

stopping to smell the flowers

2 FRIENDS, 3 DAYS, 7 INCREDIBLE NURSERIES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY *Ingalls Photography* | TEXT BY *Hannah Milman and Kate Berry*



WE'RE BOTH FANATICAL ABOUT FLOWERS. While working together at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, we discovered we had a mutual obsession and found ourselves talking about the vividness of one grower's hydrangeas or another farm's exotic branches with the kind of excitement most people reserve for juicy gossip. Just as cooks are passionate about quality ingredients, we find great inspiration in spectacular flowers and greenery. By and large, the blooms we love most come from Northern California, an area blessed with fertile soil and varied climates that can nurture everything from garden roses to wildflowers. So we took a road trip there—a sort of pilgrimage, really—to visit the growers who have been featured in the magazine over the years and to discover new destinations. Over three days, we saw many old friends and communed with millions of blooms. Anyone can follow our itinerary, since all these nurseries are open to the public, though some by appointment only. For any kind of flower-lover, it's a trip worth taking. Each of these places offers the magic of stepping into a secret garden and inspiration by the bushel.

ABOUT THE WRITERS

Crafts director *Hannah Milman* (l. opposite left) has worked on dozens of floral stories during her 20 years with the company. *Kate Berry* (l. opposite right), a former San Francisco florist, is the style director of Martha Stewart Weddings.

