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# LIVING

AUGUST | SEPTEMBER 2016

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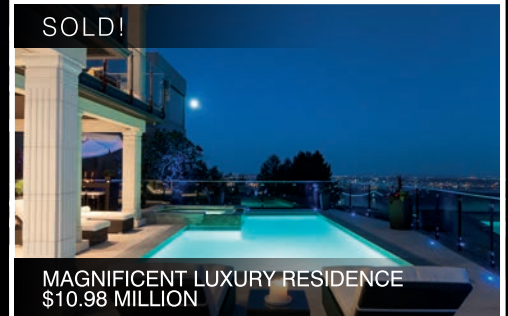
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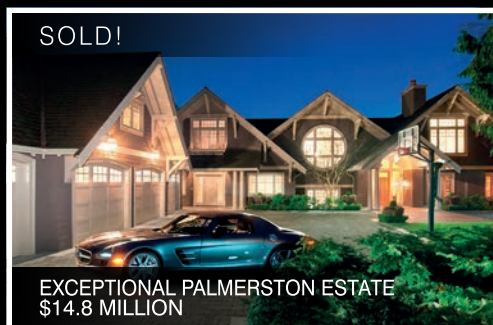


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# CONTRIBUTORS

**Jennifer Gauthier** is an award-winning freelance photographer based in Vancouver. Her work can be seen in numerous publications, including the *Vancouver Courier* and *Metro* newspapers.

When shooting on the North Shore, Gauthier is inspired by the backdrops, "there's some really lush landscapes that I like to work with."



**Brendan McAleer** is an award-winning freelance writer and photographer based out of North Vancouver. His work is published regularly in the *Globe & Mail*, *Road & Track*, *Time's TheDrive*, the *North Shore News*, and elsewhere. He is always looking to find stories about the machines that move us, physically and emotionally. His own dream car: "I'm pretty happy with our Subaru STI for playing in the dirt, but my childhood dream machine is the Ferrari F40. I've at least got the Lego version."



**Christina Symons** is a freelance writer and photographer based on the Sunshine Coast, covering travel, food, design, wellness and garden topics for magazines, publishers and private companies. You can find her on the beach, or at [christinasymons.com](http://christinasymons.com). What dessert would she travel to the ends of the earth for? "I would drive a hundred miles for a decent crème caramel."



**Christina Myers** spent more than a dozen years working as an award-winning news reporter. Her work has appeared in the anthology *Boobs, Skirt Quarterly, Voices of Motherhood*, and most recently, on CBC Radio. What one feature would her dream home have? "A dining table with room for 16, 18, maybe even 20 people. Something comfortable and sturdy, farmhouse style and made of wood, where the big groups of family and friends we often have over could sit together."

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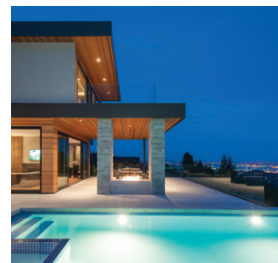
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## OUR SIDE OF THE **WATER**

NORTH SHORE BUILDER GREG NIELSEN SAID IT BEST in our cover story. Sharing his thoughts on what makes life on this side of the water unique, the owner of GD Nielsen Homes said residents have the benefit of living in a lush, resort-like community that is just minutes from downtown. With a bounty of recreation options (see our story on page 55 for details about where to go before the sun sets on summer), there's no question that North Shore types like to be outside, hiking up a mountain, skiing down a hill, riding on the water, but they love their culture, too. Food, fine art, travel, home décor, and fashion – North Shore residents appreciate all the beauty life has to offer. And so we bring all of those elements to you in this edition. We take a peek at what's new for men's timepieces, pre-fall handbag collections for women, and a unique European-inspired boutique built by a Caulfeild-raised fashion firecracker.

The incomparable Fred Lee delivers all the glitz and glam as he takes us along on his trademark "gala"-vanting. We also get an inside look at the luxurious, dreamy island getaway Black Rock Oceanfront Resort, from writer Marilyn R. Wilson.

In this issue, we look at kitchen trends, discovering that grey is the new white, and that it might be time to think naturally. The team from Oliver Simon Design offer up some trusty tips for buying your next perfect sofa.

North Vancouver-raised artist Andy Dixon is also profiled – the one-time punk performer has become an international art sensation, garnering a great deal of attention from art investors here at home and around the world.

Writer and humorist Kate Zimmerman takes us on a family picnic with her husband – a true barbecue whiz – in a column that will have you salivating with thoughts of a sweet wood burning grill, parked seaside. Ah, the smell of smoke and saltwater – is there a better fragrance? I doubt it.

From the barbecue to dessert, we deliver a whirlwind North Shore tour of sweet finds. And there's no shortage of options – in fact, the challenge is narrowing down the list. As much as we love to be physically active on the North Shore, we clearly like to reward all of that exercise with a treat or two.

These are just a handful of highlights we cover in this edition (look for the next one in October). Hope you enjoy our balanced snapshot of life on the North Shore.



NIKI HOPE

Editor

[editor@nsliving.ca](mailto:editor@nsliving.ca)

*Niki*





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## KEEPING WITH AN **OUTSIDER ARTIST TRADITION**

NORTH SHORE-BORN ARTIST GARNERS INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM

**ANDY DIXON'S WORK.** Pink Dinner, 2016, is from the artist's Expensive Things collection. The North Shore-raised artist is gaining global notoriety for his work, which is steeped in his punk-rock roots.

**N**ORTH VANCOUVER-NATIVE ANDY DIXON never had to break the rules because he didn't bother learning them in the first place. His subject matter is grandly patrician, his colour palette undiluted reds and greens, and his application unapologetically brash. A polo match under a pink sky has never felt so punk.

Dixon had only been painting seriously for a couple of years when his collection, Pleasure Studies II, brought his offbeat take on refinement to the Wally Workman Gallery in Austin, Texas, in May of 2014. Later that year, the Rebecca Hossack Gallery brought him to London for a solo show and has continued to represent him throughout his solo exhibits in New York and London, and art fairs in Paris and Hong Kong. ▶





ANDY DIXON

Equal parts opulent and cheeky, visually stunning and rebellious, Dixon's international success has only just begun. Like artistic visionaries before him, he is effortlessly political and never takes himself too seriously. An incredible rise in the international art scene – just five years into his painting career. Dixon's latest collection, *Expensive Things*, takes the long-clichéd subject matter of the enviable upper-crust and turns it on its head, conjuring up a frenetically pleasing, irreverent take on affluence. But Dixon acknowledges his own contradictory role – as an artist whose own coveted work ranges in price from \$4,000-\$30,000 – in the plutocrat wheel.

"One can't deny that fine art could be seen as a luxury object, and I think that my work has a lot to do with me being implicit in the system, and the joke's on me, in a way, that the art world is something to be both criticized and to take part in," says the 36-year-old artist, previously best known as the former guitarist/vocalist of d.b.s – a North Vancouver punk band that formed in 1992, when the members were still in Grade 8 at Argyle secondary.

Dixon's work can be seen at the Angell Gallery's summer group show in Toronto, as well as in the Winsor Booth of Art Toronto in October. In Vancouver, his work is represented by the Winsor Gallery, which alone is a testimony to his prominence in the art world.

– Michelle Kelm

## DON'T FIGHT NATURE

CELEBRATING WEST COAST  
MODERNISM'S TRUE,  
EARTHY BEAUTY

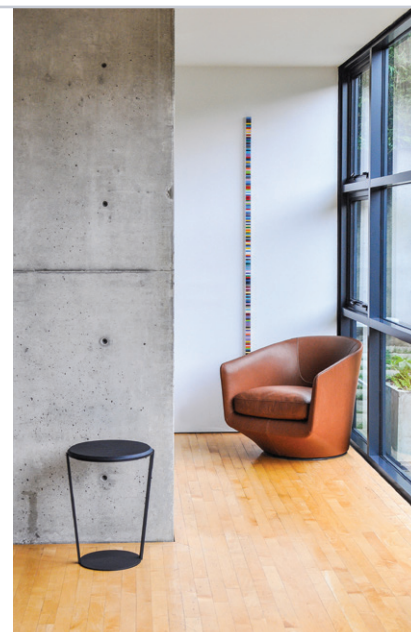
### WITH ITS MILD CLIMATE AND

stunning natural setting, West Vancouver has long been a source of inspiration for art, architecture and design. In the decades since the North Shore emerged as a centre of West Coast Modernism in

the post-war years, our tradition of innovation and design has only grown. In its summer exhibition *Why Design Now?: A Westcoast Context*, the West Vancouver Museum celebrates this blending of form, function and artistry.

"B.C. was once known as leading the country in design, and I think there's been a real resurgence of late with local designers," explains Darrin Morrison, the museum's curator and director. From its post-war roots to its contemporary incarnations, *Why Design Now* showcases the evolution of West Coast design, featuring works by local firms such as Molo, Propellor, Bensen and Omer Arbel. But the show isn't only aimed at name-dropping design aficionados. *Why Design Now* also seeks to help audiences understand how design affects our everyday lives, says Morrison. From cellphones to kitchen gear to office furniture, we are constantly interacting with the results of rounds of iterations and refinement. The show demystifies the process with a breakdown of design, from conception to creation, and even nods toward the future with an exhibit on the implications of 3D printing. *Why Design Now* is on at the West Vancouver Museum and Archives through until Aug. 27.

– Jessica Barrett



**ABOVE:** Utturn chair by Vancouver design firm Bensen

**RIGHT:** Hikae Soe coffee table by Brent Comber, inspired by the discipline of Japanese floral arrangement





# INFLUENCER | LIZ BELL

PRINCIPAL AND “MOTHER AGENT”  
AT LIZBELL AGENCY, ONE OF THE TOP  
MODELLING AGENCIES IN CANADA



**UBER-AGENT LIZ BELL** in her Lions Bay home, which she describes as her sanctuary, saying when she comes home from work or a trip abroad being there puts everything in perspective.

**M**ODEL-TURNED-AGENT Liz Bell has walked for and worked with such luminaries as Valentino, Givenchy, Fendi, Armani and Karl Lagerfeld to name just a few. When she stepped off the runway after a successful modelling career, Bell used all that fashion-industry expertise to guide emerging models to follow the dream she once lived. Launching Lizbell Agency in 1992, Bell carved out a place for herself and her team on the global stage. Known in the industry for her eye – the ability to scout the next face – she’s always on the hunt for “the shine,” which is usually found in tall, lanky, unique-looking girls and guys.

Career-wise, Bell gets a kick out of thinking how much her agency has grown. Along with models, it also represents an award-winning team of stylists, makeup artists, hair stylists, and prop and set decorators, who have worked with a lengthy list of celebrities, including Katy Perry, Anna Wintour, and Coco Rocha to name just a few. “From a single desk and a phone, with me running comp cards to clients around town, to networking internationally with the best players in the business. It’s a good feeling.” While the agency has managed to thrive for almost 25 years, Bell’s proudest achievement is raising her now-grown sons, Julian and James. “I raised them as a single mother, built a business and ran a home, all the while racing back and forth between downtown and Lions Bay.” Now that’s a true supermodel!

— Niki Hope

## THREE FAVOURITE: BOOKS? DESIGNERS?

**BOOKS.** *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* by Alexandra Fuller; *The Odd Woman and the City* by Vivian Gornick and, one I buy for every new parent, *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and How to Listen So Kids Will Talk* by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish – I love the tools this book gives.

**DESIGNERS:** Valentino, Givenchy and a store called COS, as they have really fabulous pieces you can pair with something super special and make it look like a million dollars. Accessorizing is so important.



# A WEEKEND OF HIGH STYLE AND RARE RIDES

FERRARI, ROLLS-ROYCE, PORSCHE AND MCLAREN ON DISPLAY



**LUXURY AND SUPERCAR WEEKEND** is a feast on fashion, food and rare cars.

## VANCOUVER IS A SUPERCAR CITY.

All the elements are here: canyons of glass to reflect glittering sheet metal, gorgeous scenery for a run up the Sea-to-Sky, and a couple of world class racetracks opening up this year just out of town. Now in its seventh year, **Luxury and Supercar Weekend** fills the lawns of the VanDusen Gardens with an eye-watering array of high-end machinery on Sept. 10 and 11. And that's not all. There are fashion shows, live music, gourmet nibbles for the foodies. Grab a cocktail in the VIP area, or cool off with a gelato. Here are a few highlights of what's planned this year.

### THE SUPERCARS

The list this year is stunning. Rolls-Royce and Bentley will have their two latest offerings, the Dawn convertible and the Bentayga SUV, on hand for those who are interested in both style and speed. Joining them will be Jaguar's new SUV, the F-Pace, which infuses the spirit of the gorgeous F-type coupe with some all-terrain capability. Two of the ultra-rare Paganis Huayras will be on hand, including the unicorn that is the new roadster version. The hybridized hypercars of the

Porsche 918 and the McLaren P1 will sit alongside the old-school menacing of the hulking Viper ACR.

### THE CLASSICS

A special display built around a Mercedes-Benz 300SL will pay tribute to Rudi Koniczek, a master restorer from Vancouver Island. Rudi's such a character, just meeting him is worth the price of admission – he collects Tintin memorabilia and restored the Trudeau's 300SL roadster. There'll also be one of the bespoke Singer Porsches, a painstaking refinement of the air-cooled ideal.

### THE FOOD AND FASHION

Partnering again with the nearby Oakridge Centre, the Weekend will once again showcase the latest fashions at a couple of runway shows. Get your martini shaken, not stirred, in the presence of an Aston-Martin DB11, and then pop over to the oyster bar to sample local seafood. Even if a supercar tucked in the driveway is just a lotto ticket daydream, there's something here for everyone.

— *Brendan McAleer*





# ON THE TOWN

WITH **FRED LEE**  
@FredAboutTown

GALA-VANTING! A runway romp, waterfront wingding and Picasso party were but a few of this season's major scene-stealers.



1



2



4



5



3



6



7



8

**WALK FOR WATER FASHION GALA** 1 West Vancouver fashionistas Monica Soprovich, Zahra Mamdani and Krista Cooper attended the Obakki Foundation's inaugural Walk for Water benefit at Holt Renfrew. The fashion show netted \$30,000 for clean water projects in South Sudan. 2 Calgary-born supermodel Heather Marks and local photographer Joshua McVeity partied down at the Walk for Water after party. Marks opened the Obakki fashion show, joining a dozen of the industry's biggest names on the catwalk. 3 West Vancouverite Zahra Mamdani kibitzed with Mari Malek at the Walk for Water runway romp. Malek fled Sudan's decades-long civil war for the U.S. and would eventually establish herself as a top model working for the world's biggest fashion houses.

**FACE THE WORLD GALA** 4 Jacqui Cohen, along with partner Rob Menard, welcomed philanthropists, influencers and industry leaders to her Face the World Gala. The exclusive evening generated \$700,000 in support of 65 local charities. 5 West Vancouver socialite Saeedeh Salem and her niece Dela Salem were among 200 well-heeled and well-dressed guests that paid \$2,000 a ticket to attend Jacqui Cohen's 26th Face the World house party. 6 Veteran broadcasters Vicki Gabereau and Mike Killeen emceed the posh party in support of 65 charities, including the Turning Point Recovery's North Shore Women's Centre, Union Gospel Mission and Aunt Leah's.

**VANCOUVER ART GALLERY PICASSO GALA** 7 Winsor Gallery's Jennifer Winsor was among art aficionados who attended Pamela Richardson's Picasso-inspired party, which raised \$500,000 for the Vancouver Art Gallery's student program, and launched the much-anticipated summer exhibition. 8 Nessa Van Bergen and Dino Renaerts' private Louis Vuitton dinner party their Bon Vivant Group will be catering was one of the coveted auction items at the Vancouver Art Gallery's Picasso Gala.





## SOCIAL DIARY

August 18

### DINER EN BLANC

Metro Vancouver's ultimate white party returns for its fifth installment. The Social Concierge, producers of the outdoor spectacle, promises more surprises and more seats, so more people can join this summertime tradition.

[TheSocialConcierge.com](http://TheSocialConcierge.com)

October 29

### INSPIRATION GALA

BC Cancer Foundation's flagship fundraiser is always a million-dollar do! Proceeds from this year's masked ball will support diagnostic tools integrated with genetic testing to detect cancer and its likelihood to respond to treatment.

[BCCancerFoundation.com](http://BCCancerFoundation.com)

November 8

### EVENING WITH LINDEN MACINTYRE

West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation's fourth annual author and dinner evening will feature the Giller Prize winner and CBC Fifth Estate front man.

[WestVanLibrary.ca](http://WestVanLibrary.ca)

**VANCOUVER RESOURCE SOCIETY GALA** 9 Vancouver Resource Society's Allen Garr, Virginia Bird and Allan De Genova fronted the non-profit's signature soiree to help persons with disabilities maximize their independence and inclusion in the community. 10 North Vancouver City Coun. Linda Buchanan and her son Maxwell Dancs brought their good vibes to the VRS' Karma-themed charity dinner and auction. 11 West Vancouver District Coun. Bill Soprovich and his date Natalia Hadden attended the VRS Gala. The event raised \$175,000 to be directed towards more affordable and accessible housing for those seeking accommodations in the Lower Mainland and the North Shore.

**NORTH SHORE WATERFRONT GALA** 12 City of North Vancouver Mayor Darrell Mussatto escorted his girlfriend Yavanna Arnold to the sophomore edition of the Waterfront Gala, presented by six major waterfront terminals and businesses, staged at the Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier. 13 Brad Eshleman, president of Western Stevedoring, and Don Nonis, general manager of Kinder Morgan Terminals, welcomed a capacity crowd to the North Shore benefit they helped co-found to support the communities where they live, work and play. 14 North Shore Neighbourhood House's Lisa Hubbard and Learning Disabilities Association North Shore's Kate Raven saw \$204,000 raised for their charities, while North Vancouver MLA Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness, witnessed another \$20,000 raised for relief efforts in Fort McMurray.

**NIGHT AT THE AQUARIUM** 15 Bert Hick and Tina Rowntree's Night at the Aquarium made a big impression on gala-goers. The 10th staging, marking the marine science centre's 60 years of ocean conservation, hauled in \$460,000.





**MODEL KEILANI ELIZABETH ROSE** wears a fun Greta Constantine cocktail dress.



**ALEXANDRA THOMPSON**

CAULFEILD GIRL  
**ALEXANDRA THOMPSON**  
BRINGS HER GLOBAL  
STYLE HOME

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## WARDROBE

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ALEXANDRA THOMPSON DELIVERS THE beauty of European design and sophistication to the West Coast with her charming Gastown boutique, Wardrobe Apparel. Thompson, who grew up in Caulfeild and whose family still resides on the North Shore, majored in finance at Dalhousie University and has an MBA from UBC. She previously worked in financial services, travelling the globe for business and shopping unique boutiques along the way.

During her travels, she spent her off time hunting for interesting one-off boutiques – the very shops that would inspire the Wardrobe Apparel concept. The boutique, which opened last year, has a decidedly French feel – stocked with





DANIEL TULLGOET

**PHOTOGRAPHER** | CHARLES ZUCKERMANN  
**MAKEUP ARTIST** | BRITTANY LEE  
**MODEL** | KEILANI ELIZABETH ROSE  
**HAIR** | KIRSTEN DONALD  
**STYLIST** | ALEXANDRA THOMPSON  
**WORDS** | NIKI HOPE

## ESSENTIALS

unforgettable and inventive clothes created by an array of designers who aren't overly represented in the Canadian market. The racks carry stunningly crafted luxury European lines from London, Paris and beyond and offer private appointments for clients who want personal time with an experienced style adviser.

Lines include stunning luxury footwear from Chelsea Paris (think sexy lace-ups), wraps and kimonos from global resort lifestyle brand Athena Procopiou, and breathtakingly crafted dresses and gowns (you must try on the Fanya gown with ruffle detailing for your next gala) from Canada's darling of the socialite set, Greta Constantine. 📦



KEILANI WEARS  
a Jean-Pierre  
Braganza dress,  
Imogen Belfield  
jewelry; shoes are  
the model's own.



# Interior Design Show Sept 22-25 2016 Vancouver

# IDS

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# MAN OF THE **HOUR**

IS IT TIME TO RE-THINK THAT OLD WATCH? THESE RECENTLY RELEASED LUXURY TIMEPIECES ELEVATE THE ART OF WATCHMAKING AND DESIGN TO AWE-INSPIRING HEIGHTS.



**1 Wingman:**  
The 2016 ROLEX Oyster Perpetual Air-King pays tribute to the pioneers of flight and is based on the iconic 1950s Rolex Oyster, but updated with contemporary touches for the modern man. With a 40mm-wide case in grade 904L steel and a solid-link Oyster bracelet, the new Air-King is a timeless classic.  
*Approx. price \$7,100.*

**2 Old Salt:**  
LONGINES leather strap chronograph watch with blue steel hands that offer a decidedly punchier style that displays hours, minutes, seconds and the date, which is indicated by the half moon central hand.  
*Approx. price \$3,850.*

**3 One to watch:**  
New from Baselworld 2016, BULGARI released the Octo Ultratono ("very black"), a sporty-yet-luxurious model featuring a handsome combination of black diamond-like carbon coatings and 18-karat pink-gold elements with a thin, comfortable rubber strap.  
*Approx. price \$17,200.*

**4 Class act:**  
ROLEX recently introduced a new version of Cellini Time in 18-karat white or the unique Rolex hue of Everose gold. The new Cellini Time model features a redesigned white lacquer dial with 12 elongated appliqué hour markers.  
*Approx. price \$22,000.*

**5 Time travel:**  
Ideal for those globetrotters, the TAG HEUER Carrera features a large date, shown through various apertures and cases. In 1963, Jack Heuer created the Carrera as a tribute to the epic La Carrera Panamericana "the Mexican Road Race." Today the Carrera continues its journey with the latest collection.  
*Approx. price \$4,100.*

**6 Solid gold:**  
Another contemporary piece inspired by mid-century design and featuring the famous aviation slide rule, the Montbrillant 01 chronograph was named after the building on Ruelle Montbrillant in La Chaux-de-Fonds, which housed the BREITLING workshops from 1892 to 1979. This limited edition piece features an 18K red gold case and includes an array of luxury features.  
*Approx. price, \$31,750.*

**7 Collection time:**  
And now it's time for a classic beauty from BULGARI, which features an alligator strap with 18K pink gold buckle. This effortlessly elegant Papillon Heure Sautante from the Daniel Roth collection was also inspired by flight. This time – with two independent, retractable, diamond-shaped hands on a supporting disc – it's the flight of the butterfly.  
*Price available upon request.*

\* Please note, prices are only estimates and may vary significantly, depending on the retailer and country of purchase.



# GOING **ROGUE**

OPTING FOR WARM TONES,  
CLASSIC STYLING AND QUALITY LEATHERS

LEFT: Model Dree Hemingway carries the Rogue bag, showcasing its effortlessly chic appeal.



**See by Chloe**  
tassel bucket bag,  
\$600.



**Mark Cross  
Baby Laura**  
top handle  
in red,  
\$2,595.



**Mark Cross  
Benchley  
Case** in  
pebble  
leather,  
\$3,595.



**See by Chloe**  
large crossbody,  
\$620.



**Proenza  
Schouler**  
medium  
Hava  
top handle,  
\$2,380.



**Coach 1941  
Rogue Bag 36**  
in glove-  
tanned pebble  
leather,  
\$1,145.



**Coach 1941  
Rogue Bag 36**  
in colour-block  
python,  
\$1,145.



**H** **ANDBAGS GO ONE OF TWO** ways this fall – big and bold, filled with busy applique and cheeky imagery, or there is a decidedly more refined approach, with lush fall tones – leafy greens, dark merlots, rich plums, warm caramels. We're opting for the simple and structured look with minimal fussing and lots of class. Coach offers up some functional pieces for fall – specifically with its new Rogue bag. The line has undergone something of a resurgence and is upping its game under the thoughtful guidance of new creative director Stuart Vevers. If you've been avoiding the Coach for any reason, it might be time to take another look. But it's not all about the Rogue – the handbag is just one of many sophisticated, richly toned pieces available for pre-fall. 📦

*\* All non-Coach bags are available at Holt Renfrew Vancouver, [holtrenfrew.com](http://holtrenfrew.com). The Rogue is available in various Coach stores and Hudson's Bay.*

**Derek Lam 10  
Crosby Bowery**  
bucket bag,  
\$975.





living | HOME

# PERFECT **BALANCE**

BREATHTAKING VIEWS MEET STUNNING  
BUILD ON CAMMERAY ROAD

**WORDS** | CHRISTINA MYERS

**PHOTOS** | STACY THOMAS

**DESIGN** |

CRAIG CHEVALIER  
CUSTOM HOME DESIGNS

**INTERIOR DESIGN** |

OY CHRISTOPHER INTERIOR  
DESIGN

**HOME BUILDER** |

G.D. NIELSON DEVELOPMENTS LTD.

**LOCATION** |

BRITISH PROPERTIES,  
WEST VANCOUVER

**SIZE** |

6,400 SQUARE FEET

**PROJECT STATUS** |

COMPLETED FEBRUARY, 2015

**THE CAMMERAY'S** exteriors balance warm cedar elements with sleek, contrasting Pennsylvania bluestone. The home also features two garages – a main one on the lower level and a single-car garage.





BY THE DESIGN  
**LIVING  
FEATURE  
HOME**





**ANY TIME YOU HAVE A VIEW,  
YOU WANT TO CAPTURE THAT AS  
MUCH AS YOU CAN.**

**-GREG NIELSEN**

**N WEST VANCOUVER**, it's often a challenge to determine what's more impressive: the stunning natural setting or the unique architecture of the homes. In the case of a Cammeray Road property built by GD Nielsen Homes, it's a perfect balance of both – gorgeous views and beautiful home design in equal measure. Completed in February 2015, the home was custom-built for an owner who was already familiar with the award-winning work of GD Nielsen; the owner's previous home in the British Properties had been built by the same company in 2012. The design-and-build team for the new home was rounded out with the renowned Craig Chevalier Home Design and Oy Christopher for interior design. With that combination of talent, expertise and experience, it's no surprise the finished product strikes such a seamless balance between environment and



design, with a home that doesn't just suit its lush West Coast environment, but celebrates and embraces it.

Greg Nielsen of GD Nielsen Homes notes that one of the best ways to accomplish that is to bring the outside in, as much as possible, with large windows throughout the residence that provide not just incredible water and city views, but also maximize the incredible natural light of coastal B.C. "Any time you have a view, you want to capture that as much as you can," says Nielsen.

AND WHAT A VIEW IT HAS. Situated on the sloped north side of Cammeray, the home looks out over a fringe of evergreens to Lions Gate Bridge, Stanley Park and the twinkling lights of downtown Vancouver. Indeed, every bedroom in the 6,400-square-foot home boasts gorgeous water views, and an expansive patio area and negative-edge swimming pool look out over the incredible vistas, as does a balcony off the master bedroom. The setting is one of the key draws for many West Vancouver residents, says Nielsen, with its natural beauty balanced off with convenience to work and play opportunities. "There are so many things that make West Van unique: the views, the proximity to recreational areas," he says. "In West Vancouver, you are 10 to 15 minutes from downtown, but when you come over here you're in a completely different area. It doesn't feel like you're 15 minutes from the city, but hours away; it feels like a resort area that's removed from the city but still so close to it." ➤



**THE MAIN-FLOOR** kitchen, living room and dining room feature an open-floor plan, but the rooms have a distinct, natural flow derived by the furniture layout.

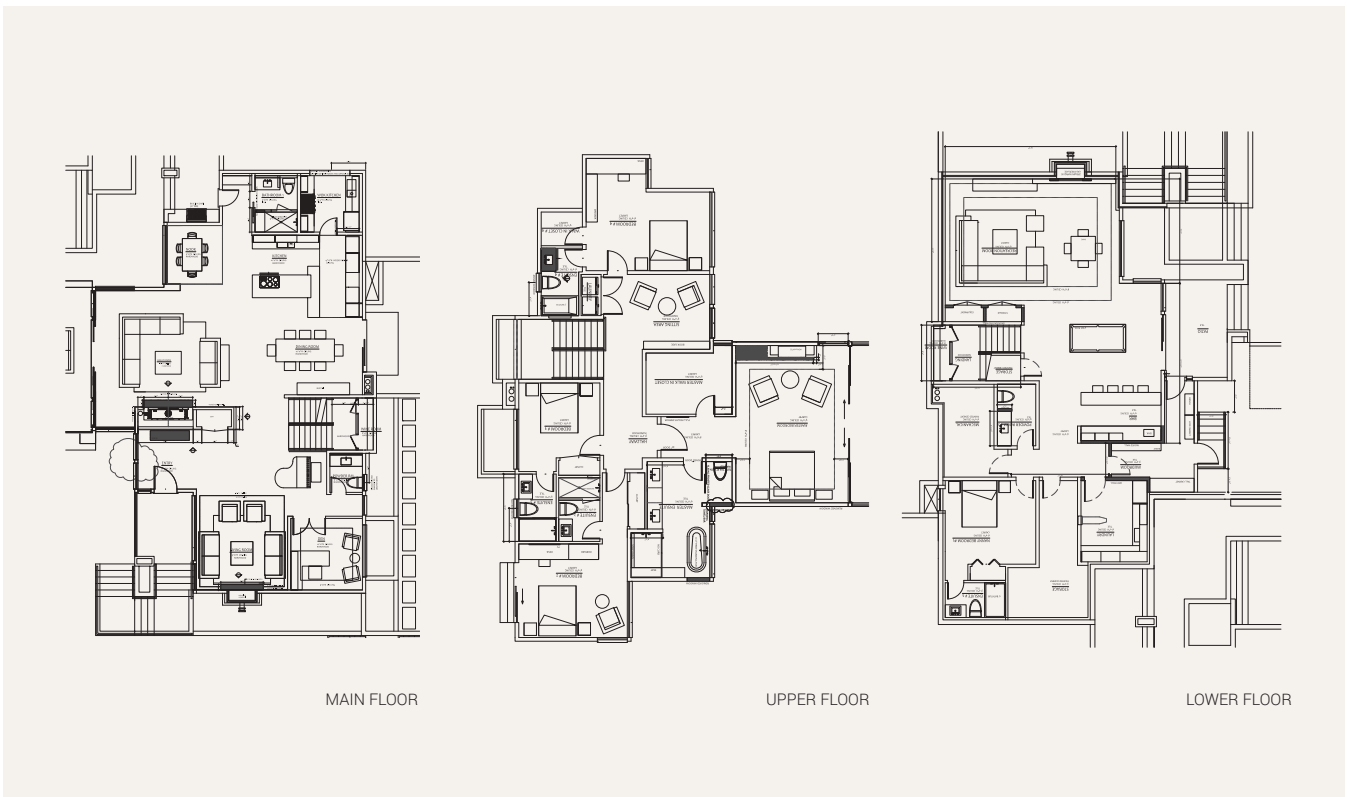
**THE CAMMERAY** features a secret wok kitchen, which is hidden behind a panel door that blends with the cabinetry when it is closed.

**AS WELL**, the design of the home also takes the "cellar" out of the traditional wine cellar: instead of being hidden away, it's situated right in the wall of the staircase, so it can be seen from the main and basement levels.







**A SOAK WITH** stunning scenery is part of life at The Cammeray. Each of the four upstairs bedrooms features its own ensuite bathroom.





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STEINWAY & SONS



THE LANDSCAPE – FORESTED, hilly, rocky, changing from one block to the next – can be formidable from a building perspective but an incredible opportunity for design. “The property builders have to be conscious of the topography of the land – it gives you a lot of different shapes and sizes of properties on which to build. It is anything but cookie-cutter,” explains Nielsen. In the case of the Cammeray Road project, it all came together to create a home that works perfectly for its owners who often entertain out-of-country family for extended periods.

Each of the four upstairs bedrooms have their own ensuite bathrooms, and skillful interior design with the furniture layout on the main floor helps provide distinct areas for an open plan that encompasses living room, dining room, and kitchen and family room, while maintaining a sense of freedom and flow in the space. The main kitchen has a unique separate wok kitchen, hidden by a secret panel that is designed to look like the rest of

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the cabinetry. “It blends in, but of course when you open the door, you walk into a full-on kitchen,” notes Nielsen.

OUTSIDE, THE WARM CEDAR EXTERIOR with contrasting Pennsylvania bluestone blends into the earthy tones of the environment, and a heated driveway, an oversized double garage and warm lighting at night provide a welcoming first look for visitors.

GD Nielsen Homes – formerly known as G.D. Nielsen Developments – has been in business for more than 30 years, garnering an incredible reputation over the last three decades and earning dozens of awards, including Best Home Builder in B.C. by the Canadian Home Builders Association. The company works on several significant projects each year, many of them with repeat customers who return to the expertise and commitment to excellence that GD Nielsen has become known for. 🏠



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## FROM **STATELY HOMES** TO **HIGH-LUXURY CONDOS**

THE PEAK IN MULGRAVE PARK IS A RESPONSE TO EVOLVING REAL ESTATE MARKET


**WORDS |**  
JESSICA BARRETT

**A** DECADE AGO, BUILDING A multi-family development in West Vancouver would have been an uphill battle, admits Geoff Croll, president of British Pacific Properties. But times change and with them so do communities.

With shifting demographics and a growing desire to preserve green space, demand for dense multi-family developments is surging in the area. That has the developer that built its brand on producing stately single-family homes pivoting in response. “We’re slowly transitioning into more multi-family development,” says Croll. “We’re really responding to what the community’s needs are.”

After introducing townhomes in its Rodgers Creek development in 2008, the company is making its first foray into apartments with The Peak, a 14-unit luxury condo complex that will be part of the Mulgrave Park community. With prices starting at \$2.5 million and

floor space ranging from approximately 2,300 to 4,200 square feet, these units are comparable to single-family homes. Yet they have a compact footprint that makes the most of the natural environment and provides a level of convenience that’s attractive to both young families and downsizers. “We’re getting a very interesting mix of buyers,” says Croll, noting the project has attracted young families who want to be close to Mulgrave and Collingwood schools and seniors looking for single-level living and lock-and-leave lifestyles.

Along with density, West Vancouver is also seeing a desire for more services – such as transit, shopping and community centres – that will develop in response to these new communities, says Croll. And unlike in Vancouver, where infill in existing neighbourhoods has ignited discord in many communities, building densely planned communities from scratch in West Vancouver ensures the area’s changing needs are met without disrupting existing character. 



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# GREY IS THE NEW WHITE

PROS WEIGH IN  
ON WHAT'S COMING  
FOR KITCHENS

**WORDS** | NIKI HOPE  
**PHOTOS** | TRACEY AYTON  
**DESIGNER** | SARAH-MARIE  
INTERIOR DESIGNS



**FOR YEARS, WHITE CABINETS** have been a top pick for those wanting to freshen up a dull kitchen, but there is a shift toward a more nature-inspired palette. Nicole Phillips, a colour consultant at North Shore-based Coordinated Kitchen and Bath, says her clients are choosing deep walnut and strong black tones for their cabinets. If they stay on the light side, it's with warm greys, or a green grey, "but nothing too bright or crazy," she says, noting the natural environment should influence the shades we choose. Phillips suggests bringing in colour and texture with mosaic tile in a classic, clean herringbone pattern, or hand-painted cement Moroccan tile. In terms of hardware, the focus is on a sleek, modern design paired with a classic shaker or modern-flat style cabinet, she says. >



Sarah-Marie Lackey, who runs her eponymous design firm, recently completed a stunning home in Metro Vancouver, which featured the contemporary grey cabinetry with plenty of warm wood elements to bring in a West Coast feel (as seen in these images), which has become as classic an esthetic as one can find in this part of the world. In terms of countertops, Lackey says even though many people have moved away from granite in favour of quartz, she's still partial to the natural stone. In this project she added a combination of quartz and a vein-cut granite to complete not only her perfect colour scheme of creams and cool greys, but also what she believes to be a truly timeless design. "Natural stone to me will always be a lasting beauty," the designer notes. >





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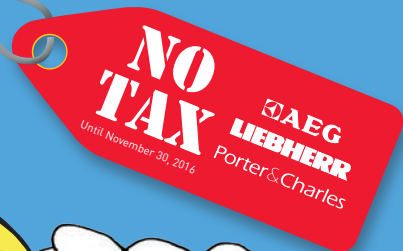


Lackey's advice for your next kitchen project: take risks (and hire a designer that you trust). "Sometimes we only like something because we have seen it so many times, but by taking a chance and doing something you may not have otherwise considered, more often than not you will end up with something truly unique and original to you," says Lackey. "And that, in my mind, is the goal for both the designer and the client alike." To see more photos of this project, visit [sarahmarieinteriors.com](http://sarahmarieinteriors.com). 



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## ANALYZING **THE COUCH**

FIVE THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU INVEST IN THIS INTEGRAL PIECE

Principal interior designers at Oliver Simon Design, **Greer Nelson** and North Vancouver resident **Jamie Hamilton** lay down their tried-and-true expertise when it comes to sofa shopping. >



**1 Keep it classic:** Avoid trends – doing so saves you from buying that teal blue number that looked so darn good on the furniture store floor, but screamed at you every time you saw it sitting in your own abode. Just because it's hot this season, doesn't mean you won't be sick of it by the next one. You want to stick to neutrals, so it will stand the test of time. Change up your art, your toss pillows, your accessories and remake your room easily without having to switch out the couch.

**2 Size matters:** The sofa has to fit in the space you are using; so many times we go into a space and it's too big for the room, or too small for the room, or it is in the wrong place, or the sectional is not fitted properly. Make sure you measure your space, determine the exact layout, map out the proportions in the room and draw to scale. A good gauge is there should be a couple of feet around it. And we don't like furniture all backed up against the wall on the perimeter. Get some breathing space around the sofa, but not so much that the room is full of air.

**3 Fine fabric:** Invest in quality fabric with a slight texture that can handle a spill or two. One thing to remember is the fabric on the sofa should be very forgivable. One solid colour without a touch of texture will show every flaw – no matter what colour the sofa is.



**WARM, BUTTERY LEATHER** was the fabric choice for this interior designer project by the team at Oliver Simon Design.

**4 Upgrades are good:** Want a sofa that feels like you're sitting on a cloud? Go down-filled over stiff foam. If you have an option to upgrade, to add feather fill to a sofa, you should always do that. People aren't aware, but if you sit down on a sofa with a feathery wrap inside and not a bouncy foam, it feels luxurious. Remember, a sofa is one of the biggest furniture investments in the home, so don't skimp on quality.

**5 Practise patience:** Be willing to wait for the right sofa. Custom sofas can take anywhere from six to 10 weeks or more, but it's worth it if it means getting the exact right size, material, style and quality piece that will be the lush centerpiece of your living space. No good sofa is bought off the floor, so be willing to get the custom fabric you want, the fill that you want, the size that is right for your home and be prepared to wait two or three months for it to arrive. And when it does, you'll be glad you made a thoughtful decision over a rushed one (like that teal blue number). 📦



**NORTH VANCOUVER INTERIOR** designer Jamie Hamilton and her business partner and fellow designer Greer Nelson weigh in on what to look for in the perfect sofa.





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BUTTER LANE



# SWEET SPOTS

In the mood for something sweet? Treat yourself decidedly and decadently. And to make it memorable, the atmosphere should be as delightful as the confections that strike your fancy. Here are five North Shore destinations to tempt your tastebuds while encouraging you to linger along the way.

WORDS | CHRISTINA SYMONS

## DEEP COVE

### HONEY DOUGHNUTS

4373 Gallant Ave., North Vancouver

*honeydoughnuts.com*

Deep Cove has an abundance of natural attractions and those in the know count the food and gorgeous energy at **Honey Doughnuts** among them. The light cakey doughnuts are definitely not your average drive-through variety. Honey, chocolate, maple and maple bacon are among the prized flavours. Also on offer, sandwiches, soups, French toast and oatmeal. But back to the doughnuts. Regulars say they melt in your mouth, while the owners, Ashifa and Ashak Saferali, humbly contend they are simply made with love, and fresh, wholesome ingredients.



## NORTHGATE



### THOMAS HAAS CHOCOLATES & PÂTISSERIE

998 Harbourside Dr., North Vancouver

*thomashaas.com*

If you want to feel at once like a kid in a candy store and a sophisticated adult with incomparable taste, drop by the ultimate North Shore pâtisserie and enjoy an unparalleled delicacy, courtesy of renowned master pastry chef **Thomas Haas**. Be fully satisfied with a simple butter croissant, or push it up a notch or two with a quark cheese Danish, European strudel or delicate brioche. The cakes (such as almond mascarpone, champagne truffle and chocolate caramel brownie), pastries and macarons may be enjoyed in the café, or special ordered. Master Haas, we bow to you. ►





FAUBOURG PARIS

## PARK ROYAL

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You may think you're at Park Royal Shopping Centre in West Vancouver, but you are about to experience a taste of the city of love at the **Faubourg Paris** boulangeries-pâtisseries. Devour a morning coffee and pastry, an enticing lunch or afternoon sweet. Pick up a loaf of Old World bread (baguette, pretzel, brioche, fig and walnut loaf, multi-seed or cheese and garlic loaf) or something from the Viennoiseries menu (pistachio croissant, chausson aux pommes, canelé de bordeaux, or a savoury or traditional scone). You can choose a special occasion cake (tiramisu, citron tart, passion berry mousse cake, or a berry and chocolate charlotte) or go solo with individual pastries such as green tea passion fruit mousse, cookie 'n' cream éclair, mango strawberry tart and crème brûlée. Merci beaucoup.

## DUNDARAVE

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A hot date in picturesque Dundarave couldn't be more divine than with the addition of a perfect pastry or special chocolate from **Temper Pastry**. The beautifully marbled, modern esthetic and vast array of tempting treats are sure to add a touch of elegance to your day, whether you are enjoying a light pain au chocolat, devouring a Caprese sandwich or leisurely downing a decadent dessert cake. Among the sweets, the chocolate and caramel salted mousse, mango and caramel cake, chocolate almond croissant, honey and lavender croissant donut, hazelnut cake and salted chocolate chip cookie are well worth considering. Owner and chef Steven Hodge trained with the best (Thomas Haas) and it is evident, but to his full credit he offers his own signature perfection at Temper.



TEMPER PASTRY

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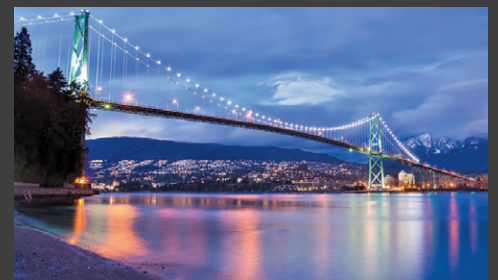


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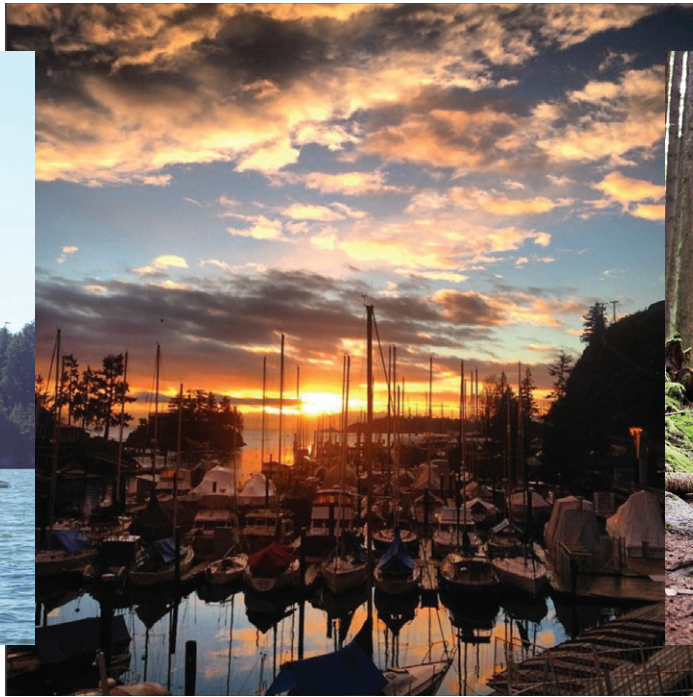
# GET IT WHILE IT'S **HOT**

ENJOY THE SUN BEFORE IT SLIPS AWAY

**WORDS** | CHRISTINA SYMONS

**AS WE EASE FROM THE INTENSE HEAT OF SUMMER** into the brisk call of autumn, the North Shore is blessed with a cornucopia of outdoor activities and inspiring destinations to discover. Re-visit a favourite local pursuit or hot spot, or try something new – but whatever you do, get out there and enjoy it now while it's still lovely and warm outside. ►





**GET OUT THERE**  
while it's still  
warm enough.

## GET WET

WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE? Dipping your toes into the surf, paddle boarding, kayaking, canoeing, yachting, sailing and fishing, the North Shore has an awesome body of water and probably a pool party or two just waiting to happen for you. There are marinas with yacht, charter and paddle rentals at **Horseshoe Bay, West Vancouver** and **Deep Cove**.

**ADVENTURE ZONE:** For an extra special outing, book a two-hour Sea Safari at **Sewell's Marina** ([sewellsmarina.com](http://sewellsmarina.com)) in Horseshoe Bay. Tour the Howe Sound in a 30-foot rigid hull inflatable boat and marvel at sea life, eagles, sea caves and sea cliffs.

## GO GREEN

GO AHEAD AND ENJOY the lush, soft lawns of late summer and early fall. Spread a blanket at a local park with picnic table fare or grab some buddies for a leisurely round of golf first at one of the amazing North Shore golf courses (**Northlands, Gleneagles, Seymour Golf and Country Club, Capilano**) or driving ranges (**Takaya**). Or, pick up a game of bocce ball for your own backyard or park tournament then try lawn bowling at the **North Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club**.

**ADVENTURE ZONE:** Invite the whole family including the kiddos to whack some balls at beautiful **Ambleside Par 3** golf course.

## FIND A FOREST

IN ADDITION TO THE SEA, the North Shore is decidedly about mountain, trail and forest. Savour the whole package while you still can, before rain, mud and snow are upon us. Now is the time for walking the trails at **Lighthouse Park**, ploughing up **Grouse Grind**, meandering through **Lynn Canyon** and hitting **Capilano River Walk**.

**ADVENTURE ZONE:** Keep an open mind and discover the Japanese tradition of shinrin-yoku or forest bath. You don't need to take your clothes off, just keep your heart open as you walk in the verdant green backdrop and abundant oxygen. Totally rejuvenating and it costs nothing.

## TRY FREESTYLE

LATE SUMMER AND EARLY fall are some of the best times to hit mountain bike trails and the North Shore is arguably one of the best places in the world to do it. In fact, people come from all over the world to get dirty in the tracks and go freestyling on two wheels. With **Cypress Mountain, Mount Seymour** and **Mount Fromme** at our doorstep, there are myriad trails and beginner-to-advanced technical challenges to tackle and explore.

**ADVENTURE ZONE:** Find a new-to-you North Shore mountain bike trail and ride it for the first time by searching online at [trailforks.com](http://trailforks.com).







## MAKE IT TO MARKET

CELEBRATE THE ABUNDANCE of the season by visiting a local farmers market for freshly grown and prepared fare. Pick up delectable supplies for the week, or simply pop in with your picnic basket, then carry on to a local park or beach for an outdoor nosh. **Lonsdale Quay Farmers Market** runs Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lonsdale

Quay, North Vancouver. **Ambleside Farmers Market** takes place Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1500 block Bellevue St. West Vancouver. **ADVENTURE ZONE:** Fridays, check out the **Shipyards Night Market** at Shipbuilder's Square in North Vancouver for fresh food and beer, crafts and entertainment (Fridays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m). 

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# BEAUTIFUL **AND WILD**

THE AWARD-WINNING BLACK ROCK OCEANFRONT  
RESORT OFFERS LAVISH COMFORT IN UCLUELET'S  
LUSH RAINFOREST

WORDS | MARILYN R. WILSON

PHOTOS | COURTESY BLACK ROCK RESORT











**FROM LEFT: BLACK ROCK** brings luxury to the rain forest with a resort that blends the best of modern life with the breathtaking beautiful natural landscape.

**INSPIRED COCKTAILS** and spirited beverages are available in the Float Lounge.

**EXECUTIVE CHEF** Ceri Wackett delivers a seasonally and locally inspired menu at Black Rock's Fetch Restaurant.

**BLACK ROCK** is the perfect location for your wedding — from romantic weddings for two to elegant affairs for 140 people.

**VISITORS CAN** relax at the nature-inspired and elegant Drift Spa.

THE WEST COAST OF VANCOUVER ISLAND has become an increasingly popular travel destination, drawing international visitors year round. The area's rugged, breathtaking coastline, beaches piled with driftwood, lush rainforest, stunning viewpoints and abundant wildlife are not to be missed.

Years ago, access to this area meant roughing it. No more. Whether here for a romantic get-away, a family retreat, exploring nature or a destination wedding, a stay at the award-winning Black Rock Oceanfront Resort will add that welcome element of pampered comfort.

Located in Ucluelet, just a short distance from Long Beach and the beautiful Wild Pacific Trail Lighthouse Loop, Black Rock was conceived with a deep respect for the environment. Innovative architecture and the creative use of rock, water, glass, steel and wood have combined to create a modern resort that blends seamlessly into the natural landscape.

Walking in the front doors, guests are greeted with a feature wall of floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking turbulent surf. Seating areas in the lobby, dining areas and in the second floor lounge are all arranged to let guests soak up the breathtaking views. Works by local artists are

featured throughout the resort and in the small gift shop.

As a year-round resort, each season holds unique opportunities: whale watching, hiking, beach strolls, storm watching and the Pacific Rim Festival. From March to December, the Ucluelet Aquarium features marine life inhabiting the waters of Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds. Interpreters are on hand to answer questions and all specimens are returned to the wild at the end of each season. As a fun seasonal extra, if you book the Seasonal Christmas Package during the holidays your suite will be decorated with its very own Christmas tree.

**STAY:** First-class, contemporary suites offer the ultimate in comfort. All include floor-to-ceiling windows, balconies, bathrooms with heated floors, large soaker tubs, rain showers, king-size beds and kitchen/kitchenettes. For larger living areas and the best panoramic ocean views, treat yourself to a stay in one of the resort's premium Pacific Spirit Signature Suites.

**VISIT:** The second floor lounge offers a comfortable seating area, complimentary computer terminals and a large selection of books and games. Pets even get in on the pampering with a special suite that includes a pet bed, pet towel for wiping damp feet and pet treats.



**DINE:** Executive chef Ceri Wackett's seasonally created menus pair regional cuisine with an extensive list of West Coast wines. The focus is on local, fresh and sustainable, and the dining room views – as in all areas of Black Rock Resort – are breathtaking. Fetch Restaurant offers a fine-dining experience that includes a mouth-watering first course through luscious final dessert, each item on the menu is created using high-quality ingredients and plated to perfection. Relax after dinner with a specialty coffee or sip a fine single malt scotch. During the summer, a patio is open for outside dining. For a more casual experience, check out the Float Lounge. Here guests will find the perfect setting to enjoy a coffee, a few cocktails or a lighter meal. One end of the lounge offers comfortable chairs arranged around a large fireplace.

**SPA:** The Drift Spa is one of the resort's most popular amenities. In line with Black Rock's focus on local and natural, this high-end spa offers Sea Flora products – a Vancouver Island line created from locally harvested kelp. The spa also brings in large sheets of raw kelp for use in therapeutic treatments. The extensive list of services in-

**LOCATION |**  
UCLUELET, B.C.  
ON THE WEST COAST  
OF VANCOUVER  
ISLAND

**AMENITIES |**  
FETCH RESTAURANT,  
FLOAT LOUNGE,  
DRIFT SPA


**ROOMS |**  
133 STUDIO, ONE  
BEDROOM AND TWO  
BEDROOM SUITES

**RESERVATIONS |**  
877-762-5011

**WEBSITE |**  
BLACKROCKRESORT.COM

cludes facials, massage, reflexology, Reiki, body scrubs and wraps, with several different types of packages. Most popular are the Couple's Massage and The Special, where guests can choose three treatments to combine in a 75-minute session. Connected to the spa you'll find a fully equipped fitness room, and a plunge pool and two hot tubs outside on the deck.

**WINE CELLAR:** Black Rock's Wine Cellar was voted one of the best indoor wedding venues by *The Wedding Ring Magazine*. Dark stone and warm-toned wood are used to create an intimate setting. One wall is filled with windows to draw in the outside elements – a soft, natural light and a view of waves rushing through the surge channel. In addition to weddings, wine tastings are a popular event in this space. Vancouver Island wine reps bring in five to seven selections to showcase, and chef Ceri Wackett offers a selection of tapas and appetizers to pair with these wines.

The West Coast of Vancouver Island offers a truly unique escape and Black Rock Oceanfront Resort is there to welcome you to luxury comfort in a natural setting second to none. 

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## LUXURIOUS **MOTORING**

UNBATTEN THE HATCHES WITH THESE 2017 MACHINES —  
LESS CAR THAN WHEELED MOTOR-YACHT

**WORDS** | BRENDAN MCALEER

**W**HAT COUNTED AS A LUXURY FEATURE in the past can now be found as an option on even your entry-level compact. Heated seats, satellite navigation, blind-spot monitoring — it's all there at a new accessible level. So how do we now define luxury? These three new machines seek to raise the bar for the 2017 model year, offering the best driving experience that money can buy. ▶





The powerful JAGUAR F-PACE is a diminutive-but-good-looking beast with a strong focus on performance.

**JAGUAR F-PACE**

Everyone with a pair of eyes and ears would love to drive a sleek and snarling Jaguar F-type. Just one problem: it's only got two seats and a trunk the size of a child's lunchbox. Happily, if you're looking for space to go with your grace, here's Jaguar's new crossover.

A good-looking beast, the F-Pace seeks to differentiate itself from the pack with a focus on tarmac performance. While its Land Rover stable mates cultivate a mud-spattered image, the F-Pace splashes on a little eau d'tire-smoke, and gets ready to carve up the apexes. Consider it an F-Type with a rucksack for life's necessities – you'll even be able to get it with the colossally powerful supercharged 5.0L V8.

**PORSCHE 911**

With the latest iteration of Porsche's iconic 2+2, the company delivers on the promise made by the 1980s supercar, the 959. Namely, it's turbocharging for everyone.

With even the entry-level Carrera now force-fed for extra low-end torque, the 911 represents a level of competence that's hard to match. Fuel economy has improved yet again, and Porsche's double-clutch transmission is equally comfortable snapping to redline at the track or shuffling along in traffic over the Lions Gate Bridge. When optioned with all-wheel-drive, it's a sports car capable of taking on any weather conditions the North Shore can throw at it.



The iconic PORSCHE 911 delivers a level of competence that's hard to match and is ready for any and all conditions.



MERCEDES-BENZ S-CLASS CABRIOLET is less a car than a wheeled motor-yacht.

**MERCEDES-BENZ S-CLASS CABRIOLET**

Less a car than a wheeled motor-yacht, Mercedes' S-class has always been at the very peak of luxurious motoring. Now you can unbatten the hatches and drop the top for even more pleasurable tarmac cruising.

Equipped with a host of driver assists from radar and laser-guided cruise control to amenities like heated massaging seats, the S-class cabriolet is like having your own cabin crew along for the ride. The available S63 model features a hand-built AMG V8 and all-wheel-drive for ultimate passing power, while the S550's nine-speed automatic means you won't have the big fuel bills boat owners do. Lower the roof and set sail for the Sea-to-Sky. 🛥





Luxury package shown\*\*

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**KATE ZIMMERMAN**

is an award-winning North Vancouver-based journalist, best known for lively features and incisive humour columns.

MUSING ON NORTH SHORE LIFE

## THE SUN, THE SAND, **THE CHA-CHA-CHA**

**I**F YOU'RE A NORTH SHORER, you surely have your favourite beach. I'm always both surprised and relieved to learn that another family's beloved spot is not the same that we hold dearest.

I'm not going to identify our special place. I'd much rather you and your beach ball just stayed home and watched TV. One's favourite beach, of course, shifts according to one's desired recreational activities. Ours happens to be the evening al fresco feast. For us, there's nothing nicer than packing up every last thing we own, in several cars, spreading it over as large an expanse of grass as possible, and then treating our friends to an elaborate picnic dinner. As the evening ends, we watch the sun set and play "Watch out for skunks!" Seriously, after dark, there are a lot of skunks there. That's why you shouldn't go.

**HE'LL CHEERFULLY BOAST ABOUT HOW HE ONCE PREPARED AND COOKED A FULL MEAL FEATURING PRIME RIB, YORKSHIRES AND SMOKED PEAR CRISP FOR DESSERT, RIGHT THERE ON THE BEACH.**

Another of our beach highlights is connecting with other groups of picnickers. My husband, Stanley, has a couple of portable charcoal-fueled cookers that attract attention, and he's usually grilling something that smells divine. So, like cartoon characters following the scent of hot pies cooling on a windowsill, the carnivores on the beach often come a-knockin' and the conversation starts up.

"What're those contraptions?" somebody will ask. Stanley's only too happy to show off what these things can do. He'll cheerfully boast about how he once prepared and cooked a full meal

featuring prime rib, Yorkshires and smoked pear crisp for dessert, right there on the beach. Or he'll open the lid to one of the cookers and urgently confide, "This cut of meat is called spinalis, the greatest beef cut known to mankind."

Later, his inquisitors conveniently return with some arcane query just as the food comes off the grill. Stanley doles out a "taster," and, before you know it, they've responded in kind with some lovely bite of whatever they're serving.

Some of the best picnickers around are those from other countries, who often have large extended families gathered in happy celebration. We've scored some great samples over the years.

There's something heartening about the friendliness of picnickers, whose warm brand of interaction isn't necessarily the norm at home. At the beach, we're like dogs at off-leash parks – we're all on neutral territory, so we're more willing to drop our guard and socialize.

One of my husband's best picnic experiences came when he and a friend chatted up some South Koreans who'd spent their evening catching smelts. With the coals in his cooker still alive after cooking a salmon dinner, Stanley asked them if they'd like to grill their catch. They graciously reciprocated by offering their fish as well as countless sides and delicious condiments, trading their soju for Stanley's wine, and sharing stories about their amazing lives.

The stars, the smelt, the soju and the South Koreans – no wonder Stanley's dined out on that tale ever since, and no wonder we keep going back to that special beach. 🍷



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