

inside napa valley

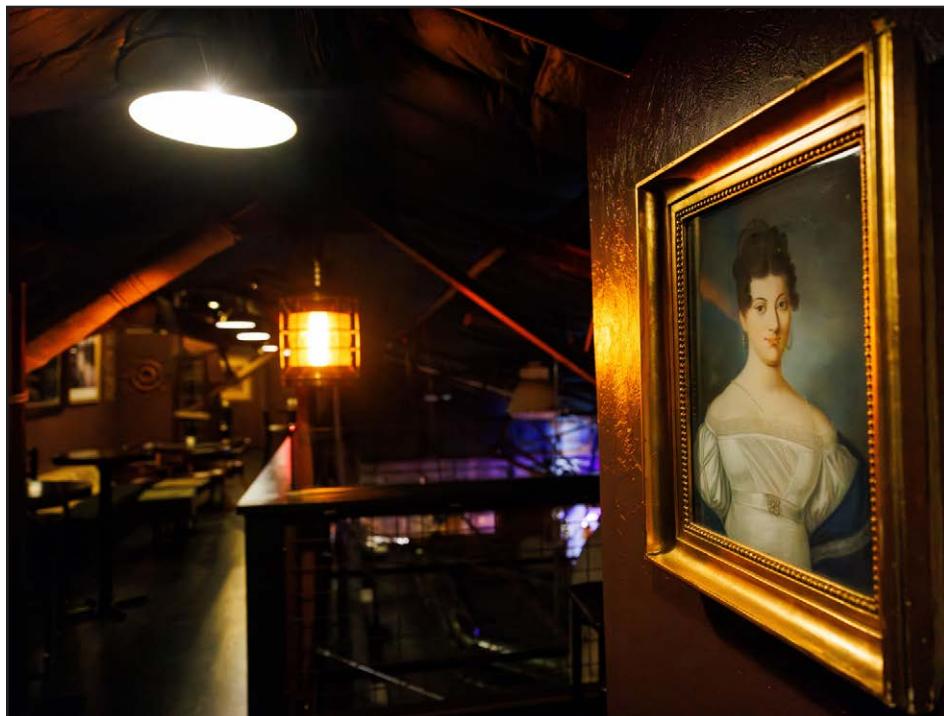
WINTER 2025



Building a LEGACY

NAPA VALLEY DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE

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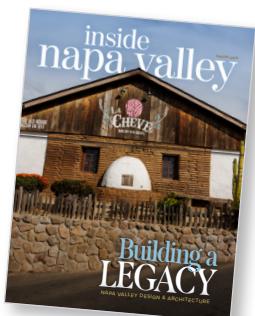
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ON THE COVER

La Cheve Bakery
and Brews in Napa.

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EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2026

There is never a shortage of things to do in Napa Valley, but if you like to plan ahead, here are some events to keep an eye out for in 2026.

JANUARY

- The Napa Lighted Art Festival
- Napa Truffle Festival
- NV Idol
- Napa Valley Restaurant Month
- Yountville International Short Film Festival

FEBRUARY

- A Cappella Extravaganza
- AAUW Napa County Authors Forum
- Black History Month Celebration (Napa)
- Napa Valley College presents "Into the Woods"
- Premiere Napa Valley

MARCH

- It's A Grand Night For Singing (Napa)
- Lucky Penny Productions presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" (Napa)
- Napa Valley Marathon
- Napa Valley Mustard Celebration
- ¡Viva Mariachi!

APRIL

- Calistoga Poetry Walk
- Earth Day Celebration (Napa)
- Napa Valley StreamFest
- Taste of Yountville
- UC Master Gardeners of Napa County annual Tomato Plant Sale

MAY

- BottleRock Napa Valley
- Festival La Onda (Napa)
- Geek Out Napa Valley Comic-Con
- Napa Bikefest
- Yountville Art, Sip & Stroll

JUNE

- Calistoga Concerts in the Park
- Juneteenth Community Celebration (American Canyon)



NICK OTTO/REGISTER FILE PHOTO

- Napa County Historical Society Walking Tours
- Pride Car Cruise (Napa)
- Valley Players' Summer Staged Reading Series

JULY

- Calistoga Fourth of July Parade
- Festival Napa Valley
- Meet Me In The Street (American Canyon)
- Napa Sunrise Rotary July 4th Parade
- SoFi District Battle of the Bands (Napa)

AUGUST

- Louis Vermiel Classic at Calistoga Fairgrounds
- Music in the Vineyards
- National Night Out (American Canyon, Calistoga, Napa, St. Helena)
- Tomatoganza! (Napa)
- Town & Country Fair (Napa)

SEPTEMBER

- Coastal Cleanup Day (Napa)
- Harvest Table (Calistoga)
- Open Studios Napa Valley

OCTOBER

- ProCore Golf Championship
- Spirits of St. Helena Cemetery Walk
- Calistoga Halloween Parade
- Halloween Spooktacular Tour at Tulocay Cemetery
- Hometown Halloween (Napa)
- St. Helena Harvest Festival
- Yountville Halloween Block Party

NOVEMBER

- Dia de los Muertos (Napa and St. Helena)
- Gift 'n' Tyme Fair (Napa)
- Napa Valley Turkey Chase (Napa)
- Veterans Day (Napa, American Canyon, Yountville)
- Yountville Tree Lighting Ceremony

DECEMBER

- Calistoga Lighted Tractor Parade
- Merry Meritage Ice Rink (Napa)
- Napa Christmas Parade
- Reindeer Run (American Canyon)
- Santa Train Jolly Journeys



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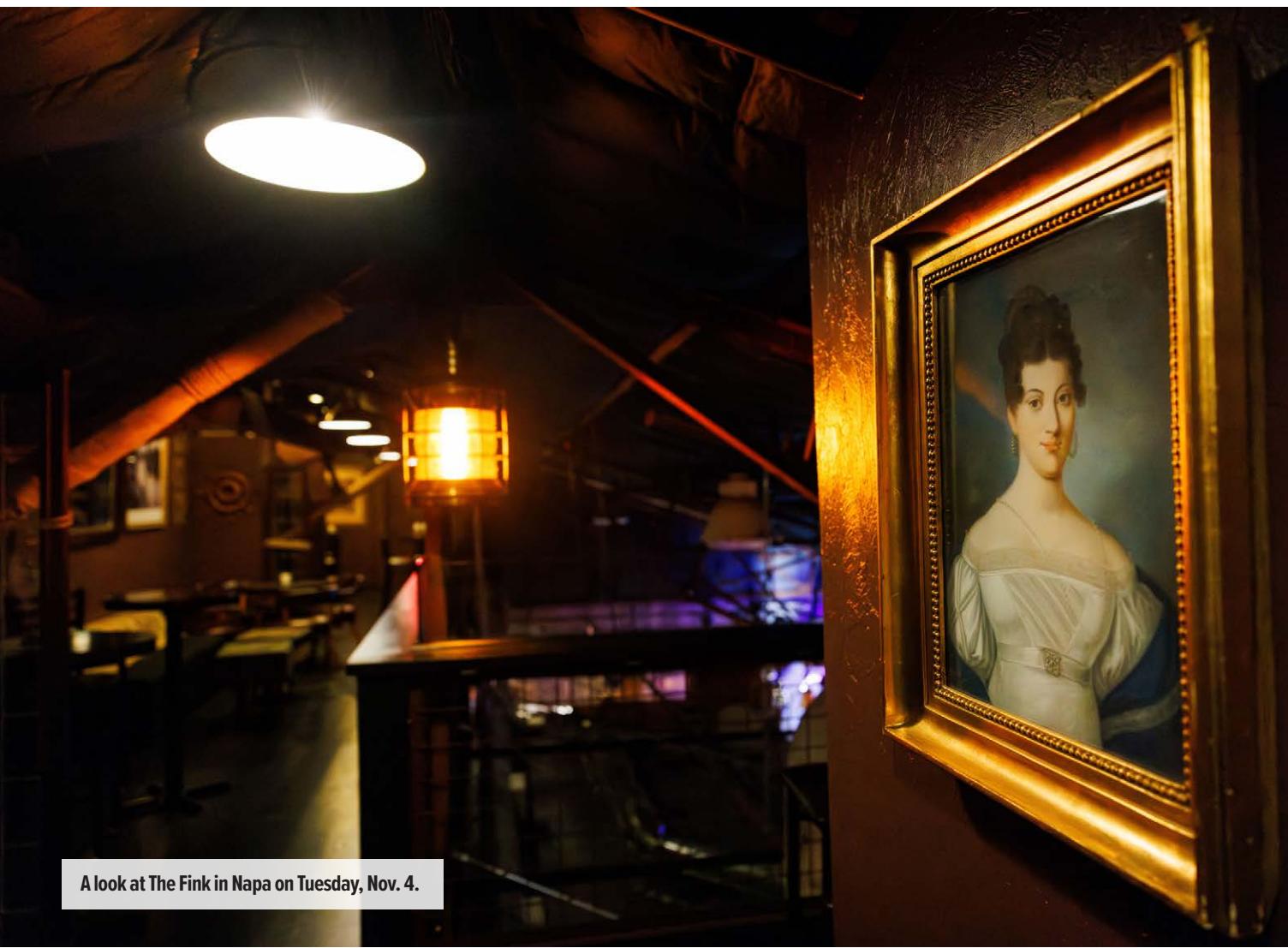
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A look at The Fink in Napa on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

NICK OTTO/REGISTER

ENTER THE FINK

A bar and time capsule of an old Napa boathouse

BY ALBERT GREGORY

Stepping into The Fink in downtown Napa transports you to a 19th-century boathouse located inside the Historic Napa Mill along the Napa River.

When you first walk into the bar — known for its extensive, worldly cocktail menu — you are greeted by an intimately lit nautical theme. At first glance, the design feels directly ripped out of Napa circa the 1800s, when the old Napa Mill was first erected. In another instance, you could be transported to a boathouse — perhaps on North Peters Street in New

Orleans' French Quarter, or possibly at Pier 57 along the Hudson River in New York City.

In one breath, The Fink can feel rooted and in another, like you have been plucked right out of Napa and placed somewhere exotic.

When the owner Judd Finkelstein — from whom the bar derives its name — purchased the bar at 530 Main St., he wanted to connect its atmosphere to Napa's river history and industrial heritage. He called up his old friend Daniel Gallardo, also known as Tiki Diablo, who has designed bars featuring "exotic escapism"

around the world.

"For me, it was all about finding authentic artifacts, artifacts that had meaning to the area, to Judd and to myself, and incorporating them or even designing around them," Gallardo said. "The theme behind the bar was, this was the Fink's lair, and it was like a time capsule. So we wanted it to look like it had been there for decades, and then somebody just had taken it over and used it."

Finkelstein said he wanted it to be the neighborhood bar for the world traveler.

The bar sits in the historic Napa Mill building, which was first constructed in

ENTER THE FINK

1884, according to local historian Rebecca Yerger. The bricks were made on-site using materials from the Napa River. In 1887, an expansion added a two-story building and significant features such as iron shutters on the doors and windows, a corrugated iron roof, and walnut wainscoting on the second floor that was later replaced with pressed tin in 1901.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, a modern restoration added the Embarcadero Building on Brown Street. A restoration of the Hatt Building maintained key features such as original redwood wainscoting, exposed reinforced brick walls, and the original rounded

windows with iron fire shutters. The outdoor plaza incorporated salvaged materials such as original bricks from the demolished warehouse and cobblestone from the surrounding streets, according to Yerger.

“The theme behind the bar was, this was the Fink’s lair, and it was like a time capsule. So we wanted it to look like it had been there for decades, and then somebody just had taken it over and used it.”

— **JUDD FINKELSTEIN**, Fink owner

of the comfortable cushioned leather booths. The smooth wooden tables reflect the warm glow of the copper light



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ENTER THE FINK

fixtures that hang above them. Fishing nets, ropes and hooks that adorn the ceiling and partitions between the booths would inspire anyone to take up sailing or perhaps just dive headfirst into another of The Fink's fine-crafted cocktails.

The curved L-shaped bar with its dark wood finish is understated to make way for what bartenders are serving up. Behind the bar are two mirrors that help to open the intimate space, which has no windows to the outside world and certainly no televisions that could intrude on the illusion of delving deeply into this time capsule.

"There's no connection to the outside, and you're immersed in it," Finkelstein explained.

On either side of the bars sit rows of shelves carrying the carefully selected assortment of liquors and liqueurs used to make each one of The Fink's

skillfully crafted beverages. Near those shelves sit two authentic ship lights on either side — one illuminating green for starboard and the other red for port.

Above the mirrors sits one long shelf that holds a 1950s radio, old Soda Springs water bottles and a selection of what appear to be vintage glass bottles, each with colorful yet unknown contents. Finkelstein said they were given to him by a childhood friend from St. Helena where he grew up. Her father was a chemist and in his spare time he liked to distill his own concoctions.

Hanging in the rafters are several small boats. Two of them, which sit almost right above the bar, are small sculling boats that were found by Gallardo in a sea scouts' warehouse. The other, which is near the back of the bar, is a vintage 1960s fishing boat that was



NICK OTTO/REGISTER



A look inside
The Fink in
Napa on Tues-
day, Nov. 4.

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originally sold in an old Sears catalog. Finkelstein purchased it from someone in Sebastopol.

Between the bar and the booths sit four small table tops. Walk past those tables and the L-shaped room opens to the lounge seating area. Strewn around low wooden tables are mismatched mid-century modern chairs and love seats.

To the right is the performance space, where a piano sits. The world-renowned jazz musician Mike Greensill gifted it to Silo's, which was the bar in this space before The Fink took over. Greensill was a regular at Silo's and still comes to The Fink once a month to perform.

Behind the performance space on the wall is a watertight door, like one would find on a large ship, and it is illuminated by a foreboding orange glow. Finkelstein has had to insist to more than one customer that the door leads to nowhere and is simply just hung up on the wall.

"People have come up with some crazy story about the hidden room, but I don't want that rumor out there," Finkelstein said. "I'm not somebody who likes to be exclusive. I'm inclusive. There's no secret party going on."

Another feature that adds to the authentic feeling of this nautical bar are the signs on the wall that read "SS. Dolphin, SS. Amelia and SS. Zinfandel." All were boats that used to ride along the Napa River trans-



NICK OTTO/REGISTER

ENTER THE FINK

porting goods from all around the world, Finkelstein said.

All of these aspects that bring life and color to The Fink are set against an industrial gray backdrop. What appear to be exposed rivets and steel beams are actually deliberately placed. Gallardo even painted some of the wood features to look like steel. He made it look so real, in fact, that Finkelstein said he had to convince their contractor that it wasn't actually a giant steel fixture hanging above everyone's heads.

Finkelstein said he hopes the décor is organically ever-evolving and that the community continues to contribute to the design, helping it remain authentic to its roots.

"It definitely touches my heart," Finkelstein said. "It sounds corny, but it really does when on just about any night



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A light fixture at The Fink on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

of the week, when I look around, and we're mostly filled with locals."

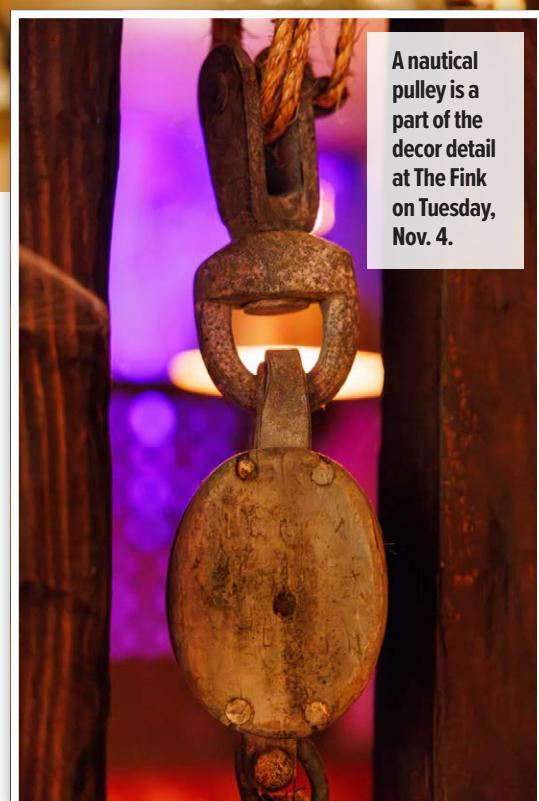
The Fink is open from 4 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and on Sundays. It is open 4 p.m. to

midnight Friday and Saturday. The space is also available to rent for private parties.

For more information, visit thefinknapa.com. ■

“It definitely touches my heart. It sounds corny, but it really does when on just about any night of the week, when I look around, and we’re mostly filled with locals.”

— Judd Finkelstein



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‘TRANSPORTED TO ANOTHER TIME’



La Cheve Bakery and Brews on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

NICK OTTO/REGISTER

The Old Adobe building’s legacy continues in Napa

BY JOSHUA GUTIERREZ

When people set foot inside the Old Adobe building in Napa, Justin Altamura wants them to be transported to another time.

Home to La Cheve Bakery and Brews in the present day, the restored structure on the corner of Soscol Avenue and Silverado Trail was built in 1845. According to the Napa County Historical Society, the humble adobe is the oldest building in Napa.

But if you asked Napa native Altamura about the importance of the former residence growing up, he couldn’t tell you. While the building has seen a second life housing various dance parlors, bars and restaurants through the decades, Altamura said the building’s significance was unknown. In various stages, the building was either left neglected or obscured by separate attachments or used as a storage facility for adjacent businesses.

So in 2016 when Altamura and his partners bought the property, which includes three other buildings, there was a sense of obligation. That obligation was to that history the building represented.

“When I did the restoration, I knew I wanted to tear all this other stuff down and bring it back to what it was,” Altamura said. “I saw very old photos of what it used to look like and wanted to bring it back as close as I could to that. I knew how special it could be

TRANSPORTED TO ANOTHER TIME

if done right. ... It had to be done that way."

Mexican Capt. Don Cayetano Juárez built the adobe for his wife, María de Jesús, and his 11 children on a sizable swath of land named Rancho Tuluçay, according to online archives at UC Berkeley. Granted the land east of the Napa River in 1840 for his military service by Mexican Gen. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, primarily for his expeditions against native populations, Juárez was a key figure in shaping Napa Valley.

Kelly O'Connor, research archivist and librarian at the Napa County Historical Society, said Rancho Tuluçay became a pivotal economic force in wheat and cattle grazing. Even as discrimination against former Mexican citizens dwindled landholdings after California gained U.S. statehood in 1850, Rancho Tuluçay



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TRANSPORTED TO ANOTHER TIME

remained influential.

On a personal level, O'Connor said Juárez was kind, honorable, sociable and community-minded. Central to this was his residence, which held fiestas and gatherings during Juárez' lifetime.

Fast-forwarding roughly 170 years, the Old Adobe was standing, but the historic landmark was well overdue for a second life.

And while Altamura had experience as a commercial painter, built his own music studio and conducted renovations in his own home, this undertaking was a "whole new frontier." Additionally, the inability to hire expert contractors due to financial constraints made the task that much taller.

Yet with a group of highly dedicated friends and family as his crew, the project was underway.

The biggest undertaking the Old Adobe faced was its initial earthquake retrofitting in 2016, Altamura said. Given the desire to maintain the building's unique features, Al-

tamura noted the retrofit was painstakingly built within the structure to preserve historic features.

In keeping with "doing it the right way," Altamura went so far as to hire a family from Mexico to help with the adobe bricks and plaster. For about six months, the Cruz family would teach the enthusiastic renovators how to create using dirt from behind the property, grass, horse manure, straw and sand.

Old-growth redwood, painstakingly sourced from across California, would accentuate the interior beams within the structure. Altamura and his team would also build gutters, shutters, front and back decks, and doors from salvaged Foppiano wine tank staves. Square nails, found on site, were also reused whenever possible.

The renovation also came at a time of personal turmoil in Altamura's life. Losing his beloved 19-year-old dachshund, cat, mother and his Silverado Trail home to the October

2017 North Bay wildfires in a span of a few years was devastating. But the ability to dive into the project, which took countless hours of research on top of physical attention, created a labor of love.

The appreciation Altamura and his team put into the building and surrounding property was not lost on Cinthya Cisneros, owner and founder of La Cheve.

She fell in love with the restored Old Adobe immediately. Perhaps one of the biggest appeals was that the building was constructed when the land belonged to Mexico and was renovated using traditional methods. With the business' ethos built around Cisneros' Mexican heritage and the importance of family, the building represented so much of what she sought to share with others.

As she navigated different spaces for La Cheve in the beginning, she couldn't think of any other space the same way. And as La Cheve entered the space in 2019, the respect and detail she also pays toward the Juárez

La Cheve Bakery
and Brews on
Tuesday, Nov. 4.

TRANSPORTED TO ANOTHER TIME

family's home became an essential part of the business.

"I think it's important to pay homage and respect to those before us," Cisneros said. "I was very stuck on the idea that if the Juárez family never built this building, I would never be here. I would never be able to run La Cheve or make it the place it is today. So, I'm very grateful for that. I know for some it may feel insignificant, but I think it is very powerful to showcase the faces who brought La Cheve here."

For O'Connor, Cisneros' dedication to telling the Juárez story is unique. While many who reach out to the Napa County Historical Society seek to preserve details for personal residences, La Cheve's popularity and ability to communicate history with such adoration makes the Juárez story come alive.

"The thing that is special about Cinthya and her relationship to that building is that she came to us and rather than saying 'I want it to look like this,' it was, 'I want to be able to tell this story,'"

O'Connor said. "That is something that's not as common and really is the human touch part that heightens the story of that building."

Altamura, who praises Cisneros' dedication to the building and the Juárez family legacy, said he is proud of how much the business has grown. From its grand opening to today, he said, there is a nervous enthusiasm he has when people visit the property and set foot inside the Old Adobe.

What he hopes people take away is simple.

"I hope they appreciate the history there," Altamura said. "I hope they want to get to know about the history that is there and look up who these people are. I have always wanted it to be a family establishment where people can create memories. And that's what it has become. To me, it's the most unique spot in Napa. You can tell people appreciate that."

La Cheve Bakery and Brews is located at 376 Soscol Ave. in Napa. Visit ilove-lacheve.com for more details. ■



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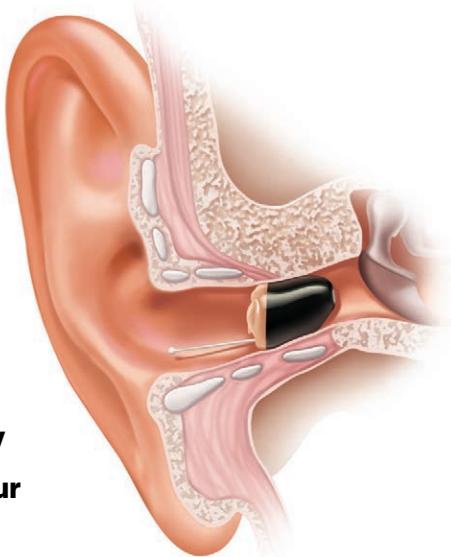
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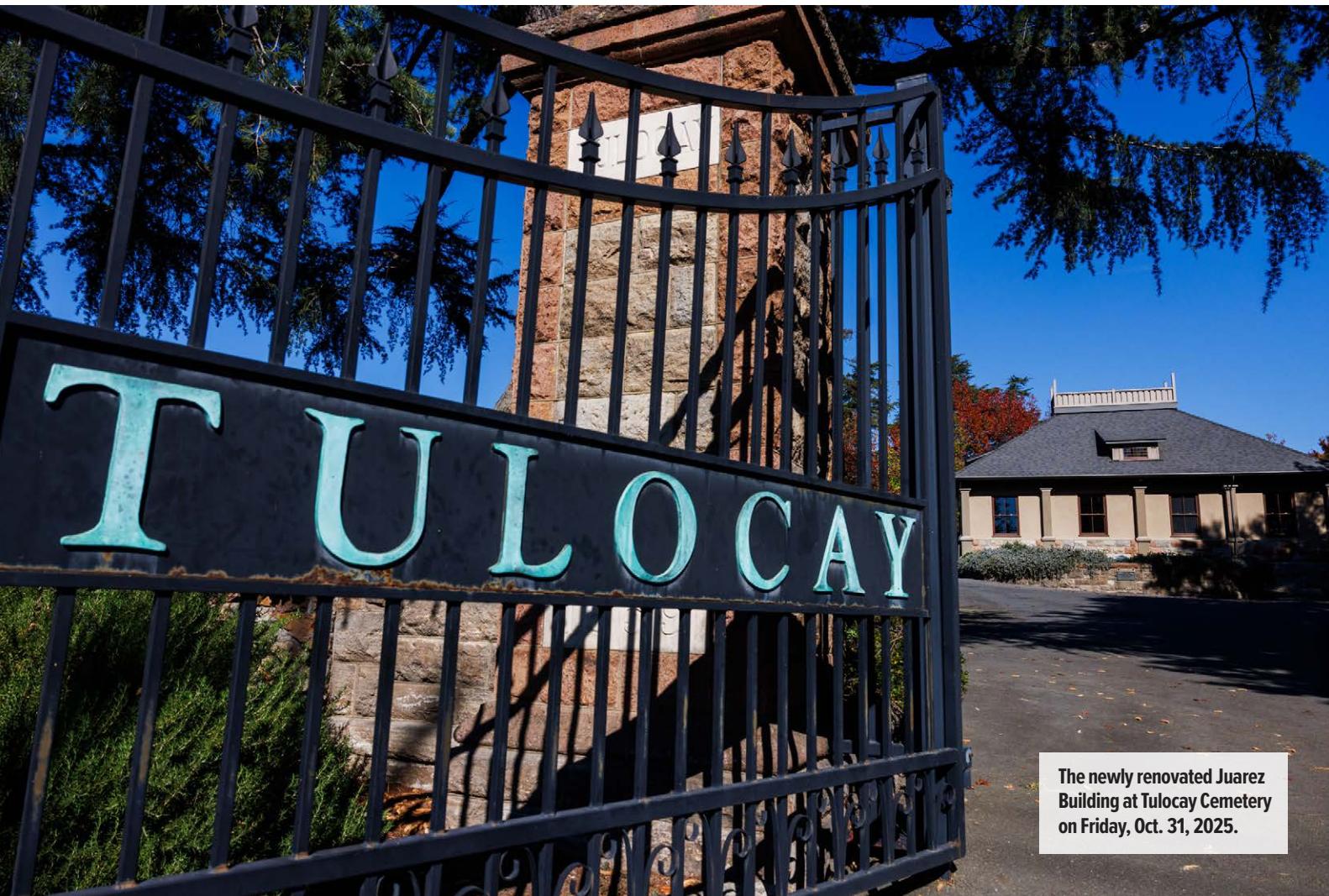
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The newly renovated Juarez Building at Tulocay Cemetery on Friday, Oct. 31, 2025.

NICK OTTO/REGISTER

HONORING THE PAST

The rehabilitation of Tulocay Cemetery's Juarez Building

BY REBECCA YERGER

Napa's 1906 stone Juarez Building — located inside the Tulocay Cemetery's historic main gateway — has recently been rehabilitated to start its new life and purpose as the Tulocay Cemetery Association office.

While a team effort of the contractors, workers and cemetery staff was necessary to achieve this goal, the Juarez Building project was led by its visionaries — Tulocay Cemetery CEO Jeff Gerlomes and Karen Wesson, historic preservationist and hands-on project manager.

Both Gerlomes and Wesson succeeded

in achieving their mutual goal of making it seem as if all the Juarez Building needed was to be refreshed with a new coat of paint. However, far more was needed and required months of work, from October 2024 to May 2025, to complete the project.

Although Gerlomes and Wesson collaborated well on this rehabilitation, the project began with a condition set forth by Wesson.

"When Jeff asked me whether or not I would be interested in being the project manager for the Juarez Building rehab, I replied I would be on one condition — the windows had to be restored to be or replaced with historically accurate" fenes-

tration for the nearly 120-year-old building, Wesson recalled. With Gerlomes accepting her condition, Wesson began the project.

The rehabilitation of the Juarez Building required review and approval by the city of Napa Building Division. However, with no floor plans in existence for the building, Wesson had to hand-draw an entire set of plans.

Those drawings also included the historically accurate window specifications. Wesson explained how she designed those windows.

"I used a photo of the building predating the 1964 and 1989 remodels of the

HONORING THE PAST

Juarez Building as a reference as to how many windows originally existed as well as their original design," she said. "Then, knowing the measurements of the stones surrounding the windows, I counted the number of both the horizontal and vertical stones encircling each window to calculate the dimensions of the original windows."

For the actual fabrication of new windows, a clear vertical-grain fir was specially milled by Channel Lumber of Richmond.

In addition to designing the windows with the historically correct dimensions and design, the mechanical parts of the double-hung windows are also authentic.

"Each window has antique pulleys and weights," Wesson said.

Each window casement was stained, not painted, to prevent paint building up over time and ultimately adding to their longevity. As for the fabrication of those windows, Wesson said, "Cyrus Gonzales, owner and woodworker of White Owl Woodworks, made all of the windows. Channel Lumber Co. made the



Large windows are a part of the newly renovated Juarez Building at Tulocay Cemetery on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025.

window and door casings except for the parts I made."

Wesson added one more detail about the windows.

"On the south side of the Juarez Building, three windows were located between the original columns. I added one more to visually balance that exterior façade. There



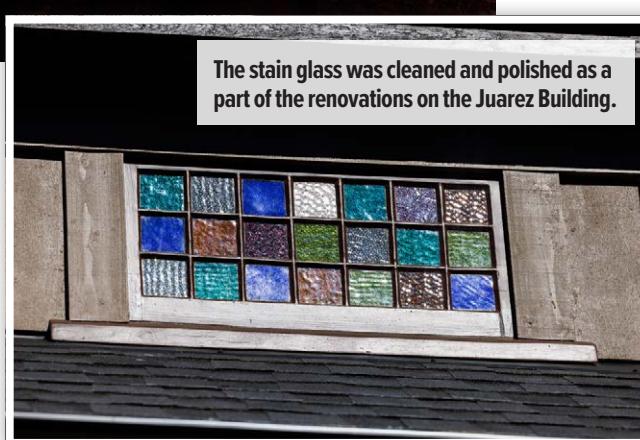
The newly renovated Juarez Building at Tulocay Cemetery on Friday, Oct. 31, 2025.

HONORING THE PAST



“We had tried to find a 10-foot table for the boardroom but had no success. I thought I could try to make it myself.”

Karen Wesson,
historic preservationist



NICK OTTO/REGISTER

are now four windows on the outside of that wall but only three in the interior.” Wesson added, “It took a lot of planning.” She worked closely with the general contractor for the project, Stagner Construction, on this and all of the project.

Other exterior work included a new roof to replace the timeworn and deteriorating one. ZFA Structural Engineering worked with Wesson to design a roof suitable for the building, and included in the roof rehabilitation were its dormer windows. The actual windows of these dormers were in poor condition.

“I took them home to my workshop where I stripped and restained them,” she said. “I also repaired some of the glazing, including replacing four damaged or missing colored-glazing pieces.”

An original detail of the roof was a widow’s walk. This architectural detail was restored to the Juarez Building during the rehabilitation. It was designed and manufactured by Allweld Metal Fabrication. Wesson also noted another original exterior detail, a large rooftop flagpole, was not restored to the building.

As for the interior, in addition to the windows, it received considerable attention from Wesson and her team without moving walls or changing its footprint.

The bathroom was upgraded to meet modern requirements for disabled access. Smaller but important changes included replacing the door hardware with period-appropriate hardware. Using the same wood as for the window casings, Wesson crafted corbels, lintels and base door plinths, staining them to match all the other interior woodwork. To add finishing touches, Wesson made doorstops and a dove. The latter conceals the plastic

knob of the pull cord for the attic access door.

“I couldn’t have anything plastic in the building,” Wesson said with a smile.

While all of the wooden elements add to the overall feel of the interior, Wesson challenged her skill set with a substantial interior appointment.

“We had tried to find a 10-foot table for the boardroom but had no

HONORING THE PAST

success," she said. "I thought I could try to make it myself." Using the same wood as the window casings, as well as a biscuit joiner, she crafted the tabletop.

"I purchased the table skirt and legs," said Wesson. Once it was assembled, she finished the table with the same stain used throughout the interior.

"The conference table was a weird size," said Gerlomes. "When she suggested that she would fabricate it, I thought, 'What?' She is incredibly clever and made the project so easy for me."

Also as part of the interior work, some of the drywall from the 1964 and 1989 remodelings had to be replaced. Before the new drywall was installed, Wesson created a bit of a time capsule. She said, "I placed a set of plans into the space between the stone wall and drywall. It will be a surprise for the future."

In honor of its past, the flooring was returned to concrete.

Wesson explained, "In Nancy Brennan's history of Tulocay Cemetery man-

uscript, she quoted an article about the 1906 construction of the Juarez Building. Nancy stated, according to the article, the original flooring material was concrete, which we honored in its rehabilitation."

The building was constructed by James Newman, a local stonemason. The building was referred to as the Lodge with its intended use being an office. The project invoice, of which a copy is displayed in the Juarez Building, listed the cost of constructing the 1,191.5-square-foot building as \$1,279.75, plus an additional \$235 for carpentry work.

The interior spaces included in addition to the boardroom and bathroom are two offices, a galley-style kitchen and the museum room. All of those spaces are decorated with antique lighting fixtures as well as photographs relating to Tulocay Cemetery, from symbolic elements found through the cemetery to images of some family mausoleums.

The museum room, located just inside of the main entrance into the building, is

the largest of the interior spaces. Within this space are artifacts related specifically to Tulocay, such as a map and historical photos of the cemetery.

Within the western wall of the museum room is a bronze plaque dedicated to Cayetano Juarez. Wesson said, "I haven't been able to find the exact date of its dedication but it was sometime in the 1940s." Cayetano played a major role in the establishment of the cemetery; in 1859, he donated 49 acres of his Rancho Tulucay land grant to the Tulocay Cemetery Association.

The museum room also features antique artifacts relating to the funeral and cemetery industry. Wesson found an online collector wanting to sell a bier, or casket, wagon. She said, "It was originally purchased in 1920 by a small English village. At some point, it became the property of a San Francisco cemetery before it was purchased by another collector."

While the bulk of the rehabilitation is complete, there are some finishing touches that need to be completed, such as

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"The office needs of today with all of our devices are quite different from 1906," Gerlomes said.

"Our target date for officially opening the Juarez Building is January 2026," he added. This project was made possible, in part, by a financial gift from the estate of the late Ronald and Dorothy Fagundes.

Regarding this project, Wesson stated it was a team effort of partners who all fully embraced the preservation of the Juarez Building, while also honoring its soul and its history.

"It is important to me to rekindle its spirit to give it a renewed purpose, a future," she said.

"Karen was one of the best decisions I've ever made for Tulocay Cemetery," said Gerlomes. "She is so passionate about history and preservation. It was amazing and incredible to work with her." ■

A photo of Don Cayetano Juarez and his wife hang in the newly renovated Juarez Building at Tulocay Cemetery on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025.



NICK OTTO/REGISTER

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DAY TRIPPING

The MacCallum House Inn & Restaurant blends Victorian charm with modern amenities.



NIKOLAS ZVOLENSKY/COURTESY PHOTO

VILLAGE BY THE SEA

Discover why now is a magical time to experience Mendocino's coastal charm

BY THERESA GONZALEZ

Living in Northern California, you can't help but feel like one of the lucky ones. Within a few scenic hours' drive, you can go from vineyards to redwood forests to the Pacific Coast and end up in a peaceful coastal village that feels suspended in time.

Usually a summer escape from the in-

land heat, Mendocino in winter means more affordable rates, fewer crowds and a chance to cozy up by the fire as dramatic winter waves crash below. For food and wine lovers, it's a wonderful time to explore when everything feels a bit more intimate and local.

"Winter's a perfect time for mushroom-foraging classes and whale watching out of Noyo Harbor," said Saya Ab-

ernethy-Hansen, general manager at the MacCallum House Inn & Restaurant - a historic luxury bed and breakfast dating back to 1882 - located in the heart of Mendocino. "There are so many great hiking spots along with kayaking too."

Highway 128 is a journey unto itself. The 75-mile stretch is studded with family-run wineries, quaint towns like Boonville, a charming pit stop with a gener-

DAY TRIPPING

al store and organic ice cream shop, and towering redwoods.

Before reaching the coast, Anderson Valley tempts wine lovers with small-lot producers like Lula Cellars, the last tasting room before you arrive in Mendocino. Sip Pinot Noir and Chardonnay under an open-air tent surrounded by vineyards for a reasonable \$15 tasting fee that is waived with purchase. Dogs are welcome and picnics are encouraged.

“What surprises people most about Mendocino wines is the diversity of varietals, blends and styles we can produce across such a small region,” said Matt Parish, winemaker at Lula Cellars. “The proximity to the Pacific creates all these unique microclimates, from the cool coastal fog of Anderson Valley to the warmer mountain slopes. It means we can showcase everything from Pinot Noir to Chardonnay, old-vine Zinfandel, and Cabernet Sauvignon.”

Focusing on Lula’s signature varietal, Parish adds, “There are few places in the world where the grape reveals such delicate elegance and restrained power as it does in Anderson Valley. Pinot really mirrors its environment – the fog, the soil, the hands that guide it – so each harvest feels deeply personal.”

The final stretch to the coast, a serpentine drive through old-growth forest, opens to the salty air of the Pacific just south of Navarro Beach, where the river meets the sea.

Perched on the cliffs above the ocean, Mendocino is one of California’s most photogenic coastal towns. Between the village edge and the Pacific lies Mendocino Headlands State Park, with winding pathways leading to secluded beaches perfect for spotting breaching whales or barking sea lions.

Once a booming 19th-century logging town, Mendocino was all but aban-

The view from the MacCallum House upper barn.



NIKOLAS ZVOLENSKY/COURTESY PHOTO

doned by the 1940s. The 1960s and 1970s sparked a creative revival, following the opening of the Mendocino Art Center in 1959, that still defines the community today. Artists, farmers, environmentalists and coastal lovers have transformed the town into a haven for the arts, with festivals celebrating film, music, wine, whales, even mushrooms.

At the heart of town, the MacCallum House Inn & Restaurant blends Victorian charm with modern amenities. Guests can stay in one-of-a-kind rooms, like a three-story water tower with bay views or a restored barn cottage with a private hot tub, and wake to complimentary breakfasts featuring local ingredients (think cornmeal pancakes with huckleberry syrup and Mac benedict with chive hollandaise).

For executive chef Alan Kantor, Mendocino’s abundance defines the menu.

“We try to keep it as local as possible and use things that grow on the coast,” he said. He works with foragers for mushrooms, blackberries and huckleberries,

and makes everything in-house from the bread to the pasta, even churning the restaurant’s own butter.

“Everything you need for a menu is right here in Northern California, from wine and beer to fish, cheese and duck,” Kantor adds. This season, he’s especially excited about the Liberty Farm duck breast with local huckleberries, apples and Pennyroyal Farms cheese, “which pairs beautifully with Pinot Noirs from Anderson Valley.”

Begin your meal with handcrafted cocktails, like the Manhattan Noir or the gin-forward Once Bitten, made with housemade bitters, and cozy up by the fire.

Stroll through Gallery Bookshop, home to a resident cat and a beloved independent bookstore. Visit the Ford House Museum and the Kelley House Museum, just across the street from MacCallum, to step back into the town’s historic past, or embark on a “Murder, She Wrote” walking tour – many episodes of the series were filmed here.

For nature lovers, Big River Beach is

DAY TRIPPING

ideal for kayaking and bonfires, while Russian Gulch State Park features a 36-foot waterfall hidden among ferns and redwoods. At Van Damme State Park, kayak into sea caves or hike the Fern Canyon Trail to the curious pygmy forest.

If you venture north to Fort Bragg, you'll find the historic Skunk Train, seven acres of redwood-lined trails at Otis Johnson Wilderness Park in the heart of downtown and the welcoming Noyo Harbor Inn, perched above the harbor. Sit outside on the heated deck for dinner of sirloin and shrimp skewers or gnocchi with pesto and pancetta, and watch the boats roll in and sea lions bark as the sun dips below the horizon.

Guests of the inn can kayak along the Noyo River, set out on crabbing excursions departing from Noyo Harbor, explore the marine life exhibits at the Noyo Center for Marine Science, or stroll the harbor's scenic walking trails before stopping at Princess Seafood Market for the catch of the day. Just steps away, the

dog-friendly Noyo Harbor Beach makes it easy to bring four-legged family members along for the adventure.

The author was provided meals and accommodations by Chalkboard Communications as part of the research for this story. ■

Where to GO

Lula Cellars

- 2800 Guntly Rd.
Philo, CA 95466

MacCallum House

- 45020 Albion St.
Mendocino, CA 95460

Noyo Harbor Inn

- 500 Casa Del Noyo
Fort Bragg, CA 95437



NIKOLAS ZVOLENSKY/COURTESY PHOTO



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NAPA HOUSES YESTERDAY AND TODAY

BY JENNIFER HUFFMAN

Residential architecture in Napa offers a unique window into the Valley's history. For example, the grand Victorian homes in Napa's Old Town highlight the design, detail and craftsmanship that marked the affluence of the late 1800s.

As the city grew, new architectural influences emerged, incorporating dif-

ferent aspects of Craftsman, Mission Revival, and Mid-century Modern design. An urgent need for more housing during and after World War II led to the creation of entirely new Napa neighborhoods of smaller, uniform and more affordable homes.

Today, many of Napa's older residences have been restored and renovated, while others still await their turn. The city

maintains a Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), a listing of homes or sites that contribute to the history or character of a region.

These photos of houses built during different decades in Napa offer a glimpse into how local homes have changed, from then to now.

Historical photos courtesy of the Napa County Historical Society.



NAPA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY/COURTESY PHOTO

1875

ABOVE: 435 Even St. in Napa was built in 1875. This photograph was taken in 1914. According to the Napa County Historical Society this shows Mr. and Mrs. Ferini standing in front of their home at 435 Even St. in Napa. The back of postcard states that Mr. Ferini stood 5'5" and weighed 300 lbs.

RIGHT: 435 Even St. in Napa, photographed on Monday, Oct. 20.



NICK OTTO/REGISTER

NAPA HOUSES YESTERDAY AND TODAY



1882

NAPA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY/COURTESY PHOTO

ABOVE: The Hayman House at 1229 Division St. in Napa was built in 1882. It's described as using characteristics of the several styles popular at the time: Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Shingle. The original owner, John E. Hayman, worked for the Napa Register. This photo was taken in 1977.

LEFT: 1229 Division St. in Napa, Monday, Oct. 20.



NICK OTTO/REGISTER



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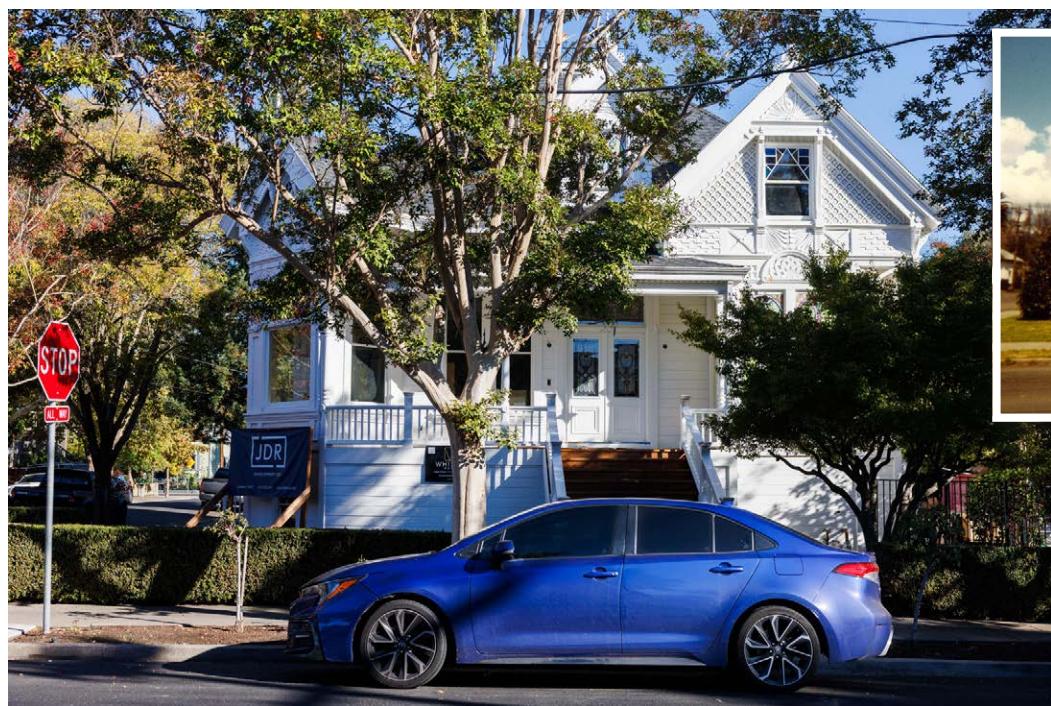
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NAPA HOUSES YESTERDAY AND TODAY

NICK OTTO/REGISTER

NAPA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY/
COURTESY PHOTO

1895

ABOVE: 1386 Calistoga Ave. in Napa was built in 1895. The house has been used as a bed and breakfast inn. This photo is undated.

ABOVE LEFT: 1386 Calistoga Ave. in Napa, seen on Monday, Oct. 20, 2025. This home and an adjacent house at 1406 Calistoga Ave. have been listed for sale together as hospitality properties, for \$9.5 million.



1935

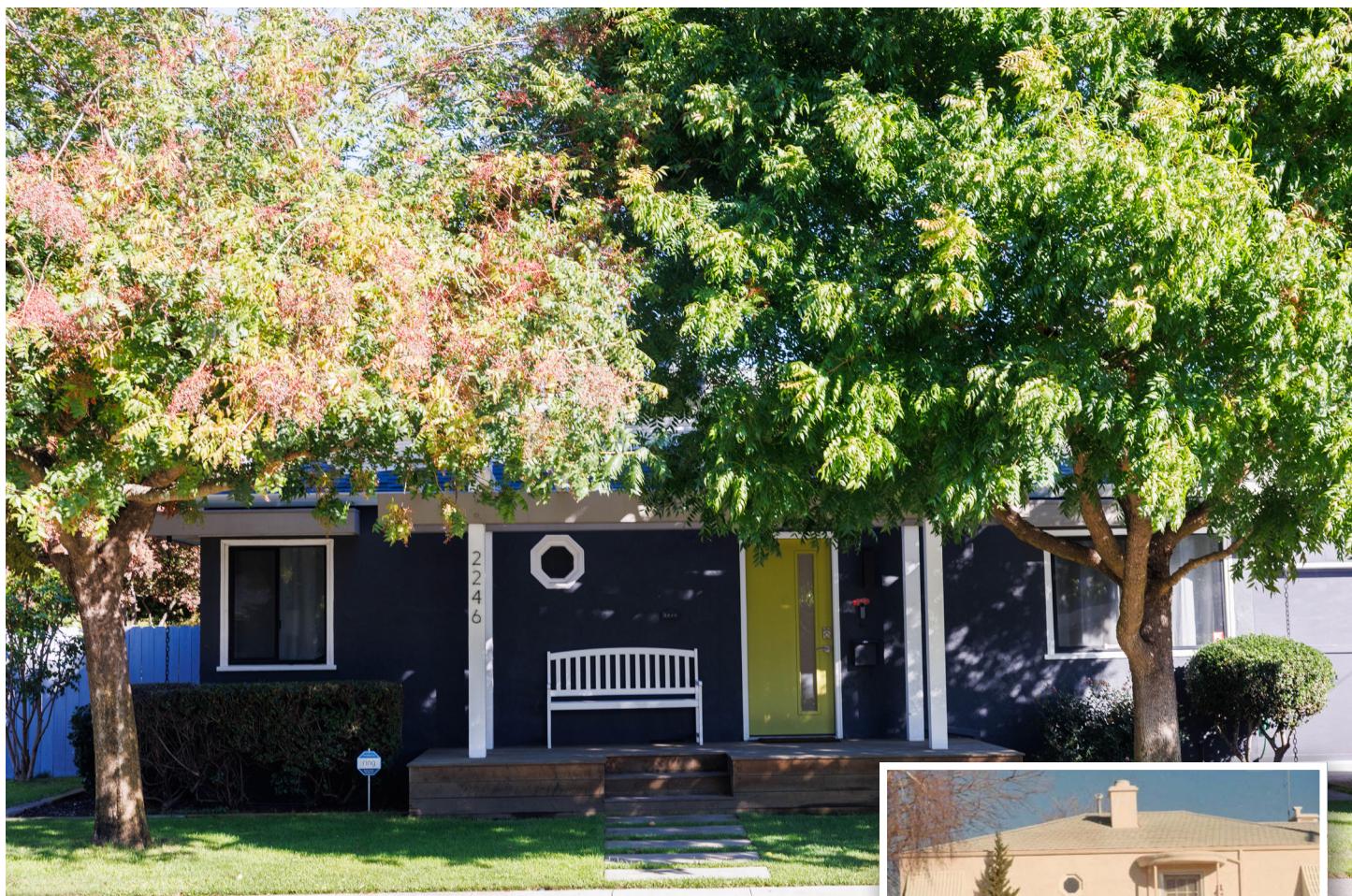
NAPA COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY/
COURTESY PHOTO

ABOVE: 2230 Laurel St. in Napa as seen in 1966. The 1,600 square foot house was built in 1935 with three bedrooms and one bath.



ABOVE RIGHT: 2230 Laurel St. in Napa as seen on Monday, Oct. 20.

NICK OTTO/REGISTER

NAPA HOUSES YESTERDAY AND TODAY**1950**

ABOVE: 2246 Pine St. in Napa, as seen on Monday, Oct. 20. The octagon window is still there. By comparing photos, you can tell the mature trees in the front yard were likely planted after 1967. **RIGHT:** This home at 2246 Pine St. in Napa was built in 1950. It was photographed in 1967. Note the octagon window and portico at the front door. ■

NAPA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY/
COURTESY PHOTO

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'THIS ALL MAKES PERFECT SENSE'

Christina Stanley tapped as wine director at Napa's La Toque

BY JOSHUA GUTIERREZ

There might as well be a symphony in every bottle of wine.

Or at least that's how Christina Stanley visualizes the intricate profile of wines the world over. As a classically trained violinist, so much of the Napa native's early career pursuits were dictated by the compositions scrolled across sheets of music.

But even as she shifted careers, the myriad of notes never really stopped. In a way, the recently appointed wine director of La Toque restaurant in Napa owes her success and abilities to this unique interpretation.

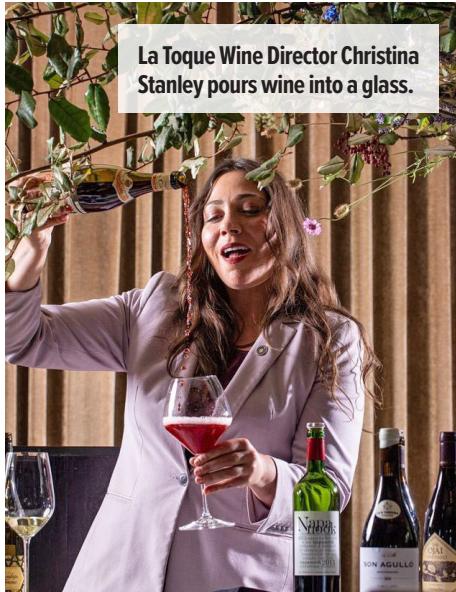
"The way I approach wine analysis is very similar to the way I approach musical analysis or even visual art," Stanley said in a phone interview. "I feel like they are all related. My musical training really informs how I view a wine or how I picture it in my head. High tone, mid tone, bass notes, structure, linearity and how music moves. Tasting and describing a wine, it's kind of how you think of a musical phrase or analyzing a bar of music."

But much more than analysis, Stanley reflects on the patience, persistence and attention to detail required to achieve success across her nearly two-decade musical career. This ethos translated perfectly as she shifted her professional focus to hospitality and wine.

For Ken Frank, owner and founding chef of La Toque, Stanley's knowledge, creativity and diligent work ethic made her a perfect fit. Due to the restaurant's unique mentorship program, which invites certified sommeliers seeking advanced or master's titles to taste a myriad of different wines, Frank was well aware of Stanley's abilities.

Given La Toque's vast catalog of 2,500-plus wines, which includes a sizable collection of award-winners from several decades and every grape growing region of the world, Frank knew the undertaking couldn't go to just anyone. In addition, La Toque's distinctive relationship between chef and wine director made it even more crucial.

"That's what's so unique about the wine director position here," Frank said. "It's a much more culinary-focused role than in other restaurants. You know, in other places a wine director buys a bunch of great wine,



RYAN CARPENTER/COURTESY PHOTO

the chef makes a bunch of great food and everyone is happy. Here we work more closely together to make everything better... We are constantly evolving the menu and constantly tasting. And it gives me the opportunity to make sure everything we are doing here is consistent with the standard we have long set. And holding Christina to that standard has not been hard at all."

As Stanley reflects on this momentous appointment in her career, there exists this feeling of "living two different lives."

Born and raised in Napa, Stanley traces her lineage from Italy on her great grandfather's side and France on her grandmother's side. Her father, a criminal defense attorney, inventor and enthusiastic athletic competitor, sculpted the fundamental concept that grit would play in her life.

Her mother, an artist and musician, shaped the creative spirit through her love of playing piano and singing. Though it took her decades to truly understand the significance, Stanley's mother also showed great enthusiasm for wine. A Beaulieu Vineyard employee, Stanley's mother would often ask her children to examine wine through smell and physical characteristics by sight for fun.

In her free time, Stanley would frequent casual upscale bars and restaurants to further hone this natural ability of pairing food and

wine. Yet, the concept of this being a career was nowhere in sight.

When she returned to Napa a few years later, after her father sustained a serious injury, Stanley's musical career advanced. In graduate school, she studied composition and improvisation, and "flexed her artistic muscles" through performance and graphic scores. All this while teaching at the Napa School of Music.

Again, she turned to fine dining to help pay the bills. At Yountville's The French Laundry, Stanley would again hone her skills within hospitality and wine. Yet, music remained the focus. Soon, the pursuit turned toward becoming a classical violinist in a symphony.

Unfortunately, Stanley was unable to make the cut for the Berkeley Symphony. Compounded by a combination of finances, her father's health and frenetic schedule within the arts, Stanley needed to figure out a professional path forward and sought stability.

Wine made the most sense.

In the following years, an impressive résumé would be built to include roles as wine director at Oenotri and The Slanted Door Napa, as well as sommelier positions at The Ritz-Carlton Bacara, The Charter Oak, Ungrafted, and Goose & Gander.

"I never thought my life would go this direction," Stanley said. "Right after that point when the Berkeley Symphony happened, I was really feeling kind of stuck. I would have done almost anything to make ends meet and pay my bills... It's interesting how it all went full circle, and I realized this is something I was always interested in. I grew up in Napa, and this makes perfect sense. This all makes perfect sense."

La Toque is the signature restaurant of Chef Frank and is located in Napa at the Westin Verasa. Recognized with a Michelin star for over a decade and Wine Spectator's Grand Award since 2014, La Toque is celebrated for its French-inspired, seasonally driven menus and world-class wine program, according to a press release. La Toque is located at 1314 McKinstry St. in Napa.

For more information, visit latoque.com.

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Spiced cranberry syrup

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- 1 cup sugar
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- 2 sprigs sage
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— Recipe by Kyle Peete at the ArBARetum.
Submitted by the Napa Cocktail Collective.



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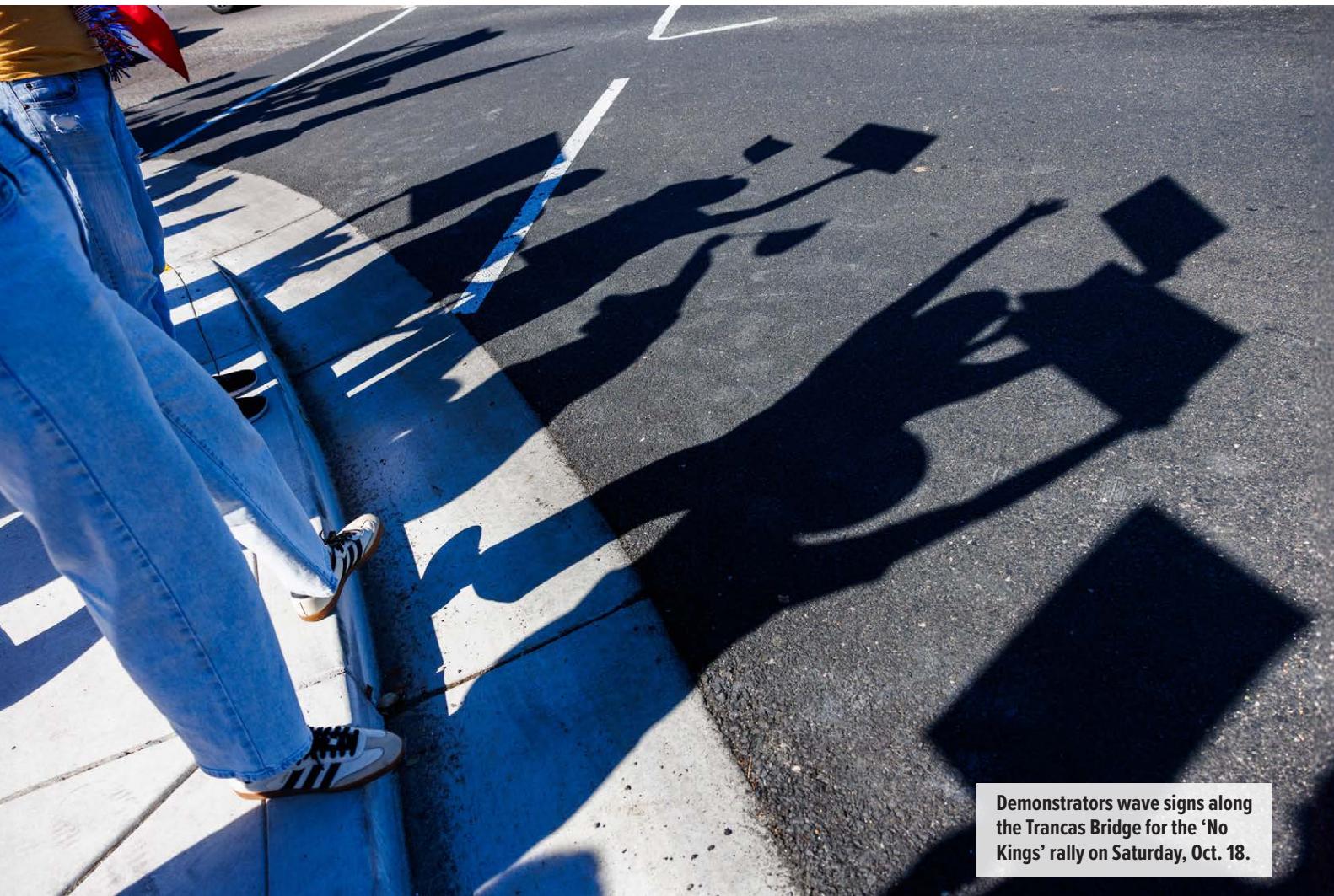


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EYE ON NAPA VALLEY

Moments captured by Register photographer Nick Otto



Demonstrators wave signs along the Trancas Bridge for the 'No Kings' rally on Saturday, Oct. 18.

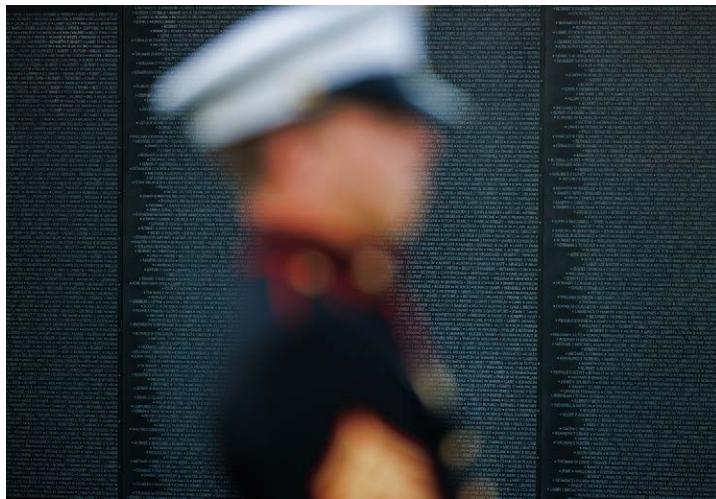


A demonstrator dressed as a "Handmaid" from Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel "The Handmaid's Tale" takes part in the 'No Kings' rally on Saturday, Oct. 18.



Protesters gather near the Trancas Bridge for the 'No Kings' rally on Saturday, Oct. 18.

EYE ON NAPA VALLEY



The names of American soldiers lost during the Vietnam War are listed on 'The Wall That Heals' at Independence Park in American Canyon on Saturday, Oct. 18.



Franklin Beau Davis plays taps next to the 'Wall That Heals' at the conclusion of a ceremony remembering soldiers lost during the Vietnam War at Independence Park in American Canyon on Saturday, Oct. 18.



Hugh Marquez and his father John search for the name of a family member on 'The Wall That Heals' at Independence Park in American Canyon on Saturday, Oct. 18.

10 QUESTIONS

CREATING A 'SYMPHONY' IN ARCHITECTURE

Napa architect Jarrod Denton acts as a conductor to bring creative forces together

BY JENNIFER HUFFMAN

Jarrod Denton, a partner at Signum Architecture in Napa, compared the role of an architect to that of a conductor in a symphony.

"Like a conductor, an architect brings a collection of creative forces together to achieve a cohesive whole," Denton wrote, "And like each new piece of music, every project is different."

This Napan said he's motivated "by the problem-solving involved in our profession, and by the creativity we get to bring to each project. Every day is filled with opportunities to stretch creatively, bring teams together, and navigate new challenges, operating simultaneously in the conceptual big picture and in the details — in the macro and the micro."

1. What was your childhood ambition?

I have wanted to be an architect since elementary school. It is an ambition that has never wavered.

2. What was your first job?

My first jobs when I was young followed a progression: from farm to hardware store to designing and constructing irrigation systems at the age of 14.

3. How did you get into the architecture industry?

During college, I worked in the construction industry. I also interned with a Santa Rosa architecture firm, which had a significant impact on the course of my career. The two partners were very different — one worked on affordable housing and the other was the mayor and worked on the design of high-end homes and hotels. I've combined those influences in my practice, specializing in the design of residential, winery and hospitality



Jarrod Denton is a partner at Signum Architecture in Napa.

SUZANNE BECKER BRONK PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY PHOTO

projects, while also working to serve the communities of which I am a part — on the design review board for the Town of Yountville, the oversight committee for Napa Valley College, Howell Mt. Enterprises, several homeowners' associations, and numerous other boards.

4. What is the biggest challenge your business or industry has faced?

Carbon neutrality. Building to achieve site net zero energy use really is the goal we have been working toward since starting Signum Architecture.

5. Who are some of your favorite

architects?

Peter Zumthor for his deep knowledge of construction and his conservationist ethic, Santiago Calatrava for his organic and sculptural forms made possible by his training as a structural engineer and sculptor in addition to architecture, Carlo Scarpa for his design approach influenced by material, detail and history.

6. What are some buildings in Napa Valley that you consider architecturally notable?

My partner, Juancarlos Fernandez and I, together with our team, have been fortunate to design some of the Napa Val-

10 QUESTIONS

ley's groundbreaking structures, including Hall Wines and Cade Estate, the first and second LEED Gold Certified wineries in California. We're very proud of that distinction, and that the design of these wineries, along with many others we've designed in the valley, continues to stand the test of time.

7. If you could design a dream project with an unlimited budget, for any one client, in any place, what would you build?

To be honest, an unlimited budget is not the ideal scenario for an architect. Working with constraints, and with a site that has some existing buildings or is part of a neighborhood, pushes us to provide better architectural solutions — solutions suited for a particular client, a particular landscape, a particular weather pattern, and so on. Blending a functional solution with a beautiful design is what differentiates architecture as a practice.

That said, I have been extremely blessed



ed to design projects in many spectacular locations: the North Island of New Zealand, Costa Rica, the north shore of Oahu, Hawaii, the Mojave Desert, Carmel Valley, Sea Ranch, the Sierra Foothills and, of course, the Napa Valley.

Napa is a special place and it's where I have chosen to make my home. For me, a dream project here involves collaborating with other creatives, particularly with artists — as I did in the design of Hall

Wines — so an art museum or installation would be a dream project for me.

8. If you could change one thing about your business or industry, what would it be?

I would love to develop a way to combine innovative one-off designs with fabrication methods that can streamline cost and build times. That would be revolutionary.

9. What's your favorite charity or nonprofit?

Napa Valley Youth Advocacy Center and Pacific Union College.

10. What's something people might be surprised to know about you?

Napa Valley has been my home for 33 years, but I love to travel. I recently cycled from Hanoi to Hue City in Vietnam (a distance of 409 miles).

Denton can be reached at jarrod@signumarchitecture.com ■

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