



Need Shelf Help?
We're hung up on these cunning 'floating' designs **D8**

OFF DUTY

Gold Rush
Spiking prices make jewelry lovers want the ore even more **D4**



FASHION | FOOD | DESIGN | TRAVEL | GEAR

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, May 24 - 25, 2025 | **D1**



The Road Trip Less Traveled

Mudslides and traffic plague the coastal Highway 1. To see the 'real' California by car, try this route.

By Emily Pennington

FOR DECADES, road trippers in search of California postcard views have flocked to Highway 1 for panoramas of craggy coastline and shady redwood forests. But ask a local like me which stretch of blacktop really shows off the Golden State's frontier spirit and scenic diversity, and you're liable to hear a different number: 395.

A world apart from the clogged coastline, Highway 395 winds from the lapis water of Lake Tahoe to the sky-high summit of Mount Whitney. This is the road that in-the-know mountain rambblers take

Please turn to page D6

GOLDEN STATE OF MIND Clockwise from top left: Drivers own the open road near June Lake Loop; brave bathers take an icy dip in Convict Lake; an ancient Bristlecone Pine; a retro restaurant sign along Highway 395; one of the luxury yurts at Lake Tahoe's Desolation Hotel.



Inside



BROWN'S DEEP ROOTS
How it evolved from the color of peasant wear to this season's power shade **D2**



THE WEALTH EFFECT
Affordable decor tweaks that will make your home look expensive **D9**



COMFORT AND CONTROL
This Aston Martin convertible made Dan Neil feel like a driving genius **D11**



YOUR SUMMER GO-TO PASTA
It rarely gets better—or quicker—than this buttery, lemony cauliflower linguine **D10**

GETTY IMAGES (4); SAM HIGHBY (LINE); JAKE TORDY; ALAMY (BRISTLECONE); BRAD SCOTT; PHOTOS (DESOLATION HOTEL); ANNIEKA HUFFET (MAP)

STYLE & FASHION



MATT CHASE (ILLUSTRATION); GETTY IMAGES (PEASANT WOMAN); MAX MARA

◀ **EARTH MOTHERS** From left: A 15th century French peasant woman; brown set the mood on the Max Mara spring 2025 runway.

choose such bland attire that they're inconspicuous, a phenomenon that plays down the enormous disparity between the 1% and everyone else.

Brown's high point as a fashionable color was the 1970s, when a souring economy and fears of technology's increasing reach made the 1960s' flighty psychedelic tints look queasily out of touch. To course correct, fashion embraced earth tones. In 1971, when Grace Mirabella took over as editor of *Vogue* from Diana Vreeland, she painted her predecessor's scarlet office taupe and promoted brown and beige sportswear that readers could actually buy. (The fantastical garments of the Vreeland era often existed only for the fashion shoots that recorded them.)

Two years later, in the now legendary Battle of Versailles fashion show, the American designers' models sashayed onto the stage wearing ready-to-wear browns

'We live at a breakneck pace. Coffee, chocolate —these are small ways to feel comforted, to take a break.'

that ranged from fawn to nut—a pointed contrast to the bright hues of the supercilious French haute couture.

The inference: Brown was authentic and honest and reliable, qualities that acquire major allure when they seem in short supply.

In 2025, 50 years later, this once again rings true, and right on cue, the '70s have emerged as a runway reference. Paulina Liffner von Sydow, the founder of leather brand Liffner, jokingly refers to her line of accessories as "the brown bag brand" because it skews so heavily cocoa-colored. She traces her fashion awakening to a pair of '70s-style tobacco suede Miu Miu loafers for which she begged her mother as a teenager. "It's such a foundational color for me," she said. "I think of it as the ultimate neutral."

Hornby, who grew up in the north of England, where "it's very brown," considers the hue a softer, more versatile alternative to black. "It comes in so many different tones," she said. "It's genderless and seasonless. And in the right fabrics, it looks very rich."

For some, brown lacks *éclat*. It is, indeed, common. From the soil beneath our feet to the trees that soar overhead, it's everywhere in the natural world.

Still, in these nervy, doomscrolling times, this association is possibly even more compelling than coffee or chocolate.

SHADY OFFERINGS / WAYS TO EMBRACE RICH WALNUT AND UMBER TONES



◀ TWP Sylkie Skirt with Paillettes, \$995



▶ Banana Republic Ribbed Elbow-Sleeve Polo, \$50



▲ J.Crew New Colbie Buckle Sandals, \$99



▶ ERES Oda Long Bustier Dress, \$465



▲ ME+EM Tailored Summer Short, \$275

FASHION WITH A PAST / NANCY MACDONELL



Brown Garb Meant Poverty. No More.

WE'RE CURRENTLY in a brown "study," an outmoded term for self-absorption, a condition the fashion world regularly succumbs to. But in this case, the term is literal: The industry has taken a deep dive into the color of coffee, chocolate and protein-rich meals.

From the resurgence of the suntan to the revival of mahogany furniture, brown is ascendant. Supporting this observation: Pantone crowned Mocha Mousse its 2025 color of the year. In fashion, a deep shade of fudge is trending. For evidence, see Miu Miu's rich suede jackets, Gucci's draped satin dresses and Jason Wu's slouchy suits.

As the number of brown foods mentioned so far suggests, our embrace of this color relates to our palates, in what Pantone Color Institute vice president Laurie Pressman called the "food-ification" of culture. "Color is lifestyle," Pressman said. "We live at

a breakneck pace. Coffee, chocolate—these are small ways to step back, to feel comforted, to take a break."

But despite all these cozy allusions, brown can be divisive; for every caramel latte or cocoa mousse, you can find a less salubrious association. Hitler's brown-shirts. Dirt. The other end of the digestive process.

In fashion, the color is often maligned. When he was first made Gucci's creative director, Tom Ford said chairman Maurizio Gucci wanted to make everything round and brown, while he wanted to make everything sharp and black. Guess who prevailed? "You were told, 'Don't do brown, it doesn't sell,'" said Clare Hornby, the founder and CEO of London fashion brand ME+EM. But now, she added, "it's almost impossible to keep in stock."

Historically, the rich and powerful have dressed ostentatiously,

in colors achieved with costly dyes. Kings and cardinals wear red. Sargent's Madame X, currently on view in "Sargent and Paris" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, favored black. Brown dyes, in contrast, were cheap and plentiful and—in a world that would not know washing machines for centuries—excellent at camouflaging grime. Not a bit aristocratic, brown was associated with deprivation.

In ancient Rome, the urban poor were known as *pullati*, which literally means "those dressed in brown." In medieval England, sumptuary laws forbade peasants from wearing anything other than russet, a rough cloth that was variously muddy brown or dull gray. And both Carmelite nuns and Franciscan monks have traditionally worn brown robes to symbolize their vows of poverty.

Today, bright colors no longer signify wealth. In fact, plutocrats

O Say, Can You See the Legacy of Jackie O?

Summer's most fetching (and inexpensive) accessory? Scarves, whether worn over the hair like Onassis—or woven through it. Here, how to pull off three of our favorite foulard combinations.



IN THE LOOP
A skinny style threaded through a braid lets you incorporate a peek of color without fully committing to a head wrap. After a few plaits, simply feed the scarf through a gap (secure with bobby pins, if needed) and keep braiding. Let the hairstyle be the focus: Don a simple top or coat, with a demure (or no) collar.



CALL IT A WRAP
A breeze to execute, this look overachieves in a few ways. The style protects hair, tames annoying flyaways and can mask a mane that has skipped a wash day or two. Look for a generously sized scarf (ideally 22 inches by 22 inches) so its ends can trail down your back. For added impact, pair with a top in a similar shade.



CHIN UP
Sometimes, classic is best. To channel Jackie O, diagonally fold a large foulard (around 35 inches by 35 inches), wrap it over your head and knot at the neck. Let loose with a fun print, but balance a truly busy pattern with a button-down in a solid shade. A pair of oversize sunnies will further deter any paparazzo.
—Caitie Kelly

GETTY IMAGES (3)

STYLE & FASHION

Wish Upon a Newer Star

Why do all our men’s style icons come from the pre-cellphone era? Who are the most stylish celebrities and screen characters today? Our writer went hunting for names to replace Cary Grant and Steve McQueen. His search didn’t exactly go to plan.

By JAMIE WATERS

IF I HAD a nickel for every time a Wall Street Journal reader cited Cary Grant as a men’s style inspiration, I would have long ago fled my “cozy” apartment and the communal washing machine that only works when you kick it three times and whisper the Lord’s Prayer.

“Pretty sure Cary Grant wouldn’t carry one,” a reader commented on a recent article about large bags. In response to a piece on grungy fashion, another quipped, “Cary Grant rolls in his grave.” My eyes rolled in their sockets behind a pair of flimsy, modern glasses Grant would have loathed.

Menswear brands and stylists, too, fill moodboards with cool cats from the pre-cellphone age. Chief among them: Grant, Steve McQueen and Paul Newman, a trio that a former colleague of mine dubbed “the Mount Rushmore” of style icons.

Personally, I’m hungry for fresh idols! A-listers who can usher me through current trends and dare me to try a new jacket. Folks familiar with the distinctly modern thrill of trying to make athleisure chinos look not-heinous.

I went searching for a definitive list of contenders, and quickly hit a wall. My little jaunt turned into a “Lord of the Rings”-style epic.

Jeremy Allen White is a dressed-down deity, swaggering in beat-up caps.

The issue: Today, few stars craft their own looks. As Brendon Babenzien, men’s creative director at J.Crew, noted, most celebrities now work with stylists constantly. On and off the red carpet, many are plonked, like Ken dolls, arms up, into ready-made outfits. And many stylists’ choices tend to be “shaped less by individuality and more by brand partnerships and trend cycles,” said Chris Olberding, president of shirt-maker Gitman.

Still, some stars’ personal style shines through, either by their own design or as nurtured by better stylists. And let’s not forget that movie and TV characters can also make fine style idols, especially when thoughtfully outfitted to resemble cooler, suaver versions of everyday people.

I asked more than 30 fashionable folks for their pick of idol-worthy current celebs and screen protagonists. Only about half could think of deserving nominees.

What makes a style icon? For one, an ease about their clothes that suggests they could sleep in them. For another, a hint of whimsy or something else “interesting or personal,” according to Emilie Hawtin, founder of tailoring brand Clementina. True icons’ outfits have “sauce,” as menswear content creator Xander Torres describes the X factor.

The celebrities

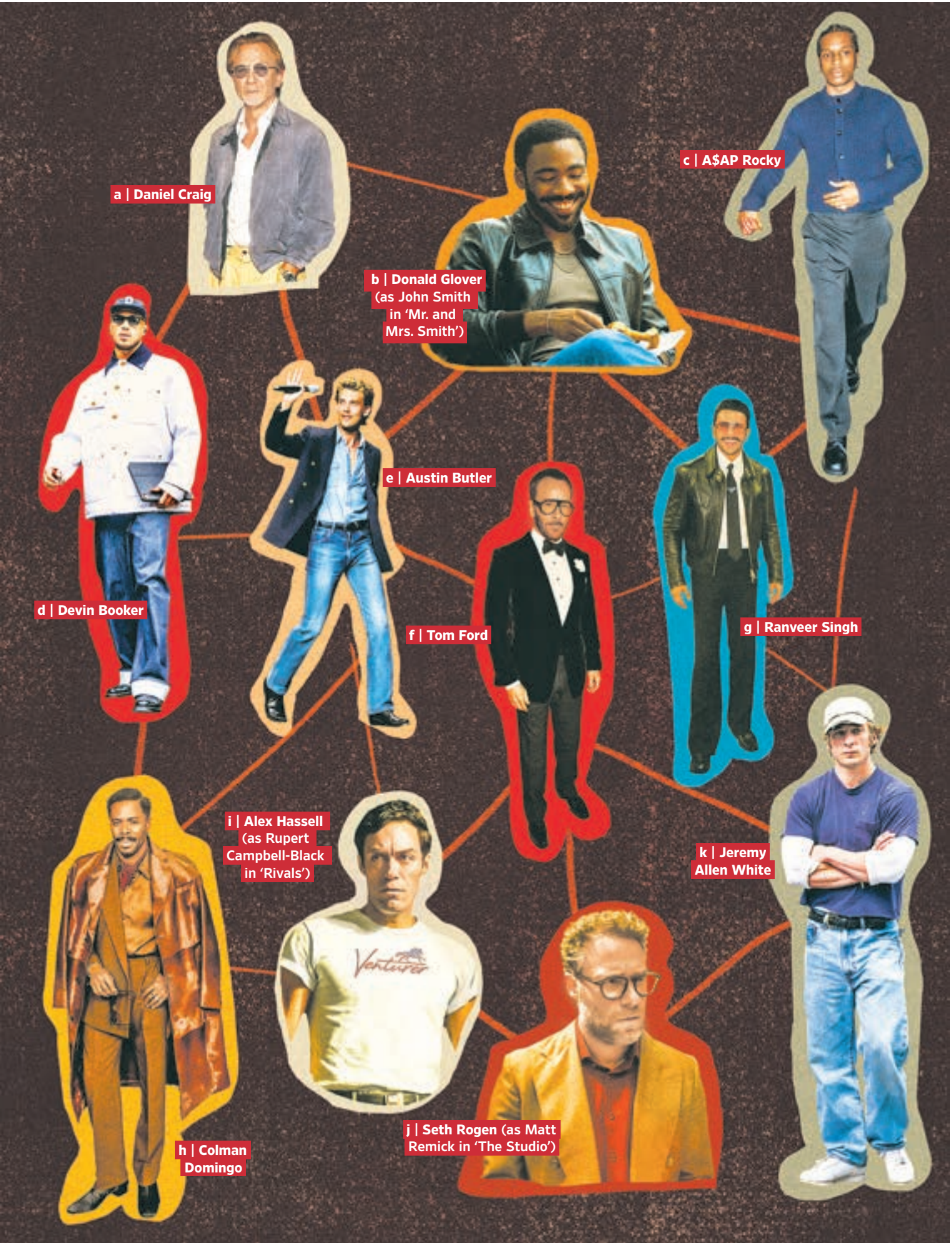
Not every icon must compel you to dress in their image. Haran Ravindran, a dapper Atlanta physician, admires the daring style of Bollywood star **Ranveer Singh**, whose heeled boots make headlines. “I’m not like, ‘I should wear his look tomorrow when I go to the plant store,’” said Ravindran, 44. “But as I’m getting older, I appreciate people who put on clothes that help them feel more like themselves and bring them joy.”

Many, including stylist Edward Bowleg III, hailed **Tom Ford** as the king of classic formalwear. Equally popular but more flamboyant: actor **Colman Domingo**, who combines precise, dramatic tailoring with lustrous fabrics.

Hawtin and others appreciate **Austin Butler’s** knack for making preppy and Americana staples modern. In a much-cited outfit, the actor wears a double-breasted, gold-buttoned navy blazer open with a denim shirt, lean jeans and boots. Three undone shirt buttons read flirty, but he’s not serving his pecs on a platter. Nicolas Gabard, founder of Paris tailoring brand Husbands, called the sleek look—a nod to Ralph Lauren—“just right.” And any guy could nail it (probably with just two buttons undone, depending on how many martinis he’s drained).

Personal stylist Patrick Kenger said many guys mistakenly think they can only take cues from celebs with bodies like theirs. I could have kissed him: I had no desire to limit my search to actors whose torsos, like mine, resemble stretched Laffy Taffy.

Still, a cautionary tale: After Bowleg sent me a snap of his favorite **A\$AP**



FRESH ICONS a) Craig can do classic or kooky. b) Glover’s John Smith dresses in a sexy, modern way. c) Rocky delivers chic yet playful looks. d) Cool minimalism is the NBA star’s thing. e) Butler nails preppy. f) No one does formal like Ford. g) The Bollywood star possesses enviable flair. h) Domingo is a modern dandy. i) Hassell’s Rupert Campbell-Black oozes swagger. j) Rogen’s Matt Remick freshens up suits. k) White is a master of casual, rumpled cool.

Rocky outfit, I tried to replicate the athletic-looking rapper’s elegant combo of a short, boxy navy cardigan and black pants. I found a dead-ringer cardigan in a New York store. But the blue knit drowned my frame, its bulk awkwardly emphasizing my skinny neck and small head. My partner said I resembled “a golf tee poking out the top of a blueberry.” In the end, I chose a safer, more streamlined sweater for an outfit that’s the cousin, not the twin, of Rocky’s.

In short, physiques do matter because clothes hang differently on different builds. But you can take styling notes—on colors, combos, shoes, overall vibe—from anyone.

The most-nominated celeb? **Jeremy Allen White**. A dressed-down deity, the actor is an inspiration to anyone who hates ironing. After a deep dive into google images of “Jeremy Allen White buying flowers” (the man loves a farmers market), I felt a primal urge to layer my tees like a skater and run over all my ball caps with a tractor. The 34-year-old swaggers in jackets and hats that appear to have barely survived a nuclear blast. “That, to me, is the most closely related to a Paul Newman on a dirt bike or a Steve McQueen in a desert race, dressed down on their day off but looking good,” said Babenzien.

The TV characters

White smolders on-screen, too. **Carmy Berzatto**, the fiery chef he played on “The Bear,” made guys gaga for handsome workwear, like patchwork jackets and heavyweight tees. Like James Dean and his red-jacketed “Rebel,” White has become inextricably linked with his character’s look. “So much of fashion feels unattainable, and characters like Carmy and people like Jeremy Allen White make it feel like anybody can engage with it,” said Torres.

Kenger finds screen characters often beat real-life celebs as references because their style “stays relatively static—it’s easier to get a sense of what you could wear day to day.” If I were an executive in need of a makeover, I’d study **Matt Remick**, Seth Rogen’s character in comedy series “The Studio.” A Hollywood bigwig, Remick is as suave as he is useless. His tobacco suits and rust-red shirts come off sharp, retro-cool, yet still fresh.

Chris Echevarria, founder of menswear brand Blackstock & Weber, turned me on to the “incredible” style of secret agent **John Smith** (Donald Glover) on “Mr. & Mrs. Smith.” He called it “clean, but with character.” GQ called it “aspirational millennial dressing.” After bingeing the spy series, I call it “clothes I need immediately because I now hate my boring closet.” (Ironically, costume designer Madeline Weeks has said she looked to ’70s idols like Robert Redford, practically a Mount Rushmore icon.)

I nicked bits of Smith’s slyly sexy style. I layered a shorter and a longer chain necklace. Inspired by a get-up he sports to track down kidnappers in the Dolomites, I wore a cream turtleneck under a striped sweater to track down self-raising flour at Wegmans.

His hunter-green leather jacket had me seeing cartoon hearts. That Celine model can go for almost \$3,000 on resale site Grailed. In search of a cheaper version, I tried on a \$1,000-ish dark-olive take at jacket specialist Schott NYC.

“I wouldn’t expect to see you in this, but it looks good,” said my partner, who was on his best behavior post-Blueberrygate but did seem genuinely impressed. It’s true: I would never have picked this out before. And I liked how it looked. I guess I’m now a green-leather-jacket guy? That’s what a new style icon can do to you.



STYLE & FASHION



◀ **RISE AND SHINE** From left: A Beck Jewels necklace featuring vintage coral and Brazilian emerald; an \$8,250 sapphire and gold ring from Jenna Katz.

karat gold is 18 parts gold, six parts any other metal, and so on.) None of the designers interviewed said they were considering moving away from gold in favor of other materials. While it's unlikely a client who was prepared to buy a \$10,000 ring would be put off by a higher \$12,000 price tag, Hakimian said, it might be harder for customers to absorb price hikes for "stuff that was retailing for \$1,000 or \$1,500." Only by making those pieces smaller or with different, less expensive metals could designers maintain those prices, said Hakimian. Sharon Novak, a gemologist and curatorial adviser to brands and private collectors, tells the collectors she works with that now can be a terrific time to buy gold jewelry, if they're able to get in before houses and designers reprice, she

'They keep buying gold because they see it even more as an investment.'

The Price Is (Still) Right

The cost of gold has more than doubled since 2019. Fans of fashionable fine jewelry remain undeterred.

By LANE FLORSHEIM

WHEN Danielle Sherman launched her fine jewelry line, Sherman Field, in 2019, gold cost around \$1,508 per troy ounce. This month, the metal hit a record high, closing at \$3,411.40, and Sherman's prices rose accordingly. That hasn't hurt business, she said. Her brand's sales have almost doubled from this time last year. Gold prices have been both volatile and rising. Investors are scooping up bars and chains, hoping to secure a future profit. Even for collectors who are driven by a love of jewelry, the high price of gold is a potential benefit. The last time prices rose so steeply was in April 2020, during the Covid market meltdown. "Whenever there's economic or political instability throughout the world, we notice a jump," said Sherman. "The last month has been chaos, pure chaos," said David Hakimian, who helps jewelry designers produce their collections through his company DEH Jewelry Solutions. "It's affecting [jewelry] pricing dramatically." So far, price increases haven't kept buyers from the jewelry they love. "The clientele is a little more affluent, and they keep buying because they see it even more as an investment," said Laurel Stearns, a

▶ A \$4,450 gold band (left) and \$9,850 gold and diamond cocktail ring from Beck Jewels.



◀ Sherman Field's 18-karat gold chain necklaces are made by hand and start at \$10,950.



▶ Prounis offers 22-karat gold jewelry inspired by the ancient world.



music executive who's also been a jewelry dealer for over a decade. Swiss jeweler and watchmaker Richemont's core jewelry division recorded \$4.2 billion in sales during the last three months of the fiscal year that ended March 31, surpassing analysts' expectations by almost \$100 million. Since the beginning of this year, Sherman said she'd noticed that some clients were buying three pieces at a time instead of one. All of Sherman Field's offerings—heavy chain necklaces that start at \$10,950, tassels beaded from precious stones and price-upon-request engagement rings—are made by hand from solid, 18-karat gold. When she works directly with clients, she and her team will give them a locked-in price for 48 hours so they can think about the purchase without worrying that its price will go up. "People are generally aware that the cost of gold is going up, and it sort of makes them want it more," said Jenna Katz, a jewelry designer who works mostly with custom and bridal clients. Katz has always given customers a price range when they buy a custom piece, and is able to fold the gold increases into that. She said some clients were setting appointments as soon as possible to lock in a price for their purchases. Hakimian said that right now, some designers were considering a shift from using 18-karat to 14-karat gold. (24-karat gold is pure gold; 18-

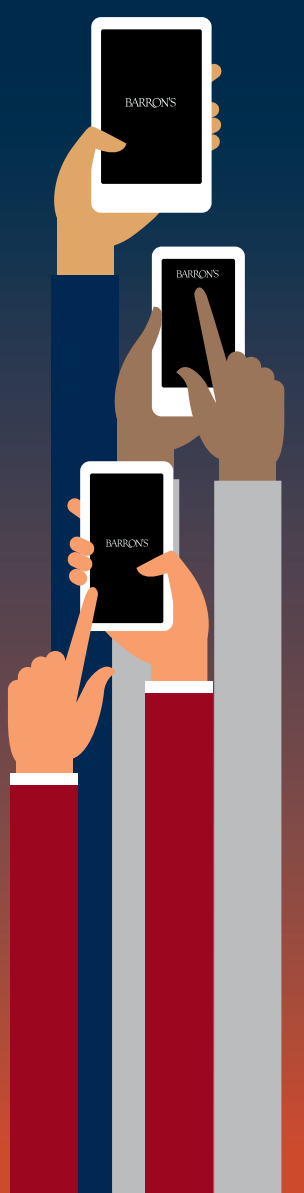
said. "There is a window right now, but it's a short time frame," Novak said. "If anything, it's encouraged [clients] to buy up." Many collectors don't mind paying more—and are taking note of the gains. Jessica Graves, a collector who writes the shopping newsletter the Love List, said, "Hilariously enough, my fine jewelry collection and my fine art collection have way more rapidly increased in value than my fiancé's stock portfolio has." Both collectors and designers recognize that the market could mean changes for the way they make their products. "I'm always sourcing vintage stones and vintage coral and [would be] trying to have gold be more of what holds it together, while remaining a very gold-centric brand," said Rebecca Zeijdel-Paz, who designs chokers and rings featuring large gemstones set in gold for her line Beck Jewels. "I'm interested in expanding the palette in this time," said Ezra Woods, a screenwriter who also makes, collects and advises others on jewelry. Though he's mostly focused on high-karat gold pieces, he said he was looking at platinum and mixed-metals as well. "Focusing on the material as the sole source of value in buying jewelry is a little bit of a disservice to the category and the artistry involved." Jean Prounis, who designs 22-karat gold jewelry inspired by the ancient world for her line Prounis, said that she'd had clients interested in purchasing pieces before prices increased further. "This jump is a lot," she said. "I don't have my business set up to change my price on a daily basis."

BECK JEWELS (2); DAVID KITZ; PROUNIS; TODD SELEBY

BARRON'S

Market Insights. In the Palm of Your Hand.

Download the Barron's app for investment analysis, real time stock picks, and breaking business news.



Download the App.
barrons.com/barronsapp

I am more than who I am on paper.

It's time to let your skills shine. Find resources for breaking through barriers like degree screens and stereotypes. It's time to tear the paper ceiling limiting STARS: workers *Skilled Through Alternative Routes* rather than a bachelor's degree.

TEAR THE PAPER CEILING.ORG



Jeff, STAR

#HireSTARS





Bar Harbor, Maine



SMALL SHIP LUXURY *for less*

Available on all voyages through 2027, enjoy a Free Beverage Package *and* a Shipboard Credit up to \$800 *plus* up to 30% off select sailings *and* 50% Reduced Deposits. Combined with the always free amenities of **Your World Included™** - 2 for 1 Cruise Fares, Gourmet Specialty Dining, Shipboard Gratuities, Unlimited Starlink® WiFi, and so much more - you'll discover the best value in luxury cruising.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to view Special Offer.



THE FINEST CUISINE AT SEA®
AWARD-WINNING ITINERARIES
SMALL SHIP LUXURY™

BOOK NOW. OFFER EXPIRES MAY 31, 2025.
CALL **844-837-1324** | VISIT **OCEANIACRUISES.COM/WJ** | CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR

Terms, conditions, restrictions, and capacity controls apply. Memorial Day Sale is valid from 5/15/25 through 5/31/25. Beverage Package, Shipboard Credit in an amount up to US\$800, up to 30% off select sailings and 50% off Reduced Deposits are available on select categories on all voyages through 2027, subject to change and capacity controlled. Excludes Grand Voyages and multi-segment sailings. Mention code: DSC. Promotion may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Please visit www.OceaniaCruises.com for complete Terms & Conditions. MAY252449

Peak California

Continued from page D1

to avoid the high-season throngs of Sequoia and Big Sur. A route where ski bums, ranchers and Pata-gonia-clad vacationers all coexist in the shadow of the Sierra Nevada. “It’s really a journey full of superla-tives,” says Caroline Beteta, presi-dent and CEO of Visit California. “You pass the highest point in the contiguous United States, and a short detour takes you to the oldest trees in the world.”

And this summer, choosing it just makes practical sense. With mudslides and extreme weather events causing frequent closures along Highway 1, Highway 395 offers an uncrowded al-ternative route—that is, if you’re cool with trading sandy beaches and Pacific surf for alpine lakes and dramatic hikes. Covering roughly 475 miles, this itinerary more than delivers on the California dream.

DAY 1 | Get your bearings (and break out your bikini) in Lake Tahoe. Rent a stand-up paddleboard or kayak from SUP Tahoe and spend your first day gliding around the mirror-clear water of Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America. Come sunset time, head to Riva Grill for surf and turf with a lakeside view, then retire to the mod-ern mountain digs at the new Desola-tion Hotel. (Relax: There’s nothing desolate about its “luxury yurts” and other rooms.)

DAY 2 | High-tail it to Bodie State Historic Park. Roughly 2.5 hours

Cowboys and rock climbers coexist in the shadow of the Sierra Nevada.

south of Tahoe, Bodie is the best-preserved ghost town in the state and exemplifies the boom-and-bust cycle that plagued many of Califor-nia’s Gold Rush-era burgs. Those who time their visit just right can take a guided Stamp Mill Tour (seasonal, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.). For a snack break afterward, pull into the Whoa Nellie Deli. “They’ve been serving up amazing food for almost 30 years,” says Andrew Roberts, co-founder of adventure outfitter EXP Journeys. Then skirt the rounded edge of im-mense Mono Lake and scour the shoreline for views of tufas—squig-gly calcium-carbonate spires that emerge like a skyline.

Even if you’re itching for an after-noon siesta at this point, you won’t regret a detour for a glimpse of the granite peaks and shimmering tarns along June Lake Loop, a scenic by-way that’s a favorite of Sam Highley, founder of luxury road-trip planning company All Roads North. Pull off at Silver Lake for a photo op with a backdrop of toothy stone spires and verdant pines. Then drop your bags in one of the cabins at the newly renovated Outbound Mammoth be-fore fueling up on crispy duck confit at the Brasserie, a chic French cafe perched above—of all things—a rol-licking retro bowling alley.

DAY 3 | Sleep in, you’ve earned it. Spend a lazy morning exploring Mammoth Lakes, popping into the Stove for hearty egg skilletts and heaping servings of cinnamon French toast before taking the Reds Meadow

ADVENTURE & TRAVEL



BEST OF THE WEST

From top: Otherworldly formations called tufas in Mono Lake; Lone West, one of Lone Pine’s superlative Airbnbs, offers cozy lodgings and great views; a flight of beer at Mountain Rambler Brewery in Bishop; kayakers paddle along Silver Lake; an abandoned building at Bodie State Historic Park, one of the state’s best-preserved gold-mining ghost towns.



shuttle (Friday to Sunday, starting approximately July 3 this summer) to marvel at the basalt spires of Dev-ils Postpile National Monument. If your breakfast sugar-boost left you hankering for a hike, traverse one of the site’s mostly flat trails to roaring Rainbow Falls for a 5-mile (round-trip) adventure.

DAY 4 | Chase a mountain high. Rise early and grab to-go breakfast burri-tos and coffee alongside the off-sea-son ski bums at Stellar Brew & Natu-ral Cafe, then motor a few minutes south to Convict Lake to sip your latte under the imposing summit of Mt. Morrison. Ready to get some steps in? Walkers can circumnavigate the lake in about an hour on a flat, 3.25-mile loop. Heading south on the 395, turn off on State Route 168 for a glimpse of ancient bristlecone pines. These gnarled, high-altitude trees can reach roughly 5,000 years in age, and are considered the oldest living things on the planet. Take an easy path near the visitor center at Schul-man Grove to take selfies among the ancients, says Highley.

DAY 5 | Channel your inner cowpoke. In Bishop, celebrated rock climbers mingle with mule-raising cowboys. Come Memorial Day weekend, the hamlet’s stark but friendly contrasts are on full display at the annual Mule Days festival, an All-American blur of rodeo competitions and coun-try music concerts. After a slower pace? Try trout fishing on South Lake or take a soak in Keough’s Hot Springs. A side trip to Manzanar Na-tional Historic Site, one of 10 camps where the U.S. government incarcer-ated Japanese-Americans during World War II, offers sobering per-spective on a dark era in our nation’s history. However you choose to spend your day, though, don’t sleep on the world-class pulled pork at Copper Top BBQ, a rural hole-in-the-wall that Yelp named America’s best restaurant in 2015.

DAY 6 | Dive into the ‘Wild West.’ As you cruise down to Lone Pine, scour the western horizon for a glimpse of Mount Whitney—the tall-est peak in the Lower 48. Though you won’t be able to see it from its namesake trailhead at Whitney Portal, the drive along a cliff’s edge yields sweeping views down into Owens Valley. Avid hikers can lace up for a six-mile stroll up to chilly Lone Pine Lake, while motorists can mean-der the dirt roads of the Alabama Hills, where dozens of classic movies, like “Django Unchained” and “How the West Was Won,” were filmed. In town, the quirky Museum of Western Film History celebrates the town’s Hollywood connection. Though Lone Pine lacks in the hotel department, it’s home to some truly impressive Airbnbs, like the Lone West, which boasts second-to-none Sierra views.

DAY 7 | Choose your next adventure. From Lone Pine, you could make a beeline for the airport and creature comforts of Los Angeles—or take a detour to another land of superla-tives: Death Valley, the hottest, driest, lowest place in North America. Spend a day cruising Badwater Road, taking in the jagged salt formations of Devils Golf Course, the multicol-ored mineral patchwork of Artists Palette and a carpet of hexagonal salt formations at Badwater Basin, which sits 282 feet below sea level. Bed down at the historic Inn at Death Valley, which was once fre-quented by film stars like Clark Ga-ble and Bette Davis.

The perfect road trip might not exist. But, especially this year, the best any freewheeling California traveler can hope for is a big, fre-quently breathtaking playground—like this one—in which to let loose.

Under-the-Radar Routes for Discerning Drivers

Because crowds kill the thrill of road-tripping, trade the standard journeys for one of these lesser-known jaunts



The candy-striped West Quoddy Head Lighthouse in Lubec, Maine.

INSTEAD OF Blue Ridge Parkway TRY Maine’s Bold Coast National Scenic Byway

Appalachia’s Blue Ridge Parkway is stunning—and, as one of the most-visited destinations in the National Park system, often insanely crowded. Those seeking a quieter meander should consider heading north to Maine. This 147-mile coastal stretch runs from the “blue-berry kingdom” of Milbridge, just beyond Acadia National Park, to the famous, candy-striped lighthouse of Lubec, on the state’s northern fringes. Bed down at Bar Harbor’s Salt Cottages while visiting the park, then set a course along the Schoodic Peninsula, known for its puffin colonies and nesting seabirds. In Milbridge, Robertson Sea Tours provides family-friendly lobster boat outings, and, not far from Lubec, the easternmost town in the U.S., Sunrise Canoe and Kayak offers paddles among the bald eagles of Cobscook Bay.

INSTEAD OF Route 66 TRY Utah’s Scenic Byway 12

Route 66 is synonymous with dra-matic Southwestern scenery. But stretching over 2,448 miles from start to finish, America’s “Mother Road” is no small undertaking. Anyone who wants a more tar-geted tour of desert wonders should consider Utah’s Highway 12, which covers 123 dramatic miles between Panguitch and Torrey, tak-ing in a torrent of red rock vistas. If time allows, Andrew Roberts, co-founder of EXP Journeys, recom-mends a detour to Bryce Canyon. Explore the rust-hued Navajo Sandstone hoodoos of the park, then motor down to Ofland Escal-ante for a drive-in movie night right outside your private cabin. In the morning, squeeze through slot canyons at Willis Creek Narrows, in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, before heading north to the arches and castle-like spires of Capitol Reef National Park.

DAVID YURMAN



CURB CHAIN COLLECTION

DESIGN & DECORATING

Transform Your Patio Into A Destination

Outdoor space itself is a luxury. With these design strategies it can become your home’s favorite ‘room.’

By CHARLES CURKIN

A PATIO is a terrible thing to waste. So we asked several design experts how to make an outdoor space irresistible. One overarching strategy: Approach the deck or loggia with the same intentionality you bring to your living room. “In interior design, the exterior is so important, it has become part of the overall plan of the house,” said Suzanne Kasler, a designer based in Atlanta. Yet other experts advised introducing elements not typically found indoors. Below, the pros’ specific pointers.

Cop Some Shade

“I love living outside—entertaining, working, eating and reading,” said Chicago designer Alessandra Branca. But you can’t move operations outdoors if the sun threatens to set you alight. In Branca’s own courtyard, shown above right, a pergola throws dappled relief on the seating area, making it habitable all times of day.

In more rural gardens, New York designer Juan Montoya looks for a mature, broadly branched tree and sets up furniture beneath it. Kasler deploys big square umbrellas that “almost create a room,” and notes a “whole new world” of awnings that attach to a house.

The promise of style and comfort flows from in the house to outside.

Want more discreet coverage just for you? For the sense of privacy and shade they offer, Montoya likes loungers, seats and daybeds with their own collapsible awnings—always the first perches to be occupied on a resort deck.

Festoon If You Can

Consider adding drapes to your al fresco scheme if you can hang them from a structure such as a pergola or loggia roof. With new performance fabrics, you need only clean them once a year and replace them every five, says Los Angeles designer Timothy Corrigan, who swears by the latest outdoor textiles. “Drapes serve both a decorative and functional purpose outside—providing shade, blocking wind and adding coziness on cool evenings,” he said.

Layer Like a Living Room

Unless you want to sabotage your deck’s allure, don’t plop a matching set of outdoor furniture there and call it a day. Would you ever be so lazy if your outdoor space were a room indoors? “I approach patio design as an extension of the interiors, almost as though the house unfolds naturally into the outdoors,” said Kasler. These days, she and other professionals call such spaces “exterior rooms.”

In the New Orleans project shown below, Kasler collaborated with architect Jeremy Corkern to ensure folks can easily walk from the kitchen area to the loggia. Then she went further: layering in accessories as she might in any room: throw pillows, ceramics and artwork, including a removable, encaustic painting by local artist Jamie Meeks that conceals a TV. The promise of style and comfort flows from inside the house to outside.

Go for the Old

Another tip borrowed from interior design: Blend pieces from different eras to suggest decor that has evolved over time—an inviting, non-cookie-cutter look. “I love mixing vintage pieces with modern ones for a layered aesthetic,” said New York designer Ernest de la Torre. Unique, weathered items such as vintage planters, repurposed tables or classic wrought-iron chairs can inject character.

In the New Orleans exterior room shown, the two armless 1960s Hans Wegner chairs balance the modern McKinnon and Harris set. Said Kasler of the juxtaposition, “It’s more collected, and not so one-note.”

Create Rooms

Environmental psychologists will tell you, humans aren’t at ease in wide open spaces. Montoya concurs, saying, “If you’re not surrounded by a cocoon, it’s almost like having a bedroom with no covers.”

He says he finds, for instance, “a pool area with an immense amount of space for lounges”



Alessandra Branca (right); Architecture by Jeremy Corkern. Photo by Melanie Acevedo (left)

FAIR SHADE In designer Alessandra Branca’s Chicago courtyard, a pergola makes the seating area comfortable even in the brightest sunshine.

very isolating. “It’s sterile and uncomfortable.” Create nooks and crannies with planters, greenery, sculptures or trellises for airily defined spaces or with hardscaping such as walls and fireplaces.

Let It Rock

Another seat that’s rarely vacant on a hotel terrace? Anything that moves. Hammocks, hanging chairs, suspended daybeds all attract people like kids to a swing set. They’re not only fun, but their motion practically compels you to chill out.

“Rocking chairs, swinging sofas, or swivel chairs bring an extra layer of relaxation,” said New York designer Celerie Kemble, whose Cleary collection of scalloped wicker with Lane Venture includes a swivel glider lounge built to be kinetic.

Make the Most of It

Outside, you can execute ideas that don’t work inside—for instance, lit-

erally digging yourself a sunken living room, one of Montoya’s favorite concepts. “Not terribly deep, maybe two steps down,” he said. Not only have you engineered a novelty, he added, but a sense of being protected.

Other outside-only focal points include summer-evening fire pits and water features. Among those Montoya finds particularly relaxing: fountains or little ponds hosting papyrus, with their sparkler-like tops, or water lilies. “They’re enjoyable, and you’re really having a different experience,” he said.

Nicholas Potts, a designer based in Washington, D.C., swears by the power of surprise: “It can be fun to see an architectural element that you’d ordinarily expect indoors, outside,” he said. What might he consider whimsical and unique? A Rococo fireplace mantel, he said, or a circle cut into a hedge to “borrow the view.”



Suzanne Kasler designed a covered patio in New Orleans as thoughtfully as she did the home’s interior.

Ferm Living Pilu Shelf, \$65

Urban Outfitters Marte Display Wall Shelf, \$49

Design Within Reach Noviembre Shelving, \$1,116

Ceci Thompson Ariel White Marble Wall Shelf, \$399 at CB2

Whatever Floats Your Shelf

Give your vertical storage a lift with one of these chic holders in an array of prices and materials—from humble rattan to vaguely ‘Roman Empire’ marble

Raawii Pipeline Duo Shelf, \$276 at 2Modern

Market Editor: Christina Middleton

EATING & DRINKING

ON WINE / LETTIE TEAGUE



What Donkeys Have to Do With Getting Gen Z Into Wine



WILL WINE DRINKING END when Boomers and Gen Xers no longer raise their glasses? If you’ve been reading the same headlines I have, you might think this could happen.

Here, a small sample of the bad news: “Dour Grapes: Why Wine Makers Are Struggling to Attract Gen Z and Millennial Drinkers” (Fast Company); “Boomer-Centric Wine Industry at a Crossroads as Gen Z Turns Away From Alcohol” (Fortune). But do these headlines tell the whole story? Do younger drinkers truly lack interest in wine, or have winery owners failed to figure out what they want? I talked with vintners all over the country and found a number getting quite creative to draw in millennial and Gen Z drinkers as well as boomers and Gen X.

When I first began visiting wineries a few decades ago, the proposition was pretty straightforward: You showed up at the tasting room, with or without a reservation, and sampled some wines poured by the proprietor or the proprietor’s spouse, for a nominal price or none at all. Your host explained, in detail, how the wine was produced and perhaps offered a brief tour. You bought a few bottles of a wine because you

liked it or just because the owner was nice. You might have told a few friends about the winery and its wines, but you had no need—and no platform—to tell the whole world.

A few decades later, so much has changed. Wineries are looking for new ways to attract a younger generation as their core demographic begins to age out. The added attractions often come in the form of “experiences”—opportunities to drink wine in a mirrored cellar, or after performing yoga with goats—all meticulously documented on social media by winery visitors or personnel.

While some oenophiles might roll their eyes, I can see that yoga goats might attract a new group of fans—or at least treat older drinkers to a bit of fun. I happily count myself among the Instagram followers of the four miniature donkeys who live at Ravines Wine Cellars in Geneva, N.Y. Long a fan of this Finger Lakes winery’s excellent Rieslings and Cabernet Francs, I’m now invested in its donkeys as well.

Benny, Jewel, Copper Penny and little Cotton are the official mascots of the new “plant-based division” of the winery’s food and wine club,

said Ravines co-founder Lisa Hallgren. The winery created this division of the club, she explained, specifically to appeal to millennials “concerned about where and how their food and wine are grown.”

The Hallgrens aren’t the only Finger Lakes wine producers wise to the appeal of cute farm animals. Their neighbors at Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard offer visitors a \$30

Wine Market Council, a report it published earlier this year indicates that millennial drinkers are taking an interest in a broad range of grape varieties while boomers remain “camped out in Chardonnay and Cabernet country.”

Many successful producers are adding more-obscure grapes to their wineries’ portfolios. In addition to Riesling and Cabernet



‘Boomer-Centric Wine Industry at Crossroads as Gen Z Turns Away From Alcohol,’ reads one headline.

farm tour that includes a look around the vineyards and a sheep photo op. “Many people (not just millennials) are thrilled to see the agricultural aspects of the farm,” noted winery co-owner Oskar Bynke.

Grape Adventures
It takes more than donkeys and sheep, however. Younger wine lovers also seek interesting wines, preferably made from uncommon grapes. According to Liz Thach, president of the California-based

Franc, the Hallgrens produce wines from grapes such as Savagnin, Noiret and Muscat Ottonel. Bryan Ulbrich, winemaker and owner of Left Foot Charley winery in Traverse City, Mich., makes Riesling as well as wines from Auxerrois, Saperavi and Kerner—all big hits among his millennial customers.

The price of Ulbrich’s wines further lures the younger crowd to his winery, he said. Flights of wine (four 2- to 3-ounce pours) cost \$16; complimentary tastings are offered

on the weekends. Left Foot Charley’s staff—“nearly all millennials,” according to Ulbrich—has also shaped the winery’s success with younger visitors. “They’ve helped guide this old Gen Xer,” he said.

At Slater Run Vineyards in Upperville, Va., co-proprietor Kiernan Slater Patusky courts millennial visitors with live music and food trucks as well as wines like pét-nat (naturally sparkling wines) and skin-contact amber Viognier. “We’ve kept our prices reasonable for our region,” she said. Bottles range between \$28 and \$78, and tastings of three wines start at \$16. Visitors are also allowed to bring their own food.

In Pour Form
John Cifelli, general manager of Unionville Vineyards in Ringoes, N.J., used to call the addition of music and food trucks at wineries the “beerification” of his state’s wine industry, noting that craft breweries first tested such bonus attractions. As Cifelli put it, “people are going to wineries today for a different reason than they did 10 years ago,” viewing them as “a place to relax and recreate, rather than to hear a story and buy to take home.”

Plenty of wineries are succeeding without food trucks or pickleball. Michael Shaps of Michael Shaps Winery in Charlottesville, Va., and Shenandoah Vineyards in Edinburg, Va., said he offers “a setting without the noise that other wineries tend to have.” He charges a reasonable \$20 for a tasting of five wines and \$10 more for a premium tasting with two more wines—high-end ones, including one of his Burgundies.

The well-established, family-owned winery Frog’s Leap in Ruthford, Calif., has also managed to keep its tastings affordable, starting at \$45 a person for four (2-ounce) wines. And the tasting room remains entirely focused on wine—well-known varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Chardonnay, as well as some smaller “winery only” offerings. While the winery does a brisk business with boomers and millennials alike, according to Tori Williams, VP of creative and brand strategy, it hasn’t made a “concerted” effort to do so; rather, they seek to educate “curious people of all ages.”

At Frog’s Leap, Williams explained, the chief focus is educating visitors about the wines, the farm and the family’s 40-plus-year history. “I think we need to be very clear about what our purpose is,” she said. “I don’t want to be known as the winery that’s dog-friendly and has the best snacks.”

What formula will win the hearts of young drinkers and assure the viability of wineries? I’m glad visiting wineries has become a more multidimensional experience than it was when I was starting out, but I hope that the “purpose” Williams noted doesn’t get lost. The wine is what matters most. So here’s to the right combination of offerings that will foster a deep love of it in future generations.

► Email Lettie at wine@wsj.com

SLOW FOOD FAST / SATISFYING AND SEASONAL FOOD IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES



The Chef
Katie Reicher

Her Restaurant
Greens in San Francisco

What she’s known for
Adding her imprint to an iconic Bay Area vegetarian restaurant’s history. Leaving behind an Ivy League program in nutrition to focus on learning to cook healthy, wholesome food. Writing a cookbook dedicated to seasonal recipes.

Cauliflower Linguine With Lemon Butter and Swiss Chard

RELEASED THIS SPRING, Katie Reicher’s new cookbook “Seasons of Greens” shows off the chef’s deft handling of plant-based cooking and pays homage to her restaurant’s legacy as a trailblazer on San Francisco’s vegetarian scene.

She calls her final Slow Food Fast contribution her very “favorite pasta recipe in the book.” A satisfying tangle of linguine, cauliflower and wilted greens, it looks to Sicily as a jumping-off point. The recipe that inspired it calls for olives, raisins and tomatoes, but Reicher prefers to leave out tomatoes when they’re not in season. In their place she swaps in cauliflower, for heft and a nutty backbone. Try it once, she says, and chances are it will become one of your back-pocket pastas, too. —*Kitty Greenwald*

- Total Time** 35 minutes
Serves 6
- 8 tablespoons room temperature butter**
Kosher salt
1 lemon, zest and juice
1 medium head cauliflower (about 1 pound), cut into bite-size florets
3 tablespoons olive oil, plus extra
1 large bunch Swiss chard, stems and leaves, separated
1 pound linguine, bucatini, or spaghetti
1 cup panko breadcrumbs
4-5 scallions, thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
½ cup golden raisins, roughly chopped
½ cup Castelvetrano olives, pitted and roughly chopped
½ cup dry white wine

- ¼ cup freshly grated Grana Padano or similar, optional**
1. Preheat oven to 450. In a small bowl, mix 6 tablespoons butter with a generous pinch of salt, lemon juice and zest. Set aside.
 2. Toss cauliflower with 2 tablespoons olive oil and a generous pinch salt. Spread on a baking sheet. Roast until tender and browned, about 20 minutes. Thinly slice chard stems on the bias and tear leaves into bite-size pieces.
 3. Fill a large pot with salted water and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook pasta according to package instructions, minus 1 minute. Reserve 2 cups pasta water, then drain. Slick pasta with a bit of olive oil.
 4. Meanwhile, melt 2 table-

- spoons butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add breadcrumbs. Toast, stirring often, until golden brown, about 4 minutes. Transfer to a bowl. Wipe pan, add remaining tablespoon olive oil and place back over medium heat. Add chard stems, scallions and garlic. Sauté 2-3 minutes. Add raisins and olives and cook 15 seconds. Pour in wine and simmer until alcohol cooks off, 3-4 minutes.
5. Transfer mixture to empty pot along with drained pasta. Add 1 cup reserved pasta water, chard, roasted cauliflower and lemon butter. Toss over medium heat, adding extra pasta water as needed until sauce is silky, 1-2 minutes. Stir in cheese, if using, and top with reserved breadcrumbs. Serve immediately.



STRING THEORY The addition of citrus butter and raisins lends this cauliflower and greens pasta a sweet-and-salty punch.

GEAR & GADGETS



AIR SUPPLY Aston Martin's Vantage Roadster is the open-top twin of its Vantage Coupe.

ASTON MARTIN

RUMBLE SEAT / DAN NEIL



A Savage Aston Martin That Now Lets You Drop the Top

LAST MONTH researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, announced they had discovered a new color, a supersaturated blue-green outside the range of human color perception. To see it, test subjects had to have special lasers aimed at their retinas. I know an easier way.

"You get the blue one," said the Aston Martin representative, pointing at the ravishing Vantage Roadster parked in front of the hotel in Palm Springs, Calif. A convertible version of the redesigned Coupe, the Roadster debuts three color schemes, one of which—Satin Iridescent Sapphire—infuses the carbon-fiber body panels with a hitherto undreamt, scarcely believable shade of teal, its polarized highlights shifting from indigo to for-

now discharges a drama-drenched 656 hp and 590 lb-ft—153 hp and 85 lb-ft more than the previous Vantage Roadster—thanks to larger turbochargers, revised camshaft profiles, optimized compression ratio and up-graded fueling and cooling.

This emotional ordnance is loaded into a rear-mounted eight-speed automatic transmission (a transaxle, properly) and fired through an electronically controlled limited-slip rear differential.

The sound is pretty blue, too: at idle, a deep, husky, almost yacht-like resonance. On the street—banging off the 6,000 rpm rev limiter between the lights—the engine note is breathtaking, savage, masculine, maleficent. Do you like gladiator movies, Billy?

The Roadster also enjoys the ser-

2025 ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE ROADSTER



MSRP \$205,000 to \$210,000 (est.)	rear-mounted (trans-axle); electronically controlled limited-slip rear differential, RWD	Length/wheelbase/width/height 177.0/106.5/83.6/50.2 inches
Price, as tested \$300,000 (est.)		0-60 3.5 seconds
Powertrain dual-turbocharged direct-injection 4.0-liter DOHC V8 with variable valve timing; eight-speed automatic transmission,	Horsepower/torque 656 hp at 6,000 rpm/590 lb-ft at 2,750-6,000 rpm	Fuel economy 23 mpg, European cycle, combined
	Curb weight 3800 pounds (est.)	Luggage space 7 cubic feet

I spent my time in the Roadster out in the desert, bug-eyed and white-knuckled, scourging myself with the lash of acceleration like an obsessed penitent.

est-green in the brilliant sun like the chromatophores of the world's sexiest octopus.

"I will endeavor to return it unblemished," I said, and I meant it.

It wouldn't be easy. The Roadster is every bit as fast (202 mph), quick (0-60 mph in 3.5 seconds), audacious and bodacious as the Coupe. Behind that catfish smile, the company's twin-turbo 4.0-liter DOHC V8

vices of what Aston Martin bills as the fastest "fully automatic deployable roof mechanism" on the market, a Z-folding, eight-ply fabric top that cycles in 6.8 seconds, up or down, at speeds up to 31 mph. Watch your fingers.

I had the use of the Blue One for 48 hours, in and around Palm Springs, which was in the midst of its weekly street fair. I would have

to avoid crowds, lest anyone dive into the car, thinking it was a passing swimming pool.

And, candidly, for a man of my age and grooming to rumble through downtown Palm Springs

alone in a drop-top Aston Martin the color of Superman's eyes... Well, it suggests I'm looking for a party. If anything, I'm just looking for a bathroom.

Not wanting to break hearts, I spent my time far out in the desert, barreling down lonely roads, bug-eyed and white-knuckled, scourging myself with the lash of acceleration like an obsessed penitent. My God, what have they done?

And when I say "they," I mean Lawrence Stroll, the Canadian billionaire who in 2020 became executive chairman of Aston Martin Lagonda and who is also the supremo of the brand's F1 team. Stroll's ambitions would put the brand on the top shelf of superluxury/performance consideration, next to Rolls-Royce and Bugatti. To do that, Aston Martin had to stop making excuses for its cars' performance relative to its peers—they're faster but we're better bred, etc.—and start making properly fast cars. I think they can tick that box now.

If I had to put a word to the Stroll Era cars it would be "completeness"—roughly analogous with "investment." Of course Aston Martins had multimodal traction and stability software before, but those systems didn't feel particularly

well-sorted in the heat of action, in a way that suggested insufficient validation and time in testing.

The new Roadster's suite of dialable differentials is a tour-de-force. The Active Vehicle Dynamics system combines "Integrated Brake Slip Control (IBC); Integrated Traction Control (ITC); Integrated Vehicle Control (IVC); and Integrated Vehicle Dynamics Estimation (IVE)" into a single, CAN BUS-connected nervous system, innervating a chassis of unequal-length double wishbones at the front; multi-link suspension in the rear; with coil springs and Bilstein DTX active/adaptive dampers all around.

Fitting but barely behind the front wheels are 400 mm steel (or optional 410 mm carbon-ceramic) front discs clamped by six-pot calipers. Got chassis?

The algorithms also include the superbike-like Advanced Traction Control. Designed for track-day use, this feature offers drivers eight levels of vehicle control intervention. "The lower the number the greater the level of intervention," the press release explains.

That was a bit fiddly for me. I simply swept the dial to Sport mode and pointed it toward the distant wind turbines. If the car's so smart, let it do the work.

And, brother, did it: Taut but limber, forgiving but full of intent, the parametrized Roadster ripped effortlessly from corner to corner, deriving a madness of lateral grip from the bespoke Michelin Pilot Sport S 5 tires. Like the Coupe, the Roadster's steering column has a rigid—"non-isolated"—connection to the steering rack, allowing more feedback to reach the driver's hands, to be correlated with the driver's arse and other on-board computers.

As I shifted my guts around in the deeply bolstered, firmly padded sport seats, I figured I must be hitting the limits, here and there. Why does it feel like I'm a driving genius?

Aston Martins also had infotainment systems and other tech-amenities before Stroll. But none were particularly fresh, clever or unique to the brand. The Stroll Era cars feature the strikingly contemporary banked center console, designed in-house, studded with aviation-quality switches for cabin comfort and vehicle control. Meanwhile, Aston Martin's telematics have gone from worst to first. Earlier this month, the company announced it would be the first brand to offer Apple's CarPlay Ultra, the next generation of the ubiquitous phone-car interface. That must have been a big check to write.

Corners are kind of scarce around Palms Springs but long straight roads to nowhere are plentiful. Holding the Roadster at full chat is a formidable experience, and I'm not just talking about windburn. All too soon, common sense and fear of the law brings you down.

That's nobody's favorite shade of blue.



GOOD SPORT The Roadster is as fast (202 mph), quick (0-60 mph in 3.5 seconds) and audacious as the Coupe.

Publicis E!News



HERMÈS
PARIS

ECHO OF THE EARTH

TERRE
D'HERMÈS

EAU DE PARFUM INTENSE

REFILLABLE OBJECT

