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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel

It's been an exciting year as we've seen the return of some of our favorite events—Pebble Beach AT&T Pro-Am; The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering; and Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance among them. The organizers have served as examples of how to bring back events with fresh ideas.

As we look into the future, we're excited for the 2022 Pebble Beach AT&T Pro-Am and its newest offerings. Read *Golfing and Giving* to learn about the newest addition, fee-free Community Day.



While many of us may be winding down for the cooler months, two local young women are continuing to strive for athletic excellence. Read about dancer and choreographer Sage Melton in *Time to Dance* and Olympics-bound weightlifter Cadence Ricci in *Olympic Hopeful* to find out what inspires these impassioned youths.

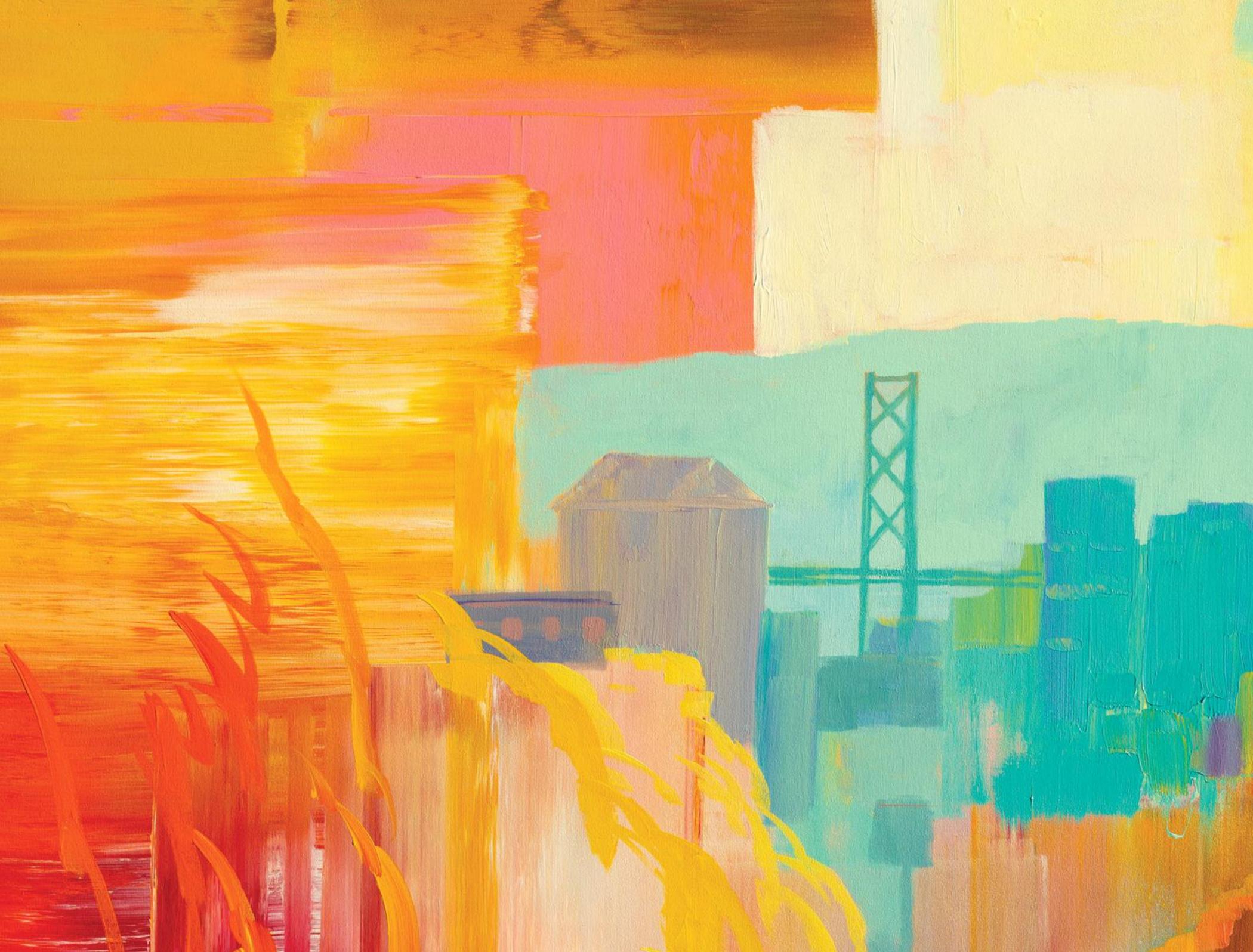
We're also proud to feature *SNIPped!*, a story about Spay Neuter Imperative Project (SNIP), a unique organization that brings affordable spay and neuter services to underserved communities. We think you'll also enjoy the aerial photography of photographer Marc Howard in *Shift of Focus* and will be tempted to stay at Carmel Realty Company's Still Water vacation rental once you read *Live Like a Local in Luxury*.

For all the animal lovers who read our magazine (and we know there's a lot of you!), we have a treat inside. *Dogs Can't Take Selfies* features the photography of talented animal photographer Michelle Russ of Hilarious Hound, whose photos are a dynamic exploration of the canine spirit.

And if you're looking for a little getaway or a day of tasty delights, flip through to read about Hotel Healdsburg in *Modern Spin on Small-Town Charm* and Larkmead Winery in *Times Are Changing*.

We're grateful that you've stayed along for the ride this year and we look forward to sharing more reasons to celebrate.

A red, stylized, cursive letter 'R' logo.





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Dogs Can't Take Selfies

By Jennifer Moulaison | Photos by Michelle Russ

"I love working with people who have a mutual respect for their animals," says photographer Michelle Russ. "And I endeavor to capture that relationship as authentically as possible." Russ has been photographing dogs privately and commercially in the Bay Area for over a decade. Although dog photography was not her original pursuit, she was determined to carve a path that used her skills to do what she loved most.

Russ has had a camera in her hand since high school, and spent all her time in the darkroom and snapping photos of everything that moved her. After graduating from Savannah College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography, Russ moved to New York City to pursue commercial fashion and beauty photography. But her love for animals remained ever present. "Living in New York made owning a dog difficult. I decided to volunteer at the local no-kill shelter. That's where I met renowned animal photographer, Sofie Gamond, who was photographing some of the dogs there, and I was immensely inspired by her," explains Russ. While continuing to work in fashion, she spent her free time apprenticing with a dog trainer to learn how to handle some of the more difficult dogs at the shelter. "I wanted to be able to work with all the dogs there and loved that the trainer I was working with focused on positive training rather than fear-based or reactive training, which has translated to my work in photographing dogs," she says.

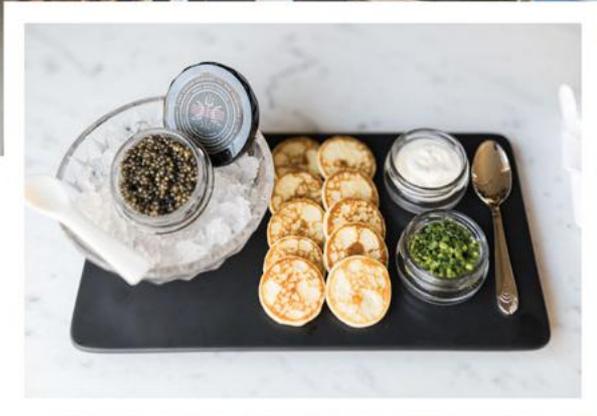


In 2016, Russ relocated to the Bay Area, where she has continued to expand her photographic skills, working with dogs for private sessions as well as with a variety of commercial clients. Recently, she was commissioned by Hotel Nikko in San Francisco to put together a 200-page coffee-table book titled *49 Dogs and One Cat*. It features Buster, Hotel Nikko's dog ambassador, and his friends giving a tour around iconic parts of San Francisco. The photographs were shot entirely from the dog's perspective. "It was a huge project and took nearly a year to put together," says Russ. "But it was an amazing experience and really showcases what's possible when you do what inspires you."

For more information, visit, hilariouhound.com.

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Opus One Patron Dinner

Photos by Drew Altizer Photography

On July 17, Festival Napa Valley ticket holders experienced a unique culinary indulgence during the Opus One Patron Dinner, hosted at Castello di Amorosa. Castello di Amorosa's thirteenth-century style Tuscan architecture complemented Opus One's uncompromising wines, resulting in timeless exquisiteness.

Blanketed by a dusk-hued summer sky, guests sipped fine wines overlooking picturesque vistas from the courtyard while enjoying world-class cuisine. Attendees included musician Fiona Khuong-Huu, philanthropists Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, and fashion stylist Mary Gonsalves Kinney.

Nary an empty glass could be found by evening's end as guests were transported through European grandeur standing among the majestic Napa Valley hillsides.





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Coming Together for the Greater Good

By Karen Aiken

Sausalito community leaders, the Chilean Consul General, and members of the Chile-California Council celebrated this year's International Sister City Award for Best Program. This is the second time in five years that Sausalito Sister Cities was recognized by Sister Cities International. The celebration luncheon was held in Viña del Mar Park, suitably named for Sausalito's Chilean Sister City.

It was a warm and luxurious day in the park, and guests were welcomed with a pisco sour, the national drink of Chile. All five city council members were in attendance,



including Mayor Jill Hoffman. The Chilean Consul General, San Francisco, Jaime Alliende Leiva, and his wife, Ximena Acuña, arrived, followed by Matías Alcalde, Director of Chile-California Council, his wife, Isidora, his chief of staff, Josefina Edwards, and Chile-California Council member Ralph Benson. Also present were representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Sausalito Rotary, Sausalito Parks and Recreation, and past mayors. Spinnaker restaurant catered the event. Paula Tajada, owner of San Francisco's Chile Lindo, brought her famous Chilean empanadas. It was a

collection of leaders coming together to celebrate all that we all do for the common good.

Sausalito Sister City President Dana Cilmi welcomed the guests. Viña del Mar Chair Monica Finnegan accepted the award on behalf of the Viña del Mar Operations Council and gave a history of the 60-year-old program that works to enhance the international relationships of its three Sister Cities: Viña del Mar, Chile; Sakaide, Japan; and Cascais, Portugal. The three exchange programs promote and facilitate relationships for a deeper understanding of our cultures, societies, and histories. They remind us of how we can live locally and work globally.









A Note Apart

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Ian Robertson



Founded in 1948 to provide trained singers for the San Francisco Opera, the San Francisco Boys Chorus (the Chorus) has become an institution that has built a community of trained, enthusiastic young singers in the Bay Area. For over 30 years, the Chorus has toured internationally, performing in England, France, Hungary, Israel, China, the former Soviet Union, and beyond. Guided by the fluid leadership of artistic director Eric Choate and artistic director emeritus Ian Robertson, the Grammy award-winning group is now in its seventy-third year.

The Chorus takes choristers as young as four and a half years old through four levels of musical maturation. While the journey has been temporarily altered by the COVID-19 pandemic, with touring delayed until the summer of 2022, Choate has continued practices through Zoom and in-person summer music camps.

The goal is to ensure that the choristers learn the unifying, team-building aspects of choral training, compassion, fairness, and leadership. “As the 130 members of the San Francisco Boys Chorus come together to learn music from different cultures and languages, we’re celebrating the richness of music,” says Choate. “In 2021 and 2022, I look forward to bringing performances of the Chorus to more Bay Area concertgoers.”

Choate, who became artistic director in fall 2019, is a composer, organ player, and pianist. He fondly recalls his own experience as a chorister in high school. “Those years, and my composition of a great deal of choral music, helped me develop a passion for the chorale repertoire,” he says. “I also love working with children because it’s inspiring.” He is thankful to have inherited the program that Robertson spent 23 years building.

“When I came on board, there were only 65 boys in the whole program,” says Robertson, who served as artistic director from 1996 to 2019, and now serves as the San Francisco Opera’s chorus director. “I helped develop innovative training programs and performance experiences throughout

my tenure.” He brought the Chorus to new heights, including performing at the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. The Chorus has performed for many world leaders—including King Gustav of Sweden, Queen Elizabeth of England, and the late Pope John Paul II—as well as local leaders such as Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

The structure of the Chorus allows boys aged four-and-a-half to 13 years to advance through five singing programs for boys with unchanged voices—Preparatory Chorus, Juniors, Apprentices, Intermediates, and Concert Chorus, the organization’s premiere ensemble. In each program, they learn music theory and music appreciation while engaging in choral practice. Choristers are encouraged to advance to Concert Chorus. Boys whose voices change out of the treble range may join the Graduate Chorale, where they can sing until they complete high school.

The Chorus also has a Handbell Program, open to all chorus members and alumni. The Advanced Handbell group performed at the San Francisco Symphony’s “Deck the Hall” program in December 2020.

“During the pandemic, we hired a voice instructor to work on vocal technique with the boys,” says Choate. “We used Zoom practices and performances to help each chorister develop individually. The capabilities of the software program made it hard to have everyone sing together at the same time.”

The Chorus still enjoys a close relationship with the San Francisco Opera, with members of the Concert Chorus appearing or singing in numerous productions, including Portman’s *The Little Prince* and Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*. Concert Chorus and Intermediate Chorus members have also appeared in San Francisco Symphony concerts.

San Francisco residents often see the Chorus perform around town. Small groups or the full Concert Chorus have appeared at local civic and private events. The Chorus has regularly appeared at San Francisco Fleet Week events, San Francisco Giants games, Oakland Athletics games, and the Macy’s Union Square tree lighting. Since 2016, PBS station KQED-TV has broadcast the Chorus’s holiday concert.

Robertson says that one of the keys to getting choristers to join and growing audiences is creating a choral repertoire that takes into account ethnic and cultural diversity. “I tried to emulate the style of the Vienna Boys Chorus and The Choir of King’s College, Cambridge,” he says. “Yet I also worked

to incorporate African American, Latinx, and Asian music into the songs we performed. That gives us as broad an appeal as possible,” The Chorus is currently 65 percent non-Caucasian, and is composed of members from over 120 schools in San Francisco, the East Bay, the South Bay, and Marin County.

“There’s an incredible regard that the choristers all have for one another and their abilities,” says Choate. “It seems uniquely dependent on music. When you bring all the voices together, you’re creating something that’s greater than the sum of all those parts.”

William Liu, age 12 and a San Francisco resident, says he shares the experience of developing from a soprano to an alto. “This is my eighth year of singing in the Chorus. I joined when my mother took me to a performance of the Chorus at age five. Now, I understand being part of the Chorus is all about teamwork. If you sing too loudly or too softly, that won’t ruin the performance, but it will make it more difficult,” he says.

“I am a soprano and I love being part of a musical environment,” says Hovey Clark, age 13 and also a San Francisco resident. He joined the chorus in 2019. “When I sing with many other people, I know what I am doing and how I fit into the Chorus as a whole.” He loves that the Chorus is a community. “I’ve gained not only a musical education but friends and other musicians with whom I can sing. Being a part of the Chorus makes me want to broaden my range of genres beyond classical music,” he says.

Ford Cocciolo, age 15 and a San Anselmo resident, has been in the Chorus for five years. “I’m now a tenor in the Graduate Chorale. I am still singing, but will also join my school band next year, playing bass clarinet,” he says. Being a part of the Chorus taught him to raise his hand whenever a director asks for an audition. “You always want to try,” he says. “I got to solo, my first year, which was an unforgettable experience.”

While the Chorus promotes young musicians taking on challenges, Robertson and Choate’s message on cooperation is certainly being received. Clark says he sees that the ultimate lesson of participating in the Chorus is having a model of a supportive musical environment. Clark also values how the Chorus has surrounded him with peers who are smart, capable, and have helped him grow. “The other members of the Chorus and Mr. Todd Jolly, assistant Concert Chorus director, and Mr. Choate taught me I am absolutely nothing if I’m not supporting and listening to every other person around me.”

For more information, visit sfbc.org.



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Modern Spin on Small-Town Charm

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos Courtesy of Hotel Healdsburg

Along a sun-dappled stretch of the Russian River, the historic town of Healdsburg beguiles visitors with a combination of bucolic charm and modern sophistication. Much of its magic radiates from the Spanish-style plaza at its center, an auspicious city-planning decision made back in 1857 by Harmon Heald, the town's namesake. Locals and visitors young and old flock to Healdsburg Plaza; an eclectic mélange of restaurants, tasting rooms, boutiques, and galleries keeps the surrounding area humming with activity. For the past twenty years, the western edge of the Plaza has been occupied by Hotel Healdsburg, a now iconic landmark that has helped usher Healdsburg into the twenty-first century without sacrificing its roots.

Circe Sher is the cofounder of Piazza Hospitality, the company that developed and manages Hotel Healdsburg and additional properties in Northern and Central California. Her parents, Pamela and Merritt Sher, were avid travelers and design lovers who enjoyed road-tripping to Healdsburg from their home in Marin. "They were attracted to the scale of the Plaza and all the creative, independent shops, as well as the proximity to great vineyards," says Sher. "Together, they envisioned a hotel to anchor the Plaza that was really comfortable, charming, and new."

The hotel's design was inspired by the surrounding countryside and reflects a sense of place, according to Sher. The ivy-covered exterior blends seamlessly into its corner location, while the interior lobby provides drama with soaring ceilings, concrete columns, and a distinctive fireplace sculpture. "From an architectural standpoint, the design was influenced by the historic nature of the town," says Sher. "We took classic references, such as the rooftop cornices, and combined them with modern materials to create something very unique but also fitting for the Plaza." The expansive grounds include a pool area dotted with fig and olive trees, and feature a mix of materials—gravel, concrete, and reclaimed wood, among others.

Thoughtful design touches and collaborations abound at Hotel Healdsburg. Late local artist Wade Hoefler, known for his ethereal landscapes, made

original paintings for the lobby and the guest rooms. Richmond potter Jered Nelson created the pale blue, hand-thrown coffee cups from California clay. Large-scale photographic prints of the Russian River, featured in the second-floor hallways, highlight the river as a valuable resource for recreation, wildlife, and agriculture in Sonoma County.

Guest experiences are as unique as the design flourishes. While winery visits are de rigueur, private guided cycling trips with Sonoma County's premier cyclist Peter Stetina, outdoor yoga, guided vineyard hikes, river trips by paddle board or kayak, local ecology tours and cooking experiences, and a weekly live jazz concert are also on offer.

The hotel's food and beverage program befits its location in such a fertile region. For a casual experience, Pizzardo turns out wood-fired pizza and rustic cuisine on a lively terrace, while Chef Charlie Palmer's Dry Creek Kitchen highlights Sonoma's finest bounty with a progressive American menu and diverse wine list. The partnership with Palmer is an important one, says Sher. "Dry Creek Kitchen really added a special dimension to the hotel experience. His national reputation helped put the hotel on the map."

In addition to Hotel Healdsburg, Piazza Hospitality operates two other properties in Healdsburg (h2hotel and the LEED-certified Harmon Guest House) as well as the Hotel San Luis Obispo on the Central Coast, and it is currently developing a hotel in Sebastopol. Sher says that the company chooses vibrant downtown locations in great communities for their hospitality projects, a formula that is clearly working with Hotel Healdsburg. "I can't tell you how many people have told me they first stayed at Hotel Healdsburg and then fell in love and bought a home in Healdsburg."

For more information, visit hotelhealdsburg.com.



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Four Seasons Napa Valley

By Jennifer Moulaison

Rustic scenery and rolling hills meet world-renowned refinement at Four Seasons Napa Valley, opening late 2021 in Calistoga and offering extraordinary hospitality as Napa's first and only resort set within a working winery.



Tucked into the base of Mount Saint Helena and surrounded by hundreds of acres of vineyard and stunning views, the Four Seasons property in Napa Valley was thoughtfully designed with the intention of lending a boutique environment akin to its charming surroundings. “Our 85 spacious rooms, suites, and villas all boast breathtaking views, fireplaces, and private terraces, delivering an authentic luxury retreat without pretense that can only be found in Napa Valley,” describes General Manager Mehdi Eftekari.

Although there existed a winery on the property at the time of acquisition, it was no mere bonus to the raw land. It was a core asset around which the resort was designed. “A decade in the making, Elusa Winery is a 4.7-acre organic vineyard on the grounds of the resort, featuring small lot, distinctive wines by famed winemaker and Calistoga resident Thomas Rivers Brown,” says Eftekari. “There will be endless opportunities for guests to taste complex, age-worthy wines, with immersive, hands-on, and educational experiences as well as tasting sessions just steps from their rooms, creating a truly unique experience even for loyal Four Seasons guests,” continues Eftekari.

The resort aspires to offer a Michelin-starred dining experience. “It is poised to become a world-class culinary destination with our onsite restaurant, TRUSS Restaurant + Bar, led by executive chef, Erik Anderson,” says Eftekari. Additionally, there is the open-air CAMPO Poolside restaurant situated between the property's two pools and overlooking the vineyards, as well as the onsite Spa Talisa—a haven for relaxation and indulgence featuring private patios with steam decks and an array of luxurious therapeutic practices.

“As a brand, Four Seasons' priority is offering authentic, remarkable experiences that reflect the destinations in which we operate. Napa Valley is synonymous with exceptional food and wine, and Four Seasons Resort Napa Valley honors that status with truly unique dining and drinking experiences,” Eftekari concludes.

For more information, visit fourseasons.com/napavalley.











Turkish Temptress

Launched in 2020 and a masterpiece of modern design, M/Y Tatiana is a stunning addition to the booming yacht charter market. At 263 feet (80 meters), she is one of the largest yachts ever to be built in Turkey—by renowned shipyard Bilgin Yachts, with naval architecture by Unique Yacht Design—and combines generous spaces, large volumes, a sleek look, and exceptional ecocredentials.

Compliant with IMO Tier III emissions standards certification, she is considered the most environmentally friendly yacht in her class, featuring a 100% clean air exhaust system that allows her to cruise silently. Her vast proportions and innovative look have been dubbed a game changer for a vessel of her size, with forward-thinking layouts that create a truly guest-friendly environment.

Entering her light-filled interior, created by award-winning H2 Yacht Design, an understated décor is revealed, replete with luxurious materials and finishes, including Macassar ebony, marble, and eucalyptus. A unique design element is the direct access from the main salon to the impressive beach club, which features a stunning swimming pool, bar, and lounge space with large, fold-down side balconies, a steam room, a massage room, and a fully equipped gym.

An oversized main Jacuzzi plus a private one, a vast cinema, an elevator, state-of-the-art entertainment centers in all social spaces, and luxurious indoor and al fresco dining areas all create an incredibly comfortable yet luxurious home away from home.

Twelve lucky guests are accommodated in its eight cabins, which include an owner's suite located on its own private deck, two VIP staterooms, four double cabins, and a twin cabin. There is an optional extra double cabin forward of the owner's suite, ideal for children.

The vessel's at-anchor and underway stabilizers ensure a smooth, stable ride for all guests, and its crew of twenty guarantee an unforgettable onboard experience. Those wishing to hit the water have a slew of toys from which to choose, including Seabobs®, e-Foils, electric surfboards, towables, diving and snorkeling equipment, water skis, wakeboards, and jet skis, as well as two tenders.

Available for charter in the West and East Mediterranean and in the Adriatic during the summer, and in the Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Bahamas during the winter, M/Y Tatiana is one of the most impressive charter yachts available today.

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Draft: 11'6" (3.50 m)

Year/Refit: 2021

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Interior Designer: H2 Design

Engines: 2x 2.560 kW @1,970 RPM

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Cruising Speed: 13-15 knots

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Saks Fifth Avenue & Oscar de la Renta Fashion Show

Photos by Drew Altizer Photography

On August 7, in Incline Village, Nevada, guests of the Saks Fifth Avenue & Oscar de la Renta Fashion Show Benefiting the League to Save Lake Tahoe enjoyed a live auction, cocktails, and a beachside luncheon complemented by a whimsical fashion show featuring 2022's Resort Collection.

This year celebrated over 50 years of fashion in partnership with Christie's and Saks Fifth Avenue. Guided by auctioneer Jennifer Wright, 100 percent of proceeds from the event supported League to Save Lake Tahoe. Those in attendance included Oscar de la Renta Co-Creative Director Fernando Garcia, B+N Industries CEO Brad Somberg, and philanthropist Mary Beth Shimmon.

Stags' Leap

TAKE THE LEAP



ENJOY RESPONSIBLY. ©2021 STAGS' LEAP WINERY, NAPA, CA



Stags' Leap Take the Leap Campaign

Stags' Leap Winery's Take the Leap campaign invites wine lovers to venture into unexplored worlds through an interactive, design-forward experience, anchored in augmented reality. Through stunning illustrations, the campaign culminates as a fantastical story told through a never-ending augmented reality experience tied directly to the Stags' Leap label. As the stag leaps into unexplored worlds through AR, the experiential journey changes shape entirely, going from black-and-white to a colorful, whimsical setting. As the prestigious winery looks to speak to consumers in a way that has yet to exist in the luxury category, Stags' Leap Winery has its eyes on the future, elevating the longstanding relationship between art and design to bring the iconic stag logo to life in an immersive and authentic manner, with new worlds on the horizon.



Bob McClenahan
photography

bobmcclenahan.com













Times Are Changing

By Kimberly Horg | Photos Courtesy of Larkmead Vineyards

Larkmead Vineyards' estate history dates back to the 1800s, when surgeon Charles Hitchcock moved to San Francisco with his wife, Martha, and their daughter, Lillie. The Hitchcocks became increasingly embarrassed by their daughter's rebellious behavior, and after acquiring property in Napa, sent her there to "to learn to quiet down." But Lillie drove a team of six horses, drank bourbon, smoked cigars, and played poker. She built a reputation as well as a following, calling her new home Larkmead after the area's meadowlarks. There, she planted three palm trees, cultivated a good-sized vineyard, and met the local winegrowers of the time, who included Jacob Schram, Alfred Tubbs, Charles Krug, and Jacob Beringer.

Lillie's intellectual nature attracted artists and intellectuals who shared ideas in a series of salons. Larkmead's LMV Salon pays homage to those gatherings. The 2018 vintage consists of 41 percent cabernet franc blended with cabernet sauvignon. On the palate, the complex wine explodes with dark blue fruits, bittersweet chocolate, espresso bean, and an earthy forest floor resonance owing to the herbaceous nature of the cabernet franc. With the second sip, a chocolate liqueur layers over a blueberry fruit roll-up, bringing back the original notes of sour cherries.

The LMV Salon is the flagship wine from the vineyard's C Block, where the grape is planted in richer and heavier loam soils. The Napa estate is unique in how it features a diversity of soils that are more typical of a hillside than the valley floor. Centuries of alluvial flow have resulted in the accumulation of ancient riverbed gravel, clay, and loam, all of which assist in creating high-quality grapes.

"Larkmead is unique because it's so close to both the Mayacamas and Vacas Mountain ranges, which contribute to an extreme diversity of soils, especially by the intersection of Selby Creek and the Napa River," says Avery Heelan, winemaker at Larkmead. "I am excited to usher our wines into the next era of our history, focused on climate change research, organic farming, and approaching the 150-acre

estate as a contained microcosm that has the potential to produce the world's finest wines."

Heelan joined the winery as associate winemaker in 2019, and he recently became the winemaker when Dan Petroski left to pursue his own label. She observed as he captured the complexity of the vines by vinifying small lots according to clonal selection and soil type.

She is eager to continue the climate and sustainability efforts, including converting to organic farming. Heelan helped establish Larkmead's experimental three-acre research block on the estate, and has been trialing different grapes known to thrive in warmer weather to address Napa's changing climate. Established in 2020, the research block is planted to nine different varieties, including petite sirah, aglianico, and touriga nacional. "I strive to make sustainability a focus of all of my winemaking decisions while also trying to capture freshness and energy in Larkmead's wines," says Heelan.

Larkmead's transition to organic farming includes experimenting with mists in the vineyards, using permanent cover crops, and planting native species throughout the estate to create healthy conditions that are ideal for producing cabernet sauvignon. Although only 10 percent of Larkmead's production is white wine, it honors its origins by naming a sauvignon blanc "Lillie."

Fall-released vintages include the 2017 The Lark, the 2018 Solari, and 2018 Dr. Olmo. The 2019 LMV Salon will be released next spring.

Larkmead survived prohibition by selling fruit and making sacramental wine. One of the oldest family-owned establishments in Napa Valley, the historic estate is under the stewardship of proprietors Cam and Kate Solari Baker. They have overseen Larkmead's elevation to a world-class estate winery over the last two decades.

For more information, visit larkmead.com.



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Poor old Fox
Has lost his socks.



Nourishing the Imagination

By Atissa Manshour

As a reading specialist in San Francisco public schools and a parent in the early nineties, Children's Book Project Founder and Director Emerita Vicki Pollack could not help but notice the striking disparity of resources between schools in the district. Her own children's school had far more books available to its students than did schools in less advantaged parts of the city. Sensing an opportunity to chip away at this inequity, she organized a book drive, collecting over 1,400 gently used books from her children's school community and redistributing them to schools that needed them.

That initial drive—a simple yet powerful gesture intended to bring the gift of reading into more children's lives—tapped into an unmet community need. As Pollack continued to receive books from an ever-growing group of donors, more schools and teachers came to her for donations. Eventually, these efforts grew into the Children's Book Project, a nonprofit book bank that has distributed nearly three million new and gently used books around the greater Bay Area since 1992. The Read Aloud Program, started in 1998, collaborates with local service providers to support parents in reading aloud to their very young children through age-appropriate books, skill building, and best practices during a critical stage of brain development.

Current Book Bank Manager Kathleen Wydler initially became aware of the Children's Book Project when her daughter's Girl Scout troop organized a book drive and was drawn in by the organization's efficiency. "There's no fat here!" she laughs. "It's just books coming in, and books going out, and that is so fulfilling."

Another fulfilling part of the work for Wydler is seeing the commitment of the teachers, caseworkers, and youth advocates with whom the nonprofit works, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. "They are so outstanding," she says. "These teachers were so concerned with their

communities and the kids they were teaching that they were spending their own money to buy gift cards so the families could buy food. They would come to us in their free time after Zooming all day to find books for the kids. It was just beautiful, the way people were trying to make it work."

When the San Francisco Unified School District organized pop-up food distribution centers during the initial COVID-19 lockdown, the Children's Book Project brought books to give away at the same time, allowing families to nourish their children's imaginations as well as their appetites.

Though straightforward, the organization's mission is by no means an easy undertaking. Its primary need is for a location that allows volunteers to sort and display books by age and subject matter, so that anyone else who works with under-resourced children can browse the shelves and select the books they need. A hardworking board and an April 2021 grant from the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development supported the nonprofit's recent relocation from the Outer Sunset neighborhood to a larger warehouse space in Bayview. A July 2021 California COVID-19 Relief Grant offered further recognition of the organization's importance in the community.

Its supporters, according to Wydler, are "people who love books and want kids to love books." In addition to much-needed financial contributions and volunteer hours, those supporters have donated over 125,000 new and like-new books to the Children's Book Project thus far in 2021, of which over 85,000 have already been distributed. Looking forward to the organization's thirtieth anniversary next year, Wydler says, "We are really energized by our new location and by the vitality of the people who just want to keep getting books to the kids who need them."

For more information, please visit childrensbookproject.org.



YOUNTVILLE **INTERNATIONAL**
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL



Long Story Short

By Andrea Stuart | Photos Courtesy of YISFF



Red brick walls frame an audience as beams and rafters carve ornithological and diagonal patterns above. Colossal halos disguised as wrought iron chandeliers hang loftily, and the remaining bones of the original 1870 Groezinger Winery, now The Barrel Room at The Estate in Yountville, whisper bucolic secrets. The gathered crowd succumbs to a hush while the aroma of fermented grapes sits on the air and a large screen at the front of the room begins to animate. Pupils dilate as the lights dim. Conversations are left in the wake of anticipation.

Ten years ago, when Yountville International Short Film Festival (YISFF) cofounders Bill Hargreaves and Sinohui Hinojosa first began bringing people together for quarterly film events, they hadn't expected that their small tribute to wine and film would grow into a larger annual affair.

"Yountville is a special town in Napa Valley, from its sequestered location to the restaurants and wineries," says Hargreaves. "I wanted to honor that with a special activity that would encourage people to fully experience it." Early considerations shepherded Hargreaves to pair short films with wine tastings.

"Full length features don't lend themselves to the tasting platform, but short films do," he explains. This model also builds time between screenings to allow festivalgoers the opportunity to explore Yountville and become enraptured by its charm. It also supports budding filmmakers who often don't have the resources to make feature films but have the ability to make short films. "It's important to us that we support developing filmmakers," says Hargreaves.

Five years into hosting smaller, quarterly events, selling out each time, YISFF recognized a growing interest in short films as people clamored for more. The organizers believed they could create something bigger to satiate the audiences' appetite. The festival eventually branched out to three venues throughout Yountville: Bardessono Hotel & Spa, The Barrel Room at The Estate Yountville, and the Yountville Community Center.

From February 3-6, 2022, YISFF will screen 100 films. They will be complemented by a variety of activities, such as live Q&As inviting attendees to engage with film creators. Guests can also look forward to musical performances, social mixers, and special dinners, including the VIP Cinema.

The VIP Cinema includes three VIP experiences—the Cabernet Cinema, the Bubbles Brunch Screening, and the Cuvée Cinema. Each event includes all-access passes, mixers with charcuterie and wine, a bonus day of on-demand screening, special wine selections, and other treats. Saturday's experience takes place at Jessup Cellars, where in the past wines have been paired with decadent snacks such as Mushroom Mélange-infused Popcorn.

As Hargreaves and his associates prepare for next year's festival, one thing is certain—the films may be short, but the festival is in for the long haul.

For more information, visit [YISFF.com](https://www.yisff.com).





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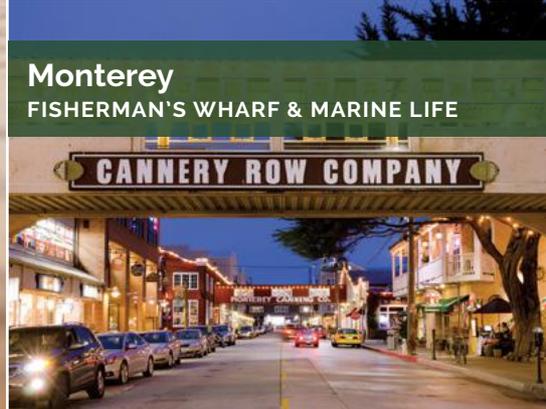


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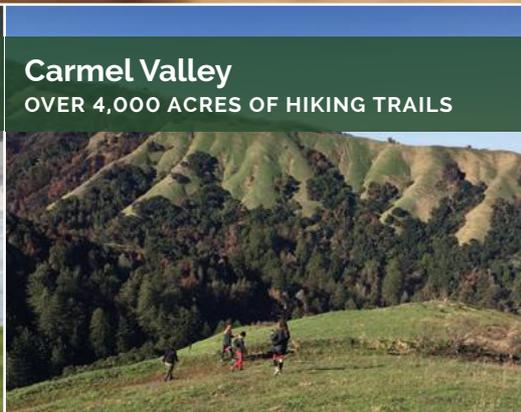
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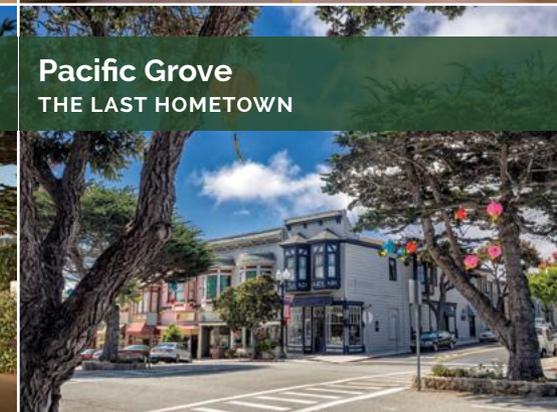
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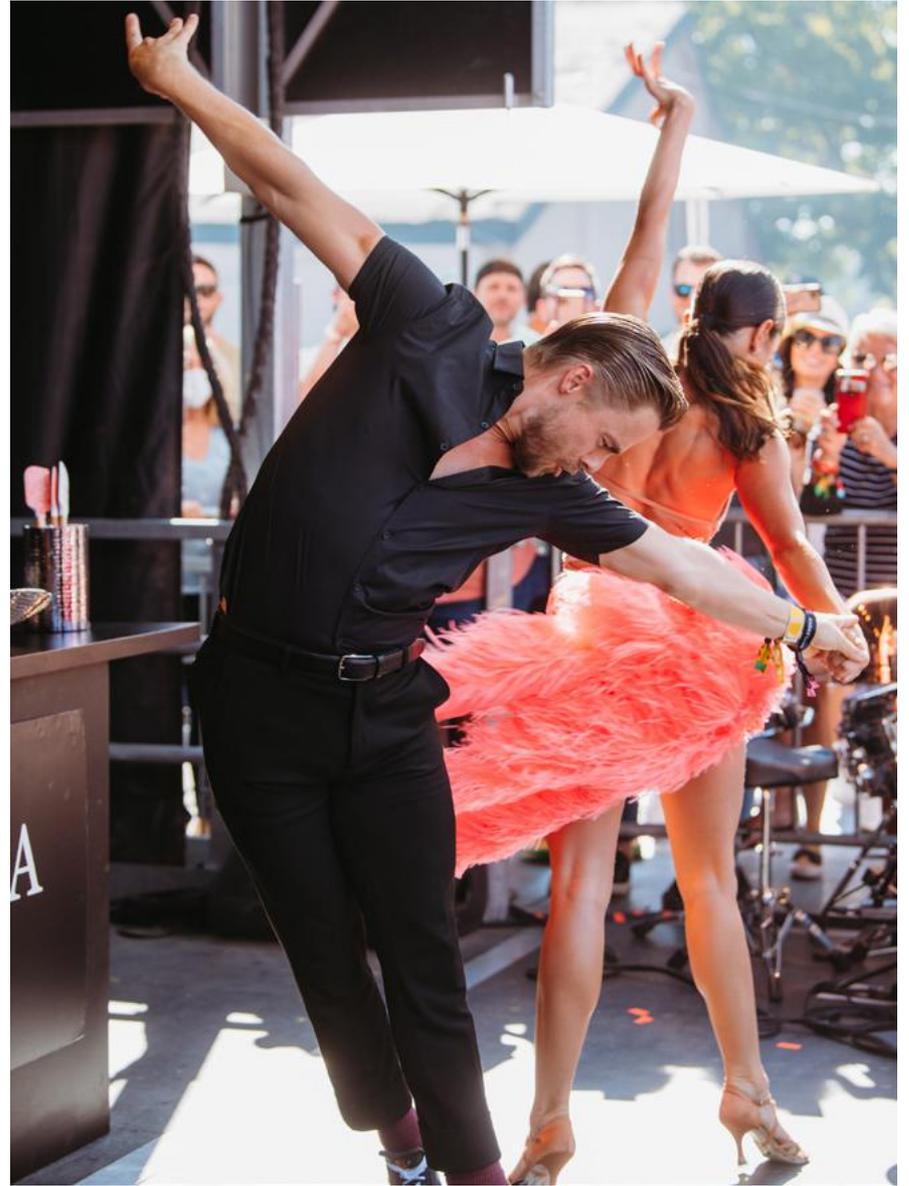
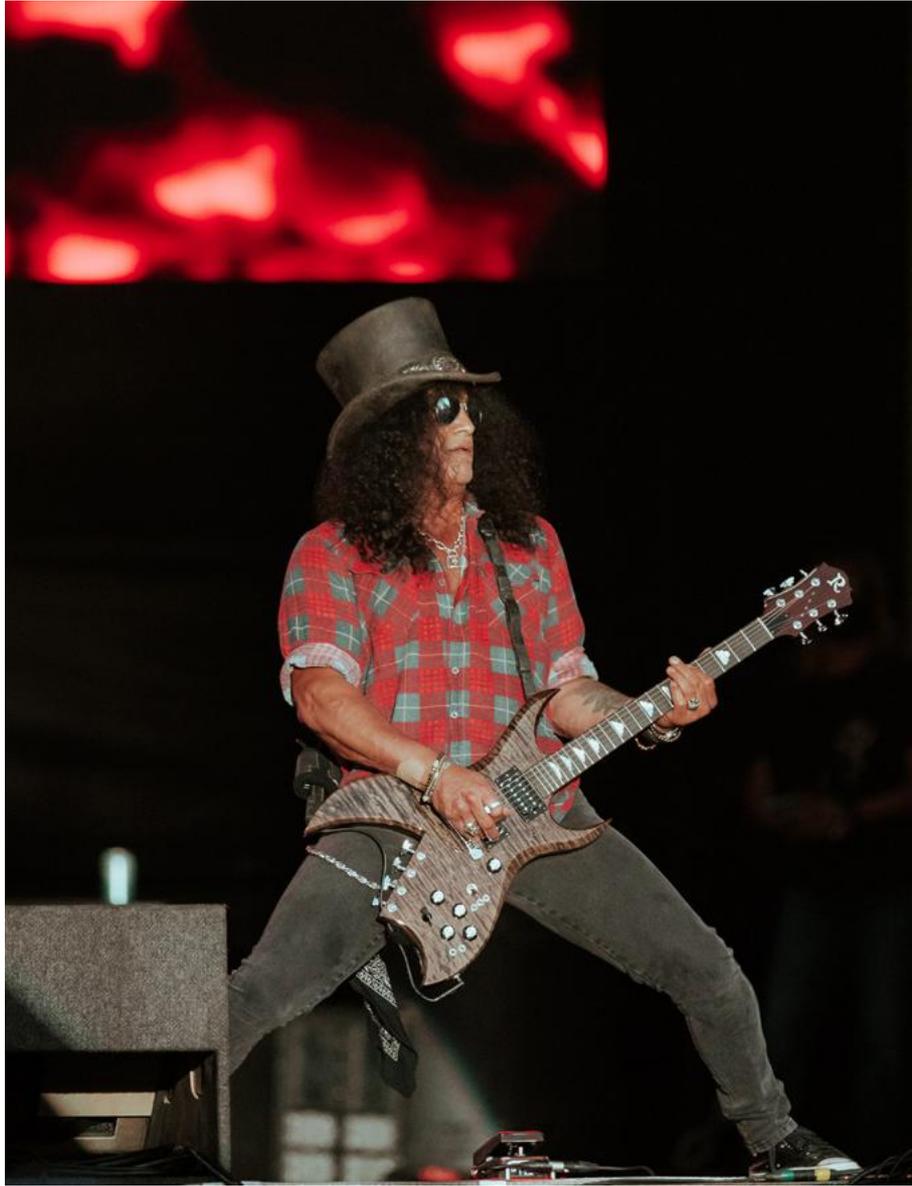
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BottleRock Napa Valley 2021

Photos Courtesy of BottleRock Napa Valley

This year welcomed the eighth year of BottleRock music festival to Napa Valley. Picking up where it left off in 2019, BottleRock hosted over 70 musical acts—from Foo Fighters and Guns N’ Roses to Miley Cyrus, Brandi Carlile, Cage the Elephant, Mavis Staples, and the Napa Valley Youth Symphony. It also featured 43 eateries offering a variety of gastronomies, from Indian and Chinese cuisine to heritage bacon, baked goods, ice cream, pizza, and much more.

Wine took the spotlight offstage as the festival offered up libations from Caymus Vineyards, JaM Cellars, Rombauer Vineyards, Mumm Napa, Peju Winery, and numerous other providers.

BottleRock also initiated an enhanced sustainability mission. The effort included a food donations program in partnership with Feeding It Forward that provided post-festival donations to the community, thus setting the bar higher for festivals countrywide.

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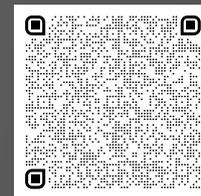
Venus bronze

(left) RICHARD MACDONALD working
with model and actress Kelly Greyson
on 'Venus' in his Monterey Studio.

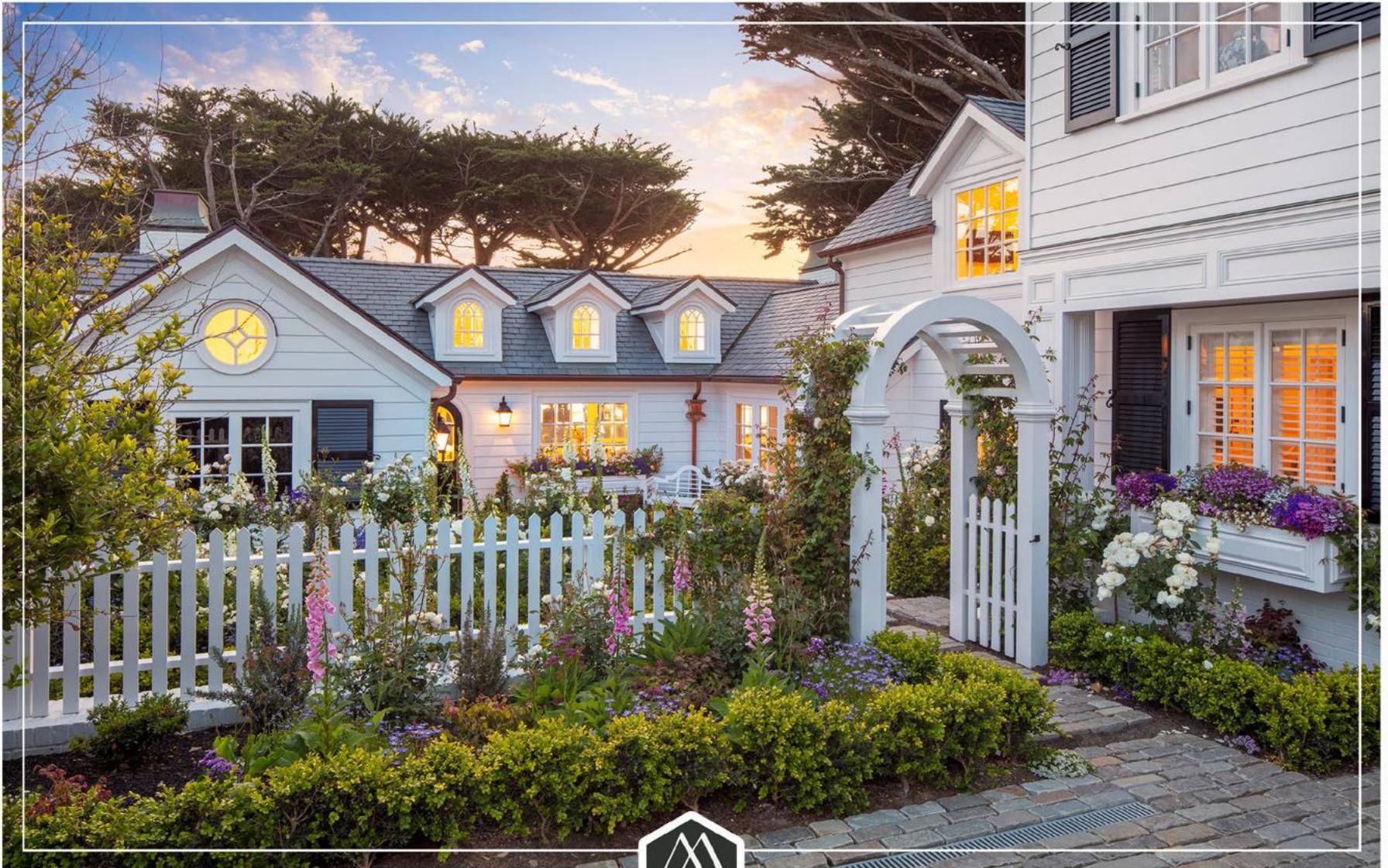
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Shift of Focus

By Jennifer Moulaison | Photos by Marc Howard

Marc Howard has been a commercial and corporate photographer on the Monterey Peninsula for over 20 years. From photographs of some of the most prestigious sports and commercial events, including the AT&T Pro-Am at Pebble Beach for the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and the renowned Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, to commercial photography for landscape architects, interior design, and food and wine, Howard's portfolio represents not only a breadth of subjects and events but also a variety of styles and techniques, all carefully employed to capture the perfect image.

A native of the Monterey Peninsula, Howard pursued a business degree at Furman University in South Carolina. While home on school breaks, he worked as an assistant to local photographers, and then the concept of professional photography suddenly became an option he could seek for himself. "I never saw myself sitting at a desk all day, so the idea of photography was enticing because I could be engaged out of the office," says Howard. He built his business that kept him busy until the COVID-19 pandemic hit and so many events were canceled. But this allowed him the freedom to shift his focus to more natural subject matter. "Like everyone else, plans changed last year, so my family and I decided to make the most of the opportunity," he explains. They packed up their travel trailer and ventured out to some beautiful places in the country, including national parks and the California coast. "We were fortunate to be able to immerse ourselves in nature, which is truly where my passion lies—capturing beauty in all its natural forms and sharing it with others."

Some of the images Howard captured in his travels over the past year can be seen on his social media. He intends to put on a more formal exhibition through a gallery showcase and an online catalogue. As for future plans, Howard is excited to continue photographing events such as the upcoming PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach to pursue opportunities to explore nature and capture magnificent scenes.

For more information, visit marchowardphoto.com



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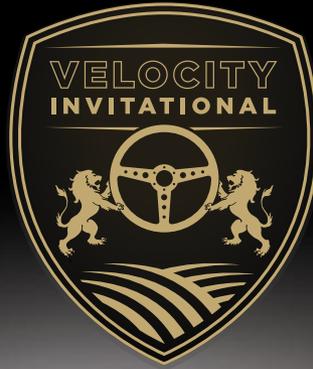


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SNIPped!

By Andrea Stuart | Photos by Alex Shchebet

By 8 a.m., the summer sun has crested the valley horizon as Melanie Scherer, cofounder with her husband, Richard, of Spay Neuter Imperative Project (SNIP), drives up to one of SNIP's mobile spay/neuter clinics in Monterey County. Her heart skips a beat as she observes a fireman standing patiently with his cockapoo, a farmer with his family chatting in Spanish to a meowing pet carrier, a tattooed man with a bandana around his head who is stooping down to hug his boxer, and a woman in a skirt suit with a Chihuahua in her arms whispering, "I love you, too." The eclectic patchwork of people and their companion animals reminds Scherer of how much we all have in common.

"Our clinics attract people from every walk of life," says Scherer with a wobble in her voice. "Every time I see a line of animal lovers waiting for their appointments, it tugs at my heartstrings."

In 2016, after years of working in the nonprofit sector, Scherer realized that adoptions and fundraising alone weren't solving pet overpopulation. She also noticed a disturbing connection between the animals that enter shelters and the money that those animals generate. The more animals that went into the shelters, the more money the shelters made, which created an industry-wide, self-perpetuating problem. So she made a switch from behind-the-scenes financial supporter to boots-on-the-ground warrior.

After acquiring a used spay/neuter mobile unit, Scherer developed SNIP as a nonprofit business model. The vision is to decrease the need for the service. SNIP currently works with animal welfare groups and contracts with cities, counties, and organizations throughout California, including Monterey, Kern, San Benito, Merced, and Santa Cruz counties, to bring low-cost spays and neuters to underserved communities.

"The areas we visit don't typically have a veterinarian within 10 miles," says Scherer. "Many residents don't have cars. They have limited funds. So, we go to them." She notes that there is a disparity between the number of unaltered dogs and cats in lower-income urban areas compared with wealthier suburban neighborhoods. "This is the reason we can't rescue our way out of pet overpopulation," she says.

According to North Shore Animal League, one female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in six years. A female cat and her offspring can produce over two million cats in eight years. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) reports that 6.5 million dogs and cats enter US shelters annually. Of those, only 3.2 million are adopted. Of the unadopted, 1.5 million—many of which are healthy and adoptable—are euthanized. "I wanted to create a program that was affordable, accessible, and educational so we can stop the inflated cycle of birth and death," says Scherer.

She assembled a volunteer-based board of directors, a full-time bilingual receptionist who handles 400 to 500 calls per week, a veterinary staff that specializes in high-volume spays and neuters, and bilingual volunteers and staff. Each veterinary team is made up of one veterinary surgeon, one registered veterinary technician, two veterinary technicians, and an administrator. Because SNIP operates in high-volume capacity buses and its surgery techniques require smaller incisions, turnaround and recovery times are quicker, allowing the completion of up to 32 domestic spays and neuters per clinic, or 700 to 900 spays and neuters per month. To date, SNIP has altered nearly 27,000 dogs and cats. Those numbers will rise considerably, once SNIP procures a new mobile unit and expands to Stanislaus County.

Scherer credits SNIP's success partly to the organization's educational component because education leads to participation. In addition to running informative social campaigns that share empowering statistics, participating in special events, and dialoguing with individuals, Scherer operates SNIP Kids, which visits schools, promotes local youth businesses, and provides toys and books that entertain and inform children about the importance of animal welfare. "SNIP is first and foremost about community," she says. "It's about education, compassion, and kindness."

At the end of the day, Scherer drives out of the clinic parking lot and is struck with reverence as she looks in the rearview mirror. Vacancy sits where a line once stood. The now empty scene fills her with gratitude as she recalls everyone who showed up—each person, part of the solution in the spay and neuter revolution.

For more information or to sponsor a clinic, visit snipbus.org.

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Time to Dance

By Jennifer Moulaison | Photos by Randy Tunnell

The Monterey Peninsula has an undeniable reputation for cultivating the arts and fostering artistic talent. Among its fresh talents is Sage Melton, a gifted dancer whose dedication to movement has garnered the attention of some of the leading names in the field.

Melton's passion for dance began at the age of two, while attending "mommy and me" dance classes with her mother—also a talented dancer and who has been teaching dance at Carmel High School for 29 years. "I think it was important that, while [my mother] encouraged my interest in dance, it was never forced. I was never made to go to classes—except maybe that one time I couldn't find my favorite leotard," jokes Melton. "Dancing was always something that felt natural, rather than being a strict construct of my life." By age 10, she was immersed in advanced classes and attending conventions, expanding her knowledge of dance and choreography from professionals around the world.

Now a student at Carmel High School, Melton studies dance under her mother. She recently completed a three-week intensive camp with the famed Joffrey Academy of Ballet in Chicago. "Of course, dancing in a room next to where the Joffrey Ballet Company was rehearsing was thrilling," says Melton, "but as Joffrey explained to us, the connections we made there are invaluable. Some of the girls, who became like sisters to me, will likely remain connections in the industry for the rest of my life, and I'm incredibly grateful for that exposure."

Just as Melton's passion for dance was picking up steam, the COVID-19 pandemic made opportunities to continue her training difficult. Through an insuppressible drive to keep moving, Melton discovered virtual classes

taught by Shannon Mathers, a nationally recognized choreographer from Los Angeles. "Most evenings, my family would be sitting down to the table, trying to have dinner, while I was planted in front of my TV with Shannon's voice shouting to the room," says Melton, laughing. "Eventually, I took my mom's advice and reached out to Shannon about opportunities for one-

on-one training with her. I was thrilled when we were invited down to L.A., where I was able to work with her, and even recently I went back down to her studio for a weeklong intensive and put together a showpiece."

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought live performances to a screeching halt, Melton was able to keep busy through virtual productions. "'Writing Through Movement' was a virtual piece I choreographed about some of the famous authors who lived on the Peninsula," explains Melton. She also choreographed a virtual dancing showcase through Carmel Valley High School, titled, "Dancing Makes Me Whole." The showcase was released in four parts throughout the school year, airing on Carmel High School's network channel, Padre TV. "We filmed each dancer individually and in different locations, then carefully edited the footage. There was a constant flow of creative ideas that I think made the showcase incredible," says Melton.

On the horizon for Melton are even more extraordinary opportunities. She is in an apprenticeship with the professional dance ensemble Ballare Carmel and performed at this year's Carmel Dance Festival. She is also assessing her options beyond high school, and The Juilliard School in New York is among her considerations. When asked who inspires her most, her response is always immediate: "My mom."



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Feel the Need for Speed

By Clayton Moore | Photos Courtesy of Velocity Invitational

Historic cars, classic races, fine food, and local wine will be in abundance at the new entertainment event, Velocity Invitational, which is coming to WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca November 4 through 14. The event will offer motorsports fans the chance to get up close and personal with over 200 of the finest race cars in history.

California is no stranger to hosting racing events, but after a year during which car events were largely absent, Velocity Invitational is offering fans a unique experience on the Central Coast. The event will feature over 200 cars from every era of racing history, food from local restaurants, and wine from Paso Robles and Monterey County. Docents will also be available to share car history with visitors.

Velocity Invitational has a unique aspect—each vehicle at the event will participate in a race. “What we’re really trying to do is create a forum in North America where these collectors can bring their cars, show them off to the public, and race them,” explains founder Jeff O’Neill. “No one has really done anything like this in North America.”

In addition to running O’Neill Vintners and Distillers, O’Neill partakes in big racing events with the annual Sonoma Speed Festival. Velocity Invitational is an even bigger idea, and O’Neill and his team want to make sure that everyone is welcome. “We want it to be entertaining not just for the race guys but also for families, wives, girlfriends, and friends,” says O’Neill. “Bring your friends and enjoy amazing racing, featuring cars that don’t get out on the track very much.”

There’s also an educational angle to the event with many opportunities for youth to learn about motorsports technology. Admission is free for

anyone younger than 15 years old. “We’re trying to build something that is a real spectacle,” says General Manager Ryan Turri. “The very focused car guys will come, but we’re really after the people on the fringe and the families and their kids. If they have any sort of interest in cars or engineering or history, they’re going to have a good time.

The ambience of the event is based in O’Neill’s philosophy that the owners of these extraordinary vehicles have an obligation to make them available to the public, whether guests watch an old-fashioned sportscars from the Brass Era or shoot the breeze with two-time Formula 1 World champion Mika Häkkinen among a special exhibition of historic McLaren Racing Formula 1 race cars. “It’s our duty to see these extraordinary cars drive as they would have in their time period,” says O’Neill. “It’s a demonstration to show everybody—see it, hear it, smell it. There is no replacement for that experience.”

To add to that experience, Velocity Invitational will also focus on technology. “You have to ask yourself, ‘What was this car like, back in its day?’” says O’Neill. “They were at the forefront of technology, then. You’re talking about the guys who put a supercharger on a car in 1920, all the way through the evolution from steel to carbon fiber to today’s electric race cars.”

Velocity Invitational offers something for everyone, from racing aficionados to casual car enthusiasts. “The big message is that this is an entertainment event, but it’s also a very serious racing event,” says O’Neill. “It will be the best display of race cars in North America by far.”

For more information, visit velocityinvitational.com.



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Brochu Walker: The Store with The Little Pink Door

In July, our quaint town, Carmel-by-the-Sea, welcomed a new neighbor, conscious luxury brand Brochu Walker. Situated at the Northwest corner of Dolores Street and Ocean Avenue, Brochu Walker can be immediately identified by its iconic pink door and signage. While the brand's heritage is rooted in a rich neutral palette, Brochu Walker Owner and Creative Director Karine Dubner couldn't resist adding a touch of femininity to the store design. "The idea of a pink door and sign just spoke to me. Femininity and sensuality are also cornerstones of Brochu Walker and something about this soft hue felt so intrinsic, so inviting," says Karine. "It is this sensibility that truly stands out once you enter our world and walk through the pink door."



Brochu Walker's designs have an understated, rich nature (the ultimate luxury) and an attention to detail that is thoughtful, deliberate, and discreet. The effortless collection is defined by a quality over quantity, less-is-more

mindset, giving way to refined, alluring pieces that are personal, yet have definitive character.

Timeless, ageless, and carefree, the collection is for a woman so confident, she never has to seek the limelight. It seeks her. She is the anti It-Girl. Self-

assured, trendsetting in her consciously undone demeanor, she approaches style with a worldly curiosity and a passion for life. The master of her own universe, she puts equal emphasis on all of her roles and all of her interests. She is quintessentially sophisticated, yet always with an effortless point of view.

Its signature style and best-seller for almost 10 years, The Looker, is part sweater, part shirt. It is one piece that is actually pre-layered or pre-styled so it looks like you are wearing two pieces...so effortless, you don't have to

even think about what to wear. Lookers come in different silhouettes and colors, so there is literally one for every person, every time of day, every mood.



This jewel of a store also carries several exclusive 100% cashmere styles, packable straw hats from Van Palma, fine jewelry from Sarah Weinstock and pieces that are part of their 'Kinder To The Environment' Collection.

The Kinder To The Environment styles are designed to decrease the brand's carbon footprint and includes naturally sustainable cashmere, recycled fibers, and other fabrics that adhere to strict environmental and animal welfare standards. They also use compostable packaging and donate money to BEF's Water Restoration Program, which provides support for a diverse portfolio of national projects that restore water in communities throughout the United States. Restored water is tracked through the creation of Water Restoration Certificates® that directly contribute to restoring the economic, recreational, and ecological vitality of national freshwater resources. To date they have restored 9 million gallons of water. While fashion can be seen as the essence

of unnecessary consumption, sustainability is a balancing act and one Brochu Walker is truly trying to figure out every day.

his is Brochu Walker's first free-standing store. Instead of choosing Los Angeles or New York, traditional locations for fashion brands, Karine chose Carmel-by-the-Sea. "I fell in love with Carmel the first time I visited and I immediately saw Brochu Walker here. The climate, so perfect for our knitwear; local restaurants and boutiques, no franchises; dogs and vintage cars everywhere reminiscent of the South of France where I grew up. Everything about it felt personal."

It is with this personal touch, that Brochu Walker has already made an impression on our community. It feels like they have been a part of Carmel-by-the-Sea for much longer than two months.

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1 Valley Hills Lane	Carmel	93923	\$2,250,000.00	\$2,500,000.00	90%	1.19.21	Buyer
1 Valley Hills Lane	Carmel	93923	\$2,250,000.00	\$2,750,000.00	82%	1.19.21	Seller
77 Yankee Point Drive	Carmel Highlands	93923	\$3,200,000.00	\$3,495,000.00	92%	3.2.21	Buyer
4045 El Bosque Drive	Pebble Beach	93953	\$1,550,000.00	\$1,395,000.00	111%	3.2.21	Buyer
2904 Sawmill Gulch Road	Pebble Beach	93953	\$1,475,000.00	\$1,399,000.00	105%	5.24.21	Buyer
775 Edge Lane	Los Altos	94024	\$3,470,000.00	\$2,998,000.00	116%	6.24.21	Seller
7 Glen Lake Drive	Pacific Grove	93950	\$965,000.00	\$965,000.00	100%	7.6.21	Buyer
31541 Highway 1	Carmel Highlands	93923	\$5,175,000.00	\$5,500,000.00	94%	7.23.21	Buyer
31541 Highway 1	Carmel Highlands	93923	\$5,175,000.00	\$5,500,000.00	94%	7.23.21	Seller
7013 Valley Greens Circle	Carmel	93923	\$2,803,500.00	\$2,475,000.00	113%	8.11.21	Seller
7022 Valley Knoll Road	Carmel	93923	\$1,865,000.00	\$1,995,000.00	93%	8.17.21	Buyer
11627 Hidden Hills Road	Carmel Valley	93924	\$3,475,000.00	\$3,800,000.00	91%	9.20.21	Buyer
335 El Caminito Road	Carmel Valley	93924	\$2,300,000.00	\$2,395,000.00	96%	9.27.21	Buyer
259 9th Street	Marina	93933	\$828,000.00	\$795,000.00	104%	10.6.21	Buyer





Olympic Hopeful

By Bettina McBee

Competitive weightlifting is a demanding sport, with heavy iron plates mounted on a steel bar as its focus. Standing on the platform and visualizing success is champion lifter Cadence Ricci. She confidently looks toward the Paris Olympics in 2024, determined to earn her spot as part of Team USA.

At the age of 15 and then weighing 88 pounds, Ricci won both gold and silver medals for Team USA in Buenos Aires, her first international competition. Although traveling to international and domestic competitions can be taxing, she enjoys meeting other athletes and experiencing being in other countries.

Now 17 years old, Ricci is all grit and persistence. At a height of 4'8" and weighing 120 pounds, she is a petite powerhouse. In the competitive arena of her sport, she can snatch 143 pounds, clean 189 pounds, and jerk 215 pounds. Lifting heavy weight exhilarates and motivates her. "I feel like I can do anything!" she says.

While growing up in Carmel, gymnastics was her passion, and she trained consistently. But after a decade of handstands, flips, and backbends, she vaulted toward a new direction. "Gymnastics wasn't fun anymore," she explains. Seeking another sport for her fierce, competitive energy, she was encouraged by her mother to try CrossFit®, which is a high intensity conditioning and strengthening workout regimen. Soon, Ricci's interest and desire to excel in weightlifting grew.

In 2017, Ricci returned to her birthplace of Sacramento to live with her grandparents. There, she continued CrossFit® training and was introduced to Coach Jaime Llopis, who began instructing her on the necessary steps to become a better, strong lifter. "If you want the best outcome, you have to love the process," she says. She feels that there is a positive, welcoming atmosphere in the weightlifting community, and she thrives in it.

Ricci has already dealt with a painful setback. After competing in 2019, for Team USA in the Youth and Junior Championships in Argentina, a freak accident in the gym left her with a shattered foot, putting her in a cast for three months. The hiatus not only gave her body and mind a break but also demanded that she alter her training routine. She currently trains 10 to 12 hours a week, allowing more time for her body to recover.

Now stronger, packed with more muscle, and ready to take on the world, Ricci will advance into the senior category in 2022, which sets her on course toward the Olympics. Her first stop on that road was a National Meet in New Mexico, held in September 2021.

Ricci's inspiration is Alyssa Ritchey, 6x Team USA weightlifter and the 2019 Pan American Champion. Enthusiasm radiates from Ricci's voice as she described meeting and training with her idol. Like her mentor, Ricci strives to be a positive influence on young people interested in the sport.

For the upcoming Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, Ricci explains the mental focus needed, along with the physical strength and methodical preparation that is demanded of the sport. She explains that, as soon as

she steps onto the platform, "It's time to show everyone what I can do! It's go time!"

The Olympic motto, translated from Latin into English, is "Faster, Higher, Stronger—Together." As Ricci sets her sights on Paris in 2024, she strives to be her strongest, pushing past any and all weakness to outfit her competitors. As per her own motto, "You can't lose if you don't quit!"





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13-Year-Old Virtuoso

By Clay Moore | Photos by Randy Tunnell

Gifted and talented young people are often hard to describe, but Henry Ford put it best: “Genius is seldom recognized for what it is: a great capacity for hard work.” If anybody in Monterey meets that label, it’s 13-year-old Trevor Bernardino, who has parlayed his COVID-19 confinement into an astonishing capacity for making pastries—when he’s not making straight As in school or auditioning for acting roles via Zoom.

During the first waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bernardino spent much of his time with his mother, learning to bake the Filipino recipes passed down through his family for generations, and has become something of a wizard in the kitchen. From his own favorite, the traditional leche flan, an astonishingly simple recipe that is the most popular dessert in the Philippines, to his own variations on the sponge cake called mamon, which he’s dubbed “cloud cakes,” his culinary creations have become so popular that friends and family order them frequently.

“I just found it really cool,” says Bernardino. “I really love to eat, so baking gave me the best of both worlds. I could have fun baking, and my mom would teach me new stuff, and we could hang out together.” Sharing food with family is his favorite part of cooking. “When they’re amazed enough to say, ‘Oh, this is so good,’ it really warms my heart,” he says.

His creations were so popular that he had to figure out how to ship his Unicorn Horns and Space Buns to friends and family in the Bay Area and the East Coast. He even attracted inquiries from local restaurateurs for his baked goods.

He started building up his repertoire with simple baked goods and then advanced to more complex pastries and Filipino desserts. “I love Filipino food,” says Bernardino. “It has so many different kinds of flavor.” He added his own flourishes to recipes and changed their names so that customers would better understand them, “with the exception of Leche Flan, because it’s perfect,” he says.

Surprisingly relaxed for such a busy person, Bernardino has other talents as well. He plays music and acts at a professional level. He recently auditioned for his school’s musical. In addition to landing a couple of commercials, he’s also attracting the attention of talent scouts with his piano playing, singing and acting, all viewable on his YouTube channel and other social media outlets.

It sounds like a lot for the teen, but it’s all part of the same creative matrix. “Creativity gives you freedom,” says Bernardino. “If you have a creative mind, you can create amazing things, and you don’t have to stay inside the box. It keeps you thinking new things. It’s kind of hard to explain, but there are really no rules around creativity.”

Bernardino also spends time watching anime, playing Minecraft® with friends, and hanging out with his family, who have been extraordinarily supportive of his myriad interests. “I feel great about my parents’ support,” he says. “I wasn’t sure they would always be supportive, but every time that I have some new passion that I want to pursue, they’ve backed me up 100 percent. Even if I fail, or I’m not successful in the end, they support me because they want me to be happy. It’s really amazing to have parents like mine.”

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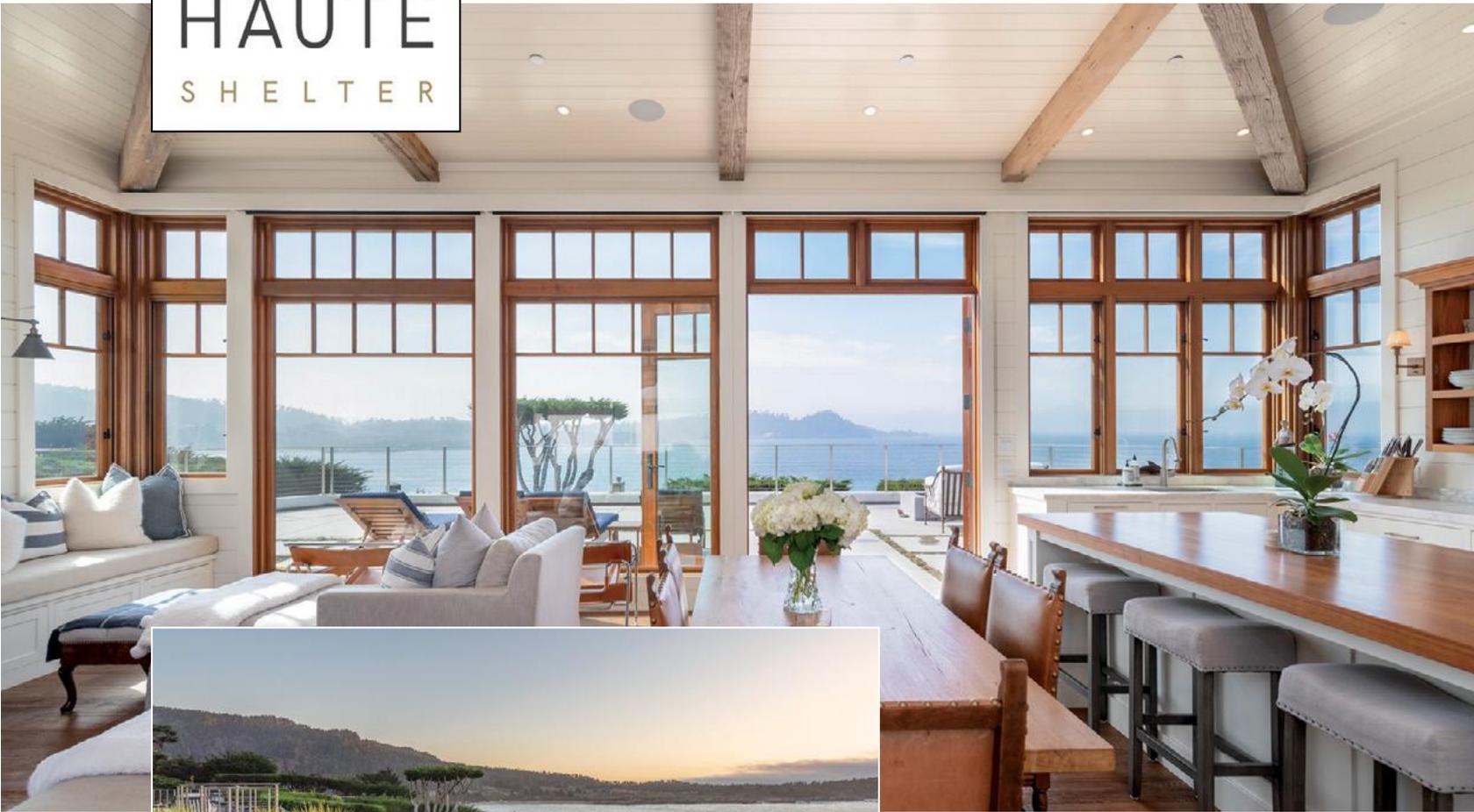
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Golfing and Giving

By Nora Heston Tarte | Photos by Marc Howard

A pillar in the community, Monterey Peninsula Foundation (MPF) has long provided a nexus between golf and giving. It hosts two annual golf tournaments to fund nonprofits and provides charitable giving across Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties. This year, MPF will reach a new milestone, surpassing \$200 million in charitable giving for the region. “Those funds will go right back into the community,” says Steve John, MPF’s CEO. Aside from money gifted to players’ charities of choice, everything raised is funneled back to local organizations.

While charity is the end goal, the funding is fueled by fun. The group’s philanthropic footprint comes primarily from the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, a celebrated golf tournament that occurs on the PGA TOUR and welcomes professionals, amateurs, and celebrities to compete alongside each other for one long weekend each year. The money is raised chiefly through the title sponsor, AT&T, secondary sponsors, and ticket sales. Donations are not solicited by MPF for this event, but some private donors do choose to contribute to the cause.

With the money raised, MPF fills the usual buckets—education, arts, youth support, culture, and health—but its ultimate goal is to meet all needs, regardless of category. Instead of earmarking funds for specific groups of nonprofits, a grant committee, composed of local leaders, meets three times a year to decide where the funds should go. This ranges from subsidizing body cameras for local officers to nonprofits who are some of MPF’s biggest recipients: Montage Health Foundation, the Boys & Girls Club, and First Tee—Monterey County. “There are so many organizations in dire need of funding, the list is endless, and with the impact of the pandemic, it caused a lot of strain on a lot of the nonprofits,” says John. “The need is never going to go away, and we see that, as a foundation.”



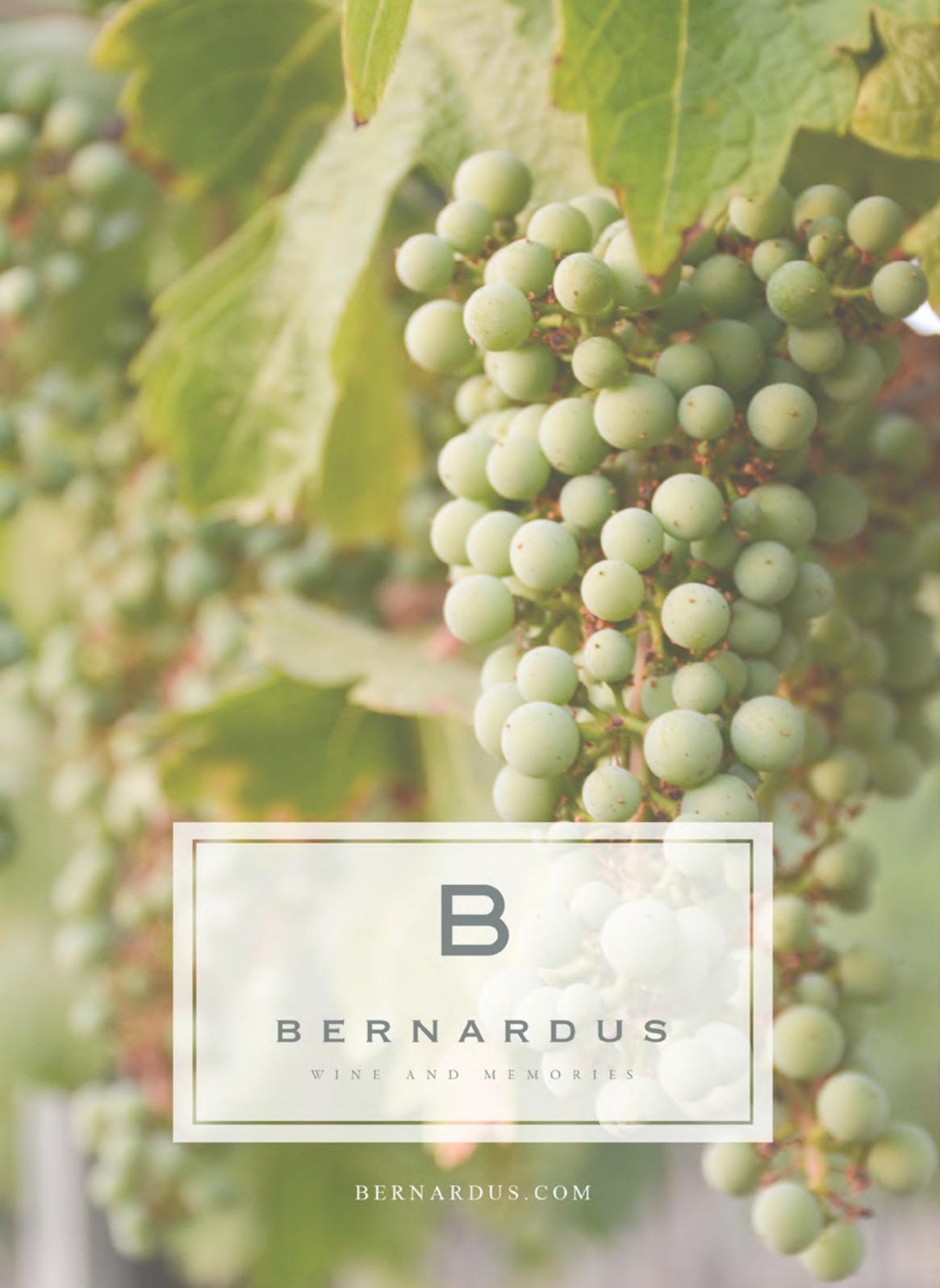
Tickets go on sale on November 4 for the four-day tournament, which kicks off on February 3, 2022. In addition to celebrating a landmark giving year, the 75-year-old tournament will also see the return of fans as well as amateur players on-site, something that was missing from 2021’s COVID-19-affected event. To celebrate, a free-entry Community Day was added to the schedule on February 2, 2022.

On Community Day, fans can take in the Chevron Challenge, a five-hole scramble that will be hosted on Pebble Beach’s brand-new, par-three course, the Hay. During the event, past champions are paired with a celebrity from the world of sports—including standouts such as Larry Fitzgerald, Wayne Gretzky, and Aaron Rodgers—to compete against other teams to play for a per-hole purse. The other major event is the Cisco Million Dollar Hole-in-One, during which celebrities and athletes take for-charity shots on Pebble Beach Golf Link’s 17th hole from roughly 120 yards away, with commentary by hosts Jim Nance and Clint Eastwood. The three closest shots get one chance to hit a hole-in-one for a one-million-dollar

prize. Without a grand prize, the top winner is awarded \$50,000 towards a charity of choice. Second and third place winners do the same with \$25,000 awards.

It all leads up to the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. New experiences for general admission guests include the Patron Hacienda at Triangle Plaza at Pebble Beach Golf Links with eye-catching vistas of the course, and a new location for Clint’s Saloon at the 15th Fairway for a better view of the tournament. This year’s tournament takes place on three courses. Come see 156 professionals and 156 amateurs compete for charities and, of course, bragging rights.

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After growing up and living the vast majority of his life in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, Ed Bass is now living and selling on the Monterey Peninsula. He has been able to utilize the many connections he has developed over almost 25 years of selling in those areas to help clients find properties in the Monterey Peninsula. From real estate agents, title companies, mortgage professionals and friends; helping them and their clients find that little beach getaway, golfers retreat or investment property means the world to Ed. "If you're thinking about purchasing a home on the Monterey Peninsula, please feel free to reach out."

Recent Carmel and Pebble Beach Sales



29051 Falcon Ridge Road
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3122 Bird Rock Road
Pebble Beach • SP \$1.895M
Represented Buyer



NW Corner of Dolores & 10th
Carmel-by-the-Sea • SP \$ 2.749M
Represented Buyer

Ed Bass 831.760.5572
Your East Bay to Monterey Bay Connection

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[jenperlmuttergallery](https://www.instagram.com/jenperlmuttergallery)











Live Like a Local in Luxury

By Jesslyn Monroe | Photos Courtesy of Carmel Realty Company

If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would it be? Consider a luxurious Carmel Realty Company vacation home in either Carmel or Pebble Beach.

After the vacation rental business all but shut down in early 2020, business has bounced back in an extraordinary way, says Carmel Realty Company CEO Dan Lynch. “We consider ourselves very fortunate. The demand is extremely high in the marketplace, right now.” According to Director of Vacation Management Services Katie Eddleman, Carmel Realty Company maintained an unprecedented 88 to 90 percent occupancy rate throughout the summer.

One of the vacation rentals currently available is newly renovated Still Water, a 7,500 square-foot dream home overlooking Stillwater Cove and the famed Pebble Beach Golf Links. This five-bedroom, seven-bathroom, contemporary estate in Pebble Beach treats its guests to the best of California living in every inch of its space. “It’s very hard to leave [Still Water],” says Eddleman. “This property really showcases outdoor living at its finest. Every room in the home was intelligently thought through and designed to perfection.”

Pass through the spacious entry to the soaring Great Room, with towering windows on both sides, from the ocean-facing west view to the hillside courtyard’s east view. An enclosed wall-mount gas fireplace, a large TV, and a stunning open loggia awaits outside the Great Room, with a gas-fire trough for comfort on cool evenings, adjoining a covered loggia and grill area with seating for eight. On the lower level, guests can recline in the Media Room, next to the glass-enclosed wall-mount gas firebox, after a relaxing dip in the outdoor spa and adjacent outdoor shower. Floor-to-ceiling glass windows open to panoramic ocean views throughout, and a luxurious main floor king suite pampers with a spa-like bathroom and private sitting room with a gas fireplace.

Still Water welcomes up to 10 guests, and two of the five bedrooms can be outfitted with either two twin beds or a king bed, making it appropriate as a family getaway or an escape for adults.

After an extensive four-year renovation project, guests are now able to stay at Still Water. The husband and wife owners designed their dream home to honor their nostalgic attachment to Pebble Beach. “[They are] so gracious with their home and genuinely pleased guests get to enjoy this special place,” says Eddleman. “Our team coordinates with all guests before they come, offering concierge-level service to help coordinate everything, from grocery shopping and dinner reservations to private chefs and small-event planning.” Such personal touches keep rental customers coming back, and some even purchase homes of their own.

“Given all that has happened in the world over the past 18 months, clients are choosing to spend their time where they genuinely want to be,” says Lynch, noting similar demand on the luxury real estate sales side of Carmel Realty Company. “A large percentage of people who have rented homes over the years end up buying and become permanent owners.”

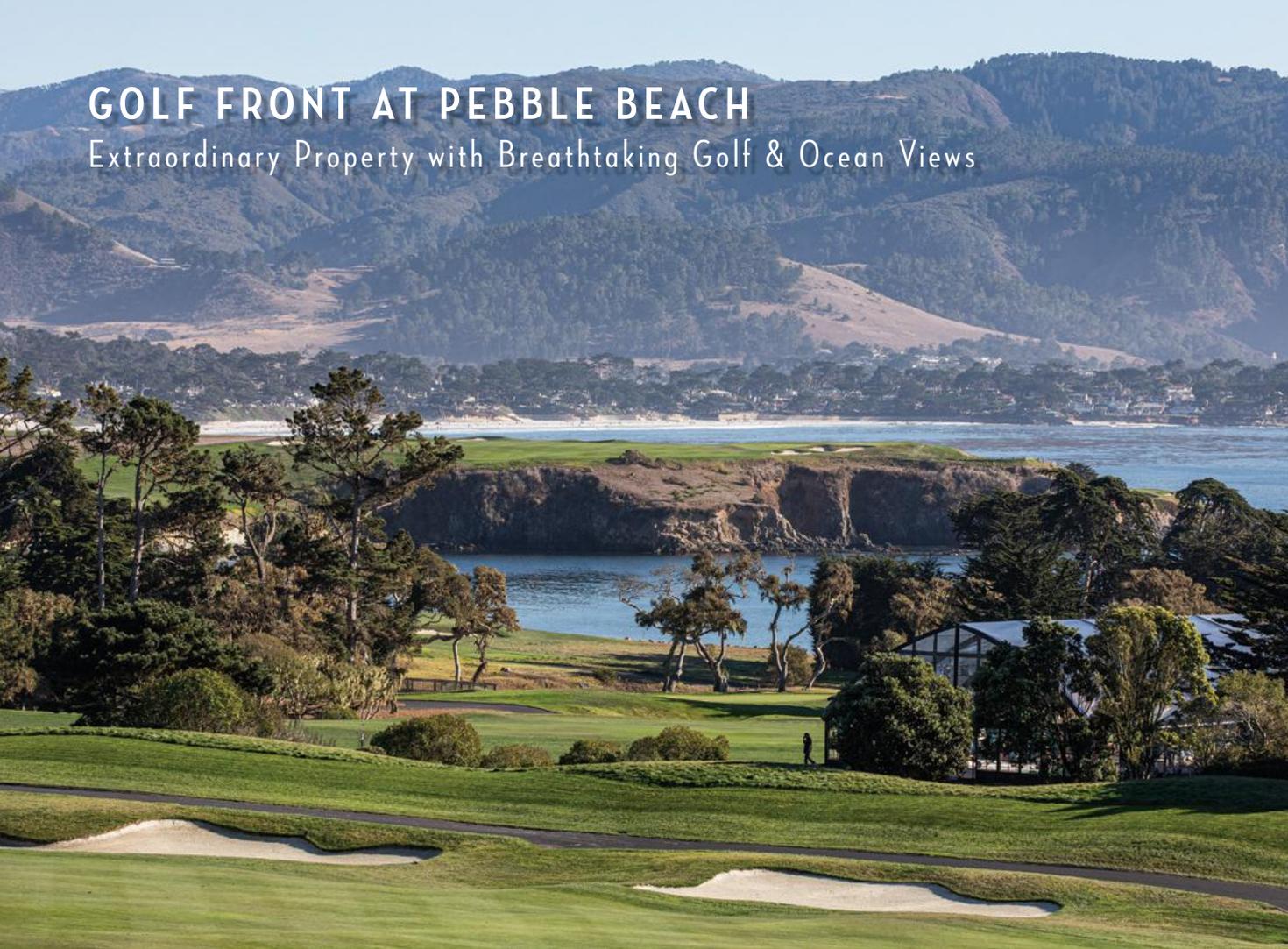
Renters of luxury real estate with Carmel Realty Company truly live like a local. “[They] contribute to the vitality of our community, eating in our restaurants and shopping in our shops,” says Lynch.

Choosing to rent a home while traveling is also a practical option during these health-conscious times. “You can have privacy, safety, and all the comforts of home,” says Eddleman. “We make sure all of our homes have fully equipped kitchens, linens, and amenities for your stay. You live like you live at home but in a new, amazing area.”

For more information, carmelrealtycompany.com/vacation-still-water-2648.htm#property-info.

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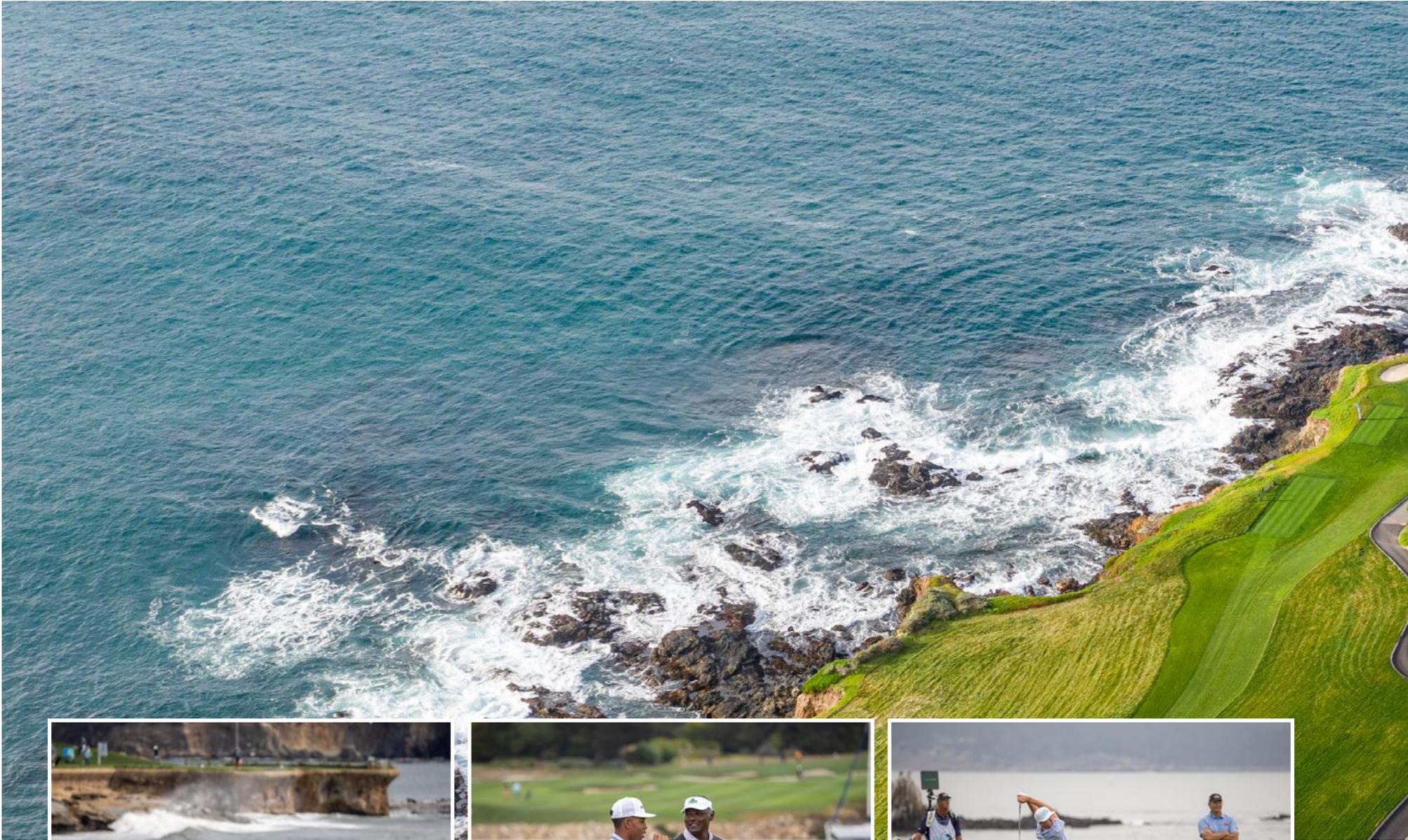
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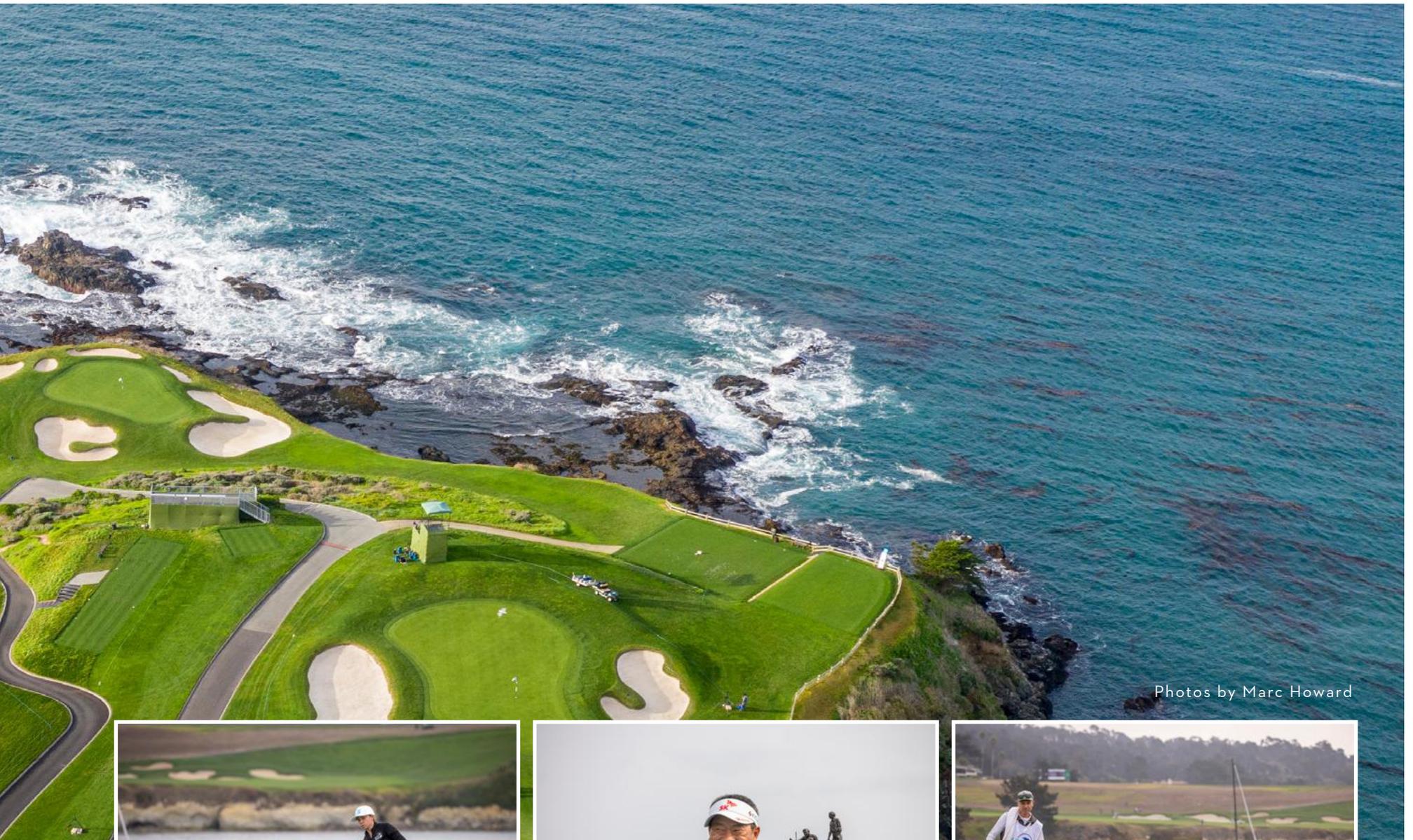
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Photos by Marc Howard





More at Home

Share the Holidays in Your Stunning
New Residence along Monterey Bay

Sea Haven is an exciting planned community that spreads over 248-acres along the iconic Monterey Bay. These beautiful new one and two-story homes feature an impressive array of architectural styles, with open floorplans and outdoor living areas that deliver the coastal lifestyle you've always dreamt about.

— *Along Monterey Bay* —

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LAYIA NEIGHBORHOOD

This stunning collection of one and two-story homes focuses on the enjoyment of indoor / outdoor living. Featuring five different floorplans to choose from, all with numerous ways to tailor these homes to your family's needs, including the optional California Room.

One and Two-story
1,849 - 2,725 sq. ft.
3 - 5 Bedrooms
2 - 3.5 Baths



VILLOSA NEIGHBORHOOD

Villosa represents a rare opportunity for large families looking to bask in the blissful lifestyle offered by Monterey's coastal region. Available in five different floorplans, these beautifully constructed residences offer up to seven bedrooms, making them a rarified find so close to the beach.

One and Two-story
2,380 - 3,411 sq. ft.
3 - 7 Bedrooms
2.5 - 4 Baths



THE COVE CLUBHOUSE

The Cove carries on the clubhouse tradition for residents of Sea Haven, and in fine style. Offering many ways to find peace and contentment, curated amenities include industrial kitchen, yoga studio, bocce ball courts, and much more. The Cove is unique to Sea Haven, and you will not find its equal anywhere along the Central Coast of California.

Opening Fall 2021

The Nut Hut

By Jennifer Moulaison | Photo by Manny Espinoza

Enveloped in the picturesque surroundings of the Court of the Fountains in Carmel-by-the-Sea sits a charming gazebo that possesses a colorful history of previous businesses. The unique location has housed everything from artist's galleries to antiques and wine tasting. Earlier this year the building changed hands and—with the help of designer Martin Mitchell of Martin Perri Interiors—it was completely transitioned into the vision of new owners and longtime friends, Blaine Helton and Miguel Gutierrez. The spot now offers the freshest varieties of organic nuts and delicious treats as well as a seasonal array of local organic specialty foods, thoughtfully curated gift baskets, and more.

Like the gazebo, Helton and Gutierrez also possess diverse professional histories. In addition to this new endeavor, Helton continues his duties as Vice President at Martin Perri Interiors, where he's been working for the past two decades. Gutierrez has experience working in Electrical Engineering, Project Management and Software Administration. "We've found our previous roles have been invaluable as we navigate an industry that's fairly new to us. We're able to apply our skills to problem solve and find quick solutions to the ever-present challenges of operating a

small business—particularly in this post-pandemic landscape," explains Helton.

The unique business concept was sparked by Helton and Gutierrez's passion for celebrating elevated snacks, or as French people say, "bonne bouche". As the pandemic unfurled, the pair further perfected their concept. "We started thinking of creative ways we could deliver gifts and share memories with those we care about. It also shaped our thinking in how we gift. What is healthy gifting? What is responsible and caring? The relevance of gifting seemed to change and be defined for us all at once," explains Helton.

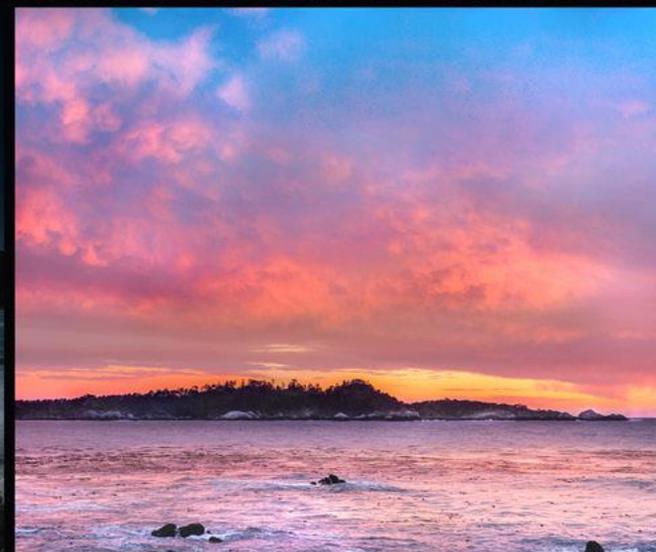


The Nut Hut officially opened Memorial Day Weekend of 2021. Their online store will open with holiday offerings in addition to unique products, including organic food baskets, whimsical gifts, and tabletop décor. "We opened just as people were becoming vaccinated and everything was beginning to thrive again. It felt very natural and healthy—as if we were a part of a greater cause," shares Helton. "We're so thrilled for customers to share in our passion for specialty foods as we lead them through tastes and conversations complemented by our diverse selection."









MANNY**ESPINOZA**PHOTOGRAPHY

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