napachamber.com.

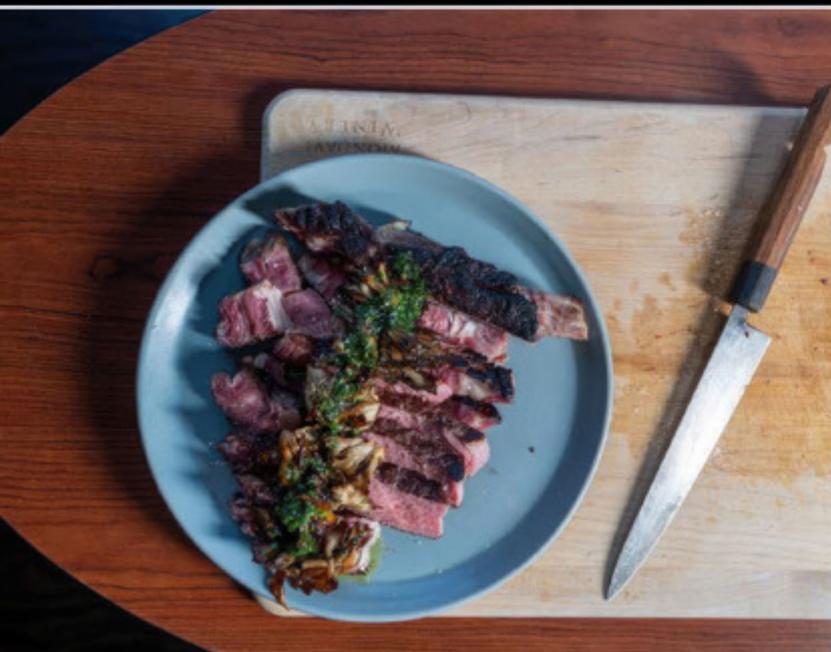
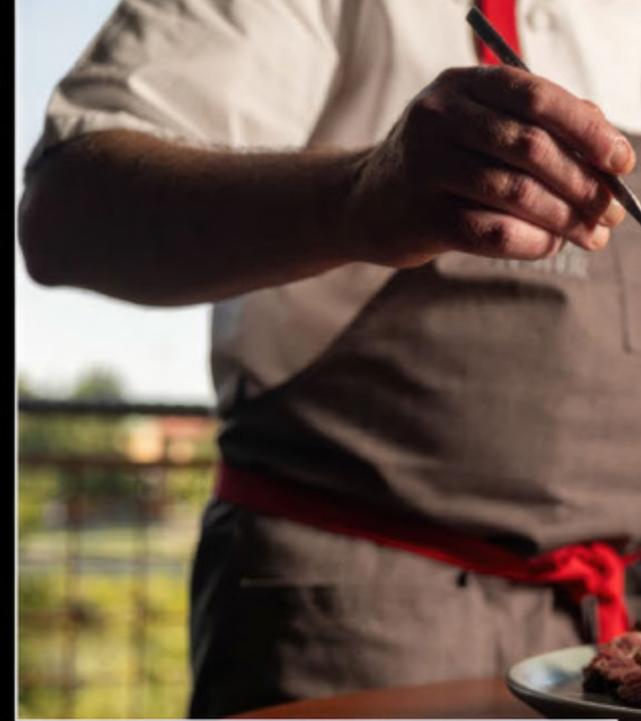
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Please enjoy our wines responsibly. © 2023 Robert Mondavi Winery, Oakville CA.

Beyond the Vines

By Elizabeth Davis Reynard | Photo by Sunset Jimmy

Winter in the Napa Valley is here; it's the start of a new year, there's dormancy in the vines, and there's opportunity for quiet reflection. Vibrant wild mustard brightens up an otherwise damp and monochrome landscape, delighting locals and visitors with its explosion of color.

The Napa Valley Mustard Celebration (from January through March) is where art and wine come together for a celebration of this special season. A cover crop planted to protect the soil and provide valuable nutrients, wild mustard goes hand in hand with vineyards. Visit Jessup Cellars Gallery for a photography exhibit, soak in a Tree House Mustard Bath at the Spa at Meadowood, or head to Atlas Peak Road for a weekend of sipping and tasting from a selection of Atlas Peak Road wineries and businesses. The town of Yountville hosts a Mustard Celebration soiree, and Visit Napa Valley produces a downloadable mustard map that guides folks to the most vibrant mustard locations for the perfect picture.

While plotting the course for mustard activities, check out some of the new spots on the Napa culinary scene. The widely anticipated Slanted Door recently opened its doors in downtown Napa and is the hottest reservation in town. Known as the inventor of modern Vietnamese cuisine, owner and Chef Charles Phan showcases classic dishes, including Slanted Door Spring Rolls, Shrimp Vermicelli, and Shaking Beef, along with what's certain to be a few surprises. With a beautiful courtyard, an expansive bar, and multiple dining rooms, expect a lot of wok shaking, stir frying, and a delicious evening on the town.

Further up-valley, in St. Helena, Charlie's is the new kid on the block, owned and operated by Chef Elliot Bell. A family-run neighborhood

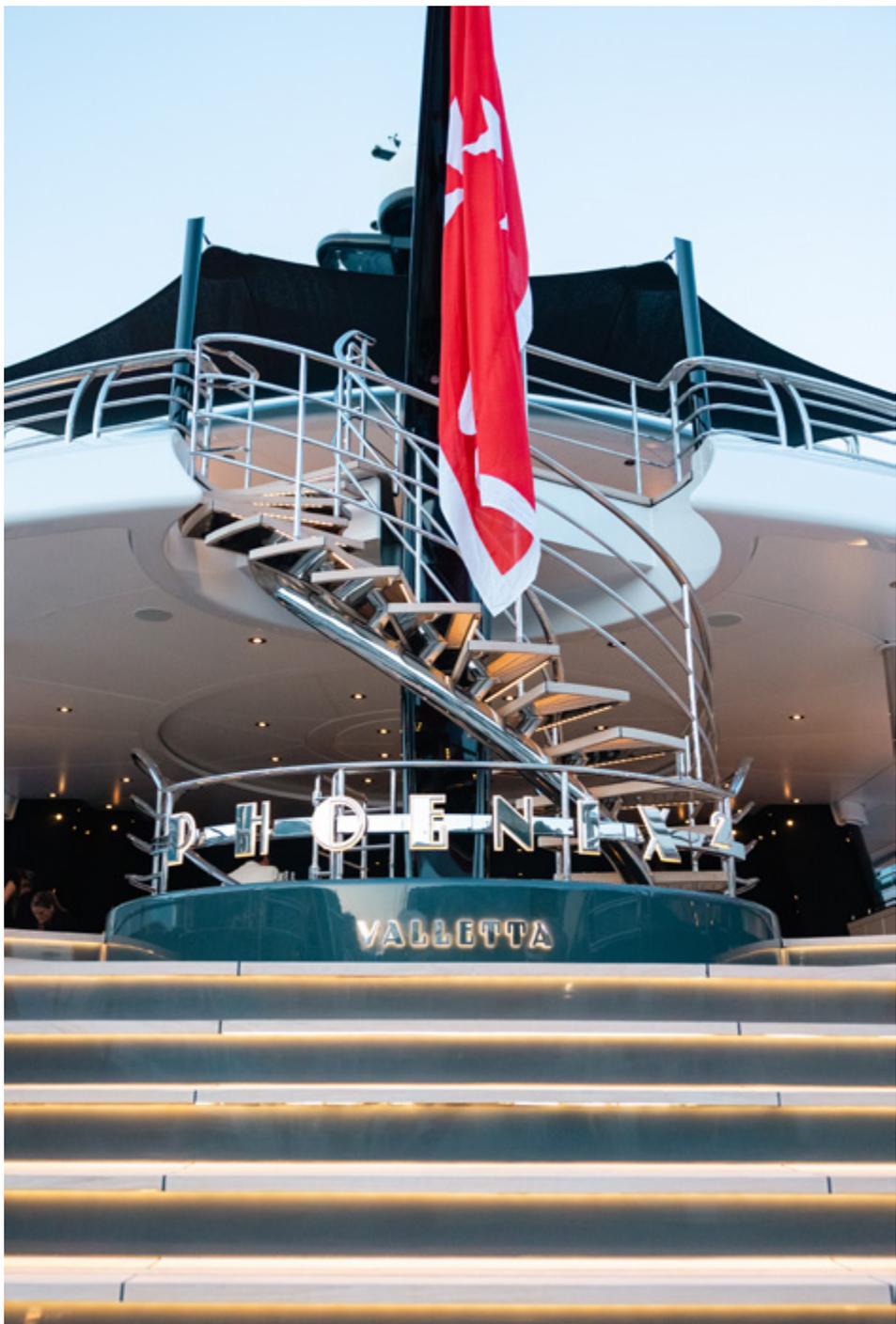
restaurant, Charlie's—named after Belle's son—is already pleasing the locals. Also in the neighborhood is Station Pizza, recently launched by Napa vintner and Gott's Roadside owner Joel Gott. Order a pie to go or follow along on social media to catch locals night specials hosted at his gas station-cum-coffee shop and café, Station St. Helena.



After eating, it's time for some retail therapy. Browse Elyse Walker, the Los Angeles-based specialty fashion retailer with a new location in St. Helena. Then check out NO|MA House Café and Collective, an all-day gathering space designed by Napa's prolific architect Howard Backen and run by his wife, Ann. Created with a philosophy of wellness, community, and inspiration, NO|MA welcomes people in to eat, talk, work, learn, and encourage well-being.

Speaking of well-being and looking ahead, early April is Calistoga Wellness Week, which provides an opportunity to reconnect internally and with mother earth. Check in with Visit Calistoga for the complete schedule of wellness events and special offers at Calistoga's hot springs resorts and spas. Also, the Coombsville Vintners and Growers will host a walk-around tasting showcasing wines at the Culinary Institute of America at Copia. This is an opportunity to chat and sip with Coombsville winemakers while learning what makes this American Viticultural Area unique. Get tickets while they are available.

Don't hesitate to make reservations, pack bags, and get ready to enjoy the plentiful options of winter in the Napa Valley.









Rising from the Ashes: The World's Most Expensive Wine Dinner

When the harbor is fully stacked and yachts are at anchor for as far as the eye can see, with speedboats and tenders whizzing back and forth, creating white wakes in the azure Mediterranean Sea, it's clear that the annual yachting circus, the world's most prestigious yacht show, has once more descended upon the Principality of Monaco.

Of the 117 superyachts moored in Port Hercules, one of the largest and most opulent vessels on display at the show is M/Y PHOENIX 2, the 90-meter/295-foot Lurssen that is listed for sale by Cecil Wright & Partners at €124,950,000. Built in 2010, with a major refit in 2019, it features luxurious Art Deco styling throughout, with many nods to the New York City skyline, including the Manhattan Bar with its Empire State and Chrysler buildings motifs on the back of the bar chairs, plus primarily black-and-white furnishings in materials that are plush, deep, soft, and sleek throughout the yacht's five decks, which include amenities such as a cinema, spa, pool, Jacuzzi®, elevator, helipad, and two-story owner's suite.

The result is a lavish megayacht that's unlike anything else on the market and the perfect setting for two exclusive evening receptions and the ultimate (U)HNW wine dinner. Hosting a slew of local and visiting billionaire families, family offices, plus yachting world royalty in the form of renowned yacht builders, owners, designers, and more, the receptions featured large-format bottles of Château d'Esclans rosé wines including Rock Angel & Whispering Angel, plus the award-winning Garrus.

Dinner in the yacht's stunning Winter Garden was prepared by PHOENIX 2's exceptional chef and featured Alaskan king crab with caviar, Wagyu beef, and sea bream with truffle ponzu. But the stars of the evening were the Liber Pater wines, one of the world's most expensive wines, introduced by master Bordeaux vigneron Loic Pasquet.

Since 2006, the boutique winery has become a true cult estate, with Pasquet on a mission to restore the great taste of 1855-era classification Bordeaux wines—before the onset of phylloxera—using native, ungrafted vines of varieties that were once commonly used in the region and traditional methods that include hand tilling the land with a mule. Dinner guests were treated to a vertical that included 2007, 2011, and 2015 varieties plus three bottles of Liber Pater 2018, of which only 720 bottles were produced and sell for €30,000 each.

This culminated in what is likely the world's most expensive wine dinner, per head, on one of the world's most incredible megayachts, in one of the world's most glamorous locations, during what is recognized as the most prestigious yacht show in the world.

For more information, visit MyYachtGroup.com.

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Slope Slide to Chanel

By Santa Bernahl | Photos by Mathis Decroux & David Bernahl

In the quest for a winter getaway that seamlessly combines family fun and indulgent fashion shopping, this destination perfectly fits the bill. Nestled among the picturesque peaks of the French Alps, Courchevel enchants travelers with its unparalleled old-world charm and opulence.

Fly into Chambery, Lyon, or Grenoble and prepare for a breathtaking descent. From there, take a private charter to Courchevel's Altiport, one of the world's most unusual airports, situated at 2,100 meters (6,890 feet) above sea level, that plunges travelers into the heart of pristine ski slopes. There is a touch of adventure, however, as the runway is the size of a hotel corridor, but fear not. The private airport is just a short walk from the hotels, so guests arrive in time for champagne and spa.

The Hotel Cheval Blanc, at 1,850 meters (6,070 feet), offers a heavenly ski-in/ski-out experience plus Michelin-starred cuisine and a sensational Guerlain spa. Alternatively, L'Apogée Courchevel—or L'Apogée as it is referred to by locals—part of the prestigious Oetker family, offers a luxurious stay right on the slopes of the Verdons. Les Airelles is the best choice if you are travelling with children—an indoor club with arcade, playhouse, and cinema room (with PlayStation®), a heated outdoor tree house, and skating rink will keep them entertained.

Courchevel is part of the world's largest ski area, The Three Valleys, with seamless access to 600 kilometers of interconnected pistes. Days can be spent day skiing, snowboarding, or heliboarding. Those not in the mood for physical activity can sip champagne and take in the views from the

top of the gondola. Evening comes with a mesmerizing view of the stars above the mountains, thanks to minimal light pollution.

Experience the thrill of skiing right up to the doorstep of Le Cap Horn, an old establishment serving decadent fondue and exquisite truffle mashed potatoes. The champagne list is a definite draw for exhausted skiers. For a gastronomic extravaganza, reserve a table at Le 1947 à Cheval Blanc, an exceptional Michelin 3-star restaurant. There are only five tables available, so getting one is a mission in itself.

The resort's high-end fashion scene features boutiques such as Chanel®, Dior, Hermès®, Louis Vuitton®, Gucci®, Moncler®, and many more. Some of the shops can even be skied through, straight from the slopes. Those feeling more like a million dollars than a ski-through can head to Graff and try on the spectacular jewelry creations. Note that duty-free shopping allows a value-added tax refund.

Those yearning to explore beyond Courchevel can embark on a scenic journey along winding roads of the winter fairy-tale landscape. Idyllic neighboring village Méribel is a perfect retreat to experience the rustic charm of the French Alps and create memories that will last long after the snow has melted.

For more information, follow @santabernahl on Instagram or visit champagnefair.com.



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Whale Watching in Comfort

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Carmel Realty Company

Winter is the best time to spot gray whales in Carmel Bay—that’s when most of the gray whale population migrates from summer feeding grounds in the Bering Sea to winter breeding grounds in Baja, Mexico. At Carmel Realty Company’s “Whale Watch” property, guests can whale watch from the comfort of their vacation rental.

Situated at 8th Avenue and Scenic Road, the property is just over 2,000 square feet and features sweeping ocean views from the front guest room, kitchen, and living room. On warmer days, visitors can step outside onto the second-story balcony and view not only whales but also dolphins, sea lions, and an orca or two. On days when ocean life is less abundant, “Whale Watch” renters may simply enjoy a beautiful sunset over the ocean.

Originally built in 1923, the home was transformed from a classic Carmel cottage to a mid-century home in 1963. A major remodel, led by architect Henry Ruhnke and builder Noel McNamee, was completed in 2023. For those curious to know what the house previously looked like, a photograph of the house pre-remodel hangs in the hallway between the primary bedroom and the kitchen, which features Bosch appliances and bar seating with a wine fridge.

The updated contemporary beach house includes three bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, and a bonus room with a sofa bed. After a long day, guests can soak in the Jacuzzi® bathtub and not experience a shock

when their feet hit the floor—it’s heated. That doesn’t only apply to the bathroom in the primary suite; every bathroom has heated floors.

While many renters may be drawn to “Whale Watch” for the ocean views, there is much more to the property. It’s truly an entertainer’s home, says Katie McAlister, director of vacation management at Carmel Realty Company. “The large great room overlooks the ocean and has a grand piano,” she says. “It’s a great gathering space.”

When Clint Eastwood was elected mayor in April 1986, a celebration was held for him at the “Whale Watch” property. He’s not the only celebrity to visit the home. American composer and pianist Philip Glass tickled the ivories on the grand piano in the piano bar adjacent to the kitchen, as did pianist Frederic Chiu.

The ideal renters for Carmel Realty Company’s “Whale Watch” property are a sophisticated couple that enjoys small gatherings with friends, according to McAlister. Winter is a perfect time for a stay because, in addition to all the luxuries of home away from home and whale watching, the property provides an ideal winter activity: cozying up in front of the gas-log fireplace in the living room or primary bedroom.

For more information, visit carmelrealtycompany.com/vacation-whale-watch-2766.

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Naissance of a Napa Valley Icon

By Andrea Stuart | Photos by Jeremy Stuart & Adam Potts Photography

A soft hum grew into a welcoming murmur as people slipped through the arched doorway leading into Robert Mondavi Winery's new Arch & Tower tasting room. Punctuations of laughter and clinks of convivial toasts echoed through the open-air lounge as guests explored the new facility and took in the expansive Napa River view.

The grand opening event at Arch & Tower introduced a reimagined palate-pleasing adventure that intimately connects wine lovers with acclaimed wines, intentional cuisine, and the community.

Elevating the tasting experience, Culinary Director Jeff Mosher worked with James Beard Award winner and Consulting Chef Chris Shepherd to curate a menu that characterizes the wines and pays homage to Robert Mondavi's Italian heritage while sourcing fresh, local ingredients. The wines serve as a foundational inspiration for how the elements come together. "We wanted to create experiences that are unabashedly Napa," says Mosher.

Having created four tasting choices, Arch & Tower created the Napa Exploration as a way for guests to tour wines from The Estate Collection accompanied by a light menu pairing. For a deeper immersion into the inimitable expressions of Napa Valley, guests can indulge in The Taste of To Kalon, which includes tastings of four To Kalon Reserve wines paired with bites informed by the 1960s—an array of à la carte bites created to complement the wines, including seasoned waffle fries and red wine braised beef croquettes. The Wine Club Member Tasting offers members and up to three guests an enjoyable complimentary tasting. Food pairings are also available.

In addition to offering four unique tasting experiences, the Arch & Tower reimagining includes its Golden Hour, a Thursday through Sunday walk-in sip and savor opportunity in which guests can enjoy Mondavi Winery vino and small bites from the kitchen. This informal yet sophisticated spin on happy hour breathes life into a classic tradition.

Expanding on the tastings, The Legend Lunch showcases wines from The Estates Collection alongside a three-course menu that creatively

modernizes 1960s classics. Served at communal tables on the outdoor terrace overlooking the Napa River, the lunch provides an opportunity for guests to connect while enjoying a leisurely meal.

The new tasting experiences at Arch & Tower were born from the team's desire to elevate wine hospitality in an approachable way. The new direction is also an endeavor to nurture the winery's roots. "Robert Mondavi was a huge supporter of downtown Napa, an innovator, and the consummate host himself, so I think he would be proud of what the team has been able to create at Arch & Tower," says Philip Hansell, director of hospitality.

The Borreo Building provides a perfect fit for the winery's current iteration. Built in 1877, the building has experienced myriad incarnations, including as a brewery, a dealership, a shirt factory, a grocery and feed store, a winery, and a 15-year vacancy. Now, as Robert Mondavi Winery's Arch & Tower, the building and the winery's reincarnation synchronize with the multi-year renovation of the winery's historical establishment on Highway 29 in Oakville.

A tour of the new property reveals vaulted ceilings, alfresco dining and lounge areas, a wine vault, and the To Kalon Collective, where guests enjoy Schrader Cellars, Double Diamond, To Kalon Vineyard Company, and Mount Veeder Winery tastings in a private tasting room. Each tasting provides an exclusive story while showcasing the wines' terroir and impact on the Napa Valley.

Chief Winemaker Geneviève Janssens, Winemaker and Director of Winemaking Kurtis Ogasawara, and Winemaker Lauren Oliver produce sippable symphonies while Mosher crafts edible arias. This harmony of food and beverage is but a crescendo leading into the next Mondavi naissance.

For more information, visit RobertMondaviWinery.com.

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Dinner in the Vineyard

By Timothy J. Narup | Alexander Rubin Photography

On August 19, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars held a beautiful event in Napa, providing a wine tasting reception at sunset on the patio of the FAY Outlook & Visitor Center. Guests were served the winery's 2021 AVETA sauvignon blanc, 2022 Elia rosé, 2019 S.L.V. cabernet franc, 2019 Winemaker's Series petit verdot, 2018 Armillary cabernet sauvignon, and 2007 S.L.V. cabernet sauvignon.

The evening continued with a breathtaking guided tour down to the FAY Vineyard, through the Great Room of the Caves (by the barrels), where guests enjoyed an exquisite three-course dinner at twilight. Starting out were little gem wedges, creamy pink peppercorn and parmesan dressing cherry tomatoes, and house croutons and cucumber, paired with a 2021 Arcadia Vineyard chardonnay. Hen egg yolk truffle raviolo, truffle brown butter sage sauce, and crispy guanciale with parmesan cream were paired with a 2020 FAY cabernet sauvignon and a 2020 S.L.V. cabernet sauvignon.

Grilled bavette steak with black garlic chimichurri, crispy sliced thyme potatoes, and summer vegetables were paired with a 2019 CASK 23 cabernet sauvignon. For dessert, a 2018 Ptolemy Late Harvest sémillon was served. Stag's Leap Wine Cellars promises to always provide exceptional customer service, serving top-quality wines and leaving guests with an experience they will not soon forget.