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Home & Remodeling

Our annual guide examines the local real estate market, easy home renovations and how to make your residence more eco-friendly.

HIGH SCHOOL REHAB

How are local teens learning to deal with substance abuse?

LA Brides special section

Discover great outdoor wedding locations, bridal budget busters and much, much more!

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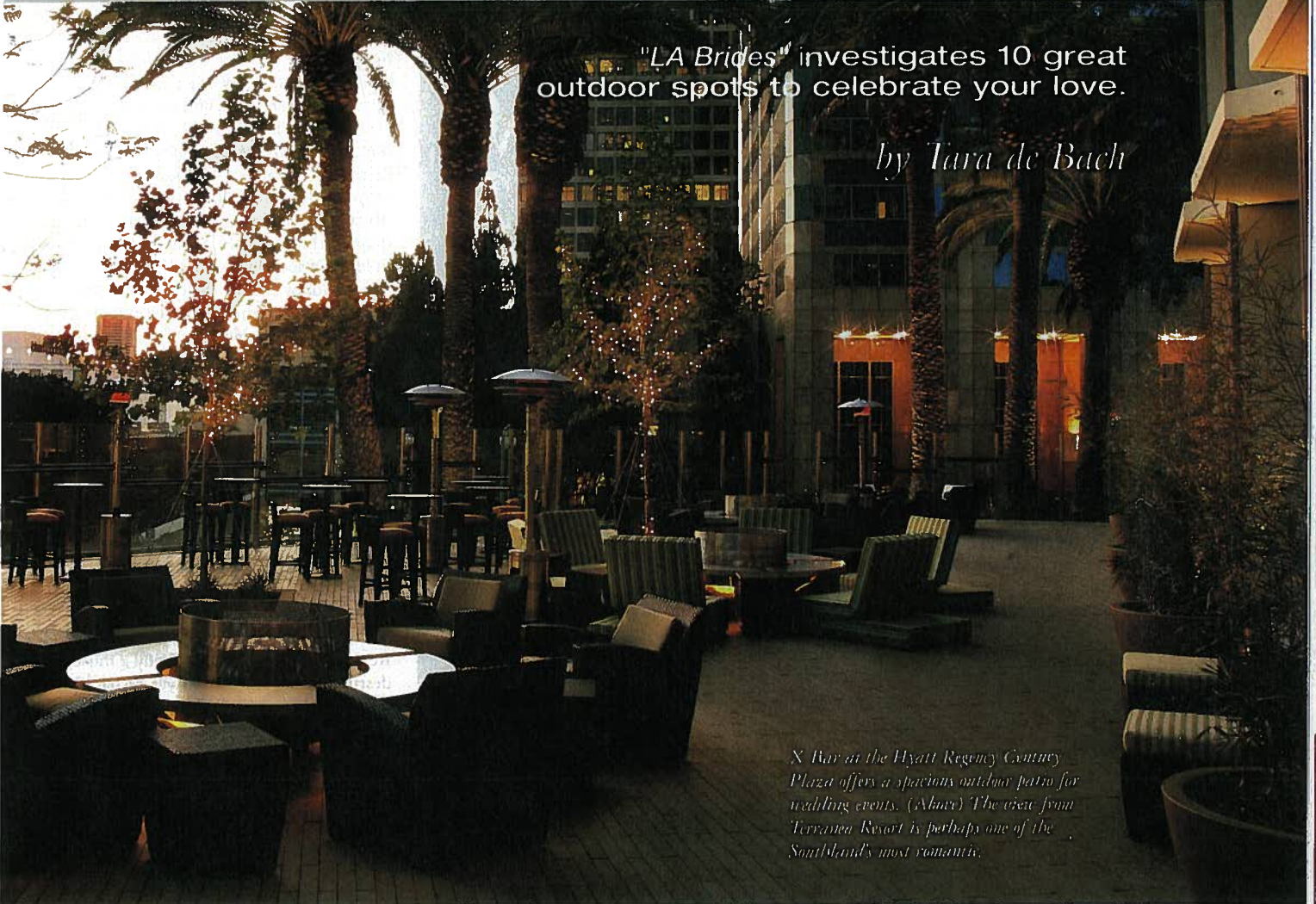
As the star of "17 Again," this teen dream proves there's life after "High School Musical."



Out is the New In

"LA Brides" investigates 10 great outdoor spots to celebrate your love.

by Tara de Bach



X Bar at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza offers a spacious outdoor patio for wedding events. (Above) The view from Terranea Resort is perhaps one of the Southland's most romantic.

You're getting ready to celebrate your together forever status, and you want to feast, frolic and perhaps even say "I do" al fresco. Fortunately, Southern California has so many lovely venues—be it oceanfront or sophisticated city patio—that there are plenty of choices when it's time to figure out just where to host your nuptials. Whether you want cozy and intimate or grand and elegant, "LA Brides" has just the right haute spot for every couple to celebrate their wedding.

Terrace at XIV

Hip, fabulous and on the Sunset Strip, a more lovely urban setting would be difficult to find than the terrace at XIV. Designed to evoke a European chateau, the restaurant's surroundings are only matched by Chef Michael Mina's modern American cuisine. The terrace at XIV creates a whimsical "secret garden" atmosphere embraced by a foliage-lined trellis. Whether in need of black truffle corn dogs or chocolate & fruit, there is

something here for every bride-to-be. While the excellent and unique fare is perhaps expected from the likes of Mina, what is most unexpected is the exquisite patio. The marble bar adds a definite touch of elegance to an outdoor space, while a display of vintage candelabras adorn the back bar, where authentically distressed mirrors reflect the energy on the patio. It's the perfect spot to sip champagne and steal kisses in the night air with your betrothed. Or, it could also serve as a fun-filled venue for a bachelorette night out on the town. 8117 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles; (323)656-1414; www.sbe.com/xiv.

Terranea Resort

Something new, something old, something borrowed something blue...part of the new something could be the Terranea Resort, magnificently poised above the Pacific Ocean on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Set to open in June 2009, the oceanside property, which has a 270-degree view of




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the azure waters, boasts 582-rooms, three golf courses, a 25,000-square-foot spa, three swimming pools and a 140-foot waterslide—just to name a few features. Three ocean view restaurants offer culinary options for brides-to-be, and the resort even boasts a cliff-side bar with spectacular vantage points for whale watching. However, the resort also can create the perfect backdrop for a couple's magical wedding day, with its rolling lawns and scenic lookout points that frame the ocean views. Whether it's your wedding day or a lovebird's weekend fling, Terranea is definitely all about romance. 6610 Palos Verdes Dr. South, Rancho Palos Verdes; (310)802-7433; www.terranea.com.

The Crescent Hotel

Looking for something modern and sexy for a little fireside cocktail time with your bridesmaids or a fabulous rehearsal dinner locale? Turn to The Crescent, an intimate hotel in the heart of luxurious Beverly Hills, right around the corner from Rodeo Drive. Originally built in the early days of Hollywood as a pied-à-terre for silent film stars, the beautiful, Spanish-style hotel houses 35 contemporary guest rooms (think in-laws), as well as a sleek indoor-outdoor lounge with al fresco dining. The big draw here is the cool décor, featuring a large fireplace that connects indoors to outdoors...so brides can heat things up or cool things down. The Crescent's outdoor patio and adjacent indoor lobby can be rented for chic, intimate cocktail-style wedding receptions of up to 100 people. Boé, The Crescent's restaurant, serves up inventive cocktails and delicious culinary fare. The Crescent also has a private indoor dining room, ideal for intimate bridal showers or bachelorette shenanigans. 403 North Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills; (310)247-0505; www.crescentbh.com.

The Resort at Pelican Hill

Though it only recently made its debut, The Resort at Pelican Hill is already a must bridal destination. Sophisticated yet casual, the elegant resort boasts inspiring, expansive views of the Pacific Ocean and Newport Coast. The resort, ensconced on a 504-acre site, offers multiple outdoor bridal spots, including The Rotunda and Event Lawn. Both spots are stunners, overlooking the Pacific and the golf courses, and both outdoor settings give the feeling of being right in the middle of a golf course, with the obvious unmatched views. It's also oh-so-private, as there are no hotel rooms, public walkways or other spaces to infringe on your romantic space. Lovebirds can exchange vows while they gaze onto the golf courses and down to the ocean. Sand, sea and exquisite privacy—it's wedding day passion perfection. 22701 Pelican Hill Rd. South, Newport Coast; (800)745-8883 or (949)467 6800; www.pelicanhill.com.

Hyatt Regency Century Plaza's X Bar

X marks the spot. The X Bar that is. While the Hyatt Century Plaza offers multiple venues for couples celebrating their nuptials, including grand formal ballrooms, a favorite here is the

resort's unique al fresco option: the X Bar. X Bar has a 4,500-square-foot outdoor patio, which is ideal for private cocktail-style receptions, rehearsal dinners, bridal showers and bachelorette parties. X Bar comes complete with firepits surrounded by banquette seating, a 10-foot screening wall (perfect for showing couple's slideshows), and a beautiful natural ambience set off by statuesque palm trees. In addition to X Bar's patio, The Century Plaza offers seven lush, landscaped acres of resort-like outdoor gardens that are perfect for outdoor ceremonies and can accommodate up to 2,000 guests! 2025 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles; (310)228-1234; (800)233-1234; www.hyatt.com.

Miramonte Resort & Spa
Set in pristine Indian Wells, Miramonte Resort offers the utmost in nuptial luxury with myriad options to customize the perfect wedding day. With spectacular scenery, picturesque gardens and Italian-style piazzas, the resort boasts a lush landscape—with the Santa Rosa Mountains as a backdrop—providing the ideal setting for an outdoor ceremony and reception. Say "I do" at the resort's Piazza, complete with elegant archways that frame the majestic mountains, or exchange vows in Miramonte Green, a luscious half-moon lawn with picturesque garden pathways. Or share your love with all on the Mediterranean Lawn, which includes a wedding aisle with added privacy provided by a Tuscan wall, bougainvillea and elaborate gateways. Or, for the ultimate romantic setting, choose the Olive Grove, where olive trees create a spectacular shaded setting in daylight and are strewn with lights that twinkle to illuminate your event and dazzle your guests once the sun goes down. So many cupid-friendly options, a bride may have difficulty deciding! 45-000 Indian Wells Lane, Indian Wells; (760)341-2200; (877)716-7987; www.miramonteresort.com.

The Langham Huntington Hotel and Spa
If stunning fairy-tale gardens are your preference for the big day, the Langham Huntington Hotel and Spa's fabulous Horseshoe and Japanese gardens provide some of the most exquisite floral real estate in all of California. Built in 1907, the hotel and its one-of-a kind gardens offer the grandeur of days gone by. On the more modern side, the resort boasts a world-class spa that was voted one of the top 10 in U.S. for a little pre-wedding pampering, and there's a Michelin Star restaurant if a sophisticated rehearsal dinner is in your plans. The spa blends personalized signature fragrances based on a guest's preferences, allowing a blushing bride to wear her bottled scent on her special day. This very specialized Ajne demi-blending can only add to a bride's unique and romantic wedding experience. 1401 South Oak Knoll Avenue, Pasadena; (626)568-3900; <http://pasadena.langhamhotels.com>.

SLS Hotel & The Bazaar by Jose Andres
The first property in the SBE group's hotel chain, the new SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills is a

An Elegant Country Club Setting

Experience the luxury and beauty of the TPC Valencia for the wedding of your dreams. The old-California ranch style Clubhouse features interiors of distressed alder wood trim, vaulted ceilings and vistas of the entire Santa Clarita Valley while overlooking the eighteenth green of the championship golf course. With accommodations for as many as 250 guests and offering gourmet menu customization that rivals the finest restaurants; the TPC Valencia creates the perfect wedding and reception venue.

Our staff of event planners are seasoned professionals at providing the utmost attention to details and service to ensure that your day is as special as you imagined it would be.

**TO RESERVE YOUR WEDDING DATE
PLEASE CALL OUR EVENT COORDINATOR
AT 661.288.1995 EXTENSION 133**



26550 Heritage View Lane • Valencia, CA • 91381 • tpcvalencia.com