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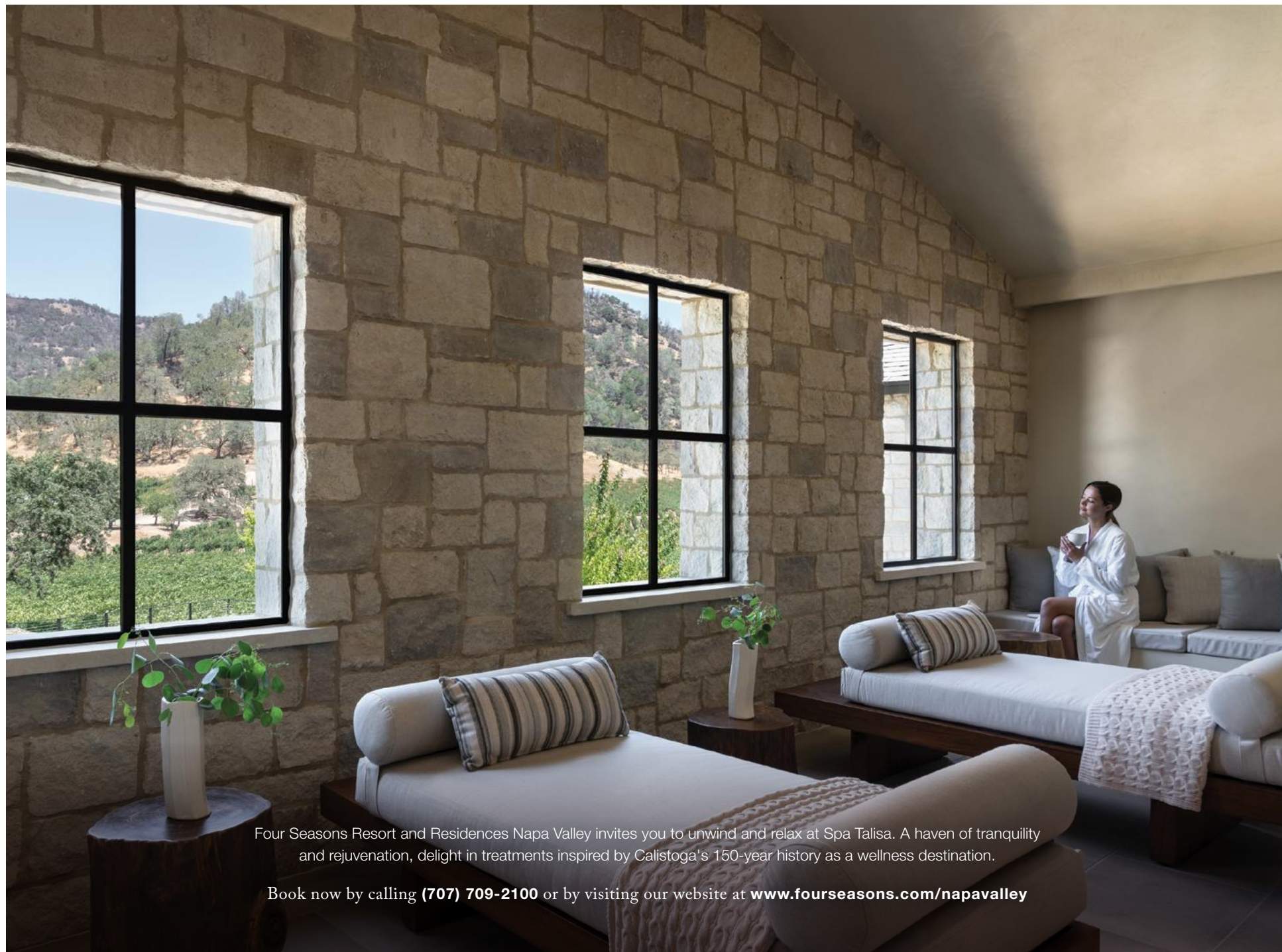




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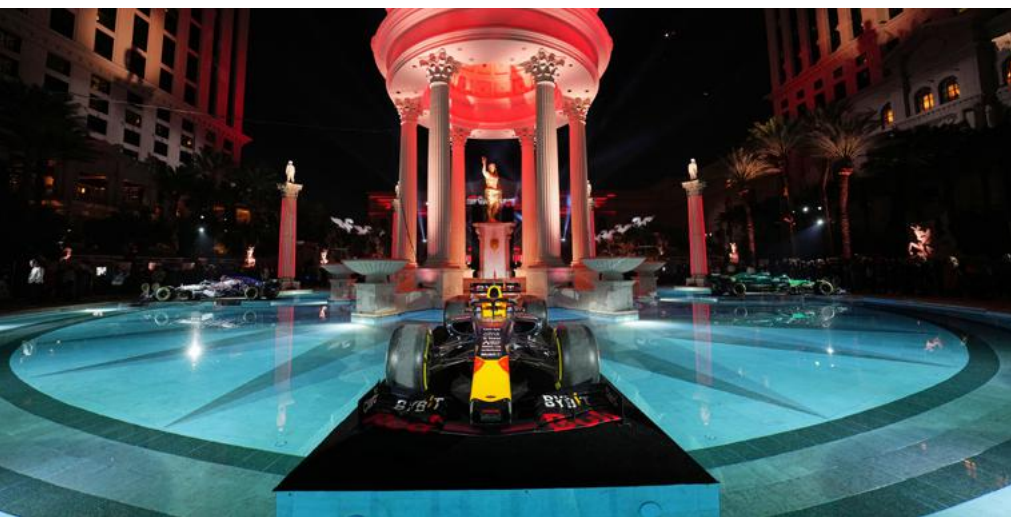
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Quest to Crush MS

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French Infused with California Soul

By Atissa Manshouri

A Spanish Treasure

By Jessica Zimmer

WINE

Legacy of Quality

By Atissa Manshouri

VACAY

A Spanish Treasure

By Jessica Zimmer

PHOTO

Bringing Movie Magic to Wine Country

By Jessica Zimmer

Grand Landscapes and AI Dreams

By Jessica Zimmer

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

By Rich Medel

Every year that our magazine goes around the sun, we are appreciative of the experiences the prior year has brought us. We're also grateful for the opportunity to serve our community by sharing stories of innovation, prosperity, hope, and goodwill.

From organizations that grow young minds, to businesses that commit to their communities and artists whose works serve as reminders of our humanity, our content is derived from the good that others are doing. It's the readers who continue to turn our pages, the people who trust us to tell their stories, and the advertisers who continue to support us that make this project possible.

This year, we're excited to announce our partnership with MPI Jet, a private jet charter service. Their all-inclusive approach to the

boutique flight experience puts them in a unique position. In addition to providing private air charter, MPI Jet offers concierge and cargo services, maintenance, management, acquisition, and brokerage of private aircraft. They really do it all. And on top of that, their pilots are some of the industry's most experienced, having collectively flown hundreds of thousands of miles.

Starting this year, MPI Jet will offer an exclusive opportunity to 65° Magazine website visitors, allowing them to access pricing through us.

For those sticking to ground level, it's AT&T Pro-Am time. Flip through our pages to see what's happening this year and for a glimpse at the area's most prominent courses.

See you at the 19th hole!



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Photo courtesy of Chateau Montelena



Photo courtesy of Chateau Montelena

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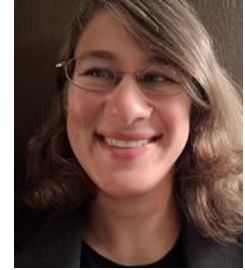
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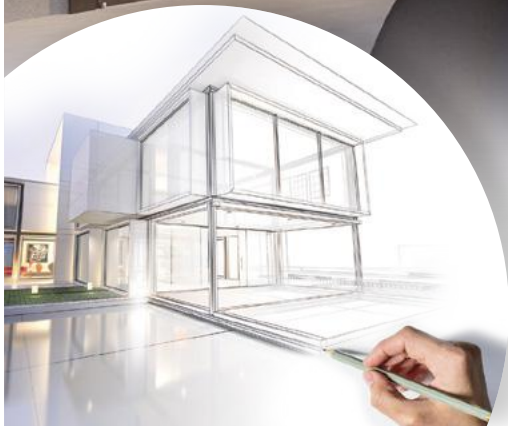
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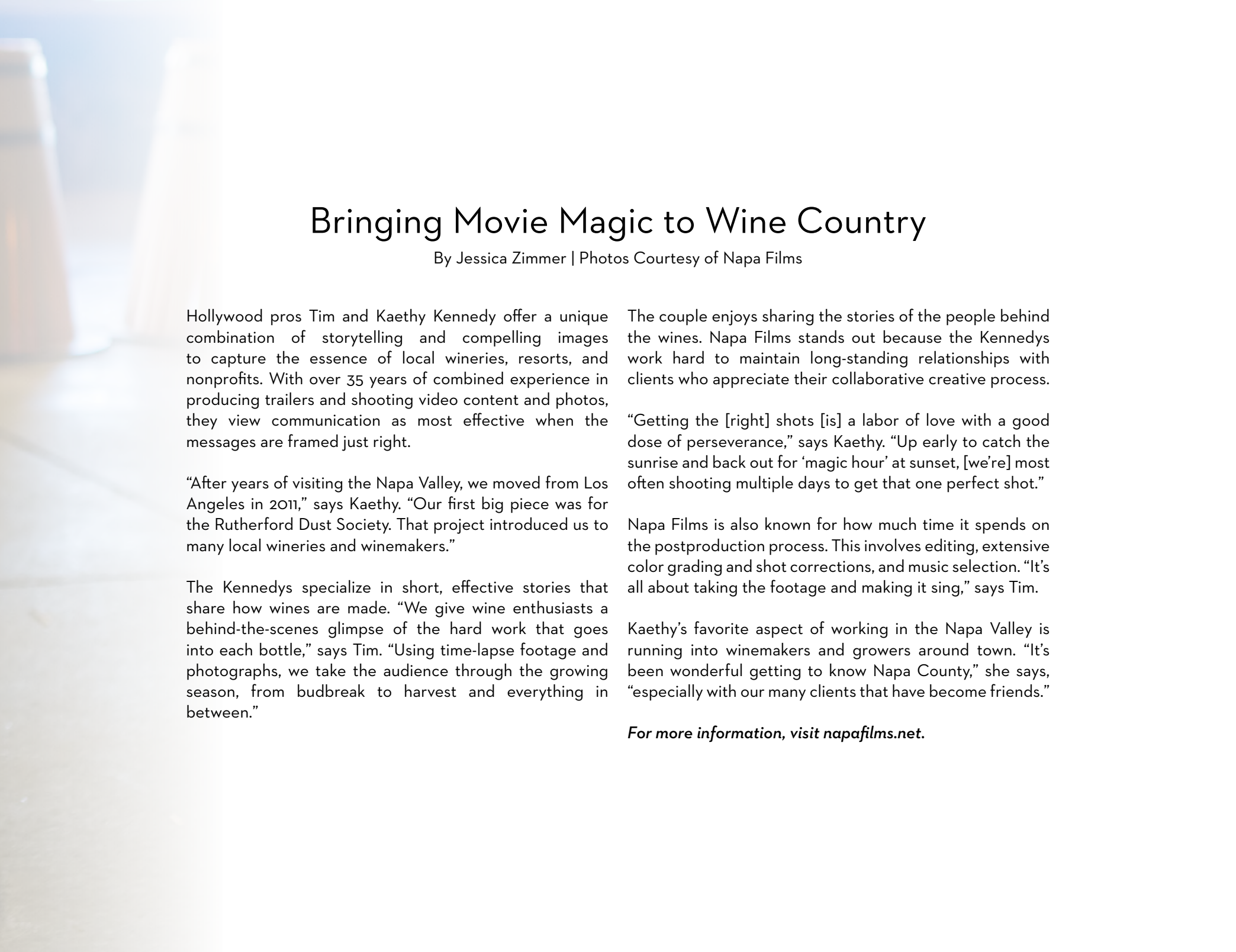












Bringing Movie Magic to Wine Country

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos Courtesy of Napa Films

Hollywood pros Tim and Kaethy Kennedy offer a unique combination of storytelling and compelling images to capture the essence of local wineries, resorts, and nonprofits. With over 35 years of combined experience in producing trailers and shooting video content and photos, they view communication as most effective when the messages are framed just right.

“After years of visiting the Napa Valley, we moved from Los Angeles in 2011,” says Kaethy. “Our first big piece was for the Rutherford Dust Society. That project introduced us to many local wineries and winemakers.”

The Kennedys specialize in short, effective stories that share how wines are made. “We give wine enthusiasts a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the hard work that goes into each bottle,” says Tim. “Using time-lapse footage and photographs, we take the audience through the growing season, from budbreak to harvest and everything in between.”

The couple enjoys sharing the stories of the people behind the wines. Napa Films stands out because the Kennedys work hard to maintain long-standing relationships with clients who appreciate their collaborative creative process.

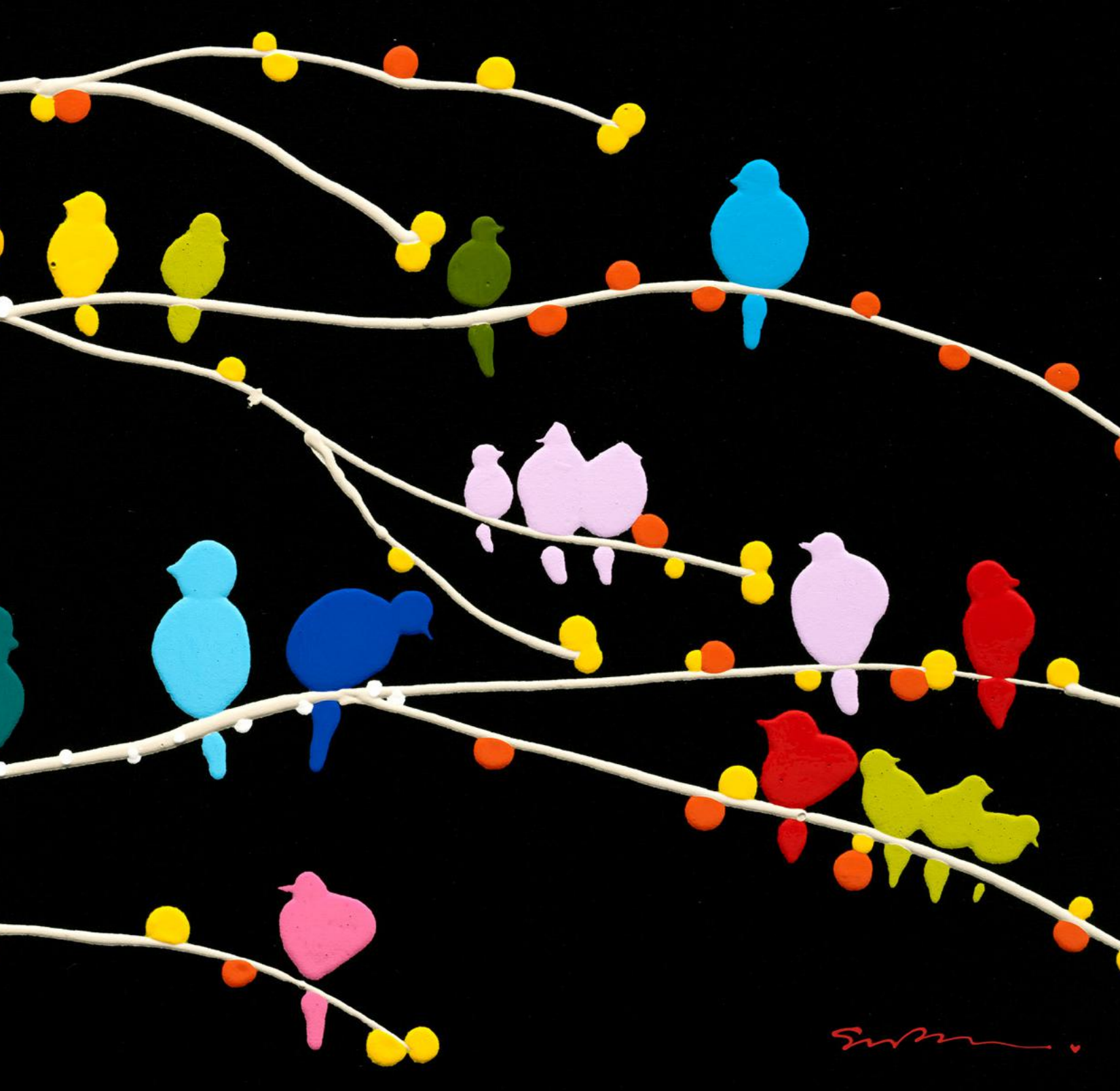
“Getting the [right] shots [is] a labor of love with a good dose of perseverance,” says Kaethy. “Up early to catch the sunrise and back out for ‘magic hour’ at sunset, [we’re] most often shooting multiple days to get that one perfect shot.”

Napa Films is also known for how much time it spends on the postproduction process. This involves editing, extensive color grading and shot corrections, and music selection. “It’s all about taking the footage and making it sing,” says Tim.

Kaethy’s favorite aspect of working in the Napa Valley is running into winemakers and growers around town. “It’s been wonderful getting to know Napa County,” she says, “especially with our many clients that have become friends.”

For more information, visit napafilms.net.





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Sharing the Best of the Blends

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Bob McClenahan

On October 8, Paraduxx Winery hosted its eighteenth annual harvest party in Napa, an event that marked the release of the 2019 Paraduxx X2 Napa Valley Red Wine. Winemaker Cardiff Scott-Robinson toasted the afternoon with 400 wine enthusiasts, all enjoying savory bites catered by Southside Napa and the music played by classical jazz guitarist Lloyd Gregory.

“The Paraduxx Harvest Party is a time to share the pinnacle release of our wines and celebrate the bounty of harvest,” says Stephanie DiStefano, senior director of experiential marketing for The Duckhorn Portfolio. “Our 2019 X2 is an opulent and elegant cabernet and zinfandel blend. It balances the depth and structure of mountain grapes with the lush vibrancy of valley floor fruit.”

Guests also had opportunities to sample Paraduxx’s 2021 Napa Valley Rosé, 2019 Howell Mountain Napa Valley Red Wine, 2019 Napa Valley Red Wine from estate vineyard Rector Creek, and the 2021 Proprietary Napa Valley White Wine.

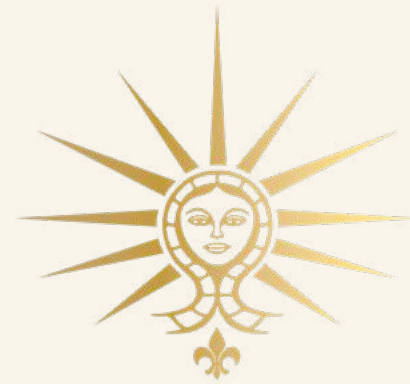
One of the guests’ favorite activities is grape stomping and the grape stomp competition. This year, a group of friends came dressed entirely in white and by the party’s end, they were covered in red grape juice. Guests were also entertained by lawn games and an impromptu dance party.

Offerings at the food and wine pairing stations included fried chicken and Napa cabbage slaw for the X2, St. Louis style smoked pepper BBQ ribs and potato salad for the Howell Mountain, grilled seasonal vegetable skewers for the Rector Creek Vineyard, and chili shrimp à la plancha for the proprietary white.

The harvest party was held in Paraduxx’s courtyard beside the Rector Creek Vineyard. Decorations included cornstalks and heirloom pumpkins. “It was a lively, joyous bash,” says DiStefano. “Our event is a great way to come together with friends and enjoy the beauty of harvest season in Napa Valley.”

For more information, visit paraduxx.com.





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Legacy of Quality

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos Courtesy of Chateau Montelena

Chateau Montelena occupies a special place in the pantheon of American winemaking, its reputation perfectly matched with the spectacular Gothic castle that gives the label its name and iconic image. Under the skilled stewardship of the Barrett family, the esteemed Calistoga winery has not only been consistently producing award-winning and highly collectible wines for the past five decades but also brought the ingenuity and ambition of an upstart winemaking industry into the mainstream of American culture.

The chateau's legend originates in 1882, when entrepreneur Alfred Loving Tubbs purchased 254 acres of land in Calistoga to develop a winery. Within a few years, he had built one of the largest operations in Napa, and it continued to thrive until Prohibition, in the 1920s. A brief revival in the 1930s and 1940s faltered, and the winery was long defunct when Jim Barrett purchased and reunified the estate in 1972. Recognizing the property's extraordinary potential, Barrett quickly set about replanting the vineyard, investing in modern equipment, and pouring all his focus into farming and winemaking processes.

Within just a few years, Barrett and his new label shocked the insular winemaking world by winning the Judgment of Paris. In the 1976 blind tasting of four white burgundies and six California chardonnays, Chateau Montelena's 1973 vintage took the top prize, an astonishing coup for such a young operation. (With its classic David versus Goliath drama, the story of that wine competition inspired the 2008 feature film *Bottleshock*.) Matt Crafton, winemaker at Chateau Montelena, adds some contemporary insight to the historic event. "I think there's a healthy respect now between US and French winemakers," he says. "No one feels the need to overtake or surmount another region or country, at least

in regard to winemaking. There are great wines being made all around the world, and we have the maturity now to recognize that."

That graceful maturity extends to the grapes. Chateau Montelena's wines—notably its cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay—are prized for their ageability and recognized as among the finest in the world. But as one of Napa Valley's most visited wineries, Chateau Montelena is keen to welcome both the connoisseur and the novice. "One of our strengths is our ability to speak with you wherever you are in your wine journey," says Crafton. "I think part of that comes from our history and reputation, as the brand has evolved organically with American wine drinkers over the last five decades. It also stems from being family owned and putting the wine and our people first." The emphasis on being a family-owned operation is important, according to Crafton. In the face of increasing globalization and consolidation in the wine industry, a multi-generation family business has the rare gift of perspective, allowing for a focus on quality unencumbered by the concerns of private equity investors and quarterly earnings reports.

"Agriculture, and especially the fine wine industry, is built around optimism and long-term focus," says Crafton. For the dedicated team at Chateau Montelena, now helmed by Jim Barrett's son Bo, that takes shape in the relentless investments in the vineyard, winery, and people. "We've just celebrated our fiftieth anniversary of being owned by the Barrett family—it was one heck of a party—and are simultaneously embarking on our biggest vineyard replant since the 1970s, entirely in the name of quality. That legacy of family ownership enables the future."

For more information, visit montelena.com.



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Luxury Wine Country Estates and Vineyards Agent

By Jessica Zimmer | Photo by Bob McClenahan

Arthur Goodrich is the realtor to visit for \$5-plus million estates in Napa Valley and Sonoma County. “Buyers from all walks of life and corners of the world covet the exceptional lifestyle, culinary scene, world-renowned wines, climate, and beauty unique to wine country,” he says.

Goodrich has owned property in Napa Valley since 2010, when he bought his first in the hills above Calistoga. A wine country home affords owners and guests opportunities to enjoy the outdoors year-round, due to the temperate climate. In 2014, Goodrich started a luxury vacation rental and concierge business. His goal was to welcome travelers in search of a more intimate Napa Valley experience. “I have high expectations for excellent service,” he says. “My luxury rentals and estate sales dovetail nicely with my love of architecture and design.”

In December 2020, Goodrich joined Sotheby’s International Realty. Though he represents clients throughout the

area, he’s particularly focused on the Up Valley towns of Calistoga and St. Helena. They are known for their scenic vistas and relaxed lifestyle, and Goodrich finds them authentic and easy to navigate. He also sees the area as coming into its own. In 2021, the Four Seasons Resort and Residences Napa Valley opened in Calistoga. That same year, Solage Resort & Spa, an Auberge luxury resort in Calistoga, expanded and added a new restaurant. “Up Valley is a diverse area,” he says. “Its experiences run the gamut, from Calistoga’s lighted Christmas tractor parade to Yountville’s upscale restaurants.”

Goodrich is a standout among agents due to his extensive corporate leadership and strategic marketing background. He places an emphasis on honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness. “I have very high personal expectations.” He says. “I’m focused on providing a personalized and sincere level of service to my clients.”



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French Infused with California Soul

By Atissa Manshoury | Photos Courtesy of Auberge du Soleil

A muse to artists and lovers for centuries, the South of France—with its pastoral and sensory charms—inspired the creation of Napa Valley’s Auberge du Soleil. Opened in 1981 as the Valley’s first fine-dining destination, serving French-inspired cuisine, the Rutherford hillside dining room expanded a few years later into a warmly luxurious, adults-only resort. Through the ensuing four decades, the property has welcomed guests to its Michelin-starred dining room and exquisitely managed hotel experience, and in the process has helped to define its surroundings as a world-famous destination that now enchants its own generations of artists and lovers. “We are inspired by the relaxed sophistication of the South of France and infused with California soul,” says General Manager Bradley Reynolds, “and we try to weave that spirit into everything we do on property.”

That harmonious spirit is evident throughout Auberge’s 33 sunlit acres of heritage oak and olive groves. With just 50 rooms, the property’s combination of intimacy and expansive space allows guests to enjoy both private time and convivial gatherings. Dining options range from the epic flair of the formal dining room to more casual options at the swimming pool or the Bistro and Bar. Regardless of venue, guests will be treated to the finest ingredients and peak-of-season flavors savored in front of one of Napa Valley’s most iconic views. “Framed by rolling hills with the Mayacamas Mountains in the distance, guests linger over cocktails and wine while taking in the vast vineyard views,” says Reynolds. “Some say it’s like a trip to Provence without needing a passport.”

Accommodations at Auberge du Soleil are as much of a sensory experience as the natural surroundings and the delicious food and wine. Floor-to-ceiling iron-framed windows and doors allow the rooms to be bathed in soft natural light, and soothing textures and colors beckon guests to relax. A 2019 revamp of the property introduced two new private maisons, each with two bedrooms and sweeping

panoramic views of the Valley. All 50 rooms and suites offer seamless luxury, with Bose® Bluetooth® audio players, heated limestone floors, and a selection of complimentary snacks and beverages, including local beers. The hotel’s inviting swimming pool, La Plage, sits atop a sun-drenched terrace that calls for a chilled glass of rosé. Further sensory indulgences await guests at the Spa du Soleil, where treatments are offered in indoor or outdoor rooms and three temperate soaking pools overlooking the Silverado Trail provide a serene spot for a pre- or post-treatment cup of lemon verbena and spearmint tea.

Wine-loving and adventure-seeking guests enjoy personalized experiences and itineraries with help from resort staff. “Our guests arrive ready to celebrate—a milestone birthday, an anniversary, or a return annual visit to commemorate a special occasion, or their first trip to Napa Valley,” explains Reynolds. “We are here to provide personalized experiences, along with access to outstanding wineries and vineyards available to our guests, through deep relationships we’ve developed with the winery community over the years.”

Setting aside its sensory pleasures, what distinguishes Auberge du Soleil from its many worthy competitors is its inimitable service: passionate, intuitive, gracious, yet unobtrusive. The resort’s consistency of service and adaptability in a rapidly evolving hospitality industry are clearly reflected in its impressive and ever growing list of accolades, from Forbes Travel Guide’s Five-Star ratings to Michelin stars. “While there have been many changes over the years,” says Reynolds, “enhancements are always done with the intention of preserving . . . the classical elements inspired by comfortable luxury, the natural beauty of our surroundings, and the seamless delivery of a relaxed but indulgent wine country lifestyle.”

For more information, visit aubergeresorts.com/aubergedusoleil.





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A stylized, handwritten signature in gold ink, appearing to read 'JCB', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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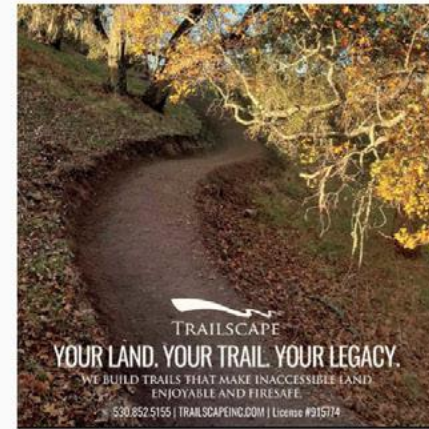
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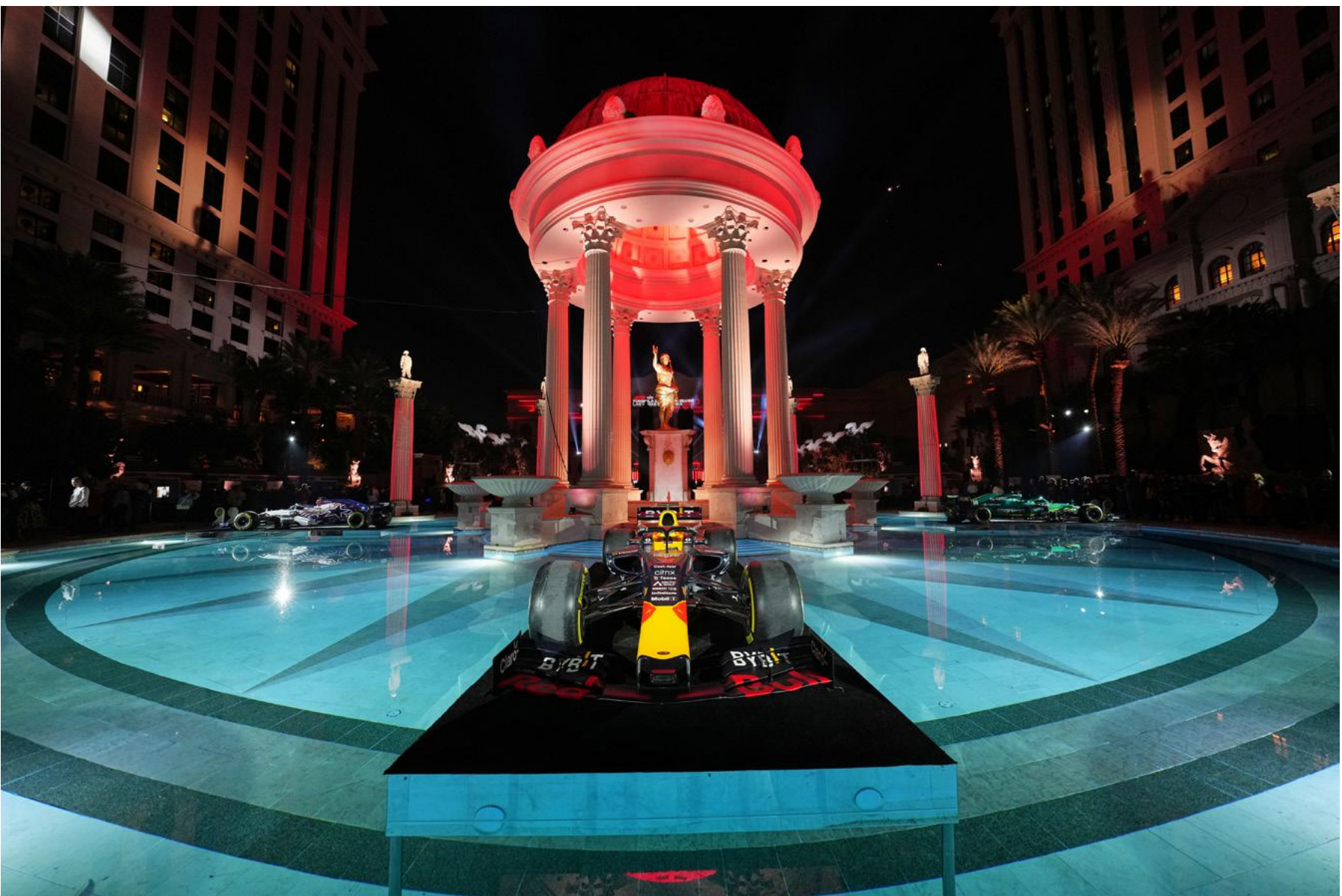


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The event began with a symbolic start of the lead-up to the 2023 race, the Painting of the Start Line ceremony at the future site of the paddock building. Executives, including Formula 1® President and CEO Stefano Domenicali, Liberty Media President and CEO Greg Maffei, and Formula 1® Heineken® Silver Las Vegas Grand Prix CEO Renee Wilm joined Governor Steve Sisolak, Clark County Commission Chair Jim Gibson, local elected officials, partners, and others to each paint a portion of the starting grid and toast to the year ahead.

Prior to the race, fans made their way to Caesars Palace to explore a variety of activities, including a pit stop challenge, e-sports simulators, and car and trophy photo opportunities.

The evening concluded with a private VIP celebration at Caesars Palace's Garden of the Gods Pool Oasis, where The Killers played a special performance. Before the band took to the stage, Domenicali, Maffei, and Wilm joined with Heineken® USA CEO Maggie Timoney to toast the recent announcement of Heineken® Silver being named as the title race sponsor. The group pushed down on the giant Formula 1® button to signal the official availability of event tickets and activate a drone show that capped off a full day of events and activations.

The launch party served as the kickoff of the countdown to the November 2023 race, which will take place on a 3.8-mile-long track from start to finish. Weaving past world-famous landmarks, casinos, and hotels, the track is expected to require drivers to push their luck to breaking points at speeds of up to 212 mph over the course of 50 race laps, with three main straights and 17 corners.

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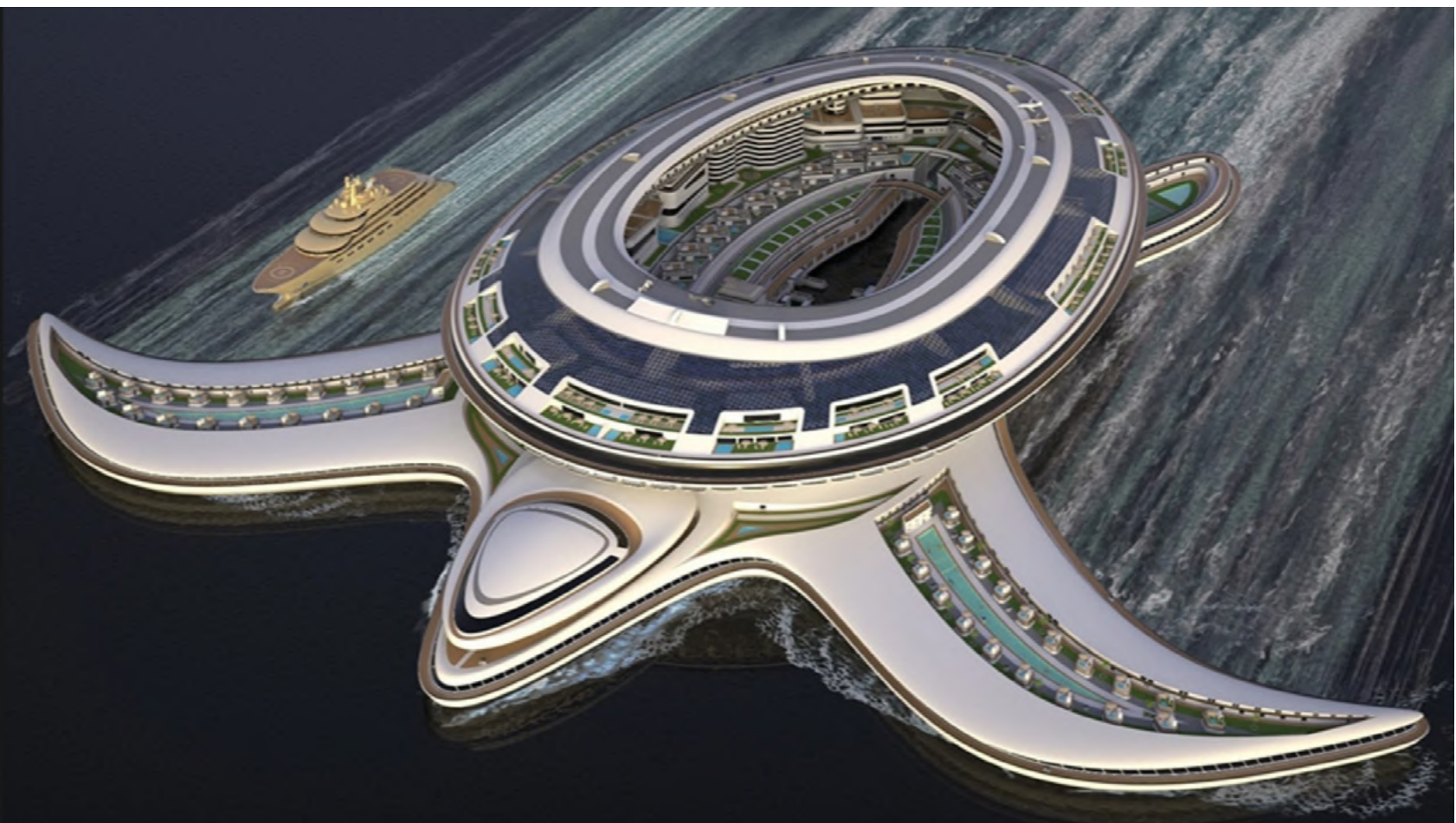
The roots of long drinks go back to the 1952 Summer Games in Helsinki, when the country of only 4 million people was still recovering from World War II. Concerned how to serve drinks quickly enough to all the visitors, the government came up with a revolutionary idea of a new liquor drink that was both delicious and fast to serve – and so the first long drinks were born.

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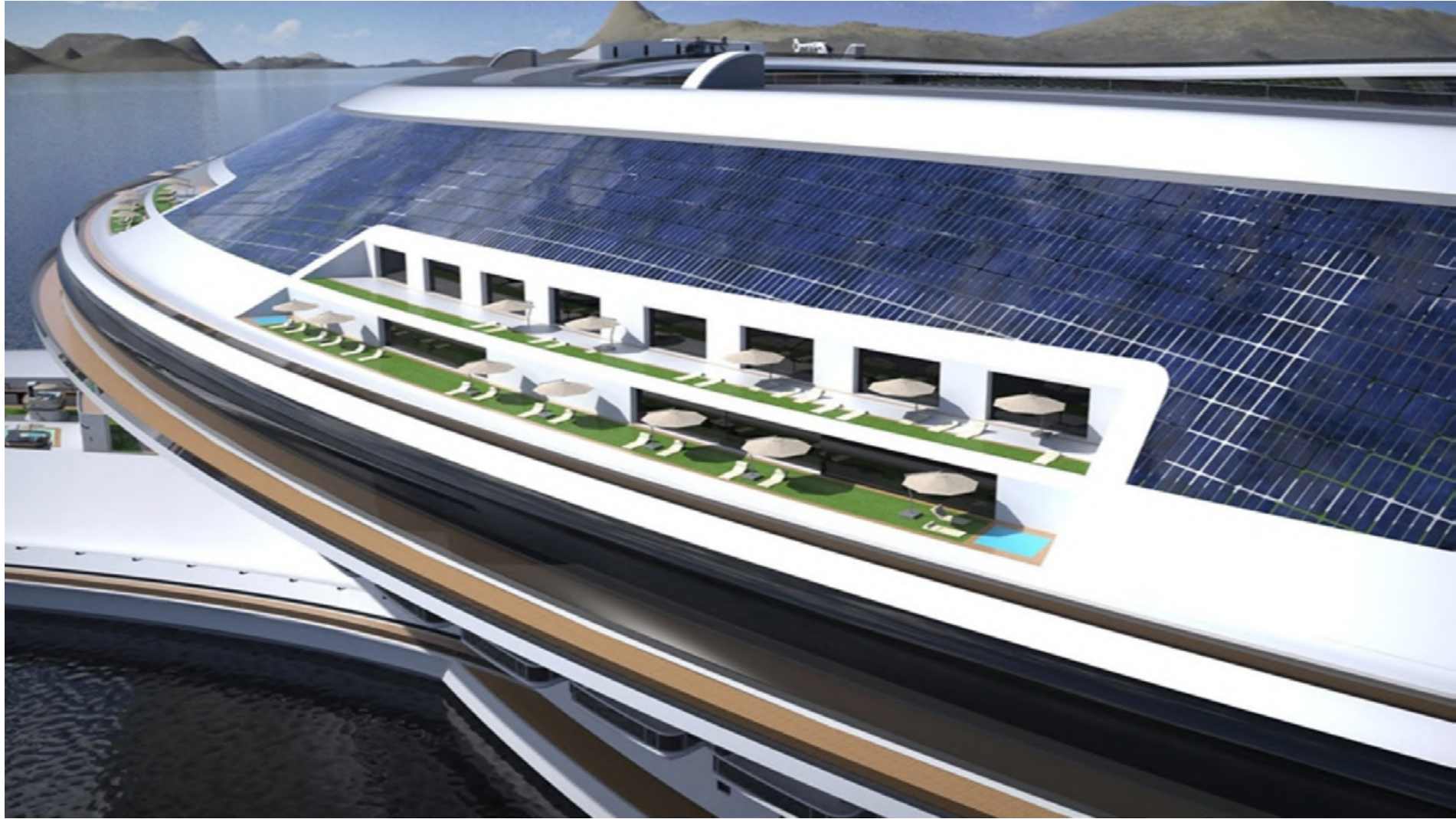
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Life at Sea Aboard the Terayacht

A floating turtle-shaped city that can sail the seven seas—that's the vision of Lazzarini Design Studio, the Italian firm known for its disruptive designs that include everything from flying superyachts to futuristic seaports. And now, the studio has visualized a mind-bending terayacht!

Named for Pangaea, the supercontinent that existed millions of years ago and comprised almost all of the landmasses on Earth around the late Paleozoic and early Mesozoic eras, Pangeos will be vast in scope and scale. It measures some 1,800 feet in total length (the equivalent of five NFL playing fields), and 2,000 feet at its wings' widest point.

It is designed to motor around the globe nonstop and emissions-free, thanks to an entirely green energy supply. Harnessing the power of the sun, its array of solar panels will provide clean energy for the turtle's accommodations and propulsion system—nine electric motors, each with 16,800 hp. The steel hull will be composed of 30,000 individual cells, and it may also be able to draw extra power from the wind and the waves breaking over its large wings.

Capable of a top speed of five knots, this floating city will meet five-star resort standards. The cruise ship will accommodate some 60,000 guests in a mix of luxury apartments, super villas, and palaces fit for a royal, with no word yet on how many staff and crew would be aboard to keep the population happy. Replete with the types of amenities that one would expect from such a trailblazing project, Pangeos will boast large swimming pools, a vast beach club, cutting-edge health and wellness facilities, lush gardens, and a shopping mall. Guests will be able to stroll around city blocks and a main square, and, of course, will have the ability to arrive and depart in style: the turtle will have

helipads, hangars, and marinas to land and store helicopters, water toys, tenders, and more.

Clearly, construction of such a behemoth requires a unique location, one that does not currently exist. Given its estimated eight-year build time and cost, at some \$8 billion, Saudi Arabia, has been touted as a possible location. There, a large coastal area would need to be dredged, encircled by a dam, and then, following the completion of Pangeos, re-flooded. Then the floating city would commence its perpetual global navigation.

Given that this terayacht is still just a concept, money-raising options floated by Lazzarini, include launching Pangeos in the metaverse—where virtual property as a non-fungible token or NFT could be purchased with cryptocurrency (\$16 for a virtual entrance ticket and up to \$169 for a VIP apartment)—and crowdfunding. Should customers decide to buy a physical one, that purchase could apply towards the deposit . . . though it undoubtedly will not cover much of the cost of a tera-villa or -apartment!

It is hoped that some of today's leading luxury shipyards, such as Benetti, Lurssen, Heesen, Oceanco, Feadship, will join the project. Certainly, it's one of the more out-there yacht concepts floating around!

Pangeos: The Terayacht

LOA 550 m (1,800')

Beam: 610 m (2000')

Draft: 30 m

Cost: \$8 bn



STUDEBAKER



Quest to Crush MS

By Trevor Felch | Photo by Tristan Babaian

After being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in his late 20s, Kevin Reid wanted to fight back against this difficult disease that affects roughly one million Americans. Reid may have lost the ability to walk and use his left arm and hand because of nerve damage, but he wanted to do whatever he could to help his peers who are also affected by MS.

Reid launched Crush MS, a nonprofit organization with Julie Hare, who also has the disease and owns Counter Punch Wines with her husband, Stephen. Its first annual tasting event was held in 2014, and in the ensuing eight years, the organization has raised over half a million dollars for research into disease prevention and programs to help individuals with MS.

With sponsorship and support from local wineries, Crush MS hosts a special day each summer that is full of fun and generosity. “Our whole project is based on the idea that we want to do something to help with a generally helpless situation,” says Reid. “Getting the news that my disease is chronic, progressive, and has no cure felt like a challenge. We accepted that challenge and have used our community, the wine community, to help find the cause and cure for MS.” He explains that while the disease is potentially debilitating and devastating, the fight against it doesn’t have to be. “We get together with great wine, food, music, and [an] auction to celebrate the progress that has been made so far, and have fun raising funds and awareness for a world free of MS.”

Reid was a music education major in college and became a choir teacher, mostly for middle school students. The energy-loss effects of MS ended that career path, and he returned back to the family winery, Reid Family Vineyards.

As children, Reid and his two siblings would help pick the grapes at harvest time. Now, he does the marketing, along with handling social media and wine club responsibilities. His brother, Bay, runs the tasting room, and his sister, Kyla, manages the financials. Reid’s father, Kirk, who was previously a family physician, switched from making homemade wine as a hobby to becoming a bona fide winemaker for the winery as his second career. His mother, Karen, creates the winery’s label designs.

While Napa Valley seems to keep moving in a more glossy, corporate direction, fewer family wineries remain. Each Reid wine varietal is named for a family member. When asked which is his favorite Reid Family Vineyards wine, Reid admits that he’s a bit biased. “That’s like trying to pick your favorite child—they are all great. But if I had to choose, it would be Kevin’s Cabernet Sauvignon.”

The family’s history in the Napa Valley goes far beyond the winery. Reid’s great-great-great grandparents were farmers in the Calistoga area and served as guides for visitors to the region’s geysers in the mid-to late-1800s. Nearly a century and a half later, the family continues that spirit of generosity in the region with Crush MS.

“In my lifetime, we are going to come up with a cure for this thing,” says Reid. He’s confident that this incredible feat can be accomplished because of the recent research breakthroughs. He says that his lead neurologist at Stanford Medicine, Dr. Jeffrey Dunn, has repeatedly told him how close they are to unraveling the mystery of the cause and cure for MS. Hopefully, there will be quite a spectacular Crush MS event soon to celebrate that discovery.

For more information, visit crushms.org.









A Spanish Treasure

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos Courtesy of Carmel Realty Company

The Country Club West neighborhood in Pebble Beach holds a special luxury estate that has been remodeled in the Spanish style: Villa Palermo. This family home, available for vacation rentals, doubles as a luxury oasis and features three bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. The generous grounds are well suited for entertaining and savoring the peacefulness of California's Central Coast.

Outside, renters and their guests can enjoy a fountain flanked by an outdoor dining table, a firepit, and a Celebrity Greens putting course. There is also a bocce ball court as well as multiple planters that can hold an expansive herb and vegetable garden. Villa Palermo provides renters with the opportunity to access Pebble Beach's seven famous golf courses, the natural beauty of Del Monte Forest, and the spectacular coastline of 17-Mile Drive.

The estate has a touch of local history and is on the historic register, having been initially designed by Clarence Tantau, a San Francisco Bay Area architect. Tantau is best known for creating the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, also built with Spanish touches. His numerous large Spanish Colonial Revival style country houses can be found along 17-Mile Drive and farther south, in Santa Cruz County.

While Villa Palermo has a Spanish red tile roof, the home was named for the owner's Italian father, who hailed from Palermo. The residence affords entrance through a Carmel stone walkway lined with a wrought iron gate. The great room contains soaring vaulted ceilings, allowing in a great deal of natural light; the focal point is a warming fireplace.

Villa Palermo has an impeccably designed, expansive chef's kitchen with brand-new Sub-Zero, Wolf, Miele, and Thor appliances. The

kitchen opens into the bright dining and entertainment room. A second sitting room houses a custom fireplace and a large TV and has a conveniently attached full bathroom.

The master bedroom suite is on the main level and has an en suite bathroom. It also allows access to the grounds. Two luxurious guest rooms are found upstairs, one with a private balcony with ocean views. Villa Palermo comes fully furnished with exquisite art and tailored furniture that fit the home.

This property is a perfect fit for visitors looking to enjoy golf, welcome guests, and relax along the Central Coast. It offers all the luxuries of a five-star resort in the comfort of a quiet residential neighborhood.

Villa Palermo was recently remodeled by Holdren Lietzke Architecture, past recipient of Graniterock's Signature of Excellence Merit Award. Additional work to renovate the residence and grounds was accomplished by contractor Geoffrey Norris and award-winning landscape architect Michelle Derviss. The interior design was by Mark Lupo Interiors.

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Grand Landscapes and AI Dreams

By Jessica Zimmer | Photos by Daniel Ambrosi

On September 1, artist Daniel Ambrosi welcomed audiences to “Landscapes & Dreamscapes” at Ocean Blue Vault gallery in Half Moon Bay. The exhibition, an 11-year retrospective of artificial intelligence’s (AI’s) reimaginings of panoramic landscape images, explores the contrast between human and nonhuman ways of seeing the world. It runs through March 30.

Several of Ambrosi’s panoramic images depict California’s Central Coast, with locations including Point Montara Lighthouse south of Montera State Beach and the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach. Ambrosi also includes pastoral and awe-inspiring shots from other United States locations such as Hawai’i and Utah as well as abroad, including New Zealand, Ireland, and Switzerland.

“In 2016, I started altering photo-based scenes I’d captured as early as 2011 with a customized version of Google’s DeepDream software,” says Ambrosi. This program was originally created in 2015 . . . for image recognition. It appears to hallucinate upon the images it’s given.”

Ambrosi begins the process with a Sony RX1 RII camera mounted on a panoramic tripod head. He directs his equipment to capture dozens of overlapping views. Later, he assembles the photos with software that blends multiple exposures, stitches multiple views into a seamless panorama, and crops and sweetens the final image.

In 2015, Ambrosi learned that DeepDream could identify and enhance patterns in images. “My landscape images were so big they crashed the program,” he says. “I asked Joseph Smarr, formerly a principal software engineer at Google, to assist me by rewriting the code. Today, I rent time in the Amazon Cloud for a customized version of DeepDream to do its job.”

After dozens of experiments, Ambrosi commits his preferred settings to a full-resolution version of his landscape image. DeepDream typically runs overnight; when Ambrosi wakes up, he sees what transformations have occurred.

His primary influences for his photographic landscapes are master painters of the Hudson River School, especially Asher Brown Durand and Frederic Edwin Church, and American illustrator and painter Maxfield Parrish. Influences for the AI-altered dreamscapes include Claude Monet and Georges Seurat.

Viewer reactions to “Landscapes & Dreamscapes” have ranged from warm to stunned. “A lot of people thought my dreamscapes, which are two-dimensional images printed on fabric, were actually 3D-printed textures, says Ambrosi. “I like how the AI artworks play with your mind. You start to see forms, shapes, and even creatures in the landscape.”

Ambrosi’s favorite piece is his first digital art object, Dream Scrolls, which consists of nine tall, thin dreamscape slices shown through 18 minutes of continually looping content. “Each slice [depicts] a different real-world location. Each is dreamed in a different style,” he says. “It’s mesmerizing, an explosion of color and surprise.”

Having grown up in New York City, his first photography class was a three-week summer course about black-and-white film at Cornell University in Ithaca. He earned an A+ in the class but never took another photography class. Instead, Ambrosi earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture and a master of science in computer graphics there. He later worked as an architect and an independent marketing communications consultant. As he developed as an artist, he drew upon design training and visual skills gained from decades of work in architecture, 3D graphics, and marketing.

Ambrosi’s interest in conveying the fullness of a landscape inspired him to create a photography technique, “XYZ photography.” This involves obtaining a cubic array of photos that capture very wide angles both horizontally and vertically, and high dynamic range via multiple exposures from dark to light. “My advice for young artists is to have a motivation,” he says. “[Consider] what you want to say before picking up a camera.”

For more information, visit danielambrosi.com.

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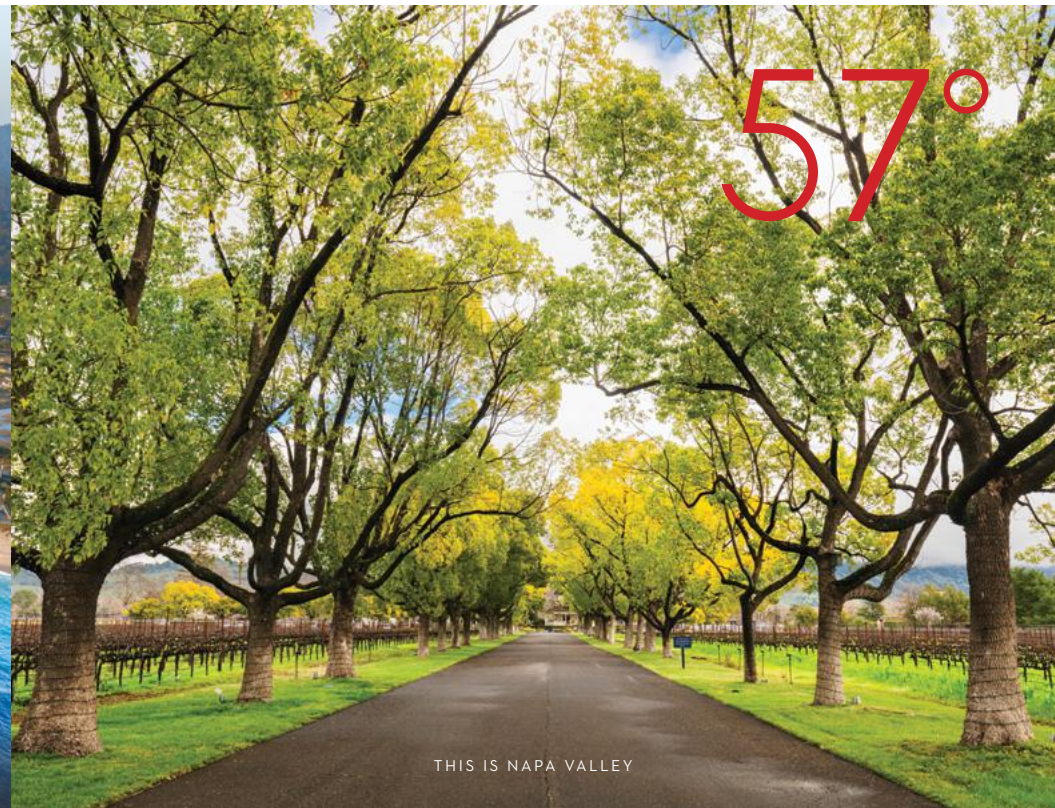
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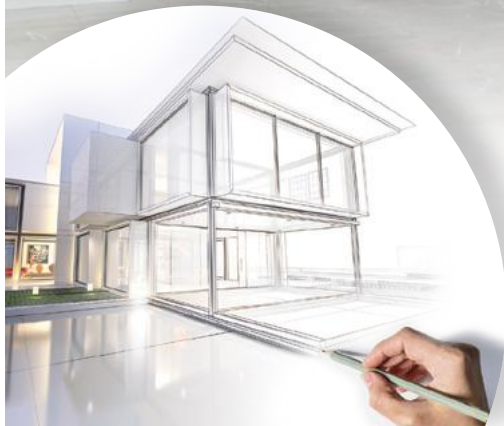


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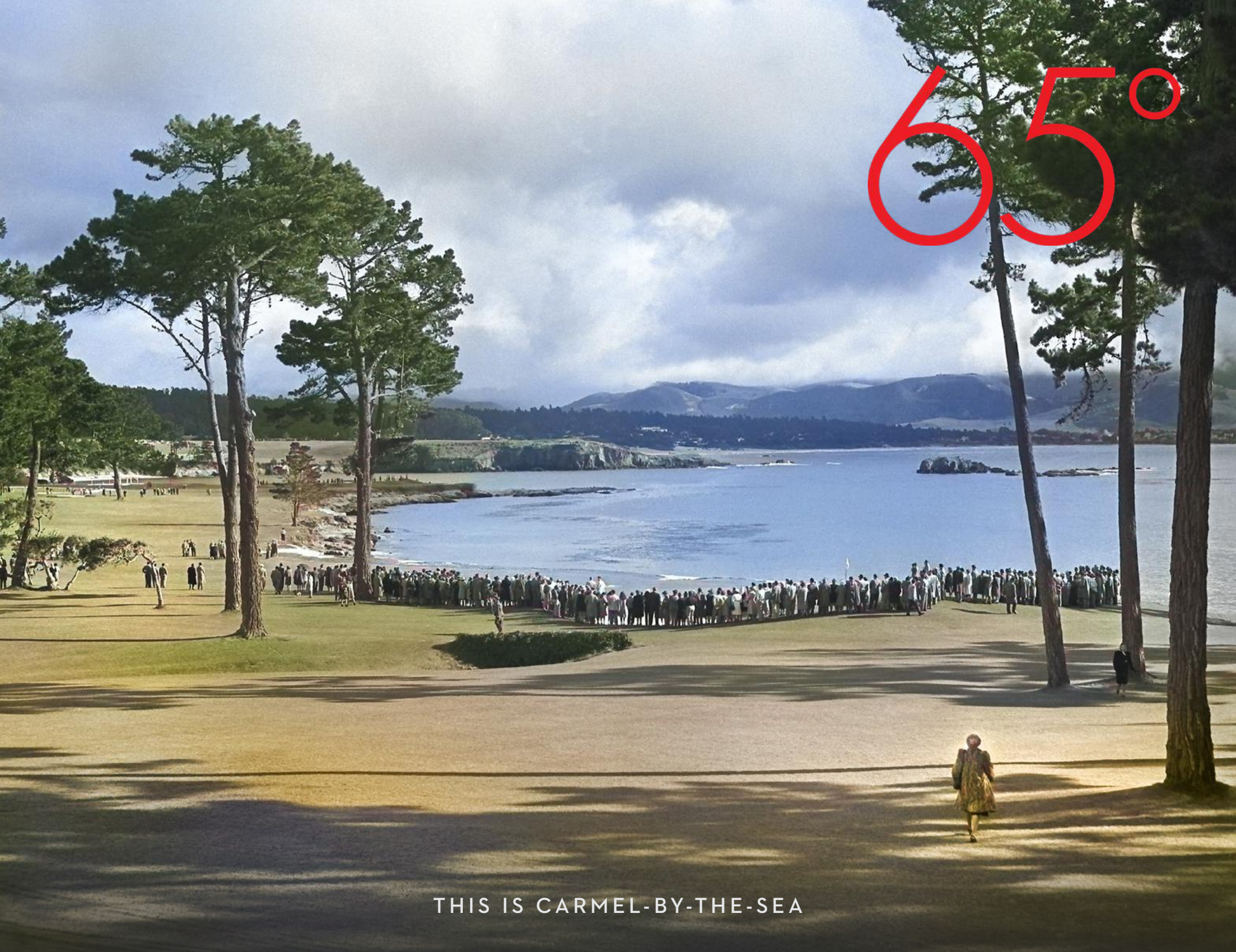
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RICHARD MACDONALD

Duality (Yin & Yang) bronze

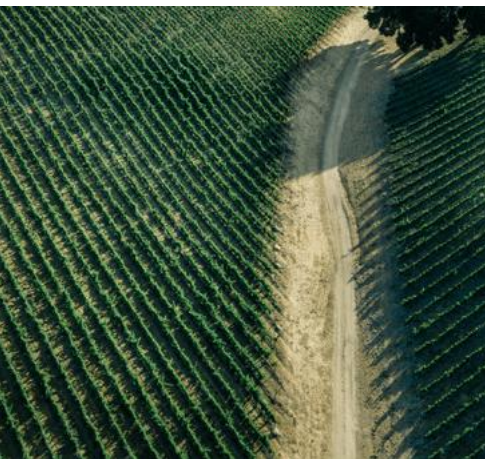
Duality represents the age-old concept of Yin and Yang echoed in an entirely new form. It exemplifies the idea that the melding & balancing of opposites creates balance, harmony, and insight into the pervasive principle of Yin & Yang. Duality brings into focus the idea that darkness is defined by light, strength is balanced by tenderness, and that in the balance of opposing forces there is a center of tranquility and peace.

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(left) RICHARD MACDONALD working with models on 'Duality' in Las Vegas Studio.



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The Big Picture

By Andrea Stuart | Photos by Manny Espinoza

Stuttering airwaves pulse against the Robinson R44's body as photographer Manny Espinoza, strapped into his seat, positions his camera at the edge of the doorway while peering over an expansive fairway.

Hundreds of feet above the ground, equipped with a medium format 102mp Fujifilm GFX 100s and GF35-70 mm lens and poised at an opening where a helicopter door usually hangs, Espinoza finds himself in awe of the expressive vantage point. "This camera, with a sensor 70 percent larger than a full frame camera, allows you to get so much more detail out of a photo," he says. "Because of this, images can be printed larger than with most other cameras." Espinoza has printed images up to 15 feet in size. "It's about as close as you can get to replicating the in-person experience."

For his golf course series, Espinoza has found that an aperture setting of f5 and shutter speeds of at least 500 are ideal when compensating for the shake created by the helicopter blades. "You can feel significant pressure. It has

the power to move your entire arm if you extend it beyond the boundary of the cabin," he shares. "The shaking inside is less but still impacts a shot."

As the helicopter floats up and down the coastline, Espinoza captures the links as topographical etchings. Each course—Cypress Point Club, Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Pebble Beach Golf Links, and Pacific Grove Golf Links—flowing like green seas meandering between sand dunes, often sprawling along breaking surfs.

An esteemed photographer, Espinoza is known for his corporate, real estate, food, and magazine work. However, he's been feeling a pull toward something bigger. "I've been gravitating toward landscapes and large-scale works," he says. "I plan to open my own gallery, where I'll feature wall-sized images. The detail and the stories large images tell are amazing."

For more information, visit mannyespinoza.com.

A large, stylized letter 'B' in a dark blue-grey color, centered within a white rectangular box with a thin black border. The background of the entire image is a scenic landscape of rolling hills, vineyards, and mountains under a warm, golden light.

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The Food Connection

By Bettina McBee | Photos by Kendal DeLaura

The Big Sur Food & Wine Festival, a three-day celebration framed by the breathtaking Big Sur coastline, is an event like no other. Love for Big Sur and the health, safety, and education of its community is the pulse of the festival, a nonprofit driven by the generosity of businesses and volunteers donating to the cause. Opening day kicked off with a magical mystery tour—shuttled excursions with secret destinations. Hiking with Stemware, Pinot Walkabout, and Bubbles & Brushes in the Redwoods are a few of the festival's 10 events.

Dinner with Friends, held by COAST Gallery and Cafe, was a highlight of the festival and was hosted by Executive Chef and Project Director Nick Balla and General Manager Tyler Rue. Smiles were radiant among the mingling guests. The sky began changing hues from the setting sun, and darkness soon filled the sky, ushering in splashes of sparkling stars. Strings of lights and candles reflected off wine glasses as the spotlight turned to the menu.

"Coming from San Francisco, we were welcomed to Big Sur with open arms," says Rue. "The team members feel lucky to

give back." Chef Balla shared the collaborative process of designing the evening's impromptu menu with Chefs Norberto Piattoni, Jennifer Latham, and Mark Mittleman. "It's fun for us to write a menu when you get everybody together," says Balla. "We like to make the process organic."

Sponsorship donations were provided by culinary partners that included Russo's Wholesale Produce, StepLadder Ranch & Creamery, Fogline Farm, and Dahlkemper Farms. Wine selections were curated by Mike and Gina Giugni, owners of and winemakers for Scar of the Sea and Lady of the Sunshine.

Big Sur Food & Wine Festival is a destination celebration. Providing such unique experiences and supporting such an important cause, the festival is more than a culinary event, it's an opportunity to connect with food at its most foundational level.

For more information, visit bigsurfoodandwine.org

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Reimagined Central Coast Classic

By Atissa Manshouri | Photos Courtesy of Carmel Mission Inn

For over 50 years, Monterey Peninsula visitors—many of whom take the classic journey up or down the Pacific Coast Highway—have found respite and recreation at a charming roadside inn along Highway One in Carmel. When Carmel Mission Inn first opened as a Holiday Inn in 1970, *Easy Rider* ruled the silver screen and the supreme cool of the California coastline drew travelers from around the world, looking to experience an epic road trip.

In search of that elusive, evolving California cool, travelers today still flock to the Pacific coastline. At the newly renovated and reimagined Carmel Mission Inn, they will find both a quintessential road trip pitstop and a playful, upscale resort that begs for an extended stay. The recent renovation, completed in 2021, follows on the heels of an earlier 2014 expansion that replaced the old motor drive-up with a vibrant courtyard and introduced meeting space and a signature restaurant. “The owners at the time wanted to breathe new life into the property and create a welcoming space that was different from anything else in the area, which helped to pave the way for the Carmel Mission Inn that exists today,” says General Manager David Lurie.

The recent, multimillion dollar refresh included a revamp of the lobby and public areas, the pool and courtyard, and all 7,000 square feet of flexible meeting and events space. It also marked the opening of Shearwater Tavern, its new California pub. As evidenced by the distinctive personality of the Inn’s shared spaces, style played a paramount role in the design process. According to Lurie, “The overall aesthetic, imagined by Oakland-based Arcsine, offered a whimsical nod to 1970s nostalgia with a mid-century modern design and a coastal palette that evokes guests’ recent travels on the winding California coastline—comprising sandy beaches, rocky coast ranges, majestic Monterey pines, and sparkling blue sea.”

With a perfect perch at the crossroads of Highway One and Rio Road, the Inn makes it easy to explore all that the Monterey Peninsula has to offer, from wine tasting in Carmel Valley to hiking in Big Sur and harbor seal spotting in Pacific Grove. Guests attending events such as AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, the Carmel Art Festival, or Monterey Car Week will also find the Inn to be a perfect home base. “We want to create a sense of community and unique experience with each stay,” says Lurie. Guests can partake of such amenities as the heated swimming pool and fully equipped fitness center and will equally enjoy personal touches, from fresh-baked doughnuts in the lobby to games of cornhole and Connect Four in the courtyard. The quirky cow statues that have been a hallmark of the property since the 1970s also received some tender loving care from local artist Marie-Clare Treseder Gorham. “She did a tremendous job giving them a colorful upgrade,” says Lurie, “and now our guests never leave the property without a photo op with our four-legged friends.”

The property’s owners looked to Los Angeles-based New School restaurant consultants to conceptualize Shearwater Tavern, an 88-seat California pub. A convivial gathering place for the community, the tavern serves breakfast and dinner seven days a week and features a popular happy hour from Tuesdays through Saturdays, offering discounted drinks and small plates. Named for the hearty seabirds that migrate up and down the Pacific coastline, the tavern is the ideal place for travelers and locals alike to unwind and reflect on this special slice of California cool.

For more information, visit carmelmissioninn.com.

A man in a dark blue sweater and khaki pants stands in the center, holding a glass of white wine and smiling. To his left, a woman with blonde hair in a dark top sits on a wooden chair, also holding a glass of wine. To his right, another woman with blonde hair in a dark top sits at a wooden table, looking up at him. The table has a bottle of wine, a plate of grapes and cheese, and a lantern. The background features a white gazebo, lush greenery, and a large palm tree.

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Golf's Unsung Heroes

By Maxine Carlson | Photo Courtesy of Jack Hoenes

The lore and legend of golf caddies echo across the famed courses of Monterey Bay. But outside of the golf world, caddies are practically invisible in recognition or appreciation. The unsung heroes of golf, caddies are keepers of exceptional knowledge.

With sweeping ocean views, the pure beauty offered within the links of Pebble Beach are awe-inspiring if not a bit overwhelming. For seasoned caddies, noticing miniscule terrain shifts, including the subtle ebbs and flows of the greens, are their eagle-eyed specialty. They use laser-like focus to take in important details that affect a game. A highly skilled caddie will do far more than rake bunkers, replace divots, carry a bag, or set ball marks. The Monterey Peninsula generates some of the best qualified caddies within the golf world. Top of its field, the Pebble Beach golf caddie program has been in place since 1919.

Jack Hoenes grew up in Watsonville, CA, and his grandfather, a graduate of San José State University, shared his love of golf with him. Hoenes' high school principal encouraged him to join the golf team, and he excelled, eventually earning a full ride scholarship to Florida A&M University, where he competed at Division I tournaments. Returning to Monterey Bay during college breaks, Hoenes started working as a caddie at Pebble Beach. After graduation, he avoided the constraints of traditional business, seeking the freedom and invigoration of the fairways. Being a professional caddie has served him well.

Pebble Beach caddies are known for their in-depth knowledge and unique perspectives. "The best part is that I get to meet new people every day," says Hoenes. "Some have saved their funds over decades to play the Pebble Beach course; it's a bucket list dream for many people. I meet people from all around the world; the diversity is amazing."

Hoenes shares what's needed to be successful. "It takes a people-person to be a caddy, and a foundation, a solid knowledge of the game," he

says. "It's healthy, being active, breathing clean air, moving outdoors in a beautiful setting," he adds, referring to the fringe benefits.

All caddies are career-minded professionals, but there are differences between caddies working with amateurs versus professionals. Caddies supporting nonprofessionals work with new people each day and provide equipment and course advice. PGA tour caddies support the best of the best within the golf world within a pressure-filled, high-monetary tournament setting. A winning caddie working a PGA tournament typically earns 10 percent of the winnings. It's a demanding role, as they are required to travel the world, supporting their famed professional player. "A pro caddie has a fine line to walk, between following the professional golfer around the world, feeling a part of the golf pro's family, yet still aware that it's a business arrangement," says Hoenes. "The caddie is exchangeable; if game play is suffering, often the caddie is blamed or replaced. When they hit, they hit big, but there are risks, it's a gamble."

Hoenes reflects on typical days on the job, including lessons learned. "I've learned to be humble," he says. "Even with great knowledge of the course, you can't predict all the shots. I am a good listener, and I make sure to point out the beautiful scenery or share local history. Being a caddie is also a bit like being a tour guide. My goal is to make their experience enjoyable and focus on the beauty of the surroundings, also to be positive so that the experience is beyond a score and more than good or bad shots."

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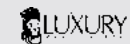


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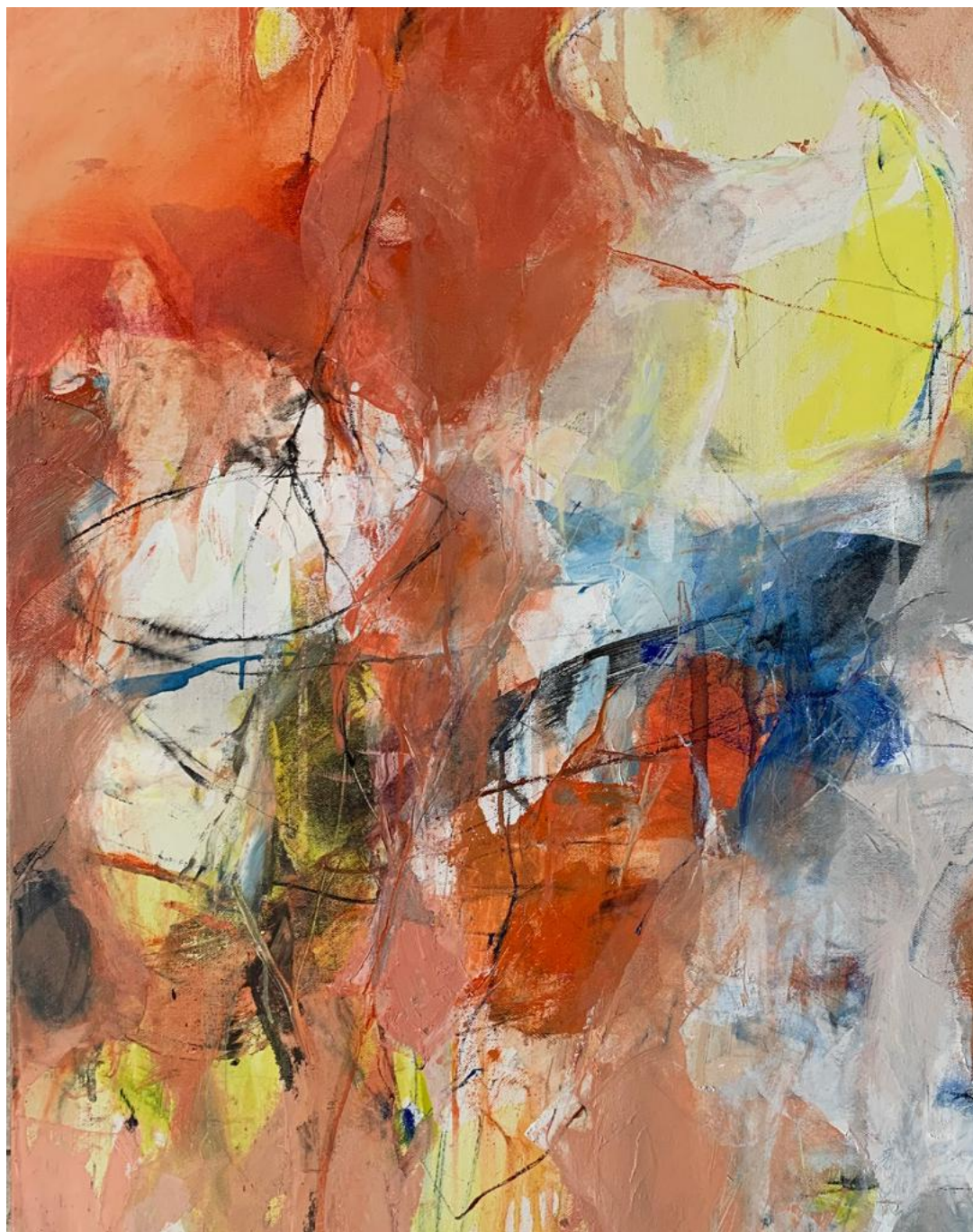
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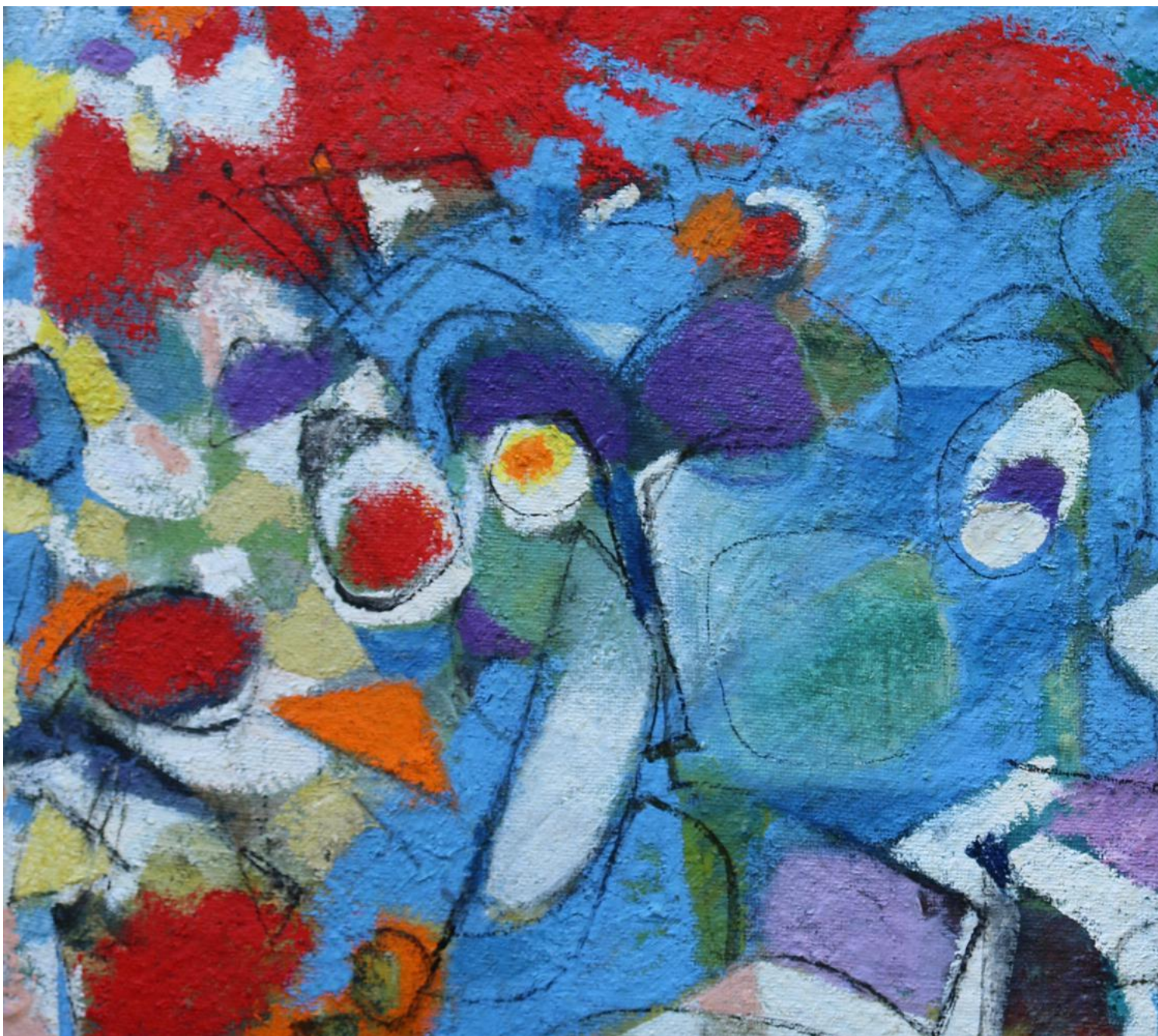
Evocation (2022) by Margaret Asatrian. Oil on canvas, 90 x 100 cm.



Joy (2022) by Margaret Asatrian. Oil on canvas, 100 x 80 cm.



Breeze (2022) by Margaret Asatryan. Oil on canvas, 72 x 86 cm.



Red Birds by Cristian Korn. Oil on canvas, 32 x 44 in.

Processing Reality by Curating

By Christine Soussa | Photos Courtesy of Tamara Hovhannisyan

The art of creating is the ultimate expression of how we process our world. It's not the critic who is celebrated or remembered but rather, the content creator. Artists and creators help synthesize our world. Whether in conflict or celebration, hostility or harmony, the craft captivates the soul and ignites memorable emotion. Tamara Hovhannisyan, who received her doctorate of philosophy from the Institute of Literature at Armenian National Academy of Science, is a global art curator and poet who uses her talent to drive positive change.

Hovhannisyan shares her philosophy on how life, art, war, and beauty intertwine. She has the ability to recognize those who adeptly combine feelings and realities into an experience. The genius of creation comes in many modalities, all with the intention to communicate and arouse a feeling that creates a lasting memory. For Hovhannisyan, her form is fine art. Seeing perpetual beauty, she creates environments in which perceptions are synthesized into masterpieces.

She acknowledges that one doesn't need a lifetime of knowledge or experience to be able to make an impact on society. "As a former educator, I know there are hidden gems all around," she says. "Sometimes, those who are struggling to find their purpose or path or journey are the individuals who have a hidden force and ultimately can change society, good or bad. Thus, we must find ways to create environments where good dominates."

Having emigrated from Armenia, Hovhannisyan wholeheartedly embraces her heritage. She is profoundly moved by Armenia's troubled history, which continues today with a new wave of violence in Artsakh that started in September 2020. Armenia and Artsakh represent noble people with a vast history of art, monuments, a unique ancient language and alphabet, and a place of glorious landscapes. With significant artifacts being destroyed and

countless families being displaced, Hovhannisyan tearfully asks, "How can we allow such horrors to take place?"

Hovhannisyan refuses to allow hardships to overtake her. As she processes reality, she is learning how to carry the load of her life journey in ways that build. She does this through creating, and honoring creators at Gallery Milmar International. Through her experiences, Hovhannisyan has honed a unique skill

of finding international talents who synthesize the vastness of the human spirit into masterpieces. Notable artists at her gallery include Christian Korn and Margaret Asatryan, two artists who use their brushstrokes to communicate the emotions of life's journey. These emotions are shared, as everyone has experienced loss, joy, anger, heartache, and love. Using composition to arrange feelings into relatable art is their purpose; their pieces create connectivity, and it's the power of creativity that brings the world together.

Embracing a mindset that focuses on positive attributes and then using that as a guide as we propel forward can help during the journey from pain to peace with purpose. Hovhannisyan encourages people to take the time to think about the life they want to live, the kind of life they want to create. "What do you want to contribute to this world and our shared humanity?" asks Hovhannisyan. "My hope:

that we use our talents to craft a better version of ourselves. Are we carrying light? Are you a taker or a giver? Nothing is easy. Nothing is given. Realize you are a part of a wealthy world. Embrace the existential beauty." This invitation to focus on self-reflection is a gateway for everyone to be their own artist, creating a better version of themselves, thereby creating a better world.

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



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From Woe to Wow

By Andrea Stuart | Photo by Randy Tunnell

Winter might be the most underappreciated, or at least misunderstood, of the seasons. However, the cooler, darker months of winter provide our bodies with an opportunity for recuperation. Getting into the groove of winter can be as simple as changing our self-care routine to meet our winter needs.

Every organism is governed by a biorhythm or internal clock. The medical community calls this internal clock the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN), which exists in the brain in the anterior hypothalamus. It regulates bodily functions according to daily and seasonal cycles.

“Decreased sun exposure and increased cold weather affect our overall physiology,” says yoga instructor and acupuncturist Bonnie Burns. “Research from sleep specialist Dr. Luisa Bazan [indicates] that less daylight affects our circadian rhythm because our bodies produce less melatonin, the sleep hormone. Serotonin, known as the happy hormone [that also assists in REM sleep cycles], is also affected by light exposure.”

But these changes are essential for allowing us to sync with the season by encouraging us to rest more. As the weather cools and days grow shorter, people commonly feel a shift in their energy and appetite. Some people feel the shift more strongly than others.

Ayurveda, “the science of life” in Sanskrit, is a holistic medical system centered on balancing energetic qualities to prevent illness. It does so through diet, herbal medicine, yoga, meditation, breathing exercises, and acupuncture. While each person may be affected differently by changing seasons, some lifestyle changes provide fairly universal benefits. For instance, when we balance how we feel with its opposite—moving the body when we feel sluggish or doing slow breathing when we are anxious—we help to correct an imbalance that can lead to sleep and energy disturbances.

In winter, Burns recommends starting the day with gentle yoga and back extensions. “Moving slowly through postures, matching each breath with movement, can give us enough stimulation and energy to move through sluggishness,” she explains. She suggests these simple exercises for a quick pick-me-up:

1. Lie on your back with knees bent and keep your feet hip distance apart. Place the arms by your sides and press them into the floor, palms facing down. Lift the hips slowly as you inhale into bridge pose. Exhale as you lower the hips down to the ground. Repeat this a few times to open the front of the hips, abdomen, and chest and to strengthen the legs and back.
2. While on your hands and knees with your legs hip-distance apart and your hands under your shoulders, take a slow breath in as you drop your belly toward the floor and allow your head and tailbone to raise up slightly. On an exhale, reverse the movement, pulling the belly toward the spine, tucking the chin toward the chest. Moving through this “cat/cow” sequence warms the body, stretches the front and back body, and stimulates the bladder and kidney meridians, that is, they body's energy pathways.
3. At the end of the day, a forward fold or two can help wind us down, de-stress, and prepare for bed. Sit with your knees slightly bent and drape your upper body over your lower body. Or go into what's known as “child's pose.” Hold the pose for a few minutes while you breathe slowly.

If we pay attention to the signals that our bodies give us during the winter, we can use movement to synchronize with the natural rhythms of this slower season. We can turn our winter woes into winter wows.

For more information, visit bonnieburnswellness.com.





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Alejandro Hernandez - Chef de Cuisine

The image shows the exterior of Carmel's Hidden Gem Restaurant at night. The building is covered in dense green ivy. A black awning over the entrance and a larger black awning over the window display both feature the restaurant's name in white. The entrance has a black door and a window, with a small black mailbox next to it. To the left, there is an outdoor patio with tables, chairs, and two tall patio heaters. String lights are strung along the top of the building. The window display shows the interior of the restaurant with tables, chairs, and plants. A brick planter box with various green plants runs along the base of the building.

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A Family Tradition

By Jessica Zimmer | Photo Tristan Babaian

The Flores family offers luxury flooring to customers throughout the Monterey Peninsula. Its premier showroom, at 414 Adams Street in Monterey, displays a curated selection of high-end brands. Customers should ask for Francesca, Jerry, or Frank to learn about top-quality products for a home or business.

“Carpet Caravan was built around the idea of family,” says Francesca Flores. “Our sales and installation teams include folks who have been with the company for decades. And every customer is treated with care and respect. We listen and learn as we create the perfect floor plan for you.”

Francesca leads day-to-day operations alongside her father, Frank Flores. Her brother Jerry Flores heads up sales.

Carpet Caravan has been a part of the community for over 30 years. Its new interior design-inspired showroom is intimate and personable. In the

store, customers can learn how to pair name-brand carpets, hardwood floors, and laminates with furniture and wall paneling.

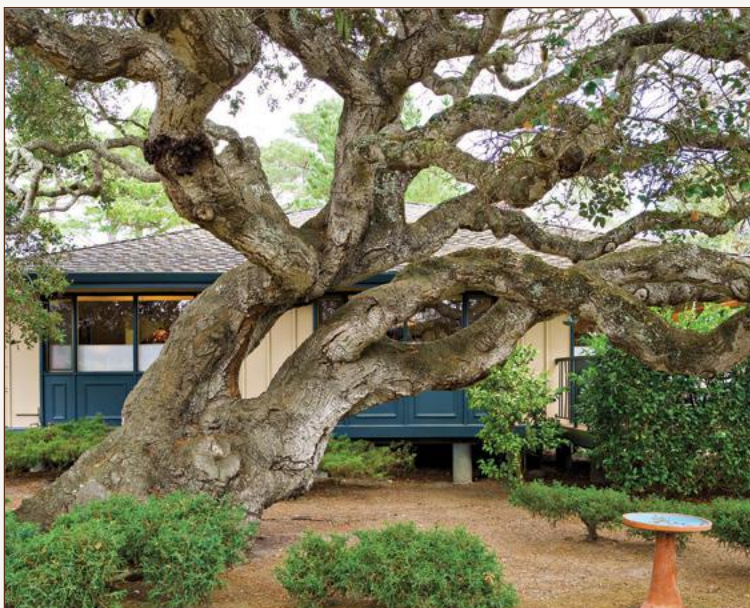
Customers can count on Jerry and Francesca knowing flooring inside and out. Frank’s two oldest children grew up in the business. They’ve joined full-time to help Carpet Caravan continue to evolve and grow. “There are no two people that can help us serve the community better than Francesca and Jerry,” says Frank.

The two were inspired to join Frank because they are passionate about building on what their father started many years ago. “We wanted to offer a modern approach to running the business,” says Francesca. “We’ll never lose sight of our ‘every customer is part of the family’ service philosophy.”

“The right flooring package is all about touch, feel, and color,” says Jerry. “Come visit our showroom, where you’ll see the looks come alive.”



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Charitable Legacy

By Maxine Carlson | Photos Courtesy of Monterey Peninsula Foundation

History, legend, and an iconic location earns top honors for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, recognized as one of the most popular tournaments on the PGA tour. In 1947, the Central Coast became the setting for the Pebble Beach Pro-Amateur Golf Championship. What began as The Crosby Clambake evolved, combining golf, celebrities, and charity, and standing up to the test of time.

Due to the combination of talented leadership and dedicated volunteers, charitable donations are breaking gift-giving records. The funds benefit the arts, culture, community, environment, education, health, human services, and youth programs. The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am thrives, continuing the long history of philanthropy within Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties.

Clint Eastwood, Monterey Peninsula Foundation's chairman of the board, shares his insight regarding the tournament's legacy. "We have been fortunate to build upon a rich tournament history and have the support of a remarkable title sponsor for over 40 years," he says. "We have an engaged community of fans and volunteers that embrace our event and our charitable mission. The tournament makes an incredible impact right here in our community."

Over the years, local community services have been strongly supported, thanks to the charity funds generated by the tournament. Steve John, chief executive officer of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and tournament director, reflects on the charitable process. "Tremendous individuals make up our grant committee," he says. "They are focused on local needs and are experts within their communities. They contribute enormous oversight and insight. They are nimble and flexible, making sure to keep in mind the unique support that their community needs."

New to the tournament this year is the solidification of the 3M Celebrity Challenge events, which are always a big draw and provide opportunities to

get close to celebrities. Perhaps most importantly, the event is an occasion where golfers can win \$125,000 for charity as fans show their support from three designated viewing areas. The 3M Challenge takes place at The Hay in Pebble Beach. "This year, we will have the event in one location," says John. "It will be easier to access and for fans to enjoy. The Hay is a great location."

Fans with access to Eastwood's Saloon will be able to experience clear views of the fairway from the 15th hole location at Pebble Beach Golf Links. Embraced by the world-renowned setting of Pebble Beach, fans can truly feel the love of the game.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of such endeavors, and it takes over 2,000 of them to run the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Sponsorship is another effective avenue for supporting this charitable cause, as is purchasing tournament tickets.

With a cherished history and a bright future ahead, the tournament continues making memories for the next generation of fans. It is evident that invigoration and growth provide a solid foundation for supporting many community needs. "The life blood, the driving force behind the charitable efforts of the foundation, is the AT&T [Pebble Beach] Pro-Am. The future is bright. Each year it's gaining speed," says John.

The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am combines celebrities and professional sports figures with a mix of top-tier golf players splayed across challenging courses. Golf fans enjoy world-class tournament events with an eye toward supporting the local charitable causes.

For more information, visit montereypeninsulafoundation.org or attpbgolf.com.



Photos by Manny Espinoza





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Sweetest Surprise

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos Courtesy of Cake4Kids

Everyone has a birthday—a special day dedicated to the moment that they entered this world. Birthdays carry symbolic significance and are celebrated with enthusiasm in most global cultures. But many children living in Monterey County do not experience the warmth, love, and individualized celebrations that most of us enjoy on our birthdays.

Cake4Kids began in 2010 with a sweet and simple mission: making sure that all children can celebrate their birthdays with cake. Since then, the nonprofit has delivered 40,000 cakes to children in refugee camps, group homes, foster care, and other settings associated with the 750 Cake4Kids partner agencies across the country. In Monterey County, children have blown out candles on 700 Cake4Kids creations since Jen Ibarra took the leap to start a local chapter of the nonprofit in 2020.

Ibarra serves as an operations manager for Cake4Kids and is a volunteer ambassador for the newly formed Monterey region of the Sunnyvale-based nonprofit. Ibarra got hooked on cake decorating after attempting a Winnie-the-Pooh cake for her first child's first birthday. In the years that followed, Ibarra made birthday cakes for her four children's special days as well as for other local children from her church or community who didn't have a birthday cake.

When the COVID-19 pandemic was declared and many volunteer opportunities were unavailable, Ibarra discovered Cake4Kids and quickly established the Monterey chapter. "We recognize these kids have bigger needs, but that's not all that's needed for a child to have a full and happy life," explains Ibarra. "They need to know they matter. During the [first waves of the] pandemic, one of our agencies told me it was the single most important thing they did because they were cut off from the kids as well. [The cakes provided] a crucial bridge to kids."

More than 160 Monterey-area volunteer bakers sign on to an online portal to review the types of cakes that children have dreamed up.

Birthday boys and girls can choose the theme, colors, icing, and flavors they want, and the child's name is always on the cake.

Volunteer Kiska Icard discovered Cake4Kids as a way to improve her baking skills while helping others during the initial waves of the pandemic. Icard was impressed with how simple it was to make a difference and cherishes the thank-you sentiments she received from a teen who loved her red velvet creation. "Go to the website and register. Do it now," says Icard. "There is zero downside. You may volunteer as little or as much as you would like. It will make you a better baker, and a better person."

Bakers of all skill levels come together to do something special for a child they will never meet. Instead, agency partners, such as Lori at Rancho Cielo, deliver the Cake4Kids creations on the volunteers' behalf. Lori explains that many of the children she works with either never experienced getting a birthday cake or never received one that they did not have to share with other children in their group-living environment.

For Lori, Ibarra's work to organize Cake4Kids in Monterey was perfect timing, as the children had become increasingly depressed and isolated during the pandemic's shutdowns. A cheerful cake celebrating all of the child's favorite things, from sharks to social media, was helpful. "A thank you is not enough," says Lori about the volunteer bakers, who put so much love into the birthday cakes. "It can be hard for these kids to share emotions," she says. "When you surprise them with something they're not expecting . . . that they're not forgotten, and someone did something just for them . . . wow, what an amazing feeling."

For more information, visit cake4kids.org.

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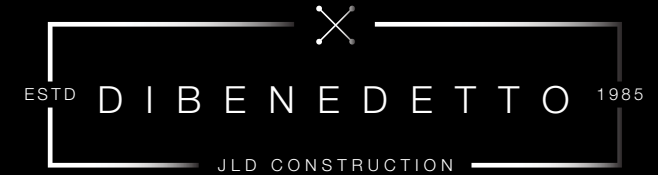
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Be Our Guest

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photo by Manny Espinoza

Carmel institution Anton & Michel still earns raves for its warm yet modern ambiance, and guests love the menu's classic elegance, including what-is-old-is-new-again tableside preparations of flambé desserts bananas Foster, cherries jubilee, and crêpes Suzette. But before guests sample the award-winning fine dining, they may encounter one of the 43-year-old establishment's newest features: a 27-year-old Croatian former male model and resident philosopher named Strahinja "Straw" Jagetic.

Jagetic came to Carmel after a decade-long whirlwind of serious pursuits. The six-foot, six-inch manager of the iconic restaurant kicks up his feet at the bar one recent morning, a wedding the night before rendering him tired and reflective. "I made peace a long time ago with 'what I'm going to be when I grow up,'" he explains. "When people ask me, 'Where do you see yourself in 10 years?' A mirror."

A matter-of-fact confidence fuels Jagetic. Far from being bombastic, his demeanor presents as stoic and cerebral. His favorite adages, such as "the plan is not to have a plan" and "day by day," reflect a Zen-like approach to life. He credits the idea that "slow is smooth, smooth is fast" as being a lifelong game changer. It served him well as a youth rower in Croatia, during what Jagetic calls "a beautiful part of my life." He fondly remembers still mornings cloaked in fog, being totally in tune with his breathing and body. But when he sensed that the demands of rowing were causing a loss of life's balance, he explored a new life-changing pursuit: high fashion modeling.

He quickly lost 60 pounds when he stopped rowing and almost immediately began walking in Milan Fashion Week for famous designers such as John Varvatos. At 17, Jagetic traded oars for catwalks, and continued doing so for the next seven years. He modeled for designers such as Hugo Boss and legendary hair stylist Vidal Sassoon.

"I traveled for free. [Modeling] has its benefits," says the polyglot, who is fluent in English and various Balkan languages with some basic German and Chinese dialects tossed in. But being a "professional coat hanger" in Hong Kong or Singapore again threatened to throw Jagetic off balance. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the world, Jagetic left his modeling career in China for Carmel's cobblestones.

In addition to welcoming Anton & Michel guests with his signature wit and sarcasm, Jagetic watches the educational shows, including *How It's Made*, that taught him English and relaxes in places that evoke the homey European atmosphere he remembers from an idyllic rural childhood. "Family is considered the holiest thing," he says. "That's the beautiful part that I miss a lot."

For now, Jagetic finds the home he craves at his favorite Carmel-by-the-Sea spots—what he calls the "very European" Cafe dal Mare and the "people's bar" at Sade's Cocktails. He praises both, appreciating the owners and clientele who make him feel so welcome although his sports acumen is lacking. "I can barely distinguish baseball from softball from golf, and American football is over my head," he says.

Longtime Anton & Michel server Terry Davis appreciates Jagetic's quirky attitude and enjoys trading colloquialisms with the easygoing manager. "He's one of the most intelligent men I've ever met," says Davis. "[Customers] respond very well to his dry sense of humor. He's a pleasure to work with."

As Davis finishes up her spontaneous, glowing comments, a deadpan Jagetic mock-surreptitiously presses cash into her hand, taking long, runway-worthy strides in the opposite direction to welcome and banter with the day's hungry guests.

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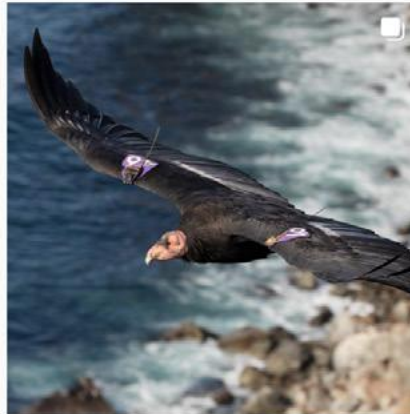
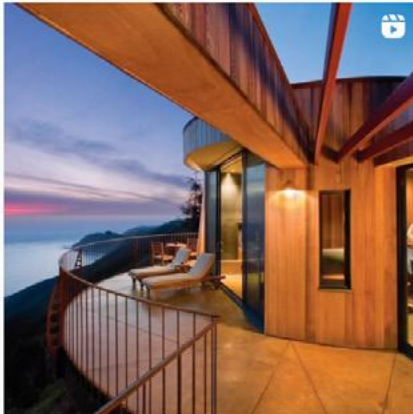
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Show and Tell

By Caitlin Fillmore | Photos Courtesy of Simon Bull

Since he arrived in the United States from Bedfordshire, England, in 2003, Simon Bull's vibrant art has turned heads, leading to partnerships with Muhammad Ali and the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympics. Now, this innovative artist is displaying his fresh approach to fine art at his two Meuse Gallery locations: on Main Street in St. Helena and at the corner of Ocean Avenue and Monte Verde Street in Carmel-by-the-Sea. Bull recently offered a live painting "Art Spectacular" in St. Helena to introduce art lovers of all ages to the dazzling performance of his art.

Bull uses unorthodox methods to make his paintings, and the 64-year-old is continuously expanding his art form. Discarded CD racks, rolls of paper towels, and a spinning potter's wheel all contribute to bright and interesting pieces. Vibrant colors are spun, smeared, and poured, developing dynamic, bold artworks.

Marisa Herrera-Keehn, Bull's brand manager, describes his art as fun, happy, and reassuring. While he uses unusual materials, he has an extensive fine arts background. "Simon

loves to paint conventionally using unconventional tools," says Herrera-Keehn.

The recent "Art Spectacular" served as a way for Bull to get up close with his enormous, rapidly growing audience. Once he started sharing behind-the-scenes footage on social media, he earned more than a half-million followers in only six months. Bull's event hosted about 70 people at a time during four hours of live painting, with roughly 400 people watching the livestream and commenting in several different languages.

"[He] is having so much fun, coming up with new ideas, both what he feels is most exciting for him and most exciting for someone to watch," says Herrera-Keehn, who prolifically shares mesmerizing videos of Bull's work online. "People walked away experiencing something different."

For more information, visit bullart.com.



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