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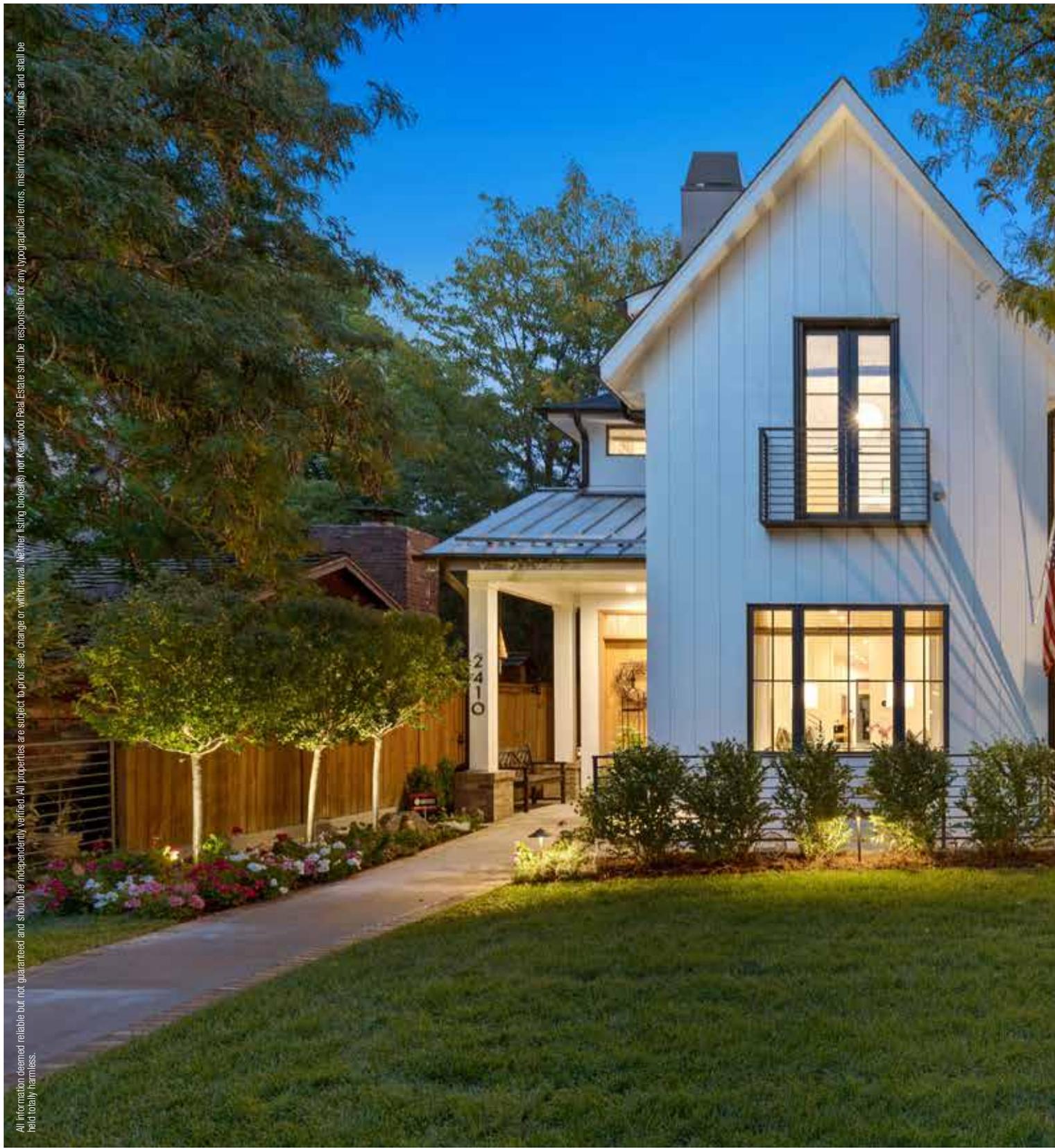
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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

With the holidays just around the corner, you're probably wondering where you can take the kids or out-of-town guests to pack the most holiday punch into one stop. Four metro-area venues offer several activities for one-stop holiday cheer.

By Amanda Lacey

38

THE LEGACY OF THE COLORADO COWBOY

Under the wide Colorado sky, a rancher's silhouette cuts against the rising sun as he tips his hat, spurs clicking softly with each step, breaking the morning stillness. It's a scene that's been playing out for generations. Yet, with each passing year, the role of the Colorado cowboy—once defined by endless cattle drives and untamed wilderness—evolves. As automation and technology edge closer to the ranch, and the demands of conservation and urban sprawl press in, the question lingers: What does it mean to be a cowboy in today's world?

By Lexi Reich

ON THE COVER: The Legacy of the Colorado Cowboy, page 38

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departments

10 **SETTING THE STAGE**
Our Wild West
By Heather Shoning

12 **arts & culture**
IMMERSIVE ART ADVENTURE
Prismajic stimulates the senses with cocktails, nibbles and immersive art
By Jamie Lynn Miller

18 **local flavors**
FROM WALL STREET TO WHISKEY
Laws Whiskey House redefines the Denver spirits scene
By Lexi Reich

22 **dwelling well**
BUILT FOR FAMILY
Although these homeowners are becoming empty nesters, they wanted a home designed for family
By Kristen West

44 **healthy living**
WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY
Is it the solution to meeting your health goals?
By Kristen West

48 **ready to wear**
EN VOGUE
A style playbook for holiday season attire
By Faerl Marie Torres

52 **influencers**
FROM WINGING IT TO WINNING IT
Author and entrepreneur Eva Fox Mate follows her heart to success
By Kristen West

56 **wayfarers**
WINTER ESCAPE
Head south of the border for a golf and wellness retreat on the ocean
By Heather Shoning

59 **can't-miss events**
ON THE AGENDA
Denver Arts Week, Classical Music Series, Denver Fashion Week and more

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TALK OF THE TOWN

KNOW SOMEONE who should be featured in AvidLifestyle? Tell me about them at heather@avidlifestyle.com



PHOTO: BY VANESSA MIRANDA

OUR WILD WEST

THERE IS A LOT THAT'S WILD about our beautiful western state, and one of our great treasures—although they are often hidden in this day and age—is the Colorado cowboy. Cowboys have been trotting across the small screen for several years thanks to popular shows like “Yellowstone,” but they're backstage within our culture. Writer Lexi Reich shares a beautiful history of this lifestyle and introduces you to a couple of real Colorado cowboys who still ride horses and work their ranches—each with his own twist (The Legacy of the Colorado Cowboy, page 38).

What's also wild is the beginning of the holiday season. There's so much to do at this time of year, so we have two ways to organize your time and calendar. First, our Holiday Happenings guide, on page 30, highlights the events at four significant venues where you and yours can make merry all in one trip or all season long. Additionally, On The Agenda, our can't-miss events section, lists tons of other holiday activities happening throughout the metro, plus some that are not holiday-themed.

We've been seeing a wild trend in Colorado and beyond: immersive art venues popping up in big and small ways. Colorado Mills Mall is home to a new one—Prismajic. Writer Jamie Lynn Miller takes you inside this imaginative, experiential venue where you can enjoy the art while enjoying hearty snacks and cocktails (Immersive Art Adventure, page 12).

There's plenty more to enjoy in this issue—wild and not-so-much, but I can't end a November editor's letter without expressing some gratitude. I am so fortunate to work with writers who joyfully strive to bring you engaging stories that entertain, educate and introduce you to new friends and neighbors. I'm grateful for their hard work and dedication. I'm also thankful for the local people, organizations and businesses who invite AvidLifestyle to sneak a peek behind the curtain.

Of course, I'm thankful for my family and especially my two amazing daughters, who inspire me every day to be a better human. Who are you grateful for? Be sure to tell them!

Happy start to the madcap season of giving!

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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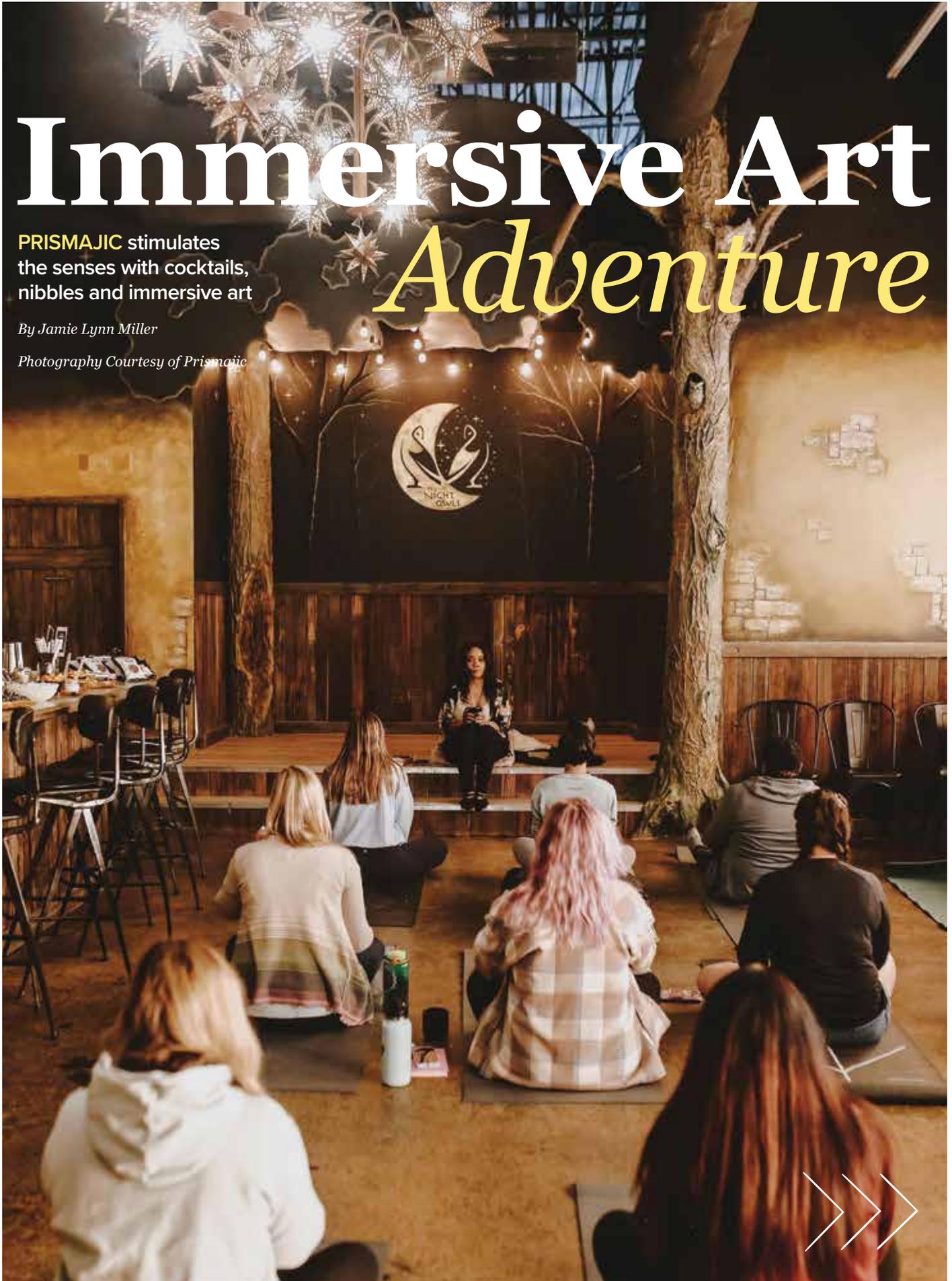
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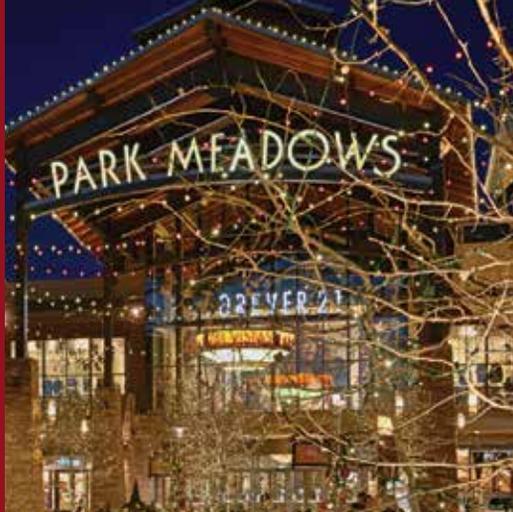
PRISMAJIC stimulates the senses with cocktails, nibbles and immersive art

By Jamie Lynn Miller

Photography Courtesy of Prismajic



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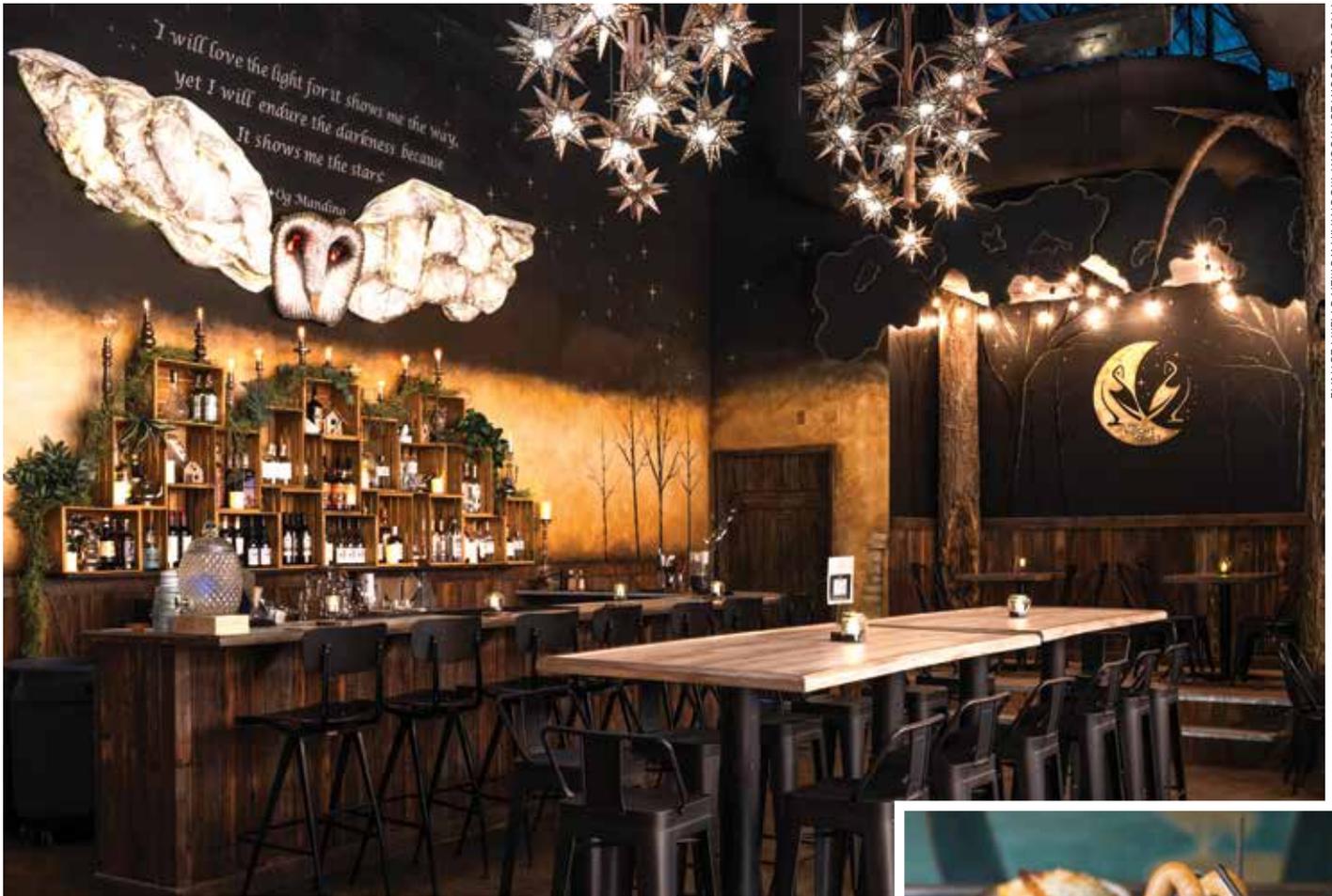


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A GOLDEN DOORBELL summons the whimsical mixologist from behind the Night Owl bar, the door itself barely noticeable. Speakeasy-style, the inconspicuous entrance leads to a whole new world—a stark contrast from the asphalt sidewalk that skirts the western entrance of Colorado Mills Mall. Inside, star-studded ceilings and the colors of twilight welcome adventure seekers to the world of Prismajic.

Prismajic's immersive art adventure, Shiki

Dreams, features the whimsical yet mystical likeness of Shiki, a yeti who guides visitors—and the Spirits of the Forest—throughout a four-plus room adventure. Named the 4th best immersive experience in the country by USA Today, Shiki and his world of woodland creatures combine tactile and sensory art with innovative technology. To complement the journey, Prismajic offers specialty food and beverage options and a growing lineup of interactive events.



There's an intimate stage, home to Sofar Sounds pop-up concerts, spoken word events, magic shows, speed dating and live music yoga. If it's creative, experiential and out-of-the-box, it finds its home at Prismajic.

The next stop is the Alley Cafe. "We call it Date Alley," says Matt Skinner, mixologist and absinthe fountain aficionado (rumor has it the Prismajic's bar manager drove the absinthe fountain across the country on her motorcycple.) Resembling a French bistro with walls the shade of birch trees and two-top tables, the Alley Cafe feels conducive to musing and meaningful conversation.

With a selection of "nocturnal nibbles" like hot pretzels with a variety of dipping sauces and a charcuterie platter, the Night Owl Bar features a la carte cocktails and mocktails named after owls, birds and creatures of the air. Guests can also enjoy a sensory tasting flight, inviting one to see, taste, smell and hear. There's a

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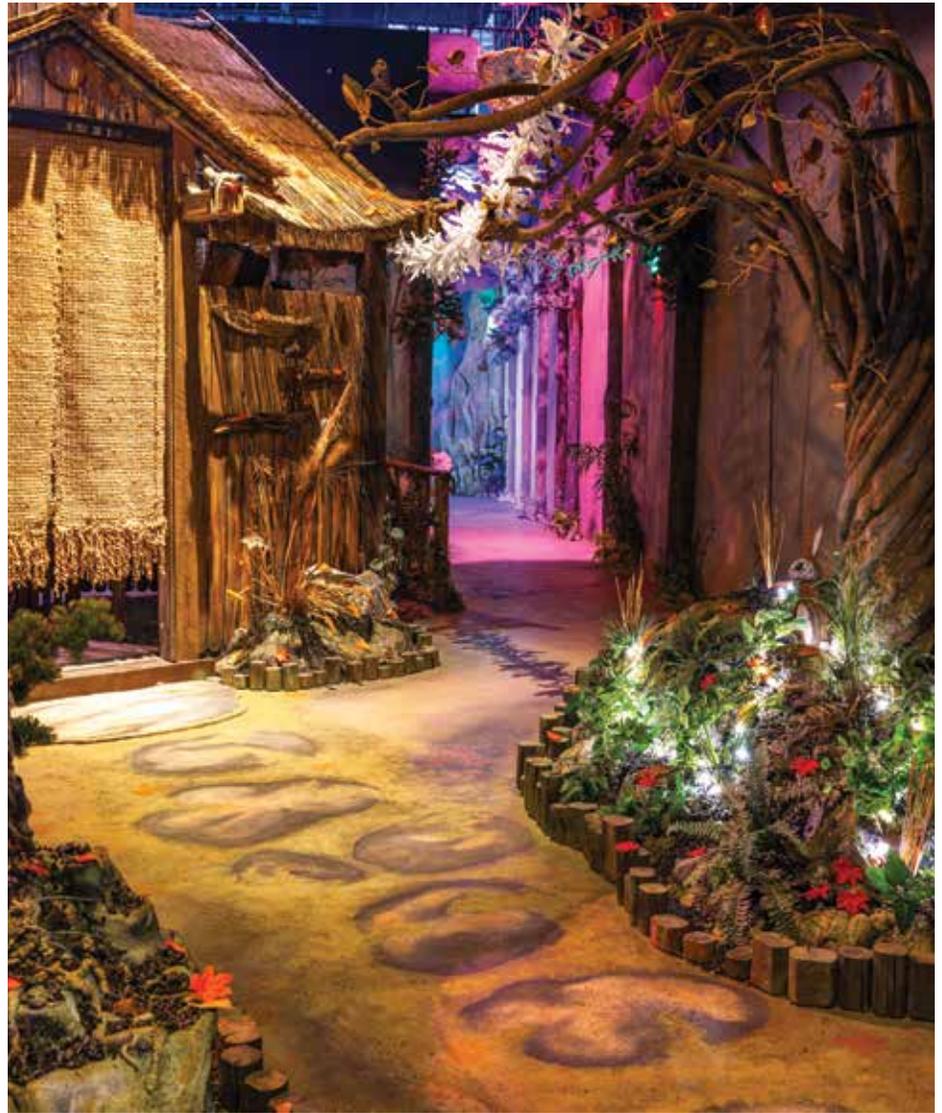
particular sound effect when culinary crystals drop into an elixir made from Breckenridge Spiced Rum.

Former prosecutor-turned-cultivator-of-all-things-artistic co-founder Jennifer Mosquera shares her grand vision: enlisting local artists to populate each room with lights, sounds, video and worlds of possibility. “Jen just wants creative people coming together, doing their thing,” Skinner says.

The team devised an innovative way to guide visitors throughout the adventure. “We want to appeal to all generations,” Mosquera says, “and we noticed some guests didn’t want to download an app that helps navigate the space.” Hence, a basket of handheld flashlights reveals hidden treasures along the way. Shine a light to see butterflies, inspirational quotes—even the mighty Shiki himself.

Some prefer searching with a purpose, and from easy to complex, laminated scavenger hunt sheets guide visitors toward certain discoveries. Find creatures hidden in the walls, floor and across the naturoscapes, then mark them off: red butterflies, grumpy toads and a slew of mystical beings like magic pickles. “The magic pickles are very popular,” Mosquera says. When illuminated by a flashlight, they may be playing a saxophone.

A cave replete with strips of paper turns hand-written wishes into inspiring decor. “Write what you wish to see more of in the world,” a woodland sign says, the wishes strewn across the space like clothespins on a magical clothesline. “We go through every single wish,” Mosquera says.



Step onto the oversized yeti footprints and cauldrons bubble, colors rise, and seascape skies start humming and chirping. Pull a rope on an iron bell and summon starfish, urchins and planets to soar through sea and sky. Fish dart in various colors, an eye in the sky looks down and mist falls from the nocturnal sky; in a snow-dusted room, cascading waterfalls light up with pearls.

In the birdhouse chamber, knots in artistic tree trunks double as peepholes; when lit by a flashlight, visitors discover secret underground worlds: cherry blossoms sway, a mini film strip plays and bird residents gather at a miniature snack bar.

Each visit to the fantastical world of Prismajic reveals a new creature, a sight previously unseen and a new basket of wishes for how the world could be.



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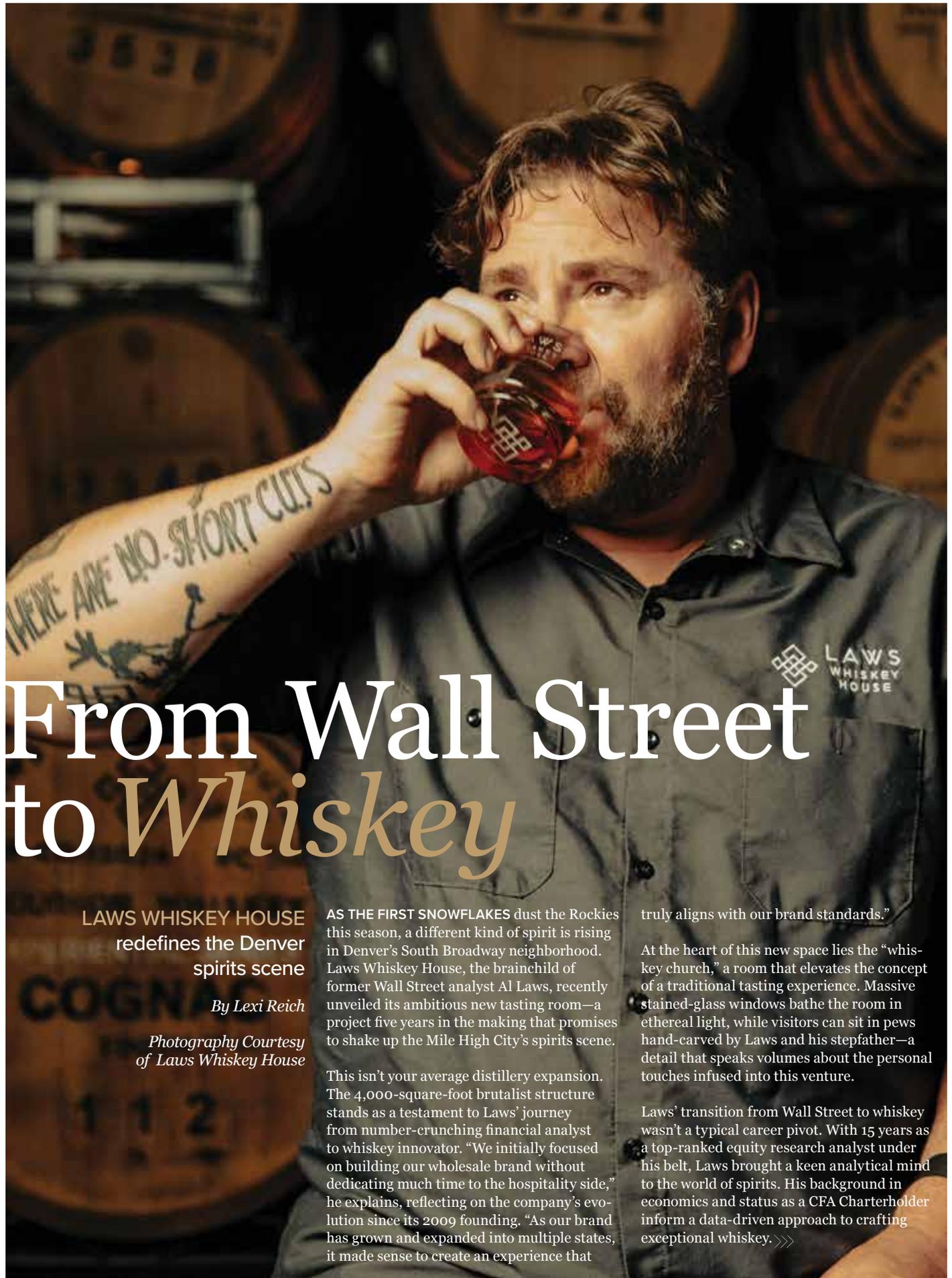
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From Wall Street to *Whiskey*

LAWS WHISKEY HOUSE
redefines the Denver
spirits scene

By Lexi Reich

*Photography Courtesy
of Laws Whiskey House*

AS THE FIRST SNOWFLAKES dust the Rockies this season, a different kind of spirit is rising in Denver's South Broadway neighborhood. Laws Whiskey House, the brainchild of former Wall Street analyst Al Laws, recently unveiled its ambitious new tasting room—a project five years in the making that promises to shake up the Mile High City's spirits scene.

This isn't your average distillery expansion. The 4,000-square-foot brutalist structure stands as a testament to Laws' journey from number-crunching financial analyst to whiskey innovator. "We initially focused on building our wholesale brand without dedicating much time to the hospitality side," he explains, reflecting on the company's evolution since its 2009 founding. "As our brand has grown and expanded into multiple states, it made sense to create an experience that

truly aligns with our brand standards."

At the heart of this new space lies the "whiskey church," a room that elevates the concept of a traditional tasting experience. Massive stained-glass windows bathe the room in ethereal light, while visitors can sit in pews hand-carved by Laws and his stepfather—a detail that speaks volumes about the personal touches infused into this venture.

Laws' transition from Wall Street to whiskey wasn't a typical career pivot. With 15 years as a top-ranked equity research analyst under his belt, Laws brought a keen analytical mind to the world of spirits. His background in economics and status as a CFA Charterholder inform a data-driven approach to crafting exceptional whiskey. >>>

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But Laws isn't alone in this venture. His wife, Marianne Laws, serves as secretary and treasurer, bringing her own impressive background to the table. With experience in economic development and investment banking, she handles the financial and administrative functions that keep Laws Whiskey House running smoothly. Rounding out the leadership team is CFO Peyton Mason, another Wall Street alum who traded in his analyst's hat for a role in the whiskey world.

This fusion of financial expertise and passion for whiskey is evident in every aspect of the new tasting room. The second-floor cocktail lounge, with its panoramic views of the Rockies, aims to compete with the best bars in Denver. "Our goal is to become one of Denver's top cocktail bars, offering a premier experience for our guests," Al Laws says.

But it's not just about serving drinks. The expanded space allows for a reimagining of the distillery tour experience. "It allows us to create multiple, diverse tour options that cater to different interests and preferences, ensuring a personalized experience for our customers and the public," Al Laws says.

In an industry often steeped in tradition, Laws

Whiskey House is charting its own course. The company's commitment to using local ingredients and supporting sustainable practices remains unwavering, even as it expands. "Sustainability is core to who we are, so it remains a priority as we begin operations," Al Laws shares.

As Denver's drinking scene continues to evolve, Laws Whiskey House is positioning itself not just as a distillery but as a destination. "Just as our brand contributes to the fabric of American whiskey, honoring its rich history, this space adds to the fabric of Denver," Al Laws says. "It offers something unique that didn't exist here before—an experience worth seeking out when visiting the city and a special destination for locals who love Laws to witness our growth."

With its blend of financial savvy, whiskey expertise and a deep commitment to craft and community, Laws Whiskey House is poised to write the next chapter in Denver's spirited story. 

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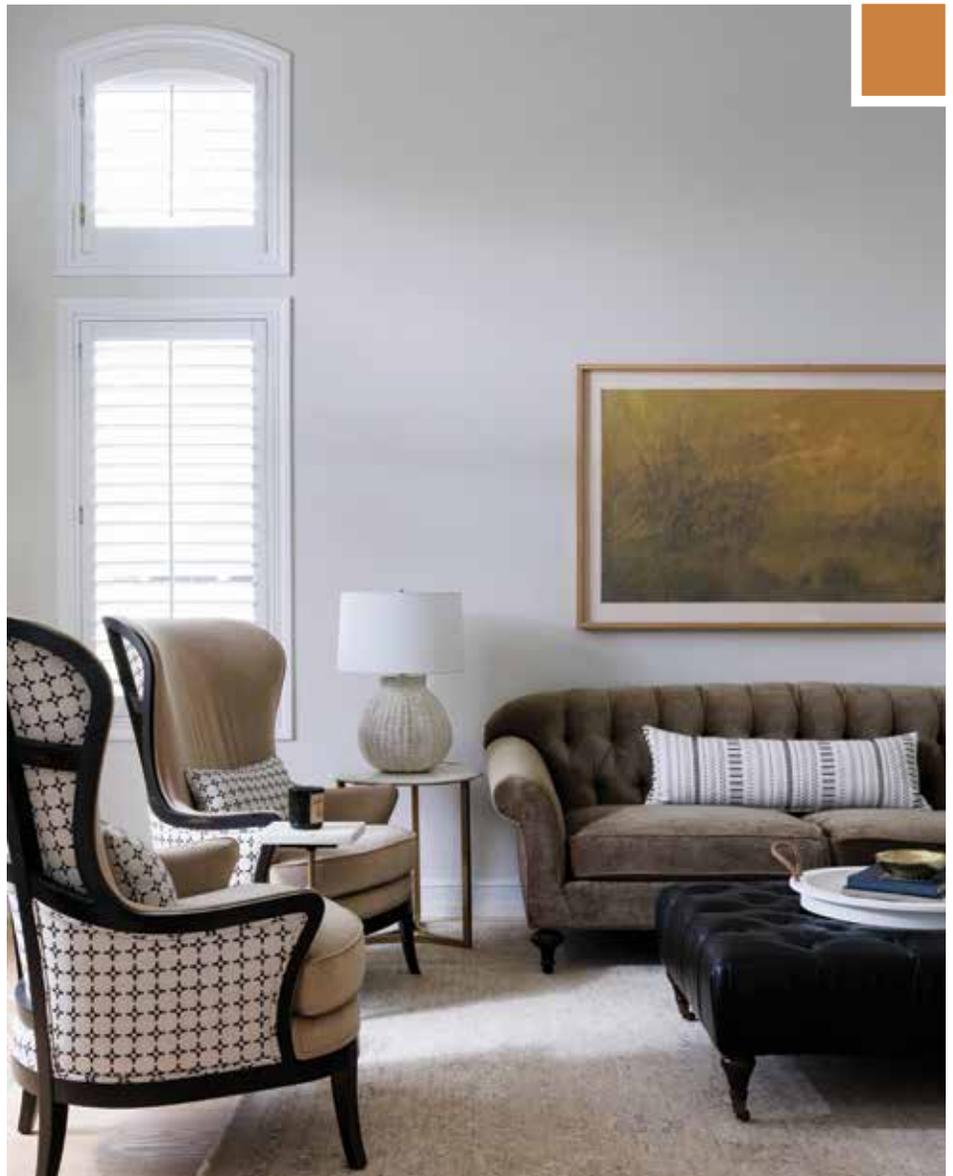
By Kristen West

Photography by Emily Minton Redfield

ERIC AND KAELY ROSEL'S Highlands Ranch home, nestled in the back of a cul-de-sac surrounded by trees and stunning mountain views, had a picturesque exterior but felt “dated and gaudy” inside. With two of the couple’s three children leaving the nest but visiting often, the Rosels wanted to refresh the space, optimize functionality and create a welcoming, light-filled environment that embraced both stylish living and family time. They engaged Angela West, senior designer at Kim Layne Interiors, to drive their vision.

Despite the home’s generous size and open design, certain areas were difficult to utilize due to their layout before the remodel. So, West addressed some dated elements to bring cohesion to the open spaces. “Whether it was removing the wing walls and sunken floor in the great room or just knowing what to do with the furniture there, we wanted to create a design conducive to the whole family being able to comfortably be in one open space,” West says.

Today, the home immediately impresses with its grand, double-curve staircase and open



view from the front door to the back. With this open floor plan, West emphasized the importance of creating coherence between the kitchen, dining and living room because they were all part of the first impression. The Rosels were eager to say goodbye to the existing beige-on-beige look while salvaging most of the original wood and sticking with natural colors. West introduced greens and earth tones to soften the interiors.

West removed the wing walls and raised the floor and fireplace to level the great room with the rest of the ground floor and create a more expansive feel. This change allowed for more space and functionality, and a cozy sectional now centers around the fireplace and encourages family time.

West honored the request to preserve the wood throughout the home, but she removed orange and yellow tones by sanding and refinishing the floors. “We ended up staining the doors a darker color, making the floors lighter, and then we painted all the window casings white,” she says. “Everything hinged on the floors

turning out beautiful, and they really did.” West says she enjoyed playing with fabrics during the remodel. “One of my favorite fabrics is the one on the chairs in the formal living room. I love the big wing-back shape of the chairs and the way the wood wraps around them, and I wanted to highlight that.” She chose a velvet for the front and a black pattern on a linen fabric for the back. “I’m obsessed with them.”

The kitchen was a critical area for transformation. West was able to maintain the placement of the cabinetry and range but refinishing the cabinets with a darker brown and swapped out the copper color on the range hood for bronze. She added white and brass pendants from Visual Comfort, incorporating the homeowner’s appeal for a splash of gold.

The original kitchen island jutted out into the room, so West opted for a more appropriate size and changed a dated brown granite countertop and backsplash to a lighter Misterio Pental quartz to create a timeless look. Because the dining room is part of the home’s

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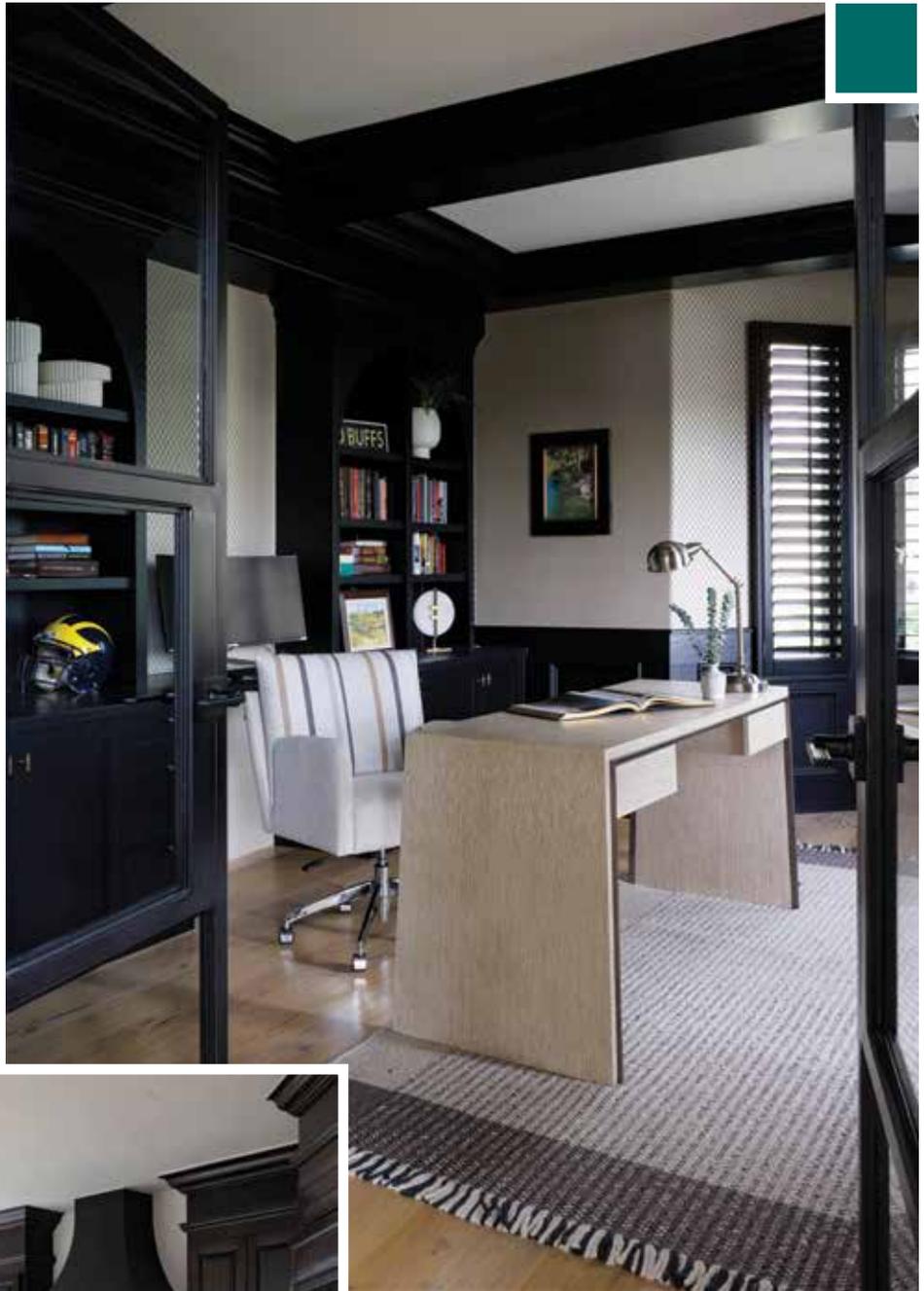


first impression, they opted for a striking accent chandelier and a unique dining room table with V-shaped legs designed by Clay Street Woodworks. The homeowners expressed a desire for local artwork, and when West found the horse artwork at a showroom, she felt it had to be there. "I joked with Kaely that we'd tell Eric it was called 'Eric the Stallion,' and it sort of stuck and became a running joke," she says.

Eric's office retained much of its original debonaire charm with dark wainscoting and ceiling beams. However, the existing built-ins lacked functionality. West reimagined the space with custom cabinetry designed to hide the clutter of wires, printers and computer components, allowing Eric's desk to make a striking statement without distraction. The minimal yet impactful desk from Theodore Alexander paired with a plaid-like rug and houndstooth wallpaper create a refined, orderly space.

In the primary bedroom, the fireplace was redesigned with a custom surround, and West specified luxurious textiles to add warmth and comfort. A bed from Vanguard, upholstered in a boucle fabric paired with noir nightstands, created continuity with the wood tones from other parts of the home. A soft green velvet lankets the Mark Alexander chaise.

The primary bathroom underwent a complete overhaul to lighten and expand its look. West removed a clunky sunken tub surrounded by black granite tiles, replaced it with a refined free-standing tub, and





then replaced the vanities to incorporate more of the home's natural wood elements. West worked with the angles in the room to re-clad the shower using a bold marble aggregate tile from Arizona Tile and added a steam unit, which is arguably one of the Rosels' favorite features in the home. "That's the best money we spent on the remodel," Eric Rosel says. "I use the steam shower twice a day."

Even the French-inspired powder room is a talking point with its whitewashed brick vanity wall, botanical wallpaper, statement sink, delicate sconces from Hudson Valley, and a custom vanity in warm, antique-look wood.

The Rosels' basement became a nod to Eric's love of aviation. They aimed for a speakeasy style for the space and decorated it with vintage propeller decor and subtle, personalized touches.

The Rosels say they feel like they are walking



into a hotel every day, and that it has fulfilled their dreams of bringing the family closer together. "We're in the formal living room every morning now drinking coffee, and both our boys play the piano with us sitting around them," Kaely Rosel says. "We still have a lot of good memories to make here."

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HOLIDAY *Happenings*

Four legendary locations offer ample activities for the **ULTIMATE MERRYMAKING EXPERIENCES**

By Amanda Lacey

With the holidays just around the corner, you're probably wondering where you can take the kids or out-of-town guests to pack the most holiday punch into one stop. Four metro-area venues offer several activities for one-stop holiday cheer. Head to The Springs for The Broadmoor's family-friendly traditions that span Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve. Denver's Botanic Gardens sprouts some of the most fantastic light displays in the city at each of its locations. Downtown, The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa hosts classic events that have been popular for decades. And, newest to the metro area, the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center offers a kaleidoscope of holiday activities for kids of all ages. And don't forget our On The Agenda section on page 59 for even more holiday events around town.



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THE BROADMOOR



PHOTO: COURTESY THE BROADMOOR

BROADMOOR HALL BRUNCH

This holiday season, let The Broadmoor be your home for warmth, luxury and celebration. Starting in November, rediscover the magic of the season as the resort transforms into a holiday wonderland, adorned with millions of twinkling lights and captivating festive decor. Give thanks and celebrate with family and friends at the Thanksgiving Day Brunch on November 28 and make note that it is highly advisable to book your stay as an overnight guest from Thursday through Sunday as no one wants to miss the White Lights Ceremony that is exclusive to hotel guests and members. Reservations can be made online now. Can't make it for Thanksgiving? Christmas Day Brunch is also an option offering a famously extensive menu, this decadently indulgent brunch offers a festive and mouthwatering buffet that is a must for the holiday season.

CLASSIC HOLIDAY SHOW

A cherished Broadmoor tradition, this annual Holiday Show is a family-friendly dinner show filled with seasonal favorites presented in a variety show format, sprinkled with a few surprises. Back by popular demand, singer Debby Boone returns to headline. Joining

Boone are Broadway star Marcus Lovett and his daughter, Cathryn Lovett; the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale; and Ken Miller and The Broadmoor Pops Orchestra. The package includes accommodations for one night, dinner show tickets for each person on the package to the Classic Broadmoor Holiday Show and suites available at discounted rates. Show dates are December 13, 14, 20, 21 and 24. Doors will open at 6 p.m., dinner is served at 7 p.m., entertainment begins at 8 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

Get ready to dance the night away at The Broadmoor's high-energy New Year's Eve Bash, hosted in Colorado Hall. This ticketed event promises an unforgettable evening with drinks flowing and a complimentary sparkling champagne toast at midnight to ring in the new year. The dress for this event is resort casual—dressy denim, slacks, collared shirt required. Sport coat or blazer suggested. This is a general admission event and is suggested for guests 18 and older. A ticket is required for admittance for any person attending this event. Doors will open at 8:30 p.m., dancing begins at 9:00 p.m.

For more information, visit broadmoor.com



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM / SEAN XU



DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

TRAIL OF LIGHTS

Trail of Lights at Chatfield Farms takes you along a winding path glistening with lights that illuminate the Colorado countryside. Tucked into the foothills under the dark sky, the glow of lights can be seen for miles. Just under a mile of walking trail, the illumination of cottonwoods, boxelders and pine trees line the pathway past the Green Farm Barn and through the Crossroads Garden, Deer Creek Discovery Children's Play Area and 1880s Hildebrand Ranch homestead. There is the option of an alternative path for those who want to take a shorter stroll. Tickets will not be available at the door and must be purchased online for a specific time and date to visit. Event runs November 29 – January 1.

BLOSSOMS OF LIGHT

Consistently lauded as one of the top holiday light shows in the nation, Blossoms of Light is a spectacular celebration that illuminates the York Street location. Wander a mile-long path through immersive, luminous displays that accentuate and highlight the plant collections. A cherished holiday tradition for nearly four decades, Blossoms of Light is constantly evolving to inspire wonder and delight in even the most seasoned visitors. Tickets will not be available at the door. You must purchase a ticket online for a specific time and date to visit. The event is ongoing through January.

For more information, visit botanicgardens.org >>>

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THE BROWN PALACE HOTEL AND SPA

HOLIDAY TEA

Experience this sought-after holiday tradition while enjoying Denver's Grand Dame—The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa—in all her holiday-decorated grandeur, with the Denver Debutante Chandelier being the star of the show. Guests enjoy a pot of properly brewed English tea accompanied by scones served with Devonshire cream and preserves, savory tea sandwiches and a delightful array of classic tea pastries, all while being serenaded by a melodic piano playing seasonal and classic favorites. Dates are available November through January. Reservations for this experience fill up quickly and can be made on OpenTable, by emailing diningreservations@brownpalace.com, or calling 303.297.3111.

36TH ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE CASCADE

The 36th Annual Champagne Cascade—one of The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa's most iconic and time-honored traditions—takes place on Sunday, November 10. Celebrating

the start of the holiday season in the Mile High City, the hotel's spectacular multi-leveled atrium transforms into a picture-perfect backdrop for the ensuing festivities. Prepare to witness swordsmen using Napoleonic sabers to sever the bottlenecks of champagne bottles and then pour the bubbly into the uppermost glass of an incredible two-story high, 6,000+ glass pyramid. As the champagne flows, it cascades into the glasses below, creating a dazzling display for hundreds of spectators. The John Kite Quartet will serenade guests with celebratory sounds, adding to the festive ambiance. The event will also feature the lighting of the Grand Chandelier from The Denver Debutantes and other delightful surprises. And be sure to look out for special appearances by Santa Claus and the enchanting Nutcracker Princesses. Don't miss this iconic event filled with holiday cheer, sparkling champagne and heartwarming entertainment. Tickets are required.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Celebrating the magic of the season, The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa invites families to create lasting memories while delighting in festive flavors and special moments with Santa and his cheerful elves. The elevated reception-style buffet includes a spread sure to delight little eaters with classic breakfast fare including breads and pastries, eggs, sausage, yogurt, overnight oats; a pancake bar with a selection of sweet toppings; specialties like gingerbread French toast casserole; a prime rib carving station; macaroni and cheese, and more. Available November 30 and December 7, 14 and 21, the breakfast will take place in Ellyngton's from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations are recommended and can be made on OpenTable or calling 303.297.3111. The cost for the breakfast experience starts at \$75 per adult, and \$48 for children ages 10 and under.

For more information, visit brownpalace.com >>>

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“ICE! FEATURING THE POLAR EXPRESS”

Featured at six resorts nationwide this November, “ICE!,” the 24-year-old holiday tradition created by Gaylord Hotels, will return to Gaylord Rockies Resort from November 22 to January 1. Using more than 2 million pounds of ice, in partnership with Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment, “The Polar Express” will be brought to life in ice sculpture form by a team of 40 world-class ice artisans from Harbin, China. Limited-time, early-bird overnight packages and day-guest tickets for “ICE! Featuring The Polar Express” are on sale now. In celebration of the film’s 20th anniversary, featured scenes include the Polar Express arriving at Hero Boy’s house, passengers enjoying hot chocolate aboard the train, an exhilarating descent through Glacier Gulch and the enchanting arrival at the North Pole. The attraction features five, two-story tall interactive ice slides and will use colored ice, clear ice and LED lights used to create the breathtaking display. Get your tickets and book your accommodations today.

ADDITIONAL GAYLORD ROCKIES HOLIDAY EVENTS

With signature events like “ICE!,” classic holiday activities including Photos with Santa, and thrilling experiences like “Cirque: Frost,” there is something for everyone. You can do it all during So. Much. Christmas. at Gaylord Rockies Resort. You don’t have to be a resort guest to attend events but check all the details and ticket info

online before going because many events sell out. Explore some of the 2024 season lineup below.

“CIRQUE: FROST”

Embark on a magical journey with the all-new “Cirque: Frost,” where young Jack discovers his destiny as the legendary winter spirit, Jack Frost. Through a 50-minute show of high-flying stunts and breathtaking feats, witness the heartwarming tale of a dreamer who brings enchantment and wonder to the world.

MRS. CLAUS’ CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Join the jolliest hostess of all for a fun-filled celebration of Christmas traditions. Delight in the retelling of the Christmas classic, “’Twas The Night Before Christmas,” sing along to favorite holiday songs and share a batch of Santa’s favorite snack—warm, freshly baked Christmas cookies and ice-cold milk.

ELF TRAINING ACADEMY

We all envy Santa’s elves: They have a great boss, eat tasty treats and sweets whenever they want, and can make their own Christmas gifts! The opportunity to join Santa’s staff awaits at the Elf Workshop. Kids will learn the secrets of becoming one of Santa’s helpers from his top toymaker and create a keepsake gift or craft for someone special.

For more information, visit christmasatgaylordrockies.marriott.com



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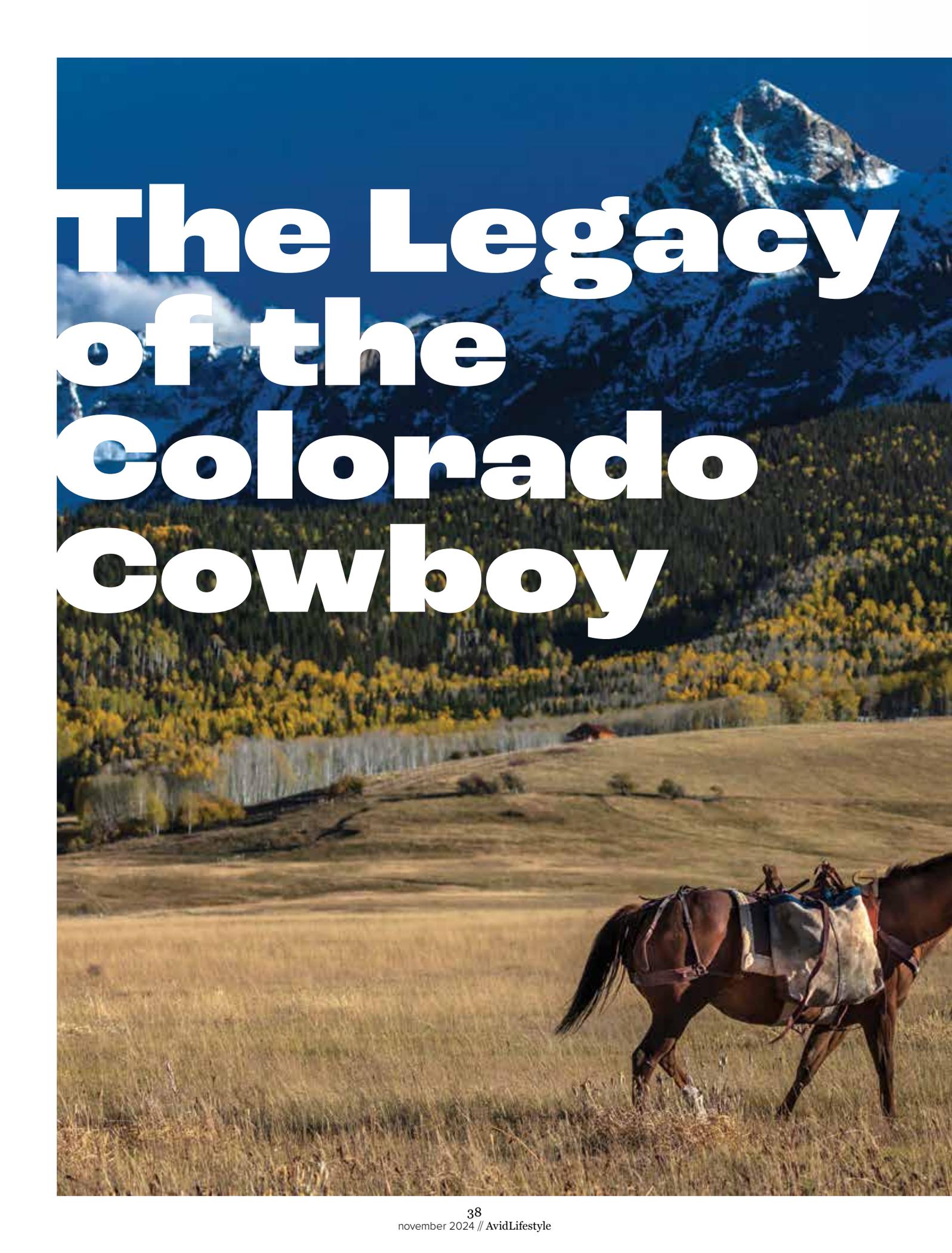


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The Legacy of the Colorado Cowboy



Past, PRESENT and Future

By Lexi Reich

Under the wide Colorado sky, a rancher's silhouette cuts against the rising sun as he tips his hat, spurs clicking softly with each step, breaking the morning stillness. The smell of sagebrush fills the air, and the quiet hum of ranch life begins anew.



It's a scene that's been playing out for generations, from the vaqueros of Spain to the modern ranchers of the Rocky Mountains. Yet, with each passing year, the role of the Colorado cowboy—once defined by endless cattle drives and untamed wilderness—evolves. Today's cowboy carries the weight of tradition in one hand and the challenges of the future in the other. As automation and technology edge closer to the ranch and the demands of conservation and urban sprawl press in, the question lingers: What does it mean to be a cowboy in today's world?

THE ROOTS OF THE COLORADO COWBOY

The story of the Colorado cowboy begins not in the U.S. but in Spain. Historian and author Angel Vigil, who has written extensively on cowboy culture, explains that the roots of cowboy traditions trace back to Spanish colonial culture.

"When the Spanish came to the New World, they brought their language, religion and government system. [But] what they really brought were horses and cattle," Vigil says. Before the Spanish arrived, no cows or horses existed in the Americas. "Along with these animals, the Spanish brought centuries of knowledge about working with livestock in open spaces," he adds.

By the mid-19th century, Colorado had become a prime location for cattle drives, and the vast, open plains offered fertile grazing land. Cowboys worked tirelessly to drive cattle to railheads for transport to larger markets. The term "cowboy" also has a unique history. "The word cowboy doesn't translate directly to 'vaquero,'" Vigil explains. "Vaca" means cow, so vaquero essentially means 'a person for the cattle.'" The term 'cowboy' emerged in the U.S. when cattle work was prominent, and the role

became synonymous with the independent, formidable figure of the Old West.

The influence of Spanish and Mexican vaquero culture on American cowboy traditions is evident in many aspects, from terminology to tools and clothing. For instance, "The word 'rodeo' comes from the Spanish word 'rodear,' meaning to gather in a circle," Vigil notes. These linguistic connections underscore the profound influence of early vaquero culture on the modern cowboy.

Today, Vigil volunteers at History Colorado to share his expertise on this subject. He emphasizes that the cowboy's role in contemporary society is not just a romanticized vision of the past but an ongoing cultural identity. While fewer people are directly involved in ranching due to automation and large corporate farms, the values of cowboy culture—community, love



PHOTO: COURTESY HISTORY COLORADO

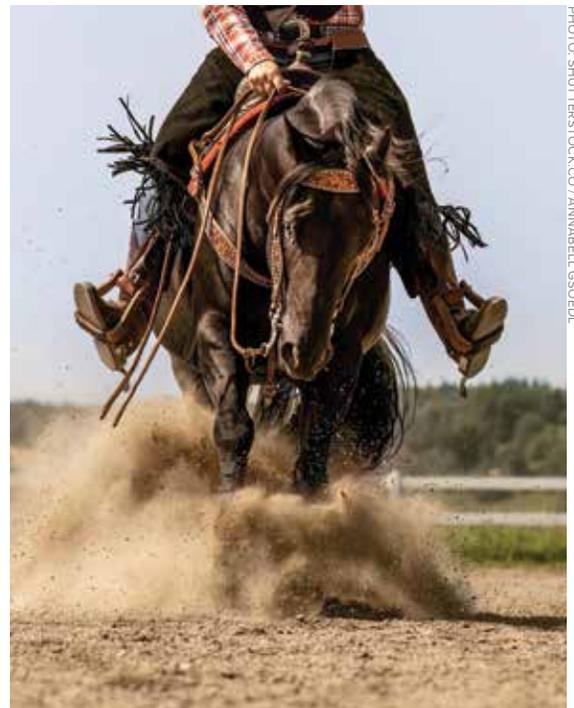


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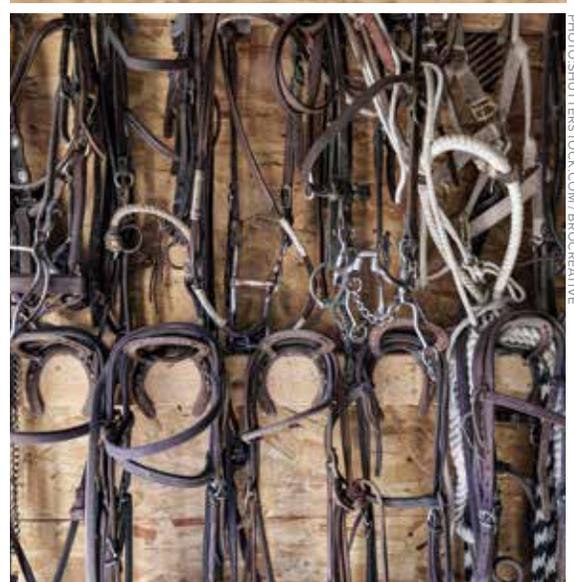


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of the land and dedication to hard work—remain highly relevant.

“It’s crucial to honor those who still do this work—ranchers and farmers provide our food,” Vigil emphasizes. “Cowboys love the land, the animals and the people they work with—that’s what cowboy culture is all about.”

REVIVING WESTERN TRADITIONS

While the image of the cowboy often evokes nostalgia, modern ranching remains far from the past. Terry Nash, a lifelong cowboy and Colorado native, has been deeply immersed in ranch life since settling in Loma in 1989. He and his wife run a ranch, raising cattle and horses while sticking to traditional practices. “We do most of the work on horseback, roping and dragging them to the fire, just like the old days,” Nash says.

When asked about his favorite aspect of ranch life, Nash’s voice softens: “I think my favorite part is when the calves start coming ... There’s a voice you hear from a cow just

once a year. She’s got a real soft blowing when that baby’s on the ground, and she’s licking him clean ... They’re bonding.” This moment inspired Nash’s poem, “A Cowman’s Lot,” a reflection of the intimate relationship between cattle and cowboy.

Nash’s poetic leanings extend beyond his ranch, as he took over the Western Slope Cowboy Gathering in 2015. The gathering, which takes place annually in Grand Junction, celebrates cowboy poetry and music. “We didn’t want to see it die,” says Nash, describing how he and co-organizers Peggy Malone and Nona Kelley Carver revived the event. “We have a passion for keeping the Western lifestyle, the Western heritage, in people’s minds.”

Nash performs his poetry nationwide, attending gatherings from Texas to Wyoming. He describes his writing as inspired by the “real life” of ranching and cowboy culture. His poem “Promise” was born from a drought and the sight of a rainstorm on the

horizon. “I saw that rain and thought, *wow*. Look at the promise dripping through the range,” he shares.

At 72 years old, Nash is still active on horseback alongside other cowboys who, like him, are committed to maintaining their way of life. “The cowboy’s still out there. You just can’t see him from the road,” Nash says, quoting cowboy poet Baxter Black. Nash takes pride in this enduring legacy, determined to ride “until we just can’t anymore.”

Visit terrrynashcowboypoet.com to see and hear Terry Nash reciting his poem, “A Cowman’s Lot.”

A LIFELONG DEDICATION TO RANCHING

Art Gutterson has spent his life on the ranch and wouldn’t have it any other way. “I was born into ranching, and that’s been my life,” he says. “I love the Western way of life—cattle, horses and the ranch.”

After graduating from Texas Christian



Art Gunnerson (right) with his son and grandson

Terry Nash



PHOTO: COURTESY TERRY NASH

Determined to ride until we just can't anymore.

University in 1985, Guttersen returned to Colorado to raise his family on the ranch. While cattle remain a core part of his operation, Guttersen has diversified to ensure longevity. "Ranching is tough, so I expanded into servicing oil and gas wells on the ranch," he says. "We have other businesses now to keep the ranch going."

Despite modern adaptations, Guttersen still runs the ranch traditionally. "Cowboys still ride, and horses are still the tools of the trade," he says. However, he recognizes the challenges of finding people committed to ranch life. "It's hard to find a true cowboy these days. Times are changing."

Beyond tradition, Guttersen has embraced a progressive approach to land stewardship, making Guttersen Ranch in Weld County a model for conservation-driven ranching. Spanning more than 35,000 acres, the cow/calf beef operation balances cattle production with environmental preservation. Guttersen has implemented conservation techniques to maintain native vegetation and wildlife habitats while accommodating oil and gas development on the land through a partnership with Chevron. The development of energy corridors has reclaimed

more than 3,000 acres, enhancing biodiversity with species such as bald eagles, mule deer and native grasses like sand bluestem and blue grama. Guttersen's leadership extends beyond the ranch, as he regularly hosts educational tours and community events to share best practices with local stakeholders. These events highlight topsoil management and native seeding and land reclamation efforts, providing a blueprint for sustainable ranching and energy production. His efforts have set a precedent for responsible resource management in Colorado, making Guttersen Ranch an example of how tradition and innovation coexist.

In addition to labor shortages and changing times, ranchers face challenges like fluctuating cattle prices, droughts and urban encroachment. But Guttersen's integration of conservation and energy development has ensured the ranch's viability and the health of its ecosystems. To him, cowboys have always been caretakers of the land, and while the tools might change, the heart of it is still the same.

Looking to the future, Guttersen hopes the traditions of ranching can survive. "I hope the industry can adapt to the changes happening in our fast-moving world," he says. But for

him, the simple pleasures of "riding a good horse and raising excellent cattle" remain the highlight of his life on the land.

UNCOVERING HIDDEN LEGACIES

Acoma Gaiter, assistant curator of Black history at History Colorado, works to highlight the often-overlooked contributions of Black cowboys. "Black cowboys were significantly left out of the historical record," Gaiter says, reflecting broader societal issues of representation.

Her research shows the deep roots of Black involvement in cowboy culture, dating back to African tribes like the Fulani and Hula, skilled in cattle herding. "This expertise made them targets for the slave trade, but once in America, their skills were used in cowboy-related tasks," she says.

Black cowboys played a significant role in Colorado's cattle industry during the late 19th century, but their contributions were often erased. "The term 'cowboy' originally had a racist connotation," Gaiter explains. "White cattle workers were called cowhands, while Black workers were called cowboys. The media later adopted 'cowboy' as a universal term, whitewashing the history."

Notable figures like rodeo pioneer Bill Pickett created the steer wrestling technique known as bull dodging. "He started the Bill Pickett Bronco Busters and Rough Riders, influencing figures like Will Rogers," Gaiter says.

Today, efforts like the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo—which takes place in downtown Denver in January 2025—and the Black American West Museum are helping preserve this legacy. "I hope their story is shared more widely," Gaiter says, pointing to a more inclusive future for cowboy culture.

THE FUTURE OF THE COLORADO COWBOY

As Colorado evolves, so does the role of the cowboy. Vigil notes the challenges posed by automation and corporate farming. Still, ranchers like Guttersen adapt by diversifying their operations, combining tradition with innovation. Events like Nash's Western Slope Cowboy Gathering help preserve cowboy heritage, introducing younger generations to the lifestyle. The work of historians like Gaiter also enriches the narrative, ensuring a fuller, more inclusive picture of cowboy culture.

Environmental challenges, such as water management and sustainable land use, could place cowboys at the forefront of conservation efforts. Their deep connection to the land makes them valuable stewards of natural resources.

While the cowboy's role may change, the core values identified by Vigil—love for the land, animals and community—remain constant. These principles, along with the cowboy's legendary adaptability, suggest the spirit of the Colorado cowboy will continue to shape the state's future.



Weight Loss Surgery



IS IT THE SOLUTION

to meeting your health goals?

By Kristen West

IMAGINE STRUGGLING to meet your weight loss and fitness goals. It seems like you're doing all the right things—exercising consistently and eating healthy—yet the scale just won't budge. When traditional weight loss methods aren't working, exploring surgical options might be an alternative route to lose weight, improve health and improve overall well-being for people living with obesity. We talk to medical professionals about two standard bariatric surgery options and their pros and cons.

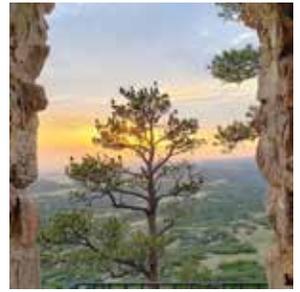
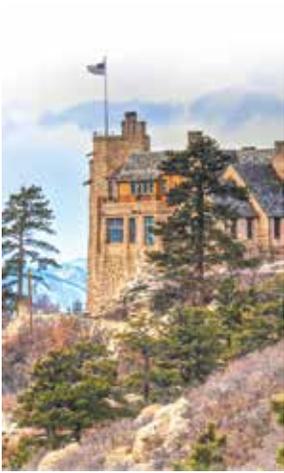
Dr. Michael Snyder, Medical Director at the Denver Center for Bariatric Surgery, says there should be myriad treatments discussed for a patient with obesity before turning to surgery alone, just like someone who sees a doctor for heart disease. "Weight loss should be additive, and we use all the tools—dietary and behavioral, lifestyle, medications, and a variety of surgical modalities."



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To qualify for surgery, you'd need to first undergo psychological screenings, nutritional and lifestyle education, medical screenings, and additional testing based on your medical status. Current recommendations suggest a BMI of 35 with comorbidities or a BMI of 40 with no comorbidities.

Two of the most common surgeries are gastric sleeve surgery, also known as sleeve gastrectomy, and gastric bypass surgery, also known as Roux-en-Y gastric bypass. Both procedures reduce the amount of food you can eat before feeling full.

Dr. Sany Thomas, director of adolescent bariatric surgery at Denver Health and a bariatric and general surgeon, says that while there are slightly more risks with gastric bypass surgery, more patients opt for this because it's also slightly more effective. "They are both relatively low-risk procedures," she says. "With the gastric bypass surgery, you have better weight loss results from it, as well as better sustained weight loss results when we look at the five-to-ten-year post-op weight loss trends in these patients."

Gastric sleeve surgery works by removing 70 to 85 percent of your stomach, leaving a tube-like sleeve about the diameter of an index finger. This surgery works better for people who don't have as much weight to lose and is a good option if you don't think you can commit to a strict vitamin and supplement schedule. You'd lose weight at a slow, steady

rate, approximately 60 to 70 percent of excess weight in the first year and a half, but you may not lose as much weight overall compared to the bypass surgery.

Gastric bypass surgery is a longer surgery that creates a smaller gastric pouch, about the size of an egg, Dr. Sany says. "We reroute the intestines to bypass a certain amount of the first part of the small intestine, which is what makes this a malabsorbed process." You could expect to lose 60 to 80 percent of excess body weight within the first year and a half. Because there are two new connections, the potential risk for infection, leaks and bleeds increases, and you'd also need to be committed to taking vitamins and minerals and be continuously monitored for nutritional deficiencies.

Most bariatric surgery centers will take any major insurance plus Medicare and Medicaid, and many also offer a self-pay option. Both the Denver Center for Bariatric Surgery and Denver Health say their patients must meet their health assessment requirements to qualify for surgery, regardless of whether they are going through insurance or self-pay.

Dr. Snyder says the benefits of the surgery far exceed just the weight loss, and it is also about the non-scale victories. "There is no number that is more important than getting off the ground to play with your kids," she says. Surgery might be the solution to help you reclaim your life and live it to the fullest.



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En Vogue

A style playbook for HOLIDAY SEASON ATTIRE

By Faerl Marie Torres

FOR NON-CELEBRITIES, the holidays are the fashion equivalent to awards season—a chance to show off your style and dress to the nines. Regardless of what everyday life looks like from January second through mid-November, for the holidays, you can put fashion over function and go glam, whether attending a formal gala, an intimate family gathering or a festive work party.

Let your outfit reflect the celebratory spirit of the season and your personal panache. Timeless icon or haute sartorialist, the following guide is more than trend-deep. It's designed to help you curate a style that considers silhouette, fabric, pattern and color—bringing your look to life and ensuring there's only one belle (or beau) of the ball this holiday season.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS

Silhouettes play a crucial role in defining the style and feel of an outfit. For holiday parties, consider the audience—sexy singles, colleagues, granny and grandad—then choose a shape to inspire (instead of scandalize).

The most classic silhouette is the A-line. Flattering across body types, the fitted bodice with a flared skirt is elegant and well-suited in various lengths, from mini to floor-skimming.

Sheath dresses are sleek, sensual and sophisticated. This silhouette is especially ideal in silk or satin, which drapes beautifully and catches the light with rich luster.

For less formal occasions, consider the ethereal grace of a maxi dress, which can easily transition from day to night and be dressed up or down with the right accessories.

Jumpsuits are a playful and versatile alternative to dresses. Consider backless styles or plunging necklines to create balance and keep the look from feeling stodgy.

GO LUXE

Fabric is the make or break of fashion. A simple sheath in bias-cut silk is the height of luxury, while the same dress in polyester can look cheap. For the holidays, seek out weighty



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silks, satins, velvets, sequins and even leather. Trim is in—look for feathers, fur and fringe to create a sartorial surprise in an otherwise understated moment.

Velvet is synonymous with luxury and warmth. Perfect for separates, dresses or blazers, velvet adds richness and elegance. Stand out in an unexpected color—marigold, oxblood, pistachio green and rich chocolatey brown are all having a moment this holiday.

Satin or silk add sensual appeal to any outfit. The heavier the material, the better it will drape and flatter. Stun the jewel-toned crowd by going light—pale yellow, pale blue, snow white or steel gray will enhance the spotlight and add liquid shine to every step.

When we think holiday glam, we inevitably think sequins. These timeless showstoppers go the extra mile in metallics—steely silver and bronze are the modern takes. Don't be afraid to go all in—head-to-toe sparkle is perfect for festive occasions and brings energy to an otherwise discreet, modest style. Matte sequins are trending with all the movement and dazzle but a bit less flash—perfect for those who are less disco and more Renaissance.

Silver is the metallic of the moment and looks great paired with chocolate brown. Balance out the pizzazz with low-key accessories.

MOD MOTIFS

Patterns add personality to an ensemble. Be sparing unless it's the dominant aesthetic, in which case, go big and bold.

If you want to evoke a genuine holiday feel, plaids and tartans are timeless festive and wintry. More common in heavier materials like wool and knits, these prints on lighter materials or worked into embroidery are especially interesting. While florals are often associated with spring, darker posy prints can add a romantic and whimsical touch to holiday outfits. Oversized patterns and embellishments make a glamorous statement on their own.

Once you've selected your silhouette, material, pattern and color, it's time to accessorize. Consider statement jewelry, elegant clutches and pop colors, but be careful to choose one star and put everything else in a supporting role.

Men's fashion follows a parallel runway. Focus on beautifully cut and tailored pieces. Slim cuts are still in, while personal style largely dictates hem and cuff lengths. Look for felted wool, which has a softer, more plush texture, or velvet if you want a wintry look. Mohair and cashmere can provide a luxurious sheen. Choose rich brown, sienna or pinot to put a current spin on classic cuts.

The holidays provide the perfect opportunity to experiment with new styles and express your less subdued vestimentary side. Regardless of the season and trend, stay true to pieces that play up your confidence and reveal something about the wearer more than the designer.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM / SOK STUDIO



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM / JUST DANCE

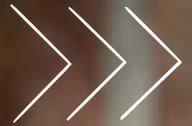
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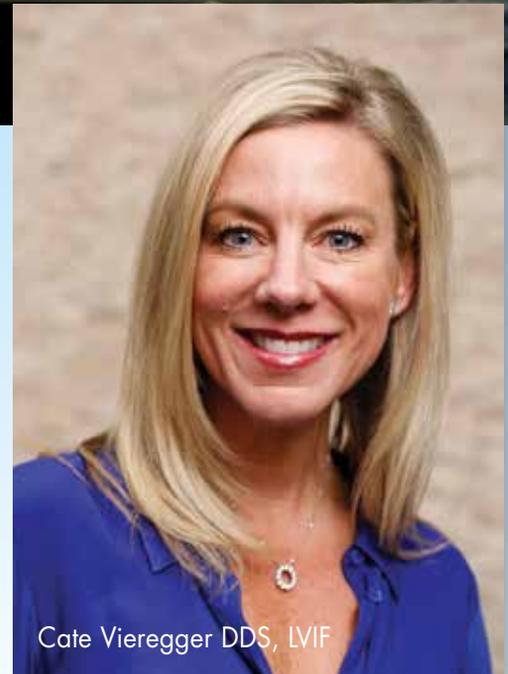


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Author and entrepreneur
EVA FOX MATE follows
her heart to success

By Kristen West

EVA FOX MATE might know how to teach others how to follow an outline, but she also knows a thing or two about tossing the outline and following her heart. In 2020, during the lull of the pandemic, Fox Mate quit a comfortable but unfulfilling job at a law firm and pursued her lifelong passion of writing full-time.

“My husband looked at me and said, ‘This is the time to do it,’” she says. It was just the nudge she needed, knowing she had the support of her husband, Ed, who works full-time for the Colorado Golf Association. “I was very fortunate to be given that opportunity to channel all of my energy into writing and having the magic of getting to the end of a book,” she says.

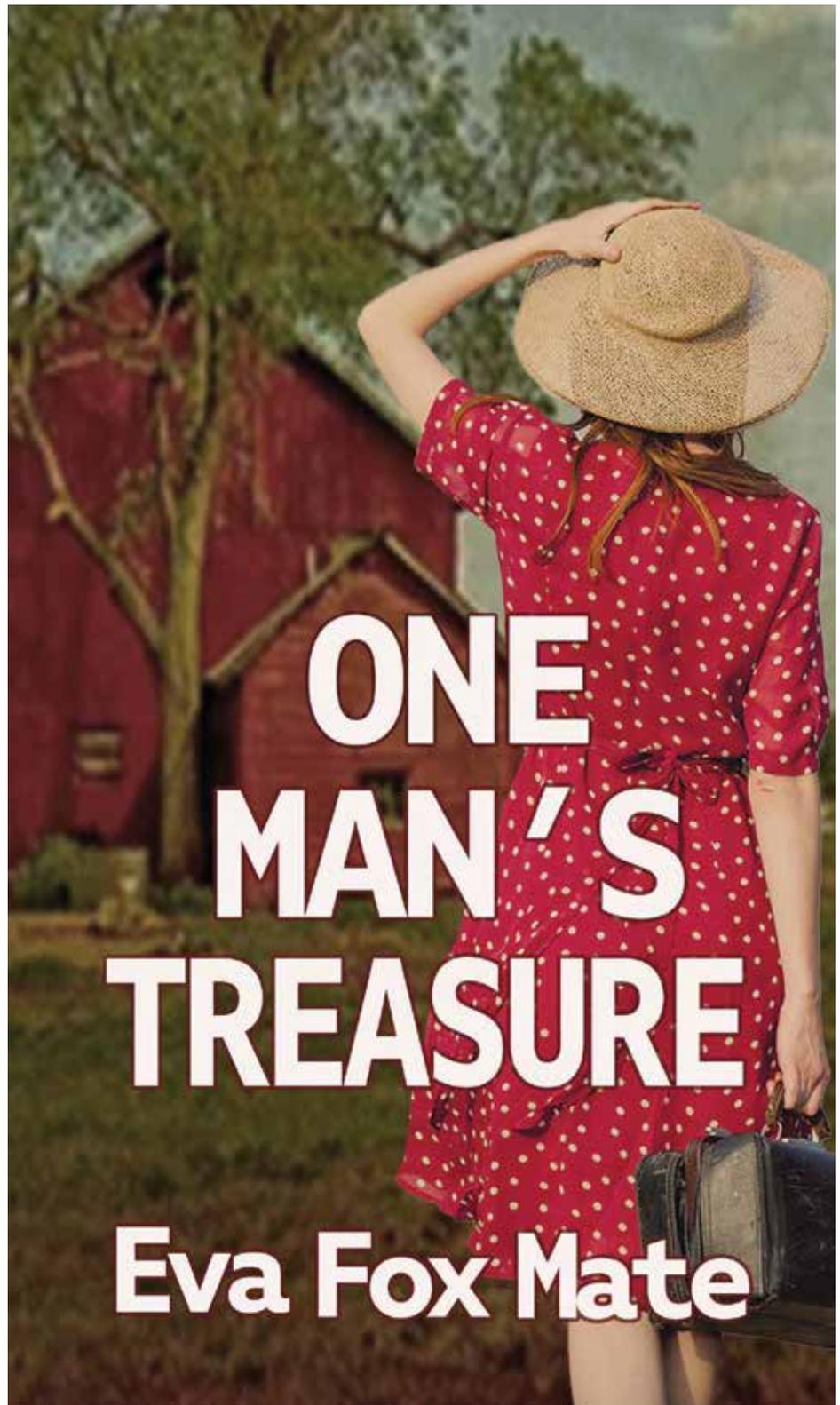
Not only did the change land her a publishing deal for three romantic suspense novels, but it also created the stepping stones that launched her own writing and coaching business, Gemini Writing Studio.

“I signed up for a writing coach, and we absolutely clicked. Now she’s my business partner. We do writing, coaching and editing, along with another partner. It dovetails nicely for all of us because we are also writers,” she says. “If I’m working on a plot and giving a workshop on a plot, it helps me, too.”

Fox Mate’s first book, “One Man’s Treasure,” is part one of a romantic suspense trilogy that she says was fun to write because she was just as surprised while the story unraveled. “As I was writing it, I got very involved in the family that I created and thought, ‘You know, there’s more than one story here,’” she says. “There’s no outline, no map. Writing for me is like a movie playing in my mind.”

An avid crafter, up-cycler and baker, too, Fox Mate jokes that she takes the same approach in her hobbies as she does with writing, but it can make life a little hectic. “I’m known in our family for never vetting a recipe before I have an event to take it to,” she laughs. “If it’s Thanksgiving, I’ll be like, ‘Oh, three new desserts to make.’ And then I hope they turn out because I’ve never tried them before.”

When she’s not working or baking, Fox Mate nurtures her love for history as a tour guide at the Molly Brown House. She also loves crocheting, knitting and re-purposing furniture. “I like to see things that are old have a new purpose and give new life to them,” she says. “I like doing things



with my hands, which I guess goes together with the creativity of writing fiction. Any time I’m sitting down, if I’m not writing, I’m crocheting or knitting.”

Fox Mate’s grown children and her husband read her books and have been her greatest support. “My daughter said, ‘Mom, I stayed up last night and I read it all, and I’m so proud of you,’” Fox Mate says. “And my son and husband have both been so encouraging. The faith my husband has

in me is priceless.”

Fox Mate’s advice to anyone who wants to write is to pursue it until the end, which sounds simple but is not always an easy feat for those who struggle with perfectionism. “You can’t edit a blank page,” she says. “Everything can be edited but you have to have words on the page first.”

Visit evafoxmate.com to learn more and purchase “One Man’s Treasure.”

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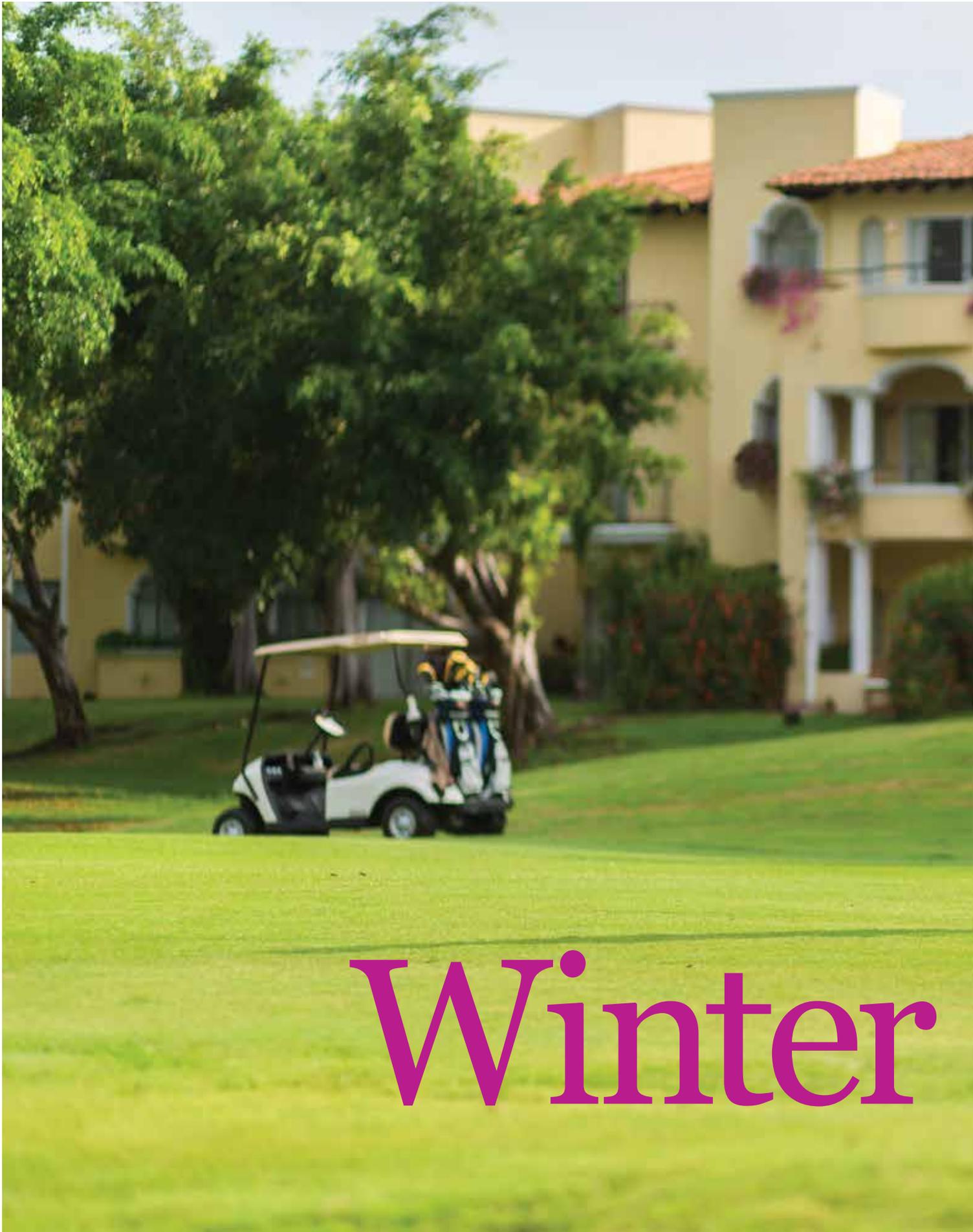
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Escape

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By Heather Shoning

Photography Courtesy of Casa Velas

SHED YOUR WINTER COAT for sun and sand at Casa Velas, a boutique adults-only, all-inclusive Hacienda-style hotel in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The grounds offer a tranquil escape with regal palms creating an oasis around an oversized swimming pool with a swim-up bar and plush cabanas. Koi ponds surrounded by lush greenery and a rainbow of flowers sparkle in the afternoon sun while resident peacocks roam the lawns. An organic garden supplies the freshest herbs for the resort's restaurants, bars and spa, while the manicured greens of the on-site golf course glisten.

The luxury hotel launched its signature Golf Wellness Retreat, seamlessly converging the beloved sport with luxury and well-being. Embracing a holistic approach, the retreat integrates the physical, mental and spiritual benefits of golf with comprehensive wellness and spa offerings at the hotel, creating the perfect getaway for golf lovers and wellness enthusiasts alike.

Retreat guests will enjoy unlimited rounds of golf on Marina Vallarta's challenging 18-hole course, that features nine holes where players drive around water plus three holes with striking views of the beautiful Bay of Banderas and the spectacular Sierra Madre mountain range. These breathtaking landscapes and ocean views create the ideal backdrop for relaxation and rejuvenation.

To relieve muscle tension after an active morning on the course, guests can indulge in daily hydrotherapy and a unique Quiro Golf Ball massage at the resort's ABJA Spa. This distinctive treatment uses golf balls to apply targeted pressure, improving circulation and flexibility. The retreat's wellness journey continues with specially curated healthy menus, daily yoga or stretch sessions, a sound healing session, and access to the property's fitness center.

Take a much-deserved break with a private tequila tasting that provides an opportunity to explore the nuances of the region's traditional spirit, while a cooking class focused on Mexican culinary traditions offers insights into preparing perfect snacks for a day on the greens.

The retreat also includes cardio golf workouts designed to boost stamina and agility, roundtrip airport transfers, and accommodations in a one-bedroom Ambassador Suite, and it's priced from \$16,020 for a five-night stay based on double occupancy. Hop a short, direct flight from DIA to escape winter's chill and keep your golf game sharp, your muscles relaxed and your mind at peace. Can you feel the relaxation setting in already?

For more information and to book your retreat, visit hotelcasavelas.com



NOVEMBER



PHOTO: COURTESY OF VISIT DENVER

November 1-10

DENVER ARTS WEEK

Explore vibrant art districts, check out museum exhibitions and outdoor sculptures, indulge in the performing arts, be inspired at film and literary events, and even buy your own art. Denver Arts Week will kick off with expanded First Friday Art Walks across the city's creative neighborhoods, followed by FREE Night at the Museums on Saturday, November 2, when many of Denver's top cultural institutions will be open for free. **DENVER**, denverartsweek.com

November 2

UNLOCK THE HOLIDAYS

Park Meadows unveils a winter wonderland like no other! Our annual Unlock the Holidays event promises an enchanting celebration for all ages, overflowing with festive fun, captivating entertainment and unforgettable experiences. Enjoy mesmerizing aerial performances, soulful live musical acts, a towering stilt walker, face painting, free gift-wrapping from Macy's and so much more. 4-8 p.m. throughout the mall. **PARK MEADOWS**, parkmeadows.com

November 3

LET'S FALL IN LOVE WITH MARION POWERS

As summer turns to fall, it's the perfect time to cuddle close with your loved ones. Put on a cozy sweater and join the Colorado Jazz

Repertory Orchestra and featured vocalist Marion Powers for a musical journey that will transport you to other times. Music from classic and contemporary artists will include many of the songs you love. Reserve your seats now and get ready to celebrate the changing seasons at the Lakewood Cultural Center. **LAKESWOOD**, coloradojazz.org

November 5

CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES

The Highlands Ranch Cultural Affairs Association is proud to present a three-part classical music series at The Highlands Ranch Historic Mansion. You will be treated to an evening of beautiful music performed by members of the Colorado Symphony. The doors will open one hour before the performance each evening to allow

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ON THE AGENDA // can't-miss events

attendees to enjoy self-guided mansion tours.
HIGHLANDS RANCH, hrcaonline.org

November 8

COOKING INSPIRED BY AUTUMN IN ITALY

As fall trudges steadily away from summertime, Italy becomes an even more magical place to be. The air temperatures may be dropping, but it's creating the perfect splash of color in the countryside as the hills and vines change and harvest produce begins hitting the market stands. You won't be gathering grapes or olives for harvest tonight, but you'll want to join the chef at Uncorked Kitchen as they guide you through creating a meal that will transport you to the autumn season in Italy. *Price includes a bottle of wine for you to share. **CENTENNIAL**, uncorkedkitchen.com

November 11

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Honor veterans at the Highlands Ranch Veterans Day Celebration. The event occurs at 6:30 p.m. inside Douglas County Libraries at Highlands Ranch, which sits adjacent to the Highlands Ranch Veterans Monument. Guests are encouraged to arrive early and visit the monument before the event. Its focal point is a tribute to three exceptional hometown heroes whose names are etched in stone: Staff Sergeant Christopher Falkel, Sergeant Jon Stiles and Corporal Max Donahue. **HIGHLANDS RANCH**, highlandsranch.org



PHOTO: BY DAVID ROSSA

November 9-17

DENVER FASHION WEEK

Calling all fashionistas: Colorado's all-inclusive and largest fashion event is back for another season. Grab a friend, don your most fabulous outfit and prepare to be immersed in a whirlwind of high fashion. This isn't just another event; it's a chance to rub shoulders with Denver's trendsetters and fashion enthusiasts, all in one electrifying atmosphere. The event will showcase up-and-coming fashion trends enhanced by the work of talented hairstylists, makeup artists and models in various categories, including local couture, streetwear and sneakers, sustainable fashion, and more. Tickets are live now, so head to the website to reserve your seats. **DENVER**, denverfashionweek.com



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November 16

NUTCRACKER HIGHLIGHTS

A beloved holiday tradition, "The Nutcracker," invites audiences inside the imaginative dreams of young Clara as she journeys with her Nutcracker Prince to meet the Sugar Plum Fairy. Enchanting audiences for more than a century, "The Nutcracker" is a holiday treat for the entire family. The International Youth Ballet returns to perform this one-hour family-friendly performance. Little ones will receive a small Nutcracker token to take home. 3 p.m. or 6 p.m. performances. **HIGHLANDS RANCH, hrcaonline.org**

November 17

DENVER CONCERT BAND PRESENTS A ROCKIN' HOLIDAY

Celebrate the season with an electrifying blend of rock-themed music and festive holiday cheer at the Denver Concert Band's "Rockin' Holiday" concert. Featuring the extraordinary vocal talents of M. Roger Holland, this concert promises to be a highlight of the holiday season. In the first half of the program, you'll be taken on a thrilling musical journey. The second half of the program shifts into the joyous sounds of the holiday season. Enjoy a variety of festive selections, in which M. Roger Holland will return to the stage for more enchanting performances, bringing his unique and soulful interpretations to your favorite holiday classics. **LONE TREE ARTS CENTER, lonetreeartscenter.org**



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHERRY CREEK NORTH

November 21

THE MILLION LIGHT PLUG IN

Cherry Creek North is about to come alive with the shimmering glow of one million lights. Plug into the magic and be a part of a one-of-a-kind holiday spectacle as they plug in with the help of media partners CBS Colorado and KOSI 101.1. Admission is free, so invite everyone you know to join in kicking off Winter Wonderland in Cherry Creek North. The Holiday Market is also officially open, so you can stop by and check out the vendors and order a festive holiday drink from the new Mistletoe Lounge. **CHERRY CREEK, cherrycreeknorth.com**



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November 21-26

NUTCRACKER OF PARKER

Kick off the season and bring your family to the annual holiday tradition, "The Nutcracker of Parker." This magical full-length ballet features the music of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, blending a cast of professionals, members of the Colorado Youth Ballet Company and local dancers. Presented by Parker's Colorado School of Dance, this is Parker's longest-running, mainstage Nutcracker performance and is celebrating its 20th anniversary. **PACE CENTER**, parkerarts.org



PHOTO: COURTESY OF VISIT DENVER / BRENT ANDECK

November 22-December 23

CHRISTKINDL MARKET

A winter wonderland awaits you at the Denver Christkindl Market. Located at Denver Civic Center Park, this authentic German-style holiday market hosts local and European craft and food vendors and entertainers for everyone to enjoy. The Denver Christkindl Market is a must-see holiday experience that is free and open to the public. Map, hours and more info available online. **DENVER**, christkindlmarketdenver.com

November 22

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Celebrate 30 years of "A Christmas Carol" at the Denver Center. Essential to the holiday season in Denver, "A Christmas Carol" is a joyous and opulent musical adaptation for the whole family that traces money-hoarding curmudgeon Ebenezer Scrooge's triumphant overnight journey to redemption. Based on Charles Dickens' classic novel, the DCPA Theatre Company's production is "a splendidly festive tradition" (BroadwayWorld) that illuminates the meaning of the holiday season in a way that has resonated for generations. **DENVER**, denver.org

November 22 & 23

L'ESPRIT DE NOËL HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Central City Opera's annual holiday fundraiser features beautifully decorated homes in Denver's historic Crestmoor neighborhood. L'Esprit showcases the talent of the area's top florists and table designers just in time to put you in the holiday spirit and provide new ideas for your home with the season of family, friends and merriment upon us. **DENVER**, lespritdenoel.org

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November 23

CASTLE ROCK STAR LIGHTING

The star on the top of the Rock was first lit in 1936, and this annual celebration—billed as “a Norman Rockwell experience”—has been going strong since 1962. Ongoing festivities include strolling carolers, dance groups and other live entertainment at every corner. There’s a kid’s zone, hot chocolate and games to entertain the kiddos, as well as adult beverages and plenty of food trucks. Non-profit and sponsor booths will line the streets offering holiday goodies and trinkets, and Santa Claus is sure to make a visit. The ceremony will begin at 5:00 p.m. on the main stage, with the lighting of the star at approximately 5:30 p.m., followed immediately by fireworks. 2–6 p.m. **HISTORIC WILCOX SQUARE**, castlerock.org

November 29–30

“HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS” IN CONCERT

Discover the magic of the mean one with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Seuss’ “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” is a celebration of the holiday spirit no home should be without. Why is the Grinch such a grouch? No one seems to know until little Cindy Lou Who takes matters into her own hands and turns both Whoville and the Grinch’s world upside down, inside out and funny side up in her search for the true meaning of Christmas. **DENVER**, denver.org



PHOTO: COURTESY OF VISIT DENVER

**November 29–December 1
SMALL BUSINESS WEEKEND**

We all know that the best gifts come in small packages—and the best shopping is often with small businesses. Support your favorite local shops and find deals from one easy location all weekend. There’s something special about shopping small, supporting local business owners and keeping the love right here in our community. Out of the 260 retail and service businesses in Cherry Creek North, 70 percent are small retail businesses. **CHERRY CREEK**, cherrycreeknorth.com

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