

GENTRY

PENINSULA • SAN FRANCISCO • SILICON VALLEY



JUNE 2011

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\$4.99US



Wine Country Issue
Inside Auction Napa Valley
Along the Monterey Wine Trail



A Toast to Wine Country

Wine has been part of civilized life for some seven thousand years. It is the only beverage that feeds the body, soul, and spirit of man and at the same time stimulates the mind. —ROBERT MONDAVI

Last December I had the pleasure of taking part in one of Meadowood Resort's spectacular Twelve Days of Christmas Dinners. If you are a food and wine lover or simply want a delightful way to spend a cozy holiday weekend, I strongly recommend that you call Meadowood and book your reservation for the 2010 series right now.

The Twelve Days of Christmas Dinners take place throughout the month of December and are comprised of a multi-course gourmet meal prepared by a world famous chef, served beautifully with a Napa Valley vintner's favorite wines. The chefs, who hail from some of the world's top restaurants, make sure to welcome each guest personally, while the vintners enjoy the dinner with you—extolling the attributes of each wine as it's poured.

I had the very good fortune to be seated between the charming and gracious Bill and Deborah Harlan. Bill is the founder of Meadowood and Harlan Estate Vineyards and the driving force behind Meadowood's spectacular culinary program. He's a man who clearly wants and expects the best from his team, and he gets it. Case in point, Meadowood's Executive Chef Christopher Kostow is one of the nation's rising star chefs recently earning two coveted Michelin stars for the Restaurant at Meadowood.

That convivial evening led to two of the features you'll find in this month's issue. The generous Harlans encouraged me to return to Meadowood with the Gentry Style Team and utilize the beautiful resort as the backdrop of this month's fashion photo shoot (*Sensational Summer*, page 66). The Harlans are also major sponsors of Auction Napa Valley. The Auction is celebrating 30 years of giving back to the community and, as usual, the major Auction festivities will take place at Meadowood. Gentry has been proud to support Auction Napa Valley for several years as well. Readers will find a guide to what's new and what's happening at this year's event on page 80.

Also in this issue, we interview Michael Polenske proprietor of Blackbird Vineyards, Ma(i)sonry, and the I. Wolk Gallery about giving up the world of high finance and pursuing *la dolce vita* in Wine Country (*Art & Wine*, page 76).

Our Travel Editor Glen Putman highlights all that's new in Napa (*Nouvelle Napa*, page 55) and we take a look at another terrific wine growing region just a few miles away from the Bay Area—Monterey (*Sipping and Savoring Along the Monterey Wine Trail*, page 88).


Are you thirsty yet? We encourage you to open a bottle of your favorite vintage and enjoy a glass while reading this delicious issue.

Stefanie Lingle Beasley / Editorial Director



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A full-page photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a vibrant orange strapless cocktail dress with gold embroidery. She is standing in front of a wall of green, weeping foliage. She is wearing large hoop earrings and a turquoise bracelet. Her right arm is raised, touching the leaves, and her left hand is also near the foliage.

Tasha is simply splendid in Oscar de la Renta's tangerine cocktail dress with gold embroidery (\$3,290), Ippolita 18k yellow gold hoop earrings (\$1,250), and a Neiman Marcus "Shag" bracelet in turquoise (\$250).




Sensational Summer

Bold colors and bright hues are on trend this season. The Gentry Style Team ventured to Meadowood Resort, home of this month's Auction Napa Valley fundraiser, to capture some of fashion's most current vibrant looks.

PRODUCED BY STEFANIE LINGLE BEASLEY • PHOTOGRAPHED BY JACK HUTCHESON
STYLED BY LENA DAKESSIAN • MAKEUP BY JIHUN KIM • HAIR BY KIMIYA STYLZ
MODELS: AMANDA AND TASHA FOR BOOM! MODELS & TALENT, SAN FRANCISCO

PHOTOGRAPHED ON LOCATION AT MEADOWOOD RESORT, ST. HELENA
CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES COURTESY OF NEIMAN MARCUS
SWIMWEAR COURTESY OF BLOOMINGDALE'S



A woman in a purple dress stands on a stone wall by a pond. A white swan is in the water. The background features a large weeping tree and a green lawn.

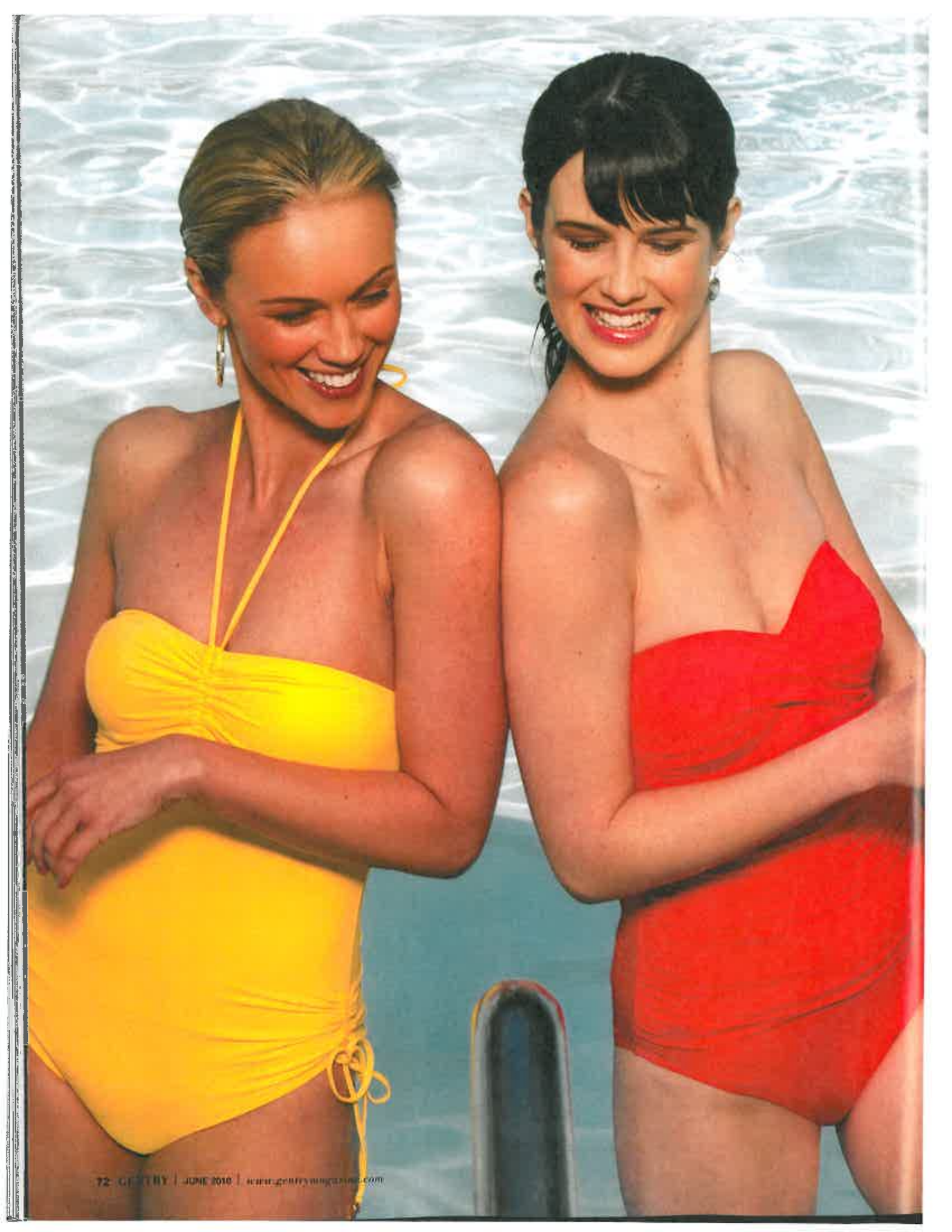
Tasha and Amanda brighten up the croquet lawn in dresses by Moschino Cheap & Chic. Tasha wears a teal shift (\$595) and Amanda, a raspberry floral (\$750). Both from Neiman Marcus.

Here, Amanda looks regal in Oscar de la Renta's violet cocktail dress (\$2,690) with Ippolita mother-of-pearl "Cascade" earrings (\$2,195), and a Neiman Marcus "Shag" bracelet in coral (\$225). All from Neiman Marcus.

Tasha wears a multi-color printed silk caftan with black silk trim by Escada (\$2,750) with Marc by Marc Jacobs sunglasses (\$198), Ippolita 18k yellow gold hoop earrings (\$1,250), and Alexis Britta's "Molten" cuff (\$375). All from Neiman Marcus.








Amanda, opposite page, sports a La Blanca by Rod Beattie coral bathing suit (\$109) from Bloomingdale's with a pair of Ippolita green amethyst "Lollipop" earrings (\$1,295) from Neiman Marcus. Tasha wears Juicy Couture's "Maldives" maillot in canary (\$98) from Bloomingdale's with Ippolita 18k yellow gold hoop earrings (\$1,250) from Neiman Marcus.

Amanda dons Diane von Furstenberg's "Della" dress in pineapple (\$298) and Tom Burch's straw tote with gold leather trim (\$350). Tasha's in Donna Karan's "Mishla" shirt (\$1,096). All from Neiman Marcus.



A woman with dark hair, wearing a bright red short-sleeved polo shirt and white pants, is shown in profile from the waist up. She is holding a tennis racket with a white handle and a red and black frame. A yellow tennis ball is visible in the racket's strings. The background is a dark, out-of-focus tennis court with a fence and a sign that says "5 HOME".

Tennis anyone? Amanda is seen here in Ralph Lauren's orange polo shirt (\$125) and white flare leg jeans (\$425). Tasha wears Ralph Lauren's royal blue polo shirt (\$125) and Lafayette 148's "Metropolitan" Bermuda shorts (\$198) with Ippolita 18k yellow gold hoop earrings (\$1,250). All from Neiman Marcus. ■

