

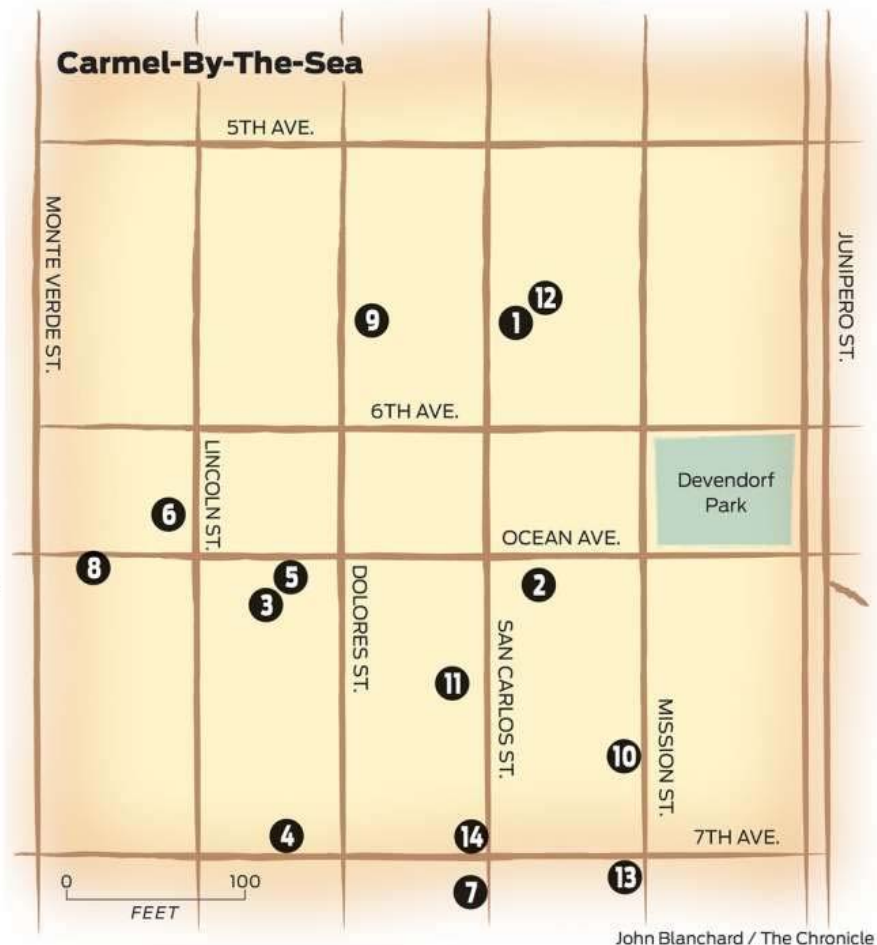
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14 unique boutiques

By **Jeanne Cooper** Updated 6:54 pm, Thursday, September 8, 2016

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Leave it to Carmel to ensure that even its retail centers off Highway 1 at Rio Road are more picturesque than most. But for the largest array of independent stores and artisanal wares, head to the village, and wear comfy shoes: Walking is the way to go, especially when seeking courtyard boutiques. All stores are open daily unless otherwise noted.

40 **The Hat Shop:** From bright baseball caps and practical sun-shaders to retro cloches, fedoras and flowery creations, many of them handmade and locally designed, the quality toppers are piled high in Amy Felsing and Brian Andrews' 5-year-old boutique. Consultations and sizing of hats are free, whether bought in store or not. *In*

San Carlos Square, San Carlos between Sixth and Fifth, (831) 625-4287.

www.facebook.com/thehatshopcarmel

41 *Bittner, the Pleasure of Writing:* A treasure chest of exquisite pens and accessories, including inks, journals, engraved stationery and handmade paper, the 25-year-old Bittner apparently never got the memo that handwriting's over. But if it did, expect a calligraphic rebuttal, perhaps composed with the Visconti Homo Sapiens fountain pen, made of volcanic rock from Mount Etna. *Ocean, between San Carlos and Mission, (831) 626-8828. www.bittner.com*

42 *Burns Cowboy Shop:* Founded 1876 in Utah, the multigenerational enterprise now has locations in Park City, Newport Beach and Carmel. Prices are more than most cowpokes can afford, but the handsome lineup of pointy-toed boots, wide-brimmed hats, sturdy leather bags, colorful shirts and jewelry is worth a gander. *Ocean, between Lincoln and Dolores, Carmel-by-the-Sea; (831) 624-4014, www.burnscowboyshop.com*



IMAGE 1 OF 3

The men's side of the store at Burns Cowboy Shop in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

43Twigery: Floral master **Michael Merritt** does a brisk business designing inventive arrangements and decor for weddings and other events. Luckily, the uninvited can take home a piece of his artistry, and the creative vision of his wife, Cheryl, from their pocket shop next to the Cypress Inn. Besides centerpieces, look for elaborate shell wreaths, pretty baskets and graceful planters. Closed Sunday. *Seventh Avenue, between Lincoln and Dolores*, (831) 626-8944. www.twigery.com

44Pat Areias: It makes sense that this sterling silversmith's other store is on Madison Avenue in Manhattan — the bold, bejeweled and sometimes whimsical buckles are city cousins to the country counterparts in nearby Burns Cowboy Shop. The rainbow wall of exotic and presumably non-endangered animal hide belts — including stingray, ostrich and caiman, from \$340 up — is also mesmerizing. *Ocean Avenue, between Lincoln and Dolores, Carmel-by-the-Sea*; (831) 626-8668. www.patareias.com

Carmel at 100



California has no shortage of unusual small towns, but it's hard to imagine one as charmingly idiosyncratic as Carmel-by-the-Sea, which celebrates its centennial this year. Here are the best reasons to visit.

45Fourtané: Although the staff now says “four-tane” instead of “four-ten-eh,” the store opened by silversmith **Loyola Fourtané** in 1950 still gleams with unique bijoux. Skip the front room of new and vintage Rolex watches (unless that's your passion) and head to the cases of estate jewelry, including two with Victorian delights such as “festoon necklaces” dripping with blue flash moonstones and intricately engraved garnet brooches. *Ocean and Lincoln, Carmel-by-the-Sea*; (831) 624-4684. www.fourtane.com

46Eco Carmel: **Kristi Reimers'** 6-year-old emporium, vast by Carmel standards, raises the bar for “eco-friendly” to something like “eco-fabulous.” Part home and garden store, part gift shop, part children's boutique, Eco Carmel extends the feel-good vibe by featuring locally made wares and funding community nonprofits. *San Carlos, between Seventh and Eighth*, (831) 624-1222. www.facebook.com/ecocarmel

47Cottage of Sweets: As if the vintage storybook cottage isn't sweet enough already, the interior of Lanny and Linda Rose's compact, nearly 60-year-old shop is enough to push any recovering chocoholic off the wagon. Stick to one of the freshly made confections, like fudge, or indulge your inner Briton with one of many imported treats, such as Fry's Peppermint Creams or Cadbury's Crunchies. Danger: It's open till 10

p.m. daily. Ocean, between Lincoln and Monte Verde, Carmel-by-the-Sea; (831) 624-5170. www.cottageofsweets.com



Photo: James Tensuan, Special To The Chronicle

The Secret Garden at Pilgrim's Way Bookshop features plants and seating areas.

www.pilgrimsway.com

49Lula's Chocolates: **Scott Lund**'s grandmother, a Salt Lake City chocolatier, clearly passed on her gifts. You can find his sea salt caramels and other goodies at fine food stores and gift shops around Northern California, but this boutique features the largest

48Pilgrim's Way Community Bookstore & Secret Garden: Take either a narrow red passageway off Dolores, which leads to the entrance of downtown's beloved (and only) bookstore, or the equally obscure downhill walkway from San Carlos, which plants you in the tranquil garden, a fountained oasis of eclectic statuary, plump succulents and other easily portable leafy things. *Dolores, between Fifth and Sixth, (831) 624-4955.*

selection, including spicy-sweet Baja chile English toffee. *Mission, between Ocean and Seventh, (831) 624-5852. www.lulas.com*

50Robin's Jewelry: Finding Carmel native **Robin Mahoney's** atelier in the Doud Arcade is like finding a piece of the beach glass or abalone shell she favors, in sterling silver settings. Mahoney's creations highlight the region's natural glories, but she also crafts jewelry from customers' designs. *In the Doud Arcade, west side of San Carlos, between Ocean and Seventh, (831) 626-4119. www.robinsjewelrycarmel.com*

51Ajne Parfumerie Apothecary: Olfactory alchemist **Jane Hendler's** latest line of natural, organic scents — dubbed the Modern Hippie Collection — pays tribute to the Summer of Love and Big Sur, with ethereal notes of sustainably harvested patchouli, sandalwood, oak moss and Indian magnolia. She's also happy to help clients pick from her other tantalizing fragrances, or customize one, and send it home in equally artful flacons. *In San Carlos Square, San Carlos, between Fifth and Sixth, (831) 624-2100, ext. 200. www.ajne.com*

52Girl Boy Girl: This chic boutique, opened in 1991 by Sweet Pea and Montag Ivester, approaches haute couture when it comes to service. The non-commissioned sales staff collates fresh looks from sources such as Isabel Marant Etoile sweaters, Goldsign jeans and Vince footwear. *Mission and Seventh, (831) 626-3368. www.facebook.com/girlboygirlinc*

53Thinker Toys: An all-ages favorite since opening in 1969, this spacious toy store continues to think big (giant stuffed animals, elaborate model Ferris wheel) and small (marbles, miniature cars, figurines). Books, art and craft supplies, puzzles and board games also reflect the owners' thoughtful approach to playtime. *Seventh and San Carlos, (831) 624-0441. www.thinkertoys.com*

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