



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Linda Ehrich  
 Realtor  
 93 Moraga Way  
 Orinda, CA 94563  
 925.698.1452  
 Linda@LindaEhrich.com  
 www.LindaEhrich.com  
 DRE# 01330298



Fall Recreation Classes Starting September Register Today!



MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION  
 925-888-7045 • www.moragarec.com

With La Finestra coming to Moraga, owner still dreams of the Hacienda

By Nick Marnell



Jeff Assadi

Photo Andy Scheck

After losing La Finestra Ristorante in a devastating fire, and having to walk away at the last minute from a deal for a replacement restaurant, Jeff Assadi could understandably feel a bit anxious over the challenges of reopening his business.

But Assadi comes across as anything but anxious. The restaurant owner remains positive and

upbeat about the planned October opening of his Sicilian-influenced Italian restaurant in the Moraga Shopping Center.

"I am glad an opportunity presented itself and I am really happy to be part of the Moraga community," Assadi said.

La Finestra was completely destroyed in the 2017 Lafayette Circle fire. Crushed by such a dev-

astating loss, Assadi vowed to reopen his restaurant, if for no other reason than to take care of his loyal, longtime employees and customers. "We wanted to stay in Lafayette, but we could not find a place in Lafayette," Assadi said.

An unexpected opportunity came to Assadi in mid-2018: a chance to lease space at the Hacienda de las Flores, the historic structure and landmark in the town of Moraga. But again Assadi encountered difficulties. The work required to open a restaurant in the building was cost-prohibitive, and he had to pass on the potential deal.

Assadi recently signed a five-year lease for the shuttered Terzetto Restaurant location across from the Moraga Safeway. "No restrictions or build-out needed. No major plumbing or electrical work. Just new equipment needed for the kitchen," Assadi said of his new venue.

The reborn La Finestra will have 3,100 square feet of space, providing room for 50 customers in the main dining area plus a private banquet room that seats 30.

The lounge area will feature Bob Athayde of Stanley Middle School on the grand piano and Tony Lavinio will again run the dining room.

... continued on page A12

Moraga finance director departs

Barely lasting three months on the job, Joe Tanner, Moraga administrative services director, resigned on Aug. 3.

"It is unfortunate that Joe is no longer with the Town. Moraga is a unique community and not the right fit for everyone. We are currently recruiting to fill the Adminis-

trative Services Director position," Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg said. "In the meantime, our accountant, Yuliya Elbo (who has been with the town for nine years) and I (who served as Deputy Finance Director for the city of San Leandro and managed a \$130 million a year budget) are working together

to ensure that the town's financial matters are properly handled."

If the new hire comes on board in 2018, that person will be the third administrative services director in less than a year for the town, which recently rescinded its declaration of fiscal emergency.

- N. Marnell

Reporter Wanted

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a Moraga Town Reporter:

Required Qualifications:  
 Excellent writing and communication skills. Ethical and professional. Live or work in or near the Lamorinda area and have the ability to write balanced, researched, well-structured articles. Prior journalism experience desired, but not required.

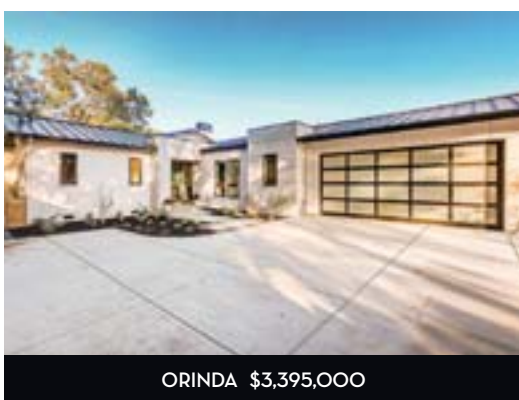
Compensation:  
 Compensation is made on a per article basis.

Please send your resume and writing sample to wendy@lamorindaweekly.com or call (925) 377-0977



Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

THE ADDRESS IS LAMORINDA  
 THE EXPERIENCE IS ALAIN PINEL



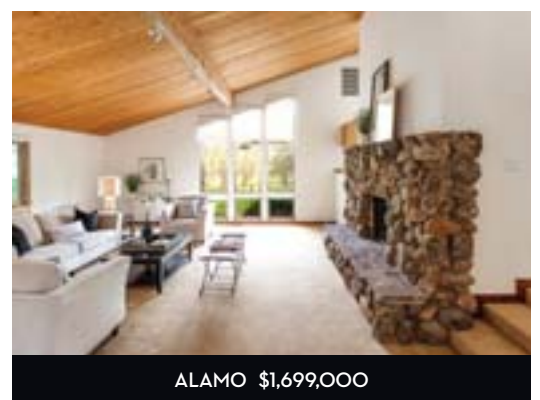
ORINDA \$3,395,000

30 Charles Hill Circle | 5bd/4ba  
 Carolin Busch | 925.402.4844  
 License # 01954984



MORAGA \$2,395,000

75 Jean Court | 4bd/3.5ba  
 Lucasey-Ridout Team | 925.324.0299  
 License # 01990251 | 01990249



ALAMO \$1,699,000

21 Arjang Court | 4bd/3ba  
 Lisa Shaffer | 925.528.9278  
 License # 00996886



MORAGA \$1,490,000

1084 Bollinger Canyon Road | 4bd/2.5ba  
 Shirley Sutton | 925.285.6555  
 License # 00612563



MORAGA \$1,395,000

129 Oxford Drive | 4bd/2.5ba  
 Jim Colhoun | 925.200.2795  
 License # 01029160



MARTINEZ \$679,000

824 Shell Avenue | 3bd/2ba  
 Diane Reilly | 510.206.2903  
 License # 01209615

APR.COM

Over 30 Real Estate Offices Serving The Bay Area Including Orinda 925.258.1111



Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. This information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors\*. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.