#### REPORTER JULY 29-AUGUST 5, 2016 BOOK EXCERPT THE SAGA. SECRETS

AND SALE OF CAA

By James Andrew Miller

The Hunt for Real Netflix Ratings

L.A.'S BEST 24-HOUR **STAYCATIONS** 

#### **COMIC-CON** Stan Lee's Universe at 75

Dungeons & Dragons' Hollywood nerds outed!

# CONFESSION

6000

Late night's onetime king of political satire rebounds at the conventions (with an assist from Jon Stewart) as he gets comfortable (finally!) revealing his best character, himself, amid criticism and job rumors: Tm a human being. Yeah, I care'



from home. This tendency is not uncommon, says travel advisory data scientist Patrick Surry of Hopper Research: "We have certainly seen that there has been a trend away from international travel, particularly with the European crises and with Zika in South America." Yet, as life goes on, so might the need to decompress, and new, innovative outposts within a 25-mile radius reassuringly continue to arise, as does the local economy. The Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board reports that revenue per available rooms has gone up 15.2 percent since 2015, and, adds Surry, "The mix of domestic travel seems to be up in general." And while private travel concierge Gen Hershey of Genuine Access hasn't seen a decline in European bookings, "People are purchasing the 'cancel for any reason' travel insurance rather than just for business or sick reasons," she says. For those whose travel leanings are tending to the locavore lately, industry insiders recommend the following places to eat, stay, shop and relax in three microdestinations (with more landing places and longer itineraries on THR.com) just a short drive away.





line for the bialy egg sandwich with porchetta (\$7.50) at Gjusta. Zach

Galifianakis protested the opening of Gjelina's sister spot ("It's the soul-wrenching velvet-roping of Venice Beach, and we're here to say enough is enough," he declared at a city-planning hearing), but DJ Michelle Pesce calls it "dope." Ordering at the counter lined with pizzas, pastries, cured fish and farm-fresh salads can feel overwhelming, but Jake Gyllenhaal and Patrick Dempsey do it patiently, too. 320 Sunset Ave.

**WORKOUT** Book a private Megaformer session (it's like a Pilates reformer on steroids; \$200) with trainer Ky Evans — who has trained Olympians. Rosario Dawson and NBA baller Metta World Peace - at Pilates Platinum. Says new Game of Thrones' Red Priestess Melanie Liburd: "Ky is like a trainer and life coach in one. His passion and energy are

contagious." 1907 S. Lincoln Blvd. WELLNESS It doesn't get more Venice than a private alchemy session with Moon Juice (507 Rose Ave.) founder Amanda Chantal Bacon, during which she'll hear health concerns and prescribe plant-based concoctions. It's free, but the downside is you can't simply book an appointment. The natural-medicine woman may grant a meeting if you are introduced personally by, say, Gwyneth Paltrow or Shailene Woodley. Or hit The Now, the most Instagrammable massage parlor in history - where Kendall Jenner got a birthday rubdown with Gigi Hadid (\$60 for 50 minutes) at the first location near CBS before it opened to the public in November. It debuts its new outpost Aug. 2 on Main Street in Santa Monica. LUNCH The Butcher's Daughter is "the hot spot," says Toby Fleischman, makeup artist to Evan Rachel Wood and Orange Is the New Black's Ruby Rose. "Even during the week, there are a smattering of recognizable names enjoying the amazing

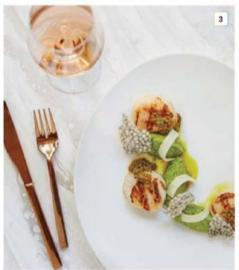
vegetarian dishes. On weekends, expect a wait

for bigger parties." 1205 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

SHOP The stretch of Lincoln starting at Superba Avenue is a burgeoning indie boutique district, featuring modern luxe-hippie shops The General Store and Late Sunday Afternoon. Adjoining Merchant Yard, with vintage Moroccan finds and macrame, LCD stocks emerging international designers. "Everything I pick is a slam dunk every time. It's like having the teacher's edition of a high school textbook. I almost feel guilty about it," says Key & Peele writer Alex Rubens of the LCD gifts he buys his wife, actress Emily Chang. 1801-3002 Lincoln Blvd.

COFFEE/WINE The recently refreshed Rose Cafe (220 Rose Ave.) boasts a long bar with Verve nitrogen-infused cold brew coffee on tap (\$5), perfect for sizzling afternoons. Or beat the heat with Chateau Saint-Pierre rosé at the intimate Vonce Beach Wines (529 Rose Ave.), where this pring Ashley Olsen was overheard requesting "the most expensive bottle of Cabernet" to go, currently a 1984 Stag's Leap (\$250). DRINKS + DINNER Major schmoozing goes on during happy hour at The Bungalow. The Fairmont Miramar's "urban oasis" (101 Wilshire Blvd.) is where internet investor Jamie Montgomery hosts intimate concerts by The Beach Boys and The Eagles during his Montgomery Summit, the site of both Facebook's and Oculus' debut to the investment community. "The modern, residential bungalows, the Mediterranean-inspired cuisine at FIG and the nightlife at The Bungalow make for the ideal escape," he says. At the newly revamped FIG, chef Yousef Ghalaini's "Bread





Balloon" (\$11), charred heirloom carrots with vadouvan (\$14) and wood-grilled Maine lobster (market price) are must-orders. Of course, Gjelina (1429 Abbot Kinney Blvd.) - where the no-modification policy applies whether you're Victoria Beckham or Robert Downey Jr. — and The Tasting Kitchen are major players come dinnertime. At the latter, Natalie Wood's daughter Natasha Gregson Wagner, actress and Natalie Fragrance creator, orders the vodka and lavender water Baby Bird (\$12), shrimp serrano tagliarini (\$31) and, yes, extra carbs: "They have the best bread and butter I have ever had," she says. "It is so good, you actually have to pay for it [\$3.50]." 1633 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

CLUBS On Thursdays and Saturdays, Kirsten Dunst, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Cameron Diaz can be found hanging at SHOREbar (112 W. Channel Road). Rihanna stops by, too, post-pasta from her favorite restaurant, Giorgio Baldi, next door. "SHOREbar is a one-of-a-kind place with the same feel as a Cheers yet has flair due to the design, drinks and the crowd," says The h.wood Group co-founder John Terzian. It's where Snapchat's Evan Spiegel, with Miranda Kerr in tow, celebrated his birthday. (There's also a superprivate, locals-only Members Room, where favorite bottles can be stored in personal lockers, to be enjoyed during game nights.) Or seek out the "secret speakeasy that opened a few months ago on the side of Scopa Italian Roots in Venice," says Fleischman. "I got ushered back, cellphone taken, and was made one of the most amazing



- 1 Dining at the newly revamped FIG. 2 Venice's LCD stocks international designers. 3 Scallops with broccoli, tumeric chermoula and squid ink crisp (\$34) at Viceroy L'Ermitage's Avec Nous.

tiki cocktails from their extensive cocktail 'book.' " Adds 20th Century Fox vp publicity Shari Rosenblum, "I heard they actually may deny that it exists!" Indeed, request for comment went unanswered. Next to 2905 W. Washington Blvd. STAY Crash back at the Fairmont, where the just-renovated bilevel bungalows (from \$3,000 a night) feature a fully equipped bar cart and \$200 minibar credit for mixology misadventures, with fresh farmers market garnishes delivered via room service. Casa del Mar's \$6,000-a-night two-bedroom presidential suite - with panoramic Pacific views and hydrothermal massage tubs - may be one of the Westside's most opulent accommodations (1910 Ocean Way). For upscale Venice vibes, Open Air Homes' Under the Old Avocado Tree compound (\$850 a night; 1744 Washington Way) is a pristinely renovated 1920 beach house, with original art, surfboards, outdoor showers and plenty of Soho House-inspired al fresco space for entertaining. Or channel Old Hollywood grandeur at the Douglas Fairbanks estate on Palisades Beach Road in Santa Monica, a 4,000-square-foot home and one-bedroom guesthouse with pool, fire pit and direct access to the sand (mbrave2000@verizon.net for serious inquiries). - KATHRYN ROMEYN



#### IN MALIBU

**BREAKFAST Stop into Sunlife Organics** at Malibu Country Mart or Point Dume Plaza for what the locals order,

the Billion Dollar Smoothie (\$28) with collagen and vitamin C crystals. "It's a meal and a beauty treatment. It gives you a serious glow," says Lyndie Benson, photographer and ex-wife of Kenny G. Or go off-menu like Kendall Jenner and Chris Hemsworth and fuel up on the Yoda (coconut meat, almond butter, dates, cinnamon, kale). HIKE With waterfalls, swimming holes and panoramic Pacific views, the two-mile Solstice Canyon Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains draws hikers



like Taylor Swift and restaurateur Michael Chow. who says it's "a great place to enjoy the outdoors." For a more strenuous route, try Backbone Trail, where hard bodies like surfer Laird Hamilton hike and mountain bike. For 360-degree views out to Catalina and the Channel Islands, hang a left onto Zuma Ridge Trail to Buzzard's Roost what Khalil Rafati, of the upcoming Food Heals doc, calls "the ultimate hike." Or do a group run. "We want to get people outside of the gym," says Jenn Meredith Castillo, co-creator of locally based XPT (xptlife.com for sign-ups). With co-founders Hamilton and Gabrielle Reece, the three-day training workshops (\$5,000) - upcoming sessions are Aug. 17 to 19 and Sept. 19 to 21 - take groups of 15 to 20 to locales like Paradise Cove for exercises like deep-sand running. LUNCH There's always standby Malibu Farm (23000 Pacific Coast Highway), a favorite of Barbra Streisand, Sean Penn and designer Vanessa Alexander (wife of ICM partner Steve Alexander), who says they "have the best fried egg sandwich ever. My boys flip out for it." If in town on a Sunday, Malibu Farmers Market at Civic Center Way is a local tradition with the nabe's notable names and their kids. You'll spot Cindy Crawford and Pierce Brosnan (with respective broods) picking up seasonal berries and farm-fresh eggs. SHOP Stop in The Ranch at the Pier. Here, Kelly Meyer, philanthropist and wife of NBCUniversal's Ron Meyer, shops for Malibu-grown produce from One Gun Ranch and such beach gear as Soludos espadrilles, Rolex Deepsea Sea-Dweller watches and Harbour surfboards. 23000 Pacific Coast Highway

BEACH Paddleboarders can rent and launch from the pier, Point Dume or the easily accessed but less-frequented Escondido Beach. A mile-long paddle north leads to picturesque Paradise Cove - Interscope and Beats co-founder Jimmy Iovine and Laurene Powell Jobs both call it home — and further still to the elusive Little Dume, a favorite surf break for Matthew McConaughey, who can access it with a residents-only key. Other hushhush surf spots include Zeros, Nicholas Canyon Beach's point break and Staircase and Heavens, both between Leo Carrillo and County Line and led by hidden dirt paths. Newbies can head to Zuma Beach. "The wide-open sand bottom makes it ideal for beginners," says Zuma Surf & Swim Training founder Kai Sanson, who offers reservation-only lessons (\$180 for two hours for two people). Leo Carrillo Beach is one of Malibu's few dog-friendly beaches and also has tide pools for the kids. Families also can visit adjacent Westward Beach, a local favorite for its full facilities. "Best beaches for anyone wanting to visit Malibu are the ones with bathrooms, parking, trash cans and lifeguards," says Benson. DRINKS Cool down with al fresco sunset cocktails at Little Beach House Malibu, Soho House's small, local club for Malibu residents (even



current members need to apply for the upgraded "Malibu Plus" membership; 22716 Pacific Coast Highway). "It's intimate, chic, and the patio feels like the South of France," says Alexander. Or make a day of drink: One of the area's younggun wineries, Malibu Rocky Oaks (877-676-7660), is putting itself on the map with award-winning cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay and 14 different Malibu-grown grapes. Day-trippers can book a private visit with house cars (such as Marilyn Monroe's former Lincoln Capri convertible or a 1929 Packard limousine). Or charter their helicopter to owner Howard Leight's 143-foot Leight Star yacht for a day aboard the booze cruise. Groups - Camilla Belle recently visited with friends - can book a Malibu Wine Safari, which tours Malibu Wine's 1,000-acre vineyard on a private open-roof truck, allowing sips over sunset vistas (up to \$250 per person; lasafaris.com). DINNER If not local favorites Nobu (snag a daybed for sunset views), Taverna Tony (regulars include James Cameron and Dustin Hoffman) or Gravina (designer James Perse loves the former Sage Room eatery for "great Italian"), try Ollo. OG Malibuites will recognize it as the decades-old Coogie's, Nate Heydari's now-shuttered neighborhood restaurant, which has been revamped with an expanded Med-Cal menu and sleek, light-filled dining room. Says local private chef Gina Clarke (clients include Seal, Maxwell and U2): "My favorite is the roasted half chicken. It has the right amount of char and tons of herbs from the chimichurri that make your taste buds pop." 23750 Pacific Coast Highway

FOR THE KIDS End their night with a fro-vo run: Kerr and Adam Sandler go to Grom at Malibu Country Mart (3888 Cross Creek Road) for gelato, and Perse prefers Malibu Yogurt & Ice Cream for frozen yogurt (23755 Malibu Road). **CLUBS** Extend the night at Rande Gerber's Cafe Habana (3939 Cross Creek Road), where the likes of George Clooney and John McEnroe let loose for

weekly Wednesday karaoke.

STAY If a weeklong staycation is in the cards, get your wellness on at The Ranch (\$6,800, including private bungalow), where Lea Michele and Abigail Spencer come to digitally detox. Aesthetes can check into Carbon Beach's soon-to-come Nobu Ryokan from adjacent Nobu team Nobu Matsuhisa, Robert De Niro, producer Meir Teper and Oracle CEO Larry Ellison. Formerly Casa Malibu Inn on the Beach, the David Montalba- and Studio PCH-designed 18-room hotel takes a cue from its name: Japanese-influenced gardens, soaking tubs, minimalist Brazilian walnut and teak wood, tatami mats and shoji screens. - KATHERINE KIMS

#### IN BEVERLY HILLS, ETC.

**BREAKFAST** Maison Giraud may have closed its doors July 10 to make room for Rick Caruso's massive new

Palisades Village (film and TV director-producer

Jon Turteltaub used to love the pain au chocolat), but chef Alain Giraud still can bring his classic French fare to you (\$75 a guest, minimum of eight). His Four Stars Private Cuisine company has catered for Jodie Foster and Halle Berry. Or take a private cooking class (\$1,500, includes ingredients; 10-person minimum).

WELLNESS Paltrow, Julia Roberts and Amber Valletta are fans of Surva Spa (\$245 consultations: 310-459-7715), which specializes in ayurvedic alternative medicine. To maintain a private environ-

ment, the address to this rustic ranch on the bluffs overlooking the Palisades only is given out once an appointment is booked. For added Zen, founder Martha Soffer can arrange a fire purification ceremony with the head priest of the Malibu Hindu Temple.

LUNCH + CULTURE Enjoy LACMA all to yourselves such as Salma Hayek or Ryan Seacrest do: The museum offers private 50-minute docentled or customizable tours (price upon request). Opening Aug. 1 is Guillermo del Toro's first museum retrospective, At Home With Monsters. Lunch at Ray's & Stark Bar (recent diners include Nicole Kidman and Steve Martin with his daughter), where through Aug. 28 the restaurant will be featuring a lobster and rosé pairing menu. 5905 Wilshire Blvd.; 323-857-6180

DRINKS + DINNER In June, Scarpetta was subsumed by Geoffrey Zakarian's Georgie and The Garden Bar (225 N. Canon Drive). "I wanted to create a place that felt like home but at the same time was transformative," says Zakarian. Try upgrades on comforting new classics like the Dover sole with morels and pickled ramp (\$59). Of Doheny Room (9077 Santa Monica Blvd.), sbe's newest nightlife venture that counts Vanessa Hudgens as a patron, Adrian Grenier says, "I think we ordered everything on the menu, and the food just kept getting better." The two-story space (previously Mercato di Vetro) serves a dinner downstairs, while upstairs resident DJs spin '80s and '90s tracks until 2 a.m.

FOR THE KIDS Since March, The Peninsula Beverly Hills has been offering kids a filmmaking and premiere experience (from \$12,000). Guests shoot against a greenscreen, which is edited during a "wrap party" and then screened an hour later at The Paley Center for Media, complete with red carpet, shutterbugs and reporters. 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd.; 310-551-2888

**SCREENINGS** Enjoy sneak previews for up to 38 guests at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills' Screening Room (rentals from \$2,500; 300 S. Doheny Drive), which debuted June 27. Chef Denis Dello Stritto from Culina, a favorite of Morgan Freeman and Katy Perry, creates





movie snacks such as truffle popcorn (or you can take a decaf espresso break at the just-launched Vinoteca coffee bar at Culina). Packages can include a red carpet, step-and-repeat, dinner and flower design by Jeff Leatham (who was behind Sofia Vergara's wedding blooms).

STAY Nicki Minaj and her mom reportedly are regulars at The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills (1020 N. San Vicente Blvd.), where they opt for a massive suite over the two-story Vivienne Westwood-designed penthouse (from \$15,000). Fans of the designer, like Gwen Stefani, Zendaya and Joe Jonas, can reap a private Vivienne Westwood shopping experience (in-room or instore). Executive chef Anthony Keene of Boxwood also can prepare a meal on the rooftop deck (try the lemon griddle cakes for breakfast) or book a private screening on the first floor. For \$50,000, Viceroy L'Ermitage Beverly Hills (9291 Burton Way), where the Game of Thrones cast stayed during last Emmys season, offers a onenight stay in the presidential suite, up to five studio suites for guests, a caviar reception and a six-course, champagne-paired dinner prepared in-suite by the team from newly opened Avec Nous. VIP and celebrity guests can enter the hotel through a private elevator entrance that takes them directly to their suite. — ELIZA KRPOYAN





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Fashion & Beauty Travel Real Estate Rambling Reporter Dining Cars

#### Men's Grooming Gift Guide







9:39 AM 12/7/2018 by **Melissa Magsaysay** 

#### What to gift him now.



When it comes to keeping up appearances, men are paying more attention to their hair and face, driving an uptick in sales in the grooming category. From October 2017 to October 2018, men's skincare sales were \$120.1 million, up 7 percent. The total prestige skincare category generated \$5.6 billion during this time and grew by 16 percent, according to industry analyst NPD Group.

Enter the influx of well packaged men's products hitting shelves at curated beauty emporiums like Blue Mercury and Violet Grey. Direct-to-consumer websites are also marketing high-end items geared toward jet-setting men who want to stay hydrated while in flight or maintain a visible glow between visits to their estheticiari.

Here, a selection of some of the latest items that make great grooming gifts for the holidays.

#### Joanna Vargas Glow-To-Go Mask Set





\$75



Courtesy of subject

This set includes five sachets from the celebrity esthetician (who treats Naomi Watts, Julianne Moore, Greta Gerwig and Sofia Coppola) including the Eden Instant Lift Face Mask, Forever Glow Anti-Aging Face Mask, Dawn Face Mask, Twilight Face Mask and Bright Eye Firming Mask per box.

#### The Now CBD Massage





\$110 for 80 Minutes. \$58 for container of CBD Balm



Courtesy of subject

The urban oasis welcomes its newest treatment – a signature massage using a proprietary CBD infused peppermint balm. The CBD Balm is handmade in Los Angeles with skin soothing nutrients such as peppermint, apricot and coconut oil, and features full-spectrum, hemp derived CBD, renowned for soothing inflammation and sore muscles. It can also be bought separately and makes a great stocking stuffer.

#### **Claus Porto Musgo Real Shaving Cream**



\$24 each



Courtesy of subject

This high-end shaving cream is infused with lanolin and glycerin and comes in 4-scents including, orange amber, spiced citrus, oak moss, classic. Each has a distinct and delicious scent, but let's face it, it's the packaging that's really the draw here.

#### Oribe Côte d'Azur Soap





\$28



Courtesy of subject

Infused with Oribe's signature scent, this bar soap contains coconut fatty acids to create a rich lather to gently cleanse the skin. It's also made with coconut oil to hydrate, soften, nourish and glycerin to help prevent moisture loss. Clearly for the guy who has everything or who really takes his shower very seriously.

#### D.S. & Durga Amber Teutonic





\$260 for 100ml/\$175 for 50ml



Courtesy of subject

The cult favorite candle and fragrance line makes some of the most interesting and unique scents out there and Amber Teutonic is no exception. With traditionally "guy" centric notes – think alpine cedar, Austrian pine and musk – it's got a warm and woodsy vibe that's especially appealing during the winter months.

#### Ursa Major Travel Essentials Kit





\$50



Courtesy of subject

The goop-approved personal care line has condensed some of its essentials into a kit that's great for on the go or as an introduction to those who want to step up their skincare game with clean products. The kit includes face wash, face tonic, face balm, face wipes, and deodorant.

## Rebels Refinery f Substituted Edition Capital Vices Skull Lip Balm

\$6, available until Christmas



Courtesy of subject

This limited-edition skull shaped lip balm might sit well with teens who still look forward to tearing through their Christmas stocking. The edgy looking item is made from coconut and sweet almond oils to moisten, nourish and protect while Vitamin E provides antioxidants.

### Blackwood The Walk of Fame Gift Set





\$90



Courtesy of subject

Housed in a sleek and understated black leather case, this set has facial wash made with detoxifying Tanakura Clay from the Sea of Japan. A facial massager is said to soothe the eye area and tighten the jawline. Perfect for the person who likes to be pampered while on the road.

#### What's Hot on The Hollywood Reporter



"We Are Forced to Find the Funny": 6 Female Late Night Writers on Channeling Trump Rage, Fart Jokes and the Perils of Twitter



The Tragic Symmetry of 'Avengers: Endgame'



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