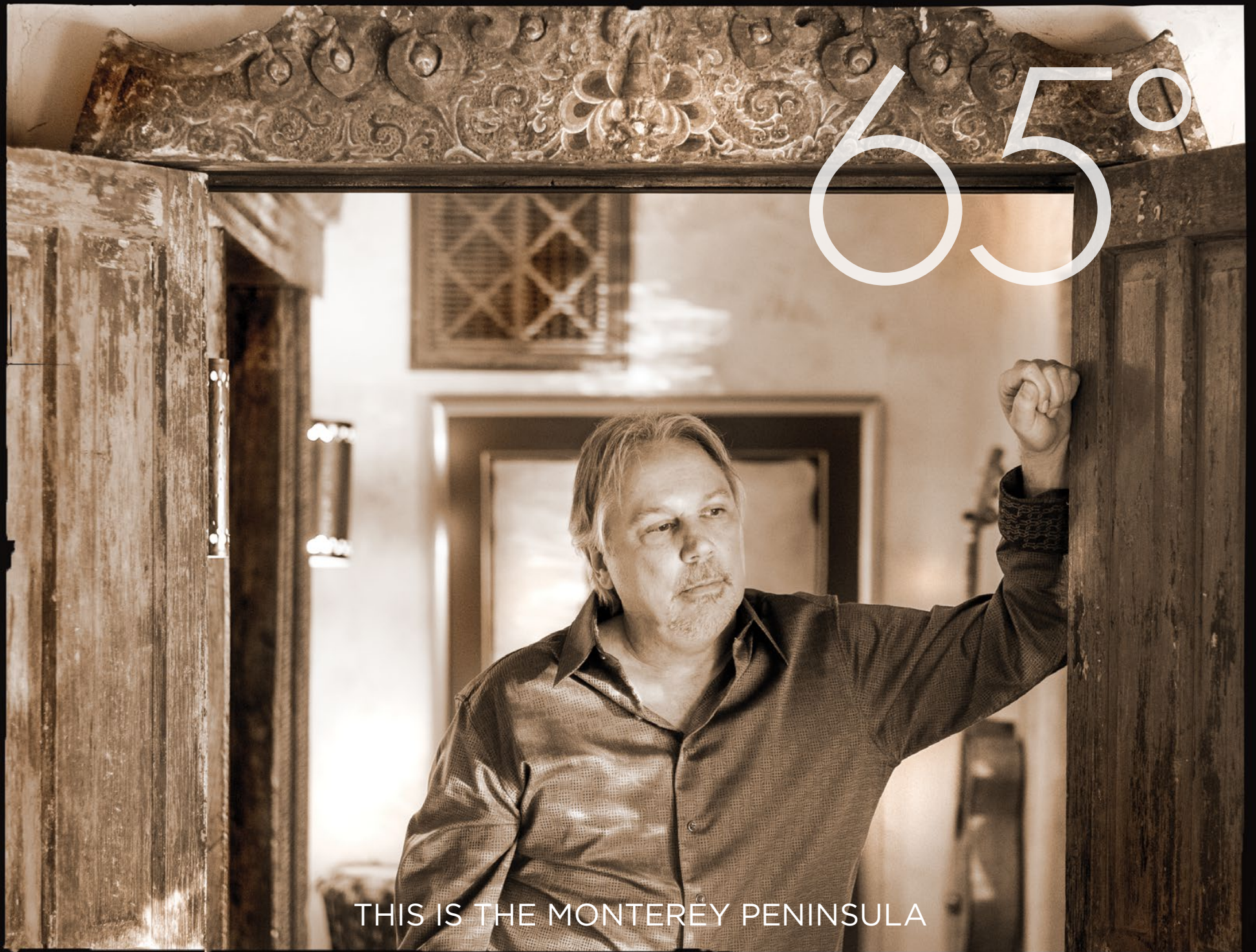


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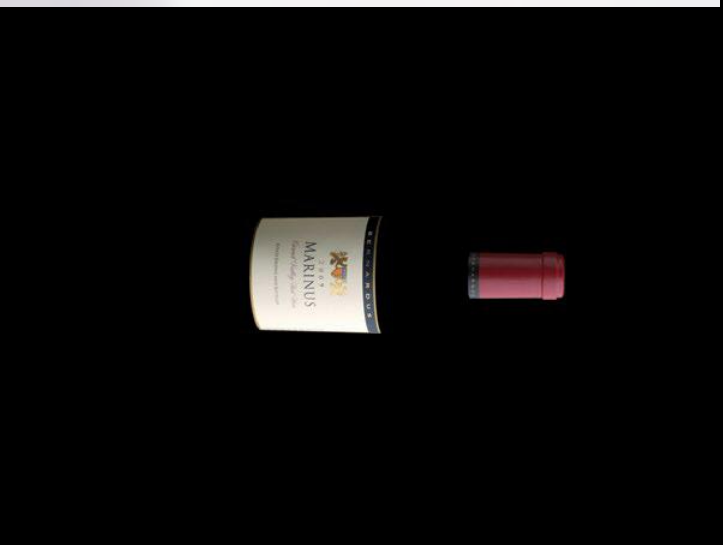
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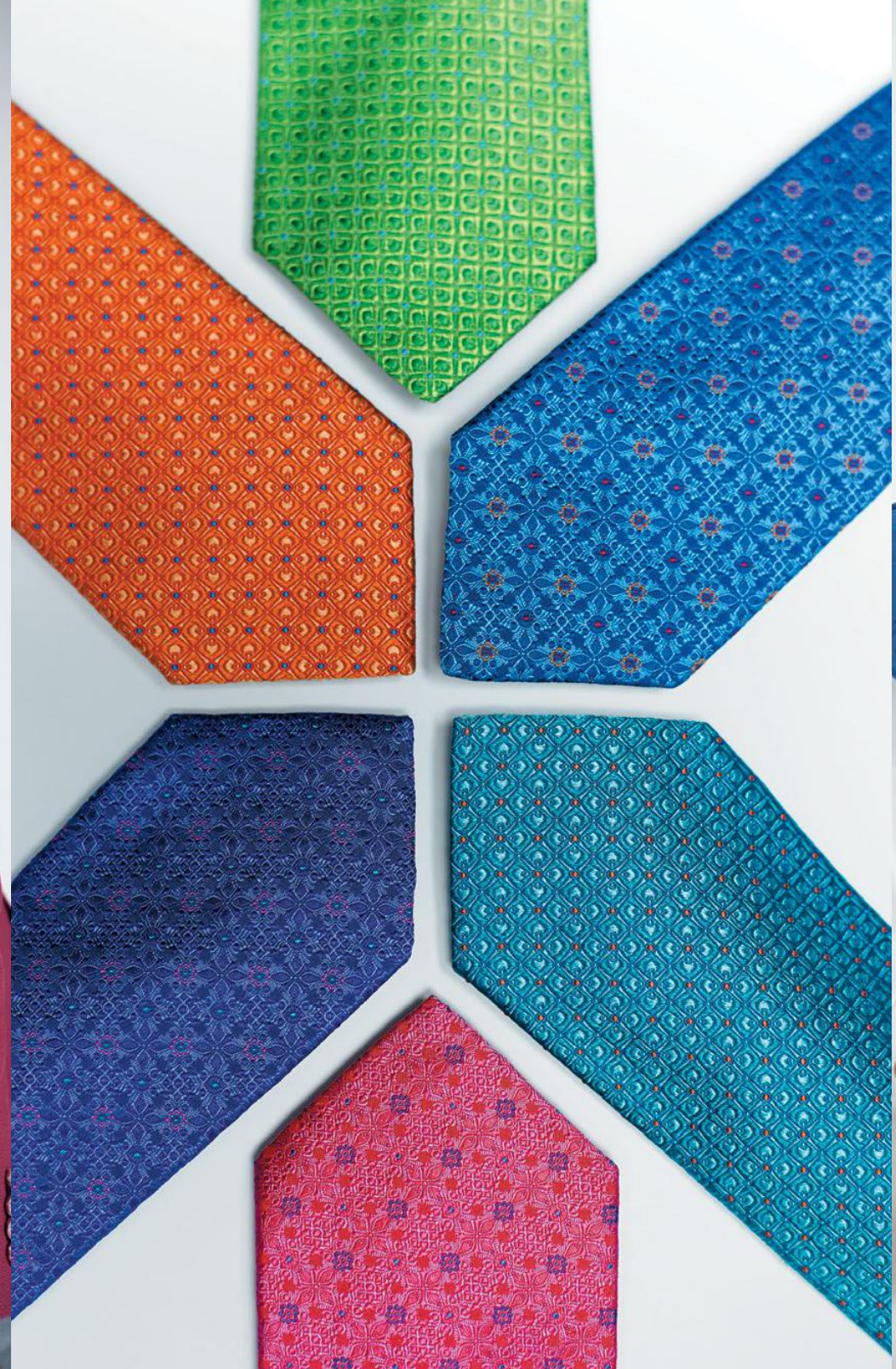
IN THE PINK:
UPGRADES TO THE
TICKLE PINK INN
By Michael Cervin



65°

Cover: Mark Mancina
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Paradise Found

Beads of sweat slithered off of her forehead and crept into her eyes. Her skin felt weighted against her bones as energy escaped her listless body with each labored breath. She sat back against the stiff seats of the Humvee as the Baghdad road punched up at the vehicle with each roll upon its pocked surface. A fever had been with her for months despite numerous attempts by doctors to cure her of this allegedly simple illness. How Iraqi native Dunya (Dina) Aljuboori found herself en route to Jordan in a U.S. military Humvee amidst a war-torn culture in 2004 is something of a miracle.



Dunya has been breaking molds since she became a hairstylist at sixteen, later earning a master's degree in fashion design and owning her own salon. It goes without saying that Dunya always completes the task at hand; she completed her master's thesis by the flickering light of a candle. With parents whose lives revolved around the fine arts—her mother was a director at a Baghdad television station and her father taught theater at university—and four siblings, Dunya found creative space in an otherwise linear existence.

During that jarring ride in the Humvee across the mine-laden desert landscape, Dunya didn't know what the future held for her, but she knew that the risk was necessary because, as she put it, "If I didn't die in an explosion, the disease would have killed me."

Just a year earlier, Dunya accepted a position with the U.S. military as a hairstylist. She accepted the job in an effort to bridge the cultural gap between her family and the U.S. military, whose formidable presence in Iraq at the time was especially concerning for homes with Iraqi men. "Because I have a brother and father they searched our house. So I thought I should work with them to defend my family." She became a conduit between two contrasting worlds, which was no easy feat for anyone, let alone an Iraqi woman in a multi-cultural conflict. Under ordinary circumstances, Dunya would be expected to adhere to cultural standards such as remaining with the family until marriage.

The bond she formed with the military proved exceptionally valuable, eventually leading to her emigration from Iraq to Jordan and then to the U.S. for cancer treatments. Despite the sorrow and worry they experienced, Dunya's family ultimately understood that if Dunya stayed in Iraq she would die. Her father, only earning \$3 a month as a professor, could not keep the family afloat. After receiving dozens of chemotherapy and radiation treatments in Jordan, Dunya petitioned the United Nations for U.S. refugee status. "I told them I could not go to Iraq because if I left Jordan they would not let me back in for treatment. They contacted the military manager,

who pleaded on my behalf. I came to the U.S. in 2006 to New York at Memorial Hospital in Manhattan as a refugee," Dunya says with a tremble in her voice.

Speaking only Arabic and having no job, money, residence, or friends, Dunya dusted the residue from her proverbial lens, continued her treatments, eventually found work at a restaurant earning \$2 an hour, attended cosmetology school, and learned English on the street. Eventually, she obtained a contract position at Fort Dixon in New Jersey, where she worked as a contracted translator following full days of weaving her fingers through hairspray-laden locks. "I felt I owed part of my life to the military for everything they had done for me."

In 2011, after a year of living in Monterey, Dunya began to manifest her dream of bringing her family to the U.S. It's a story that traverses more crossroads than a rush hour intersection in Japan and requires more space than an article can provide. Suffice it to say Congressman Sam Far and his staff were instrumental in immigrating her family. When she shares the story, her voice is sticky with sentiment and residual exhaustion from eight long years.

Now 34 years old and cancer free, Dunya attributes her personal and professional successes to friends and clients in Monterey, each of whom played important roles in reuniting her family. "I live with some siblings and I rent my parent's house. They are learning English. Life is good," she says.

Now an assistant Arabic professor at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey and a hairstylist at Nassime Of Carmel, Dunya wishes only one thing: that everyone, especially Americans, recognize how much they have and how much they can do if they simply realize it. "If you have water, electricity, good health, and access to the ocean you are very lucky," says Dunya. Even in the middle of her cancer treatments when she felt like an "ugly monkey" speaking to her "hairless, sour-skinned reflection," she realized commitment and hope were better allies than pity. "You have to be willing to do the work! Then you can do anything."

By Andrea Stuart | Photos by Ryan Rosene



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Mick doesn't just sell real estate, he sells lifestyles. His slogan has always been, "Welcome to Paradise. Let me help you stay forever." More than a catchphrase, this statement demonstrates Mick's commitment to excellence, integrity, and professionalism.



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Jeff Davi

It wasn't by luck or accident that Jeff Davi became the 22nd Commissioner of Real Estate for the State of California. He earned it. "Double Deuce," as he is affectionately called by his former colleagues, has over 25 years of experience in real estate sales, leasing, management, and financing. He has been a licensed California real estate broker since 1992. He is a past member of the Board of Directors for the California Association of REALTORS®, selected REALTOR® of the year by his peers, and served as president of the Monterey County Association of REALTORS®. His experience in real estate has spanned everything from selling real estate and managing his family real estate business, to serving as an industry regulator. As Real Estate Commissioner, he was instrumental in passing legislation that help better protect consumers from unscrupulous loan modification schemes.

However, Jeff is most proud of his family and his community. He is a third-generation Monterey Peninsula native, married to his wife, Kelly. They have five children and two grandchildren. A caring member of his community, Jeff has raised over \$1 million for nonprofit boards, schools, and foundations throughout Monterey County. He has given freely of his time, reputation, and money, especially to children's charities, to help support those things that make the Monterey Peninsula such a special place.

Just ask him what he loves about his home. He'll say that in addition to the natural beauty, the fabulous weather, and the resort atmosphere, his real love is the people.



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Carol Crandall

Sometimes it's difficult to pinpoint what makes someone a good partner to help you find a home. We could rattle off sales figures (over a thousand homes sold), statistics (a roster of return clients and their referrals), the fact that she has over 25 years of experience, and great credentials; but these are simply the results of Carol Crandall and Preferred Properties' touchstones of integrity, professionalism, wit, and attention to detail.

The most important reason to choose Carol, though, is that she truly cares. Carol loves her clients and treats them like part of her family. You don't step into her office; you step into her home. An inviting and warm setting gives each extended family member the relaxation and privacy needed to ensure the next big step is as smooth a journey as possible. Reflecting the exemplary hospitality that Carmel is known for, Carol won't even make you remove your shoes, but you can if you'd prefer.

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Ben Beesley

For Ben Beesley, real estate runs in the blood. His mother's career began in the late '80s, and after following in her footsteps, Ben created a name and reputation of his own in the area. Born on the Monterey Peninsula, Ben's background instills in him a unique perspective on the Peninsula's different communities, from microclimates to traffic patterns.

His contributions to his community are numerous and hold a special place in his heart, including managing Team Beesley with Keller Williams Carmel, which he helped open in 2004. Additional contributions include but are not limited to being Charter and founding member of the Rotary Club of Monterey Pacific, receiving Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Man of the Year Award, serving as Board Member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, performing as Emcee for Taste of Carmel and Carmel's Relay for Life, and maintaining membership with Shoreline Community Church.

His favorite part of the job is helping buyers or sellers with clear objectives achieve their goals, whether it's the retirement couple from out-of-area who always dreamed of living in Carmel or Pebble Beach, a first time buyer who just wants a good home for a growing family, or someone looking to invest to assist with retirement objectives or their children's college tuition. He notes he's become especially helpful with out-of-area clients who cannot oversee inspections or repairs.

According to Ben, there is no better place to live and enjoy life than on the Monterey Peninsula!



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Monika Campbell

There's a reason that Alain Pinel realtor Monika Campbell has remained in the Top Producers Circle since 2009 and has achieved the distinction of the President's Roundtable award placing her in the top 5 percent of APR agents nationwide. The reason is that Monika strives to bring a high level of energy, integrity, and pride to her profession. Building long-term relationships has always been her goal. Her success is evidenced by the fact that the majority of her business now comes from past clients and referrals. Statistics, titles, and numbers might not seem significant, but these accolades also represent years of tireless dedication to the community. At her core, Monika is a humanitarian who chooses to help people in one of the most intimate ways imaginable, by helping to make "home sweet home" a reality.

Aside from operating a successful real estate career, Monika is a member of several organizations, including the Monterey Bay Aquarium, The Mission Ranch Tennis Club, the Stillwater Yacht Club, and the Pebble Beach and Tennis Club. She is also the Board Secretary of Community Partnership for Youth (CPY), which is a prevention program against drugs, gangs and violence, and she volunteers for Meals on Wheels, Pac Rep Theater, and Community Foundation for Monterey County. By embedding herself into local causes, she is able to learn about and work with her community in the same intimate manner in which she serves her clients, bringing everything full circle.

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CaBRE# 01370848

Ryan Melcher

Ryan Melcher was lucky enough to be raised in Carmel and has deep roots here. His parents, Terry and Jacqueline Melcher, both came from the entertainment industry, and his mother also had a background in real estate. His grandmother, actress Doris Day, moved here in the 1970s to escape the Hollywood limelight.

“From a young age, I watched my mom design and build a number of really amazing homes,” he says. He eventually took on a role helping manage his family’s homes as luxury vacation rentals and event sites. Many of his clients were really interesting people, such as major business icons, celebrities, and even some world leaders, which was an experience he felt very fortunate to have. Ryan says that when his father passed in 2004, “that sort of sent me on a quest for self-actualization.” His grandmother, Doris, and the LeVetts, who co-own the Cypress Inn in Carmel, then opened up Terry’s Lounge as a tribute to his father. “I always think about him when I’m in a tough deal, and how he would rise above it.”

Ryan focuses exclusively on the luxury sales sector of the Carmel and Pebble Beach markets, marketing oceanfront, ocean view, estate, and unique properties of distinction. He and the Ryan Melcher Properties team currently hang their hats at David Lyng & Associates, next to the Cypress Inn. Last year, he was a top producer out of about 140 agents. The foundation of his business has been his family and friend’s referrals, and of course lots of hard work and long hours. He is incredibly passionate about real estate and the art of the deal, and, more than anything, every day he is just extremely grateful to be where he is. When asked about the secret to success, he says, “Never, ever giving up.”



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Gabrielle Mancuso, PhD

Gabrielle understands the passion residents feel about Carmel; she remembers her childhood summers on its beaches, the magic of the village, quaint inns and of course time with her sister and parents at the Tuck Box. She pledged during those family vacations to make Carmel her home. And she did when she moved her family here twenty years ago. She has a true love from the “inside out” of all things “Carmel”. Most especially her love of coastal properties.

Her infectious positivity sets her apart from a crowd. She has sixteen years of experience in the real estate business, not to mention her degrees in psychology, philosophy, and neurolinguistics. She maintains a strong social media presence and can be reached on a multitude of platforms. But is known best for her honesty, integrity and skilled negotiations.

Gabrielle isn't afraid to roll up her sleeves on any project. She, herself has purchased and renovated 18 homes throughout California and Europe. Under her management these projects concluded impressively with highly profitable results.

Her name may sound familiar from her continued participation in charitable and fundraising events within the community, particularly as the creator of the Carmel Beach Club, which raises money to fund summer lifeguards on Carmel beaches.

Gabrielle brings her whole self to each real estate transaction, guiding each seller or buyer as they realize their dream of overlooking the mighty Pacific, dipping their toes in the Carmel sand, savoring the Highlands, or relishing the majesty of Big Sur. You, your family, and your desires are at the heart of each transaction. Gabrielle is here to help you find your slice of paradise.

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Broker Associate CalBRE#: 1031434

Tom & Annette Bruce

The unparalleled natural beauty of the Monterey Peninsula and the fascinating people they meet selling property here, are the inspiration and motivation for the work that Tom and Annette do.

Tom has been a well respected Top 1% Percent Award Winning Sales Leader in Carmel and Pebble Beach for over 30 years, specializing in oceanfront and ocean view luxury estate properties.

Born and raised in Denver, Colorado, Tom attended the University of Glasgow in Scotland and graduated from the University of Colorado. He then obtained his commercial instrument and flight instructor ratings and sold airplanes at the Monterey Airport. As Tom explains it: "Selling airplanes is where I developed my sales and negotiating skills that have been invaluable to me in my 30 years as a realtor at The Lodge Office."

Born and raised in the San Francisco East Bay, Annette's 20-year business background was in construction. She mastered personal and professional service as a licensed ceramic tile contractor specializing in Black Hawk Country Club remodels and new Timber Homes in Park City.

Annette has been educated in local real estate under the experienced wing of her husband, Tom Bruce. She is dedicated to the idea that buying and selling your home should be a rewarding experience for everyone.

Tom and Annette know the market. They are known for their client confidentiality and skilled negotiations. Successfully representing buyers and sellers of estate properties is the cornerstone of their business.



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Mary Aguilar

Top producing real estate agent Mary Aguilar has vast knowledge of the Monterey Peninsula and beyond. Mary enjoys building relationships and connecting with clients in a very personal way. These relationships are the inspiration for matching her clients with the homes of their dreams. Mary works at David Lyng Real Estate, located in the heart of Carmel-by-The-Sea in picturesque Morgan Court.



Mary's previous career as the Human Resources Director at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey exposed Mary to international, military, and local communities. With over three decades of experience as a public official, Mary has in-depth knowledge of contract intricacies and well-developed negotiation skills. Having retired as a civilian from NPS, Mary moved to a career in real estate that is a perfect fit. Mary and her husband, Pete, a retired general contractor, decided to use their unique expertise together in a field they both love. Add their insight about the Central Coast, which comes from years of residency in this desirable enclave, and it becomes immediately apparent you are working with the best!

Continuing her education and being active in the real estate community has allowed Mary to achieve numerous real estate designations, placing her in the top one percent of real estate agents nationwide. At the end of the day, when Mary settles in with Pete and their miniature Schnauzer, Chuey, she takes comfort in knowing she has a rewarding and meaningful impact on the lives of her clients.

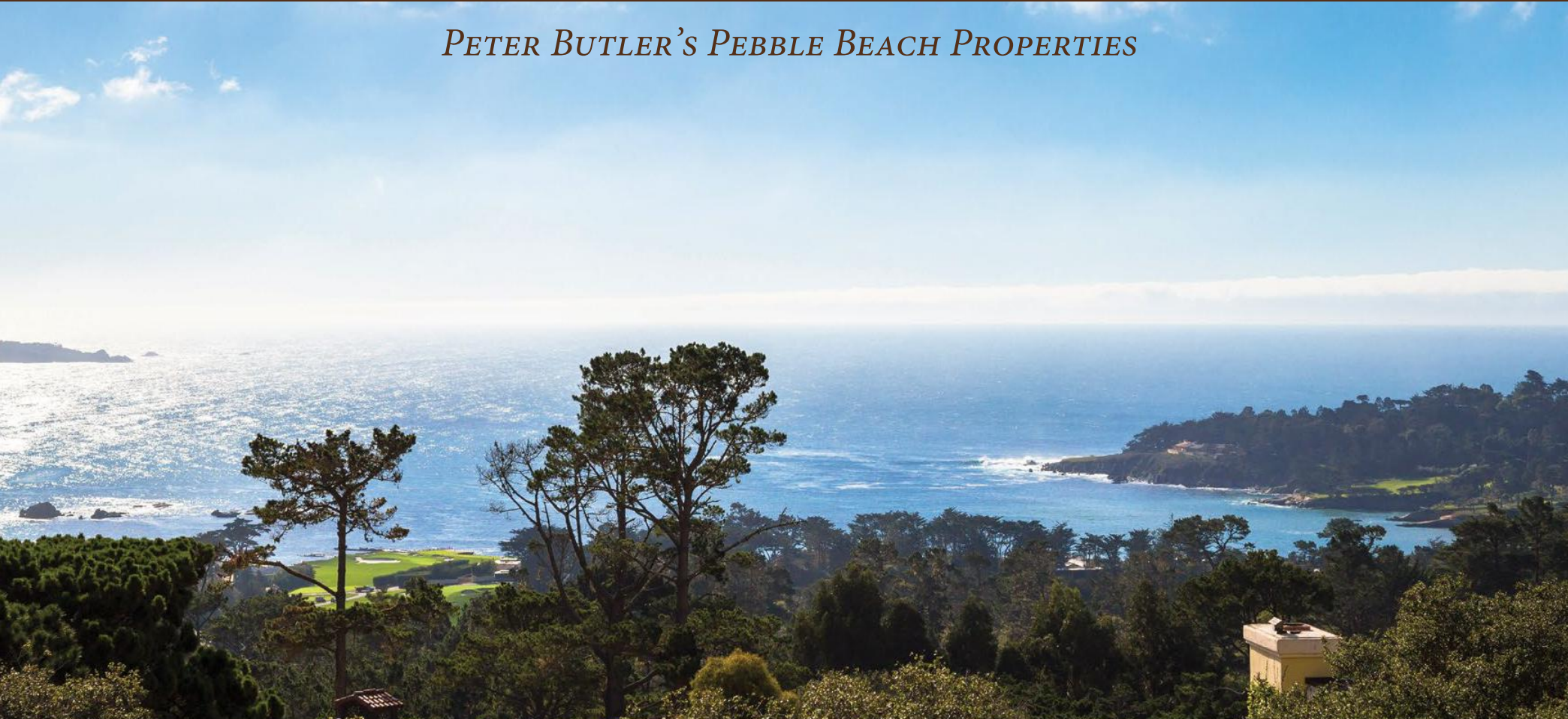
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California Kid

Affina restaurant is located on a quiet corner of San Carlos and 6th, away from the bustle of Ocean Avenue. There is no sign displaying its name, and you'll probably pass it the first time looking for it. But its small interior hides a secret by the name of Nico Izard. Nico (aka Nicolas) is French, speaks excellent English, and unlike some of his out-of-town colleagues, knew the Monterey Peninsula before settling here.





Nico Izard was born in Bondues, a rural part of France in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais near the Belgian border. His father, Daniel, a microbiologist, works in food safety for the French government and mother, Viviane, was in marketing. While his parents worked, Nico, an only child, was raised by his strict but forgiving nanny, Bernadette.

While France is often recognized for prolific art and culture, attributes that have been credited for creating numerous romances throughout history, Nico says living in France has its challenges, like anywhere else. The simple task of obtaining a drivers license, for instance, took Nico six months despite having passed the exams the first time around. “The system is very slow,” he says.

Fortunately for Nico, he found many passions that provided happy distractions to the frustrations of life. Before he began attending French cuisine school and interning under the tutelage of Chef Christophe Hagnerelle, a Michelin star chef, he developed a love for tennis and scuba diving. And like kids of all ages, he often set off on his bike, finding freedom as he rode through the neighborhoods of his hometown.

When Nico was 14, his mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Nico took over the domestic chores of the household and by necessity learned his way around the kitchen. “When my mother got back from the hospital, she couldn’t walk, so somebody had to cook.” Taking his mother’s recipes and advice, Nico’s experiences would serve him well in later life. “I liked cooking before, but this time I really got into it!” Nico eventually applied to study at Monterey Peninsula College in 1997. A friendship with future business partner Dexter Salazar would prove fortuitous 17 years later. Transferring to the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Nico earned a degree in International Studies in 2003 and later a master’s degree in International Business at the University of Stirling, Scotland in 2005.

When the worldwide recession hit Europe, Nico faced an overcrowded job market. He changed course at 28 and went to the Ferrandi School of Culinary Arts in Paris. After completing his French studies, Nico spent nearly two years seeking employment in France. He finally posted his resume online, landing a position at the famed L’Atelier de Joël Robuchon, London. “Suddenly the phone kept on ringing all the time,” recalls Nico. “It was really hard. Everything is done by hand. No blender, no Robot Coupe, only knives. I was prepping the famous Robuchon mashed potatoes and the guy that was standing on my left was cutting the fries one by one. It takes 12 hours to make tomato sauce!”

Although Nico had many experiences that molded his future, it was his partnership with old pal Dexter Salazar that gave life to Affina. “We had this idea over three years ago,” Nico says. Well-lit, with whitewashed walls and simple wood furniture, Affina could be called “Carmel casual.” As for the cuisine, “it is what we call in France, bistronomy,” meaning a mix of fine dining culinary techniques. Start out with an appetizer of Kurobuta pork rillettes or organic beet and citrus salad, then a 14-ounce grilled New York prime steak. If you’re thirsty, there is a wine bar and espresso machine. “All food is local and sustainable,” Nico says. Because the menu changes, you may get something different each time you come.

Nico seems to have little time for relaxation, but when he does it usually involves spending time with friends, cooking, and watching movies. You might keep an eye out for him though. He has full intentions to get back into scuba diving. “I’m just happy to be in California,” he says.

By Peter Hemming | Photos by Manny Espinoza



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STAY | TICKLE PINK INN



In the Pink: Upgrades to the Tickle Pink Inn

By Michael Cervin

When California State senator Edward Tickle served the state in the 1930s and 1940s, he and his wife, Bess, built a stone cottage for themselves in the Carmel Highlands. Their cottage is now gone, but in its place is the Tickle Pink Inn, which was named in honor of Edward and Bess Tickle, who favored the color pink. The Inn has always been a source of rejuvenation and retreat from a busy world, and after new upgrades to this AAA Four Diamond family-owned and -operated property, you'll be, yes, tickled pink to return or visit for the first time.

"We have been renovating and enhancing our property for the last seven years," says Al Gurries, one of the owners of Tickle Pink Inn. "These projects affected every feature, including room interiors, the building exterior, guest common areas, general services and amenities." From the furniture to the artwork it's all brand new, even down to the little things like free Wi-Fi, iPhone docking stations, and loofah sponges. Separate from the Inn, the Senator's Cottage, the last original building from the Tickles estate, also received a full upgrade. The selling point of Tickle Pink is summed up in one word: view. You cannot talk about the Inn without mentioning

its best feature: uninterrupted views of ocean, rugged cliffs, trees clinging to steep hillsides, and craggy rocks jutting out of the surf. Each of the 35 rooms and suites has views, some with 25-foot balconies. The Inn, cut into the side of the hill, is "a destination," Gurries says, not a stopover. "Aside from the view, our number one asset is our people," Gurries says, and each guest receives from the staff what he refers to as "gracious elegance."

The evening wine and cheese reception in the Terrace Lounge features a variety of cheeses and local wines which are best enjoyed on the deck, awaiting the stellar sunset over Yankee Point. Breakfast includes yogurt and granola, egg dishes, and a variety of pastries to be enjoyed from the deck or in your room on your own private balcony as you watch the morning sun slowly peer over the white caps. "We try and achieve the perfect property for a romantic rendezvous," says Gurries. This is the success of the Tickle Pink. It is the ideal spot to disconnect, then revive, and gain perspective. "Guests that return year after year are always very excited to see what's new...and they have been very complimentary about our progress. They notice the big things as well as the little things." What you will notice depends on your next visit, but rest assured, you'll feel right at home.

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www.ticklepinkinn.com



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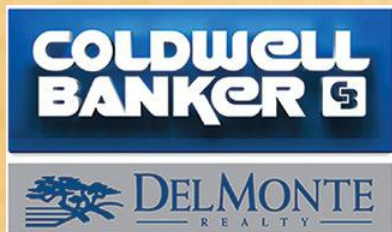
Celebrating their 10 year wedding anniversary at **Fandango Restaurant**, Tom & Annette Bruce have a genuine love for this spectacular corner of the world.

The unparalleled natural beauty of the Monterey Peninsula and the fascinating people they meet selling property here, are the inspiration and motivation for the work that they do.

Tom has been a well respected Top 1% Award Winning Sales Leader in Carmel and Pebble Beach for over 30 years, specializing in oceanfront and ocean view luxury estate properties.

Annette has been educated under the talented and experienced wing of her husband, Tom Bruce. She is dedicated to the idea that buying and selling your home should be a rewarding experience for everyone.

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PERSONA | MARIA



The Power of Positive Thinking

In one split moment, a freak accident changes everything: a small child in the wrong place at the wrong time sustaining major physical injuries from the blades of a lawn mower. Miraculously alive and well, Josh Best healed the majority of his wounds against all odds minus his right hand. Unscathed by the memory of the accident that took place at three years of age, functioning with one hand is life as he knows it, an advantage of youth's resilience.

Mike and Maria Best raised their son with expectations, and never told him there was something he couldn't do. Once fitted for a prosthetic, Best decided to find his own way to complete tasks using his elbow. Because many parents teach by example, the Bests taught themselves how to function with one hand to show their son. Simple tasks such as making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich would take 45 minutes but it didn't discourage him. He was raised exactly the same as his older brother, Matt.

One of the biggest challenges growing up was his need to hide or stay behind the scenes; he recalls pulling his shirt sleeve down to avoid unwanted attention. "I never thought, 'why did this happen' or had anything to com-

plain about, but as I became older, I became more comfortable in my own skin," he says.

A sports enthusiast from day one, he excelled through adversity using his own techniques to hit a ball with one arm, launching a homerun out of the park when he was nine years old. This was the first of many crowd-pleasing moments by the upcoming athlete, from shooting baskets to receiving a black belt in karate. As Best got older, he naturally migrated towards soccer. Captain of his soccer team in high school, he was eventually recruited to play for State University New York Fredonia and soon became captain of the Blue Devils.

Role model to the other teammates, Best never cut corners during practice. If the other guys had to do push-ups, he would never say he couldn't. The State University of New York Athletic Conference awarded Best with its 2014 Award of Valor. Though there were notable moments when he wanted to give up, nothing came close to what he had to face last year. After slipping and falling on ice, his much relied upon left wrist broke during his last year of college.

Usually an optimist, never feeling troubled or engulfing in self-pity, this was the first time in his life his mom saw him discouraged; she was unable to remember a single day he came home crying or feeling sorry for himself as a child. Despite this setback, Best managed to pick himself up, and with help from his coach, friends, and family, ended up only missing a couple weeks of school and graduating on time with a business degree.

"Focusing on what you can do, and not on what you can't, is what determines your path; he is living proof of that," says Maria. "He taught me more than what I taught him about life."

On a quest to figure out the future, the Best brothers are on a "freedom tour" traveling the countryside and checking out national parks. Best aspires to use his degree to start a business with his sibling in the arena of sports rehabilitation. He also hopes to coach soccer one day. A personal goal is to give back to those in similar situations, whether it's helping disabled veterans or children.

By Kimberly Horg | Photos by Manny Espinoza

YOU'RE INVITED

Sunset at the Copa

SUNSET CENTER'S ANNUAL GALA

Featuring Herb Alpert and Lani Hall

May 9, 2015

5:00 pm
Sunset Center



www.sunsetcenter.org

On Saturday, May 9, Sunset Center will host its third annual gala, *Sunset at the Copa*, a glamorous Brazilian-themed event that will feature an exquisite four-course gourmet dinner with sumptuous wine pairings, an exciting live auction, and an entertaining performance by Herb Alpert and Lani Hall.

Last year's gala attracted 200 attendees and raised more than \$100,000 to support Sunset Center's mission. Funds raised from this year's event will directly support the center's diverse and dynamic performing arts programming; community engagement initiatives like the acclaimed arts-in-education program, Classroom Connections, the Marjorie Evans Gallery, and the Sunset Center Educational Series; facility maintenance and improvements; and general operations.

This year's gala chairs are Mary Gifford and Christine Chin. "The third annual gala committee and I are pleased to serve as advocates for Sunset Center and would like to

encourage others to do the same. As local residents, we know that Sunset Center offers unique and necessary services in our community through providing one-of-a-kind outreach and education opportunities, spectacular programming, and space for other non-profits and organizations to conduct business and hold meetings," said Gifford, a Sunset Center Board Trustee.

The evening will kick off at 5 p.m. with a red carpet welcome including signature cocktails, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and Champagne. Guests will have the opportunity to pose for a commemorative photograph during the reception before enjoying a delectable gourmet dinner with sophisticated wine pairings.

An exciting live auction featuring upscale items and one-of-a-kind experiences will take place periodically during dinner. Two such items include a week-long stay at Sam and Coralee Linder's condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, which they have generously donated for the third year in a row, and a gourmet dinner with wine pairings prepared by Basil Seasonal Dining's Chef and co-owner Soerke Peters, prepared and served at Robert and Judith Profeta's Carmel-by-the-Sea home. Jack Galante of Galante Vineyards is once again offering his ranch and wine for a spectacular Gaucho Dinner. Please visit www.sunsetcenter.org to view all the fabulous auction items.

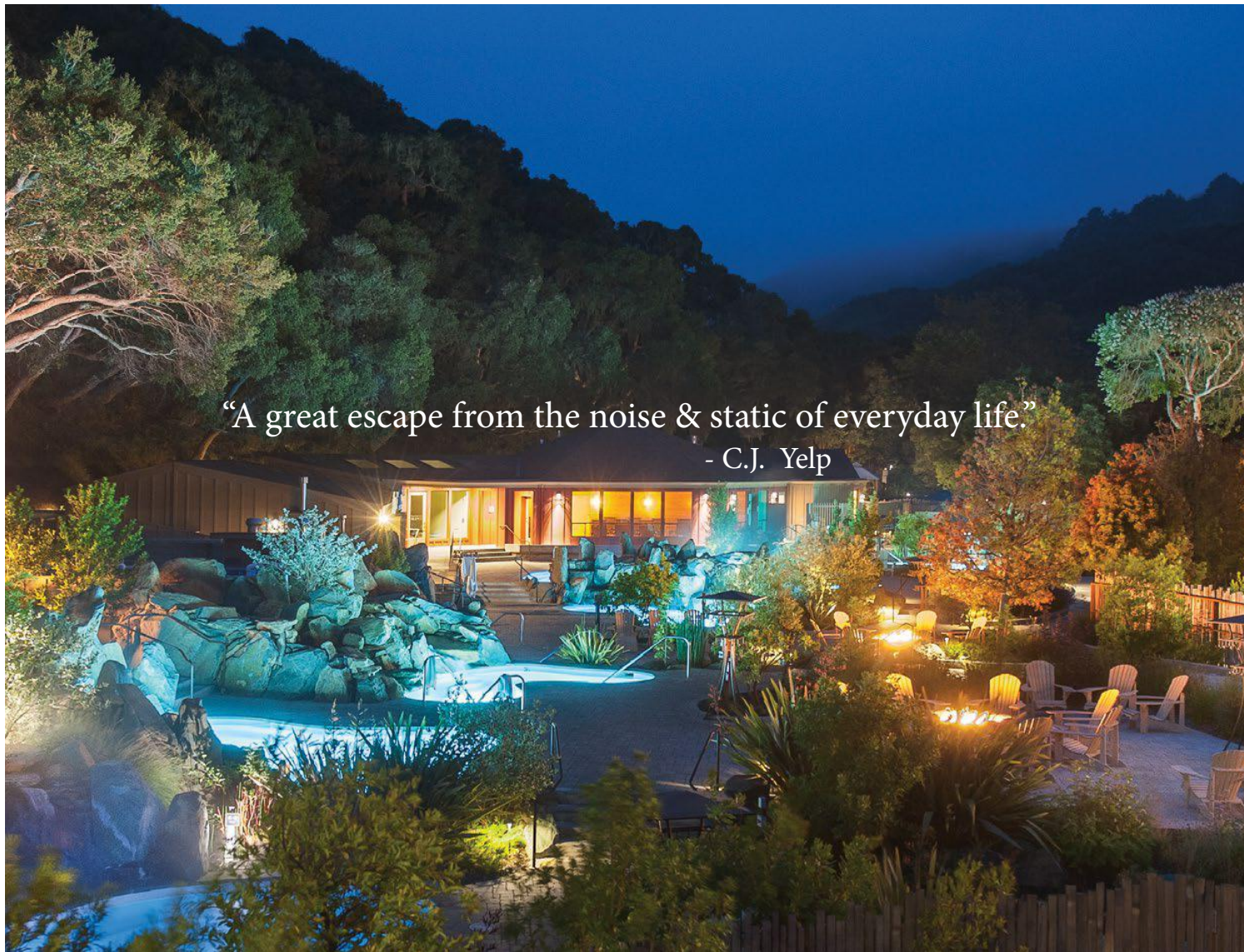
Following the dinner and live auction, guests will be escorted to their VIP seats in the theater for a performance by Herb Alpert and Lani Hall, two legendary musicians who will perform a set sprinkled with Brazilian flavors, songbook favorites, and a Tijuana Brass medley. After the performance, guests will have the opportunity to enjoy dessert and a special post-performance reception with the artists in the gala tent.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.sunsetcenter.org or call 831.620.2048. Tickets for the gala are \$300, and black-tie or festive and colorful Brazilian-themed attire is encouraged. Gala Sponsorships are also available at development@sunsetcenter.org or 831-620-2053.



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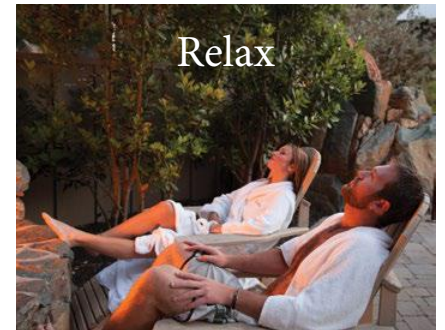
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Photo by Jeffrey Pierre of Flawlessangel.com

Dreams Do Come True

Kathy Eckerson and John Ivie married on Valentine's Day at the Church in the Forest in Pebble Beach. It was a touching wedding with a musical program of Bach, Beethoven, Schubert and Mendelssohn played on piano and Organ, and a Soloist singing "The Prayer" and "Ave Maria" from a balcony.

Following the ceremony, the reception took place in a vacant house in Pebble Beach that the couple had recently purchased and transformed into an intimate restaurant for their event. Guests received edible chocolate-framed photos of the couple along with a heart shaped box of chocolates to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Every element of the wedding was organized to embody the theme, "Dreams Do Come True." Kathy and John believe life is meant to be lived in joy and happiness.

John is an engineer in Silicon Valley. Kathy was born locally. After serving on the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Board in San Francisco for three years, Kathy brought Make-A-Wish (MAW) to the Monterey Peninsula in 2000 and launched its inaugural Monterey Bay Area MAW Gala. She also founded **Estate Doctor® – Suddenly Single Wealth Management®**, to help others pursue their dreams!

Kathy and John are wonderful examples of how we can achieve our dreams, no matter what stage of life we find ourselves.



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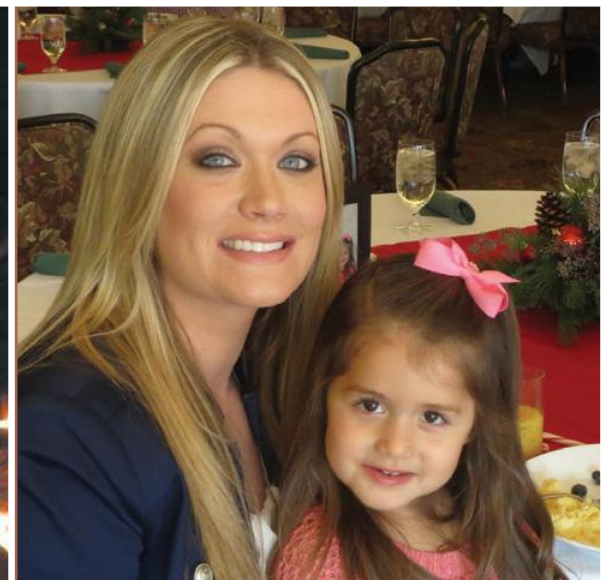
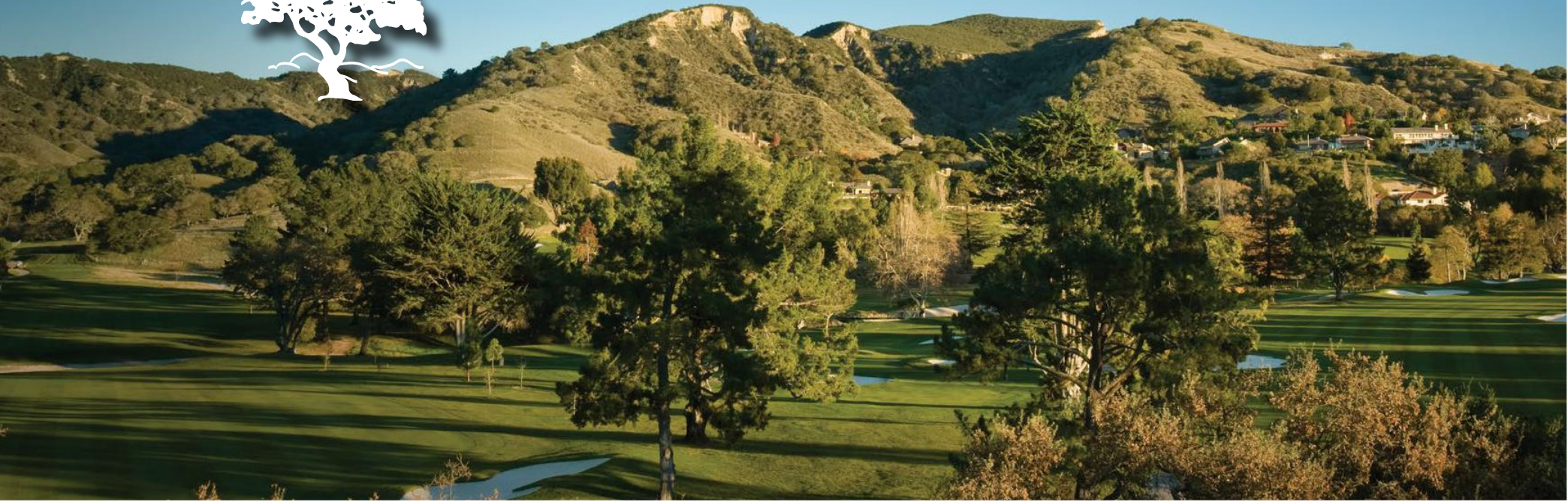


Corral de Tierra COUNTRY CLUB



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GRETSCH

Cottage Composition

Music has always been a powerful force in Mark Mancina's life. A few years ago, his mother stumbled upon a diary she kept while he was a toddler, and she often noted that playing music had a profound effect on young Mark—it soothed him when he was cranky, and at other times it engaged and inspired him. "From as far back as I can remember," says Mancina, "there was never a question to me that I was going to make a living in music. I just didn't know how—music attorney, teaching music, I was going to find a way. Nobody could tell me differently."



Throughout his 20s, Mark played in bands across Southern California, often working six nights a week while spending days recording demos in hopes of landing the elusive record deal. Sometimes it was a grind, often it was a blast, but money was never plentiful. A bit of a hustler at heart, Mancina began studying newspaper ads and showing up unannounced at the featured businesses, asking if they'd like him to write the jingle for a catchy radio ad. This profitable side job led to his first break in the movie business, which turns out to be less glamorous than it sounds: "I was writing the music to these hunting documentaries," Mancina says. "They were pretty gory." On the positive side, he is now conversant on how to gut a deer.

Mancina segued into low-budget science fiction flicks, drawing upon his knack for writing instrumental melodies that teased the emotion out of the music. In the early '90s, his work somehow came to the attention of Hans Zimmer, the German film composer and music producer who has won four Grammys, two Golden Globes, and an Oscar. Zimmer was putting together the music for *The Lion King* and summoned Mancina for an interview, in which a lifetime of disparate musical experiences finally paid off: "Hans says, Can you arrange songs? Yes. Score a film? Yes. Write lyrics? Yes. Okay, you're hired."

The Lion King came out in the summer of 1994 and was a blockbuster success. (Mancina would also play a large role in the stage adaptation, one of most successful musicals of all time.) Mancina wound up arranging and producing three beloved Elton John songs for the movie: "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," "I Just Can't Wait To Be King," and "Hakuna Matata." Mancina's contributions earned him a Grammy for Best Musical Album for Children and two American Music Awards for Best Pop Album. Five days before *The Lion King* was released, *Speed* hit theatres, and Mancina produced the original motion picture score for the moody Keanu Reeves-Sandra Bullock action movie. It turned out to be another huge hit. "It took me 15 years, but I was an overnight success," says Mancina, now 58.

He has continued to work both career tracks, scoring numerous adrenaline-drenched action films and writing melodic songs for a handful of animated Disney movies. He particularly enjoys the collaborative process of the musicals, in which the songs are often the star of the show, but Mancina recognizes how potent music can be when paired with live-action. "An example I often use is from *Training Day*," he says, citing the movie for which Denzel Washington won an Oscar for playing a crooked cop. "In the final scene he's in the middle of the street, screaming because he's been shot and no one is coming to help him. Without music it's still a strong scene, because Denzel is such a great actor. But when I scored it, the entire environment somehow changed. The music was somewhat regal and twisted, like befitting a fallen king. It enhanced his performance, and for the viewer it made it more psychological and emotional. It almost created a weird empathy for what is a pretty evil character. That's what music can do—it makes you feel more. It's a pretty powerful weapon, and you have to use it carefully."

Mancina now works his magic from a small cottage-turned-recording studio tucked into the heart of Carmel-by-the-Sea. He is presently at work on the latest Disney project, *Moana*, incorporating ancient Polynesian rhythms and chanting into the songs. Mancina has lived locally for nearly a decade along with his wife and daughter, who is now 13. "Being a composer can be a lonely life," Mancina says, "but there's so much inspiration here. I can walk to the beach, or go to Point Lobos, or just stroll the streets of Carmel and look in the windows and people-watch. Everyone is always in a good mood here. In Santa Monica, you'd walk outside and everyone's smoking and complaining about something in the industry."

It's a funny image, and might even someday make a good song. "You can turn anything into a song," Mancina says, "as long as you have the imagination for it."

By Alan Shipnuck | Photos by Manny Espinoza



Water Wise Native Landscaping for City of Carmel

As Certified Green Gardeners, we recently completed a project for the City of Carmel utilizing native, drought tolerant, seascape tolerant plants to beautify the areas surrounding the new bathroom on the corner of Santa Lucia and Scenic. At the City's request, we implemented a very efficient drip irrigation system with drip emitters for each of the approximately 300 plants we installed. This is just one positive solution to beautify our locale, even with the statewide drought measures currently in place.

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The Dunes on Monterey Bay

By Tammy Neal

In a beautiful setting located on the historic Fort Ord National Monument Public Lands, lies The Dunes on Monterey Bay, a new master-planned community. With its picturesque coastal location, The Dunes on Monterey Bay offers quintessential California living with abundant outdoor, recreational, and educational opportunities right on its doorstep.

The Dunes at Monterey Bay is the first major new home community on an adjacent beach location in Monterey in decades. Defined by its unique location, this charming community has 42 acres of parks, 14 miles of open space, and 83 miles of winding trails to explore. The new homes, located in Marina, are a short walk from the ocean and internationally renowned Monterey Sand Dunes, and offer residents and guests unparalleled adventures. You're minutes from the amazing Monterey Peninsula that features the charming village of Carmel-by-the-Sea, which boasts one of the world's most beautiful beaches, along with Monterey's world famous aquarium. If sipping wine is your forte, The Wine Country is just a short drive south. Avid golfers will find that the spectacular courses of world-renowned Pebble Beach Golf Links and The Links at Spanish Bay leave them vying for more. For natural beauty and sophisticated living, it doesn't get any better than this.

For its many merits, The Dunes was selected as a California Catalyst Community by the State Department of Housing and Community Development. Built on the former site of military base Fort Ord, The Dunes on Monterey Bay is recycling on a grand scale. Designed as a live/work/play community, the master plan offers smart growth, sustainability, innovative land use, improved air quality, and green building strategies.

At The Dunes, you'll find two communities that offer beachside elegance and comfort. In Sea House, the homes feature an attached California Coastal design, creating innovative and stylish duet-style living. Each home comes with its own two-car garage, not to mention decks and balconies that take full advantage of cool sea breezes. Ranging from 1,523 to 1,896 square feet, floorplans feature

two to four bedrooms and two and a half baths. Sea House residences will be a great choice for individuals, young couples, smaller families, and those looking to downsize into an active coastal lifestyle.

The detached single-family homes at Surf House will be built with classic arts and crafts-inspired designs. Their spaciousness and privacy reflect the timeless quality and tranquility you experience when living on Monterey Bay. Larger families or those looking for extra breathing room will find three to four bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, and floor plans ranging from 1,928 to 2,158 square feet. For an outdoor beach lifestyle with a touch of light luxury, Surf House is the place. Award-winning Shea Homes has built these homes with the environment in mind and the following efficiencies, water saving fixtures, tankless water heaters, wall insulation, radiant barrier sheeting, dual flush toilets, and dimmer switches on all incandescent lighting.

The homes are steps away from walking and hiking trails with beach access as well as the nearby Dunes shopping center and soon-to-be-built Cinemark movie theatre.

Family-owned since 1881, the J.F. Shea Company has been involved in legendary construction projects including the Golden Gate Bridge and the Hoover Dam. Since 1968, Shea Homes, an independent member of the Shea Family of Companies, has built some of the finest homes and master-planned communities for more than 73,000 families and is one of America's largest privately owned homebuilders.

Surf House and Sea House models at The Dunes are located on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 10th Street in Marina, just off the Imjin Parkway Exit from Highway 1. Models are open daily from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 2 - 5 p.m.

To find out additional details or receive updates about Surf House and Sea House at The Dunes on Monterey Bay, visit TheDunesonMontereyBay.com or contact a Shea Homes Community Representative at: (866) OWN-SHEA (866-696-7432).



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Their appeal is as irresistible as the tide: Shea introduces new “duet” and single-family homes of up to 2,158 square feet. Inside, you have 2-4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Outside, the beach is so close, you can have your toes in the sand in minutes. Tour the models at 3303 Boardwalk Avenue in Marina, call (866) 696-7432 or visit TheDunesOnMontereyBay.com.

THE DUNES
on Monterey Bay



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Jeff Davi and Robert Tybor, co-founders of JR-Auctions, dove into the industry to collaborate the interest of consignors and bidders of exquisite automobiles and yachts during car week on the Monterey Peninsula. In this unique, world-class Cannery Row Car and Yacht Auction, land and sea truly come together.

Location, location, location. Perched dramatically over the striking Monterey Bay waters and the famous Cannery Row scenery, the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa will set the stage for this four-day event schedule leading up to the Concours d'Elegance. The breathtaking views of the coastline will surely intensify the experience.

Elegance, passion, excellence and heritage truly describe the World's Concours d'Elegance. The Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, first conducted in 1950, is often described as the world's premier celebration of the automobile. Connoisseurs congregate to see the most beautiful and rare automobiles on the history-filled eighteenth fairway of Pebble Beach Golf Links every year.

Jr-Auctions is priding its event with class and style showcasing the world's most impressive classic and exotic automobiles and yachts, which serve as a wonderful compliment to the Concours d'Elegance.



23rd Annual Winemakers' Celebration

May 2, 2015, 2:00 PM-5:00 PM
Dolores Street between Ocean and 7th

Winemakers Celebration

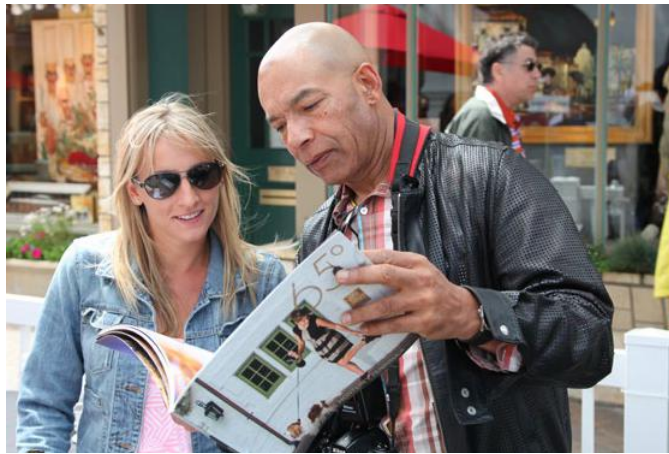
Monterey has always had a knack for drawing people in with its stunning views, gorgeous coastlines and comprehensive mix of old-world charm, rustic elegance and modern day adventures. Most notable are the celebrities, artists, and writers that seem to find their place, but the Monterey County Vintners & Growers Association sets out to celebrate a distinct bunch among them – the Winemaker.

Monterey County is a coveted place to grow wine grapes. Warm daytime temperatures, cool nights influenced by the ocean and superb soil create a growing season up to 60 days longer than other regions. This results in a slow ripening of the grapes that create complex yet balanced wines.

What started hundreds of years ago with Franciscan friars picked up in the 60s when viticulturists discovered that Monterey had a climate similar to Burgundy and Bordeaux. Vineyards grew vastly and consistently from that point, as did the potential for Winemakers who planted their roots in the region. Over 53 grape varietals are grown among the 43,000 acres under vine in Monterey County. You'll also find nine distinct American Viticultural Areas (AVAs) that boast their own unique terroir: Arroyo Seco, Carmel Valley, Chalone, Hames Valley, Monterey, San Antonio Valley, San Bernabe, San Lucas, and Santa Lucia Highlands.

Reminiscent of a European street festival, with its brightly colored umbrellas paired with Carmel-by-the-Sea's undeniable charm, the 23rd Annual Winemakers' Celebration on May 2 continues to





honor not only the tradition of winemaking in Monterey County, but the personalities behind the region's internationally acclaimed wines. Over 150 Monterey wines are poured by their respective Winemakers, providing an intimate overview of the process that brings the wines from grape to glass. Expertly paired small bites sourced from local Monterey County produce will also be provided along with musical entertainment.

Sipping and swirling, comparing and taking notes, attendees will certainly broaden their palettes and build relationships with some of the most influential members of the wine industry. Newly minted favorites can also be purchased at the event to take home and enjoy.

For an extended wine experience, the Monterey County Vintners & Growers Association recommends making it a three-day weekend for the full Monterey Wine Country experience. Friday, guests can explore the rustic Carmel Valley region, just 15 minutes inland and full of vibrant tasting rooms, delicious bistros and quaint shops of all kinds (cvwineexperience.com). Sunday is perfectly suited for exploring the magnificent vineyard vistas and wines of River Road. Many of Monterey County's vineyards are nestled among this scenic tour where you're sure to experience an authentic and memorable tasting adventure (riverroadwinetrail.com).

For more information on Monterey Wine Country and to purchase tickets to the 23rd Annual Winemakers' Celebration, visit montereywines.org.

By Amanda Reade | Photos by Manny Espinoza



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Community Palette

By Yasi Payandehjoo

Innovative minds collaborate, giving birth to a collective consciousness, thriving to draw the community closer to the things that make us feel alive. The Peninsula is expansive and artists seem to be boundless-yet, listening to and manifesting our own authentic voice can be unquestionably daunting. Community Palette (CP) is striving to support local, economic sustainability, and growth, while embodying a unique vision that promotes eclectic artists to stay close to their passion, while manifesting their dreams. Raising awareness in regard to the great talent around us broadens the potential of our local, retail palette, unveiling original talent while developing a safer regional economy.

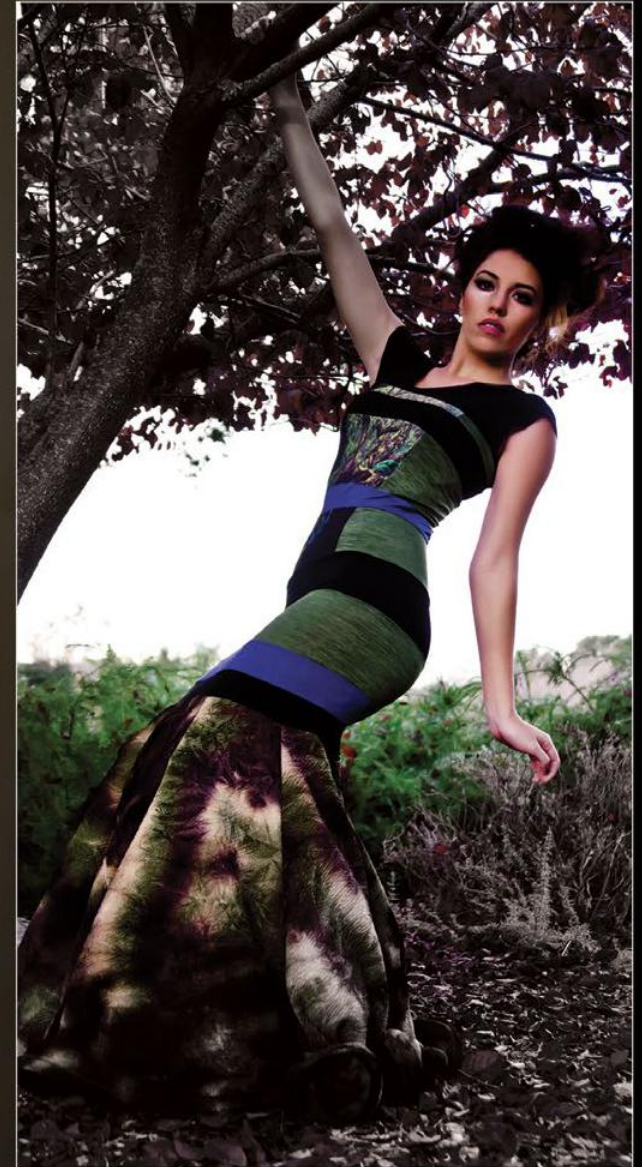
In an increasingly homogenized world where we incessantly focus on product development, as opposed to deepening our relationships, CP is serving as a protective umbrella. The very act of encouraging artists, and entrepreneurs, to leap beyond conventional designations is what motivates and allows us to take a risk. And so, the CP annual fundraiser has been designed to function as an interactive event where community members select artists, who have previously been nominated via the web, to exhibit their various mediums in a way that can be both seen and experienced.

Dreaming is the first step in planning. And the creative minds of Community Palette did just that-flaunting the latest "Up-Cycling" Fashion Show: Imagine. Recreate. at Sand City's West End Festival, in August. Designers, inspired by local artists, had been called upon to fabricate unique ensembles presenting the Monterey Peninsula with an exclusive, one-of-a-kind, exposition, revealing fashion as art. The vision of CP is for the community to play an active role in nominating local artists as a way to create webs of social and economic relationships that, in the long run, support local economic growth goals.

Community development is economic development. CP is committed to offering the effective leadership necessary to inspire, create and manifest a deeply rooted community. Support CP as they embark upon an endeavor to develop and sustain a dynamic, expansive community with positive advancements on the horizon.

To find out more about Community Palette, visit their website at www.communitypalette.com.

Designer: Cindy Muscarelló
Photographer: Christine Hölding
Hair and Makeup: Gaia Cascios



Designer: Domini Anne
Photographer: Bailey Lee
Hair and Makeup: Gina Marie Davi



Designer: Diana Taylor
Photographer: Michelle Magdalena Maddox
Hair and Makeup: Anya Mendez/Adara Salon



Designer : Miss Velvet Cream
Photographer : Bailey Lee
Hair and Makeup : Gina Marie Davi



Frankie Rodriguez and Stephanie Sumler
Photographer: Manny Espinoza
Hair and Makeup: Abel Perez

Boa Vida Wine Estate



Resting at the base of the Gilroy foothills, just a short drive to Coyote Lake, Boa Vida Estate serves as an oasis fitting of Dionysus. The property's 4.8 acres is fenced and gated and accommodates a generous 1,000-vine vineyard—of which six varietals are grown and have produced award-winning wines—and a 7,300 square-foot home complete with all the luxuries befitting of any deity.

The sophisticated six bedroom eight bathroom (including two half baths) home offers the entrepreneurial spirit and wine lover a conduit for entering boutique wine production with the convenience of living on the premises. The home's modern architecture, warm earth tones, and liberal placement of windows create an inviting atmosphere that complements the golden hills outlining the vineyards during summer months. In winter, verdant landscape envelops the estate in emerald hues, providing a fertile backdrop of the valley.

Travertine, marble, and hardwood floors and cathedral ceilings escort you from room to room imbuing a sense of extravagance with an organic approach. Fireplaces in the family room and living rooms boast marble and granite, and are juxtaposed by pine ceilings and

custom shelving. The 1,200 square-foot master bedroom serves as a home inside of home with a deluxe bathroom featuring caramel colored radiant-heat marble floors, a generous marble Jacuzzi tub, a large shower with four steam-ready shower heads, a reading area, his and hers toilets with bidets, and access to a sizeable walk-around balcony. And with ample his and hers closets there's almost no reason to leave the oasis. Further bringing it all together are the generously placed glass doors that lead outside from each bedroom providing sweeping views of the valley and the vines.

This home also provides ample entertainment for the athletic and active person. A 10-foot deep oversized pool sleeps beneath solar panels awaiting those who long for a cool splash during hot summer days. It is accompanied by a pool room and patio and outdoor kitchen accoutrements including a pizza oven, a barbecue with rotisserie, a four-burner oven, and a sink for all your cooking needs. Tennis enthusiasts will enjoy attempting game point on the estate's private court and golfers can putt around on the putting green. Meanwhile, a huge indoor gym features weights and cardio equipment for a full body workout.





Venturing into the family room, you will find a large 60-inch TV entertainment center with surround sound. However, pull out the popcorn and soda for movie night in the second living room, which features an 80-inch drop screen with an HD projector. You'll have no problem accommodating company with a guest house and plentiful parking including garages for eight vehicles, a porte-cochere and a sweeping circular driveway – all ideal for the car enthusiast.

wine! Other varieties on the property include merlot, petit verdot, cab franc, and malbec. The vineyard is commercially licensed and BATF approved, and produces 200-300 cases per year, enough to generate approximately \$60,000 per year in income. All of this is meticulously maintained and hidden away so that the property is a feast for the eyes no matter where you are on this special piece of land.

The self-sustaining property also features a 27,000-watt solar system that powers the entire property as well as two 5,000 gallon holding tanks that also serves as irrigation for the vineyard. Community water is available for added convenience. The home's two propane tanks and the boiler service the main house and the 3,000 gallon septic system installed in 2003 has two leach fields.

Boa Vida Wine Estate is perfect for those seeking a modern estate with the charm of a Mediterranean villa. Featuring the luxuries of a resort and a small commercial winery, this estate has it all.

Housed in a gorgeous "stone house" wine cellar, there is storage for over 3,300 bottles. Cabernet Sauvignon lovers will appreciate that the wine produced by the estate under the Boa Vida label took first place in 2013 for their 2009 vintage, plus numerous other awards. It is great

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57°

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

by Rich Medel



They say it takes a village. This idiom couldn't ring truer for a magazine like 65°. We are here because of our readers, advertisers, and all the hands that take care of us, such as the organizations and restaurants that provide us with our favorite experiences. Everyone at 65° appreciates the great service and support that allows us to do our job. That job is to help keep the community connected by illuminating everything we have to offer one another.

Believe it or not, Concours is right around the corner AND we're already on the seventh episode of Montage TV (www.MontageChannel.com). If you haven't yet seen the show, tune into KSBW on Saturdays at 7 p.m. for thirty minutes of paradise.

We've had some fun with this issue, including our Stay spreads of both Tickle Pink Inn and Calistoga Ranch.

I think sometimes as locals of "Shangri La" we forget how easy it is to take a holiday. It's ironic considering the numerous hospitality opportunities in our backyard. May you feel a hint of vacation sweep over you as you peruse these gorgeous shots. As tribute to the San Francisco Giants in 57°, we've also created a Boys of Summer baseball collage from vintage photographs. You can see one of these fabulous photos on the cover as well.

We are especially grateful this issue for everyone who contributed their time, energy, and stories to the magazine. I thank Maria for sharing her intimate story about her triumphant son as well as longtime friend Denise Paulson for her continued support.

May you enjoy spring. We look forward to seeing you around town!



57°

THIS IS THE CITY

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SUBMISSIONS: For article submissions, email proposal to editors@65mag.com. 65° Magazine is published quarterly, P.O. Box 6325, Carmel, CA 93921-6325. Subscription rate: \$40, payable in advance. Single copies \$4.99. Back issues if available, \$15 (includes shipping and handling). POSTMASTER send address changes to 65° Magazine, P.O. Box 6325, Carmel, CA 93921-6325. Entire contents © 2013 by 65° Magazine™ unless otherwise noted on specific articles. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part is strictly prohibited without Publisher permission.

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PERSONA | KARLA

The Practical Art of Feng Shui

When the only world you know is full of chaos, finding a peaceful place to call your own becomes key to survival. Bay Area designer Karla D'Aguilar grew up in Venezuela during turbulent political times and came to find her calm in the form of feng shui.

D'Aguilar is now a successful Feng Shui designer who travels the world helping people find balance in their lives. This is largely because her path to peace wasn't so smooth. Growing up in war-torn Venezuela, D'Aguilar knows all too well what imbalance and desperation can do to an entire nation.

"In high school, the political situation in Venezuela was bad," remembers D'Aguilar. "Looking back, I don't know how I survived."

In 1989, Venezuelans were fighting for their lives after to-be President Hugo Chavez attempted to overthrow President Carlos Andres Perez in a political coupe. His attempts failed and he ended up in prison. But riots broke out all over the city, killing hundreds and turning civilians against each other. D'Aguilar remembers being savagely attacked on her way home from school because she was wearing a military school uniform.

"They would throw stones at anyone who looked like police," she explains. "It was terrifying." Thankfully, that day D'Aguilar had a guardian angel on her side. A kind lady quickly grabbed her, yanking her by the hem of her clothes as she shouted and screamed, "these are students!" Although the crowd persisted, the lady did not give in to their fear-led violence. Instead, she stood guard and lectured the crowd on how their actions were not right. "She was a blessing," says D'Aguilar.

She eventually made it home safely, but her mother removed her from the private military school, transferred her to public school, and moved the family out of the nation's capital of Caracas to the calmer suburbs. "I want to thank that lady," D'Aguilar says. "That moment helped me understand and appreciate life . . . I grew up a lot."

In fact, it was because of this defining moment that D'Aguilar decided to make it her mission to help others. She left accounting university to study holistic health, where her true talents blossomed. She eventually ventured into a more holistic lifestyle, working as a psychotherapist and studying Feng Shui. "Feng





Shui affects everything. You sleep differently, you can apply it to business and your business will have success,” she says. She goes on to explain what drew her to Feng Shui: “I come from a humble background, so this practice is close to my heart. I want everyone to be successful and happy in life.”

She also loves seeing the renewed energy Feng Shui brings to people. One of her teachers is an elderly master whose energy is “amazing.” He would hike the Grand Canyon, leaving everyone else behind, and was the epitome of vitality.

Life eventually led D’Aguilar to the United States, where she continued to practice in a rather unconventional place for Feng Shui: Louisville, Kentucky. “There was an article written about me in a Louisville country club newspaper but there were no photos of me,” she remembers. “I was invited for tea at this mansion and the hostess looked at me and was surprised I wasn’t Chinese. She expected an old Asian lady at her door.”

Understanding that many people have misconceptions about her profession, even people in China, D’Aguilar is patient. When she traveled to Asia to train, people were shocked she was Latin. She laughs. “Feng Shui isn’t just Chinese; it’s got lots of Native American roots: sun rises and sun sets. It’s based on harvest cultures.”

D’Aguilar now proudly calls California home, and she’s the first to admit that life in California is better than good, it’s great. For her, California exudes a relaxed attitude. She revels in seeing people enjoy life, which makes her grateful to be here. “I can sit down, enjoy my wine, take a hike, and walk on the beach. Anything I want!” she says with a wide smile. “We have to work hard, but we get to enjoy; I feel deeply blessed.”

It’s a far cry from Venezuela, where she recently went back to visit family. During her trip, she hired a driver and security because it’s difficult to get around and dangerous. However, she still has fondness for her homeland and hopes one day she can return to help mend a broken nation.

“My job is to help people,” she says. “Feng Shui affects our surroundings, all our environment. Environment affects people, and people make a society a country.”

By Maggie Grainger | Photos by Rick Baraff



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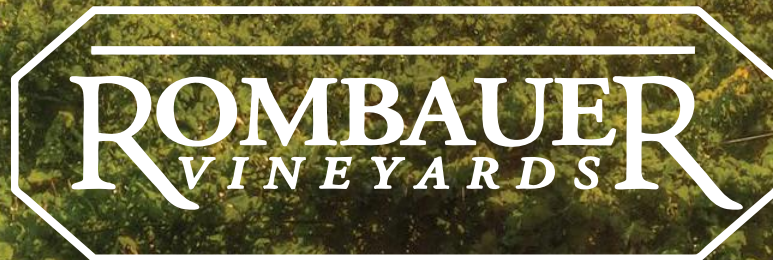
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STAY | CALISTOGA RANCH

Calistoga Ranch: Responsible Luxury

By Katrina Boldt

One-and-a-half hours from downtown San Francisco, the 157-acre Calistoga Ranch resort lies halfway between St. Helena and Calistoga off the Silverado Trail. This exclusive property, calling to mind a vintner's estate, is managed by Auberge Resorts, one of the world's premier resort companies, and truly captures the rich culture of nature, wine, and food that is unique to Napa Valley.

Allow a private chef to prepare a romantic meal in your lodge, dine casually near the outdoor swimming pool, or enjoy organic fare at The Lakehouse overlooking ancient oak and redwood trees, the creek bed, and Lake Lommel. Attend a wine tasting, dinner party, or gala in the 3,800 square-foot Wine Cave dining room. Then, unwind in a seasonal creek-side spa pavilion or natural mineral pool at Auberge Spa before retreating to one of 50 guest lodges or 22 owner lodges designed with comfort and luxury in mind. Each free-standing room is connected by decks, trellised walkways, and expansive outdoor living areas, set thoughtfully amidst the pristine natural setting.

The 50 guest lodges offer between 600 to 3,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor living space and feature floor-to-ceiling windows. Warm contemporary interiors mirror the natural surroundings, with rich polished woods and hues of copper, olive, sage, and gold complementing the earth and lush vegetation. Each guest lodge features an indoor bath, outdoor shower garden, down duvets, Fili






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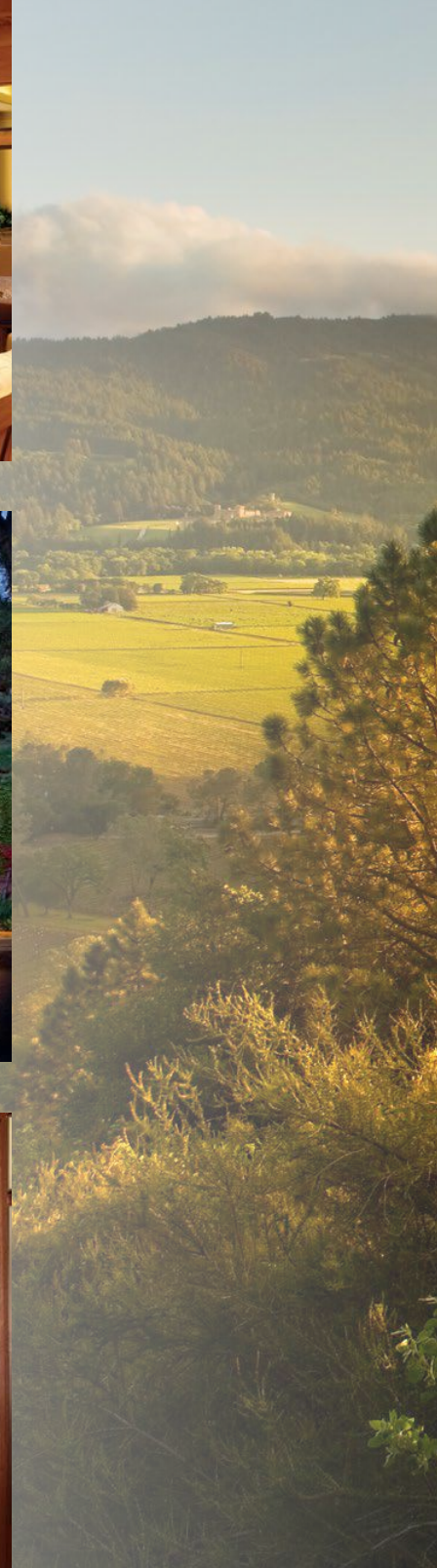
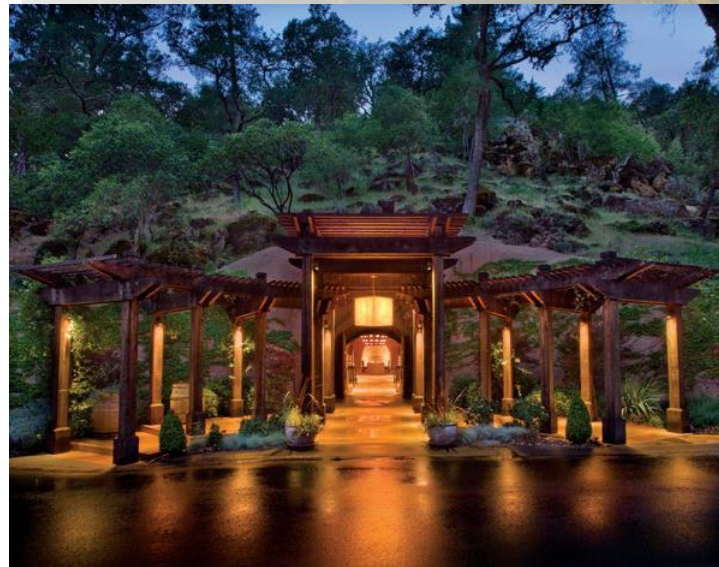
D'oro linens, Calistoga Ranch's own line of scented hair care and body products, entertainment centers with TV, DVD and CD players, wireless high-speed Internet access, two-line phones, and a nightly surprise at turndown.

Each of the 22 owner lodges offers 3,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor living space consisting of two bedrooms, a private outdoor shower, a comfortably appointed living room, a spacious kitchen with wine storage, and an outdoor living room with a fireplace at the center of each compound. Some owner lodges appear to float above streams, while others rest beneath a canopy of oak trees or high into stands of pines.

Calistoga Ranch offers its guests and owners innovative wellness amenities, including Woodland Haiku, Ai Chi, Bike & Hike, an indoor/outdoor fitness center overlooking the pool and vineyards, and more. The outdoor pool area features views of the on-site Sotero Vineyard, mature oak groves, and Mayacama Mountains, breathtaking reminders of the resort's commitment to "responsible luxury," or treating our earth with the utmost respect. From employing green design principles and using landscaping that conserves water, to installing energy-efficient fixtures that minimize waste, Calistoga Ranch makes positive contributions to both the surrounding environment as well as the local Napa community.

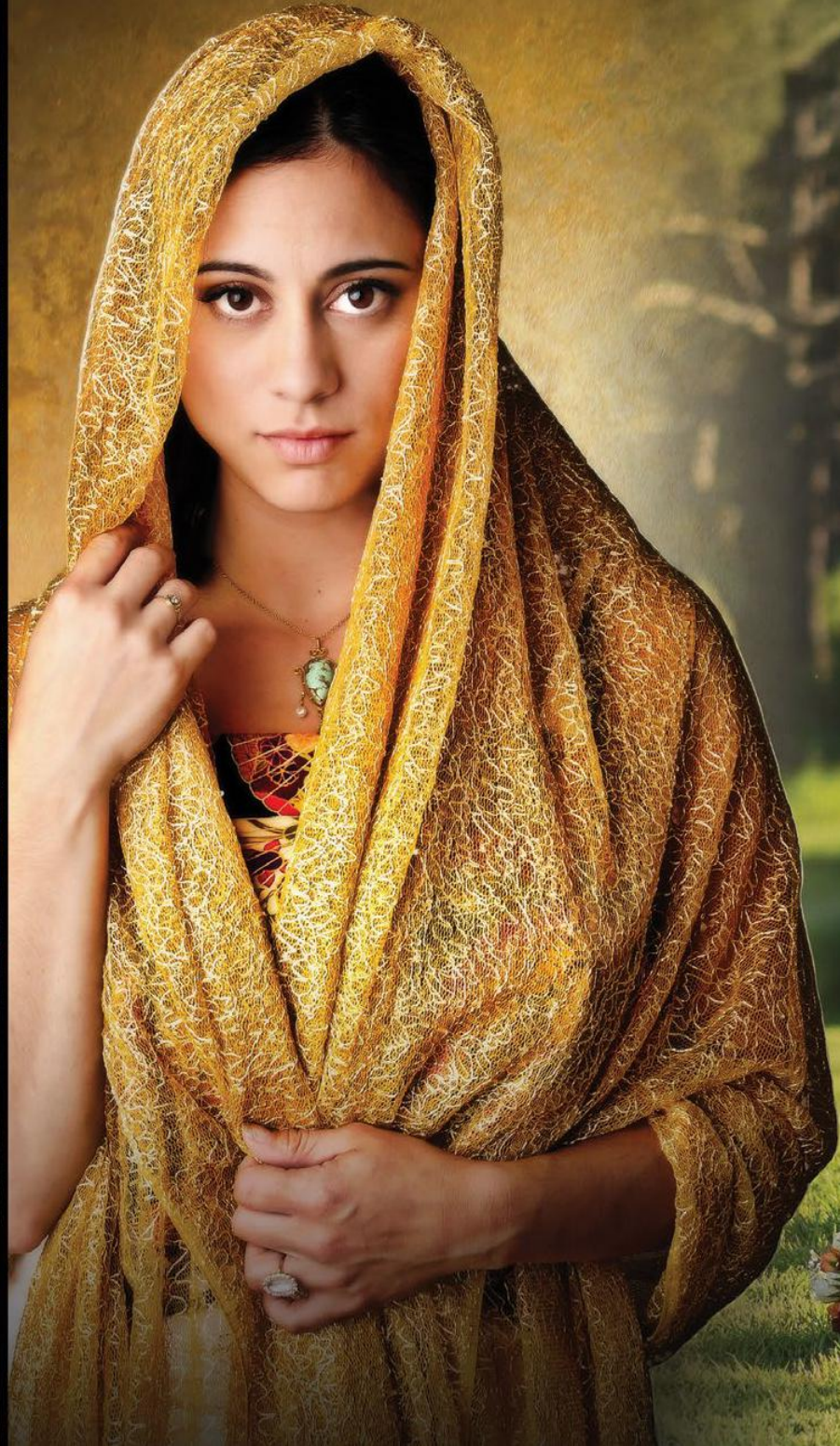
And should you desire a unique and sustainable event locale providing an authentic wine country experience, look no further. With an available meeting space of 11,500 square feet, property venues such as the Lakeview Suite, Creekside Clubhouse, and Poolside Patio include flexible indoor and outdoor space for weddings, board meetings, incentive trips, and executive retreats.

For more information, contact (707) 254-2800 or visit www.calistogaranch.com.









SHREVE





PERSONA | DENISE

10:10



Unexpected Success

Sometimes we're reminded that there are real life angels out there. Unless you're sitting across from her in a litigation room, you'd know that Denise Paulson, a fourth generation San Franciscan, is one of the city's savviest and most unique live winged wonders. From her perch high above downtown, with views from bridge to bridge (Golden Gate to Bay), she runs a litigation support consultancy for the likes of the attorneys who represent Google and Apple. She also operates a private real estate practice for high net worth individuals, providing portfolio management.

Although she exhibits a natural inclination towards helping others through her support and protection of numerous clients day in and day out, it became particularly evident nearly 30 years ago, when she became a mother literally overnight after adopting her two-year-old niece, Sophia.

During the late 1980s, while embarking on a life of good times and travel amidst a career as a litigation paralegal, Denise adopted Sophia as the result of a family crisis. Going from self-proclaimed out-on-the-towner to buttoned-down churchgoer almost instantaneously focused Denise's resolve even further until the successes began piling up.

Recognizing the Bay Area as a burgeoning tech mecca during the late 1990s, Denise jumped in on the start-up wave, not with an idea for an app

or web browser, but to take care of newly minted internet moguls by offering deluxe concierge services. She parlayed that into a real estate business and juggled—with aplomb—three incredibly high-powered gigs all while finding time to devote to single-mothering Sophia.

Denise believes much of her success is due to the karma of caring for Sophia. Others, though, who recognize her meticulous approach to work, her tendency to nurture and mentor employees and colleagues, and understand her mind, which is always a step ahead of everyone else in the room, can see that it's as much about determination and foresight as it is about her innate street smarts.

This has all rubbed off onto Sophia, who continues to rack up degrees in everything from nursing to real estate and business. However, it's more than an arms-length “family situation.” This is a true mother-daughter team with as much love, respect, and arguing as any.

Denise still gets choked up recalling her formative years with Sophia. “It was a wonderful and wild experience being a mother overnight. I never thought twice about it. Sophia was a beautiful child with a head full of curly hair and a sweet disposition. She made it easy, learned how to eat sushi with chopsticks at age three, and was a delightful child, always full of wonder,” fawns Denise.

While they'll both admit to Denise's early “my way or the highway” parenting, Denise realized the need for a teenage Sophia to start spreading her own wings. The adage “if you love something, set it free” absolutely applies, and after a stint in Hawaii to seek some personal growth and a trial period with her parents, Sophia flew back into Denise's wings as a full-fledged adult.

But don't let her mild-mannered exterior fool you. Sophia is a chip off the old block, poised to follow in mom's self-made footsteps if she wants. A traveling nurse sounds pretty appealing, at least for a few years. Just knowing that Sophia has a chance to become anything she wants and has the love every child deserves is enough for Denise.

Denise has built her career on building and growing personal relationships, and herein lies the key to her ultimate success: being a mom. Their beginnings as mother and daughter might have been unexpected, but the determination and teamwork of these women have led to successes that are anything but surprising.

By Rick Baraff | Photos by Rick Baraff



The Flight

By Andrea Stuart

Pacified by flight
A gull's speed doth affect one
As wings spread, soaring



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Pebble Beach Food & Wine: A Conversation with David Bernahl, II

By Jennie Tezak What inspired the Pebble Beach Food & Wine festival? It was pretty amazing; we had an aha...

57 MAGAZINE JANUARY 18, 2015

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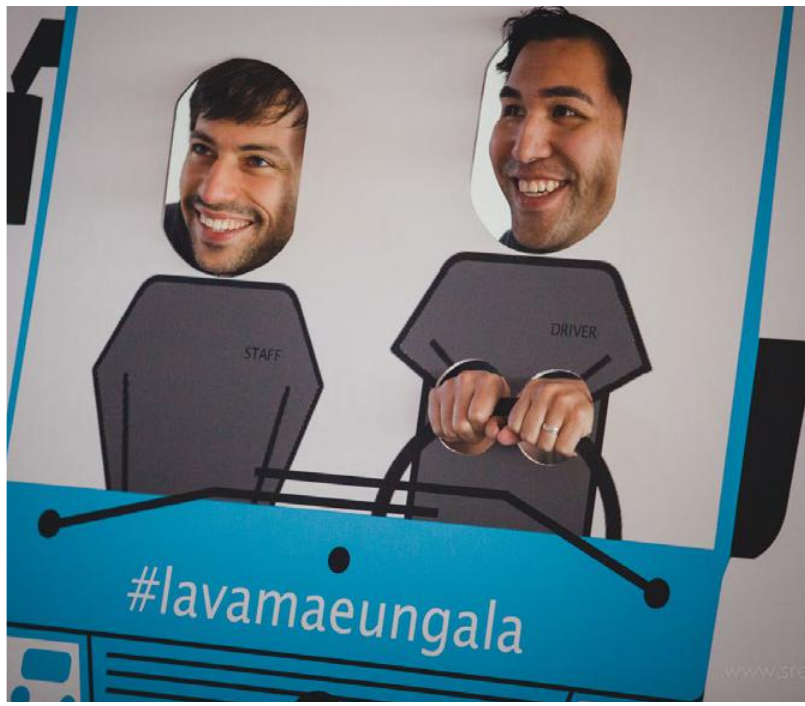


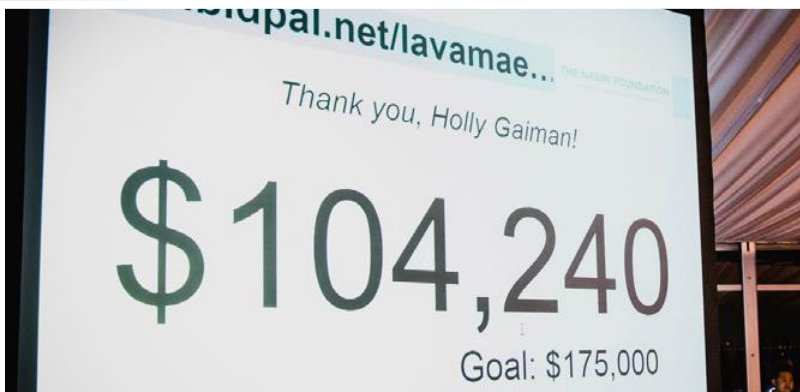


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PERSONA | REBECCA



A Sense of Place

Rebecca Bonagura knows how quickly your life can change. Sometimes it's a matter of handling life as it happens, and other times it means making big changes yourself.

Born in New York, Rebecca grew up between the The Empire State and just over the bridge in New Jersey. She and her twin sister saw their lives change completely after the death of their mother just before their 10th birthday, and spent their middle- and high-school years raised by their father. "It was obviously hard not having my mom around, [my dad] picked his battles wisely," recalls Rebecca. She speaks fondly of her father, whether talking about their disagreements or his sacrifices. "My dad is incredible, the strongest person I know. He had two crazy nine-year-olds by himself, and he managed pretty tremendously."

Luckily for her father, the twins' maternal and paternal grandmothers acted as surrogate parents, which had a lasting impact on them. When Rebecca speaks of her grandmother on her mom's side, she refers to her as her best friend. When she speaks of her grandmother on her dad's side, she is equally praising and adds, "My dad's mom was tough as nails. They were hugely influential in who I am as a person," says Rebecca. "I wouldn't want to mess with either of them." The two were very different women, but both acted as loving caretakers to the sisters.

As the sisters grew, they each actively pursued individual identities, and although their bond never weakened, they were competitive in school. They ended up in the same sorority at Duke University but took very different paths. Rebecca describes herself as more conservative. She graduated at the top of her class both in high school and college and graduated with honors from Columbia Law School. She was published and became a successful lawyer, but something was missing. She'd done everything

"right" from the time she was young, but the path she'd taken didn't suit her.

After five years at her firm, Rebecca decided to make a change. She was dreaming of California, of the connection she'd felt during trips to San Francisco. The dilemma was that her whole life was established on the East Coast. It took a conversation with her father to realize what she needed to do. "He said, 'You're always trying to be perfect, thinking about the future. You just have to be happy now.'" He reminded Rebecca that her mother had been pretty perfect too; constantly planning for the future, but that she didn't get a future. He said, "There is no someday. There's today."

Soon after that conversation, Rebecca quit her job and moved to San Francisco without much of a plan. Her first interview didn't pan out, although she's now friends with her would-have-been boss. She worked with a legal tech startup, and although she learned a lot—the "polar opposite" from her experiences at her New York firm—she's still searching for that perfect fit.

Regret is not in Rebecca's vocabulary. She is happy about her decision to move to The City by the Bay. "I'm so much happier now, even just trying to figure out what to do with my life." So, why San Francisco? "I think you have a connection to certain places. San Francisco is one of those places for me." While somewhat different than she expected, she says it's exactly what she needed. San Francisco offers a break from the intensity of New York while remaining an easier transition than moving to the suburbs. Rebecca's happily exploring her new home and ready to take on whatever life may offer her next.

"The most important thing I've learned is you should not just keep doing what you're doing simply because you're doing it," she says.

By Katherine Matuszak | Photos by Rick Baraff



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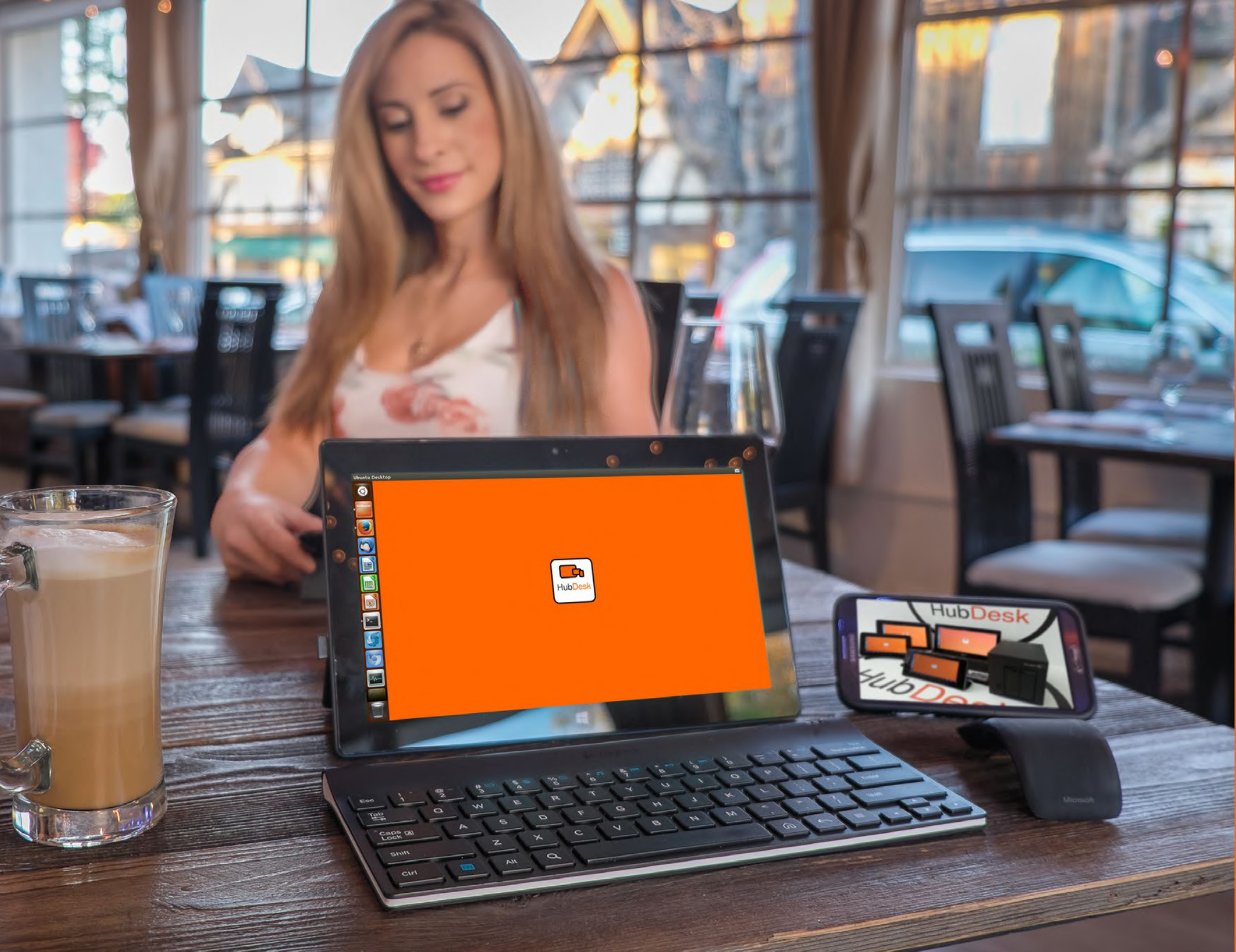


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Style





A Conversation with Joaquin Sorro

By Andrea Stuart

A self-taught artist who sprouted from a San Franciscan family whose influence has helped revolutionize life for underserved and impecunious communities through activism and art, Joaquin Sorro has etched out his own niche using his graffiti-inspired metropolitan artwork to speak with the world.

A: What was your first experience with graffiti and what was it about the experience that inspired you?

J: My parents were political activists and many of our friends and family were artists, so the “Culture of Expression” was ripe and present. Back then, and still ’til this day, my mom used poster markers (large markers) to make political posters for rallies and protest. We’d take her markers and create our own tags and graffiti, thinking we were kids doing Wildstyle in NYC. I think for any urban youth, the ability to express yourself and be known in a big city is the inspiration. Using the streets as your Facebook/Gallery/Instagram is where we expressed that inspiration.

A: What cultural experiences have influenced your work or perspective?

J: Growing up, the city of San Francisco was a wild place. From the hill (Bernal Heights) where I grew up, I could see the city and the bay beyond. I could see the lights and glow of traffic: red speeding up Polk Street and cars coming back over the Bay Bridge in into the city. These lights created a glow, an artery





of the city. It's alive! From Bernal, you can also see Marin and the North Bay. You can almost see Napa with enough imagination. Throughout most of the year, fog rolls over the peaks and into the eastern part of the city. The many micro-climates of the city created another element of diversity that inspired my artwork. Whenever I was home, inside I wanted and still want to be part of the city energy.

A: Describe the first time you applied your technique to canvas. What motivated you?

J: Before I had canvas, I would use things off the street: boards, paper, cardboard, etc. I didn't take myself serious at that point and had a "Basquiat" street artist mentality; you know, make nothing into something and just "go with it." The first time I bought and painted on canvas was in San Sebastian, Spain. I woke up on a beach that morning, while backpacking through Europe and went to this really cool gallery on the river near the beach (Paupa Gallery). When the owner told me he was selling the paintings ranging \$50,000 - \$80,000—paintings that looked like work I had done years before on cardboard and paper—I told him, 'I will be back in two days,' and had my friend, Asier, give him my bio, letting the owner know that my work was something to see. The owner agreed, but before leaving he reminded me [the pieces] must be on canvas, no rubbish." That was the last time I used materials off the street. [He smiles]. I took all my Euro Travel money and for the first time, went to an art store [in] San Sebastian Old Town and bought canvas. I went to a hostel that night, using it as my temporary studio, and began working in the shared space. All the traveler hostel kids played music, gathered around, and I did my art. That was the first time I used canvas. The painting sold within the first 24 hours, bringing the gallery a new client. I was hooked!

