

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW



NOTHING TO BE BLU ABOUT

PORTA BLU OFFERS UPSCALE HOTEL DINING WITH A MEDITERRANEAN TWIST

Story by Ruth Schechter
Photos by Magali Gauthier

The year-old Hotel Nia sits adjacent to the ambitious Facebook complex at the intersection of Highway 101 and Marsh Road in Menlo Park, with buildings wedged so tightly into a V-shaped lot it looks like cars zipping up the highway

off-ramp might jettison right into the construction site. Once you make it through neighborhood streets to the upscale hotel's front entrance, however, you'll find a place of cool restraint that puts the gleaming glass façade and the hubbub of its location gently aside. And that's just the lobby.

► See **PORTA BLU**, page 22



Above: Porta Blu's roasted beets and artichokes are served with quail eggs, candied pistachios and a raisin-caper sauce. **Top:** The cocktail menu includes the "G. Magnificent," made with gin, elderflower liquor, lime, cucumber and egg white.

Weekend

When you first enter Porta Blu just inside the Nia's front door, it's a bit like walking onto a movie set. It's beautiful in a neutral sort of way, blending a perfectly landscaped outdoor area — complete with pool and bowling green — with the restaurant's clustered seating and sophisticated decor. It's both chic and industrial, familiar and intimidating. There's a full sampling of the Silicon Valley spectrum: the hipsters flaunting bodies honed at full-service fitness centers, the hotel patrons whooping it up over some drinks, the business set hunched over a shared laptop. And just like a movie set, everything is very tasteful, larger than life and maybe a little bit safe.

After walking around the

grounds, I thought, well, there's nothing to not like. The restaurant vibe is sleek and streamlined, with artful touches like blue doors (hence the restaurant's name) and what look like rolled-up carpets hanging from the ceiling, immense blue-printed banners, distressed wood pillars and weird plush chairs that you can disappear into. The big appeal is the classy restraint of that indoor-outdoor setting, which expands the seating capacity on nice days and evenings.

The restaurant purports to merge Mediterranean influences with Silicon Valley sustainability, though there's little on the menu that looks like it's breaking new ground. On the lounge menu, offered all day, there are flatbreads

and sliders, burgers and chicken wings, along with variations of the currently pervasive avocado toast and tuna tartar. To its credit, each of the offerings we sampled showed enough imagination and finesse to rise above the same old, same old.

Chef Michael Riddell, formerly of the Ritz-Carlton Half Moon

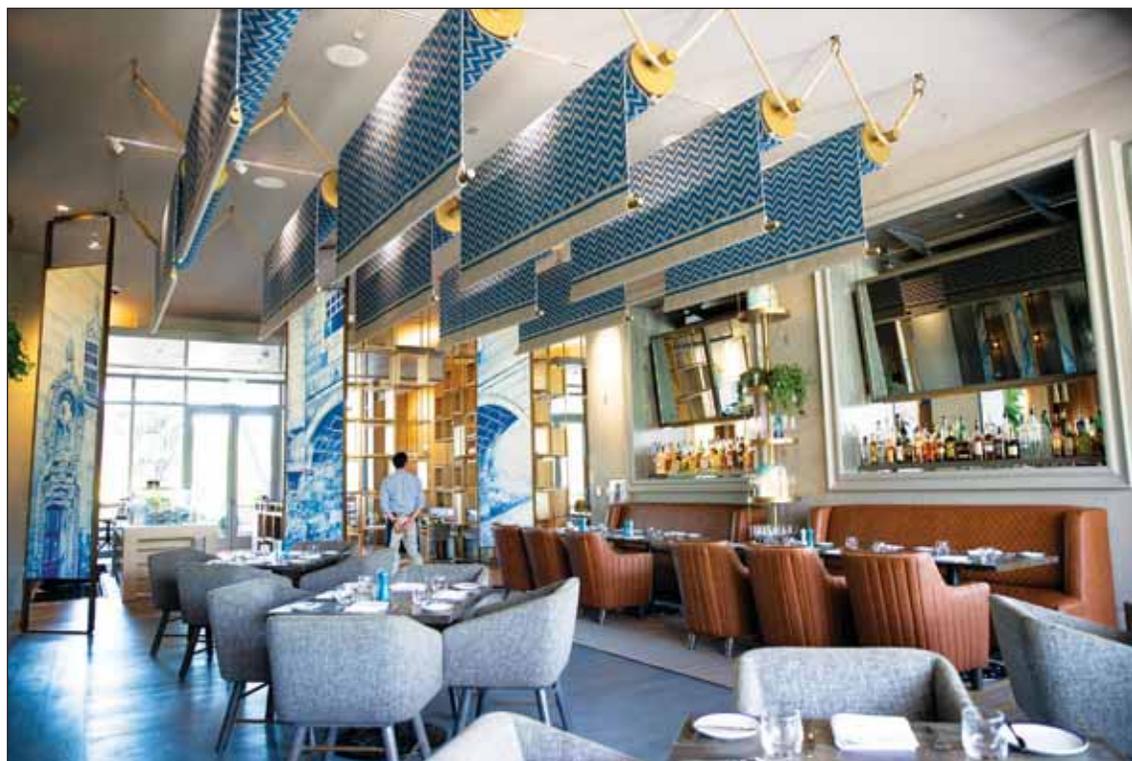
Bay, is focused on Mediterranean flavors. Over time the restaurant's dishes have morphed from traditional tagines and mezze plates to more California-style offerings with a Middle Eastern edge.

One recent weekend, with delicious cocktails firmly in hand (\$14-\$16 for specialty drinks), my companion and I sampled the

lounge menu. The mushroom flatbread (\$13) was perfectly done, with a crisp base loaded with mushrooms and garnished with arugula, then drizzled with plenty of truffle oil. Moist, juicy chicken wings (\$16) were jazzed up with flavored yogurt and pickle relish — a colorful and flavorful variation. Pork belly sliders (\$16) were



Seared Mount Lassen trout sits on a bed of braised and fermented cabbage and fennel with lemon relish.



Porta Blu's interior is both sophisticated and industrial, with ceiling hangings that look like rolled-up carpets.



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Mary's chicken was the winner on Porta Blu's dinner menu, moist and flavorful, with a citrusy crust.

fine, but nothing to get excited about. Servings were extremely generous, and we left feeling like we got our money's worth.

Dinner, on the other hand, was a mixed bag. While our dishes were generally prepared well, with lovely presentation, only a few really shone. The exception was the citrus honey shrimp appetizer (\$14), five perfect, little, sweet and tangy shrimp garnished with orange bits and coupled with flavored tabbouleh. The roasted beets and artichokes (\$14) were a pretty melange of colors and textures but lacked presence. The same must be said about our side of honey-roasted carrots (\$6), which had no detectable sweetness despite the menu's description.

Of the main courses, the winner was Mary's chicken (\$28). The generous portion was moist and flavorful, with a terrific citrusy crust. It came with a cobalt-blue eyedropper bottle to dab on a little extra vinegary zip — a bit precious but fun all the same. Monterey black cod (\$28) needed some flair and could have used another minute under the heat. And the Mount Lassen trout (\$29), a salmon-like steelhead, came with a delicious quinoa crust and tangy marinated vegetables. And do note that when you ask for still water you are ordering a bottle (\$10).

Pricing is high, though dishes are tasty and generally well thought out — Porta Blu is, after all, an upscale hotel restaurant. Staff members are exceptionally polite and gracious, from the reservation-taker on the phone to the valet parkers by the front door. Servers were personable and helpful in making suggestions, but service itself ranged from quintessentially professional to well-meaning but careless.

On each visit, our waiters started off attentive and charming but then drifted off. At dinner, main courses arrived while we were still working on our appetizers, and plates were cleared while our forks were still moving. At one point we were flagging down anyone

who walked by to beg for our bill. Admittedly it was a busy night and to management's credit, an item was removed from our bill to make up for poor timing.

There's an extensive brunch menu — this is in a hotel after all — and weekly cooking classes (\$25-\$65) that range from baking cupcakes to date-night dinners to a seafood competition.

A warning about parking: There is no self-parking at the Nia, and a sign by the valet stand reads \$35. After slamming on my brakes and doing a quick U-turn to park on the street, I was told diners receive a three-hour voucher for the valet service, though the grace period can be extended.

I have a friend who is crazy about hotel dining. Me, I'm a bit more ambivalent. But Porta Blu did win me over for the most part: It's a restrained, classy and calm sanctuary with a modern Mediterranean-California sensibility. It's sleek and contemporary without feeling cold, and the menu is vibrant enough to warrant another visit. ▾

DINING NOTES

Porta Blu

200 Independence Drive,
Menlo Park
650-600-8794
portablurestaurant.com

Hours: Brunch daily,
6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.;
Lunch daily, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.;
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■ MOVIE OPENINGS

Campaign-romance reform

SETH ROGEN, CHARLIZE THERON COME TOGETHER IN LOVE AND POLITICS IN 'LONG SHOT'

★★1/2 (Century 16 & 20, Icon)

The funniest bit in "Long Shot" comes in its first five minutes. Fred Flarsky (Seth Rogen), a Jewish journalist working undercover as a neo-Nazi pledge, attempts to ingratiate himself with the group. Surrounded by Nazi-saluting nuts, Flarsky finds himself obliged, repeatedly, to offer his own noncommittal heil

in return. The gestural gag sets the tone for a silly, superficial romantic comedy.

Set against a political backdrop, "Long Shot" capitalizes on our newly manic obsession with presidential politics. Flarsky writes for the alternative weekly newspaper The Brooklyn Advocate, a clear stand-in for

the late, lamented Village Voice. When his paper gets bought out by Rupert Murdoch-esque media baron Parker Wembley (Andy Serkis, heavily made up to be the grotesque embodiment of capitalist consumption and political influence), Flarsky calls upon his best friend, Lance (O'Shea Jackson Jr.), for consolation. And so it is that Lance makes Fred his plus-one to a high-class World Wildlife Fund benefit with *Boyz II Men* as the entertainment.

There, to the live accompaniment of a 1990s R&B vocal group, Flarsky re-encounters an even bigger blast from his own '90s past: Charlotte Field (Charlize Theron). Once Fred's not-much-older babysitter and now the nation's youngest Secretary of State, Charlotte could hardly be more high-powered. She's just been chosen by sitting President Chambers (Bob Odenkirk) to be his heir apparent. Flarsky's forthrightness instantly charms Charlotte. Could straight-talking Flarsky be just the man she wants — as her speechwriter, and maybe something more — as she prepares to run for her presidential run?

Aside from the schlub-meets-glamourpuss hook implied by the film's title, screenwriters Dan Sterling (Rogen's "The Interview") and Liz Hannah ("The Post")



COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

Ravi Patel, June Diane Raphael, Seth Rogen and Charlize Theron in the romantic comedy "Long Shot."

work the angle that both Fred and Charlotte are true believers who want to be the change in their world. Flarsky has quit his newspaper in the knowledge that his cutting-edge reportage would be squashed, and his hot-headed commitment to the truth will not be suppressed. That makes him the squeaky wheel in Charlotte's presidential campaign, but also makes him the one who'll keep her honest when she's tempted to make political compromises that would effectively kill her signature policy proposal, a "Global Rehabilitation Initiative."

More simply, the uninhibited Flarsky helps the buttoned-down Field to loosen up a little and reconnect to her youthful passions. It's certainly true that the enormously high-powered feminist Field, whip-smart and workaholic, doesn't need any man to achieve conventional success, but if she wants that success to mean something, Charlotte recognizes the need to rediscover assets she's neglected along the way: humor and love and undying

commitment, whether it be to her "bees, trees, and the seas" cause or a man who'll both understand her and stay by her side.

The romantic comedy gets sturdy direction from Jonathan Levine (Rogen's "50/50" and "The Night Before"), but the film's secret weapon is its supporting cast of funny folks. Beyond Jackson, Serkis and Odenkirk, we get the great June Diane Raphael as Charlotte's top adviser (someone give her her own movie, stat); Alexander Skarsgard as a toothy, Justin Trudeau-clone alternative to Flarsky; Ravi Patel; Randall Park; and Lisa Kudrow (plus quick cameos from Raphael's real-life hubby Paul Scheer). As for Rogen and Theron, they remain welcome as movie stars and find a nice rhythm together. Even when the plot they inhabit gets ridiculous, Rogen and Theron have the chemistry and groundedness to keep "Long Shot" good enough for government work.

Rated R for strong sexual content, language throughout and some drug use. Two hours, 5 minute.

Marketplace

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■ NOW SHOWING

Amazing Grace (G) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.	Long Shot (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Apollo 11 (Not Rated) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.	Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
Avengers: Endgame (PG-13) ★★1/2	Love Me or Leave Me (Not Rated)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.	Stanford Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.	Missing Link (PG) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Breakthrough (PG)	The Mustang (R) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.	Penguins (G) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Captain Marvel (PG-13) ★★	Red Joan (R) Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.	The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) (R)
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.	Guild Theatre: Saturday
The Chaperone (Not Rated)	Shazam! (PG-13) ★★
Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.	Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
The Curse of La Llorona (R)	Storm Warning (Not Rated)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.	Stanford Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
Dumbo (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: Fri. - Sun.	UglyDolls (PG) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
El Chicano (R)	Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.	Us (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
The Intruder (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.	Wild Nights with Emily (PG-13)
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.	Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
Little (PG-13)	
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.	

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa
Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/Century16
Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City tinyurl.com/Century20
CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (For information: 493-0128) tinyurl.com/Pasquare
Guild: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (For recorded listings: 566-8367) tinyurl.com/Guildmp
ShowPlace Icon: 2575 California St. #601, Mountain View tinyurl.com/iconMountainView
Stanford Theatre: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3700) Stanfordtheatre.org

★ Skip it ★★ Some redeeming qualities ★★★ A good bet ★★★★ Outstanding

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.

MOUNTAIN VIEW A LA CARTE & ART

The street festival includes live music, fine art and crafts, food and drink, health and wellness displays, an organic and green products showcase, home and garden exhibits, a big classic car show and various activities for kids. May 4-5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Downtown Mountain View, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. bit.ly/a-la-carte-and-art-festival

THEATER

'The Grapes of Wrath' Bus Barn Theater presents "The Grapes of Wrath," adapted from John Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about a family that finds itself reduced to poverty during the Great Depression, abandoning their Oklahoma farm for the promise of a better life in California. Through May 5; times vary. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org

'Hershey Felder: A Paris Love Story' "Hershey Felder: A Paris Love Story" chronicles the personal journey of virtuoso Hershey Felder while also exploring the life and music of impressionist composer Claude Debussy. Through May 5; times vary. \$40-\$120; discounts for seniors, adults under 35. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

Menlowe Ballet: 'Triptych' The Menlowe Ballet presents its spring season series "Triptych," three works celebrating fine art, facets of love and a trailblazing visionary. May 3-5; times vary. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. menloweballet.org/

Palo Alto Players Presents: 'Flower Drum Song' Palo Alto Players offers a blend of American showiness and stylized Chinese opera tradition with "Flower Drum Power," a new adaptation from Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang of the 1958 Rodgers and Hammerstein classic musical. Through May 12, 8-10:30 p.m. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. paly.org

'Chavela' "Chavela" chronicles the life of performer Chavela Vargas, based on a 1991 interview. May 3, 6-8 p.m. Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu

'The Manic Monologues: Destigmatizing Mental Illness in the Bay Area and Beyond' "The Manic Monologues" showcases stories from those touched by mental illness and aims to disrupt the silence and stigma around mental health struggles. Through May 4, 7 p.m. \$18; discount for students. Pigott Theater, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu

PYT's 'Al Capone Does My Shirts' Peninsula Youth Theatre performs "Al Capone Does My Shirts," based on the historical fiction novel for young adults by author Gennifer Choldenko. May 3, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

RlmzMedia's 'The Bridge' RlmzMedia presents "The Yoga of the Ramayana," a theatrical experience featuring leading Bay Area artists. May 5, 4-6:15 p.m. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

'Excalibur' "Excalibur," the seventh production of HaoExpression, is a movement-based theater play/performance inspired by the classic tales of King Arthur and his sword Excalibur. May 5, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. \$20; discounts for youth, seniors, groups of 10 or more. Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. brownpapertickets.com

'The Pirates of Penzance' The Peninsula Youth Theatre performs "The Pirates of Penzance," featuring music by Sir Arthur Sullivan and libretto by Sir William Gilbert. May 11-12 and May 16-19; times vary. Peninsula Youth Theatre, 2500 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. pyt.net.org

CONCERTS

Concert on the Plaza: Riviere & Simon Trio The concert series takes place on the first and third Fridays of the month through September. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair. In addition to music, there will be a food truck, a "Pop Up Park" area for children and for adults, beer and wine.

May 3, 6-7:30 p.m. City Hall, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra Program 4 Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra will perform Prokofiev's Concerto No. 2 for piano and Orchestra in G minor, featuring Helene Wickett and Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 in D major. May 4, 8 p.m. and May 5, 2:30 p.m. Tickets are good for either date. \$25; discounts for students, seniors. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. brownpapertickets.com

Merit Scholars Mother's Day Concert Community School of Music and Arts' Merit Scholarship Student Ensembles perform special selections to celebrate Mother's Day. May 4, 5 p.m. Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

Stanford Taiko Spring Concert: 'The Stories We Tell' "The Stories We Tell" is Stanford Taiko's Spring concert of all-original works for North American Taiko. May 4, 7:30 p.m. \$18; discount for students, seniors. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu

MUSIC

Berhana Los Angeles-based singer-songwriter Berhana will perform music from his self-titled debut EP. May 3, 9:30 p.m. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Open Mic @ Red Rock Coffee Performers sing in front of a supportive audience and meet fellow musicians and artists during Open Mic Mondays at Red Rock Coffee. Sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org

FESTIVALS & FAIRS

2019 May Fete Parade & Fair May Fete Parade & Fair attendees can design a festive, birthday-themed colorful float or costume in honor of Palo Alto's 125th birthday. Non-commercial floats are also eligible to win cash prizes. A fair with live music, games and food trucks will follow the parade. May 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Palo Alto Downtown and Heritage Park, 300 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. paloaltomayfete.org

Silicon Valley Irish Festival The sixth annual Irish Festival features live music, a beer and wine village, Irish food, Irish arts and crafts, a kids fun zone and Irish dancers. May 11-12; times vary. Parking Lot 5, 223 Castro St., Mountain View. svirishfleadh.com

'Taste Around the World' In celebration of the community's diversity, this family event includes multicultural activities, food and performances. May 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. E. Camino YMCA, 2400 Grant Road, Mountain View. ymcasv.org

48th Annual Stanford Powwow and Art Market The 48th Annual Stanford Powwow and Art Market is a celebration of Native American cultures, including dance and music with more than 100 artists, food and information booth vendors. May 10-12 Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

TALKS & LECTURES

Elizabeth Cobbs Author Elizabeth Cobbs will discuss her new book "The Tubman Command," a story that chronicles Harriet Tubman's journey to lead a Union raid to free 750 slaves. May 8, 7:30 p.m. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Shaili Jain Dr. Shaili Jain debuts her nonfiction work, "The Unspeakable Mind: Stories of Trauma and Healing from the Frontlines of PTSD Science." May 7, 7:30 p.m. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Hands-On Privacy Workshop During this two-hour, hands-on workshop, participants will explore their digital identity and receive

step-by-step instructions on how to change the privacy settings for mobile devices, apps and social media accounts. May 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

Introduction to Keeping Backyard Chickens This talk covers the basic requirements for keeping pet chickens, including housing, food and maintenance. May 11, 2-3 p.m. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

'This is Now: The Future of Masculinity' Stanford lecturer Dr. Judy Chu, an expert on boyhood, and Dr. Joseph Marshall, founder of the Alive and Free anti-violence program and the radio show "Street Soldiers," will explore the future of masculinity and the expectations of manhood. May 9, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Michele Filgate and Nayomi Munaweera Editor Michele Filgate and contributor Nayomi Munaweera present a new collection of essays, "What My Mother and I Don't Talk About: Fifteen Writers Break the Silence." May 3, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

FAMILY

'Cow Wow' Participants will meet Hidden Villa's dairy cows, experience how to get milk by hand and see the modern day machinery used in the process of getting milk. April 21 and May 4, 3:30-5 p.m. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

Foothill College 'Day on the Hill' Open House "Day on the Hill" is a free, family-friendly open house event designed to engage and empower people to take the next steps toward college, career and beyond. May 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Los Altos Hills Pathways Run/Walk 2019 The run features a hilly and challenging 5K and 10K Pathways Run/Walk and a one-mile Fun Run. Special athletic race shirts will be provided along with finisher medals to those who register. May 11, 9-11:30 a.m. Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills. app.lap.io

DANCE

Ballet Fantastique Western Ballet's annual mixed repertoire program features neoclassical pieces by Venezuelan choreographer Vicente Nebrada as well as works by Alexi Zubiria. May 4-5, 7 p.m. Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Melange 2019: Monsoon Dance Company Showcase Monsoon Dance Company presents its second showcase, Melange 2019, an evening of dance to celebrate the students, instructors and community. May 5, 5-6 p.m. \$20; discount for children ages 2 to 12. Zohar Dance Studio, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Western Ballet's 'Beauty & the Beast' Western Ballet presents the full-length ballet "Beauty and the Beast." May 5-6, 1 p.m. \$27; discount for students, seniors, kids ages 12 and under. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Western Ballet's 'Cinderella' Western Ballet presents the full-length story ballet "Cinderella." May 11-12, 1-3 p.m. The Center for Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

COMEDY

Comedy at the Bing: Adam Cayton-Holland Comedian Adam Cayton-Holland will perform. May 4, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Scenic Aerobic Hike I Docents Huey-Shin Yuan, Mary Brunkhorst and Fran Keeler lead a moderately-paced, exercise-focused hike through the Russian Ridge Preserve. May 8, 10 a.m. Russian Ridge Preserve, Los Altos. opensource.org

Women's Healing Village: Ninth Annual Conference The Women's Healing Village, a community of women organizers, are hosting their ninth annual conference,

featuring workshops set to improve mind and body wellness, connecting with the earth through healing sessions and various meditative rituals May 4, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. womenshealingconference.com/

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Free Second Saturdays at Gamble Garden Garden Director Richard Hayden

► See **GOINGS ON**, page 26

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Citizens Watchdog Committee on 2000 Measure A Program Expenditures

Results of Independent Compliance Audit 2000 Measure A Program Expenditures for FY 2018

VTA provides "Solutions that Move You." In November 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a 30-year half cent sales tax for specific public transit capital improvement projects and operations. In the 12th year of the 30-year program, VTA has achieved significant results toward meeting Measure A goals including:

- **Extending BART to the Santa Clara County cities of Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara** - Construction of Phase I extension to Berryessa is complete, systems integration testing is underway, and revenue service is projected by the end of 2019.
- **Improve Bus Service in Major Corridors** - Installation of curb side shelters to enhance customer experience along Santa Clara Street for the Alum Rock Santa Clara Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project to be completed by summer 2019.
- **Extend Light Rail from Downtown San Jose to the East Valley** - The supplemental environmental report for the Capital Expressway Light Rail Extension to Eastridge incorporating aerial alignment is scheduled for adoption in summer 2019.

The Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) for the 2000 Measure A Transit Sales Tax Program will hold its annual public hearing on FY 2018 2000 Measure A expenditures on:

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Conference Room B-106
3331 N. First Street,
San Jose, CA 95134

(This location is served by VTA Light Rail and Bus Line 58.)

The public is encouraged to attend. Written comments are accepted until 5:00 p.m. on May 8 by email to: board.secretary@vta.org or by mail to: Office of the Board Secretary, 3331 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95134-1927. Sign language and additional interpreter services will be provided upon request by contacting VTA Customer Service at least five days prior to the meeting at (408) 321-2300, TTY (408) 321-2330.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT: The CWC commissioned an audit of the Measure A Program financial records and schedule for Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018). Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP, independent certified public accountants, conducted the compliance audit in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. They issued an unqualified ("clean") opinion on Measure A Program compliance with the ballot, making this the 13th consecutive audit receiving a clean opinion.

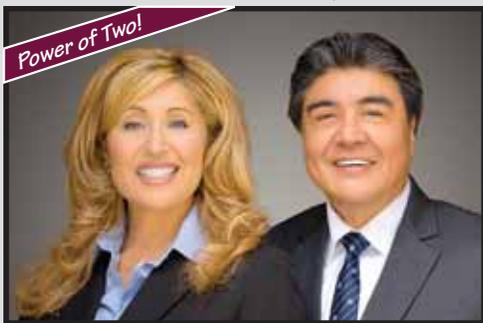
Copies of Measure A Program documents, and the FY18 audit results are available for public inspection from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) offices at 3331 N. First Street, San Jose, CA in the Building B lobby. They are also available for viewing at VTA's website: www.vta.org. Questions on the public hearing should be directed to: Office of the Board Secretary at (408) 321-5680 or to board.secretary@vta.org.



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496 First St. Suite 200
Los Altos 94022

GoingsOn

GOINGS ON

► Continued from page 25

and volunteer garden guides lead children on a nature hunt around the 3-acre garden. Other activities include nature-inspired arts and crafts and a guided tour of the first floor of the Gamble House. Every second Saturday through Dec. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. gamblegarden.org

Volunteer at Redwood Grove Volunteer activities include weeding, mulching, staking willows and installing native plants. All ages are welcome, but minors need an online waiver form approved by a parent/guardian. Every first Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Redwood Grove Nature Preserve, 482 University Ave., Los Altos. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

SPORTS

Bike Sale The Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange is having a bike sale to reduce its overflowing inventory and raise

funds. All proceeds will go into fixing more bikes for people who can't afford to buy them. May 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange, 3961 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. bikex.org

HOME & GARDEN

Eichler Inspired Home Tour The 2019 Eichler Inspired Home Tour showcases five Eichler homes in Palo Alto and Sunnyvale. Participants can meet the owners and exchange ideas and tips with Eichler experts. May 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Keycon, Inc., 495 N. Whisman Road #400, Mountain View. EichlerInspired.com

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Monta Loma Neighborhood Garage Sale Mountain View's Monta Loma residents will hold a neighborhood-wide yard sale of various items including clothing, kitchen appliances, jewelry, art, kids' toys, furniture and more. May 4, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Monta Loma neighborhood, Mountain View. montaloma.org

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CaBRE # 00458678

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2368 Craig Court, Mountain View

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●●● to discover your own private enclave. This 3BR/2BA main house has been stripped down to the studs, rewired, insulated, and outfitted with additional earthquake tiedowns. Owners have added central forced air heat and air conditioning, tankless water heaters, and 20 solar panels!! The kitchen is remodeled with Thomasville cabinets. Add in a separate guest studio with fully wheelchair friendly bathroom and a workshop/hobby room, both added with permits. An extra-large lot offers the opportunity for potential expansion. Enjoy complete privacy as you grow your own veggies in one of the garden beds, or just enjoy the grassy yard off the side patio.

The Possibilities are Endless.

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2368CraigCt.com



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3 bedrooms and 2 baths

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Remodeled chef's kitchen features quartz countertops

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OPEN HOUSE SAT. & SUN. 1:30-4:30

221 Yerba Buena Ave. Los Altos

Stunning Remodeled Executive North Los Altos Home & Close to Top Schools!



Nestled on a quiet cul-de-sac in coveted North Los Altos, this gorgeous (2,642+/-sf) home has an open floor plan with custom finishes in exquisite detail! It features 4 spacious bedrooms, which includes 2 master suites, formal dining room and 3 designer baths with room to expand on this huge lovely 17,535 +/- sf lot.

Enjoy cooking in the new chef's custom kitchen with updated quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, abundant solid white cabinetry, recessed lighting & open dining area, which connects to the large family room with views of the beautiful patio, pool and yard. Ideal for entertaining!

Upgrades include gleaming hardwood flooring, dual pane windows and doors, finished garage, new paved driveway and walk way, paint inside and out, pool resurfaced and fenced, remodeled bathrooms, new carpet & beautiful mature and new landscaping! This home is located close to top Los Altos schools, walk to downtown & all easy commutes! Perfect for a growing family!



Top rated schools: Santa Rita Elementary, Egan Middle & Los Altos High!



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www.221YerbaBuena.com



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3880 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park

Offered at \$2,488,000

Located moments from Sharon Heights and Stanford amenities, this beautiful 5 bedroom, 4 bath home of 3,680 square feet (per county) is one of the best values in all of Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and Los Altos. When compared to similarly-sized homes sold in the area over the last 12 months, this property offers a great opportunity to enter this prestigious neighborhood, an incredible price per square foot, and extraordinary appreciation potential. You'll love entertaining in the double-height living room, refined family room with a wet bar and built-in media center, or the private and tranquil backyard. Nearby amenities include Michelin-star Madera, Stanford Hills and Sharon Park, Sand Hill Road venture capitalist firms, and the Gold Ribbon Las Lomas schools.

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.3880AlamedaDeLasPulgas.com

650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun 電話: 650.785.5822

500 W. Middlefield #63 Mountain View 94043

Stunning One Level Condo Close to Top MV High & All Commutes!

Beautifully remodeled one level downstairs (720 +/-sf) 1 bedroom master suite condo (without anyone upstairs) with new kitchen & located close to downtown Mountain View with views of the gorgeous large private patio.

The bright open floor plan includes a large living room with warm fireplace and adjoining dining room on one level! Enjoy cooking in the custom newly built kitchen with quartz countertops, new stainless appliances, abundant Shaker cabinetry and gleaming laminate flooring! Recent upgrades include dual pane windows, recessed lighting, designer paint inside, skylight, ceiling fan and beautiful new patio landscaping! The home is located close to top Mountain View schools & easy commutes, such as Google, FB, NASA, Intuit & many more! Easy access to 85, 101, & 237 & walk to Stevens Creek Trail!!

Electric car chargers in complex! HOA offers pool, sauna, clubhouse & updated common laundry area. Perfect for a starter home or couple downsizing!

Top MV rated schools: Theuerkauf, Crittenden Middle & Mountain View High!

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1633 Samedra Sunnyvale 940873

Stunning Remodeled One Level Home & Close to Homestead High!

Nestled on a quiet tree-lined street and walk to coveted Homestead High, this gorgeous (2,085 +/- sf) home has an open floor plan with custom finishes in exquisite detail! It features 4 spacious bedrooms, which includes a private master suite, 2.5 designer baths, inside laundry and huge family room with room to expand on this huge lovely 9,825 +/- sf lot.

Enjoy cooking in the new chef's custom kitchen with updated granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, abundant solid white cabinetry, recessed lighting & open dining area, which connects to the large family room with views of the beautiful patio and yard. Ideal for entertaining!

Recent upgrades include new interior doors, sun tube lighting, gleaming hardwood flooring, dual pane windows and doors, paint inside and out, new luxury vinyl tile, carpet & beautiful mature and new landscaping! This home is located close to top Cupertino schools & all easy commutes! Perfect for a growing family!

Top rated schools: West Valley, Cupertino Middle & Homestead High!

Offered at \$2,199,000



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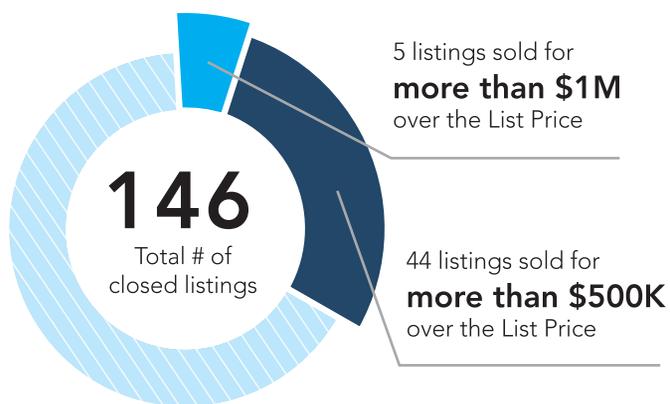


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OPEN HOUSE

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Located on a peaceful 6,000 square foot lot (per city), this unique property offers an excellent chance to expand or re-build your dream home of up to 2,550 square feet (per city) in this prestigious setting. A simplified and sunny 3 bedroom home with flourishing grounds currently rests on the lot, providing a comfortable space to live in or rent out while drafting plans and completing the permit approval process with minimal expenses and carrying costs. From this desirable location, you'll be walking distance away from the newly-remodeled Mitchell Park Library and Community Center, world-class schools, and popular Midtown amenities.

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Complimentary
Refreshments

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

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Redwood City | \$989,900
2br/2ba upstairs condo with water views and an open floor plan. Complex has 2 pools, clubhouse and boat dock.
Amelia Middel 650.704.3064
CalRE#01103989
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Mountain View | \$1,488,000

Bright updated end-unit townhouse at The Crossings. Front porch overlooks a private yard area w/newer artificial turf. Spacious living room with gas fireplace, high ceilings and newer laminate floor. Updated kitchen with quartz counters, modern tile backsplash and newer stainless steel appliances w/gas stove. Master bedroom has a retreat, 2 closets, a full bath with dual sink vanity and tub/shower combo.

Ric Parker
408.398.0054
rparker@cbnocal.com
CalRE#00992559



Carmel | \$2,995,000

Casanova 2SW of 12 Street. Newly-constructed single-level masterpiece with smart-home amenities featuring 3br/2ba, approximately 1,600 sqft. Located 3 blocks from the beach and close to downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea. TheHeinrichTeam.com/Listings/Casanova-2SW-of-12th

The Heinrich Team
831.626.2434
Team@TheHeinrichTeam.com
CalRE#00584641



Sunnyvale | \$1,850,000

Stunning single-story home in an ideal location near many Silicon Valley destinations w/spacious living area and landscape designed to delight.

Sylvia Wong
510.608.8890
sylvia.wong@cbnocal.com
CalRE#01925547



Redwood City | \$998,000

Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom home on cul-de-sac. Living space: approx. 1,050 sqft., Lot size: approx. 6,000 sqft. Bonus studio w/its own entrance.

Yoli Hurchanik
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Jennifer Liu
650.575.7035
Jenliu888@gmail.com
CalRE#01933885



Mountain View | \$2,895,000

Los Altos schools. This beautifully updated four bedroom, two and one-half bath Waverly Park home is move-in ready. Separate dining, living and family rooms with gorgeous hardwood floors throughout, including all bedrooms. Stunning, bright, designer eat-in kitchen w/adjoining family room leads to a spacious backyard w/pool, spa and custom landscaping. Great for entertaining. Close to Stevens Creek Trail.

Alan Huwe
650.917.4392
alan.huwe@cbnorcal.com
CalRE#01706555



San Carlos | \$1,998,500

This warm and inviting 3 bedroom and 2 bath home features stylistic renovations and fabulous views of the Bay and rolling hills beyond. Savor these expansive views from the living room with its fireplace, dining area and remodeled kitchen. Enjoy preparing a meal in its stunning kitchen with its ample cabinetry, built-in appliances and breakfast bar. Indulge in nearby downtown San Carlos attractions.

John Alexander
650.329.6617
jalexander@cbnorcal.com
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