

# LUXURY LIFE

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

SEPTEMBER

## NEON *Dream*

FALL FASHION  
GOES MAD!

On stylish  
safari in  
South Africa

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Downtown's  
hotel boom

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Houston dining  
trends du jour





## CONTRIBUTORS



### *Collin Kelly & Leslie Rivas-Kelly*

PHOTOGRAPHER & FASHION STYLIST

**CV:** Houston-based husband-and-wife team who have collaborated since they met 17 years ago. She styles fashion shoots and works with musicians, celebrities and athletes; he got into photography in high school and was a finalist in the Vogue & Bottega Veneta New Exposure competition.

**In this issue:** Photographed and styled our fashion cover feature, “Neon Nights,” at buzzy new MAD restaurant in River Oaks District. “The location reminded us of photographer Greg Girard’s shots of Tokyo in the 1970s, moody yet bright,” says Rivas-Kelly. “Styling-wise, that meant focusing on the neon, colorful side of fall trends, seen from designers such as Versace, Balenciaga and Saint Laurent. With metallic accessories — gold especially — thrown in for good measure.”

**Fun fact about the Kellys:** Worked past midnight to achieve the perfect vibe.



### *Allison Bagley*

WRITER

**CV:** Houston-based freelancer whose work has appeared in Condé Nast Traveler, Travel & Leisure, Huffington Post and other online publications.

**In this issue:** Interviewed Maryam Naderi about the expansion of her nontoxic nail salon Paloma and wrote about custom beauty product-making opportunities in Houston that make the retail experience more experiential. “Independent boutique owners hope that if a customer has an active role in creating his or her own apothecary products, they’ll return for more and become a repeat customer,” she says.

**Fun fact about Bagley:** The vintage collector has a side gig selling past-era costume jewelry, including ’70s belt buckles that she finds at estate sales and makes into necklaces. Bagley hosts a pop-up at Birch boutique in Tanglewood this month.



### *Mark Mulligan*

PHOTOGRAPHER

**CV:** Houston Chronicle staff photographer who attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he started working at the college newspaper. He moved on to working for weekly newspapers in Virginia and then worked for seven years at The Daily Herald in Everett, Wash.

**In this issue:** Photographed Oliver Hal-kowich leaping around at the Orange Show. The arts venue inspired the costumes for “Following,” a piece the Houston Ballet dancer choreographed that will debut on stage this month in a mixed-rep program at the Wortham. “From this point on,” Mulligan says, “I refuse to photograph anyone who isn’t a professional ballet dancer.”

**Fun fact about Mulligan:** The native Houstonian is married to photographer Annie Mulligan and is dad to two hilarious boys.



### *Jen Murphy*

WRITER

**CV:** Boulder, Colo.-based freelancer who writes the Wall Street Journal’s “What’s Your Workout?” column and author of “The Yoga (Man)ual.” She also contributes to Departures, Outside, Men’s Journal and Condé Nast Traveler. She previously was the travel editor at Food & Wine magazine.

**In this issue:** Wrote about the latest opening of the Lodge at Blue Sky in Park City; Santa Barbara County’s comeback; and South Africa’s best new safari lodge, the Farmstead at Royal Malewane. “Our guide and tracker were so calm and confident in the bush, even when we were steps from a giraffe on foot or in the Jeep surrounded by buffalo,” she says. “Their ability to read animal behavior was extraordinary.”

**Fun fact about Murphy:** Worked out with the Rev. Al Sharpton for her WSJ column.

## Blue Sky ahead



THE LODGE AT BLUE SKY IN UTAH

An on-site whiskey distillery and helicopter adventures are just a few of the wow-factor offerings at the Lodge at Blue Sky, a new Auberge Resorts Collection property on a 3,500-acre ranch 25 minutes outside Park City, Utah.

Five years in the making, the 46-room hotel melds the exceptional service, modern design and discreet luxury of Amangiri, Utah's most exclusive stay, with authentic Western activities such as horseback riding, fly-fishing and skeet shooting. Accommodations are spread across the main Sky Lodge, spacious Earth Suites with canyon views and five Creek Houses nestled in a secluded aspen grove on the banks of Alexander Creek. A 70-foot-long infinity pool and cliffside spa are the perfect respite after exploring the property's 50 miles of trails on foot, horseback or e-bike.

Chef Galen Zamarra works in tandem with Blue Sky's farmer to craft refined mountain fare — think sage-brush-smoked brisket sandwiches and smoked trout Waldorf salad. In addition to the main restaurant, Yuta, guests can dine in a backcountry cabin or yurt, or request a wine-paired picnic lunch.

Come winter, guests will have access to a private ski lounge at the base of Park City Mountain, and hardcore skiers will be able to access 200,000 acres of untouched terrain in the Wasatch and Uinta mountain ranges thanks to the hotel's exclusive partnership with heli-ski outfitter Powderbird. *From \$605; [auberesorts.com/bluesky](http://auberesorts.com/bluesky)*

*Jen Murphy*

## Where the Vinyasa flows

The town is best known for antiques weeks, but Kasey Buchtien is hoping to add wellness to the Round Top way of life. The native Houstonian, who now operates a boutique fitness studio in Bellville, will host the first-ever Create Space wellness retreat next month. The lineup includes cupping and acupuncture sessions, a crystals workshop with a Houston reiki master, morning coconut yogurt parfaits and smoothies, and afternoon snacking from Instagram-worthy artisan brunch boards. It all takes place at Henkel Hall, an event venue in a primo spot on Round Top's town square. In between yoga, movement and meditation sessions, participants can shop the nearby weekly farmers market and plan dinners on their own before heading to their hotel or B&B. One night, Cinda Palacios — who helps husband Armando operate their growing Round Top restaurant empire, along with Armandos in Houston — will lead a laid-back wine tasting while the group roasts s'mores over an open fire. Buchtien hopes the retreat draws Houstonians looking to escape the city to "come to the wide open spaces of Round Top and take a weekend to create more space for whatever it is that you need," whether that's improved nutrition or a recommitment to fitness. She also hopes it's the first of more events that will "fill this niche" of wellness in Round Top, which she says has experienced major revitalization in dining and hospitality in recent years but still has a void in opportunities to stretch the mind, body and soul. *Oct. 11-13. \$520 per person; [thespacestudiobellville.com](http://thespacestudiobellville.com)*

*Allison Bagley*



CREATE SPACE WELLNESS RETREAT WILL TAKE PLACE AT HENKEL HALL IN ROUND TOP OCT. 11-13.



ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE MEDITATION AND MORE.