

## A Day in the Life of A Greek/Green Goddess!

By Anna on September 16, 2009

Without announcement or fanfare, Maria Menounos breezes into the sustainable Marrakesh House for our cover shoot on a very warm July afternoon. Sporting a caza ensemble of shorts, tank, sandals, and straw trilby, she is the epitome of our laid-back LA vibe, completely defying her body of work, rapidly rising star, and appetite for life. She's TV's current "It" girl, poised for a super-star career, should she choose, working for shows such as Access Hollywood, Nightly News and the Today Show. At the same time, she's also a successful actress and building a solid reputation in filmmaking. She's beautiful, incredibly eco-conscious, has her own charity, grows her own organic vegetables, and even does her own Tweeting! Extremely level headed, confident, down to earth, and in control, I wonder if there's anything Maria doesn't do, and do well? After a great shoot in a fab location with a hot Tesla Roadster and chic green wardrobe, we sat down to find out, and apparently the answer is no!

Photography by Rachel Schwarz

Styled by Thuy Nguyen

Make Up by Jake Bailey at Traceymattingly.com

Hair by John Francis at Soloartists.com

With thanks to Chris Paine and the Marrakesh House, Tesla Motors, and Jane Iredale Cosmetics

Black Tank Top, Black Sweatpants, and Pink Sweatshirt all by LIV GRN  
www.livgrn.com

**Coco Eco Mag: How's your day been with Coco Eco Mag?**

MM: It's been fun. A lot of cool eco looks and designers which is always nice to discover, so it's been good.

**CEM: What was your favorite look today?**

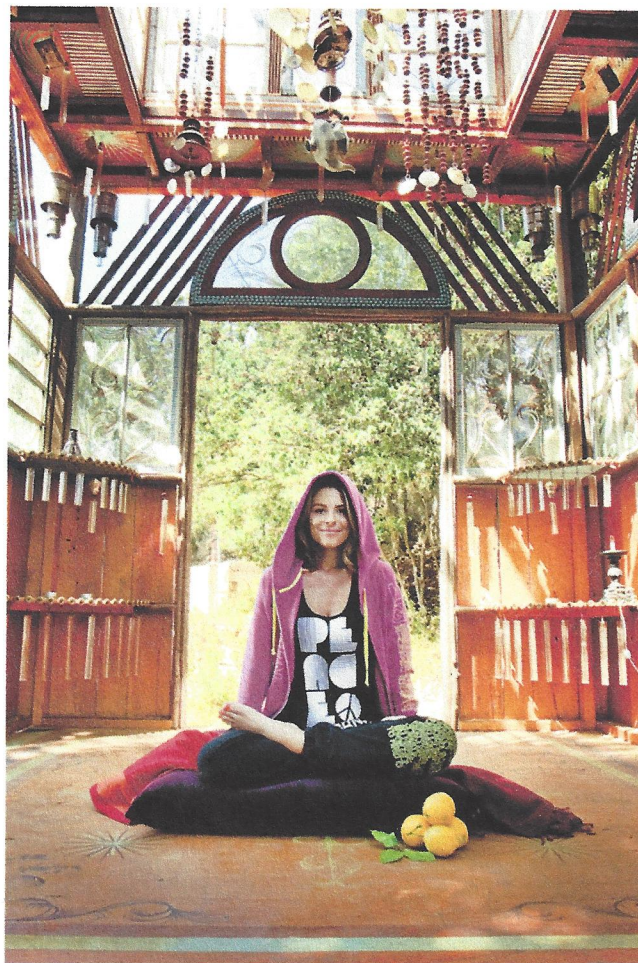
MM: I think this one (referring to her Leila Hafzi ensemble). It's a really pretty dress, although the Linda Loudermilk seaweed shirt was pretty cool too!

**CEM: What turned you onto being green? How did you get started?**

MM: I've always been conscious of waste since I was young. I think growing up the way we did with little means, you're always conscious of that, but I didn't know I was being green before going green. I think that the Hollywood Green show really pushed it to the forefront for me, made it more of a priority, and made me more aware of things. There were things I didn't realize, like water bottles, so now I don't have any water bottles in my house because I realize how many bottles don't get recycled, and how bad it is for the environment. Little things like that which make a big difference.

**CEM: What are some of the other green things you practice in your life?**

MM: Well I drove here in my Jetta which is clean diesel TDI car, and I have an organic garden.



**CEM:** Yes, I've heard about you and a rather large zucchini.

**MM:** A huge zucchini. It's so huge it's bigger than my torso, and it's still sitting in my kitchen actually as I don't want to eat because I am so nervous to not have shown everyone I could how big this zucchini is!

Everything I buy, I try to buy green, whether it's a hot water heater, recycled furniture, anything, and I try not to be gluttonous in always wanting to buy new things, so I recycle old things, like my lawn chairs. I did some funky things to them to make them fresh and new rather than buying all new lawn chairs. Right now with this economy, it's actually so much better to be green anyway, as no one really has the money to do otherwise, anyhow.



**CEM:** Well when you reinvent items, you get to save money and have something that's totally one of a kind! It's cool. But I digress! Tell me about this vegetable garden, because you were saying earlier that you basically eat everyday from your garden.

**MM:** Yes. I did a segment on Access Hollywood on this company, Grow Organic, and this lovely woman Karen started this company. She came to my house and taught me how to plant a garden. I grew up with a garden, and my parents always had fresh vegetables in the house, but I just hadn't done it on my own as an adult. I forgot how to do everything, so she retaught me and I went home to make this film Serial Buddies, and when I came back, the garden had just completely blossomed. Now when I'm home, I eat everyday right out of the garden. I've been making tomato cucumber salads with scallions, and green peppers and chili peppers, and grilling zucchini and okra, so it's exciting and I love it.