Best of the Westside 2014: Editor’s Picks

Best Way to Adopt a Dolphin and Buy an Organic Necklace

Maddalena Bearzi
Necko Jewelry Studio and Ocean Conservation Society | neckodesigns.com | oceanconservation.org

Marina del Rey’s Dr. Maddalena Bearzi heads up the Ocean Conservation Society and can often be seen miles offshore with eyes peeled for the bottlenose dolphin she continually studies.

Bearzi has been researching the local dolphin population for the last 18 years, and the society offers a dolphin "adoption" program through which people can help fund its research and conservation studies. The individual dolphins have been photo-identified by Ocean Conservation Society researchers, so there's a real connection there. Choose among Ninamom, Mozza, Nico or several others.

As if one life's work wasn't enough, Bearzi is also an amazing jewelry maker. Back on land she runs Necko Designs, creating one-of-a-kind artistic necklaces and bracelets that blend wood, fabric and metal with a masterful touch inspired by a love for nature.

— Pat Reynolds