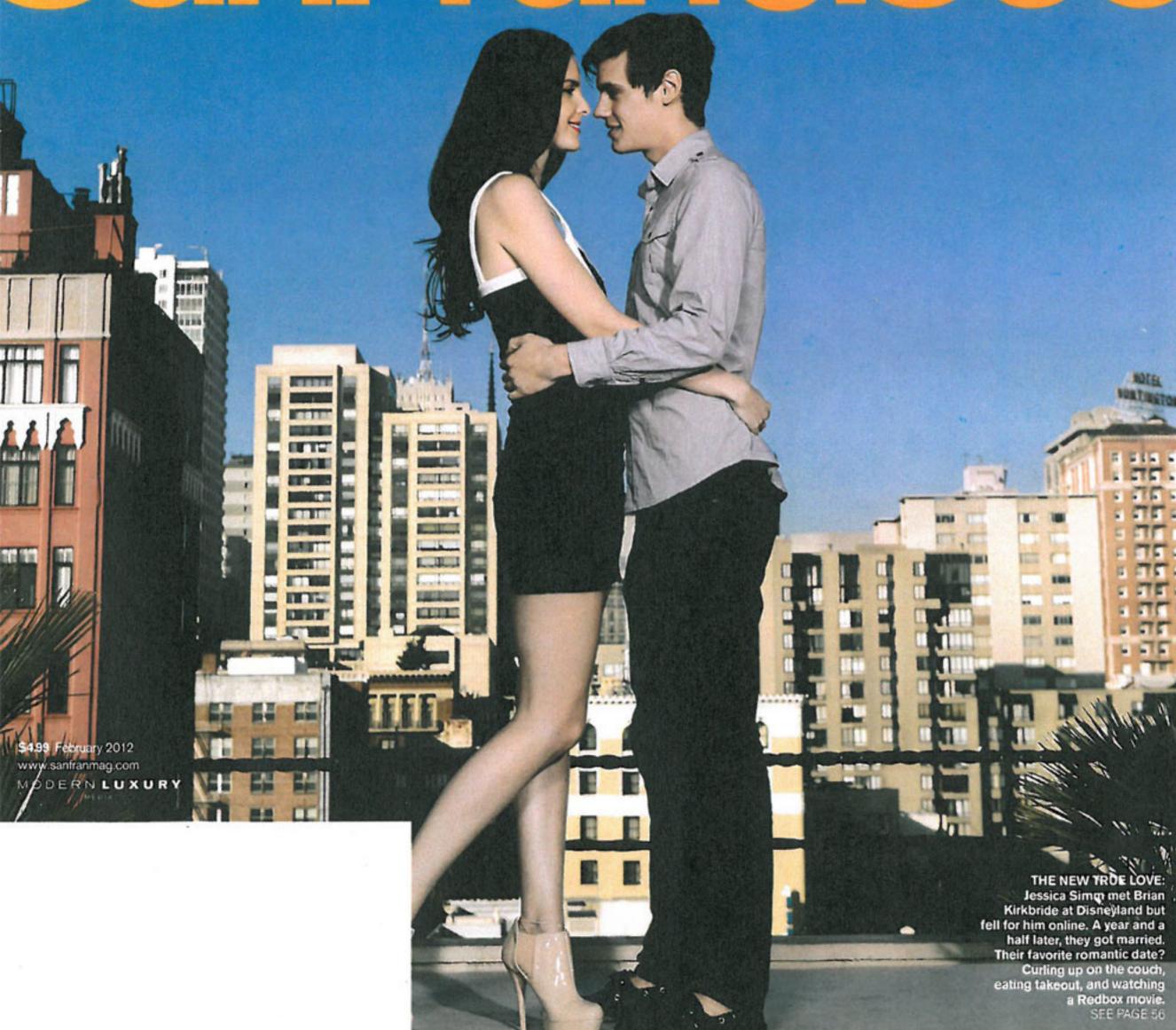
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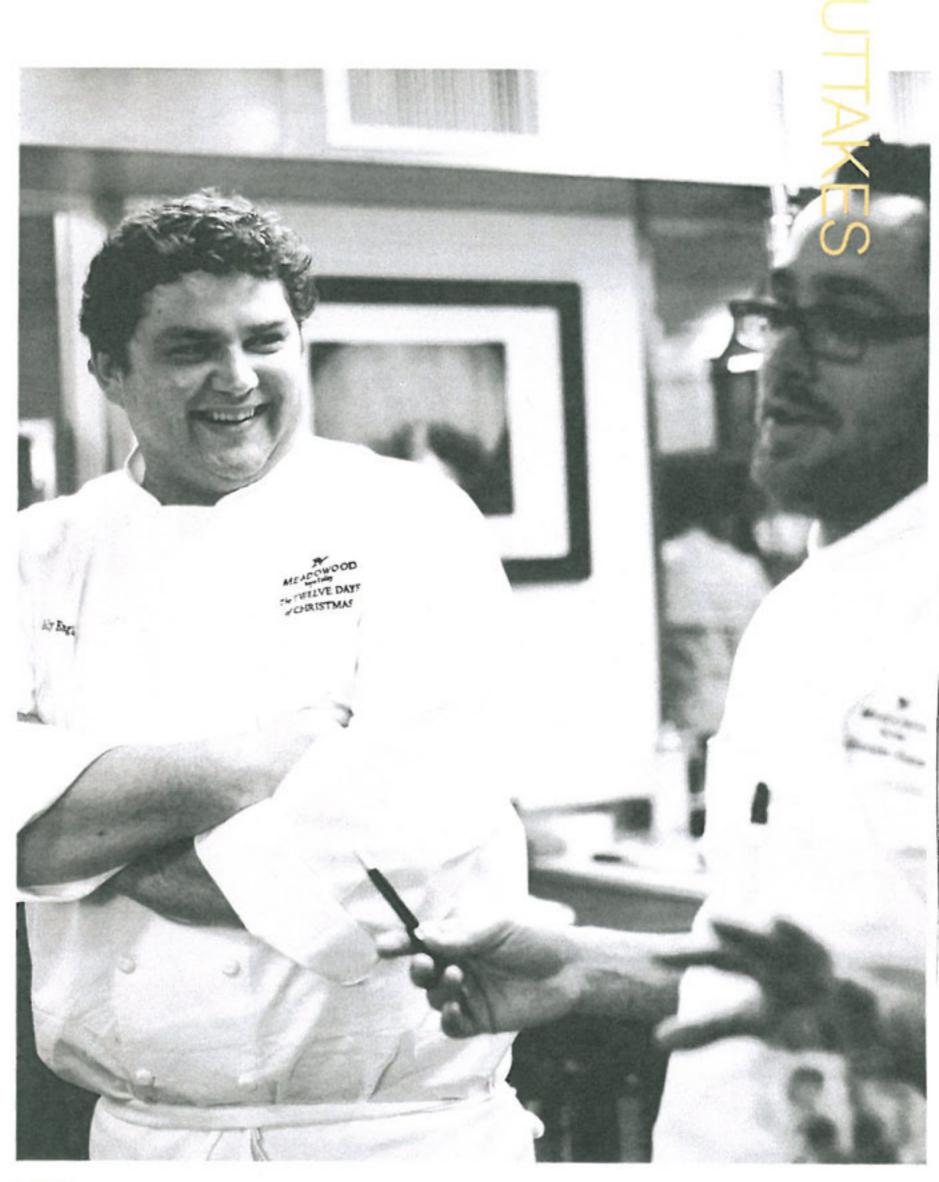


Exceptional pairings

This winter, the social season brought together some of the most inventive combinations in recent memory. Some, including Hal Rubenstein and Vanessa Getty, who discussed famous gowns from Rubenstein's new book, 100 Unforgettable Dresses, at Giorgio Armani, provoked endless post-event discussions. How did Gwyneth Paltrow's famed pink Calvin Klein compare with the pink Ralph Lauren she wore to a later Oscar night? How could anyone select the 100 looks? "It's actually quite easy," countered Rubenstein, InStyle's fashion director, who was in town for the party. A week earlier, Coach had editor-in-chief Glenda Bailey in to sign copies of Harper's Bazaar: Greatest Hits, a collection of photographs from the magazine that had guests debating similar questions. Then, in St. Helena, the Restaurant at Meadowood's chef, Christopher Kostow, masterminded the season's most sought-after matchups, inviting guest chefs into his kitchen to raise money for Share Our Strength and grouping them with Napa Valley winemakers to create 12 unique menus for the holidays. Guests could consult the newly launched books before dressing for the dinners.

BY ELIZABETH VARNELL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DREW ALTIZER



7:02 P.M.

12/03/11
Memphis-based chef Kelly English
and Christopher Kostow share the
kitchen on the second evening of
Meadowood's 12 Days of Christmas
benefit, held at the Restaurant at
Meadowood.