

# Southern California

Editor's picks



## Ask the expert Thom Filicia

Style Network's *Dress My Nest* host (we first loved him on *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*) takes us on a designer's tour of L.A.

### Where do you stay when you're in town?

**Palihouse Holloway** (from \$400; [palihouse.com](http://palihouse.com)) at La Cienega. It's in a walkable area so I don't have to drive, and it has a great restaurant and bar. I also love **Chateau Marmont** (from \$370; [chateaumarmont.com](http://chateaumarmont.com))—a classic with great energy.

### Best L.A. spots for design inspiration?

I love the English Gothic **Greystone Mansion** ([beverlyhills.org/attractions/greystone](http://beverlyhills.org/attractions/greystone)) in Beverly Hills that was built by the Doheny family. I'm also inspired by the Spanish Colonial architecture in **Hancock Park**—it feels different than anywhere else in L.A.

### Where will we find you for dinner?

For Italian, **Il Sole** (\$\$\$\$; closed Sun; 310/657-1182) in West Hollywood. And **Pinches Tacos** (\$; 323/650-0614), also in West Hollywood, as well as **Cafe Stella** (\$\$\$; 323/666-0265) in Silver Lake on Sunset Blvd.

**Favorite shopping spots?** I'm at **H.D. Buttercup** ([hdbuttercup.com](http://hdbuttercup.com)) in Culver City all the time and **Modernica** ([modernica.net](http://modernica.net)) on Beverly Blvd. Also **George Smith** ([georgesmith.com](http://georgesmith.com)) for handmade furniture and fabric, and **Blackman Cruz** ([blackmancruz.com](http://blackmancruz.com)) for antiques. There are really too many others to mention!

**INFO** *Dress My Nest* airs Wednesday at 11 p.m. on the Style Network; visit [mystyle.com](http://mystyle.com) for more information. Also check out the book *Thom Filicia Style: Inspired Ideas for Creating Rooms You'll Love* (Atria Books, 2008; \$35).

—MACKENZIE GEIDT

## SANTA ANA

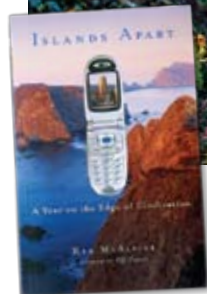
### Earth-friendly DIY

Raise your eco IQ at one of the weekly workshops and classes at **The Road Less Traveled**—a shop for planet-friendly home products. On the edible plant walk (10–noon Oct 17; \$10), you'll become an urban forager in nearby Park Santiago and be able to identify natives like huckleberry and lemon balm. Or pedal by the shop for the free bicycle maintenance workshop on the last Saturday of every month. *Classes from free to \$175; [roadlesstraveledstore.com](http://roadlesstraveledstore.com)* —CHANTAL LAMERS



CHANNEL ISLANDS

## Out in the wild



**Read about it** In his new travel memoir, ***Islands Apart: A Year on the Edge of Civilization*** (Trumpeter Books, 2009; \$14.95), *Sunset* contributor Ken McAlpine explores the five islands of Channel

Islands National Park, swimming with sea lions and feeling the solitude. Between island visits, he returns to the Southern California mainland, testing whether lessons of the wilderness can be useful with Captain Jack Sparrow impersonators on Hollywood Boulevard. The verdict? Read the book. —PETER FISH

**Visit it** The recently opened **Scorpion Ranch Visitor Center** on Santa Cruz Island offers an overview of the island's ranching history, Indian artifact exhibits, and info on the island's 60 species of plants and animals that aren't found anywhere else in the world. [nps.gov/chis](http://nps.gov/chis) —M.G.

## Don't miss

At Paso Robles' newest tasting room, **Linne Calodo**, Matt Trevisan's terrific Rhône blends show just what Paso's doing best these days. **Our pick:** "*Sticks and Stones*," heavy on Grenache. \$10 tasting fee; [linnecalodo.com](http://linnecalodo.com) —SARA SCHNEIDER, SUNSET WINE EDITOR