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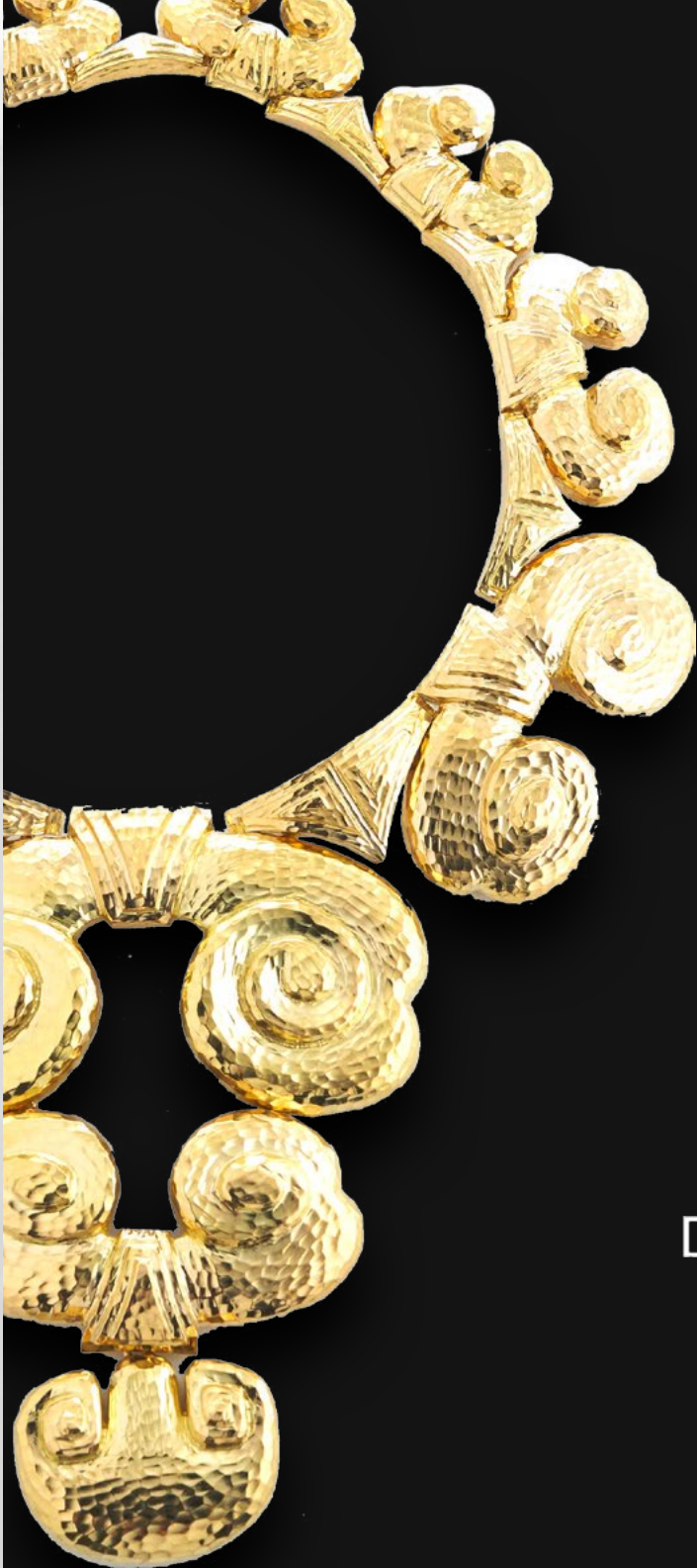
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A Natural Gathering Place

By Bettina McBee Hohmann

BE SCENE

Gourmet Fest 2019

Sip & Swing 2019



Arnold Palmer on the 16th

Arnie's Army (his legion of fans) cheers Arnold Palmer on at the 16th tee box at Cypress Point Club during the Crosby Clambake. January 1963.

Photo by Julian P. Graham

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Santa Lucia Preserve: A Natural Gathering Place

By Bettina McBee Hohmann | Photos Courtesy of Santa Lucia Preserve

The Monterey Peninsula is overflowing with breathtaking beauty, but nothing compares to the majesty of the Santa Lucia Preserve. Indigenous to this paradise that takes less than half a gas tank to get to from San Francisco are over 700 species of plants, 172 bird species, 42 mammal species, 28 species of amphibians and reptiles, and more than 60 varieties of butterflies. Some species exist nowhere else, while others are endangered and under federal protection, illustrating the diversity and ecological importance of the Preserve's 20,000 acres of land.

For thousands of years, the Rumsen were the original stewards of this enchanted land before the Spanish Missionaries, led by Father Junipero Serra, came to the area in the 1760s. In early 1990, Tom Gray and Peter Stocker, visualizing a 300-home sanctuary, purchased the land. Today's Preserve residents have a shared ethos—a love and respect—with their forbearers.

Community members enjoy hiking and horseback riding on nearly 100 miles of trails, fishing and canoeing on Moore's Lake, golfing on a top-ranked, canine-friendly course, glamping—glamorous camping that includes a variety of luxuries not typical in standard camping—near the lake, and basking in nature.

Rays Sims, a resident of the Preserve, became a member of the community in 2009. "It's amazing—15 minutes from downtown Carmel is one of the most concentrated biodiversity areas in the world, and very few people know about it," he says. "The air is different. You drive through the gate and your blood pressure drops. At night, the stars are blindingly bright, and you get a profound feeling of peace."

Only 297 homes can be built on the Preserve, and just under half of that number are presently on site. All buildings are designed within the established guidelines. Each community member is a steward of the land.

"The Preserve is a wonderful community, with the common thread among staff, owners, and members to be sustainable and conservation minded," says Jen Anello, who has been with the Preserve for 15 years. "The Preserve offers a nice balance of lifestyle. The land itself promotes health and wellness."



Anello started at the Preserve as a concierge and is currently director of membership. "I love being part of this welcoming, engaging community," she says. "I'm lucky to share in the memories and experiences of our members."

The Santa Lucia Preserve is also home to the Santa Lucia Conservancy. Created in 1995, the Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust whose mission is to conserve the ecological integrity of the protected lands within the Preserve while weaving natural and human communities together to inspire a sense of stewardship in current and future generations.

Words can't describe the Santa Lucia Preserve; seeing is believing.

For more information: santaluciapreserve.com/membership/schedule-a-tour



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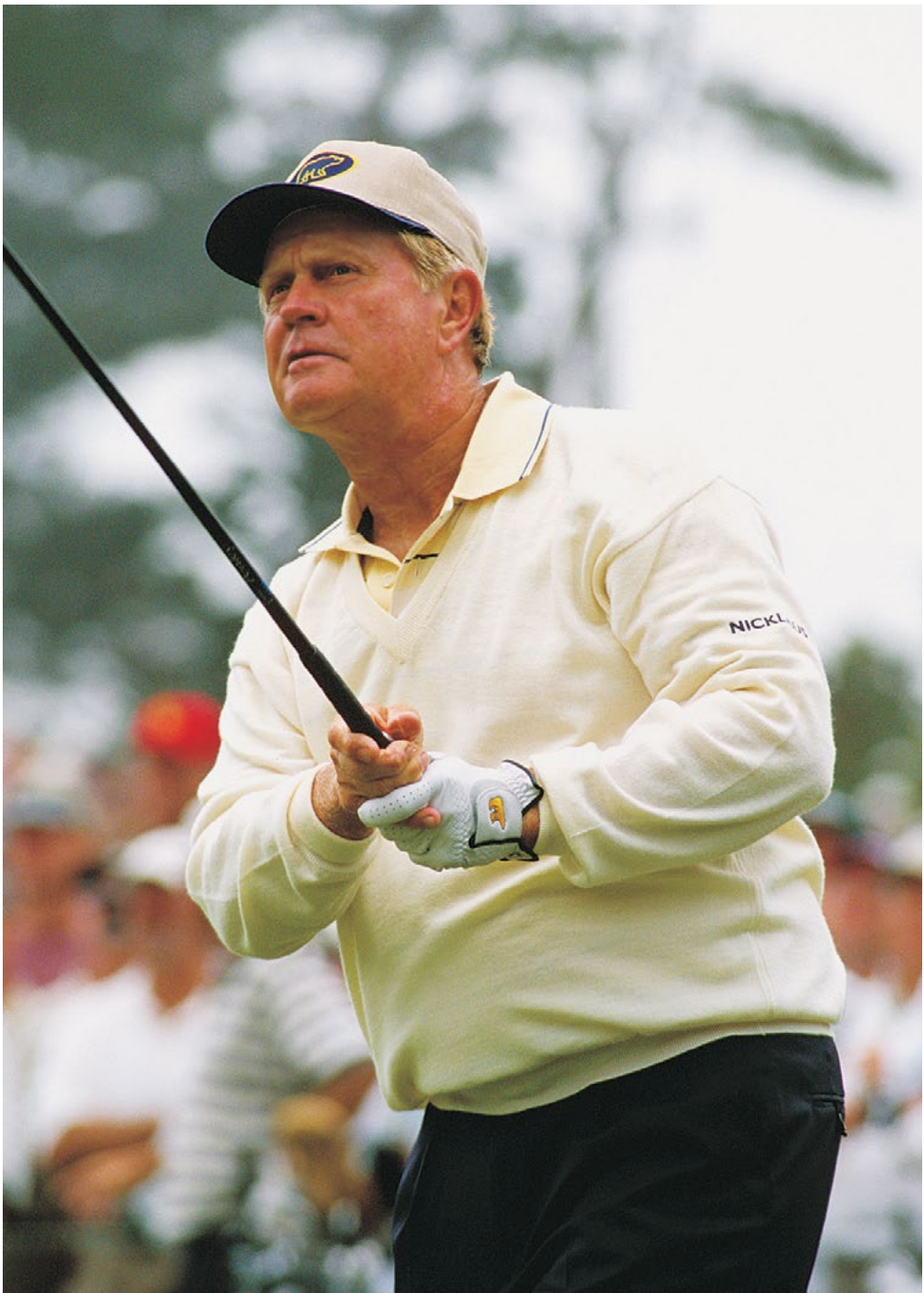
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Inside the Ropes

By Sarah Joplin | Photos by Joann Dost

Few members of the golf media can boast coverage of five U.S. Open Championships at Pebble Beach Golf Links. Come this June, photographer Joann Dost will be among them, not that she's one to boast. She is quite comfortable, however, being inside the golf ropes and behind the camera lens. Dost began competitive golf at age 15 and played the LPGA Tour for nearly five years before exchanging her golf bag for a camera carrier.

The launch of Dost's photography career coincided with the 1982 Open. At the time, she used large format film equipment for a U.S. Open book assignment and shot 35mm slide film for action. Dost brought a player's eye to capture tournament highlights, such as Tom Watson's iconic U.S. Open chip-in.

Her career as a leading pro-photographer was well underway by the 1992 U.S. Open, and the interceding years marked the height of her editorial contributions to outlets such as USGA, PGA, Golf World, Golfweek, and GOLF.

As the U.S. Open returned to the Monterey Peninsula in 2000, and Tiger Woods was taking the golf world by storm, Dost was traveling extensively, photographing golf courses for marketing



and site-specific art collections. Her pictures also enhanced the turn-of-the-century publication of Pebble Beach Golf Links: The Official History, which sold 50,000 copies. Medium format film cameras had become her tool of choice, and while golf hardware technology was changing the game, digital photography was quietly preparing to forever alter how we visually capture the moment.

Come 2010, and Dost's Pebble Beach photographs became U.S. Open tournament keepsakes, reproduced for sale as posters, notecards, and souvenir art. Simultaneously, digital and smartphone cameras were writing the latest chapter in photography.

Today, keeping pace with visual technology trends, Dost has embraced drone shooting where for decades she photographed aials from helicopters. She says that her photography is much more predictable than her golf game and, since turning photo pro, she's never missed a cut!

Time marches on as Pebble Beach celebrates its centennial. This summer, Dost will chalk up another golf major, and the U.S. Open Championship will make history.

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Four years after its inception, The Agency was L.A.'s most outstanding real estate brokerage, with 13 of its agents ranked among the top 250 realtors in the United States. Now, it has nearly 30 offices nationally and internationally, including Canada, Mexico, and Turks and Caicos.

The Agency sets itself apart from traditional real estate companies —its mission is to modernize and advance the experience of buying and selling real estate by cultivating a spirit of collaboration, innovation, and integrity. Having created a shift that has resonated throughout the real estate industry,

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The Agency extends far beyond what a conventional brokerage firm offers. With a full service, in-house creative division, The Agency Creates oversees branding, marketing, and public relations for over 500 agents, luxury properties, and new developments. Highly stylized and effective branding, marketing, and digital and print collateral design showcasing work worthy of a Don Draper presentation is what defines The Agency.

"A truly successful real estate agent maybe very effective at listing and selling luxury properties but not at creative and marketing. That's where we excel, when I talk about collaboration as a brand," Umansky explains.

Additionally, The Agency Development Group works directly with real estate developers in all aspects of a project from concept to sales, marketing, public relations and social media.



From left to right: Mauricio Umansky, Cicily Sterling, Billy Rose



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"The Pebble Beach-Carmel Market is unique and requires property-specific marketing plans." says Cicily Sterling, founding member of The Agency Carmel. "We are selling the most important thing in the world that defines even the wealthiest people—where and how you live." Sterling specializes in residential estates and architecturally significant properties in those areas."

The Agency Carmel's newest property listing, represented by Sterling and Umansky, is 3290 17 Mile Drive. Nestled amidst cypress trees on the cliffs of Pescadero Point, it is one of only 31 coveted waterfront properties in Pebble Beach. Set on an unprecedented, two-acre lot, the villa showcases spectacular ocean views from every room, with vistas extending from the Pebble Beach Golf Links to the white sand beaches of Carmel and Point Lobos State Park.

What does the future hold for The Agency?

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Umansky notes. "We will always be a boutique agency, providing the best service to our agents, who in turn provide the best service to their clients."



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Simon Bull in Profile

By Jennifer Moulaison | Photos by Carol Oliva

"I had, by all accounts, an interesting childhood," says English-born artist Simon Bull, who now resides in Carmel. You may know him for his well-known portrait of Barack Obama, which was commissioned by boxing legend Muhammad Ali. Or you may know him for his brilliant landscapes, florals, and abstract works displayed in various galleries around the globe—including in the heart of Carmel at the MEUSE Gallery, located on Ocean Avenue. Bull's creative mind was curious and enthralled with natural beauty from the very beginning. "My father was chaplain in the British Army, which entailed a lot of travel to the far-flung corners of the then rapidly diminishing British Empire," he says. "In Northern Ireland, we could hear the bombs going off, but I was more occupied as a ten-year-old trying to find four-leaf clovers on our lawn overlooking the Belfast Lough and daydreaming about the boats sailing by."

Continuing his childhood travels, Bull went to Guyana (known in 1966 as British Guiana), and then on to Hong Kong in the early 1970s, where he began to not only absorb the world around him but also describe it through his art.

In 1980, Bull graduated from Leeds Polytechnic with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. "The academic theory of the day was to give students a working space and free art materials, then basically leave them to it for three years. It didn't work for everyone, of course, but I was in my element, there." Bull spent his time at school studying the work of the masters, such as French floral Impressionist Henri Fantin-Latour, and learning to paint like them, something that is clearly present in even his most recent works. His etchings are influenced by Rembrandt's tight black-and-white line work or Chiaroscuro. Georgia O'Keeffe was another influence, inspiring many of Bull's large floral pieces. "There have been so many more [artists], most of whom are lesser-known, but I love them all and am grateful for their genius," he says.

He describes his approach as a form of visual journalism. "I always reference real objects, but my paintings are more fictional than real. There's an element of the literal in my work," he explains. His collection titled "Blossoms" is inspired by a large cherry tree situated in the middle of a parking lot near his previous home in England. "That one tree lives somewhere deep inside my subconscious, and now when I step into my studio here in Monterey and lift up my hand to paint, that tree—which may have been cut down long ago—somehow asserts itself and reforms on the canvas before me."



Similarly drawn from nature, Bull's collection titled "Bird" is inspired by a family of doves that rest in a tree outside his home in Carmel. "I'm reminded of the love of God that provides us a place of shelter and restoration," he says. "We may find freedom in the air but always have to come back to the tree, eventually." When asked if any specific pieces are more personal to him, Bull answers, "All of them. They are all part of the same huge canvas that I have been working on for 60 years. It is just that most of them have been broken off into small pieces and distributed around the globe."

When approaching a blank canvas, certain words run through Bull's mind: "Degas used to talk about taking a line for a walk. I know now what he meant, because when you start a work, you are only taking the first step along a road that often chooses its own way." As for the future of his craft, Bull admits to bittersweet feelings in leaving behind the mediums and techniques of his past, such as watercolors and etchings, and making way for the perspective his career has now afforded him. "I don't know what twists or turns lie ahead, but I know that beyond the temple even lie the high mountains shrouded in eternal mists. That's where I'm headed now," he says, thoughtfully.

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Spring Release at Caraccioli

By Andrea Stuart | Photo by Manolo Espinoza

As spring comes into full bloom, Caraccioli Cellars is stepping into a bouquet of their own. Celebrating two new releases, their 2013 Brut Cuvée and 2018 Rosé of Pinot Noir, proprietor Scott Caraccioli describes the experience as exciting: “In Santa Lucia Highlands, we have the ability to create structurally driven wines with balance that affords the opportunity to enjoy them in their youth and for years to come.”

The seventh vintage of their flagship, the 2013 Brut Cuvée shares something special. Caraccioli says they’ve been monitoring it for the perfect time to release. The six-year-old sparkling wine is as cohesive and balanced in expression as it is a complex representation of their focus on crafting artisanal sparkling wines. “It’s very enjoyable on release yet its potential lifespan is even more exciting!”

The 2018 Rosé of Pinot Noir offers a glimpse into the quality that the last vintage afforded the winery. With expressions of melon, bright red fruits, and cantaloupe, and complemented by a floral bouquet, the Rosé is promising.

“Our wines are transparent in our winemaking styles and processes so that the vintages come through,” says Caraccioli. In this way, he and his team continue to produce powerful California expressions with old world traditions.

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Living the Barefoot Life

By Katherine Matuszak | Photos by Carol Oliva

Christine Cater grew up in a very different Carmel Valley, before the trendy restaurants and countless wine tastings. She recalls the volunteer fire department and floating down the river in inner tubes—a carefree life by the Carmel River. Being a barefoot kid in Carmel Valley must have made an impression, as that Carmel of her memory seems inextricably woven with her story.

Cater owns a local business, Barefoot Floral, where she and her team design elaborate flower arrangements for weddings and provide other unique offerings to the public. Though she started her floral design business in her garage, Cater now works from a studio in a historical building once called Rosie's Cracker Barrel, where she remembers buying candy as a child.

Her first career meant leaving her hometown to explore the larger world. At age 10, Cater started studying ballet and went on to work as a professional dancer until age 35. That took her to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and beyond. "I call myself a city mouse living in the country because I do love the city, too," she says. "Barefoot Floral came about because I want to marry the two worlds. Our style is organic and natural, with a curated formalness to it."

When her son was born, she left the world of ballet and tried her hand at event planning. Seeking out designers she respected, she worked across various venues for over 20 years, designing everything from small parties to big ballroom transformations. During that time, she found that her passion was in weddings. She loves the creative aspect of talking to brides and their partners to learn what matters to them and determining how her team can make each wedding different from what they did the season before. Though a ballerina-turned-floral-designer may sound unusual, for Cater it felt like a natural transition.

"All that dance training is so detailed . . . [and this] is such a detail-oriented creative outlet, I guess I was getting ready for this all along. With dance, you're creating lines with your body; now I'm creating lines with flowers and a vase. Same idea, different medium."



Barefoot Floral proves to be quite different than your usual flower shop, functioning more as a private studio. Most of its work is by appointment only, but guests are welcome to stop by on Fridays for the weekly "floral pop-up," when arrangements and paper-wrapped flowers are available for purchase from 12 to 6 p.m.

The studio also teams up with The Wine House Carmel Valley to offer workshops to the public as well as host private events. For a recent birthday party, Cater brought in a caterer, served lemon desserts, and provided floral arrangements for guests to take home. This year's Christmas-wreath-making workshop, which sold out in 12 hours, invited guests to partake of a glass of bubbly while learning how to make a trendy, nontraditional wreath. Cater and her team are still dreaming up new ways to use the space and hope to host a workshop teaching guests how to make flower crowns while offering a new signature drink.

Cater's past weaves richly through her present. She still dances, though now she performs in her kitchen while making dinner or during quiet moments as she designs.

The Barefoot Floral studio is less than a block away from the Carmel River, and when the weather is right, she pulls out the inner tubes and floats downriver again. Carmel Valley may have changed over the years, but it's still home for Christine Cater.

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Foxy Lady

By Bettina McBee Hohmann | Photos by Carol Oliva

When she was a child, Susan Galvin, owner of Foxy Couture Carmel, would put her ear to the wall, so-to-speak, when her mother chatted with friends. When she did, she would hear them talking about a woman with exceptional style. Galvin's mom would say how all eyes turned when the woman walked into a room. It's no surprise, then, that Galvin has been an avid student of fashion and style since an early age. "When I was a teenager, I loved to read all the fashion magazines," she says. "*British Vogue, French Vogue, Linea Italiana,* and anything else I could get my hands on."

Galvin grew up in South Florida, in the Palm Beach/ Miami area. Her family moved to South Florida from the Chesapeake Bay in the 1930s. They founded a popular seafood business, New England Oyster House, and ran it for many years.

Galvin got her start collecting designer clothing and accessories in high school. "My mom was a big influence on me and taught me a lot about fashion," she says. Her mother loved fine fabrics and would show Galvin the difference between the hand (quality) of one fabric versus another—that is, how it feels on the skin. "One of my mom's favorite designers was Ceil Chapman, who designed a lot of clothes for Marilyn Monroe. My mom passed along great gowns to me, which is how I got started collecting." Galvin also received vintage gowns at fair prices from women who were relocating from Palm Springs to New York.

The story behind a design and how it broke new ground, as with all forms of art, is what interests Galvin. As such, she collects items from every era, including the present, and from all over the world. "I'm always looking for things that are relevant to fashion or relevant to the history of fashion," she continues.

Wanting to be practical, Galvin earned a degree in finance from Florida State University before moving to San Francisco. She worked in finance for a short time before deciding to turn her passion into a business. She studied pattern making and draping at the Louise Salinger School of Design and began dealing in vintage and designer luxury items. She scoured the country for great items and attended trade shows, selling her finds to collectors and dealers.



In 2010, Galvin opened Foxy Couture Carmel, her first store, which has grown into the premier luxury and vintage retailer in the area, featuring a collection of designer clothing and accessories from all eras. "I carry pieces from all the major designers," she says. "Chanel, Hermès, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Versace, Fendi, and Dior to name a few. I am particularly proud of my collection of vintage Chanel jewelry, handbags, and clothing. I do have some fabulous Hermes bags in the collection as well."

Galvin never anticipated opening a store, but now that she has, she's particularly fond of how it connects her to the community. "I couldn't do it without my fabulous staff, Carmela and Areanna, who keep the store running and are great working with our customers," she says.

Galvin admits that one of the benefits of having a successful business is that she is able to give back to the community. Foxy Couture has been proud to sponsor and donate to a number of charities, including the Girls Inc. Bubbles and Bags event, Community Foundation's Women's Fund, Harmony at Home, and the SPCA.

To learn more, visit www.foxycouturecarmel.com.

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Sharmaine received her Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management in the Philippines. Prior to receiving her degree, she was awarded the "Top Earner" in her networking company. After graduation, she continued to pursue her dream of traveling the world to learn about many cultures. The youngest university graduate in her class, she has traveled extensively throughout foreign countries. When she arrived in the United States she pursued a career in hospitality as a banquet manager, and also became a Sommelier.

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Nancy Whitman and Team Elevation

Fundraising for Life

By Andrea Stuart | Photo by Manolo Espinoza

It's estimated that in the United States over 600,000 people will die from cancer this year. The prevalence of the disease is so widespread that it has inspired a national movement of advocacy for cancer awareness. Nancy Whitman, who recently suffered the loss of a friend—Heather Ream, the 2015 Woman of the Year—and lost her mother-in-law, Brig Whitman, three years ago to cancer, has taken the reins to one such campaign effort as a competitor for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Silicon Valley & Monterey Bay Area Chapter Woman of the Year title.

Whitman, a longtime supporter of the Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theater and co-chair of the MY Museum ParTEA event, has altruism in her veins. The hit of losing loved ones to cancer inspired her branch out into the health arena and make a positive difference in the cancer community.

Participants are competing to raise the most money for LLS between March 21 and June 1, 2019. Whitman was nominated by Jen Kuyper of First National Bank and has assembled an eager team to join her in this ambitious cause. Joining her are Jen Kuyper, Monica Graham, Shanti Bonanno, Maryrose Rinaudo, Teresa Frascioni, TJ Bristol, Gianina Bristol, Jill Schlenker, Steb Montez, and her husband, Christopher Whitman.

"Past runners say participating changed their lives," says Whitman. "I can't imagine not staying involved at the end of the campaign. Because of the amount of money LLS raises and because our blood has so much to do with other forms of cancer, they contribute to more than just blood cancer causes."

To donate to Whitman's campaign, visit pages.mwoy.org/svmb/mont19/nwhitman.



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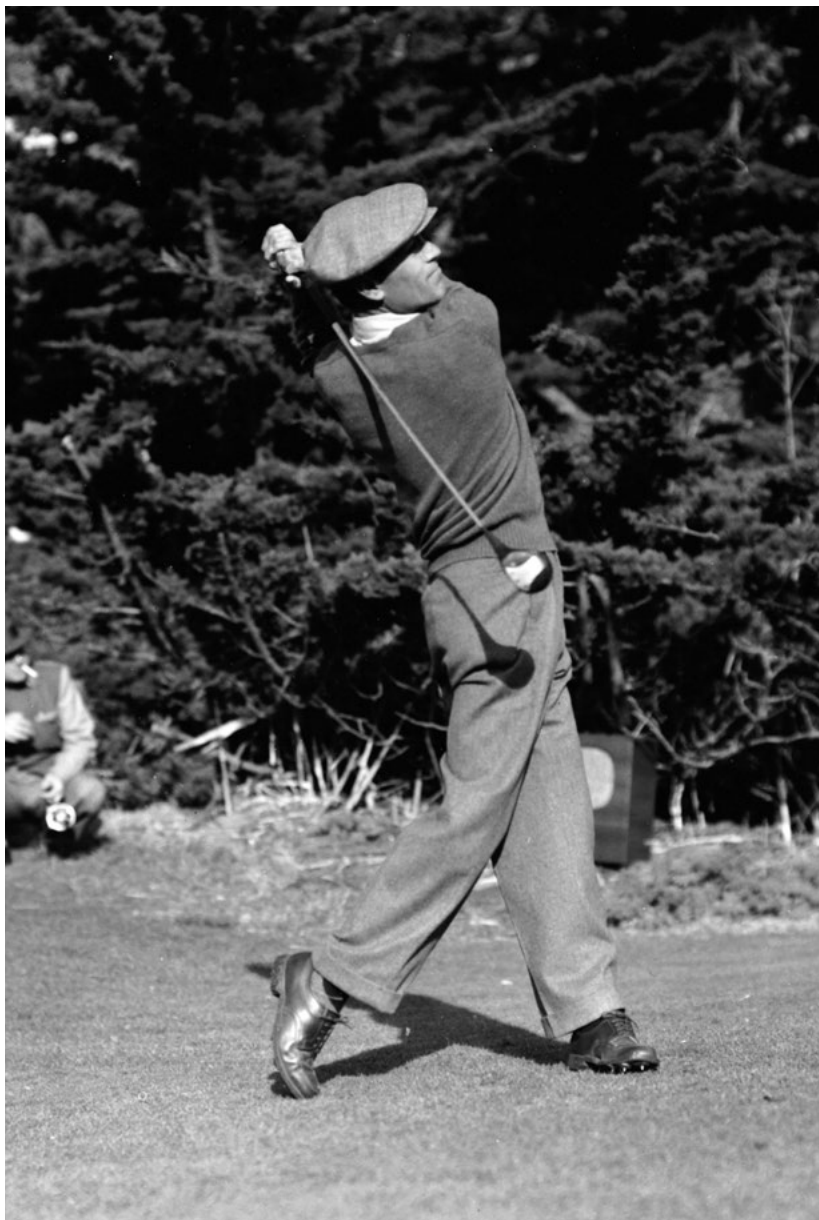
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Ben Hogan, with his perfect swing, was one of 76 pros who played in the first Crosby Clambake on three golf courses in 1947: the first day was at Cypress Point Club, the second day was at Monterey Peninsula Country Club, and the third day was at Pebble Beach Golf Links with a \$10,000 purse.



Arnold Palmer in Bunker
Arnold Palmer blasting out of a bunker with sand flying on the 9th hole at Monterey Peninsula Country Club during the Crosby Clambake, January 14, 1963.



Arnold Palmer and Bing Crosby
Arnold Palmer receiving a lesson full of precise golfing tips from Bing Crosby during the Crosby Clambake at the Cypress Point Club, January 1961.

Three Golf Legends

By Barbara Briggs-Anderson



Bobby Jones hitting out of bunker
Followed and surrounded by a huge gallery, crowd favorite Bobby Jones expertly hits out of the bunker
at the U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach Golf Links. September 1929.

Three legends, icons, and superstars in the game of golf are photographed playing at Pebble Beach Golf Links: Bobby Jones in 1929, Ben Hogan in 1947, and Arnold Palmer in 1963. The three men were immortalized in different eras as each man achieved fame, prominence, and recognition.

Arnold Daniel Palmer (September 10, 1929 - September 25, 2016), nicknamed "The King," was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1974. Palmer won 7 major championships, 4 Masters, 2 British Opens, the US Open, and 62 PGA Tour Titles. He was golf's "everyman," popularizing golf on TV beginning in the 1950s. He was admired and beloved by millions of people until his death.

Robert Tyre Jones Jr. (March 17, 1902 - December 18, 1971), the legendary amateur golfer, was most famous for his 1930 "Grand Slam," winning all four major golf tournaments. Jones retired from competitive golf at age 28 in 1930 and pursued a career as an attorney. He hired famed golf architect Dr. Alister MacKenzie in July 1931 and they created the Augusta National Golf Club, which officially opened in January 1933. The Masters Tournament followed in 1934 and is still the most prestigious golf tournament in the U.S.

William Ben Hogan (August 13, 1912-July 25, 1997) won 9 major championships, 2 Masters, 4 US Opens, 1 British Open, 2 PGA Championships, and 64 PGA Tour victories. Hogan's book, *Five Lessons: The Modern Fundamentals of Golf* (Golf Swing Theory), is one of the most read golf tutorials and is still in print today.

All the historical golf photos were taken by Julian P. Graham and may be viewed on Loon Hill Studios website, www.loonhill.com or www.julianpgraham.com.

Barbara Briggs-Anderson is the Curator for the Julian P. Graham Historical Photographic Collection, which features over 3,000 images on her website. www.loonhill.com



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A woman in a white corset and tutu is playing a violin on a stage. She has silver glitter on her face and is looking down at her instrument. The background features golden columns and curtains. The lighting is warm and dramatic.

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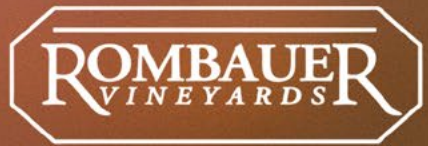


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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel

Hopefully, you were able to attend the AT&T Pro-Am this year. We were there each day and enjoyed every minute of it. Phil Mikelson took home his fifth trophy from the tournament, adding another level of excitement to the week.

In homage to the sport, we're featuring the iconic golf photography of Joann Dost as well as photos from the Julian P. Graham Historical Photographic Collection in this issue.

Then, we dug into a bit of San Francisco history at the Drisco Hotel, made our way over to Napa Valley and checked out the recent reincarnation of Vintage House at Estate Yountville, met up at Kenzo Estate Winery to talk with Kenzo Tsujimoto, interviewed Kelly Carter of Alpha Omega, and caught up with our friends over at Peju Province Winery. Finally, we spoke with the partners of The North Bay Fire Relief Fund to learn about the progress made since the 2017 fires. The transformation is astonishing.



In this issue, you will also meet some Sausalito locals: Carmen Cruz, general manager of the recently remodeled and internationally-known Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa; Deborah Keane, founder of California Caviar, who is setting new standards for the American caviar industry by focusing on sustainability, innovation, education, and affordability; and Cheryl Popp, who opened and manages Book Passage By-the-Bay, an independent bookstore on the waterfront that has become the literary hub of Sausalito.

When we made our way back to the Monterey Peninsula, we interviewed Christine Cater, proprietor of Barefoot Floral, a name inspired by the carefree Carmel lifestyle; artist Simon Bull, who you may recognize for his portraits of Barack Obama, commissioned by boxer Muhammad Ali; and spent some time at the Santa Lucia Preserve, a truly natural gathering place.

Rich

57°

THIS IS THE CITY

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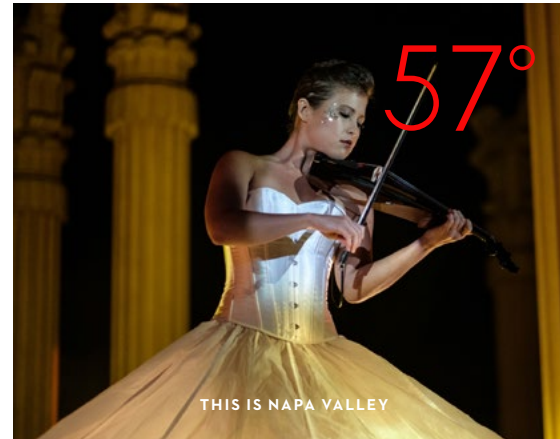
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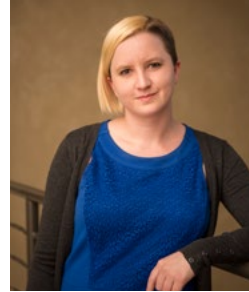
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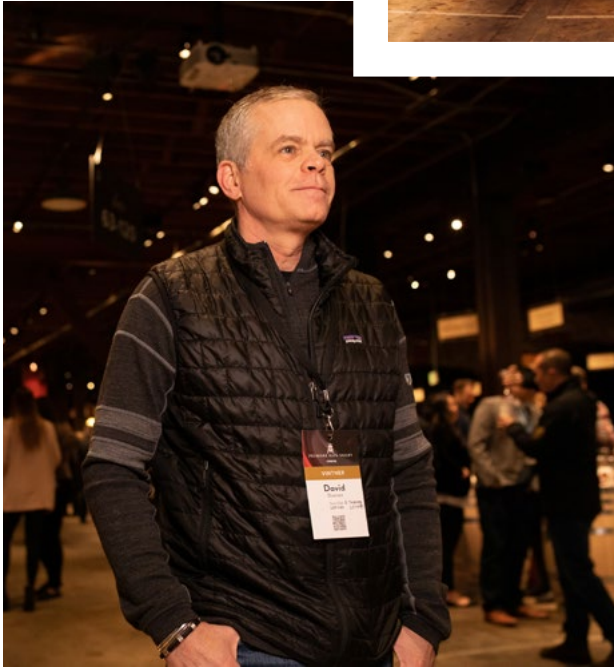
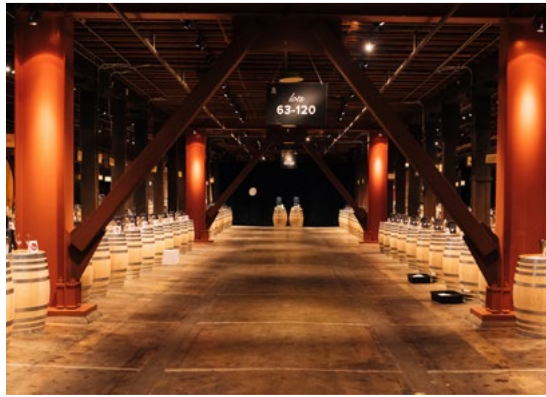
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Of Muses and Michelin Stars

By Fran Endicott Miller | Photos courtesy of Kenzo

The late Margrit Mondavi no doubt served as muse to many in the Napa Valley, but perhaps to none more so than Kenzo Tsujimoto. Kenzo met Mondavi and her husband, Robert, after moving to the Valley in 1990 to ultimately establish Kenzo Estate winery. The Mondavis proved to be valued mentors to the Japanese founder of the video game company Capcom. The mentorship evolved into a friendship, one in which Mondavi and Kenzo would find inspiration for more than 25 years.

Kenzo readily acknowledges that Mondavi was the catalyst behind his opening an authentic Japanese kaiseki restaurant (serving an authentic, multicourse Japanese dinner that balances taste, texture, appearance, and presentation aesthetics) in downtown Napa. Having found success in establishing his Napa winery, and as owner of a number of restaurants in his native Japan, Kenzo was encouraged by Mondavi to bring the flavors of his homeland to the cuisine-centric California. Two years ago, Kenzo opened his eponymous restaurant on Pearl Street in the revitalized downtown district. Sadly, Mondavi did not live to witness their shared dream-come-true. “Yet [her] presence is tangible at least once each month, when Kenzo and [wife] Natsuko dine at the restaurant,” says General Manager Tomonori Iwao. “At every meal, they place [her photo] on their tabletop.”

Kenzo restaurant achieved its 1-Star Michelin rating soon after opening. With 3-Star Michelin Japanese Chef Hiroyuki Kanda as initial consultant and Executive Chef Kenji Miyaishi now manning the kitchen, the restaurant is a destination eatery attracting kaiseki fans the world over. One of only a handful of authentic kaiseki restaurants in the nation, a Kenzo meal consists of 12 courses—9 savory and 3 sweet—each stunningly presented in a range of bowls,

dishware, and serving pieces that were hand-selected in Japan to best present each dish. The menu changes every other month, and ingredients are seasonal and authentically Japanese.

Designed by Natsuko, the Kenzo’s interior is elegantly minimal, allowing the artistic dishes to take center stage. Part sanctuary, part temple, the restaurant features 25 seats, some at tables, some at the lengthy Japanese cypress counter where sushi chefs are perched slightly below, and others at a more intimate, private sushi counter. Guests are invited to select their preferred seats; a floor plan layout is available for online viewing. Soft beige walls, imported wood ceilings, and river rock accents create a serene and relaxing atmosphere. And while many restaurants seem to take pride in their hearing-loss-inducing cacophony, Kenzo’s ambience is peaceful. Tables are widely spaced for privacy, and guests can converse easily.



A large selection of sakes and beers are featured at Kenzo, but diners would be remiss to ignore the spectacular vintages from the Kenzo Estate wine collection by celebrated viticulturist David Abreu and esteemed wine maker Heidi Barrett, known as the Valley’s Queen of Cabernet. Guests may enjoy a flight, and for the full Kenzo beverage experience, an omakase (translation: “I’ll leave it up to you”) choice is the way to go.

“Our omakase beverage experience takes guests out of their comfort zone,” says Kenzo’s assistant general manager, Nicholas Keegan. “Then we bring them back in, and then out again, with a selection of bubbles, sake, beers, and wines. That’s the joy of omakase,” and is one of the innumerable joys of Kenzo.

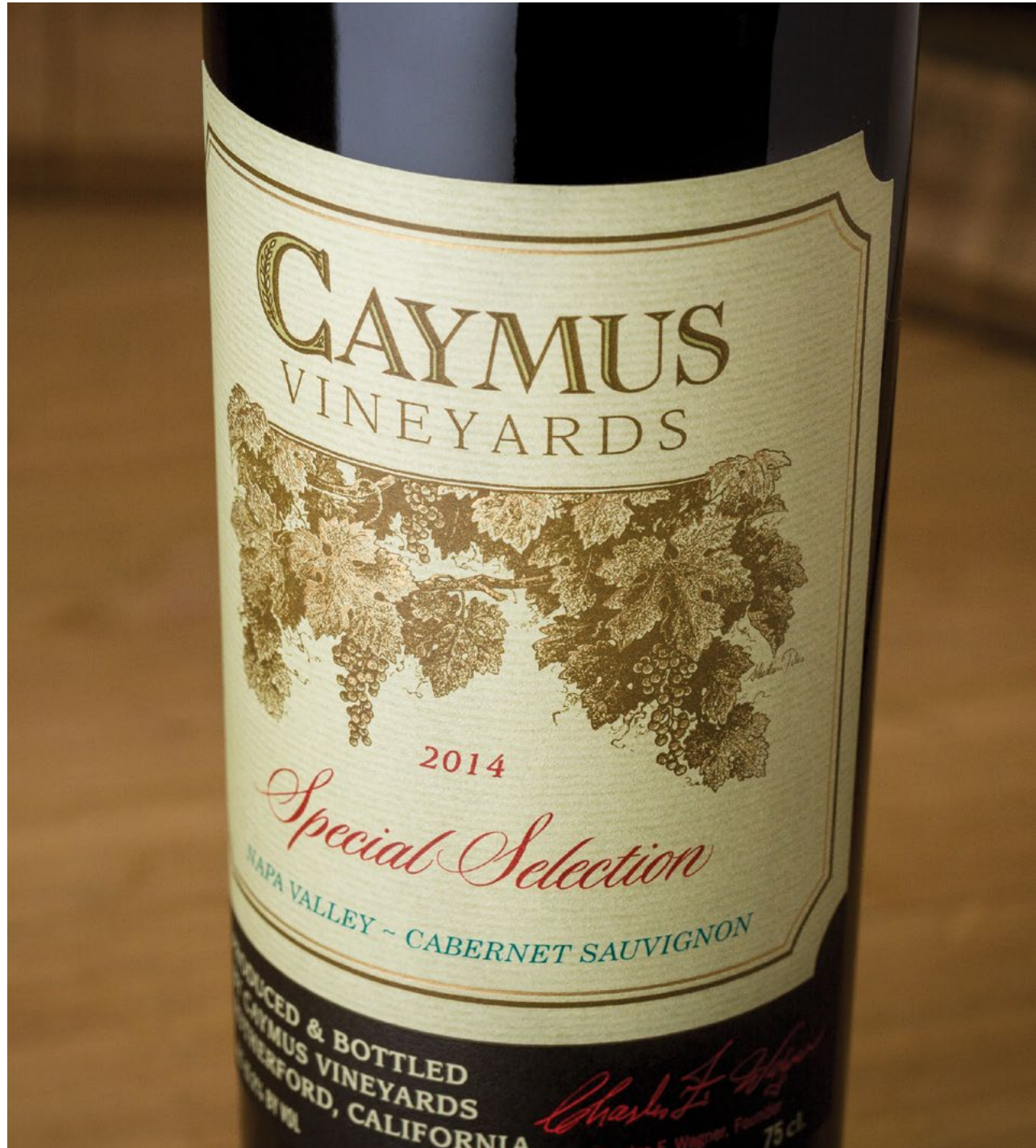
Mondavi would, no doubt, approve.



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Festival Napa Valley

By Kacy Shaw | Photos courtesy of Festival Napa Valley



Celebrate the “10 Best Days of Summer” at Festival Napa Valley, the annual event that blends the beauty and bounty of Napa with the very finest performing arts staged in iconic Napa Valley venues.

Producing spectacular concerts and lavish events that are dedicated to keeping the arts alive in the community, Festival Napa Valley draws 12,000 people annually to enjoy and celebrate, with events such as Opera Under the Stars at Meadowood and Taste of Napa, which brings together over 70 local wineries, restaurants, and top artisans to offer visitors some of Napa’s most sought-after wines and delicious fare to sample as they enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, Napa sunshine, and live music.

Having attracted the likes of Sophia Loren, Bill Murray, Kristin Chenoweth, and more, Festival Napa Valley’s fourteenth season will take place July 12 through 21, and will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing with more than 60 concerts and events in a season of innovation, exploration, and discovery.

A rich program that ranges from symphonic concerts, opera, chamber music, and jazz to film and dance, some of this season’s highlights include four-time Grammy Award winner Seal headlining Wine Country’s biggest arts charity event, the Arts for All Gala at HALL Napa Valley, British cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, who performed at the Royal Wedding, making his Bay Area debut with the Havana Chamber Orchestra at Far Niente, a private evening at Calistoga Ranch with Broadway legend Patti LuPone, and Festival Orchestra Napa performing John Williams’ Academy Award-winning score to Star Wars: A New Hope while the iconic 1977 film is projected on a giant screen.

A Patron Pass will allow you unrivaled access to all events, artist meet-and-greets, exclusive lunches, and preferred seating at Patron dinners. Each Patron Pass also helps underwrite affordable Festival Napa Valley concert tickets for seniors, veterans, and families.

To view the full schedule and purchase passes, visit [FestivalNapaValley.org](https://www.FestivalNapaValley.org).







Vintage House at Estate Yountville

By Fran Endicott Miller

Located on some of the most prized real estate in Napa Valley, the Estate Yountville and its 22 acres comprise two posh hotels—Villagio Inn & Spa and Vintage House—and lifestyle shopping and dining destination V Marketplace. This swank must-stop on Napa Valley traveler itineraries lies in the heart of Yountville, the 1.53-square-mile hamlet that, through the years, has evolved from rural village to an elegant destination for bon vivants.

Ever transforming to meet the needs and desires of its affluent patrons, Estate Yountville in its most recent reincarnation—under ownership team Thayer Lodging/Brookfield Properties—includes a complete reimagining of Vintage House, formerly known to longtime Yountville visitors as The Vintage Inn.

The recent remodel includes stylish design details that evoke a distinct sense of place, capturing a unique fusion of agrarian roots and expressive sophistication. Says Jennifer Rutkowski, vice president of sales and marketing for Brookfield Hotel Properties, “We know these 22 acres are a treasured piece of the Yountville community, and we know that residents take personally any changes to the property. Our vision is to take something special and ingrained and bring it to life again in a way that is more welcoming. Our goal is to expand the story outside Napa and the Bay Area. We want Vintage Estate to be on everyone’s bucket list.”

Surrounded by lush vineyards and calming water features, Vintage House and its public spaces flawlessly blend Napa Valley culture with a modern, relaxed vibe. The glass of wine offered at check-in is a fitting gesture; enjoy this gracious offering in the Great Room, reminiscent of a sophisticated and contemporary Wine Country residence with its vaulted ceilings, oversized windows, tufted velvet furniture, and romantic wrought-iron and crystal chandelier at its focal point.

Guest rooms incorporate natural elements and materials reflecting the surrounding region’s beauty. Features include sumptuous bedding, oversized wood-burning fireplaces, private balconies or patios, extra-large bathrooms, oversized double showers, and ESPA® natural bath amenities. All visits include complimentary amenities such as a daily Wine Country continental breakfast, daily turndown service, Wi-Fi, parking, and more.

Unwind in a stylish private cabana at the pool or take advantage of the newly redesigned spa at Spa Villagio—it is one of the area’s premiere luxury day spas and the largest in the area, with seven treatment rooms and five sumptuous couple’s spa suites, all of which have their own indoor and outdoor fireplace and lounge area, steam shower, sauna, and outdoor hydrotherapy soaking bath.



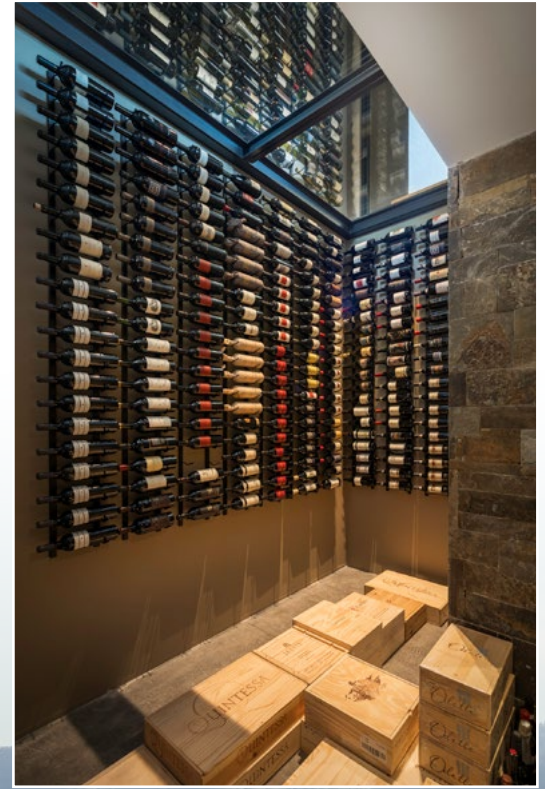
Perhaps the most distinguishing characteristic of Vintage House is its proximity to Yountville’s culinary and viticultural bounty. Thomas Keller’s bevy of lauded restaurants are all within walking distance: The French Laundry, Bouchon and Bouchon Bakery, Ad Hoc, and his newest, La Calenda, serving Oaxacan cuisine at the former Hurley’s site. A dozen wine tasting rooms also surround the inn, including Hestan, Girard, and

Silver Trident, to name a few. Make an appointment with Kerrin Laz at her eponymous tasting room and absorb her extensive wine knowledge, or step into Jean-Charles Boisset’s orbit at his JCB Tasting Salon, where he has curated a realm of overt opulence.

Vintage House is the ideal home base from which to experience the best of Yountville, home to the some of the best in the Napa Valley.



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In Napa and Sonoma Counties, striated vineyards wrap hills for miles, hot air balloons bespeckle the sky, and locally-owned boutiques line historic streets. Award-winning restaurants, wineries, spas, shops, and daily events sit at residents' fingertips. Real estate agent Christine Jensen loves the area for these reasons and more, which is why she's impassioned to help people establish their homes and businesses here.

Specializing in vineyard estates in Napa and Sonoma Counties, Christine has the knowledge and experience to locate elegant properties specific to the distinctive needs of her clients, making the process as effortless as possible. She possesses a wealth of knowledge when it comes to wine county living and engenders deep trust from clients who value her honesty, integrity, and discretion. "After many months and attempting, unsuccessfully, to work with other realtors, we met and interviewed Christine Jensen. We were so pleased by her attentiveness, responsiveness, and local knowledge. Christine quickly earned our trust and respect and it was a pleasure to be able to get honest answers and advice on such a big purchase. We could not be happier with our home and the smooth home buying experience we had with Christine," says Andrew G.

Immersed in the luxury real estate market, Christine provides exceptional customer service, making herself fully available to clients throughout the purchasing and selling processes. She also serves as a valuable resource for clients, providing honest and complete information about the area, properties, and procedures.

Christine is known for her professionalism, integrity, loyalty, and interior design expertise. "We are privileged to have Christine represent Sotheby's International Realty in Wine Country," says Jonathan Soh, Vice President and Broker of Sotheby's International Realty Wine Country Offices. "The knowledge, work ethic, and enthusiasm she brings to the job every day is contagious and embodies the standard of excellence we expect at a luxury brokerage."

Christine Jensen also represents a group of experts in the Napa Valley providing turnkey services for oversea investors with available long-term vineyard and winery management solutions for maximized convenience and return on investment.

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YOUNTVILLE SAN FRANCISCO ST. HELENA HEALDSBURG





Town to Country

By Fran Endicott Miller | Photos by Darren Lovecchio

Kelly Carter has never met a stranger. Warm, personable, and self-effacing, the former journalist and connoisseur of the luxe life includes among her pals Hollywood directors, NBA players, San Francisco society mavens, celebrated vintners, and guests of Alpha Omega Winery, where she now serves as its director of communications.

Alpha Omega vintner Michelle Baggett lured Carter from her glamorous life as editor of *Haute Living San Francisco* magazine to an equally glamorous position in the heart of the Napa Valley. Carter's transition—from one who attended and covered events and personalities to one who now seeks that coverage for Alpha Omega, the Rutherford-based, premium producer of Bordeaux varietals—was seamless. This was largely in part to the genuine relationships she has developed not only throughout the San Francisco Bay Area but also throughout the world.

“Unfortunately, journalism changed drastically from what it was, when I decided to become a journalist at the age of nine, to what it is today,” says Carter. “After three very fulfilling decades in the business, I reinvented myself in fabulous Napa Valley. People from all over the world are drawn here. I love introducing visitors to Alpha Omega and my favorite haunts.”

A self-described bon vivant, Carter's previous journalistic endeavors took her to more than 40 countries and territories on six continents. She has interviewed Bill Clinton, Sir Richard Branson, Robin Roberts, Thomas Keller, Kobe Bryant, Giorgio Armani, and countless other celebrities. One particularly successful sit-down led to a now years-long friendship with a well-known television producer whose children consider her part of the family.

“She has a sunny personality that is very engaging,” says Baggett, who along

with her husband Robin founded Alpha Omega in 2006. “When she walks into a room, you instantly take notice of her beautiful presence, her smile, her laughter, her great fashion . . . it is all infectious!”

Carter blazed trails when she became the Los Angeles Lakers' first female beat writer. A published author, she teamed with tennis phenom Venus Williams to co-author the *New York Times* bestseller *Come to Win: Business Leaders, Artists, Doctors, and Other Visionaries on How Sports Can Help You Top Your Profession*. She followed that with *The Dog Lover's Guide to Travel*, a Lowell Thomas Award winner released by National Geographic Books.

Though now well ensconced in her role with Alpha Omega, her keyboard hasn't been completely abandoned. She's currently working on a memoir, *Bellini for One*, which details her two-year Italian adventure, and she continues her involvement with *Haute Living San Francisco* as the magazine's Wine Country ambassador, providing Napa Valley news to its readership. But her day-to-day world is now all about wine, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

“[Carter's] enthusiasm to learn everything about the wine industry is very empowering to so many of our team members,” says Baggett. “An amazing writer of everything luxury, she takes time away from her pen and her cushy office to place her hands in the Napa Valley soil alongside our wine production team harvesting in the vineyards. Now that is inspiring!”

“I've been blessed to have met so many amazing and accomplished people, experience the world in style, and live in incredible places, including L.A., New York, San Francisco, and Italy,” says Carter. “Now, country living suits me because of where I am, spiritually. Wineries make the best neighbors.”





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Exploring and Tasting at Peju

By Fran Endicott Miller | Photos courtesy of Peju

Perhaps you know Peju Province Winery for the row of uniquely pruned 40-foot sycamore trees that arch over its entrance, providing a calming welcome from the hustle and bustle of Highway 29. Maybe you know it for its balanced, expressive, elegant Cabernet Sauvignons, Merlots, Cab Francs, and Sauvignon Blancs. Or possibly you're aware of the popularity of winemaker Sara Fowler, a perpetual winner of "favorite winemaker" queries and whose commitment to excellence in the vineyard and the cellar is reflected in each and every bottle of Peju wine. Whatever your affiliation with this Napa Valley winery mainstay, it might be time for another peek inside the property's 50-foot French Provincial-styled tower, whose image graces the label of every Peju wine.

As Napa Valley wineries continue to up the ante on wine-tasting adventures, a select few reach for the stars with new immersive experiences. Among them is Peju, where three unique opportunities allow guests to fully engage in the casual elegance of a wine country lifestyle while enjoying the spectacular vantage point overlooking the surrounding vineyards, the Vaca and Mayacama Mountains, and Mount St. Helena.

Peju's "Rutherford Dust Experience" pairs guests with with one of Peju's certified sommeliers, who provides a light-hearted exploration of its Rutherford AVA terroir and the history of Cabernet Sauvignon in this nearly mythical grape growing region and Peju's home for nearly four decades. The "Peju Wine and Culinary Exploration" features small bites from an ever-changing menu based on seasonal ingredients—many of which are harvested directly from Peju's organic garden—paired with a selection of current release wines. And "Art of Seeing - Peju Style" is unlike anything offered in

the Valley. Guests are guided through a Napa Valley landscape inaccessible to the general public. Your host? A master photographer, such as Janna Waldinger or Lowell Downey, who provides entrée to hidden vineyards and forests while sharing tricks of the trade. Afterward enjoy a four-course meal with wine pairings back at Peju.

For the purists who simply desire a sip of this and that, Peju's wine tasting-only options include a choice of Classic and Reserve. And unlike a majority of Napa wineries, Peju continues to welcome drop-in visitors for such tastings. Exploring this iconic and architecturally unique winery is encouraged. Wander, with glass in hand, throughout the gardens and the art gallery that rotates exhibits by prominent artists from all over the world. Peju works with St. Helena's Christopher Hill Gallery to curate its art displays.



A love of farming and a passion for wine first led Tony and Herta Peju from their Los Angeles home to the idyllic Napa Valley estate in 1982. Their purchase of 30 acres, in the heart of the Valley, proved fortuitous, as their Rutherford location soon became well known as a gold-standard producer of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. The duo, along with their adult daughters, now own and manage more than 500 acres in the Valley, allowing production of a multitude of varietals and blends. What initially was a simple grape-growing venture has blossomed into a landmark winery, one that, going on 37 years, continues to be family owned and operated.





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Forging a Path through the Flames

By Andrea Stuart

One day in 2015, when plumes of smoke and flame engulfed California's Lake County, State Senator Mike McGuire ventured out to Middletown, where 1,200 homes had burned in one night. Although he didn't know it at the time, the devastation of this rural community and the vastness of the fires were about to give rise to a precedent for how fire emergencies would be managed in Northern California in the future.

That evening, McGuire called Brett Martinez, President and CEO of Redwood Credit Union (RCU). Within two days, with the cooperation of Steve Falk, CEO of Sonoma Media Investments (parent of the *Press Democrat*), they created a partnership and ultimately the funding framework for a regional disaster relief strategy. Created within the Redwood Credit Union Community Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, funds collected and distributed through this structure were instrumental in providing immediate financial assistance to Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Lake Counties for each major fire thereafter.

During the 2017 North Bay Fires, the relief fund raised and distributed over \$32 million in only four months. More than 41,100 donations came in from all 50 US states and 23 other countries, 70 percent of which came from outside the four

affected counties. "Our partnership is powerful," says Martinez. "Senator McGuire, Steve Falk, and I all bring something different to the table."

When looking at the backgrounds and experience of each partner, this collaboration seems as organic as untouched soil. McGuire has a long history of serving as a champion for his community

and the environment that started at age 19, when he was elected to the Healdsburg School Board. In 2004, he became the city's youngest mayor, and in 2014, he became a California senator. "The success of the relief fund speaks to the severity of the firestorm and the generous spirit of our neighbors," says McGuire. "We were grateful to partner with the Redwood Credit Union and the *Press Democrat*, and cannot say thank you enough to the tens of thousands of donors who answered the call in our greatest time of need. Those

funds came at such a critical time and have helped thousands across the fire-ravaged North Bay rebuild their lives."

Martinez has been in the credit union industry for over 30 years and has a wealth of experience growing financial and educational programs in his communities. On a weekend trip, he fell in love with the beauty of Sonoma County and subsequently



accepted a leadership role at Redwood Credit Union, relocating to Northern California. He was named president and chief executive officer in 2004, and has made RCU a community staple. “When bad things happen, it’s an opportunity for the people who can help to step up and make a difference. And that’s what we’re doing,” says Martinez.

With community running through his veins, Falk is the former publisher of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and former chief executive of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. In 2012, a group of local investors bought several publications including the *Press Democrat*, one of the most-read media companies in California, reaching 7 out of 10 adults in the market. “[The newspaper] is privately owned, so we don’t have to worry about analyses. It’s all about reporting on local community,” says Falk. “Of course, we’re going to help in every capacity we can! It’s part of our DNA when it comes to why we are in this business.”

The 2017 North Bay Fire Relief Fund granted \$20,498,854 directly to people who lost homes or experienced economic hardship, \$9,587,586 to nonprofits providing services to aid immediate needs of fire survivors, \$1,000,000 for small local businesses directly affected by the fires, and \$942,541 to support fire survivor health and well-being. Such an undertaking is almost unimaginable for any grassroots organization to achieve; it thus speaks volumes that three individuals were able to call on the world for support and receive such an enormous response.

“Senator McGuire knew who needed support and connected us to organizations at the time of distribution,” says Falk, explaining how the monies were distributed.

“One thing people don’t usually understand is there is no list of people who were impacted. Even if you apply for FEMA [Federal

Emergency Management Agency aid], there is no database. You have to raise your hand. You have to apply,” adds Martinez.

One hundred percent of every donated dollar went to support the needs of fire survivors. Redwood Credit Union covered all costs associated with running the program and provided the platform for the fund, while the *Press Democrat* covered ad costs and got the word out (during October 2017, 4.7 million people read the *Press Democrat* in print or online). Collaborators of the North Bay Fire Relief Fund are proud of the program’s success, proving that the right partnership can be a paradigm for disaster relief.

Today, Sonoma and Napa Counties are recovering with grace. Northern California’s wine country is open for business and celebrating its rebuild. The recovery process will take 10 years because the area had a housing crisis before the fires, leaving the tentacles from the last emergency to wrap around the current crisis, but Martinez, McGuire, and Falk are optimistic. “Things like this have emotional impacts. It’s an emotional rollercoaster that ends in hope,” says Martinez. “You see the community coming together and rebuilding. You see people excited for their new homes, and businesses reenergized, and you feel good.”

Since 2015, Martinez, McGuire, and Falk have learned hands-on about disaster relief and how to prepare for natural disasters. They are now educating and speaking to other groups in hopes of spreading their knowledge and success. Says Martinez: “Disaster response is something you don’t want to become good at, but we have, and it’s necessary.”

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What's Happening in Sausalito?

By Karen Aiken

Mother Nature kept busy in Sausalito this winter. Heavy winds and rainstorms brought King Tides (high tides), which resulted in extensive flooding on Gate 5 Road and a landslide on Sausalito Avenue, resulting in the evacuation of 50 Sausalito families.

However, the downtown Sausalito beautification campaign continued making headway. The newly constructed Cascais Plaza, a gift from our sister city Cascais, Portugal, has been landscaped with trees, shrubs, and Anchor Bay ground cover. The Sausalito Historical Society broke ground on renovation of the Ice House Plaza Visitor Center. And the Dunphy Park Improvement Project is opening the Bay shoreline to awesome views and water access. Plus, South Park and MLK Park are being improved. Spring blossoms in Sausalito will be extra special this year.



Recently, the iconic Jaws Regatta opened the sailing season. The race started and finished at the club deck. The day ended with a “jaw-dropping” party. The 2019 Rotary Global Groove Gala on March 30 also offered fun with a lively evening of cocktails, dinner, live auction, and raffle at The Spinnaker Restaurant, benefiting Sausalito Sister Cities this year.

Looking forward...

One of the most exciting events of the year, the Opening Day on the Bay, is around the corner. On April 23, the San Francisco Bay will be buzzing with colorful sailboats and motor boats. Meanwhile, Junior Sailing champions, August Sean and Megan Engelbrechten, are looking forward to July, which will bring youth sailors from our sister city Cascais, Portugal to our Youth Sailing Program for a week of sailing challenges.

The Sausalito Art Festival is now in its 67th year, bringing together fine art, music, food, and wine over Labor Day weekend. Finally, October 13th brings the much anticipated 3rd Annual Sausalito Wine Experience hosted by Poggio Trattoria and Casa Madrona Hotel and Spa. Held in Casa Madrona’s gorgeous rooftop Alexandrite Suite, the event overlooks the Bay and features tasty bites and wine from 13 of California’s top boutique wineries.







Under One Umbrella 10-Year Anniversary

Photos by Drew Altizer

More than 750 guests attended the 10th anniversary fundraiser for the Stanford Women's Cancer Center, Under One Umbrella, at Bing Concert Hall on February 27. The event raised \$3 million, bringing the total raised by the event over the years to \$51 million. These funds enable the center to recruit and retain world-class physicians and scientists; support the clinical trials of new drugs, genetics, and immunotherapies and improve diagnostics and expand and maintain supportive care services for patients and families during treatment.

In attendance were Chairwoman Lisa Goldman as well as chair emeriti Lisa Schatz and Dr. Jonathan Berek, Laurie Kraus Lacob Professor and director of the Stanford Women's Cancer Center. Both served as the evening's hosts. Award-winning musician Trisha Yearwood served as the MC for the evening and performed at the event as did country music legends Garth Brooks and Keith Urban.

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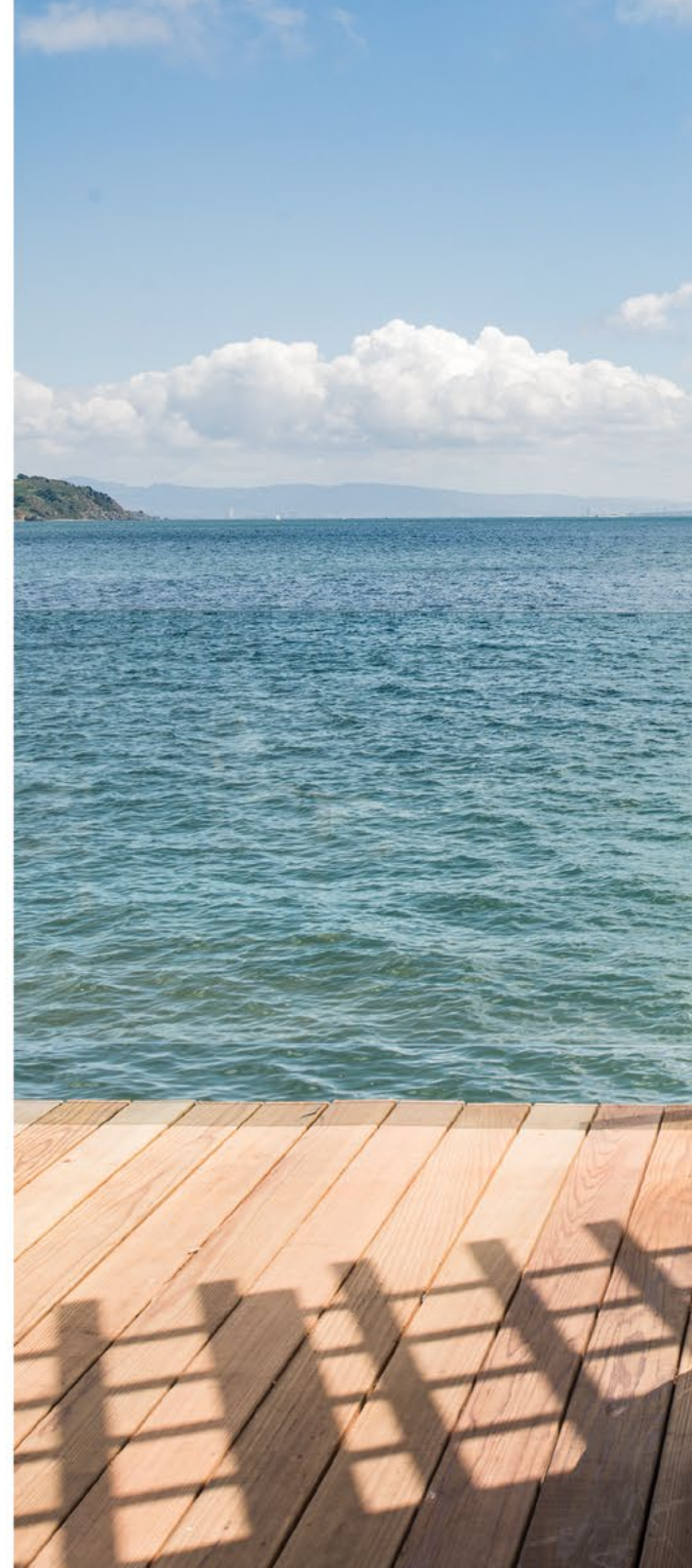
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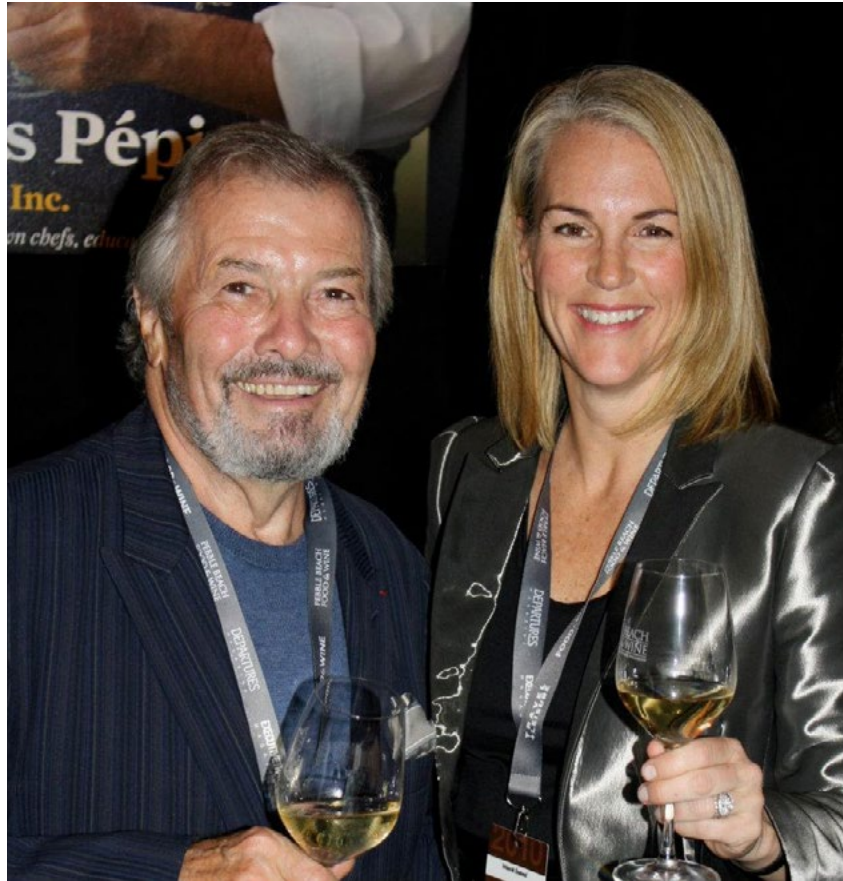




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Sustainable California Caviar

By Jennifer Moulaison | Photos courtesy of California Caviar

“In the world of caviar, we go from grit to glam,” says Deborah Keane, founder and CEO of California Caviar, describing the many facets of her job. “On any given day, we might go from the farm and [fish] tanks to high-profile charitable events like the GBK Lounge at the Oscars.”

The world’s first woman-owned caviar company and farm is headquartered in Sausalito and hosts a tasting room where customers can hone their palates and sample caviar by the gram. Keane brings a unique perspective to the industry, blending traditional methods with current culinary trends, and leading with sustainability practices. A pioneer in a niche industry, it’s little wonder she has garnered the attention of the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, CBS, and NBC, and collaborated with Michelin-starred restaurants and such prestigious venues as the Golden Globes and the Oscars.

Keane found her passion for caviar while living in France, working with chefs at Le Cordon Bleu. She returned to the States possessing a refined and discerning palate for the delicacy, and was approached to become part-owner in the United States’ first sturgeon farm producing caviar—one of six worldwide, at the time, many of which were struggling with technique. Keane’s knowledge and aptitude for problem solving served her and the company well. “I vividly remember the day we got it right—my aha moment; it was like eating candy. And I instantly understood the potential—and challenge—of mastering something that would shape a whole new industry.”

Since then, California Caviar has grown to become the standard in sustainable production, supplying caviar to prestigious vendors such as Williams Sonoma and Dean & DeLuca, and to a number of Michelin-starred restaurants. Keane’s label has established partnerships with world-renowned chefs, including Jacques

Pépin. “Chefs realize that precision and reliability are essential to delivering their customers an elevated dining experience. [They] have an amazing amount of respect for the process, and are vested in our selection of fish, terroir, salt, and timing to elevate their own culinary creations.”

Keane enjoys sharing her expertise and knowledge with her caviar chefs. “I am very proud of my Vault program, where we bring top chefs into the tanks and production and packing rooms with our hands-on approach to caviar processing for our private label program.” She’s delighted when the chefs take pride in their custom caviar.



Keane has always been uncompromisingly dedicated to sustainability. “We constantly strive for sustainable alternatives . . . saving the indigenous endangered species by providing a farmed alternative, which allows this precious resource to naturally repopulate,” she says, well aware that over-fishing for caviar production has destroyed 90 percent of wild sturgeon. She partners with scientists who are experts in natural harvesting practices, seeking approaches that promote ecosystem health. “We take natural water sources from our aquifers on property to supply our tanks and ponds. After it filters through our farm, our nutrient-rich water goes

to our neighbors to irrigate their fields for their cattle, and then it goes back into the ground to replenish our aquifers. It is a perfect loop; we put back what we take out.”

She also recognizes that sustainability is good business. “Greater supply brings down costs,” she explains, “and a burgeoning global market for sustainably farmed products will protect wild species so that this prestigious delicacy can be enjoyed for generations to come.”









Classic San Francisco Sophistication

By Fran Endicott Miller | Photos courtesy of Hotel Drisco

Stroll among the pristine streets and stately homes of Pacific Heights and you're likely to miss it. The elegant Hotel Drisco, housed in a historic 1903 Edwardian building at Pacific and Broderick, blends seamlessly with the gracious mansions surrounding it. Its exclusive location, relaxed residential atmosphere, and luxurious amenities make it the hotel choice for those desiring a quintessential San Francisco neighborhood experience. A respite from the hustle-and-bustle locales of the city's other first-class lodging options, Hotel Drisco is a favorite of visiting dignitaries, family members of those living nearby, and glitterati seeking a bit of privacy.

While updates and upgrades have been made through the years—the most recent remodel having taken place about a year ago—original details such as Honduran mahogany paneling and columns in the lobby are preserved, as is gracious hospitality for which the hotel is well known. “Our top priority continues to be in retaining the local character and refined but relaxed ambiance our guests have always loved us for, while weaving in thoughtful and modern refinements,” says General Manager John Spear, who keeps a stash of international flags on hand to raise for out-of-country visitors.

Such thoughtful, modern refinements are found in every guest room and suite, many of which feature sweeping views of San Francisco and Twin Peaks. Each room is designed in serene hues of cream, taupe, and slate, with striking pops of gold, and each is tastefully appointed with custom-designed furniture and vanities, pillow-top mattresses, custom-made goose down comforters and pillows, eco-friendly touches such as custom glass reusable water bottles, and Nespresso® coffee machines. Marble bathrooms feature radiant-heated floors, lighted fog-free vanity mirrors, walk-in showers, and Bvlgari® toiletries.

While it's true that plush furnishings and luxuriant toiletries can be found at other San Francisco hotels, what truly sets Hotel Drisco apart is its complimentary amenities such as the bountiful, gourmet, European-inspired continental breakfast served in the graceful dining room, featuring scones and clotted cream, prosciutto-wrapped melon, berry smoothies, yogurt parfaits, and a selection of fresh-squeezed juices. Espresso, cappuccino, and lattes are made to order. In the evening, a complimentary wine reception features California reds and whites paired with a gorgeous array of local artisan cheeses and charcuterie. Additional amenities include 24-hour coffee and tea service featuring organic fair trade blends, whole-leaf tea, and citrus water, chauffeur service on weekday mornings, HD-streaming quality Wi-Fi, free neighborhood parking, and 24-hour room service.

Though its location is private and somewhat secluded, Hotel Drisco is located within blocks of many of the city's iconic streets, such as Fillmore, Union, Sacramento, and Chestnut. Explore on foot or borrow a bike from the hotel's fleet. Museums, parks, and live music are also nearby.

“The Hotel Drisco is an iconic property that combines traditional elegance with contemporary residential-style comfort,” says Spear. “Our loyal guests consider the hotel their home away from home because we provide an unparalleled level of gracious and authentic service. The beautiful building and our charming neighborhood location seal the deal.”





Breaking Molds and Exceeding Goals

By Olivia Boynton | Photos by Tom Rosencrantz

Growing up in Barcelona in the late 1970s, during the resurgence of Catalan culture, Carmen Cruz—now general manager of Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa in Sausalito—was surrounded by a city imbued with history and cosmopolitan flair. Barcelona had become a melting pot of intellectuals and fashionistas, and repression of the Catalan culture had been lifted. Cruz's love of languages, traveling, and learning about other cultures flourished. In that bustling city, she nurtured her curiosity by writing, painting, and connecting with people from all walks of life.

Seeking truth and a deeper understanding of humanity, Cruz filled her room with books, from Don Quixote and La Regenta to *The Odyssey*, Aristotle's works, and stories from Greek mythology. She was also inspired by strong, rebellious women such as Joan of Arc, Marie Antoinette, and her own mother. Born shortly after the Spanish Civil War, her mother was an entrepreneur, a rare occupation for women of her time. She encouraged Cruz to dream big and work hard, with kindness in her heart. Cruz learned from her muses to value her intelligence and rebellious spirit, and to trust herself to go beyond society's limits.

Cruz discovered the world of hotels as a teenager, seeing the hospitality industry as an avenue to create meaningful experiences. Being in hospitality enabled her to learn about different languages, cultures, and people while breaking industry norms as a young woman. Earning her hotel management degree by age 27, Cruz had established herself as one of the youngest boutique hotel executives in Barcelona.

After such rapid success, she sought a deeper calling in her work. Led by her internal compass, she sought a break and found herself leaving Spain to attend a business program at University of California, Berkeley, and fell in love with San Francisco. "I knew one thing: I wanted to be the best and learn the most about the hotel industry, and I could only do that here."

In Barcelona, she had dreamed of working for Hilton Hotels. Her dream became reality in 2000, when she joined the Hilton family as the front desk manager in downtown San Francisco. Over the course of 10 years, Cruz was promoted first to assistant director, then to director of front office operations, director of rooms, and finally assistant general manager.



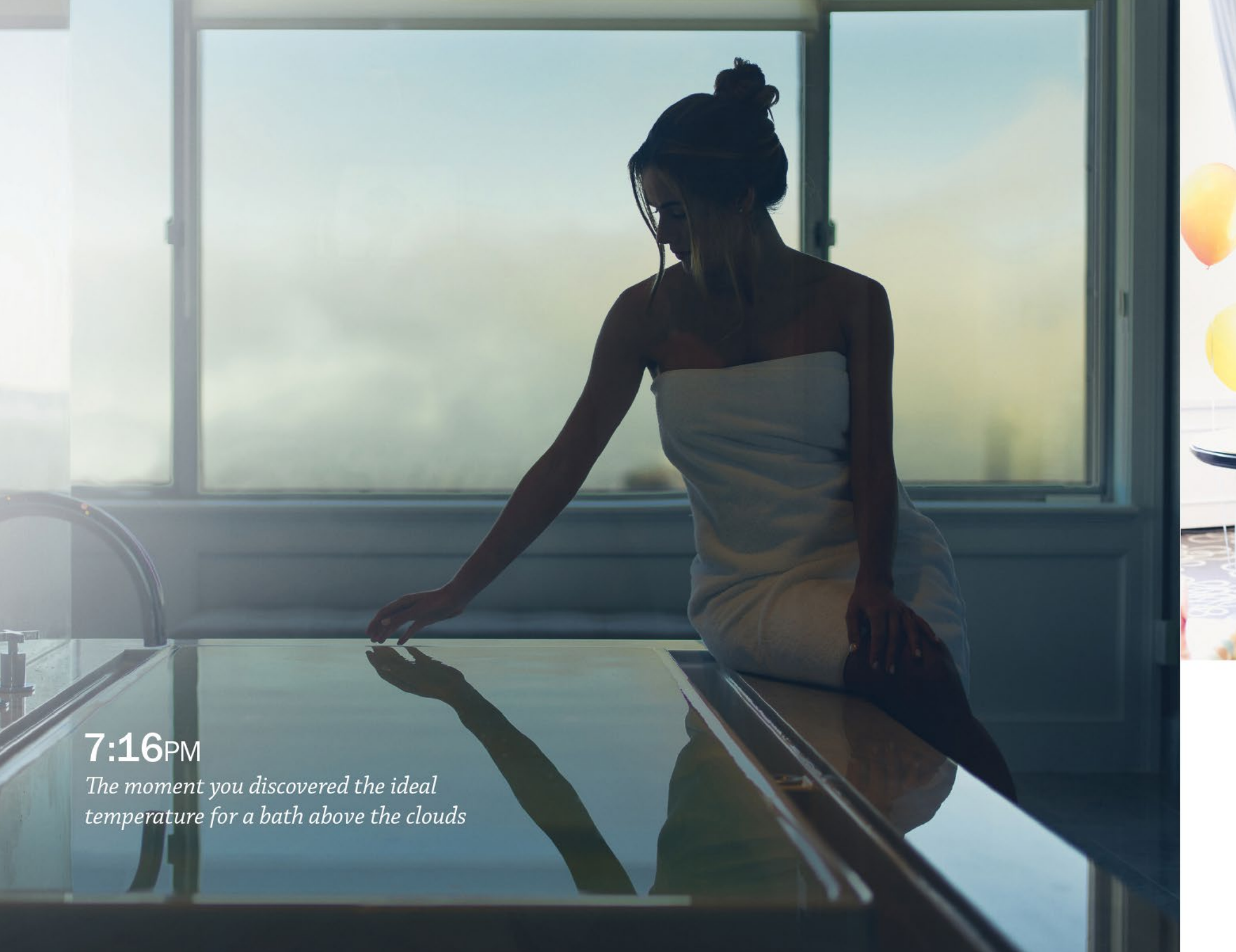
Today, Cruz is a trailblazer in the hotel industry. "As a general manager," she says, "I have only one main rule for myself and my teams, and that is to leave the ego at the door so we can create something spectacular and have fun in doing so!" Considering rules and expectations as guidelines for success, Cruz challenges limitations. "Never apologize for being intelligent," she continues.

Through her leadership roles in the hotel industry, Cruz has never forgotten her first front desk job and the labor of love that shaped her career into what it is today. Her ability to genuinely connect with people is the heart and soul of her life. "We do not know people's stories, where they came from, or why they left their countries. I interview everyone, and I create relationships that go beyond knowing my employee's names," she explains. "I want to know what are they passionate about in life and their dreams. I never forget where I came from and all I did to be where I am today." This is why you can find Cruz dusting, making a bed, or helping clean a bathroom. "I never underestimate anybody because of the job they might be performing, I often remind my teams that what we do is not who we are, it is just what we do."

Today, she continues creating unique experiences and innovating the industry. Following in her mother's pioneering footsteps, Cruz inspires others to do more, dream more, and become more, by believing in their potential.



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Smuin's Annual Gala

Leaders in the arts and civic communities came together at The Galleria in San Francisco for the silver anniversary celebration of Smuin Contemporary Ballet. Smuin's Annual Gala, co-chaired by Founding Board President Patti Hume and Jerry Hume, and Smuin Board member John Konstin and Athena Konstin, featured unique cocktails, exclusive performances by Smuin's artists, and a dinner by McCall's Catering complemented by fine wines from Grgich Hills Estate.

The evening began with Smuin's artists mingling with guests inside the iconic Kneeder Fauchère showroom, including California State Senator Scott Wiener, Commissioners Debra Walker and Kim Brandon, and former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. Next came a surprise announcement by San Francisco Mayor London Breed, who took the stage with a special proclamation declaring March 3, 2019 as "Smuin Contemporary Ballet" Day in San Francisco—commending the company for its history of bringing innovative works to the Bay Area's arts landscape.

After a silent auction, Smuin's dancers took the stage, performing Michael Smuin's Beatles tribute "And I Love Her" and his swinging ode to Sinatra, "Fly Me to the Moon," plus Trey McIntyre's "Fool That I Am" and "At Last" set to the soulful vocals of Etta James.

The evening culminated with a dinner and dancing. Funds raised will support the company's upcoming productions in the fall, winter, and spring, staged in San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Mountain View, and Carmel.





Stories by the Water

By Katherine Matuszak | Photos by Darren Lovecchio

If you've ever spent a sunny day walking along the Sausalito waterfront, you may have come across a shop with an awning the same shade of blue as the San Francisco Bay. It's Book Passage By-the-Bay, a cozy independent bookstore with a big personality.

The first Book Passage outlet opened in 1976, in Corte Madera, and the second was located in San Francisco. Until Book Passage By-the-Bay opened in 2017, Sausalito went without a major bookstore, and so this shop by the water has become a hub for those seeking adventure in the form of a book. It stocks everything, including classic novels, bestsellers, non-fiction, children's books, and a wide variety of books on cooking and travel.

The space also functions as an event center—for author talks and book signings, literary salons, weekly children's programs, and other special events—and is a reliable gathering place for locals who want to talk literature, art, and politics.

The store was made possible by Sausalito resident Cheryl Popp. A lifelong lover of books, Popp was passionate about bringing a book store to Sausalito. She located the scenic waterfront location and negotiated with the city and landlord to secure it, partnering with the owners of Book Passage to get the shop open. Popp was previously director of corporate communications. She currently works as a marketing consultant for a wide range of clients and is extremely involved in her community.

Popp is a former president of the Sausalito Chamber of Commerce and chair of the Sausalito Business Advisory Committee. She served on the Sausalito Yacht Club (SYC) board for many years and is chair of the Sausalito-Cascais Sister City program, managing a youth sailing exchange program between the

SYC and the Clube Naval in Cascais, Portugal. She also led the campaign for developing Praça de Cascais, a public plaza in the heart of downtown Sausalito that was built as a tribute to Sausalito's Portuguese heritage and its sister city relationship. Popp is also a founding director and curator for the Sausalito Film Festival, serves on the Sausalito Beautiful Advisory Board, and is active member in the Sausalito Woman's Club.



"Sausalito is home to so many well-known writers, poets, film makers, and artists," she says. "It's a privilege to be able to showcase and celebrate our local talent." A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, graduate of University of California, Berkeley, and published writer, Popp is a natural fit to foster a community of Bay Area book lovers. "Independent bookstores are thriving because they offer more than just books; they offer personalized attention and service, as well as a sense of community," she says.

From its picturesque location on the Sausalito Yacht Harbor, Book Passage By-the-Bay celebrates its community by offering books for local mariners, including shelves of nautical and maritime books.

It also sells unique gifts, travel gear, cards, and beverages. Moreover, the store is dog-friendly, so invite your favorite furry friend on that walk down the waterfront and pop in for a special event or children's program, or to find your next adventure between the pages of a book.

Popp is especially pleased to provide Sausalito with a place in which the community can come together to enjoy all that can be found within books. "Books can be a path to peace and understanding," she says. "For young and old alike, they offer journeys into new worlds, both real and fictional."



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