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Connie Antoniou answers all of your real estate questions, please email me at questionsforconnie@gmail.com

How should you price your home to sell?

When it comes to choosing price many homeowners already have an idea of how to price their home. Whether its based on recent sales, input from friends/family, media, or observing other local listings for sale, there's a lot of data that can be interpreted for use in choosing a price, however much of the time this data can be hit or miss when it comes to choosing the RIGHT price. Keep in mind that what you read in an article or paper is often weeks or months behind what's actively happening in the market.

Pricing too High:

One of the most common pricing decisions is the decision to list a property on the high end of the suggested price range. There's a very fine line to walk to get the most for your home and this line can be the difference between multiple offers ending above list, or a property sitting with few showings. A property priced correctly will get showings and offers, a property priced too high in the current market makes buyers used to multiple offers wary to even bother seeing the home for fear that it'll end up being a multiple offer situation going even higher. Sometimes





this list price can be a very small difference, however trying to correct after the high price has been attempted can be too little too late due to "days on market stigma". Remember, the easiest gauge of how correct your pricing decision has been is the amount of showings. If your home isn't getting showings or very few that is the market talking to you, so be prepared to listen and pivot!

Chasing vs Anticipating the Market

Often, the data available shows the CURRENT or PAST economic conditions which can certainly help in pricing, however the most important aspect for a Luxury home are the FUTURE conditions. A home as of the time this article is being written statistically sells in 87 days and a lot can change in the economy in that time period. That can be the difference between school ending/beginning (more or less buyers able to sell and buy), election results, etc. So having a savvy Real Estate Agent who can accurately predict market conditions can make the difference between selling vs chasing the market. Choose wisely for best results!

If you would like to discuss your unique real estate needs confidentially, you may call or text me at +1 847.508.7775 or email connie.antoniou@sothebysrealty.com.









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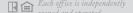
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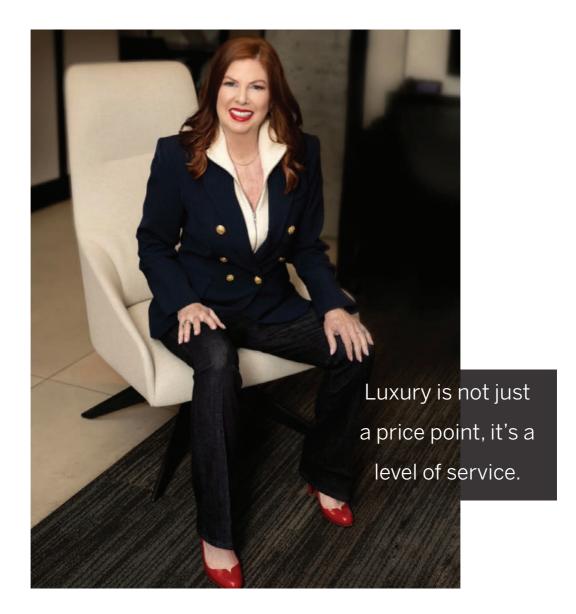
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FEATURES

46 NEW WINE, OLD TRADITIONS

Barrington couple brings their Adruni Vineyards wines to Illinois.

52 FARM TO ABLE

Chelsie Otto and her husband, Zach, converted portions of their Barrington Hills home's landscape into a tiny farm.

56 SPREADING THEIR WINGS

Shanna Nikolic and Katherine Banich are chairing the 24th annual WINGS Purple Tie Ball on Saturday, raising much-needed funding for the largest provider of housing and domestic violence services in Illinois.

DEPARTMENTS

- **EDITOR'S NOTE**
- 21 **UP FRONT**

18

- 22 THE BUZZ
- 24 COUNTRY LOVES
- 26 BEAUTY
- 30 LIVING & GIVING
- 40 COUNTRY VS TOWN
- 42 FASHION
- 59 **FOOD & TRAVEL**
- 60 RECIPE
- 62 COCKTAIL
- 64 FIRST CLASS
- 69 **HOUSE & HOME**
- 70 LUXURY OFFERINGS
- 78 HOME STYLE
- 82 **ONE LAST THING**





COUNTRY Magazine

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> COUNTRY Magazine is published 10 times annually by JWC Media.



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EDITOR'S NO



hen the start of August comes around every summer, I relish thoughts of slowing down the last few weeks before the school year starts up again. I try to soak up

extra moments of sunshine and enjoy the thunderstorms as they pass through knowing soon they will be gone. In this issue's Features, we share the stories of people who also

are soaking up every moment.

Nancy and Garo Kholamian are growing their dreams from the ground up-through grapevines that is. In 2017 they purchased

land in Sonoma County, California and started work on creating Adruni Vineyards. By 2021, they brought to market a full-bodied cabernet sauvignon. How this family business thrives is a story to behold in New Wine, Old Traditions.

Barrington Hills couple Chelsie and Zach Otto have turned their dream of a tiny farm into a reality. In addition to their growing family, their home includes 23

chickens, one rooster, seven ducks, a handful of fish, three dogs, and gardens galore. Read all about their adventure in Farm to Able.

Looking ahead to this October, WINGS—the largest provider of housing and domestic violence services in Illinois—will be holding its 24th annual Purple Tie Ball to raise much needed funding for this important charity. This year's co-chairs, Shanna Nikolic and Katherine Banich, are hoping to top the \$1 million that was raised at the 2023 ball cochaired by Melissa Canning and Debby Jackson. Learn how to become involved in this important work in Spreading Their WINGS.

Devoted to community service, Barrington Junior Women's Club new president Rachel Flanagan is highlighted in Country Loves. In One Last Thing, personal trainer Steve Zick's journey with Parkinson's disease will surely inspire you.

Cheers,

Megan Weisberg

Editor-in-Chief megan.weisberg@jwcmedia.com



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My Mother's Extraordinary Years as Daughter to the Viceroy of India, Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen, and Wife of David Hicks by India Hicks

ady Pamela is India Hicks's affectionate tribute to her beloved mother, Lady Pamela Hicks, and invites us into a life spent with dazzling people in stunning houses at pivotal moments in history. Daughter of the 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, the last Viceroy of India, Lady Pamela was a first cousin to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and a bridesmaid and lady-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth II before marrying legendary interior designer David Hicks. This beautifully illustrated personal history includes ephemera such as letters from the

queen, images of the houses and gardens where Pamela grew up, and details of her extraordinary work during Indian independence, her marriage to David Hicks and the homes he designed for them, and the assassination of her father in Ireland. India also shares the wisdom gleaned from a woman who had a front-row seat to many historical events. An exemplary life, captured in beautiful images, for lovers of history, royal watchers, and all style enthusiasts.

Available this September at rizzoli.com.











BEN ROSELAND EXHIBITS HIS CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS AT AREA ART FAIRS

Ben Roseland received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the Columbus College of Art, but he has been creating art since childhood. Encouraged by his mother, she took him to local art fairs to view art and visit with artists. That ignited a passion for art that inspired him to show his artwork at art fairs around the country. He has mastered a unique style of painting lush landscapes and florals that features patterns and intricate brushwork. Roseland's boundless passion for painting and his deep love of the land have become constant inspirations, and his talent was recognized with the "Best in Painting" category award at the June 2024 Deerfield Art Festival in Deerfield, IL. To meet the artist and view his work, visit the Wilmette Art Fair in Wilmette, IL, from August 3 to August 4, and the Port Clinton Art Festival in Highland Park, IL, from August 24 to August 25. Attendance is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit benroselandart.com.



Gadget: I'm a big fan of my Apple Watch. I use it to track my workouts, add items to my shopping list, and most importantly, ping my iPhone, which I lose constantly. Scent: Jo Malone Mimosa & Cardamom is my everyday. **Barrington spot:** How do you choose when there are so many wonderful options? My husband and I love gigi Wine Bar & Bistro and Region Kitchen + Bar for date nights. I also can't say enough good things about Life Time in Lake Zurich.

Hostess gift to receive: I am honestly grateful for whatever, but I especially love flowers. They just brighten everything up. Gift to give: I love to bring a bouquet of hand-arranged flowers. In the summer, I cut them myself from our garden (I grow cutting flowers for this reason), and when that's not possible, you'll find me with a cart full of blooms at Trader Joe's.



What actress would play you in a movie? This is such a tough question, but I've often been told I look like Zooey Deschanel (dark hair, bangs, blue eyes) minus the height (I'm quite tall!). I also love how kind, warmhearted, and wholesome she is—all the things I aspire to be as well. Who from history would you want to travel with? This one is easy for me! Aaron Beck, aka the father of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). As a therapist, I regularly use CBT methods in my practice and meeting someone whose work has benefited so many would be a wonderful experience. I am sure he'd make an interesting travel buddy as well. Where do you look for inspiration? I look to the people around me, especially those I admire and who have shaped my life. The list is long, but I would put my parents and my in-laws at the top of the list, as well as my husband, who has been a logical, stabilizing force in my life since we met almost 15 years ago. I love to learn about how these people have achieved the things they have so that I can try to duplicate that in my own life. Favorite book? I am not sure I have a favorite,

but I've recently read and enjoyed Think Again by Adam Grant. It's about learning to challenge your perspective and the value of being open to being wrong. I've used these techniques in both my personal and professional life. I also love a good suspense novel with a twist and historical fiction. Most beloved cookbook? Most of my recipes are saved in my favorites or on my Pinterest board. My favorites to make are some sentimental recipes that have been passed down-a lasagna from my husband's side, and banana bread that my grandma used to make. Best dinner party hack? I got my best dinner party hack from a former Country Loves-prep everything you can before, set it all out staged, and then use Post-its to label how long the dish needs to cook and at what oven temperature. I've used this trick to host several holiday affairs, and it works like a charm for low-stress hosting! What's in your bag right now? As a mom of two, I rock a classic mom bag. I switch out it often, but I can guarantee you'll find baby wipes, one to two broken crayons, and a healthy assortment of Goldfish®crumbs.



1 Dr. Dennis Gross Vitamin C Lactic Creamy Cleansing Oil, sephora.com 2 Verb, Dry Shampoo Talc-Free Powder Refresh, nordstrom.com 3 Reflections Copenhagen, Collections Trinket Box, net-a-porter.com 4 Brooklyn Candle, Lilac Haze, nordstrom.com 5 IMAGE Skincare, Daily Prevention Pure Mineral hydrating moisturizer SPF 30, imageskincare.com 6 IMAGE Skincare, Daily Prevention Pure Mineral Tinted Moisturizer SPF 30, imageskincare.com 7 IMAGE Skincare, Daily Prevention Sheer Matte Moisturizer SPF 30, imageskincare.com 8 Westman Atelier, Mascara, net-a-porter.com 9 AERIN Beauty, Hairbrush, net-a-porter.com 10 LOEWE, Body Lotion, net-a-porter.com 11 Esker, Damp to Dry Body Powder, nordstrom.com 12 Salt & Stone, Body Fragrance Mist in Black Rose and Oud, nordstrom.com 13 Tom Ford, Perfume, net-a-porter 14 Trish McEvoy, 24-Hour Eyeshadow & Eyeliner in Bliss, nordstrom.com 15 Diptique, Candle, net-a-porter.com 16 Hourglass, Ambient Lighting Palette, net-a-porter.com



Scents and Colors.

EDITED BY MEGAN WEISBERG









osmetic and restorative dentistry is like many other fields. It requires planning and execution with a talented team that can perform their individual responsibilities. One of the members of this team is the laboratory technician that helps create the blueprint for a new smile.

When creating a new smile for a patient, the dentist listens to the patient's concerns and reviews expectations with them. They will sit together and look at close-up photographs of the "before" smile and list all the changes that need to be made. This includes length, width, color, shape, translucency, position, and gum relationships. The patient is encouraged to bring photographs of smiles they like so we can use it as a communication tool. Once

the dentist has all of the information, the patient's teeth are scanned and emailed to the laboratory for the next step.

Dental technicians had to use impressions of teeth when making the blueprint for a new smile. They used wax that they added to the models of the teeth and then carved the wax into the shape of what the new teeth should look like. This was called a "wax-up." Today we use a digital scan of the teeth and the blueprint is created digitally. The technician can merge the new design into photographs of the patient so that we can see if our cosmetic goals are being met. Once the dentist approves the digital blueprint, the technician digitally prints models and guides for the dentist to use while he is preparing the teeth for their new cosmetic restorations.

This process is such an advantage for the patient. When they visit for their preparation appointment, they leave with temporary restorations that look exactly like the blueprint. They get an entire week to smile with them, eat with them and speak with them. At their one week follow up visit, we ask if there are any changes they would like to make. In most cases, the answer is no but if they wish to make a change in length or shape, we can make those changes in the temporary restorations. Once the patient approves, we scan the temporary restorations and send it to the lab so that they know exactly how to make the final porcelain restorations. This way there are no surprises and the patient ends up with the smile of their dreams.

Dr. James T. Gavrilos is accredited with AACD. His office is located at 129 Park Avenue in Barrington. For more information, call 847–381–4040 or visit barringtondentist.com.

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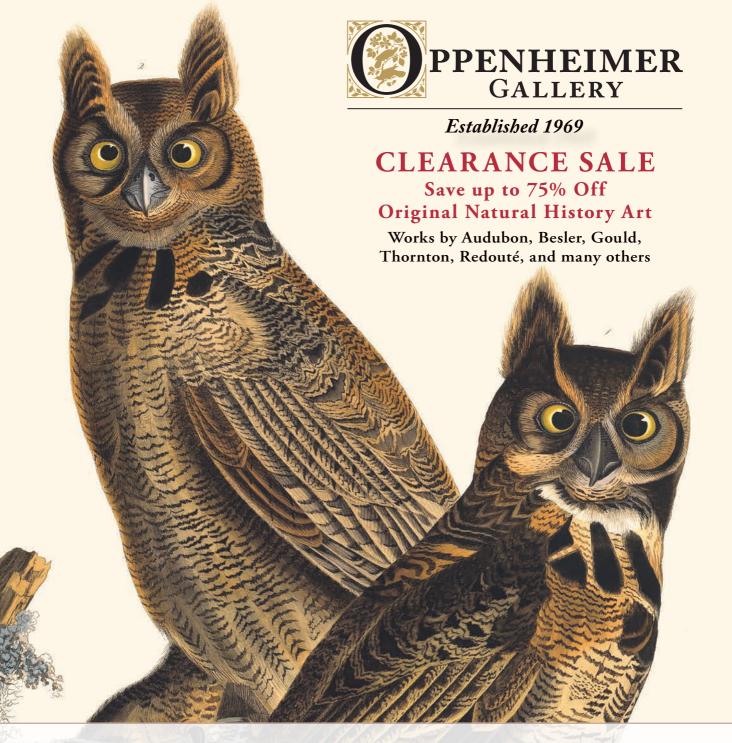
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UP FRONT LIVING & GIVING







BARRINGTON JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB'S MIDSUMMER MASQUERADE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY IAN MCLEOD

In June, Barrington Junior Women's Club hosted a Midsummer Masquerade at the gorgeous Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington Hills. The event raised funds for BJWC's community programming, grants for local nonprofits serving women, children, and senior citizens, and college scholarships.

bjwc.org





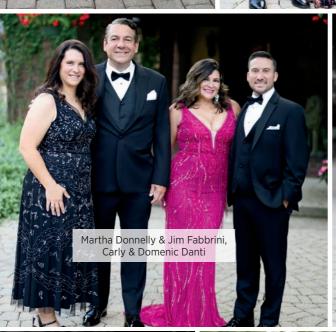


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Melissa Ruth,

Elizabeth Cavenugh



THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER'S 29TH ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

ROBIN SUBAR PHOTOGRAPHY AND RUSH

The Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center hosted its 29th Annual Spring Luncheon at the Four Seasons Chicago. The luncheon featured an intimate conversation with actress and author Brooke Shields, hosted by former WGN anchor Julie Unruh.



UP FRONT LIVING & GIVING















PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNIFER FALAT PHOTOGRAPHY

The Barrington Junior Women's Club (BJWC) is proud to announce the awarding of four scholarships to exceptional graduates of Barrington High School. This year's recipients were honored at a special scholarship dinner, celebrating their academic achievements, leadership, and commitment to community service.

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UP FRONT LIVING & GIVING





BARRINGTON AREA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL DINNER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY IAN MCLEOD

The Barrington Area Development Council (BADC) is a not-for-profit civic organization with a long history of sponsoring initiatives and organizations that have benefited the Barrington Area community, including CPR Training, the Bikeways Commission, the District 220 Caucus, Barrington BloodLine, the Holiday Wish List, the Leadership Academy, and the Citizen of the Year Award. Recently they hosted their annual dinner. barringtonareadevelopmentcouncil.org



Kim Duchossois,

Elaine Sambo-Rexther





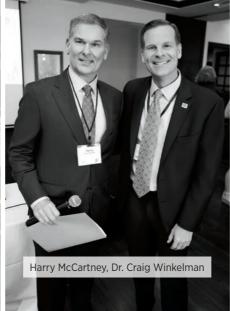
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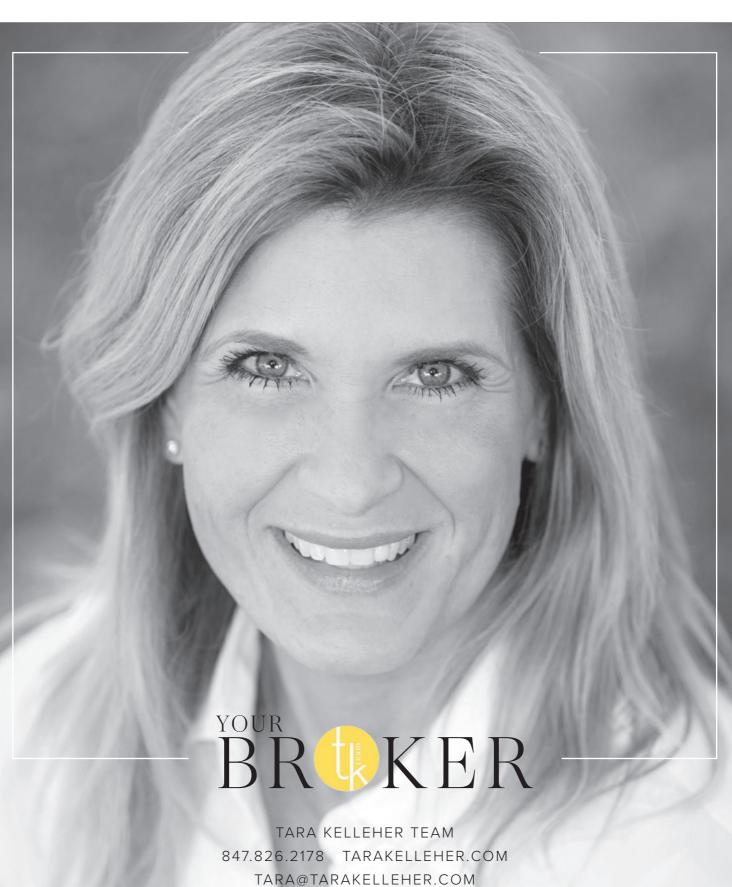




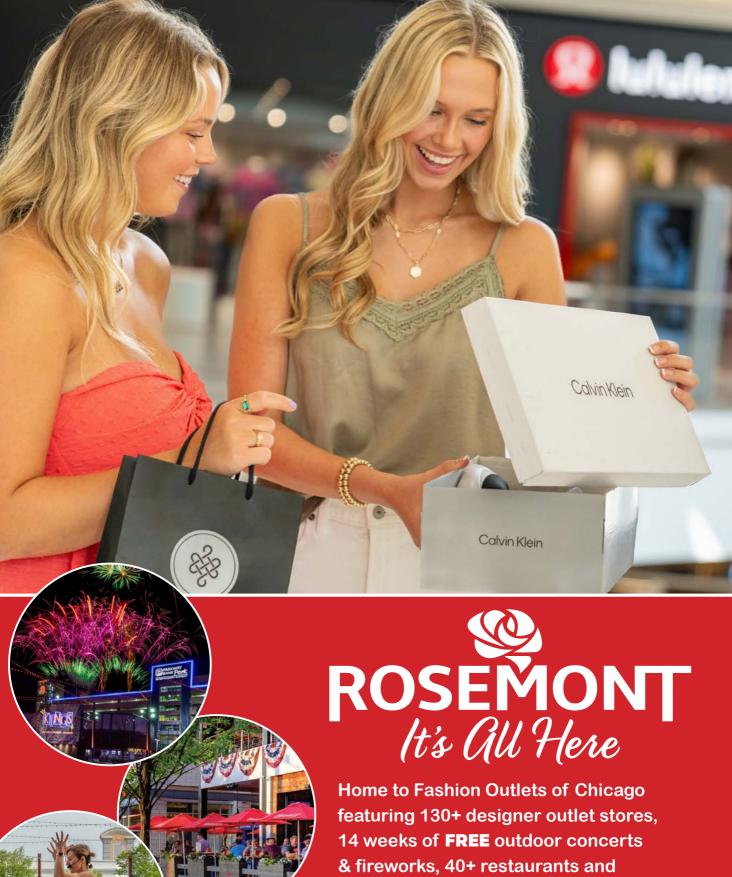








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COUNTRY VS. TOWN | UP FRONT

When Carmen Wong left for college, she never planned to return to the suburbs. After living in Toronto, Canada, for almost a decade and graduating with her master's degree, she returned to the Barrington area to be with family and figure out her next steps. An active volunteer since childhood, Carmen started looking for local opportunities to stay busy. She discovered the Barrington Area Volunteer Connect (BAVC) platform, which led her to help the Barrington Area Development Council (BADC) with archival, research, and social media needs. This experience jumpstarted her community engagement effort—she is now a Barrington Junior Women's Club (BJWC) member and serves on the BAVC Advisory Board.

EDITED BY MORGAN HOGERTY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIA PONCE BERRE
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY STEVE DELATORRE
STYLING BY THERESA DEMARIA

Mantra? I am exactly where I need to be Best grooming tip? An e-file manicure and pedicure Guilty pleasure? Anything sweet. Chocolates, cakes, donuts, cookies, ice cream... Favorite foods? Chinese, Japanese, Latin Music you love? Mariah Carey Best advice ever given to you? It's not our external environment that dictates our happiness, but instead, our relationship to that environment Best advice you've given? Know your worth and where you are valued

Earliest memory? Seeing a family of raccoons press their noses against our porch door waiting to be fed. I noticed them first and was excited to have cute and furry visitors but when I showed my mom, she freaked out. She started yelling and knocking on the door to scare them away **Before bed, you?** Apply hand cream, foot cream, and a lip mask What's on your bookshelf? Whatever I've checked out from the Barrington Library. I recently read and enjoyed Julia Fox's *Down the Drain* and my monthly magazine subscriptions,

Costco Connection and Kiplinger's Personal Finance You can't live without? My family, friends, and skin care products (IMAGE Skincare and iS Clinical are staples in my routine) Love to escape to? Los Angeles, CA Advice you would give to your younger self? Be present. Don't worry too much about the future



WHEN IN THE COUNTRY WHEN IN TOWN

Your style is? Comfortable—matching sweatsuit set and Crocs. I love my pair, which are fur-lined, sparkly, and decorated with Sanrio charms Can't leave the house without? A water bottle, hand cream, and lip balm Transportation? Mercedes SUV and Metra Driving music? PinkPantheress and Lil Uzi Vert Place to eat? Gale Street Inn, Chef Ping, and Oberweis Ice Cream & Dairy Shop? Nordstrom Rack has good finds, but I don't shop much anymore. I rent clothes every month from Rent the Runway Best thing about country? The fresh air, open space, and the occasional chance to play with my neigh-

bor's dogs Worst thing about country? Mosquitoes
The perfect day is? Starting the day with a tennis
class, followed by getting lunch with

my family, and then working on my scrapbook while a murder mystery show plays in the background Your style is? Athleisure—cropped hoodie, leggings, and comfortable sneakers. Nike Air Force is my favorite brand. I walked approximately 22 miles in them on a weekend trip to New York Can't leave the house without? My Olympus Infinity Stylus 35mm camera Transportation? Uber Driving music? 2000s pop and R&B, Afrobeats, House Place to eat? Phoenix Restaurant, Raisu Sushi, and Russian Tea Time Shop? Magnificent Mile—there are so many shops to visit and peruse Best thing about town? You can walk everywhere

Worst thing about town? The traffic going into the city The perfect day is? Going for dim sum, visiting one of the city's many museums (I like art museums), and getting a coffee before walking the lakefront trail





1 Balmain, Embellished Tweed Minidress, mytheresa.com 2 La DoubleJ, Goddess Floral One-Shoulder Swimsuit, mytheresa.com 3 Adriana Degreas, Belted Swimsuit, mytheresa. com 4 Khaite, Olivia Large Raffia Tote Bag, mytheresa.com 5 Valentino Garavani, Locò Small Raffia Shoulder Bag, mytheresa.com 6 Valentino, VLogo Cotton-Blend Shorts, mytheresa.com 7 Aquazurra, Almost Bare Leather Thong Sandals, mytheresa.com 8 Missoni Mare, Chevron Printed One-Shoulder Swimsuit, mytheresa.com 9 Pucci, Giardino Cotton Beach Cover-Up, mytheresa. com 10 ALÉMAIS, Lemonis Printed Silk Twill Wrap Skirt, mytheresa.com 11 Versace, Medusa Biggie Aviator Sunglasses, mytheresa.com 12 Valentino, White Floral Top, mytheresa.com 13 Dolce & Gabbana, Floral Cotton Poplin Midi Skirt, mytheresa.com 14 Heidi Klein, Paisley Cotton Minidress, mytheresa.com 15 Bottega Veneta, Jack Braided Leather Sandals, mytheresa. com 16 Melissa Odabash, Phoebe Beach Cover-Up, mytheresa.com 17 Missoni, Zig Zag Lamé Maxi Dress, mytheresa.com 18 Sir, Belletto Printed Linen Midi Dress, mytheresa.com 19 Demellier, Santorini Leather-Trimmed Straw Tote Bag, mytheresa.com 20 Pucci, Giradino Swimsuit, mytheresa.com 21 Aquazurra, Strawberry Punch 105 Raffia Sandals, mythersa.com 22 La DoubleJ, Buy Me a Martini Printed Satin Midi Dress, mytheresa.com 23 Dolce & Gabbana, Floral High-Rise Silk Wide-Leg Pants, mythersa. com 24 ALÉMAIS, Lemonis Printed Linen Maxi Dress, mytheresa.com 25 Valentino, VGold Raffia-Effect Panama Hat, mytheresa.com

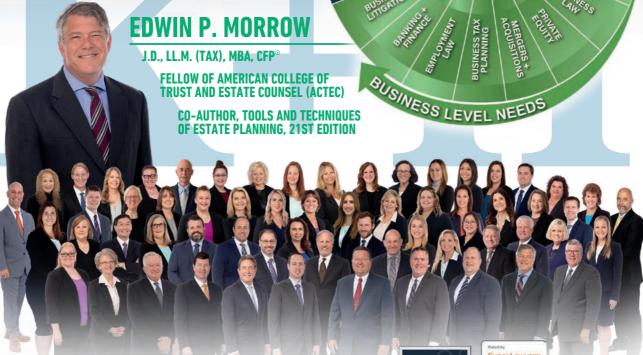




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New Wine, Old Traditions

Barrington couple brings their Adruni Vineyards wines to Illinois.



ancy and Garo Kholamian clearly remember the first time they saw the property that would become their family's Adruni Vineyards. "It was magical," says Nancy. "The Spanish moss coming off the trees...the way the residential buildings settled on the ridge overlooking Dry Creek Valley...the sweet

fragrance of rosemary, lavender and olive trees as we looked out to the vineyards stretched out below. We were just overtaken by the beauty of it all."

Within a week of that memorable 2017 day, the Kholamians made their winning offer on the Sonoma County, California land and set to work towards Adruni Vineyards' official launch. That happened in December 2023, with the unveiling of their 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon, a full-bodied California cabernet made from the grapes of their 30-year-old Dry Creek Valley AVA (American Viticultural Area) vines. The couple are thrilled to be introducing their wine to Barrington and the rest of the fine-wine-appreciating world.

The name Adruni goes back many generations to ancient Armenia, home of Garo's ancestors and considered by many to be the birthplace of wine. Symbolic of this connection, Nancy and Garo, along with their family, selected the Armenian symbol for eternity as their logo. Their three sons collaborated to beautifully communicate its meaning on Adruni's website. James did the design, Michael created the music, and David wrote the poetic text: "The Armenian symbol of eternity on our bottle hints at the cycles of life that bring us together. The roots of our vines mirror the roots we seek to establish in Dry Creek Valley for this new

chapter of life. So, for us, Adruni is about making old traditions new, and lost things becoming found—preferably over a glass of world-class wine."

But how did this all come to be? Nancy and Garo first met while working for Montgomery Ward's corporate store planning division—Garo, an architect, headed plan production, and Nancy, a designer, served as the liaison between designers and vendors. Married in 1987, they moved to Barrington the next year, where Garo eventually established his GK Real Estate property investment firm, and the family raised their boys. Given Nancy's upbringing in Northern California, she and Garo took many trips to California's wine country and soaked in knowledge about grapes, fine wines, and wineries.

"Nancy really introduced me to the wine country, and I fell in love with it..."

"Nancy really introduced me to the wine country, and I fell in love with it," says Garo. "After decades of visits, I said to Nancy, 'We are always buying and selling something commercial, what if we bought something fun? Like a vineyard."

And so, the adventure began. "When the vineyard first became ours, it was under contract to sell all of the fruit and no wine was







being made," says Garo. "When the contract expired, that opened the way to start having wine made from our grapes. We shared the first few bottles, and the reception was so positive, we decided to take it further."

Because Adruni is a boutique vineyard with limited production, the Kholamian's main intent is to bring the California wine experience to Illinois. They've begun doing pop-up wine tastings and collaborations with local businesses in Barrington. They also ship throughout most of the United States to members of their online wine club (which accounts for the largest percentage of sales,) and eventually hope to introduce wines from other small, family-owned vineyards with whom they have strong relationships.

"We've become the California boutique wine country ambassadors to Barrington," Garo smiles.

"Garo and I have always enjoyed creating together," adds Nancy, "and this venture gives us a new opportunity to do that."

In fact, whether cooking, entertaining, or gardening the couple has long been open to adventurous ideas. Testimony to that, Garo and Nancy actually planted a mini vineyard in their Barrington backyard as an experiment years ago, using grape vines the University of Minnesota cultivated to grow well in Midwest climes. Despite their care tending those grapes, wine produced from them just couldn't compare with that grown in Sonoma County. "The backyard wine just wasn't very good," laughs Garo. "Nothing like what we are now able to make from Adruni Vineyards grapes."

Located in Sonoma's Dry Creek Valley, Adruni Vineyards' 10 acres of cabernet grape vines benefit from the regions' warm, dry days, cool mornings and nights, steep grades, and loamy soil—perfect conditions for producing premium wines. Fifth-generation vineyard manager Ryan Peterson carefully tends the vineyard, which is certified sustainable. "Positioning the shoots as they come up... pruning and thinning the vines and fruit...everything is done by hand," says Garo.

Although Adruni does not have a tasting room, the property was built with entertaining in mind. Including the main residence, communal gathering space with a commercial kitchen, outdoor pizza oven, infinity pool, and three one-bedroom bungalows, "it's like a mini resort," says Garo. When they are not at the property, the Kholamians rent it out as an Airbnb, attracting groups who want the perfect spot for celebrations. "Weddings, birthday parties, reunions," says Nancy, "so many happy occasions! We also look forward to hosting events for our wine club members, who get a special discount."

Drawing from their architecture and design training, the Kholamians have already begun upgrading the buildings, adding a cantilevered deck to better view the beautiful valley, as well as

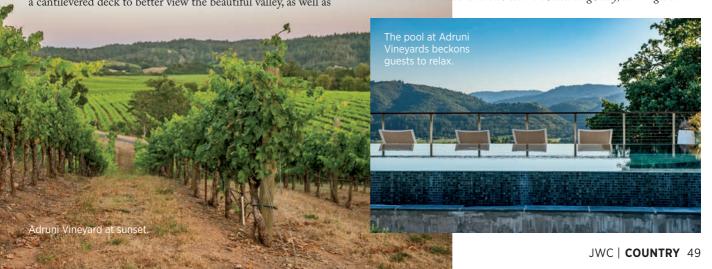


improvements to the bungalows.

Looking ahead, as Adruni's cabernet vineyards reach the end of their cycle, "We will begin planting sections with new rootstock," says Garo, "always focusing on continuing the creation of great wines."

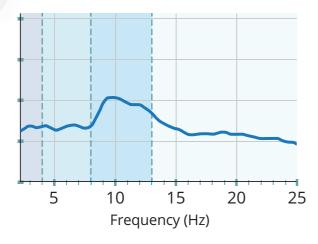
"This whole thing has been such a walk in faith, steeped in prayer," sums Nancy. "It has been as miraculous as the eternity symbol that connects us. That's a symbol of faith, and that's a part of who we are. We want to be good stewards of what we've been given and are just in the beginning stages. We will stay open to where this takes us, that's part of the journey."

Adruni Wines are available at adrunivineyards.com and Ambrosia Euro-American Patisserie at 710 W. Northwest Highway, Barrington.

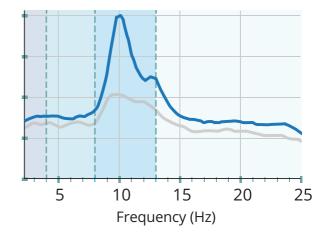




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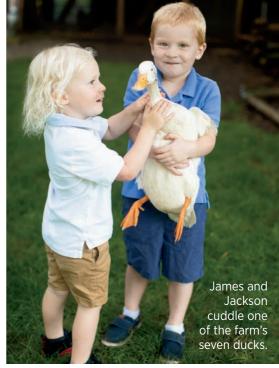


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Otto wearing Badgley Mischk neimanmarcus.com.

here is a lot of Googling that goes on at this house on a daily basis, sometimes on an hourly basis," says Chelsie Otto with a laugh. "But with all of these animals, we're kind of learning as we go."

All of this online research is in service of the "tiny farm" she and her husband, Zach, have created on their property in Barrington Hills.

"Zach and I are both from small, rural towns," Otto says. "When we bought this house in 2017 and saw that we had some land to work with, we thought it

would be fun to see what we could do."

Just off their main house, the Ottos have added 23 chickens, one rooster, seven ducks, a handful of fish, and a bountiful garden to their family of two little boys, Jackson, 5 and James, 3 (a baby girl on the way in December) and three dogs. Chelsie's husband has also built a smokehouse, a meditation garden, and several walking paths named after the boys.



"This has been the most amazing family project," Otto explains. "I am literally learning something new every day because we do almost all of the work ourselves. It's been wonderful to do this with the boys because there are so many good lessons for them—the whole idea of having to take care of something other than yourself has been a big one."

But the little boys don't look at their tiny farm as anything other than a joy. They run from the main house to the garden, dodging and weaving between the chickens and ducks roaming freely throughout the yard. Jackson is particularly well versed in what has been planted in the garden this year.

"There's tomatoes, jalapenos, lettuce, and squash," he describes as he points to each row of the well-planned garden. "And over there, those tiny, tiny plants are corn. We put deer spray on the corn and the spray smells so bad. It stops the animals from eating the plants."

While Jackson may be an expert on the garden, Otto herself has learned lots about chickens.

"I had no idea how much a chicken's living environment impacts

how it lays its eggs," she says. "For example, we tend to clean their coop every week. But if we're out of town, it might be 10 days before we can get out there, so they will find a spot to lay their eggs that's more pleasing to them. We will find their eggs somewhere else in the yard or the woods. Isn't that crazy? They're very smart and particular in that way."

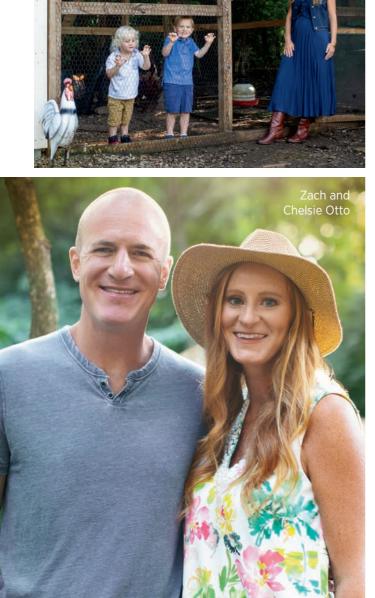
Today, the Ottos' chickens are laying about 17 eggs each day. And now the ducks are starting to lay eggs, too.

"The duck eggs were a real surprise for us," she recalls. "My husband eats about 10 eggs a day for breakfast. One day, he was cracking his eggs and realized one of them was like a rock. He did a little investigating and realized that it was a duck egg that was so hard to break. I swear, we're always having to Google something."

Yet learning on the job has probably one of the biggest selling points for the Ottos to having a tiny farm.

"I have yet to meet someone who has known exactly what they were doing when they decided to turn parts of their yard into a farm," Otto observes. "If you want to try it, put all of your inhibitions aside and just do it! You will figure it out. And it's so much









fun if you have kids because it keeps them busy all year round. It won't always be perfect, and you will make some mistakes. Yet, you will gain so much confidence when you see the great impact you can make on the animals or your garden. It's been awesome and so much fun to experience as a family."

The Ottos enjoy their property the most during weekends. They lovingly call their guest house "the barn" and often stay there after a busy work week.

"We absolutely love living out here," Otto says. "We're very proud of all we've done. We realize with all of the little custom things we've done to make this property our own that we probably can't ever leave—but that's okay. I wouldn't want to anyway."





eing a mother, I love that I have the chance to stand up and protect other mothers and children," says Winnet-ka's Katherine Banich, who is co-chairing the WINGS Purple Tie Ball with Shanna Nikolic of Inverness on Saturday, October 26. "Shanna and I are hoping that guests will come and celebrate our survivors and help ensure that we can continue to provide victims of domestic violence a better future."

Established in 1985, WINGS provides a pathway to independence for people whose lives have been disrupted by domestic violence. WINGS provides emergency safe shelter and transitional housing. WINGS also helps families who are in crisis meet basic needs for items such as food and clothing.

Escaping the cycle of violence, however, requires more than just a safe place to live. WINGS continues to expand so that they can address the specific needs of the individuals and families they serve. Many different kinds of support are needed to help victims move away from violence and towards safety and self-sufficiency. WINGS is able to connect clients with a wide range of services such as counseling, legal assistance, mentoring, life skills support, and career services. Last year, WINGS provided 92,960 nights of safe shelter to adults and their children and more than 10,000 hours of children's services. WINGS is currently serving more than 400 survivors.

"The WINGS programming is so powerful that those who graduate from it, less than 1% of them return to their abuser," Nikolic explains. "It takes time, but it works."

The Purple Tie Ball will be held in a new venue this year—the Marriott Lincolnshire Resort.

"Last year, our event sold out," Banich says. "The Marriott Lincolnshire allows us to have more guests. It's a great venue in a central location that will help us draw from the Barrington community, the city, North Shore, and more. We hope to top the \$1 million that was raised at the 2023 ball co-chaired by Melissa Canning and Debby Jackson."

Thanks to Canning and Jackson's leadership, last year's event was a sold-out success, raising the record amount of \$1 million, an amazing milestone. "I have been so honored to have been a co-chair for the WINGS Purple Tie Ball for the past five years and see it continuously grow," says Canning. "The funds raised from Purple Tie Ball help so many escape domestic violence."

"Winter Wonderland" is the theme for the 2024 Purple Tie Ball. The evening will offer a sit-down dinner, live auction and raffles, winter wonderland surprise, and the Blue Water Kings as the headliner for the unforgettable musical entertainment.

"We have the most amazing décor chair, Lori Paris," adds Nikolic. "She goes above and beyond with her breathtaking tablescapes—many of them handmade—and creates the most beautiful setting for our event. We're also celebrating the 25th anniversary of the WINGS President and CEO, Rebecca Darr. We'll be commemorating the accomplishments of WINGS over the course of her time with the organization."

While Nikolic and Banich wish that everyone will attend the Purple Tie Ball, they also encourage the public to support WINGS in other ways.

"WINGS has the most incredible resale stores," Banich says. "You can donate clothes and furniture that are in good condition to these shops. This is a very easy way to give back and an easy entry way into the work WINGS does. WINGS clients have a chance to shop at these stores and all proceeds go right back to WINGS. Last year, the resale stores earned more than \$2.7 million."

While the need at WINGS is perpetual, Nikolic and Banich continue to be hopeful about the strides the organization is making towards making the world a safer place for victims of domestic violence.

"The world needs helpers," Nikolic says. "It needs earthly angels to do good things. I love championing for families. We should all be supporting one another and looking for ways to raise each other up."

To learn more about WINGS or to find more information about the Purple Tie Ball, visit wingsprogram.com.

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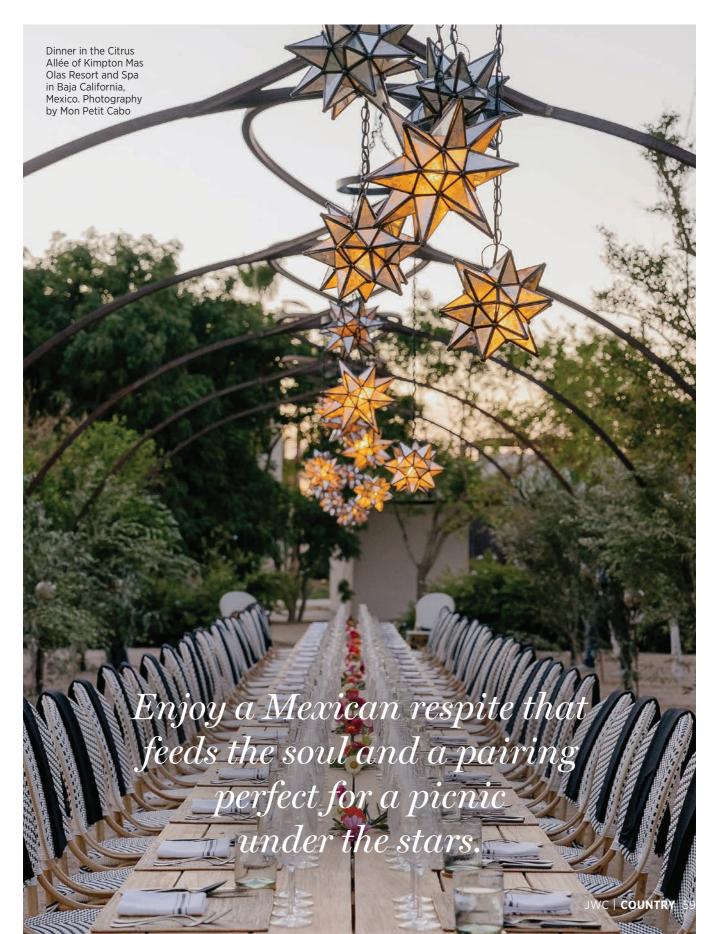
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Zesty Summer Succotash

WORDS, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND FOOD STYLING BY MONICA KASS ROGERS

othing says "summer" like sweet corn and tomatoes. This salad combines the two in a zesty lime dressing and adds jicama for a cool crunch and edamame for protein. With a nod to historical precedents, we've dubbed it "succotash" from sahquttahhash, the Native American Narragansett word for "broken corn kernels." While the early versions of succotash were hot stews, this recipe only requires cooking the corn. After first soaking the unhusked corn in water for several hours, we grill ours until the husks are blackened. If you're in a hurry, you can blanch the corn in boiling water for a few minutes instead. Just be sure not to overcook it.

METHOD

Grill the corn until the husks are blackened and corn is cooked tender. Cool. Slice corn from cobs into a large bowl. Add cubed jicama, tomatoes, and edamame. Toss all together with basil. Season with salt and pepper. In a small bowl, whisk lime juice with mustard, sugar, salt, and pepper. Whisk in olive oil until emulsified. Pour over salad, mix well, adjust seasoning with salt and pepper to taste, and serve.

4 TO 6 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS

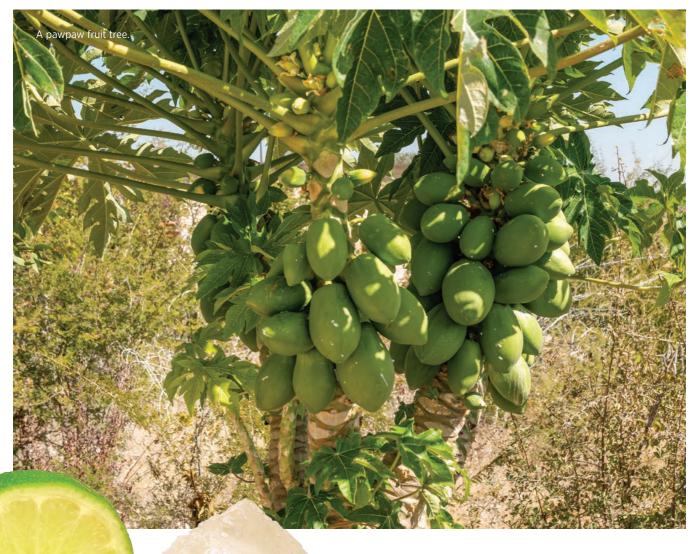
FOR THE SALAD

- 4 or 5 ears sweet corn, husks intact (cut from the cobs, you'll need 2 1/2 cups of kernels)
- 1 jicama, peeled and cut into small cubes
- Fresh garden tomatoes, washed and cubed to make 2 cups
- 2 cups frozen edamame beans, thawed
- · Handful of fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

FOR THE ZESTY LIME DRESSING

- Juice from 2 fresh limes, to make 3 tablespoons
- 1 teaspoon good quality Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon coconut palm sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1/4 cup olive oil





Paw-Garita

A new addition to the last days of summer.

Summer refresh. A paw paw margarita. RECIPE BY **ROBERT HAYNES**PHOTOGRAPHY BY **DANIEL DELGADO**

ave you heard of the pawpaw fruit? It tastes like a cross between a mango and a banana and grows throughout the Midwest—mostly in folks' backyards. For such an under the radar fruit, it has a bit of a cult following. For your end of the summer parties, try serving this twist on a classic margarita—the Paw-Garita.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz tequila or mezcal
- .50 oz Apologue Paw Paw Liquor
- .75 oz lime juice
- .25 oz simple syrup

METHOD

Combine all ingredients in a shaker. Add ice, shake, and strain. Serve in a rocks glass over fresh ice. Garnish with a lime wheel.



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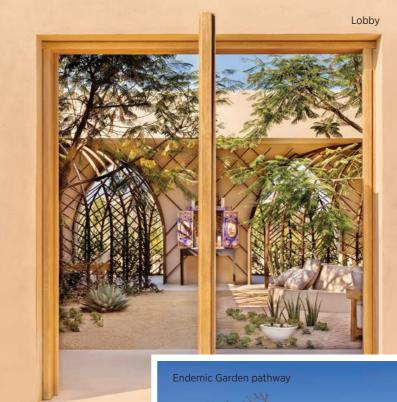
THE BEAUTY OF BAJA

Kimpton Mas Olas Resort & Spa is a female-founded, adults-only luxury resort that raises the bar on responsible development. Guests are invited to indulge their senses with activities designed to foster personal enrichment, growth, and well-being while connecting to nature and each other.

WORDS BY **DUSTIN O'REGAN**

FIRST CLASS FOOD & TRAVEL





ature's beauty can be profoundly transformative.

Take Kimpton Mas Olas, a resort revealing a new level of sustainable beachfront luxury located in the artist's haven of Todos Santos—just one hour north of Cabo San Lucas.

Nestled between Mexico's Sierra Laguna Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, the 30-acre resort features 1,100 feet of unspoiled ocean footage. Designed by Mexican architect Alejandra Templeton of Indigo Añil, the resort's connection to nature is reinforced by its nine interconnected gardens, two farms, and a citrus orchard.

The resort team's dedication to the pursuit of self-exploration and careful curation of every detail was evident from the moment of arrival when we were encouraged to open the resort's immense, carved door to "physically" begin our journey. Upon entering the open-air courtyard, we were greeted by a profusion of color—courtesy of the vivid flowers and vibrant local artwork—that inspired a childlike joy. The artwork includes a Madonna, where it is suggested that you set the intentions of your visit. Leaving the courtyard, we entered an endemic garden—Baja's largest. Here guests choose between two paths—one made of sand and the other of brick. We chose the winding sand path, making our way through thousands of indigenous desert flora. At the center of this garden stands an ancient torote tree. Here guests pause for a moment of reflection before continuing on to their accommodations and passing a beautiful stand of manicured neem trees that serve as a natural insect repellent.

Entering my second-floor suite, I was immediately enthralled with the boho chic décor. Design details like the Talavera bathroom tiling handmade in Tlaquepaque, steel headboards with leather tassels made in Chihuahua, and fabrics sourced from Tijuana—all custom—made for the resort and purchased fair trade—take one on a visual trip through Mexico. The favorite part of my suite, in addition to my second-floor outdoor entertaining area, was the third-floor

terrace with an enormous, circular dais. Many mornings began on the terrace savoring coffee courtesy of our in-suite French press while listening to birdsong and enjoying the panoramic views. In the evenings, we sipped wine beneath a blanket of stars while listening to the ocean's roar.

From the terrace, I could also glimpse the resort's 12 oceanfront villas built into beachfront sand dunes. As each private villa contains a plunge pool and private beach access, I definitely discovered my next visit's accommodations.

All reservations include a range of complimentary activities encouraging travelers to authentically experience Baja. These include sunrise meditations, yoga, sustainability tours, gardening workshops, and aromatherapy at the apothecary. I highly recommend diving into the activities as each is instructive and soothing to the soul.

Shortly after our arrival, we were summoned to the elaborate garden— Kimpton Mas Olas' heart and soul—for a floral welcome where we cut flowers for in-room bouquets. Post-cutting, we were guided in the arranging and tying of our little treasures. During this exercise, our host explained the meaning of each flower and observed that guests' selections often reflect their personalities. I was thrilled to learn my arrangement stood for love, generosity, and kindness.

At the garden's center stands an intricate conservatory that doubles as an artful abstract sculpture. Here we engaged in a cacao



ceremony inspired by ancient Mayan traditions designed to balance the mind, body, and soul. This meditative experience combines music, intention setting, chanting, cacao sipping, and incense burning to create an extraordinary celebration. Reflecting on this experience still stirs an incredible feeling of joy.

Just next door, we visited the apothecary. Here we were educated about the medicinal properties of various oils. For example, clove and sweet orange facilitate sleep, tea tree serves as an antibiotic, bergamot helps the immune system, and grapefruit regulates blood pressure and inflammation. We each mixed an assortment of oils, creating our very own vessel to take home.

tomato or the time I toppled over trying to extricate a radish from the rich soil.

The culinary program at Kimpton Mas Olas is designed to demonstrate the connection between nature and food. At its helm is the globally renowned and Michelin-experienced Chef Sandro Falbo. Chef uses native ingredients from the ocean and surrounding communities together with the bounty of its nine interconnected gardens, farms, citrus orchards, and beehives (80 percent of the resort's food and beverage is sourced within 50 miles of the hotel).

Kimpton Mas Olas features three restaurants. Botánica is set among the gardens and orchards and offers the



Bird's eve view

of the garden

FIRST CLASS FOOD & TRAVEL



ultimate in farm-to-table dining. One evening we enjoyed a meal with Chef where each course was inspired by fire and smoke. While Botánica's wood fire oven gave the air a hint of smoky earthiness, wooden boxes were placed at each setting. When opened, a cloud of smoke emerged revealing an edible masterpiece. As Chef noted on several occasions, "Guests eat with their eyes first." No matter how full you might be, don't skip dessert—each is not only a work of art but is also simply divine.

Centro is an all-day dining spot offering a selection of classic Mexican dishes that are brilliant in both color and taste. Perched on the second floor, Centro has an elevated view of the ocean and gray whales often serve as mealtime entertainment. With a view of two pools, a cocktail bar, the ocean, and the aforementioned whales, I enjoyed forkfuls of The Baja Super Food Salad, a divine mix of root and vine veggies, cactus, crispy corn, chickpeas, avocado, pomegranate, and sunflower seeds bathed lightly in a fresh hibiscus dressing.

Kahal is an oceanfront seafood restaurant. Hugging a sweeping infinity pool and outfitted with décor designed to resemble the inside of a seashell, Kahal is elegant and sexy. By day, cenote-style Jacuzzis and 14 floating double-loungers create a beach club atmosphere. By dusk, fire pits cater to intimate evening conversation over cocktails while the sun descends brilliantly "into" the ocean. The Baja sunsets are some of the most spectacular that I have ever seen.

The resort also offers special dining experiences like the taco wine pairing we enjoyed while seated at a long table in the Citrus Allée. One can't imagine the number and varieties of this traditional Mexican dish-fish, pork, meat, veggie ... my favorite taco had a hearty leaf in place of the typical shell. It was an epicurean delight served along with the finest of locally sourced white and red wines.

To work off all these glorious calories, visit the 25,000-squarefoot spa and wellness center where services are rooted in nature's wisdom. For my massage, I was guided to a circular palapa called a "treatment nest" outfitted with a private outdoor shower. The



80-minute Rosemary Massage designed for boosting the immune system while stimulating your senses was exactly what the doctor ordered!

From sunrise yoga and sound baths to an array of spa experiences and exercise machines, you could spend your entire vacation in the spa's healing space. Don't miss the hydrotherapy circuit featuring an ice fountain, experience shower, steam room, and Himalayan salt sauna (loved)!

Kimpton Mas Olas' endless luxury is further enhanced by all the resort team is doing to be kind to our planet. The resort avoids single-use plastics, uses dark sky lighting, processes seawater into fresh drinking water at the onsite desalination plant, relies upon a sprawling solar farm for its electrical needs, and plans to become a zero-waste property that exists "off the grid."

Embrace the joy of traveling well at the luxurious Kimpton Mas Olas, a destination devoted to nature, connection, and well-being in the profoundly spiritual setting of Baja Mexico. ¡Feliz Viaje!

For more information, visit masolasresort.com.



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LUXURY OFFERINGS: WHAT YOU GET FOR \$3.1 MILLION

An estate in *Belle Meade*, *Nashville*, to an exquisite residence in *Barrington Hills*, to a beautiful home in *Santa Barbara*, all for nearly **\$3.1 million.**

WORDS BY MEGAN WEISBERG

LUXURY OFFERINGS | HOUSE & HOME





413 LYNNWOOD BLVD \$3.25 million

NASHVILLE, TN

The Details: 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths • 5,026 square feet, \$646 per square foot • Pool, fire pit **Contact:** Yvonne Kelly, Zeitlin Sotheby's International Realty, yvonne.kelly@zeitlin.com

estled in Belle Meade, this residence blends traditional charm with modern updates. The home boasts new designer lighting, exquisite wall coverings, and elegant $% \left(\mathbf{r}_{i}^{\mathbf{r}_{i}}\right) =\mathbf{r}_{i}^{\mathbf{r}_{i}}$ window treatments, adding to its aesthetic appeal.

Step outside onto the screened porch, where the serene atmosphere encourages moments of relaxation. Positioned on .65 meticulously landscaped acres bordered by a gentle creek, the property is ideal for those who enjoy both privacy and natural splendor.

HOUSE & HOME | LUXURY OFFERINGS







280 OTIS **\$3.11** million

BARRINGTON HILLS

The Details: 6 Bedrooms, 6.1 Baths • 7,970 square feet, \$390 per square foot • Sits on approximately 5 acres, elevator-equipped residence, pool **Contact:** Kim Wirtz, Wirtz Real Estate Group, 708-516-3050

tep inside and be greeted by rich hardwood floors flowing seamlessly throughout the home. The gourmet kitchen, featuring 42" cabinets, white quartz countertops, and chef's grade stainless steel appliances, is adjacent to a breakfast area complete with a fireplace and proximity

to the sunroom. The main level also features a first-floor primary bedroom, offering convenience, privacy, a third fireplace, and access to an outdoor balcony. The walk-out basement features a recreation room, kitchenette, wine cellar, and exercise room.

LUXURY OFFERINGS | HOUSE & HOME







HOUSE & HOME | LUXURY OFFERINGS







345 CANON DRIVE \$2.995 million

SANTA BARBARA, CA

The Details: 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths • 2,852 square feet, \$1,050 per square foot • Spacious garage with an electric car charging station **Contact:** Robert Heckes, Sotheby's International Realty, Robert.Heckes@Sothebys.Realty

his post-war Cape Cod features two primary suites and multiple windows that frame mountain views. The hub of the home is the kitchen, which sports marble counters and is illuminated by several skylights. Formal gates and

tall hedges surround the front yard, while a stylish back patio is ideal for dining and entertaining. In the terraced backyard, flowers abound, along with a secret spot for a hot tub, a place to write, and an amphitheater for stargazing.

LUXURY OFFERINGS | HOUSE & HOME



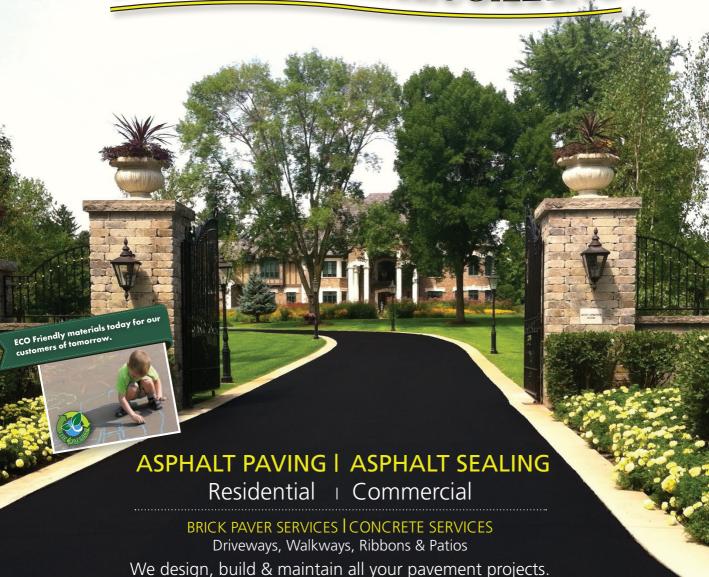




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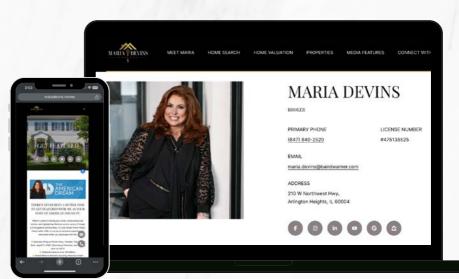
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DIVORCE WITHOUT COURT:

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Shana Vitek is an Equity Partner at Beermann LLP, the largest family law firm in Illinois. For over 20 years, she has practiced family law exclusively and is trained in mediation, arbitration, and collaborative law.

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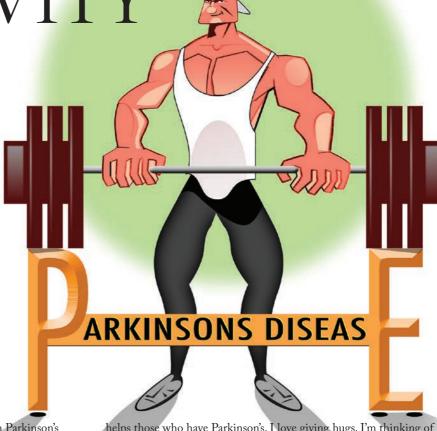
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CHICAGO · BANNOCKBURN



Bodybuilder Steve Zick, who's been working as a personal trainer in South Barrington for seven years, hasn't let Parkinson's disease sap his spirits.

WORDS BY **BILL MCLEAN**ILLUSTRATION BY **ROBERT RISKO**



year after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, bodybuilder and South Barrington-based personal trainer Steve Zick—at 5-feet-9 and a chiseled 207 pounds—still looks like he could lift a Volkswagen with his right arm and curl a Hyundai with his left. But the 62-year-old's strongest attribute might be his mind. It's packed with positive thoughts.

"As soon as I found out I had Parkinson's, I said, 'OK, fine, what do we do now?" says Zick, who was diagnosed in May 2023. "At first, I thought my arm shaking was due to the surgery I had undergone on my right shoulder years ago. Later, I had difficulty swallowing, and I slurred words. Then I thought, 'Stroke."

"I'm fortunate," adds the former standout prep and YMCA swimmer, who grew up in Chicago and attended Lane Tech College Prep. "I'm on one of the lowest doses of Parkinson's medication. People think life is over with a Parkinson's diagnosis. It's not. Look at me. It's manageable."

Zick, who has a 21-year-old son named Steven, was a former construction worker and lighting manufacturer when he started training a range of clients at XSport Fitness in South Barrington in 2017. A competitive bodybuilder since 2014, he now has 30 clients, including a 74-year-old woman who has Parkinson's disease.

"She wants to be able to do things without the help of her children," Zick says of the client's primary motivation to at least slow the disease's progression. "She's doing great. We laugh all the time. It's mandatory that we hug each time we see each other, because a hug transfers energy and releases dopamine. Releasing dopamine

helps those who have Parkinson's. I love giving hugs. I'm thinking of starting a Hug Club." $\,$

He's also training for the National Physique Committee Mid-American Winter Classic, a national qualifier for competitive bodybuilders, that begins on December 7 in Normal, Illinois.

"Believe it or not, trainers need coaches, and I have a great one in Matt Kornick, who has been with me for the last 11 or 12 years," says Zick, who placed fifth in a national Men's Physique event (50-and-over age division) in 2016. "Not only has he helped me grow physically, he's also been a great mentor in an industry I'm passionate about. Matt has been there through the ups and downs, and now he's working with me through Parkinson's to put me in the best position to win."

Zick also works with a muscle activation specialist once every two weeks

"We have a game plan," says Zick, who trains clients (ages 14 to 78) and works out six days a week. "It's to be ready for the stage, where I can't wait to do the mandatory poses. I'm thrilled that I get to prepare for December while doing all I can to boost the confidence in my clients. I'm working with a 78-year-old who had back surgery and wants to ski again. Another client of mine weighed 360 pounds when I first met him, and he was down, down, down. Sad. Six months later, people in his life have said, 'What happened to you? You look great!"

So does Steve Zick. The man whose arms are probably sore from all those daily hugs continues to embrace life and take on Parkinson's.







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