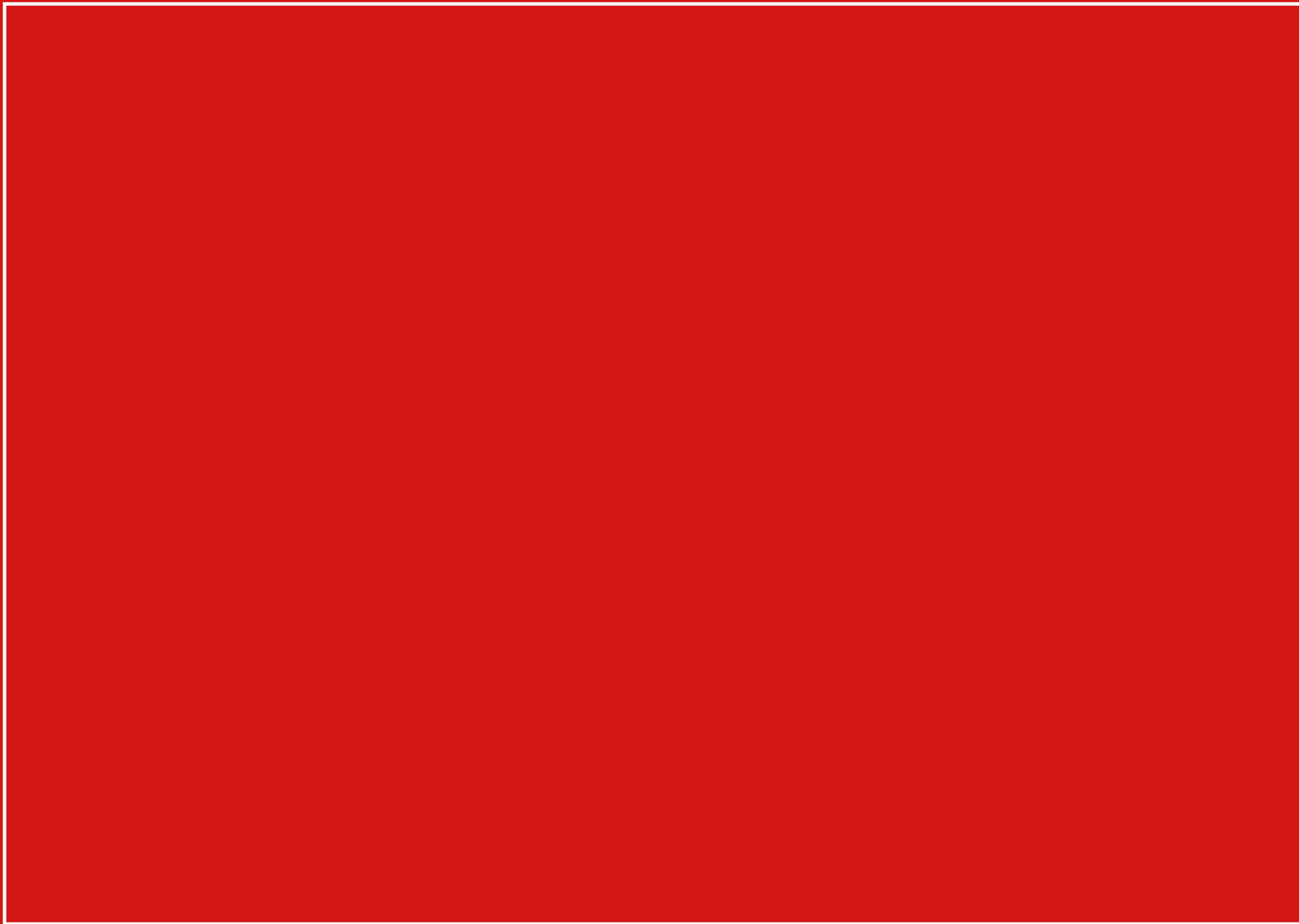


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# RICHARD MACDONALD

Sissone. Half Life, *bronze*

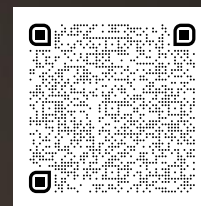
In Sissone, there is a flame-like quality to the beautiful shape the dancer's body takes in this position, which Richard MacDonald has captured in all its brilliance. Here the elegant lines of the dancer's form show the athleticism in her artistry and we are reminded of the essential perfection of the human form.

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(left) RICHARD MACDONALD working with ballet dancers Maximo Califano and Beth Ann Namey in his Monterey, CA Studio.





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By Emely Zepeda

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#### Fifty Years of Service

By Caitlin Fillmore

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#### Layering Is the Look for Fall

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### SIP

#### Secrets of a Mixologist

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#### Full Circle Moment

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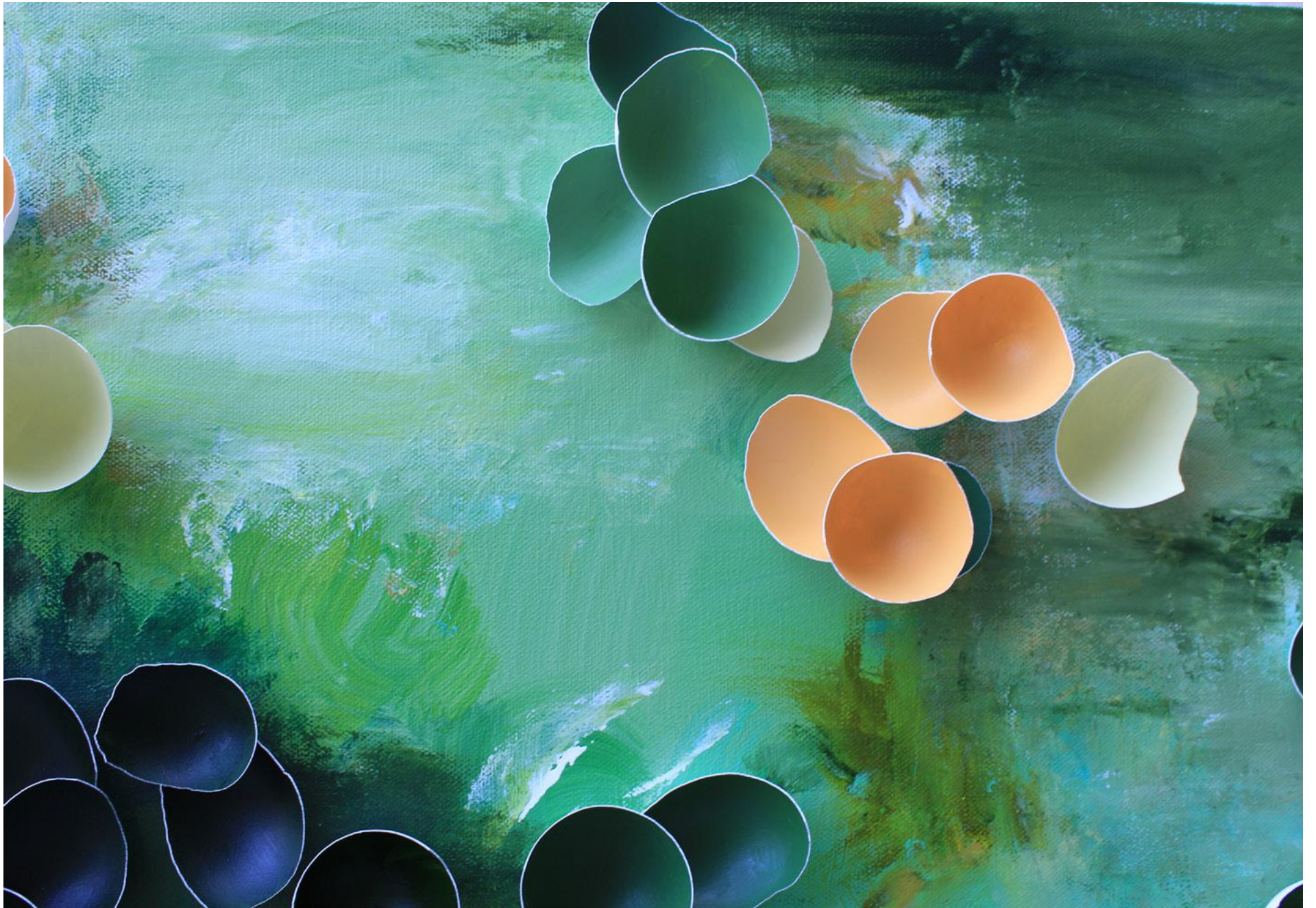
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# Exploring the Fragility of Life

By Rebekah Moan

Mixed media artist Larisa Safaryan creates with an unusual medium: eggshells. That wasn't always the case—she used to work with oil paints and other acrylics. But one day, during breakfast with her family, everything changed. They were eating eggs and her father suggested she try using eggshells.

“The fragility and symbolism of eggshells captivated me, and I embarked on a creative exploration that has continued to unfold ever since,” she shares.

Her artistic journey has been an unusual one. Safaryan never attended an art class and instead received two master's degrees: one in psychology and the other in public management.

“Although my academic background in psychology and management has significantly enriched my perspective and influenced my creative process, my heart finds its true calling in the world of art,” she admits. “For me, the decision to pursue art wasn't so much a conscious choice as it was an inherent part of who I am. I've always known that I would be creating, regardless of my chosen profession or work environment.”

She started creating formally in 2003 when she exhibited for the first time in her native country, Armenia. Her first U.S. exhibition was in 2011. Since then, she has continued to captivate audiences with sculptures and paintings that embody the interplay between fragility and strength. Her art invites contemplation of the profound beauty residing within the fragile nature of existence.

“I can show through my creations how beautiful and ephemeral that fragility can be,” she shares. “It serves not only as a medium but also as a metaphor in my artistic practice. Each piece I meticulously make/break/sculpt involves surgical precision. This demanding process leaves no room for error, making each creation both challenging and intricate, while also providing ample space for my creativity to flourish.”

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# Designs Befitting Land and Lifestyle

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Lewis Builders

As locals know, building a home in Carmel is not an easy task due to water restrictions, permit requirements, and more. “Sometimes, people make assumptions about what they can do in Carmel and get let down,” says Lewis Builders Project Leader Scott Julian. “There are a lot of limiting factors, especially for out-of-the-area buyers that come from a place that’s less regulated.”

This makes what Lewis Builders accomplishes even more remarkable. The award-winning company works with clients and real estate agents to see properties’ potential through a proven nine-step process that works for everything from custom new homes to complicated remodels. It provides clarity and streamlines the building process because Lewis Builders is the single point of accountability, from start to finish.

In traditional home-building settings, there may be an architect, multiple engineers, an interior designer, a landscape architect, and a contractor involved. Lewis Builders brings all of those players under one roof and supports its clients with the initial build idea, all the way to the finished product, with an added total care warranty.

Attention to detail and care is evident in one of Lewis Builders’ latest projects—a custom, ground-up new build in Teháma, the sustainable private community developed by Clint Eastwood and designer and builder Alan Williams. The property encompasses nearly 10,000 square feet, with views of the entire Monterey Bay.

“This is the dream home for a couple that desired to have enough space for their kids and grandkids to be able to visit and stay so they can enjoy special moments and holidays together,” says Julian.

The space sits on 10 acres and has nine fireplaces, two outdoor kitchens, a six-hole custom putting green, and expansive tile patios, including off the primary bedroom, with views of the ocean. The walls are plastered in the Venetian style—hand troweled.

The kitchen houses an indoor brick pizza oven built in the “old-world way,” and a custom-made range and hood built and shipped in from Florence, Italy. Solid walnut cabinetry used throughout the property was made locally, and the hand-forged bronze door and cabinet hardware was made in the United States.



New homes such as the one in Teháma make up about 50 percent of Lewis Builders’ business. The other half of the business is remodeling. “Really, no piece of land or property is too intimidating to transform,” says Julian. “All properties have massive potential, and we just have to work through it.”

Many people feel stymied by the process and complexity of building or remodeling a home, but Lewis Builders tries to reduce that feeling by instilling confidence in its clients via its nine-step process.

“There are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of decisions that need to be made, and we break them down and work with our clients to build timelines and schedules to make it an enjoyable process,” he says. “We take a stressful project and make it as enjoyable as possible while also reducing complexity with a single point of accountability.”

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

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# Layering Is the Look for Fall

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Patrick James

Fall fashion is always rife with possibilities due to the layering and fabrics available. In fact, it's fashion designer Patrick James Mon Pere Jr.'s favorite season. The eponymous upscale men's clothing and lifestyle brand designer says that the must-have look for this fall centers around lightweight sweaters and jackets that have added functionality or performance aspects.

"I always have a few favorites," he admits. This season, one of the pieces he's most excited about is a blue district check sport coat made of fabric from Vitale Barberis Canonico—Italy's oldest fabric mill and one of its most prestigious.

"I like the coat in particular because you can dress it up or down, and it goes with so many different looks," says Mon Pere. Another piece that's caught his eye is a lambswool cardigan with leather buttons. "It's just a great piece," he says, "and lambswool is, of course, one of the original 'performance' fabrics."

He's also excited about an overshirt, a Western-style snap front made of wrinkle-resistant materials. "It's a very cool piece that's easy to wear," he says. In terms of shoes, he says that sneakers are hot, and Patrick James has some waterproof suede sneakers in fall colors that are perfect for the season. "Chukkas and boots also remain popular," he

says, "and we have so many good ones for me to choose from."

There's no theme for the fall collection. Instead, it's an evolution of what has worked in the past for the company. "Our concentration is on giving our customers tremendous value with every product," says Mon Pere.

Customers also inspire what Patrick James decides to carry. For instance, when the COVID-19 pandemic slowed the world down, the company started carrying more athleisure lines. When everyone started returning to more normal routines, Patrick James didn't need as much athleisure wear but kept what worked best for its customers.

The fashion brand balances its inventory between a national catalog, an e-commerce website, and nine stores spread throughout California and Nevada. Some families have been shopping with Patrick James for generations, as it was established in 1962.

"We realize that folks can shop anywhere, especially these days, with the internet," says Mon Pere. "We try and just be good people that truly enjoy helping those that come in with a need. Our staff is highly trained, and we all do our best to be very involved in our local communities."

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PERSONA | KATHLEEN CARDINALI



# Fifty Years of Service

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Kathleen Cardinalli is a petite, soft-spoken woman who stays loyal. A first-generation American and a Monterey resident for her entire life, Cardinalli attended San Carlos Grammar School and Junipero Memorial High School, where she met classmates who come for coffee the first Monday of the month. “We look at each other and think we know more about each other than our own families,” says Cardinalli, laughing. “It’s a blessing to have lifelong friends.”

Cardinalli married into a large, local Italian family and is now, as she says, “related to the whole town.” She speaks glowingly about her two children and six grandchildren, listing them as her greatest pride. But her gentle nature downplays Cardinalli’s entrepreneurial achievements. She has operated successful restaurants in competitive Carmel for much of the last 50 years.

That story begins in 1973, with the first days of Carmel Plaza, which is now a gleaming shopping center of upscale boutiques and services. Back then, she explains, the plaza was “studs and dirt floors.” Along with friends, she opened a children’s store, The Little Ark. After a year, Carmel Plaza asked the group to open a café. The Left Bank Cafe served its signature Brittany crêpes, a square envelope filled with a variety of sweet or savory ingredients. The Little Ark closed after about five years, but the café carried on for 14 years; Cardinalli had found her calling.

Within a few years of the Left Bank Cafe’s closing in 1987, Cardinalli’s son Steve encouraged her to own a standalone place again. “I thought, ‘you’re crazy,’” she says. But the suggestion gave rise to The Cottage Restaurant, featuring a cozy, homestyle menu served in an actual small cottage. Cardinalli has operated The Cottage for 28 years.

The restaurant specializes in breakfast and lunch comfort foods that highlight Cardinalli’s roots in Italy and the Central Coast. Diners can

choose from a variety of dishes, including eggs Benedict, a Thursday lasagna special, and the café’s artichoke soup, once a “Best Soup” winner in Monterey County.

Cardinalli’s sense of loyalty is present in how she runs her business. For nearly 30 years, she has risen at 5 a.m. to open the restaurant, serving customers from 7:30 a.m. until closing at 2:30 p.m. As the day begins, she is joined by her employees, many of whom have worked for most or all of the Cottage’s 28 years. She easily reminisces about her staff, including Juan and Miguel, who do everything from cooking to serving. James, her dishwasher, began working for her over 40 years ago at the Left Bank.

Regulars, such as Jack Pappadeas, are the norm at The Cottage. They order breakfast and finish the word search in the newspaper every morning. They are not all locals—every year, a pair of tourists from Canada visit Carmel for six months and eat at the restaurant every day.

Cardinalli does not dwell in discussing her success. “I respect whoever comes in my house,” she says. “I grew up like that, and I’m passing it on.” Perhaps this is why, during hard times, The Cottage has experienced remarkable gestures of kindness. Customers have pressed envelopes into Cardinalli’s hands, asking her to pass on gifts and well wishes to her employees. Some customers from South Dakota even called an employee at home, just to check in.

“How wonderful to feel like family, even if it’s only a few times we have met,” says Cardinalli of these gestures from diners. “They maintain connections and write beautiful letters. We’ve been very blessed.”

— Along Monterey Bay —

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# Concours & Cocktails

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Manny Espinoza

On August 17, nearly 500 guests convened at the green hilltop expanse outside the Hacienda at the Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel to celebrate the Concours d'Elegance. The exclusive Monterey Car Week event featured a "Boutique Alley" of around 40 hypercars, emerging EV cars, and vintage vehicles. The latter category included an original W. O. Bentley, a Mercedes-Benz 300 SL, a Mercedes-Benz AMG SL Roadster, and a Ferrari F50.

Residents of The Preserve, their guests, and invited members of Luxury Rally Club mingled over gourmet offerings prepared by The Preserve's executive chef, Marc Johnson. Delicacies included a raw bar with crab claws, oysters on the half shell, and marinated prawns. Guests also enjoyed a Tsar Nicoulai Caviar bar and artisanal pizzas prepared in a wood-burning pizza oven.

Entertainment and a variety of libations were on the premises. Hundred Acre, a St. Helena winery, poured its labels "Summer Dreams" and "Fortunate Son." Veuve Clicquot shared its champagnes, and Starward Whisky offered its premium spirits.

Highlights of the night included the scenic eight-mile drive into the hills to the event. Santa Lucia Preserve is located on 20,000 acres, 18,000 of which are protected by a conservation land trust.

"Concours & Cocktails brings so many interesting and beautiful cars and fans of automotive design and ingenuity together," says Jen Anello, senior director of sales and marketing, resident and member experience at the Santa Lucia Preserve. "It's a remarkable gathering, with a blend of fantastic wine and spirits, delicious fare, and impressive vehicles in a truly unique setting."

Trevor Johnson, cofounder of Luxury Rally Club, thinks that Concours & Cocktails is the best event of Monterey Car Week. "It's a true garden party," he says. "Guests have the opportunity to watch the sunset, see all the amazing cars up close, and talk with friends."



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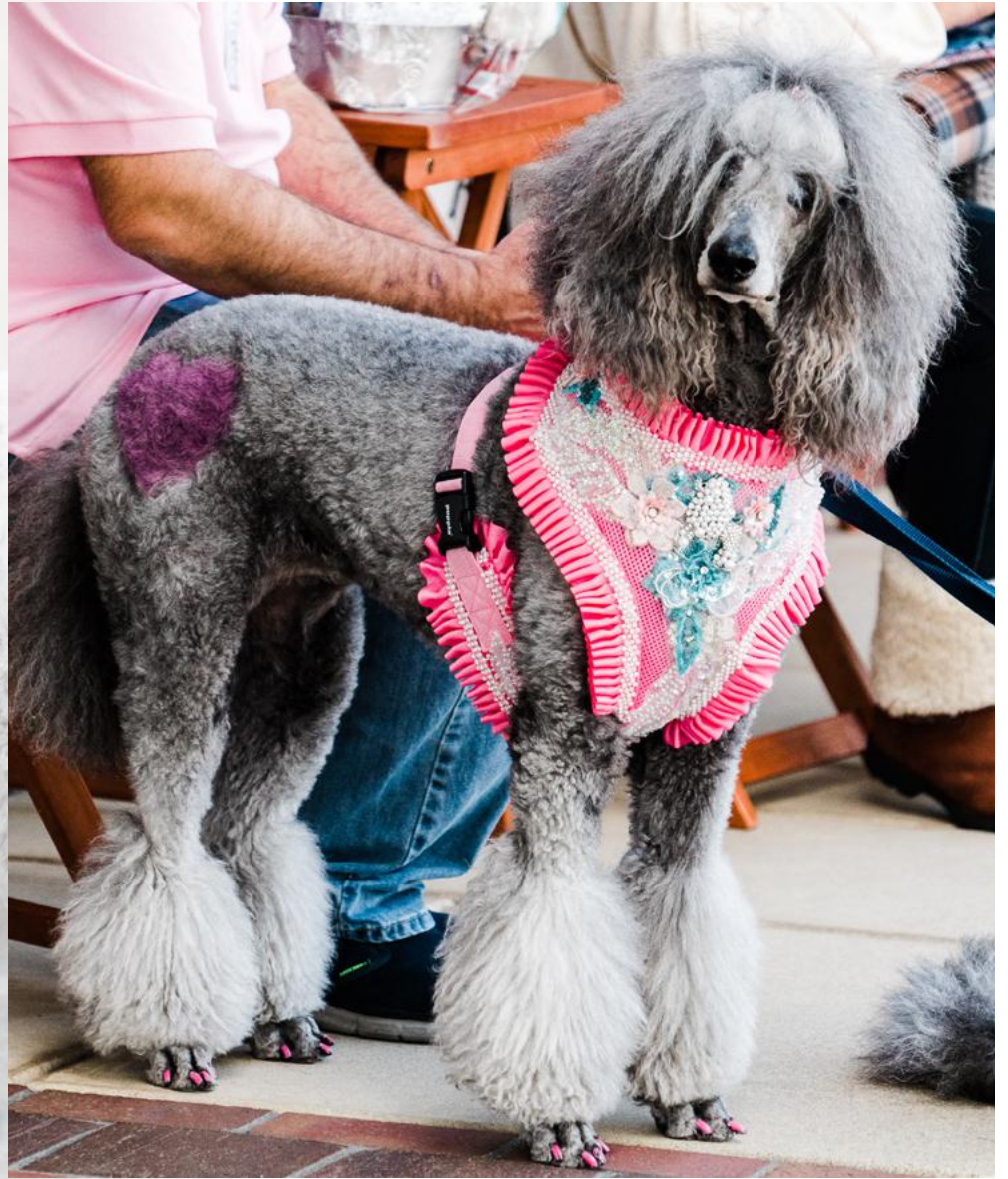
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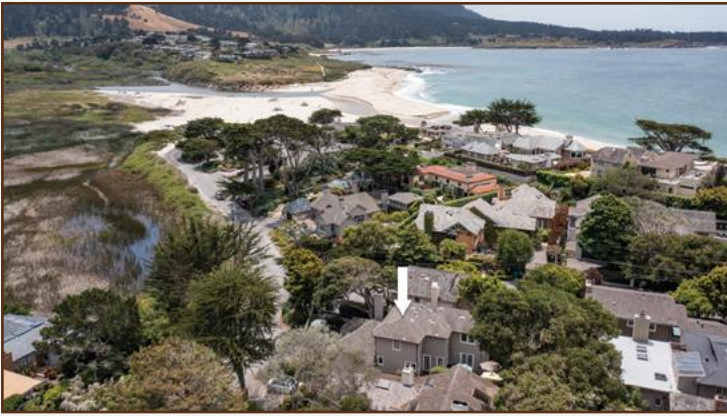




## Poodle Day

Photos by Paulina R

Crowds enthusiastically cheered as a procession of long, slender legs and elegantly coiffed curls paraded through The Crossroads Carmel on October 7. That's right! The poodles were back to kick off Carmel's annual Poodle Day®, strutting their stuff for their biggest fans in preparation for an evening of dinners and tastings. Proceeds from Poodle Day® benefitted NorCal Poodle Rescue.



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# Secrets of a Mixologist

By Jessica Zimmer | Photo by Manny Espinoza

At Michelin-rated Aubergine, lead mixologist Johnathan Jeronimo begins creating craft cocktails months in advance. He uses peels and fruits from seasonal shrubs and liqueurs to create custom bitters. Then he perfects recipes with flavors for the coming season.

“Many of the ingredients are from the local farmers markets in Monterey County,” says Jeronimo, a self-taught professional. “Still, it would be difficult to make any of these drinks at home.” Aubergine’s cocktail menu, which changes seasonally, lists four or five ingredients per drink.

For example, the Garden Goblet contains Plymouth Gin, lavender, rosemary, and Meyer lemon. This drink requires Jeronimo to cold seep lavender for three weeks and char rosemary to make a simple syrup. Later, Jeronimo infuses the gin with pineapple sage and Meyer lemon peel from Big Sur. The bitters alone contain 15 ingredients. The drink is served in a snifter to allow the guest to fully sense the aromas.

Jeronimo often works with ingredients such as cherry guavas, which are found in aguas frescas, Mexican

drinks that contain fresh fruit. He is experimenting with mescal, after learning that his paternal great grandparents were *mezcaleros* (mescal makers).

For the fall, Jeronimo will use warming spices such as clove and cardamom. He’s also experimenting with hoshigaki, dried hachiya persimmons. Further, he is working with Aubergine’s beverage team to develop a nocino, a sweet Italian liqueur made from green walnuts.

“Do not be afraid to experiment,” says Jeronimo. “There’s something for everyone on our cocktail menu.” He makes cocktails that are soft on the palate and pair well with refined dishes.

“None of what I do could be possible without the help of the entire team at Aubergine,” he says. “Executive Chef Justin Cogley and the sous chefs share unique items that inspire the creative vision I have for the bar program.”

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



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# Golfing Charity 'Aces' U.S. Women's Open Fundraiser

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Carmel Realty

During a fundraising dinner on July 6, First Tee - Monterey County raised \$650,000 to help underserved boys and girls in Monterey County create opportunities for a brighter future. Held at an estate situated off the 12th green of Pebble Beach Golf Links, the fundraiser celebrated the first-ever U.S. Women's Open at Pebble Beach and supported the local community in a magical series of events, according to First Tee - Monterey County Board Member Dan Lynch.

"The charity event was created to capitalize on the momentum and inspiration taking place in the community among women's golf," he shares. Since its inception in 1945, the U.S. Women's Open was never held at Pebble Beach until this year. To honor the milestone, Pebble Beach, in association with the U.S. Women's Open, donated \$250,000 to First Tee - Monterey County and the funds are earmarked for girls' programming.

First Tee - Monterey County currently serves 10,000 youth ages 4 to 17 and seeks to eventually reach 25,000 children. With its afterschool and summer camp programs, First Tee coaches use golf as a platform for life lessons, according to Lynch.

"We teach golf but we're really teaching life principles," he says. "We use golf as a metaphor for practicing and pursuing goals, being honest, and having integrity." The program has resulted in improved state testing in math and English, reduced absenteeism, and increased high school graduation rates.

The U.S. Women's Open fundraiser was such a success, drawing in 60 people, that First Tee - Monterey County wants to make it an annual event, similar to its "Bottles, Boots, and Barbecue," fundraiser in Salinas held every September. Several hundred people are usually in attendance at that event and First Tee - Monterey County hopes to raise \$1.5 million at it every year.

***For more information about First Tee - Monterey County, visit [firstteemontereycounty.org](http://firstteemontereycounty.org)***



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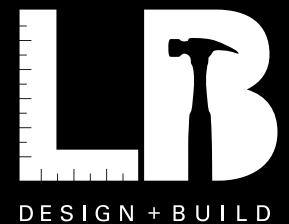
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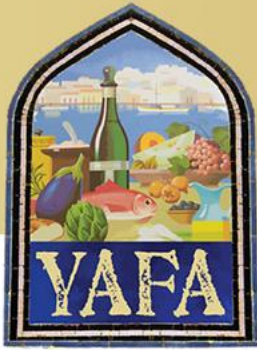


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# Central Coast's Pediatric Home Care

By Emely Zepeda | Photos Courtesy of Coastal Kids Home Care

Coastal Kids Home Care was cofounded in 2005 by Margy Mayfield, a pediatric nurse with more than two decades of experience. While working as a nurse and coordinator at a home care agency, Mayfield saw firsthand how pediatric programs were neglected, faced budget cuts, and had resources redirected. She also saw how beneficial it was when patients were able to receive care and rest at home. Tackling both issues, she established Coastal Kids to bring low-cost and high-quality home care to children with serious illnesses and injuries.

The organization provides services in Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Santa Clara Counties. For the last 18 years, it has provided more than 76,000 in-home visits to more than 9,900 children. To do this, Coastal Kids has four incredible programs.

Home-based pediatric palliative care is for children with life-limiting illnesses. This program provides comfort care with curative intent, providing physical and emotional relief with massage therapy, art, music, and counseling—art and massage therapy are particular favorites. The program has a dedicated team with pediatric training: pediatric nurses, medical social workers, expressive therapists, and respite nurses.

Pediatric home health care offers physical and occupation therapy to children with developmental delays or serious injury. Pediatric nurses travel directly to the child's home and offer infusions, wound care, blood draws, medication administration, physical therapy, and more.

Coastal Kids also offers one-on-one counseling to children, ages 5 to 21, with mild to moderate mental health needs. In partnership with Papillon and the Heal Together initiative, Coastal Kids also offers grief and bereavement support groups for families. In early 2020, during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Coastal Kids broadened its counseling services to everyone. The Heal Together Hub was

created as a community resource of mental health professionals and community organizations to help anyone dealing with grief, loss, and anxiety.

Since 2018, pediatric shift care has been available for children with complex medical needs. Each child is matched with a nurse who provides in-home medical care. This care is closely crafted with the families and the children's doctors to meet daily needs and long-term goals. The nurses are trained to provide breathing treatments, gastrostomy tube feedings, tracheostomy care, and more.

Kepler Otero is one remarkable child that Coastal Kids has helped. Otero was born with CHARGE syndrome, a rare genetic condition that affects his hearing, vision, balance, and ability to eat and breathe. After having multiple surgeries in his first few years of life, Otero now uses a tracheostomy to breathe and a gastrostomy tube for nutrition. Through Coastal Kids' pediatric shift care program, Marta Escobar, a nurse, is with him 40 hours a week at his home and elementary school. "He is a very verbal little kid, and there are a thousand funny stories about him," she says. "Every single day is a different adventure with him." Having a trusted caregiver is life-changing, say Otero's parents: "Kepler loves Marta. It is so nice to know that they have that special bond, because when something is wrong, he has to feel comfortable letting her know. We love having her there for him."

Coastal Kids aims to help as many children and families as possible in the comfort of their own homes. Plans are to expand to include services in San Mateo County within the next three years, and in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties in the future. When Coastal Kids reaches these goals, it will be helping in seven counties with a total population of over six million. It's amazing to think about how many children and families they have already helped—and will help.

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

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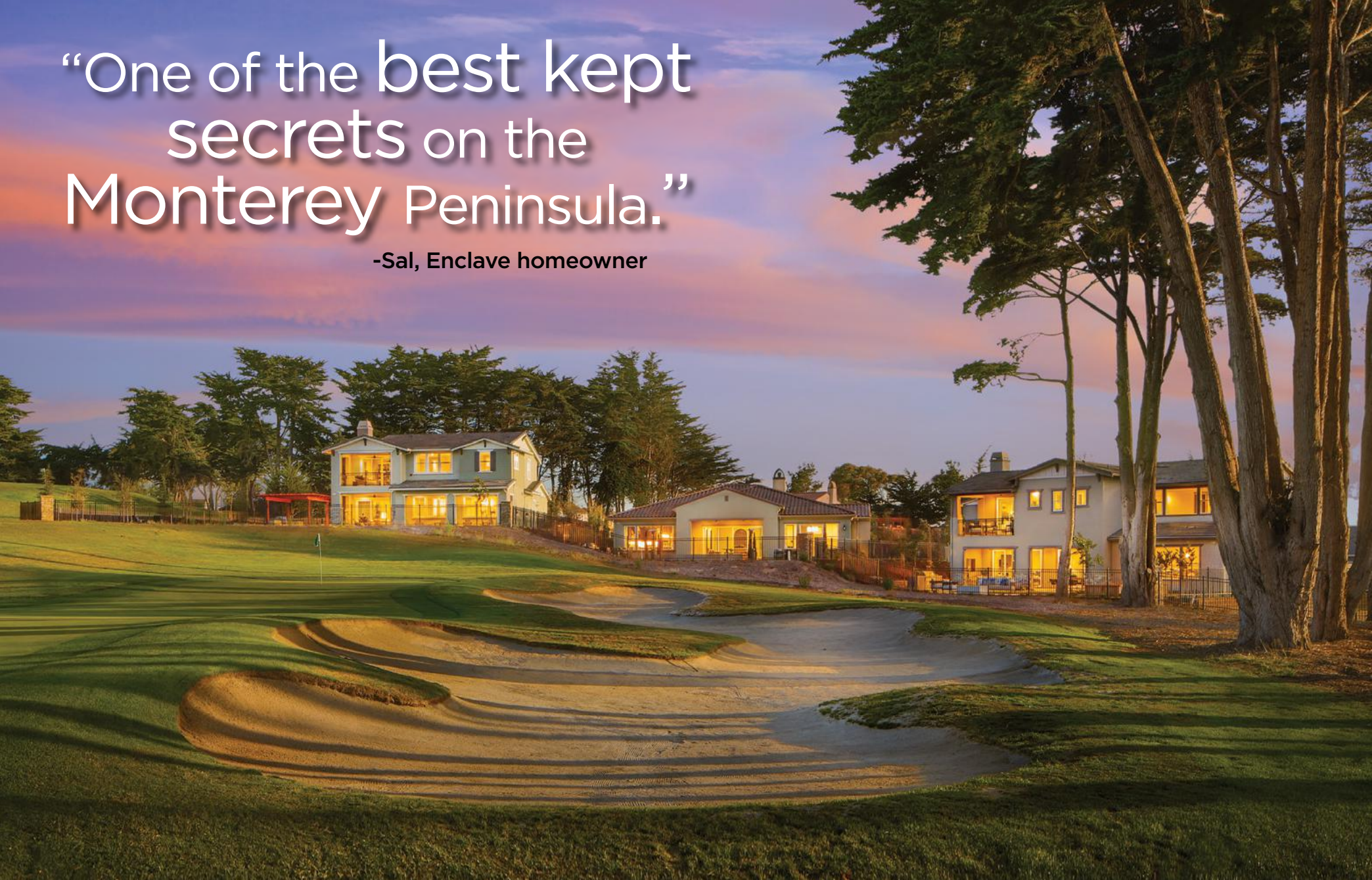
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# Full Circle Moment

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Carmel-by-the-Sea has more than 60 restaurants operating within the village's modest footprint, each with a unique story. For The Grill on Ocean, that story began with the goal of owning a gas station.

Wassim El Chaarani arrived in Monterey County from his native Lebanon in the 1990s. His strong work ethic and friendly personality fostered an impressive career in the area's hospitality industry. He began working at local institutions such as Roy's at Pebble Beach and Anton & Michel in Carmel-by-the-Sea. He served as general manager of Carmel's celebrity magnet, Hog's Breath Inn, for 13 years, and owned a Lebanese restaurant in the food court of Salinas' Northridge Mall in the late 2000s. With his wife, Lorena, he has operated five restaurants during their 25-year relationship. Currently, the couple juggles three restaurants, including The Grill on Ocean, which opened in May 2022, at 3 SW Corner Ocean Avenue.

El Chaarani reached his goal of owning a gas station by 2009. He sold that business in 2021 and was approached soon afterward about a new listing on Carmel's in-demand Ocean Avenue. El Chaarani saw the restaurant property and made an offer the next day.

"Going back to Carmel was a necessary evolution. When this business opportunity came up, [El Chaarani] naturally was inclined to go for it," says Lorena El Chaarani of her husband's quick decision-making. "But I'm someone who likes surprises. His dreams became my dreams, too."

Neither Wassim nor Lorena divulged their favorite restaurant over the couple's hospitality history. But El Chaarani worked at Tony Salameh's former restaurant, also called The Grill on Ocean.

With Salameh's encouragement, the El Chaarani adopted the name of the place where Wassim began his American dream. Gifting the name is an unusual move between small restaurant owners, explains Lorena, but the couple views the move as "upholding a reputation,

but a passing of the baton." The original sign for The Grill on Ocean hangs outside today, in homage to Salameh and as part of the casual restaurant's new branding.

"Wassim was smiling for a whole week, just beaming," says Lorena. "He would say, 'I can't believe it, how this has happened to me.'" Guests frequently hear El Chaarani's showstopping opening line, "I used to wait tables for the old owner."

The Grill on Ocean features an eclectic menu with plenty of influences from Wassim's home country. It reflects the variety of foods that the El Chaarani prepare and eat at home, lending a friendly, familial atmosphere to the one-year-old establishment.

Neither Wassim nor Lorena are professionally trained as chefs. They prefer a philosophy of openness as to what makes it onto the evolving menu. "We cook this food—Italian, Mexican, Spanish, Lebanese," says Lorena, who was born in Southern California and has an Italian and Hispanic background. "We cook kebabs on the barbecue grill with carne asada, Spanish rice, and a side of tabbouleh. It's a mishmash of foods from everywhere." This international approach is called California fusion at The Grill on Ocean and features items that include surf and turf fajitas and an ahi tuna poke tower—Lorena's creation.

Customers step into a cozy dining room that is splashed with bold Mediterranean colors. Vibrancy continues on each diner's plate, with ingredients such as watermelon radish and pomegranate seeds. Coming this fall is a menu highlighting even more of Wassim's family recipes, with a continued focus on grilling.

"I don't think our restaurant feels like any other place in Carmel," says Lorena. "We just want to share what we know."

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







Photos by Manny Espinoza

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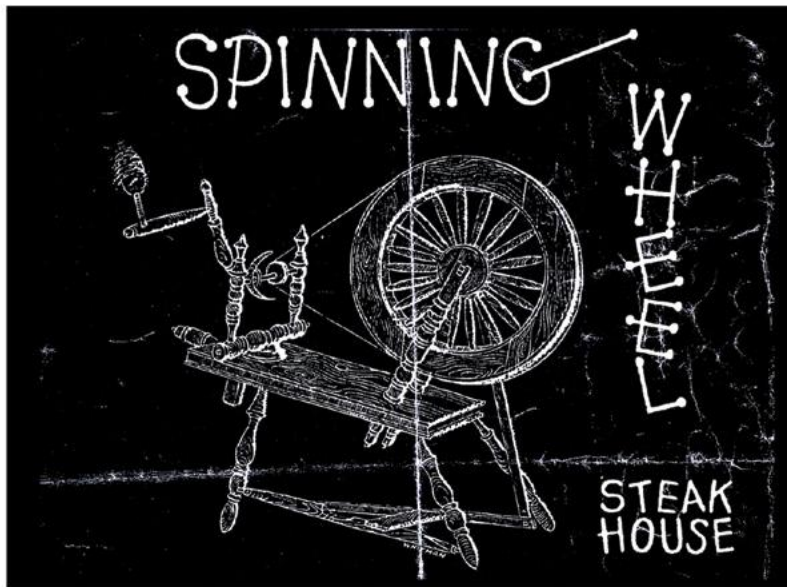
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PARTIES WELCOME

# A Simpler Time

By Emely Zepeda

In December 1952, the Spinning Wheel Restaurant opened its doors under Joseph and Clara Motta's leadership. Located on Monte Verde Street in Carmel-by-the-Sea, it boasted "Steak at Its Best" as "Our steaks are cut from choice and prime Omaha Corn Fed Beef and aged in our own refrigerator."

Back then, with 10 specials to choose from, one could order a filet mignon for \$3.10 or a New York cut for \$2.50. A child's plate of ground tenderloin tips sold for \$1.45. All menu items came with

French fries or baked potatoes, a salad bowl, cream dressing, bread and butter, and soup du jour. The dessert menu offered ice cream and sherbet for 20¢, a slice of homemade pie for 30¢ or pie a la mode for 45¢, homemade cheesecake for 40¢, and Nesselrode pudding for 25¢. There was a wide selection of drinks to choose from—soda, hot chocolate, coffee, tea,

iced tea, and milk, as well as a wine list and several choices of beer (domestic and imported), the most expensive of which sold for 60¢.

It was a simple, quaint family establishment that prided itself on its food, warmth, and being part of the community. On its menu was a poem that read:

*I like to live in little Carmel where the trees meet across the street where you wave your hand and say "hello" to everyone you meet.*

*I like to stand for a moment outside our new P.O., and listen to the friendly gossip about all the folks we know.*

*For life is interwoven with friends we've learned to love; we hear the joys and sorrows in our daily push and shove.*

*So we like to live in little Carmel, we care no more to roam for every house in this little town is more than a house. It's a home.*

The Spinning Wheel was also the Motta's home; the couple lived above the restaurant on the second floor, with an ocean view. The building was designed by architect Edwin Lewis Snyder in the Monterey Colonial style.

The restaurant was a part of the community. Its multipaned angled bay window made up the majority of the restaurant's facade and provided a great view and an open atmosphere, whether one was enjoying a meal and looking out into the town or walking past the building and peeking in. The brick chimney on the south side made for a cozy, warm dining experience. The second floor, where the Mottas lived, had a full-width, open balcony with French doors that added to the inviting atmosphere. Though the building was finished in a cement stucco, which could feel cold, its wood frame, exposed wood rafters, and the wood-paneled Dutch door softened the look, making it feel homier.

The Spinning Wheel closed its doors in 1996. However, the building has since become a commercial office space, and in June 2006, it was recorded with the California Register of Historical Resources as a historical building.





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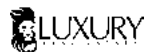
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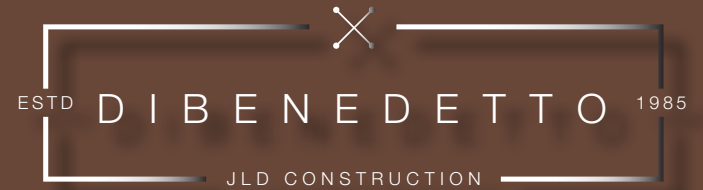
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# Fresh Take on the Familiar

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos Courtesy of Le Petit Pali

The Danish call it *hygge*, a cozy quality that makes a person feel content and comfortable. Northern Californians chase that quality in Carmel-by-the-Sea, the charmed seaside village of fairy-tale architecture and wandering wisteria vines that sits under a blanket of glittering, Pacific Ocean mist. Like a long hug from a cherished friend or the well-worn sweater wrapped around yourself as the sun dips below the horizon, Carmel is that rare environment that is as much a feeling as it is a place.

Visitors to Carmel in search of that feeling have two new lodging options in which to immerse themselves: Le Petit Pali at Ocean Ave and Le Petit Pali at 8th Ave. Both properties, which opened in June 2023, spring from the creative minds at Palisociety, a collection of unique hotels and residences that includes the Palihouse, Palihotel and ARRIVE by Palisociety brands. Le Petit Pali, the group's newest brand, updates and elevates the bed-and-breakfast model, bringing a fresh, bespoke, and decidedly unstuffy approach.

For Palisociety founder Avi Brosh, who designed and opened his first property in 2008, Carmel was the ideal location for the new concept, as the bed-and-breakfast model is particularly suited to the town's scale and history. Under the thoughtful design direction of Kirsten Leigh Pratt, Brosh's wife and principal of hotels and branding, the two properties' interiors evoke a layered, lived-in aesthetic, full of intriguing art and welcoming corners that invite guests to linger, socialize, and enjoy themselves. Likewise, breakfast at Le Petit Pali is a celebratory occasion rather than merely functional, showcasing locally made provisions, seasonal fruit, and a perfect eight-minute egg with Maldon salt, all topped off with champagne and mimosas.

In addition to a curated neighborhood guide and a mood-evoking playlist including, Lana Del Rey and Van Morrison, guest rooms boast Bellino linens, Marshall® speakers, Diptyque® toiletries, and retro SMEG® mini-fridges, along with plaid hot-water bottles tucked discreetly into bedroom drawers—a personal touch that Brosh was inspired to incorporate after staying at a lodge in New Zealand. With a goal of creating spaces that are comfortable and aspirational, he says, “We wanted people to walk into the rooms and think, ‘Oh, wow, I’d love for my bedroom to look like this.’”

Special touches abound at Le Petit Pali, such as Linus bicycles, towels, and beach chairs available to guests who wish to explore the village or the beach. Those looking to mingle can partake in afternoon social hours, during which regional wines, champagnes, beers, and hors d'oeuvres are available for purchase, and complimentary specials from local favorites, including Carmel Cheese Shop and Folktale Winery, are offered Thursday through Sunday. Dogs and children are warmly welcomed, and guests may access both properties while staying at either location.

With a successful launch in the rearview mirror, Brosh and the Palisociety team can now look forward to expanding the Le Petit Pali footprint. Look for future openings in Laguna Beach and Brentwood.

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



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# Chef Jacques Zagouri

A vibrant presence at professional events and social gatherings alike, Chef Jacques Zagouri satiated people with his food and his spirit. He was an extension of the cuisine he created, having cultivated connections through sensory experiences and good humor.

Although he spent much of his time in professional kitchens, he was often found behind the apron during social gatherings. His closest friends knew him as the life of the party and a compassionate creator. He could make friends with anyone and fashion a decadent meal out the humblest of ingredients.

A beacon of light to many people, Zagouri made friends with the passersby and the customer alike. His hand extended to anyone in his purview, and his passion ignited fires within others. In this way, he continues to shine in the people he knew, and he continues to illuminate the communities in which he lived.

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## 57° DEPARTMENTS

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By Atissa Manshoury

### COMMUNITY

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By Atissa Manshoury

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**Fleeting Moments in Sunshine Noir**

By Rebekah Moan

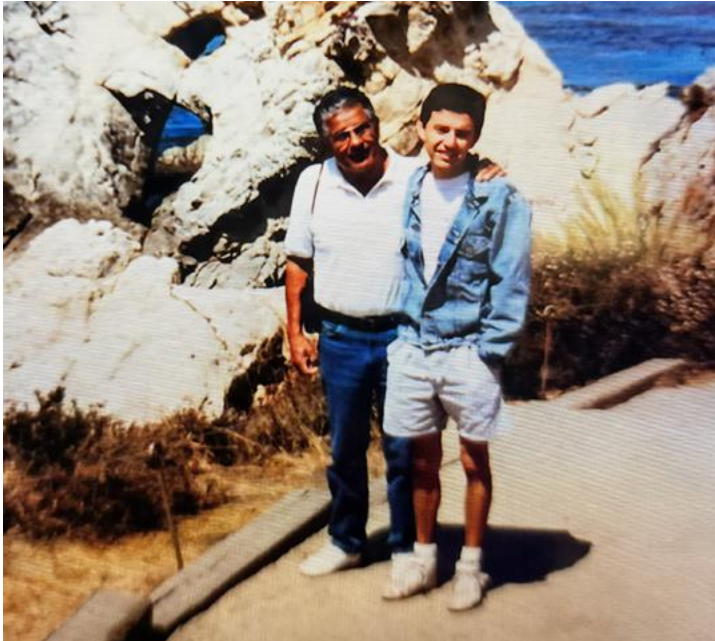


## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel

Autumn sunshine in Carmel is a bit of a local secret. Summer weather has given way to cool coastal breezes as the marine layers hang back over the ocean, keeping fog at bay.

I'm reminded of my father. Like Carmel-by-the-Sea, he was resilient. The father of seven children as well as a grandfather and great-grandfather, he provided a solid foundation for us all. From organizing large family camping trips that often required several campsites, to his commitment to his community, my father created a legacy of unity. Perhaps some of that energy, along with his desire to bring people together, is part of what drives this magazine.



This issue, we're exploring Carmel past, present, and future. We're going back in time to introduce you to a former Carmel gem, The Spinning Wheel Restaurant, now a historical building. Then, we're moving toward the future with a story about Let Petit Pali, a fresh, bespoke approach that elevates the bed and breakfast experience.

Meanwhile, Patrick James shares what's hot—or rather cool—this season, including fashions that blend functionality with performance. The Grill on Ocean is heating up the kitchen with eclectic fare with its international menu. Johnathan Jeronimo is embracing warm spices and autumnal fruits in his seasonal beverages at Aubergine. And Coastal Kids Home Care is warming hearts by providing essential home health services to ill and injured children in their homes.

Further north, Lovely Day Events in Napa assists people in commemorating the most important events and people in their lives, from weddings to celebration of life ceremonies. For those who want to extend their trips in the valley, The Estate Yountville offers three distinct lodging options on 22 acres. Meanwhile, across the

pass, Benzinger Family Winery in Sonoma County is creating Biodynamic® wines while encouraging love for nature through community involvement.

And of course, we've enlivened our pages with images and stories from several artists and snapshots of some of our favorite events from summer and early fall.

Maybe we'll see you cozied up by a fire with this issue in-hand at one of our favorite places in town.





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# 57°

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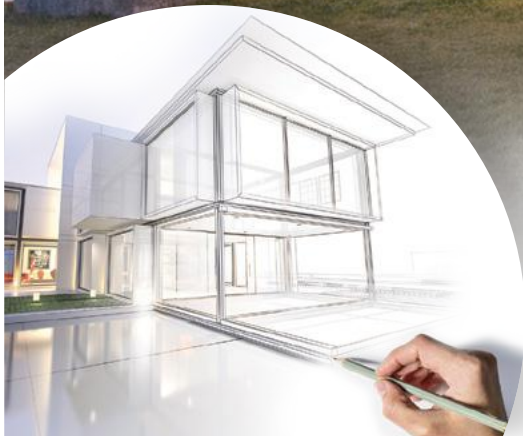
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# Deceptively Simple

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Dwight Hwang

Dwight Hwang spent more than 20 years working as a storyboard artist for movies, animation, and games before becoming a full-time gyotaku artist. Traditionally, the artform was performed in the 1800s by fishermen to record and commemorate their catch.

Today, artists brush calligraphy sumi ink, created from pine soot and water, onto a fish and then press washi (rice) paper onto it to create a monochromatic print. Hwang uses the same materials, but his process is slightly different in that he creates tones, gradations, stripes, and patterns in his prints. The result is a fish print. The process is similar to a Japanese woodblock print but the perishable fish serves as the woodblock.

“What I am most proud of personally is the ability to print the subject at different angles, twists, and perspectives so that they appear more 3D,” he says. “I also occasionally brush the subject with color pigments to create a fully colored piece, which is also something that wasn’t done traditionally.”

Hwang became enamored with gyotaku after living for seven years in Tokyo, where he spotted such prints on the walls of tackle shops and seafood stalls. He sought to learn how to create the pieces himself and soon realized that it’s deceptively simple.

“It only requires three main things: ink, paper, and a fish,” he says. “But with all things simple, there is so much room for refinement within these confines.” His style seems to be working; *Forbes* and the *New Yorker* magazines have written about Hwang, and he’s hosted live events sponsored by Patagonia.

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





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## Founder's Dinner at Wappo Hill

Photos by Drew Altizer Photography

On July 13, as a tribute to the benefactors and patrons whose vision, encouragement, and support launched Festival Napa Valley in 2006, Jean-Charles Boisset and Gina Gallo-Boisset welcomed Festival Napa Valley guests to their home atop Wappo Hill for the annual Founders Dinner.

Featuring views from Mount St. Helena to the north and San Pablo Bay to the south, Wappo Hill sits at the highest point of Napa Valley. Each from a legendary family of vintners, the couple are renowned hosts who thrive on bringing together iconic people in wine, food, and culture. Wappo Hill's distinctive, art-filled spaces held court for this exclusive evening.

Gastronomic delights, unparalleled wines, and a collection of unforgettable musical surprises created an all-senses immersive experience in celebration of another year, with aural splendor as the 2023 Manetti Shrem Opera Prizewinners, Serena Sáenz and Xabier Anduaga, performed.

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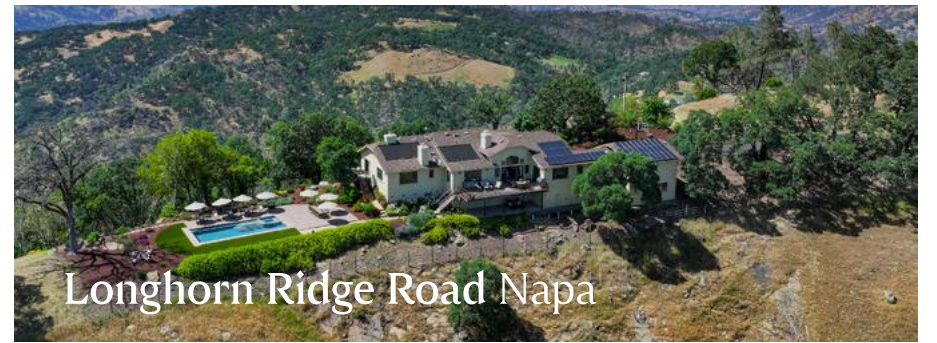
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# Accountant for All

By Jessica Zimmer | Photo Courtesy of Travis Foster

Travis Foster is an experienced certified public accountant (CPA) and tax adviser who travels throughout the Monterey Peninsula, offering services to individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. He has been familiar with the region since establishing his practice in 2011.

Foster stands out from other CPAs because he is a ProAdvisor for Quickbooks® Online, an accounting, bookkeeping, and finance software program for small to midsize businesses. Foster serves a wide range of companies, including restaurants, wineries, real estate offices, general contractors, and technology firms.

“Often, individuals who have worked in high tech want to start a company or nonprofit,” says Foster. “They need assistance with tracking expenses and keeping an eye on costs. I’m skilled in setting up these systems.”

He is equipped to assist organizations in claiming special tax credits, such as the Employee Retention Credit (ERC). This refundable tax credit is for businesses and nonprofits that have employees and were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. “I help clients determine whether they are eligible to claim special credits and better understand the dangers of other outfits abusing these credits,” he says.

His direct and personal approach is particularly helpful when a client needs to organize years of records. He aims to record transactions and get them tax-ready at the same time. With this approach, a CPA does not need to review the books later; such integrated bookkeeping results in efficiency.

Foster has a great deal of respect for the hardworking individuals and businesses of the Monterey Peninsula. “This is a close-knit community where you can feel the care and effort that people make to build and grow businesses,” he says. “I’m honored to be part of the Monterey Bay Peninsula, to ensure the financial health of the region.”

*For more information, visit [linkedin.com/in/travis-foster-8b12b42a/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/travis-foster-8b12b42a/).*











# A Marriage of Art and Wine

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos by Alexander Rubin

Artistry takes many forms, and often the marriage of two art forms is greater than the sum of its parts. So it is with painting and wine-making, two disparate but equally complex artistic expressions that demand discipline, intensity, and patience from its creators. Using wine bottles as their canvases, artist Blake Barrios and winemaker Jon Keyes pour their collective creativity and skill into—and onto—their product, creating just 300 magnums of cabernet sauvignon each year under their boutique label, Rebellium Wines, with as many as 70 of those magnums custom-painted by Barrios in his signature style. The partners bring an added layer of intention to Rebellium with their philanthropic angle, often donating their customized magnums to nonprofits so they can be used for fundraising.

For Barrios, who grew up in Napa, art has been a passion for as long as he can remember. For equally as long, however, he recalls feeling that art instruction was not well-supported in schools and that art as a profession was regarded as taboo in many circles. Inspired by a diversity of styles, from the surrealist paintings of René Magritte to the graphic panache of comic book storytelling, Barrios developed his own visual language as he grew up and used it to communicate with the world.

Though visual art instruction may have been under-resourced in Napa, Barrios was fortunate to live among a highly creative society of artisans as devoted to their craft as he was: the winemaking community. His first attempt bringing his art to wine bottles came with a small batch of one-of-a-kind magnum labels created for a friend. Over time, he adapted his style to paint directly onto wine bottles using DecoColor® paint pens. He then painstakingly carves some of the paint away to reveal his intricate designs. As Barrios

explored this new creative avenue, his wine magnum portraiture and graphic paintings gained attention from celebrities, sports figures, and musicians, and he began to recognize the philanthropic potential of a custom label.

Barrios found a partner for his mission in Jon Keyes, a prolific local winemaker with stints at Schrader Cellars and Mark Herold Wines under his belt and who set about creating a limited release, single-vineyard product that would be worthy of the custom-adorned bottles that Barrios spends one to three weeks painting. In describing their approach, Barrios says, “Whatever was in the glass had to be as good as what was on the outside of the bottle.” Their first vintage was produced in 2017.

Barrios is proud of Rebellium’s philanthropic collaborations thus far. A custom bottle portrait of local superstar Carlos Santana that was signed by the guitar virtuoso raised funds for DrawBridge, the Bay Area free arts program for children at domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, and affordable housing facilities. Other organizations that have benefited from Rebellium’s philanthropy include the Make-A-Wish Foundation, American Heart Association, and Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Celebrity portrait subjects, some created for private clients, have included Prince, Snoop Dogg, and Sir Paul McCartney.

“I believe that everyone can be an artist when given the chance,” says Barrios. It’s an adage that he and Keyes are living out through Rebellium Wines.

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





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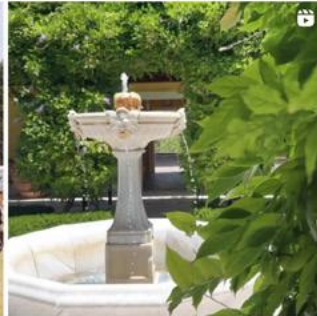
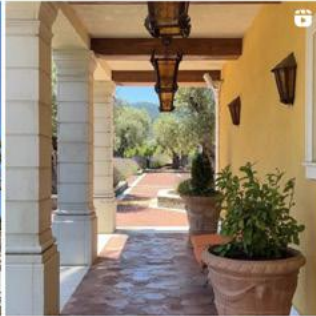
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# Choose Your Own Adventure

By Atissa Manshoury | Photos Courtesy of The Estate Yountville

As a golden sun rises over the Vaca Mountains, morning in Yountville bursts with possibility. For those seeking a jolt of adrenaline, a soaring journey through the sky awaits in the basket of a hot-air balloon. Those who prefer starting the day with a jolt of caffeine can enjoy a pot of fresh coffee in bed or alfresco, among family or friends. Outdoor enthusiasts might wander the vineyards at the south end of town, hop onto an e-bike for a ride on the Napa Valley Wine Trail, or cannonball straight into the pool. For guests at The Estate Yountville, every morning provides a new adventure of their own choosing.

Set among 22 acres of prime Yountville real estate, The Estate brings together three unique lodging options, over 50,000 square feet of indoor-outdoor event space, and V Marketplace, the redbrick retail complex at the center of town, home to well-known wine and food purveyors such as Bottega Napa Valley. Under new ownership since late 2021, The Estate is undergoing a gradual upgrade and transformation, with no detail left unconsidered in the improvements to the landscaping and common areas as well as in the overall philosophy of approachable luxury. “We want our guests to feel comfortable and welcome, ready to indulge and enjoy the abundant value-adds included in a stay at The Estate,” says Jeri Salazar, vice president of marketing.

Two of The Estate’s three accommodations will be familiar to longtime Wine Country visitors. Hotel Villagio, on the south side of Yountville, is a county favorite, with 111 modern guest rooms and a postcard-worthy swimming pool made for drinking rosé in the sun. The expansive lobby and common areas recently received a glamorous makeover into a swank, convivial space with live music and entertainment. On the north side of town, Vintage House, with 79 rooms housed in leafy, bungalow-style buildings, has a more private and romantic atmosphere. Both properties, though different in style, embody the ethos of approachable luxury in the beauty of their surroundings, level of service, and attention to guests’ needs and comfort.

A third lodging choice now available to lucky visitors incorporates all of those special touches and makes choosing your own adventure even more seamless. The Villa is a five-bedroom, 6,600 square-foot sanctuary that offers The Estate’s hospitality in an exquisitely designed and eminently private space adjacent to Hotel Villagio. Whether traveling with children or grandparents, in groups of friends, for wedding or bachelor/bachelorette parties, or in celebration of special milestones or life events, The Villa provides the perfect setting.

Each of its bedrooms features a private, en suite bathroom stocked with indulgent amenities and outfitted with double vanities and deep soaking tubs. A private swimming pool and jacuzzi area with gracious outdoor dining areas set the stage for memorable meals, which can be prepared and served from the chef-grade kitchen with a refrigerator stocked per guests’ instructions. Napa’s famous sunshine streams through The Villa’s floor-to-ceiling windows during the day. Evenings can be spent steps away, at one of Yountville’s world-famous restaurants, or in the cozy living room, playing board games and billiards. The Estate’s concierge service provides access to all the adventures that its guests may want to pursue, from early-morning hot-air balloon rides to special wine-tasting tours and private chef services.

As The Estate continues to evolve, guests and visitors can expect to see continued partnership with marquee events including the annual V Foundation Wine Celebration and the introduction of new events such as the Crush It Harvest Festival in late September and early October, which invites attendees to participate in the most quintessential Wine Country adventure of them all: grape stomping.

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



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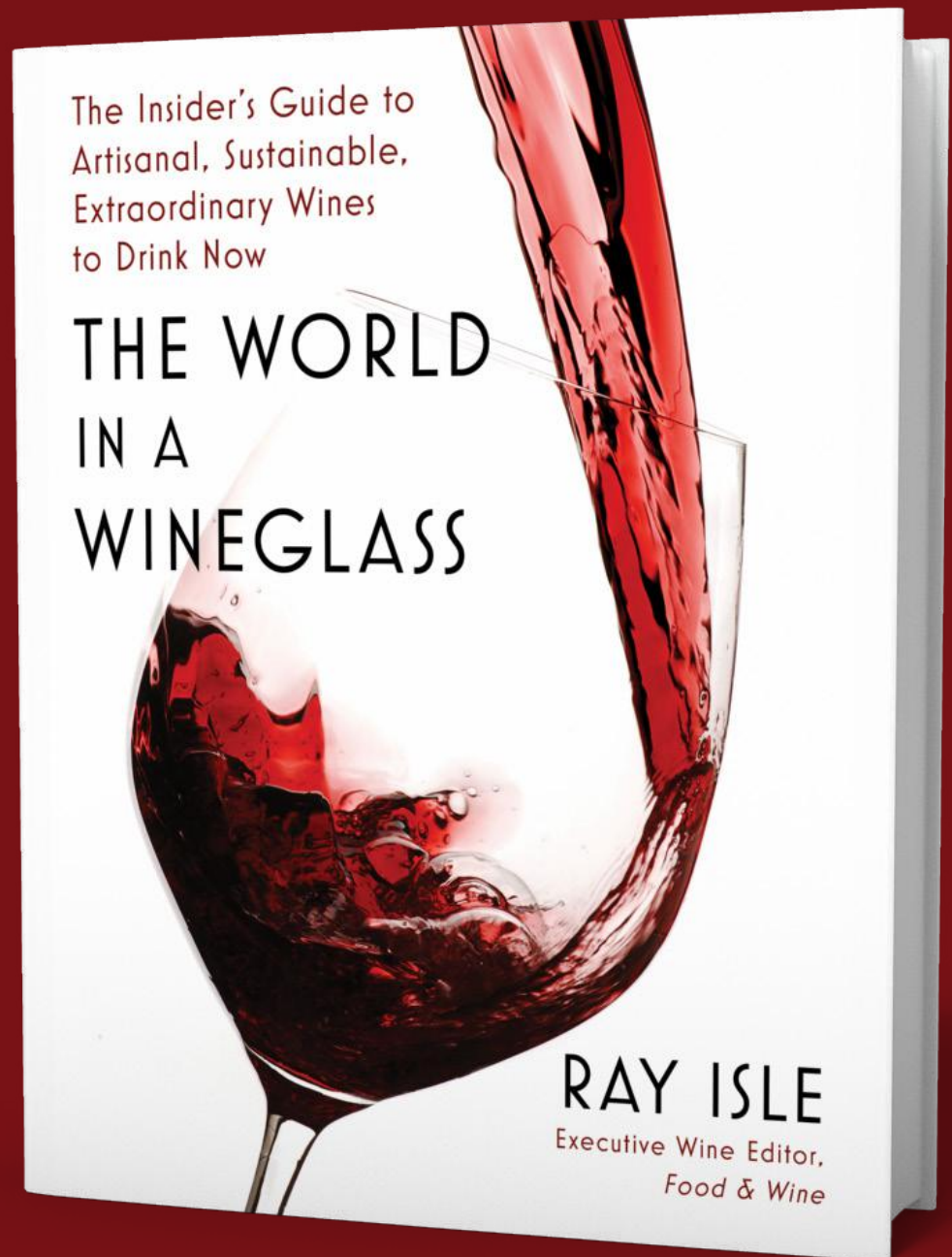
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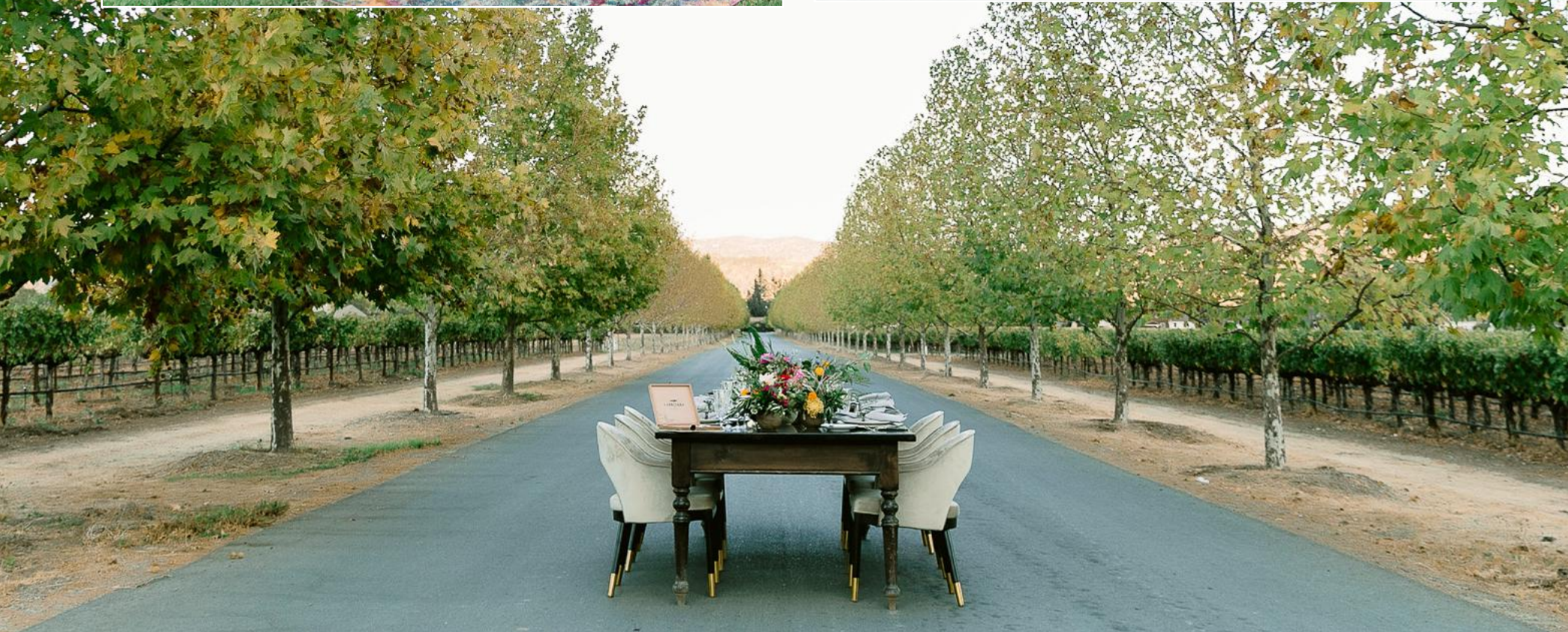
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# Celebrating Love and Legacies

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos Courtesy of Lindsey Nickel

For every delicate clink of heirloom champagne flutes, every pale pink peony demurely unfolding its petals in a centerpiece arrangement, every swooning first dance under fairy lights, and every flawless rosette of Swiss buttercream, somewhere behind the scenes you will find a wedding planner with a checklist.

Wedding planning, or the art and science of orchestrating moments in other people's lives, is part organization, part psychology. Those who do it exceptionally well are rewarded by the fact that, because they are so good at their jobs, they are invisible, making all those moments seem spontaneous, authentic, and wholly belonging to the newlywed couple. For Lindsey Nickel, owner of Lovely Day Events, wedding and event planning has been both a passion and a calling for nearly 15 years. Now, having gained career and life perspectives, she has expanded her wine country-based wedding planning business to offer celebration of life planning services across the Bay Area under the name Lovely Day Legacies.

Nickel recalls being in seventh grade when she made her first foray into event planning, throwing a surprise party for her best friend. After attending college at Syracuse University, where, as vice-president of its outdoor club, she brought the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival to the school, Nickel moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. While pursuing her love of skiing, she began freelancing as a nonprofit event planner in the area, eventually earning a graduate certificate in nonprofit administration to bolster her skills. As she gained experience and with the encouragement of friends, she realized that wedding planning was a natural evolution, and soon her services were in high demand. A move to Napa in 2014 with her husband landed her, fortuitously, in one of the most sought-after wedding destinations in the nation; she has been working nonstop ever since, planning destination weddings in Napa and Sonoma at such venues as Gundlach Bundschu Winery and Beltane Ranch.

Losing her grandparents and processing other losses before and during the COVID-19 pandemic gave Nickel occasion to think about how her talent for event planning could be of service to those who wished to celebrate the life of a loved one. Celebration of life events require many of the same elements as weddings—from securing a venue to coordinating décor, food, and beverage service, to executing a series of events within a specific time frame—all designed to allow for natural, heartfelt interaction among guests.

Nickel sees the role of event planners in celebrations of life evolving as the death and dying industry likewise expands, particularly as baby boomers age and their families move away from holding memorial services in places of worship. “People hire professionals to do everything in their lives these days, from cleaning your house to doing your taxes to planning your wedding,” she says, so it makes sense that families would seek out professional help in planning for celebrations of life. As they approach the process, she advises loved ones to give themselves grace. “People shouldn't feel rushed to plan a memorial or a celebration of life immediately,” she says. “People should take the time to grieve, collect their thoughts, get their bearings, and find the right time.”

While Nickel happily admits to loving a checklist, along with spreadsheets, Google Docs, and technology in general, she also brings a deeper set of skills to her new endeavor. “It's not just planning the event,” she says, “it's also holding space for [clients] to talk about their loved one, to cry over the phone, and to just be with them through this challenging part of their life.”

***For more information, visit [lovelydayevents.com](https://lovelydayevents.com) and [lovelydaylegacies.com](https://lovelydaylegacies.com).***



# Editor's Fall Sipper

with

Jeremy Stuart, CSW & CWAS

## *2019 Oakville Red Blend*

*Robert Mondavi Wine Estates*

**Appearance:** Deep purple

**Aromas:** Blackberry, bay leaf/mint, mocha

**Flavors & Body:** Ripe cherries, plum, and herbs with a weighty mouthfeel and balanced tannins

**Pairing:** Black pepper crusted ribeye with creamy parmesan thyme polenta and roasted carrots with carrot top chimichurri. Herbaceous flavors in the chimichurri and polenta harmonize with those in the wine, while the deeply marbled steak complements the wine's bold tannins and deep fruit notes.

*Recipe at [instagram.com/yogidrea](https://www.instagram.com/yogidrea)*

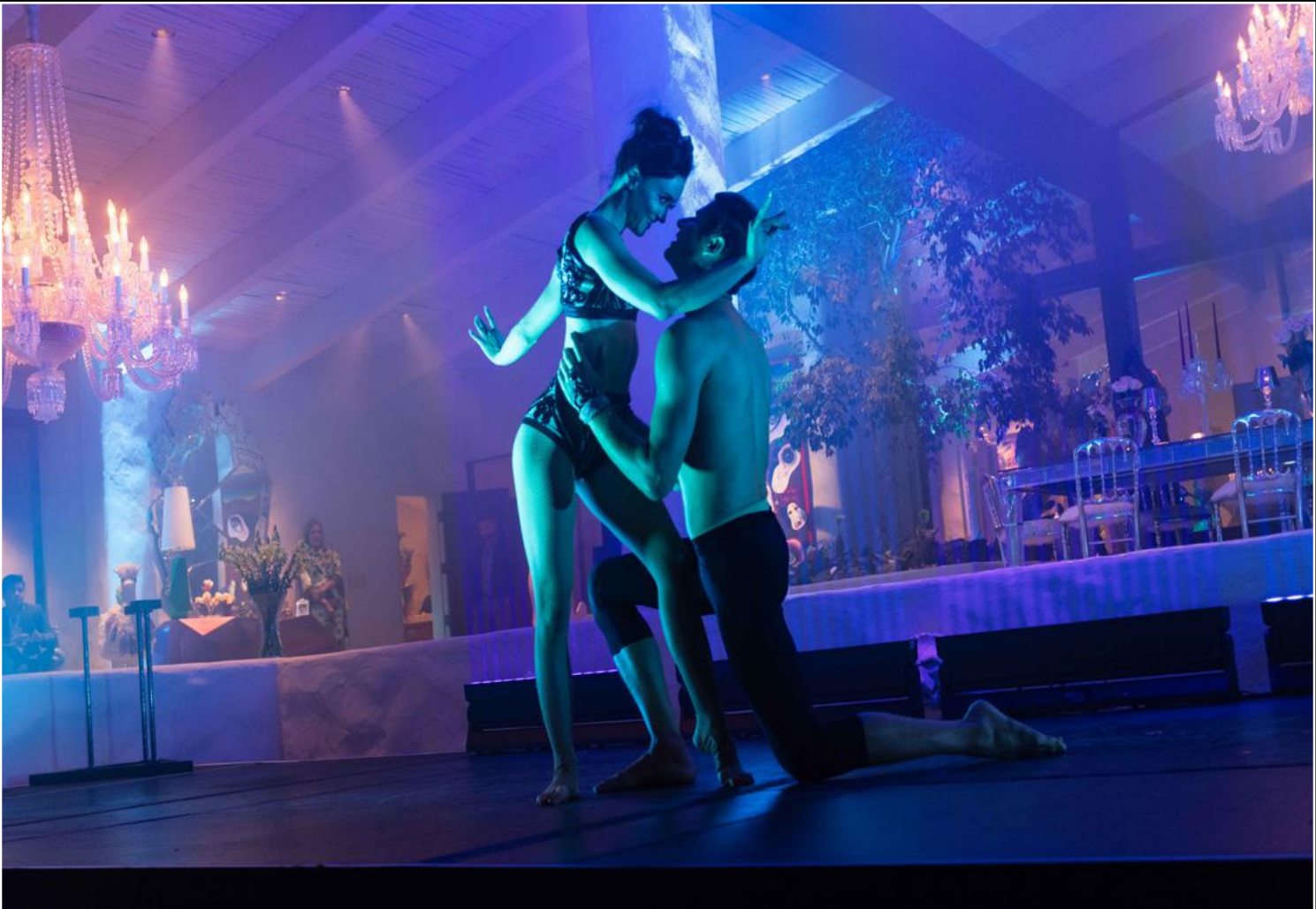
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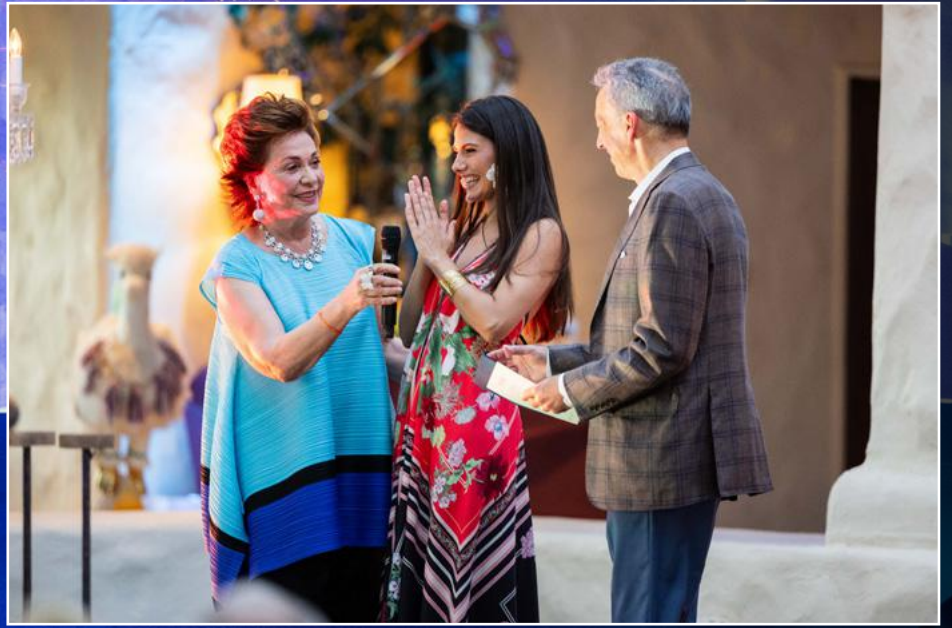


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## Vintner's Luncheon & Neiman Marcus Fashion Show

Photos by Alexander Rubin

In July, Leslie and Rich Frank of Frank Family Vineyards invited Festival Napa Valley guests to their storied property for the Festival Napa Valley Vintner's Luncheon. Guests enjoyed a carefully crafted culinary experience while sipping wine and enjoying a fashion show at Miller House, where Neiman Marcus presented the latest in couture. The high-energy fashion show dazzled guests during the meal, which was paired with Frank Family Vineyards wines.

Designed by American architect Howard Backen and named in honor of Leslie Frank (née Miller), Miller House is a new state-of-the-art hospitality space overlooking the picturesque vineyards and mountains at Frank Family Vineyards. Boasting elegance, the Miller House features sustainably reclaimed wood, high ceilings, and natural earth tones that blend with the surrounding landscape. Its modernity is juxtaposed by the property's legacy.

Founded in 1992 by former Disney Studios President Rich Frank, the property was originally constructed as the Historic Larkmead Winery in 1884. The stone building on the property is the third oldest in Napa and appears on the National Register of Historic Places. These historical elements set a precedence for the luncheon, providing emotive texture to a vividly engaging event.



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# Fleeting Moments in Sunshine Noir

By Rebekah Moan

Artist Tracey Sylvester Harris (T.S. Harris) says that she has “five lifetimes left of work to do” of her large-scale paintings featuring female sunbathers. “Every day, I feel like I’m just getting started,” she says. “There’s so much I want to do, and I just love it.” She has a wall filled with some of her favorite images of sunbathers and beach scenes that she’s found while scouring the internet and watching old movies. Sometimes, people send her their old vacation photos.

Harris focuses on the mid-twentieth century because she thinks that the imagery from that period is filled with style and intrigue. She seeks to portray some of that in her paintings and capture fleeting moments from almost a lifetime ago. She mixes the contemporary and the timeless with the bold, sunny light in the style of Edward Hopper and the dazzling, flat colors found in Richard Diebenkorn’s work in a way that not only draws the viewer in closer but also challenges the viewer to negotiate their gaze in the context of these female subjects. She tempers a sense of nostalgia with a modern approach to composition and aims to remind the viewer that our own lives are fleeting and we should relish our time in the sun.

Harris’ subjects are close enough to entice the viewer without titillation yet distant enough to create pause. They have a distinctly magnetic quality that is predicated on both the physical and psychological. Her style of painting is called Sunshine Noir, and each piece speaks to the central issues of human existence—desire and loss, impermanence and beauty, and the many dimensions of our connections with others.

Suspended in time by Harris’ portrayal, these stylish, elegant, cropped figures put on scarlet lipstick, dream by the pool, or sit in contemplation. They are mysterious and alluring not only for their figures but also for the secrets that they hold.

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

# Beyond the Grapevine

By Elizabeth Davis Reynard | Photo by Sunset Jimmy

As the sun sets on summer, the Napa Valley is ripe with experiences during what locals call Cabernet Season®. From late autumn to early spring, this season welcomes a quieter pace, fewer traveled roads, and luxurious indulgences.

In downtown Napa, the Ackerman Heritage House has been meticulously restored by Coombsville vintner and owner Lauren



Ackerman. Enjoy the collectors wine tasting, a cooking class, or Sunday high tea served on antique china and sterling silverware. The Victorian mansion received the 2019 Preservation Design Award for Restoration and is not to be missed.

Later, make your way to Charlie Palmer Steak and pull up a seat in the lounge. Treat yourself to a lamb lollipop, pulled pork slider, or ahi tuna taco from the lounge menu. Daily golden hour offers abound, here.

As you head up valley, don't miss Hotel Villagio's afternoon wine tastings and music, Thursday through Saturday. If you are hungry for something more, then dash across the street for champagne and caviar at Thomas Keller's Regiis Ova Caviar & Champagne Lounge. Indulge in caviar by the gram or add it to your order of French onion dip with kettle chips. For the perfect pairing, bubbles are in order.

Continuing north, reserve a tasting at Cathiard Vineyard, the historic St. Helena estate owned by Florence and Daniel Cathiard

of Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte in Bordeaux, France. Book the "off-road" experience for a scenic ride in the 1967 Defender, followed by a tasting of the winery's offerings. (Insider tip: The luxury French skin care brand Caudalie is owned by the Cathiards' daughter, and its antioxidant-rich products are available for purchase in the winery's boutique.)

With wellness on your mind, head to Calistoga for a dip in the waters. Known for its geothermal hot springs, Calistoga is the spa town of Napa Valley. Whether you take the waters or experience the mud, the healing mineral waters will relax, reset, and renew body and soul.

If hiking is more to your liking, then lace up those boots and hit the Oat Hill Mine Trail. Just feet from downtown Calistoga, this eight-mile hike rewards you with spectacular views of the Valley.

After the spas, if you're ready to shop and enjoy downtown Calistoga, then visit Picayune Cellars & Mercantile's new location, where vintner and owner Claire Weinkauff sources not only the grapes for her wines but also all items in the mercantile, many coming from family-owned businesses in her native France. Shop and sip the Albariño, private label Champagne, or Padlock, a Napa bordeaux blend.

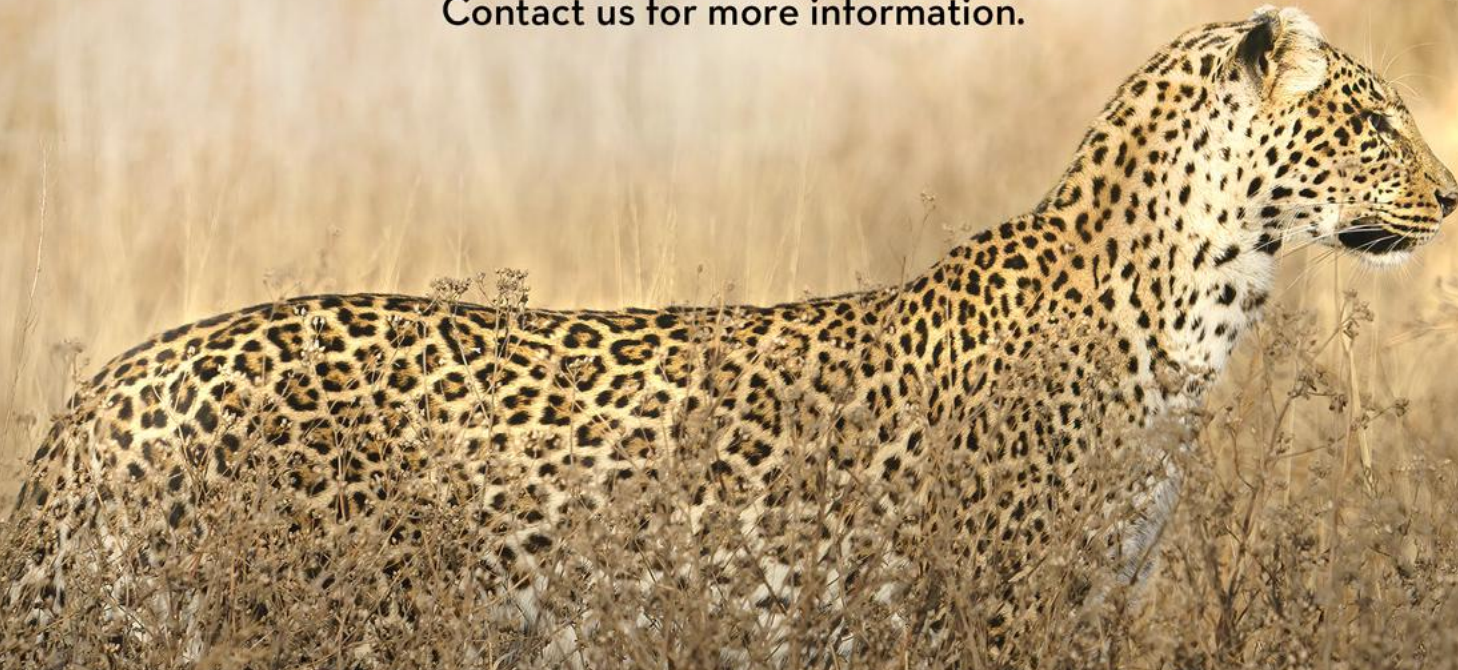
Once November and December arrive, keep an eye out for festive activities throughout the Valley. New on the Napa scene is Broadway and Vine, where the best of Broadway meets the best of wine country—there's sure to be a holiday concert in the works. Always a barrel of fun are St. Helena's Holiday Wine Barrel Christmas tree lighting and Calistoga's Lighted Tractor Parade, in which dozens of decorated tractors and utility vehicles dance and delight the crowds. Just like that, the Napa Valley holiday season is upon us!



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# Superyacht Weekend at the Monaco Grand Prix

Photos Courtesy of My Yacht Group

My Yacht® Group (MYG) returned to the Principality of Monaco to host its sixteenth My Yacht Monaco aboard two superyachts, plus the official launch of its new luxury digital membership community, MyYachtClub.io.

At their traditional Friday evening charity reception, MYG's Annabelle and Nicholas Frank welcomed guests aboard the stunning, 48-m M/Y Navis One. This included guest of honor HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, who graciously mingled with the distinguished mix of royalty, lords, ladies, superyacht owners, global business icons, Olympians, and more. The evening and weekend raised awareness for the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the global nonprofit organization founded in 2006 that is committed to progressing planetary health for present and future generations.

The soiree provided the perfect launch event for MyYachtClub.io, the exclusive luxury digital membership community that, in true MYG style, will be "connecting the world's most interesting people" and will offer a compelling list of benefits and amenities through its partnership with the Forbes family and renowned chef Thomas Keller, holder of seven Michelin stars. AI-generated artwork of Monaco, racing cars, and superyachts were displayed aboard, with QR codes linking to the Founding Membership registration page.

International (ultra) high net worth guests enjoyed a lively evening of entertainment from strolling band Odd Socks International, plus amazing beats from DJ James Park, and TheSaxMan on a Swarovski-encrusted sax! Delectable foods, including sustainably raised caviar, were paired with a selection of rosés from longtime partner Château d'Esclans, including Rock Angel and worldwide sensation Whispering Angel, plus 100% Grand Cru Champagne Régi pouring its Blanc de Blancs and Extra Brut.

With superyachts stacked in multiple rows inside Port Hercules (Note: a Zone 1 berth does not mean you're on the track), plus many yachts at anchor in the bay beyond, weekend guests enjoyed private tenders directly to a 43-meter, tri-deck superyacht moored trackside on the famous Quay Kennedy, affording views of the tunnel exit, Nouvelle Chicane, straightaway, and Tabac corner, the perfect, closeup vantage from which to witness all of the racing action.

A substantial rain shower during Sunday's race provided for plenty of excitement and tire changes, with Red Bull's Max Verstappen, Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso, and—surprisingly—Esteban Ocon of Alpine taking the top three spots atop the podium.

***For more information, visit [MyYachtGroup.com](https://www.MyYachtGroup.com) or [MyYachtClub.io](https://www.MyYachtClub.io).***



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# The Last Frontier

By Santa Bernahl | Photos by David Bernahl

When you've had enough of carefree summer beach time and your soul craves adventure, a trip to Alaska could be just the thing. It's one of the places on this planet that captures your heart within your first steps on its land, and you'll never get it back completely—a small part will always remain there.

September is one of the best times to go there, as the weather will be perfect for any outdoor activities. Pack light, with a pair of hiking boots, a warm jacket, and your favorite hip-hop beanie. Bringing a small suitcase with your favorite champagne is also a good idea.

Book a four-to-five-day stay at the Deep Creek Fishing Club. You'll experience helicopter rides to the most remote places, personal (yet safe) encounters with wildlife, breathtaking visuals, exquisite gastronomic experiences, and fun-packed evening activities.

Hop on a plane to Anchorage and then take a smaller puddle jumper to Ninilchik. If you're flying privately, then fly direct—the runway can accommodate it. After landing, your local host will take you straight to the lodge.

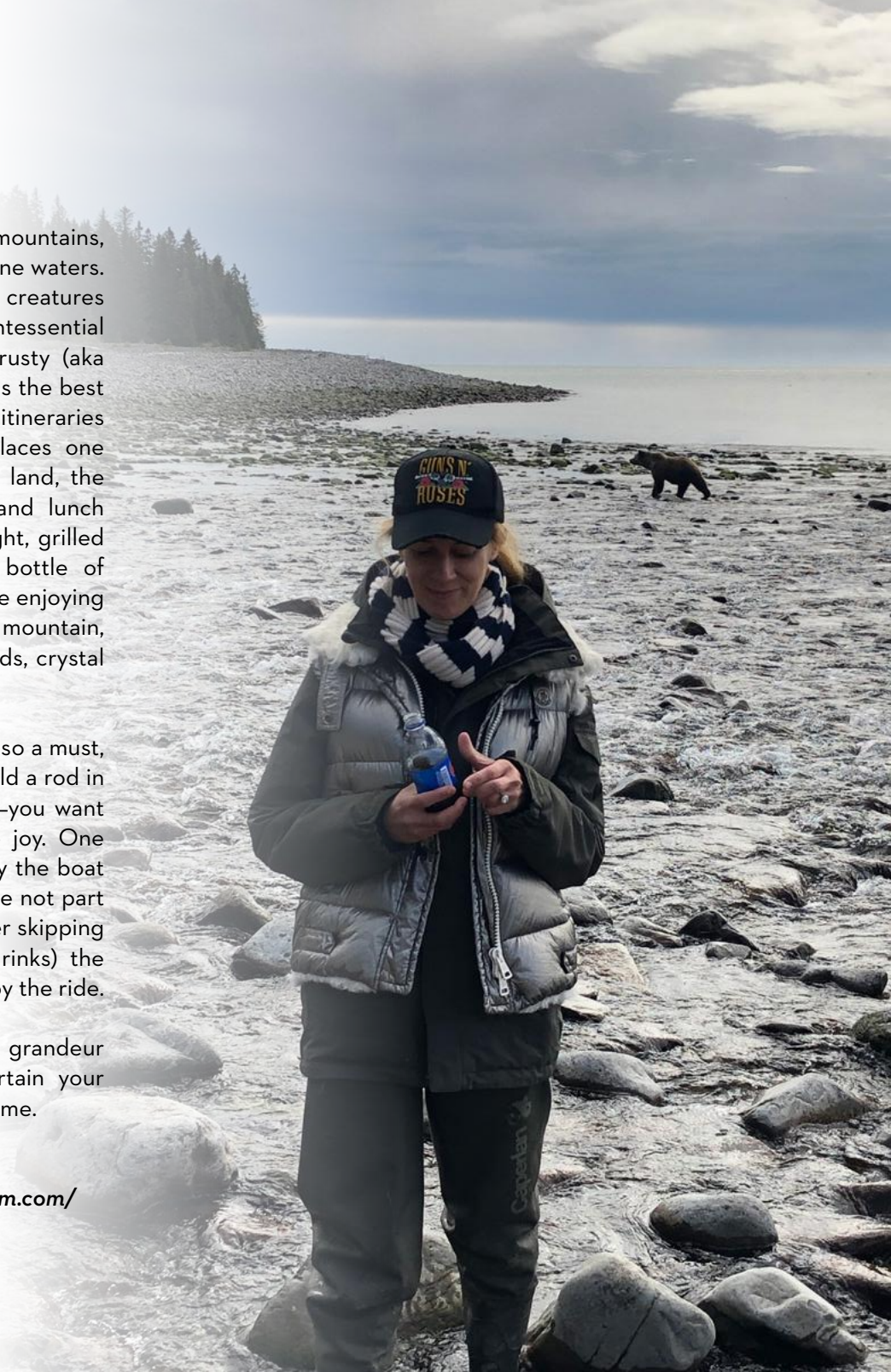
Alaska's diverse and abundant wildlife includes grizzly bears, moose, caribou, bald eagles, and whales, all against the

majestic backdrop of towering mountains, vast glaciers, ice fields, and pristine waters. Observing these magnificent creatures in their natural habitats is a quintessential Alaskan experience. Captain Crusty (aka Steven Moe, the lodge's owner) is the best host one could wish for. His itineraries include helicopter access to places one would never be able to see by land, the most abundant fishing spots, and lunch on top of a glacier—freshly caught, grilled salmon, washed down with a bottle of Cristal. There is nothing quite like enjoying a glass of champagne on top of a mountain, surrounded by light blue ice fields, crystal clear water, and wildflowers.

The fishing trip by the water is also a must, even for people who've never held a rod in their hands. This is like a game—you want to see how it will go—it's pure joy. One little thing: there is a reason why the boat is called *Kraken*. If rough seas are not part of your daily experience, consider skipping dinner (or at least the extra drinks) the night before to ensure you'll enjoy the ride.

Your stories of the mystique and grandeur of The Last Frontier will entertain your friends and family for years to come.

**For more information, visit [champagnefair.com](http://champagnefair.com) or [instagram.com/santabernahl](https://www.instagram.com/santabernahl).**





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# Home Away from Home

By Nora Heston Tarte | Photos Courtesy of Carmel Realty

If you're looking for an oasis smack-dab in the middle of it all that feels like a private estate far away from the crowds, look no further than Bunya Pine. It's a gorgeous French country manor near The Lodge at Pebble Beach in Carmel.

This vacation rental is the ideal location for families looking to visit the Monterey Peninsula, locals planning a luxe staycation, and socialites and community organizers hosting events. The lush landscaping and grand circular driveway offer an extraordinary first impression of the property, making it a picturesque destination for gatherings of all kinds, especially those who seek to include an outdoor component.

Located in a highly sought-after resort area of Pebble Beach, Bunya Pine boasts five bedrooms, four-and-a-half baths, a well-appointed kitchen, and manicured gardens. Large windows let in the natural light, setting aglow the subtle yellows of the home's exterior and highlighting the immaculate fixtures throughout.

Features inside of the home are bathed in luxury. Hardwood floors, wood-paneled ceilings, stone fireplaces, and plush couches are just a few of the touches that make this home comforting and welcoming. The kitchen features stainless steel appliances and a fresh, white design to ease entertaining duties. A circular gathering table is set in front of sliding glass doors that open to a backyard filled with knotted trees, washed stone, and bright greenery, and each bedroom includes a soft bed and crisp, clean design.

The space, while ideal for multigenerational families, was also created with corporate retreats and group vacations in mind. Three of the five bedrooms can function as primary suites, and each of the bedrooms is spacious and private. Amenities throughout the suites include French doors opening to a Juliet balcony, a fireplace—for chilly nights—flanked in the same knotted

wood that flows throughout the bedrooms, and deep soaking tubs. Outside, a stone fire table for creating ambiance on a cool night, ample outdoor seating, a grill for home cooking, and impressive stonework from the front fountain to the steps leading into the front door all beckon.

If you've come to enjoy the surrounding golf courses, then there's no better place to call home base. Bunya Pine is a half-mile walk from the famous Lodge at Pebble Beach, the area's most renowned destination for golf enthusiasts.

Bunya Pine is open for monthly rentals, meant for those looking for an extended stay in Pebble Beach. This offering allows guests to fully immerse themselves in the experience, enjoying every inch of the home before checking out.

In addition to Pebble Beach and all it has to offer, Bunya Pine also allows easy access to Carmel, including its quaint downtown brimming with high-end yet accessible restaurants and bright tasting rooms featuring the region's bounty. It's also easy to get to Carmel's many beaches to enjoy sunrises and sunsets over the water, take in the varied architecture of the impressive homes that loom over white sand beaches, and stroll the walking paths along the way.

Carmel Realty Company offers vacation rentals, estate management services, sales listings, commercial properties, and long-term rentals. Many of the vacation rentals also enlist the company's estate management services, offering 24/7 protection and service. Carmel Realty Company's Estate Management Division provides customized management oversight tailored to meet the specific needs of the property and homeowner.

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





# Land Inspired by London

By Nora Heston Tarte | Photos Courtesy of Benziger Family Winery

John Griffith Chaney, better known as Jack London, was a prolific author and dedicated activist. Over the course of his life (1876–1916), London amassed a small fortune from his writings. But many don't know that the American novelist was also a steward of the land, dedicated to sustainable farming practices way before they were trendy.

Located in Glen Ellen, on the eastern slope of Sonoma Mountain, Jack London State Historic Park, London's former home, shows proof of his practices. London used pollinators, microorganisms, and livestock to replenish the soil on his property and grow better, healthier crops.

Mike Benziger, retired owner of Benziger Family Winery, took notice. "Mike himself recognized how important the soil was and regenerating the soil, which is what Jack [London] was working on," says Matt Leffert, executive director of Jack London Park Partners, the nonprofit that operates the park on behalf of the state. "Mike integrated that thinking with new innovations . . . and a more comprehensive approach to biodynamic farming."

London had researched specifically how the Chinese rotated crops to keep soil health high, and he was disappointed to discover that American pioneers were planting crops until they depleted the soil and then moving on. "Jack and Charmian London wondered who would carry on their legacy," says Leffert. "Mike and the entire Benziger family have answered that question."

Today, Mike's brother Chris is the brand ambassador for the family winery. He is carrying on the biodynamic farm practices researched by London and put in place by Mike. "Jack [London] was truly one of the very first sustainable farmers in California," Chris notes. "With his connections, world travel, and active mind, [he] knew there was a better way to farm. The evidence of that is all around us."

The Benziger vineyards and winemaking facilities are all triple certified as sustainable, organic, and biodynamic. Every wine in the portfolio carries a

third-party certification of one of these three green farming practices. Guests can learn about the winery's efforts on a biodynamic tram tour or a tribute estate tour. One of the standout practices is an insectary—a garden used to lure harmful pests away from the grape vines and attract bugs that will eat organisms destructive to the vines.

While stewardship of the land is at the forefront, the Benziger business is wine. "We believe these eco-responsible methods, including organic farming, lead to wines that are more authentic, expressive, and unique," says Chris. Caring for the diverse volcanic soil and allowing deep roots to carry those minerals up into the fruit influences the final product in a positive way. "Add in some sunshine, and you have the unique terroir of our site," he says. "We want to invite nature into the vineyard, not push her out."

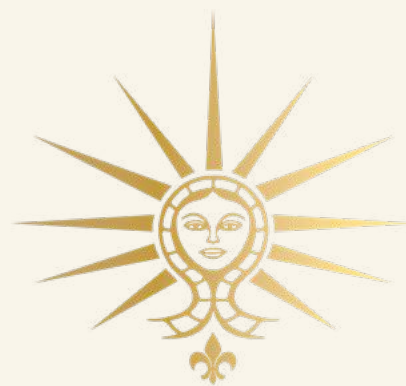
The Benziger family remains largely invested in Jack London State Park as both a financial donor and active participants in the park's various programs. Specifically, the Benzigers are involved in the Jack London Park Partners Nature's Design competition, a seventh grade ecology program, and the "Rewild My School" competition. The overall mission of these educational initiatives is to build a love of parks and open spaces, encouraging future generations to have a deep understanding of and love for the land.

The Benzigers have acted as judges for these programs, harvested pears from the orchard, weeded the cactus garden, created trails on the mountain, and made museum repairs, among other labors.

"Using organic and other sustainable farming methods will protect the land for the next generation, ensuring the longevity and the health of our vineyards," says Chris. "We are proud to be following in Jack's footsteps."

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



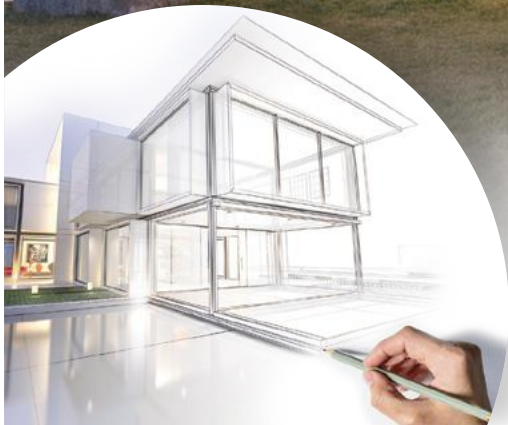


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