

BEHIND the SCENES – The MAY ISSUE

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THE A TEAM

Au Fudge's group of all-star co-owners mixed business with pleasure at their new West Hollywood restaurant on the set of our cover shoot ("Amuse-Bouche," p.116).



EARTHLY Delights

Skin-care line Etta + Billie shared a fresh new soap collaboration with Heath Ceramics that has us in a lather ("Raise the Bar," p.58).



MOVING TALE

Author Lesley M. M. Blume opened up her L.A. abode to tell the story behind her West Coast pilgrimage ("Turning a Page," p.120).



TOP Gun

Hatmaker Nick Fouquet filled us in on the tricks of his trade during a visit to his Venice Beach studio ("Under the Brim," p.32).



COLOR WHEEL

Photographer Daniella Midenge captured a full range of larger-than-life baubles set against fluorescent backgrounds ("Pop Rocks," p.90).



CHECK In

A Spanish Colonial detail as reimagined by Martyn Lawrence Bullard at Laguna Beach's new Casa Laguna Hotel & Spa ("Vantage Points," p.77).

C PEOPLE

Who's who behind the scenes of this month's issue, plus their favorite California places



Jessica de Ruiter

"Jessica Biel was a dream to dress," says L.A.-based stylist Jessica de Ruiter, who brought her curatorial eye to the set of this month's cover story, "Amuse-Bouche," p.116. "Her natural beauty and grace really shone through, despite the mega gowns she was wearing." De Ruiter has styled Hollywood A-listers, including Jennifer Lawrence and Drew Barrymore, and is a regular contributor to the pages of Glamour, Harper's Bazaar, Vanity Fair and W. C SPOTS • Galerie Half antique store—one of the most inspiring interiors resources in L.A. • Sgirl cafe in L.A. for the Stella bowl . Cookbook market in Echo Park has everything I need to stock my kitchen



Ami Sioux

"I consider doing a portrait of someone like a dance—and honestly it was a pleasure to dance with both of them," says photographer and musician Ami Sioux, who captured author Lesley M. M. Blume at home for "Turning a Page," p.120, as well as milliner Nick Fouquet for "Under the Brim," p.32. Sioux's work has appeared in i-D and Vogue Paris, and she will release a book on Tokyo this year. The singer and guitarist will also debut her second full-length album this fall. C SPOTS • Hiking the Grotto Trails at Circle X Ranch in Malibu—you climb down into this amazing cave · The Esalen Hot Springs baths in Big Sur • The Old Place in Agoura Hills is great for hanging out at the bar and having a steak



Aubrie Pick

"It was bizarre and amazing to photograph the SFMOMA in such a liminal state; watching the bustle of installation, seeing the spaces before they were complete," says S.F.-based food, lifestyle and interiors photographer Aubrie Pick, who captured the recently reopened museum for "Mind over Matter," p.100. Pick has shot cookbooks for Luisa Weiss, Charlotte Druckman, Guy Fieri and Chrissy Teigen. C SPOTS • Minnesota Street Project in S.F. is helping to renew the Bay Area art scene · Indian Springs Resort and Spa in Calistoga • La Ciccia in Noe Valley is a teeny, tiny Italian restaurant with killer house-made pasta and a cozy vibe



Lesley M. M. Blume

"I just moved from NYC to L.A. in January, and this feature with C was the best welcome present ever," says author Lesley M. M. Blume, who recounts the pilgrimage for "Turning a Page," p.120. Her much-anticipated book Everybody Behaves Badly: The True Story Behind Hemingway's Masterpiece The Sun Also Rises (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$27) comes out in June. C SPOTS • Violet Grey on Melrose Place for guilty-pleasure beauty products • République in L.A. for the chocolate-caramel cake • Rolling Greens on Beverly for hanging-garden splurges



Martyn Lawrence Bullard

"The magic that exists in Laguna is so special," says celebrity interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard of his project, featured in "Vantage Points," p.77. The L.A.-based award-winning designer has an A-list client roster including Aaron Sorkin, Cher and Tommy Hilfiger. C SPOTS • Hearst Castle in San Simeon • The lesser-known wineries of Paso Robles, an amazing way to spend the weekend • Vintage shopping and midcentury-

architecture spotting in Palm Springs

TIM STREET-PORTER



Vantage Points A LAGUNA BEACH architectural ATTRACTION is READY for CHECK-IN >



> Laguna Beach is known for many things: an idyllic coastal perch, the arts festival Pageant of the Masters and a certain MTV reality show among them. Add design-centric boutique hotels to the list, thanks to a splashy new venue that debuted in April. With a beguiling setting overlooking the ocean and vivid decor conceived by Los Angeles-based interiors guru Martyn Lawrence Bullard, Casa Laguna Hotel & Spa is a visual spectacle. Surprisingly, the property's not new at all: Bullard has thoughtfully reimagined the early-20th-century Spanish Colonial estate (a registered historic structure) with its whitewashed villas and terra-cotta roofs and given it a fresh new ethos. "The architectural style

resonated so well with my aesthetic," says Bullard. "I love this type of Spanish Colonial Californian architecture—it mixes fantasy, Old World charm and pure romance."

There are 23 rooms secreted away amid the labyrinthine gardens, each done up by Bullard in custom fabric prints and vibrant Moorish tiles. There's also a spa with an outdoor treatment room overlooking the Pacific. And anyone who's been an avid follower of Bullard's work-he's the glamour-embracing touch behind Red O in Newport Beach, Colony Palms Hotel and Sparrows Lodge in Palm Springs, and Château Gütsch Hotel in Switzerlandwon't be surprised to see bright hues and bold motifs on display throughout. "I love pattern play, and color is so important for mood and ambiance," he says. "It's my signature." Each room is a riot of cobalt, emerald or marigold textiles and tiles; Bullard is particularly proud of the eye-catching yellow-and-blue tiles in the lobby, scaled up to emphasize the drama and grandeur of the space.

"Casa Laguna Hotel now matches the ambiance and romance of this resort town," says Bullard. "It's the perfect hotel that you only dream to find in such a place." 2510 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, 949-494-2996; casalaguna.com.

• SARAH KHAN

