



HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH:

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FRIGHT NIGHTS at Winchester Mystery House [17]

DISCOVER

OCTOBER 2012

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SILICON VALLEY

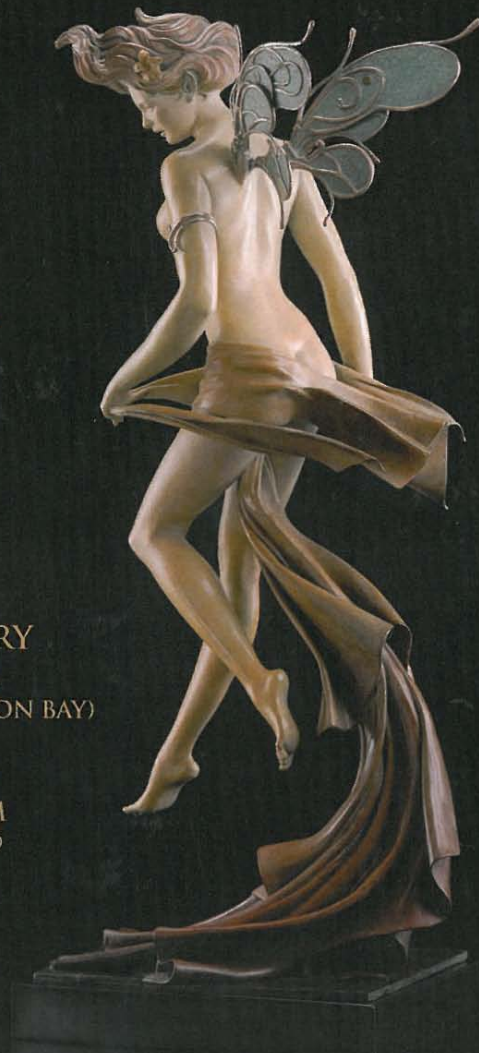
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Winchester Mystery House

No visit to Silicon Valley would be complete without a stop at this bizarre attraction, once owned by Sarah Winchester, the eccentric heiress to the Winchester Rifle fortune.

Influenced by a fortune teller who predicted she would live as long as

she continued to build her home, she lived in her unfinished mansion for 38 years amidst the daily pounding of hammers. The result is a 160-room architectural marvel combining Victorian beauty with unexplained features—such as doors opening to walls, skylights in floors and stairs leading nowhere—that make it a mystery. Also on site, the firearms and antique products museums both provide historic background on Western heritage, traditions and culture. Guided mansion tours, self-guided garden tours, and “behind the scenes” tours are also offered. Café and gift shop on site. Current schedule: Open 8am daily; last mansion tour at 5pm. (San Jose: 525 S. Winchester Blvd. btwn. Hwys. 280 & 17; 408/247-2101; www.winchestermysteryhouse.com)

FRIGHT NIGHTS

Fake haunted houses on Halloween are just for wussies. For real chills and thrills, head to the **Winchester Mystery House** where spirits have been reported to roam the hallways and whose history is as creepy as it gets. On weekends and select nights in October, Frights Nights at this eerily enigmatic Victorian estate include walk-through attractions, roaming scare performers, and nightmare-inducing tales, offering plenty of scary fun. While you're there, don't miss the infamous Curse of Sarah Winchester Maze, where you'll first find yourself trapped inside the mansion before making your way through the estate's corn fields, the haunted ruins of the Family Graveyard, and finally into the middle of one of Sarah Winchester's spine-tingling séances. Then end your visit with a Halloween Flashlight tour, where you'll be guided through yet another bewildering maze—the interior of the Winchester House itself. Armed with only a flashlight and a hyperactive imagination, you're likely to find your heart rate jumping as you wander through the house's bizarre rooms—and perhaps catch a glimpse of a ghost floating along with you. Runs weekends in October: Fri-Sat, 6:30pm-12am; Sun, 6:30-11:30pm. Also Oct 29-31, 6:30-11pm. (San Jose: 525 S. Winchester Blvd. For schedule/tickets, call 408/247-2101 or visit www.winchestermysteryhouse.com)