

65°



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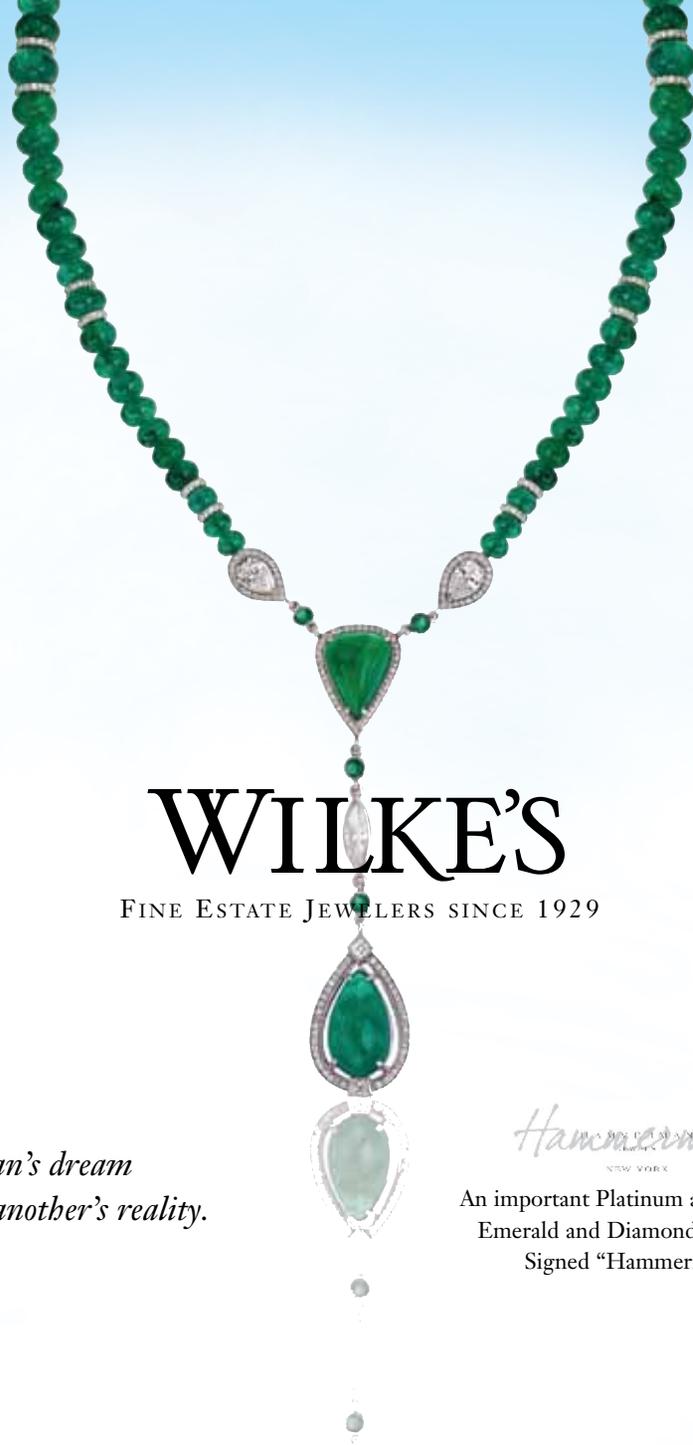
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The 1961 Aston Martin DB4 GT Zagato Berlinetta, owned by David and Ginny Sydorick, is one of the most elegant coach build Aston Martin touring cars in existence.

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

by Richard Medel

Summer is here! In Carmel-by-the-Sea, that means car season has arrived. Yes, I know, one could argue that it's always car season 'round here, but we all know that things get a little hotter during the summer, and not because of the weather. The grand event for the season is, of course, Concours, which will be upon us soon. We're thankful for Kandace Hawkinson at Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance for providing us with stunning images.

Like many of the visionaries living on the Peninsula, the individuals who fill these pages found a way to make their own niches in the world. Amanda LeVett, daughter of my good friend Denny LeVett, has demonstrated exceptional creativity by carving out her own position into the business while still following in her father's footsteps. Likewise, Monique Gardiner, subject of Drawing on the Fabric of Uniqueness, radiates class. It's no wonder she's been able to weave her Viennese influences into her artwork.

These pages would not be complete if we didn't include Tom Levrone, a surgeon-turned-motorcycle restorer: and what magnificent masterpieces he creates. We can't think of a better way to for someone to translate skills from one career to another. Then, there's Ryan Brooks, a mover and a shaker by any definition. With an upbeat personality like his, we're not surprised that he engages in numerous pursuits, including serving as VP of Government Affairs at CBS as well as basketball coach for his son's team.

If any of you missed the Pebble Beach Food & Wine event, don't despair, Los Angeles Food & Wine is right around the corner. However, before you move on to that, I'd like to introduce our cover



story subject for in 57°, Cecilia Chiang, the doyenne of Chinese food. I met her at a tribute dinner during Pebble Beach Food & Wine, where they awarded her for transcending above innovation in Chinese cuisine. I was so inspired by her story that night that we had no choice but to share this legend with you.

There is a lot of territory to cover in a finite amount of pages. But, I think we do a pretty good job. I hope you'll turn each page of this issue and find something new, something interesting, something that makes you think, or just something that makes you smile.



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# Behind the Bagpipes







## Behind the Bagpipes

Photos by Randy Tunnell and Chris Iatesta

### **PAUL HODGINS**

Paul Hodgins, a California native, studied the Scottish bagpipe with Seumas MacNeill and staff members of the College of Piping in Glasgow, Scotland, and spent a year under the tutelage of Alex MacDonald, former pipe major of the Scots Guards and piper to HRH Elizabeth II.

A resident of Carmel Valley, Mr. Hodgins has been active in piping since 1974 as both a bandsman and a solo competitor. In the latter role, he has won prizes in his class at most of the major California Highland Games. The study of piobaireachd, the classical music of the pipes, is one of his special interests. In addition, Mr. Hodgins has performed An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise, one of the few symphonic works featuring the bagpipe, with the San Francisco, Long Beach, Santa Barbara, and most recently, Monterey Symphony orchestras.

### **MICHEL d'AVENAS**

Pipe Major Michel d'Avenas is a classically trained musician and award-winning professional piper with almost 40 years of performance and instructional experience. He is the Piper Major of the Monterey Bay Pipe Band and the leading bagpipe instructor in Monterey County. He is also a piping competition judge at Scottish festivals and other events. Michael is the founder of the Monterey Celtic Arts Academy and The Monterey Bay School of Piping and Drumming.

Michel, a Monterey County native, plays a classic set of Great Highland bagpipes. Mounted in ivory with engraved silver and African Blackwood drones, they were manufactured by William Sinclair & Sons of Edinburgh, Scotland. Michel is often seen at sundown playing the pipes at the Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach.

Michel's family came from both Great Britain and France, and he has a musical heritage that extends through many generations. Michel studied piping with internationally renowned, championship bagpipe players and instructors, including Seumas MacNeill, Iain MacFadyen, John Burgess, Archie Cairns, Jimmy MacColl, and Jack Lee.

### **MELISSA OLSON**

Melissa "Missy" Olson became interested in playing the pipes because her grandfather was in a Scottish regiment in World War I called The Black Watch. She still has his kilt and glen that he marched into battle in. He had a record of the pipes and drums that Missy loved as a kid, so she found a teacher and began playing as a teenager. Later, she played in a couple of different pipe bands, which eventually led to becoming one of the Sunset Pipers at The Inn at Spanish Bay 25 years ago. Missy played for the opening ceremony of The Links at Spanish Bay in 1987. She feels very blessed playing the pipes at The Inn, as the beauty and people are unsurpassed (although the weather can make it trying at times). She feels very fortunate that all of her children have followed in the heritage. Missy's son Charles is a piper, daughter Audie is a snare drummer, and her youngest daughter, Lane, is a piper, who often plays with Missy on her rounds at Spanish Bay.

### **MICHAEL GILLEN**

A classical musician and Russian linguist by training, Michael Gillen has been playing the bagpipes at The Inn at Spanish Bay since the day it first opened for business to the general public in November, 1987. Mike also performs regularly for private events such as weddings and memorial services. The founding pipe major of the Salinas Pipe Band (now the Monterey Bay Pipe Band), Mike still performs with the band on occasion. When not playing the pipes, Mike is a professor of Russian translation and interpretation at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Mike is married to Katya, who is employed as a Russian linguist for Apple. They have a daughter, Anna, who will be a senior at Robert Louis Stevenson School. Katya and Anna can often be seen at Spanish Bay chatting with the friends and acquaintances they've made at The Inn over the years while listening to Mike play.



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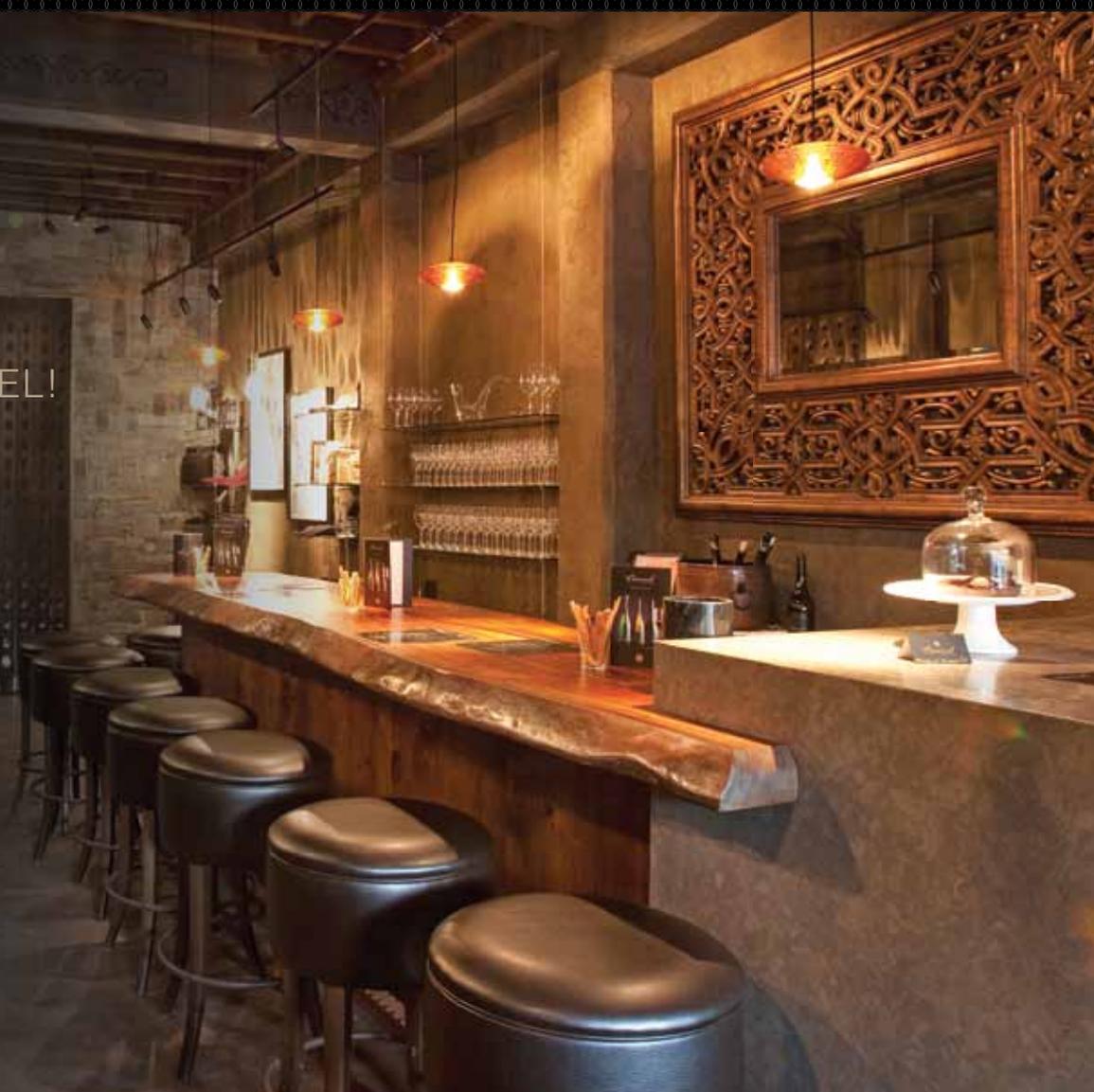




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Monique







## Drawing on the Fabric of Uniqueness

by Kimberly Horg / photos by Chris latesta

Weaving fabrics with her mother, Muttie, Monique Gardiner sewed creations for family members and well-dressed dolls. The ritual, practiced by the two for shared quiet time, would later on in life augment Monique's talents. As an established artist wearing different hats, her enthusiasm grew for Art Deco and Art Nouveau while surrounded by the artistic influences of her hometown, Vienna.

One might say Gardiner's early life was spent as a gypsy, moving about to different countries with her two older brothers, soaking up the culture and language at each new adventurous destination. After all, it was the lifestyle of her father, Paul Ledaux, a government interpreter. His native tongue being French, he read, wrote, and spoke a dozen languages.

Frequent trips to the museum with her mother opened a door of imagination, and Gardiner learned to do more than admire art. Feverishly relishing the works of Gustav Klimt and Salvador Dali, she developed a sense of color from her two favorite artists. "I always had a passion for art. I think art teaches individualism," she says.

At the age of 10, she learned English when her family moved to Boston during the 1950s. She traveled back and forth between Boston and Monterey, where her father attended Army Language School, eventually buying a second home in Pacific Grove.

Starting out as a painter, Gardiner studied color and design at the Art Academy in San Francisco. It wasn't until years later, when an unexpected encounter brought on by a window display she created, would change her life forever.

An intricate life-sized white horse stood in the window of a Persian shop in Carmel. Catching the eye of John Gardiner, ardently on a mission to find a unique thank you gift for a friend who "had it all," he met his match. The large wooden horse, wrapped in fabrics with beads in its mane, was not the only treasure he found that day.

Because the piece didn't fit in John's car, Monique delivered it with a friend who owned a convertible. They journeyed with the gigantic animal stuffed in the back seat, making their way to John Gardiner's Tennis Ranch in Carmel Valley. Upon delivery, the satisfied customer called soon after, this time inquiring about a camel. "I called him back and asked, 'Do you want one hump or two?'" she says. A year later, the two were married. Monique decorated the entire tennis ranch with a zoo of animals, including Omar the Camel.

Constructing fashionable creatures struck her by accident when her brother was renovating his house. Asking for a saw horse, she quickly made one with a neck to give to him as a joke, suddenly deciding to take it home for finishing touches. After a couple weeks of wrapping it with designer fabrics, her brother insisted on getting his own saw horse because hers was way too nice to cut wood on. Built with two by eight wooden frames, quilted hand-stitched tapestry, and Italian glass eyes, the animals not only attracted her mate but were commissioned by the San Francisco Zoo, Merv Griffin Enterprises, San Saba Wineries, and many more.

When John, a widower, passed away a little over a decade ago, Monique inherited the love of his four children. Although this time was painful, a new chapter of her life reared itself into existence with the sale of the ranch. A driving force to be known for more than creating sizable yet fashionable animals, Monique Gardiner kept her artistic juices flowing. Now making one-of-a-kind scarves and pins, her artistry is commissioned and can be found at the Pebble Beach Concours.

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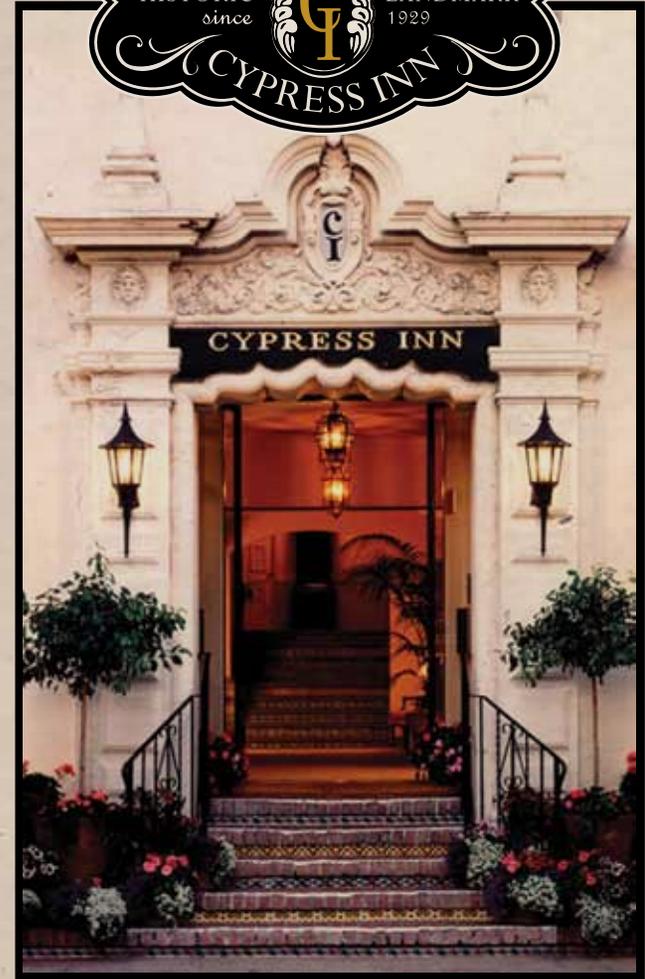
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PERSONA





Amanda



## Small Town Visionary

by Andrew Call / photos by Chris Iatesta

Amanda LeVett is a self-proclaimed Catalina High School lifer, and although her nearly two-decade stint at the school has come to an end, her life since has been a reflection of the open-mindedness and the joy for learning prescribed to her there. Two summers spent in a Broadreach summer program, where Amanda sailed and maintained ships in both Egypt and the Caribbean, added to that unforgettable sense of perspective outside of Carmel—a small town, Amanda says, you can't fully appreciate until you leave and come back. And while she wishes her return to Carmel to assist with her father's celebrated real-estate business after high school was a proud example of sheer abiding family loyalty, in her refreshing sincerity, she admits it wasn't all so romantic. "To be frank, after college I took my surfboard and traveled the world and ran out of money," she says.

To her surprise, during the initial stages of her ascent in her father's company, Amanda was immediately embraced and supported by the business community, and although her responsibilities were encouraged, Amanda acknowledges it wasn't always such a graceful experience. For a local girl

whose love for the Monterey Peninsula was strictly in regards to the surrounding beauty—the hiking, the surfing, the day trips to Big Sur with friends—it was a major shift to begin appreciating the area for what it offered with regards to a tangible career. "I had worked every job at the Cypress Inn, but to be suddenly taking over the business and wanting it to excel was kind of frightening. Every day, I was doing things I had never done before," she mentions. In hindsight, Amanda attributes her success to her willingness to make mistakes and experiment with new business strategies. In 2008, for instance, in the middle of a recession that crippled the common small business' marketing department, Amanda headlined an entirely new marketing strategy, creating Carmel Boutique Inns, setting a standard of excellence amongst each of the family-owned establishments in town—not a popular approach, but one that ultimately proved to be successful.

Amanda's gratitude for her father's hands-off teaching tactic is evidenced in her work ethic. "I'd call him up and ask how do I handle this situation or what should I do during the off season, and whatever the question was, Dad would say, "You'll figure it out." In retrospect, you learn a lot for having to figure it out on your own and looking at every aspect of it." That's the type of business culture that led Amanda to truly embark on her own vision for the type of youth-friendly, energized Carmel she sees unfolding. Now, under Amanda's creative control, the artistic attitude of Carmel itself is evolving as she gives unprecedented approval to edgier projects like the Charlie Chapman painting by world-class street artist Dr. Brainwash now gracing the Western wall of the Cypress Inn.

Amanda is proud to foster and encourage Carmel's transition from a slow, quiet town to something more alive and dynamic. From the get-go, for instance, Tom Burns' Carmel Art and Film Festival, whereby "all of a sudden Carmel is something all day long and all night long," inspired Amanda to keep the faith in cultivating that movement toward something new. Amanda is excited about any and all creative processes in a town with the potential to carry on its original legacy of a true artist colony. "Carmel is busting at the seams with potential. Anyone who wants to throw that kind of creativity in the mix, I just want to be a part of it," she says. "Carmel has the opportunity to do some really unique things without harming its integrity."

Amanda's latest quest for restoring and preserving that artistic integrity of Carmel is at the Vagabond House renovation on 4th and Dolores. Rebranding the iconic inn as a Carmel artists' retreat, Amanda's vision is clear for fostering the evolution of creative exploration in a town originally founded for just that.



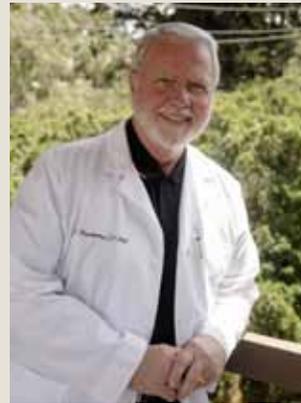
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## From Nasa To Medical Specialist

by Gina Broderick

What does a NASA scientist have to do with an osteopathic physician? The same engineering mind that solved biomechanical problems for NASA is translating that skill into a medical specialty called osteopathic medicine right here in our own backyard.

Dr. Clarence Nicodemus came to the Monterey Peninsula from Houston, Texas and opened his Monterey practice five years ago. Nicodemus is more qualified than anyone in the tri-county area to help solve musculoskeletal problems.

Nicodemus was a biomechanical scientist for NASA for many years. In 1992, he left to pursue a career in medicine as the Director of Orthopedic Spine Research for six years at the University of Texas at Galveston. He saw a need for non-surgical ways to treat back pain. The fact that he was 57 years young didn't stop him from going to medical school.

With a bachelors and masters degree and a doctorate in biomechanical engineering under his belt, he charged full speed ahead! At 61, he graduated from Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. Today, Nicodemus and his wife Grace are busy running their Monterey clinic. Grace Nicodemus is a minister, who offers spiritual-based medical preventative counseling at their Monterey office.

Dr. Clarence Nicodemus combines knowledge and experience with empathy and compassion so that people leave the office healed and whole.

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# Greenscape California

by Andrea Stuart with Andrew Call / photos by Chris Iatesta

Greenscape California has managed and maintained the Colonial Terrace gardens for many years. For as long as the nearly 100-year-old establishment has used Greenscape, General Manager Amber Cyran reports only content guests. “Guests are always commenting on how beautiful the gardens are and how they love to stay here because of them,” she says. She is especially pleased with Greenscape’s approachability and flexibility in coming up with dynamic ways to improve and maintain the gardens. “The owners are always available. Colonial Terrace is happy to take advantage of Greenscape’s native plant knowledge and expertise,” adds Amber. “You can tell when someone really enjoys what they do, and Greenscape truly loves gardens.”

Every time James Neckopulos’ and his wife look out their window they’re reminded of the beauty that attracted them to Carmel. Even their yellow lab, Zach, loves living amongst native plants, walking paths, and the natural stone patio. “We wanted a low maintenance, eco-friendly environment. The Greenscape team delivered on all counts,” he says. Having lived up and down the California coast since 1981, James and his wife have settled on the Peninsula and are pleased with Greenscape’s intuitive ability to recreate that natural central coast experience. And, with Greenscape’s unique xeriscaping method, using drought-tolerant plants, mulch, and decomposed granite as alternatives for water-wasting grasses, the Neckopulous family has happily beautified their property in a sustainable way.

**For your garden maintenance and landscaping needs, contact Dave at 831.392.7099 or Greg at 831.236.7381, visit [greenscapecalifornia.com](http://greenscapecalifornia.com), or email [info@greenscapeca.com](mailto:info@greenscapeca.com).**



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# The Mikado Gala Dinner & Show at Sunset Center

Photos by Philip Rohlik and Chris Iatesta

SCENE





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Gina Broderick, Rich Medel



Christine Chin and Teiko Drummers



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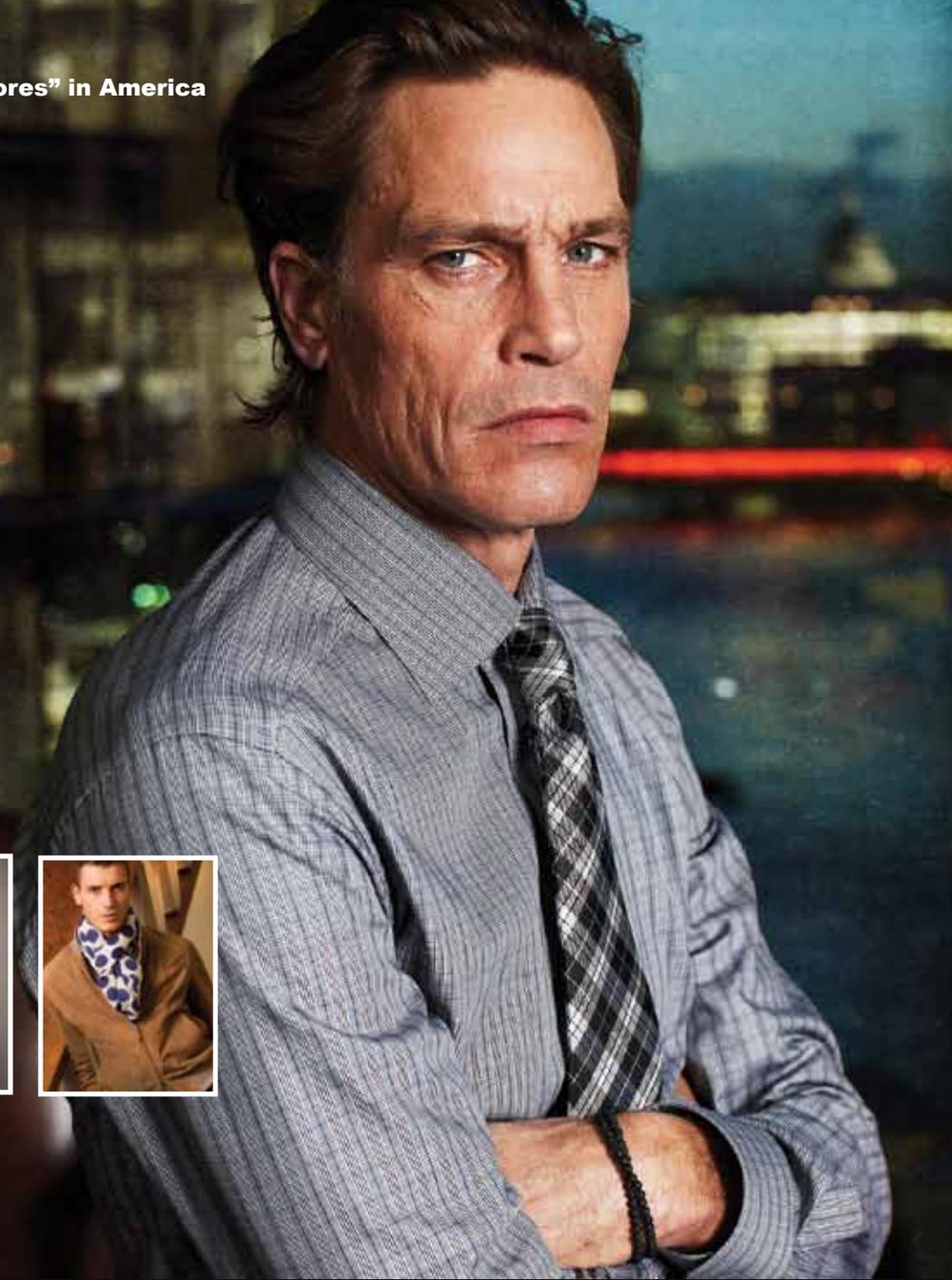


Jim Ockert, Owner  
Men's Fashion Consultant



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# Law Office of Maija West, Moxie Lab

by Andrew Call / photo by Randy Tunnell

Maija West's Moxie Lab, a dynamic and groundbreaking approach to responsible and effective estate planning, graces the Peninsula.

It was her own life-changing experience—learning to appropriately and urgently care for her father's early onset of Alzheimer's—that inspired Maija West to focus her career to becoming the type of trusted, devoted, and understanding estate planner that she would have liked to have had in the midst of that testing time. And now, with her unique ability to incorporate her background in both the non-profit sector and the banking industry, Maija has devised the very creative and integrative estate planning for her clients she once so eagerly sought for herself. Maija brings with her practice an incredible ability to be flexible with what she knows to be the reality of the unique, unpredictable, and always personal nature of the situations that require estate planning. Maija's innovative concierge legal service, a developing trend in the industry, provides tailored services and fees to meet the individual needs of her clients. Maija often works in conjunction with a select team of professionals to ensure the best possible options for her clients while minimizing unnecessary costs. Maija West is more than the traditional estate planner, but rather the driving force behind her aptly named Moxie Lab, her important new take on the balance of compassion and aggressive assertiveness required to diligently and responsibly address the more challenging chapters of her clients' lives.

*A new approach to estate and business planning.*

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# Monterey's Best Ocean Front Hotels are on Cannery Row

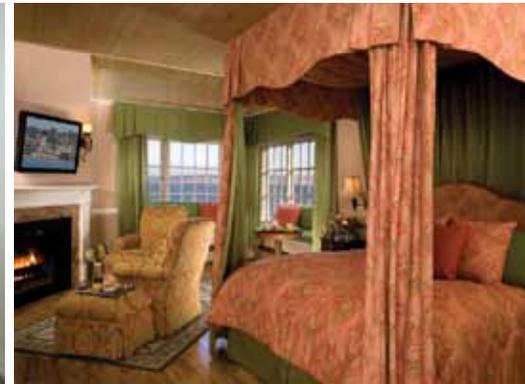
Cannery Row makes vacations easy to plan and hard to forget. The best Monterey hotels are found here on the historic waterfront, and include a lavish waterside resort, a magnificent waterfront hotel and luxury inns. No need for a car, either. Hotels are within easy walking distance of attractions, restaurants, shopping and nightlife.

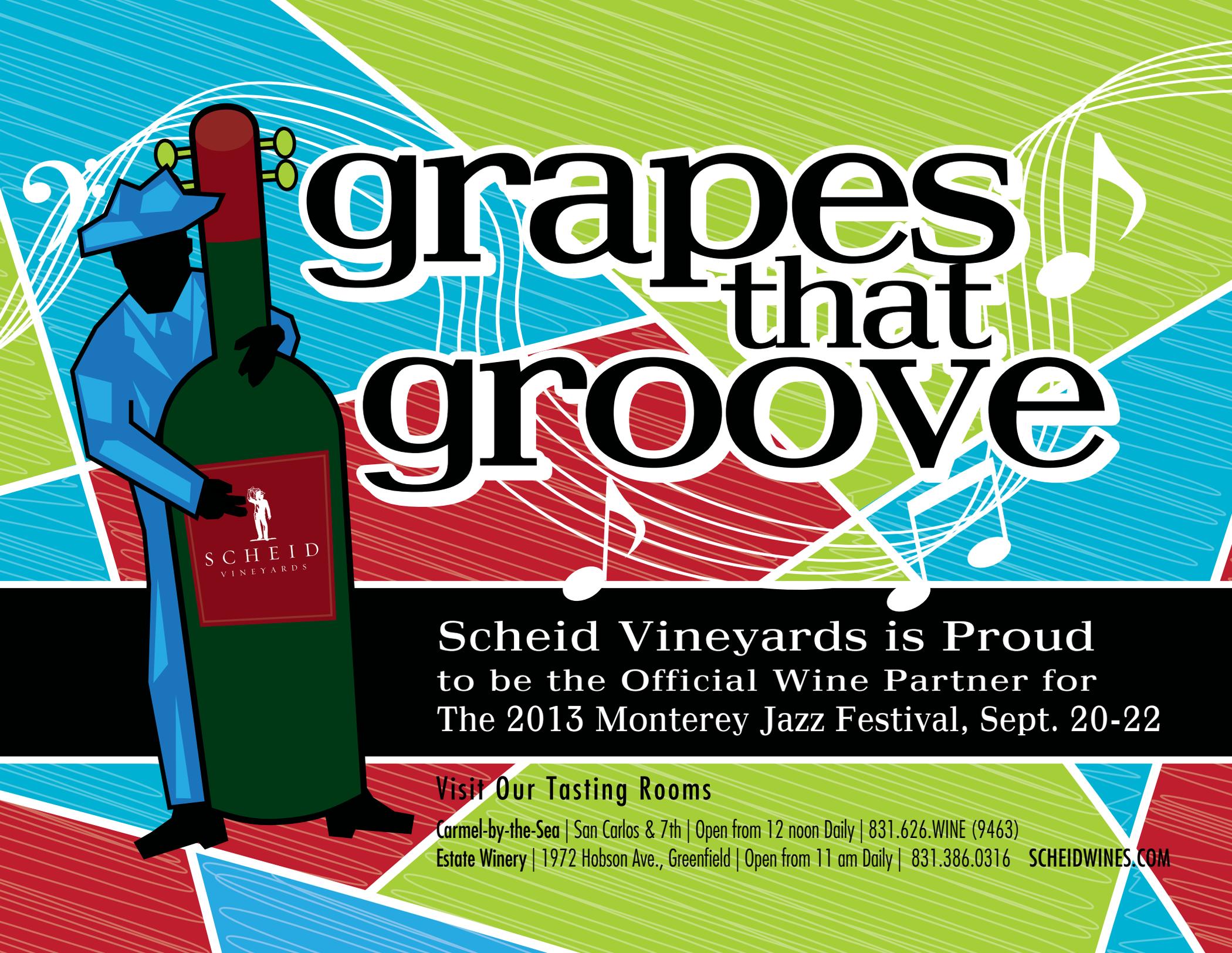
The Forbes Four Star rated Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa is perched dramatically over the water and combines European elegance with sweeping coastal views, Schooners Coastal Kitchen & Bar, Café La Strada and the penthouse level Vista Blue Spa, with fitness center.

InterContinental The Clement Monterey is a vibrant waterfront hotel and spa, offering stylish décor, high technology and modern luxury, featuring The C restaurant + bar, the VIP Kids Club, lap pool and fitness center and The Spa at Intercontinental.

The Inns of Monterey is a luxury collection that includes the Spindrift Inn and Monterey Bay Inn, sophisticated, oceanfront hotels that serve complimentary breakfast to the room and feature fireplaces, balconies and window seats.

Plan your next oceanfront getaway at [canneryrow.com](http://canneryrow.com) or download our free mobile app, *The Official Cannery Row Guide* at [app.canneryrow.com](http://app.canneryrow.com)





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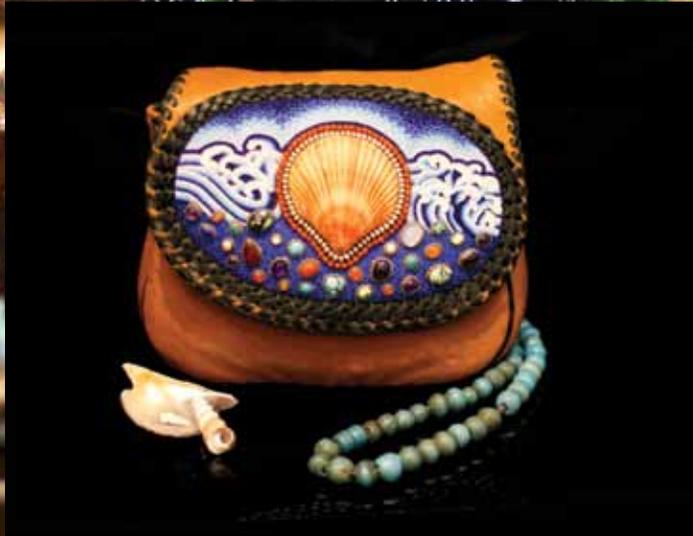
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Serving Dinner from 5pm | Lincoln Street between 5th and 6th | Carmel-by-the-Sea | 831.626.8000 | christophersrestaurantcarmel.com



# Heart Beat Boutique

by Andrew Call

Heart Beat Carmel Boutique, Carmel's must see new hot spot on the corner of Ocean Avenue and Monte Verde, completes the much anticipated expansion of Heart Beat Big Sur. Behind its humble entryway lies an expansive, undeniably fun and invigorating two-story apparel shopping experience with sheer quality, passion, and vitality evident in every stitch. Teresa Bradford, owner of the Heart Beat Big Sur for over 27 years, deeply appreciates her Mother, Patsy Yuma, for "planting the seed of this new garden"—a garden rich with a lively collection of eloquent flowing fashion sizes (small to 3XL). Also, be sure to indulge yourself with Teresa Bradford's vast, whimsical ethnic flare of her own creation. And don't be surprised if Teresa is creatively at work while you shop, creating her latest piece of wearable art. Other prized local artistry at Heart Beat Carmel includes the work of renowned leather craftsman, John Binzley, whose cherished intricately handmade leather bags have created a line of sincere devotees eager to collect and proudly wear his elaborate handbags. Teresa is proud to accommodate any and all stylistic walks of life that come through Heart Beat, as long as they're ready for something fun, flowing and freshly creative. Every handmade leather bracelet, silk dress, inspired piece of yoga apparel, and hand woven sun hat spread throughout Heart Beat's wonderland are each a sight to see and a treasure to wear for anyone looking to color up their ensemble for all occasions, any time of the year.

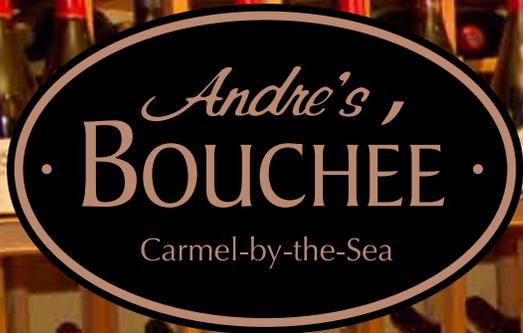
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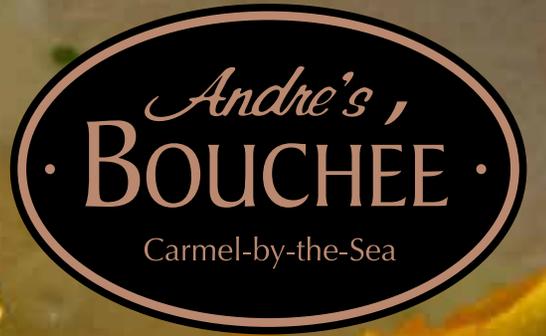
## Andre's Bouchee: A Taste of France

At Andre's Bouchee, the Lemaire family one wish for their guests—that they take the time to relax and enjoy the traditional French/Coastal Californian cuisine with the same sense, care, and appreciation required to prepare the food.

Andre's Bouchee prides itself on presenting dishes with the freshest and finest local ingredients available, alongside the most renowned ingredients from around the world—scallops from the coast of Maine, Dover sole from the Atlantic, and fish from the Mediterranean. Quality is never sacrificed for convenience, and it's evidenced in every bite along the way, from their homemade lobster bisque to their braised lamb shank with a lime and maple syrup sauce. Providing one of the top wine lists in California, Andre's Bouchee is prepared to match its dynamic menu with the perfectly paired glass.

Family-owned and operated since its inception, Andre's Bouchee boasts a staff that is eager to serve Carmel's range of visitors and locals, casually and formally, for all occasions. Andre's Bouchee offers an authentic French taste and feel right in the heart of Carmel-by-the-sea, and with countless customer reports of feeling happily immersed inside of their Parisian dining experience, they are happy to save you the flight.

Mission St. between Ocean & 7th | Carmel-by-the-Sea | 831.626.7880 | [andresbouchee.com](http://andresbouchee.com)



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**Post Ranch Inn**  
B I G S U R

STAY





# Post Ranch Inn

by Michael Cervin / photos by Kodiak Greenwood

There are very few properties you stay at in life where you don't want to leave, where time stands still, your soul is settled, and all seems right with the world. Post Ranch Inn is one of those places.

Set on the stunning Big Sur coastline, Post Ranch Inn is as close to heaven as you can reach, almost literally. Perched 1,200 feet above the ocean and straddling a mountain ridge providing views to the Pacific and the Santa Lucia mountains, the 39 rooms are an oasis. The vast property of 100 acres is punctuated by outdoor art and nearly three miles of trails crisscrossing redwood groves, fields, and gentle inclines. Of course, it is the views which inspire guests and which inspired the original building of the inn in 1992. Wisely, the initial building principles were grounded in an organic approach to the unique landscape, and the end result is an unobtrusive boutique lodging which reflects not only a sense of place but also a sense of peace. It is rustic, yet luxurious; innovative but comfortable. The original rooms vary from curved sod-roofed structures with ocean views to multiple tree houses setting you directly among mature trees, elevated from the earth yet connected to the land.





Ten new rooms were added in 2008 with heated stained concrete floors, real wood burning fireplaces, and a bevy of complimentary snacks and beverages including decadent chocolate chip cookies and drinking water bottled on the property. Electronic shades will keep you in the dark should you decide to sleep in, but frankly, with these views, and miles of trails, yoga, an outdoor heated pool, and a fitness room, why would you sleep? Some may bemoan the lack of TVs in the rooms, but with nature at your disposal, you don't need to watch reality shows because you are in reality—the jaw-dropping beauty and serenity that Mother Nature herself has provided. Post Ranch Inn is also about discovering hammocks set amidst redwood trees and wild turkeys roaming the property. A yurt with its knotty pine wood floor provides an ideal setting for daily yoga and meditation. There is a small mercantile shop near the inn's garden with local art and jewelry, books, and organic clothing. This shop also provides some of the culinary nuances in the meals.

Breakfast is included in your stay and features an omelet station, fresh baked pastries, and fresh fruit. And you cannot beat the glassed views jutting out from the cliffs of restaurant Sierra Mar, with its sharp octagonal motif counterbalancing the soft and smooth ocean. The lunch menu rotates seasonally, whereas the dinner menu changes nightly; therefore, there is always something new to discover. The eclectic dinner menu may include Moroccan carrot soup, baby octopus braised in ink, and savory black truffle gnocchi. Desserts like Tahitian shortbread with lemon verbena ice cream seal the deal. To visit Post Ranch Inn is to suspend yourself in moments of time, and your time spent here will make everything right with the world.

*For more information or to book a room, please visit*

**[postranchinn.com](http://postranchinn.com)**

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## Jerry the Barber by Gina Broderick

Jerry is an old-fashioned barber and a southern gentleman with a big heart. As a young boy who grew up in Macon, Georgia, Jerry dreamed of traveling and seeing the world. Curious about the town in which Clint Eastwood called home, he found himself in Carmel. Before long, the charming and quaint town-by-the-sea stole his heart. Having worked as a barber in Georgia and New York City at the World Trade Center, Jerry has transplanted his southern hospitality and charm into the Peninsula, bestowing it upon Carmel-by-the-Sea residents. Jerry now provides a mobile service as a convenience for his clients, offering a neck shave

and haircut for thirty-five dollars in the convenience of your home. He enjoys hearing about his clients' fascinating lives. Take Marty, an 85-year-old gentleman, who is a caddy at Cypress Point Golf Course. Jerry treasures the time that he spends with his clients and feels blessed to be part of their lives.

**Jerry Solomon - 831.238.4488**

*For a traditional barber shop experience, Jerry is available all day on Wednesdays, Sundays, and evenings. You can also find him at Franco's Barber Shop at 834 Abrego St. in Monterey or email [carmelmobilebarber@gmail.com](mailto:carmelmobilebarber@gmail.com)*



"all or nothing" acrylic on linen ~ © 2013 thierry thompson



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## Fun & Sophisticated Smiles

*Local state-of-the-art ORTHODONTIST creates a legacy of AESTHETICS and FUNCTIONALITY.*

by Kjeld Aamodt, DDS

Monterey Peninsula residents have been entrusting Dr. John Eisinger with their orthodontic needs for the past 37 years. His meticulous attention to detail and facile positive energy has earned him a reputation for creating consistent “perfect smiles” among his patients and their family members. The Garelo family boasts that his manner and care combined with his commitment to stay on the cutting edge of technology has continually impressed them over their nine year relationship. Three Garelo girls have completed their smiles with Dr. Eisinger and their son is experiencing the final detailing of his smile and profile.

Having received his training from the number one research-funded school in the country, UC San Francisco, Dr. Eisinger provides a personalized service which is based on the skeletal, functional, and aesthetic needs of each individual patient. He offers team-based, multidisciplinary management of young patients’

growth and development when needed. There is no “cookie-cutter” smile in his office -- each treatment is tailored to harmonize specifically with that individual’s unique facial structure.

Known as an innovator, Dr. Eisinger has utilized the Damon System® since its inception and now offers the 3D, digital custom braces called “Insignia®.” These orthodontic technologies allow his patients to achieve the smile they have always wanted in a much shorter time, with a fraction of the discomfort, and in fewer than half the number of visits. Patients can also select from clear brackets or Invisalign®, a virtually invisible treatment accomplished through a series of removable aligners.

His compassionate care includes calling his patients personally and following up every step of the way to a beautiful smile. This is why so many people of all ages are seeking Dr. Eisinger for their smile makeover.

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**More information can be found at  
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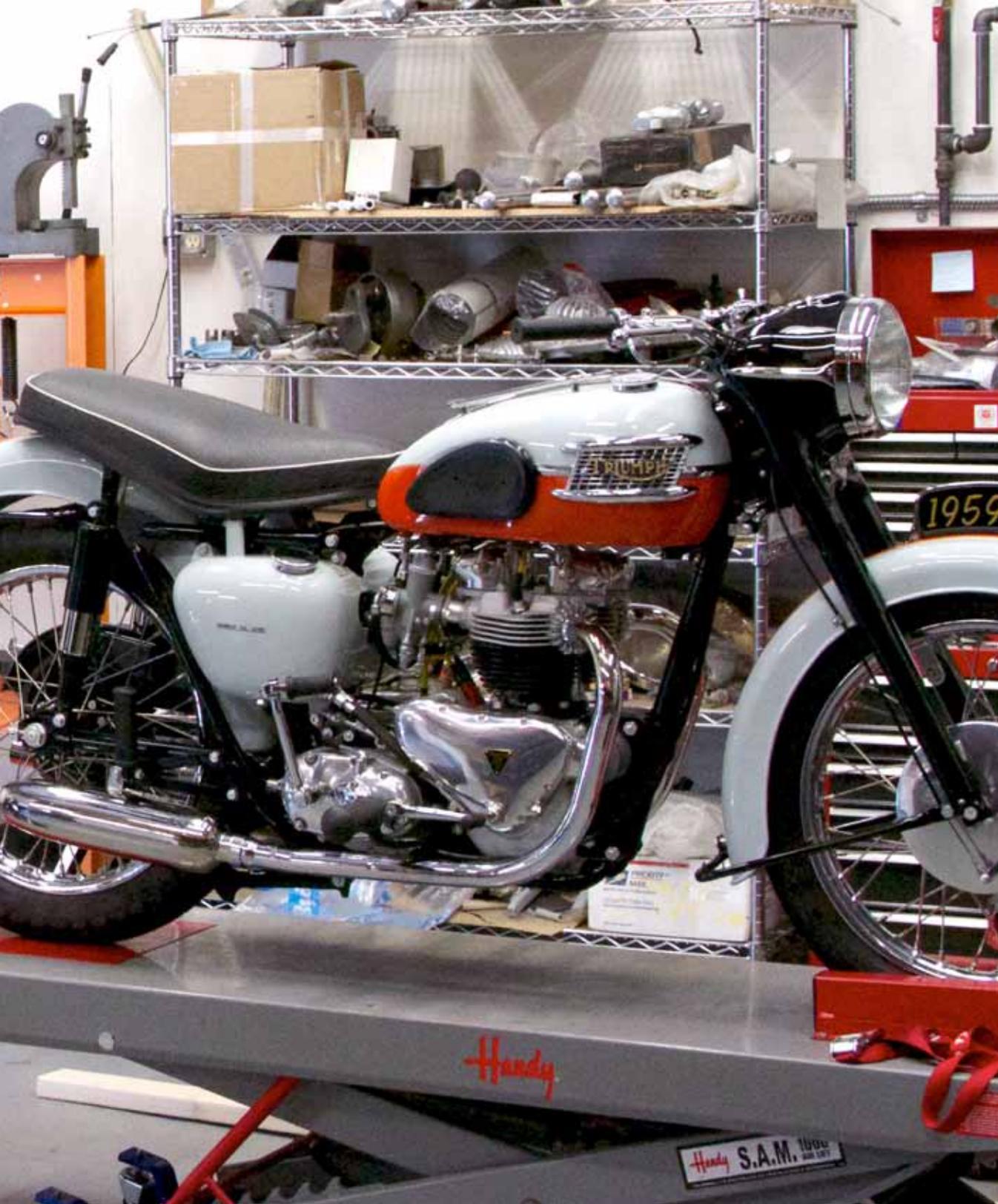
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Tom



## A Little Slice of Mayberry

by Peter Hemming / photos by Mark Zahlnecker and Chris latesta

Tom Levrone is enjoying his life. Relaxing in his Tuscan-style home, he sips an expensive glass of Pinot Noir. With money in the bank and a beautiful wife, he is truly a man in full, but a few things happened along the way.

Born in Minnesota, Tom and his four siblings grew up in the suburb of Golden Valley. Their mother, Genevieve, was a stay-at-home mom while their father Joseph ran Minnesota U's custodial department. "We were very independent children." Days were filled with friends exploring the adjacent woods and as Tom adds, "having fun with gunpowder!"

Tom was an intrinsic tinker. When given an automobile modeling kit, he would take inspiration from car designers such as Ed "Big Daddy" Roth and mix pieces from other kits to build imaginative creations with big engines, big wheels, and crazy paint jobs. Toy cars eventually led to customized muscle cars that Tom spent at the drag strip racing his 428 Cobra Jet Mustang, reaching speeds of 120 mph and occasionally winning a trophy.

Graduating from St. Thomas Military Academy, Tom wanted to build hot rods, but "my mother had other plans." With a medical degree in anesthesiology from the University of Minnesota, Tom moved across country and interned at L.A.'s Harbor General Hospital, known locally as the "24-hour knife and gun club." Adjacent to South Central's mean streets, simply cutting away clothes to treat wounds may yield a gun, a wad of bills, or a bag of cocaine.

Setting up a private practice at Centinela Hospital, one of the nation's top sports medicine clinics, Tom assisted in operations on such sports notables as Nolan Ryan and Troy Aikman. Tom's den is decorated with autographed memorabilia, including a football from a grateful O.J. Simpson.

Another career turn brought Tom into the world of medical glitz and glamor, Beverly Hills cosmetic surgery. Confidentiality was key, and his reputation soared. One Hollywood player got Tom a walk-on part on TV's Seinfeld. Along with various A-list actors, Tom was also the anesthesiologist for the Saudi royal family. "Where else can you see millionaires rubbing elbows with billionaires?" Tom jokes.

Tom would donate his service pro bono as needed. "I believe in karma. Anything to help people is worth while." One case involved reconstructing a face on a poor girl from Ecuador with a deformity so severe it threatened her life.

Along with major bucks came 80-hour weeks. Tom confesses, "The last 10 years all seemed just a job." Moving to Carmel changed all that. "Carmel is Mayberry with the woods of Minnesota." Picking up where he left off in Minnesota, Tom leased a warehouse in Ryan Ranch and started Praxis, a business restoring classic British motorcycles. Two of Tom's nine bikes, a restored 1959 Triumph Bonneville and a 1953 Vincent Black Shadow, won Best in Class at the Carmel Concourse. It's the Triumph that won at the very first Carmel Concours on the Avenue, although he wasn't aware of the fact. "When the awards were given out, I was not approached," Tom recalls. Six months later, checking the Concours website, Tom's bike was listed in first place. After contacting the organizers, Tom found that through a mix up in judging another Triumph was mistakenly awarded the prize. The former winner was magnanimous and sent Tom the award immediately in its original presentation box. "God is in his heaven and all is right with the world."

A collector of fine wines, Tom's 400-bottle wine room stays well-stocked with classic French vintages and local varietal wines. "I'm not an expert by any stretch," Tom explains. "I just know what I like."

Not forgetting his medical skills, Dr. Levrone treats patients with chronic pain on a part-time basis at the Watsonville's West Coast Surgery Center.

Married since 1998, he shares his life with his "wonderful, beautiful wife" Elsee, owner of an IT company, and two golden labs, Maggie and Molly. Tom has come to appreciate life. "Before, I lived in the moment. Now, I realize how important time is." Tom adds, "Life is too short for cheap wine and cheap cigars."

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*For more information, please contact:*

**Bill & Vicki Mitchell | 831.624.3355**

*[bill@carmelrealtycompany.com](mailto:bill@carmelrealtycompany.com)*

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# CANNERY ROW, MONTEREY

Cannery Row is destination fun, with more than 20 restaurants, wine tasting, boutiques, sensational nightlife and the new Cinemark XD Movie Theatre.

Browse art and jewelry galleries, gourmet food and wine purveyors, boutiques and gift shops. Take a break from the treasure hunt to enjoy a glass of wine or a meal at one of the many ocean view tables at Cannery Row's award-winning restaurants, ranging from casual to elegant.

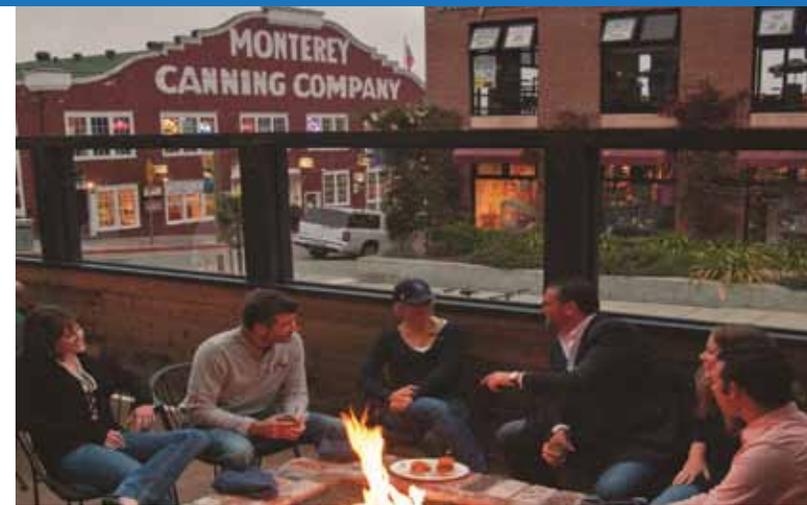
The sun never sets on Cannery Row, because there's always live music to be found and the nightlife here is the most exciting in Monterey.

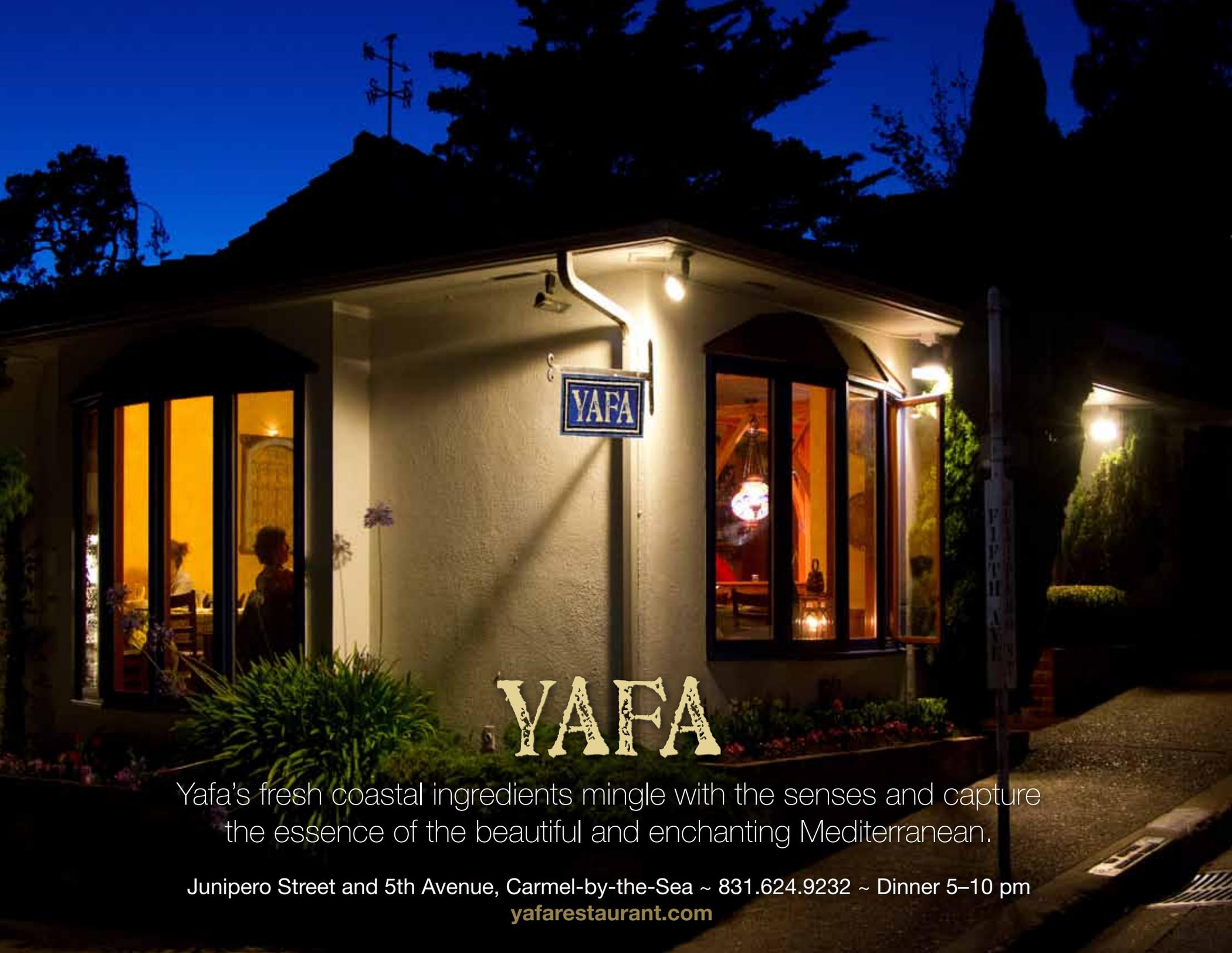
For movie buffs, the Cinemark XD Movie Theatre is the best place to see the newest feature films and blockbusters, with a wall to wall, floor to ceiling screen, state-of-the-art sound system and stadium seating.

**INSIDER'S TIP:** *Parking is easiest at the Cannery Row Garage on Foam Street (locals park for free after 4:00pm)*



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Photos by Joe Fletcher



We've all heard the old adage "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." That saying certainly holds true for engineer/builder Cody West, Senior Project Manager at Groza Construction.

Forty years ago, Cody's dad, Dean West, a home-builder in Carmel Valley became buddies with a young Cal-Poly Pomona construction engineering student named Brian Groza. The two men shared a love of the Monterey Peninsula and a commitment to excellence in the design and construction of custom homes. It wasn't too long before they were working together.

Fast-forward a few more years and it was pretty common that when the two men showed up at a job site, a sturdily built, bushy blond haired kid named Cody was tagging along.

Since then, Cody became a licensed professional engineer in three western states, accumulating 16 years of experience in structural engineering and general contracting in the Rockies. When Cody, his wife, Maija, and their

daughter, Eva, returned to Carmel Valley where Cody was raised, it seemed a natural career choice to join Groza Construction.

"It's a great partnership," said Cody. "We share some real history, a love of building, and an engineering philosophy. We have been business partners in other ventures, so it is very natural to be building together on the peninsula. It is a privilege to return home and step into a career with an old friend and mentor."

"Cody's career path has been exciting to see unfold", said Brian. "Our combined skills and experience will enable Groza Construction to continue being a vibrant company for years to come. We are constantly using new products, technologies and systems to better serve our clients."

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## Fresh, Light & Bright

by Gina Broderick

As a young girl, Shannon Reilly was driven to care for others. As a result, she envisioned that she would become a nurse. Her passion to help others turned her into a Life Coach. Shannon and her daughter Allison lived in Marin County until her daughter was diagnosed with Lyme disease in 2007 at age 18. They came to the Monterey Peninsula to seek treatment for the disease from a specialist. Shannon decided to rent a cottage in Carmel during this time in their lives. She found it difficult to furnish her home in Carmel and saw a need for a home design store in Carmel-by-the-Sea. She enjoyed being a Life Coach but found herself wanting to become more connected to the community.

The idea to open a shop in Carmel started as a thought to call it, Dream by The Sea. The dream turned into reality when Shannon opened Beachwood Home in March of this year. With a twinkle in her eye, Shannon describes people's reactions when they walk into Beachwood Home. Most often she hears people exclaim that it looks and feels so fresh, light and bright!

They immediately feel at home and so cozy that they stay to have tea with Shannon and chat like old friends.

Shannon helps people make their homes look and feel the same way. She loves forming relationships and getting to know people in her community. She says, "At the end of the day, the most important thing in life is relationships." Shannon's contagious smile and warm personality make us feel like we have been friends for years as she shares that she loves watching the Giants play baseball and ending her day stretching in yoga class after walking on our beloved Carmel beach watching a glorious sunset. Shannon is looking forward to celebrating the opening of Beachwood Home by having a Grand Opening sometime in August, when her son Ryan is home from college.

Shannon offers interior design and in-house fabrication.

  
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*Bell 36 x 48 oil on canvas*



*Brosi 36 x 36 oil on canvas*



*Nielson 20 x 24 oil on canvas*



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*Brosi 24 x 36 oil on canvas*



# City of Salinas

by Peter Hemming / photo by Randy Tunnell

Annemarie Conroy is a legacy. A third generation San Franciscan, she followed in her father and grandfather's footsteps by pursuing a career in law enforcement. Rather than carrying a gun, she picked up a book. "I was always interested in public safety." Former jobs include police commissioner, member for the S.F. board of supervisors, and director of emergency services and homeland security of San Francisco. With a law degree from Hastings and master's in Homeland Security from Monterey's Naval Post Graduate School, Annemarie works as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Federal Building off Golden Gate Avenue. In 2008, she was given an unusual assignment.

Salinas is a small farming community located in central California and known locally as the "salad bowl of the world." Old timers will tell of working the fields during summer vacation, cruising Main Street in hopped-up Chevys on Saturday night, and finding their future spouses at the high school prom.

By the 21st century, the streets of Salinas resembled a battleground that rivaled L.A.'s South Central for violent crime as warring gangs vied for supremacy. Neither combatants nor civilians were respected until Salinas earned a reputation for the highest teen murder rate in California. Children were killing children. The community was fed up.

When Dennis Donohue was elected mayor on a platform of "peace, prosperity, and image," gangsters were not only killing each other but terrorizing citizens and businesses as well. "Make no mistake, this is organized crime," Donahue said after taking office. Solving the problem was bigger than the city could handle, and he realized they needed help. Contacting the U.S. Attorney's office in San Francisco, Annemarie was assigned to gather various agencies so Donahue could plead his case to aid federal intervention for his overwhelmed and outgunned police department. "In 2009, with the office of the

governor and the attorney general, we brought together the Gang Violence Summit, a hundred senior law enforcement officials from the local, state and federal level."

Annemarie was tasked to organize the participating agencies and keep them focused on the Salinas problem as well as functioning on a prosecution standpoint from a state and federal level. Heavy hitters such as the DEA, Highway Patrol, ATF, IRS, the State Department, FBI, and Homeland Security entered the field of battle for Operation Knockout, a major gang take down that busted almost 100 gang members, including 37 high level leaders. The eight month undercover operation included a cache of drugs, cash, and weapons.

But Annemarie is quick to point out that this was a team effort. Crediting current police chief Kelly McMillin for "thinking outside the box," McMillin brought in such innovative programs as "Operation Ceasefire," a Harvard University created tactic of targeting gang members to give up the life or face the full force of the law. Community Safety Director Georgina Mendoza leading CASP, the Community Alliance for Safety and Peace, gathered law enforcement as well as faith-based and community involvement to discuss how to take back neighborhoods and make Salinas into a safer place, earning statewide and national attention. "All of these pieces started working together as Salinas developed a comprehensive plan that is becoming a model for other crime-challenged cities," Annemarie says.

By the end of 2010, there was an overall decrease in violent crime. 139 shootings the previous year were down to 41, including homicides, (19 in 2010, 29 the year before). But there is still much to be done.

Annemarie Conroy credits Mayor Dennis Donohue as the real hero. Incorporating prevention, intervention, and enforcement, Donohue took the initiative in bringing so many diverse interests under one umbrella. "We as federal or state agencies can bring a period of relative peace with law enforcement actions. The laboring oar and heavy lifting belongs to the community to take back the streets and neighborhoods for lasting change."







# Tranquility with Views

by Andrea Stuart

Finding enlightenment is second nature at 165 Via Los Tulares. This Zen-like, aerie-style home sits within the sphere of paradise as it boasts awe-inspiring vistas. Indoors and outdoors are organically married, capturing the natural surroundings. Dramatic views of Carmel Valley, nearby vineyards, and distant estates are enabled through extensive use of glass.

An open floor plan and post-and-beam architectural styling takes your breath away once you step inside. Simply sitting inside the home provides an uplifting and peaceful state of mind that is nearly meditative. Natural light floods each room, creating a mottling of reflected light that bathes its residents with enchantment.

The 3,061 square-foot, four-bedroom, three bath home has established a refreshing current from room to room, yielding privacy, while the open floor plan provides effortless flow from one area of the house to another for practical living. These four-acres of native fauna and subtle seclusion only enhance the indoor/outdoor experience.

A professional-quality kitchen with stainless steel appliances creates subtle contrast to the home's natural stone floors and beam ceilings. Three ample baths and an extra large and versatile family room—which may also be used as an office, artist's studio, or yoga room, or fantastic media room—complements four generous bedrooms, including a stunning master bedroom.

The living room, atrium, kitchen, and kitchen dining areas maintain staggeringly beautiful views throughout the day. As the sun emerges from the hilltop each morning, and as it retires behind the ridgeline of mountains each evening, vibrant colors wash over the valley, providing a light spectacular. Rain storms offer an equally magnificent experience, showering the valley and rolling hills in rainbows.

Softly lit rooms in the evening create a warm and tranquil ambiance in the evening, controlled by lighting that is on rheostats/dimmers. Meanwhile, a music system is wired throughout the home, inside and outside, elevating daily living while enlivening and enhancing the entertainment experience for guests.

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*For more information about 165 Via Los Tulares, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, contact Judith Profeta, Owner/Brokers, at 831.620.6118 or [jprofeta@apr.com](mailto:jprofeta@apr.com).*



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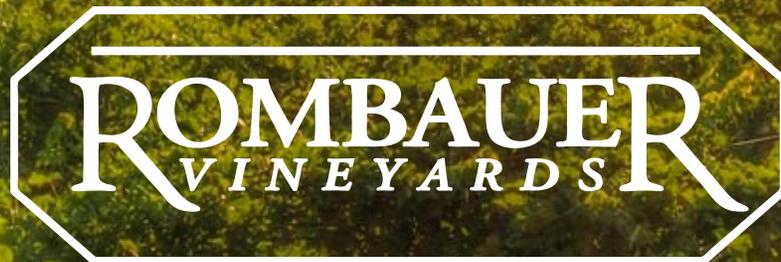


A close-up photograph of a person's legs resting on a grey, curved yacht sofa. The person is wearing white shorts. The sofa is adorned with large, white, ruffled pillows. The background shows the blue water of the sea and the white railing of the yacht. The overall scene conveys a sense of luxury and relaxation.

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# FLEXJET

BY BOMBARDIER





# 57° DEPARTMENTS

## PERSONA

The Man About Town

BY **ALEX MAY**

Funny How Life Changes

BY **ALEX MAY**

Curtain Up

BY **CAROL ZIOGAS**

It's a Beautiful Life

BY **ANDREA STUART**

## SPECIAL

Robert Talbott Motorsports

MotoGP

Photography of  
Alessandro DeSogos  
"Looking for a Friend"

## SCENE

LeVett's Celebrate Recent  
Marriage at House of Hanna  
in Palo Alto

Cocktail Reception at the  
Fairmont San Francisco

## SCENE

The Ritz-Carlton,  
Half Moon Bay

## COMMUNITY

Against All Odds  
BY **TAMMY NEAL**

## COVER

Cecilia Chiang. Photo by Kevin Thomas.



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SPECIAL

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Photos by Sean Murphy



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Ryan



# The Man About Town

by Alex May / photos by Chris Iatesta and Kevin Thomas

Ryan Brooks is a busy man. He carves out time in his crowded schedule to meet for a drink downtown. The members-only spot on the 10th floor is full of dark wood, good Scotch, and the sounds of Frank Sinatra. He's dressed exceptionally well in a grey suit with a purple and white tie and shiny brown shoes. He stands, exposing his tall frame, the midday light glancing off his cleanly shaven head. He extends a big hand my way with an even bigger smile behind it.

We talk over red wine while he speaks of his life with the intonation and eye contact of a politician without addressing me like a constituent. He puts people at ease infecting everyone with his charm and swagger. The intimidating stature and baritone voice give way to his innate affability. He brims with positivity; being otherwise, he says, is too much energy.

He lets off a cavernous, bellowing laugh, pushes his glasses back up his nose and continues a story about one of his biggest mentors, former mayor Willie Brown. Ryan became City Manager of San Francisco at 28, eventually spending two terms on the Public Utilities Commission. "You get your Ph.D. from Willie Brown," he says. But Ryan had the wherewithal in place long before.

Born on an Air Force base in Turkey, his family would later settle in Hacienda Heights. Ryan, then in third grade, was the only student with an afro, a unique

hairstyle for the community east of Los Angeles. He played the trumpet for three years, but felt more capable on the basketball court and football field. He came into his own around eighth grade when he and a friend organized and hosted a talent show. The bug had bitten him, and Ryan's power to connect and communicate was born.

He had busy, but supportive parents. His father, Bob, set the standard of a staunch work ethic, holding two jobs for much of Ryan's upbringing. Bob loaded freight in the mornings 90 miles north and came home in the evenings to clean a hospital. He wanted better things for the family and put in the work to do so. Ryan's mother, Carol, became a registered nurse, and his father would ultimately put himself through school to become a physician's assistant. Despite hectic schedules, "they always seemed to be home," he says. The Brooks house was an open one, which his parents encouraged. It wasn't until Ryan had kids of his own that he realized playing host is the quickest way to get to know the people around you.

He eagerly wears many hats; inactivity seems negligent to him. Ryan coaches basketball for the oldest of his two sons, is senior VP for Government Affairs at CBS—a position he's held for 13 years—and brings trade to California through the International Relations Foundation. "I'm still figuring out what I want to do," he says with a laugh. Until then, he'll continue to keep as many membership cards as possible while soaking up positive examples.

He turns the table and asks questions about me, not because he's being polite or to fill silence, but because he wants to know.

We talk of the importance of civic duty because he has seen the good municipal politics can bring to a progressive city. He remembers his father yelling at the TV during the presidential debates before the young politico wrote President Reagan to ask for an explanation of his policy. Ryan still has the response. Having felt the power of dialogue in government, he never forgot it.

Participation, he believes, is crucial. He has no patience for those who exercise their First Amendment right to complain without filling in the circles on the ballot. As for Ryan, he'll stay busy in politics, municipal and otherwise. He'll raise his children with the same love and support he had, and he'll continue to move and shake until he can do so no longer.



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Zack



# Funny How Life Changes

by Alex May  
photo by Chris latesta

*Elaborate birthday wishes aren't typical for working adults burping after a nice dinner on the town. For Zack Lyons, however, he blew out his candles and resolved that he would finally get arrested.*

A dimly lit room smells of southern cooking. Zack sits at a table surrounded by his friends as R&B wafts through the air in Sharon's apartment-cum-bistro. He placed Sharon at her current job, and this is her way of saying thanks. Zack is in charge of Northern California for Kaplan & Partners professional staffing firm. Sharon speaks the world of him, and so does everyone else. He laughs with his friends as he takes a sip of wine. The handsome frames he wears bounce, and a neatly trimmed beard undulates when he smiles, something he does often.

Despite his affable, talkative demeanor, Zack is a self-proclaimed introvert. He has worked hard to move from a tumultuous child to the self-assured man holding court at Sharon's apartment. He believes in adaptation, reinvention, and optimism, understanding the power of cultivating relationships, evident from the effusive bunch this evening. The people he connects with—the ones who challenge and inspire him—are his support system. "They're my family," he says.

To get where he is now, Zack had to walk through hell. His father was a construction foreman, so the family moved with the projects. By his ninth birthday, Zack had lived in five states. That year, in Colorado, his mother was killed in a car wreck. The anguish weighed too heavily on his father, who took his own life eight months later. During those dark years, Zack came to terms with his sexuality, one uncommon and unnerving for "Small Town America."

Around age 17, he resolved that things must change, so he became more active for his own benefit, but also for the people and principles he believes in. He sorted out his demons and put himself through an accredited home schooling program, received his diploma, and spent the next decade as a litigation secretary in San Francisco.

Later, he spent a year in France, a place he always dreamed of living and a place he speaks of with romance and nostalgia. There, he slowed down, adopting la vie Francaise, much needed after grueling hours sitting in courtrooms or camped behind the computer screen. He traveled, made friends, and expanded his comfort zone. The accidental sabbatical helped him grow, and he returned to California refreshed, ready for the next step.

He rode his bicycle to Los Angeles for the first time last year for AIDS LifeCycle and raised \$5,000 for HIV/AIDS services and awareness by himself. "I need everyone in my life to do this, experience this," he says. This year, he wants to raise more and motivate others in his team, so he leaves the barbecue earlier than his friends, as sunrise bike rides are most suitable for the well-rested.

Zack defines his character by the experiences he accumulates, and he has quite the table of contents for only being 34. Some moments are indescribably happy, and some are so tragic they would swallow others whole. But not Zack. He looks forward, whether to the next ride to L.A., a protest, a march to support the community, or a barbecue with friends.

The freshly minted 34-year-old blushes when his fellow protesters sing the Happy Birthday song as they sit side-by-side, handcuffed in the bowels of City Hall. The motley crew awaited processing for civil disobedience in protest of Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act, a law that curtails Zack and people he cares about from obtaining marriage licenses. In the colorless, dreary cell, Zack's birthday wish came true.

Released from custody, he called his grandmother in Colorado, who raised him after his parents died. His sexuality or activism aren't regular topics of conversation, but she gave support and love to her newly arrested grandson. "I don't know what you're going to do next," she said, "but you're going to do something."



LeVetts Celebrate Recent Marriage at House of Hanna in Palo Alto

Photos by Chris Iatesta



John and Barbara Hanna



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## Going Grand in the City of Angels

by Andrew Call

Three years ago, when Dave Bernahl and Robert Weakley's Los Angeles Food & Wine festival attracted 15,000 people to over 70 locations in five separate cities within the Los Angeles basin over four days, they knew they had something big. In its second year, when the festival doubled its ticket sales and the City of Los Angeles embraced the event as a marquee citywide cultural summer showcase, they knew they had created something truly astounding. So, this year, from August 22 to August 25, Bernahl and Weakley have pioneered one of the largest culinary events in Los Angeles' history. Utilizing historic Grand Avenue to celebrate a week of art, culture, music, food, and wine with leaders in their respective creative fields, they are all joining together to celebrate and hone their crafts in the hub of the world's entertainment capital.

This year's Los Angeles Food & Wine Festival will serve as a major platform for the unique conjoining of diverse cultural and culinary disciplines with the intention of educating minds, inspiring creative appetites, and stimulating economies at the local, regional, and state levels. With instrumental support from Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who praises the festival "for establishing itself as one of the most prestigious culinary events in the country," along with councilmember Jose Huizar, and organizations like The Music Center, Grand Park, LA Phil, LA Opera, the Broad Museum, and the Colburn School, it looks like the Carmel natives will be frequenting Los Angeles for many summers to come.

A French Bulldog with brown and white fur is running on a sandy beach. The dog is looking directly at the camera with large, expressive eyes. The background shows a sunset over the ocean with waves and distant hills. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

# Looking for a Friend

Photos by Alessandro DeSogos • DESOGOS.COM







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# Coastal Indulgences

by Andrew Call / photos by Chris Iatesta

Denny LeVett knows property, and with his newly remodeled, twin, 2,000 square-foot, residential-commercial hybrid town lofts for sale alongside his 1977 Ferrari 400, it's clear that he knows how to get around, too. In the heart of Sand City's art-inspired West End, these one bedroom, one bathroom city loft spaces are on the trending end of the newly popular urban live-work spaces of which the Peninsula is in short supply.

Wonderfully eclectic and just a stone's throw from the beach, these condominium-warehouse lofts epitomize chic Sand City bohemian living, amongst the wonderfully diverse enclave of writers, artists, car enthusiasts, sculptors and builders, and the rest of the unique community enjoying one of Monterey County's most underrated sun belts. And yes, in addition to the property, Denny is also selling his 1977 Carbureted Ferrari 400 with tan leather and wood grain interior, power windows, and four complete seats in which friends and family may enjoy a scenic Peninsula ride.

And while the Ferrari will certainly come in handy for day trips to Big Sur or along 17-Mile Drive or to San Francisco, the properties themselves, with their large one bedrooms, vaulted ceilings, walk-in closets, hardwood floors, new kitchens, recessed lighting, and beautiful sliding glass doors-to-deck access, play host to an incredibly diverse and exciting living experience within the confines of Sand City's unrestricted growth. Nine-foot access doors create a flexible entryway for light industrial and commercial use inside of each space's downstairs work-warehouse area, while providing a lovely exit into Sand City's creative playground—one of the Peninsula's best kept secrets. Enjoy the solitude of city loft living and working with immediate, convenient Highway 1 access to all of the Peninsula's hospitality, nature, and shopping in your prized and classic Ferrari. Condos offered at \$400,000 each. Ferrari offered at \$35,000.

***For information about the Ferrari, contact Denny LeVett at [Denny@levettproperties.com](mailto:Denny@levettproperties.com) or (831) 624-4115.***

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# MotoGP

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Anna





PERSONA



## Curtain Up

by Carol Ziogas / photos by Mark Zahnlecker

At Park Tavern in North Beach early for Sunday Brunch, the scene is set, the players in motion. Backstage, the actors are in costume and preparing the scene. The stage is quiet, but that's about to change.

At 11 a.m. sharp, the doors open and diners pour in. Owner Anna Weinberg moves through the chaos as someone comfortable with both theatre and hospitality. She's calm, organized, fluid, and comfortably in charge. Originally from New Zealand, Anna got her start in theatre, but found she'd rather go to wine tastings than auditions, and preferred eating good food to starving and slimming down for acting jobs.

"My mom was no cook," Weinberg laughs. "I grew up in New Zealand, in a smaller environment. My first exposure to going into the city, to Auckland, and into fabulousness was going to this one restaurant called SPQR, where I went with my mom for coffee after an audition when I must have been about 17." It was the first time she had seen tattooed bartenders and "fierce gay guys." She recalls that her mother couldn't get her to leave. "I wanted to sit there all day and be a part of it. It felt so fabulous and so sophisticated, and it was exactly

what I wanted to be a part of." Her mother, she admits, still isn't a great cook, but her parents now own a winery in New Zealand.

In her early 20s, Weinberg made the move to Manhattan and jumped into the cosmopolitan culture of the restaurant business with both feet. It was not an easy landing. At age 23, she opened Stella, her first restaurant, the day before 9/11. "It was a sign," she says of the fateful opening day for her freshman venture. Finding herself out of her depth, Anna handed the restaurant over to her "older and wiser" business partner and worked at other restaurants for a while to get a feel for how a successful business could be run.

Working with California Cuisine pioneer Jonathan Waxman in New York opened up doors and gave her the confidence to pursue other successful ventures of her own. He encouraged her to pursue her interests and hone her skills, acting as a surrogate father to the Kiwi expat. While she loved the New York City scene and never thought she'd leave, it was meeting her husband James, a California native that changed her mind. Once the couple moved to San Francisco, Anna saw the potential of working with the West Coast's abundant food pallet, and in 2007 opened South, offering an Australian-themed menu. When South failed to live up to her expectations, she tried again with Marlowe, in 2010. Smaller and more intimate than Park Tavern, Marlowe is still her favorite, although her pride in Park Tavern is evident.

"When people walk out the door of your restaurant, there's something in restaurateurs, this need to please people and to entertain them. It's kind of like the applause at the end of a play," shares Weinberg. She doesn't know anyone who takes more personally guest experience than herself, to the point where she says it's tough to work for her. "I'm obsessive and I read every single Yelp, every single Open Table, and if there's a couple of bad [reviews], I will try and find the person, reach out to them, and try to get them to come back. And it's no different than being an actress reading your reviews."

Weinberg has always enjoyed entertaining, and played hostess to her own elegant birthday parties when she was young. "I've always loved the pomp and ceremony around food and wine," she says. Some of her happiest memories include being surrounded by friends at the table, sharing not only the joy of eating good food, but the camaraderie as well. Calling food the ultimate unifier, she explains how it brings everybody together. "It's the ultimate common human experience."

# The Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay

STAY



# At the Base of Heaven

by Michael Cervin

Arising from a bluff perched on pristine land above the Pacific Ocean in Half Moon Bay, The Ritz-Carlton seizes a postcard perfect locale to transform its guests.

Less than 45 minutes from San Francisco, the proverbial “other world away,” Half Moon Bay has long been a compelling destination, a semi-isolated refuge from the hectic energy of San Francisco and Silicon Valley. But any getaway is not just about getting away; it is about replenishing the body and soul and nurturing oneself in a place where man and nature meet to create the ideal sanctuary.

Driving to The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay, you’re greeted with a manor-house feel upon arriving, a sophisticated yet inviting property where the stones themselves look as though they rose from the earth forming a retreat. The understated, low-rise architecture with its tempered yet elegant seafaring design pays homage to Half Moon Bay’s organic fishing roots when it was originally called Spanishtown. Sure, there are luxurious rooms and suites with marble bathrooms, outdoor fire pits, two championship golf courses snaking their way around the grounds, and the historic Main Street of the town itself. All this does is to create a sense of place, a patch of land that resuscitates the senses.

Much of this rejuvenation comes in the form of food as presented by the signature restaurant, Navio, with its earthy, autumnal hues. “We are delighted to offer exquisite entrees with approachable flavors that reference the best of coastal dining from all around the world,” says Navio’s Chef de Cuisine, Sean Eastwood.





To that end, dishes like rockfish bouillabaisse, to beet-cured king salmon, and heartier meat dishes like slow-roasted Jidori chicken, and short ribs braised for 48-hours until they nearly fall off the bone are classically prepared to infuse your body and soul. In addition to the dinner menu, there is always daily fresh shellfish, lobster, diver scallops, and jumbo prawns, and Navio hosts a brunch buffet with 200 different items.

And part of your rejuvenation is having four-legged friends with you. Guests are invited to Yappy Hours on the last Thursday of each month. “We love having pets visit and stay with us here at the resort, and we do everything in our human powers to ensure our furry friends and owners have the most enjoyable time,” says General Manager George Munz. Luxury amenities for pets include in-room dining with pet menus created by Navio’s Chef Salomon like canine casserole, bow-wow meatballs, and pet-friendly ice cream.

And even though The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay offers a getaway, sometimes business is unavoidable. The new wireless system throughout the hotel incorporates the Rukus ZoneFlexWireless service, which means better coverage with fewer access points so guests have no dropped calls, no waiting time, and state-of-the-art security.

All these things conspire to craft a worry-free and idyllic time in Half Moon Bay, one that will give you not only a new lease on life, but a decidedly new perspective.



*For more information or to book a room,  
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Cecilia





# It's a Beautiful Life

by Andrea Stuart / photos by Kevin Thomas



Cecilia Chiang is a prism of optimism, an icon of prosperity in the face of adversity. Her life, a collage of inspirational stories, justifies how this doyenne of Chinese cuisine became the first Asian woman to earn the (2013) James Beard Lifetime Achievement Award at 93 years young.

Cecilia's San Francisco penthouse is a collage of Chinese artifacts and furnishings, highlighted by flora. A white orchid centerpiece garnishes an oversized coffee table accompanied by neat stacks of culinary magazines. Rays of sun bounce off of the interior, adding brightness to the seemingly permanent smile that wears Cecilia.

One of 12 children, Cecilia is the seventh-born daughter and refers to her siblings in numerical fashion. "I'm from a family with 12 children; nine are girls. We had the same parents, no concubine!" A chuckle escapes from her. The family employed two chefs: one who cooked Shanghainese and one who cooked northern Chinese. Her mother, having bound feet and limited ability to stand, was "staff director," and raised her children with a keen awareness for food.

Despite running from the Communist party several times, Cecilia speaks of her upbringing with an airy disposition. The family appreciated many indulgences, attending the Chinese opera, watching movies, and visiting parks abundant in colorful vegetation, peppered with tea houses and fine dining restaurants. Springtime invited the rowing of boats. In winter, when the ground was dusted in snow, they skated on frozen lakes. "We went to a lot of movies, too, because we owned two theaters. I remember a lot of old movies like Charlie Chaplin," her eyes sparkle as she jests. "In those days, most movies were silent, so you just watch it and not know what is going on!"

As season box owners at the opera, the Chiangs rotated bringing the children to shows. "It was fun to get dressed up in Chinese chi poa," says Cecilia. "Because everyone was eating something, you know what they did?" Cecilia leans forward, pulls her arm back, and throws an imaginary object. "They rolled a hot towel really tight, then, threw it at the box where the servant caught it and handed it to you to wash." She laughs as she leans back. "They don't do that anymore."

Just after college, Cecilia and Sister Number 5 fled on foot from Beijing to near Shanghai. "The Japanese were bombing everything in the daytime. We tried to walk at night so that we wouldn't be a target," she shares. Later, she married and started a family in Shanghai. Sadly, she left everything while fleeing to Japan to avoid Communist invasion.

In her thirties, Cecilia became immersed in a cultural paradox while living among American-born Chinese when she moved to San Francisco to be with recently widowed Sister Number 6. Then, a business deal gone awry made Cecilia the restaurateur of The Mandarin. "I had never worked in my whole life, never been in a kitchen." But a keen sense of flavor and a memory like a steel trap helped her create a world-class menu that put the local Cantonese food to shame. "There was sweet and sour everywhere!" Cecilia's arms fly open to make a point. Thus, began Cecilia's mission to change the American perception of Chinese food.

Cecilia's grin becomes infectious as she retells one of her favorite stories about meeting James Beard. "Two men came in my restaurant. One was so big and so tall. Another was very short and fat," her laugh echoes. "A very odd couple." At their request, Cecilia served them a variety of food. A week later, they returned. It wasn't until later, while serving another table, that she was informed who those men were—James Beard and Chuck Williams—and why they were important. If the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, Cecilia's chicken gizzard with pork stomach—one of Beard's favorites—fertilized their friendship. This pattern of events repeated itself as she befriended icon after icon, from Julia Child to Jefferson Airplane.

A virtual catalogue of cultural luminaries pictorially lines Cecilia's bedroom. A photo of Cecilia with Freddie Mercury sits bedside. Black and white family photos line dressers. In the kitchen, a small table is blanketed in Chinese periodicals and magazines. She points out several articles, including one about her son, Philip, co-founder of P.F. Chang's, and another that features Cecilia on a 160-year timeline about Chinese food.

Retired from the restaurant business, Cecilia spends much time traveling the world, many times with her good friend, Alice Waters, owner of Chez Panisse. Her sister, Sophie (Sister Number 6), is 100 and lives in San Jose. Cecilia's voices breaks into a girlish giggle. "I talk to her just about every day. She still cooks!" And while Cecilia eats out a lot, she cooks at home when she wants Chinese. At the end of the day, she is a composite of admiration—chef, author, mother, and freedom seeker—who is living a beautiful life.

# Cocktail Reception at The Fairmont San Francisco Honoring San Francisco Consulate Generals

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# Against All Odds

by Tammy Neal

Still vibrant and full of life, Brian Basinger may have received an AIDS diagnosis, but it did not stop him from helping homeless people with HIV/AIDS. Brian believes in a world where all people have safe, decent, and affordable housing. His vision, now a reality, continues to change lives.

Brian's vision took place on December 15, 2003, when he awoke out of a dream to a thunderous voice telling him, "You must organize housing for people with AIDS." Within minutes, Brian received a call from the building manager of the Rainbow Flag Apartments, who told him that they were looking to rent two units to people with AIDS. The manager said, "I figured if anyone in this town knows how to do that, it's you, Brian." That was Brian's "aha" moment. The new direction in Brian's life was set; he began living his dream, literally.

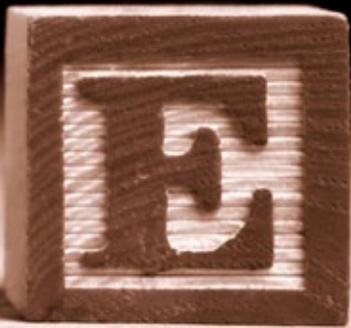
After experiencing significant prejudice and declining health, Brian found strength through his newfound passion of helping the homeless with AIDS. Brian specifically wanted to find a place in the Castro-Upper Market to set up an LGBT shelter and job training program. Brian called Tommi Avicolli Mecca at the Housing Rights Committee/SF and shared his plans. Tommi had space available for the AIDS Housing Alliance (AHA). Brian took some money from his disability check and bought two used phones from Craigslist. A fold-up table was donated to them, and on January 2004, AHA was born in three hours.

Today, the Q Foundation (their official name) also known as the Aids Housing Alliance/SF, one of their many programs that include an in-house drop-in clinic and the AHA café. The café, located on the UCC Hasting campus, is a program that provides jobs for people with HIV/AIDS, as well as homeless and at-risk people. Meanwhile, the subsidiary program Simply Sandwiches offers organic vegetarian brown bag lunches to homeless people and organizations associated with AHA. Simply Sandwiches program, cost about \$3,000 per year to feed 10,000 people. "It's amazing!" says Brian.

Sixty-four year old AIDS patient Tim Oviat owned All American Boy, a men's' clothier on Castro Street for 30 years. "I was the victim of the perfect storm, financially. First, my partner of 18 years died. The recession hit, pulling down sales volume. I lost my home and found myself broke. Help from friends only lasted so long. I was down to living in my car. My desperate search for help at various agencies was to no avail until I was directed to AHA/SF, who became my life-saver," says Oviat. AHA helped Tim access the right housing options; assisting with temporary housing, granting him move-in money to stabilize his life. "Brian Basinger and the staff at AHA have my everlasting support and are a great valuable resource for those in need."

Brian and his partner, James Nykolay, founded the shelter on their disability checks. This year, their \$600,000 budget is made possible by program funding and donations, balancing success against all odds. One might call them a modern day loaves and fishes.

***For more information on AHA, please visit [ahasf.org](http://ahasf.org).***





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