



STAY AWHILE

## True *Hollywood* Story

A new extended-stay residence at the foot of Beachwood Canyon offers visitors a taste of Tinseltown's magic, luxury and glamour. —Abigail Stone

The Hollywood sign, visible from the landscaped roof deck of **Villa Carlotta** (from \$4,640 per month, villacarlottala.com) in the heart of Franklin Village, is a clue to the structure's colorful history. Stories about the Spanish Revival building—recently reopened as an extended-stay residence with hotel-style service—first began swirling around well before its 1926 debut. Rumors suggest newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst bankrolled construction costs as compensation to Elinor Ince following the mysterious death of her husband, Thomas, the film tycoon behind the founding of MGM and Paramount who was shot aboard Hearst's yacht. Built by Arthur E. Harvey (the nearby Scientology Celebrity Centre is also his work), the property's list of luminaries includes Hearst's mistress, actress

Marion Davies; gossip columnist Louella Parsons; *Gone With the Wind* producer David O. Selznick; and actor Montgomery Clift. Jim Morrison and Neil Patrick Harris have also called it home. Now, courtesy of developer CGI Strategies, Gidi Cohen and architects Project M+, and a \$5.5 million, 3-year restoration, the glamorous hideaway welcomes a new generation of dreamers to its 50 meticulously outfitted units, which range from studios to two bedrooms. Juliet balconies, large French windows and custom furnishings by Christos Prevezanos of Studio Preveza wash the interior with the glamor of old Hollywood. Personalized 24-hour concierge service can arrange everything from dog-walking to massages and laundry. "We do it all," says General Manager Brian McGrory. Oh, if these walls could talk!

SHOE IN

### HEAD OVERHEELS

Luxury footwear designer **Neil J. Rodgers** (neiljrogers.com) recently opened his first brick-and-mortar in West Hollywood, where clients can now experience his exquisite collections firsthand. "Primarily, the motivation for opening the store was to give the brand a home," notes Rodgers. "The store is the perfect place for a 'seeing is believing' brand experience." The luxe location also has plans to host guest accessory and jewelry designers, VIP events and more. When asked what's trending for fall, Rodgers is quick to note the bespoke brand's Kerry slightly slouch Western boot (from \$595) and the Willow combat boot (\$495) in black vitello with subtle black embroidery detail. "Invest in quality, good fit and modern riffs on classic styles that become your closet staples," says Rodgers. Consider us soled! —LM

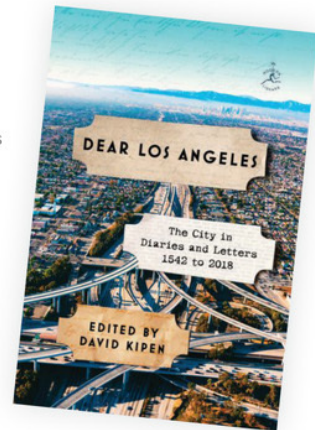
Neil J. Rodgers' Eva boot in burgundy calf leather, \$695, has a chic pointy toe and an easy-to-navigate kitten heel.



BOOK REPORT

### NOTES FROM PARADISE

This season, a must-read for lovers of *La La Land* lore, **Dear Los Angeles: The City in Diaries and Letters, 1542 to 2018** (\$26, Modern Library) is a literary smorgasbord of the greatest voices and personalities of the last 500 years and their thoughts on L.A. Compiled and edited by cultural historian and L.A. scholar David Kipen, this smart, lively tome is arranged in 12 monthly chapters that cover a wide range of utterings, quips and quotes from the earliest Spanish missionary expeditions to Hollywood's Golden Age to the internet, including Marilyn Monroe, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Albert Einstein, Cesar Chavez, James Dean, Winston Churchill and Joan Rivers. "This book is a collective self-portrait of Los Angeles when it thought nobody was looking," Kipen writes. "Like the city's most salient, salable feature, you can't look directly at it. On the right day, though, over the shoulder of a frank letter-writer or diarist, you can feel its radiance." —Matt Stewart



NEIL J. RODGERS PHOTO BY SHANNON COTTRELL; VILLA CARLOTTA PHOTO BY JAMES HOUSTON