

south florida's lgbt lifestyle magazine

winter 2015 • 04

# palette



## ALTERNATIVE PARENTING

It's All in the Family

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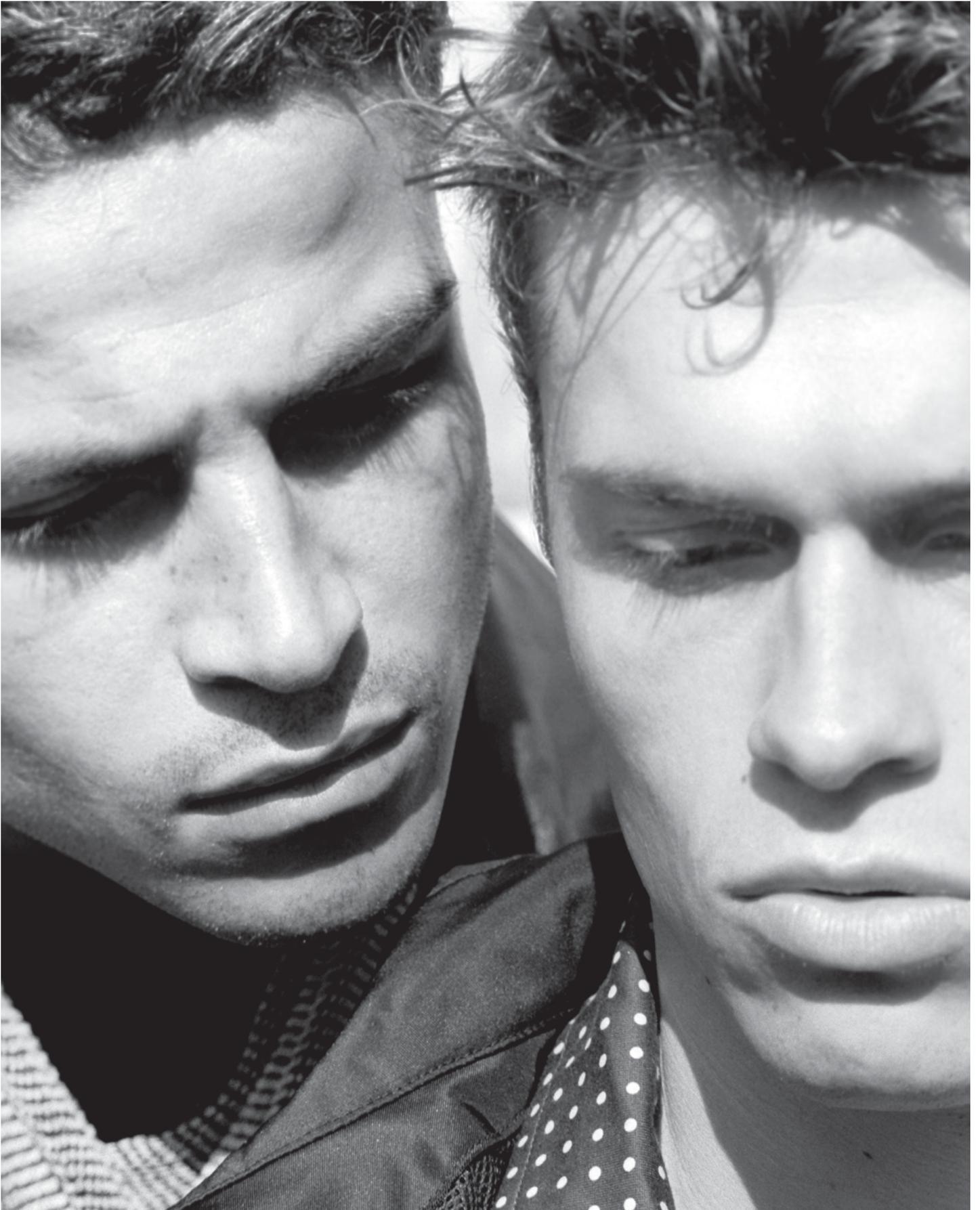
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# art miami

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# FEATURES

## 028 • **alternative parenting**

While starting a family is a process that has taken place since the beginning of civilization, some American families are forging a brave new trail.

## 034 • **culinary artistry**

Elegant and flavorful, the dishes and ambience delicately crafted by local catering company Le Basque have elevated art exhibit openings and wedding parties from eventful to sublime.

## 042 • **follow the snow**

We may have an abundance of sunshine and watersports, but sometimes winter just begs for a little snowy action. That's why this season you should go West!

## 048 • **the joy of giving**

Whether you're clear out of ideas or a gift-giving maven, there's always something new or different to consider. Who knows? Any one of these wonderful items could make a great gift to self!



### **on the cover:**

Vanessa Bench and Sandra Garcia with Hector and Genesis; photography by Christina Mendenhall; hair and makeup by JPenn Hair and Makeup Artist.



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022



026



064

# DEPARTMENTS

## 014 • **in tune**

Whether you are more of a diva or a firebrand, you will feel right in your element with these end-of-year selections.

## 016 • **statement pieces**

Attend parties and gatherings dressed in cool tones that boldly propose that blue is indeed the warmest color.

## 020 • **chez moi**

Playful, quirky, topsy-turvy — who said the holidays have to be a serious affair? Celebrate the season with childlike abandon.

## 022 • **get cultured**

If this is the year you're going from casual admirer to avid art collector, we've got a few tips on how to pick the right piece.

## 024 • **the dish**

Strap on your highest heels and break out the bubbly — it's time to ring in the New Year! And quite a few South Florida restaurants have plans for a proper send off.

## 026 • **after hours**

Delicious, delectable, sometimes even decadent — the hot beverages served up locally are sure to keep you warm and toasty during the coldest days.

## 054 • **on trend**

If you're the guest of honor — or sit just to the right of that lucky person — you may find yourself delivering a toast. Even if the very thought gives you chills, don't fret! We have you covered.

## 056 • **health check**

While for many this is the most wonderful time of the year, it's also high flu season, but there are ways to alleviate symptoms and even avoid infection altogether.

## 058 • **serious business**

Laura Kaplan, a private client advisor with the U.S. Trust who specializes in the hotel and hospitality industry, shares her insight.

## 060 • **the scene**

Were you there? Find out who was rocking out at this year's Womenfest, Pink Flamingo Awards, Fantasy Fest and SAVE's Halloween Ball.

## 064 • **season's highlights**

Mark your calendar! Artistic events and outdoor activities promise to keep us all enjoying the beautiful weather.

# What's your temptation?

Cruise enthusiast, hopeless romantic, shopaholic, sports nut, art lover, film fanatic, spa aficionado, foodie, kid at heart, music hound, history buff...

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CRUISE  
MONTH**  
january

**MIAMI  
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MONTH**  
february

**SHOP  
MIAMI  
MONTH**  
march

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MONTH**  
april

**MIAMI  
MUSEUM  
MONTH**  
may

**MIAMI  
FILM  
MONTH**  
june

**MIAMI  
SPA  
MONTH**  
july+august

**MIAMI  
SPICE  
MONTH**  
august+september

**MIAMI  
ATTRACTIONS  
MONTH**  
october

**MIAMI  
LIVE  
MONTH**  
november

**MIAMI  
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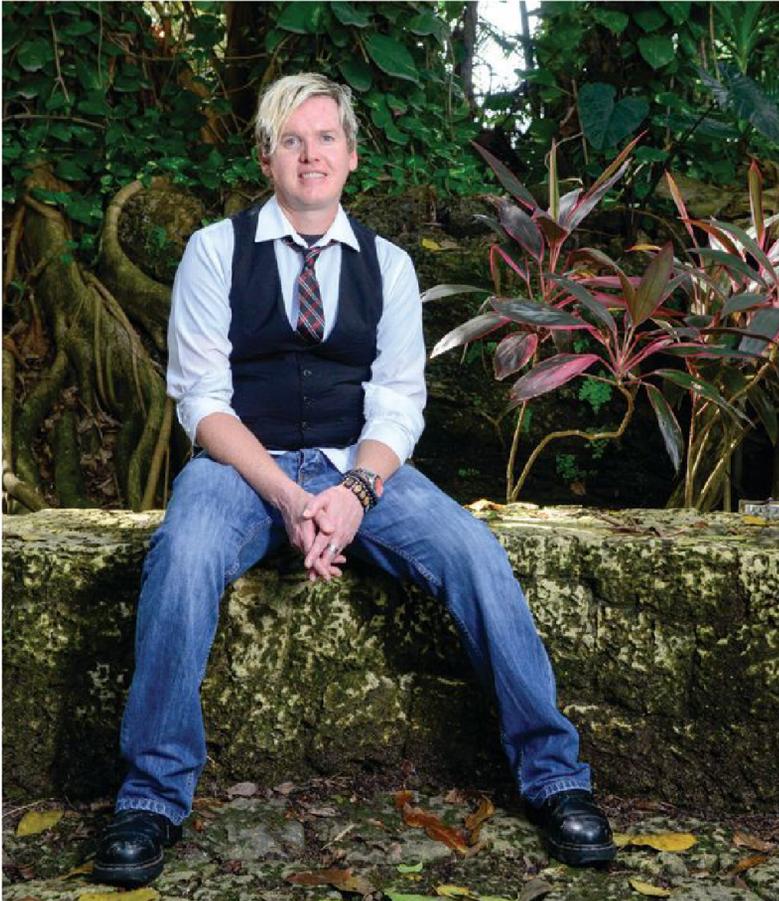
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## IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

**W**e have come to that time when we reflect on the year's events. As I look back on 2015, I'm still amazed that less than 12 months ago *Palette* was a mere idea floating around our office. I'm happy to say that this issue marks our fourth and final one for 2015, and what an exciting year it has been!

As with any new venture, you never really know how it will be received. Luckily, *Palette* has met with great support and humbling praise. We have received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback, and most of it revolved around how a publications like this was sorely needed locally.

But the kudos didn't stay within the community. This past year we won several awards too,

among them the Florida Magazine Association's Charlie Award for Best New Magazine, Creativity International Awards' silver in the Magazine Design Complete category and a nod from American Inhouse Design Awards for Publication Design.

What makes this especially exciting is seeing that an LGBTQ publication is receiving so much recognition from the publishing industry.

As we careen toward 2016, I'm excited to announce that *Palette* will be going from quarterly to bi-monthly. We will strive to inform and entertain as we address some of the community's most pressing concerns.

We want to thank everyone for all the support. Knowing that you are behind us invigorates us to continue to work for you.

I hope you enjoy this issue. We have covered a number of engaging and fun topics from families to our first annual gift guide. We will see you again in February when our first issue of 2016 hits the streets. In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

Don't forget to send your tweets to @palettelgbt or drop me a line at ethan@miamiherald.com. We look forward to hearing from you. Be sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook as well. We'd love to see your holiday photos!

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# WE ASKED

What will you celebrate this holiday season?



**ANDII VIVEROS**  
*Youth Events Coordinator*  
SunServe

The holiday season of November and December is always my favorite time of year. It is a time to reflect over the past 12 months and open the door to a brand new year. I bask in the sparkle of the holiday season from the very first listen of "All I Want for Christmas is You," by Mariah Carey. This is also the time of year I enjoy traveling north to spend time with close relatives that may be miles away the rest of the year.



**RICHARD ALALOUF**  
*Volunteer Executive Director*  
South Florida Family Pride

There is a lot to celebrate. We finally have marriage equality in Florida. No matter what it means to people — positive or negative — it's just plain equality. That is a lot to celebrate, as it changed my life forever and granted me my forever child as mine. I will be celebrating this holiday season as I do every single day. I celebrate the blessing I have with my 5-year-old little boy, Logan. Perhaps I will do a little extra celebrating during the holidays: give my little boy extra hugs and kisses, let him indulge in extra desserts, spoil him with extra toys, but it will be about celebrating him and my life with him in it.



**MARK KENT**  
*Executive Director*  
Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida

As cliché as it sounds, this holiday season, I celebrate our human capacity to love. The holidays are such a symbolic time. At the root of almost all holiday symbols and traditions is a message of love. This year, I've been lucky enough to join the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida, and what a fantastic group of caring and LOVING people they are! This career move also brought me back to my home state of Florida, where I am able to more freely and easily share love with my family. And of course there's my absolutely amazing husband who has been by my side for 14 years now. 2015 has really highlighted for me that wonderful line the Wizard says to the Tin Man in the Wizard of Oz, "A heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others." I am humbled by the love people gift me. This holiday I celebrate that precious gift and the people who share it.



**ROW ILIESCU**  
*South Florida Development Director*  
Equality Florida

I will celebrate as I do everyday: my usefulness, this beautiful world and my loved ones. I'll do it with food, togetherness and fun festivities.

# palette

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# GET CONNECTED



**Steve Rothaus** covers LGBT issues in South Florida and is also the *Miami Herald's* assistant community news editor. Don't forget to check out Steve Rothaus' Gay South Florida News in the *Miami Herald* and at [miamiherald.com](http://miamiherald.com) — or follow his Twitter account, [@SteveRothaus](https://twitter.com/SteveRothaus) — for the latest information about our community.



## JULIE BALTER

Julie is a writer, yogi and calculated risk-taker. Her career has included everything from her 10+ years as a Screen Actors' Guild Florida Branch executive to her current role for LGBT-based marketing campaigns, such as Kiss For Equality. She's a former yoga instructor at Prana Yoga in Miami, the blog creator of *Yogi After Forty* and a contributing writer for *Elephant Journal*. [yogiafterforty.com](http://yogiafterforty.com)



## JOHN DANGAN

John Dangan was raised on a cattle ranch in the high deserts of Nevada before graduating from San Francisco State University's Creative Writing Program. He has lived in the four corners of the continental U.S., from Washington and California to New York and now South Florida, which ultimately leads him to believe he has found a happy medium between being a country and city mouse. Most of his free time is spent in the kitchen with his chef-fiancée as her honorary taste tester. Follow his culinary adventures on Instagram [@PerksOfDatingAChef](https://www.instagram.com/PerksOfDatingAChef).



## SHAYNE BENOWITZ

Shayne is the Hotels and Travel editor for *Miami.com* and a frequent contributor to the *Miami Herald*. She's also the Miami destination expert and a hotel critic for London's *Daily Telegraph*. Her work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Charlotte Observer* and in *Modern Luxury Interiors South Florida* and *Aventura* magazines.



## CHRISTINA MENDENHALL

Since she was a child, Christina has had a passion for photographing and filming an array of different subjects. She's been blessed with a gift for seeing the world in a unique way, and photography has given her the opportunity to explore this strange and beautiful world. She has documented everything from live music, people and street life to natural environments, sports, politics and architecture. [ThroughTheShutter.com](http://ThroughTheShutter.com)



## CARINA MASK

A photographer based out of South Florida, Carina was taken ahold by wanderlust ever since she was little. She loves to travel and take photos of landscapes and portraits. Being half Japanese, she spent a lot of time overseas being exposed to different cultures. She has a passion for documenting and exploring how people from diverse backgrounds see the world. [SeaofColour.com](http://SeaofColour.com)



## JUSTIN TRABERT

Justin has been in the fashion and luxury industry for over 18 years, during which he collaborated with such notable organizations as the Jeffrey store in New York City, Hugo Boss, Nanette Lepore and Y-3 Adidas. In his new role as the National Brand Ambassador for Christoffe Paris, he is a leader in the home décor and gift market and a knowledgeable expert in both traditional and modern day etiquette training.

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# LET THE MUSIC MOVE YOU

Whether it's a documentary, new album releases or a primer on punk, let the rhythm move you.

by GREGG SHAPIRO

The end of the year is usually a time for nostalgia and retrospectives, and the options available this season are simultaneously timely and timeless.

## Amy, Amy, Amy

There are any number of reasons why LGBT folks embraced the late diva **Amy Winehouse**. Her voice, a powerful instrument, emerged from the most unlikely place — a petite Jewish British girl. Her original songs had a certain sass that queer folks could both relate to and admire. Her look and style certainly inspired more than a

few drag queens and trans-people. Her untimely death at 27 in 2011 is considered by many to be the single greatest tragedy within the music industry so far in the 21st century. Asif Kapadia's informative and heartbreaking documentary, **Amy** (A24) — out on DVD in December — offers an unflinching view of the singular vocalist and songwriter. With rapier wit and a sense of humor that belied her youth, Winehouse's star ascended, blazed and ultimately faded out too soon. Rare archival footage helps reveal an astonishing portrait of Winehouse's life and creative process. Those interviewed for the film include Winehouse's childhood pals, Juliette Ashby and Lauren Gilbert; her divorced parents, Janis and Mitchell; friends and collaborators like Tony Bennett and Mark Ronson; and many others whose lives she touched.

[amyfilm.co.uk](http://amyfilm.co.uk)

## Melody Makers

This winter, divas of all stripes will strut their proverbial stuff. The shelves of record stores, iTunes and other music outlets will be stocked with a wide array of releases perfect for everyone's music library. Topping the list are albums by beloved songstresses **Janet Jackson** and **Adele**.

Seven years have passed since Jackson's last release, making **Unbreakable** (Unbreakable/BMG) one of the most anticipated recordings of the year — and of her career.

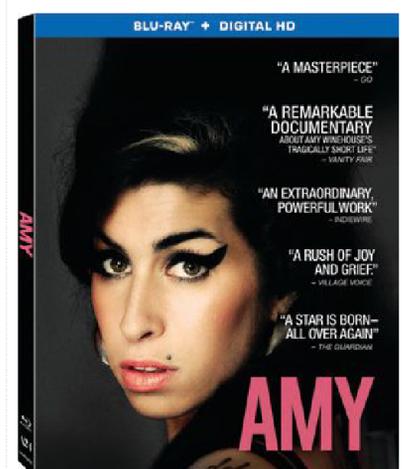
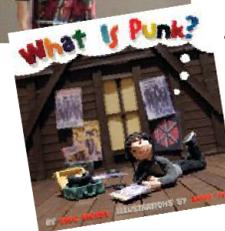
The new Columbia album by Grammy- and Oscar-award winner Adele has finally arrived. Four years after her multi-platinum career-defining sophomore effort **21**, **25** has generated more buzz than a healthy beehive.

[iTunes.com](http://iTunes.com)

## The Kids Are Alright

Described as “a music primer for children,” **What Is Punk?** (Akashic Books), by Eric Morse presents an accessible overview of the punk music scene from its beginnings with illustrations by Anny Yi. For those not in the know, the book is just as educational (and entertaining) for adults, too. Written in rhyme with photos of colorful clay characters set in iconic locations, **What Is Punk?** presents the history of the “deafening roar/that awakened the people,/like never before.” The musical legends that grace the pages include New York Doll David Johansen (appropriately in high heels), Debbie Harry, Lou Reed, Henry Rollins and the all-female band The Slits. **What Is Punk?** just might be the coolest bedtime story ever written.

[akashicbooks.com](http://akashicbooks.com)



• From top:  
*What Is Punk?*  
by Eric Morse;  
*Amy* dvd



Mitchell Gold  
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FEATURING: PRESLEY CHAIR, MOIRA PENDANT

The winter blues have never looked so good.

by CLAUDIA MIYAR

## TRUE BLUES

**B**lue is the color of the season. And it's no wonder — the hue complements every skin tone, can be worn from head to toe or used to add a pop of bold color to any outfit. Whether it's a dress with a structured neckline, a jacket that elevates the ubiquitous T-shirt and jeans ensemble, eye-catching metallic kicks or a statement-making bracelet, these pieces are proof that blue is the warmest of colors. •

1



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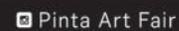
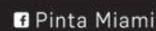
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— Andy Warhol



9

10



11



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12



where to buy •

7. Christian Louboutin Panettone Spikes Square Wallet: Christian Louboutin, Miami Design District, 155 NE 40th St.; 305.576.6820; [christianlouboutin.com](http://christianlouboutin.com) 8. Jimmy Choo Belgravia High Top Trainers in Capri Blue Metallic Saffiano: Jimmy Choo, Village of Merrick Park, 360 San Lorenzo Ave.; 305.443.6124; [jimmychoo.com](http://jimmychoo.com) 9. David Yurman Ultramarine Cuff With Black Orchid: Lapis Lazuli and Gray Sapphires, Bloomingdales, Aventura Mall, 19555 Biscayne Blvd.; 305.792.1000; [bloomingdales.com](http://bloomingdales.com) 10. Sonia Rykiel Flared Jeans: The Webster, 1220 Collins Ave.; 305.674.7899; [thewebstermiami.com](http://thewebstermiami.com) 11. Tom Ford Slim Fit Collar Stand Barrel Cuff Shirt & Dot on solid Basketweave Pattern classic silk tie: Tom Ford, Miami Design District, 103 NE 39th St.; 786.749.2600; [tomford.com](http://tomford.com) 12. Paul Smith Printed Washbag: Saks Fifth Avenue, Bal Harbour Shops, 9700 Collins Ave.; 305.865.1100; [saksfifthavenue.com](http://saksfifthavenue.com)

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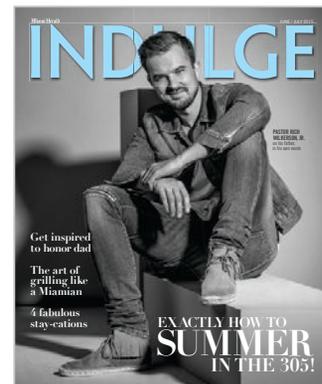
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*Top it off with a tree topper from Miami art collective Friends With You, in collaboration with Lladró.*

Deck the halls with out-of-the-box details.

by CLAUDIA MIYAR

# COMFORT & JOY

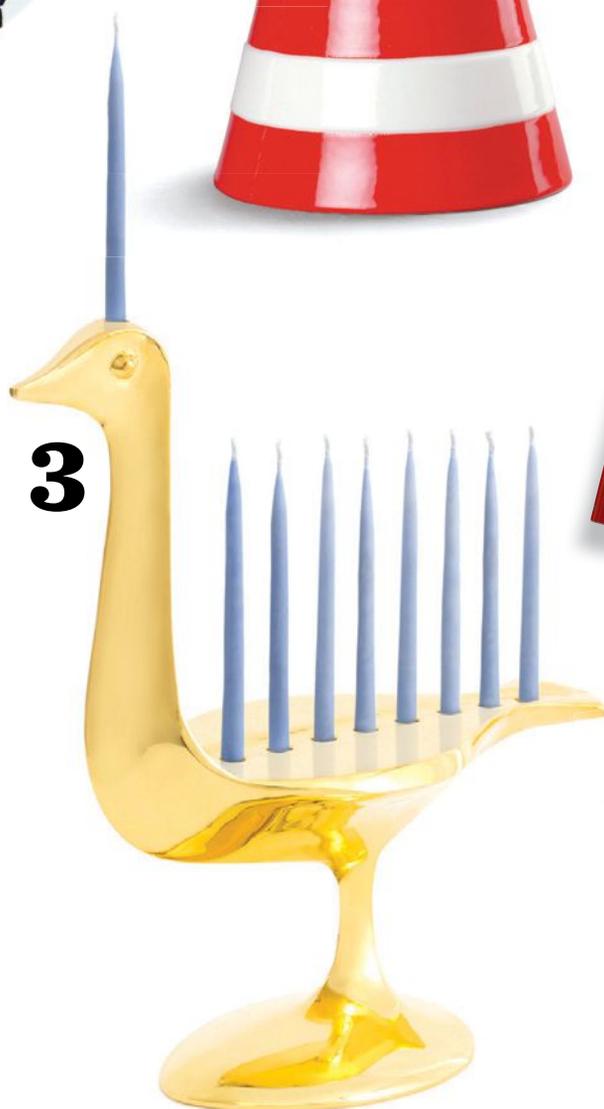
**T**his holiday season, make merry with playful elements that enhance the childlike wonder of the season. From cheeky reindeer plates and saucy ornaments to a gilded bird menorah, adding a bit of personality to the holiday mix is sure to delight kids of all ages.



2



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**where to buy**

1. Friends With You Tree Topper: Lladró, Miami Design District, 140 NE 39th St., Suite 204; 305.573.4659; [lladro.com](http://lladro.com)
2. Graphic Reindeer Appetizer Plates, Set of 4: Pottery Barn, The Galleria at Fort Lauderdale, 2336 E Sunrise Blvd.; 954.566.2201; [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com)
3. Brass Bird Menorah: Jonathan Adler, Miami Design District 4040 NE 2nd Ave.; 305.576.0200; [jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com)
4. A Treasury of Wintertime Tales by Noel Daniel: Taschen, Lincoln Road Mall; 1111 Lincoln Rd.; 305.538.6185; [taschen.com](http://taschen.com)
5. Chinese Takeout Ornament: Sur La Table, The Shops at Pembroke Gardens; 527 SW 145th Terr.; 954.450.1580; [surlatable.com](http://surlatable.com)

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# THE ART OF BUYING ART

Be sure to buy the art you love during this winter's visual extravaganza.

by SHAYNE BENOWITZ

When the international art scene descends upon Miami in December for Art Basel Miami Beach, the city transforms into North America's largest art market. In that brief time, deals will be made and works by today's most dynamic contemporary artists will find new homes with seasoned art collectors and first-time buyers making their first acquisitions.

Miami gallery owners, Nina Johnson-Milewski of Gallery Diet and Robert Fontaine of the Robert Fontaine Gallery — both in Wynwood — offer advice on how to buy art.

## Strategy... What Strategy?

The first rule is: "There are no rules in art," says Fontaine.

"People come to Art Basel to be surprised, to learn more about things they haven't seen. There's a certain level of spontaneity," he says. "With so many fairs, you can't see it all, and I'm not sure it's even worth trying. Sometimes no plan is a plan."

Johnson-Milewski stresses the importance of slowing down and not getting caught up in Basel fever. "Don't feel pressured by the energy of the week and wind up making a \$50,000 mistake."

## Tricks of the Trade

But she also cautions against being too gun shy, saying first timers may psyche themselves out by doing too much research or looking at too many pieces. "It's a learning experience. Go ahead and take the leap. It's living with these objects that gives you your taste."

Similarly, Fontaine suggests emerging collectors shop emerging artists. "There's a beautiful and romantic parallel there," he says. "You get to watch an artist flourish over the course of his career and be rewarded for having good taste." He recommends Scope, Miami Project, X Contemporary and Context as top fairs for this kind of purchase.

## Coaching the Experts

Seasoned collectors looking to round out their collections may want to fill in the blanks either chronologically

or with a new medium they have yet to explore.

For instance, Fontaine has a client whose collection includes pop, abstract and surrealism. She's currently buying works from New York City's abstract expressionist movement that spans the late 1940s through 1950s.

Johnson-Milewski suggests exploring uncharted territories. "There's a generation of collectors with an aversion to new media and video work. They can use Art Basel to see a whole breadth of artists and gain an understanding about this medium." She also suggests visiting Design Miami/ to experience the best of the design world.

## Think Creatively

When spending a great deal of money, every buyer wants to make an informed decision and hopes to buy work that retains its value and cultural significance. However, there's no foolproof way to do this.

Ultimately, she says, "You want to buy something because you love it, and you're going to live with it. There's no sense in owning something that increases in value 10 times that you hate."

Fontaine echoes her sentiment. "Art is about the human experience. It can't be manufactured on the assembly line. It's about the person behind it," he adds. "It's a wonderful coincidence that it's also an investment, but that shouldn't be the driving mechanism."•

• Sies + Höke,  
Art Basel  
Miami Beach 2014



# Art | Basel

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## DELICIOUS ENDINGS

Ring in the New Year and dine in style at restaurants that know how to party.

by SHAYNE BENOWITZ

**P**lans for New Year's Eve can range from heading to house parties to counting down the seconds at street festivals, but at some point, you've got to eat. Get dinner and a midnight toast at a few local restaurants that are worthy of their own fireworks.

### Class It Up

At 356 acres, the **Boca Raton Resort & Club** is a world unto itself. It's no wonder the legendary resort is throwing an over-the-top New Year's Eve bash spanning the entire property. Indulge in an extravagant buffet dinner featuring a raw bar, sushi and carving stations complemented by free-flowing Champagne and an all-night open bar at their Rock the Block

party. Premium upgrades range from the intimate Spa Garden VIP Party to private leather lounge cabanas on the golf course's 18th hole for prime views of the fireworks spectacular. With live entertainment by Grammy Award-winning, Hip Hop Hall of Famers Naughty by Nature and an opening act by Robin S., the night promises to be a festive New Year's fete.

Revelers who want their dinner to take center stage, should reserve a table at the Tuscan trattoria Lucca overlooking the Intracoastal. Just off Palm Court, you can dine on sophisticated treats like whipped ricotta with local honeycomb, sea salt and olive oil or main dishes like lamb sugo with handmade pasta, artichoke, mint and English peas. The award-

winning wine list boasts Louis Roederer Cristal Champagne.

Rock the Block tickets start at \$115 and dinner reservations are available exclusively to club members and hotel guests.

[bocaresorts.com/events](http://bocaresorts.com/events)

### A Sizzling Night

**El Tucán** burst onto the nightlife scene in October with the kind of showmanship that Miami hasn't seen in decades. The unapologetically lively spot is hearkening back to the glamorous dinner-and-a-show formula of 1940s Cuba, and in doing so bringing something radically different to the Magic City's landscape. Think, breezy, subtropical glitz in a dimly lit club with rounded velvet booth seating, tropical foliage and tromp l'oeuil design flourishes painted on the walls.

At the two nightly dinner options, revelers are treated to musical acts and performers decked out in elaborate costumes by Danny Santiago where Grammy Award-winning pianist and composer Marlow Rosado and the Tucán Band set the tone for the evening. Headlining acts have ranged from electro-pop duo Afrobeta and chanteuse Camila Luna to gypsy jazz ensemble French Horns. Featuring a Peruvian and pan-Latin fusion menu by New Zealand chef Jean Paul Lourdes and cocktails by Bar Lab, El Tucán will no doubt be one of Miami's hottest spots on New Year's Eve.

● El Tucán dancers

[eltucanmiami.com](http://eltucanmiami.com)





• From top: Wagyu Tacos and Hachi (8) cocktail: the Japanese four-mushroom bourbon with mirin and black pepper syrup from Kuro; Grande Piatto: chef's selection of artisanal cheeses and cured meats from Oltremare Ristorante

### Zen Elegance

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's newest dining concept, **Kuro**, offers a sumptuous multi-course dining experience with dishes ranging from Hokkaido scallop sashimi with yuzu by executive sushi chef Shuji Hiyakawa to koji lamb with cauliflower and kabocha croquettes in a blueberry demi. The unique Japanese craft kitchen is led by executive chef Alex Q. Becker, formerly of Nobu and Katsuya, and also offers cocktails by mixologist Jared Boller. These are organized by flavor profiles: sweet, sour, bitter, salty and umami. The signature Kuro cocktail is an umami concoction made of rum, squid ink, black sesame seeds, lime juice and pineapple.

The 240-seat, theater-style restaurant is setup for live entertainment and a high-energy vibe that spills onto the outdoor patio overlooking the resort's newly remodeled pool. At a venue known for entertainment, New Year's Eve at Kuro is sure to dazzle.

[Seminolehardrockhollywood.com/fine-dining.htm](http://Seminolehardrockhollywood.com/fine-dining.htm)

### The Keys

Ring in the New Year in barefoot luxury at the newly renovated Amara Cay Resort in Islamorada. Helmed by executive chef Dario Olivera, the resort's **Oltremare Ristorante** offers a fusion of regional ingredients and locally caught fish prepared in a Mediterranean-inspired Italian kitchen. Standout dishes include Cedar Key Clams atop a bed of tagliatelle with cherry tomatoes swimming in a broth of garlic, chili, butter and white wine. Cracked Conch Francese is prepared with lemon and caper brown butter; and the sweet goat cheese tart topped with berries and mango purée makes for a perfect dessert. Designed to connect guests to the sea, the whitewashed, wood-paneled dining room is punctuated by waxy green palms and wingback wire chairs with nautical flourishes. Expect live entertainment paired with sumptuous fare and flowing Champagne on New Year's Eve.

[Amaracayresort.com/oltremare-ristorante](http://Amaracayresort.com/oltremare-ristorante) •





## COFFEE, TEA OR ME?

From macchiatos to kombucha, these late-night spots serve up hot beverages with a side of cool.

by JULIE BALTER

**C**onfession: I was a worldly transplant from a Northern suburb, sitting at a chic Miami café, circa 1990. I was ordering a cup of coffee and a croissant, when the waitress asked, “What kind of coffee?”

I looked up, confused.

She looked down — bemused — and said she’d bring me “an American.”

What I soon learned was that — back then and now — South Florida has had a robust international coffee culture. Soon, I was savoring silky cups of *café con leche* and craving the thimble-sized, crack-like *cafecitos* served at so many *ventanas* (meaning window in Spanish) on Miami street corners.

But Gertrude’s (an homage to Gertrude Stein and her literati salon in Paris) was a Magic City wonder. Tucked between raw gallery spaces

and vintage shops on Lincoln Road, the early-90s coffee bar was a hot spot for South Beach’s high society artists, sun-chasing Europeans and statuesque drag queens. Some patrons identified as all three.

Gertrude’s, like so many places back then, was eventually bitch slapped to its demise by a posse of Starbucks. But today, South Florida’s coffee scene — slow roasting over two decades — is, dare I say, brewing with eclectic, multi-ethnic, late-night possibilities. You’ll also spot several artisan tea houses with subtle hints of family-friendly flavor.

So, set down your double-mocha-soy-sugar-free latte, recycle that super-sized paper cup and follow your nose to **Havana Coffee and Tea** in downtown Miami. There, classic Latin blends are infused with smooth, hipster

vibes (just picture a Cuban coffee shop with brick walls and plush sofas). Choose from your standard *cortaditos* and *coladas* to the more exotic *yerba mates* (a naturally caffeinated, antioxidant-rich tea popular in South America). You’ll also find a generous selection of wine and beer, as well as plenty of *pastelitos* to stave off the jitters.

For something more salacious, go down to Key West and ask for The All-Nighter at **Better Than Sex**, a deliciously naughty coffee and dessert bar. The signature beverage — one of several caffeinated libations served there — is described as “liquor with sexy spiced coffee in your choice of a caramel, white chocolate or semi-sweet chocolate rimmed coffee glass.” Make sure to top it off with a dessert; may I suggest a Peanut-Butter Perversion or a Tongue Bath Truffle, perhaps?

Fort Lauderdale’s **Awa Na Kava** is an enticing last-stop to top a night on “The Drive” (otherwise known as Wilton Drive, the hub of the gayborhood). There are plenty of ways to address your oral fixation here too. Cups of kava, a plant-based, anti-anxiety elixir, are served in coconut shells. You can also enjoy a bit of hookah pipe or grab the mic and serenade your date with some karaoke.

Farther north, **Yaxche Tearoom**, formerly Shaffer’s Tearoom, in downtown Delray Beach is not your grandmother’s olde tea shoppe. The-multicolored cottage — think: Mad Hatter meets Jimmy Buffet — is home to more than 100 teas. All their beverages are steeped in Goodwater®+ — Yaxche’s certified, 100 percent purified brand of water. Sip some home-brewed kombucha, a Japanese fermented tea favored by feel-good yogi types.

Weekends here get quite lively. This is when you’ll find a guitar player strumming on the porch or a patron’s dog lapping purified water. It’s all oddly reminiscent of South Beach’s early heyday — minus a few bedazzling drag queens. •

• The All-Nighter at Better Than Sex

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# family matters

**Despite all the odds, a growing number of people across the country are creating a new portrait of the American family.**

On October 16, the Pride Center in Fort Lauderdale broke ground and built a playground for LGBT families to enjoy. It took six hours to build, met with wide praise and was instantly adopted by a community that lacked a dedicated space. “A playground is more than just a physical space,” says Robert Boo, CEO of The Pride Center at Equality Park. “Creative play is developmentally important for our children and future leaders.”

Todd Delmay, who along with his husband Jeff was one of the first same-sex couples to get married in Florida when marriage equality came to the state in early 2015, agrees. “Pride Centers have served many important needs within the LGBTQ community over the years, but this need in particular broadens and exemplifies our ideals for equality,” he says.

While statistics vary from state to state, the 2010 U.S. Census analyzed by The Williams Institute reflects a growing number of children being raised by parents who identify as LGBT — approximately 2 million nationwide. Increasingly American families are coming together in different ways, and the idea of what a family looks like is changing faster than anyone expected. Whether blended, interracial, ethnically diverse or same-sex, people are challenging the notion of a traditional family. While the fear and hesitation about whether same-sex couples should raise children has dissipated, it hasn’t disappeared. Just last November, the Church of Latter Day Saints officially updated its handbooks to address these rapid social changes, barring the children of same-sex couples from services until they have turned 18, moved out of their homes and denounced their parents.

While that may be how some see this social development, a recent study by The Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin reveals another part of the story that can inject some data into the national conversation. According to the study, same-sex parents spend more time with their children than different-sex parents, with families headed by two mothers spending the most amount of time together — 40 percent more time than parents spend on average.

For many, the natural drive and desire to raise children is inescapable, regardless of what their orientation is or what social obstacles may be present. Places like the playground at Equality Park may reflect a growing acceptance of this reality. But it will take time to make something as normal as a family appear, well, normal. The following couples shared their stories in their own words.



**PARENTS:** Simone Williams  
and Courtney Krasnor

**CHILD:** Margot, 2  
**CITY:** Hollywood

Courtney and I met in Gainesville when we were in college in 2002. We started dating a year before graduation. I proposed to her on Christmas day in 2006. We had a symbolic wedding/celebration of our love at the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood in February 2011. Both Courtney and I definitely wanted children, and Courtney always wanted to experience pregnancy. So after choosing a sperm donor and deciding on artificial insemination, Courtney got pregnant with Margot. Our beautiful baby was born on June 24, 2013. We were legally married at the Hollywood Courthouse the week gay marriage became legal in Florida earlier this year.

**What changed the most for you when Margot came into your lives?**

I think our perspective of parenthood has changed since becoming parents. We

never fully understood how much patience and sacrifice our parents gave us throughout our lives and still to this day. Also, we never realized how profound and unique our love for Margot would be. It is an amazing love that we have never felt before.

**What is the most difficult part of parenting for you?**

It's the insecurity of being first time parents. It's a lot of work and responsibility to train and teach a person to be a well-rounded and happy individual. Sometimes I [Simone] over-analyze situations. I need to step back and let some things go.

**What do you wish people knew or understood about your experience?**

I was thinking about this question a lot today and initially I felt that our experience of parenthood and family is probably a universal one. Then I thought about how we have never been so out in our lives, both personally and professionally. We are so proud of Margot and want her to grow up being confident

about her identity and her family. It is because of her that we feel we need to lead by example and be proud and out about who we are.

**What makes it all worthwhile?**

MARGOT! We are overjoyed to share our love and lives with such a beautiful little being. Every day is a new day that brings feelings of contentment, happiness and an intense love between us. Also, the love between me and Courtney that continues to grow in different areas is wonderful. It is amazing to feel our love expand and evolve — received and reciprocated. I don't think words can give it justice.

**Are facilities like the playground at Equality Park necessary?**

We are very excited about this playground and think it's important for LGBT families to have a space where they have a shared identity with others. Margot may not necessarily have similar family structures with her classmates, relatives or friends, but it's nice to know she will at the park. •

**PARENTS:** Todd and Jeff Delmay

**CHILD:** Blake, 5½

**CITY:** Hollywood

**W**e met and started dating in 2003. Although the landscape for same-sex families was very different than it is today, we discussed having kids on our second date. Looking back, we never recall talking about marriage though — that just seemed too unlikely. As our relationship grew, we knew that we were making a lifelong commitment.

In 2009 we learned about the opportunity to adopt a baby boy, and we jumped at the chance. Because we could not marry, we decided to go through the legal process to change our last names to Delmay, which is a combination of our birth names — Delsol and May. It was made official just two days before Blake was born, so together we've always been the Delmays. We knew his birth mother, so we were in the delivery room and cut the umbilical cord. It was such a

life-affirming experience for us, and the hospital staff was superb.

Amid all of the joys of being new dads, we still had to face the reality that our family would be treated differently. In fact, when we adopted Blake the law forbidding gays from adopting was still in force, so our first step was for Jeff to adopt Blake as a "single parent." It was humiliating, but we were prepared to do what it took to make our family safe. When the gay adoption ban ended, we went back to court so I [Todd] could complete a second parent adoption.

**What has changed the most for you since Blake came into your lives?**

Our priorities changed almost from the moment we knew Blake was going to be born. It's more than just about who is going to watch him, where he's going to go to school or making time for play dates and birthday parties. It's about defining and teaching him the values that are most important to us. It's about putting his needs as a human being front and center and enlisting our community of friends and family to demonstrate those values too.

**What is the most difficult part of parenting for you?**

Time is always the greatest difficulty when it comes to parenting; you never feel like you have enough. We don't think parenting has been more difficult by being same-sex parents, but it has certainly created a need for us to talk about our family.

**What makes it all worthwhile?**

Every milestone we see Blake reach, or when we see him treat a friend with care or show his concern for those around him, we feel that our efforts are worth it. It makes all the difference to know that he is growing up to be more accepting of others, and that he can be accepted.

**Are facilities like the playground at Equality Park necessary?**

Absolutely! The playground at Equality Park is so very exciting, and it's so necessary. We love that Blake has many friends with same-sex parents, and that they now have a place where they can play together. It will also be a great place for same-sex parents to talk about the challenges of raising kids. •



**PARENTS:** Sandra Garcia  
and Vanessa Bench

**CHILDREN:** Evan, 16 [not pictured];  
Genesis, 7 and Hector, 3

**CITY:** Miami

Vanessa and I actually met online. She messaged me and complimented a picture I had posted. I obviously had my two kids before we met, Genesis and Hector. Both of my children were products of artificial insemination. Our family blended immediately. Vanessa and I would see each other every day, and when it was time for her to go home, Vanessa, Genesis and Hector would all start to cry because they didn't want to part. It was very sweet. She is amazing with them and they have a mutual love that is wonderful to see. Her son, Evan, is an amazing young man. He's so smart and sweet, just like his mother.

#### What has changed the most for you since becoming a family?

Several things changed for me. When the kids were born I was forced to immediately grow up. I was no longer *me* focused. I worried about everything and everyone that came into contact with them. I became aware of the world and how it viewed families like mine. We haven't encountered much discrimination, but it has occurred, and it's tough having to explain that. As for my involvement with Vanessa's 16-year-old, he's made it so very easy. He's a great, strong young man. He's easy to talk to and is never negative, nor has he ever said anything unkind to the two little ones when they become annoying little siblings.

#### What is the most difficult part of parenting for you?

It's hard not cracking a smile or laughing at their antics and the things they say. Something else that's difficult is raising them to be good, decent, responsible and productive members of society. Raising a man and a woman that are compassionate and secure. I question my decisions on a constant basis, because I worry about how it will impact their future. Before Vanessa came along, I

was a single parent for three years. I was consumed by my children. It's grown to be quite a difficult task to spend quality alone time with my partner without feeling guilty. Vanessa is amazing at understanding me and that we have the kids around 98 percent of the time.

#### What do you wish people knew or understood about your experience?

I wish people would know and recognize that we're a family like any other, no need to stare or criticize. Our children can hear and see you. We just built our family a little differently, but we still love and respect each other. We're a household that does the same things any other would do. We cook, clean, etc.

#### What makes it all worthwhile?

It's the unconditional love and look in their eyes. It's exhausting, but when they say they love you or look up at you half asleep, smile and kiss you.... words can't describe it.

#### Are facilities like the playground at Equality Park necessary?

I think it's AWESOME that the Pride Center built the first playground for LGBT families in the country. The center is a wonderful place full of resources for our community. It'll be a playground where *all* kids will be welcome, and the kids will see that there are other families like us out there. •





**PARENTS:** Kate Harrison  
and Naumara Delgado  
**CHILD:** Kyla Cruz, 14  
**CITY:** Hollywood

**W**e met in New Moon. I already knew Naumara because we were both in nursing school. I had a huge crush on her and everyone knew it. One night my best friend and I decided to go to a lounge in Fort Lauderdale, and there she was. After a couple drinks my best friend tricked me into walking past her. As I passed, she stopped to tell me I was beautiful... And that was that. We met for coffee twice, and the rest is history.

On our first coffee date Kyla was one of the first bombs I dropped. My daughter at the time was 10 years old.

**Naumara:** When she first told me that she had a child, I was taken aback. I wasn't sure this is where I wanted to be. Although I had always loved children, I had given up on the thought of having my own. But I was wrong, Kyla is another piece of the puzzle. She is an extension of Kate; they are my everything.

#### **What has changed the most for you since becoming a family?**

**Kyla:** Truthfully, only few things have changed, and they have changed for the better. Instead of one maternal influence, I now have two mothers showing me how to be an important woman in society. I can also say that while there's more discipline, there is a lot more fun. The three of us are like the Three Stooges or the Three Amigos.  
**Naumara:** There was quite a bit of adjusting for me. It took me sometime to realize that I could not live the way I used to. Spontaneous was replaced by calculated. It is all to create a safe and comfortable home, so she has a strong foundation. Being a good role model for my child is a priority now, as it is for any parent. Being able to figure this out is what makes you ready to raise a child, not whether you are gay or straight. It is what you are willing to compromise to raise that little person the best way.

#### **What is the most difficult part of parenting for you?**

**Naumara:** As an adult you see the world through tainted eyes. As a child you see the beauty in everything. That beautiful

innocence is what scares me. I try to talk to her constantly, about everything.

#### **What do you wish people knew or understood about your experience?**

**Naumara:** I wish people would understand that our relationship is just like theirs. We experience the same trials and tribulations that all couples experience. It is still the same compromising and understanding of another human being.

#### **What makes it all worthwhile?**

**Kyla:** There is nowhere I would rather be. I love people who love me with all the might in their hearts, and at the end of the day, there's no one I feel more comfortable or safe or natural around but my parents.

**Naumara:** The love and memories on this journey make it all worthwhile.

#### **Are facilities like the playground at Equality Park necessary?**

**Kate:** Equality itself means that everyone is the same. I don't think that a single park makes us equals per se. We should feel comfortable and safe taking our children to any park we'd like. •



**THE GENTLEMEN OF  
LE BASQUE SERVE UP  
CULINARY ARTISTRY.**

BY JOHN DANGARAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
CHRISTINA MENDENHALL



*Symphony  
of the  
Senses*



Alex Muguerza, president of Le Basque, has the kind of vision that sets the stage for a legendary event.



The moment he arrives Alejandro Muguerza, president of high-end catering company Le Basque, is on the patio setting up. In his mind, he is arranging trays laden with food, garnishing nonexistent cocktails and filling imaginary Champagne flutes. As he moves, he directs what should go where and when each dish should exit the kitchen. He's like a thundering thoroughbred straight out of the gates.

On either side, Muguerza is flanked by his business partners, Executive Vice President Ian Perris and Chief Operating Officer Jim Mozina. Muguerza may be taking the creative lead, but the three circle and dance around one another, each taking in the situation from a different angle. Today, everything will take place outdoors: the hors d'oeuvres, the cocktails and the buffet. Once a decision is made, as fast as they came together, they break: Perris corrals the waitstaff, Mozina orchestrates arrangements and Muguerza heads to the kitchen.

Donning a pair of plaid pants, a thinly striped guayabera with a popped collar and thick-rimmed glasses hanging off the top button of his shirt, Muguerza exudes confidence with creative flair. A few dashes of salt-and-pepper are sprinkled over his neatly trimmed beard and slicked back

comb-over. In contrast, Perris is clean shaven. Streaks of silver shine through his flyaway hair. His years of experience within the service industry are obvious. Even at ease, he stands tall with both hands clasped behind his back. On first glance, he comes across as the most serious of the three, but gives himself away when he cracks a wide smile. Mozina sports a dark beard and khaki chinos. The sleeves of his blue plaid button-up are rolled to the elbows. He seems to be giving everything a calculated look as if trying to figure out how to make Muguerza's concepts reality.

The three partners may seem like an unlikely trio: Muguerza, a Basque, was once a corporate lawyer; Mozina, a Canadian by way of the Midwest, was an engineer; and Perris, an Englishman, ran some of the most prestigious households in Britain,

including that of the Lord Mayor of London, Dorothy de Rothschild and the late Earl Spencer — father of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. But together they founded Le Basque in the winter of 1992. “We all have our *métier* in the company,” Mozina tells me. “I’m more logistics in the office. Ian deals with staff and service on a day-to-day basis; and Alex is coming up with new menu ideas, bringing menu ideas back from the Basque country. We all have our focus, and we also intermingle in each other’s jobs.” The three do have one thing in common: their love for the Basque Country.

In case you are unfamiliar, the Basque Country is an autonomous region in a northern corner of Spain. It is sometimes difficult to define on a map, as it culturally

transcends the borders between the northwest of Spain and southwest France. Though Le Basque takes its cues from this part of the world, the approach is decidedly international.

“[Our] recipes are from and inspired by Basque dishes, but then we give them a twist,” says Muguerza. “You go to a traditional Basque restaurant [and] you know you are eating incredibly well, but then you go to one of the three Michelin Stars in San Sebastian, and what you are eating is fusion. It’s fusion with a Basque touch.”

Le Basque specializes in personalized catering and event planning for corporate and private clients. No two projects are alike, quite simply because no two events are the same. They seem to

really enjoy focusing on the distinct features of each client, the event space and the guests who will be in attendance. The “party reflects the best of the clients themselves,” explains Muguerza. “It’s almost like branding themselves. It’s customized to them.”

Le Basque does have a recognizable style though. Much like a piece by a well-known artist, you can instantly tell who is behind the creation, even if you are unable to express how you know it. Le Basque has its own

**THE THREE  
DO HAVE  
ONE THING IN  
COMMON:  
THEIR LOVE FOR  
THE BASQUE  
COUNTRY.**



Poised and proper, Ian Perris believes the key to a successful event is discretion.





A consummate engineer, Jim Mozina sees to it that creative visions become sublime reality.



**OUR RECIPES ARE FROM AND INSPIRED BY BASQUE DISHES, BUT THEN WE GIVE THEM A TWIST.**

signature. It could be the décor, the warm ambient lighting, the uniformed staff, the seamless service or a combination of all of these. In fact, authenticity and seamlessness are crucial when they stage events. “One of the most important things in catering is the look of the whole event,” says Perris. “If it’s a private house... you don’t want it to look catered or produced.”

Mozina takes this concept a step further, “A big part of

what we do is disappearing. We wouldn’t be working in the kitchen. We would be working in the garage, because we’d want it to look like the home is undisturbed,” he says. “We always try to hide and disappear and blend in, and make the home, the guests and the environment the star.”

That’s something Mozina believes sets his company apart. “I think a lot of caterers have it backwards where they have all the waiters with the logo,” he says pointing at his chest, “The napkins are printed, there’s business cards on the table. They think it’s a corporate meet and greet. It’s not; it’s a private affair.”

Perris emphatically agrees, “At the end of the day it should look like it’s your household help doing the party. That’s the look you want.”

“The best compliment to a hostess is: ‘Oh, I didn’t know it was catered,’” says Mozina.

“Sometimes people find it’s a big hurdle to hire a caterer... they may feel it’s a point of pride. Our goal is to make it look like there is no caterer in your home.”

“It has to be discreet,” Perris insists. “Discretion is very important. That’s a big part of the company.”

So what’s their take on the holidays and all the entertaining that usually takes place at that time? “I think what’s nice about the holidays are the traditions,” Mozina explains. “We’ve had some clients who’ve had the exact same menu for 20 years. They don’t want something modern they saw in a restaurant or hotel yesterday. They want something that reminds them of being with family. Sometimes we’ll be cooking the recipe of their grandmothers. Everyone has in their mind a little bit of a Norman Rockwell scene of what a holiday party





Chef Mike Veloz is the man in the kitchen at many Le Basque events, making everything from Quail with Fagiolo and Potato Parmentier to Salmon Tartare.



**AS MUCH AS THE EVENT IS STAGED, WITH FOOD AND PRESENTATION BEING PRECISELY CALCULATED, IT ALL COMES ACROSS AS INCREDIBLY NATURAL.**

should have in it. You have to have some of those elements for it to feel authentic.”

Of course, talk about holiday plans is not complete without a discussion on how to throw a proper New Year’s Eve bash.

“A lot of drink,” says Perris. “A bar is vital. I think the food is really secondary. You need food, but it should be a late-night type of food.”

“The ideal food for New Year’s is a buffet,” adds Mozina.

“You’re never going to rope everyone into arriving at a certain time. They’re coming from many different places. You just want people to be done eating with enough time to get happy before the clock strikes, and from that point on it’s just drink. Then maybe at two or three o’clock in the morning you can pass some little hot things.”

In retrospect, looking at all the work that took place throughout the day, what’s left is a gorgeous setting with a staff that is impeccably dressed, knowledgeable and prepared to serve. It’s pure magic. As much as the event is staged — with menu and presentation carefully calculated — it all comes across as incredibly natural. And that is what Le Basque does.

There are no unplanned props. The bar is not set near the koi pond because it looks pretty. It’s there because when guests decide to head to the patio, their eyes naturally

gravitate toward the water. There is no better place to make a drink and explore the deeper recesses of the property’s lush landscape. That kind of forethought entices guests farther into a home.

At any given moment someone could walk up the to the bar and pour themselves a drink or help themselves at the buffet table.

There is indeed magic in what Le Basque does. Their execution often makes the time spent at an event feel surreal. But it’s actually the honesty of their conviction and the sheer delight they take in what they do that has me daydreaming about taking off to northern Spain. •

*Hair and makeup: JPenn Hair and Makeup Artist  
Photos shot on location at the Betancourt family home, an enchanting tropical estate within Snapper Creek Lakes in Coral Gables.  
For more information, contact Vivian R. Serralta with EWM Realty International at 305.960.2616.*



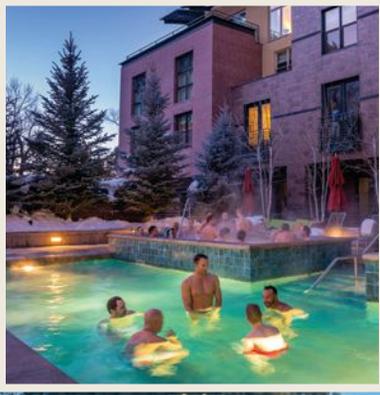


# HIT THE SLOPES

If your idea of winter entertainment involves plenty of active pursuits, fabulous parties and a good deal of snow, there's just one thing to do: Go West!

by Erica Landau





# GOING

out west may embody American spirit and grit, but you don't have to check comfort, community and nightlife at the cabin door when heading on a wintry, outdoor adventure. Instead, check out these five LGBT-friendly destinations, all located in North America's western corridor and all offering a different slice of the continent, before choosing your perfect winter wonderland.

## ASPEN

There are few things as luxurious as a ski vacation in Aspen. Veiled in crisp blue skies and surrounded on three sides by gleaming snow-white peaks, this old mining town swells with furs, flash, celebrity sightings and general fabulousness during the winter months.

But a serious nightlife scene doesn't come at the expense of sport. Skiers and snowboarders can choose from four mountains: Aspen Snowmass, with its 150 miles of trails, is the perfect one-stop destination, offering something for all skill levels; Aspen Mountain and Aspen Highlands deliver more challenging terrain for experienced skiers; and Buttermilk, home of the ESPN Winter X Games, has a surfeit of slopes devoted to beginners and intermediate practitioners. You can take on all four with one convenient lift ticket.

And it's only the lifts that stop when the sky grows dark. Aspen keeps up with a nightlife scene as sizzling as any hot-tub get-together. Aspen was home to the first-ever Gay Ski Week in the 1970s, back when only a few California ski clubs comprised the entirety of the now season-long, multi-destination

The 2016 edition of Aspen Gay Ski Week will be held January 17-24.

Lake Tahoe offers  
a wealth of winter  
activities beyond skiing.



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## LAKE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe moves at a slower pace than some of its counterparts. But the laid-back vibes only serve to enhance one of the richest and most gorgeous wintery backdrops you will ever encounter. Nestled between California and Nevada, Lake Tahoe offers no less than seven ski resorts, all situated around or near the giant, deep blue lake. The lake alone, which is the greatest draw outside the snow-capped mountains, spans 22 by 12 miles and is the second deepest in the U.S. You may not be able to swim in it in the winter, but the sweeping views of the fresh topaz water as you glide down the mountain or ride up the gondola alone are worth the price of your lift ticket.

It's almost impossible to hit every noteworthy destination in a single trip when vacationing in Tahoe. With hundreds of lifts, thousands of acres of varied terrain and fun and entertainment at every base facility, the possibilities are virtually endless. Few match Heavenly Mountain's bounty, though. The mountain, which straddles the California and Nevada border, offers unrivaled views of the lake and the Nevada landscape, as well as the area's longest vertical drop and the most expansive options of any area resort. Such beauty and selection doesn't come cheap, however — expect a day pass to set you back around \$100.

If other mountains beckon, the California slopes at the Sierra at Tahoe ski resort have an extensive network of trails suitable for beginners, and Mt. Rose draws experienced snow-sport enthusiasts to its legendary “chutes,” daring skiers to traverse some of the steepest terrain in North America.

event. Today, Aspen Gay Ski Week, which takes place mid-January, consists of a wide range of activities, including après ski parties and cocktail receptions around town. There are also numerous lunch and dinner events, a comedy night, a free-for-all pool party and a roster of performers and DJs.

The award-winning Ellina is a must for visitors seeking a cool atmosphere, upscale dining and an extensive wine list. On the other side of the spectrum, Hops Culture serves up an incredible beer selection to pair with comfort foods like its signature gourmet mac-and-cheese — which comes in three variations. Gay-friendly hotels include the modern and centrally located Limelight Hotel, the historic Hotel Jerome, which also houses LGBT-favorite nightspot J-Bar, and the bustling Sky Hotel with ski-in access from Aspen Mountain.

## VANCOUVER

An hour and a half north of Vancouver, the resort town of Whistler glistens between Blackcomb Peak and Whistler Mountain. Whistler gets its name from the high, oddly pleasing scream of the hoary marmot — or “whistle pig” — though if the name also suggests speed and wind, the association isn’t accidental.

Until the 1960s, the municipality of Whistler was called Alta Lake, and the mountain was called London because of its penumbra of fog. The names were changed in the 1960s in the hopes of luring both tourists and, perhaps, the Olympics. The strategy worked. Whistler is one of the most stunning resort towns in the continent, as the world learned when Whistler and Blackcomb became prominent gaming locations for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Nearly as attractive as the surrounding scenery and on a vastly more human scale, tiny Whistler village looks like a Thomas Kinkade painting come to life — an almost too-perfect wonderland of cobblestones, bridges, inns and taverns, hearths, chimneys and warm yellow light spilling out of shops and warm cafés. The coziness of the village doesn’t hint that the town harbors some legitimately wild nightlife, mostly in gay-friendly joints like Buffalo Bills and Maxx Fish.

From January 23 to 31, Whistler will glam up for its annual Whistler Pride and Ski Festival, and thousands from across the globe will descend on the village to

Clockwise from top:  
Zip line high above  
Big Sky Resort in Montana;  
take in the breathtaking  
scenery of Jackson Hole,  
Wyoming; or ski the  
venerable peaks of Whistler  
Blackcomb just outside  
Vancouver, British Columbia.





party in the streets. Near the end of the week, they will mount a ski-born pride parade down Whistler's face. Accommodations there are all gay friendly, from the grand — Whistler has a lovely Four Seasons — to the funky — pet-friendly Aava Whistler Hotel underwrites local LGBT events, and many visitors report that its hot tubs are wonderfully steamy.

## MONTANA

The zigzagging southeastern border between Montana and Idaho wanders over much of the country's most amazing scenery. On the Montana side, just a few miles shy of Yellowstone National Park, is Big Sky. The town is divided into two sections: the Mountain Village, where you'll find the immense Big Sky Resort, and the Meadow Village, thousands of feet below. At the latter, summertime visitors can access white-water rafting, kayaking and world-class fly fishing; and visitors there can find a number of faux-old-timey businesses of considerable charm throughout the year. Mostly, though, you'll find space. Even the largest of the businesses in town are dwarfed by the surrounding terrain and the (big) sky overhead.

Courtesy of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

Big Sky Resort, the country's largest ski resort, includes what used to be the independently owned Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin. Together, the resorts boast more than 250 runs, 30 ski lifts and nearly 6,000 acres of explorable mountain terrain.

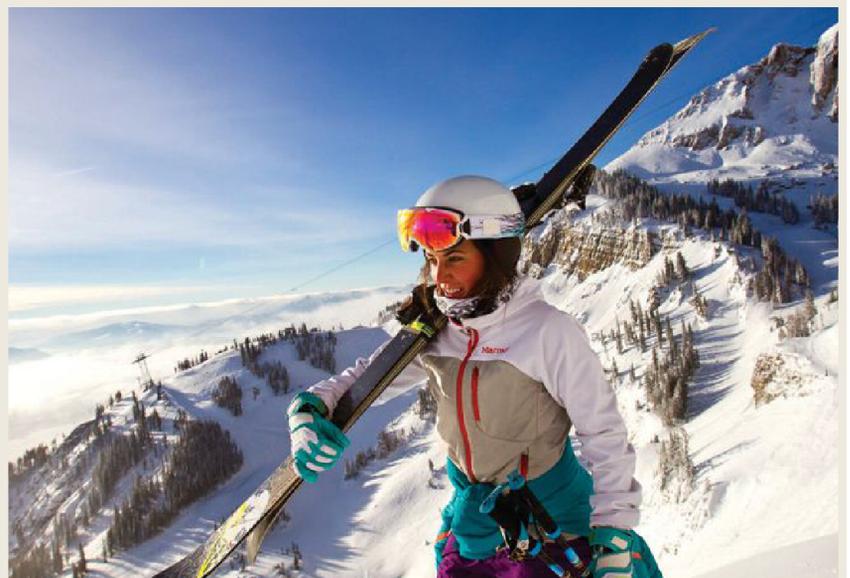
The dining options there are nearly as expansive as the terrain. For a uniquely western take on decadence, gourmands should visit The Cabin Bar and Grill in the Mountain Village, where French pâté and Wisconsin brie are served alongside river trout, elk chops and game burgers.

## JACKSON

Jackson, Wyoming, sits at the southern end of the Jackson Hole valley, just south of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and west of the vast Gros Ventre Wilderness. Take a stroll east of town, and you may find yourself in the middle of the world's largest free-ranging herd of elk. Jackson was the first city in Wyoming to pass anti-discrimination legislation for sexual orientation, and it takes pride in being one of the region's most socially liberal communities.

Snow King Mountain — which possesses the steepest north-facing slope in the contiguous United States — was Wyoming's first ski resort and at 80 years old remains vibrant. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, which has come to overshadow Snow King since opening in the 1960s, has one of the country's greatest concentrations of difficult slopes spread across Après Vous and Rendezvous Mountains.

There are also some great eats in downtown Jackson Hole. Check out the duck cakes or the grilled wasabi elk filet at The Blue Lion. The steak tartare pizza and a Korean riff on venison at the upscale Snake River Grill are worth checking out, too. •



2015

# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

by Daniel Guzman

Step up your gift game

Sure, gift-giving is about the gesture, but handing the perfect present to the right person is much more rewarding than that. Here are some great ideas that can fit any budget — because if it's the thought that counts, at least let it be the best one you've got.



**Tory Burch for Fitbit Metal Fret Pendant Rose Gold**  
Tory Burch, Bal Harbour Shops  
[toryburch.com](http://toryburch.com)

Track your steps, distance and sleep cycles without sacrificing an ounce of style with this fashionable take on a fitness tracker.



Get festive



**Apple Watch Hermès Double Tour**  
Hermès Miami Design District  
[hermes.com](http://hermes.com)

Apple paired up with Hermès to add some of the finest quality leather to the coveted accessory. The watch – which comes in three additional Hermès-designed styles – is only available in 17 stores in North America, two of which happen to be in South Florida.

**S'well Wood Collection**  
**Stainless Steel Water Bottle**  
Nordstrom, Town Center Boca  
[nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com)

S'well's stylish water bottle might provide a little more incentive to stay hydrated. The ThermaSwell fabrication guarantees that it can keep drinks cold for up to 24 hours and hot for up to 12.



**Madda Fella Beverage Holder**  
Madda Fella, Key West  
[maddafella.com](http://maddafella.com)

Florida Keys-based label Madda Fella has made the perfect accessory for a beach getaway. The limited edition wooden six-pack carrier is sturdy and stylish.



**The 4 Elements of the Perfect Shave Kit**  
The Art of Shaving, Aventura Mall  
[theartofshaving.com](http://theartofshaving.com)

Once the lumbersexual fad passes that beard will need to come off. A face only deserves the best and the Art of Shaving has narrowed it down to four essential items: pre-shave oil, shaving cream, after-shave balm and a badger-hair shaving brush.



Get homey



• **Ruffino Bruschetta Board**  
*noblegoods.com*

This handmade limited edition serving board by Noble Goods will help you add a Tuscan touch to your holiday entertaining.



• **Needlepoint Mère Throw Pillow**  
Jonathan Adler  
*jonathanadler.com*

No wire hangers, ever! This campy ode to Faye Dunaway's iconic turn playing Joan Crawford is embroidered by hand. We're sure mommy would approve.



• **Orbit Plus Turntable**  
by U-Turn Audio  
Sweat Records  
*sweatrecordsmiami.com*

For the audiophile, vinyl is more than just a piece of plastic — it's a way of life. That record collection deserves a proper throne and U-Turn Audio's hardware offers high design at an affordable price.

• **Afrohead XO Rum**  
Vintage Liquor  
*vintageliquor.com*

This 15-year blend will show the most hesitant imbiber that rum deserves better than to be mixed with Coke. The rich spirit compares more to cognacs and whiskeys.



• **Animal Menagerie Wood Coaster Set**  
*gentsupplyco.com*

This set of four coasters is made of real wood and features animals in unlikely situations to help you break the ice and get the conversation started.



Get arty.....



**Polaroid Socialmatic  
Instant Digital Camera**  
[polaroid.com](http://polaroid.com)

Combining the nostalgic appeal of vintage Polaroid with the modern convenience of WiFi and an Android™ interface, the Socialmatic can instantly ramp up anyone's hipster cred.

**Peace Love World  
Street Duffle**  
Peace Love World  
[peaceloveworld.com](http://peaceloveworld.com)

The perfect bag for a weekend getaway with a bit of street edge. Peace Love World's positive messages are scribbled throughout to remind fellow travelers that we can all be a bit kinder to each other.



**Beats Solo2  
Wireless Headphones**  
Best Buy  
[bestbuy.com](http://bestbuy.com)

The hippest headphones on the market can now pair with your Bluetooth-enabled devices. Lasting 12 hours on a single charge, they can also take hands-free calls thanks to a built-in mic.



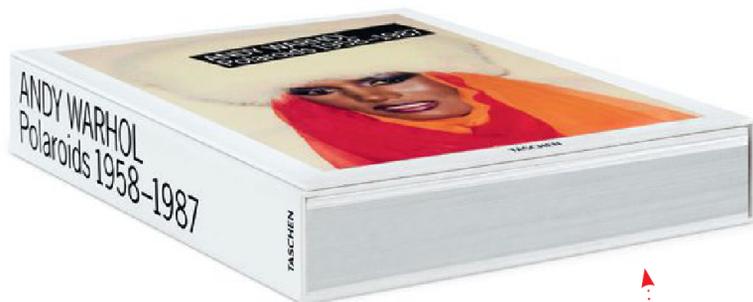
**Unzipped Citizen**  
[unzippedcitizen.com](http://unzippedcitizen.com)

The gurus at Unzipped Citizen have scoured the globe for the most stylish and well-made brands of underwear and socks, which they will ship to your door on a monthly basis.



**16-inch Jobmaster Boot**  
LeatherWerks  
[leatherwerks.com](http://leatherwerks.com)

This impressive boot features handsome top-to-toe lacing, contrasting stitching and incredible durability for when you want to work off some stress and look good while doing it.



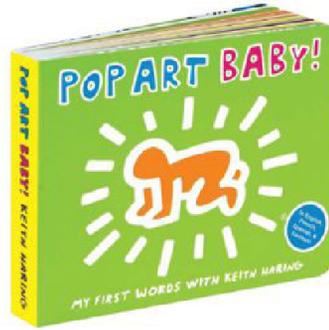
**Andy Warhol Polaroids**  
Taschen  
[taschen.com](http://taschen.com)

Andy Warhol was documenting his life and friends without the help of filters way before Instagram queen Kim Kardashian. A trove of celebrity, obscure personality and mundane object stills prove Warhol didn't need social media to overshare.



**BB-8**  
The Disney Store  
[disneystore.com](http://disneystore.com)

The app-enabled BB-8's adaptive personality allows it to change as you play, making it the ultimate personal toy. The Force is strong indeed.



**Keith Haring Pop Art Baby Book**  
Genius Jones  
[geniusjones.com](http://geniusjones.com)

With bright colors, great textures and fun graphics, even the youngest ones in your life will learn to appreciate art at an early age.



**Fisher-Price Smart Toy Bear**  
Toys R Us  
[toysrus.com](http://toysrus.com)

Cloud-connected, the Smart Toy Bear can understand an unlimited number of words, recognize cards and books and learn a child's name. The future is here, and it's so cute!

**Lou Lou Ghost Chair**  
Kartell  
[kartell.com](http://kartell.com)

Children deserve to enjoy beautiful seating, and Philippe Starck gives them just that with a miniature version of his Louis Ghost chair.



**Crewcuts by J.Crew  
Glitter Pizza Bag**  
J.Crew  
[jcrew.com](http://jcrew.com)

Deep dish, New York style, Neapolitan — pizza is good no matter how you serve it. How about as a glittery bag? No doubt young tweens will enjoy this slice.

Get furry.....



**Spiked Dog Dish**  
Dog Bar  
[dogbar.com](http://dogbar.com)

Let the other dogs know your four-legged beast is not to be messed with. In addition to saying "stay away," the spikes add some much-needed style to the standard dog bowl.



**Toys R Us Pets**  
**Move "N" Shake Hedgehog**  
PetSmart  
[petsmart.com](http://petsmart.com)

Just attach the sensor to your dog and watch this cute hedgehog interact with your pet. It will roll and shake as your pup goes berserk, and it will even feed it a treat.



**Back to the Roots**  
**AquaFarm 3 Gallon Fish Tank**  
Petco  
[petco.com](http://petco.com)

Take sustainability by the horns. This fish bowl creates a symbiotic ecosystem and provides a space for plants to thrive as nutrient-rich water is circulated and purified past their roots to the 3-gallon tank below.



**Homemade Dog Treats**  
Woof Gang Bakery  
[woofgangbakery.com](http://woofgangbakery.com)

These gourmet dog treats come in a variety of flavors that are sure to let pampered pooches know they've made it on the "Nice" list.



**Will Leather Goods**  
**Napoli Dog Collar**  
Nordstrom  
[nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com)

Your pet deserves fine leather accessories. Will Leather Good's Napoli collar comes in five beautifully dyed colors and nice stitching detail. Rover would approve.



**Cat DJ Scratching Deck**  
[uncommongoods.com](http://uncommongoods.com)

Designed in London, the Suck UK Cat Scratching Deck will give your feline pal a space to scratch some phat beatz. Catnip not included.

# TOAST OF THE TOWN

Sound clever and polished — or at least coherent — when delivering your next toast.

by JUSTIN TRABERT

**P**icture this: You're standing in front of a group of people and all eyes are on you. Beads of sweat start to form on your forehead. Your arm is raised, glass in hand, but then the unthinkable happens: Nothing comes out. The fears surrounding the formalities of a toast are very

real for some... but they don't have to be. Follow me as I navigate you through the mechanics, so you too can master a proper toast for holiday season and become the "toast of the town!"

## Faux Pas and Superstitions

As we clink glasses, it is not unusual to hear someone say, "look into my eyes or forsake yourself to bad sex for seven years," as many people believe in this superstition. But, I offer you another insight into the "looking into the eyes" tradition. In the past, it was commonplace for guests and hosts offering a toast to raise their glasses, make a simple nod and stare into each others' eyes as confirmation that the toast was received.

Let's examine the formalities. It is not considered in bad form (as some might have you believe) or bad luck to toast with water. As the recipient of the toast, don't ever raise and sip from your glass during a toast in your honor. You would never toast yourself if you were on the receiving side of the toast, as this would be in bad form. Instead, you would receive your toast with much appreciation, only touching your glass, but not raising it or taking a sip. Afterwards, you would rise and give thanks back to your host with a toast in return; only then can you partake in your drink. But this rule is only reserved for toasts

made to a guest of honor. When general toasts are made to a group, everyone may take a sip from their glass. Otherwise no one would be able to drink — and that is a party I would not want to attend.

## All About the Timing

There are two times when suggesting or delivering a toast is appropriate: at the beginning of a meal or right before dessert is served. To welcome guests, a host may wish to make a toast at the beginning of the meal. At this point the host may choose to remain seated or rise depending on the situation. Guests should not sip from their wine until the host takes the first sip. This gives the host the opportunity to make a toast before everyone engages in drink and conversation. If the toast is given before dessert, the host should rise, as most guests will be fully engulfed in conversation with each other and therefore it is easier to get their attention.

## Set the Tone

Finally, the most worrisome part of a toast for many is well, of course, what to say. Please keep in mind you don't have to give an award-winning performance to win people over. It is best to keep it simple and from the heart. Plan what you would like to say, perhaps even practice a bit. But don't overdo it.

Whether you are the host or a guest, you are now armed with some of the finer points of the tradition surrounding a toast. So go out this holiday season with ease and confidence, and enjoy that glass of wine or Champagne knowing you are able to execute the perfect toast — or at least one that's faux pas free! •





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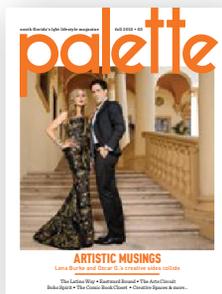
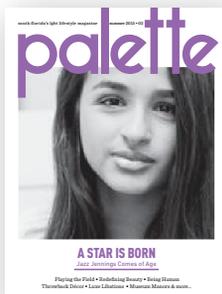
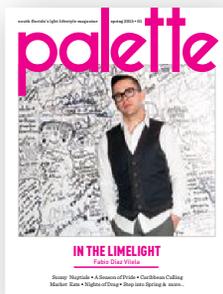
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# FIGHTING THE FLU

This flu season, take proper precautions and know what signs to look out for.

by WYATT MYERS

**T**he flu is an infection that can impact people year-round. But as temperatures start to drop, people gather indoors more frequently, making the disease easier to transmit. “The droplets formed from sneezes and coughs help to spread the flu, which is why you see it more commonly during the winter in schools and in other areas where people are close together,” says Kenneth Ratzan, M.D., an infectious disease specialist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach.

The flu is no fun for anyone who gets it, but in some instances, it can get downright deadly. “If your young child has the flu, or if you are elderly or pregnant, on cancer chemotherapy or otherwise immunocompromised, you are at particular risk for having complications of the flu,” says Thomas M. Hooton, M.D., medical director of Infection Control at UHealth—University of Miami Health System. This is why taking action against the flu is so important.

## Practice Prevention

When it comes to protecting yourself and others, the first step is to get an annual flu shot. While the flu vaccine is not 100 percent effective, it’s the best tool available for preventing spread of the disease.



“The flu vaccine is updated every year to fight the common strains of flu that are circulating, so you need to get it every year for protection from what’s going around right now,” says Dr. Ratzan. “You’re not only protecting yourself, but protecting others for whom catching the flu can be dangerous or even deadly.”

In addition to the annual vaccine, other steps involve basic respiratory and general hygiene and good old common sense. “Make sure you cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, wash your hands often and do not go to work if you have the flu,” adds Dr. Hooton.

## Common Flu Myths

**MYTH:** You can catch the flu from the vaccine.

**MYTH:** The flu is just a bad cold.

**MYTH:** Feed a cold, starve a fever.

**MYTH:** Chicken soup will speed your recovery from the flu.

**MYTH:** You can’t spread the flu if you’re feeling well.

## Telltale Signs

If you catch the flu early enough, the antiviral medication Tamiflu (oseltamivir) can treat the symptoms in order to make you more comfortable while also preventing spread of the illness to those around you. That’s why it’s important to be on the lookout for signs and symptoms of the flu

in yourself and your loved ones, particularly children.

Dr. Ratzan says the early signs can include a general malaise: body aches, headaches, fatigue and fever. Before long, the coughing will set in. It can be either a dry or productive cough. The fever often worsens and can even reach as high as 104 degrees.

It’s good to see a doctor as soon as possible to determine if medication is an option for you. Tamiflu is typically only effective within the first 24 to 48 hours of showing flu symptoms. In addition, there are other ways to address the symptoms and get yourself on the way to a speedy recovery. For starters, get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids. Though these steps seem deceptively simple, they are key to helping you feel better while you are ill and getting you back on your feet, too. Taking over-the-counter pain relievers helps. In most cases, the illness will pass within a few days, but it’s important to seek medical attention, especially if your symptoms worsen. •

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# Q & A

## Laura Kaplan • U.S. Trust Private Client Advisor

by MEAGAN HERRIN

**A**s warm and inviting in person as the city she calls home, Laura Kaplan is happy to help us understand what marriage equality means for tourism in South Florida. With attention to both social and fiscal climates, she offers an insider's perspective of the economic forecast.

**Q: How would you say your clients have positioned themselves to better serve the LGBT community?**

A: My clients are definitely focused on downtown Miami and Miami Beach. Some of them have sort of gone off-market, farther south, or maybe up north but my clients are really focusing on the growth in Miami. They're telling me that relative to other major markets, Miami is relatively inexpensive. It's a great destination as a springboard to other places. A lot of my clients are coming from the northeast and other places where they look at Miami as a cost-effective place to do business, and they're excited about the opportunities.

**Q: How does the region — or even the state — stand to gain economically?**

A: There will for sure be an increase in tourist dollars and weddings. There's a popular website, *gaydestinationweddings.com*, which shows a 77 percent increase in

inquiries for gay weddings in South Florida. My clients are starting to get inquiries. I had a client — a friend actually who serves the wedding industry — that was telling me that in 20 years of business he did about four same-sex weddings. In the last six months he's done five. If that continues, I think we're going to see tremendous things.

**Q: Why do you think LGBT travelers should choose South Florida?**

A: Oh my gosh... beautiful beaches, great shopping, great, diverse community. I think the Latin influence makes us special and different from other destinations in the country. You have the benefit of the foreign community without having to travel abroad. There's amazing food and great infrastructure — and it just keeps getting better. My friends come down from New York for the beaches, and they're blown away by how beautiful this place is.

**Q: What other issues do you think the industry should support?**

A: I think we need to open up our eyes and our hearts to the children and understand that they're kids like everyone else. My daughter has many friends whose parents are same-sex couples and she has questions, like, "When your daughter says mommy, who answers?" It's just answering very simple questions. •



• Laura Kaplan is a U.S. Trust private client advisor specializing in hotel and hospitality investment.



# vibrant @



**KENNY G**  
2015  
Holiday Show

December 4

**THE HIP HOP  
NUTCRACKER  
DECADANCE**

December 5 & 6

**Kinky  
Boots**  
BROADWAY'S HUGE-HEARTED HIT!

December 8 - 13

**BRIAN  
REGAN**  
LIVE COMEDY TOUR

December 11

**RIOULT**  
DANCE • NY

December 11 & 12

**FREE  
GOSPEL  
SUNDAYS**  
AT THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER  
Miami Mass Choir  
Live at the Arsht Center

December 13

**A  
John  
Waters:  
Christmas  
Holier & Dirtier**

December 14

**The  
Nutcracker**  
MIAMI  
CITY  
BALLET

December 17 - 24

PETER LONDON GLOBAL  
DANCE COMPANY  
**DANCE/ING  
UNDER THE  
MISTLETOE**

December 18-20

**Disney  
IN CONCERT**  
Magical Music from the Movies

December 27

An Intimate Evening with  
**MATISYAHU**  
LIVE at Stubbs 10 year Anniversary

December 29

RODDERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S  
**The Sound of  
Music**  
Landscape & Fantasy

December 29 - January 3

**Salute to Vienna**  
NEW YEAR'S CONCERT

January 2

**TORONTO  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4

January 7

**THARP'S IN  
THE UPPER  
ROOM**  
MIAMI  
CITY  
BALLET

January 8 - 10

New World Symphony  
America's Orchestral Academy  
Michael Tilson Thomas, Artistic Director  
**GIL SHAHAM**  
PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY

January 9

**MISO**  
MIAMI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
EDUARDO MARTINEZ CONDUCTOR  
**OCEAN DRIVE  
IN VIENNA**

January 10

zoeticstage  
**RAPTURE,  
BLISTER,  
BURN**

January 14 - 31

**SALSA SUMMIT:  
EDDIE PALMIERI  
SALSA ORCHESTRA**

January 15

**Family Fest**  
AT THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER  
**story pirates**

January 16

**ANDSNES  
PLAYS  
SCHUMANN**  
CLEVELAND  
ORCHESTRA  
MIAMI

January 21 & 22

**NORMA**  
FLORIDA GRAND  
opera

January 23 - 30

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## COMMOTION ON THE OCEAN

As part of Womenfest, the Southernmost Party for Lesbians and their friends in Key West presented by the Key West Business Guild, Fury Water Adventures treated the sunset sail guests to live music by Jennifer Corday.

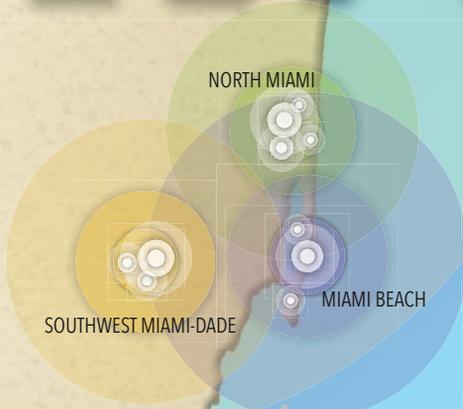


Clockwise from top left: Kaitlyn Leeman, Heather Kenyan, Womefest King Ben Dover and Natalie Cordes • Tasha Banks and Rachel Williams • drummer Amy Blaze and singer Jennifer Corday • Terri Mettie, Coleen Fitzsimmons, County Commissioner Heather Carruthers and Lisa Tennyson • Carley Smith and Alisa Smith • Yasmin Walker and Melanie McDonald • Dee Staerker

Andrew Printer

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- FIU Communication Arts Studio
- FIU-Miami Creative City Initiative
- Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU
- Mary Ann Wolfe Theater
- Miami Beach Urban Studios
- School of Environment, Arts and Society
- The Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
- The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
- The Royal@FIU World Stage Collaborative
- The Wolfsonian-FIU
- Writers on the Bay



## SAVE'S HALLOWEEN BALL

Several hundred of South Florida's scariest and sexiest ghouls gathered for a night of cocktails, dance beats, performances and a killer costume contest at Stage 305 in the Magic City Casino. This was indeed Miami's party of the year.



Clockwise from top left: Orlando Reyes and Nelson Castro • Danielle Del Toro and Natasha Guzman • Ozzie Dominguez and Mauro Olivieri • Belkys Jimenez and Mike Sexton • Nat Perez Del Rio, A.J. Blechner, Marta Pedrosa and Liz Regalado • Don and Cecilia Slesnick

Christina Mendenthal

## Resolve to Explore the Island City

There are many things to discover in the City of Wilton Manors and with the new concert series featuring live music in Mickel Park, there is even more to enjoy! The good times will rock and roll from January to March 2016 on the third Friday of the month. All the concerts are **FREE** and food and drinks will be available for purchase.

**DISCOVER**  
Celtic Mayhem | January 15  
7 to 9 p.m.

City of Wilton Manors  
www.wiltonmanors.com  
(954) 390 - 2130 |   



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Vizcaya is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except Tuesdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Vizcaya Museum and Gardens  
3251 South Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33129 | 305-250-9133 | www.vizcaya.org



Clockwise from top left: Alisia Woody and Peter Kouvatsov • John Lennon, Frederick R. Ziffle, Shanequa Jones, Suxie Smith and Regina Mary • Mitch Tunnel and Sue Murrell • Jan LeBlanc • Beth Huttman and Lisa Quillian • Lorraine Harvey and Kyle Gedman

## SOUTHERNMOST INTERGALACTIC CIRCUS COSTUME CONTEST

Inhibitions? That's for lowly earthlings! The Southernmost's intergalactic circus costume contest in Key West was truly out of this world.



Andrew Pinter



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## PINK FLAMINGO AWARDS 2015

Held at the Miami Beach Convention Center, this year's Pink Flamingo Awards welcomed guests eager to recognize the hard-working members of this community. The fundraiser directly benefits the LGBT Visitor Center, the first of its kind in the U.S.



Clockwise from top left: Karen Gilbert, Thea Sommes, Cindy Brown and Sharon Greenfelt Kersten • Lori Lynch • Harold Mathis and Aurelio Hurtado de Mendoza • DJ Citizen Jane and Holam Antonetti • Jon Welsh • Jane "Jei" Castro and Smeejay • Pamela Sweeney, Karina Iglesias, Elizabeth Regalado and Emily Garcia • Adora

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OF EVENTS**December**

**Art Basel**  
Miami Beach Convention Center  
*December 3-6*  
artbasel.com/miami-beach

**Hot Pink Holidays**

Key West  
*December 3-6*  
hotpinkholidays.org

**La Santa Cuba Benefit**

Nina Torres Fine Art, Miami  
*December 4*  
ticketbase.com

**6th Annual HoliGay Celebration  
and Toy Drive**

LGBT Visitor Center, Miami Beach  
*December 10*  
gogaymiami.com/holigay

**Grimal Grove  
Holiday Chocolate Festival**

Big Pine Key  
*December 10-12*  
growinghopeinitiative.org

**Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida  
presents *A Time to Love***

Sunshine Cathedral, Fort Lauderdale  
*December 11, 12, 17 and 18*  
gmcsf.org

***A John Waters Christmas***

Adrienne Arsht Center, Miami  
*December 14*  
arshtcenter.org

**Miami City Ballet  
presents *The Nutcracker***

Adrienne Arsht Center, Miami  
*December 14-24*  
arshtcenter.org

**Insane Inflatable  
5K Fort Lauderdale**

Central Broward Regional Park, Lauderdale  
*December 19*  
insaneinflatable5k.com/ft-lauderdale-fl

**Holiday Paddle to Key West**

Marathon  
*December 26-January 1*  
burnhamguides.com

**Florida Keys**

**Craft Beer & Bubbly Fest**  
Marathon Community Park  
*December 27*  
keysbeerandbubblyfest.com

**King Mango Strut**

Coconut Grove  
*December 29*  
kingmangostrut.org

**New Year's Eve at Bayfront Park**

Downtown Miami  
*December 31*  
bayfrontparkmiami.com

**Winter World****New Year's Eve Celebration**

The Manor, Wilton Manors  
*December 31*  
themanorcomplex.com

**New Year's Eve Shoe Drop**

Bourbon St. Pub, Key West  
*December 31*  
bourbonstpub.com/newyeareseve

**January****Orange Bowl Swimming Classic**

Jacob's Aquatic Center, Key Largo  
*January 3*  
jacobsaquaticcenter.org

**Kristin Chenoweth**

Broward Center for the Performing Arts  
Fort Lauderdale  
*January 14*  
browardcenter.org

**Art Deco Weekend**

Ocean Drive, Miami Beach  
*January 15-17*  
artdecoweekend.com

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Bayview Park, Key West  
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**Gay8**

Little Havana  
*January 17*  
gay8festival.com

**Quantum Key West Race Week**

*January 17-22*  
keywestraceweek.com

**Lifetime Miami Marathon  
and Half Marathon**

*January 24*  
themiamimarathon.com

**Gay Chili Cookoff**

Penny's at the Duke, Lantana  
*January 31*  
compassglcc.com



# KEY WEST

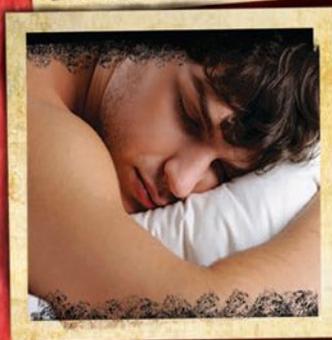
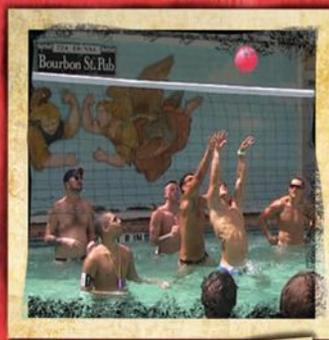
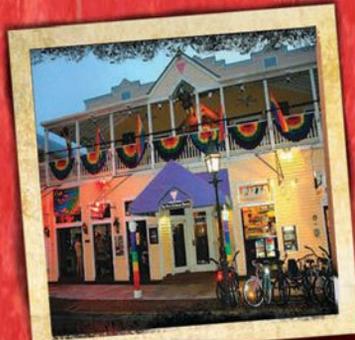
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MALE DANCERS  
NIGHTLY AT 10PM**

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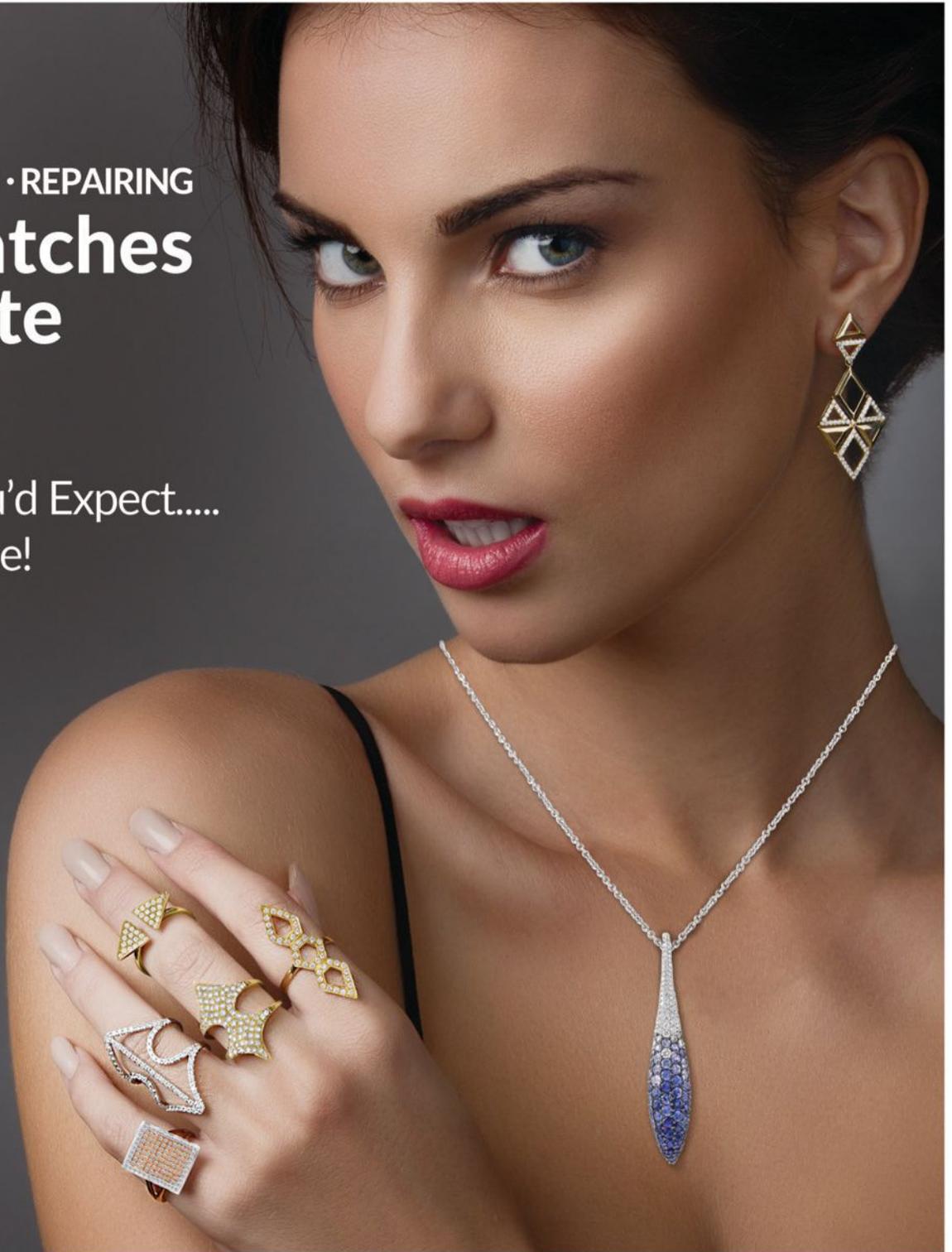
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