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Elizabeth Blau is adding Vegas glitz to our city's restaurant scene.

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WINTER SPARKLE

I'M WRITING THIS LETTER as I often do, perched comfortably in my bed, computer on my lap and coffee at my side ... It's the calm before the storm of holiday soirées and parties that are quickly filling up my calendar. I'm excited for them, but what I'm most looking forward to are the quiet evenings I have planned at home with family and friends. Whether it's at mine or theirs, my favourite thing about this time of year is gathering with loved ones over a good meal, sipping Bailey's and coffee and nibbling on my home-baked shortbread. Oh, and a sunny getaway wouldn't hurt either!

Our team at *Vancouver Luxury Living* is feeling the festive mood of the season with our "Winter Luxe" issue! Here, we bring you a curation of home décor and design ideas, food and drink inspiration (including a decadent Tarte Tatin recipe), fabulous travel getaways and luxurious gift guides.

On our cover, you'll find Vancouver's most expensive (and luxurious) condo listing in history. What was it like overseeing the redesign of this three-level penthouse in Coal Harbour? Our managing editor, Lise Boullard, caught up with the effervescent and talented interior designer Karin Bohn to find out.

And to get you into the holiday designing spirit, we're celebrating Benjamin Moore's red hot colour of the year, "Caliente." If you want to make a bold move with your home décor now, or in 2018, this is the way to do it.

You've probably noticed a sleek metallic bronze addition to Vancouver's skyline. In October, the Parq Vancouver Resort & Casino opened its doors to Vancouverites and I was lucky to get a personal tour from the woman behind the urban casino's five restaurants and three lounges. I hope you enjoy meeting Elizabeth Blau as much as I did.

We'll celebrate the man behind the music, David Foster, who held his 30th Anniversary Miracle Gala & Concert fundraiser this past October at the Parq to raise \$10.2 million to help Canadian families in need of life-saving organ transplants. Amongst his well-heeled guests at the soirée were Oprah Winfrey, Steven Tyler, Jay Leno, Carly Rae Jepsen, Reba McEntire, and tennis legends Steffi Graf and Andre Agassi.

Finally, we have some aspirational and adventurous travel destinations to add to your bucket list. Claire Newell takes us on a fantastic voyage to exotic Morocco. We also head up the Sea-to-Sky for some winter wellness (which we could all use at this busy time of year) at Nita Lake Lodge. Because isn't taking some time to rejuvenate the biggest luxury of all?

Happy holidays to you and yours from the team at *Vancouver Luxury Living*.



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Fiona



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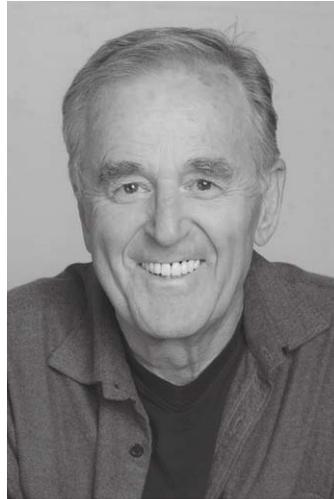
LAURA GOLDSTEIN
INFLUENCER

Laura was an arts publicist and writer in Toronto for 22 years before moving to Vancouver. She's a frequent contributor to the *Globe and Mail's* design section; *Westcoast Homes & Design*; *Canadian House & Home* and *Gray Magazine* amongst many others. A highlight of her career was covering the Royal Tour in Vancouver last year.
lauragoldsteinwriter.com



CLAIRE NEWELL
TRAVEL

A recognized travel expert in North America for more than 24 years, Claire is the official Travel Expert for Global News and the bestselling author of *Travel Best Bets: An Insider's Guide to Taking Your Best Trip Ever*. She has appeared multiple times on NBC's *TODAY Show*, Fox News and CNN, and has been published in *Reader's Digest* and *Today's Parent*. When she's not trotting the globe you can find Claire out boating or spending time with family, friends and her eight-pound Chihuahua, Joey.
@clairenewelltravel



TERRY DAVID MULLIGAN
TASTING ROOM

With membership in B.C.'s Entertainment Hall of Fame, Terry is a bit of a Canadian institution. Years ago he helped start Canada's first FM rock station (CFOX), but it was CBC TV's *Good Rockin' Tonite* and *MuchMusic West* that brought him to national acclaim. Terry also worked with pal Jason Priestley to co-host and produce *Hollywood and Vines TV*, seen in 180 countries. Today, he stays busy hosting and producing the fine food and wine radio show, *Tasting Room Radio* on RoundHouse Radio 98.3 FM.
@terrydavidmulligan



GILLIAN SEGAL
HOME

After earning her interior design certification and working with some of Vancouver's top designers, Gillian started her eponymous design firm where she quickly became known for her modern eclectic esthetic. In 2016, Gillian's work was recognized by *Western Living Magazine's* Designer of the Year Awards. Her work has also been published in *Style At Home*, *Western Living Magazine*, *My Domaine* and *Rue Magazine*. Her projects and insights can also be found on marthastewart.com where Gillian is a contributing writer.
@gilliansegaldesign



FRED LEE
ON THE TOWN

A society columnist for the past 15 years, Fred covers Metro Vancouver's vibrant and ever-changing social landscape. The social butterfly joins Rick Cluff every Monday morning on CBC Radio One's *The Early Edition* to share all of Vanhattan's A-list happenings, red carpet parties, must-attend galas and fabulous fundraisers. When not gala-vanting or globetrotting, Fred is the director of alumni engagement at The University of British Columbia, among other philanthropic roles.
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THE GUIDE

FROM THE OVER-THE-TOP TO THE SLEEK AND SOPHISTICATED, SIX GIFTS WE'RE ADDING TO OUR WISH LISTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. —*Tony Whitney*

ANY RESTAURANT PROFESSIONAL will confirm that the classic eight-inch to 12-inch chef's knife, with its broad, curved, ultra-sharp blade and securely grippy handle, is the most versatile tool in the kitchen. To meet the demands of a very discerning market, **SHUN KNIVES** from Japan are superbly crafted in various steels with outstanding edge retention. Many come with distinctive Damascus-clad blades and hammered finishes. A variety of handles are available in the Shun range, including linen Micarta and several types of hardwood.

Around \$270 for a Shun Premier at Williams Sonoma.



LEICA HAS ONE OF the most fabled histories in the entire world of photography, but that doesn't mean the prestigious German camera maker doesn't move with the times. The 24-megapixel sensor on the **LEICA TL2** is capable of producing gallery-level images thanks to Leica's legendary lens-designing skills. Integrated Wi-Fi means that your images can be transferred to a smartphone, tablet or computer. You can also control your TL2 from a mobile device. With its wide range of interchangeable Leica lenses, the TL2 is a powerful tool for creating superb images. *\$2,440 at Broadway Camera Leica Boutique.*



180 YEARS AFTER THEY first opened their doors, Tiffany's is launching a Home and Accessories collection. Inspired by the elegance found in everyday objects, the line blends form and function with such items as a hand-blown hourglass with a sterling silver base, a sterling silver and American walnut yo-yo and even drinking straws in rose gold. With its geometric detail, this 32-ounce **DIAMOND POINT CONICAL DECANTER IN LEAD CRYSTAL** is sure to add beauty to your holiday table setting. *\$305 at Tiffany & Co., tiffany.com*





WITH THE TOP DOWN on the **MERCEDES-BENZ SLC**, it's a fully open two-seater roadster, but one touch of a console-mounted lever and it becomes a weather-tight and cosy coupe. The SLC boasts many of the detail features you'll find on more expensive Mercedes-Benz sports cars and a generous trunk easily takes a couple's luggage for a road trip. AMG variants have a twin turbo V-6 under the hood giving a lusty 362-horsepower. It might be the least expensive Mercedes sports car, but few will regard this beauty as "entry level." *From \$59,700 at Mercedes-Benz dealers.*



CARL F. BUCHERER opened as a watchmaker in 1888 and is still operating in Lucerne, Switzerland, creating timepieces of outstanding precision and beauty. Especially eye-catching is the **SCUBATEC DIVE WATCH**, which is water resistant to depths of 500 metres. The distinctive blue face is enhanced with a rose gold and ceramic rotating dive-time bezel. *About \$13,000 at Palladio Jewellers.*

RIMOWA's premium luggage has long been a hallmark of the truly seasoned traveller and nothing says "jet setter" quite as stridently as a well-dented set of the prestigious German company's ribbed aluminum cases. Introduced back in the 1950s and inspired by airliners of the period like the Junkers 52 with its corrugated aluminum skin, the luggage has a timeless appeal. Ranges of composite cases in various colours are available too, but the most-ly-handmade aluminum haulers remain top-of-the-line with prices ranging from over \$1,000 for a roll-aboard to \$7-\$8,000 for a complete set. *At Rimowa Vancouver.*





INFLUENCER: **DAVID FOSTER**

AFTER CELEBRATING HIS 30TH ANNIVERSARY MIRACLE GALA & CONCERT IN VANCOUVER, THE MULTI-TALENTED CANADIAN TAKES A BIG BITE OUT OF BROADWAY.

IT'S THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 21, 2017, and renaissance man, musician-composer-producer, philanthropist and 16-time Grammy Award-winner, David Foster is holding court in the panoramic sixth-floor D6 lobby lounge of the Douglas hotel at Parq Vancouver's new luxury resort and casino. Dapper and fit (he's claustrophobic and never uses elevators, preferring the stairs wherever he stays), the Victoria-born Foster, 67, has rallied the celebrity troops for his **30th Anniversary Miracle Gala & Concert fundraiser**. Foster's commitment to his eponymous foundation created in 1986, provides financial support for non-medical expenses to Canadian families with children in need of major organ transplants. The seed for the David Foster Foundation was planted years ago with a phone call from his late mother, Eleanor.

"Her call from Victoria hit me like a ton of bricks," Foster admits. "There's a sick child in L.A. who needs an organ transplant. You live in L.A.—go visit her!" she told me. "It was a direct order from my mother and so I did. That's when you realize the family dynamics when there's a sick child—the stress is insane, and thank goodness I've been fortunate enough to have only experienced it second hand," says the father of five daughters, several step-children and seven grandchildren.

"If we had a 100 per cent sign-up rate of organ donor cards we'd be out of business, which would be great," quips Foster optimistically "but nationally, it's only at 14 per cent, so we are raising the goalpost and hoping to reach \$50 million in fundraising by the end of 2018 ... I have no shame in calling in the favours from my celebrity friends when it comes to my foundation," he laughs.

Friends indeed! Foster was joined by **Oprah Winfrey**,



FAR LEFT: DAVID FOSTER AND OPRAH WINFREY ADDRESS GUESTS AT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY MIRACLE GALA & CONCERT FUNDRAISER AT ROGERS ARENA ON OCTOBER 21.

THIS PAGE: A STAR-STUDED CROWD INCLUDING CELINE DION, STEVEN TYLER, REBA MCENTIRE AND ANDRE AGASSI JOIN DAVID FOSTER ON STAGE AT ROGERS ARENA.

BELOW: DAVID WITH CALLUM OF VANCOUVER, WHO UNDERWENT A LIVER TRANSPLANT THREE YEARS AGO.

Aerosmith rocker **Steven Tyler**, **Jay Leno**, **Carly Rae Jepsen**, **CeeLo Green**, country legend **Reba McEntire**, tennis legends **Steffi Graf** and **Andre Agassi**, professional tennis player **Tommy Haas** (who is also Foster's son-in-law), former prime minister **Brian Mulroney** and his wife **Mila**, and hockey great **Trevor Linden** amongst many other special guests at Rogers Arena. By the end of the evening presented by Parq Vancouver, a record-breaking \$10.2 million was raised for the David Foster Foundation.

An astute spotter of aspiring talent, Foster is credited with discovering and launching the careers of Canadian mega stars Céline Dion and Burnaby's Michael Bublé (the latter he met at the wedding of the daughter of former prime minister Brian Mulroney in 2000). He also steered classically trained artists Josh Groban and Andrea Bocelli into cross-over pop and international stardom. The man has got the Midas touch!

Foster is remarkably down-to-earth about the fact that he's created hit songs and produced award-winning gold and platinum albums for Barbra Streisand, the late Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson and Prince, plus Rod Stewart, Beyoncé, Madonna and Stevie Wonder to name only a few. He is also a recipient of the Order of Canada and has a star on

both the Canadian and Hollywood Walks of Fame.

Constantly juggling multiple projects including being a judge on the TV show, *Asia's Got Talent*, and recent brand ambassador for AirAsia,

David says, "I haven't been in the studio since December 1st last year and it's been so liberating for me! ... I love the challenge and it was the right time to walk away from that part of my life."

Foster's newest incarnation is composing the music for a Broadway musical based on the 1930s cartoon character Betty Boop to open in 2018. He's also writing his autobiographical one-man show directed by choreographer, Kelly Divine from the Tony Award-winning

Canadian musical, *Come From Away*. Those projects also prompted a hip new address in New York.

"Broadway is a strange beast—you can't just walk in and take over," Foster explains. "I really wanted to be part of the Broadway community because they don't like outsiders. So even though I still have a home in L.A., I bought a place in Tribeca. That's such a cool neighbourhood. It's a three-bedroom apartment and it's really nice. So I'm all in for Broadway," he smiles.

—Laura Goldstein



FIONA'S FINDS

WHAT OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IS COVETING THIS SEASON.



1 A NOD TO THE METALLIC trend seen all over fall and winter runways, **Hunter Women's Original Fitted Down Jacket** features a water-resistant finish and detachable faux fur collar to keep you fashionably warm. \$535 at ca.hunterboots.com

2 PART OF STITTGEN FINE JEWELRY's River of Life collection, these rings are handmade in the company's workshop in West Vancouver, and like all the pieces in the series, they carry a thoughtful message. In this case, the undulating line on the rings represent the ups and downs in life and the beauty of the unique path one chooses. *Price upon request at Stittgen, stittgen.com*

3 I LOVE THE ELEGANT sophistication of **Breitling's Galactic 36 Sleek Edition watch**. With its gorgeous steel, gem-set case and bezel, pearl diamond dial and Sahara Red strap, the wearer is sure to be fashionable (even if they're a little late) to this season's gatherings. \$14,990 at Birks, maison-birks.com

4 THE GEOMETRIC, ANTIQUE BRASS on this **Lucas Coffee Table** from Yaletown-based Suquet Interiors will add understated sophistication to any living space. Add a bowl of popcorn and a mug of eggnog and you're holiday-ready. \$1,100 at Suquet Interiors, suquetinteriors.com

5 COACH'S HIGH SHINE Metallic Dinky will glam up any outfit and has my favourite feature: a convertible cross-body strap (allowing you to enjoy all the Champagne and canapés you desire—hands-free). \$340 at Coach, coach.com

6 CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN's signature red soles were inspired by his assistant's red nail polish, which she'd apply carefully while sitting at her desk at their Parisian office. So it's only *à propos* that the first product in Louboutin's Beauty line, initially launched in 2014, was a brilliant rouge lacquer. New for Fall/Winter 2017 is this rich metallic **Rouge Louboutin Metalissime**. At Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com



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POLYGON GALLERY'S FIRST NIGHT

PHILANTHROPY AND ART COLLIDE AT
LOWER LONSDALE'S NEW CULTURAL HUB.

THE LATEST ADDITION to the burgeoning Lower Lonsdale (a.k.a Lolo) neighbourhood is the sleek 25,000-square-foot glass and steel Polygon Gallery, which opened its doors for the first time on October 21 for a gala and art auction celebrating the culmination of its capital campaign and its grand opening November 18.

The evening brought together local artists and major donors who supported the development of the gallery (which showcases mainly photography and media-based art) and centred on an auction of works donated by artists from around the globe, which raised an impressive \$800,000.

Chaired by 2016 Hasselblad Award honouree Stan Douglas, it was the first public unveiling of the space, designed by the Governor General Award-Winning Patkau Architects, who also created Whistler's Audain Art Museum.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THE POLYGON GALLERY REPLACES THE PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY, OPEN FOR ALMOST FORTY YEARS, AS LOWER LONSDALE'S ARTISTIC HUB.

THE NEW GALLERY FEATURES A SAW-TOOTH POLISHED STAINLESS STEEL ROOF AND NORTH-FACING WINDOWS, A NOD TO LOWER LONSDALE'S INDUSTRIAL HISTORY.

(LEFT TO RIGHT): CHRISTINA CAPY, KEVIN BUDD, JENNIFER THOMPSON AND KURT WHIPP.

(LEFT TO RIGHT): MICHAEL AUDAIN, DIANNE AND UNO LANGMANN.

THE LIGHT-FLOODED WATERFRONT GALLERY OFFERS VIEWS OF DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER.



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December 7

YWCA Crabtree Corner Luncheon

Diane Forsythe Abbott's annual Christmas lunch at Hy's is always a holiday heart warmer. The ladies lunch benefits YWCA's Crabtree Corner, a transition house for women fleeing abuse and violence.

YWCAVan.org

VARIETY, THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY'S GOLD HEART GALA

Variety – the Children's Charity honoured philanthropists and community leaders Ian Telfer and Nancy Burke at their Gold Heart Gala, one of the season's buzziest fundraisers. Fronted by Mary Zilba, along with *Vancouver Luxury Living* editor-in-chief Fiona Forbes, and a gaggle of influencers, the committee welcomed a well-heeled crowd who made the scene to raise a glass to the night's honourees. A special Hearts of Gold painting by Athena Bax and five Variety kids truly got the party started. Fetching a heart-stopping \$33,000, the show of love and philanthropy would continue throughout the night. Attendees would rise to the challenge contributing to a record-setting \$550,000 night. **1** Glacier community media president Peter Kvarnstrom with his wife, Susan. **2** Now former Variety BC CEO Kristy Gill, centre, with philanthropists and community leaders Ian Telfer and Nancy Burke. **3** Committee member Rosemary Siemens and gala chair Mary Zilba.

BC CANCER FOUNDATION'S HOPE COUTURE

In three short years, BC Cancer Foundation's Hope Couture has raised \$2.9 million for leading cancer research. Staged at the Rocky Mountaineer Station, this year's sold-out fashion show and luncheon benefited ovarian cancer research. A stylish \$600,000 would be posted from the London Calling-themed, Lazy Gourmet-catered affair, led by gala chair Janet Hiebert and hosted by Global TV's Chris Gailus. A silent and live auction, as well as a \$200,000 donation from Rob Collins, in memory of his wife Janet Cottrelle, bolstered fortunes. For their generosity, supporters were royally rewarded with a fashion show from Vancouver's exclusive boutique retailers Bacci's and Boboli. **4** Jane Young created BC Cancer Foundation's Hope Couture fashion show and luncheon. **5** BC Cancer Foundation CEO Sarah Roth and Global TV's Chris Gailus sporting the British colours. **6** Gala chair Janet Hiebert and BC Cancer Foundation chair Andrew Sweeney.

HUBLOT GRAND OPENING

Swiss luxury watchmaker Hublot opened its first Canadian boutique in grand style. Located in Vancouver's Rodeo Drive on Alberni Street, the boutique is in great company nestled with other luxury retailers lining the tony block. The city's who's who and well-to-do packed the two-storey boutique to get a first glimpse of the luxury digs and meet Lang Lang, piano virtuoso and Hublot Ambassador who helped christen the store. Following the ceremonial ribbon cutting, attendees enjoyed a Champagne reception, where guests mingled with the piano-playing phenom and witnessed the unveiling of Hublot's new Classic Fusion Chronograph Canada timepiece, launched especially for the grand opening and to honour Canada's 150th anniversary. **7** Hublot principals Oleg Minchenko and Aya Primbetova. **8** *Vancouver Luxury Living* editor-in-chief, Fiona Forbes and managing editor, Lise Boullard. **9** Hublot brand manager Suzette Hernandez and pianist Lang Lang.

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NATURAL WONDER

VANCOUVER'S MOST EXPENSIVE CONDO LISTING IN HISTORY WAS MADE BEAUTIFUL AT THE HANDS OF INTERIOR DESIGNER KARIN BOHN—WHO WAS INSPIRED BY ITS JAW-DROPPING OCEAN AND MOUNTAIN VIEWS.

WORDS | LISE BOULLARD, *@liseboullard*

PHOTOS | AMANDA OSTER



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HOME



ABOVE: IN THE KITCHEN AND FOYER, KARIN SWAPPED WHITE PARQUET FLOORING FOR ONYX AND MARBLE TILES PLACED IN A GEOMETRIC PATTERN.

RIGHT: A CUSTOM ALLIGATOR SHOE CONSOLE IN THE ENTRYWAY; RALPH BUCCI'S COPPER SHEET CHANDELIER; A CUSTOM MARBLE DINING ROOM TABLE AND CHAIRS.

W

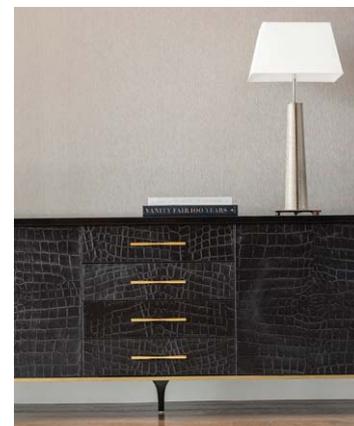
HEN KARIN BOHN RECEIVED

a call in 2014 from a contractor to renovate a four-bedroom, five-bathroom penthouse condo at Three Harbour Green tower on Thurlow Street in Coal Harbour, it seemed like a straightforward project. "The client wanted us to change the wallpaper, change the floors," she explains over coffee at Gastown's Mink Chocolates.

Little did the designer, who leads a team of seven out of her Gastown-based design studio, House of Bohn, know, that the minor project in the luxury development would evolve into a two-and-a-half-year-long renovation which included gutting the entire 9,000-square-foot penthouse condo, changing all of the finishes, the lighting plan and parts of the floor plan.

Even more astounding was the fact that post-renovation, the condo, which covers three floors including two rooftop terraces and boasts 360 degree views of the North Shore mountains on the East and West side, the ocean and Stanley Park, would be listed for sale at just under \$60 million dollars—at the time the country's priciest piece of real estate. "The client, who does real estate development in Beijing, had priced it for the Chinese market. If you were to buy (a condo) like this (there), that's what you would expect to pay," says Karin.

Originally built in 2012, the 2016 listing represented a 254 per cent increase from the \$16.6 million price tag of its previous sale in 2014. (Since the \$58.8 listing, which garnered its share of media buzz in 2016, the owners opted to take the home off the market and sell it privately.) ▶



RECTANGULAR WHITE
LACQUERED MDF
PANELS ADD A RETRO
VIBE TO THE DOUBLE-
HEIGHT CEILINGS IN
THE LIVING ROOM;
CUSTOM FURNITURE
IN EARTHY TONES,
INCLUDING A COFFEE
TABLE IN EMPEROR
GOLD MARBLE
STONE, CREATE A
SENSE OF RELAXED
SOPHISTICATION.





TOP LEFT: HIS AND HERS SINKS, A SOAKER TUB AND WHITE MARBLE ADORN THE BATHROOM.

TOP RIGHT: A CONTEMPORARY STONE FIREPLACE WARMS UP THE BRIGHT AND AIRY LIVING ROOM.

BOTTOM RIGHT: BUILT USING NATURALLY COATED WHITE OAK, THE WALK-IN CLOSET OFF OF THE MASTER BEDROOM SEEMINGLY GOES ON FOREVER.

BOTTOM LEFT: PLUSH CHAIRS AND A MODERN CRYSTAL CHANDELIER ADD GLAMOUR TO THE DINING ROOM.



VIEWS OF THE NORTH SHORE FROM THE DINING AND LIVING AREAS.

NOT A STRANGER TO LUXURY RENOVATIONS, (her roster includes high-end residential projects and revamps of retailers including Helmet Salon and eateries Q Shi Q and Anh and Chi), Karin approached this overhaul the same way she does the others. “We start with a blank canvas and never reference a previous space,” she explains.

Karin’s eclectic design aesthetic is influenced by diverse cultures and eras, including the Chinese and German heritages of her mother and father, respectively. “I’m inspired by nature, fashion, film and set design. I look at things that are not interiors so the projects don’t end up looking like the photos we picked out.”

For this penthouse, the inspiration for the colour palette and design came mainly from the view; the spectacular outdoor landscape seen through the floor-to-double-height-ceiling windows. While the unique geometric pattern of the onyx and marble stone flooring in the foyer and the kitchen is a nod to the jagged shapes of the majestic North Shore mountains on display in the distance, the completely white onyx bathroom and naturally coated white oak in the kitchen offer a contemporary, soothing West Coast ambiance with a bit of a ’70s vibe.

Custom furniture in rich materials and earthy hues designed by House of Bohn offsets the subdued cream, tan and white colour palette of the millwork. Blown-glass statement lighting by Bocci in the living room and a Ralph Bucci copper-sheet



“WE LOOK AT THINGS THAT ARE NOT INTERIORS SO THE PROJECTS DON’T END UP LOOKING LIKE THE PHOTOS WE PICKED OUT.”

— KARIN BOHN

chandelier over the dining room table add interest to the otherwise minimalist décor.

Though the finished product is spectacular, like most renos it didn’t come without its challenges, which included concrete pillars, making a layout change near impossible. And then there were the pea soup green floors that the client was adamant about installing, but didn’t fit with Karin’s vision for the colour palette.

With its sky-high price tag, the buzz this project garnered has bolstered Karin’s design notoriety, which she’s worked hard to develop over the last ten years. Along with a hefty Instagram following, Karin now has a YouTube channel with two shows—one called *Bohnafide* which is documenting the renovation of the North Vancouver townhouse she and her husband hope will be completed in January 2018—and there is talk of a TV show on the horizon. And a very stylish horizon it is.

Houseofbohn.com ■

Get the Look: **WEST COAST RETRO GLAM**

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Home, Providehome.com

Marmo Cocktail Table
by Daniel Rode.
Price upon request at
Roche Bobois,
Roche-bobois.com



"KNOWING THE CLIENTS WERE FROM BEIJING AND THAT THEY TRAVELLED A LOT, WE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING THAT WAS INTERESTING AND EXCITING IN TERMS OF LAYERING AND TEXTURE AND SHAPE. OUR JUMPING OFF POINT WAS LOOKING AROUND AT THE AMAZING MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE."

—KARIN BOHN

Martha Sturdy brass sculpture
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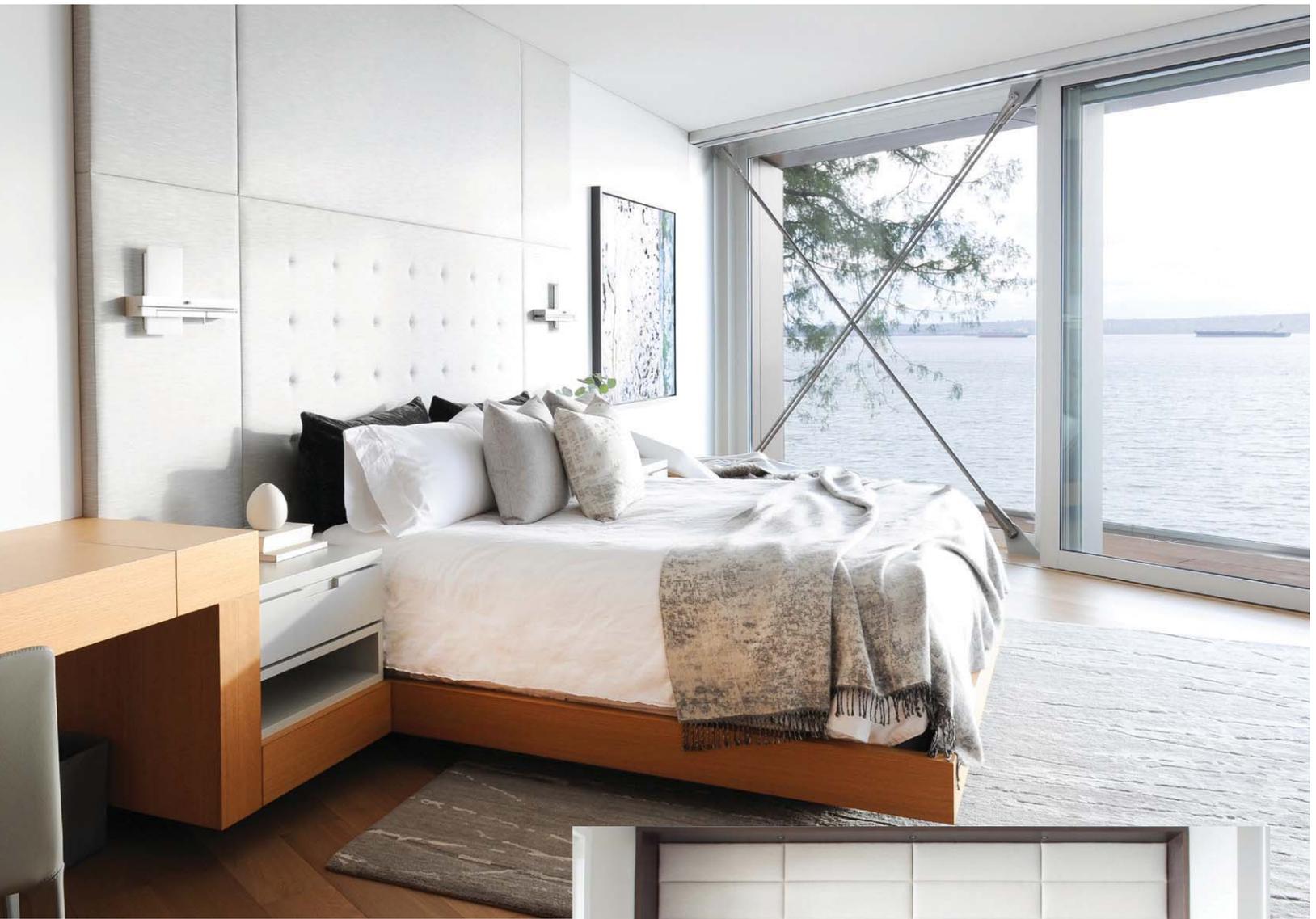
ELEVATING THE MASTER BED

FIVE WAYS TO INSPIRED BEDROOM DÉCOR.



IT'S NO SURPRISE THE MASTER bedroom is a design priority for many of our clients. It's such a luxury to have a private, comfortable and beautiful space to retreat to after a long day. Here, a few unexpected updates to help transform your space into a sanctuary.

—GILLIAN SEGAL, @gilliansegaldesign



HARDWOOD ▲

Many people automatically equate bedroom flooring with wall-to-wall carpeting, but the sophistication of hardwood floors and a beautiful area rug is hard to beat. This combination offers easy maintenance, a soft landing zone for your feet and the opportunity to inject some colour, pattern or personality. *Architecture by FNDA Architect Inc. Interior Design by Shift Interiors.*

◀ MIRRORS

Mirrors add glamour and function to a bedroom and help to visually expand a room. Create a custom accent wall of panelled mirror behind the bed, or choose a great furniture-style mirror (or a few) to hang in a gallery wall. *Interior Design by Stephanie Brown Design.*



UPHOLSTERED WALLS ▲

Upgrading an upholstered headboard to a fully upholstered wall adds unquestionable elegance, warmth and grandeur to a room. You can create one using fabric (through an installation like this one or even through drapery) in refined, pure materials to keep the look timeless. *Interior Design by Kelly Deck Design.* ▶



◀ DEEP HUES

Crisp white walls are classic (and on-trend right now), but since I'm always encouraging my clients to take risks, I say break the mould and go with something deep, dark and cosy in the bedroom. *Bedroom painted in Benjamin Moore's Caponata AF-650.*

SUSPENDED LIGHTING ▼

Beautiful pendants (or sconces or floor lamps) free up precious bedside table real estate and create an interesting and unexpected detail in your space. *Interior Design by Tanya Krpan Design Co.*





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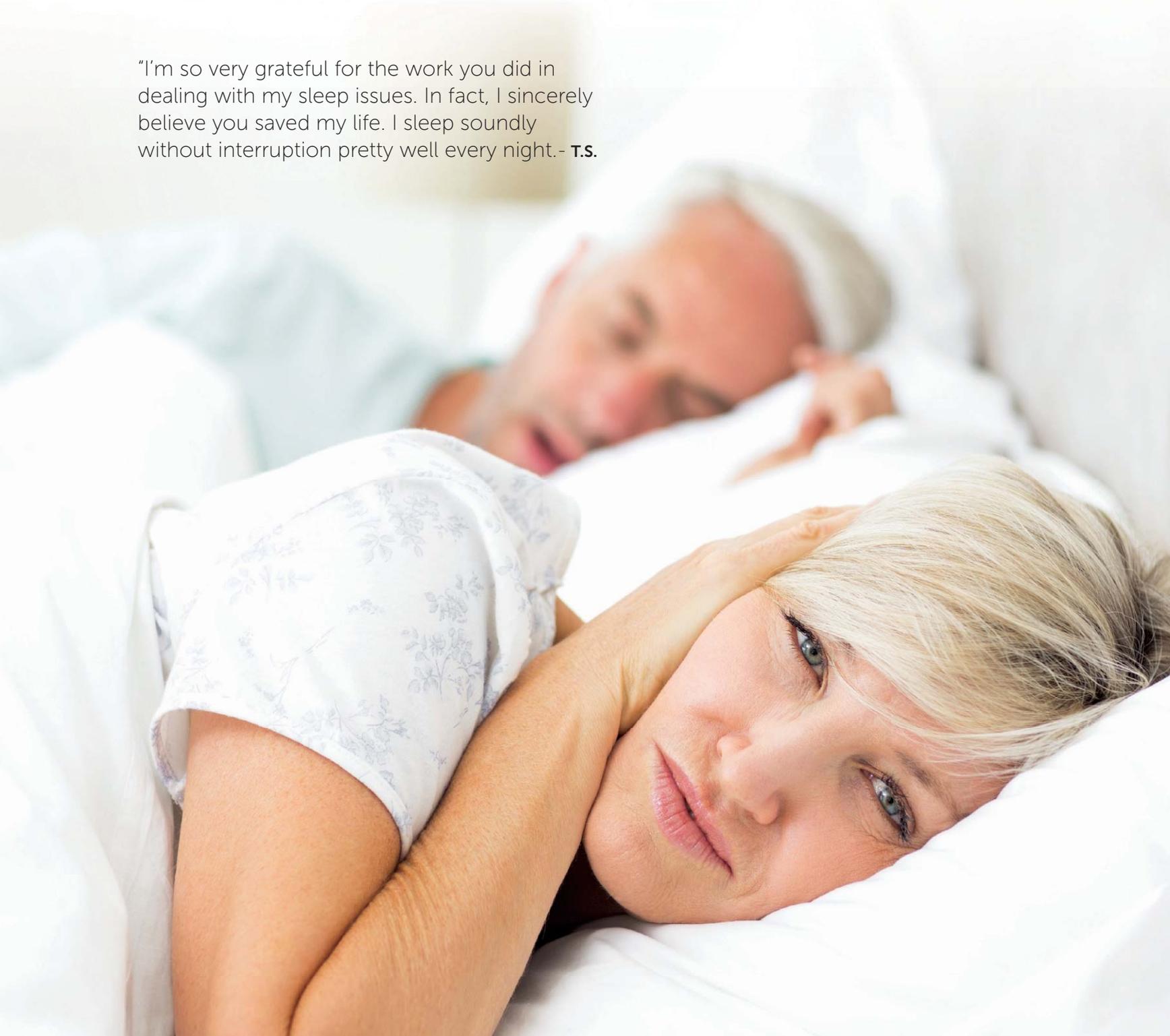
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SOME LIKE IT **HOT!**

BENJAMIN MOORE'S FIERY COLOUR OF 2018 PROMISES TO GET PULSES RACING.

EVERY 365 DAYS, BENJAMIN MOORE'S Colour & Design team embarks on a year-long journey to 30 cities in 12 countries, in search of what will be the "it" colour of the upcoming year.

Not for the weak of heart, 2018's Caliente AF-290 is big, bold and 1,000 per cent confident. Named after the Spanish term for "pungent" or "spicy," it's a ravishing red that still feels warm because of its lack of strong blue undertones (which would make it feel cold), but isn't too rusty either because it doesn't sway too far into the orange range. Says Ellen O'Neill, Benjamin Moore's director of strategic design intelligence: "Whether used as one note or on four walls, the spirited personality of red (signals) surprise and adventure. The eye can't help but follow its bold strokes." ■

COURTESY BENJAMIN MOORE



LIVINGMAG.CA

CULINARY QUEEN



THE WOMAN WHO
CONCEPTUALIZED
THE RESTAURANTS
AT VANCOUVER'S **NEW
PARQ VANCOUVER HOTEL**
IS ADDING VEGAS
GLITZ TO OUR CITY'S
CULINARY SCENE.

WORDS | FIONA FORBES, @fionaforbis



LEFT: ELIZABETH
BLAU WITH HUSBAND
AND BUSINESS
PARTNER KIM
CANTEENWALLA.
THIS PAGE: PARQ
VANCOUVER'S
MODERN BISTRO BAR,
HONEY SALT.



W

HEN I FIRST MET **Elizabeth Blau**, the Las Vegas restaurant maven who runs Blau + Associates along with

her husband Kim Canteenwalla at an event this past summer, she told me about one of her most buzz-worthy projects: the \$640-million Parq Vancouver urban resort and casino that would house five Blau-designed restaurants and three lounges. With three decades in the foodie biz, Elizabeth is credited with transforming the restaurant scene in Las Vegas to a world-class foodie destination—and she has the James Beard Award nomination to prove it. ▶

PARQ VANCOUVER ASSETS

THE DOUGLAS
JW MARRIOTT
PARQ CASINO

RESTAURANTS & LOUNGES:

HONEY SALT
THE VICTOR
BC KITCHEN
1886
MRKT EAST
D6 BAR & LOUNGE
CENTRE BAR
LOTUS WHISKEY/
TEA LOUNGE

“ALL OF THE DISHES KIM AND
I WOULD MAKE FOR FRIENDS
CAN BE FOUND ON THE MENU.”

— ELIZABETH BLAU

FLASH FORWARD TO LATE September and I find myself in Parq’s lobby, where I’m meeting Elizabeth for a personal tour of the 775,000-square-foot metallic bronze u-shaped Parq complex that has changed Vancouver’s “city of green glass” skyline. It’s a few days before the casino/resort opens its doors to an eagerly awaiting Vancouver and the place is abuzz with construction staff putting on the finishing details, racing to the finish line of opening day. For someone who is responsible for opening an array of restaurants and lounges in just 72 hours from our meeting, I mention that the almost six-foot tall Elizabeth seems so calm ... she laughs and says, “nothing can stop us now!”

The next thing I know, Elizabeth is whisking us through back stairs and elevators as we tour the LEED Gold certified complex for a sneak peek of the property’s restaurants and lounges, the casino, spa, the JW Marriott Hotel, The Douglas hotel, Autograph Collection hotel and the Parq’s “park”—yes the complex boasts 30,000 square feet of outdoor space on the sixth floor complete with 225 trees.

Elizabeth doesn’t just spearhead the food and menu creations with her husband and Chef Kim Canteenwalla—who have made a home here on Vancouver’s West Side with their teen son Cole and their two dogs Brookie and Dodger—she’s also hands-on with the design and décor and has been studying Vancouver for a few years to make sure the city’s culture and the area’s local ingredients are reflected in its restaurants’ fare.

We pop our heads into 1886, named after the year Chinatown emerged in Vancouver. In the opulent room featuring velvet banquette seating and large round tables, innovative dishes from four culinary regions of China—Canton, Szechuan, Hunan, and Shanghai—are served. There’s also a live seafood tank filled with seasonal delicacies and tableside tea service on offer. Inset in the ceiling is a beautiful fabric art piece Elizabeth says was created to replicate the look of abalone. ▶

Luxury Unique Resort of the Year



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LEFT TO RIGHT: THE BAR AT BC KITCHEN; LOCAL SPORTS MEMORABILIA ON DISPLAY AT BC KITCHEN.

NEXT, WE WANDER through one of Elizabeth's other creations, MRKT EAST, inspired by Singapore's night markets and featuring a menu of Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Thai, Singaporean and Vietnamese dishes. When I ask Elizabeth how she managed to simultaneously develop so many different restaurant concepts, she tells me how she had dedicated teams

working with her to create a distinct esthetic for each space.

We whiz around to the sixth-floor rooftop and pop our heads into where the Pacific Northwest-inspired The Victor eatery will be. Then it's off to check out the lounges D6, Centre Bar and Lotus Whiskey/Tea Lounge. I'm struck by the views from every angle (a novelty in a casino resort

where daylight is scarcely seen) already making plans in my head to grab dinner and drinks at some of these spots with my girlfriends.

A few days later, on a rainy Wednesday afternoon, Elizabeth and I meet for lunch in the light-flooded Honey Salt dining room on the hotel's main floor. Elizabeth tells me Honey Salt is her baby—a comfort food concept she and

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LEFT TO RIGHT: MRKT EAST; LOTUS WHISKEY & TEA LOUNGE

Kim originally created when they opened the first location in Vegas back in 2012. The couple consider it to be an extension of their home: "All of the dishes Kim and I would make for friends can be found on the menu," she says over a portion of Market Vegetables. Nicknamed "Vegetable Jenga," it's a tower of Klippers Organic farms' local charcoaled beets and squash, pickled

vegetables, cauliflower hummus, peppers, radishes, heirloom carrots, sweet potato chips and goddess dip.

She continues to share stories of meeting B.C.'s farmers and says how important those relationships were to her and Kim when creating the menu from locally sourced ingredients, listing Les Amis du Fromage, Two Rivers

Specialty Meats, 7 Seas Fish Market and Terra Breads among the local purveyors on Parq's menus.

With a culinary lineup that balances larger-than-life glitz and local fare, Parq, and the tall, energetic powerhouse that is Elizabeth Blau, are a welcome addition to Vancouver's restaurant scene. ■

JEFF WINNICK, CHRISTOPHER MORRIS



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SEA URCHIN WITH POTATO CREAM, SMOKED SHOYU AND POTATO CRISPS FROM BURDOCK & CO'S HOLIDAY MENU.

FOODIE FILES

FOOD WRITER **CHRIS DAGENAIS** ON CULINARY TRENDS AND HOT TABLES IN VANCOUVER.

HA VE THESE SHORTENED DAYS, bookended by impenetrable greys of varying shades, made the bright, luscious spectrum of summer seem like an impossibly distant memory?

Don't despair.

While we were frolicking carefree in the final warmth of August, some of our city's most forward-thinking chefs were looking to the months ahead, planning menus that celebrate, rather than lament, winter's offerings.

Andrea Carlson has contributed perhaps more than any other contemporary chef in Vancouver to the cultivation of a hyper-local, sustainable, seasonal supply chain. Her revered **Burdock & Co.** continues to lead the charge in farm-to-table practices, with produce sometimes hailing from within the very urban centre of Vancouver. Carlson offers her take on winter dining: "The key to sustaining a farm-to-table philosophy through the winter in Vancouver is preservation," she explains. "We pickle, can, freeze, ferment, dry and cure everything from scallop roe to heirloom apples and foraged seaweeds. Through our close relations with local farmers, we also have access to an abundance of storage crops: carrots, beets, potatoes, etc." burdockandco.com

Chef David Gunawan of **Farmer's Apprentice** also ranks high within the group of progressive, multi-season talents who help us weather winter with style. His winter menus,



BLACK SALSIFY, PARSLEY ROOT AND EGG AT FARMER'S APPRENTICE.

employing the best of what the day has to offer, may include dishes like Sprouted Spelt Risotto with Sage and Red Fife Sourdough, or ice cream reimagined for the season using fall spices, squash and walnuts. Menus change frequently, in tune with the market, but you can always check out the latest offerings at farmersapprentice.ca

A few blocks west, **Fable** chef and co-owner Trevor Bird embraces the heartier fare of the season with dishes like Scallop and Pork Belly served with kale, pumpkin seed hummus and pickled mushroom, Tagliatelle made with Rutabaga, or his famed Canned Tuna, which presents the melt-in-your-mouth succulent fish in a mason jar with potatoes and olive oil, a clever riff on the canning tradition. His seasonal fare, served in warmly rustic digs, tirelessly supports local, sustainable farmers and artisanal suppliers. fablekitchen.ca ■



THE HOT SEAT WITH **CHEF J.C. POIRIER**

HAILING FROM QUEBEC, where he started his career at Montreal's renowned Toqué!, J.C. Poirier is changing the face of Vancouver's dining scene by opening the city's first high-end Québécois restaurant, the critically acclaimed **St. Lawrence**. Here, what makes the talented chef tick.

What made you decide to become a chef? My love for food came at an early age. I love to eat more than anything else, so it was mandatory that I learn how to cook. I'm a cook first; "Chef" is a title. I do what I do because I love to cook.

How do you describe your style of cooking? My style is very French. I navigate between the old-school French cuisine and my Québécois roots. (The result is something) that resembles "haute country cooking."

What is the key to a good winter menu in Vancouver? Richer food, sauces, the use of butter and maybe cream. People ask me why the food is so good at St. Lawrence (and) I answer simply: Because I'm not afraid of fat. Also, Vancouverites love their fried Brussel sprouts—put that on the menu and you make a killing.

What is the most comforting dish on St. Lawrence's menu? Probably the "Tourtière de ville," which is a venison meat pie served with a rich sauce and pickled condiments.

Underrated winter ingredient? Jerusalem artichokes, also called sunchokes. They are delicious roasted, puréed into a soup or fried like a chip. They have a nutty flavour, sweet like corn and a melting flesh like a parsnip.

What's the biggest difference between diners in Quebec and diners in B.C.? Québécois eat more, drink more, they have minimal allergies and will go out to a restaurant on weekdays, even if it's -30C outside. They are also very open-minded diners, willing to try anything; I mean you could easily sell a pan-seared calf liver, medium rare, to a 15-year-old customer over there.

Where do you like to eat in Vancouver? For lunch, I really like Harvest and Fat Mao Noodles. For dinner, I would choose Bao Bei, Savio Volpe and Kissa Tanto anytime.

Biggest source(s) of pride? My two daughters, Aïla and Florence, and my beautiful wife, Dara.

Any resolutions for the New Year? Same as every year: Constant improvement and ultimate focus.

—Chris Dagenais, @christopher.dagenais

POMME ANNA 'TARTE TATIN'

CHEF J.C. POIRIER SHARES HIS TAKE ON ONE OF FRANCE'S MOST TRADITIONAL DISHES.

Preparation time, 30 minutes

Cooking time, 50 minutes

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

2 large russet potatoes

150 grams of butter, melted

1 sheet of puff pastry, 8 x 8 inches

1 tbsp maple syrup

75 gram piece of Oka cheese

Salt and pepper, to taste

Thyme

Veal demi-glace sauce, optional

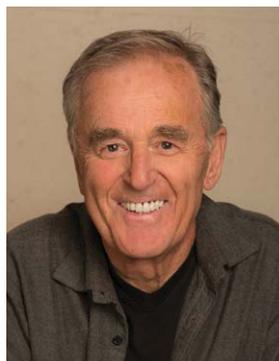
METHOD

Peel the potatoes and cut into very thin rounds using a mandolin, which is easier and provides a more consistent result than a knife. Wash potatoes in salted water and dry them very well using a cloth. Butter an omelette pan or a six-inch wide cast iron pan. Place a layer of potatoes, a piece of thyme and a little maple syrup in the pan, brushing the potatoes with melted butter, and sprinkling with pepper and salt. Repeat these layers until the pan is full. Cut the puff pastry into a circle the same size as the pan. Place the pastry on top of the potatoes and push the edges down. Cook at 350°F until brown (about 40 minutes). Remove from the oven, turn out gently onto a plate. Layer the slices of Oka cheese on top and return the tart to the oven for 10 minutes or until the cheese is melted. Cut into slices and serve.





© J.C. POIRIER



Tasting Room
WITH **TERRY**
DAVID MULLIGAN
@terrydavidmulligan

WINTER WHITES

THREE WHITE WINES TO SIP BY THE FIRE THIS SEASON.



I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A gaggle of interviews somewhere (it's all a blur!) when a winemaker/owner said he was pouring me a winter white! The term stayed with me. Most of us switch from summer whites to increasingly heavier reds when the winter cold and wet sets in. Fair enough. The deeply hued wines go well with stews, soups, confit, cassoulet and oven birds. To be considered a winter white, though, a wine has to have weight, texture and the ability to pair with all those dishes too. Fat chards come to mind, Chablis, some pinot gris and chenins, specifically Vouvrays. Rieslings from Alsace, Soave from Italy, Mondavi fumé blanc. White blends from Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

David Lancelot from Kelowna's Experience Wine Tour says he looks for a "flavour echo" in which what you taste in the wine can also be tasted in the food. I think of **Oldfield Series 2 Bench White** from Tinhorn Creek, a blend of semillion, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, viognier and muscat. There's also **Yalumba Y Series Viognier**. I could go on. Please don't forget to include bubbly and rosé.

Here are three choices for Winter 2017/2018:

ROAD 13 VRM. A blend of viognier, roussanne and marsanne. The texture is rich and oily, intense. Flavours of stone fruit; peach, nectarines, apricots. Very Earthy. Like eating a peach pie. Pairs beautifully with pork. *\$29 at Coal Harbour Liquor Store.*

PAINTED ROCK 2016 CHARDONNAY. The flavour profile of Painted Rock's chardonnay has changed in two years. Not because they wanted to (it was a very popular wine.) The vines' roots have worked their way through the top soils and into the gravel below and now it starts to have the profile of a Montrachet, with notes of baking spices, butter, apple and oak. Sixty per cent Malo gives it a glorious mouth feel which works well with almost anything you prepare this winter. At \$35 all-in it's a bargain. *At Legacy Liquor Store.*

LITTLE ENGINE WINES CHARDONNAY. From the Naramata Bench, which specializes in chards. Layers of bright acidity, texture, oak and baking. Pairs with stews, root veggies and cassoulet. *Silver Chardonnay (\$30) and Gold Chardonnay (\$55) at shop.littleenginewines.com and JAK's Beer Wine Spirits' Dunbar location.*

Wind, cold, rain and sleet? Bring it on.

WHISTLER **WELLNESS**

NEED TO HIT THE RESET BUTTON?
HEAD UP THE SEA-TO-SKY.



WORDS | LISE BOULLARD, @liseboullard

MANY OF US ASSOCIATE Whistler with exhilarating outdoor activities: skiing and snowboarding in the winter, or hiking, ATViing and bike riding on its network of trails in the summer.

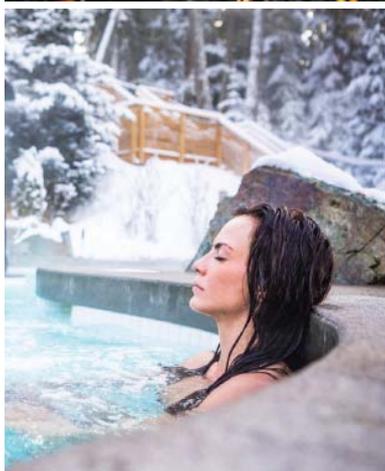
But a recent weekend away, which was more about chakra-aligning massages than mastering moguls, involved not a moment of physical activity (save for a quick morning walk around a local lake), proving that Whistler is indeed a destination for the spa set.

The relaxation began with the journey itself, where my travel mate and I reclined in the seats of a Pacific Coach instead of navigating the sometimes-stressful Sea-to-Sky Highway ourselves. Resting my head while taking in the majestic views of the Coast Mountains and glittery Howe Sound, I could literally feel the stress of city life melting away as I looked forward to the upcoming weekend. Next time, for variety, I will book a seat on the Rocky Mountaineer train, which drops passengers off at the lobby of the **Nita Lake Lodge** hotel. ►



ANNA BEAUDRY

LIVINGMAG.CA



TOP: NITA LAKE LODGE BY NIGHT.
MIDDLE: A FLORAL CRAFT COCKTAIL
 AT CURE LOUNGE AND PATIO.
BOTTOM: WATER THERAPY AT
 SCANDINAVE SPA.

NESTLED ALONGSIDE THE PRISTINE glacier-fed Nita Lake in the cosy Creekside neighbourhood, Nita Lake Lodge is a self-contained mountainside paradise. Built in 2008, Whistler's only lakeside hotel features 77 rooms, all with fireplaces, king-size beds, plasma TVs, hideaway kitchens, bathrooms with slate-bottom showers and heated slate floors and soaker tubs—and many with lake views. The boutique-style hotel is located just 500 metres away from Whistler's Creekside Gondola, but that may be a moot point because with so many on-site activities and amenities available, you may not feel the need to leave the lodge.

After check-in, the weekend began as any respectable spa getaway should: with cocktails featuring florals from the hotel's rooftop garden, and a selection of appetizers—charcuterie, farm cheeses and house-made pickles—from the revamped menu at the recently renovated lakeside **Cure Lounge and Patio**. With wooden beams, a blazing fireplace and stunning views of Nita Lake and Sproatt Mountain, it provided a modern-rustic atmosphere in which to unwind after a busy workweek.

The next morning, I awoke to the sound of birdsong and reflections from the sunlit lake streaming through my bedroom's toile drapes. After a lakeside coffee on the room's adjoining terrace, followed by a breakfast of Potato Herb Hash made using Pemberton potatoes, B.C. mushrooms and sauteed kale at **Aura** restaurant, my travel mate

THE TREATMENT
 USES HIMALAYAN
 SALT, MARIGOLD AND
 LAVENDER PETALS, ILA
 ORGANIC ARGAN OIL
 AND ROSE DAMASK OIL,
 AND HOT STONES.

and I enjoyed a brisk walk alongside Nita Lake on the pathway which connects to Whistler's 40 kilometre Valley Trail.

We then spent the afternoon soaking away our stress through a hot-cold-relax water therapy experience at the picturesque **Scandinave Spa**, set amidst a peaceful forest with breathtaking mountain views. After a few hours soaking in the outdoor hot baths and cold plunge pools, and lazing in the eucalyptus steam rooms, saunas and relaxation areas, we had achieved complete Zen and were ready to be transported back to our hotel.

Back at the resort, an adorable and frisky Brittany Spaniel, belonging to the hotel's owner, greeted us in the lobby (yes, Nita Lake Lodge is 100 per cent dog-friendly). By this time our stomachs were starting to rumble and we began looking forward to our 7 p.m. reservation at Aura restaurant.

After a dinner of Kale and Quinoa Salad followed by a Mushroom and Lentil Pavé paired with rosé prosecco (again, with those lakeside



views), it was time for bed. After all, I needed to rest for the signature massage treatment that was booked for the following day at the hotel's spa.

The Kundalini massage, which took place in one of six serene rooms at **The Spa at Nita Lake Lodge**, plays to the senses of touch, sound and smell. Based on ancient massage techniques with a focus on the back of the body as well as the face, it uses Himalayan salt (to exfoliate the feet), marigold and lavender petals, ila organic Argan oil and rose damask oil, and hot stones. All movements are timed to music and are designed to realign the chakras, rejuvenate and reset, which is exactly what was needed after a string of deadlines at work. I left the room feeling much lighter, but also more grounded, than I did going in.

Post-massage, spa patrons are invited to relax in the lounge area or in the steam room but we opted instead for (another) soak in the spa's adjoining outdoor hot tub area while admiring snow-capped Whistler Mountain towering in the distance. Walking (or you could call it "floating") back to our room to pack for the journey back to the city, we considered booking a spot in a class at the on-site yoga studio, **Loka Yoga**, but our hunger won out and we devoured a cleansing and nourishing "spa" wrap packed with rice noodles, peanut sauce and vegetables along with a spicy coconut tomato soup and almond milk latté on the patio of the resort's Fix Café instead. A healthy end to a soul-soothing weekend.

NITA LAKE LODGE is located at 2131 Lake Placid Road, Whistler. 604-966-5700, nitalakelodge.com ■

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MAGICAL MARRAKESH

EXOTIC SPICE MARKETS, BLISSFUL HAMMAMS AND INTRICATE MOSAIC ARCHITECTURE MAKE MARRAKESH A CELEBRATION FOR THE SENSES

WORDS | CLAIRE NEWELL, [@clairenewelltravel](#)

MARRAKESH, MOROCCO IS AN INCREDIBLE imperial city full of sights, sounds and tastes, both ancient and modern. And that's exactly what makes this city so amazing; its ancient and modern juxtaposition. By day, get lost in a labyrinth of souks in the medina, visit historical sites or watch a snake charmer. In the evening, dine in a world-renowned restaurant, explore new art galleries or dance away in a chic nightclub. Marrakesh surprised me in so many wonderful ways—the dichotomy of old world charm and modern luxury made it the perfect escape to experience history, culture, adventure, great food, nightlife, shopping and relaxation, all in a five-day trip. It is an extremely friendly city where I felt completely at ease. So much so, I've added this Instagrammers' paradise to my list of the top three cities to visit. ►



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LEFT: THE AMANJENA HOTEL
THIS PAGE: THE LOBBY OF THE
ROYAL MANSOUR HOTEL



TOP LEFT: LA MAMOUNIA MARRAKECH HOTEL
BOTTOM LEFT: THE MAJORELLE SUITE IN LA MAMOUNIA MARRAKECH
ABOVE: THE ENTRANCE OF LA MAMOUNIA MARRAKECH HOTEL

STAY

FOUR SEASONS RESORT MARRAKESH: This gated 40-acre Moorish sanctuary is modern, elegant and lavish. Situated just four kilometres from Place Jemaa el Fnaa, it is conveniently located between the ancient walled, narrow, maze-like streets of the medina and the cosmopolitan Ville Nouvelle.

LA MAMOUNIA: Set on a former royal estate from the 12th century, this classic but luxe hotel is only a 15-minute walk from Jemaa el Fnaa market square and a five-minute walk from Koutoubia Mosque.

ROYAL MANSOUR: A masterpiece of Moorish-Andalusian architecture, the Royal Mansour features 53 lavish individual two-storey traditional Moroccan homes (called riads) with courtyard patios, sitting rooms and roof terraces with plunge pools.

AMANJENA: This premium resort offers modern but lavish one- or two-bedroom Moroccan-style villas surrounded by palm tree-shaded gardens.

SEE

PLACE JEMAA EL FNAA: This extraordinary square has been the heart of Marrakesh for centuries. Every night the area fills with musicians, dancers, storytellers, fortunetellers and snake charmers—each drawing a crowd of astonished onlookers. It's an experience just to walk through it.

MEDINA SOUKS: Located in the winding alleyways of Marrakesh's ancient Medina is one of the world's most famous shopping destinations, offering a wide range of exotic goods, including fabric, leatherwork and jewelry.

KOUTOUBIA MOSQUE: The largest and oldest mosque in Marrakesh, Koutoubia is famous for its magnificent minaret. The tower was built in about 1150, and is still a functioning mosque today.

BAHIA PALACE: A masterpiece of Moroccan architecture, this palace was built by two powerful grand viziers at the end of the 19th century, with the intention to be the great palace of its time. It took 14 years to complete.

MAJORELLE GARDEN: This iconic 12-acre botanical garden was created by the French painter Jacques Majorelle in the 1920s, and then magnificently restored by designer Yves Saint Laurent in the 1980s. It is known as an artist's landscape garden. ▶

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MARRAKESH'S TRENDY INDIAN RESTAURANT, PALAIS JAD MAHAL

DINE

DAR YACOUT: A true Moroccan experience, Dar Yacout is set in an old grand traditional house with an enchanting setting, private lounges and an amazing panoramic view from the terrace of the medina and the Koutubia Mosque.

CAFÉ DE LA POSTE: For a hint of French colonial Marrakesh, this world-renowned restaurant is hard to beat. From Pergola to Mezzanine, this warm, retro and glamorous atmosphere will be sure to leave you impressed.

PALAIS JAD MAHAL: This trendy Indian palace is both a restaurant and a club, with Moroccan and Thai cuisine also on the menu. After 11 p.m., the restaurant becomes a lounge-bar, with a live orchestra show and belly dancers, so be sure to go for a late dinner and carry on into the night.

DAY-TRIP

CASABLANCA: This port city located three hours away from Marrakesh along the Atlantic coast is Morocco's main commercial centre. Visit the world's largest mosque that stands partly over the ocean and experience the unique art-deco districts and French architectural influences.

AGADIR: A two-hour drive from Marrakesh, Morocco's southwest coast boasts 300 days a year of sunshine, beautiful crescent beaches, a sea-side promenade, golf courses and famous seafood.

OURIKA VALLEY: Only a 45-minute drive from Marrakesh and providing cooler temperatures under the High Atlas peaks, this valley is a quiet contrast to the bustling city. Enjoy the calming river or numerous hikes, and from February to April, witness the almond and cherry orchards bloom.

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF EXPLORING Morocco but are hesitant because of the travel time, Lufthansa offers many same-day connection flights. These will only take you around 15 hours instead of the many 40-hour journeys out there. Additionally, Air Canada offers flights from Montreal to Casablanca that connect easily from any starting point in Canada. I would highly recommend experiencing this amazing city. There was so much going on ... I can't wait to go back. ■



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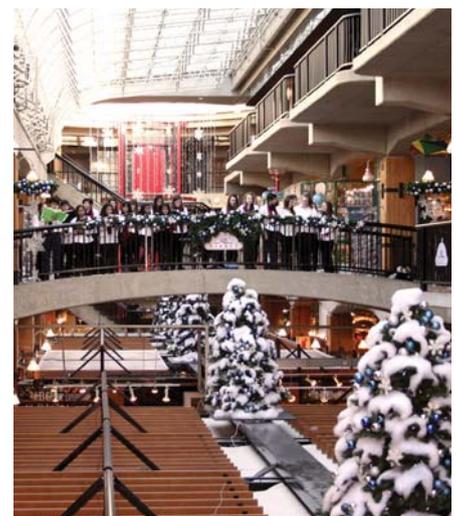


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ROAD REVIEW: 2018 MCLAREN 570GT

AUTO JOURNALIST **BRENDAN MCALEER** TEST DRIVES A NEW “BRITISH BULLET.”

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RAISE a few eyebrows, cast your eyes across the pond to the carbon-fibre wizardry of a company whose founder perished in the relentless pursuit of speed.

This, if you can believe it, is their soft option. The McLaren 570GT has an interior draped in leather, suspension that's less jarring than the track-oriented versions, and a glass rear hatch that sees total luggage capacity swell to a useful 340L. With a tan-on-charcoal colour combination befitting one of Aston-Martin's grand tourers, it's a genteel steed indeed.

Yet beneath the fancy saddlework lurks all the same tarmac-shredding muscularity you get from McLaren's other efforts. Step over the high sills of the carbon-fibre tub, prod the 562 hp, twin-turbo 3.8L V8 to life, and unleash a machine that has all the shy and retiring nature of an arrow in a crossbow.

Alternatively, as tested, you can strap in a booster seat, and your kid will fall asleep on the cruise up to Whistler, waking only to laugh in delight as you zip past a slow-moving RV. Then park, and return to find crowds admiring the McLaren's mix of demure paintwork and genuine pedigree.

No doubt about it, the 570GT is a ride to make ordinary days special.



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