

NAPA VALLEY LIFE

magazine

MARCH/APRIL 2015

NAPA TO NAPLES
NAPA SCENE

SPECIAL ISSUE

HOME+GARDEN

GARDEN WITH A VINEYARD VIEW

NAPA VALLEY HOME & GARDEN TOUR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

publisher's note

Do you ever change something up and find you're not quite satisfied, but you stick with it anyway? Yeah, I've done that more times than I want to admit – like when I painted my living room peach and hated it after I put the furniture back. It's still peach, but as I continue to de-clutter my house new paint will soon adorn those walls. The same thing happened when I decided to change the logo of Napa Valley Life to NVL almost three years ago. The reason for going to NVL was that we thought we would have to create a mobile app for our online version of the magazine. Then technology advanced and new websites became mobile-friendly. We have spent the last several months redesigning a new website to reflect the ever-changing elements of this striking Valley we call home. As more and more restaurants, wineries, hotels and retail shops pop up, one thing stays consistent: that urban agriculture feel, but with an up-scale flair. "Napa Valley Casual" or "Napa Valley Festive" has become the dress code whether you are attending a high-powered fund-raiser or redesigning a home.

In the last six months, I've noticed more businesses opening with a rustic back-to-the-earth décor, as well as many homes paying homage to our agriculture backbone. That's why when we were looking to redesign Napa Valley Life's logo we settled on something we like to call Urban Chic. We hope you like it.

March/April is a time of rebirth and that's why we always dedicate this issue to Home and Garden. Once again NVL is proud to sponsor the Kitchen in the Vineyards tour and take a close-up look at Hudson Ranch, Vineyard and Farm. For travel enthusiasts, our travel editor Robert Kaufman explores Carmel, and I visited Half Moon Bay – both easy day trips or weekend excursions from Napa.

NVL's food editor Dynie Sanderson and I also had the honor to travel to Naples, Florida to experience their Winter Wine Festival, which was also attended by a number of Napa Valley Vintners. Read about the Napa to Naples connection on page 24.

I'm happy to announce the addition/return of Brent Miller to the NVL family as our new Art Director. Continue to watch for more exciting changes coming to Napa Valley Life magazine.

This spring add something new to your life or home.

Enjoy!

Your Publisher,

Kari Ruel

Kari



Jean-Charles Boisset
and Kari Ruel



Sarah Jones, Kari Ruel
and Lera Abbott at
Napa Green



Kari Ruel with Italian Vintner
Piero Antinori, Italian's
oldest wine family



Master Sommelier Larry Stone
and Kari Ruel at the Naples
Winter Wine Festival

NAPA VALLEY SCENE



Jean-Charles and the girls



Michael Meado, Christa Steinrok,
Adam Hersly, Stacy Soberalski
Hersly and Dale Wood



Raymond Vineyard
Owner, Jean-Charles
Boisset pours his
famous JCB Bubbles
from a swing



Vic and Nikki Vasquez with Gina Gallo

4TH ANNUAL NAPA GRAS AT RAYMOND VINEYARDS

In his grand Marti Gras style, Vintner Jean-Charles Boisset swung from a trapeze swing pouring his famous JCB Bubbles to attendees as they arrived at the "Party of the Year". A packed house traverse between the Red Room to the Tasting Room to the Crystal Room to outdoor culinary treats from local food trucks.

Photos by Kari Ruel



The Party group



Social Media Guru
Danica Sattui and
Friends



Ashley



Napa Photographer
Bob McGonahan takes
a break from Premiere
Festivities to have a date
with his wife