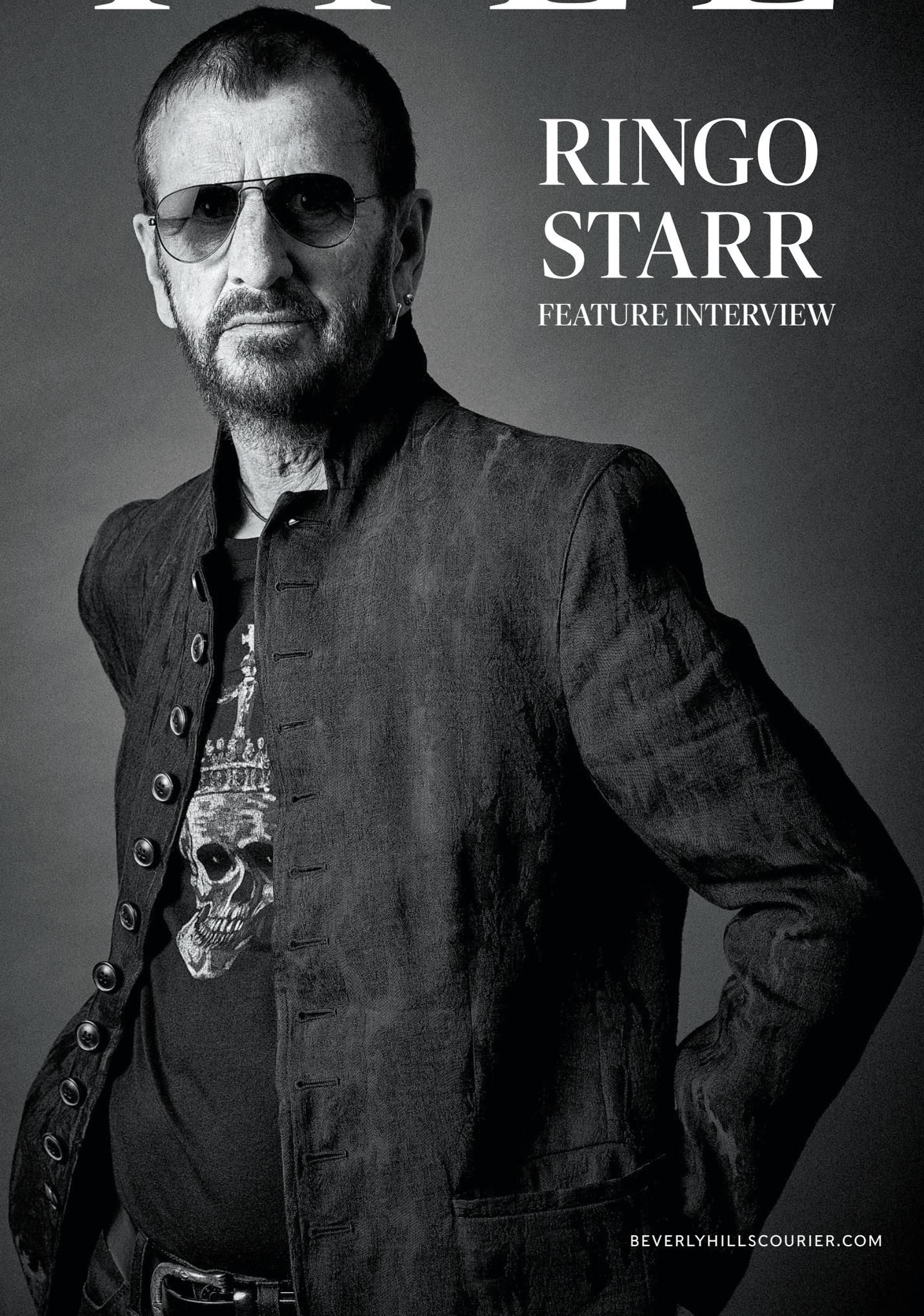


BEVERLY HILLS *COURIER*

STYLE

RINGO
STARR

FEATURE INTERVIEW





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LISA BLOCH & JOHN BENDHEIM

Welcome to our second annual Holiday STYLE magazine, a beautiful, tangible celebration of the Courier's 55 years of informing and connecting the people of our great City of Beverly Hills and its surrounding communities.

What a year it has been. As we have endured extraordinary and historic events, the Courier's purpose has never been more obvious. And through it all, we hope you have recognized the countless positive changes in content and design in the newspaper, STYLE magazine, and the new beverlyhillscourier.com website.

Providing accurate and comprehensive news and information, we believe, is essential. Evidenced through our heightened engagement, the Courier's constant surveillance, exploration and excellent writing in and around our community is making a difference. It's informing you about the decisions made in our local government, the events that happen to our neighbors, and the heroic actions by our City professionals in an effort to support us in the community. What happens on our street corners, or in our local restaurants, significantly impacts us. Communication is crucial as each and every one of us is a part of a whole, a whole vibrant community.

Yes, we are challenged and weary by the events of 2020, but it's holiday time. More than ever, we need to change up the conversation, refocus on what is truly important to us, and move graciously toward welcoming in the holiday spirit. Let's seize the moments of joy, family and friends, gifts and wishes. It's time to make peace and spread love.

And who better to help us do that? Ringo Starr, the world's greatest ambassador of peace and love who happens to reside in Beverly Hills.

"With a Little Help from My Friends," the Honorable Councilwoman Lili Bosse and Commissioner Jill Collins, we were able to reach Ringo, and he quickly agreed to do an interview. A shining star shone down on me that evening.

Thank you, Ringo Starr, for showing our community what "community" really means.

John and I, and the Courier team, hope you find this Holiday STYLE issue fun and engaging, informative and thought provoking, uplifting and enjoyable. Thank you to all of our wonderful local, national and international advertisers who support us with this publication, and each week of every calendar year.

May you enjoy a holiday season filled with "Peace, Love and Holiday Wishes" coming true. As we look towards a healthier 2021, always know we are a community and we are in this together!

LISA BLOCH, PUBLISHER

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Diamonds and Stars

BY ANA FIGUEROA

“Perhaps time’s definition of coal is the diamond.”
Khalil Gibran

There are diamonds in the stars. In fact, the largest diamond in the known universe is a white dwarf star in the constellation of Centarus. Made (like all diamonds) of carbon that has crystalized, she illuminates the cosmos with a brilliant 10 billion trillion trillion carats. The stunned scientists who discovered the sparkler nicknamed her “Lucy” in homage to the Beatles’ iconic “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.”

Compared to Lucy’s luminescence, all the diamonds ever mined here on earth are but a speck of dust. Then again, they’re infinitely more accessible. Lucy is 50 light years away.



SUSIE FOX HANDMADE MULTI-COLORED COGNAC DIAMOND BRACELET IN 14K GOLD WITH 7.1 CT. MULTI-COLORED COGNAC DIAMONDS PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSIE FOX JEWELRY

Here in Beverly Hills, the diamond trade is certainly lofty by earthly standards.

Jeweler Jacques Mouw’s family is renowned for buying and cutting one of the largest diamonds ever mined on this planet. The 353-carat rough diamond was cut into the fifth largest pear-shaped diamond in the world, named “Premier Rose” after Mouw’s mother.

These days, business at Jacques Mouw Precious Jewels on Brighton Way is thriving, despite the pandemic.

“People are coming to us. They aren’t going on exotic cruises right now, so they’re buying jewelry,” Mouw told the Courier.

Martin Katz is similarly upbeat. His business, Martin Katz Ltd. has served as the gold standard in Beverly Hills jewelry for more than three decades. For two of those decades, he has operated from his eponymous boutique on Brighton Way.

“People are battle fatigued with the pandemic. They’ve been locked in their homes with very little access to anything that makes them feel better, from travel to entertaining. As a result of that, disposable income is pretty good because they’ve saved a lot of money. We have surprisingly but happily discovered there is pent up demand,” Katz told the Courier.

He noted that clients are increasingly interested in larger items.

“Certainly, people are buying to cheer themselves up and build some sense of normalcy. What I’ve really been surprised about is the request for large, important stones. Quite recently, we have sold sapphires and diamonds in the 20-30 carat range,” he said.

The pandemic may have changed our social calendar. But, the calendar itself moves forward. Birthdays and anniversaries still take place. Couples continue to get engaged, all of which helps jewelry sales, said Katz.

“Milestone events are definitely motivating purchases right now. I think there’s a sense of ‘who knows what this pandemic is going to bring? I’d rather have this asset to pass to my kid.’”

M. Kantor & Associates has operated on Dayton Way since 1970.

“I’ve been doing this for 51 years and I’ve never seen a jump like this. People are interested in high quality, larger stones that they believe have intrinsic value. That’s why you see the lines at the fine jewelry stores,” the firm’s principal Michael Kantor told the Courier.

The notion that fine jewelry will last a lifetime and then some is definitely propelling sales. According to the De Beers Group Diamond Insight Report, 90 percent of consumers feel it is important to give a gift to a loved one this holiday that holds its value over time.



WHISTLE TANZANITE DROP EARRINGS IN 18KT WHITE GOLD, SAPPHIRE AND DIAMOND MICROSETTING SIGNED M PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN KATZ LTD.



SOMEWHERE IN LORO PIANA



Loro Piana



BEA BONGIASCA DOUBLE VINE TENDRIL RING WITH PASTEL MAUVE ENAMELED SILVER AND DROP CUT ROCK CRYSTAL
PHOTO COURTESY OF BEA BONGIASCA

That’s an encouraging sign for an industry whose bottom line suffered dramatically in the early months of the pandemic. Fortunately, sales have not only rebounded, they’ve improved. According to Edahn Golan Diamond Research & Data, U.S. fine jewelry sales were up by 10 percent over 2019 by late summer.

Additional factors favorably affecting jewelry sales include the time spent at home in recent months. People are reflecting on their lives and relationships with gratitude, said De Beers. Moreover, everyone is looking to break the monotony a bit.

“People are wearing their jewelry, even around the house,” said Katz.

Susie Fox is a trendsetter in jewelry for every day.

“I don’t create things that will just sit in a jewelry box. I create things for people to enjoy all the time,” said Fox.

Fox launched her business in Silicon Valley and is newly-open in Southern California (susiefoxjewelry.com). Her designs incorporate 14k and 18k recycled gold with conflict-free diamonds, ancient beads, vintage artifacts and precious and semiprecious stones.

“We’re selling a lot of jewelry now. I can’t keep up with demand. In the beginning of the pandemic, during March and April, we were really quiet. Then all of a sudden around Mother’s Day we were up 20 to 30 percent over what we normally do every year,” said Fox.

Fox employs two full-time jewelers to create her pieces. Although business is up, her operations have definitely changed. “I source all my diamonds, emeralds, sapphires and rubies. I curate them myself from around the world. I work a lot with old European-cut diamonds. We would go around the world to shows in Basel and other places. Lately, that aspect has been difficult,” she said.

Nonetheless, Fox is still fulfilling a big client demand for items such as custom engagement rings and scattered diamond designs.

“These gems have life in them: their colors speak, say what words fail of.” George Eliot

“Right now, people are working from home, but they still want to treat themselves. Smaller items that clients can wear every day are particularly hot,” said Fox.

“Clients are asking for little, fine necklaces or small earrings. I do a lot of stacked bracelets and layered necklaces. Lots of people are also asking for charm necklaces and custom charms that are meaningful to them,” she noted.

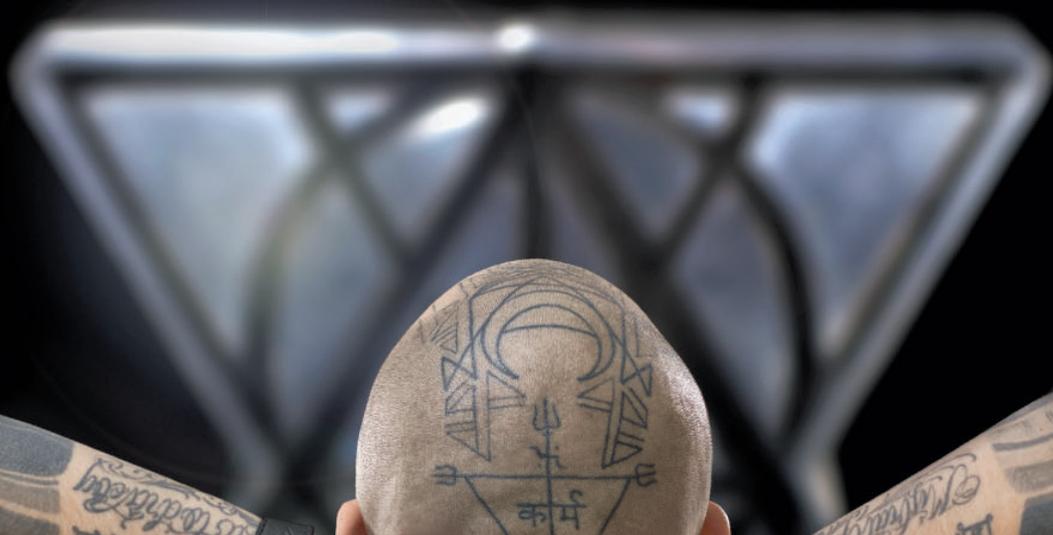
The layering trend is “huge” at Neiman Marcus in Beverly Hills. “We are seeing it on wrists, fingers, and necks,” said Neiman Marcus Vice President, Divisional Merchandise Manager, Precious Jewels, Larry Pelzel.

Pelzel told the Courier that Beverly Hills patrons are definitely looking for brands that will help them stand out during the holiday season. “They are looking for necklaces, cuff bracelets, and more wearable jewelry from modernist brands such as Messika, Anita Ko, Nikos Koulis, Spinelli and more,” he said.



BUCCELLATI HAWAII PENDANT EARRINGS IN YELLOW GOLD
PHOTO COURTESY OF BUCCELLATI

DIAMONDS AND STARS CONTINUED ON PAGE 46



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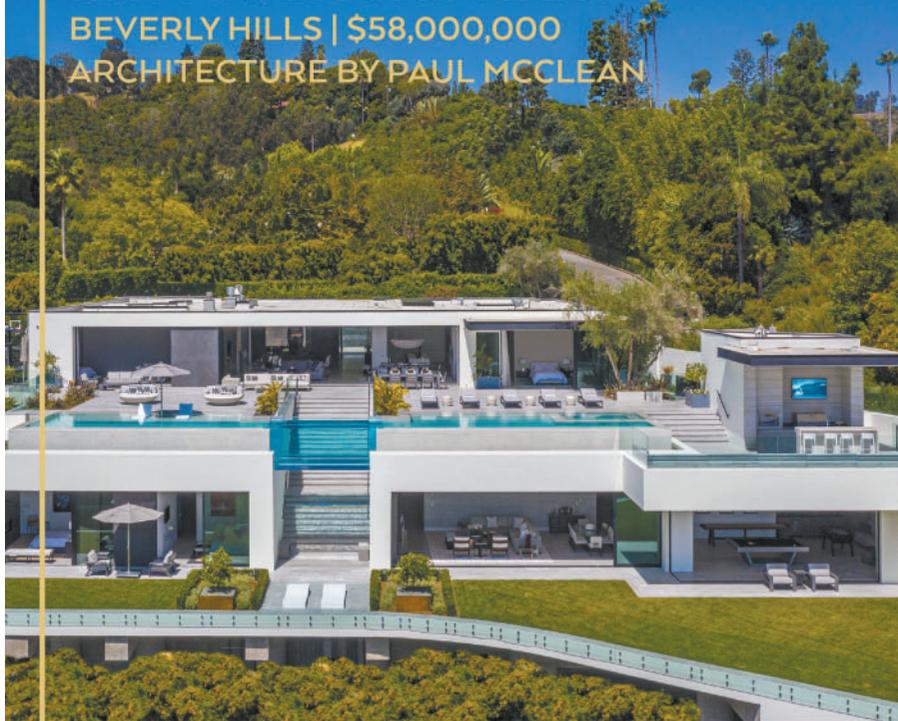
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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

VISIONS IN LIGHT: WINDOWS ON THE WALLIS

NOW - NOV. 29

WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

9390 N. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

BEVERLY HILLS

8 - 11 P.M.

The City of Beverly Hills and Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts have teamed up with TZ Projects to launch “Visions in Light: Windows on The Wallis,” running nightly through Nov. 29. Projected on the windows of The Wallis, “Visions in Light” is a free drive-by art exhibit featuring over 40 established and emerging artists of diverse cultures portraying work meant to inspire joy, wonder and awareness.

<https://tzprojects.org/>

SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE “ALICE AND THE WONDERFUL TEA PARTY”

NOW - DEC. 30

VIRTUAL

Santa Monica Playhouse presents “Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party” based on the beloved books from Lewis Carroll, newly adapted for watching online. The production features Tiffany Haile, Cydne Moore, Joseph Perez and Graham Silbert. The musical comedy is for all ages and streams on-demand on the Santa Monica Playhouse website.

<https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/aliceonline2020.html>

THE ELF ON THE SHELF’S MAGICAL HOLIDAY DRIVE- THRU JOURNEY

NOW-JAN.3

1101 W. MCKINLEY AVE., POMONA

5 - 11 P.M.

In this immersive drive-thru experience, guests participate in an hour-long adventure to help save Christmas after Santa Claus encounters a sleigh mishap. Attendees are transported through a series of larger-than-life, holiday dream worlds to help find the magic Santa needs to fly again, including a Toy Repair Workshop, Gingerbread Village covered in decadent candy, Arctic Winter Wonderland, Santa’s Magical Grotto, and more. A toy drive benefits Toys for Tots and Children’s Hospital L.A.

<https://elfontheshelfjourney.com>

THE SORAYA “VIOLINS OF HOPE” PERFORMANCE

NOV. 20

VIRTUAL

5 P.M.

“Violins of Hope” is an internationally renowned collection of over 60 stringed instruments rescued from the Holocaust and restored by second-generation violin maker, Amnon Weinstein, and his son, Avshalom in Tel Aviv. In September, these instruments were brought to the stage for a farewell performance. The concert will be broadcast online from The Soraya beginning Nov. 20.

<https://www.thesoraya.org>

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN’S GLOW

NOV. 21 - JAN. 10

26300 CRENSHAW BLVD.

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

5:30 - 9 P.M.

South Coast Botanic Garden presents “Glow,” a visually stunning art installation that will transform the lush botanic oasis into an oceanic experience for the Gardens Lights and Ocean Waters theme using thousands of lights. The walk is set to an artistically curated soundtrack featuring various musical genres. Enjoy this unique and unforgettable after-dark walk through the Garden. Advance timed-tickets are required.

<https://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/glow/>

BIG SUNDAY’S 9TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING STUFFING EVENT

NOV. 22

VIRTUAL

4 - 5 P.M.

Big Sunday’s Thanksgiving Stuffing Event will take place online on Nov. 22. The goal is for the community to pack over 2,000 Thanksgiving bags at home for grateful and hungry people, which will be delivered to the Big Sunday headquarters at 6111 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles on Nov. 23. The online stuffing event will include music and entertainment. During Thanksgiving week, there will be limited in-person packing in Big Sunday’s parking lot and a RSVP is required. Sign-up to participate, donate food or sponsor bags.

<https://bigsunday.org/get-involved/thanksgiving-3/>

WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS HERSHEY FELDER MUSICAL EVENTS

NOV. 22, DEC. 20

VIRTUAL

5 P.M.

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents two live streamed musical events. Hershey Felder takes the audience on his own personal journey in “Hershey Felder as Claude Debussy in A Paris Love Story,” which explores the life and music of Impressionist composer Claude Debussy. “Hershey Felder, Tchaikovsky” features an extended focus on “The Nutcracker” ballet as well as Tchaikovsky’s life in Florence, Italy.

<https://thewallis.org/>

MACY’S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

NOV. 26

TELEVISION BROADCAST

9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

The Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade is shifting to a television only special presentation. Some performances are filmed in advance, though the majority of the production is still live from 34th Street in New York. The parade will keep its signature touchstones, including larger-than-life balloons, dazzling floats, big stars and Santa Claus. The 94th annual Thanksgiving Day Parade will air nationwide on NBC-TV on Nov. 26 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in all time zones.

<https://www.macys.com/social/parade/>

TURKEY TROT LOS ANGELES

NOV. 26

VIRTUAL

Continue the Thanksgiving tradition by participating in the 5k or 10k Turkey Trot over Thanksgiving weekend. Complete the race between Nov. 25 and Nov. 29, run in a location that is safe and qualify for prizes. The event supports The Midnight Mission that offers a path to self-sufficiency for those experiencing homelessness. Donate or create a fundraising team and help reach the goal of raising \$50,000, which pays for over 33,000 meals.

<https://turkeytrot.la/>

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE “CHARLES DICKENS’ A CHRISTMAS CAROL”

NOV. 28 - JAN. 3

VIRTUAL

6 P.M.

Geffen Playhouse’s hit 2018 production “Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol” was filmed for on-demand viewing by On the Stage streaming, with a release date of Nov. 28. The timeless tale of Ebenezer Scrooge comes to new life as Tony Award winner Jefferson Mays plays over 50 roles in a master class of a performance that must be seen to be believed. Streaming is available for 24 hours after activating the link.

<https://www.geffenplayhouse.org/shows/charles-dickens-a-christmas-carol-2020/>

WONDERLAND HOLIDAY DRIVE - THRU ADVENTURE

NOV. 30 - DEC. 23, DEC. 26 - 30

6100 TOPANGA CANYON BLVD.

WOODLAND HILLS

5 - 11 P.M.

The first-ever WonderLand immersive drive-thru experience, replete with synchronized dancing lights and good cheer, will open for the holiday season. Guests will enjoy nearly a million lights, all time-coded to a festive array of seasonal songs. They will travel around North Pole mountains and through a 90-foot twinkling snowflake tunnel, and a snow flurry vortex tunnel. Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves will be giving out candy canes. Tickets are sold per vehicle and advance purchase is recommended.

<https://www.socalwonderland.com/>

CITY OF HOPE’S INDUSTRY GROUPS’ HOLIDAY BENEFIT

DEC. 1

VIRTUAL

4 - 6 P.M. PRE-SHOW, 6 - 7 P.M. BENEFIT

City of Hope’s industry groups, including music, fashion, food, beauty and more, are hosting a Holiday Benefit fundraiser in support of City of Hope’s mission to ultimately eliminate cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases. The live streamed event will feature an extended pre-show experience, musical performances, comedy sets and celebrity guests including actor Keifer Sutherland.

<https://event.cityofhope.org/holidayevent>

PACIFIC CHORALE’S TIS THE SEASON CONCERT AND GALA

DEC. 3

VIRTUAL

5 - 6:30 P.M.

Celebrate the holidays with Pacific Chorale’s first online concert and gala with a beautiful holiday program, including cabaret performances, virtual choirs, live segments hosted by Pacific Chorale Artistic Director Robert Istad, President and CEO Andrew Brown and performances by the Pacific Chorale singers. Enjoy the free virtual holiday concert. A silent auction will be live online one week prior to the concert.

<https://www.pacificchorale.org/tis-the-season/>

WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS “DREAMBUILDERS: FROM POST OFFICE TO BOX OFFICE”

DEC. 3

VIRTUAL

6:30 P.M.

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts commemorates the 25th anniversary of its founding with “DreamBuilders: From Post Office to Box Office,” a virtual benefit honoring DreamBuilders, the Honorable Vicki Reynolds, Founding President Paul Selwyn, and the late President Emeritus Richard Rosenzweig. The celebration includes virtual red carpet arrivals plus performances by artists such as actor Jeremy Irons.

<https://thewallis.org/dreambuilders>

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA KLEZMER CONCERT

DEC. 8

VIRTUAL

11 A.M.

In celebration of Hanukkah, Holocaust Museum LA presents a virtual Klezmer Concert. Acclaimed artist/activist/arts educator and violinist Janice Mautner Markham, a member of the LA Philharmonic, and musician friends will perform material that blends Yiddish refrains with Klezmer beats and melodies, reflecting the Jewish life in late 19th and early 20th century Central and Eastern Europe that is depicted in Aleichem’s stories and Labkovski’s art.

<https://www.holocaustmuseumla.org/events-1>

LATINO THEATRE COMPANY HOLIDAY PAGEANT

DEC. 11 - 20

VIRTUAL

7 P.M.

Join for an archival streamed video showing of Latino Theater Company’s signature holiday pageant, “La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin,” which has taken place annually since 2002 at Downtown L.A.’s Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Starring renowned opera singer Suzanna Guzman and featuring over 100 actors, singers and indigenous Aztec dancers as well as children and seniors from the community, the program is performed in Spanish with English subtitles.

<https://www.thelatc.org/>

THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL FOOD BANK SEASON FOR SHARING EVENT

DEC. 12

VIRTUAL

6 - 8:30 P.M.

At the 18th annual Season for Sharing Event, the Food Bank will honor donors, individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the fight against hunger in Los Angeles County. Chefs Suzanne Goin, Mary Sue Milliken, Susan Feniger, Sherry Yard, Elizabeth Falkner and Nancy Silverton will provide a virtual dinner, hosted by Iron Chef American Judge Billy Harris from the safety and comfort of home.

<https://www.lafoodbank.org/events/season-for-sharing/>

SKIRBALL HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

DEC. 13

VIRTUAL

3 P.M.

Celebrate online at the annual Skirball Hanukkah Celebration with a community candle lighting and lively sing-along. Enjoy the Klezmer beat of L.A.’s own Mostly Kosher, Israeli superstar Gili Yalo, retelling of the Hanukkah story, and games. Before the celebration register for a Hanukkah Show and Tell at 2:30 p.m., and preorder latkes and treats to pick-up at Skirball Cultural Center.

<https://www.skirball.org/programs/holiday-programs/skirball-hanukkah-celebration>

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

STANDWITHUS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS GALA

DEC. 13
VIRTUAL
5 P.M.

StandWithUs presents “Festival of Lights: Standing Together Against Antisemitism” with keynote speaker Elan Carr, U.S. State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. Viewers will learn about the legal fight against antisemitism with CEO Roz Rothstein and Legal Department Directors Yael Lerman and Carly Gammill.

<https://www.standwithus.com>

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

DEC. 14
VIRTUAL
6 P.M.

Celebrate a virtual Hanukkah with Holocaust Museum LA by making latkes with Holocaust survivors. The activities will include the lighting of Hanukkah candles, latke making, and survivors’ stories of Hanukkahs past and present.

<https://www.holocaustmuseumla.org/events-1>

NEWPORT BEACH CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE

DEC. 16 -20
VIRTUAL

Watch beautifully decorated yachts, boats, kayaks and canoes sail along the harbor in the 112th Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade. The virtual experience will take place on multiple platforms including the web and social media.

<https://www.christmasboatparade.com/>

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE HOLIDAY KARAOKE

DEC. 17
VIRTUAL
7 P.M.

Join a virtual Holiday Karaoke presentation of the Master Chorale’s popular holiday offerings, such as Festival of Carols and the “Messiah” Sing-Along, for a familiar yet safe way to celebrate the holidays and enjoy audience participation.

<https://lamasterchorale.org/>

MOSCOW BALLET “GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER”

DEC. 19
VIRTUAL
5 P.M.

Join the Moscow Ballet’s “Great Russian Nutcracker,” streaming in Los Angeles. Take a trip backstage with the cameras for a behind-the-scenes look at the world-class artists, designers and the creators of this cherished production. Dancing alongside the professional Russian cast are local Los Angeles children.

<https://www.nutcracker.com/christmas>

LOS ANGELES BALLET “CLARA’S NUTCRACKER TEA PARTY”

DEC. 20
VIRTUAL
11 A.M.

Join Los Angeles Ballet for a special live virtual event, “Clara’s Nutcracker Tea Party.” Clara invites guests into her home as she hosts her Nutcracker Tea party with friends, Marie, Columbine, Snow and her Prince. The interactive play includes dancing, magic, music, crafts and holiday fun as well as excerpts of performances from Los Angeles Ballet’s “The Nutcracker.”

<https://losangelesballet.org/event-nutcracker-tea-2020>

61ST ANNUAL L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

DEC. 24 - 25
VIRTUAL
3 - 6 P.M., 7-10 P.M. DEC. 24
12-3 P.M. DEC. 25

This Los Angeles holiday tradition offers Angelenos the chance to experience and honor the dynamic, rich cultures of the County. There will be no live audience this year, but viewers can still enjoy this beloved tradition. The three-hour holiday show will be broadcast on Christmas Eve on PBS SoCal (KOCE) and live-streamed on [pbssocal.org](https://www.pbssocal.org), [kcet.org](https://www.kcet.org) and [holidaycelebration.org](https://www.holidaycelebration.org) with a rebroadcast on KCET on Christmas Day, starting at noon.

<https://www.musiccenter.org/tickets/events-by-the-music-center/holidaycelebration/>

SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE NEW YEAR’S EVE MUSICAL REVUE

DEC. 31
VIRTUAL
7:30 P.M., 10:30 P.M.

Join for the Santa Monica Playhouse 49th Annual New Year’s Eve Musical Revue. Enjoy the entertaining, family-friendly live-stream musical revue with Playhouse alumni from around the globe joining in the singing, dancing, humor and other delights from audience favorite productions. The live-stream link is available on the Santa Monica Playhouse website.

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RINGO STARR

A Rare Conversation

BY LISA BLOCH

Sir Ringo Starr is a global icon. Undeniably one of the greatest drummers of all time, Ringo connects and comforts the world with his music, his art and his unifying message of peace and love. Knighted by the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William bestowed the honor on Ringo in March of 2018 for his “services to music.” With his unique style, Ringo transcends the boundaries of generations, cultures, countries, and political and religious beliefs by spreading his message through his artistry and his philanthropy. As a City and as a community, we are blessed that this world renown ambassador of peace and love chooses Beverly Hills to be his home.

Richard Starkey, a lad from Liverpool, was born on July 7, 1940 in his parent’s home in Dingle, on Madryn Street. Four years later, his father, a bakery worker, left, abandoning Richard and his mum, Elsie. Life was further challenged when Richard was diagnosed with several illnesses due to complications from an appendectomy and tuberculosis resulting in extended convalescent stays in children’s hospitals. This is where he first realized he loved drums. The staff would come around the hospital with a variety of instruments for the children. Richard would not participate unless they gave him a drum. About the same time, his mother remarried Harry Graves, who encouraged Richard’s interest in music.

A few years later, Richard was introduced to skiffle music, music played with substituted household objects, and was invited to join a band called the Eddie Clayton Skiffle Group. At age 17, he received his first real drum kit for Christmas, a right-handed player kit, even though he was left-handed.

Rory Storm and the Hurricanes was his next band. Against his parent’s wishes, he forfeited college, at Riverdale Technical College, when the band was offered a three-month gig at the Butlins holiday camp in Wales. In Liverpool, his friends called him “Rings” because he wore a lot of rings on his fingers. He took a liking to the name and started answering to Ringo Starkey. Eventually he felt the name did not fit quite right. He dropped the “key,” added an “r” and Ringo Starr was born.

While playing with Rory Storm’s band in Hamburg, Germany in 1962, he received a call from Brian Epstein, the Beatles manager. Brian wanted to know if Ringo could fill in for their drummer, Pete Best, the next night. Ringo was booked, but offered the following Saturday. On stage that night, the instant the band began to make their sounds, Paul looked at John and at George about the drummer playing behind them.

They nodded to each other; they knew “he’s there,” confirming Ringo’s position as the Beatles drummer going forward.

In February of 1964, during the Beatles first trip to America, 73 million viewers watched them on the Ed Sullivan Show, a moment in time that changed the music world forever. But the fanfare did not affect these four small town Liverpool boys as they shared two hotel rooms for the entire American trip. “I love Ringo” lapel pins were the best-selling Beatles merchandise. And the Ludwig drum company quickly boosted sales to 13 million after Ringo displayed the American company’s logo on his bass drum during the Ed Sullivan performance. Today, Ringo’s gifted gold-plated Ludwig Super-Sensitive snare drum is exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

In 1971 after the Beatles broke up, Ringo began his unprecedented run as the first solo Beatle to score seven consecutive top 10 singles including: “It Don’t Come Easy,” “Back Off Boogaloo,” “Photograph” and “You’re Sixteen (You’re Beautiful and You’re Mine).”

In addition to being one of the world’s brightest musical luminaries as a singer, songwriter, drummer, collaborator and producer, releasing 18 solo studio albums to date, he is also a talented actor, author, photographer and painter. He is proud of his many awards and honors including: an Academy Award, an OBE Officer of the Order of the British Empire award, a Daytime Emmy nomination, as well as a BAFTA nomination and a star on the Walk of Fame. He has won nine Grammy Awards and has had 27 Grammy nominations. Most of his album titles reflect his life philosophy such as: “Choose Love,” “Give More Love,” and “Stop and Smell The Roses.” In June of 2013, the Grammy museum opened “Ringo: Peace & Love,” a record-breaking attraction and the first major exhibit to focus on a drummer. In September of that year, Ringo was awarded the prestigious French Medal of Honor, being appointed Commander of Arts and Letters in recognition of his musical and artistic contributions. Among his vast acting roles, he is probably most pleased to have starred in 1981 in “Caveman” with the beautiful actress Barbara Bach, with whom he fell in love and married.

Ringo is the father of three children, Zak, Jason and Lee Starkey, from his first marriage to Maureen Cox, and the stepfather of Barbara’s children, Francesca and Gianni. Add grandfather and great-grandfather to the portrait of his growing family and it’s easy to see why Ringo is very proud.



BEATLE SIR RICHARD STARKEY, ALSO KNOWN AS RINGO STARR, IS MADE A KNIGHT BACHELOR OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE BY THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE DURING AN INVESTITURE CEREMONY IN LONDON MARCH 20, 2018.

“I have had a camera since the sixties and I love taking photographs. I take images of anything that attracts me.”



ON STAGE, BEND, OREGON PHOTO BY SCOTT RITCHIE

He's often asked, "Where were you the day John was murdered?" "In the Bahamas on holiday," he shares. Ringo was stunned and devastated as everyone was around the world. He immediately flew to New York to see what he could do. But, of course, there was nothing.

Ringo has shared that the Beatles once were offered 50 million dollars for one 25-minute reunion gig. Sadly, it never happened.

When asked what would he have been, if he didn't make it as a drummer? He answers, "A drummer." He knew at 18 "this is going to be my life." Known for his distinctive drumming sequences as they are near impossible to duplicate, he attributes it to his emotional style. His drum fills are also remarkable. Most often one can listen to a Ringo drum part without the music and still identify the song.

Behind his recognizable shades are Ringo's penetrating blue eyes. He exercises regularly, calls himself a vegetarian and enjoys taking walks in the neighborhood. A student of Jainism, an ancient religion from India, he meditates daily and believes "that the way to enlightenment is through absolute focus on peace and love and non-violence towards all living things."

On a personal note, before the pandemic, from our Courier offices we often watched the droves of people and happy awe-struck school children drawn to Ringo's hand sculpture in Beverly Gardens Park. Their magnanimous reactions were always a sight to behold.

We happily celebrate Ringo's one-year anniversary of his artwork, a gift to our City, and applaud his keen awareness of a hand gesture, adopted in 1969, that universally conveys the importance of his healing message. It's timeless and essential in our world today.

Following his "Knighthood" investiture, on the grounds of Buckingham Palace, Ringo shared with the British news services, "It's an honor actually. It means it's a recognition of what I've done in music and in life." When the interviewer brought attention to the embossed insignia on the box encasing the highest-ranking Order of the British Empire award, "Sir Richard Starkey, Beverly Hills, California," Ringo shrugged, "That's where I live!"

Those who know Ringo well share that beyond his extraordinary talent, he is easy going, quick witted, passionate, straight forward, funny, and generous. Most importantly, he follows his heart in everything he does.

We are very fortunate that between his philanthropy work, his time spent painting, his authoring another book due out this Christmas, and his days creating new music in the studio, he was able to carve out the time for this rare conversation.

John Lennon got it right when he wrote the song in your honor. Ringo, you are "The Greatest."

As an iconic musician of the 20th and 21st centuries, you can live anywhere on the planet. We are honored that you have chosen Beverly Hills as your primary home and your community for the past 28 years. What is it about Beverly Hills that you like, that you "love," and that you connect with?

I love California - and I always have. From my first visit here - I just loved Los Angeles and California. The warmth, the sun, the light and the attitude, it is so great, this casual laid back and easy-going lifestyle.

The world renown rock 'n' roll photographer Henry Diltz shares "our two biggest senses are hearing and seeing. Music and photography go together." He believes you are "a really good photographer with a unique eye." Within your photography portfolio, there seems to be a fascination with objects, animals, people, flowers, moments in time, and peace and love signs. You once said "I love to laugh. And my art keeps me entertained." As the co-writer of "Photograph," a song about the power of the image, please tell us about your love for taking pictures? And can you explain and cite an example or two?

I have had a camera since the sixties and I love taking photographs. I take images of anything that attracts me - I've got a whole series of just empty plates, and the funny and interesting patterns after a meal that can be randomly left behind.

As a beacon of philanthropy, you, along with your wife Barbara, have founded the Lotus Foundation. All proceeds of your art work are donated to: substance abuse, cerebral palsy, brain tumors, cancer, battered women and their children, homelessness, and animals in need. It's an incredible act of generosity and compassion.

Barbara and I founded the Lotus Foundation so we could give back and support as broad a range of causes and charities as possible. All my proceeds from my art work and my books go to support the Lotus Foundation.

Is there one story you can share about how you have been inspired to help the world in this gracious way?

Yes, I remember seeing something from WaterAid, and how many people do not have access to clean water. Something so basic that everyone needs to survive.

If nothing else, every single person on this planet should have clean water to drink. I've been supporting WaterAid since.

It is known that you are predominantly left-handed, and yet you always play on a right-handed drum kit. Obviously, it hasn't impacted your "perfect beat." Are there any drawbacks such as the challenges of a roll? And why haven't you rearranged your kits to make it easier for you?

I learned on a right-handed kit but lead with my left hand. I wouldn't rearrange the kit or do it any other way. That's how I learned and it's just the way I play. The fact that I am left-handed makes it weird because I can't roll the way most do from a snare to a tom tom. I have to come at it backwards. And I could never work a fill out—it comes with the emotion of a song. That's also part of my style—I am an emotional player and I always follow the emotion of a song.

From afar we see a deep loving connection between you and your beautiful wife, Barbara Bach Starkey, your life's partner of 39 years. Might you share something special about the love of your life?

I fell in love with her the first time I saw her at LAX, her boyfriend was putting her on the plane when we were on our way to film 'Caveman' in Mexico. It took two months, she tortured me for two months, but we did get together and we are still together today. I don't know any secrets—all I can tell you is that I love Barbara and I am blessed she loves me.

You started Ringo Starr And His All Starr Band more than three decades ago. With a medley of talented musicians moving through the band, including a performance with Paul McCartney as well as his appearances on your solo albums, the All Starr Band is still going strong today. How did the idea for this band come to you? And how do you go about making your choices as you change up the musicians?

I began the All Starrs in 1989 when my lawyer got a call asking me to put a band together. It was my first tour and my time playing sober. I was really nervous but just opened up my phone book and started calling all my friends—and everyone said yes!!! There were 11 of us on that stage including 3 drummers!!! I've been putting All Starr bands together ever since and last year we celebrated our 30th year playing at the Greek nearly 30 years to the day that I had the first band there. How far out.

Paul has never played in the All Starrs—the only time he joined us was to surprise me for my 70th birthday at Radio City Music Hall. That was a great time.



ON STAGE WITH HIS ALL STARR BAND, BOISE, IDAHO
PHOTO BY SCOTT RITCHIE



STUDIO PORTRAIT AT HOME PHOTO BY SCOTT RITCHIE

What music do you listen to in your home? For uplifting, energizing moments? For calming moments? For some damn good music moments?

I listen to everything and like to put my music setting on random. I feel blessed I love all music—ok, nearly all music—from country to classical.

Today any person with a sound mixer can make a recording that would have cost thousands of dollars to produce in a studio in the past. Has technology taken over too much of the music making process? Or has this development provided new pathways for creativity? What are your thoughts?

Technology has been great for me because now I can record at home. I have a studio right in the house and I've been making music all through this pandemic. You used to have to go the recording studio. Now I can just go to another room and then pop back and have a tea break with Barbara.

You give credit to John Lennon for starting the Beatles down the path of "peace and love," and yet you have made it incredibly relevant today. What inspired you to push this message? What drove you to want to connect the world years later with these words?

The Beatles always promoted peace and love and I've been doing it ever since.

The holidays are supposed to be happy times shared with family and friends filled with love, good cheer and peace. But with COVID, we are challenged by the simplest forms of connecting, communicating and sharing happiness. You've said in the press that you are staying close to home. How are you and your loved ones navigating through these difficult times?

It's a global pandemic and we are getting through it like everyone else. Thank God for the internet so we can stay in touch with our friends and family who we cannot go see. I send peace and love to everyone having a hard time or feeling lonely. It is a tough time, but we all have to get through this together. Stay home, stay safe and wear a mask.

“I send peace and love to everyone having a hard time or feeling lonely... We all have to get through this together.”



RINGO'S ART EXHIBIT, SOHO CONTEMPORARY ART (GALLERY), NYC
PHOTO BY SCOTT RITCHIE



PEACE AND LOVE EVENT, RINGO AND BARBARA IN BEVERLY HILLS,
JULY 7, 2020
PHOTO BY SCOTT RITCHIE

A few weeks before your birthday in 2008, a journalist asked you what you wanted as a gift. What did you say?

In 2008, I was asked what I wanted for my birthday. The idea just came to me—that at noon your local time on July 7, my birthday - where ever you are, if you want to, say, think or post “Peace and Love.” I decided to invite fans to join me on the streets of Chicago in front of the Hard Rock, and we have been doing it ever since.

This birthday gift became a tradition. But this year, your 80th , it was a virtual star-studded celebration. The stream raised money for a number of organizations including the Black Lives Matter Global Network for the fight to “end all this racial violence,” as well as the David Lynch Foundation, MusiCares and WaterAid. During the event, you said, “Black Lives Matter. Stand up and make your voices heard.” As an ambassador of peace and love, please share with us your hope going forward?

We had big plans for this year, my 80th, but as you know, everything changed with the pandemic. We didn't want it to pass without doing something. Putting together “Ringo's Big Birthday Show” seemed like the best way to not only have a bit of a party but also to raise some money and do some good too. Barbara and I also went down to the Beverly Hills Park on July 7 and at noon we stood in front of my Peace sculpture to say “Peace and Love.” (wearing our masks of course!)

You were a unifying healer through your music and artistry during the civil unrest in our country more than 50 years ago. This was never more evident than when the Beatles, during their famous 1964 tour, refused to play before a segregated audience in Jacksonville, Fla. We are now living through it again. Is history repeating itself?

Have we learned from our mistakes? What are your observations? What can we do differently to make us better as a society?

All each of us can do is stand up for what we think is right and treat people with peace and love and lead by example. I've never understood treating people differently because of the color of their skin. The Beatles didn't stand for it then and I still don't.

What is your hopeful message to our youth and all generations about the future?

PEACE AND LOVE

Ringo, it's an honor and a unique pleasure, to have had this experience, to hear your unifying thoughts during these challenging times and to gain insight through your historical, artistic lens. From one Beverly Hills resident to another, thank you for leaning in, for caring about our community, for sharing your “style” and your commitment to humanity, and most importantly for giving your “words of wisdom.”

With admiration and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Lisa".

LISA T. F. BLOCH

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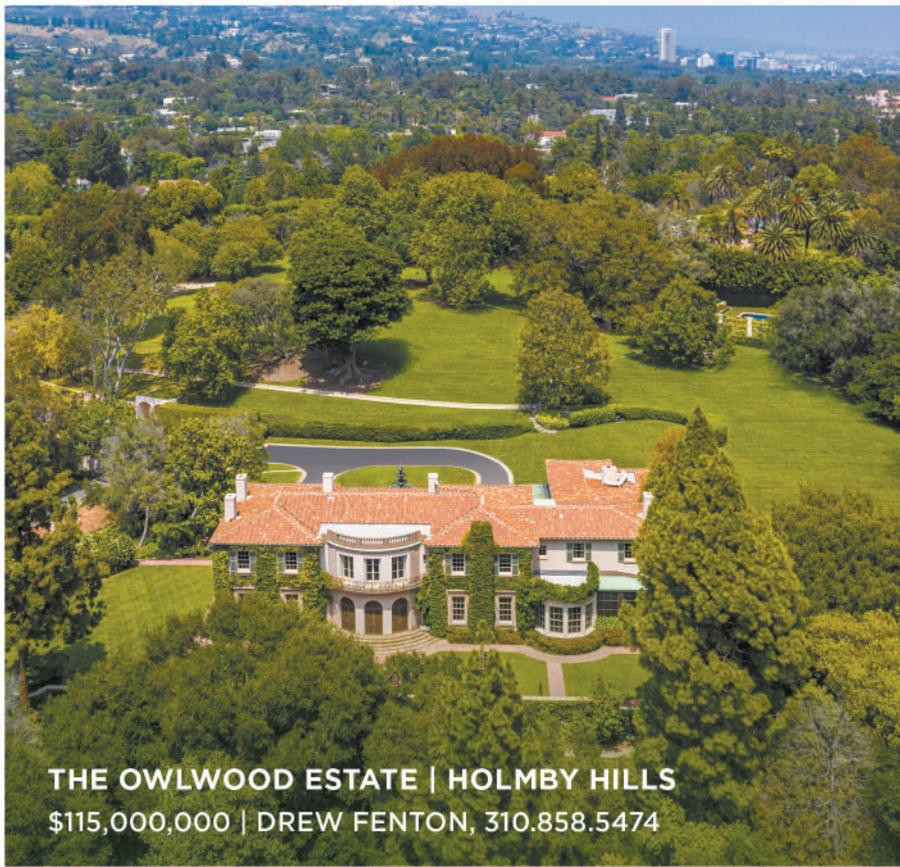
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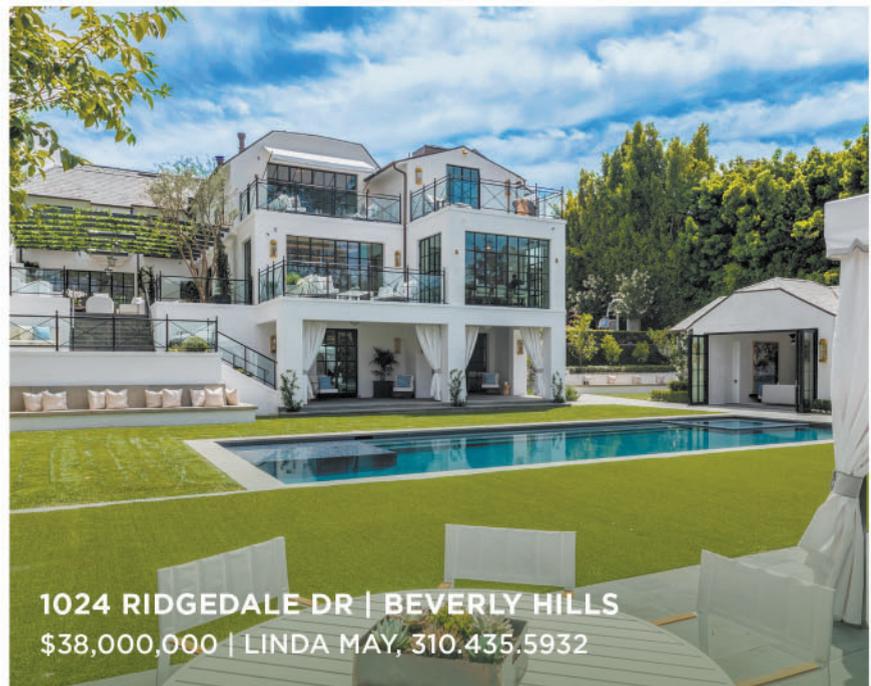
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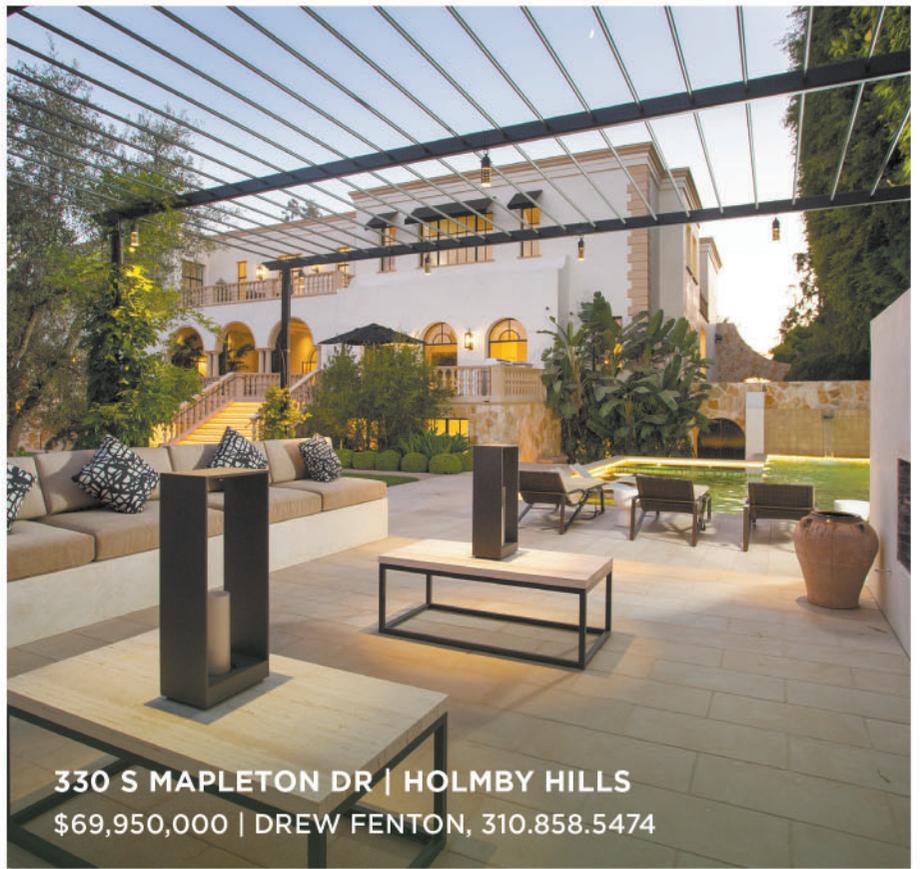


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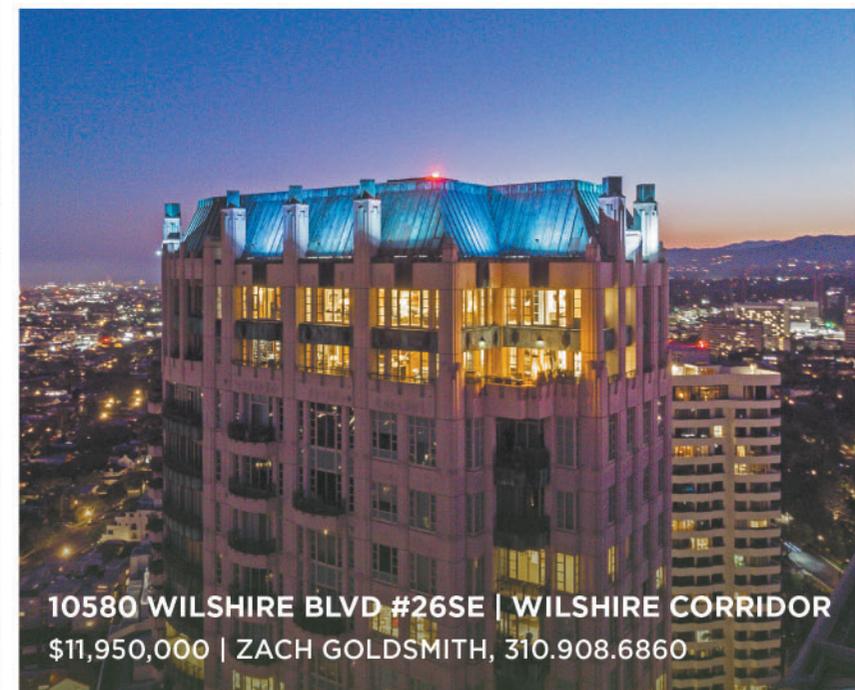




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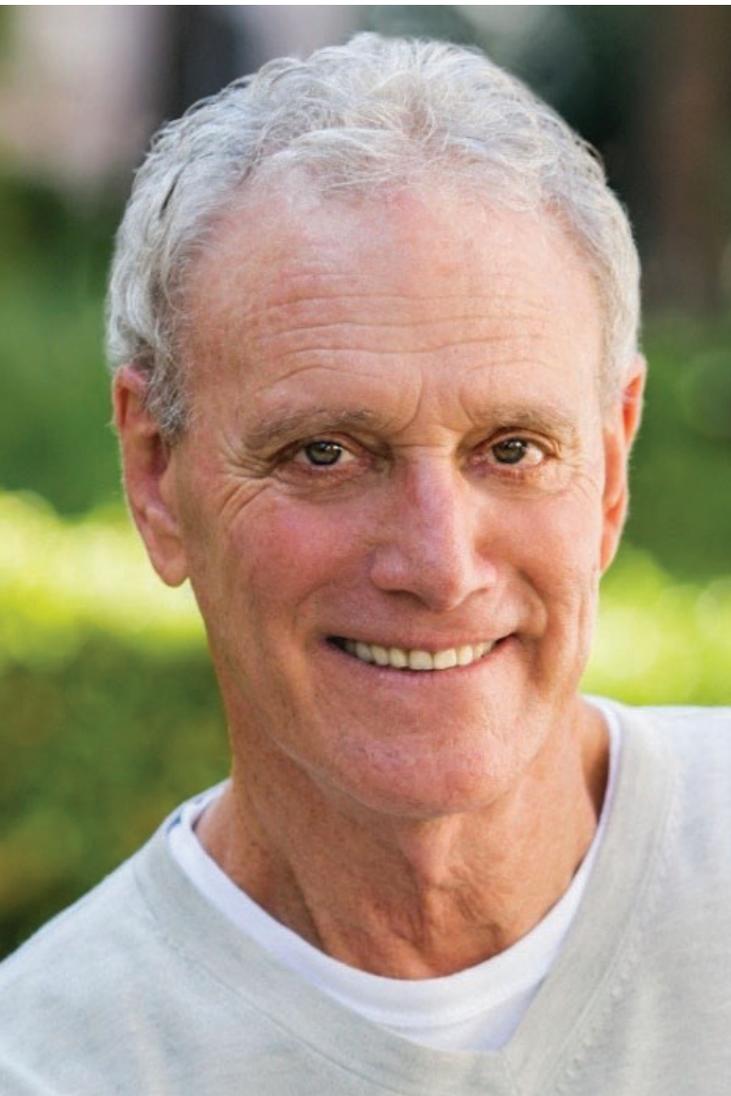
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Home For the Holidays

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

For most of us, this holiday season will look a bit different than it has in the past. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our festive gatherings are destined to be an intimate affair with immediate family or a socially distant evening with a couple of our nearest and dearest friends. In the absence of holiday travel, we're eager to introduce new sights, sounds, scents, and experiences that can be enjoyed from the comfort and safety of our homes.

This year, it's perhaps more important than ever to go beyond the traditional table scape, spark excitement and spread holiday cheer.

"I find that people are really decorating their homes tremendously this year. They went all out for Halloween and they're doing it for Christmas. People are doing their holiday shopping early," Melissa Clark, owner of Brentwood General Store told the Courier.

"This holiday season might not be as big or as busy," said GEARYS Beverly Hills president and CEO Thomas Blumenthal. "But it can be as meaningful, as this time of year is a reminder of what's real, what lasts, and what brings true meaning to our lives. Lighting holiday candles, taking out treasured decorations, remembering a friend with a gift—these rituals of the holidays connect us to the value of our traditions, whether shared in person or by FaceTime."

Unlike other years, we might not be able to fly home and see some family members in person. We might not pass by the kitchen and get a whiff of Grandma's famous brisket. Clark is seeing a big demand for holiday gift baskets and hampers customized with provisions ranging from pastas to sweets. It's all about sending family members a little bit of home. We may not be attending our favorite holiday parties or kiss under the mistletoe, we can still foster and nurture meaningful connections, both old and new.

The experts at GEARYS advise us to step back and look at our surroundings with fresh eyes. This year, it's important to surround ourselves with beautiful objects, eat off exquisite plates and invest in our homes. After all, it's where we work, eat, play, teach, relax, exercise, and more these days. While dining experiences won't feel exactly the

same, there's no better time to create a new world in an all too familiar space. Now is the time to marry old traditions with new ones. Call your grandmother and ask for her recipes. While we can't go see her, we can still bring the scent of her kitchen into our homes.

Whether you're hosting your immediate family, relatives, or members of your "pod," we've asked some of Beverly Hills' top retailers to share tips for making this holiday season extra special. From repurposing objects, personalizing each table setting, or gifting, experts divulge secrets key to hosting unforgettable, COVID-appropriate entertaining options.

Work With What You Have

According to Liz Barbatelli, owner of the high-end linen store, E Braun & Co., now is the time to let go of hesitations you might have about bringing out your best plates or tablecloths because they are "too nice."

"I think people have become kind of casual and probably frustrated with always staying at home," Barbatelli told the Courier. "I think the best way to make the holidays special this year is to really act like they're the same. Act as if you were having a big party or having your whole family instead of an abbreviated amount and dress your table accordingly with all of your linens, fine candlesticks and flowers. Get out items that you might already have and that you haven't been using."

Flatware

Most of us have been staring at the same plates for eight months and are ready to change the aesthetic. Given that it's not a traditional celebration, this is a great opportunity to introduce, experiment and play with non-traditional items and schemes.

"I think people are just taking this as an opportunity to elevate whatever they do have at home, because everyone has a different starting off point when entertaining," Kiki Von Gregsamer, director of marketing at GEARYS told the Courier. "Whether you're having a few people over, family or just yourselves, bring it to that next level. Adding some different elements piece by piece is a great idea. A lot of times you see pretty, simple white dinnerware and want to add in a few pops of color here and there. It's the small details that really count when you're putting a table scape together."

Instead of purchasing the same set of flatware, Von Gregsamer suggests investing in a set that includes a variety of preselected patterns. Alternatively, instead of using your favorite set of plates rendering the table uniform, mix and match your favorites so that no two setting is the same. Abandon the idea that flatware is prescriptive; you don't need to use a complete set.

Serving

Now is the time to explore individual, yet interactive, culinary experiences that incorporate statement entertaining pieces.

"The Christofle MOOD Party 24 Piece Flatware Set is a beautiful piece," Von Gregsamer told the Courier. "That is definitely a statement piece when you see it sitting on the kitchen counter. You take the top off and it has all the flatware for people to just grab and dig in. You can place this in the center of the table and have a lot of different appetizers. We call that 'kitchen island entertaining' because it's just gathering around a safe space. And it's also conducive to people being able to keep their distance when gathering together for the holidays."



E. BRAUN & CO CRISTAL CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL NAPKINS

PHOTO COURTESY OF E. BRAUN & CO



E. BRAUN & CO AMBASSADE PLACEMAT AND NAPKIN
PHOTO COURTESY OF E. BRAUN & CO

Reimagine the Dining Room

For those who are planning a socially distanced get together, Tara Riceberg, owner of Tweak and Tesoro, suggests setting up two tables outside for a change of scenery and some fresh air.

“We have seen some setting up a different dining table per family so you’re not all around one big table,” Riceberg told the Courier. “What I have found is I’ve been selling doubles of items. Instead of somebody getting one cheeseboard, they’ll buy two different ones so there is one for each family.”

When it comes to outdoor dining, candlelight is essential when setting the table to create a warm atmosphere. “Scented candles elicit holiday cheer and setting the tone with fragrance is important. Cypress, cedar and pine needle candles just immediately bring forward the comforting coziness of winter and the holiday season,” Riceberg told the Courier.

Holiday candles in general have been huge sellers for Clark. “Usually, we don’t see the interest until December. Candles have really gone crazy this year. We’re shipping them constantly and delivering them to our clients locally,” she said.

Blankets may also be in order for al fresco dining this holiday season. Riceberg recommends providing guests with soft blankets on each chair to ward off the winter chill.

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GIFT BASKETS FILLED WITH “PROVISIONS” ARE POPULAR THIS YEAR. GIFT BASKET BY BRENTWOOD GENERAL STORE

Stemware

Use a variety of different champagne flutes when toasting the New Year, so you’ll know which one is yours. Mixing it up adds some interest that the symmetry of a matched set lacks.

“Baccarat’s ‘Bubbles in a Box’ champagne flutes really play into that whole thematic of personalizing each table scape for your guests,” Von Gregsamer told the Courier. “Sometimes our clients like purchasing some of these as gifts to place on their setting for each of their guests to take home. It’s a trend that lends itself to the times because you can assign a different one to each of your guests.”

Personalization

Make each place setting unique. Place decorative “giftables” on each plate or use different colored glasses. The unexpected is a welcomed surprise. Find ways that you can repurpose objects in unexpected ways. Creativity is key to using items in a way that veers from their intended function.

“Even if it’s like a little flower, or the Baccarat crystal butterfly or even different place settings, everyone would have a presentation that is unique. And if it’s kind of in a similar color scheme then it’s still complementary. Other ways to make sure there is diversity in the table scape is by playing with linens, napkin rings or using different chargers at each setting,” said Von Gregsamer.



CHRISTOFLE MOOD SET OF SIX ESPRESSO SPOONS IN EGG CHEST, PHOTO COURTESY OF GEARYS

Ornaments

Looking to create a new tradition? Consider gift pieces that have a dual purpose. For example, place a collectible ornament to prop up place cards, which guests can then take home. Thoughtful, personalized touches like this are an unexpected holiday treat that guests will cherish.

The Menu

This year, instead of cooking traditional family favorites for dozens of guests, try a new recipe or gift a cookbook and inspire a friend to do the same. Since holiday entertaining this year will be smaller, take advantage of being able to reconfigure the menu.

“If I had 30 people coming over for dinner, I would do my recipes that are tried and true,” Riceberg told the Courier. “Because I only know that I’m cooking for four this year, it’s a great time to experiment with a



BACCARAT LUCKY BUTTERFLY DECORATIVE PIECES CAN BRIGHTEN UP A ROOM PHOTO COURTESY OF GEARYS

new stuffing recipe or try making a roast chicken instead of turkey for Thanksgiving.”

Riceberg added, “If you’re hosting, the pressure is on, especially if it’s a big get together. But for something small or intimate, I feel like it’s the ideal time to experiment and change it up a bit.”

For dessert, switch it up by swapping pumpkin pie for individual boxes of assorted cake balls or mini cupcakes as a COVID-19 friendly treat. Alternatively, a petite assortment of sweets from a local chocolatier will add a festive pop of color on top of any table.



ACORN PLACE CARD HOLDER PHOTO COURTESY OF GEARYS



VOLUSPA JAPONICA HOLIDAY MACRON CANDLE TRIO
PHOTO COURTESY OF TWEAK + TESORO



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Wishes on Wheels



BY TIM LAPPEN

The Courier's Fine Autos Contributor, Tim Lappen, also is the Fine Autos Editor for Haute Living, Haute Time, Haute Residence and Haute Auto magazines and online and a partner in a Century City law firm, where he chairs his firm's Family Office Group and the Luxury Home Group. He can be reached at TLappen@gmail.com and his website is www.LifeInTheFastLane.org.

Depending upon your age, your vision of the future could be Buck Rogers or George Jetson or even Marty McFly, but vehicles always feature prominently in those visions. When it came to the cars of the future, like Marty's hoverboard and George's transport, they clearly were going to levitate - "Where we're going, we don't need roads!" However, we're still (mostly) earthbound and roads are required. Nevertheless, the exotic cars on the near horizon are pretty spectacular conveyances and, for your holiday viewing pleasure, here is a sampling as we go to press. As befits a car of the future, many of these are motivated in full or in part by one or more electric motors.

I've set them out alphabetically, which works out well in part due to my personal affinity for Aston Martins and in part in an homage to the recently departed Sean Connery, the quintessential James Bond who, when true to his Ian Fleming roots, always drove an Aston.



ASTON MARTIN VALHALLA PHOTO COURTESY OF ASTON MARTIN

Aston Martin - For a relatively small company, Aston Martin consistently punches well above its weight. Its partnership with Red Bull Racing has brought incredible performance and design to an already-accomplished company and the upcoming **Valhalla** is Exhibit A. Slated for 2022 production (if 500 cars is a "production"), the naturally-aspirated (no turbo, no supercharger) V-12 is a mid-engine two-seater which can achieve the once-mythical 1:1 power ratio (a car whose weight and which horsepower, expressed in kilos and brake horsepower, is one kilo per one horsepower). Expected to cost in the range of \$1,300,000 (each, not for all 500), the Valhalla will be available in both street and track-only versions.



BUGATTI CENTODIECI PHOTO COURTESY OF BUGATTI

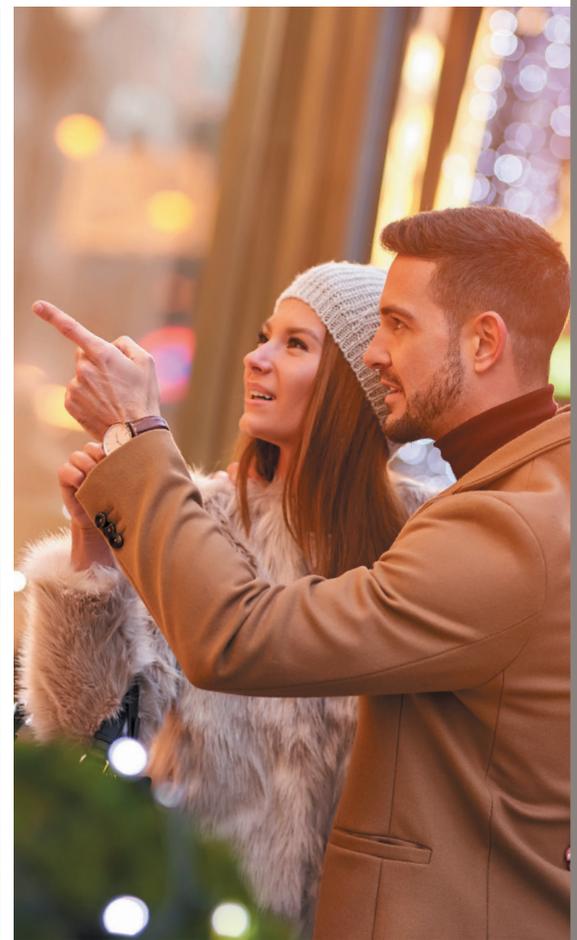
Bugatti - My earliest memories of this storied brand were as a child, seeing a neighbor's Type 35B Bugatti drive by. The sights, the sounds and especially the smells were memorable as those cars did burn off quite a bit of castor oil, which fragrance lingered long after the car was out of sight and earshot. Today's excitement focuses on the **Centodieci** (Italian for "110" in honor of the marque's recent 110th anniversary), a 1,500hp W-16-motored beast of a car of which only ten will be made (sorry, all are sold) at a projected 8 million euros (about \$9.3 million as of this writing). A gorgeous car that shows both its Bugatti heritage and its forward-thinking futuristic design, I hope that at least one of these beauties makes it to California.



FERRARI OMOLOGATA PHOTO COURTESY OF FERRARI

Ferrari - An atelier whose founder, Enzo Ferrari, was born to create fast cars, even Enzo's name sounds fast! And their newest creation does not disappoint. Behold the **Ferrari Omologata** (which means "homologated" or certified for competition - it's the "O" in "GTO"). This V-12 stromer was commissioned by a discerning customer and created as a one-off coach-built aluminum touring car which is equally at home on the track. A two-year process resulted in this sinewy and slippery vehicle that is destined to slice through the wind for its lucky owner. Starting as an 812 Superfast, the transformation is truly spectacular. Price and horsepower haven't been disclosed, but fortunate are the few who will see it in "person."

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KOENIGSEGG PHOTO COURTESY OF KOENIGSEGG

Koenigsegg - Never heard of it? I'm not surprised. This stealthy Swedish supercar company has created some of the most amazing cars on the planet as it has incredible productivity for a company of its size. Want an example? The new **Gemera** (from Swedish words meaning "give" and "more") and billed as the first "Mega-GT," this four-seater can run circles around many two-seater exotics. With three electric motors and a twin-turbo three-cylinder gas engine, the combined output is over 1,700hp, good enough for 0-60mph in 1.9 seconds and a top speed of around 250mph, this baby is expected to set you back around 1.9 large (as in millions of dollars – price does not include speeding tickets or bail).



LAMBORGHINI SIÁN ROADSTER PHOTO COURTESY OF LAMBORGHINI

Lamborghini - Anyone who has seen a Lamborghini in its natural habitat (on the road) knows that this is a brand which likes sharp creases and big angles. The limited-edition **Sián Roadster** is a chip off of a very angular block. With a big motor (the most-powerful V-12 that they've made to date) and high-tech hybrid motivation assistance (with an

unusual super-capacitor system), the Lambo pumps out a total of 819 horsepower, enough for 0-60mph in about 2.9 seconds and a top speed is over 215mph. The design is roofless, no doubt so that the occupants can commune with the heavens, and with all of that performance, it's clearly able to dodge the occasional raindrops in Los Angeles. It's no wonder that the production run of 19 units already is sold out.



MERCEDES GT BLACK PHOTO COURTESY OF MERCEDES

Mercedes-AMG - New arrivals to MB-land may think of the Mercedes brand as luxury cruisers and, of course, they'd be right but there's so much more to the brand, including Formula 1 racing. Many of the company's AMG-branded cars are real screamers and the **Mercedes-AMG GT Black Series** is a case in point. Running with Mercedes' most-powerful AMG V-8 of all time (720hp twin-turbo), 0-60mph takes 3.1 seconds and the top speed is 202mph. The power is about 100hp greater than the "regular" AMG GT 63 S Coupe. Pricing is not yet announced. This definitely is not your father's (or grandmother's) Mercedes Benz.



MCLAREN ELVA PHOTO COURTESY OF MCLAREN

McLaren - McLaren (founded by New Zealand-born race driver Bruce McLaren) was satisfied for many years to make components for other car manufacturers and then racing cars but, turned to making their own road-going cars, first in small quantities, like the universally-adored F1 of the 1990s and then to large numbers starting with the MP4 12C. The latest from this fun factory is the Elva, a spritely two-seater whose DNA apparently is traceable to a sports car, a motorcycle and a fighter jet. With no windscreen, the body was designed to divert airflow in order to create a “wind curtain” in front of the cockpit. The lightest road car McLaren ever has produced, it sports an 800-plus horsepower twin-turbo V-8 motivating it to 60mph in under three seconds. Only 249 of these cars will be made, at prices starting at \$1.69M.



BATTISTA ANNIVERSARIO LAKE COMO PHOTO COURTESY OF PININFARINA

Pininfarina - A car company based in both Germany and Italy - what’s not to like? Owned by Mahindra & Mahindra Company (a motor vehicle company based in India), they licensed the name from the famous Italian design studio Pininfarina, who designed the sleek and sexy car named **Batista**, the company’s first offering, which will be limited to 150 vehicles. Interestingly, Pininfarina turned to Rimac, the motor and control company in Croatia, to create the electric motor and associated components. The Batista is the first vehicle to be sold under the Pininfarina name as the design house had heretofore focused mostly on designing exotic cars for the likes of Ferrari. Slated for first deliveries by 2022, and with a price of about \$2,500,000, the Batista is projected to use its 1,900 horsepower to go 0-60mph in under two seconds and top out at about 250mph.

With this vision of the future, may all of your vehicular holiday wishes come true!

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Holiday Dining Scene

Who is Open, What's on the Menu and How to Book

BY CAROLE DIXON

While we hope indoor dining might return to at least 25 percent capacity before the end of the year, it is probably a good time to invest in space heater stock and dust off your winter coats for al fresco meals. Either way, here are the best places to safely celebrate the holidays from Thanksgiving to New Year's.

NEW ON THE SCENE

When you need a break but can't leave town, these debut dining ventures all evoke a strong sense of place and a much-needed dose of escapism.

Damian, Arts District DTLA

Mexico City Michelin-starred Chef Enrique Olvera has opened his long-awaited restaurant across the street from Bestia in the Arts District. The industrial chic patio with abundant foliage is perfect for social distancing and any intimate gathering. Order the grilled lobster, uni tostada and tamal de elote with a range of over 40 agave spirits. They are closed on major holidays and booking is about one month out, but opt for a waitlist if you can be flexible on the date.

<https://www.damiandtla.com/>



DAMIAN FISH TACO

Cara, Los Feliz

Dean McKillen of Ysabel and Laurel Hardware restaurant fame has gone into the boutique hotel business. High-end hospitality is in his blood. His family owns and operates the U.K.-based Maybourne Hotel Group, which recently opened its first U.S. property in Beverly Hills. For Cara, McKillen has chosen Los Feliz and a Mediterranean vibe, with three different dining patios. The menu by Chef Michael Patria includes a whole roasted branzino and lemon fettuccine. Book one of the 60 chic white guestrooms if you drink too much from the stellar wine or cocktails list. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

<https://www.carahotel.com/>



COURTYARD AT CARA

The Barish and Spare Room at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel

Mozza-plex queen, Nancy Silverton, has opened a romantic Italian steakhouse at the historic Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. The palm tree-lined patio serves lamb chops, Creekstone Farms New York Strip, grilled abalone mushrooms with porcini butter, pizzetta and even a rolled "lasagna" all cooked over an open flame. Make a night of it and enjoy a fruity poolside cocktail while playing a game of Mad Libs, before or after dinner at the newly reconfigured The Spare Room and you will feel like you're on vacation.

www.thehollywoodroosevelt.com/



THE BARISH AT HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT

Fellow and The Galerie, Westwood

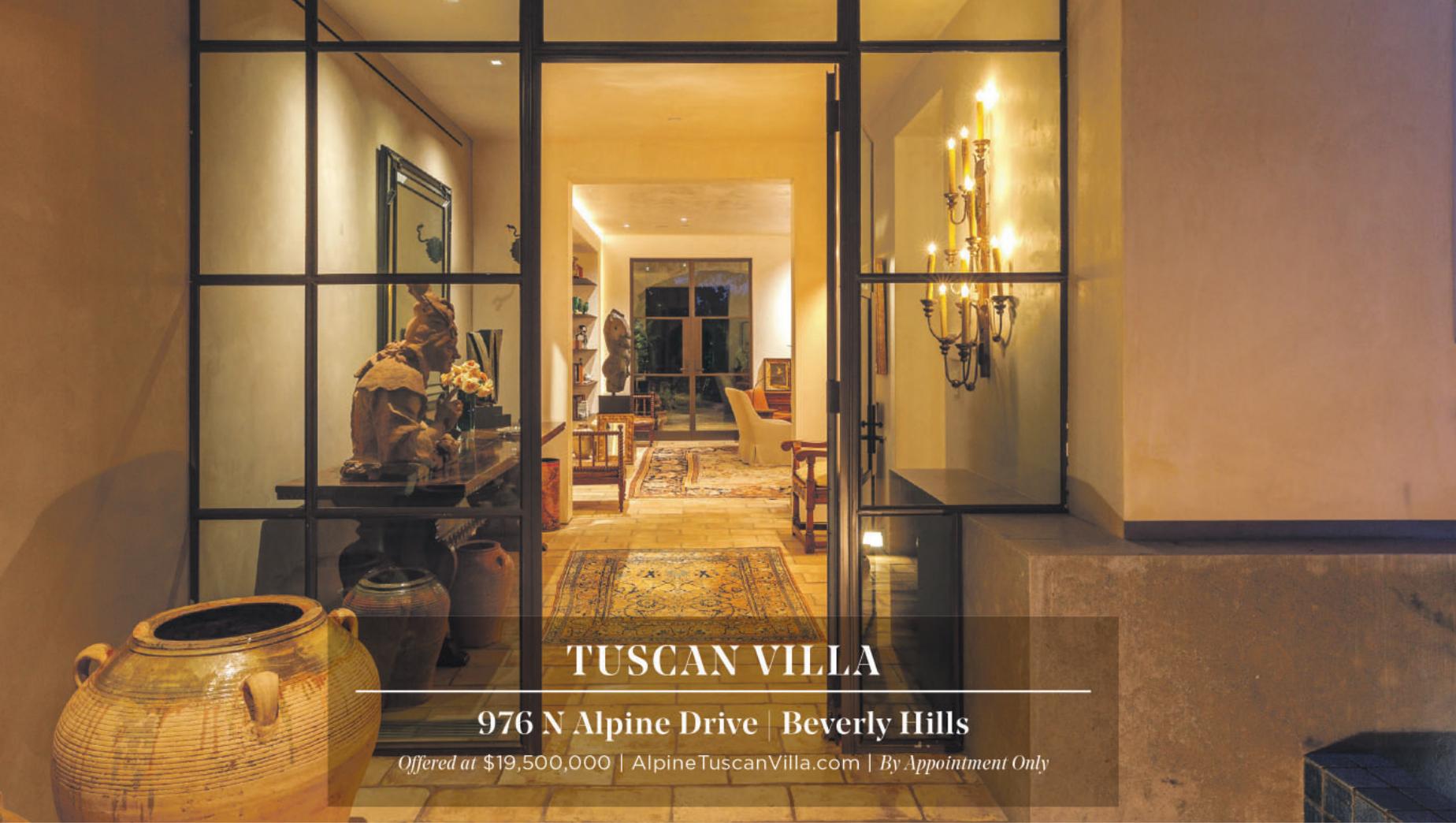
The brick walls of this Westside spot located in a historic 1935 building are lined with an exhibition of rock-n-roll greats in collaboration with Mr. Musichead Gallery. Now serving on a new sidewalk patio, the tasting menu by Executive Chef Mazen Mustafa (who worked with three-Michelin-star Chef Michel Troisgros, Daniel Boulud and David Chang) includes salmon with sorrel and cream sauce, smoked oat milk panna cotta with eggplant and grilled avocado with pistachio and coconut. The wine list is from Sommelier Scott Lester from Eleven Madison Park and The French Laundry. A special New Year's Eve menu is planned.

www.fellow.la

Lucky Steakhouse, Malibu

This famed Montecito classic steak spot has come to the Malibu Country Mart (opening Dec. 1) just in time to celebrate Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve in style. Best known for USDA prime steaks, don't overlook the shrimp cocktail or other fresh seafood dishes helmed by Executive Chef Michael Rosen, and the extensive wine list by Larry Nobles is strong on Bordeaux going back to 1929.

<https://www.luckysmalibu.com/>



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OYSTERS AT FELLOW PHOTO BY CAROLE DIXON

OSPVI Venice

Celebrated Chef Jackson Kalb has taken over the old Canal Club space near the Venice Boardwalk. With a pedigree from Melisse and Joel Robuchon, you will want to order every pasta on the menu. For the first time, Kalb is also making fully fermented breads for sandwiches and wafer-thin pizzas to-go, or to dine on the temporary sidewalk space, and you can stroll along Venice beach after your meal. A special holiday menu will be available with Mary's Turkey (to-go only).

<https://www.ospivenice.com/>

NUEVA, Venice/Marina del Rey Border

Take a trip to Baja on two expansive patios with food by famed Chefs Vartan Abgaryan and Mesraim Llanez. Try the chicken tinga burrito, shakshuka ranchos or the smokey Caesar at brunch and the unique range of tacos from falafel to Mediterranean octopus, tempura sea bass or pork belly chicharron at dinner.

<https://nuevavenice.com/>

BACK ON THE SCENE IN BEVERLY HILLS

Gucci Osteria da Massimo Bottura

This intimate second story patio above the Rodeo Drive store will be serving on Christmas Eve only for the holiday season, but the original menu with the famed tortellini with Parmigiano Reggiano cream executed by Chef Mattia Agazzi is still available any other day or night.

www.gucci.com/us

Il Pastaio

One of the most buzzworthy corners in town will only be open for the holiday of Christmas Eve day, so book your patio or parklet spot soon if you're craving the pasta dishes.

www.ilpastaio Beverly Hills.com



LOBSTER AT LUCKY'S PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA DEFURIO

Mastros

Thankfully, Mastros is always open for every holiday and that has not changed this year. So, decide how you want your steak cooked on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas or New Year's Eve and save room for the seasonal butter cake.

www.mastrosrestaurants.com

Mr. Chow

For Christmas Eve, Mr. Chow is serving its regular Chinese menu, so you can indulge in the chicken satay, Beijing duck and noodles. New Year's Eve will bring a set menu and late seating with a band or a DJ.

www.mrchow.com



PATIO AT GUCCI PHOTO BY CAROLE DIXON

The Palm

Expect a traditional turkey dinner for Thanksgiving and prime rib for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with white tablecloth sidewalk seating.

www.thepalm.com

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Porta Via

Open outdoors for breakfast, lunch and dinner on Canon Drive apart from Thanksgiving and Christmas. Seasonal items to get you in the mood include pumpkin cauliflower lasagna.
<https://portaviarestaurants.com/beverly-hills/>

Ocean Prime

This longstanding surf and turf hang-out will be celebrating the end of 2020 on their enclosed patio for New Year's Eve this year so check back for more details on seating times.
www.ocean-prime.com

Mirame

Sip mezcal on the patio or parklet while owner-chef Josh Gil prepares a pre-Hispanic feast for Thanksgiving that includes kamote sweet-potato and cocoa corn flan. While you're there, grab some holiday gifts including rare coffee and artisan pottery from Oaxaca.
<https://mirame.la/>

Wally's

The wines are exceptional and perfect for any holiday gifting and the patio on Canon Drive is one of the hottest tables in town. Wally's is also offering special menu items for Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve for dine in, to-go, or delivery.
<https://www.wallywine.com/>

Lawry's The Prime Rib

Leave the cooking and silver carving cart service, to this La Cienega family-style favorite this year on Thanksgiving or Christmas Eve in their new outdoor patio space.
www.lawrysonline.com

TRIED AND TRUE HOTEL SCENE

Beverly Hills Hotel

The beloved pink-hued patio of the Polo Lounge will be open for a three-course Thanksgiving brunch this year. Christmas Eve brings a four-course dinner followed by a Christmas Day brunch. You can ring in the New Year as well during a three-course New Year's Eve menu, and it's never too early to order an eggnog souffle.
www.dorchestercollection.com



EGG NOG SOUFFLE AT POLO LOUNGE

Hotel Bel-Air

There are plenty of celebratory options this year on the cozy patio of Wolfgang Puck's signature restaurant including a three-course

Thanksgiving dinner. Christmas Eve features a four-course menu with a beignet holiday confection tree and a three-course family-style Christmas day meal. New Year's Eve features an a la carte menu for the first seating and a five-course menu with champagne and party favors.
www.dorchestercollection.com

Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills

Jean-Georges Beverly Hills terrace is back offering one of the most elegant eight-course tasting menus including caviar, King crab risotto and a ribeye cap with wine pairings. A traditional family-style turkey dinner awaits on Thanksgiving, and curbside pickup is available on Nov. 26. Look for a new Latin-fusion themed brunch menu on Sundays and a Waldorf Cafe by La Colombe pop-up.
<https://waldorfastoria3.hilton.com/>



CAVIAR AT JEAN GEORGES PHOTO BY CAROLE DIXON

The Beverly Hilton Hotel

This year, the iconic hotel is offering Thanksgiving dinners to-go that feature roasted whole turkey breast with citrus brine and herb butter, roasted garlic mashed potatoes, cornbread stuffing, green bean casserole, butternut squash and brussels sprout hash, kale Caesar salad, and petite pumpkin pie or pecan pie. You can dine poolside year-round at their new casual café MERCATO.
www.hilton.com/



MEAT CARVING AT THE BEVERLY HILTON

The Peninsula

Le Petit Belvedere and Chef David Codney are whipping up a special Thanksgiving menu with a French flare, including veal cheek



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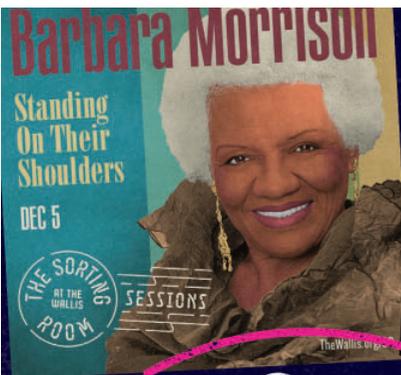
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SESSIONS

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bourguignon, that will also be available to-go (orders must be placed by Nov. 22). With any luck, guests will also be able to enjoy the Christmas and New Year's Eve menu partially indoors this year.

www.peninsula.com

The Maybourne

The Terrace restaurant at the City's newest hotel offers a special three-course European meets California coastal menu with hors d'oeuvres by longtime Beverly Hills Executive Chef Kaleo Adams. Available for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

www.maybourne.com/

West Hollywood and Westside Scene

Sunset Tower will be open on Thanksgiving Day for lunch and dinner with a special turkey dinner menu that starts with roasted butternut squash soup and ends with pumpkin pie a la mode. And, you can enjoy jazz on the terrace any Tuesday through Saturday night.

www.sunsettowerhotel.com

The London's signature restaurant **Boxwood** will be serving Thanksgiving dinner on their beautiful outdoor marble terrace, but with a twist. Yes, you can order a free-range turkey dinner with sage stuffing, but also butter-poached Maine lobster rolls, New England crab bisque, and in keeping with their British roots, beef Wellington and sticky toffee pudding.

www.thelondonwesthollywood.com

The Edition West Hollywood hotel by Ian Schrager has reopened just in time for the holidays with a revamped rooftop and spectacular West Hollywood city views. Here you can dine on a Peruvian inspired menu featuring sweet potato taquitos with red mole or lomo saltado with beef tenderloin. Open at 5 p.m. every day until the end of the year.

www.editionhotels.com/weho/

Olivetta at Kimpton La Peer holds the best hotel residency to ever hit town with Italian specialties by Chef Michael Fiorelli that can be enjoyed poolside or on the rooftop overlooking the hills. So far, they are planning a big bash for New Year's Eve.

www.lapeerhotel.com

A.O.C. Suzanne Goin and Caroline Styne's Mediterranean eatery is still going strong on the original patio, with more outdoor space added by the front entrance for sipping wine, eating charcuterie and Spanish fried chicken. Holiday booking options include Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

www.aocwinebar.com

Melisse x Citrin Michelin-starred Chef Josiah Citrin has morphed his landmark Santa Monica restaurant into an outdoor dining experience and they will be serving a full Thanksgiving dinner this year with to-go options as well for other holidays.

www.citrinandmelisse.com

TO-GO SCENE

Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel

While the hotel dining venues are currently closed to the public, they are doing a traditional Thanksgiving-to-Go this year. To place your order, call 310.275.5200.

Nate 'n Al's

This historic deli is still standing on Beverly Drive after a roller-coaster year. A new outdoor patio with acrylic dividers will hold up to 60 people just in time for holiday shopping and lunching in the area. Christmas and New Year's Day brunch specials are being finalized, but they will also be open every day for take-out, including holidays.

www.natenals.com

Ludobab

Michelin-star Chef Ludo Lefebvre has recently flipped his fine-dining location in Hollywood into a delicious wood-grilled kebab take-out format perfect for a home feast just before or after the holidays.

<https://www.ludobab.com/>

Craig's

While you can't have a martini at the bar, you can sit in the newly constructed back patio on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve this year, or better yet, order the popular honey truffle fried chicken to-go.

<https://craigs.la/>

Republique

The weekly Monday night suppers to-go by owner-chef Walter Manzke have a cult following and you can also sit on the newly reconfigured patio for a cappuccino from morning to night while you wait.

www.republiquela.com

Capital Seafood

Located on La Cienega Boulevard in Beverly Hills, this is probably the best dim sum on this side of the San Gabriel Valley. They will be open every single day for the rest of 2020.

www.capitalseafoodca.com

Xi'an Beverly Hills

This Canon Drive staple for Chinese food for the past several decades will be open for Christmas Eve and Christmas dinner, plus New Year's Eve.

<https://xian90210.com>

Daughters Deli

If you want the same quality of pastrami from legendary Langer's, this is your Westside spot (and, yes, this is the owner's daughter). Cater any holiday gathering with three to four days' notice since they will be closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

www.daughtersdeli.com

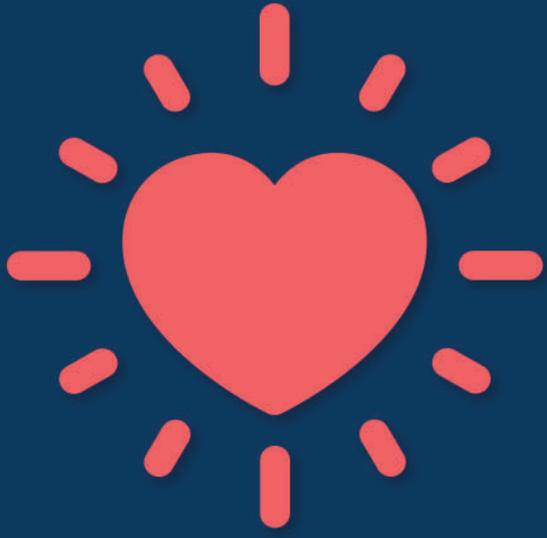
Eataly

For something a little different this Thanksgiving or Christmas, pre-order platters of salumi, cheese, pasta and Italian wine. You can also buy a precooked apple cider-braised heirloom organic turkey with focaccia stuffing. Must order by Nov. 20 for pick up on Nov. 23-25.

la-guestrelations@eataly.com

Baltaire

Thanksgiving dinner packages to-go by Chef Travis Strickland include a 10-pound Mary's free-range turkey along with other special orders such as black truffle mac-and-cheese, caviar supplement and Bourbon croissant pudding. E-mail hello@baltaire.com for pick up on Nov. 25.



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together!*

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- ♥ Develop a support network
- ♥ Check in with your neighbor

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Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm



#BHHealthyCity

At West Hollywood's Peri A, clients are looking for jewelry that is not only modern, but "fun, interesting and different," said Christine Moon. She is creative director and partner in the jewelry boutique on North Robertson Boulevard.

"Our clients want to see pops of color combined with fine gemstones. They want things like diamonds on bright hot pink acrylic backgrounds," Moon told the Courier.

Big sellers at Peri A include whimsical enamels from Italian jewelry designer Bea Bongiasca and New York-based designer Audrey C. Another favorite is the new Milanese label EÉRA that creates gold and diamond-adorned earrings, cuffs and necklaces with snap hooks that can be detached and linked together to create a "build your own" effect.

Peri A, like other local jewelers, is dealing with a decline in international business from Asia and the Middle East. Nonetheless, sales are doing quite well. The boutique is set to open an outpost soon in Aspen.



STACKING AND LAYERING DIFFERENT PIECES IS THE HOTTEST TREND OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON. JEWELRY BY SUSIE FOX
PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSIE FOX JEWELRY

She also confirms what analysts report as a nationwide trend in the fine jewelry arena. That is, clients still want to come into the store.

"I think online is a space where you see more of the discount jewelry. In this business, people really want that personal touch. They want to try things on," said Moon.

Based on current trends, she predicts that 2021 will be a big year for chains, chokers, neon colors and enamels. The Italian labels she works with are showcasing bright, fun colors mixed in with diamonds and semi-precious stones for an edgy look.



LIGHT YELLOW BULLET DIAMONDS IN 18KT. WHITE AND ROSE GOLD EARRINGS. PINK AND WHITE DIAMOND MICROSETTING
SIGNED M PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN KATZ LTD.

For the classic, refined Italian look, Buccellati is without equal. At the fine jewelry design house's Rodeo Drive boutique, pendants are big sellers at the moment.

"Naturally, people are not traveling and attending events as frequently as they once were. Thus, I believe there is a current desire for beautiful, impeccably crafted, wearable jewelry. For example, the house's Macri Classica pendant is a piece with eternal style, that you never have to take off, and can wear for every occasion," Lucrezia Buccellati, co-creative director of Buccellati, told the Courier.

She also cites the cascading Hawaii Pendant Earrings and Macri Cuff Bracelet as trendsetters for the holiday season.

According to De Beers, consumers are interested in buying fewer, better things this holiday season. That bodes well for jewelry purchases. Katz has a more philosophical explanation for the vigorous jewelry sales right now.

"Many people I know who were ill with the virus, especially the over 50 set, realize that this is your time here on earth to enjoy. We're not in a dress rehearsal. I try to enjoy everything more now."

He added, "From what others tell me in the industry, we feel rather positive about the holiday season. They're seeing a lot of activity overall. It's not as steadily predictable as it once was. But, you can't deny that people are looking for very nice things."

Jacques MOUW

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Health and Wellness



Peace, Love and Holiday Wishes

BY EVA RITVO, M.D.

Beverly Hills Courier columnist Dr. Eva Ritvo is a psychiatrist with nearly 30 years' experience practicing in Miami Beach. She is the author of "Bekindr-The Transformative Power of Kindness" and the founder of the Bekindr Global Initiative, a movement to bring more kindness in the world. She is the co-author of "The Beauty Prescription" and "The Concise Guide to Marriage and Family Therapy." She is also the co-founder of the nonprofit Bold Beauty Project. Dr. Ritvo received her undergraduate and medical degrees from UCLA, and psychiatry residency training at Weill Cornell Medicine.

This holiday season will present us with a unique opportunity to find cheer in new places. Our brains love patterns and it is easy to repeat the same or similar events each year and many of us have been doing just that. But like the rest of 2020, this holiday season will need to be reimaged. Years and even decades of tradition will need to be broken as we look to the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html> and California Health Department [Covid19.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19-Covid19.ca.gov) for new guidelines.

In 2020, our year of "perfect vision," nothing looked like we expected. We had to learn to adapt very rapidly and to "build it as we sail." Historians and psychologists will look back to see how we honored this special time of year during a pandemic.

Here are a few tips to help you find cheer in a very odd year:

Embrace Change: This year will be one of a kind. Gatherings will be smaller, and distance may need to be maintained. Be creative and try to find ways to make the new format fun. Take a family walk before gathering for turkey or the other festivities. Meeting during the day and limiting alcohol intake can also assist in making sure everyone stays safe.

Be Realistic: Travel restrictions will dramatically alter the next several weeks and months. Trips are cancelled and gatherings have shrunk. End of the year bonuses may be lower or non-existent. You might not look as good as you would like to but that most likely isn't a top priority in this pandemic. Cut yourself some slack. This too shall pass.

Reprioritize: This year you will not be running from store to store or party to party. Instead, you will find yourself surrounded by fewer friends and family. Some may even be alone to optimally protect their health. The holidays will be about depth not breadth, quality not quantity. Remember these changes can lead to growth so welcome them.

Say No: Less is definitely more in 2020. Health matters most. Many invitations may have to go unaccepted this year. It is not a time to overeat or drink too much. Keep your immune system strong and limit your exposure to others.

With lines between home and work even more eroded than in the past, it is important to take a break for the holidays. Even though you aren't traveling, you can still disconnect from work. Set up a schedule and stick to it making sure you take plenty of time off. Creativity and productivity will be enhanced in 2021 if we come in rested and recharged.

Acknowledge Your Negative Emotions: We can't pretend that 2020 was a great year. It was filled with challenges, disappointments and grief on unprecedented scale. If you try to deny negative emotions, they continue to pop up. If you can give them time and space to be felt, you will find they diminish in intensity. Let yourself feel the sadness for those lost this year or in previous years. Be open about missing those that can't be with you due to travel or other restrictions. Let yourself experience the disappointment

about your holiday travel plans that you can't embark on. Allow yourself to feel your feelings. You may elect to share them with someone close to you, a therapist or your journal. To paraphrase Carl Jung, "what we resist, persists" so don't try to hide from your negative emotions.

Unify: Let's put politics aside for the holiday season as best we can. In 2021 and beyond, we must work together to create a better world for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. Let's celebrate that democracy has prevailed no matter which side we were on. The legendary University of Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler said, "the team, the team, the team." We are all on team U.S.A. Or take it even further, and in the words of Albert Einstein, "A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe. Our task must be to free ourselves...by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

Find Joy: Often times, we find real happiness in smaller moments and experiences. For many, this time of year is filled with so much stress that it can be hard to carve out moments of joy. As we may be less busy this year, might we find even more joy?

Joy can only be experienced in the present moment. Tap into all your senses. Cherish those who can still gather at your table. If you find yourself alone, embrace that experience. For it is only when we become truly comfortable in our own presence, that we can receive the greatest gifts life has to offer.

Focus on Meaning: Thanksgiving so often becomes about food and fun and we forget to take stock and be grateful. This year we have the opportunity to approach the holiday differently. We can choose to celebrate our accomplishments as we have learned to work at home, cook more and find ways to connect to others using technology. We have become more resilient and many have gained confidence as they faced this historic challenge. When we are reminded of death daily, we can learn to appreciate life more fully and not take any day for granted.

Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa have become so much about the celebration and gift giving that the meaning may have gotten obscured. Let's shop less yet give more. This year we may decide to give from our hearts. Cook or bake for others. Make home crafts. Connect on Zoom or in ways and with people that we didn't in prior years. In the words of Mother Theresa, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

New Year's Eve is always a time of reflection and hope for the future. Most of us will be glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror. We will have better skills and hopefully less anxiety moving into 2021. We have gained wisdom that will help us navigate more efficiently in this turbulent water. With a vaccine on the horizon, we can anticipate a brighter future. We must remain patient, diligent, creative, resilient and optimistic. We can strive to fill our days with hope and purpose.

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Wishing you happiness."

Helen Keller

We here in Beverly Hills are a small community but the world is always looking to us as a beacon. We must show them that we can rise above our challenging circumstances and experience joy as we reflect on and celebrate the true meaning of this very special time of year.

Wishing you peace and love in this holiday season and beyond.

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Harcourts Beverly Hills Partners from left: Laurent & Krystle Bijaoui, Glen & Brooke Coutinho, Alex Duk & Deanna D'Egidio.

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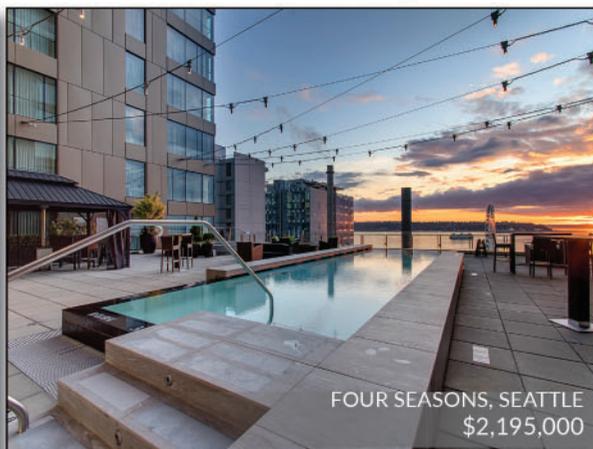


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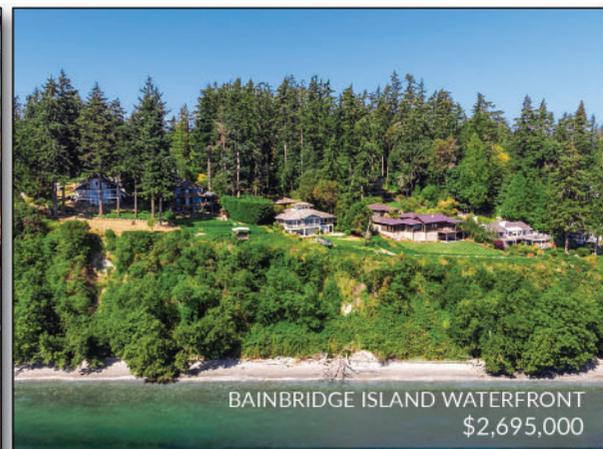
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