



HOT SHOT Clockwise from top: Kirsten Dunst; Ethan Hawke; Salma Hayek.



## The Book of Matthew

To get that money shot, Matthew Rolston must occasionally resort to a little role-play. “I asked Angelina Jolie to pull out that animalistic side,” says the Bev Hills-based photog. “She and I were roaring like lions.” In his three-month-old book, *beautyLIGHT*—now out in a special \$2,500 limited edition that comes replete with a gallery-quality numbered print of either Lenny Kravitz or Penélope Cruz—the Warhol protégé showcases his portraits of the famous (and sometimes infamous) in all their studiously glam glory. —Susan Michals

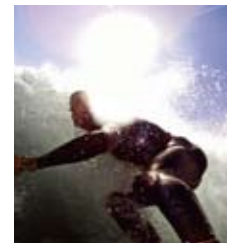
*You're only printing 600 copies. What's with the limited edition?* I wanted this book to be a rarity; it's as close to haute couture as you can get in the world of photography. I'm not sure the publisher is thrilled with that concept. *How'd you choose who to include?* There are people who've come and gone in this book, like Dennis Rodman—we don't know where he is right now. There are new people like Zac Efron where we don't know if their stardom will last. There are people from 20 years ago and there are people from 20 minutes ago. *What's your process like?* I'm open. I like to see what happens in the moment. I'll come armed with 20 different ideas. The unexpected is the thing that you want—it's something you go in, and it's unknown—and that's a good place to be coming from. *As laissez-faire as that attitude may be, the shots look awfully choreographed.* I'm a fiend for detail. In my photographs there is not a hair or an eyelash that I haven't considered on some level, or a color, or a texture or a tone. I'm very particular. It's not any old kind of style; it's Hollywood style. And I'm part of that continuum.

**GRUB HUB** No longer do Eastside Costa Mesa hipsters have to wait for a Cali-fresh taste of cult-fave Haute Cakes' fashionably late cousin, **Eat Chow Café**. The hot spot is now open inside The Closet's trendy flagship, serving up owner Eric Doran's flavorful chow (think orange ricotta flapjacks, fish tacos, meatloaf and truffle

parmesan fries) daily. “Location is key,” he says. “The reason we [haven't had] really good food in the area is because no one will let go of their space.” After breaking out with his cool-kid hangout (complete with beer, wine and vodka-alt Shochu), Doran can't rest—expansion to other Closet stores is already in the works.



The view from outside Eat Chow Café.



**THE FAST LANE!** If you're mourning the loss of O.C.'s landmark thrift store, **Tippecanoe's**, head to **Trash Pretty**, 22-year-old Vienna Raquel's new thrift stop/eBay shop/art gallery. The fresh-faced entrepreneur begins her own community-centered legacy among the *real* Laguna Beach kids by featuring fashion shows and local bands during art walks. >>> Just doors down, **Deckem** is a collabo between talent manager-cum-fashion designer Marzieh Sharif and skimboard champ, Bill Bryan. With skate, skim, surf, fashion and art, the duo hopes to provide a fun refuge for kids. >>> In time for spring, a barely clad Corinn Nomad, the face of **L\*Space** swimwear, hops into your iPhone as a sexy downloadable screen cleaner. Check lspace.com for new episodes. —Stefanie Phan

**IN WITH THE NEW**  
From left: L\*Space model Corrin Nomad's iPhone moves will have guys drooling and girlfriends plotting; pro skimboarder-turned-shop owner Bill Bryan shows his skills.



[SHOP TALK]

GET YOUR GOAT The Living Room Salon's style station.

## Chopping Spree!

Multitaskers take note: In addition to everything cutting-edge **The Living Room Salon** has to offer—picture-perfect extensions to Hollywood-rivaling blowouts—the industrial-cool Costa Mesa beauty stop now boasts a special collection of **Goat Boutique**-certified frocks and bottoms to tickle your senses while under the dryer. Salon owner Lacey Sakert and Goat's Christina Smith—decade-long friends—had a lightbulb moment during a facial. “We wanted to work together

to create a synergy that's bigger as a whole than the sum of its parts and give the customer a convenient experience,” says Smith. Now, the in-salon pop-up's selections (think boyishly sexy Alexander Wang mingling with Sass & Bide denim and flirty Amanda Uprichard) are hand-picked monthly and displayed as a rotating trunk show, running parallel to the revolving local art that colors the walls. Getting ready for the party has never been so effortless. [thelivingroomsalon.com](http://thelivingroomsalon.com). —Erin Williamson

### [BURNING QUESTION]

#### Tastemakers: What truly defines Orange County in your eyes?

“The visionaries and entrepreneurs are what make O.C. so special—Peter Blake, keeping Laguna cool; Tim and Liza Goodell (bless them for all their culinary efforts); and Generic Youth's Jeff Yokoyama—truly a national treasure. They ought to erect a statue in his honor. The whole country looks to us for youthful vitality and for what's new.” —STEVE JONES, BETTERSHELTER FOUNDER

“OCPAC, Peter Blake's house, and the Yost Theatre, and the opportunity for growth and new creative endeavors in realms that may be oversaturated in larger cities.” —ASHLEY ECKENWEILER, OCPAC MUSIC BOOKER

“The weather, Alta Coffee Co., the Trovata store and design studio (working two blocks



Ashley Eckenweiler



John Whitledge

from the ocean beats New York by a long shot) and the whole beach culture. Lastly, I love that within a two-hour drive you can either be in the mountains snowboarding or down in Mexico surfing.” —JOHN WHITLEDGE, TROVATA DESIGNER

“The reasons I love this area and will never leave can be summed up by my daily schedule, starting at 6:30AM: Get up, check the surf. Get in the water alongside friends. It's simple. The people you keep around you are what the ride's all about.” —JEFF YOKOYAMA, GENERIC YOUTH OWNER

**BAG CHECK** Whoever called diamonds a girl's best friend obviously never rocked a supple Lockheart handbag (or kept it miraculously organized thanks to hidden pockets and chic, detachable belt bags). Just ask Corona del Mar native, **Lockheart** designer and one-to-watch Genette Sasser, who helps manifest the SoCal company's signature “rich hippie” aesthetic, which is a step ahead of the “It” bag curve. Think woven leather, bold colors and immaculate construction. Lockheart founders (and Isabella Fiore vets) Jennifer Tash and Trang Huynh discovered the aspiring shoe designer before her love affair with bags, but knew she was gifted: “We took one look at Genette's sketches, which were gorgeous; one look at her, and she was gorgeous; and decided she was for us,” says Tash. Sasser's inspiration is global, from Cali to Beijing. “I see designs everywhere I go: a restaurant check in a leather binder, a bird sitting on a beachside bench,” she says. “The other day, at a restaurant in China, the paper napkins had this beautiful paisley-like design [that] I'm sure will end up in a handbag.” Her most recent exotic innovation: European Bargello geometric yarn embroidery reinterpreted in leather, brought to life in hobos and clutches. Still, though global travel is impactful, Sasser's Cali lifestyle keeps her most connected to that core swanky, laid-back vibe. “O.C. is chic, relaxed and polished all at the same time,” she raves. “And that is exactly how we at Lockheart, want to look.” —Nora Zelevansky



**BRAIDED BLISS** Lockheart's young CdM design star, Genette Sasser, and one of spring's bold woven leather Bargello hobos.





[BIDDING WAR]

**OOH LA LAURENT!** Art aficionados are breathlessly awaiting the crack of the gavel on the Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé Collection auction, slated for Feb. 23-25. Christie's Paris outpost will oversee the anticipated event, which cognoscenti have hailed as the most intriguing public sale since the Andy Warhol estate went on the block in the late '80s. Laurent and Bergé, whose professional-personal partnership spanned five decades, typified the modern collectors, acquiring everything from ancient Greek sculptures and fine Chinoiserie to Fauvist fave Matisse and Eileen Gray furniture. Despite the worldwide slump in the art market, Christie's expects the 700 items to fetch a staggering \$300-\$450 million. Proceeds will help establish the Pierre Bergé-Yves Saint Laurent Foundation, which will fund AIDS research. The legendary couturier died in June of last year. His funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Paris, with 1,000 packing Eglise Saint-Roche, and a broadcast of the service outside the Louvre. —*Lisa Martin*

*Clockwise from left:* The late fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent; rat's head in bronze from Emperor Qianlong's (Yuanming Yuan) summer palace, China Qing Dynasty, Qianlong era (1736-1795); *Portrait de la Comtesse de Larue*, by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres.



## Get Baked

Think outside the bakery this spring because O.C.'s hippest are new innovators in the home-baked biz. It started at Rooster Café with shockingly healthy devil's food cupcakes from **Sweet Caroline**, helmed by ex-escrow officer Caroline Vu. She got started after trying a life-changing cupcake ("They were so good I thought they drugged me!") from a catering van outside Kitsch Bar. While attempting to recreate it, Vu launched her secret recipe-laden company. Local artist **Sean Woolsey's** own query about her tea-infused breads was met with silence, so the hipster got his own dough rising. Sold at seanwoolsey.com, the loaves (try the banana nut!) can be shipped or even bike-delivered within Costa Mesa. And hit up **Bear Flag Fish Co.**, where Cortney Polovina bakes decadent daily sweets despite disliking desserts. Now that's a bittersweet reality. —*SP*

**HIP OVEN LOVIN'**  
From top: Eastside Costa Mesa Renaissance dude, Sean Woolsey, on his bread delivery bike; Caroline Vu of Sweet Caroline goodness.



[XY ZEITGEIST]

**TRICKED-OUT TRIKE** Hog honcho **Harley-Davidson** has hit the trifecta with its \$30,000 new three-wheeler. The chrome-and-leather Tri Glide Ultra Classic (replete with cruise control, 80-watt audio system, Twin Cam 103 V-Twin engine and—hey now!—4.5-cubic-foot trunk) enters a burgeoning class of triple threats that includes Can-Am's Spyder and Piaggio's MP3 bike, all of which offer owners a safer driving experience than a typical motorcycle. But whereas those other rides place two tires in the front, the Tri Glide keeps things Harley-traditional with just one wheel leading the way. Also assuredly retro is its background: The Tri Glide's distant and far less glitzy ancestor is the long-retired H-D Servi-Car, once employed by auto shops across the country to tow around vehicles on the fritz. *harley-davidson.com.* —*Peter W. Frey*



# Romance Rules

Guys, take a hint to create the perfect (read: rewarding) Valentine's Day.

## POP THE QUESTION

**The Resort at Pelican Hill** has set the stage for the perfect engagement. For just \$5,000, a Champagne-filled Bentley will pick you up and whisk you to an ocean-view villa (with butler), where you'll enjoy a pre-planned romantic dinner under the majestic rotunda and indulge in a night-ending couple's massage. She won't be able to say no. [pelicanhill.com](http://pelicanhill.com).

## MELT HER HEART

It's not Cupid's day without chocolate, and this year, local sweetie **Diana Phillips** is your go-to gal. The chocolatier's silky smooth red hearts will cause quite a stir—and outpouring of affection—as will the peanut butter- and honey-infused “Elvis Envy.” [dianaphillipschocolates.com](http://dianaphillipschocolates.com).

## RUB HER DOWN

Fave O.C. rub hub **Spa Gregorie's** has a new spin on the typical spa day. Start with a couple's massage or facial, then jet home to wine, music, and a sumptuous four-course meal prepared by a master chef. [spagregories.com](http://spagregories.com).

## TAKE HER AWAY

Skip the winter blues at the Mayan Riviera's seaside **Esencia estate** for five stress-free nights (Pampered Partners, \$4,415). Take notes while learning massage techniques on your valentine, unwind during a “Ritual of Love” therapy and breathe easy with couple's yoga. [hotelesencia.com](http://hotelesencia.com).

## GIVE FASHIONABLY

Waste no time getting to fashion mecca **Neiman Marcus**! Stylish wives will adore St. John's exclusive magenta peony brocade dress (\$1,395), or score major points with Giuseppe Zanotti's embroidered and Swarovski-adorned Napa slides (\$750). —*Rosaline Wong and Marissa Zehnder*



**LOVE NOTES** Clockwise from left: The Resort at Pelican Hill's Renaissance wedding rotunda; a Neiman Marcus exclusive: Giuseppe Zanotti's hot pink slide; heart-filled confections from Diana Phillips Chocolatier.



## [TREND VETTER] SNAKE CHARMED

Slithering serpents have had a knack for seduction since biblical times, so it's no surprise that as catwalkers slinked into spring, one sexy statement hissed louder than others. From boas and vipers to rattlers, designers' latest baubles are all sleekly enchanting. **Vera Wang** offset girly fall frocks with chunky, diamanté-studded collarbone creepers (collabs with CFDA Award winner Philip Crangi), an unexpected touch from the ethereal gown designer. **YSL's** serpentine cuff (\$1,995) plays with texture, and abstract, shimmering strass scales suggest after-dark debauchery. And the king cobra? **Roberto Cavalli**, natch! He showcases the venomous vipers season after season. His bold enamel bangles (\$455) will take spring's structured silhouettes for a subversive spin. For those craving a little less sting, **Elizabeth and James'** multilayered necklace (\$395) is a sweet homage to this charmed, disarming creature. —*Christopher Luu*

**BITE EFFECT** From left: A sexy YSL cuff; Elizabeth and James' subtle serpent strands; Vera Wang's jeweled stunner (\$550).



## [SCOOP]

**CONTEST CALL!** Surf's up on boring old board graphics. Costa Mesa's Wallin Surfboards—makers of an art-emblazoned core line, the new, bespoke kids' line, London L., and boards for *Playboy*—are calling on O.C. youth to change the game in their philanthropic “**Battle of the Bay**” contest. Led by co-owner John Levandoski (who spent icy Chicago winters dreamingly sketching surfers as a kid), Wallin harnessed hundreds of shop class students from Newport Harbor and Corona del Mar High Schools to create art—everything from painting to photography. They were blown away by the talent of “these little potato chips that go out and surf like they're a buck ten.” And local industry leaders—Roxy, Vestal and RVCA—are coming out in support of the soon-to-be-annual and -national event. The top 20 designs go up on limited-edition boards (proceeds are for scholarships) **February 7** with a big O.C. bash and music by local up-and-comers The Pricks.

Boards from Wallin's *Playboy* line.