

[HIP HANGOUT]

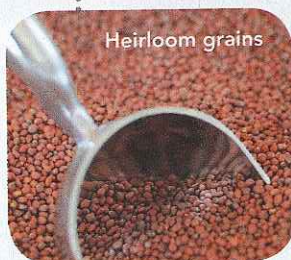
Modern General



Erin Wade



Organic soap



Heirloom grains

At **Modern General** in Santa Fe, New Mexicans can enjoy savory treats, shop local, and receive expert gardening tips. Local businesswoman Erin Wade, the restaurateur behind Santa Fe's Vinaigrette, reimagines the classic general store as a bright, airy space with long wooden tables perfect for gardening lectures or munching on the café's signature kolaches—Czech pastries with a sweet or savory filling (pictured, right)—made from Wade's grandmother's recipe. Fresh-pressed juices feature wheatgrass and seasonal ingredients from Wade's farm. Hipster homesteaders mingle with visitors looking for sustainably sourced products, including shovels that last a lifetime, organic body-care products, beautiful coffee-table books, and seed packets for growing produce. "A big part of the ethos of Modern General is the concept of heirloom—of creating and offering products that are timeless and classic," Wade says. 637 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe. (505) 930-5462; moderngeneralnm.com. —A.M.B.



[ASK THE ARTIST]

Fine Art Devotion

Santa Fe artist **Nicolas Otero** started making traditional *retablos* at age 16. This year, he will present his golden-glowing images of Catholic saints on hand-carved pine panels for the 19th year at the Spanish Colonial Arts Society's Traditional Spanish Market on the Santa Fe Plaza July 25–26.

Otero says the keys to this art form are found in the quality of the methods and materials used and the person behind the brush. "Getting to know the artist and having an appreciation for them is important," he says.

Otero, whose award-winning work is found in churches, museum collections, gallery shows, and private homes, says Spanish Market is an ideal time to explore a wide collection of artists and their art. At right, he shares his tips for finding a *retablo* that fits your fancy. —Melissa W. Sais

Top Tips for buying a *retablo*:

Talk to the artist.

Ask what materials they use. Some may range from natural, hand-mulled pigments to contemporary art supplies. Find out how they use those materials to tell the saint's story.

Hold the piece.

Catch the scent of the natural pinesap varnish used by traditionalists, which will golden the piece over time. Look for knots on the back, which may eventually surface through to the image.

Know before you go. If you are set on buying a piece from a particular artist at Spanish Market, add your name to the sign-up sheet at their booth early Saturday morning. When the market opens, shoppers on the list get first dibs.






New Mexico



THE MAGAZINE FOR AAA MEMBERS

JOURNEY

JULY/AUGUST 2015

A black and white photograph of a man in a light-colored suit, white shirt, and tie, wearing a light-colored fedora hat. He is looking slightly to the right. The background is dark with a large, fiery atomic explosion on the left side.

Atomic City

Touring
the explosive past
of Los Alamos

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