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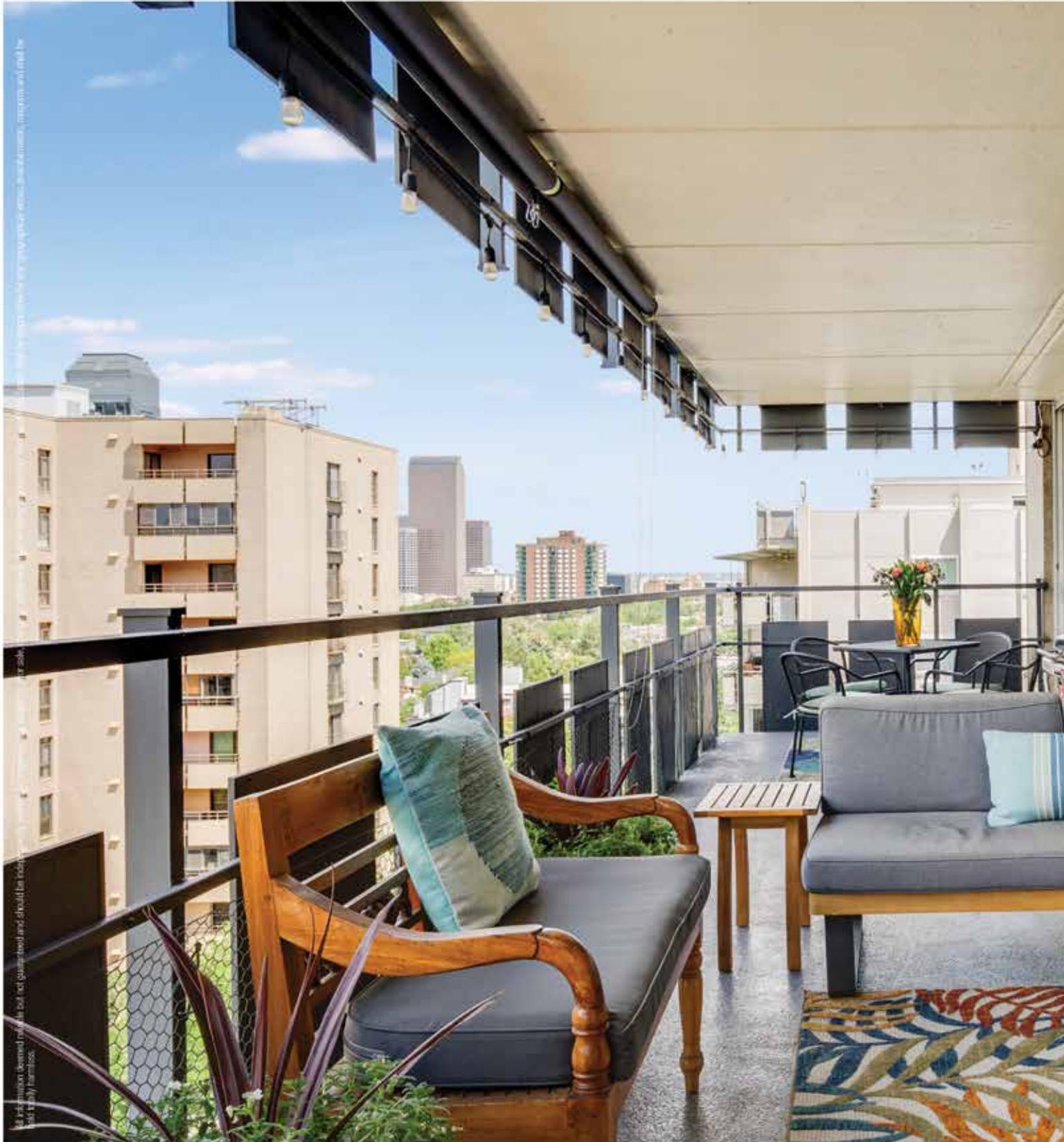
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By Lexi Reich

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Avid Lifestyle

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AvidLifestyle (ISSN 2642-0562) is published twelve times a year by Baker-Colorado Publishing, LLC, and printed by Publication Printers Inc. volume six, number two. 9350 E. Arapahoe Road, #210, Greenwood Village, CO 80112. Order your personal subscription to *AvidLifestyle* at avidlifestyle.com or by calling 720.493.1729. Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$12 per year. Copyright © 2023 by Baker-Colorado Publishing, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Postmaster: Send address changes to *AvidLifestyle*, 9350 E. Arapahoe Road, #210, Greenwood Village, CO 80112. The magazine welcomes editorial submissions but assumes no responsibility for the safekeeping or return of unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, artwork or other material.



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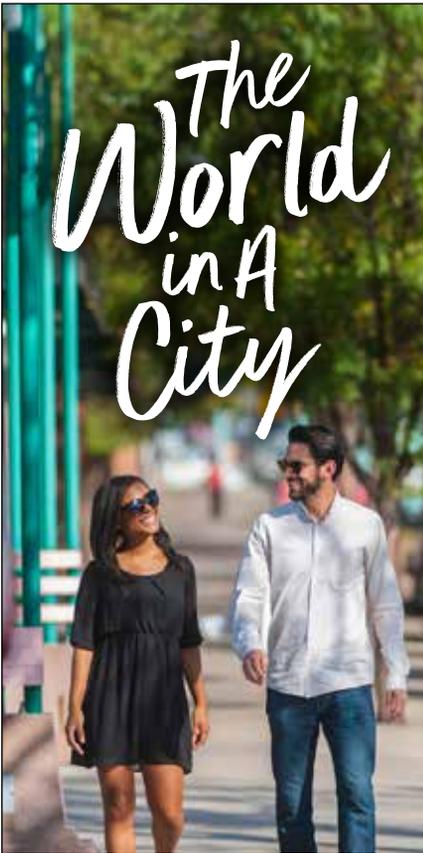


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TALK OF THE TOWN

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Tell me about them at heather@avidlifestyle.com



TURN THE PAGE

AS THE ICONIC SONG SAYS, “But your thoughts will soon be wanderin’, the way they always do,” mine always wander at this time of year. They wander to the holidays, a much-needed vacation, friends and family, and even the new year and the changes I long to make. It’s the beginning of the season that, for me, makes it challenging to stay in the present. And I’m OK with that—as a creative, I like to let my mind meander through whatever comes in.

This month, we have several articles about things you might want to let your mind wander, including overcoming hair loss from cancer treatment, finding a new place to live, inequality in the film industry and more. I hope you agree that we make these heavy topics thoughtful and easy to navigate. And, of course, we always bring fun, light-hearted topics to the coffee table for you.

In *Amplifying Women’s Voices* (page 14), writer Kastle Wasserman introduces us to the 37-year-old Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Festival, created to boost the visibility of women in the film industry. And *Beauty Within* (page 44) is about esthetician Emma McDonald, who turned her battle with cystic acne as a teenager into a mission to help women look and feel their best through skincare and makeup. Writer Amanda Lacey tackles the severe hit to self-esteem women can face when they lose their hair because of cancer treatment (*Confidence Coif*, page 33).

If you’ve considered relocating, writer Mark Samuelson walks you through four south metro areas with master-planned communities designed to harness the local landscape for amenities galore (*Livable Landscapes*, page 26).

If, like me, your mind wanders at this time of year to planning a winter getaway, make any vacation a truly memorable—and hassle-free—experience with private jet travel. Writer Kim D. McHugh introduces us to several local companies that will take you where you want to go in pure luxury (*Go in Style*, page 46).

As you turn the page on this issue, I hope you’ve enjoyed reading it as much as we’ve enjoyed bringing it to you. Happy wandering!

Heather Shoning



AvidLifestyle is a luxury lifestyle magazine serving Denver’s south suburbs. And we’re excited to add new, experienced writers to our growing list of contributors. Do you have magazine writing experience? Do you know Denver’s south suburbs? Can you dig deep for the unique story about the people, places and events that make our community special? If so, we want you! Please email heather@avidlifestyle.com with basic info about yourself and at least three published clips (links are fine).





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Amplifying Women's Voices

The **ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL** lifts underrepresented filmmakers to top billing

By Kastle Waserman

PHOTO: COURTESY ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL



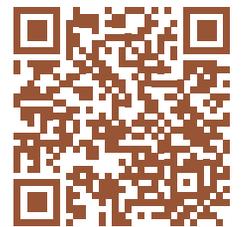


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PHOTOS: COURTESY ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL

IMPORTANT STORIES go untold when women's voices are unheard, and unfortunately, the film industry is a stark reminder of gender inequality. Women have been underrepresented both in front of and behind the camera in mainstream films. A recent article in *Variety* magazine quoted a USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative report, which revealed that 2023's top-grossing films featured the same number of female leads as those in 2010.

Women in Hollywood today strive for change, but in Colorado, two women launched an effort for change 37 years ago. It was clear to Jere E. Martin and Donna Guthrie that the industry ignored many women's stories and issues, so they founded the Colorado Springs–based Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival (RMWFF).

"We were driven by the belief that films are a wonderful medium for storytelling and change," Guthrie says. "We wanted to establish a festival that not only showcased films created by women but also amplified women's issues and perspectives. Our goal was to provide a space where female filmmakers could present their work, engage in meaningful discussions and inspire audiences with their unique viewpoints."

The idea came to them after attending the Telluride Film Festival, when they realized there was a shortage of women-led films. But starting a brand-new festival is a massive undertaking and did not come without a learning curve. "Our biggest concern was whether Colorado Springs would be interested in a women's film festival," Guthrie says. With no prior experience organizing a film festival, they relied heavily on donations and free publicity via word of mouth to spread the news about the festival. "Fortunately, the community enthusiastically embraced it," she says.

RMWFF has been going ever since at the same location, Colorado College, except in 2020 when the pandemic forced a change of venue. It showcases documentary, narrative, short and animated films that are thought-provoking and enriching and that encourage both global awareness and personal growth.

The three-day celebration of cinema kicks off this year with an opening night celebration at the Cornerstone Arts Center at Colorado College, followed by two full days of film screenings. Over the course of the weekend, approximately 40 films will be presented at four venues on the campus. They plan to hold Q&As with guest filmmakers from across the country.



Nicole Nicoletta, executive director of Rocky Mountain Women's Film, says people come not only to be supportive of women in film but also for the experience of seeing high-quality films with a live audience.

"We curate these incredible films, and we hold the space for people to come together. Our mission is to build community around film," Nicoletta says. "We can all binge-watch

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volunteer for the Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2005. The leaders of the RMWFF wanted to honor her and keep her name alive.

"She had a brightness, a love and zest for life that was so powerful," Nicoletta says. "The film chosen for the award speaks to her personality and legacy. It's pretty much the feeling: 'Madeline would have loved that!'"

The organization also hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including a shorts night fundraiser, pop-up cinema nights featuring first-run independent films, summer drive-in cinema and tailgate parties, a best-of-the-fest "microcinema" featuring standout documentaries from the previous year's festival and an annual filmmakers retreat, an invitation-only weekend respite for those who've had a film screened at the festival to receive much-needed rest while building a deeper community with other women filmmakers.

"The festival has always been about fostering a community. We envisioned a supportive network where women could collaborate, mentor and uplift each other," Guthrie says. "We hoped to create a space where women's voices could be heard, their stories told and their talents celebrated. After thirty-seven years, I think that hope is a reality." 

The Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival will take place October 18–20 at Colorado College. For more information, visit rmwfilm.org

PHOTOS: COURTESY ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL

anything on cable or TV, but when you sit with someone in a theater and watch a film that touches you, you can communicate with people around you and feel it with them. It's a very powerful experience."

Filmmakers submit their work for consideration through the organization's website during a month-long application window. Then, the films undergo a rigorous review process before the selection committee makes its final selections for the festival.

"We have a group of people who preview the films, and we have a group of people who are on the selection committee. The criteria for being selected is that the filmmaker or, at the very least, the director or producer has to be a woman. It's a simple process but certainly not an easy one when you're watching so many incredible films," Nicoletta says.

There is also a selection made for the Madeline Osher Choice Award. Osher was a dedicated





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Mile-high spots for **VEGAN AND VEGETARIAN CUISINE**

By Lexi Reich



AS PLANT-BASED DINING gains traction across the country, Denver has emerged as a hotspot for inventive vegan and vegetarian cuisine. A recent analysis even highlights Coloradans as among the most likely to embrace a vegan lifestyle in the U.S. The Mile High City's vibrant food scene, from cozy neighborhood spots to bustling market stalls, offers something for every palate. Whether you're a devoted vegan, an adventurous omnivore or simply a culinary enthusiast, these standout restaurants exemplify the best of our local evolving meat-free dining culture.

ENGLEWOOD'S VEGAN HUB BLENDS COMMUNITY AND CUISINE

Nestled in the heart of Englewood, Fellow Traveler is redefining what it means to be a neighborhood eatery. Founded by Joe Phillips,

this vegan restaurant and cocktail bar has quickly become a local favorite, offering more than just plant-based dishes—it's a place where community and conversation thrive.

Initially envisioned as a bar with a side of vegan snacks, Fellow Traveler pivoted to meet the demand for more substantial fare. "People wanted the vegan restaurant more than they wanted the bar, so we had to pivot," Phillips says. The result is a menu that draws in vegans and non-vegans, featuring standout items like the banh mi sandwich and the Deep South Broadway Burrito. Phillips' personal favorite? The *aloo gobi*, a flavorful mix of cauliflower, potato and coconut curry.

Despite its evolution, Fellow Traveler hasn't lost sight of its bar roots. Inspired by Phillips'

travels, the cocktail menu remains a highlight, with drinks like the Sicilian-influenced Alora that features pistachio bourbon. The venue also caters to the growing trend of mindful drinking, with a robust non-alcoholic selection that outsells beer and wine.

Beyond food and drink, Fellow Traveler aims to revive the "third place"—a social space outside of home and work. Phillips worries that the rise of digital interaction is eroding these communal spaces. His solution? A welcoming environment where patrons are encouraged to unplug and engage with each other. This ethos extends to every detail, from the inventive cocktails to the friendly atmosphere.

Phillips is now expanding his vision with the acquisition of South Broadway staple Sputnik.





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While the bar's beloved character will remain, Phillips and his business partner, Spencer Madison, are focused on enhancing service and the kitchen, ensuring it continues to be a community favorite.

For those in search of plant-based dining with a side of genuine connection, Fellow Traveler is a must-visit in South Denver.

A PLANT-BASED SUCCESS STORY IN DENVER'S MARKET SCENE

Born out of necessity and passion during the tumultuous year of 2020, The Easy Vegan has quickly become a favorite among Denver's market-goers. Co-owned by Taylor Herbert and head chef Alexi Mandolini, this vegan venture proves that plant-based dining can be as indulgent and satisfying as any other cuisine. You can find The Easy Vegan tent every Saturday at the City Park Farmers Market and every Sunday at South Pearl Street, with catering and popup dinner events rounding out its offerings.

Herbert and Mandolini, both longtime industry professionals, lost their jobs during the pandemic and decided to launch their own food concept. "We set out to prove that you could enjoy vegan food without sacrificing your dining out experience," says Herbert. For her, going vegan felt like the natural next step after more than a decade of vegetarianism, driven by a desire to address the ethical and environmental issues tied to the egg and dairy industries.

The Easy Vegan's menu is a hit with both vegans and non-vegans alike, with dishes like the loaded *elote*-inspired potato—creamy whipped potatoes with locally roasted green chiles, corn, Tajin aioli and crispy corn crunch—topping the list of favorites. The pierogi, offered in various styles and flavors, also draws a loyal crowd each week. "Nobody is eating these



FELLOW TRAVELER



THE EASY VEGAN

things and thinking, 'Oh, boo, this is vegan,'" Herbert notes, emphasizing the scratch-made, approachable nature of the food.

Unlike many in the mobile food scene, The Easy Vegan doesn't operate out of a food truck. Instead, they work under a 10x10 tent, which allows them greater flexibility in setup, staffing and food preparation. The unique approach hasn't hindered its success—despite not owning a truck, it won season 16 of The Great Food Truck Race on Food Network. "We borrowed a truck to compete," Herbert says. The experience solidified The Easy Vegan's place in Denver's vibrant mobile food community, where collaboration and camaraderie reign supreme. "We are 'better together'—the community we work within is the best part of the job," she adds.

For Denverites seeking flavorful, inventive vegan eats, The Easy Vegan offers a fresh perspective on plant-based dining that's as satisfying as it is ethical.

PHOTO: COURTESY THE EASY VEGAN



PHOTOS: BY CHELSEA CHOPPENING

AMBITIOUS VEGAN DINING WITH A QUIRKY VIBE

Tucked away on South Broadway, Somebody People has quickly made a name for itself with its inventive, yet unpretentious, approach to vegan cuisine. Co-owners Sam and Tricia Maher serve plant-based dishes that rival traditional fine dining. The menu is discreet about its vegan identity, letting the food speak for itself—whether it's nut-based pesto, savory arancini or a decadent tiramisu.

The restaurant's decor blends retro charm and quirky touches, like the Bowie-inspired bathroom art. While the ambiance might be less polished than the food, the dining experience remains top-notch. Highlights include the Sunday Supper—a five-course, family-style meal for \$38—offering dishes like house-made sourdough focaccia with fennel and basil cream, plus roasted moku

carrots with cauliflower, *zhoug* and jalapeno. The Sunday Supper menu changes weekly, inspired by fresh ingredients from local farms.

Somebody People's wine list focuses on biodynamic and natural selections, though prices can be steep. Non-alcoholic juice concoctions and creative cocktails provide something for everyone. Desserts like the pineapple upside-down cake showcase the kitchen's creativity, while dishes like the torn cucumber with fermented black bean prove that vegan fare can be both satisfying and thought-provoking.

In a city where vegan dining options are growing, Somebody People stands out for its commitment to flavor, sustainability and a laid-back atmosphere. It's proof that plant-based eating can be as complex and rewarding as any other culinary experience. 

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Livable *Landscapes*

Builders are luring buyers with neighborhoods that get **MORE LIVABILITY** from their landscapes

By Mark Samuelson



HOW DO YOU GET homebuyers to make a move up—or sideways or to downsize—in a market where interest rates are twice as high as buyers had come to expect a few years back? One way is by squeezing more value out of the landscape—something that’s the very first thing you’ll notice when you tour five trend-setting master-planned communities in some compelling new south-metro settings. “When buyers enter a community, a lot of their impression depends on the terrain,” says residential broker Rike Palese, who heads Re/Max Professionals’ DTC office. “Buyers are willing to give up on their own lot size for open space, biking paths, and for a setting that shows winding streets and up-and-down topography.”

Master planning also lets builders make the bottom-line work for buyers in an era when prices for raw development land can run around \$425,000 an acre—not to mention higher costs for infrastructure. That new buyer profile—wanting to give up lot size in favor of walkable amenities and more chances to meet new friends—is captured by airline captain Bob Markert and his wife Mary, who made

a move last year from their older house in Governor’s Ranch.

“We looked everywhere; we went to Boise, to San Antonio, to both coasts,” Bob Markert says, adding that their search started in 2019 when home prices and rates were each much lower. “Every time we got off the airplane, we said, ‘What are we doing?’ Colorado is so perfect.”

Two years ago, the Markerts decided to search closer to home. That took them to Solstice, a recently opened master plan alongside Chatfield State Park, where they found a ‘Brookside’ 2,535-square-foot ranch plan with a basement and 3-car garage for a site close to the lake’s marina. They closed last year.

“I wanted to live in a patio home, but my wife didn’t want to share a wall with anybody else,” Markert says. “This makes both of us very happy.”

Builders are reaching for buyers living in south metro homes that are 30 to 40 years old by offering them new features and technologies, but

also the amenities that were rare when older areas were built. That takes developers south into Douglas County, where four natural settings await—all with a character of terrain that allows planners to work their master-planned magic.

SETTING: TRAILS THROUGH CANYONLANDS

The first of those areas is the canyonlands along I-25 between Castle Pines and Castle Rock. Forty years ago, developers chose the landscape with its promontories, pines and scrub oak for pricey Castle Pines Village. Now, the setting has grown closer to the I-25 business corridor and has a more comprehensive range of buyers wanting into its coveted zip code.

The Canyons Castle Pines

The winner of the 2022 MAME Community of the Year award was The Canyons by Shea Homes in The Canyons Castle Pines, east of I-25 at Castle Pines Parkway. The entry experience is all about the landscape, where visitors pass through a covered bridge, then to The Exchange visitor center with a coffee house. >>>



THE CANYONS CASTLE PINES



MACANTA

The Canyons will also offer Canyon Village, which already has a pool and event lawn, and more attractions to come. It's the starting point for 15 miles of trails that wind seven neighborhoods, with some large, eye-catching homes that share glimpses into the shoreline of Reuter-Hess Reservoir.

The Canyons Castle Pines

DEVELOPER: Shea Homes

LOCATION: Half mile east of I-25 at Castle Pines Pkwy/Hess Rd., Castle Pines, CO

SIZE: 1,270 Acres

BUILDERS: Shea Homes, Infinity Properties, Tri Pointe Homes

PRICE RANGE: From the \$700s to upper \$1Ms

MOVE RIGHT AWAY: From low \$800s to \$1.6M

thecanyonsliving.com

Macanta

A few miles further south, Houston-based developer Hines transformed a landscape carved in canyons and gulches into Macanta, a trail-themed master plan. The 1,200-acre site bounded by Cobblestone Ranch Open Space and 450-acre Macanta Regional Park has 13 miles of singletrack bike trails, including an 'Enchanted Forest Trail' that weaves the community's eastern edge.



"Now is the time to get in," says Carrie Kayle Castilian, marketing director with Lennar, with new Legends Collection models opening (the smallest is 2,175 feet) on sites that typically back to open space. "Everybody is looking for hiking and biking," she adds.

With biking as a core theme, the community center is The Spoke—where you can tune your bike or enjoy a pool wrapped by open-air gathering areas centered around a fire pit. There's a 1,500-foot fitness center, a co-working space and a full bar for coffee and casual dining. Three builders offer single-family homes: Taylor Morrison from the \$700s, Lennar's from the \$800s, and Toll Brothers from the high \$900s. >>>

Macanta

DEVELOPER: Hines

LOCATION: East of I-25 on Founders Pkwy to Crowfoot Valley Rd., north 1 mi., Castle Rock, CO

SIZE: 1,200 Acres

BUILDERS: Taylor Morrison, Toll Brothers, Lennar

PRICE RANGE: From the \$700s to upper \$1Ms

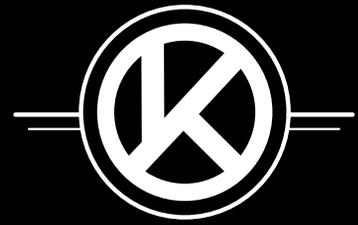
MOVE RIGHT AWAY: From low \$800s to \$1.6M

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MONTAINE

Castle Rock’s namesake promontory above its historic downtown is just one of the mesa formations that create terrain for 75 miles of trails. With a growing dining scene, the town has attracted master plans for 30 years and earned multiple appearances on Money Magazine’s national “Best Places to Live” list.

Montaine

East, across the valley from the town’s Phillip S. Miller Park with its 200-step “Challenge Hill,” you’ll find Montaine, a master plan with 548 acres of open space and 13 miles of trails. Its site is near one promontory, which gives its two amenity centers great views of the Rampart Range and craggy Devil’s Head Peak.

Vista Clubhouse, with a zero-entry pool, fitness center and playground, serves neighborhoods by Toll Brothers and Brightland Homes; and Regency Clubhouse is for Toll Brothers’ 55-plus neighborhood, with pools, pickleball and tennis courts, a fitness center and six roomy ranch models to explore.

Montaine
DEVELOPER: Toll Brothers
LOCATION: From I-25, take Plum Creek Pkwy east to Wilcox, south 2 mi. to Crystal Valley Pkwy, Castle Pines, CO
SIZE: 850 Acres
BUILDERS: Toll Brothers, Brightland Homes
PRICE RANGE: From the upper \$600s to \$1.4M
QUICK MOVE-IN HOMES: From the upper-\$700s
livemontaine.com

LYRIC AT RIDGEGATE



SETTING: URBAN-SUBURBAN LIVING
Lone Tree stands out among new home areas for its closeness to the Denver Tech Center and its bordering terrain for trails. Along with new shopping and dining that orbit Park Meadows, Lone Tree has some of the most alluring new residential neighborhoods in metro Denver.

The newest area east of I-25 at Ridgeway Parkway, with scenic bluffs that rise a thousand feet above Denver’s downtown, has very easy access to urban attractions via Light Rail. Lone Tree’s Performing Arts Center is a mile west, and trails to the overlooks are closer still, including an East-West Regional Trail that’s arriving beside the newest homes. >>>

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Lyric at RidgeGate

Lyric is a 699-acre community (48 percent is set for parks and open space), part of Lone Tree's 3,500-acre RidgeGate master plan, where homes are close to the Light Rail stop and Lone Tree's new City Center, planned for shops, dining options and workspaces. Shea plans a combo coffee shop-welcome center in Lyric for 2026, as well as an amenity center with a pool and fitness area.

You can already tour three Shea collections, including urban-styled homes with an option for an accessory dwelling unit and luxurious contemporaries by Infinity, and see where Thrive Home Builders and Lokal Homes are pre-selling from the low \$600s.

LYRIC AT RIDGEGATE
DEVELOPER: Shea Homes
LOCATION: From I-25, take Ridgeway Pkwy east 1 mile; Lone Tree, CO
SIZE: 699 Acres
BUILDERS: Shea Homes, Infinity Properties, Thrive Home Builders, Lokal Homes
PRICE RANGE: From the \$500s to \$1.4M.
MOVE RIGHT AWAY: From the \$600s
livelyricco.com

SETTING: STATE PARKS, A RIVER AND A LAKE

Chatfield State Park is anchored by one of Douglas and Jefferson counties' most popular attractions: 1,500-acre Chatfield Reservoir, for both powered and sail-type craft. But that's far from the only lure of this near-perfect setting for outdoor-oriented buyers.

Residents are also five to ten minutes from the red rock sentinels of Roxborough State Park, the trout waters of the South Platte River running out of very bikeable Waterton Canyon and the historic High Line Canal Trail.

Solstice

The 71-mile trail passes along a 37-acre linear park dividing Solstice—the area that won this past year's MAME Community of the Year Award. The lake marina is where airline captain Bob Markert has his 21-foot Sea Doo pontoon boat tied up. But like many other residents attracted to master plans, the community aspects are as important to the Markerts as the outdoor attractions.

"Mary and I are very social," Bob Markert says. "We wanted amenities that allow people to interact." Solstice helps make that happen with its High Line House private club, with a fitness center, resort-style pool and elaborate spaces designed for social interaction—indoors around a fireplace and outdoors on an event lawn, picnic area and social garden.

You can tour five collections of single-family



homes, including the new Reflection Collection of luxury-sized ranch plans from 2,369 to more than 4,000 square feet.

All of these master plans are reporting good sales from this past summer. Re/Max's Palese says that despite the timing, builders are aggressively adding inventory, creating a noticeable advantage for buyers in a resale market with high prices and too few homes. He says, "Builders have inventory and they're passing on great incentives now—discounts, and more often, some really attractive interest rates not seen for a while."

SOLSTICE
DEVELOPER: Shea Homes
LOCATION: From C470, take Santa Fe south 4 mi. to Titan Rd., west 2 mi., right on Roxborough Park Rd, Littleton, CO
SIZE: 384 Acres
BUILDER: Shea Homes
PRICE RANGE: From the \$700s to low \$1Ms
MOVE RIGHT AWAY: From the mid-\$700s
livesolsticeco.com

Confidence Coif

OVERCOMING HAIR LOSS
from cancer with a simple
solution for a lasting impact

By Amanda Lacey

IT'S NOT CAVALIER to say that hair loss from cancer treatment can have a significant impact on self-esteem and the healing journey. Some types of chemotherapy are more likely to cause hair loss than others, so talk with your healthcare team to learn if it's a side effect you'll likely experience. While the degree of hair loss can vary from one individual to the next, acknowledging how traumatic—emotionally and psychologically—this experience is crucial.

If you have long hair, leaning into the transition by cutting it shorter before it begins to fall out can soften the shock of it all. Then, select a headscarf or cap so you're not left scrambling to cover up when you're already stressed and not feeling good.

Many women say a wig is the way to recapture a sense of your identity. If you feel a wig is right, ask your doctor to write a prescription. Susie's Wigs & Hair Replacement advises that your doctor can prescribe a wig (technically referred to as a cranial prosthesis).

Hana Designs offers a range of "wig systems" from a bang piece to complete wigs in styles from short to long, curly to textured and more. Blends and materials include synthetic hair, human hair blended with synthetic and total human hair wigs. Hana and her team will ensure your wig is fully customized to help you feel like the best version of yourself. This may range from a custom color, including highlights and shading the roots if opting for a human hair wig, to sculpting and cutting it to your perfect style.

Helping women for more than four decades, Hana Designs has seen clients walk out of the salon with a renewed sense of identity. And Hana, having had stage four breast cancer herself, understands the level of empathy and compassion needed for each and every client.

"After about a year, we'll graduate them back to their own salon," she says. "It's hard to say goodbye, but it's wonderful to witness the transformation from how they felt when they first walked in our door to when they walked out."

HANA DESIGNS

229 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton
303.351.5818, hanadesigns.com

SUSIE'S WIGS & HAIR REPLACEMENT

3003 E. 3rd Ave, Ste. A, Denver
303.333.9447, susieswigs.com

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/ABO PHOTOGRAPHY





The Brown Palace

Spacation

Enjoy a **ROYAL RETREAT** in the heart of Denver

By Lexi Reich

Photography Courtesy of The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa

IN A CITY as dynamic as Denver, it's easy to overlook the treasures hidden in plain sight. The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa, with its timeless architecture and storied past, offers a retreat that feels worlds apart from the everyday. For more than a century, this Denver icon has epitomized luxury, drawing guests who seek more than just a place to stay—they seek an experience.

Whether you're a visitor or a local, The Brown Palace invites you to step into a world where history, elegance and relaxation converge, offering a "spacation" that's a true escape within the city limits.

A LIVING PIECE OF HISTORY

Stepping through the doors of The Brown Palace is like entering a time capsule of Denver's Gilded Age. The hotel's triangular shape—a result of its unique location at the intersection of 17th Street, Broadway and Tremont Place—immediately sets it apart from its more conventional neighbors. But it's the eight-story atrium lobby, crowned by a stained-glass ceiling, that truly captures the imagination and transports visitors to another era.

This atrium, a pioneering architectural feat as the first of its size in a hotel worldwide, has mesmerized guests since The Brown Palace opened its doors in 1892. The hotel's history is as richly textured as its decor, tracing back to the late 1800s when Henry Cordes Brown, a visionary carpenter-turned-real-estate-entrepreneur, aspired to create a landmark that would embody Denver's transformation from a rough frontier town into a burgeoning metropolis. In 1888, Brown chose a triangular plot of land, once a simple cow pasture, and enlisted Chicago architect Frank E. Edbrooke to design a steel-framed



masterpiece—Denver’s first—ushering in a new era of architecture.

Over the years, The Brown Palace has welcomed a dazzling array of guests, from the Beatles to U.S. presidents. During Eisenhower’s presidency, it was even dubbed the “Western White House.”

As you explore, keep an eye out for subtle details, like the iron panels around the balconies—two of which are famously installed upside down, a nod to the idea that only a higher power can create perfection.

STAY

A stay in one of the Top of the Brown rooms offers a perfect blend of history and luxury. These eighth-floor rooms, once known as



the “Skyline Apartments” during the Great Depression, now stand as a tribute to the hotel’s past and its commitment to modern comfort.

The rooms themselves are a study in contrasts. Art Deco-inspired rounded corners and glass block walls evoke the 1930s, while plush tufted headboards and Chanel-suit-inspired upholstery add a touch of glamour. Even the closets make a statement, with geometric wallpaper reminiscent of a honeycomb—a nod to the hotel’s rooftop bee colony.

But it’s not just about looks. Staying at The Brown Palace means enjoying a full suite of amenities. From flat-screen HD televisions and wireless Internet access to twice-daily maid service and artesian water from the hotel’s





private well, every detail is designed to offer a seamless experience. Guests can also access 24-hour fitness and business centers, ensuring convenience is always within reach.

EAT

No visit to The Brown Palace is complete without partaking in its famous Afternoon Tea, served in the atrium lobby, where history and tradition fuse. The delicate piano notes fill the air as the tea is served on Royal Doulton bone china, specially commissioned for the hotel. The three-tiered tray is a work of art: delicate finger sandwiches on the bottom, warm scones with Devonshire cream in the middle and an array of tasty pastries on top.

This classic experience has been thoughtfully adapted for modern palates with gluten-free and vegan options and seasonal flavors. Yet the essence of the experience remains unchanged—it's about taking a moment to slow down and indulge. Of course, there's an option to add champagne. >>>





REST

The crown jewel of the *spacation* awaits on the hotel's lower levels: The Spa at the Brown Palace. Spanning 5,200 square feet across two floors, it's a haven of tranquility in the heart of the city.

The spa features six treatment rooms, including a private couples suite with a dual reclining hydrotherapy tub. Separate men's and women's locker rooms include relaxation areas, Swiss showers and aromatherapy steam rooms. But what truly sets this spa apart is its uniquely Colorado-inspired treatments, including soaking treatments using water from the hotel's artesian well, drawn from 750 feet below the ground—deeper than many of Denver's skyscrapers are tall.

The spa's signature Honey Lavender product line, made from honey harvested from the rooftop beehives, is incorporated into many treatments, offering natural moisturizing properties. Whether you choose a crowd-favorite like the CBD relief wrap or a couple's massage and plunge, each treatment is designed to melt away stress.

But for those seeking the latest wellness trends, the CBD Relief Wrap is worth a try. The experience begins with a dry body exfoliation, followed by the application of an aromatic CBD cream. You're then wrapped cocoon-style for the ultimate skin-nourishing experience. This treatment harnesses the rejuvenating benefits of cannabidiol to stimulate the lymphatic system, detoxify the body and deeply hydrate the



skin. To complete the experience, guests can choose between a massage or facial, ensuring total relaxation and renewal.

A LASTING IMPRESSION

As your *spacation* draws to a close, you'll find yourself lingering in the hotel's atrium, reluctant to leave this oasis of luxury. The Brown Palace has created a retreat that feels a world away, right in the heart of Denver. It's a place where history whispers from every corner, yet

modern comforts abound. Where you can sip tea like royalty and then pamper yourself with cutting-edge spa treatments.

For Denver locals, The Brown Palace offers a chance to see their city through new eyes and to experience the luxury that has drawn visitors from around the world for more than a century. Sometimes, the greatest escapes are right in your own backyard. 



LANDMARK



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Leg Up

So long skinny fit,
WIDE-LEG PANTS are
taking over closets
everywhere

By Hailee Lucchesi

WHILE BOOTLEG and relaxed styles have been leaders in the pants market, and most likely your closet, the wide-leg silhouette is taking the industry by storm. What we love the most about this transition, is how the new structure allows maximum versatility. The sultry shape can not only be easily dressed up or down, but can pair with flats, sneakers, boots and heels. With such endless styling options, it's no wonder they are at the top of our must-have list for autumn.

If you only choose one pair of denim this season, we recommend you go with a signature pair from Democracy. The brand is famous for their "Ab"solution jeans designed with flattery at the forefront. They accentuate the female form with slimming, shaping and lifting craftsmanship in every inch of the design.

Maybe you are looking for a pant that is as comfortable as denim but comes across a bit more luxe. Look no further than Paige's Harper pant. This ultra-soft material is made with the ideal amount of stretch for a flawless fit. And to top it off, the plush black velvet corduroy instantly elevates your look whether you are out for the day or dressed up for a night out on the town.

Cream is a color highly underused during the cooler seasons. Tommy Bahama understood the assignment when creating the new Indigo Palms denim collection. >>>

Clockwise: PAIGE Harper Ankle Cropped High-Rise Pant, \$239, **A LINE**, Belleview Station DTC, 303.773.8200, aline-online.com; L'AGENCE Pilar Wide Leg Pant, \$475, **GARBARINI**, Cherry Creek, 303.333.8686, garbarinishop.com; Annie Bing Soto Pant, \$350, **A LINE**, Belleview Station DTC, 303.773.8200, aline-online.com



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF RETAILER



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READY TO WEAR // clothing

The high-rise pant with utilitarian pockets evokes a laid-back sense, while the clean, finished hem, brings just enough polish. Couple this elegant, bleached-sand hue pant with a chunky sweater to stay cozy and chic no matter where you venture this season.

Born out of Italy, the Gillian jean from Closed in ferro brown is another rich color alternative this season. The deep hue and sophisticated silhouette create endless pairing options from a white t-shirt to a classic button-down. Additionally, the slightly slimmer hemline and unapologetic comfort, will have you reaching for this jean time and time again.

Annie Bing designed her Soto pant in an opulent navy vegan leather for a look that elevates your outfit with minimal effort. The pant offers sophisticated style while achieving an effortlessly cool look from day to night.

Sometimes you need a piece that is set to shine and luckily for us, Ramy Sharp created this pair with that ethos in mind. Her cropped



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF RETAILER

Clifford pant comes in a bold gunmetal complete with a high-rise waist and cropped wide-leg bottom. They read modern in shape yet incredibly luxurious for a guaranteed showstopping outfit.

Any wardrobe would not be complete without a timeless, wide-leg trouser. LAGENCE who fuses the effortless lifestyle of Los Angeles with an understated Parisian influence, has perfected the concept with its Pilar wide-leg pant. The lightweight, stretch suiting lets you power through your day whether personal or professional, while simultaneously looking polished and poised.



Clockwise: Indigo Palms Pant, \$138, **TOMMY BAHAMA**, Park Meadows, 720.889.6400, tommybahama.com; CLOSED Gillian Jean, \$355, **GARBARINI**, Cherry Creek, 303.333.8686, garbarinishop.com; Democracy "Ab"solution High Rise Wide Leg Jeans, \$88, **DILLARD'S**, Park Meadows, 303.790.0100, dillards.com; Ramy Brook Cropped Metallic Clifford Pant, \$295, **A LINE**, Bellevue Station DTC, 303.773.8200, aline-online.com



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Beauty *Within*

Esthetician
EMMA MCDONALD
puts skincare first,
makeup second

By Amanda Lacey

*Photography Courtesy of
Lindsey Mazzaferro*





SUFFERING FROM cystic acne as a teenager led Emma McDonald down a path to overcome—and help other women beat—the stress, anxiety and even pain that comes from acne, not to mention its impact on a woman’s self-esteem. Before becoming a licensed esthetician and makeup artist, she fought her acne by attempting to cover it up. She’d dig through her mom’s makeup, and while she learned a thing or two along the way, that’s really where her love for esthetics began. Wanting to understand more and quite literally get to the root of the problem, she attended Colorado Advanced Esthetics to take her personal experience and education and put them to use, helping others.

Combining her love for both the medical side of esthetics and makeup, McDonald offers an all-encompassing approach to beauty and wellness services. “I dislike the word fix. I don’t think you need to fix anything about you. If you choose to, you can enhance your appearance and go on that journey of self-love and self-care,” she says. And that’s her approach with her clients, whether they’re coming into her esthetic room or makeup chair.

Taking a skincare-first approach, because makeup will only look as good as the skin underneath it, McDonald offers services ranging from microneedling to chemical peels and laser hair removal as the lead esthetician at Denver Tech Dermatology Associates. Then, driven by her mantra of “makeup is art,” she strives to unveil individuals’ inner radiance by using the transformative power of makeup to express, enhance and empower her clients under her brand, Emma Lynn Esthetics. With a specialty in glowy glam makeup, McDonald enhances her clients’ unique, natural beauty, leaving them feeling uplifted and confident in their skin.



The number one thing McDonald tells her clients? Patience is key. “With a few acne clients, I bring it back to a personal level to relate to them, and while I let them know nothing is going to change overnight, I remind them that by sticking to a routine, whether at home or by services with me, they’re eventually going to get results,” McDonald says. And the before and after photos speak for themselves. “After looking them over with a current client, she told me I was ‘a wizard,’ and that was the most rewarding thing ... Not only to see and hear how happy she was with the results but also how thankful she is for what I do.”

McDonald says every woman should have an opportunity to show off an elevated version of herself, whether relaxed from a facial or glammed up from makeup. It’s what she strives for in her business and her life. 

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303.222.9559, dtderm.com

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Go *in*

PHOTO: COURTESY INTERNATIONAL JET AVIATION



PRIVATE AIR CHARTERING

is a luxurious, custom-tailored way to travel Colorado's skies and beyond

By Kim D. McHugh

A DESTINATION WEDDING in Cabo San Lucas. A trip to The Masters with your golf buddies. Your CEO texts about a 'must attend' meeting tomorrow morning in Chicago. Your wife calls to say she's gone into labor earlier than expected, and you're at an important trade show on the East Coast. You and your girlfriends have Adele's Las Vegas concert circled on the calendar. If a once-in-a-lifetime or urgent event is in your future, a private air charter may be the answer. Not only does private jet travel eliminate the encumbrances associated with commercial flying, it offers a luxury experience every time.

INTERNATIONAL JET AVIATION

Founded in 1979 by William Milam and Lynn Krogh, they developed and built the company into one of the largest charter operations in Denver and the Rocky Mountain region. Whether clients are flying for business or pleasure, the company is expert at providing travel without compromise.

"I would use the words privacy, security, efficiency and convenience to describe private air travel. I think people are most surprised about how individualized it can be," says Krogh, the company's CEO. "Generally, we can customize it in any way they want. One of the big advantages to chartering is that there are no clubs to join, no cards to buy, no fractional ownerships, you're just paying on a per trip basis with an all-in firm price."

Once the trip is confirmed, the clients can arrive even minutes from the scheduled departure time, drive within ten feet of the aircraft, forego TSA screening, board and be wheels up shortly thereafter.

"It's definitely a level of service and a form of travel that is an entirely different experience than the (commercial) airlines as one could imagine," Krogh adds.

MAYO AVIATION

In the 1960s, founders Gwen and Bill Mayo II moved from Minnesota to Colorado, initially owning gas stations. In 1978, they transitioned to aviation charters. Today, Bill Mayo III and his colleagues deliver the personalized attention clients have come to appreciate from the family-led company.

"Flying privately allows families to set their own schedules, avoiding the rigid timetables and potential delays associated with

commercial flights,” says Maddie Priester, marketing manager. “This flexibility means fewer disruptions and a more relaxed travel experience, which is especially valuable for families with young children or those with tight itineraries.”

The company provides access to more than 5,000 aircraft, giving you the right plane and a variety of pricing. Whether you’re flying to Boston for a meeting, to Aspen or Telluride for a family ski trip or SoCal’s Disneyland, Mayo Aviation manages your travel with concierge level service.

“Your trip is tailored to your needs, whether it’s a specific cabin class to accommodate special items like sports equipment or large strollers, or a cabin decorated and stocked with your favorite items to make a vacation that much more special,” Priester says.

ONEAIR JET

Putting his hospitality management bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University to work, Matt James gravitated to the aviation industry, initially scheduling aircraft and then coordinating with pilots, air traffic control and ground personnel to manage flight schedules. Eight years into his career, the Colorado native launched OneAir Jet three years ago, and sees firsthand how clients benefit by flying private.

“You are in total control of your trip, set your own departure times, pick your preferred airports and choose the aircraft that best suits your needs,” he says. “For those traveling with pets, you avoid the risks, stress and inconvenience of flying commercially with your companions. You fly with your pet directly in the cabin allowing you to check on your companion’s well-being and happiness throughout the flight.”

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MAYO AVIATION, A GEORGE J. PRIESTER AVIATION COMPANY



The greatest value flying private offers is time. OneAir Jet can help cut out connections allowing clients to fly directly to and from their destination, as well as access many locations inaccessible by commercial flights. From in-flight entertainment to gourmet cuisine, clients get to decide.

PREPARE FOR TAKEOFF!

Private air charter services strive to adhere to high standards to provide safe travel, historically aligning with FAA certified, third-party audited aircraft and crew. Pilots often come from highly respected aviation backgrounds, including the military, major airlines, corporate and medical flight operations and pilot training centers. Aviation mechanics, flight

attendants and ground personnel are exceptionally well trained, too. Here are options:

INTERNATIONAL JET AVIATION

Centennial
internationaljet.com, 303.790.0414

MAYO AVIATION

Centennial; Aspen/Pitkin County Airport
mayoaviation.com, 303.792.4000

ONEAIR JET

Centennial
oneairjet.com
 303.717.2433

ASPEN AIR

aspenoneways.com, 877.273.5387

COLORADO BY AIR

Colorado Springs; Salida; Aspen/Pitkin County Airport; RMMA (Broomfield)
coloradobyair.com, 719.626.7144

EVOJETS

Centennial; Colorado Springs; DIA, Aspen/Pitkin County Airport; RMMA (Broomfield)
evojets.com, 877.970.5387

JET LINX

Centennial
jetlinx.com, 303.762.1033

JSX

Aspen/Pitkin County Airport; RMMA (Broomfield)
jsx.com, 800.435.9579

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PHOTO: COURTESY INTERNATIONAL JET AVIATION

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PHOTO: COURTESY OF AARON THACKERAY

Ongoing Through November 9 13TH FLOOR HAUNTED HOUSE

It's that time again—Denver's 13th Floor Haunted House is returning for a brand-new season of scares and attractions. Celebrating 17 years in the Mile High, this season brings terrifying twists and turns, new characters and new add-on attractions that are sure to thrill. For the first time ever, there will be two separate entrances into the haunt this year, making it a brand new experience for even seasoned haunt-goers. Scare-lovers can check out all-new add-on experiences, including Mini Escape Games, and My FrightFilm, a new feature allowing guests to relive the screams through strategically placed cameras, as well as two brand-new Secret Bars. Enter if you dare! **DENVER**, 13thfloorhauntedhouse.com

Ongoing Through February 17 WILD THINGS: THE ART OF MAURICE SENDAK

Named after Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are," the beloved children's book he authored in 1963 that became a cultural touchstone, this exhibition presents more than 400 of Sendak's creations. Visitors will see unique examples of Sendak's timeless art, such as the final artworks for the book, and get a sense of his extraordinary skill and deep understanding of the process of creating picture books and designs for the stage, television and film productions. **DENVER**, denverartmuseum.org

October 3-5 STEAMBOAT FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

Steamboat Food & Wine Festival is your seat at the table of creation. Interact with renowned chefs in venues that are equal parts intimate and panoramic. Discover first-hand how the collaboration in and the origins of food and wine define the most luxurious of flavors. Tickets available now, and there are many events to choose from. **STEAMBOAT**, steamboatfoodandwine.com

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October 5

GREENWOOD VILLAGE FALL FEST

Spooktacular fun awaits as Carson Park is transformed into a haunted graveyard full of family-friendly activities, including a pumpkin race, fall-inspired crafts and a DJ spinning live Halloween music. Get free tickets online ahead of time; they're required for residents to enter. 1–3:30 p.m. at **CARSON PARK AND CITY HALL**, greenwoodvillage.com

October 6

SCHWEIGER RANCH FALL FESTIVAL

The city of Lone Tree's annual fall festival includes pumpkin picking, marshmallow roasting, carriage rides, a petting zoo, craft-making booths, live music, food trucks and

a program detailing the history of the ranch. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at **SCHWEIGER RANCH**, cityoflonetree.com

October 10

SUGAR SKULL!

“SUGAR SKULL! A Día de Muertos Musical Adventure” is a touring bilingual/bicultural musical for young audiences and families that uses traditional regional music and dance from Mexico to tell the story of twelve-year-old Vita Flores. Vita thinks her family has gone loco planning a celebration for deceased loved ones. Why throw a party for the dead? But when a spirited candy skeleton suddenly springs to life, Vita finds herself on a magical, musical journey to unravel the true

meaning of Día de Muertos. **PACE CENTER**, parkerarts.org/pace-center

October 11–13

BRECKENRIDGE CRAFT SPIRITS FESTIVAL

Head up to Breck for this annual festival showcasing the very best of craft spirits and cocktails, plus live music, artisanal snacks, and people's choice voting. Several other events are taking place in town on the same weekend—a craft workshop, historic walking tours and a scavenger hunt. The festival's hotel, Beaver Run, offers a variety of lodging options, from hotel rooms to two-bedroom condos. **BRECKENRIDGE**, breckenridgecraftspiritsfestival.com



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BELLA ACOSTA

October 14

MOVIE NIGHTS AT INFINITY PARK

Grab a picnic basket and a blanket (or your best costume) and head to Infinity Park in Glendale for the final free movie night of 2024, featuring popular family-friendly movie “Halloweentown.” Gates open at 4:30 p.m. and this event will be paired with the YMCA's annual Trunk-or-Treat event for what is sure to be an extra fun evening. If you elect not to bring food with you, food will be available for purchase from an on-site food truck. **GLENDALE**, infinityparkatglendale.com



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October 11-13

CASTLE ROCK HOME SHOW

Meet with local and national vendors, check out the latest trends, and get inspired for home remodeling and decor projects. This big show offers free admission, and times vary each of the three days, so be sure to check out the website. **DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**, castlerockhideshow.com

October 17

PARANORMAL PARTY

Join in for a night of frightening fun inside a real haunted mansion. The festivities begin with a welcome reception in the ballroom and an open house where you can roam the halls in search of the many interactive spirits thought to be haunting the 100-year-old mansion. Re-group for a presentation about ghosts and the haunted history of the Highlands Ranch Mansion where you will see and hear real paranormal evidence. Then it's "lights out" as you join the team of expert ghost hunters for a ghost hunt in the dark. Bring your flashlights, handheld ghost hunting gear, cameras and apps to capture your own paranormal evidence or borrow some equipment from the investigative team and see if you can spot a ghost. Must be 21+ for this event, 6-9 p.m. **HIGHLANDS RANCH**, hrcaonline.org



PHOTO: COURTESY OF LINDSEY MCKISSICK

October 18 & 19

HAUNTED FOREST

The gates of the Backcountry Wilderness Area Haunted Forest crack open and reveal sinister scenes for two nights this month. Discover what's lurking behind every tree and bush in this three-quarter-mile creep through the woods. Recommended for ages 10+. Tickets will be available at the door, if not sold out. **HIGHLANDS RANCH**, hrcaonline.org

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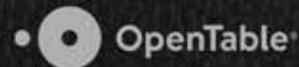
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October 17-27

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

In 1956, one legendary jam session brought together four icons of rock 'n' roll: Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. On that storied night in Memphis, the Million Dollar Quartet was born. Now, in this theatrical production, these four musical legends come to life in a story of broken promises, secrets, betrayal and celebrations—all tied together with some of the most well-known songs in history. This show is sure to have you lacing up your "Blue Suede Shoes" for an unforgettable theatrical experience. Tickets available online now. **LONE TREE ARTS CENTER**, lonetreeartscenter.org



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARRIE HORN

October 18 & 19

MOVIE NIGHTS AT MARJORIE PARK

The time has come for Halloween-themed movie nights at Marjorie Park. Grab a blanket and settle in with concessions available for purchase and yard games to play before the movie. Fireside tables are also available to reserve. October 18 is "Rocky Horror Picture Show," and October 19 is "The Witches." Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the movies start after dusk around 6:30 p.m. **GREENWOOD VILLAGE**, moaonline.org



PHOTO: COURTESY OF SCOTT DRESSSEL-MARTIN

October 22-27

GLOW AT THE GARDENS

You haven't really seen fall decorations until you've experienced this spectacular nighttime event at Denver Botanic Gardens! You'll see larger-than-life sculptures, jack-o-lanterns galore, and a plethora of glowing and twinkling lights. Whether you arrive in an elaborate costume or simply in a macabre mood, there's something for everyone at this one-of-a-kind experience. Timed tickets must be purchased in advance. **DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS (YORK STREET)**, botanicgardens.org

October 19

AUTUMN IN COLORFUL COLORADO

Get ready to create a meal that brings some Colorado-centric flavors into focus and highlights much that our beautiful state has to offer (think green chili bison sliders). Learn to cook, and then dine on a meal that's memorable. Uncorked Kitchen in Centennial also has lots of other cooking classes and other events on the schedule, including Apple Harvest (Oct. 3) and Japanese Pub Food (Oct. 26). Register soon as classes fill up. **CENTENNIAL**, uncorkedkitchen.com

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October 26

SIP IN CENTENNIAL

Returning for its second year, this event offers diverse tastings from local breweries, distilleries and wineries. The afternoon will also include live music, yard games and food trucks. All ages are welcome, must be 21+ to partake in alcohol tastings. 1-5 p.m. at **CENTENNIAL CENTER PARK**, centennialco.gov

October 26

EMMA CRAWFORD COFFIN RACES & FESTIVAL

Commemorating the dead is usually a gloomy occasion. Well, not in Manitou Springs. Celebrate autumn and the Halloween season at one of the weirdest events in Colorado, the Emma Crawford Coffin Races. Honoring one of the most notable persons in the town's history, each team at the event will be composed of one 'Emma' and four runners, all dressed in their costumes. The fastest times to finish the 195-yard track along Manitou Avenue will earn trophies. Other special awards will be up for grabs as well, such as Best Entourage, Best Coffin, Best Emma and Miss Emma. **MANITOU SPRINGS**, manitousprings.org



PHOTO: COURTESY OF USA CRIBO

October 26

SPOOKTACULAR

It's Halloween and time for fall fun with the entire family celebrating all things not-so-spooky at Spooktacular. Family-friendly costumes are encouraged, but not required. Activities include games, prizes, food and, of course, candy. This free event is held outdoors at Philip S. Miller Park, so dress warmly. 1 p.m.-4 p.m. **CASTLE ROCK**, crgov.com



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