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Computer Art as Legitimate Art

The Age of Luxury, Technology, and Global Collecting

Computer art has moved decisively beyond experimentation and into the upper tiers of the global art market. What was once viewed as a fringe practice tied to technology labs and graphic design studios is now firmly embedded in luxury galleries, blue-chip auctions, and serious private collections. In today's cultural economy, computer art stands not as a disruption to fine art, but as its most contemporary expression.

At its core, computer art is defined by artistic intent rather than tools. Digital canvases, generative algorithms, three-dimensional modeling, and AI-assisted processes are simply the modern

equivalents of marble, oil paint, and film. High-end collectors increasingly recognize that mastery of digital tools requires the same discipline, vision, and authorship as traditional media. The computer does not replace the artist—it extends the artist's reach.

The luxury art world has already validated this shift. Prestigious galleries now represent digital-first artists, museums dedicate entire wings to immersive and screen-based installations, and auction houses regularly achieve seven-figure results for computer-generated works. This acceptance is driven not by trend-chasing, but by long-term value. Computer art reflects how culture is created, consumed, and preserved in a technologically driven society, making it especially attractive to forward-looking investors.

From an investment standpoint, digital art offers compelling advantages. Provenance can be authenticated through blockchain technology, ownership records are transparent, and scarcity can be engineered with precision. These factors appeal to collectors accustomed to rare watches, fine

wine, and limited-edition design objects. Computer art aligns seamlessly with luxury collecting principles: exclusivity, innovation, and cultural relevance.

Equally important is the experiential dimension. High-end collectors are no longer acquiring art solely to hang on walls. They seek immersive

environments, interactive installations, and works that transform architectural spaces. Computer art excels in this arena, allowing galleries and private collectors to curate living, evolving experiences that respond to light, sound, and audience interaction. This adaptability elevates digital works beyond static display into dynamic cultural assets.

Critics who question legitimacy often point

to ease of production or automation, yet this critique misunderstands contemporary digital practice. Sophisticated computer art demands fluency in code, visual theory, spatial design, and conceptual storytelling. The skill set is expansive, and the creative decisions remain deeply human. As with photography and film before it, the medium was once doubted until

its artistic language matured and its masters emerged.

Computer art also mirrors the values of modern luxury itself—precision, customization, innovation, and global connectivity. It speaks fluently to collectors who invest in cutting-edge architecture, smart design, and future-facing assets. In this sense, digital art is not only legitimate; it is inevitable.

As the art world continues to evolve, legitimacy is no longer measured by tradition alone but by influence, craftsmanship, and cultural

impact. Computer art meets all three standards with confidence. For galleries, collectors, and investors shaping the future of fine art, digital creation is no longer an alternative category—it is a cornerstone.



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Top 10

Secret Luxury Beach Hotels in Southern California

Where hidden coves, elevated dining, and under-the-radar indulgence meet — including Surf & Sand

Southern California's coastline is famous worldwide, but true luxury travelers know the most memorable beach experiences aren't found where the crowds gather. They're discovered down winding staircases, below dramatic bluffs, and behind discreet entrances where the ocean feels personal and time slows down. These secret luxury beach hotels pair high-end accommodations with beaches that feel quietly exclusive—whether through geography, design, or thoughtful restraint.

From Laguna's hidden coves to Malibu's most private stretches of sand, these ten hotels offer privacy, elevated dining, and immersive coastal exploring, while still delivering five-star service and unforgettable settings.

Surf & Sand Resort – Laguna Beach

Surf & Sand feels like one of those rare hotels that truly understands its location. Built directly on the shoreline, it places guests close enough to the ocean that waves become part of the room's atmosphere. What makes it especially compelling is its access to Laguna Beach's legendary network of secret coves—small, cliff-backed beaches that reward early risers and curious wanderers.

Days here begin with barefoot walks along the water and often end with sunset dinners overlooking the Pacific. The resort's signature restaurant emphasizes coastal California cuisine, making dining as much a part of the experience as the beach itself. Exploring Laguna from Surf & Sand is effortless: hidden stairway beaches, art galleries, and scenic coastal paths are all within walking distance, creating a stay that feels intimate and deeply local.



Montage Laguna Beach

Perched dramatically above the Pacific, Montage Laguna Beach delivers bluff-top grandeur while still offering access to some of Southern California's most secluded coves. The resort's location provides sweeping ocean views and a sense of removal from everyday life, even though Laguna's vibrant cultural scene is nearby.

Guests often divide their time between the spa, coastal trails, and quiet beaches below the property. Dining here is refined and seasonal, designed



It's an ideal choice for travelers who want resort-scale luxury without sacrificing a sense of privacy.

Nobu Ryokan Malibu

Discretion defines Nobu Ryokan Malibu. With a limited number of rooms and a minimalist design inspired by Japanese inns, this oceanfront retreat feels worlds away from Malibu's celebrity buzz. Situated directly on Carbon Beach, it offers one of the most private-feeling beach experiences in Southern California.

Mornings are quiet and contemplative, evenings revolve around refined dining and ocean views, and the



to complement the setting rather than distract from it. Montage is ideal for travelers who want luxury with a sense of artistry—where wellness, nature, and understated elegance define the stay.

Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach

Set on a bluff overlooking the Pacific, Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach feels like a private coastal estate. While the resort itself is expansive, its beach club creates a more exclusive shoreline experience, separating guests from the busier public beaches nearby.

This is a destination where days are structured around indulgence—spa treatments, poolside relaxation, and leisurely meals—balanced with coastal exploration. Dana Point's quieter coves and harbor walks provide a relaxed contrast to the resort's polished environment.



pace is intentionally unhurried. Exploring nearby Malibu beaches reveals hidden stair-access coves and dramatic coastal scenery, but many guests find themselves content to stay put, savoring the rare stillness this property provides.

Malibu Beach Inn

For those who prefer classic coastal luxury,

Malibu Beach Inn delivers understated elegance on one of Malibu's most coveted stretches of sand. Its direct beach access and private stairway create a seamless connection between room and shoreline.

The experience here is about simplicity done well—oceanfront dining, attentive service, and a location that encourages exploration without overwhelm. Guests often spend their days walking the beach, visiting nearby scenic overlooks, and enjoying long, leisurely meals that stretch into sunset. It's Malibu at its most refined and relaxed.

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Terranea Resort

Terranea offers a different kind of secrecy—not hidden, but removed. Located on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, this expansive oceanfront resort feels wild and untamed compared to more famous beach destinations. Coastal trails wind along dramatic bluffs, revealing viewpoints and coves that feel discovered rather than designed.

Luxury here is rooted in space and nature. Guests hike, explore tide pools, and unwind with ocean views that seem to stretch endlessly. Dining focuses on California-inspired flavors, and evenings often revolve around fire pits and stargazing. Terranea is ideal for travelers who want adventure woven into their luxury stay.

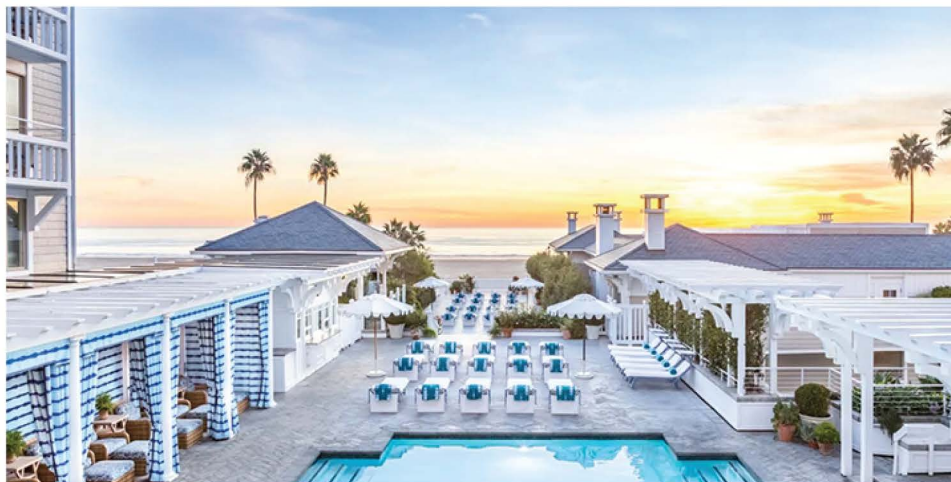
Shutters on the Beach

Though Santa Monica is anything but secret, Shutters on the Beach creates an enclave that feels private and serene. Designed like a sophisticated beach house, the hotel sits directly on the sand, offering an immersive oceanfront experience despite its central location.

Early mornings and late afternoons are when Shutters truly shines—quiet walks, uncrowded beach time, and long meals overlooking the water. Its proximity to Venice and Santa Monica allows for easy exploration, while the hotel itself remains a peaceful retreat from the surrounding energy.

Hotel Casa del Mar

Casa del Mar brings a touch of European glamour to Santa Monica's shoreline. With dramatic interiors and panoramic ocean views, it feels transportive, almost cinematic. While steps from one of Southern California's most active beaches, the hotel maintains an atmosphere of refined calm.



Dining and wellness are central to the experience, and guests often split their time between the spa, the beach, and curated local exploration. Casa del Mar suits travelers who want urban accessibility paired with luxury that feels worlds away from the everyday.

Beach Village at The Del

Hidden within the iconic Hotel del Coronado, Beach Village is a private enclave of cottages and villas offering a more secluded

version of this legendary destination. Guests enjoy personalized service and direct access to Coronado's wide, pristine beach, while remaining insulated from the larger resort's crowds.

This is luxury with a sense of heritage—timeless architecture, attentive hospitality, and a shoreline that invites long walks and slow afternoons. Exploring Coronado's charming streets and nearby San Diego adds depth to the experience, making Beach Village a refined yet approachable escape.

Alila Marea Beach Resort

Modern, minimalist, and wellness-forward, Alila Marea is perched above the ocean in Encinitas, offering a fresh take on luxury beach living. The design emphasizes natural materials and expansive views, allowing the coastline to take center stage.

Guests are drawn to the resort's balance of relaxation and exploration—morning yoga, coastal walks, surf culture, and thoughtful dining all play a role. Encinitas itself feels authentic and low-key, making Alila Marea an excellent choice for travelers seeking contemporary luxury with a local soul.

Why Secret Luxury Beach Hotels Define the Ultimate SoCal Escape

What unites these hotels is not just their five-star amenities, but their ability to create space—physical, emotional, and experiential. They offer beaches that feel discovered rather than crowded, dining that reflects place rather than trend, and accommodations designed to slow you down.

In Southern California, true luxury isn't about being seen—it's about finding those rare stretches of coast where the ocean feels like it belongs to you.

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By John Maywood

Being Human Festival 2026 in Los Angeles A Celebration of Stories, Culture, and Community

In spring 2026, Los Angeles will join cities across the United States in hosting activities as part of the Being Human Festival (US edition) — a unique public humanities festival that invites communities to explore what it means to be human through creative, interactive, and locally grounded events. The U.S. iteration of the festival, organized by the National Humanities Center, runs from April 18 to May 2, 2026, and the theme this year is “Between the Lines” — a call to uncover hidden histories, shifting borders, and unspoken meanings in our world, culture, and collective experience.

Unlike academic conferences or traditional cultural celebrations, the Being Human Festival is designed to bring humanities research — in history, literature, art, language, philosophy, and culture — into the public sphere in accessible and



engaging ways. Events may include walking tours, storytelling circles, interactive exhibits, craft workshops, historical reenactments, performances, and other forms of public engagement that encourage participation from people of all

non-specialist audiences, helping residents and visitors see familiar spaces and stories in fresh ways.

Part of the festival’s impact comes from its collaborative spirit. Local artists, educators, scholars, and community

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backgrounds rather than passive spectating.

Los Angeles has been part of the festival’s expanding footprint in the U.S. since its early years, hosting humanities-focused community events that celebrate local identity while linking Los Angeles to a broader conversation about human experience nationwide. In past editions of the festival, participants in L.A. have been able to take part in creative activities such as food, storytelling, music, and cartonera book-making workshops at cultural institutions like the Fowler Museum at UCLA — events that combine cultural expression with hands-on engagement and public dialogue.

For 2026, those kinds of locally centered events are expected to return, shaped by the festival’s emphasis on what lies “between the lines.” In practice, that means Los Angeles events might explore subjects as varied as hidden local histories, migration stories rooted in the city’s many communities, intersections of art and identity, or the cultural significance of everyday places and practices. Each event is anchored in research but designed to be accessible to

organizations work together to shape events that are meaningful to the city’s diverse neighborhoods. These partnerships help bridge gaps between academic research and public curiosity, making the humanities relevant and resonant in everyday life. Experiences might include communal storytelling that highlights overlooked voices, creative workshops that connect historical research to contemporary identity, or public performances that invite audiences to reflect on shared cultural heritage.

The timing of the festival — spanning late April into early May — also ties it into broader cultural rhythms in Los Angeles, a city rich with literary, artistic, and historical celebrations. Whether you’re a student, artist, lifelong learner, or curious Angeleno looking for new ways to connect with your community, the Being Human Festival offers a free, inclusive, and thought-provoking array of experiences that highlight not just what it means to be human in general, but what it means to be human in Los Angeles in 2026.

<https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/being-human-festival-us>

Aldik Home

Spring Sale Brings Fresh Color and Luxury Décor to Los Angeles

Herman Glimshire

Spring is in the air, and one of Los Angeles' most beautiful home décor destinations is celebrating the season with its highly anticipated Aldik Home Spring Sale. Known for its extraordinary showroom filled with lifelike silk flowers, luxury patio furniture, and designer home accents, Aldik Home is offering shoppers a

Among the seasonal highlights are vibrant peonies, elegant orchid stems, lush hydrangeas, classic roses, and dramatic lilies. These pieces can be used to create stunning floral arrangements that bring brightness and texture to living rooms, kitchens, offices, and event spaces. From soft blush tones to bold reds and purples, the collection celebrates the colorful energy of springtime.

Aldik's designers also feature silk flowering bushes and foliage options such as lavender, daisies, lilacs, poppies, ranunculus, and marigolds, allowing customers to mix and match styles to create their own custom arrangements.

Save on New Orders and Custom Designs

One of the biggest attractions of the Spring Sale is the opportunity to

save on new orders, including custom floral arrangements and decorative pieces. Aldik's team of designers can craft bespoke arrangements tailored to a home's style and space, using thousands of available silk flowers and foliage options.

These arrangements have become especially popular with homeowners who want year-round beauty without watering, trimming, or replacing seasonal flowers. The durability of high-quality silk materials means arrangements can last for years while maintaining their vibrant appearance.

Outdoor Living for the Season Ahead

Spring is also the perfect time to prepare outdoor spaces, and Aldik Home's sale extends to its luxury patio collection. The showroom features high-end outdoor



more than 70 years. The store is widely recognized for its expansive showroom filled with thousands of silk flowers, artificial plants, custom trees, and décor pieces that inspire homeowners and designers alike.

Visitors often describe the store as a botanical paradise, with displays that showcase how silk flowers and greenery can transform everyday spaces into elegant interiors.

furniture from brands such as Summer Classics, along with stylish patio umbrellas and accessories designed to transform patios, gardens, and pool areas into elegant outdoor retreats.

Customers can explore everything from lounge chairs and dining tables to fire tables and shade structures that combine durability with refined design. Many pieces can also be customized with different materials, finishes, and fabrics to match individual outdoor décor styles.

A Los Angeles Design Destination
Located in Van Nuys, Aldik Home has been a Los Angeles design destination for

The Aldik Home Spring Sale invites shoppers to explore the beauty of spring décor and discover new ways to brighten their homes. Whether searching for a single stem or planning a full home refresh, Aldik's collection offers countless possibilities for adding color and style.

To browse the collection or learn more about the Spring Sale, visit:

<https://www.aldikhome.com>

With its blend of artistry, craftsmanship, and seasonal inspiration, the Aldik Home Spring Sale is the perfect opportunity to welcome spring indoors—and outdoors—with timeless elegance.



chance to refresh their homes with elegant seasonal décor at special savings.

For homeowners, interior designers, and decorators across Southern California, the spring event has become a favorite time to explore Aldik's vast selection of botanical-inspired décor that captures the beauty of nature—without the upkeep of real plants.

The Aldik Spring Sale coincides with the store's Spring Collection, which celebrates the colors and textures of the season. Visitors to the showroom will find an extraordinary variety of silk flowers designed to look remarkably realistic. Each petal, leaf, and stem is carefully crafted to mimic natural blooms, making them almost indistinguishable from fresh flowers.





By Taylor Geene

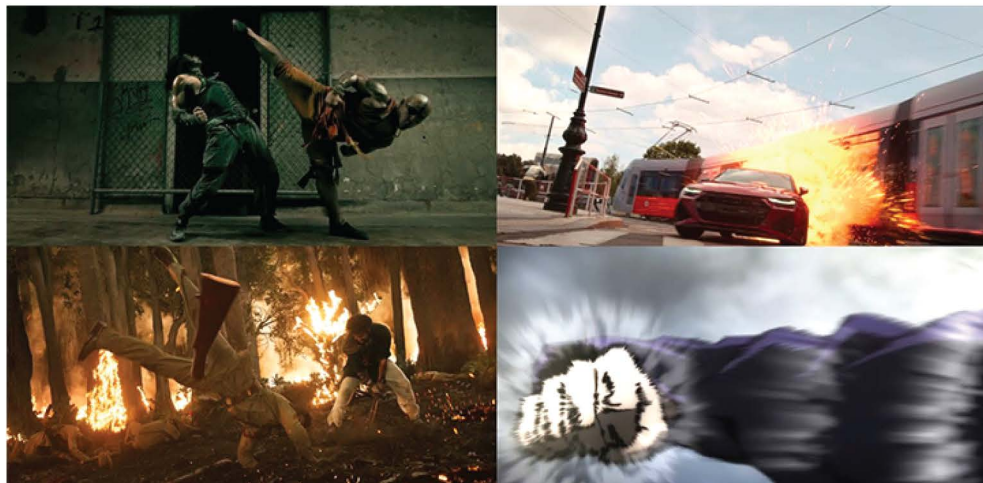
MARCH MOVIE BLOCKBUSTERS

THE BIGGEST FILMS LIGHTING UP THEATERS THIS SPRING

March has officially cemented its reputation as the unofficial kickoff to blockbuster season. Once overshadowed by summer releases, March now delivers some of the year's most anticipated films—packed with action, fantasy, animation, and franchise power. Studios use this window to launch tentpoles with confidence, and audiences respond by filling theaters early in the year.

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Movies Expand the Big Screen

Science fiction and fantasy thrive in March, and this year is no exception. One of the most talked-about releases is *Dune: Messiah*, continuing the epic saga with sweeping visuals, political intrigue, and cinematic world-building designed for the largest screens available.



March movie blockbusters offer scale, spectacle, and variety, making it one of the strongest months for theatrical releases.

High-Octane Action Leads the March Box Office

Action movies remain the backbone of March's theatrical dominance. This spring, audiences are lining up for *Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning*, the latest chapter in the long-running espionage franchise. Known for jaw-dropping stunts and globe-trotting tension, the film is expected to be one of the biggest draws of the month, especially in premium formats like IMAX and Dolby Cinema.

Also generating serious buzz is *John Wick: Chapter 5*, which continues the stylized, high-impact action that has made the franchise a modern classic. March audiences tend to reward these adrenaline-driven releases, helping them build strong momentum into spring.

Another standout is *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire*, delivering large-scale spectacle that blends sci-fi mythology with blockbuster action. These films benefit from March's lighter release schedule, allowing them to dominate the conversation and box office charts for weeks.

Comedies and Genre-Blending Crowd Favorites

March isn't just about explosions and epic battles. Smart comedies and genre hybrids also find success this month, offering counter-programming for audiences seeking lighter fare. *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* continues to perform strongly into spring, blending humor, nostalgia, and supernatural action that appeals across generations.

These releases often become sleeper hits, fueled by word-of-mouth and repeat viewings, making March a valuable launchpad for films that balance laughs with spectacle.

Family-Friendly and Animated Movies for Spring Break

Family movies are a major driver of March ticket sales, especially as spring



break approaches. *Kung Fu Panda 4* continues to attract families with its colorful animation, physical comedy, and heartfelt storytelling that resonates with both kids and adults.

Animated films released in March often enjoy long theatrical runs, staying relevant well into early summer. Studios favor this timing to introduce characters and franchises that can anchor the entire spring entertainment season.

Why March Movie Blockbusters Matter

March movie blockbusters set the tone for the year ahead. Strong openings

influence sequel development, franchise expansion, and release strategies for the rest of the calendar. For audiences, March offers the perfect balance—big-budget excitement without the oversaturation of summer.

From explosive action and visionary sci-fi to laugh-out-loud comedies and family-friendly hits, March proves that blockbuster season doesn't wait for summer. It starts now, and it's best experienced on the biggest screen possible.



TNAG GLOBAL ACQUIRES NORMAN'S RARE GUITARS TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND ITS LEGACY

By Adam Julles

TNAG Global, the family-owned company behind Nashville's Carter Vintage Guitars, has acquired Norman's Rare Guitars, the world-renowned vintage guitar shop founded by industry legend Norman Harris.

The acquisition includes more than 1,000 guitars currently housed at Norman's Rare Guitars, along with Harris' personal and private collection assembled over more than 50 years. The store will continue to operate from its iconic San Fernando Valley location, with its team and culture remaining fully intact.

Founded on a mission to preserve the world's most beloved guitar shops long after their founders retire, TNAG Global will continue the legacy built by Harris over the last 50 years, while guiding Norman's Rare Guitars into its next chapter by expanding its reach to a global audience of players and collectors. The shop's legacy was the subject of the recent "Norman's Rare Guitars Documentary" that premiered on Netflix.

"Norman's Rare Guitars is the most iconic guitar shop in the world, and we are honored



to help extend its story into the future," says Ben Montague, founder and CEO of TNAG Global. "Our responsibility with this acquisition is simple: Protect what makes the shop special, ensure the business thrives

beyond its founder and give Norman the freedom to step back whenever he chooses, knowing the legacy is secure."

TNAG Global is integrating Norman's Rare Guitars' inventory into its proprietary instrument management system, The Exchange. Managed with exceptional care, transparency and customer experience, The Exchange offers a fully integrated environment to buy, sell and consign legacy instrument brands, in-store and online.

"I've always known there would come a time when I needed the right long-term partner to carry Norman's Rare Guitars forward," said Norman Harris, founder of Norman's Rare Guitars. "I couldn't imagine a better steward for the shop and its legacy than Ben Montague and

TNAG Global. The goal has always been to share my love of great guitars with the community, and this partnership allows that community to grow, while protecting everything that makes the shop special. I feel a deep sense of comfort knowing the shop, its history and its values will still be here for future generations of my family and for guitar lovers around the world."

Harris will remain actively involved in the business as founding ambassador, continuing to source instruments and welcome visitors to the shop for as long as he wishes. The team at Norman's Rare Guitars will remain in place, continuing to offer the same expertise, personality and community atmosphere the store has been known for since its founding.

"I am extremely excited to see my Uncle Norm enter into this new chapter in his life and career," said artist and friend of the shop, Joe Bonamassa. "We all know that he will still be around, being the master of ceremonies and dealing the coolest guitars in the world. Congratulations to my friend Ben and the entire team at TNAG Global on securing the legacy of the greatest guitar store in the world."

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By Jennifer Osborne

WHAT IS AMBIENT COMPUTING?

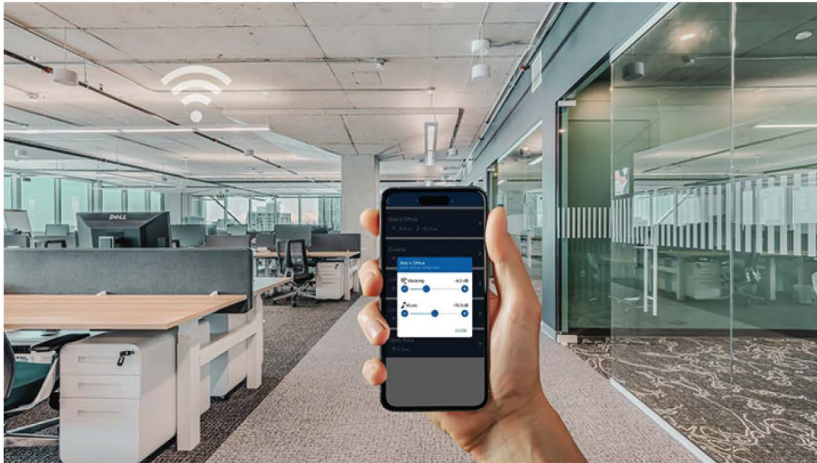
Ambient computing is the idea that technology should exist quietly in the background of our lives—aware, responsive, and helpful without demanding constant attention. Instead of staring at screens, clicking buttons, or issuing rigid commands, ambient computing allows devices and systems to sense what’s happening around us and respond naturally, often without us realizing it.

At its core, ambient computing blends hardware, software, sensors, artificial intelligence, and connectivity to create environments that adapt to people rather than forcing people to adapt to technology. Think of it as computing that fades into the environment, becoming almost invisible while still being highly intelligent.

How Ambient Computing Works

Ambient computing relies on several technologies working together. Sensors collect data such

as motion, light, sound, temperature, location, or biometric signals. Connected devices share this information in real time. Artificial intelligence analyzes patterns and context, then takes action automatically or offers subtle assistance.



For example, lights that dim when the sun sets, thermostats that learn your preferred temperature, or music that adjusts based on your mood are all simple

expressions of ambient computing. The system isn’t waiting for instructions—it’s anticipating needs.

Everyday Examples You Already Use

Many people interact with ambient computing daily without labeling it as such. Smart homes are one of the most familiar examples. Voice assistants, automated lighting, security systems, and energy management tools work together to create a responsive living space. Wearable devices that track health metrics and quietly notify you of anomalies also fall into this category.

In offices, ambient computing can adjust lighting and temperature based on occupancy, reserve meeting rooms automatically, or reduce noise distractions. In cars, sensors and AI assist with navigation, safety alerts, and driving conditions without overwhelming the driver.

Why Ambient Computing Matters

The real power of ambient computing is its ability to reduce friction. Instead of technology interrupting us with alerts and interfaces, it supports us seamlessly. This leads to improved efficiency, better accessibility, and more intuitive experiences.

For people with disabilities or mobility challenges, ambient computing can be life-changing. Systems that respond to voice, movement, or presence can create safer and more independent environments. In healthcare, ambient systems can monitor patients passively, spotting early warning signs without invasive procedures.

Privacy and Ethical Considerations

Because ambient computing depends on constant data collection, it raises important questions about privacy, consent, and security. When technology is always listening, watching, or sensing, it becomes critical to ensure that data is protected, transparent, and used responsibly. Trust will ultimately determine how widely ambient computing is adopted.

The Future of Ambient Computing

As artificial intelligence becomes more advanced and devices more interconnected, ambient computing will expand beyond homes and offices into cities, healthcare systems, retail spaces, and entertainment. The goal isn’t more technology—it’s better, quieter technology that feels human-centered.

Ambient computing represents a shift away from screens and toward environments that understand us. When done well, it doesn’t feel futuristic at all—it simply feels natural.



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By Fred Merck

IS THERE SUCH A THING AS SAKE PAIRING? ABSOLUTELY—AND IT'S AN ART

In the world of fine dining, where every element is curated with intention—from crystal stemware to tasting menus measured in courses rather than plates—sake has quietly emerged as a luxury pairing of choice. Once misunderstood or limited to traditional settings, premium sake is now featured alongside Grand Cru wines and rare whiskies in Michelin-starred restaurants around the globe. The answer is unequivocal: sake pairing not only exists, it thrives at the highest levels of gastronomy.

Why Sake Belongs on the Fine Dining Table

Luxury dining is about balance, restraint, and nuance—qualities sake delivers effortlessly. Unlike wine, sake contains little acidity and no tannins, allowing it to complement even the most delicate dishes without overpowering them. Its natural umami profile enhances flavors rather than masking them, making it a sommelier's secret weapon when crafting multi-course tasting menus.

High-end sake, often polished to remove up to 60 percent of the rice grain, offers remarkable purity

and texture. These refined expressions glide across the palate, mirroring the elegance of haute cuisine.

Pairing Light, Aromatic Sake With Refined Courses

Premium Ginjo and Junmai Ginjo sakes are prized for their floral aromatics and clean finish. Served gently chilled, they pair beautifully with luxury starters such as Hamachi crudo, oysters with citrus mignonette, caviar, or delicate white fish dressed in olive oil and herbs. Their subtle fruit notes accent raw ingredients without stealing focus—an essential principle of fine dining.

In tasting menus, these sakes often replace Champagne for opening courses, offering sophistication without sharpness.

Rich Sake for Elevated Comfort and Indulgence

Full-bodied Junmai, Kimoto, and aged sakes bring depth and silkiness, making them ideal for richer plates. Think A5 wagyu, roasted duck, truffle risotto, or butter-poached lobster. The umami compounds in sake amplify savory



flavors while smoothing out fats, creating a seamless harmony between dish and drink.

Luxury chefs increasingly favor warm or room-temperature sake with these courses, unlocking layered aromas and enhancing mouthfeel.

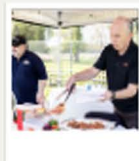
Beyond Japanese Cuisine

One of the most compelling aspects of sake pairing at luxury tables is its versatility across global



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cuisines. Sake excels with French sauces, Italian pastas, Mediterranean seafood, and even spice-driven dishes that challenge wine pairings. Tomato, chili, garlic, and herbs—often problematic for wine—are effortlessly handled by sake's softer structure.

Sparkling sake has also found its place in refined settings, pairing elegantly with tempura, fried oysters, or amuse-bouches.

Temperature as a Pairing Tool

In luxury dining, temperature is as intentional as seasoning. Chilled sake offers clarity

and brightness, while gently warmed sake brings out umami, sweetness, and texture. Elite sommeliers treat temperature as another layer of pairing artistry, adjusting service to match each course.

The Final Pour

Sake pairing is no longer a curiosity—it is a hallmark of modern luxury dining. With its refinement, adaptability, and ability to elevate flavors, sake has earned its place among the most sophisticated beverages in the world.



HOW NOSTALGIA IS KEEPING CHAIN RESTAURANTS ALIVE

By Seth Jayes

In an era dominated by delivery apps, pop-up eateries, and hyper-local food trends, it might seem surprising that old-school chain restaurants are still packing booths. But their secret sauce isn't innovation alone—it's memory.

Nostalgia has become one of the most powerful tools keeping chain restaurants relevant, profitable, and emotionally sticky in a crowded dining landscape.

For many diners, chains are time machines. A

menu, rotating concepts—chains offer something rare: consistency. You know exactly what you're getting when you walk into Applebee's or Chili's. That predictability feels comforting, especially during economic uncertainty. When budgets tighten, people gravitate toward places that

feel safe, known, and emotionally reassuring.

Chains have also learned how to activate nostalgia instead of letting it fade. Limited-time throwback



grew up with—or the ones they missed but saw in old commercials and family photos. A night at TGI Fridays, complete with over-the-top décor and classic cocktails,

becomes ironic, cozy, and Instagram-worthy all at once.

There's also a social dimension. Chain restaurants function as communal spaces in a way many modern eateries no longer do. Big booths, shared appetizers, and unhurried service encourage lingering and conversation. In a digital age defined by speed and screens, that slower, more human rhythm feels almost luxurious.

Ultimately, nostalgia works because it builds trust. People return to chain restaurants not because they're chasing the next big thing, but because they want to reconnect—with their past, their families, and simpler moments. As long as diners crave comfort alongside convenience, nostalgia will continue to keep chain restaurants not just alive, but culturally relevant.



meal at McDonald's isn't just about fries—it's about childhood birthday parties, road trips, and that unmistakable

smell of burgers after a little-league game. Olive Garden still trades heavily on the feeling of family dinners, endless breadsticks, and celebratory graduations. These places aren't selling food alone; they're selling a feeling of familiarity in an unfamiliar world.

As dining culture becomes increasingly experimental—ghost kitchens, QR-code



menus, retro logos, and revived décor—like the return of the classic red-roof aesthetic at

Pizza Hut—aren't accidents. They're strategic. Social media amplifies these moments, turning a familiar dish or vintage cup design into a viral experience shared across generations.

Millennials and Gen Z, often assumed to favor only indie or "authentic" spots, are actually driving much of this revival. These younger diners romanticize the restaurants they

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Fat vs. Calories

By Sam Shafer

What Really Matters for Your Body

For decades, the conversation around weight, health, and nutrition has circled the same question: is fat bad, or are calories the real issue? The truth is more nuanced than either side of the argument suggests. Fat and calories are not enemies, nor are they interchangeable villains. Understanding the difference—and how they work together—can completely change how you approach eating and overall wellness.

Calories are units of energy. Every food you eat contains calories, and your body uses those calories to fuel everything from breathing and digestion to walking, thinking, and exercising. When you consume more calories than your body needs, the excess is stored, often as body fat. When you consume fewer calories than you burn, your body turns to stored energy to make up the difference. This basic energy balance is why calories still matter.

Fat, on the other hand, is a macronutrient—just like carbohydrates and protein. It is also the most calorie-dense macronutrient, containing nine calories per gram, compared to four calories per gram for carbs and protein. This higher calorie density is where much of fat's bad reputation comes from. Eating a small amount of fat can add a lot of calories quickly, which led to the low-fat craze of the 1990s and early 2000s.

But fat is not inherently unhealthy. In fact, dietary fat is essential. It supports hormone production, helps absorb fat-soluble vitamins like A, D, E, and K, protects organs, and plays a critical role in brain function. Healthy fats—such as those found in olive oil, avocados, nuts, seeds, and fatty fish—are linked to better heart health, improved cholesterol profiles, and greater satiety, meaning you feel fuller longer.

The confusion often comes from equating “fat in food” with “fat on your body.” Eating fat does not automatically make you gain body fat. What matters is total calorie intake over time and how

fat but balanced and nutrient-dense can be far more beneficial than a low-fat meal loaded with refined sugars and empty carbohydrates.

Calories, however, are not all equal in how they affect hunger,



those calories interact with your metabolism, activity level, and overall diet quality. A meal high in

blood sugar, and energy levels. Two foods with the same calorie count can have vastly different effects on



your body. A calorie-controlled diet that ignores food quality may technically work for weight loss, but it often leads to fatigue, cravings, and poor long-term health outcomes.

The most sustainable approach isn't choosing fat over calories or vice versa. It's understanding that calories determine energy balance, while fat determines how your body feels,

functions, and stays satisfied. Prioritizing whole foods, healthy fats, adequate protein, and mindful portions creates a balance that supports both weight management and long-term health.

In the end, fat isn't the problem—and calories aren't the enemy. The real issue is oversimplifying nutrition when the body thrives on balance, not extremes.

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By Contributing Writer

The Athena Foundation for the Arts started off the season with a bang with a stellar performance from the Sords, Walz and Durkovic Trio, with maestro violinist Andrew Sords, cellist John Walz, and pianist Timothy Durkovic. The three virtuosi united for an unforgettable performance of showpieces and trios by Brahms and moretrios and more. For those who haven't yet heard of



appeared as a soloist with more than 300 symphony orchestras on five continents and as a chamber music artist playing more than 900 concerts throughout North America and Europe.

Virtuoso pianist Timothy Durkovic is an active soloist and chamber musician, collaborating regularly with some of the world's finest orchestras, instrumentalists and vocalists from around the world. The Show was a huge success and a great way to kick start this year's season.

Coming up next, and you won't want to miss this, will be Masuda and Cheli Cello and Piano Duo two award-winning Musicians pit together a night of Rachmaninoff Sonata for Cello and Piano Opus 19, in G Minor which will be performed alongside jazz favorites that explore Sergei Rachmaninoff's fascination with jazz. The program will highlight a unique blend of memorable favorites such as Rhapsody in Blue (George

Gershwin) and Garden Scene from Much Ado About Nothing Opus 11 (Erich Wolfgang Korngold) The show begins at 4:00 PM, Sunday, March 22, 2026 at the Community Auditorium Church of Scientology of the Valley 11455 Burbank Boulevard North Hollywood, CA 91601 Free Parking: Farndale Avenue lot and street parking.

The Athena Foundation for the Arts was born from this passion with the goal of providing an annual world class concert series, bringing award-winning musicians from around the world and their stellar programs paired with stunning imagery for an immersive memorable experience, to our

community

They are breaking the classical music tradition with the willingness to create a connection between their audience and classical music by pairing beautiful imagery and lighting with each performance for an immersive experience. Showcasing the diversity of music classics in various formats is the most creative and impactful way they have achieved so much success, and leave each audience spellbound with the energy and thoughtfulness that leave lasting memories.

For more information and tickets: <https://athenafoundationarts.org/>



these remarkable musicians, here's a little background.

Internationally acclaimed violinist Andrew Sords tours with his trio and as a soloist with orchestras from Montreal to West Palm Beach, Palm Springs, and Los Angeles, and from Australia and New Zealand. Celebrated cellist John Walz has

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By June Garson

Paris & Palace of Versailles

The World's Top Vacation Destination

When it comes to the single greatest vacation destination on Earth, no place rivals Paris—especially when paired with the grandeur of Versailles. Together, they offer an unmatched combination of romance, history, art, cuisine, and royal spectacle that few destinations can even attempt to equal. Paris delivers effortless charm and culture, while Versailles adds scale, drama, and a

global travel lists. The Palace of Versailles was once the epicenter of political power in Europe, and its scale still astonishes modern visitors. The Hall of Mirrors, with its gilded arches and crystal chandeliers, is one of the most famous rooms in the world—an enduring symbol of royal excess and artistic mastery.

The gardens of Versailles are equally breathtaking. Designed with mathematical precision, they stretch endlessly with



glimpse into the most extravagant chapter of European royalty.

Paris has long been considered the world's cultural capital. Iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower dominate the skyline, while the Seine River winds through neighborhoods filled with cafés, boutiques, and centuries-old architecture. The city's walkability allows travelers to absorb its atmosphere organically—one pastry shop, art gallery, or hidden courtyard at a time. Paris doesn't demand an itinerary; it rewards curiosity.

Art and history lovers find no equal in Paris. The Louvre Museum alone could justify an entire trip, housing masterpieces that span civilizations and millennia. Beyond museums, Paris itself feels curated. Fashion, food, and even daily rituals carry an aesthetic sensibility that elevates ordinary moments into memorable experiences.

Just outside the city lies Versailles, an essential extension of the Paris experience and a defining reason France ranks at the top of

fountains, sculptures, and tree-lined paths that feel more like an outdoor palace than landscaped grounds. A visit to Versailles offers contrast: where Paris feels intimate and alive, Versailles feels monumental and timeless. Together, they create a complete narrative of French culture—from street-level elegance to imperial grandeur.

What truly makes Paris and Versailles the world's top vacation destination is their universal appeal. Couples find romance, families find wonder, history enthusiasts find depth, and luxury travelers find refinement. Food alone—whether a simple baguette picnic or a Michelin-starred meal—sets a global standard.

In the end, Paris with Versailles isn't just a destination; it's a benchmark. Other cities may excel in one category, but none combine beauty, culture, history, and atmosphere with such consistency and emotional impact. Once experienced, it becomes the standard by which all other vacations are measured.

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Celebrities With Truly Unique Art Collections

By William Serento

For some celebrities, art collecting is more than a status symbol—it's a personal philosophy, an investment strategy, and a reflection of how they see the world. From museum-level masterpieces to daring contemporary works, these stars have assembled collec-

Murakami, and Pablo Picasso, often favoring artists who challenge power structures or explore cultural identity. DiCaprio frequently loans works to museums and charity auctions, using his collection as both cultural capital and a tool for philanthropy.



tions that rival those of major institutions, often influencing trends in the global art market.

Leonardo DiCaprio

Known as much for his environmental activism as



Madonna

Madonna's art collection is legendary—bold, provocative, and unapologetically elite. She owns major works by Frida Kahlo, Salvador Dalí, Man Ray, and Fernand Léger. Her taste reflects her own artistic persona:

fearless, avant-garde, and deeply personal. Madonna is known to live with her art rather than treat it as a static investment, rotating pieces throughout her homes and

integrating them into daily life.

Jay-Z & Beyoncé

Together, Jay-Z and Beyoncé have built one of the most influential celebrity art collections of the modern era. Their holdings reportedly include works by Jean-Michel Basquiat, David Hammons, Kerry James Marshall, and Richard Prince. Jay-Z has been especially vocal about collecting Black artists as a way to reshape art-world narratives and create generational wealth through culture. Their collection is as much a statement as it is an investment.

Brad Pitt

Brad Pitt's art tastes skew toward the cerebral and architectural. He collects contemporary sculpture and conceptual art, including works by Richard Serra and Thomas Houseago. Pitt has spoken about his fascination with form, space, and material—interests that extend into his passion for architecture and sustainable housing. His collection reflects a quieter, more introspective approach to art ownership.

David Bowie

Few celebrity collections were as intellectually rich as David Bowie's. Before his passing, Bowie amassed over 400 works, including pieces by Damien Hirst, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and British modernists. His collection was curated with a scholar's eye—deeply rooted in art history, experimentation, and cultural disruption. When parts of the collection were auctioned, they achieved record prices, cementing Bowie's legacy as a serious art connoisseur.

Why These Collections Matter

Celebrity art collections increasingly shape the art market, spotlight underrepresented artists, and blur the line between pop culture and fine art. These collectors aren't just buying beauty—they're backing ideas, movements, and future cultural value. In many cases, their influence determines which artists break into the mainstream and which works become tomorrow's masterpieces.

If fame is fleeting, great art endures—and these celebrities are making sure they're part of that story.

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By Kate Deed

Olympic Athletes Push Their Bodies to the Limit Should We?

is scheduled as strategically as workouts. This is not casual fitness—it’s a full-time occupation with medals, sponsorships, and national pride on the line.

Take Lindsey Vonn, one of the most decorated alpine skiers in

surgeries, returning again and again to competition. Her physical training was extreme, but so was the toll. By the time she retired, her body had absorbed years of high-impact crashes and stress that most people will never experience in a lifetime.

the understanding that their careers are finite. They push their bodies hard because the reward structure demands it—and because they accept long-term physical consequences as part of the deal.

For everyday people, copying that intensity can backfire.

Overtraining is one of the most common mistakes in modern fitness culture. High-intensity workouts without adequate recovery can lead to chronic injuries, hormonal imbalances, burnout, and immune suppression. What looks like dedication on Instagram often becomes joint pain, fatigue, or months

off from exercise entirely.

That doesn’t mean Olympic athletes have nothing to teach us. In fact, their biggest lessons aren’t about pushing harder—they’re about training smarter. Consistency beats extremes. Recovery matters as much as effort. Sleep, nutrition, mobility, and mental focus are non-negotiable. Olympic-level bodies aren’t built by occasional heroic workouts, but by sustainable routines repeated over time.

There’s also a mindset shift worth borrowing. Olympians respect their bodies deeply. They listen to pain signals, adjust training loads, and prioritize longevity within their sport. The myth that they simply “power through everything” ignores the science-driven restraint behind their success.

So should we push our bodies like Olympic athletes? Not exactly. But we should approach fitness with the same intentionality. Train with purpose, respect recovery, and recognize that progress doesn’t require suffering. The goal for most of us isn’t gold medals—it’s strength, health, and a body that still feels good decades from now.

Olympians show us what’s possible. Wisdom lies in knowing how much of that intensity truly serves us.



constant monitoring by coaches, physical therapists, and sports scientists. Pain is managed, not avoided. Fatigue is expected. Rest

history. Her career was defined not just by podium finishes, but by resilience. Vonn skied through torn ligaments, fractures, and repeated

That reality is where the comparison breaks down. Olympic athletes are genetic outliers supported by elite medical teams, customized recovery plans, and

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CATS, HAIRBALLS, AND HOW TO FINALLY GET RID OF THEM

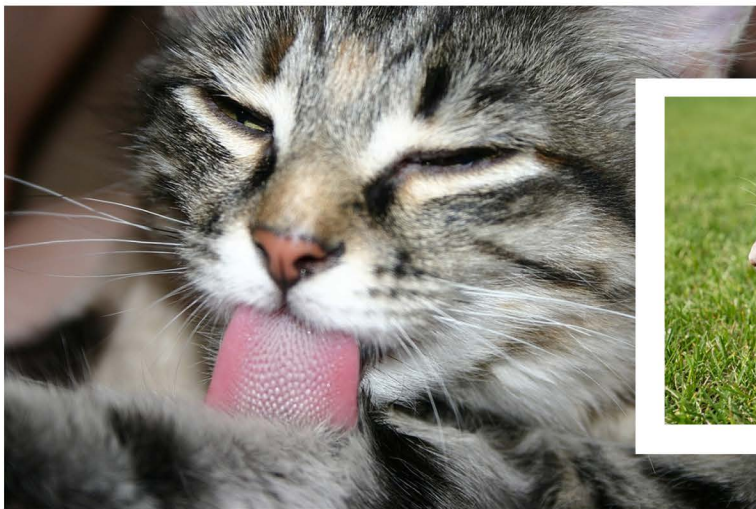
By Meagan Wilson

If you live with a cat, chances are you've encountered the dreaded hairball: that unmistakable sound, followed by a mess you wish you'd avoided stepping on. Hairballs are extremely common, but they're not something you have to simply accept as part of cat ownership. Understanding why they happen—and how to reduce them—can make life much more comfortable for both you and your cat.

Hairballs form because cats are meticulous groomers. Their tongues are covered in tiny, hook-like barbs that pull loose fur from their coat. When your cat licks itself, that fur is swallowed. Normally, hair passes through the digestive system and exits harmlessly in the litter box. But when too much fur accumulates in the stomach, it clumps together and is eventually vomited up as a hairball.

While occasional hairballs are normal, frequent ones can be a sign that something needs to change. Excessive shedding, overgrooming, dehydration, or digestive slowdowns all contribute to hairball buildup. Long-haired cats and older cats tend to struggle more, but short-haired cats are not immune.

One of the most effective ways to reduce hairballs is regular brushing. Brushing removes loose fur before your cat can swallow it, dramatically cutting down the amount of hair entering their digestive tract. Long-haired cats benefit from daily brushing, while short-haired cats typically need it two to three times per week. Using the right brush for your cat's coat type makes a big difference and can even turn grooming into a bonding ritual.



Diet also plays a major role. Hairball-control cat foods are formulated with added fiber to help hair move smoothly through the digestive system instead of

lingering in the stomach. Even adding a small amount of wet food to your cat's routine can help, as moisture supports healthy digestion and prevents constipation,

which can worsen hairball problems.

Hydration is another often-overlooked factor. Cats are notoriously bad at drinking enough water, especially if they eat mostly dry food. Encouraging water intake

with fountains, multiple bowls, or wet food can improve digestion and reduce hairball formation.

Many cat owners also turn to hairball remedies, such as lubricating gels or pastes. These products help hair pass through the digestive

tract more easily and are generally safe when used as directed. Some cats even see them as a treat, while others may need a little coaxing.

Cat grass is a natural option that many cats instinctively enjoy. It can aid digestion and help cats safely eliminate hair, either through the digestive tract or occasional vomiting that's less distressing than a dry hairball.

Finally, pay attention to grooming habits. If your cat is grooming excessively, stress, allergies, or skin conditions could be the cause. In these cases, reducing hairballs means addressing the underlying issue with the help of a veterinarian.

Hairballs may be common, but they don't have to be constant. With regular grooming, proper nutrition, good hydration, and a little observation, you can greatly reduce hairballs—and keep both your floors and your cat much happier.

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FLOATING AT THE EDGE OF SPACE

Inside the Zephalto Stratospheric Balloon Experience

By Cora Corman

For travelers who believe luxury should come with perspective, not speed, Zephalto is redefining the meaning of a once-in-a-lifetime journey.

This is not a hot air balloon ride in the traditional sense, nor is it rocket-powered space tourism. Instead, Zephalto offers a serene ascent to the edge of space, combining cutting-edge aerospace engineering with refined French luxury.

A Near-Space Journey Without the Rocket

Zephalto's experience carries passengers to approximately 25 kilometers (82,000 feet) above Earth—higher than 98 percent of the planet's atmosphere. At this altitude, the sky turns an inky black, the horizon bends unmistakably, and the Earth reveals itself as a glowing blue sphere suspended in darkness. It's a view once reserved for astronauts, now accessible without G-forces, noise, or months of physical training.

The ascent is slow and deliberate, taking roughly 90 minutes as the balloon rises through the atmosphere. Unlike rocket flights that deliver

seconds of spectacle, Zephalto prioritizes time. Passengers spend nearly three hours floating at peak altitude, followed by a gentle descent back to Earth, making the entire experience about six hours from launch to landing.

The Capsule: Céleste

At the heart of the journey is Céleste, Zephalto's pressurized stratospheric capsule. Designed to accommodate up to six passengers, the cabin features expansive panoramic windows—among the largest ever flown at this altitude—offering uninterrupted views of Earth's curvature stretching more than a thousand kilometers in every direction.

The interior is intentionally elegant rather than futuristic. Soft lighting, sculptural seating, climate control, and onboard restroom facilities ensure comfort throughout the flight. The atmosphere feels closer to a private jet lounge than a spacecraft, reinforcing Zephalto's philosophy that awe should be experienced in calm, not chaos.

What's Included

Zephalto positions its offering as a fully



curated luxury experience, not just a flight. The journey includes: A personalized pre-flight welcome and ceremonial send-off. The full six-hour stratospheric flight. Gourmet dining and fine French wines, curated by leading chefs and sommeliers. Dedicated crew and tailored

and strict aviation safety standards. Zephalto works in close alignment with French and European aviation authorities, with plans to expand to additional global launch sites in the future.

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service throughout the experience. A post-landing celebration to mark the return to Earth.

Every detail is designed to slow time, encouraging reflection and connection with the view rather than distraction.

Where It Launches

Initial flights are scheduled to launch from France, leveraging the country's aerospace heritage

The Cost of Perspective

Seats aboard Céleste are priced at approximately €180,000 per person, placing Zephalto among the most exclusive travel experiences in the world. Yet for those who have already crossed continents and oceans, the appeal lies not in distance traveled—but in how profoundly the journey changes the way Earth is seen.

OPEN UP YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE TO ENJOY THE WEATHER

By Owen Beeroo

When the weather turns inviting, your outdoor space becomes an extension of your home—and one of its most valuable features.

Whether you have a sprawling backyard, a modest patio, or a small balcony, opening up your outdoor area can instantly elevate your lifestyle. With a few thoughtful updates, fresh air, sunshine, and relaxed living are just steps away.

Start by clearing and defining the space. Winter clutter, unused furniture, and forgotten planters can make even the nicest yard feel cramped. Editing

Lighting is where outdoor spaces truly come alive. String lights, lanterns, and solar pathway lights add warmth and ambiance as the sun goes down. Good lighting extends the usability of your space well into the evening and creates a cozy atmosphere perfect for dinners, conversations, or quiet moments alone. Think layers: overhead lighting for glow, table lamps or candles for intimacy, and subtle ground lighting for safety.

Greenery is essential. Plants soften hard surfaces and connect your space to nature. Potted herbs, flowering plants, or small trees instantly bring life and movement outdoors. Vertical gardens or hanging planters are great solutions for balconies and compact patios, while raised beds can define edges in larger yards. If

Opening up your outdoor space isn't about perfection—it's about creating a place where you can breathe, relax, and truly enjoy the weather. With the right balance of comfort, style, and function, the outdoors becomes your favorite room of all.



is key: keep what serves a purpose and remove what doesn't. Once the area is cleared, define zones—lounging, dining, and entertaining—so the space feels intentional rather than accidental. Even small outdoor areas benefit from this approach, creating a sense of flow and comfort.

Furniture sets the tone. Choose pieces that invite people to sit and stay awhile. Comfortable outdoor sofas, weather-resistant sectionals, or classic bistro tables can transform your space into a destination. Cushions and pillows add softness while also allowing you to play with color and texture. Neutral bases with seasonal accents make it easy to refresh the look throughout the year without replacing everything.

maintenance is a concern, mix in low-water or native plants that thrive in your local climate.

Don't forget functionality. Outdoor rugs anchor seating areas, shade umbrellas or pergolas provide relief from the sun, and fire pits or heaters extend usability on cooler nights. Thoughtful accessories—like side tables, serving trays, or outdoor speakers—make the space feel as well-equipped as your indoor rooms.

Personalize it. Outdoor spaces should reflect how you want to live. Whether that means a dining table for weekend meals, a reading nook for quiet afternoons, or an entertaining area for gatherings, design with intention. When outdoor space feels welcoming and purposeful, you'll use it more.

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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Anthony Sapienza, 63, was charged with two counts of felony battery on Feb. 8 in Port Orange, Florida, after a brawl broke out during a pickleball game at the Spruce Creek Country Club, the Associated Press reported. Sapienza's wife, Julianne Sapienza, 51, was charged with a single count of felony battery. The Sapienzas were playing against another couple when an argument began about a rule; words were exchanged between the men before the accused hit his opponent with his paddle, then punched him on the ground. Before it was all over, about 20 players became involved in the fight, police said. The victim was over age 65.

Wait, What?

Back in the 1940s, carpenters would sometimes slide a newspaper between the floorboards of a house to fix uneven planks, The Washington Post reported. On Jan. 14, contractor Vincent Vincent tore up boards in a home in Fargo, North Dakota, and unsurprisingly found a newspaper page from Oct. 6, 1946. When he showed the paper to the homeowner, Casey Chapman, 75, Chapman recognized someone in the photo on the page: his mother. "It was just a shock," Chapman said. His family had no connection to the home before he bought it in 2017. That issue of the Fargo Forum featured the seven nominees for North Dakota Agricultural College's homecoming queen, one of which was Marty Anderson, Chapman's mom. (She won, by the way.) Anderson died in 2014. Chapman said she was "very active, and not afraid to take on leadership roles. My mother was a wonderful lady." He and his wife have already framed the clipping and will hang it in their renovated bedroom.

Least Competent Criminals

A 25-year-old man in Philipsburg, Montana, drove to the Granite County Courthouse to pay a fine he had received for open container, KBZK-TV reported on Feb. 17. While he waited, Sheriff Rico Barkell observed that he appeared to be intoxicated. He asked if the man had

driven to the courthouse, to which he answered yes. Then he admitted he had had two drinks and smoked two bowls of marijuana. A breath test confirmed the sheriff's suspicions, with the man's blood alcohol at three times the legal limit. He also had an open container in his car. He was charged with aggravated DUI and open container. The sheriff's office posted about the incident on its Facebook page, summarizing with "Stupidity is not an excuse!"

It's Florida

On Feb. 11, Dean Young, 26, entered a parked landscaping van in Hialeah, Florida, allegedly with intent to steal tools inside, NBC Miami reported. However, Young became trapped in the locked van and started screaming and beating on the doors. "Help me! I'm inside," he yelled. The landscapers called police but didn't free Young from the van, as there were machetes inside that he might have used as a weapon. Young, who had posted bail in an earlier case, was held on charges of burglary and criminal mischief.

Irony

A famous rock formation in Melendugno, Puglia, Italy, called Lovers' Arch collapsed into the Adriatic Sea on Valentine's Day, The Guardian reported. Strong storm surges and heavy rain pounded the area before the landmark fell. "It is a devastating blow to the heart," said Melendugno Mayor Maurizio Cisternino. "Nature has been overturned."

Meanwhile, at the Olympics ...

The real star of the Feb. 18 women's cross country team sprint qualifying round in Lago Di Tesero, Italy, was Nazgul, a 2-year-old Czechoslovakian wolfdog. NPR reported that as skiers flew across the finish line, Nazgul broke out of his doghouse and ran across, too -- even being captured with the official finish line camera. The dog's owner said Nazgul "just wanted to follow us. He always looks for people."

Crossword by Myles Mellor

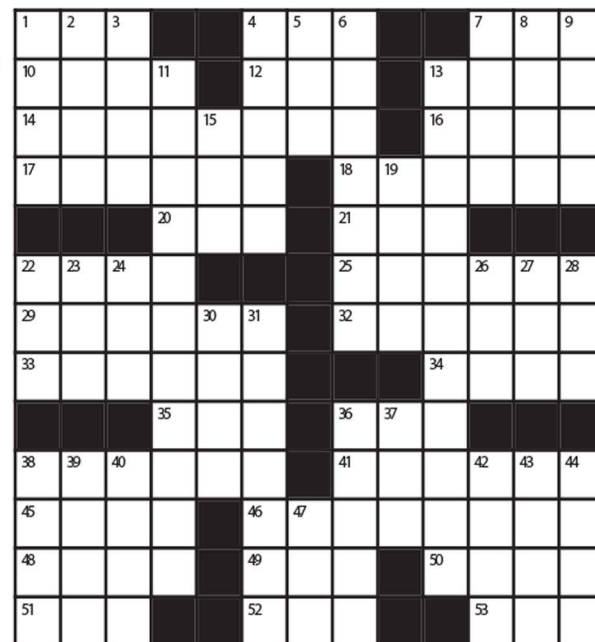
Print this Page! Ctrl + P

Across

1. Dylan or Marley
4. Black box warning issuers
7. Early modern jazz
10. Passing away column
12. Member of a colony
13. Stubborn beast
14. Relative
16. Can-do
17. Shrubs, as fences
18. Columbus native
20. Turn over
21. Published
22. Buckets
25. Artist's model
29. Overwhelm with noise
32. Compact
33. Desecrate
34. Mr. ___ guy
35. Took a chair
36. Santa ___ winds
38. Cannot, in a way
41. Ante up
45. Flirtwith
46. Inflexibly entrenched
48. Slog (through)
49. Halt in growth
50. Ornamental bag
51. Night flight, with red
52. Collared
53. The Little Giant

Down

1. Twaddle
2. Symphony member
3. Fasten
4. Test answer
5. CSI evidence
6. Under the least wanted scenario
7. Lymph node swelling
8. Spanish dish
9. Hammerend
11. Won't part with money easily
13. Means of upkeep
15. Newprefix
19. 1967 musical
22. Baking term
23. Jeans brand



24. Clumsy person
26. Food fish of Japan
27. Mail Boxes ___
28. Highball ingredient
30. Gusto
31. Practice golf fabric
36. Take as one's own
37. ___ negotiable
38. Sulk
39. Unattractive
40. Blackthorn
42. Choir member
43. Stiff
44. Reassemble
47. Copacabana site

Bad Dad Jokes

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To get a Faith Lift



Previous Puzzle





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SVCAC's Young Artists Playground (YAP) Youth Arts Education Program features interactive arts workshops and camps for youth ages 5-14 years old. YAP is dedicated to enriching the lives of local youth through quality arts education and performance based programs. YAP builds visual and performing arts skills through programs that foster confidence, compassion and resilience in students of all abilities. We offer opportunities for youth to develop and share their creative voices. For more information contact: Stephanie Lesh at 818-601-0582

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THE BEST JOBS FOR TEENS To Look For in the San Fernando Valley

By Kathryn Andrew

For teens in the San Fernando Valley, getting a first job is about more than a paycheck. It's a chance to build confidence, learn responsibility, and gain real-world experience—often while balancing school, sports, and social life. The

teens leadership opportunities earlier than expected.

Movie Theaters and Entertainment Venues

Movie theaters are especially appealing for teens because of flexible schedules,

demand. Tutoring builds confidence, reinforces knowledge, and can often be done after school or online, making it one of the most flexible teen jobs available.

Pet Care and Neighborhood Gigs

Dog walking, pet sitting, babysitting, and yard work remain reliable ways for teens to earn money locally. These jobs are especially popular in residential areas of the Valley and help teens build trust with neighbors while learning responsibility and scheduling. Many teens start here before

transitioning into more formal employment.

Retail + Online Skills for the Digital Age

Some teens also find opportunities managing social media for small businesses, helping with basic photography, or assisting with online listings and inventory. These roles are perfect for tech-savvy teens and provide early exposure to digital marketing and creative skills.

The San Fernando Valley offers teens a wide variety of job opportunities that fit different personalities, interests, and schedules. Whether it's retail, food service, recreation, tutoring, or neighborhood work, the best teen jobs in the SFV help young people earn money while building skills that last far beyond their first paycheck.



SFV offers a wide range of teen-friendly jobs with flexible schedules, approachable managers, and skills that translate well into future careers.

Retail Jobs: A Classic Starting Point

Retail remains one of the most popular options for teens in the Valley. Clothing stores, shoe shops, beauty retailers, and bookstores regularly hire teens for part-time roles. These jobs teach customer service, communication, and time management—skills that employers value long-term. Many Valley shopping centers and malls also offer evening and weekend shifts, making it easier for students to work around school hours.

Food Service and Cafés

Fast-casual restaurants, ice cream shops, coffee spots, and bakeries are always looking for energetic teens. These jobs move quickly and help teens develop teamwork skills, multitasking ability, and professionalism under pressure. Tips can be a bonus at certain locations, and many employers promote from within, giving

social environments, and perks like free or discounted movies. Working concessions or ticketing also builds customer-facing skills in a fun, high-energy setting. Seasonal roles at local entertainment venues and event spaces pop up throughout the year and are worth keeping an eye on.

Recreation Jobs: Parks, Pools, and Sports

For active teens, jobs with city recreation programs, community centers, and sports leagues are ideal. Lifeguarding, swim instruction, camp counselor roles, and youth sports assistants are popular summer options and often extend into weekends during the school year. These jobs promote leadership, safety awareness, and responsibility—qualities that look great on college and scholarship applications.

Teens who excel academically can turn strong grades into income by tutoring younger students. Subjects like math, science, reading, and test prep are always in

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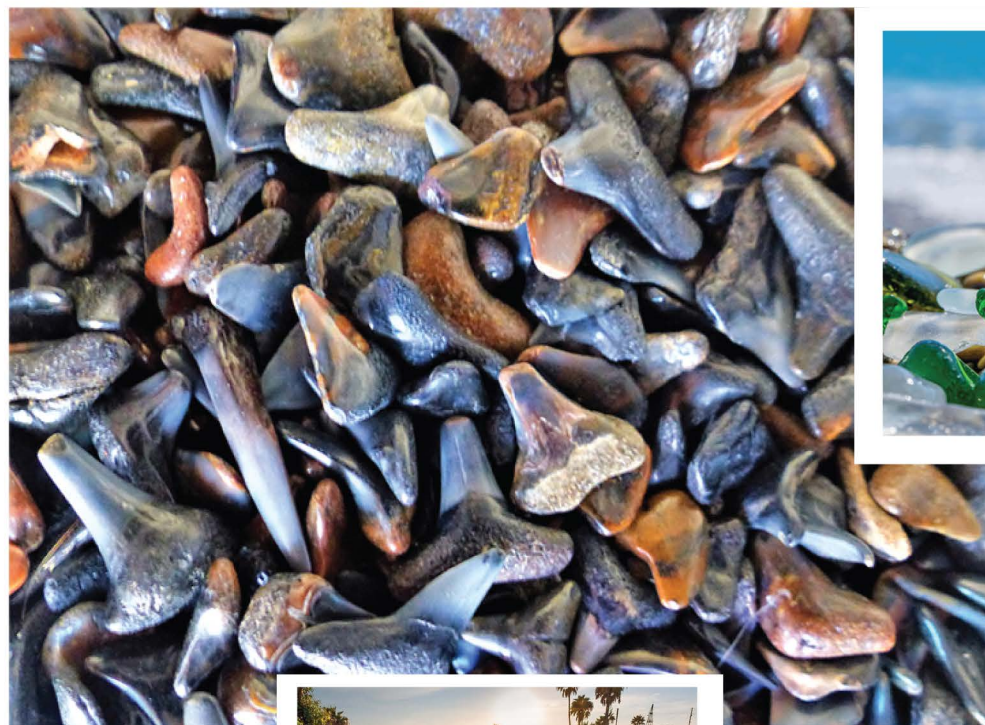
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Where to Find Shark Teeth and Sea Glass

In Southern California: The Best Beach for Kids to Explore

By David Anderson



How Kids Can Spot Real Shark Teeth and Sea Glass

A simple rule makes it easy for young beachcombers. Shark teeth usually look darker, smoother, and more perfectly shaped than shells. Sea glass should feel frosted, with rounded edges—not sharp or shiny. The best place to search is where wet sand meets dry sand, especially early in the morning before the beach fills up.

Best Time to Go Treasure Hunting

Timing matters. The most successful beachcombing trips happen: Early in the morning. Right after high tide. One to two days after a storm. During very low or minus tides.

These conditions expose fresh material and increase the chances of a great find. For families looking to combine outdoor adventure, hands-on learning, and pure fun, Crystal Cove State Park is the best beach in Southern California for kids to explore shark teeth and sea glass. It's a place where curiosity is rewarded, discoveries feel magical, and every visit becomes a story worth telling—long after the sand is rinsed off and the treasures are safely tucked away.

anemones, and starfish—making the experience about more than just collecting.

Parents appreciate that the park encourages respectful exploration. Children can learn early lessons about marine conservation, such as taking only a few small items and leaving living creatures undisturbed.

slender sand tiger shark teeth and tiny triangular mako shark teeth, often dark gray or black and easy to distinguish from shells once you

know what to look for. These fossils wash ashore most often after high tides or storms, turning an ordinary beach walk into an exciting scientific discovery.

Crystal Cove is also a reliable place to find sea glass, especially classic white, green, and amber pieces that have been polished smooth by decades of wave action. Kids love sorting colors and examining how sharp glass transforms into soft, gem-like shapes over time.

Why Crystal Cove Is Ideal for Families

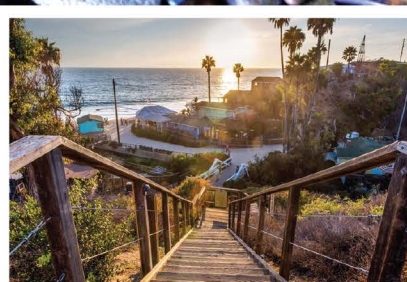
Unlike more crowded urban beaches, Crystal Cove offers wide stretches of sand, rocky coves, and tide pools that feel like a natural outdoor classroom. Calm coves allow kids to explore safely, while tide pools reveal crabs, sea

For kids, a beach day is even better when it feels like a treasure hunt. In Southern California, that means searching for shark teeth—tiny fossils millions of years old—and sea glass, often lovingly called salted glass for its smooth, frosted finish. While many SoCal beaches are beautiful, only one consistently delivers the best mix of discoveries, safety, and hands-on exploration for families.

Crystal Cove State Park: The Best Beach for Young Explorers

When it comes to shark teeth and sea glass, Crystal Cove State Park stands out as the top destination for kids. Located between Newport Beach and Laguna Beach, Crystal Cove is known among beachcombers and fossil hunters for its natural erosion patterns, which regularly uncover small prehistoric treasures.

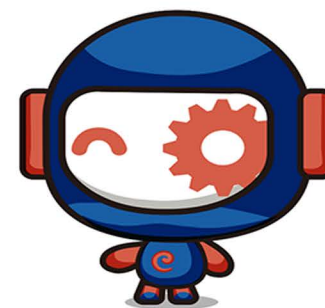
Shark teeth found here are typically small—perfectly sized for kids to spot and collect. Common finds include



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By Vincent Bent

DODGER REGALIA IN 2026

A Fresh Era of Style, Culture & Fashion

The Los Angeles Dodgers have long been one of Major League Baseball's most iconic franchises, admired not just for their baseball excellence, but for the cultural weight of their iconic blue and white regalia. In 2026, Dodgers fashion — both on the field and in fanwear — moves into a new chapter that blends tradition, modern design cues, and cultural relevance.

Game-Day Uniform Evolution

On the field, changes to the Dodgers' official uniforms for the 2026 season are subtle but meaningful. Nike and MLB have responded to both player feedback and fan sentiment by returning to a more classic uniform template: bigger lettering on jerseys, embroidered sleeve patches, and a more traditional look overall that feels closer to the historic Dodgers aesthetic before the lightweight "Vapor Premier" styles of 2024.

One noticeable update is the removal of the cut-through lowercase "d" on the script Dodgers logo — a design tweak that has

pleased fans who felt the previous split design strained the classic typography. Additionally, the authentic jerseys now feature breathable mesh panels and a cleaner silhouette, designed for both performance and visual appeal.

For Spring Training, the Dodgers rolled out a refreshed blue jersey with no sleeve piping, a clean, modern take on their traditional look.

Alternative & Fan-Focused Apparel

Off the field, 2026 has seen an explosion of creative fan gear that expands beyond the classic home and away jerseys:

A 2026 Dodgers Back-to-Back World Champions hoodie celebrates the franchise's recent championship success with bold graphics, oversized prints, and a streetwear-friendly aesthetic that resonates with younger fans.

New alt jerseys — including fan-led leaks of an all-blue alternate — suggest the Dodgers may be embracing additional stylish colorways, potentially phasing out certain older alternate uniforms.

Classic Dodgers hoodies and casual wear in 2026 balance comfort and team pride, giving supporters everyday ways to rep Dodger blue beyond game days.

Streetwear Crossovers & Collaborations

One of the most notable trends in recent seasons — and one that continues into 2026 — is the intersection of sports regalia and streetwear fashion.

Collaborations between the Dodgers, New Era, and high-profile fashion brands like OVO (October's Very Own) and Fear of God have pushed Dodgers gear into luxe territory — satin jackets, premium fleece hoodies, and artist-inspired graphics that blur the line between athletic apparel and urban style.

These capsule collections aren't just about logo slapping; they reinterpret Dodgers

iconography through fashion-forward lenses, often using subtle branding and premium materials that appeal to both die-hard sports fans and street style enthusiasts alike.

Cultural Influence & Fan Identity

Dodger regalia in 2026 reflects more than team allegiance — it mirrors cultural identity. Dodgers hats are no longer strictly ballpark accessories; they've appeared in elevated contexts, paired with designer cashmere and luxury pieces by celebrities, signaling the hat's role as a cross-genre fashion staple.

Meanwhile, fan jerseys and tees celebrating championship titles or dynasty narratives have become symbols of local pride, worn not just at games, but at concerts, street style shoots, and everyday life.

In 2026, Dodgers fashion is about balance: honoring the blue-and-white heritage, elevating classic designs with thoughtful tweaks, and embracing modern streetwear influences that allow fans to wear their loyalty with flair. It's a season where the Dodgers' regalia isn't just sportswear — it's personal style.



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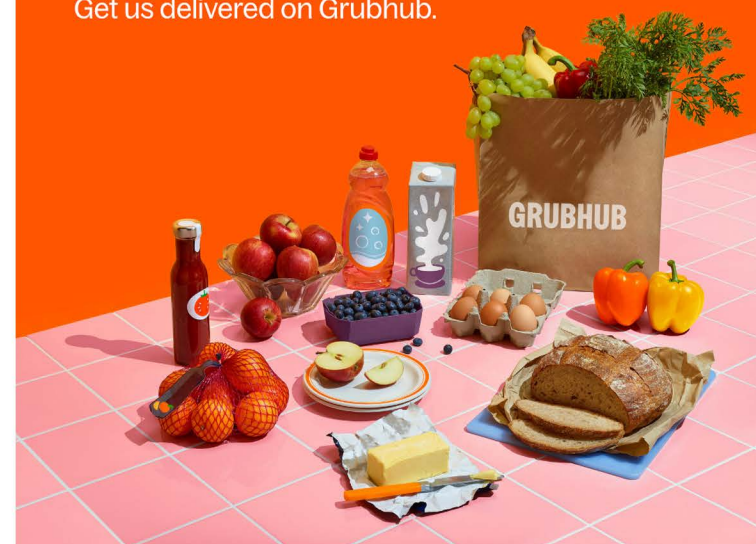
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