LA DOLCE VITA

BY PALOMA CONTRERAS

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This week has been odd in that it feels like it went by in the blink of an eye, but also dragged on for what felt like an eternity. Maybe it is because I have hardly slept- partly from excitement and an outpouring of ideas for new projects we are working on. I love feeling so inspired, but wish I had more control over when inspiration strikes, since it seems to be in the middle of the night most of the time. I have also been losing sleep in part because Tate gave me a huge scare on Wednesday evening. We were upstairs when we hear the mailman and Tate barreled down the stairs. Once he made it down to the first floor, he screamed out in pain like I've never heard before. Keep in mind, he's been through surgery and multiple crate rest episodes before. His yelps during those episodes still haunt me. Well, this was ten times worse and split my heart in two. I tried to figure out what was wrong, but he wouldn't move. I called the vet to let them know we were on our way, then noticed blood as I put Tate into the car. I expected that his neurological issues had sprung up again and that he had hurt his left hind leg again. It turns out, Tate somehow snagged his nail and it separated at the base of his paw. No wonder he yelped in such pain!

Thankfully, everything is in tact, and the vet seems to think a week of antibiotics, pain meds, and crate rest should do the trick. What a scare! The vet told me to go buy a lottery ticket because Tate was so lucky and it could have been so much worse for a dog like him with a history of neurological and spinal issues. I am grateful that he is okay and that it didn't turn out to be anything more serious, but keep replaying the incident in my head and worrying about him at night wondering if he is in pain when I hear him moving or breathing next to our bed. The good news is that Tate is not happy about being on crate rest, which is surely a good sign. He seems comfortable, happy, and confused as to why he is in there again. I am grateful that my sweet dog is okay and that I am losing sleep from excitement over my work and not the opposite. The shoe has definitely been on the other foot in the past and I realize I am extremely lucky. So, who else is ready for the weekend?

Design: At the beginning of the week, my friend Stacy Bewkes of Quintessence and Susanna Salk shared the latest video in their wonderful At Home series. This time, they are taking us into the home and office of Miles Redd.

Style: Paris Couture Week just ended yesterday and my goodness, was it ever fabulous this year! Between the chic, mostly minimalistic Givenchy collection I posted yesterday, the ethereal Giambattista Valli collection, the architectural beauty of the Christian Dior collection, and the most show-stopping, over-the-top glamorous collection I have seen in a while, courtesy of Valentino, I am so inspired by what I have seen. Fashion and design are so inextricably linked.

Read: Los Angeles based interior designer, Tim Campbell is known for his tailored, collected aesthetic. Tim has quite an impressive resume having completed projects in Paris, Mexico City, and Dubai and restoring various important estates in Los Angeles including Richard Neutra's Singleton House in Bel-Air and the restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Alfred Newman residence. He recently released his first design tome, *Intentional Beauty* which is filled with beautiful, inspiring images of these and many other projects and also focuses on Tim's meaningful philosophy behind his design work.

Watch: One of my favorite shows on TV is Schitt's Creek. It is a hilarious, brilliantly written and acted satire starring Catherine O'Hara and Eugene Levy who co-writes the series with his equally funny son, Dan Levy. It is a must watch for anyone who loves the old Christopher Guest movies like Waiting for Guffman and Best in Show. Season 4 just started airing on Wednesday on the POP channel. You can watch the trailer for season 1 here and dive in On Demand or on Netflix and Amazon.

Eat: I am not a huge fan of eggs. I really only like them scrambled or in an omelet. Fabian and I recently tried Ina Garten's recipe for Truffled Scrambled Eggs and they are divine— velvety and delicious! They're super easy to make as long as you are patient. The trick is to cook them very slowly over low heat. Since they have truffle butter, they'd be just as delicious for breakfast or for dinner.

Career: Do you ever shy away from asking for what you want? Over the years, I've figured out different ways for presenting my case, ensuring that both parties benefit from the proposal, and asking for what I want or need in a polite but affirmative way. I recently read this great article about this issue and it is filled with solid advice. Take it from someone who gets hundreds of emails and press pitches per day. There are some that are compelling, while most are so impersonal that they just get deleted.

Shop: Valentine's Day is just a few weeks away. In case you missed it, I shared my top Valentine's Day Gift Ideas earlier this week, which includes this fun tote, a striped tee with a fun monogram, and a chic cashmere robe.

