



# Head for the Hills

Julia Van Hees-Aidner finds home is her lucky charm.

I CERTAINLY MUST AGREE WITH THE ADAGE. "If you're lucky enough to live at the beach, you're lucky enough!" These past months in Malibu have been glorious. As wonderful as the beach is during the summer months, to me, fall and winter are spectacular—from the first rains to the howling winds that bring huge waves. My husband and I love cozying up with a fire blazing after walking the beach or kayaking (in the warm, fabulous wetsuits we picked up at Big Winds Surf Shop in the windsurfing mecca of Hood River, Oregon). As we have made Malibu our temporary home while our Beverly Hills house is under renovation, we have tried to truly live the "Malibu: it's a way of life" mantra and not drive any further than Cross Creek on a daily basis.

When I do go into "town" (Beverly Hills), I try to make a day of it. Once again I realize how geographically blessed I am in Beverly Hills. In one fell swoop I am able to park my car, have it washed impeccably at my little gem of a carwash, Tender Loving Car Care (415 North Bedford, Beverly Hills, 310-275-6048) (thanks to Pearl Fishmann for this find), and complete most of my errands, all within walking distance.

It's truly the many wonderful and necessary "behind the scenes" people and services that make Beverly Hills so special. Not only do I feel 99 percent better after a Pilates session with Gretchen and some physical therapy with Aman at Joubert Physical Therapy (435 North Bedford, Suite 102, Beverly Hills, 310-385-9064), but I always run into someone I know in this hub of feel-good activity. With all of my limbs loosened and an abundance of energy, I make my way over to see Gary at Antoine's Tailoring (415 North Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, 310-275-8045), who, in addition to tailoring my clothes to perfection, always leaves me with a word or thought for the day. It is apparent why

this kind man has had such a loyal following for 30 years.

It seems I always need a gift for someone, and I always want a watchstrap or two to coordinate with various outfits. Coco at Coco's Leather Goods (9405 Brighton Way, Suite 101, Beverly Hills, 310-858-7211) will satisfy my desire for both. From fabulous photo envelopes and albums to custom-made briefcases, Coco's usually has the perfect gift. Its selection of leather, satin, suede, and patent watchstraps—all in delicious hues—is unbelievable! As I carry on through Beverly Hills, meeting and greeting (as the dear Kaye Coleman would say), I sometimes stop for a bite on Canon Drive at charming Giacomino Drago's Il Pastaio (409 North Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, 310-205-5444) before picking up or dropping off shoes at Arturo's Shoe Fix (9643 Santa Monica Boulevard, Beverly Hills, 310-278-9585). I am religious about bringing in brand new shoes to have "dance soles" added prior to wearing them, and it is a joy to visit with Arturo and his wonderful family.

Before heading home to the beach, I make one last stop at the new Tea Garden & Herbal Emporium (9001 Beverly Boulevard, Beverly Hills, 310-205-0104) for a respite and a custom-made tonic (my favorite is the "autoimmune defense" concoction).

Back in Malibu, on those days I do not want to drive anywhere, I can still browse and shop without leaving the house by contacting two of my favorite boutiques, La Bella (5280 East Second Street, Long Beach, 562-856-3720) and Roberta Freymann (153 East 70th Street, NYC, 212-585-3767), and having them send me their latest and greatest arrivals.

To be at the beach... or in Beverly Hills... or wherever I am... I am lucky enough!

Ciao, Julia ✨