

NOW IN L.A.

BLOOM ROOM

FLOWER Power

After conquering Japan and seducing European fashion designers, Danish floral master Nicolai Bergmann set his sights on the States. First stop, Los Angeles.

By Abigail Stone

A rose is a rose is a rose? Not to **Nicolai Bergmann** (nicolaibergmann.com), who recently opened a gorgeous floral shop on West Third Street. Though the Dane was introduced to the horticultural world as a child, it was a trip to Japan that cemented his future. He apprenticed himself to a florist, later returning under an artist's visa. The designation is apt; Bergmann uses the full breadth of the botanical world to sculpt creations inspired by architecture and the colors of old kimonos. Asked to create a party favor, he invented a floral box: tightly packed flowers seem poised to burst out of their container. The seemingly simple presentation flew off the shelves, and now, 20 years later, it's spawned 21 shops across Japan and collaborations with brands from Louis Vuitton to Lululemon. Now, with his new floral emporium, which includes a cafe and a classroom, Bergmann is poised to seduce Los Angeles. "We wanted to shake things up," he says. "L.A. had the right edge."



Marisa Scott Renfro of Risa Collection

FASHION FLASH

Singular Sensation

"Growing up, I dreamed of starting my own clothing line, but before doing so, I wanted to ensure that I had a specific point of view," says Marisa Scott Renfro, the L.A.-based designer behind the **Risa Collection** (therisacollection.com), a new line of one-size-only dresses featuring a single silhouette made in a variety of sumptuous materials. "Risa is simplicity amid the noise," she explains. "Do one thing, and do it well." The inspiration came to Renfro while she was pursuing one of her other passions: travel. "I wanted to create a dress that was stunning and unique but uncomplicated," she says. For her first collection, Renfro worked with a silk-maker she discovered in Jaipur, India, to create custom handwoven textiles. "Each dress is made entirely by hand," she says of the Malda silk garments (\$395), which feature patterns such as mauve and wine checks and vertical stripes. Next up are four additional styles in subtle Swiss silk dots (\$295), which can be styled for everywhere from the farmers market to a night on the town. "These dresses are meant to mold to your life," Renfro says. "They can be something different to everyone."

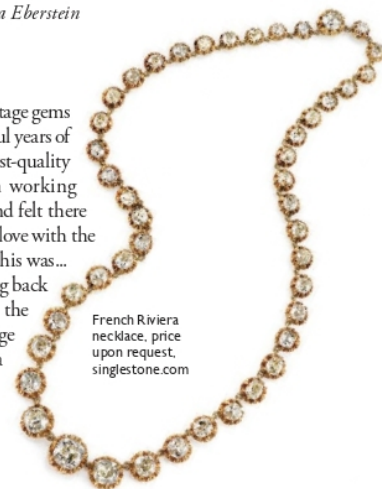
—Amanda Eberstein

NUMBER CRUNCH

The number of years Corina and Ari Madilian have worked together to create **Single Stone's** (singlestone.com) empire. Ari founded the company in 1988 as a showroom for vintage diamonds and antique jewelry, and 11 years later, Corina came on board. Two years after that, the couple were married, and in 2004, they released the first Single Stone collection. Corina compares working together to raising their children, in that they get to see their "creativity and hard work grow and mature into something beautiful." Now, the L.A.-based company consists of three entities: a fine jewelry collection, a multibrand store in San Marino (shopsinglestone.com) and Serafina (shopserafina.com), a lifestyle shop. Combining old-world techniques with contemporary design,

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the brand's sustainable use of vintage gems has led to more than 30 successful years of scouring the world for the highest-quality heirloom pieces. "I had been working to supply the modern diamond market and felt there was something missing," says Ari. "I fell in love with the romance of old cut stones and knew that this was... where I needed to focus." With stones dating back centuries (the oldest purchased was cut in the 1700s) and having refurbished pieces as large as 27.5 carats, the future is as bright as a diamond for this duo. —Rachel Cohen



French Riviera necklace, price upon request. singlestone.com

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