

# The Rambler

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Edition V

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Every season brings its own special promises - even in temperate Southern California. Winter promises to nip at our fur-lined coats and shearling boots with a numbing, hot cocoa inspiring chill. Spring promises to reawaken the greenery that has for the past several months hidden beneath frigid, flowerless ground. And summer promises to inspire languid lying about on sun-soaked beaches. But it's fall whose brief yet charming promise I most enjoy. Fall gladly gives the crisp cool mornings, sun-filled afternoons, and clear chilly nights that seem to encompass all seasons - all while lining the streets and sidewalk with the loveliest carpet of interwoven red, brown, golden, green and purple foliage. Perhaps that's why I love it so much, or perhaps it's because my favorite holiday, Halloween, falls on the final day of fall's second month.

Halloween is a time for daring disguise, and deciding this year to disguise myself as a well-known, white-haired fashion plate mainstay I thought there no better place to garner my costuming than the corridors of the Country Mart. After finding the perfect costume for my

get-up - that I'll likely wear well past Halloween and beyond - I feel duty bound to propel people far from the feather board aisles of seasonal stores and instead into the BCM's boutiques that provide "costuming" you'll wear for the rest of your days.

For instance, for a couple leaning toward parading as Bonnie and Clyde on 10-31, perhaps the lady should stop in at Post 26 to find a delightful vintage inspired frock for Bonnie and the gentleman to Apartment Number 9 for Clyde's stylish bad boy suiting. If one wanted a costume to conjure the exquisite Anglophile sense of relaxation and elegance to mimic, say, Keira Knightley, Sienna Miller or Jane Birkin on All Hallows Eve, then Jigsaw is the place to go. Or maybe posing as something as simple as a gossip column-worthy socialite dripping in jewels is the route you'll chose; and if you lack the necessary carats and precious metals to pull off the look, the unique, exquisite artistry of the baubles at Broken English can surely help accentuate the ensemble. At the Brentwood Country Mart the possibilities with just the right creativity and credit card are endless.

And though Halloween is a time of masquerade and pretend, the Country Mart never pretends to be something it isn't. It never pretends to be a collection of hand picked boutiques reflecting excellent taste and brilliant design. It never pretends to be a casual locale steeped in tradition with players ranging from Brentwood residents to Hollywood legends. It never pretends to be a place where the concern of connecting a community comes before profit. It is all of these things. The lack of pretension, appreciation of great design, and welcoming embrace of being a part of an experience that has been around for several decades is very, very real.

This season, be sure to take part in the Halloween Costume Contest and bring your little ghouls, goblins and Goldilocks for trick or treating at the stores of The Mart.