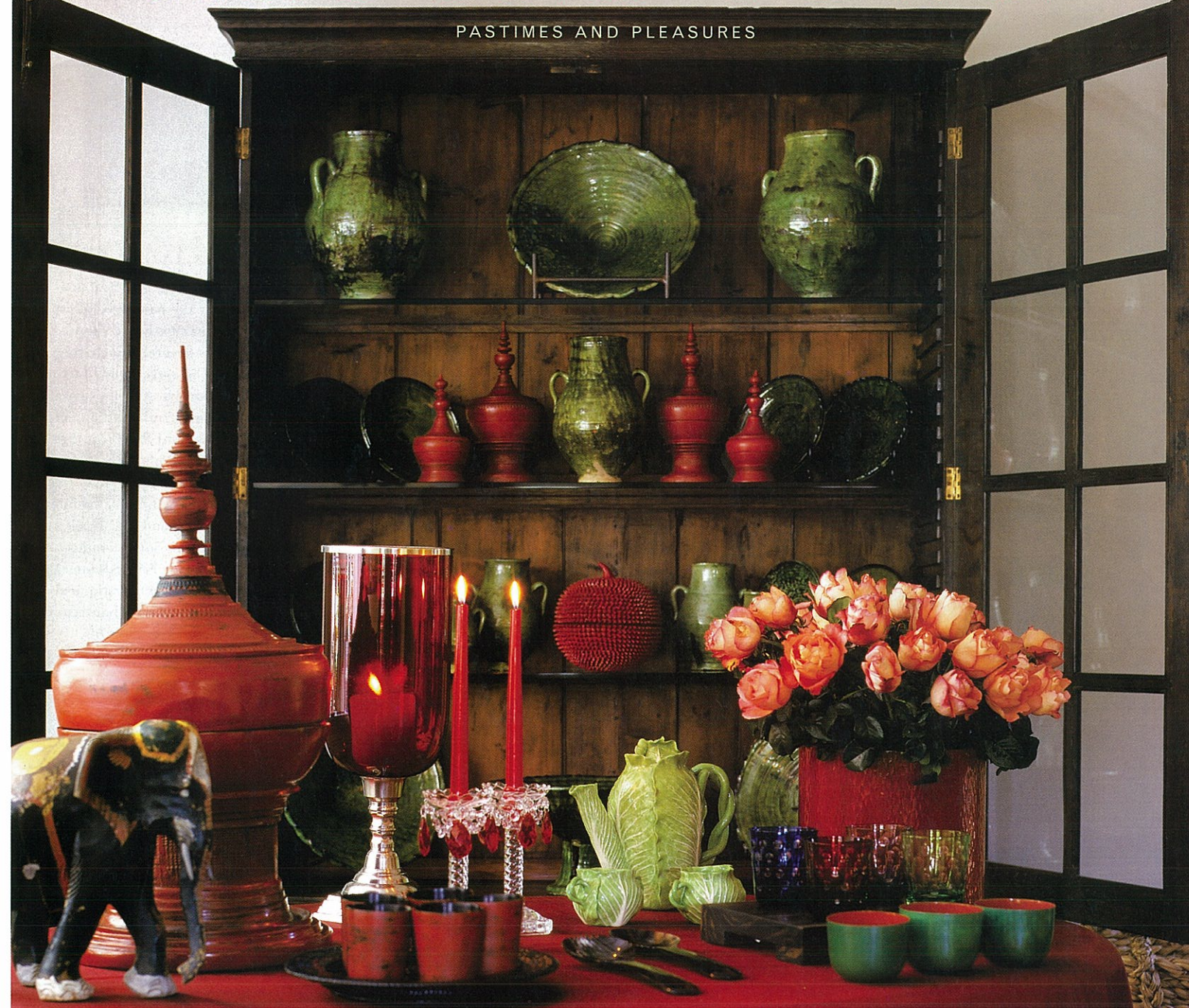


AROUND TOWN

PASTIMES AND PLEASURES



WILLIAM LAMAN, COMFORTABLY ENSCONCED in a weathered, gray cottage on East Valley Road near Montecito's Upper Village, is most often visited for its stylish collection of contemporary and antique Asian furnishings, accessories, tableware and garden furniture—all with a serene, high-style element. But it's also a trove of sophisticated gift ideas (from \$11 to \$1,000): dried lavender (in linen and organza sachets or indulgent half-pound bags), signature

Seeking Gifts We Travel Afar...

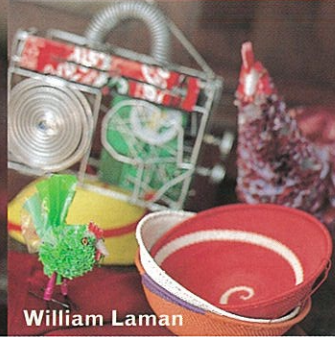
For unexpected and off-the-beaten-path sources to inspire and soothe the holiday shopper's soul.

Inside the 18th century English oak vitrine: green, glazed 19th century pottery from Morocco and red lacquer Burmese offering bowls and betel box. On table: 19th century Burmese elephant and red lacquer offering bowl; Burmese lacquer cups; horn salad server; green cabbageware teapot, creamer and sugar; flowers from Rose Hill Gardens, and more.

William Laman

AROUND TOWN

(LAMAN) candles, antique pieces such as brass candlesticks from India, 19TH century Chinese incense holders, antique Indonesian bowls, handblown Czech glassware (left) and more. There is also a collection of decorative pieces made of recycled plastic (below) by a South African cooperative of AIDS patients. William Laman and partner Bruce Gregg make about four buying trips a year, the most recent to London, Paris, Brussels and Antwerp. "The philosophy has always been to keep it changing and to mix it up," says Laman. 1496 East Valley Road, 969-2840



William Laman

RESORT-ING TO GOLETA

YOU DON'T NEED TO CHECK INTO BACARA Resort & Spa to play the pampered guest and browse the resort's exclusive shops. Valet the car, savor a leisurely lunch, then stroll the grounds. The aptly named Luxur Boutique features Carolyn Allgeier's jewelry of pearls (freshwater and Tahitian, and semi-precious stones) and Sage's vintage pieces, circa the 1920s. This is the only place in the county where you'll find designs by Catherine Malandrino, the international lines Blumarine and Tufi Duek, and Creed's scent Fleurissimo (commissioned for Grace Kelly by Prince Rainer of their wedding day). The Spa Boutique also has S.B. exclusives including Chantecaille cosmetics and Infiole Essential Oils. 8301 Hollister Ave., Goleta, 968-0100

Lighting the Village

LUMINARIA, IN MONTECITO'S UPPER VILLAGE, dazzles not only with its glowing array of eclectic lamps and chandeliers but with votive holders, little purses, pens, candle snuffers and embroidered panne velvet scarves, shimmering with beads and crystals. You will also find bamboo furnishings, pillows, trays and more—much more. Owner Kathryn Balter says customers often remark on the store's "old curiosity shoppe" atmosphere. 1482 East Valley Road, Montecito, 969-9914



Luminaria

VENTURA-ING EAST

PALERMO, IN THE MIDDLE OF VENTURA'S HAPPENIN' old town, is triply fabulous. Between the lively coffee/truffle bar up front (sidewalk tables, too) and the cozy wine bar in back, Palermo stocks a knockout selection of everything from newly arrived Tommy Bahama bed and bathwear, tote bags, lamps and home furnishings—many with a tropical/safari theme—to a fabulous assortment of food and wine-related items including Italian oils, distinctive glassware and Italian pottery. 321 East Main St., Ventura, 643-3070

Circling the Globe

The S.B. Museum of Art this season is overflowing with Latin American crafts and folk art gathered specially from Mexican villages, ranging from inexpensive children's flutes to high-end Taxco silver. And, of course, it's got one of the city's best collections of art books. SBMA gift shop, 1130 State St., 963-4364 ext. 6



S.B. Museum of Art gift shop

LATHERING UP IN CARP.

SOAP, TUCKED AWAY ON CARPINTERIA'S CHARMING main street, Linden Avenue, bubbles over with an impressive collection of its namesake, including Pulp, a line of mostly tropical shower gels, Bath Petals and Caldrea's home-cleaning products in scents such as lavender-pine, citrus mint, ylang ylang and green tea patchouli. But there's much more in Fran Puccinelli's jam-packed shop, including candles (hand-painted African tapers, each one unique, and Mexican church pillars) and Asian haori tops sewn of vintage Japanese kimono that you won't find anywhere else in town. 910A Linden Ave., Carpinteria, 684-6695



Soap

Palermo



Palermo