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*Elegant Lifestyles
Magazine*

February-March 2017

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

We are two months into 2017 and I find myself pondering the oft-repeated "New Year – New You!" mantra. With so many radical changes and shifts going on in our country right now, I have been seeking comfort in my regular routines, core group of friends, and treasured hobbies. And I plan to focus on my passions and develop them further in 2017.

Don't get me wrong – I'm always up for a new adventure. But I'm reminding myself to examine my past experiences and focus on what truly brings me joy. In the past, I have enjoyed crafting things with my hands – crochet and quilt making are among my favorite activities. Yet, they have fallen by the wayside as the pace of life picks up. This year I plan to revive those hobbies. Maybe I'll swing by Bluebird Farm in Far Hills, featured in this issue, and pick up some luxurious alpaca yarn.

Good food shared with good friends is another important entry on my 2017 to-do list. With her lovely High Tea creations, Elegant Lifestyles recipe columnist Claire Nines has given me the perfect way to host my friends for an afternoon gathering.

Paging through this month's issue are myriad reminders to myself, and hopefully to you, our readers, to focus on what gives us joy and makes life a little more elegant. Enjoy!

- Roberta Burkhart, Editor

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Raising Alpacas in New Jersey

By Nita Crighton

In the summer of 2015, when Stacie Miller answered a help wanted ad for an animal lover with experience in educational program development, social media, marketing and retail, the former school psychologist never dreamed she would soon be spending her days surrounded by a group of curious, leggy co-workers.

As farm coordinator for Bluebird Farm Alpacas, an 11-acre Huacaya (wah-KI-ah) alpaca breeding, boarding and sales facility in Peapack, Miller helps care for the farm's 15 alpacas. In addition, she develops and hosts educational and recreational events, manages the on-site gift store and juggles an array of other responsibilities.

What began as a hobby for Bluebird owners, Nick and Marta Villa and their two daughters, has now grown into a thriving business.

"The goal in opening the farm to the public was to share the owners' love of alpacas as well as the end products. We also wanted to provide an agri-educational experience for children and adults in the community," says Miller.

The lovable alpacas are bred for correct confirmation and their high-quality fleece. "Our alpacas are shorn yearly with one adult yielding from eight to 10 pounds of fiber. Nine pounds of fiber yields 420 skeins of yarn," explains Miller.

Alpaca fiber is strong, lightweight and very water resistant. It is used in high quality winter wear, blankets and other products. The fleece is also considered relatively hypoallergenic because it con-

Bluebird Farm cares for 15 alpacas in Peapack.



tains no lanolin, a type of oil found in sheep's wool. Products made from alpaca fiber aren't scratchy, don't pill and possess excellent moisture wicking abilities.

The 15 alpacas residing at Bluebird Farms account for just a small number of the nearly 6,000 registered in the state of New Jersey, according to statistics from the National Alpaca Owners Association. Commercial importation of alpacas to the U.S. began in 1984 but was halted in 1998 to refine the American herd.

Alpacas are often confused with llamas, and, while both are members of the camelid family, there are distinct differences between the two. Alpacas are much smaller and more timid than llamas. They are also valuable fiber producers while llamas are used primarily as pack animals.

There are two breeds of alpaca: huacaya and suri (soo-ree). Ninety percent of alpacas are the fluffy, teddy bear-like huacayas. The rare suri breed is recognized for their long silky fleece that falls in pencil curls resembling dreadlocks.

Both breeds have two toes on each foot and instead of hooves, the bottom of the foot has pads - much like a dog. Alpacas

eat mainly grass and hay and have two sets of teeth. The rear molars are used to process food, while the front of the mouth sports only lower teeth with tough dental pads on top.

Unlike sheep that often use their long tongues to pull plants from the roots, alpacas are gentle grazers that merely nibble the tops of grasses and plants. This means less damage to pastures.

Alpacas are resilient herd animals and thrive in a variety of climates. They are cleaner than most livestock and share communal dung piles, making cleanup much easier. Alpaca gestation is 11.5 months and most babies, or cria, are born without intervention. Cria typically weigh between 15 and 19 pounds and nurse for the first six months.

Bluebird Farm hosts a variety of programs throughout the year for adults and children of all ages. The onsite gift shop carries a number of alpaca products; many produced from the fiber of the farm's own alpaca herd.

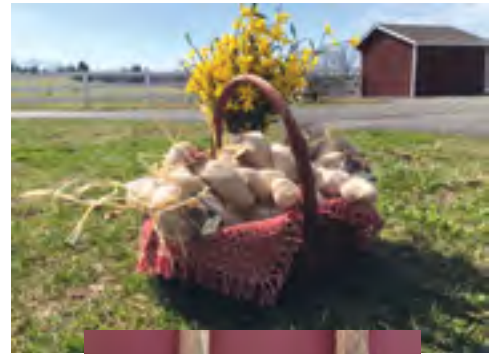
"We work with local knitters to provide them with yarn and they, in turn, create beautiful handmade items for the shop,"



Stacie Miller explains that alpacas are shorn yearly with one adult yielding from eight to 10 pounds of fiber.



Local knitters, using the alpaca yarn, create beautiful hand-made items for the Bluebird Farm gift shop.



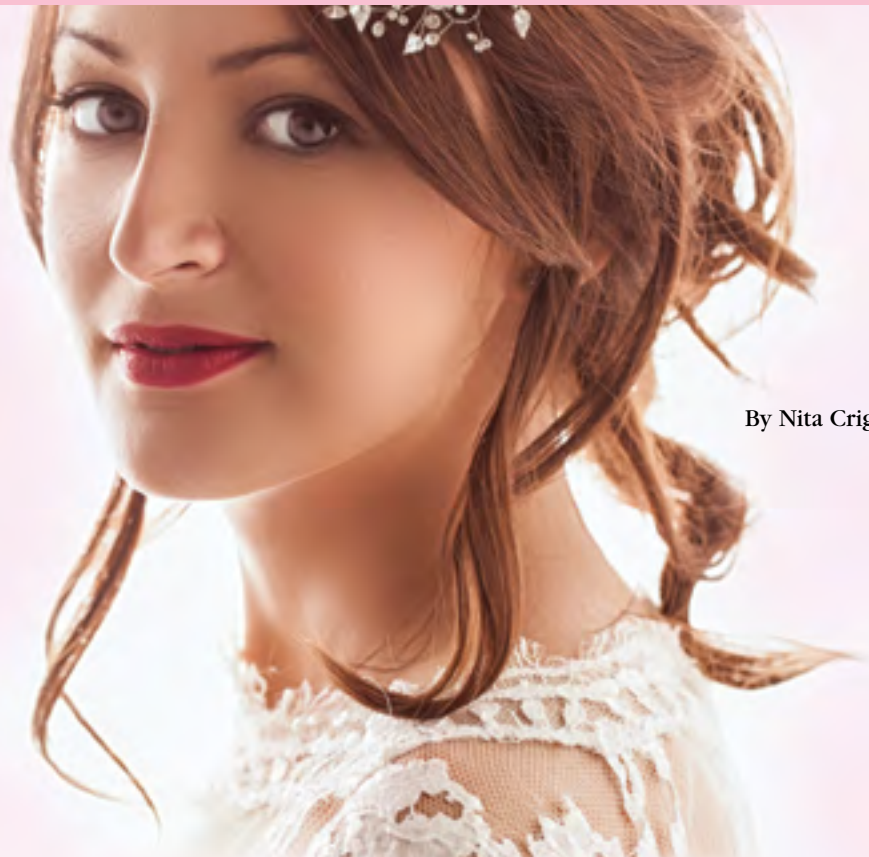
says Miller.

Guests can browse at their leisure, often with the assistance of friendly herd members who wander freely in and out of the store through doors opening into an adjacent pen.

Visitors are welcome at Bluebird Farm for special events, or by reservation. Since the farm is not open daily, interested parties are asked to make arrangements in advance.

For more information on Bluebird Farm Alpacas and a listing of farm events, visit: Bluebirdfarmalpacas.com.

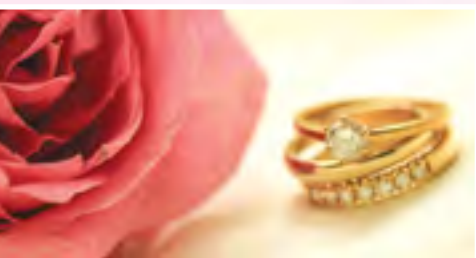




By Nita Crighton

The Best Spring Bridal Trends of 2017

Every bride wants to look her best on her special day, but transforming your bridal beauty dreams into wedding reality takes effort, planning and a little help from the professionals.



Engaging Designs

One of the hottest engagement ring trends for 2017 is rose gold.

“We’ve seen a big increase in interest in rose gold among the younger crowd,” says Edward Shapiro, jeweler and owner of Diamond Dream Jewelry and Apparel in Bernardsville.

Combining yellow gold and a copper alloy gives rose gold that pinkish hue romantic types can’t seem to resist. The metal is beautiful on its own or when paired with white gold.

Shapiro says he also sees a trend developing for oval cut diamonds as well as colored gemstones. Since sapphires come in a wide color range, he finds they are a popular diamond alternative. Recently, he designed a ring with a rare 4-carat peach sapphire in a cushion cut flanked by white diamonds in a rose gold setting.

Cont. on page 10



Ines Di Santo

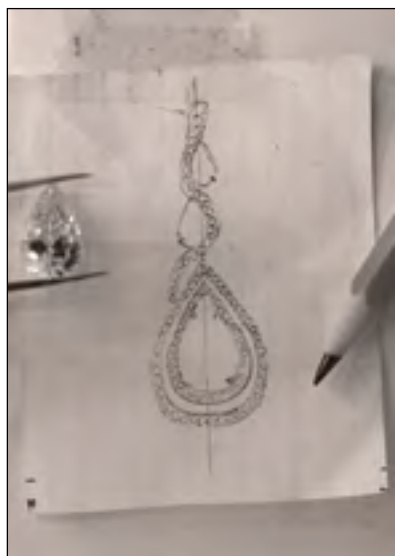


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ing down the aisle in a princess or A-line gown then by all means, go for it. Along with the ever-popular ballroom gown, these figure-flattering beauties have earned a perennial place in bridal fashion line-ups.

Those who prefer a more sophisticated, modern look will appreciate the wide-array of column and sheath designs gracing the runway this year. The form-fitting designs strip away the bulk, allowing brides to flaunt the results of all those pre-wedding hours logged at the gym.

Love the slimmer silhouette, but long for a little more drama? Consider a mermaid style gown like the Amarosa or Adalee by designer Maggie Sottero or the ultra-feminine sheer sleeved Addie from Carolina Herrera featuring a boat neckline and oh-so-elegant ivory floral guipure lace.

Those who follow the trends have probably also noticed hemlines marching up this year. Designers, like haute couture favorite Ines Di Santo, are featuring a variety of gowns with high-low hems in their

spring line-ups. Uneven hemlines combine the formality of a full-length gown with the convenience of a shorter dress. They also provide an opportunity to showcase that pair of amazing heels that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Some of today's brides are opting for the pretty practicality of tea length gowns, too. These calf-skimming beauties make it easier to navigate a crowded reception or

Cont. on page 12



Vow to Wow

When it comes to finding the perfect wedding gown, experts caution not to get too hung up on the latest trends - your dress should be one that flatters your figure and reflects your own unique personality - but checking out the latest bridal fashions is half the fun.

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busy dance floor without sacrificing style. Justin Alexander and Alfred Angelo are just two of the designers catering to this current trend.

Skinsational

Even the most amazing dress can't compete with a healthy, beautiful complexion. Unfortunately, skin that is prone to breakouts may need a little extra TLC in the weeks leading up to the big event. Stress, dieting and perspiration are just a few reasons brides can struggle with skin problems leading up to their big day. But take heart, good skin may be just a phone call away.

"Pre-wedding skin care treatments are very popular with brides, since they all want to look their best," says Susan Gennarelli, practice manager at the Neigel Center for Cosmetic & Laser Surgery in Florham Park and Rutherford.

Gennarelli suggests brides come in for evaluation at least three months prior to their wedding date, because not all treatments can be done on the same day.

"Non-surgical surface treatments such as facials and microdermabrasion can be performed up to two days prior to the wedding, but fillers and Botox should be administered two to three months in advance because of the chance of bruising and swelling."

The Center also offers a bridal boot camp package with appointments nine, six and two months prior to the wedding date.

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Make it your own

Tradition plays an important role in weddings, but the most memorable ceremonies are those that incorporate the couple's own personal touch.

From monogrammed veils to custom wedding confetti and unique guest favors, sometimes, it's the little things that mean the most. Be sure to look for ways to make your big day your own.

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Restaurant Review ~ Don't Overlook Red Oak Grille

Basking Ridge's Best-Kept Secret



The Red Oak Grille, tucked into a cul-de-sac at the New Jersey National Golf Course in Basking Ridge, is a secret just too juicy to keep to myself. Despite its installment at the private golf club, the restaurant is open to the public and offers an array of delicious choices - from upscale eats to comfort food and late night noshes.



Opt for the ever-popular Caesar Salad as an entree and add chicken, salmon, or shrimp. The Steak Nachos are a great late night choice when grabbing a drink with friends and listening to the live entertainment offered after 9:30 p.m. on Saturday nights.

The Thai Pork is a menu regular for good reason. The thinly sliced pork is marinated in a sweet and tangy mixture of hoison, ginger, orange juice, and other authentic flavors. The tasty pork was paired with a generous serving of tender-crisp broccoli and plenty of perfectly steamed jasmine rice. The dish was sprinkled with chopped peanuts for a satisfying crunch. This is no run-of-the-mill Asian take out.



The bar recently doubled its number of taps and now offers 16 draft brews, including the popular Head High IPA from Kane Brewing Co. of Monmouth County. Not a fan of brews? Give the flavorful Wiggle Rita (a pomegranate-sangria margarita) a whirl.

The Chicken Murphy, also a menu mainstay, was a delight in so many ways. The French-cut chicken breast was roasted to perfection - juicy within with a golden brown, crisp skin without. It was divinely moist and tender and dipping it into the dish's Madeira wine sauce elevated it to a whole new level. The chicken was perched atop a mound of sauteed spinach and a generous portion of goat cheese. The Italian sausage and sweet and hot peppers added another delightfully different layer to the dish. With so many bold flavors competing for attention, it was as if I were enjoying a different entree with each bite.



Finish off your meal with the Chocolate Molten Cake - a decadent combination of chocolate truffle cake and a souffle served with Brazilian coffee ice cream.

Red Oak Grille is open for lunch and dinner on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from January through March. It is open Tuesdays to Sundays the rest of the year. Stop in the last week of each month for Executive Chef Oliver Filley's specialty menus: February features Mexican and seafood is the star in March.

Looking for a healthier option?

Red Oak Grille is located at 579 Allen Road in Basking Ridge. Call them at (908) 781-9400, visit redoakgrille.com or follow them on Facebook for the latest specials, menus and events.

By Roberta Burkbart

Red Oak Grille Red Oak Grille



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Reward Yourself With A Royal Treat: High Tea

by Claire Nines



Although drinking tea dates as far back as the mid 1600s, the history of the traditional afternoon tea began in the 1840s by a woman named Anna, the Duchess of Bedford and friend of Queen Victoria's.

The Duchess would hunger at four o'clock and call for tea to be sent to her room with bread and butter and cake. Later, she would introduce friends to her routine and, by the 1880s, the upper class or high society women would dress up in their most proper attire and attend tea in their drawing rooms.

Afternoon or "low" tea during that period not to be confused with "high" tea, which took place later in the evening and consisted of heartier foods that were served at a high table.

High tea would take the place of dinner where cold and hot foods could be served.

These days, the traditions have melded and afternoon and high tea have become one in the same. It is now referred to as tea which is served between 4 and 5 p.m. with food displays common during the original afternoon teatime.

Traditional foods served at afternoon tea consist of finger sandwiches, such as thinly sliced cucumber, scones, clotted cream and many different petit cakes.

My afternoon tea brings you a traditional scone with currants. The scones are served with clotted cream and, if you wish, strawberry or raspberry jam.

One of many desserts served are mini almond sponge cakes that have been layered with almond cream and strawberry jam.

Traditional Scones

- 1 3/4 cup flour
- 1 3/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 4 tablespoons butter cold and cubed
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 6 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 egg
1 egg wash
Preheat oven to 420 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment and place another baking sheet underneath first pan. This will keep bottom from burning. Set aside. In a food processor, place flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt and pulse to blend. Add butter cubes and pulse until fully incorporated and flour looks like sand.

Recipes

Remove flour mixture to a large bowl and add raisins.

In another bowl, mix milk, heavy cream and vanilla and quickly stir in egg. Add this mixture to the flour mixture and blend with a fork to make a dough. Turn dough out on a lightly floured surface and knead into a disk.

Roll out the disk with a rolling



pin to a 1/2-inch thickness. Cut rounds with a biscuit cutter and place on parchment. Brush with egg wash and bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden. Serve.

Clotted Cream

4 cups heavy cream
Pyrex or other baking dish, 2-3 inches deep foil

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Pour cream into vessel and cover with foil. Place in the oven for 12 hours or overnight. (Your oven will probably shut off after 12 hours.)

Remove from oven and take off foil. Cool and then store in refrigerator for eight hours.

When complete, skim the sticky surface off of the top of the vessel. This is the clotted cream.

Store in a jar in the refrigerator up to one week.



Mini Almond Sponge Cakes with Almond Cream & Jam

Cake

3/4 cup cake flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
pinch of salt
1/2 cup sugar
1 stick butter, very, very soft
2 eggs
2 teaspoons almond or vanilla extract
3-5 tablespoons milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 12 mini cheesecake tart molds.

Whisk flour and baking powder with a pinch of salt. Set aside. Butter must sit out for a few hours to be very soft for this recipe. Beat butter and sugar until creamy. Add eggs one at a time and then almond extract. Beat until smooth.

Add flour mixture and beat on low just until incorporated, adding milk until smooth.

Pour ingredients into pan and bake for 18-20 minutes or until golden. Cool.

Almond Cream

1 cup heavy whipping cream
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
3 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon almond extract

Whip all ingredients until stiff peaks form and refrigerate until ready to use.

Assembly

cakes
cream
strawberry jam

Cut sponge cakes in half horizontally. Pipe small dollops of cream around edge of sponges and fill centers with jam. Top with other sponge half and sprinkle powdered sugar. Pipe cream on top of sugar and garnish with an almond piece, if desired. Serve.





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Viniculture *in the* Garden State

By Nicholas Crown



New Jersey has prized pizza joints, knockout bagels, gargantuan deli sandwiches, late-night diners with magical corned beef, nostalgic saltwater taffy, heavenly Zeppole, and show-stopping Portuguese rodizio. What are we going to wash all that down with? We're top five consumers of high-end wine in the country, but do we have the resources to make the good stuff? Everyone has heard of Long Island and Upstate New York producers, they've managed to get on the global wine map with some great Riesling and Cabernet Franc, with the help of some swish marketing. Surely, there must be under-the-radar talent, adept from crush to fermentation, being vinted right under our noses. After all, we can do everything else in Jersey, what about producing great wine? I spoke with Tom Cosentino of the Garden State Wine Growers Association to dig deeper

into the sandy soil of New Jersey wine-making.

History

New Jersey residents William Alexander and Edward Antill (hailing from Basking Ridge) produced the first commercial-grade wine in the United States more than 250 years ago in 1758; there was a Royal warrant out for the production of wines in the French style for any colonialist who could make it happen.

With that heritage and technique, wine production grew slowly in lock step with population growth (only one winery was permitted per one million in people), survived devastating phylloxera and roadblocks during Prohibition, until finally ballooning in the 1980s with the passage of the Farm Winery Act, allowing for increased production and distribution. This is the beginning of modern winemaking in state.

The Regions

New Jersey has three recognized American Viticultural Areas: Warren Hills AVA - the northernmost, Central Delaware Valley AVA - the smallest, bordering Pennsylvania, and the Outer Coastal Plain AVA - by far the largest, extending from Toms River to Cape May. Each AVA has a microclimate conducive to different varietals.

You'll have heartier growing grapes, like Riesling and Vidal Blanc to the north, and sun-loving Cabernet to the South.

What are we growing?

I asked Mr. Cosentino about his biggest surprise in educating people on local wines. His reply, "People are shocked with just how high quality the wines are, across varietals."

Leading wines are the European household names: Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, grown in South Jersey with a

Wineries

longer growing season, as well as Cab Franc, Vidal Blanc, even Concord grapes for semi-sweet table wine. Chambourcin has also been a popular varietal, growing well in the New Jersey microclimate.

Trailblazers & Award Winners

White Horse Winery, with winemaker Seferino Cotzojay from Bedell Cellars on Long Island, is an up-and-coming property producing competitive wines in its early stages. Alba Vineyard's Pinot Noir is a standout hit. The showcase wine of Hammonton's Tomasello Winery is their Palmaris Cabernet Sauvignon, often a 90-pointer by critics.

Special events

The Garden State Wine Growers organize Wine Trail Weekends, including a specialty tasting of Wine and Chocolate on Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5, at Old York Cellars Winery in Ringoes. This tasting offers a small group of guests a private tasting in the exclusive environment of the Vintner's Tank Room. It features an extended flight of eight wines paired with hand-crafted chocolates by Laurie's Chocolates. Reservations are required by calling (908) 284-9463. The event costs \$20 per person.



The Wine Passport is a fun challenge for two: collect stamps at each member winery in New Jersey during a tasting or tour and turn in your completed book for a

chance to win a trip to a classic wine destination. Last year's winner explored the Willamette Valley and the prior year had an excursion in Portugal's Douro region. The Passport program sees about 300 submissions each cycle and it's a rewarding way to explore rural New Jersey.

Fortified Wines

There are a few dessert wines to highlight: Hopewell Valley (Mercer County) Chocolate Port, Iron Plow (Columbus) hopped wine, and Valenzano in Burlington County makes a honey mead wine - these are fun wines, no snifter required. Also the Empire wine, like a port, from Plagido's Winery (Hammonton) pairs up with brie or a



chocolate torte. A little residual sweetness goes a long way and these wines are priced well below their European brethren.

Staying updated

Tom runs the Winedown Show Wednesdays at 6 p.m. on 1450 WCTC, tune in, stream live, or download the podcast (<http://wctcam.com/shows/nj-winedown-radio-show/about/>).

After all, there were 538,000 gallons of wine produced in 2016, that's a lot to talk about. Each winery is unique, with personal touches; you'll be able to take a peek behind the scenes with winemakers frequently making guest appearances.



The Trail

Greater Morristown Wine Trail runs from north to south, starting in Hunterdon: Beneduce Vineyards (Gewurtraminer), Brook Hollow Winery, Four Sisters, Hopewell Valley Vineyards (red port), Mount Salem Vineyards, Old York Cellars, Terhune Orchards, Unionville Vineyards (Syrah), Villa Milagro, and the Alba Vineyard, a must-visit with multiple-awards won across styles. Each winery has its own personality, and often the winemakers are available to discuss their craft directly with visitors. This is a far cry from the pretension (and expense) of Napa visits, you'll be able to taste more and move between cellars without reservations. You get a story and often a great discount picking up a local case for your next holiday party.

A Few Juicy Facts

- Welch's grape juice was developed in 1869 in Vineland after Thomas Welch, a Wesleyan Methodist, felt that alcoholic wine was unfit for church sacraments
- Renault Winery in Egg Harbor maintains an original wine glass museum, and exhibits tonic bottles that turned alcoholic upon refrigeration to skirt prohibition
- Tomasello makes a wine from blueberries in Hammonton
- Growth has outpaced grape growers, and there is new legislation to convert other agricultural land to vineyard



Spring Home Renewal

By Nina Crighton

Spring is a season for renewal, and your home is no exception. Luckily, updating doesn't have to mean extensive renovation. Even small changes can have a big impact and make your house shine, both inside and out.

First Impressions

We've heard it so many times before: a great front door sets the stage for the entire home. But you don't have to buy a new door to boost entryway appeal and

you don't have to break the budget either.

If you can't change it - frame it. Beefing up molding is a small project that can make a big difference. Even a basic builder's grade door can pop with the addition of three simple trim boards. The internet is full of plans for do-it-yourselfers or you can hire a local handyman for the afternoon.

Ditch the boring blocky house numbers mounted on your mailbox and get creative with unique digits that reflect your personality. Go organic with numbers cut from pressure-treated lumber wrapped with sheet moss, attach simple number cutouts to a cluster of flower pots or bird houses or mount house numbers in an ornate photo frame.

Busy Backyard

Today's homeowners are environmentally aware, says Carmin Fusco, licensed landscape architect, owner and president of Landscape Aesthetics, Inc. "We see a trend toward utilizing native plant species, which tend to be low maintenance and suitable for our New Jersey weather." Outdoor fireplaces, televisions, fire pits and Wi-Fi connections are

— Cont. on page 20





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—Cont. from page 18

other popular requests Fusco receives along with lighting to enhance landscape design and extend outdoor living hours. “Of particular interest right now is the readily available, energy efficient, long-lasting LED outdoor lighting,” he notes.

Another hot trend is the active backyard. Parents are shunning standard wooden play structures and opting instead for areas that encourage creative play. Expect to see free-form play areas where kids can dig, climb and create coming to neighborhoods across the country.

Outdoor play isn't just for kids either. Grown-ups are looking for ways to turn up the fun too. “Traditionally, tennis courts are a standard. However, we have had recent requests for bocce ball courts as well as space for an outdoor ping-pong table,” says Fusco. Conversely, he has also seen a desire for outdoor privacy nooks, which serve as quiet retreats.

Innovative Interiors

If your abode is in need of an indoor face-lift, take heart. With just a few updates, you



can refresh your home's interior and boost its livability.

Updating the kitchen can be as simple as new countertops, but choose wisely, you are likely to have to live with your choice a long time. If you are considering granite, you might want to think again.

All good trends must come to an end and natural stone is no exception. After years of dominating the countertop scene, go-to granite is being edged out by engineered quartz. The tough, man-made product comes in an array of colors and

patterns and can last a lifetime. But don't expect such features to come cheap – pricey quartz can cost up to 30 percent more than granite.

It is amazing what a new coat of paint can do for a room, but selecting the perfect shade is sometimes a daunting task. Color authority, Pantone, has named “greenery”



as 2017's color of the year, but the color expert is clear they are talking about a very specific hue. The company says “greenery” is a fresh and zesty yellow-green that represents rebirth and regeneration.

Can't live with green? Don't worry. Color forecasts from other experts range from neutrals and pastels to deep earth and jewel tones. So let personal preference be your guide, but don't be afraid to mix it up a bit.

High-quality artisan pieces such as hand blown glass and intricate wood items are hot home accessories this year. Look for one-of-a-kind designs made by skilled craftsmen from quality materials.

Other top interior trends include upholstered and fabric headboards, mixed patterns and natural textures such as rattan and cane.

This spring, give your home a new look and new life with a few home improvements. It's a great way to keep your house looking fresh and timeless.

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Medea Landscaping: *Outdoor Rooms - Indoor Comfort Outside*

Outdoor rooms within the landscape are an extension of our homes. Creating outdoor rooms that have a strong relationship with their indoor counterparts will blur where the house ends and the landscape begins. Furthermore, incorporating elements such as an outdoor kitchen, fire feature, comfortable furniture, a pergola, etc. will offer a landscape full of opportunity. A successful Outdoor Room will draw you outside and allow you to enjoy what Mother Nature has to offer.



Conversely, more intimate spaces could be located outside a bedroom or in a more private area of the yard. A spa or an outdoor fireplace would be well suited for a setting such as this.

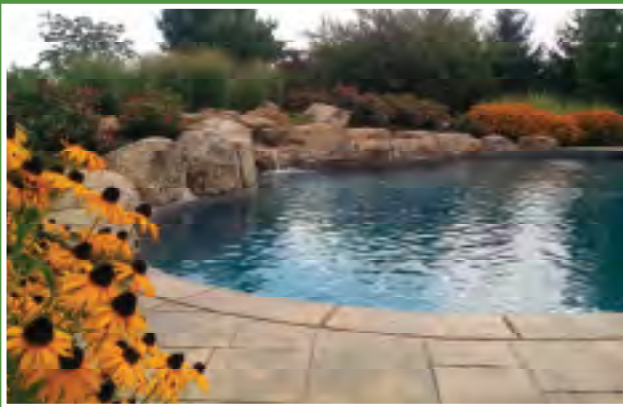
Another sure-fire way to get you and your guests outside is with an outdoor kitchen and they can be designed to compete with even the most elaborate kitchens inside the home. Mike Medea, emphasized that, "A finely crafted outdoor kitchen integrating a grill, a refrigerator, a sink, seating, and custom lighting will allow you to cook outside in style."

When planning a landscape one should carefully consider how the space will be utilized as well as how variables such as topography, drainage patterns, pedestrian flow, views, and furniture will impact the space. According to Mike Medea, landscape architect and owner of Medea Landscape Studio, "Working with a licensed landscape architect to prepare a master plan will ensure that the resulting space functions effectively, is aesthetically pleasing and meets your specific requirements."

When designing Outdoor Rooms bigger isn't always better. Spaces vary from cozy relaxing nooks to open patios for entertaining large parties. Location of these spaces is an important consideration. For instance, linking the kitchen inside the home to a dining patio may be preferable.

Designing outdoor rooms with comfort in mind will guarantee its success and enjoyment. Outdoor furniture should be comfortable and inviting. A classic pergola or a large shade tree will enhance the space by providing protection from the harsh summer sun. Also, decorating with elements that add personal style will make any space feel more like home.

Creative design of outdoor rooms within the landscape will provide a plethora of reasons to leave the house and step into your backyard. "Whether you enjoy larger parties or more intimate gatherings, comfortable and stylish outdoor rooms will have you spending more and more time outside," states Mike Medea.



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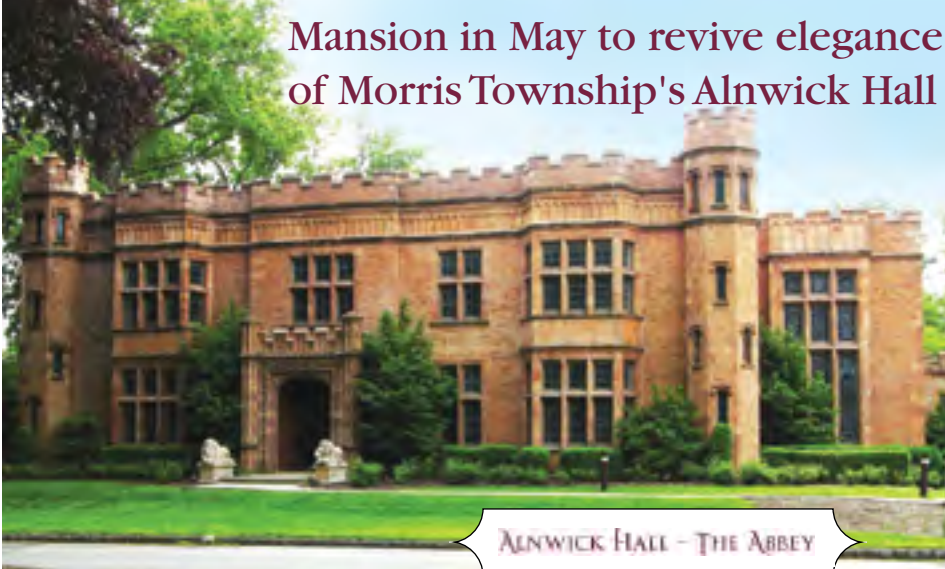
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Mansion in May

Mansion in May to revive elegance of Morris Township's Alnwick Hall



More than 45 of the Morristown area's leading interior designers and 17 landscape designers have been selected by the Women's Association for Morristown Medical Center (WAMMC) to transform Morris Township's Alnwick Hall - known as "The Abbey" - into the 2017 Mansion in May Designer Showhouse and Gardens.

The designers will contribute their time and talent in the months leading up to opening day, Monday, May 1, to transform the magnificent historic estate for all to visit once again, organizers said. Funds raised by Mansion in May 2017 will contribute to establishing the new Center for Nursing Innovation and Research at the Morristown Medical Center.

"The historic significance and urban location of The Abbey attracted particular designer interest this year," said Megan Cassie Schubiger, co-chair of this year's Mansion in May.

"With over 20,000 square feet of house and 42 interior spaces, our designers have submitted unique and exquisite proposals; many of them gleaned from their personal experiences, including their travels throughout the world, their design work in all sizes and types of residences, and their backgrounds of using color, texture, and design elements to create new concepts. This year's Abbey will be truly exceptional," said Katherine Sheeleigh, who serves as an interior design chair along with Susan Kiernan, and Louetta Shileno..

"The Abbey's city location and proximity to main thoroughfares gives this year's landscape designers great exposure," said Katie Nolle, general co-chair of Mansion in May 2017. "Each day a large number of pedestrians and passengers will be able to view and enjoy the landscape aesthetics."

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Mansion in May

"Our landscape designers have shown such passion incorporating both beauty and function into their inspirational proposals. They include vibrant flowering plants, unusual water features, novel outside seating, and colorful sculpture and artwork. These spaces will be truly elegant and usable," said Nallet, who is landscape design chair with Jeanne Finn.



area's Gilded Age, was lined by a nearly unbroken series of large and elegant estate houses.

Mansion in May is the pre-eminent designer showhouse in the New Jersey-New York area, attracting more than 33,000 visitors and typically held every two years. The Abbey will be open to the public for Mansion in May from Monday, May 1, through Wednesday, May 31, and will be available for both

In addition to the landscape designers, a number of companies will offer landscape support at The Abbey to ensure that there is adequate irrigation and lighting of the exterior spaces and to provide proper treatment of the surrounding flora and fauna. These include: All Wet Irrigation & Lighting in Dover, Deer Solution in Long Valley, NatureScape Lighting in Millington, and Tree-Tech in Mt. Freedom.

between 1903-1904. Known in recent years as "The Abbey," Alnwick Hall was once the residence of Edward Peter Meany and his wife, Rosalie Behr.

The brick mansion, designed for the Meanys by architect, Percy Griffin, was modeled after various 15th and 16th-century English prototypes, including Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, England.

public and private tours and events. Advanced tickets will be available online and at select local retail outlets in the coming days. For more information or to become a sponsor, visit <http://www.mansioninmay.org>

Alnwick Hall, located at 355 Madison Ave. and Canfield Road in Morris Township, is a 20,000-square-foot brick mansion built

It is now a rare and largely unaltered survivor of "Millionaires' Row," the stretch of Madison Avenue between Morristown and Madison that, during the

The list of interior design firms participating in Mansion in May 2017 include:

Accents by Design in Bedminster Township (*see their listing on page 23*), Affordable Closets Plus in Bangor, Pa., Artists in Residence in Chester and Morristown, Barbara Ostrom

Associates in Mahwah, British Home Emporium in Madison, Broadfoot & Broadfoot in Boonton, Cabri Inc. in Summit, C.R. Interior Designs in Lebanon, Curren Design Associates in Mendham, Custom Steel Ltd. in Morristown, C.W.I. Design in New Providence, Design Consultants in Bedminster (*see their listing on page 25*), Diane Durocher Interiors Inc. in Ramsey, eclectic.house in Chatham, Elizabeth Guest Interiors, LLC, in Lebanon, Ethan Allen of Somerville, Garden Cottage in Morristown, Garden State Tile in Bethlehem, Pa., Interchange Technologies in Stewartsville, Jaeger Kitchens in Stirling, Jane Danielle Interior Designs in Lebanon, Jessica Reilly Interior Design, LLC, in Mendham, Joseph P. Turner in Morristown, Judi Schwarz Interiors in Livingston, Karla Trincanello Interior Decisions Inc. in Florham Park, Katja van der Loo in Boonton, Kristin Ashley Interiors in Bernardsville,



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Mansion in May

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LeRoux Interiors in Lahaska, Pa., Maria K Bevill Interior Design in Chester, Mediterranean Tile in Fairfield, Olcott Square Interiors in Schooley's Mountain, Plainfield Restoration and Reproduction, LCC, in Plainfield, Plum-berry Designs in Florham Park, Portfauxlio Inc. in Chatham, Raiser Contracting in the Liberty Corner section of Bernards Township, RJR Restorations in Mendham, Samuel Robert Signature Spaces in Millburn, Sara & Eileen in Mendham, Sophisticated Storage Solutions LLC, in

Bound Brook, Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery in Bernardsville (*see their listing on page 28*), Studio K, LLC, in Whippany, Susan M Niblo, LTD, in Tuxedo Park, N.Y., The Michael Thomas Collection in Morristown, The Red Shutters in Warwick, N.Y., The Toy Tamer in Madison (*see their listing on page 24*), and The Urban Dweller in Boonton.

The landscape design firms participating in Mansion in May 2017 include: Bosenberg & Co. in Far Hills, Celebrity Pools in Mendham, Davies Associates Landscape

scapes by Claudio in Morristown, Limbach's Landscaping in Green Village, M. ERBS Fine gardens in Denville, Nature's Apprentice in Lebanon, R. Maddaluna Landscape Contractors LLC in Bernardsville, Square Acre Studio LLC in Millburn, Steven D. Cooper, Metalsmith, in Warwick, N.Y., Susan Cohan Gardens in Chatham, and Z.O. Landscaping & Supply Inc. in Maplewood.

Founded in March 1893 to provide financial support to Morristown Medical Center, part of the Atlantic Health System, the Women's Association for Morristown Medical Center (WAMMC) helps enable the hospital to respond to the changing healthcare needs of the community. WAMMC hosts a number of fundraising events, anchored by the flagship event, Mansion in May Designer Showhouse and Gardens. WAMMC also operates the hospital's gift shops and The Bargain Box Thrift Boutique. WAMMC has raised nearly \$25 million to date to support this mission.

For more information about WAMMC, visit <http://www.wammc.org>



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16th Anniversary at Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery FOR THE LOVE OF ART

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Studio 7 is celebrating its 16th Anniversary with an exhibition of a wide variety of works. It began with seven local artists who rented space, from Palmer Enterprises in Bernardsville, so they could paint together and learn from each other. When the group was disbanding, and there were only 2 artists left, in 2003, Kathleen Palmer, wife of the building owner, Peter Palmer, wanted to find a way to offer the artists a place to continue to show and sell their work. She has never looked back. Now with over thirty artists represented, Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery is known nationally for its variety of art, specializing in contemporary realist paintings in oil, watercolor, pastel, and encaustic, and Giclee' prints, bronze sculpture, bronze and glass sculpture, art glass, hand painted glass lighting and glass jewelry. The gallery offers a large selection of paintings, including iconic local scenes, and home portraits by **Mark de Mos**. Landscape artists include **Gerry Heydt**, **James McGinley** and **Stephanie Amato**. **Gary Godbee** is known for his large landscapes and cityscapes. **Janet Cunniffe-Chieffo** is best known for her still life paintings on copper. Paintings of national icons, famous athletes and wildlife, in watercolor, by **James Fiorentino** are also featured. Commissioned portraits are available by many of the artists including **Sergi Danilin** from St. Petersburg, Russia. Most of the artists are New Jersey residents and live within twenty miles of the gallery.



Studio 7 has sponsored glass working demonstrations at the Glass Art Society Conference in Seattle, by Martin Blank and numerous Glass Blowing Demonstrations at Vandermark Merritt Glass Studios in Branchburg, NJ. The gallery now has the most extensive offering of studio glass in the area, created by its twelve glass artists,

which include Jake Pfeifer, from Gladstone, NJ and Leslie Ann Genninger from Venice, Italy, whose jewelry is featured in museum stores coast to coast. In 2016, Jake completed his first permanent public installation. It was commissioned by the Friends of the Bernards Township Library where it can be seen.

In 2007, the gallery founded the BernARTsville Art Walk, held on first Fridays, nine months a year. Each month new works are featured at an artist's reception. In 2010 the gallery hosted an exhibition of nude paintings entitled The Human Form. Coordinated by **Anthony Panzera** from Mendham, Hunter College

professor for over 40 years, the exhibition featured masters of that genre from throughout the New York Area. Studio 7 has sponsored numerous tribute exhibitions, partnering with the Land Conservancy, Great Swamp Watershed, Sustainable Raritan River, Duke Farms, The Raptor Trust and many other non-profit organizations which work to preserve our natural resources. Recently it

town, will continue to be on display at numerous locations in New York and New Jersey through 2018.

Studio 7 has been honored to be chosen as a designer for four Mansion in May Designer show houses. This year, Kathleen will be partnering with William Santoriello of Plainfield Renovation and Reproduction, LLC, to create **The Gallery**,

favorite subjects, cows horses, barns, both inside and out, and portraits of family pets, which is what she is best known for. In September, **Anthony Panzera** will be exhibiting his newest works, in **Bouguereau: It's All In The Details**.

Studio 7 has received the 2012 Courier News, Readers Choice Award for the Best Art Gallery in Somerset County and was honored to receive the Somerset County Tourism, Service Excellence-Retail Award, in 2014. Over the years it has achieved its original goal, to bring the beauty of art to the community and offer the gallery as a meeting place for groups that work to enrich and preserve our quality of life.

The 16th Anniversary Exhibition will hang through March 25 with an artist reception on Friday, March 3rd from 6-9pm.

The 2500 square foot gallery can be rented for meetings and parties and is offered free for non-profit organizations to host friend-raisers or fund-raisers. The gallery has an extensive web site and is active on facebook and instagram. Gallery hours are 10-4, Wednesday - Saturday.

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Studio 7
Fine Art Gallery



co-sponsored **Rare Wildlife Revealed**, with Conserve Wildlife of New Jersey, an exhibition by nationally acclaimed sports and wildlife artist James Fiorentino who painted 25 watercolor paintings of endangered species in New Jersey. This exhibition, which is currently at the Mayo Center for the Performing Arts in Morris-

a second floor hallway filled with bucolic plain air landscape paintings by **Gerry Heydt**.

In April the gallery will host the first exhibition by their newest artist, **Andrea Gianchiglia. Home: Rustic and Rural** will feature Andrea's oil paintings of her

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