

FANFAIR

AUGUST 2009

31 DAYS IN THE LIFE OF THE CULTURE

LAPPING IT UP

The Annenberg Community Beach House, formerly Marion Davies's private seaside retreat, in Santa Monica, is now open to the public. For more, turn to page 56.





The original mansion, with guesthouse at left, built by William Randolph Hearst for actress Marion Davies in 1929.

Seaside Escape SANTA MONICA'S NOSTALGIC BEACH CLUB



Clockwise from far left: the Annenberg Community Beach House; the pool at the beach house; Charlie Chaplin; Marion Davies; Louise Brooks.

Marion Davies, the 20s screen siren and famed paramour of William Randolph Hearst, would be very pleased to know that her opulent estate—on five acres of beachfront property along what is formally known as the Santa Monica Gold Coast—has been transformed into the **Annenberg Community Beach House**. The estate had languished for years after 1994's big California Northridge earthquake before the Annenberg Foundation stepped in with a \$27.5 million grant to create a completely sustainable community space dedicated to the public. No membership required. All you need is a reservation; 100 are accepted each day, up to three days in ad-

vance. Once there, you can rent or buy everything from a boogie board to flip-flops to sand toys. The Davies estate, designed in part by architect Julia Morgan, who also did Hearst's San Simeon castle, was a 24-hour party during the golden age of Hollywood, featuring the likes of Louis B. Mayer, Charlie Chaplin, Greta Garbo, and Louise Brooks. Today the pool and guesthouse are the only remaining structures from the original mansion. The historic pool, eight feet deep, is adorned with hand-painted fish tiles and marble deck. The refurbished Marion Davies Guest House is open to the public, and docents give tours regularly. If only these walls could talk. (beachhouse.smgov.net)

—KRISTA SMITH



OUR FAVORITE SANDWICHES *Across the* COUNTRY

DeFonte's of Brooklyn answered popular demand with a Manhattan location, where they serve their classic roast beef and mozzarella with fried eggplant (defontesofbrooklyn.com). . . . The best sandwich at the **Tartine Bakery & Cafe** in San Francisco is the *fromage blanc* and banana with quince jam (tartinebakery.com). . . . The hoisin veal meatballs on a warm mini-baguette at NYC's **Num Pang** live up to the hype (numpangnyc.com). . . . Had enough gumbo and grits? The hot sausage po'boy at **Domilise's Po-Boys & Bar** in New Orleans can't be missed. . . . **Sandwich's** grass-fed beef meatloaf with crispy bacon and balsamic glaze, in Chapel Hill, NC, has earned its cult following (sandwich.biz). . . . **Nhu Lan's** tiny stall in Falls Church, VA, turns out tender and delicious pork *bahn mi* on the fly (nhulansandwich.com). . . . In a city known for its Tex-Mex, Austin, Texas's **Sandwich Joint** casts against type with the Godfather, made with ham, salami, pepperoni, black olives, and provolone (thesandwichjoint.net). . . . Grab a Caprese sub from Santa Monica's **Bay Cities Italian Deli & Bakery** before heading to the beach (baycitiesitaliandeli.com). . . . And at **Larchmont Village Wine, Spirits & Cheese**, in Southern California, the soppressata salami is perfectly paired with Manchego cheese.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOAH WEBB (COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE, POOL); ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN HESHKA; DIGITAL COLORIZATION BY LORNA CLARK (MANSION)

Picture Perfect

French tycoon and consummate collector **François Pinault**—whose holdings include, among others, Christie's auction house, the Gucci Group, and Venice's Palazzo Grassi, not to mention a modern-art collection to rival MoMA's—has opened a second museum in Venice. **Punta della Dogana**, perched at the mouth of the Grand Canal, is currently showcasing its premiere exhibition, "Mapping the Studio," with some 300 works from Pinault's personal collection, including pieces by **Richard Prince**, **Cy Twombly**, and **Jeff Koons**. (Until 2010; palazzograssi.it)



Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy; inset, François Pinault.