OMG, earthquake in 20 secs! Will the next Big One arrive by text?

Defying gravity: a lean, green hillside house

Inside Milk
An only-in-SF tale of how the script, director and stars converged to make history—again

San Francisco
The Restaurant at Meadowood

ST. HELENA

Some chefs arrange jewel-size edibles on plates with the geometric snarl of a Kandinsky, but Christopher Kostow weaves coherent taste narratives through tour de force creations. Earlier this year, the chef packed up his cooks from Mountain View's Chez TJ and migrated here, a luxe resort with the dappled aura of estates that only movie gangsters can afford. The dishes are smallish but fully realized. In one, Kostow immerses fragrant strawberries in various manifestations of foie gras, trailing delicious perfume across the pure richness. Another fuses young rabbit with fava leaves and beans on a gloss of pancetta foam, resulting in a mini-essay on earthy sweetness. The optional wine-pairing menus uncork small-production California vintages. Just make sure your credit card has ample room to spare before you leap.

(J.B.) 900 MEADOWOOD LN.
(IN MEADOWOOD NAPA VALLEY), 707-967-1205 $$$$ DRW ★★★★ (8/08)