

805

LIVING



Sun
& Fun

Pulse

TRACKING THE BEAT OF THE 805

Professionally made s'mores are hot! The marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers in Jessica Foster Confections' version, for example, are made from scratch for take-home kits and catered events.



S'MORES GALORE

The nostalgia of the standard s'more—melty chocolate and gooey roasted marshmallows sandwiched between graham crackers—gets a major upgrade with these creative takes on the summer campfire classic.

Glamping-style: For its ultra-luxe s'mores, Santa Barbara-based **Jessica Foster Confections** (jessicafosterconfections.com) offers house-made, small-batch versions of each of the treat's traditional components: the marshmallows, the chocolate, and the graham crackers. "Honestly the most exciting part of the whole thing is the graham crackers," says confectioner Jessica Foster. "They are so buttery and crumbly that I have to get rid of them when I make them or else I'm going to eat all of them."

In addition to producing the elevated s'mores kit, Foster caters customized s'mores stations for events. At a celebration on National S'mores Day last year she served >

(S'MORES Continued)

house-made cinnamon s'mores (cinnamon graham crackers, cinnamon marshmallows, and dark chocolate bars with sea salt), lemon blackberry s'mores (graham crackers, vanilla bean marshmallows, Meyer lemon truffles, and sliced blackberries), key lime s'mores (coconut graham crackers, vanilla bean marshmallows, key lime curd, and optional chocolate), and mint chocolate s'mores (chocolate graham crackers, vanilla bean marshmallows, and mint-infused truffle sticks).

For the ultimate touch, Foster even helped guests roast their own marshmallows to the perfect degree of gooey goodness with a portable blowtorch.

Camping-style: "Everybody wants s'mores," says Samantha Bearman, of **SB Baking Besties** (samanthabearman.com/sb-baking-besties), "and we bake our s'mores with love in every bite." Bearman cofounded the Santa Barbara-based sweets company with her best friend, Nikki Russo, last spring, and this summer they're offering a S'mores With Love kit, which includes homemade chocolate hearts and homemade heart-shaped marshmallows, as well as a deluxe version that features extra-large homemade marshmallows atop homemade campfire cookies instead of standard graham crackers.

"They're great for when you want a really sweet treat that's messy," says Berman, "and so perfect for backyard camping because they're gooey and ooey and oh, so great."

—Leslie Dinaberg



CHIC NEW SHOP

Set to debut at the Montecito Country Mart, **Montecito Mercantile** (montecitomercantile.com) offers a wide array of curated wares that bring to mind a stylish, up-to-the-minute general store. A sister shop to the popular Salt House Mercantile in Bainbridge Island, Washington, founded by Seattle native Carrie Schei in 2014, the Montecito outpost is a one-stop shop for unique gifts, housewares, and home decor items by the likes of Amanda Lindroth, men's and women's accessories from established and emerging brands, and luxury bath and beauty products.

On the hunt for a summer chapeau? The store is the only West Coast purveyor of Nantucket's distinctive Peter Beaton hats. Also look for cards and paper products from Sugar Paper, Grove Street Press, and Amy Zhang, along with a selection of books and magazines. An evolving collection of works from area artisans adds local flair.

—Nancy Ransohoff

Find the latest offerings from luxury brands like (above, left to right) Grove Street Press, Peter Beaton, and Amanda Lindroth at the new Montecito Mercantile.



With each of her Table & Vine Supper Club dinners, club founder Morgen Hoffman seeks to share the scenery, flavors, and culinary talent of the Central Coast.

ALFRESCO FEASTS

Table & Vine Supper Club (tableandvinesupperclub.com) dinners take outdoor dining to another level. Guests sit outside at a communal, custom-made, wooden table at Instagram-worthy locations, including rolling vineyards, rustic farms, and golden beaches, while enjoying a four- or five-course dinner paired with local wines. The one-of-a-kind dining experiences are the passion project of Morgen Hoffman, whose event planning company specializes in serving corporations and nonprofits.

"I had been thinking about this for a long time," says Hoffman, "and when events stopped during the COVID-19 quarantine,

I had the time to do it. I really want to spotlight the farmers, purveyors, chefs, winemakers, and local ingredients and incorporate them into this farm-to-table experience."

Upcoming dinners include one on July 29 at Covell Ranch in Cambria, which features the fare of Matthew Roberts, chef and farm liaison at Kindred Oak Farm in Paso Robles; wines from Cambria's Stolo Vineyards; and a special visit from the ranch's famed Clydesdale horses. Another dinner event takes place on August 25 at Sensorio in Paso Robles. Tickets may be purchased online.

—N.R.

WHERE DIY DREAMS COME TRUE



The Crafter's Library (thecrafterslibrary.com), located in Santa Barbara's La Arcada Plaza, is a new place to channel creativity. The light-filled space offers dedicated crafting areas with sewing machines, 3D printers, cutting machines, laser etchers, and craft supplies. Memberships for those 15 and older are available for a single day, week, or month, along with annual passes.

An evolving roster of group classes includes topics such as macramé, sewing, wire-wrapped jewelry, and glass etching. Open-mic nights, musical performances, and other events are also on the calendar.

"Our goal is to provide an opportunity to be social in a nonfood-and-drink experience, to find a sense of community, to make new friends, and have fun doing it," says owner Andrew Rawls. Proceeds from selected classes go to local nonprofits such as Pacific Pride Foundation, Friends of the Library, and Santa Barbara Education Foundation. "I don't think I'm an artist, but I can craft," says Rawls. "Anyone can craft!" —N.R.

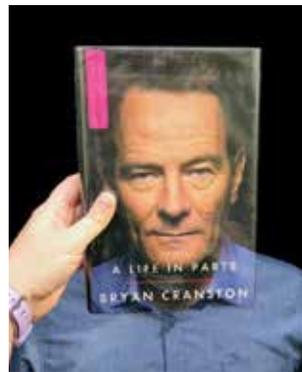


HERE'S TO HEALTH

After seeing a family member end up in the hospital for alcohol-related issues, Westlake Village native and Oaks Christian School alum George Youmans began looking for more healthful beverage alternatives. But soda felt childish, mocktails were too sugary, and club soda? Boring. The lack of options led Youmans and his former University of Southern California roommate Evan Quinn to create Hiyo (drinkhiyo.com).

Billed as a sparkling social tonic, the nonalcoholic drink contains ingredients like extracts of ashwagandha, an herb that reduces levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and lion's mane mushroom, which has been shown to improve cognitive function. "What we're trying to do is help socialize healthier consumption," says Youmans, who worked with a medicinal herbalist to create the drink with the goal of promoting an energy lift without caffeine. "We're trying to change the status quo." With just 25 calories a can, Hiyo comes in peach mango, watermelon lime, and blackberry lemon flavors.

—Erin Rottman



GET IMMERSED IN A BOOK

Bringing book covers to life scores volumes on social media via #BookfaceFridays on the Santa Barbara Public Library Instagram account (@sbplibrary). A popular meme in the book-loving community for quite some time, Bookface photos—images in which a person is strategically lined up with a book cover so that life and art appear to meld—are a great way to showcase literature from the library's collections, according to library marketing specialist Erick Mendez.

"We get a lot of positive feedback and a lot of reposts," says Mendez. "It's great to see the community of books and libraries sharing and getting inspiration from one another. It's never about competing to see who can do the best one, it's always about showcasing books we love and finding a way to promote literature through covers." —L.D.

TOP, RIGHT: COURTESY OF THE CRAFTERS LIBRARY; QUADRANTS: ERICK MENDEZ

STAY AFLOAT IN VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE



Staycation on the water this summer at the **Ventura Boatel** or **The Boatel California** (boatelonthewater.com, from \$190/night), two 39-foot rental boats in Ventura Harbor Village. Each comes with a queen-size bed, two bunks, and 800 square-feet of indoor-outdoor living space.

"It's a very rare occasion when you can stay on a boat of this caliber and have everything within a very short walk," says Ventura-born Glenn Willson, managing director of the boats. Inside, down comforters, Keurig coffee makers, and high-speed Wi-Fi make for comfy RV-like living; while outside, opportunities for activities await, like stand-up paddleboard and kayak rentals, Surfer's Knoll Beach, and waterfront restaurants.

805 *Living* readers who mention the magazine when booking two or more nights will receive complimentary brunch for two from Copa Cubana, a Cuban-American fusion restaurant in the village, and a bottle of wine or champagne. —E.R.



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