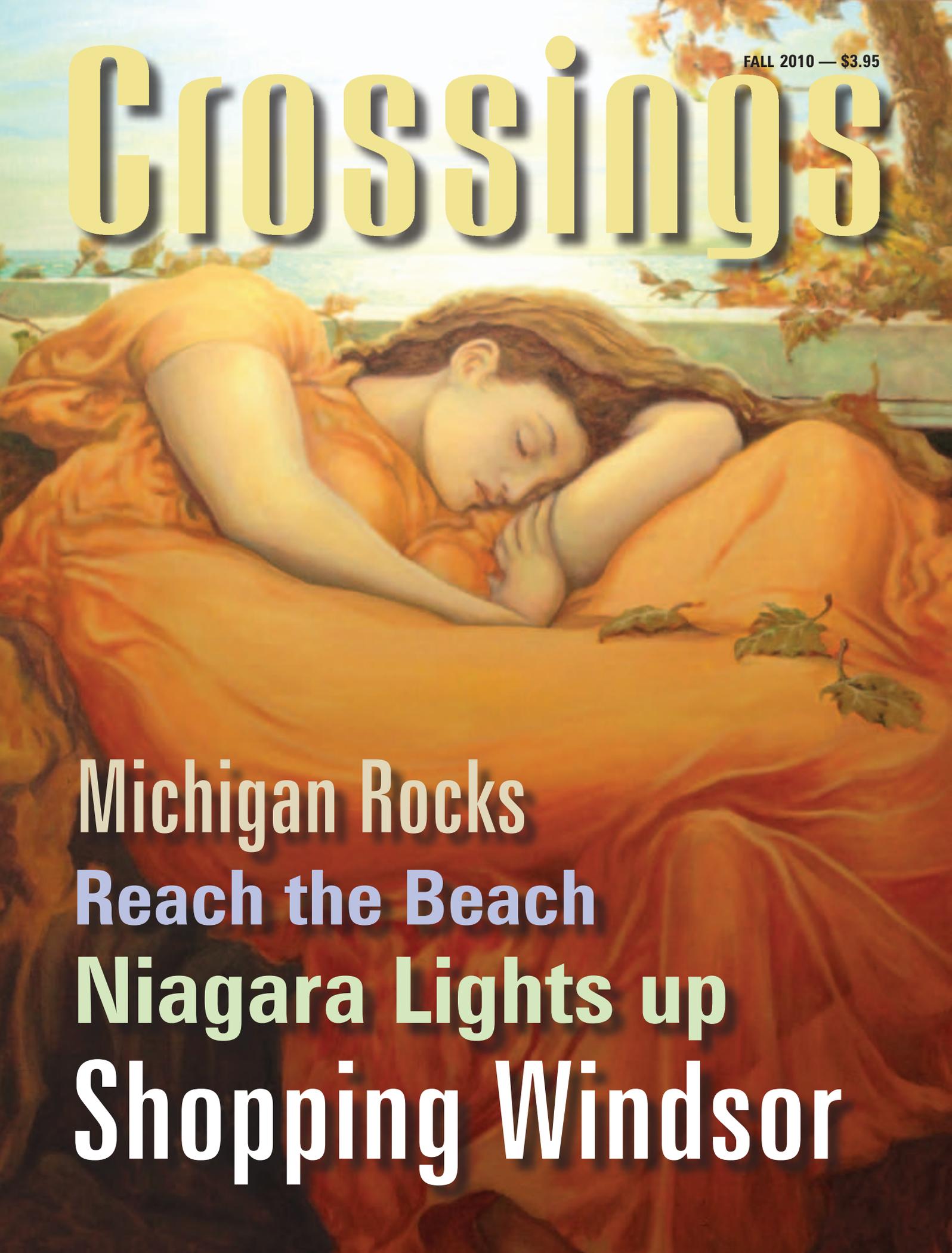


FALL 2010 — \$3.95

Crossings



Michigan Rocks

Reach the Beach

Niagara Lights up

Shopping Windsor

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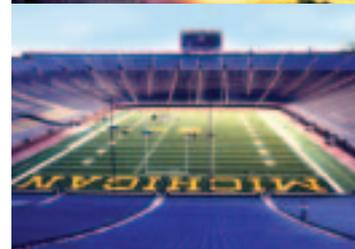
Think art.

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Think entertainment.

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Ann Arbor might just be the perfect place for a getaway. Big enough to have it all – yet small enough not to have to deal with it all. Ann Arbor has great dining, night life, entertainment, arts, museums, and the University of Michigan right in the heart of town. There is something for literally everyone.



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The Red City comes to life in the Plaza of the Dead.

Cover: Flaming September by Martin Lacasse.

This vintage Corvette convertible would be an incredible gift under anyone's tree this Hoilday Season.



Prince William County & Manassas, Virginia

The Moment That Changed America...

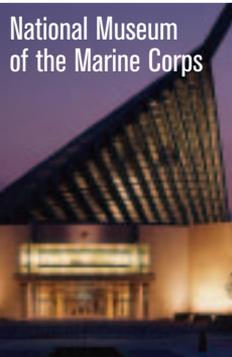
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Crossings

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Vegas in Motown

MotorCity Casino Hotel raises the stakes with a new level of luxury



Las Vegas may be getting a little bit closer to home. The crown jewel of the Detroit skyline, *MotorCity Casino Hotel* is Motown's most innovative entertainment venue. The synapse-snapping property was designed with input from renowned automotive designer Chip Foose, with a rooftop that swoops like the fins on a '59 Caddy.

The only locally owned and operated casino in Detroit, the \$825 million complex has recently undergone a multimillion-dollar renovation and expansion under the watchful eye of owner Marian Ilitch.

A world-class luxury hotel features a floor to ceiling to floor waterfall at the entrance to the hotel lobby, curved marble walls, light tubes and soft recessed lighting. Amenities include sybaritic spa facilities, fine dining, live performance venues, high-energy gaming and the city's most exclusive ultra-lounge.

With over 2,800 games the casino has been fine-tuned with classic and new five-reel games, as well as video poker and the most popular video slots. Slots come in every denomination from 1¢ to \$25.

The 57 table games include Blackjack, Roulette, Mini-Baccarat and Craps, as well as a wide variety of specialty games

BY RENU SAGGAR

like Progressive Pai Gow Poker, and Casino War.

The 400 rooms and suites are an artful mélange of elegance and technology with contemporary Euro-style décor and amenities that include plush bathrobes, plasma televisions, marble baths and a pillow library.

MotorCity Casino Hotel offers a wide variety of on-site restaurants, from the casual *MotorCity Pit Stop*, to the award-winning *Iridescence*. Located high atop the hotel, *Iridescence* transcends every expectation. Modern American cuisine is complemented by breathtaking views, elegant décor, and a Wine Spectator award-winning wine list.

Self-indulgence knows no boundaries at the *D.Tour Spa*. The 8,000 square foot facility features dedicated men's and women's lounges with thermal whirlpools, steam rooms, dry saunas, and "Rain" showers. There are 10 private treatment rooms with a specialized selection of massage and body treatments and an ultra private two-room *Couple's Suite*.

The state-of-the-art fitness center is outfitted with the most advanced Precor cardio, resistance, and free weight equip-

ment. All cardio machines are mounted with personal entertainment systems and viewing screens with heart rate monitoring, to help you get maximum performance from your workout.

Guests are provided with fresh towels, bottled water, and disposable ear buds. A new infused water of the day is available at the infused water station, along with the latest energy drinks. Four huge plasma screens display the news, information, and entertainment of your choice. Certified personal trainers will create a dynamic exercise program based upon your personal goals, unique metabolism, and fitness level. Lockers, steam room, and whirlpool are available for a \$25 fee, which can be credited towards any spa service.

Sound Board, Detroit's most innovative live-performance theater features some of the biggest names in entertainment, stars like Michael Bolton and Ludacris. And there's not a bad seat in the house in this intimate, 1,500-seat theater.

Amnesia, the Detroit ultra-lounge, takes you back to the era when Big Hair was the greatest threat to our national security. An ultra-lounge is a hybrid of a lounge and a nightclub and the action never stops in this party focused format. 🍸



BY RENU SAGGAR

Introductory Ann Arbor

Crib notes on Michigan's top college town

College town cool and a smoking hot cultural scene come together like fire and ice in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

It's small town friendly town with big city sophistication; a world-class educational center nestled in a peaceful rural setting. As you might expect, Ann Arbor is full of trees, set among charming neighborhoods with a thick gumbo of cultures.

Visitors can take in exclusive art exhibits, or performances by rock, jazz and blues legends. There are more than 30 independent bookstores, including the original Borders, dozens of unique galleries, and a variety of top-notch museums — including the newly-renovated University of Michigan Museum of Art — are all within the downtown limits.

Located 45 miles west of Detroit, the Ann Arbor area also offers a bounty of recreational activities for those looking to golf, hike, or cycle. Three metroparks are within a short drive of the city center.

During the summer and fall you can

kick back at an array of street festivals and outdoor fairs. The award-winning *Ann Arbor Art Fairs* draw an annual crowd of nearly 500,000 as the streets of downtown

are transformed into an outdoor gallery.

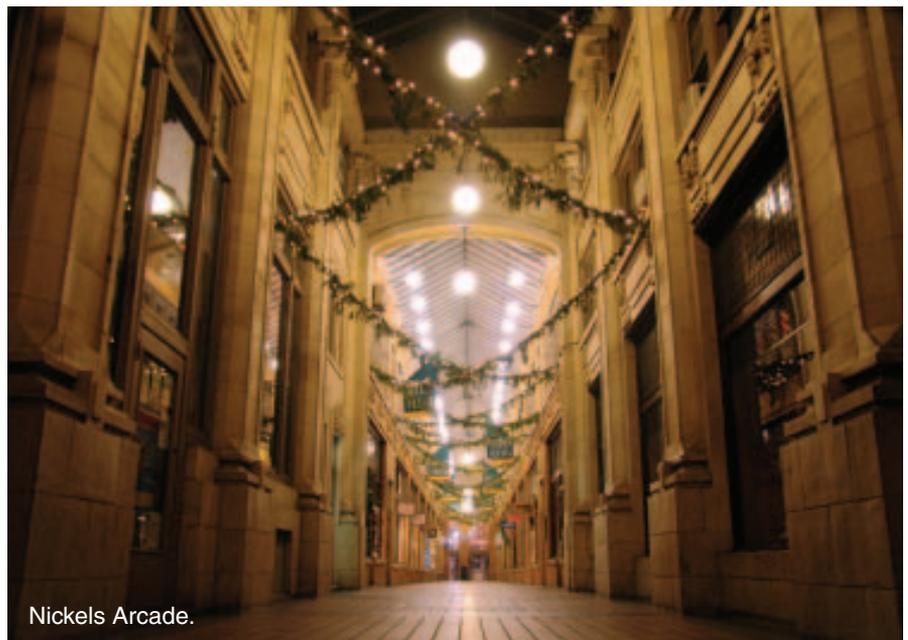
In the fall, football Saturdays are more than just events — they are experiences, as more than 100,000 people fill “The Big House” to watch the Wolverines. In the winter, holiday light festivals and the *Ann Arbor Folk Festival* are always crowd pleasers.

Nickels Arcade, constructed in 1915, houses shops and galleries in an historic indoor walkway with a glass atrium-style ceiling.

Dining aficionados will appreciate the region's nearly 300 restaurants. Options range from unpretentious eatery's like *A Knife's Work* in the Kerrytown Market, to trendy American restaurants like *Zingerman's Roadhouse*. Many offer alfresco dining in the warmer months, which combined with the array of jazz and dance clubs, makes downtown Ann Arbor a happening destination for nightlife.

Venues like the Art Deco *State Theatre* and the *Michigan Theatre*, a restored 1928 cinema, host first-run independent films and high-profile music groups. The *Alley Mural* was once a popular spot for graffiti artists but 1999, the city hired artist Katherine Tombeau Cost to paint a new 5,000-square-foot mural. Check out the “trippers” bubble gum wall toward the back. During warmer weather, you'll often find musicians and dancers putting on impromptu solo performances at the alley entrance.

Throughout the downtown, keep your eyes open for *fairy doors* — colorful miniature doors where fairies can enter local businesses. 🧚



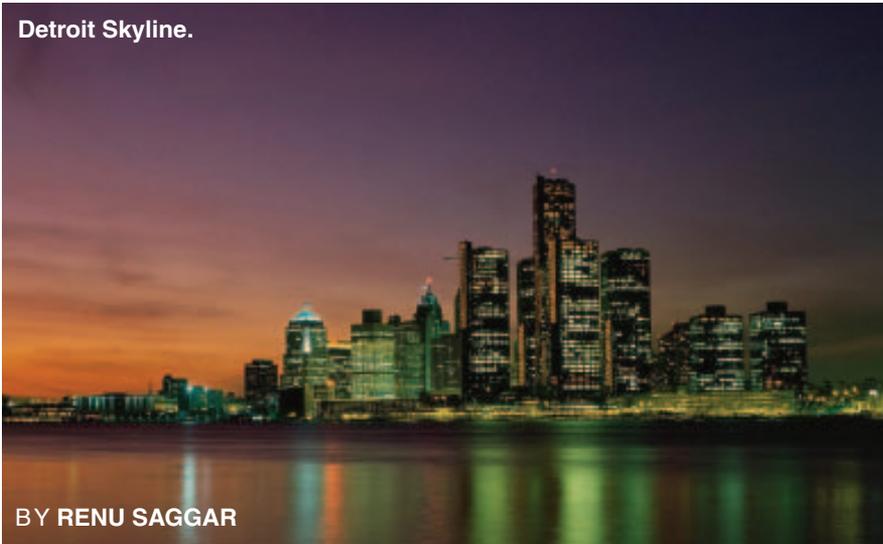
Nickels Arcade.



Noguchi Fountain.



Motown Museum.



Detroit Skyline.

BY RENU SAGGAR

Motown is D-Light-Full

Motoring around the Motor City

Trivial Pursuit players will tell you that Detroit is the only major U.S. city located on the north side of the U.S./Canadian border. But Detroit is arguably best known as the city that put the world on wheels.

Detroit is a city of triumphs, a city of struggles, and a city with enough imagination to power the nation. Here, the car claims center stage, dictating automotive fashions the way Paris dictates hemlines. The music runs deep. Sports are pursued with a passion. The culture is cooking. And the gaming is good. No other great American city puts out so much vibrant style. Wherever you're from, Detroit has something to show you. It's the place to come to get caught up on the latest — and leave feeling like you're in the know.

Shopping selections galore and great prices might be reason enough to make a trip to The D, but there's so much more to see and do. Not only will you find

the finest in name brand stores and the quaintest of unique boutiques, you'll also find attractions, restaurants, and spas al-

lowing you to stay as busy or as relaxed as you prefer. Take in a live concert or show, enjoy delectable dining at an award-winning restaurant.

For value shopping with a dose of sophistication, check out the Great Lakes Crossing outlet mall in Auburn Hills, where you'll find discount stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue's Off 5th, Bass Pro Outdoor World and Neiman Marcus Last Call.

The first annual Birmingham Winter Markt will feature live entertainment, traditional holiday crafts and decorations, art from local artisans, holiday greens and home décor. Hot drinks and favorite European-style treats. In addition to shopping, take in the Santa House, free carriage rides, free gifts, carolers from local schools and more!

Detroit has a plethora of excellent restaurants. The Whitney on Woodward Avenue is housed in a mansion so elegant, you'll feel like Nora Desmond as you glide down the marvelous staircase.

The 52-room structure is built of South Dakota Jasper, a rare variety of pink granite which gives the exterior a striking rose hue. The 21,000 square foot home has 218 windows, including authentic Tiffany stained glass panels on the second and third floors, 20 fireplaces, and a secret vault in the original dining room. The original electricity was done by Thomas Edison. Completed in 1894 construction took four years at a cost of \$400,000, at a time when that was real money!

The Whitney serves award-winning cuisine that is elegantly American. They specialize in beef, fish, seafood, lamb



Riviera Court at DIA.

Detroit

and veal. The Whitney's award-winning wine cellar can provide the ideal libation to compliment any choice of their tantalizing entrées.

The Henry Ford in Dearborn, brings the American historical experience to life. See JFK's limo, Rosa Parks' bus and thousands of uniquely American innovations at the museum. Greenfield Village features 90 historic buildings, period presenters and artisans. And for something completely different, experience the Ford Rouge Factory Tour and watch the F-150 truck being assembled in the "green" friendly plant.

The Henry Ford recently announced plans to build a \$15 million exhibition covering the history and innovation of American auto racing. *Racing in America* will be a permanent 22,000-square-foot display bringing auto racing roaring to life with history's greatest and most significant vehicles. Vehicles on display will include Henry Ford's first race car, Sweepstakes, the Jim Clark driven Lotus-Ford 38/1, winner of the 1965 Indy 500, the Goldenrod and Tom Beatty's Belly-Tank Lakester.

The *Detroit Science Center* is a hands-on museum that inspires visitors to pursue careers in engineering, technology and science. Located at 5020 John R Street in Detroit, next to the Museum of African American History and the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Science Center features hands-on exhibit galleries focusing on space, life and physical science; the United States Steel Fun Factory; and an exhibit gallery just for pint-size scientists.

The Dassault Systèmes Planetarium helps you discover the universe in all its wonder with one of the finest digital planetarium projection systems in the world.

The *Historic Gem & Century Theatres* are located in the heart of Detroit's entertainment district. The one time adult movie house, the "Gem," was purchased by Detroit developer Chuck Forbes in the 1980s, and restored to its Spanish Revival-style brilliance. The 450-seat theatre boasts a lavish, intricately painted ceiling, ornate proscenium panels, rich carpet, and 1920s lighting.

Plaid Tidings, which runs at the Gem from November 10, to December 31, is a holiday sequel to the acclaimed *Forever Plaid*. The Four Plaids; Frankie, Sparky, Jinx and Smudge are back – again – from

the great beyond after being broadsided by a school bus filled with eager Catholic teens on their way to see the Beatles make their U.S. television debut on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

For some reason, in 2010, the boys return to the Gem Theatre in Detroit, though they aren't sure why. But with a little help from friends like Rosemary Clooney, they bring a little holiday harmony to a discordant world.

Celebrate with the boys as they perform in their very own hilarious Christmas special featuring a whole host of truly heaven-sent holiday music, including a new holiday classic written for the show.

The *Motown Historical Museum* is one of Detroit's most popular tourist destinations drawing thousands of visitors from around the globe. Founded in 1985 by Esther Gordy Edwards, the exhibitions include a fascinating collection of historical photographs, artwork, music, costumes and other memorabilia from this musical era. Visitors take a step back in time as they walk through the fully restored apartment that was once home to Berry Gordy, Jr, and stand in the original recording studio "Studio A" where Motown's greatest hits were recorded.

Forever
PLAID presents
Plaid Tidings
A Special Holiday Edition

Join the holiday celebration in this side-splitting sequel to *Forever Plaid*. This year, the Four Plaids return to bring holiday harmony to the Gem Theatre with a little help from some old friends...like Perry Como and Ed Sullivan!

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Detroit

Just down the highway in Flint, regional history, historic automobiles and hands-on science are all on display at the *Sloan Museum*. Located at 1221 E. Kearsley Street in Flint, it's named after Alfred P. Sloan, the president and then chairman of General Motors from 1923 until 1956. Sloan transformed GM into the largest and most profitable industrial enterprise the world had ever known.

Visitors can explore the area's tumultuous 20th century history in *Flint and the American Dream* and award-winning traveling exhibits.

Did you know the human body produces enough mucus each day to fill a quart-size mayonnaise jar? *Grossology*, which runs through January 16, 2011, at the Sloan Museum, explains why your body produces the mushy, oozy, crusty, scaly, stinky things that people find so gross. The hands-on exhibit which is like a jungle gym features interactive stations that let kids spin, shoot, pump, climb, squeeze and smell the gross things the human body does.

Power shoppers can restart their engines at nearby *Premium Outlets Birch Run*. The Midwest's largest outlet center has 150 factory direct stores, including Coach and Michigan's only Pottery Barn Outlet! Nestled in the countryside just minutes north of Frankenmuth, Premium Outlets features an incredible variety of top brand-name clothing and home-accessory retailers, including Big Dogs Sportswear, Gap Outlet, Jones New York and Black and Decker. They say you can't make it through in one day, but power shoppers have been known to do it in half that time. Many do it by hopping aboard the free trolley that circles the vast retail complex.

The pet friendly facility features finely appointed stores, food courts, well-maintained and spacious restrooms, baby strollers, children's playgrounds, and a courteous staff.

Shoppers routinely save as much as 65 percent off of retail prices — sometimes even more.

Historic Ypsilanti, nestled on the banks of the Huron River, just East of Ann Arbor. Better known as Ypsi, it offers a broad range of cultural, artistic and educational treasures, from the myriad annual fes-

tivals and events, to unique museums and attractions, to the shops and pubs of Depot Town. Originally established to service the burgeoning railroad and river trade, Depot Town now takes good care of those looking for a microbrew, or a gourmet burger.

Between the historic Downtown and Depot Town you'll find stunning examples of Ypsilanti's 19th century prosperity in the rows of Victorian-era mansions overlooking Riverside Park. The park hosts a multitude of music, art and sporting events each year, including classic car shows, the Michigan ElvisFest and Ypsilanti Heritage Festival.

Ypsi has given the world Ypsilanti Mineral Water; known to cure everything from Bee Stings to Cholera, Rosie the Riveter, the Hudson automobile and top ranked education and research facilities at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan.

The *Michigan Firehouse Museum* preserves and interprets Michigan's fire fighting history. The museum is located in the historic Ypsilanti firehouse constructed in 1898 and used by the city of Ypsilanti until 1975. Museum exhibits focus on the history of fire fighting in Michigan and



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Detroit

fire fighting technology.

Highlights include a hand-pulled 1910 ladder wagon, antique fire trucks and early rigs, and one of the largest collection of fire truck bells, sirens and lights anywhere.

A unique horse drawn steam pumper was made by Ahrens Manufacturing Co., Cincinnati in 1877 and was used in Parkersburg, West Virginia until the 1930s.

The Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum & Miller Motors Hudson, housed in the last operating Hudson dealership in the world, chronicles Ypsilanti's role in the development of the automobile industry. There are 30 rare and unusual vehicles on display including Hudson, Kaiser, Frazer, and the ahead-of-its-time Tucker.

Ypsilanti was the home of Preston Tucker, whose restored family home is located about four blocks from the museum.

The crown jewel of the collection is #92, a 1952 Hudson Hornet NASCAR champion, driven by Herb Thomas, whose story inspired the Disney Pixar animated film Cars. 📖



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Chilling out in the BC Butler County Ohio IceFest

Need something cool to think about? Mark your calendar now because IceFest makes its return to Hamilton, Ohio in 2011. This unique festival is the epitome of a winter wonderland as visitors are dazzled by breathtaking ice sculptures lining the streets of downtown Hamilton, January 21 – 22, 2011.

The IceFest is a great way to break up the winter blahs. There are ice carving competitions, ice sculptures based upon the event's theme, plenty of hot chocolate, and many more fun-filled activities.

"We are so happy and proud to bring IceFest back to Hamilton in 2011," notes Gerry Hammond, Chair of the Hamilton Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Southwest Ohio is about as far south as you can go to pull off events like this one."

In 2011, IceFest's theme will be "Great Books In Ice" and will feature carvings of characters from timeless pieces of literature. Perhaps you'll see Alice from Alice in Wonderland, on High Street, or Winne the Poo, or Joseph K., from Franz Kafka's The Trial.

The event will kick off with its signature "Fire & Ice" gala, held at the family friendly Courtyard by Marriott Hamilton, the IceFest's host hotel.

BY ADELINA IRVINE

You never have to worry about getting cold shoulder because the BC is a place that will warm your heart any time of year. Located along the banks of the Great Miami River, between Cincinnati and Dayton, Hamilton is known as "The City of Sculpture." The Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum is a 265-acre sculpture garden combining the lure of nature with the dynamic presence of monumental art. They also feature a 10,000 square foot Ancient Sculpture Museum, displaying Roman, Egyptian, Greek and Etruscan sculpture thousands of years old.

Visitors can take a journey through American Railroad history at EnterTRAINment Junction in West Chester, or take a tour of the breathtaking homes of Hamilton's German Village Historic District. The nine block area of distinguished homes represent 19th century architectural styles such as Queen Anne, Italianate, and Gothic Revival.

EnterTRAINment Junction features an incredible 80,000 square-feet of Casey Jones-style family fun, all under one roof. Visitors are immediately whisked back to an American village square of yesteryear, with a brick-lined street, replica gaslights,

park benches, garden landscaping, a 1930s train station.

The signature attraction *Train Journey*, is the largest indoor train display in the world. More than two miles of track take visitors on a panoramic journey from the earliest days of steam engine railroading up through today's modern diesel locomotives. All trains are large G-scale trains, 1/24th the size of the real thing.

The National Voice of America Museum, is the former home of The Voice of America Bethany Station, which opened in 1944. Today the VOA features displays relating to the history of broadcast, and the development of radio technology.

Miami University, in Oxford, is known as "the Yale of the West." Visitors can take a tour of the campus, or take a self-guided walking tour of the Uptown Oxford Historic District, a 12 block area filled with historic and architectural sites.

Shoppers will want to stop at Ohio's only IKEA store location or the new *Cincinnati Premium Outlets*. The high-end outlet center features designer stores such as Michael Kors, Cole Haan, Coach, Nike, and more!

Jungle Jim's International Market in Fairfield, is a wild and wonderful shopping tour around the world. There may be other stores with an international selection of more than 150,000 items from 75 countries, but how many have a their own resident artist or animal pond? Or 1,300 hot sauces located under a Fire Truck? This food lover's paradise houses six acres of food, 1.5 acres of fresh produce, organics, exotic game, live seafood, sushi, a New York deli, olive bar, 10,000 wines, plus singing robotic characters like Elvis the Lion, and Soup Can Man.

Hanover Winery features a variety of wines and a *Tasting Room* where visitors can sample and find their perfect wine.

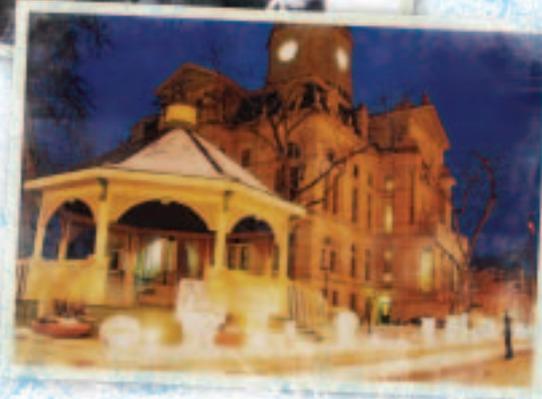
Soft ice cream lovers will want to make a pit stop at "The Cone" a longtime local favorite named "One of the Top Ten Quirkiest Places to Visit in the U.S." 🍦

IF YOU GO

The Butler County Visitors Bureau is located at 8750 Union Centre Boulevard in West Chester, Ohio. For more information or to request a FREE Visitor's Guide, visit www.GetToTheBC.com or call 1-888-462-2282.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit www.cityofsculpture.org or call 513-895-3934.



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ICEFEST

Hamilton, Ohio



Great Books in Ice

IceFest in Hamilton, Ohio! January 21 – 22, 2011

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Learn more and book your IceFest visit to Hamilton, the City of Sculpture, in Butler County, located in Southwest Ohio in the Cincinnati-Dayton corridor, today!

Call 888-462-2282 or visit www.icefest.org for more information.



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Shopping/Dining – Attention Canadian shoppers! Erie is a shopaholic's dream. Tons of retail stores, plazas and shops; convenient access from Interstate 90 plus no sales tax on apparel! The *Millcreek Mall* (160 stores and restaurants), *All Seasons Market Place* (huge indoor flea market) and *Upper Peach Street* district are perfect for great steals and deals.

Check out discount clothing stores plus specialty shops (Accents by the Bay) and farmers markets (Mason Farms). Unique boutiques feature beautifully crafted jewelry, artwork, stemware and distinctive gifts for that special someone. Refresh your senses at one of Erie's 250 dining establishments. With an abundance of selections, Erie's restaurant scene offers plenty of local favorites and

BY RENU SAGGAR

popular dishes including Lake Erie perch, chicken wings, pepperoni balls, ox roast and chocolate covered strawberries. If your palate favors Mediterranean, Asian

Fusion, Thai, French, Italian, Japanese or All-American, Erie's got it! Many Erie area chefs use locally-grown produce including seasonal fruits, hearty vegetables and organic meats to build their mouth-watering menus.

Arts & Entertainment – Riveting Erie Philharmonic pops or symphonic concerts, award-winning Broadway performances, national touring acts and concerts, comedians and musicals. Enjoy dinner and a show at *The Station Dinner Theatre* or *Riverside Inn Dinner Theatre*. Side-splitting laughs await at *JR's Last Laugh Comedy Club*.

Try your luck at slots, table games or thoroughbred racing at *Presque Isle Downs & Casino*. Dramas, musicals, comedies, and family performances abound at the *Erie Playhouse*. The *Erie Art Museum's* permanent collection, current exhibits and special events will be enhanced with the opening of their new building addition in October 2010. Ethnic festivals, fairs, parades, outdoor concerts and celebrations including Discover Presque Isle Days, Roar on the Shore and Celebrate Erie populate warmer months.

Professional Sports – Hockey enthusiasts check out Erie's professional hockey team, the Ontario Hockey League *Erie Otters* as they take the ice at Tullio Arena. Watch up-and-coming hockey stars get crowds on their feet with hard checking, in-your-face action. The *Erie Bayhawks* NBA D-league affiliate team of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Toronto Raptors



Presque Isle Waterworks and Lighthouse.

Erie

thrill audiences with slam dunks, three-pointers and high-flying excitement. Cracking bats and Smith hot dogs fill the air when the Erie Seawolves AA Detroit Tigers affiliate team takes the field. In nearby North East, PA squealing tires and roaring engines rev up racing fans at the NASCAR-sanctioned Lake Erie Speedway.

Presque Isle State Park/Lake Erie – With sandy beaches and endless outdoor recreation for every season, Presque Isle State Park, a National Natural Landmark, is one of Pennsylvania’s top vacation destinations. Visitors flock to Presque Isle for its distinctive blend of natural beauty and recreation including swimming, boating, biking, cross country skiing, kiting, birding and fishing.

Dubbed the “Gateway to Presque Isle”, the *Tom Ridge Environmental Center* (TREC) is a state-of-the-art, “green” facility, focused on educating visitors about the 3,200 acres that is Presque Isle State Park. TREC features interactive exhibits, observation tower, nature shop & gallery, and The Big Green Screen, a 4-story high, 45 feet wide theater.

Downtown Enjoyment – The Bayfront Parkway (part of the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, an America’s Byway™) offers easy access to Erie’s ever-evolving Bayfront & Downtown Districts. Visit Pennsylvania’s Official Flagship, the *U.S. Brig Niagara* at the *Erie Maritime Museum* to learn about Erie’s extensive maritime history. The *Bicentennial Observation Tower* on Dobbins Landing offers beautiful vistas of the city and Presque Isle Bay.

Have a romantic dinner on the *Victorian Princess* stern-wheeler, take the Water Taxi to Presque Isle, or play 18 holes at *Harborview Miniature Golf*. Erie’s Downtown District, stretching from the shoreline of Lake Erie to 18th Street, is thriving with museums, galleries, theaters and multi-purpose venues blended with diverse restaurants, cafes, specialty shops and nightclubs.

Other Erie, PA Must-Sees – Scenic Driving/Walking Tours, Great Lakes Seaway Trail™ and Historic Pennsylvania Route 6, “Green” Attractions (Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Asbury Woods Nature Center, Erie Art Museum), Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort, Waldameer Park & Water World, Erie Zoo, wineries and the *Lake Erie Wine Trail*. 🍷



The Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

ALMOST PARADISE

In French, Presque Isle means “almost an island” and visitors can explore the 3200-acre park’s Multipurpose National Recreational Trail, a 13-mile paved trail that circles the park and offers impressive views of Presque Isle Bay, Lake Erie, and Erie’s skyline.

OFF TO THE RACES

Presque Isle Downs & Casino features a 140,000 square foot clubhouse with 2,000 slot machines, 48 gaming tables, and fine and casual restaurants and lounges. A thoroughbred horse racing facility features racing as well as concerts and entertainment.

IF YOU GO

Spend the day or stay the night the possibilities are endless! Check out www.VisitErie.com/packages for affordable overnight package ideas.

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- Presque Isle Downs and Casino
- Downtown Dining and Night Life
- Live Theatrical & Cultural Performances
- Professional Sports (OHL Hockey, NBA D-League Basketball)
- Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort

Win a weekend get away to Erie, PA! Enter Erie's Hot Spot Get Away Contest for the chance to win one of 3 overnight hotel packages. To enter the contest go to www.VisitErie.com/Canada.

No purchase necessary. Entrants must be 18 years or older to enter. All entries must be received by 11/30/10. Prize is non-transferable. Please see website for complete contest rules.









Make time for Mercer County

Because everyone needs an escape plan

No sales tax on clothing and shoes turns Mercer County, PA into one of the largest seven-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year bargain destination in the world. The county is located at the crossroads of I-80 and I-79 in western PA, midway between Erie and Pittsburgh, PA.

Mercer County is a shopper's paradise. The Grove City area of the county is home to one of America's top outlet centers. With brands such as Chico's, White House Black Market, Nike Outlet, Banana Republic and Tommy Hilfiger, the 140 stores of *Grove City Premium Outlets* is an all-day experience. Plenty of parking and a spacious food court add to the fun. Other exceptional attractions in the Grove City area include *Wendell August Forge*, where skilled craftsmen create one-of-a-kind metal giftware and Slovak Folk Crafts, which features handcrafted gifts from Slovakia and the largest animated woodcarving in North America.

Just up the road in Sharon is Reyer's, *The World's Largest Shoe Store*. How large? Try more than 300 famous brands and 200,000 pairs in stock. Accessorize your outfits at *The Winner*, the world's largest off-price ladies fashion store with four floors of merchandise. For the chocolate candy lover, a visit to Daffin's Candies, the world's largest candy store, or Philadelphia Candies for their velvety-smooth chocolate is a special treat. Chocolate candy factory tours are available for groups at Daffin's Candies October through April.

Mercer County is known for golf and has many challenging 4 and 5 star golf courses. Golf Digest in fact, ranked Mercer County as one of America's top golf destinations.

Outdoor enthusiasts will love the scenic twelve-mile paved bicycle and hiking trail at Maurice Goddard State Park. *Pymatuning Deer Park* offers a fun excursion for families featuring a train ride, pony rides, a western town and over 250 animals from all over the world. Springfield Falls is an easy to visit scenic waterfall, about 20 feet tall and twice as wide.

Mercer County has accommodations to meet the needs of all types of budgets. Twelve bed and breakfasts offer distinct architecture and themed room



Springfield Falls.

BY MANTAN DOUGLAS

with luxury accommodations available at Buhl Mansion Guest House and Spa. Unique lodging include Tara-A Country Inn, where you have your choice of 27 luxurious guest rooms with fireplaces and Jacuzzis. Tour this 1854 mansion which features a virtual museum of "Gone With the Wind" memorabilia and Civil War artifacts. Mercer County also features a comprehensive offering of chain hotels such as the Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Best Western and Comfort Inn.

Dine at unique properties such as Stonewall's located in Tara-A Country Inn, or one of the Springfield Restaurant Group sites-Iron Bridge, Rachels, Springfield Grille or Hickory Grille. The original Quaker Steak and Lube is in downtown Sharon. Of course all your favorite chain restaurants, such as Elephant and Castle and Hoss's Family Steak and Sea House can be found in Mercer County.

There are many historical sites to enjoy. Victorian Mercer, the county seat, features the Mercer County Historical Society, the historic courthouse and numerous shops and events on the courthouse square.

The Greenville Railroad Museum has on site Engine 604, the largest switch engine in the world, a coal tender, hopper car and caboose. Mercer County Bridge No. 1801 is on the National Register of Historic Places. 🍷



The Mercer County Courthouse.

ON THE HOUSE

The Buhl Farm Golf Course is the only free golf course in the United States. Open from mid-April through September, from 8 a.m. until dusk, the 9-hole, par 34 golf course has hosted golf legends like Arnold Palmer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 1-800-637-2370 or email mcpa@visit-mercercountypa.com for the Escape Coupon Book with 60 great offers and discounts.

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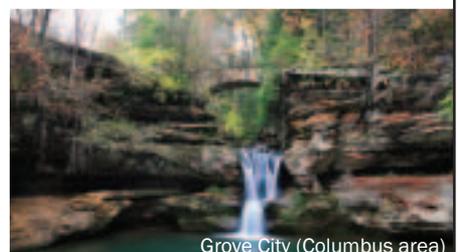
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Sharonville (Cincinnati area)



Grove City (Columbus area)



BY MANTAN DOUGLAS

The beach lover's beach

Catch a wave at Panama City Florida

Panama's City's easy pace revolves like a slow turning ceiling fan, caressing visitors with its gentle breezes, and Southern hospitality. This laid back slice of Florida's Gulf Coast is actually closer in distance and demeanor to Dixie than to its flashy Florida siblings. And this fun-filled beach getaway is within easy reach for travelers. The new eco-friendly Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport opened this May.

The best beach this side of paradise is home to 27 miles of beach lapped by talcum-like sand. Panama City Beach's legendary sand is attributed to quartz crystals washing down from the Appalachian Mountains centuries ago. Along the way, the crystals were bleached, ground, smoothed, and polished. The surf and tides of the Gulf of Mexico are responsible for depositing millions of grains of sugar-white sand on the shore.

Known as the *Emerald Coast*, this is where the Gulf of Mexico and St. Andrews Bay converge. *St. Andrew's State Recreation Area* is famous for its jade green waters. The park's 1,260-acres of sand dunes are fringed by woodlands on one side and the ocean on the other. It's a perennial

pick as one of Florida's Best Beaches by Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, better known as Dr. Beach.

St. Andrew's features fishing piers, a boat ramp, campsites and nature trails. Hikers will discover miles of trails with an incredible array of plants and wildlife in the marshes.

Visitors can take a shuttle over to nearby *Shell Island*. This 700-acre wildlife sanctuary is home to a number of wild bird species, including pelicans, sandpipers, and snowy plovers. Dazzling tropical fish, sea turtles and other aquatic life also call the area around Shell Island home. Shuttles are available to take visitors back and forth, and legend has it that pirates once buried their booty on the island's *Spanish Shanty Point*. The abundant sea is one of the most densely populated bottle-nosed dolphins habitats in the world.

Panama City Beach is known as the *Wreck Capital of the South*. Divers can explore historic wrecks including a 441-foot World War II ship, a coastal freighter, several tugboats and the Gulf of Mexico's most famous wreck, the 465-foot *Empire Mica*.

Away from the beach visitors will find unique family attractions. *Pier Park*, lo-

cated in the heart of town across from City Pier, is the largest shopping/dining/entertainment venue in Northwest Florida. It features a colorful mix of popular national chains and favorite local boutiques and eateries and something completely different — a collection of vintage rides from the now closed *Miracle Strip Amusement Park*.

WonderWorks, which opened in June, is a four-story interactive fun lab housed in an eye-catching upside down building. The laws of nature and probability create some of the most mind boggling and head scratching challenges in the more than 100 exhibits.

The newly renovated *Russell Fields Pier* extends more than 1,600 feet into the calm Gulf waters. Located directly across the street from Pier Park, the landmark city pier is known among locals as a prime fishing spot and is the best place to enjoy spectacular sunsets over the Gulf of Mexico.

ZooWorld Zoological & Botanical Park shelters more than 250 animals, including rare and endangered species, in a lush tropical landscape. Visitors can feed endangered primates and assist in the animal shows. The Bengal Tiger Show features both Bengal and White Tigers in a 200-seat arena.

Designed to look like a 1950s luxury cruise liner run aground on the beach, the Ripley's entertainment complex is home to Ripley's Moving Theater and Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium. The Odditorium is the place to see fascinating finds from around the world, including an authentic shrunken head from Ecuador, a mummy, and an 11-foot Eiffel Tower made entirely of matchsticks, just to name a few.

Panama City Beach was named as one of America's top three golf towns by *Golf Digest* magazine. There are five, 18-hole championship golf courses, including *Signal Hill*, designed on powder white dunes and the *Nicklaus Course* at Bay Point, the only Nicklaus design in Northwest Florida. The *Hombre Golf Club*, offers three championship nines named the "The Good, The Bad & The Ugly," with water on 21 of the 27 holes. 🏌️

IF YOU GO

Call 1-800-PCBEACH (850-233-6503) or visit the official Web site of the Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau, <http://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com>.



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When time matters go Direct Air

BY RENU SAGGAR

Dramatic changes in the airline industry mean direct flights are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. So instead of enjoying your vacation at the beach, the golf course, or a theme park, you end up wasting precious time in an airport waiting for connecting flights. So what should have been a one or two-hour flight to Myrtle Beach, or Florida, ends up being a day-long ordeal.

That's why more and more Canadians are flying Direct Air. The alternative to high fares and lengthy travel times, Direct Air offers state of the art jetcraft, convenient departure times, low fares starting at \$99 each way, and nonstop flights to Myrtle Beach & Florida.

Starting your trip from either Niagara Falls International Airport or Buffalo Airport can save you time, money and hassle. Just 80 miles (130 km) from Toronto, one of the great advantages of flying from Niagara Falls or Buffalo is that you don't have to pay international flight fees and parking at Niagara Falls International Airport is free! Based on the cars parked

at the airport, 70% of people who fly out of here on Direct Air are Canadian.

The airport completed a new, \$23-million, 68,000-square-foot terminal in July, 2009 and is literally minutes away for millions of Canadians in Southwestern Ontario. Travelers can also fly to Fort Myers/Punta Gorda, and Melbourne Florida on Florida's Space Coast.

Direct Air's original focus was to grow the Myrtle Beach market by providing scheduled chartered non-stop service from cities where there was no direct air service at reasonable rates, including golf and vacation packages.

You can get to where you're going cheaper and faster! The Buffalo airport is ranked 8th in the U.S. for most affordable airfares. There are approximately 750 nonstop flights from Buffalo and Niagara every week to over 25 US airports. Niagara Falls International Airport has non-stop service to the U.S. East Coast and Buffalo Niagara International Airport has 110 daily flights with non-stop service to 23 airports. Save time and money by visiting www.CANFLYUS.com.

Direct Air's newest route is from Niagara Falls International Airport to The Palm Beaches & Boca Raton, through Palm Beach International Airport.

Direct Air also offers seasonal service to Ft. Myers/Punta Gorda from Toledo, Ohio, and from Plattsburgh New York. Plattsburgh is just about 60 miles from downtown Montreal and bills itself as "Montreal's U.S. airport."

Toledo is conveniently located less than an hour away from Detroit on I-75 and just 60-miles from the Ambassador Bridge and the Canadian border.

Direct Air is also flying nonstop to The Palm Beaches & Boca Raton, Florida from convenient Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport.

Known as America's First Resort Destination, The Palm Beaches and Boca Raton have welcomed visitors for more than a century. Situated on Florida's southeastern coast, it boasts 47-miles of beach, family-friendly attractions, world-class museums, and great shopping including Worth Avenue, one of the world's most exclusive retail precincts. Stretching four blocks from South Ocean Blvd. to Coconut Row on Palm Beach Island, it boasts a sumptuous mix of shops, gourmet restaurants and galleries.

The small sandbar of Palm Beach, is where America's wealthiest citizens traditionally spend their winters. Across the water from the "island" as the locals call it, is West Palm Beach, with a great selection of bars, clubs, and restaurants along Clematis Street.

Palm Beach County's coconut palms are a legacy of the Providencia, a Spanish ship that sank offshore in 1878.

Residents salvaged the cargo of coconuts and wine, then celebrated their good fortune by planting one and drinking the other. They've been celebrating nonstop ever since. 

IF YOU GO

Direct Air provides full E-ticket distribution and about 80% of all bookings are made via the Internet at VISITDIRECTAIR.COM on a 24 hours basis. Reservations may also be booked through the reservations call center through the toll free number 1-877-432-DIRECT (3473). The call center is open from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. seven days a week, and can handle as many 20,000 incoming calls per day.



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Snowbird Shrimp Boil



February Gumbo Cook-Off





Doing the Strand Grandly

Life really is a beach at Myrtle Beach

Myrrtle Beach isn't just about the beach anymore. It's a family-friendly mash up of sun, sea, golf, and eye-popping attractions all served up with a side order of Southern hospitality.

Located at the hub of South Carolina's *Grand Strand*, Myrtle Beach presides over a pristine 60-mile ribbon of coastline that stretches from Little River to Pawleys Island, along the South Carolina coast.

Ocean Boulevard, the winding main artery, is lined with condominiums and hotels overlooking a vast white beach. Luxurious oceanfront properties like the Dayton House Resort include amenities like full balconies, spas and lazy rivers.

A new Atlantic City-style boardwalk completed in May, now traverses the beachfront from the 14th Avenue to Second Avenue Piers. The mile long boardwalk offers memorable oceanfront views as it unravels from the 14th Avenue North Pier, to the site of the former Pavilion Amusement Park.

Visitors can take a sightseeing cruise along the Intracoastal Waterway aboard the Jungle *Princess Riverboat*. The climate controlled, 150-passenger boat departs from the Marina at Grande Dunes and cruises the Intracoastal Waterway toward Barefoot Landing, past stately homes and an intriguing patchwork of swamps, floodplain forests, salt marshes and bays.

Broadway at the Beach offers an enticing mix of shopping and attractions, like the NASCAR Speed Park, IMAX 3D Theater, Palace Theatre and Ripley's Aquarium. The \$43-million aquarium is filled with 1.3-million gallons of water and dozens of denizens of the deep. Visitors ride a moving walkway through an acrylic tunnel where ferocious sharks glide inches above your head.

North Myrtle Beach actually started out as four distinct beachfront communities. Ocean Drive (O.D.) Beach is the home of the Shag, South Carolina's official state dance, while Crescent Beach got its name from its smiling curve of golden sand. Considered a bit more laid back and family friendly than its sister city to the south, the two towns meet near Restaurant Row and Barefoot Landing.

Barefoot Landing is the setting one of the best shows in town at the plush, 2,000-seat Alabama Theatre. "One, the Show" has everything from Country, Rock, Gospel, Pop, Broadway, to sidesplitting family comedy.

Take a walk on the wild side at Barefoot Landing's *Alligator Adventure*, one of the largest exotic reptile parks in the world. Meet the real Lizard King, Utan, a 20-foot

The Myrtle Beach Pier.



long, one-ton crocodile from Thailand. The park also houses a zoological garden, and a serpentarium — a habitat for all things that slither.

Sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington and her husband Archer, created *Brookgreen Gardens* in the 1930s, on the site of four abandoned rice plantations. This butterfly-shaped series of informal, connecting gardens features 1,200 figurative sculptures fringed by white dogwoods, azaleas, fountains and reflecting pools. In addition to Mrs. Huntington's own, often-monumental works, ten garden "rooms" showcase dozens of prominent sculptors, including Daniel Chester French and Frederick Remington. The Live Oak Allee is a cathedral of 250-year-old trees planted in the early 1700s.

The *Market Common*, is a 114-acre urban village with an upscale combination of retail, residential, and recreational opportunities, complimented by beautifully landscaped parks and a public square. Constructed on the site of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, this new, from the ground up, \$600-million development features fashionable retailers like Anthropologie and Pottery Barn, along with hip nightspots and eateries



The 2nd hole at Pine Lakes.

Myrtle Beach

like Tommy Bahama's, surrounded by luxury town homes, condominiums, and comfortable vacation rentals.

Scotland may have invented golf but Myrtle Beach invented the golf package. Golf is played year-round on the more than 100 area courses, but spring and fall are the peak times due to weather and off-season room rates at about 90,000 accommodations. Many packages include breakfast, accommodations, green fees and cart, all at a price that will put some spark in your sporrán.

Golf has been a way of life here since 1927, when Robert White, the first president of the PGA, built Pine Lakes International Country Club. Once the region's premier links, the course affectionately known as "The Granddaddy" had grown a tad bit peculiar in recent years, with such kitschy novelties as a fleet of faux Rolls Royce golf carts and starters clad in kilts sewn from White's own clan McGregor tartan. A series of routing changes significantly altered its original design.

A recently completed \$15 million resto-

ration project has returned the course and clubhouse back to its original splendor. Working as closely as possible to White's 1927 specifications, restoration expert Craig Schreiner reconfigured the course preserving 16 of Pine Lakes' original 18 corridors.

The *Dayton House Resort* has been a Myrtle Beach tradition for over four decades. The expansive 328-room resort, including a 15-story all-suites addition, is the perfect family destination, sprawling over five buildings spanning an entire oceanfront block. Spend the day at the beach then relax on over an acre of oceanfront lawn filled with yellow umbrella covered tables. There's also another acre of oceanfront pools and decks, including Myrtle Beach's first walk-in, overflow swimming pool. Splash around in the indoor pool, an indoor-outdoor pool, three indoor and outdoor hot tubs, a kiddie pool and a lazy river.

Each of the oceanfront suites features a balcony with spectacular views and the non-smoking efficiencies and suites can accommodate up to six people, and features satellite/cable TV. Stay connected with complimentary wireless Internet, a game room, ATM, fitness center and a

guest laundry facility. Special golf packages, which include lodging, green fees, carts and taxes, offer the opportunity to tee off at over 40 championship courses.

Sandcastle Oceanfront Resort South Beach is your Grand Strand home away from home. All the sun-drenched pleasures of powder-white sand and dappled blue waves at your doorstep. They offer affordable rates, all oceanfront units, amenities for the whole family and a great location near shopping, dining, entertainment and the new Myrtle Beach Market Common.

The *Sandcastle Oceanfront Resort at the Pavilion* has a great tradition of providing guests with all the comforts of home. Family pleasing amenities include indoor and outdoor pools, endless river ride, whirlpool and kiddie pool. And the location is ideal – downtown Myrtle Beach near Broadway at the Beach, shopping, dining and entertainment. Golf packages are available their new subsidiary Myrtle Beach Golf Vacations, located right on the property. Their golf director will assist you with what could be your best golf vacation experience ever!

Parents and kids love the Hampton Inn & Suites Oceanfront, Myrtle Beach. Their

Sandcastle Oceanfront Resort at the Pavilion
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We have been proudly offering accommodations at Sandcastle at the Pavilion for over 30 years! We are one of the oldest accommodation providers in Myrtle Beach, and our staff takes great pride in offering clean, affordable accommodations for the price conscious traveler. Our team is committed to creating a vacation experience based on a foundation of customer care that nurtures and develops lasting relationships.

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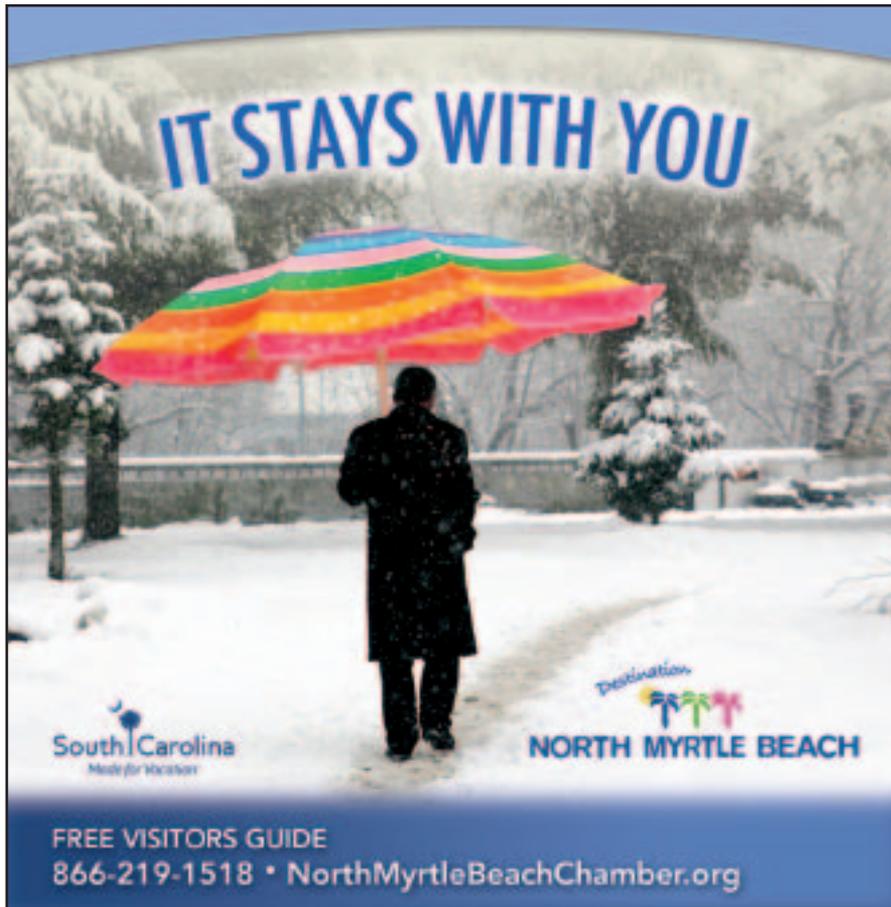


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All rooms and suites feature private balconies and guests will enjoy their new complimentary On the House™ hot breakfast. Menu items include such tasty offerings as sausage patties, eggs and French toast sticks. Tripadvisor.com ranks the Hampton Inn & Suites Oceanfront as the #1 hotel in Myrtle Beach.

From a cozy oceanfront room for two to a spacious beach front family suite their accommodations are ideal for any vacation.

Getting to Myrtle Beach is faster and easier than ever thanks to *Direct Air*. The alternative to high fares and lengthy travel times offers flights to Myrtle Beach from convenient departure points like Plattsburgh, and Niagara Falls, New York, and Pittsburgh, PA. ✈

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Fireworks over the Falls.

BY ADELINA IRVINE

Tripping the Lights Fantastic The CAA Winter Festival of Lights

Niagara Falls changes dramatically with every season and many enlightened visitors find winter to be their favorite time of year. As autumn retreats into winter's chill, beads of mist settle over the frozen landscape like tiny diamonds. Barren trees are gilded into crystalline works of art and the *Ice Bridge*, a vast mountain of ice, forms at the base of the Falls. It can be fifty or more feet thick, and weigh anywhere from two to ten million tons!

Niagara's amazing winter spectacle has been drawing visitors for decades and in recent years, a man made spectacle has added to the glow. *The CAA Winter Festival of Lights* attracts 1.3-million people annually to view its more than 120 illumination displays with their millions of individual lights. From November 6, 2010 to January 31, 2011, Canada's foremost illumination festival captures the magic of the holiday season.

"The Festival of Lights has grown by

leaps and bounds," says Festival General Manager Dino Fazio. "People were always saying they'd like us to keep the Festival going so this year, we're running it until January 31, with a few events and attractions continuing into February."

This year, the stars of the CAA Winter Festival of Lights — the lights themselves — are undergoing a significant expansion. The five kilometre (three mile) route along the Niagara Parkway is known as the *Niagara Parks Winter Wonderland* and includes three million sparkling tree and ground lights, the world's largest illuminated Canadian-American Flag, and over 120 lighting displays, including the world-famous Enchantment of Disney® animated displays.

Generations of Disney fans will marvel at classics like Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Sleeping Beauty's Castle, and Tinker Bell, alongside newer characters from Toy Story, Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, and The Lion King.

Niagara Falls' historic Queen Street will be transformed into an illuminated *Santa's Village*, complete with lighted storefronts and gorgeous window displays. The Lundy's Lane tourist area will be converted into *Candy Cane Lane*.

Also new this year is a *Religions of the World* area depicting Mary and Joseph's trek to Bethlehem. This brilliantly colored tableau will be located alongside inspirational displays of Canada's largest Menorah and a Pilgrimage to Mecca.

The festival's newest attraction — the *Rink at the Brink* — will operate from December 1, 2010, to February 28, 2011. Created in the mold of the ice rink at Rockefeller Plaza, the Rink at the Brink is an open-air, outdoor ice skating facility situated a stone's throw from the "brink" of the Horseshoe Falls, offering breathtaking views and a magical outdoor ice skating experience. And every evening from November 6 to February 28, the Falls are illuminated in every color of the rainbow. The ice filled gorge becomes a gigantic prism, refracting light in a dazzling array of tints and hues. Each of the 21 xenon spotlights produces has a brilliance of 250 million candlepower.

One great place to see them is from the *Skylon Tower*. Niagara's tallest total entertainment complex includes indoor/outdoor observation of the Falls from 233 meters (775-feet), and two great dining rooms both overlooking the Falls.

At the base of the tower is the *Skylon Fun Centre*, Niagara's largest indoor amusement area, complete with a food court and 4D Theatre. Shop in one of the 12 speciality shops on the main level as a prelude to your Ride to the Top in the glass enclosed Yellow Bug elevators.

Once you've been dazzled by the lights taken a whirl around the Rink at the Brink, you'll still find plenty more Niagara Falls Festival of Lights events to entertain you. Spectacular fireworks explode over the mighty Falls very Friday evening from November 12, through December 31st.

Other Festival events include concerts by headliners like Glen Campbell at the beautiful new *Gale Centre*, historical displays at area museums, a Candlelight Stroll along Queen Street, and performances by magician Greg Frewin. There's also a holiday-themed production by the award-winning Oh Canada Eh! Dinner Show, and the annual New Year's Eve extravaganza in Queen Victoria Park.

The party begins at 8:00 p.m. with a free concert and two spectacular fireworks



Winter Festival of Lights

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November 6 - January 31, 2011



December 1- February 28



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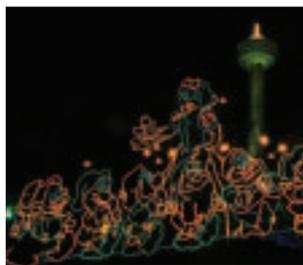
Niagara Falls

displays at 9:00 p.m. and midnight. Live television coverage will run from 11:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. on Global and CanWest affiliate stations, for an event that has become Canada's Times Square celebration.

It all kicks off with opening ceremonies on Saturday, November 6, 2010, at 5:45 p.m., featuring the official "throwing of the switch" to light up the Festival's illuminations and set off the first fireworks show of the season. 🎆

IF YOU GO

For more information on the CAA Winter Festival of Lights, including a complete list of events, directions, ticket information for concerts, hotel packages and everything else you ever wanted to know about the Festival, please visit www.wfol.com or call 1-800-563-2557. Follow all the latest updates, follow the CAA Winter Festival of Lights on Facebook at www.facebook.com/winterfestivaloflights or Twitter at www.twitter.com/winterfestival.



Winter Wonderland

Niagara Falls is a captivating destination anytime of the year, but is undoubtedly at its most beautiful on a sunny winter day. Come marvel at over 3 million

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BY RENU SAGGAR

Finding the magic in something new

You better shop around in Windsor & Essex County

Whether you're looking for trendsetting fashions, or a new bauble to wear around your neck or finger, Windsor and Essex County have your shopping needs covered like no other place else. The proprietors of these boutiques, galleries and bistros are ready to cater to your passion for fashion. It's big city style, with down home prices and small town service.

WINDSOR CROSSING

Windsor Crossing is one of the most exciting retail developments in Southwestern Ontario. Their collection of premium brand names are specifically tailored to designer fashion, athletic apparel, shoes and home accessories, among others. With over 40 stores to choose from, Windsor Crossing has something for everyone. Experience the thrill of the hunt, then relax after your shopping excursion at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, or enjoy the specialty beverages and cuisine at Caffé Mondo.

Windsor Crossing currently houses some of the most elite brands at savings of up to 60% off everyday. Brands like Coach and Hugo Boss Outlet/Hugo Boss Woman. Fashionable footwear fans will find plenty to like at the Reebok/Rockport Outlet, Nine West Shoe Studio, or Tootsies Factory Shoe Market.

FRANCO ANGILERI DESIGNS LTD

"I've always had a love of clothing, It was a way for me to express my artistic creativity," says fashion designer extraordinaire Franco Angileri. An A-list of pro athletes, and celebrities wear his clothes, and he's also costumed professional ballroom dancers and entertainers.

The proprietor of Franco Angileri Designs Ltd. immigrated to Canada with his family in 1965, and he credits an aunt — a stylist and owner of a high fashion boutique in Italy — as his inspiration.

Mastering the art of measuring, cutting, basting, sewing, fitting and finishing, takes years and Angileri started early at age 11, diligently absorbing the fundamentals from a master tailor in Windsor. Even then he knew he wanted to pursue a career in the fashion industry. As his skills matured Angileri understood that a great deal remained to be learned about the metamorphosis of cloth into garments.

Angileri attended the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York City and Sheridan Fashion Institute & Technology in Toronto.

"I had a talent that I needed to refine," says Angileri. "I

Simon G.

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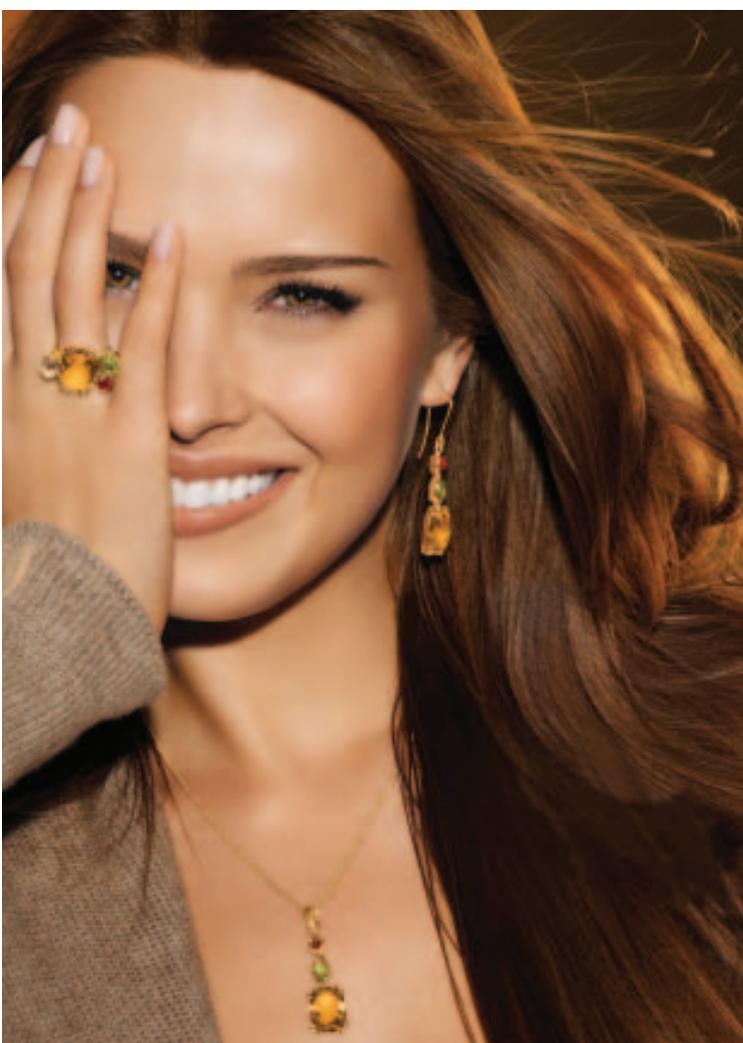
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was fortunate enough to be trained by professional designers like Valentino, Oscar De La Renta, Pierre Cardin, Alfred Sung, Michele Robichaud and others”.

Was it hard apprenticing to some of the fashion industry’s most celebrated icons?

“It’s difficult not to be intimidated,” Franco agrees, “but by working with and under some of the greats in a profession you want to make yours, you’ve got to remember that they had to put in their time too, to get where they are today and where you hope you will be one day.”

For over three decades, Angileri has chosen to practice his craft in his shop, located at 814 Erie St. in Windsor. Franco estimates that about 70 percent of his clients come from the U.S. and the Detroit Free Press heralded him as “The Area’s Best Kept Secret”.

He’s also in great demand as a designer for beauty pageant contestants. Among those seen walking the catwalk in Angileri originals are Miss Canada Universe, Miss Ohio, Michigan, and New Jersey, as well as Emmy Award nominees.

“I love to make a woman feel special,” Angileri says. It’s a style for today based on yesterday’s elegance.

INTERNATIONAL ART DESIGN

Warm and cozy, sleek and urban, or forever classic. No matter your preference, let the professionals at International Art Design help you express your style. Located at 5975 Malden Road, their knowledgeable staff are extensively trained to assist you in capturing just the right custom frame design to complement your room, your lifestyle, your budget and your personality.

Open since 1996, International Art Design specializes in custom picture framing, using moldings imported from Italy, Venezuela, Portugal, and England. They have developed a real reputation for sports memorabilia, photos, jersey framing and much more. They can frame everything from 20th century christening gowns to guitars!

International Art Design also carries items that you won’t find anywhere else. Reasonably priced art objects include vases and ceramic pots from Sri Lanka, Mexico and Portugal. Their “eclectic” mirrors are designed in Italy and manufactured in Montreal. There’s hand-made glass from Italy and jewelry from Montreal-based designer Diane Gagnon.

They’ll even come to your home for a consultation. Their motto is “you don’t have to spend much to make a statement. It’s the way you put pieces/colour together.” The friendly and courteous staff all have a Fine Arts or an Interior Design background.

Funky and different is what you will find for Christmas! Hand-made ornaments for that special person made from brass, aluminum and copper. Jewelry that you can mold to create your own design. Make your own rings and necklaces with Nano dots! Check out the hand painted wine and Martini glasses for the person that has everything!

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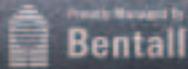
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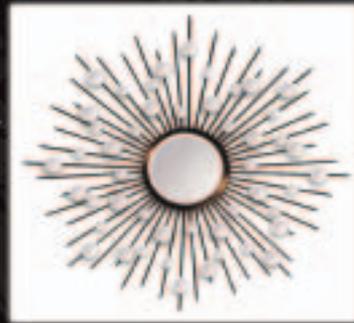
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they offer custom jewellery design, repair and appraisal in a comfortable, secure environment. This family run business has over 25 years experience working closely and patiently with each customer to satisfy their fine jewelry requirements.

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Their philosophy is be honest, set prices fairly and competitively and provide the highest quality gold, gemstones and merchandise possible, along and the highest standard of personal service. The store features plenty of onsite parking, with extended shopping hours.

AT EASE MEN'S APPAREL

Everyone knows that "clothes make the man," but there's also more to the essence of a man than just his clothing.

No doubt, an informed selection of stylish clothing helps create a great first impression. Located at 354 Manning Road in Tecumseh, you'll find an exciting array of seasonal, trendy and classic fashions for men, along with friendly professional guidance.

At Ease Men's Apparel fashion consultants empower their clients to maximize their "image" with contemporary fashions from leading international designers, whether you need a really sharp sports jacket, or a suitcase full of casual resort wear. Beginning with your first visit, you'll discover how At Ease Men's Apparel is different from other clothing stores. Knowledgeable consultants, under the tutelage of their in-house expert, Dean, are ready to help you select the perfect apparel for business, casual or in between. If your workplace embraces "business casual" they can help you develop a wardrobe that embodies the perfect balance between "business" and "casual".

At Ease carries a selection of contemporary fashion brands from leading international designers that include Blue Willi's, Cutter & Buck, ITA Christ Ltd., MIRTO, Agave, Green Coast, Cole Haan, Paul &

Shark, Tommy Bahama, Peter Millar and others. There are quality Made in Canada sports jackets by Copley and dress shirts by Lipson and Omega. New looks for fall include Robert Graham – the hottest line of sport shirts, and jeans by Brax, Tommy Bahama and Agave, the "Academy Award" of premium stylish denim.

For those of you who enjoy a shirt that's a perfect fit, they'll measure you and have your custom-made shirts in your hands within 3 business days. Most importantly, their comfortable and relaxed environment has been carefully designed to put you completely "At Ease".

CLYDE HATCH AT EASE

When it came to women's apparel, the women of Leamington and surrounding area depended on Clyde Hatch, for six decades the town's finest boutique for both office and formal wear. Located at 16 Talbot St. W. in uptown Leamington, Clyde Hatch was responsible for carrying the sophisticated designs and exquisite accessories imported from Europe and around the world.

When Dean Short, owner of the popular Tecumseh menswear shop, At Ease, decided to purchase Clyde Hatch, his focus



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Shop Around

was on maintaining the elegance and style to which Clyde Hatch customers had grown accustomed to. At the same time, he started bringing in the men's lines that were synonymous with At Ease. Marrying the best of the both stores resulted in a new name, Clyde Hatch At Ease.

While they no longer carry formal wear, they do carry luxury brands, like Gerry Webber, Cambio, Basler and Elisa Cavaletti, all of which boast unique casual dress and business professional designs.

Catering to an even wider range of women, they carry sizes 6 to 18, with some pieces available up to size 20. Accessories are also a large part of the store's inventory, with jewelry, gloves, belts and scarves readily available to customers.

For men, sports coats and suits abound. Currently, the hottest item in the store is the Robert Graham shirt – uniquely detailed shirts that can be worn in office and at play. One of Clyde Hatch At Ease's latest additions is Alberto, a pant line out of Germany. Tommy Bahama, Bugatti and Victorinox can also be found here.

"Customers love this boutique area,"

says Short. "It's a pleasure to be able to serve men and women. It makes for a wonderful atmosphere."

WHARRAM'S JEWELLERY LTD.

Wharram's Jewellery Ltd. was founded in 1955 by the late J. Russel Wharram. Since 1975, Wayne Wharram, B.Sc., G.J., G.G. (GIA) has extended the family tradition of pride in their work while maintaining the high standards set by his father.

Located at 21 Talbot Street West, Leamington, Wharram's is housed in a lovely Gothic Revival property built by the Royal Bank of Canada in 1907. The historic facility symbolizes the quality of merchandise and steadfast service within. Both the building and its proprietors have been the recipients of numerous awards.

Always striving to broaden their knowledge, Wayne and his staff stay abreast of ever changing jewellery fashions and technology. Store Manager and Jewellery Fashion Analyst Evelin Wharram diligently monitors current trends and this attention to detail is reflected in the exquisite collection of distinctive, fashion forward pieces. This includes wearable designs, which can easily make the transition from day to evening, and from casual to formal.

Wharram's Jewellery features such sought after brands as Crown Ring, Movado, Bulova and Pandora. An extensive selection of engagement rings showcase several designer collections like Tacori, SimonG, and House of Makhlof. Each has its own intrinsic appeal that distinguishes them from others in the market. For instance, Tacori exudes 'contemporary vintage', and SimonG 'fashion with colour'. Wharram's will guide you through the diamond buying process, resulting in the "perfect ring" for you.

Crown Ring is famous as the creator of the "Romeo & Juliet" series of engravable wedding rings. Trend setting designs include both Titanium and Tungsten Carbide wedding bands, the strongest and most durable metal in the world,

Wayne & Evelin Wharram take great pride in offering quality merchandise, and go to great lengths to search name brands that also represent the Wharram name. MEZZO RISTORANTE & LOUNGE

All that shopping is bound to give you an appetite and the area has a number of high-caliber eateries. *Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge* offers a chic, yet comfortable atmosphere. The ambience provides a unique balance of stylish metropolitan flare, exceptional service and authentic



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Shop Around

Italian cooking.

Mezzo is Italian for "middle" and the restaurant is located in the heart of Erie Street. Owners Michael Barlozzari and Filip Rocca have succeeded in bringing their restaurant/lounge concept to the forefront of the local culinary scene by combining Northern and Southern Italian cuisine with global influences. The menu skillfully combines fresh seasonal ingredients in delicious and unexpected ways. CENTRO RESTAURANT CAFFE BAR

Michael and Filip's latest endeavour is *Centro Restaurant Caffe Bar*. Located at 770 Erie Street East, Centro features a cafe/dessert area in the front of the building, and a restaurant/pizzeria in the back. An expansive patio large patio seats 60 people and there private banquet facilities in the lower level. Patrons can choose from a selection of gourmet pizzas like pine nuts, prosciutto, sausage, truffle oil topped with misticanza or they can create their own using toppings that include sun dried tomatoes bacon, mushrooms, pepperoni, ground lamb, pepper roasted garlic, and soppressata. 🍷

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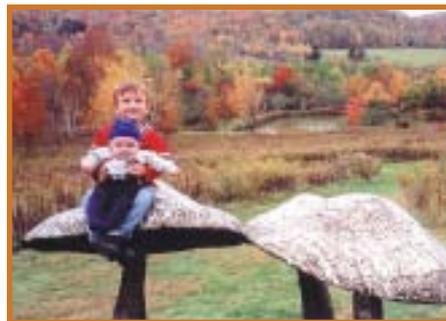
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The Kasbah Tamdaght.

Rocking the Kas



BY GAIL MERO-O'NEIL

There's an aura of intrigue about Morocco. Mystical and seductive, it's an Aladdin's lamp conjuring up images of the Kasbah, Peter Lorre and Sydney Greenstreet huddled in the dark recesses of a gin mill, and a stubble-faced Bogart staring hard into his drink.

It is an enigmatic, yet accessible land where the veil cloaking much of the Arab world seems to part at least a little. Glibly referred to as a "soft Arab experience" Morocco and Marrakesh in particular, are really more Berber in their customs. About 80% of present day Moroccans are Berbers. Many are *Alawites*, an esoteric Islamic sect, who enjoy some decidedly un-Islamic traditions, such as drinking wine at religious ceremonies. Moroccan monarch Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdallah, was the first head of state to officially recognize a newly formed country in the 1700s — the United States of America.

This reputation for tolerance has made Morocco an international hang-out for successive generations of dropouts. Bogie waited out the war in Casablanca, while Tangier's tangled streets inspired William Burroughs's "Interzone" from his novel *Naked Lunch*. In the sixties, Jimi Hendrix wrote "Castles Made of Sand" while holed up in the ancient pirate's nest of Essaouira, a coastal town southwest of Casablanca, that is now one of country's hottest resorts.

In Marrakesh the air is full of stories, some true, some not so true. Founded nearly a thousand years ago as an oasis in the arid Haouz plain, the Red City is located at the foot of the Atlas mountains. On most days, you can glimpse the snow

capped peaks over the rooftops. At sunset, the old city's ancient ochre walls are bathed in a sultry, red glow.

The 850 year old Koutoubia mosque, the city's best known landmark, is about one hundred metres west of the Djemaa el-Fna. Considered a masterpiece of Mudejar art, the minaret soars 60 metres above the Medina's raucous din. It was also the model for the Giralda mosque in Seville, which in turn influenced church towers across Spain and Europe.

The beautiful Ben Yusef mosque is located inside the large souk that begins at the northern side of the plaza is one of the oldest examples of the Moroccan architectural style, with decorative patterns, windows, and the structure of the dome itself.

The Djemaa el-Fna, which literally means the *Plaza of the Dead*, is the hub of the old walled city. It gets its name from a pasha who made a practice of displaying the heads of his former enemies in the square. During the day, water sellers pose in colorful costumes with leather water bags and brass cups. Veiled women carry baskets of dates, while merchants sit cross-legged sipping mint tea from the stoops of their stalls.

The labyrinthine streets of the souks, or open-air markets, are piled high with spices, leather bags, elaborately embroidered textiles and the unmistakable blue pottery. Moroccans have a passion for the shade of blue that the French mistakenly named turquoise.

Bargaining is an art form in Morocco and it can be a pleasure if you remember to keep your cool. Neither should you worry about paying too much or too little. People here bargain full time, and they

sbah

Winston Churchill explained Morocco with the words "Ah, Morocco, the country where the days are perfect and nights are cold."

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Marrakesh

will almost always get the better of you.

Everything is negotiable, so start by offering a third and plan on paying about one half the asking price. If a shop keeper appears to grow impatient, this means that you are getting close to the real value of the goods. When a merchant offers mint tea, it is customary that you accept it. Not accepting the tea is considered an insult. And don't be surprised if brand conscious vendors want to barter for your North American style watches, electronics and even your clothes.

At dusk, crowds gather in the plaza to view the chaotic spectacle of acrobats, soothsayers, dancers and musicians. Snake charmers coax cobras from woven baskets and the air is pungent with wood smoke and the sweet aroma of roasting lamb. Troupes of Chleuh dancing-boys and mystical Gnaoua musicians — descendants of former African slaves — fill the night air with throbbing drums and hypnotic music.

Evening also transforms the Medina into one of the world's busiest open air restaurants. Sheep heads are the menu

item most travelers remember in the open air grills, although most stick to the tasty kabobs, or kefta—grilled, cumin-spiced meatballs, made from beef

Morocco is well known for its succulent Tajine and couscous dishes. Tajine, takes its name from the dish — a heavy ceramic covered dish — rather than the food itself. The dish is central to the success of a good Tajine because it needs to slow-cook with the lid on. Lamb Tajines are usually made with almonds and prunes, while chicken Tajines are cooked with green olives and lemon. Couscous, a staple of almost every Moroccan meal, is made from coarse semolina steamed with vegetables and spices and served with lamb or chicken.

Just a short walk away is the Kasbah, resplendent with shady palms and sun-baked terracotta walls. Here the frenetic energy of the Medina gives way to exquisitely tiled courtyards, blue pools, orange trees and cushioned divans.

This was the citadel of the sultans and home to the former Royal Place. The bluish green *Bab Agnaou Gate*, the traditional entrance for the monarchs, was constructed in the twelfth century, and changes color like a mood ring in the midday sun. 🗨️



A BRILLIANT IDEA

The Palais de la Bahia was built by Grand Vizier Bou Ahmed in the late 19th century. The name means 'brilliance' and the sprawling palace was designed to house the vizier's sizeable harem, which included four wives and 24 concubines.

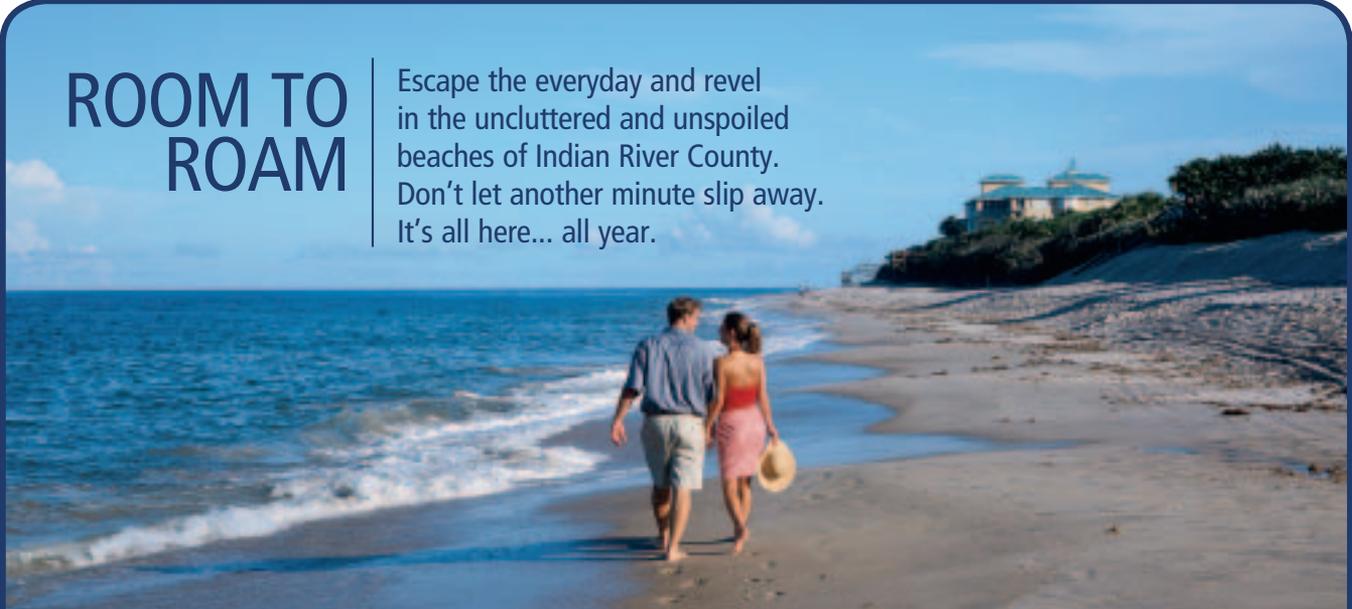
The construction of the 150 room palace took so long, that it wasn't completed until after the Vizier's death.

USE CAUTION

There are few real dangers in Marrakesh, but perhaps the most unexpected are the jinnis; malevolent spirits widely believed to sleep in toilets. They can react with hostility when surprised so it is traditional to warn them beforehand with the invocation "Rukhsa, ya Mubariqin." With your permission, O Blessed Ones.

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