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Editor's Note

Spring! As all Arcadians know, this is the absolute best time in our city.

This month *Arcadia Home & Design* is excited to present an entertaining home in the heart of Arcadia where family and friends gather on a regular basis and there is no shortage of activities, sports and ice cream!

We've also spoken with multiple Arcadia-area experts who share tips for spring entertainment and finding the perfect spot in your home to get creative. We enjoy finding local small business owners who can share their expertise with our readers. We feel it shows the depth, knowledge and kindness of our community.

Once you read Ana Wells' entertainment tips on page 6, you'll be prepared to host guests and impress them by cooking Chef Matt Carter's flavorful grilled little gem salad, handmade tortellini and grilled skirt steak recipes.

Our At Home with the Chef feature has become one of the most interesting pieces we publish, with local chefs not only sharing their delicious recipes but opening the door to their home and personal life. Witnessing a professional chef cook a meal in his or her home, just like you and me, is not only fun but also incredibly fascinating.

We hope you enjoy this month's Arcadia Home & Design. See you in June!

— Amanda Goossen



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Chef Matt Carter grew up in Arcadia before taking off to San Diego, where working in a restaurant modified the direction of his life and reshaped his future.



PHOTO BY NTK PHOTOGRAPHY

Design & décor

Springtime Tips

FOR AT-HOME ENTERTAINMENT

By Ana Wells

The warm weather is the perfect excuse to invite friends and family over for impromptu gatherings. Here are a few tips from Ana and Brian Wells, of urbAna, to make every event stress-free and special:

❖ *A statement tray, serving board or pedestals*

Invest in one or two go-to pieces that look great on your kitchen island, dining table or countertop. These pieces are an easy and quick way to dress up your table or bar and make serving drinks or appetizers a breeze.

❖ *Outdoor dinnerware or serving pieces*

They don't make melamine like they used to! Crafted from high-grade, man-made resin, they are not only beautiful but also incredibly durable and lightweight. The best part is that they are dishwasher safe so you don't spend the night, or the next day, at the sink.

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❖ *Pop of color*

If you have neutral dinnerware, you can add color with linens and your centerpiece. We are surrounded by citrus trees and I love to pile the fruit high on the table to remind us to use it whenever possible. On the other hand, if your dinnerware is patterned and bright, keep your linens neutral. You can introduce another color with low arrangements of bunched flowers. Clippings from our bougainvillea are always a great alternative when we haven't planned ahead.

❖ *Music*

Spotify, a music streaming app, allows you to pick your music by mood so you can gauge your crowd. A good rule of thumb is to start your mix with something low-key, then turn up the energy and keep it upbeat. When you are ready for everyone to go home, you can wind down with something more moody.

❖ *Food*

Unfortunately, sometimes cooking isn't an option. Try to keep your fridge and pantry stocked with essentials for a quick meat-and-cheese tray. We have several of our favorite, local restaurants that offer takeout on speed dial. The only work involved is removing the food from its to-go container and getting rid of the bags before our guests arrive.

❖ *Relax*

Take a deep breath, and enjoy yourself, your friends and your family. Remember that they are at your home to share time with you and don't care if it's Pinterest or Instagram worthy.

Somewhere in a Dream

Louis XVI Style Chandelier

Crafted in the 1700's, this antique chandelier is made of doré gold metal with a cast leaf arm centering on four musical satyrs. Tripartite stem formed as pedestals with coin pattern and draped floral swags headed by figures of satyrs beneath a plumed crest, the base issuing spurred scrolled acanthus and rosette-decorated branches, electrified.



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Marvelous Mosaics

LOCAL ARTIST CREATES MURALS IN HOME AND COMMUNITY

By Katie Mayer

Whenever Brooklyn-born artist Theresa Lillian started a new painting, she always finished it. But there was one painting she started more than 14 years ago that – for some reason – she couldn't complete.

"It was a drawing of all of these people intertwined," Lillian said. "My sons would ask what it was, but I just left it there because I didn't know."

Then 9/11 happened. Lillian's mother and nephews worked in the twin towers, and although they survived, their family lost friends. During the difficult days that followed, the painting and its images of faceless people gathered together, suddenly revealed their meaning.

Called the "Unity Painting," the image traveled around the New York tri-state area providing a healing reminder of the positive impact the community can make when they come together in support of one another.

The painting was ultimately sold to a private collector, but its meaning endures. Last year, the painting inspired a public mosaic art project in South Phoenix called the

Unity Wall, which was completed in November.

Lillian, who moved to Arizona four years ago and now lives near Thomas Road and 56th Street, volunteered her time and talent to lead the creation of mosaics covering eight block walls and featuring diverse children and families standing together holding hands. The mosaics surround a donated lot of land in South Phoenix, which was transformed into a green space and prayer garden for the local community.

More than 200 people volunteered to break tile, prepare and glue the mosaics last fall. The project was completed through a partnership with Valley Presbyterian Church in Paradise Valley, First Pentecostal Church in Phoenix and the Christian nonprofit ministry MentorKids USA, said Aaron Parrott, director of operations for MentorKids USA.

The Unity Wall will be formally unveiled on April 11 and Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton is invited to attend.

"The whole premise was to have people unite and come together to beautify the area," Lillian said. "The children are learning the value of making something important in their neighborhood and it teaches kids the value of taking care of the community."

Parrott said MentorKids USA uses the outdoor space as the location for the organization's youth leadership program. First Pentecostal Church still owns the space, but donated it to the local community to offer a safe and beautiful place for the neighborhood to play and spend time together.

"Theresa wanted to mosaic the wall as a labor of love for the community," Parrott said. "She is just a tremendous human being."

Today, with the Unity Wall project completed, Lillian continues to mosaic block walls and is working to complete her entire backyard.

In her neighborhood, Lillian's two-story yellow house stands out like a bright jewel on the street, but her backyard is a kaleidoscope with various colors and materials artfully arranged into designs such as cacti, sunflowers, butterflies and lilies. Her yard even hosts a mosaic memorial created by friends and loved ones. Many of the items incorporated are reclaimed or given to her from friends and colleagues.

"The one thing about Arizona that's inspiring is there are so many block walls and they are all ugly... It's all

gray and brown," Lillian said. "My idea is to bring color to Arizona one block wall at a time."

Even though she works full time in marketing for a commercial real estate firm, Lillian finds the energy every week – if not every day – to paint in her studio, mosaic her walls and create other mosaic trinkets, such as "tree bling," sparkly ornaments that hang in her front tree.

"I use mirrors in all of my mosaics and it's beautiful the way the sunlight hits all of the pieces of glass," Lillian said.

In and around her home, Lillian has even created mosaics on paver stones and furniture. She also has an airy and bright-colored art studio where she paints and holds classes.

Perhaps the most interesting feature in Lillian's home is what she calls her "illusion wall." The design incorporates her neighbor's plants on the other side of the shared block wall into art on her side of the wall. For example, the cactus that grows on her neighbor's side and sticks up over the top of Lillian's wall gives the illusion of connecting to a mosaic pot below.

Lillian's next-door neighbor Betty Helman, who is also an artist, often gives jewels and shiny objects to Lillian to incorporate into her mosaics.

"I find Theresa's energy inspirational," Helman said. "She works all day and then she comes home and works on her wall."

She added, "I keep looking over there and thinking how much she's getting accomplished and then I think, 'I should get busy!'"

Lillian said her passion for art developed as a child and she credits her teachers with encouraging her to pursue her craft.

"Growing up in Brooklyn in the 60s was tough," Lillian said. "I was faced with many challenges [and] through art, I was able to channel my feelings in a positive way."

She added, "I believe that God has blessed me with a gift and that creating art is my soul's purpose."

Lillian also credits her two grown sons with inspiring her art and supporting her throughout her career.

Lisa Weyer, an Arcadia area nonprofit consultant, who managed the logistics and fundraising process for the Unity Wall, calls Lillian "one of the most soulful



PHOTO BY KATIE MAYER

A close-up of the memorial mosaic in the backyard of Theresa Lillian's Arcadia area home.



individuals I've ever met."

"To me, Theresa is a person who even though she had a very tough childhood, she found something that set her soul and her spirits free and could then teach others," Weyer said. "What art does is take you out of your head and into your heart without even knowing it."

Lillian said the ability to share her gift of art with the community is "priceless." She also offers mosaic classes out of her studio and allows students to work with her on her backyard wall mosaics.

"I have seen the light go on, in adults and especially in children, when they realize that they can create something beautiful from nothing," Lillian said. "It carries over into other aspects of their lives."

She added, "If they can create a painting or a mural, then they can create other positive things in their lives...just as I have."

PHOTO BY BAXTER IMAGING



For more information about Theresa Lillian visit www.theresalillian.com



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The Perfect Spot for Creativity

As a designer, mom and Rhode Island School of Design-trained artist, Carrie Bloomston understands space is needed to make a mess, craft and create. This creativity enabler and author shares ideas from her new book, *The Little Spark – 30 Ways to Ignite Your Creativity*, to build the perfect spot for creativity.

In her famous 1929 essay, *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf spoke of the necessity for every woman to have a space where she could be creative – alone. At the time it was a radically feminist text. It's possible that everyone (men, women and children) needs a space in which to honor their creative practice – whether painting, writing, yoga, baking, reading or looking at the birds. For children, too, it is equally important to carve out space for creativity, such as a deep drawer filled with various materials to encourage and enable their imagination. If children know they have materials ready, they can independently take the steps to make something.

To construct your special space, you must think creatively.

Oftentimes we place our inventiveness far down on the priority list. In the design of a house, creative spaces are almost always an afterthought. Fourteen years ago, my artist husband and I had to look at over 60 houses to find just two or three with built-in studios. Creative spaces are often relegated to garages, basements and back bedrooms. But the conditions of those spaces might not jive with your soul.

To you, your talent will look distinctive; therefore, your space will have personalized requirements.

For example, last year when I wrote my first book about creativity, I needed to be imaginative in my writing process and location. Mainly, I wrote in the tree fort in my back yard – up in the Sissoo tree. We built the tree fort as a family project the previous summer. The tree is too young to support the fort, so it is more of a glorified deck surrounding the tree. However, it is splendid. It is



PHOTO BY JILL MCNAMARA

a peaceful, quiet, part of nature, in the elements, a space for dreaming and being and writing. It jives with my soul.

Your creative space should speak to your soul – to the deepest part of you – so you become comfortable in your process and available to your inspiration. It might be a soft armchair for knitting, a soundproof studio to record music, or a fully stocked kitchen for baking pastries.

Despite the differences in craft, all creative spaces share a few requirements. The following chapter from my book details developing your creative space and includes a checklist for constructing the perfect spot to foster your imagination.

We all need a space in which to be creative. Having a good workspace cements you to your dreams.

The creative space is a launchpad, refuge, retreat, temple, labyrinth and safety net. It is a confidence booster. It gives you a sense of purpose. Your space is a flagpole on the moon. If you believe in your dream enough to make a spot for it in your life and mark it with a flag,

then you're more likely to pursue your passion and hear the Spark when it calls.

Even if you're still figuring out your creative direction, there's an obstacle in the way if you always have to move everyone else's stuff from the area before you start. The Spark might not stick around for two hours of housekeeping. It helps to have space ready. For some, a sewing room might be a cleared-off dining table, with other materials hiding in a nearby cabinet or closet, or it might be an armchair for knitting. For others, a separate messy space might be necessary. It isn't always possible to have a designated room, but setting aside a space with boundaries is important.

If you're a baker, you may need a small amount of kitchen space, but how do you claim that area as yours and separate from your family's space? Create a special space (a drawer or cupboard) for all your stuff. Claim it as your own and don't let it get mixed in with the daily family flotsam of life. Own it. Mark it. Protect it. In this way you advocate for yourself, your pursuits and your special creative time. Your tools and materials will be ready when you are.

One way to claim your space is by making it beautiful. Surround yourself with beauty. It will beckon you.

**By Jen Nicomedes' author of
*The First Guidebook for Feng Shui Enthusiasts***

Although the authentic Feng Shui practice is a robust and systematic discipline that adheres to a strict structure, when applied properly, it can be used to empower anyone to merge this ancient knowledge with creating a space with mindful intention. Things from designing the layout of your rooms, the placement of furniture, the colors and decors, to choosing where to build your home. Therefore, Feng Shui can be used to complement, influence, and inspire your creativity, and not just for good Qi energy, but also for creating a space that is filled with beauty, personality, and purpose!

Embrace creative chaos

When I work, a tornado quickly brews in my studio: Papers, fabrics and trash go flying in all directions. By the time I am done, my 300-square-foot studio is unrecognizable. The surfaces and floor are covered in detritus and remnants. Because I know this about myself, I want my materials behind closed cabinet doors so the room feels calm. I know I'm going to make a mess as I work, and it will feel too chaotic if my materials are showing. This is personal preference. I have other friends that like to see their materials so they can feel inspired by them.

Store materials so you can get into the flow easily. Organize in a way that suits your particular needs.

CLUTTER: Clutter simply doesn't help. Even if your space is periodically messy, you don't want it to be cluttered. It can't be a space that you share with your kids' soccer gear, unfolded laundry and last year's Christmas ornaments. You deserve better than that. And I highly encourage you to take charge here. Make space for yourself. Find a home for the other junk and don't let it migrate back into your space.

BINS: I have never met a studio that didn't rely on bins. IKEA, Target and organization stores have bins. You will need them. Shoeboxes work well too. When organizing any space, put like with like: all acrylic paints together, all sandpaper together, all drawing pencils together. Depending on how compulsive you are, you may want to label the bins clearly from the outside so you don't have to peek inside to see what's there. Color-coding your bins is a pretty way to keep things organized.

COUNTER OR TABLE SPACE: You will likely need empty, unimpeded counter or table space for spreading out and working. If space allows, get more tables and counters than you think you need. You will want many horizontal surfaces for storing works in progress, as well as other surfaces for creating.

CONSIDER YOUR NEEDS & REQUIREMENTS

Identify your needs for your creative space here. The questions below will help you determine what you want and need. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

In my creative space, I will be:

Do you keep your space messy or tidy, organized or chaotic? Do you need lots of cabinets, drawers, boxes, or bins?

Do you need fresh air from an open window? Special ventilation for toxic materials? Do you want to be outside?

Do you like to work on the floor? On a desk? At an easel? Standing up?

What else do you need? A computer? A sewing machine? A pottery wheel? A sink? Recording equipment or lots of power sources?

For just a moment, close your eyes and dream BIG. Think about your ideal, far-fetched, fantasy of a creative space...what does it look like? See the details: the colors, the materials, the windows, the tools, the sounds. After you emerge from your mini-meditation, write down your fantasy. Sometimes, just conjuring our heart's desire can act as a road map for stepping into what we want. Sometimes we need to go beyond our limitations by sidestepping things like our insecurities, doubts and financial limitations. Use another piece of paper and write down your dream studio in detail.

What else do you need? Write down your specific space needs here so you can have a plan when you start to create your space.



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Underground PLAYGROUND

By Christina Surrano | PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE BAXTER, BAXTER IMAGING

Imagine sitting down with an architect, describing what you want your dream home to be like. You and your spouse have a family of five children and busy lives full of work, child rearing and community service. What do you want your home life to look like?

Some parents might move toward keeping chaos to a minimum by streamlining, but one longtime Arcadia family dreamed of a home with amenities built for sharing. They hoped for plenty of places to practice athletic skills, have fun and entertain others. They wanted room to welcome not only friends and extended family, but also larger groups like their children's sports teams and school classes, as well as other community events.

One important consideration was that children feel welcome and comfortable at the house. But how do you build such a large home while maintaining an intimate and cozy feel?

Obviously, the relative size of the rooms, ceiling height, interior finishes, décor and furnishings all play a big role, but a large, looming façade can set an intimidating introduction. (Not to mention the fact that you might spoil your neighbor's view of Camelback Mountain.)

In order to avoid building up to accommodate more square footage, they built down. They dropped down not one level, but two. On the first basement floor of the home is a small ballet studio, a large game room and a swimming pool, with waterfalls, a waterslide and spa.

Also on the first basement floor was a room originally planned as the typically underutilized, guilt-evoking, luxury amenity: the home gym. However, the owners opted to relocate the one piece of exercise equipment they planned to use, a treadmill, and agreed on a space that could be a whimsical inspiration and exciting indulgence when hosting guests: an ice cream parlor.

The charming alcove is decorated with jars of old-fashioned flavored candy sticks, colorful hand-blown soda bottles and nostalgic sweets-themed posters.

When asked how the kids are kept out of the ice cream parlor, the parents



explained that these kiddos are so busy with sports, homework and school activities, that it's not an issue. It's an area they enjoy when having company and is mostly utilized as a second kitchen.

Just outside the parlor and game room lies the pool. Because of the innovative placement of the outdoor pool at the basement level and the walls of glass doors, the basement experience is anything but typical. It's a fresh, tucked-in sanctuary that flows into open nature.

The second basement floor houses the sport court where just about anything can happen: a game of horse, dodge ball, scooter racing, softball pitch practice, or quarterback coaching. It's all climate controlled and there's no need for sunscreen.

At ground level, tucked into enclaves around the backyard are a putting green, batting cage, an in-ground trampoline and a large gas fire pit.

Of all the special amenities in the home, the one most prized by the man of the house lies in the kitchen: the pebble ice machine.

"There are so many things I love about this home," said the lady of the house, "but the homework room is something that works well for our daily life."

For this family, like most others, homework happens in the kitchen. Therefore, homework for five needed to

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The second basement floor houses the sport court where just about anything can happen...





Continued from page 13

be cleared away before dinner every evening. Now, the separate homework room is visible from the kitchen through windows and glass doors. It allows the children to work on projects and other schoolwork undisturbed.

Another unexpected feature that turned out to be a favorite: the washer and dryer installed in the master closet, which nicely streamlines the laundry.

Since the completion of construction of the home two years ago, there have been many family, team, school and community gatherings there. One of the most cherished memories so far was having 42 family members stay in the home together for a three-day family reunion. The kids camped out on sofas and such, but all seven adult couples had their own rooms.

After a year of planning and two years of building, this Arcadia family has their heart's desire: a comfortable and intimate home with room for everyone to play and enjoy.

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Continued from Arcadia News

ARIC MEI'S *gardens* BRINGING HIS WORK HOME

Story and Photos by Amanda Goossen

Seven years ago, Phoenix native Aric Mei decided to open a pizza restaurant in the Camelback Corridor. After growing up in the restaurant business with his family, who has owned Nello's in Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe for over three decades, Aric designed his own restaurant: The Parlor Pizzeria.

After working in the art department of film productions in Los Angeles for eight years, Aric moved back to Phoenix in 2007, ready to combine his background in art with the business that was deeply rooted in his heart, hospitality.

"I've fallen head over heels for hospitality," said Aric. "Finding my own voice in a business I grew up in has been really satisfying."

And that voice, for Aric, was found not only within the walls of The Parlor Pizzeria, but deeper, in the soil that grows vegetables and herbs outside his restaurant almost year-round.

"The thing people don't realize," said Aric, "is that Phoenix is the perfect place to grow such gardens. We have two, almost three, growing seasons."

Bringing the restaurant garden to life was not only a relaxing experience for Aric, who admits that he tended to the rows of herbs every day after hours of stressful construction, but it was also the gateway to his future.

"The engagement with the garden has been incredibly rewarding," said Aric. "It's where I want my future to go."

The next step was to expand the 100-square-foot garden space at The Parlor into a personally designed home garden. Purchasing a .75 acre lot in the heart of Arcadia last year made this step possible.

Aric's home garden consists of five rows within an 800-square-foot space. His plan is to expand to the other side of the yard with time.

"I've noticed the other side of the home is more serene, with less traffic noise and more ideal for such a garden," said Aric.

In mid-March, a recent harvest has left the garden with only a few plants still intact. Spigarello (a long-stemmed leafy green that looks like kale but tastes like broccoli), red Russian kale, fennel, bunching scallions and various types of lettuce sit amongst a few bolted plants.

The new selection of spring plants will be brought in within the coming days.

Aric said it's been a complicated process creating a garden that is 100 percent organic and produces vegetables and herbs for his restaurant.

"I had to eradicate Bermudagrass without chemicals," said Aric. "Not an easy feat."

With the help of Bob McClendon, owner of McClendon's Select, a family run, certified organic farm located on 25 acres in Peoria, they found a way.

Using black tarp to cover the ground for eight months, the men were able to completely rid the land of the thick grass and prepare it for planting.

"This entire thing has been an amazing education," said Aric.

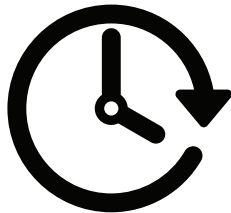
"The thing people don't realize, is that Phoenix is the perfect place to grow such gardens. We have two, almost three, growing seasons."



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At home with *Chef Matt Carter*

By Amanda Goossen — Photographs by NTK Photography

Chef Matt Carter is a native Phoenician. Both sets of his grandparents moved to this city just after the end of World War II. His maternal grandfather, Howard Kraft, opened Climate Control in 1945, one of the city's first air conditioning companies.

"I think he put in more than half the air-conditioning in Phoenix in the 50s and 60s," said Matt, with an exuberant, proud smile.

After his grandfather retired, one of his loyal longtime employees and friends even went back and found the first air compressor Climate Control installed. They offered the homeowner a brand new system if they'd be allowed to remove the compressor, which held historical significance to the company.

The compressor was then made into an industrial

looking coffee table, which now sits in the corner of Matt's living room. An inheritance after his grandfather passed away last year, it means more to Matt than almost anything in the home.

"It's such a cool piece," said Matt.

Growing up in Arcadia played a key role in Matt's career choice.

For 30 years, Matt's father, Mike Carter, has owned Carter's Men's Clothing at 44th Street and Camelback Road. His shop was the catalyst to Matt's future as a chef.

In the late 1980s, The Egger breakfast restaurant was near Carter's Men's Clothing. After talking with the owners, Mike obtained a summer job for his son at The Egger located in San Diego. Matt planned to spend the summer after high school graduation washing dishes and laying on the beach. He planned

to return in the fall to attend Arizona State University.

When a line chef didn't show up one morning for his shift at the San Diego restaurant, Matt was asked to help with the cooking.

"When I got back [from San Diego], I went to ASU for a few weeks and just didn't feel like it was for me," said Matt.

Scottsdale Culinary Institute was calling his name. He graduated in 1989.

"I cooked in a few spots and then had an epiphany," Matt explained. "I wanted to cook French food."

Matt moved to France for two years to study the culture and cuisine. When he returned to his hometown, he began working at Christopher's, one of the city's first French-inspired restaurants.

Working for his mentor, Christopher Gross, for two years was a life-changing experience and led to

In the Kitchen

a nine-month stint at the world-renowned and award-winning French Laundry in Napa Valley as the *poissonier* (fish cook).

“There are so many parts of being a chef that have changed due to Thomas Keller and French Laundry,” said Matt. “It was a true education.”

In late 2001 Matt returned to Phoenix, opening Zinc Bistro in North Scottsdale on January 10, 2002. His next restaurant, The Mission, opened in Scottsdale in 2008, followed by The House Brasserie in 2012.

While running the kitchen in three popular restaurants definitely takes up the majority of Matt’s

Continued on page 20

“There are so many parts of being a chef that have changed due to Thomas Keller and French Laundry. It was a true education.”



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time, taking Sundays off is a must.

Having one day a week off from the restaurants doesn't mean the chef isn't cooking. His favorite thing to do in his spare time is to post up in his home kitchen, cooking for his friends and family in his Scottsdale home.

"I like to turn on the music, stand in the kitchen and cook," said Matt. "I grill and smoke meats."

Steaks and pastas are often on the menu in the Carter home.

A wall of windows gives a perfect view from the kitchen to the large backyard where friends and family like to gather.

"I hold court in the kitchen right here where I'm standing," Matt says as he slices a freshly grilled skirt steak.

"The joke is that people say they try to remember to eat before they come over because I get into the music – socializing and getting creative with sauces, starches and salads – and then we don't eat until 9 o'clock. We are always about two hours behind."

Recipes • PAGE 22

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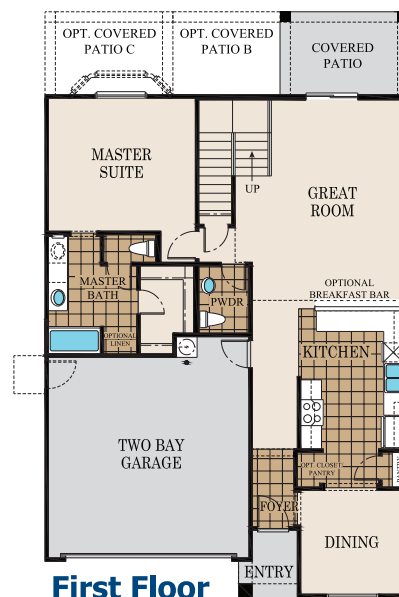


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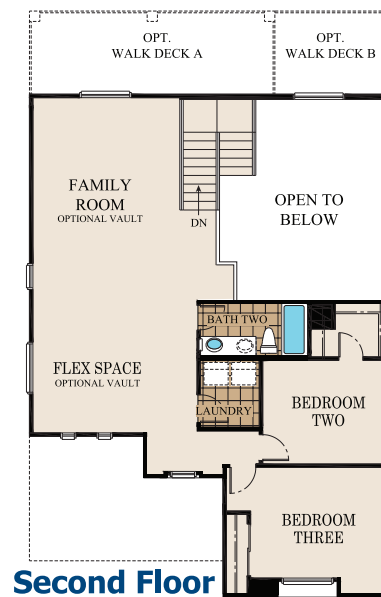
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Grilled Creekstone Skirt Steak With Asparagus, Arugula Pepita Pesto, Hayden Mills Farro & Arugula

SERVINGS: 4

Skirt Steak

- four 4-6-ounce portions of skirt steak
- 4-5 cilantro sprigs
- 2-3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 can Tecate beer
- 1 resealable bag

Place all ingredients in a resealable bag. Refrigerate for at least 6 hours, but no more than 24 hours. Grill over hardwood or gas until the internal temperature is 130° F. Allow meat to rest for at least 10-15 minutes. If serving warm, reheat steaks on the grill or in an oven for 3-5 min, or until desired temperature. If serving cold, refrigerate for an hour. Slice, as thin as possible, on a bias against the grain.

Asparagus

- 1 bunch asparagus
- 1-2 garlic cloves, minced or pureed
- 1-2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- salt and pepper, to taste

In a small bowl, combine oil and garlic. Cut and discard the bottom 1/3 of the asparagus. Toss the asparagus in oil and garlic mixture and season with salt and pepper. Grill until tender. Cool for 20 minutes at room temperature. Cut the top 1/3 of the asparagus and leave it whole. Cut the middle 1/3 on a bias in 1/2-inch pieces and save for farro.

Arugula Pepita Pesto

- 1/4 cup pepitas
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon blk pepper
- 1 cup arugula
- 1/2 cup cilantro
- 1-2 garlic cloves
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon orange juice
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- soy sauce, to taste

Toast pepitas, cumin, allspice and black pepper. Place all ingredients into a blender or large cup for a hand blender.

Hayden Mills Farro

- 1-2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups farro
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 3 cups chicken stock

In a medium pot, on medium heat, lightly caramelize garlic in the oil. Add farro, allspice and cumin. Toast for 1-2 minutes. Cover with stock and bring to a boil while stirring. Turn heat down to a simmer and cover. When stock is evaporated, and farro is cooked to a "toothy" texture, reserve farro on the side at room temperature.

Garnish

- 2-3 handfuls arugula
- extra-virgin olive oil
- salt and pepper, to taste

Toss arugula with extra-virgin olive oil and salt and pepper.

To plate the dish, reheat the farro. Add 1-2 tablespoons pesto and bias asparagus. Brush additional pesto on the plate. Toss half a handful of arugula into the farro, pesto and asparagus mixture and place it on the plate. Place asparagus tips and skirt steak on the farro. Garnish with the rest of the arugula.



Taleggio Tortellini, Grilled Broccoli Rabe, Marzano Tomato, Spanish Chorizo Sauce

SERVINGS: 4

Taleggio Tortellini

- 8 ounces pasteurized egg yolks
- 250 grams 00 flour
- taleggio cheese

Using a dough hook on a stand mixer, combine yolks and flour until smooth. Adjust with small amounts of water if necessary.

Using a pasta machine, sheet the pasta as thin as possible.

Using desired round punch, cut 4-6 rounds per person, 3-4 inches in diameter. (You can cheat with already made pasta or wonton wrappers).

Place a small amount of cheese in the center of the pasta. Wet the outside of the dough with a small amount of water.

Fold in half, seal well, then wet the right front corner.

Bring the two corners together, down and to the back of the cheese. Pinch the left corner on top of the wet right corner.

Grilled Broccoli Rabe

- 1 bunch broccoli rabe
- extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon garlic puree
- salt and pepper, to taste

In a bowl, toss broccoli with oil, garlic puree and salt and pepper.

Grill or smoke broccoli over hardwood or charcoal, until it reaches the desired color and tenderness. Cool at room temperature for 20 minutes. Slice on a bias or chop to spoon size.

Marzano Tomato, Spanish Chorizo Sauce

- 1-2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon garlic puree
- 1 tablespoon shallots, minced
- 1/2 cup diced dried Spanish chorizo
- 1 chunk pecorino Romano rind
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1-2 cups San Marzano Tomato Puree
- 1-2 tablespoons butter
- salt and pepper, to taste.

Using a large pot on medium heat, add extra-virgin olive oil, garlic, shallots, chorizo and rind. Sweat until clear.

Add white wine and reduce until almost dry.

Add stock and tomato puree.

Reduce until it reaches sauce consistency. Finish with butter, salt and pepper.

Blanch the tortellini in salted water until they float. In a small sauce pot, add desired amount of broccoli rabe and sauce. Toss with tortellini. Place in a bowl and shave pecorino cheese over the top. Add griddled ciabatta bread if desired.



Grilled Little Gem Salad With Smoked Oyster Vinaigrette

SERVINGS: 4

Lettuce

- 8 heads little gem lettuce
- 1-2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon garlic puree
- salt and pepper, to taste

Cut little gem lettuce in half, lengthwise. Toss with extra-virgin olive oil, garlic, salt and pepper. Grill lettuce over hardwood, turn quickly and remove from heat as soon as desired color is achieved. Set aside.

Smoked Oyster Vinaigrette

- 8 Kumamoto oysters
- 1 teaspoon garlic puree
- 1 ounce blood orange juice
- 1 ounce sherry vinegar
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Tabasco sauce, to taste
- honey, to taste
- soy sauce, to taste
- Worcestershire sauce, to taste
- 1 teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 1 tablespoon shallots, minced

Place oysters on a grill or a smoker. Cover until the oysters start to open. Remove and refrigerate. In a blender or large cup with a hand blender, add oysters, garlic, juice and vinegar. While blending on high speed, add the extra-virgin olive oil. Adjust flavor with Tabasco sauce, honey, soy sauce and Worcestershire sauce. Fold in pepper and shallots.

Garnish

- blood orange segments
- watermelon radish, shaved thin
- chervil

To assemble the dish, cut the little gem lettuce halves into 4-5 lengthwise pieces. In a large bowl, toss lettuce, oyster vinaigrette, radish and orange segments. Garnish with chervil.

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