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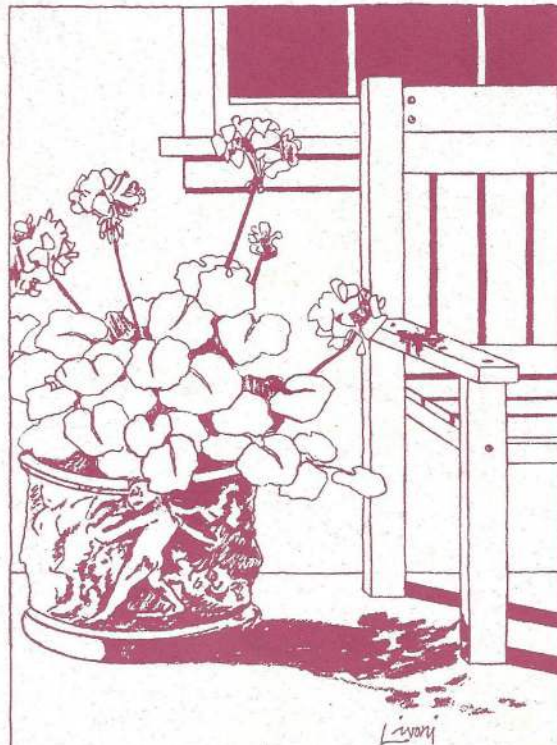
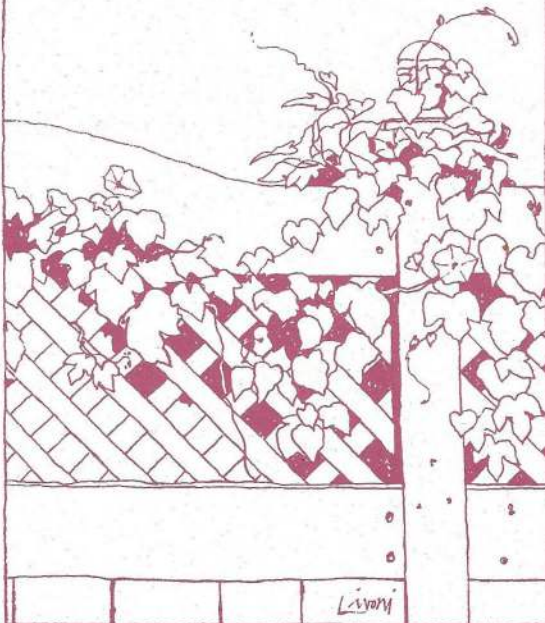
Heard It on the Grapevine

An Inside Guide to Napa Valley

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Kitchens in the Vineyards

Music in the Vineyards' annual **Kitchens in the Vineyards Tour** is a bit surreal. For one glorious day you'll feel as though you stepped through the looking glass right into the pages of *House & Garden* or *Architectural Digest*. It goes without saying the kitchens are fabulous, but fortunately, the route to the kitchen is through the house, so you'll get to see so much more. The dramatic and unusual springtime floral designs courtesy of Michael Holmes Designs, Artiste/Fleuriste, Hedgerow Floral Designs and LeFever Designs, are guaranteed to get your attention. The dining rooms look so fabulous and inviting you'll feel the urge to organize an impromptu dinner party - until remembering that, alas, this isn't your house. No doubt the owners all have impeccable taste but they do



get some help from their friends on this special day, including Vanderbilt & Co., Tantau, CIA Greystone, Josephine, Olivier and Mosswood. When you do find your way to the kitchen, there's no telling who you might find whipping up something delicious. Hugh Carpenter, master of Fusion Cuisine, Tra Vigne's Michael Chiarello, the Cantinetta's Mariano Orlando, and Gail Keller from All Seasons' Café, are just a few of the guest chefs scheduled. And don't forget to leave time for the gardens!

Last year, every house on the tour was so memorable, so put together, that by the end of the day my feelings of inadequacy were acute. In need of immediate gratification, I threw out all my back issues of *Martha Stewart's Living*

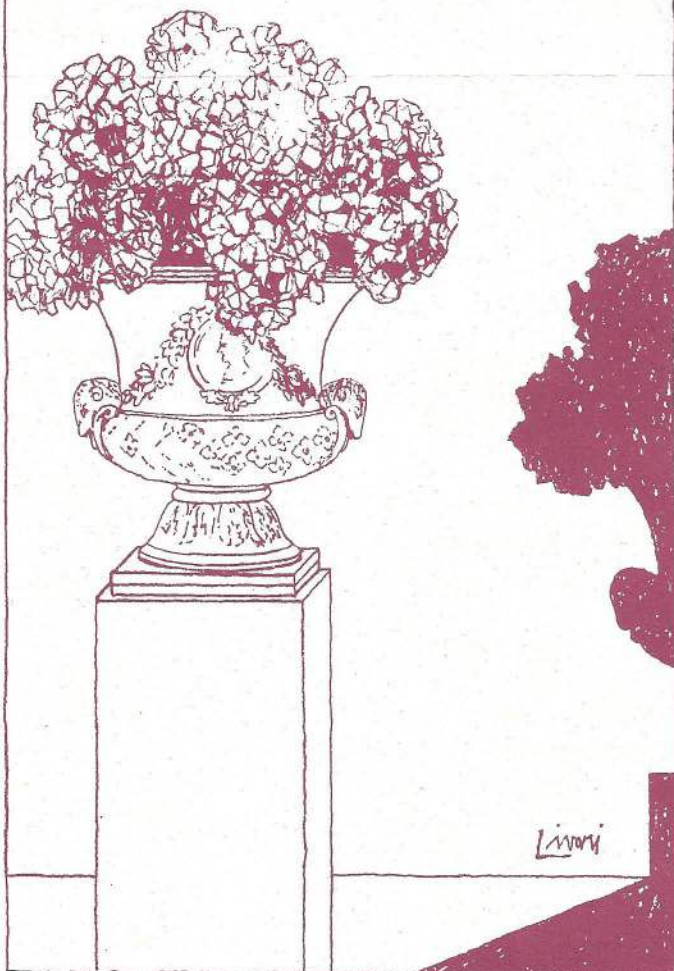
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the minute I got home. Now there's a decorating tip you can use.

There's more... Read on about the new **Tables in the Vineyards** (For times and ticket information, refer to the end of the article, p.5)

Table for 10, Please

Now *this* is a terrific fundraising idea. MITV is introducing **Tables in the Vineyards**: five unique culinary experiences. You've undoubtedly seen incredible one-of-a-kind dining packages offered at other local fundraising events as live auction items. **Tables in the Vineyards** is quite different: The prices are preset, offered on a first-paid basis; you do not have to purchase the entire event, i.e. purchase as many individual seats at as many different tables as you like. Take a look at the wonderful options described below and I am sure you'll agree they are a bargain. And, of course, all proceeds benefit Music in the Vineyards.



DINNER WITH CHEF HUGH CARPENTER

Oakville Appellation Vineyards : Saturday, May 27 at 6 pm
20 guests : \$125 per person

Join Hugh Carpenter and his wife Teri Sandison, authors of eleven best selling cookbooks, at their hillside home in Oakville. Hugh has conducted cooking classes at food and wine events across North America. Enjoy appetizers in the sycamore courtyard and on the balcony with an expansive view of Napa Valley. Watch as Hugh orchestrates and serves a multi-course dinner with accompanying wines. Leave with recipes for every dish and an autographed copy of one of Hugh and Teri's cookbooks.

DINNER ON THE TERRACE AT PLUMPJACK WINERY

Oakville : Thursday, June 22, 2000 at 6 pm
12 guests : \$100 per person

Vincent Nattress, proprietor of Vinous Food and Wine, will serve a summer repast prepared with the season's bounty. Courses will be paired with PlumpJack wines, and Robynne Piggott will be present to answer your questions about what goes on "behind the scenes".

A VINTNER'S LUNCHEON

Cakebread Cellars, Rutherford : Thursday, July 13 at 11 am
10 guests : \$75 per person

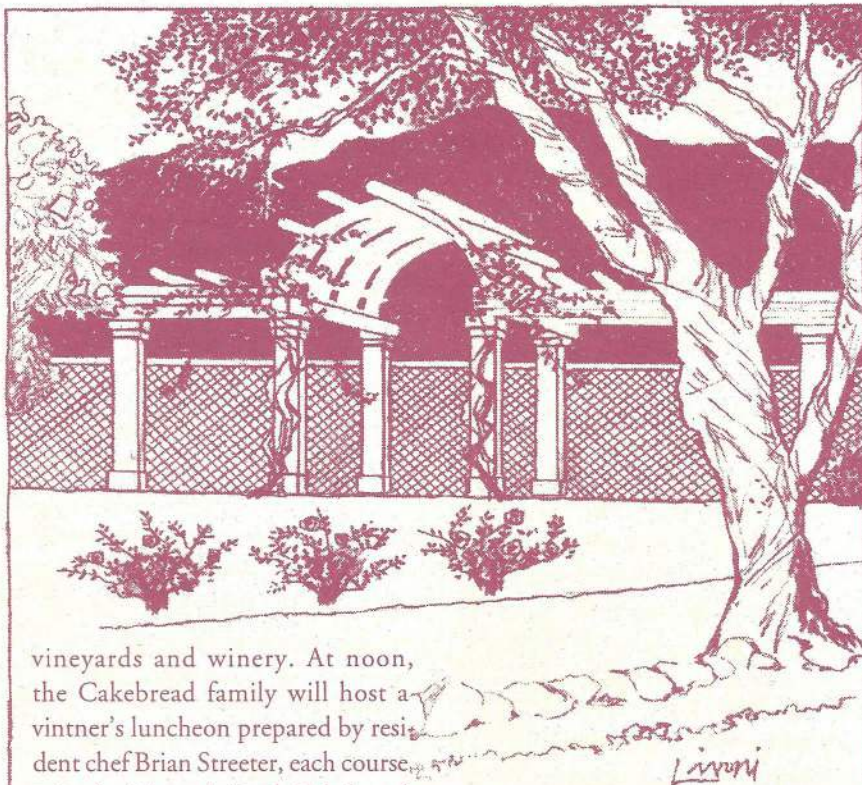
Begin your day at Cakebread Cellars with a tour of the breathtaking flower and bountiful vegetable gardens,

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Foundation. This year's home is located in Napa's Stonecrest area. Shuttle buses provide round-trip transportation from the special parking area at Trancas & Villa Lane. \$20 general admission, seniors and groups of 10+ \$18. **Café Kinyon** will cater the optional buffet lunch each day for \$15. 10am-3pm weekdays, 11am-4pm Sat & Sun. Call 251-1818 for tour & lunch reservations.

MAY

- 2 Downtown Napa Farmers Market Opens** – Fresh produce, flowers, gourmet food products, and a terrific café. Located in the parking lot behind Cinedome Theater, between Pearl & First Street.
- 5 St. Helena Farmers Market Opens**– Beautiful country setting featuring fresh produce, flowers, gourmet specialty foods, crafts, and café. Crane Park, St. Helena. 7:30-11:30am Friday mornings through October.
- 5-7 "Kiss Me, Kate Revue" at the White Barn.** Cole Porter's musical version of *Taming of the Shrew* is a perennial favorite. This special revue features standards *Too Darn Hot*, *Wunderbar*, *So in Love*, and *I Hate Men*. 8pm Fri & Sat; 4pm Sun. Tickets are \$30. Wine & Hors d'oeuvres at intermission. Call 963-7002. 2727 Sulphur Springs Ave., St. Helena.
- 6 Saturday Opera Night at Jarvis Conservatory** (please refer to April 1 Details).



vineyards and winery. At noon, the Cakebread family will host a vintner's luncheon prepared by resident chef Brian Streeter, each course paired with acclaimed Cakebread Cellar wines.

MEDITERRANEAN SUPPER AT WALDEN POND

St. Helena : Sunday, July 16, 2000 at 3 pm

20 guests : \$65 per person

Nancy and David Garden invite you to wine and dine at their very special place, Walden Pond. Swim, boat, canoe, or hike in this charming and rustic setting high in the Mayacamus foothills. Enjoy a Mediterranean picnic supper featuring seasonal Napa Valley produce prepared and served by Knickerbockers' Catering. Your supper will be accompanied by live Bluegrass music.

PATIO DINING... ST. HELENA STYLE

Saturday, September 9, 2000 at 6 pm
12 guests : \$100 per person

David and Connie Egan are hosting dinner for 12, with Joel and Duncan Gott, owners of Palisades Market and Taylor's Refresher, chefs for the evening. The accent will be on fresh-from-Connie's-garden vegetables, charcoal roasted with meats and seafood. Local wines

will flow in abundance. The Egan's home was on last year's Kitchens in the Vineyards tour.

Kitchens in the Vineyards, Saturday, April 29, 2000. Rain or shine, 10am-4pm. Advance tickets by mail are \$35, or \$40 the day of the event (purchase at Napa Valley Grill, Yountville). Prepaid box lunches are available for \$15 per person at the Napa Valley Grill in Yountville, served with complimentary wine 12pm-3pm. To-go box lunches can be picked up between 10:30am-2pm. For advance tickets or box lunches, send a check payable to KITV, P.O. Box 432, St. Helena, CA or call 967-9472. Tickets and a map will be mailed to you.

Tables in the Vineyards To make reservations, send a check payable to Tables in the Vineyards, P.O. Box 432, St. Helena, CA or call 578-5656. Please specify the event name, number of seats requested, and daytime phone number.

You may also make paid reservations for either event by faxing the specified info along with credit card # and expiration date (Visa or Mastercard) to 967-9472.

DETAILS ON

APRIL

(Area code is 707 unless indicated otherwise.)

- 1 NVC Cooking Class Festive Tamale Workshop**, with **Eric Lee**. Learn how to make these delicious bundles of corn dough. You'll make classic tamales using traditional flavor combinations, and learn a few "modern" combinations as well. \$65 per person. 10:30am-2pm. Course #3182.201. Automated registration, have credit card & course # ready, call 967-2900. Upper Valley Campus Kitchen, 1088 College Ave., St. Helena.
- 1 Saturday Opera Night at Jarvis Conservatory** – Come listen or demonstrate your singing skills before an appreciative audience in Jarvis' jewel box theater. 8-10pm. Tickets are \$15, at the door only. Free to performers. Wine & tapas at intermission. 1711 Main St., Napa.
- 3 Chamber Music in Napa Valley** presents pianist, **Garrick Ohlsson**. **SOLD OUT**. To put your name on the waiting list call 252-7122.
- 7-9 Robert Mondavi Great Chefs Program with Jean-Georges Vongerichten**. His pedigree reads like the who's who of Big Apple dining: *Jo Jo Bistro*, *Vong* and *Jean-Georges*. He recently opened the acclaimed *Prime* steakhouse in the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas. Here's the 3-day schedule: Friday – tour of To-Kalon project, aperitifs, lunch, cooking demonstration and dinner; Saturday - floral design class, wine tasting, lunch, cooking demonstration and Black-tie gala dinner; Sunday – cooking demonstration & discussion, and farewell lunch. \$1850 per person including 2-nights accommodation. Call 888-766-6328 x2100 for

reservations or more information. (Please refer to April 10 *Details* for 1-day option.)

- 8 Festa Primavera** – Annual benefit for St. Helena Montessori School. 40 top wineries and restaurants provide food & wine pairings. Fabulous silent & live auctions featuring over 100 lots of rare & premium wines, and dozens of unique items or one-of-a-kind packages, such as a Joe Montana autographed helmet, and Fisherman's Paradise in Montana. Reserved tables of 10 are \$600. Individual (unreserved) advance tickets are \$55, \$60 at the door. The Silent Auction, Food & Wine Tastings begin at 4pm. Champagne, Desserts, and Live Auction at 7pm. Call 963-1527. Charles Krug Winery, 2800 St. Helena Hwy.
- 8 NVC Cooking Class with William O'Neill**, Pastry Chef and Food Artist Extraordinaire. If making a wedding cake happens to be one of your fantasies, you're in luck. While the secrets of achieving a moist cake will be discussed, the focus will be on assembling and decorating. A small, pre-made cake will be provided for each student to work on. 2-5pm. \$70 per person. Course #3177.201. Automated registration, call 967-2900, have credit card & course # ready. Upper Valley Campus Kitchen. 1088 College Ave., St. Helena.
- 9 NVC Cooking Class with William O'Neill**, Pastry Chef and

Food Artist. Talk about your chocolate fantasy! *Chocolate Candy Making and Basic Sculpting* delves into the handling and making of truffles, molded candies, pralines, and more. 2-5pm. \$70. Course #3176.201. Automated registration, call 967-2900, have credit card & course # ready. Upper Valley Campus Kitchen. 1088 College Ave., St. Helena.

- 9 NV Dixieland Jazz Society** hosts 4 bands for your dancing & listening pleasure: **Dixie Cats**, **Gold Coast Jazz Band**, **Black Diamond Blue Five**, and **Mission Gold**. \$10 per person. 12:45-5:30pm. Napa Elks Club, 2440 Soscol Ave.
- 9 PUC Fine Arts Series** presents **Carlyle Manous**, French Horn, and **Aileen James Traeger**, piano, in concert. Paulin Hall Auditorium. \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. 7pm. PUC Campus, Angwin.
- 10 Robert Mondavi Great Chefs Program with Jean-Georges Vongerichten**. The 1-day programs are extremely popular and don't require a second mortgage. \$195 per person includes a cooking demonstration, tour of the To-Kalon Project (Mondavi's \$27 million renovation), lecture & tasting focusing on Alsatian wines, and lunch in the Vineyard Room. Meet this Celebrity Chef and over-indulgence at a fraction of the 3-day price. \$195 per person. 9am. Call 888-766-6328 for reservations. 7801 St. Helena Hwy,

VALLEY EVENTS

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- Oakville. (Please refer to April 7-9 *Details* for more info on Jean-Georges.)
- 13 **Arts & Culture Lecture Series** presents Literary Artist **Lynn Freed**. 7:30pm. \$20 per person, \$18 for ACNV members. Call 258-2117. St. Supéry Winery, 8440 St. Helena Hwy, Rutherford.
- 14 **Mount George Elementary School Spring Gala "Tropical Twilight"**— All proceeds benefit the school's general education fund. Festivities include lavish hors d'oeuvres buffet and wines, silent auction and raffle, and dancing. Tickets are \$35. call 257-0348. 7-11pm. Chardonnay Golf Club, 2555 Jameson Canyon Rd., Napa.
- 15 **Easter Egg Hunt** at Beringer Vineyards (please see *Just for Kids*, back page). 2000 Main St., St. Helena.
- 15 **Saturday Opera Night at Jarvis Conservatory** (please refer to April 1 *Details*).
- 16 **Napa Valley Symphony** with special guest, world renown mezzo-soprano, **Frederica von Stade**. Ms. Von Stade will perform one of her signature pieces, *Canteloube's Songs of the Auvergne*. The symphony will also perform *Per la flor del Lliri Blau*, by Rodrigo; *The Golden Spinning Wheel* by Dvořák; and the premier of *Dances*, composed by the symphony's own Musical Director, Asher Raboy. 3pm. Tickets: Adults \$45, \$35, and \$30; Student/child \$29, \$24, \$15. Lincoln Theater, Veterans Home, Yountville. **Hard Hat & Bow Ties** Gala Reception & Dinner follow the concert at Silverado Vineyards. 5:30pm. \$175 per person (includes concert). 6121 Silverado Trail, Napa. Call 226-8742.
- 18 **Napa Valley Symphony** with special guest, world renown mezzo-soprano, **Frederica von Stade**. 8pm. (Please refer to April 16 *Details*.)
- 22 **Hot Club of San Francisco** at the **White Barn**. If Woody Allen's *Sweet and Lowdown* piqued your interest in 1930's jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt, don't miss this one. The Hot Club sizzles as it performs jazz, bebop, blues, Cajun, and gypsy in the style of Reinhardt's famous Hot Club de France. 8pm. Tickets are \$30, Call 963-3408. Benefit for St. Helena Food Pantry. 2727 Sulphur Springs Ave., St. Helena.
- 29 **Kitchens in the Vineyard Tour** — Fabulous!! See Cover Story for details. Ticket info on page 5.
- 29 **Monticello's Spring Gala** — food & wine pairings from local restaurants *Compadres*, *Napa Valley Pantry* and *Sake Tini* are sure to be a hit. Live music, tours of the lovely Jefferson House, bottle signing, and of course, tasting of new releases (even some barrel tasting) complete the picture. Festivities both inside & out, in a beautiful setting. 11am-4pm. \$5 per person. 4242 Big Ranch Road, Napa.
- 29 **Saturday Night Pinot Gala at Robert Sinskey Vineyards**. This hugely popular annual event sells out early, so reserve ASAP. \$150 per person includes a fabulous 4-course dinner prepared by **Chef Maria Helm-Sinskey**, current release & library wines, and entertainment with a Disco beat. Costumes encouraged, white suit optional. 6-10pm. Call 800-869-2030 for reservations. 6320 Silverado Trail, Napa.
- 29 **Sterling Vineyards Reserve Vertical Tasting and Dinner** combines a comparative tasting of consecutive reserve cabernet sauvignon vintages (1991-1996) with a 3-course dinner. (Some recent cabs have earned 94-point ratings in the Wine Spectator.) Verticals will be available for sale. \$85 per person. 6:30pm. Seating limited, reserve early, call 942-3717. 1111 Dunaweal Lane, Calistoga.
- 29-30 **Open House/Pinot Celebration at Robert Sinskey Vineyards**. Pizzas and Pinots all weekend celebrate the release of Sinskey's '98 Pinot Noir. Sample the new pinot, nibble pizzas straight from the wood-burning oven. Tour the caves and meet the winemakers. \$15 per person. 10am-4:30pm. No fee. 6320 Silverado Trail, Napa.
- 29-30 **April in Carneros** — Though specifics are not yet finalized, here is the general idea. 14 wineries and 1 distillery are expected to participate, with each one doing their own thing - Could be ice cream sundaes, live music, chocolate truffles, you name it. Most of the wineries are located on Hwy 12 between Napa & Sonoma, on the country roads off of Hwy 12, or near Sears Point Raceway. Watch for signs and/or balloons. You can buy a wine glass for \$10 at any of the participating sponsors. The glass is your ticket, so take it with you to each place you visit. Remember to pick up a map at your first stop and make it a point to visit some of the small boutique wineries that are not usually open to the public. 11am-4pm Sat & Sun.
- 30-May 21 **Designer's Show House Tour** presented by **Queen of the Valley Hospital**