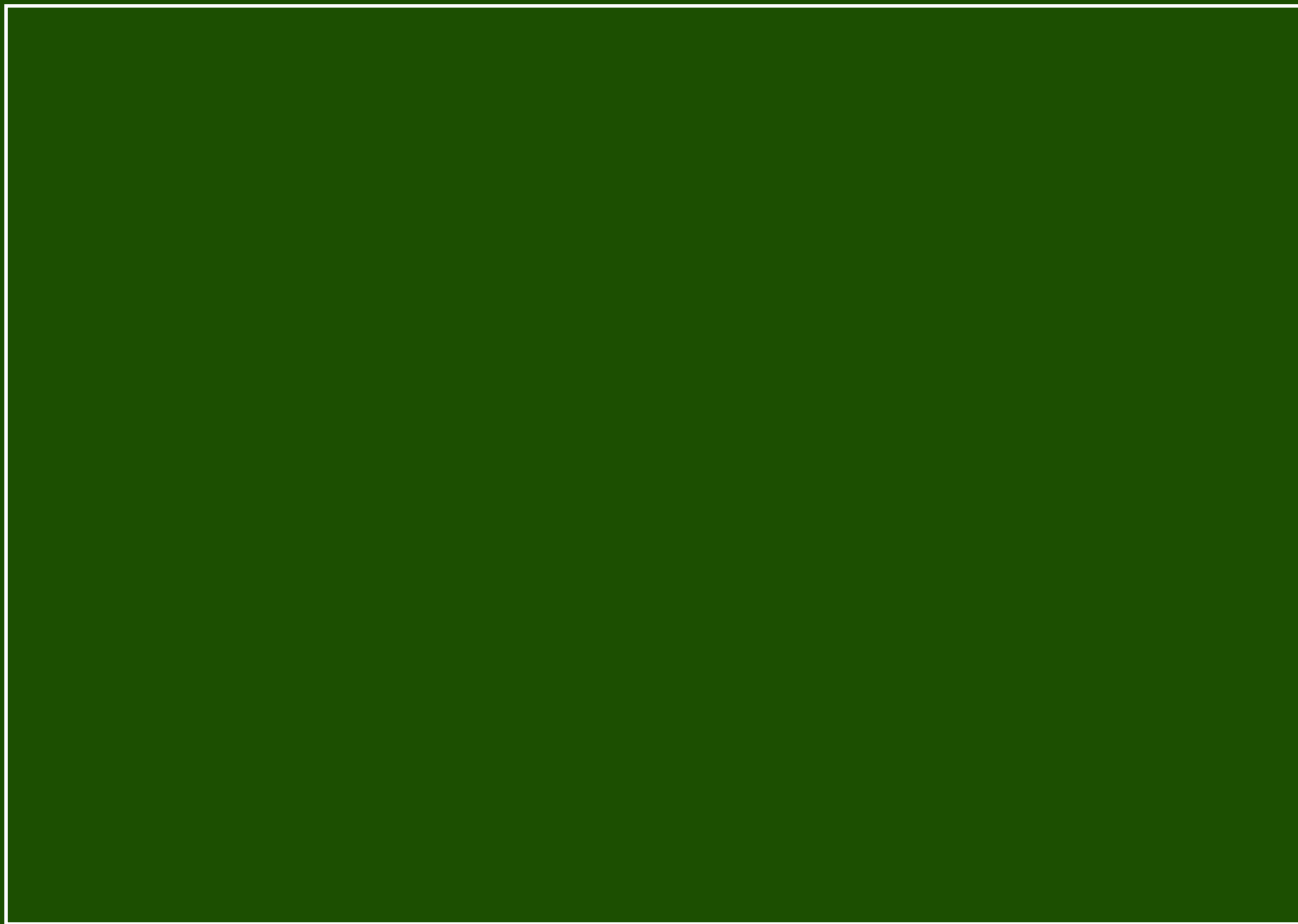




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57° DEPARTMENTS

PERSONA

The Public Policy

By Jeanne Johnston

Field Goals and Fine Wines: The Ed Policy Playbook

By Jessica Zimmer

ART

Painting Feeds Her Soul

By Rebekah Moan

EXPLORE

Sip in Style

By Nora Heston Tarte

STAY

A Sanctuary in the City

By Betsy Reynard

EAT

Dining in Bloom

By Betsy Reynard and Andrea Stuart

PHOTO

Winemaker, Firefighter, Now (Again) Photographer

By Jessica Zimmer

COLUMN

Beyond the Vines

By Betsy Reynard



PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel

As the days grow shorter and the air takes on the crisp edge of autumn, we turn our attention to the vineyards that shape so much of Monterey County's character. Fall is a season of harvest, and in these pages we honor the artistry of four extraordinary winemakers—Nicole Walsh, Greg Vita, Miguel Lepe, and Jim McCabe—each attuned to nature's own recipe for fine winemaking.

Beyond the vineyards, this issue brings a wide array of stories that celebrate community, culture, and craftsmanship. In 65°, we revisit the Forest Theater, where Carmel Cares marked its fifth anniversary this summer, recognizing countless hours of volunteerism that have preserved this beloved site. For those seeking comfort, we introduce you to Nora's, a new spot in Carmel-by-the-Sea where hearty American and Italian classics are served with a side of family warmth.

Art lovers will find inspiration in the large-format contemporary photography showcased at Gallery Sur, a Carmel mainstay since 1990. We also highlight the Veterans Transition Center of California, where the steadfast mission to end veteran homelessness continues on the historic grounds of Fort Ord.

In 57°, we explore the remarkable Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp, a centuries-old monastery turned haven for wellness, fine dining, and cultural immersion. And our sense of adventure is heightened by Lawrence Wine Estates—known for its collection of acclaimed wineries—and its partnership with Lexus to create experiences that stretch beyond the traditional tasting room.

You'll also enjoy a flashback story with Carmen Policy that first appeared in our pages in 2011. In this edition, we feature his son Ed Policy, who stepped into the role of president and CEO of the Green Bay Packers in 2024.

You'll also discover more visual delights in the plein-air paintings of Loretta Loy-Adair and the striking photography of Jon Berlin.

Whether your autumn includes savoring a bold glass of red, supporting community initiatives, or exploring new destinations, we hope these stories inspire you to embrace the richness of the season.



57°

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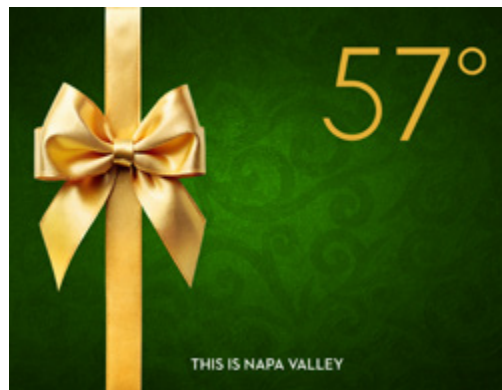
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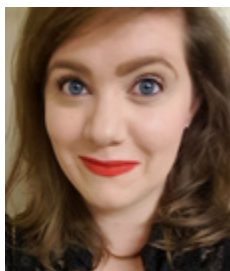


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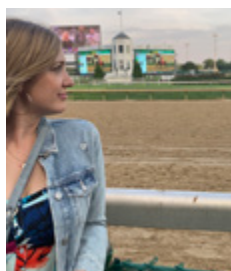
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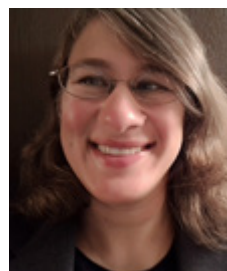
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Winemaker, Firefighter, Now (Again) Photographer

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos Courtesy of Jon Berlin

Local winemaker Jon Berlin has returned to his love of photography to showcase the Napa Valley from top to bottom, including busy moments of everyday life and quiet moments in nature. Berlin returned to the art in 2020, when he had more free time and after photographing the 2020 Glass Fire.

Berlin assisted the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) throughout the blaze. He conveyed messages between residents and Cal Fire firefighters, cut fire lines with chainsaws, and put out spot fires with a backpack sprayer. His work as a naval firefighter in South Africa prepared him for those challenges.

Many of Berlin's current photography pieces are abstract. They show the blurred motion of dancers, thick cloud banks rolling into the Napa-Sonoma marshes, and mustard flowers against hazy purple hills. Berlin uses his photos to share "what's meaningful," a concept he is exploring with Beatrice, the younger of his two daughters. "She's in college in southern California, and we share photos with each other on a regular basis," he says. "It's become a way to connect."





Berlin describes his style as observational. He got his start by joining his high school photography club. Soon after, he became the assistant of a news photojournalist at *The Star*, Johannesburg's daily newspaper. "He taught me to see people," says Berlin. "Many of his photos were portraits."

In 2024, Berlin launched a new wine brand, Chasing Ether. He began using his photographs for label art, to tell the vintages' stories. "I took the picture for the pinot noir, a lone palm tree in heavy fog, in Occidental. This is where the grapes were grown," he says. "The image gives a sense of what it's like to be a winemaker there."

Berlin's other two wines are a chassault from Dry Creek Valley with a label featuring a Hawaiian seascape, and a chenin blanc, sourced from vineyards throughout California, with a label showing the sun setting behind the Napa hills.

Berlin also enjoys taking portraits of vineyard and cellar workers. These images tell the stories of people who make the wine. This past summer, Berlin exhibited three pieces at CAMi Gallery in Calistoga.

Berlin's advice for artists is, "Fill the space. Get closer than you're comfortable with." This involves a learning process and can be challenging. "I've found [that] a sincere smile goes a long way," he says.

For more information, visit joneberlinfoto.com.

A photograph of a modern interior space. On the left, a rustic stone wall features a large, arched opening. A large, dome-shaped, woven wicker pendant light hangs from the ceiling. In the foreground, a light-colored wooden table holds two round, textured objects. To the right, a large arched window provides a view of an outdoor pool, a stone wall, and a body of water in the distance. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

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Painting Feeds Her Soul

By Rebekah Moan | Photos by Loretta Loy-Adair

The more you see, the more you see. That's the philosophy of plein air painter Loretta Loy-Adair, who traverses California, primarily Wine Country and the Sonoma Coast, to find beautiful spots in nature to paint. "You can look at a shape or a color, but all of a sudden you see how the shapes interconnect," she says. "There are different colors within colors. You start seeing how things are linked to something else."

Loy-Adair grew up in a family of artists—oil painters, ceramists, sculptors—and so art has been a constant in her life, and she has been painting for more than 30 years. Starting off painting only still life, she then included plein air painting because she loves nature and finds that the discipline is invaluable in painting large studio landscapes.

Her painting background didn't ensure that plein air painting came easily to her. "When I first started, I went out and painted, failed, and wiped the canvas off," she says.





"I still do that." Not every painting turns out how she imagines it will, and part of Loy-Adair's process is accepting that not every painting will be fit for showing. "Although there is a beautiful scene before you, it doesn't always translate to canvas," she says. "I don't mind the time I spent on the painting because it's not about that for me. Just being out there is meditative and healing."

She loves clouds, mornings, and noticing how nature constantly changes. And while she's painted the same scenes numerous times, there's always something new—the light, the flowers, the animals, the seasons—that keeps plein air painting interesting. "It's exciting to see how things look today versus yesterday," she says. "I love the immediacy of being in nature. It's beautiful, and everything is different. My eye is the camera."

Loy-Adair is clearly doing something right—she was juried into the Carmel Art Festival in 2016 and 2017 and her work has sold in galleries across the San Francisco Bay Area, including in Napa, Sonoma, and San Francisco. From September 18 to November 28, a solo show, titled "In the Moment," is featured at the Steve Rogers Gallery in Yountville.

"Plein air painting feeds my soul; it really does," she says. "And I need to do it. I need to paint like I need to breathe air."

For more information, visit lorettaloyadair.com.

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A Sanctuary in the City

By Betsy Reynard | Hugo Thomassen Photography

Tucked within the walls of a centuries-old monastery in Antwerp's Botanical Garden is Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp. More than just a city hotel, it's a destination offering wellness experiences, Michelin Star dining, peaceful access to nature, and a unique connection to the Belgian city's rich cultural heritage.

Architecture plays a central role in the story of Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp, which traces its origins back to 1238. A recent restoration has preserved the hotel's historic features, resulting in a serene yet vibrant space. Some rooms showcase age-old, protected walls that have been maintained, offering a striking contrast with contemporary luxury.

The guest journey begins with a personalized experience, thoughtfully designed to immerse each visitor in luxury and meaning while grounding the stay in history and exceptional service. The spa blends renowned luxury brands with traditional Chinese medicine treatments, acknowledging time-honored healing practices and creating meaningful links to the past. Though newly built, the spa mirrors the property's architectural philosophy and features glass structures that harmonize with the surroundings, fostering a seamless dialogue between past and present.



The on-site apothecary features products from Saint Charles, a brand rooted in six generations of pharmacists and a legacy of herbal remedies; an ideal complement to the hotel's botanical garden, where medicinal plants once grew to supply the monastery's original pharmacy. The spirit of the old apothecary lives on through curated botanical themes, sophisticated wellness concepts, and respect for the site's heritage, honoring the past while delivering the comforts of modern hospitality.

Guests of Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp discover a retreat that feels both timeless and contemporary. The property's thoughtful design ensures that history is not only preserved but lived, as each stay invites reflection on the centuries of stories within its walls. Beyond architecture and wellness, the hotel offers quiet courtyards, tranquil pathways, and intimate spaces that foster connection and rest. Its location in the heart of Antwerp provides easy access to museums, galleries, and cultural landmarks, while within its own walls the sanctuary offers a world apart—an invitation to pause, restore, and experience the city through a lens of serenity.

Whether seeking tranquil sanctuaries, world-class dining, or enchanting garden vistas, Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp offers a rare and refined serenity nestled within the elegance of the city.

For more information, visit botanicantwerp.be.







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Dining in Bloom

By Betsy Reynard and Andrea Stuart

Photos by Jurgen Lijcops

At Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp, dining is not simply a complement to the guest experience, it is the heartbeat of it. With five on-site restaurants and one stylish bar, the property has established itself as a premier destination for gourmands seeking variety, refinement, and innovation.

Guests can begin the day with a breakfast designed by the resident chefs, savor delicate pastries and sweets during afternoon tea by Roger van Damme—named the world’s best pastry chef in 2017—or enjoy casually elegant meals at Bar Bulot or Henry’s Bistro. When the sun dips, Henry’s Bar becomes a lively gathering spot for locals and travelers alike, serving expertly crafted aperitifs and nightcaps in an atmosphere as convivial as it is chic.

Two of the property’s restaurants have earned coveted Michelin stars, each offering its own distinct approach to haute cuisine. At Fine Fleur, chefs Jacob Jan Boerma and Thomas Diepersloot let nature guide the menu. Seasonal produce and homegrown ingredients take center stage, transformed into dishes that marry freshness with global influences. Bright acids, layered spices, and delicate presentations reflect the chefs’ deep connection to the surrounding landscape and their belief that simplicity, when guided by nature, can achieve extraordinary results. *(Continued on next page)*



Just steps away lies Hertog Jan at Botanic, an immersive dining experience unlike any other. Partners since 1999, chef Gert De Mangeleer and host Joachim Boudens have created a space where Japanese-inspired cuisine unfolds as a multi-sensory journey. With interiors designed by Belgian architect Benoit Viaene, the minimalist setting ensures that every detail on the plate becomes the focus. The restaurant is intentionally intimate; open just two weeks each month, with only 26 seats. And diners are invited to select their preferred omakase experience. Each course is revealed as a surprise, blending West Flemish ingredients with global techniques and reflecting the rhythm of the seasons. The result is a culinary narrative that shifts and evolves, mirroring De Mangeleer's own travels to Japan and his philosophy of cooking in harmony with nature.

From the artistry of Michelin-starred kitchens to the warmth of its neighborhood bistro and bar, Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp offers guests an extraordinary culinary tapestry. Whether seeking refinement, comfort, or indulgence, every meal on the property is a reminder that food here is not just nourishment—it is an experience in its own right.

For more information, visit botanicantwerp.be.









Celebrating 200 Years of Harvests

By Nora Heston Tarte | Photo by J James Joiner

In 1824, the first California wine grapes were planted at the Sonoma Mission to make sacramental wine, and in summer 1825, the vines were harvested by the Franciscan monks. The original vineyard located a few blocks from the Mission and Sonoma Plaza was purchased by Sebastiani Winery in 1904 and still produces wine today.

Four wineries, steeped in history, are a prominent part of this year's bicentennial harvest: Buena Vista, Bartholomew, Gundlach Bundschu, and Sebastiani. Their rich soils grow more than splendid tales—the terrain is also responsible for terroir with deep roots, bold flavors, and remarkable innovation that has moved their operations into the twenty-first century without abandoning the origin story.

The Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance (SVVGA) planned three-years of celebrations to mark this historic event. In 2024, “The Year of the Farmer” commemorated the first plantings. “The Year of the Vintner,” in 2025, focused on harvest and concluded with the 128th Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival, held September 25-27. In 2026, festivities will continue with “The Year of the Community.”

“The 200th harvest gives us the opportunity to showcase the people who carry on that two-century tradition today and continue to produce award-winning vintages that showcase their unique perspective,” says Robyn Sebastiani, SVVGA's executive director.

Buena Vista Winery, the first winery established in California, was purchased by Count Agoston Haraszthy in 1857. Today, it maintains many historic buildings on property as well as formal gardens.

Bartholomew Estate Vineyards and Winery, located inside Bartholomew Park, was built on Buena Vista's original vineyards and

contains some of the ruins of the original winery. The winery leans into its history and has launched its Antonia Bartholomew Legacy Vineyard Tour and Tasting. “As far as anybody knows, it's the oldest vineyards outside of the mission,” says Anna Pope, co-trustee of the Bartholomew Foundation and Bartholomew Estate Winery.

Gundlach Bundschu Winery, the second winery established in Sonoma County, is California's oldest continually family-owned winery. Opened by Jacob Gundlach in 1858, the property currently operates with grandchildren and great-grandchildren at the helm. This year marks Gundlach Bundschu's 168th harvest. While the property was built for grape production, Prohibition required new outputs, which included pears, cattle, and tomatoes. Today, it has returned to its original purpose with a twist, producing organic and regenerative organic grapes. Visitors can explore the storied property with a guided cave and vineyard tour or on a summer hike.

Sebastiani Vineyards and Winery dates back to 1904. Home of the original Mission Vineyard, it was the only estate in Sonoma County that continued making wine throughout Prohibition for religious and medicinal reasons. The company is committed to sustainable farming practices, and currently operates as a Foley Family Wines property.

“The 200th harvest is such a special milestone for all of Sonoma Valley to celebrate, even those who aren't part of the day-to-day wine industry,” says Katie Bundschu, Western sales manager for Gundlach Bundschu Winery and founder of Abbot's Passage Winery. “To be able to celebrate something like this with the entire community's support is what makes Sonoma Valley such a special place.”



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Beyond the Vines

By Betsy Reynard

Autumn in Napa Valley brings the scent of harvest and the rhythm of crush. The area comes alive with anticipation of the new vintage and new offerings, inviting both locals and travelers to savor Napa Valley.

Just in time for the season, Under-Study, the new culinary playground and marketplace from the team behind PRESS restaurant, has opened its doors with a mix of food and flavors. Open daily, it features a café, butcher counter, bakery, patisserie, bottle shop, and teaching kitchen. A seasonal highlight is the Julia Child menu, a three-course weekend offering celebrating the “Julia Child: A Recipe for Life” exhibit that is showing next door at the Napa Valley Museum of Art & Culture.

For those drawn to late-night bites, Charlie’s Napa Valley has introduced “Chuck’s Late Night,” available from 9 p.m. to close. The menu offers a small selection of elevated comfort food, including a playful nod to nostalgia: the NYC Happy Meal, complete with fries and a martini. Those feeling indulgent can add a serving of Regiis Ova caviar to take things up a notch. Night owls in St. Helena now have a delicious reason to stay out a little later.

For those craving a touch of adventure on the open road, Alila Napa Valley has partnered with the Napa Valley Car Club to deliver just that. The Monday Drive Days are available to guests and locals, offering scenic routes through the Valley and beyond. One can choose from an exclusive fleet of luxury vehicles departing from Alila or can join one of the Car Club’s signature group drives, whether winding through Wine Country or cruising down a private airstrip.

From indulgent late-night eats to luxury road adventures and culinary delights, Napa Valley’s fall is more vibrant than ever. These fresh offerings invite everyone to embrace the season—one plate, one drive, one golden hour at a time.







The Public Policy

By Jeanne Johnston | Photos by Bill Janes

In 2011, we profiled Carmen Policy, tracing his journey from NFL executive to Napa Valley vintner. We revisited his story in 2016 and 2020, chronicling his continued impact on the region. As this issue features his son, Ed Policy, we're taking a look back at that original story to provide context for a family legacy still unfolding.

When given the opportunity to sit down in the relaxed comfort of Carmen and Gail Policy's sprawling Napa Valley residence, which on this particular morning is enhanced with the muffled exuberance of his 3 1/2 year old grandson in the background, it is difficult to comprehend that he is the hard-charging NFL executive and tough-guy defending counsel we have all been privy to in the print media. After a five-hour visit and a much closer look into the life of Carmen Policy, his openness and humility prevails and clarity is indisputable.

It seems rudimentary to understand why Carmen Policy is revered as a "class of a guy" by those residing in Mahoning Valley, a suburb of Youngstown. The Youngstown neighborhood was once anchored by Italian immigrants and their descendants in the post war years. However, aside from his humble beginnings where his parents operated a drugstore and soda fountain, Carmen is identified as a bona fide celebrity not only referencing his NFL affiliations but in his ongoing day-to-day life as well. He continues to champion the efforts in the best interests of not only the 49ers but for all sports enthusiasts of the San Francisco Bay Area. His respect and allegiance to the DeBartolo family, in addition to his rolodex of other high profile clients, is refreshingly unusual.

He and Gail, his wife of 20 years, share a transparent demeanor and a casual elegance that has allowed their transition into their Napa Valley lifestyle appear to be without challenge. They credit the hospitality of their fellow vintners and have been overwhelmed by their generosity and honesty.

Policy's curriculum vitae could be referenced by most as "overqualified for life." And for that reason alone, this article attempts to dissect his life into four chapters of experiences and accomplishments. What first seemed like an arduous task evolved into an afternoon of grand memories and wonderful storytelling. For those who may not enjoy the opportunity of knowing him personally, this will offer a candid glimpse into not only the public Policy, but the private Policy as well.

Getting down to business, we first delved into his formative years, where his development and core values have been his foundation for his freeway to life. Losing his parents at the age of nine and being raised by his maternal grandmother, Carmen learned the consequences of loss and respect for both honor and integrity. He was rewarded for his commitment to hard work and his fervent dedication to family and lifelong friendships. Saddled with grand responsibility at such a young age, Policy's reputation was referred to as ambitious, stylish, charming, and popular with his contemporaries.

I referenced a story I had read regarding the fact that as a young man, his circle of friends and peers were primarily children of affluent families living outside the Youngstown area. And at the age of 23, when he was about to take the Ohio State Bar, he and three others from his study group piled up in a hotel room, cramming for their exam. On a much-deserved break, they all determined an adult beverage from room service was in order. With respect to Policy's monetary guidelines, each friend placed an order for a beer of some flavor with one requesting Seagram's and soda. In true Policy style, he was the last to place his order and blindsided the group with his request for a double Courvoisier in a snifter. Policy's festive nature enjoys that element of surprise, which is just one of the many threads sewn into the fabric of his persona.

Policy enjoyed a fruitful legal career working as a young trial lawyer in his own firm, defending what some would consider Italian nobilities and others would refer to as wise guys and dilettantes. His early association with Eddie DeBartolo, Sr., whom he refers to as "Old World Nobility," placed him in the queue for making history. He established



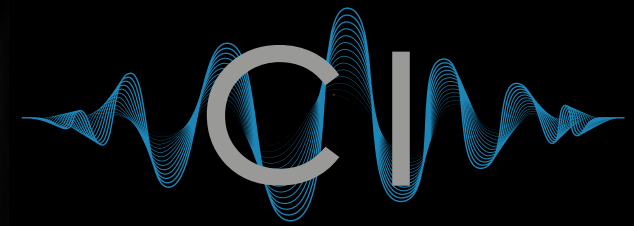


himself as an accomplished criminal defense lawyer, arguing a case in the U.S. Supreme Court at 30 years of age. He prides himself as an attorney that “did a good job for his clients,” which prepared him for the thrill and excitement of working with the NFL as Lead Counsel to Eddie DeBartolo, Jr. and the San Francisco 49ers. His very first responsibility was the 1978 negotiations of Bill Walsh’s contract on behalf of the DeBartolo family. Policy humbly refers to this chapter of his life and career as the most gratifying and exciting. “The NFL was like being in show business without being good looking,” he says. He felt his NFL experiences enhanced his life in many aspects.

As Policy reflected on each quarter of his life, he revealed that his dreams and goals could never have been accomplished without the experiences and lessons he learned from each preceding chapter. One’s ability to “build a team” is essential in accomplishing and securing life goals. Policy was a scholar of that practice and a natural at amalgamating his core family values, his steadfast professional intuition with a dusting of his Hollywood charm and style.

He and his family are currently reaping the benefits of his life’s harvest along with those of their relatively young Napa Valley vineyard, Casa Piena, which he purchased and developed with “his team” in 2003. He has settled into the fourth quarter, but certainly not the last chapter of his life, comfortably sipping a glass of his Casa Piena cabernet. Casa Piena means full house in Italian (Policy has three sons and two daughters) and was one of only thirteen wines served at the e-G8 Conference in France in May of this year. It was the first time that American wines have ever been served at the Louvre.

One might say Carmen Policy is very kindred to his Casa Piena Cabernet, complex, but subtle; fabulous when it opens up and definitely better with age.



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LAWERENCE + LEXUS







Sip in Style

By Nora Heston Tarte

Photos Courtesy of Lawrence Wine Estates

Lawrence Wine Estates has established a reputation in Napa Valley and beyond as “a collection” of sought-after wineries featuring delicious, handcrafted wines and immersive on-site experiences.

With the goal of getting wine lovers outside of the traditional tasting room experience, Lawrence Wine Estates has partnered with Lexus to provide innovative and luxurious experiences to guests, wine club members, Lexus owners, and anyone else interested in exploring wine country in a less expected format. The partnership was born partially out of a preexisting relationship between CEO Carlton McCoy, a Lexus culinary chef master and sommelier since 2013, and Lexus. “Lexus has really done an incredible job, not just selling great cars but the lifestyle around the car,” he says.

Since 2024, the coveted list of exclusive, high-end experiences have been offered, with each estate providing its own unique tour and tasting. Those who own a Lexus get even more benefits, including special pricing on tasting experiences at the family of wineries as well as wine, access to a Lawrence Wine Estates concierge, itinerary planning, and more.

The fleet of cars available can be exchanged across properties, when available, but the advertised vehicles are intentional. Each car fits the estate’s specific terrain, and McCoy says that the car’s exterior details are branded with the winery in mind, often championing hybrid models that are synergetic with the estates’ sustainability values.





At Heitz Cellar, visitors can enjoy a pairing of exceptional wines with cheese and charcuterie.

Ink Grade provides a longer journey, from the St. Helena property to the Ink Grade vineyard's secluded site on Howell Mountain, where guests can traverse the brawny landscape and garner a better understanding of how the land produces intense, flavorful wines while sporting around in a Lexus GX550 Overtrail+ or LX 600 Luxury vehicle.

At Burgess, the Vineyard Immersive Experience pairs an educational tour of the property in a Lexus RX450h+ that highlights the innovative farming practices, plus a vintage retrospective tasting inside the property's exciting and exclusive Speakeasy.

In addition to the individual experiences offered on the website, custom itineraries through Lawrence Wine Estate vineyards in a chosen Lexus can also be developed. Luminary members (a special members-only lifestyle club across Lawrence Wine Estates' properties) can request hotel pick-up and drop-off service.

The fleet includes several options, each with its own accolades. And while some rides are tied to specific vineyards, others are available for a day in the Valley.

For more information, visit lawrencewineestates.com.



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Field Goals and Fine Wines: The Ed Policy Playbook

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos Courtesy of the Green Bay Packers

It is not surprising that Ed Policy, president and CEO of the Green Bay Packers, visits the Napa Valley at least twice a year. His father, Carmen Policy, owns Casa Piena, a Yountville winery known for its richly structured estate-grown cabernet sauvignons. Coming out to enjoy an Our Gang or a Casa Piena cabernet and a good steak with his father is a good way to relax.

Policy is currently serving his first season leading the Wisconsin-based team. This follows a five-year tenure as the team's vice president and general counsel and a six-year tenure as its chief operating officer. This season, he hopes to take the Packers to the Super Bowl. "I don't think the NFL [National Football League] has ever been more competitive," he says. "In addition, we're in the NFC [National Football Conference] North, the most competitive division."

For the last two years, the Packers have had young players on the roster, and they have gradually developed more experience and formed tighter bonds. "We have that exciting combination of youthfulness and continuity, this season," says Policy.

His leadership philosophy is to not meddle. "I watch practices and talk with the coaches and general manager. I make sure they communicate with each other and have all the resources they need," says Policy. "I'm the head facilitator."

While growing up in Youngstown, Ohio, Policy played football from the time he was in Pee Wee leagues into high school. When he attended the University of Notre Dame, in Indiana, he played for his dormitory's non-varsity team, the Screaming Otters.

He says that football requires a team mentality. "No one person can carry a team. You really do need the whole roster, 22 people, plus bench strength and a coach." This mindset is particularly helpful in Green Bay, because city residents own the team. Approximately 538,967 locals are shareholders of the Packers' nonprofit corporation.



One of the Packers' current projects is Titledown, a mixed-use development next to Lambeau Field. The community, which opened in 2017, contains a large public park with outdoor games, a seed-stage venture capital firm, and a range of commercial and residential components, including a Four-Diamond rated hotel and luxury apartments. "We built Titledown to encourage young people to stay here and move here," says Policy. "It's working. The district is full of young adults and families."

Beyond football, family is a motivating force in Policy's life. "When I get home to my wife, Christy, and my sons, Luke and Carmen, there's a whole other world waiting for me," he says.

Policy has fond memories of weekends in Napa going to wine tastings when he worked as an attorney in San Francisco. The family has long-standing ties to the region. His father served as president and CEO of the San Francisco 49ers from 1991 to 2004.

"My father always taught me to never take a shortcut," says Policy. "I'm teaching my sons that, so they can overcome whatever obstacles they encounter."

For more information, visit packers.com and casapiena.com.





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Festival Napa Valley Gala Strikes a High Note

Photos Courtesy of Drew Altizer

On a warm July evening in Napa Valley, art and generosity intertwined at Festival Napa Valley's annual "Arts for All Gala." Hosted at Nickel & Nickel, part of the House of Far Niente, the event brought together vintners, philanthropists, artists, and community leaders for a celebration that set a new fundraising record: \$5 million to support music education and access to the arts.

The program was as dazzling as its guest list. GRAMMY and Oscar winner Jon Batiste filled the night with his trademark energy and soulful music, while James Beard Award-winning chef Rogelio Garcia of Four Seasons Napa Valley crafted an elegant dinner that was paired with wines from the House of Far Niente. Auctioneer Lydia Fenet kept the evening lively with a fast-paced auction that offered once-in-a-lifetime experiences, from Parisian dinners and Milan Fashion Week to private concerts with jazz legend Wynton Marsalis.





The momentum reached its peak during the “Fund a Need” portion of the evening. Tatiana and Gerret Copeland of Bouchaine Vineyards jump-started the campaign with a \$1 million donation, inspiring the crowd to join in support of the Festival’s new Music & Wellness initiative, which emphasizes music’s ability to improve mental health, build resilience, and spark creativity among young people.

Beyond the glamour of the night, the impact is tangible. Proceeds from the event sustain Festival Napa Valley’s year-round commitment to education, offering tuition-free summer academies, master classes, and scholarships, along with free concerts that reach children, seniors, and veterans across the region. Since its inception, the Arts for All Gala has generated more than \$33 million for these efforts.

Looking ahead, Festival Napa Valley’s twentieth anniversary season is slated for July 4-19, 2026, with the next Arts for All Gala scheduled for July 12.



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A Bucket List Dream

Simply put, there is no other Grand Prix circuit like that of Monaco. The setting, the history, the yachts, and the people it attracts set it head and shoulders above the rest. It's not without its naysayers—the race is often boring; there's not enough room to overtake; the driver on pole position inevitably wins the race—and thus Monaco's longstanding fixture on the annual Formula 1 (F1) calendar was seen to be in jeopardy. But then luxury brands juggernaut LVMH signed an unprecedented 10-year global partnership deal with F1 in October 2024 . . . with the proviso that Monaco remain very much on the race roster.

And so, once again, on the last weekend in May, the F1, media, celebrity, influencer, and socialite communities all descended upon the tiny principality for the annual celebration of sun, sea, and speed. While there are many vantage points from which to watch the action—grandstand, hotel suite, private terrace—some are more luxurious than others. and nothing says luxury quite like the multi-decked superyachts lined up directly next to the track. Who doesn't want to lounge on a gleaming white yacht for the weekend, quaffing Whispering Angel rosé from large format bottles or chilled champagne or whatever your go-to drink might be, as a Michelin Star chef conjures up one delicacy after another and the exemplary crew tend to your every need?

Celebrating an impressive eighteenth year of trackside superyacht hospitality at this year's Grand Prix was longtime media partner My Yacht® Group (MYG), the luxury events company that prides itself on “connecting the world's most interesting people” at select global gatherings, from Monaco to Pebble Beach, Cannes to





Miami, and beyond. Its guests hail from all around the globe and all backgrounds, from Olympians and world champions, to astronauts, drivers, entrepreneurs, innovators, royalty, and heads of state. The unofficial guest of honor in Monte Carlo was once again His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, who joined the festivities along with many former bobsled pals (the prince is a five-time Olympian) for MYG's lively annual Friday evening reception.

As ever, Monaco's fine hotels were sold out far in advance, and even anchor room outside of the harbor was at a premium, the water dotted as far as the eye could see with yachts small, large, and larger.

With the rise of Netflix's *Drive to Survive* (aka *The Real Housewives of F1!*), there was no shortage of seemingly new impresarios coming out of the woodwork with sleek social media pages and grand promises of the ultimate Grand Prix weekend. Sadly, most of them overpromise, underdeliver, and were woefully unprepared for the intricacies of executing a first-class event in this storied yet challenging locale.

With roads closed for racing from sunup to past sundown, the most effective way of reaching one's yacht was, of course, by water. MYG's solution: carbon fiber, high-speed X-Tenders—using F1 technology, no less—directly from guests' hotel docks to the stern of the towering 45-meter/150-foot yacht. Once aboard, one was faced with a difficult decision: choosing which deck to watch the speed machines rocket past a mere 50 feet away. Spoiler alert—there's no wrong answer. No matter which deck you chose, you're already in the best seats in the house.





Honoring Legacy in Napa

By Andrea Stuart | Photos by David Ortega

Golden twilight bathed the Napa Valley hillsides as an intimate gathering assembled at the Stull residence on September 11 to honor vintners Robin and Michelle Baggett. The evening marked both a farewell to Robin's distinguished tenure as chairman of Festival Napa Valley's board and a celebration of the couple's remarkable contributions to art, education, and community life.

Hosted by incoming board chairman Steven Stull and his wife, Claire, the soirée drew vintners, philanthropists, and cultural leaders from across the Valley. Guests arrived with magnums of rare vintages in hand, raising glasses in tribute to the Baggetts' legacy of service. Robin was presented with a Stetson hat embroidered with "The Chairman," a fitting emblem for the man who has guided the festival with a steady hand and visionary spirit.

The evening unfolded with a luminous performance by Grammy-winning cellist Jonah Kim, joined by his wife, San Francisco Ballet soloist Julia Rowe. Their artistry underscored the heart of what the Baggetts have championed: the transformative power of the arts to uplift, inspire, and unite.

Robin, who co-founded Alpha Omega Winery with Michelle in 2006 after a four-decade career in law, including as general counsel to the Golden State Warriors, has long been a fixture of Napa's cultural landscape. His leadership extends well beyond the festival with service to the Napa Valley Vintners, the Wine Institute, and the Land Trust of Napa County.

Michelle has shaped philanthropy through her role as Executive Director of the Alpha Omega Foundation, supporting causes from children's education to medical innovation. Together, the Baggetts embody a rare blend of passion, generosity, and commitment to community.

Their influence will continue to ripple through the Valley, a reminder that legacy is not only built in vineyards but in lives touched through art, culture, and care.



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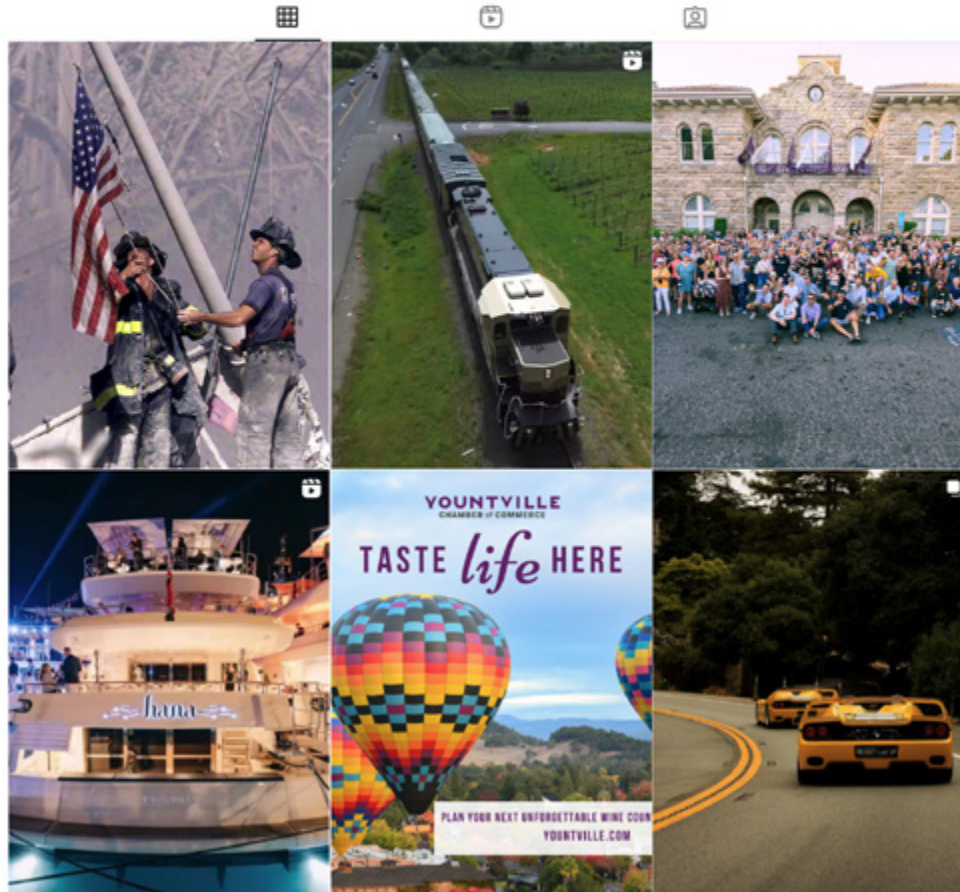
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A Treasure of a Property

By Rebekah Moan

Photos Courtesy of Carmel Realty Co.

Imagine waking up and being on a golf course—literally. That's exactly what Carmel Realty Company offers with its Treasure Oaks property. The five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bathroom home is situated on hole 15 of the Spyglass Hill Golf Course in Pebble Beach, which is known as the Jim Hawkins hole.

Nearly every hole on the Spyglass Hill Golf Course is named after a significant place or character in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. Apparently, Samuel F. B. Morse, who developed and owned Pebble Beach, was taken with the local lore that Stevenson took inspiration by walking the hills and dunes of Pebble Beach while writing that novel. And fittingly, the property's name pays homage to the classic book's title.

"What makes Treasure Oaks truly special is the combination of privacy, luxury, and access," says Katie McAlister, director of vacation management at Carmel Realty Company. "It's not just about being in Pebble Beach, it's about living Pebble Beach, waking up on the course, and experiencing world-class golf as part of your daily rhythm."





From the backyard or living room of Treasure Oaks, guests can enjoy an uninterrupted view of the fairway. “It’s rare to find a home with this kind of access and vantage point, especially on one of the most storied courses in the world,” says McAlister.

Treasure Oaks is a modern home with warm, natural materials, expansive windows, and an open floor plan that maximizes natural light and golf course views. It was completed in 2023, with continued additions and improvements that make the home extremely comfortable for up to 10 guests.

Carmel Realty Company’s Treasure Oaks property was designed to accommodate guests looking for a high-end, comfortable experience particularly for those who are drawn to the Spyglass Hill Golf Course. One of the first sets of guests at the property was a group of old friends who played the course together 20 years ago. “They returned to celebrate a milestone birthday and called their stay here the trip of a lifetime,” says McAlister. “They played three rounds in three days, grilled under the stars, and ended each night in the spa, laughing like they were kids again. That’s the kind of memory this home is meant to hold. Whether you’re here for a tournament, a family gathering, or a once-in-a-lifetime trip with friends, this home delivers something unforgettable.”

For more information, visit carmelrealtycompany.com/vacation-treasure-oaks-2896.htm.



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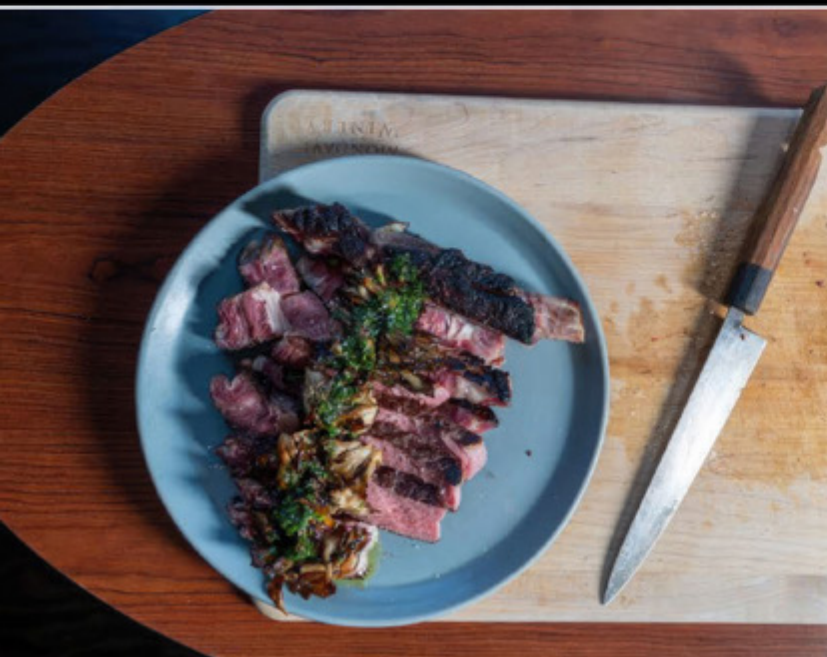
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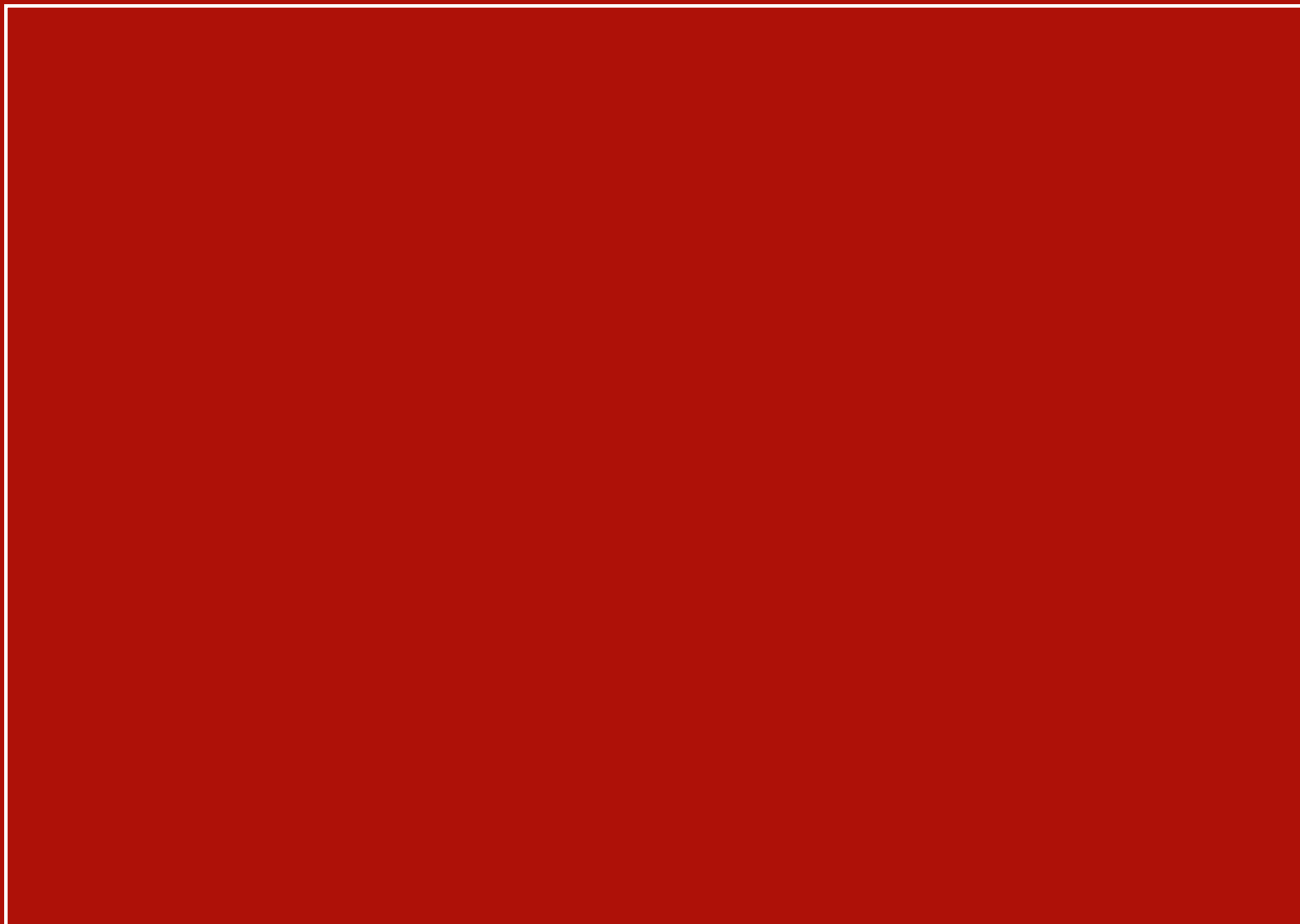
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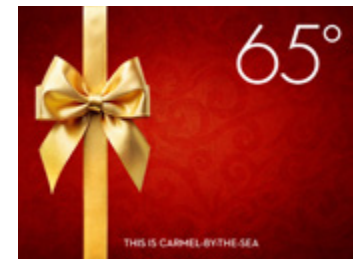
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RICHARD MACDONALD

From opposite ends of the spectrum, two figures converge—bound by contrast, yet inseparable in their unity. The male form embodies concentrated strength and latent power, his torso radiating as the nexus of energy. In counterpoint, the female form flows with grace and softness, a visual echo that tempers and completes his tension. Entwined like the links of a chain, they become more than separate entities: a singular expression of balance, harmony, and the beauty of duality.

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(left) RICHARD MACDONALD working with
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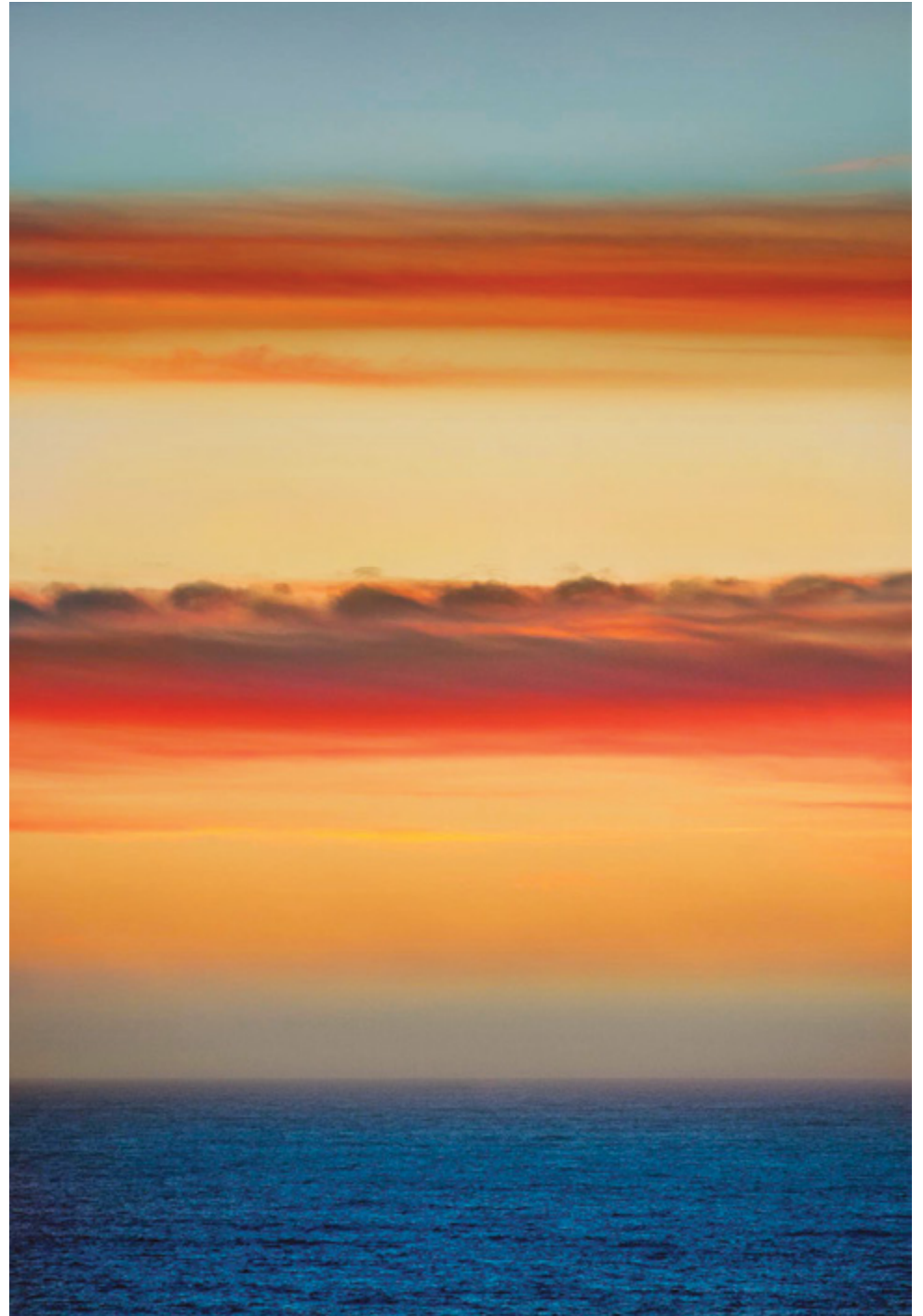
By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos Courtesy of Gallery Sur

NATURE - OCEAN - COSMOS - STONE

“This is art that honors where we come from . . . and what lasts,” proclaims Gallery Sur on its website’s home page. The longstanding photography and sculpture gallery is in Carmel-by-the-Sea, around the corner from bustling Ocean Avenue. “My wish is that the peaceful energy of nature offers a moment of calm and inspiration, and that the human spirit expressed in the stone sculptures speaks gently to each viewer’s heart,” says David Potigian, Gallery Sur’s owner and one of its artists.

Since opening its doors in 1990, Gallery Sur has made its mark by highlighting large-format contemporary photography, such as Trish O’Keefe’s striking images of neon-hued birds and the bold primary color oceanscapes in Winston Boyer’s “Ocean Series.” These artists’ photographs, layered against the gallery’s minimalist white walls, stop passersby in their tracks with their dramatic scale and expressive color.

Visitors to Gallery Sur will recognize the sources of inspiration for many of Gallery Sur’s artists. Alongside an extensive collection of Pebble Beach and Cypress Point photographs for golf enthusiasts, Helmut Horn’s works capture a comprehensive span of local visual icons, from the region’s ubiquitous plump wine grapes on the vine to the iconic Keyhole Arch at Pfeiffer Beach in Big Sur. Less recognizable but still locally inspired are works from astrophotographers including Gary Lopez, capturing the distinct beauty of the Monterey Peninsula’s night sky.







Sprinkled among these bold photographs are a collection of Shona stone sculptures from Zimbabwe. This art form, which first appeared in the 1950s, quickly rose in popularity in the twentieth century and continues today. In the late 1980s, Shona sculpture was considered by Newsweek to be one of the most important African art forms of the century. Over the last decade, public art installations have featured Shona stone sculptures, with new exhibitions in places such as the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Princeton University, and the Houston Botanic Garden.



The Shona stone sculpture collection in Gallery Sur showcases both abstract and figurative works from sculptors that include Moses Nyanhongo, Lovemore Bonjisi, and Tapiwa Mapuranga. Ranging from six inches to three feet tall, the sculptures ground the striking photographs on the walls with their earth tones of jade green, copper red, and ivory—the colors of the Zimbabwean serpentine rocks used in this artistic tradition. Gallery Sur's website describes the sculptures as “timeless works that evoke a deep connection between Earth and spirit.” *For more information, visit gallerysur.com.*

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The Heart of the Village

By Keira Silver | Photos by Manny Espinoza



In a town renowned for its character and charm, one grassroots nonprofit has quietly transformed Carmel-by-the-Seas' scenic landscape. For the past five years, Carmel Cares has supported dedicated volunteers and eager partners with the goal of nourishing the area's beauty.

This past July, Carmel Cares hosted a five-year anniversary celebration gathering at the Forest Theater, a site that Carmel Cares has maintained through years of volunteerism. The event brought in 150 attendees, including volunteers, donors, contractors, and city officials. A memorable moment of the afternoon included the presentation of 12 Volunteer of the Year awards, which honored residents who have focused on keeping the city's paths, parks, and downtown area clean.



Since its establishment, Carmel Cares has recorded more than 25,000 volunteer hours and invested \$1 million in supporting the improvement of public spaces. Noteworthy efforts include replacing redwood fencing in Devendorf Park and regular servicing of the Scenic Pathway.

Together with her team of Pick Up Posse (PUP) volunteers, Kelly Francis concentrates on preserving the cleanliness of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The group collaborates with the city of Carmel-by-the-Sea, reporting items such as illegal fire remnants and wood with nails for further removal. In continued efforts, the Carmel Beach PUPs have assisted the Marine Mammal Center with various marine animal rescues on Carmel Beach. "The footprint of visitors and residents on our beach is growing," says Francis. "As our numbers increase, it is more important than ever to minimize our adverse impact on our environment within this beautiful town and beach."

Much of Carmel Cares' impact comes from community partnerships established through local projects. Jeff Sogge, owner of Pacific Redwood Products, is one key collaborator. He believes that the partnership between his business and the nonprofit has elevated the overall charm of the village. "It's meaningful to see our materials used to preserve what makes Carmel so special," he says.

Carmel Cares founder and Carmel Mayor Dale Byrne believes that the nonprofit's role is to help fill the gaps where city resources may be limited. He believes that Carmel Cares' volunteers serve with tools and welcoming spirits towards all. "With continued support from local contractors, generous donors, and the City itself, Carmel Cares will keep showing what's possible when neighbors step up, work together, and take ownership of their shared spaces," he says. "In Carmel, caring isn't a slogan. It's a way of life."

For more information, visit carmelcares.org.



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STAY

ALLA VENTANA BIG SUR







Serenity off Highway 1

Alila Ventana

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos Courtesy of Alila Ventana Big Sur

This fall, luxurious, modern accommodations in the redwoods can be found on a scenic drive south of Carmel-by-the Sea at Alila Ventana Big Sur. The 160-acre Hyatt property is a secluded coastal resort featuring spa treatments, hikes, and Japanese hot baths.

“This year is our 50th anniversary,” says Matt Skaletsky, Alila Ventana Big Sur’s general manager. “We’re celebrating with renovated rooms, a new all-day brunch menu, and many nature-oriented curated activities, including off-property coastal and forest programs.”

The warm weather of September and early October invites outdoor exploration, while the cooler weather of late October and November is better for indoor activities. Skaletsky says that entering the resort is transformative. “Once you get here, you immediately feel a sense of peace,” he says. “It’s quiet here. At night you can see the stars. It’s like you shed the past and can be fully present here.”

Glamping accommodations in the forest present another way to experience Big Sur. Glamping guests must purchase a resort day pass to access the property. Alila Ventana Big Sur offers safari-style canvas tents that hold beds with custom-designed mattresses and premium linens. In the campground, guests can kindle an outdoor fire pit to make s’mores.





During the fall, the culinary teams at the resort's primary restaurant, The Sur House, showcase locally sourced foods that reflect the season and region. Guests can enjoy small-production Central Coast wines assembled by local vintners.

The outdoor pools at Alila Ventana Big Sur are extremely popular. The Meadow Pool has ocean and redwood forest views alongside a large infinity-edge hot tub. The Mountain Pool is high up in the resort and surrounded by trees. It is adjacent to the Japanese hot baths, which have separate immersive soaking areas for men and women and a coed experience in the middle.

The resort's offerings at Spa Alila include different massage treatments, integrative arts such as restorative reiki, and healing experiences including astrology readings. Guests can participate in unique off-property hikes, join meditation sessions and outdoor painting groups, and enjoy exercise on trail runs.

Members of the staff invite feedback from guests to tailor their stays.

Skaletsky advises letting go "after you hit that last stoplight on Highway 1" and visiting the grounds first. "At Alila Ventana Big Sur, you can do as much or as little as you want," he says. "It's a tranquil and extraordinary environment. You're surrounded by people who care, who want you to love being here."

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



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Blazing a Vineyard Trail

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos Courtesy of Nicole Walsh

When winemaker Nicole Walsh discovered her calling, there was only one other person beside her. “I attended Michigan State University, where I was one of two people interested in viticulture and enology as an undergraduate,” she remembers. That intimate experience and tailor-made curriculum allowed her to build a foundation that would lead to a prolific, globetrotting career in wine.

Walsh spent her last college semester at EARTH University, a sustainable agriculture school in Costa Rica. There, she gained the expertise that would define her career for the next quarter century. “This semester had a profound impact on me in gaining a deeper understanding of how important agriculture is to a community” she says, “and how the word sustainable takes on so many meanings beyond just organic farming.”

After graduation, Walsh quickly entered the wine industry in Michigan and embraced every challenge in the tasting room, laboratory, and vineyard, from converting land to organic vineyards to making wine in the cellar. Walsh moved to California in 2001 and began working with Bonny Doon Vineyard and Randall Grahm in Santa Margarita, near the Paso Robles wine region. She will celebrate 25 years with Bonny Doon next year and is now serving as director of winemaking for more than 14 wine brands associated with WarRoom Cellars, the company that acquired Bonny Doon in 2020. “By working with so





many vineyards, many rare and lesser known varietals, and constant experimentation, I was able to gain such a wide range of wine knowledge that I am very grateful for,” she says.

Part of that knowledge includes biodynamic farming, an agricultural approach that goes beyond organic growing to view the farm as a living organism. This method considers all ecological factors, including biodiversity and composting, as well as observation of the rhythms of the earth and the cosmos. While a winemaker with Bonny Doon, Walsh added a year in New Zealand to her international winemaking résumé when she helped a small estate vineyard transition to biodynamic farming in 2008.

Today, Walsh balances a successful wine career between her corporate position and Ser Winery, an artisanal winery in Santa Cruz that she founded in 2012. Ser Winery is known for old-world style wines and other unique varietals produced in a natural way. As the winemaker, Walsh focuses on grapes from century-old vines, lesser-known varietals, or those rare in California, such as cabernet pfeffer and trousseau gris. Walsh applies her decades of sustainable agriculture knowledge to her artisanal winemaking techniques, including using neutral oak and a minimalistic approach to allow the fruit to express its character. “I often hear people describe Ser wine as balanced, with a delicate and elegant style,” she says. “People tell me they feel good when they drink Ser wine.”

For more information, visit serwinery.com.



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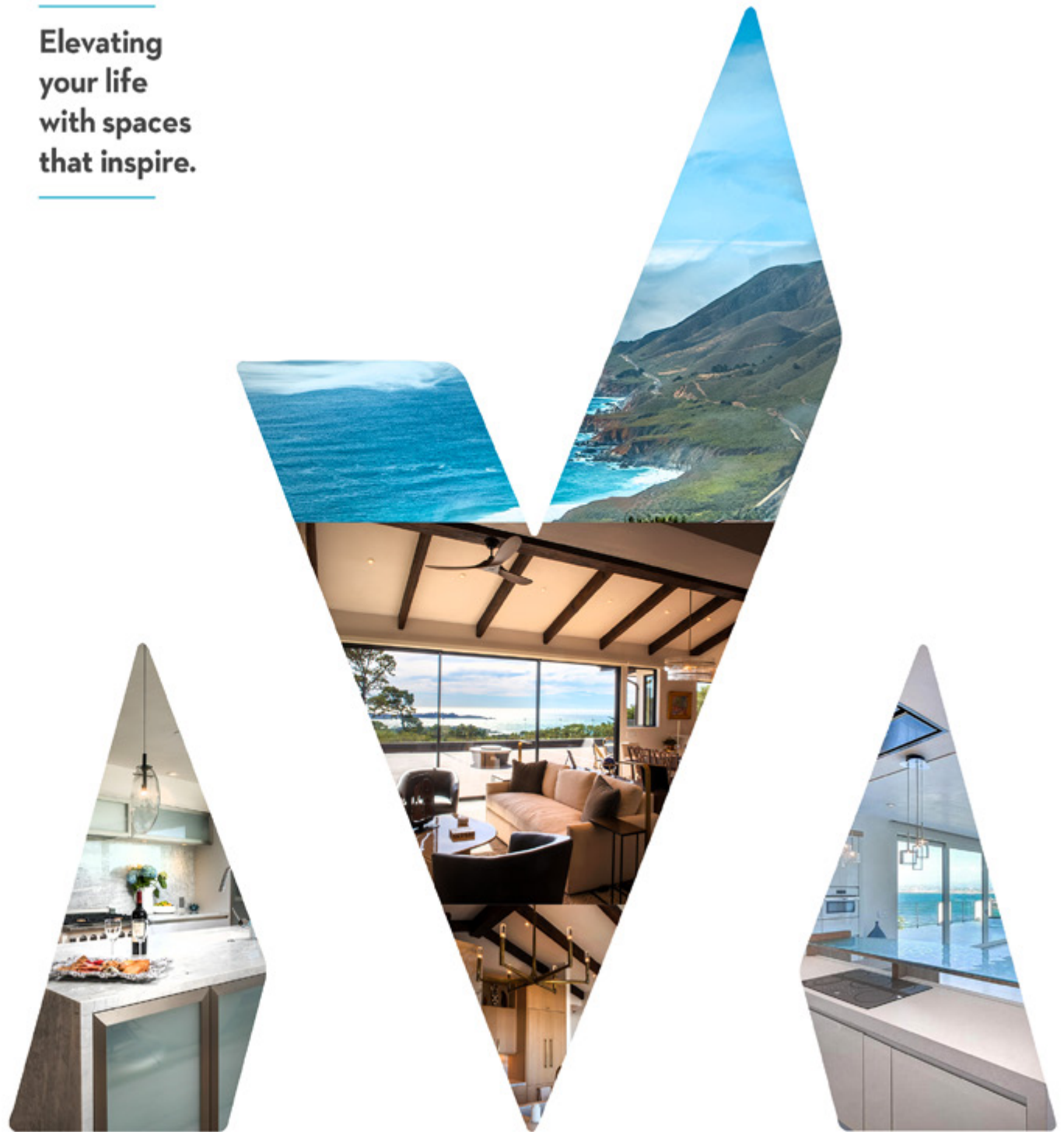
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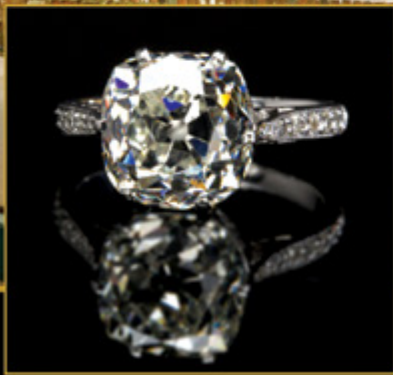




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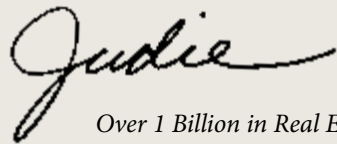
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Corral of Earth

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Only miles from the Pebble Beach coast, a golf refuge welcomes Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley residents to its family-friendly atmosphere. For more than 60 years, visitors to Corral de Tierra Country Club have enjoyed this distinguished yet relaxed golf course.

Corral de Tierra Country Club serves as a centerpiece of the Monterey County community, offering a decades-long tradition of quality golf, accompanied with superior casual and fine dining, tennis, swimming, and fitness and social activities such as bingo and Sunday jazz. While traditional, this country club also embraces the fresh, exciting trends that members desire, such as the fast-growing sport of pickleball and in demand barre fitness classes. Members enjoy unlimited access to these facilities.

Such abundant amenities are heightened by the course's natural setting. This memorable, member-owned country club is located between Salinas and Monterey and lies inside an ideal microclimate, offering consistently sunny, year-round golfing far from the moody weather of coastal courses. According to the Monterey County Historical Society, Corral de Tierra translates from the Spanish to "corral of earth," and refers to the natural box canyon that served as a corral for early settlers and now herds a different kind of long drive on the par 72 course.





Golfers can tee off in the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountains and enjoy 18 holes of manicured fairways and soothing water features in the secluded course. Designed by Bob E. Baldock, the course serves as a qualifier golf course for the U.S. Open and holds a course rating of 72.4. While challenging, the gentle elevations and multiple tee boxes result in a “great walk, enhanced” for golfers of all abilities, says a member quoted on the Corral de Tierra Country Club website.

Members can practice their game at facilities that feature a driving range with grass tees and target greens, a short game area with two greens and five bunkers, and an expansive putting green adjacent to the clubhouse. “All of our practice greens and facilities are maintained to the same standards—and on the same schedule—as the course itself. They are designed to replicate daily playing conditions, providing a consistent and effective practice experience,” says Doug Ayres, Corral de Tierra Country Club greens superintendent, quoted in a recent country club newsletter.

Corral de Tierra Country Club prioritizes a family-friendly atmosphere, from a family-oriented golf program to supporting one of the strongest Junior Golf programs in the county. A charming farmhouse-style clubhouse provides the feeling of being at home—complete with a top-tier backyard.

For more information, visit corraldetierracc.com.

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Taste the Terroir

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Manny Espinoza

The love of land is infused in each bottle of Lepe Cellars wine—a direct reflection of Miguel Lepe, the Salinas Valley-born winemaker of this minimal yet purposeful wine brand. “We cherish the terroir and the distinct traits of each varietal, letting nature’s rhythms guide the wine’s development,” says Lepe. “By practicing minimal intervention, we honor the varietal characteristics, unique qualities, and expression of every vineyard.”

Lepe’s wine story begins with an agricultural childhood in the Salinas Valley. Here, he found inspiration in the various crops grown in his backyard and the teams of hard workers who harvested them. For Lepe, cultivating top-quality grapes honors both the fertile land and the fieldworkers. “Our mission is to share our passion and stories while offering a comfortable and fun environment to enjoy our wines,” he says.

After graduating from the enology and viticulture program at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Lepe returned to the Central Coast wine community. For the next 15 years, he honed his winemaking skills through experience in California and South America before opening Lepe Cellars in 2015 with his wife, Jennifer.





Lepe Cellars produces several varietals, including a Monterey pinot noir, grenache, and zinfandel. These grapes are grown without pesticides, herbicides, or chemical fertilizers and are fermented with native yeasts for added flavor complexity. The techniques result in a wine journey that is “as pure as possible,” according to the Lepe Cellars website. The brand also operates a custom crush program, producing organic, vegan, and sustainable wines for private labels.

A unique varietal is petit verdot, which, according to Lepe, is a rare offering in Monterey County. It is described as a full-bodied red wine with a floral quality, often found in Bordeaux blends but rarely on its own. “This wine has become one of our signatures, consistently delighting and intriguing those who try it, sparking their curiosity to learn more,” says Lepe. “Our customers are encouraged to try new wines, even if they initially doubt they will like them. We hope people feel thrilled to discover wines they love and to broaden their palates’ horizons.”

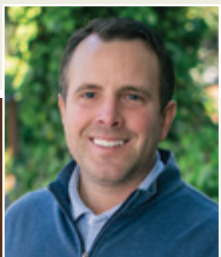
Curious wine drinkers will feel at home at the various Lepe Cellars locations, including a Carmel-by-the-Sea tasting room, Marina winery, and a spacious new Carmel Valley Village tasting room opened in fall 2025. Visitors may often find Lepe in the tasting room, pouring his wines and sharing the stories of the grapes behind them. The Marina winery offers a special barrel tasting during which the winemaker introduces unreleased wines. “All our wines are locally grown and crafted, providing visitors with an authentic taste of the region,” says Lepe.

For more information, visit lepecellars.com.

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The Ripple Effect of Compassion

By Andrea Stuart | Photos Courtesy of MATC

Photos Courtesy of Monterey Aquatic Therapy Center

When life brought Trisha Silva to her knees she found her way back through water. The co-owner and aquatic director of Monterey Aquatic Therapy Center (MATC) has built a sanctuary for individuals and families with special needs from the mended pieces of her heart.

Silva, a massage therapist and spa owner, was raising two children with autism and running two businesses when her marriage unraveled. “My heart was broken. I couldn’t give massage anymore,” she recalls. One morning, almost instinctively, she called hospice to ask if they needed help. They had just opened a position that day and hired her immediately. The work didn’t pay much, and when COVID forced her to close her spa for 11 months, she survived on insufficient unemployment checks.

During that time, Silva realized she couldn’t continue running two locations, including the now closed Aqua Wellness Day Spa in Pacific Grove, while caring for her children. That’s when a longtime client Rob Williams asked her what her heart wanted. She said she wanted to pivot from luxury spa services to therapeutics. He suggested she draft a business plan, then invested in her vision. That spark grew into Monterey Aquatic Therapy Center, which opened in 2019.

Five years later, MATC serves nearly 1,900 children and adults with disabilities each month. The 95-degree saltwater pool offers more than aquatic therapy—it offers physical and emotional comfort. “Sometimes parents just need 25 to 60 minutes to breathe,” Silva says. “Their kids have fun, and when they leave the pool they’re calm, hungry, and happy.”





Silva and her team work with people across the spectrum of needs, from autism to cerebral palsy, stroke recovery, and spinal cord injuries. Certified through the Swim Angelfish® program, MATC places a special emphasis on helping children with autism spectrum disorder and their families. Children overcome roadblocks in the water, whether it's fear of putting their face in or discomfort with floating on their backs. Meanwhile, parents are invited to let their nervous systems downregulate.

MATC offerings include AquaYoga, Adaptive Swimming, Watsu massage and stretching, FloatFit aqua circuit training, Aqua Arthritis class, and various one-on-one and open pool opportunities. Families drive from as far as Modesto because there are no other programs like MATC nearby. MATC has also built a carpool network and a parent support group to strengthen the community.

Silva's staff trains monthly and includes students pursuing careers in health and wellness. "It takes a special kind of person to stay here because the work can be challenging," she says. "I am so grateful for my team because none of this would be possible without them."

Expansion is underway. A larger pool will open this fall, alongside plans to add meditation, yoga, floating HIIT classes, and singing bowl therapy for the public.

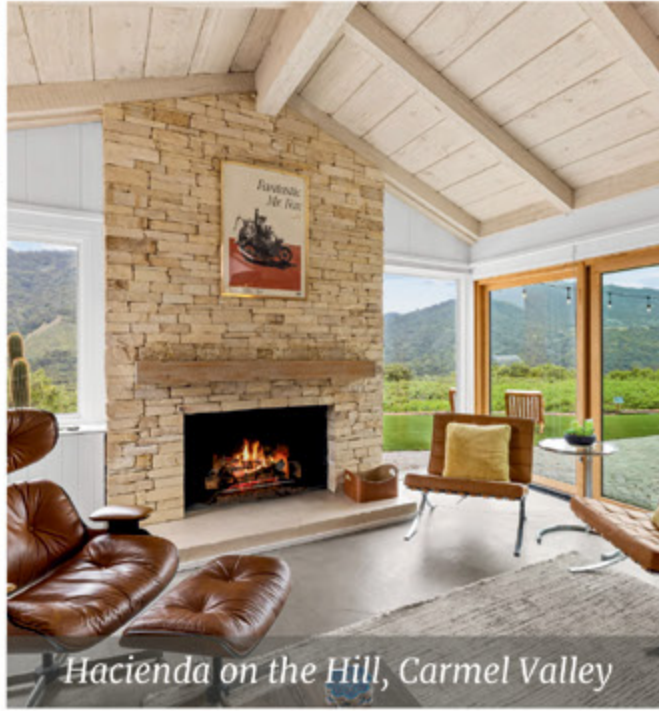
"Aquatics isn't just my job; it's my purpose," she says. "You never know another person's story, so we provide a place where that story is honored and self-care can take place."

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Selling with Style

Photos Courtesy of Bambace Peterson

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In 2019, Compass Concierge launched when business partners and sister-/brother-in-law duo Dana Bambace and Mark Peterson saw an opportunity to elevate how they presented listings. “We used to have regular conversations with sellers about whether to stage or not,” says Bambace. “But, starting in 2019, Compass Concierge gave us a powerful tool that transformed the way we worked.”

Compass Concierge offers sellers a short-term line of credit, repaid at closing. Over the past six years, the Bambace Peterson team has represented approximately 140 listings, with more than half of those sellers taking advantage of the Compass Concierge program.

“In 2025, buyers want move-in ready homes,” says Bambace. “Especially in a second home market such as Carmel or Pebble Beach, buyers are purchasing a lifestyle. They want to enjoy the home immediately, not spend time managing remodels and contractors. Now, we always stage homes to help buyers envision how they’ll live and enjoy the space from day one.”

Improvement funds can cover more than 100 potential items, from essential upgrades such as sewer lateral replacements or roof repairs to solving logistical challenges such as coordinating the distribution of heirloom furniture across the country.





"We're not trying to do everything. We're focused on eliminating the biggest objections," says Peterson. "By making smart, up-front improvements, we shift the buyer's perception. What once looked like a full renovation becomes a manageable update. Now, they see a bathroom they might remodel later, not the burden of tackling the bathroom, kitchen, and floors all at once."

When the scope expands to kitchen or bathroom remodels, Bambace's eye for design takes center stage. "I love seeing how everything changes with the right finishes and pulling together marble, tile, and fixtures to create something beautiful," she says.

As for what color paint? There's no single answer. "It depends on the home and the design story we're creating," says Bambace.

"Time is the last luxury," says Peterson. "And we're giving it back to both sellers and buyers by delivering a home that's ready to be enjoyed."

For more information visit bambacepeterson.com.



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Vine Whisperer

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Manny Espinoza

You can often find Greg Vita, one of Carmel's most experienced winemakers, with his son, Chris, at one of 12 wineries across Monterey County, the Santa Cruz Mountains, and the Napa Valley. Every year, the duo produce around 200 individual lots of wine, resulting in about 75 different wines. The list includes sparkling wine and rosé, pinot noir, chardonnay, pinot gris, gamay, and syrah.

"Our winemaking philosophy is 'hands off, with minimal manipulation,'" Says Vita. "[We allow] the wines to express the character of the vineyards from which they are sourced."

The result means no direct competition between the wineries because the grapes and terroir of each winery and vineyard are unique. In addition, each label has its own grape source and proprietary blends. Father and son are involved in the entire process, from growing the fruit in the vineyards to turning out the final product. They both studied at the University of California, Davis; Vita earned a B.S. in botany and plant science and his son received a B.S. in viticulture and enology.

Vita grew up in the Mount Shasta area, watching his Italian grandfather make wine in the basement. After graduating from college, he worked for 14 years at Spring Mountain Vineyard in St. Helena.





“I started at Spring Mountain under the tutelage of John Williams, the winemaker at the time,” he says. “He is now the owner and winemaker for Frog’s Leap winery in the Napa Valley.”

During Vita’s tenure at Spring Mountain through the 1980s, the business made wines for Spottwoode, Philip Togni Vineyard, Chimney Rock, and many other small winery start-ups. In 1997, Vita and his wife moved to a ranch on the Carmel coast. His great-grandfather had bought the property around 1910. “It was a great place to raise our sons, and the Monterey County wine industry was expanding at that time,” says Vita.

He is now excited by several new and exciting grape-growing areas in Monterey County, such as the Via Quintana area of Carmel Valley. It is only eight miles from the Pacific Ocean in a cool climate zone. In locations like these, grapes take longer to reach maturity. When the fruit is ripe, it is flavorful, with good color and acidity. It can be used for still and sparkling wines.

Vita says that Monterey County wines are emerging from under the shadow of Napa wines. The County is starting to be discovered for its quality wine and as a wine tourism destination.

In prior decades, local growers were more concerned with quantity. The Vitas are changing the emphasis to improving the farming to get the best quality grapes for a given vineyard sit. “In the end, each wine will reflect the quality of the grapes,” says Vita.



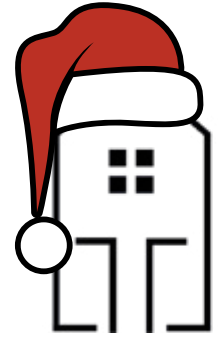
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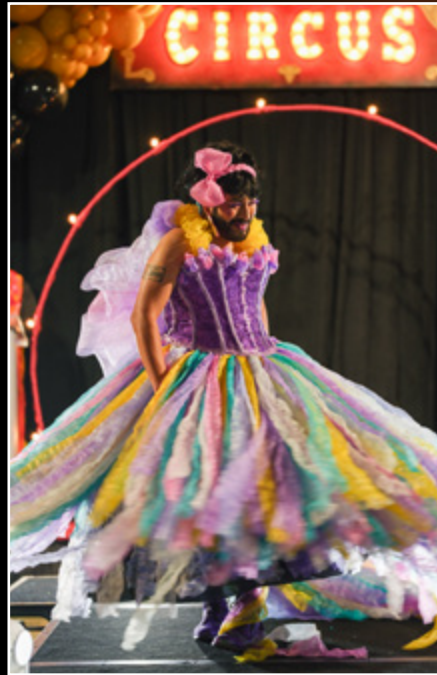
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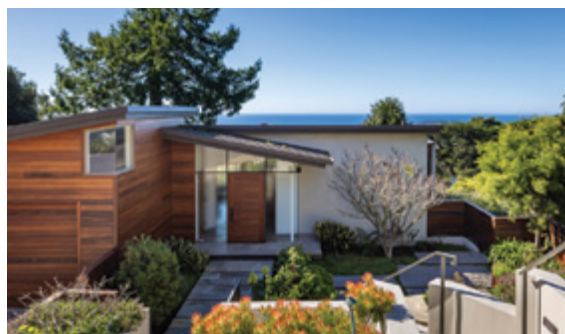
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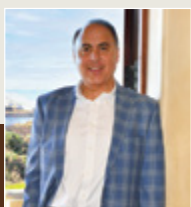
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Comfort Cuisine

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Manny Espinoza

A new comfort food restaurant is on the scene: Nora's, in Carmel-by-the-Sea, offering American and Italian dishes and several family favorites. Standouts include fish and chips made with local rock cod, braised chuck roast with baby potatoes and carrots, and Nora's chili, made with ground lamb, vadouvan curry, and cannellini beans in a rich tomato broth.

Nora's had a soft opening in July and is the latest venture from cousins Loie and Faisal Nimri, two local restaurateurs who have owned or managed numerous fine dining establishments. The list includes Anton & Michel, International Cuisine, Pizza Heaven, Treehouse Café, and Village Corner California Bistro, among others.

"The restaurant is a tribute to Nora, Loie and Faisal's grandmother," says Sarah Alnimri. "They grew up coming to her house for family dinners, where she'd cook for everyone. We share that same warm, welcoming atmosphere." Alnimri, who earned a BA in hospitality and business at Temple University, is married to Loie Nimri and a member of the Nora's team.





Located on San Carlos Street between Ocean Avenue and 7th Street, the restaurant seats up to 200 and expects to serve wine and beer this fall. The Nora's team worked with Carmel interior designer Charles Gruwell on a complete remodel. "We made the space brighter and more colorful, using golds and yellows," says Alnimri. "There's more open space. We have tables out front, alongside greenery, a fountain, and red and yellow tulips."

Many of the ingredients at Nora's are local, from the Dungeness crab caught in Monterey Bay to the artichokes from Castroville. There are several playful dishes, such as the honey peach cheesecake, as well as traditional dishes that have become favorites, including the Sunday meatballs with toasted sourdough. The Nimris worked for months to ensure that most dishes are priced under \$30.

"What's not small is the expectation for customer service," says Alnimri. "Loie and Faisal have owned and managed some of Carmel-by-the-Sea's most well-known fine dining restaurants. Once you set a high bar, it's hard to go back."

A welcoming feature of Nora's is the relaxed atmosphere, which invites celebration. "This restaurant has brought a spark into Faisal and Loie's eyes. They feel so at home," says Alnimri. During the four months of remodeling and preparations, dozens of community members stopped in to share ideas. "Now we're excited to have them back and become part of the experience," she says.

For more information, visit norascarmel.com.



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VETERANS TRANSITION CENTER OF CALIFORNIA

Finding a Path to the Future

By Nora Heston Tarte | Photos Courtesy of VTC

At the Veterans Transition Center of California (VTC), on the grounds of old Ford Ord, the goal is to end veteran homelessness. It's an objective that the organization, which has been serving the area since 1996, hopes to achieve through connection, educational resources, and its adherence to the federal Housing First initiative.

The average veteran that enters VTC takes six to seven months to achieve self-sufficiency. Success is achieved through carefully curated programming and individual service plans that cater to distinct needs while working toward successful reintegration.

"We have all sorts of treatment in house," says VTC's CEO Kurt Schake, including rehab, AA meetings, anger management, and more. The campus is located near the Marina Veteran's Affairs Clinic, where residents can receive treatment within walking distance.

About two-thirds of veterans in the program are chronically homeless and come to VTC through a combination of referrals and self-surrenders. The other third have recently been released from prison and are part of an innovative veterans-only prison yard at Correctional Training Facility Soledad. While most released veterans elsewhere experience a 40 to 50 percent recidivism rate, VTC's program boasts a zero percent rate.





The Housing First philosophy is the VTC's promise to provide living arrangements before veterans have "checked other boxes." For example, many organizations require completion of rehab and a clean and sober 30 days verified by a doctor before entering a housing facility. The VTC supports veterans with housing while they get treatment.

In addition to treatment, residents have access to therapy as well as jobs search assistance with the goal of finding permanent residence as well as a pathway to getting the income needed to support it.

Due to recent expansion, the VTC has the ability to end veteran homelessness in Monterey County. That claim is based on 2024 numbers that suggest that there are 146 homeless veterans in the County and the facility is able to house 192, including up to 70 permanent residents.

One of the biggest contributors to success is a sense of community and connection to other veterans. Richard Hibbard, who entered the program in 2022 after addiction and incarceration, cites the camaraderie and support as great benefits. "People who have been where I've been . . . other people get it," says Hibbard on the Veteran Voices with VTC podcast. "This program gives a lot of people inside hope." The support is available but not stifling. "I was allowed to walk around, but if I fell, someone was there to pick me up and put me back on the right path, and I utilized it," recalls Hibbard.

The VTC campus boasts 16 duplexes, two accessory dwelling units, and a new 70-unit permanent housing complex. All veterans have access to the same care and resources. Through these programs, VTC ensures that no Veteran is left behind.

For more information, visit vtcofcalifornia.org.





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BERNARDUS



An Inspired Life in Carmel Valley

By Betsy Reynard | Photos Courtesy of Bernardus Winery

Jim McCabe's professional journey has taken him from the classroom to the cellar, leading to his role as head winemaker at Bernardus Winery in Carmel Valley. Originally from Massachusetts, McCabe moved to California in 2007 to pursue a Master of Arts in history at Sonoma State University. He and his wife eventually settled in Carmel Valley after she accepted an opportunity in the area.

He was introduced to wine during his time in Sonoma and made the decision to join the 2009 harvest at Bernardus as a temporary break from his academic thesis. That short-term role soon evolved into a new career path after his promotion to production manager, then assistant winemaker, working under the mentorship of Dean DeKorth—Bernardus' longtime winemaker and architect of its winemaking program. The two collaborated closely for a decade, and when DeKorth retired in 2023, McCabe was entrusted with overseeing all winemaking operations. "While Dean is enjoying his retirement, I'm grateful we've stayed in touch—and that his 40 years of experience are just a phone call away," says McCabe.

While always seeking improvement, McCabe has avoided dramatic overhauls to the winery's program. Instead, his focus is on thoughtful refinement—experimenting, making small adjustments, investing in staff development, and remaining open to ideas from the cellar crew, an integral part of the Bernardus team.





Creativity runs throughout the winery and extends to the tasting room staff, whose ideas have sparked events such as the “Pigs n Pinot” celebration and intimate winemaker dinners on the property. McCabe views these experiences as a privilege—the opportunity to connect with those who appreciate Bernardus’ wines and to share the intricate, often challenging process of bringing grapes from vineyard to bottle.

In his spare time, McCabe enjoys crafting guitars. Much like winemaking, it’s a hobby that blends technical skill with creativity, resulting in something he is proud to share with friends and family. Reflecting on what advice he’d give his younger self, he says, “Identify what is actually important to you. Worry and anxiety about things you can’t change, while creating and solving nonexistent problems in your head, is tedious and ultimately not worth much.”

Whether watching the fog roll in over the Santa Lucia Highlands vineyards at sunset, taking in the quiet charm of the cattle ranch where he lives, or standing atop the Bernardus property overlooking the Carmel and Salinas Valleys, McCabe finds constant inspiration in his surroundings. “I have to remind myself how lucky I am to look out my window and see the Santa Lucias rising up from the Carmel Valley,” he says. McCabe’s deep appreciation for the landscape—and the life it allows—serves as a daily reminder of what it means to live with intention and inspiration.

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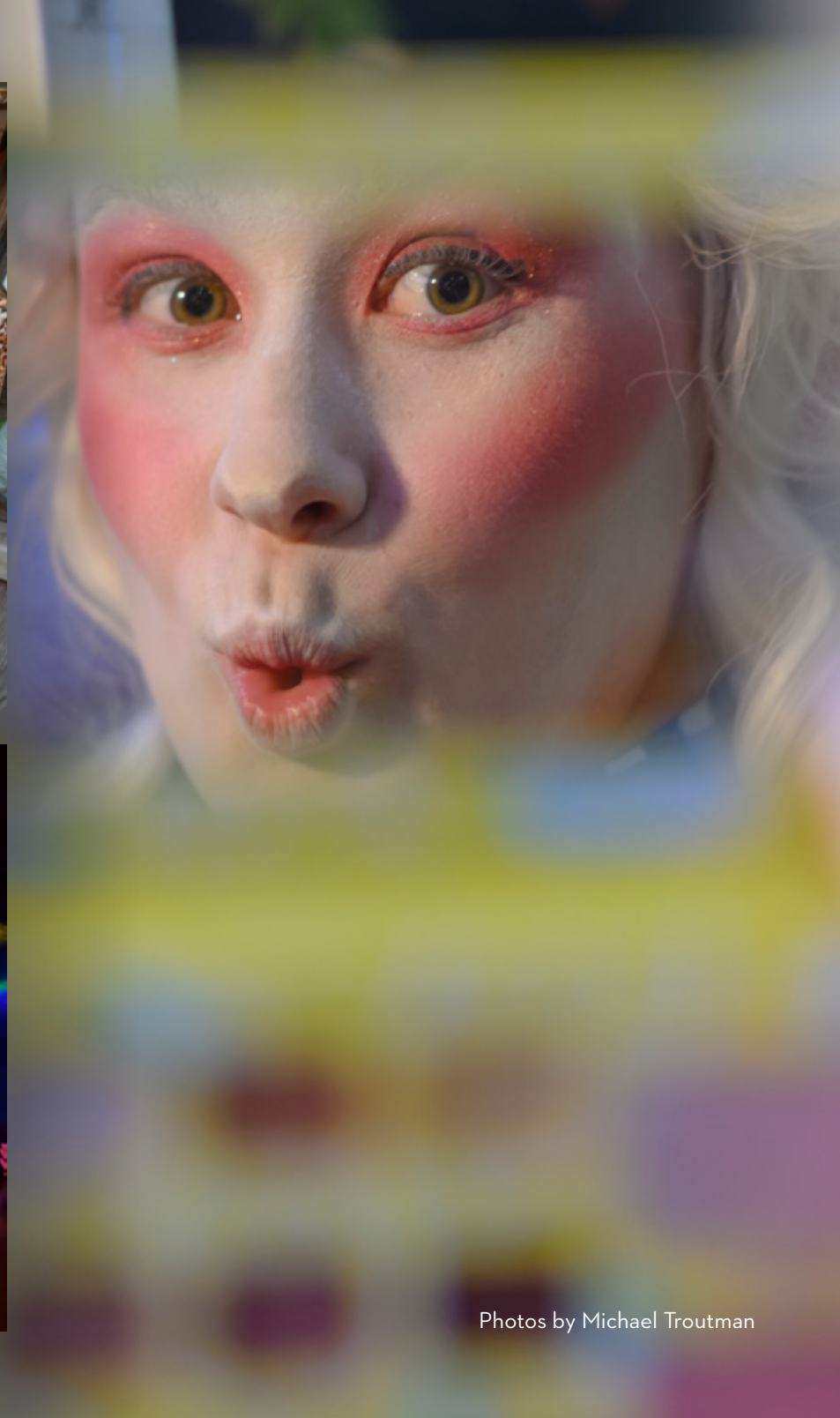
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