



Founders (left to right): Bret Englander, Director of Sales and Marketing; Nick Sheridan, Director of Design; Dan Wacholder, Director of Engineering and Operations.



# CERNO

as told to **KARINE MONIÉ**  
images courtesy of **CERNO**

Laguna Beach's creative culture and natural environment shaped our professional and aesthetic ideals," say the founders of lighting brand Cerno, based in Irvine. Bret Englander, Nick Sheridan, and Dan Wacholder are three lifelong friends, who have been making modern fixtures in California for almost a decade now. "As kids we were surrounded by people who used their hands and their minds: people who found ways to make a living doing what they love," they say. "Naturally, we made art, rebuilt boats, experimented launching our own mini businesses, and we explored the West Coast together. Looking back it's now clear that our childhood projects and experiments grew into our best adventure yet: building Cerno." Sheridan shares his favorite places in Orange County.

## 1 In one sentence, what does Orange County mean to you?

Orange County is home—it's the perfect combination of nature and laid-back culture where I have lived my whole life.

## 2 Your favorite place in O.C.

Growing up I was partial to the beaches in South Laguna where Dan, Bret, and I would skimboard all the time. In the last decade, I have enjoyed visiting a variety of other beaches in Laguna. They are all great; you really can't go wrong.

## 3 Your favorite hotel in O.C.

Montage in Laguna Beach. Although quite large, it is designed well and they devoted lots of space for a public park that surrounds the hotel that can be enjoyed by everyone. I love how it's perched on the bluff, creating amazing views of the coast and surf.

## 4 Your favorite restaurant in O.C.

My wife and I enjoy Reunion Kitchen + Drink in Laguna Beach. I like the modern interior, the big bar, and the American classics on the menu. They also always have great beer on tap.

## 5 Your favorite food in O.C.

El Campeon Taqueria in San Juan Capistrano. It's always bustling with great energy and they have an impressive menu of authentic Mexican food that I love. There's always something new to try and San Juan Capistrano is a great town.

## 6 Your favorite shop in O.C.

My daily drivers are a '68 VW bug and a '75 Porsche 914. Period Correct in Costa Mesa is equal parts shop and museum for people like me that are a bit

obsessed with vintage German vehicles. Every time I am there, I can pick up a book and learn something new about that era in automotive design that I have been fascinated with since I was a kid.

## 7 Your favorite museum in O.C.

The Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. Parts of the museum date back to the '30s. I appreciate the older California architecture.

## 8 What fascinates you about O.C.?

One thing that fascinates me about Orange County is how it blends nature with cities. You are never far from either. My wife and I go on Sunday drives on the Ortega highway, which twists through Cleveland National Forest; it's stunningly beautiful and not far from where we live in Laguna Beach. We also enjoy going to Angels games and Ducks games in Anaheim. There is such a great patchwork of open green space mixed with a rich urban life.

## 9 The place in O.C. where you have your best memory

My best memories are being slightly sunburned and salty at the end of an amazing day at 9th Street beach sitting by a bonfire with Daniel, Bret, and other friends talking about our best wave from the day. I feel so lucky to have grown up in a unique and beautiful place with great friends.

## 10 According to you, what is the greatest quality of O.C.?

Being adjacent to the Pacific Ocean and Los Angeles where there is a more vibrant culture to see and participate in is incredible. Orange County allows you to live in a relaxed picturesque environment with access to so much close by. •