

— BEVERLY HILLS *COURIER* —

# STYLE

THE BEVERLY HILLS “IDOL”  
LIONEL RICHIE



SUMMER 2021

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A blurred, artistic photograph of a man in a white shirt, overlaid with a semi-transparent image of a classical building facade. The man is in the foreground, slightly out of focus, looking down. The background is a soft, blue-tinted blur. The building facade is visible through a semi-transparent rectangular area on the left side of the image. The overall mood is ethereal and artistic.

**FENDI**

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LISA BLOCH'S BLAZER: GLAUDI BY JOHANA HERNANDEZ

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After 15 long months, it's time to rejoice. We are a community feeling reinvigorated and restored. Once again, the tree lined, golden streets are filled with happy energy as people connect, shop, dine, and play. We are back, and in some ways, better!

But we cannot and will not forget the firsts we witnessed during the pandemic. Many lessons were learned. One in particular, the essential need for high-quality journalism to quickly and accurately report all vitally important local news and events of the day.

Thank you for all of your emails, telephone calls and handwritten letters thanking the Courier for the job we do. We're proud to serve the community and also proud of the three prestigious California Journalism Awards we've received from the California News Publishers Association.

This summer, whether it's outside assembling with friends and family in our beautiful parks, power walking in our manicured neighborhoods, or wandering through our many business districts filled with new, stately or comfortably familiar establishments, "there is no place like home" in Beverly Hills. It's the city we love.

And what better longtime resident than the "king of love," the magnanimous "living legend" singer, songwriter, and entertainer, Lionel Richie, to share his thoughts about our phenomenal city.

A big thank you to Vice Mayor Lili Bosse, and Lionel's manager, Bruce Eskowitz, who helped to lock in this extensive interview. It's a special conversation filled with great story telling, humor and wisdom.

Thank you, Lionel, for quickly and enthusiastically embracing the idea as you feel an "Endless Love" towards our city.

Summer is also a time to explore, now that we can. Let's learn about walking through Beverly Hills' impressive outdoor art collection, as well as riding in California cruising convertibles. How about discovering Beverly Hills influencers' stylish top picks, or rediscovering your favorite hotel resort style in Beverly Hills? It's all here and much more.

A big shout out to our wonderful local, national and international advertisers who support STYLE and our newspaper each week. The Courier team is beyond grateful!

John and I wish you enjoyable summer months in Beverly Hills, and hope you always turn to the Courier for your local news and events, and heartfelt community connections.

LISA BLOCH, PUBLISHER



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# Out and About In Beverly Hills: An Influencers' Guide

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

**K**nown for its bustling dining scene and Instagrammable streetscape, Beverly Hills is getting cooler. The days of moving to L.A. with dreams of becoming a Hollywood star are dwindling, as a new kind of VIP has emerged: the influencer. With the rise of technology, influencers that amass hundreds of thousands of followers on social media now wield celebrity power. An influencer's reach is quantifiable across platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, and more; where they go, we follow. So, it's no surprise that with its picture-perfect palm trees, an array of public art, and ever-changing business offerings, influencers know their way around Beverly Hills.

Unlike last year, which was marked by closures and restrictions, this summer is colored by rebirth and reopening. With people more excited than ever to go out, the Courier asked prominent influencers with ties to Beverly Hills to share their 2021 summer spots in town. The roster of insiders includes Beverly Hills High School grad and "Million Dollar Listing-L.A." celebrity real estate agent, Josh Flagg; Hawthorne Elementary school alum and influencer's influencer, Alexandra Rosenthal; S.F. native turned L.A. transplant and Cycle House fitness luminary, Nichelle Hines; Beverly Hills native and an alum of The Buckley School, Olivia Perez, and more. From seasonal culinary pop-ups, new hotel hot spots, and under-the-radar Beverly Hills gems, here is what they're up to:



**Sophia Parsa**  
[@sophiaparsa](#)

At age 30, Parsa's titles include Head of Community at FabFitFun, co-founder of the Mountain Gate dinner speaker series, angel investor, Forbes 30 Under 30 board member, event planner, and entrepreneur. Last summer, the Los Angeles native co-founded two new ventures: Golden Rice Co., a restaurant pop-up serving her mother's home-cooked Tahdig (a traditional Persian rice dish) every Sunday out of Poppy in West Hollywood, and Boxxie Party, a personalized event planning and gifting service. Since then, Golden Rice Co. has been featured in The Infatuation's "Best Pop-Ups In L.A. Right Now" and reviewed by L.A. Times restaurant critic, Bill Addison, as "spectacular." Parsa has produced hundreds of events and hosted over 1 million guests.

## **Euro Caffe**

I started walking a lot at the beginning of the pandemic, discovering my city on foot for the first time, basically, and I discovered Euro Caffe. I was walking on Canon looking for a bottle of water and kind of stumbled upon it! I didn't want to walk into a restaurant like Il Pastaio and just ask for water, right? So, I found this little cafe, and the minute I stepped in, I was like, 'whoa. I feel like I'm in Italy right now.' I love to travel more than anything, so I love how European the vibe is. It's through this beautiful walkway in between little shoe boutiques and has Italian jerseys hanging from the wall. The owner makes such incredible coffees, too. This spot is a hidden gem.

*427 N. Canon Dr. #111, Beverly Hills, CA 90210*

## **Summer Social Club**

Summer Social Club is another thing I discovered during the pandemic while trying to get to know other people in the food pop-up scene. It's essentially a pop-up restaurant incubator run by Employees Only in West Hollywood. A lot of these cool culinary pop-ups you see on Instagram just have a cloud kitchen and operate without a place where people can come in. So, Summer Social Club provides a backyard space and a platform to be able to run a live service for restaurants without a physical storefront using their staff, waiters, and bartenders. Every week, the lineup is different!

*7961 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046*



**Olivia Perez**  
[@livvperez](#)

The 27-year-old L.A. native is an interviewer, journalist, and the host of the "Friend of a Friend" podcast, a weekly talk show in which she interviews the next generation of luminaries. Since founding "Friend of a Friend" in 2015, Perez has interviewed the likes of Maggie Rogers, Bella Hadid, Hannah Bronfman, Symone Sanders, Millie Bobby Brown, Lindsay Peoples Wagner, and Jordan Firstman, and has moderated panels for businesses like Shopify, Bumble, WWD, and The Wing. She's made her mark as an editorial and cultural archaeologist, digging up the best of the unknown and sharing it with her followers as a contributing writer for [Forbes.com](#), and through her creative partnerships with brands like Chanel, Kith, Tory Burch, Michael Kors, Nike, Calvin Klein, and more.

INFLUENCERS' GUIDE CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

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# Staying in Summer Style

BY ANA FIGUEROA

**W**e have legends among us, of pink stucco and green palms and sleek stainless steel, of quiet cabanas and pulsating pop-ups. From Moorish to modern, the inns of our town are on wish lists around the world. With a daunting time now over, local hotels are reinvigorated, refreshed and in some cases, reinvented. They are also more inviting than ever before. To quote Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Masque of Pandora," "The atmosphere breathes rest and comfort and the many chambers seem full of welcomes."

Sip an afternoon tea or a Continental cocktail, browse a dazzling new art collection, dine with starlight views (and views of stars), all without leaving the neighborhood. The Courier surveyed 12 iconic hotels about new innovations, dining experiences and the ideal guest profile this summer. Though each property is distinct, all "seem full of welcomes." Here is what the top professionals in the industry told us about "staying in style" this summer.

**Beverly Hills Courier: Describe the most stylish experience at your hotel.**



**Sandy Murphy, General Manager, The Beverly Hilton**

"Aside from being the long-time home to some of Hollywood's most important award shows, which offers an experience unlike any other, our most stylish experience is reserved for those who book our recently renovated Presidential Suite. Located on the 8th floor of the hotel, the suite is the perfect mix of luxury and a light, bright California-chic aesthetic that perfectly captures the essence of the property. With breathtaking views of the L.A. skyline, a private pool table and stunning marble bathrooms, to say this space is stylish is an understatement."



**Offer Nissenbaum, Managing Director, The Peninsula Beverly Hills**

"Afternoon Tea al fresco on Le Petit Belvedere terrace is the most stylish, relaxed and elegant experience. Our guests come dressed to meet friends. They can savor quality time together or celebrate bridal and baby showers. It takes place on the weekends, but we will in the future open it up to more days. It is lovely to sit in the garden and enjoy a beautiful and very safe environment. People just love it."



**Vanessa Williams, General Manager, Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills**

"We recently launched the new Waldorf Astoria Coastal Voyage, an unforgettable experience that features a private yacht for a relaxing coastal voyage and an indulgent stay at the famed Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills and the recently rebranded Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club for an elegant beach-house retreat. The package includes two nights at each property, along with delicious meals and pampering spa treatments."



**Scott Berger, General Manager, Viceroy L'Ermitage Beverly Hills**

"Viceroy L'Ermitage Beverly Hills infuses style into every aspect of the hotel. One of our most revered and stylish offerings is an in-house Le Clefs d'Or lead concierge team that can curate the ultimate Beverly Hills shopping experiences for our guests with appointments made at Rodeo Drive's most exclusive fashion houses. After a day of shopping, guests can try on their new looks in the glamorous runway-like dressing rooms within each of our suites that feature a tailored vanity area, spacious closets and a three-way mirror."



**David Hoffman, General Manager, Pendry West Hollywood**

"Style is synonymous with Pendry West Hollywood. From the moment you enter our art-centric lobby designed by Martin Brudnizki Design Studio, all the way to our chic rooftop pool, bar and signature restaurant helmed by Wolfgang Puck—guests will sense a new wave of luxury, personalized service, and culture. We've also developed a stand-out art collection featuring nearly 100 works—from L.A.-local female artists to buzzy, emerging artists and household names."



**Edward Mady, General Manager, The Beverly Hills Hotel**

“Steeped in Hollywood history, the legendary pool at The Beverly Hills Hotel has always been home to glamorous starlets, movie icons, and the location for many classic films. Put on your sunglasses and picture this—Fred Astaire gliding over to his private cabana, Gregory Peck and Lauren Bacall filming a movie, Lucille Ball jumping off the diving board, and Kathryn Hepburn playing tennis nearby. Oh, I almost forgot to mention the Beatles sneaking in for a midnight swim.”



**Denise Flanders, General Manager, Hotel Bel-Air**

“More than a hotel, this is the living room, dining room, boardroom and ballroom for many of the world’s most powerful players. The elegance is genuine and the sophistication well-earned as most of the rooms and suites open directly onto the gorgeous gardens, including magnificent one-of-a-kind signature suites, which represent the iconic legacy of the hotel and its treasured reputation.”



**Cathy Kim, Director of Sales, Mr. C Beverly Hills**

“Drinking our signature cocktail, the Bellini, in a private balcony overlooking the Hollywood Hills. You’ll feel the Italian warmth. Even during the check-in process, everyone receives a Bellini as a welcome drink.”



**Michael Newcombe, General Manager, Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills**

“Presidential Suites with floral arrangements from celebrity artistic director Jeff Leatham.”



**Peter Humig, Regional Vice President and General Manager at Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel**

“Our ‘Pretty Woman for a Day’ experience is rivaled by no other. Where else can you be the star of your own love story with our expertly crafted take on the film? You’ll enjoy two nights in one of our Specialty Suites, a behind-the-scenes tour of Rodeo Drive fashion houses with a personal stylist, a couple’s massage, dinner at THE Blvd and more.”



**Eugene Leonard, General Manager, The Maybourne Beverly Hills**

“From our rooftop pool bordered by lemon trees with views of the Hollywood Hills; to our incredible spa, the largest spa in Beverly Hills offering a wide array of specialty treatments, to our al fresco garden restaurant, The Terrace, there are already a variety of stylish experiences to be had at The Maybourne Beverly Hills with even more to be unveiled this summer.”



**Nick Rimedio, General Manager, La Peer Hotel**

“Our location and pop-ups bring ‘the most stylish experiences’ to life, from being literally steps away from the most avant garde shopping and design destinations along Melrose and Beverly to the restaurants and nightlife on Robertson and Santa Monica Boulevard, you can have it all! Plus, within our walls are an incredible retail shop modeled after an awards show celebrity gifting lounge (GBK Brand Bar), art gallery and studio (James Peter Henry), and incredible dining (Light for breakfast and lunch, followed by Issima by Olivetta for dinner)—it’s all right here.”

## What new initiatives, venues and design changes will you debut this summer?

### The Beverly Hilton

“We recently launched Sant’olina, our new rooftop dining pop-up in partnership with The h.wood Group, which has quickly become a hot spot for locals and guests this summer. The hotel also wrapped up a \$35 million renovation last year, and now with travel back in swing, we’re excited for guests to experience all of the gorgeous upgrades.”

### The Peninsula Beverly Hills

“The Peninsula Beverly Hills is the latest home for the iconic LOVE sculpture by Robert Indiana. The sculpture can be viewed at Le Petit Belvedere, a California Brasserie. It really resonates well with the outdoor environment, and it’s the centerpiece of the restaurant. One thing we’ve been doing for a while, but it has now taken on a life of its own, is offering dining in our cabanas. It started with people wanting their own private space during the pandemic. It’s become very popular for romantic and private dining in the evening.”



THE POOL AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA

### Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills

“Guests looking to hit the road and enjoy an unforgettable stay in the heart of Beverly Hills as the weather heats up will want to book our new Summer Escape package. The new package offers a soothing escape that includes access to a guest room or suite with a terrace and stunning views of the city, an exclusive welcome amenity, a lunch for two guests at The Rooftop by JG and complimentary nightly valet parking for stays between two and five nights. The new Summer Escape Package is available for travel through Sept. 30.”

### Viceroy L’Ermitage Beverly Hills

“We have launched a flexible check-in and check-out program to ensure that guests experience our superior hospitality from the moment they arrive. Guests can arrive at their leisure on their check in date and can also now receive complimentary late check-out. We also invite local residents to linger longer at the L’Ermitage with complimentary valet parking for all guests of our dining experience, Avec Nous.”

### Pendry West Hollywood

“Pendry West Hollywood just debuted a global collaboration led by CIRCA, an innovative new platform showcasing digital art in the public spaces, to feature a beautiful new video work by David Hockney. We were thrilled to be one of five of the world’s most iconic outdoor video screens, along with London, New York, Seoul, and Tokyo, to participate in this.”

### The Beverly Hills Hotel

“The Beverly Hills Hotel Spa reopened its doors in February of 2021 after seven months of extensive refurbishment and redesign. The new design of the iconic spa evokes a sense of serenity while maintaining

the playful attitude and chic sensibility that is The Beverly Hills Hotel. Notable changes from the redesign include the relocation of reception from its former home in the promenade allowing for a private check-in and check-out to enable a more dignified spa experience; retail vitrines are now prominently on display in the promenade filled with luxury spa products; and a relaxation room has been added for guests to enjoy before their treatments. The spa features four treatment rooms and one duet suite that can accommodate two guests at the same time. Also new to the spa is a nail suite, including two pedicure chairs and a manicure area featuring natural light from the citrus garden.”

### Hotel Bel-Air

“To celebrate in style, we invite you to enjoy our newest outdoor dining experience, Bel-Air Under the Stars, where you’ll cozy up beside your own private fire pit while sipping wine, toasting marshmallows and enjoying Wolfgang Puck cuisine. Offered Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

We will be celebrating our 75th anniversary on Aug. 24 and invite you to join us for a historical photo exhibition that will tell our story through archival photographs, which capture the moments that have shaped our legacy.”

### Mr. C Beverly Hills

“We have just renovated our pool cabanas and day beds in time for the upcoming busy summer season. Our Private Residences featuring two beds, three baths with world-class amenities showcasing a contemporary architecture epitomize the California and European lifestyle.”

### Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills

“We have relaunched Culina Ristorante + Caffè, combining Culina and Vinoteca into one restaurant with a new artist series. The new ‘Live Like an Angeleno’ experience at Culina Caffè offers a coffee program featuring unique coffee cup artwork created by local Los Angeles-based artists. We also have an outdoor pizza oven, making 150 pizzas a day, and live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Additionally, we have expanded our wellness rooms to the entire fourth floor, recently receiving the Well Building Certification, the first luxury hotel in the USA to receive this seal! Lifestyle memberships are being launched for the pool and spa, and we have a new private fitness studio.”

### Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel

“From complimentary yoga classes held on our Rodeo Terrace offering exclusive views of Rodeo Drive, to our Historical Hallway, which features a timeline of major hotel events as well as artifacts, we expect this to be a busy summer. Additionally, we are excited to promote BWork, a safety-conscious way to work in this current environment. Our team has thoughtfully converted suites into sleek, ergonomic, highly functioning workspaces. We also have a new Extend Your Stay program. And that’s just the beginning as we continue our Maserati Suite Drive promotion where guests who book the package receive 24 hours complimentary use of their Levante SUV. And last but certainly not least, we are elated to announce THE Blvd Restaurant is reopening in June.”

### The Maybourne Beverly Hills

“When we opened the hotel in August 2020, we embarked on what we call our ‘California Journey.’ Throughout this journey, we will continue to steadily unveil new exciting elements of our hotel, starting with our new rooms and suites. This will be followed by a number of creative new additions set to debut this summer, including a new expanded rooftop experience, as well as the launch of our new bar designed by Andre Fu, a glamorous new addition to the Beverly Hills cocktail scene.”

### La Peer Hotel

“We will announce a one-of-a-kind sneaker pop-up in our rooftop pavilion where you can create your custom look for your shoes where you can paint, add fabrics and other details that fully express your imagination. It’s great for shoe aficionados, as well as parents and teens looking for a fun experience that you can do together.”

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**EAST WEST BANK**

# City of Style: Beverly Hills Shows Off its Public Art

BY CAMERON CREWS

“Standing on the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Rodeo Drive is ‘Takeaway Man’ by Tom Friedman. No one can pass this corner without smiling. That is the power of art,” said Arts and Culture Commissioner Michael Smooke.

Beverly Hills certainly understands the power of art, its ability to stimulate, entertain, and enhance. Long known for its public and private support for the arts, Beverly Hills is committed to providing access to diverse public artworks. “Throughout the years the city has established different committees and commissions to provide recommendations on the best way to advocate and support the Arts,” Director of Community Services Jenny Rogers told the Courier.

“In the early 80’s, the Beverly Hills Fine Art Committee was established to support art exhibitions, performances and to formalize the installation of art and ornamentation throughout the city. In 1992, the City Council renamed the Fine Art Committee the Fine Art Commission. The Fine Art Commission developed, expanded, and promoted a notable public Fine Arts Collection to enhance the city’s cultural image and to provide a dynamic and enriching experience for residents, visitors and businesses in the city. The Commission helped acquire all the artworks that comprise the existing Fine Art Collection,” added Rogers.

In 2019, the Fine Art Commission was expanded to include cultural arts and was renamed the Arts and Culture Commission. This Commission presently has the responsibility for acquiring and/or accepting donations or loans of fine art. Despite the setbacks of a tumultuous year, the city’s commitment to the arts has never wavered. The Arts and Culture Commission is currently “moving into projects that are artistically and culturally diverse to expose them in more temporary ways than before” to allow for a “truly fantastic summer of art,” Commissioner Stephanie Blackmore Vahn told the Courier.

The Arts and Culture Commission has created “Fine Art Walking Tours” that provide different walking routes throughout the city. Residents and visitors can partake in a self-guided tour of the Fine Art Collection, utilizing a downloadable map available at <https://lovebeverlyhills.com/walking-tours>.

This summer is the perfect time to experience the more than 50 notable works in the city. For those interested in more in-depth exploration, the Courier has compiled a guide to 13 of the most notable pieces.



“Iron Root,” 2015, Ai Weiwei (1957-)

The orange-rust patina of “Iron Root” provides a natural appearance on first impression. But, the beauty and craftsmanship of the piece, modeled from the roots of the Pequi Vinagreiro tree from Brazil, soon gives way to a sense of uprootedness.

After spending time with local artisans and communities in Brazil’s Bahian rainforest, Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, internationally renowned and appreciated for his advocacy and artistic genius, became unsettled by the largely bygone way of life usurped by industrialization and modernization. He responded with “Iron Root” in various iterations. Ai’s artworks fuse an appreciation for the natural world with a purposeful political conviction, one so sharp that he was arrested by the Chinese government in 2011 amid a campaign against dissent. (Government officials raided his studio, detained him for 81 days, and held his passport captive for nearly four years.) “Iron Root” exemplifies Ai’s ability to create a poignant visual cue, luring one in through surface level appreciation and fascination then disclosing an intentional deeper message. The spontaneous nature of the roots placed within the polished city exudes a sense of displacement and ignites questions on the extent that progress creates environmental degradation.

“Iron Root” arrived in Los Angeles in August 2020 with a donation by Andy Cohen in honor of Richard M. Cohen. It is located at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Drive. The Arts and Culture Commission hopes to host an in-person dedication later this summer when public gatherings are allowed.



“Endless V,” 2012, Juame Plensa (1955-)

Gleaming in the sunlight at seven feet tall, “Endless V” exemplifies internationally acclaimed Spanish artist Juame Plensa’s ability to weave together an intriguing idea of collective memory while alluding to the duality between the concrete and the intangible. In recent years, Plensa’s works have become increasingly abstract, as he unites characters from diverse lexicons to suggest a rich multiculturalism of society. “Endless V” empathetically appears lost in thought, yet his muscles are coiled and tensed as if ready to spring into motion, embodying both a dream and desire for future action. The figure in the work sits draped in a blanket of symbols and characters from various languages, providing visual dimension and texture through the conflicting shapes, which, despite their contrasting histories, are all made from the same material—a source of relation for all. “Endless V”, a work that could be endlessly pondered for its contemporary portrayal of humanity, creates a scene of solidarity and reflection amid the traffic on Santa Monica Boulevard.

“Endless V” was acquired by the Fine Art Commission in 2012 for \$350,000 and dedicated to the city in January of 2013. The work is in Beverly Gardens Park on Santa Monica Boulevard between Beverly Drive and Rodeo Drive.

PUBLIC ART CONTINUED ON PAGE 42



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LIONEL RICHIE PERFORMING IN LAS VEGAS PHOTO BY ALAN SILFEN

# THE BEVERLY HILLS “IDOL”

The Courier’s Lisa Bloch sat down with Lionel Richie to talk about his music, his passions and his life experiences.

BY LISA BLOCH

“Hello!?... It’s Lionel I’m looking for... Is that you?” The door to the trailer swung open and Lionel’s support staff, his stylist, hair and make-up artists, photographers, and assistants marched in, purposely focused, in anticipation of Lionel’s live national telecast of “American Idol.” Bruce Eskowitz, Lionel’s manager, who had been visiting with me, began to introduce me to Lionel’s team. And in that instant, the man I was looking for, the legendary Lionel Richie, walked in.

Brandishing his beautiful bright smile, Lionel held out his arms for my hug as Bruce quickly introduced me to him and his fiancé, Lisa. The interview had been set weeks ago, but something instantly told me my greeting was authentic Lionel. His warmth and charisma come naturally. As if we were friends from the neighborhood, the comfortable conversation began to gush. Or was it “me” gushing over him.

Lionel Brockman Richie, Jr. was born in Tuskegee, Alabama on June 20, 1949 to school teacher Alberta Foster Richie and retired army captain and Army System Analyst Lionel Brockman Richie Sr. Raised with his sister, Deborah, in the house across the street from Tuskegee University, music, religion, and academics were a big part of the Richie home. Lionel’s maternal grandmother, Adelaide M. Foster, a classically trained pianist and the choir director for Tuskegee University, sat regularly with Lionel at the piano, and encouraged him to attend the university’s musical events. His uncle, a big band player and arranger, stirred Lionel’s interests in jazz and provided Lionel with his first saxophone.

Once becoming a student at Tuskegee University, Lionel focused his energies, beyond his academics, on music. During his freshman year, he entered a talent show in a group called the Mystics. They had great success and were a big surprise to the upperclassmen. A well-known group made up of seniors, called the Jays, took notice. When they graduated, the two groups decided to merge. The Jays and Mystics became one, calling themselves the Commodores. In their travels they played a great deal of the venues referred to as the “chitlin circuit”.

In 1969, while Lionel was still in college, the Commodores traveled to New York for their first studio recording with Atlantic Records. While there, the group’s manager arranged for the Commodores to play at a black lawyers’ convention where Suzanne De Passe of Motown Records happened to be. Immediately impressed, she brought the group to Motown and signed them to open for the Jackson Five in venues and stadiums around the United States.

The Commodores’ first big hits, such as “Machine Gun” and “Brick House,” were known for their funky, danceable sound. Their first album debuted in 1974, the same year Lionel achieved his first success as a songwriter with “Happy People,” recorded by The Temptations. Lionel graduated Tuskegee University, that same year, with a Bachelor’s of Science in Economics. He married Brenda Harvey, his college sweetheart, the following year.

Thanks to Lionel’s song writing and lead vocals on love ballads, the Commodores amassed hits such as “Just to Be Close to You,” “Easy,” “Three Times a Lady,” “Still,” and “Sail on.” In 1980 Lionel wrote and produced “Lady” for country singer Kenny Rogers, and the title song for the film “Endless Love,” which was recorded with Diana Ross. It earned Lionel an Academy Award nomination, five Grammy nominations, an American Music Award and a People’s Choice Award.

In 1982, Lionel ended his association with the Commodores in a heartfelt break-up and released his first solo album, “Lionel Richie.” It sold more than two million copies, and featured the single “Truly.” His second album, “Can’t Slow Down” released in 1983 featured the “chart-popping” singles “Hello,” “Penny Lover,” “Stuck on You” and “All Night Long,” which he memorably sang at the closing ceremony of the XXIII Olympic Games. More success followed in 1986, with an Oscar win for his song “Say You, Say Me” for the film “White Knights,” and a nomination for “Miss Celie’s Blues” from the film “The Color Purple.” Another album followed that year, as did one of his most notable accomplishments. He co-wrote “We Are the World” with Michael Jackson. The single sold over 20 million copies, and the event Lionel mobilized raised more than \$60 million for African famine relief.

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# THE BEVERLY HILLS “IDOL”

**“The world is in conflict, but we live in Beverly Hills where everyone is from wherever. You can actually come to Beverly Hills and get the best education of your life in terms of what the world is like.”**

In the late 1980’s, Lionel slowed down for a desperately needed break during difficult times. His father passed away, and Lionel’s marriage to Brenda (with whom he shared their adopted daughter, Nicole) ended. The “king of love” pushed forward. He married Diane Alexander two years later, and together they had two children, Miles Brockman and Sofia, who were raised in Beverly Hills. The couple divorced in 2004.

In the subsequent years, Lionel continued to write music, release albums and dazzle audiences globally. His tenth studio album, “Tuskegee,” in 2012, a compilation of 13 hit songs performed with country stars, brought him back to the top of the Billboard 200 chart. In 2015, his performance before 150,000 screaming fans at the Glastonbury Festival in England was hailed as “triumphant” by the BBC.

Accolades for Lionel have come outside the entertainment arena, as well. Three prestigious universities have awarded him with honorary Doctorates in music: Boston College, Tuskegee University and in 2017 the Berklee College of Music. He received the Kennedy Center Honors Award for his lifetime contributions to American culture in 2017. Lionel has been an advocate for Breast Cancer Research over the years. And in 2019, The Prince of Wales selected Lionel as the First Chairman of the Global Ambassador Group for the Prince’s Trust.

It’s no surprise that Lionel has said that he’s “addicted to exhaustion.” As a businessman, in 2018, while on “Idol,” he said “Hello” to home décor, launching his “home collection” business. He has invested in “Heal,” a service that provides home-based medical care. Lionel thinks of it as an “Uber doctor” in the privacy of one’s own home. And his perfumery business, aptly named “Hello,” uses his creative sensory talents. Lionel’s newly-released scent has been recognized as the 2020 Fragrance of the Year, top five finalist, by the Fragrance Foundation.

Success in these new endeavors is hardly surprising, given Lionel’s accomplishments thus far. He has won four Grammy awards as well as being named the 2016 MusiCares Person of the Year. He has one Academy Award, 17 American Music Awards, a Golden Globe Award, the 2014 BET Lifetime Achievement Award, and the NAACP Image Award for Entertainer of the Year. He is executive producing “The Sammy Davis Jr. Story” for Paramount Pictures as well as the Robert Johnson movie for the studio, and a film for Disney Pictures that will feature Lionel’s songs. He begins his fifth year-long residency in Las Vegas this fall, at The Wynn. He’s back in the recording studio and has just completed his fourth season as a judge on ABC’s “American Idol.” Lionel is one of the world’s best-selling artists of all time, having sold over 100 million records worldwide. As a global icon, he is truly beloved.

**Lionel, what made you fall in love with Beverly Hills?**

Well, I just realized over the years that when people would say, “where are you going on your vacation?” some people would reply, “I’m going to Greece,” or “I’m going to London,” or “I’m going to Tokyo,” or wherever they are going around the world. I discovered something about Beverly Hills; I don’t have to travel anywhere. Everyone is from everywhere here. It’s such a diverse place that if you want Greek food, we’ve got it. Italian food, we have it. We also have the greatest stores. And by the way, you will bump into everyone in the world at every restaurant in town. It’s the greatest place because it has a European vibe but in America. One corner has one vibe; another corner has another vibe. One house has one vibe; another house as another vibe. It’s a melting pot of the entire world, and it’s just the coolest place to live.

**Growing up in Tuskegee, your grandmother played Bach throughout the house and spent hours with you at the piano. Can you tell the story of when she discovered you couldn’t read music?**

The first part of my life, I was trying to read music the honest way...the way my grandmother was taught. So, one day, she gave me an assignment in which she would play it for me once, then leave the room so that I could rehearse the piece. When she would walk back in, she would say, “All right, here we go. Let’s play it.” Well on this one particular day, I must tell you, I played the piece from beginning to end, flawlessly, but my grandmother looked at me and said, “You didn’t read the music.” And I said, “Grandma, I read the music.” She said, “You did not read the music.” I said, “Why don’t you think I read the music?” She said because I didn’t turn the page. It was at that point I realized I was not able to read the music. But I could copy whatever I heard.

**When did you realize that playing music by ear was not going to be an impediment?**

When I joined Motown, and believe it or not, I realized shortly after that some of the greatest writers in the world - Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson - could not read music. Paul McCartney, Michael Jackson, Erroll Garner, the great jazz player wasn’t that good at reading music, but he could really play from his own head. Once I got my own permission from them, I was able to experiment. Yes, they could play the piano, but they couldn’t do all that orchestration. That’s when I realized, I can do this. And, of course, hallelujah! It worked.

**You were raised in the Deep South during the 1950’s and 60’s where racism was rampant. When did you become aware of the oppression, injustice and inequality around you?**

When I was growing up in the South in Tuskegee, Alabama, I was basically living on a college campus. As kids growing up, we called it



HELLO FRAGRANCES PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIONEL RICHIE ARCHIVE



KENNY ROGERS AND LIONEL RICHIE

the bubble because we didn't really know what was going on outside of our bubble. It wasn't until probably the March on Washington on Walter Cronkite in New York on TV when I realized it was happening in Montgomery, Alabama, 38 miles away from Tuskegee.

**Your parents worked hard to shelter you from the brutal realities. Why?**

I have to tell you, I now understand when the Klan was marching through Tuskegee, in my early years. My parents put us to bed early. So, we never knew that they were marching. Anything that happened in terms of racism, they kept it from us. For the longest time we couldn't figure out why our parents were shielding us from this. As we got older, I asked my mom and dad why they kept us out of that. They said, "because we wanted you to grow up knowing there were no limitations. And if we told you what was happening, and what people thought of us, then it might limit your goals as to what you would pursue in your future."

**Today, 50 plus years later, what advice do you have for all of those out there who are facing obstacles?**

The hardest person in the world to get to know is yourself. The hardest person in the world you have to trust is yourself. The hardest person you have to believe in is yourself. And the most important person to meet, if you meet no one else, is yourself. All the world needs is your special understanding and interpretation of you.

**As a world-famous parent, which has its built-in challenges, you often look back to the lessons you learned from your parents. Your father's advice and teachings made an indelible mark on your life. Can you share some of his words that still resonate with you today?**

He would say to me, over and over again, "aptitude plus attitude determines altitude." If you are just smart, and you have all the aptitude and nothing else, you go halfway. If you just have the greatest attitude in the world but no aptitude, you go halfway. But if you have both of them together, the sky's the limit. If you have to have only one, having the right attitude will put you in a higher position because people will like to be around you so much.

Another one... I kept asking my dad, "I don't understand why you're so happy. I'm playing back your life and you've had a very difficult life. I don't understand why you're just so happy every day?" And he said, "Son, if you lose your sense of humor, they have you."

**They have you?**

You can lose your house; you can lose your money; you can lose friends and family. But if you lose your mind, it's over. The only way to

really survive in this world is to have a sense of humor. And I have found that over the years, that is the only thing that has gotten me through some very difficult times. In the face of complete disaster, I would think about how my dad would smile through this situation. And the answer is, it's recoverable. If you understand that life is a challenge, life is painful, you can overcome obstacles. It was George Washington Carver who said, "Great men and women are not born. They were just individuals faced with a problem and overcame it." I'm using that as my mantra as I go through life.

**Community means everything to the City of Beverly Hills and to the Courier. Please tell us about the community in Tuskegee.**

I refer to my growing up as the village. But really, it was a university campus where it was a melting pot. We had German professors, Czech professors, French professors, and it was just every imaginable kind of doctor and lawyer, etc. Segregation was all around us. Still, it was a melting pot.

I use that association when thinking about Beverly Hills. In Beverly Hills, we have almost that same sense of community where we have just about every imaginable walk of life. It's all religions and all cultures. It's this incredible community of people. The world is in conflict, but we live in Beverly Hills where everyone is from wherever. You can actually come to Beverly Hills and get the best education of your life in terms of what the world is like.

**The people in our community share a love for our city and enjoy its connectivity. My bet is you know your neighbors.**

I do know my neighbors, and the people across the street. Especially during the pandemic, it's become a really fun thing. I've gotten closer to my neighbors than I've ever gotten before because I've never been home for a year and four months. So, I mean, we've had all kinds of behind the mask kind of conversations, and I've gotten to know them even better. We have different views on things, but also, we have so much in common.

**Who were your mentors? Who have you 'idol'-ized along the way?**

Tuskegee, Alabama had some very famous people. I was very blessed. I didn't realize that. Those guys walking around in those Airforce uniforms...those were the Tuskegee Airmen. As time went on, I realized, oh my God, Chief Anderson. Well, that was Charles Anderson's father. He was the one who flew Eleanor Roosevelt in the first flight to see whether black pilots could actually fly a plane. She went up with Chief Anderson, Charles Anderson's father. But he was Chief Anderson to us.

Even my grandmother and Mel Dawson, who wrote the Negro Symphony. He was just an amazing arranger, conductor, writer, and composer.



NELSON MANDELA AND LIONEL RICHE  
PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONEL RICHE ARCHIVE

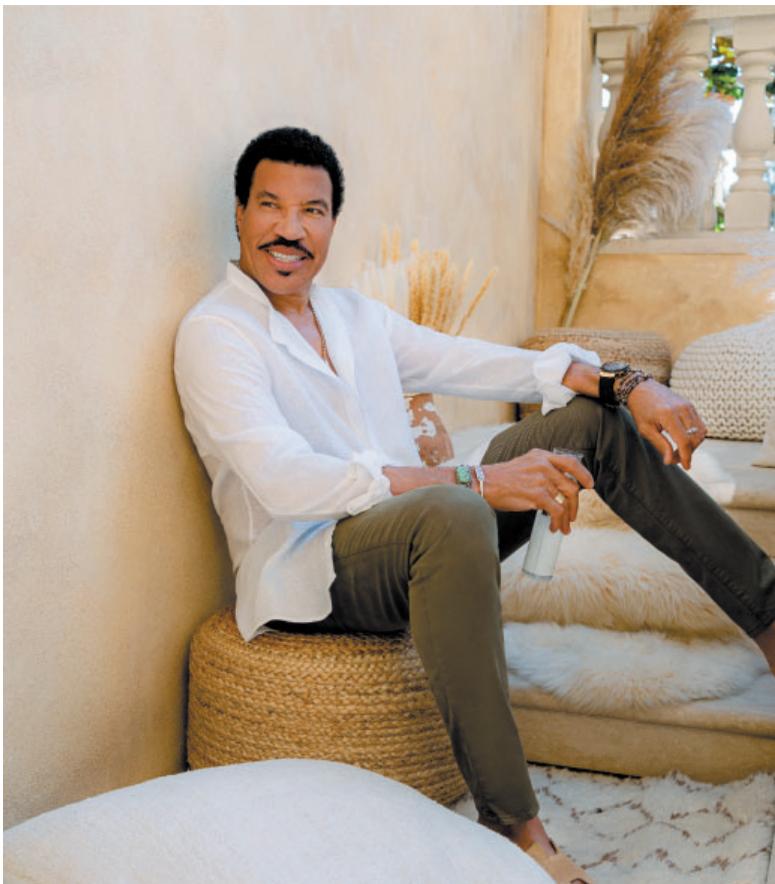


PHOTO BY DOMINIC MILLER

He would come by the house talking about music with my grandmother. She also knew Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver.

My family was a member of the Episcopal Church, and Father Vernon Jones had a huge influence on my life. He managed to get all of us to be interested in the lessons of the church by putting a ping pong table and a pool table in the undercroft of the church. Every Saturday we would go by the church, and he would teach us how to be altar boys and at the same time, we tried to beat him at ping pong and pool. It's how he mentored us in terms of paying attention to certain things in life. I was very blessed.

**And once you left Tuskegee?**

Outside of Tuskegee I must tell you, Quincy Jones, Sidney Poitier, and Gregory Peck [have been my mentors]. I happened to run into some wonderful, wonderful people when I first came to Beverly Hills, and they gave me solid advice on how to maneuver, and how to navigate the world of entertainment and the world of celebrity. Clarence Avant, Dick Clark, I can call off so many wonderful people. They were just there for me. And then of course, there's a grandeur to have been able to have known Nelson Mandela.

**Did you meet him in South Africa or in America?**

I met him in America. When we first got word that he was coming to America, (a group of us) were all given assignments and it was funny - my assignment was to make sure that he had suits. So, I went shopping at Neiman Marcus with Winnie Mandela. I remember we were running around the store and this was the first time I ever met her. This sounds like a dream. But at the same time, it was such an amazing moment to know that this man just spent all this time in prison, and he came out, reunited with his family, and then came to L.A. and to New York for the first time. And we had something to do with it.

**He whispered something in your ear that brought you to tears. What did that teach you about humanity and humility?**

First I was in awe of being in his presence. It just fascinated me to know that a man can spend that much time in prison and come out and have his sense of humor...and have the wherewithal to say that it was a teachable moment, instead of a bitter moment.

He whispered to me, "I want to thank you for your lyrics, because it got me through many years of isolation in prison." The fact that he had heard my music, that he knew my music, and then for him to tell me that I contributed something to his health, mental health, whatever the case may be, just made me feel so worthy of being a human being and a songwriter. I was reduced to tears. I just didn't realize I touched somebody so isolated from the world for so long.

**On "Idol" you have said, "Singing is singing. Moving people to evoke an emotion is everything." Did you make a conscious decision at one point that you were going to sing about love? Or did it naturally evolve from the hopeless romantic that you are?**

Let me just establish the fact that I am a hopeless romantic. I am in love with love. There is nothing else that matters or survives. We come to this planet in search of love. We only feel good when we are loved, or we are in love with something or someone. It is just a natural thing of life. "I Love You" are the only three words that never go out of style. And so, it doesn't matter whether you are a rock star, or a stoner or a gangster, or a politician, not to put that in the same light [laughs], but the point is sooner or later, you're going to tell someone "I love you."

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Three corny words. The simplicity of writing about things that matter, matters of the heart...it's timeless. I miss you; I want you; I need you. I'm lonely. I lost you. I want you forever. I always figured if I could get my music played at a wedding, I'm halfway there.

**“Life begins after you step out of your comfort zone” is another one of your wise quotes, and one that truly resonates with me. Tell us about that shy young band member who was coerced to kiss a strange girl.**

Well, I was unlike the guy you see and know now. I was painfully shy when I was younger, and I wanted desperately to be in this band, the Commodores. Everything was going along very well as the horn player, until I found out I was going to be a lead singer. I was writing the songs so I started spending more time up front as a lead singer. It was just Clyde, the drummer, and myself. The keyboard player was Milan Williams. I was the saxophone player. I prefer to say I was the best saxophone holder that ever lived.

When I got up to the front, remember very shy, I kept ignoring the girls. And so, members of the band kept screaming at me, “Kiss the girl in the front row!” And I kept saying, “I don't know the girl in the front row.” Remember now, in Tuskegee, Alabama, you don't just grab girls and kiss them. The guys in my band were older than me and had been in other bands before...I've never been in a band before. So, I'm up front, and finally, I bend over and I kiss the girl in the front row. The entire room screamed. And then the next problem they had after that was “Lionel, stop kissing the girl in the front row and sing the song” [laughs].

**What about the unexpected pairing of you and Kenny Rogers? You were a saxophonist in a funk band and a budding song writer, and he was a country singer? Your power ballad, “Lady” became a record-breaking hit for him. It also helped launch your solo career. Please tell us more about this “gruesome twosome” and about this lifelong friendship.**

It was the most unlikely friendship, but now that I look back, probably the most divinely orchestrated brotherhood that could ever happen in life is the story of Kenny Rogers and Lionel Richie.

I got a phone call from Kenny saying, “I would like to have one of your ballots.” 21 million copies later, it was just the greatest thing that ever happened since sliced bread. From there, we became buddies. But he lived here and I lived in Alabama. He kept trying to convince me to move out here and I kept saying “No, I like living in Alabama.” So finally, I was in his guest house in the Knoll, (an iconic property in Beverly Hills) and I said “I'll just stay in the guest house here in Beverly Hills.” I was as happy as can be paying little money and making a lot of money, and writing “Hello,” “All Night Long,” etc. That was a magical house. Then Kenny sold the house to Marvin Davis, after I was the one who showed Marvin the house because I was in the guest house working on the songs. So I made a deal with Marvin Davis, “I get to stay in the guest house; I come with the house.” That was our joke. Marvin bought the house and I stayed in the [guest] house until finally one day he said, “I think it's time for you to buy your wife a house...I think you need to basically get out” [laughs].

Kenny and I, from that point on, became this gruesome twosome. I was there when his kids were born. He was a brother that I never had. Every kind of experience that I was about to go through in my life, he had been through the same thing. When I was leaving the Commodores, he left the group, The First Edition. Every time I would go through a certain period of my life, he would sit down and tell me that this is what it's going to feel like, this is how you should deal with it, etc. He basically

was a mentor through that whole period of my life. I must tell you, there has never been a person that was more suited for my Southern roots. He's from Houston, Texas; I'm from Tuskegee, Alabama. And for some weird reason, I'm still going back to look at my family history, because I know we were related somewhere along the line. He was just the perfect friend and we had so many years of laughter to the point where, no matter where we were, I would walk on stage and we had the greatest impromptu show of life. I miss him to this day; I really do miss him.

**The Commodores were described as the “Black Beatles” from Tuskegee, but eventually the family broke up. You have described it as a challenging period. How do you reflect on it now?**

Well, you just touched on a lot of things. The Black Beatles, we didn't give ourselves the name. We played a show in Germany and in that show was the likes of AC DC, Queen was closing, and the Commodores were the opening act. Now, of course, what the heck are we doing on this show? But anyway, it was a disastrous show and just before we went out on stage, we did an interview backstage. In the interview they said, “who are you guys?” and we said “we want to be the Black Beatles. We're going to take over the world.” When the article came out it said, “Look out world, the Black Beatles are coming.” That's the greatest thing you could ever write. We only had two hit records. So, it was just hilarious.

But the break-up was very difficult because everyone saw us as a group. These were brothers I never had. In fact, I was saying every day “Thank God for the Commodores because then there would be no Lionel Richie.” And that's the truth, because they gave me the opportunity to sit in this little cocoon, and just take it all in and grow and discover. From that little quiet kid who was shy on that university campus in that first talent show together to then going to Madison Square Garden.

**You took a break from the entertainment industry in the late 1980's. What did you learn during that time off?**

That break was not a break I was expecting. Truthfully, I didn't take that break because I said I think I need to take a break. That break was like a divine guidance break.

My father called me on the phone and said, “I'm going for a doctor's exam and I want you to come and go with me to check this out.” You know, my dad was a military guy; I never saw him sick a day in my life. So, for him to ask me to do this and to be with him, I thought, oh, this is pretty serious. From that moment, I found that it was a slippery slope. And what I thought was going to be a short period of time for him to recover and to go back, it ended up being two and a half years to his death. And then from there, I didn't want to start the album and miss that opportunity to be with him. During this period, I also went through a divorce and throat surgery and everything else. It was a terrible period of my life. But it was very interesting...it gave me an opportunity to do something I'd never done before, which is stop and reflect. I look back on it now as probably the best thing that could have ever happened because if I had kept going at the speed I was going, I would have probably crashed and burned. There's just no way to keep up that kind of pace and not hurt someone whether it be mentally, physically, or emotionally. Something was going to break.

But I got to learn from my parents a lot more. I found out that I had great friends not only in Beverly Hills and in Los Angeles, but also in Alabama, because everyone was reaching out. And so, it gave me a sense of community again. People that knew me in Beverly Hills, but I didn't think they thought enough of me that we were friends... they came forward and helped me through a very, very painful period. And so, it was one of those moments that I look back on. Yes,



GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL IN ENGLAND PHOTO BY ALAN SILFEN

it was not pleasant in terms of what I was going through, but yet, I think it did a great deal to mold me into who I am today.

**“We Are the World,” was one of your crowning achievements. You co-wrote the song for more than 40 of the biggest musical stars of the day for African Famine Relief. Please share the challenges leading up to this once in a lifetime accomplishment.**

This question right here could probably take three volumes of books; I am going to try to consolidate it as best I can. This was a monumental task of really not knowing what we were biting off.

Harry Belafonte called on the phone and said, “we have a situation...I go to Africa every year, and we have a crisis. We need a song. We need something for us to get involved to save our brothers and sisters and families in Africa.” So, I told Quincy about the phone call and he said, “you know, I’ll see Michael (Jackson) tomorrow. I can run it by him and see what he thinks.” And of course, it came down to the point of writing this song.

At the same time, I received an invitation to host the American Music Awards, was finishing an album and starting my tour. So, it’s not like I didn’t have anything going on...I was swamped. And the challenge was, how do you get the artists that you wanted into town all at the same time? We figured out all the artists will be in town for the American Music Awards - so that will be our deadline. A couple of weeks later, we wrote the song.

You know, we got Bob Dylan and then Springsteen, and then Willie Nelson said, he’d come in. It was just a magical moment. Then Michael said, “Are we going to produce this song ourselves?” And I said, “Absolutely not. We need somebody who knows what the heck they’re doing. Even though we produce our own stuff, let’s get Quincy.” Quincy was the greatest person to do this.

At seven in the morning, I left to go to the Shrine Auditorium to rehearse the American Music Awards that was live that night. I hosted the show, received all these awards myself, along with Michael and

everything, left there, and drove over to A&M Studios, to record, “We Are the World,” to get home at seven (the next day) in the morning. And people were congratulating me on winning the awards...I had forgotten all about it because I had just finished the greatest thing I’ve ever been involved with.

And believe it or not, we did it again. Now that I’m one of the judges on American Idol, we decided last year we would close the show with “We Are the World.” It was very special because I mean, believe it or not, as much as we keep thinking the world has changed, how things are so similar, they stay the same. And so those words were just as powerful today as they were when we wrote it 30 some odd years ago.

**“Through the years,” who has expressed more appreciation for your music masterpieces of love, men or women?**

That’s a funny story. You would think that women would be the biggest fans because they come up and they say, “Oh, my God, Lionel, we were engaged to your song, I went to college with your song. We fell in love to your song. We parted on your song. We got married to your song. We had kids to your song, etc.” I mean, I’m responsible, if you let the ladies tell it.

But more guys will come to me and just say one word that sums up the entire experience. “Thanks.” And I get it...because without the songs, it would not have worked at all [laughs].

So, it’s a 50/50 deal. But what’s happening today is that the songs that were of that era are still as popular today. I guess it’s just because we’re touring and their parents play the songs, so they are familiar. I’ve got three generations of people sitting in my audience, and it’s the darndest thing that they all know every word to every song. We’ve had nine-year-olds... And when you have a nine-year-old saying “my favorite song is ‘Easy, Like Sunday Morning.’” I mean, what do you think that’s all about? I brought [a nine-year-old] on stage for “All Night Long” and gave him the mic and he sang it. It’s funny how it continues generation to generation.

LIONEL RICHIE CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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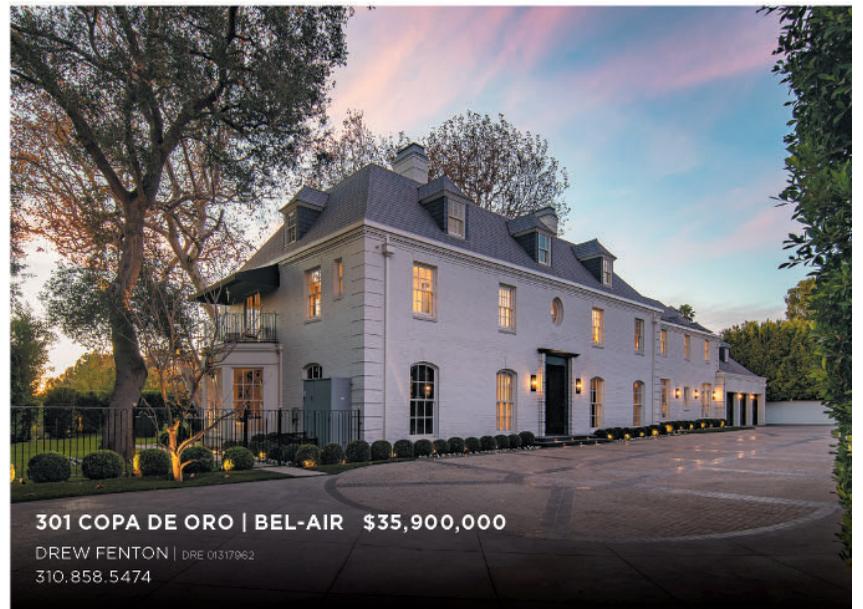
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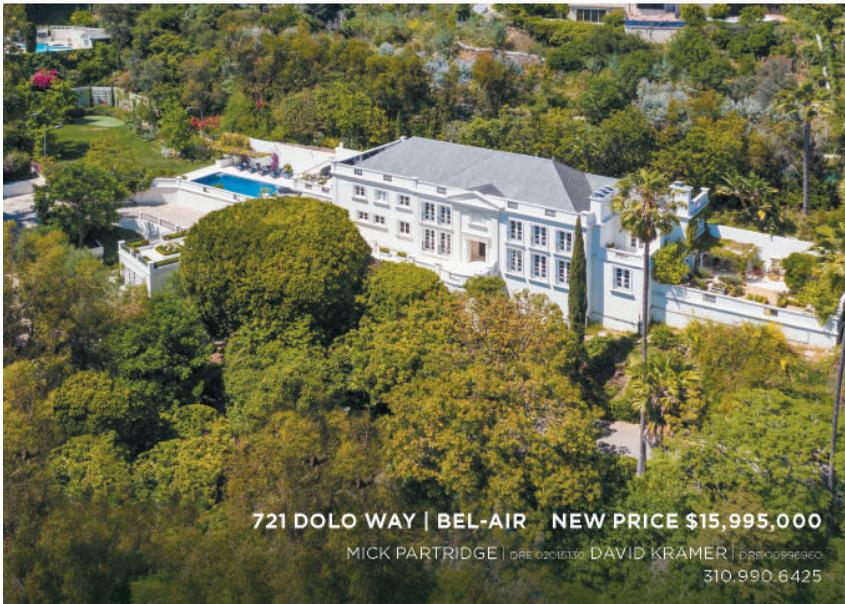
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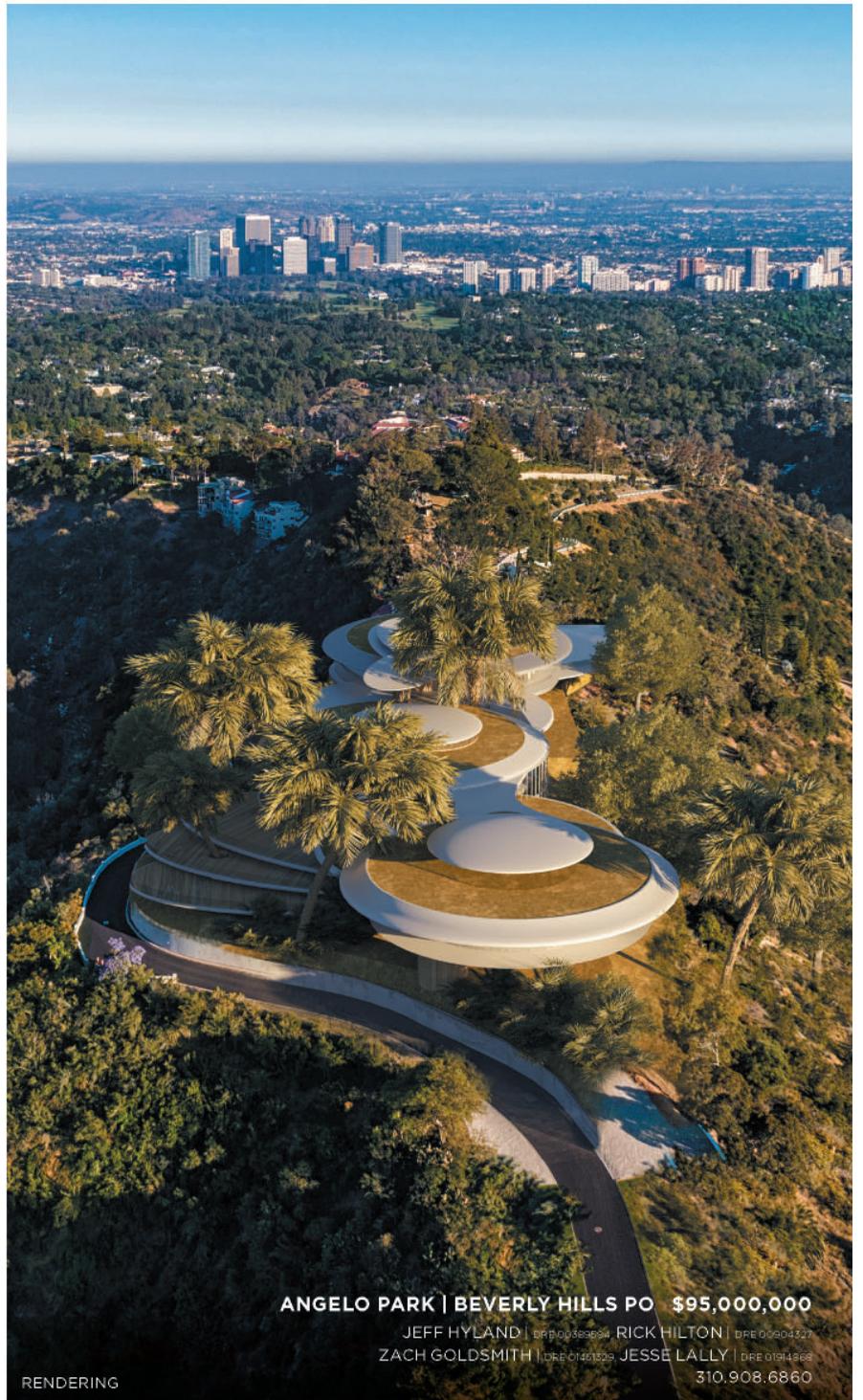
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# Cruising in California Convertible Style



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 also is 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.

Just to whet the appetite (and who doesn't like a whetted appetite for the summer?) we are looking today at some serious iron, each of which just happens to have an open-top option, beauties from Aston, Bentley, Corvette, Ferrari, Lamborghini, McLaren, Porsche and Rolls. These aren't your father's (or grandfather's or almost anyone else's) convertibles in the way that they were created yesteryear. The dreamboats of the 1950s and 1960s were canvas-topped luxobarges, by and large (emphasis on "large"), but the ones that we'll view today either are full-on performance cars or hyper-luxurious cars which still perform amazingly on the road and—yes—even on the track.

We'll meet them in alphabetical order so as not to offend anyone. I had to drive them before writing about them (as I almost always do), so I hope that you appreciate the great efforts that I have gone to in order to bring you this report. Lucky me, as I love all of these cars and would be happy to have any one or all of them for my own. Their base prices total about \$2.5 million so be sure to bring your checkbook to this summer party.



ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE ROADSTER  
PHOTO COURTESY OF ASTON MARTIN

## Aston Martin Vantage Roadster

Aston recently redesigned the Vantage and they did a terrific job. The lines are even more sinuous; the rear (especially the taillight) is quite sculptural and very attractive and the sound is terrific (unless it's your neighbor's Vantage, which might not be as welcome). With an interior befitting a luxury car, the Aston is a joy to drive (and a delight to hear), with performance to match, with 0-60 MPH in 3.7 seconds.



BENTLEY GTC MULLINER PHOTO COURTESY OF BENTLEY

## Bentley GTC Mulliner

I have driven most of the Bentley models from the past decade or so and I have to say—the GTC (aka GT Convertible) Mulliner is ne plus ultra! No part of the car has been left unadorned, with stitches, inlays, intarsias and other upgraded designs. The result is sumptuous! Coupled (as "mine" was) with a W12 engine pumping out 650 HP and 635 lb.-ft. of torque, this 5,300-plus drop top can lay down 0-60 MPH in 3.7 seconds. A gorgeous performer.



CHEVROLET CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE  
PHOTO COURTESY OF CHEVROLET

## Chevrolet Corvette Convertible

The new Vette really is a paradigm shift for Chevy as it incorporates a mid-engine design. There is a lot to love here, as both technology and style abound. Though the power output is under 500 HP, it feels extremely quick and rips off 0-60 MPH in 2.9 seconds. A comfortable, quick and European look from Detroit (actually, it's built in Bowling Green, Kentucky), passersby constantly mistook it for a Ferrari or a McLaren.





FERRARI 812 GTS SPIDER PHOTO COURTESY OF FERRARI

### Ferrari 812 GTS Spider

Ferrari showed up at this summer soiree with some serious ammo—the 812 GTS is the newest front-engine V12 from the Maranello Masters. With just under 800HP, a top speed of over 210 MPH and a 0-60 time below 3 seconds, there are few cars—and fewer convertibles—that can keep up. I love the sounds of V12 Ferraris, top up or town. Will you mess up your hair driving with the top down? The answer is blowing in the wind.



LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR SVJ ROADSTER PHOTO COURTESY OF LAMBORGHINI

### Lamborghini Aventador SVJ Roadster

As is their wont, Lamborghini showed up at this picnic with a spiky haircut, a chain-link necklace and a switchblade! Don't agree? Maybe it just feels that way to me as this is an angular bugger with a screaming motor and performance to match its major swagger, with 0-60 MPH in 2.9 seconds, not too surprising since it boasts almost 760 HP.



MCLAREN 720S SPIDER PHOTO COURTESY OF MCLAREN

### McLaren 720S Spider

McLarens have a certain feel (and this is going to sound like Goldilocks) but it's not too noisy, not too stiff a ride, and not hard to live with. It is really just right, unlike so many supercars of the past. A highly refined car, the 720S Spider provides comfort, luxury and speed. The 720S is the only drop-top in McLaren's Supercar Series, and like many exotics of today, it can be driven in quiet or loud mode, with 0-60 MPH in 2.8 seconds



PORSCHE 911 TURBO S CABRIOLET PHOTO COURTESY OF PORSCHE

### Porsche 911 Turbo S Cabriolet

This is Porsche's fastest 911 convertible, though it's also really comfortable and elegant, both slightly surprising for a sports car which can hurtle from zero to 60 MPH in 2.7 seconds. It possesses the ability to be a quiet and comfortable two-seater (you can't really count the back seats!) and quickly transform into a real stormer. 640 HP does the trick.



ROLLS-ROYCE DAWN PHOTO COURTESY OF ROLLS-ROYCE

### Rolls-Royce Dawn

Finally—yet in no way least—we come to this stately participant. The term “stately” applies to the looks but “wow” applies to the performance, even the handling. “Handling” used in a Rolls-Royce article? Abso-Roycen-Lutely. Rolls-Royce's smallest (and for now, only) convertible is capable of handling everything you throw at it, from a night on the town to a run through the hills. Driving a Rolls is like taking a break from the daily world, with 0-60 MPH in 4.9 seconds.

I hope that you have had a good time on this quick visit with eight of the most special convertibles around. All deserve your consideration so if you're in the market, have a look, drop the top, take it for a spin and enjoy!



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“It was George Washington Carver who said, ‘Great men and women are not born. They were just individuals faced with a problem and overcame it.’ I’m using that as my mantra as I go through life.”



LIONEL RICHIE AT RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL PHOTO BY ALAN SILFEN

**Your beautiful 28 room mansion in Beverly Hills is filled with artifacts from your life experiences and vast travels. Can you share any details with us about your collections?**

Well, you know, it is a joke. Sometimes when people say to me, “Do you really need that house?” And I say, “well, for a person who travels the world, I have decided that I can make life easy for myself if I set up little vignettes.” So, if I want to go to Italy, I go to the left of the house. If I want to go to London, I go to the right of the house. If I want to go to the garden area, I go down below. I love traveling and love collecting. I found myself 20-25 years ago with all these wonderful things that I’d collected from the tribes. I’ve been made honorary King; I’m a chief in the Maury tribe and so I’ve got all these wonderful things. And then again, we travel to the Middle East and we travel all around the world and I realized all of my things that I really loved were basically packed away. And so, I decided that I would buy a place that could house my travels. If you ask my kids when they were growing up, they would say “dad lives in a museum.”

**In addition to music, gardening is a dedicated passion of yours. Please tell us about Lionel the gardener.**

Gardening is an amazing part of my journey, and that’s why my garden area is so important to me. I spend a lot of time not only filling up the house on the inside but changing the garden probably two or three times outside. I have this glorious view of the LA Country Club in the back of my yard that kind of makes me feel as though I’m not really in the center of Beverly Hills. It kind of gives you the feeling that I’m out in the country somewhere. It’s having that kind of grounds that made me decide to kind of make gardens out of it. So, I love gardening.

**Do you plant flowers or vegetables? Is it seasonal?**

No, I’m definitely not your vegetable gardener. I’m definitely your hedges, roses, every imaginable flower you can think of gardener. I’ve seen so many gardens around the world. There is something about colors and plants. I grew up in Tuskegee, Alabama, and it was George Washington Carver who was asked “How do you come up with all of those great inventions that you’ve come up with?” And he said, “I’ve talked to the flowers.” So, every day he would walk out into the woods and talk to the flowers. Well, I wrote most of the songs in Tuskegee, Alabama, and I would fly back many times just to walk in the woods around my home just to get that inspiration. In my garden here, I planted the trees and the atmosphere that I was looking for. I’ve spent many, many hours there. By the time I come in, I have two more songs that I’ve written, or two more ideas that I need to work on, or three more phone calls I need to make because all the ideas come from the garden.

**And what is your favorite room once you come inside?**

That’s not fair because I built the studio in the house. So, if you want to find me most of the time creating, I’m in the studio. Although I must admit, there’s one area I call the birdhouse that’s out away from the house, and it’s probably about the size of a small room, but it allows me to isolate. It overlooks the pool and the golf course, and it’s just the perfect atmosphere for if I want to be alone and reflect and meditate and be one with the universe. That’s the simpler Lionel.

**What is your perfect day in Beverly Hills?”**

My perfect day in Beverly Hills is very, very simple. Shopping, shopping and shopping. I found that a lot of times because of the traffic and the tourism hanging out on the local street is a little bit difficult. So, I find that between Spago, Cut, The Peninsula Hotel and the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, you get to kind of hang out there every once in a while. It’s been quiet the last year, but at a normal time what I do is basically eat, see what else they have in the store, eat, see what else they have in the store and then go home. The great part about it is all the business meetings happen in Beverly Hills...so, there is something very special about “let’s go to the Polo Lounge at the Beverly Hills Hotel”...well, that means we’re getting close to the deal. If you see me on the corner, we’ve just about either closed the deal or it’s closed.

A typical day would be that I’m in the studio, all the doctors are in the middle of town, the stores are in the middle of town, all the restaurants are in the middle of town...it’s just a gathering spot. I know it looks like a lot of glitz, but it’s really a little village for us who live here. It’s one of those places where we just kind of decide where we want to meet and we show up. It’s just I never thought I would ever say that this would be my destination. There was a time in my life when once got to Doheny and Santa Monica or Doheny and Wilshire, there was no need to turn right. You just couldn’t afford it. It just wasn’t going to happen. But it’s now home, and a glorious place to be.

**The “Hello House,” your home in Tuskegee, Alabama, is also a special place. Please share its historical and spiritual significance and what it does for you every time you visit.**

It is the house, the ground floor of the roots of my being. It’s something about that Alabama red clay. It’s walking across that campus. I am retracing my childhood footsteps. Every time I go home, the people who raised me are not there... but the ground is there. In certain cases, the trees are still there. I’ve marked my name on so many sidewalks around town. And to my dismay, as they improve the sidewalks, they actually destroyed my name I wrote in the wet cement. The tree I carved my name is no longer there. But the ground is still there. I go down there to get recharged.

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**To ground you and give you a sense of comfort. What do you remember most?**

I always remember the statement, "failure is not an option." These Tuskegee Airmen say this all the time. So automatically, even though I'm on the other side of the world, I'm in London, I'm in New Delhi, you name it, I'll always think about how the whole town expected something of me because I'm representing them. And basically, I always thought that I was standing on their shoulders. They did not have the opportunity to travel the world. They did not have white and black and green and blue and yellow people cheering at them. They went through another struggle, and to this day, we're still going through that struggle, but they were on the front line of that struggle. And now I have to remind myself over and over again that I'm standing on their shoulders and I cannot disappoint.

**Did you ever think you would be a judge on American Idol, coming into millions of homes every week, sharing your legendary wisdom?**

If you had told me 20 years ago or even 10 years ago that I would be on American Idol, I would have told you I don't think so. But now it's as natural as waking up in the morning. I mean Luke, Katy, Ryan and Bobby Bones and the producers at ABC...I have to tell you it is so fun. To be able to give advice because I can recognize myself 40 years ago...I know exactly what they are feeling. To be able to give the contestants constructive advice about their careers... it's just gratifying.

**In a poignant segment with one contestant, you offered up one of your many life lessons. "Life is hard. But every now and then we find a crack in the wall. A small opening. And it is up to you, with hard work and perseverance, to push open that crack and get through." When did you find that crack in the wall?**

When I joined the Commodores. I had a lot of things going on in my head. I was trying to be this academic guy not realizing that I was a creative guy. And instead of having trouble trying to remember what is

already been done, I realized I could create something new.

**But that's not all it takes to be successful. How did you make it happen?**

I wanted it so badly. That's why I tell people every day: to want something is one thing. How badly do you want it? Because it's going to come with sacrifice. Are you willing to give up this and that? How much do you believe in it? It's going to be painful. And then you have to be smart enough to recognize when you get into that crack, it might not be where you thought it was going. You might be able to adjust a little bit, but you've got to be able to see the changes...and then that crack gets wider and wider as your vision grows.

**You have implied that the losers of "American Idol" are really the true winners.**

See, when you get on a show like "American Idol," the numbers are what you're looking for. You're making the top five, you're making the top 10, or even the top 20. Right? That reminds me of being in school. Are you an A, B, C, or D student? So, the joke was that the C and D students in college became the owners of the company. And the A and B students became the guys who work for the owner of the C and D's. Follow me? So, what I tried to explain to them was, look, go back and look at the success. You've had an opportunity to study at the greatest university ever...the University of American Idol under the professorship of Luke, Katy and Lionel. We know what writing is, performing is, and what making it is. We never had that. I never had that kind of guidance until I met Marvin, until I met Smokey Robinson, until I met Berry Gordy. You know, you didn't know what it was until somebody told you. And so, their careers are really way ahead of anybody else's. If you just happen to make the show, you're halfway there. Now if you happen to make top 20, then they remember your name. Now the top five on, forget about it. Pick a number. At this point, you've had 10 million people with a billion impressions for the last six months. That's insanity.



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THE PENINSULA  
BEVERLY HILLS



PHOTO BY DIRK VANOUCEK

The Commodores had to drive in a van from New York to L.A. back to New York to L.A. and every club in between, and we still didn't get that many people to remember us. I mean, the opportunity is amazing. If they take this opportunity and use it as the catalyst to go forward, the sky's the limit.

**Tell us about your fiancé, the beautiful Lisa Parigi.**

Oh, my God. Every guy in the world needs an anchor, needs someone to focus on your well-being and who you are. When you find that person who can care about you enough to help you through...it's not all good times, every day is a different strange move. And to find somebody that can be with you to help you kind of figure out where you are in this muddle of information is just who Lisa is. She's just kind of been the perfect person.

**You created an exciting new business connecting your passion for gardening with a Lionel Richie experience. Tell us more.**

You know, people said, "I went to college with your songs, I got engaged to your songs. I got married to your songs" - but I forgot to do one very important thing: you forgot to take me home. So, I realized that the home version of a Lionel Richie is the Lionel Richie Home experience. So, under that Lionel Richie Home experience, we have several things coming out. First of all, the fragrance, the "Hello" fragrance. Well, in my garden, there are scents and smells that I have fallen in love with that I want wanted to put into a fragrance.

Here's what happens. There are only 12 notes in the music business. In the fragrance business, I had to learn as many notes and different values in terms of notes. So, once I found out that each fragrance is considered a note, and the value of that note, then I started thinking. I'm comparing this to the music business. So again, it's a little bit more difficult because I'm using my nose instead of my ears, but at the same time, it's supposed to be an experience. And when I walked into my garden of jasmine and gardenias and lavender, suddenly it becomes the lemon smell, the orange smell from the orange trees. You know, you start realizing that those frequencies can go into a bottle. That becomes the scent that a lot of people would like to wear.

**So as we "Sail On" out of this pandemic, what lessons will you take with you?**

Well, you know, it made me have a great deal of gratitude, in terms of actually knowing the value of healthcare and community. I've watched a lot of friends suffer with their families. It's one of those things where

when you don't know what's happening, you can't help because you don't know what's going on. This has been a very humbling experience not only for me, but also for my friends and the world. And of course, it's not done yet. So, I think for your family to get through it with, knock on wood, no one being killed or hurt is a true blessing. My heart goes out to those who did experience loss. It's so clear just how quickly life can change from one day to the next where you think it's all rolling right down the road. And then something comes along and wipes out everything. It's made me have a great deal of gratitude.

**You have described your song, "Hello" as "the national anthem for how to get hit on for the rest of your life." It has also become a fun play on words for different businesses. 'Hello, is it tea you are looking for?' 'Hello, is it brie, you are looking for? Lionel, 'Hello,' what are YOU looking for at this stage of your life? What exciting things can we look forward to from you?**

Hello. Is it me you're cooking for? Hello? Is it me? I can say this to you, honestly. You know, someone said to me, "aren't you tired of singing the same songs over and over again and doing the same thing?" I look at life as an adventure. I'm going back on the road and the most important part you have to understand is that I have a front row seat with popcorn. On the days that I'm not singing, I'm watching the next chapter unfold in the life of Lionel Richie, and I'm enjoying the ride immensely. I look forward to seeing what the heck is going to happen to me next.

**You are about to celebrate another young birthday next week. "Happy Birthday!" Please tell us, where will Lionel Richie be at 100? Singing "All Night Long" in your garden and in stadiums all over the world?**

At 100 years old, I plan to be probably at a nice restaurant, right down somewhere on Canon Drive sitting over in the corner, telling the exciting adventures of Lionel Richie. Everyone will be saying that old man over in the corner is telling more lies than you've ever heard. But the point is, this has been a wild ride. And if I make it to 100, which I'm basically banking on because I'm too nosy. I can't leave now; I have to figure out what everybody else is doing. So, between being in my business and everybody else's business, I plan on just enjoying this ride. If I am singing, God bless me. And if I'm not singing, I'll be doing something where you will know it's "me, you're looking for."

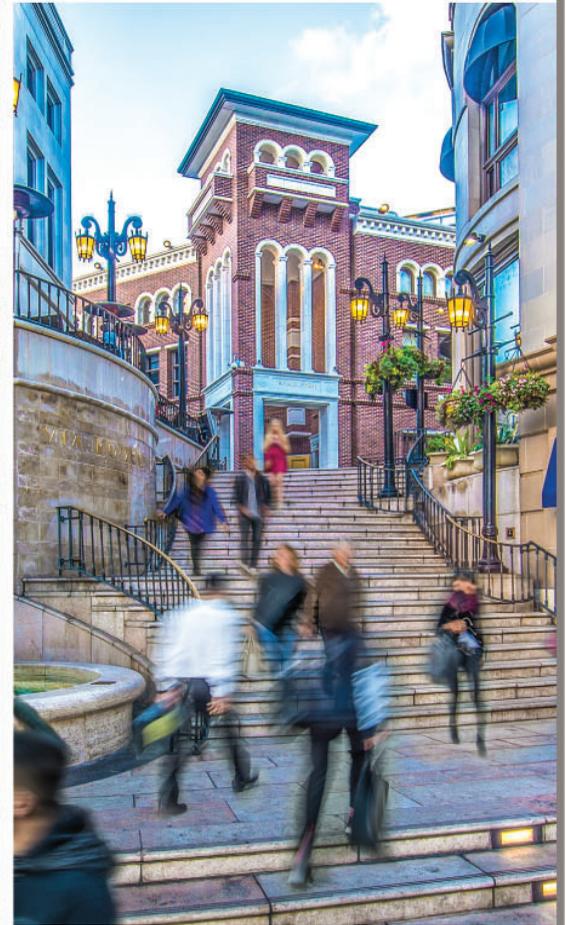
*Lionel and I talked further about how special Beverly Hills is, and how the events of the past year served to bolster our appreciation for the city we love.*

*The time was evaporating, as the "Idol" telecast was nearing. Lionel had not only lived up to his "living legend" title, he had surpassed it. As an artist, he's admired, even idolized, having devoted his life to sharing his magic through his music. As a person, he is irresistibly likable, gracious and genuine.*

*Another knock at the trailer door. This time the Executive Producers appeared, looking for Lionel. This was my cue to exit.*

*We exchanged pleasantries as they walked in. After Lionel's big hug goodbye to me, I walked out...truly touched by an "idol"...our Beverly Hills Idol!*

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Everyone needs a go-to local bakery, and mine is Chaumont. Whether I'm on a morning walk to grab a coffee, want a quick snack on the go, or am looking for a good coffee meeting spot, Chaumont is one of those places that always feels like a hug, and I know will do the trick. They have some of the best croissants in town, and if you're looking for a treat yourself breakfast, get their breakfast sandwich with egg and cheese.

*143 S. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90212*

**Gigi's**

Gigi's is the perfect recipe for a great night out. Whether it's date night, girl's night out, or a family dinner, the drinks and food are incredible, and the vibes are unmatched with a hint of old Hollywood glamour.

*904 N. Sycamore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038*

**Descanso Gardens**

Slightly off the beaten path, but definitely worth the drive, the Descanso Gardens is the perfect oasis for a day when you want to do something spontaneous and different. It's one of the most underrated nature destinations in L.A! Whether you want to go for a walk with friends, take a book to the garden, or get lost in their forest, you'll leave feeling reenergized after a beautiful day in nature (and have some incredible photos too).

*1418 Descanso Dr., La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011*



**Alexandra Rosenthal**  
@allymrosenthal

Rosenthal, 29, graduated from Emory University in 2014 with a BBA from the Goizueta Business School. After working on Wall Street for six years, the Beverly Hills native returned to L.A. to work at SET Active, an athleisure startup. Since assuming her role as Director of Operations at SET in 2020, the brand's signature matching workout sets have attracted the likes of Kaia Gerber, Hailey Bieber, and Kylie Jenner. Beloved by influencers on Instagram, each new drop features limited edition colorways that sell out fast.

**Full Proof Pizza**

If there's one thing my five years of living in New York taught me, it's an appreciation for good pizza. I've been thrilled to see so many new pizza spots pop up all over the city in the past few months. Something I'm really looking forward to this summer is the Lodge Bread Company's new pizza concept, Full Proof Pizza, opening in Beverly Hills in August. If it's anything like their current restaurant, it will undoubtedly be a huge hit.

**Santa Monica Proper Hotel**

Somewhere I've loved spending time recently is the Santa Monica Proper Hotel. Immediately upon walking in my first time, I was infatuated by every inch of decor. I've been obsessed with every meal I've enjoyed there, and I'd also argue that they have some of the best views in L.A. I know for a fact I'll be spending a ton of summer days at their rooftop pool in my new SET Active swimwear, launching in August, listening to their live DJ with friends.

*700 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401*

**AKT**

The past year has had me really missing in-person workout classes. I was elated to discover that one of my favorite studios from New York, AKT, would soon be opening in West Hollywood. Their classes are the perfect blend of cardio and toning work. It's one of the only workout classes I take that's so fun I forget I'm working out!

*7111 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046*

**Delilah at Wynn Las Vegas**

Out of town, you can catch me heading straight to the new Delilah restaurant opening at the Wynn this summer in Las Vegas! Vegas is the best escape for a quick weekend getaway, and now I can't wait to have one of my favorite restaurants there. Delilah in L.A. is a guaranteed good time and I'm excited to see it make its mark on the Vegas scene.

*3131 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109*



**Josh Flagg**  
@joshflagg1

Known for starring in Bravo TV's "Million Dollar Listing-LA," Flagg, 35, is one of the most sought-after luxury real estate agents in Los Angeles. Having sold over two billion dollars in property, Flagg's A-list clients include the likes of Adam Levine, Shonda Rhimes, Tom Ford, and Steve Aoki. Beverly Hills born and based, Flagg is ranked by the Los Angeles Business Journal as one of the top residential real estate agents in L.A. In addition, Flagg sits on the Board of Governors at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Temple of the Arts, and The Los Angeles Jewish Home.

**Cara Hotel, Croft Alley Beverly Hills**

This summer, the Cara Hotel in Los Feliz is going to be the place to be. It's so elegant that it gets me out of my 2-mile radius from where I live. In Beverly Hills, one of my best friends, Adam Rubin owns Croft Alley, which is a great place for a quick bite. It's always packed and filled with great people. Try the tuna lettuce cups. Or, for a real treat, order the super popular Josh Flagg special, a great dish off the menu: it's a traditional preparation of French scrambled eggs, cooked with low and slow heat, made with fresh herbs accompanied by truffle fontina toast.

*Cara Hotel, 1730 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027*

*Croft Alley, 9433 Brighton Way, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.*



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**Nichelle Hines**  
**@nichelle**

A founding member and Chief Ride Officer at Cycle House LA on Melrose, Hines, 44, is known for her star-studded clientele and her ability to push those she trains with to redefine their limits. Since starting at Cycle House in 2008, Hine’s cycling classes (many of which she documents on Instagram) have attracted a cult following, with Jessica Alba, Madonna, Naya Rivera, and Nicole Kidman among her dedicated pupils. The San Francisco native is an activist, coach, trainer, and actress, with appearances on *The Sopranos*, *Grey’s Anatomy*, *The King of Queens*, *Parenthood*, *Scandal*, and *NCIS: Los Angeles* and partnered with brands such as Tory Sport by Tory Burch, Kora Organics by Miranda Kerr, Eddie Bauer and Vital Proteins.

**Tree People**

My favorite little spot is Tree People on Mulholland Drive. It’s a really cute walking path right at the line where Beverly Hills sort of ends and the valley is about to start. They plant trees there and it’s a great place to take kids. Whether or not the actual Tree People organization office is open, you can just go there and walk it, or you can drive up and park. Just an awesome neighborhood-friendly spot. They have a trail you can walk that’s for planting trees—it’s amazing and perfect for summer.  
*12601 Mulholland Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210*

**Burgers Never Say Die**

I think the BEST burger in L.A. is Burgers Never Say Die on Glendale Boulevard right off of Silver Lake Boulevard. It is the best Smashburger in town and you won’t regret it. What’s so great about those burgers is they’re really thin and smashed, and you can eat it without feeling too full after. They marinate the onions for three days, so you get all the onion flavor with none of the bad breath. It’s by far my favorite burger in Los Angeles.  
*2388 Glendale Blvd. Unit A, Los Angeles, CA 90039*



**Caitlyn Chase**  
**@caitlynchase**

Chase, 33, is a Beverly Hills-based blogger-turned-entrepreneur who began her career as a fashion and beauty writer after graduating from Pepperdine University in 2009. In 2011, Chase launched her own luxury lifestyle blog, “Caviar & Cashmere,” where she continues to share the latest and greatest in fashion, beauty, travel, interior design, wellness, lifestyle, and more. Having amassed a serious online following among luxury lifestyle lovers, Chase launched a Caviar & Cashmere skincare line in 2018. The influencer has worked with brands such as Olay, Aston Martin, Nespresso, Joe Fresh, Simon G Jewelry, Glamsquad, Fairmont Hotels, and the Four Seasons Hotels. In 2017, Chase was awarded “Trendsetter of the Year” by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

**Bel-Air Under the Stars**

Summer is my favorite time of year when the days are longer, and the nights are warm. This season, you can find me having a picnic under the stars at Hotel Bel-Air, where the hotel will set up an outdoor dining experience on the property for a group of two to six, complete with your own private fireplace, s’mores kit, and food and beverage by Wolfgang Puck. Don’t forget to order the Tuna Cone!  
*Hotel Bel-Air, 701 Stone Canyon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90077*

**Beverly Hills Tour D’Elegance**

One event I am looking forward to taking place in Beverly Hills is the Tour D’Elegance. Happening on June 20 this year, locals will rally with their favorite classic and modern cars from the Peterson Automotive Museum, through Beverly Hills, ending at Beverly Hills City Hall. Spectators are welcome to attend and watch the parade of notable cars, free of charge. The event will support local first responders, benefitting both the Beverly Hills Police Association and the Beverly Hills Fire Association.

*Many fond memories!*

*Congratulations Lionel  
on your continued success!*



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**“Erratic,” 2007, Roxy Paine (1966-)**

East of the Beverly Hills sign and Lily Pond, one can find New York born painter and sculptor Roxy Paine’s 7’ x 15’ stainless steel sculpture of a swollen, bulbous rock “Erratic.” To Paine, humans are an extension of nature, yet their impact on the natural world is one of transformation. In geology, “erratic” refers to stones and rocks that were carried by a glacier then left behind once the glacier melted, often used by scientists to determine ancient glacier movement. The Beverly Hills “Erratic,” created with the most contradicting material to the rock’s organic form, juxtaposes nature through the lens of the industrial process. “Erratic’s” glistening exterior creates an ominous visual interruption, reinforced as one realizes the rock is devoid of natural history like its geological inspiration. “Erratic” is a bit awkward, much like its message: society struggles to find balance between the natural and the artificial.

“Erratic” has been situated in in Madison Square Park and Brooklyn Prospect Park before being purchased by the city in 2010. The sculpture is located in Beverly Gardens Park, North Santa Monica Boulevard and Rodeo Drive.



**“Folded Square–Alphabet G,” 1980, Fletcher Benton (1931-)**

Resting between motion and collapse in the middle of Beverly Hills, one can stumble upon “Folded Square–Alphabet G” by Fletcher Benton, one of the country’s most inventive and consistently challenging artists. Is it stable? Is it moving? The steel, royal blue sculpture boldly demands inspection as it creates its own language through sculpture with a sense of dynamism and ambiguity. Through a creative artistic evolution of the letter G, Benton addresses language and abstraction in an eye-catching way. The piece can be viewed from all angles, defining new constructivism through a fluid adaption of geometric form, while its unstable position abstractly reveals forms of nature, geometry, and human activity with a hint of humorous confusion.

“Folded Square–Alphabet G” was donated to the city of Beverly Hills by the Louchheim Family. The piece is located at the intersection of North Alpine Drive and Burton Way.



**“Indeterminate Line,” 1979, Bernar Venet (1941-)**

“Indeterminate Line,” resting south of Wilshire Boulevard on S. Beverly Drive, continues Bernar Venet’s, one of the most internationally recognized French artists, lifelong investigation into the mathematical and philosophical implications of the line. Visual tensions echo off the steel sculpture as it begins to coil in real space then abruptly stops, giving off a subtle notion that it could spiral at any point. Its neutral color makes the work possible to overlook, but, once acknowledged, the lively form starkly contrasts the angular, linear forms of the surrounding buildings, as if to bring a sense of unpredictability to the presumed stability of Beverly Hills. “Indeterminate Line,” a symbol of future potential, “opens a doorway to fundamental principles such as indeterminacy, chance, accident, unpredictability, chaos and, even, incompleteness,” shares the artist.

“Indeterminate Line” was acquired by the city in 2015. The sculpture is located at 122 South Beverly Drive.



**“New Piece,” 1966, Tony Smith (1912-1980)**

Often cited as a pioneering figure in American minimalist sculpture, Tony Smith’s work is created with a mathematical precision. Though, his artworks are not as simple as they appear. Smith incorporates slight geometric discrepancies that forces the viewer to look beyond the object’s literal nature. “New Piece,” placed outside the entrance to Gucci on Rodeo Drive, appears as a simple, uninteresting, hexahedron—unproblematic by name and form. Most viewers would not think to take a second look. When viewed head on, “New Piece,” a bronze work painted in black patina, appears a non-threatening form, slightly tipped, shorter than most viewers, and tilted backward as if to avoid confrontation. Once viewed intentionally, the work possesses a potential energy, potentially preparing to pounce. The assumed simplicity of “New Piece” is its great illusion, not demanding anything and not calling unwanted attention. But, to those willing to investigate, “New Piece” creates a surprising sense of urgency as the brave viewer questions the work’s increasingly disquieting sensation.

“New Piece” is number four of six editions and was acquired by the city in 2018. It is located at 347 North Rodeo Drive.



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# TheWallis



**“Playground,” 1962, Tony Smith (1912-1980)**

“Playground,” the first Smith sculpture acquired by the city, is united to “New Piece” through the concept of a deceptively simple form representing complex decisions that demand examination. “Playground” steers away from the daunting visual complexity of “New Piece,” though. Instead, it toys with the concept of negative space to ignite a playful nature. At first, the five-foot tall, painted black, welded steel “Playground” is cold, as it appears hard, firm, and reminiscent of the integrity and strength of ancient architectural buildings. Yet, the irony of the piece rests in its use of simple, geometric negative space and its ironic name, requiring more than a passerby glance. “Playground” calls upon the child-like detective and participant in all viewers. Can I climb on this? Am I going to get in trouble? The scale, form, and name of this sculpture invites its unrestricted audience to explore by crawling through its tunnel and peeking over the top. “Playground” evokes the inner child, the curiosity and excitement, in all onlookers.

“Playground” was acquired by the city in 2004. It is located in Beverly Gardens Park at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Drive.

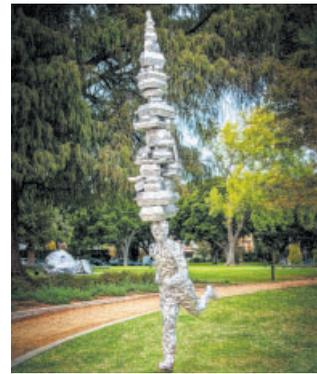


**“Sisyphus,” 1985, Alexander Liberman (1912-1999)**

Russian American legendary creative Alexander Liberman’s extensive eye for detail repeatedly defined and redefined contemporary magazine culture through his commercial experience at Conde Nast, Vogue, and Vanity Fair. Not wanting to limit himself to a single form of expression, Liberman created minimalist paintings and sculptures, predating the minimalist movement by more than a decade.

Liberman’s monumental “Sisyphus,” facing the municipal court building, disrupts the median on Burton Way with its fiery, red-painted steel, profound size, and swirling points of tension against its urban backdrop. The title refers to a king of Ephyra, in Ancient Greek Mythology, who, punished by the gods for his deceitfulness, was fated to endlessly roll a boulder up a mountainside. Ironically juxtaposed by a nearby “no parking any time” sign, “Sisyphus” serves as a culmination of Russian Constructivism and American Industrialization through an avant-garde lens, which slyly offers an unspoken exploration of Greek mythology. Impossible to ignore, Liberman visually explores Sisyphus’ never-ending story through an arresting presence that makes viewers pause at its detail, hesitate at its shape, feel a bit confused, and think through its possible intention.

Liberman’s public sculptures can be seen in over 40 cities around the world, including three in Los Angeles. “Sisyphus” was donated by Murray Pepper, the husband of the city’s former mayor, Vicki Reynolds. The work is located on the median Intersection of Burton Way and Civic Center Drive.



**“Takeaway,” 2018, Tom Friedman (1965-)**

In a playful and empathetic manner, “Takeaway,” matches the hustle and bustle of Santa Monica Boulevard as a lively symbol of the strenuous demands many are defined by today. Since the early 1990’s, Contemporary American sculptor Tom Friedman has created a whimsical, heterogeneous body of work that playfully explores the relationship between reality and illusion. Using strenuous, labor-intensive methods, Friedman pushes the envelope of what is art, what is reality, what is satire and what is truth.

The nearly 14-foot stainless steel “Takeaway” portrays an individual running while precariously balancing an overload of take-out containers in equilibrium on his head. An ode to the click-culture of food delivery, the work uses a sense of excess to acknowledge aspects of the gig-economy prevalent in modern society. The figure’s urgency recalls a rushed yet determined mindset that’s seemingly become norm. “Takeaway” is easily enjoyed by anyone, both intellectually and aesthetically, and easily entertains viewers through its simple beauty and craftsmanship, yet it leaves a possibility to dive into a deeper discourse about life and art. Perhaps an appreciation, perhaps a critique, the ambiguity of the work allows viewers to decide their own takeaway.

“Takeaway” was dedicated to the city on January 3, 2019. It is located in Beverly Gardens Park at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Rodeo Drive.



**“Torso of a Walking Man,” 1879, Auguste Rodin (1840-1917)**

“Torso of a Walking Man” could easily be defined as a work in progress—a missing head, missing limbs, missing personality. But that is conceivably its strength. And a hallmark of its creator, widely considered the father of Modern sculpture, Auguste Rodin. The torso’s artistic details are incontestable, the rippling muscles that create dynamism, the strength of the form exuding a sense of potential, the opportunity it leaves for the viewer to define its purpose. Through reflection, “Torso of a Walking Man” becomes a man in progress, one of vulnerability with capability,

though incomplete. Through this, debatably unfinished, masterpiece, one is reminded that criticism is, simply, an opinion and that no one defines an unfinished work of art apart from the artist himself.

“Torso of a Walking Man” is displayed in Beverly Hills through a donation from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. The sculpture is located in City Hall at 455 N. Rexford Drive.



**“Unconscious,” 2010, Franz West (1947-2012)**

Demanding you pause and take a seat, the towering, lacquered-aluminum sculpture “Unconscious” waves attention as it spirals out of Wilshire Boulevard. Inspired by Actionist and Performance Art of the 1960’s and 1970’s, Austrian artist Franz West’s artwork eradicates the divide between viewer and artwork by allowing viewers an opportunity to involve themselves within his work. Friendly and endearing, “Unconscious” is like a neighbor, as its three built in seats invite the passersby to rest, contemplate, enjoy. The sculpture’s impulsive, ribbon-like shape was created with unrestricted intention, as it seems to mirror the freedom of the unconscious mind, while its muted, blush-color and quiet motion creates a perfect space for singular or shared thought. The welcoming sculpture redefines artistic engagement and allows viewers a space to explore what minds do when thoughts navigate without bounds.

“Unconscious” was commissioned by George Comfort & Sons and installed in 2010. It is located at the Northwest Corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Beverly Drive, at 9465 Wilshire Blvd.



**“Peace and Love,” 2019, Ringo Starr (1940-)**

The impact of “Peace and Love” lies heavily in its artist. A giant peace sign sculpture could be considered cliché or redundant, but Ringo Starr is the epitome of a peaceful and loving artist. His artistic titles include singer, songwriter, drummer, collaborator, producer, actor, author, photographer, painter, and sculptor, and through each endeavor lies a single message: peace and love.

Forever associated with unity and endlessly donned by Starr, the peace sign is to the idea of peace and love as Ringo Starr is to music: symbolic. Starr arguably personifies peace and love, as all his public actions exude positivity, enthusiasm, and playfulness, and are often closed with a verbal “peace and love” along with a flash of the hand sign. Standing eight feet tall and weighing over 800 pounds, Starr’s polished stainless-steel sculpture replicates the hand gesture he first adopted in the 60’s. Through its simple

yet historic form, “Peace and Love,” endearing and approachable, makes one feel nostalgic about the past and optimistic for the future. Its form shines amidst Beverly Gardens Park in a subtle yet unignorable message of positivity to passersby. “Peace and Love” plants a light-hearted reminder of hope and harmony within Starr’s home of Beverly Hills as a reminder that there can never be too much peace and love.

“Peace and Love” was donated to Beverly Hills by Ringo Starr and installed in 2019. It is located in Beverly Gardens Park across from City Hall.



**“Love Anatomy,” Alexandra Nechita**

“Love Anatomy” calls upon admiration for the protecting, the disciplining, and the stable women in everyone’s lives. World famous Romanian American artist Alexandra Nechita, whose works have been collected by Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres, Alec Baldwin, Whoopi Goldberg, Calvin Klein, and more, creates a unique artistic style as a source of storytelling. “Love Anatomy” reflects the love and appreciation she holds for the women in her own life as it inspires all to appreciate their own. The 8-foot-tall, thousand-pound, bronze sculpture is stylized through Nechita’s signature neo-modernist manner and abstractly creates a female form that simultaneously ignites appreciation and, lighthearted, familial fear. The figure’s strong stance and independent placing exudes an imposing sense of female authority, while the viewer feels a need to check if their shirt is tucked in. “Love Anatomy” seems to transform, to broaden and deepen, the whole idea of power; a woman no longer must disregard her femininity to portray strength but is instead empowered by her female nature that unites all. Having been so many years defined by bodies, Nechita’s work stands as an inspiring symbol of unity as it symbolizes female power and the love, expectation, and progress that it brings.

“Love Anatomy” was installed on April 29, 2021. The work stands on the west side of the Burton Way median, facing three other existing sculptures (“Sisyphus” by Alexander Liberman, “World On Its Hind Legs” by William Kentridge and “Folded Square - Alphabet G” by Fletcher Benton). The Arts and Culture Commission hopes to host an in-person dedication later this summer when public gatherings are allowed.

## **Notable Art Exhibits This Summer:**

### **“Ai Weiwei: Trace,” Now through Aug. 1**

“Ai Weiwei: Trace” at the Skirball Center seeks to illuminate the power of resistance. Created in 2014, when Ai Weiwei was on house arrest in China, the exhibition highlights activists, prisoners of conscience, and global free speech advocates. The exhibition is made up of portraits that were hand assembled from thousands of LEGO bricks.

<https://www.skirball.org/exhibitions/ai-weiwei-trace>

### **“Banksy: Genius or Vandal” Sept. 22**

Celebrate Banksy, the master of the streets, in Los Angeles. A world-renowned mystery man, the graffiti artist, painter, activist, filmmaker, and all-purpose provocateur was listed as one of Time’s 100 most influential people in 2010.

<https://feverup.com/m/98070>

**Additional reporting by Kathy Silverman**

## Is there a signature dining experience that defines your hotel's allure?



SANT'OLINA ROOF TOP DINING AT THE BEVERLY HILTON

### The Beverly Hilton

"We're lucky to not just have one, but two amazing dining experiences. First, there is MERCATO. Located adjacent to our hotel's iconic Aqua Star pool, this restaurant is truly California cool. MERCATO offers a laid back, casual feel with classic menu items in the heart of Beverly Hills. It is this vibe that has made this poolside escape a favorite for years for stars looking to fly below the radar and unwind. Second, there is our new experience, Sant'olina. With gorgeous rooftop views and a Mediterranean-focused menu, this popular new dining experience embodies the energy that is ever-pulsing through the hotel. It's a place to see and be seen. It's fresh but also taps into the comfort that is felt while visiting places you know and love."

### The Peninsula Beverly Hills

"At Le Petit Belvedere there's always an occasion to celebrate with a complimentary Laurent Perrier Champagne toast every evening at 8 p.m. We stop everything and give everybody a glass of Champagne, and we celebrate all the occasions that we could not celebrate. It's a very intimate moment, heartfelt and really touches people. We've been doing it every night, and it has received a tremendous response."

### Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills

"Jean-Georges Beverly Hills has reopened for indoor and outdoor dining and offers a six or eight-course tasting menu with signature favorites and decadent dishes for a redefined dining experience. World-renowned chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten is reinventing the upscale dining experience with a sumptuous tasting menu, available Thursday through Sunday evenings. The tasting menu will offer new dishes each month, showcasing seasonal flavors and tantalizing surprises."

### Viceroy L'Ermitage Beverly Hills

"Our three-meal café, Avec Nous, is known for classic French bistro cuisine with modern elegance. At Avec Nous, we draw inspiration from the Mediterranean coast, add some artful Italian touches, and wrap everything in a St. Tropez vibe. We ensure that every visit is elevated through thoughtful touches that create a lasting impression for each of our guests and reflect the property's attention to service."

### Pendry West Hollywood

"Located on the rooftop of Pendry West Hollywood, with stunning views of Los Angeles from high above Sunset, Merois celebrates the open-air allure of the City of Angels with a menu that spotlights Chef Wolfgang Puck's eye for the sophisticated subtleties of Japanese, Southeast Asian and French/California cuisine."

### The Beverly Hills Hotel

"The world-famous Polo Lounge is the epicenter of power dining in L.A. and is known as Hollywood's commissary. Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin's favorite spot was booth No. 3 and Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe preferred No. 6. Today, there remains no shortage of celebrity sightings and great people watching."

### Hotel Bel-Air

"Eating at Hotel Bel-Air isn't just another glamorous restaurant. This is the secret kitchen for L.A.'s elite, the legendary dining room that feeds the spirits of our accomplished and creative guests, the sunny lunch spot for a group of friends and the right place to choose when you need everything to be just right. Mediterranean-inspired Californian cuisine ensures dining is pure pleasure at Wolfgang Puck at Hotel Bel-Air, where the al fresco terrace represents L.A. dining at its very best."

### Mr. C Beverly Hills

"From traditional Cipriani dishes like carpaccio and baked tagliolini to grilled specialties, Mr. C brings true Italian cooking to Beverly Hills. Rounding out this timeless experience are traditional drinks such as the original Bellini or the refreshing mandarin-based Mr. C. Our vanilla meringue cake always ends every meal on a sweet note."



CULINA RISTORANTE + CAFFÈ'S NEW COFFEE CUP DESIGNS

### Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills

"Culina has been relaunched as a more casual dining experience with renowned artists mentioned above, as well as live music from Thursday to Saturday evenings."

### Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel

"Enjoy a private dining experience on our Veranda Suite terrace. With sweeping views of the Hollywood Hills and added sparkle from the night sky, this one-of-a-kind dining experience is anything but typical. Set high above Rodeo Drive, your private 2,140-square-foot terrace becomes the setting of your own outdoor adventure. End your al fresco meal with indulgent s'mores made with 24-karat gold. Paired with a vintage Champagne flight, it's the perfect decadent dessert. With room for eight at the dining table, you're free to invite close friends."

### The Maybourne Beverly Hills

"Our al fresco Terrace restaurant—everything from the lush garden setting with arbors of lemon trees, to the white parasols and endless fairy lights completely set the scene for dining come dusk. All of this makes for the perfect setting for Chef Kaleo Adam's ever-changing fresh, seasonal menu that's all sourced from local farmers and regional purveyors reflecting the relaxed lifestyle unique to Southern California. You are completely transported when dining at The Terrace. Since opening the restaurant, we have been delighted with the success and overwhelming support we have received from the local community. Our expansion into Beverly Canon Gardens will allow us to welcome even more guests to dine with us at The Maybourne Beverly Hills."

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### La Peer Hotel

“Issima by Olivetta...what started with Olivetta on Holiday as a pool-side and rooftop pop-up last summer is now going to be a permanent fixture at La Peer. It will bring together our idyllic urban oasis setting with their incomparable energy as the place to see and be seen.”

## In describing your hotel, what do you say is its distinct personality, setting it apart from the other acclaimed properties in the city?

### The Beverly Hilton

“While some hotels fade with time, The Beverly Hilton has remained relevant for decades as a cornerstone of the L.A. landscape. How? Our hotel is effervescent. This spirited energy is seen and felt from our décor, dining experiences, events, award shows, premieres, staff and more. We are able to seamlessly blend the old with the new at the Beverly Hilton, history with the future, and because of this, the spirit of our hotel is contagious, leaving all guests and visitors wanting more.”

### The Peninsula Beverly Hills

“The Peninsula Beverly Hills brings the unique exclusivity of an estate, an urban resort nestled quietly in a Beverly Hills residential neighborhood, yet steps away from the city’s legendary lifestyle and shopping that no other hotel has. We have a reputation and culture that is known for taking care of guests. We have several initiatives that differentiate us from the competition. Guests can check in or out anytime they want. We have monogrammed pillowcases for each room and guest; that’s our signature. We offer an airport greeter on arrival. You can order room service in the car and it will be waiting for you when you check in. Our greatest asset is that we have some amazing staff working here. They do everything with heart and soul; it makes the difference.”

### Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills

“Not only does Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills offer some of the best views in Los Angeles from The Rooftop by JG and our rooftop pool, but we also offer unparalleled service. Guests have a dedicated personal concierge that is at their service from pre-arrival, during their stay and until the time they return home. We are honored to have so many repeat guests that have truly become friends over the years. We also put a great emphasis on health and wellness at our property, always, but especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the use of the Xenex UV Robot germ zapping device in all guest rooms and public spaces.”

### Viceroy L’Ermitage Beverly Hills

“Viceroy L’Ermitage Beverly Hills is defined by its deep roots in glamour and luxury, and uncompromising privacy for our guests. Our residential setting allows us to provide a really bespoke experience.”

### Pendry West Hollywood

“West Hollywood is undergoing a cultural revival, and through our art, design, culinary, wellness and entertainment offerings, we have created an exclusive guest experience unlike anything in greater Los Angeles.”

### The Beverly Hills Hotel

“The Beverly Hills Hotel is one of the most unique institutions in the world. Hollywood was built around our hotel and so was the city of Beverly Hills. Our guests enjoy knowing that when they walk through the halls of our hotel, they are walking the same steps as virtually every movie star who has ever lived. This is something that, simply, cannot be replicated. We are the place of legends. Our guests are legends and our employees are legends. And legendary moments happen at our hotels.”

### Hotel Bel-Air

“Cradled in the embrace of 12 acres of fragrant, landscaped gardens,

this timeless estate is carefully shielded from the vivid glare of L.A. Here, the most private of lives can walk with unhurried ease, safe in the protective culture that has cared for generations before them. This is a place carved from nature to be the original seat of L.A. power, and the inspirational living room, dining room, boardroom and ballroom for the world’s most powerful players.”

### Mr. C Beverly Hills

“The hotel combines the timeless glamour of Beverly Hills with stylish, European comfort, elegant service and personalized experiences by the fourth generation Cipriani family. There is nothing like it here in this area. A lot of our travelers from Europe are familiar with the Cipriani name. They come here because they want to feel at home in the States. This summer is special because we will be celebrating our 10th anniversary. We will be having a month-long promotion.”

### Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles

“Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills is a Forbes Five Star property, and the new Wellness floor, full of WELL guest rooms, the Spa and beautiful pool area, with innovative wellness initiatives, set the property apart from others. Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills has partnerships with Alo Yoga, Deepak Chopra, Peloton bikes and other top companies. Four Seasons Los Angeles has also been the top hotel for press junkets since its inception, with many of Hollywood’s entertainment community present.”

### Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel

“Since opening in 1928, our legendary property has been the preferred address for celebrities, royalty and the international elite—and it’s easy to see why. Located at the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Rodeo Drive, we put you in the enviable heart of Beverly Hills, with designer shopping, fine dining and postcard-worthy views at our doorstep.”



THE TERRACE AT THE MAYBOURNE BEVERLY HILLS

### The Maybourne Beverly Hills

“Beyond bringing a fresh new design aesthetic to the city of Beverly Hills, we are looking forward to bringing a style of service that nods to the British sensibilities that have given our sister London hotels, Claridge’s, The Connaught and The Berkeley, such a legendary reputation. A creative and innovative vision by some of the greatest global partners, from designers to chefs to artists means our hotels have a sense of energy and style that appeals not just to our guests but the local community alike—and this is at the heart of what we try to create. All of this is only possible by surrounding ourselves with the most talented team who go out of their way to create memorable experiences that ensure guests stay with us throughout generations.”

### La Peer Hotel

“Unbuttoned luxury in L.A.’s most walkable neighborhood in the Design District of West Hollywood...our personality is formed by our setting, our visitors and locals alike.”



*Welcome Back*

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**CITY HALL HAS REOPENED  
TO THE PUBLIC**

For your convenience, virtual services are still being offered at  
**[beverlyhills.org](http://beverlyhills.org)**

To make an in-person appointment, please visit  
**[beverlyhills.org/appointments](http://beverlyhills.org/appointments)** or call 310-285-2467

*Health and Safety Protocols Are In Place Inside City Facilities*

## What is the profile of the ideal guest visiting this summer?

### The Beverly Hilton

“While we welcome everyone through our doors with open arms, with the introduction of Sant’olina and our recent renovation, we are so thrilled to share our iconic property with a new generation while continuing to serve our loyal guests and maintain our very own brand of California luxury.”



THE LIVING ROOM AT THE PENINSULA BEVERLY HILLS

### The Peninsula Beverly Hills

“The ideal guest is someone who appreciates and is ready to travel and embrace/savor the Beverly Hills experience—shopping, dining and relaxing—while also appreciating the luxurious comforts and safety of an exquisite hotel that indulges with heightened care.”

### Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills

“We are thrilled to be able to welcome travelers to our beautiful five-star hotel this summer! We anticipate that we will see many domestic travelers, and many Angelenos looking to staycation as we continue to reopen.”

### Viceroy L’Ermitage Beverly Hills

“We welcome guests of all different lifestyles to our property. This summer, we’re excited to welcome back travelers from across the country in addition to local Southern California residents who visit our property for a close-to-home getaway. Mostly we’re excited for the summer; Beverly Hills residents deserve a summer that we missed out on last year.”

### Pendry West Hollywood

“We’re passionate about designing a community experience for locals by locals and envision the hotel as a hospitality and entertainment anchor in the city. We look forward to welcoming all types of guests as Pendry West Hollywood has something for everyone—for the art and design enthusiasts, foodies, leisure guests, couples, girlfriend getaways, families and beyond. We look forward to welcoming you soon.”

### The Beverly Hills Hotel

“Our hotel has a culture to genuinely care for our guests and be authentic with them. We treasure these relationships, so it’s not surprising that guests consider us to be their friends and family. We have guests whose families have been visiting us for generations, but we also have first-time guests who have the hotel on their bucket list! We look forward to welcoming each and every guest to the hotel this summer and hope to create meaningful memories for them.”

### Hotel Bel Air

“Rather than a place to see and be seen, our guests come here to be free to focus on what matters to them, to feel inspired, to take a deep breath and finally to relax, safe in our care. Our hotel is for those in the know and, as such, not for everyone. Our guests enjoy being around people who appreciate the same things as they, and feel our culture reflects their values.”

### Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills

“We are interested in travelers of all generations, who appreciate impeccable service, and who understand the importance of wellness, art and restaurants. The pool area is among the best in the city, feeling like an oasis, proving to be an ideal place to spend the summer.”

### Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel

“There isn’t necessarily an ‘ideal’ guest as we look forward to welcoming everyone eager to travel once again. This past year has been hard on many people and businesses...and one thing we’ve all come to realize is that travel is an essential part of our lives. So our priority is to help ignite our guests’ travel inspiration through the legendary glamour of Beverly Hills.”

### The Maybourne Beverly Hills

“This summer, after the year we have all had, ensuring we give our guests a special and memorable stay is going to be more important than ever. With international travel still on hold, we expect to be welcoming more domestic U.S. travelers who want to experience the quintessential California dream vacation with their families in our unbeatable location in the heart of Beverly Hills.”



GUESTROOM AT MR. C BEVERLY HILLS

### Mr. C Beverly Hills

“Someone who is a well-seasoned luxury traveler who appreciates the simplicity and refined service provided by Mr. C—anybody looking for a home-away-from-home experience would be the ideal guest visiting this summer.”

### La Peer Hotel

“Anyone who loves to shop, dine, play and explore...It’s been a long 15 months for everyone, so you deserve to spoil yourself this summer at West Hollywood’s most chic location.”

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