

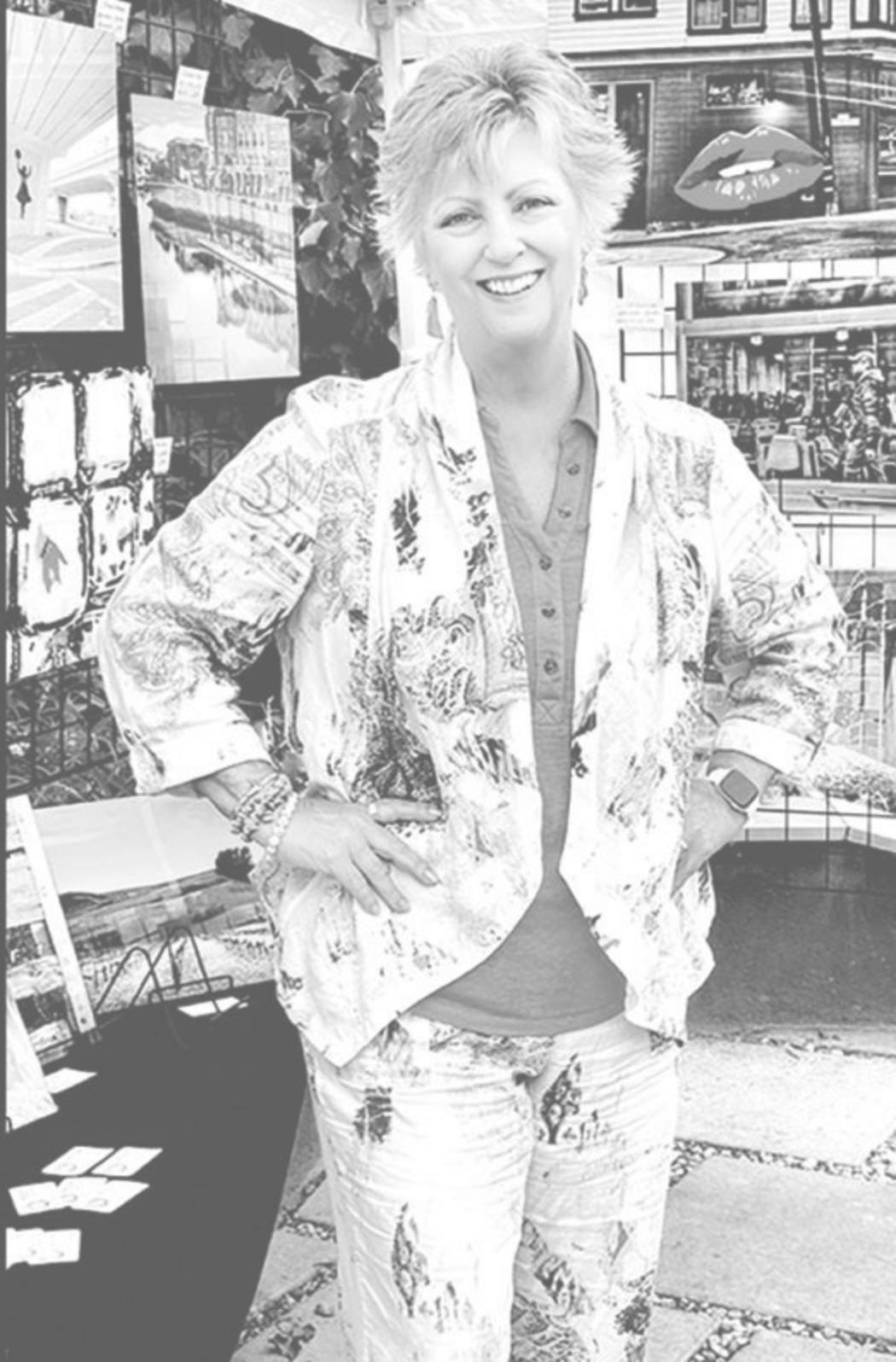
57°

THIS IS NAPA VALLEY



MONARCH









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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel

After a season of generous rains, spring feels less like a date on the calendar and more like a collective inhale. Hillsides are impossibly green, wild edges are softened, and the pull to step outside makes us want to linger longer, taste deeper, and wander farther.

That instinct begins at the table. In Yountville, Bottega Napa Valley remains a touchstone for seasonal Italian cuisine rooted in California's bounty. Up the coast, Drakes Sonoma Coast draws its flavors from nearby farms, ranches, and oyster beds, plating the landscape with reverence and restraint. And for those craving a dash of futurism with their flight, Maria Concetto Winery pairs innovation with tradition through its robotic sommelier experience.



Beyond the glass, spring invites exploration. Stand watch at The Lodge at Bodega Bay, where the Pacific stretches wide and time seems to loosen its grip. Experience the global artistry of Festival Napa Valley or the enduring resonance of the Monterey Symphony as it celebrates eight decades of music, first imagined by Grace Howden. Through initiatives like The Weston Collective and the vivid work of Frank Gutierrez, creativity continues to shape how we see and savor our surroundings.

Creativity hums everywhere: in the classrooms of The Weston Collective, in the interiors shaped by designer Roseanne Pierre and through the lens of Napa photographer Frank Gutierrez, whose images frame both grit and grace.

Leadership, too, takes inspiring forms as Jennifer Edwards steps forward as the first female leader of the Big Sur International Marathon. In Napa Valley, Natalie Leighton returns to Northern California as president and CEO of the Yountville Chamber of Commerce, while Festival Napa Valley continues its ascent as a global cultural force, weaving music, education, and philanthropy into a year-round tapestry of connection. And across the Atlantic the Solheim Cup prepares to unfold at Bernardus Golf.

This season, let appetite for life be your compass.







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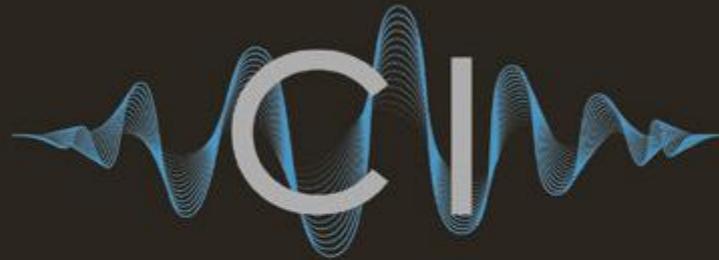
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PHOTO

FRANK GUTIERREZ





Wine Industry Portraits

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Frank Gutierrez

Napa photographer Frank Gutierrez is well known across the Valley for his colorful images of winemakers and winery owners, fairy-tale landscapes, and comprehensive series on athletic events. He brings a sense of dramatic tension and decisiveness to his photos. This is born out of six years of professional film and still photography work in Southern California's entertainment industry.

Yet Gutierrez understands Napa Valley's local places and people because he grew up and has worked in the region. He grasps the importance of a successful harvest and the release of a stunning chardonnay.

Gutierrez, who currently shoots with a Canon EOS R5, started out drawing. "My dad taught me the fundamentals, like cross-hatching and drawing in 3D," he says. "My grandparents went out of their way to take me to art museums. But I fell in love with filmmaking very quickly."

After high school, Gutierrez enrolled at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. He majored in motion pictures and television. This led to a passion for still photography. "For one assignment, I took pictures of my roommates and other students in scenes that captured specific emotions, like joy," he





says. “This taught me a great deal, as did the environment of the city.” After graduating, Gutierrez became a production assistant for national commercials and television shows, including *Blue Collar TV* and *Mind of Mencia*.

On a visit home, Gutierrez met Chuck Wagner, founder of Caymus Vineyards. Wagner invited him to be the lead in-house photographer and filmmaker for the brand. Gutierrez held the position for eight years. “In 2018, I established my own business. Now, I take pictures for everyone,” says Gutierrez.

His images frequently appear in *Wine Spectator* magazine. In 2018, he received the Vinnie Wine Marketing Award. Recently, Gutierrez’s work was exhibited at Le Paris Artisan & Gourmet Cafe in Napa and the Photo Finale of the 2026 Napa Valley Mustard Celebration. His inspirations include fashion photographer Annie Leibovitz and *Vogue* magazine. He finds his greatest motivation and encouragement from his wife, Anita Gouloomian.

Gutierrez’s advice to photographers is to get to know the subjects before a shoot. “Communicating is important,” he says. “Do your research, scout your location, and see what your client has done before.” He adds that a photographer should learn how to tell a story with the camera. “Practice that by taking individual portraits of members of your family,” he says. “Then you start to see the different layers.”

For more information, visit frank-gutierrez.com.



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Intentionality from the Garden to the Glass

By Rebekah Moan

Photos Courtesy of RO Restaurant & Lounge

RO Restaurant & Lounge in Yountville is a place diners can return to often, not just for milestone celebrations, but for a memorable evening any night of the week. “It’s about hospitality first,” says Culinary Director David Simms. “Every decision, from menu structure to lighting to music, is designed to make guests feel cared for.”

Part of that care is expressed in the service, which Simms describes as attentive and intuitive. “We aim to read the table,” he says. “Some guests want guidance and storytelling; others want space and ease. The goal is to make the experience feel seamless and natural.”

RO Restaurant & Lounge serves Asian-inspired dishes that are rooted in California’s seasonal bounty and shaped by Japanese cooking techniques. “There’s technique and discipline in every dish but also warmth and generosity on the plate,” says Simms. “We want the food to feel elevated without feeling formal.”

The restaurant started as a pop-up space helmed by Chef Thomas Keller, who saw an opportunity to introduce something new to Yountville, which already hosts several world-class restaurants. “Being part of this community





means honoring the standards that have been set while contributing something new and exciting,” says Simms. “RO is also one of the only Asian restaurants in the area, adding an exciting perspective to Yountville.”

The menu has nuanced, focused flavors with dishes built around balance, acidity, texture, and clean execution. “You’ll see Japanese technique throughout the menu, whether in the precision of raw preparations, the clarity of broths and sauces, or the thoughtful layering of umami,” he says. “At the same time, everything is grounded in California’s seasonal ingredients, so the flavors feel fresh and expressive rather than heavy.”

The restaurant’s focus isn’t only on food, however. The wine program and cocktails are designed to complement RO’s style of cooking. “The wines are thoughtful and food-driven, and the cocktails incorporate ingredients that echo the cuisine—citrus, herbs, spice, and subtle savory notes—so the beverage experience feels integrated,” says Simms.

Speaking of integration, Keller is also the chef and proprietor of The French Laundry among other restaurants, and that means RO Restaurant & Lounge has access to The French Laundry Culinary Garden, which provides local, seasonal ingredients. The restaurant also has access to other Keller products, such as Modicum wine and Regiis Ova Caviar.

RO creates a throughline from the culinary garden to the glass that feels intentional, providing a unique dining experience.

For more information, visit rorestaurantandlounge.com.





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Staying True to Fishing Lodge Roots

By Ginny Prior

Photos Courtesy of The Lodge at Bodega Bay

Bodega Head stands like a centurion, guarding the marshy fingers of a bay that seems frozen in time. Fog plays tag with billowing clouds, adding to the mystique of a coastal resort with humble beginnings as a ten-dollar-a-night fishing lodge.

“A stay at The Lodge at Bodega Bay is a taste of life in tune with nature,” says the resort’s managing director, Jason Reiplinger. He says that every inch of the property is inspired by the wild beauty of its romantic region.

Voted the number one hotel in Northern California as well as the top-rated hotel in the world by Condé Nast Traveler Readers’ Choice Awards, The Lodge at Bodega Bay features 83 thoughtfully appointed guest rooms with sweeping ocean views and private balconies. Wild herbs drink up the coastal moisture and beehives and owl boxes add to the purposeful landscaping. Whales are often spotted offshore, especially during the winter.

Reiplinger says that everything in the rooms and on the property must meet brand standards that create a warmth and sense of place in its rugged, coastal environment. “We use materials like leather, wood, stone, and natural textures,” he says. “There are fireplaces all over the property . . . the guest rooms, the lobby, the banquet room, the restaurant, the bar . . . and there are five outdoor fire pits.”

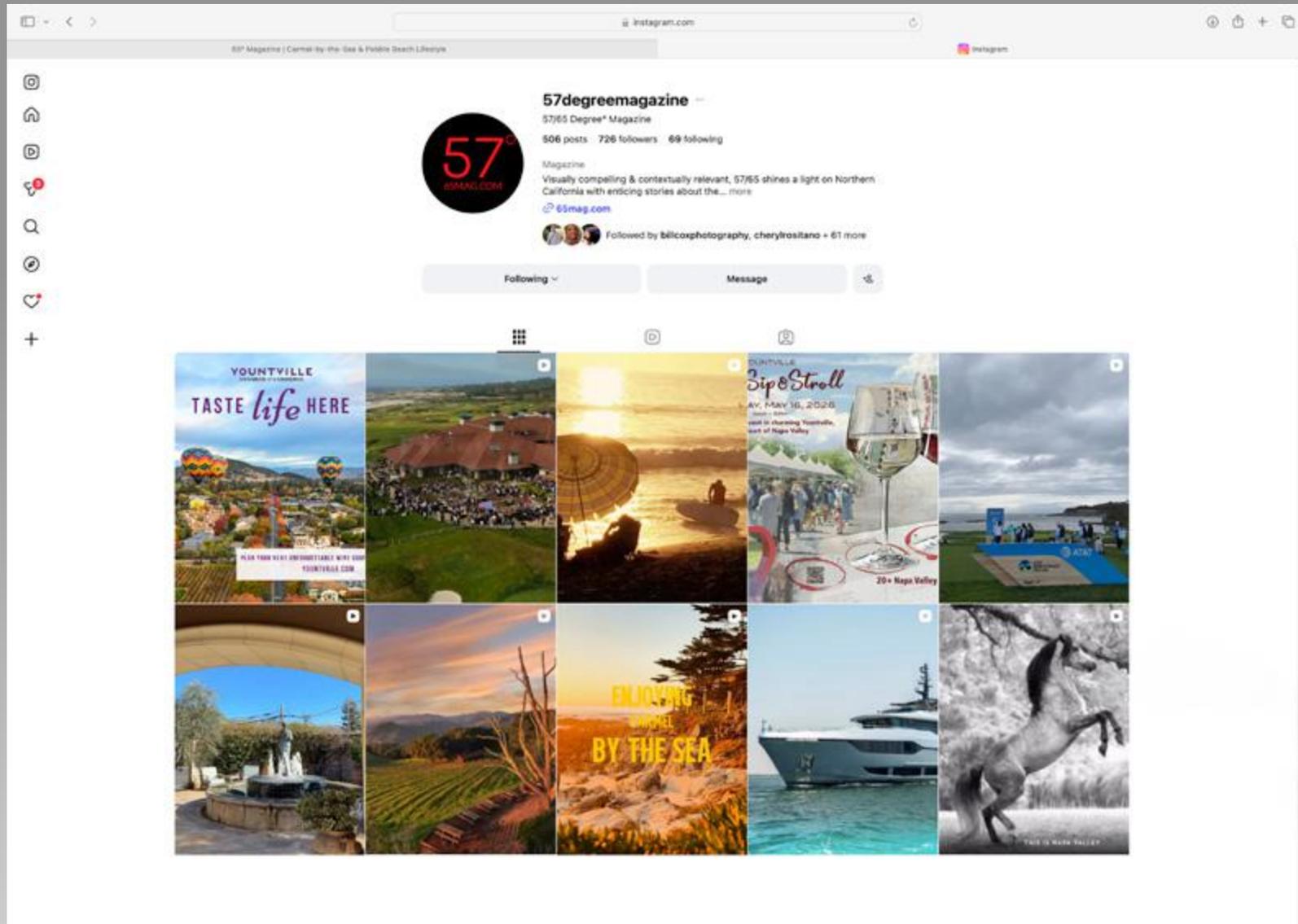




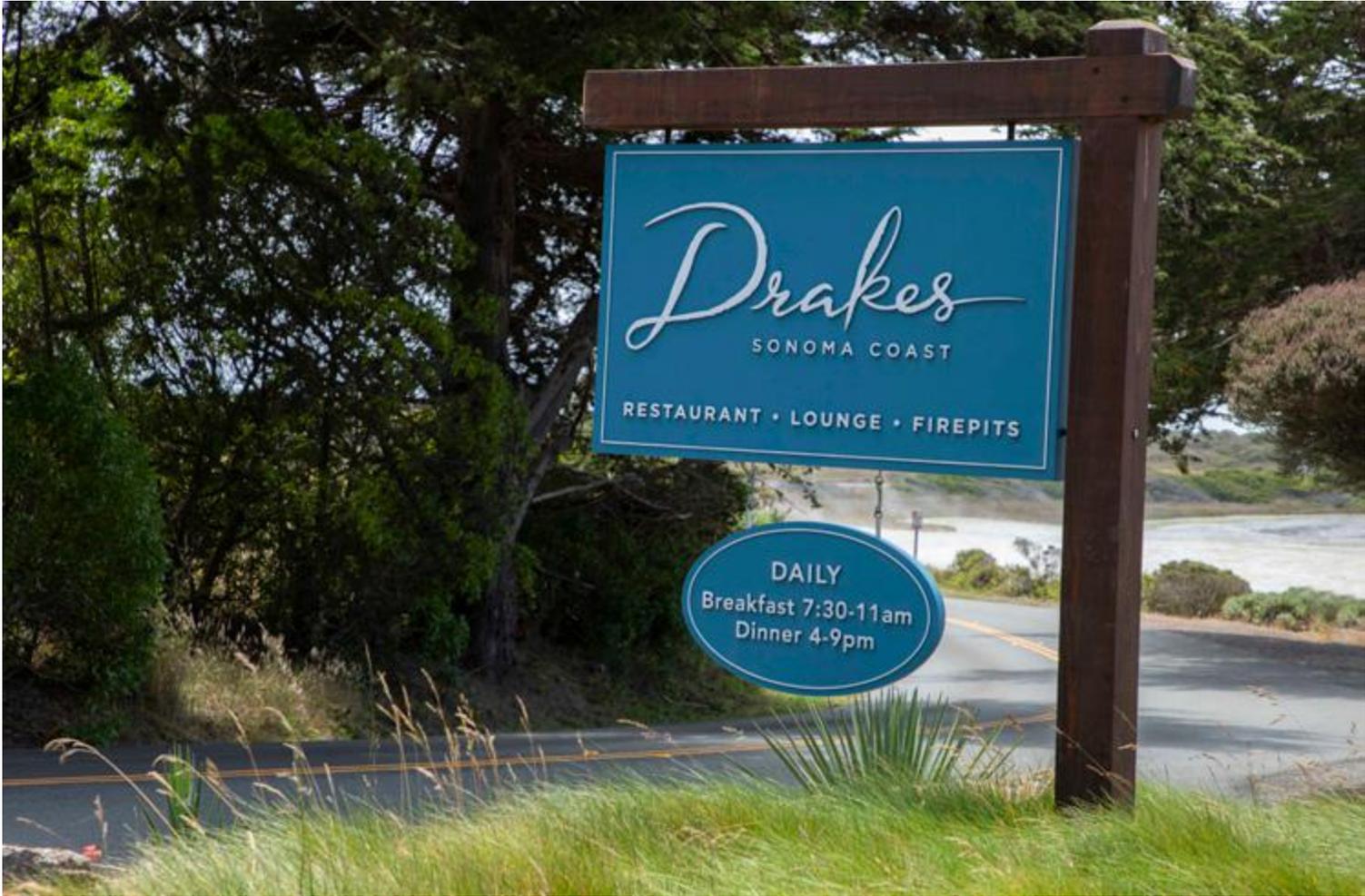
The approximately eight-acre property boasts two destination restaurants, Drakes Sonoma Coast and Fireside Lounge, as well as a lush lawn event space, 15-person infinity edge hot tub and saltwater swimming pool. Guests can enjoy complimentary amenities, such as bicycles for the short ride to popular Doran Beach and yoga classes and guided nature walks. The town, which hosts a Hitchcock film festival each year, attracts rare raptors and seabirds that nest in the windswept pines and coastal marshes.

What nature cannot provide is equally important. As a family-owned boutique hotel under the Woodside Hospitality Group umbrella, the quality of the staff is critical. “We hire people that genuinely care about the human experience first,” says Reiplinger. “We can always teach people the technical skills of serving a table or checking someone in, but you can’t teach someone to care about other humans and really care that they’re having a great experience.” To that end, he sees The Lodge at Bodega Bay as a refuge for the weary traveler, a place to get the nourishment to continue on one’s journey.

For more information, visit lodgeatbodegabay.com.



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Inspired by the Sea's Bounty

By Ginny Prior

Photos Courtesy of Drakes Sonoma Coast

Highway 1 winds west to Bodega Bay in unhurried fashion, past rolling green pastures and family farms. This fertile land and the people who work it make Drakes Sonoma Coast and its companion restaurant, Fireside Lounge, standouts as destinations at The Lodge at Bodega Bay.

Executive Chef Brendalee Reiplinger cultivates partnerships with farmers and ranchers, cheesemakers, oyster farmers, distillers, winemakers, and more. It's not unusual for local purveyors to dine at the properties.

Drakes Sonoma Coast has a warm, ocean ambiance accented with colors of seafoam and sand. Wide picture windows frame the raw beauty of Bodega Bay, while flickering flames draw attention to the large stone fireplace. Next door, Fireside Lounge takes



advantage of an abundance of natural light and high ceilings to bring nature in, and the outdoor lounge patio has seating around communal firepits.

Dining options highlight the abundance of seafood and include clams, mussels, salmon, hamachi, and shrimp. Oysters are raised using sustainable aquaculture practices at nearby Hog Island Oyster Co. "Very little needs to be done to such great product," says Reiplinger, adding that rock cod, black cod, and halibut are all locally caught.

Reiplinger draws from the beauty of Bodega Bay for inspiration. "It is actually quite easy to develop menus for our property," she says. "I imagine myself sitting in our dining room and looking out to the water." Popular dishes such as pan-seared black cod are line caught, and comfort food such as the shrimp and artichoke dip comes to the table bubbling hot and served with warm bread made at the famed Della Fattoria bakery.

Other artisan partners include nearby Valley Ford

Creamery, which is run by fourth-generation dairy farmer and cheesemaker Karen Bianchi-Moreda. The wine list features several celebrated Russian River pinot noirs from Freeman Vineyard & Winery—its 2022 Akiko's Cuvée pinot noir was one of three California wines selected for a presidential dinner at the US Embassy in Tokyo during President Trump's state visit to Japan.

Reiplinger's culinary skills and her careful cultivation of growers and artisans make Drakes Sonoma Coast a favorite for locals and overnight guests. But even more important, she says, is the hospitality. "It doesn't totally matter what you do, it matters how you make people feel," she says. As a culinary instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College, she regularly reminds her students, "How you do one thing is how you do everything. Having intention shows through."

For more information, visit lodgeatbodegabay.com/drakes-sonoma-coast.





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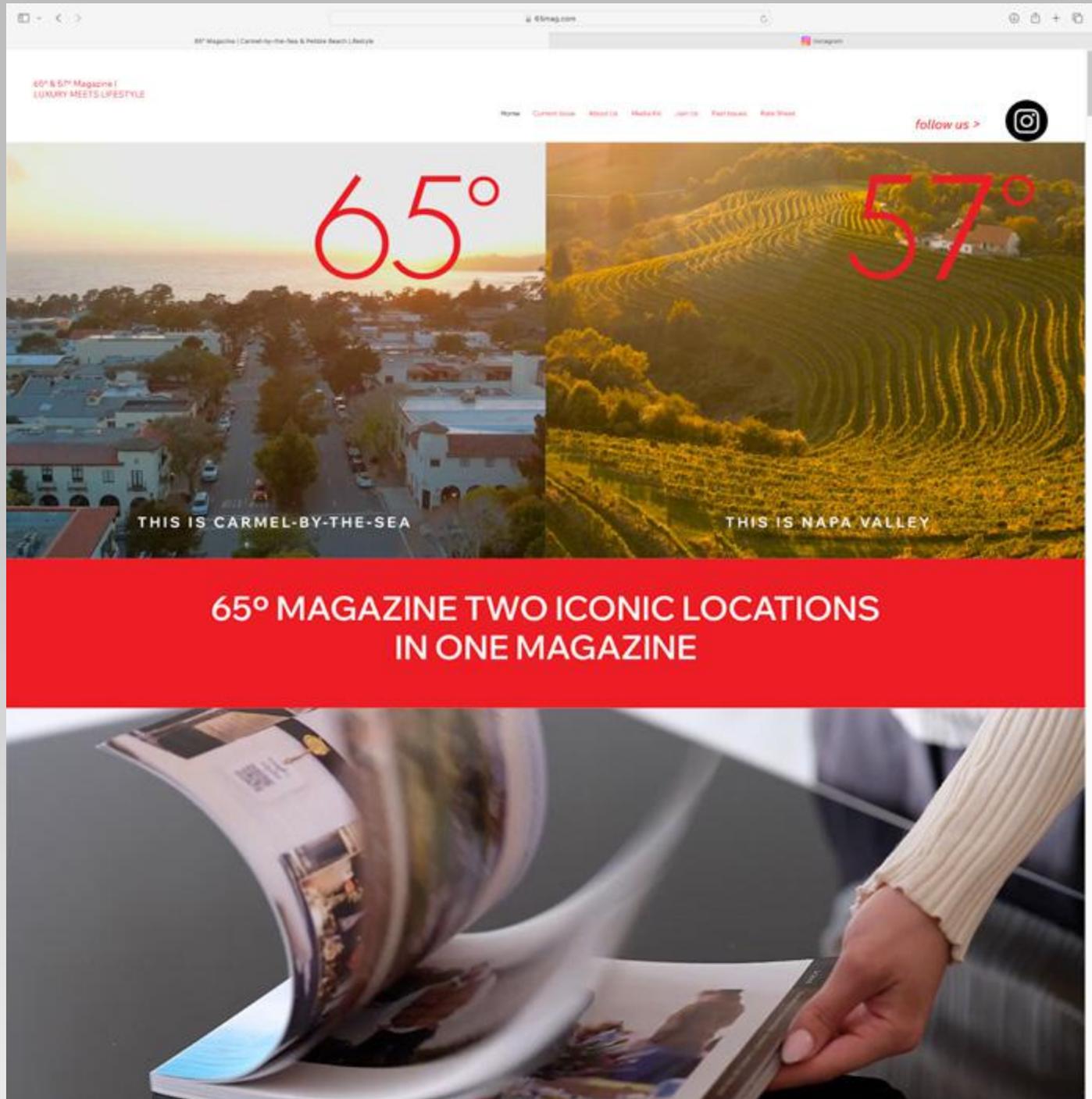
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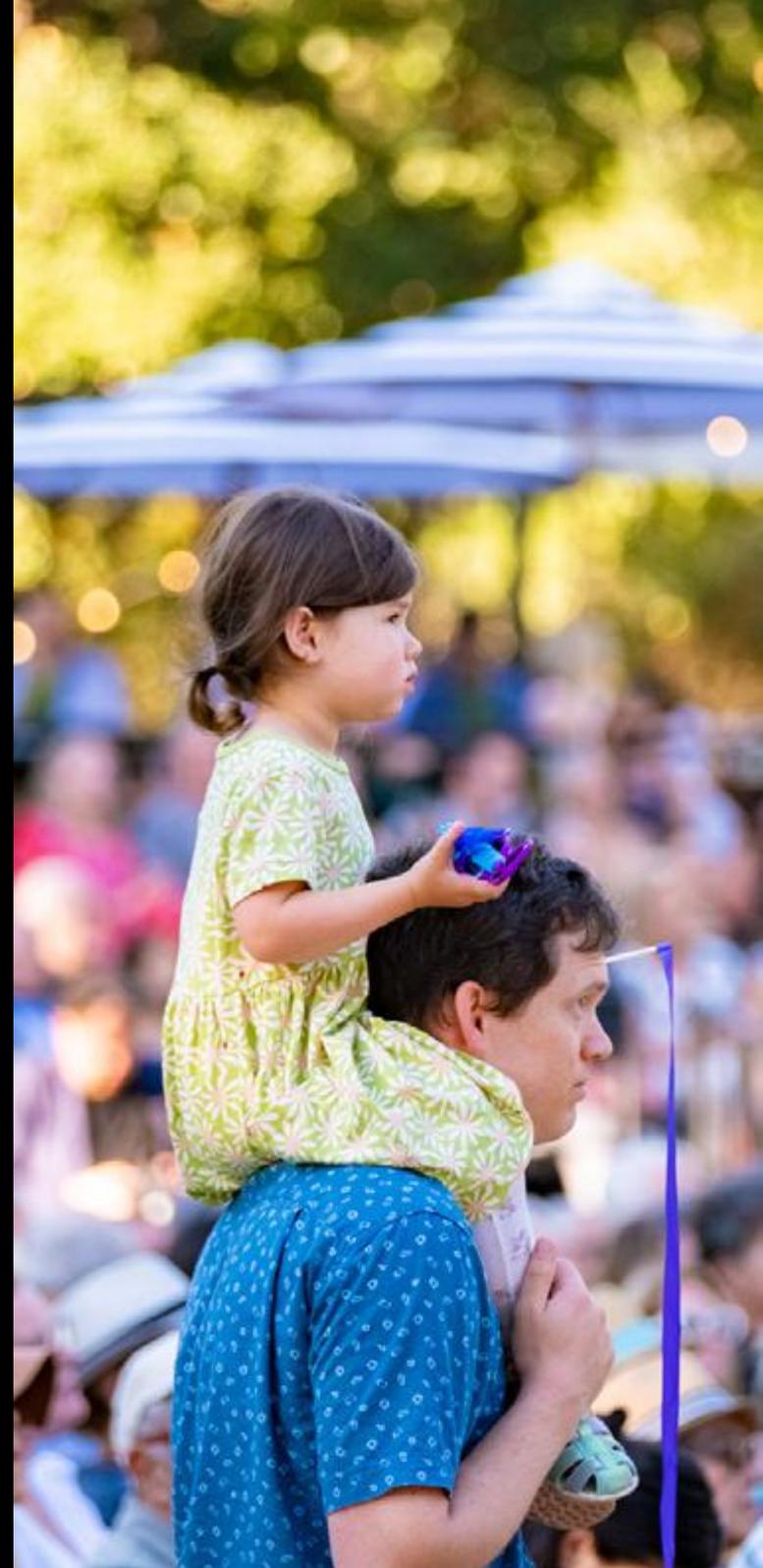
Twenty Years of Dramatic Impact

By Sarah Gillihan

Photos Courtesy of Festival Napa Valley

It started with a simple guiding principle: support arts for all by assembling the greatest in performing arts in the place with the best food and wine in the country. Twenty years later, Festival Napa Valley has grown into one of the nation's leading nonprofit arts organizations with year-round performances hosted throughout the world. The upcoming stunner-of-an-anniversary summer season is punctuated by an original opera premiere, a music and wellness summit, cross-genre ballet performances, soloists, and chamber musicians, all hosted over 16 days throughout Napa Valley.

For two decades, Festival Napa Valley has transformed the heart of wine country into a vibrant stage where the performing arts, wine, food, and community converge. As it celebrates its twentieth season, the festival marks a milestone not only in longevity but also in cultural impact. The season is crowned by the Arts for All Gala, one of the largest fundraisers in the country for education and the arts. Jazz legend Wynton Marsalis headlines this year's event, which, over the last two decades, has raised more than \$33 million for arts education.





In grand Wine Country style, guests will enjoy a multi-course dinner by acclaimed chef Dustin Valette, chef-owner of restaurants Valette and The Matheson, and will be served wines from the Far Niente Wine Estates portfolio.



The festival's impact extends far beyond its headliners and winery partners. Over the years, it has championed emerging artists, commissioned new works, and fostered arts education initiatives that reach thousands of students. Through scholarships, mentorship programs, and free community performances, the organization has worked to ensure that access to the arts is available to everyone. Daily admission-free concerts and choose-your-price ticketing for evening performances allow the organization to invite the community at large to discover the transformational impact of music and the arts.



The festival's anniversary coincides with other notable milestones being commemorated this year. In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the tasting that changed Napa Valley forever, the festival program includes the world premiere of *The Judgment of Paris*, a new opera by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer that was commissioned by Festival Napa Valley. In celebration of the United States' semiquincentennial, a symphonic finale honoring American music will close out the calendar.

As the curtain rises this season, which runs from July 4 through 19, Festival Napa Valley demonstrates what vision, philanthropy, and community collaboration can achieve.

For more information, visit festivalnapavalley.org.



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Making Tangible Changes

By Rebekah Moan | Photos by Amy Little

Natalie Leighton says that her entire life has led up to where she is now: back in Northern California and functioning as the new president and CEO of the Yountville Chamber of Commerce. “It sounds cheesy, but it’s a dream come true,” she says.

Leighton was born and raised in the Bay Area and has childhood memories of traipsing around Napa Valley and Yountville. She attended Sonoma State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in wine business and marketing. She saw a position available at the California Chamber of Commerce and took it—something she hadn’t planned on doing.

“We have a joke that you never grow up thinking you’ll end up in the chamber industry, but I fell in love with it,” she says. What Leighton enjoys most about the work is collaboration and making a tangible change in the community. She left the broader California Chamber of Commerce for a stint at the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce but always knew she wanted to move back to Northern California to be near family because she’s an only child.





“When this opportunity came up to be the president and CEO of the Yountville Chamber of Commerce, I jumped on it,” says Leighton. “What I adore, and what I was searching for in my career, is being somewhere that has a thriving community. In Yountville, you can walk down the street and wave to a dozen people you know. We support each other and the town.”

Some people, including Leighton’s mother, call Yountville a Hallmark town because it’s beautiful, quaint, and looks like it could be featured in a Hallmark movie. But it still offers amenities that people often associate with cities: delicious food, wine, and events. And that’s something Leighton wants to grow. Since starting her job in April 2025, Leighton helped create a new event: a Halloween block party complete with a dog costume contest.

During her tenure, she plans to continue the work of her predecessor, Whitney Diver McEvoy, and grow the reputation of Yountville as a premier destination. She wants to attract younger generations to the area and show them what Napa Valley has to offer. “My biggest goal, though, is to continue to make tangible change,” she says. “In a small community like this, I can make decisions, and in days, weeks, or months, I can see projects come to life. That’s not easily done in larger communities.”

For more information, visit yountvillechamber.com.



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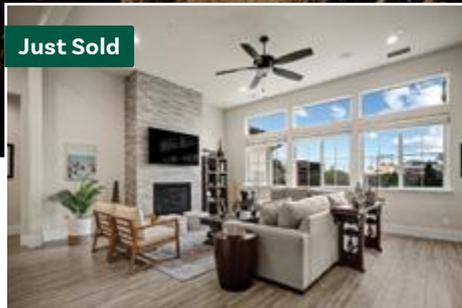


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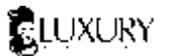
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Stroll Through Her Lens

By Betsy Reynard | Photos by Katherine Zimmer

For the 2026 Art, Sip & Stroll poster, Yountville is seen through the lens of photographer Katherine Zimmer. The first photographer named as the event's featured artist, Zimmer is known for her edgy style of photography and instinctive sense of place.

This year's poster reflects both the look and the feel of the event: sunlit skies, movement, conversation, and the joy of wandering. Drawing inspiration from Zimmer's experience as a participating artist, the poster captures Yountville's "Art of the Stroll," with scenes of couples, children, and friends enjoying art and wine. As an homage to the Yountville Art Walk—a program that champions the town's culture of strolling—she incorporates subtle references, including the Art Walk map nestled into wine glasses and a depiction of *Heartsong*, the Walk's newest sculpture by artist Richard Starks.

Her work has also connected her to a network of mentors and advocates who support local artists. Among them is Ronda Schaer, current chair of the Yountville Arts Commission and whose encouragement led Zimmer to submit her vision for the 2026 poster. Drawing on her graphic design expertise and photographic art, Zimmer has created an expressive and thoughtfully composed design.





Zimmer's artistic journey has been anything but linear. After years of working with traditional camera equipment, she let go of convention and perfectionism, embracing the creative freedom of iPhone photography. "Once I accepted my own voice, everything softened," she says. That freedom now defines her work, which often blurs the line between photography, design, and digital art.

Her approach to creating is deeply personal. She credits her late mother, Eva, as her greatest champion and closest creative companion. Reflecting on their travels together, she recalls a sentiment that her mother once shared with her: "I love losing myself in the gift of time spent waiting for my daughter's inspiration to be fulfilled in our travels, but it's even more wonderful to discover things about myself through her lens." That idea of discovering place, self, and connection continues to quietly influence her work.

Zimmer has long championed local businesses and creative communities. She serves on the board of the Art Association Napa Valley and is among the artists represented at Art Gallery Napa Valley. She and her husband share a love of travel, food, and supporting local events. Zimmer sees art as a way to engage with place and community, a vision that aligns seamlessly with the spirit of Art, Sip & Stroll 2026.

For more information, visit katherinezimmer.com.



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AHEAD







Where Locals and Visitors Feel at Home

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Bottega Napa Valley

For nearly two decades, Bottega Napa Valley has been a gathering place where growers, vintners, and travelers come together over delicious, boundary-pushing Italian cuisine inspired by California's seasonal bounty. Most recently, *Napa Valley Register* awarded the restaurant with three readers awards: "Best Fine Dining Restaurant," "Best Italian Restaurant," and "Best Place for a Date Night."

According to one of the restaurant owners, Rich Frank: "Bottega has always represented the very best of Napa Valley—extraordinary food, exceptional wine, and an authentic sense of community. It's more than a restaurant; it's a place where locals and visitors alike feel genuinely welcomed."

After conceiving the restaurant, the late Chef Michael Chiarello partnered with Frank, a vintner and former Disney executive, and hospitality veteran John Hansen to bring Bottega to life. In 2021, Executive Chef Alex Espinoza, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America with more than a decade of experience cooking in some of Napa Valley's most respected kitchens, joined the leadership team and has continued to evolve the menu while honoring its roots. Signature dishes, including Polenta Under Glass with caramelized wild mushrooms, house made ricotta gnocchi with short rib sugo, and wood-grilled branzino with salsa verde remain guest favorites.





At the same time, Espinoza has introduced seasonal compositions that align with Bottega’s farm-to-table ethos. “At its heart, Italian cuisine is about reverence for the ingredient,” says Espinoza. “Our responsibility is to source with intention, cook with discipline, and allow the flavors of the season to speak clearly on the plate. When simplicity is executed with precision, the result is both soulful and unforgettable.”

In addition to flavorsome cuisine, diners are treated to a dramatic open kitchen, soaring ceilings, and expansive covered patios that capture the spirit of indoor-outdoor Napa dining. The restaurant also offers versatile private event spaces, accommodating intimate gatherings as well as celebrations of up to 200 guests.

Bottega Napa Valley’s continued success is driven by a seasoned leadership team. General Manager Edgar Antonio, a veteran of Michelin-starred restaurants including Aubergine and The Restaurant at Meadowood, brings refined yet approachable hospitality to the dining room. Wine Director Stephen Arnold, formerly of Wally’s Wine & Spirits and PRESS Restaurant, brings a deep passion for discovery and a thoughtful, guest-centered approach to wine curation. Director of Operations David O’Malley, whose career spans some of California’s most celebrated restaurants, ensures the guest experience is seamless.

As Napa Valley evolves, Bottega remains a constant by honoring its roots, celebrating the seasons, and welcoming every guest with the kind of warmth that turns a meal into a memory.

For more information, visit botteganapavalley.com.







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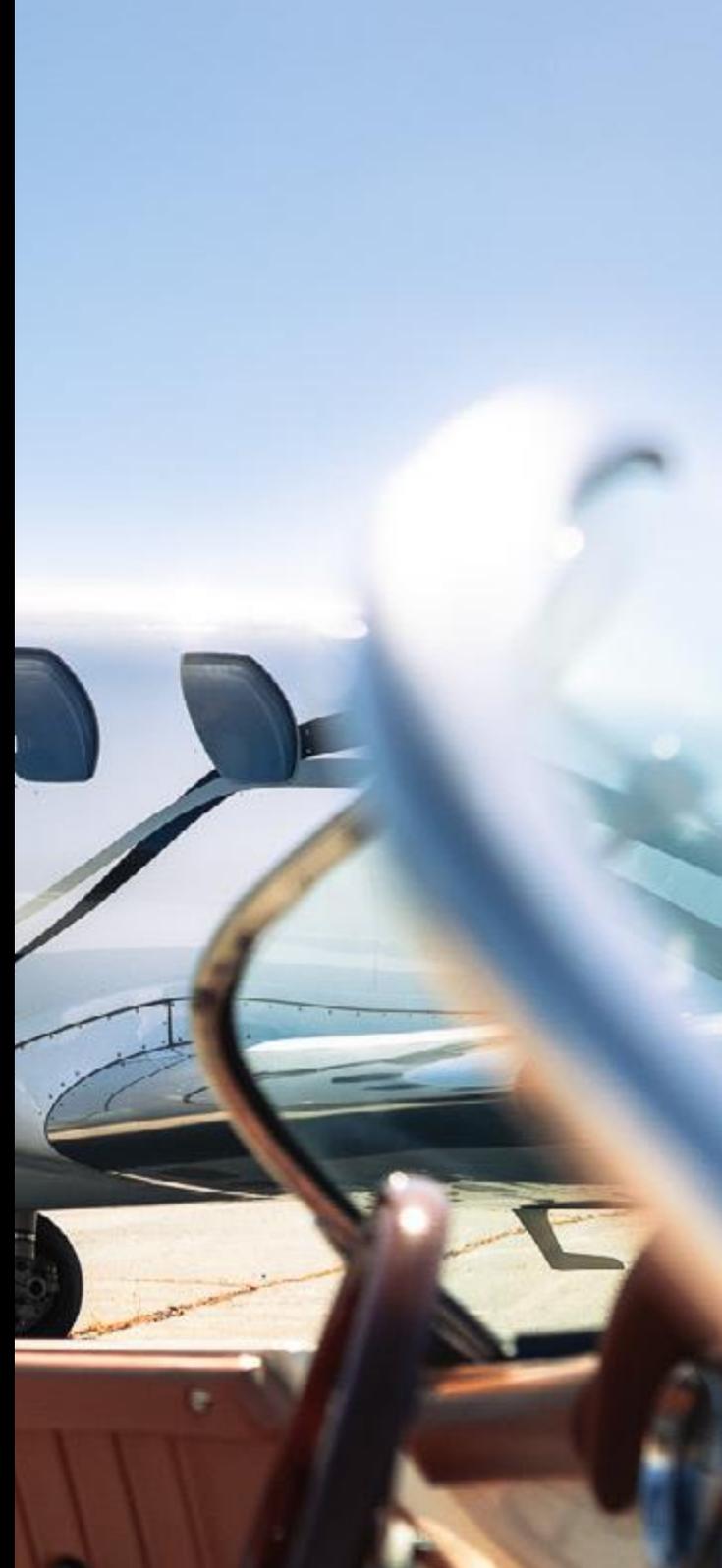
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Beyond the Vines

By Betsy Reynard

As the days grow longer and Napa Valley settles into the rhythm of spring and early summer, the calendar fills with outdoor gatherings, seasonal celebrations, and reasons to linger a little longer. From bustling sidewalks to festive garden parties, the Valley offers a warm-weather lineup that captures the spirit of the season.

Each year on the first weekend of May (and again on the first weekend in October), downtown St. Helena brings the goods outdoors for its much anticipated sidewalk sale. Locals and visitors are invited to shop the blocks in search of bargains, hidden treasures, or the simple pleasure of browsing beneath the open skies.

For those drawn to horses, hats, and a splash of bourbon, head to Farmstead at Long Meadow Ranch for a Kentucky Derby celebration that channels all the pageantry of The Run for the Roses. The fun at Farmstead continues well beyond Derby Day, with its popular Smashburger parties, held monthly from May through October. These relaxed events invite guests to mingle over burgers and beverages and enjoy live music in a convivial outdoor setting.

Adding to the season's celebrations, 2026 marks St. Helena's 150th birthday, with a full calendar of events honoring the city's rich history and vibrant present. Each month focuses on a theme, inviting the community to explore the past, celebrate today, and look ahead to

the future. From lectures and social gatherings to family-friendly activities, the anniversary offers something for everyone.

Animal lovers should not miss WineaPAWlooza, Jameson Humane's annual fundraising event. This signature celebration invites attendees to bid on luxury auction lots while sipping exceptional wines. Raise a paddle in support of Jameson Humane's mission to strengthen the connection between animals, humans, and the planet.

Music is plentiful in the Valley, with BottleRock Napa Valley leading the charge over Memorial Day weekend. The multiday festival brings together chart-topping headliners and emerging talent alongside a silent disco, culinary demonstrations, and an impressive lineup of local restaurants and wineries. The beat keeps going year-round at Uptown Theatre Napa, a restored Art Deco venue, where an eclectic mix of music and comedy is

paired with world-class sound and an intimate setting in which no seat is more than 98 feet from the stage.

From sidewalk sales to garden parties, fundraisers, and live music, Napa Valley offers a season full of discovery, celebration, and connection, inviting all to enjoy the region's charm and community spirit.









Wine Tasting with Whimsy

By Nora Heston Tarte

Photos by Nora Heston Tarte and Maria Concetto Winery

Maria Concetto Winery started offering robot sommelier tasting experiences in the Calistoga tasting room after it opened in 2020. The robotic arm, fondly referred to as Robert, is on display in the front window, where it dances along to French music while customers sip through Maria Reznikova's wine collection.

"We wanted to create something truly memorable and different from a traditional wine tasting," says Reznikova of "hiring" Robert. "RobinoVino combines technology, precision, and a sense of playfulness, which fits perfectly with our philosophy of making wine approachable and joyful."

While Robert may get people in the door, Reznikova's wines shine. The boutique, woman-owned winery is a testament to Reznikova's palate, developed while traveling across Europe before she retired in the Napa Valley. She features a vast array of varietals, from bold Napa cabernet sauvignon to playful, pink rosé of primitivo.

Guests who book the two wines experience with RobinoVino enjoy a seated tasting. Robert pours, presents, and whisks away glasses for guests—but not before giving a bow and asking for a tip for the service.

While the forty-dollar RobinoVino experience is the winery's only of its kind, Reznikova says that guests can add Robert and the delightful combination of tech, terroir, and theater





to any offering at the winery, selecting two wines from larger flights of four to six or a sparkling wine and caviar pairing.

Despite recent jabs at artificial intelligence in the wine industry, the feedback from guests has been positive. Reznikova says that people often laugh and take photos and videos of Robert's performances and comment on its uniqueness. Instead of taking away from the human aspect, which is still the cornerstone of most offerings at Maria Concetto, it adds a level of whimsy and fun to the tasting room and stays well away from any hint of stuffiness.

"RobinoVino remains one of the very few robotic sommeliers actively pouring wine in a public tasting room, and, to our knowledge, it is still the only one of its kind in Napa Valley," says Reznikova. "That exclusivity makes the experience especially special for our guests.

In addition to participating in traditional tastings, RobinoVino has also started assisting with guest proposals, handing off a glass of wine containing an engagement ring to unsuspecting future brides.

To experience RobinoVino for yourself, visit Maria Concetto's tasting room in Calistoga, Thursday through Monday. Tastings with RobinoVino can be booked online.

For more information, visit mariaconcettowinery.com.





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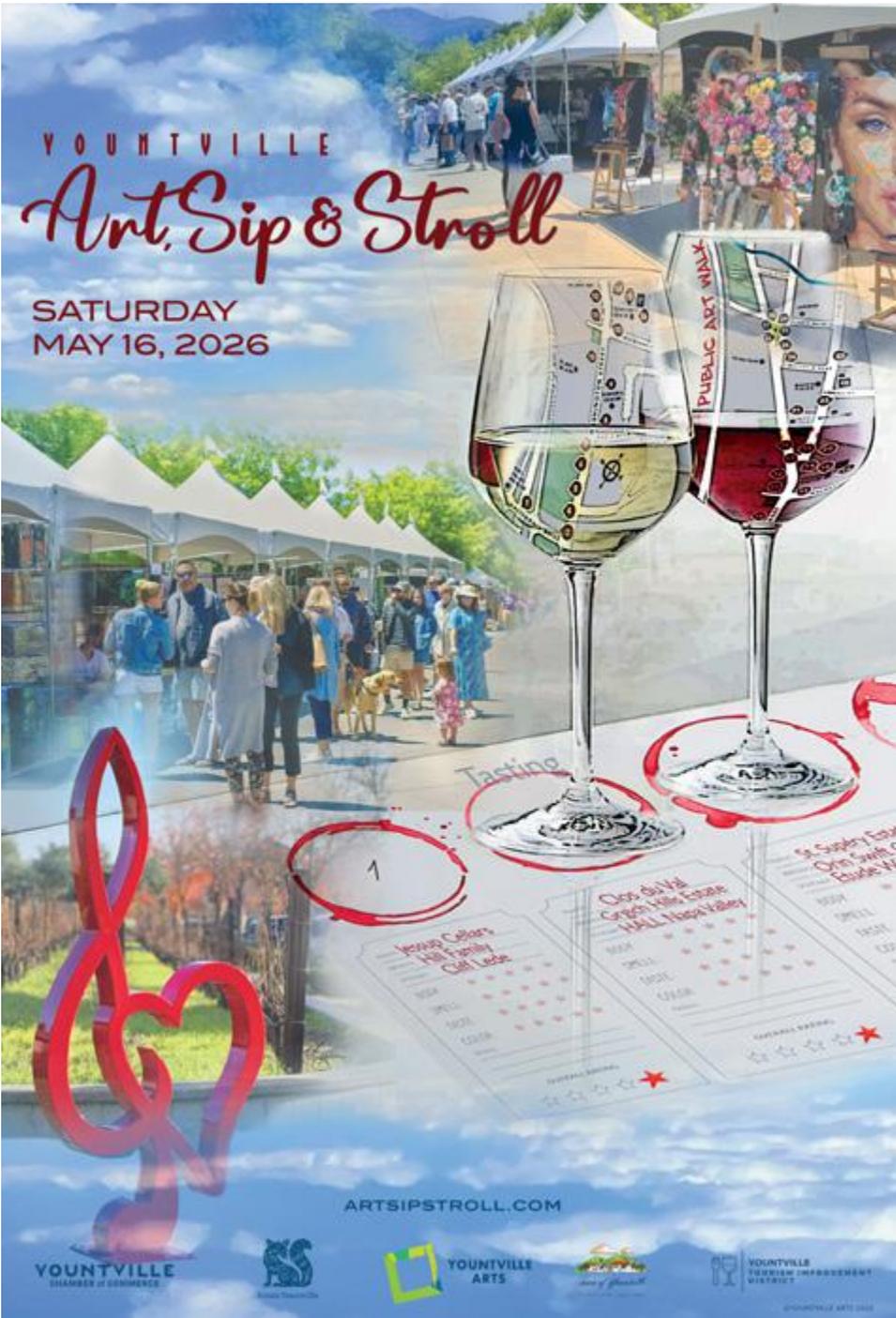
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YOUNTVILLE
Art, Sip & Stroll

SATURDAY
 MAY 16, 2026

ARTSIPSTROLL.COM





Yountville's Spring Celebration

By Betsy Reynard | Photos Courtesy of Yountville Chamber

Strolling through Yountville is a beloved activity, made even more special during the town's signature spring event, Art, Sip & Stroll. Returning in May for its fourteenth season, the popular event continues to grow as Napa Valley's premier visual arts experience, drawing collectors, creatives, and casual art lovers alike.

Curated and produced by the Yountville Arts Commission, an organization founded in 2009 to provide leadership, vision, and inspiration for local artists, Art, Sip & Stroll brings together fine art, wine, food, and community in a celebration that champions artistic expression and supports local artists. The result is an inviting stroll through Yountville that encourages discovery, connection, and fresh perspectives.

"Art, Sip & Stroll is a celebration of everything that makes Yountville special: outstanding art, exceptional wines, and the simple joy of strolling our town," says Ronda Schaer, chair of the Yountville Arts Commission.

Within the charming environment of Yountville's scenic town center, people can explore works from more than 75 juried artists while sipping selections from 20 local wineries and tasting rooms. They can browse the offerings—paintings, sculptures, glass works, ceramics, photography,





and jewelry—which are all curated to highlight craftsmanship and creativity. Live music fills the streets, Michelin Star-quality cuisine tempts at every turn, and a variety of food trucks offer a range of flavorful options. Guests are invited to linger, connect with artists, and fully immerse themselves in a vibrant afternoon that offers something for everyone.

Open to the public at no cost, Art, Sip & Stroll offers an optional tasting package that includes wine tasting tokens and a signed original poster by this year's featured artist, Katherine Zimmer. Proceeds from the package sales directly support Yountville Arts programs, helping to fund and expand year-round arts initiatives that enrich the community and create opportunities for local artists. Convenient on-site shipping and will-call services are also available, allowing guests to easily purchase and transport artworks while enjoying a relaxed, seamless experience.

“This celebrated event is a shining example of Yountville’s dedication to supporting artists and the arts, and we continue to be excited as it returns for a fourteenth year where art, wine, and creativity come together!” says Noel Resnick, Yountville Arts chair.

Mark the calendar for May 16, and experience a day of connection, discovery, and shared appreciation for the art, wine, and people that make Napa Valley special.

For more information visit artsipstroll.com.

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A Majestic Miami Soiree

Miami Art Week, which includes Art Basel, Design Miami, Art Miami, Scope, Untitled, and many more satellite fairs, has become one of the must-attend events on the annual calendar for art collectors and influencers alike. The result is a busy week of nonstop parties and collabs but, as ever, quantity does not equal quality and less is often more.

With so many different things happening every hour of the day, how does one choose which ones to attend? As with most things, location is key. And there's nothing quite like a superyacht to change a "Maybe" to a "Yes, I'll be there!"

Such was the case for the (U)HNW guests of My Yacht® Group (MYG), which is known for "connecting the world's most interesting people" at global gatherings (e.g., Monaco Grand Prix, Cannes Film Festival, Monterey Car Week), typically at curated dinners and aboard private superyachts. And Miami Art Week perfectly fit the bill.

With nearly 20 years of experience creating their signature MYG events around the world, fraternal twins Nicholas and Annabelle Frankl are confident in the deft touch required to successfully host the unique mix of corporate clients and discerning guests that attend.

The setting for this fourteenth Miami outing was the all-new tri-deck M/Y Majesty 120, built by Gulf Craft. It's received numerous awards, including Best Motor Yacht 25-40 Meters at The International Yacht & Aviation Awards and recognition for Best Naval Architecture and Eco Design by industry tome Boat International.





Constructed using advanced composites such as glass-reinforced plastic and carbon fiber, the yacht boasts a lightweight yet durable structure and a shallow, Bahamas- or Greece-friendly draft of 6'9". Designed to deliver both efficiency and adventure, it cruises at 12 knots, with a top speed of 20 knots.

With sleek, modern interiors crafted by the renowned Cristiano Gatto Design team, *Majesty 120* provides luxurious accommodations for up to 12 guests, with a flexible layout of five or six cabins, depending on owner preference. The full-beam main deck owner suite provides expansive views, and additional cabins are situated on the lower deck.

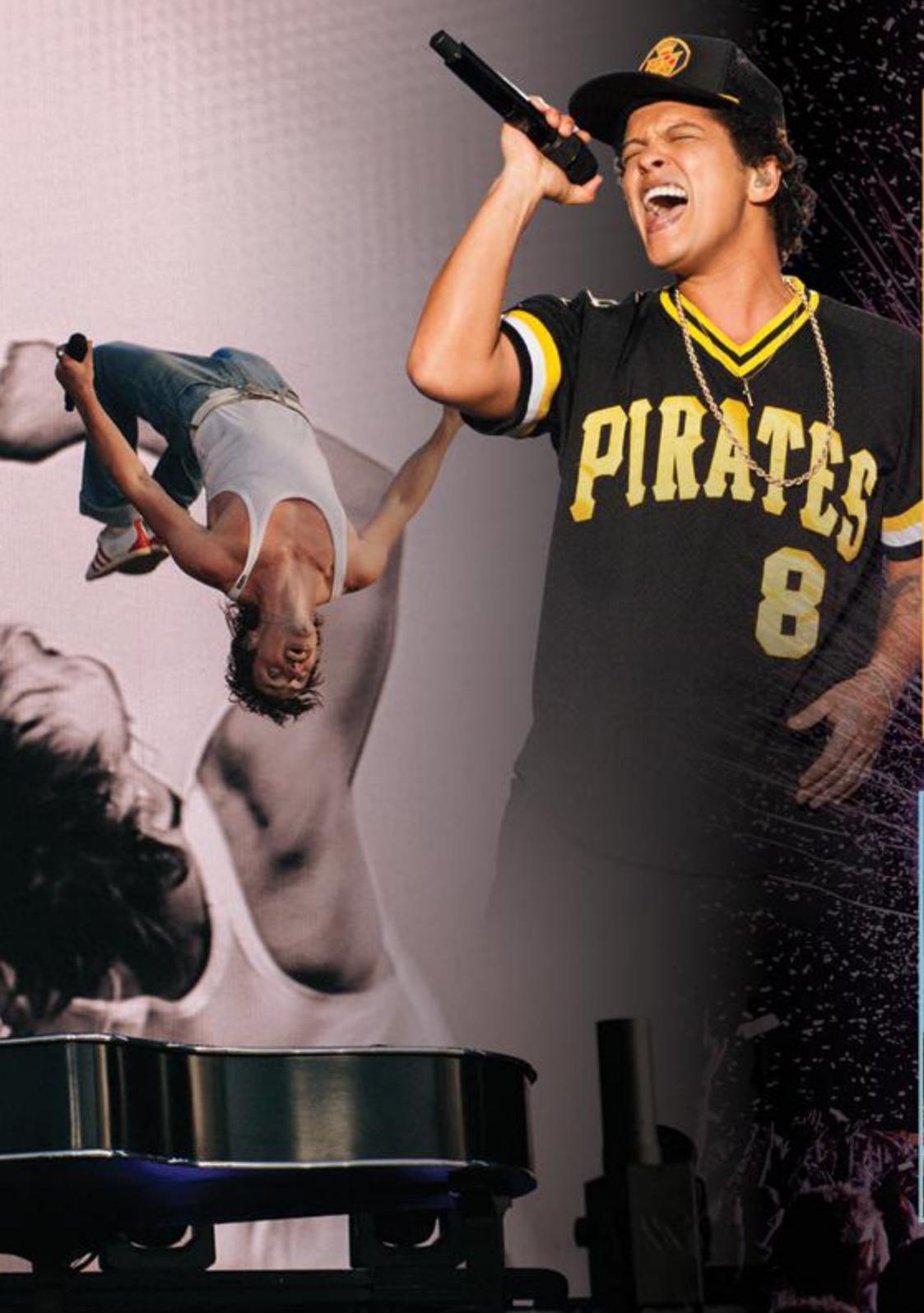
On board, the yacht feels much larger than its size might suggest, its clever design resulting in huge volume and deck spaces. The sundeck includes a Jacuzzi, sunbeds, a large built-in bar, and shaded seating areas. Other highlights include a hybrid beach club and cutting-edge entertainment systems. The interior is light and bright, thanks to walls of windows, sleek white furnishings, marble floors, and luxurious soft touches.

With the yacht providing the ultimate setting on a warm Miami night, the carefully curated guestlist included US and international (U)HNW individuals; global CEOs; sporting legend Martina Navratilova; skincare products founder Peter Thomas Roth; space technology, biotechnology, and financial technology investors; superyacht, supercar, and private jet owners; art collectors; and more.

Guests at the soiree were greeted by large format wines by Whispering Angel and Garrus rosé and caviar, sumptuous catering, and custom Enchanted Rock vodka and Rebecca Creek Whiskey cocktails. The evening raised awareness for YachtAid Global, which provides humanitarian aid, disaster response leadership, and consultation to superyacht owners who want to contribute to the world around them.

Majesty 120 is for sale by The Terraglio Group for \$15.5 million and, uniquely, is available as a four-way fractional. All US taxes are paid.

For more information, visit myyachgroup.com.



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yountvillearts.com

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Proximity Paired with Privacy

By Rebekah Moan

Photos Courtesy of Carmel Realty Company

Carmel Realty Company's Oasis vacation property is a rare combination of privacy, prestige, and convenience, says Katie McAlister, director of vacation management. The six-bedroom, five-and-one-half-bath property is situated directly on 17-Mile Drive, a world-renowned, scenic coastal route that connects Pacific Grove and Carmel-by-the-Sea. The estate offers ocean views, and, in 2025, the owners finished a large remodel that included raising the home to maximize those views. The interior is filled with expansive windows that offer peeks of the ocean and flood the home with natural light.

Architecturally, Oasis is a classic Pebble Beach estate that feels expansive while intimate. Vaulted ceilings, well-proportioned gathering spaces, and a projector room with a bar create an environment amenable to large gatherings. Yet the bedrooms—housing five king-sized beds and one queen-sized bed—allow plenty of space for privacy and retreat.

“The primary suite was completely reimagined and now feels like a five-star resort,” says McAlister. With the addition of a gourmet chef's kitchen, it's easy to see why that comparison fits for the entire home. “Oasis is a home that feels refined yet comfortable, equally suited to quiet moments and lively gatherings,” she says.





Gatherings aren't limited to the indoors, and Carmel Realty Company's property has outdoor living spaces to elevate the experience of staying at Oasis. An ocean-view terrace with a built-in barbecue, pizza oven, and fire pit creates a natural setting for long dinners, casual evenings, and celebrations that can unfold effortlessly. "Over the years, the home has served as a gathering place for family reunions, corporate stays, and events tied to Pebble Beach's renowned golf calendar," says McAlister. "Guests often describe it as the hub of their stay."

Part of Oasis' special charm is its proximity to The Lodge at Pebble Beach, which is within walking distance. "What ultimately sets this property apart is how naturally it brings together location, livability, and scale," says McAlister. "Homes along 17-Mile Drive that offer ocean views, walkability, and the ability to comfortably host larger groups are exceptionally rare."

According to McAlister, anyone who values space, setting, and shared experiences would enjoy Carmel Realty Company's Oasis property. Whether it's families traveling together, corporate groups seeking an elevated retreat, or hosts who enjoy entertaining in a relaxed yet spectacular environment, Oasis is perfect for people who want proximity to Pebble Beach's iconic landmarks without compromising privacy.

For more information, visit carmelrealtycompany.com/vacation-oasis-2413.htm.

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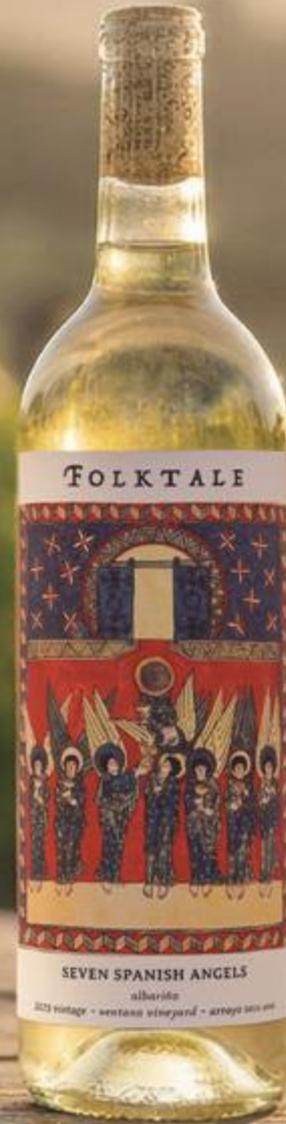
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EAT

The Art of Sensual Dining on the Monterey Peninsula

By Ginny Prior

STAY

Celebrating Serenity

By Ginny Prior

ART

Fresh and Bold Art

By Rebekah Moan

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FEATURE

If These Walls Could Talk

By Sarah Alnimri



Photo Courtesy of The Sanctuary Beach Resort



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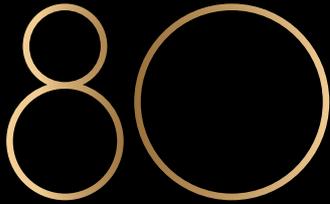


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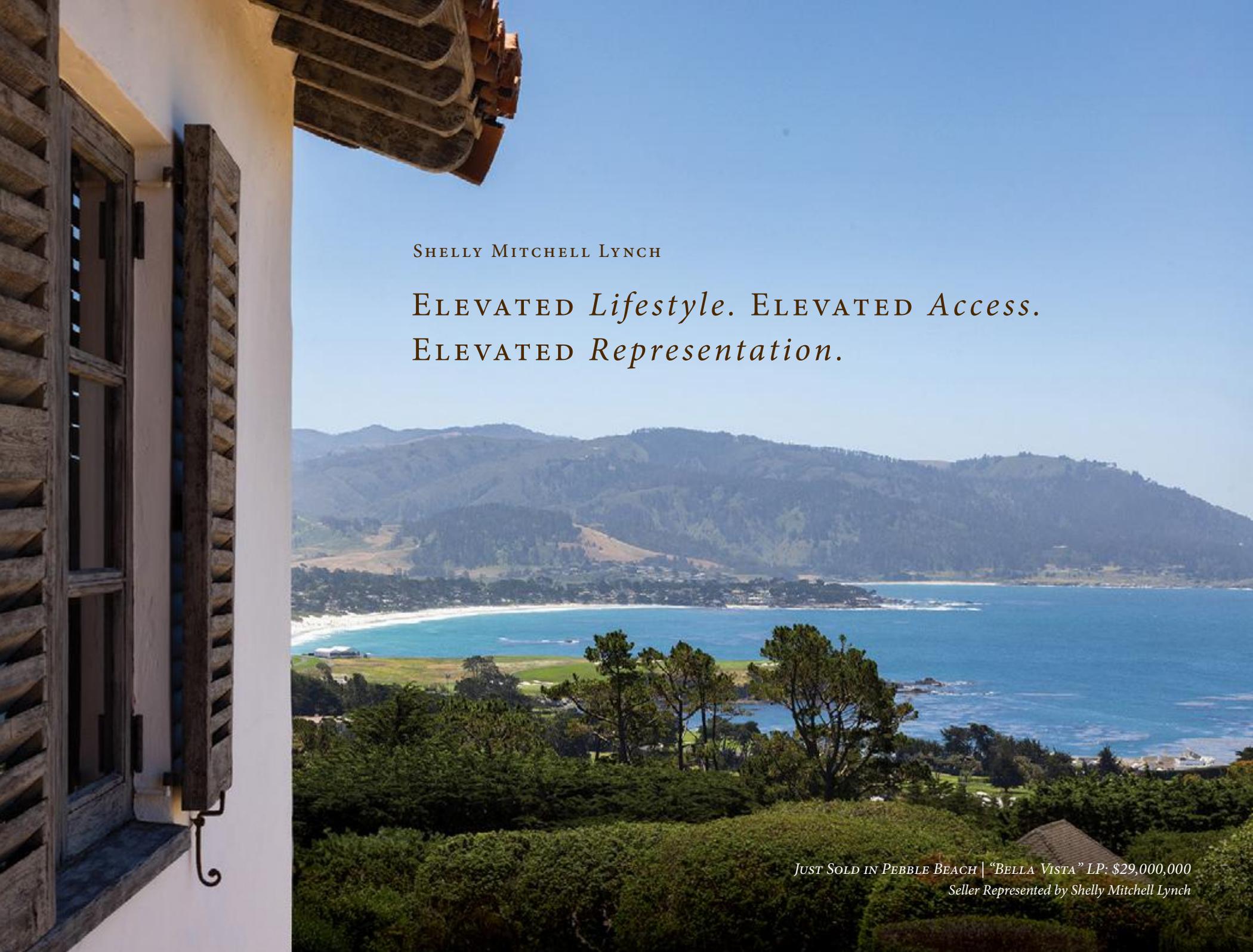
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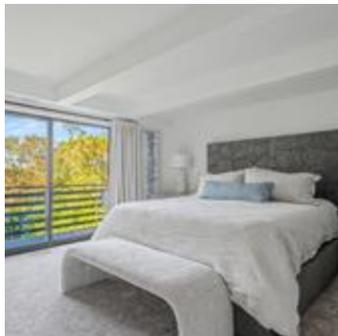


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The Weston Collective Community Gallery

Weston College of Business and Administration | Weston College of Business and Administration | Weston College of Business and Administration



Fostering the Next Generation of Photographers

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos Courtesy of The Weston Collective

Since 2018, The Weston Collective has been building excitement around photography by teaching local students how to be photographers. The nonprofit was founded in 2004 by American photographer Kim Weston, grandson of Edward Weston, and Kim's wife, Gina. Edward was a master of American photography and favored subjects of natural forms, close-ups, fine art figure photography, and landscapes. He was also a close friend of Ansel Adams and Imogen Cunningham.

Zach Weston, Kim and Gina's son and a photographer himself, has served as executive director of The Weston Collective since 2016. He and a staff of four teach photography to fourth through eighth graders at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School of the Arts (MLK), the Dual Language Academy of the Monterey Peninsula (both of which are in Seaside), Monte Vista TK-8 school in Monterey, Aromas School in Aromas, and San Juan School in San Juan Bautista. The organization awards a yearly portfolio-based scholarship through a competition for elementary through college students.





The organization is supported through grants, fundraisers, and individual donations. It has received funding from the Arts Council for Monterey County, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, Pebble Beach Company Foundation, and the William McCaskey Chapman & Adaline Dinsmore Chapman Foundation.

The Weston Collective educates close to 100 students a year, covering a wide range of basic photographic techniques tailored to the students' ages. Fourth-grade lessons incorporate games whereas eighth-grade lessons focus on concepts such as vantage points.

Since 2022, the nonprofit has collaborated with local businesses on the series *Facing Seaside*. Business owners come to The Weston Collective's studio at MLK to have their portraits taken by students, or the students may even take photographs of them at their storefronts. The project raises awareness of the businesses and the young artists.

Zach began taking photos in his early 20s. His father was his informal instructor. "A lot of the knowledge I gained came through observation," he says. "I would be in the darkroom with him in the early mornings, while he printed photos there."

Going forward, Zach hopes to continue finding ways to create a safe and creative space where students can freely share their work. His best advice for adults is to learn to use a camera effectively. "Know your equipment and your process," he says. "Then, every time you photograph, you know what the result is going to be. Your creativity and vision are what is on display."

For more information, visit thewestoncollective.org.



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Setting Course to Host the Solheim Cup

By Jessica Zimmer

Photos Courtesy of Solheim Cup

From September 7 through 13, Bernardus Golf, an 18-hole championship course in Cromvoirt, Netherlands, will host the Solheim Cup and the PING Junior Solheim Cup. This is a unique occurrence in the history of the competition. The Solheim Cup, a biennial competition between two all-female teams from Europe and the United States, has over 500 million viewers globally and awards the most prestigious team trophy in women's professional golf. The PING Junior Solheim Cup is for amateur female golfers who are 18 years old and younger.

"We are delighted to host the Solheim Cup at the Netherlands' top-rated golf course," says Sabine Riezebos, general manager of Bernardus Golf. "This is the first time the event has come to the Netherlands." Bernardus Golf opened in 2018 and is a sustainable course that covers 85 hectares. It is a Par 72 championship course that contains fescue grass species and heathland, which blend into the local environment. The course was designed by American golf course architect Kyle Phillips, who is well known for designing Kingsbarns in Scotland and The Grove in Great Britain.





While the event week includes practice rounds and sponsor activities, the Solheim Cup competition itself consists of three days of match play between two teams of 12 players. Bernardus Golf has experience hosting tournaments, as it hosted the KLM Open from 2021 to 2023. During the Solheim Cup, attendees may enjoy the wines of Bernardus Winery, which is located in Carmel Valley. The wines will be offered at the Bernardus Wine Bar in the fan village and the course's two restaurants, the Bernardus Café and the Michelin Star-rated Noble Kitchen.

Bernardus Golf has launched a sweepstakes for a trip to attend the Solheim Cup. The prize includes airfare, seven nights with breakfast in Amsterdam and 's-Hertogenbosch at Hotel Ryder, seamless transfers, and premium access to all three days of the competition. For those in the United States, Bernardus Winery has planned Northern and Southern California viewing parties. The Solheim Cup will be televised on the Golf Channel and on CBS Sports.

Riezebos says that the tournament is a celebration for Bernardus Golf. The Solheim Cup allows the course to invite golf aficionados from around the world. "The Solheim Cup will show viewers that Bernardus Golf is a refined destination, open year-round and offering to play an unlimited number of holes during your day," she says. "We look forward to sharing the excitement of the Solheim Cup with you."

For more information, visit solheimcup2026.golf.



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Celebrating Serenity

By Ginny Prior | Photos Courtesy of Sanctuary Beach Resort

The Monterey Peninsula is one of California's top destinations, with tourists making the trek year-round to Monterey and Carmel. Most visitors don't realize that 15 minutes north of these bucket-list locales is a little known retreat that offers the antithesis of coastal crowds: The Sanctuary Beach Resort.

Barely visible to motorists on Highway 1, this upscale inn with its on-site restaurant and spa is perched above the sandy shores of Marina State Beach. Guests can swim in the ocean, dine on fresh seafood and locally grown produce, and take free wellness classes such as yoga and sound bowl therapy.

The Sanctuary Beach Resort blends seamlessly into 19 acres of dappled dunes that ripple toward the sea. Each cottage offers sumptuous bedding and décor, with lodging options that range from deluxe rooms to suites and villas. The private decks invite guests to linger over breakfast or a beverage as waves lap onto the nearby shore and boats bob in the distance. Binoculars are standard fare for whale watching.

An overnight stay includes private beach access and a wide-ranging list of activities and amenities. On weekends, the resort's wellness instructors offer free beach yoga and guided nature walks. Nightly bonfires bring families and friends together for laughter and conversation, and guests can ride complimentary beach cruisers, play volleyball, bocce, or cornhole, or enjoy the heated outdoor pool and hot tub.





The Renewal Studio & Spa at Sanctuary sources ingredients for its massages and facials from natural elements in the dunes and the ocean. Therapists are trained in healing techniques that include Reiki, reflexology, and deep tissue work.

The resort's restaurant is known to locals, who consider it one of the best seafood destinations on the Monterey Peninsula. Salt Wood Kitchen & Oysterette uses a large, wood-fired grill in the center of the bar to infuse flavor into its locally sourced meats and fish. Daily happy hour and live weekend jazz add to the ambiance of this social center for the resort. Diners can also order fondue and s'mores to cook at the firepits, and there are pet-friendly options on the patio.

As a full-service destination, The Sanctuary Beach Resort has its own on-site concierge for guests who want to explore the Monterey Peninsula. Don't be surprised, though, if you never want to leave the property.

For more information, visit thesanctuarybeachresort.com.



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The Art of Sensual Dining on the Monterey Peninsula

By Ginny Prior

Photos Courtesy of Sanctuary Beach Resort

If the hearth is the symbolic heart of a home, it's no wonder that diners are drawn to Salt Wood Kitchen & Oysterette in the coastal community of Marina, 15 minutes north of Monterey. Enter the restaurant, and you're immediately captivated by the large wood-fired grill infusing the air with the aroma of cured almond wood.

The restaurant serves as the social center of The Sanctuary Beach Resort. It features a formal dining room, complete with fireplace, a popular bar/lounge, and an outdoor dining patio. The menu celebrates the bounty of Monterey Bay and the Salinas Valley. Some of the fish are very fresh, as they are caught right off the property.

The culinary cornucopia provides the inspiration for seasonal dishes that are ingredient driven and not altered by heavy sauces and seasonings. "For our fishermen and farmers around here, it's so generational, they're like third, fourth, fifth generation," says Chef Ben Hillan. "And so, it's something that's really important to them and their family. And when we put something on the plate, we want that to shine."





One flavor tip is knowing how to work with the wood-fired grill to naturally season the ingredients. “We’ll get a wood fire going with the almond, and then we’ll throw some apple[wood] in there, just for flavor,” says Hillan. “Essentially, we’re barbecuing, and we’re doing it in the middle of the restaurant.”

Guests who have reserved firepits can order fondue kits and s’mores. There’s a daily happy hour in the bar and a pet-friendly menu for the patio. Dishes are presented with a playful flair, reflecting the restaurant’s goal of being a fun, lively, and approachable dining experience.

“People come in, and they see a whole fish on the wood-fired grill . . . or a 36-ounce tomahawk [steak] thrown on there with this huge two-foot bone, and it’s just that wow factor,” says Hillan. “People’s eyes widen, and it’s an amazing feeling to see that and just see the happiness that it brings them.”

On nights that present live jazz, the leather chairs near the dining room fireplace are pushed back to create a dance floor. When the spirit moves him, Hillan shows his moves, apron and all.

“In Marina, we’re on our own little island here,” he says. “But we have a lot of room to grow, and we want the community to grow with us.”

For more information, visit saltwoodkitchenandoysterette.com.







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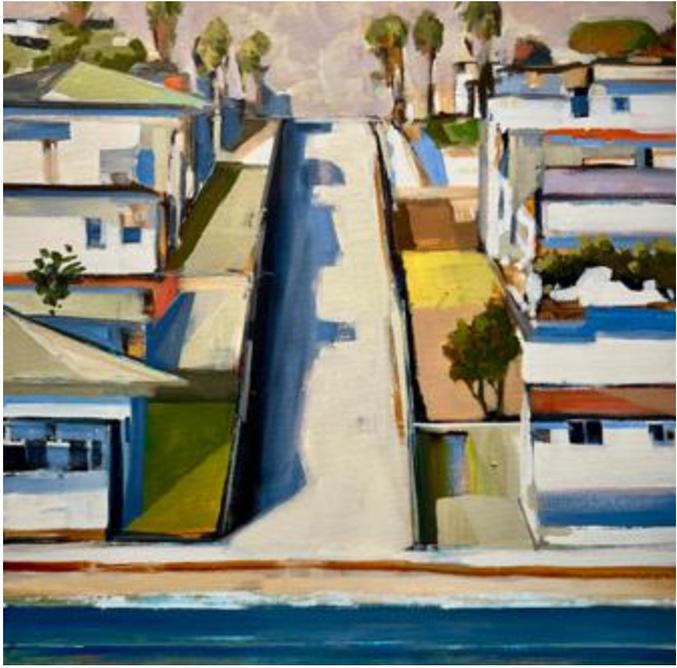
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Fresh and Bold Art

By Rebekah Moan | Photos Courtesy of Gallery MAR

For Gallery MAR in Carmel-by-the-Sea, “Fresh art. Bold vision” isn’t just a tagline—it’s an ethos. Owner Thomas Cushman showcases contemporary and abstract art, which many consider fresh, but literally, he constantly changes what’s in the gallery. “I’m always moving art around, bringing in new art, and featuring new artists,” he says. “We do a lot of shows and are always changing what is on view at the gallery.”

Gallery MAR hosts 8 to 12 shows a year to perpetually keep the gallery novel. That’s one reason art lovers keep coming back. Another reason is that Cushman seeks to make the gallery elegant while still welcoming. “I want everyone to feel comfortable coming in,” he says. “And I want them to come back again, whether they buy something or not.” He and his staff foster that by being very friendly to gallery viewers and answering questions, such as why particular artists were chosen and what their processes are.

“From a welcome sign to keeping the door open and putting chairs in the gallery, I want to show people we’re not a cold, stuffy, white-and-concrete floor gallery,” he says. “I want the gallery to feel very warm.”





In addition, Cushman and his staff want patrons to understand what the gallery is showing by creating opportunities to connect them with the artists personally. Gallery MAR features a variety of local, regional, and national artists. A few well-known local artists include Barbara Kreitman, Beau Frank, and Sarah Healey. Regional artists include Kelsey Irvin, Jylian Gustlin, and Michael Azgour. National artists include America Martin and Hunt Slonem.

“We have a very diverse collection, and I’m not so concerned about a genre or a medium,” says Cushman. “I really respond to art where I feel like I can see the artist in their work, and work that seems to me to have a soul seems to have a center and a heart.” Cushman must appreciate the work personally. “Otherwise, I do a terrible job of selling it,” he adds.

In terms of what’s next for Gallery MAR, it’s moving into a larger space, next door. The bigger gallery means that Cushman will have about 2,000 square feet to work within. “It makes it easier for me to show each artist’s entire collection rather than a few select pieces,” he says. Other than that, he plans to keep building on what he already has—featuring fresh contemporary and abstract art.

For more information, visit gallerymarcarmel.com.



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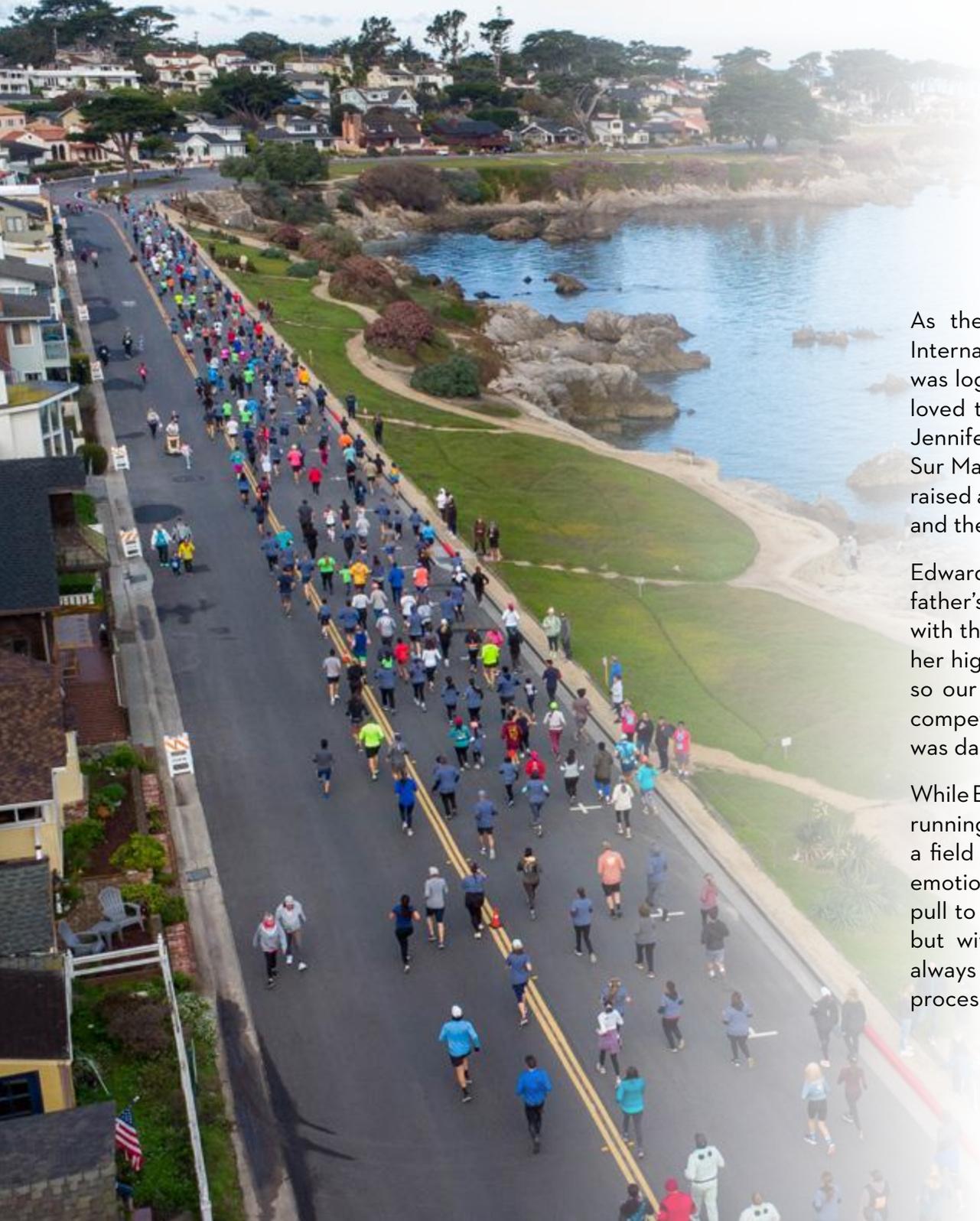
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Hitting Her Stride

By Caitlin Fillmore

Photos Courtesy of BSIM

As the first runners finished the inaugural Big Sur International Marathon (BSIM) in 1986, its future leader was logging miles of her own in New England. “I always loved the energy and excitement of road racing,” says Jennifer Edwards, the new executive director for the Big Sur Marathon Foundation (BSMF). The organization has raised and reinvested nearly \$7 million through the BSIM and the Monterey Bay Half Marathon.

Edwards’ love for running grew from watching her father’s dedicated running routine and her experience with the nascent coed cross-country and track teams at her high school. “Running as a sport was still emerging, so our teams were very small,” she says. “I remember competing as a freshman with senior football players. It was daunting but always fun.”

While Edwards worked as a speech-language pathologist, running was never far from her mind. After 15 years in a field that she describes as incredibly meaningful but emotionally heavy, Edwards sought a new path. “I felt a pull to work that still centered on people and purpose, but with a different energy,” she says. “Running has always been a powerful way for me to be outdoors, process life, set goals, and connect with others.”

A longtime New Englander, Edwards began working for the Falmouth Road Race, a scenic, seven-mile road race in Falmouth, Massachusetts, that attracts nearly 11,000 runners. She soon became the race's first executive director, a role she held for 15 years. "Merging my healthcare background and passion for running and community has been extremely rewarding, and I have never looked back," she says.

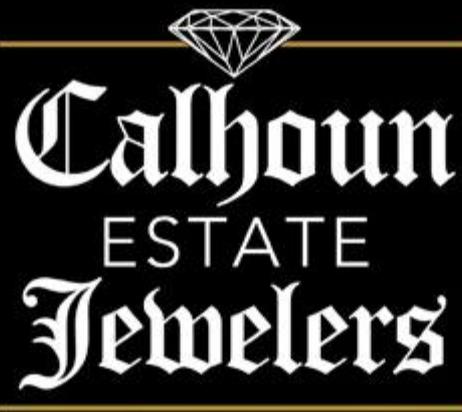
Her success in Massachusetts led to a cross-country move in 2025 to Monterey County, where Edwards began blazing a trail by serving as the first female leader of BSMF. She is one of several women leading the efforts of BSMF, alongside Chair Mimi Hahn and Race Director Michelle La Sala. When she arrived, Edwards hit the ground running with the planning of the 40th running of the BSIM, scheduled for 2027, and growing the Juvenile Hall Half Marathon and Palo Corona cross-country program.

"Not long ago, women weren't allowed to run marathons," says Edwards. "Being part of this moment isn't just about representation; it's about helping ensure leadership reflects the community and the spirit the sport now serves."

The BSIM is on April 26 this year, and the Monterey Bay Half Marathon returns on November 8.

For more information, visit bigsurmarathon.org/donate.





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Gentle Landscapes Reign

By Jessica Zimmer

Photos Courtesy of AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am

Luis Ruiz, age 10, and Andrea Martinez, age 13, created soft, curved landscapes in hues of brown, blue, and green to suggest trees and cliffs in their winning entries for the 2026 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Youth Ticket Artwork Contest. The two winners each received three complimentary tickets to the tournament. In addition, their designs were featured on the printed 2026 Youth Ticket. The physical tickets are a free commemorative keepsake for young attendees age 15 and under, as all tickets for admission are digital.

“After seeing a photo of the Lone Cypress Tree [a Pebble Beach icon], I felt inspired by it and its surroundings because it looked calm and relaxing,” says Ruiz. “When I found out I won, I felt really proud of myself. I had never won an award this big.” His entry combined watercolor and pen.

Martinez, who has loved painting ever since she was little, used acrylic on canvas. Her work depicts a tree with waves crashing against the green. “[This] was inspired by reference pictures provided from the First Tee - Monterey County STEAM coaches, with my own creative touch on the canvas,” she says.





The Youth Ticket Artwork Contest offers a meaningful way for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am to bring young people into the heart of the tournament. It connects them to the competition's community impact. "[The tickets] give local young artists a platform to showcase their creativity in front of thousands of fans," says Lily Hansen, senior marketing manager of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. "Just as importantly, the program helps broaden access."

This is because the contest creates an opportunity for children and families who might not otherwise attend to experience the tournament firsthand. Viewing the world's top players compete builds early excitement for golf. Attendee memories strengthen the next generation's connection to the event.

In 2026, the contest received 83 entries, with submissions from across Monterey Bay. Ruiz and Martinez each received approximately 40 percent of the votes. This year's tournament distributed approximately 1,000 youth tickets, a 25 percent increase from last year.

Hansen says that the contest creates a moment of pride and possibility for winning artists as well as their parents, schools, and peers. "When thousands of fans, volunteers, and partners see youth-designed artwork featured as part of the tournament experience, it reinforces that creativity is something to be nurtured and celebrated," says Hansen.

For more information, visit attpbgolf.com/spectators/youth-artwork-contest.



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Fabulous at 80

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Manny Espinoza

The 2025-2026 concert season marks the eightieth anniversary of the Monterey Symphony, which was founded in 1946 by Grace Howden, a professionally trained singer and retired business owner. Every five-year anniversary, the Symphony seeks to commission new works, launch initiatives, and reflect on how it arrived at its current standing. This past January, the Monterey Symphony invited benefactors to the 80th Anniversary Ruby Gala, where symphony musicians played in a full big band. In the spring, it will share some exciting performances that display the experience and talent of its members.

“Each concert is carefully curated, with new elements that invigorate concertgoers and invite retrospection,” says Nicola Reilly, president and CEO of the Monterey Symphony. For example, the March 21 and 22 concerts, Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto and Sibelius Symphony No. 7, will open with *Moño*, a new work by Pittsburgh-based composer Marina López. The piece will explore the ethnomusicological roots of López’s Mexican heritage. The featured soloist will be violinist Stefan Jackiw, playing Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto in D Major.

The April 18 and 19 concerts, Wineglass Clarinet Concerto and Zappa and Beethoven’s *Eroica* Symphony, will pair Frank Zappa’s eclectic work *The Dog Breath Variations with Democracy*, a new concerto by composer-in-residence John Wineglass. Mariam Adam, a professional clarinetist and a graduate of Monterey





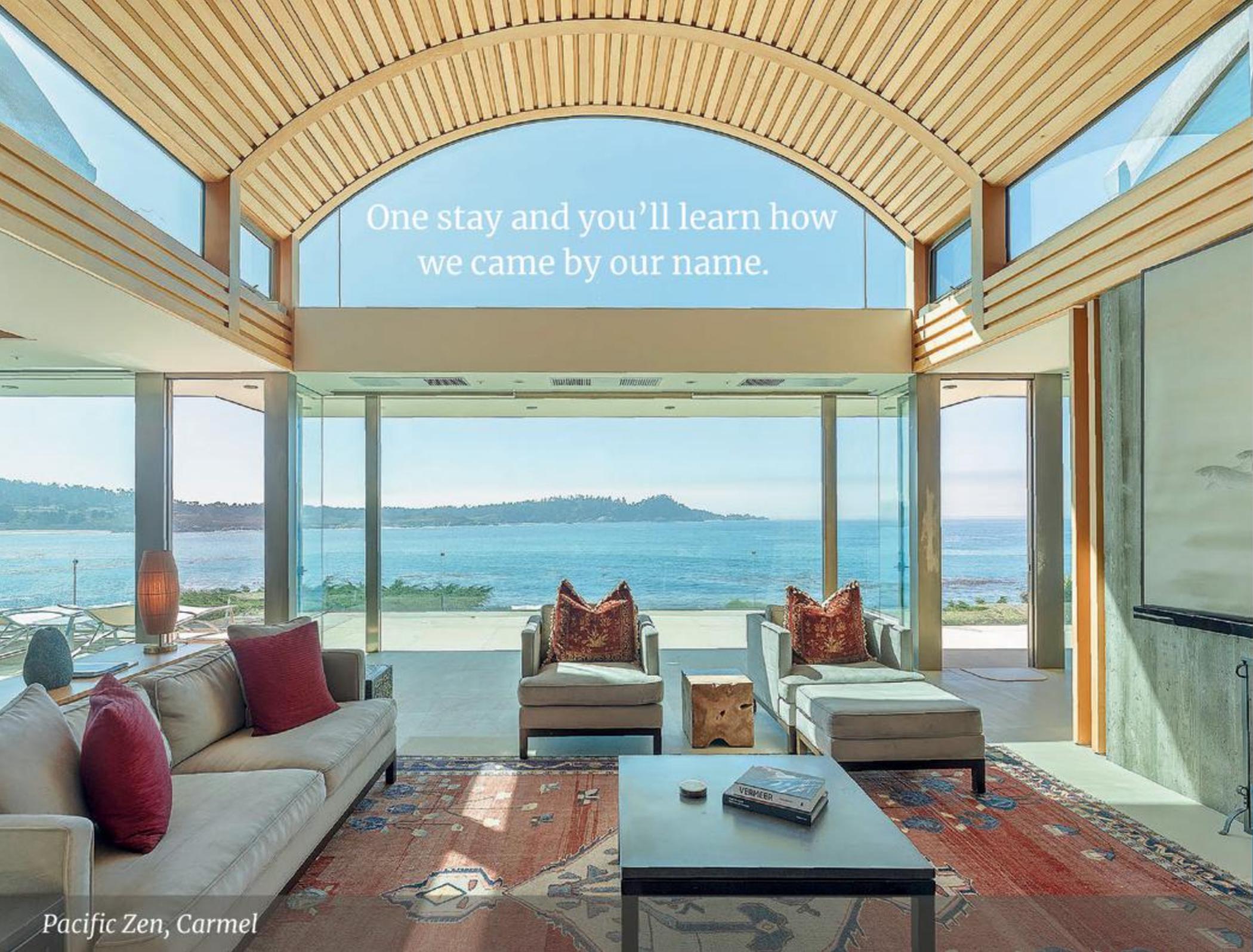
High School, will be the soloist for the latter work.

The May 16 and 17 concerts, *USA 250 West Side Story* and *Lincoln Portrait*, will feature a new piece, *Marmoris*, by American composer Sarah Kirkland Snider. The Latin title means “the shimmering surface of the sea.” Another work for this concert is Aaron Copland’s *Lincoln Portrait*, to be narrated by surprise guests from Monterey.

In the community, the Symphony’s achievements include the development of programs that bring live music to nontraditional venues such as hospitals and classical music to elementary schools. Reilly says that the Symphony plays an important role to local residents as a gathering place and a touchpoint. “Coming to the experience provides a way for audience members to experience amazing music,” says Reilly. “But the concerts are also something they love to discuss with one another.”

As soon as an audience leaves the Sunset Center, its members have made memories that connect them to each other. “That’s one reason we add events such as preconcert lectures and themed parties like our annual Women’s Night Out in March,” says Reilly. “The occasions become a way for audience members to make friends and enjoy music even more.”

For more information, visit monteresympphony.org.



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Reimagining and Transforming Spaces

By Rebekah Moan | Photos by Katya Williams

For Roseanne Pierre, interior design has hummed in the background of her life since she was five years old. “I have a one-inch scar on my right foot from my first attempt at staging,” she says. Pierre separated the bunk bed that she shared with her younger sister into two twin beds, and in doing so, crashed one of the side bars onto her right foot, cutting it.

She pursued other paths—a degree in political science and psychology, a master’s in liberal arts, and professional stints at *The New York Times* and Charles Schwab—but consistently found herself designing homes for family, friends, and herself. When her first child left home for college, she realized that she needed an outlet for her desire to reimagine and transform spaces.





“It’s not that I didn’t have enough to do,” she says. “I helped my husband with his endodontic dental practice, served on the board of the Monterey Museum of Art, was still a mom to two other children at home, and we traveled a lot, but design was a passion I always had.” It had long been a dream of hers, so she started asking, “Why not turn this into a business?” In 2023, she finally did.

Pierre bundled her experiences to create a design style that is organic, modern, and worldly. “I lean into something that will provide a connection to the area in an appropriate way,” she says. “I do it in a thoughtful, curated way that highlights the beauty of the property and the surroundings.”

Every home is different, but for staging, Pierre likes to use neutral furniture and textiles with organic materials, such as wood and plants as accessories or art. Otherwise, she likes to use antiques but keeps things clean and sophisticated by not using different patterns. “I keep everything minimal clutter-wise but like to add a little bit of depth,” she explains. If she’s staging a coastal property, then her color palette has soft blues, grays, and greens that connect the buyer to the ocean.

“I love the challenge of coming into a space and thinking about how to make it fresh, alive, and a place that seems warm and inviting,” she says. “At Studio Pierre, transformation is everything. When you step into a space after it’s been thoughtfully reimagined, you breathe more deeply, feel differently, and think differently. That shift is powerful—and it’s exactly what keeps me so inspired by this work.”

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If These Walls Could Talk

By Sarah Alnimri | Photos by Manny Espinoza

When a restaurant establishment approaches its 46th year its walls could talk about the birthdays, anniversaries, wedding receptions, celebrations of life, and holidays that were celebrated year after year. Anton & Michel has maintained a reputation for making special occasions unforgettable, including Sarah Alnimri's wedding reception in 2024.

When a place is this beloved the community will often preserve the importance it holds while evolving with the changing times. This past year, owners Loie (Husband), Sarah (Wife), and Zee Alnimri (Cousin) renewed the space, most recently renovated by Tony Salameh in 2013. Completed this past January, the refresh focused on preserving the Anton & Michel spirit while creating a welcoming space with brighter, more vibrant energy. With a full wall of floor-to-ceiling windows, the light does most of the work.

Those beautiful windows come with a tradeoff. The owners considered removing the restaurant's carpet but were advised against it: the expansive glass would dramatically increase noise reflection for diners. Rather than a setback, the moment became an opportunity to embrace what has long defined the space.

As a family-owned and operated business, Anton & Michel takes a distinct pride in what it serves and shares with guests. From enjoying an Aperol Spritz and sandwich beside the newly painted fountain at lunchtime to a lively dinner with friends finished with a flambéed dessert (or two), the hope is to continue making the community proud for another 46 years by keeping the experience refreshed, yet comfortingly familiar.

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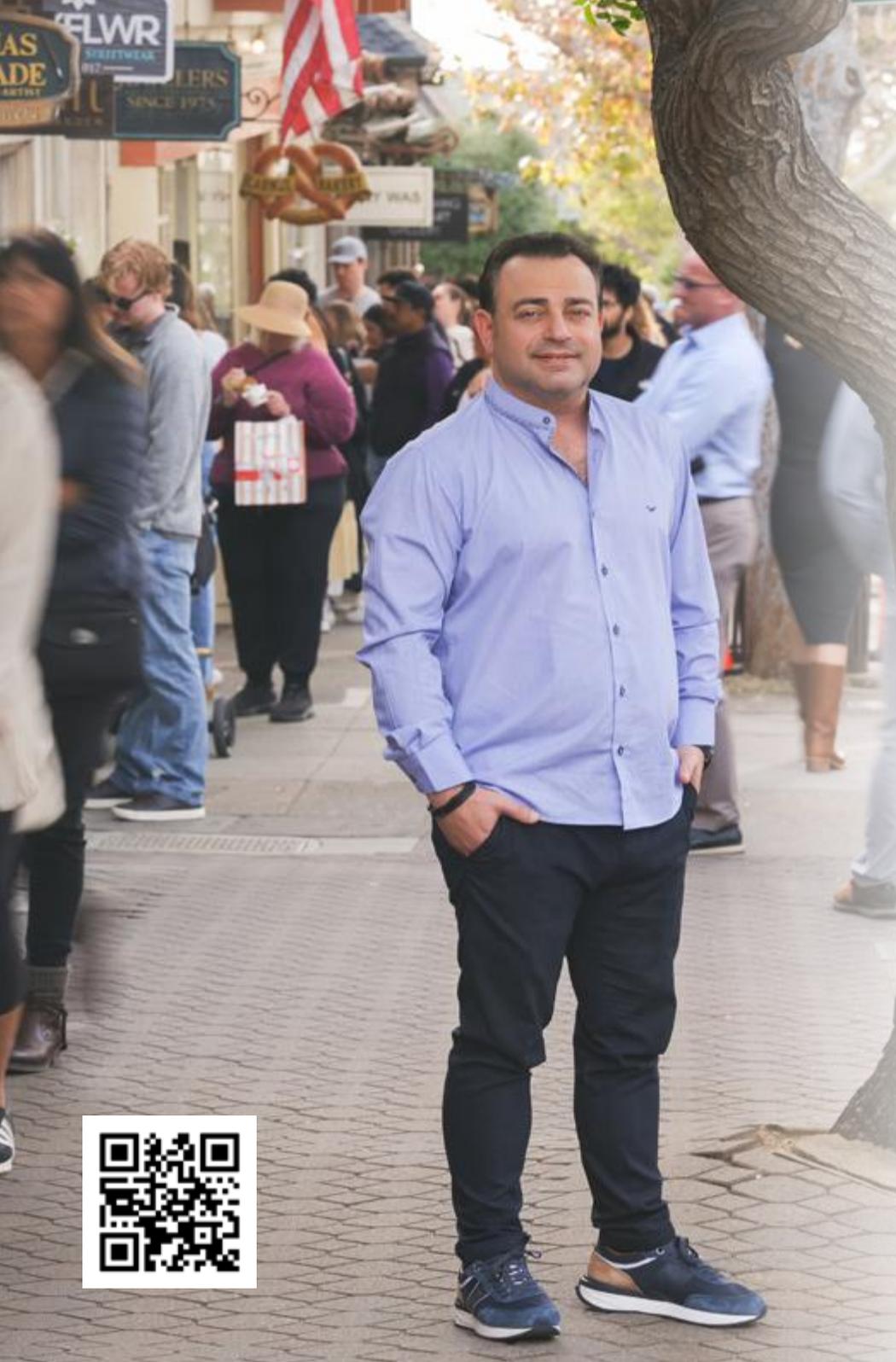
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SEE CARMEL

Truly Seeing Carmel

Photo by Manny Espinoza

In travel, there is a difference between visiting a place and truly seeing it. For Will Elkadi, that distinction began long before he arrived on the Monterey Peninsula. As a child, he drank tea from a ceramic mug his father brought back from Carmel-by-the-Sea in the 1970s, an early connection to a place he would later call home.

When Elkadi moved to the coast in 2000, Carmel felt instantly familiar. His Mediterranean upbringing recognized the same rhythm in the village: morning greetings between shop owners, family-run businesses, and conversations that linger over coffee.

Over the years, Elkadi became closely connected to Carmel's hospitality community, collaborating with local restaurants and businesses on branding, storytelling, menus, décor, and guest experience. Through workshops and creative partnerships, he has also helped many navigate the evolving world of digital storytelling while preserving the authenticity that defines the village.

Beyond Carmel, Elkadi is known for creating experiences that bring people together. Often called "Mr. Car Week," he is the architect of the Automobilia Collectors Expo and creator of the Car Week Passport—platforms celebrating automotive culture through collectibles, design, and the stories behind the machines.

The idea for SeeCarmel emerged during a conversation with friends planning a visit who said they wanted to "come see Carmel." The phrase stayed with him. It captured what the village offers: not just a destination but something deeper.

Today, SeeCarmel provides a curated lens on the village through articles, hidden-gem guides, and local experiences, along with the upcoming Faces from Carmel series highlighting the people who shape the community.

Because Carmel is not just a place to visit—it is a place to truly see.

For more information, visit [SeeCarmel.com](https://www.seeCarmel.com) or Instagram @See.Carmel.











Stylish and Inclusive

By Rebekah Moan | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Building on the success of his boutique inn, The Charles Pacific Grove, award-winning designer Charles Gruwell launched his second property, The Charles Napa Valley. This eight-room bed-and-breakfast (B and B) mirrors the Charles Pacific Grove in that it is stylish, masterfully designed, and welcoming to the LGBTQI+ community and their friends, families, and allies.

“Our climate right now, with the current administration, is not inclusive. It’s divided, and people are asking, ‘What about us?’” says Gruwell. “People are skittish about all kinds of things, these days, because they are unsure of what could happen to them. Our goal is to provide a safe haven for all our guests to be themselves and know that they are welcome and safe.”

That desire was born from Gruwell’s personal experiences as an openly gay boutique hotel designer. After staying in hotels worldwide—from charming B and Bs to the grand luxury of St. Regis Hotels and Resorts, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, and Peninsula Hotels—he often found that true inclusivity and warmth were rare. His B and Bs were created to bridge that gap.





Guests will not only feel safe at The Charles Napa Valley but will also have a stylish experience. “Our boutique hotel has style, grace, and art everywhere,” he says. “It’s not your average, run-of-the-mill bed-and-breakfast.” Each room tells a story, and the timeless furnishings, elegant accents, and architectural charm invite guests to rest, reconnect, and feel at home in luxury.

Gruwell and his business partners, Don and Jay Desai, updated a Victorian home that was built in 1906 by E. W. Doughty. In the 1970s, the home was converted into a B and B known as the Cabernet House, an Old World Inn. The original home featured hand-carved woodwork, which Gruwell enhanced while adding Victorian wallpaper, draperies, and original light fixtures.

Part of that enhancement included changing a small back patio, expanding it to five times its size and creating a grand courtyard that includes three fountains, lounge seating, fire pits, Japanese maple trees, and wine-barrel planters filled with seasonal flowers. “It’s a very special outdoor experience for people to enjoy on sunny days and at night,” says Gruwell.

The Charles Napa Valley opened in February, but Gruwell isn’t slowing down. He and his partners plan to buy a property in San Francisco to create a full-service hotel, replete with a restaurant, bar, and, of course, stylish rooms. “Our grandiose plan is to have a Charles hotel in every California destination location,” he says.

For more information, visit thecharlesnapavalley.com.



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