

90272

magazine

*Holidays in the
Palisades*



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Cover photo is courtesy of Serena & Lily/Ryan Garvin Photography. Pictured on the cover is Serena & Lily's Holiday House 2022 in Palisades Village, designed by Linda Hayslett of LH.Designs.



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PHOTO BY RICH SCHMITT
PPCC Holiday Dinner & Awards Gala



PHOTO BY RICH SCHMITT
Menorah Lighting Ceremony



PHOTO BY RICH SCHMITT
HoHoHo!



PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIC GUILD
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

Calendar of Events

Things to do in Pacific Palisades this winter season.

'TOWARDS ZERO'

Catch a performance of Agatha Christie's "Towards Zero" at Pierson Playhouse on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., as well as Sundays at 2 p.m., through December 10. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors.

theatrepalisades.org

VILLAGE GREEN ART SALE

Pacific Palisades Art Association will host a two-day art sale at Palisades Village Green on Saturday, November 25, and Sunday, November 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring local artists and their works.

pacificpalisadesartassociation.com

SENIORS WRITING GROUP

Attendees are invited to join Kathy Katims, founder of Saved By A Story, to write, share, draft and workshop stories at Palisades Branch Library on Monday, November 27, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. RSVP by emailing kathleenkatims@gmail.com.

lapl.org

PALISADES GIFT SHOP POP-UP

Palisades Gift Shop will have pop-up shopping events at Porta Via Palisades on Thursday, November 30, and Thursday, December 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. with a selection of new items, "great for gifting," and "best-selling classic Palisades variety print."

palisadesgiftshop.com

HOLIDAY STROLL

Palisades Village will host its annual Holiday Stroll, with live performances, snowfall, photo moments with Santa Claus and more, on Saturday, December 2, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. along Swarthmore Avenue.

palisadesvillageca.com

VIVALDI 'GLORIA' AND OTHER WORKS

Palisades Symphony will perform a program featuring Rossini's overture to "Il Signor Bruschino," Vivaldi's "Gloria" and John Rutter's "Magnificat" alongside Brentwood Palisades Chorale at Community United Methodist Church Pacific Palisades on Sunday, December 3, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

palisadessymphony.org

WINTER CONCERT

The wind ensemble, symphonic band and percussion ensemble at Palisades Charter High School will play winter-themed psalms, hymns and spirituals "from all places and ages" on Tuesday, December 5, at 7 p.m. in Mercer Hall. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for general admission and \$25 for VIP.

go.palihigh.org/gofan

HOLIDAY DINNER & AWARDS GALA

Pacific Palisades Community Council will celebrate its annual Holiday Dinner & Awards Gala on Wednesday, December 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Draycott, honoring the 2023 Citizen of the Year, Golden Sparkplugs and Pride of the Palisades. Tickets are \$125 for an individual, \$240 per couple.

pacpalicc.org

MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

In partnership with Chabad Jewish Community Center of Pacific Palisades, Palisades Village will host its annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 7, at 6 p.m., celebrating the first night of Hanukkah.

palisadesvillageca.com

THE CHOIR OF CLARE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

St. Matthew's Music Guild will present a concert featuring Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, on Friday, December 8, beginning at 8 p.m. at St. Matthew's Church, with a program that includes "masterworks of the Renaissance and favorites of the holiday season." Tickets start at \$45.

musicguildonline.org

JAZZ HOLIDAY CONCERT

Palisades Charter High School will perform a Jazz Holiday Concert on Friday, December 8, at 7 p.m. in Mercer Hall. Tickets are \$15 for general admission.

go.palihigh.org/gofan

HOHOHO!

The annual holiday HoHoHo! will take place this year on Saturday, December 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Simon Meadow. Festivities include pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, performances, snacks, games, and more.

instagram.com/palihohoho

10TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RADIO SHOW

Theatre Palisades Actors Troupe will perform a reenactment of a 1940's radio show, "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, on Wednesday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m. at Pierson Playhouse.

theatrepalisades.org

SNOOKNUK & THE ROBOT PUPPET SHOW

Palisades Branch Library will host Snooknuk & The Robot Puppet Show—a "live musical adventure," with stories, original music, dancing, games, classic nursery rhymes and more, hosted by Grammy Award-nominated artist Ms. Cheri—on Thursday, December 15, from 4 to 5 p.m.

lapl.org



Christmas Season at Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church

December 17th: Las Posadas Christmas Celebration & Childrens' Pageant, 3pm

December 24th: 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 10am
Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service, 5pm
Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service, 9pm

December 31st: Christmas Carol Sunday, 10am

www.palipres.org

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2023 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Shop local in the Palisades



◀ Etched Brass Holiday Ornament
\$10
PALISADES GIFT SHOP
palisadesgiftshop.com



◀ Advent Calendar
\$510
DIPTYQUE
15275 Palisades
Village Lane

▶ Holiday Gnomes
Starting at \$18
KIER DESIGN
15260 Antioch Street;
kierdesign.com



▶ Crystal Point
Healing Towers
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OBSESSED JEWELRY
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▶ The Winter Retreat
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palisadescanyon.com



▶ Matcha Gift Set
\$75
ALFRED
15217 Palisades Village Lane



▶ Firny Scarf
\$365
ISABEL MARANT
1056 Swarthmore Avenue



▲ Benoit Shirt in Navy/White
\$330
OFFICINE GÉNÉRALE
15213 Palisades Village Lane



▲ Youth Since the 90s Pigment Black Pullover Hoodie
\$52
PALISKATES
1021 Swarthmore Avenue



▲ Luxe Pima Nightshirt
\$118
VERONICA BEARD
1062 Swarthmore Avenue

Atlas Boot
\$630
FLANNEL
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ERES
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2023 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Shop local in the Palisades



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PALISADES*
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▲ Good Luck Necklace
\$3,950
JENNIFER MEYER JEWELRY
1050 Swarthmore Avenue



◀ Zoe Chicco 14K
Pear Blue Sapphire
Bezel Pendant
Snake Chain Necklace
\$1,495
*TOWNE BY ELYSEWALKER
PACIFIC PALISADES*
15257 Palisades
Village Lane

Self-Illusion
Makeup Collection
by Lucia Pica
\$30-\$75
BYREDO
1025 Swarthmore Avenue



▲ House-Baked Cookies
\$12
*MCCONNELL'S FINE ICE
CREAMS*
15209 Palisades Village Lane



▲ “Step Up To Dinner” Guide + Recipes
by Ruth Laurent-Kocher
\$30
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16620 Marquez Avenue



◀ Luxe Gold Initial Notepad
\$48
BLACK INK
shop.blackinkca.com



◀ Kate Tote in High Shine Black
\$700
ANINE BING
15231 Palisades Village Lane



◀ Stainless Steel Snack Box
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◀ The Perfect Gift Set
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WINTERLAND

BY CARUSO

*The magic of the season
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The Americana at Brand, Palisades Village,
The Commons at Calabasas and beyond.

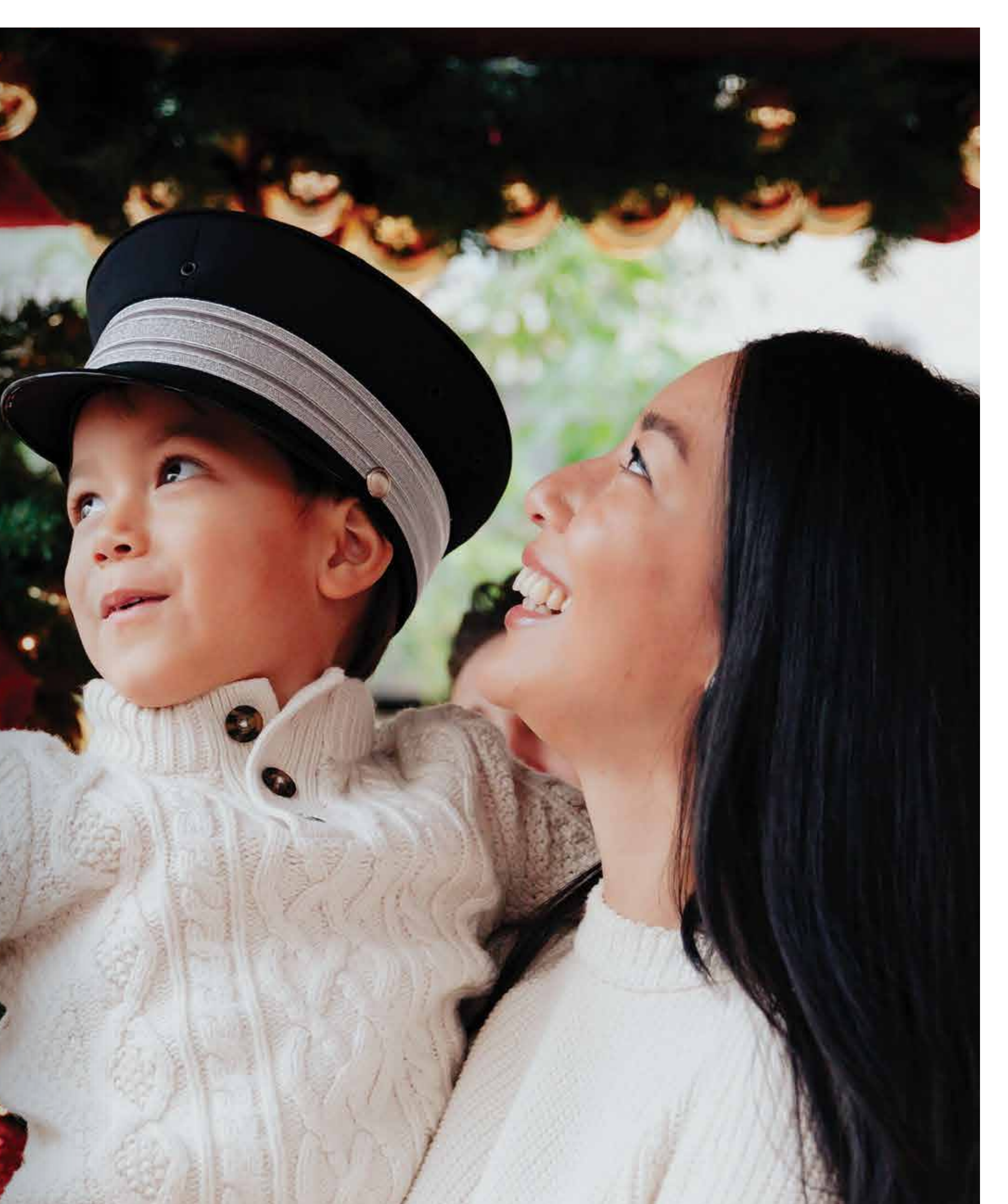
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Caruso



Eat, Drink and Be Merry

Pacific Palisades restaurants and coffee shops craft seasonal menus.

BY SARAH SHMERLING

BELLE VIE AT THE DRAYCOTT

Former Belle Vie owner Vincent Samarco has partnered with Matt and Marissa Hermer to bring a pop-up featuring the restaurant's food to The Draycott, which began November 14 and runs through New Year's Eve.

Samarco, a third-generation Parisian restaurateur who has been in Los Angeles for 11 years, launched his Belle Vie French bistro in West LA in 2016, before it closed in December 2020. Samarco and the space were the subjects of an Emmy Award-winning documentary, which followed their journey through the pandemic.

Some of the highlights of the menu at The Draycott will include chicken and morel sauce, which "rose to fame at Belle Vie," F.F.F. (fresh French fries), as well as Angels' Eggs, Baked Raclette, Warm Goat Cheese Salad, Steak Entrecote and more.

"I'll be there every day with the Belle Vie mascot—my classic 2cv Citroen truck, which will be parked in front of The Draycott on all service days," Samarco said. "Some of the art that adorned the walls at Belle Vie will make a comeback, as well as the live music ambiance and piano bar that helped to make the restaurant such a home away from home for my guests."

thedraycott.com

BRISKET AT CINQUE TERRE WEST OSTERIA

For one night only on Thursday, December 7, Cinque Terre WEST Osteria will feature a pre-order takeout special: prime brisket 1st cut "top quality" half brisket with mashed potatoes.

The meal, which is designed to serve six people, will include three to three-and-a-half pounds, and is available for \$140.

Pre-orders must be placed by Sunday, December 3, at 6 p.m.

"Cinque Terre WEST Osteria is a warm family-run Italian restaurant reminiscent of the small Mediterranean coastal villages of the Cinque Terre region," according to its website. "We serve authentic regional Ligurian dishes, using locally sourced food, specializing in fresh seafood, daily house-made pastas, fatto a mano (made-by-hand) pizza dough and delizioso cornetti (Italian croissants)."

Owners Gianbattista "Gianba" and Marlo Vinzoni have lived in the Lower Las Casas neighborhood for nearly 20 years.

cinqueterrewest.com



Vincent Samarco

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELBY MOORE

SEASONAL SIPS

Coffee shops across Pacific Palisades are offering their takes on holiday-time drink specials.

At Alfred in Palisades Village, in addition to its regular menu, there is also a Pumpkin Slice Latte, available iced or hot, Pumpkin Slice Matcha Latte, also available iced or hot, and a Pumpkin Slice Cold Foam—all in collaboration with the "Thanksgiving" movie, which released in theaters November 17.

"The magic all starts with our house-made pumpkin sauce, a special blend of 100% real pumpkin puree, brown sugar, apple cider, vanilla, cinnamon, allspice, and clove, topped with your choice of milk and espresso," read a description for the Pumpkin Slice Latte on Alfred's website.

The pumpkin drinks will be available through the end of November, with Alfred launching holiday drinks on December 1. The holiday menu includes an OatNog Latte, Mint Mocha and Mint Cocoa Cold Foam.

"The weather outside might be frightful, but our new Mint Cocoa Cold Foam is so delightful," read a description. "Your choice of milk blended with a festive peppermint syrup and dark cocoa powder, rec-



Brisket

PHOTO COURTESY OF CINQUETERRE WEST

ommend pairing with a cold brew, iced americano or iced matcha americano."

Over at Starbucks, which has two locations in the Palisades (The Village and The Highlands), pumpkin season has come to an end, but with that comes the arrival of holiday beverages.

This year's holiday drinks at Starbucks include Peppermint Mocha, Caramel Brulée Latte, Chestnut Praline Latte and, for the first time, the Iced Gingerbread Oatmilk Chai.

"Our spiced chai tea blend is paired with gingerbread-flavored syrup and creamy oatmilk on ice," read a description on the Starbucks website for the new



Caramel Brulée Latte

PHOTO COURTESY OF STARBUCKS

beverage.

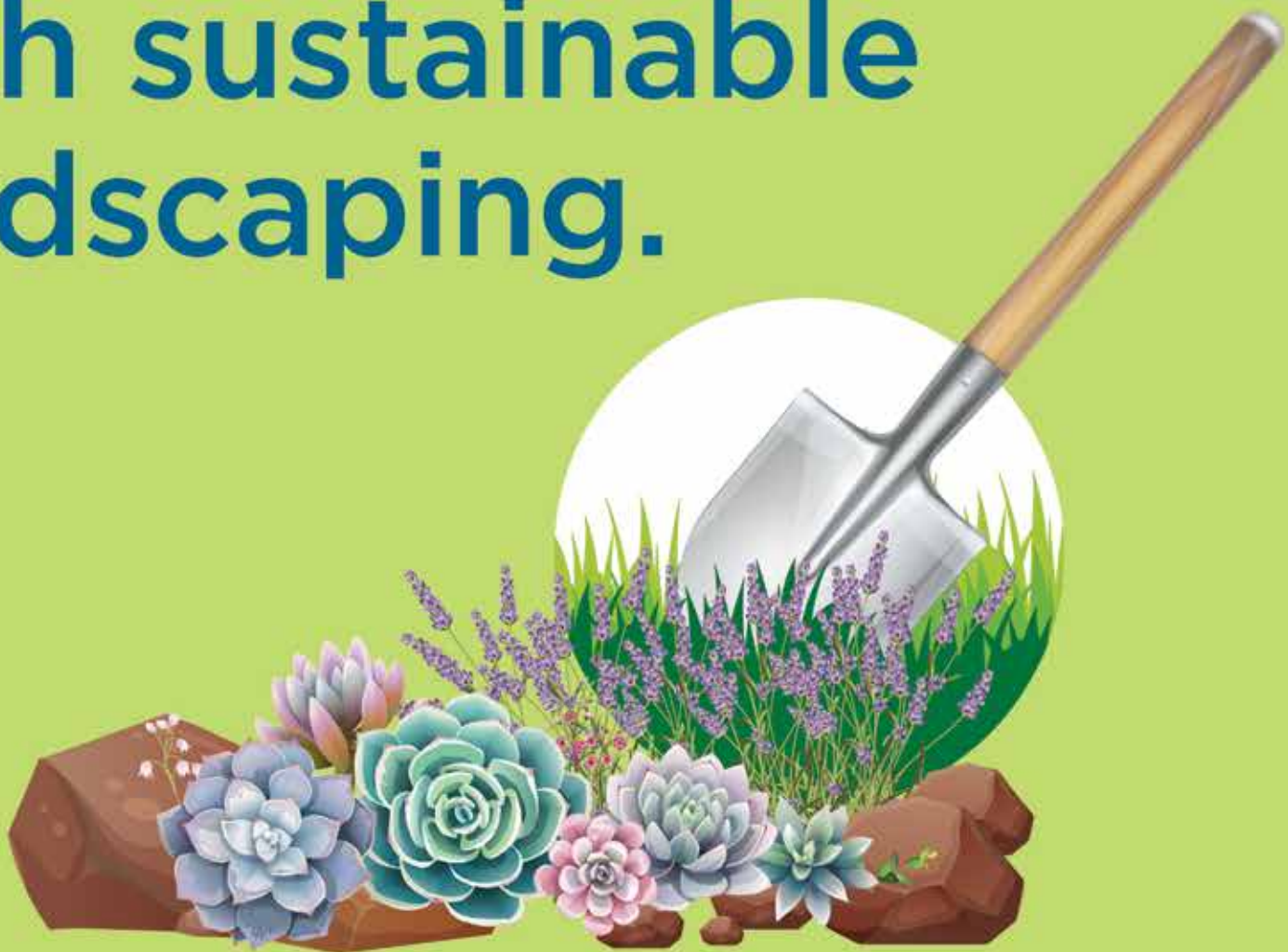
There is also an Iced Sugar Cookie Almondmilk Latte and Peppermint Mocha Frappuccino blended beverage.

alfred.la; starbucks.com



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Guide to Celebrating the Holidays

From menorah lighting to HoHoHo!—here is a look at several different ways to partake in local traditions.

BY LILY TINOCO



'The Nutcracker'

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERYL MANN



YMCA Tree Lot



HoHoHo!

PHOTOS BY RICH SCHMITT



HoHoHo!

With plenty of activities to choose from, Palisadians can consider adding these festive events, experiences and performances to their holiday-time to-do list.

PALISADES-MALIBU YMCA TREE LOT

As the holiday season arrives in Pacific Palisades, so do a variety of fresh Christmas trees.

Palisadians can get theirs from Palisades-Malibu YMCAs annual Christmas Tree Lot at Simon Meadow, which opens December 1 at 3 p.m.

Palisades-Malibu YMCA has been providing community members with fresh trees for years.

"Generations of kids, parents, neighbors and friends have come to buy a tree and celebrate the season," according to a previous poster.

The sale of trees acts as a major fundraising event for the YMCA, helping provide programs and financial assistance to families in need, and beyond.

The 2023 selection includes a variety of trees, like nobles, Nordmann and Silvertips, ranging from table-top size to 14 feet. Special decorative items will also be available for sale, including wreaths, wooden reindeer and garland by the foot.

The lot is open Monday through Friday from 3 to 7 p.m., as well as Saturdays and

Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT PALISADES VILLAGE

'Tis the season to be merry—community members can partake in a number of local holiday experiences at Palisades Village.

To kick off the season, Palisades Village is bringing back its annual Holiday Stroll on Saturday, December 2, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"Spirited music and merrymaking will spill onto Swarthmore Avenue, creating a

pedestrian-friendly town center," according to a statement.

The Holiday Stroll will feature live holiday performances, snowfalls, photo moments with Santa Claus and more. Guests can also enjoy in-store promotions and treats from some of Palisades Village's retailers and restaurants.

Chabad Jewish Community Center of Pacific Palisades is again partnering with Caruso to present the annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony at Palisades Village.

Festivities will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, which is the first

of eight nights of Hanukkah this year. The event will feature musical entertainment, family-friendly activities and refreshments, followed by greetings from city officials and blessings from Rabbi Zushe Cunin.

The Menorah Lighting Ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. The event is free of charge and open to the community.

'SHINE BRIGHT ALL NIGHT': PPCC'S HOLIDAY DINNER & AWARDS GALA

Community members are invited to attend the Pacific Palisades Community Council Holiday Awards Gala & Dinner. With the theme "Shine Bright All Night," the annual event will take place on Wednesday, December 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Draycott in Palisades Village.

An annual tradition, the awards celebrate community volunteering efforts, including Citizen of the Year, Golden Sparkplugs and Pride of the Palisades.

"This 50-year tradition promises to be better than ever with a wonderful dinner and a festive setting, fabulous honorees, and great speeches, alongside friends, community members and local officials," PPCC Chair Maryam Zar said in a statement. "Celebrate with us at The Draycott ... celebrate the holiday season, mingle with friends and neighbors, toast to the community, and cheer our 2023 honorees."



PPCC Holiday Dinner & Awards Gala

PHOTO BY RICH SCHMITT

The event will also feature a silent auction and a wine fundraiser. Funds raised will go toward supporting the council's efforts.

Tickets for the event are \$125 per person, or \$240 per couple, and community members are encouraged to attend.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit pacpalicc.org.

ANNUAL HOHOHO!

A beloved community tradition for more than 70 years, this year's holiday HoHoHo! is back at Simon Meadow on Saturday, December 9, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Santa Claus and his team have visited Pacific Palisades each holiday season during HoHoHo! since December 1949. Organized by the YMCA FUN Committee, this year's event will kick off with Santa riding down the streets of town aboard Los Angeles Fire Department Station 69's fire truck, followed by a lineup of entertainment and performances, activities, local food offerings, and more.

"After decades, [HoHoHo!] remains one of the most heartwarming Palisades traditions—a free holiday family festival built for the community by the community," Palisadian Lou Kamer said to *90272 Magazine*. "It exists to watch kids jump up and down when Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive on the Station 69 fire truck, or when proud parents watch their kids dance and sing on an outdoor stage amidst a Christmas

tree forest."

One lucky Palisadian family will also have the opportunity to ride atop LAFD Station 69's fire truck with Santa Claus and local firefighters during this year's event. Event organizers invited the community to enter the raffle for a chance to win.

Raffle tickets, which are \$40, can be purchased in-person at Palisades Branch Library or at the YMCA Christmas Tree Lot at Simon Meadow.

Raffle tickets are on sale now through Thursday, December 7. All proceeds will directly benefit the YMCA Food Distribution Program.

THEATRE PALISADES 10TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RADIO SHOW

The Theatre Palisades Actors' Troupe will host its 10th Annual Christmas Radio Show on Wednesday, December 13, at Pierson Playhouse.

This year, actors will present Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," a reenactment of a 1940's radio show.

Festivities will begin at 7 p.m. with "Christmas Cheer" refreshments, followed by the show at 7:30 p.m.

Dubbed "fun for the whole family," the show is free to attend—the Actors' Troupe requested that attendees bring a canned good to donate to Westside Food Bank.

For more information, visit theatrepalisades.org/tpat.

WESTSIDE BALLET'S 'THE NUTCRACKER'

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, Westside Ballet of Santa Monica's holiday-time ballet "The Nutcracker" will return to the stage this year with several Palisadian dancers.

"As we celebrate Westside Ballet's remarkable 50th anniversary production, we honor our legacy through the exceptional artistry of our star alumni," Producer and Westside Ballet President Judith Meister said in a statement.

Three Westside Ballet alumni—Tiler Peck, and Palisadians Lucia Connolly and Lyrica Woodruff—will each take center stage as the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Westside Ballet's late Co-Founder Yvonne Mounsey first brought "The Nutcracker" to Los Angeles in 1973, adding her own choreography—today, the company's rendition of the ballet is Southern California's longest-running production.

From 1973 to 2011, Mounsey oversaw Westside Ballet's annual performances of the show, teaching dancers the same choreography and techniques she learned directly from George Balanchine. The show is a close rendition of Balanchine's classical ballet, which was an homage to the original story—first danced in 19th century Russia.

Set to the score of Tchaikovsky led by The Santa Monica College Symphony

Orchestra, this year's production will feature over 107 dancers, 225 costumes and four "lavishly designed" scenes.

"This year's 'Nutcracker' is poised to be an unforgettable journey into the enchanting world of dance, art and magic, blending the spirit of tradition with the brilliance of our talented performers," Meister added.

Show times are Saturday, November 25, at 1 and 5 p.m.; Sunday, November 26, at 1 and 5 p.m.; Saturday, December 2, at 1 and 5 p.m.; and Sunday, December 3, at 1 and 5 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit westsideballet.com/nuttix or call 800-595-4849.



Menorah Lighting Ceremony

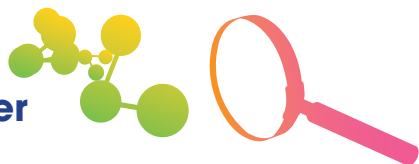
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Sun. 9am-5pm

Spirit of Giving

Organizations provide residents a chance to give back during the holiday season and beyond.

Representatives from several area organizations report on some of the work they accomplished in 2023, and offer ways for 90272 Magazine readers to support their programming.

PACIFIC PALISADES WOMAN'S CLUB

Samantha Dale
President

What is Pacific Palisades Woman's Club and what is some of the work that it does?

PPWC is a nonprofit organization that has been serving the Palisades community since 1925. Our focus is enhancing the quality of life in the Palisades through education, recreation, beautification, community service and charitable causes.

We volunteer with Meals on Wheels, host an annual 90th birthday party, have a robust grant program and give annual scholarships to students at Palisades Charter High School.

This year we hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive, and they received over 40 pints of much-needed blood. We also hosted a flu shot clinic and gave 90 people free vaccinations.

What did PPWC work to support in particular in 2023? Is there a standout moment of giving back to highlight?

All of the money we raise is given away to local organizations, and we try to spread it around in a meaningful way. In 2023 we resumed having an in-person grant night and were able to hand out checks to 25 organizations—everyone that applied. This was definitely a highlight and set the tone to begin raising funds for 2024.

The board was challenged with the task of raising even more funds than last year. Our directors of fundraising and events have been extremely creative in planning new events that suit their style and creativ-

ity. Such as the silent auction that Bruce Lurie Gallery generously hosted for us, and the Holiday Gift Bazaar that had a unique and sophisticated group of vendors—definitely not your Grandma's holiday boutique.

How can people in the community support PPWC?

Well, if you are a woman, then we invite you to join us. We have a great time together doing all of these wonderful events together and more.

I would like to ask the community to please help in supporting our fundraisers if they are able. If you are unable to attend, we welcome any donations as well.

RESILIENT PALISADES

Ingrid Steinberg
Co-Founder and
Board President

What is Resilient Palisades and what is some of the work that it does?

Resilient Palisades is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit embodying a local, neighborhood response to the climate crisis. We bring neighbors together to work in teams on the climate issues we care about. We work with students, local businesses and institutions, and other community members to help Pacific Palisades reduce our collective ecological footprint and promote sustainable ways of living.

Currently, we have six teams: Clean Energy (group purchasing of solar and battery storage), Vegan Solutions, Zero-Waste, Clean Air and Water - Green Gardens (working on reducing gas leaf blowers in our community), Water Sages, and Green Banking.

What did Resilient Palisades work to support in particular in 2023? Is there a standout moment of giving back to highlight?

This year we would like to highlight the incredible work of our Clean Air and Water - Green Gardens team, led by



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESILIENT PALISADES



Janice Crystal, Susan Fairbairn, Susie Fitzgerald, Sheda Morshed and Gail Wirth, who partnered with local gardeners to reduce the number gas leaf blowers in the Palisades.

In 2023 the team funded and purchased the highest quality commercial gas-free leaf blowers and batteries for 45 Palisades gardeners. Upward of 800 families and their neighbors will be positively impacted by healthier and quieter yard work.

This was accomplished through generous angel donors, our fundraising campaign that connected Palisades gardeners with their homeowners, and painstakingly enrolling each gardener in the state's CORE voucher program. Many of



the gardeners were able to purchase additional battery-powered equipment on their own, such as hedge trimmers and lawn mowers, because of

the voucher program.

How can people in the community support Resilient Palisades?

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Members of the community can find out more about our work on our website, resilientpalisades.org, and can sign up to get regular email updates and invitations. We welcome community members to join our teams. To find out more, email ingrid@resilientpalisades.org.

We are grateful to the community for the generous donations that make our work possible. You can donate on our website or reach out to us to discuss ways to sponsor specific projects.

MEALS ON WHEELS WEST

Chris Baca
Executive Director

What is Meals on Wheels West and what is some of the work that it does?

Meals on Wheels West is a lifeline for vulnerable populations in Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Venice, Marina del Rey and neighboring coastal communities. We deliver to more than 20 people in Pacific Palisades. There is hidden hunger even in the most affluent communities.

With nearly five decades of commitment, we provide nutritious meals, social connections and referrals to essential services for seniors, veterans, individuals with disabilities and formerly unhoused individuals. We serve people of all ages; our programs foster independence, dignity, wellbeing and a renewed sense of community.

What did Meals on Wheels West work to support in particular in 2023? Is there a standout moment of giving back to highlight?

MOW West's Supporting Veterans on the Homefront program partners with American Legion Ronald Reagan – Palisades Post 283 to provide meals to veterans and their spouses. We are “delivering more than a meal” to more than 100 veterans and spouses. In the Palisades we deliver to Conrad, an Air Force veteran.

“Meals on Wheels West has been very helpful to me,” Conrad said. “It has been a benefit for all this time.”

How can people in the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MEALS ON WHEELS WEST

community support Meals on Wheels West?

Meals on Wheels West is blessed to partner with Pacific Palisades Woman's Club. Their members deliver meals for us in Palisades and Santa Monica. We are always in need of delivery volunteers.

We are also in need of Community Connections Friendly Calling volunteers. Those volunteers call the same two clients weekly just to do informal wellness checks and have a friendly conversation. Volunteers can make referrals and resources from a list we provide. Calls are made from your home or office. Of course, we always welcome donations.

To volunteer, donate or refer someone in need of meals, contact Meals on Wheels West at 310-394-5133.

MOLLY STEINSAPIR FOUNDATION

Kaye Steinsapir
Founder

What is the Molly Steinsapir Foundation and what is some of the work that it does?

The Molly Steinsapir Foundation honors the life and legacy of our daughter, Molly,

who was tragically killed in a bicycling accident in 2021.

Molly was deeply passionate about caring for animals, those most in need and our planet. Through her nonprofit foundation, we do as much good as we can for as many as possible.

Molly's foundation is run by volunteers and has no overhead, so all tax-deductible donations go directly to causes that were important to Molly.

What did the foundation work to support in particular in 2023? Is there a standout moment of giving back to highlight?

In 2023 alone, we donated tens of thousands to Marquez Charter Elementary School, Kehillat Israel, Chabad Jewish Community Center, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA and more.

We also purchased and raised donations for over 300 people who were transitioning from living on the streets to housing as part of Mayor Karen Bass' Inside Safe Program. Dozens of volunteers gathered at Kehillat Israel, where we assembled bags containing Target gift cards, blankets,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAYE STEINSAPIR



towels, full-sized toiletries, socks, T-shirts, etc.

Molly never passed an unhoused person without helping, even if she offered them half her bagel and a warm smile. We know she is proud of all the good work being done in her name.

How can people in the community support the foundation?

People can support the Molly Steinsapir Foundation by donating via our website, mollysteinsapir.com, or contacting us to volunteer at our ongoing community service projects.



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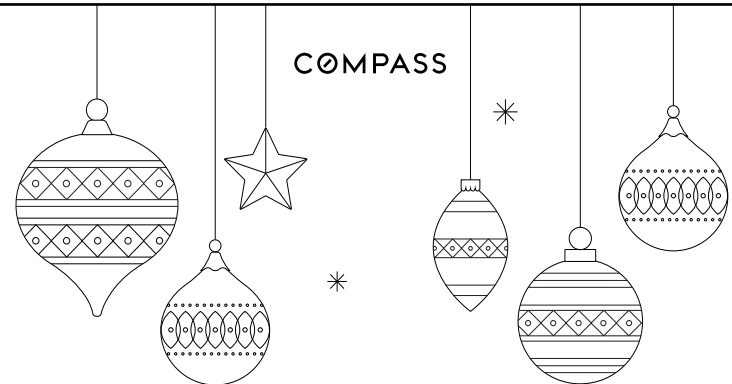
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The Gift of Travel

Eat.Drink.Sleep Hotels offers Black Friday/Cyber Monday deals.



Bellanca Hotel

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EAT.DRINK.SLEEP HOTELS

The best pricing of the year makes a stay on Catalina Island or the beach in San Diego a great gift to remember.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday are here, and Eat.Drink.Sleep hotels offers a sale where there are no black-out dates and travel is good for a full year.

During its biggest sale of the year, Eat.Drink.Sleep offers 25% off room rates at all five of its hotels this year with travel dates available for the next year.

This includes Tower23—voted as one of the top 25 hotels on the water in the U.S. by TripAdvisor and its *Wine Spectator* award-winning destination restaurant, JRDN—and Bellanca Hotel—recently voted No. 1 hotel on the Catalina Island by TimeOut—and The Naughty Fox, Catalina Island's lifestyle boutique hotel and restaurant with spanning ocean views.

Book dates run Friday, November 24, to Monday, November 27, with travel dates from December 1, to December 1, 2024.

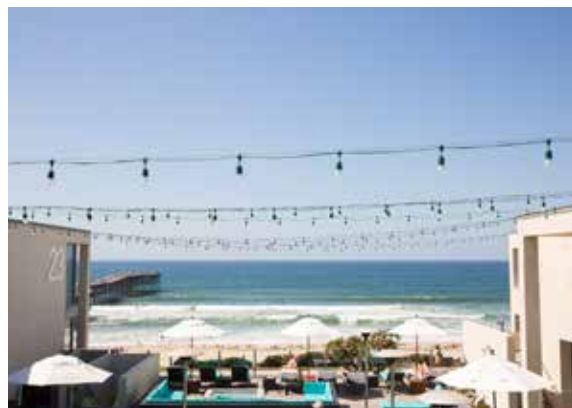
EDS' portfolio of hotels includes The Padre Hotel, Bakersfield's only 4-Diamond Hotel, which sits in the city's downtown neighborhood; The Rambler Motel, a '70s-inspired roadside motel in Chula Vista, California; and Heat Hotel, with 4,000 square feet of views on Lake Havasu and the historic London Bridge.

TOWER23

Tower 23 is billed as San Diego's only luxury, lifestyle hotel on the beach and its award-winning restaurant, JRDN, is one of the region's favorite beachfront seafood restaurants.

Tower23 has a clean and modern design, high-end amenities, and distinguished furnishings, creating a balance between laid back and luxury. Neo-modernist in approach, the hotel offers a minimalist but playful setting for guests seeking a Southern California beach stay.

JRDN, a *Wine Spectator's* 2022 Award of Excellence winner, has recently announced a new



Tower23

Executive Chef, Jerry Ranson, bringing fresh seafood and new, modern dishes and a weekly dinner club to one of San Diego's beachfront dining and lounging destinations.

Located steps from the sand on Pacific Beach, Tower23's name is derived from the lifeguard tower positioned on the beach, near the hotel.

La Jolla is just north of the hotel, while downtown San Diego/Gaslamp Quarter is nearby. The vibrant beach life sets the tone and defines the overall vibe, style and architecture.

BELLANCA HOTEL

Bellanca Hotel, TimeOut's No. 1 hotel on Catalina Island, recently completed a multi-million-dollar, top-to-bottom renovation, has an ocean view Rooftop Lounge reserved for guests, and is home to Naughty Fox, a modern beach bar serving coastal cuisine.

Naughty Fox overlooks Avalon Bay, and is Catalina's newest spot for dining and lounging, offering a spin to classic dishes for both guests and locals.

Located just 23 miles from mainland, the island is accessible by a one-hour boat ride on Catalina Express.

Bellanca Hotel is in downtown Avalon and situated directly in front of the beach. Nearby dining, as well as all the island's local attractions and adventures, are just footsteps away.

Happy Holidays!

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Comfort and Joy: Four Holiday Pizzettas

Palisadian Ruth Laurent-Kocher gives “inspiration for creating healthy home-cooked food every day,” including holidays.

BY RUTH LAURENT-KOCHER

Pretty much anything can work on a flatbread—or as I call it, a pizzetta—but for a holiday theme, I wanted to bring together a range of colors and flavors that celebrate the season and feel a little more indulgent than everyday food.

These four delicious pizzettas are fabulous, festive food to serve your friends or family at a holiday party or as a fun pass-around appetizer pre-dinner. Each treats us with a different tasty cheese, seasonal fruit, nuts and toppings—a range of sweet and savory to celebrate that will bring a little comfort and joy.

They are super easy to make and quick to cook; just be sure to give yourself the time to prepare everything. I would put 45 minutes to one hour aside to prep and assemble (pop on some holiday music and pour yourself a drink) and 15 minutes to cook. The great thing is they can be pre-prepared earlier in the day, and assembled and cooked as needed.

You can quickly adapt to your tastes or diets, too. I have included one using prosciutto, but this could easily be substituted with thin slices of mushrooms for a full menu of vegetarian pizzettas. Gluten-free adaptations work, too, if you know where to buy a good gluten-free pizza or flatbread base.

The ingredients listed below make one large pizza base or two small ones for each type of pizzetta and serve six to eight people—double up for more significant numbers.

Prepare:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees and make the only two items that need to be cooked in preparation. First, the Roasted Cranberries: place the six ingredients listed below in a baking dish, and bake for 15 to 20 minutes until soft and sticky. As they bake, cook the Caramelized Pears. Slice the pears and red onion, and sauté with the thyme in a shallow frying pan for five minutes. When ready, take the cranberries out of the oven and stir well, then take the pears off the heat and put both to one side.
2. Take four large plates or serving dishes/platters, and lay out the ingredients and the garnishes you will use for each pizzetta, as detailed below. (This may seem unnecessary at first, but it really helps an efficient assembly.)

Ingredients:

4 large (or 8 small) precooked pizza bases, flatbreads or naan breads

Roasted Cranberry, Almond and Goat Cheese

- Roasted Cranberry (bake in oven in dish)
 - 1 cup fresh cranberries
 - 2 tsp maple syrup
 - 1 chopped leek, white part
 - 1 tsp balsamic vinegar



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUTH LAURENT-KOCHER

- ½ tsp dried thyme
 - ¼ tsp ground salt
 - 4 oz plain goat's cheese
 - 1 cup of sliced almonds
- Garnish before serving with a few fresh arugula leaves and pomegranate arils/seeds.*

Caramelized Pear, Walnut and Gorgonzola

- Caramelized Pears (sauté in a pan)
 - 2 tbsp butter
 - 1 pear, cored and thinly sliced
 - ½ red onion, very thinly sliced
 - ½ tsp fresh or dried thyme
 - ½ pack gorgonzola/blue cheese, crumbled or sliced thinly
 - ¼ cup coarsely chopped walnuts
 - Drizzle of honey and olive oil
- Garnish before serving with a few fresh arugula leaves and a squeeze of lemon.*

Raspberry, Pecan and Baked Brie

- 4 oz brie cheese, thinly sliced and rind removed
 - ½ cup raspberry jam or preserves
 - 1 cup fresh raspberries
 - 1 tsp dried rosemary, chopped
 - 1 cup pecans, halves or pieces
 - Shake of ground cinnamon
- Garnish before serving with a drizzle*

of honey.

Fig, Prosciutto and Melted Mozzarella

- 4 oz fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced into thin rounds
 - 5-6 fresh figs, sliced into thin rounds
 - 6-8 thin slices (one packet) prosciutto
 - Salt and freshly ground pepper
- Garnish before serving with fresh basil leaves and a drizzle of thick balsamic syrup.*

Directions:

1. Heat the oven to 400 degrees and lightly oil the bases, flatbreads or gluten-free alternatives, and arrange the toppings on each pizzetta.
2. Bake on a tray for 10 to 15 minutes. Check to make sure the bases of the pizzas do not burn; the top should be starting to brown or bubble.
3. Take out of the oven, add garnish to each one.
4. Use a pizza slicer to cut into slices, strips or bite-size pieces, and serve.

Palisadian Ruth brings executive function to her personal passion for healthy home-cooked food in her first book, “Step Up To Dinner.” To arrange a group workshop, private consultation or purchase a copy of her meal planning guide and cookbook, email ruth@uptotheplate.org or go to uptotheplate.org.

Tis the Season for Sustainability

90272 Magazine shares tips and tricks for cutting waste this holiday season.

BY SARAH SHMERLING

When it comes to the holiday season, there are many ways to cut back on waste and create a more sustainable way to celebrate. From food on the table to the final gift, *90272 Magazine* has put together a list of tips and tricks to consider this year.

MAKE A LIST, CHECK IT TWICE ... THEN BUY NOTHING

As the saying goes, the best things in life are free—and there is no time like the holidays to dive into the Buy Nothing movement.

There are 900-plus members in the Pacific Palisades iteration of Buy Nothing on Facebook, a gift economy movement started almost a decade ago in the Pacific Northwest in an island community near Seattle by Liesl Clark and Rebecca Rockefeller.

“Each of us has the power to form a local gift economy around us that is complementary and parallel to worldwide cash economies,” according to the Buy Nothing website. “Whether people join because they’d like to quickly get rid of things that are cluttering their lives, or simply to save money by getting things for free, they soon discover that Buy Nothing is not just another free recycling platform.”

The group allows posts with “asks, gives and gratitude.” For a give, a participant makes a post about an item they would like to give away—which range from about-to-expire foods to a set of dining room tables and chairs—then group members who are interested comment on the post saying so. The original poster then selects a person to give to, and then coordinates the pickup/receiving of said item.

Consider joining Buy Nothing now to keep an eye out for gifts to give, or to make an ask ahead of the holiday season.

To learn more about the Buy Nothing Project, visit buynothingproject.org. To join the Palisades-specific group, visit [facebook.com/groups/597624983671604](https://www.facebook.com/groups/597624983671604).



PHOTO BY SARAH SHMERLING

GIFTING AN EXPERIENCE

There are plenty of options for sustainable gifting, right here in the Palisades: give the gift of a hyper-local experience.

There are several experiences available for gifting, from music to theater and beyond.

Theatre Palisades has a 2024 Season Package available for its five shows, which include “Beau Jest,” “A View from the Bridge,” “The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940,” “The Rocky Horror Show” and “Private Eyes.” More information is available at theatrepalisades.org.

For those more musically inclined, St. Matthew’s Music Guild 2023-24 season is underway, with single concert tickets or season passes available for purchase at musicguildonline.org. Upcoming concerts include Raehann Bryce-Davis on February 2, 2024, and Hye-Jin Kim on March 8, 2024.

The 27th season of Chamber Music Palisades is also underway, with upcoming concerts to include a world premiere by Todd Mason on January 24, 2024, and Harpischord on Wednesday, March 13. Single tickets are available for \$35 or a season subscription for \$120 all at cmpalisades.org.

RECYCLED WRAPPING PAPER

Once Mom, Dad, siblings, cousins, etc. have been checked off the gift list, it’s time to get to wrapping. Instead of using store-



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUY NOTHING

glitter or other metallic materials, and even those that are recyclable sometimes end up in the trash during the holiday rush to clean. In fact, approximately 4.6 million pounds of wrapping paper is produced in the U.S. each year, according to Earth911—with about 2.3 million pounds ending up in landfills.

Other items that can be used for gift wrapping include magazines and maps, as well as reused wrapping paper.

MEAT-FREE SIDE DISHES

Depending on who will be sitting around the table, the holidays might not be the time to go full vegan—but you don’t have to go all or nothing to still create a more sustainable tablescape.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 46 million turkeys are eaten on Thanksgiving Day alone, while, according to a report by *The Washington Post*, nearly 25 million pounds of ham are consumed.

The effects eating meat has on the environment are widely reported, including directly producing greenhouse gas emissions and requiring more land and/or resources than other plant-based foods.

This year, my family will be partaking in a semi-vegetarian Thanksgiving: Our menu includes a turkey, but we will have vegetarian options, including a vegetable pot pie, figs in a blanket, butter-nut squash soup and stuffing.



Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Holidays!

Josie Tong, CIPS

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Fluent in English, Mandarin & Cantonese, Josie Tong is a REALTOR® at Sotheby’s International Realty—Beverly Hills, representing local and international buyers and sellers of luxury properties. Before real estate, Josie enjoyed a successful corporate career in consulting and the technology industry. Josie loves travel, foreign affairs, arts and architecture. She is actively involved with the community, including the American Red Cross, Iris Cantor-UCLA Women’s Health Center, Pacific Palisades Woman’s Club, Pacific Council on International Policy, Los Angeles World Affairs Council, the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce and the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce.

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