

# ST. PETE LIFE

MAGAZINE

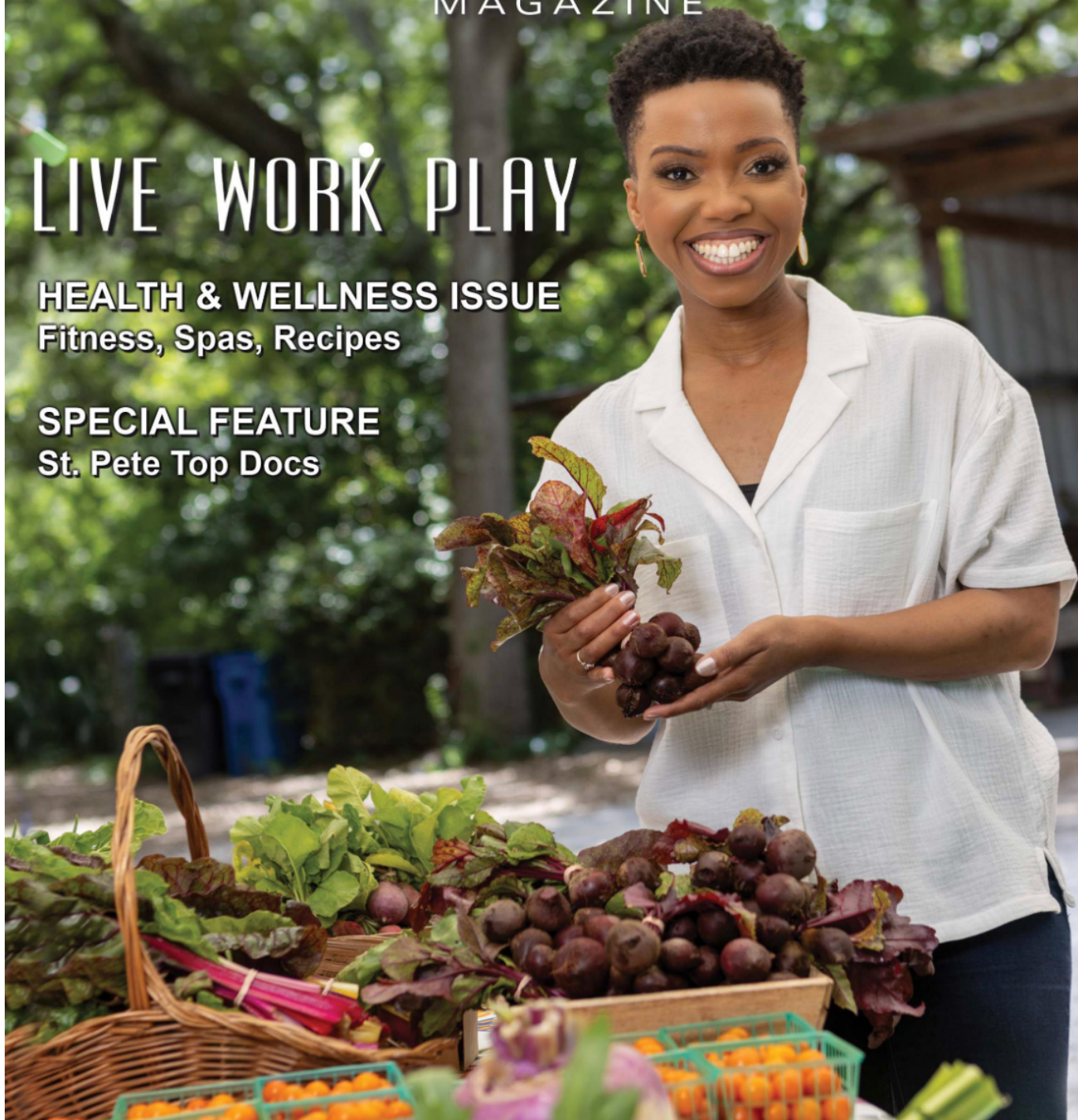
## LIVE WORK PLAY

**HEALTH & WELLNESS ISSUE**

Fitness, Spas, Recipes

**SPECIAL FEATURE**

St. Pete Top Docs





## A Luxurious Equestrian Getaway Opens in Ocala



Looking for a getaway that's less than two hours from home? On April 1st The World Equestrian Center began welcoming guests to another exquisite hotel, **The Riding Academy Hotel**. They offer 390 suites to visitors looking to stay on-site and experience what has often been called "Disneyland for Horse Lovers" at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, Florida, where us regular folks get a glimpse into this caviar-laced world, where that regal lifestyle feels approachable and welcoming.

The pet-friendly hotel will include expansive, upscale accommodations with separate sleeping and living quarters and desirable in-room amenities, such as coffeemakers, Sub-Zero refrigerators and pull-out sofas. It will not offer riding lessons (despite the name).

Guests can enjoy a large outdoor pool and sundeck, dual fitness centers, and lobby marketplace, as well as the thriving main complex center just a few yards away, which boasts seven restaurants (fine dining, fast casual, QSR, bakery etc), a spa, more than two dozen shops,

boutiques, and 20+ equestrian competition rings. In addition, an 80,000-sq-foot shopping plaza called The Shoppes off 80th will open in 2025 with an additional 31 spaces for restaurants and luxury retailers directly across from the new hotel.

Guests will immediately gravitate towards an antique hand-carved wooden horse in the lobby—the inspiration for the hotel's namesake. Playful touches like the artwork featuring dogs dressed as jockeys and animals as professors remind guests that joyfulness is at the forefront of this magnificent resort. Subtle equestrian and academic design details have been thoughtfully placed throughout the hotel, including equestrian-inspired carpet, Ralph Lauren stirrup sconces, and custom trophy lamps in the guestrooms. Warm, cozy leathers and rich mahogany colors that are synonymous with the equestrian lifestyle invite guests into a welcoming lobby. A grand fireplace will serve as the central gathering spot made of marble and featuring custom ceramic dogs. Call 352.325.9935 to book or visit [www.ridingacademyhotel.com](http://www.ridingacademyhotel.com)

### Upcoming Events



#### 2024 Global Wine Series

**June 14:** Passport to the Mediterranean

**September 27:** Passport to Oceania

**December 13:** Passport to Burgundy

#### 4th Annual Ocala Food & Wine Festival

**Nov. 1-3** • Tickets aren't on sale yet, but follow the Ocala Food & Wine Festival Facebook page or visit [www.ocalafoodandwinefest.com](http://www.ocalafoodandwinefest.com)

**Yellow Pony Pub & Garden**, which is open to the public, offers an authentic, pub dining experience with live music. Visit the website for a full list of entertainment. [www.yellowponyocala.com](http://www.yellowponyocala.com)

Stay up to date with all the seasonal and annual events happening at The World Equestrian Center website. [www.worldequestriancenter.com](http://www.worldequestriancenter.com)