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Volume 18, Number 1, Spring 2017

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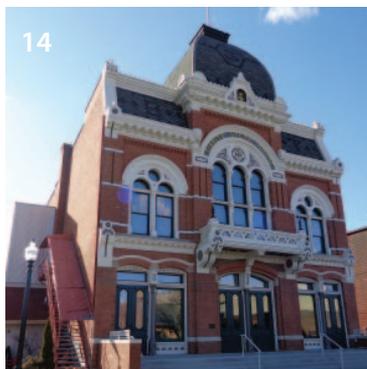
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BY RENU SAGGAR

Staying in Detroit

Get comfortable in The D's more than 5,000 downtown hotel rooms. From the recently renovated Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center to the Aloft Detroit boutique hotel, there are many downtown lodging options.

New downtown accommodations are in the planning stages and under construction. Built in 1936 for Singer Sewing Machine Company, the 130-room boutique Shinola Hotel will open in fall 2018. The Wurlitzer Building will become a 106-room hotel and include a restaurant, café, first-floor retail and a rooftop bar. The city's first extended stay hotel, being developed by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, is projected to open in July 2018.

Shopping & To-Do List

The comeback city offers plenty for visitors to do. In fact, it was #9 on The *New York Times* list of "52 Places to Go in 2017." Downtown retail provides all the therapy a shopper needs. Along with many small eclectic and independent boutiques, enjoy national retailers including Carhartt®, Shinola®, Nike® and John Varvatos™.

There are many entertainment options in The D. Visit world-class cultural attractions such as the Detroit Institute of Arts and Motown Museum. The riverfront is totally revived with walking paths and the Outdoor Adventure Center. Also always, enjoy great theater, nightlife and three Vegas-style casinos. Visit www.Visitdetroit.com. 📍



The QLine begins operation this spring.

Things are happening in Detroit

Comeback city wants you to come back

Energy. Vibe. And a whole lot of attitude. That's Detroit, America's great comeback city. With new hotels, residential developments, restaurants, retail and thriving local businesses, we invite you to discover all The D has to offer.

Foodie Frenzy

Downtown Detroit is a growing foodie hotspot. Nearly 100 new restaurants, breweries, distilleries and coffee houses have opened in the last three years. *National Geographic* recently named Detroit one of its "6 Unexpected Cities for the Food Lover." That makes eating out in The D a must.

Coming this Year

Beginning operation this spring is the QLine, a new modern streetcar system. The District Detroit opens in the fall, featuring Little Caesars Arena — new home of the Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Pistons — housing retail, restaurants, office space and a hotel in a contiguous,

50-block, walkable area. The city's first public Detroit Bike Share will begin operating this spring as well, with 420 rental bikes at 42 stations throughout the city.



Downtown Detroit is for food lovers.



COMEBACKS HAPPEN WHEN YOU HUSTLE HARDER.



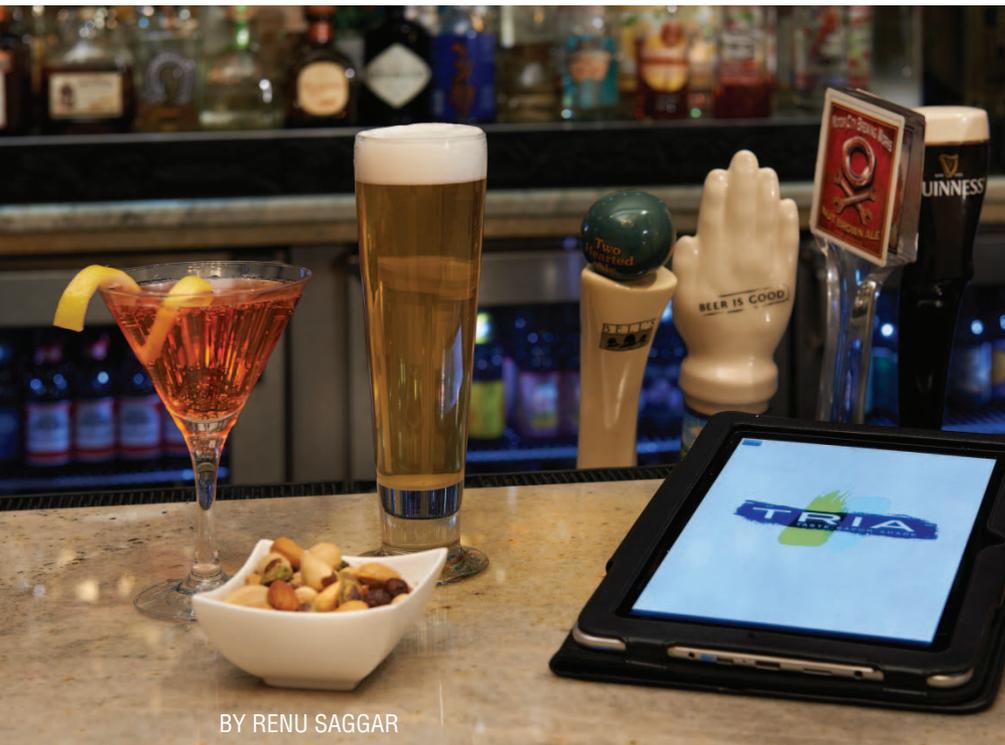
Downtown Detroit's transformation won't just move you; it will keep you moving. The new QLine along Woodward Avenue, Detroit's modern streetcar scheduled to open this year, will connect key Detroit destinations. It will also connect with The District Detroit, new home of the Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Pistons that includes 50 blocks of housing, retail, restaurants, office space, parks and a hotel. Joining all the other entrepreneurs who are making The D hum with energy, it's more proof there's no keeping this city down.

DISCOVER DETROIT, AMERICA'S GREAT COMEBACK CITY.

The District Detroit and Eric Yelsma, founder Detroit Denim Co.



visit **detroit.com**



BY RENU SAGGAR

TRIA features innovative small palate creations.

Things you should do in Dearborn

Dive into city's diverse menu of delights

Dearborn is well known as the home of Ford Motor Company. The Ford Rouge Factory Tour allows visitors to tour an assembly line where the popular Ford F-150 is built, plus an 80-foot-high observation deck and a gallery of historic vehicles.

Dearborn is also known as America's Middle Eastern capital and there are dozens of Lebanese restaurants and shops along Michigan and Warren avenues. The *Arab American National Museum* is the only museum in the world devoted to Arab American history and culture.

One of the country's best Museums, *The Henry Ford* a collector of Americana creates unforgettable ways to explore and enjoy it. You'll enter a world of amazing inventions, daring visionaries and living traditions spanning three centuries.

Greenfield Village, adjacent to the Museum, is a 240 acre outdoor museum with a collection of historic homes, workplaces and community buildings from different periods in American history. It is home to such historic buildings as Thomas Edison's Menlo Park, the New Jersey laboratory where he invented the electric light and the home where Noah Webster worked on his dictionary.

The Henry

Experience the art of hospitality and a re-imagined vision of modern luxury at *The Henry*, a Marriott Autograph Collection hotel in Dearborn. The magnificent lobby is adorned with contemporary art, and the luxurious interior is punctuated with dazzling chandeliers and boldly imagined color accents.

Located just beyond the energy of Detroit, *The Henry* is adjacent to Fairlane Town Center. It's one mile from Ford headquarters, three miles from The Henry Ford Museum and within minutes of local attractions, including Comerica Park, the Automotive Hall of Fame and Detroit Institute of the Arts.

The Henry's unmatched atmosphere of modern luxury extends to their attentive service, stylish accommodations, and contemporary amenities. Relax in the indoor pool, hot tub and massage rooms, recharge in the fitness center and stay connected with the business center and free Wi-Fi. Rooms and suites are graced with contemporary artwork, high-tech accents, and custom furnishings such as The Henry Bed. The Henry is also hosting a free concert in their Courtyard on Thursday evening, June 22, with music, beverages and food from TRIA.

TRIA

TRIA – An American Brasserie offers inspired cuisine uniquely prepared and presented in a casual and engaging atmosphere. The Henry's in-house restaurant features a seasonal American menu highlighting local and sustainable foods. Executive Chef Tim Enfield has updated the TRIA menus to make the offerings more upbeat and intriguing. More emphasis is given to "Taste, Savor, Share" with innovative small plate creations designed to be delivered to the table for everyone to enjoy.

Specialties include the House-Pulled Smoked Mozzarella, Dry Aged Angus Sliders, Caraway Dill Seared Salmon and the Rocket Arugula Salad. Flatbreads and small plates are also signatures of TRIA.

TRIA is also getting a refresh with a new, high-temperature stone pizza oven, breakfast buffet area and new Wine Wall. They will also introduce a new Spring/Summer menu in June, featuring fresh produce, meats and cheeses from local Michigan area farms.

Bar Louie

Conveniently situated in the West Village Commons, on restaurant row, Bar Louie is an eclectic urban bar and eatery catering to guests looking for a casual, yet lively atmosphere. Known for their handcrafted signature martinis, they also feature an exceptional selection of flatbreads, salads, burgers and sandwiches.

They also feature some amazing food and drink specials during happy hour every Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., lunch specials, Monday through Friday, and their famous dollar burger night on Tuesdays after 5:00 p.m.

Ford's Garage

Ford's Garage will give you the vibe of being in a 1920's service station/prohibition bar with its old style brick, dark colors, rich wood and hand-hammered copper bar top. Scheduled to open this spring at 21367 Michigan Ave. next to the John D. Dingell Transit Center, Ford's Garage offers signature and build-your-own "Assembly Line" burgers, as well as sliders and malted or adult milkshakes.

The emphasis is on quality homemade dishes that won't break the bank. The restaurants also offer an extensive list of American craft beers, and international brews. Diners can challenge themselves to a coronary heart attack with a 10-pound "Hub Cap" burger for \$125 — or free if you finish it in under 2 hours. 🍔



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THE ART OF HOSPITALITY



Lakeview Hills Golf Resort, Lexington, Michigan.

BY GAIL MERO-O'NEIL

River Crab Restaurant & Blue Water Inn

No matter what time of year you visit you will enjoy the beauty of the St. Clair River at the picturesque River Crab Restaurant & Blue Water Inn — a perfect destination for a relaxing meal, or restful getaway. With magnificent views of the river and unmatched amenities, the *Blue Water Inn* is ready to become your home away from home.

The 21 newly-renovated rooms each offer a scenic view of the river. Every room is beautifully furnished, and amenities include in-room coffee makers, complimentary Wi-Fi, cable television, plush robes, continental breakfast and a seasonal outdoor pool.

Experience dining right on the water's edge at *The River Crab* seafood restaurant. Dock your boat at the restaurant, or at the St. Clair Boat Harbor and climb aboard their complementary shuttle.

River Crab is operated by Landry's, a leader in the casual seafood restaurant category. With a host of concepts flourishing across the nation and around the world, Landry's Inc., through its subsidiaries and affiliated entities, continues to find success on all fronts. As a group, Landry's owns and operates more than 500 properties, including more than 40 unique brands such as Landry's Seafood, Chart House, Saltgrass Steak House, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Claim Jumper, Morton's The Steakhouse, McCormick & Schmick's, Mastro's Restaurants and Rainforest Cafe and tout a combination of good, fresh food, unparalleled service and marvelous locations. The menu at River Crab is full of fresh seafood, tender steaks and pastas, and with so many choices it won't be an easy decision. Join them for Happy Hour with discounted drinks and appetizers.

An unforgettable evening overlooking the river begins with a crisp Martha's Vineyard salad, or a bowl of New England Clam Chowder, and ends with their succulent desserts. Entrees include Snapper Hemmingway and Planked Salmon.

If spur of the moment decisions aren't your style, you can easily make a reservation online. No matter how you arrive, the end result is the same—fresh seafood and unmatched views in a casual, fine dining atmosphere. Please be on the lookout for any private events and promotions they may be offering at their website www.rivercrabbluewaterinn.com. 🍷

Golf and Dine in the Blue

Spring is the time to shrug off winter's heavy coat, to feel the sunlight on your skin, a breeze on your face and a golf club in your hand. Start the incredible golf season in the Greater Port Huron Area where manicured greens and challenging tees are ready to get the season rolling. The Greater Port Huron Area, typically known for its incredible blue water along the eastern shores of Michigan, has a handful of exceptional courses to suit any skill level.

Enjoy a playable and satisfying round in Port Huron. *Black River Country Club* is a classic golf course. Founded in 1926, it's gently rolling terrain comprises hundreds of mature trees and carefully placed bunkers. The greens rank with best courses in eastern part of the state. After the round, dine at the *Black River Grille*, overlooking the golf course and the beautiful Black River.

Solitude Links Golf Course is designed for all skill levels and the surroundings provide a dramatically different experience each time it is played. It entails island greens and peninsulas, wooded areas and four lakes, which come into play on 12 of the 18 holes. At the turn or any time of day, stop in for a gourmet burger and drinks at *Bunker's Burger & BBQ Co.*

The 18-hole *Port Huron Elks* course is relatively short, but features tight fairways and postage stamp greens.

Just south of Port Huron is the city of Marysville, which boasts *Marysville Golf Course*. With views of the St. Clair River and a gentle creek running through the parkland layout, the course is a jewel and a great location for a competitive match. Their *Crossfire Grill* serves up hearty sandwiches for a fulfilling bite to eat.

St. Clair is another community that offers notable golfing opportunities in the Greater Port Huron Area. Or travel north along the shoreline a bit to Lexington, Port Sanilac or Port Austin, where golfing and other outdoor recreation abounds.

Huron Shores Golf Course in Port Sanilac, is the only course in the area with scenic views of Lake Huron from the course and from the clubhouse.

Marysville Golf Course is a parkland layout along the St. Clair River, with a scenic Cuttle Creek winding through it.

Lakeview Hills has two 18 hole golf courses, plus 16 lane bowling alley, two banquet centers, a health center, restaurant and a bar.

Once the courses have been played and you and your golfing friends are ready to relax, the Greater Port Huron Area will continue to amuse you. Great places to eat, fun shops to shop in, and an array of activities along the waterfront will keep the good times rolling.

For more information on golfing and more in the Greater Port Huron Area, visit www.bluewater.org.

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This is the time to do something you love. Play along the eastern shores of Michigan, where 140 miles of shoreline are waiting to amuse you. Whether you dabble along the waterfront by foot or by paddle, take on a golf match at one of our pristine golf courses, visit the tasting room of a local vineyard or you scoot downtown for a bit of live theater and good eats, the Greater Port Huron Area says it's time to play. The eastern shores of Michigan stretch out before you, poised and ready for you to delve in. So, rent a kayak and traverse the waterways, or climb the tower of a remarkable stone lighthouse. Tee off at a pristine golf course, or find the right mix of hops at a local brewery. The paved bike paths, like Bridge to Bay Trail and waterfront spaces like Blue Water Riverwalk, make the impromptu bike ride or rambling with the kids possible. Great restaurants serving fresh, local fare are right downtown, so you don't have to travel far for sizzling tastes and original recipes. For your own homegrown eats, farmers markets are selling locally grown goods in nearly every community during the growing season. The Greater Port Huron Area's quaint, shoreline towns are booming with special events. Waterfront concerts, maritime festivals, thundering boat races and historic celebrations deliver spectacular entertainment and cultural influences throughout the year. Whatever your passion, the Greater Port Huron Area invites you to engage and enjoy!

bluewater.org



Traverse City.

BY RENU SAGGAR

Designed by world renowned golf architect Alister MacKenzie, it is recognized as one of the most fun courses in America. Recent changes to the eligibility policy has made it possible for visitors who are not affiliated with the University to purchase a golf packages that include greens fee, riding card, welcome gift and food voucher.

If you're looking for a casual golf outing, there are several options in the Ann Arbor area that will suit your needs. Specifically, Huron Hills, Lake Forest, and Leslie Park Golf Courses are all located very close to downtown Ann Arbor. *Green Oaks* in nearby Ypsilanti Township, is a 32-year-old golf course and is a challenge to both beginners as well as seasoned golfers. The course has well-kept fairways, large undulating greens and numerous arbors.

If you love watching golf, mark your calendars for the *LPGA Volvik Championship* at Travis Pointe Country Club where 144 of the best female professional golfers in the world compete for the \$1.3 million purse. The first annual LPGA Volvik Championship was held in Ann Arbor over Memorial Day Weekend 2016. This professional 72-hole golf tournament will return to Ann Arbor May 22 – 28, 2017. Get your tickets today by visiting VolvikLPGA.com and plan a Memorial Day Weekend getaway in Ann Arbor!

For more information about golfing, restaurants, attractions, and events in the Ann Arbor area, explore VisitAnnArbor.org.

Swing into Spring in Michigan

There's great golf and a whole lot more

Springtime in Michigan is an amazing place to get in tune with nature, indulge in diverse dining, or take part in a packed lineup of festivals and events. From blooming flowers and longer days, to countless rounds of golf, bike rides, leisurely walks and more, spring in Michigan means something special to everyone.

Ann Arbor

College town Ann Arbor is emerging as a must-visit destination for golfers who want to spend more time on the greens, but less 'green' doing so. With courses offering a variety of price ranges and skill levels, the entire area has much to offer golfers of all types. In addition, if you are traveling with someone who is more enthusiastic about activities off the greens, the Ann Arbor area has plenty to keep your companion entertained while you swing away.

Starting with one of the more challenging courses, *Eagle Crest Golf Club* in nearby Ypsilanti received a four-star rating from Golf Digest and the 16th hole has been named one of the most challenging in Michigan. Nestled along Ford Lake, the

stunning waterfront par 72 course is a delight to experience. *Eagle Crest* is also the only course in the Ann Arbor area with its own hotel — the Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti. Book a room, as well as a tee time, and you won't have far to go after a full day on the links.

Another nationally-ranked course is *The University of Michigan Golf Course*.



Eagle Crest Golf Club, located in Ypsilanti Township, Michigan.

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Weber's Ann Arbor

Weber's is an award-winning restaurant and boutique hotel that merges traditional architecture and hospitality with contemporary style. Its classic American dining experience makes it an Ann Arbor mainstay, featuring modern charms like The Habitat Lounge, which boasts live entertainment and dancing seven-nights-a-week. Whether visiting from out of town or locally, patrons are sure to enjoy the outdoor terrace, award winning wines and the area's finest prime rib, steak and seafood.

Weber's was founded by Herman Weber in 1937 as a small diner called the Hi-Speed Inn. Two years later, it moved locations and officially changed its name to Weber's. In 1963, the restaurant moved once again, this time to its current location on Jackson Road, the boutique hotel followed six years later.

The company is now run by Herman's son, Ken, who serves as president, along with two of his sons, Michael and Brian, who are both vice presidents.

The Ann Arbor landmark, marked its 80th anniversary in March, and to celebrate, from March 1-31, the restaurant,

will offer a multi-course, pre-fixed menu featuring Weber's Prime Rib of Beef, their house specialty since 1950.

"On behalf of my entire family, including my late father, we felt it was only appropriate to commemorate our anniversary by highlighting our famous prime rib," said Ken Weber. "Our long and storied history is a testament to the foundation my father laid 80 years ago, as well as to our dedicated staff."

"We are touched that families, couples, locals, visitors and, even, celebrities, have taken time to visit our independent, family-owned business for everything from a weekend away to the holidays, birthdays and weddings."

Last spring, Weber's completed a \$2 million renovation of its 158 guest rooms and suites. The remodel, which was highlighted by numerous technology-related upgrades, followed a \$4 million update to the facility's ballrooms, lobby, pool and exterior façade.

The newly-transformed Weber's Inn has two reception halls. The Atrium Ballroom is ideal for wedding receptions with up to 200 guests, while the Grand Ballroom comfortably fits larger parties of up to 300 guests. No matter the event, the ballrooms offer an elegant

and sophisticated ambiance.

Weber's catering has a very talented culinary staff which is available to personally customize a menu to your specific requests for an exquisite dining experience. Once your event is booked, a catering manager will contact you to discuss the details. Don't forget the cake! After a delectable entree course, enjoy a stunning cake created at Weber's in house bakery. Let Weber's professional staff assist with all your requirements, whether it be catering, events, meetings, conferences or hotel accommodations. For more information please visit them at www.webersinn.com for complete details.

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Livingston County

Just an hour drive from Windsor Ontario, is southeast Michigan's "Shopping Central". Tanger Outlet Center has over 70 brand named stores. Livingston Antique Outlet is the state's largest antique mall and Green Oak Village Place life style mall are just 3 of many reasons bargain hunters head to Livingston County. Shoppers can enjoy the spring weather while dining alfresco at any of the 40 restaurants that offer sidewalk café seating.

The county's largest cities, Brighton and Howell, feature charming downtowns

with distinctly different environments. Downtown Brighton's landscape includes a serene millpond with a three tiered bridge (tridge) connected to a boardwalk that overlooks the *Imagination Station*, a wonderful children's wooden playscape. Sip a craft brew at *Brewery Becker* in the beer garden before exploring the local boutiques and specialty shops. Saturdays in the summer, Brighton is alive with activity at the local Farmers Market and on Sundays there are free outdoor concerts at the Millpond.

Historic downtown Howell is a showcase of turn of the century architecture that houses an eclectic mix of shops and restaurants. Here the Sunday Farmers Market reminds visitors of a simpler time when everyone knew their neighbor and small towns were the gathering place for family and friends.

In June of each year Howell hosts 100,000 visitors for the incredible *Michigan Challenge Balloonfest*. On Friday nights in the summer, music fills the air from free concerts at the historic courthouse amphitheater. Add 50 thousand acres of parks in the area and the whole family will want to visit. Visit www.lccvb.org.

Traverse City

Best known as a popular summer playground, this land of dunes, lakes and forests wears a different face in spring-time. The summer crowds and heat are still far off, the orchards are covered in fluffy clouds of blossom — and best of all, the enchantment of Traverse City is available at very reasonable prices.

Traverse City's bustling downtown boasts over 150 boutiques, shops and galleries full of undiscovered treasures, and the nearby lakeport communities of Suttons Bay, Leland and Elk Rapids offer shoppers a uniquely quaint experience. So does the *Village at Grand Traverse Commons*, a former mental asylum whose castle-like towers rise above a bustling complex of shops, restaurants and galleries.

With more than 150 inland lakes and hundreds of miles of Lake Michigan shoreline -- including the majestic Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, voted "Most Beautiful Place in America" by viewers of Good Morning America — Traverse City offers almost limitless opportunities for boating, sailing, canoeing, kayaking and fishing.

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Michigan

Surrounding Traverse City are deep, fragrant forests crisscrossed with trails for hikers, horseback riders and cyclists, and golf courses with million-dollar views. This is Michigan's "Golf Coast," an area Golf Digest named #12 on its list of the World's Top 50 Golf Destinations.

Long known as the cherry capital of the world, Traverse City is now an increasingly famous wine-producing region with nearly 40 wineries and a fast-growing craft brew scene. You won't go hungry, either. Traverse City's many restaurants have also created a national reputation for their fresh, innovative regional cuisine.

On a single morning, you can wander down a magnificent beach, enjoy one of the best meals you've ever had and amble through the shops and stores of a friendly lakeside village. Cast your line into one of America's most famous trout streams, paddle the shores of a forest lake, search for delectable morel mushrooms on the wooded hillsides, or just take a drive through the most gorgeous display of spring wildflowers you'll see anywhere. Visit www.TraverseCity.com.

Park Place Hotel

The elegant downtown Park Place Hotel, is the only hotel and conference facility located in the heart of downtown Traverse City. It's just steps from downtown shops and restaurants, or an easy stroll to the bay and beach. Traverse City's historic full Service landmark hotel has come to occupy a prominent and cherished role in the area. Completed in 1930, the hotel's 10-story tower made it the tallest building in Traverse City.

Over the years, the Park Place has hosted luminaries from the world of entertainment, business, politics, and the arts. The gracious accommodations, memorable views, thoughtful amenities and comprehensive services make this a very special place.

Each of 140 tastefully appointed guest rooms and suites are carefully appointed and feature exceptionally comfortable beds. They offer lovely views of Boardman Lake and Grand Traverse Bay, coffee maker, mini refrigerator, microwave and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Minervas Restaurant & Bar on the lobby level, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner with a full menu of steaks, chops, pasta, seafood and more. Minervas also

has happy hour food and drink specials.

The Beacon Lounge on the 10th floor provides a very memorable setting overlooking Traverse City and Grand Traverse Bay and serves a full range of cocktails, appetizers, pizzas and desserts. Coming soon, a new Conference Center and Fitness Facility, June 2018! Visit www.Park-Place-Hotel.com.

Lansing

Just a short drive away, Michigan's capital region has golf that's way above par. Discover that Greater Lansing is a great destination for those who love the links and are looking for golf that's not only affordable but also not too far a distance from home.

From tree-lined fairways carved out of scenic Midwestern hardwoods to wide-open links-style courses with rolling hills and manicured emerald banks, Greater Lansing boasts some of the best golf courses in the country. Area courses challenging, meticulously kept, and they are conveniently located.

Experience *Timber Ridge Golf Club*, offering "Up-North" golf and top-notch service or fall in love with *Eagle Eye Golf Club* at Hawk Hollow and face the challenge of the island green on hole 17, a



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TITANIC

THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition takes you on a journey back in time to experience the legend of *Titanic* like never before. The galleries in this fascinating exhibition feature over 100 real artifacts recovered from the ocean floor along with room recreations and personal stories; each highlighting a different chapter in the compelling story of *Titanic's* maiden voyage. *Tickets to the exhibition are timed. Advance purchase is recommended.*

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replica of the internationally recognized hole at TPC Sawgrass in Florida. Discover *Forest Akers Golf Course* (East & West), redesigned by renowned golf course architect and Michigan State University alumnus Arthur Hills. With country club-quality at public course prices, it's no wonder foursomes are coming in droves to golf in Michigan's Capital City.

But when the courses are played and it's time to sit back, visitors can find other opportunities for fun and entertainment. Discover not only first-class dining options, but also locally crafted beer, artisan spirits and the tastiest burgers this side of the border.

Or how about planning your golf trip around one of Greater Lansing's amazing festivals? Celebrations include beer, wine, jazz, theatre, cars and just about anything you can think of. Add in numerous lodging options and planning a golf getaway to Greater Lansing has never been easier or more fun. Book your stay today. Visit www.Lansing.org.

Flint & Genesee County

With over 11 national-caliber, public golf courses, Flint & Genesee is a golf lover's destination. Once off the greens, there is plenty to see and do across the

county for day and weekend trips.

From markets to museums, cinemas to symphonies, car shows to the county fair, there's something for everyone. Award-winning county parks and access to streams/ivers and lakes provide year-round opportunities.

Flint & Genesee's cultural resource are unmatched, from the Flint Symphony Orchestra to the University of Michigan-Flint's Department of Theatre and Dance. The 30-acre Flint Cultural Center provides area residents with an array of cultural and artistic experiences.

A calendar full of events and seasonal festivals includes Back to the Bricks, Grand Blanc Family Fun Fest, Clio Festival of Arts, Fenton Freedom Festival, Genesee County Fair, Bikes on the Bricks, and Be a Tourist in Your Hometown.

The Flint Farmers' Market is a year-round public market with 50 vendors inside, and 25 more outside from May through October.

Downtown Flint is a picture of diversity, activity and renaissance. Augmenting the historic architecture with modern touches — such as the "Flint Vehicle City" arches and brick paving on Saginaw Street — creates a unique downtown experience.

For more information on what to see and do, including festivals and events, shopping and dining, visit www.flint-andgenesee.org.

Sloan*Longway Flint

On April 15, 1912, *Titanic*, the world's largest ship, sank after colliding with an iceberg, claiming more than 1,500 lives and subsequently altering the world's confidence in modern technology. More than 100 years later, Sloan Museum pays tribute to the tragedy through *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition*. Running now through May 21, priceless artifacts conserved from the ship's debris field are showcased, offering visitors a poignant look at this iconic ship and its passengers.

Visitors are quickly drawn back in time to 1912 upon entrance, as each receives a replica boarding pass of an actual passenger aboard *Titanic*. They then begin their chronological journey through the life of the *Titanic*, moving through the ship's construction, to life on board, to the ill-fated sinking and amazing artifact rescue efforts. They will marvel at the re-created rooms, and press their palms against an iceberg while learning of countless stories of heroism and humanity. In the *Memorial Gallery*, guests will take their boarding

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Michigan

pass to the memorial wall and discover whether their passenger and traveling companions survived or perished.

Regional history, historic automobiles and hands-on science are all on display at Sloan*Longway in Flint. Sloan*Longway is comprised of three unique facilities, the Buick Automotive Gallery, Longway Planetarium and Sloan Museum.

Proof of Concept, which runs Friday, Saturday and Sundays until April 30, 2017 at the Buick Automotive Gallery, chronicles the history of conceptual vehicles. Exhibits include four of the museum's five GM "Dream Cars", each one representing new levels of ingenuity and innovation. Also on display are some the production models they inspired.

The Sloan Museum Auto Fair takes place June 24 & 25, 2017. This a fun-filled two-day show features plenty of music, entertainment, vendors and of course, automobiles! The Flint Cultural Center campus becomes home to more than 600 of the best looking cars, trucks and motorcycles around.

"Longway Planetarium is Michigan's largest star gazing facility, if you don't count the sky," once quipped comedian Stephen Colbert. It recently reopened after extensive renovations, visitors will experience a radically different planetarium experience with new seating, a and a state of the art Digistar V projection system. Visit www.SloanMuseum.org.

Birch Run

Outlet shopping has become synonymous with the name Birch Run. Conveniently located halfway between Flint & Saginaw on I-75 at exit 136, near Frankenmuth, Birch Run has been playing host to thousands of dedicated shoppers since 1986. Plan on spending more than one day to take in all the bargains. This appealing Midwest town also hosts hotels, restaurants, special events, a wilderness park, and a rich history.

Birch Run Premium Outlets finds impressive savings at 145 outlet stores including Ann Taylor, Banana Republic, Aéro-postale, Brooks Brothers, Calvin Klein, Coach Outlet, Guess, J. Crew, Nike, The North Face, Polo Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfinger and more.

Located along I-75 and next to Prime Outlets, *The Birch Run Expo Center* plays

host to trade shows, seminars, sporting events, meetings, banquets and outdoor festivals. Over 600 hotels rooms are within a 3/4 mile radius. Upcoming events include the 3rd Annual Fly Fishing, Kayak & Canoe Swap Meet, April 15th; the Birch Run Motorcycle Swap Meet, April 23rd; and Progressive Dog Show, April 28-30.

The *Alpine Mountain Adventure Park* features go-karts, bumper boats, bank shot basketball and two 18-hole miniature golf courses for hours of family fun.

Wilderness Trails Zoo offers a unique zoo experience with mile long trail that winds past one of the largest animal collections in Michigan. Home to over 200 animals, including alligators, lions, tigers, and camels, they also feature a petting area, and feeding stations.

Check out the action at *Dixie Motor Speedway*. From May to September, see stocks, pro stocks, super late models, winged midgets and more race on the 1/3 mile high banked oval asphalt oval complete with a figure-8. www.birchrun.org

Holland

From the energetic streets of downtown, to the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan, Holland is the perfect destination for all year round adventure!

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Named one of "America's Prettiest Towns" by Forbes Magazine, and an "All-American City" by the National Civic League, downtown Holland's cobblestone sidewalks line the streets with over 100 unique and locally owned shops, galleries, eateries, and brew pubs. Every Thursday during the summer, downtown hosts street performers from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., always providing wonderful evening entertainment. Local shops, live music and outdoor dining make downtown the place to be!

If you are looking for a culinary adventure, you won't be disappointed. Whether you sign up for a custom cooking class, tour a local brewery, catch the sunset while enjoying lake-front dining, or simply indulge in an old-fashioned ice cream cone, Holland has it all! Just two blocks from downtown is their renowned Farmers Market. Recognized as one of the best outdoor markets in Michigan, *The Holland Farmers Market* is known for its nearly 100 vendors providing locally sourced products. Chef demonstrations using market fresh ingredients and activities kids can enjoy while you shop, make this a popular event.

You won't have to search far for exciting

activities if you are an outdoor enthusiast. We have over 1800 acres of parks for hiking, cycling, picnicking and playing. With over 150 miles of paved bike paths, 8 miles of mountain biking and hiking at the Riley trails, and over 1/3 mile of beautiful sandy beach at the Holland State Park, there is truly something for everyone. Explore the 2 miles of rich wooded dune trails and high bluffs that Mt. Pisgah offers, along with breathtaking views of the beach and our lighthouse, "Big Red." Spend a day on the lake charter fishing, swimming, boating, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, or sailing. The outdoor recreation possibilities are endless!

If you'd prefer to take your adventures indoors, Holland has you covered. Voted the "Best Family Entertainment Center in West Michigan," BAM features laser tag, monster bowling, an arcade, and a high ropes course. De Klomp Wooden Shoe and Delft Factory and the treasured DeZwaan Windmill, (the only authentic working Dutch windmill in the U.S.), offer many historical and cultural activities. Holland is also home to a world-class aquatic center. With a 50-meter pool (Olympic size), 150-foot water slide, water playground, therapy pool and spa, there's plenty of

fun for everyone!

With 1700 hotel rooms, they have plenty of options to accommodate any budget. For more information about visiting Holland, visit www.holland.org.

Coldwater Country

Step back in time to when life was a slower pace, things less complicated and find yourself in Coldwater Country. Make family memories as you discover the must-see and do adventures in the quaint communities of Coldwater, Bronson, Quincy, and Union City. Conveniently located in south-central Michigan, at exit 13 off I-69, Coldwater Country has many adventures waiting to be explored.

Kick back on one of more than 100 lakes, including two chains of lakes. Coldwater Country is a haven for relaxation on the water. Rent a pontoon or kayak for a water adventure. Anglers will find a hot spot for reeling in the catch of the day.

Swing through the area and take advantage of the nearly two dozen golf courses. Whether golfing on an island along the lakeside or on a nature preserved course, we have the course for you.

Spend the afternoon riding the rails on a historic steam train, or experience laser tag and go-carts. As the sun sets,

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make your way to an 'All-American Drive-In' showing the latest flicks in high definition.

Quality theatrical offerings at the local Opera House have become a must see. The Professional Summer Theatre is always a crowd favorite.

Shop 'til you drop in the many boutiques and shops throughout the area. Allen has one of the largest concentrations of antiques dealers, dubbed as Michigan's Antique Capital.

At the end of your fun-filled day and exciting night on the town you can check into one of the many hotels. The hotels are just minutes from the and attractions.

Don't forget to check the website for additional information on the exciting events including food festivals to cars, boat parades and magic taking place all year round. There's always a reason to celebrate in Coldwater Country. Visit www.ColdwaterCountry.com.

Lakewood Shores

Lakewood Shores Resort in Oscoda, not only offers great golf but wonder-

ful accommodations, meeting facilities and excellent cuisine. Nestled among northern Michigan hardwoods, the 152 rooms offer an excellent view along with a patio overlooking the courses. Rooms range in style from new hotel units to spacious one and two-bedroom suites, many with in room Jacuzzi's.

Lakewood Shores features three championship golf courses. Designed by Kevin Aldridge, *The Gables* recreates the look and feel of classic Scottish Links with large double greens, meandering berms, sod faced pot bunkers and long fescue grasses. Golf Week named The Gables was Michigan's highest-rated resort course in 2016.

Blackshire, also designed by Kevin Aldridge, recreates the look and feel of the famous Pine Valley C.C. Although not a replica of Pine Valley, it offers a similar rugged feel with hardwoods, large sand waste areas, and undulating greens. Encompassing less than 200 acres, Blackshire has a classic turn of the century feel, and with short walks from green to tees it also provides a classical walking experience if desired.

The Serradella, designed by Bruce Matthews, offers the perfect complement to the other championship courses. It's

a classic parkland design with minimal hazards, wide fairways and large greens. With over 50,000 annual and perennials showcased throughout the Serradella and resort, the floral gardens will have you stopping to smell the flowers.

Dining facilities include a main dining room and *Scotland Cove*, their 19th hole, serves soup, sandwiches and quick snacks for making the turn.

Lakewood Shores offers a full array of family activities, including a private beach on Cedar Lake perfect for swimming, jet skiing, canoeing and fishing. Just minutes away are the beautiful beaches of Lake Huron. Visit their website at www.lakewoodshores.com and use their online quote form to create a custom package just for you.

Petoskey Area

For the perfect golf getaway, come to the Petoskey Area of northern Michigan. Not only is the quality of the courses exceptional, there are 19 in the area, all within an easy drive of one another. *Bay Harbor Golf Club* is rated 8th in the U.S. by Golf Magazine.

It is topography that gives the courses an unforgettable character. The landscape was sculpted by the glaciers and is now

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defined by rolling hills up to 600 feet in elevation. Most area courses take full advantage with breathtaking terrain changes.

Lake Michigan and numerous inland lakes add to the beauty of the courses and offer stunning vistas. And virtually all the golf holes are separated from each other — no bowling alley back and forth golf! Whether you choose world-class courses or more economical layouts, you'll remember their beauty long after forgetting your score.

The spectacular landscape is a major reason renowned architects such as Robert Trent Jones, Sr. and Arthur Hills have designed courses here. These are courses you've read about and heard about, and can now play yourself.

While the Petoskey area has long been a golf destination, it is just the start of all there is to do. With a wealth of recreational activities within a short distance, this is a family destination where the non-golfers don't feel stranded.

The lakeside communities of Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Boyne City and Bay Harbor, are full of unique shops, galleries and restaurants. You can hike or bike along the lake or through hardwood forests, cool off

in Michigan's largest indoor waterpark, and experience the excitement of the spectacular casino.

The combination of unforgettable golf, natural beauty, charming shopping areas and a friendly unhurried pace are why this area has come to be known as a Michigan treasure.

For more information visit them at www.PetoskeyArea.com.

Cadillac

Cadillac offers a wide variety of spring recreation, mouth watering cuisine, appealing attractions, unique shopping and is clearly a town with a vigorous economy, a healthy environment and a vibrant sense of community.

The area has eight golf courses within 20 minutes of each other, you can spend a whole week and play a different course each day with a couple left over for your next visit. The *Eldorado Golf Course* has five tee boxes so you can play a leisurely 5,000 yard round up to a 7,000 yard challenge that tests all of your golfing skills.

Evergreen Resort offers 27 holes of varied terrain and was voted one of the "best places to play" by Golf Digest. *The Rose Golf Course* is designed around the Green Tees, which is recommended first

timers, regardless of skill, because the rest of the tees are difficult and a stern test of your golf skills. To sample the other six courses you'll need to reserve your spot and head to Cadillac. You can also check them out on line at www.cadillac-michigan.com but the real experience is where the memories are made.

Golf widows or widowers will find over 200 miles of natural and built public trails, over 500,000 acres of state and national forest. Three major rivers and several large lakes offer year-round world record fishing. There are small town museums with big stories of our lumber baron ancestors. Recreation defines this region and offers 'naturally inviting' reasons to visit.

After the day in the great outdoors, Cadillac offers unique shopping boutiques, quaint downtowns, several bowling centers, a roller skating rink, a championship year around ice rink, full service health & fitness facilities, a 3D movie complex, and of course mouth-watering cuisine at the many locally owned restaurants around the area. Add these attractions to a full line-up of area spring festivals and you can spend a fun-filled or relaxing, vacation in the greater Cadillac area.



Create rounds of memories

You'll remember the awesome lakeside settings, majestic hilltop vistas and pristine conditions long after you've forgotten your scores. To golfers of all abilities, this is a Michigan treasure.

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Go to www.cadillacmichigan.com, or check out their blog at www.exploreCadillac.org.

Marquette

Named a Top 25 Best Adventure Destination in the World, Marquette County is found in the heart of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The rugged Huron Mountain range and Lake Superior shoreline define the landscape, making it the perfect place to linger and enjoy all types of outdoor activities.

With spring in the air, it's time to get back outside and embrace your natural identity.

- Fat tire biking is always in style in Marquette County. Test a 'fatty' out on miles of sandy shorelines with easy access.
- Bring or rent bikes to ride along 47 miles of the *Iron Ore Heritage Trail*, a paved route that stretches from Marquette to Republic.
- Hiking trails lets you experience amazing vistas from Sugarloaf, Hogback and Top-of-the-World mountains. Park and go from well-marked trailheads.
- Waterfalls are at their best. Hike to

our 12 most popular wilderness falls and feel the natural rush. Call 800-544-4321 to request your Marquette County Waterfall Map.

- On sunny days, find your beachfront retreat along 83 miles of pristine shoreline without the crowds. Try Wetmore Landing on the road to Big Bay with a view of Little Presque Isle and easy access to Lake Superior for paddling adventures.

Indulge in culinary adventures throughout Marquette County. Choose fine dining as well as a variety of ethnic menus and locally sourced cuisine, including fresh whitefish.

Restaurants located in downtown Marquette and along Third Street are locally owned and independently operated, spicing up the county's food scene. Visit the popular dining establishments of Big Bay, Negaunee, and Ishpeming, or the Up North Lodge in Gwinn, known for its barbeque ribs. Be sure to try an authentic U.P. pasty during your visit!

Top off your adventures with craft beer brewed with pure Lake Superior waters at one of six microbreweries in Marquette, Negaunee and Ishpeming. You'll find these regional brews available on tap at restaurants throughout the area as well.

Or enjoy a glass of wine specially selected by the sommelier at the new *Zephyr Wine Bar* in downtown Marquette.

Set aside time in your travels to visit sites dedicated to preserving the story of Marquette County. In the city, spend time at the Regional History Center. Visit the statue of Father Marquette, the Jesuit explorer from the 1600's and Marquette County's namesake found on Front Street in a garden overlooking the city and Lake Superior.

Visit the tomb of the Venerable Bishop Baraga in the majestic St. Peter Cathedral at Fourth and Baraga Streets. Linger at the *Marquette Maritime Museum* and Harbor Lighthouse. In Ishpeming, explore the fascinating *Cliffs Shaft Mining Museum* and take in the *Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame*, celebrating the birthplace of skiing.

Anytime is a great time to experience Marquette County. Stay awhile where the deep blue of Lake Superior meets the Northern Lights. Where lodging accommodations exceed your expectations, just minutes from city or woodland adventures. Embrace your natural identity in Marquette County. Visit www.travelmarquettemichigan.com.

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Costa Rica has an emerald-like radiance that seems to emanate from a place deep inside the earth. Dense lowlands give way to rolling savanna, steaming volcanoes and evenings filled with stars. Humpback whales breach on a secluded coast and solemn black frigate birds hang like kites in the wind.

Roughly half the size of Ireland, this mountainous nation on the Central American isthmus is home to an astonishing bio-diversity. No fewer than a twelve climatic zones shelter about five percent of the world's known species of flora and fauna. There are at least 50 varieties of hummingbirds and millions of butterflies, including the iridescent blue morphos with an 8-inch wingspan.

Guanacaste, a province in northwestern Costa Rica bordering the Pacific, is known for its beaches and bio-diverse parkland like *Rincon de la Vieja National Park*, a must-see Costa Rican paradise.

From its active volcanos to dream-like waterfalls, travelers will find dwarf cloud forests and a trail that ventures up the mountainside of the park's volcanoes. An abundance of flora and fauna includes puma, jaguars, sloths and tapirs.

Liberia, the provincial capital, is known as the "White City" because of the white-washed walls and expansive colonial

architecture. Travelers with a penchant for the Wild West vibe can visit the many ranches in the outskirts of town.

The Papagayo Gulf is the home to many of Costa Rica's all-inclusive exclusive resorts. *Secrets Papagayo Costa Rica* is located on Guanacaste's stunning Papagayo Peninsula. A short 20 minute drive from the Liberia International Airport, this adults-only resort is perfectly situated on a serene beachfront and surrounded by lush tropical gardens. There are a variety

BY ADELINA IRVINE

of activities to dive into from beach walks and water to wine tastings, theme nights, yoga or cooking lessons.

The 202 luxurious guest rooms and suites with views of the gardens or the Gulf of Papagayo, a private furnished terrace or patio, and a spacious bath.

Indulge in an array of international cuisines at three *à la carte* restaurants, a buffet and a café, or sneak away for a romantic meal in your suite with 24-hour room service. Enjoy unlimited premium drinks at five bars including a swim-up, lobby and spa bar, serving international and domestic beverages as well as top-shelf spirits

Eco-tourism has surpassed coffee and banana exports as Costa Rica's largest industry. That's impressive when you consider that Americans consume upward of 28 pounds of bananas per person a year.

With 10 distinctive life zones, *Santa Rosa National Park* is the only one of its kind on the planet. Costa Rica's first national park is home to over 115 species of mammals, 250 species of birds, and 100 species of amphibians and reptiles.

Just to the northwest the majestic *Arenal Volcano* rises above the rainforest reaching into the sky with near perfect symmetry. The youngest and most active of Costa Rica's 14 volcanoes, puffs of steam rise from its caldera, although the last eruption was in 2010. The jungle's soothing layers of green are interrupted by the flash of a scarlet macaw, or a howler monkey's elegiac roar. 🌿



Spring ahead in Lackawanna County

Spring in northeast Pennsylvania is a great time to shake off the winter blues. The mountain laurel begins to bloom and the solemn old mountains provide a timeless backdrop for all kinds of warm weather activities.

Lackawanna County is a hidden gem that wraps around the city of Scranton in the very northeastern corner of the state. Named for the scenic river that flows through it, it's packed with four extraordinary county parks, reclaimed rail to trail paths and a vibrant nightlife and cultural scene.

Visitors will discover an urban oasis at Scranton's 300-acre *Nay Aug Park*. The city's largest park features walking trails, picnic areas, kid-friendly rides, two Olympic-sized swimming pools and the *Everhart Museum*. The park's rock-strewn gorge and waterfalls have been named a National Natural Landmark. Overlooking the gorge and the amazing *David Wenzel Treehouse* which provides an awesome view from 150 feet above the cataract.

Beginning in April, visitors are invited to journey 300 feet below the earth's



The Treehouse in Scranton's Nay Aug Park.

surface into a restored anthracite coal mine dating back to 1860. Guided by a miner, guests will discover how local miners worked long and hard to fuel the nation's economy. Then stop by the *Anthracite Heritage Museum* to learn about the lives of these hardy mining families.

Nothing says spring more than hearing the words "play ball!" at PNC Field, a 10,000-seat minor league baseball stadium. It's the home of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.

Climb aboard an authentic 1926 or 1932 antique trolley when *Electric City*

Trolley Excursion season begins in April. The trolley departs from the Steamtown National Historic Site for a five and a half mile trip over Roaring Brook through the Crown Avenue Tunnel. At 4,747 feet long, it's one of the longest interurban tunnels ever built. The *Electric City Trolley Museum* chronicles the history of electric railways in eastern Pennsylvania.

Steamtown National Historic Site is the only National Park solely dedicated to the history of steam railroading. The 52 acre facility showcases steam locomotives, restored cabooses, freight cars and passenger coaches dating from the early 20th century. It also boasts an active Locomotive Repair Shop and Roundhouse with an operational turntable.

An active cultural scene encompasses a vibrant and array of music, theatre, exhibitions and ever-changing schedule of events like the *Electric City Brewfest* on Montage Mountain, April 28 and 29. Meet the brewmasters, sample over 100 craft brews, with food, live music and more.

For more information, please visit visitnepa.org.



SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE RAILRIDERS AT PNC FIELD

WANNA MAKE A MEMORY?

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BY RENU SAGGAR

Pools fashions at Studio Style.

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Studio Style Ladies Apparel

Spring is here, and the world is your runway. *Studio Style Ladies Apparel & Accessories* is your place for seasonal fashions in Port Stanley. Located on Main Street beside Kettle Creek Inn, they offer a great selection of clothing, accessories, handbags, scarfs and more. They carry a number of fresh Canadian collections, by Robert Kitchen, Spanner Inspired Style, Simon Chang, Neon Buddha, Fresh FX, Parkhurst, Lola Jeans, Eric Alexandre and more. Their fashion sense is current yet classic, chic and unique with every line they carry.

Accessories include Canadian designed jewellery, hand bags and scarves by Myka Jewellery, Anne-Marie Chagnon, Twoa Jewellery, Karen Wilson and more.

European collections include designs by Sandwich, Junge, Pools and Lebek. Sandwich — a Dutch line — is known for great fabrics, simplicity in design and creating beautiful pieces that transcend time.

Kim Ariesen opened Studio Style in July, 2008. Kim also always likes to give back to the community. She organized a sweater donation in November, and this spring, presented a spectacular fashion show fundraiser in support of Bridges Out of Poverty at the Port Stanley Festival Theater. Kim welcomes you to see what she has in store and to enjoy the shopping experience at Studio Style. www.studiostyle.ca

Warm up to Elgin County this spring

Summer is just around the corner and it is time to start planning your vacation! With the perfect blend of rural and urban, Elgin County offers a wide variety of activities for all ages and interests. A trip down Elgin's winding country roads is a great way to escape from the pressures and monotony of day-to-day life.

One hundred and twenty kilometres of scenic Lake Erie shoreline provides the perfect backdrop for swimming, boating, fishing or relaxing on some of the finest sandy beaches that Ontario has to offer. Numerous charming towns and villages like Port Stanley dot the Elgin County countryside offering fresh local cuisine, wineries, vibrant local festivals and unique shopping experiences.

Immerse yourself in the visual and performing arts attractions that the area has to offer. Explore studios, galleries, artisan crafters and theatres featuring original paintings, sculptures, photography, pottery and hand crafted items.

Hiking trails, cycling routes, golf courses and campgrounds give you the opportunity to spend some well-needed time in the great outdoors.

Discover your inner artist on the . . .

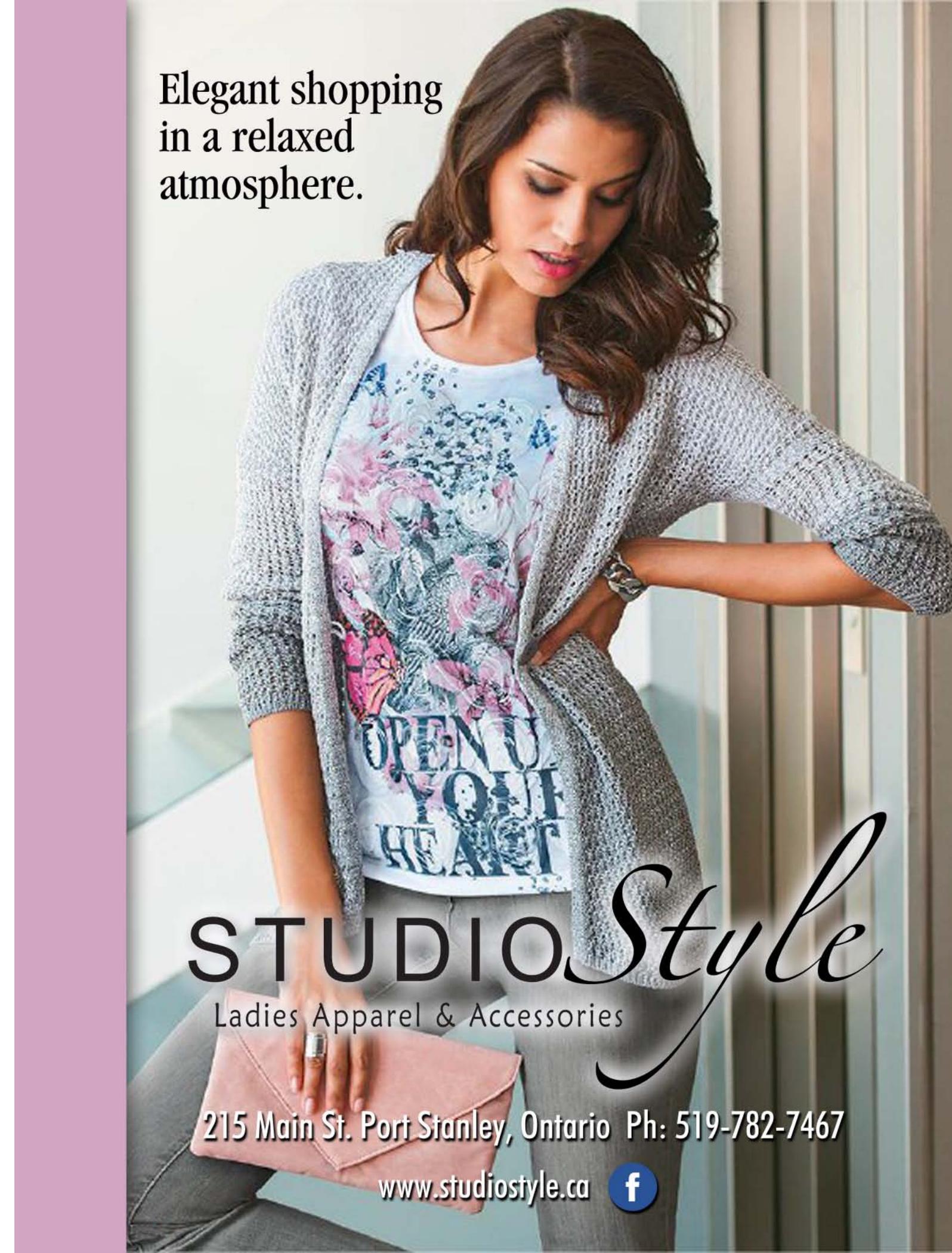


From original paintings to pottery, studios to theatres, galleries and crafters, the Elgin Arts Trail is ready to take visitors on an imaginative and unforgettable journey.



www.elginartstrail.ca

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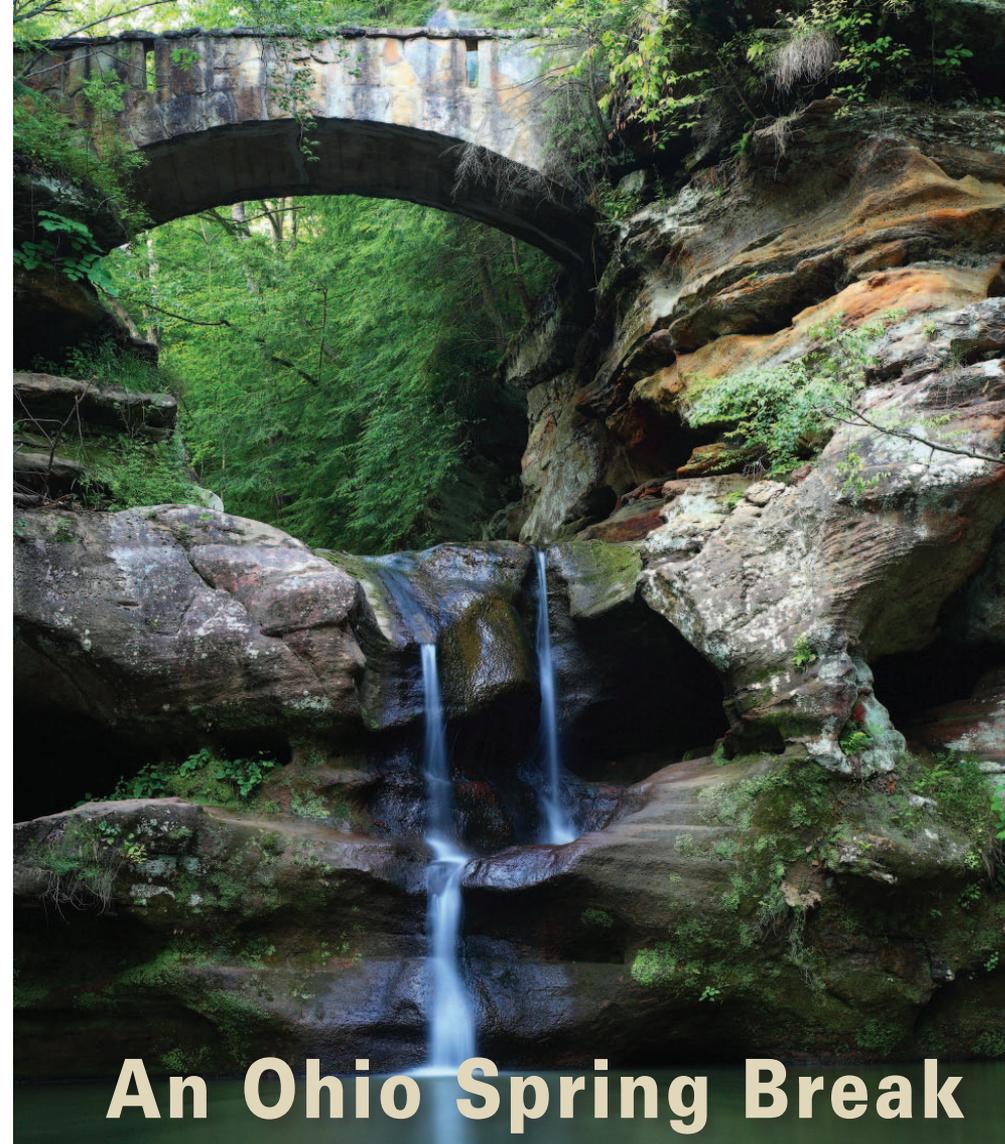
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An Ohio Spring Break

Upper waterfalls Old Man's Cave, Hocking Hills.

BY RENU SAGGAR

including Port Clinton, Marblehead, Put-In-Bay and Kelleys Island and Cedar Point Amusement Park. When you stay in Sandusky County you'll also save big on your hotel lodging. Sandusky County puts you in the center of the action with nearly every major attraction less than a 30-minute drive.

Experiences range from the mild to the wild! Start your holiday with a laid-back tour of the NKP Railroad Museum, or the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Museums. Then gear up for the adventure of a lifetime as you choose from an African Safari adventure, spelunking at Seneca Caverns, or kayaking or canoeing along the Sandusky River. If you're the ultimate thrill seeker then look no further than Cedar Point amusement park, the roller coaster capital of the world!

If golf is one of your favorite past times, or you simply enjoy hacking around with your buddies, Sandusky County can fill the bill! From 9 to 27 holes, they offer courses for every skill level, from duffer

Ohio is a spectacle any time of year, but spring may be the best time of all. Flowers and buds awake from their wintery slumber, providing an explosion of color. The days are longer and the temperatures begin to climb. Big cities hum with cultural events, world-class museums and attractions, fine restaurants, and a vibrant nightlife, while the countryside is famous for being tranquil, green and timeless. Explore the region's unique traditions at small town festivals and events, or drop a line in the many lakes and rivers. Golfers will find a course for every level of ability, with rolling fairways and eye-catching elevation changes. An Ohio Spring Break is a great way to celebrate the season without getting on a plane or without breaking the bank.

Sandusky County

Fremont Ohio, located in Sandusky County, is conveniently located just off the Ohio Turnpike's Exit 91. It's is close to many of Ohio's "Hot Spots,"



The Ohio Light Opera performs in Wayne County.

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populate the Columbus Ale Trail.



*Columbus ranked "Highest in
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There's something brewing in Columbus. Head down the Ale Trail to try a cloud-like Humulus Nimbus from Seventh Son or the hard-rocking Brass Knuckle from Four String Brewing Co. Winding through historic neighborhoods, a vibrant downtown and beyond, our craft beer scene is another reason weekends are Made in Cbus.

EXPERIENCE
COLUMBUS.com

Columbus, OH received the highest numerical score among 8 cities in the Midwest in the J.D. Power 2016 Destination Experience Satisfaction Study, based on 26,124 total responses, measuring the experiences and perceptions of travelers who visited a top 50 U.S. destination, surveyed February-July 2016. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com

Ohio Spring Break

to pro. There are courses that incorporate sparkling lakes, pristine landscaping and broad, undulating hills. Courses that challenge the skilled player while providing playability and amusement for the average golfer. Whether you're visiting Sandusky County or this is where you call home, be sure to check out Sandusky area golf courses. They're saving a place for you on the tee!

Other must-see attractions include, Marblehead Lighthouse, Schedel Arboretum and Gardens, the North Coast Veterans Museum & 9/11 Memorial, Chateau Tebeau Winery, North Coast Inland Bike Trail, Clyde Heritage Museum and more. For more information, visit their website at www.sanduskycounty.org.

Whatever you're into, Sandusky County has something for everyone!

Medina County

Medina County offers small town atmosphere with big city flavor. There are unique shops like Ohio Station Outlets with over 60 stores and Hollo's Paper-craft, (discount paper, envelopes and

more). Historic *Medina Square*, with its Victorian architecture, features unique shops and boutiques, eclectic restaurants and bistros, a Toy & Train Museum, the Medina Museum and a Victorian home open for tours.

The area's newest attraction is *Castle Noel*, a holiday entertainment complex with holiday window displays from famed New York City department stores such as Bloomingdales, Saks, Lord & Taylor and others toys, photos, the Santa Squeeze; the Blizzard Vortex, a grand collection of props and costumes from Christmas movies. These include the Grinch's 16-foot sleigh, Will Ferrell's Elf costume, a sweater worn by Tim Allen and soldiers from the Santa Claus movies and so much more. End with a visit by Santa, then slide down the slide from "A Christmas Story". Open March through November, weekends and Tuesday to Sunday during the Christmas season. In the lower level enjoy Alien Vacation Mini Golf in Freaky 3D.

Nearby is the newly-opened High Voltage Indoor Karting, a mini-cart track. Enjoy a rodeo, farms, exciting festivals, events and concerts. There is something for everyone.

Located just 35 miles south of Cleve-

land and 24 miles west of Akron, Medina County offers small-town charm with big city flavor.

Explore Medina County for scenic drives through picturesque rolling hills and rich farmland, hiking, great dining, local shopping and fascinating history. This charming county has loads of apple farms, an ostrich and alpaca farms, several lovely garden centers, specialty shops with handmade and Amish furniture and crafts, antique stores and fascinating eating establishments. For more information please visit www.visitmedinacounty.com.

Akron

Blurring the lines between metropolis and scenic haven, visitors to Greater Akron, Ohio can get swept up in the rush of the little big city that is downtown Akron, or escape to the breathtaking views of Ohio's only national park.

Cities offer visitors the thrill of rich culture found in various major metropolitan areas. Art enthusiasts can explore the *Akron Art Museum* and galleries like Summit Artspace, or Akrona, which feature local and touring exhibits. Those looking to catch a performance have a variety of playhouses and concert venues

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Plan your vacation at: www.SanduskyCounty.org

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Ohio Spring Break

from which to choose, including the *Akron Civic Theatre*, one of five remaining atmospheric theaters in the nation. The opulent interior integrates Moorish and Mediterranean design elements and was completely restored in 2000.

Guests who still haven't had their fill can look into Greater Akron's past at Hale Farm & Village, Perkins Stone Mansion and Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens. The former estate of F.A. Seiberling, co-founder of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, the 65-room Tudor Revival Manor House, is the nation's 6th largest historic home open to the public. The estate includes five historic buildings and eight historic gardens spread over 70 acres.

Iconic events happen all year long, including: World Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational, FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby, International Twins Days Festival, National Hamburger Festival, Ohio Mart, Akron Marathon Race Series and Akron Zoo's Boo at the Zoo to name only a few.

Visitors that need a break from the action can wander off the beaten path to *Cuyahoga Valley National Park* (CVNP) using the Ohio Erie & Canalway Towpath Trail, which runs through the heart of downtown Akron, or by hopping on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. It operates regular excursions and special excursions from Rockside Station in Independence to Akron Northside Station. The 11th most visited national park in the United States, CVNP boasts 33,000 acres of unimaginably beautiful areas to play, rest and recharge.

A visit to Greater Akron also offers novices to pros a chance to hit the links on more than a dozen beautifully manicured public courses.

Not a golfer? Spend your time shopping area favorites, Don Drumm Studios & Gallery, Akron Glass Works, Mustard Seed Market & Café, or any of the myriad shops and boutiques scattered throughout area communities.

Diverse dining options offer flavors from authentic Nepalese to Mexican fusion, car-side service at Swensons Drive-in's, to an iconic Akron Steak House. New for 2017 is the Summit Brew Path, which features 14 breweries' eclectic libations — a can't miss — regardless if you complete the official path or not!

Sights, sounds and special experiences

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await. Plan a visit that will be your very own. akron.travel, playeatshop.org, summitbrewpath.com.

Trumbull County

If you're one of those golfers who heads south each year to play golf somewhere in the Carolinas, consider taking a break along the way to play some golf in northeast Ohio.

Just a short drive west of southbound I-79 and along I-80 at the Ohio/Pennsylvania state line, sits Trumbull County, a 25-square-mile area where golfers, on their way to or from the southern states, can hit the greens at over 20 different courses.

Here you'll find more than 300 challenging holes situated within parkland layouts that feature lush tees, fairways and greens lined by mature trees. These picturesque selections which beckon novices and pros alike, range from 9-hole executive style facilities to championship-caliber resort courses.

In rural Kinsman in the northeastern section of the county, *Bronzwood Golf Club* has been family-owned for over 50 years and offers an 18-hole, 6,300 yard course that features a rolling terrain with creeks

and ponds located throughout.

A short drive away is the new *Peter Allen Inn & Event Center*, the perfect location for a night's stay before heading out for another round of golf the next day.

Pine Lakes Golf Club in Hubbard, which was established in 1926, features an 18-hole, par-72 course situated on 234 acres. Its premier layout has been redesigned for all skill levels and is the perfect place to include in a "Stay and Play" package. One call does it all here.

Another family-owned operation is *Tamer Win Golf and Country Club* in Cortland which has been in business since 1961. Here golfers will find a solid 18-hole layout that is relatively short and open on the front nine. The back nine is longer and completely wooded.

Voted one of the top 10 public courses in Ohio, *Yankee Run Golf Course* is an 18-hole facility that sits on 150 acres of rolling terrain in Brookfield. This mature course, which has been in operation for over 80 years, is located in a wooded setting very close to the Ohio/Pennsylvania border.

But golf isn't the only thing you'll find in this area of northeastern Ohio.

There are over 44,000 acres of land dedicated to outdoor recreation space within the Trumbull County borders making it the sixth largest recreational area in Ohio.

Here hunters can set their sights on eight different public hunting areas, while anglers can cast a line into the second largest inland lake in the state. Kayakers and canoeists will enjoy paddling the 25-mile Mahoning River Water Trail. And biking enthusiasts will find themselves surrounded by nature and safe from traffic on the Western Reserve Greenway, which is part of the Lake-to-River Greenway, that when completed, will span over 100 miles from Lake Erie down to the Ohio River. Visit www.exploretrumbullcounty.com.

Mahoning County

Welcome spring with views of over 40,000 bulbs in bloom in Youngstown's *Fellows Riverside Gardens*! This beautiful 12-acre free public display garden, is part of Mill Creek MetroParks and one of the Ohio's finest public gardens. Over 400,000 people visit annually to see the wonderful plant displays, a wide variety of roses and seasonal displays of annuals and perennials. Climb the observation tower for



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spectacular views of Lake Glacier. Enjoy the Davis Visitors Center, have lunch in the café and find unique gifts at the Shop in the Gardens.

Spring also means it's time to get your golf clubs out of storage and book some tee times! Let Youngstown and Mahoning County be your Northeast Ohio golfing destination. Golfers of all skill levels will be challenged on scenic, well-maintained courses, where you can sharpen your game. No need to spend a fortune on a golf getaway because local hotels offer affordable golf packages.

Popular courses include *Kennington Golf Club* in Canfield, Ohio. With the convenience of the new Courtyard by Marriott adjacent to the course, Kennington is just steps away from your hotel room. *Mill Creek Park Golf Course* features two 18-hole championship courses designed by the legendary Donald Ross. The South course has been selected by Golfweek as one of America's 30 Best Municipal Courses. *Reserve Run Golf Course* is designed around an old quarry, which makes for a very scenic-but-challenging round of golf.

After your round, take your pick of fantastic local dining options and enjoy

a great meal. Relax at a local brewery or one of seven local wineries. Plan a stop at *Vintage Estate Wine & Beer* for an unbelievable selection of beers from around the world. Browse 1,200 craft beers in stock and a wine room with over 1,000 labels from which to choose.

Feeling lucky? Visit *Hollywood Gaming Mahoning Valley Race Course*. With over 850 video-lottery terminals you're sure to find your favorite games. Live thoroughbred horse racing runs October to April. Simulcast racing from around the country is offered 365 days a year.

The Mahoning County Convention & Visitors Bureau can help you plan the perfect weekend getaway. Please visit www.youngstownlive.com to start planning your visit today!

Wayne County Ohio

You might already be aware that Wayne County, Ohio is part of the world's largest Amish settlement and home to Lehman's Hardware, The J.M. Smucker Company Store and Café, Everything Rubbermaid, and P. Graham Dunn. But did you know that the *Ohio Light Opera*, summer resident opera company of the College of Wooster who also calls Wayne County their home?

The 2017 Light Opera Season, which runs June 17 through August 12, opens with the musical "The Music Man." Also included in this summer's line up will be Cole Porter's "Anything Goes," and Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S Pinafore." Also featured this season will be "Primrose," "The Student Prince," "Countess Maritza" and "The Lady of the Slipper."

Over 20,000 patrons from across the country and around the world come to Wooster for the Ohio Light Opera performances in the intimate confines of Freedlander Theater each year. Patrons find the matinee performances fit in well with local restaurants that offer upscale dining and still leave time for sightseeing. Evening performances can be followed by wine parings or decadent desserts and coffee. Hotels, Inns and Bed and Breakfasts offer special packages that include show tickets and meals.

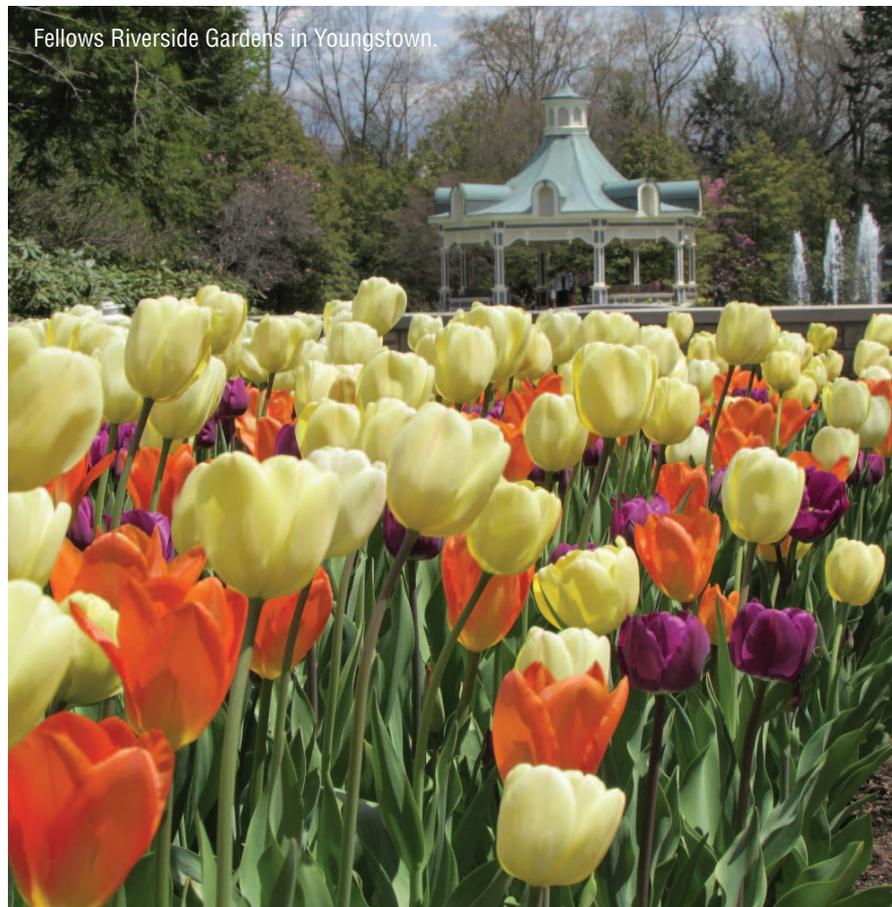
Additional information about the Ohio Light Opera is available online at ohiolightopera.org or by contacting the Wayne County Convention & Visitors Bureau at wccvb.com.

Getaway to Gahanna

Ohio's Herb Capital is located just northeast of Columbus. Conquer the new Herbal Cocktail Trail, attend the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival, shop the "Rodeo Drive of the Midwest," dine *alfresco* or paddle boat through Creekside Park. Gahanna is located near the John Glenn Columbus International Airport, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and other central Ohio attractions.

Cocktail connoisseurs can savor herb-infused cocktails from signature Gahanna restaurants and distilleries along the *Herbal Cocktail Trail*. Make a weekend getaway out of it! Pick up a passport at the Visit Gahanna Visitor Center and discover delicious libations like the Herb Trail Limeade, or Blueberry Basil Delight. Get six stamps in your passport and redeem it for a branded cocktail glass! VisitGahanna.com.

Families will love the *Herbal Adventure Trail*, a collaborative effort showcasing 45 culinary and shopping venues, parks and herb gardens. Learn to nurture your garden at the Ohio Herb Education Center. Savor a lavender cupcake at Koko Tea Salon. Explore Geroux Herb Gardens. Tour Wyandotte Winery tasting locally made wines and herb-infused wine cakes. Walk the meditation trail at Shepherd's Corner, a 160 acre ecological refuge. Shop Easton Town Center, which USA Today calls the



Fellows Riverside Gardens in Youngstown.

Ohio Spring Break

“Rodeo Drive of the Midwest.”

Don't miss the award-winning *Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival* (June 16-18) featuring 90 hours of hot jazz and cool blues under the summer stars, a Family Fun Zone, amusement rides, food vendors, and more. Discover hotel getaway packages and a schedule at www.CreeksideBluesandJazz.com.

To learn more about Gahanna, Ohio go to www.VisitGahanna.com.

Columbus

Columbus points to its diverse population as a source of pride, and this broad mosaic of peoples and cultures enhances life for both visitors and locals. One thing that links all people together is food. The city's growing influx of foreign-born residents has resulted in a colorful culinary melting pot overflowing with aromas and tastes. That diversity means visitors to Ohio's capital city can enjoy a stunning array of incredible dining experiences from around the world.

The city's sizable international population has driven a boom in Columbus' ethnic food scene. It has sparked rebirth

in once-defunct suburban strip malls as immigrant restaurateurs from around the world set up shop. As a result, visitors and locals alike can travel the planet in one strip center.

In order to help adventurous eaters navigate these diverse global offerings, Columbus food blogger Bethia Woolf launched Columbus Food Adventures in 2010, creating a food tour company that turns taste testing into a rich cultural experience. Because Columbus' ethnic population is not enclaved, but rather interwoven, it's easy to experience incredible diversity of cuisine in one trip; visitors can try local Vietnamese, Somali, Nigerian, Persian, Mexican, Salvadorian and other cuisines — all within a few blocks of one another.

Puhuntso Lama is the owner of *Momo Ghar*, a new Nepalese restaurant in Columbus. Lama joyfully introduces guests to her country's food while describing its popular momo, or dumplings. In fact, Momo Ghar has quickly risen to become Yelp's No. 1 restaurant in Columbus and was just listed in its Top 100 Places to Eat in 2017.

At longtime local Laotian restaurant *Indochine*, every guest is treated like a

regular, despite possible unfamiliarity with the cuisine. The result is a comfortable and welcoming experience -- even for first timers. Another unforgettable dining experience awaits visitors to Peking Hot Pot, where skilled Chinese noodle makers spin plain beige balls of dough into delicious silky noodles with amazing speed and dexterity of a magician performing unfathomable tricks. A wide window lets diners watch the amazing process, which begs to be recorded and shared on social media.

“Columbus has incredible breadth of the diversity of ethnic restaurants, beyond the typical offerings found in even much larger cities,” said Woolf, co-owner and tour coordinator at Columbus Food Adventures. “The fact that we have so many African, Asian, Middle Eastern and Latino restaurants, and the fact that you can find them all within one neighborhood, makes the experience ideal for travelers. Our Alt Eats Tour is special because it lets our guests explore ethnic diversity and new American cuisines, such as Somali food, with which people may be unfamiliar.”

Columbus' international flavor is embraced by locals, as well. In recognition of the many contributions of the city's



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immigrants, Columbus mayor Andrew Ginther announced his continued commitment to accepting refugees in Columbus regardless of immigration status.

“Our immigrant population is part of the fabric of what makes Columbus so vibrant,” Mayor Ginther said in a press release. “They are our neighbors. We must not turn our backs on them, now or ever.”

Columbus has become a safe haven for refugees. According to recent data, foreign-born residents make up 9.3% of the city’s population and contribute \$258 million in local and state income, property and sales taxes. The local refugee community supports an estimated 21,000 jobs in Columbus.

With the second largest Somali population in the U.S. and more than 30,000 immigrants from Nepal and Tibet, as well as a host of other new residents from across the globe, the city has become a haven for international cuisines that thrive in a city known for its open attitude, smart style and entrepreneurial spirit. Columbus’ blend of neighborhoods, dynamic nightlife, noteworthy music scene and impressive arts and culture experiences add to the growing list of reasons to head south for a getaway. In addition

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Ohio Spring Break

to its growing list of culinary accolades, Columbus was just ranked “Highest in Visitor Satisfaction in the Midwest” by J.D. Power in its 2016 Destination Experience Satisfaction StudySM.

To book your Columbus Food Adventure, visit ColumbusFoodAdventures.com. Complete visitor and lodging information is available at www.ExperienceColumbus.com

Fairfield County

Spring is a great time to visit Fairfield County! Shake off those winter blues and get out and discover over 8,000 acres of parks and nature preserves as they return to their seasonal beauty. Enjoy a round of golf at one of the many beautiful courses, or just take a leisurely walk or bike ride along the scenic trails throughout the county.

Spend some time in the museums which feature history, glassblowing, historical aircraft, motorcycling and even a children’s hands-on museum. You’ll also find great shopping, unique dining, and eclectic wineries and breweries. Admire our art exhibitions or create your own

masterpiece in our fun studios. Fairfield County is home to 17 authentic covered bridges, more than anywhere else in Ohio.

Be sure to take in historic *Rock Mill* — recently returned to its 19th century glory, featuring the largest all-wooden waterwheel in the USA!

Experience the power of nature, the ingenuity of mankind, lively events, and amazing sites in Fairfield County! Learn more at VisitFairfieldCounty.org.

Hocking Hills

Vacations and stories go together like maple syrup and pancakes. Some vacation stories are funny, some are poignant, some are unbelievable and some just make our heart smile every time we remember our travels. Southeast Ohio’ Hocking Hills provide the perfect backdrop for your vacation stories.

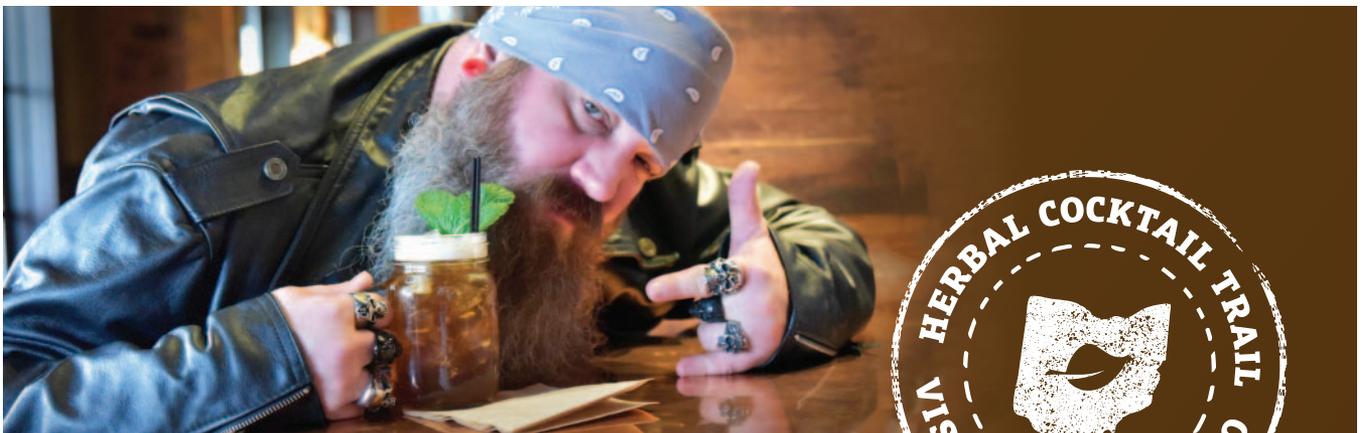
Located in the foothills of Appalachia, the Hocking Hills are Ohio’s natural crown jewels. The terrain changes from towering cliff faces to deep ravines through sandstone caves to forests with wildflower carpets. The unique topography makes for an awesome eco playground.

The Hocking Hills is best known for miles and miles of scenic hiking trails

traversing prehistoric caves, sparkling waterfalls and clifftop vistas. Drawing some four million visitors annually, Old Man’s Cave and Ash Cave are the easily most-visited areas of the Hocking Hills State Park. However, many travelers miss some of the region’s other spectacular natural areas, such as Lake Hope, Lake Logan, Rock House and Cedar Falls. The region also boasts a wide variety of affordable lodging, from camping, cabins and cottages to hotels and inns.

And there’s so much to see and do. More than sixty ziplines make the Hocking Hills the *Canopy Tour Capital of the Midwest*, but that’s just the beginning. Canoe or kayak the historic Hocking River. Rent a pontoon boat and cruise around Lake Logan. Take a horseback ride to an authentic cowboy cookout. Rock climbing and rappelling on a real cliff face is always better than a man-made indoor climbing wall. There’s nothing like a good fish story and there’s plenty of great fishing in this playground.

As you relax around the fire pit at your cozy cabin tucked into the woods the stories of your day will linger in the evening air as the night sky fills with an unforgettable star show. Find your next

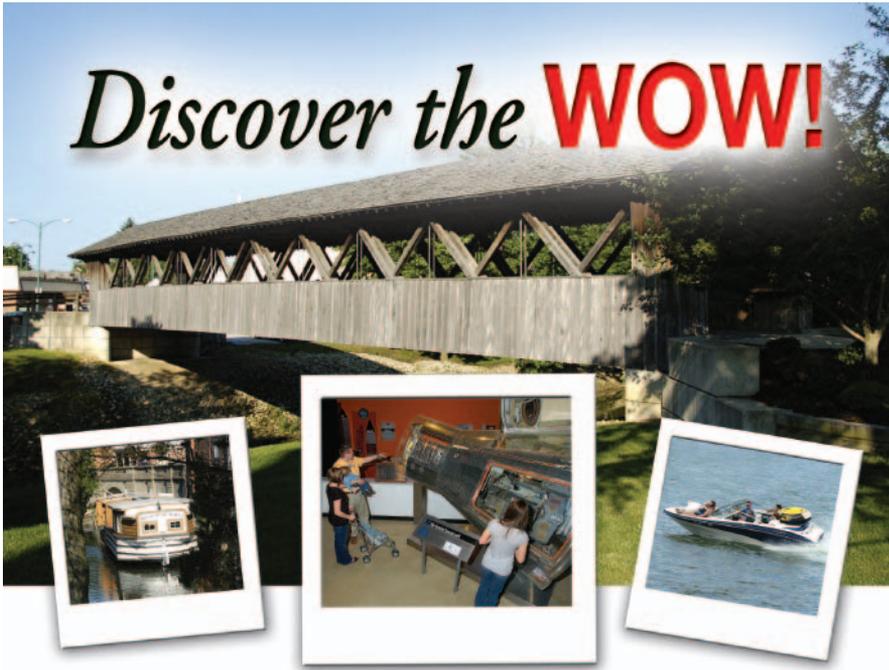


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Golfing in Carroll County.

Ohio Spring Break

vacation stories in Ohio's Hocking Hills. Visit ExploreHockingHills.com to plan your next escape.

Carroll County

Located at the foothills of Appalachian Mountains, Carroll County offers you small-town charm and those windy, rural routes that draw motorcycle and sports car enthusiasts.

Carroll County offers you a chance to "retreat, relax and rejuvenate" from the hustle and bustle of this technology-heavy world. Located in East Central Ohio, this community invites you to relax and enjoy its rolling hills and scenic vistas.

The public square in Carrollton is surrounded by small shops, including four antique stores that invite you to explore the past Wednesday through Saturday. *Bud's Farm Toys* has both antique and new agriculture-related toys to add to your collection. You can purchase your favorite novelty candy and discover something new you just have to have at Ashton's 5- & 10-Cent Store. The Carroll County Arts Center showcases local artists.

If you are in Carroll County on the second Friday of the month, then stop by Minerva's *Discover Downtown*. The Market Street Art Spot celebrates a new artist each month with a reception. Experience the local talents of musicians performing at Minerva Music Center. There is also a wine and beer tasting.

Golfers are preparing their clubs for the first opportunity to hit the links at Carroll County's two golf courses. Featuring 18 holes of premium fairways, *Carroll Meadows Golf Course* is located just outside of Carrollton. In nearby Minerva, *Great Trail Golf Course* features 27 holes with rolling hills and beautiful views.

For anyone who enjoying spending time at a lake, Carroll County has two man-made, low-horsepower lakes to experience. Atwood and Leesville lakes both have public marinas with boat rentals.

Leesville Lake is a fisherman's paradise, offering a variety of fish, including muskies. You will see pontoon boats, sailboats, fishing boats and paddleboards on Atwood Lake.

Atwood Lake Park offers campgrounds and cabin rentals. *Whispering Pines Bed and Breakfast* provides visitors with a view of the lake from their balcony. Geocachers will want to check out the Atwood Lake Region's *Explore the Shore Trail*.

Visit carrollcountyohio.com to plan your trip to Carroll County, Ohio.

Great Grand Lake Region

Your road trip begins in Wapakoneta, the boyhood home of Neil Armstrong. Check out the *Armstrong Air & Space Museum* which pays tribute to the first man on the moon. Next, explore downtown Wapakoneta with its delightful mix of unique, antique and specialty shops and eclectic restaurants. Don't miss the wood fired pizza and craft beers at *J. Maries* or the delicious fudge and scones at *Cloud 9*.

Next stop is the *Bicycle Museum of America* in New Bremen, home to the largest private bicycle collection in the world. With more than 250 bicycles on display, you will see big wheel and wooden bicycles of the past as well as sleek racing bikes of today and many unusual bikes from every era in between. While in New Bremen be sure to check out the Miami-Erie Canal, Lock One and the Lockkeepers House. Stop by *17 West* for Prime Steaks and Pistachio Crusted Walleye.

The final destination of your road trip is a visit to *Grand Lake St. Marys*. Ohio's largest inland lake at 12,500 acres, was dug by hand in the early 1800's. It was also the site of the world's first off-shore oil rig. Today, Grand Lake St. Marys is home to three lighthouses and a favorite water recreation destination for folks who love fishing, boating, camping, picnicking and bird watching. Enjoy the view while you enjoy authentic Italian favorites at *Bella's* or homemade Peanut Butter Pie at *Pullman Bay Restaurant*.

To learn more on West Ohio attractions visit GreaterGrandLakeregion.com.

Warren County

Record-breaking roller coasters, award-winning wine, and an incredible array of outdoor adventures are only a sampling of the excitement awaiting travelers this spring in Ohio's Largest Playground—Warren County. Conveniently located off Interstates 71 and 75 and just north of Cincinnati, this Southwest Ohio hideaway has all of the makings of an affordable, yet unforgettable escape for families, grown-ups and groups of all interests.

Seeking adventure? Take on *Kings Island's* incredible collection of coasters, including the brand new *Mystic Timbers*, or spend a day with Charlie Brown and friends at *Planet Snoopy*—the park's kids' area named World's Best 15 years and running. Soar more than 200 feet above a gorgeous stretch of Midwestern wilderness on one of the region's largest treetop

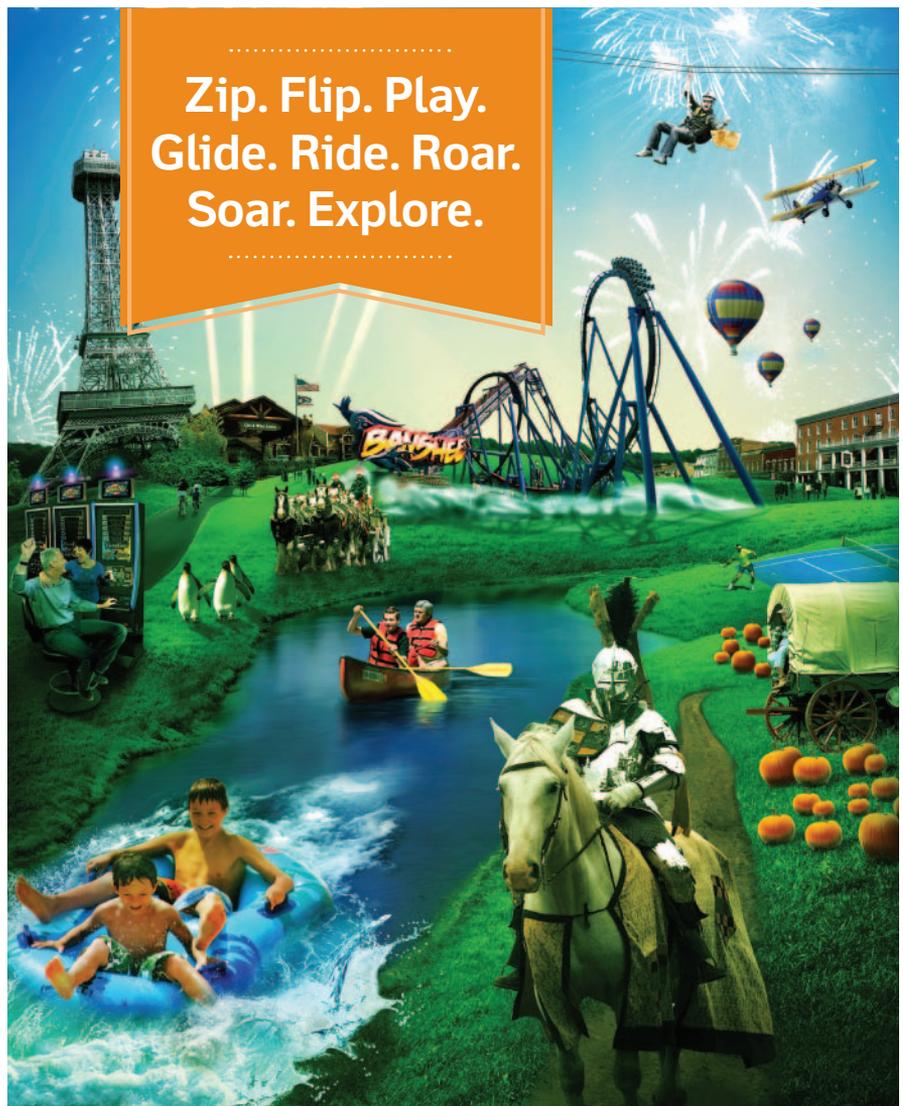
canopy zip tours, *Ozone Zipline Adventures*.

Discover the beauty of Southwest Ohio from a whole new perspective with a high-flying hot air balloon trip! *Bella Balloons* and *Gentle Breeze* both offer sky-seeking adventurers incredible aerial tours.

Canoe, kayak, raft, or fish the Little Miami Scenic River, then cruise along its banks for up to 76 miles on its tree-shaded bike trail. Discover ancient fossils, pristine hiking trails and a sparkling recreational lake at *Caesar Creek State Park*, then uncover more than 2,000 years of Native American history at the world's best-preserved hilltop enclosure, *Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve*.

Looking for something low-key? Get your fairway fix at any of the county's numerous golf courses, including one designed by PGA legend Jack Nicklaus, or relax and unwind at a cozy bed and breakfast. Grab dinner for two at *Valley Vineyards*, the Buckeye state's second largest vineyard, or visit the historic *Golden Lamb*, originally opened in 1803 and recently named both Ohio's Most Iconic Restaurant and Ohio's Most Iconic Hotel.

No matter your idea of fun, your spring escape awaits in Warren County! Get your free 2017 Visitors Guide and book your getaway today at OhiosLargestPlayground.com. 📖



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Fripp Island Golf and Beach Resort

Fripp Island is a tiny, perfect paradise, just three miles long and one half mile wide. The most seaward of the beautiful barrier islands off of Beaufort, the entire island is an Audubon wildlife sanctuary. Deer roam freely, dolphins frolic in the inlet and an occasional alligator can be seen along the banks of the lakes and lagoons.

South Carolina's outermost barrier island is also a premier vacation destination with two of state's best golf courses, miles of unspoiled beaches and an experienced attentive staff. Renowned for its amenities and natural conservation, they offer a fine selection of quality rental homes and villas, ranging from oceanfront to scenic and golf views.

Named one of the "100 Best Golf Resorts in North America" by Links Magazine, Fripp Island Beach & Golf Resort boasts two of the most spectacular golf courses in America. *Ocean Point Golf Course* was designed by the renowned architect, George Cobb, who served as a consultant to Augusta. "The Point" features well-bunkered, small greens that place

BY SAPNA SAGGAR



The 14th hole at Ocean Point.

a premium on accurate iron play. When the ocean breezes blow you may have to bump and run the ball to the green.

Ocean Point has been boldly renovated to take advantage of the sweeping vistas and now boasts dramatic views of the ocean or inlet on 10 of the 18 holes with the front and back nine both finishing against a backdrop of the Atlantic. Golf Digest gives Ocean Point a 4 STAR rating.

Ocean Creek Golf Course, on the south end of the island was designed by Davis Love III. Love III's first signature course offers panoramic views of the Great Salt Marsh and freshwater lakes, amid four,

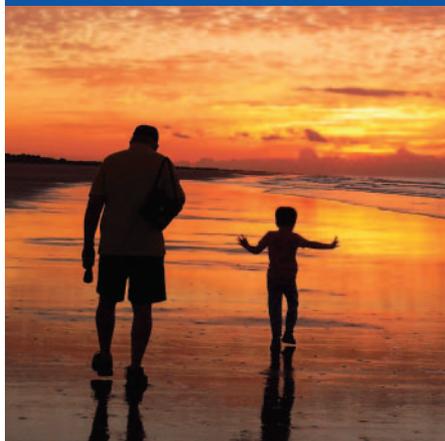
ancient rolling dune lines that come into play. Wildlife is abundant with deer, Snowy White Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Ospreys providing a pleasant distraction in their natural habitat. Golf Magazine named Ocean Creek "one of the top 10 new courses you can play" and Golf Digest awarded it a 4.5 STAR rating.

Unlike many golf resorts walkers are welcome. Fripp is a haven for traditionalists who want to grab their bags and walk any time of day.

You can customize your golf getaway with one of their golf vacation packages. Their \$125 Spring Special features nightly accommodations, daily 18 holes of golf with cart, complimentary replay rounds based on availability and complimentary range balls with each round. Offer is valid until May 24, 2017 and is based on six or more golfers, and not valid with any other offers or existing reservations. It does not include tax or island fee.

With rates like these you don't have to choose which course to play — you can play them both! Visit www.frippislandresort.com.

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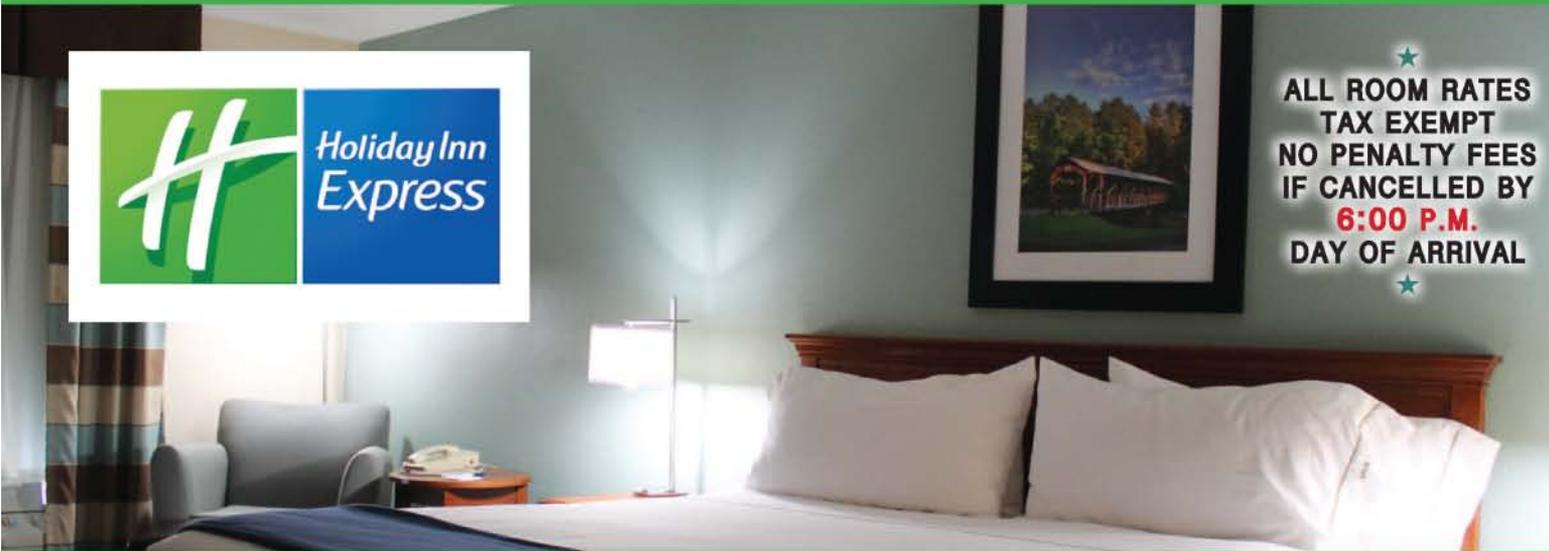
On South Carolina's most beautiful barrier island is a great family friendly spot for your summer vacation. With two championship golf courses, tennis, fishing, biking, swimming, Camp Fripp for kids, unspoiled beaches and more, Fripp Island will turn a weeklong vacation into memories that will last a lifetime.

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BY ADELINA IRVINE

Sky High Adventure Park in Cattaraugus County.

Spring into the Enchanted Mountains

Cattaraugus County New York is naturally yours

Cattaraugus County, New York, has a unique mixture of back country rural living and upscale *apres ski* resort town.

Known as the Enchanted Mountains, it's the perfect place to stretch your winter weary muscles and get back out enjoying the Great Outdoors, just as it begins to stir with the first signs of spring!

Allegany State Park, New York State's largest, offers fun and relaxation in a year round setting. The two sections of the park, Red House and Quaker offer nature and adventure tourism for those seeking to explore the great outdoors with miles of trails. Take to any of the trail systems for hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

Mountain Bikers can experience some of the finest single track at The Art Roscoe Trail System in Allegany State Park or

Holiday Valley. The Art Roscoe System is approximately 25 miles of loops, some challenging and some more suitable for beginners.

Offering a total of 319 cabins, 4 group camps and 374 cabins, it is accommodating to any size group. Start your warm weather season off right with a trip to Allegany State Park!

New York's *Amish Trail* can be found along Cattaraugus County's western border. Wander along the back roads far away from the rush of every day life. Visitors can travel back in time to find breathtaking landscapes and hand-made items like like delicious treats, comfortable quilts or exquisite furniture.

The Seneca Nation of Indians are vibrant, talented people whose history and artwork can be found at the *Seneca Iroquois National Museum*, or a soon to

open new Cultural Center! Tour the museum or come to one of the Seneca Nation's cultural events like the *Marvin Joe Curry Pow Wow* in July.

Ellicottville is a year round resort destination and home to Holiday Valley Resort and HoliMont, two of New York State's largest ski resort, but it's not just for winter sports. In the summer, *Sky High Adventure Park* at Holiday Valley mixes challenge with fun as you make your way through the trees. Mountain biking, events and festivals, and resort life in the village will delight visitors to Ellicottville all summer long.

Griffis Sculpture Park opens in May and is the county's hidden gem. It matches art with nature as guests walk through, climb on and meander around the over 250 enormous multi-dimensional figures. Hiking is at its best at Rock City Park (opens May 1st) and Little Rock City (open year 'round) along the Geology Trail dispersed with gigantic rock formations.

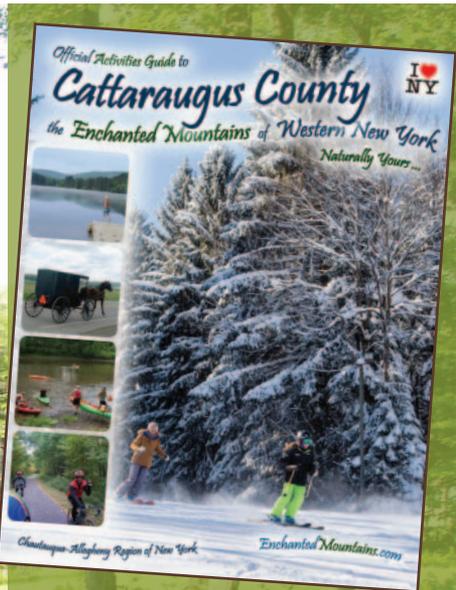
Onoville Marina, which opens in May, offers 91 miles of pristine, non-commercialized shoreline, with great fishing opportunities. It's located next to the Seneca Nation Allegany Territory.

The Holiday Inn Express® Hotel & Suites Salamanca embraces the spirit and natural splendor of the Enchanted Mountain Region. Hotel guests can enjoy the scenery along Allegany State Park, which is practically in their backyard. The hotel is also just down the street from Seneca Allegany Casino and Seneca Gaming and Entertainment, both of which provide free, 24-hour shuttles to hotel guests.

Each day, a complimentary Deluxe Continental Breakfast is served in the "Great Room". Be sure to take advantage of their indoor pool and hot tub along with a fitness room that has cardio machines and a video monitor to keep you motivated. Visit them at www.holiday-innsalamanca.com for more information.

Located just a short distance from Niagara Falls and Buffalo new York, Cattaraugus County is "Naturally Yours to Enjoy" in the spring, summer or anytime! Check out their 2017 Activities Guide, for a host of new family adventures and visit the Events section of the website to see what's coming up for the busy summer months.

Visit them at EnchantedMountains.com, or download the Enchanted Mountains App! 📱



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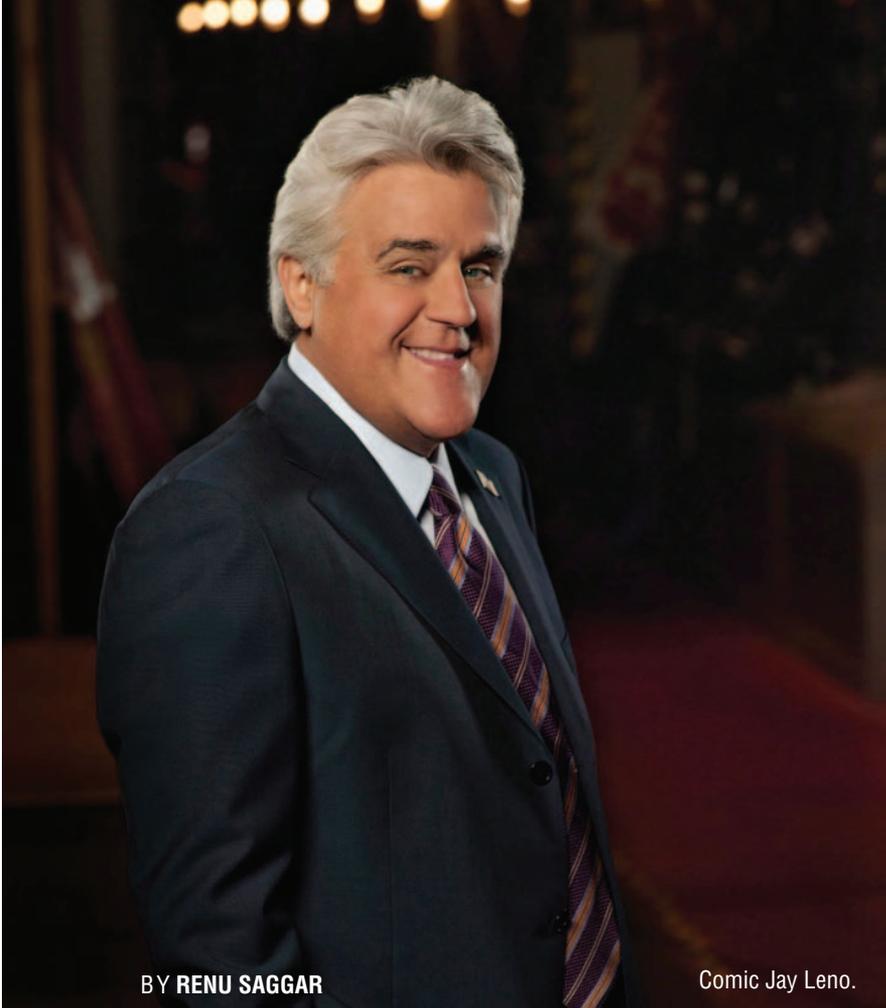
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BY RENU SAGGAR

Comic Jay Leno.

Enjoying a new Vista at sea

Carnival Cruises unveils their newest ship

It's fun for all, all for fun onboard Carnival Cruise Line's newest and biggest ship. The 3,954-passenger Carnival Vista is packed with innovative and one-of-a-kind on-board attractions. The 133,500-ton behemoth features such genre busting amenities as the cruise industry's first IMAX Theatre. *SkyRide*, a unique suspended cycling experience, while *Family Harbor* is a totally new concept in family accommodations with tropics-inspired Havana staterooms and suites.

High-flying cyclists can pedal at speeds of up to 18 miles an hour hanging on an elevated 800-foot-long track 150 above the sea. *SkyRide* provides guests with breathtaking views of the deep blue along with the ability to race side-by-side on this first-of-its-kind aerial attraction.

Adjacent to *SkyRide* is *SportSquare*, an open-air recreation area with a 270-foot-long suspended ropes course, a two-level miniature golf course and a 700-foot-long jogging track.

When it's time to cool off, check out

WaterWorks, the largest aqua park in the Carnival fleet. Zip down 455 feet of corkscrew turns with some mind blowing

kaleidoscopic effects on *Kaleid-o-Slide*, Carnival's first inner-tube slide. And no Carnival water park is complete without *Twister*, featuring 300 feet of high-speed fun and *PowerDrencher*, a 300-gallon tipping bucket. The 187-seat IMAX Theatre features a three-deck-high screen to immerse audiences in the latest Hollywood blockbusters and IMAX classics.

Carnival Vista has also debuted three new Playlist Productions in the intimate *Liquid Lounge*. The shows combine captivating live performances with spectacular LED staging and special effects to create evenings of unforgettable entertainment. *America Rocks!* is a high-energy show featuring rock anthems by artists like Bruce Springsteen, Aerosmith, and Kiss.

Amor Cubano: A Caribbean Dance Romance, is an exhilarating get-on-your-feet show that blends classic Latin songs with today's hits amid a tropics-inspired backdrop of Cuba and Miami, which will soon be the ship's year-round homeport. *Flick: The Power of Motion Pictures* is a celebration of filmmaking showcasing songs from popular movies like *Footloose*, *Dirty Dancing* and others.

Vista takes guests on a culinary journey around the world. *Ji Ji Asian Kitchen* offers a taste of the Orient; *BlueIguana Cantina* features fresh Mexican cuisine with an onboard tortilla-maker; *Cucina del Capitano* is filled the flavors of Italy; and *Fahrenheit 555* is a classic American steakhouse.

Seafood Shack is modeled after roadside seafood stands that dot the New England



WaterWorks is an onboard water park.

coast. Traditional fare includes clam chowder, lobster rolls, crab cake sliders and fried clam strips served by the bucket.

The Alchemy Bar is a “cocktail pharmacy” where mixologists dressed in lab coats “prescribe” concoctions from different elixirs and ingredients with creative monikers like Forty is the New Twenty and The Restorative Basil Drop.

The *Serenity* adults-only retreat is the perfect place for a little quiet time with plush lounge chairs, and soothing music. At night it transforms into a South Beach-style club under the stars, complete with spectacular lighting effects and a DJ spinning a crowd-pleasing mix of popular music.

Carnival LIVE is a one-of-a-kind entertainment experience that brings the best in live music and comedy to the seas, providing guests an opportunity to enjoy captivating performances by top artists in a unique and memorable setting where there’s never a bad seat in the house. Performances are held in the ships’ main show lounges which range in capacity from 900 to 1,300 — giving shows a more intimate and personal feel.

Jay Leno will entertain guests with his observational humor with a pair

of hilarious performances in Cozumel aboard the Carnival Victory, May 3, and Carnival’s Vista on May 4. Tickets for the shows are just \$30 for general admission, significantly less than land-based venues. VIP tickets are available for \$100 and include seating in the first five rows, a photo opportunity with the artist and a commemorative concert pass.

Vista’s six-day Western Caribbean itinerary from Miami calls in at Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Grand Cayman; and Cozumel, Mexico. Ocho Rios presides over dazzling bays along the Jamaica’s north coast. Three miles west of town Dunn’s River Falls gushes out the limestone rock and cascades 600-feet to the beach. The falls spill over layered tiers of stone that form a natural walkway. Visitors can either climb up the falls with the assistance of a guide, or follow the paved walkway that parallels the falls.

Columbus didn’t get around to discovering the Cayman Islands until his fourth voyage in 1503. He named the islands Las Tortugas after the abundance of marine turtles. The Cayman Turtle Farm offers visitors the opportunity to get up close and personal with hundreds of green sea turtles.

Grand Cayman is an aqua tinted dream for water sports enthusiasts. Kissed by sparkling, turquoise sea, you can snorkel with stingrays, scuba dive the reefs, or just mellow out along the powder-soft sand of Seven Mile Beach. On more remote stretches of sand, the only footprints will be your own.

Stingray City in North Sound is the most popular dive site on the island and has been called the world’s greatest 4 foot dive. Its main attraction are the dozens of Southern Stingrays who congregate under the dive boats waiting for handouts.

The jewel of the Mexican Caribbean, Cozumel lies just off the coast of the Yucatan Peninsula. Visitors can explore Mayan ruins, snorkel on one of the world’s largest reef systems or relax on the quiet beaches. The San Gersavio ruins were the central place for the veneration of the Mayan fertility goddess Ixchel.

Laid back San Miguel, the island’s only town, offers quiet loncherias (cafes), colorful mercados, and an artist’s market selling silver, textiles and traditional Mayan handicrafts.

On Sundays, the locals congregate in El Centro to enjoy the music and the magic of a starlit Caribbean night. 🌃



Carnival Vista.



Lexus puts an edge on the RX 350 Redefining the luxury crossover

BY PARKER ZONE

The controversial pinched-in-the-middle spindle grille.

Lexus virtually invented the premium crossover category in 2008. Combining the all-weather capability of all-wheel-drive with the amenities of a luxury sedan, the RX quickly became the best selling vehicle in it's class and now accounts for about one third of all Lexus sales.

The Lexus RX series has always offered an appealing combination of SUV versatility and luxury sedan-like comfort. After introducing the all-new fourth-generation RX 350 in 2016, Lexus opens the RX model's second season with a slew of notable advancements.

This latest iteration stands out in the segment with a dramatic mix of sharp creases and curves and a "floating" roof hovering over a steeply raked rear window. Lexus' signature spindle grille is the focal point of the front, offset by an chrome-plated border and standard Bi-LED headlights. Not everyone will love the RX350's somewhat polarizing exterior, and especially that great gaping grille, but it's instantly more memorable than it's pedestrian predecessors.

The cabin's impeccable fit-and-finish is accented by satin brushed-aluminum trim and the richly finished wood trim that curves gently up from the center console toward the glove box. The form-fitting seats offer several trim options and there's ample room for five.

Behind the rear seats, there's enough space to carry up to four large suitcases or multiple golf bags. An available Touch-Free Power Rear Door opens by placing a hand near the Lexus emblem. Detractors may point to its lack of a third row seat but the RX 350 is still the gold standard for vehicles in this class.

The fourth-generation Lexus RX 350 debuted its most powerful V6 engine ever, with 295 horsepower and 268 lb.-ft. of torque. The 3.5-liter engine's fuel injection system combines direct and

port fuel injection systems so you don't have to choose. To maximize torque and efficiency, Variable Valve Timing allows the engine to switch between Otto and Atkinson combustion cycles. The engine is teamed with an eight-speed automatic transmission.

An adaptive variable suspension allows you to choose from several different drive modes and go about your appointed tasks in a composed and indulgent manner with minimal intrusions from the outside world.

Despite its rather portly 4,517 pounds, the RX 350 is surprisingly nimble, going from 0-60 mph in 6.9 seconds. Even with its high compression ratio, the RX 350's V6 runs on regular-grade gas with an EPA-estimated 28 highway MPG in the FWD version. The all-wheel-drive version is rated at 19/26 mpg.

The new standard Display Audio system includes an eight-inch screen, HD Radio™, Scout GPS Link, Bluetooth® audio, voice recognition microphone, micro SD card slot, an AUX mini jack, two USB ports and nine speakers. Also available is a 12.3-inch high-resolution split-screen multimedia display that offers a full-screen navigation map or can provide simultaneous access to audio or climate controls and includes the mouse-like Remote Touch Interface. Tech junkies may lament the lack of Apple CarPlay or Android Auto.

While the new RX350 may look a little edgy, in the end it falls back on the traditional Lexus values of quality, comfort, and a confident ride, all wrapped in an attractive elegant package. 🐾



The 2017 RX350 features a floating roofline.



2017 RX350



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LHSC Cardiac Team Scores Another First

First in Ontario to implant Canadian-made device



The London Health Sciences Centre cardiac team.

BY SAPNA SAGGAR

ticular anatomy exclude them from conventional treatment techniques, such as open heart surgery, and other minimally invasive open heart valve surgical procedures,” notes Dr. Bob Kiaii, cardiac surgeon, LHSC. “For these patients the Tiara provides a treatment option.”

The Tiara device is delivered through the apex of the heart to replace the mitral valve while preserving the integrity of the surrounding structures of the heart. At this time the Tiara is still an investigational device only and is not for sale in any geography.

A transcatheter approach for replacement of his valve was his only chance since other options including transcatheter clip-

The heart team at the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) continues to achieve innovative milestones in patient care for patients with a heart disorder. The heart team, which is a group of committed and dedicated surgeons, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, radiologists, nurses and clinical perfusionists, deliver care in a multidisciplinary manner.

They have been very successful with their transcatheter valve intervention program, which enables the treatment of very high risk patients with valve diseases of the heart through a catheter approach avoiding possible complications of the standard surgery and reducing the length of stay in the hospital with great outcomes.

Most recently, a patient who had three previous operations of his aortic valve required a fourth operation for his mitral valve. He had required numerous admissions to hospital for heart failure because of his leaky mitral valve. Because of his underlying condition, he was at extreme high risk to undergo a conventional mitral valve replacement.

Therefore, he was assessed and found to be a suitable patient to undergo a transcatheter mitral valve replacement with the Tiara Valve (Neovasc, Vancouver, BC). This novel transcatheter device was designed to treat mitral regurgitation (MR), a condition that is often severe and can lead to heart failure and death.

“There are patients whose medical history and par-

ping of his mitral valve was not an option.

Tiara is implanted in the heart using a minimally-invasive transcatheter approach and is designed to replace the diseased native mitral valve without the need for open heart surgery, or use of a cardiac bypass machine. Once inserted, the device sits precisely where the valve is supposed to be and is aligned with the individual anatomy of the patient.

The transcatheter heart team at LHSC performed Ontario’s first transcatheter mitral valve replacement in London, on November 15, 2016. The procedure was successful and has allowed him to regain back his quality of life without shortness of breath and not require further admissions to hospital.

“Our cardiac team aims to adopt and utilize the latest proven minimally invasive transcatheter devices to offer our patients lifesaving treatment options otherwise inaccessible to them,” says Dr. Kiaii. “Without a surgical intervention, patients with valvular heart disease suffer from shortness of breath, fatigue, and live with a risk of heart failure and death.”

This is another example of how team approach to delivery of health care is successful and LHSC is very proud to be able to provide such patient care.

“Our first procedure was performed successfully and we are delighted to have another tool that will improve the health and quality of the life in patients who otherwise would have no other options,” notes Dr. Kiaii. 



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Catch spring fever in Ontario

Temperatures are rising and things are starting to heat up

BY RENU SAGGAR

Throw off your parka and flop down on the grass. Spring is here and you've got the fever. And Windsor and Essex County have the cure. Whether feeding your hunger, or feeding your mind, you'll find plenty of diversions right here. Dozens of boutiques, galleries and bistros are ready to cater to your passion for fashion, cool drinks and fine dining. It's big city style, with small town service.

Mezzo

The not-to-be-missed dining experience at Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge goes far beyond innovative, award-winning cuisine. A cool blend of an eclectic contemporary atmosphere, extensive wine list, specialty cocktails and live entertainment are the ingredients for one of Windsor's most appealing destinations. Located in the heart of Windsor's Little Italy, it's like taking a mini vacation to the Bel Paese and that's what sets it apart.

Whatever the occasion, Filip Rocca who oversees the front of the restaurant, their extraordinary chefs and their friendly, professional staff all cater to each customer's every need.

Tantalizing menu selections often begins with delectable appetizers and cus-

tomers rave about the home-made ravioli stuffed with roasted butternut squash and mutzu apple in a ginger, bacon, sun dried tomato cream sauce. Other delicious fare includes sesame encrusted sushi grade yellow fin tuna, succulent AAA beef tenderloin and sweet finishing touches like their famous crème brulee. It's no wonder that Mezzo's awards include Best Entrée in the City, Outstanding New Business and Healthier Choice Entrée.

With their insatiable drive for customer satisfaction and creativity, Filip continues to enhance all the attributes of Mezzo — an intimate yet lively gathering places where the area's best cuisine may be enjoyed in a relaxed atmosphere.

One of Mezzo's most interesting changes is our newly renovated private room which can hold 35-40 people. Surrounded by beautifully etched glass walls the private space is equipped with a state of the art sound system to compliment the projection screen — perfect for presentations or slideshows for both colleagues and guests to enjoy.

Private parties are a perfect way to enjoy Mezzo's cool new atmosphere while still enjoying the food and service that Windsor has always known and loved.

Mezzo can also customize a menu to suit your specific needs and budget and

catering for any occasion. Valet parking is available. You can also give the gift of great taste with a Gift Certificate from Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge available online!

Angileri Designer Fashions

Windsor's Little Italy embraces Angileri Designer Fashions, an exclusive designer Boutique. Inside you'll find the hottest new designers from Europe, Toronto and New York for both men and women.

Angileri's specialize in exceptional personal service to fit your individual style, your body type and your professional needs. In addition to the unique pieces you will find here, their services also include custom clothing designs and alterations performed on the premises.

Maloka is their newest line from France. Born in the sunny south of France, they began with summer collections made from 100% linen. Today, Maloka emphasizes comfort, creative cuts, quality materials and refined details.

Franco has also been expanding his men's line, with the latest Euro style clothing from Denmark and Canada, for the man who likes to dress his best.

Canadian designer collections include Kollontai and Mélissa Nepton. Kollontai is the fashion label of Gabrielle Tousignant, who shares a passion for made in



Pasta at Mezzo.



Maloka fashions at Angileri



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Southwest Ontario

Canada apparel. Their garments combine aesthetic appeal, comfort and quality. The rich interplay of colors, textures, transparencies and lace create a distinctive style inspired by lingerie.

Montreal fashion designer Mélissa Nepton specializes in modern, ready-to-wear couture that targets the urban career woman. Hers is a vision that emanates from tailoring mastery and practicality, reflecting both her personality and view of fashion. Nepton has perfected the art of creating sophisticated yet relaxed designs and silhouettes for women of all sizes.

Visit Angileri Fashions for a unique fashion experience. Franco does not just sell you the clothes, he fits you!

A La Mode

Fashion is their passion and at A La Mode, it's all about making the shopping experience comfortable, personable and affordable. They can dress you from head to toe with accessories like handbags, shoes and jewelry.

Clothing lines include fashion forward labels like *Joseph Ribkoff*. This Canadian

designer always delights with his figure flattering styles, washable fabrics, and unique details! Their separates and related sportswear line offers customers the kind of trendy items not found elsewhere.

The *Sandwich* collection is fashion to be worn every day, with small surprises and beauty layered within. The result is always comfortable and thoroughly feminine. Their Spring 2017 collection steps right into the comfort zone with clothes that can be worn every day without being everyday. Because together is better *Sandwich* offers countless combination possibilities with a finely balanced composition of styles, colours, patterns, materials and silhouettes.

You'll always stand dressed in *Desigual*! They also carry *Desigual* accessories like, shoes, scarves and purses.

You can make an appointment with A La Mode's professional staff, who can help you mix, match and coordinate your pieces.

A La Mode is located at 52 Richmond St. in Amherstburg with a second location at 3869 Dougall Ave. in Windsor and a brand new location at 578 Notre Dame Street, Belle River. Alterations are done on site at the Amherstburg location.

Quality Cabinets

Quality Cabinets is where quality meets perfection. Located at 2596 Jefferson Blvd. in Windsor, they specialize in affordable, custom-built kitchens, bathrooms and custom woodwork without compromising quality. They also build counter tops and sell accessories like cabinet hardware.

Their custom cabinet line gives you the option to configure every detail of your dream kitchen, bath or laundry area and more. Using only the finest materials and cabinet components they offer wood construction, superior hardware, unparalleled service and professional installation. Their premium cabinets feature an extensive variety of sizes, styles, door designs, woods, stains and color options. Functional and stylish, they are durable enough for families and stand up to everyday use.

They do million dollar kitchens but not for a million dollar price. Stop by their showroom and have one of their representatives help you choose your dream kitchen! Whether you prefer a traditional look or something more modern, their design ideas go far beyond plain-old cupboards. They also specialize in bathroom vanities, custom woodwork and





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Southwest Ontario

more! Call between April and September for your quality discount.

Artisan Grill

Matthew Johnston's passion is food. For him the plate is a canvas that he uses to display his creativity. At the age of 16 he started working his way up, through the ranks of the kitchen, honing his skills and taking every opportunity to learn.

Fortunately his passion for food and making people happy has developed into his life's work and made Artisan Grill what it is today. A premium casual dining establishment serving fine food and making sure that everything is absolutely perfect for their guests.

Located in a heritage building on Dalhousie St. in historic downtown Amherstburg, Artisan Grill offers traditional dishes with a modern twist. The menu is full of fun, fresh food with Matthew's signature flare.

The hand-crafted menu is created from fresh farm to table foods and changes with the seasons. Diners will not want to miss out on amazing starters like Bacon-Wrapped Sea Scallops served with

heritage greens, Blackened Beef Tips — Cajun seared and served with a orange pepper coulis and Jumbo Creole Prawns — truly huge prawns sautéed in garlic and creole butter.

Entrées include Baby Back Ribs – slow roasted ribs, charbroiled and smothered with a bourbon BBQ sauce; and Almond Crusted Salmon – fresh Atlantic salmon, with lemon zest and fresh herbs. Customers rave about the New Zealand Spring Lamb.

With a warm and inviting atmosphere, you often find the grill busy, so they recommend making reservations to ensure they can accommodate your party which comes alive with live dinner music every Friday and Saturday night. Warm evenings are perfect for al fresco dining on the beautifully accented patio.

Artisan Grill is fully-licensed with a variety of carefully selected local and international beer and wines. The wine list alone features over 45 local and international labels, plus an extensive selection of cocktails, martinis, fine spirits and premium craft beers. Come and enjoy a wonderful time at Artisan Grill with a premium casual atmosphere, outstanding personal service and delicious food.

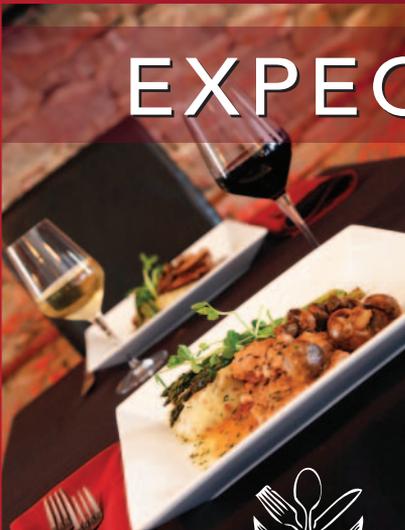
The Artisan team is standing by to take your reservation for your special occasion or just a nice night out. Cheers! Visit them at www.artisangrill.ca.

Shoe Box

Shoe Box has long been known for trendy fashions and exceptional service. Quality European and Canadian-made shoes and bags have kept loyal customers returning season after season. Last year Shoe Box moved to much larger location in the Tecumseh Towne Centre. The Coco Chanel inspired boutique features classy, trendy fashions, only available at Shoe Box.

Now you don't have to go to Somerset Mall for Koral Activewear. Specializing in stylish designs for those with highly active lives, Koral Activewear was founded by artist lana Kugel and fashion industry expert Peter Koral. It has become synonymous with sophisticated, figure-flattering designs that go the extra mile. Crafted with the latest technology and signature moisture-wicking fabrics, the performance separates in Koral Activewear clothing are perfect for hitting the gym in style. Exclusive to Shoe Box, you can go straight from the gym for an

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Sportalm fashions at Shoe Box

evening out.

Shoe Box also carries casual, golf, ski and office wear and clothing lines such as Sportalm from Austria. A Shoe Box exclusive, the Sportalm collections reflect the Kitzbühel way of life with elegance and coolness. Sportalm emphasizes a sensual and confident personality — the

wearer is always the main focus. Simply put, whoever wears Sportalm needs no disguise.

Shoe Box is also known for having the highest quality shoes and handbags within the industry. Brands include, Aquatalia, Ugg, Kendall + Kylie, Frye, Hispanitas, Kenneth Cole, hognl and many more. Italian-made boots by Aquatalia are a personal favorite of Kate Middleton. Frye boots are benchcrafted in the USA from the finest full grain leather uppers. It takes over 190 steps to make just one pair.

Superbly crafted Noat footwear features a winning combination of quality, comfort and fashion. Hand crafted in Israel, Naot is acknowledged as one of the top comfort shoe companies in world is also available on line at www.shoebocananda.ca.

Come see their newest fashion handbags and purses from Derek Alexander and wallets and purses by Christopher Kon. Kon prides himself on creating a relationship between a woman and her handbag and his creations are crafted from the finest leather.

Kona

Opening this spring in the heart of Walkerville Kona, is an elegant, upscale

eatory by the owners of Koi Sushi and Sushi Bar. Located at 1801 Wyandotte Street East, this hip and historic area of the city is known as Windsor's Brooklyn. Kona aims to compliment the area's reputation as a diverse and vibrant food culture and when cultures mingle, ingredients overlap, and cooks get creative, merging flavors with contemporary techniques and presentation.

From Japanese Izakaya to Spanish Tapas, the small plates craze keeps growing and Kona's chefs draw their inspiration from around the globe. The eclectic menu will focus on small plates/tapas like Beef Negimaki and Edamame, along with authentic Japanese sushi and Asian fusion cuisine. The BLT Roll takes sushi and your favorite sandwich to a whole new level.

There will also be a renewed emphasis on fish/fresh catch of the day and Nigiri — fish on rice. Coupled with an lively atmosphere and decor, Kona is set to be an experience to stimulate all of the senses. An extensive bar menu, features specialty cocktails, craft beer and wines and a patio will be open in the summer.

Keep an eye out for the Walkerville Night Market and visit Kona's website at konasushi.com for their Grand Opening and extended hours. 🍣

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What's New in Windsor and Essex County this Spring

BY RENU SAGGAR

Windsor and Essex County is already a great place to work and live, and these new and improved businesses are making it even better and more interesting, and more fun. Check out what's new — or just getting better — around the region.

A La Mode Opens New Store in Belle River

A La Mode is going back to their roots. Natalia's first business started in Belle River in 1995. She sold it in 2003. She opened



Cream Denmark fashions at A La Mode.

A La Mode in Amherstburg in 2000, followed by a second location in Windsor in 2010. Now, she just opened her 3rd location back in Belle River at 578 Notre Dame Street. A La is also introducing a new line Cream from Denmark, which is exclusively available at all three A La Mode locations.

The boho look is forever a favourite when it comes to high fashion, and Cream are the masters of this perpetual

trend. Cream's soft colour palettes create the perfect base for mix and match staples in your wardrobe.

Fleur de Lis Opening Soon in Amherstburg

From the creator of Artisan Grill, Matthew Johnston brings you *Fleur de Lis*, featuring classic, fine French dining. Located above the *Artisan Grill* on Dalhousie Street, in Amherstburg, Matthew has chosen to challenge himself with the most elegant menus yet, putting his 21 years of experience to the test.



The French fine dining experience will begin the moment you make your reservation. With complementary valet parking and personal name recognition, *Fleur de Lis* will treat you like royalty. Classic French service with the white glove treatment will set the stage for an intimate culinary experience. Featuring a variety of French cuisine and an extensive French wine list, the room will also host guest and celebrity chefs.

This venue will be reservation only and will seat just twenty guests in the main dining room and another six in the private dining room at the Chefs Table. A dress code will be in effect.

Initially, Matthew will be operating *Fleur de Lis* on Saturday nights with reservations starting at Five O'clock. The days of

operation will expand with customer demand. The dining room will also be available for private dinner parties.

Attention to detail will be the focus in this new venue, slated to open in late May, 2017. For booking and more information please contact Matthew personally at Matthew@artisangrill.ca.

Kona Coming to Walkerville

Kona is opening in Walkerville in early April in the heart of Windsor's Art Deco District. This elegant, upscale eatery



Kona.

from the owners of Koi Sushi and Sushi Bar, is located at 1801 Wyandotte Street East. The eclectic menu will focus on small plates/tapas and sushi with more emphasis on fish/fresh catch of the day. An extensive bar menu features specialty cocktails, craft beer and wines and a patio will be open in the summer.

Angileri Designer Fashions

Owner Franco Angileri was recently chosen as the recipient of the CIBPA (Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association) business of the year award. This award is given to Italians in the community that have built successful businesses.



Take Five and Mettawas Station Wins Open Table Award

Take Five Bistro and Mettawas Station were recently named as one of 2017's "Top 100 Romantic Restaurants in Canada". Located at 1068 Erie Street Windsor, Take Five Bistro is housed in a restored, early 1900's building with a Brooklyn-style vibe, specializing in Windsor's finest steaks, chops and seafood. Located in Kingsville's Historic Train Station, Mettawas Station provides a relaxed dining atmosphere with its historic charm.



Mettawas.

Mettawas Station in Kingsville

Converted railroad station is your ticket to fine dining **BY RENU SAGGAR**

Anthony and Janet DelBrocco opened *Mettawas Station*, an upscale but intimate restaurant, in 2008, in the former Kingsville Railway Station. The first thing you notice is that, this is no ordinary train station. Whisky baron Hiram Walker commissioned the eminent architect Albert Kahn to design and build the station in 1889.

The warm welcome at the door and the service by experienced people who embrace hospitality make you feel like you've arrived at your destination.

Chef Anthony has a special flare with food that makes every dish he touches turn to gold. His Italian heritage is evident in the menu's sunny blend of Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Prior to opening *Mettawas* he worked at the Roma Club in Leamington and at Kingsville Golf and County Club, attaining Red Seal status, a prestigious certification reserved for chefs who meet high standards of creativity, quality and professionalism.

Open Table recently named *Mettawas* as one of 2017's "Top 100 Romantic Restaurants in Canada". Diners will enjoy



the unique ambiance of this beautifully restored historic building.

Committed locovores, *Mettawas Station* uses only the finest seasonal ingredients. Seafood lovers may want to begin with the *Calamari Rings* lightly dusted and served with red pepper aioli. The classic *Mediterranean Bruschetta* features delicious nuggets of feta cheese, roasted red peppers and Kalamata olives. The Sicilian *Arancini* features Sicilian style risotto balls, served with Chef Anthony's special tomato and meat sauce. These golden orb's of good-

ness are packed with flavors that literally explode in your mouth. You can also take home some of *Mettawas Majanna's* line of house-made products, named after Anthony's grandmother.

Choose from a variety fresh pasta and gourmet pizzas to steaks and seafood. The *Greek Pizza* is a customer favorite, crisp-crust celebration of spinach, feta cheese, artichokes and roasted red peppers. Hungry for more? The *Sporcaccione Pie* is a meat lovers dream topped with generous helpings of Mortadella, Genoa salami, capicola and pancetta.

Steaks are hand cut and aged a minimum of 45 days. The *New York Strip Steak* is a AAA Angus reserve stiploin, char-grilled to perfection and topped with sauteed button mushrooms. Another popular protein is the *Roasted Rack Of Lamb* marinated with garlic, olive oil and rosemary. Pair your food with a local wine or a handcrafted cocktail.

Finish off your dining experience with a slice of their cheesecake of the month. Our server recommended it and it's outrageously tasty. 



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www.mettawasstation.com



On the beach in Cancun.

BY RENU SAGGAR

the beautiful landscape of the hotel zone. An on-site marina offers direct access to the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean with private yacht expeditions and a wide variety of motorized water sports and diving experiences available for guests.

Sunset Resorts All Inclusive Plan gives guests the opportunity to enjoy exquisite international gastronomy, premium beverages and activities at both Sunset Royal and Sunset Marina resorts. Resort amenities include a fitness center, activities program, nightly entertainment, Wi-Fi, steam room, and unlimited food and beverages. Ground transportation between Sunset's Cancun resorts and hotels, as well as water transportation to and from Sunset Marina, is also provided.

Just 10 minutes away from Cancun's Hotel Zone *El Centro* offers authentic example of Mexican daily life. Sample authentic Mexican food on the street strands, food courts, and restaurants in Palapas Park, where they can savor *Agua de Jamaica* (hibiscus flower juice) and authentic Yucatán cuisine. Shoppers can bargain for Mexican handicrafts, silver, Maya-inspired art and clothing in the open-air markets and Mercados on Tulum Avenue.

Party animals will want to take full advantage of Cancun's legendary nightlife at clubs like Coco Bongo, a multi-level madhouse full of mammoth video screens, Cirque du Soleil style acrobats, celebrity impersonators, conga lines, confetti canons and balloons. 🎉

Cancun is your place in the sun

Cancun's twelve miles of beaches are celebrated for their turquoise waters and powdery white sand. All are open to the public and anyone with the inclination can walk from one end to the other. You can either hike along the northern shore by the calm waters of *Bahia de Mujeres*, or follow the Caribbean Sea on the eastern shore. The sand here is like talcum powder and surprisingly cool thanks to a limestone composition that doesn't hold the heat.

Playa Ballenas is the magnificent white beach that established Cancun's reputation as a resort, while *Playa Las Perlas* is a favorite with boogie boarders. *Playa Tortugas* is a popular public beach and a departure point to sleepy *Isla Mujeres*, or Island of Women.

Cancun's waters are legendary for their clarity with schools of dazzling blue neons hovering among the rocks and piers. The other worldly *Underwater Museum*, which opened in 2010, features 400 life-size figures by English artist Jason deCaires Taylor, displayed in less than 10 feet of water.

Luxury hotels line the *Hotel Zone*, a seahorse-shaped oasis connected by two causeways and flanked by the tranquil Nichupte Lagoon and the restless Caribbean Sea. People watchers can take a stroll

on the palm-fringed promenade hugging the shoreline.

Resting on one of the most beautiful white sand beaches in the Caribbean, the *Sunset Royal's* privileged location provides close and easy access to the best of Cancun's entertainment, nightclubs, restaurants and shopping. A full slate of on site activities range from fitness classes and beach volleyball, to Mexican handicraft workshops and nightly theme parties.

The *Sunset Marina* is a charming, Mediterranean-style resort, nestled in



Cancun's Hotel Zone.



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