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(76) FIRST, A LADY

Whether you serve in an official capacity as the First Lady or as the first lady of your own city, beautifully dress the part this season from day to night with a Mid-1960's inspiration. Here, in our homage to fine first ladies of the past, we curate the finer points of Spring fashion so that you can lead the charge. Photography by Mark Oberlin Styling by Antonio Estebán

(84) ULTRA COOL

Tom Ford is more than a style setter, taste maker and trend weaver. This native Central Texan beams his bright light for all the world to see. Here, we learn more about the iconic designer's style guide to life in his fashion, film and beauty projects.
By Lance Avery Morgan

By Lance Avery Morgan Photography Courtesy of Lionsgate Entertainment, Archival Images

(90) MONTE CARLO MISCHIEF

A girl's gotta jet. In a whirlwind 72 hours, join us as we are a fly on a champagne glass headed for a billionaire-esque weekend chock full of yachts, royalty, shopping and the finest of food and drink. All at a rarified price. By Julia McCurley Photography Courtesy of Julia McCurley and Visit Monaco

(98) SUITE DREAMS

Young amour is wonderful and in bloom this time of year... as the thaw turns to warm weather. Here, our duo has decided to stay in for romance for a getaway weekend. Isn't love grand? Photography By Richard Reinsdorf Styling By Q.T. Kelvins





com, Shoes by Alejandra G at

alejandrag.com









10. CONTRIBUTE

It takes a village to create a magazine and its media platform. Here's a list of the dynamos who have made it happen this month.

12. PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Publisher Eduardo Bravo loves Spring and shares why here in his letter to our readers.

14. EDITOR'S LETTER

Creative Director and Editor-in-Chief Lance Avery Morgan has a few opinions and insights on the state of reality television. Really.

16. READ

Poolside or on the coffee table, we love a good book, don't you? Here we've selected the most glamorous ones to inspire your stylish life. So curl up and dive in.

18. BEHAVE

Oh, behave! Manners are important in a life well-lived these days. Here we learn about the finer points of dining, courtesy of man-about-globe Jake Gaines.

20. HOST

Our professional hostess Lara Shriftman knows how to host a memorable party. This month she inspires us with the combination of cocktails and candy. How sweet it is.

24. INSPIRE

We just love going au natural, don't you? Here, Austin style expert Camille Styles has chosen her favorite objects that are earthy, real and more than a little glamorous.

26. EVOLVE

Resonating with your true feelings is the best path to happiness, according to Mary Schneider, holographic repatternist. Here she shares ways of how to get in touch with your most authentic feelings.

28. ACQUIRE

Orange you glad you did? The tints of tangerine are back this season as the hottest color in years. Here superstar stylist Erin Busbee show you how to pair it, match it and wear it like you own it.

30. ADORE

Love is a funny thing. Especially when the heart turns to romance in the Spring more readily. Here dating expert Julia McCurley gives tips on how to find your best path to love... and how to keep love in your life.

32. INFLUENCE

It's a Mad, Mad, Mad world out there and the frenzy for Mid-Century fashion is more popular than ever, thanks to this month's return of the hit series, Mad Men.

36. THRIVE

Our parents and grandparents love and deserve their independence. Dee Covey lends insight on how best to guide our loved ones who might be more susceptible to scams than others these days.

38. DESIGN

Sometimes forward-fashion trends take looking backward. The endless appeal of Texas' vintage purse designer is spotlighted by Annie Kreighbaum in this loving tribute to the beaded, sequined and bedazzled bags.

42. SUPPORT

The light-filled Luminaria is a festival you won't soon forget, as it transports the city of San Antonio into a luminous trance. Ellie Leeper gets close to the light to find out what is sparking the Alamo City's imagination.

44. CHRONICLE

Texas understands family patriarchs and their power from generations past. In this excerpt from The Society Diplomat book by Lance Avery Morgan, we get an inside look at how a man rises to the top.

48. PROMOTE

Northstar Mall is San Antonio is about fashion and fashionable women. Here, with women who represent the best of San Antonio fashion, we salute these ladies of style.

ENTRANCE

The Best Parties in San Antonio, Austin, and South Texas

- **50.** Austin/Los Angeles John Paul and Eloise DeJoria's star-studded party in Malibu
- 54. Laredo The Society Diaries hosts a party for the border town's best
- **58.** San Antonio Anarte gallery loves to host picture-perfect events
- 59. Austin Batten's Disease Date Night fundraiser features Keith Urban
- **62.** San Antonio The Bexar County Medical Society gala kicks into high gear
- **65.** Austin The Dell Children's Hospital gala reaches out
- **68.** San Antonio The Cowgirl Forever luncheon whoops it up
- 71. Austin The Heart & Sole luncheon mixes charity and accessories

106. DIVERSION

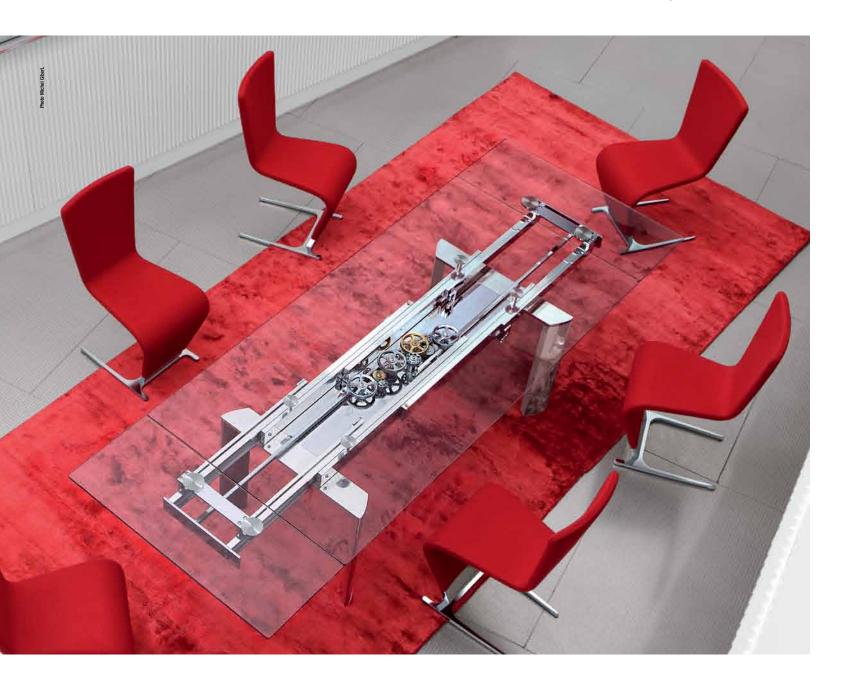
A recommendation of local Staycation options in Austin

111. ARRANGE

A social calendar from the Austin & San Antonio Social Planner, recommended by social butterflies Kevin Smothers and Laura Villagran Johnson

Astrolab dining table design Studio Roche Bobois

Dyna chairs design Sacha Lakic



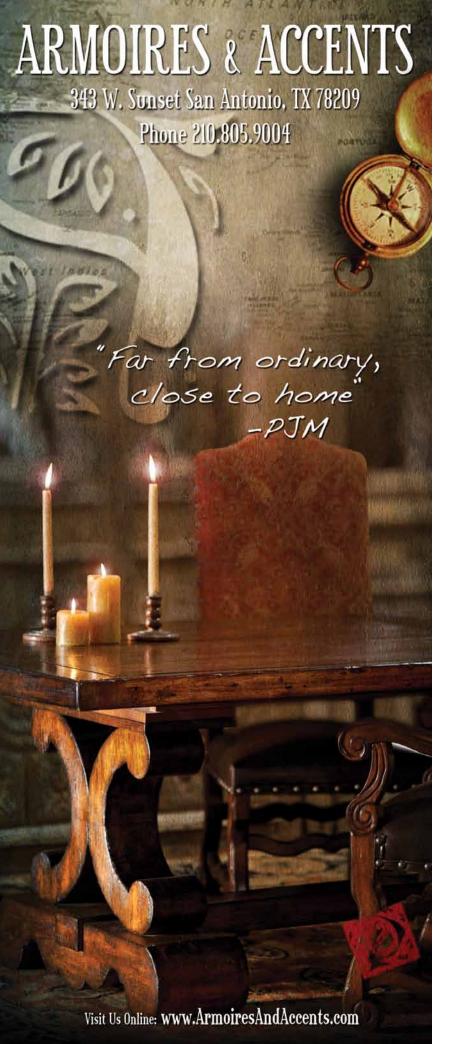
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ERIN BUSBEE

San Antonio style maven Erin Busbee founded her own fashion consulting company, Busbee Style, through which she offers fashion styling, personal shopping and closet organizing. She also serves as the regular style expert for the popular south Texas TV show, San Antonio Living and is the on-camera fashion stylist in more than a hundred videos for Tyra Banks' new business venture, TypepadF and she writes her own fashion and beauty blog, Busbusbeestyle.com.



MARK OBERLIN

Our cover fashion photographer is Los Angeles-based Mark Oberlin. Oberlin has also photographed the collections of many of the West Coast's top fashion designers. He is an acclaimed painter as well and has exhibited his paintings in Los Angeles, New York City and San Francisco galleries. More of Mark's work can be found at his website at www.markoberlin.com.



DEE COVEY

Austinite Dee Covey is a feature writer and national public relations and media training expert who heads the global crisis consultancy, PR/ER, which protects reputations under pressure worldwide. She is the author of The Economy Sucks But YOU Don't: How Any College Grad Can Land a Great Job Even in Tough Times and co-author (with Greg Wright) of Daddy Dates: Four Daughters, One Clueless Dad and His Quest to Win Their Hearts, available in 2012 on Amazon and in Barnes & Noble stores nationwide.



RICHARD REINSDORF

Our Suite Dreams photographer shoots for editorial clients ranging from Ocean Drive to Vogue and his advertising clients include Levi's, Eddie Bauer and Sony, to name a few. He loves shooring the pinnacle of Hollywod's biggest talent in a studio or a barefoot child walking in the muddy streets of Rio de Janeiro. For more of Reinsdrof's work, visit Richardreinsdorf.com.



LAURA VILLAGRAN JOHNSON AND KEVIN SMOTHERS

If there's an event or gala worth attending in our region, count on Laura Villagran Johnson and Kevin Smothers to keep you in the know. As the founders of the social guide and online calendar Austin Social Planner, Austin's definitive online source for society events, they know where to go, when to be there and how to dial in to the particular charity behind it. The founders have a combined an events background of 28 years background across Texas, New York and Los Angeles. Plans to launch a full-blown San Antonio Social Planner are in the works for this year.



MARY SCHNEIDER

Mary Schneider has been studying alternative healthcare modalities for over 20 years and is certified in Holographic Repatterning and Touch for Health. She has studied homeopathy, the Chinese 5 Element Acupuncture System, The Work of Byron Katie and numerous other modalities. Her practice is the Holographic (Resonance) Repatterning Institute (www.repatternit.com) and she happily resides and practices in Austin.



ANNIE KREIGHBAUM

Young fashionista Annie Kreighbaum is an Austinbased artist and vintage collector, hence her love of Enid Collins, on whose talents she writes this month. Her love and knowledge of fashion stems from years of experience as an editorial assistant for Brilliant magazine and a freelance writer for international fashion publications where she has covered events such as New York Fashion Week and Paris Haute Couture Week, and worked for designers Alexander Wang and Adam Lippes in New York City.



LARA SHRIFTMAN

Our West Coast Lifestyle Editor Lara Shriftman cofounded Harrison & Shriftman in 1995, an agency that specializes in public relations, marketing and events for high-profile luxury brands (www.hs-pr.com). Lara has served as a contributor and editor to Tribune Media's Distinction magazine, The Miami Herald's Home & Design, Brilliant, Q, Departures, LA Confidential, Quest and Hamptons, and has been a featured guest on The TODAY Show, E!, Extra, The Megan Mullally Show, and FOX's Friends and Family.



JULIA McCURLEY

Julia McCurley weighs in this month with her Adore column and a feature on Monte Carlo. She is the founder of Something More (Trysomethingmore. com), a professional matchmaking service. As a dating veteran herself, McCurley understands first-hand how difficult it can be to balance one's career and personal life; combining these two factors that use a best practices approach from the executive recruiting world and applies it to finding ideal partners in love. She lives in Austin, is happily married and a mother of three. Helping people find true love is her passion.



CAMILLE STYLES

Our Austin-based style guru Camille Styles is the founder and editor of lifestyle blog Camillestyles.com, where she shares the creative entertaining ideas that inspire her parties and her life. She is a regular lifestyle contributor to the HGTV network and owns Camille Styles Events, a design & planning firm that transforms ordinary events into extraordinary experiences. Her modern aesthetic and eye for detail come together to create parties that are simply chic and all about fun.







NEW YORK CITY

Julian Gold

There's a SPRING in our STEP

Comedian Robin Williams muses that "Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" and around here at *The Society Diaries* offices, we certainly agree. We fully realize that with the world of galas, behind the party is a business world of serious fundraising efforts. That's why we profile the best events that consistently make a difference in thousands of lives in our region.

What may seem like a fun party to attend takes thousands of hours of planning, much of which is by volunteers, who see the need to both roll up their shirtsleeves to make it a magical event, and also open their checkbooks to ensure much-needed funds go to programs that support an array of cultural, health and civic



causes. As you'll see in this, and every issue, we highlight all that hard work and glorious volunteer and professional talent who make these memorable evenings and luncheons.

One such memorable event was a party we recently hosted in Laredo. We teamed with La Reserva restaurant and the legendary La Posada hotel to bring together great brands like Neiman Marcus, Polly Adams, Joe Brand, Deutsch and Deutsch, and many more to create an evening that celebrates the historic city. It was just in time to honor The Society of Martha Washington, which was formed in 1939, in Laredo and remains the cornerstone of society in South Texas. And, we were at all the best events in Austin and San Antonio, too, as you'll also see here.

And what's Spring without a ball game? We love the sporting events that happen when the weather turns warmer – with the pro sports teams in our region, as well as the high school and college games we attend. Shall we save you a seat?

No matter how you choose to spend your Spring, make sure you keep *The Society Diaries* handy to keep you in the know with all you do and wherever you go. §

Eduardo Bravo eduardo@thesocietydiaries.com



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THE REALITY HOUSEWIVES OF...









Recently, we wondered what sort of television show might depict the reality housewives of fillin-the-blank city in our region. L.A., N.Y. and even Atlanta have played host cities to these modern day, low budget telenovelas, yet none in Texas have yet officially popped up. These days there seem to be very few secrets anymore, thanks to the power of the Internet's ubiquitous search engines and social networking sites that have deterred any sense of propriety and elegant privacy which might have existed less than a decade ago, right? A quick surf through the channels these days sees the world's D-listers who can have a show built around them, be it hand fishing, snooping in storage units, or yes, infiltrating the personal lives of moneyed denizens in affluent cul-de-sacs.

Let's face it. From our vantage point, we see a lot. Over the years we have fielded the calls from both coasts when TV producers plan to come to the state looking for where the action is. And, after years of those calls and **politely declining**

its exposure of kimono opening from a certain cable network, we kept hearing the rumors that reality housewives here were actually going to be the focus of the next Peeping Tom franchise, but alas, it was not meant to be.

Who do the TV execs want? They want people who cultivate a life of making and spending too much too quickly, with more than a dash of scandal and conflicts that could be a storyline for several episodes. Interesting that a fleeting TV episode could kill a well-built community reputation; proving that instant celebrity can create barrels full of embarrassment in a hurry. Sure, we know some people who might be a fit, but would we be a part of how a cheap thrill opportunity could potentially create a lifetime scar on them? No, thanks, instead we will keep presenting the best and positive inspiration we can find here in these pages now and in the future.

Have you how also felt how inspiring life feels now

that Spring has sprung? Does it ever feel great? As you flip these pages you'll notice it is a very fashionable one. Photographer Mark Oberlin captures an excitingly fresh perspective of Spring fashion with Texas-tied designers Linda Asaf and Cesar Galindo in our fashion cover story and stylist Kevin Seah shares his vision for how big city style translates from runway to real wear this season.

Wear the black dress (or tuxedo) and bring the passport is always the motto around here and nowhere is that more applicable than in Julia McCurley's feature, Monte Carlo Mischief where she lives like a billionaire for 72 hours in the fabled principality known for it's most famous royal, Princess Grace, who had many friends in Texas during her lifetime.

Ever wonder what it was like to have a cult devoted to your talents? Tom Ford, in our profile on him, gets that a lot, and Think Enid Collins, San Antonio-based handbag designer in the swingin' 1960's who revolutionized how women accessorized their shift dresses, Capri pants and on-the-go outfits of the era. In fact, this entire issue is devoted to 24/7 style and we hope you enjoy it. Along with our other columnists, we love featuring talent who are on their way to becoming household names themselves and if they had their own show, we'd certainly tune in to see them because their stylish insight and real life achievements would make the world a better, and more real, place to live and love.

XO Lance Avery Morgan lance@thesocietydiplomat.com



Photography by Greg Cestano Location: Blanton Museum of Art



Feel Free to



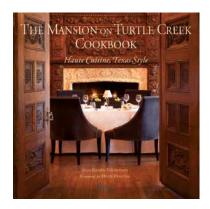


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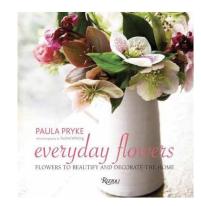
appointment efficiency rating of any BMW Center in the southwest. And with 165 new model loaner vehicles, on-site Customer Care Clinics and a Roadside Assistance Program, BMW of Austin will change the way you think about what a dealership can offer.

Here **Sydney Fazende** presents our selection of Spring's most stunning books for your reading and viewing pleasure. Your coffee table and your mind will love their addition to your home.



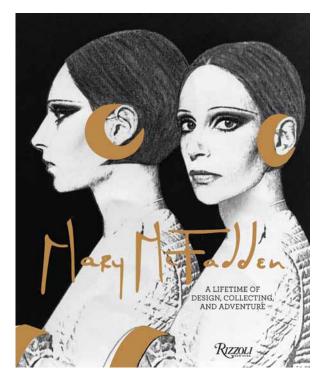
The Mansion on Turtle Creek Cookbook Haute Cuisine, Texas Style By Helen Thompson \$39.95, Rizzoli Books

Offering signature dishes from Dallas' iconic restaurant, this non-traditional cookbook is a marriage of both eclectic flavor and rich history. With dishes that combine the best of Tex-Mex and local southwestern flavors, it is perfect for the home cook and cuisine connoisseur.



Everyday Flowers Flowers to Beautify and Decorate the Home By Paula Pryke \$34.95, Rizzoli Books

Renowned floral artist Paula Pryke welcomes you into her own home and garden. With in-depth instructions on how to make gorgeous wreaths, flower cakes and table adornments, the florist in you will surely bloom.



Mary McFadden
A Lifetime of Design, Collecting & Adventure
By Mary McFadden
\$75, Rizzoli Books

Fashion visionary and tastemaker Mary McFadden proves in this self-titled account that she is every bit as sensational today as she was when she started her career. Inspired by world travels and its antiquities, McFadden's wearable works reflect exotic cultures and shaped the look of the 1970's.



Unexpected Pleasures
The Art and Design of
Contemporary Jewellery
By: Susan Cohn and Deyan Sudjic
\$55, Skira Rizzoli

In transcending the norms set forth by traditional jewelry, contemporary jewelry has emerged as an art form. A true tour de force, each piece has come to not only celebrate its unique design but also the individual wearer, whether on the catwalk or in the streets.



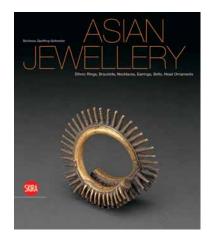
Be Your Own Decorator By Susanna Salk \$45.00, Rizzoli Books

Design's most notable talents come together to share both their favorite rooms and practical advice in making your home your own. By combining color, whimsy and balance, this emphasizes that best spaces are those that resonate your own personality and spirit.



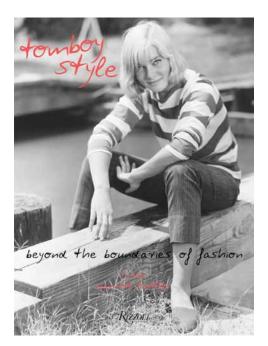
American Beauty By Claiborne Swanson Frank \$75, Assouline

Grit, grace and glamour have come to define the quintessential American woman. From Solange Knowles to Jenna Lyons, Aerin Lauder and Lake Bell, these stunning women have made their mark across the county and redefined their respective industries - the true American dream.



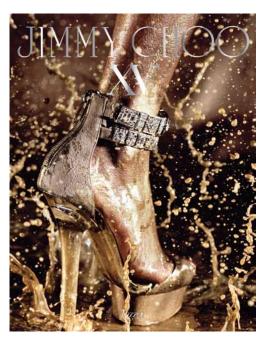
Asian Jewellery Ethnic Rings, Bracelets, Necklaces, Earrings, Belts, Head Ornaments By Bérénice Geoffroy-Schneiter \$45, Rizzoli Books (Skira)

Travel through a timeline of personal adornment beginning with the prehistoric era into the twentieth-century. Beads, leather and the most precious of metals are taken into a historical context as we experience the social, political and religious impact of jewelry and its aesthetic beauty.



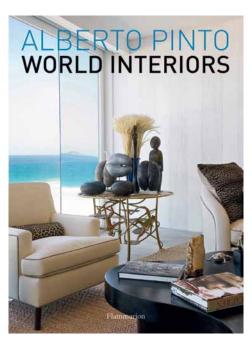
Tomboy StyleBy Lizzie Garrett Metler
\$32.50, Rizzoli Books

Rugged sensibility and understated elegance make for a stunning pair in this tribute of the celebrated tomboy style. From Marlene Dietrich to Alexa Chung, the evolution of style has come to be represented by both the fashion and the spirited woman within.



Jimmy Choo: XV By: Tamara Mellon \$75, Rizzoli Books

Having touched the soles of fashionistas all over the world, the iconic Jimmy Choo brand exudes confidence, glamour and style. Featuring 15 of the most significant and striking shoes to grace both fashion editorial and the red carpet, this coffee table book dares it's readers to put their best foot forward.



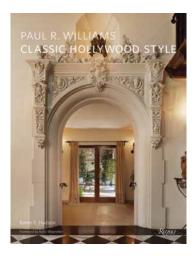
Alberto Pinto World Interiors By: Alberto Pinto with Julien Morel \$75, Rizzoli Books (Flammarion)

A pioneer in contemporary design, Pinto has brought life, be it pops of color or ornate moldings, to residences all over the world. The famed "Pinto touch" is synonymous with a unique style that combines both modern and classic elements to create unfathomable luxury.



Coming Home The Southern Vernacular House By James Lowell Strickland \$45, Rizzoli Books

Southern living takes on a new meaning in this beautifully photographed collection of historical concept homes. Combining both the refined and the rural, traditional architecture and artisanal interiors bring life to the ever-present southern hospitality.



Paul R. Williams Classic Hollywood Style By Karen E. Hudson \$65, Rizzoli Books

Architect for the Hollywood elite, African-American Paul Revere Williams came to define sophisticated living in the most exclusive of enclaves. Clients such as Frank Sinatra and Lucille Ball defined Williams career and allowed him to make his glamorous design mark on the world.



Jennifer Post Pure Space By Anna Kasabian \$50, Rizzoli Books

Jennifer Post's "pure space" philosophy has elegantly edited homes from a New York loft to a Palm Beach villa. In each of Post's featured interiors, clean lines and white surfaces personify a refreshing break from a bustling world.



Bringing Nature Home Floral Arrangements Inspired by Nature Text and Photography By Ngoc Minh Ngo \$45, Rizzoli Books

Just in time for Spring, arrangements by florist Nicolette Owen are brought to life in this elegant showcase of the seasons and their perfectly paired florals. Including comprehensive advice on the selection and care of flowers, this chronicle inspires the green thumb in us all.

BEHAVE

DINNER is Served

In our first of a series of a new etiquette column, our very own Mr. Manners, also known as **Jake Gaines**, solves some behavioral conundrums that are a part of the daily good life. Dinner party do's and don'ts are the focus here because even the wealthy need to be reminded once in a while.

Dear Mr. Manners,

I am attending a formal dinner party and always forget where to place my napkin when I get up from the table or have finished my meal. Can you help me, a guy, whose lost in paradise, figure it out?

- Regards, Dining For Dollars

Dear Dollar Signs,

I understand your concern and it's not uncommon. It's just like remembering which way to lean when being served a piping hot dish of Chateaubriand for two. The server serves from the left and removes from the right. Now, about your question, it's really quite simple. When you are leaving the table briefly, push your chair away from the table, rise and exit from the right side of the chair. Place your napkin on the chair seat and push your chair under the table. When you leave your place for good for the evening, lightly fold your napkin and place it on the left of your dessert plate or coffee cup and saucer.

Then, get up and dance the night away until the wee small hours of the morning, which is the most magical time after a boisterous evening.

Dear Mr. Manners,

It's time. Time for me to host my first dinner party honoring a longtime friend on getting a Fellowship at Oxford. Where is the guest of honor seated for the meal? I want this to be as right as what would be done in Buckingham Palace. This will also be a room of guests who have been around the block before.

- Thanks a million, Bucky in New Braunfels

Dear Buckster Von Buckingham,

Congratulations on making the effort to do what is best to make your guests their most comfortable, which is the epitome of being a great host. The guest of honor should always sits to the host's right - even in a restaurant. The guest of honor should be facing out into the dining area of a restaurant and if the meal is shared in your home, that guest always faces the room. If you and your wife, or partner, are hosting together, and there are two guests, the guest of honor will be seated on



the right of the most senior host. If one of the hosts is a woman, that means her. If you can, do serve some Beluga caviar with all the trimmings, to get the party started. It can dress up any occasion and is really quite affordable these days.

Dear Mr. Manners,

It's something so basic that I know I should have learned for good in second grade, yet I need to brush up on how to eat different courses with its specific tableware, and while we are at it, which way should my knife blade face when resting on my plate?

- Greatly appreciated from Forgetful, Yet Willing To Do Right

Dear Forget-Me-Not,

Some people can be overwhelmed at the plethora of knives, spoons and forks that are to be used with each course. I know I have beem. Here's a tip that will save you many worries and much embarrassment: work your way inside out. That's it. Bien deux. WIth the first course, likely a soup, aspic or salad, the fork on your left and the knife and spoon on your left, accordingly what it is

that you begin with, Then work your way in toward the inside of the plate. Sound easy? It is. Remember the dessert knife or fork is always at the top of your plate and please, because it is a Mr. Manners pet peeve, never turn your coffee cup upside down if you don't want after-dinner coffee. Never. And, by the way, to answer your other question, the cutting edge of the blade always faces the center of the plate.

Dear Mr. Manners,

I love to entertain, even though I don't come from a background where I learned how to on a high level, so I turn to you. We have the income now, yet we just need some tips. For instance, how do I do seating so that a dinner party is memorable?

- Kindly, Terasita in Tarrytown

Dear Tarry About,

I commend you on wanting to do your best, deciding to make entertaining fun and give your guests something

to talk about. Budget should never be a factor. Serving Caesar salad and a decent white wine can work as well as filet and fancy trimmings.

First. beyond the décor and theme decisions, create your seating chart. Keep in mind that Job One is always to help make your guests as comfortable as possible. Plus, mix it up a bit. You'll not want to seat two private equity bankers together, as they would spend the whole meal discussing money business and no one else would be included in the conversation. You know how they can be. Likewise, you won't want to seat together two people of opposing political views if they're prone to debate, especially in an election year like this one. Dinner conversation should be kept vibrant and upbeat, so your seating chart should reflect this. Don't seat the two most low-key guests together and keep the most robust guests on opposite ends of the table to balance out the good humor. That's where Mr. Manners likes to be, of course. Dinner guests should also do their best to keep the conversation flowing with their own intellectual prowess. If someone has an opposing view, it's fine to offer your own, yet should an argument happen, it's up to you as a good host or guest - to cut it off at the pass and change the subject. Pass the foie gras, please. §





By Lara Shriftman
Photograhy by Amy Neunsinger for Cocodot.com

Candy, sweets, and yummy cocktails are at the top of everyone's guilty pleasure list. So why not treat yourself and your friends to a night of bliss by throwing a festive "Cocktails & Candy Party" like the photo shoot I hosted at my home for Cocodot.com? Here's how you can charm your guests at your next gathering...









Entertaining a great deal can be both invigorating and exhausting: invigorating because hosting is always fun and exhausting because creating new and different themes can sometimes be a challenge. One of my favorite entertaining shoots I've ever done is for a new card line for Cocodot.com, which is a one-stop web destination for modern celebrations and home entertaining.

For every reason to celebrate, they've got ideas, tools, and products to help you do that... all with personal style. Cocodot, like The Society Diaries,

wants everything related to entertaining to be beautiful, useful, indulgent, and optimistic. The site aims to inspire and help you creatively approach challenges related to entertaining and celebrating. We teamed with Amy Neunsinger, who has photographed for Martha Stewart Living, Real Simple, In Style, and W, to create the imagery for this shoot. For my first collection on Cocodot we did a "Cocktails and Candy" shoot that has inspired a line of online invitations, thank you notes, and social stationary. So, what are you waiting for? Turn any ordinary cocktail party into your own Cocktail & Candy Party.



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Most American vodkas are made from corn (grain), which creates a harshness that must be covered up with sugar or juice. Cinco Vodka is completely different. 100% American Wheat, crystal clear water from the mineral rich Edwards Aquifer, and the European Tradition of Copper Kettle distillation all come together to form a superior drinking experience.

Cinco is low in calories, sugar free and as a distilled spirit, is a gluten free product.

Guest List

- Always invite more than expected to compensate for people who don't attend.
- Send Cocodot invites to guests and confirm all RSVP's.
- Create the invite and do the thank you notes & social stationary at the same time.

Gift Bags

- Have cellophane bags and stickers at the interactive candy bar next to the variety of candy so everyone can fill their own gift bag with their favorite treats to take home and/or give away fun party books like Dylan's Candy Bar: Unwrap You Sweet Life.
- More sweetly inspired goodies to add to your gift bag could be Candy Land board game, a colorful tooth brush, candy flavored lip balm, or inexpensive candy scented nail polish. No doubt your guests will love their sweet treats and spirits party that will inspire their own entertaining endeavors.

Décor

- Figure out a color scheme. Our color scheme is black and white with a hint of pink and gold, inspired by my living room.
- Go through everything in your home. Look for glasses, vases, and bowls that are different shapes & heights and then arrange them creatively. I created a candy bar on my console table and I put out containers in different heights and then figured out the candy allocation.
- I used black, linen cocktail napkins and a swaths of black fabric to add some texture to the table. I also enlisted feathers to create the tablescaping.
- Set up a fully-stocked interactive candy bar for your guests to enjoy. Make sure to have plenty so you don't run out. I bought black and white lollipops, black and white stirrers, white lollipops, white gum-balls, and marshmallows. Utilize any candy that looks great and colorful, and can fill bowls attractively. Glass always looks great.

- I created the same theme on my center cocktail table in the living room and created one centerpiece. Make sure to have scoops for the self serve candy and always over buy the candy (you can always donate it or use it to make gift hags)
- Create a signature cocktail and prepare it ahead of time. Then, figure out how you are going to serve it to go with the cocktails and candy theme.
- The lead designer from Cocodot created an incredible monogram and I then had cookies, labels, and gift bags custom made using that monogram.
- We set up the bar on another console using gold glasses and gold display trays. I also incorporated the candy and cut pink roses by placing them in the glasses. A large, round glass bowl was filled with ice to chill the Grey Goose vodka and another glass to use rock candy as stirrers.
- Buy an adult piñata, make sure you have some sexy masks on hand, too, like the one we had from Kiki Mon Pardu.













To Drink

• Use candy garnishes like rock candy stirrers and gummy bear toothpicks.

Cocktails & Candy Drink Recipes

Make sure you decorate the trays for serving with candy, flowers and feathers. A variety will punch up any tray and make the drinks more enticing.

TOOTSIE ROLL GREY GOOSE MARTINI

- 6 part Grey Goose vodka
- 1 part Godiva chocolate liquor
- 1 part Grand Marnier
- Tootsie Roll Log for Stir stick

MINT AND KEY LIME GIMLET

- 2 gallons simple syrup with 1/2 gallon chopped mint
- 1 Gallon lemon juice
- This is the base and it sits for a couple days, then strained
- It is shaken with Grey Goose vodka and finished with a splash of sparkling water garnished with fresh mint over ice. So refreshing.



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Compagnie de Provence Fragrance Diffuser. I've been addicted to this French brand's soap for years but only recently discovered its sublime fragrance diffusers. This lavender-scented one sits on a table near my entrance, so every time I walk through the front door, I'm instantly transported to the south of France.

INSPIRE

d

Kendra Scott Rayne Necklace. My favorite statement piece to slip on when I need to add interest to a simple outfit, the Rayne necklace adds a touch of hippie, a touch of tribal and a whole lot of glam. Earthy

As spring fever sets in and summer vacations loom on the horizon, Austin style maven Camille Styles finds herself drawn to all things essentially elemental while dreaming of faraway destinations. This month, she's rounded up her very favorite pieces that blend rough natural textures with dazzling sparkle and metallics. It all comes together for a look that's perfectly orGLAMic, wouldn't you agree?

Savannah Bee Company Raw Honeycomb. My go-to hors d'oeuvres for dinner guests is a beautiful spread of stilton, brie, figs, marcona almonds and a stunning piece of this raw honeycomb. Paired with a glass of something sparkly, it's sweet as, well, you know...



Harry Allen Gold Pig Bank. This witty conversation piece is such a sophisticated take on a childhood relic. Of course, the fact that it holds up to \$10,000 in dollar bills makes it all grown up.

Rablabs Pedra Coasters. These stunning agate coasters are such a chic way of reminding guests to protect my white oak dining table. Each one is hand-carved and polished in Brazil, and no two coasters are alike.

Miraval Resort. My husband and I just returned from a blissful long weekend here, and I already find myself longing to return. With jawdropping views of the Santa Catalina Mountains, amazingly healthy cuisine and world-class spa services, it's the perfect place to commune with nature while pampering body and soul.

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RESOLVE TO RESONATE

Resonating means connecting with true beliefs and unconscious patterns. Sound simple? It can be with the effort to be genuinely in touch with the authentic feelings you want to have and pursue them. Here, The Holographic Repatterning Institute At Austin's Mary Schneider shares her insights on how to resonate more with everything around you.



Resonance is a powerful concept. If someone resonates with the statement "I am unlovable," it is highly probable that, even if someone tells them they are loved every day, they will have a very difficult time even hearing they are lovable, let alone believing it. They will, more than likely, still operate out of the belief that they are in fact not a very loveable person with negative consequences for their own choices and well-being.

Where resonance gets even trickier is in the arena of needs; both in meeting the needs of others or having one's own needs met. If, as a child, a person's needs are not met on a regular basis, they generally don't resonate with even having a need let alone having one met or meeting the needs of another. As a result, they may find themselves meeting everyone else's needs as a compensation for not having their own needs met. Or, even more surprising, not resonating with having needs met may make it impossible for them to recognize when someone is actually meeting their needs — or, conversely, recognizing when they are actually meeting the needs of another.

Perhaps the most dramatic example that I have seen of this situation was with a client of mine who was one of the best caretakers I've met. He took wonderful care of everyone and everything in his world. And, he had a lot in his world. He had a wife and kids, and a ranch that included big herds of different animals. I watched him constantly meeting the needs of all of these beings in ways that were genuinely efficient, unique and compassionate. However, he rarely felt that he

was doing enough, always felt that he could be doing something more and that, most probably, he was doing something harmful to someone or something. So as a result, he felt that he could never leave for a vacation break, was tied to the ranch and unable to even get away for a short week-end. He felt seriously and permanently trapped.

This negative perception he had of himself was simply not true. During the process of uncovering this negative resonance pattern, we discovered that he had been an abused child. As a result of his abuse, he completely resonated with not being able to take care of himself - or his siblings. Even though he was only a child, his inability to protect himself and his siblings created a negative belief about his caretaking abilities that he still believed on a sub-conscious level today. This profoundly affected his conscious choices and decisions as his life progressed. As a result, no matter how well he took care of anything or anyone else, this negative resonance prevented him from seeing the competence with which handled his responsibilities.

This type of negative resonance with the inability to take care of himself caused him unnecessary and constant anxiety, stress and tension concerning the health and well-being of all his charges. We all know that the primary cause of disease is stress and he was saddled with the nagging feeling that he had to have made a mistake or miscalculation somewhere. The ideal situation for him was to make sure that he no longer resonated with the inability to take care of himself and that he did resonate with the belief that he could take care of himself - and others. This repatterning changed his situation dramatically. Currently he's on his way to a much-needed first two-week vacation in years and is feeling perfectly OK with it. He is now able to get away and enjoy it at the same time. This is a real ah-ha moment for someone who never felt worthy of a vacation. And, just as importantly, it will in the long run be good for his health.

Another interesting negative resonance pattern pops up a lot in my practice. Marriage. Almost everyone in my practice resonates with divorce, not marriage. It is my impression that this is because divorce is so prevalent in our society today. Influences such as media images captured on TV, in the movies, and of course, in books and magazines reinforce this negative resonance. Divorce is in just about everyone's family. Therefore, I try to make sure that all of our clients resonate with marriage if they want a partner in their lives. This is important. And, I try to make sure that they resonate with what kind of partner they want and how they want their relationship to be.

How about success versus failure? Many people resonate with failure for a myriad of reasons usually going back to when they were small children. What I see to an alarming degree is that children who had, for instance, a depressed parent who they were seemingly unable to make happy, resonate with the belief that they are failures for failing to help create happiness for that parent. "If I was better, funnier, more perfect, smarter, etc., I could make my mom happy" is what resonates with them. When the child tries to make a parent happy and they aren't successful, they decide that they are failures and the resonance with this belief follows them later in life into all of their relationships, both personal and professional.

As human beings, people all really want the same things. We want to be heard, have our needs met, be recognized for meeting the needs of others... and to be loved. The power of resonance is such that if people don't resonate with these concepts they will either not be able to create them or not recognize them when they do show up. Resonance is a natural law. As a society if we don't resonate with peace or happiness or freedom it will be difficult or impossible for us to achieve it, so let's make sure that we resonate with what it is we really want and the belief that we can make it happen.

Learn information on Mary Schneider and the Holographic Reppaterning Institute at Austin by visiting Reppaternit.com



HAUTE

It's here, it's here! San Antonio style dynamo Erin Busbee shares that one of the hottest trends this Spring is the haute hue... orange. Anticipate seeing a spectrum of shades of this bright, bold color in everything from dresses to handbags to shoes. Even a hint of this dramatic color will give a burst of life with to your look or living space. Here's how...



For those who want just a hint of the haute hue... This petite Roger Vivier Metro Nano is tres chic for travel (will easily fit in even the fullest of suitcases). \$1,000-1,300

Available at: RogerVivier.com Photo: Courtesy of Roger Vivier

A gold and apricot statement necklace by Lizzie Fortunato is a great way to subtly sport this spicy color trend. \$300-500

Available at: Lizziefortunatojewels.com Photo: Courtesy of Lizzie Fortunato





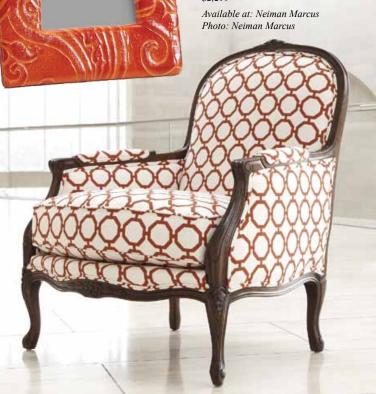




Add a warm and unexpected touch to your family room with this paisley, embossed leather frame by Etro.
\$100

Available at: www.saksfifthavenue.com Photo: Courtesy of Etro

This high-quality Massoud chair is the perfect mix of old and new. The graphic modern poppy-link fabric is a standout for any living space.
\$2,299







Grab this and go anywhere this season. Bolingo Ostrich Tangerine Bag. \$450 Available at Bolingobags.com

ROOM TO Loom

The weather's warmer and love is on the mind. When isn't it? Here, Austin-based professional matchmaker Julia McCurley shares her insight on how you can stir up a Spring fling in your own life and create new experiences you've been craving.

Love is in the air. Literally. I was walking my dog around my neighborhood recently and I found myself engulfed in this amazing fragrance. "What's that smell?" I wondered. Perfume? Detergent soap? No. It was blossoms and flowers in bloom. In the next moment I realized I was witnessing a natural, yearly occurrence. It's Spring.

It felt like a celebration, at least one for my nose. Then I started seeing the trees all around me, marveling at the new sprouts and greenery. I see it in my own backyard, the Crepe Myrtle trees full of fuchsia

blooms, roses, and tulips peeking up from the ground sending me hopeful signs I will be enjoying some beautiful floral arrangements soon to brighten up my home.

As I think of all the new life around me, I wonder about our own capacity to bloom. Mother Nature is a profound instructor. Does she have something to teach us with her beautiful spring? We've all heard the term "spring cleaning," a time to clear out the old and usher in the new. Maybe we take on physical projects to spruce up our homes? Perhaps, we begin a new workout regime to get in shape? I'd like to offer another idea for this springtime moment. How about letting go of bad habits and being good to ourselves to create more room for the bloom of love in our lives? We can use the metaphor of wiping the slate, and we can savor the message from Mother Nature to begin again here, too.

Every year, without fail, the blooms always occur. Right now, in this season, we have the opportunity to see ourselves in bloom as well, creating new ways to improve how we feel about others and ourselves. What would it feel like to think about us as freshly minted in our minds, free of heaviness? Let's start by picturing our minds as a closet, and then apply the spring-cleaning concept to our mental baggage and wipe away.

Let go of some of those old ways of dealing with challenging situations in our lives. If you are dissatisfied in certain areas, whether it your job, marriage, etc., ask yourself: what would it feel



like to start over with new thoughts applied to these familiar circumstances?

At Something More we think it is important that clients receive extensive coaching on how to apply the Law of Attraction to their romantic life. In other words like attracts like. If you are looking for someone fun, exciting, and intelligent, then you need to become the person you want to attract. This is a great example of changing our thoughts by taking action. As I believe, actions speak louder than words.

The first step is to tell ourselves a different story about the situation. For example, let's say you want your significant other to help out more around the house. You might have wished this for a long time, and every time you think about the situation you get mad and feel disappointed because it hasn't changed. You might even feel helpless about being able to ever change it. You may not be able to motivate another person, but you can change what you think about the situation. Instead of saying to yourself, "I wish my significant other would contribute more to running our household." Instead try, "I love my spouse, he/she is trying and I believe he/she will find a way to improve." It may seem too simple or easy to just find a happier thought, but try it... I find that it works.

Other examples may be "I wish I would get more social invitations." Instead of waiting around for the guest list to magically include your name, why not start having your own dinner parties and create your own fulfilling social life that might

in turn produce those invitations you want? You could even start some sort of wine club, book club, cooking class or whatever you'd like to pursue to satiate those social interaction cravings.

At Something More we recommend to our clients to have a semi-annual cleansing of the mind and heart. What this means is to rid yourself of all negative thoughts and to not dwell on past relationship disappointments. This may sound cliché but it is very true; things could be a lot worse and likely, someone else is suffering more than you. Put a pen to paper and make

a list of all the positive aspects in your life, and embrace an attitude of gratefulness and humility. Expressing a loving, kind heart to everyone you encounter is an excellent way to focus on giving to other people to help make them feel good about themselves, rather than letting bitterness and anger get the best of you.

Our minds don't have to hold on to old messages if we're not telling ourselves the same old thing. Our minds can incorporate new ways of thinking and these new thoughts will make us feel better. The trick is finding something truthful about the problem and saying the new truth to ourselves instead of the same old tired thought.

Ghandi had it right when he famously said: Our beliefs become our thoughts.

Our thoughts become our words. Our words become our actions. Our actions become our habits. Our habits become our values. Our values become our destiny.

It is time to create your own destiny. You already know how to feel bad about certain situations. Change your thinking. This spring, take yourself on a journey of self-awareness. So when you're clearing out the garage, why not take a whack at your mental cobwebs too? Clean out your old thoughts. Begin again. You might just feel great starting immediately. §

Learn more about Julia McCurley and her exclusive matchmaking services for Austin singles by visiting www.trysomethingmore.com







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MADSEXYCOOL

By Lance Avery Morgan
Photography courtesy of AMC Television/Lionsgate





Largely influenced by AMC's hit television series Mad Men, the suave, clean looks of late 1950s-mid 1960s era of Madison Avenue's advertising world has sprung to life during its last four seasons. The Mid-Century look has taken the runways, offices and streets by tremendous storm and this month the show is back for a much-anticipated fifth season. Here we explain it's stylistic success.

The leading hero, and sometimes antihero, of the hip hit *Mad Men* series, Don Draper, would be 83 in 2012. Geez, the guy has style for miles and It's quite clear that the AMC television series *Mad Men* has the world in a state of fashion fixation. The drama that has garnered numerous awards has more been heralded as one of the finest show in recent history. Mad Men, short for Madison Avenue Men, became an instant classic. Set in the advertising industry at the dawn of the Kennedyesque1960s and now up to 1965 where the world is about to exchange prolific changes, the show focuses on Draper—played by the square-jawed Jon Hamm—and his colleagues at the Sterling Cooper advertising agency in Manhattan.

"What 'was' in is 'now," says Neiman Marcus men's fashion director, Colby McWilliams. "Looking back on fashion, this period was what we perceive to be modern. I love the series and certainly the clothes," he states. "Especially the trim suits and ties. It's very chic." John Varvatos,

Etro, Michael Kors, Chanel, Thom Browne and others are just some of designers across the world have also been reveling in the fresh take on a classic style.

Gents, gone are the days of rock-n-roll themed T-shirts, juvenile baseball caps, and flip-flops. Laid-back casualness may have been acceptable for those summer days spent on the beach, but spring fashion encourages you be more grown-up. A tie bar, cuff link, and a pocket square proves to be the icing on the cake of the revised look of men, both Mad and otherwise.

The series playfully harkens back to the era's movies such as *The Apartment, The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit, From the Terrace* and the 007 films where any man felt empowered, due to succinct media messages about masculinity. With only the right after-shave/porkpie hat/tie bar/two button suit-you name it, our Mid-Century hero, too, could deflect international criminals and still

be dressed in a tuxedo in time for dinner at eight with the most beautiful, chiffon-clad woman in the room. *Mad Men* makes it look that easy, too.

No confusion of gender roles in the world then. iI was a time when a man was a man and a martini was, well, shaken and served ice cold by someone clad in fishnet stockings. Classic stars such as Steve McQueen, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and those who played macho roles, always wore clothes that were integral to their Don Juan-esqu characters. And they fit like a glove. Heck, it was part of their armor, whether in the boardroom or bedroom.

Critics and fans have fawned over the *Mad Men* social commentary, which is both nostalgic, yet still very much tackles current subjects such as sexual discrimination, adultery, racism, and other hot button issues. All of it is veiled beyond a dusty cloud of cigarette smoke and too many twelve o'clocktails behind closed doors at Sterling



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Cooper. Draper himself is a smooth-talking opportunist and sly adulterer, while his boss Roger Sterling—portrayed by John Slattery—abides to a similar lifestyle minus the suave subtly. The other cast members are Ivy League grads, transplanted Midwesterners and small town boys with dreams of making it big in a man's world, no matter what the personal price is to be paid. There's a sly nod to the writings of John Cheever and even, Shakespeare in the series, where these everyday heroes suffer slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

So in spite of all their somewhat loveable shortcomings, it's hard not to enjoy the one thing Draper and his colleagues do have: style, lots of style. Pizzazz, as it was often called then, seemed to be effortless. Brooks Brothers, Hickey Freeman or myriad local department store imitations suited the well-dressed man in his quest for gray flannel success. Until the peacock revolution of Carnaby Street's swinging late-sixties garb, any suit, tie, shirt and pair of brogues could be dashingly interchanged to suit the trim styles. "It is such a masculine look," shares Stephanie Coultress, owner of Estilo, a trendy Austin boutique that carries the revised clothing approach. "Designers such as John Varvatos and Ted Baker London have infused a traditional look into a must-have look that will work for now and several seasons to come."

Though based in the 1960s, the world of Mad Men feels decidedly 1950s. If one thinks in eras in terms of world events, the 1950s started with the end of World War II in 1945 and had the longest run any era ever had, ending with Kennedy's assassination in late 1963. The post war modernist smugness and sometimes oblique impropriety seemed more grow more gentrified by being button downed and spit polished shine. All slick as a whistle on the outside and perhaps not as virtuous on the inside, once the carpet was pulled back on the air-brushed era, is the message that both the show and the clothes evoke.

This simplicity of the fashions of *Mad Men* has sent most menswear designers into a creative whirl, to say the least. Slim suits, skinny ties, and the occasional fedora—those dashing silhouettes once seen in droves from Madison Avenue and Main Street, are now reappearing on runways and in the windows of finer clothing stores. And, at a time when menswear has been desperately lacking creativity, it could not have made a more

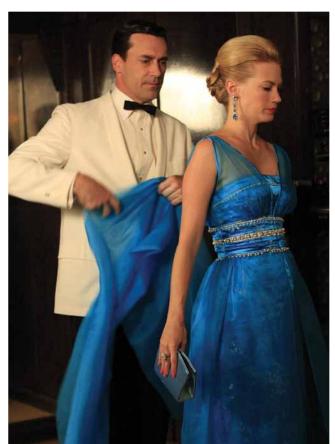
welcomed and timely comeback.

Keen Etro of Etro has its own "Mad" interpretation. He brings color and a bit more whimsy to the serious suiting point of view. Ralph Lauren, who could be said to have been "Mad" when mad was originally thought old news, shows that his Purple Label silhouettes are as neat and trim as the men who wear them. Ferragamo shows browns, blacks and serious shades of gray suiting that are punched up with sophisticated vests, overcoats and fedoras to evoke a modern sensibility to the looks of the Eisenhower and JFK eras.

The fabrics of the suits seen in the series are similar to those seen now on the runways and in stores, yet more comfortable and wearable. If you ever wondered why your dad's wool suit seems smaller than you remember it being on him when it's pulled out of the trunk, it's likely because it has indeed shrunk. Rayon, Ban-Lon and other space age materials were just making their way into mainstream men's suiting and accessories by the late 1950's and 1950's and were precursors to today's microfiber blends help to retain a suit's shape, travel ability and sheer longevity.

The era's glory and glamour can also seen in the collections of Italian Ermengildo Zegna and Roberto Cavalli, Hugo Boss and classic Calvin Klein, too - and they all have ties to filmland. Film stars have embraced the "Mad" look, too. From celluloid to read carpets George Clooney, Hugh Dancy, James Franco and Daniel Craig are machete-like sharp as they influence their contemporary style peers. The Hollywood look complements a return to more elegant women's dressing of voluminous skirts, flattering, lady-like necklines and important jewelry. The men's look has as many female fans, too.

And insider's tip on getting both the *Mad Men* and Hollywood style right now? Buy a size smaller size that you are used to. If you are a size 42 suit, you'll feel ten pounds lighter-and look it, too if you instead slip into a 40. It will feel odd at first – snug and trim, and you might think you are bulging where you shouldn't, but with the higher armholes, trimmer pant and more streamlined shoulder line, you will look like a million dollars. Hopefully, more. So, what are you waiting for? Go ahead and get "Mad."











Rick Kuper

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PARENTAL DISCRETION ADVISED

PART 2

In the second of our investigative series on elder scams that can befall our parents and grandparents, **Austinite Dee Covey** shares her keen insight on helping those we love create the best environment in their golden years.

Sylvia Sandstone* has a reputation in her community for being a very sharp cookie.

If they only knew, she worries.

"I never really felt my age until last year," says the well-heeled 88-year-old widow. "Now I feel old and just plain stupid."

As a young woman Sylvia inherited a tidy sum, invested wisely, "married well" (twice) and, until recently, was a University Park homeowner with no debt and a diversified portfolio that included a healthy chunk of cash.

Sylvia has all of her marbles yet could lose her comfortable independence because of a man almost seven decades her junior. The clever teenage Russian con artist knew how to spot American elderly online and took full advantage of the gullible woman, now an astonishing \$658,000 poorer for the experience.

She hopes that her children will not find out about her mistake until she's gone. She is embarrassed and ashamed, with severely diminished selfesteem.

Sylvia is hardly alone in this experience, yet many adult offspring can be remarkably helpful in helping to prevent these kinds of crimes, or in offering comfort in their wake.

According to *The Huffington Post*, "No other demographic falls victim to scams and fraud quite as much as Post50s. Older adults are more likely to have excellent credit, own their own home and keep valuables in the house, making them prime targets for con artists and criminals," the respected online news organization says, adding that since the Post50s generations were raised to be polite and trusting, they are more likely to be the victims of sophisticated crooks.

When the well-traveled but occasionally lonesome Austinite Bud Harper*, 72, took an unidentified phone call, and had a "nice chat" with the sweet-talking stranger, he agreed to meet with her in his two-bedroom Northwest Hills condo on a Tuesday afternoon. She had asked if he'd like to know how to dramatically lower the cost of his expensive blood pressure and diabetes meds.

"Sure, who wouldn't?" said the retired government worker before she talked him into the get-together. He didn't ask how she got his name and personal information.



When she knocked on the door, Bud and his caller were both in for a big surprise. His savvy son, Aaron, was on the sofa waiting to hear all about the magic prescription. After learning of the meeting, Bud's skeptical but respectful eldest offspring decided to take the afternoon off to make sure his usually smart Dad would not be swindled.

At first Bud balked, saying it was just "informational" and he didn't need "babysitting", but Aaron prevailed by being tactful.

"Dad, what can it hurt to have a second opinion? I'd like to know if there's a way for Sally and I to save money, too."

The attractive visitor was a smooth operator. After getting settled, she opened to a plastic pocket page with a form Bud had filled out and mailed, to show Aaron that his father initiated the contact. She then asked additional questions and rushed through a few confusing graphs on generic versus branded drugs, before addressing the real reason for being there: She was selling a variety of "end of life" burial services and a 20-year annuity, claiming that it was a far safer investment than stocks or bonds.

Both men politely listened but said very little, and the woman finally took her cue and beat it to the door. Bud was happy to see her go, yet felt like a sucker in front of his adult "kid."

A recent study sponsored by the Investor Protection Trust and the National Adult Protective Services Association shows that 20% of senior citizens will be victims of financial fraud in their lifetime, and one in three is being asked for money by mail, email or in person - often by consultants with questionable credentials, or a person looking for an easy mark by targeting people disheartened watching their savings dwindle in the downturn. While annuities like the one pitched to Bud are

perfectly legal, many question the ethics of selling them to older retirees, often using their fear of the volatile stock market. Annuities do yield predictable interest that accrues when the money is left untouched over a long period. So it can make sense for a 38-year-old tech entrepreneur to buy a 20-year annuity, but that case is hard to make for a middle-income 72-year-old who is likely to need the funds prematurely (and early surrender charges and penalties can be sky-high.)

Fortunately Texas is one of a handful of states that has a "money back" law for annuities that protects those who have buyer's remorse within 20 days. Experts say another smart move for senior investors is to seek advice from Certified Financial PlannerTM before making a decision, and to check online fraud warning sites for any "too good to be true" offers.

Maria Reynaldo* could have used that advice. She is a successful second generation Mexican-American who graduated top of her San Antonio high school class in 1959, and built a small chain of restaurants with her late husband. Maria's love of lottery and other games seemed innocent enough, until she responded to an email claiming that she was the recipient of an unclaimed fortune overseas. All she had to do was send an electronic check for a small fee with a bit of personal information to process the international transfer of two million dollars.

Maria thought what the heck, it's but worth a try, and became the victim of swift and massive identity theft. These kinds of swindles and many others can be identified online by checking with the AARP Fraud Fighters program, http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud. It is also a smart move to forward any suspicious email to the U.S. Secret Service, at 419.fcd@usss.treas.gov.

Statistics show that millions of middle and upperincome families are affected by fraud, and talking about the issue makes others in the community less vulnerable.

"Fool me once and shame on you," says Sylvia Sandstone, who retains her dignity and agreed to be interviewed in order to help others.

"Fool me twice, never," she said with conviction.

*Names and some personal details have been changed

Dee Covey is a crisis management professional and for more information on her, visit PRERnow.com

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An unwritten hierarchy exists in the satchel sphere, with highly coveted heavyweights like the fabled Birkin bag or gold-chained Chanel 2.55's reigning supreme over their more mortal lambskin and suede counterparts of Miu Miu's, Marc's and Mulberry's lining the shelves at Neiman's.

These labels, while scoffed at by critics today who think of them as much too conspicuous evidence of our consumerist culture, were formally known at their most innocent level: simply an artist's signature. Central Texas-based designer and artist, Enid Collins exemplified this practice, literally signing her initials onto each hand-made work of art produced in her small Medina, Texas handbag haven in the 1960s. They went beautifully in the world of sheath dresses and bouffant hair-do's.

While the practice of labeling handbags has refined since Collins' heyday, her inscription, along with other artful design elements, allow her

pieces to serve as artifacts of a seemingly by-gone era of fun in fashion. How refreshing would it be to see Alexander Wang's autograph scribbled on the corner of one of his duffles? The clone-like bags of today represent a sort of unattainable perfection evident in all aspects of a woman's image, while Collins' quirky designs injected a more special, one-of-a-kind sentiment during the creative Peacock Revolution of the '60s, when women experimented with fashion for the joy of being unique and the sheer fun of dressing up in occasion appropriate clothing

Decidedly more kitsch than couture, Collins' screen printed motifs included retro illustrative figures like cats, owls, and flora that would feel right at home in a menagerie with the *Partridge Family* bird. Not held back by the restrictions of modern day bag designers that cater to their lap-top-toting, multi-tasking clientele, the San Antonio native experimented with dainty three-

dimensional embellishments like sequined studs, pearls, and faceted crystals. The design's name, such as "Pink Poppy Cats" or "Night Owls" fancifully scrawled across the face of the bag, along with excess glue peeking around the edges of rhinestones only bolster the now vintage treasures' hand-made traits stand out amongst a sea of flawless contemporary bags that have little to no tangible personality.

Along with her husband, sculptor Frederic Collins, the innovative artist started the company in 1959 by crafting a humble line of attachés made from canvas and fine leather. Understated when compared to her later designs, the earlier pieces were no less hip. The neutral colored suede, pebble, and even ostrich carry-alls showcased Mr. Collins' handiwork with brass ornaments in the shapes of foliage, thunderbirds, and other fowl. Some designs featured nature-inspired suede appliqués and rustically charming embroidery.



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Fit for stylish prototypes of the time, these first few models definitely rival any 21st century casual hobo bag. They were intended to be fun – something sophisticated for the supermarket, yet they've grown in stature as collectibles.

In 1963, the duo began experimenting with what would become the staple design in their burgeoning catalog: the wooden box. Complete with latches, handles and hinges, fashioned by Mr. Collins of course, the simple surface of the bags provided the perfect backdrop for Enid's figures and frills. For a more modest fee than the leather pieces, buyers could purchase

a unique piece bearing a tag that could have been written by the artist herself. Pleading, "Please don't drop me on a hard surface, or handle me carelessly!" the personifying tickets assured their lucky owners that they had acquired something truly special: "I'm made of mahogany, hand-painted and decorated for your pleasure. With a minimum of T.L.C. you'll find me a lasting joy to carry." Each purse was named and most are whimsical like You're The Apple of My Eye, Glitter Bug, Money Tree, Signs of Spring and Les Fleurs, to name a few. Does it get any more charming than that, we wonder?

With a little help from a formidable Neiman Marcus order back then, the Enid Collins bags quickly became must-have accessories amongst trendy Texan ladies. Ads appeared in The New Yorker, Vogue and other top magazines of the ear. Naturally, the line expanded, growing to include the

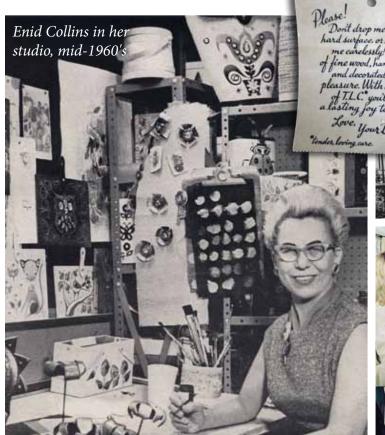
sought after paper mache pieces produced at the Puerto Rico factory built in '66 to accommodate the bags' unprecedented demand. Do-it-yourself "Sophistikits" were introduced to let creative consumers get in on the bedazzled action. Eventually, the line was sold to the Tandy Corporation, which continued the designs into the early '70s without the visionary

which continued the designs into the early '70s without the visionary insight of the original creators.

While the brand has died off, the Collins' creations live on as retro antiques lusted after by a new crop of Holly Hobbie hipsters. They can go from \$35 to into the hundreds. To an

avid collector of Collins bags, the purse signatures are also important. Turns out that the earliest box bags are fully signed under the Enid Collins name, and are often dated by year. Many bags are also signed "ec" or simply with a small "c" - which represents the years in which Enid Collins owned the company. Bags tagged with a capital "C" or "Collins Of Texas" are the ones that Tandy later produced.

As handfuls of cool-girl blogs continue to crop up, posting entries praising the dreamy handiwork of Collins collectables are prevalent. Instead of mothers living vicariously through their daughters, we see a role reversal of fresh 20 and 30-somethings embracing the novelties of the '60s, accumulating hand-made treasures of the past as a sort of escapist reaction to today's more serious status quo. Mrs. Collins would be proud.







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The Westy Best of 2012 visit us on

MAN OF THE PEOPLE

Last month we saw how Amanda Gold Miller, matriarch of the state's retail dynasty, ran the store. In the latest installment from **Lance Avery Morgan's** The Society Diplomat, patriarch Amon Miller's ascent is also the story of Texas.

You can easily find people who are ten times as rich at sixty as they were at twenty; but not one of them will tell you that they are ten times as happy.

George Bernard Shaw

Amon Miller had it rough growing up.

"I was raised by a tyrant and loved by a saint," Sabrina's grandfather loved to tell Baccarat game opponents at The Golden Nugget about his father and mother, entertaining them with tales of his hardscrabble upbringing in the oil boom patches of Pennsyl-

vania and West Texas where his father made him work to toughen him up.

"But the old man did me a favor. Nothing scares me, and nobody can outwork or outfox me."

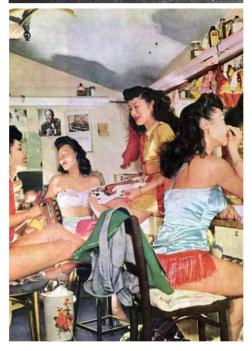
The truth was that Amon was poor for about a minute before his wildcatting daddy hit pay dirt, moved the family to Houston and got into retail, and fortunately, he inherited Sy Miller's work ethic in principle and practice. His mother Grace, a goy, was everything her name implied, and taught her rough-edged boy to be attuned to the needs of others. As he grew into manhood, the legendary merchant enjoyed the luxuries wealth provided, but loathed the lazy noblesse oblige attitude more popular with his smart set contemporaries, all of whom graduated Magna Cum Loaded but many with mini-minds.

Tall and lanky with a long face and a determined stride, Amon did not inherit movie star looks but his fortune was unbelievably appealing. In his twenties, he bore a vague resemblance to young Howard Hughes at that age and had the same natural gift of being a deal-making savant. That man could coax a serpent back into its box, but also tear your wrist out of its socket with his handshake.

Amon had stories, all right. He enjoyed a lifelong friendship with Clark Gable, his neighbor in the Montrose area when the Millers first moved there. Gable stayed loyal to Miller's Department Store, ordering custom made suits, shirts, cravats and







sand bucks a month was big money in 1946 for a Dartmouth College kid, and seemed extravagant to the student who had served with so many regular Joe's in the Signal Corps during WWII. Those long New Hampshire winters seemed much warmer with his dates in New York that he'd cuddle up to at Elmo's, as El Morocco was called by the In Crowd, and long lunches at "21", and the Colony Club

Being best friends with Hollywood's leading stud had its benefits and conquests on the town were plentiful. Both towns, in fact. Gable was Miller's entrée into the Hollywood elite of the 1950's, and he liked the fresh orange-scented air year 'round

and the even fresher women.

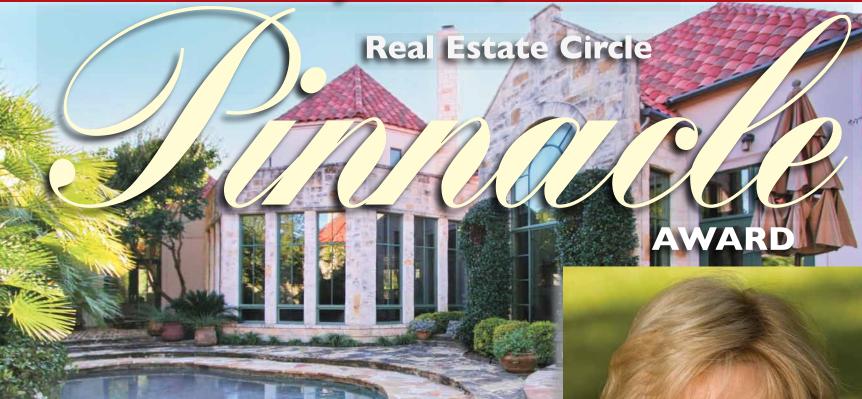
That was his first impression. He soon experienced the seamy underbelly of that city, as every single person seemed to be on the make.

Not that he didn't take advantage of the bountiful bevy of beauties. His pal, Callen Curie, the schemata garment heir-turned-film producer, also showed him the ropes, such as how to work the Bel Air Hotel scene. Set in the hills above the intersection of Sunset Boulevard at Coldwater Canyon in the days before private cabanas, anyone with a tan, a smile, and a good line of bull could score with little effort. A big fat wallet didn't hurt, either. Forget perusing the pretties on the Schwab's drugstore stool near The Garden of Allah hotel down the street, it was all happening poolside at the Bel Air.

Afterwards, while most of the men would brag about their near-Olympian sexcapades with the boys at the Hollywood Athletic Club near the Goldwyn Studios, Amon became tight-lipped until later in life. An ambitious Miss Kiwanis Club from Butte or perky Miss Personality from Akron were fair game, but Amon Miller was nothing if not more of a gentleman than the rest of the pack of wolves of the era.

"I liked the ones who were classy in public with an international bent," he said winking to me, over some very fine single malt scotch. "You know,

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Boston in the parlor but France in the bedroom," of his preference for girls whose pedigree was pure Early American. This attitude may have informed his incredibly good taste in women's clothing.

Amon Miller's days in Los Angeles were not without a few surprises for a red-blooded Texas guy. One afternoon Jess Strident, a fairy Hollywood agent known for the stable of studs on his client roster, offered to set up Amon with a six month contract at Monogram Studios as a western actor... if he'd play horsey in the hotel's bungalow around the bend.

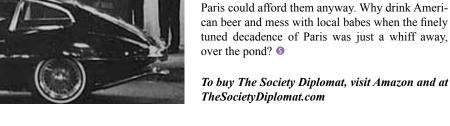
"You have real star potential," Strident said, moving in to close the deal (he thought), sidling up to Gable's pal and a former college fullback. "Leave it to me, and the rest of the world will see it on screen." What a colossal creep, thought Amon, who had long since stopped being shocked by the come-ons of Hollywood's hags and gay-keepers. No sir, Amon knew he could just as easily walk up to the front gate of any studio in town and do the deal on his own, if he was so inclined. After all, he was wildly applauded by the student body during productions by the Rising Oaks High School Dramatic Club, enjoyed a polished upbringing and was just as good looking as most of the fellas walking around the lots. And, underneath it all, he was a gentleman.

"A woman shouldn't be anybody's doormat," he told me, a theory he would prove repeatedly as he took his family's store to unprecedented financial heights as the decades would progress. And with it, their own personal wealth.

Back home in Houston, like the other fast-rising socially affable families of the era, the possession of Old Master paintings was de rigueur, especially if it had been in a family for generations. If by generations, that meant bought by Sy Millerstein, seven years before his name changed, from galleries along New York's Lexington Avenue, then the generations indeed flew by fast.

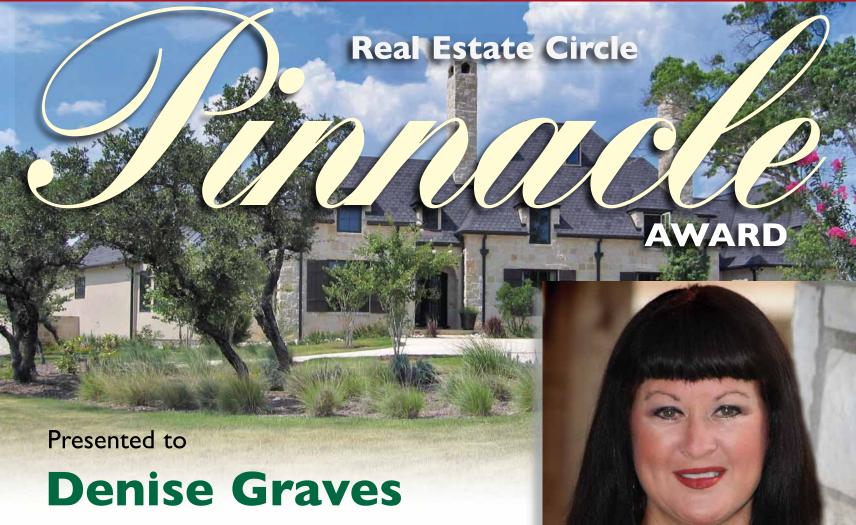
With his looks that had evolved to be considered "regal looking" several years after college, the war and his stint in L.A., Amon became known as the guy who wouldn't take no for an answer from a woman who knew how to fill out a tight cashmere sweater set. That sensibility and his innate flash and dash landed him in the Walter Winchell columns in the New York papers that coined him as the "Texas Retail Prince." It was a first taste of notoriety that would serve him well before he would eventually settle back in Texas to mind the store, or The Castle, as the senior Mr. Miller called it, where Amon would meet a gal with a past at the Shamrock pool, Amanda Gold.

A castle is what the store seemed to the Millers, and a fiefdom to their employees. Amon Miller knew better than to dally with the newly high school-graduated crop of shop clerks or even with any of the more seasoned ones. His daddy had a little manly advice: 'son, don't mess with the help. It's too expensive,' so he knew that his extramarital dalliances would not be on Texas soil. No, he was too smart for that, and preferred the vast luxuries that Paris could afford them anyway. Why drink American beer and mess with local babes when the finely tuned decadence of Paris was just a whiff away, over the pond?





The Very Best of 2012



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Phyllis Browning Company congratulates Denise Graves on winning the highest accolade a Phyllis Browning Company agent can receive for residential real estate sales: the prestigious Real Estate Circle Pinnacle Award.

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"These women are all driven by personal quests and a desire to make a difference. Their good work sets an inspiring example of what it means to volunteer, educate and advance the quality of life for others," says Michelle Robertson, senior marketing manager for North Star and The Shops at La Cantera. "We've created a signature event to spotlight these women and the countless ways their chosen charities have shaped our lives. It's a great opportunity for the community to come together for good causes and prove that the spirit of giving is alive and well and stronger than ever."

Jana Bounds,

Teed Off at Cancer benefitting Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital

In 1998 the Bounds started the Teed Off At Cancer Golf Tournament. Five years ago, an association was developed with the Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital and today a H.O.P.E. bag is given to parents upon their child's admission and sometimes personally delivered by Jana and Tommy. For more information visit Teedoffatcancersa. com. For tickets call 210.723.9936.

Doré Koontz,

AugustHeart

In 2011, Bart and Doré launched AugustHeart to provide free heart screening services to Bexar County student athletes, ages 14 to 18. Their ultimate goal is to screen all incoming Bexar County freshman on an annual basis. For more information visit Augustheart.org. *For tickets call* 210.841.9207.

Courtney Duphorne,

Pay It Forward Ministries

Pay it Forward Ministries (PIFM) was founded in 2006 by Courtney's husband, Brad, a grateful recovering alcoholic and addict. The concept that is not only revolutionary but the first of its kind -- a program to help reduce the staggering statistics of alcoholism and alcohol abuse leading to homelessness. For more information visit Payitforward-sa.org. For tickets call 210.212-2926.

Stacey Hill,

Blue Star Contemporary Art Center

Blue Star Contemporary Art Center is the first and longest-running venue for contemporary art in San Antonio. Now in its twenty-sixth year, Blue Star continues to be an incubator for contemporary art in San Antonio, hosting more than twenty exhibitions each year within its four on-site galleries. For more information visit Bluestarart.org. *For tickets call 210. 227.6960*.

Dacia Napier M.D.,

Cancer Therapy Research Center (CTRC)

The Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio is San Antonio's only National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center recognized for its world-class cancer treatments, research, early detection and prevention. CTRC is one of 66 NCI-designated cancer centers in the U.S. – and one of only four in Texas. For more information, visit Ctrc. net. For tickets call 210.450.1152.

Ana Montoya,

ChildSafe

ChildSafe is Bexar County's only agency to provide specialized services to children who have been sexually abused and their supportive family members its mission is to restore dignity, hope and trust to children traumatized by sexual abuse. For more information visit Childsafe-sa.org. For tickets call 210.675.9000.

North Star Gives presented by Volvo

Guests will enjoy a revealing of spring fashions by Saks Fifth Avenue, music, cocktails and exquisite bites, plus earn a chance to win fabulous prizes from North Star retailers 6 to 8 PM, Thursday, March 22.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$30 at the door, cash only at the door. All tickets sold directly benefit the charity from which it is purchased.

For more information visit Northstarmall.com



Original Creative Works Light Up Downtown San Antonio







Light up the night, San Antonio, with the fifth annual Luminaria: Arts Come to Light festival that is slated for March 2012 at HemisFair Park in the heart of downtown. Named after the Spanish word that means "white night," Luminaria is an arts celebration modeled after a concept in Paris that brings contemporary art to the masses in public spaces while inspiring dialogue and engaging the public to examine its significance and impact on public space.

San Antonio's Luminaria features the collaboration of over 50 artists and non-profit arts organizations, showcasing pieces from six artistic disciplines: music, dance, media arts (film), literary arts, theater and visual arts from artists both in San Antonio as well as across the country. Every work displayed or performed in this one-day artistic extravaganza must stay true to the theme of light, much like the festivals 'Glow' in Santa Monica, and 'Nuit Blanche' in Paris.

"Luminaria began as a way to foster a sense of community by celebrating the arts, and recognizing and advancing artists' careers," says Richard Rosen, the artistic director of Luminaria. Luminaria was an idea conceived by former San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger, who launched the event in 2008. Since then, it has elevated San Antonio's profile to a city known worldwide for the arts, as the festival has improved significantly and grown annually.

The open call for Luminaria pieces began in San Antonio in November 2011, and artists have been diligently working since then. Last year's Luminaria attracted over 310,000 attendees in just one day, and the event is expected to attract an even larger crowd this year.

For more information on this event, visit www.luminariasa.org.

EVERYTHING'S MACLEOUV

By Rob Giardinelli Photography By Silvia Mautner





One beautiful and magical day recently, hundreds turned out to the Malibu estate of Austinite's John Paul and Eloise DeJoria's for their bi-annual Merry Everything party. Once inside, guests were treated to a winter wonderland, including tons of snow that was brought in so guests could sled down a steep hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean.



John Anthony DeJoria

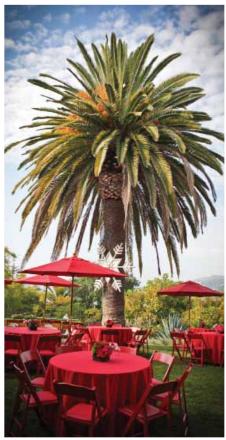








Then there was the ice house created by Roland Hernandez, live reindeer and Mr. and Mrs. Claus themselves were on hand to take holiday snaps with the families in attendance. Children of all ages loved every second of the gathering, with areas devoted to arts and crafts while DJ tunes wafting across the vast estate. Guests (which included several from Austin) were also treated to an amazing array of tasty treats including four fully stocked bars of De-Joria's Patron tequila and Ultimat vodka brands. The most lavish of which was the Patron Ice Bar in the front foyer ensconced by a quesadilla bar, stations that had organic salads, grilled meats, a French fry stand, an immaculately designed dessert table and custom donut bar. In essence, there was something for everyone.









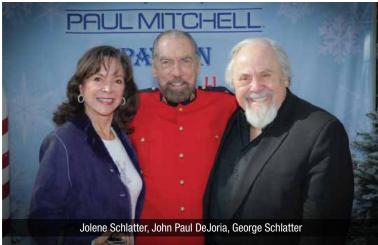




Perhaps the best part of Merry Everything was the mingling of families with the DeJoria's pals and celebrities including Dan Akroyd, Pierce Brosnan, Fran Drescher, Peter Fonda, music producer David Foster, Real Housewife Camille Grammer, singer Macy Gray, Sammy Hagar, Cheech Marin, Ron Popeil, legendary producer George Schlatter, Rick Schroeder and KISS' Paul Stanley, creating a festive atmosphere that celebrated everything magical that the holidays – and Malibu - had to offer for one extraordinary afternoon.





















The Society Diaries Hosts South Texas Event

When you think of a party, think of the border. Recently, The Society Diaries teamed with El Patronato Cultural Nuevo Laredo & The Border Cultural Promotion Foundation to host an event for several hundred guests in Laredo. The event was at the city's favorite eatery, La Reserva to celebrate the city, its culture and festivities, just in time to kick off the events surrounding Laredo's festive Washington's birthday celebration





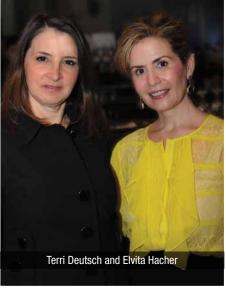






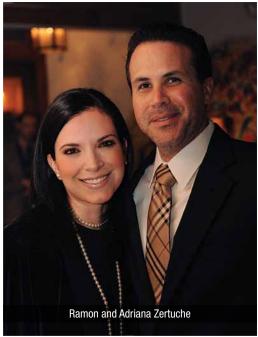
Cocktails were poured, champagne was popped and hors d'oeuvres were passed as hundreds of Laredo's most esteemed denizens arrived en masse to celebrate the magazine's presence in the South Texas region. As an added bonus, guests sipped and shopped while Neiman Marcus, Deutsch & Deustch, Polly Adams and Joe Brand offered it's toniest merchandise to peruse throughout the evening.





























Our host and sponsor partners included Epitacio Resendez, Linda Leyendecker Gutierrez, Elvita Hachar at La Reserva Bar & Grill, Tom Wensinger and Xitlalt Herrera of Neiman Marcus San Antonio, Porsche of San Antonio, Tad Deutsch with Deutsch & Deutsch Fine Jewelry, Polly Adams boutique and Magda Foster, Joe Brand and Terri Deutsch, La Posada Hotel and Vegas Imports with Eva Vega. The party ensured that everyone stayed in a playful mood as the Martha Washington celebratory weekend of debutante events that would soon capture the city's attention. §









ALL THAT GLITTERS IS













"Gold Rush" Art Exhibit Gilds AnArte Gallery

By Ellie Leeper Photography By Juliana Day Huff

San Antonio's AnArte gallery glittered and sparkled this fall, as its "Gold Rush" painting and sculpture exhibit by wedded artist couple Bryson Brooks and Holly Hein Brooks wowed patrons with their hand-made gilded objects. The gilded extravaganza displayed over 1500 sheets of gold leaf and at leaset150 paintings and sculptures. The glam art show explored a variety of themes from gestural westerns, iconic stars, and figurative abstractions.

Ana Montoya founded AnArte in 2001, establishing it as one of few contemporary art galleries in San Antonio. She moved to its Broadway location two years ago, serving to cultivate and curate for both residential and corporate art collectors of any level. Following the exhibition, this winter it's been difficult to "keep up the Brooks'," as they jet set to Berlin to record Bryson's "Booty Jam Art Raps" with famed producer Gordon Raphael, thanks to the Art Pace Travel Grant he received. Look for recordings soon. The Brooks' were Austin artists who met while working on murals and both are graduates of the University of Texas at Austin. Fast forward to eleven years later to now where the couple continues to happily paint and live in the Blue Star Arts Complex in Southtown San Antonio. 6











TORBAINDATE NIGHT

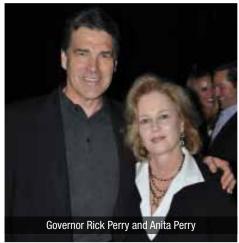
By Rob Giardinelli Photography By Jorge Reyes

It was a star-studded affair worthy of Austin's moniker as The Live Music Capital of the World when Grammywinning country crooner Keith Urban sang his greatest hits to a captive audience gathered for a worthy cause. The array of guests poured into the Moody Theatre at ACL in the W Hotel Austin for the event, entitled Date Night with Keith Urban, which helped raise awareness for Batten's Disease, a neurodegenerative disease affecting children that initially affects a child's vision, mind and body including paralysis and winding up in a vegetative state and ultimately death in one's late teens or early twenties. Austinite Mark Chandler partnered with Craig Benson to develop foundation, which has grown in stature and community presence.



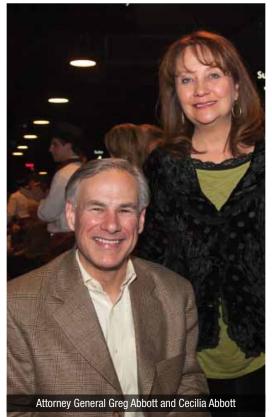












The event, deftly chaired by Shannon Janek and Sabrina Brown, was a fundraising triumph. "The purpose of this event was to not only raise funds for Batten's disease, but also to draw attention to genetic screening testing. What so many parents do not realize is that if two parents have the same recessive gene for a particular disease, there is a one-in-four chance that child will have that disease," says Janek.

All funds raised from the evening went toward the Beyond Batten Disease Foundation, which is seeking to bring to market a genetic screening test of over 620 diseases to see if you are a carrier, including such diseases as Muscular Dystrophy, Cystic Fibrosis and Sickle Cell Anemia. as Urban brought down the house in his first live performance following recent throat surgery, resulting in an Urban Date Night guests will long remember.

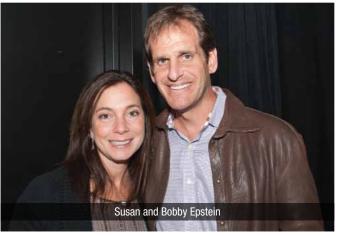








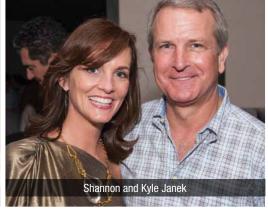








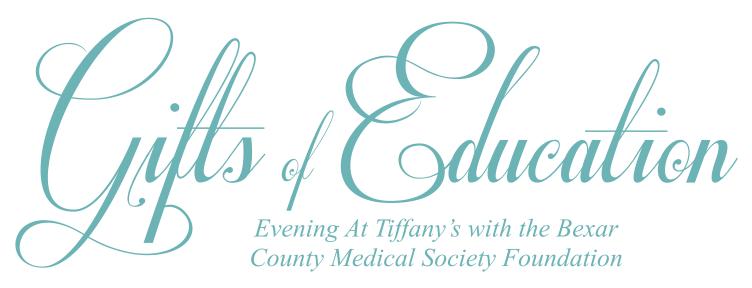












By Ellie Leeper Photography By Greg Harrison



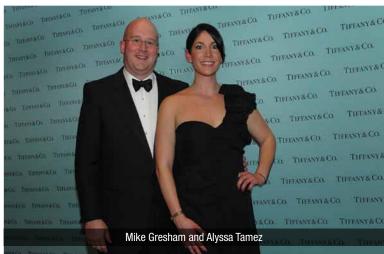


Oh, what a night. Over 500 health care professionals experienced their own "Evening at Tiffany's" in San Antonio this winter. Hosted at the J.W. Marriot Hill Country Resort & Spa, this black tie event of elegance celebrating Tiffany style was themed "The Gift of Education," benefitting the Bexar County Medical Society Foundation and their efforts in supporting educational opportunities for the next generation of health care professionals.



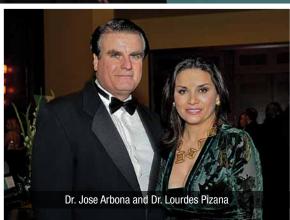








Guests entered the "Breakfast at Tiffany's" style ballroom and were greeted with models from fashion sponsor Julian Gold on white pedestals donned in elegant black and white wear reminiscent of Audrey Hepburn. The silent auction items were exciting for all, as there were sparkling treats from Tiffany & Co. Inside the ballroom, tables were teeming with turquoise, as the centerpieces were towered Tiffany & Co. "little blue boxes." The menu was exquisitely prepared by the J.W. Marriott, and guests had quite the sweet tooth for the dessert, "Tiffany" cupcakes. After enjoying their morsels, guests danced the night away to the sounds of Nightfire.

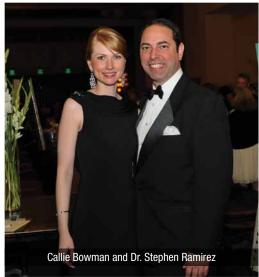




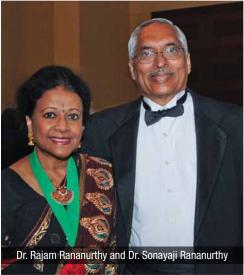














The premiere host of the evening was Aspect Wealth Management. The Diamond Sponsor of the classic gala was Tiffany & Co. paired with the WellMed Medical Group. Chairing the gala was Monty La Pierre, who was aided in leadership from others: Louise Chumley, Gigi Gross, Connie Gutierrez-Gilbert, Rebecca Waller, and Tolbert Wilkinson MD. As the Director of Foundation Operations for the Bexar County Medical Society, Alyssa Tamez is responsible for leading the foundation in their cause to continue to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the benefit of the rising generation of healthcare professionals. §









OUR CHILDREN

By Rob Giardinelli Photography By James Debth, Robert Godwin, Brandon McKelvey and Melissa Muench



In the first gala of 2012, Austinites from all social circles came out to support an important cause. It's something that almost everyone seems to attend. The annual Dell Children's Gala, held at the Austin Convention Center Grand Ballroom, raised a million dollars for medical care and research for children. The Art of Healing, the theme of this year's gala, drew attention to the holistic, patientcentered high-level care that Dell Children's Medical Center is known for not only in Austin, but also around the world.











The event, expertly chaired by Kay and Eric Moreland, began with a cocktail hour where the black tieattired guests mingled and proceeded to the grand ballroom for the dinner and program, which was produced by Victoria Hentrich and featured cutting-edge lighting displays by Illos Lighting, chic and stunning floral arrangements created by David Kurio, and a live and silent auction that featured a getaway at The Four Seasons, Nevis, West Indies, a seven night stay at Calistoga Ranch, Napa Valley and a Viking Outdoor Kitchen with a dinner prepared by celebrity chef Kent Rathbun, owner of Jasper's restaurant.













After the dinner, the tables turned. To Black Jack. Craps and Roulettte for guests trying their hand with Lady Luck while dancing the night away in the lounge area to The Sauce. Once dinner and the auction were completed, guests proceeded to the after party at The Four Seasons, Austin where guests nibbled on late night fare provided by Trio and partied the night away in style. §











BOOT, SCOOT, SEE

COWGIRLS UNITE FOR EDUCATION

By Ellie Leeper Photography By Greg Harrison

"Let's Rodeo, San Antonio!" is a phrase you will often hear in the Spring. This rodeo season, in celebration of "agriculture and education to develop the youth of Texas," we also heard 'Cowgirls Live Forever.' The seventh annual Cowgirls Live Forever luncheon was hosted this winter at The Pearl Brewery in downtown San Antonio, honoring Olive Anne Kleberg.





Josh Byerley, Heather Kraft, Lee Evans Lee, Todd Yarbrough, Will Oquinn, Sara Walker

7th Annual
San Antonie Livestick Experition, Inc.







A San Antonio native and an enthusiast for all things Texan, Kleberg has been, and continues to be, extremely involved in the community. She was honored at the luncheon for her involvement and dedication to several organizations and educational institutions in San Antonio. A few among them include The Battle of Flowers Association, The Junior League of San Antonio, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, The Daughters of the American Revolution, and Saint Mary's Hall school. She's one busy lady.















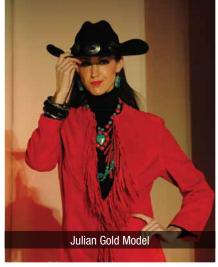


Chairs of the event were Sara Stumberg Walker, Lee Evans Lee, Ashley Weaver and Heather Kraft. Included in the luncheon was a cowgirl-chic fashion show provided by Julian Gold of San Antonio that highlighted fashions for cowgirls not just in Texas, but around the world. Proceeds from the Cowgirls Live Forever luncheon are donated to the San Antonio Livestock Exposition Scholarship Fund, for over ten scholarships in 2012 to send young cowgirls to college. To date, the fund exceeds \$113 million.

Awards and scholarships from this year will add more than 540 new scholars to the program. Currently, there are more than 1,300 active scholarship recipients represented by students in 90 Colleges and Universities throughout Texas. The Cowgirls Live Forever Luncheon has awarded over \$620,000 in scholarships since its beginnings. Now that's making a difference. §









GIVE A LITTLE BIT OF

HEART & SOLE

By Rob Giardinelli Photography By Robert Godwin

On a spectacular afternoon, hundreds of guests and do-gooders gathered for Austin's one-of-a-kind vintage designer handbag, jewelry and shoe auction. Heart & Sole, held at the palatial estate of Donna and Steve Hicks, raised over \$160,000 for The Rise School for Down Syndrome students, which provides high quality early childhood for children and families in the Austin area including inclusive classrooms, therapy based curriculums, a 3:1 student ratio and customized learning environments.



















The event, chaired by Venus Strawn and Nina Seely, offered the best elements of Austin, including a live musical performance by Susan Lubin and Austin Cabaret's Stuart Moulton, who belted out show tunes for a captive audience, while the presenting sponsor Jaguar Land Rover of Austin had two vehicles on display and generously donated \$500 for every vehicle signed or leased by their dealership during the month of the event. The luncheon was based on one Seely attended in New York that was worthy of translating to this city for this cause.











Inside the tent provided by Premiere Tents and Events, the well-heeled attendees bid on designer jewelry, handbags and shoes ranging from Kendra Scott to Ralph Lauren to Jimmy Choo that were generously donated by local merchants while guests enjoyed the lunch catered by The Four Seasons, sipped on wines from Fall Creek Vineyard...all under the beautiful scent of flowers provided by Stems Floral. It was the perfect way to spend a perfect afternoon helping others. §











Our ravishing brunette represents everything we love in a modern woman. From the 1960's-inspired White House years to the boardroom, to a home in the city with a white picket fence, she knows how to make a difference with her brains and well-honed style. Here are the latest Spring fashions from a few Texas designers to entice your own fashionable pursuits... and to look your most gorgeous from day to evening.

Photography by Mark Oberlin Styled by Antonio Estebán

Makeup by Barbara Yniguez

Hair by Veronica Nunez

Model: Nichele, NEXT Models, LA Sittings Editor: Lance Avery Morgan Assoc. Sittings Editor: Sydney Fazende Leading Lady (opposite)
Dress by Cesar Galindo at Neiman
Marcus, Jewelry by Marianna
Harutunian at ilovemariannas.com,
Shoes by Report at Nordstrom













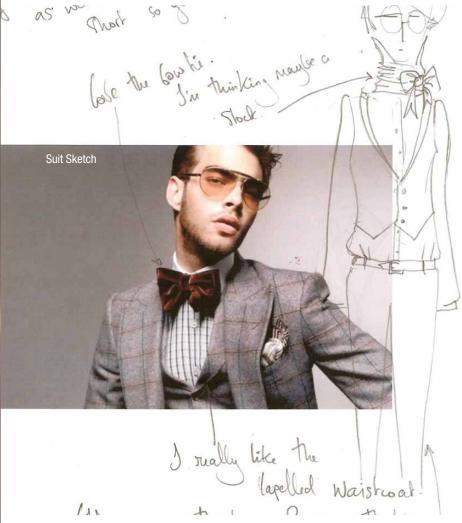
















Oh, come on. You haven't really been living if, by now, you haven't been affected by Ford's strong design point of view toward sexuality in pop culture, going on three decades now. He brought sexy back way before Justin Timberlake's song of the same title became a hit, by redefining how men and women should dress as a backlash to the austere beginnings in the 1990's. He brazenly reintroduced Halston-esque velvet hip-huggers, body-molding satin tops that were an homage to YSL, and high-heeled patent-leather shoes that still affect fashion to this day. With all this verve, the world couldn't help but follow suit, wearing a sexier silhouette that was based on Ford's earlier club-hopping days in Manhattan. And, ves, the world looks sexier because of it. Ford's vision has become synonymous with seductive and theatrical.

For Tom Ford, life is theater, plain and simple. His pristine point of view toward life, fashion, and now the adding to his repertoire, the art of filmmaking, has garnered him nods from Hollywood, where his minimalistic design approach has now come alive from the runways to the silver screen. At 5'11", with his trademark stubble and closely cropped hair, and more svelte these days by having lost 12 pounds by having admittingly stopped drinking for no particular reason, he is poised for fresh beginnings in his life. Yet, all this talent had to start somewhere.

Picture this: In 1961, Austin, Texas had a population of 185,000 people, roughly an eighth of the size the area is today. That was the world into which Tom Ford was born; a small, middle class city that spun on the axis of academia and state government. Living in Austin and nearby San Marcos until his early teen years, his family moved to Santa Fe, where he lived until heading to Manhattan to pursue art history at NYU. Back then. in the last, heady days of Studio 54, Ford also got a street smart education of the era's glamour that would later inspire his design aesthetic. He was greatly influenced by the club's icons Jerry Hall, Lauren Hutton and Bianca Jagger. Plus, so was spending six months in Paris as an intern in design house Chloe's press office, before returning to NYU's The New School and obtaining his degree in architecture.

Upon graduation, Ford secured a job with midpriced designer Cathy Hardwicke (he named Armani has his favorite designer in the interview with Hardwicke, astutely seeing that she was wearing that Italian designers clothes, and got the job). There, he spent two years before joining Perry Ellis in the early 1990s, and as he told the New York Times, "If I was ever going to become a good designer, I had to leave America." He then joined Gucci in Milan, a decision that would change the rest of his life as well as modern style during that era. At the time, the stalwart luxury leather goods

company had seen better days. The interlocking GG insignia had become passé, its brown leather with red and green trim was ho-hum, yet the brand was somehow still revered.

Once Ford arrived at Gucci, his career's true ascent began. In 1994, he was promoted to creative director and in 1995 he created a series of new branding ads for the company. Due to Ford's astute design aesthetic, between 1995 and 1996, sales at Gucci increased by 90% and by 1999, the fashion company, which had been nearly bankrupt when Ford joined, was valued at over \$4 billion. Near the same time, Gucci purchased Yves Saint-Laurent and Ford signed on as creative director of that label, too, making him very busy and much in demand. During his time there, Ford won numerous Council of Fashion Designers of America Awards and like he did with Gucci, was able to propel the classic YSL label back into the mainstream minds of its fans and followers, rendering it sexy and sleek once again. But transformation is just that, it's always transforming, especially in Ford's life. By 2004, Ford and the labels parted ways. Then came The Sabbatical.

The fashion and style worlds were aghast. He explained to Richard Buckley, his life partner of over 20 years, that he wanted more out of life. He didn't design. He played golf. He traveled, thought and read. Always considering himself a big reader,

he read a little book by Christopher Isherwood at a young age, then re-read it. It was A Single Man, a book that would eventually play a pivotal role in his future life. But first, after taking his furlough from fashion, Ford started his own eponymous design company, which includes glasses, beauty and now, a menswear line sold at his Manhattan store in 2007, and boutiques following in Zurich and Toronto and now in numerous locations including his Tom Ford boutiques in Bergdorf Goodman and Saks Fifth Avenue stores, too.

Then, enter: Hollywood. The entertainment capital has always been captivated by the sultry Tom Ford and he's made many friends while living in the Hollywood Hills, many of them Texans with whom he would travel to the jet-set destination island of Mustique over Christmas holidays. He is much loved by his personal friends and they have all described to me their deep level of friendships with him. His perfectly manicured life on both coasts lends itself to the perfection to which Los Angeles often aspires, and that translates into film and a strong box office appeal as with his debut film, A Single Man, a universal story about relationships, love and loss, uniquely and stylishly told.

Style, meet your good friend, substance. In the world of Ford, they are synonymous. Mid-century masterpiece are the first words to come to mind about Ford's film placed in 1962 Los Angeles.

Set in one day of a man's life, a man who is contemplating suicide usually doesn't connote the words light and breezy to forefront when it is described either, yet it is indeed a masterpiece for a first time film director. By anyone's definition. "There is a good deal of my soul, if one has a soul, in that film," Ford has said of the project. "I've never shown that side of myself."

The film starred Colin Firth ad was funded primarily by Ford at a budget of \$7 million dollars, pennies in Hollywood terms where that budget seems more aligned to a film actually made in 1962. Much revered British actor Firth plays George Falconer, a college professor who months before lost his life partner of 16 years, played by Matthew Goode ("Match Point", "Brideshead Revisited") and how society in that era obliviously reacted to such an event... as if it didn't exist. Julianne Moore plays Charley, his gin-soaked long time best friend and neighbor, also a Brit. Resembling a Mrs Robinson-meets-Jane Fonda-in-her-heyday role, Moore is the deliciously beautiful, yet bored socialite who offers a grounding, interwoven tapestry element to George's character and his grieving of his partner's loss. She signed on early in the project when she ran into Ford at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute gala and rekindled their earlier conversations on filmmaking and the project.

Another co-star is the period design aesthetic

(read: perfectionism) Ford imparts throughout the film. It is important to note the film's art director, Dan Bishop, who lends the 1960s visual point of view to AMC's hits series, Mad Men, too. And, period-specific the film is. "I loved every minute, every phase," Ford states of the directorial process, admitting, "I'm best when I'm in complete control." That complete auteur-istic control began when Ford co-adapted the screenplay based on Christopher Isherwood's 1964 novel. Then, came the directing. Firth was the third actor to sign up to play George, after earlier two actors quit before filming began. Moore's Charley was written for her, states Ford, as they kept in touch as the film was in the works for years before.

Flawlessly shot locations replicate a vibrant postwar Los Angeles. From the film's personal spaces like a bathroom drawer, period objects like a hifi stereo set, to the perfectly coiffed and dressed women and immaculately groomed men of the era, one wonders if Ford is on a one man mission to singlehandedly bring back the era's style to today. If so, he's on the right track and rightly so, as the era did aspire to perfection, as Ford does in his film. Outward perfection to mask inward imperfection seems to be the underlying theme of the film... denying oneself of true happiness due to the rejecting society of the era. In the film, flashbacks of George and the late partner, Jim, serve to illustrate the strong bond they shared, and it helps to explain why George is so utterly





devastated by the news of his partner's Jim's death, while present day characters such as Carlos, a stranger, and Kenny, a student, further explore the ranging depths of George's character.

It is Interesting to note is that Kenny, played to perfection by another Brit, Nicholas Hoult ("About A Boy"), Ford has stated often, is Ford himself at the tender age of 20 when he was on his own journey of self discovery. Hoult first met with Ford and attributing the fact that he lived in the rather provincial Reading, England, admits he knew little of Ford. They met to discuss the project and cinematic history was born. Man, meet thyself is more like it, with Ford immediately seeing his own past as a handsome boy into the incarnation that is Hoult; the wide-eyed, dewey white knight of the film, riding in as a potential saving grace to the protagonist, Firth. And, another star is born, courtesy of Ford.

While Tom Ford is basking in the limelight of his critical debut hit, he's not resting on his laurels. Not even close. Besides his fashion industry obligations, including his new women's wear collection, he wants to do a film every few years and really get it right. Personal films. Films that touch others, like "A Single Man" that has touched so many already. Embracing his "life as theater" credo, Ford even recently designed costumes for the world premiere of "The Letter", an opera performed six times only at the Santa Fe Opera, in the town where he spent many of his formative years, thus completing another part of the circle of life.

brightness might be blinding at times, but look directly into it, because you will see something. Very much of something bright that reaches beyond the mere aesthetic of cool, as only genuine talent can create. §

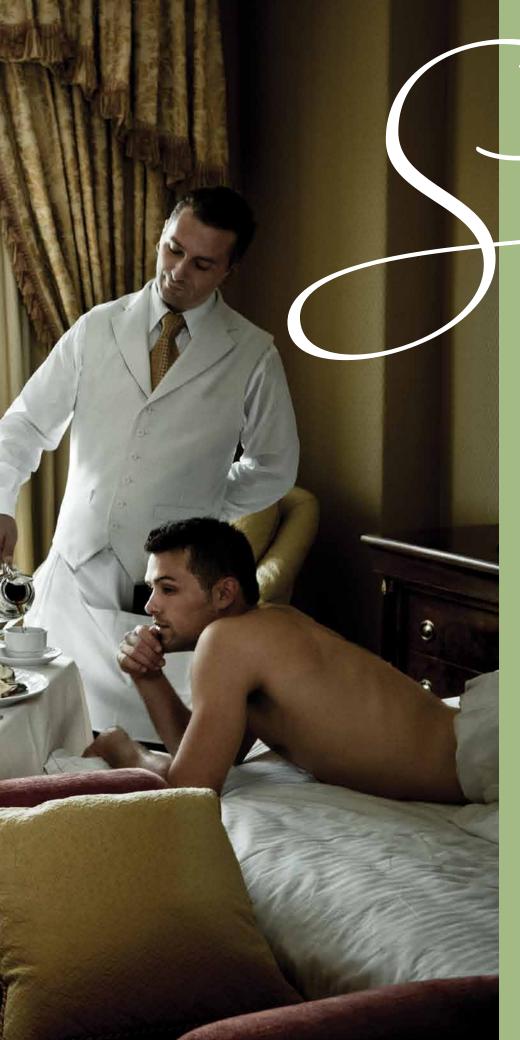












DREAMS



OUR JUST-MARRIED COUPLE IS HAVING
THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES ON A THREEDAY GETAWAY AT THEIR FAVORITE HOTEL
IN TOWN. IT'S STILL CHILLY OUT BEFORE
SPRING SETTLES IN, YET THEY'LL STAY
WARM WITH THEIR LOVE. FASHION AT
ITS BEST THIS SEASON IS PERFECT FOR
A NIGHT ON THE TOWN OR A NIGHT IN.
ANYONE FOR A LITTLE ROMANCE?



Photography By Richard Reinsdorf at Rrpix.com
Styling By O.T. Kelvins at MainArtists.com

Hair By Robert Steinken for Cloutier Remix Digital Tech: Danny Luna Photo Assistant: Dwayne Autery Photo Assistant: Jules Bates Models: Chloe Dykstra for LA Models and Zac Taylor for LA Models Sittings Editor: Lance Avery Morgan Assistant Sittings Editor: Danielle Kaplan



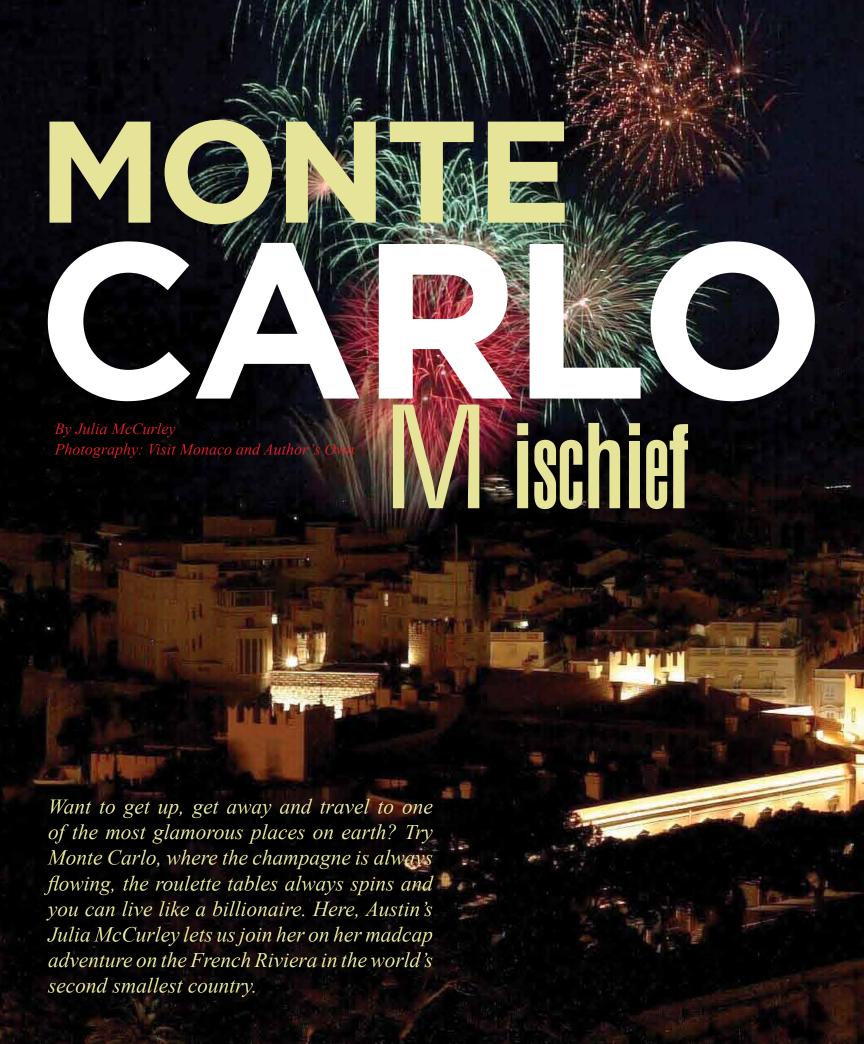
















When I was a little girl and first read of Princess Grace's Red Cross Ball, I knew I would one day travel to the playground of the rich and famous on the French Riviera. It was meant to be.

Like James Bond, my husband's theory to travel is for me to "wear the black dress and bring the passport," so when he came home one day and asked, "How would you like to go to Monaco with me?" what girl in her right mind would say no to the land where champagne dreams and caviar wishes actually come true? So off we flew to this 10 square mile paradise that averages 300 days of sunshine a year and is the fourth richest country in the world.

To me, one can visit Monaco anytime of the yea because there is an event going on every month. From glamorous balls (The Princess of Hanover's Rose Ball in March) to exclusive outdoor concerts by the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra (Concert at the Prince's Palace in July). And, for the sporting types, events such as Tennis Masters Series (April), the celebrated Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix (May), and International Marathon (November) make this a year 'round haute haven. Speaking of Bond, The elegant façade and interiors of the Monte-Carlo Casino had been a filming location of three James Bond films: Casino Royal,

Golden Eye, and Never Say Never Again. You'll need to be at least 18 years of age and not a local of Monaco to be accepted as a guest at the Monte-Carlo Casino.

Keep in mind that you can get there by train, helicopter or yacht, but please, no private jets. Why? There are simply no airports in Monaco. Don't want to ride the train? Cote d'Azur Airport in Nice, France is just a 30-minute ride to Monaco's capital. In fact, during weekdays, there's only an interval of 20 minutes per helicopter flight in Monaco's heliport. This just shows how busy the economy of Monaco actually is.

You may likely know that as Europe's tax haven, each citizen of Monaco has enjoyed a tax-free lifestyle since the 1870s and for decades, Monaco has existed solely on its casinos. Monaco's current efforts to diversify its economy have made tourism its number one source of income and casino profits only at five percent. That in mind, you'll want to anticipate spending a good deal of money for the privilege to visit Monte Carlo.

This recent excursion was not my first trip there, however, since I had been to visit with a gal pal in my single days. I had just broken up with a

boyfriend and was looking for adventure and what better place to find it than the city of royalty where everyone is beautiful, hasn't a care in the world and are rich beyond belief? The only problem at the time was that we had no idea how much things cost. We were both 25 and in our prime, so we received attention as any cute American girls would who were looking for a good time. After we found out that the drinks at the world famous Jimmy Z's disco cost \$75 each, Nico and the Italian businessman and his posse' swooped in and bought us a bottle of vodka (\$250.00) that lasted us most of the week. They invited us to go to St. Tropez on their yacht, yet out of respect for their wives and the fact that they spoke no English, we tactfully declined. C'est la vie.

Two girls on the go is what we were and because going topless is something that almost everyone seems to do in Monaco, we were no different. Since the nightlife activity begins so late, we would often sleep in until about 2:00PM, then put on our bikini's to lay out and read trashy novels, usually of the steamy Jackie Collins genre. After a hard day of relaxing in the sun, we then would spend 2 to 3 hours getting ready to go out to dinner around 11PM (that's dinner time in Monte Carlo), where we drank bottles of Crystal,

















be sent over drinks and all we had to do was bat our eyelashes and speak bad French. There were many highlights of that Fantasy Island trip in the 90's, such as kissing a French gendarme in the Men's room, a Prince Albert sighting when he was much younger and had more hair, and flirting with the muscles from Brussels, Jean Claude Van Damme, at Jimmy Zs, the place to see and be seen. From a shopping perspective, we visited Princess Stephanie's boutique, Replay to confirm that she is as gorgeous in person as she is in her photos.

Fast forward to 2012 where my better half and I flew to Paris (world famous chef Emeril Lagasse was in the seat behind us and gave me cooking tips), hopped to Nice, and then took a helicopter for the short flight to Monte Carlo. The fabled city is even more beautiful from a bird's eye point of view overlooking the crystal blue Mediterranean Sea. When we landed we immediately were greeted by our driver, compliments of our hotel, and took the 10-minute jaunt to our accommodations.

Just our luck, we happened to be there during the annual International Yacht Show, so the place was bustling with activity. The only hotel with a room available happened to be the top hotel in Monte Carlo, the Hotel de Paris. This hotel, frankly,

makes the Ritz Carlton seem run of the mill. Our room overlooked the harbor where all the yachts dock and we were a stone's throw from the world famous casino, where Bond gambled next to stunning women, the Monte Carlo Casino. The gambling den is owned and operated by the Société des bains de mer de Monaco, a public company in which the Monaco government and the ruling family have a majority interest. The company also owns the principal hotels, sports clubs, foodservice establishments, and nightclubs throughout Monaco. The Grimaldi family seem to own everything in this town hence the fact the Sovereign Prince Albert's photo is displayed everywhere and anywhere.

Things have not changed much since I was here last. The streets are still so clean you could eat dinner off of them and there is literally there no garbage to be found anywhere. The omnipresent and extensive flower beds are usually in full bloom and almost look artificial since they are so perfectly arranged. And, of course the streets are full of the most expensive cars in the world... Bentley, Rolls Royce, Maserati, Ferrari and even the taxis are all late model Mercedes sedans.

With the yacht show, we decided to learn more of these check out these million dollar wonders.

One has to make an appointment, show them your business card, then they decide if they will let you on or not. I had to turn on the Texan charm and managed to get us onto designer Robert Cavalli's yacht that was featured in Vanity Fair magazine earlier this year. According to the Italian broker, we could buy it for a cool ten million and would even get a custom Robert Cavalli gown a part of the deal. The yacht is an iridescent purple that changes shades depending on the light while the interior overflows with Cavalli's signature animal print mixed with fuchsia, gold, and snake accents such as a stair railing in the form of a serpentine. How much would I have to mortgage our house for to buy this yacht of my dreams that sleeps eight, has crew quarters for 10, and comes with furnishings and accessories such as the 14 carat gold- trimmed bathroom fixtures? Too much, but a girl can dream. My new friend Emeril told me the best restaurant in town is Alain Ducasse's new bistro, Louis X. It was a little touch and go about whether we could get a reservation and thanks to my naïveté', I didn't realize there was a three-week waiting list. However, once again my Texas charm prevailed, and voila', reservations for two at 9:00PM magically appeared. Not bad considering that it is only open for 2 hours per night. For those of you not familiar with Ducasse', he was chosen to prepare the dinner

for HSH Prince Albert's royal wedding.

After this fabulous dinner, we headed over to the Budda Bar around the corner. It was very interesting in that women were on one side of the room, and men were on the other. I decided to put my matchmaking skills to use and put some couples together We narrowly escaped the male-female synergy I created departed at the exact time Ron Wood of the Rolling Stones was walking in. My husband had to almost restrain me to prevent me from running after him. Then, all of a sudden there are sirens a big motorcade headed straight for the casino and yes, it was HSH Prince Albert and his entourage out for a game of craps, Baccarat, and other pursuits of royal casino games. The only time I have seen a parade like that was for a funeral.

The next day we headed to the Monte Carlo Beach Resort. Unfortunately there was no actual beach and that crystal blue Mediterranean Sea I mentioned earlier felt like a dip in a ultra chilled martini. Alas, no one was topless, much to my husband's disappointment. However there was some great people watching tall 30-something tanorexic blondes in their string bikini's laying out with their Ralph Lauren look-a-like husbands. These power couples usually had small children and a nanny in tow so that the Mrs. could work on her tan uninterrupted. The usual stream of \$500k cars filled the parking of this exclusive club. Afterward, we did some shopping at boutiques like Prada, Chanel, Dior, Gucci. Anything you want there can probably wait until you get back to the states because the cost is twice as much there. Again, money is no object for the Monacans as they are commonly referred to, as well as many of its visitors.

Now for a final stroke of luck, that evening we made our usual trek over to Jimmy Z's, were the first ones to arrive, literally at midnight, verifying that people actually sleep all day here and party all

night. We were able to get an amazing table facing the dance floor so we could take in all the sights of the models and their benefactors. Not fifteen minutes later there were at least 500 people in the club. The lucky part? On the other side of the club my eagle eye spotted Ron Wood again seated in a banquette with his Polish supermodel girlfriend, who appeared recently in Sports Illustrated. I managed to push my way across the sea of today's version of Studio 54 and marched right up to his booth, used that Texan charm again, and arranged an up-close-and-personal photo of the two of us that is now proudly displayed in my office. He's a little long in the tooth, but so what, he is a Rolling Stone. With moves like Jagger.

The day of our departure after this three day whirlwind in fantasy land I made a note to myself that the next time we go to Monaco, I will double triple check our American Express card limit.









MUST-DO MONTE CARLO

Here are my top picks for your visit to this must-see island of riches...

Go:

Arriving by plane: Nice International Airport, then helicopter flight to Monte Carlo, Heliairmonaco.com/+377.92.050.050

Pack: designer mini dresses, sky-high heels, and lots of bling.

Everything is mostly within walking distance; you can literally walk the entire city in an hour, so keep those stilettos on.

Stay:

Hotel De Paris Hoteldeparismontecarlo.com/ +377 98 06 30 00 Hotel Fairmont Monte Carlo Fairmont.com/ montecarlo 888.270.6650 Monte Carlo Bay Hotel and Resort Montecarlobay.com/+377.98.06.25.25

Eat:

Le Louis XV AlainDucasse.com http://www.alain-ducasse.com/
Le Grill at Hotel De Paris, Hoteldeparismontecarlo.
com/+377.98.06.88.88
Adagio L'Argentine, Restaurant-argentine.ch/
+41.24.498.13.70

Enjoy:

Jimmy Z's nightclub
Gamble at the Royal Casino
Walk along the Monte Carlo Harbor
Take a helicopter ride over the Mediterranean
Visit the Formula One race track
Tour of the Royal Palace
Visit Princess Grace's grave
Galleria d'Arte Moderna, museiciviciveneziani.it

SPRING FLING

By Lance Avery Morgan

Spring is here and summer is upon us, so where to go for some fun in the sun? How about Austin? Yes, Austin. For a week or long weekend, or even overnight, getting away close to home can seem like being a world away.













Lake Austin Spa Resort. There's a reason this resort is the Jet-Set retreat of the rich and fabulous. Perennially voted one of the top five spas in the world, you'll really feel like you've ventured into paradise as you rest and revere in the spa treatments that will lull you into a deep relaxation for your entire stay. The spa, full of advanced treatments, is serene and secluded; making it feel like your own private retreat during the week. The massages, scrubs, and bungalows can provide a sparkling setting for a weekend romantic getaway to recharge and relax. For more info on special packages, visit www.lakeaustin.com

Travaasa The former Omega Institute at the Crossings is truly an Austin original. There's plenty here with hiking, archery, and geocache treasure hunting, to name a few outdoor activities. From the Prickly Pear Challenge Course that offers you an unbelievable view of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve as you zoom over the treetops on their dual zip line, to creating a sense of self-awareness during equine experiences, this is a life-enhancing destination for folks who feel travel should be an adventurous. You'll be glowing when you finish your retreat here where living life by intent, not reaction, is a way of life. For more info on special packages, visit www. travaasa.com

Barton Creek Resort & Spa. This close-in oasis, located west of the city, is perfect for a day of relaxation at the spa and restaurant or a getaway week of the award-winning golf courses, tennis and everything else your heart desires. In addition to the spa's wide array of treatments, from facials to massages, we love the Rainfall treatment that takes you on a journey through delightful and intoxicating smells and scents. In fact, each scent will evoke a new journey, when you leave the spa you will feel as if you have around the world. Sound dreamy? It is. For more information visit www.bartoncreek.com

W Austin. Think of it as Manhattan with a cowboy hat. Well, sort of. It's been quite awhile since Austin got a big city hotel and this little city couldn't be happier for the hospitality infusion. The hipster vibe of the newest addition to the city is certainly felt in the black, white and red guest rooms, all of which have stunning views flanked by glossy rock legend photograph artwork. The pool area, quite the scene at the WETBar, can transport you to Miami Beach and if you're looking for nourishing treatments check out the AWAY spa. For more info about special packages, visit: www.whotels.com/Austin

Hotel St. Cecilia. This B&B turned VIP hotelery is the latest brainchild of the area's hospitality guru Liz Lambert. Named for the Patron Saint of music and poetry, the eponymous St Cecilia's accommodations come complete with their own turntables and LP records you can check out for your listening pleasure. You'll sleep on a Handcrafted Hästens mattress from Sweden, savor Rivolta Carmignani cotton sheets and Anichini towels and bask in La Compagnie de Provence bath products... a few examples of the attention to details you can expect here. Think of it as downhome luxury at its finest. For more info on special packages, visit www.hotelstcecilia.com. Photo courtesy of Allison V. Smith

Four Seasons The downtown luxury hotel, with the name that represents sublime comfort, is in the heart of the action of a bustling restaurant and club district. Still, it offers a tranquil opportunity to swim at the pool on the lake amongst the abundant foliage in the middle of a truly urban experience. The go-to place for presidents and potentates, the hotel offers so much more than anything of its caliber. It's casual glamour at its best... from the spa's nature-inspired materials to the eight treatment rooms and relaxation lounge to the nail salon and eucalyptus-infused steam rooms, it's sure to soothe the day's cares away. For more info on special packages, visit www. fourseasons.com/austin

AUSTIN

DINE

1886 CAFÉ & BAKERY 116 6th St. 512.391.7121

BARLEY SWINE 2024 S. Lamar Blvd. 512.394.8150

BESS BISTRO ON PECAN 500 W. 6th St. 512.477.2377

BISTROT MIRABELLE 8127 Mesa Dr., Ste. A100 512.346.7900

BLUE DAHLIA BISTRO 1115 E. 11th St. 512.542.9542

THE CLAY PIT 1601 Guadalupe St. 512.322.5131

CONGRESS 200 Congress Ave. 512.827.2755

COAL VINES 314 West Second St.. 512.473.2744

CHEZ ZEE 5406 Balcones Dr. 512.454.2666

EAST SIDE SHOW ROOM 1100 E. 6th St. 512.467.4280

EDDIE V'S 301 E. 5th St. 512.472.1860

ELEVEN PLATES & WINE 3801 N. Cap. of Texas Hwy. Ste. C200 512.328.0110

FOGO DE CHAO 309 E. 3rd St. 512.472.0220

GALAXY CAFÉ 1000 West Lynn 512.478.3434

THE GROVE WINE BAR & KITCHEN 6317 Bee Caves Rd. 512.327.8822

GUMBO'S 710 Colorado St., Ste. 100 512.480.8053

HUDSON'S ON THE BEND 3509 RR 620 N. 512.266.1369 IMPERIA 310 Colorado St. 512.472.6770

JEFFREY'S 1204 West Lynn St. 512.477.5584

JASPER'S The Domain 512.834.4111

JUSTINE'S 4710 E. 5th St. 512.385.2900

LA CONDESA 400 W. 2nd St. 512.499.0300

LA TRAVIATA 314 Congress Ave. 512.479.8131

LAMBERTS 401 W. 2nd St. 512.494.1500

MCORMICK AND SCHMICK'S The Domain 512.836.0500

MOONSHINE 303 Red River St. 512.236.9599

NoRTH The Domain 512.339.4400

OLIVIA 2043 S. Lamar Blvd. 512.804.2700

PAGGI HOUSE 200 Lee Barton Dr. 512.473.3700

PERLA'S 1400 S. Congress Ave. 512.291.7300

PERRY'S STEAKHOUSE 114 W. 7th St. 512.474.6300

RANCH 616 616 Nueces St. 512.479.7616

SECOND BAR + KITCHEN 200 Congress Ave. 512.827.2755

SIENA 6203 N Cap of Texas Hwy 512.349.7667

SOUTH CONGRESS CAFÉ 1600 South Congress Ave. 512.447.3905 THE STEEPING ROOM The Domain 512.977.8337

TAVERNA 258 W. 2nd St. 512.477.1001

TRULUCK'S 400 Colorado St. 512.482.9000

UCHI 801 S. Lamar Blvd. 512.916.4808

VESPAIO 1610 S. Congress Ave. 512.441.6100 WINK 1014 N. Lamar Blvd., Ste. E 512.482.8868

Z'TEJAS 1110 W. 6th St. 512.478.5355

COCKTAILS

BAR CONGRESS 200 Congress Ave.

512.827.2750

COVER 3 2700 W. Anderson, Ste. 202 512.374.1121

DRISKILL BAR 604 Brazos St. 512.391.7162

HADDINGTONS 601 W. 6th St. 512.992.0204

MALVERDE 400 W. 2nd St., Ste. B 512.705.0666

MOLOTOV 719 W. 6th St. 512.499.0600

PÉCHÉ 208 W. 4th St. 512.495.9669

TEN OAK 409 Colorado St. 512.472.2822

VINO VINO 4119 Guadalupe St. 512.465.9282

PAMPER

BARTON CREEK RESORT & SPA 8212 Barton Club Dr. 512.329.4000 FOUR SEASONS SPA 98 San Jacinto Blvd. 512.478.4500 LAKE AUSTIN SPA RESORT 1705 S. Quinlan Park Rd. 512.372.7300

MILK + HONEY DAY SPA 204 Colorado St. 512.236.1115

SPA REVEIL The Domain 512.339.7000

TRAVAASA 13500 FM 2769 512.258.7243

W HOTEL AWAY SPA 200 Lavaca St. 512.542.3600

WOODHOUSE DAY SPA 3600 N. Capitol of TX Hwy.

STAY

512.306.1100

THE DRISKILL 604 Brazos St. 512.474.5911

FOUR SEASONS 98 San Jacinto Blvd. 512.685.8300

HOTEL SAN JOSE 1316 S. Congress Ave. 512.444.7322

KIMBER MODERN 110 The Circle 512.912.1046

MANSION AT JUDGES HILL 1900 Rio Grande St. 512.495.1800

SAINT CECILIA 112 Academy Dr. 512.852.2400

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 701 Congress Ave. 512.457.8800

W HOTEL 200 Lavaca St. 512.542.3600 ACQUIRE

ANNE FONTAINE The Domain 512.339.9353

BY GEORGE 524 N. Lamar 512.472.5951

CALVIN'S FINE JEWELRY 3818 Far West Blvd., Ste.102 1.866.794.1911

ESTILO 234 W 2nd St. 512.236.0488

JULIAN GOLD 1214 W. 6th St. 512. 473.2493

LUXE APOTHETIQUE The Domain 512.346.8202 THE MENAGERIE 1601 W. 38th St.. 512.453.4644

NEIMAN MARCUS The Domain 512.719.1200

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE 9722 Great Hills Trail 512.231.3700

ST. BERNARD'S 401 W. 3rd St. 512.320.1999

STYLE

BO SALON 2004 S. Congress 512.448.0060

JACKSON RUIZ SALON SPA 500 N. Lamar Blvd. 512.478.7744

JOSE LUIS SALON 1717 W. 6th St., Ste. 123 512.474.1146

KEITH KRISTOFER SALON 2785 Bee Cave Rd. Ste. 351 512.233.1910

ROAR 201 E. 5th St. 512.474.7627

RON KING SALON 315 E. Cesar Chavez 512.615.1500

SALON SOVAY 2444 S. 1st St. 512.519.9937

WET 1109 S. Congress Ave. 512.444.7375

SAN ANTONIO

DINE

ACENAR 146 E. Houston St. 210.222.2362 AUDEN'S KITCHEN 700 E. Sonterra Blvd #1117 210.494.0070

BELLA ON THE RIVER 106 East River Walk St. 210.404.2355

BIGA ON THE BANKS 203 South St. Mary's St. 210.225.0722

CABOS 7711 Guilbeau Rd. 210.680.4040

COSTA PACIFICA 434 N Loop 1604 210.491.1378

COCO CHOCOLATE LOUNGE & BISTRO 18402 US 281 N. 210.491.4480

FREDERICK'S 7701 Broadway St. 210.828.9050

FREDERICK'S BISTRO 14439 N.W. Military Dr., Ste. 100 210.888.1500

GWENDOLYN 152 E. Pecan, #100 210.222.1849

IL SOGNO OSTERIA 200 E. Grayson St. 210.223.3900

LA FRITE 729 South Alamo 210.224.7555

LITTLE RED BARN 1836 South Hackberry St. 210.532.4235 LÜKE 175 E. Houston St. 210.227.5835

MARIOLI'S 18730 Tuscany Stone, Ste 103 210.496.1111

MAX'S WINE DIVE 340 East Basse Rd., Suite 101 210.444.9547

PALOMA BLANCA 5800 Broadway St. #300 210.822.6151

SANDBAR 200 E. Grayson S. #117 210.212.2221

SILO 1133 Austin Hwy. 210.824.8686 434 N. Loop 1604 W. 210.438.8989 TEXAS DE BRAZIL 313 East Houston St. 210.299.1600

COCKTAILS

BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB 3506 N. St. Marys St. 210.737.2411

BUDDHA ROK 18360 Blanco Rd. Ste.#100 210.495.2765

ESQUIRE 155 East Commerce Street 210.222.2521

IVY ROOFTOP 4553 N Loop 1604 210.257.0787

SWIG MARTINI BAR 111 West Crockett Street 210.476.0005

V BAR AT THE VALENCIA 150 E. Houston St. 210.227.9700

ZIQUID LOUNGE 18730 Stone Oak Parkway, Suite 108 210.495.1234

COCKTAILS

MOKARA SPA 212 West Crockett Street 210.396.5800

WOODHOUSE DAY SPA The Rim at La Cantera 17503 La Cantera Pkwy 210.699.6500

STAY

HOTEL CONTESSA 306 W. Market St. 210.229.9222

HOTEL HAVANA 1015 Navarro St. 210.222.2008

HOTEL VALENCIA 150 E. Houston St. 210.227.9700

MOKARA HOTEL 212 West Crockett Street 210.396.5800

ACQUIRE

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ANNIEGOGGLYN 5013 Broadway Street 210.930.7770

AQUARIUS 6454 N. New Braunfels 210.824.9999

ARMOIRES & ACCENTS 343 West Sunset Road 210 805 9004

COPENHAGEN 15909 San Pedro, #105 210.545.4336

JULIAN GOLD 4109 McCullogh Avenue 210.824.2493

KATHLEEN SOMMERS 2417 North Main Avenue 210.732.2207

LEE LEE SHOES 5932 Broadway Street 210.823.0066

MELISSA GUERRA 200 E. Grayson Suite #122 210.293.3983

MOTIF 1309 N. Loop 1604 W. Suite 106 210.438.8811

NEIMAN MARCUS 15900 La Cantera Pkwy # 14 210.558.8000

ON MAIN OFF MAIN 120 West Mistletoe Avenue 210.737.2323

PAGODA 5160 Broadway 210.821.5160

PENNY LANE 5928 Broadway Street 210.826.9007

RANCH AT THE RIM 18007 IH 10 West 210.319.3001

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE 7400 San Pedro Avenue 210.341.4111

SPARKLES 6350 N. New Braunfels 210.828.2004

STOWERS 210 W. Rector St. 210.342.9411 SUMMER CLASSICS 2600 Broadway Street 210.223.4610

STYLE

K CHARLES & CO 7959 Broadway St. 210.798.3383

RIC MARMOLEJO SALON 5410 Broadway St. 210.828.4407

THE WAVE SALON 440 Broadway Street 210.533.3831

TREAT 4013 Broadway Street 210.826.2289

VERSI SALON & SPA 5528 Broadway 210.828.8725

SOUTH TEXAS: LAREDO

DINE

AGAVE AZUL RESTAU-RANT BAR 120 W Village Blvd 956.722.2985

COSMOS BAR & GRILL 201 W Del Mar Blvd 956.727.3393

EL MESON DE SAN AGUS-TIN 908 Grant 956.712.9009

KOTO SUSHI & SEA BAR 1010 Hillside Rd 956.723.5685

TACK ROOM AT LA POSADA HOTEL 1000 Zaragoza Street 956.722.1701

TONO'S 1202 East Del Mar Blvd # 106 956.717.4999

TONYO'S ZARAGOZA GRILL AT LA POSADA HOTEL 1000 Zaragoza St. 956.722.1701

COCKTAILS

AGAVE AZUL 120 W Village Blvd 956.722.2985

COSMO'S 201 W Del Mar Blvd 956.727.3393

RUMORS 9802 McPherson RD 956.795.1800

PAMPER

STUDIO 55 DAY SPA 7815 McPherson Rd # 102 956.712.4444

STAY

COURTYARD BY MARRI-OTT LAREDO 2410 Santa Ursula Avenue 965.725.5555

EMBASSY SUITES LAREDO 110 Calle Del Norte 956.723.9100

LA POSADA HOTEL 1000 Zaragoza 956.722.1701

ACQUIRE

DEUTSCH & DEUTSCH Mall Del Norte, I.35 N 956.728.9300

HKG DUTY FREE Laredo Santa Ursula Store 920 Santa Ursula 956.722.3654

JOE BRAND 5300 San Dario Ave 956.722.0771

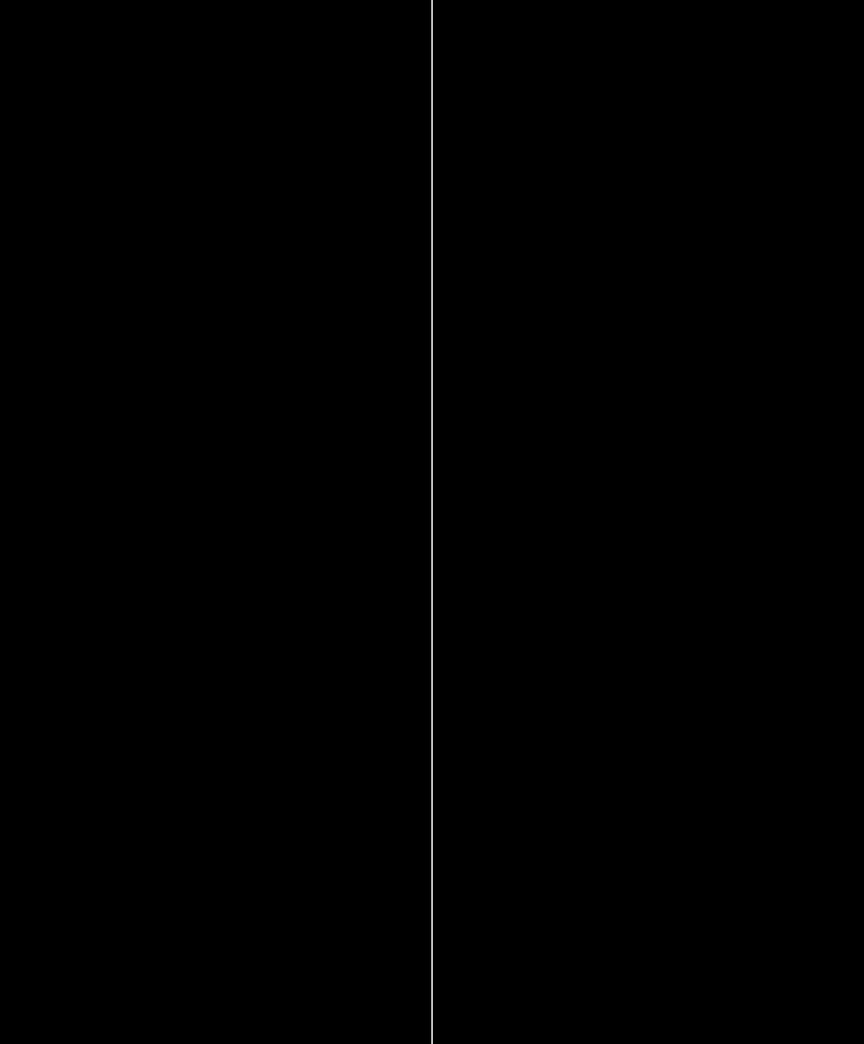
MALL DEL NORTE 5300 San Dario Ave 956.724.8191

POLLY ADAMS 101 Calle Del Norte 956.723.2969

VEGA'S INTERIORES 4002 San Bernardo Ave 956.724.8251

STYLE

REGIS SALON 5300 San Dario Ave Ste 454 956.723.233



austin social planner

March 1
2012 Voices of Conservation
Luncheon
The Nature Conservancy of Texas
nature.org

March 1
Texas Independence Day Gala
Texas State History Museum Foundation
thestoryoftexas.com

March 2
14th Annual Austin Under 40
Awards
YMBL and YWA
austinunder40.org

March 3
The Crystal Ball
Helping Hand Home for Children
helpinghandhome.org

March 3
President's MASKED Scholarship
Gala
Huston-Tillotson University
htu.edu

March 3 Viva Las Vegas AIDS Services of Austin asaustin.org

March 4 Cowboys + Gauchos Wine and Food Foundation winefoodfoundation.org

March 4
7th Annual Texas Heritage Songwriters Hall of Fame Awards Show texasheritagesongwriters.com

March 8
Texas Film Hall of Fame 2012
Austin Film Society
austinfilm.org

March 9 - 25 Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo rodeoaustin.com

March 9 - 18 SXSW Film sxsw.com/film

March 9 - 14 SXSW Interactive sxsw.com/interactive

March 13 - 19 SXSW Music sxsw.com/music

March 21
2012 Austin Torch Of Liberty
Award Dinner
Austin Council of the Anti-Defamation League
regions.adl.org/southwest

March 23 Fashion for Compassion Austin Children's Shelter austinchildrenshelter.org

March 25
The Nobility Project Artists and Filmmakers Dinner nobelity.org

March 31
2012 Bandana Ball
Ronald McDonald House Charities
rmhc-austin.org

April 5
Five X Seven Art Splurge
AMOA-Arthouse
arthousetexas.org

April 5
Women of Distinction Luncheon
Girl Scouts of Central Texas
gsctx.org

April 9
16th Annual "There's No Such
Thing As A Free Lunch" Luncheon
People's Community Clinic
austinpcc.org

April 10 Women on Their Toes Luncheon Ballet Austin balletaustinguild.org

April 10
University Medical Center Brackenridge Luncheon
Seton Fund
setonfund.org

April 14
27th Annual Rare & Fine Wine
Auction
Wine and Food Foundation
winefoodfoundation.org

April 14 St. Michael's Catholic Academy Gala smca.com

April 14
Celebrando Austin
Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce
gahcc.org

April 16
James Street and Mack Brown Golf
Shootout and Live Auction
The Rise School of Austin
riseschool.org

April 19 Contour UT Fashion Show 2012 he.uttexas.edu

April 21
Evening Under the Stars
Elizabeth Ann Seton Board
easbgala.org

April 21 Red, Hot & Soul ZACH Theatre zachtheatre.org

April 26 Umlauf Garden Party Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum umlaufsculpture.org

April 27 -30
Austin Food & Wine Festival austinfoodandwinefestival.com

April 27
Links and Lyrics Songwriters Showcase Gala and Golf
AWARE
linksandlyrics.com

April 28
Heart Ball of Austin
American Heart Association Austin
heart.org/austin

san antonio social planner

Febaruary 25 – March 4 CineFestival 2012 Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center guadalupeculturalarts.org/cinefestival

March 3 AIA San Antonio 2012 Beaux Arts Ball aiasa.org

Fête du Cuvée Wine Auction
Junior League of San Antonio
jlsa.org

March 3
San Antonio Heart Ball
American Heart Association - San
Antonio
heart.org/sanantonio

March 10
22nd Annual Great Expectations
Gala
Seton Home
setonhomesa.org

March 10 5th Annual Luminaria luminariasa.org

March 19 Silver and Black Give Back: Bruce Bowen Jersey Retirement Luncheon San Antonio Spurs spurs.com

March 22 San Antonio Museum of Art NEED INFO HERE March 24
Reach for the Stars Gala
Providence Catholic School of San
Antonio
providencehs.net

March 28 Dress For Success San Antonio Gala 2012 dressforsuccess.org/sanantonio

April 12 - 16
A Night in Old San Antonio
San Antonio Conservation Society
niosa.org

April 13
Luncheon, Hat Contest and Style
Show
The Woman's Club of San Antonio
thewomansclubsa.org

April 16 -23 Valero Texas Open valerotexasopen.org

April 19 - 30 Fiesta San Antonio 2012 fiesta-sa.org

April 20 WEBB Party San Antonio AIDS Foundation webbparty.com

April 20 St. Thomas More Golf Tournament st-thomas-more-school.org

April 21 6th Annual Chips 'N Salsa SA Youth chipsnsalsafiesta.com

April 21
Battle ALS with Flowers
ALS Association South Texas
Chapter
alsa.org

April 21
Fiesta Ole Style Show & Luncheon
Pan American League

April 22 Champagne and Diamonds Brunch Lo Bello de San Antonio Women's Club lobellodesa.com

April 23
Cutting Edge Fiesta Fashion Show
University of the Incarnate Word
uiw.edu/cuttingedge

April 25
A Taste of the Northside
Brighton Center
brightonsa.org

April 27
Rey Feo Consejo Fiesta Reception
Rey Feo Consejo Educational
Foundation
reyfeoconsejo.org

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90% new materials. But still cut from the same cloth

When you set out to improve upon greatness, you leave no stone unturned. Or in this case, no component unimproved. Built from the ground up with 90% new or fundamentally revised materials, the next 911 redefines performance as we know it. Acceleration from 0 to 60 in an astounding 3.9 seconds* in the Carrera S. It's even shed almost 100 pounds for added agility and improved efficiency. The next 911 is the sports car that turns all we know into everything you desire. See for yourself with a test drive

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