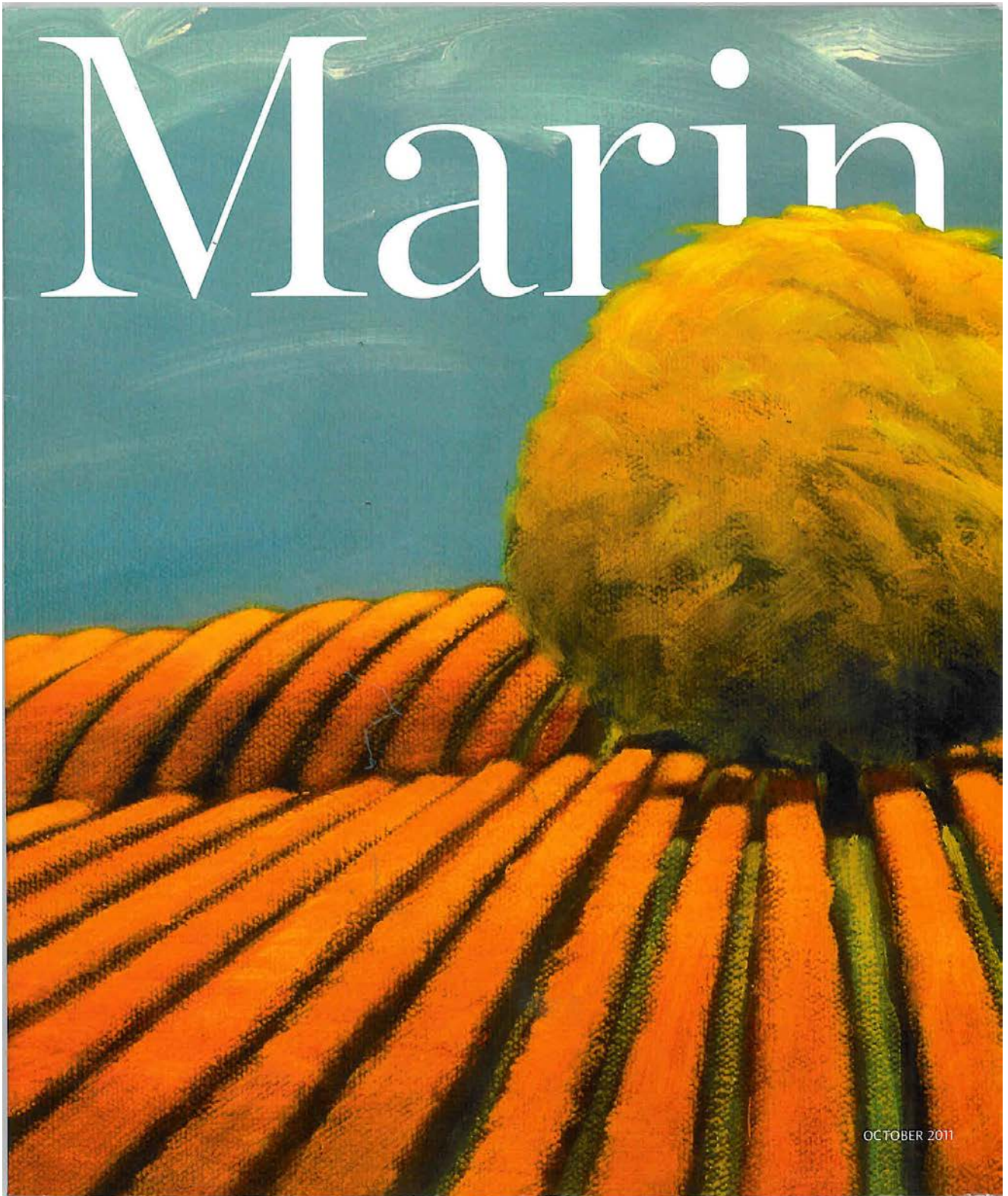


Marin



OCTOBER 2011

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Destinations

THE LATEST LOCAL TRAVEL DEALS AND GETAWAYS PLUS JOURNEYS AROUND THE GLOBE

WINE COUNTRY

POST-HARVEST, PRE-HOLIDAY

*Fall is an ideal time to visit
the wine country »*

BY DANIEL JEWETT, MIMI TOWLE AND NIKKI WOOD



La Plage, Auberge du Soleil's
inviting pool sanctuary.



➡ Carneros Inn

THE ROOMS Situated on sprawling acreage in the Carneros region of Napa County, the property includes 86 individual cottages and a lushly landscaped private courtyard with teak

furniture great for entertaining. Some units have soaking tubs; all have outdoor showers. Wood-burning fireplaces, flat-screen TVs and wireless connections are standard with every room. Bathrooms are spacious, with both tub and shower, limestone counter tops and heated slate floors. Walking to and from the spa, pool area and restaurant on the native-landscaped paths is a central aspect of the ambience here and confirms you are truly in wine country.

THE MEALS Executive chef Steven Tevere oversees the resort's three restaurants, incorporating seasonal ingredients from the organic garden. A graduate of San Francisco's California Culinary Academy, he's led such respected kitchens as La Folie, Left Bank, Boulevard and The Lodge at Pebble Beach.

THE SPA Spa director Jeannie Jarrot has been with the inn since its inception and has made it her mission to provide guests with a memorable spa experience. The Spa at the Carneros Inn features nine indoor and three outdoor treatment rooms. Treatments include wine country-inspired wraps, massages and facials showcasing indigenous ingredients like chardonnay oil, Carneros-grown-and-pressed olive oil, goat milk and goat butter. The Carneros Healing Gem and Stone and the Flower Power Pulse Point massages are client favorites. A sauna and steam room are infused with herbs from the garden; the fitness center has state-of-the-art equipment and a motion studio.

THE LOCATION Only a 45-minute drive from southern Marin, the inn is on Carneros

Highway (121) between Napa and Sonoma. Wineries such as Viansa, Gloria Ferrer, Buena Vista and Domaine Carneros are a short drive away. The di Rosa art gallery and Cornerstone Gardens are unique nearby attractions.

NOT TO MISS Whether you're a serious swimmer or a weekend kickboard warrior, start your day with a dip in the heated main pool near Hilltop Dining Room, an optimal spot to catch the sunrise as it illuminates the entire valley.

BOOK IT Rooms start at \$395 per night, thecarnerosinn.com. **N.W.**