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Lifestyle

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Winter Ski Print

Steve Jobs'  
Midas Touch

Visiting  
Vietnam

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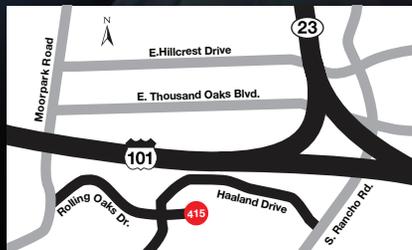


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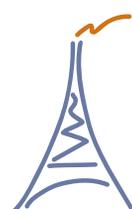
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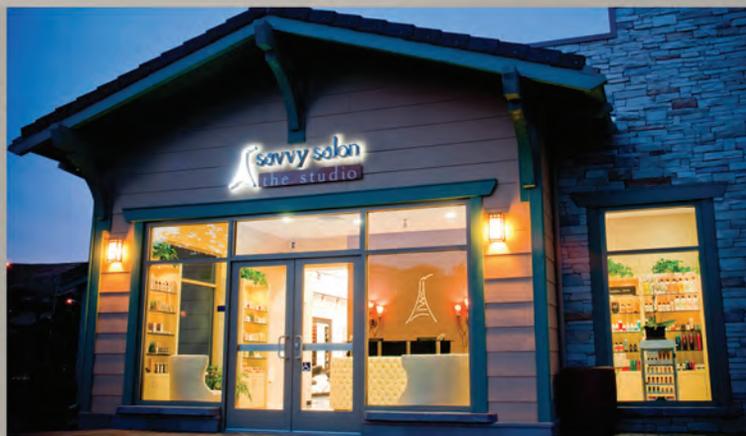
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# Editor's letter



2012 is upon us; 12 years have flashed by since the turn of the century and **Steve Jobs** and his team of A players at Apple have given us indispensable gadgets that we never knew we needed. His legacy will forever be that of the ultimate icon of inventiveness. Read about Jobs's extraordinary contributions on Pg 30.

Our exclusive Cover Story on **Priscilla Presley** (Pg 44) conveys the essence of this beautiful, dignified lady. Since the age of 14, she has coped with life in the public spotlight with remarkable grace, and despite some of the challenging aspects of life in the rock 'n roll fast lane, Priscilla Presley has always stayed true to her core values. We hope you'll enjoy the insight into her iconic life.

The recent **Chevron World Challenge** at Sherwood Country Club (Pg 26, 28, 34) produced a sensational end result with Tiger Woods rediscovering the winning magic - yet again - after a 2-year drought. This is a tournament that he holds dear and dear to his heart and his 5th Chevron World Challenge victory was particularly appreciated.

**Lindsey Vonn** has really put American women's skiing on the world's snowy, winter map. Not only is Vonn talented, dedicated and brave in a high-risk sport, but she's endowed with cover girl looks that makes her a marketer's dream. As the cold fronts come through and the snowflakes descend on our nearby mountains, we hope you'll enjoy our feature on America's golden girl of skiing (Pg 12).

Our Fashion Editor, Magda Pescariu, felt the need after the International Fashion Show in Milan last September, to hear from the horse's mouth what was happening in the designers' studios. Her mind went to **Frankie Morello** - a visionary brand born in 1998 from the stylistic encounter between **Maurizio Modica and Pierfrancesco Gigliotti**. She conducted one-on-one interviews - in Italian - with Modica and Gigliotti, and produced an intelligent, scintillating editorial straight from the creative fashion cathedrals of Milan (Pg 56).

Dr. Ian Armstrong covers a vitally important topic - that of teenage alcohol and recreational drug use. We hope that our readers will learn from it as Dr. Armstrong, a Spinal Neurosurgeon, delves into the things we need to know about the toxic effects (Pg 86).

One of the things that emanated from our interview with Priscilla Presley is her love of travel, because she appreciates the value of gaining first-hand insight into other people's cultures. Fittingly, we take you to **Vietnam** in our Travelscapes section (Pg 94) - a piece of paradise in Southeast Asia which is a fascinating convergence of the old and the new.

Here's to a 2012 that elicits our innovative juices and capacities to reinvigorate our lives.

Diana



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# LINDSEY VONN'S IMPRINT ON THE WORLD'S WINTER STAGE

The European countries with their colder climates and high alpine slopes have traditionally always dominated the world of skiing and the best skiers have usually come from Austria, Switzerland and the Nordic countries which include Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The 62-square-mile Principality of Liechtenstein lies entirely in the Alps, and is bordered by Switzerland to the west and south, and Austria to the east. With its sculptured, mountainous terrain, it's not surprising that most Liechtensteiners excel in winter sports. With a tiny population of just 35,000 people, Liechtenstein has won more winter Olympic medals per capita than any other nation.

BY DIANA LYLE



## Portraits of Champions



American Julia Mancuso, American Lindsey Vonn, and Austrian Elisabeth Goergl stand on the podium of flower ceremony after competing in ladies' downhill alpine skiing.

### LINDSEY VONN PUTS AMERICA ON THE WINTER MAP

America's golden girl, Lindsey Vonn, has changed some of that European dominance and in so doing, has really imprinted American women's skiing on the snowy, winter map. Born in Minnesota and raised in Vail, Colorado, she broke into the European records by winning 3 consecutive overall World Cup and downhill championships (2008, 2009, 2010), making her the first American woman and third woman ever to accomplish this feat. Vonn went on to win the gold medal in downhill skiing at the 2010 Winter Olympics - again setting a record as the first ever in the event for an American woman. Vonn also won 3 consecutive World Cup season titles in Super G (the first American woman to do so), and 3 consecutive titles in the combined. As of March 2011, she has 41 World Cup wins in 4 disciplines (downhill, Super G, slalom, and super combined). With her Olympic gold and bronze medals, 2 World Championship gold medals in 2009 (plus 3 silver medals in 2007/2011), and 3 overall World Cup titles, Vonn has become the most successful American skier in ski racing history. She received the Laureus World Sports Awards Sportswoman of the Year for 2010, and again in 2010, she was honored with the USOC's sportswoman of the year.



### COVER GIRL LOOKS AND CHARM

It doesn't hurt that Lindsey Vonn also has cover girl looks and appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition that featured Winter Olympians in 2010. She also made it onto Maxim's Hot 100 list.

Vonn is also endowed with the kind of charming wit that gets a party going. While skiing downhill and winning in Val d'Isère, France in 2005, her prize was either a check or a cow. Most people would take the check, right? Not Vonn. She says with pride, "They wanted me to take a check instead. I was like, 'Screw that. I'm taking the cow!'" Vonn's oversized cow trophy is named Olympe and lives in Kirchberg. When Vonn won Best Female Athlete ESPY, instead of taking herself too

seriously in her acceptance speech, she asked Justin Bieber "Please can you pose for a picture with me for my Facebook page?" The audience loved it and the cute banter continued backstage when Bieber asked Vonn if she'd teach him how to ski. The natural Lindsey Vonn is about as grounded as the girl next door and there are no signs of the diva princess in any aspect of her life. Recently, Lindsey and a racer friend were out in a bar in Park City (Utah) and a couple of cheeseball guys (who obviously didn't know who they were addressing) came up to them and asked, "So, do you ladies like to ski?" Lindsey replied matter-of-factly, "Yeah, we ski."



### MENTAL GRIT

Vonn is also mentally tough. At her second Winter Olympics in 2006 in Italy, she crashed in the final training run for the downhill race. She was evacuated by helicopter to Turin and was hospitalized overnight. Despite a bruised hip, she returned

the following day to compete and finished eighth. The gritty performance earned her the U.S. Olympic Spirit Award, as voted by American fans, fellow Team USA athletes, former U.S. Olympians, and members of the media, for best representing the Olympic Spirit. In Austria 2010 and despite skiing with her arm in a brace due to an injury, Vonn won 3 straight races. Shortly afterwards, at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Vonn planned to compete in 5 events. However, she badly bruised her shin, to the point where the pain was so excruciating that she couldn't put on her boots in the first few days. Despite that, she went on to win her first Olympic gold medal in the downhill and became the first American woman ever to do so.

### WHEN NOT SKIING

Vonn's hobbies include cycling, tennis, reading and watching NBC's *Law & Order*. She appeared as a guest star in the final series episode in 2010. She also frequently stays at the home of her friend and competitor, Maria Riesch, in Germany. Traditionally she spends Christmas Eve at the Reisch family home, and Lindsey is fully fluent in German.

### 2012 SKIING ACTION

While you've just missed the biggest early season party in North American - the *Vail Snow Daze* - which took place December 5-11 (and which featured the Dave Matthews Band), don't miss the ensuing winter ski action with the U.S. Alpine Ski Team in Lindsey Vonn's home town of Vail, Colorado. Says Lindsey, "Vail is the perfect place to introduce the 2012 U.S. Ski Team; It's so special to kick off our winter with hometown fans who love skiing. Last year fans flew in from all over the country to support us."

Enjoy the ski and snowboarding season and let the winter party begin! There's also the *Vail Film Festival* coming up. ❄️



Lindsey Vonn competing during the Alpine Skiing Ladies Downhill at Whistler Creekside in Whistler, Canada.

# Boys & Girls Club 10th Anniversary

Photography by Judi Bumstead & 2me Studios

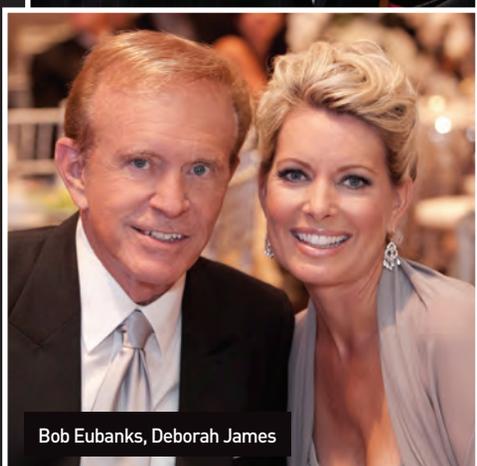
The Boys & Girls Club of the Conejo & Las Virgenes recently celebrated their 10th Anniversary at Four Seasons Westlake Village. The local community rallied in support of the club's mission: to enhance the lives of young people and their families by providing a positive environment that cultivates academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character and citizenship. YourBASH! produced and designed the beautiful event. [www.bgcconejo.org](http://www.bgcconejo.org); [www.judibumsteadphotography.com](http://www.judibumsteadphotography.com); [www.your-bash.com](http://www.your-bash.com); [www.2mestudios.com](http://www.2mestudios.com) (Continued on page 18)



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# Boys & Girls Club 10th Anniversary

Photography by Judi Bumstead & 2me Studios (Continued on page 20)



Claudia Krupnick, Jaime Geffen, Neil Krupnick



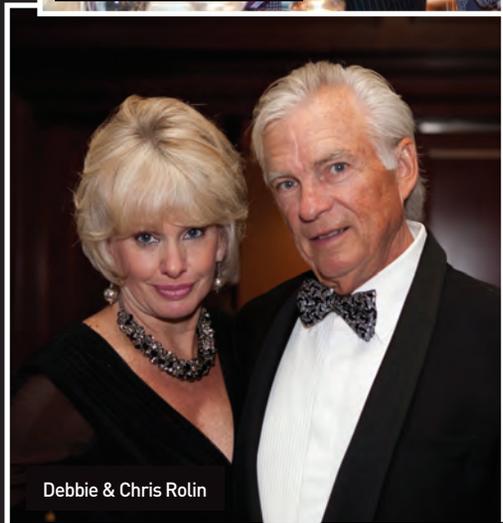
Jonathan Weiss & Melanie Price



Joe Seetoo & Alanna Zabel



Jordanna Oslac, Michael Oslac, Alanna Cowen



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# Boys & Girls Club 10th Anniversary

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# Motoring pursuits



Bentley 2012 GT

## Continental Cornell

Bentley's 2012 GT brings 'Continental' panache to Old Cornell, where it is already well established.

**Story and Photography by Larry Crane**

**B**entley's latest Continental GT rushes through the sweeps and undulations of the Mulholland Highway chased by the muffled howl of its twin turbocharged W-12 engine, while evoking the unmuffled memory of the firm's mighty Speed Six of the late Twenties. If you've read the history, that evocation includes the ghost of Woolf Barnato, philanthropic financier of Bentley Motors from 1926 to 1931, chief protagonist of the legendary Bentley Boys and a three-time winner of the 24-Hours of Le Mans — and heir to his father's partnership in the DeBeers Consolidated diamond mines. The young Barnato added to his father's steely courage a boundless *joie de vivre*. Home was Grosvenor Square, London, but life was in his high-powered fascination with drive to Provence and its fabulous Côte d'Azur.

Awash in a mental cocktail of personal *Provençal* memories and Malibu highlands reality, our 'Continental' reminds us of its link to Bentley history. Wine, too, was an integral part of the shared recipe; in the case of the Bentley Boys, that included the Beaujolais region of Burgundy at the south end of the Loire and northern reaches of the Rhone. Its heart is Lyon. Legend has it that when the Beaujolais

Nouveau was released on the third Thursday in November the Bentley Boys would gather in London and make a noisy caravan run to Lyon, making the young wine a *raison d'être* for a party.

Thanks to Tom and Barbara Runyon 'wine,' 'party' and Provence are all included in our Bentley sojourn into Malibu's Alpes Maritimes. About 40 years ago the Runyons reopened Hank's Country Store, a local hangout since the Thirties near the intersection of Troutdale Road and Mulholland Highway, as The Old Place and the legends began again. 'Party!' think actor Elvis dropping in after a day of shooting, Jason Robards and Burgess Meredith drinking at the bar, Dolly Parton singing at the Piano and Steve McQueen trying to be invisible. Tom was convinced that he could re-energize Old Cornell as a destination for L.A. foodies and Malibu Lake locals. Toward that goal he constructed two additional buildings on the hillside to the east of his pub. The first was a sizeable country house begun in 1984 using lots of salvaged material for instant patena to more-or-less match his dark facade on The Old Place. The next, begun in 1992, was between the two and had the conformation of a country church with a steeple at the rear. Both stood empty for a number of years.

Tim and Denise Skogstrom now own and operate Cornell Winery and Tasting Room in Tom's church — and their experience approaches spiritual. Tim describes his comfort with Cornell and his neighbors: "I even came to a point where I was like, 'I don't even care if I open.' I'm fulfilled with the friendships and experiences."

Arriving a few years ahead of his oenophile neighbor, Jacques Marqué has turned Runyon's farmhouse into Charme d'Antan, an



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## J. Paul Nesse

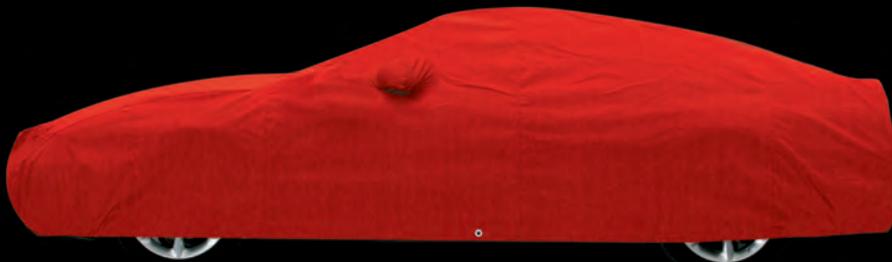
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Bentley 2012 GT

ancient Provençal farmhouse overlooking a secluded canyon lake and filled with post-Roman artifacts softly lit by tall narrow windows in the manner of a chateau; his handsome emporium of ancient relics are imported, as advertised, from Provence; some are brilliant recreations—even some of the post-Roman relics. The rich charm of well-worn luxury fills the building and illuminates the gardens with fortune's follies. It is yet another destination worthy of a visit to the Three Magical Miles; as near the Côte d'Azur as Mulholland Highway around Malibu Lake is likely to replicate.

Cornell is becoming a roadside respite from an urban traveler's rush to the future. It is a place Woolf Barnato and his pals would have enjoyed *en route* from Calais to Lyon, or even to Cannes. One can pull into any one of the three driveways and imagine a cluster of giant green Bentleys noisily dissipating the massive heat-sink of a 6 1/2-liter racing engine. Our Bentley drive has missed the open hours of both The Old Place and the Cornell Winery, but a lengthy visit with Joachim, Jacque's son, in Charme d'Antan is a delightful serendipity. Our turbocharged, 6-liter, 567 horsepower Bentley cools more quietly. It does everything more quietly. While the Bentley Boys lived lives of civilized luxury, their machines of choice were little more than primitive. Ours is packed with technology developed in the intervening century and wrapped in



Charme d'Antan



Art Center Classic in Pasadena's Art Center College of Design sculpture garden

leather as rich and classical as anything available to them, or within Charme d'Antan. The mighty Speed Six Bentleys were big heavy monsters inspired more by the engines of the Great Northern Railway, where Walter Owen Bentley learned his mechanical mastery, than the light elegant forms of their French and Italian competitors. Some things have made little change. Bentley's 2012 Continental GT is a sizeable touring car created for the comfort of four adults (smaller ones in the rear, please) and towers over a grand *tourismo* from Italy, but, as is

its heritage, comes near matching the best of the Italian cars in performance, while overwhelming them in civility.

Our Continental GT sat among a field of smaller older cars, many Italian, at the annual Art Center Classic in Pasadena's Art Center College of Design sculpture garden. With it was George Chilberg's handsome 1954 R-type Continental, the rapid and elegant inspiration for its 2012 counterpart. The audience ranged from Art Center alumni of the 50s to current students and a cadre of aesthetes from L.A.'s celebrated design community. The new GT was immediately recognized and admired.

It was exhibited with all its windows open for the full effect of its "hard-top" styling. We were gratified that a number of young students made it a point to comment on the car's classically sumptuous interior filled with the latest in control and communication technologies wrapped in a modern exterior they understood. Many were aware of the car's engine and driveline

details though had never had the opportunity to be close to one. A few even knew some of Bentley's racing history.

Though W. O. Bentley famously said of Sir Henry R. S. (Tim) Birkin and Dorothy Paget's famous supercharged 4 1/2-liter racers (the Blower Bentleys): "To supercharge a Bentley engine was to pervert its design and corrupt its performance." W. O. never drove a fully developed, twin-

turbochargd W12 Bentley with all-wheel drive. A primary difference, of course, is that the new Continental GT, capable of astonishing performance and filled with indulgent luxury, is being produced and marketed at a profit—which W. O. never managed.

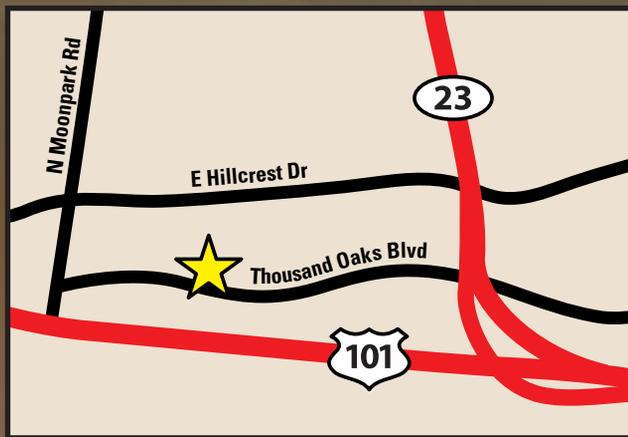
The Cornell gang-of-three is well on its way to that success. There is a devoted group of fans becoming regulars. Existential connoisseurs swell their ranks and, as with the Bentley Boys, take pleasure in the quality of the experience. 🌿

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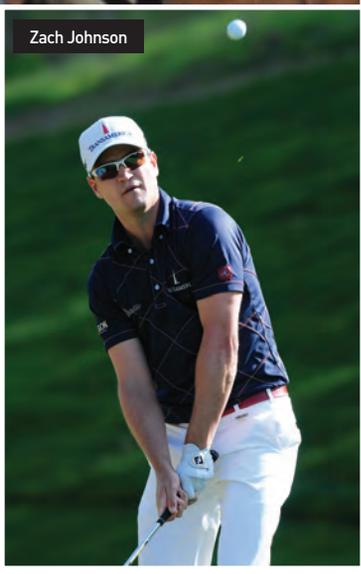
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# Tiger Woods wins 2011 Chevron World Challenge

Photography: Gary Newkirk - Tiger Woods Foundation

For the first time since November 2009, Tiger Woods is back in the winner's circle at a tournament he holds near and dear to his heart, and at a venue he knows all too well. Woods rediscovered the magic in his Sunday red shirt at **Sherwood Country Club**, making birdie on the last two holes to overcome a one-shot deficit and draining a seven-foot putt on the last hole of regulation to win his fifth Chevron World Challenge by a stroke over his Sunday playing partner, Zach Johnson. *(Continued on page 28)*

Tiger Woods wins the 2011 Chevron World Challenge



Zach Johnson



K.J. Choi



Matt Kuchar



Hunter Mahan

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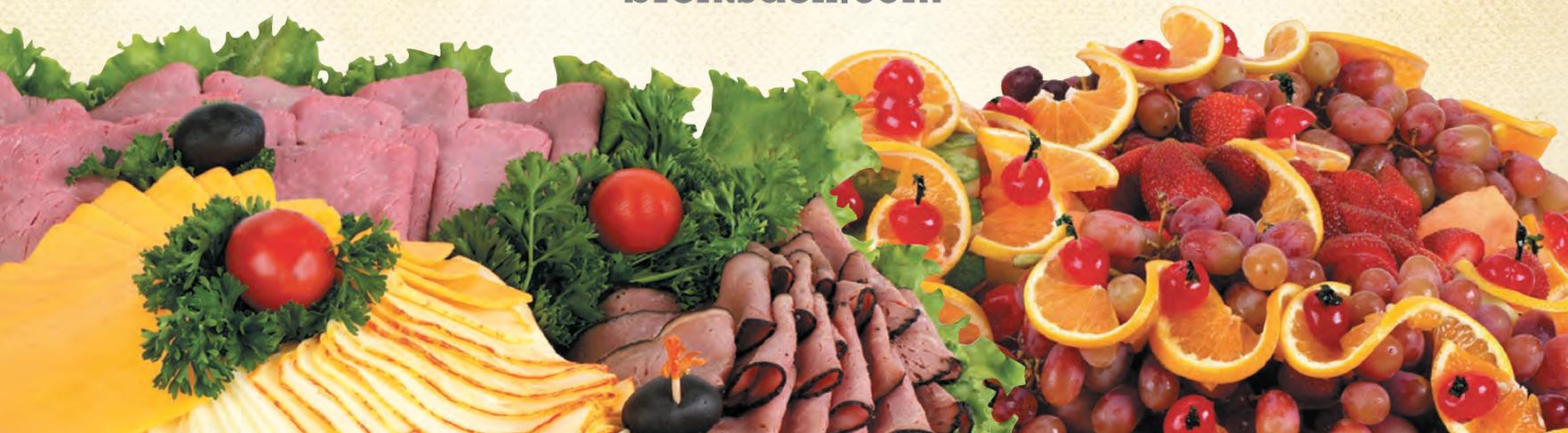
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# Tiger Woods wins 2011 Chevron World Challenge

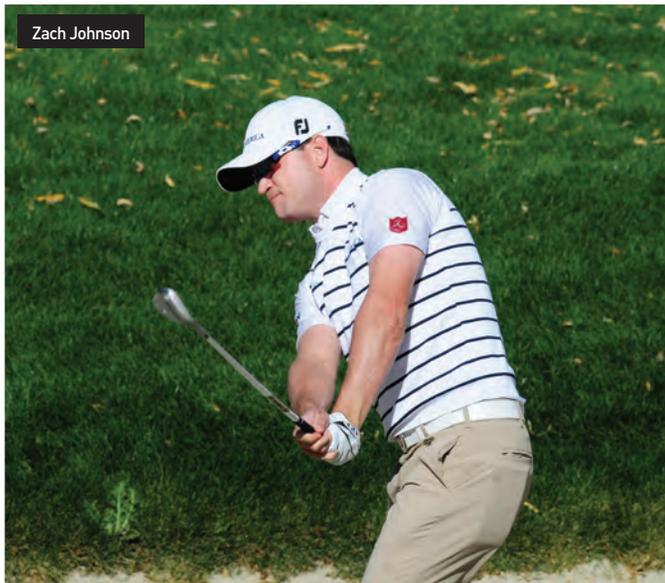
Photography: Gary Newkirk - Tiger Woods Foundation

Woods, who closed the tournament with a 3-under-par 69 and an overall score of 10-under 278, received a \$1.2 million winner's check, which he then donated back to the **Tiger Woods Foundation**, from the \$5 million purse. The win catapulted Woods from No. 52 to No. 21 in the world. Playing from the fairway before a full gallery of spectators at the par-4, 444-yard 18th hole, Johnson's second shot from 161 yards landed pin-high to 12 feet from the hole. Woods followed with his second shot, from 158 yards, that just flew over the top of the flag to seven feet. Johnson putted first and rolled his birdie attempt inches left of the cup. *(Continued on page 34)*

Nick Watney



Tiger Woods just before victory



Zach Johnson



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# STEVE JOBS

## THE LEGACY OF AN AMERICAN BUSINESS GENIUS

The reason America became the most powerful country in the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was this: we led the way in innovation and creativity. Our entrepreneurial drive made us the envy of the world. People came to our shores, learned from us, and went back to their own countries to emulate the American business model.

That ferocious American drive which spawned many of the cutting-edge pioneers in industry began to waver in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There seemed to be fewer American business geniuses who had that Midas touch; that creative brilliance that for so long had made us world leaders. Then - along came Steve Jobs - a searingly-intense personality whose creativity jump-started some of this century's most brilliant innovations. Walter Isaacson, CEO of the Aspen Institute, Chairman of CNN, and the managing editor of Time magazine, was tasked with the considerable responsibility of writing Steve Jobs's biography. His words clearly portray a man whose passion transcended all areas of his life. He met his future wife, Laurene Powell, at a Stanford Business School lecture. While heading to his car to drive up to the Thomas Fogarty Winery in the Santa Cruz mountains - for a business dinner - Steve Jobs stopped, turned around and said, "Wow...I'd rather have dinner with her (Laurene) than the education group, so I ran back to her car and said, 'How about dinner tonight?'" She said yes. It was a beautiful fall evening and Laurene and Steve walked into Palo Alto to a funky vegetarian restaurant, and ended up staying there for 4 hours. "We've been together ever since," he said.

STORY BY DIANA LYLE



Possibly because of a premonition that he wouldn't live long, Jobs wasted no time in realizing his goals. His unrelenting passion for perfection, which was driven by his ferocious drive, revolutionized 6 industries: **personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing.** Jobs also made a remarkable impact on retail stores and pushed their imaginative boundaries. Additionally, he opened the way for a new market for digital content based on apps – rather than just websites. Not only did Steve Jobs transform products, but he built the most valuable company in the world – Apple – which is endowed with his DNA and a rare group of A players. Together with creative designers and daredevil engineers, Jobs's vision flourished as he surrounded himself with people who saw the future light. In August 2011, right before Jobs stepped down as CEO of Apple (due to his illness), the enterprise he had started in his parents' garage officially became the world's most valuable company.

Jobs stands as the ultimate icon of inventiveness, imagination and sustained innovation. He instinctively knew that the best way

to create value in the 21<sup>st</sup> century was to connect creativity with technology. The combination of an advanced imagination with brilliant engineering was awe-inspiring. He and his colleagues at Apple were able to think differently: they developed not merely modest product advances but whole new devices and services that consumers did not yet know they needed! The core of Apple's philosophy – from the original Macintosh in 1984 to the iPad – a generation later – was the end-to-end integration of hardware and software.

Not coincidentally, Jobs's personality reflected his products. His silences could be as searing as his rants; he stared without blinking. Sometimes his intensity was geekily charming; at other times it was terrifying. Like a true artist, he indulged in the temperament of one. His quest for perfection led to his compulsion for Apple to have end-to-end control of every product that it made. This ability to integrate hardware and software and content into one unified system enabled him to impose simplicity. The astronomer Johannes Kepler declared that "nature loves simplicity and unity."



JOBS STANDS AS THE ULTIMATE ICON OF INVENTIVENESS, IMAGINATION AND SUSTAINED INNOVATION. HE INSTINCTIVELY KNEW THAT THE BEST WAY TO CREATE VALUE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WAS TO CONNECT CREATIVITY WITH TECHNOLOGY. THE COMBINATION OF AN ADVANCED IMAGINATION WITH BRILLIANT ENGINEERING WAS AWE-INSPIRING.

So did Steve Jobs. Jobs's intensity was also evident in his ability to focus. He would set priorities, aim his laser attention on them, and filter out distractions. If something engaged him – the user interface for the original Macintosh; the design of the iPod and iPhone; getting music companies into the iTunes Store – he was relentless. That focus allowed him to say 'no'. He got Apple back on track by cutting all except a few core products. He made devices simpler by eliminating buttons; software simpler by eliminating features; and interfaces simpler by eliminating options. Richard Branson paid this tribute: "Steve Jobs created the most respected brand in the world; he shook up a whole industry and he did it with a lot of panache. I have the greatest respect for him."

These are Steve Jobs's own word – in what he hoped would be his legacy: *"My passion has been to build an enduring company where people were motivated to make great products. The products, not the profits, were the motivation. Some people say, 'Give the customers what they want.' But that's not my approach. Our job is to figure out what they're going to want before they do. I think Henry Ford once said, 'If I'd asked customers what they wanted, they would have told me, 'A faster horse!'" Our task is to read things that are not yet on the page. Edwin Land of Polaroid talked about the intersection of the humanities and science. I like that intersection. There's something magical about that place. There are a lot of people innovating, and that's not the main distinction of my career. The reason Apple resonates with people is that there's a deep current of humanity in our innovation. I think great artists and great engineers are similar in that they both have a desire to express themselves.... You always have to keep pushing to innovate. Bob Dylan and The Beatles kept evolving, moving, refining their art. That's what I've always tried to do – keep moving. Otherwise, as Dylan*

*says, if you're not busy being born, you're busy dying."*

*"What drove me? I think most creative people want to express appreciation for being able to take advantage of the work that's been done by others before us. I didn't invent the language or mathematics I use. Everything I do depends on other members of our species and the shoulders that we stand on. And a lot of us want to contribute something back to our species and to add something to the flow. It's about trying to express something in the only way that most of us know how – because we can't write Bob Dylan songs or Tom Stoppard plays. We try to use the talents we do have to express our deep feelings, to show our appreciation of all the contributions that came before us, and to add something to that flow. That's what has driven me."*

Steve Jobs's death has profoundly affected many people. I would imagine that his hope is that the next generation of Americans will resist compromising their passions, and as he said to the Stanford University students that he addressed in 2005: always *"have the courage to follow your heart and intuition."* An especially poignant fact is that while Jobs's health was rapidly declining, his son, Reed, who had just graduated from high school, spent his summers working in a Stanford oncology lab doing DNA sequencing to find genetic markers for colon cancer. In one experiment, he traced how mutations go through families. His proud father said, *"One of the very few silver linings about me getting sick is that Reed's gotten to spend a lot of time studying with some very good doctors. His enthusiasm for it is exactly how I felt about computers when I was his age. I think the biggest innovations of the 21st century will be the intersection of biology and technology. A new era is beginning, just like the digital one was when I was his age."*

Steve Jobs's final wish at his last board meeting at Apple was that its future leaders would care enough to continue his legacy of advancing human progress. As for his son Reed, one of the last things he said was: *"I fantasize about Reed getting a house here in Palo Alto with his family and riding his bike to work as a doctor at Stanford."* 🍏



# Tiger Woods wins 2011 Chevron World Challenge

Photography: Gary Newkirk - Tiger Woods Foundation

Woods didn't miss his chance to win for the first time since the 2009 Australian Masters, exulting with multiple fist pumps and, seemingly, a giant exhale of relief. Helplessly watching Woods sink his winning putt, Johnson reacted with a grin and a shrug of the shoulders. Woods said of his win: "It just feels awesome."

Tiger Woods' moment of triumph



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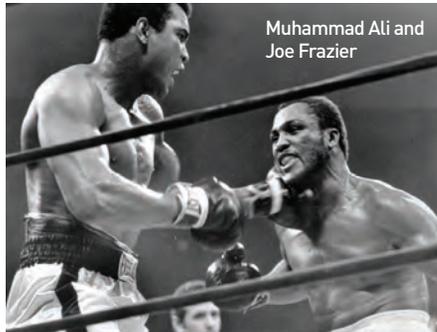
# Chatroom



## Short Stories About Big People

By Bob Eubanks

**H**ello again. It's time for more short stories about big people. This edition you will find the stories are even shorter than they have been in the past, but I think they are a lot of fun. We'll call them, "Didya know..."



• Didya know ... that Smokin Joe Frazier passed away recently. I produced the closed circuit fight "Thrilla from Manila" with he and Muhammad Ali. He was a gentleman and a true legend in

his sport. Fighter George Foreman once said, "Joe Frazier would not back up from King Kong".

• Didya know... I produced Merle Haggard's concerts for ten years, and the first time I met him, I was wearing polyester pants. He was smoking a cigarette and accidentally set my pants on fire.

• Didya know...that Stevie Wonder learned to ride a bicycle when he was twelve years old.

• Didya know...that on the Newlywed Game, a man appeared with his mistress and his wife saw the show on television. Didya know they got a divorce?

• Didya know...the Rose Parade this year aired on January 2nd. That's because the Rose Parade never takes place on a Sunday. Back in the early 1900s the city of Pasadena promised that they would never run the parade on Sundays so it



wouldn't scare the horses tied in front of the churches on Colorado Blvd.

• Speaking of the Rose Parade, in order to keep them fresh, didya know...that every rose on every float is put in a vile containing 7-up and water. (Diet 7-up won't work).

• Didya know...I got to throw out the first ball at Dodger Stadium on August 26, 2011. It was the 45th anniversary of



The Beatles concert at Dodger Stadium that I produced.. It was a big deal for me because I got to take my little boy out on the mound with me. One of those memories I will never forget.

• I always like to feature some big people from our community. Didya know...Once upon a time there was a young couple going to law school. She supported him while he came home and played video games. One day, she said, "Get a job", he said, "I have a great idea, but I need one hundred dollars". With that one hundred dollars he purchased the domain name: Mycorporation.com. Several years later, he and his wife Nellie sold the company for twenty million dollars cash. Today, after three years off, and four children later, Phil and Nellie Akalp are at it again, offering businesses a chance to incorporate for just \$49.00. Their company CorpNet.com is a real gift to our community and to those needing their service.

• Didya know...It's 2012 and all of us at this wonderful magazine want to wish you a happy new year and thank God 2011 is over. 🍀

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body since everyone has a different shape, weight and size. Karen and Spencer have been in the sleep industry since 1986. They take sleep seriously and believe that 7-8 hours of deep sleep nightly helps to promote a

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## TEMPT

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**T**racy Berkus Dekel and Allison Kanter understand that fashion can be fleeting, but style and good taste are truly timeless. Timeless style is very apparent when admiring the jewelry collections that Tempt brings to its exclusive clientele. The Collection embodies a blend of rare and unique jewelry from Italy, Paris, Turkey, India and other international locals, as well as the "hot" look of the moment that all women want to capture. With Tempt showcasing so many looks to choose from, Tracy and Allison's favorite right now comes from their extensive **Indian Diamond Collection**. Many celebrities wear Tempt - including Paris Hilton, Tia Carrere, Kathy Ireland, Josie Loren, Nikki Reed, Taylor Momsen, Shay Mitchell, Stephanie Pratt, Sophie Monk, Morena Baccarin, Louise Roe, Kendra Peres, Estella Warren, Erica Rose and Eva LaRue. Tempt has also been featured in many magazines including GenLux Magazine and will be seen in Elle Magazines around the world. Tracy and Allison take great pride in their selection, their prices, and in the fact that they have a large, loyal clientele base.



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# Valentine's Day Setting in Moorea



**19-year-old John  
Florence has just  
won the 2011 Vans  
Triple Crown of  
Surfing on the  
North Shore of  
Oahu, Hawai'i**

Photo by Cestari



# 2011 Galpin Motors Golf Classic

Photography by Thomas Neerken & Curtis Dahl

The annual Galpin Motors Golf Classic which benefits the Westlake Village-based **Heart Foundation** took place on October 24th at Sherwood Country Club. This is one of the most successful charity golf tournaments held each year at Sherwood Country Club. Proceeds from the event fund the research of world-renowned cardiologist Dr. PK Shah at Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute. For more information, visit [www.TheHeartFoundation.org](http://www.TheHeartFoundation.org).



The Heart Foundation Volunteers & Staff



Mark Litman, Bert & Jane Boeckmann



Ashley Eisenstadt, Riley Litman, Garrett Zeile, Todd Zeile



Dr. Bruce Beard, Albert Nassi



Ashton Cohen-Weingarten, Lindsay Cohen-Weingarten



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# PRISCILLA PRESLEY

## A PORTRAIT OF AN ICONIC LIFE

Priscilla Presley's life is fascinating in its breadth and scope. Her life in the public eye began at age 14 when she met Elvis Presley while her U.S. military Dad was on assignment in Germany. The impression that the confident - yet vulnerable Elvis - made on young Priscilla was scintillating. The date was September 13, 1959. Elvis returned to the U.S. and the couple stayed in telephonic contact. Two years later, in 1962, through persuasive phone calls from Elvis to her parents, they agreed to let her visit Elvis for 2 weeks. She flew out to L.A. and finally in 1963, Priscilla's parents agreed to let her move back to America with the promise from Elvis that he would insure that she finished her education; furthermore, she would be staying with his father and step mother. Shortly before Christmas 1966, Elvis proposed to Priscilla and they married on May 1, 1967 in Las Vegas. On February 1, 1968, their only child, Lisa Marie Presley, was born and Elvis and Priscilla began their journey as devoted parents. Life in the rock 'n roll fast lane was challenging in many respects, but Priscilla, the adaptable survivor, prevailed while holding on to her core identity.

STORY BY DIANA LYLE  PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER AMERUOSO

Although Priscilla and Elvis divorced in 1973, they remained very close up until the time of Elvis's death. In 1979, after the death of Elvis's father, Priscilla became Co-Executor of the Presley Estate - which at the time - was burdened by the enormous cost of the upkeep of **Graceland**. Faced with a gloomy accounting sheet, Priscilla's entrepreneurial skills swept into swift motion and she formulated a business plan that would turn Graceland into a moneymaker for the legions of Elvis fans. In 1982, Elvis's iconic home was opened to the public - thanks to Priscilla - and the Presley Estate was transformed into one of the most successful business enterprises. Most importantly, Lisa Marie Presley's trust was well taken care of - and Elvis's legacy would stay intact - something her father would have wanted. The Presley Estate consists of the Graceland Mansion; a worldwide licensing program; merchandising; music publishing and television and video projects.

After opening a successful boutique of 7 years with her business partner, Priscilla began her theatrical training with famed coach, Milton Katselas. She became the national spokeswoman for Wella Balsam hair products and she made her television debut as co-host of the ABC program, *'Those Amazing Animals'* with Burgess Meredith. When she landed the major role of Jenna Wade on the internationally-popular CBS TV series, *Dallas*, she became an instant audience favorite. During her 5 years on that top-rated television series, Priscilla became one of the show's most popular leading ladies. Her versatility as an actress proved itself repeatedly thereafter. In the box office smash hit, *'The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!'*; *'The Naked Gun 2 1/2'*, and *'The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult'*, Priscilla's comedic talents became an integral part of the hilarious *Naked Gun* cocktail. She has also guest-starred on TV's *Melrose Place* and *Touched by an Angel*. As a result of her appearances, the programs enjoyed their highest-rated episodes in their seasons. She has starred in the movie, *Breakfast with Einstein*, as well as the Showtime original movie, *Hayley Wagner Star*. She has served as Executive Producer on the feature film, *Finding Graceland*, and she's appeared in back-to-back episodes of ABC's TV comedy series, *Spin City*.

In the 1990s, Priscilla launched her 4 signature fragrances, *Moments*, *Experiences*, *Indian Summer* and *Roses and More*. She has been the Ambassador of the *Dream Foundation* for 10 years, helping to fulfill the dreams of adults battling terminal diseases. Most recently, Priscilla put her creative talents to good use by designing and launching the *Priscilla Presley Collection*, a jewelry line that has taken off on QVC.

The gorgeous creations are eclectic and inexpensive. She also partnered with H-Studio which will launch her furniture line in 2012.

But what is remarkable about Priscilla Presley is that throughout her extensive journey, this gracious lady has kept her integrity and her dignity intact. A vastly compassionate human being, she has traveled every corner of the world, preferring to listen and learn - rather than speak. Her sensitivity is one of the most beautiful aspects about her. 2012 marks the 35th anniversary of Elvis Presley's untimely death... and had they still been married, this would have been Priscilla's and Elvis's 45th wedding anniversary. In this exclusive interview, Priscilla Presley gives us a rare glimpse into a life that is nothing short of epic.

**WHEN YOU THINK BACK TO THE INCREDIBLE LIFE THAT YOU SHARED WITH ELVIS, WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE AND HAPPIEST MEMORIES?**

**PRISCILLA:** The Holidays - specifically Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year and the 4th of July - were all at Graceland. It was always a celebration with close friends and family. I also have many memories of our travels: Hawaii was one of our most favorite vacation spots. Elvis loved the gentle and welcoming souls of the Hawaiian people. For me as a young girl, that period was a very unpredictable time and I had to be prepared for all the changes and be spontaneous for all the travel. It was a case of just being ready!

**HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN VERY ADAPTABLE LIKE THAT?**

**PRISCILLA:** I do think that it's one of my strengths. My father was in the military so we were always moving and I was always changing schools. We would live in a place no longer than 3 years before we'd be uprooted to a new place. It was a lifestyle that certainly prepared me for the world of rock 'n roll and in that sense the life I had with Elvis seemed very normal to me.

**WHEN YOU FIRST MET ELVIS PRESLEY (AND YOU WERE IN GERMANY AT THE TIME), WHAT WAS THE FIRST IMPRESSION HE MADE ON YOU?**

**PRISCILLA:** That impression was what we are now calling the X factor. Elvis had it all. The impact he made on me as a 14-year-old girl is something I've never experienced since. He had this empowered charisma that was beautiful. He exuded confidence - yet he was vulnerable. I've never experienced anything as powerful in another human being.

ELVIS HAD IT ALL. THE IMPACT HE MADE ON ME AS A 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL IS SOMETHING I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED SINCE. HE HAD THIS EMPOWERED CHARISMA THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL. HE EXUDED CONFIDENCE - YET HE WAS VULNERABLE. I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING AS POWERFUL IN ANOTHER HUMAN BEING.



**YOUR SAVVY BUSINESS STRENGTHS HAVE BEEN PROVED TIME AND TIME AGAIN...AS HAS YOUR LEVEL OF INTEGRITY. ELVIS'S FATHER, VERNON PRESLEY, APPOINTED YOU CO-EXECUTOR OF THE PRESLEY ESTATE. YOU'VE BEEN CREDITED WITH TRANSFORMING THE PRESLEY ESTATE INTO A PHENOMENALLY-SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION. WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMORY OF ELVIS THAT YOU WANT KEPT ALIVE?**

**PRISCILLA:** Preserving Elvis's memory means a lot to me and my family. Our objective is to continue to monitor and be involved with everything that Elvis Presley Enterprises has been able to do so far. The challenge has been when others get involved. They see just today and the moment – and not the long-term vision.

**HAS THAT BEEN YOUR IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION: SEEING THE LONG-TERM VISION?**

**PRISCILLA:** I see beyond the immediate profit. It's important to have known who Elvis was and what he would have wanted his legacy to be. He was very authentic in nature and in who he was. I've tried not to go against that. I've had to keep reminding myself of the vision in 10 or 20 years time but I also have to face the reality that the world is changing and it's not the same as it was 35 years ago. The industry has changed enormously and oftentimes people who are working within a company or music label are there today and gone tomorrow. There may be other interpretations of Elvis's legacy but we have to keep the goals pure. My family's and my passion is to honor who Elvis truly was as a human being and never lose sight of that for the sake of the purity of his legacy.

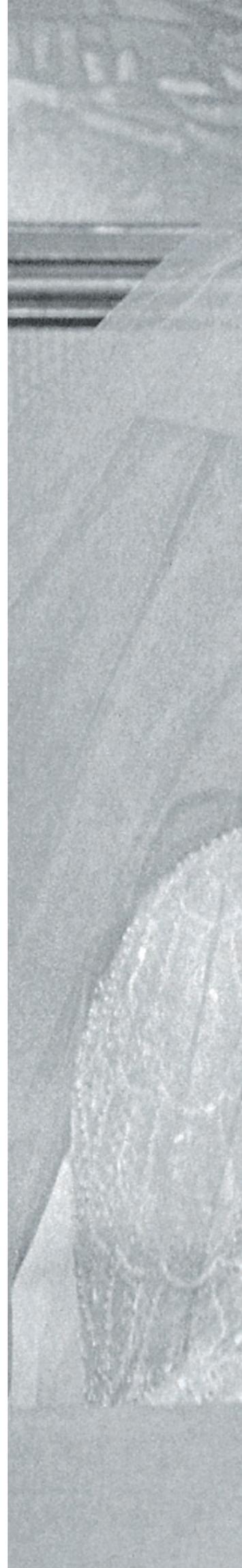
**YOUR CURRENT BUSINESS SUCCESSES INCLUDE: PRISCILLA PRESLEY JEWELS (EVIDENTLY YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA FOR ELVIS TO WEAR THE FAMOUS BIG BELT BUCKLE ON STAGE...SOMETHING WHICH BECAME HIS TRADEMARK). TELL US ABOUT THIS JEWELRY LINE AND ABOUT YOUR CURRENT PROJECTS.**

**PRISCILLA:** Design and being creative has always been a part of me. I had my own boutique in Beverly Hills, Bis & Beau, and I had a very supportive partner. We were so ahead of our time that I see designs that are out today – that we had back then. That was the beginning of being able to create, and losing myself in all that creation. It's been a love of mine for a long time and it started with furnishing. In my excursions I discovered Soho in New York. When Elvis began appearing on stage in Vegas, I did a lot of research in trying to find new things for him – and one of the items was the leather belt with the brass buckle. I brought that home and Elvis loved it. That belt became the prototype of what Bill Belew, his designer, used in nearly all of his shows. Leather wrist bands were also new at that time and I purchased them, as well as other pieces of jewelry. On one particular flight that Elvis and I were on – we were in the middle of a thunder storm – and he said to me he'd like to give his inner circle a special gift – so I helped him and with his guidance, designed what became known as the TCB necklace. With my current Priscilla Presley Jewel line, I have made it a point to make the pieces affordable and accessible to every woman who loves jewelry. The line has done very well on QVC – which reaches all ages. The jewelry designs are eclectic because of my own love for so many different styles, and some are inspired by my own personal collection as well.

**THERE HAVE BEEN MANY RUMORS CIRCULATING ABOUT A POSSIBLE DALLAS REMAKE WITH THE ORIGINAL CAST MEMBERS (INCLUDING YOUR FAMOUS PART - JENNA WADE). IS THIS, IN FACT, HAPPENING?**

**PRISCILLA:** Yes, it is. I went to Larry Hagman's birthday party (aka J.R. Ewing) a few weeks ago and Linda Gray was there as well as other Dallas cast members. Everyone is very excited about it and they are getting ready to go to Dallas to start filming. Hopefully Jenna Wade will come back. I'm certainly looking forward to it and I think that the characters and the story line are as relevant today as they were back then.

PRESERVING ELVIS'S MEMORY MEANS A LOT TO ME AND MY FAMILY. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND BE INVOLVED WITH EVERYTHING THAT ELVIS PRESLEY ENTERPRISES HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO SO FAR. THE CHALLENGE HAS BEEN WHEN OTHERS GET INVOLVED. THEY SEE JUST TODAY AND THE MOMENT – AND NOT THE LONG-TERM VISION.



Priscilla and Elvis on their wedding day. Photo courtesy of Elvis Presley Enterprises





**WHAT ENRICHES YOUR LIFE IMMENSELY?**

**PRISCILLA:** My family first and foremost. My close friends whom I've had for many years; I love getting together with them and sharing all that we are going through. My daughter (Lisa Marie) moved to England and she couldn't take her bull dogs with her so I have inherited them and I've added them to my family of 3 dogs. My home is full with Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs and British Bulldogs and they give me a lot of pleasure. I've learned to relish the simple things in life and my pets have really enriched me. Also important to me is traveling and learning about different cultures, not only for my own character enrichment, but humanity's.

**HAS TRAVELING MADE YOU MORE TOLERANT OF OTHER CULTURES?**

**PRISCILLA:** Most definitely. It's expanded my life enormously as I learn about other cultures and religions. It's taught me to have more compassion and with that comes tolerance. When I visit a country I realize that I'm a guest there, and when I return to America, I come back with such gratitude for all that we have here. My hope is that we don't lose the essence of what made America great.

**YOUR FAVORITE PLACES IN THE WORLD?**

**PRISCILLA:** I fall in love with most of the places that I visit for different reasons. I really love Australia and the people there. I also love Italy and the Italians' zest for life. Their lives are so full; no matter what hour of the night it might be, Italians are gathered with their friends and family, enjoying the art of conversation while celebrating their love of food, good wine and life. Then there are the quaint little villages in Italy. I love that aspect about Paris too: being able to walk through all the nooks and crannies and find those wonderful old shops with their sense of artistry. I love the French people, their language and I really get along well with them. But it's hard to pinpoint a specific favorite because I also love London. I tend to dive into whatever culture I'm visiting and enjoy its unique richness.

**HOW IS LISA MARIE DOING IN ENGLAND?**

**PRISCILLA:** She's outside of London, although she travels into London frequently. She's enjoying it very much although she does miss some of the things she loved to do here. I do go back and forth and visit with her and the children.

**WHAT HAS LIFE TAUGHT YOU?**

**PRISCILLA:** Life has taught me to be willing to experience anything. Life throws out many challenges and I've learned that it's how we handle them that makes the difference in our future and those around us. We have a tendency to react with our emotions too quickly and then we regret the consequences. Life has taught me tolerance and patience; metaphorically speaking, nothing is in stone; anything can change.

**YOU DO SO MUCH GOOD WORK - INCLUDING BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE DREAM FOUNDATION - WHICH FULFILLS TERMINALLY-ILL ADULTS' WISHES. IS THIS A VITAL PART OF YOUR JOURNEY IN LIFE - GIVING BACK?**

**PRISCILLA:** It is. I'm very privileged to be involved with the Dream Foundation and I'm very close with their Founder, Thom Rollerson, and I try to help him in whatever way that I can. This is a big part of my life.

**MICHAEL JACKSON HAS BEEN GONE FOR 2 YEARS. DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS/FEELINGS ON THAT TOPIC THAT YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING WITH US?**

**PRISCILLA:** I watched the trial of Conrad Murray. The price of fame can be extremely detrimental because it comes with unrealities. You can pretty much get whatever you want - even if it's to your detriment. It's vital for any famous person to surround themselves with people who have high levels of integrity. At the end of the day, the celebrity has to hold on to his/her own ethics and morals because the people around them are never going to disagree with them - especially when there's money involved.

**WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF A WONDERFULLY RELAXING DAY - AND WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING?**

**PRISCILLA:** I enjoy being with my mother and father. I'm very fortunate to still have them in my life. We have big family dinners together on Sundays and I get to see my 3-year-old twin granddaughters when they're in town. They love coming over to visit nana (their great grandmother) and nona (me). We have come to the conclusion that we would rather surround ourselves - watching them play and interact with all of us - than watch television.

**YOUR WISH FOR THIS WORLD.....**

**PRISCILLA:** Peace - which is what I believe everyone else would like. Understanding and tolerance requires patience; sometimes things don't happen as fast as we want them to happen. I don't believe in war. It accomplishes nothing and leaves behind a trail of destruction. I'm far more concerned that we learn to understand other people's cultures so that we're not so quick to brand them as 'the enemy'. I know it's very complicated but the way we're going about it is not working. My wish for humanity is that we strive to be more compassionate towards one another. I'd like to see people in power with purer hearts and fewer agendas.

**OF ALL YOUR CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENTS...WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?**

**PRISCILLA:** The fact that I have survived (that thought is accompanied by Priscilla's laughter). There have been some difficult challenges, but what I am particularly proud of is that I've held on to my sense of integrity; in this day and age, I'm concerned about the breakdown in morality, ethics, high standards and quality. It appears that what it comes down to is - higher ratings, lowering of standards - and greed. I'm proud that I was raised by parents who instilled values in their home - raising 6 children at that! Now we call it 'the good old days'. Am I dating myself? Of course I am! (laughter ensues). 🌟





# Iconic Portraits

## Sir Paul McCartney Weds Nancy Shevell

American heiress Nancy Shevell (who is Barbara Walters's second cousin) and Sir Paul McCartney recently celebrated their marriage in front of 30 special guests. Fellow Beatle, Ringo Star and wife Barbara, were there in full support. Despite each of their sizeable fortunes, the couple opted for a low-key private wedding that was meaningful and joyful. Nancy wore a demure ivory knee-length gown, designed by Stella McCartney, and then later changed into a long, plum chiffon gown, also designed by Stella. In a message on his website, Sir Paul said, "Nancy and I want to thank everybody for the wonderful greetings and messages of goodwill. We had a really great day with family and friends. It was relaxed, fun, emotional, heartfelt and a total pleasure for the two of us and everyone involved." The couple honeymooned at a secret location and will continue to live a substantially international life between their homes in London's St. John's Wood, New York and The Hamptons.





Portraits of Champions

# Westlake High School vs. Oaks Christian

By Caleb Salas • Photography by Chelsea Archer/Images by Cornerstone

Westlake High School defeated Oaks Christian 49-42 in the CIF Southern Section Northern Division Championship Game on December 9th. Dashon Hunt led the Warriors with 5 total touchdowns while Brandon Dawkins led the Lions with 5 passing touchdowns. The Lions jumped to an early 21-7 lead, but Westlake was able to capitalize on 6 Lion turnovers, catapulting them to a 49-28 second-half lead. Westlake fended off the Lion's furious rally in the closing minutes of the game, avenging last year's 29-28 Championship loss to Oaks. Westlake, ranked fourth in the nation with a dominant 14-win season, went on to play in the CIF State Bowl.



The first of Oaks' Francis Owusu's 3 touchdowns



Oaks' Quarterback Brandon Dawkins; Westlake's Johnny Stuart



Westlake's Dashon Hunt scores

Westlake's Cody Tuttle blocks so that Quarterback Justin Moore can go in for the score







# Fashionsense



## Love Is Not a Four-Letter Word (At Least in Fashion It Ain't)

By Magda Pescariu

When I saw my first fashion show long ago in Milan, I was already an insider. My name lay politely on the reserved seat (with no misspellings), and I sat down detached, prepared my notebook for the on-site remarks, calm and ready. The beautiful theater was beaming with chatty noise, celebrities and wannabes, photographers fussing over their cameras and organizers attending the last-minute preparations. I knew what was happening backstage in those moments before the show, and silently sympathized with the professionals agonizing over the results of six months of work, trying to send everything on the runway just...perfect. And then the Show started. It took less than two minutes to be thrown back in the innocence and excitement of any neophyte, and to enjoy the show with the surprise and curiosity of a layman. The notebook sat in my lap unopened, clutched by my suddenly inspired (and perspired) hands. This fascination with the flawless runway-results of so many months of intense labor in the ateliers of fashion has never failed to sway me since.

In the days after the International Fashion Show in Milan last September, I felt the need to hear from the horse's mouth what was happening in the designers' studios in these thorny times. My mind went immediately to **Frankie Morello** - a visionary brand born in 1998 from the stylistic encounter between Maurizio Modica and Pierfrancesco Gigliotti. The label paired two unusual talents, since Maurizio started his career as a performer, choreographer, scenographer and costume designer, while Pierfrancesco graduated in architecture at the Polytechnic Institute of Milan with a thesis on "the dress like the architecture of the body". **Their style, fun and ironic, promotes self-expression as survival and art as a *raison de vivre*.** I found both designers refreshingly *normal*, bright and frank, a pleasure to interview; their manner - easygoing, their eyes - beautifully mischievous, their answers - a witty and noteworthy delight.

It is such a great opportunity for our magazine to ask Frankie Morello's Maurizio Modica (M) and Pierfrancesco Gigliotti (P) a few questions on behalf of our readers. Thank you so much, gentlemen, for accepting our interview. Californians in general and Los Angeles in particular are well-known for our casual approach to fashion and for taking pride in our laidback lifestyle. However, as Hollywood has demonstrated so often, we know too well how to dress up for the right occasion and truly appreciate the essence and versatility of fashion.

Your Spring-Summer 2012 Collection is an exotic voyage through Italy's most emblematic places and times, a refined homage to *La Dolce Vita* glamour painted with a modern, humorous and clever brush. At the same time, it has a certain air of playful nostalgia, with a reverence to the uniqueness of

**Italian fashion in the history of couture. What was the source of inspiration for this collection?**

**M:** The sparkle came from a '60s movie, "**Souvenir of Italy**", which tells the story of three foreign girls - three different lifestyles - who immerse themselves in the Italian beauty and culture in search of the perfect *souvenir of Italy* to take back home. In their adventurous quest the trip itself becomes secondary and the main characters are, in fact, the places they visit.

We both love the '60s, a decade of elegance, with such a precision of details and forms... So we toyed with this idea, and **took Portofino, Venice, Rome, Pisa, Florence, the Amalfi Coast - all these symbolic locations, together with their iconic monuments and the masterpieces which define Italy - to the extreme of couture, turning**

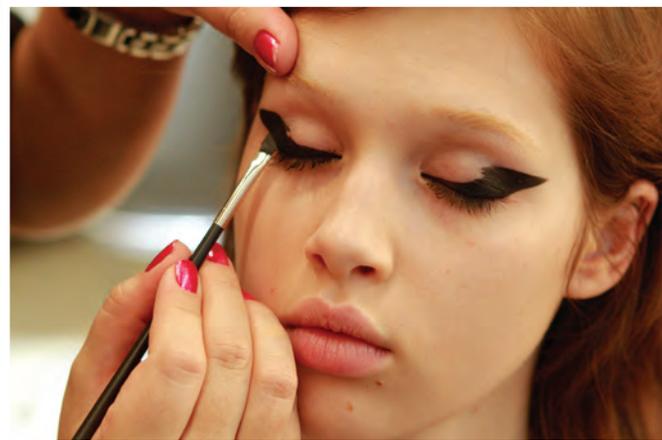




them into *souvenirs of fashion*. As a result, our summer styles portray the dear collection of *memories and souvenirs* any traveler saves from his first voyage through Italy. In time, they become a lovely blur - the image of *la Città Ideale*, a “City of Babel” ideally mixing Italian masterworks and destinies.

Please describe for our readers the way you see your brand in 2012. How is Frankie Morello line different from the one you have created more than a decade ago?

P: Ten years have changed a lot in our brand, not only in the clothing design as such, but also in our attitudes, routines and creative approach. Of course, our



basics stayed the same: we keep a **flair for contemporary**; say what we have to say in **good taste and common aesthetic sense**; don't care too much for being “in fashion” just for the sake of it. We've **refined continuously our signature**



characteristics – irony, fun and joy; created modern flattering styles with delight and amusement, without sliding into ridicule. Essentially, Frankie Morello brand has evolved with the general economic and social change.

Do you think – after all these years of narcissism and greed, of the world maxing out on everything – that we look towards a fashion defined by a refined balance of opposites, by simplicity and cleanliness? Will the minimalism hold on through 2012?

M: We definitely witness a major change in the world. Behavior, thought patterns, professional attitudes, the way we

perceive the world itself – everything is swept by a tide of maturity and self-awareness.

We have become inquisitive and introspective like never before, asking the hard questions first - who are we, where to, why now? But this just describes the elite,

which is small in numbers, “the select few”. What matters, however, is the large mass out there, the no-questions-asked people happily numbed by TV's reality, who live their life surrendering to each and every trend, no matter how minor or ephemeral. Consumerism is based exactly on this passive mass; on its need for *fast everything*, fast food, fast fashion, fast know-how, fast (virtual) travel and, ultimately, fast life. **Fast fashion, for instance, launches a new collection every two weeks, invades markets with a stream of inconsequential fabrics, colors, styles, cuts, trends and accessories. The prêt-a-porter designer, the real fashion artist, has to reinvent his art permanently, has to create styles that are innovative, unique, irreplaceable and inimitable.** How easy is that? Because, if you think about it, fashion doesn't serve a greater

Maurizio Modica, Pierfrancesco Gigliotti and Models backstage at Frankie Morello Show for Spring-Summer 2012 – Milan

purpose. One could walk around in a sweater and jeans for ten years or forever without making any difference at all.

**WML: Where we need true fashion is where we need art - in expressing ourselves, our unique individualities, in making this life beautiful, bearable, significant, unparalleled...**

**P:** ...and from this point of view, we don't think we'll ever go back to the minimalism of the '90s. Yes, *the essence of fashion lays in the harmony of opposites, in simple lines and clean forms, but the rest of it is evolution and dynamism; the hungry search for novel expression, for reinvention in perpetual change.* Staying minimal in today's fashion doesn't pay off anymore; it's viewed as sheer stagnation.

**What is your personal rapport with the making of a new collection, your particular journey from the first artistic idea to the last smile and applause on the runway? Which part involves each of you the most? How much is art and how much is business?**

Well, we have three questions here in a shot (*both laugh*), let's see ...

**P:** Talking about *the making* of Frankie Morello collections, we carried on from previous experience a tactic unusual for the fashion world - the meta-project approach. Imagine a funnel in which we pour together all our initial ideas, ours and our team members, sparkles, bits and pieces, a puzzle of thoughts and possibilities. The twirl of all these fragments of creativity triggers inspiration for what will be in the end the theme of our new collection.

**As a process - it is slow and arduous, more than six months of labor ... from inspiration and brainstorming to the main idea; from the selection of fibers, fabrics, colors and accessories to sketches and drafts; from rendering to trial products, corrections of trials and, finally, to prototypes. And then there is the Fashion Show: we choose the best theme, the representative music, decide on scenography, choreography, models, hairstyling, make-up, the selection and sequence of styles presented, you name it ... it's time consuming and definitely soul-involving (*laughs*).**



Maurizio Modica and Pierfrancesco Gigliotti in Frankie Morello Atelier during our interview

**P:** What engages me the most? (*Sighs*) Let me say what I enjoy the least is all the technicalities in the "commercial side" of each collection. They set off such an emotional draining ...

**But in the end - you love the whole process, everything comes together as indispensable steps of an amazing journey ...**

**M:** I'm definitely more passionate about the "performing" part, the spectacular, the making of the Show. I love to set up our collections on stage and see them alive and kicking!

**P:** As for business vs. art, oh, well ... **The preparation of a collection is 100% business, unfortunately, there's no art there except for the initial sparkle. The Show allows for more creativity, for substantial artistic expression. However, in the last years, we noticed a closer knit between business and art in our work - let's say (*smiles*) 50-50.**

**Times are hard and fashion, like any other creation, has to confront the "reality principle". Do you feel you had to compromise your design in any way for commercial reasons?**

**P:** Absolutely! The more your creative work becomes business, the more you have to compromise, in all too many ways. We have to consider the endless commercial demands, the various markets' requirements. If you want to meet the needs of more clients, on more markets - you learn to compromise.... even though our style is anchored in reality ...

**M:** ... for sure we have to create for a very large assortment of taste. Take the American market and compare it to the European one, or to the Chinese one - **the demand is so diverse and you just have to relate to everybody.** Then again, it is never frustrating, it is just our work.

**P:** Add to all these the increasing need for instant-gratification worldwide and



Frankie Morello



Frankie Morello

you see that “compromising” in fashion design means, in fact, fine-tuning one’s creativity to the reality of everyday life.

**Do you have a personal recipe for success? When do you know that a certain style you have designed is successful?**

**P:** No, not a recipe ... Certainly **passion and resolve** helps...

**M:** You need to **believe in what you do**.

**P:** **Stay motivated, preserve enthusiasm.**

Of course in time you may lose some of that, no matter how strong the feelings, you tire out; all the confrontations wear you down through the years, so you need to **stay true to your ideas, remember your dreams**. It’s not an easy process by all means.

**P:** **When your intuition is on the same wavelength with the market demand, when you happen to create precisely what was expected from you - success comes near, (smiles) you start to believe your product will sell.**

**Frankie Morello is much more than a fashion brand, it is a philosophy and a lifestyle. From this viewpoint, which particular fashion item do you think represents an embodiment of Frankie Morello femininity?**

**P:** Well, it’s hard to sum it up in one particular fashion item ...

**M:** ...it’s **more a fusion of elements, attitude being the lead**. It’s the way a woman coins *a look* and makes it *uniquely hers*...

**P:** ... **femininity is an attitude**. A woman may wear anything endorsing it with gusto, a man’s hat, let’s say, and wear it with extreme sensuality and femininity. *(Laughs)* **It’s always in the woman, not in what she wears.**

**And following the same idea, which is, in your vision, the measure of elegance and strong identity for men in general, and for the Frankie Morello man in particular?**

**P:** An elegant man stays away from extremes; he is neither snobbishly extravagant, nor boringly classic. Only the particular harmony between classic, sportsmanship, grace and a touch of eccentricity determine **true elegance in men**. And again, it is never in *what* you wear, it is always in *how* you wear it. We go back to attitude...

**If I say “Malibu, California”, what comes to your mind first?**

**P:** Malibu, California ... I think of a drink, and the beach, palms, the ocean...

**M:** ... **a certain iconography of cinema**, of the past, like watching one of our neo-realism movies ... As for the present, clearly, the beach, loveliness, bathing-suits

**P:** ... summer colors, tanned beauties, blonde hair blessed by breeze ...

**M:** *(nostalgic sigh)*... **the landmark destination ...**

**How would you describe in a few words your take on Hollywood? I know you have dressed many stars, Lady Gaga famously included. Who would you like to dress in the future, maybe for the Academy Awards 2012?**

**P:** Huh, to describe Hollywood in just a few words, not easy. **It is a surreal place, unique in this world ... the incomparable space of cool encounters** with the star-system. You may sip a drink in a bar, cross a street, come out of your dry-cleaning – and here she or he is: famous, untouchable, dreamy, and yet so real ...

**M:** Hollywood ... **forceful images that stay with you forever**, like the first glimpse of New York setting foot on Ellis Island ... or like opening your eyes on the Colosseum ...

About dressing celebrities for Oscars – we don't know yet who will be nominated, who will win ... But there is so much beauty in Hollywood ...

**P:** We like many stars including James Franco, Orlando Bloom, Cate Blanchett and Keira Knightley.

**Is there anything you wish was different in the mood for fashion of these days?**

**P:** Many things ... First and foremost, **I would like people to understand the difference between true fashion and fast fashion, which is, essentially, the distinction between the original and a copy.** It's not that we oppose *fast fashion* as it is. It destroys the fundamental nature of the fashion system, but it's an ongoing common trend, so - as long as people set apart the authentic from imitation - and make an informed decision ...

**What inspires you in your creative endeavors?**

**M:** Our inspiration springs from everything, really... but mostly from cinema ...

**P:** ... music, art, people we meet, places we discover ...

**And what keeps you going on in life?**

**M:** **Curiosity, growing through change**, witnessing your own maturity coming together.

**P:** **The idea that everything changes, nothing ever stays the same ...** which can be a frightening thought, but it is also the driving force that keeps us moving on.

**Is there any question you'd have liked me to ask?**

**P:** What would I've loved to be if weren't a designer? (*Laughs*) A singer... Or painter.

**M:** Where do I see myself in ten years? Doing what? The drama of this question lays in the betting essence of it ... so (*laughing*) wherever I'd be and whatever I'd do, I certainly hope would involve (living by) the sea.

**Do you have a final word of fashion wisdom for our readers?**

**M:** **Nurture your soul first and care about your clothes after.** That's my only word of wisdom to those who dress up only to cover up, who veil with make-believe beauty the emptiness inside.

**P:** Absolutely.

I wrapped up the interview in good spirits, feeling a bit wiser. I realized that no matter how informed on the nitty-gritty of the fashion shows we are, the magic that sways us every time (insiders or not) has a rather simple explanation. It's not *show biz* that we are looking at; it is a *labor of love*. And love we do recognize - it is our stairway, if not to heaven, at least to a soulful life. In knowing love, we know that all is right with the world. For there is nothing if there is no love. 💧



# Things we love *New Year*



1

1. **Volcom** hooded thermal. \$42. **Baba Black** faux sheep sherpa. **Val Surf**. Thousand Oaks, Woodland Hills, Valley Village. [www.valsurf.com](http://www.valsurf.com)

2. **Mammoth Mountain Gift Card**. Amounts: \$25 - \$5,000. No expiration date. Good at any Mammoth Mountain establishment. [www.mammothmountainstore.com](http://www.mammothmountainstore.com) Buy Online or call **800-MAMMOTH**

3. **Oscar Blandi Root Touch-up & Highlighting Pen**. \$23. **Seda France Fine Candle** \$29.50. **Savvy Beauty Studio**. 29125 Canwood St. Agoura Hills. **818-597-2121**. [www.savvysalon.com](http://www.savvysalon.com)

4. **Chan Luu** silk bead crystal chain scarf bracelets. Medium/\$45. Large/\$95. **Ilene's Boutique**. 1145 Lindero Cyn. Rd. Westlake Village. **805-373-6633**

5. **Isabella Fiore** vintage peace & love purse \$365. **Ilene's Boutique**. 1145 Lindero Cyn. Rd. Westlake Village. **805-373-6633**

6. \$74.99. Classic Cardy women's **uggs**. \$139.99. **Val Surf**. Thousand Oaks, Woodland Hills, Valley Village. [www.valsurf.com](http://www.valsurf.com)

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6



7

7. Superbowl Party at home. Have Brent's cater in quality food. 805-557-1992. [brentsdeli.com](http://brentsdeli.com)

8. Valentine's Magic: Cosabella tango red babydoll. \$159. JGirl. 2900 Townsgate Rd. Ste 107. Westlake Village. 805-449-9999



8

9. MidiQueen ipad cover. \$58. Sydney bag. \$128. Email: [paige@midiqueenhandbags.com](mailto:paige@midiqueenhandbags.com) [www.MidiQueenHandbags.com](http://www.MidiQueenHandbags.com)

10. Going Yard MLB Roadtrip Guide for Major League Baseball fans looking for well-researched information on the history, trivia, and must see/eat offerings at each stadium. \$14.95. Avail: [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [www.goingyardjourney.com](http://www.goingyardjourney.com) 818-889-8052



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11. What better way to show someone you care with a unique arrangement - reasonably priced - created by Janet Webb of Greenwich Floral Design. 805-427-3399 Email: [janet@greenwichfloral.net](mailto:janet@greenwichfloral.net) [www.greenwichfloral.net](http://www.greenwichfloral.net)

12. Spirit Hoods Faux Fur Grey Wolf Warrior Cap \$125. Savvy Beauty Studio. 29125 Canwood St. Agoura Hills. 818-597-2121. [www.savvysalon.com](http://www.savvysalon.com)

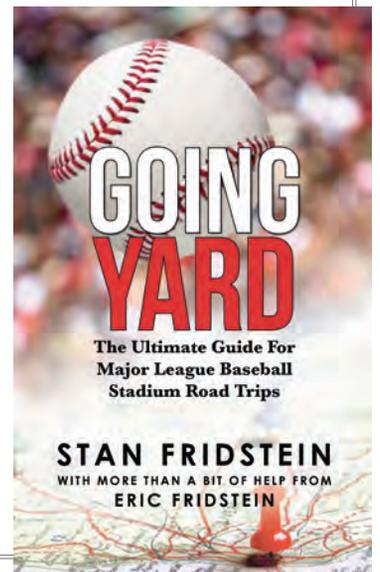


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10



Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf





# Portraits of Power



## That Persistent Glass Ceiling: The State of Women In America

By Christine Seisun

In the 110 years that the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded, only fifteen of the prizes have gone to a female recipient. 2011 was just such a year. In fact, the prize not only went to one woman, it was awarded to three: Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Yemeni activist Tawakkul Karmen and Liberian Leymah Gbowee, the subject of the documentary “Pray the Devil to Hell”.

In 2005, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became Africa’s first democratically-elected female president and recently won re-election in Liberia, albeit amidst turmoil and some allegations of political foul play. Tawakkul Karmen, an instrumental leader in her home country of Yemen’s protest movement for democracy and human rights, was the first Arab woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. And Leymah Gbowee was honored for her incredibly inspiring work as head of the Women Peace and Security Network in Liberia. She dramatically helped to bring about an end to the country’s bloody 14-year civil war which claimed the lives of over a quarter of a million people. The historic wins for the three women were coupled with a statement from the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in which they hoped the prizes “will help to bring an end to the suppression of women that still occurs in many countries, and to realize the great potential for democracy and peace that women can represent.”

It seems as if women are now cropping up on the media and political radar more than ever. The breakout summer hit movie *Bridesmaids*, a comedy written by and starring women, was touted as breaking the invisible barrier that previous female-fronted movies came up against. It managed to attract both a male and female audience with total box office sales of \$170 million and steered well clear of being dismissed as yet another ‘chick flick’. The film was heralded as a referendum on the viability of full-charactered women in Hollywood and hopefully put to rest the tiredly sexist discussion of “Why Women Aren’t Funny”, a debate fueled by a Christopher Hitchens article in *Vanity Fair* with a title of the same name.

On the political and corporate front, the International Monetary Fund now has its first female chief in France’s Christine Lagarde who actively rejects the notion that one must act and “look like a businessman” to get the job done. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regularly tops the *Forbes* list of Most Powerful Women, only preceded this year by Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. Nearly half of Latin America has had a female leader. There are now nearly twice as many women serving in the US Congress than there were twenty

years ago and the mere prospect of two women running for the most powerful political positions in the country during the 2008 presidential race was groundbreaking in and of itself. So does this mean that women are close to reaching economic and political equity with their male counterparts? In the case of the United States, the answer is unfortunately a resounding no.

The 1960s and 1970s women’s movement without doubt ushered in a wave of women to leadership positions in both the corporate and political sector. Yet the last 10-15 years have shown that the United States has either stagnated or regressed from this positive trend and, even more unfortunately, currently there are no significant pushes to rectify this gender gap.

The United States is miles behind nearly every other industrialized nation in regards to integrating women in the political process. The US currently places a dismal 69th on this year’s Inter-Parliamentary Union global list which ranks countries according to the percentage of women who hold elected office. Cuba is 5th on the list with



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan significantly ahead of the United States with respective rankings of 30th, 35th and 36th. To give further context to the male-dominated state of the American political system: in 2011, 88% of state governors, 83% of big city mayors and 76% of state legislators are male. Women make up 51% of the American population yet only 17% of both houses of Congress are female, a number that has held firm for approximately a decade. In fact, the 2010 elections recorded a loss of 81 female seats in state legislatures – the largest such loss ever. Shamefully, the House of Representatives only received its first women’s bathroom in July of this year. The first Congresswoman was sworn in 94 years ago in 1917.

Political science professor at Occidental College Dr. Caroline Heldman, author of *Rethinking Madame President: Are We Ready for a Woman in the White House?*, confirms that: “The US is woefully behind every other advanced industrialized nations when it comes to women’s representation in the highest political offices. This is particu-

larly pronounced for executive offices (e.g., governorships, the presidency). Women have greater success when there are gender quotas, a parliamentary (instead of presidential) system where women can work their way up through their respective political party and get elected by their peers (as opposed to public election), and when family dynasties rule (and women are included).”

Heldman goes on to note that progress in gender parity seems to have flatlined throughout the last several election cycles in both the Democratic and Republic parties. Some believe that this plateau can be attributed to the persistent backlash towards the women’s movement of the 1960s and 1970s. This backlash was led by conservative and traditional groups who attempted to stigmatize the movement and indeed the very word “feminist” - a campaign that has evidently worked. An overwhelming majority of women support the underlying principles of feminism (namely that of gender equity and opportunity) yet most women refuse to identify themselves as feminists, even going so far as to express disapproval of the term.

Another explanation for the gender gap in politics is that women tend to self-selectively avoid partaking in the political process. Men oftentimes are attracted to public office because of their interest in the general political field whereas women oftentimes run because of an interest on a single policy issue. Even then “men who have the slightly relevant experience will jump in without a second thought,” says Barbara Lee, president of a foundation which works to engage women in politics. “Women need to be recruited and asked multiple times by multiple people in order to consider running.”

However it is plausible that such reluctance on the part of potential female candidates comes from societal perceptions of who is qualified to be a leader. A 1998 survey found that one quarter of Americans fully believe that men are better suited for politics than women. Sadly, a similar survey was conducted by Baylor University in 2008 and the number of those who believed in the inherent male aptitude for political life has jumped up to one third of all Americans.



PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi



Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice



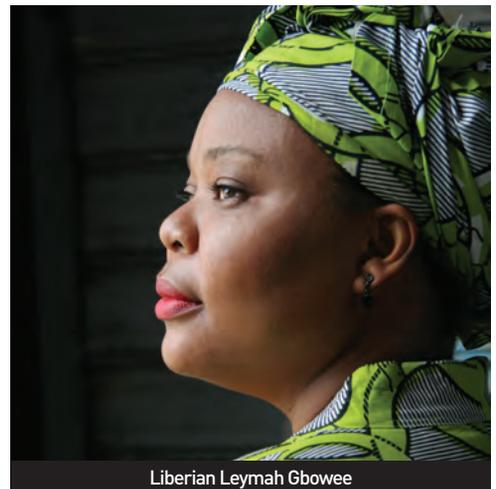
Yemeni activist Tawakkul Karmen



France's Christine Lagarde



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton



Liberian Leymah Gbowee

This vicious cycle of self-reinforcing negative stereotypes is the subject of *Miss Representation*, a new documentary directed by Jenifer Siebel Newsom, a Stanford MBA graduate and wife of current California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom. Much of the film is focused on media portrayal of women by pointing out subtle and overt bias in media coverage. For example, in Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's four years as Speaker of the House, she never once appeared on the cover of a national weekly. In the first four weeks in the same position, Speaker of the House John Boehner appeared on five covers.

Not surprisingly the gender gap between men and women in the military is also quite startling. Women comprise only 8% of active-duty service members in the Marine Corps and it was only in 1993 that Sheila Widnall was appointed U.S. Secretary of the Air Force - the first woman to lead a branch of the military. A 1994 combat exclusion policy prohibited women from being assigned to frontline battle units - a concept with little basis in the reality of today's wars where the battlefield could theoretically begin anywhere at any point in time. Indeed, women have long served on the frontiers of war by virtue of being assigned to units attached to those on the frontline. This "in practice, but not in theory" creates a glass-ceiling effect for women in the military who cannot receive official recognition of their time spent in ground combat situations thereby effectively precluding them from reaching the upper echelons of the military profession.

Yet change in the military seems to be slowly on its way. In February 2010 the Navy announced that women were now allowed to serve on submarines and a March 2011 report commissioned by the Department of Defense recommended that the military should "eliminate combat exclusion policies for women...to create a level playing field for all qualified service members."

However, the statistics are even more abysmal in the corporate sector. Women make up only 3% of CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, hold 5% of clout positions across mainstream media (only 1 woman sits on the board of Fox News out of 15) and make up approximately 12% of executive boards in American companies. This striking inequality between the sexes in the corporate world helps no one. Last year consulting firm McKinsey published a study affirming that operational results of companies which have greater gender diversification are over 50% higher. Even more dramatically, a 2007 report by fi-

nanacial giant Goldman Sachs found that closing the gender gap in the United States could boost its gross domestic product by as much as 9%. A 2009 UN Report on Gender Equality in the Corporate Sector was even blunter on the matter by stating, "Women leaders correlate with better financial performance."

In the United States, the metaphor of a 'glass ceiling' hindering women from reaching the upper echelons of politics, military and business clearly still does exist. High-profile anomalies such as Hewlett-Packard CEO Meg Whitman, previous vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin, PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi and

First Lady Michelle Obama have given the American public the illusion that women are continuing to gain access to leadership roles when in fact, the United States has either stagnated or regressed in terms of gender parity throughout the last decade and a half. The motto in Newsom's *Miss Representation* "You can't be what you can't see" highlights the importance of providing female role-models for future generations. From a moral, fiscal and political standpoint the advancement of women is beneficial to everyone; the exclusion of women from the American working world is a self-defeating process. It's time to start changing the status quo. 🌊

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Master Bath



Master Bedroom



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Living Room



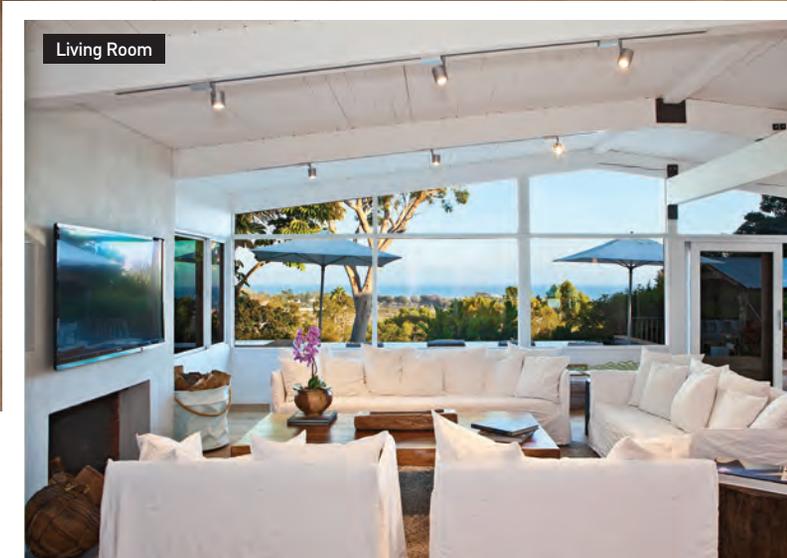
Front of house; entrance



Kitchen



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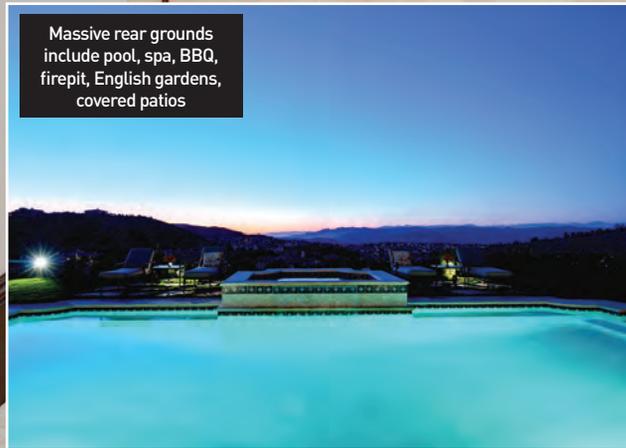
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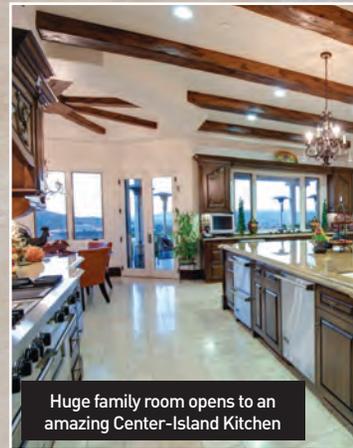
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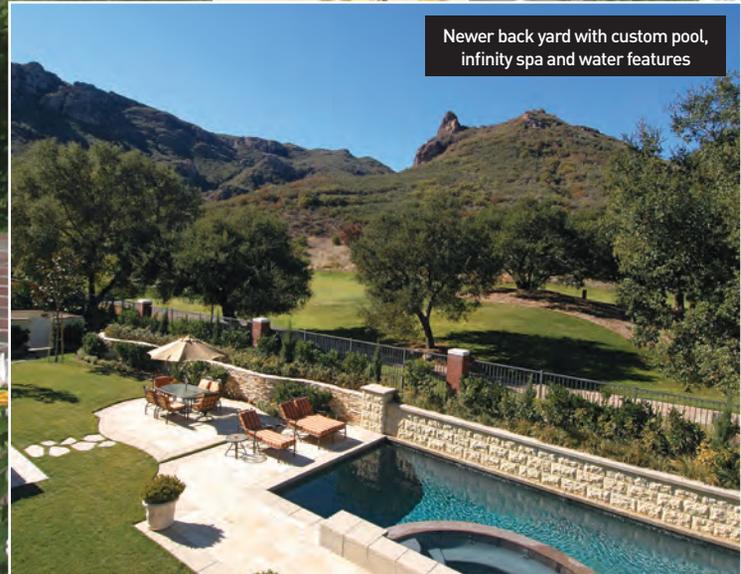
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## The Web of Debt

Doug De Groot, MBA, CFP®

It has been pointed out many times that the global financial system is highly interconnected and the speed at which things happen moves faster than ever before. Like the spider and his web, our global economy triggers an instant reaction by the spider no matter what part of the web is affected. In our global economy, things have moved so fast as to be almost surre-

al. The bailout, the stimulus, the QE's – all of these monstrous government initiatives should have been game changers in their own right. Yet, our webs of interconnected federal programs, governments, and global central bankers have played the role of the spider. They have pounced on our collective deleveraging, slowing demand and rising unemployment with never seen before speed and power. Until

recently, their reactions have seemed unimaginable in their now historic size and scope. In fact, anything less than several hundred billion is a weak response and considered chump change.

However, many will say that the reaction by Global Central Bankers and governments throughout has saved many. Yet, since 2008, our economy has shed over 7 million jobs according to the US Census Bureau study of 2011. When we compare U-3 unemployment which is adjusted to reflect those looking for full-time employment to U-6 (U-3 the headline numbers vs. U6 the inclusive

unemployment rate), our unemployment actually stands at 16.2%. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the number of people officially unemployed is 13.9 million (9%), while those working temporarily but seeking full-time employment is 8.9 million people, and those that are marginally attached - 2.6 million. This puts our total unemployment at 16.2% using U-6 to measure real unemployment. These numbers only get worse when we count people entering the work force for the very first time. These numbers are easily verified if you go to [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov).

While governments around the world inject fresh capital into their targeted markets hoping that their elixir of liquidity tempts banks to lend more while influencing consumers to spend more freely - has done little to grow the economy other than to increase the size of the web and the scope of government's reach. In fact, while governments around the world have injected trillions into the economy here in the US, we have actually seen wages fall along with unemployment. This is a natural reaction to rising unemployment. When

unemployment is high, employers have an increase in supply leading to lower wages. According to The Hamilton Project, they have an in-depth white paper on this topic available at their website ([www.hamilton-project.org](http://www.hamilton-project.org)). This paper quotes Davis and Von Wachter as finding that employees displaced during a recession earn roughly 19% less over the next 25 years, which they estimate at roughly \$112,000. This is twice the loss of income by employees displaced outside of recessions. With over 7 million people displaced in the last official recession of 2007-2009, the loss in earnings is expected to be over \$700 billion.

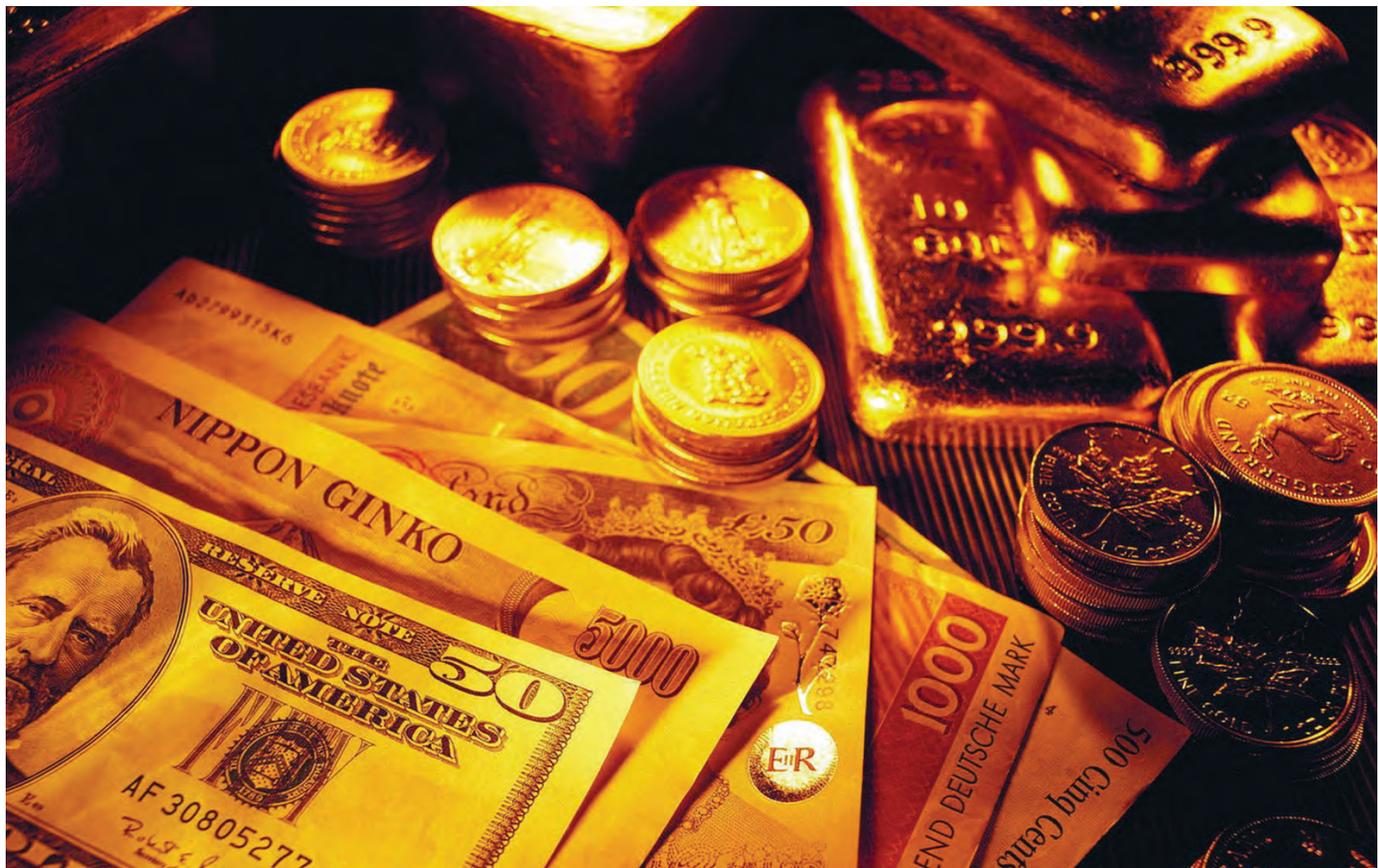
Unfortunately, the Federal Reserve has worked very hard to manufacture inflation. The goal of the Fed is to drive prices higher, which should stimulate demand as consumers bring their purchases forward to take advantage of current prices. As consumers buy more, then theoretically more people will be employed. Of course, this is not happening, as the Fed is mismatching economic theory (driving up inflation will cause greater spending) and the goals of the

Boomers (save more for retirement and get out of debt). What the Fed has done instead of restarting the economy is to create a brief bout of stagflation, with higher prices but little or no economic growth to show for it.

As the spider web of debt grows with every quick fix, derivatives and the future value or risk of those derivatives have skyrocketed. According to the October 24th article by David Parkinson, Mark Mobius of Franklin Templeton says, "You've got \$600-trillion in derivatives out there - that's 10 times more than the global GDP." Simply put, we have leveraged our future to secure our current situation. By developing hybrid investments using forward contracts on the future value of those contracts, we basically are hoping they are worth what was pledged at that future date. My next question is how did that work for the housing market? Not so good, did it?

Just as the web speaks to the spider alerting him of his potential prey, the markets will also talk to you. As a Certified Financial Planner CFP®, and advisor to my





clients, it is my job to listen. While the web will tell the spider much about its prey, our markets provide signals to help us better prepare for opportunity and to recognize danger. Here are a few to watch for:

- *When Central banks/governments lower interest rates it is because a slowdown is occurring.*
- *When government tells you a negative economic situation is contained, be cautious. It reminds me of what Reagan said, "I am from the government and I am here to help."*
- *Historical relationship of gold is opposite the dollar. My question is what will our dollar look like vs. the Euro?*
- *Watch high yield bonds. When prices go higher, it is a good sign for the markets, when prices fall; it implies a difficult economic market.*
- *As dollar falls, commodities fall, wreaking havoc in emerging markets where commodity prices have the largest effect, causing those countries to raise interest rates, slowing their business cycles.*

While we can take certain clues from the economy and translate them to ac-

tion within our own portfolios, we must also consider the noise from Washington and government around the world. While many decisions made outside the borders will affect our investment decisions, our government here in the US has taken unprecedented actions to determine the winners and losers. By the time this article is published, we will know if Congress solved the debt issue or if we just merely kicked the can down the street a bit further. For many Americans, our government will focus on who will pay for their decisions in Washington while we will hopefully decide as a nation in 2012 if they are worthy of spending our treasured and precious resources. If status quo persists and Washington goes on as usual, I would be willing to bet that the poor will pay through continued high unemployment. The middle class will pay through rising inflation and the wealthy will end up paying much higher taxes. In the end, it will cause households to realize that they cannot continue to spend like it is the 1990s or 2000s and the new reality will be that Baby Boomers will continue to cut back to save more for an uncertain

future causing more deleveraging in the economy.

While the politicians and media continue to disseminate noise and add to the confusion, it is my hope that each and every one of us listens carefully. Recognize your strengths and weaknesses and focus on your opportunities. You are not ordinary but special. Chances are, if you are reading this you are a doer, a giver and have learned to celebrate your successes and recognize the idea that your current and past achievements will propel your future success. Here's to recognizing the issues and realizing them for what they are: Opportunity. 🌟



**Doug De Groote**  
Managing Director of



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# Moneysmart



## IRAs with Special Needs

By Robert Katch

**W**hile not every client requires a special needs trust, almost every advisor has at least one client who does. Parents with special needs children will go to great lengths to provide for them. Unfortunately, naming a special needs trust as a beneficiary of an IRA adds significant levels of complexity to the planning process and can often come with a number of drawbacks.

It is not uncommon for IRA owners to leave IRAs to children with special needs, but if not done properly, it can be costly to the family. What is gener-

ally at stake is the eligibility for many needs-based assistance programs, such as Medicaid. If an IRA, or any other asset, is left outright to an individual receiving needs-based assistance, these benefits may be in jeopardy.

The Internal Revenue Service has always maintained that the transfer of an IRA to a trust during an IRA owner's lifetime will be treated as a taxable event. However, in a recent ruling, the IRS allowed the post-death transfer to a special needs trust without triggering an income tax on the transfer. In this case, the child, after inheriting an IRA directly, wanted to transfer it to a special needs trust established for his

benefit. This was necessary in order to protect his governmental assistance. Amazingly, using a technicality only the IRS could know and love, the IRS allowed the disabled beneficiary to make the transfer and protect his benefits.

However, if you're thinking "all's well that ends well," there's more to consider. First, this post-death transfer to the trust is not a reliable planning strategy for anyone else – it was only a "Private Letter Ruling" and cannot be relied upon by others. As such, anybody needing to use a similar strategy would have to spend upwards of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to request an IRS review, which is not a guarantee of approval.

Second, while the fees associated with obtaining the ruling were significant, they could pale in comparison to the eventual cost to the family. This larger issue could have been easily addressed



**IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR IRA OWNERS TO LEAVE IRAS TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, BUT IF NOT DONE PROPERLY, IT CAN BE COSTLY TO THE FAMILY. WHAT IS GENERALLY AT STAKE IS THE ELIGIBILITY FOR MANY NEEDS-BASED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, SUCH AS MEDICAID.**

by the parents had they done the necessary planning in advance and set up the proper type of trust.

When it comes to special needs trusts, there are two categories, first-party trusts and third-party trusts:

**First-Party Trusts** - Any trust that is funded by the beneficiary's own assets is a first-party trust. They can be used to help a person with special needs reduce their total assets and income to help qualify for Medicaid and other benefits, but at their death any remaining trust assets must first be used to repay the individual's State for

any benefits they received. Any assets left over after the State is repaid can pass to the special needs person's own beneficiaries.

**Third-Party Trusts** - Any trust that is funded with assets belonging to someone else is a third-party trust. They can be used to help a person with special needs by providing additional assets and income to supplement Medicaid and other benefits. During the special needs person's life, first- and third-party trusts operate in the same manner, but upon death of the special needs individual there's a key difference. In

third-party special needs trusts, all remaining assets can pass to beneficiaries and there is no requirement to repay the State for any benefits received.

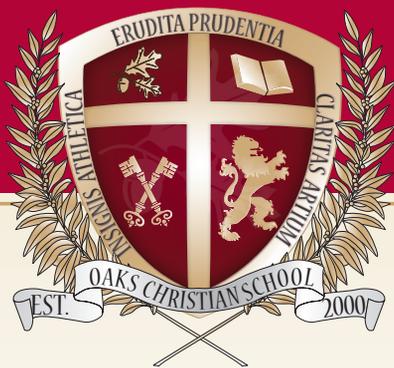
Sadly, the failure of the beneficiary's parents to plan ahead continues to be a costly mistake. The trust in this recent ruling was a first-party trust – the IRA beneficiary was the special needs individual who funded the trust with the IRA he had just inherited. As such, any assets remaining in the trust after his death will be subject to State repayment.

Most parents with disabled children are familiar with special needs trusts and many have set them up. Had this parent merely named a properly drafted special needs trust as the beneficiary of their IRA, they could have protected the IRA assets from State repayment, thus allowing it to pass on to other family members and continue its growth for years to come. 🌟

This material provided for general and educational purposes only, and is not legal, tax or investment advice. For each strategy or option mentioned, there are detailed tax rules that must be followed.



Robert J. Katch is the founder of Manchester Financial, an Investment Counsel/Wealth Management firm located in Westlake Village. For more information call 805 495 4405



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## Underage Alcohol, Recreational Pharmaceuticals: Trends and Effects

By Ian Armstrong, M.D.

**U**nderage alcohol consumption and drug use continues to increase in our community at an alarming rate. In a society where we are all seat belted and helmeted, alcohol continues to be one of the most dangerous forces our youth faces. Underage alcohol use is more likely to kill young people than all other illegal drugs combined. A current trend is for alcohol to be used in combination with other recreational pharmaceuticals - the result of which is equally or more lethal.

### WHY ALCOHOL IS DANGEROUS

The dis-inhibition by alcohol interferes with judgment and discernment which can directly lead (while under the influence) to the use of drugs that a teen

may not normally use. This can lead to pharmacologically unpredictable reactions that can lead to coma and death. Alcohol use leads to other risk-taking behavior that can lead to injury or death. It is not a problem that just affects a small portion of our society. There are an estimated 12 million underage drinkers each year. Recent statistics indicate that underage drinking makes up 15% of alcohol sales in the US, and although 16 - 24 year-olds only make up 20% of the total population with a license, they cause over 40% of alcohol-related vehicle deaths. I've spent many years as a trauma neurosurgeon at busy emergency centers and when it comes to a young person being admitted on a weekend night, alcohol is inevitably involved in some capacity and the smell of the combination of blood and alcohol was all too familiar.

### AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE = PREVENTION

A recent **Youth Risk Behavior Survey** recorded the following statistics in High Schoolers:

- 42% drank some amount of alcohol
- 24% drank (more than 5 drinks in an hour which is binge drinking)
- 10% drove after drinking
- 28% rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (This is particularly alarming)
- 4% had at least one drink on school property

**Binge Drinking** results in over half of the total 79,000 alcohol-related deaths in the United States each year, and it is the predominant drinking pattern in under 21 drinkers. It is estimated that as much as

70% of the alcohol consumed by underage drinkers may be consumed in a manner considered binge drinking.

**Early Drinkers:** Those who drink before age 15 are 5 times more likely to develop alcohol dependence later in life than those who start drinking after age 21. More than 35% of adults with an alcohol problem developed symptoms and signs before age 19.

**Alcohol-related crashes account for 40% of all fatal car accidents.** The U.S. has one of the highest rates of alcohol-related accidents in the world. Less than 1% of the 147 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving in the US gets picked up.

### THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL COMBINED WITH OTHER DRUGS ON THE BRAIN

One of the most dangerous trends in young people is combining alcohol with other drugs. There is a common misconception that the combined effect is predictable and additive. Unfortunately, it is quite the opposite. Drugs have very different effects on the central nervous system. Some affect neurotransmitters; others affect the brain cells more directly. Different regions of the brain may also be affected by different substances - so mixing drugs is highly unpredictable. The resultant changes in the central nervous system can result in coma and death. It is a type of **pharmacological Russian Roulette**.

**Prescription drug abuse** is also on the rise. Parents need to be aware that many drugs that are prescribed by doctors may be used recreationally. Be aware; keep track and monitor all drugs at home.

Another dangerous trend is the **mixing of energy drinks and alcohol**. An energy drink is a beverage that typically contains caffeine, other plant stimulants, sugars or other additives. These drinks are popular among those under 21 and are now being combined with alcohol as a matter of practice. When combined with alcohol it can mask the depressant effects of alcohol - yielding a wide-awake drunk who is 3 times more likely to binge drink or participate in risky behavior. It does NOT increase the metabolism of alcohol by the liver in a significant manner and thus does not decrease breath alcohol concentrations. It does not keep or make the individual sober in any way.

Caffeinated Alcoholic Beverages (CABs) are premixed drinks that combine alcohol and caffeine. Friendly packaging and presentation targeted to the youth market adds to their risk and potential abuse.

**The Effect of Ethyl Alcohol:** Ethyl alcohol is found in beer, wine and distilled liquor. Its chemical symbol is ETOH. It is a central nervous system depressant, slowing down brain function. It acts to disinhibit portions of the brain as well as depress and slow function. It is rapidly absorbed and it affects the function of the neurons in the brain directly and changes the communication patterns in the brain. Alcohol has a wide effect on the brain and affects vision, hearing, speech; it impairs judgment, disinhibits, and affects motor skills and coordination. It can also affect deep centers of function that control respiration, temperature and heart rate. It is toxic at certain levels in the blood stream and can directly cause **alcohol poisoning and death**.

Advanced brain studies such as MRI, PET scans, functional MRI's, and EEGs have led to a better understanding of the effects of alcohol on the brain and the damage it can cause. The brain is still developing in underage drinkers and that's why this is such a critical age. Brain and brain cell development are known to continue into the early to mid twenties. Alcohol has been implicated in damage, interference and impediment of this important brain development, perhaps even when used in limited quantities. During the teen and early adult years, much of the brain refinement is occurring in the frontal lobe where the pre-frontal cortex deals with skills such as executive function, attention, controlling impulses and other areas that deal with processing of abstract information, understanding rules, and social interaction. The long-term effects of alcohol and drugs on the brain during the developmental years are believed to be significant.

Alcohol is metabolized in the liver and its level in the blood is measured and discussed in terms of Blood Alcohol Level (BAL). This number is related to how much alcohol is consumed, the rate at which it is consumed, body weight, and time and rate of metabolism of alcohol. Example: If a 120lb woman has three drinks in one hour, her blood alcohol

level is estimated to be .13 which is legally drunk. 6-7 drinks in that same hour = .25 to .26 which is severely impaired at all levels, at risk for asphyxiation from choking on vomit due to loss of normal protective mechanisms, passing out, serious injury, memory loss and black out.

**Alcohol Poisoning** frequently occurs with binge drinking, drinking games, college hazing, or young people inexperienced with the effects of alcohol. It can result in coma or death. Signs of ETOH poisoning are: confusion, cold clammy skin, low body temperature, uncontrolled vomiting, slow breathing respiration slower than 13 times per minute, seizures or loss of consciousness - unable to be aroused with direct stimulation. A sleeping drunk person should not be assumed to be "safe" or OK. They may have ETOH poisoning, be comatose (not asleep) or have suffered an unidentified head injury. It is important to have a high index of suspicion for alcohol poisoning. Recognize it and call 911 for immediate medical help.

**How to be Proactive:** It has been indicated in studies that kids whose parents talk to them about drugs and alcohol are 42% less likely to get involved and develop problems with alcohol. Responsible drinking patterns and behavior by parents at home has also been demonstrated to lead to avoidance of alcohol problems in teens and young adults. The basics instructions that apply to adult drinking should be discussed with teens.

- Do not let your friends drive when impaired. Take their keys.
- Do NOT get into a car with any driver that has been drinking - no matter how little they claim to have had
- If you have been drinking - get a ride home or take a cab. Let your kids know that this is the right decision
- Educate those around you of the potentially toxic and fatal consequences of drug abuse (of which alcohol is the most commonly used). Call 911 if a



friend shows signs of any drug-related/alcohol issue. 

Dr. Ian Armstrong, CEO and Medical Director of Southern California Spine Institute, [ianarmstrongmd.com](http://ianarmstrongmd.com).

# Challenging pursuits



ABOVE: Kevin Beaudine, Javier Macias, Gidon Leader, Shiran Leader. Taking a break at 2nd campsite with views of the summit

## Summiting Africa's Tallest Peak

By Kevin Beaudine

**S**tanding at 19,341 ft. on Mt. Kilimanjaro is an impressive sight. On a recent trip to Tanzania, I made it my goal to summit this beast and reach Uhuru Peak, Africa's tallest peak. This would not be an easy task; only about 40% of climbers actually make it and most turn back at Gilman's Point - just 300 meters short of the top. Altitude sickness is a significant concern and it affects you more than you would think. One thing most people don't know is that Kilimanjaro supports five major eco-zones: rainforest, heath, moorland, alpine desert and glaciers. It is very hard to pack for the climb, because you need everything from shorts to winter gear.

There are six routes in which to climb

Kili and the easiest is the Marangu or "Coca Cola" Route, nicknamed by locals. Although no route can be considered 'easy,' it is technically the easiest because of its gradient and the fact that it has huts to sleep in every night. I decided to take the Macheme or "Whiskey" Route because it offered the best scenery - even though it is considered one of the hardest routes. It's also 6 days instead of 5, which gives a much-needed extra day for acclimatizing. Since it was winter with little protection from the elements, I brought a zero-degree mummy bag that I hoped would keep me warm up to 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

Most people book their trek ahead of time and make sure everything is in order before flying out. I did not have this luxury. I arrived in Africa two months before hiking. I also had no idea when I would get to Arusha,

the main hub for climbing Kilimanjaro, so I couldn't give any tour operators specific dates. When I finally arrived in Arusha I got bombarded by locals claiming to be guides and saying they could help me out. I finally just had to trust my instincts and agree to go with the person with whom I felt most comfortable. Included in the \$1200 to \$3000 price tag are all park fees, porters to carry most of your gear, all your gear, two guides, a cook, and all your food.

Our guides picked us up early and we made our way to the start of the climb. The first day was fairly easy, except for a lot of mud because we were hiking through rainforest. We went from 1800 meters to 3000 meters and it took about 4 hours. I started my altitude pills on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day because we climbed to 3800 meters and it was a lot more strenuous but the

views made up for it. We came out of the rainforest and moved into heath land. The motto on Kili is “pole pole” (Pole-eh), which is Swahili for slowly, slowly. Even if you feel great, you don’t want to rush the hike or the altitude will take its toll on you. The major cause of altitude sickness is ascending too fast. The theory is to restrict your climb to 300 meters per day, if possible. In this case we stretched those recommendations but our knowledgeable guides kept a watchful eye on us and were amazing in so many ways. Porters are mandatory, and they carried our big bags, which was a blessing. The 3rd day was a little more challenging and we climbed up to 4600m to a place called Lava Tower. We then went down and camped at 3900m. Our guides advised us that hiking high and sleeping low really helps with potential altitude sickness.

The next morning we woke up to ice everywhere! We climbed a ‘hill’ nicknamed ‘breakfast’, probably because most people lose theirs on this part! Most of the climb was basically rock-climbing but it was exhilarating. The route to the base camp went up and down about 4-5 times. Not sure how much elevation we did, but it was a ton. We hiked through moorland and then into desert area.

After an early dinner and only about one hour of sleep, we began our ascent once again at 1:00 a.m. The darkness around us was fortuitous because we couldn’t really see how steep it was. An Israeli tourist in our group suffered knee problems and had to keep stopping, so our guide split us into 2 groups so that at least some of us could keep going and avoid the onset of a cold chill in our joints. The cold was ridiculous. I had on: 3 pairs of socks, long johns, 2 pants, 2 shirts, a sweater, jacket, scarf, bandana (over my face), gloves, and a beanie...and I was still cold! I was worried about Javier, my friend, because he said he hit the mental wall and his legs were like jelly, but he pushed on.

We finally made it to the first peak, Stella Peak, at 5 a.m. We took a short break and then continued on. There were icebergs all around us and this is where the wind really picked up to the point of roaring. We got to Uhuru Peak 5895 meters (19341 ft) just after 5:30 a.m. We were the 1st ‘Mzungus’ (the local people’s name for white people)

to get there from our camp.

I was so proud of both Javier and I. We took a couple of pictures and waited for the sunrise when the clouds rolled in and it started ice storming on us. The sun did rise, but we never saw it due to all the fog. I was frozen to the core and my fingers stopped working! Our guide informed us that it was between -4 to -22 degrees Fahrenheit - plus we had to contend with the wind chill factor. It was ridiculous. The bottle of champagne I’d packed was popped for this special moment and never did champagne taste so good than on the Uhuru Peak! We celebrated and then began our swift

descent down from the peak. It was swift only because I needed some heat. We got back to base camp and were allowed to sleep for two hours before packing up and hiking lower to 3100 meters for the night. It was one hell of a day...seriously and I was a walking zombie by the end of it.

After drenching rain, we completed the descent of Mt. Kili and celebrated with our guides and porters. This adventure is the toughest thing I have ever done and it was definitely the most rewarding achievement. Words cannot fully describe how proud and ecstatic I was to have conquered Africa’s tallest peak. 🌿

## I WAS FROZEN TO THE CORE AND MY FINGERS STOPPED WORKING! OUR GUIDE INFORMED US THAT IT WAS BETWEEN -4 TO -22 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT - PLUS WE HAD TO CONTEND WITH THE WIND CHILL FACTOR. IT WAS RIDICULOUS.



Kevin Beaudine, Javier Macias: Midway Day 4: So close we can feel it!



Kevin Beaudine, Javier Macias. Spirits are high at the beginning. 36 hours to the top!



Kevin Beaudine, Javier Macias, Idris, Moddy. celebrating the finish with our guides & a Kilimanjaro beer

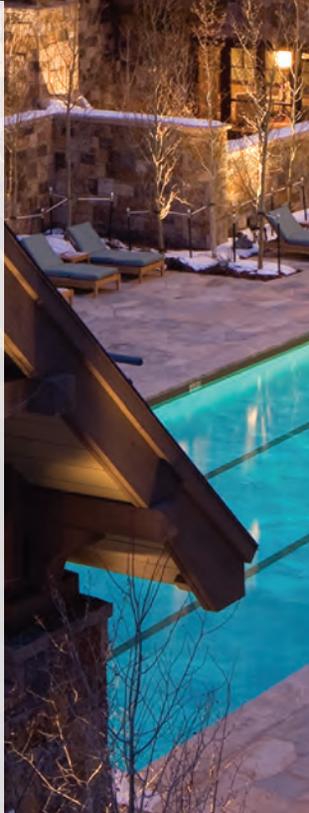


# VAIL, COLORADO

A VIBRANT WINTER WONDERLAND

Photography by Jack Affleck & Jeff Scroggins

Vail is one of the most vibrant ski and snowboarding resorts in the country - known for its après ski scene in **Vail Village** - which is just steps away from **Four Seasons Resort Vail** and their Ski Concierge building. After a day of skiing and snowboarding, guests can effortlessly return skis, snowboards and boots to the Resort's Ski Concierge, and head straight to the vibrant après ski scene in the Village. The heated restaurant patios bustle with guests drinking cordials including hot *gluhwein*, a European-style mulled wine, which enhances the humorously-told enactments of the day's encounters on the snowy slopes.









Great après ski fun



Well-organized Kids School for Budding Skiers

## THE RESORT'S STUNNING ALPINE SANCTUARY, WAS SINGLED OUT TO RECEIVE THE FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE FIVE-STAR SPA AWARD. IT IS ONE OF ONLY 30 SPAS TO MAKE THE LIST, AND ONE OF ONLY TWO IN COLORADO.

**Four Seasons Resort Vail** is a contemporary alpine lodge with peaked roofs and wooden beams outside, and natural hickory wood and limestone inside. It's connected to the great Colorado outdoors with large windows, balconies, terraces and a year-round outdoor pool

### APRÈS-SKI AT ITS FINEST

The vibrant après ski scene in **Vail Village** is found in the outdoor terraces which overlook the base of the mountain and which feature live musical entertainment. Shopping and galleries are abundant - there's something for everyone surrounding the Ski Concierge building.

For those who wish to return to the luxury of the Resort, Four Seasons offers a world of après-ski delights that are perfect for relaxing and indulging after a long day. Drinks such as "Haut Chocolat," served exclusively in the Fireside Lounge, are the Resort's specialty. This is their Executive Chef's decadent hot cocoa recipe with homemade chocolate marshmallows. In addition to Haut Chocolat, traditional hot cocoa and mulled apple cider also are available throughout the property, in addition to being served poolside—the perfect finishing touches to a wintertime swimming experience.

The sunken 75-foot (23 metre) outdoor pool is heated year-round, so guests can enjoy the luxury of comfortable outdoor swimming in the wintertime, while snow may flurry overhead. Plus, there are two spacious outdoor whirlpools—one for adults and a separate whirlpool for children. After stepping out of the pool or whirlpool, guests can indulge in the luxurious feel of heated towels and wrapping up in a warmed bathrobe, and can relax by the poolside fireplace with a warm beverage in hand.

Hearty menus from the Resort's restaurants will help skiers reinvigorate with items such as bite-sized, stick-to-the-ribs appetizers such as racks of venison, hearty steak, bison tartare and more.



Vail Four Seasons luxury suites

### FOUR SEASONS VAIL SPA PAMPERING

For those who need to soothe sore muscles, indulge in the Skier's Massage, a pampering signature treatment in **The Spa at Four Seasons**, that uses arnica oil and heat-therapy compresses. The resort's stunning alpine sanctuary, was singled out to receive the Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Spa award. It is one of only 30 spas to make the list, and one of only two in Colorado.

### WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN VAIL

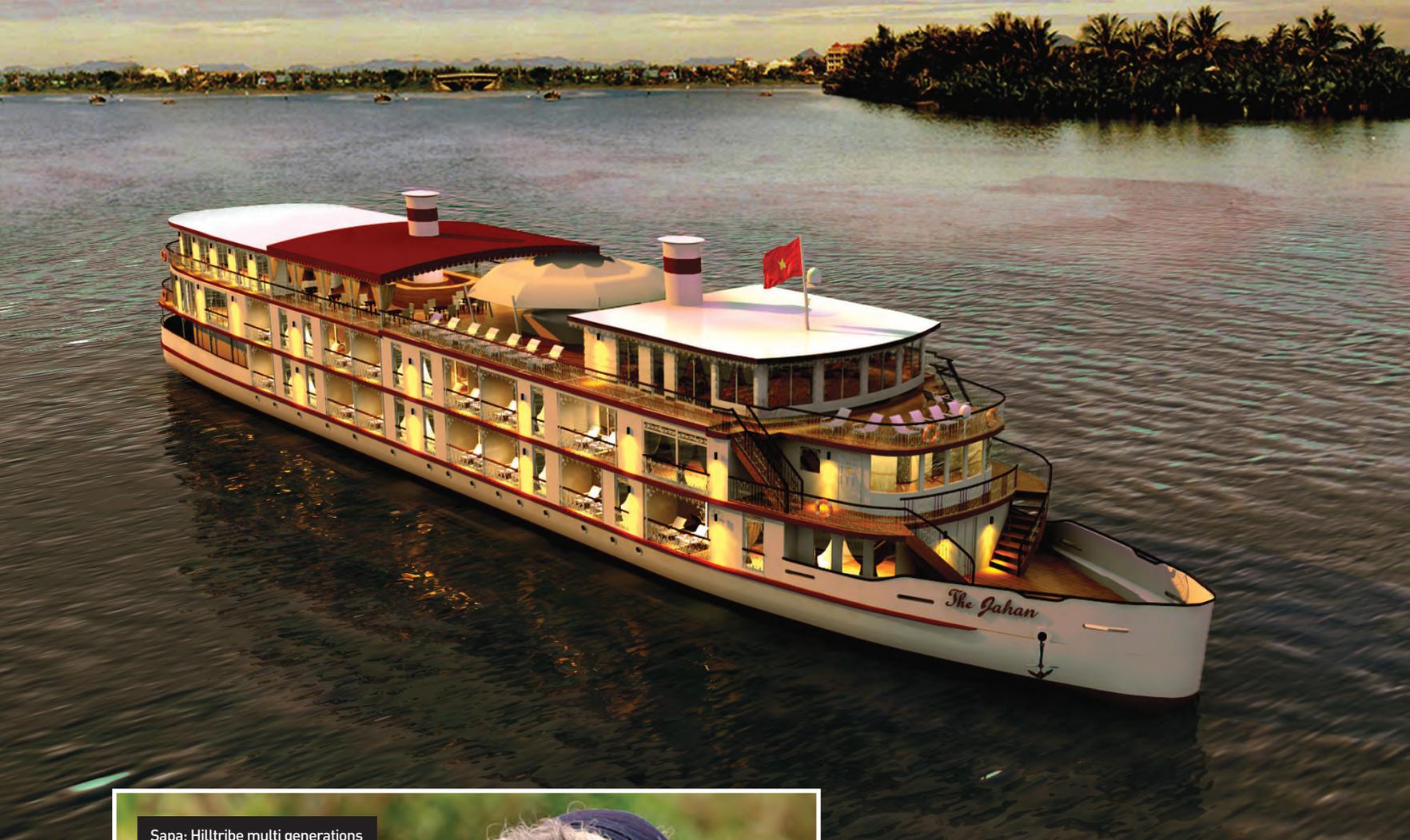
While you may have just missed a great New Year's Eve party in Vail, there's plenty to do in the town that is home to America's top woman skier, Lindsey Vonn. Coming up in February are the **Teva Winter Mountain Games** - and if you're planning ahead - there's the **Vail Film Festival** in Spring and a celebration of the best artistic contributions. If you're planning even further down the line in 2012, Vail's **Snow Daze** in December, and **Vail Holidayze** provides lots of family-friendly music and ice shows. Vail is a beautiful, year-round destination place to visit.

[www.fourseasons.com/Vail](http://www.fourseasons.com/Vail)



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The best place in Southeast Asia to witness the convergence of the old and new - and to sincerely connect with genuinely humble people whose ancient culture is rich and fascinating - is Vietnam. The Vietnam of today is a youthful nation fueled by the desire for modernization and commercialization. At the same time, the people there are very protective of their traditional past.



Sapa; Hilltribe multi generations



In the stoical political capital of Hanoi in the north and the vibrant cosmopolitan Ho Chi Minh City in the south, you will observe modern cities in the making - the Hong Kongs of tomorrow. But along small streets, like those in the Old Quarter in Hanoi, you will still find silversmiths practicing their century-old trade, far removed from the modern changes around them. The former imperial capital of Hue and the ancient port city of Hoi An offer an evocative glimpse into the country's rich historical past. Impressive structures from the 18th century Nguyen Dynasty are a living testament to the royal legacy of Vietnam's glorious days. It is the contrasting characteristics of the country, from its historical past to its modern developments and its diverse landscapes and people, that will leave a lasting impression on you.

**THE VIETNAM OF TODAY IS A YOUTHFUL NATION FUELED BY THE DESIRE FOR MODERNIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PEOPLE THERE ARE VERY PROTECTIVE OF THEIR TRADITIONAL PAST.**

Hanoi; Temple of Literature



Mekong; Rice Field



Sapa; Exchanging home-made products

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Luxury hotel stay in Hanoi. Visit Halong Bay, Danang, Hue and Hoi An before embarking on an 8-day cruise on the Mekong River onboard The Jayavarman in Saigon. Post hotel package in Siem Reap, Cambodia

You start your memorable journey in the 1000-year-old capital

of Vietnam, **Hanoi**. It is best known for its thriving contemporary art scene and French architecture. At nearby **Halong Bay** you will experience the spectacular views of thousands of limestone karsts. From there you fly to the former Royal capital, **Hue**, which has a distinctive court culture. A drive to the ancient port city, **Hoi An**, is next where you'll find a bustling market and an abundance of souvenirs. Fly to Saigon and enjoy this bustling South Vietnamese city. Venture to the Mekong Delta where you will board the most luxurious cruise on the Mekong River - **The Jayavarman** - which navigates deeply into Mekong delta for 3 nights. In Vietnam's **Mekong Delta**, take relaxing sampan tours of the **Cai Be** floating market which is ablaze with color and sounds. Clamber aboard vendors' boats to sample their fruits up-close. Ride a sampan to **Binh Thanh Island** and traverse hyacinth-laced man-made canals that facilitate the inventive water-hyacinth

economy. There are floating villages as well as farmers who hand-feed their catfish in the wonderfully-diverse **Chau Doc**. You'll visit **Phnom Penh**, the entirely stilted 'waterworld' of **Kampong Chhang**, and villages notable for their silk weaving, their hand-made houses, and their beautiful Khmer pottery. Test your mettle crossing a rickety bamboo bridge. Engage with monks at the pre-Angkorian Wat

Hanchey. Laugh with children while you join them for a swim in the tea-colored waters. **Tonle Sap Lake at Siem Reap** is another beautiful adventure where with the temples of **Angkor**.

#### THE JAYAVARMAN

Inspired by the Golden-Age cruise-liner Normandie, the **Jayavarman** perfectly marries avant-garde French colonial design with enchanting Indochinese architecture. The region's first boutique river-cruise ship, it has 27 expansive and carefully-designed staterooms with floor to ceiling panoramic sliding glass doors opening onto private French balconies. With 4 spacious decks, a pampering spa, and Heritage-line signature Vietnamese and Cambodian cooking classes, The **Jayavarman** offers both privacy and exceptional luxury.

#### THE JAHAN

The **Jahan** Cruise is Heritage Line's flagship luxury vessel that harkens back to a charming colonial era - reminiscent of British-Indian grandeur. The attentive concierge and butler service on board is impeccably courteous and unobtrusive. Wake up at sunrise and enjoy the sunrise Tai Chi. Later on you may want to attend a fascinating cooking classes. Among the delicious onboard meals is a festive BBQ with Apsara dance and music. Combine that with the sunset, the moon and the stars and you'll feel like you're in paradise. From **My Tho** to **Angkor**, a week aboard **Jahan** reveals the many inventive ways Vietnamese and Cambodians live on the water.

#### 4 GREAT REASONS TO VISIT VIETNAM:

- **The Jayavarman** and the **Jahan** are luxury river cruise ships that are in a class of their own: If you enjoy the superlative service and charm of the bygone French and Indian colonial eras, you're in for a revitalizing treat on these two, new exquisite boats.
- **Vietnam is steeped in history and tradition** - as well as modernity.
- There's a **genuine, gentle charm** about the Vietnamese people - especially those who reside in the countryside villages. They will welcome you with their simple warmth and infectious laughter.
- Insights into **Angkor Temple history** are fascinating, as are the **contemporary art tours in Hanoi and Saigon**. You will find beautiful handwork and the pride of thousands of years of acquired skills in action. **Colorful markets** are also very much part of the Vietnamese landscape.

We highly recommend that you book your Vietnam trip through knowledgeable experts such as *FROSCH Classic Cruise & Travel*. They, together with **Trails of Indochina**, will provide you with a highly-personalized experience while you savor the riches of this fascinating ancient/modern culture. 🌟



Trails of Indochina

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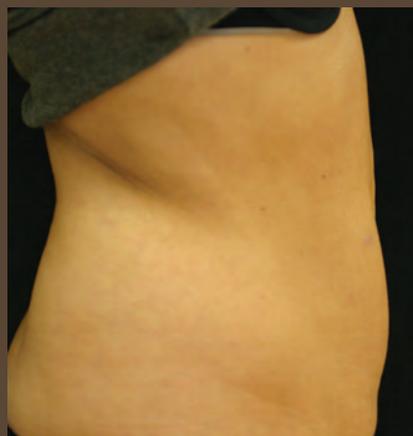
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