

Santa Barbara

Magazine

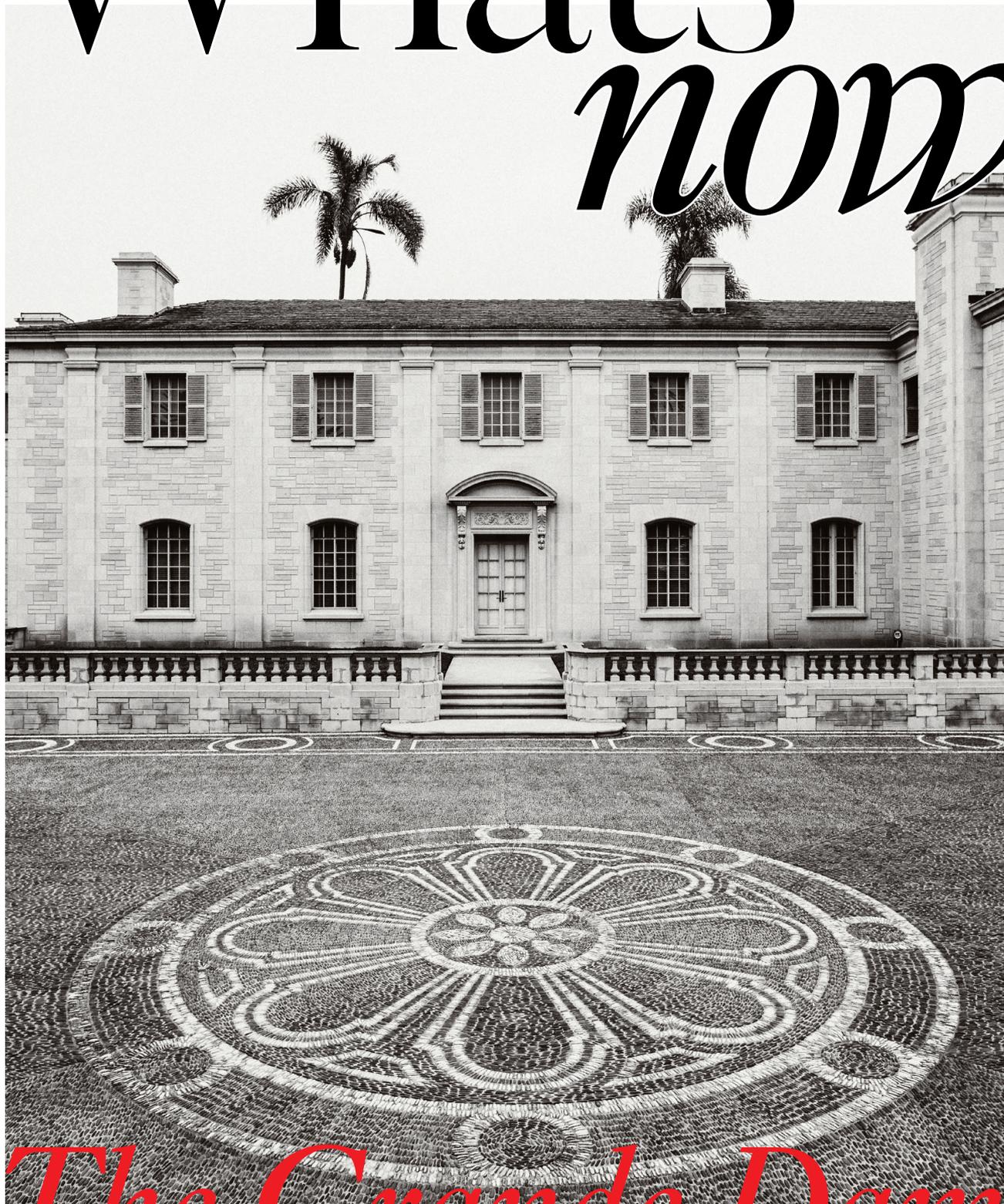
**THE
CULTURE
ISSUE
2019**

*Much
Ado
About*
JULIA

ARTIST + ACTRESS + ACTIVIST

What's *now*

The **BELLOSGUARDO**
FOUNDATION aims to
open to the public.



PHOTOGRAPH: MEGAN SOREL

The Grande Dame

Bellosguardo opens its doors for an unforgettable evening

House on the Hill

On the bluff overlooking East Beach sits one of the most mysterious estates on the California coast. With its Reginald Johnson-designed mansion and sprawling gardens, Bellosguardo ("beautiful lookout" in Italian) could not have a more appropriate name. Despite that beauty, the estate has been locked in amber for more than half a century—a perfectly preserved time capsule of an era long past.

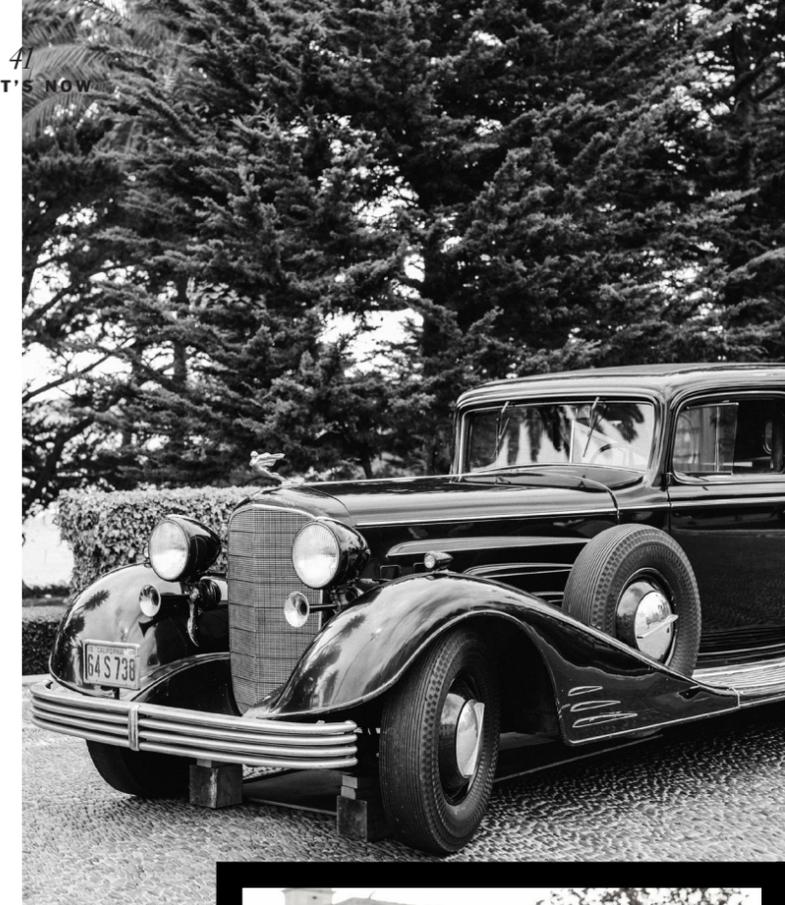
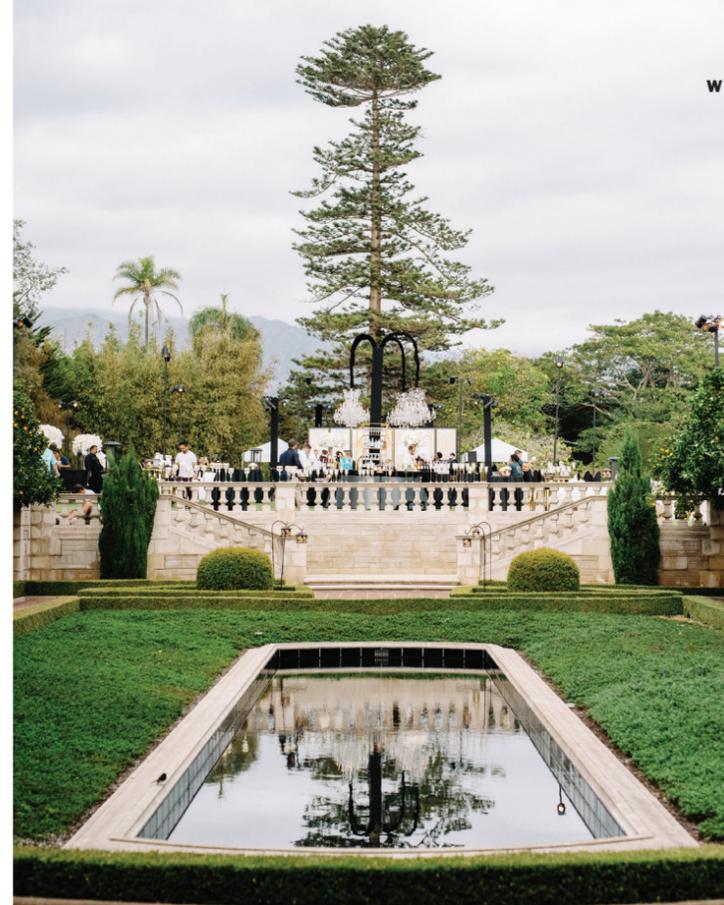
Built in 1937, the manse was a retreat for Anna Clark (wife of copper king W.A. Clark) and her daughter, Huguette. The two lived quietly in Santa Barbara—rejecting the fame born of immense wealth—to focus on each other. After Anna died in 1963, Huguette could not bring herself to return to the house her mother built.

Despite retreating from the world, Huguette cared for the property throughout her long life and eventually bequeathed it to the **BELLOSGUARDO FOUNDATION**—an organization tasked with transforming the estate into a center for art and culture.

The moment the home came into the foundation's hands, plans got underway for an inaugural soiree introducing Santa Barbara to its new treasure. And so began an awakening. On October 13, the wrought iron gates on Cabrillo Boulevard opened, and Bellosguardo emerged from hibernation. Arriving guests flocked to the 1933 Cadillac limo and Chrysler convertible parked on the hand-laid pebble drive before going inside.

A tour through the house revealed Bellosguardo in all its finery, including the dining room with its delicately carved wood paneling, lush floral displays, and a table featuring Huguette's exquisite tableware.

In the courtyard, the estate's towering Norfolk pine shimmered in the 30-foot reflecting pool. With the moon hanging over the mansion, the fantastical Merryll Brown Events-designed celebration spilled onto the great lawn, where chandeliers bloomed from the circular bar. Meandering



through the gardens, guests sipped and mingled through a night lost in time.

The soiree harkened back to the past—an evening of art deco splendor with women in beaded dresses and men sporting black tie dancing the night away to an eight-piece band. It honored the present—a celebration of Huguette's tremendous gift to our city. And it looked to the future—raising funds that will allow Bellosguardo to open for all.

Now, the true metamorphosis begins: making Bellosguardo a resource for our community and an attraction that draws the world to Santa Barbara. The transformation will take time and effort, but what was once a mystery is now our beautiful lookout—Santa Barbara's Bellosguardo—and that view looks very bright.

1407 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, 805-969-3220. **JOSH CONVISER**

BELLOSGUARDO.ORG

Clockwise from top left: A Norfolk pine towers over guests mingling in the garden; the 1933 Cadillac limo; Hollye Jacobs, Dennis and Carolyn Miller, and Jeff Jacobs; Josh Conviser, Sandi Nicholson, Dick and Lisa Wolf; Nicolas Bertrand-Scordo and Belle Hahn; a view of the garden.



SANTA BARBARA



Clockwise from top right: One of the night's performers; the Merryll Brown Events-designed soiree; Denise Decker, Katja Amirkhanian, and Decker Sadowski; the ornate dining room; fanfare and elegant details by Celio's Design and Bright Event Rentals; George Hamilton, Robbie Anderson, and Michael Nouri; Geri Bidwell, Bryte Darden, Baylor Adams, and Alex Bidwell.



PHOTOGRAPHS: MEGAN SOREL