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ENTERTAINMENT PREVIEW

By Barbara Beckley

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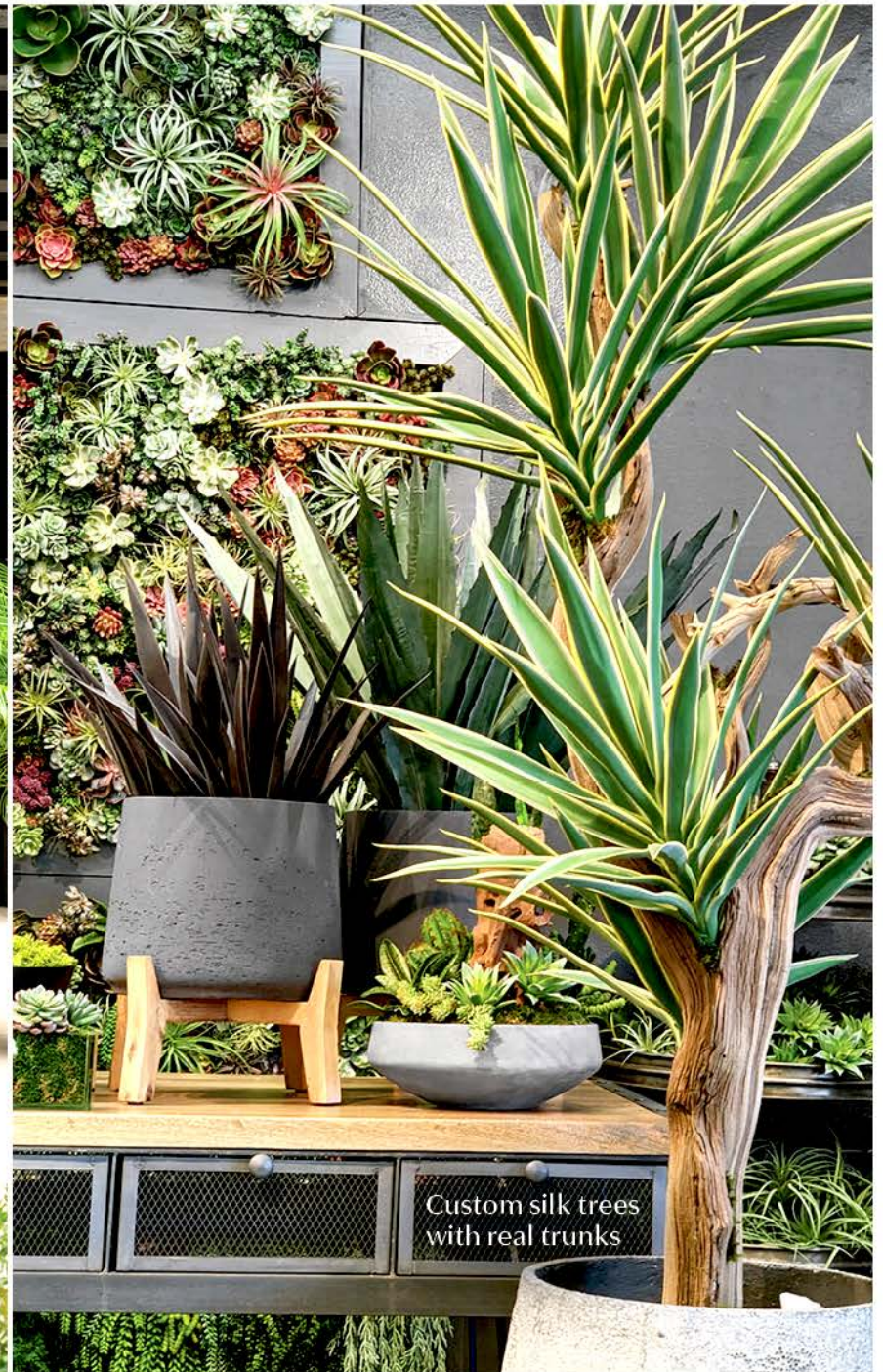
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2024 Summer Programs At Best Art Museums In Los Angeles

By Contributing Writer

Los Angeles offers a summer brimming with enriching art programs. Art museums are gearing up to provide locals and visitors with an array of captivating summer programs. From classical art exhibitions to interactive workshops, here's what you can look forward to.

The Getty Center
The Getty Center has lined up a summer filled with artistic exploration and appreciation. The museum will host a series of workshops titled "Art in Focus," where participants can delve into specific art techniques used in various historical periods represented in the

Getty's collection. These sessions are designed for all skill levels and aim to provide a hands-on understanding of artistic methods.



Additionally, the Getty will continue its "Summer Sounds" series, offering free outdoor concerts featuring world music. Each concert is set against the backdrop of stunning sunset views over Los Angeles.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)

LACMA's summer programming is robust, featuring a major exhibition on contemporary African art alongside a series of related workshops and guided tours. The museum will also launch "Family Sundays," offering tours and art-making activities that engage children.

One of the highlights at LACMA this summer will be the "Art & Technology" lab, where artists

and tech companies collaborate to create projects that are later displayed in the museum. This program not only showcases groundbreaking art but also offers workshops where the public can meet with artists and innovators.



The Broad

The Broad will offer a program called "Broad Summer Immersive," a course for college students and recent graduates interested in contemporary art careers. This includes behind-the-scenes tours, discussions with museum staff, and hands-on projects that culminate in a student-curated mini-exhibition. For younger audiences, The Broad's "Family

Days" thematic art workshops that allow children to create artworks inspired by the pieces on display.

Hammer Museum

The Hammer Museum at UCLA will focus its summer programs on community. The museum plans to host a series of art-making workshops that are free and focus on sustainable materials and ecological themes. Additionally, the Hammer will continue its collaboration with local artists to present the "Hammer Projects," temporary exhibitions.

Leonis Adobe Museum

Not traditionally known as an art museum, Leonis Adobe Museum offers a unique cultural experience with its focus on California history and preservation. This summer, Leonis Adobe will host "Living History Days," where visitors can partake in 19th-century crafts and activities, providing a tactile sense of the past. The program includes candle making, butter churning, and weaving, all within the beautifully preserved adobe settings.

The summer of 2024 promises to be an exciting time for art lovers. These programs not only offer a chance to appreciate and create art but also to explore diverse cultures and historical periods. Whether you're a family looking for a fun day out, a student eager to learn, or simply a curious visitor, Los Angeles' art museums have something to offer

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COVER STORY

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

Preview

By Barbara Beckley

Get ready to ROCK the summer. With Mick Jagger and Keith Richards – live on stage! The Rolling Stones “Hackney Diamonds” 2024 tour is coming to Sofi Stadium (www.sofistadium.com) July 10 & 13, 7:30 p.m., \$50 - \$600. Stick around for Kenny Chesney with the Zack Brown Band, at Sofi, July 20, 7:30 p.m., \$41 - \$281.

Over at the Kia Forum (www.thekiaforum.com) Jennifer Lopez hits it hard, July 11, 8 p.m. with “This is me...Live – The Greatest Hits” tour, \$65 - \$505. Also, Alanis Morissette “The Triple Moon” tour, August 10, 7 p.m., \$69 - \$179. And Olivia Rodrigo “Guts World Tour,” August 13, 14 & 16, 17. Check the site for prices.

Grab your picnic basket, bubbly and hightail it to the Hollywood Bowl (www.hollywoodbowl.com) for a glorious diversity of summer joy. Here’s a sampling of the lineup. “Opening Night at the Bowl: Henry Mancini 100th Celebration” is the place to be! Thomas Wilkins conducting the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, with special guest Michael Buble, songs, and scores from Moon River to The Pink Panther. June 23, 7:30 p.m. From \$24 create-your-own-package to VIP starting at \$1,025 including pre-reception and gourmet dinner. But before that, the 35th Mariachi USA is June 8, 6 p.m., \$39.50 - \$220; and the Hollywood Bowl Jazz Festival, with host Arsenio Hall, June 15 & 16, 3:30 p.m., \$34 - \$220. Continuing, the “Roots Picnic: Hip Hop is the Love of My Life,” with Queen Latifah, The Roots, Common, Arrested Development, Black Sheep, the Jungle Brothers and more, June 29, 8 p.m., \$110 - \$190. Not to miss – the “July 4th Fireworks Spectacular with Harry Connick, Jr.,” July 2, 3 & 4th, 7:30 p.m. From \$24 create-your-own-package.

Then Patti La Belle “Straight No Chaser,” July 7, 7:30 p.m., from \$24 create-your-own; Big Band Night with the

Count Basie Orchestra, Maria Schneider Orchestra, and Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, July 17, 8 p.m., \$10 - \$132; “Disney’80s – ‘90s Celebration Concert,” July 19 & 20, 8 p.m., from \$24 create-your-own; “Barbie The

And August – the beloved “Tchaikovsky Spectacular with Fireworks,” featuring the LA Phil with Otto Tausk conducting, and USC Marching Band. August 3, 8 p.m.; KCRW Festival “Reggae Night XXII Jamrock at The

Bowl,” headlining Damian “Jr. Gong” Marley and Stephen Marley, August 4, 7 p.m.; “Herbie Hancock Head Hunters 50th,” August 14, 8 p.m.; The Gypsy Kings featuring Nicolas Reyes and singer MARO, August 16, 8 p.m.; “Marvel Studios’ Infinity Saga Concert Experience,” with Gustavo Dudamel conducting the LA Phil, August 30 & 31, 8 p.m. Thinking September, the glorious “Fireworks Finale” with Boyz II Men, September 13 & 14, 8 p.m. All from \$24 with the create-your-own package.

Rock out to reggae! The 12th Reggae On The Mountain (www.reggaeonthemountain.com) “The Homecoming” returns to Topanga Canyon – August 17! It’s LA’s premier reggae and world music event. Showstoppers include Steel Pulse, and Don Carlos; Marlon Asher, Empress Akua, Quinto Sol, Neighborhood Orchestra, Mestizo Beat, Irie Nature, and Jah Faith on multiple stages. Family friendly, with a kids’ area, games, vendors, craft beer, wine, and gourmet food. “See you on the Mountain! ONE LOVE!” the website declares. Tickets: \$55 to \$250 VIP. Kids under 10, free.

FESTIVAL FUN!

Sip, savor, dance, and par-taa at the Tequila & Taco Music Festival (www.tequilaandtacomusicfestival.com). In Santa Clarita, May 18 and 19; 1 – 9 p.m., and noon – 6 p.m., in Central Park. On May 18 sip to the sounds of Baby Bash, with Sambada, Adelaide, and Upstream. Tickets: general admission, \$29; Margarita Experience, \$30; and Tequila

Experience, \$55. Return May 19 and enjoy Sean Kingston with Sambada Smooth Sounds of Santana. Tickets: general admission, \$24.99; Margarita Experience, \$30; and Tequila Experience, \$55.



Movie: In Concert,” featuring the Barbie Land Sinfonietta, July 27, 8 p.m., from \$24 create-your-own; and OMG! “Outlaw Fest: Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, John Mellencamp, July 31, 5 p.m., \$59 - \$249.

COVER STORY

Kick up your cowboy heels at Boots & Brews 2024 (www.bootsandbrews.com). More than a concert – it's all about celebrating good friends, cold beer, and great Country music! Make a date for Boots & Brews Santa Clarita, June 22 in Central Park. And Boots & Brews Ventura, October 19 at Surfer's Point Live at the Ventura County Fair Grounds. Then check



the site for the lineup and ticket prices.

Party on the beach! Don your tiki best and head to the Aloha Beach Festival (www.alohabeachfestival.com), August 31-September 1, at Surfer's Point/Promenade Park in Ventura. Thrill to (and join) glamorous Polynesian dancers, the K9 Frisbee Championships, outrigger canoe races, the Old Guys Rule BZ Surf contest, music of surf bands like Jill Martin and The Shrunken Heads, and more. Food, arts, and crafts, combine Hawaii and SoCal cultures in a laid-back multi-generational celebration. Admission is free!

ARTS & COMMUNITY

Indulge your artistic side at the Downtown Burbank Arts Festival (www.jackalopeart-fair.com), June 8 and 9, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., along San Fernando Boulevard between Magnolia Boulevard and Angeleno Avenue. Shop your heart out among more than 180 local, hand-selected artisans with trendsetting indie goods including visual art and photography, original fashion and jewelry design, paper goods, innovative home decor and housewares. Plus, food, family activities and demos. Watch as chalk artisans create works of art from a movie related theme. All ages, and leashed pets are welcome.

We're thrilled! The iconic "Barnsdall Fridays Wine Tasting" (www.barnsdall.org) is back – the first time since 2019. Marking its 15th season May 31 through August 30, 5:30 to 9 p.m., on the West Lawn of Frank Lloyd Wright's famed Hollyhock House in LA. Sip artisanal wines from Silverlake Wine, and food truck goodies from popular LA haunts like

Triple Beam Pizza, and Ardi's Eats & Sweets to the tunes of top DJs edma2z, Dougee Dimensional and others. View the new native plant garden. A limited number of Hollyhock House interior tours will be available for a premium ticket price. The house tour also features the "Ravi GuneWardena: Ikebana for Hollyhock House" installation which reanimate the interiors of the Lloyd Wright-described "garden house" through the Japanese art of flower arranging. Through July 20, you also can visit the COLA exhibition at DCA's Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG). Tickets: \$45, and \$70 with the guided Hollyhock House tour.

Disco is back, too! Celebrate Valley Community Healthcare's (www.valleycommunityhealthcare.org) 54th year of providing patient-centered, equitable health care services, at the gala "Legacy 54," a Studio-54 themed night of disco, dining and dancing at the Skirball Cultural Center Ahmanson Ballroom, May 23, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Host Paula Poundstone, comedian, author, and Valley Community Healthcare CEO; and celeb look-a-likes from the Studio 54 era promise a memorable night. Tickets, \$300 per person.

Enjoy picture-perfect family fun at the Conejo Valley Days carnival (www.conejovalleydays.us), June 20 through July 30, in Conejo Creek Park South, Thousand Oaks. Enjoy carnival rides and midway games like Hyper Loop, the Gondola Ferris Wheel, Super Shot Drop Tower, Starship, YO YO, Zipper, Sizzler, Fun House, Carousel, Scooter, Pirate Island, Orient Express, Bear Affair, Motor Cycles, Super Slide, Red Baron, and Train & Swings. Live entertainment including punk rock from Double Wide, and rock from The 805 Social Club, Mike Scully, The Tin Drum (family) Band and more. Food, drink, and fun, fun, fun. Admission is \$10 cash. Ride tickets are \$1. Or 24 tickets for \$20, and 40 for \$30.

The 12th annual Thousand Oaks Kiwanis Club BrewFest (www.tobrewfest.com) is a summer must for ages 21-plus, with dozens of top custom breweries, wineries, spirit vendors, and restaurants. August 4, 2 – 6 p.m., also at Conejo Creek Park in Thousand Oaks. Plus, a silent auction and live music. Tickets: early bird \$65, bought before May 1; and regular \$75. Best of all: VIP \$100, with early 1 p.m.

entry, limited edition BrewFest collector glass, VIP parking, special pours by select vendors, unlimited pours by breweries, wineries, and spirit vendors; unlimited food tasting.

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MEMORIAL DAY – WELCOME SUMMER!

Kick off Memorial Day, May 24 – 26, at the Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort (www.newportdunes.com) in Newport Beach. Make a splash at the Inflatable Aquatic Park, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Labor Day, featuring more than 20 over-sized inflatables including a 17-foot slide, giant iceberg and floating trampoline. \$15 for guests who are glamping in the resort's RV and tent sites; \$20 for visitors. Groove to the "Tunes at the Dunes" live entertainment series, headlining soul and blues by the Family Style Band, May 24; classic rock with the ShowBiz Guys, May 25; and surf reggae by Cali Conscious, May 26; with food trucks and a full bar. Admission is free; parking is \$35. Also free, "Movies on the Beach," at dusk, screening Luca (2021), May 24; Captain Marvel (2019), May 25; and other family-friendly flicks Friday and Saturday nights throughout the summer.

Put on a happy face and rock to the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise's "American Love. British Beats" Happy Face Music Festival 2024 (www.happyfacemusicfest.com), May 25, noon – 7 p.m. in



Rancho Santa Susana Community Park, Simi Valley. "Imagine a place where joy lights up the sky, music fills the air, and every moment shines with the promise of summer" enthuses the website. Starring tribute bands: Britain's Finest – The Beatles; Kenny Metcalf as Elton, Led Zepagain – Led Zeppelin; Jumping Jack Flash – The Rolling Stones; and a surprise band – a real rocker,

we're guessing – appearance. Also, DJs, food trucks, restaurant stalls, beer, wine, soft drinks, contests, raffles, drawings, cash prizes, Family Fun zone, and band meet-and-greets. Tickets: \$25, general admission; \$100 VIP; ages 16 and younger, free!

Join SoCal's largest Memorial Day Weekend event, LA Fleet Week ([www.laf-](http://www.lafleetweek.com)

www.lafleetweek.com) Public Tours and EXPO, May 22 – 27th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the LA Waterfront at the Port of Los Angeles. Celebrate and experience our nation's Sea Services on active-duty ship tours, military displays and equipment demos, live entertainment, aircraft flyovers, "Galley Wars," cook-off competitions between Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force and Army culinary teams; military band performances, and more. Admission is free.

Memorial Day Weekend Hollywood Club Crawl

Kick off your summer with the ultimate Los Angeles Memorial Day Weekend party! Party at the best nightclubs in Hollywood with performances by amazing DJs! Visit multiple venues in one night with free express entry and amazing party hosts.

What's included in this Memorial Day Weekend Los Angeles Club Crawl:

FREE express entry to all venues on the lineup, Drink specials at some venues Professional party host(s), Photos of the event.

Tickets for Memorial Day Weekend Hollywood Club Crawl can be booked at www.laepicclubcrawls.com

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PUBLISHER
Joshua S. Kushner, Sr.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Patricia Bradford Rambo II

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Barbara Beckley

RESTAURANT EDITOR
Brad Winchell

TRAVEL EDITOR
Susan McAuley

ASSOCIATE TRAVEL EDITORS
Dru Jenson-Jones
Ronnie Greenberg, Joshua Kushner, Jr.

SPECIAL EVENTS EDITORS
Derek Devermont
Bruce Wildstein

SENIOR TECHNOLOGY EDITOR
Brad Winchell

THEATRE EDITOR
Steve Moyer

PET EXPERT/CONTRIBUTOR
Valli Aman

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Barbara Beckley, Jay Warsinske
Chris Boucher, Joanna Parker,
Bruce Wildstein, Jonathan Weichsel,
Rick Castaneda, Kerry Reid,
James Domine (Classical Music)
Brenda Eichinger, Thomas Ferguson,
Lark Aldrin-Fieman, Rhonda Heaslip,
John Hershberg, Shea Vaughn
Hollie Overton, Heather Rayne,
Jessica Renslow, Ester Schultz,
Tony Reverditto, Joan Russell,
Keri Schwab, Tim Wassberg,

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHY/WRITER
Danika Levine, Joshua Shevchuk

LAYOUT & DESIGN
Pam Strugach

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR
Trisch Kushner

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Josh Sanford

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MANAGER
Mark Selfman

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Laura Gina Mendos

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Eric Escobar

MAIN OFFICE
(818) 888-2114

ADVERTISING
(818) 888-7141
Fax (818) 888-7142
www.valleyscenemagazine.com

E-mail
contact@valleyscenemagazine.com

Address
6520 Platt Ave Suite 336
West Hills, CA 91307

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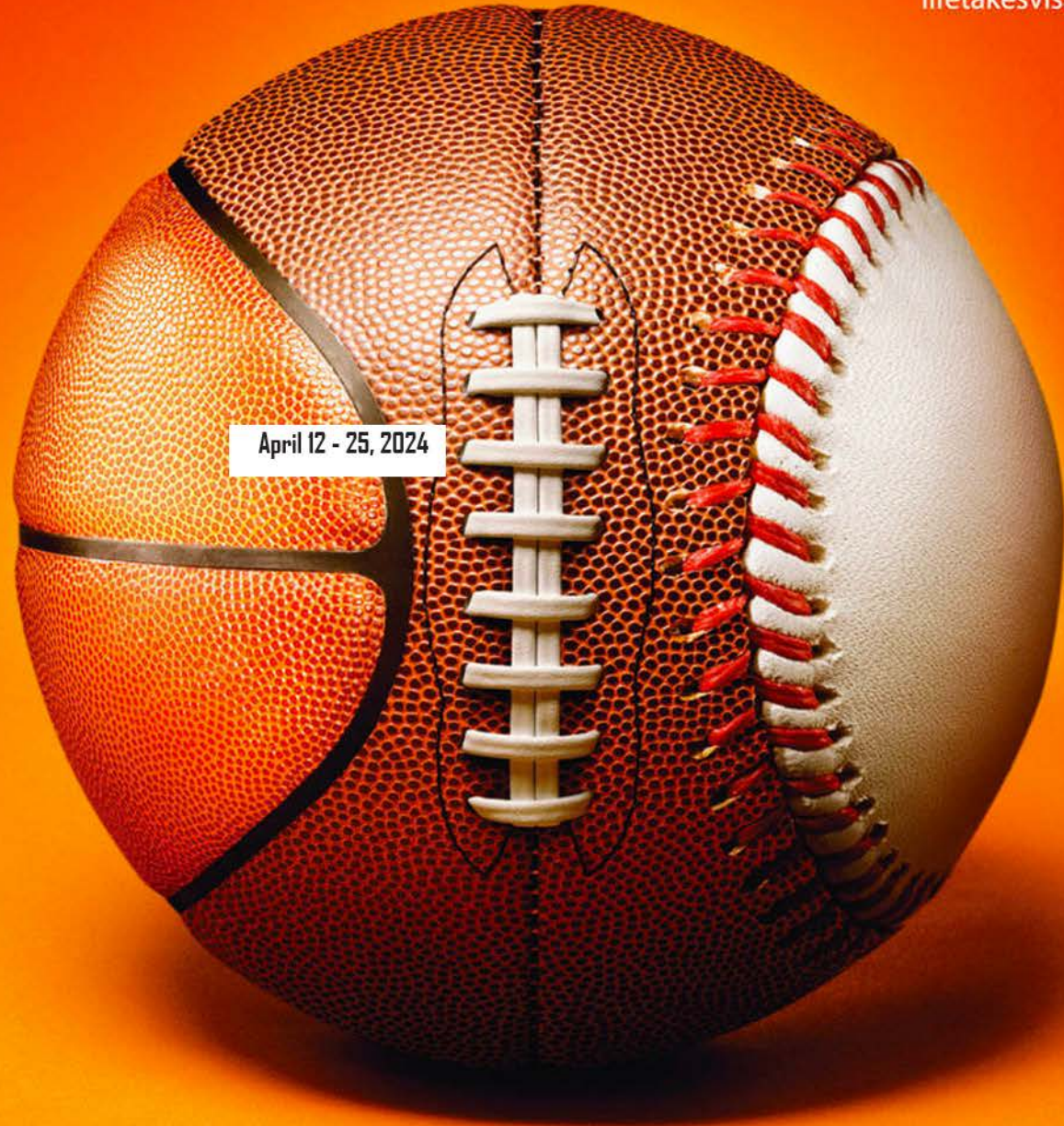


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MINUTIA

The Difference Between Male And Female Brains

By Contributing Writer

The human brain is a complex and intricate organ, essential to our behaviors, thinking, and survival. Over the years, there has been considerable interest in understanding whether there are significant differences between male and female brains. Research in neuroscience has explored these differences from various angles, including structure, function, and genetics. This article delves into the current understanding of these differences, acknowledging the blend of biological, environmental, and cultural factors that influence them.

Structural Differences

Studies have shown that there are indeed structural differences between male and female brains. On average, men's brains are typically 8-10% larger than women's.



However, this size difference does not translate directly to cognitive ability but rather correlates to the larger average body

size seen in males compared to females. More nuanced differences include variations in the corpus callosum, the bundle of nerve fibers connecting the two hemispheres of the brain. Women tend to have a thicker corpus callosum, which some studies suggest could contribute to better communi-

utilize larger regions of spatial-processing centers.

Genetic and Hormonal Influences

Genetic and hormonal factors play a significant role in differentiating male and female brain development and function. The influence of sex chromosomes and sex-specific hormones like estrogen and testosterone is profound. These hormones not only affect the growth and structure of neural tissues but also impact the neurochemistry that governs behavior, pain perception, and cognitive functions from a young age.

Cognitive Abilities and Emotional Processing

Contrary to popular belief, most cognitive abilities do not differ significantly between the sexes. Where differences do exist, they are often small and influenced as much by cultural and social expectations as by biological factors. For example, differences in math or verbal skills among young children are minimal. However,



cation between the hemispheres.

Another structural variance is observed in the hippocampus, commonly associated with memory. Women generally have a larger hippocampus, adjusted for total brain size, which could influence their strengths in verbal memory tasks compared to men. Conversely, men often exhibit greater volumes in other areas such as the amygdala, involved in emotion processing, which might impact how emotions are managed differently between the sexes.

Functional Differences

Functional differences between male and female brains are apparent when looking at brain activity patterns. For instance, brain imaging studies have indicated that men often exhibit more localized brain activity when engaged in specific tasks. In contrast, women tend to show more diffused patterns across their cerebral cortex. This could suggest why, on average, women might excel in multi-tasking and comprehensive problem-solving, which require the integration of information across different brain regions.

Moreover, men and women often use different neural pathways for similar tasks, such as language processing or spatial navigation. Women are more likely to engage verbal centers in both hemispheres, while men typically

societal expectations and educational practices can amplify these differences as children grow.

In terms of emotional processing, research suggests that women may be better at expressing emotions and reading social cues, partly due to both raised societal expectations and greater neural connectivity in regions related to emotion and memory.

It is important to note that while there are differences between male and female brains, these are averages across populations and not strict rules for individuals. The brain is highly adaptable, and its development is continuously shaped by a myriad of experiences, environments, and cultural contexts. Recognizing these differences can be valuable, particularly in personalized approaches to education, health, and well-being. Yet, it is crucial to approach this knowledge without reinforcing stereotypes or limiting opportunities based on sex. The beauty of the human brain lies in its complexity and capacity for change, transcending the bounds of gender to reveal the unique cognitive landscape of every individual.

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The California Strawberry Festival

May 18 and 19

Strawberry Kabobs, Strawberry Nachos And Strawberry Tacos!



Festival-goers are encouraged to use the free shuttles, which will run every 15 minutes to the festival from nearby locations in Oxnard and Ventura. Metrolink offers a \$10 day pass, good for unlimited rides on the day of purchase, and up to three kids ages 17 and under ride free with each adult fare.



By Contributing Writer

If you love strawberries, the 38th Annual California Strawberry Festival is the place to be. The festival is May 18 and 19 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds (10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001).

Fifty food and drink vendors will be at the festival, many with strawberry-themed offerings. Festivalgoers can treat themselves to chocolate-covered strawberries, strawberry-topped funnel cakes, strawberry pizza, strawberry nachos, deep-fried strawberries, berry kabobs, strawberry tacos and strawberry beer and smoothies. There is also strawberry-covered fried dough, strawberry kettle corn and strawberry lemonade.

“The food and drink list goes on and on,” says Michael Thompson, festival board member. “For \$5, you can pile on strawber-

The Kabob Shack will offer a kabob skewer with fresh strawberries and a choice of bananas or brownie bites drizzled with white and brown chocolate. “We use about 120 flats of strawberries at the festival,” says Stacia Mizukawa, Kabob Shack owner. “Each kabob is made to order and chocolate-dipped right in front of the customer. Nothing is premade. We want the customer to experience everything firsthand.”

Many of the food and drink booths are run by volunteers. Buena Music Association is a nonprofit that raises funds to support the Buena High School music program. Its festival specialty is strawberry and whipped cream-topped funnel cakes. “People love funnel cakes. Even with all the other festival food, last year, we made over 3,000,” says Angie

everyone and a great way to finish off the school year.”

The Oxnard Buddhist Temple has been serving chocolate-dipped strawberries at the festival for about 10 years. The booth sells about 20,000 chocolate-dipped strawberries over the two-day festival. “Most of our strawberries are donated,” says Yoshi Usuki, a longtime volunteer. Shifts of 25 volunteers first melt chocolate in crock pots. The strawberries are



dipped, put in cupcake holders and set on racks to cool. The strawberries are then sold individually and in three and six-packs.

Festival general admission is \$15, active military with ID and family and seniors 62 and over, \$10, youth ages 5 to 12, \$8, and children 4 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.CAStrawberryFestival.org or upon entry to the festival. A limited amount of parking is available onsite for \$20 per vehicle.

The station is located next to the fairgrounds.

Festival hours are 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

For more about the festival visit www.castrawberryfest.org or follow on Facebook and Instagram.

The California Strawberry Festival pays tribute to California’s \$3 billion strawberry industry. Strawberries are Ventura County’s largest crop generating over \$662 million in value in 2022.



ries and whipped cream as high as you can at our ‘build-your-own’ Strawberry Shortcake Experience.”

Palacios, the association’s board president. “Parents and students volunteer for our booth. It’s a wonderful experience for



The Idea of You

By Contributing Writer

In the charming rom-com “The Idea of You,” Anne Hathaway plays a 40-year-old divorcee and gallery owner who, after taking her teenage daughter to Coachella, becomes romantically involved with a 24-year-old heartthrob in the boy band August Moon.

There are a few things about this premise that might be farfetched. But one of them is not that a young star like Hayes Campbell (Nicholas Galitzine) would fall for single mom like Solène (Hathaway).

its time in the early scenes allowing their rapport to build convincingly.

Once the steamy encounters come in “The Idea of You,” the movie has ushered you along on a European trip of sex and room service. At the same time, it stays faithful to its central mission of celebrating middle-aged womanhood. The relationship will eventually cause a social media firestorm, but its main pressure point is whether Solène can stick with Hayes.

While Showalter has long showed a great gift for comedy and drama, “The Idea of You” leans more fully into wish-fulfillment. That can leave less to sustain the film, which has notably neutered stings that distinguished the book.

The May-December romance has been shrunk a little. In the book, the singer is 20. Given that Galitzine is 29 and the 41-year-old Hathaway is no one’s idea of old. In the book, the

daughter is a huge admirer of the pop singer, but in the movie, August Moon is “so 7th grade.”

There are more interesting and funnier places “The Idea of You” could have gone. But Hathaway and Galitzine are a good enough match.

But the most convincing thing is August Moon. The movie nails the look and sound of boy bands because it went straight to the source. The original songs are by Savan Kotecha and Carl Falk, the producer-songwriters of, among other pop hits, like “What Makes You Beautiful.”

That connection will probably only further the sense that “The Idea of You” is very nearly “The Idea of Harry Styles.” The filmmakers have distanced the movie from any real-life resemblances. But one thing is for sure: With August Moon following 4(asterisk)Town of “Turning Red” (whose songs were penned by Billie Eilish and Finneas O’Connell), we are living in the golden age of the fictional boy band.



Solène is stylish, unimpressed by Hayes’ celebrity and has bangs so perfect. And, most importantly, she’s Anne Hathaway. In the power dynamics, Hayes may be a fictional pop star but Hathaway is a movie star. And you don’t forget it for a moment.

“The Idea of You” is full of all the kinds of contradictions that make a rom-com work. The glamorous, megawatt-smiling Hathaway is playing a down-to-earth nobody. The showbiz veteran is played by Galitzine, a less well-known but up-and-coming British actor. And even though the whole scenario is undeniably a glossy high-concept Hollywood fairy tale, Showalter gives it enough texture that “The Idea of You” comes off more natural and sincere.

The only thing that really needs to make perfect sense is the chemistry. The film, penned by Showalter and Jennifer Westfeldt from Robinne Lee’s bestseller, takes

The Fall Guy

By Contributing Writer

One of the worst movie sins is when a comedy fails to match the natural charisma of its stars.

Not all actors are capable of being effortlessly witty without a tightly crafted script and excellent direction and editing. But Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt seem adept at that game. Just look at their charming press tour for “The Fall Guy.” There is the kind of fun banter that can be a little worrisome — what if their riffing is better than the movie?

It comes as a great relief, then, that “The Fall Guy” lives up to its promise. Here is a delightful blend of action, comedy and romance.

Loosely based on the 1980s Lee Majors television series, Gosling takes up the mantle of stunt guy, Colt Seavers.

Waddingham) begging Colt to come back for a new film. They need him, she pleads, as does his longtime crush Jody (Blunt), who is making her directorial debut. She waits to inform him that Tom is missing and he’s the one who has to find him. On the quest, Colt encounters tough-guy goons, enablers, a sword-wielding actress, and a dead body. And like a selfless stunt guy, he does it all out of sight of Jody — trying his best to save her movie without giving her something extra to worry about. Nothing is particularly plausible, but it’s not hard to get on board.

While he’s not quite underappreciated for his comedic timing, especially after “Barbie,” it’s fun to get to see him really embrace and



Colt is a stunt performer and longtime go-to for a major movie star, Tom Ryder (Aaron Taylor-Johnson). Tom is the kind of egotistical and self-conscious A-lister who tells everyone he does his own stunts and worries out loud about Colt’s jawline being softer than his. Taylor-Johnson has quite a bit of fun playing up all his eccentricities.

The film comes from director David Leitch. He’s a guy who not only has vision and know-how to bring the best in stunts to films and make them pop, but also has a vested interest in putting them in the spotlight.

It’s revealing that the movie starts with Colt suffering a terrible injury on a set. The stunt that goes wrong is one he’s just done and doesn’t seem remotely nervous about. The film cuts to his recovery and semi retirement until he gets a call from Tom’s producer Gail (Hannah

lean into the goofiness — whether it’s crying and singing along to Taylor Swift’s “All Too Well” or quoting movie lines to his stunt coordinator pal (Winston Duke, always a good addition) in the midst of an actual fight.

There is something very juvenile and sweet about Jody and Colt’s will-they-won’t-they romance, with its mix of attraction, banter, misunderstandings and hurt feelings. It was a genius stroke to cast these two opposite each other and it leaves you wanting more scenes with the two.

Working with a script from Drew Pearce (“Hobbs & Shaw”), Leitch packs the film with wall-to-wall action, in both the film’s movie sets and its real world. And with the self-referential humor, the industry jokes and the promise of a little romance, it feels like one of those movies we all complain they don’t make anymore.

THE WONDER OF ELVIS

By Contributing Writer

Direct from Las Vegas, Elvis Tribute artist extraordinaire Donny Edwards stars in this one man show highlighting Elvis Presley's meteoric rise to fame in

manner, coupled with his uncanny sound and appearance, will make you feel as if you are watching "The King", himself.



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the late 1950's to his groundbreaking Aloha and Las Vegas 1970's concerts. Donny has been called one of the world's greatest Elvis tribute artists, astonishing in his recreation of the look, sound and moves of The King. As one of the very few ETA's sanctioned by Elvis Presley Enterprises, Donny maintains a performance of remarkable authenticity and has become one of the biggest Elvis headliners in Las Vegas. His humility, charm and southern

TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS TRIBUTE BAND STARRING PETTY PARTY

By Contributing Writer



This show celebrates all of the legendary hits from Petty's catalogue including American Girl, Breakdown, Don't Do Me Like That, Free Fallin', I Won't Back Down, Refugee, The Waiting, Learning to Fly, Running Down a Dream....we promise, if you are even a casual fan of this music, you will know and want to sing along! Petty Party will be joined by special guest vocalist Lisa McCormick as Stevie Nicks.

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West Coast Performing Arts Presents LA's hottest tribute to Tom Petty And The Heartbreakers fronted by Devitt Feeley as Tom Petty. Devitt is well known on LA's music circuit including performances with Deja Vu, the popular SoCal tribute to CSN&Y. Devitt is joined by an excellent ensemble of musicians including bassist extraordinaire James Wootten [Led Zepagain].



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THIS UNDERWATER ROBOT HAS DISCOVERED MORE THAN 100 NEW SPECIES

By Contributing Writer

In recent years, the exploration of Earth's final frontiers has advanced, not through manned missions, but sophisticated robotic technologies. One such is an underwater robot that has discovered more than 100 new species.

The robot, described as an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), is equipped with cutting-edge technology for deep-sea exploration. This robot can descend to extreme depths, reaching areas that are inaccessible to humans due to high pressure and darkness. Its design incorporates advanced materials that withstand the crushing pressures, and it is powered by innovative propulsion systems that allow for precise maneuverability.

One of the key features is its array of sensors and cameras that capture high-resolution images and collect data in real-time. These



instruments are critical for identifying and cataloging new species. The AUV is equipped with environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling capabilities, which enable scientists to detect and identify species based on the genetic material in the water. This method is effective in the vast and remote oceanic expanses where direct observation and specimen collection are challenging.

The discoveries have been groundbreaking. Over 100 new species have been identified, including rare fish, mollusks, and coral species,

some of which possess unique adaptations to the extreme conditions of their habitats. For example, some of the newly discovered fish species exhibit bioluminescence which they use for communication, predation, or camouflage.

These findings have significant implications for science and conservation. Understanding the biodiversity of deep-sea ecosystems is crucial. Firstly, it adds to our knowledge of life



on Earth, revealing how organisms can survive in extreme conditions. This insight can lead to new discoveries in medicine and technology, as many marine organisms produce biochemical compounds that are potential sources for drugs and other applications.

Moreover, cataloging new species helps in assessing the health of marine ecosystems and understanding impacts of human activities such as deep-sea mining and pollution. By knowing what species inhabit these environments, scientists can better predict how these ecosystems might change or be affected by external pressures.

The success of this underwater robot also showcases the potential of robotic technology. As we continue to develop and refine these tools, the possibilities for discovery expand dramatically. The integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning with robotic operations enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of data analysis, potentially leading to more rapid and detailed understanding of complex environments.

The achievements of this underwater robot mark a significant milestone. By uncovering over 100 new species, it not only broadens our biological knowledge but also underscores the critical role of technological innovation in environmental science. As we move forward, these robotic explorers will undoubtedly continue to be at the forefront of our quest to understand and protect the planet's most mysterious and vital ecosystems.



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SPIRITS/TASTES

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO EVERY TYPE OF MARTINI

Classic Martini

The Classic Martini is the quintessence of cocktail elegance. Traditionally made with gin and dry vermouth, the proportions can vary according to taste, ranging from a dry martini with very little vermouth to a wet martini, which includes a higher ratio of vermouth. The drink is garnished with an olive or a lemon twist. The key to a great Classic Martini is the quality of its base spirits and the precision in its preparation.



By Contributing Writer

A martini is more than just a cocktail; it's a cultural icon. Over the years, this classic drink has evolved into a plethora of variations that cater to every palate, from the purist to the avant-garde drinker. Whether you are a seasoned martini aficionado or a curious newbie, this guide explores the world of martinis, offering insights into its many forms.



Vodka Martini

A modern twist on the traditional recipe, the Vodka Martini substitutes gin with vodka, offering a smoother and sometimes cleaner taste. It is also served with dry vermouth and garnished typically with a lemon twist or olives. This variation gained popularity during the latter half of the 20th century and remains a favorite for those who prefer vodka's less herbal profile.

Dirty Martini

Adding a splash of olive brine to a classic or vodka martini results in the Dirty Martini. This addition brings a salty, savory note to the cocktail, making it a perfect choice for those who enjoy a bit more complexity in their drink. The garnish often includes one or more olives, and the amount of brine can be adjusted to suit how "dirty" you like your martini.

Gibson Martini

The Gibson is a variation where the olive garnish is replaced by a pickled onion, creating a subtle vinegar and sweet profile. This change might seem minor, but it significantly alters the flavor dynamics of the drink. The Gibson is ideal for those who seek a martini with a crisp and slightly pungent kick.

Espresso Martini

Diverging from the more traditional martini types, the Espresso Martini is a coffee-flavored cocktail made with vodka, espresso coffee, coffee liqueur, and sugar syrup. It's known for its rich, creamy head and invigorating flavor, making it a popular

choice as an after-dinner drink that perks up the senses.

French Martini

The French Martini brings a fruity twist to the table, blending vodka with raspberry liqueur and pineapple juice. This martini variant is less about the strength of the alcohol and more about the delightful interplay of fruit flavors, served with a luxurious, frothy top when shaken well.

Dry Martini

One of the simplest yet most debated versions, the Dry Martini, features more gin and less vermouth. Traditionally, a Dry Martini is made with a ratio of 6:1 or even higher. It's garnished with a lemon twist or olives, depending on the drinker's preference. The lesser the vermouth, the dryer the martini.

Perfect Martini

Not to suggest perfection but rather a balance, the Perfect Martini uses equal parts of sweet and dry vermouth with gin. This creates a more rounded and harmonious flavor profile that straddles the middle ground between sweet and dry.

Each martini type offers a unique flavor and experience, making the martini a versatile choice for various occasions and tastes. Whether you prefer the robustness of gin or the smoothness of vodka, there's a martini style that fits every mood or event. The key to enjoying a martini is experimentation and personalization, finding the mix that best suits your palate. Cheers to exploring the rich diversity of martinis!

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Most Unique Festival Foods In 2024

By Contributing Writer

As festival season approaches, food lovers and adventurers alike can look forward to a myriad of unique and tantalizing offerings. With a growing emphasis on both creativity and cultural

whole crickets, fresh vegetables, and zesty sauces. Not only are they nutritious—high in protein and low in fat—but they also offer a crunchy texture and a nutty flavor that challenges the bravest of palates.

Vegan Charcoal Ice Cream

Veganism continues to be a dominant trend at festivals, and this year, vegan charcoal ice cream is taking center stage. This ice cream is made from coconut milk and infused with activated charcoal, giving it a stunning black color. It's typically served in a cone coated with edible glitter, making it not only a delight for the palate but also a feast for the eyes. The charcoal is said to offer detox benefits, making this a guilt-free indulgence perfect for the health-conscious festival-goer.

Rainbow Grilled Cheese

The visual appeal of festival food is just as important as the taste, and the rainbow grilled cheese is a perfect example. This dish features bread stuffed with multiple types of cheese that have been dyed with natural food colorings like beetroot, spinach, and carrot. When pulled apart, the sandwich displays a vibrant stretch of



Truffle Mac 'n' Cheese Balls

Taking comfort food to a new level, truffle mac 'n' cheese balls are a gourmet twist on a classic dish. These are deep-fried balls of creamy macaroni and cheese infused with black truffles, offering a rich and earthy flavor. Served

with a truffle aioli dipping sauce, these balls are a luxurious treat that melds the familiar with the extravagant.

Beer-Infused Cupcakes

For those with a sweet tooth and a love for craft beer, beer-infused cupcakes are a game-changer. These cupcakes use various types of beer in the batter to add unique flavors—think stout for a rich, chocolatey base or IPA for a hint of bitterness. Topped with beer-flavored frosting and a sprinkle of hops, these

cupcakes are a delightful way to enjoy your favorite brew in a new form.

Festival food in 2024 is about pushing boundaries and blending cultures, tastes, and dietary trends. Whether it's embracing the unconventional with cricket tacos or delighting in the visually stunning rainbow grilled cheese, there's something to satisfy every adventurous eater. As festivals continue to evolve, so does their culinary offerings, making each event a unique gastronomic journey.



diversity, the festival food scene for 2024 promises some of the most unusual and mouth-watering treats. Here's a glimpse into some of the most unique festival foods expected to make a splash in 2024.

Cricket Tacos

Sustainability is a big theme in 2024, and many festivals are embracing eco-friendly eating by incorporating insects into their menus. Cricket tacos are at the forefront of this trend. These tacos are made with cricket flour tortillas and filled with a spicy mix of sautéed

colors. It's not only Instagram-worthy but also delicious, with each cheese offering a different flavor profile.

Octopus Pops

Seafood lovers can rejoice with the introduction of octopus pops—grilled octopus skewers that are marinated in a blend of spices and grilled to perfection. These pops are usually served with a spicy mayo dipping sauce or a squeeze of fresh lemon. They're a common sight at coastal festivals and are celebrated for their tender texture and smoky flavor.

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How To Achieve Flawless Skin



By Contributing Writer

Achieving perfect skin is a common goal, but the path to flawless complexion involves good skincare practices, healthy lifestyle, and understanding your unique skin needs. Here is a comprehensive guide to help you enhance your skin's health and appearance.

Understanding Your Skin Type

The first step towards achieving perfect skin is to understand your skin type. Skin can be classified into five main types: oily, dry, combination, sensitive, and normal. Each type has specific needs:

Oily skin tends to shine and may be prone to breakouts.

Dry skin can feel tight and may flake.

Combination skin features both oily and dry areas.

Sensitive skin may react to certain skincare products with redness or irritation.

Normal skin is balanced and the least problematic.

Identifying your skin type will guide you in choosing the right skincare products and routines that are most effective for you.

Daily Skincare Routine

A daily skincare routine is crucial in maintaining the health and vitality of your skin. The routine can be broken down into three key steps: cleansing, toning, and moisturizing.

Cleansing: This step removes dirt, oil, and impurities from your skin. It's important to use a gentle cleanser that doesn't strip your skin of its natural oils.

Toning: A toner helps to restore your skin's pH balance and refine pores. For sensitive skin, choose an alcohol-free toner.

Moisturizing: Moisturizers keep your skin hydrated. Opt for a formula that suits your skin type. For example, gel-based moisturizers are great for oily skin, while cream-based are better for dry.

Exfoliation and Masks

Exfoliation removes dead skin cells that can clog pores and cause dullness. However, it should be done moderately to avoid over-exfoliation, which can

damage the skin barrier. Additionally, incorporating facial masks can provide targeted treatments. For instance, clay masks are beneficial for oily skin, while hydrating are ideal for dry skin.

Sun Protection

Sun exposure can cause significant damage to the skin, including

premature aging and increased risk of skin cancer. Daily application of a broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30 is essential, regardless of the weather or your indoor/outdoor status.

Healthy Diet and Hydration

What you eat impacts your skin's health. Foods rich in antioxidants, such as berries, nuts, and green vegetables, can help fight free radicals that cause damage. Omega-3 fatty acids are great for maintaining skin's elasticity. Staying hydrated is equally important; drinking plenty of water ensures that your skin remains hydrated and plump.

Sleep and Stress Management

Quality sleep and stress management are also vital for healthy skin. During sleep, your skin undergoes repair and regeneration. Aim for 7-9 hours

of quality sleep each night. Managing stress through practices like meditation, yoga, or regular exercise can reduce levels of cortisol, which in turn helps improve the overall health of your skin.

Professional Care

Regular visits to a dermatologist or a skincare professional can provide personalized advice and treatments such as facials or chemical peels, which can address specific skin issues more effectively than over-the-counter products.

Achieving perfect skin is not about perfection but about enhancing the health and appearance of your skin through consistent care and healthy lifestyle choices. Understanding your skin type, following a thorough skincare routine, protecting your skin from the sun, maintaining a healthy diet, managing stress, and seeking professional advice are all steps on the path to radiant skin. Each individual's skin is different, so tailor these guidelines to suit your personal needs for best results.

VALLEY OPERA & PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

By Contributing Writer

Valley Opera & Performing Arts (VOPA) brings the iconic musical, Fiddler on the Roof, to life in a large-scale production that is attracting audiences from across the country. Directed by VOPA's Co-Founder and Resident Stage Director, Dylan F. Thomas, VOPA's rendition of Fiddler on the Roof promises to dazzle audiences with talent worthy of New York's



Dylan F. Thomas As Tevye

enriching the beloved melodies that have enchanted audiences for generations. The Maestra's love for the musical goes all the way back to her high school days, when she not only served as Student Music Director, but also played the memorable role of Fruma Sarah in the production. Green also conducted 18 performances of Fiddler at California State University, Northridge during her tenure as Assistant Professor there.

Maestra Green isn't the only member of the production who has a deep history with the musical. Percussionist Slava Magidin played 78 performances with Chaim Topol, the beloved actor who portrayed Tevye in the film adaptation of the musical, as well as in over 3500 staged performances. VOPA Assistant Choreographer, Beverly Wilkerson, rehearsed the role of Grandma Tzeitel in a production with the great Jewish comedian, Jackie Mason, as Tevye which unfortunately never performed.

A talented ensemble of performers steps into the show's iconic roles, with Dylan F. Thomas serving double duty as both Stage Director and in the role of the conflicted milkman, Tevye. Alongside him, Andrea Bear brings depth and warmth to the character of Golde, while Eden Kontesz embodies the spirit of Hodel with grace and conviction. Mark Sterling, a popular local businessman and honored member of the West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce, joins the cast in his acting debut.

Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of Fiddler on the Roof at the Sally Field Performing Arts Center, on the campus of Birmingham Community Charter High School, in Lake Balboa.

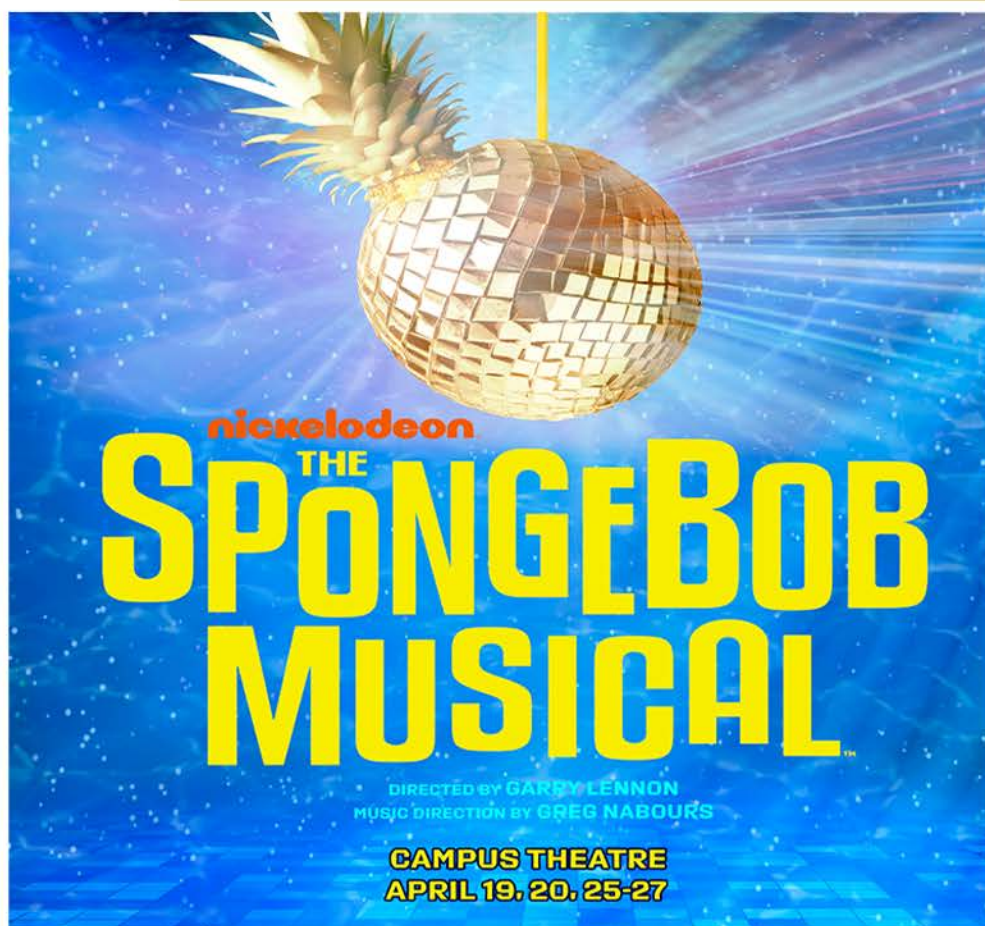
Six performances: June 1st (8pm), 2nd (2pm & 7pm), 8th (8pm), 9th (2pm & 7pm). Tickets are available for purchase online at www.VOPArts.org or by calling (747) 463-3358.



Dylan F. Thomas As Tevye, And Andrea Bear as Golde

Broadway stages. Thomas characterizes the show as being about "tradition in transition", highlighting the struggle Tevye has in holding onto his beloved traditions while also embracing the more modern impulses of his three oldest daughters.

VOPA's production will be performed with full orchestra, conducted by the esteemed Maestra, Dr. Noreen Green, Founding Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony. Green's expertise promises to elevate the musical experience,



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Indian Wells Golf Resort A Luxurious Choice For Cocktails, Weddings & Events

By Barbara Beckley

Ultra chic – with curving architecture and glass walls opening onto vistas of championship Troon greens and beautiful desert mountains. The perfect backdrop for all your social needs. From shaken-not-stirred martinis and French champagne at the VUE Grille & Bar. To epic weddings and standout events – in unmatched venues with world class service, extraordinary cuisine, and championship Troon golf. A magical marriage that sets the bar high.



Like a posh private club, the experience begins with a stunning waterfall, cascading from the second level; glass-walled Grand Lobby, and dramatic curved staircase, welcoming you to the 53,000-square-foot Indian Wells Golf Resort (www.indianwellsresort.com) (IWGR) Clubhouse. Outside, two renowned courses – Clive Clark’s 18-hole Celebrity Course, and John Fought’s 18-hole Players Course, both consistently ranked in the top 10 of Golfweek’s “Best Top 30 Municipal Courses in the U.S.” – make for epic play. While sizeable, manicured lawns and The Pavilion provide lavish event options.

“The Pavilion and our spectacular lawns make legendary weddings,” Jenny Poland, IWGR event sales manager, told me over lunch at the VUE Grille & Bar. (I could see The Pavilion in the distance from the second-floor restaurant’s 280-degree-view floor-to-ceiling windows.) The 5,600-square-foot Pavilion’s large private lounge with ensuite bath and dressing areas is ideal for pre-ceremony bridal prep, Poland explained. Its ballroom welcomes 400-plus guests for the reception and 375 for the dinner. For smaller guest lists, the Pavilion’s south patio is beautiful for 84 sit-down guests, and 100 for receptions. The event lawns go on forever. Among the largest, most event-flexible in Greater Palm Springs, Poland said.

The 25,000-square-foot – oh my! East Event Lawn easily welcomes 600 for sit-downs, and 1,000-plus guests for the reception. The 6,000-square-foot West Event Lawn seats 150 for banquets, and up to 400 for receptions. Brides (and function planners) can choose open air – desert weather is usually wonderful – or lux tents with chandeliers and extravagant décor.

A fun amenity. No matter how large the wedding or function – golf carts transport guests between the lawns and Clubhouse, adding a joyful “amusement ride” touch to the experience.

Not to forget the architecturally unique Clubhouse. Exchanging vows at the top of the Grand Staircase is the epitome of spectacular! As is the bride making a grand entrance down the Grand Staircase. Both with guests seated in the Lobby below. Followed by a sumptuous reception, dinner, and dancing in one of the elegant Clubhouse venues. The Celebrity Ballroom accommodates up to 144 dinner guests, and 250-plus for the reception. The Indian Wells Room welcomes up to 40 for dinner, and 50-plus reception guests. Scenic party patios include the North Patio, for 80 and 150-plus, the South Patio for 100 and 200-plus guests, the Players Patio for 200 seated and receptions of 300-plus, and magnificent VUE Private Dining Patio with a spectacular veranda for 90, and 175 reception guests.

Cuisine and drinks can be included with weddings – if you wish – making planning easier. A dedicated onsite banquet captain and team take care of everything from set-up to breakdown. For meetings, IWGR features all-inclusive custom-created food and beverage packages such as the Eagle Fare, with breakfast, morning break, lunch, and afternoon break. Think charcuterie boards, fresco cheese enchiladas, and finger sandwiches on brioche.

And golf! For weddings, be creative and treat your besties to a pre-event game of Shots in the Night, IWGR’s unique nighttime laser putting, with music, a food truck, full bar, lawn games and more. Perfect for meetings, too. And you don’t have to be a serious golfer.

But “many wedding groups definitely golf,” Poland enthused. “Some do golf tournaments with big groups from the wedding party. And often the groom takes his groomsmen out for a golf outing before the wedding. We’ve also had wedding welcome parties at Shots in the Night!”

Nestled at the end of a private drive in exclusive Indian Wells, the city’s four luxury resorts are nearby for accommodations. Hyatt Regency Villas and Spa (www.hyatt.com), Indian Wells Resort Hotel (www.indianwellsresort.com), Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa (www.tommybahamamiramonte.com), and Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa (www.marriott.com).

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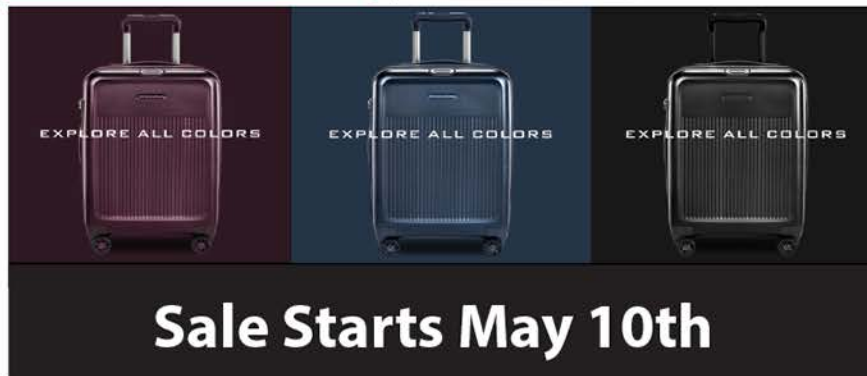


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WHERE TO SPOT CELEBS IN LOS ANGELES

By Contributing Writer

Los Angeles, is not only famous for its sunshine and beaches but also as the stomping ground for the world's biggest celebrities. Whether you're hoping to catch a glimpse of a star or just want to see the locales where they hang out, here's a guide.

Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills

One of the most iconic places to see celebrities is Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. This upscale shopping street is a hotspot for sightings during shopping hours. The boutiques and luxury shops attract a glamorous crowd, and you might spot Kim Kardashian or Leonardo DiCaprio browsing.

The Grove

The Grove is a popular open-air shopping and entertainment complex. It's not uncommon to

place. This beachfront restaurant is a favorite for its exquisite Japanese cuisine and stunning views. Celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, Chris Hemsworth, and others have been spotted here enjoying sushi.

Runyon Canyon

Runyon Canyon is a popular hiking spot for celebrities looking to stay in shape while enjoying views of the city. It's a great place to encounter cJustin Timberlake or Natalie Portman, who might be walking their dogs or getting in a morning jog.



Calabasas

Calabasas is home to numerous celebrities who prefer privacy away from the bustling city. The Kardashians are the most famous residents, but others like Drake and Miley Cyrus also call it home.

Chateau Marmont

This iconic hotel is a legendary hangout for Hollywood's elite. Known for its strict privacy policies and classic glamour, it's a favorite spot for celebrities to relax and be themselves. While the hotel itself is guests-only, the bar and restaurant are open to the public.

Sunset Tower Hotel

Another glamorous spot, the Sunset Tower Hotel, hosts a variety of high-profile guests. The hotel's Tower Bar is an especially popular spot. It's not unusual to see Gwyneth Paltrow or Tom Hanks in a quiet dinner.

Whether you're walking in Beverly Hills, hiking through Runyon Canyon, or dining by the ocean at Nobu Malibu, there's always a chance you'll find yourself a stone's throw away from someone famous.



see celebrities enjoying a casual day out, shopping at high-end boutiques or catching a movie. The adjacent Farmers Market, known falso attracts celebrities.

Nobu Malibu

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FOR THE BASEBALL FAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING! THEIR OWN STADIUM!

Owning a miniature baseball stadium is not just about having another collectible. It's about

fans to immerse themselves in their passion for baseball on a daily basis. Imagine hosting game nights where friends and family gather to play wiffle ball or

the Green Monster or the ivy-covered walls.

The idea of personal sports venues isn't entirely new. Wealthy individuals have built private golf courses, soccer fields, and tennis courts for personal enjoyment. However, the concept of private baseball stadiums is catching on, especially among those who view baseball not just as a hobby but as a way of life. These custom stadiums can vary from simple backyards with basic seating and a diamond to elaborate setups featuring stands, dugouts, and even electronic scoreboards.

The construction of a personal stadium can be a meticulous process. It begins with choosing the right location, which ideally would be spacious enough to mimic a real baseball field's dimensions, at least on a smaller scale. From there, architects and builders work closely with the fan to ensure every detail reflects the grandeur of a major league park. Materials are chosen

not only for their aesthetics but also for their durability to weather the elements, ensuring the field can be enjoyed for years to come.

Technology plays a crucial role in enhancing the stadium experience. High-tech sound systems can play walk-up music or the crack of a bat hitting a ball, while advanced lighting systems ensure games can continue as the sun sets. For the truly ambitious, video screens replaying classic games or showing live MLB games can transform the space into a hub of baseball activity.

The cost of such a dream varies widely based on the complexity and size of the project. Basic models might cost as little as several thousand dollars, but more elaborate replicas can run into the millions, making this a luxury few can afford. Nevertheless, for those who can, it represents the ultimate homage to the sport.

Beyond the physical structure, these stadiums become a central part of the owner's social life. They serve as the perfect venue for charity events, community gatherings, or children's baseball clinics, thereby spreading the love for baseball across generations. This not only deepens the owner's personal connection to the game but also enriches their community's engagement with the sport.

For any baseball fan dreaming big, the idea of owning a personal stadium is not just about showing off wealth or an impressive collection. It's about creating a living, breathing space that celebrates every aspect of baseball, from its history and iconic figures to the pure joy of playing the game. In a way, it's the ultimate expression of fandom, transforming a personal passion into a physical reality that can be shared with others.

For the baseball fan who has everything, a personal baseball stadium is not just the next step but the pinnacle of sports enthusiasm. It's a dream that celebrates their love for the game in the grandest style imaginable, offering a unique blend of nostalgia, sport, and personal satisfaction.



creating a personal shrine to the sport they love. These custom-built gems offer a way for

stickball in a scaled-down version of Fenway Park or Wrigley Field, complete with iconic features like

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BARK Air Flies Our Four-Legged Friends In Luxury

By Contributing Writer

In a move that is sure to set tails wagging across the globe, BARK Air has announced its latest offering: a luxury flight experience designed specifically for dogs and their human companions. This innovative service is not just a flight; it's a pampered sky-high journey tailored to the needs and comforts of man's best friend, while also catering to the luxury standards their owners expect. Here's everything you need to know about this groundbreaking service in the airline industry.

A Luxurious Experience for Four-Legged Flyers

BARK Air's new service aims to redefine pet travel. Each flight is equipped with custom-designed seating that ensures comfort for dogs of all sizes. These aren't just any seats; they are crafted from high-grade materials that are both chew-resistant and easy to clean, featuring adjustable settings for different positions to cater to nap, play, or watching the clouds roll by.

To ensure all canine passengers are in their best spirits, BARK Air provides a flight menu featuring gourmet meals approved by veterinary nutritionists. Options range from grain-free organic kibble to chef-prepared meat and vegetable dishes, ensuring that even the most discerning pups are satisfied. Hydration is also a top priority, with a selection of flavored water enhancements to keep them happy and hydrated.

Human Luxuries Haven't Been Forgotten

While the dogs enjoy their luxury, human passengers are not left out. BARK Air offers a first-class experi-



passenger is required to undergo a pre-flight health check, and a vet is available on-board for any emergencies. The cabin crew are trained in pet first aid and

ence that rivals any luxury airline. Passengers enjoy spacious seating, fine dining options, and an extensive wine list. For those looking to relax, spa services such as massages and facials are available mid-flight.

One of the most unique features is the on-board lounge, designed to allow dogs and owners to socialize with each other. This area features a play section with safe toys and activities, ensuring that the pets can move around and enjoy the flight as much as their owners.

Safety and Wellbeing Are Priorities

Safety is paramount on every BARK Air flight. Each canine



are well-equipped to handle any situation that may arise.

Furthermore, the aircraft is fitted with state-of-the-art air filtration to ensure a comfortable environment that minimizes stress and maximizes air quality for both dogs and humans.

An All-Encompassing Booking and Boarding Process

Booking a flight with BARK Air is as straightforward as it is thorough.

check-in process, with dedicated play areas at the departure lounge. Human passengers can enjoy luxury lounges with all amenities at their disposal until it's time to board.

Redefining Travel

This innovative service from BARK Air is set to revolutionize the way pet owners travel with their furry friends. It highlights a growing trend in the travel industry to accommodate pets not just as an afterthought but as VIPs in their own right. This service ensures that traveling with pets is no longer about worry and compromise but about shared experiences and comfort.

As BARK Air prepares for its inaugural flight, it sets a new standard in luxury travel, promising to be a game-changer for pet owners around the world. With every detail meticulously planned, from takeoff to landing, it promises to be a memorable experience for both dogs and their human companions, making the skies friendlier than ever for our four-legged friends.



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TRAVEL IN STYLE ON A LUXURY TRAIN

By Contributing Writer

Luxury train travel offers a unique and opulent way to experience some of the world's most breathtaking landscapes and cultural landmarks. This mode of travel harkens back to an era when the journey itself was as significant as the destination, combining the romance of the rails with the opulence of five-star accommodations. Here's a deeper look into what makes luxury train travel a bucket-list experience for discerning travelers.

Historical Elegance with Modern Amenities

Luxury trains like the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and the Belmond Royal Scots-

man are more than just modes of transportation; they are time capsules that transport passengers to a bygone era of grandeur. The carriages are often restored to their historical grandeur, featuring intricate wood paneling, plush furnishings, and vintage decorations.



However, they also boast modern amenities such as ensuite bathrooms, air conditioning, and Wi-Fi, ensuring a comfortable journey without sacrificing the charm of yesteryears.

Scenic Routes and Unparalleled Views

One of the defining features of luxury train travel is the scenic routes specifically chosen

to showcase some of the world's most spectacular views that are often inaccessible by other means of transport.

Trains like the Rocky Mountaineer in Canada offer glass-domed carriages to provide panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains. Similarly, the Ghan in Australia traverses the vast and varied landscapes of the Australian Outback, offering a unique perspective on this rugged terrain.

Gourmet Dining on the Rails

Dining aboard a luxury train isn't just about the food; it's an event in itself. Meals



are often comparable to what you'd find in a top-notch restaurant, prepared by skilled chefs using local ingredients. For instance, the Blue Train in South Africa is renowned for its gourmet cuisine paired with a selection of fine South African wines. Dining cars are beautifully decorated,

creating an ambiance that complements the exquisite culinary offerings, making each meal a memorable part of the journey. **Exclusive Excursions and Enriching Experiences**

Luxury train travel often includes exclusive excursions that allow passengers to delve deeper into the local culture and history of the areas they travel through. These excursions are usually guided by knowledgeable local experts and are tailored to provide an immersive experience. Whether it's a private tour of a secluded castle, a guided tour through remote villages, or a special performance, these activities are designed to enrich the traveler's experience beyond the rails.

Unmatched Service and Hospitality

The level of service on luxury trains is meticulous and personalized. From butlers and concierges to expert guides, the staff on board goes above and beyond to ensure that every passenger's needs are anticipated and

fulfilled. This high level of service begins from the moment of boarding and extends throughout the journey, with staff members often remembering personal preferences and making every effort to accommodate special requests.

An All-Inclusive, Stress-Free Journey

Luxury train travel is typically all-inclusive, meaning that from meals and beverages to excursions and sometimes even airfare, the price of your ticket covers everything. This all-inclusive nature allows passengers to relax and enjoy their journey without the hassle of planning every detail or worrying about unexpected costs.

Luxury train travel is more than just a way to get from one place to another; it's a comprehensive luxury experience that offers relaxation, adventure, and a deep connection to history and culture. For those looking to slow down and savor the journey, luxury train travel provides an unforgettable way to explore the world's riches in comfort and style.



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Look Out Michelangelo! By Barbara Beckley The 2024 Pasadena Showcase House Is Open!

The incredible dining room ceiling by West LA interior designer David Levine is just the beginning of the show-stopping 2024 Pasadena Showcase House of Design (www.pasadenashowcase.org) now through May 19.



Levine outdid himself with layer upon layer of opulent décor from the Michelangelo-like mural to an upholstered sideboard – who would think to upholster a sideboard? Venetian glass chandelier. Even a gigantic sterling silver octopus handmade by a Florentine artist. Nearly everything is made by Florentine and Euro designers, Levine told me.

Also amazing, the “Foyer of Enchantment” and grand staircase, with a commissioned painting and chairs to simulate forest-nymphs, plus golden birds flying and two ornate 17th Century Italian tables. The fabulous creation of LA-based interior decorator Rachel Scheff.

And upstairs, the “Magical Royal Nursery.” Everything is from France. The adorable stuffed animals, the crib, the fixtures. Clearly French with sophisticated yet cuddly charm. The color palette is blue and cream. “Blue can be for a girl or a boy,” the room’s interior designer Cynthia Silverman of Beverly Hills, explained. (Especially when it’s French.)

These are only three of the glorious rooms in the reinvented 1902 English Tudor Revival-style Potter Daniels Manor, and its guesthouse – don’t miss the murals in the guesthouse “Pony Tails” room – and revamped gardens you’ve simply got to see!

Open through May 19, Tuesday through Sunday. Timed-entry tickets are \$35 for Happy Hour, \$40, and \$50, at www.pasadenashowcase.org. Proceeds benefit four philanthropic initiatives: Gifts & Grants, Music Mobile TM, Instrumental Competition, and Youth Concert.

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Hardwood Bathrooms By Contributing Writer

Hardwood bathrooms evoke warmth and luxury. Modern treatments and hardwood have made it a stunning option.

The Appeal of Hardwood in Bathrooms

Hardwood brings charm and richness. In bathrooms, it introduces a natural, spa-like feel.

Choosing the Right Wood

The key lies in choosing the right type of wood. Teak, cedar, and bamboo are among the best options.

Treatment and Finishing

To enhance moisture-resistant properties, a proper sealant is crucial. Apply sealant not just on the surface but also on the edges and underside of the wood planks.

Design Considerations

Hardwood flooring in a bathroom can be laid in various patterns. Ensure that the flooring is well-sealed and any gaps are minimized. Wood paneling on walls can create a cozy cabin-like feel or a sleek, modern look. Vertical installations add height to a room, while horizontal installations can make the space feel broader. Hardwood vanities are classic. When paired with stone or ceramic countertops, they offer a beautiful contrast. Wooden accessories such as mirrors, shelves, or towel racks can complement the main wood elements.

Tips for Hardwood Bathrooms

Ventilation is key. Using water-absorbent mats can prevent water from standing on wood surfaces. Spills or puddles should be wiped up immediately.



Combining Materials

Combining hardwood with other materials can elevate design. Stone, glass, and metal can be incorporated for aesthetic contrast.

A hardwood bathroom offers timeless appeal that can transform an ordinary space into a luxurious retreat.

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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Larry Doil Sanders, 55, of Allen, Oklahoma, was convicted on April 17 of first-degree murder in the killing of his friend, Jimmy Glenn Knighten, 52, in July 2022. The Ada News reported that Sanders and Knighten were fishing together when Sanders believed he saw three sasquatch-looking figures near the river. After strangling Knighten, who he thought had been acting suspiciously, Sanders told relatives that he believed Knighten was trying to summon the sasquatches so they could feast on Sanders, and he killed Knighten in self-defense. Witnesses said Sanders is a regular user of methamphetamine, which ramps up his Bigfoot rhetoric. His defense was that having used meth three or four days before the murder, he was in a drug-induced psychosis. He'll be sentenced in June.

Animals Going Rogue

Butte, Montana, residents -- no strangers to big animals -- got a surprise on the morning of April 16 when they spotted an elephant strolling down Harrison Avenue, NBC Montana reported. "Pretty exciting," said Josh Hannifin, co-manager of the Civic Center Town Pump. "Man, they move fast when they just walk." The Jordan World Circus was in town, and surveillance cameras caught Viola escaping from her pen after being startled by a car backfiring during her bath time. Handlers were able to catch Viola with no trouble after about 20 minutes.

-- Suburban residents in Cape Town, South Africa, had a close encounter with a hippopotamus in the wee hours of April 14, Independent Online reported. The hippo broke through a fence at the Rondevlei Nature Reserve after getting into a scuffle with a dominant male there. Resident Ashraff Schwartz said that when police cornered the animal, it ran into his yard. "My 74-year-old mom watched ... as the hippo came straight for our door. It then turned around and ran up the road, but before then, it broke my wall as it jumped over it." While no one was hurt in the incident, hippos "are responsible for more human fatalities in Africa than any other large animal," the Cape of Good Hope SPCA Wildlife Department noted.

NASA revealed on April 17 that the object that crashed through the roof of a home in Naples, Florida, was indeed space trash -- specifically, garbage jettisoned from the International Space Station in March 2021. United Press International reported that on March 8, a 1.6-pound, 4-inch-long cylindrical object came through Alejandro Otero's roof. NASA said the object was what remained of a 5,800-pound pallet of depleted nickel hydride batteries. "The hardware was expected to fully burn up during entry into the Earth's atmosphere," NASA said. "However, a piece of hardware survived reentry." [

Unexplicable

On April 9, investigators caught their targets in a puzzling money-making scheme in Rochelle Park, New Jersey. NBC New York reported that Detective Nick Mercoun and his partner arrested 77-year-old Alfredo Rodriguez and 54-year-old Hector Cortes, whom they dubbed the Shopping Cart Bandits. The two had stolen at least 140 carts from the ShopRite grocery, which Mercoun believe they were selling for about \$200 wholesale. "It was about \$28,000 worth of shopping carts," he said. The Food Marketing Institute estimates that 2 million shopping carts are stolen each year. Who knew? Rodriguez and Cortes are rolling along at the Bergen County Jail. [NBC New York, 4/13/2024]

Haute Couture

It wasn't an April Fools' joke: Independent Online reported on April 1 that fashion house Balenciaga has introduced clear plastic bracelet that resembles a roll of packing tape, to the tune of about \$3,000. The "Gaffer Bangle" includes an inside label that reads "Balenciaga Adhesive -- Made in France." The company reportedly unveiled the bracelet at Paris Fashion Week, and reviews are sticky: One Reddit commenter noted, "When will people learn Balenciaga's schtick is to generally make a fool of its consumers?" Another said, "Rich people want to feel poor so bad." [Independent Online,

Crossword by Myles Mellor

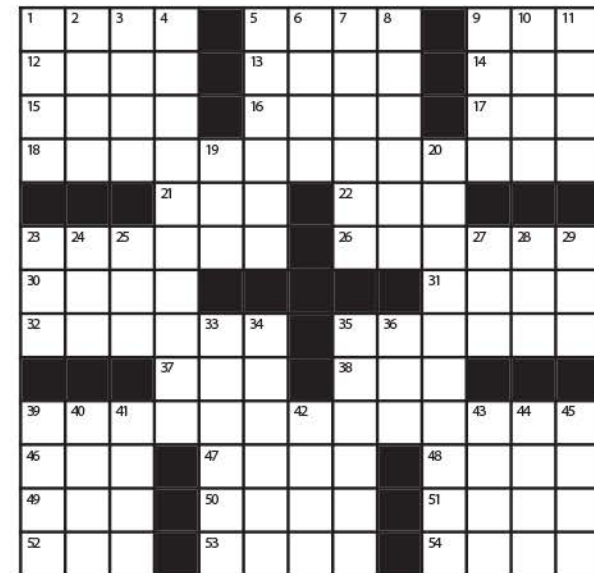
Across

1. Recedes
5. Manitoba native
9. "Doctor ____" (BBC series)
12. "Groovy!"
13. Camera part
14. "Say what?"
15. Sandwich bar
16. Computer menu option
17. Distinctive doctrine
18. Photos of color
21. Beer dispenser
22. Colorful flower, for short
23. Football shirt
26. Jellies
30. Indian nursemaid
31. Case for sewing gear
32. Time in power
35. Storage spot
37. Kind of paper
38. Spleen
39. Get to the point
46. Middle East title
47. Train track
48. Pass away notice (abbr.)
49. ____ start with your performance.
50. ____ nesia
51. Long bone
52. "Occupy" location for a while
53. Simmer
54. Some whiskeys

Down

1. Quashes
2. Alerting message
3. Bundle
4. Gear change feature
5. Men of the cloth
6. Paint the walls, again
7. "Sadness" singers
8. Mating time
9. Jockey tool
10. Silence
11. Current measures
19. Golf driving area
20. Unit of charge equal to 3600 coulombs
23. Pickle container
24. Needle hole

Start this Page! Click # P



25. Cleaning need
27. Would contraction
28. Actor's come-on
29. Male aristocrat
33. Relatives of Tahitians
34. Not destroyed
35. Bide one's time
36. Math term
39. Biblical son
40. "Coyote ____" movie
41. Perfumed powder
42. Take cover
43. With competence
44. Trig figure
45. Sorority letters

Dad Jokes...

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- a non-profit organization that offers children, teens, and young adults, ages 6-22, the opportunity to experience exhilarating feelings of success, belonging, pride and accomplishment by working together as a theatre family and presenting a Broadway-style musical production. Established in Canoga Park in 1985 for the purpose of building self-esteem in young people through the performing arts, Golden PAC has offered Musical Theater workshops for children and teens for over 35 years. Each workshop is designed to build confidence, skills, and lasting friendships in an environment of mutual respect, acceptance, and encouragement. All enrollees are guaranteed a part regardless of prior training or experience. Workshops are presented in the spring, summer, and fall. Each workshop culminates with a professional-quality production of a licensed Broadway musical in which young people play all the roles. <https://www.goldenpac.org/> Now in a brand new location!



HOW TO HELP KIDS MAKE FRIENDS



interactions through their behavior. Demonstrating polite manners, active listening, and compassionate communication can influence how children interact with peers. Regularly engaging in discussions about feelings and relationships also provides children with a vocabulary to express their own emotions.

Encourage Participation in Group Activities

Group activities, provide opportunities for kids to interact and work cooperatively. These help children practice sharing, negotiating, and working towards common goals.

Teach Empathy and Understanding

Empathy is the cornerstone of all social interactions and friendships. Teaching children

to consider and understand others' feelings and perspectives can be done through role-playing or reading stories with moral dilemmas. Discussions that follow should encourage children to think about how they would feel in similar situations.

Foster an Inclusive Environment

Creating an inclusive environment in the classroom and at home encourages children to



be open to friendships with peers who might be different from them. Celebrating diversity can prevent cliques and social isolation. Educators can facilitate this by designing activities that require grouping children who do not usually interact with each other.

Provide Guidance on Conflict Resolution

Disagreements are inevitable in any social setting. Instead of shielding children, adults

should guide them on how to handle disputes constructively. This involves teaching them to express their feelings calmly, listen to the other party, and work together to find a solution.

Encourage Expressions of Kindness

Acts of kindness can pave the way for friendships. Encourage children to be kind and show appreciation. This could be through words of encouragement, helping out with a difficult task, or sharing supplies.

Monitor Social Interactions

While it's important to give children space, adults should stay observant. This can help identify instances of bullying or exclusion. Timely intervention can help address issues before they escalate.

Encourage Reflection on Social Experiences

After school, parents can talk with children about their day and discuss any social challenges. This reflection not only helps parents provide targeted advice but also aids children in understanding their social environment.

Building friendships is a vital aspect of a child's social development, and both educators and parents play pivotal roles. By actively helping children develop essential social skills through modeling, instruction, and guidance, adults can greatly enhance children's ability to make and maintain friendships.

By Contributing Writer

In childhood, developing social skills is crucial. Children who cultivate interpersonal abilities tend to navigate life's challenges more effectively. For many, school is the primary arena for developing these skills and forging friendships.

Model Positive Interactions

Children learn social behaviors by observing those around them. Parents and teachers can model positive

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MAKING HOMEMADE PLAYDOUGH

By Contributing Writer

Making playdough at home is a fantastic and fun activity to do with kids. It's not only a creative outlet but also a great way for them to enhance their sensory skills. Below is a simple, non-toxic recipe for homemade playdough that is sure to bring hours of joy and creativity to your little ones.

Ingredients

- 2 cups of all-purpose flour - Flour is the base of the playdough and gives it structure.
- 1/2 cup of salt - Salt acts as a preservative and helps the playdough hold its texture.
- 2 tablespoons of cream of tartar - This ingredient helps in improving the elasticity and longevity of the playdough.

2 tablespoons of vegetable oil - Oil keeps the dough moist and smooth.

1 1/2 cups of boiling water - Hot water helps to dissolve the salt and blend the ingredients smoothly.

Food coloring (optional) - This is for adding colors to your playdough.

Essential oils or vanilla extract (optional) - These can be used for adding pleasant scents.

Instructions

Mix the dry ingredients: Start by combining the flour, salt, and cream of tartar in a large mixing bowl. Stir these ingredients together until they are well mixed.

Add the oil and color: Make a well in the center of your dry mixture and add the vegetable oil. If you're using food coloring and/or scents, add them to the boiling water first. This helps in evenly distributing the color and scent.

Combine with boiling water: Slowly pour the colored boiling water into the bowl with the dry ingredients. Begin to stir immediately with a spoon to combine all the ingredients. Keep stirring until the mixture begins to solidify and becomes difficult to stir.

Knead The Dough

Once the mixture cools down enough to handle, turn it out onto a clean surface and begin kneading. It might be a bit sticky at first, but as you knead, it will become more solid and less sticky. Knead for about 5 minutes, or until the dough is smooth and elastic. If the dough remains sticky, you can add a little more flour until it reaches the

desired consistency.

Add Finishing Touches

If you want to enhance the sensory experience, you can knead in more food coloring or even add glitter for a sparkling effect. Keep in mind that adding too much liquid can alter the texture, so be sparing with liquid additives.

Storage

Store the playdough in an airtight container or a zip-lock bag to keep it soft and playable. It should last for several months if kept in a cool, dry place.

Tips for Success

Always supervise young children during play to avoid ingestion of playdough.

Experiment with different colors and scents to make the play experience more enjoyable and stimulating.

Engage children in the process of making playdough, as it can be a valuable learning activity. Homemade playdough not only saves money but also ensures that children are playing with a safe, non-toxic product. With this simple recipe, you can create a playdough that's perfect for any young sculptor in your home. Enjoy crafting endless shapes and figures together!

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Taylor Swift's Fashion Phenomenon

By Contributing Writer

The "dress like Taylor Swift" economy is flourishing, fueled by the pop star's ever-evolving fashion sense and her massive fanbase. Taylor Swift's style, characterized by retro, bohemian, and sophisticated elements, has not only captured the attention of fans but also sparked a niche market.

The Taylor Swift Fashion Phenomenon
Taylor Swift's influence on fashion is

Etsy: Etsy has become a hotbed for Taylor Swift-inspired apparel. Sellers on Etsy offer everything from custom knit sweaters mimicking Swift's "Cardigan" music video to replica rings and necklaces that mirror her accessories. These products are not just about mimicking a look; they're about capturing the essence of Swift's style, which blends nostalgic and contemporary elements seamlessly.



profound. Each era of her music—from the country roots of her early days to the indie-folk reverie of her "Evermore" album—brings with it a distinct style. This phenomenon has given rise to what some call the "Swiftie" economy, a segment of online retail that revolves around recreating the star's signature looks.

Platforms Fueling the Trend

Amazon: On Amazon, the approach is about accessibility and mass production. Sellers use the platform to offer a wide range of Taylor Swift-inspired merchandise, including T-shirts, hoodies, and even themed party supplies for fans hosting album listening parties or birthday bashes. The quick shipping options make it a preferred

choice.

Redbubble: Redbubble provides a platform for independent artists to sell original artwork on a variety of products, and Taylor Swift's influence is a significant draw. Artists create and sell items featuring stylized illustrations and quotes from Swift's songs, which are then printed on clothing, bags, and more.

Economic Impact and Challenges

The "dress like Taylor Swift" economy is not just a testament to her influence but also a significant business opportunity. It helps drive traffic and sales to Etsy, Amazon, and Redbubble, benefiting from the engagement of Swift's active fan community. However, this booming niche market also faces

challenges, particularly concerning intellectual property rights. Vendors must navigate the fine line between inspiration and infringement.

"Dress like Taylor Swift" showcases the intersection of celebrity influence and e-commerce. It reflects a broader trend where fans engage with their favorite celebrities in interactive and personal ways, extending their fandom into their fashion. As Taylor Swift continues to evolve, the market will continue to grow, proving that the appetite for celebrity-inspired merchandise is not only about the clothes—it's about the connection to the artist herself.



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A woman with dark, curly hair styled in an updo with black feathers. She is wearing a dark, high-collared dress with intricate silver and blue chainmail-like detailing. She is pointing her right index finger directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a solid red color.

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