

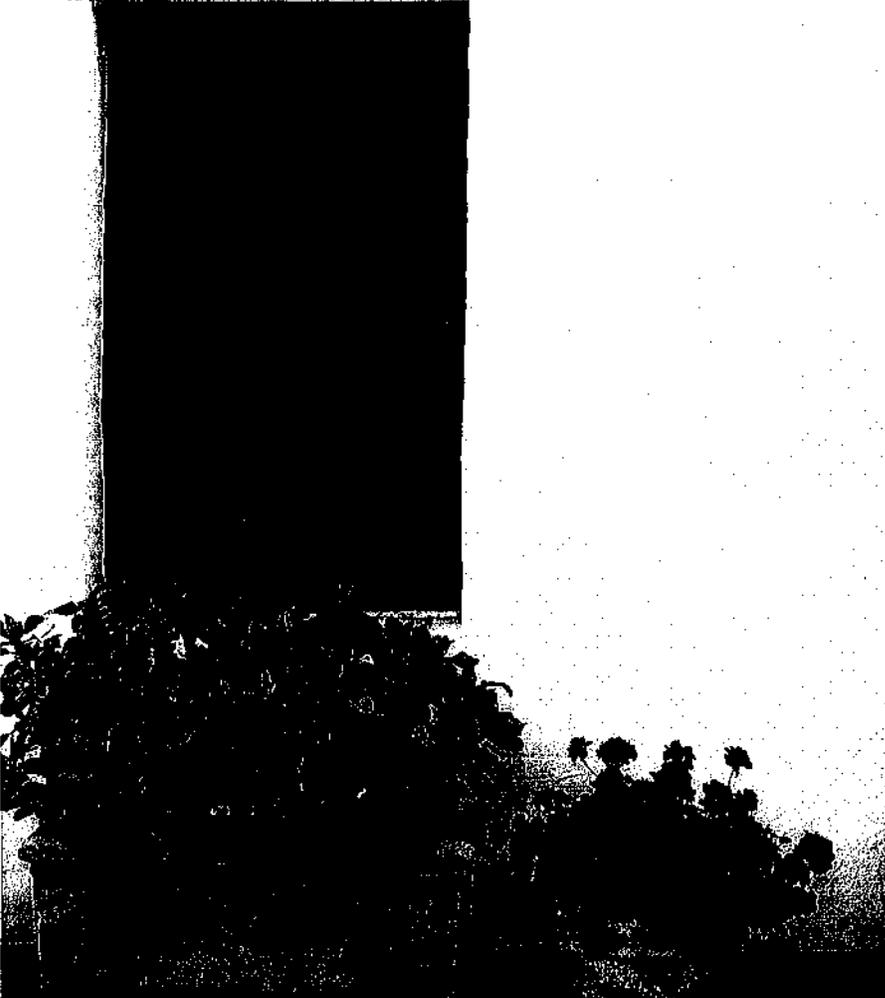
SPECIAL ISSUE

Santa Barbara

MAGAZIN

THE BEST
OF 2012

OUR HOT PICKS
& EXPERT TIPS



BEST OF 2012 \$5.99



DISPLAY UNTIL 12/31/12

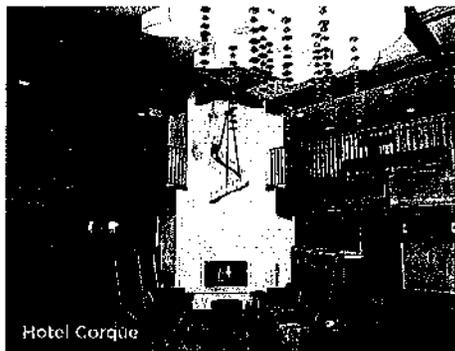
WINE, ENTERTAINING
HOME GARDEN HEALTH KIDS
PLUS SO MUCH MORE

Beau Dunn
historic El

heading NORTH

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

A quick half-hour drive over Highway 154 (aka the San Marcos Pass) takes you past Lake Cachuma to the Santa Ynez Valley. Made up of the small towns of Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang, Santa Ynez, Ballard, and Los Olivos, this bucolic oak tree, ranch, and vineyard-dotted region is a true rural escape.



Hotel Corque

STAY The chic, modern boutique **Hotel Corque**, 800-624-5572, hotel-corque.com, is one the best spots from which you can discover the Danish-founded town of Solvang. The quaint **Fess Parker's Wine Country Inn & Spa**, 805-688-7788, fessparkerinn.com, in Los Olivos offers a truly relax-

ing experience. Since 1946, the **Alisal Guest Ranch & Resort**, 805-688-6411, alisal.com, has offered guests golfing, horseback riding, boating, and more.

EAT & DRINK The Italian fare at Santa Ynez's **Trattoria Grappolo**, 805-688-6899, trattoriagrappolo.com, will make you feel like you're in Tuscany, but next door at the historic **Maverick Saloon**, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org, there's no doubt you're in the wild West. **Los Olivos Cafe & Wine Merchant**, 805-688-7265, losolivoscafe.com, serves quintessential wine country cuisine. In Solvang, Michelin-starred chef Bradley Ogden's **Root 246**, 805-686-8681, root-246.com, demonstrates an honest farm-to-table philosophy, while David Cecchini's **Cecco Ristorante**, 805-688-8880, ceccoristorante.com, has the best homemade pizza and pasta in town.

SHOP **Heaven Scent Apothecary and Accoutrement**, 805-688-8600, in Santa Ynez carries contemporary designer clothing and denim as well as home decor items such as candles and super-soft blankets. **Waxing Poetic**, 805-686-4545, waxingpoetic.com, sells bespoke jewelry, charms, housewares, and more.

DO A trip to the valley wouldn't be complete without **wine tasting** in Los Olivos, losolivosca.com, or Solvang, solvangusa.com—and of the hippest sip stops is **Saarloos & Sons**, 805-688-1200, saarloosandsons.com. Catch a live show at **Chumash Casino Resort**, 800-248-6274, chumashcasino.com, where stars such as Santana and Sheryl Crow have taken the stage.



A pizza from Trattoria Grappolo.

heading EAST

OJAI VALLEY

A historic haven for healers, gurus, artists, and more, Ojai continues to be a sanctuary for those just looking to get away from it all. Famed photographer Victoria Pearson calls it home, and here are a few of her favorite hangouts.

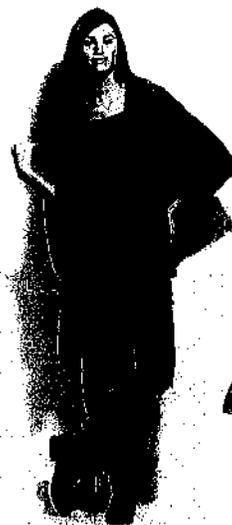
STAY Known as California's Shangri-La, the **Ojai Valley Inn & Spa**, 805-646-1111, ojairesort.com, is the jewel of the town. With its luxe Moorish-inspired architecture, the award-winning property offers world-class golf and spa treatments such as the Kuyam mud wrap (from \$75).

EAT & DRINK **Jimmy's Pub**, 805-646-1111, ojairesort.com, is my go-to spot for nice thin-crust pizzas and a glass of wine. The local hangout **Rainbow Bridge**, 805-646-4017, rainbowbridgeojai.com, has a good deli for grabbing a sandwich if you're in a hurry. As a special treat or for a gift for friends, we order pixie or kishu tangerines from **Churchill Orchard**, tangerineman.com, though all the citrus is delicious.

ABOVE: A view from the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa. BELOW: Produce from Churchill Orchard.



SHOP **Hattie**, 805-646-8305, hattieojai.com, is a great boutique for chic clothes and accessories—think Citizens of Humanity jeans, Oats sweaters, Chan Luu jewelry, and more. I love knowing everyone at the local family-owned **Starr Market**, 805-646-4082, and appreciate their smiles when I shop there.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: A 360 sweater and Marie Turnor clutch at Hattie. FAR RIGHT: On owl at the raptor center.

DO I enjoy walking up the big hill at **Meditation Mount**, 805-646-5508, meditationmount.org—a great place for a peaceful hike and taking in the sweeping, magnificent view of the valley. At the **Ojai Raptor Center**, 805-649-6884, ojairaptorcenter.org, Kimberly Stroud and her volunteers do amazing work rehabilitating and sheltering eagles, hawks, owls, vultures, and more.

