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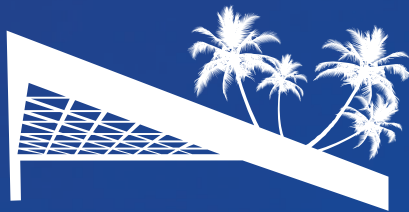
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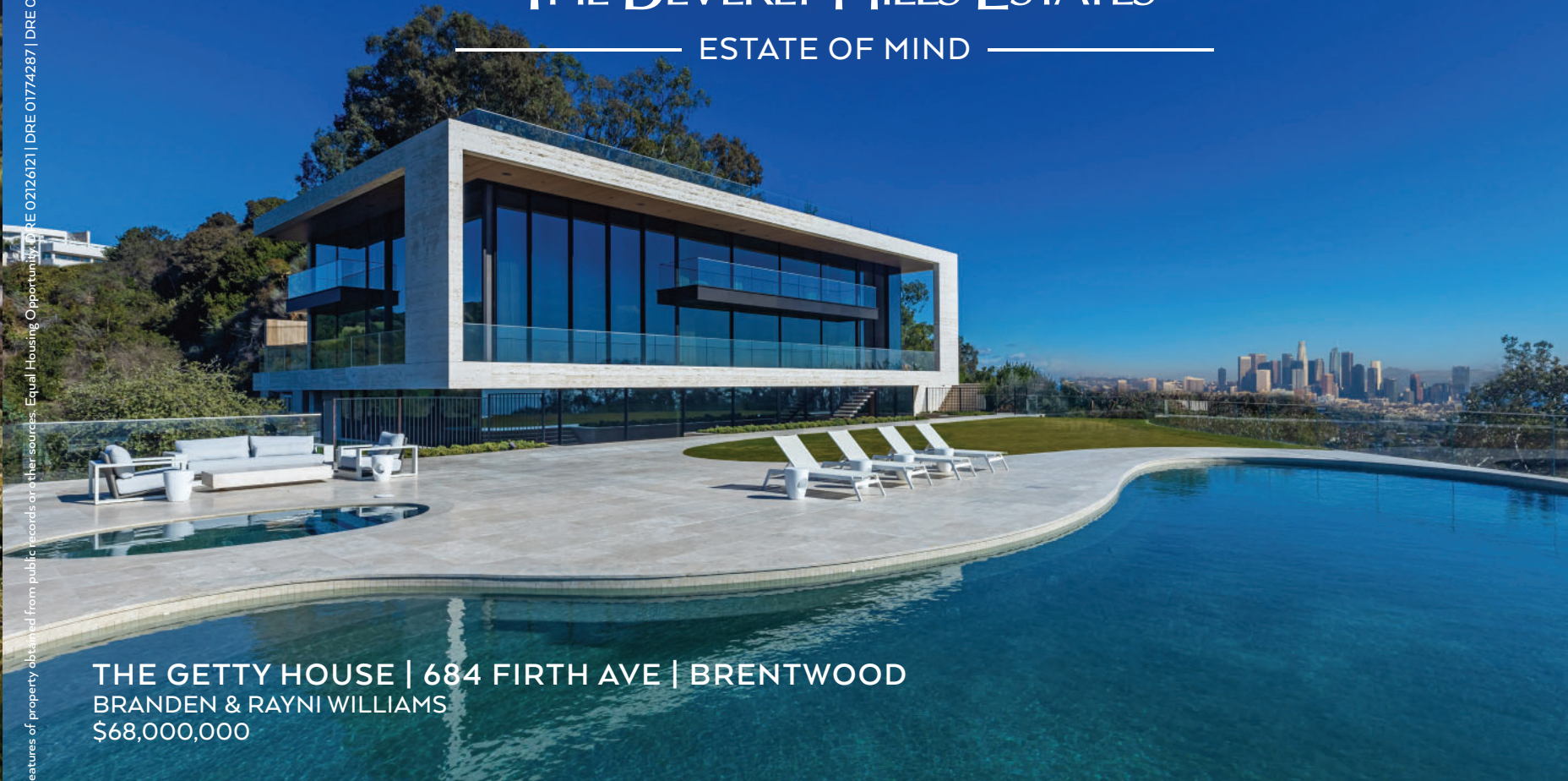
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LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH



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Within the fabric of our iconic city of Beverly Hills lives a magical blend of the past and the future. In this Summer STYLE issue, we celebrate our city's rich history, the gleaming possibilities that lie ahead, and the people and places working to build a bridge that connects and enhances them both.

Explore our new sustainable projects from stunning new builds to reimagined historic landmarks, by visionary developers and architects, in "Building the Future of Beverly Hills," proving that preservation and progress are not mutually exclusive.

Meet "The Fit-Fluencers of Beverly Hills" with some of the hottest fitness trainers in the nation. Learn about the trending workouts in local classes and on today's most popular and modernized digital fitness apps.

Travel back in time to "The Virginia Robinson Gardens: A Hidden Gem in Beverly Hills" and tour the very first estate in Beverly Hills as we pay homage to the city's roots, and the extraordinary woman who left behind exquisite botanical gardens for future generations to enjoy.

Peruse "Old Crafts, New Skills" as we highlight all of the unique spots around Beverly Hills offering workshops and classes in old-world crafts like glassblowing and pottery. With classes for kids, adults and seniors, it's never too early or too late to find a new obsession.

Splurge this season with the most coveted designer products, from luxe swimwear to high-end sporting accessories, in "Must-Haves for Summer." Or, indulge yourself in this season's hottest entertainment. We have your picks covered in "Sizzling Summer Releases."

And last, but not least, buckle up for our exclusive cover story, "Jay Leno and Bruce Meyer: How They Became The Kings of Cars," as the pair take readers on a whirlwind tour of automotive history, and share what drives their friendship and makes their hearts go vroom.

To Bruce and Jay, thank you for welcoming the Courier to take a fun, fact-filled, once-in-a-lifetime ride.

A big shout out to my partner, John, who has worked tirelessly to help us reach our goal of four, quarterly Courier magazines!

To our supportive local, national and international advertisers, thank you for your enduring support. You are a big part of the Courier family, and we are forever grateful.

John and I wish you a splendid summer in the Beverly Hills sunshine, and we hope you always turn to the Courier for the latest and greatest local news, events and heartfelt community connections!

LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH, PUBLISHER AND WRITER

COVER PHOTO: JAY LENO AND BRUCE MEYER WITH JAY'S VINTAGE BUGATTI IN JAY'S BIG DOG GARAGE  
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN

PHOTO OF LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH BY KAREN RAY PHOTOGRAPHY  
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# The Fit-Fluencers of Beverly Hills

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

**F**itness is all about choices these days. Whether it's a favorite boutique fitness studio or an app at our fingertips, we're combining traditional ways of staying in shape with modern digital options, resulting in consistent workouts and healthier, stronger bodies.

A recent study by Statista charted the dawn of the digital fitness age. According to its findings, in 2019, there were 8.5 million fitness mobile apps downloaded. In 2020, the number swelled to 16.8 million (we all know why). In the intervening years, downloads have held steady at around 16 million. According to a recent forecast by Allied Market Research, the global fitness app market was valued at \$13.78 billion in 2020. It's projected to reach \$120.37 billion by 2030.

The figures for 2024 so far reflect the rise of a recent fitness trend—the hybrid workout model, a personalized mix of an old school, in-person gym experience, and a new school, high-tech, at-home one for the ultimate flexibility.

Leading the market is a group of trainers whose two-way livestreams, social media posts and on-demand videos have catapulted them to celebrity status. Collectively, millions around the world log on to their virtual classes.

Lucky for Beverly Hills, their home base is your backyard. So, not only can you livestream with your favorite workout instructor, but you also have the option of catching a class in real life with them.

Here are some of the top “fit-fluencers” and “fit-trepreneurs” who are ready to sweat with you—either virtually or in person. Whether you're looking for tried and true workouts like yoga and classical Pilates or you're ready to try something new like low-impact resistance training, dance cardio or high-intensity boxing, you might just find your next workout obsession.

## DANI COLEMAN Pvolve

From its launch in 2017, Pvolve was set up by its founder, Rachel Katzman, as an omnichannel brand with on-demand and live virtual workouts, brick-and-mortar studios and dedicated social media content across all platforms. It was well received from the start, but membership skyrocketed during the pandemic when tens of thousands discovered Pvolve (which stands for “personal evolution”) and former professional dancer, Dani Coleman.

Coleman joined the fitness company as head trainer in 2020. A few months later, when gyms and studios were forced to close, her job mainly consisted of filming on-demand videos and teaching live virtual classes. Coleman quickly became one of the fitness brand's most popular trainers. Around the same time, Jennifer Aniston found Coleman's Pvolve livestream workouts online, logged on to her classes anonymously, and followed along, quickly becoming obsessed. Coleman is now Aniston's personal Pvolve trainer, and the pair work out several times a week together. As for the “Friends” star, her obsession with Pvolve led to her officially joining as a partner in the company last year.

“I was so excited to hear Jennifer Aniston was a secret streamer of our online workouts,” said Coleman. “I feel grateful Pvolve has brought us together. In working with Jen, I've learned she loves a challenging workout. It's rewarding to support her in getting the results she wants and for her to see how she doesn't have to strain or break her body to achieve them.”

For Katzman, this is what Pvolve is all about. “I think the hottest trend is longevity,” she added. “People are starting to understand what we do to our bodies today will impact us in three, five, 10-plus years, and the wear and tear we may be able to take in our early 20s will have a dramatic negative impact on us later in life. You don't have to walk around with shoulder, neck or back pain anymore, and you shouldn't have to sacrifice reaching your physical goals in order to feel good in your body.”

Pvolve is now a coast-to-coast fitness phenomenon. Last year, the low-impact resistance training program doubled its subscribers and had a 40% increase in studio memberships. It has a celebrity following that includes pop star Olivia Rodrigo and actress Dakota Johnson. There are four owned and operated Pvolve studios, one in Chicago, another in New York, and soon, two in Los Angeles. The sunlit, breezy flagship in West Hollywood features a state-of-the-art studio with a stunning rooftop deck for outdoor classes and private training, locker rooms and a fully stocked primping area. A second outpost is set to open this summer in Santa Monica. In addition, more than 50 Pvolve franchises are currently in the works nationwide.

Whether you take a Pvolve class in-studio, on-demand or as part of the two-way live virtual studio (where members take a live class and directly engage with trainers), the workouts are the same. The Pvolve method involves a series of controlled and precise movements using the company's proprietary equipment, such as resistance bands of various lengths and resistance strengths and exercise balls like the signature P.ball, designed to float between your thighs to target that hard-to-tone area. Standing on a numbered mat, which acts as your compass, the trainer guides you through proper form, calling out numbers that correspond to numbers on the mat for correct foot and body placement, while you stretch and pull resistance bands or squeeze balls. Those following along at home can purchase equipment bundles (which include the mat, bands and balls) or individual equipment from



DANI COLEMAN

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## MEGAN ROUP The Sculpt Society

Certified celebrity fitness trainer Megan Roup launched The Sculpt Society (TSS) app in 2017. Roup already had a massive social media presence and regularly posted videos of her workouts and fitness advice to her more than 500,000 followers. Realizing she had a built-in audience who craved her content, the former New Jersey Nets dancer decided to create a platform where members could access a variety of simple, upbeat and energetic at-home workouts with no equipment required. It took off. “Pandemic or no pandemic, I think the rise of digital fitness would have to happen,” said Roup.

Today, the app has hundreds of thousands of members who can stream from anywhere in the world, on any device. They can choose between dance-cardio, sculpting, yoga and meditation, and “quickie” workouts lasting 10 minutes to full 45-minute burn-a-thons.

To connect with virtual members, some halfway around the world, Roup invites them to stay on the video link for a “coffee chat” after each live workout. There’s also a private TSS Facebook Group, for subscribing members only, where they can connect with Roup and one another. “There’s conversation and connection there,” she said. “I’m just constantly talking with my community, on Instagram and direct messages [as well]. I feel really lucky in that way. I think that’s the beauty of social media; you really have a direct line to clients and members and can just listen to them and their needs and what they’re looking for; it’s really important. Those are definitely the biggest ways I connect with them. And then, of course, pop-ups around the country where I get to, you know, meet them in real life!”

In 2021, pregnant with her first baby, Roup and her husband moved across the country from New York City to West Hollywood, to be close to the fitness instructor’s family in Santa Barbara and the fitness capital of the world. While at this stage Roup has no plans to open a brick-and-mortar studio, she set up a weekly residency at Playground West Hollywood, where L.A. area locals can catch a Sculpt class with Roup every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., if they can score a spot.

In addition, Roup is also a full-time content creator for Instagram and TikTok, requiring her to post several times a day on each platform. She spends a lot of time making videos. “These are often me just walking my community through my day pretty organically,” she said. “Then I go live and create content for the TSS app.” The videos might look like big budget productions, but Roup said, “I literally film in my kitchen. I’m the lighting director, the videographer and the editor. I set it all up myself.”

This month, Sculpt will launch its fertility program, designed to help women who are trying to conceive through in vitro fertilization and have gone through a miscarriage. “We’re there to just help and guide them with workouts alongside conversations with doctors and therapists to support women who are going through this stage of life,” Roup said.

Besides the infectious energy and generous spirit she brings to her workouts, what sets Sculpt apart?

“I’m a really big believer in short workouts. They make it easier for my members to show up consistently and make working out a habit. Consistency is what makes it effective,” she said. “Time and time again, we hear from our members they feel they’ve gone on this life journey with me. And at each stage, there’s something new for them and they feel so supported through it all with us. So, I think it’s the combination of those things, making working out fun again, joyful and effective.”

MEGAN ROUP  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SCULPT SOCIETY

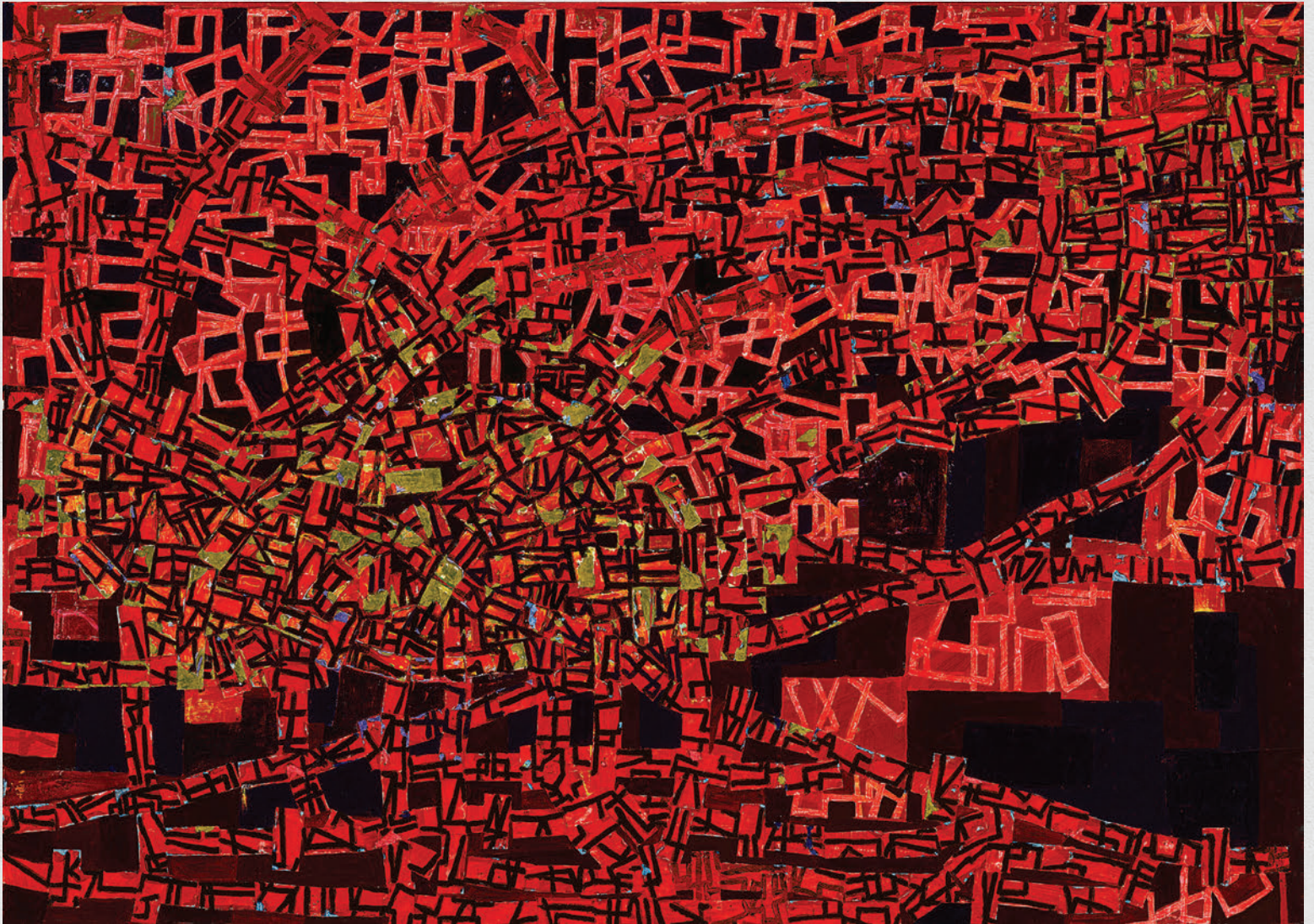
the company’s website. “Adjusting to teaching virtually was interesting at first,” said Coleman. “But the numbered mat was an absolute game changer.”

A variety of workouts are offered for all formats, from low-impact for toning to a heart-rate bumping combo of cardio and form-focused strength training. There’s also a stretch class and a progressive weight training program, designed for women over 40, or anyone looking to build strength. Many of the workouts are geared toward women, such as pelvic floor strengthening exercises, and workouts for every stage of a woman’s cycle, from menstrual to pre/postnatal to menopause. Pvolve’s in-studio workouts are 45 minutes and virtual workouts range from 15 minutes to an hour, with equipment or no equipment options.

To connect with her virtual fans, Coleman uses her social media but doesn’t let it consume her life. “I understand the importance of content creation and these virtual spaces. However, I personally try not to get caught up in them and stay focused on what’s important. For me, that is making health and fitness spaces more accessible, equitable and diverse. I hope that’s represented when you see the work I am doing.”

In person, Coleman, who teaches exclusively at the West Hollywood studio, is a force of nature. She’s that cool girl you want to be friends with, the one who’s so confident and comfortable in her skin, but down-to-earth and completely approachable. It’s no wonder her classes fill up fast.

THE FIT-FLUENCERS OF BEVERLY HILLS CONTINUES ON PAGE 58



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**Rick Lowe**

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# The Virginia Robinson Gardens: A Hidden Gem in Beverly Hills

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO



THE FRONT OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS  
PHOTO BY JOSHUA JOHNSTON

**T**he hedges grow taller and broader on the drive up Elden Way as they work to conceal increasingly audacious mansions. The street dead ends in a cul-de-sac, where a Mediterranean-inspired, modified Beaux Arts home stands in stark contrast. Dipping shyly beneath the curb on a gentle slope of a hill, it's out of place, almost quaint among the monoliths. A modest scrolling wrought iron gate marks the entrance, a portal back to a place and time that was more warm and welcoming.

Beyond it is The Virginia Robinson Gardens (VRG), a living museum offering a rare glimpse into early life in Beverly Hills. The 6.2-acre estate and botanical garden was the residence of Virginia and Harry Winchester Robinson. Built in 1911, it is considered the "first estate" in Beverly Hills. The Robinsons transformed a barren stretch of barley into a series of lush hillsides featuring heirloom varieties and many rare and exotic plants, including the largest king palm forest in the Northern Hemisphere.

Virginia, a legendary hostess and grand dame of her day, is referred to as the "first lady of Beverly Hills." With the help of a live-in staff of 12, including a cook and majordomo, she threw several parties per week throughout her decades-long residency. She entertained royalty, including the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, and film icons such as Mary Pickford and Mae West, among many others.

The Virginia Robinson Gardens was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Since 1982, the museum estate has been jointly operated by the County of Los Angeles and the Friends of Robinson Gardens (FRG), a nonprofit organization, which ensures its funding.

Last year, the city of Beverly Hills expressed interest in taking over operations of The Virginia Robinson Gardens. Los Angeles County was amenable to the idea, and L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath gave a 180-day deadline for both sides to return to the table with a plan. The Courier recently reached out to both sides for an update. Diane Sipos, superintendent of VRG under L.A. County management, would not comment on the progress of talks. Instead, she would only confirm that VRG is currently operated by L.A. County Parks and Recreation Department. A press spokesperson for L.A. County said, "We are currently in discussions with the city of Beverly Hills, and we have no further comments until these discussions progress further." As for the city of Beverly Hills, "Discussions are ongoing," said Keith Sterling, Beverly Hills Deputy City Manager, adding, "As you might imagine, there are several complex logistical elements, and the process is taking a bit longer than anticipated."

No matter who ends up running operations, there's no denying that The Virginia Robinson Gardens and its former inhabitants are inexorably linked to the city of Beverly Hills.



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The only way for the general public to experience this gem is to book a spot in advance on a docent-led tour (\$15 per person) around the grounds. While the botanical tour focuses solely on the gardens, the 90-minute historical tour offers a stroll through the various terraced landscapes, as well as a peek inside the lives and living spaces of these Beverly Hills pioneers.

Virginia Catherine Dryden, born in 1877, was the daughter of Nathaniel Dryden, a self-taught architectural designer and building contractor. Three of his designs have since made the National Register of Historic Landmarks. Virginia's uncle was Leslie Brand, the railroad tycoon and developer later dubbed "the father of Glendale."

Harry Winchester Robinson was born in 1878 into a mercantile family dynasty. His grandfather had built Boston Dry Goods, which, under Harry's father, Joseph Winchester, became the upscale, turn of the last century downtown department store J.W. Robinson, which Harry would later helm. A few decades and mergers later, it evolved into the store known as Robinsons-May, the last of which shuttered in 2006.

As the offspring of two prominent Los Angeles families, Virginia and Harry naturally traveled in the same high-society circles. Still, their wedding in November 1903 came as a surprise; it took place just six days after their engagement announcement was printed in the Los Angeles Times.

Following the young couple's honeymoon, they embarked on a series of trips that spanned several years and the globe—with extended visits to Europe, Egypt, India, China, Japan, South America and other far-flung locales. While away on one such lengthy adventure, a new

town was slowly springing up in the shrub brush of Los Angeles. The pair were surprised to hear about it upon their return, and with curiosity piqued by the rumor it was to be the site of the relocated Los Angeles Country Club, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson set out to find the newly developed Beverly Hills.

What Virginia and Harry discovered on their fateful twilight drive in January 1911 was a golf course under construction amid vast empty tracts of land. "We never found the club," Virginia would later tell a reporter, adding, "But we found ourselves on a slight hill with a lovely view of rippling wheat fields and the mountains. A full moon was shining down, and Harry said, 'This is where we are going to live.'" The following day, Harry went to the Rodeo Land and Water Company and, by 10 a.m., had purchased the parcel for \$7,500 from Burton Green. Virginia later recalled, "Burton Green had built Beverly Hills. But there wasn't one house here. There wasn't a single thing out here. Just a little bit of a real estate office, kind of a shed, on Santa Monica Boulevard."

Once the deed was in hand, Virginia's father quickly set about designing and constructing the couple's home. By September 1911, the "L" shaped, 6,000-square-foot house was completed. The earliest photo shows the flat Italianate-style villa, with a parapet of cast stone balustrades and a column-supported portico, squatting on a dusty, barren hilltop. A straight concrete path led from the dirt street to the front steps—no hedges or fence. Privacy wasn't an issue; nobody lived in Beverly Hills yet. The grounds consisted of little more than a meadow in front and a great lawn at the back (both sodded), a tennis court and, the following year, a small lap pool.



TOP LEFT: VIRGINIA ROBINSON, CIRCA EARLY 1900; BOTTOM LEFT: HARRY ROBINSON, CIRCA EARLY 1900; TOP RIGHT: VIRGINIA (WITH A WOMAN BELIEVED TO BE HER MOTHER) AND HARRY ON THEIR WEDDING DAY IN 1903; BOTTOM RIGHT: HARRY AND VIRGINIA ON ONE OF THEIR MANY TRIPS TO EGYPT

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS ARCHIVE

THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS CONTINUES ON PAGE 42





## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S ULTIMATE SHOPPING DESTINATION

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# Sizzling Summer Releases

BY NEELY SWANSON



EDDIE MURPHY IN "BEVERLY HILLS COP: AXEL F"  
PHOTO BY MELINDA SUE GORDON, COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Summer is upon us and that always brings a new slate of films with something for everyone, but especially for those tweens and post-adolescents (both in age and maturity). This year is the same and somewhat different because of the ripple effect caused by last year's strikes. It takes longer than you might imagine to get original material from the page to the screen. Nevertheless, Hollywood geared up and has given us a calendar chock full of choices for all. Will any become another juggernaut like Barbenheimer? Too soon to tell, but one thing is for certain, you will not be bored.

Expect sequels of your favorites, remakes and reimaginings of stories from the past.

There are video game adaptations, with starry casts and fun, snarky scripts; family-friendly fare; and imaginative sequels to franchises of yesteryear like "Beverly Hills Cop," only now Axel has a daughter! Horror is intermingled with thrills in the latest installment of "A Quiet Place." There are some enticing originals featuring an array of topics, both dramatic and comedic, some with spies, lots with thrills, and what is a summer without superheroes? There's even an epic Western, presented in two parts, each premiering several weeks apart. For me, I'm looking forward to "Hitman," premiering exclusively on Netflix, and "Thelma" because who isn't enchanted by the feisty nonagenarian June Squibb? Lots of movie stars, old and new, from Sean Penn, Kevin Costner and Michel Keaton to Austin Butler and Glen Powell. And there's a plethora of M. Night Shyamalan. They're all waiting for you at the box office. (Dates may change.)

Without further ado, here they are:

## JUNE 6

"Hitman," sure to be action packed and loaded with humor, is directed by Richard Linklater dipping into the well of his Texas roots. The venerable "Texas Monthly" magazine is the source of this material about an undercover policeman posing as a hitman who goes off book. Glen Powell, the breakout star from "Top Gun: Maverick," leads the cast. (Streaming on Netflix)

## JUNE 14

"Bad Boys 4" reunites Martin Lawrence, who hasn't been seen in too much lately, and Will Smith, who's been spreading himself a bit too thin for audience tastes. Still, the supporting cast is surprisingly interesting with Ioan Gruffudd, Eric Dane and Vanessa Hudgens.

"Inside Out 2" returns us to the brain of Riley, who is facing new and treacherous pathways as her teenage emotions place a stranglehold on her as she tries to negotiate her way through college. Count on Amy Poehler to lead us through her limbic system.

"Treasure" stars Lena Dunham as the journalist daughter of a Holocaust survivor played by Steven Fry who takes her to the Poland of his youth. The memories of his treatment are still fresh, and there are places he won't go so he deliberately sabotages those visits. (Limited release)

"The Watchers" is an M. Night Shyamalan-produced film, directed by his daughter Ishana. Stranded in the forest, a young woman is stalked by creatures and surrounded by strangers. "You can't see them, but they see everything." Starring Dakota Fanning, there will be shivers.

## JUNE 21

“The Bikeriders,” a much-anticipated and postponed character study, stars Jodie Comer, Austin Butler and Tom Hardy. Based on the 1967 photo book by Danny Lyon, the film chronicles the rise and fall of a biker gang over a number of years. Not sure how it’s going to play out with the weird American accents of the very British Comer and Hardy. Keep an eye out for Michael Shannon, the man who cannot smile. This subculture is an interesting pursuit.

“Fire Brand” is the story of Katherine Parr’s fight to survive as Henry VIII’s last wife as the court conspires against her. Alicia Vikander stars as Katherine and her paramour is played by Jude Law, no doubt relying on a prosthetic magician because late-stage Henry was not a vision to look upon. (Limited release)

“Kinds of Kindness,” the much-anticipated film by Yorgos Lanthimos (“Poor Things”), has a starry cast led by his muse, Emma Stone. It’s all very mysterious and being kept under wraps until the last minute.

## JUNE 28

“A Quiet Place: Day One” is the third in the franchise and a prequel to the previous two. The super-hearing, murderous aliens have landed in New York City, and the quiet has begun. A new cast, with the exception of Djimon Hounsou who was in “Part II,” must try to evade these monsters. This time John Krasinski has turned the directing over to Michael Sarnoski who shares story credit with Krasinski. Lupita Nyong’o stars, and she’s always worth watching.

“Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1” is Kevin Costner’s epic about the settling of the West as the Civil War was being waged. Given his past sympathies, it is presumed he will try to present all sides of the expansion as he shapes a character-driven narrative. I love a good Western, especially one that realistically shows Native Americans fighting fruitlessly to protect their lands. Costner stars alongside Sienna Miller, Jeff Fahey, Sam Worthington, Thomas Hayden Church and Glynn Turman, among many others. It’s a two-parter, and “Chapter 2” will premiere on Aug. 16.

“Green Border” is the prize-winning film by Agnieszka Holland that Poland chose not to submit to the Academy Awards as their official selection. It tells a story of Middle Eastern and African migrants fooled into believing that they would be readily accepted into the EU. The lives of an activist, a border guard and a Syrian family intertwine on the Polish-Belarusian border in this political drama that depicts ordinary people trapped in a political crisis cynically created by Belarusian autocrat Alexander Lukashenko. (Limited release)

“Janet Planet,” stars the sublime Julianne Nicholson as a mother who encourages her daughter Lacy’s imagination as they spend the summer of 1991 in the countryside. As Lacy’s imagination and inner world grow, so, too, does her alienation from her beloved mother. (Limited release)



## JULY 3

“Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F” is the long-awaited follow-up to the popular ‘80s franchise. Watch out Beverly Hills, Axel Foley is back and is here to investigate the death of an old friend. Returning to the beat are Judge Reinhold, Paul Reiser and Bronson Pinchot, with the new additions of Kevin Bacon, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Tylour Paige as Axel’s daughter. Somehow the crime rate seems to soar wherever Axel sports those shades. I’m sure the Beverly Hills Police Department is happy to have him back. (Streaming on Netflix)

“Despicable Me 4” serves up revenge on the menu and Gru must save the day, this time from arch-villains Maxime Le Mal and Valentina. Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig lead the voice cast as Gru and Lucy Wilde, with Will Ferrell and Sofia Vergara as the newly added bad guys, I mean bad people.

1. LUPITA NYONG’O AND DJIMON HOUNSOU IN “A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE” PHOTO BY GARETH GATRELL, COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES
2. TOM HARDY AND AUSTIN BUTLER IN “THE BIKERIDERS” PHOTO BY KYLE KAPLAN, COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES
3. MARGARET QUALLEY, JESSE PLEMONS AND WILLEM DAFOE IN “KINDS OF KINDNESS” PHOTO BY ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA, COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

SIZZLING SUMMER RELEASES CONTINUES ON PAGE 50

# Building the Future of Beverly Hills

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO



ONE BEVERLY HILLS MASTERPLAN  
RENDERING COURTESY OF FOSTER + PARTNERS

**T**True luxury is sustainable. From eco-friendly options in beauty aisles and high-fashion runways to the latest electric vehicle showrooms, now more than ever, it's easier to do your part for the environment in style. Here in Beverly Hills, sustainability goes a step further with the latest crop of building projects that will revolutionize the spaces where you live, shop, dine and work.

Take the super-luxe One Beverly Hills, a mixed-use, high-end development designed to exceed California's own ambitious sustainability goals. The Beverly Hilton and the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills received major energy-saving upgrades propelling both properties to the forefront of sustainable hospitality. The Darrow Office Building, designed by master architect John Lautner, will become a high-tech case study of adaptive reuse. And offices at 9000 Wilshire Blvd. and 433 N. Camden Drive recently underwent multimillion-dollar efficiency overhauls to achieve the highest levels of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification possible.

By combining stunning architectural design with state-of-the-art green technologies, these developments demonstrate that luxury and sustainability (and preservation and progress) can go hand in hand. They're the next generation of green buildings set to transform Beverly Hills into the city of the future.

Earlier this year, the jaw-dropping One Beverly Hills broke ground. The project is led by Cain International alongside OKO Group, and Alagem Capital remains a committed partner. With a master plan designed by architecture firm Foster + Partners, the development will set a new standard for future sustainable developments in Beverly Hills and beyond.

Helming the firm is world-renowned British architect, Norman Foster, an English lord best known for his sea cucumber-shaped tower in London, colloquially referred to as The Gherkin. For One Beverly Hills, he brought his future-looking touch to the designs, but behind the opulent facade, is a complex maze of precious resource-saving systems. "The project also aims to integrate various technologies to significantly reduce emissions and energy use," Lord Foster told the Courier.

Renderings for the development show a sprawling 17.5-acre site with new Aman branded and operated properties (designed by Kerry Hill Architects) including a pair of 28-story residential towers, a 10-story, 78-suite luxury hotel, a private clubhouse and a fine dining restaurant.

Each structure will use a central geothermal system, harnessing the Earth's constant soil temperature to efficiently create heat and hot water, and reject heat for cooling without the use of gas. A chilled water thermal energy storage system will reduce the number of cooling towers needed, saving millions of gallons of water annually.

Along with a solar panel array and battery storage, the buildings will be outfitted with a high-tech electrical system that will allow them to maximize imported electricity in real-time intervals when grid generation is composed of renewable energy sources.

What promises to be one of the most breathtaking elements of One Beverly Hills is the 10 acres of botanical gardens and open space that will surround it. Thousands of new plantings of native plants, trees and shrubs will transform the Wilshire gateway—a total of 8.5 acres of carbon dioxide-absorbing parkland, with 4.5 acres publicly accessible. Global design collective RIOS, with its founding partner Mark Rios leading the team, was tapped to oversee the design.



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“Foster + Partners’ idea to cover the entire site with a green blanket was brilliant,” said Rios. “It fulfills the overall vision of Beverly Hills to be a ‘garden city.’ We hope to make that dream a reality by providing an authentic ‘California landscape experience’ to enable everyone to learn about and appreciate the natural beauty of our place in Southern California.”

Astoundingly, the extensive landscape will be 100% water sustainable. Stormwater and greywater generated from condensation inside residential towers and cooling towers will be collected onsite and stored in cisterns and recycled back into the landscape.

In addition, “The master plan design encourages multimodal transportation options, promoting walking, cycling and the use of alternative transport modes, including electric vehicle charging facilities,” Lord Foster told the Courier. “With flora and fauna returning to the site, One Beverly Hills will establish a new model for sustainable master planning in the region, with a flavor that is distinctly Californian.”

Part of the master plan for One Beverly Hills integrates the existing Beverly Hilton and Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills into the unified site through cohesive landscaping. Both hotels received a significant upgrade to their heating and cooling systems, which typically account for more than 70% of a hotel’s power consumption.

Recently, a 1.4 megawatt-hour energy storage system from Nostromo Energy was installed inside The Beverly Hilton and also serves the adjacent Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills. The Israeli-based company’s patented IceBrick technology uses power from the grid when renewable energy levels are high to freeze water into ice. In the late afternoon and evening, when power demand reaches its highest levels, the ice is used for cooling instead of drawing fossil-based energy from the grid. The IceBricks chill the buildings for less than 50% of current cooling costs and reduce carbon emissions by 150-200 metric tons annually. This translates to more than 5,000 metric tons reduced throughout the system’s lifetime.

“We are proud to partner with Nostromo to bring cutting-edge green technology to The Beverly Hilton,” said David Ecija, General Manager of The Beverly Hilton. “This partnership is an extension of our history as a forward-thinking property, focused on the future and what is good for our community.”

In addition to its energy-saving efforts, the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills also recently invested in a high-tech greywater system by Epic Cleantec. Water collected from sinks, showers and washing machines is captured, rigorously filtered and disinfected before it’s reintroduced back into the building for non-potable uses such as landscaping or toilets, which account for a quarter of total water usage. The new system reduces the hotel’s water consumption by more than 90%.

“We are dedicated to creating a healthier environment for both our guests and our employees. The Epic Cleantec greywater system is yet another way that we are putting sustainability at the forefront of all we do,” said Antonio Bugarin, General Manager at Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.



TOP: THE ICEBRICK SYSTEM INSTALLED IN THE BEVERLY HILTON

BOTTOM: THE BEVERLY HILTON NEW DROP-OFF MERGING WITH THE CASCADED GARDENS

TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF NOSTROMO; BOTTOM RENDERING COURTESY OF FOSTER + PARTNERS

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF BEVERLY HILLS CONTINUES ON PAGE 54

# GALPIN

## BEVERLY HILLS



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Galpin Motors is excited to expand our family to Beverly Hills, a city synonymous with luxury and sophistication. Our new showroom, Galpin Beverly Hills, embodies our dedication to offering unparalleled customer experiences and a deep respect for automotive culture. Featuring elite brands such as Polestar, Lotus, and an exquisite range of classic and exotic cars. Galpin Beverly Hills is designed for discerning customers who seek the best in luxury automotive. Discover our commitment to excellence and innovation at our new location. Come walk through our 2 locations and visit us on the web at [GalpinBeverlyHills.com](http://GalpinBeverlyHills.com)



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BRUCE MEYER AND JAY LENO IN JAY'S BIG DOG GARAGE  
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN



# JAY LENO AND BRUCE MEYER

## HOW THEY BECAME THE KINGS OF CARS

BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

Jay Leno and Bruce Meyer are each a powerhouse in their own right. While they're uniquely driven, when it comes to cars, they both reign supreme. Their collections, filled with the automotive industry's most rare, iconic and legendary makes and models, are coveted by motor enthusiasts around the world.

I recently spent the day with these influential car experts at Jay's Big Dog Garage in preparation for this year's Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance. What followed was a crash course in automotive history and design, and a rare glimpse inside their deep and enduring 50-year friendship, powered by the love of cars.

With Bruce's encouragement, Jay invites me to take a spin in his 1909 Baker Electric car. Once inside the ornate Cinderella-esque carriage, Jay, at the controls, releases the brake, sounds the horn and with surprising acceleration, glides us through his astonishing 140,000-square-foot garage in Burbank, California. Filled with over 200 exquisite, exotic and eclectic cars, and 168 "finest in the world" motorcycles, Jay's motor sanctum is different in presentation from Bruce's across town in Beverly Hills. Built in 1926 on North Beverly Drive, Bruce's pristine car palace (small by comparison) houses his extraordinarily curated treasure trove in the first and oldest garage in Beverly Hills.

Bruce Meyer's family, referred to as "Beverly Hills royalty," is considered one of the most influential families in Beverly Hills. Bruce's father, Fred, together with his wife, Ruth, bought a small gift store in Beverly Hills called Gearys in 1953. Bruce joined his parents and grew the family business with a mail order division, an additional store and his entrepreneurial way of thinking. When his landlord offered to sell Bruce the building, despite his parents' objections, Bruce made the first of his many real estate purchases. Today, his real estate portfolio encompasses key properties along Beverly Drive and Rodeo Drive in the heart of Beverly Hills' business triangle.

Elevated to CEO of Gearys in 1977, Bruce amplified the charge for Gearys becoming the iconic Beverly Hills retail center for distinctive home goods from the world's finest artisans. His curated ideals for top-flight luxury were maintained throughout his 20 years, only to be further enhanced by his nephew, Tom Blumenthal, who began working in the family business at age 13. Today, Tom is the owner, president and CEO of the preeminent Gearys, and Bruce remains on its Board of Directors with his son, Eric, a United States career diplomat. His other son, Evan, a successful real estate developer, is the incoming chairman of Beverly Hills Architectural Commission. And Bruce's cousin, Craig Corman, is a newly elected Beverly Hills City Councilmember.

Jay Leno was born James Douglas Muir in New Rochelle, New York to Catherine, a Scottish immigrant, and Angelo Leno, an insurance salesman from a big Italian family. Jay was raised in Andover, Massachusetts and laid the groundwork for telling jokes among this sizeable built-in audience. While attending Emerson College in Boston, a young, determined Jay traveled regularly to New York to audition at the Improv and other comedy clubs. Oftentimes, the endless wait to present his stand-up comedy act took the whole day. But Jay persevered, believing in patience and the commitment to work hard. Eventually, he moved to California to make a go at comedy.

Throughout the '70s and '80s, Jay appeared in television shows and feature films, but his breakthrough came in 1986 when he was asked to become a regular substitute for the legendary Johnny Carson on the "Tonight Show." Adored by the masses, in 1992, the NBC network executives chose Jay to permanently replace Carson. For more than 20 years, viewers in 5 million homes welcomed Jay into their lives every night. Except for a hiccup in 2010 with Conan O'Brien, Jay remained the nighttime top dog for NBC until 2014, entertaining generations of audiences around the world.

Wanting to share his car knowledge, Jay created an original series for [NBC.com](http://NBC.com) set in his Big Dog Garage. Within a year, it became a weekly prime-time show on CNBC for which Jay won a Primetime Emmy Award in 2016. After seven years, the show was canceled, but Jay pressed on. Today, through an active YouTube channel, he produces "Jay Leno's Garage," a series with over 3.63 million subscribers and over 900 million views, proving he's the man of car influence.

Their respect for each other is palpable. It began in the early 1970s before Jay and Bruce were successful. They frequented car rallies with other car hobbyists looking to talk about cars. Bob's Big Boy in the San Fernando Valley was one of their main haunts.

Jay posits, "I say women have friends; men have allies. Men find men who can help them do things. Then, they can do things for them. And then, you become friends, like, 'Oh, I can help you with this. You help me with that.' Most of my friends are people who can do mechanical things much better than me, and I help them because I'm in show business. It's fun for them to come to a TV show, and they can bring their families."

Bruce and Jay's generosity of spirit is as aligned as their natural attraction to cars.

"I think the genesis of all this comes in your genetic makeup," says Bruce. "I would be willing to bet Jay loved cars from day one, like me. My mother made a note in my baby book. 'Bruce loves anything with wheels.' I have three children. One of them is a car person. The other two don't share the passion. There are people that just don't relate to this. And there are people who do. It's a mutant gene; I mean you can't take the car out of me."

Jay "pretty much" agrees.

He jokingly adds, "It's how you got from one place to another. I mean, being 15 ½ [years old] was the worst because uptown was seven miles riding my bike. And the guy who's six months older, he drives by with five girls in his car, and he's waving. When I got there on my bike, everybody's left!"



BRUCE AND JAY  
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN



JAY AND LISA CRUISING IN THE 1909 BAKER ELECTRIC  
PHOTO BY KATIE HICKS

Believing cars were a waste of time and money, Bruce's father had little regard for his son's fascination. Still, Bruce, the ever-resourceful "go-getter," worked hard doing odd jobs during high school to earn enough money to buy his first motor vehicle, a 1950s BSA scrambler motorcycle. Storing it at a friend's house, Bruce clandestinely raced on the weekends without his parents finding out.

An avid reader of Hot Rod magazine, Bruce dreamed of building and owning his own hot rod. Despite the low cost, \$100-\$200, his parents forbade him from buying one. But when his great aunt passed away and left him a '50s Plymouth, Bruce eagerly created and built his first version of a hot rod.

While at UC Berkeley working on his degree in business, the industrious young man tended bar, bussed tables, sold embossed stationery and borrowed money on an interest-free student loan even though his father paid his tuition in full. Clever and tenacious, Bruce used the cash to buy and race motorcycles, eventually selling everything for a profit.

Returning home, his passion for cars would not let up, even after he entered the family business. Impressed with his son's business acumen, Fred finally broke down and helped Bruce buy his first car, a 1961 Porsche 356 for \$2,700.

When Jay was 14 years old, he and his father saw a 1934 Ford Pickup sitting at a gas station attached to the Tip Top Miniature Golf in Reading, Massachusetts. And like Bruce, Jay's father did not see the point in buying a car other than for functionality. Worse yet, this particular 30-year-old car did not move. Jay was undeterred and \$350 later, he owned his first car to restore.

"Rosebud" was his first car in California, a 1955 Buick Roadmaster coupe. It was his mode of transportation during the 1970s and often a part of his comedy routine. Most importantly, it served as his chariot on his first date with his wife, Mavis.

It was 1976 when Jay stepped off the stage at the Comedy Store in Los Angeles and into Mavis' life. She was actually in the waiting area of the ladies' room, near where the comedians hung out when their eyes met. She told People magazine in 1987, "With Jay, I began to realize that this was the first time I was ever with someone where I had a perfect, calm sense of having arrived at my destination." They were married in 1980.

Mavis has been by Jay's side ever since. An activist on the Feminist Majority Foundation Board of Directors, she has been their campaign chair to stop gender apartheid in Afghanistan. Earlier this year, Mavis was diagnosed with advanced dementia, and in a Los Angeles courtroom in April, Jay was granted conservatorship to ensure her future care.

Eight years before the Lenos first met, Bruce was introduced to Raylene, the love of his life. The year was 1968. On their first date, before dinner, Bruce took Raylene to see a Porsche he was considering, setting the stage for the next 56 years together.

Back then, before helmets and other safety precautions were required, Raylene would regularly ride with him on his motorcycle. She admits, "We all do kind of silly things when we're young." Married on Bruce's parents' wedding anniversary in 1970, they have gone on to share a wonderful life filled with three children, seven grandchildren, and trips to car rallies all over the world. Raylene adds, "The most important thing to Bruce is all the people he has met with regards to collecting the cars and the hobby. He loves people." When asked about the dangers of being married to a man who liked to ride and race, Raylene said, "I was like a Pollyanna; everything's going to be fine. I didn't worry about him going fast in cars or anything. But I would say my prayers beforehand. I just knew that he would be fine."

Back inside the 1909 Baker Electric, Jay and I cruise onto the streets of Burbank as he hands me the car's manufacturer's manual.

"These were women's shopping cars," he says.

Made and marketed for wealthy men's wives, the electric cars did not need to be hand cranked. Ads were placed in publications such as Colliers or other fashion magazines, entirely directed to women, for the electric "horseless carriage." Replete with floral fabric-laced interiors, make-up compartments for face powder and room in the carriage for shopping bags, the cars did not leave a mess on the garage floor from dripping oil. Back then, a man would not be caught driving an electric car.



BRUCE, HIS WIFE RAYLENE, DAUGHTER EMILY, SON ERIC, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW TAYLOR AND SON EVAN AT PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE WITH THEIR PRIZE-WINNING PORSCHE  
PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE MEYER



“We had electric cars before we had gas cars. But don't forget, most people didn't have electricity. Electricity was harder to come by than gasoline. In 1909, only rich people had electricity. But in New York, there were hundreds of electric taxis. In fact, in 1907-08, a third of the cars were steam, a third were gasoline and a third were electric. And they didn't really know which one would win out.”

The inability to welcome change is often the challenge for innovation and adaptability.

“There's something called the 'shock of the new.' You can't sell something before it's time. It's called a horseless carriage for a reason. It looks like a carriage. Oh, but there's no horse. What? Oh, OK.”

As we return to the garage, passing through the main gateway, Jay explains he's not a collector, as he never sells his cars. But he does believe they're a good investment.

“I bought the McLaren over there.”

He points to a black car in a line of cars as he maneuvers the crank to back the Baker Electric into its parking spot.

“I bought it for \$800,000 in 1998-99. And the last offer I got was \$20 million. So, that's certainly a good investment. You know what I mean? It's like anything. If you're reasonably knowledgeable and you like it, chances are other people will like it, too. And they tend to go up in value. The idea of making money collecting cars is fairly new in the sense that you just did it because you like them. The fact that they go up in value, it's just an added bonus.”

In the United States alone, the market for vintage, classic and exotic automobiles is estimated to be \$1 trillion. That figure represents about 16% of the value of the 275 million registered vehicles in the United States. In 2021, North American collector car auctions generated \$2.2 billion in sales. In 2023, seven vehicles were offered for over \$10 million, which contributed to the \$3.4 billion figure spent in North American auctions. And in 2024, these figures are predicted to rise precipitously.

JAY IN HIS MCLAREN F1  
PHOTOS BY EVAN KLEIN

Bruce joins us in the garage's living room-like setting surrounded by Jay's motorcycle collection, as Jay explains how motoring was a life changer for him. "I always prided myself; I was always able to get a car home. By that I mean, if I'm broken down by the side of the road, with a piece of twine and some wire, I could get it back to my house to fix it. [With] modern cars now, you don't carry a toolbox. You just carry a cell phone, and the tow truck comes in because it's so complicated and so electronic."

Jay believes this is why young people today are not bonding with automotive functionality. Simple mechanical systems have been replaced with technological advancements. This was not the case in Jay's and Bruce's youth.

"You're controlling your own destiny," says Jay. "When you have something that's broken, and you make it work and you fix it. I think there's a great deal of pride in that. And satisfaction."

Bruce highlights his friend's natural talent.

"Jay is absolutely curious about what makes things work. He works on his own cars. I wish I had his level of talent in that regard. I love the aesthetic. I think I bought the right cars just because they appeal to me. I love to drive them. I've raced Bonneville. I've raced motorcycles. I enjoy the whole thing about cars. Jay does as well. But Jay, when you see this other room, I mean this is not like my garage where nothing gets done."

Next door to Jay's Big Dog Garage is his restoration and maintenance facility. There, talented and expert coachbuilders work with Jay to preserve his fleet.

"You're saving a piece of history," Jay believes.

This phenomenon can be seen in Bruce's garage in Beverly Hills. There, you quickly understand the depth of his knowledge and his curating mastery. Even a nonenthusiast would be fervently impressed with the diversity of genres, historical importance, and the shapes and colors of every car on display. Each piece has a remarkable story, from the Porsche 935 K3, which was the first production car to win overall at the 1979 24-Hours of Le Mans, to the bright yellow 1967 Ferrari 275 GTB4 that was bought new by Bill Doheny (of the Beverly Hills Doheny family and Greystone Mansion). Don Prudhomme's first slingshot dragster is there along with Clark Gable's gorgeous tobacco brown 1956 Mercedes 300SC and the iconic 1955 Mercedes Benz Gullwing Coupe. It's hard not to be in awe of this collection, which was 50 years in the making.

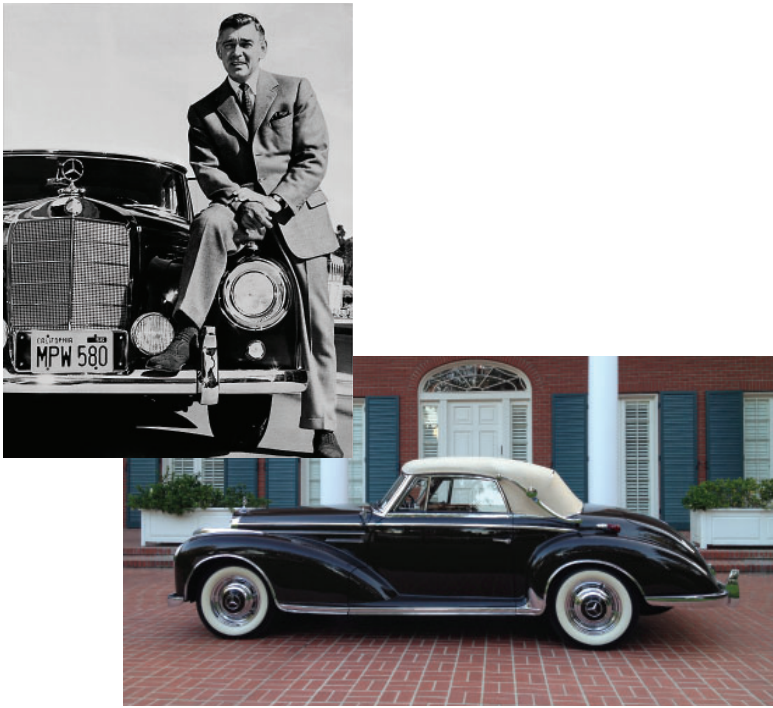
When asked in the press about the perfect car, Bruce responded, "If you could have one car, I don't see how you could do better than a Gullwing. The build quality, the workmanship, the rarity, the beauty."

Jay expands on that notion.

"It's seeing cars as art... It is only fairly recently, by recently, I mean the last 30 years, that cars are seen as art. The Guggenheim Museum did a motorcycle exhibition about 25 years ago, and it is still one of the biggest exhibits the museum ever had."



1. BRUCE, HIS WIFE RAYLENE AND HIS COBRA SERIAL #1, AFTER WINNING THE TOP PRIZE, BEST IN SHOW, AT THE QUAIL CONOURS  
 2. BRUCE AND SON EVAN WITH THE 2009 LE MANS WINNING CORVETTE ON THE TRACK  
 3. BRUCE IN 1964 WITH HIS MERCEDES BENZ 300SL GULLWING  
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRUCE MEYER



CLARK GABLE WITH HIS 1956 MERCEDES BENZ 300 SC CABRIOLET AND HIS MERCEDES TODAY AS PART OF BRUCE'S COLLECTION

Bruce chimes in, "Otis Chandler's motorcycles went to the Guggenheim for that event. And a year ago, the famous architect Lord Norman Foster [the architect for One Beverly Hills] did an exhibit at the Guggenheim in Bilbao. He picked the cars and had the biggest gate they've ever had for an exhibit."

Although their areas of focus are somewhat divergent, both enthusiasts agree that pre-1970s is their favorite era for cars.

"I've focused more on race cars. I like cars with competition history. Almost every car I have is a race car or has some nexus to racing," Bruce says. His motto, "Buy the best example of what you want, and pay whatever it takes. That way you cry only once."

He has other cars that invoke elegance and prestige such as the Clark Gable Mercedes, personalized with the actor's engraved Saint Christopher's Medal on the glove box and custom Mercedes luggage with Clark's personalized tags.

"They made 48 of these cars for royalty. The Shah of Iran had one, Gary Cooper, Errol Flynn, Bing Crosby. It was the most expensive car of the day, selling for \$16,000 in 1956. And it's always been one of my favorites. It's my wife's favorite car. She's said that if I sell that car, she goes with it."

While Bruce is drawn to the aesthetic component of automobiles, Jay is drawn to the cars he finds different, interesting or ahead of their time. He's particularly interested in "noble failures."

"Like the Duesenberg, it was a much better car than it needed to be," Jay says.

Produced during the Depression, it was too expensive of a car, over-engineered and overpowered for its time. The company was owned by E.L. Cord, another Beverly Hills resident. Jay has many Duesenbergs; Bruce owns one as well. Both enthusiasts have received several awards for their beautiful cars.

Jay explains, "That's the trouble with a lot of these things. Some people don't make it up to any standard. And some people make it so good and are perfectionists, they never get them into production." He cites the Mustang as an example, "It's a sexy body on a Ford Falcon. It didn't need independent suspension for the first 25 years because nobody cared. Just make it look sharp. It's kind of cool. It's affordable. It was a huge success."



BRUCE, WIFE RAYLENE AND GRANDDAUGHTER CHLOE OUT FOR FAMILY FUN IN HIS 1932 HOT ROD  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRUCE MEYER

Abiding by his moniker "never lift," as in "never take your foot off the gas," Bruce exhaustively pursued bringing the deserved recognition to hot rod cars and their makers.

"A hot rod is sort of a customized automobile. You take bits and pieces of different cars, and you make the car something faster, with better handling, than it was. But it was never recognized as a class. Bruce is really the guy that did that."

Jay searches for an analogy.

"It's like music versus rap. You had Mancini and all those people winning the Grammys and well deserved obviously, but rap music was sort of the hot rod child of music. It really wasn't considered music initially. Bruce is the guy that said, 'Hey, these hot rodders, these are real engineers.' They learned on the back streets. Now, hot rods have become hundreds of thousands of dollars, which sort of defeats it. The idea was you did it with almost no money, just parts that you could find. And you used your will, and your skill and your technique with welding. You saw these old racers from the '50s and '60s who used to be harassed by the police for speeding. Suddenly, now they're being honored. It was nice to see them get the recognition they deserve, to see the hot rod be recognized as an art form. Bruce is really the guy that made that happen."

Bruce responds, "That really warms my heart."

After 10 years of Bruce championing the cause, in 1997, he convinced the organizers of the founding Concours d'Elegance in the United States, at Pebble Beach, to create a class for hot rods. Not surprisingly, Bruce won the class with his Doane Spencer hi-boy. Today, it's a permanent class at Concours events around North America.



JAY DRIVING THROUGH THE RODEO DRIVE CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE 2023 IN HIS BENTLEY SPECIAL  
PHOTOS BY EVAN KLEIN



JAY AND BRUCE WITH MEMBERS OF THE BEVERLY HILLS CITY COUNCIL AND FIRE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR

The Concours d'Elegance shows have served as entry points into the automobile industry. The "competition of elegance" dates back to 17th-century France during the Belle Epoque era, "a period marked by cultural refinement and artistic flourish." Wealthy aristocrats and social elites would gather at grand venues, fashionable resorts and parks in France to display their luxurious carriages. Eventually, automobiles replaced the horse carriages as the mode of transportation.

Bruce and Jay are regular presenters at Beverly Hills' annual Father's Day event, Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance. It's the epitome of our modern-day, family-oriented holiday. Last year, over 45,000 people in the sparkling sunshine, along with their pooches, walked Rodeo Drive and admired some of the finest automobiles in the world.

Originally, the Beverly Hills Concours d'Elegance sprang from a fundraising effort to restore the only remaining Beverly Hills 1928 Ahrens Fox fire engine, referred to as "The Fox." Bruce led the fundraising charge. Soliciting the help of the community's car enthusiasts and the Rodeo Drive Committee, the group convinced the City Council to approve bringing the Concours d'Elegance to Beverly Hills on Rodeo Drive. The inaugural event took place in June of 1993. Every year since, it's touted as the most popular day in Beverly Hills and has become a Father's Day tradition. On June 16 of this year, the 29th annual Concours d'Elegance returns with Bruce as chairman. Bruce and Jay will join the Beverly Hills Mayor and City Councilmembers in the winner's circle, announcing this year's award winners, with the restored Fox firetruck showcased nearby.

For Bruce, philanthropy is a big part of his life. Among his long list of honors, he's a Founding Board Member of the California Highway Patrol 11-99 Foundation. Presently, he's on the Board of Trustees at St. John's Medical Center and generously involved with Children's Hospital Los Angeles. When the Petersen Automotive Museum opened its doors in 1994, Bruce was its Founding Chairman. Today, the "Bruce Meyer Family Gallery," within the museum, honors his enormous personal commitment and legacy. The Petersen Museum's namesake, Robert E. Petersen, was also a Beverly Hills resident and the publisher of Hot Rod magazine. This coming October 2024, Bruce will be the honoree at their 30th Anniversary Petersen Fundraiser Gala, dubbed the Automotive Party of the Year.

Both Bruce and Jay are recipients of the Lee Iacocca Award. Among Jay's charitable focuses, he's honored those who helped him along his career path with scholarship funds, as well as supported war veterans, and victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. He has received two Emmy Awards, two TV Guide Awards, one People's Choice Award and the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. He's also earned two Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters, one from his alma mater Emerson College in 2014 and one from the Academy of Art University in 2021.

"Jay has been awesome. He has raised more money for the California Highway Patrol and for the Petersen Automotive Museum. He's very generous with his talent. There are other people of fame that just don't give back like Jay does. And he's a great citizen. For the police department and the fire department, he's done shows. There are people that just don't get it, but Jay does."

Jay responds, "I'm a huge believer in low self-esteem. It's the key to success. If you don't think you're the smartest person in the room, then you should listen. I mean, there were 4,000 recorded geniuses in history, and I met 3,900 of them here in Beverly Hills."

More seriously, Jay says, "The trick is to know what your limitations are. If I have something that can help others, that's great. Maybe they'll help me in some way. I don't have to ever ask for it. It just works out nice. Bruce knows everybody. So, if I need a doctor, I call Bruce and ask, 'Who's a good cardiologist?' 'Oh, this guy's the best cardiologist.' 'Oh, thank you, Bruce. I appreciate that.' And then he'll say to me, 'I need a comedian...'"

"When Jay calls and he needs something, it makes me feel like I have some value in his life."

Not only is he generous, but Jay also enjoys spreading joy. Most Beverly Hills residents and tourists have spotted him cruising around town in one of his prized motorized machines.

Jay offers, "I hate the fact that they've driven the film industry out of Beverly Hills, out of Hollywood. Everybody's in Atlanta or somewhere else. When people come here, they expect to see something Hollywoodish. If I'm driving the Duesenberg or something like that and the tour bus goes by, yeah, I'll pull over. I'll take pictures with people. I like that. It's fun."

“There are more people who have climbed Everest than members of the 200 MPH Club.”

- Bruce Meyer

He recalls, “One day I'm driving in Beverly Hills, and I see Peter Falk. I pull over and I said, ‘Peter, hey, how you doing? Can I give you a lift home?’ He thought for a moment and said, ‘I got this Mercedes. It's been sitting there [at the house] for years. I don't know what's wrong. But you will.’ So, I drive him back to his house. We pull in, and he's got a nice Mercedes, one of the convertibles, and I got in. I said, ‘Well, the key is in, but the battery's dead. Lemme go and get jumper cables.’ So I go to my house, get jumper cables, come back. I put the jumper cables in, the lights go on. I say, ‘Peter, here's the problem, you left the lights on.’ Immediately, he becomes Columbo. He said, ‘Son of a...’ He goes and walks in a circle, comes back to me and says, ‘You're telling me I left the lights on?’ I'm sitting there watching this. He just took on those mannerisms of the character. It just made me laugh. That's the fun thing about living here.”

The chance of seeing two show business stars talking on the street is a rarity in any town. It's as unusual as finding people who have joined the 200 MPH Club.

“There are more people who have climbed Everest than members of the 200 MPH Club. That's a statistic told to me by a member of the club,” shares Bruce.

He is a proud member. The club's association qualifies the drivers and provides the red hats, the badges of honor, for members to wear at automobile events.

“To join the 200 MPH Club, you have to break an existing land speed record over 200 mph that had been previously set. In other words, in the category of cars, there are some cars that go 400 mph, and there are some cars that set records at 90 mph. They have lots of different categories, engine sizes and a variety of cars. For the club, you have to go over 200 in a car that set a record,” says Bruce. “I drove a Camaro. It was 206 mph against the 197 record.”

Bruce's second time was driving the 1932 hot rod that he built. In this case, his goal was to exceed 200 mph in an open hot rod, and he accomplished his goal.



BRUCE WITH HIS LITTLE DEUCE COUPE  
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN



JAY DRIVING ON THE OPEN ROAD  
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN

Jay is not a member of the club, although he's driven over 200 miles per hour many times. One such time, he took his C7 Corvette to Milford Proving Ground at General Motors and met with the head engineer to test the car.

“We get in the car and before the seat belts went on, I said, ‘Before we start, tell me the first time you ever went 200 in a Corvette.’ He goes, ‘Oh, I never have.’ I said, ‘You never have?’ He goes, ‘No, I've never been driven in a Corvette.’ ‘So, the first time is with a 73-year-old comedian in a car that I've never been in? On a track I'd never driven on?’ He goes, ‘Yeah, I guess so.’ ‘Okay, fine.’ So, we went. We did a ton of laps, 40, 50 laps, hit 204, 205. I was having a conversation with him the whole time, and it was fine.”

Bruce adds, “Most supercars go 200, and now they're pushing for 300. They take a car like that out to an airport, and they go 300. You may have a car that goes 300, and usually the old guys who can afford one only go 60.”

In March of 2024, the Robb Report aggregated the latest information for the fastest, top speed car. In 1987, the Ferrari F40 broke the second-century mark, setting the benchmark, and creating the race to break the 300 MPH Club. Today, there are 25 cars that are ranked for speed, beginning with the Porsche 918 Spyder at 218 mph at number 25. The top two are the Bugatti Chiron Super Sport at 304.7 mph on the track and the Koenigsegg Jesko Absolut at 330 mph, which is the manufacturer's claim.

Bruce says he is now in “self-preservation mode.”

“When I turned 75, I stopped running Bonneville. My whole life was motorcycles. But I've stopped because people are texting, and it's kind of dangerous out there. Plus, when you're in your older years, and you ‘go down,’ you don't just brush it off. I've stopped snow skiing because I didn't want to get hit by a snowboarder. And I hold onto railings when I go downstairs. Now I want to live and enjoy instead of doing something stupid, which I'm very capable of doing.”

Like his parents, Bruce forbade his children from riding motorcycles. And yet, Bruce once rode his young son on a motorcycle to a birthday party. He directed Evan to hold on to Bruce with one arm and to hold onto the birthday present with the other. Hearing about it from the other mothers, Raylene was very upset.

“It was just so stupid,” admits Bruce.





LISA, BRUCE AND JAY IN CONVERSATION AT JAY'S BIG DOG GARAGE  
PHOTO BY EVAN KLEIN

Turning the conversation towards Jay and his latest serious accidents, Bruce quickly refers to them as “mishaps.”

In 2022, working under his 1907 White Steam car, gas hit Jay's face, a spark jumped and his face caught on fire. Going to bed that night, the skin from his face and ear melted into the pillow, forcing the doctors to replace his ear and part of his face. Jokingly, he told *People* magazine, “I tried to get the Clooney face, but it wasn't available.” In January of this year, while riding on his motorcycle, a 1940s Indian, he hit a wire, was clotheslined and knocked off his bike. Fracturing his collarbone, a few ribs and both kneecaps, the ever-determined Jay returned to his stand-up gigs soon after, still bruised but not broken.

Have these latest events impacted Jay's thinking? Have they given him pause about his future rides?

“Not at all,” says Jay. “If I didn't know why the accident happened, then you would go, ‘Oh, I have no idea why that happened or how it happened. I shouldn't do that.’ But I see what happened. The guy, he had a wire across the road, but he didn't have a flag on it. The sun was in my eye. It caught me in the neck and threw my face down.”

Bruce quickly chimes in, “Jay's got another 10 years to go before he's matured enough to quit.” Jay adds he has one more mishap left in him. “I think I got one,” says Jay lightheartedly.

**W**hat about the future of cars?

Jay declares, “You can't predict the future.”

Bruce agrees.

Jay analogizes, “If you had said 20 years ago, that 20 years from now, it'll be cool for men to walk with their pants halfway down their ass all the time. Well, that looks ridiculous. It is ridiculous! But I see everybody wearing their underwear up here. Their pants are down there. I go, OK. Why is that? I don't get it. But if you had predicted that, I'd say, you're nuts! You just don't know what will be collectible or what's in style.”

The electric car today has gotten traction. Jay's “shock of the new” is subsiding. Most manufacturers are getting into the electric car business. Tesla surpassed early expectations once it was marketed to the masses.

Jay states, “Mark Twain said, ‘I like progress. It's change I don't like.’ And that's kind of what you have here. Tesla has no maintenance, no nothing, and it's faster than anything else. It's the fastest thing in my garage right now.”

Bruce drives a Tesla as well. “I hate the fact that I love my car so much. I am on my second Tesla. And Jay drives the high-powered Tesla Plaid.”

In their view, electric cars are here to stay.

Bruce theorizes, “I think the projections on the availability of electricity and what it takes to make electricity hasn't been thoroughly thought out. If everybody went to electric, we wouldn't have the grid to support it. I personally think we need to go to nuclear to source our electricity. But that's like a dirty word. You have to be able to produce energy to run these cars. And I think as time goes on, they're going to realize by 2030 or 35, it's not going to all be electric. We couldn't support it.” After a pause, he adds, “They're working on synthetic fuels, and I think the hybrid technology can be [the future], even hybrids are pretty darn efficient.”

“Something will evolve,” says Jay, as they continue to ponder the possibilities.

**O**ur tour had come full circle. It began with the electric cars of a century ago and ended with the electric marvels of today. While the options for future locomotion are endless, one thing is for sure. These two reigning auto aficionados have indelibly contributed to the legacy of automaking and restoration, and will continue to influence the global car conversation for years to come.

And yet, for Jay and Bruce, it was just another fun day, rapt in their passion, in Jay's garage. ●



THE POOL PAVILION AT THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 1925 (LEFT) AND TODAY (RIGHT)  
LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS ARCHIVE; RIGHT PHOTO BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

The great lawn is essentially the same vast stretch of green that once hosted 500 invited guests who came to dine by candlelight during Virginia’s annual soiree for the Hollywood Bowl.

Today, a lily pond marks the remnants of the former pool. The full-size, tiled upgrade, designed by the famed architecture firm Dodd & Richards, was installed in 1925. Other than regrouting and new plumbing in 2009, thanks to FRG funding, it remains virtually unchanged.

Dodd & Richards also constructed the adjacent pavilion, with a loggia featuring theatrical Tuscan archways and carved angelic trumpeting figures. They returned in 1929 to add a two-story expansion with wood paneling, ornate plaster ceilings and terrazzo floors. It now sits empty, but once housed a pool table, which was too big for the main residence. Called the “pool pavilion,” it was named after the spirited billiard games Harry often hosted there and not the nearby body of water. On the second floor, which is closed to the public, Virginia had a clandestine card room built where she could indulge in a favorite pastime with friends. Behind a hidden door in the wood paneling, a spiral staircase secreted guests up to the second-story room, which was decorated with arabesque-style murals featuring the couple’s pets, including their infamous monkeys that ran free and amok in Beverly Hills.

Adjacent to the pavilion, a brick path leads to a tennis court designed, once again, by Dodd & Richards, and added in 1929. This second court was for Virginia, who claimed Harry was so good at the sport he often didn’t want to play with her. Instead, she served sets with Charlie Chaplin on the new court, coated in a pink lime wash. Virginia had planted hot pink bougainvillea on the fence surrounding it, which she and Harry had sourced from South Africa. The intensely vibrant blooms still cover the old chain link, finial-topped wall surrounding the court today.

The Robinsons were so enthusiastic about horticulture that they brought a botanist, who assisted in selecting plants and shipping them back to the estate, whenever traveling abroad. The historic naked coral tree sitting on a terraced knoll was grown from seeds the Robinsons collected while on an African expedition. Its name is derived from the red, burnt orange color of its flowers, which only bloom when the tree drops its leaves, and for its smooth, bleached, reef-like bark. The row of iconic coral trees along San Vicente Boulevard from Brentwood to Santa Monica all came from this tree, donated as seedlings for the median by Harry and Virginia.

“[W]e found ourselves on a slight hill with a lovely view of rippling wheat fields and the mountains. A full moon was shining down, and Harry said, ‘This is where we are going to live.’”

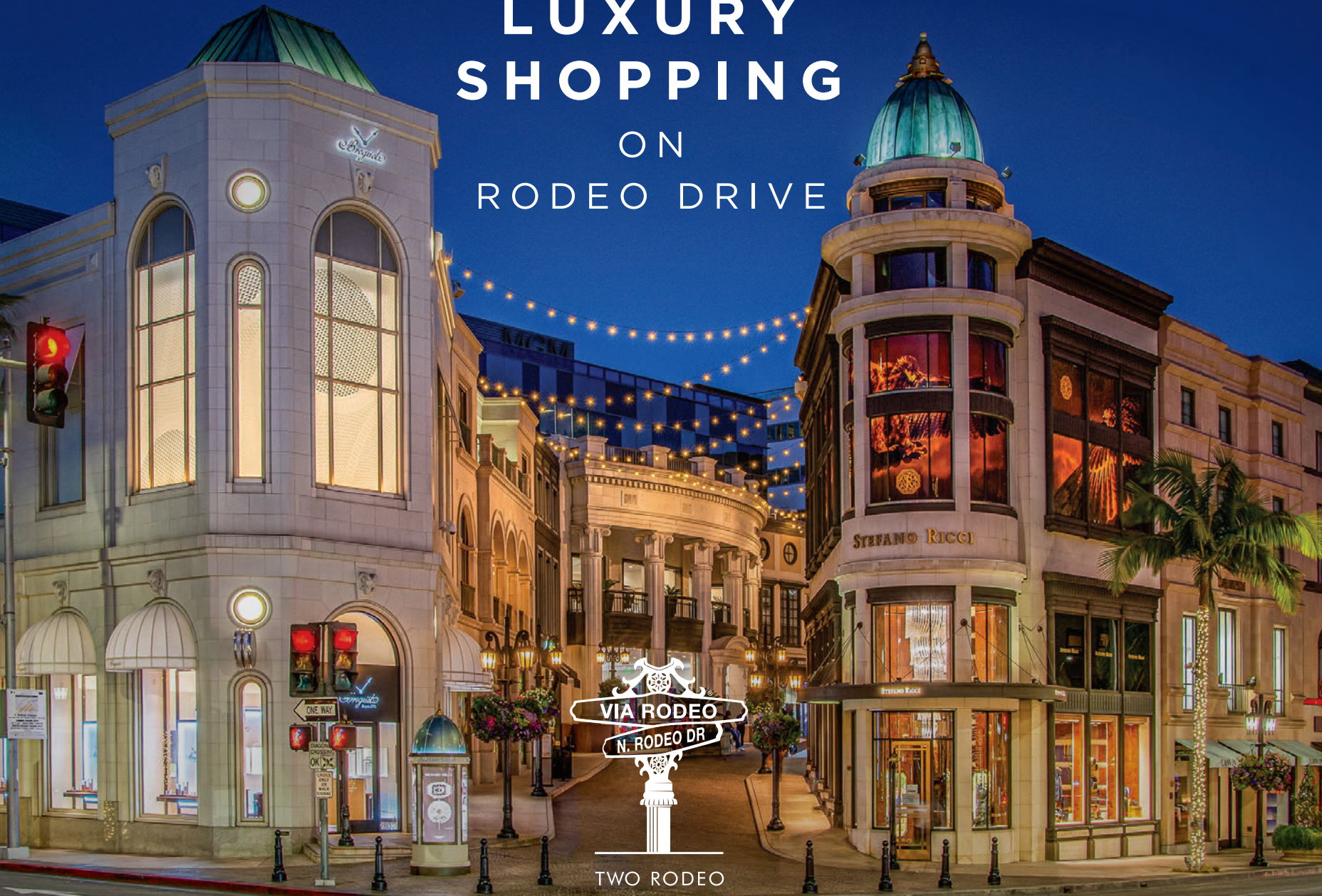
- Virginia Robinson

Many of the plants that cover the grounds with splashes of color today were curated by the Robinsons. Roses were a favorite, notably the Eiffel Tower variety, renowned for its fragrance. It’s said Virginia grew them anywhere and everywhere she found room. You can still stop and smell them; look for the most impossibly perfect, bright, Barbie-pink roses. Virginia was also fond of camellias. Hers became legendary, and the famous Nuccio’s Nursery in Altadena cultivated a semi-double, orchid-pink camellia in honor of the amateur botanist. The Virginia Robinson camellia still blooms on the estate and is available for purchase at the nursery to this day.

The Robinsons began experimenting with tropical and subtropical species in the mid-to-late 1920s. One of the most stunning parts of the estate was born out of this experimental phase: The King Palm Forest, which now boasts over 1,000 individual king palm trees. It’s the largest of its kind outside of Western Australia and is believed to be the largest anywhere in the Northern Hemisphere.

Harry and Virginia had planted the first specimens of king palms and kentia palms around 1930. Among them, they planted various other palm species and a variety of tropical shrubs, fruits and flowers—bananas, plumeria and ferns, from every tropical zone worldwide. By the 1970s, this forest had grown so large that it covered 2.5 acres, creating a distinct microclimate 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the gardens.

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Around this time, due to this unique temperate zone, the banyan trees planted sometime in the '30s began sprouting aerial roots, which only happened in their native habitat. Today, they make for a dramatic sight. The long fibrous roots of these old trees now stretch close to 30 feet, cathedral-like buttresses that lend a hallowed feeling to the grove. Nearby, a massive eucalyptus tree, the last remaining from the first flats of trees Virginia and Harry had purchased over 100 years ago, rises like a skyscraper.

The King Palm Forest is just one of five gardens developed in various but distinct stages over five decades. Great care is taken to maintain these areas, which are currently managed as historic display gardens by FRG. If plants need replacing, they're swapped with identical species wherever possible to preserve the couple's original intent for the gardens and landscaping.

Completed in 1935, the Italian Terrace Garden is the largest, covering over two acres. It's composed of several descending brick-paved terraces connected by a series of winding paths along a central axis per Neoclassical Italianate style. An intricate water system was designed to flow down the terrain, trickle along runnels carved into the bricks and stone, and cascade into a series of waterfalls before emptying into various pools and fountains. The runnels were inspired by the Alhambra in Spain, where Virginia and Harry marveled at the soothing melodies of the gently moving water. Perhaps inspired by those memories, Virginia added the Musical Stairs, a water feature made from inverted terracotta roof tiles laid in a series of steep steps, designed to produce a different note as water moves from one step to the next.

Sadly, Harry would never see these formal gardens take shape.

He passed away on Sept. 19, 1932, but not before spending much of his final week with the woman he adored in the gardens they loved. His widow preserved these last days in a diary, pressing leaves and flowers into the pages for that week in September, along with the simple inscription: "With Harry in the garden." The entry for Sept. 19 was left blank.

For two years, Virginia mourned, stepping back from civic engagements. To process her grief, she renewed her interest in finishing the gardens as an homage to her late husband. She also began writing a series of letters to him after his death, which she continued for five



TOP: THE KING PALM FOREST  
 MIDDLE: THE BANYAN TREES  
 BOTTOM: THE LANDSCAPE PRIOR TO THE KING PALM FOREST  
 PLANTING (LEFT) AND VIRGINIA STROLLING ALONG THE GREAT  
 LAWN, BOTH FROM AUGUST 1913  
 TOP AND MIDDLE PHOTOS BY JOSHUA JOHNSTON  
 BOTTOM PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS ARCHIVE

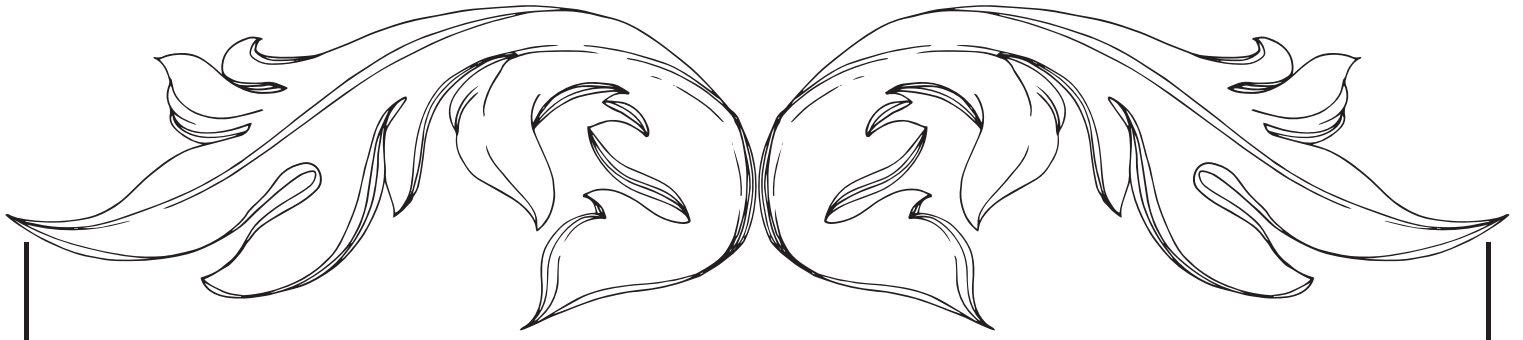
years. Most often, they were to ask his advice about the garden, tinged with loss and longing.

"Harry, do you like the trimming on the west side?" She asked her husband in a letter dated December 1932. "I cut the oaks down-it's much neater, but I cried after I did it because it's different [from] when you last saw it." Daunted by the scale of the Italian Terrace Garden during its construction, she looked to Harry for reassurance in another posthumous letter, dated 1934: "My darling - am I making a mess of our earthly paradise? You guide-kiss me again." Virginia continued to work on her gardens for the next few decades, through these preserved letters, we know Harry's spirit was with her during their entire creation. In part to fill a void left by her beloved husband, Virginia began to reinvent herself in the mid-1930s. She joined the Board of Directors of J.W. Robinson in 1935 (a rare position for women in those days) and served until 1960. She also began to host luxurious parties, many of them charitable functions, up to four a week. Some were grand affairs on the great lawn with hundreds of guests; others were intimate luncheons in a garden nook and all manner of gatherings. She continued this for decades. Of course, she had help; Virginia maintained a staff of a dozen live-in helpers for her 6,000-square-foot home, including a majordomo, an assistant butler, five gardeners, a cook, a kitchen maid, a houseman and a personal maid.

Her reputation and the high standard for gracious living she set solidified her place as "the first lady of Beverly Hills." As such, over the years, she entertained the likes of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor for tea alfresco; Walt Disney's widow, Lillian, celebrated her marriage to her new husband in Virginia's backyard. Mae West whispered naughty jokes to the hostess from the living room couch while Hedda Hopper dished out gossip on fellow guests, most of them Golden Age stars like Clark



TOP AND MIDDLE: VIRGINIA'S ANNUAL PARTY ON THE GREAT LAWN  
 FOR THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL, CIRCA 1960-1970  
 BOTTOM: VIRGINIA (LEFT) AND HEDDA HOPPER IN THE 1960S  
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS ARCHIVE



*Congratulations,  
Bruce!*

*Thank you  
for all you do for the  
Beverly Hills community.*

*Vicki and Ron Simms*





TOP LEFT: SOUTH AFRICAN BOUGAINVILLEA ALONG THE TENNIS COURT; TOP RIGHT: THE CORAL TREE KNOLL  
 BOTTOM LEFT: THE GREAT LAWN TODAY; BOTTOM RIGHT: A KAFFIR LILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA  
 TOP PHOTOS BY JOSHUA JOHNSTON; BOTTOM PHOTOS BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

Gable and Fred Astaire, during the extravagant affairs. So large were her parties, Virginia had to remodel parts of the home to accommodate the throngs. A large terrazzo terrace opening to the great lawn was added at the back of the home. The narrow front entryway, which often bottlenecked when partygoers arrived, was widened.

The last changes to her estate were mainly decor updates to the interiors of the main residence in the 1950s. The gold curtains and sleek, matching sofa and chairs in the Gold Room call to mind Jackie O's revamp of the White House and channel the same austere luxury. Thousands of old, leather-bound books collected from the corners of the Earth line the library's walls. The home is an eclectic repository of souvenirs, art, photo albums and guidebooks from the couple's extensive trips. These mementos survived and still make up a large part of the decor—ancient artifacts from Asia, like bronze sculptures of multilimbed deities, decorate tables and shelves. If the mashup is confusing, remember these are objects cultivated from a well-lived and well-traveled life that spanned from the Victorian era to the space age.

Virginia Robinson passed away just weeks short of her 100th birthday in 1977. Upon her death, the entire estate was bequeathed to the County of Los Angeles in hopes that what she referred to as her "life's work" could be shared with the public and future generations.

Repairs and maintaining the estate would be costly, but it received early support from the L.A. County Supervisor at the time, Edmund D. Edelman. He and the Board of Supervisors placed the estate under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Edelman then enlisted Joan Selwyn, a leader in the arts community, to form an organization of activists to support the restoration project. He proposed a partnership.

Selwyn created "Friends of Robinson Gardens" in 1982 with a Board of Directors and a general membership of over 75 committed women. The FRG would become the major source of fundraising to restore and maintain the garden estate, while L.A. County would run the day-to-day operations. A letter from President Ronald Reagan that year called the partnership a fine example of what can be accomplished through cooperation between the private and public sectors.

Metal leaves engraved with the names of FRG supporters, among them Barbara Streisand, hang on a decorative steel tree sculpture at the back of the residence.

According to Patty Elias, FRG Board Member and archive coordinator, the organization has restored all of the historic buildings on the property, to the strict standards of the Department of Interior, in the decades since. Additionally, Elias said that despite delays caused by COVID-19, FRG was able to fund and complete phase two of the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). The Virginia Robinson Gardens is in the process of applying for museum accreditation and the HALS report will provide the landscape documentation necessary for the museum status application.

While the future of its operations has yet to be decided, if you make it up to the end of Elden Way, try to imagine nothing was there before. And remember that many of the living things—the scented Eiffel Tower roses, the majestic eucalyptus, the King Palm Forest and old banyan trees—were planted there by the Robinsons with love and still stand before you now inspiring wonder, over a century later. ●

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# Must-Haves for Summer

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

Ah, summer. The sun is shining, the earth is warm and flowers are in bloom. It's the perfect time to shed the doldrums and engage in a little self-care spending, commonly known as retail therapy. If you've ever made a purchase to feel better, you're not alone. It appears it's one activity in which we almost universally take part.

According to a recent Deloitte survey, nearly 80% of 150,000 adults spanning 23 countries claimed to have made at least one splurge purchase to lift their mood within a given six-month period. What's surprising is that these indulgences were made across the board, regardless of age, income or gender. In fact, the study may have even debunked the long-held "lipstick index," which used women's purchases as the primary barometer of splurge spending. Deloitte's poll showed that men were equally as likely to make emotional purchases and spend about 40% more when they do.

The latest designer launches are the definition of retail therapy, with enough vibrant pops of color and glowing neon to send dopamine production into overdrive. Research has shown that many reap the same mood-enhancing benefits as spenders just by window shopping. So, in theory, merely pursuing these pages should elevate your mood without ever putting an item in your cart or a credit card on the counter. Happy shopping!

## BRIGHTEN UP

1. Deliciously reminiscent of tri-color swirls of Neapolitan ice cream, the Trinity ring from **Cartier** features ribbons of 18-carat white, yellow and rose gold. \$6,100 at *Cartier*, 411 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-275-4272 and [cartier.com](http://cartier.com)
2. Whether you birdie or bogey, you'll win style points on the fairway with this golf bag from the summer capsule collection by **Louis Vuitton** and L.A.-based artist Tyler, The Creator. \$31,500 at *Louis Vuitton*, 295 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-0457 and [louisvuitton.com](http://louisvuitton.com)
3. This **Dior Men** fluorescent-green polo shirt was made for the sporty gentleman who likes to stand out in a crowd. \$890 at *Dior Men*, 362 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-247-8003 and [dior.com](http://dior.com)
4. Carry your summer haul in this chic hand-woven tote from **Valentino**. It comes with a matching drawstring pouch that can be removed and used separately. \$3,885 at *Valentino*, 324 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-247-0103 and [valentino.com](http://valentino.com)
5. Named after the first female to complete a solo transatlantic flight, the Amelia sunglasses by **Saint Laurent** capture the effortless cool of the fearless aviator. \$560 at *Saint Laurent*, 326 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-271-5051 and [ysl.com](http://ysl.com)
6. Add a pop of color to any neutral-hued ensemble with these **Gucci Signoria** neon slingback pumps. Green not your thing? They also come in an electric pink shade. \$1,100 at *Gucci*, 347 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-278-3451 and [gucci.com](http://gucci.com)

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# ULTRAVIOLET DELIGHT

1. Emilio Pucci's bold prints were the epitome of glamour in the 1960s. They still are. This **Pucci** one-piece swimsuit is timeless, with an upgrade—it's made of UV-resistant fabric. \$500 at *Saks Fifth Avenue*, 9570 Wilshire Blvd., 310-275-4211 and [saksfifthavenue.com](http://saksfifthavenue.com)
2. From the **HardWear** collection by **Tiffany & Co.**, this white gold bracelet is simple enough to be worn every day, but with a single link covered in diamonds, it holds its own when paired with formal attire. \$21,000 at *Tiffany & Co.*, 210 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-273-8880 and [tiffany.com](http://tiffany.com)

3. Imagine the delight of guests at your next garden cocktail party when they're served libations in these amethyst-hued glasses from **L'Objet**. The gem-colored glassware is also available in highball, old-fashioned and wine glass styles. They are sold in a set of four and come in purple (pictured), amber, Bordeaux (a garnet and blue topaz color combo) and a rich emerald green shade. \$200 at *GEARYS Beverly Hills*, 351 N. Beverly Drive, 310-273-4741 and [gearys.com](http://gearys.com)
4. Part of the latest **Colormania** collection from **Louis Vuitton**, this four-piece luggage set will put a smile on your face—before you've even made your travel plans. \$49,000 at *Louis Vuitton*, 295 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-0457 and [louisvuitton.com](http://louisvuitton.com)

5. A wide-brim straw hat is an indispensable summer accessory. This simple, classic version from **Dior** is destined to become your go-to this season. \$890 at *Dior*, 309 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-859-4700 and [dior.com](http://dior.com)
6. You can ride the perfect break on this gorgeous wooden **Fendi** surfboard, but if you'd rather display it as decor, we wouldn't judge. \$8,900 at *Fendi*, 201 N. Rodeo Drive, 310-623-3420 and [fendi.com](http://fendi.com)





**JULY 12**

“Long Legs” stars Nicolas Cage, Maika Monroe and Blair Underwood. Director Osgood Perkins gives us a serial killer thriller with a little bit of the occult thrown in for good measure. The FBI heroine must find the killer before he strikes again...sound familiar?

“Touch,” a romantic drama, comes from Iceland and is based on a book of the same name. After his wife dies, a man is determined to find his long-ago first love before he dies; a woman who disappeared 50 years before.

“Twisters” is a sequel or reimagining of the 1996 disaster movie “Twister.” There are high winds a-comin’ for stars Daisy Edgar-Jones, Maura Tierney and Glen Powell (who’s having quite a summer).

**JULY 19**

“Thelma” stars the always fun, feisty and fabulous June Squibb as a (very) old lady who has been duped out of her savings. She’s on a mission to get it back and will stop at nothing. The supporting cast includes Malcolm McDowell and the late Richard Roundtree in his last role. This Thelma needs no Louise. (Limited release)

**JULY 26**

“Deadpool & Wolverine” (title as of press time, it may change) unites Ryan Reynolds’ snarky mutant mercenary Deadpool and Hugh Jackman’s long-clawed, alpha Wolverine. Who or what is their common enemy or purpose remains under wraps but be assured, there will be mayhem. Directed by Shawn Levy, this unlikely bromance also stars Matthew MacFadyen hot off his run on HBO’s hit “Succession.”

**AUGUST 2**

“Harold and the Purple Crayon” is a live-action movie based on the much-loved children’s book that explores sibling rivalry through fantasy, heroics and a magical purple crayon. Among the very starry cast are Zoëy Deschanel, Zachary Levi and Lil Rel Howery.

“Trap” is another M. Night Shyamalan family production, this time with him directing and his daughter Saleka as one of the stars. He has not divulged much information about the film other than that it is a psychological thriller set at a concert. Among the cast is Josh Harnett and the rarely seen and much-missed Hayley Mills.

“My Old Ass” is a comedy about how the future impinges on the present when a young girl is visited by her future self and advised against falling in love, especially with someone who spells trouble. You guessed it, the years pass and she falls in love with the one she was warned about. The delightful Aubrey Plaza stars. (Limited release)

**AUGUST 9**

“Borderlands” is an arcade to big screen transition of the popular video game of the same name, written and directed by horror meister Eli Roth. Video game series, especially those involving first-person, role-playing, fantasy, science fiction and Westerns would seem daunting. Nevertheless, he has a starry cast to back him up led by Cate Blanchett (always looking to expand her range) with support including Jamie Lee Curtis, Jack Black, Kevin Hart and a delicious villain played by Edgar Ramirez. This is a built-in series ready for sequels. Although animated films have fared better overall than live-action video game movies, this one seems to be played tongue in cheek.

“It Ends with Us” is based on the bestseller by Colleen Hoover where main character Lily is forced to make some hard choices when her high school sweetheart comes back into her life. Blake Lively stars in this very romantic film co-starring, written and directed by the hunky Justin Baldoni.

“Speak No Evil,” an English language remake of a very popular Danish film, is a cautionary tale. One nice family meets another, seemingly nice family on vacation and accepts their invitation to come visit. Directed by James Watkins who made “Eden Lake,” all is not what it seems and danger lurks around every corner in this psychological thriller.

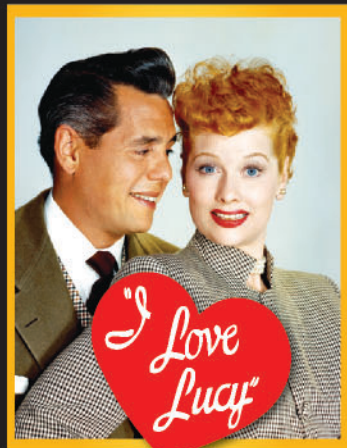
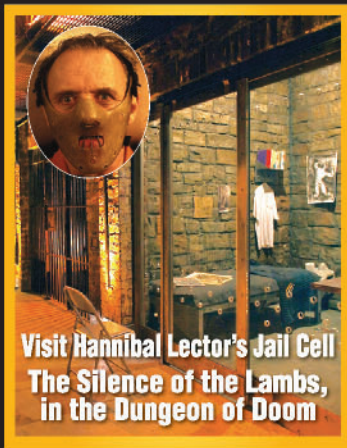
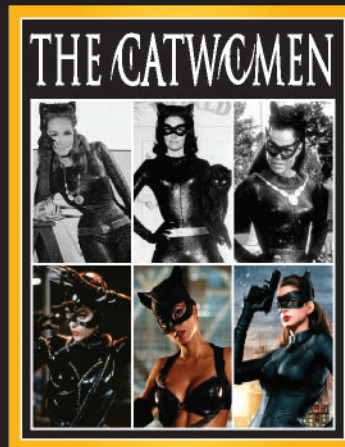
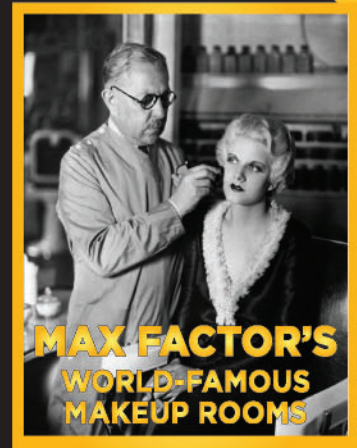
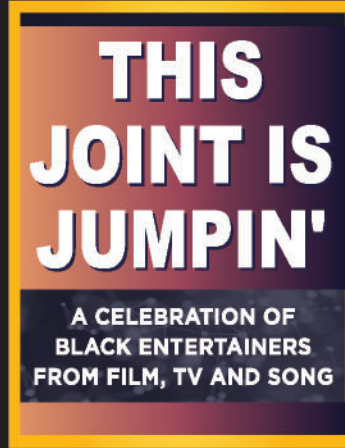
“Flint Strong” is based on the true story of Claressa “T-Rex” Shields who wants to be the first American woman to win a gold medal in boxing at the Olympics. Directed by Rachel Morrison and written by Barry Jenkins, the Oscar-winning writer/director of “Moonlight,” it features a very strong cast led by Brian Tyree Henry.

1. RYAN REYNOLDS AS DEADPOOL IN “DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE”  
 PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS/MARVEL STUDIOS  
 2. PALMI KORMÁKUR AND KÔKI IN “TOUCH”  
 PHOTO BY LILJA JONSDOTTIR, COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES  
 3. THE CAST OF “BORDERLANDS”  
 PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

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1.



### AUGUST 16

“Alien: Romulus,” directed by Fede Alvarez, is theoretically a sequel to the other “Alien” movies. A group of young people face an evil force, but this time there’s no Sigourney Weaver to rescue them or Jean-Pierre Jeunet, David Fincher or Ridley Scott at the helm.

“The Union” is an action comedy/thriller starring Mark Wahlberg as an ordinary Joe roped into spy shenanigans by his ex-girlfriend played by Halle Berry. The supporting cast includes J.K. Simmons, Mike Colter and Jackie Earle Haley.

“Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 2” is a continuation of “Chapter 1,” which opened on June 28.

### AUGUST 23

“Blink Twice” marks Zoe Kravitz’s directorial debut in a story about a cocktail waitress who succumbs to a tech mogul’s advances and takes an ill-advised vacation with him and his friends to a private island. Strange things begin to happen, and she has to figure out how to get out alive. This strong cast includes Kyle MacLachlan, Geena Davis, Channing Tatum, Haley Joel Osment and Christian Slater.

“Slingshot” stars Casey Affleck as an astronaut on a mission to Saturn’s moon, Titan. The flight may be compromised, and he’s in a battle with his consciousness as he tries to maintain a grip on reality. Able support is provided by Laurence Fishburne and David Morrissey

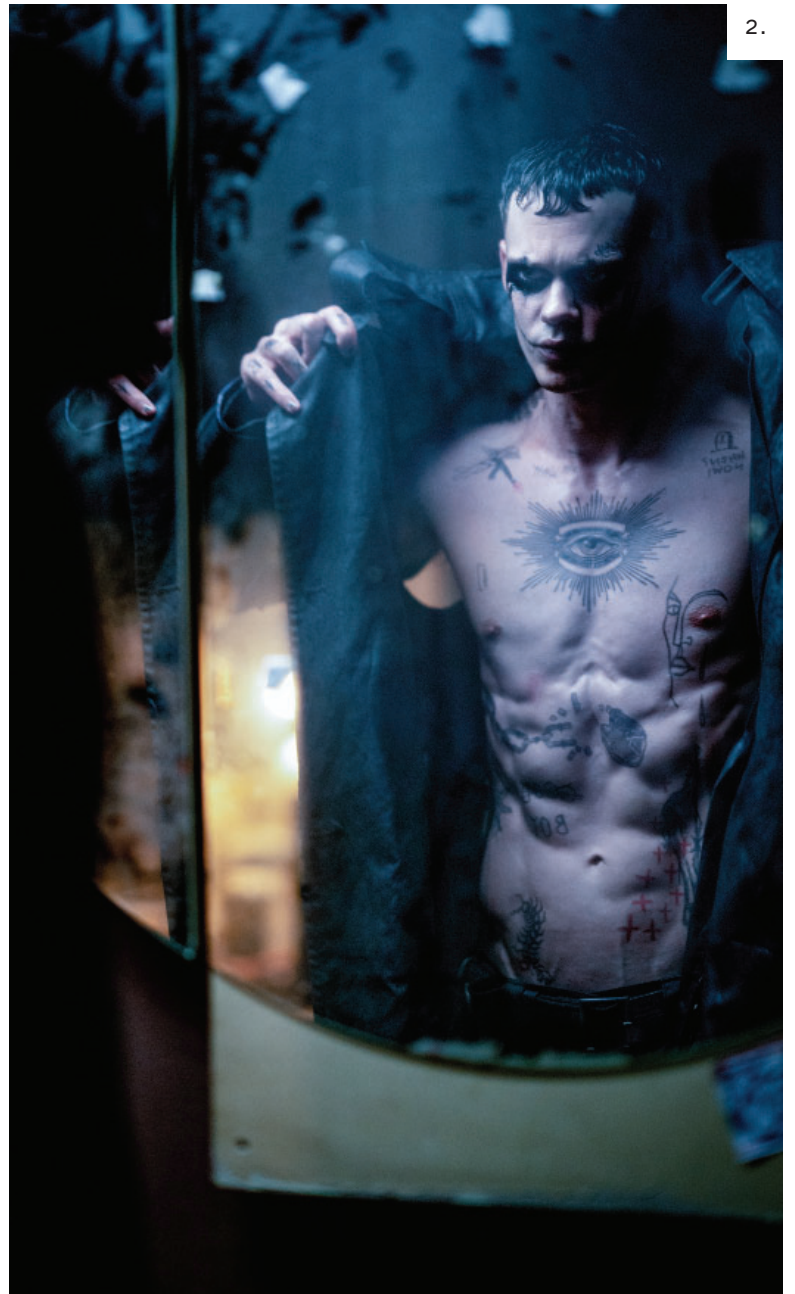
“The Crow” uses the character as a starting point, and Eric Draven, the Crow, has a new look. Still based on the graphic novel series, it has gothic director Rupert Sanders (“Snow White and the Huntsman”) at the helm and horror stalwart Bill Skarsgård (of the famous acting family, Stellan is his father and Alexander, his brother) and Danny Huston in support. It remains to be seen if it can escape the curse that followed when Brandon Lee (son of Bruce) was accidentally killed on the set of the original film.

### SEPTEMBER 6

“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” is a sequel to the original 1988 movie. Once again, Tim Burton has brought the ghost back to life with Michael Keaton reprising his role as the scarier version of Casper the Friendly Ghost, Winona Ryder returning as Lydia Deetz, the formerly goth teenager who lived in the haunted house all those years ago, and Catherine O’Hara is still her mother, Delia Deetz. New additions are Jenna Ortega as Lydia’s daughter Astrid, and Monica Bellucci as Beetlejuice’s wife.

Whether you see it as a feast or famine, there’s definitely something here for you. So make a trip to a multiplex near you, load up on popcorn and soda and get ready for some summer entertainment. ●

2.



1. ISABELA MERCED IN “ALIEN: ROMULUS”  
PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

2. BILL SKARSGÅRD IN “THE CROW”  
PHOTO BY LARRY HORRICKS, COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

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Over the years, the Lautner building at 9884 S. Santa Monica Blvd., originally designed for John Darrow in 1946, was home to various tenants—a nail salon, medical offices and a drug store. But under its current owner, the Angeleno Group, a late-stage venture capital and investment firm focusing on climate change-related technologies, it's set to become a stunning state-of-the-art sustainable model of adaptive reuse.

The Darrow Office Building's brick facade with its iconic louvered shutters will remain virtually unchanged, save for the reinstatement of a few ornamental details that had been removed over time, and of course, the addition of the hotly contested third floor, a glass-walled, floating rooftop patio designed by acclaimed architect, Hagy Belzberg, who won an award for his trailblazing design of the Holocaust Museum LA.

Preserving this historical architectural gem while simultaneously showcasing futuristic tech was the goal. Putting Beverly Hills on the map as the destination for sustainable tech became a mission for Angeleno Group's Co-Founder Yaniv Tepper.

"Some years ago, when I was asked where to find the most interesting green building technologies in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills wasn't high on that list. That's not what people go there for, but I grew up in Beverly Hills," Tepper explained. "I went to Beverly Vista and Beverly High. And for me to have to go see green technologies down near the Port of Long Beach or in Santa Monica, it pained me." In 2021, the city of Santa Monica became the first local government in the nation distinguished with a Platinum certification under the LEED for Cities program. It was an honor that Tepper felt should belong to the city of Beverly Hills. "I wanted the city of Beverly Hills to be an example of these state-of-the-art

technologies," he said.

To that end, every facet of the company's new headquarters, from the electric outlets to the windows, will be outfitted with cutting-edge, energy-saving and efficiency advancements, many from the group's portfolio.

Tepper plans to install what he calls "some pretty frontier stuff," used mainly in residential applications. One example is the latest in intelligent circuitry from the tech company SPAN. It enables homeowners to choose their power source (the grid, solar or battery storage) and divert energy to high-use outlets where it's needed most—all from an app on their phone. Visitors to the group's new headquarters will be able to view the building's energy consumption in real time via a giant SPAN screen in the building's lobby.

Revolutionary active lighting, which automatically adjusts supplied light levels and power usage to reduce waste, will be installed throughout the building. Solar roof panels will be maxed out, and the team is also looking into groundbreaking photovoltaic glass windows to shore up additional sun power. These look like ordinary windows, but cells hidden in the glazing convert sunlight into renewable energy, which can be banked and used when needed. In addition, four solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations will be installed onsite so employees, clients and visitors can charge their EVs during daylight office hours without straining the grid.

"We're looking forward to this being the place where when people visit us, they'll be able to see, touch and understand all these different green building technologies," said Tepper. "They're practical, they're real, and they're here."



TOP: VIEW OF ONE BEVERLY HILLS FROM SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD; BOTTOM: ANGELENO GROUP'S GROUND-FLOOR EMPLOYEE LOUNGE (LEFT) AND SECOND-FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM (RIGHT) IN THE HISTORIC DARROW OFFICE BUILDING  
TOP RENDERING COURTESY OF FOSTER + PARTNERS; BOTTOM RENDERINGS COURTESY OF BA COLLECTIVE

The logo for LEO Gold, featuring the word "LEO" in a stylized, overlapping font above the word "Gold" in a simple sans-serif font.

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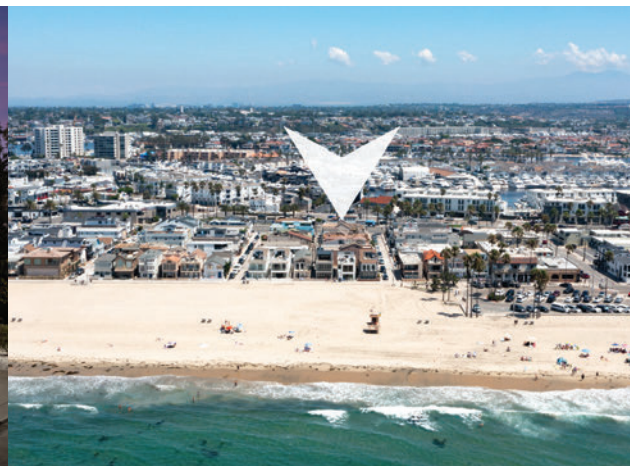
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AMAN GUESTROOM POOL  
 RENDERING COURTESY OF KERRY HILL ARCHITECTS

When it comes to working spaces, the city scores on the higher end of the national average with 27 LEED-awarded commercial buildings, according to recent statistics provided by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), which administers the complex LEED ranking system, the standard in evaluating sustainable building worldwide. “Because of the high number of luxury brands and high-end offices, Beverly Hills is a unique market for LEED and green buildings,” said Stephanie Gabriel, USGBC Pacific Regional Director. “These companies and brands are embracing LEED certification as part of their sustainability strategy and to enhance customer experience and satisfaction.”

“Today, sustainability is expected; it’s part of our lifestyle. We believe that incorporating green elements into every project makes our environment healthier, and everyone—and every building—needs to contribute.”

- Paul Daneshrad, Founder/CEO,  
 StarPoint Properties

Gabriel considers the remodel of the 46,000-square-foot office building at 9000 Wilshire Blvd. a stand-out example in Beverly Hills. “It implements green and sustainable strategies like water reduction and solar power generation while focusing on health and wellness with bicycle parking service and lots of natural light. This is why the project attained Platinum certification, the highest level a project can achieve.”

Another existing building deserving special mention, according to Gabriel, is the property at 433 N. Camden Drive. When StarPoint Properties, LLC bought the 12-story commercial office tower in 2018, it was the most expensive office building ever purchased in Beverly Hills. At a purchase price of \$193 million, it still holds the record. The building recently earned its LEED Gold status after making a few small sustainability-related improvements. Simply replacing fluorescents and retrofitting lighting fixtures with LED bulbs throughout resulted in one of the most extensive cost and energy-related savings measures. StarPoint also received high marks for implementing a robust recycling program and reducing single-use plastics, such as bottles and utensils, across the entire building.

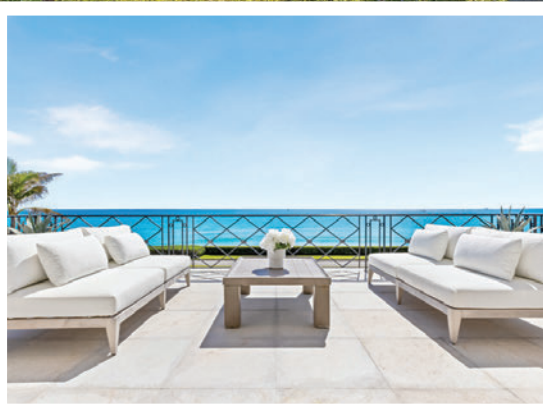
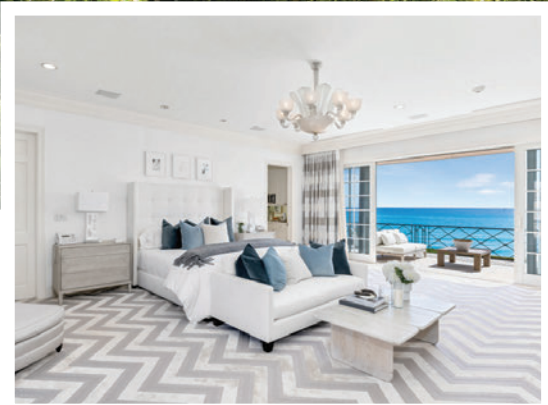
“From an owner’s standpoint, investing in green renovations positions a building for long-term success. These green renovations optimize building maintenance, preserving the look and integrity of a building for years to come,” said Paul Daneshrad, Founder and CEO of StarPoint Properties. “Today, sustainability is expected; it’s part of our lifestyle. We believe that incorporating green elements into every project makes our environment healthier, and everyone—and every building—needs to contribute.”

With this spate of new and updated green buildings, Beverly Hills is earning its place as a beacon of sustainability, a distinction rightly befitting this legendary destination. ●





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MARIA LEONE WITH CLIENTS  
PHOTOS BY RYAN VERMILION

## MARIA LEONE

### Bodyline Pilates

From a small office at the front of her Beverly Hills Bodyline studio, fitness instructor Maria Leone explained how, after two decades teaching Pilates in Beverly Hills, she unwittingly became one of the top Pilates “fit-fluencers” in Los Angeles.

“The other day, my 19-year-old daughter told me, ‘Mom, Pilates is really popular right now, all my friends are doing it!’ And to me, 19-year-olds are the barometer; if they’re doing something, it really has become a thing,” Leone said. Certainly, when pics of Harry Styles at a Pilates studio in London recently went viral on social media, the decades-old exercise received a measurable uptick.

Leone’s past and current private clients have included a mix of Olympic athletes, industry elites and celebrities (from A-list to reality show megastars). In addition to the four to five private lessons she holds, either in person at the Beverly Hills studio or via video with those who live outside the area, Leone leads two to three group classes per week. On weekends, she drives to the private homes of her exclusive clients who can afford the heftier fee, about \$400-\$600 per 45-minute session. Not all of them are hiding from paparazzi, though. “Some just don’t want to drive and deal with parking, and they can afford it,” Leone said.

On top of all of that, five times a week she shoots and edits short video segments for her Instagram feed, @bodylinela, which currently has over 130,000 followers and growing. Earlier this year, she added a paid subscription page for fans who want more of her content. Membership grants them access to a stripped-down version of Leone. “I don’t have to really worry about what I look like or what I have on or if [the video] is catchy. It’s very freeing in a way. And I can show other things that I don’t want to show the whole world, even stuff about my body that I don’t particularly like.” Leone recently shared a poignant video of her and her mother, who has advanced dementia, in a segment about the benefits of Pilates on Alzheimer’s patients. It’s these types of private moments Leone also reserves for her closest subscribers.

Of course, keeping up with the subscription page requires more

content, about three to four additional videos to shoot, edit and post per week.

Leone, a professional dancer who’s worked with Debbie Allen and Paula Abdul, leaned on her background as a performer and educator. “I’m not going to go out there and show my body and cute outfits. I can’t do that, but I can do who I am on Instagram and just see what happens.” Turns out people were interested. A lot of people.

“There wasn’t anyone else on that platform doing my take on Pilates, which is very much about educating the people in my industry.”

In terms of Pilates, Leone has somewhat of a coveted pedigree. She studied classical Pilates under Mari Windsor, who brought Pilates into the mainstream. Her West Hollywood studio was a Who’s Who of Hollywood, and everyone from Dustin Hoffman to Miley Cyrus were her clients. Windsor was trained by Romana Kryzanowska, one of the few protégées of Joseph Pilates, the inventor of the exercise and its contraptions himself. And in the age of mashup workouts, Pilates purists from far and wide have sought out Leone, virtually and in person.

In addition to creating content for social media, Leone also shoots videos for her Bodyline Pilates YouTube channel and on-demand streaming service, which have tens of thousands of views. Most are of Leone working with people of every age, athletic ability and size, and it resonated.

“So many more people know about me now, and it’s amazing. And I’m not showing rock-solid bodies. I’m talking about moving and feeling connected and teaching people about their bodies and helping different types of bodies.”

Leone added, “But, there’s nothing like in-person training.”

Until recently, her studio offered one-on-one private Pilates lessons almost exclusively. Due to the rising demand for group workouts and the enormous popularity of ClassPass, Leone has begun to add a few group sessions to the studio’s schedule. “You need eyes on you,” she said. “It’s an energy exchange, too. It’s not just the class, it’s the place, the environment, the people, the culture; it all makes a difference.”



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## NOAH NEIMAN

### Rumble Boxing

Fat burning, stress relieving, metabolism increasing, the benefits of boxing go on and on. It's quickly gaining traction as one of today's hottest workouts. And no place is hotter to hit the bag right now than Rumble, which has celebrity fans from David Beckham to Kendall Jenner KO'd.

Founded in 2017 by Noah Neiman, Rumble is now part of Xponential Fitness, one of the largest global boutique fitness brand franchise groups. Currently, there are 80 Rumble boxing gyms around the country and the world (from Australia to Tokyo), with an additional 350 set to open within the next two years.

Neiman hails from Barry's Bootcamp, where he was a master trainer for the fitness company for several years. "While I was there, I kind of built up my own personal brand on social media," said Neiman. "I've been training, boxing and doing jiu-jitsu and martial arts my whole life, and just fell in love with the calmness that it brought me. So, I wanted to bring that discipline to the world and do it in a way that had a much bigger chance of being digestible to the mass public because I grew up in the dirty, dingy boxing gyms of Pittsburgh and New York. And I love them. But I know that the average consumer isn't going to love that."

Neiman opened the enormously popular West Hollywood location in 2018. It remains the only corporate-owned Rumble boxing gym, as well as the company's headquarters. As such, it's massive, 6,600 square feet, and houses state-of-the-art amenities like infrared saunas and hyperbaric chambers. With its dim lighting and endorphin-inducing tunes thumping through the sound system, the vibe is more nightclub than dingy boxing gym. The playlists, custom hip-hop and house music mashups, are curated in-house and designed to get you pumped.

"It gives you a level of confidence that you can throw some punches and know what you're doing, and you're as strong and healthy as you can be. And that's the most important thing."

- Noah Neiman,  
Rumble Boxing Founder



NOAH NEIMAN

PHOTO BY IAN PASSMORE

Each 45-minute workout features a mix of high-intensity interval training, metabolic conditioning, weightlifting and, of course, boxing. About half of the workout is spent pounding the company's proprietary water-filled, tear-dropped-shaped bags. "I didn't want to open a boxing space where you just box. I knew the efficacy of a workout was tied to having some kind of strength-training program as well," explained Neiman. "So, we don't just box, we lift weights, from 5 pounds all the way up to 45 pounds. And similar to the Barry's Bootcamp model, we do squats, lunges, push-ups, pull-ups, curls and shoulder presses. We work your chest, your back, your abs, your cardiovascular, and you get to punch things."

If you've never thrown a fist, fear not, you'll be instructed on the six basic punches before you begin. Advanced pugilists have several options to stay fit, from express 30-minute workouts to 60 minutes and 12 rounds of boxing and strength training.

While Rumble's emphasis is on in-person training, the company's app gives members priority status when booking appointments. They can also chart their progress with the in-app tracker and connect with other members. Rumble-branded boxing workout videos are also available on-demand to members through the XPlus app, owned by Rumble's partner Xponential. There, they can find a host of prerecorded at-home, Peloton-style workouts, with live component options as well.

"This is what I really believe can help communities, which was the ultimate goal, to give people an outlet, a safe place to express their physicality and to get better at fighting," said Neiman. "It gives you a level of confidence that you can throw some punches and know what you're doing, and you're as strong and healthy as you can be. And that's the most important thing." ●



# THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HAS LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE AND CUSTOMER RELATIONS PROGRAM!

The City has launched its new website that features improved functionality, easy navigation and at-a-glance information about City news and events. Additionally, the City has launched its **askBH** customer relations program designed to provide the community with one point-of-contact for non-emergency assistance. You can request information and services, report issues and concerns and receive updates when your requests have been resolved. If the askBH team doesn't know the answer, we'll get you to the right people. Please continue to use 911 for emergency assistance.

## askBH COMMON REQUESTS:

- Register for camps and classes, reserve park amenities.
- Report potholes, sidewalk and streetlight issues, fallen trees and limbs.
- Request bulky item pickups, extra pickups, start or stop commercial trash service.
- Information and status on fire and building permits, inspection appointments and plan checks.
- And more! Visit [beverlyhills.org/askbh](http://beverlyhills.org/askbh).



Visit our NEW website at [beverlyhills.org](http://beverlyhills.org)!

## CONTACT THE askBH TEAM THESE 3 WAYS:



1 Email: [askBH@beverlyhills.org](mailto:askBH@beverlyhills.org)



2 Online/City of Beverly Hills Mobile App: **askBH** (formerly AskBev)



3 Phone: 310-285-1000



### askBH hours of operation:

Monday - Thursday | 7:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Friday | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
24/7 | [beverlyhills.org/askBH](http://beverlyhills.org/askBH)

# REQUEST • REPORT • RESOLVE

# Old Crafts, New Skills

BY LINDA IMMEDIATO

In our increasingly high-tech world, so much of old-world, artisan craftsmanship is disappearing in the digital age. This summer, take your cue from the old flowers pushing forth new blooms and pick up a new skill while learning an old craft. We've included plenty of fun options to entertain and educate kids, as well as seniors. From the ancient art of pottery to the popular Victorian pastime needlepoint, learning yesterday's craftsmanship can open a whole new world for you.

## POTTERY

This summer, beginning June 17 through Aug. 9, **Bitter Root Pottery** is hosting "Summer Kids Camp," a series of weeklong, daily classes for kids (6-12 years old). Sessions are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (\$95 per day) and promise a bonanza of activities. Students receive step-by-step instructions on how to make and design a cup or bowl on the wheel; they'll choose a glaze color; and the staff handles the glazing and firing process. You'll get a call when your prodigy's masterpiece is ready for pickup. Parents, want to get away from the kiddos? Find your Zen space—the indoor greenhouse, Japanese koi pond or breathtaking mountain views—while you take an adults-only (18+), two-hour, beginner class (\$95) offered daily.



A FINISHED PIECE AT ARISTEIA NEEDLEPOINT  
PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA TAYLOR

## NEEDLEPOINT

**Aristeia Needlepoint** has been a cross-stitcher's mecca since it was established in 1996; first in Brentwood Village, where it remained until 2010 before moving to its current location in Santa Monica. The shop is stocked with every type of needlepoint thread, fiber and accessory imaginable, including one-of-a-kind, hand-painted base canvases. Drop-in beginner classes are held weekly, and one-on-one lessons are also available. [aristeineedlepoint.com](http://aristeineedlepoint.com)

## CHESS

This year, the **Roxbury Park Community Center** in Beverly Hills introduced a brand-new chess club. Seniors (ages 55 and up) can learn the age-old game or hone their checkmate skills every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Centennial Room. The cost is \$1/\$2 per person. [beverlyhills.org](http://beverlyhills.org)

## GOURMET COOKING

Looking for a fun and delicious evening out? Grab your plus-one and learn how to make pasta, or take a special date-night cooking class for two at **Violet Bistro**. A two-hour lesson will have you chopping, sautéing and searing your way to an epic, three-course meal. [violetla.com](http://violetla.com)



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## WORLD ARTS

Send your kids on an art expedition around the world at **Robertson Art Zone Summer Camp**. Beginning June 17 through Aug. 30, weeklong workshops will be held for ages 5 to 11 with lessons in Middle Eastern, African, South American, North American and European art. From the mosaics of Morocco to the beaded wonders of the Maasai, your little ones will be inspired to create their own cherished artworks. Attendees receive a mock passport to get stamped at each "destination." The cost is \$650 per week or a daily drop-in fee of \$135 per day. [razland.com](http://razland.com)

## SNEAKER DESIGN

Known as "The Shoe Surgeon," Dominic Ciabrone offers classes at his **SRGN Academy** to help you upgrade your most worn shoe. Bring your own kicks to a one-day, customization workshop where you'll personalize them with paints, leathers and laces (\$200), or sign up for a three-day, comprehensive, lab experience (\$3,000) to learn how to deconstruct and reconstruct popular sneaker silhouettes. You'll be supplied everything you need, learn each step of the process and leave with your own custom pair designed and created by you. [srgnacademy.com](http://srgnacademy.com)



KAZUKI TAKIZAWA TEACHING STUDENTS  
THE ART OF GLASSBLOWING  
PHOTO COURTESY OF KT GLASSWORKS



SUMMER CAMP AT ROBERTSON ART ZONE  
PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERTSON ART ZONE

## GLASSBLOWING

No previous glassblowing experience is necessary to take a lesson at **KT Glassworks**. Founder glass artist, Kazuki Takizawa, designed the private lessons for those who want to learn the art of glassblowing at their own pace. Take the lesson by yourself or with a special someone. Single-student lessons (three hours) are \$330, and two-student lessons (four hours) are \$250 per person. [ktglassworks.com](http://ktglassworks.com)

## FASHION DESIGN

Designer Summer Camp returns to the **Pacific Design Center** on July 15-19 for its 10th year. Students (ages 11-17) interested in a career in design are invited to join the jam-packed, weeklong series of hands-on workshops. They will work to create their portfolio and can choose from classes in fashion design, interior design, photography and more. Events, guest speakers and tours of past summer projects round out the experience. Classes are from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the cost is \$1,495 per person. Spots fill up fast! [designercamp.com](http://designercamp.com)



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