

MODERN LUXURY

ASPEN

MAGAZINE

MIDSUMMER 2015

THE ASPEN AESTHETIC

NEW BALLET,
MUSIC, THEATER
& VISUAL ARTS
ENLIVEN THE SCENE

SPIRIT OF GIVING

LOCAL
PHILANTHROPISTS,
GLOBAL IMPACT

THE ART & CULTURE ISSUE

SILVER ANNIVERSARY: 25 YEARS
OF JAZZ ASPEN SNOWMASS

PLUS

25 INDULGENT WAYS
TO SAVOR SUMMER

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ASPEN GIVES BACK



Regional Ute tribal members perform a Bear Dance in Aspen's Rio Grande Park.



Children learn about life in the Victorian era during a Playing with the Past program.



"The Aspen Historical Society is so near and dear to my heart because Aspen is so near and dear to my heart. Without it, this town wouldn't have nearly the substance it does today. I can't even imagine Aspen without this organization...and I really don't want to." — **BARBARA PLATTS, ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

& MARKETING COORDINATOR

In *Aspen Magazine's* Gives Back page on nonprofits in the Roaring Fork Valley, one of our staffers chooses an organization that he or she considers noteworthy to spotlight. For this issue, Associate Editor & Marketing Coordinator Barbara Platts chose the Aspen Historical Society.

Beginning in 1963, six stewards started to put together an archive in order to preserve the history of Aspen for future generations. This group — Ramona Markalunas, Joan Lane, Herbert Bayer, Dorothy Shaw, Julie James and Fred Glidden — found it essential to recognize the community's rich history. Thus, the Aspen Historical Society was born.

Striving to enrich the experience of Aspen for every resident and visitor, this nonprofit organization has collected stories throughout the years including 5,741 archival records, 1,031 books, 6,565 3-D objects and 23,139 photographs. Its home is the Wheeler/

Stallard Museum, a Queen Anne Style house located in the West End neighborhood.

"A lot of people think we are just a big house in the West End, which is true, but we have a lot of other things to offer," says Kelly Murphy, executive director. "We take a variety of approaches to communicating history with people."

The Aspen Historical Society offers nine different tours, from the haunts of local ghost towns to the spirits of the historic pubs. Each tour is led by energetic and entertaining guides (some of whom used to perform with Aspen's former Crystal Palace dinner theater).

"We have tours, we have performances," Murphy says. "People like to view things in different ways and I think we hit that. We provide all kinds of avenues, offering something for everybody."

With the recent closing of the exhibit *Seasons of the Nuche: Transitions of the Ute People* after three years, AHS is turning over a new leaf with the opening of *Best, Firsts, and Worst: Aspen in Objects*. This exhibit premiered June 9, providing a fun twist on more than 90 Aspen artifacts by placing them in superlatives.

"The exhibit is a delightful tour down memory lane for those of us that were here, and for those of us who were not," says board member Ruth Owens. "It tells our fabulous stories."

The exhibit reflects the belief "if it happened two minutes ago, it's history." Visitors of all ages can find something of interest from the mining years to the start of the X Games (and yes, people actually did wear those silly Taco Bell hats).

One of AHS' newest endeavors is the undertaking of a \$3 million campaign to renovate the archives in the Wheeler/Stallard carriage house. Built in the 1970s, the archive space needs an update as it continues to expand. The renovation will increase space by 35 percent, and improve storage conditions to extend the life span of artifacts, without changing the exterior of the building. It will also add a new security system and create a separation between workstations and storage areas.

The society still needs to raise \$350,000 in order to begin construction this fall.

Many people explore Aspen without ever knowing the stories that make up the town's past. The goal of AHS is to share that past and provide a different perspective for both visitors and longtime locals.

"If you care about our community, you have to on some level care about what we do," says Murphy. "I don't think you can appreciate our community and not have some understanding of its history."

BY THE NUMBERS

1,853

Weight in pounds of the largest silver nugget ever mined in the US (from Aspen's Smuggler Mine).

7,493

Kids who have explored history with AHS from Grand Junction to Eagle (4.5 times the number of students in the Aspen School District).

4

Museums and sites that AHS operates.

33,474

People who interacted with the Aspen Historical Society in 2014

1880

The year the town received the name Aspen

3.1m

Online viewings of newspapers in the AHS archives since 2005 (two times the number of skier visits to Aspen/Snowmass' four mountains last winter).

45

Minutes to get to the top of Aspen Mountain on the original Lift 1 and 2 chairlifts

45,165

Objects in AHS' permanent collection—close to one per resident of the Roaring Fork Valley

TO DONATE TO THE ASPEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OR GET INVOLVED, GO TO ASPENHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 970.925.5347

NOW IN TOWN

NATURE'S PALETTE

The floral colors in The Little Nell's living wall represent an Aspen vista, with blue as the sky, green as the mountains, and red and purple as sunrise and sunset.

Botanical Bounty

The Little Nell's terrace received a vibrant splash of color this summer with the installation of Aspen's first public living wall. A combination of petunia, coleus, labelia and alyssum, the vertical garden grows 7 feet high and 24 feet wide. Hotel General Manager Simon Chen was inspired to commission the wall as he recalled the lush gardens that existed when he worked at the Nell in the 1990s. "I remember guests dining on the patio in the summer with our beautiful

gardens as a backdrop," he says. "I wanted to relive the experience but elevate it to another level." The wall was designed by local landscape maven Arabella Beavers of Busy Beavers Gardening and constructed in Denver by Botany Lane Greenhouses. It took 10 people to install it in its new home. Bonus: The floral creation is the perfect backdrop for enjoying the culinary creations of Element 47's just-named new executive chef, Matt Zubrod. Rooms from \$375 per night. 675 E. Durant Ave., 970.920.4600, thelittlenell.com —Barbara Platts



[NOW IN TOWN]
BUZZ

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
Shane Ebrahimi wants to
make stand-up
paddleboarding even more
accessible to all.

SPORTS TALK

BETTER WITH TWO

A LOCAL PADDLER SHAKES UP THE TRADITIONAL SUP.

By Barbara Platts | Photography by David Clifford

Five years ago stand-up paddleboard-maker **Shane Ebrahimi** had a radical idea. He took one of his prototype SUPs, placed it on his saw table and cut it straight down the middle. As chunks of foam flew around and a perfectly good board was split in half, Ebrahimi was sure he was onto something great.

"I just had faith that it was going to work," recalls the owner of Carbondale-based Shaboomee Paddleboards. Turns out he was right. Ultimately, he reconnected the board's two dynamic halves to each other via a system that allows each side to move somewhat independently, giving the user unprecedented control.

After tweaks to the design and a successful patent application, Ebrahimi started spreading the word about the Shaboomee SplitSUP last fall. Instead of selling the original model, he worked on building up the hype, taking the board to trade shows and letting paddlers test it out. Now, the 2015 version of the SplitSUP has arrived and is officially on the market.

Despite having six other more traditional Shaboomee paddleboards, Ebrahimi says the

SplitSUP is his board of choice, especially on rough water, where it seamlessly carves through waves and provides ample stability.

"When you have a single surface board, you are trying to compensate for the movements the water makes," he explains. "When you split the board into two, each side of your body can react quicker and more naturally to the movements of the water."

The SplitSUP comes in three models: D-Ring, Grommet and Center Air Chamber. The D-Ring uses a ring and bungee cord to connect the two halves and, since it has the most play, is best suited for advanced SUPers. The Grommet, geared toward intermediates, uses a PVC pipe and bungee cord connection. And for beginners, the Center Air Chamber model incorporates an adjustable, inflatable chamber into the middle that you can fine-tune for better control.

Whatever board floats one's boat, so to speak, Ebrahimi says his primary goal is to get people up and paddling. "We are trying to broaden the platform from which everyone can explore nature." \$1,289, 970.315.2224, shaboomee.com

BY THE NUMBERS

Tweet This

With dozens of bird species calling the Roaring Fork Valley home, it's an opportune time to pull out your binoculars. The Roaring Fork Audubon Society (roaringforkaudubon.org) has the info to know. —BP

3 billion

Birds in the United States killed in the U.S. every year by cats. Raising awareness of this issue is one of RFAS' main goals.

0

Paid employees at RFAS. All members are volunteers.

479

Active local members of RFAS

244

Bird species that live in the Roaring Fork Valley, not including accidentals

35

Years ago that RFAS formed, with the mission of promoting the enjoyment, conservation and understanding of birds and other wildlife

87

Species of birds identified during RFAS' 30th Spring Bird Count May 24

PAS DE TROIS

THE ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET WELCOMES AN UNPRECEDENTED THREE NEW DANCERS FOR A SPIRITED SUMMER LINEUP.

By Barbara Platts
Photography by Rebecca Stumpf

For 25-year-old dancer Jenelle Figgins, making the decision to leave the hustle and bustle of New York City to join Aspen Santa Fe Ballet was easy. She loved her time with her former company, Dance Theatre of Harlem, but she was tired of the financial struggle that came with living in the dance capital of the United States. "As a dancer in New York, the starving artist thing is real," the SUNY Purchase alumna says. "The last year in New York, I was merely surviving."

Figgins is one of three dancers who joined ASFB last spring, the biggest cast change the now-13-member contemporary dance company has undergone since its inception in 1996. Other new members are Pete Leo Walker, who came from North Carolina's Charlotte Ballet, and Anthony Tiedeman, a newly minted Juilliard grad. All arrived in the Roaring Fork Valley at the end of May.

"We are very much looking forward to seeing those new faces on stage," says ASFB Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty. "It's very difficult for us to pick dancers for such a tight group. Hiring three is a big turnaround for us."

The dancers are a close-knit group, and chemistry between them is important. Artistic Director Tom Mossbrucker notes that hiring

new dancers requires finding ones with an independent and expressive disposition who can translate that into their work. "We look for dancers that have an open, honest quality to their dancing, an outward feel," he says. "Something that is pleasing to the audience, where the audience would like to get to know that person. All three of the dancers we hired convey that personality."

The company begins its 19th summer with a performance in Santa Fe July 10 before coming to Aspen for two performances in July and one in August.

The summer repertoire (performances July 18 and 28, and Aug. 22) features pieces from three choreographers, including Spaniard Alejandro Cerrudo, in residence with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, who was commissioned to create a piece for ASFB. He began choreographing it last November and completed it in June after the new dancers arrived.

Another piece, *1st Flash*, comes from Jorma Elo, a Finnish choreographer who has frequently worked with ASFB. He created the highly physical contemporary work in 2003 for Netherlands Dance Theater.

"[Elo's] work has really helped define the CONTINUED...

HIGH IN DEMAND
Katherine Bolanos and Craig Black
rehearse the highly physical piece *1st
Flash* by Jorma Elo.

...CONTINUED look of the company and helps showcase the strength of the dancers," says Mossbrucker.

Tiedeman, for one, was initially surprised by the demanding nature of *1st Flash*, the first piece he learned after joining the company. But now he appreciates its blend of elements. "I like that it has a mix of beautiful technique and gritty physicality," he says.

A piece that ASFB commissioned two years ago from Spanish choreographer Cayetano Soto, *Beautiful Mistake*, will return for an encore performance. The contemporary work, performed by five men and four women, has a dark, moody feel punctuated by strong and aggressive movements.

Throughout its existence, many of ASFB's programs have been curated specifically for the dancers by well-known choreographers, which is atypical for most American dance companies, says Malaty, but gives ASFB more breadth. "Our artistic director does not choreograph for the company," he notes. "So you don't see or experience a style through only one person."

In fact, the variety of choreographers who have created commissioned works for ASFB is a large reason dancers are so attracted to the company. The resulting eclectic mix of work allows the dancers to perform in a range of styles and, potentially, have a role created specifically for them—"a dancer's quintessential dream," notes Malaty.

Likewise, that one-on-one opportunity keeps choreographers coming back to ASFB, says Mossbrucker, as it allows them to get to know and be inspired by



FLASH DANCE
From top: Janelle Figgins and Sadie Brown run through a section of *1st Flash*; Pete Leo Walker, one of the newcomers to the company, and Seia Rassenti work on *1st Flash*.

specific dancers while creating a piece.

In addition to staging its own work, ASFB has traditionally hosted other companies each summer. Still to come this season are the Juan Siddi Flamenco Santa Fe (July 23) and Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (Aug. 7 and 8, including a special family-oriented performance), which returns to Aspen after more than two decades. Says Malaty of the latter, "It's a great company that's probably the most similar to the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. It's a more slick, contemporary dance offering."

But what Malaty and Mossbrucker are most looking forward to is seeing the newest members weave themselves into ASFB's unique fabric. "I'm excited to see Pete, Anthony and Jenelle fit into the company, to see how it changes or how it stays the same," Mossbrucker says. "They are all spectacular performers."

As for Figgins, it seems she's already found her niche here. "I feel like I've got the general spirit of the company," she says, "which is to love and support."

All performances are at the Aspen District Theatre. aspensantafeballet.com



Where are they now?

With a relatively small number of dancers, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet performers become well-known among local audiences. But a dancer's career doesn't last forever. Here's what some past favorites are now doing. —BP

Sam Chittenden is a graphic designer for ASFB.

Katie Dehler teaches at ASFB.

Seth DelGrasso is a newly hired officer at the Aspen Police Department.

Brooke DelGrasso is a nurse at Aspen Valley Hospital.

25

Ways to Savor *Summer*

FROM SUMMERY COCKTAILS TO NEW
CONCERTS TO HIDDEN HIKES, WE'VE
HIGHLIGHTED OUR FAVORITE WAYS
TO MAKE THE MOST OF ASPEN'S
SPECIAL SEASON.

*By Cindy Hirschfeld, Laurel Miller, Trina Ortega, Allison Pattillo,
Barbara Platts, Sarah Chase Shaw and Tess Weaver Strokes*



SPIRITED SPECIALS

Grab a seat and a glass for one of these summerlong tributes to your drink of choice at restaurants around town. Champagne Sundays at **Brex Brasserie** (411 S. Monarch St.) feature a glass of bubbly for \$10 and oysters for \$1.50 at this traditional French spot inside the Dancing Bear. Down the street at the **Limelight Hotel** (355 S. Monarch St.), happy hour just got sweeter with a flight of sangria (\$12)—white sangria mixed with rum, rosé mixed with tequila and traditional red with brandy and vodka. Pink on the Patio Tuesdays let you order a refillable glass of rosé (\$18) with an entree during lunch at **Element 47** (675 E. Durant Ave.) and dinner at **Ajax Tavern** (685 E. Durant Ave.), and toast to the good fortune of a summer's day in Aspen. —BP

1

SANGRIA PHOTO BY JEREMY SWANSON



THREE'S COMPANY
Sangria at the
Limelight Hotel

3

LUXURY AT 11,300 FEET

The family-owned, custom-built **Smith Cabin** on Richmond Ridge is just a few miles away as the crow flies and 3,400 feet up

Aspen Mountain, but it may as well be a million miles away... and that's the idea. Available for rent on a limited basis, the 1,000-square-foot eco-conscious haven (lighting is supplied by a photovoltaic system) is 3 miles southeast of the Sundek and accessible only by four-wheel drive. Seven hundred private acres surrounded by wilderness preserve the dizzying views of the Castle Creek Valley and Elk Mountains. But views aren't the only luxury at this three-bedroom modern-rustic retreat. There's a kitchen with high-end appliances, an open living room, radiant-heated floors, Wi-Fi access, a six-speaker Bose stereo system and a Zen-inspired shower. \$2,700 for one night, \$1,350 on subsequent nights, 970.379.9400, smithcabinaspen.com —TO



THE HIGH LIFE
Smith Cabin on Aspen Mountain

4

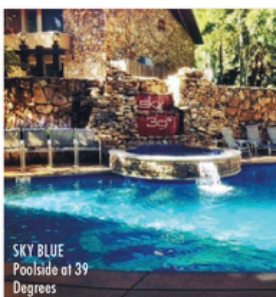
"Hiking the Lost Man loop. I love the above-tree-line landscape and [the feeling of] getting away without really leaving."

—KITTY BOONE, VICE
PRESIDENT, PUBLIC PROGRAMS,
ASPEN INSTITUTE

2

TRIATHLON, ASPEN STYLE

Get in a workout while exploring the town. Start with a cruiser ride on a **WE-cycle bike** from one of 14 stations around Aspen (\$9 for 24 hours, we-cycle.org). Rack your ride at the base of **Smuggler Mountain** (Park Circle station) and head uphill for the lung-busting 1.5-mile hike to the viewing platform. Take in the vista and cooler temps before running or hiking back to your bike. Then pedal across town to **39 Degrees at the Sky Hotel** (709 E. Durant Ave.) and prep for the final leg of your journey—sipping a refreshing Lemongrass Cooler (\$11) while soaking in the hotel pool. —AP



SKY BLUE
Poolside at 39
Degrees

POOL PHOTO BY BRIANA VON OHEN, CABIN PHOTO BY TONY PIGORAL



SKI AREA SLEEPOUT

For a special night under the stars, custom-design a fully supported **on-mountain camping trip at**

Snowmass in a private wooded area near a small fishing pond. Just a short hike from the Elk Camp Gondola, the rustic getaway allows for wildflower hikes or mountain biking by day, followed by stargazing and s'mores by the campfire.

You'll catch a ride to and from the campsite, and all of the basics for a night in the woods are provided and set up—canvas tents, cots, sleeping bags, a kitchen wagon (and cook), picnic table, chairs and a fire pit. Available through

August, \$825 per night, 970.923.1227, aspensnowmass.com —TO

6

5

PROGRESSIVE WEEKEND BREAKFAST

Start the day with a Gold Mine (coffee, almond milk and honey, \$4.70 medium size) from **Peaches** (121 S. Galena St.). Sip it as you wander through the **Aspen Saturday Market** downtown, sampling an organic, tart yet sweet pluot from Forté Farms and admiring restored vintage bikes from ReCycle Art Aspen. Once your appetite is piqued, wander over to **BB's Kitchen** (525 E. Cooper Ave.) for brunch on the patio and a great view of Aspen Mountain. Order up a BLT Bloody Mary (\$12), which adds a twist to the flavors you love, and decadent bananas Foster French toast (\$17), a new menu item from chef Jeff Casagrande, who just took over the helm. —AP



"Hiking, arriving [at] amazing lakes, listening to the birds, encountering wildlife, picking mushrooms and enjoying our wonderful mountains and amazing skies are my delight."

—CHRISTINE AUBALE GERSCHEL, PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LES DAMES D'ASPEN

7

8

IN RARE SPIRIT

Looking for a way to fill your glass with something out of the ordinary? In addition to an astounding wine list, The Little Nell's Element 47 restaurant (675 E. Durant Ave.) boasts an impressive selection of high-tier liquors, including **Rémy Martin's Louis XIII cognac** (shot \$210). Aged up to 100 years, it's made with grapes from the Champagne region of France. At Jimmy's (205 S. Mill St.), **Monkey 47 Schwarzwald Dry Gin** (shot \$14) was inspired by a recipe crafted in Germany's Black Forest in the 1940s. The updated version includes 47 ingredients that give this hard-to-find spirit its herbal and floral taste. Two additions to the vast collection of spirits at Justice Snow's (328 E. Hyman Ave.) are from **Kavalan, Taiwan's only whiskey distillery**. Try the smooth and slightly fruity malt whiskey (shot \$20) or go for the Concertmaster (shot \$24), which is finished in a port cask for a rich body with natural sweetness. —BP



GERMAN GIN
Get some at Jimmy's.

9

"A superlong mountain-bike ride on the Crown or in Hunter Creek with my husband, followed by canoeing on Blue Lake or Ruedi Reservoir with my son, then eating a lot of good food."

—KELLY MURPHY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ASPEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



10

BREAKFAST IS FOR THE BIRDS

Join naturalist Rebecca Weiss from the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies for **Tuesday morning birding sessions** through September (\$15) and discover Aspen's diverse birdlife and avian habitats. Learn about field craft to enhance your birding skills, local ecology and conservation; you'll even get a mini-lesson in binocular use or perhaps find out some best books for birders. Bring your own binoculars and guidebook, or borrow them from ACES. It's a perfect way to start a summer day. Not into company that early in the morning? Book a private outing (\$50 per hour). 970.925.5756, aspennature.org —SCS

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FARM TO MOUNTAIN TO TABLE

Among the restaurants to join the burgeoning farmcentric food movement is the midmountain Elk Camp at Snowmass, which introduces **Farm to Table Tuesdays**, a la carte locally sourced dinners throughout August (entrees \$7.75 to \$20). Purveyors include Carbondale's Crystal River Meats; the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies' Rock Bottom Ranch; Basalt's Avalanche Cheese Company; Crawford's Rendezvous Organic Farm; and Farm Runners at Hotchkiss, which sources produce from several North Fork Valley farms. Live acoustic music enhances the earthy vibe, and kiddos can stay entertained with games and other family-friendly activities on the lawn outside. Bonus: Five percent of food sales benefit the Thompson Divide Coalition and Aspen Center for Environmental Studies. Free rides up the Elk Camp Gondola start at 5:30PM. aspensnowmass.com —CH



12

MUSIC ALFRESCO

Craving an only-in-Aspen cultural experience?

Both the **Aspen Music Festival and School** (aspenmusicfestival.com) and **JAS Café** (jazzaspensnowmass.org) offer new summer performances at the Aspen Art Museum's Roof Deck Sculpture Garden/SO cafe. Distractionworthy: the scenic backdrop of Ajax Mountain. The free Tuesday evening (6PM) Music with a View chamber concerts from AMFS run through Aug. 18. JAS Café (7 and 9:15PM, tickets from \$35) offers a dinner option (from \$85, including ticket) at the early concert. Upcoming shows include Lizz Wright (Aug. 7 to 8) and the Pacific Mambo Orchestra (Aug. 13 to 14). 637 E. Hyman Ave. —LM



MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM
JAS Café in a new venue

13

"Take the gondola to the top of Aspen and hike out on Richmond Ridge. Kids can also play on the rock climbing wall and trampoline."

—CHRIS LANE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASPEN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



CIAO BELLA
The Italian-made Bianchi
by Gucci bike

14

WORDS WITH FRIENDS

One of Aspen's loveliest and most inspired public spaces, the **John Denver Sanctuary** (Rio Grande Place and Mill Street) is a botanical haven of perennial blooms interspersed with rock gardens and boulders inscribed with some of Denver's lyrics. Now there's more reason to visit, thanks to 12 additional inscriptions newly engraved on rocks throughout the park. Denver's friends and his widow, Annie, selected the quotes, which come from the likes of Leonardo da Vinci, John Muir, Albert Schweitzer, Henry David Thoreau... even Aspen Elementary School students. Pick up lunch first at Jour de Fete (710 E. Durant Ave.); we like the J.R. sandwich (prosciutto, cornichons, tomato and butter or olive oil on a baguette, \$10.75) and a side salad of fennel and orange (\$5); then wander, ponder and enjoy the feel of sunshine on your shoulders. —LM

JAS CAFE BY STEVE WUNDER

15

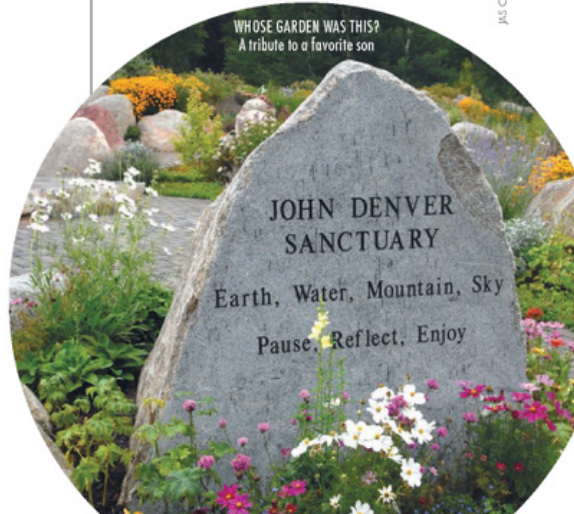
UP YOUR MOMENTUM

When the **USA Pro Challenge** comes to Aspen Aug. 19 to 20, the world's top cyclists will test their legs and lungs by summiting Independence Pass not just once (toward the end of Stage 3), but twice (after the start of Stage 4). Join the avid fans along the route by cycling up the pass road before the riders descend in Stage 3. Your ride? This sleek, carbon-fiber

Bianchi by Gucci bike (\$16,200) with Shimano Alfine componentry and disc brakes. The next day, watch the racers depart Aspen—and help cheer on part-time local and 2014 Challenge champ Tejay van Garderen—from the VIP hospitality tent (\$75), which offers a catered breakfast, large-screen TVs and autograph ops. usaprochallenge.com —CH

112

ASPEN MIDSUMMER 2015



WHOSE GARDEN WAS THIS?
A tribute to a favorite son

16

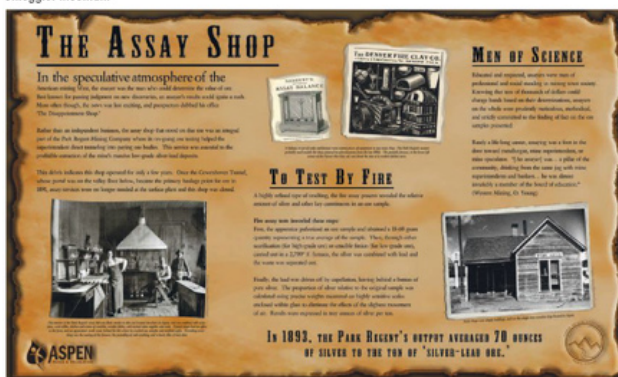
SOLO SESSIONS

Got a hankering to hone your outdoor skills? A private outing is the way to go. **Elk Mountain Expeditions** (970.456.6287, raftinginaspen.com) just introduced customized half- and full-day float and wading trips on the Roaring Fork River (from \$255). Carbondale's family-owned and -operated **Strang Ranch** (393 CR 102, 970.963.2319, strangranch.com) includes an equestrian center with panoramic views of the Elk Range.

Whether you're an experienced rider looking to improve your dressage or hunter-jumper skills, or a newbie (the ranch specializes in kids' programs, ages 5 and up), the highly experienced staff will have you sitting pretty (from \$60, not including horse rental). Looking to learn downhill or cross-country mountain-biking basics on-mountain? **Bike Snowmass** (970.923.1227, strangsnowmass.com) offers private lessons (from \$99 per hour) customized to your skill level (ages 8 and up) and preferences (picnic lunch? midday fishing break at the pond? no problem). —LM



LOOKING BACK
History made clear on
Smuggler Mountain



NUGGETS OF WISDOM

Ever wonder where one-sixth of the nation's silver came from? Find out the story behind Aspen's silver boom on the **Smuggler Mountain Open Space Historic Jeep and Trail Tour**. Jump in a jeep guided by Blazing Adventures for a picturesque drive up Smuggler Mountain, followed by a 45-minute walk with stops at interpretive signage that the city installed last summer. Aspen Historical Society history coach Mike Monroney is your knowledgeable and engaging guide. *Wednesday mornings through September, 9AM, free, meet at Gondola Plaza, 970.925.3721, aspenhistory.org* —SCS

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FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

There are few better ways to end a summer day in Aspen than sitting outside with a primo cocktail and admiring the alpenglow. And what better spot than tony **Casa Tua** (403 S. Galena St.), which boasts a membership program (benefits include invites to special events and VIP access) and, hence, the most exclusive deck in town? Indulge in a signature drink like an Aperol Spritz (\$11) as you tuck into, say, octopus salad with haricot verts, potatoes, cherry tomatoes and olives (\$26), or one of the lauded housemade pastas (from \$20). Not a member? You can still enjoy the decadent Italian food and wines; the downstairs restaurant and streetside patio are open for public lunch and dinner service. —LM

PEOPLE-WATCHING
The patio scene at Casa Tua





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HIKE AMONG NATURE'S FIREWORKS

If you're at all familiar with the trails around Aspen, you've either experienced or heard about the magnificent midsummer display of wildflowers on the Crested Butte side of West Maroon Pass. What you likely don't know is that **Electric Pass**, above Cathedral Lake, hosts a show of color that can be every bit as lovely, according to avid hiker Bob Wade (and owner of the Ute Mountaineer). From the Cathedral Lake trailhead 12.2 miles up Castle Creek Road, most people hike the 2.8 miles to the scenic tarn, then turn around. But take the signed right fork a ½-mile before the lake and hike another 2 miles (and another 1,700-plus feet in elevation) to Electric Pass, and you'll be rewarded with a riotous profusion of paintbrush, columbine, larkspur and more, especially following this year's rainy spring. Just start your hike early in the day, so you're off the exposed pass by the time any afternoon thundershowers roll in. —CH

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PICNIC AND PADDLE

Grab a picnic of fresh bread (\$6), salumi (\$11 per pound) and a log of chevre (\$6.50) from Meat & Cheese (317 E. Hopkins Ave.); a bottle of Triennes Rosé (\$20) from Of Grape & Grain (111 S. Monarch Ave.); and head 45 minutes over Independence Pass to the charming hamlet of **Twin Lakes** for an afternoon or evening of lakeside fun. Bring your own **canoe, kayak or SUP**, or rent one from Twin Lakes Canoe & Kayak Adventures (from \$30 in two-hour increments) and paddle across the lake to the big sandy beach on the far side. Take a self-guided tour of the former Interlaken resort, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A return at sunset guarantees smooth waters and a stunning view to the west. 719.251.9961, twinlakescanoeandkayak.com—SCS



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WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Now is the time to take advantage of some of the valley's least-used trails at the **Basalt State Wildlife Area** (cpw.state.co.us), which encompasses 4,800 acres along the flanks of Basalt Mountain and the Frying Pan River (because it provides critical winter range to elk, deer and bighorn sheep, the area is closed to hikers from Dec. 1 to April 15—and dogs are never permitted). The network of mostly unsigned double- and singletrack trails is perfect for meandering; you'll find sagebrush-dotted meadows, bird-filled ponds, lush aspen groves, incredible views and total solitude. For a 30- to 40-minute traverse above town, take Spur Road to its end and follow the singletrack up and to the right; then descend on Ridge Road. Or park at Lake Christine, just above the intersection of Two Rivers Road and Sopris Drive; head up the track past the power plant and veer right. —TWS

ENCOMPASSING THE ELKS
The view from the Basalt State
Wildlife Area



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"Walk to the Aspen Saturday Market early in the morning and sample the finest produce that Colorado has to offer.

Follow this with an omelet [\$18] at Element 47 before taking a leisurely bike ride down the Rio Grande Trail. After the ride and a quick bite at the Woody Creek Tavern for lunch, head back to Aspen, stopping to enjoy the Roaring Fork River on its journey west."

—SIMON CHEN, GENERAL MANAGER, THE LITTLE NELL



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FEET LAST

Our new favorite post-hike treatment is the recently introduced Classic Nail Grooming for feet at the **Spa at Viceroy Snowmass**, an ultimate pedicure enhanced with Thai compresses and soothing aromatherapy. Start out by soaking your tired dogs in a copper basin with warm water augmented with myrrh, vitamin E and lavender oils. Next comes a

sugar scrub with lemongrass, mimosa oil and lavender to gently exfoliate your feet and calves, followed by a seaweed and white clay mask to brighten and hydrate skin. Just as you're beginning to sink into pure bliss, the therapist pulls out a warm, muslin-wrapped compress of fragrant ginger, lemongrass and lavender—handmade in Thailand—for a lower-leg and foot massage, then finishes with a tingly peppermint cream. All the traditional pedi elements—filing, trimming, buffing, polish—are also included. The copper? Enjoy your hour with a complimentary glass (or two) of Champagne or chardonnay. \$85, 130 Wood Road, 970.923.8000, viceroyhotelsandresorts.com —CH

A CUT OFF THE OLD BLOCK

Sculptors from all over the world convene in tiny Marble—58 miles from Aspen and home to the renowned Yule quarry—to attend the

annual **Marble Symposium** (July 29 to Aug. 5). The symposium offers intensive carving sessions for sculptors with varying levels of experience, but it's also become a draw for the public, who can view works in progress and completed sculptures along the forested, riverside work sites. Take a free self-tour; chat with carvers; and afterward, swing by Slow Groovin' BBQ (101 W. First St.) for some down-home, delicious fare like a platter of ribs (\$12) before heading back to Aspen along scenic Highway 133. Daily tours 11AM-5PM, 970.963.5726, marbleinst.org —LM

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THANK GOD IT'S FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

New this summer at Basalt's award-winning **Woody Creek Distillers** are Food Truck Fridays, featuring local mobile eats from the likes of Slow Groovin' BBQ, Humble Plum and Aspen Skiing Company's The Sled. They're dishing up everything from pulled pork sandwiches (\$8) and veal cheek tacos with salsa verde (\$5), to bahn mi with chicken pate, pork belly and pickled vegetables (\$5). Work up a jones by biking down the nearby Rio Grande Trail; then kick back on the distillery's new patio, summery libation in hand (we're loving the basil gimlet: vodka, basil, simple syrup, celery bitters, \$12). 4-8PM, 60 Sunset Drive, Basalt, 970.279.5110, woodycreekdistillers.com. —LM



FRESH AFFAIR

THE PARTY *Aspen Magazine* returned to Base Village at Snowmass for the annual **Food & Wine Classic kickoff party** June 17 with a farm-to-table theme in celebration of our summer Food and Wine Issue. A silent auction benefited the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies.

THE PLAYERS Jim D'Agostino, Leticia Hanke, Diane and Jack Kennedy, Alan Klein, Christy Mahon

THE SCENE Chefs from some dozen Snowmass restaurants served up Colorado-inspired bites in a grand tasting on the lawn at the base of Fanny Hill, while Marble Distillery, Stripped mixes, John Anthony Vineyards and more poured ample cocktails and wine. Under fair evening skies (most welcome after a massive storm the night before), a couple of hundred guests played lawn games like croquet and cornhole, and tapped toes to the acoustic tunes of local bluegrass/Celtic band the Crowlin' Ferlies. They left with unique favors: living salad bowls grown at ACES' Rock Bottom Ranch. —*Barbara Platts*



Katie Shapiro, Hailey Stewart and Willis Brown enjoyed cold ones from Aspen Brewing Company.



Breckenridge Distillery served small-batch whiskey and vodka from its mobile bar.



The Crowlin' Ferlies



Christy Mahon and Alan Klein by the living salad bowls



Mini banana cream pies from Viceroy Snowmass Pastry Chef Ashley Jenkin were a hit.



Chelsea Dillon, Nancy Wilhelms and Jennifer Slaughter

[ASPEN SOCIAL] ON THE SCENE



Grant Dobbie and DJ Nagle



Dan Shafer, Wes Doyle, Molly Highnam and Sergio Garcia



Rose Abello and Brady Lowe

GRILL GALA

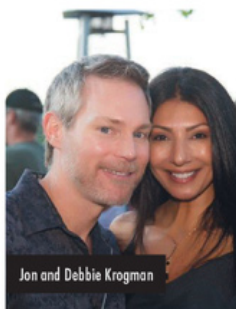
THE PARTY Cochon 555's **Heritage Fire** showcased wood-fired, whole-animal cookery at Snowmass' Base Village June 19, as 55 national and local chefs, butchers and ranchers artfully prepared humanely raised meat and fish.

THE PLAYERS Rose Abello, Mark Fischer, Brady Lowe, Alex Seidel, Richard Sandoval

THE SCENE A sellout crowd indulged in creative gourmet fare like spicy goat tacos, lettuce-wrapped wagyu beef from local ranch Emma Farms and grilled octopus at this over-the-top feast. —CH



Oscar Padilla grills achote-marinated pork.



Jon and Debbie Krogman



Several tasting tables were set up in the ballroom for the judges.

PIGGING OUT

THE PARTY For the final stop of this 10-city national culinary competition, the **Grand Cochon** came to Snowmass June 20 as 10 finalists duked it out for the title of King or Queen of Pork.

THE PLAYERS Tyler Florence, Brady Lowe, Laura Werlin, Andrew Zimmern, the 10 competing chefs from around the country

THE SCENE The Viceroy ballroom was packed with 600 guests eager to taste the 30-plus entries prepared from heritage-breed pigs. The creative dishes included pork loin ceviche and apple-lard puff pastry. A panel of 20 celebrity judges ultimately crowned Thomas Boemer, of Minneapolis' Corner Table, the King of Pork. —BP



Stephen "Octoman" Fried



Thomas Boemer receives his crown from Cochon 555 founder Brady Lowe.



DIAMOND DAZZLER
Artisan-crafted cowhide and wool etched with diamonds, from \$1,435, by Ben Soleimani at Restoration Hardware, 2900 East First Ave., Denver (opening late fall), restorationhardware.com



SMOOTH AS ...
Silk and wool, handcrafted in Tibet, \$16,650, by Tufenkian at Catthers Home, 530 Basalt Ave., Basalt, 970.927.6556, catthershome.com



ART DECO-INSPIRED
Duse rug, viscose and wool, hand-knotted in Nepal, available in bronze/cream or sand/gray, \$201 per square foot, by Armani/Casa at Aspen Design Room, 625 E. Main St., 970.544.2055, aspensdesignroom.com

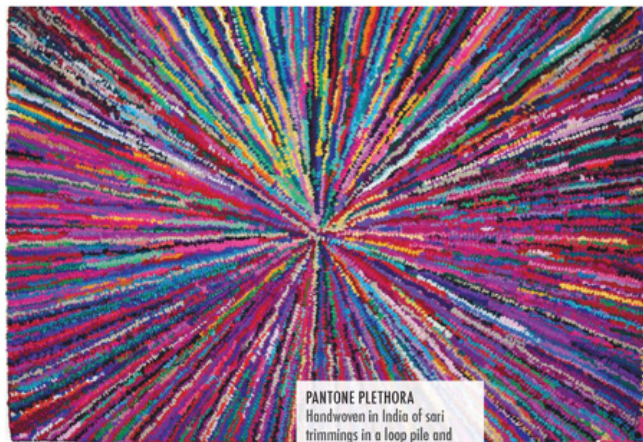
ALL COLORADO

UNCOMMON THREADS

By Barbara Platts

A striking handcrafted rug can be the crowning touch to any room.

From a wave motif inspired by Art Deco-era velvet to a vibrant sunburst of traditional Indian sari colors, the strong graphics in our pick of new carpets from area retailers may be just the statement you're looking for to liven up bare floors.



PANTONE PLETHORA
Handwoven in India of sari trimmings in a loop pile and tufted construction, from \$28 per square foot, by High Country Rugs, 970.618.3178, customorientalrug.com



BRANCHING OUT
Hand-knotted by Tibetan artisans in Nepal in 10 colors of wool and refined silk, custom sizes and colors available, price upon request, at Isberian Rugs, 516 E. Hyman Ave., 970.925.8062, isberianrugs.com

SPECIAL PROMOTION
DESIGN SPOTLIGHT / MEET

Marian Lansburgh & Jen Engel, Douglas Elliman Real Estate | Joshua & Co.

For broker partners Marian Lansburgh and Jen Engel of Douglas Elliman Real Estate | Joshua & Co., acquiring the listing for a 1.45-acre property on Red Mountain in Aspen was not just luck. It was evidence of their experience (a combined 36 years in the real estate business in Aspen), their professionalism and their trustworthiness.

This one-of-a-kind property resides on the most sought-after street on Red Mountain, and in all of Aspen: Willoughby Way. Only a short jaunt to town, this street feels accessible yet secluded. Unobstructed views of mountain peaks from Independence Pass to Mount Daly are available in each room in the two-level, meticulously maintained home, complete with a large master suite and five guest bedroom suites, all with walk-out decks and lawn areas.

"A place like this rarely comes on the market here," Lansburgh says of the beautiful house, which is now listed for \$16,950,000.

Engel and Lansburgh particularly like how open the floor plan is, as well as the tennis court and the abundance of land on the property, attributes that are hard to find on Red Mountain.

A rare type of partnership in the real estate market in Aspen, Engel and Lansburgh joined forces in January after working at the firm together for almost eight years. They think working as a team brings more quality service to their clients.

"We partnered in order to offer outstanding service," Engel says. "We play on each other's strengths."

The dynamic duo makes it a top priority to be well respected by both their clients and peers. Plus, they strive to make shopping for a new property exciting.

"We want to make finding a new home a fun experience," Engel says. "People come here to enjoy Aspen. We want to help them do that." **Jen Engel: 970.618.7319, jen.engel@elliman.com, Marian Lansburgh: 970.618.9629, marian.lansburgh@elliman.com, 630 E. Hyman Ave., Suite 101, Aspen, CO 81611, elliman.com**

