

GLORIOUS GONDOLAS

Many dream of an Italian adventure—sipping wine in Tuscany, wandering ancient destinations in Rome and floating down the canals in Venice. But, for Newport Beach-based Gondola Adventures, bringing a little piece of Italy back to California is the real dream come true. At the end of May, the local gondoliers welcomed two new Venetian boats named Luna and Bella. The gondolas were crafted by Roberto dei Rossi, one of only a few builders in Venice, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Though makers like dei Rossi usually have a roughly five-year waiting list, the slowing of tourism during the pandemic meant he had extra boats available. Owners Greg and Elisa Mohr of Gondola Adventures heard about the excess gondolas from their Venetian oarmaker and jumped at the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, bringing the first brand-new Venetian gondolas to Newport Harbor. (949-646-2067; gondola.com) —Ashley Ryan



Gondola Adventures purchased two new Venetian gondolas.

DIGITAL DREAMS

Montecito-based painter Carin Gerard, who is a resident artist at SCAPE gallery in Corona del Mar, will release a series of NFTs—or nonfungible tokens, which are artificially scarce digital objects that can be collected—this fall. The launch will take place after “Awakening,” an exhibition that Gerard will be part of at SCAPE beginning in October. “I love painting butterflies and my idea is to animate them so they fly in and out of the canvas,” Gerard says. Each NFT will be accompanied by a physical version of the same artwork, minus the animation; because of this, Gerard says she is not creating her NFTs on a computer, but rather painting a canvas then using TIFF files to generate the animation. Her first NFT will be based on a “tondo,” or circular, painting. “The owner of the painting will be part of the blockchain and receive a percentage of royalties on the secondary market when the NFT is sold,” Gerard explains. Keep an eye on her Instagram page with the handle @carin_gerard_art to see when and where the NFTs will be released. (Carin Gerard: caringerard.com) (SCAPE: 949-723-3406; scapesite.com) —A.R.



Artist Carin Gerard's NFT series will feature butterflies.



Guests wore white during the Protect Our Planned Parenthood fundraising event.

PROTECTING PARENTHOOD

With the Supreme Court overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in June, access to abortion has become limited for many across the country, who are now flocking to California to get the health care they need. A recent event at Sherman Library & Gardens allowed members of the local community to contribute to this crucial cause, with the Community Action Fund of Planned Parenthood of Orange & San Bernardino Counties hosting Protect Our Planned Parenthood at the end of July. Guests, who were encouraged to wear white, enjoyed a welcome reception and seated dinner while hearing about struggles that individuals have faced both in the state and nationwide as well as updates on reproductive and family planning services. More than 200 supporters raised \$255,000, which will go toward defeating anti-abortion initiatives and electing local officials who support a woman's right to choose what happens to her body. (714-922-4100; plannedparenthood.org) —A.R.



LIQUID GOLD

Whether wandering beaches at sunset or perusing jewelry in chic boutiques, it's not hard to find golden hues in Newport Beach. But few things shine quite as bright as Dani Gold Wines, an eponymous brand recently founded by a local resident. With the tag line “Life is complicated; choosing a wine shouldn't be,” Gold offers two staples: a bright, inviting cabernet sauvignon and a vibrant, enticing chardonnay. The winemaker, who previously built a winery with her husband along the central California coastline, has been involved in every step of the process, from harvesting, blending and bottling to label design and shipping. In addition to selling wines on her website as well as at Pavilions in Newport Coast and Newport Wine & Spirits in Corona del Mar, Gold runs an Instagram page that offers wine-related tips as well as behind-the-scenes looks at the winemaking process; Dani Gold Wines also donates some of its profits to the Food Recovery Network, and has gifted bottles to fundraising events for organizations such as The Priority Center. (danigoldwines.com) —A.R.

Bottles of vino made by Dani Gold Wines