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Electric Company

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PERSONA

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COMMUNITY

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Spectacular Project for a Spectacular Town

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EVENT

The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering

By Bettina McBee

DRINK

Drink Me

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DESIGN

Seascape Splendor

By Jennifer Moulaison

PHOTO

Capturing Buildings: Ryan Rosene

By Jennifer Moulaison

Carspotting Wunderkind

By Clayton Moore

STAY

All in One

By Adam Joseph

SCENE

Stillwater Yacht Club Pier Opening

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Hypercar Invitational, an Exclusive Experience

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The Pocket Cinco de Mayo Party



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Capturing Buildings

By Jennifer Moulaison | Photos by Ryan Rosene

“What makes a great architectural photo is when it’s pared down to its simplest form as a graphic image,” says Ryan Rosene of his photographic technique for capturing exquisite buildings and interior spaces up and down California’s coastline. “A streamlined approach allows me to expose and highlight whatever elements originally inspired the architect, whether it’s a concept for a dramatic roofline or expansive windows framing a great view. I’m here to tell that story.”

Rosene’s father owns a custom home design firm that exposed Rosene to architecture from a young age. At some point, his hands found a camera, and he spent his youth walking around his father’s projects, snapping away at anything that inspired him. He paid his way through college with photography jobs, and after finishing the marketing program at The Art Institute of California San Diego, Rosene worked for his father’s business, taking photographs of his father’s projects. That’s when Rosene’s work started getting attention. “Marketing is intertwined with photography, but when people started noticing my work, it helped influence me to stick to what I enjoy most,” he says.

With ten years of experience capturing images of homes and architecture from the Bay Area all the way down to California’s southern coast, Rosene focuses on what makes a space unique. He’s always incorporating up-to-the-minute technology. “Obviously, everything is digital, now, which has really aided things in terms of convenience. Being able to reference each shot in the moment and make the appropriate adjustments and share photos as they’re taken with clients who aren’t able to be on location is essential, today,” Rosene explains. He uses drones for aerial shots and employs tried-and-true computer programs that allow him to further enhance the images (which is demonstrated with a “before” and “after” toggle function on his website).

Community involvement has also been a focus for Rosene. “I led a class for an organization. It allowed kids to come and experience how a studio shoot goes down, showing them the ins and outs of what makes a successful shoot. It was really rewarding, being able to help introduce youth to different fine arts disciplines like photography,” he says.

Rosene is considering taking on more hospitality projects. “I’ve been working more and more with hotels, and that’s been fueling me artistically—but I’m just happy to be behind the camera.”

For more information, visit ryanrosene.com.





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This incredible home, completed in 2016, blends architecture and the arts with peaceful, natural surroundings. Located in the coveted gated community of Quail Meadows, the home is nestled on 3 acres of private oak studded property with spectacular views. The stunning 6000 sq. ft. home is a unique work of art with its simple lines and warm open spaces. Featuring 4 bedrooms, including an inspired master retreat, 4.5 baths, den, study, car showroom, separate workshop, garage for up to eight cars, and an impressive porte-cochere one can see the incredible attention to detail in all aspects of the home. Architect Braden Sterling and builder Nick Garner captured the owners vision in creating this masterpiece. Though the home reflects the owners lifestyle, attention was paid during the original design and construction to allow easy reimagining of the spaces. This home is the magic that happens when a dream is articulated and the best of artists, builders and craftsmen bring it to life.

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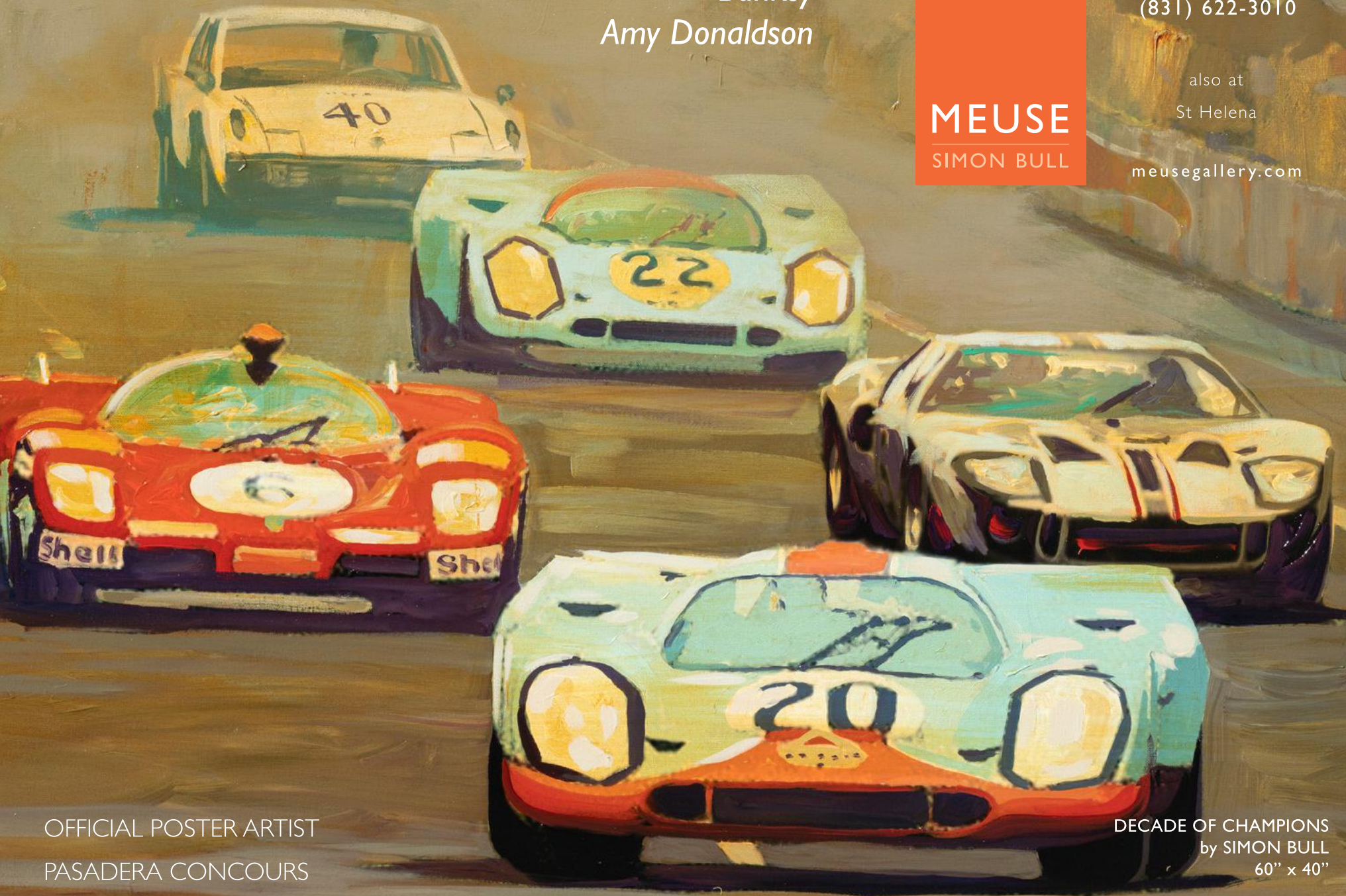
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Photo by Les Burd / Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance

Electric Company

By Adam Joseph

Over the course of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance's 70 years, it has showcased full classes of alternative fuel cars and even steam-powered cars. But until now, there's never been a full class—six to eight cars—dedicated to the electric car. “[Electric cars] have a very long history. Engineers are building on inventions that began decades back, and so much of the world is going electric,” says the event’s marketing director, Kandace Hawkinson.

In the automotive industry’s infancy, the gas combustion engine was the outlier. Electric cars were a much easier sell—they didn’t need the front crank to start up, and passengers didn’t have to sit on the engine, a feature that scared many people away from gasoline-powered cars. They were also quieter and provided a much smoother ride.

However, Henry Ford’s new approach to car manufacturing increased production and lowered costs. The Model T’s ability to travel long distances fortified gasoline-powered cars as the standard during World War I, driving electric cars into the garage for nearly a century.

Over the past 20 years, electric cars have been coming out of obscurity, propelled in part by a global increase in environmental awareness in tandem with clean air regulatory requirements, technological advances in battery efficiency, and the popularity surrounding Tesla and other vehicle brands.

But the original electric cars don’t resemble the sleek Teslas you see on the road today. They span back to 1896, and are considered automobilia history’s most significant rarities. “You look at some of these cars, and it’s just like a little seat sitting on a battery terminal,” says Hawkinson. “Some barely look like they would fit one person, and some have the old tiller steering, not really a steering wheel, per se.” An 1896 Riker Electric Vehicle Company prototype represents this style and is the earliest electric car in the class. An 1898 model will also be on hand.

Others include a 1912 Baker Electric Victoria, which topped out at 30 miles per hour and passed through four presidential administrations, becoming a White House fixture for First Ladies. It was initially Helen Taft’s car. Starting in 1913, Ellen Wilson and her daughters drove the vehicle, as did Wilson’s second wife, Edith. Florence Harding got behind the wheel in 1921, as did Grace Coolidge, following President Harding’s death in 1923. Since its retirement in 1928, it has been housed at the Henry Ford Museum.

Alongside antique electric cars, some of the most sought-after, high performance sports cars on the planet are also coming to Concours. The Porsche 917 helped Porsche make its mark in the racing world after winning Le Mans in 1970 and 1971. The car scored further recognition with the movie *Le Mans*, a fictional account of the storied race, starring Steve McQueen. “Porsche went on to become one of the steadiest winners over the years, but it was the 917 that first brought it,” says Hawkinson.

This year also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Lamborghini Countach—with the scissor doors that have become the brand’s trademark feature. The showcase will be on the 18th fairway of Pebble Beach Golf Links and feature the Countach’s evolution from a 1971 prototype that famed racecar driver Valentino hunted down to the final car, released in 1990. “[Ferruccio] Lamborghini was the one that they say established the first supercar with his Miura,” Hawkinson explains. “[A]s the Miura was aging, the Countach took its place. That car brought things into the future. Even when you look at them today, they don’t feel dated; that design still resonates.”

For more information, visit pebblebeachconcours.net.

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Stillwater Yacht Club Pier Opening

Story and photographs by Cheryl Merritt

The Stillwater Yacht Club is celebrating its 73rd year, thanks to founding members Matt and Mimi Jenkins. Over the years, the yacht club remained dedicated to membership, yacht racing, and social activities. This year, its members enjoyed the opening on May 15—it had suspended all social events last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pier opening marked the beginning of sailing season with the blessing of the fleet, a ritual conducted since the yacht club's inception in 1948.

Yacht club members enjoyed a memorable evening with food, wine, and music. Judy Furman, this year's commodore, and Peter Hanlon, vice commodore created an



entertaining evening with singer-songwriter Javier Colon. Colon is the inaugural winner of the television show *The Voice*, which debuted 10 years ago. He played some popular tunes, along with his own songs from his album *Gravity*, while local caterer Jeffrey's Grill

provided nibbles for the evening.

With the pier's opening, social events commence, along with monthly pier barbecues, adult and youth sailing, the water sports program, and regattas. The Mercury Nationals, hosted by the Stillwater Yacht Club, are being held this year from August 27 to 29 at Stillwater Cove.

For more information, visit SYCPB.org.





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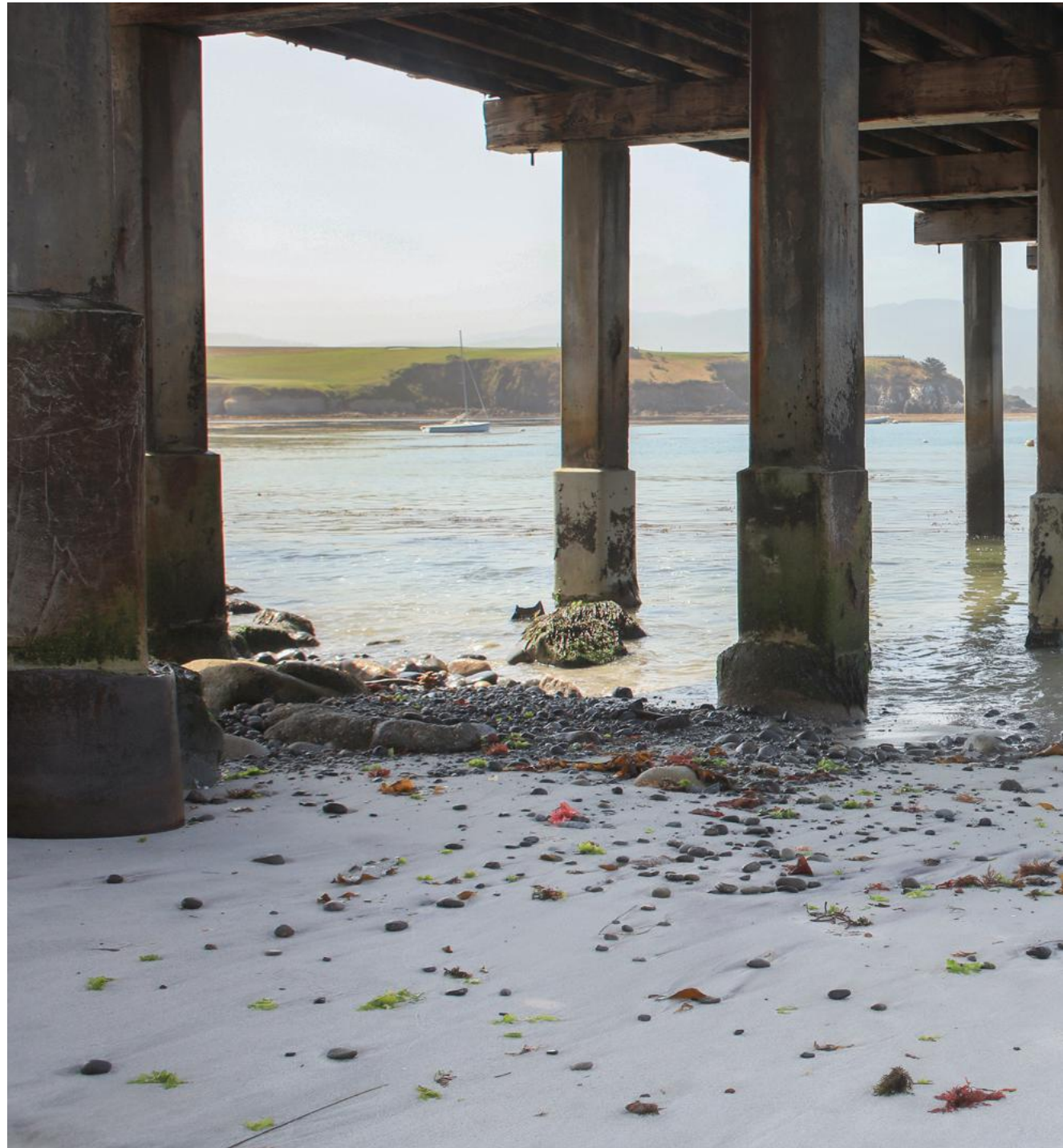
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The Long Way Home

By Clayton Moore | Photos by Randy Tunnell

The expression “You can’t go home again” means that you change so much that when you return home, it’s not the same. But sometimes home is the place with a gravitational pull that always offers you a place to land, no matter how far you’ve come. Even those born halfway across the world often find that home is where the heart is here in Carmel Valley.

Mari Baker, a gifted public relations professional, is a world away from where she was born in Tokyo, Japan, but for her, home is Pebble Beach, California. She landed there largely through happy accidents. “My heart feels at home here,” says Baker. “When the sun is shining, Pebble Beach is the most beautiful place in the world.”

Born in 1980 to Japanese parents who moved to Pebble Beach when she was seven years old, Baker has taken a circuitous but providential route to get back here. It was challenging for her, learning a new language and adjusting to a different culture, let alone working through the long process of assimilation. Her father had studied in the United States, so he was fluent in English, but everyone else in the family had to start from scratch.

“Culturally, Japan is all about following the rules,” she says. “In the US, I had to learn that speaking up was okay and challenging the status quo is encouraged.”

Baker loved her childhood, not least her father’s encouragement to pursue golf and horseback riding. She speaks affectionately of Toni Venza, her award-winning and much-beloved trainer at the Pebble Beach Equestrian Center. “Being on a horse is like therapy,” says Baker, laughing. “You can’t get distracted by all the little things. It’s a really nice way to clear your mind.”

Baker embraced professional life as passionately as her pastimes, earning a degree from Cornell University and honing her skills as a public relations professional first in New York City and later in San Francisco. “They say if you can make it in New York City, you can make it anywhere,” says Baker. “After I did my decade and got my New Yorker badge, my heart was ready to come home to California.”

Her parents loved Pebble Beach enough to keep a home there. When Baker’s father became ill with leukemia, he went there to convalesce. “It was his last wish, to live here, because he loved this place so much,” she recalls. She believes that her father’s return helped him live a better life, one that extended long beyond his prognosis. “It’s amazing that we had so much time together,” she says. “I feel him with me all the time.”



Baker still rides and plays golf frequently, and she lives a short walk from the Pebble Beach Golf Links, a place that means the world to her. When her father passed away in 2002, her family spread some of his ashes there. In 2019, she married Rob Baker, director of sales and marketing at Bernardus Winery, the top-rated resort and spa located on the eponymous winemaking estate nestled in the Santa Lucia Mountains, there; they met when they sat next to each other watching a Warriors game. They share a passion for food and travel as well as a precocious cavapoo pup named Birkin.

These days, Baker ponders what to do next with her talents and experience. But nonetheless, she feels at home. “I’ve lived in some of the most amazing cities in the world,” she says. “I’ve been very fortunate, but nothing rivals the beauty and tranquility of Pebble Beach. I am so glad that my dad fell in love with this place, and I wish he were here to see my life now.”



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Space to Erase Hunger

By Sally Baho

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic—during which demand for food in Monterey County has quadrupled and one in three children are hungry—building resilience is essential. And resilience is the premise behind 5-Acre Farm and Kid’s Food Fix, an innovative, new initiative at the Food Bank for Monterey County (FBMC) that puts children at the center of a hands-on learning experience and uses healthful food to engage them on multiple educational levels.

Headquartered in Salinas, FBMC is a nonprofit that provides food to over 160 organizations across all 3,700 square miles of Monterey County and serves 60,000 families each month. It has distributed more than 30 million pounds of food this past year. At the schools served through the Food Bank’s Kids N.O.W (Nutrition on Weekends) program, 90 percent of the children live in poverty and 33 percent are homeless.

Executive Director Melissa Kendrick has transformed the FBMC with a new state-of-the-art green building that can safely store fresh produce and other nutritious foods. She is passionate about improving health and nutrition in Monterey County, where 76 percent of county residents are obese or overweight and rates of Type 2 diabetes have soared to staggering levels across all age categories, including among children.

The 5-Acre Farm program will yield year-round fresh produce and provide opportunities for children to participate in the entire farm-to-table process. It will feature a science classroom, demonstration kitchen, and pediatric diabetes program, and five acres of organic growing space. Built with the values of nourishment, stewardship, and community in mind, the space and its programs will encourage intergenerational gardening, cooking classes, and nutrition education to engage children and families, model healthy habits, and build the foundation for a healthy lifestyle. “It’s different when kids make a pizza with vegetables they have harvested,” says Kendrick. It invokes the

adage, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

The program’s curriculum aims to inspire curious, engaged students who will learn to be lifelong advocates for healthy living. In the kitchen classroom, children will explore how culture and identity affect a person’s relationship with food and eating. In the garden classroom, students will tend to and oversee all aspects of planting, nurturing, and harvesting healthful fruits and vegetables. The program will be wholly integrated into the students’ academic experiences, from kindergarten to high school.

Kendrick and the staff at FBMC believe that students’ lived experiences outside of school are just as important as their experiences at school, particularly in an area where food deserts are common. To this end, the curriculum will include a pediatric diabetes program that will provide nutrition education, monitoring, and an array of healthy food options to those with the highest risk and least access to resources, including healthy food or healthcare.

FBMC has partnered with renowned local architect Mary Ann Schicketanz, whose studio specializes in innovative, sustainable designs. “We are thrilled to design a totally green, modular space that will inspire children to think and grow healthy—for a lifetime,” says Schicketanz, speaking on behalf of her team.

All of the nonprofits, schools, scout troops, and faith groups that currently partner with FBMC will have access to the new space. Community members of all ages will be able to volunteer at the farm and participate in the activities. “We call this ‘a space to erase hunger,’” says Kendrick, “and it will be a tremendous collaboration opportunity.”

To learn more or get involved, visit foodbankformontereycounty.org.



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Hypercar Invitational, an Exclusive Experience

By Andrea Stuart | Photos by Griff Medel

Adrenaline rushed through veins and scenery passed in a blur as attendees of the 2021 Hypercar Invitational at WeatherTech® Raceway Laguna Seca—a three-day extravaganza held in June—experienced high-performance vehicles like few others have.

In addition to offering an intimate environment in which guests engaged with distinguished professionals in the racing industry, the event provided ride-along experiences with professional high performance sports car drivers, including Randy Pobst, the record holder “King of Laguna Seca,” and C. J. Wilson. By doing so, the event’s organizers curated a way for brands to enhance relationships and create direct feedback loops with existing and future customers.

“While riskier and resource intensive, this allows [car manufacturers] to connect with top customers and prospects in a ‘show’ versus ‘tell’ experience, by offering high-level car collectors an opportunity to experience different cars up close and really feel what an engine or steering system feels like,” says Hypercar Invitational Founder Alessandro Borroni.

Collectors were able to participate in one-and-one conversations with manufacturers and panel discussions with industry leaders, including

Kevin Czinger, CEO of Czinger and an accomplished engineer who created software and automotive production systems that employ artificial intelligence; Cedric Davy—COO of Bugatti North America—who spoke about overcoming technological hurdles; Stephan Baral—head of Porsche Ventures USA—who discussed the start-ups in which Porsche Ventures is investing; founder of DeTomaso Automobili Ryan de Barris, who talked about the intricacies of starting a small sports car company; Stefano Sbettega—of Pagani—who spoke of the passion and detail behind Pagani automobiles; and Pobst, who spoke about the complexities of the track.

The event was also a fundraiser for Make-A-Wish® foundation and raised \$50,000 for the organization. Borroni and his team believe that it’s important to do something good for the community while having fun. “We chose Make-a-Wish® Greater Bay Area because we wanted a local, reputable charity. Donations made from guests went directly to [the organization].”

For more information, visit: hypercarinvitational.com.

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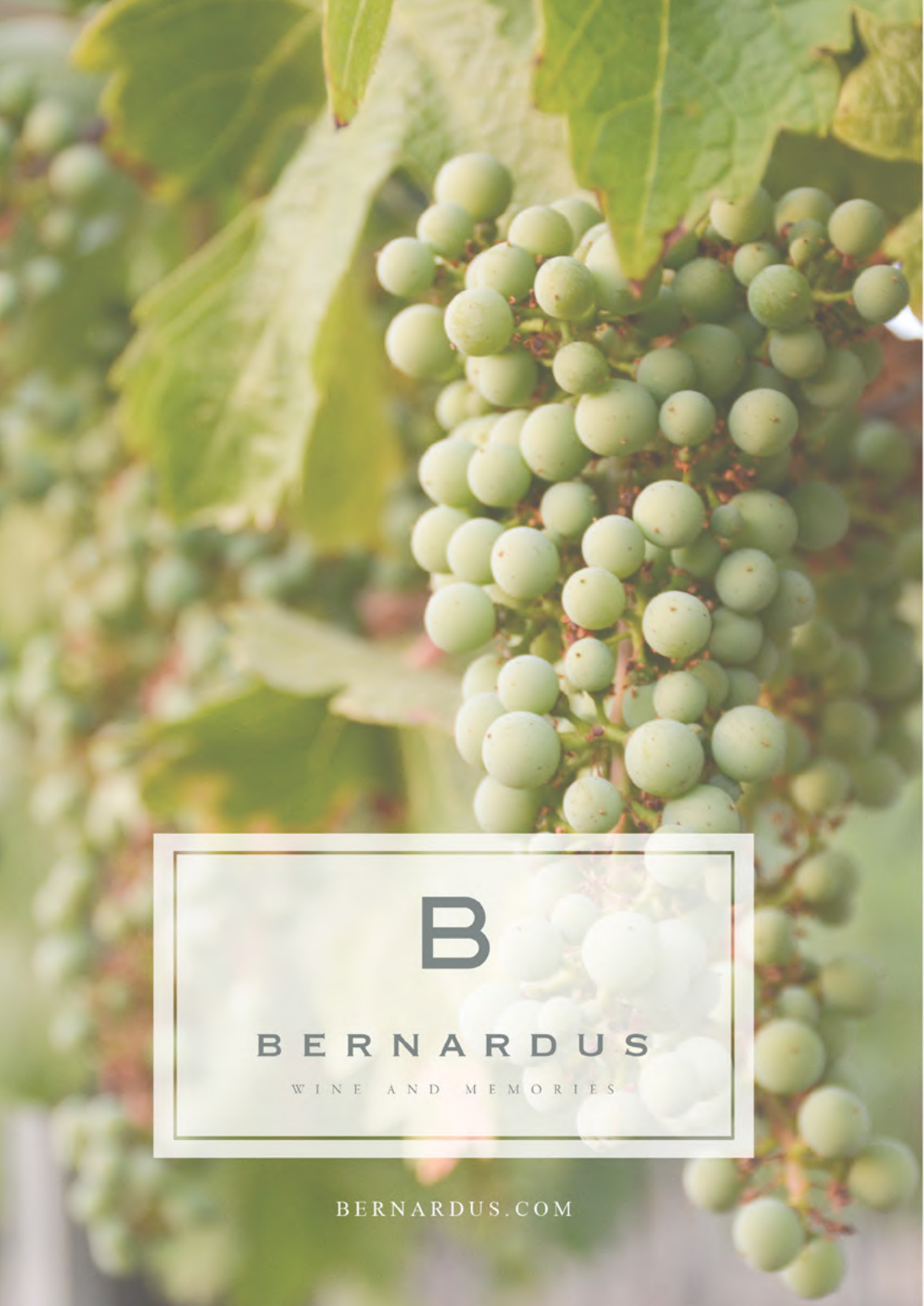
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Car-spotting Wunderkind

By Clayton Moore | Photos by Fernando Barragan

Budding entrepreneur Fernando Barragan spent his COVID-19 pandemic downtime making YouTube videos based on a pastime called car spotting, looking for interesting cars in and around Carmel. The fifteen-year-old's favorite to date is a Mercedes-Benz AMG-GTR sports car that can reach 60 miles per hour in three seconds.

You have 1,500 subscribers on YouTube. How did you get started?

I was already watching car videos from places like Los Angeles, but in the back of my mind, I knew Carmel could be just as good. Because I'm too young to drive, I'd have my brothers drop me off in Carmel for the day, and I spent that time photographing cars and making videos for TikTok and YouTube. That's how it started.

You don't have any training in videography or filming. Are there any challenges?

The most challenging parts are editing the videos and talking to the camera in front of other people. I didn't know anything about editing at first, and there are still hard parts about it, but thankfully, it's getting easier. The talking in front of people still gets to me, but that's getting easier, too.

What do you love about cars and these experiences?

Honestly, cars are way better than live-streaming videogames. I've gotten to take a few rides, and it really boosts your confidence. This weekend, there was a charity event for the Make-A-Wish® foundation, and they brought down nearly 100 million dollars' worth of cars. I

made it out to Quail Lodge, Laguna Seca, and Ocean Avenue in Carmel, just having fun and recording my YouTube videos. You learn so many different things.

What would you tell other young people about chasing their dreams?

First, don't care what other people think of you. When I first got started, I had zero subscribers, but I knew eventually I would get to the point where people noticed me. Once you stop caring about what other people think, that's the moment you really start doing things.

View Fernando Barragan's videos on YouTube at "BayAreaExotics."





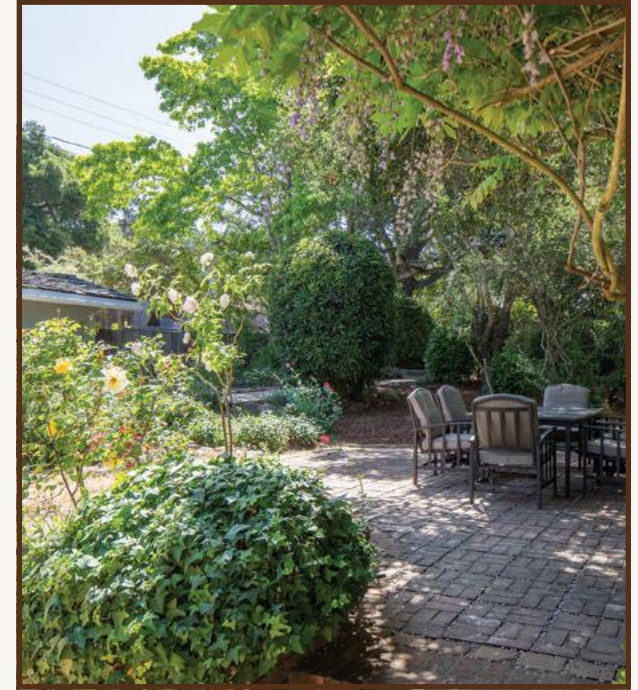
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Spectacular Project for a Spectacular Town

By Sally Baho | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Carmel Cares is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to keep Carmel-by-the-Sea “beautiful, safe, and inviting” through volunteer-supported maintenance and improvement projects. It partners with the city’s public works department to achieve this goal and has already cleaned up two prominent areas since its start last year.

“We really view the whole thing as a big community engagement project,” says Dale Byrne, founder and chief caring officer. Byrne is passionate about getting people of all ages involved in activities that connect them with the community and make them feel ownership for their town and home.

What started as a virtual meeting to discuss how fast the weeds grow in the one-square-mile town of Carmel-by-the-Sea turned into regularly scheduled weed-pulling meetups to beautify the Scenic Pathway. Attention and energy then turned to a makeover of the Forest Theatre, and more projects are in the pipeline. Passersby asked how they could help and donate money; the organization exists on the generosity of community members in both time and resources.

Volunteer extraordinaire Shirley Moon began sweeping the Scenic Pathway on her own. When she read an article in the *Carmel Pine Cone* about Byrne and Carmel Cares, she immediately got in touch with Byrne. After working alongside her for just a few hours one morning, Byrne appointed her project manager of the Scenic Pathway cleanup project. Moon studies the original 1988 plans for the pathway and tailors her project to maintain the intent of the much-loved—and only three-quarters-mile long—course.

“My new saying is, ‘This town deserves to be better than average, it deserves to be spectacular,’” says Byrne. Based on the community’s engagement, enthusiasm, donations, and compliments, he is achieving that goal daily.

To learn more or get involved, visit carmelcares.org.





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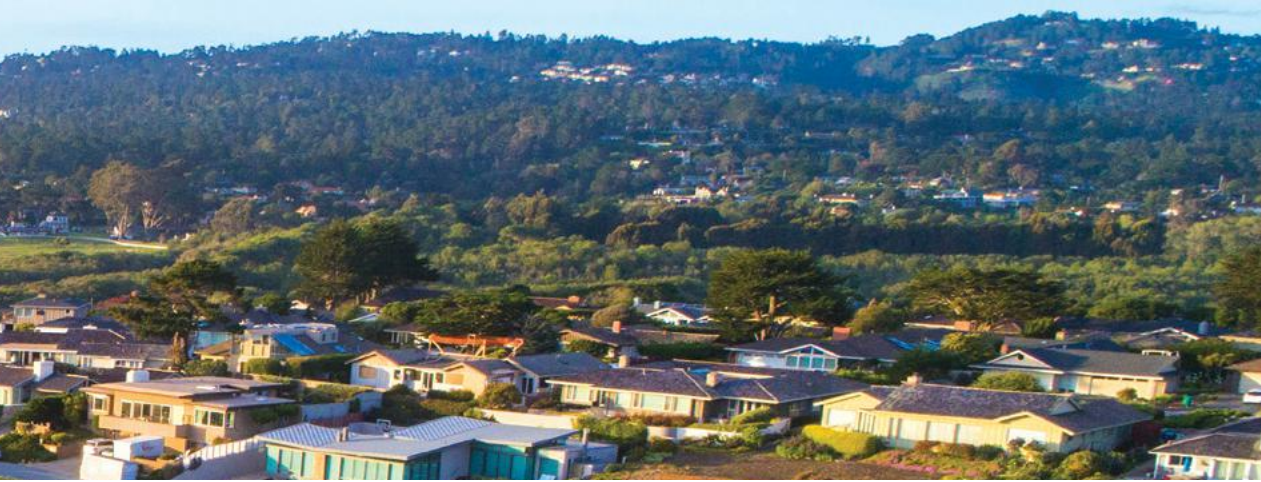
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Seascape Splendor

By Jennifer Moulaison | Photos by Ryan Rosene

It's little wonder that the owners of a spectacular property in Pebble Beach were captivated while peering into the windows of the dazzling Martin Perri Interiors design showroom; the showroom's owner, Martin Perri Mitchell, has more than 28 years of experience crafting uniquely elegant spaces for discerning clientele. The couple hired Mitchell on the spot, and soon his talent unfolded onto a superlative design achievement known as Seascape.

Mitchell's showroom, located in the heart of Carmel-by-the-Sea, is teeming with a diverse collection of rare and stylish furniture and decor pieces intended to depict the breadth of styles his designed spaces can achieve. "Often, when clients walk in, they admire what they see but are unsure what elements will suit their spaces. That's where I come in and curate the elements that pique their interest while blending seamlessly with their environments," says Mitchell. Although the owners of Seascape were in the early stages of their remodeling project, Mitchell's distinct, elevated aesthetic precisely pinpointed the look they envisioned for their space.

Upon first viewing the couple's property, Mitchell was taken aback by its views and the sheer beauty of the presence of sea and the sky. "Deep blues and aqua tones of the water, earthy tones of the forest. Naturally, the drapes were the first thing chosen, and they were chosen to complement the scenery, which set in motion everything else in the home," says Mitchell. "I chose linen with antiqued prints with subtle hues to allow a subtle pattern with a suggestion of elegance. Monochromatic tonal shifts, which would blend in harmony with the fabrics, [were] used on the upholstery."

The clients were accustomed to very traditional furnishings but wanted to move toward a slightly more comfortable, Mediterranean aesthetic for this property. Mitchell looked to incorporate a combination of new and collected antiques to further strike a balance of practicality and timelessness. "I chose rich, exotic and high-gloss accents, such as cocktail tables, end tables and other pieces, to add to a more sophisticated look while other elements boasted clean lines and bold textures in a neutral palette," he explains. The result is a splendid marriage of refined elegance with a vein of relaxed modernity.

"It was a whirlwind renovation," says Mitchell of the project's rapidly moving four-month time frame, which took place before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. He leveraged his experience to ensure that his selections served the property aesthetically while adhering to the needs of clients and their busy schedules. "Because they were based out of Texas, I approached everything with the thought of, 'If I'm traveling and want to be updated, what information do I need?' So, I'm careful to gather the right amount of data from the project so I can make educated decisions on their behalf and incorporate their opinions, when necessary," he says.

Mitchell considers the Seascape project to have been a defining memorable opportunity and a true representation of his work. A visit to Martin Perri Interiors showroom provides an opportunity to peruse Mitchell's extensive and diverse interior design portfolio, view a curated collection of bespoke furnishings and accessories, and perhaps pick up a unique and perfect piece for your own space.

For more information, visit martinperri.com.



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The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering

By Bettina McBee | Photos by Adam Swords

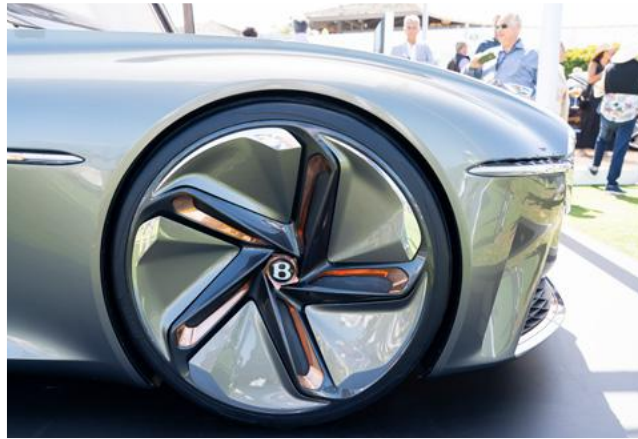
This year, on Friday, August 13, Peninsula Signature Events and Quail Lodge & Golf Club will contribute to motorsports history. Thousands of fans, excited for the return of Monterey Car Week after the COVID-19 pandemic postponed the popular gathering in 2020, will make the Monterey Peninsula their destination.

Now in its eighteenth year, The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering is a living motorsports museum where history is reflected in the vehicles on display. These art pieces encourage conversation and spark new friendships. Each year is unique, showcasing a past era while debuting the future of automotive engineering.

People strive to move farther faster. The gathering speaks to this desire by exemplifying human intelligence, creativity, collaboration, design, and style. Sir Michael Kadoorie, leader of The Peninsula Hotels Signature Events, is the originator and driving force behind the gathering. His love for vintage and rare vehicles fuels the event, whose mission is to find people from all over the world who have a deep interest in the eclectic history of motorsports. “This was the catalyst for the event, and it continues today,” explains Courtney Ferrante, director of the event.

Gordon McCall, director of motorsports for Quail Lodge, shares his wealth of knowledge and lifelong enthusiasm for motorsports via the

Gathering and is also cofounder of the star-studded event. “[It] is reinvented every year,” he says. This year celebrates the belated 50th anniversary of the Alfa Romeo Montreal and the Citroën SM2, two unique automobiles that are finally receiving their due accolades. It is just one example of how Ferrante and the dedicated staff at Quail and The Peninsula Signature Events make each year unique.



Monterey Car Week kicks off with another of McCall’s experiences, McCall’s Motorworks Revival. An avid collector and a native of the Peninsula, McCall takes pride in supporting his community. The financial impact of Monterey Car Week is substantial. Numerous local businesses and charities throughout the county depend on the annual funds. “Another year without Car Week would be devastating,” he emphasizes. Locals and visitors are looking forward to the reopening.

Displays and exhibits will be arranged to provide more space for everyone to move about freely while indulging on five-star cuisine on one of the most beautiful golf courses in the world.

For tickets and more information, visit peninsula.com/en/signature-events/ticketing.

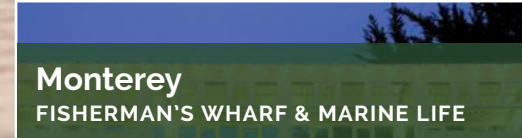


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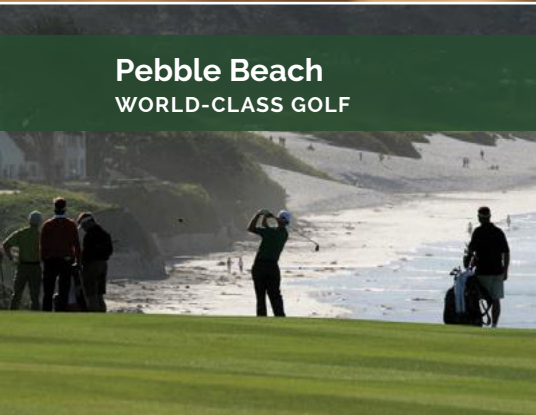
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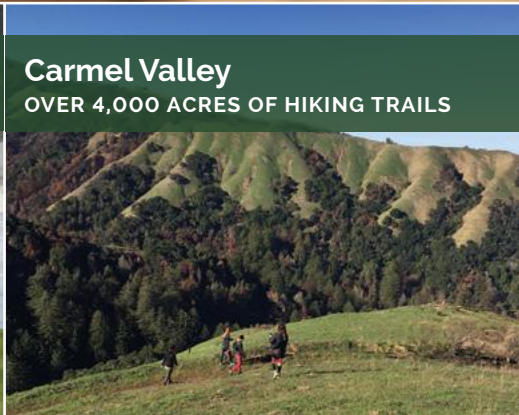
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Drink Me

By Adam Joseph | Photos by Carol Oliva

About 10 years ago, while working at the newly opened Oakland, California, eatery Homestead, Olana Sullivan learned about European wines, craft beer, and food and wine pairing. Then one night, a customer solicited her recommendation of a Greek wine, and Sullivan had a moment of clarity: she could describe the depth and flavors of the wine with a certainty she'd not previously had. "There was this taste of salty air in the grapes from the island they were grown on," she recalls. "It was a crisp wine, but you could also taste the minerals."

During the craft cocktail boom, Sullivan visited the new spots in the Bay Area to sample the drinks. "I noticed menus with cocktails that had a lot of interesting ingredients, but there was no rhyme or reason; everything was just thrown together." She left Homestead for a position at the Monterey fixture Tarpy's Roadhouse. There, she invoked her instinct and experimented with a "garden-to-glass" cocktail program.

Pour Girl Bartending—a craft cocktail catering enterprise—was born when Sullivan craved mobility. After a decade, Pour Girl maintains a five-star rating on Yelp. It has become the go-to operation for events of all sizes and types, from Big Sur to San Francisco and beyond.

The self-taught Carmel Valley native's cocktail creation process is deliberate freestyle. It's similar to listening to a talented bebop musician filling in the empty spaces with bursts of improvisational bliss. Sullivan can develop exciting, highly touted cocktail menus without needing to taste anything first—and she hits all the right notes. "It just makes sense to me, thinking about what's in season and then covering all those different taste points," she says.

One of her strategies involves putting a twist on a known classic by replacing ingredients with similar ones, resulting in something exciting or locally focused. Sullivan makes a Oaxacan old-fashioned using mescal instead of rye whiskey. Then she replaces the simple syrup with agave nectar, a sweet component that comes from the same plant as mescal. "It's cohesive," she says. "Instead of using Angostura® bitters, I use lavender bitters, so you have this floral quality coming in, and lemon zest instead of orange peel, because lemon and lavender go so well together. If you've learned about flavor profiles in food, you can apply it to beverages."

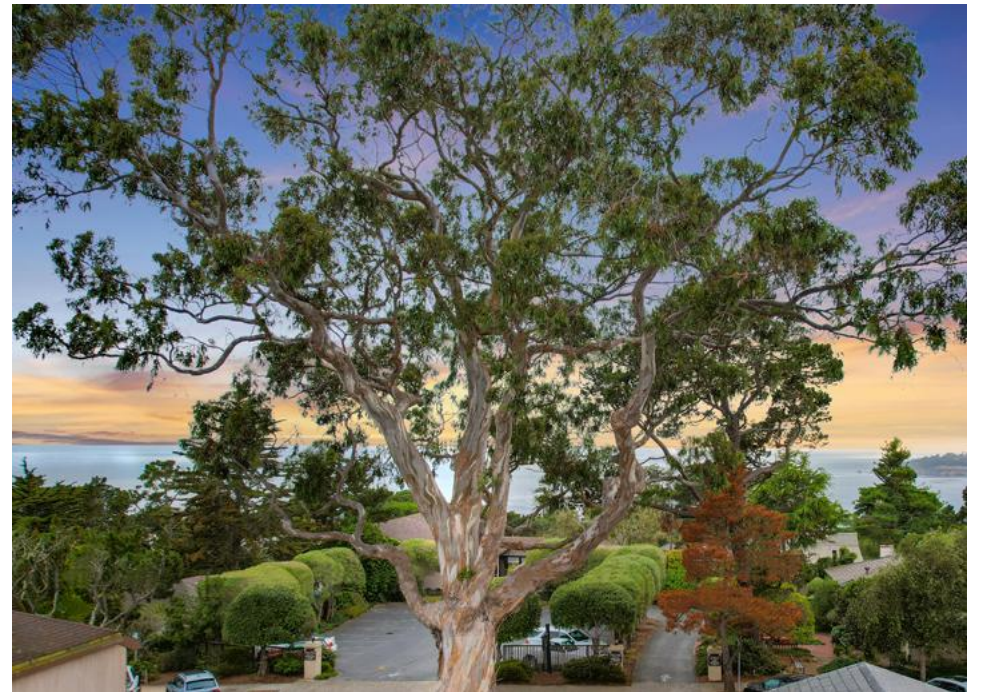
Another essential component she considers is the weather. If it's nippy outside, she offers something with a little more heat. "I want to feel like I'm covered with a warm blanket," says Sullivan. When it's cold, she uses ingredients such as cinnamon, cardamom, ginger, pomegranate, other dark fruits, and warming spices.

During the pandemic shutdown, she retrofitted a model year 1977 horse trailer to serve as a fully functioning pop-up bar, dubbed Bar Bella, and taught online mixology classes. Her courses—with themes that included Valentine's Day cocktails and mocktails—were well received, and she currently offers them in person. Sullivan provides the ingredients and tools and usually makes three cocktails per class. She is drinking in the creativity of mixology while keeping the art form alive.

For more information, visit pourgirlbartending.com.







All In One

By Adam Joseph | Photos by Manny Espinoza

“My wife and I honeymooned in Carmel 31 years ago,” says Kent Ipsen. “I told her that I’d get her a place here someday.” Ipsen’s wife, Yvette, had pictured something with that quintessential Carmel charm, something like the homes on San Antonio that look as if they could be straight out of a fairytale.

Ipsen eventually came through on that three-decades-old commitment to his wife. The restaurateur who owns Skipolini’s Pizza, a small chain with locations throughout the Bay Area and one in Reno, Nevada, purchased a place in Carmel in 2017. But the property, initially zoned for commercial use, is slightly different from what his wife had envisioned. It took nearly two years of construction and renovations, in addition to attending city council meetings and planning commission hearings, doing a residential conversion, obtaining a short-term rental permit, and dealing with pandemic-induced setbacks. Finally, the fully realized conception, fully open, is stunning. Ipsen refers to the uber-luxurious accommodations-restaurant combo as “mini-Camelot.”

“I wanted to create a building that is unique, with a lot of special spaces that could morph into anything,” explains Ipsen. “Somewhere close to downtown, where you can stay and never have to move your car.”

Five blocks from Carmel Beach and a few hundred feet from Ocean Avenue on Lincoln near Sixth Avenue, The Pocket Residences and its restaurant look like an upscale Cape Cod beach house. The elegant patio—a stone’s throw from Talbott Tasting Room—dazzles with striking water and fire features. The balcony has an outdoor gourmet kitchen and a view of the Pacific Ocean.

The three-floor home can sleep up to 10. It is also bookable as two private 1,000-plus square-foot units: the Oceanview Penthouse and the Fairway View + Club Room. Amenities and extravagance abound. Highlights include a chef’s kitchen with Wolf and Subzero appliances, two wine refrigerators, automated queen Zoom-Bed Murphy Beds, heated towel bars, floors and

toilet seats, a full-steam shower, full bar, poker table, 9-by-14-foot screen golf simulator/movie theater, Sonos sound system, and an elevator.

A welcome ambassador ensures that guests know how to operate the bounty of technology, including a remote for the outdoor fireplace. Landline phones provide a direct line to The Pocket Restaurant for room service or catered dining; the only difficult decision during a stay is figuring out what to order.

The gnocchi gamberetti, featuring pancetta and rock shrimp delicately prepared in a rosé cream sauce with brandy and fresh basil, and the pork Archuleta—a Berkshire pork chop panfried with herb breading and topped with spicy aioli—are just two menu options crafted by executive chef/co-owner Federico Rusciano.

Rusciano’s skill set, creativity, and experience (he’s former general manager of Pebble Beach’s Pèppoli and a Level 2 Sommelier) results in an unpretentious menu featuring new fusions of old-world global classics with seasonal California contemporary. The quality of the dishes and the cocktail program—the signature Pocket Potion is prosecco, vodka, elderflower, and fruit juice ice cubes—has already inspired several repeat diners. “I’m very hands-on, but living [in the Bay Area] and my eight additional restaurants make it difficult to be here all the time,” says Ipsen. “But I know The Pocket is in good hands with [Rusciano] handling all the food and beverage on the property.”

Rusciano and Ipsen plan to offer brunch service soon. “[My wife and I] didn’t approach this just from a pure business and dollar sense,” says Ipsen. “We created our absolute dream space in Carmel, where we hope to retire one day.”

For more information, bookings and reservations, visit thepocketcarmel.com or thepocketresidences.com.



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WINE BAR LIST

RED WINES

Sean Miner Pinot Noir 2010	12
Ancient Peaks Cabernet Sauvignon 2010	14
Shawnee Pinot Noir 2011	14
Big Sur Vineyards Pinot Noir 2010	16
Magnum Cabernet Sauvignon 2010	16
Louis M. Martini Cabernet Sauvignon 2010	18
Ojai Vineyards Pinot Noir 2010	20
Lea Cellars Zinfandel 2010	22
Lea Cellars Pinot Noir	22
Galante Vineyards Red Blend	25
Drew's Dream "Merlot" Pinot Noir 2010	26
Lea Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon 2010	30
OK 12th Pinot Noir 2010	30
Paul Hobbs Pinot Noir 2010	35
Ghost Block Oakville Estate Cabernet 2010	130
Kaiser Pinot Noir 2010	140
Shafar One Pinot Noir Cabernet Sauvignon 2010	180
Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 Page	180
1997 "Pledge" Tempranillo 2010	250
	260

WHITE WINES

41 Case Old Dry Riesling 2010	13
4 Marie Sauvignon Blanc 2010	14
Sur Blue 2010	15
1997 Grande Sauvignon Blanc 2010	15
4411 Chardonnay 2010	15
Sur Vineyards Gewürztraminer Blanc 2010	15
Sur Vineyards Chardonnay 2010	15
13 Dream Estate Chardonnay 2010	15
13 Lane Sauvignon Blanc 2010	15
13 Chardonnay 2010	15
13 Chardonnay 2010	15

BEERS

161 Rock Boat IV	16
161 Rock Boat IV	16
161 Parrot Boat IV	16
161 Claret Boat	16
161 Parrot Boat IV	16
161 Parrot Grand Sierra Grande Cuts	16
161 2010	16

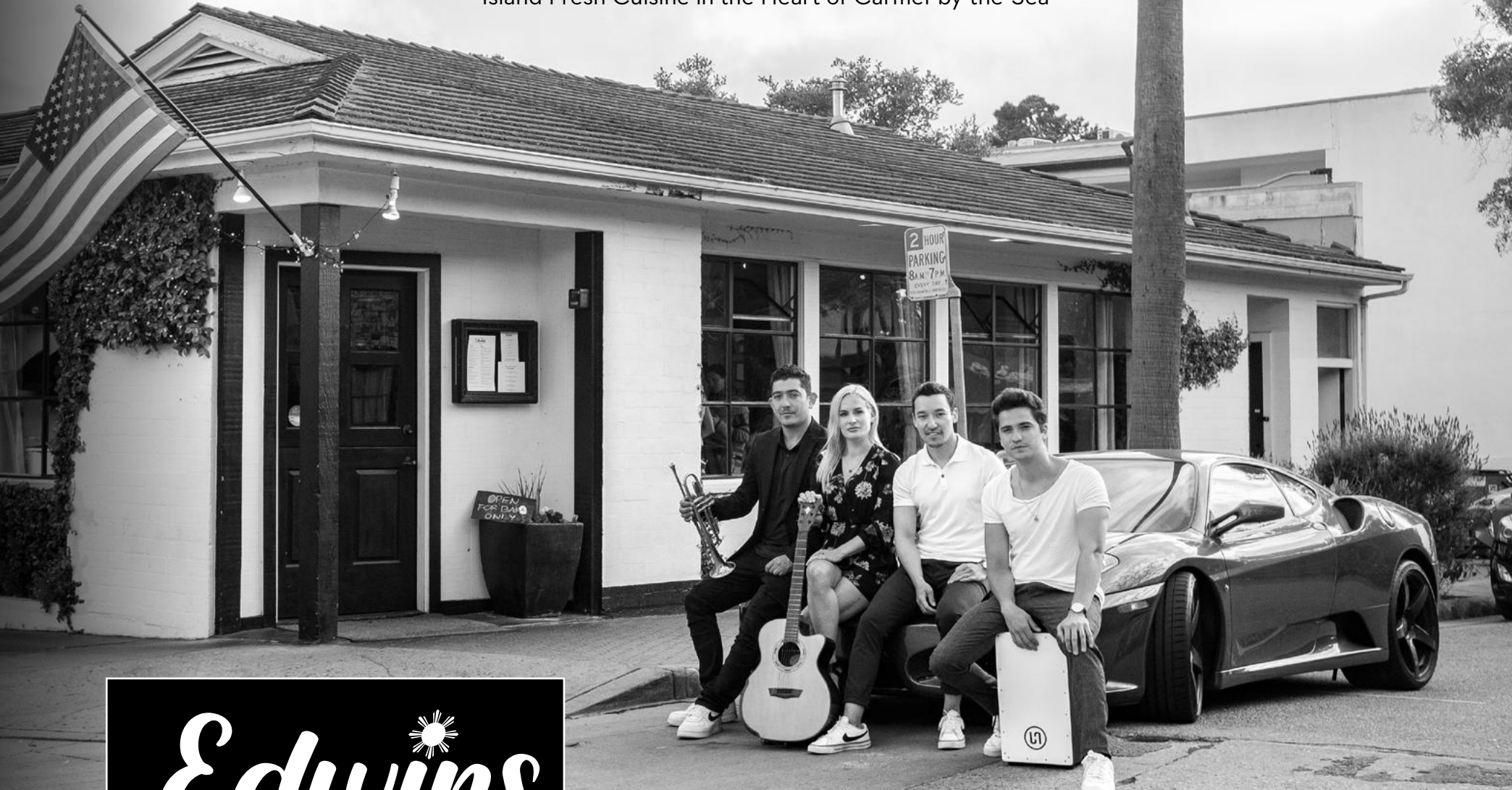
TELEBEER

161 Pale Pilsner	16
161 Lager	16
161 Belgian Style Lager	16
161 Indian Pale Ale	16

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By Emely Zepeda

SCENE

Presidio Dance Theatre Spring Season Luncheon

Empress by Boon Grand Opening



Cover: Courtesy of Call of the Sea

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel

While the proverb “It takes a village” may sound cliché, it couldn’t be more on point when it comes to describing how Carmel-by-the-Sea thrives. The nonprofit Carmel Cares is at the helm of a city-wide cleanup and preservation effort. It has partnered with the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea and other nonprofits to restore landscaping, improve city assets, and maintain the city’s overall function and aesthetic. We’re grateful for Carmel Cares Founder Dale Byrne’s passion and commitment to this project and we’re proud to share the organization’s story.

Our feature on the Food Bank of Monterey County’s new initiatives, the 5-Acre Farm and Kids Food Fix programs, highlights how they will revolutionize the relationship that kids have with food. Children will have hands-on learning opportunities as they cook with the very foods they plant, nurture, and harvest from the garden. In this way, the organization is cultivating a generation of mindful eaters.



Speaking of gardens, summer is here! That means car week is closing in on us. There is an impressive lineup of automobile events to look forward to, including The Quail, Motorsports Gathering and the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance (both stories are inside). Each promises enough eye candy to fill a photo album. How strange it feels to be covering Scenes for the first time in over a year.

We’re also featuring the masterfully appointed Pocket Residences, a unique stay experience just 600 feet from Ocean Avenue! And we think you’ll enjoy our photo spreads by architecture photographer Ryan Rosene and photographic storyteller Debbie Labrot of Lily Rose Photography.

We also had a lot of fun writing about the interior designers featured in this issue. As you will see and read, each one has a unique style and methodology, yet each has an appeal that, we think, can’t be denied.

Keep your eyes open for us at events this summer. When you see us, don’t forget to say, “hello!”

R

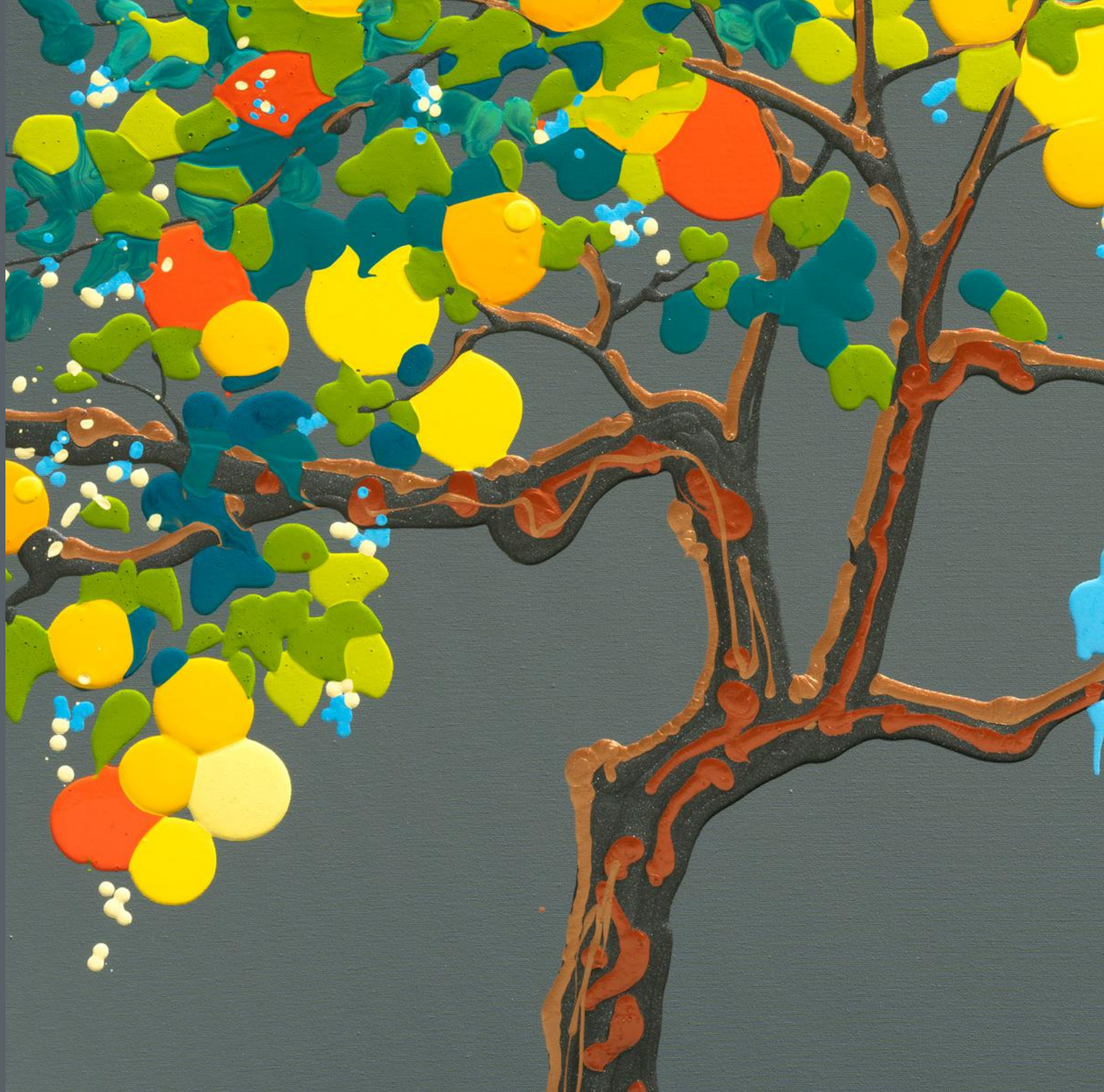
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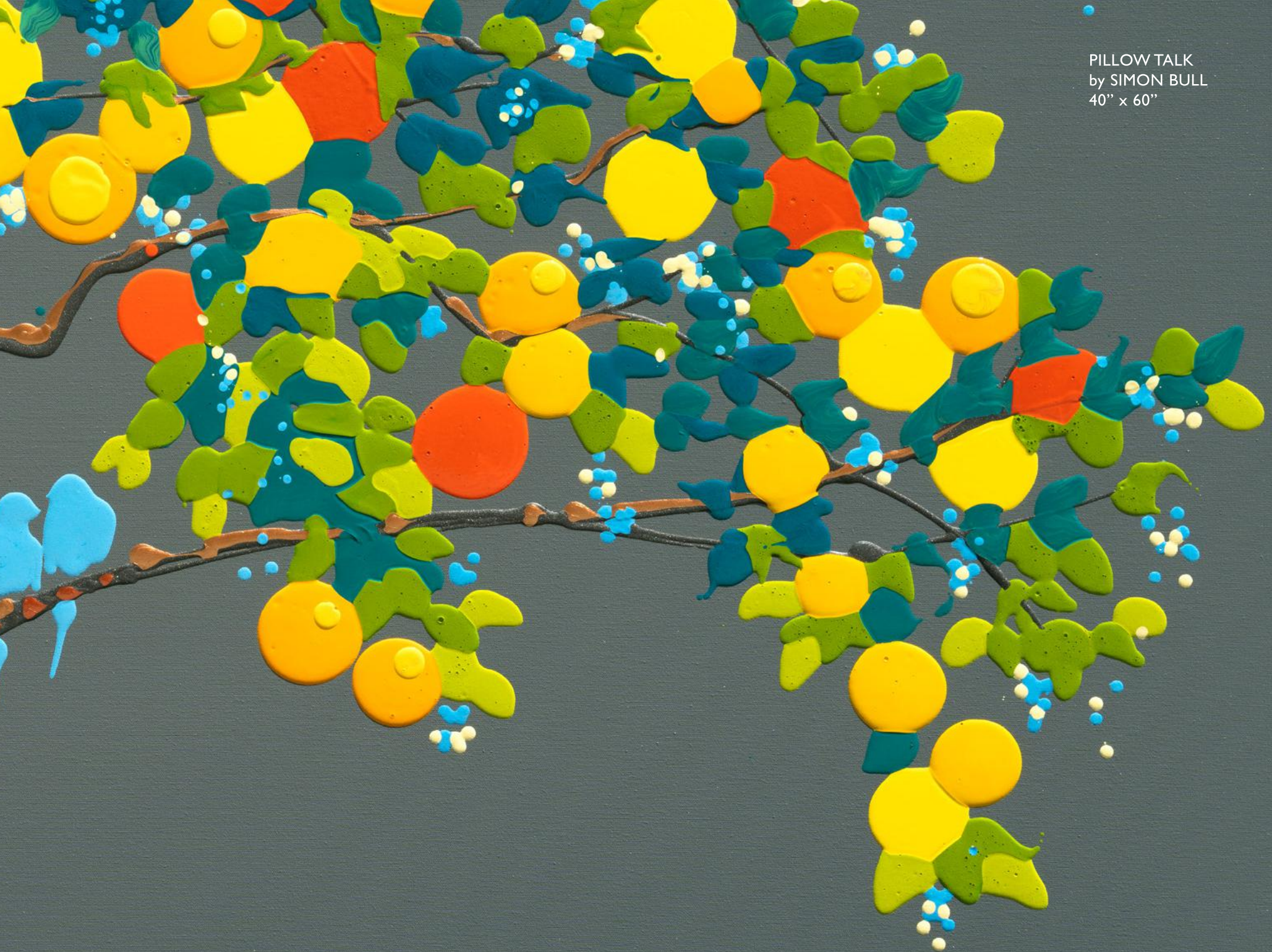
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PUBLISHER Rich Medel
rich@65mag.com

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Andrea Stuart
andrea@65mag.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Sally Baho
Adam Joseph
Atissa Manshour
Bettina McBee
Clayton Moore
Jennifer Moulaison
Aiyana Moya
Nora Heston Tarte
Emely Zepeda
Jessica Zimmer

COPY EDITOR Leah Weiss

ASSOCIATE EDITORS Michele Callaghan
MacDuff Perkins

ART
CREATIVE DIRECTOR Manolo Espinoza
manny@65mag.com

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS Manny Espinoza
Darren "Sure Shot" Lovecchio
Bob McClenahan

ADVERTISING / MARKETING
SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Sydney Coleman
Jack Pappadeas
jack@65mag.com
Chad Medel
chad@65mag.com
Tracy Ricci
tracy@65mag.com

MAILING ADDRESS 65° Magazine
P.O. Box 2426
Carmel, CA 93921-6325

PHONE 831.917.1673
ONLINE 65mag.com



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WRITERS



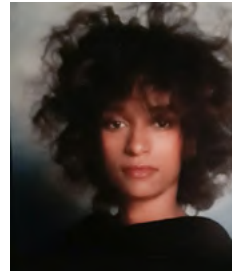
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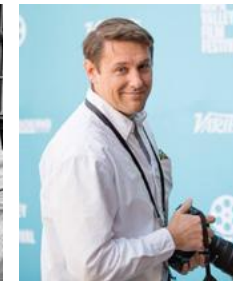
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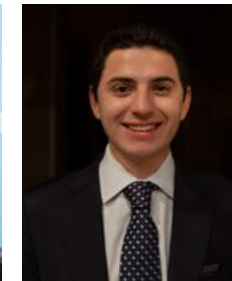
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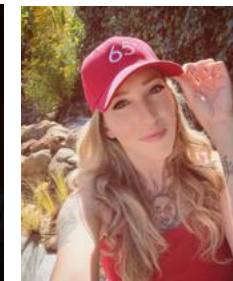
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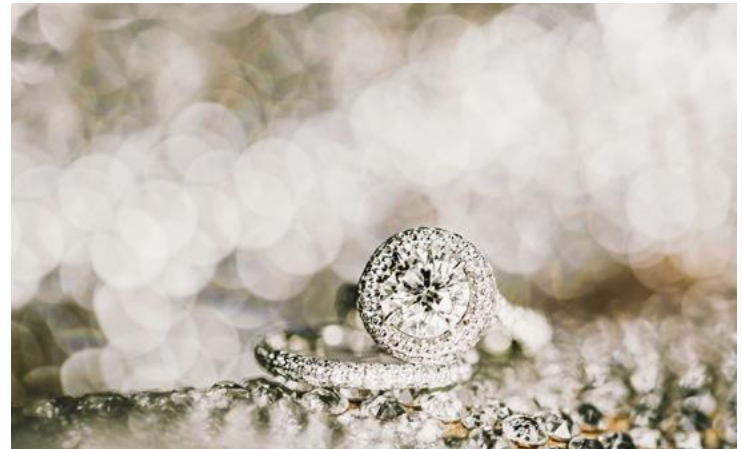
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Trigger to a Story

By Emely Zepeda | Photos by Lily Rose Photography

Photography has always been a part of Debbie Labrot's life. Her father was a photographer, and she was developing film as early as sixth grade. As a child, Labrot was most interested in capturing real moments, real people, and the stories behind them. When she was fourteen, on a road trip with her mother, sister, and grandfather, Labrot caught the moment her grandfather blew his first bubblegum bubble after she'd spent hours trying to teach him. It's a sweet moment made all the sweeter because it's one of the few pictures her mother now has of him.

Though she had a deep interest in becoming a professional photographer, her mother encouraged her to pursue business instead. Thus her first career was as a nursing home administrator. But even there, Labrot found a way to incorporate photography, taking pictures of the residents to attach to their medication sheets. And she never stopped photographing for friends and family.

In 2006, Labrot opened her own photography studio, Lily Rose Photography. In 2007, she met fellow photographer Larry Labrot at a bridal show, and after a yearlong mishap involving a lost phone number and a name mix-up, they became the photography team behind Lily Rose Photography. Together, they employ a variety of photography styles, including contemporary,

photojournalistic, natural, fashion, and traditional, tailored to the event and the moment, be it a wedding day, engagement session, boudoir session, or other special event. The couple's specialty is photographing weddings; since 2006, Lily Rose has photographed over 800 weddings, including a wedding with 750 people that lasted approximately 17 hours.

Labrot loves the energy and unpredictable nature of weddings and how different each wedding and couple are. No matter the details and needs, Labrot remains calm, flexible, and, using her people skills and ability to quickly read people and situations, stays in tune with the wedding couple. Keeping them engaged with each other and present in the moment is what's most important for Labrot.

"Photography is all about memory," she explains. "If a couple is present in the day, they're creating their memory. The image is just a trigger. What I hand them is a trigger to a story. And if you keep somebody present in the story, they have a better experience, they have a better memory."

For more information, visit lilyrosephotography.com.

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Sausalito Comes Alive

By Karen Aiken

When Governor Newsom announced the full opening of California as of June 15, 2021, Sausalito was keyed up to come alive.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a professional documentary titled Sausalito, *Gem of the USA* was made. It refers to Sausalito as a “Living the Postcard” and features everything Sausalito, from its spectacular views, water sports, and luxury experiences to Radio Sausalito.

The city’s parks and plaza areas are welcoming picnics, dog walkers, and volleyball and bocce balls games. Plaza Viña del Mar and the newly renovated Dunphy Park right on the beautiful San Francisco Bay are popular milieus. Restaurants are now open to full service, indoors and out.



Sausalito Music Revival (SMR) Supper Club, a fundraiser for Sausalito Sister Cities, was the first event of the summer. Its June event sold out with “Save the Date” cards. Guests were treated to Mumm Napa Brut Prestige, hors-d’oeuvres, a five-course dinner, and a live performance upstairs at Trident Restaurant with Grammy Award-winner Bill Champlin with special guest Tamara Champlin.

In August, Arias in the Afternoon in Gabrielson Park will offer tables for rent for upscale picnics.

Sausalito is at its best in June through October, when walks along the waterfront overlooking the San Francisco skyline offer sunshine. North of downtown, kayaks and paddleboards are for rent at Sea Trek, a second-generation business. Yachts can be rented for an hour or by the day from more than fifteen yacht rental centers. Bring your own gourmet food, champagne and wine to create a true upscale experience. Rented sailboats with skippers are also available to explore the San Francisco Bay, from Richardson Bay to Angel Island. Sail underneath the Golden Gate Bridge and admire Sausalito from the Bay. These are the days that make fond memories.

The next SMR event is on October 30. Visit sausalitomusicrevival.org for tickets, once they're available











Designing for the View

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Matthew Millman

The new half-floor penthouses at 181 Fremont are open. They are inviting spaces showcasing a 180-degree view of the San Francisco Bay. With accents of blue, orange, and cream, the fully furnished \$15.5 million apartments offer the benefits of living 70 feet above downtown.

San Francisco-based interior designer Kendall Wilkinson likens 181 Fremont to a canvas with four walls and a ceiling. Here, she can share what it means to enjoy nature in the city. “The idea is for you to take in the whole space, see it as fluid and cohesive. That’s why we made these penthouses warm yet classic. There are many areas that allow for presentation and drama,” she says.

Elements include high-backed chairs and loveseats made from high-quality materials; large, welcoming beds; and bold, colorful artwork. “Art consultant Holly Baxter helped with the latter,” explains Wilkinson.

Buyers may choose from two options. The first layout—for single adults looking to entertain—allows guests to mingle during parties and dinners, yet reserves office and entertainment space for the resident. The second layout—for families interested in gathering—creates cozy spaces where children can interact with one another as well as with adults.

The design for the dark, romantic main entry provides one of the most exciting spaces in each apartment. The main entry features hardwood floors, a choice between 25 richly textured wall coverings by Phillip Jeffries, and antique brass fretwork screens that line the view of the Bay with an Art Deco motif.

The great room fully shows off the view, a scene juxtaposed by walls with artwork in blue and white. The great room also has an eco-friendly fireplace and furniture that mixes 1980s glam with mid-century design. The centerpiece is a large, curvy, white sofa inspired by the work of American designer Vladimir Kagan, set alongside original 1980s Brueton-designed coffee and side tables.

The central area of each penthouse, with the great room, dining room, and kitchen, is a circular space. “That way, residents can always take in the view,” says Wilkinson. “We created a private area to the side by installing custom-made glass sliding doors to close off the den. This can be a more intimate room, to watch television or use as a home office.”

The master and guest bedrooms are pockets that take people away from the urban environment. The beds are big and luxurious, offering a feeling of vastness. Unique elements include his-and-her dressing rooms with Poliform products in the hallway leading to the master bedroom, a bed inspired by the furniture of French interior designer and architect Jean-Louis Deniot, and a choice of handmade wall coverings by Robert Crowder. A pink and red-streaked painting by Yunhee Min adds bright color.

Custom pieces can be found throughout each penthouse, such as a dining room chandelier by American industrial designer Peter Bristol, who creates pieces for Apple; a one-of-a-kind Italian mirror in the entry; a painting also in the entry by American artist Raffi Kalenderian; and an oversized rug in the master bedroom.

The ever-changing nature of the water and natural light truly set 181 Fremont’s penthouses apart. “We emphasized the view by having some pieces of furniture tailor-made,” says Wilkinson. “This ensured the scale and proportion were correct. It was also key to bring in deep blue and seaglass green accents, and white walls that remind you of foam and clouds.”

Wilkinson feels that the Bay is a reminder that in California, design involves combining elements of the outdoors and the indoors. She expresses gratitude for the Jay Paul Company, which developed the tower and gave the 181 Fremont team an opportunity to be creative throughout the design process.

For more information, visit kendallwilkinson.com/city-portfolio/181-fremont.



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Reigning Quiet Elegance

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos Courtesy of Hotel Les Mars

Walking through the grand entrance at the French-inspired Hotel Les Mars, one is welcomed into a gilt-edged world of peace and personalized service. Guests at Healdsburg's only Forbes star-rated hotel can easily travel to the city's historic town square one block away or be whisked away by private minibus to any of the hotel's 11 partner wineries, including Chalk Hill Estate, Ferrari-Carano Vineyards & Winery, and Lancaster Estate.

"Coming to Hotel Les Mars allows guests the opportunity to get out into nature and see a wide variety of wineries in Sonoma and Napa counties," says Jensen Norelius, the hotel's general manager. "Those in the Russian River Valley are very close by. Guests can experience vast landscapes, which allow for relaxation and renewal."

The hotel's 24-7 concierge service means staff can readily curate local adventures for guests. Options range from hot air balloon rides and zip line redwood canopy tours to golf bookings and private jet travel.

Hotel Les Mars creates a sense of calm, with gold, cream, and green consoles and chairs. There is iced sparkling wine at the front desk, and a marble staircase leads up to the second and third stories. Anna Maria Mendieta, the hotel's guest harpist, is expected to return for special events in summer 2021.

Room choices in the the spacious yet cozy 16-room hotel include the Grand King, at 550 square feet, the Mansion King and Mansion Queen, at 500 square feet, and the Estate King and Salon King, at 425 square feet. Each room features a seventeenth- or eighteenth-century style four-poster bed and a carved wooden dresser imported from France. The third-floor rooms boast 20-foot vaulted ceilings with wooden beams that make it a treat to look up. Every room has an en suite bathroom with a full hydrotherapy tub and a full shower, each in gray-and-white streaked marble.

Sophisticated touches include antique-style metal keys with an infrared scanning component, bidets in the Mansion King rooms, and a hidden television set that rises from within the armoire.

Outside of the hotel, guests can explore the different restaurants Healdsburg has to offer, many of which are within walking distance. "We recommend Chalkboard, just through the door on the left side of our lobby," says Norelius.

The house restaurant's name refers to the wall-length chalkboard detailing the day's specials. An elegant open kitchen allows diners to see preparation in action. Executive chef Forest Lee Kellogg is in charge, directing the creation of casual and contemporary small plate cuisine.

"We use fresh, seasonal ingredients from the 4.5-acre garden at Chalk Hill Estate, from roasted carrots with Middle Eastern spices to salads dotted with edible flowers and herbs," says Kellogg. "Our menu features locally made feta cheese, house-made hummus, and our own olive tapenade."

Favorite entrées include pork belly biscuits, buttermilk fried chicken, crudos, and handmade pastas. Pastry chef William Woodward crafts an ever-changing menu of desserts, including the chocolate brownie and nougat ice cream "Candy Bar" in a glass.

Chalkboard's 80-seat dining room, 10-seat outdoor bar, and sophisticated outdoor 40-seat patio offer room to socially distance while choosing from the extensive wine and spirits list. Guests may request custom flights with a mix of local and European wines and cocktails inspired by ingredients from the Chalk Hill garden.

Norelius says that the mission of Hotel Les Mars is to be the elegant gem within the exquisite destination that Healdsburg has become. "We go above and beyond the norm, creating experiences that are memorable, exciting, and customized for guests. Our safety protocols and emphasis on cleanliness mean that new visitors and repeat guests can return to enjoy everything local to Sonoma County."

For more information, visit hotellesmars.com.



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A Vision from the Past Sails into the Future

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos Courtesy of Call of the Sea

Sausalito is synonymous with sailboats, and among the thousands of vessels harbored in its waters, none is more majestic than the tall ship *Matthew Turner*. With a main mast soaring 100 feet above its deck and eleven sails to harness the wind, the 132-foot brigantine gracefully commands the waters of the San Francisco Bay, all while delighting onlookers with its cinematic presence.

Those lucky enough to catch sight of the *Matthew Turner* in its unfurled glory could be forgiven for thinking they've traveled back in time; the ship is modeled after the legendary late-nineteenth century ship *Galilee*, but instead of ferrying passengers and freight between the Barbary Coast and Polynesia, this tall ship carries Bay Area students and other marine enthusiasts on sea-sprayed adventures.

Named for the renowned shipbuilder who designed the *Galilee*, the *Matthew Turner* is more than just a historical replica, it is also a modern technical marvel, one of only two vessels on the sea able to generate energy needs under sail. "Underneath the nineteenth-century rigging, it's kind of like a Tesla, with two electric motors and a regenerative propulsion system," says Steven Woodside, Executive Director of Call of the Sea (COTS), the Sausalito-based educational nonprofit that operates the *Matthew Turner*.

The brigantine, which launched in 2020, is one of two traditionally rigged ships that sail the San Francisco Bay under COTS's stewardship. The other is the 82-foot schooner *Seaward*. Originally founded in 1985 (and later merged with Educational Tall Ship Inc. in 2015), COTS increases access to the water and emphasizes environmental engagement by providing hands-on, team-oriented sailing experiences that connect students to their watersheds, ocean environments, and nautical heritage.

There are myriad reasons why twenty-first century students should learn about nineteenth-century sailing techniques. Woodside points to the many examples

of applied mathematics and physics that can be taken back into the classroom after a day of raising sails and pulling lines aboard the *Matthew Turner*. Out on the water, students also come face-to-face with the changing shoreline of the San Francisco Bay and the environmental issues their generation will be tasked with solving. Furthermore, says Woodside, "People who can work together as a team improve their communities."

Community is at the heart of the organization, and the *Matthew Turner* would not exist without its dauntless cadre of supporters. In a monumental, seven-year undertaking, volunteers clocked over 120,000 hours building the ship

by hand, using plans devised over a century ago by the ship's namesake. "I don't know that anyone could have foreseen what a tremendous community-building endeavor this would become," says Woodside, but given Sausalito's deep connection with its waters, the city's embrace of its newest tall ship should not come as a surprise. "Sausalito has such a rich maritime history," he says. "From its earliest days, the city offered 'safe harbor' to just about everyone. Back in the nineteenth century, tall ships anchored in the calm of Richardson Bay, and then during Prohibition, bootleggers offloaded their contraband onto the little wharves and piers throughout Sausalito." Maritime culture continues to play an essential role in the town today, its unofficial motto being, "Keep Sausalito Salty."



While students are the core participants in COTS's educational sailing programs, the organization also offers community sails on the *Matthew Turner* as well as sunset and photography sails to the public. "We want to appeal to anyone who sees the ship out on the Bay and says to themselves, 'What's that?!' as well as people who already know they love the excitement of screaming through the Golden Gate on a 25-knot wind."

For more information, visit callofthesea.org.

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Magic at Napa's Edge

By Nora Heston Tarte

Mentions of Napa conjure up images of endless rows of vineyards stretching over arid hillsides and wine glasses that never seem to empty. But Robert Louis Stevenson State Park offers a glimpse into Napa's earlier days, before wine became the area's biggest export, when quicksilver was one of the main industries. The Scottish novelist perhaps most known for penning *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *Treasure Island* put the future park on the map after honeymooning there.

Perched on the edge of Napa Valley and taking up real estate across Sonoma, Lake, and Napa counties, the historic park is revered for its more than 20 miles of picturesque trails, including stunning views of much of the Bay Area. For those willing to make the ten-mile (round trip) trek to the top of Mount Saint Helena, it's possible to catch glimpses of Mount Shasta's peak 192 miles away. "From the top of Mount Saint Helena, where you can sometimes see Mt. Lassen and Mount Shasta, to Table Rock, to hiking along the rock walls of the Palisades, the views are inspiring," says Jay Jessen, park steward assistant at Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. In fact, the park offered the inspiration for Stevenson's novel *Silverado Squatters*, and later Stevenson's legacy would be seen in its name.

Over the years, the park has endured several wildfires that have altered its landscape—one on the south side of Mount Saint Helena in 2017, and another on the eastern side of the park in 2020—and given way to powerful, vibrant wildflower displays that encourage travelers to visit during the blooms. The wildflowers are a small part of the area's biota; the park is also home to species commonly found throughout Northern California, including mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, deer, and the occasional black bear. Peregrine falcons—

the fastest animals on Earth—have also made a comeback along the Palisades cliffs.

Views from the park are unmatched and also serve the community, beckoning Bay Area residents with an adventurous spirit to come for a hike, bring their mountain bikes, or embark on a rock-climbing adventure. "Mt. Saint Helena is like a giant cork at the end of Napa Valley, growing in size as you drive north," says Jessen, "And the rock outcroppings of the Palisades loom over the town of Calistoga as a reminder of all the open space available to locals." While many dream of tackling the park's more rugged terrain and higher elevations, the most accessible route, Oat Hill Mine Trail, is walking distance from Calistoga; this is an important factor for the space, which admittedly lacks ample parking for weekend visitors but allows for both mountain bikes and dogs.

The park's location within the Valley adds to its charms. While typical park visits purely evoke feelings of connection to nature and rejuvenation, an itinerary of activities such as relaxed wine tastings and luxurious spa treatments near Robert Louis Stevenson State Park allow adventurers to take in their surroundings while appreciating the Valley's other offerings. "You'll understand the region better if you get out of your car and above the valley floor," says Jessen.

The park is highly used by locals and visitors, so much so that the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District that operates it worked tirelessly to keep it open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and to reopen it quickly after the wildfires.

To help support the work of the Napa Open Space District, join or contribute to the ReLeaf Napa Fund, napaoutdoors.org/releafnapa.











Rooted in Excellence

By Nora Heston Tarte | Photos Courtesy Heitz Cellar

Heitz Cellar is dedicated to high-quality vintages, sustainable farming practices, and organic wines. While many of these attributes have become buzzwords, Heitz was at the forefront of the movements, turning out sustainable vinos before it was trending and pushing the industry forward through farming, terroir, and mono-varietal wine production. “It’s something that’s really rooted in our history,” says Erik Elliott, estate director at Heitz Cellar.

The qualities that matter most to Heitz wine production—beyond creating truly exquisite wines—come from the winery founder, Joseph Heitz, a World War II veteran who landed in Fresno while serving in the US Air Force. In 1948, Heitz enrolled in University of California Davis to learn winemaking. He eventually ventured north, where he became a wine apprentice for André Tchelistcheff (known as “the maestro of Napa Valley”). In 1961, Heitz purchased land and founded Heitz Cellar—only the twelfth winery established in the Napa Valley—and put his creative and experimental winemaking tactics to work. Today, his successors stay true to his original style of winemaking, turning out old-world style wines that are inspired by those of Bordeaux, Rioja, and Piedmont in a new-world setting. “When people think of Heitz, they think of old school, authentic,” says Elliott.

To accomplish this feat, Heitz Cellar harvests the grapes early (at or below 24 Brix) for lower alcohol content and more balance; introduces oxygen into the winemaking process to allow for a smoother integration and silkier tannins; and ferments the wines at cooler temperatures, about 68–72 degrees Fahrenheit.

Heitz also has a storied reputation for curating wines that age exceptionally well. One reason the wines don’t sour is because the winery takes on the aging for many years instead of requiring the consumer to watch over younger vintages in a cellar that may not offer optimal conditions.

This is harder to accomplish at newer wineries, Elliott explains, because property is more expensive, therefore storage costs are higher. With acreage purchased in 1961, it’s an accessible approach for Heitz Cellar.

Another reason Heitz Cellar wines age well (the winery is well known in the community for its vintages) is in the way the wines are produced. “Our wines tend to just have a lot of natural acidity and natural freshness,” says Elliott. It

Since 1984, all wines produced by Heitz are CCOF (California Certified Organic Farm) organically farmed, reflecting Heitz’s core values of sustainability and responsible farming. While many local wineries forgo organic farming, Elliott says that the climate in the Napa Valley is ideal for the practice. Moisture is the number one concern for organically and biodynamically farmed grapes, and Napa Valley, with its hot and dry climate, doesn’t see much rainfall early in the year.

Heitz vintages that have benefited from the region’s terroir include the entire 2015 collection (current winemaker Brittany Sherwood’s first vintages at the estate), the 1992 Trailside Vineyard cabernet, and the 1974 Marcus Vintage Cabernet, “Arguably one of the greatest wines ever made in the world,” says Elliott.

Gaylon and Lisa Lawrence are now at the helm of the Heitz empire. Their goal isn’t to change course. Instead, the new winery owners will honor Heitz’s legacy, celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the revered vineyard by looking to the past, staying true to the values instilled in the soil, and offering continuity to the land and to its community of wine drinkers.

For more information, visit heitzcellar.com.

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Serene Luxury in St. Helena

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos Courtesy of Amy Weaver Design

As the sun sets in St. Helena, warm reds and yellows wash over sleepy hills. Birdsong floats on a balmy breeze. Traces of lavender and mustard linger in the dusk. If a landscape can be a work of art, then countryside dotted with faun lilies would be an impressionistic masterpiece come to life.

St. Helena and its geography offered the perfect combination of luxury and serenity to a couple searching for their West Coast retreat. “The clients were living on the East Coast, and [they] fell madly in love with the town of St. Helena and this charming property on a beautiful vineyard,” says Amy Weaver, the Bay Area-based designer who worked on the ambitious redesign of the house situated on an exceptional piece of land. “It had a wonderful artisan feel that needed to be updated with soft, comfortable furnishings.”

With its neutral palette and abundance of raw and natural materials, the St. Helena Residence is the rare design that combines an unmistakable “wow” factor with a true sense of ease and livability. The open-concept living room and kitchen function as a focal point for indoor gatherings, while the minimalist exterior landscape features a swimming and lounging area that would rival any of the region’s five-star hotels. As Weaver explains, “We really wanted this to be an ‘indoor-outdoor home.’ We kept the surroundings very natural and unmanicured to play off the interior of the residence, which had some unpredictable formal elements.”


Originally built and occupied by an artist, the house contained several unusual features that Weaver retained and incorporated into her design, such as the large wooden light fixture hanging over the living room’s seating area and the industrial lighting in the kitchen. She also re-covered an outdoor swing/daybed in Perennials® fabric, elevating what might have been a whimsical aside into the centerpiece of a unique, inviting guest room.

The element of surprise is a theme that repeats throughout the design. “My favorite places in this home are definitely the quirky artistic vibes against the formality of some of the custom furniture vignettes,” says Weaver. A pair of gilded demilune tables by Myra Hoefer set against a black lacquered floor in the foyer illustrates this juxtaposition.

In addition to the St. Helena Residence, Weaver’s diverse portfolio includes everything from timeless coastal retreats to city-chic apartments. Among her current projects, she is especially excited about the renovation of a 1908 clapboard house in the Sausalito Hills.

Like so many others who spent a lot of time at home over the past year, Weaver has had a chance to consider what her home means to her. “This year has been a huge eye-opener to me,” she says. “My need for a home that reflects my personality and the things that I love—art, accessories, and family pieces—is more important to me than ever.”

For more information, visit amyweaverdesign.com.

A close-up photograph of a dark glass bottle neck. The bottle is sealed with a cork and a metal cage. A small, rectangular white label is wrapped around the neck, featuring the text "Spring 2022" in a serif font. The background is a dark, gradient blue with numerous out-of-focus, glowing white and yellow light spots, resembling a starry night sky or a bokeh effect.

Spring 2022

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A Sense of Place in Napa Valley

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos by Bob McClenahan

Few restaurants embody the farm-to-table ethos as literally as Brix Napa Valley, where the distance from farm (or, in this case, garden) to table can be measured in steps. Those peppery curlicues of arugula and psychedelic watermelon radishes adorning diners' plates are more than likely harvested from one of the raised beds situated within view of the outdoor terrace, and that glass of cabernet sauvignon gets its cherry color from grapes grown on the vines that grow on the property.

Nestled amid 16 fertile acres in the Oakville AVA (American Viticultural Area), Brix is a classic Wine Country restaurant, beloved among locals and visitors. A meal at Brix provides immersion in the unique bounty of its soils, where stone fruit and citrus grow among flowering gardens and a seasonal rotation of herbs and produce, all under the watchful gaze of the Mayacamas Mountains. As proprietor Valerie Kelleher Herzog describes it, "Visiting Brix means even more than food and wine. It's a special place to settle in, relax, and enjoy the beautiful views."

Much like the relationship between wine and its terroir—its sense of place the abundant beauty of the environs at Brix imbues the dining experience with something magical. "Imagine sitting in our vineyard, next to the grapes that make the wine and our organic vegetable garden, and the finished product of our labor is on your plate and in your glass," says Kelleher Herzog. Guests are encouraged to stroll the restaurant's grounds to take in even more of the atmosphere, one in which golden sunlight, a whispering breeze, and the melody of laughter floating from the terrace induce a trancelike contentment.

The guest experience is enhanced by the restaurant's chic aesthetic, expressed in a 2019 renovation that highlights the spacious terrace and a horseshoe-shaped bar in the heart of its dining room. "Far and away the best part of our renovation was moving our bar to the center of the restaurant," says Kelleher Herzog. "We have the best bartenders in Napa Valley, and now our locals and visitors can gather and see each other across the bar and the whole vibe is energetic and social." It's the ideal perch from which to enjoy a Mule from the Gardens, the classic vodka ginger beer cocktail, enlivened here by just-plucked fruits and herbs from the garden's raised beds.

Chef Cary Delbridge's seasonal menu nods to regional favorites including Dungeness crab fondue and wood-grilled artichoke without skimping on indulgent choices such as the burger on pain de mie, or the shrimp and grits with an umami roasted pepper gravy. A technicolor stone fruit salad with crispy goat cheese evokes the essence of summer, its colors echoing the white daisies and yellow-red sunflowers dotting the grounds, while the forest mushroom risotto brings forward the refined earthiness of its simple ingredients.

Looking towards the next quarter-century of hospitality, Kelleher Herzog is both reflective and optimistic. "Where did twenty-five years go, and how did it pass so quickly?" she asks. "We will look to our family's next generation to take over with their own ideas of how to maintain Brix's success."

For more information, please visit brix.com.



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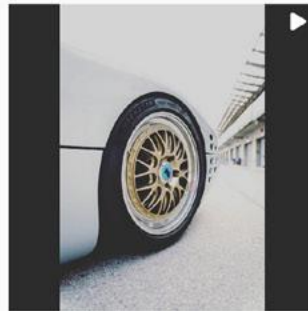
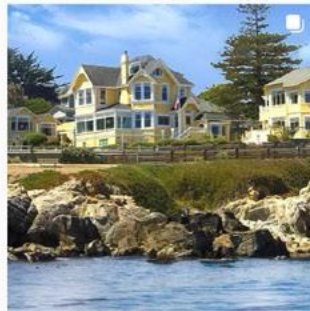
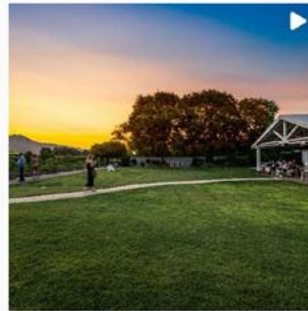
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