



57°

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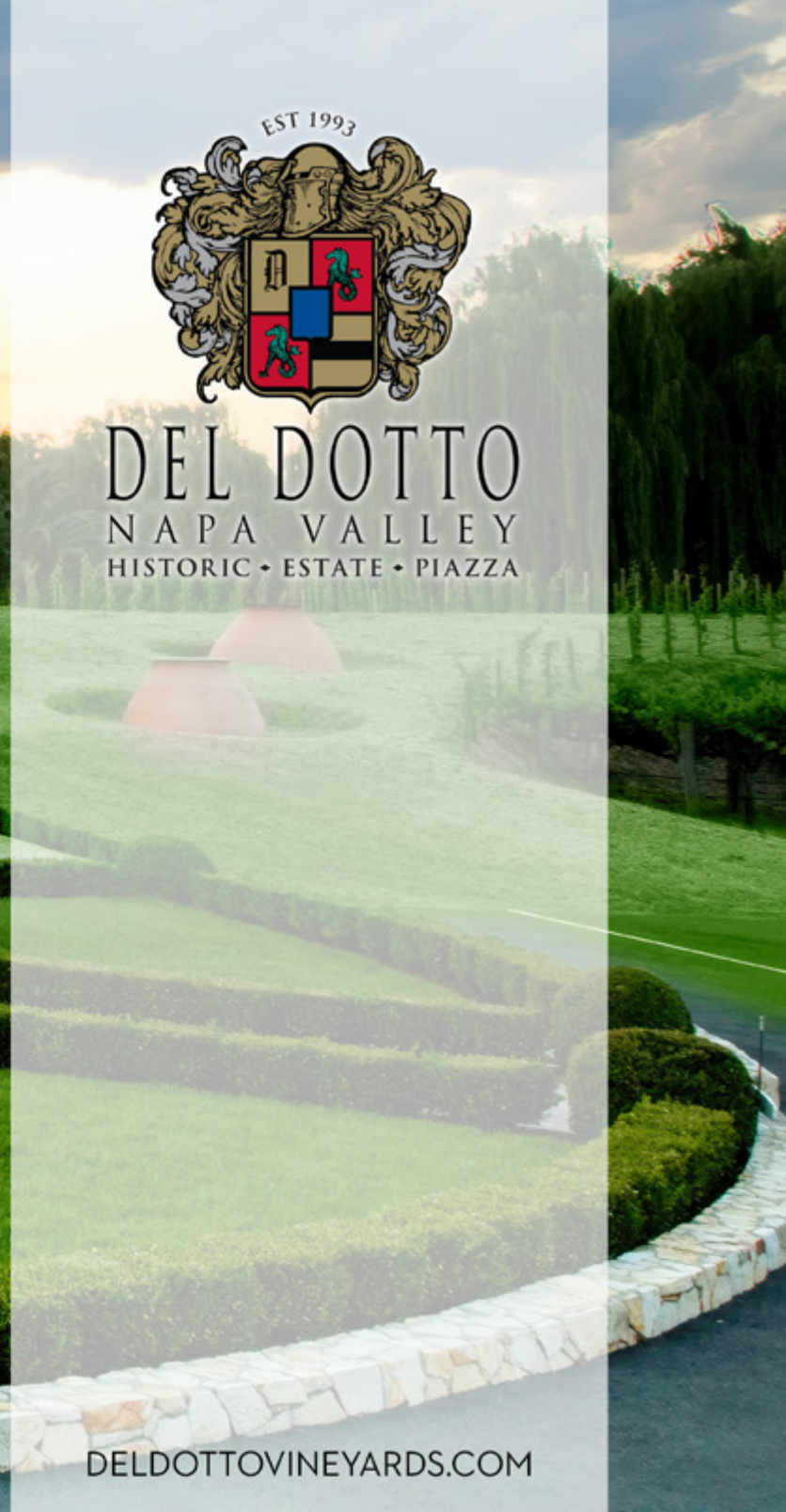




TASTINGS ↑



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57° DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

Vino and Cinema

By Jessica Zimmer

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By Betsy Reynard

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Evolving Tastes from East to West

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel



As we step into a new season along our storied coastline and beyond, there's a distinct sense of celebration in the air. The Monterey Peninsula Foundation marks a remarkable moment honoring both the 18th AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and the milestone of surpassing \$250 million in donations to local nonprofits. It's a testament to what community and commitment can achieve.

That same spirit of joy threads through the world of golf fashion, where Stephen Malbon brings a playful, forward-thinking twist to classic motifs. His namesake brand reminds us that style and sport can dance together.

Culinary festivities are also on the horizon. Pebble Beach Food & Wine 2026 continues its rise with an expanded lineup of celebrity chefs and unforgettable dining experiences, including a new Italian feast at a Michelin-recommended local favorite.

Hospitality shines this season as well. In the heart of Carmel-by-the-Sea, the beloved L'Auberge Carmel offers its refined, European-style embrace, sheltering inside it the extraordinary Aubergine, a 2-Michelin Star restaurant serving a culinary escape worthy of a pause from the everyday. And for those wandering farther afield, Upper House Shanghai in Shanghai, China, extends a tranquil retreat among sleek towers

that blend Chinese and Italian design elements. Within its walls, Sui Tang Li reimagines Shanghai cuisine with playful, contemporary flair, earning its own well-deserved Michelin recognition.

Back home, culture and craft take center stage. Yountville prepares to welcome filmmakers, oenophiles, and curious travelers as the ninth Yountville International Short Film Festival returns, showcasing more than 100 short films across four days. In the vineyards, change is ripening: Jamie Kutch and Kristen Kutch-Green will harvest their first estate-grown chardonnay and pinot noir in fall 2026 from their Sebastopol property, while Caldwell Vineyard continues to embody the innovation and terroir-driven precision that define the Coombsville appellation.

And, as usual, creativity lines these pages. We spotlight Yountville's Steve Rogers Gallery as it transforms into a shimmering "golden wonderland" for the Photo Finale exhibition, alongside plein air artist Marta Collings and photographer Katya Williams, whose lens has captured everything from fashion spreads to Hollywood moments.

Here's to a season rich with imagination, craft, flavor, and forward momentum on our peninsula, across our wine valleys, and beyond.

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

57°

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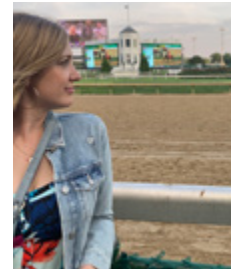
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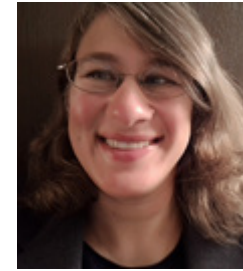
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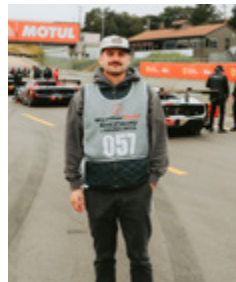


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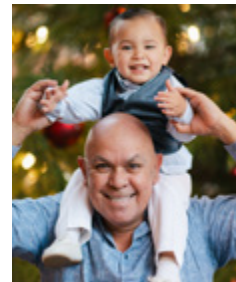
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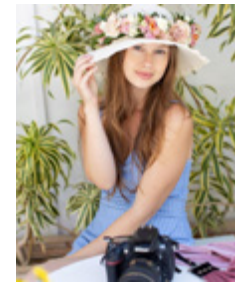
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Napa Valley in Yellow Gold

By Betsy Reynard | Photos Courtesy of Steve Rogers Gallery

Yountville's Steve Rogers Gallery transforms into a golden wonderland from January 22 to March 26, during the Photo Finale photography exhibition. Part of the larger Napa Valley Mustard Celebration, Photo Finale highlights the beauty of the Valley during wild mustard season, when vibrant yellow blooms blanket the area.

Created by Yountville photographer and former gallery owner Michael Schaer, Photo Finale showcases photographers of all ages capturing the magic of mustard season. A former professional sports and commercial photographer, Schaer moved from La Jolla to Yountville in 1990 and quickly became a leader in the town's arts and business scenes. He helped create the Photo Finish, one of five signature events of the original Mustard Festival (1994-2011). Inspired by his first glimpse of Napa Valley's wild mustard bloom, Schaer sought to capture and share its radiant "Kodak Moment." That vision grew into today's Photo Finale, presented by the Yountville Arts Commission.

"Yountville is blooming with creativity," says Yountville Arts Commission Vice Chair Noel Resnick. "Artistry, community, and the beauty of winter await gallery visitors at the Photo Finale exhibition."



Only the first 50 photographs are chosen from the entry pool, and entrants must submit only one photograph that falls into one of three categories: landscape, animal/pet, or innovative. Each photograph is juried by a panel of four professional artists plus Schaer—and is scored on creativity, composition, and how effectively the image captures the spirit of the season. Awards for first, second, and third place and an honorable mention in each category are presented at the opening reception. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite image. The people's choice award, celebrating the community's favorite photograph of the season, is awarded at the closing reception.

Offering a fresh perspective on nature's annual gift to the Napa Valley, Photo Finale invites photographers to interpret the Valley's landscape, residents to see their home through new eyes, and visitors to experience that unique yellow gold.

"Each photograph invites us into a story where golden fields of radiant color come to us through the photographer's lens" says Ronda Schaer, chair of the Yountville Arts Commission. "This season is my personal favorite!" It's a vibrant coming together of art, community, and nature, the opportunity to feel the energy of local creativity, and the beauty that is Napa Valley in yellow gold.

For more information, visit yountvillearts.com.

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POLICY
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Vino and Cinema

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Nicole Marino

Yountville will once again become a hot spot for directors, film aficionados, and wine enthusiasts, as the ninth Yountville International Short Film Festival screens over 100 short films at two locations from January 29 through February 1.

“This is a strong program in an amazing setting for residents and visitors who have a passion for film,” says Bill Hargreaves, the director and cofounder of the festival. “Attendees have a chance to ask questions of actors and directors and enjoy small bites and world-class wines at premiere events. We leave time in-between screenings to enjoy all Yountville has to offer, including restaurants, hotels, and natural surroundings.”

Standout films for the 2026 Festival include *Night Session*, a comedy with Richard Kind in which a burglar unexpectedly runs into a homeowner; *Rise*, about a young boy from Zimbabwe who learns boxing to escape poverty; and *ADO*, which features Jenifer Lewis and blends Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* with the aftermath of a school shooting.



Free Screening | 10am
Dinner at the Yountville Inn | 12pm
And So It Begins | 12pm
Specialty | 12pm
Musicals | 12pm | 3pm



YOUNTVILLE INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

The Barrel Room

Saturday Feb 3rd

World Cinema One | 10am
International / Foreign Language
A Hard DOC's Life | 1:30pm
Documentary Film
World Cinema Two | 4:30pm
International / Foreign Language
9 Wits A Dink & Shanny Night | 8:30pm
Music / Comedy

Sunday Feb 4th

The Barkers of the Ink & Paint Club | 10:30am
Animation / CG / 2D / Mixed Media
What the What?? | 2pm
Documentary Film

YOUNTVILLE INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

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The films are grouped by type, such as documentaries and music-inspired films, into 90-minute blocks. Attendees can expect to see between four and six films in every block. Films will be shown in the Yountville Community Center's Heritage Room, featuring cabaret-style seating and complimentary popcorn, as well as in The Estate Yountville's remodeled Barrel Room.

The VIP events for the festival will feature wines and light bites from local wineries. They include an opening night celebration and events titled Cuvée Cinema, Cabernet Cinema, and Champagne Cinema Screening. Priest Ranch, Handwritten Wines, Jessup Cellars, Goosecross, Silver Trident Winery, Jessup Cellars, and La Cave are among the wineries that will share vintages.

Hargreaves recommends looking at the program ahead of time to get a sense of offerings, which will include family selections, animation, international cinema, and suspense/horror. Guests may buy a regular ticket for an individual block screening, a day pass for all blocks on a particular day, or a VIP all-access pass for the entire festival.

The festival has many returning audience members and is a favorite event of locals. The board of the nonprofit behind the festival spends about 10 months screening and selecting short films. As soon as one festival ends, the team is back to watching and taking notes on new films. "The Yountville International Short Film Festival is your chance to relax and take advantage of that effort, as you enjoy Yountville in a quiet, more open season," says Hargreaves.

For more information, visit www.yisff.com.

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Home in the Sky

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Michael Weber

At Upper House Shanghai, visitors can enjoy a secluded, relaxed stay in modern towers that pair Chinese and Italian architecture while being surrounded by fine art and wellness amenities. Choices include a 24-hour gym, yoga studio, 25-meter heated pool, and the Xi Mun Spa. Upper House Shanghai is located along Nanjing West Road in the heart of the Jing'an district in Shanghai, China, and is surrounded by culture, dining, and design.

“Yet the moment you step inside, the atmosphere shifts. There is a sense of quiet sophistication that immediately puts you at ease,” says Olivier Dumonceaux, general manager for Upper House Shanghai. “Italian designer Piero Lissoni led the design. His approach was all about balance—clean lines, subtle textures, and materials that feel authentic.”

Service is a top priority for hotel staff. “Our team is intuitive and personal,” says Dumonceaux. “We remember preferences, anticipate needs, and try to connect with each guest on a human level.”





Upper House Shanghai creates a natural border at its entrance, which is hidden behind a forest of bamboo. Inside, guests encounter eclectic, elegant art with Chinese elements. The hotel's rooms are expansive, with perks such as a walk-in wardrobe, rain shower, and floor-to-ceiling windows. Upper House Shanghai is composed of two towers, and guests can choose between residences, suites, and penthouses for short or long-term visits. In studios, guests enjoy the "Mr. Goodnight" feature, in which a pull of one tassel turns off all the lights. Larger studios offer a separate living area with refined modern furniture.

Mi Xun Spa provides numerous massage treatments that contain elements of Japanese shiatsu and Swedish massage. The hotel offers room service and contains two restaurants, Café Gray Deluxe and Sui Tang Li. There is also Sui Tang Shang, a secret cocktail lounge.



Guests who want to explore Shanghai benefit from the "House Locals" program. "Rather than a standard concierge list, these experiences are guided by our team members themselves, who act as your insiders in the city," says Dumonceaux. "They share their personal passions and knowledge. They take guests beyond the landmarks to connect with the authentic pulse and hidden gems of Shanghai."

Dumonceaux adds that the core mission of the Upper House brand is to establish "houses not hotels." This principle explains how guests find tranquility. "When people ask what makes Upper House Shanghai special, I always tell them it's how we reflect the rhythm of the city—that balance of creativity and calm," says Dumonceaux.

For more information, visit upperhouse.com/en/shanghai.





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Triple Delight

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos Courtesy of Sui Tang Li

While visiting Shanghai, guests can explore harmonious, playful twists on Shanghai cuisine through a visit to Sui Tang Li, a contemporary, Michelin-selected restaurant at Upper House Shanghai. Chef de Cuisine Tony Ye seeks to form an inventive menu, curating a deliciously personal collection of flavors, textures, and stories from his diverse encounters and travels. “For me, cooking is both discipline and improvisation, a balance between precision and freedom,” says Ye.

Notable dishes for winter 2026 include the Iberia ham xiao long bao (an East-meets-West creation), Song-style preserved blue lobster inspired by traditional preservation methods, braised beef short rib that is slow-cooked for depth of flavor, and the whimsical jumping egg, a dessert with white chocolate and mango puree. Sui Tang Li is widely recognized as one of Shanghai’s top spots for dim sum, which it offers at lunch. “The seasonal dishes will evolve with the market, reflecting what’s freshest and most inspiring at the time,” says Ye.

Other dishes on the menu include the crisp caramelized shrimp with green onion and double-boiled matsutake soup with tofu and a base of a nourishing, earthy broth. Sui Tang Li’s beverage menu offers cocktails, European and Chinese wines, and teas organized by the Chinese Five Elements.

Sui Tang Li welcomes celebrations and has the capacity to host small and large gatherings. Ye oversees a dedicated team of 20 culinary professionals in the kitchen and 16 service staff on the floor. “We can accommodate 60 guests across our dining space,” says Ye. “Sui Tang Li is an ideal venue for private parties, group events, cocktail receptions, and seated dinners.”

The restaurant consists of several spacious rooms that are separated by large dividing elements. The comfortable seating arrangements range from small tables to banquettes. Sui Tang Li’s decor features traditional motifs that pay tribute to the strength and beauty of Chinese design and lifestyle. “Acoustic and domed ceilings with metallic accents and Murano glass lighting create a warm, moody glow,” says Ye. “Organic shapes and intricate joinery foster intimacy. The result is a setting that feels both contemporary and timeless.”

One thing Ye wants guests to know about Sui Tang Li is that the menu is dynamic. “I frequently journey across China to immerse myself in local food cultures,” he says. “These experiences are the direct inspiration behind our ever-evolving seasonal menus, ensuring that the stories and flavors of distant regions are brought to life here at Sui Tang Li.”

For more information, visit www.upperhouse.com/en/shanghai/restaurants-and-bars/sui-tang-li.







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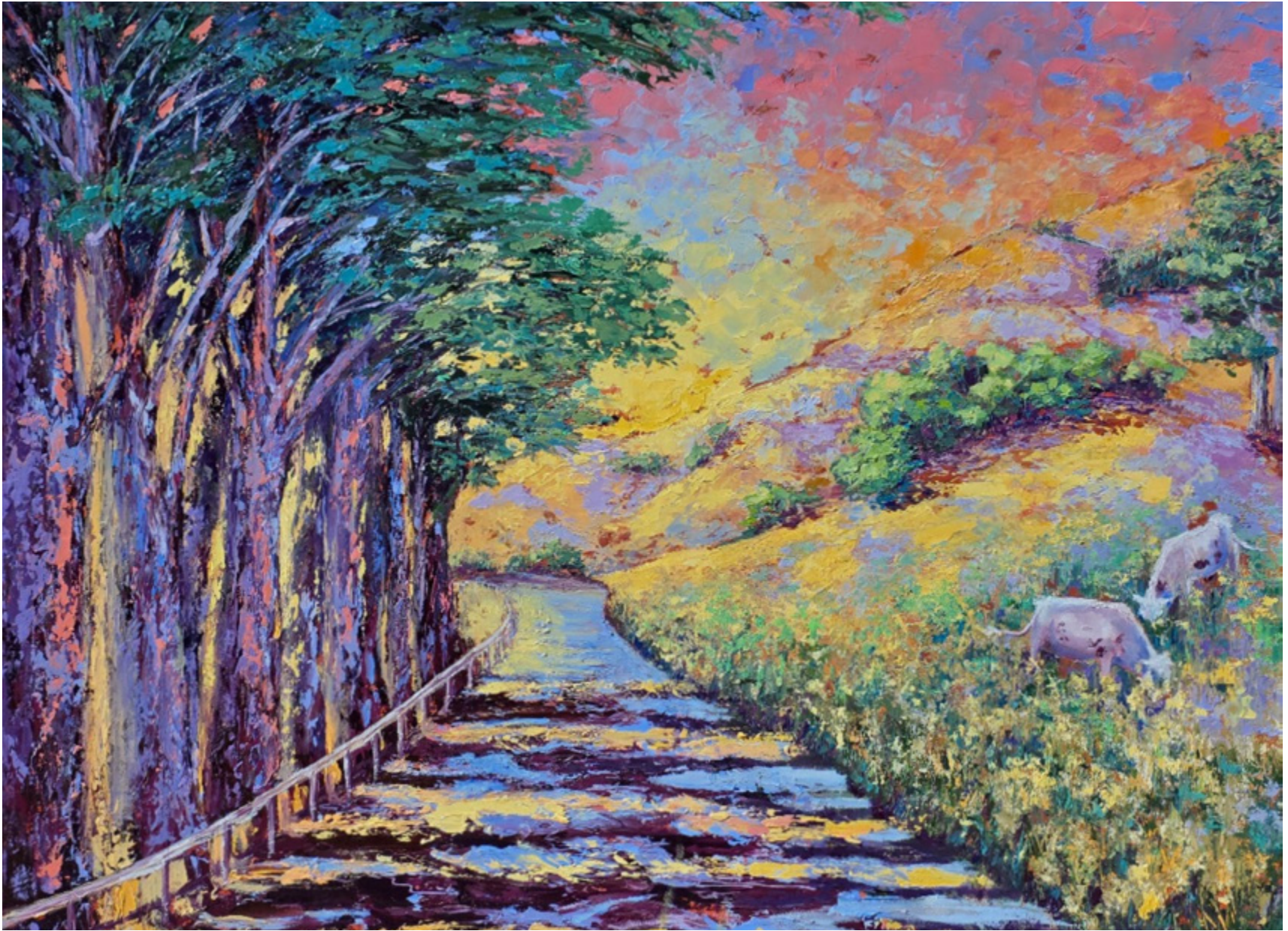
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For People Who Love Color

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Marta Collings

Art has always been on Marta Collings' mind. She studied the subject at San José State University and California State University, Chico, but set aside her passion to raise her children. "But it was always in my heart," she says. "I'd dreamed of being an artist since I was a little kid, so when my children became more independent, I returned to it."

That was more than 30 years ago, and Collings continues to paint Impressionism-style pieces that are full of color. "I love color, and I tend to exaggerate it on some of my works," she says. "I want someone to look at my painting and say, 'Wow!' Not everyone is going to like it because not everyone likes color, but my paintings are for people who do."

When Collings first returned to art, she painted with watercolors, but once she started showcasing at various galleries, she switched to oils. "I started using a palette knife, and it gave me freedom because I didn't get stuck on details," she says.





Her work can be found at Collings & Légère Art Gallery, which she co-owns with artist Thérèse Légère in Calistoga, at Studio Kokomo in Calistoga, and at Jessel Gallery in Napa. She'll be one of the juried artists featured at this year's Yountville Art, Sip & Stroll. "It's a high-quality show and a fun day in late spring," she says. "We always have a lot of musicians, artists, food, and wine. My paintings always do well there."

Collings loves painting landscapes, but not only landscapes—lately she's been painting birds, flowers, and the ocean. "I'm fascinated by the way some of the birds take off, and how their wings are shaped," she says. "I recently painted a hummingbird, and I couldn't see the wings because they looked like a blur. I try to emulate that in a painting."

Movement inspires her, as does lighting. "I like to observe the shadows and the way reflections work with the light," she says. "I'm constantly trying to observe and visualize while also looking at the negative space. For instance, the space in between the leaves of a tree. Or the sky around a palm tree. There are yellows, oranges, and purples because of the way the sky reflects off the tree. I find that interesting."

For more information, visit martacollingsart.com.



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Evolving Tastes from East to West

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos Courtesy of Kutch Wines

Kutch Wines have gained a following across Europe and the United States for their crisp, clean taste, and for offering single-vineyard chardonnays and pinot noirs in addition to entry-level blends from vineyards between Mendocino County and Santa Cruz.

In fall 2026, co-owners Jamie Kutch and Kristen Kutch-Green will welcome their first estate crop of chardonnay and pinot noir grapes from their 12-acre Sebastopol vineyard. They will also celebrate the winery's twentieth anniversary, increase annual production to 12,000 cases, and open an on-site tasting room for appointment-only visits.

The changes mark a new chapter for Kutch Wines. Yet the winery has stayed the same in terms of its commitment to the natural environment. Since 2005, the year that they founded the winery, Kutch and Kutch-Green have purchased grapes from family vineyards that engage in sustainable, eco-friendly practices, including vermiculture, planting pollinator gardens to support native bees, and donating Gravenstein apple trees to local schools.





Kutch, who is the business's winemaker, says that newcomers to Kutch Wines should expect an Old-World style that is not heavily influenced by "oak and butter." "Our chardonnays are bright and minerally," he says. "Our pinot noirs are versatile and highly different between sites. We pick some as early as August to retain high acidity."

Kutch Winery's link to the Napa Valley is its close involvement with local restaurants, including Solbar in Calistoga. "We also first learned about Northern California wine country in the Napa Valley and Sonoma over 20 years ago," says Kutch-Green.

The couple, who hail from Long Island, New York, recall Kutch's initial interest that led them to the North Bay. "I worked as a Wall Street trader at Merrill Lynch, with three to four screens in front of me," says Kutch. "During lunch, I'd surf the web, reading about different wines and spending time on wine chat boards."

After their first trip to the Napa Valley, Kutch sent an email to Michael Browne, cofounder of Kosta Browne Winery in Sebastopol. "I said, 'You're living my dream.' He wrote back, 'Come out. Maybe I can help you get started.'"

The first vintage was six barrels. "I helped make wine at Kosta Browne my entire first year in California," says Kutch. "I picked out and purchased six barrels from him, which became the first wines on our label."

Today, Kutch Wines sources from multiple vineyards along the Sonoma Coast, which stays cool under a thick marine layer in the mornings. "We're so glad to be opening our doors in Sonoma County. We're excited to showcase the apples, flowers, and wines we'll produce within walking distance of our home," says Kutch.



www.shaktihimalaya.com



SHAKTI

Beyond the Vines

By Betsy Reynard



Winter in Napa Valley brings a slower rhythm and creative ways to experience Wine Country beyond the vines. From culinary celebrations to community gatherings and culture, there are countless ways to savor Napa in its offseason.

Food lovers should mark their calendars for the Napa Truffle Festival, a three-day indulgence each January celebrating one of the world's most coveted delicacies. Sip Champagne with truffle dishes, cuddle with truffle-hunting dogs, browse the truffle marketplace at Oxbow Public Market, and enjoy curated lunches, dinners, and immersive experiences. With Joseph Phelps Vineyards set as the 2026 winery host, this celebration promises to delight.

After five years of planning and collaboration, Calistoga's Brannan Center has officially opened its doors. Located in the historic Community Presbyterian Church, known to Calistogans as the Green Church, the Brannan Center is dedicated to empowering the community through creativity, connection, and learning. The community-owned nonprofit offers diverse programming for all ages, from language and exercise classes to comedy nights and performances across multiple artistic genres.

Napa Valley is also buzzing with brainy fun as trivia nights take the Valley by storm. There is ample opportunity to test wits at wine country icons Merryvale Vineyards or Charles Krug

Winery or by gathering the team for craft beer and cocktails at Erosion Tap House, The Fink, or Barnhouse Napa Brews. With prizes, laughs, and a healthy dose of friendly rivalry, trivia nights are becoming one of the area's favorite ways to unwind, mingle, and show off a little knowledge.

In the morning, stop by Capo29's pop-up in St. Helena for fresh bakery items at its Back Door Bakery, where a portion of proceeds supports Hands Across The Valley. Return there later for happy hour and stay for dinner as the sun sets over the vines. Created by the owners of Capo in Santa Monica, the restaurant is a blend of California and Italian cuisines, and the pop-up is a preview of the restaurant's permanent digs that are taking shape nearby.

In Yountville, dine alfresco beneath olive trees at Clementine while sharing small plates, crisp flatbreads, and house-made gelato. Order a customizable tower of spritzes, mules, or seasonal cocktails for a colorful, shareable centerpiece that's as photogenic as it is refreshing. Diners shouldn't forget to send postcards featuring whimsical illustrations by Julie King Studio—Clementine takes care of postage, ensuring that their souvenirs make the journey to friends and family.

Slow down, settle in, and discover why Napa shines every season.



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yellow mustard and the artists who capture them.



yountvillearts.com









No Holds Barred in Napa

By Sarah Gillihan | Photos by Suzanne Becker Bronk

Set 600 feet above the Napa Valley's floor in the southernmost Coombsville appellation, Caldwell Vineyard captures the spirit of innovation and the terroir-driven precision that defines the world's most compelling estates. Stories of volcanic soils, marine influence, and relentless experimentation come through in its collector-worthy wines.

Caldwell Vineyard is situated in an ancient volcanic caldera and enjoys a unique topography that funnels cool marine breezes from nearby San Pablo Bay. The natural air flow creates one of Napa Valley's longest growing seasons, allowing grapes to ripen slowly and evenly, developing layered flavors while preserving vibrant acidity. Beneath the ground's surface, volcanic tuff and ash soil provide superb drainage and mineral intensity, resulting in fruit with complex structures shaped by the land itself.

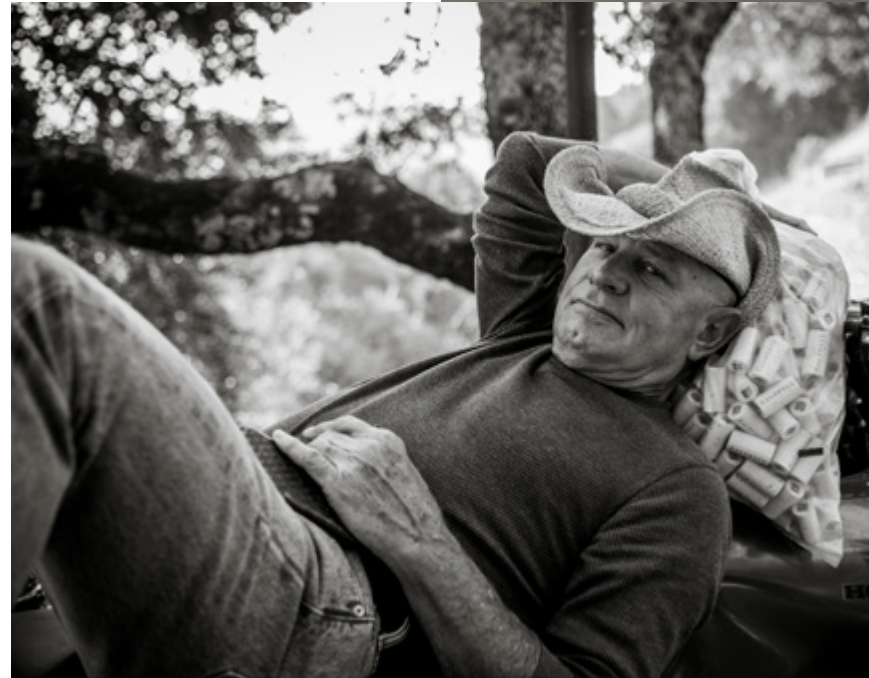
The driving human force behind the vineyard is Napa Valley maverick John Caldwell, whose decades-long obsession with clonal experimentation and no-holds-barred approach have long set him apart in the world of Napa Valley viticulture. In the 1980s, Mr. Caldwell's now famous brush with the law over imported cuttings and his pioneering work in propagating French clones shaped the trajectory of modern American winemaking.

Today, of the estate's 123 acres, 65 are planted to an extraordinary range of 11 grape varieties and more than 32 clones, making Caldwell Vineyard among Napa's most diversified properties. Classic bordeaux varieties share space with more unexpected plantings such as marselan, tannat, and carménère. The winery produces a signature collection expressing the best fruit of the vintage as well as a portfolio of varietal wines that demonstrate a single clone or varietal character.

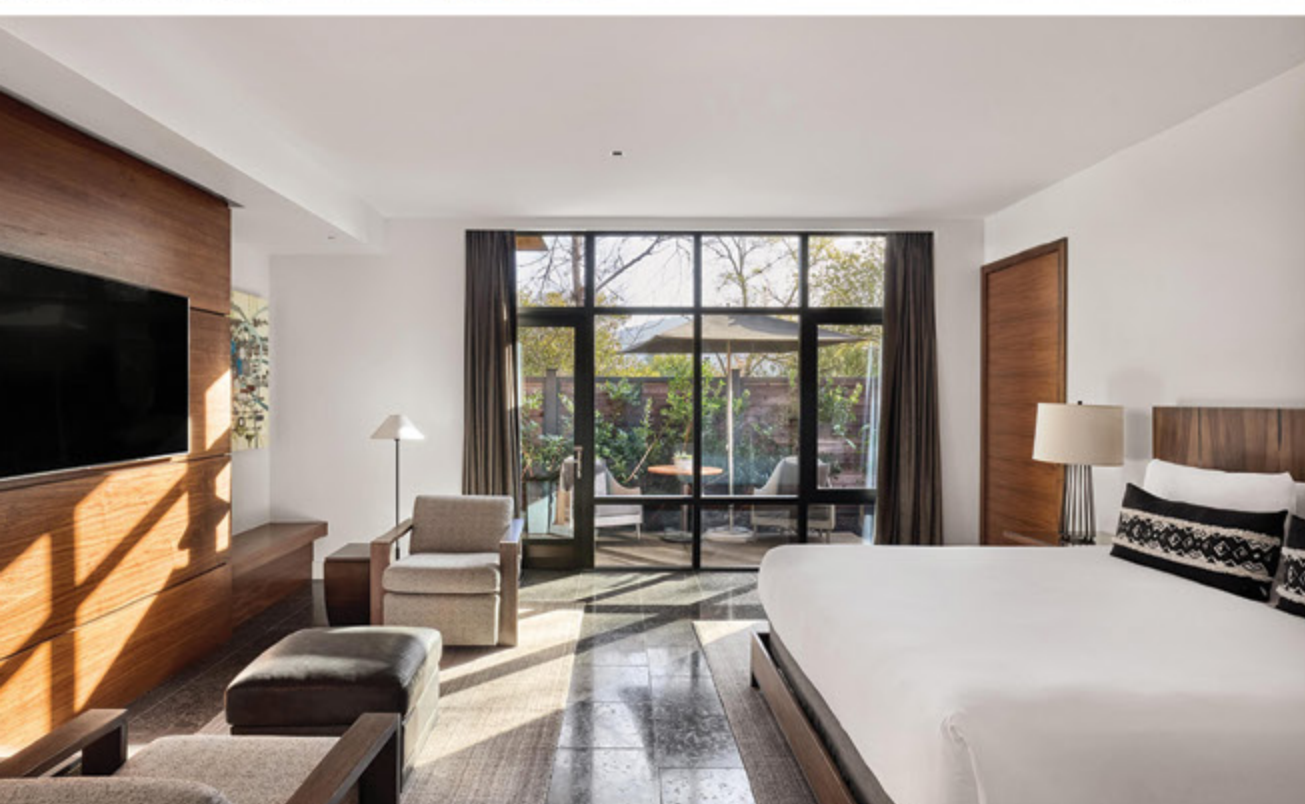
At Caldwell Vineyard, the insistence on craftsmanship extends to every stage of production. Farmed by a full-time team, each block is matched to the slope, exposure, and soil composition, resulting in wines that speak of both place and intent. The estate's in-house cooperage and the skillful craftsmanship of Marc Gagnon (formerly of Screaming Eagle and Bryant Estate) bring additional layers of control and refinement. Caldwell red wines are marked by depth of fruit and soft tannins, while the whites underscore the estate's cool-climate credentials with fresh acidity.

The estate hosts tastings by appointment seven days a week in the winery's 20,000-square-foot cave, which is carved deep into solid rock beneath the vineyard, allowing visitors to experience the property's terroir up close. Each visit shows how craft converges with geology and an owner's uncompromising vision.

For more information, visit caldwellvineyard.com.







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Photos by Joanna Salazar



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~Henry David Thoreau







After You, Please!

Photos Courtesy of My Yacht Group

The annual yacht extravaganza descended upon Port Hercules, Monaco, with more than 150 super-, mega-, and gigayachts on display, both inside the harbor and out at anchor. Estimates put the value of all the hardware on show in excess of \$5 billion, and there was no shortage of impressive vessels to explore.

One of the most stylish seen by My Yacht® Group was the stunning 180 ft/55 m Heesen M/Y AFTER YOU, on display with TWW Yachts. An evening reception aboard showcased the impeccably refitted tri-deck yacht that's currently for sale for \$38 million. The soiree was heralded as the most fun and sophisticated event of the four-day show, according to a score of superyacht owners and longtime Monaco residents that included TV personality and artist Victoria Silvstedt and former Formula 1 and 24 Hours of Le Mans driver Theiryry Boutsen.

The largest full custom semi-displacement yacht ever built by Heesen, the Dutch shipyard that's launched over 200 vessels since 1978, AFTER YOU boasts an exceptional volume of just under 800 gross ton. Originally built in 2011, it underwent a full refit in 2022. Her Omega Architects exterior design now features a vibrant blue hull, and the reimagined Ken Freivokh interior, replete with natural hues and rich textures, is by award-winning British designer Mark Berryman.





M/Y AFTER YOU

Heesen

2011/2022

LOA: 180 ft/55 m

Beam: 31ft/9.4 m

GT: 781

Guests: 12

Cabins: 6/7

Crew: 13

For sale: \$38,000,000

For charter: From \$350,000+ p/w

Floor-to-ceiling windows flood spaces with light and offer unsurpassed views. A glass elevator and accompanying spiral staircase connect all the decks. The main saloon features a stylish indoor bar, and the bridge deck includes a large outdoor bar, including retractable glass doors that create the perfect setting for indoor/outdoor dining, with accompaniment from the player piano.

A main deck pool with waterfall feature comfortably seats 10 guests, and a journey to the sundeck reveals a full wellness oasis: gym, Jacuzzi®, hammam, sauna, and massage room. There is another outdoor bar for those post-workout smoothies . . . or whatever tipples one desires!

Heading down to water level, the foldout beach club offers a plethora of toys from which to choose, including an inflatable pontoon extension with climbing frame and slide.

After a full day of yachting, guests can enjoy their evenings in the staterooms, which offer luxurious accommodations for up to 12. A main deck full beam owner's suite features balconies on both port and starboard, a spacious lounge, and a dressing area. The VIP suite, also full beam, can be converted into two double cabins for any owner looking for versatility, and the other four cabins are equally sumptuous and serene.

With no shortage of boats currently on the market, as witnessed in Monaco this past September, quantity does not equal quality. Here, though, the thoughtful refit, huge volume, vast amenities, and tasteful finishes combine to create a standout yacht.

For more information, visit myyachtgroup.com.



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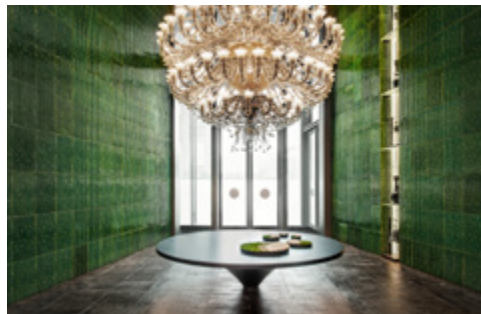
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Coupling Tranquility with Comfort

By Rebekah Moan

Photos Courtesy of Carmel Realty Company

Carmel Realty Company's "Ikeniwa" property, designed by homeowner Emily Yang Bauer, opens a new era for Carmel-loving visitors. Its name means "a pond garden" in Japanese, and the home draws inspiration from historic Asian gardens and the architectural legacy of I. M. Pei. Blending cultural depth with modern sophistication, a tranquil nature retreat has been created.

At the heart of Ikeniwa is a serene pond, which is the focal point of a traditional Japanese stroll garden. The landscape evokes mythical islands and miniature worlds while strategically framing distant mountains through the technique of "borrowed scenery" to blur its own boundaries.

Both the main house's lower level and the guest house are arranged to hug the pond. The experience culminates in the primary bedroom, where a sliding door disappears into the wall, revealing an *engawa* veranda. The wooden perch acts as a dedicated tea space, inviting quiet moments of reflection over the ever-changing view.

Yang Bauer partnered with Andrew Goodwin Designs and Hare Construction in completing the home. Approximately 2,600 square feet in size, Ikeniwa includes a main house, guest house, and





garage, and features four bedrooms—two with king-size beds, one with a queen, and one with a full-size. The three bathrooms are outfitted with Waterworks bath hardware and Toto Washlet™ toilets. The guest house has a bedroom, bathroom, and full living room with a kitchen. The guest house's kitchen has Italian marble countertops and appliances from Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Miele, matching the main house's kitchen.

"Ikeniwa really opens a new era for alternative and more modernized design to the traditional cottages in Carmel," says Yang Bauer. The original home was a 1,100-square-foot, one-story, ranch-style home built in the 1960s. The rebuild is completely different but still appropriate for Carmel-by-the-Sea. "I have a conviction to design/build for the future and learn from the past, which I believe this artistic community would support in the long run," she says.

The home is designed as a calming, airy refuge because, in addition to its high-quality custom touches, the estate's stately Japanese maples and cherry trees, tranquil pond, and expansive ocean-view terraces create an idyllic setting for gatherings with friends and family. "We've had gatherings with local friends and neighbors at sunset. They were unforgettable evenings, with laughter, good wine, and delicious food," says Yang Bauer. "The layout allows guests to be comfortably spread out throughout the property while still feeling connected."

For more information, visit carmelrealtycompany.com/vacation-ikenywa-2923.htm.

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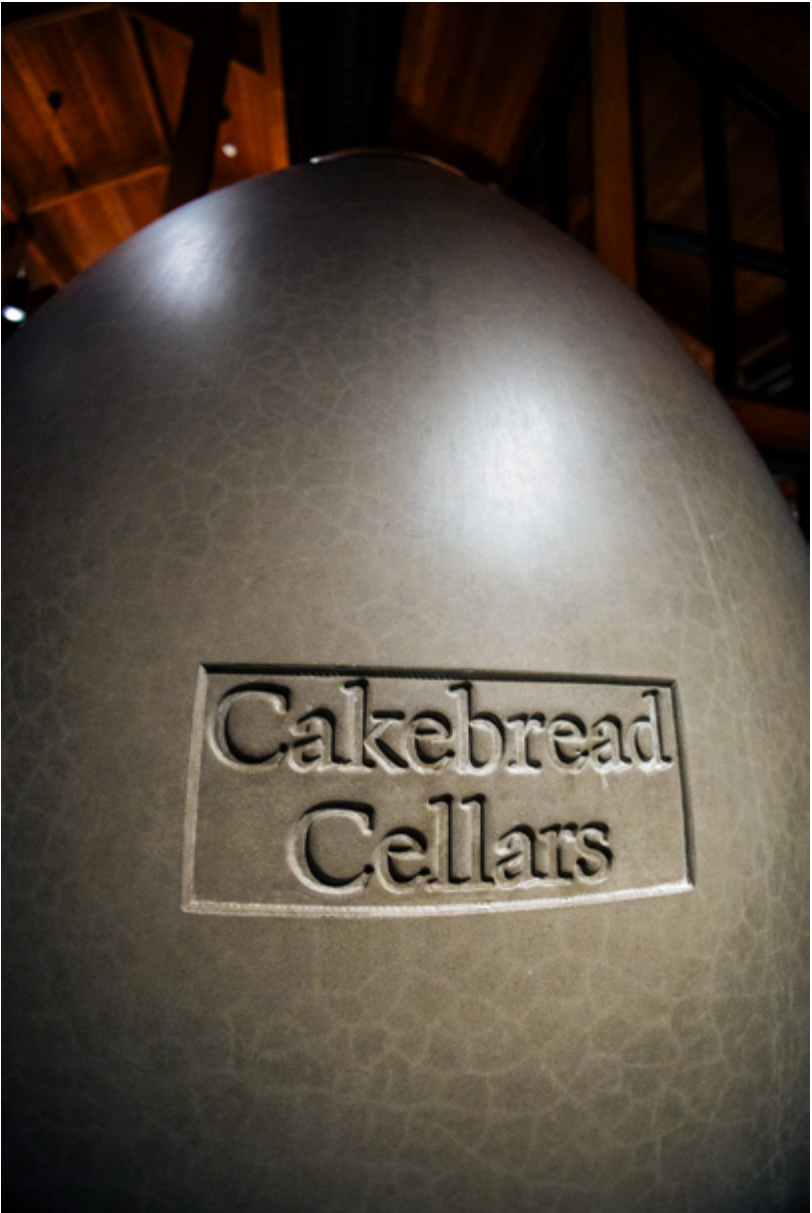
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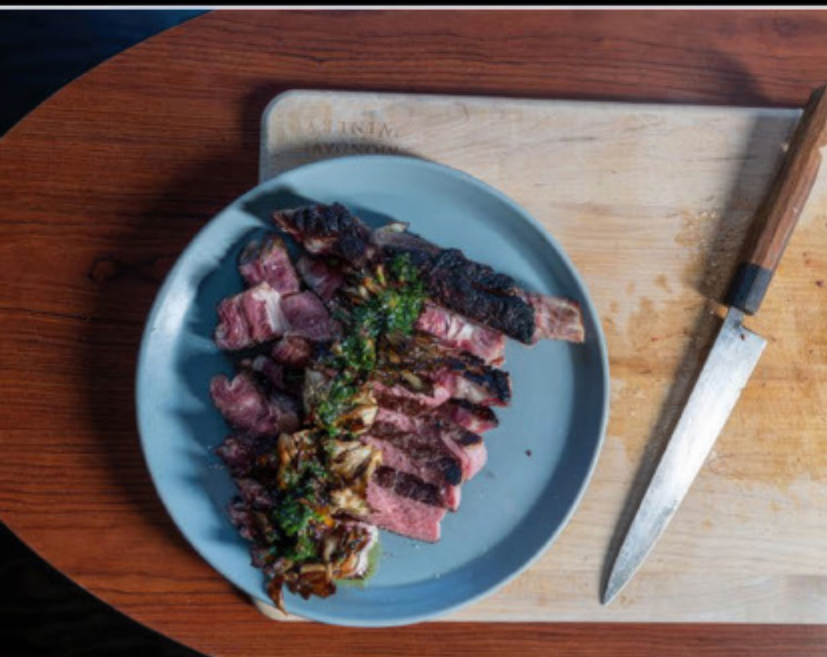


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Photos by Alexander Rubin







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KATYA WILLIAMS



Weddings, Hollywood and Carmel

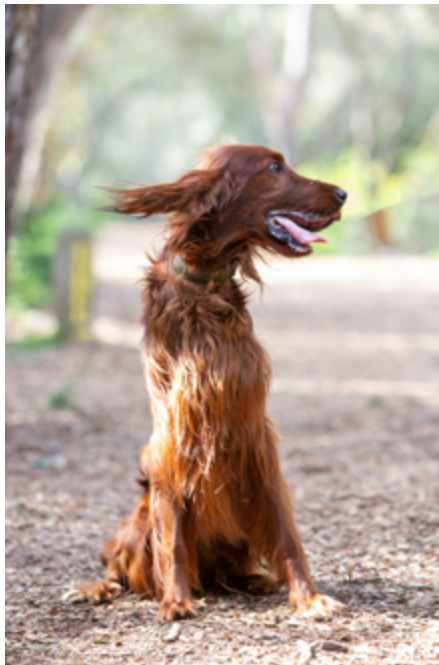
By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Katya Williams


Katya Williams, a photographer with an eye for style and emotion, has moved to Carmel-by-the-Sea from Southern California and become a cameraperson of choice for weddings, special events, and portraits. Williams has experience shooting for fashion magazines and Hollywood events. She is skilled at listening to her subjects and finding natural scenery, such as coastlines, that suit life-changing moments.

“One thing . . . about me is that I’m very present and tuned in to people’s moods,” says Williams. “I understand how to work with subjects who’re nervous by giving them time and space to get ready. I stay relaxed and share different ideas about how to compose pictures.”

Williams usually plans out how she engages in creative shooting—photos taken separately from a wedding ceremony and celebration. “We talk about where to go, and I describe different locations,” she says. “Then we go on trips before or after the big day. This way, people are calm, and we can take special pictures like sunset photos.”

Williams is a self-taught photographer who comes from a family of artists. Her father, Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Belogradov, was an architect who stocked the family home with books about artworks. Her grandfather, Mikhail Fedorovich Belogradov, whom she called “Grandpa Misha,” was a painter. Many of his pictures were displayed in Williams’ childhood home.





“I studied mechanical engineering when I attended university in Ukraine but always had conversations with my father about light and how it shapes images,” she says. “I came to the U.S. in 1992, just before getting married to my husband.”

In 2004, Williams spoke with the photographer at the wedding of one of her husband’s friends. This sparked her interest in the craft. She began tagging along as an assistant. Within three years, Williams founded her own studio. Her gigs included shooting fashion magazine covers and photographing reality TV stars, including Renee Strauss from Brides of Beverly Hills and the cast of The Real Housewives of Orange County.

In 2019, Williams and her husband moved to Carmel-by-the-Sea to be closer to their two children, who had moved to the Bay Area.

“I love taking pictures here,” she says. “When I’m not working, I explore and discover the paradise of backgrounds.” She also enjoys the uplifted, interconnected spirit of the region. “I’ve found that people here look to help one another. I welcome being part of this cozy community.”

For more information, visit katyawilliams.com or katyawilliamsbridal.com.







Sink Your Teeth into This

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Manny Espinoza & PBFW

Pebble Beach Food & Wine 2026 is building on its own momentum this year with more celebrity chefs and memorable meals, including a new Italian dinner at a Michelin-recommended restaurant.

“Attendees can expect a full four-day immersion into the nation’s preeminent food and wine festival,” says Bryan Anthony, vice president of food and beverage at the Pebble Beach Company. “[The event] intersects award-winning winemakers, distilleries, and top culinary talent.”

In 2024, the Pebble Beach Company Foundation resurrected this popular event after a five-year hiatus. It has contributed more than \$20 million to community causes and helps 10,000 students annually. Pebble Beach Food & Wine also partners with The Roots Fund, a nonprofit empowering minorities in the wine and spirits industry, to oversee the event’s 45 sommeliers.

Pebble Beach Food & Wine 2026 opens with a reception at The Inn at Spanish Bay. Then, three days of events (including some chef-powered rounds of golf) sprawl across the legendary grounds of the Pebble Beach Company. Household names such as Chefs Geoffery Zakarian, Marc Murphy, and Antonia Lofaso are expected to attend the festival, which is held from April 9 to 12.



“Pebble Beach is synonymous with stunning scenery and is also in close proximity to world-class produce, fisheries, and wine,” says Anthony. “This event is rooted in bringing together all of these elements for an unparalleled experience in the world of food and wine.”

The focus is on one-of-one culinary experiences. “Our blend of fine dining, elegant wines, and access to the talent behind them is something our audience really sinks their teeth into,” says Anthony. “It is not uncommon for ticketholders to be in the lobby of [The Inn at] Spanish Bay next to [Chefs] Andrew Zimmern and Nancy Silverton, sparking up friendly conversation.”

Guests will feast on meals of all kinds, from seated lunches to happy-hour events, and lively walk-around and intimate seated dinners. New this year is Red Sauce, an Italian dinner at Pèppoli in Pebble Beach, featuring some of the nation’s top chefs.

The Tasting Pavilion commands 85,000 square feet, with 100 chefs and 150 wine and spirit suppliers inside—and there is a discounted rate for locals who attend. There’s brain food too, as Pebble Beach Food & Wine 2026 boasts seminars with sought-after wine and spirits, such as Louis XII Cognac and The Art of Champagne by Moët Hennessy.

“The beauty of this event is that first timers and connoisseurs alike will have an unforgettable experience,” says Anthony.

For more information, visit pebblebeachfoodandwine.com.





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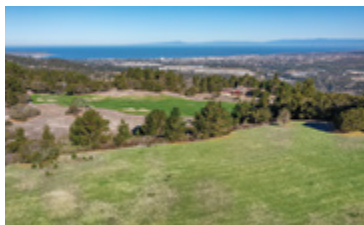


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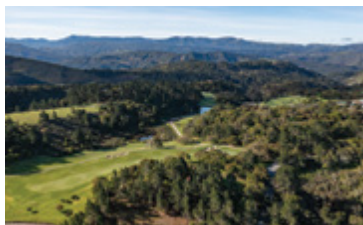
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Downtown Indulgence

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Manny Espinoza

L'Auberge Carmel, a historic hotel in the heart of Carmel-by-the-Sea, is a sophisticated, enclosed European-style establishment with numerous amenities, personalized guest services, and dining experiences at Aubergine, the hotel's two-star Michelin restaurant. Aubergine's Chef, Justin Cogley, and Janet Elarmo, who are partners in business and life, co-own and manage the sunny 20-room property.

"We designed the hotel to feel like a hidden gem within the charm of Carmel-by-the-Sea," says Elarmo. "It's about privacy, intimacy, and quiet luxury—the kind of place that invites you to slow down, breathe, and feel truly at home."

L'Auberge Carmel is located at Monte Verde and Seventh, just blocks from Carmel Beach. Each guest room has a separate entrance.

Most rooms contain four poster, tufted beds, enlarged bath areas with walk-in showers, and peek-of-the-ocean or courtyard views. The rooms are decorated in original antiques from all over the world that date to the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries.

Staff are present to offer recommendations for activities, local destinations, and restaurants. They are also skilled at booking restaurant reservations and ordering extras, such as flower arrangements.

"Nearly all of our team members are local, people who know our town not just as a destination but as home," says Elarmo. "Many have deep roots in the area and strong backgrounds in hospitality. Their recommendations come with a personal touch."





L'Auberge Carmel is a getaway in itself but also offers easy access to Carmel's art galleries, shops, and restaurants. Guests can dine at Aubergine or order room service from the bar. The restaurant is known for its inventive plays on local produce, top-of-the-line seafood, custom cocktails, and local and international wines.

The hotel was built in 1929 by Allen Knight, who later served as Carmel's mayor from 1950 to 1952. Knight designed L'Auberge Carmel as a small apartment complex called the Sundial Court Apartments. Cogley and Elarmo have revitalized the hotel to offer advanced upgrades, including wireless internet access, flat screen TVs, and

radiant floor heating in bathrooms. They are now planning an exciting new renovation that they are calling a true rebirth for L'Auberge Carmel.

Elarmo adds that L'Auberge Carmel has always been about emotion as much as elegance. "Guests experience a quiet joy of discovery, the comfort of being known, and the beauty of feeling connected," she says. "Our hope is that each guest leaves with a sense of calm and belonging that lingers long after they've returned home."

For more information, visit laubergecarmel.com.

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Creativity, Tableside

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Aubergine greets guests with surprises and a welcome of the highest order, quietly relaying why it has earned two stars in the Michelin Guide. The five-table restaurant in the hotel L'Auberge Carmel offers a wide variety of dishes, from Monterey abalone to ribeye. Staff emphasize unique combinations through tableside presentation.

"We invite our guests to learn more as the sauces are prepared and the garnishes are added," says Chef Justin Cogley. "For example, for one dish, a server ladles crispy fried garlic, shallots, and roasted peanuts on top of fluffy steamed rice. These ingredients add savory notes to a flaky grilled fish."

Aubergine's menu contains vegetarian, vegan, and pescatarian options. "We listen to our guests and focus on what they will enjoy," says Cogley. "Our menu is 80 percent seafood, with dishes that include Dungeness crab, oysters, caviar, and fish sourced fresh from Japan. Our produce, from strawberries to artichokes, typically comes from local farms."

Cogley reimagines simple concepts with personal twists. "Recently, I tried a milk ice cream topped with six types of preserved citrus. That pushed me to create a new favorite for our guests: ice cream made with local corn, topped with shishito pepper jam and bits of crunchy honeycomb, and striped with umeboshi (Japanese pickled plum) honey," he





says. “The dish is salty, sweet, and unexpected. Our staff mixes the ingredients tableside in a fun presentation.”

Aubergine is a special-occasion restaurant, so the wait list is usually long. Guests at L’Auberge Carmel can order certain dishes, such as steak frites, through room service. They can also be seated in the hotel lobby to order from a special salon menu.

The restaurant’s drinks list includes vintages from local and overseas wineries as well as signature cocktails. Bottles are stored in a private wine cellar. The restaurant’s menu includes reserve, daily, champagne, and nonalcoholic wine and food pairings.

Aubergine’s decor is classic and bright. Its fish-themed artwork and plates are made by artists. “One of our tables is a 700-year-old live-edge redwood table, says Cogley. “We use detailed trays, serving utensils, and very delicate new wine glasses that beautifully bring out aroma and flavor. Everything’s thought out ahead of time.”

Cogley’s tip for guests is to let the staff know what the party will prefer. Also, come ready to experiment. “Every time you visit Aubergine, we’ll find a new way to make it special for you,” he says.

For more information, visit auberginecarmel.com.



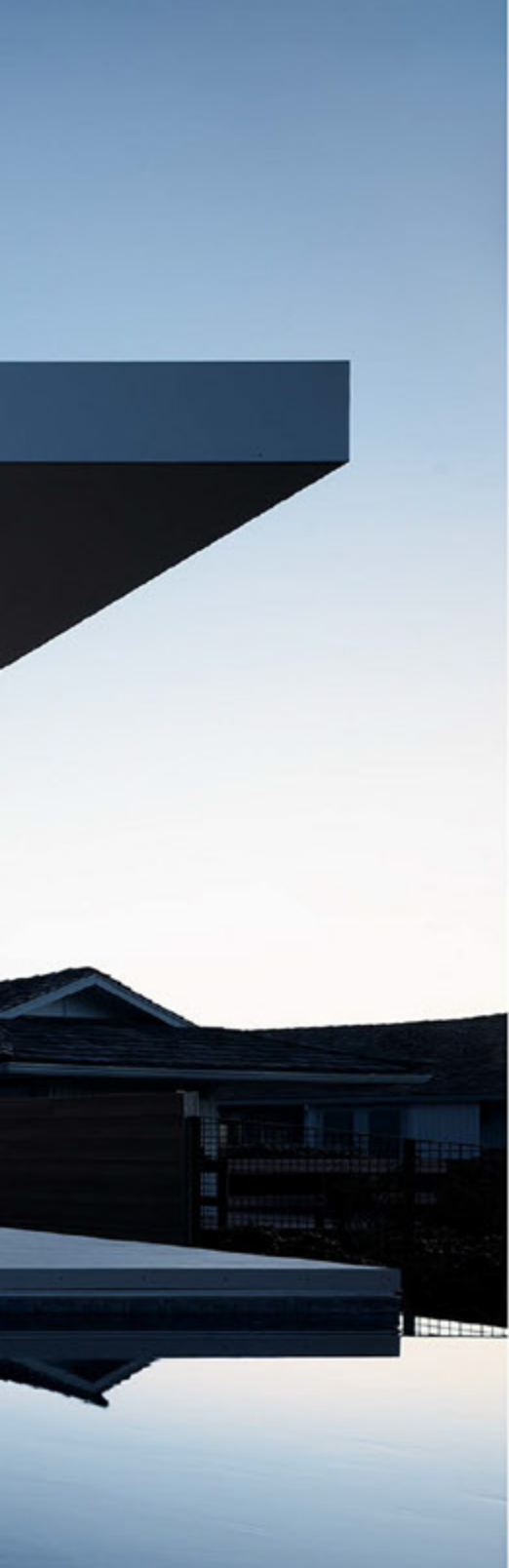
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Relax and Unwind

By Nora Heston Tarte | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Imagine sinking down into a plush sofa, wrapped in a robe, awaiting a signature Thai massage. Next, visualize slipping past the bubbling water feature and into a cozy treatment room that feels immediately revitalizing with its state-of-the-art Thai air purification system and soft sounds from a Sonos sound system. Clients will stare off through the picturesque skylights and feel a million miles away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life that lies beyond the front doors.

At Valley Therapy, owners Thicha and David Bach have created a sanctuary focused on massage services outside of the surrounding resorts. The goal was to bring a day spa oasis that offered the same premium services and aesthetics as the nearby resort spas without the corresponding higher price tag. “We offer a similar experience, similar type of aesthetics, for a much more reasonable cost to the customer,” says Thicha, adding that massages run between \$115 and \$140 for 60-minute sessions.

The variety of massage services include Swedish, deep tissue, combination, sport, warming stones and Thai. Not many spas in the area offer Thai massage. Thicha, who hails from Bangkok, Thailand, has years of experience as a massage therapist and is certified in this unique therapeutic approach. Certification is vital for customer safety, as the technique involves walking on the client’s body using ropes to maintain balance and apply optimal pressure to several designated body areas.



The Thai influence is felt in more than just the signature offering. Tichka says that the spa also offers traditional Thai hospitality. “The culture of Thai is very welcoming, very polite, very cordial.”

In addition to massage, aromatherapy is offered at Valley Therapy. Partnering with a local expert in aromatherapy brings another holistic, wellness-focused service to clients. All spa product offerings are organically certified.

The Bachs opened the business to offer an restorative and a professional spa experience to locals and guests visiting the area.

For more information, visit valleytherapy.life.





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GRACIOUS ELEGANCE

A New Chapter at Seventh & Dolores

Photo by Manny Espinoza

A renewed energy at Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse is imbuing the restaurant with elevated comfort. Since stepping into the role of General Manager in June 2025, Pablo Antinao has quickly become a familiar and welcome face in Carmel's dining scene. Warm, thoughtful, and deeply committed to hospitality, Antinao brings a philosophy rooted in excellence and genuine care for both guests and the team he leads.

"I feel very grateful to have landed at Seventh & Dolores," shares Antinao. "Madigan and Greg Ahn are wonderful people to work for, and the staff here makes an incredible team. My focus as a manager is to provide the best guest experience and to nurture personal, professional growth and creativity at 7D."

Antinao's journey through the world of wine and restaurants has shaped a leadership style that prioritizes cultural warmth. Under his guidance, 7D is entering a fresh era that emphasizes excellence, community, and memorable experiences.

7D has long been a destination for celebratory dinners, expertly prepared steaks, and its iconic, vaulted dining room. This year, Antinao is introducing several new offerings designed to tempt guests more frequently, from casual midweek visits to Sunday traditions.





The 7D Happy Hour, offered daily, is a new favorite for both locals and visitors. It's approachable with elevated bites and cocktails from the new bar menu. Crafted to pair with the restaurant's wine and cocktail selections, the bar menu is full of thoughtful, seasonal dishes.

The new Sunday celebration has diners watering at the mouth. A comforting and indulgent three-course supper inspired by classic British traditions, the Sunday Roast includes warm seasonal soup; potatoes; seasonal vegetables; choice of roast chicken, pork roast, or prime rib roast; Yorkshire pudding, and molten chocolate dessert.

Sundays also offer half-off select wines, marrying Antinao's passion for wine with his appreciation for culinary excellence, which is reflected in a program that combines standout California producers with exceptional small-lot bottles from around the world.

Commitment to craft shows in every plate, from the simplest bar bite to the most indulgent steak. "Chef Raymundo's philosophy lines up exactly with what I believe in," he says. "Fresh local produce and high-quality meats from partners, including Niman Ranch. Our kitchen team is passionate and caring in every detail."

With Antinao at the helm, 7D is blending tradition with fresh ideas, creating a space that feels both refined and deeply welcoming.


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Swing in Style

By Nora Heston Tarte | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Stephen Malbon has fallen in love numerous times in his life. Once with his wife, Erica, twice when each of his sons, Remington and Luciano, were born, and three other times with golf.

His first love affair with a golf club was at Hells Point Golf Club in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he worked in the cart barn and on the driving range in his youth. His second was caddying at Angeles National Golf Course in Sunland, California, playing weekly rounds with his coworkers. His third was at age 33 while living in L.A., after welcoming his second child.

Erica also grew up around golf and has fond memories on and off the course, including the time she drove a cart into a sand trap. “Spending family vacations on and around golf courses created some of my happiest childhood memories,” she says.

In 2017, after Stephen’s stint as a publisher for a fashion and culture magazine, he and Erica created Malbon, an apparel and lifestyle brand that takes some of golf’s classic fashion motifs, such as sweater vests and green jackets, and gives them a fashion-forward spin. The goal is to inspire the next generation on the golf course. “We wanted clothing that reflected people’s individuality while still offering the technical performance needed to play,” says Erica.





Malbon also sponsors professional golfers who align with its overall vision. Stephen says it was a natural progression for the brand and describes the sponsored golfers as “talented, bold, and not afraid to blur the lines between performance and personality.” They compete at the highest level while donning plaid rainsuits and beige bucket hats with colorful graphic animals. “While we love dressing traditional golfers, we’re also trying to dress like ourselves, people who love streetwear, art, music, design,” says Stephen, who has since relocated his family to the Monterey Peninsula.

Stephen, however, maintains that the family aspect of his business is one of the best parts. “Remington helps with team Malbon, our junior golf programs, and overall marketing. Luciano helps with visuals and creative design,” he explains. “Erica designs all of our gorgeous retail stores as well as the women’s collection.”

Malbon is creating a subset of golf-friendly clothing while making the sport itself more inclusive. It paves the way for more people to pick up a club and give it a swing. “Whether you’re shooting a 62 or a 102, whether you’re born in this game or just picking it up, you belong here,” says Stephen. “The green is the common ground.”

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



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Starry, Starry Wine

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Manny Espinoza

The philosophy of the Carmel-by-the-Sea vineyard Domaine Messier is captured in its name. Domaine means “guardian of the harvest” in Old French, and Messier is in homage to the French astronomer Charles Messier and his famous catalogue of celestial objects. This terrestrial-celestial duo of inspirations results in a unique and bustling wine brand. The vineyard’s website denotes a poetic relationship between the wines and the terroir: “Domaine Messier wines are close to the earth, subject to unusual events, old in spirit, and will continue to yield their secrets.”

Founder Luc Messier credits his grandfather for his passion for farming. When he partnered with cofounder Julie Fette, the agricultural vision combined with Fette’s love for California. The result is 93 fully sustained, energy independent acres of pinot noir and chardonnay vines, grown with organic and sustainable practices such as solar power and well water. “We looked far and wide and were really captivated by this site, which we believe shows promise and harnesses the potential to be one of California’s great sites for cool-climate pinot noir and chardonnay,” says Messier.

Domaine Messier produced its first vintage in 2022. The debut pinot noir is called the 2022 Cuvée Sagittaire. The vineyard’s website describes its “spicy



blue and black fruit aromas” and dense red-purple appearance. As for flavors, Domaine Messier’s first wine offers “substantial, firm tannins surrounded by flavors of crushed blackberry and raspberry.”

As its name implies, the Cuvée Sagittaire corresponds with Messier 22, a bright globular cluster of stars located in the Sagittarius constellation that was discovered in 1665. Artistic renderings of objects taken by NASA are splashed across Domaine Messier’s previous signature wine labels. In the near future, they will reflect inspiration from the images released from the James Webb Space Telescope, which, according to NASA, is “the largest, most powerful telescope ever launched into space.” The 2024 vintage labels feature the painting *M24* by artist Lia Halloran to correspond to the ’24 vintage.

Today, Domaine Messier offers 11 bottles, including bold pinot noirs, a selection of French oak-aged chardonnays, a 2023 rosé de pinot noir, and even sparkling wine.

From its bare-earth beginnings in 2018, founders Messier and Fette have grown the business to open a new tasting room in downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea. “The space is very cozy and communal,” says Fette. “Our hope is that people who stop in discover a new favorite wine and make a new connection.”

For more information visit domainemessier.com.



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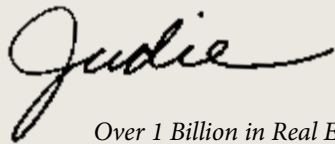
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Complete the Masterpiece

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Silk-covered buttons. Hardware plated in 24-karat gold. Delicate, handcrafted lace. These are the tiny details that are intimately familiar to Katya Sanchez. As the owner of Dentelle Intimates, Sanchez brings a touch of European luxe to Carmel-by-the-Sea.

“Our boutique offers a curated selection of luxury European lingerie from renowned designers in France, Italy and England,” says Sanchez. “Many of these are exclusive to us and unavailable in major department stores.”

Such quality lies in both the products and the customer experience offered at Dentelle Intimates. Sanchez travels to an international lingerie show in Paris to discover the newest collections. Items are curated exclusively for her clients, with an eye for special embellishments and versatile pieces for everyday and special occasions. Sanchez and her husband, Paul, opened the store in 2017.

Designers showcased at Dentelle Intimates create their own in-house lace and embroidery. One designer, Fleur of England, features the aforementioned gold hardware and silk buttons. For pieces that can exist beyond undergarments, Sanchez selects I.D. Sarrieri’s glamorous Chantilly lace and Swarovski crystal designs. ERES, owned by Chanel, balances lingerie





and homewear, helping Dentelle Intimates cover every lingerie-adjacent scenario. “Our approach celebrates the modern woman’s confidence, sophistication, and versatility, bringing the beauty of fine lingerie into everyday style,” says Sanchez.

The underwear-worn-everywhere trend continues into 2026, says Sanchez. “This season, shoppers will discover versatile, ready-to-wear-inspired designs that invite you to decide just what you’d like to reveal.” Look for elegant bustiers styled under blazers, lace trousers paired with longline jackets, and sheer chiffon blouses with your favorite bra underneath.

European luxury doesn’t equal limited sizing. Dentelle Intimates carries bra sizes from 30 to 42 bands and A to H cups, and offers personalized lingerie styling and professional fittings. “Many clients visit us with their favorite outfits in hand, seeking the perfect foundation piece,” says Sanchez. “You can’t put a Picasso painting in an IKEA frame—the right lingerie completes the masterpiece.”

This year, the boutique is settling into a recent refresh: a renovated boutique designed by local interior designer Martin Perri and a new brand logo and packaging. Quarterly designer events will continue in 2026, with the unveiling of new collections and collaborations.

“Dentelle Intimates is more than a store. It’s a personalized luxury experience,” says Sanchez. “We are excited to launch our modern, grown-up Dentelle.”

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

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Par None Altruism

By Caitlin Fillmore

Photos Courtesy of Monterey Peninsula Foundation

Last year, two players hit holes in one during the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. While the results of this year's February tournament are anyone's guess, there are still two big aces to celebrate. Monterey Peninsula Foundation (MPF) will recognize both the eightieth annual AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and the foundation's passing the milestone of \$250 million in donations to local nonprofits.

The MPF is the philanthropic arm of the golf tournament, which is now in its third year as a designated PGA Tour Signature Event. It manages all the proceeds raised from the Pro-Am, which is the most philanthropic event on the PGA Tour.

"That's something I'm immensely proud of, not just for MPF, but for everyone connected to the tournament," says Steve John, CEO and tournament director at the MPF. "Being recognized as the most philanthropic event on the PGA Tour reflects the generosity of our players, sponsors, volunteers, and fans. Every ticket purchased, every sponsor commitment, and every hour volunteered directly supports the community."

John reports that several MPF investments have recently reached important milestones of their own. Foundation dollars invested in the Alisal part of Salinas have recently helped to open the Buckhorn Early Learning Center for preschoolers and Ensen Community Park, in partnership with Big Sur Land Trust. The Salinas Regional Soccer Complex, another MPF grantee, now welcomes thousands weekly.



“This year, we are immensely proud of two recently completed projects in Salinas,” says John. “These projects were part of our initiative to help address decades of underinvestment in the Alisal region by making major infrastructure investments to benefit children and families living there.”

The MPF’s giving model supports direct investments in long-term projects such as these and an ability to respond quickly to emerging needs in the education, youth development, health, and human service focus areas.

Balancing community investment and high-profile golf entertainment has resulted in more than \$250 million in donations. The MPF is putting this balance on display at the 2026 Pro-Am by honoring its VIP donors and organizations and bringing stories of its impacts to life. On the golf side, fans can expect new activities at The Hay Putting Green and a fan zone at hole 3 with simulators, a long putt challenge, and a bar.

“We’re thrilled to welcome fans back for another unforgettable tournament,” says John.

For more information, visit montereypeninsulafoundation.org.







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The Golden Age of Folktale

By Andrea Stuart | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Stories of a particular region that are told from generation to generation, folktales represent the history and soul of a place and its people. This spirit is embraced at Folktale Winery & Vineyards in Carmel Valley, where proprietors Gregory and Madigan Ahn have created a town square feeling in an atmosphere suitable for the royalty of fairy tales. Now in its tenth year, Folktale continues to evolve that vision as it begins another phase of improvements at the iconic property.

In 2015, the Ahns procured the 18-acre property with the dream of transforming it into a gathering place for the community and visitors of the Monterey Peninsula. Their Wine Garden has become a go-to destination for great wine, culinary excellence, and live music. They have hosted over 200 concerts and performances, from comedy to dance and storytelling, and created popular events, including Chef Duel and Dine in the Vines Dinners.

Set along the Carmel River and nestled in the warm hills of the Valley, Folktale exudes a magical quality that the Ahns have worked to sustain through their numerous developments. “The majority of the transformation will happen ‘under the hood,’” says Gregory of the current developments, “but that will allow us to enhance the experience for our guests.”

The under-the-hood developments Gregory references speak to the owners’ focus on functionality. The project includes transforming the 40-year-old building and existing facilities. A kitchen expansion will allow Folktale’s





kitchen staff to create and prepare a greater range of menu offerings without limitations to their culinary creativity. A bathroom renovation will accommodate Folktale's growing popularity. These practical elements are intended to elevate the guest experience by making a visit to the winery as effortless as trying on a perfectly fitted glass slipper.

The most dramatic transformations will be in The Cellar and the employee parking area, which will be transformed into a larger barrel aging facility and a green space. As in the past, these spaces will also accommodate special events, including weddings, corporate events, and popular ticketed events.

"With every step we take, a new opportunity arises. I'm hoping this chapter becomes the golden age," shares Gregory about what he believes will be the application of 10 years of learning. "The iconic architecture will not change. And we are not looking to change our brand of warm, friendly hospitality. Folktale will remain a relaxing, joyful place to gather."

Normal operations continue as Folktale undergoes its Cinderella experience. The Winter Wine Garden, found by walking through the vines and ending at the Vineyard House, offers daily tastings, lunch, and tours. Guests are encouraged to alchemize their experiences into whatever dreams arise during their visit.

For more information, visit folktalewinery.com.

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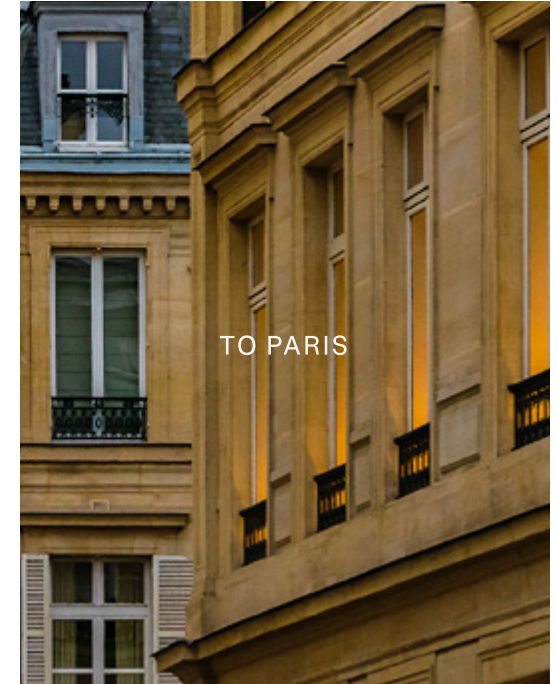


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Shaped by 80 million years of tectonic forces, the area holds more than 2,500 years of cultural history, including native tribes that fished its waters. The area now sees more than 600,000 visitors annually. They come for the tide pools, rugged headlands, forested trails, sweeping vista points, and quiet beaches.

To ensure that this landscape remains protected and maintained for the next century, PLF has launched an ambitious plan. The foundation is investing in restoration, education, research, and careful stewardship. By doing so, future generations will be able to experience Point Lobos with the same sense of wonder that attracts people today.

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The Marina Station Real Estate Team, in partnership with Monterey Coast Realty



For the Vin

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos by Manny Espinoza & Josh Rose

Open pocket doors beckon from Dolores Street into the welcoming ambiance of VIN by the Sea, a wine-powered restaurant in downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea. Inside, there is a blend of Carmel charm and an elevated yet approachable food and wine experience.

“My daily mission is to create an inviting, elevated space where locals and visitors alike can celebrate the everyday with exceptional food and wine,” says Roslyn Anderson, the restaurant’s chief wine officer.

VIN by the Sea’s wine program keeps small, boutique wine producers in mind. “Passion, authenticity, and a dedication to quality over quantity guides the winemaking philosophy [of producers on our list],” says Anderson.

Wines from appellations across California feature heavily, including several local favorites from winemakers that include Ian Brand and Chad Silacci. “We offer a sparkling gem from Rustique Wines, a local favorite albariño from I. Brand, and a variety of pinot noir selections from the Santa Lucia Highlands,” says Anderson. VIN by the Sea’s house white, VIN Blanc, is now available through a partnership with Collin Cranor and Craig Ploof from Syndicate Wines in Napa.

Complemented by a range of local favorites, Anderson showcases a selection of imported wines from France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy. The list features more than 50 wines by the glass, highlighting producers such as Thomas Rivers Brown, Celia Welch, Maayan Koschitzky, Juan Mercado, Julien Fayard, Paul Lato, and Marie-Laure Ammons. Moreover, limited-production wines are available exclusively to VIN by the Sea wine club members.



by the sea
BITES

While wine is in the name, VIN by the Sea has also developed food offerings with a specific point of view. “Our menu has been designed around the wine—a reversal of the traditional restaurant model,” says Anderson. “The approach is to create a dining experience where wine and food exist in perfect harmony.”

Chef Paul Corsentino brings this vision to life. Corsentino sources local ingredients that complement the wines rather than compete with them, according to Anderson. “A playful indulgence of Champagne and crispy Louisiana chicken karaage is an example of a pairing favorite that keeps our locals returning for more.”

Visitors can stop in for a meal or for an expert-led wine tasting well into the evening, which is tailored to each guest’s preference. Anderson describes the ambiance as “SoHo meets Carmel.” The space is anchored by a pink, hand-blown Verona glass chandelier.

Says Anderson, “VIN by the Sea has a distinctly European, alfresco feel that has been described by locals and visitors as one of the most beautiful in Carmel-by-the-Sea.”

For more information, visit vinbythesea.com.





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Local Knowledge for Luxury Homes

Photos Courtesy of Kasavan Construction

A Monterey builder with over a decade of experience on the Peninsula, David Kasavan prioritizes clients' expectations for high-end construction, restoration, and renovation. Kasavan, a communication maverick, does this in part by maintaining strong relationships with the permitting arms of Monterey County and individual cities in the region.

Consisting of 23 full-time employees, Kasavan Construction—winner of Carmel Pine Cone's Golden Pine Cone award for best general contractor of 2025—also partners with trusted local subcontractors to meet clients' time and project expectations. "We're a one-stop shop with draftsmen, designers, and construction workers under one roof," says Kasavan.

Kasavan's family lineage is imbued with a love for architecture. His paternal grandfather, Jerome Kasavan, founded Kasavan Architects in Salinas in 1949. His father, Peter Kasavan, who has an art degree and was a journeyman carpenter, bought the firm in 1994.

Kasavan appreciates the level of craftsmanship and quality consistent with typical home building standards in the area, which inspires him in his own work. "Every job is different, which keeps it interesting. I also like learning about what clients want, including their vision for a home that serves their lifestyle," says Kasavan.

Growing up, Kasavan took trips to his father's project sites where he observed his father's designs, including Carmel High School's Center for the Performing Arts Building, the Salinas Rodeo Grounds, and the National Steinbeck Center. In his youth, Kasavan also played baseball and other sports that required local traveling. These trips served as an opportunity for Kasavan to see the Peninsula's diversity of architectural styles. "I enjoy working on Mediterranean style homes because there's a lot of attention to detail. I also have a great deal of experience with traditional ranch style homes," says Kasavan.

When Kasavan entered the construction field, he worked as a framer, carpenter, and concrete worker. He became proficient in high-demand features, including large kitchen islands with waterfall stone countertops, open floor plans, and large multi-sliding patio doors while creating entertainment-friendly interior and exterior living spaces.

Communication is a cornerstone to Kasavan's success. "Clients appreciate updates and progress photos of their projects. I also touch up homes for realtors, which helps me stay current with homebuyers' preferences," says Kasavan. "Individuals hire a contractor they can trust and rely on. For 12 years going, I'm proud to be that person."

During his free time, Kasavan enjoys fishing, snowboarding, and spending time with his children, including taking them to his job sites. Continuing the family legacy fuels his passion for building and architecture, which is infused into each project.

For more information, visit kasavanconstruction.com or visit Lincoln Street and 8th in downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea.





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