

CALIFORNIA
STYLE &
CULTURE

November 2019

WILD WEST

ANA DE ARMAS

PLUS DOUG AITKEN / STUDIO SHAMSHIRI / LILY ALDRIDGE / TALITA VON FURSTENBERG



FINE PRINT

Telltale Grecques molded glass globe lights, originally designed for Hermès in 1925, are once again casting a diffused glow inside the French saddler's Grant Avenue boutique in San Francisco. The expansive new 22,000-square-foot flagship returns each of Hermès' 16 *métiers* — from scarves to ties, perfume to crystal, watches to ready-to-wear and all manner of leather goods designed by the much lauded Nadège Vanhee-Cybulski — to the landmarked space where they resided in the aughts. On the ground level are waitlist-worthy bags, silks, accessories, timepieces, fragrances and — *naturellement* — equestrian accoutrements. Climb the solid oak staircase to the sun-soaked new second floor, which includes a coffee bar in addition to shoes, fine jewelry and an extended home design assortment. Interior terra-cotta hues and wood tones symbolize the sun's golden glow while also illuminating exclusives such as a one-of-a-kind Kelly bag and Cosmographia Universalis scarf, plus straps for the Apple Watch Hermès. 125 Grant Ave., S.F., 415-391-7200; hermes.com. EV

HERMÈS Cosmographia Universalis scarf, \$415.



From top: TAYLOR & THOMAS founders JESSICA TAYLOR MEAD (left) and ELIZABETH THOMAS JAMES. Jane loafers in Golden Python, \$565.

HEELING THE PLANET

It was in an Otis College of Art and Design class on footwear that vegan luxury shoe brand Taylor & Thomas was conceived.

Sharing a passion for fashion and a similar sense of urgency for ethical practices, Jessica Taylor Mead and Elizabeth Thomas James have created a 100 percent sustainable and cruelty-free company, and they're just getting started. taylorandthomasla.com. MJ



The new BIG DADDY'S ANTIQUES in Palo Alto takes after the San Francisco (shown above and below) and L.A. flagships.

FATHER FIGURE

Perhaps sensing that California's tech epicenter needed a bit of nostalgia and provenance, Big Daddy's Antiques has opened its latest outpost in Palo Alto. The Los Angeles-based brand is known for its European, Asian and North American antiques, objects, custom furniture and artwork. A longtime trusted source for interior designers, set decorators, landscape architects and the design-curious, the new location will no doubt be a one-stop shop for busy startup moguls looking for one-of-a-kind, "unicorn" pieces. Town & Country Village, 855 El Camino Real, Ste. 127, 650-384-6379; bdantiques.com. KC



HERMÈS: STUDIO DES FLEURS; TAYLOR & THOMAS FOUNDERS ALEX LA CRUZ, ADRIAN HORST P. HORST/VOGUE; © CONDÉ NAST; AVEDON: GIDEON LEWIN/POWERHOUSE BOOKS; SUPREME MODELS: JENÉIL WILLIAMS; PHOTO BY TEXA YESTE, NUMERO FRANCE, FEBRUARY 2014/FRANK ARCHIVE

WRITING STYLE Fashion-forward new coffee-table tomes



ADRIAN

A celebratory look at the life and iconic work of the late mononymous Hollywood designer and costumer. Rizzoli New York, \$65.



AVEDON

Master printer Gideon Lewin's musings on working with fashion photographer Richard Avedon for 16 years. PowerHouse Books, \$75.



SUPREME MODELS

L.A. stylist Marcellas Reynolds' new title honors the trailblazing black women who revolutionized fashion. Abrams Books, \$50. AJB

HEIRESS
APPARENT

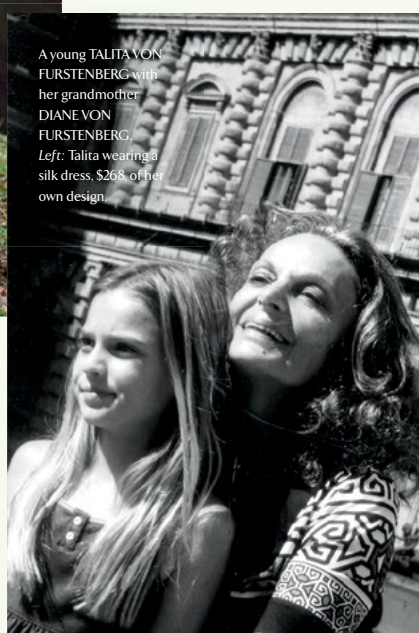


*“Talita has
her own
style and her
own mind”*

DIANE VON
FURSTENBERG

A young TALITA VON
FURSTENBERG with
her grandmother
DIANE VON
FURSTENBERG.

Left: Talita wearing a
silk dress, \$268, of her
own design.



Dreamy pastel patterns and subtle hues hold sway in Talita von Furstenberg’s second TVF for DVF capsule collection of dresses and separates, a move “meant to bring a bit of happiness and whimsy to a season often encumbered by dark palettes and heavy fabrics,” Talita explains. The bold choice by the newly minted New Yorker — who grew up in Los Angeles and still eschews pants in her personal wardrobe even when temperatures dip — comes as no surprise to her grandmother, Diane von Furstenberg. “I let Talita do what she wants to do,” notes the fashion icon. “I trust her immensely, she has her own style and her own mind.” Talita says the new 20-piece collection of functional, feminine designs in a variety of fabrics, from cotton to silk crepe de chine, is inspired by life in the open air.

“Even while sitting still within a natural environment, there is constant activity, movement and beauty surrounding you,” she explains. Playful frocks in prints derived from wild florals join romantic solid hues reminiscent of lakes and meadows. The pieces are effortless, and so is, it seems, the generational partnership. “It was meant to be,” confirms the proud matriarch. *dvf.com. EV.*



JENNA BLAKE
JEWELRY necklaces
and pendants,
\$2,800-\$16,000.

GOLD
STANDARDS

“I want people to love their jewelry forever, not just for a few seasons,” says Jenna Grosfeld, the Los Angeles-based designer behind the vintage-inspired, modern-crafted Jenna Blake Jewelry line. (Think layered, bold-colored stones such as malachite, coral and lapis set in chunky gold — art deco meets the ‘70s.) “I teach my customers the art of curating timeless pieces, rather than buying one-hit wonders.” Grosfeld recently debuted her shoppable website and launched an exclusive collection of Erté-inspired 18-karat gold-and-enamel initial charms with Moda Operandi. When not busy designing future heirlooms, Grosfeld is called upon as a creative consultant, recently collaborating with Costa Palmas, the chic new resort community in Los Cabos, Mexico. *jennablake.com. K.A.*

JENNA BLAKE: EMMA FELL

BAG DROP

Los Angeles-based designer Jonathan Simkhai frequently steps out of his La Cienega atelier to check in on dress fittings at his adjacent sunlit boutique. Now, with the launch of four handmade Italian leather bags, he’s devised the perfect pairing for his trademark diaphanous slip dresses. Offered in tonal neutrals, including black and white, the hobo (Donna), mini crossbody (Mara), envelope clutch (Isha) and micro belt styles (Femme) are exclusive to the L.A. flagship and online via Apple Pay checkout. 653 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood, 424-284-3830; *jonathansimkhai.com. EV.*



JONATHAN SIMKHAI Mara bag, \$595.



SPINELLI KILCOLLIN
Elam table, \$12,000.

TABLE
TALK

When Yves Spinelli and Dwyer Kilcollin, the husband-and-wife team behind the cult jewelry line Spinelli Kilcollin, couldn't find the exact furniture pieces they dreamed of for their new pad in Montecito Heights, they decided to forge their own. Echoing their bold yet minimal signature linked rings, the couple's first interiors line, SK Home, debuted this fall with the pieces they designed for themselves. "We wanted to do something that would be modular with designs that allow the buyer to customize the shape, use and materiality of a piece to suit their exact use," Kilcollin says. For instance, the luminescent Elam table can be ordered in a combination of stainless steel, bronze, brass or polished aluminum. "The possibilities are endless," she says. Next year, the pair will roll out additional pieces alongside their baubles, but only time will tell where this creative spinoff will lead. Kilcollin says, "Of course each new design path takes its own twists and turns." *spinellikilcollin.com. K.M.*



Stadia II, 2004, part
of a triptych by
JULIE MEHRETU.

MAP QUEST

Architectural plans, landscapes and migration patterns combine with dense calligraphic brushstrokes across the large-scale abstract expressionist canvases, drawings and prints artist Julie Mehretu creates. Following a 2005 MacArthur "genius grant" and a U.S. Medal of Arts 10 years later, Mehretu's ongoing exploration of contemporary life now on view at LACMA feels timely. The eponymous midcareer survey documents her early focus on drawing, mapping

and iconography, and her more recent bold gestures, sweeps of saturated color and figurative elements, which the Ethiopia native (who was raised largely in Michigan and today lives in New York City) intricately layers in her gestural works. Nov. 3-May 17, 2020. 5905 Wilshire Blvd., L.A., 323-857-6000; *lacma.org. E.V.*



BEAUTY HEROES'
first-ever brick-and-
mortar in Novato.

PURE AND SIMPLE

Jeannie Jarnot, founder of Beauty Heroes — an online destination for clean beauty products with a subscription service that sends clients one full-size "hero" product each month alongside deluxe "sidekick" samples — has opened her first brick-and-mortar in Novato, her Northern California hometown. The new Beauty Heroes store features independent, high-end artisan brands that meet stringent ingredient standards, such as Vintner's Daughter, Laurel Skin and Josh Rosebrook, as well as a section dedicated to zero-waste beauty and lifestyle products. "We contribute 1 percent of top-line revenue to environmental causes like The Rainforest Alliance," Jarnot explains. "We focus on helping our customers live lighter on the planet." 817 Grant Ave., Novato, 415-895-1480; *beauty-heroes.com. K.A.*

DOUBLE IT UP Headbands and earrings go hand in hand this season.



1.



2.



3.



4.



SAVOIR FARE

Three years ago, chef Dave Beran made headlines when he left Chicago — where he worked with Grant Achatz at Alinea and Next — to open Dialogue, an 18-seat tasting-menu restaurant in Santa Monica, which quickly earned critical acclaim. Now, with a Michelin star and James Beard Award under his belt, Beran is cementing his neighborhood reign with Pasjoli, an elegant yet cozy bistro awash in brass and brick that melds classic Parisian cuisine with the bounty of Southern California. The a la carte menu features elevated comfort food, including truffle omelets with leeks and hazelnuts, and savory tableside specialties such as pressed duck, proving that casual French fare can be decadent even without frites. 2732 Main St., Santa Monica, 424-330-0020; pasjoli.com. A.J.B.



Clockwise from top: Inside the French-style bistro PASJOLI. Tableside services include a caviar cart. Beef tartare with radishes and local nasturtium.



VALÉRIE MESSIKA (second from right) with models Sylvia Hoeks, Joan Smalls and Kate Moss. Below: MESSIKA PARIS Lucky Move three-finger ring, \$710.

BON VOYAGE

Modern diamond designs developed by Parisian jeweler Valérie Messika, including her newest Lucky Move collection — rife with talismanic necklaces, earrings, bracelets and rings awash in pavés — recently debuted stateside this October in Century City. In partnership with Westtime, the daughter of famed diamond merchant André Messika has stocked her namesake brand's first U.S. boutique with standouts like the flexible Skinny diamond bracelets she pioneered, stark geometric Move rings and bold My Twin asymmetric earrings. *Westfield Century City, 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., 310-277-3898, messika.com. E.V.*

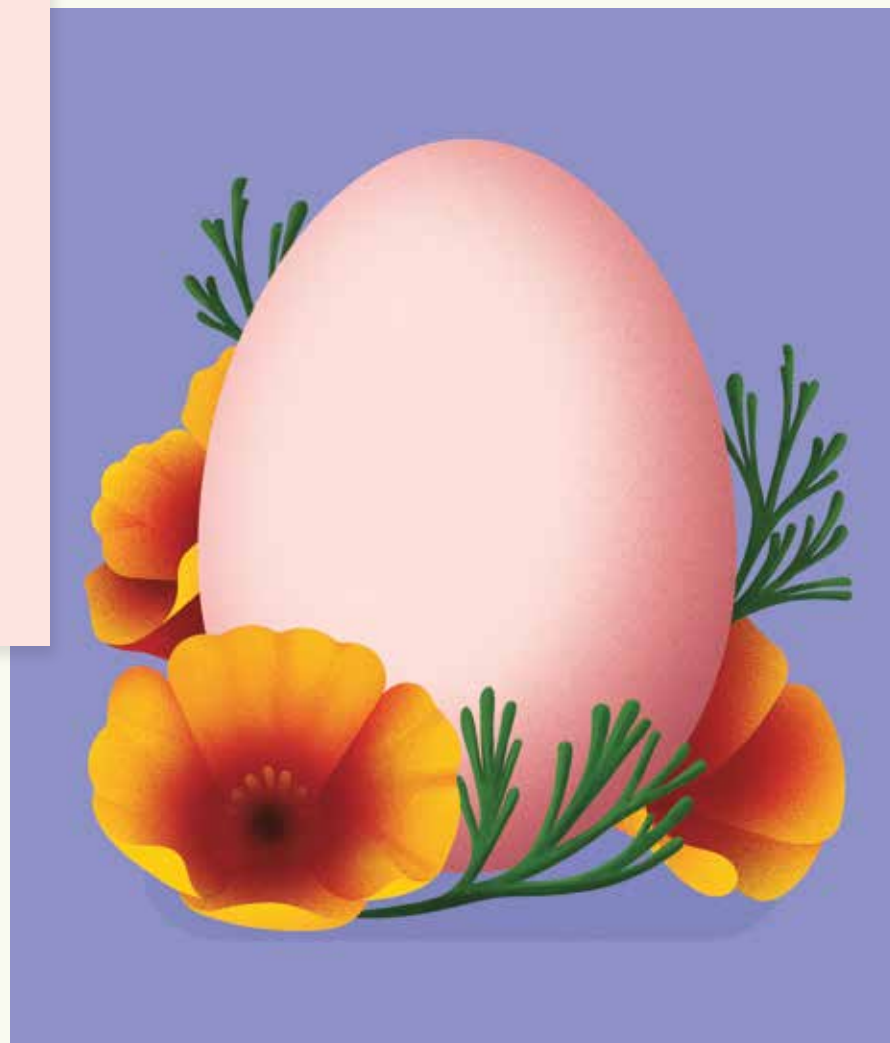
ROGERS GARDENS: BIMI FAFOWORA; PASJOLI: WONJO FRANK LEE (INTERIOR AND TARTARE) AND CHRISTIAN SEEL (CAVIAR); MESSIKA: MERT ALAS (PORTRAIT) AND MARCUS PIGGOTT.



TREE HUGGERS

Roger's Gardens is upping the ante on its beloved annual Christmas boutique, which has become a go-to source for in-the-spirit tastemakers. This year's edition of the holiday wonderland, which opened in October, includes 14 custom trees — decked out with over 800 ornaments in all — curated into themed looks, from the traditional (Vintage Noel) to the glamorous (Brite Baubles) to the whimsical (Peppermint Twist). Featured ornaments include exclusive handblown colored glass designs from Poland. And there are 3,000 more hand-selected holiday touches to add to your table, mantel and tree. 2301 San Joaquin Hills Rd., Corona del Mar, 949-640-5800; rogersgardens.com. K.C.

The Christmas boutique at ROGER'S GARDENS is open through Dec. 25.



FERTILE GROUND

With world-class clinics, a host of progressive new practices and a nurturing ethos, California is paving the way to *modern parenthood*

Nothing combines science and soul, technology and ancient wisdom quite like the path to modern parenthood. As more women postpone motherhood, as more same-sex couples explore their options for creating families, and as our healthcare system becomes more complicated and harder to navigate, businesses around fertility and pre- and postnatal support are burgeoning. And in typical pioneering fashion, The Golden State is leading the way

on all fronts, rallying the startup spirit of Silicon Valley, the politically progressive atmosphere and gurus in the alternative wellness space to the cause.

“In California, people like to take a nontraditional approach to everything,” says Cheryl Lister, a fertility journey coach who also works for Family Match Consulting, a premier search service that assists intended parents in finding egg donors and surrogates based in Woodland Hills. “Women still feel some secrecy and shame around assisted reproduction, but that’s starting to shift. I do feel the gay community in California has helped that, because they can’t hide that they’re using donor eggs or sperm. Then there are the folks who are using egg donors and surrogates, and companies like Facebook and Google are supporting employees financially [to receive treatments]. Celebrities are talking about it, too, so that shame is beginning to melt a little bit.”

Typically, the recommendation for women hoping to get pregnant is to start prenatal vitamins prior to conception, but now more resources are available for preconception counseling. Many Californians may start with a visit to a doctor of functional medicine or an endocrinologist to run a series of blood

tests to check for viruses, hormone levels, thyroid issues, anemia and even potentially harmful levels of mercury or arsenic, in both male and female partners, as well as a screening for genetic diseases. Robin Berzin, MD — the founding physician and CEO of Parsley Health, which recently opened a flagship location in West Hollywood — aims to help women optimize their own natural fertility before resorting to services such as egg freezing, IVF and IUI. “Too often we see that women are referred directly to reproductive endocrinologists (think IVF), without anyone taking the time to ask *why* they are having trouble getting pregnant,” she says.

Loom, a women’s health center in Los Angeles since 2016, offers “fertility coaching” to help patients combat stress and understand their cycles in order to conceive, and they offer support for those who have experienced a loss of a pregnancy, among other services. In Pasadena, the Del Mar Birth Center is run by midwives who also offer fertility counseling and guidance for strengthening and conditioning the body for optimal birth. Mama Lounge in San Francisco employs a team of licensed acupuncturists, herbalists, massage therapists and a counselor in a relaxed spa-like space.

For same-sex partners, single parents and hetero-couples who are experiencing fertility challenges, another level of assistance is required, and there are exciting new platforms in place to help guide them. San Francisco-based FertilityIQ, founded by Santa Barbara native and UC Berkeley Law graduate Deborah Anderson-Bialis and her husband, Jake, has been dubbed the Yelp of assisted reproductive treatments (ART), rating and evaluating fertility specialists to help couples understand their options and choose the best clinic and doctors for them.

Future Family, which was also founded in the Bay Area by tech entrepreneur Claire Tomkins, is a digital coaching platform to guide users through their medical options — whether that’s egg freezing, IVF or using a donor egg — and then match them with some of the country’s top fertility nurses, who are on call to explain procedures and walk couples through complicated prescription protocols, like follicle-stimulating injections. They also offer financing packages. (The average total cost for one IVF cycle in America is around \$22,000, while egg freezing will cost around \$30,000 to \$40,000 out of pocket for treatment and storage.)

The good news for Californians is that some of the most successful fertility centers nationwide are located in this state, according to the most recent data collected by the Center for Disease Control. It may be because demand is high. The average age of first-time mothers in San Francisco is now 31, which is well above the national average of 26, and fertility rates decline with age. It may also be because the business was practically born here. Dr. Richard Marrs founded California Fertility Partners, the first IVF center in California, in Los Angeles in 1982.

Back in the early ’80s, Marrs was unable to treat women over the age of 35 with the fertility protocols. Nearly four decades later, Marrs says, “We’re now treating new mothers in their early 40s with a lot of success. It’s remarkable how things have changed.” When the science was new, there was only a 10 or 11 percent chance of having a successful birth from an embryo transfer, he notes. Today, the HRC fertility centers, with locations across Southern California, report as high as up to 62 live births per 100 transfers, depending on the age of the patient and whether the embryos were previously frozen.

While it was once taboo to discuss infertility, parents are now more willing to share their journeys. Thanks in part to celebrities like Chrissy Teigen, Kim Kardashian West and Anne Hathaway — who have all been very vocal about their fertility highs and lows — the state has been attracting more than its share of international attention. After China retracted its one-child policy, many postreproductive-age couples have flocked to California to have more children — drawn by the new technology and also the promise of dual citizenship for offspring born in the U.S. California also has some unique

“Trans, gay, straight, single or married, California will help you become a parent”

MOLLY O'BRIEN

laws delineating protection for every party involved. For instance, in the case of surrogacies, the “intended parents” can be considered legal guardians upon conception, before the child is even born.

“Trans, gay, straight, single or married, California will help you become a parent,” says Molly O’Brien, a Los Angeles County-based lawyer for the International Fertility Law Group, who works primarily with gay dads-to-be from Europe, where surrogacy is still illegal in many countries.

Once a successful pregnancy is established and it comes time for delivery, there is a vast network of professionals statewide devoted to making the birth experience more comfortable. The Bini Birth center in Sherman Oaks, founded by the nationally recognized childbirth expert and birth doula Ana Paula Markel, has trained a fleet of doulas for the last 15 years, including Carson Meyer, daughter of Ron Meyer, vice chairman of NBCUniversal. Meyer was an actor and a student of alternative medicine at NYU when she first saw *The Business of Being Born*, the influential documentary produced by Ricki Lake, and was moved by the raw and honest look at childbirth.

“Ana Paula and my mentor, Lori Bregman [whose clients include Molly Sims and Kristen Bell], really showed me how to guide mothers through the process, with prenatal visits talking about a birth plan, and hopes and fears, comfort measures, and then a postnatal plan,” Meyer says. She is part of a vast network of professionals in California devoted to birth support, which includes Dr. Elliot Berlin, an L.A.-based, award-winning prenatal chiropractor, childbirth educator and labor support doula who hosts a popular podcast, *Dr. Berlin’s Informed Pregnancy*, where he interviews experts (Meyer recently helmed the mic), new and expectant parents, and celebrities (actors like Kate Mara, Hilary Duff and Amanda Seyfried), and a YouTube show, *The Real Midwives of Los Angeles*.

“No matter what you are looking for around the birth experience, whether it’s a natural birth center, an obstetrician, a midwife or someone to encapsulate your placenta, you will find it here in California,” Meyer says. “Without judgment.” ●