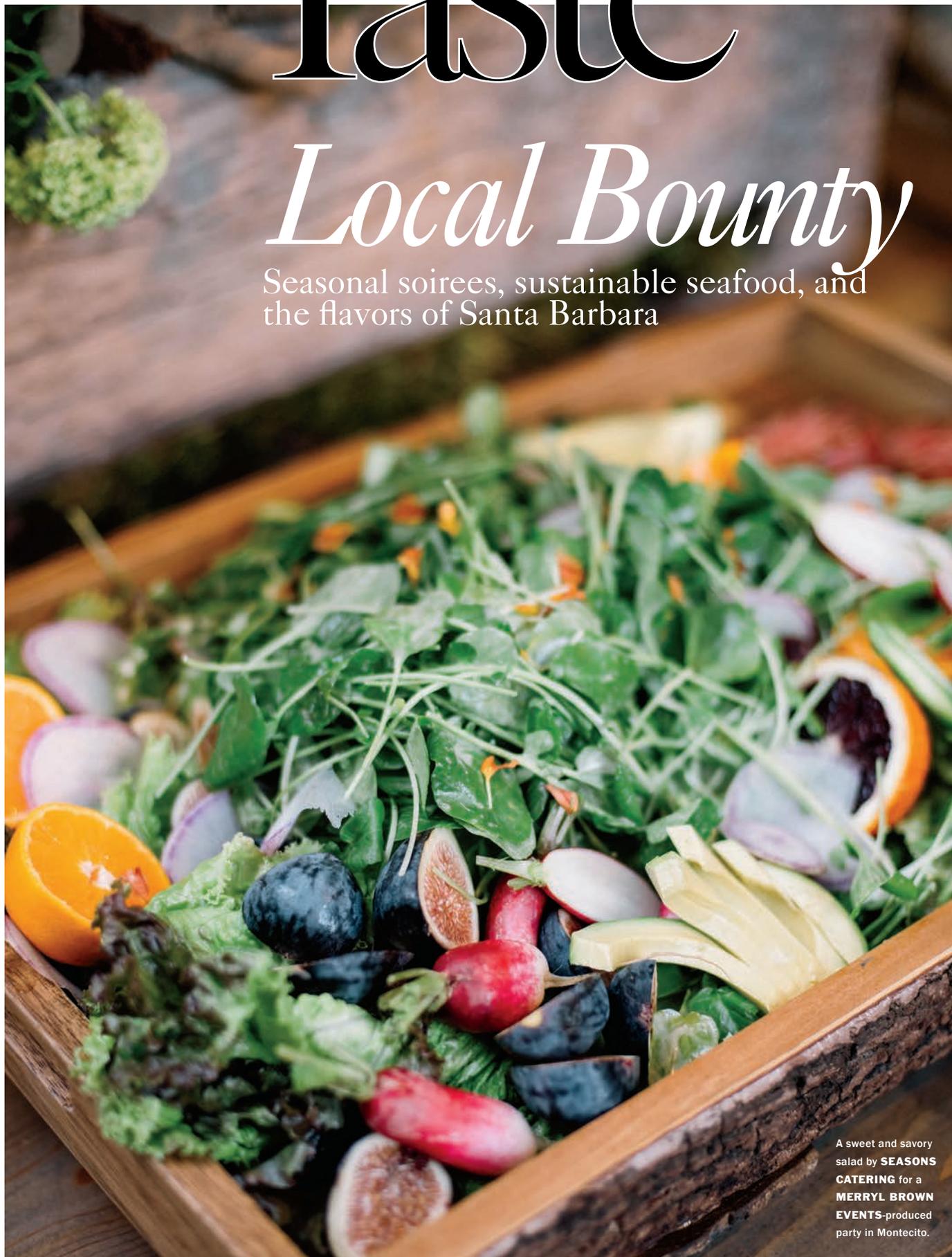


Taste

Local Bounty

Seasonal soirees, sustainable seafood, and the flavors of Santa Barbara





Clockwise from top right: **JOYA ROSE GROVES** hand crafted details for the soiree, which featured tableware from **ELAN EVENT RENTALS**; braised mushrooms; the carrot cake from **PACIFIC HEALTH FOODS**; the charcuterie and cheese board; **SEASONS CATERING**'s cauliflower side dish. Opposite: The **WOODLAND SETTING** for the birthday fete.



Into the Woods

To celebrate a milestone birthday of a beloved local artist, **MERRYL BROWN EVENTS** created a fantastical dinner party set in a verdant woodland at a Montecito estate. Hundreds of trees, bushes, and ferns were brought in to create a secret enclosure for this unexpected wonderland where guests walked along a path entering a narrow leafy opening. Tiny woodland creatures with party hats meandered along a mossy flower, crystal, and plant-adorned centerpiece. The little creatures each carried miniature cards, gifts, or berries toward the center, where a small wood table was set, surrounded by even more creatures having a celebration of their own beneath a canopy of ferns. Guests sat around the table wearing their own custom party hats created by local artisan Joya Rose Groves.

For dinner, a bountiful buffet laden with forest-themed delicacies was served atop a variety of wood platters and stumps. Seasons Catering masterfully delivered a winning combination of beauty and culinary inspiration with an organic rainbow of carrots, braised mushrooms, a flower-filled garden salad, roasted herbed potatoes, yellow and purple cauliflower, and an herbed tomato quiche. The pièce de résistance was a stunning platter overflowing with a variety of cheeses, dried fruit, honeycomb, charcuterie, olives, hummus, and a creamy wheel of Brie topped with sage, pecans, fresh figs, and drizzled with local honey. An organic carrot cake with cream cheese frosting adorned with edible flowers added a sweet touch to this epic soiree.

MERRYL Brownevents.com



PHOTOGRAPHS: MEGAN SOREL



Merryl Brown's GUIDE TO A PERFECT PARTY

1.

Whether your event is in a barn, a meadow, or in your backyard, be sure that your decor and entertaining plan works with the setting and not against it. Choose colors, details, and other elements that make sense within the context of your location and make your event theme come alive.

2.

Your event begins with the invitation, so design something that helps tell your story. By providing clues about what's to come, you will create anticipation and excitement.

3.

Create an experience for your guests that is memorable, unique, and transports them. Think first about what is realistic for you in terms of budget and time commitment, then think about what the story is that you want to tell. Write it all down and make a time line and a storyboard for inspiration. Be creative, be organized, but most of all, have fun!

4.

God, as they say, is in the details. Pay attention to every element that goes into creating your event, and be sure that everything is in its perfect place.

5.

Always work with the best possible team of vendors. You are only as good as your weakest link, and a perfect party never has a weak link!