A close-up photograph of a smiling couple in an intimate pose. The woman's face is partially obscured by the man's dark hair. She has a warm smile, red lips, and her hands are visible near the bottom right.

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# Crossings

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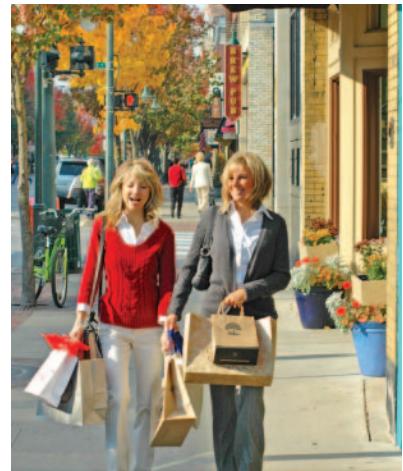
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# Crossings

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## Yule Love Michigan

Shopping at Great Lakes Crossing: Photo by Bill Bowen.

**M**etro Detroit can package the perfect gift this holiday season. Visitors will find great savings on Black Friday, the day after the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday (Nov. 23, 2012). Known for its unbelievable sales, deals and giveaways (a majority of which happen in the wee hours of the morning), Black Friday is the best time to cross items off your lists. For more information about shopping in The D, go to [www.visitdetroit.com](http://www.visitdetroit.com).

Hundreds of thousands of parade-goers of all ages will line Woodward Avenue this Thanksgiving morning for the 86th Annual America's Thanksgiving Parade. The parade kicks off at 9:05 a.m. on Woodward Avenue and Mack and ends at Woodward Avenue and Congress. Those who can't make it to the parade don't have to miss out; it will be broadcast live on WDIV Local 4 and WJR 760 AM. For more details, go to [www.theparade.org](http://www.theparade.org).

Nothing says Thanksgiving Day afternoon quite like an exciting football game. Watch the Detroit Lions tackle the Houston Texans Nov. 22, 2012 at Ford Field. Take a break from the turkey and head downtown for thrilling game plays, and help carry on the tradition

BY RENU SAGGAR

that started back in 1934. Go to [www.detroitlions.com](http://www.detroitlions.com) for ticket information.

Explore museums located in Detroit's cultural center for free at the 40th annual *Noel Night* on Dec. 1, 2012. Participating venues, such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Detroit Historical Museum, among many others, open their doors and provide special programming for all ages. The evening's festivities conclude with the *Noel Night* tradition of a community sing along on Woodward Avenue led by the Salvation Army Band. Go to [midtowndetroitinc.org](http://midtowndetroitinc.org) for more details.

The Detroit Institute of Arts pays homage to artist Karl Fabergé in *Fabergé: The Rise and Fall*, runs until Jan. 21, 2013. View more than 200 precious objects from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, home to the largest collection of Fabergé in the United States. The collection traces Fabergé's rise to fame, highlighting his business savvy, artistic innovations. For more information about this exhibit, go to [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org).

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# Michigan

*Slows BBQ* is Detroit's best and incredibly popular BBQ restaurant in the heart of Corktown in downtown. Located in The Fillmore Detroit building, across Woodward Avenue from Comerica Park, pulled pork, dry-smoked ribs, the famous Yardbird sandwich (mustard-soaked pulled chicken), fantastic sides and delectable desserts round out this local favorite. They also feature a selection of beers from around the world.

*Texas De Brazil* on 1000 Woodward Ave., in downtown Detroit, is an authentic Brazilian-American Churrascaria (steakhouse) that combines the cuisine of Southern Brazil with the generous spirit of Texas. The grilled meats here are outstanding, served by attentive gauchos and the caiperinhas are delectable.

The highest hotel restaurant in the Western Hemisphere, the *Coach Insignia* is a contemporary steak house that offers breathtaking views from the top of the GM Renaissance Center. Coach Insignia features elegantly delicious cuisine and a world-class wine list (one of Michigan's

largest) to accompany the panoramic views of Detroit and Windsor.

You'll bask in the personalized service provided by General Manager Brady Hunt and his team. Coach has been awarded the highest rating of four stars by the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press, as well as the Wine Spectator's coveted "Best of" Award of Excellence.

Step into a Christmas card from the past at *Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village*. This year's program features live musical performances, holiday vignettes, strolling costumed presenters, four performance stages, holiday shops, skilled artisan demonstrations, ice skating, food stops and a grand fireworks finale. You can take a horse-drawn wagon or a Model T ride and visit with Santa and his live reindeer at the Robert Frost House. Packages for dinner at Eagle Tavern and Supper with Santa are also available. The event runs Dec. 1, 7-8, 14-16, 18-23 and 26-27, 2012. For ticket information, go to [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org).

*Fairlane Town Center* is known for its fashion-forward merchandise and depth of retailers. Located at 18900 Michigan Avenue in Dearborn, it's conveniently located near major expressways, and the

U.S.-Canadian border crossing. Fairlane is home to more than 160 stores anchored by Macy's, JCPenney, Sears and a new restaurant plaza. Enjoy the outdoor fireplace at BRAVO! Cucina Italiana, or sample the fare at P.F. Chang's China Bistro. Fairlane Town Center is also home to Michigan's largest H&M and the only House of Hoops Foot Locker store in Michigan. Visitors will find everything from the classic Coach store, to the cutting edge 2b bebe store.

Experience the epitome of elegance and sophistication from a perfectly situated Dearborn hotel near downtown Detroit and the Henry Ford Museum. *The Henry*, an Autograph Collection hotel in Dearborn, is located adjacent to Fairlane Town Center, three miles from The Henry Ford, and one mile from Ford Motor World HQ. The Henry honors industrialist and inventor Henry Ford. The AAA Four Diamond hotel features well-appointed guest rooms and suites with 37-inch flat-screen TVs, DirecTV with 24 HD channels, complimentary HSIA, exclusive bedding and RUSK bath amenities. Indulge your palate at TRIA, the hotel restaurant serving inspiring American cuisine, or rejuvenate the body and mind in our whirlpool and





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See more than 500 vehicles at North America's largest and most prestigious automotive showcase at the 2013 North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center. Public days are Jan. 19-27. The 2012 NAIAS attracted more than 770,000 visitors. For more information, go to [www.naias.com](http://www.naias.com).

*Twelve Oaks Mall* is Michigan's largest shopping mall, with nearly 200 fine stores including Nordstrom, Macy's, Lord & Taylor, JC Penney and Sears. The mall's large, eclectic selection of mid- to upper-mid-range retailers perfectly suits consumers in the area, along with the usual collection of ancillary stores like bebe, J Crew, Banana Republic, Sephora, Body Shop, Godiva chocolates and restau-

rants like Tin Fish, Zoup and California Pizza Kitchen. It's conveniently located at the intersection of three major highways, I-96, I-696 and I-275, at Novi and Twelve Mile roads in Novi, Michigan.

The *Baronette Renaissance Detroit Hotel* is one of the most luxurious gems among Novi hotels. Located at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, the hotel is also just two miles from the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi and world-class shopping, numerous restaurants, and family-fun. The hotel's 155 beautifully renovated guest-rooms, each feature pillow top mattress, Egyptian cotton sheets, and 37-inch HD televisions. Enjoy a host of amenities, from their on-site Wellness Center to a serene outdoor garden terrace.

Regional history, historic automobiles and hands-on science are major features of the Sloan Museum in Flint. Dramatic settings, video programs and hundreds of artifacts and photographs portray the area's tumultuous 20th century history in the *Flint and the American Dream* exhibit. The *Buick Automotive Gallery* presents major automotive exhibits featuring vehicles from the Sloan fleet of over 80 Flint-built automobiles.

*Wisner's Whizbang Emporium*, the new-

est gallery at Sloan Museum, is designed for young and old to play together. Reminisce and wonder at toys from your childhood as your little tykes "shop" for food and go to the kitchen to "prepare" a meal. Spend time with your favorite kids by playing a game or discovering a book.

Beginning February 16 to May 26, 2013 the Sloan will host *Sesame Street Presents: The Body*, an amazing new educational attraction featuring Elmo, Oscar, Grover, and the rest of your Sesame Street friends.

This new interactive exhibition teaches children how their bodies work and how to keep them healthy as they hop, jump, run, and dance their way through this hands-on Sesame Street adventure.

Truly a wonderland during the winter months, the Grand Haven region offers the ideal way to explore its pristine beauty by cross-country skiing, down hill skiing or snowshoeing. There are plenty of trails, both groomed and ungroomed, at area parks. Many venues feature plenty of additional family activities, including sledding and skating. Amenities such as warming houses and concessions make the day comfortable as well as fun. Strap on your skis and revel in the splendor of a Michigan winter landscape. 

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# Taking a big bite out of Birmingham

Shop, dine and relax in Michigan's most fashionable burb

**L**ocated along Woodward Avenue, about halfway between Detroit and Pontiac, Birmingham's pedestrian-friendly streets are filled with upscale shopping, dining, culture and a lively nightlife.

Visitors will find an incredible array of clothing and gift stores, salons, spas, antique shops, and art galleries and a centrally located park in the city center.

When it comes to dining, there's nothing like a great steak. Located in the heart of Downtown Birmingham, *Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse* specializes in Aged, Dry Aged, and Wagyu "Kobe Style" Beef and fresh seafood. Great food starts with the quality of the ingredients, finished with the flair of a professional culinarian. At Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse you'll find the menu doesn't begin and end with a New York strip steak or a filet mignon. Their chefs are experts in preparing the best available aged steaks in a variety of classic and nouveau styles, including Steak ala Oscar, Steak au Poivre, and Tournedos

au Bleu. This steakhouse features a classic 1950's vibe with dim lighting, cozy booths, and amazing Manhattans.

The casual *Townhouse Bistro* has all the ambience of a French brasserie. Known for being the home of Detroit's best burger, they take a 28-day Dry Aged steak, grind the meat daily, and cook it to your preference served with Cabot cheddar and caramelized onions on a Brioche Bun. The Townhouse features inventive contemporary American cuisine in the heart of Metro Detroit's most fashionable neighborhood. Starters include *Date with a Pig* — bacon wrapped medjool dates, stuffed with Gorgonzola cheese. Main courses like fish and chips made with beer batter and jalapeno peppers, are comfort food at its best. Try the smoked chicken macaroni — made with Rousin and mozzarella. It tastes just like your mother used to make — that is if your mother was Julia Child. The lobster roll is just as good as you would find in Maine — all knuckle and claw meat. The expansive outside

patio is a great place to kick back and unwind in the summer.

The *Social Kitchen & Bar* is great place to relax and enjoy creative renditions of your favorite foods. Opened in 2012, it features the only roof top dining in downtown Birmingham. Inside the Loft is a great place to be with it's exposed ductwork, brick, and wood finishes. The Via offers beautiful, covered outdoor dining with excellent florals, scenic views and prime people-watching.

The restaurant is the creation of Zack Sklar, known for *Cutting Edge Cuisine*, a catering company he started while still a student at the Culinary Institute of America. The menu features upscale American comfort food with plenty of foreign intrigue. The Naan Grilled Cheese is an exotic twist on an old favorite, while the falafel is the best you will taste outside of Casablanca. The TV Dinner is meatloaf wrapped in bacon, served with fresh corn salad, mashed potatoes, and coleslaw — all super fresh and full of flavor. 



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Birmingham Principal Shopping District © 2012

# Tangled up in Bluewater Country

There must be something in the water in this part of Michigan

The shores of Lake Huron are home to a collection of communities that are boastful about the color blue. One hundred and forty miles of shoreline unites the quaint towns of Algonac, Clay, Marine City, St. Clair, Port Huron, Lexington, Port Sanilac, Harbor Beach and Port Austin.

Known as the Blue Water Area, these charming communities, are filled with green parks, boardwalks and wide beaches and waterways that display incredible hues of cobalt, turquoise and sapphire. The stunning hues restore a sense of freshness and tranquility that can get lost in the current of everyday life.

*The River Crab* is situated right on the river, and offers a serene view of the St. Clair River accented with the white sails and wakes of the pleasure boats, huge lake freighters and ocean vessels, navigating one of the busiest waterways in the world. The restaurant is entirely decorated in wooden panel boards that



give it a warm feeling. An enclosed front porch, very popular for dining, contains two rows of tables an arms distance from the water. Savor fresh fish and seafood selections, beef and chicken entrées, homemade pasta and world-class service. Stay the night at the Blue Water Inn next door – each unique room has a splendid river view.

Port Huron is known as the "Maritime Capital of the Great Lakes." Visitors can explore the only existing lightship on the Great Lakes, or tour the Coast Guard Cutter "Bramble."

*The Thomas Edison Depot Museum* depicts the great inventor's life when he lived in Port Huron.

At *The Van Camp House*, Chef Andy Fabian will share his expertise in visual presentation and delicious tastes at his family-owned establishment. Featuring locally grown, organic produce. Their unique menu changes on weekly basis with the freshest and finest available! Also featuring a spectacular wine menu. For your entertainment, the restaurant provides live music Friday & Saturday evenings. Recently, Chef Andy and his outstanding staff were chosen as one of the Top Ten Tastes of Michigan by Michigan Travel Ideas magazine!

With a décor of fine wood, brick and tin ceilings, *The Vintage Tavern* in downtown Port Huron, is the new hot spot. Specializing in causal elegance and gourmet cuisine, it's the only place in town with a stylish rooftop patio and bar. Try upscale Domestic Imports, Draft Beers, Specialty Martinis and Wine Flights. ☺

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# Living it up in Livingstone County

Head for the slopes then head for the stores

**M**ichigan's Livingston County is an eclectic blend of communities set among lush farmlands, winding roads, and rolling hills. Outdoor lovers can take advantage of Michigan's beautiful snow-covered hills and spend a day skiing or snowboarding at Mt. Brighton Ski Area, voted the best snowboarding area in Michigan.

The town of Brighton is located about 15 miles from Ann Arbor. Take a stroll on the Tridge and half-mile boardwalk along downtown Brighton's Mill Pond. The Brighton Recreation Area offers nearly 5,000 acres of woods, meadows and lakes.

It's also a good idea to save some time for shopping. Nestled in a beautiful park-like setting, *Green Oak Village Place* is Livingston County's premier shopping destination where you can shop, dine and unwind. Lift your spirits and revitalize your wardrobe or dine at your choice of fine and casual restaurants, offering a wide variety of tastes and price ranges.



Located off the Lee Road exit #58 in Brighton, *Green Oak Village Place* features many unique amenities such as large fountains, ponds, an outdoor fireplace, bike paths, a sculpture park and an abundance of professionally landscaped flowerbeds and courtyards. Retailers include Chico's, Old Navy, Victoria's Secret, and Dick's Sporting Goods. Diners will find everything from Kerby's Koney Island, to Buffalo Wild Wings, and Shogun Chinese & Japanese Bistro.

The city of Howell's historic downtown is officially designated a National Historic

District. A variety of shops feature a wonderful assortment of goods, including clothing, antiques, and specialty items.

*Tanger Outlet Center* is a bargain hunter's paradise. Located at 1475 N Burkhardt Road, just off I-96, in Howell, this popular outlet center draws more visitors to Livingston County than any other attraction. Here over 75 stores offer name brand merchandise at up to 70% off retail price. Retailers include a Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store, Coach Factory, Bose Factory Store, Aeropostale, Jockey, and Nike Factory Outlet. Stop for a meal at Oscar Mayer Hot Dog, Sbarro Italian Eatery, Grill It, Hershey's Ice Cream or Mainstreet Deli.

Ask about vouchers for discount coupon books containing hundreds of dollars in savings.

The nearby *Livingston Antique Outlet* is an antique lover's paradise with 180 dealers, offering primitives, books, furniture, pottery and many other treasures housed under one roof. ☰

*Shop*   *Frolic*   *Explore*   *Enjoy!*

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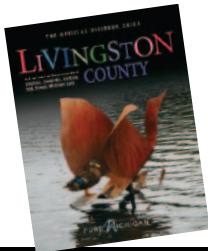
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BY RENU SAGGAR

## A taste of Traverse City

Nestled at the head of beautiful Grand Traverse Bay is a welcoming four-season destination that combines breathtaking natural attractions with a rich blend of adventure and relaxation. Known for its 180 miles of sugar-sand Lake Michigan shoreline and an abundance of inland lakes, beaches, bays and dunes, AOL Travel News named Traverse City one of America's Top 10 Beach Towns. Winter sports lovers will find miles of ski and snowmobile trails.

Front Street, Traverse City's main shopping thoroughfare, is filled with more than 150 boutiques, galleries, and bistros. Just around the corner, on Union Street, is the small but captivating Old Town district, and a few blocks to the west is the Grand Traverse Commons, where the rambling Victorian-Italianate buildings of a 19th century asylum are being redeveloped into an elegant new retail district.

Bon Appetit magazine has listed Traverse City as one of America's Top Five Foodie towns. New eateries include *Ambrasia Artisan Gelato* boasting gelato that's made fresh every day – in flavors such as rum raisin, pear, tiramisu, cantaloupe and kiwi. Guillaume Hazael-Massieux

has opened the *FouFou Bistro* offering authentic French bistro fare.

Traverse City cuisine's defining characteristic is a generous use of fresh ingredients from nearby farms, forests, waters and orchards. Located in the heart of downtown Traverse City overlooking West Grand Traverse Bay, *Amical* has been

Trattoria Stella in the Village at Grand Traverse Commons.

offering eclectic European cuisine since 1994. Order from creative and revolving menus, fresh selections prepared in an open kitchen and served in the cozy dining room or on their vibrant street-side patio. *Amical* will begin its *Cookbook Series* season this November 2012. Over the past 15 years, the kitchen team has developed menus from almost 100 different cookbooks, while preparing over a 1000 recipes. Once a month, their kitchen staff will create a week-long dinner menu that consists of recipes from one of the cookbooks. This year's featured cookbooks include *Blue Ribbon Cookbook* by Bruce and Eric Bromberg, *Essential Pepin* by Jacques Pepin and *Modern Mexican Flavors* by Richard Sandoval.

The award-winning wineries that dot the Leelanau and Old Mission peninsulas, have established a growing reputation for their crisp, intensely flavorful wines. Grand Traverse Distillery is celebrated for its *True North Vodka*, a premium spirit hand-crafted with local rye and clear glacial Michigan water.

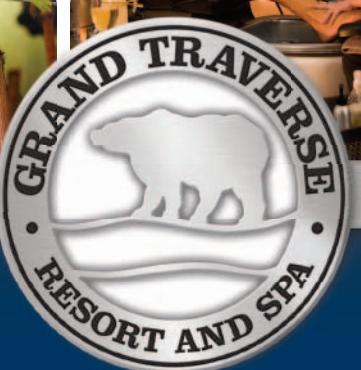
The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, is a unique renovation of dozens of historic buildings formerly known as the Traverse City State Hospital, and previously, the Northern Michigan Asylum. The auspicious location of this 63-acre site, centered in one of the Midwest's most desirable locations, underscores the unparalleled beauty of magnificent, century-old Victorian-Italianate architecture. Special events and social gatherings are another integral part of life in The Village. From our festivals and farmers

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# Traverse City

market, to artist receptions, concerts and celebrations.

*The Mercato* is an expansive indoor market in the Garden Level of Building 50. Italian for “marketplace” the Mercato is reminiscent of an old-world market of unique, interconnected shops and restaurants; of bustling activity and social interaction; a place to meet, explore, and discover a taste for the extraordinary. Shops include *Gallery Fifty*, offering an eclectic array of artwork ranging from fun and funky to modern and refined and *Green Canopy*, an organic, natural fibers clothing boutique and specialty store for health and yoga related products. *Boutique à la Vie* features an extraordinary collection of fine women’s apparel and accessories, while *Mi Farm Market* offers Michigan-made preserves, sauces & honey, featuring fine Palazzolo’s Artisan Gelato & Sorbetto. Immerse yourself in a one-of-a-kind, all-season shopping and dining “experience,” throughout this dramatic indoor thoroughfare. Once inside, you’ll be able to eat, get a massage, browse the eclectic shops, have coffee & dessert,

taste wine, get your hair done, contemplate the ever-changing art displayed in the corridor, and so much more, without ever having to brave the elements.

*Trattoria Stella* is a classic family Italian restaurant where family celebrates food. Selecting the best quality ingredients, from as close to home as possible, has allowed them to express themselves in uncomplicated interpretations of classic Italian food. These include heritage breeds of pork, beef and lamb from local farms, plus house-made pasta, bread & fresh cheeses, and a wine list of over two-hundred carefully curated selections

The *Grand Traverse Resort and Spa* is set on a 900 acre backdrop of rolling greens, woodlands and beach, surrounded by orchards, vineyards and the beautiful blue waters of Lake Michigan.

Proudly owned by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians their diverse accommodations provide a unique experience each time you return. Water-loving families flock to The Shores Condominiums, nestled along East Grand Traverse Bay, while couples who desire a more intimate setting may retreat to the landmark, 17-story glass Tower for panoramic views of Lake Michigan and

all three championship golf courses including *The Bear*, *The Wolverine*, and *Spruce Run*. Designed by golf legend Jack Nicklaus, The Bear features terraced fairways, tiered greens, deep grassy roughs, moguls and mounds, and deep pot bunkers. The resort’s 7,000-square-foot spa offers amenities including 23 treatment rooms, a salon and boutique.

The resort has just completed renovation of all 237 guest rooms in its original six-story hotel with new carpet, bedding, furniture, 37-inch flat screen HD TVs, iPod docking stations, and digital in-room HVAC controls.

You’ll find a number of those first-rate restaurants and chef artisans here at the Resort and ingredients are sourced both near and menus change seasonally to take advantage of fresh local ingredients. Whether you prefer American favorites, Latin Fusion or bistro new specialties inspired by Michigan’s Northwoods.

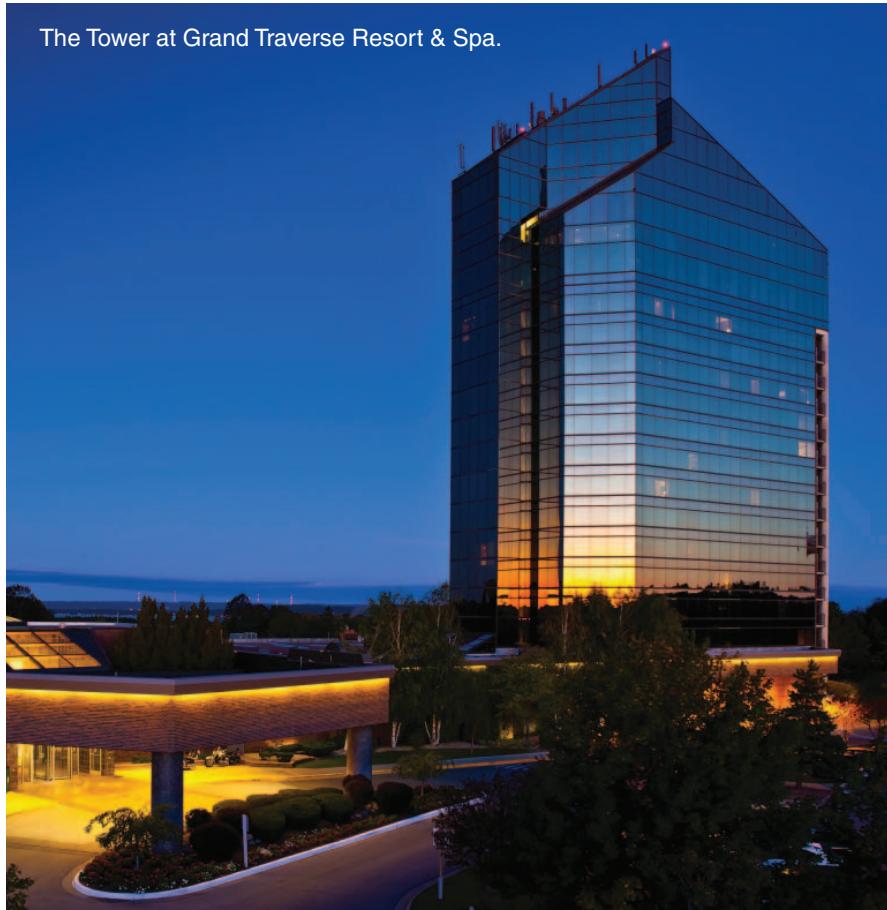
*Aerie Restaurant & Lounge* is the crown jewel in Grand Traverse Resort and Spa’s trove of dining experiences. Located on the 16th floor of the Tower, with panoramic views of Grand Traverse Bay, northern Michigan’s regional beauty and conversation-stopping sunsets, Aerie is a destination restaurant.

*Dylan’s Candy Bar* creates an unforgettable experience, combining childhood nostalgia with the latest in retail concepts and chic design, artfully strung together like candy beads.

The *Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel* completed in 2008, is literally within sight of the Grand Traverse Resort Tower. Also owned and operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Vegas-style Casino & Hotel has all the latest slots in all the denominations you want most. You’ll find everything you want for a grand time on the 54,000 square-foot gaming floor with more than 40 game tables, poker room and 1,300 slots. The all-new high limit area is unrivaled throughout Michigan. The new room features two blackjack tables, 42 high-limit slots machines, numerous LCD flat-panel televisions and a private cashier. The Tribe’s sister property, Leelanau Sands Casino & Lodge is located 25 miles northwest of Grand Traverse Resort and Spa.

The historic *Park Place Hotel* is a beautiful old property in the middle of everything in Traverse City. It’s just steps from downtown shops and restaurants or an easy stroll to the bay and beach.

The Tower at Grand Traverse Resort & Spa.



Constructed in 1873, the Park Place has come to occupy a prominent role in the area. The gracious accommodations, thoughtful amenities and comprehensive services make this a very special place.

The 140 tastefully appointed guest rooms and suites feature either one king or two queen beds, television with premium channels, coffee maker, small refrigerator, complimentary high-speed Internet access. The *Health Club* features an indoor pool under an expansive glass dome, and offers cardio and weight/resistance machines, free weights, and a dry sauna.

*Minervas Restaurant & Bar* on the lobby level is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and offers a full menu featuring steaks, chops, pasta, seafood, salads and more.

*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.

Happy Hour is from 5-6 p.m. daily and all night on Wednesdays; Tuesday night is Martini Night, and all specialty martinis are \$5 all night long! There's live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night along with the best sunsets in town! ☀

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**Taste** Some of the best foodie stops in the region: fine dining, artisan foods, baked goods, gourmet coffees, sweets & ice cream, & award-winning local wines.

**Explore** Historic buildings, beautiful parks & hiking trails, quiet creeks, expansive lawns, and cool condos to call home!

**The Village is a "pocket of cool in Traverse City."**  
—Forbes Magazine

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# Black Friday starts on Thursday this year

**Great Lakes Crossing Outlets offers 25 solid hours of savings**

**H**ave you heard? Black Friday has gotten so big, it starts on Thursday now. Beginning at 9 p.m. on Thursday, November 22, Great Lakes Crossing Outlets opens for 25 straight hours of unbelievable deals and can't-miss prices. So after you're done filling up on turkey and watching the game, get to Great Lakes Crossing Outlets and save on gifts for everyone.

Great Lakes Crossing Outlets is more than your typical shopping center; in fact, it's Michigan's first indoor outlet shopping center. With temperatures dropping, and over 185 stores to choose from, there's no better place to stay warm while you shop for the holidays.

But the fun doesn't stop there. Great Lakes Crossing Outlets features great entertainment and dining options for the whole family. Find everything from unique themed restaurants to the state-of-the-art AMC Theatre megaplex. Great Lakes Crossing Outlets is the exclusive location of more than 50 stores in the state. Great Lakes Crossing Outlets continues



to open its doors to your favorite stores. Stop in at the newest locations of Cole Haan Outlet, Fossil Outlet, True Religion Brand Jeans Outlet and Watch Station Outlets. For those who enjoy some of the finer things in life, Teavana is now open. But that's not all: Great Lakes Crossing Outlets has also added LOFT Outlet to its line up, and coming soon are Swarovski and Sweet Earth.

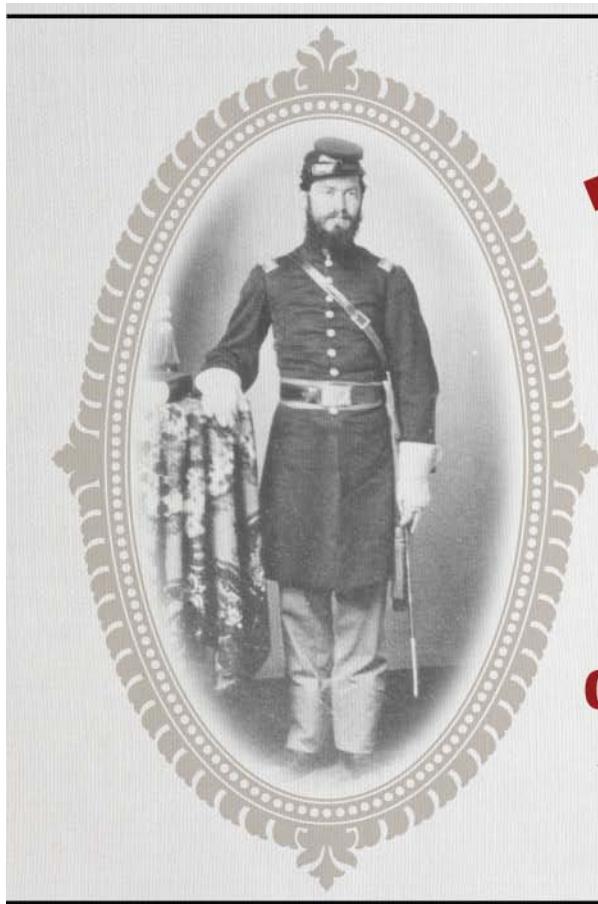
The largest outlet center in Michigan is conveniently located in Auburn Hills, Michigan, at I-75 and Baldwin Road.

Peruse through the single-level, easily accessible, oval racetrack design as you look for whatever your heart desires. Regardless of your age or budget, Great Lakes Crossing Outlets is your one-stop destination for all your holiday shopping needs.

There's nothing like a little holiday magic to get you in the mood for the season. Take a journey to the Ice Palace, where your winter wonderland fantasies become a reality. Go on the adventure of a lifetime with Manny, Diego and Sid from *Ice Age: Continental Drift* as they guide you through a brave new world on your way to visit Santa.

Get your picture taken with Santa or have your family's photo taken on the Ice Throne. Capture the moments that last a lifetime.

Just make sure to be there on Thursday, November 22 at 9 p.m. for Black Friday savings. Store hours may vary. Go to [greatlakescrossingoutlets.com](http://greatlakescrossingoutlets.com) for holiday hours and other information. ☃



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## Season's Greetings BY ADELINA IRVINE

### Ann Arbor/Ypsi will light up your holidays

**W**hether its shopping or dining or just soaking in the college life surrounding a "Big 10" school, there is a certain vibe that says "Ann Arbor".

The Ann Arbor area is first and foremost, "Walkable". The cosmopolitan feel from the international student population, makes all visitors feel welcome here.

Retail shopping is broken down into four major districts, The Main Street (Downtown) area, Kerrytown, South University and State Street. There are over 29 unique Art Galleries and shops in the Downtown area.

*Nickels Arcade* is a must-see, must-shop place in Ann Arbor. This historic covered mall has been open since 1918, and houses many quaint shops like the *Caravan Shop* offering handcrafted jewelry, blown glass, cards, toys and more. *Arcadian Antiques* features Victorian jewelry, quilts, ink wells, perfumed bottles, and turn of the century furniture. *Comet Coffee* brews each cup fresh and was named one of America's coolest coffee houses in Travel + Leisure less than a year ago. The *Crazy Wisdom* Bookstore and Tea Room offers two stories of holistic books on everything from Art, to Music to Yoga to Diet to Acupuncture. They also

carry a selection of gifts, cards, jewelry incense, candles, etc. Their upstairs tea room boasts a selection of more than 85 teas. With the Canadian Dollar at an all time high, you can't afford to not shop the Ann Arbor area.

*Lena* is a unique culinary experience, inspired by the foods and traditions of Latin America, and influenced by the flavors and techniques of new world cuisine. This restaurant just opened up on Main Street and their signature dish is the Beef Churrasco.

*The Gandy Dancer* is an upscale restaurant specializing in seafood, steak and pasta dishes (they're also known for a spectacular Sunday brunch). The service there is known for being the best around. Located in the beautifully restored/former Michigan Central Railroad Station on Depot street. It is a tradition for the wait staff and guests to clap whenever a train goes by (it's been open since 1971).

There's a story about why everyone claps when a train goes by, and I believe it is because before the restaurant was open (still operating as a train station), there was a train that crashed into the building – it is said that they clap when a train goes by to 'celebrate' the fact that it didn't crash again.

*Ann Arbor Restaurant Week* is January 20–25, 2013. There are generally over 50 restaurants in Ann Arbor that participate, offering special menus at special prices, \$12 lunch & \$25.00 dinner (depending on the price-range of the restaurant, and can be for one or two persons).

*Weber's Restaurant and Boutique Hotel* is a deluxe, full service hotel, restaurant, banquet & conference property. Weber's is conveniently located in Ann Arbor's beautiful west side across from Dolph Park and Nature Area. It's moments from downtown Ann Arbor, and the University of Michigan's Central Campus.

Founded in 1937 by Herman Weber, they are celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year. As a family business Weber's has not only benefited from Herman's leadership, but it's success is also greatly due to his wife, Sonja's dedication, style, and charm over the years. His son, Ken has been at the helm for 40 years and now grandson, Michael is carrying forward the family tradition.

A favorite with guests of the University of Michigan, Weber's popular poolside hotel rooms and suites are unique to the Ann Arbor area, featuring balconies and spiral staircases. Amenities include 37" flat screen televisions with 65 HD and digital channels, Gilchrist & Soames® English Spa Collection bath products, refrigerator, coffee maker, and in room safe.

The property completed a \$4 million renovation project in 2008 and the result is a dramatic contemporary update to just about every part of the facility, from the ballroom to the lobby to the building's façade. Wireless high speed Internet access is available free to guests. There's also a 24-hour, complimentary fitness center with multi station weight machine, aerobic bicycles, step machine, computerized treadmill, and more.

Weber's reputation for fine dining began in 1937 with their original restaurant. From humble beginnings serving hamburgers and beer on Washtenaw Road the Weber reputation for fine food in charming surroundings quickly grew. More than 75 years later, Weber's continues to be Ann Arbor's landmark restaurant, featuring the areas finest prime rib, steaks and seafood. Specialties of the house include Seared Yellowfin Tuna, Salmon Oregon and Miso Tuna. Red meat lovers will rejoice in the New Zealand Rack of Lamb, or Prime Rib of Beef. It's classic American food, cooked to perfection. Make sure you try the homemade breads and jams.

Whether you choose the main restaurant or the cozy, secluded *Le Bistro* room, their moderate prices, relaxed upscale design and friendly service turn new customers into regulars. Much of the restaurant and banquet menu is sourced with local ingredients, including farm-fresh eggs and ice cream from Ludington.

The *Habitat Lounge* at Weber's Restaurant is one of Ann Arbor's best spots for nighttime entertainment and drinks. Enjoy Ann Arbor nightlife and dancing with the area's best live bands six nights a week. Enjoy a relaxed bar atmosphere and choice of full or light menu.

The *Ventura Bar* is adjacent to the Habitat and dance floor but is a bit further from the action. Sample the fine wines by the glass or taste from their 16 selection Cruvinet. Their Cruvinet wines are guaranteed to be as fresh as the moment they were uncorked.

The *Ventura Bar* also specializes in fine ports and after dinner drinks. Weber's is a proud recipient of "The Wine Spectator"



The Lobby at Weber's Boutique Hotel.

Award of Excellence for over a dozen years. House made desserts and coffee drinks are served at the bar.

Ypsilanti is nestled on the banks of the Huron River, just east of Ann Arbor. Better known as Ypsi, it offers a broad range of cultural and artistic treasures, annual festivals and events, and the shops and pubs of Depot Town.

The greater Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor area is your destination for antique shopping

with antique and period furniture, stained glass, jewelry, toys, and vintage finds, and so much more. Ypsilanti alone has eight antique and collectible shops including, *Materials Unlimited*, a full-service provider of antique furniture, antique architectural and restored period lighting.

Just down the street you'll find *Salt City Antiques*, displaying merchandise from more than 12 antique dealers in 3,000 square ft. of space. *Mix* features a selection of new and gently used wearables, accessories and uncommon artful objects to enhance and inspire you in your surroundings. Finally, the beautiful downtown houses *Bowerbird Mongo*, where you can find a cool array of art, and antiques.

In historic Depot Town look for Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing & Jim MacDonald Antiques, and Olde Towne Coin and Gold. The *Sidetrack Bar and Grill* is a longtime favorite with locals, although its tasty oversized burgers draw patrons from miles. Keep an eye out for the stuffed Billy goat wearing a bow tie. 



## Winter Festival of Lights

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BY MANTAN DOUGLAS



The Festival of Lights is Canada's biggest light show.

## The Lights Fantastic

**N**iagara 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.

The CAA Winter Festival of Lights attracts more than 1.3-million people annually to view its more than 120 illumination displays with their three million twinkling lights. From November 3, 2012, to January 31, 2013, Canada's foremost illumination festival captures the magic of the holiday season.

The stars of the festival — the lights themselves — can be found along a three mile route on the Niagara Parkway, known as the Niagara Parks Winter Wonderland. Displays include sparkling tree and ground lights, and the world's largest illuminated Canadian-American Flag, celebrating the nearly 200 years of uninterrupted friendship between these two great nations. Lighting displays include the spectacular two-storey high Zimmerman Fountain creating the effect of a cascading waterfall in brilliant blue and white LED lights, and 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, sparkling alongside newer characters from Toy Story, Beauty and the Beast, and The Lion King.

On the nearby Dufferin Islands, visitors will be awed by the electrifying displays of wildlife both modern and prehistoric, including moose, buffalo, howling wolves, charging rams, bears, mischievous beavers and ponderous dinosaurs. While there is no admission fee to view the illuminations, donations are gratefully accepted at the exit of Dufferin Islands. All proceeds are used to enhance the Festival's lights and displays.

The Fallsview tourist area includes spectacular 12 foot tall lamppost illuminations along Fallsview Boulevard, while Lundy's Lane transforms into Candy Cane Lane. Murray Hill aka Snowflake Hill, is illuminated with gorgeous lamppost snowflakes that lead you into the Niagara Parks Winter Wonderland.

Religions of the World located just south of Clifton Hill, is a brilliantly colored tableau depicting Mary and Joseph's trek to Bethlehem, Canada's largest Menorah, and a Pilgrimage to Mecca.

The TD Rink at the Brink an open-air, ice skating facility, is located a snowball's throw from the "brink" of Horseshoe Falls. Open from November 28 to February 28, 2013, it offers breathtaking views and a magical outdoor experience. And just in case Old Man Winter takes a vacation the rink is refrigerated and doesn't need cold weather for ice making.

During the festival the Falls will be illuminated in every color of the rainbow. Each of the 21 xenon spotlights produces a brilliance of 250 million candlepower! On select evenings usually on Fridays, spectacular fireworks will also explode over the Falls.

Next to the Falls, the Skylon Tower is Niagara's best known landmark. Situated just steps from the Falls and across from Fallsview Casino the Skylon Tower offers visitors the very best in Niagara Falls attractions, fine dining and family restaurant selection as well as entertainment and discount shopping.

The Ride-to-the-Top and Indoor/Outdoor Observation Deck is a favorite Niagara Falls attraction. The exterior glass-enclosed "Yellow Bug Elevators" whisk you to the top in just 52 seconds where you will enjoy spectacular views of Niagara Falls, the lights, Niagara wine district and the city skylines of Buffalo, New York and Toronto.

The Skylon Tower offers two great levels of Niagara fine dining 775 feet above the Falls! Choose from the world-famous Revolving Dining Room restaurant and savor award-winning continental cuisine or choose family-affordable Summit Suite Buffet Dining Room restaurant. With Early Dinner specials the Skylon Tower is Niagara Falls' best dining value. Plus, admission to the Ride-to-the-Top and Observation Decks attraction is always free when dining!

The annual Entertainment Tonight (ET) Canada and Niagara Falls New Year's Eve takes place in Queen Victoria Park at the base of Murray Hill. This is Canada's largest family oriented New Year's Eve event and it features food, good times and concerts by some of Canada's biggest musical acts. Two spectacular fireworks displays will light up the sky at 8:45 p.m. and midnight.

It all kicks off with opening ceremonies with Disney on Saturday, November 3, 2012 with the official "throwing of the switch" to light up the Festival's illuminations and set off the first fireworks show of the season. ☺



Seneca Allegany Casino before the new wing was added.

BY RENU SAGGAR

## The Enchanted Mountains

### Take a gamble on Cattaraugus County NY

Cattaraugus County is a peaceful oasis for people who enjoy nature. The name comes from a Seneca Indian word meaning "bad smelling banks," referring to the odor of natural gas which leaked from seams in rock formations.

Located in Western New York along the Pennsylvania border, it's easily accessible from the Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit/Windsor, Buffalo, and Toronto areas. Cattaraugus County is home to Salamanca the only city in the nation on Native American lands. The Seneca Indian Nation, a branch of the Iroquois, has a proud history which is on view at the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum.

You don't have to go to Las Vegas to enjoy world-class gaming, dining and entertainment. The *Seneca Allegany Casino* offers state-of-the-art slot machines and your favorite table games.

Seneca Allegany Casino & Hotel is nestled at the foot of the majestic Al-

legany Mountains along the New York/Pennsylvania border. Feel the rush of the hottest games in the region and choose from over 2,000 reel and video slot machines. Spin your way to a wild jackpot on one of their countless linked progressives or visit their High-Limit Slot area for machines with \$5-\$25 limits.

From classic favorites to the latest reels, penny spins to \$100 pulls, they have the perfect game for you. Play on their expansive main gaming floor or try your luck in their non-smoking casino, Turtle Island. More than 30 table games deal non-stop excitement with Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Caribbean Stud Poker, Texas Hold'em and more.

Seneca Allegany Casino is home to one of the most exquisite hotels in Western New York, awarded AAA Four Diamond certification for the third consecutive year. This fall, there will be twice as many quality hotel rooms for guests to love as a new \$53 million hotel tower will

add more than 200 rooms. And for the property as a whole, this addition will create experiences unlike ever before. But the new hotel tower isn't just about new rooms; it's a game-changer. It will go a long way to further shift the mindset of Seneca Allegany being 'just a casino' to a 'destination resort.'

All 413 rooms offer spectacular views of the Allegany Mountains – especially newly-created rooms facing south, which will have completely unobstructed mountain vistas. All existing rooms also received \$1.2 million in renovations and look just like rooms in the new hotel tower.

The new hotel tower also will effect many changes throughout the property. The Fitness Center will be open for 24 hours and The Spa & Salon may look to expand its services. The *Thunder Mountain Buffet* will begin offering weekend breakfast, and hours for other fine dining restaurants may expand based on demand. Finally, a new VIP check-in lounge is in the works for Seneca Allegany's most exclusive guests.

Whether you want to see superstar headliners, intimate performances or just relax and unwind, Seneca Allegany Casino has the nightlife to fit every occasion! Rock the house in the 2,400-seat Events Center that plays host to some of the world's great entertainers. From Joe Walsh to Loretta Lynn, to elegant corporate banquets – it's all there. The action is always pumping at The Casino Bar — conveniently located adjacent to the casino floor. Catch the game on the flat screens, rock out to live music or simply sit back and enjoy the view from the center of the excitement.

The award-winning *Western Door Steakhouse* offers guests a premier dining experience. Enjoy the highest quality steaks and chops — and the freshest seafood flown in daily. In addition to mouthwatering entrées, enjoy the finest selection of wines from the nearby Finger Lakes region of New York State and around the world.

For authentic Italian dining, *Patria* is second to none. Gather around the dinner table for the freshest seafood, hearty pastas and fine wines. All dishes are impeccably prepared and cooked to perfection, adding up to a flawless fine dining experience.

This spectacular all-you-can-eat buffet *Thunder Mountain Buffet* includes eight serving stations and exhibition cooking

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# Cattaraugus

with more than 100 items, all prepared with the freshest ingredients. It was voted Western New York's best buffet by Casino Player magazine.

Experience the Old Order Amish way of life with a trip along New York's *Amish Trail*, located in the western portion of the Enchanted Mountains. Most commonly recognized by their plain dress, horse and buggy transportation, and old fashioned farming practices; they live an intentional lifestyle that separates them from the modern world and is centered around their families and Amish community. They make a living from farming and handcrafting products for sale.

The Amish sell their products from their homes and the Amish Trail map will help you locate their businesses. These maps may be picked up at any of the businesses or downloaded at [www.amishtrail.com](http://www.amishtrail.com). What you won't find are any large Amish stores or commercialized Amish shopping areas. These are all small, individual shops with small, sometimes handmade signs designating what they sell or denoting when they are open/closed.

There is not one "Amish Store." Follow their hand-painted signs to their businesses, usually located in their homes. You can stop at their shops and purchase quilts, furniture or baked goods any day except Sunday. Take a drive through Amish country, step back in time and enjoy the simpler things in life.

CUTCO Cutlery is the largest manufacturer and marketer of high-quality kitchen cutlery and accessories in the United States and Canada. Located along the Allegheny foothills in Olean, N.Y., the company can trace its roots back to skilled cutlers who settled in the area after immigrating from England's famous Sheffield cutlery industry in the late 1800s. All knives are made by skilled American craftsmen and endure several rounds of testing before they are shipped.

Cutco's famous "Forever Guarantee", guarantees the sharpness of the knife and owners can even send their knives back to the factory to get them sharpened for free. The Visitors Centre features a detailed history of Cutco KA-BAR knives and the knife-making process and displays include antique kitchen cutlery, military and pocket knives, as well as historical photographs and documents. You can

also buy Cutco products here.

As the only city in the United States to reside almost entirely within an Indian Reservation, hints of the Seneca Nation's influence permeate the Salamanca area, which boasts Seneca - Iroquois museums and shops and a robust gaming industry.

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 the Amish Trail and in Allegany State Park, which is practically in their backyard! They are 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.

A multi-million dollar renovation will include amenities like a heated indoor pool and whirlpool which can help you relax at the end of the day. The spacious lobby features comfortable chairs, a stone fireplace and decor reflective of the Seneca Nation.

Tucked away in the hills of Ellicottville the *Holiday Valley Resort* offers fifty-eight ski and snowboard slopes spread over four different faces with a 750-foot vertical drop and 13 lifts. They're well known

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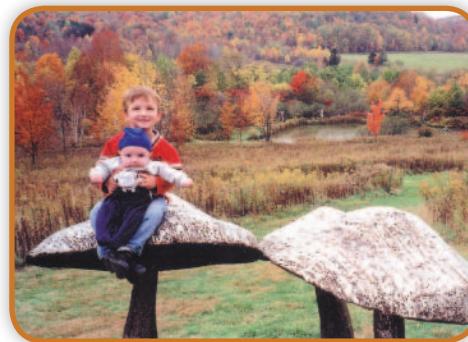
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# The Enchanted Mountains

of Cattaraugus County in Western New York  
RIGHT IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD!!!



One of the best autumn experiences you can treat your family to is a visit to **PUMPKINVILLE**. Admission is **FREE** and you can taste, see, feel and enjoy all things pumpkin! Try the new Gem Mining station this year. Also take a hike on the trails at **GRIFFIS SCULPTURE PARK**, the largest outdoor sculpture park in the USA and designated as the **#1 Hidden Gem in Western New York!**



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### Snowmobiling



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# Cattaraugus

for their great variety of terrain, lake effect snow and the fun-loving ski town of Ellicottville. Four terrain parks plus a half pipe, several glades and a wonderful children's program provide fun for skiers and riders of all ages.

Guests can stay in the comfortable Inn at Holiday Valley, right at the base of the Sunrise Quad, or in one of the many nearby townhouses, condos or lodges on the slopes or in the village. The newly opened *Tamarack Lodge* is a spectacular slopeside condo-hotel at the base of Holiday Valley featuring 4-star amenities.

The *Cherry Creek Inn* is a luxurious Bed & Breakfast located on 31.5 acres of rolling farmland dedicated to providing sanctuary for the weary traveler. The classic 1860s Italianate Villa features three elegant rooms each with a private en suite bath, plus a two bedroom suite featuring a sitting room, private bath and satellite television.

*Griffis Sculpture Park* is 425-acre outdoor art museum. Created by local artist Larry W. Griffis Jr. in 1966, the park is located between Ashford Hollow and East Otto.

It features more than 250 works of art created by over 100 artists, and also serves as a nature preserve, with 10 miles of trails.

*Sprague's Maple Farm* is the place to go if you love all things maple syrup. Located in scenic mountain valley, the restaurant is housed in a huge log cabin with animatronic animals and one table reserved for bears. Behind the restaurant are acres of trails leading to an antique "sugar shack" in the woods, and a pond filled with swans. The setting is amazing and the food is delicious. You can order breakfast all day long, or choose from a full menu of down home cookin'.

Nearby Chautauqua County is a region of lakes, grapes, wineries, cultural, culinary, and resort centers. With more than 400 miles of groomed trails and several feet of packed snow from lake effect snow averaging well over 200 inches annually, Chautauqua is a winter paradise for skiers and snowmobilers.

Near the little Village of Findley Lake, the *Peek'n Peak Resort* provides an excellent backdrop for beginner and intermediate level skiers with twenty-seven slopes, three progression terrain parks and halfpipe, cross-country and snowshoeing trails, tubing, and direct access

to the Chautauqua Lake snowmobile trail system.

Walking into the Tudor-style mansion of the *Inn at Peek'n Peak*, one feels as if they have entered an old world country estate. Huge wooden beams, stone fireplace and two-story lobby greet guests upon arrival. All 108 guest rooms at the Inn at the Peak were renovated in 2012.

Visitors planning to snowmobile should prepare ahead by registering their sleds in New York State. For instructions on registering, visit the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau website at [www.tourchautauqua.com](http://www.tourchautauqua.com). Weather permitting, tails open just before Christmas.

Before the snow flies, celebrate the grape harvest in America's Grape Country with Lake Erie Wine Country's annual Harvest Wine Weekends, November 2-4 and 9-11, 2012.

Winter in Chautauqua County wouldn't be the same without the much anticipated President's Day Weekend I.C.E. Festival in Mayville's Lakeside Park, February 15-17, 2013. The annual winter festival along Chautauqua Lake features ice and snow themed events including an Ice Castle, while fireworks light up the sky on Saturday night. ☃



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There is no snow like the lake effect snowfalls of southwestern New York. Come for skiing and boarding at the *Peek'n Peak Resort*, snowmobiling on over 400 miles of trails, ice wine in Lake Erie Wine Country, old-fashioned sleigh rides, or just to enjoy a winter festival.

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# Shop till you drop in Niagara USA

So little time, so many ways to save in Western New York

BY RENU SAGGAR

**N**iagara USA offers a breathtaking view of one of nature's marvels and an experience to last a lifetime. With over 750,000 gallons of water flowing over the Falls each second, it's no wonder Niagara Falls attracts over eight million visitors each year.

Whether you are just browsing or looking for great deals, shopping in Niagara Falls NY is an absolute must. Only 5 minutes away from one of the world's natural wonders, shopping at the *Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls* is a pleasant indoor/outdoor experience.

Expose yourself to 150 designer outlets offering fantastic savings on name brand apparel with up to 75% off. Enjoy huge savings at Coach, Burberry, Banana Republic, Michael Kors, Hugo Boss, 2b Bebe, Kate Spade, Saks Off Fifth Ave, Nike and much more! Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls also offers a food court with several sit down restaurants, including Tim Hortons, and Ben & Jerry's.



The *Lakeview Village Shoppes* are a collection of 18 small shops, artisans, food, antiques and Christmas, located 1/2 block west of the new Olcott Beach Carousel Park. Shops include Airsport Shop, the only kite specialty store in Western New York and Waters Edge Gifts with unique nautical and wildlife gifts. Stroll the boardwalk and watch the sunset on Lake Ontario and watch the lake freighters go by.

The *River Region Shopping* in Lewiston, Sanborn & Youngstown offers Main Street shopping at its best. Discover the

independently owned shops and art galleries in historic villages. Main Street in Youngtown, Center Street in Lewiston and Buffalo Street in Sanborn. They will charm you with antiques, collectibles and one of a kind finds!

*Shawnee Country Barns Antique Co-op* in Wheatfield, features 70 quality dealers housed in a two story restored 1912 barn. Check out the deals on vintage jewelry, Victorian, pottery, paintings, books and much more! Special events are held monthly.

The *Lockport Community Market* is a family friendly open air market featuring a multitude of vendors offering fresh produce and baked goods, local wines, unique gifts and more! Open Saturdays, July through August.

*Smokin' Joes Trading Post* in Sanborn, is a premier retail outlet on the Tuscarora Indian Nation. Find better than duty free prices on fine jewelry, designer apparel, groceries, gas and the largest humidor in Western New York. ☰



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BY ADELINA IRVINE

Reaxing at the Coste d'Este Resort.

## Going from Nature to Nurture Indian River Country is an all natural wonder

If you want a taste of what Florida was like before Mickey Mouse, then this is the place for you. Even though it sits in the backyard of mega theme parks and plush beach resorts, Florida's Indian River County remains nearly pristine. Visitors can enjoy small-town ambiance, world-class amenities, and miles of picturesque beaches.

Newcomers will discover and enjoy a host of ecological venues such as Pelican Island Wildlife Refuge, established in 1903 by President Teddy Roosevelt as the first federal bird reservation. It was the first time the federal government set aside land for the sake of wildlife. Other eco venues include Sebastian Inlet State Park, The Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area, McKee Botanical Garden and several popular birding sites throughout the region.

If culture is part of your vacation plans, you won't be disappointed. The nationally accredited Vero Beach Museum of Art features exhibitions from around the country and the world. Riverside Theatre is a state-of-the-art professional theatre, which also houses programs and special events. Quality art and antiques galleries can be found throughout Indian River County.

Swimming, deep sea fishing, diving and sky diving are just a few of the recreational opportunities. There are 17 challenging golf courses, tennis courts, hiking and biking trails, riverside camping and seaside picnic facilities.

Vero Beach, the region's main town, has been named one of the "100 Great Towns in America." The city is bisected by the *Indian River Lagoon* on one side

and Orchid Island, an oceanfront barrier island on the other. Manatees glide through town all year at the Manatee Viewing Area near the 17th Street Bridge.

Vero Beach is experiencing something of a renaissance with a host of new hotels, shops and dining experiences. Some of the latest openings include the Vero Beach Hotel & Spa, and Costa d'Este, owned by entertainment and hospitality entrepreneurs Gloria and Emilio Estefan.

The *Driftwood Inn* is an historic hotel constructed in the early 20th century by the late local eccentric and explorer Waldo E. Sexton. This hotel was originally built entirely from pieces of driftwood and other antiques. Sexton also designed the "Hall of Giants" at McKee Jungle Gardens.

The *Vero Beach Hotel & Spa* is a rare gem surrounded by unobstructed and breathtaking ocean views and ready access to miles of soft sand. The 113 spaciously elegant rooms and suites, feature a light, West-Indies-style décor and warm ocean breezes that waft through the outdoor pool deck. Their one, two-and three-bedroom suites are available as long-term vacation rentals.

Even Mickey Mouse himself couldn't stay away. Disney's *Vero Beach Resort* offers full a range of accommodations, including deluxe studios, one- and two-bedroom vacation homes, and three-bedroom beach cottages.

Located on Florida's Treasure Coast, the county gets its name from the *Indian River Lagoon*, North America's most diverse estuary with more than 2,200 different species of animals and 2,100 species of

Osprey nest at Sebastian Inlet State Park.





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# Indian River

plants. The lagoon varies in width from one-half to 5-miles wide and averages 3-feet in depth. It serves as a spawning and nursery ground for many species of fish and shellfish.

The lagoon also has one of the most diverse bird populations anywhere in America. Nearly one third of the nation's manatee population lives or migrates through the lagoon seasonally. In addition, its ocean beaches provide one of the best sea turtle nesting areas found in the Western Hemisphere.

The *McKee Botanical Garden* is known for its 18-acre subtropical jungle hammock, filled with a diverse collection of plants and several restored architectural treasures. The garden is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a historic Florida landmark.

Shoppers can find plenty of bargains at *Vero Beach Fashion Outlets*. The only true outlet center in the region, Vero Beach Fashion Outlets is home to some of the best known names in fashion, including Justice, the Ann Taylor Factory Store, Banana Republic Factory Store,

Calvin Klein, Chico's Outlet, Coach Factory Store, J. Crew, Jones New York, and Tommy Hilfiger. The Treasure Coast's largest fashion outlet offers an onsite ATM, a Food Court and a Trolley service with stops throughout the outlet, for your shopping convenience.

Indian River County is an amazingly culturally rich community. How does one choose what to see and do? How does one learn about each event and select those that will make your time in Indian River County exciting and fulfilling. How does one purchase tickets? And, how does one seek and find the best restaurants and hotels meeting their criteria?

The Cultural Council has established a Cultural Concierge Service. This service will assist tourists, visitors and local residents with the best of arts and cultural event information in Indian River County. The Concierge Service will inform its clients on how to make their time in our county more exciting and fulfilling. Included in the Service will be information on arts and cultural events, participating hotels and restaurants.

Should you be interested in a ticketed production or event, the Concierge Service will provide you contact information

on obtaining tickets directly from the producing organization. Should you wish the Concierge to obtain tickets for you, the Concierge will purchase the requested tickets; however, you will be charged a small service fee for ticket purchase. Tickets purchased for you by the Concierge may not be refunded.

Call, email, or visit the Cultural Concierge in the offices of the Cultural Council. Meet our informative concierge who will be delighted to share the arts and cultural opportunities available to you during your time in our community. More information is available on the Cultural Council website, [www.cultural-council.org](http://www.cultural-council.org).

## IF YOU GO

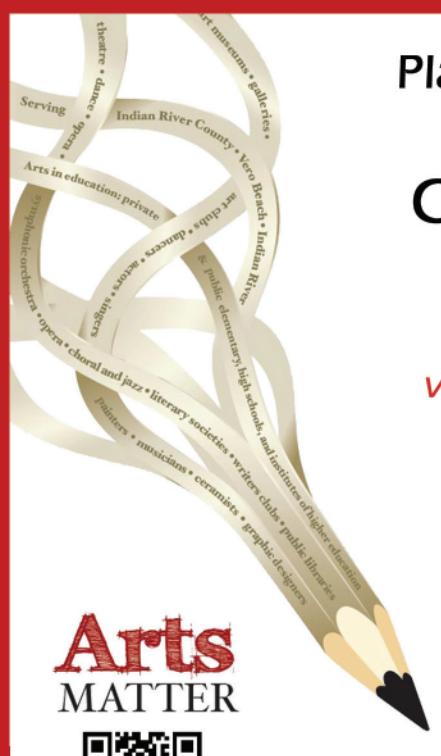
Indian River County is conveniently located between the Space Coast and Palm Beach County on Florida's Central East Coast, just forty minutes south of Melbourne International Airport.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information contact [tourism@indianriverchamber.com](mailto:tourism@indianriverchamber.com) or visit them at [www.indianriverchamber.com](http://www.indianriverchamber.com).



Vero Beach.



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E-mail: concierge@Cultural-Council.org

Visit: [www.Cultural-Council.org](http://www.Cultural-Council.org)

Phone: 772.770.4857

# Cultural Council of Indian River County

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# Mexico Beach



BY MANTAN DOUGLAS

## The Beach Less Traveled

**W**hile much of Florida has given way to high-rises and oversized theme parks, there are a few tucked-away treasures that still cling tightly to their roots. Located at the western end of Florida's "Forgotten Coast," Mexico Beach is a quiet town where the natural beauty of the land and sea combine to make a spellbinding destination. Many Florida travelers have never even heard of this tranquil enclave and that's exactly the point. It remains an unspoiled treasure of intrinsic natural beauty, friendly people and carefree spirits. Nature abounds here. Bald Eagles migrate in the winter, cobia run close to shore in the spring. Sea turtles hatch in the summer, and dolphins frolic all year long. Ranked as one of ten "Great American Beach Towns" by YahooTravel.com, the beaches are blindingly white, shorts and sandals are the norm, and the pace is languorous.

This is truly a beachfront community with an endless expanse of water and sky stretching to the horizon. Nothing is more than a quarter mile from the shore!

Sheltered by the long arm of the *St. Joseph Peninsula*, the seven miles of pristine beach are dotted by modest cottages, newer upscale houses and beach motels. Residents are relaxed and cordial and the local bistros provide the perfect setting to meet with family and friends. Seafood is an area specialty and every day the

charter fleets unload a bounty of shrimp, grouper and crab.

Vacation rentals offer a range of accommodations with everything from beachfront homes and cottages, to urban

coastal lofts. *Parker Realty* has been the area's vacation rental leader, sharing sunsets for over 65 years. If you are looking to buy or rent Mexico Beach property you've come to the right place. The Parker family and *Parker Realty* were the ones who originally developed Mexico Beach. They offer nearly 200 vacation rental homes and townhomes, from beachfront to specialty units with pools, and boat docks.

Panama City Beach is a popular 45-minute day trip and Crooked Island is a nearby excursion for boaters.

*Crooked Island* is actually not an island at all, but a combination of two narrow peninsulas that circle a saltwater lagoon. Located just west of Mexico Beach, it's a favorite location for surf fishing, shelling, and kayaking. Divers can explore the *Empire Mica* an oil tanker sunk by German U Boats during WWII.

Golfers can tee off at *St. Joseph's Bay Country Club*, a pristine 18-hole championship golf course. The intermediate player will do well on this course. Mature trees, lush fairways, sloping greens, and strategically placed hazards highlight this traditional links style layout. Duffers will encounter plenty of wildlife, including alligators. 

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For more information and to request a Mexico Beach Visitor's Guide, visit [mexico-beach.com](http://mexico-beach.com).  
Or call **888-723-2546** today to discover a place you'll love to remember.

BY KELLY ROTE



Streamsong Golf Resort & Spa will open in early 2013.

## Let the Sunshine In Polk County shines in sunny Central Florida

**W**hen northern temperatures start to dip, sunny Central Florida provides an inviting escape for winter-weary visitors. Conveniently located between Orlando and Tampa and an easy drive to Florida's famous beaches, Polk County is home to Florida's newest attractions, LEGOLAND® Florida, LEGO-LAND Water Park and Safari Wilderness Ranch.

LEGOLAND Florida in Winter Haven is an interactive 150-acre theme park geared towards families with children between the ages of 2 and 12. The park offers a unique mix of more than 50 rides, shows and attractions, including the historic botanical gardens of the former Cypress Gardens. Just seven months after opening, LEGOLAND Florida expanded by opening the new LEGOLAND Water Park in May 2012. An all-new, interactive LEGO® Star Wars™ Miniland Cluster will open in November 2012, crafted entirely from 1.5 million LEGO bricks. See the park's schedule at [www.LEGOLAND.com](http://www.LEGOLAND.com).

Nearby in Lakeland, but worlds away, is the new Safari Wilderness Ranch which opened in March 2012. Guests enjoy an African safari experience in customized safari vehicles, touring 260 acres of pristine wilderness that showcase herds of exotic animals. Those looking for a more

adventurous safari can take the tour on camel back. [www.SafariWilderness.com](http://www.SafariWilderness.com).

Some of Florida's most historic attractions are also found in Polk County. The popular aviation attraction Fantasy of Flight features the world's largest private collection of vintage aircraft. Much more than an air museum, this stunning art deco attraction includes a "history of flight" immersion experience, interactive flight simulators, guided tours of working restoration and maintenance areas and a daily aerial demonstration (weather permitting). Guests looking to escape gravity can book hot air balloon and biplane rides or check out the new Wing WalkAir zip line and ropes course attraction [www.FantasyofFlight.com](http://www.FantasyofFlight.com).

Two National Historic Landmarks call Polk County home: Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales and Florida Southern College in Lakeland. Bok Tower is a 205-foot neogothic and art deco "Singing Tower" carillon set amidst a historic garden designed by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. The 60-bell carillon entertains visitors with daily concerts and the attraction hosts numerous annual events including the month-long "Christmas at Bok Tower Gardens" celebration from November 23 to January 6, 2013. Designers deck the halls of the 20-room, 1930s Mediterranean-style Pinewood Estate

with elegant and elaborate decorations, to capture the holiday spirit.

Famed architect, Frank Lloyd Wright designed his "Child of the Sun" collection on Lakeland's Florida Southern College campus. With 12 completed structures, this is the largest one-site collection of Wright architecture in the world.

Polk County's largest event, the Sun 'n Fun International Fly-in and Expo, is the largest convention in the state of Florida, the second largest air show in the United States and attracts pilots and aviation enthusiasts from around the world. The 39th annual Sun 'n Fun takes place April 9-13, 2013 in Lakeland.

Lakeland is also the spring training home of the Detroit Tigers, in a partnership dating back to 1934, the longest franchise relationship in spring baseball. Visit [www.Tigers.com](http://www.Tigers.com) for details on purchasing 2013 spring training tickets.

With so many fresh water lakes, there are ample opportunities to enjoy water sports, such as water skiing, wakeboarding, kayaking and world-class fishing in the Largemouth Bass Capital of the World. Those lakes are surrounded by more than 25,000 acres of unspoiled recreational parks like the Circle B-Bar Reserve in Lakeland, named one of "51 Great Places to See Wildlife" by USA TODAY and is home to Polk's Nature Discovery Center.

Polk County will up its golf game in 2013 with the opening of two highly anticipated courses at the new Streamsong Resort and Spa. Three of today's top golf course architects have teamed up to design what promises to be 36 of the most spectacular golf holes in Central Florida. Streamsong Resort's Red Course, designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, and Streamsong's Blue Course designed by Tom Doak utilize the natural contours, sand dunes and native grasses to offer a golf experience that will be reminiscent of the links-style courses of the British Isles. The two golf courses will open in early 2013 along with a clubhouse that includes 12 private guest rooms. The resort's main lodge, including more than 200 guest rooms, is due to open in late 2013. [www.StreamsongResort.com](http://www.StreamsongResort.com). 

### FOR MORE INFO

For more information about all the fun things to see and do in Central Florida's Polk County, go to [www.VisitCentralFlorida.org](http://www.VisitCentralFlorida.org), follow us on Twitter (@VisitCentralFL) and Like Us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/VisitCentralFlorida](http://Facebook.com/VisitCentralFlorida)).

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BY RENU SAGGAR

The Columbus Skyline at night.

## Ohio is your capital of style

Pulsing with fashion, fine dining and fun

**P**erched in the heart of the heartland, Columbus is not only Ohio's capital, it's also becoming the midwest's capital of cool. *Columbus Commons* pulses with uber trendy activity. Live music and Shakespeare, food trucks, kids activities, yoga and kickboxing, a lending library, free wi-fi and other offerings keep the park buzzing day and night.

The new *Scioto Mile* is a ribbon of downtown parkland that snakes along the Scioto River, anchored by Bicentennial Park's stunning new sculptural fountain and the casually smart eatery, *Milestone 229*.

Citing the city's incredible number of gifted fashion designers, great location and high median earnings for fashion designers, "The Atlantic" just ranked Columbus 3rd in the U.S. as a fashion capital, right behind New York and Los Angeles. National media, celebrities and visitors are all taking note of the city's progressive arts scene, its cutting-edge fashion culture and its dynamic culinary offerings, all of which make Columbus a paradise for visitors who appreciate great shopping, dining and the arts.

As home to fashion retail giants The Limited, Victoria's Secret, Abercrombie and others, the city has a remarkable

sense of style. That ethos cultivates a large number of independent couture boutiques, as well as high-end designer home interior, gift and other shops.

The *Short North Arts District* is made up of miles of galleries, shops, clubs and restaurants. It's hip, edgy vibe has garnered several recent nods from the New York Times and other tastemakers as a neighborhood to watch. To-die-for thrift shops share happening High Street with high-end couture. *Rowe Boutique*, *Tiger Tree*, *Substance* and more than a dozen other boutiques offer high style, but prices that are more reasonable than larger cities. In nearby Upper Arlington, *LEÁL boutique*'s lines from both emerging and established designers transcend the trends.

The Short North's many fine galleries make shopping for — or just appreciating — art easy and approachable, whether you're a neophyte or a serious collector. The first Saturday of every month, thousands of visitors converge in the Short North to celebrate art at monthly *Gallery Hops*. Meanwhile, the strip's many fantastic restaurants and bars, both ultra casual and upscale, stay open considerably later.

With Columbus' own James Beard, it's no wonder that visitors are wowed by the food and drink they discover when

visiting Ohio's capital.

*Harvest Pizza* in walkable historic German Village offers hand-crafted pies with ingredients grown on owner Chris Crader's nearby farm. Down the street, *Pistacia Vera* is billed as a dessert boutique, where artisan bakers make truly spectacular pastries and savory egg dishes with grace.

In addition to casual spots, Columbus boasts dozens of fine dining establishments, such as *Basi Italia*, *Rigsby's*, *M at Miranova* and the *The Refectory* with its esteemed American-French cuisine. The Japanese food at *Kihachi*, won the heart of famed foodie Anthony Bourdain.

The city boasts a burgeoning number of craft distilleries, breweries, wine makers and even a meadery. *Newish Brother's Drake Meadery* is often packed with visitors who belly up to the bar to sample its tasty mead, made on premise from local honey.

### WAYNE COUNTY OHIO

If you're tired of waiting in long lines and fighting for parking spaces at the mall, the Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau invites you to discover the quaint downtowns and quiet villages of Wayne County, Ohio. A place where you can shop in a relaxed stress-free atmosphere and experience Christmas Shopping the way it should be.

In Downtown Wooster, parking spaces are as abundant as the many different shops who call this historic tree lined main street community home. Come enjoy the "unwrapping" of the animated Christmas windows on November 16th as the Downtown Merchants celebrate Window Wonderland.

Whether your shopping style is funky or sophisticated you'll appreciate the unique "Soho Style" galleries, bakeries, restaurants, book stores, and wonderful one-of-a-kind shops including *Everything Rubbermaid*, *Roomscapes*, *Friendtique Hospice Resale Boutique*, *Gallery in the Vault*, and the *Wooster Book Company*, just to name a few. Turn your shopping trip into a special holiday get-a-way, and spend the night at the newly opened *St. Paul Hotel*, a New York style boutique hotel just a block off Public Square and in walking distance to many fine restaurants and night spots.

Visit the southern part of the county and the quaint *Village of Shreve*. Stroll down main street and visit an Old Fashioned Hardware Store, complete with creaky hardwood floors, for that hard to

*"Columbus has a great food & beverage scene. We love making the trip down there to dine with friends and pick up beers & spirits from local producers."*

*- Jonathon Sawyer, Chef-Owner,  
The Greenhouse Tavern  
and Noodlecat in Cleveland*



## ONE CULINARY SCENE HAS CRITICS CALLING FOR SECONDS.

Experts from all over the country are discovering the amazing food scene in Columbus. And with top-ranked chefs, one-of-a-kind restaurants and some of the best desserts you'll ever have, this is one culinary adventure that will have you raving too. See what all the talk is about at [facebook.com/columbusfoodscene](http://facebook.com/columbusfoodscene).



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*- Bon Appetit*



find gift for the man on your list. Next door you'll find the Des Dutch Essenhaus Restaurant, Quilt Shop, & Bakery in case you need help with your holiday baking.

Just down the road is the *Pine Tree Barn*, a 200-acre family owned Christmas Tree Farm features several different gift and boutique areas including fine furniture, Christmas decorations, period furnishing and decorations. The Granary Restaurant serves lunch daily and the lemon crumb muffins are an area favorite.

No shopping trip to Wayne County would be complete without a stop in Kidron, home of *Lehman's Hardware*. Walking through the front door you'll step back into time 100 years. Your sure to fall in love with their selection of oil lamps, handmade pottery, and nonelectric toys. The Kidron area is also home to World Crafts, Eastwood Furniture, and MCC Connection Thrift Shop. Right down the road in Dalton is the P. Graham Dunn Gallery, the manufacturer of charming wood gifts and home accessories which can be personalized by their laser wood engraving machines while you watch. On the weekend of December 1st and 2nd for the Dalton Holidays Festival and parade. The "coolest" parade in Ohio

steps off Saturday at 2:00 p.m. After the parade warm up at the Das Dutch Kitchen and Bakery, known for their plentiful Amish style buffet and salad bar.

The City of Orrville, the hometown of those wonderful Smuckers Jams and Jellies and The J.M. Smucker Company Store and Cafe, kicks off the season on November 23rd with their Home for the Holidays Event. Orrville's downtown shopping area beckons you to discover its quaint stores and holiday displays while the kids spend time with Santa, enjoy lively holiday music, food, and crafts.

The Village of Smithville boasts many fine shops in the Barn Restaurant Complex including Buchanan Place Gifts, The Oak Cupboard General Store and the Toyfix Specialty Toy Store, a wonderful toy store for kids of all ages. A trip to *Toyfix* is like a trip to the North Pole, with beautiful dolls, puzzles, games and stuffed animals; you'll find yourself thinking that Santa's elves must stock their shelves.

If you are in need of fresh holiday decorations or gifts for the gardener on your list visit the Green House Solarium at Quailcrest Farm, just north of Wooster off State Route 83. The gardening experts at Quailcrest invite you to their Holiday

Magic Open House November 10th and 11th. The Cat's Meow Village will hold their Village Open House November 16th and 17th. Shop The Village Marketplace for unique wooden keepsakes, featuring Snowmen, Ohio State University and Red Hat Ladies. How about a bottle of Wayne County's own Troutman Wines or a cheese tray from Shisler's Cheese House?

Here's a delicious idea, a bottle of eggnog bottled in glass bottles by Hartzler's Family Dairy at their Wooster Dairy. And what theater goer wouldn't like a pair of tickets to The Ohio Light Opera?

So why fight the traffic and crowds of the malls this year? Wayne County Ohio has something for everyone on your list. Our friendly merchants are ready to share their holiday spirit while welcoming you to their stores. Santa has been known to shop the uncrowded stores of Wayne County, maybe you should too!

Visit the Wayne County Convention & Visitors Bureau on line at [www.wccvb.com](http://www.wccvb.com) or call them at 1.800.362.6474 for a complete list of holiday shops and events.  
**LAKE ERIE SHORES & ISLANDS**

Best known as a summer vacation destination, Ohio's *Lake Erie Shores & Islands* welcomes visitors year-round with

**Wander the Wonders  
of Wayne County!**

Where else can you find big city shopping in a small rural area, professional operetta in its 35th season, unique factory tours with reasonably priced products and unbelievable scenery at every turn?

To discover what you've been missing, and for more information on these events visit

**[www.wccvb.com](http://www.wccvb.com)  
800.362.6474**

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**Wayne COUNTY OHIO**  
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

a variety of fun attractions such as indoor waterparks, wineries, significant historical sites, and quaint small towns with an array of dining and shopping options.

Well-known in the culinary community, Milan, Ohio is home to the Culinary Vegetable Institute and Chef's Garden, renowned for its fresh and flavorful vegetables and herbs. Monthly earth-to-table dinners and occasional cooking classes allow guests to savor the freshest, locally-sourced meals prepared by culinary stars.

Other notable dining experiences can be had at Baci, Zinc Brasserie, Crush Winebar, J Bistro, Red Gables Mesquite Grill, Nagoya Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi, 1812 Food & Spirits, and more.

Lake Erie Shores & Islands is also a burgeoning wine region, with more than a dozen wineries benefitting from the mild Lake Erie breezes. Delight in a delicious meal paired with straight-from-the-vineyard wines at Mon Ami, Quarry Hill, Paper Moon, Matus Winery, and others.

A visit to the "Walleye Capital of the World" wouldn't be complete without sampling the best in Lake Erie fish. Local catch is a specialty at many establishments, including New Sandusky Fish Company, Village Pump, and Water Street

Bar & Grille, just to name a few.

Once you've filled your belly with mouthwatering cuisine, turn your attention to filling your shopping bags at a variety of retailers.

The *Sandusky Mall* complex welcomes savvy shoppers with a number of stores aimed at offering quality merchandise at a reasonable price. Fill your home and closet with goodies from Macy's, TJ Maxx, Old Navy, Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Ulta.

Lake Erie Shores & Islands doesn't forget its resort-area roots, though. Sporting goods, fishing gear, souvenirs, and swimwear are available year-round.

Downtown districts invite exploration with a variety of independent retailers that specialize in candles, chocolate, pottery, home décor, international imports, jewelry, and more. Discover art galleries in Marblehead and antique shops in Milan. Or find it all in a refurbished 1800's barn at the Shops at Sawmill Creek in Huron.

Your Lake Erie Shores & Islands shopping and dining adventures begin at [SHORESandISLANDS.com](http://SHORESandISLANDS.com). Request a travel guide, build an itinerary, download a Shore Savings Card, and search for lodging packages while exploring all

that Ohio's Lake Erie Shores & Islands has in store for you.

#### LAKE COUNTY

Geographically the smallest of Ohio's 88 counties, Lake County packs a lot of living into their limited space. Cleveland's neighbor is Lake Erie East's coastal oasis, with an abundance of shopping, wineries, fishing, and historical sites. Tour the James A. Garfield National Historic Site, home of USA's 20th President. Explore Historic Kirtland Village, a restored 19th century village that showcases the early American frontier, including a Holiday Nativity Show with 700 crèche's. Inspect the 3,500 acres of display gardens at the Holden Arboretum, or enjoy the sound of waves gently lapping against the shore. Lake County offers a surprising "New England" ambiance only closer to home.

Discover a fabulous mix of malls, antique dealers, downtown shopping districts, unique specialty shops, art galleries and farmer's markets. The City of Mentor boasts the 7th largest retail shopping district in Ohio.

And after a long day of shopping make sure you replenish your energy at any one of their local restaurants, B&Bs or lodgings for every budget and taste. 

## READY. SET. RECHARGE.



**Lake Erie**  
**Shores & Islands**

[SHORESandISLANDS.com](http://SHORESandISLANDS.com)  
**800-255-3743**  
The Getaway that's not Far Away.





The Mamanuca Islands.

BY GAIL MERO-O'NEIL

## Falling for Fiji

### A big Bula for this island paradise

**S**et in the vast blue expanse of the South Pacific, the islands of Fiji are the essence of a tropical island paradise. Fiji is made up of 333 magnificent islands rising out of the South Seas like giant sea turtles. Clustered on the 180th meridian the islands are the first place on earth to see the sun rise.

White sandy beaches, swaying coconut trees, and languid blue lagoons characterize this largely unspoiled land of lotus blossoms and tranquility. Fijians are also among the friendliest, most easy going people in the world, even by the laid back standards of the South Pacific. "Bula Venaka" is the ubiquitous greeting throughout the islands that means both "hello" and "welcome".

Viti Levu (the south) and Vanua Levu (the north) are the two main islands. Suva, the nation's capital, is located on

the south-western coast of Viti Levu under the shadow of Mount Tomanivi. Noted for its colonial architecture, dozens of temples, mosques, and churches proclaim Fiji's religious diversity, and multicultural population. About half of Fijians are of Polynesian & Melanesian origin, while Indians descended from the laborers brought in to work on sugar plantations, are the largest minority. English is the common language. The *Hibiscus Festival* held in August fills Suva's streets with floats that showcase traditional dance and cultural shows.

The *Fiji Museum*, in the heart of Suva's botanical gardens, displays archaeological artifacts dating back 3,500 years. The Suva municipal market is a must see where visitors can taste exotic fruits, kava, fresh seafood and spices. An old saying in Fiji is that coconuts are like fire. You can't live without them, but like fire they can

hurt you. In fact falling, coconuts are far more lethal than sharks killing up to 150 people each year.

Nadi is Fiji's Viti Levu's most popular destination with stunning mountains, powdery white beaches and dozens of resorts. The beautiful Sri Siva Subramaniya temple is the largest Hindu temple in the Southern hemisphere. The Sleeping Giant Gardens house the late actor Raymond Burr's orchid collection. Many of Nadi's shops are run by villagers from the mountains who will invite you in for kava. Watch out for those shopkeepers who extend their arm to shake your hand. If you do they will put a vice like grip on your hand and lead you into their shop.

Kava, also known as yaqona, is Fiji's national drink. Traditionally, it was used only on important ceremonies. Nowadays, it is a social beverage. Even so there is a strict protocol associated with yaqona drinking. One should clap once, clasping the hands, take the cup, and drink the yaqona in a single draft before returning the cup to the bearer.

Nadi is also the departure point for the Outer and Mamanuca Islands. Set among deep blue waters and circled by coral reefs they offer some of Fiji's most outstanding island retreats. Of all the Fiji islands the Yasawa group are said to be the most idyllic. Both versions of The Blue Lagoon were filmed on this group of about 20 islands, which lie in a chain just off the northwest coast of Viti Levu. These islands are celebrated for their miles of deserted beach, cliffs, bays and reefs, largely untouched by tourism making them the perfect place to live our your castaway fantasies.

The Coral Coast is around 50 miles of beaches, bays, rocky outcrops and lush vegetation along the southwest of Viti Levu.

Fiji's national dress is the *sulu*, a wraparound skirt worn by both men and women. On more formal occasions women usually wear a multi-layered *Tapa* cloth. Also known as *masi*, *tapa* is a type of bark cloth made from the inner bark of the mulberry tree. The fabric is decorated with charcoal using symbolic motifs and patterns and sewn into ceremonial dresses. The highly prized Fijian mats are usually made from the leaves of the pandanus tree.

No true Fijian dining experience is complete without a traditional "lovo" feast. Here, fish, chicken, pork and vegetables are wrapped in banana leaves,

then slowly cooked for several hours in an underground oven heated with rocks, producing a succulent and slightly smoky flavored dish. Roasted cassava, yams, octopus, reef fish, and tiny sweet bananas are just some of the local favorites.

Taveuni is known as "The Garden Island of Fiji." The fourth largest island in Fiji is covered in tropical rainforest and bounded by reefs harboring some of the world's best dive sites. Renowned as "The Soft Coral Capital of the World" Fiji is also home to the "Great Astrolabe Reef". Feel the goose-bumps as you experience shark feeding or dive the light fantastic and swim with the giant mantas.

Winding roads meander past magnificent waterfalls and sparkling white sand beaches. One of the world's rarest flowers, the Tagimaucia is found only on Taveuni, thousands of feet above sea level on the fringes of the lake formed inside a crater. It's also a magnet for birdwatchers with exotic Kula lorikeets, red breasted musk parrots, silk tails goshawks, orange-breasted doves, and even variety of pigeon that barks rather than coos. Taveuni's Vuna volcano has been dormant for 350 years ago but is still considered the island's most active volcano. 





BY RENU SAGGAR

## Some Tender Loving Care TLC Laser Centres makes a better you

**B**ody contouring without surgery sounds like something that falls into the same category as diet pills, thigh creams, and electric abdominal belts — quick fixes that almost never live up to their claims.

Zerona is a proven body slimming treatment that painlessly removes fat and reduces inches! The only laser fat removal device approved by the FDA, Zerona can reshape your body and slim down target areas, helping you look and feel better with zero downtime!

Zerona has been featured on Nightline, the Today Show, Rachael Ray, The Doctors and others. TV's Dr. Oz calls Zerona "the miracle procedure to fight fat." Unlike other procedures, Zerona allows the patient to continue their daily activities without pain. It works by utilizing the Erchonia® Laser Scanner, which is also FDA market cleared for laser assisted liposuction.

"This may be the closest thing to a miracle cure," says Tiffany Stager of Tecumseh Laser Centre where I got my treatments. "But I prefer to call it complementary medicine, not a cure all. It's designed to make your healthy eating and exercise more effective but it really does enhance your results."

Tecumseh Laser Centre (TLC) offers an innovative approach to skin and bodycare



at their location at 5841 Malden Road, in LaSalle. And Tiffany, a Certified Laser Technician really knows her stuff.

According to Tiffany the ideal candidate is someone already committed to making healthy lifestyle changes who doesn't have a lot of weight to lose but is more concerned about problem areas, particularly in the hips, waist, and thighs.

The Zerona low-level laser scanner stimulates the fat cell to emulsify (liquefy) the fat within the fat cells. The liquefied fat is then released through a temporary pore in the cell membrane, then naturally discharged from the body through the

natural process of detoxification.

More importantly, it is the only device that does not harm the fat cell. Fat cells play a very important role in your basic health and well-being, maintaining hormone and immune system functions. Although eliminating excess fat can improve your overall health, completely killing the cell can have unwanted visual side effects and harmful medical side effects.

Zerona consists of six quick and painless treatments over the course of two weeks. You simply lie under the Zerona for 20 minutes on your front, then 20 minutes on your back. The Zerona laser causes no pain — in fact there is no sensation from Zerona at all.

You know those stubborn target areas that no amount of diet and exercise seem to help. With the Zerona treatment plan you can lose inches and stubborn fat from:

Waistline, back, hips and thighs. Data compiled from 150 physician practices nationwide revealed that on average, patients lost 5.9 inches from their waist, hips and thighs 80% of Zerona patients lost over 6 inches. Many patients do not see noticeable results until after the last session, so don't get discouraged and stay with the protocol. As with any procedure results will vary and may be more dramatic from one patient to the next.

Zerona is a low-level laser that does not produce heat. It is completely non-invasive, and has never shown any recorded side effects. It causes no bruising or scarring and there is zero downtime.

Because it is completely painless, no anesthesia is used and you can assume normal activities immediately following each treatment. There are absolutely no side effects beyond loss of inches and fat.

Who would have thought that taking a 40-minute nap could help you lose weight and inches? If you are skeptical about trying this, don't be. What have you got to lose except some excess pounds?

Whether you're dealing with aging skin, acne scars, stubborn body fat, unwanted hair, or unsightly veins, laser therapies can be used to improve and correct many imperfections, as well as turn back the clock on skin's natural aging processes.

Tecumseh Laser Centre (TLC) use the YAG® lasers, which effectively treats all skin types, including tanned skin, offering unmatched treatment capabilities in permanent hair removal, leg veins, facial veins, wrinkles and skin tightening.

The GentleYag laser is a powerful Alex-



# **LOSE** on average **3.64 INCHES** in waist, hips & thigh circumference combined **in 2 WEEKS!**

At Tecumseh Laser Centre, we're always doing everything we can, to stay on top of the latest trends and technology.

As you know, we are the exclusive provider of the remarkable Zerona treatment, and we've been helping our clients lose inches ever since.



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Venus Freeze is cleared by the FDA for Facial Wrinkles and Rhytides and licensed by Health Canada for Skin Tightening and Temporary Reduction of Cellulite.

andrite crystal laser beam of high-intensity light that penetrates deep into the skin tissue, where it delivers a controlled amount of targeted therapeutic heat.

TLC's team is committed to working with you. Services the YAG® lasers offer include complete photo facials, pigmentation and treatment of toenail fungus.

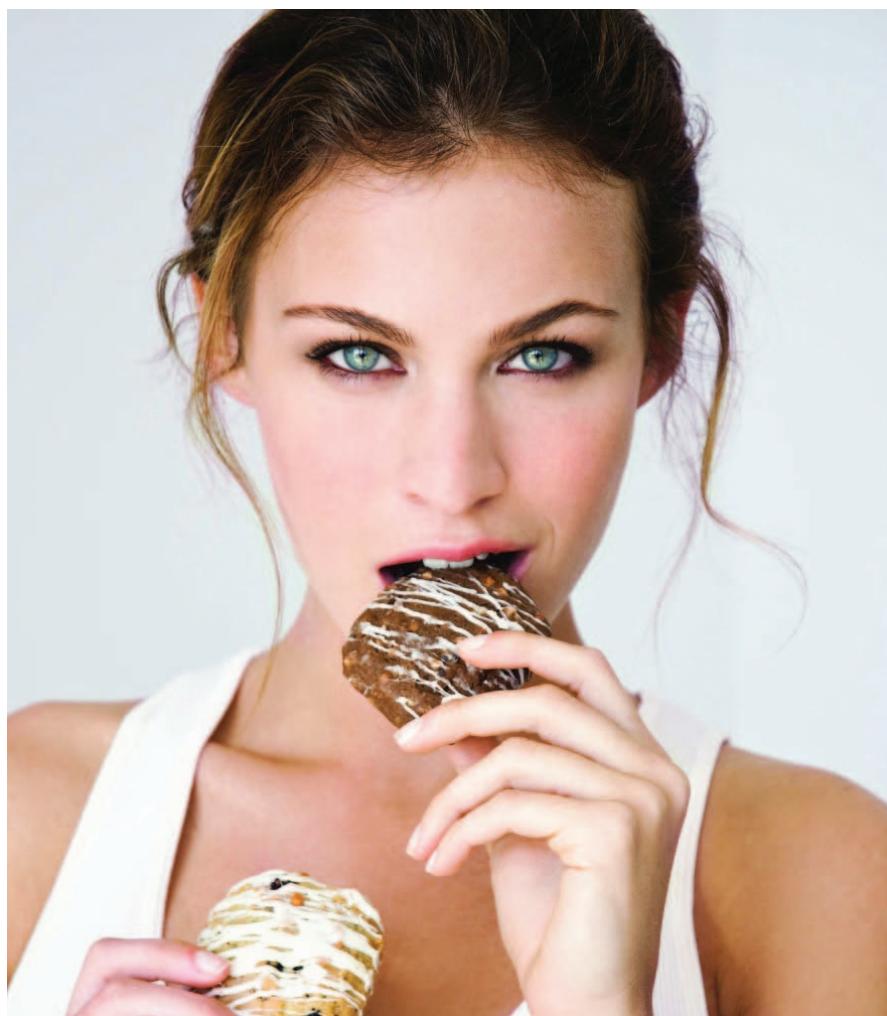
They've also introduced *Venus Freeze*, a revolutionary new technology that's being called the *Facelift of the Future*. Over time and long-term exposure to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight causes skin to age — a process called photo aging. Loss of elasticity is one of the most visible signs of photo aging. Several biological processes play a role — increased collagen fragmentation; decrease in the number of fibroblasts — the cells that produce collagen fibers. There's a progressive reduction in the number of capillary loops, resulting in a diminished nutrient supply to the skin.

More people are looking for effective treatments with excellent clinical results, without having to compromise on comfort or safety. The demand for non-invasive aesthetic treatments has increased dramatically in the past few years. In 2009, over 10 million minimally invasive cosmetic procedures were performed in the USA alone, accounting for 88% of the total cosmetic procedures performed that year.

Dermatologist Dr. Lancer, the doctor who treats Oprah, Kim Kardashian and Beyoncé, recently gave Extra TV an exclusive look into this painless new anti-aging device used to treat wrinkles, rhytides, tighten skin, reduce cellulite and circumferential fat. Dr. Lancer says the new Venus Freeze treatment "works well, it doesn't hurt and it doesn't require any maintenance. I mean, how much better can you get than that?"

The Venus Concept (MP)<sup>2</sup> is a patented technology that combines both multi polar radio frequency (RF) along with pulsed magnetic fields. These two types of energy work in synergy to effectively deliver remarkable clinical results. It's a risk-free non-invasive technology suitable for a wide range of non-invasive skin tightening and body contouring solutions that does not damage the skin. Venus Freeze is cleared by the FDA for Facial Wrinkles and Rhytides and licensed by Health Canada for non-invasive treatment of temporary cellulite and temporary skin tightening.

Skin tightening, wrinkle reduction and cellulite reduction occur because the



multi-polar radio frequency causes a thermal response in the tissue which activates the body's natural healing response. That healing response causes new collagen to form, new elastin fibers and the production of fibroblasts to increase. The existing collagen in the skin contracts (this causes the skin to look and feel firmer) and the elastin fibers unravel (which makes the skin more elastic).

Body contouring is achieved when the temperature of the skin is elevated, the body releases stress hormones. These hormones pass through the blood stream, and attach themselves to specific receptors on the membrane of the fat cell in the hypodermis (the deepest layer of the skin). The stress hormone, once attached to the receptor, activates the hormone sensitive lipase — the hormone that is in charge of breaking down triglycerides into free fatty acids.

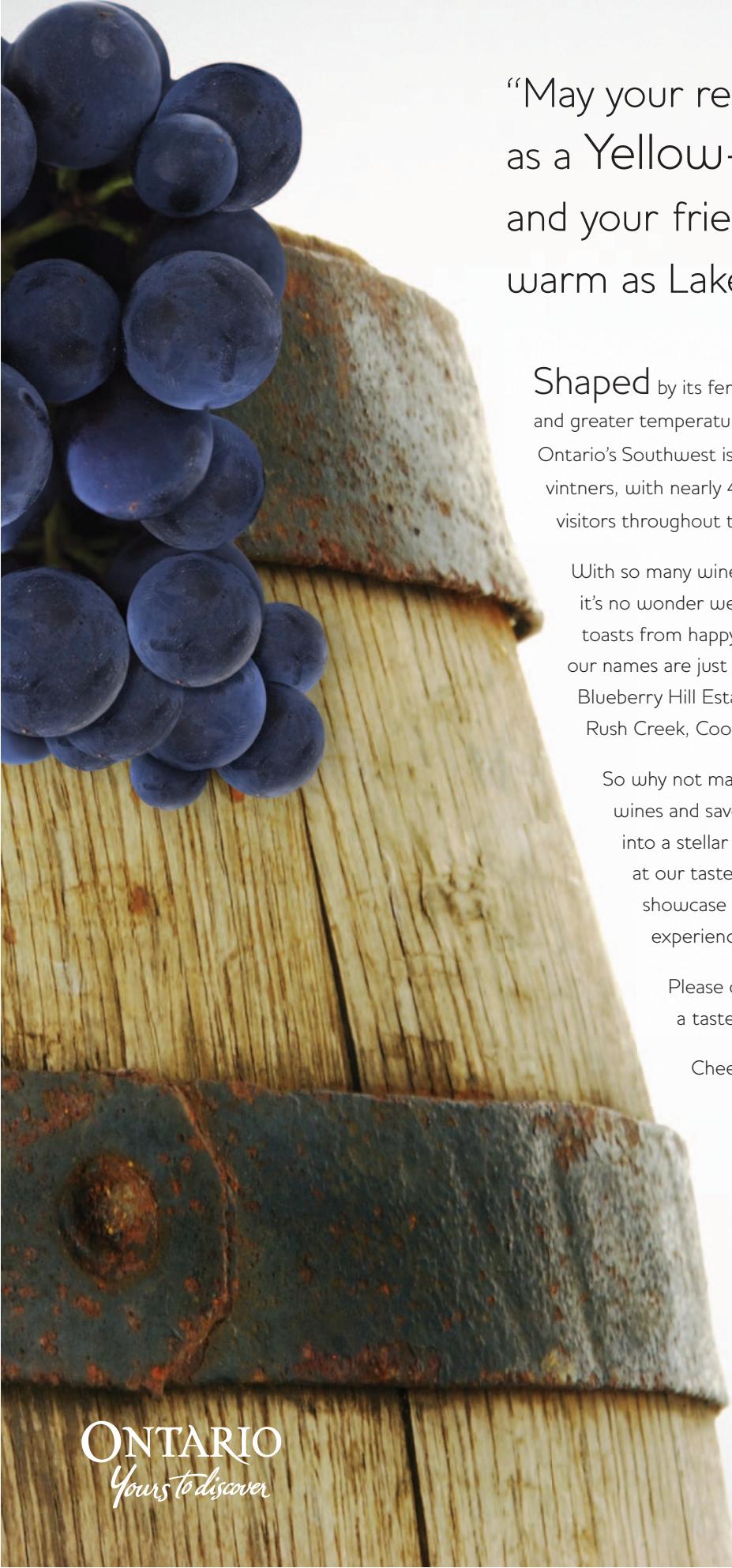
The free fatty acids exit the fat cell through the blood stream, and the volume of the fat cell is thus reduced giving you a smoother, more contoured shape.

While you lay comfortably on a treat-

ment bed, the technician applies a treatment gel to the skin. This lotion helps the applicator glide on the surface of your skin. After selecting the correct size applicator is selected and the technician will begin to apply smooth and consistent movements on the surface of the skin. This feels like a wonderful warm massage.

Most patients see results in as little as three treatments however, experts advise a full series of six treatments for the face and eight to ten treatments on the body. A single treatment to one area takes less than 30 minutes without side effects.

After your Venus Freeze treatment series you will require maintenance treatments to ensure that you keep the aging process at bay. While the minimum treatments needed to maintain your result are one treatment once every season (4 treatments a year), many patients like to come back more often because they love the treatments and the results which include tighter skin, softening of wrinkles, plumper, fuller and more youthful appearance, reduced cellulite and a more contoured silhouette. ☺



“May your reunions be as colourful as a Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher and your friendships remain as warm as Lake Erie”

Shaped by its fertile soil, longer sun hours and greater temperatures than anywhere in Canada, Ontario's Southwest is the newest paradise for vintners, with nearly 40 vineyards that welcome visitors throughout the region.

With so many wineries open to the public, it's no wonder we hear such memorable toasts from happy visitors. And why not, our names are just as imaginative and storied – Blueberry Hill Estate, Burning Kiln, Erie Shore, Rush Creek, Cooper's Hawk – to name but a few.

So why not make a date to sample our VQA wines and savour the scenery, while tucking into a stellar brunch, lunch or dinner served at our tasteful vineyard restaurants that showcase the best of farm-to-table dining experiences.

Please drop in, take a tour, and try a taste or two.

Cheers to your experience!



Plan your experience at  
[OntariosSouthwest.com](http://OntariosSouthwest.com)



ONTARIO  
*Yours to discover*





BY RENU SAGGAR

#### FRANCO ANGILERI DESIGNS LTD

Franco Angileri Designs in the heart of Windsor's Little Italy, is a unique and one of a kind boutique featuring exceptionally beautiful designer clothing from around the world. Located at 814 Erie St. East in Windsor, Angileri offers dozens of contemporary designs for both men and women, from casual daywear to exclusive evening wear, and one of the finest selections of coats and jackets.

"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 Detroit Free Press heralded him as "The Area's Best Kept Secret."

Angileri is also proud to feature Sarah Pacini from Italy. Caty Lesco from France, Ronen Chen from Israel, Alberto Makali from New York, Simon Cheng and Cartise from Canada and many more top brand designers.

He will also be introducing an array of hot new designers featured in magazines, runways and television, such as Lovas, designer Remix, Rock & Karma just to name a few. Visit them soon to view their selection of beautiful designs, colours of fabrics from Monday- Saturday, 9-5 or call 519-256-1595 for a personal appointment,

Franco will personally do alterations to make that perfect fit. Fancy a custom designed outfit, wait no longer and call Franco who trained alongside world famous designers.

Angileri attended the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York City and Sheridan Fashion Institute & Technology in Toronto, and was fortunate enough to learn his craft from celebrated designers like Valentino, Oscar De La Renta, Pierre Cardin, Alfred Sung, Michele Robichaud and others.

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

## Shop & Dine in Southwestern Ontario

**W**hether you're looking for trendsetting fashions, or a new bauble to wear around your neck or finger, Windsor and Southwestern Ontario has your shopping Mojo covered like no place else. 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 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 30 stores to choose from, Windsor Crossing has something for everyone.

Windsor Crossing currently houses some of the most elite brands at savings of up to 60% off everyday. Brands like Aeropostale, Coach Factory, Hugo Boss Outlet and Tommy Hilfiger Outlet. Fashionable footwear fans will find plenty to like at the Reebok Outlet, Tootsies Factory Shoe Market and Nine West Shoe Studio. Newest stores include Calvin Klein, Van Heusen and Banana Republic. Experience the thrill of the hunt, then relax after your shopping excursion at Vital Therapy, or enjoy the specialty beverages and cuisine at Caffé Mondo.

### ENZO'S TRATTORIA

*Enzo's Trattoria* serves authentic Italian food in Windsor's Little Italy on Erie Street. Proprietor Enzo Mancuso is well known in local culinary circles and has operated several restaurants along Windsor's Via Italia, including Tutto Ristorante, and Mancuso's Trattoria. His latest and namesake Enzo's is in the former Brigantino Ristorante.

"All of my restaurants thrive on using the freshest of products from local suppliers" says Enzo. Enzo's offers an Italian menu, ranging from pastas and veal, to gourmet pizza.

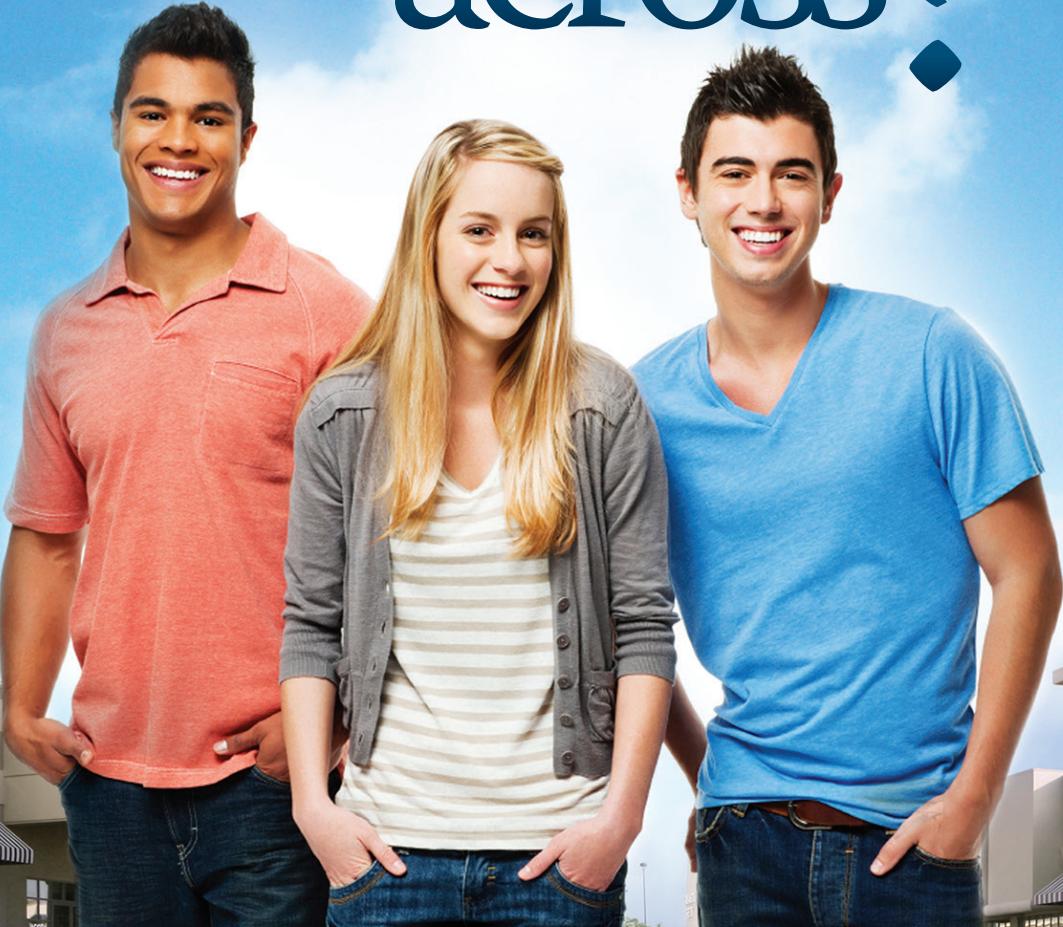
Starters include *Saliccia Alla Calabrese* — homemade Italian sausage with peppers, onions and mushrooms in a mildly spicy tomato sauce. Entrees include *Pollo Alla Palomino* — boneless chicken breast sautéed in a spinach, roasted red pepper blush sauce.

### MEZZO RISTORANTE & LOUNGE

*Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge* offers a chic, yet comfortable atmosphere. The ambience provides a unique balance of stylish metropolitan flare, exceptional service and authentic Italian cooking. Perhaps that's why it's a favorite with Hollywood honchos like George Clooney, who was spotted here recently.

Mezzo is Italian for "middle" and the restaurant is located in the heart of Erie Street. Owners Michael Barlozzari and

# What will you come across?



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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. Customers rave about the home made ravioli stuffed with roasted butternut squash and mutzu apple, in a ginger, bacon, sun dried tomato cream sauce.

Then there are entrées like *Lobster Ravioli* — home made ravioli stuffed with lobster and crab in a Pernod spiced blush sauce with wilted spinach, and sun dried tomato oil. Desserts include

Mezzo's signature *Tiramisu* — layered ladyfinger cookies with liquor and espresso flavoured mascarpone cheese and topped with chocolate. Check out their website [www.mezzo.ca](http://www.mezzo.ca) for the their *Dinner and Caesar's Windsor* show packages featuring tickets, three course dinner, taxes and gratuity. They can also arrange limo service. And as always, Mezzo turns Club at 10 p.m. with the latest tunes all night long. If you can't make it for the dinner, meet some friends after 9 p.m. and enjoy some awesome martinis from the patio bar overlooking Via Italia.

#### OSTERIA BRIGANTINO

A Via Italia landmark since 1984, *Osteria*

*Brigantino* reopened last summer at 999 Erie Street, the corner of Erie and Langlois, after extensive renovations. The prices are very affordable, the service impeccable and how many places have an owner who serenades you with his guitar and beautiful Italian love songs after serving you a meal? This is the place for authentic Italian home cooking, and a favorite with visiting celebrities like Roddy McDowall from *Planet of the Apes*, The Beach Boys, and Harrison Ford.

*Brigantino*'s menu is extensive with old favourites, unique new recipes and delicious, fresh home-made bread.

They serve a wide selection of pasta dishes as well as delicious scaloppini and tasty meat dishes served with a side of pasta. The Scaloppini *Brigantino*, Involtini *Osteria*, and the gnocch lightly tossed in a velvety, spicy cream sauce, and mixture of four imported Italian cheeses are both amazing. Pasta is cooked to a perfect *al dente* and the sauces are to die for. If your looking for real Italian food at a great price, then *Osteria Brigantino* is an excellent choice. Visit their website at [www.osteriabrigantino.com](http://www.osteriabrigantino.com).

#### GRILL 55

*Grill 55* opened its doors last October with great steaks, Ontario pork and lamb, fresh seafood, flatbreads and amazing pastas. Inspired by the upscale urban style of New York's trendy grill restaurants, the ambiance is warm and relaxed, the service friendly and attentive.

Located in The Holiday Inn & Suites Ambassador Bridge in Windsor, *Grill 55* features a casual fine dining atmosphere with 120 seats in the dining room, 44 seats in the lounge and 60 seats in the private dining room.

Committed locavores they source as much local product as possible, everything from hand-cut steaks, to sauces and spring rolls. Breads are prepared in house including the excellent house bread, and herb biscuit recipe served with three kinds of butter. Menus change quarterly, and with the season.

Their private dining room hosts, Wine Tastings, Scotch Tastings, and Gastro-nomical events like the Sleeman Breweries/*Grill 55* Tasting Dinner, Guinness/*Grill 55* Tasting Dinner, and the Sprucewood Shores Wine Tasting Dinner. Christmas parties can be booked in one of 17 banquet rooms, plus the private dining room.

On October 14th, 2012 David Adjey, host of Food Network Canada's *The Opener* and *Restaurant Makeover* hosted the Res-

**ANGILERI**  
franco angileri

814 Erie Street East Windsor, Ontario  
519-256-1595

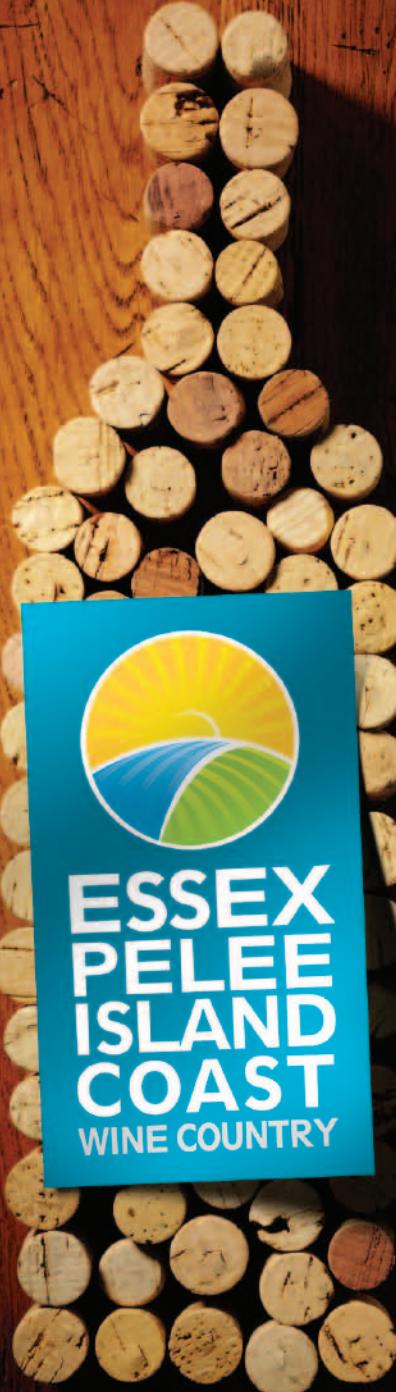
# UNCORK OUR **PASSION**

Essex & Pelee Island Coast (EPIC) Wine Country is a short, stress-free drive from most points in Southwestern Ontario.

With the longest growing season in the country, our award-winning wines are a conspicuous expression of the region and the commitment of our talented winemakers who call it home.

Experience EPIC Wine Country and uncork our passion.

Get a little taste at  
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[www.visitwindsoressex.com](http://www.visitwindsoressex.com)

# Shop & Dine

taurant Owners Conference 2012 here. For more information visit their website [www.grill55.ca](http://www.grill55.ca).

## INTERNATIONAL ART DESIGNS

Whether you're looking to redecorate your entire home, or just need that one perfect piece to complement a room, come and visit Windsor and Essex County's largest selection of contemporary interior décor and custom framing. Located in Urban Selections Plaza at 5975 Malden Road in LaSalle, International Art Designs has been serving clients for over 15 years, providing only the most unique products in the area and exceptional customer service. Having been given the honour of "Perfect Picture Framer" by Windsor's Biz X magazine and its readership, International Art Designs is grateful to its clientele for ensuring its steady growth and continued success.

Owner and artist *Ivana White* began International Art Designs as a custom framing gallery, offering exquisite moulding and creative options for art pieces of every kind. Sensing a need in the area for home décor with a contemporary

European flair, the gallery soon embraced unique pottery, glassware, mirrors, and giftware. Most recently, International Art Designs has grown to include custom engraving and awards, becoming a one-stop shop for all things creative.

White would like to assure potential customers that International Art Designs can beat out big box competitors not only in terms of pricing, but regarding customer service, expertise, quality and selection. White, herself a recipient of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, insists that all of her employees hold backgrounds in art and/or interior design, thus providing you with credentials and experience to be trusted. With a wide selection of décor and giftware to suit every budget, you are encouraged to come in and browse; this website can only provide a limited view, so come and see for yourself!

## ADORA SUSHI AND MORE

At Adora Sushi, staying healthy never tasted so good. Located at 5925 Malden Road in LaSalle, their menu combines the elegance of Japan's ancient courtly cuisine with the simplicity of Buddhist temple fare. The goal of Adora Sushi is to highlight the natural taste of ingredients at the peak of freshness and

flavor. Their aim is to please customers of all ages and flavour preference with traditional sushi, as well as, hometown, Canadianized recipes. With an extensive offering of sushi, nigiri, soups, salads and sandwiches, they will entice you with the most distinguished Italian dishes as well.

They can also cater your special events like weddings, showers and birthdays. Whether you choose to dine-in, take-out or have an event catered, their friendly staff is there to provide excellence in customer service.

## RICCARDO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Trends in Italian cuisine come and go, but the one mainstay is simplicity and top quality ingredients. Located on the river's edge at 238 Dalhousie Street in Amherstburg, Riccardo's chef and owner Riccardo Maurizio Maltese follows the traditions of his Nonnas (grandmothers) and the food is always *eccezionale* (outstanding). It offers a warm ambience and memorable riverside views, and it's a true delight to watch the chef prepare your meal from your table.

The food is fabulous and portions are generous. Starters include Arancini, Sicilian traditional rice balls with meat, peas, parmiggiana cheese. The Lake Erie Yellow

The image features the Grill 55 logo at the top, consisting of the word "grill" in a lowercase sans-serif font followed by "55" in a larger, bold, red-bordered box. Below the logo is the slogan "A NEW DINING EXPERIENCE." in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The main section of the image contains four photographs: a view of the restaurant's interior with tables and chairs; a close-up of a dish with salmon and vegetables; a glass of red wine; and a view of the bar area with stools.

Located in The Holiday Inn & Suites Ambassador Bridge Windsor, Ontario, the Grill 55 Restaurant casual fine dining menu will be sure to impress. After a million dollar renovation south west Windsor finally has a great place to eat, drink and socialize. Grill 55 opened its doors to the public in October 2011 and is offering great steaks, Ontario pork and lamb, fresh seafood, flatbreads and great pastas.

For spectacular results, leave your party and event planning to our catering experts. We have 17 beautiful Banquet Rooms perfect for your upcoming Wedding, Christmas Party, Birthday, Anniversary or Social Event. Our largest room can accommodate up to 250 guests.

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# Shop & Dine

Perch is caught fresh and cooked right from the water. Ricardo's Polo is sauteed chicken with mushroom & sundried tomato blush sauce. Try the Sauteed Veal Scaloppine in Cream & Mushroom & Wine Sauce for an authentic taste of Italy.

## JACK'S GASTROPUB

Visitors to Kingsville will enjoy a walking tour down tree-lined streets viewing the graceful Victorian homes with large wraparound verandas. Several of these historic properties have been converted into bed and breakfasts, and specialty

shops and boutiques throughout the municipality feature everything from antiques to unique creations offered up by local artisans.

Family owned and operated since 1989 with stops on both Pearl Street and Main Street, Jack now calls 31 Division Street South home. Their current location was a stately home in the late 1880s. Today it's signature burgers and entrees, local wines, craft beers and feather pillows that call 31 Division home. Starters include Irish Nachos and Hot House Mussels and every Wednesday, Jack's offers customers a new feature burger created by their crack culinary team.

## ANNABELLE'S TEA ROOM

Annabelle's Tea Room is located in an 1859 historic home in the heart of Kingsville. The authentic Victorian decor will transport you to an era of gracious dining, a time when beautiful surroundings and attention to detail were paramount.

Committed to using local produce and being inspired by the season, they make delicious homey food, with bold flavours and refined presentation. Entrees include Hungarian Pork Schnitzel with blackberry and mustard sauce, Delmonico Steak and Pickerel Filet. They also have a lovely gift shop where they offer fine soaps, perfumes, giftware, loose-leaved teas and teapots, and all things tea related.

## MORGAN'S HOUSE OF FASHION

Morgan's House of Fashion is located in beautiful downtown Chatham at their new location; 167 King Street West, just east of Fourth Street backing onto the Thames River. Their downtown Chatham clothing boutique offers exclusive collections by European and Canadian designers Marc Cain, Cambio, Sarah Pacini, Myka and European Culture to name a few. Absolutely stunning accessories are also available to complete your look with jewellery, handbags, shawls, gloves, hats, belts and more.

## LUXE LADIES FASHION BOUTIQUE

Luxe Ladies Fashion Boutique, formerly The Gift Fairy is located in historical downtown Chatham. This elegant retail boutique will delight shoppers with chic and classy garments, and has just celebrated their 5th anniversary.

This beautiful boutique is a reflection of Sherry Molema's flair and style. She along with her youngest daughter, Lindsay have chosen all the designers and lines that fill the store.

Carrying everything necessary to create each client's personal style, the "classy duo" are able to put together an outfit or wardrobe that exudes class, style and individualism.

Luxe has an outstanding selection of women's fashion and accessories. With outstanding customer service and years of experience, be sure your next visit to downtown Chatham includes a stop at Luxe Ladies Fashion Boutique. The only thing better than the outstanding service at Luxe Ladies Fashion Boutique is the unbelievable selection.

## CHILLED CORK

With an eclectic atmosphere, a modern take on culinary favourites and unparalleled service, the Chilled Cork offers an



# Kingsville Ontario, Canada



## Visit, play and stay in Kingsville!

### Location –

- Located in the southern most part of Essex County
- Population of 21,000
- Situated on the north shores of Lake Erie

### Amenities –

- A wide variety of available housing
- Safe and vibrant community
- Parks, trails and public beaches
- Championship golf courses
- Award-winning wineries
- A restaurant destination

### Affordability –

- One of the best affordable communities in Ontario
- Low cost of living including property taxes, utility costs and transportation
- Low cost of doing business

### Lifestyle –

- High quality of life
- Small town charm
- Superb restaurants, shopping and entertainment
- Large variety of recreational programs and facilities for active living
- Close to Windsor and Detroit airports and world renowned entertainment facilities

[www.kingsville.ca](http://www.kingsville.ca)



# Brigantino

osteria

999 Erie Street  
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519.962.4596  
[www.osteriabrigantino.com](http://www.osteriabrigantino.com)

An advertisement for Adora Sushi &amp; More. The top half features the restaurant's name in large red script, with "Dine-in • Take-Out" in smaller text to the right. Below the name are three images: a platter of various sushi rolls, a variety of colorful sushi rolls, and a close-up of nigiri sushi. The bottom half contains text: "Enticing the most distinguished palettes." and "Catering your special event has never been so easy... ... our friendly staff is dedicated to helping our customers." The address "5925 Malden Road, LaSalle, ON • 519-966-8888" is at the very bottom in white text on a red background.

## Shop & Dine

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experience that inspires all. Nestled in a century-old building on the "Retro Block", The Retro Suites Hotel's street level restaurant offers fine dining in a casual setting. Guests are drawn in by the exposed brick walls, iconic pop-culture pieces and original modern art.

Executive Chef Dylan McLay enjoys creating exciting dishes that will dazzle your taste buds. Enjoy traditional favourites & international cuisine, infused with the freshest ingredients

Relax and allow the Chilled Cork staff to take care of you with their consistent and professionally caring service delivered with a dash of small-town hospitality.  
**GARLIC'S OF LONDON**

Located in the heart of Richmond Row, Garlic's has been a popular dining destination for over fifteen years. The restaurant is located just minutes from the Grand Theatre, Centennial Hall and the John Labatt Centre. Downtown London's hotels, shopping, businesses and attractions are all close by. Celebrating a passion for food, wine, service and providing high-

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quality food with a modern edge; made entirely from scratch with inspiration from local ingredients.

#### COVENT GARDEN MARKET

Come see the selection of organic foods, award-winning meats, ethnic foods, and the largest assortment of cheese in Southwestern Ontario. Operating since 1845, fifty vendors offer tempting sweets, beautiful flowers, and elegant restaurants. Visit the twice-weekly seasonal outdoor farmers' market and find the fresh produce, meats, baking, and other products produced right here in Southwestern Ontario. Arts and culture are the focus of the Market's mezzanine where a number of London's cultural organizations and artists are located.

#### RICHMOND ROW

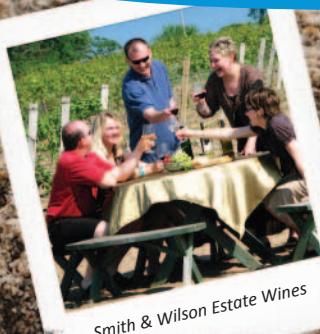
Richmond Row is London's most interesting and innovative shopping district with over 200 businesses catering to your every need whether you're looking for things to buy, services or just something to do. There's everything from clothing, jewelry to health & beauty services and, of course, the ever vibrant live night life entertainment. Plus, there are countless multi-cultural events and festivals in nearby Victoria Park.

**Riccardo's**  
Italian Restaurant

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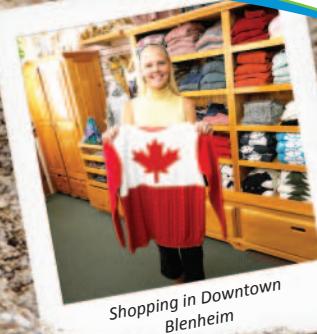
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Shopping in Downtown Blenheim

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- Black Mecca Exhibit & BME Freedom Park  
[www.ckblackhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ckblackhistoricalsociety.org)
- Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site  
[www.uncletomscabin.org](http://www.uncletomscabin.org)

#### Engage the past with 1812 Heritage

- Tecumseh Monument Site
- Indigenous Enviro-Education Centre (Nmaachihna)  
[www.iceeducation.com/IEEC.html](http://www.iceeducation.com/IEEC.html)
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[www.friendsoffairfieldmuseum.ca](http://www.friendsoffairfieldmuseum.ca)

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[www.internationalartdesigns.com](http://www.internationalartdesigns.com)

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#### THE KING EDWARD RESTAURANT & PUB

The King Edward is located in a refurbished 115-year-old building on Main Street in Ilderton. A star attraction of the pub is the first hand-pulled cask-conditioned ale in Southwest Ontario. Pub fare, with a few surprises, includes traditional prime rib, Yorkshire pudding and mashed potatoes. Signature burgers, fish and chips, and bangers and mash are also available at great prices. Locally sourced beef is featured and seasonal produce and local ingredients are well-incorporated into each meal.

#### TWISTED LEMON RESTAURANT & FLAVOR JUNKIES

Located in the picturesque village of Cayuga, Twisted Lemon is looking to redefine dining using the mantra that fine dining is great food and great service, and is an experience that all should enjoy. Chef Dan Megna's dishes are well thought out in their design and prepared in a lively open-concept kitchen in a tasteful and eclectic ambiance. In addition to a core menu, Twisted Lemon offers seasonal and locally inspired cuisine, including exciting monthly features, house-baked breads and pastries, and a prix fixe menu every Thursday evening. 

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BY FEDERICA NAZZANI

Windsor International Airport.

## Your one stop connection YQG is your gateway to the world

**I**t has been a whirlwind of activity at Windsor International Airport ('YQG') the past few years.

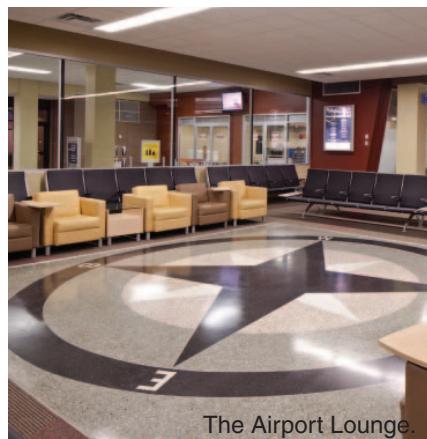
Located minutes from the border, Windsor and Essex' favorite airport, the Windsor International Airport —dubbed Your Quick Gateway because of its airport code letters 'YQG'—celebrated its first anniversary of Porter Airlines in April with service from YQG to downtown Toronto's Island Airport, with connecting flights to favorite destinations such as Montreal, New York, Halifax and Ottawa to name a few.

The friendly WestJet team was back for another season in 2012, offering convenient, efficient service to guests wanting direct non-stop flights from Windsor to Calgary, with connecting flights throughout Western Canada and the U.S. including Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna and as far as Hawaii.

For Windsorites, the WestJet and Porter options are all on top of the already great service offered by Air Canada, with direct and frequent daily service from YQG to Toronto's Pearson Airport, Canada's global hub for international, US and Canadian destinations. Air Canada currently serves over 150 cities worldwide; just drop your bags at your helpful Air Canada counter and pick it up at your final destination; travel can be worry-free, hassle-free and affordable.

And for those who cherish direct flights from Windsor to a sunny vacation getaway, Sunwing offers quick escapes from YQG directly to the sandy beaches of Cuba. Booking starts in early December and runs once a week until late April 2013. Sunwing Vacations offers all inclusive vacation packages, leisure flights, group travel, hotel and car rental deals for individuals, families, couples and groups.

With an increase in air service, passengers have flocked to the airport for its convenient and competitive travel options. Activity at YQG has grown from 96,000 passengers in 2009 to a projected 230,000 passengers in 2012, a 140% increase, making it one of Canada's fastest growing airports. Why endure long wait times at the border, on the highway, at



The Airport Lounge.

congested airline ticket counters and security gates, when YQG can get you anywhere you want to fly in 30 minutes. When booking your next vacation or business trip, research your travel options and choose Windsor International Airport.

The activity at the airport hasn't been limited to passenger airlines. YQG, along with the City of Windsor announced a new economic initiative in the aerospace industry. It has partnered with Premier Aviation, a leading maintenance, repair and overhaul company in North America, to build the largest heavy airframe facility in Ontario for aircraft as big as a Boeing 747. The region will share in the 150 jobs expected to be created at the new facility over the next few years. Construction of the new maintenance, repair and overall (MRO) hangar was completed in May 2012 and opened its doors to customers in September 2012. Both St. Clair College and the University of Windsor have announced new aviation programs to commence as early as this September and over the next few years, which will further contribute to the growth of aerospace in the city and region.

But all the bustle at the airport hasn't changed what Windsorites like most about YQG: Windsor International Airport offers exceptional convenience, comfort and friendly service. Parking is right next to the terminal building, and line-ups are short and quick. No matter where you are going, YQG makes flying a more enjoyable, more convenient and faster than driving or taking the train.

And with quick deplaning and minutes from your luggage pickup, no one can get you faster into downtown Windsor or downtown Detroit, than Your Quick Gateway. It's no wonder so many travelers, including Americans, prefer flying out of, and into, YQG, Windsor's International Airport. ☺





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## Where Mother Nature Meets the Mall

BY RENU SAGGAR

The scenic Fox River flows past 19 communities.

# Wisconsin's Fox Cities

**T**he cities, towns and villages along the Fox River as it flows from Lake Winnebago northward into Green Bay are known as the Fox Cities. Located about 30 minutes south of Green Bay, these nineteen communities form the core of the third largest metropolitan area in the state.

*Appleton*, the largest of the Fox Cities, was the hometown of magician Harry Houdini and author Edna Ferber. The region has a rich paper-making history that dates to the 1830's when the first settlers began to tame the wild and fast flowing river that remains its watery heart.

The Fox Cities are even better known as *Wisconsin's Shopping Place*. Central to the Fox Cities' experience is the *Fox River Mall*. Attracting over 16 million visitors a year Wisconsin's second largest shopping mall is a destination in itself with more than 180 retailers including J. Jill, Chico's Macy's, Pottery Barn and Scheel's All Sports, the largest sporting goods store in Wisconsin, and featuring a museum-quality display of guns.

Beyond the mall, the galleries and specialty retailers in downtown Appleton and historic Neenah feature unique items and personalized service sure to please even the most discerning shopper.

Top off your shopping experience by exploring some of the premier antique dealers in the state including the *Harp Gallery* and *Urban Evolutions*, the best kept secret of many Hollywood stars. *Urban Evolutions* operates an outlet center in Menasha featuring architectural salvage items reconditioned for interior use. They also supply reclaimed fixtures, and a line of furnishings and accessories for homes and businesses around the world.

*The Harp Gallery* blends antique pieces with vintage furniture from famous makers like Baker, Kittinger, and Ethan Allen, all at fabulous prices. *The Fox River Antique Mall* features antiques, collectibles, dishes, dolls, furniture, glassware, jewelry, primitive sports items and much more.

Downtown Appleton is the cultural hub of the Fox Cities where, after a day of shopping, visitors enjoy a variety of dining, nightlife and entertainment options. Two shining stars for the performing arts bookend downtown Appleton: the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center (PAC) and Lawrence University. The PAC features the latest Broadway touring companies as well as the Fox Valley Symphony and other local performing arts groups.

The life and illusions of Appleton's Harry Houdini are on display in "A.K.A. Houdini" at the History Museum at the

Castle. The history of paper making is on display at the *Paper Discovery Center*. Hearthstone, the world's first home lit by its own hydroelectric system is another historic landmark. Original light fixtures, light switches, woodwork, stained glass and beautiful architecture greet each guest.

Glass, including one of the world's largest collections of glass paperweights, is a highlight of the *Bergstrom-Mahler Museum* in Neenah. The paperweights have symbolic meaning in this historic "paper baron" town. The museum is the former home of local paper magnates the Bergstrom family and it is surrounded by several blocks of impeccably maintained turn of the last century mansions that housed the local paper aristocracy. A walk through this historic neighborhood along the shores of Lake Winnebago is one of the most beautiful in the Fox Cities.

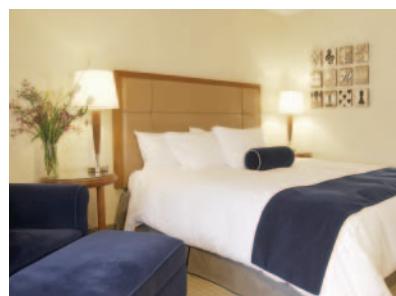
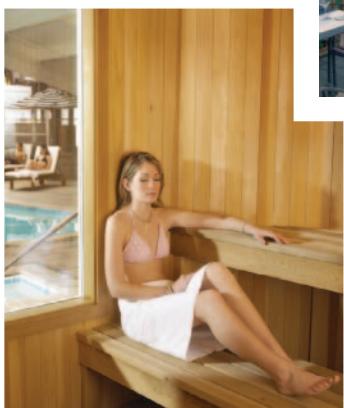
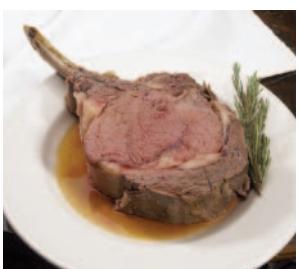
The *Best Western Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center* in Neenah, is conveniently located near key area attractions including Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and the Fox River Mall. The new resort hotel features beautifully appointed rooms and suites with upgraded amenities including free high-speed Internet access, microwave, refrigerator, and cable TV. They also offer suites with fireplaces, golf course views, and whirlpool tubs. A complimentary hot breakfast buffet is served each morning and a newspaper is delivered to each room. Guests can tee off on their picturesque nine-hole golf course or splash around in the indoor aquatic fun center.

*Simon's Specialty Cheese* in the village of Little Chute just east of Appleton, offers over 100 varieties of cheese including many imported cheeses plus their own homemade fudge and pizzas. Simon's also offers a wide variety of Wisconsin specialty gifts and gourmet items. Stop in for lunch and enjoy a fresh grilled cheese, pizza with their own mozzarella cheese, or a Wisconsin brat. Don't leave without trying fresh, squeaky curds or string cheese.

Catch professional baseball action at Fox Cities Stadium. *The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers* are a class A affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers. Games are played April to September, and this is not your average minor league experience. This year, the Timber Rattlers defeated the Fort Wayne TinCaps to claim their first Midwest League Championship. This team really knows how to let the fans have fun. 

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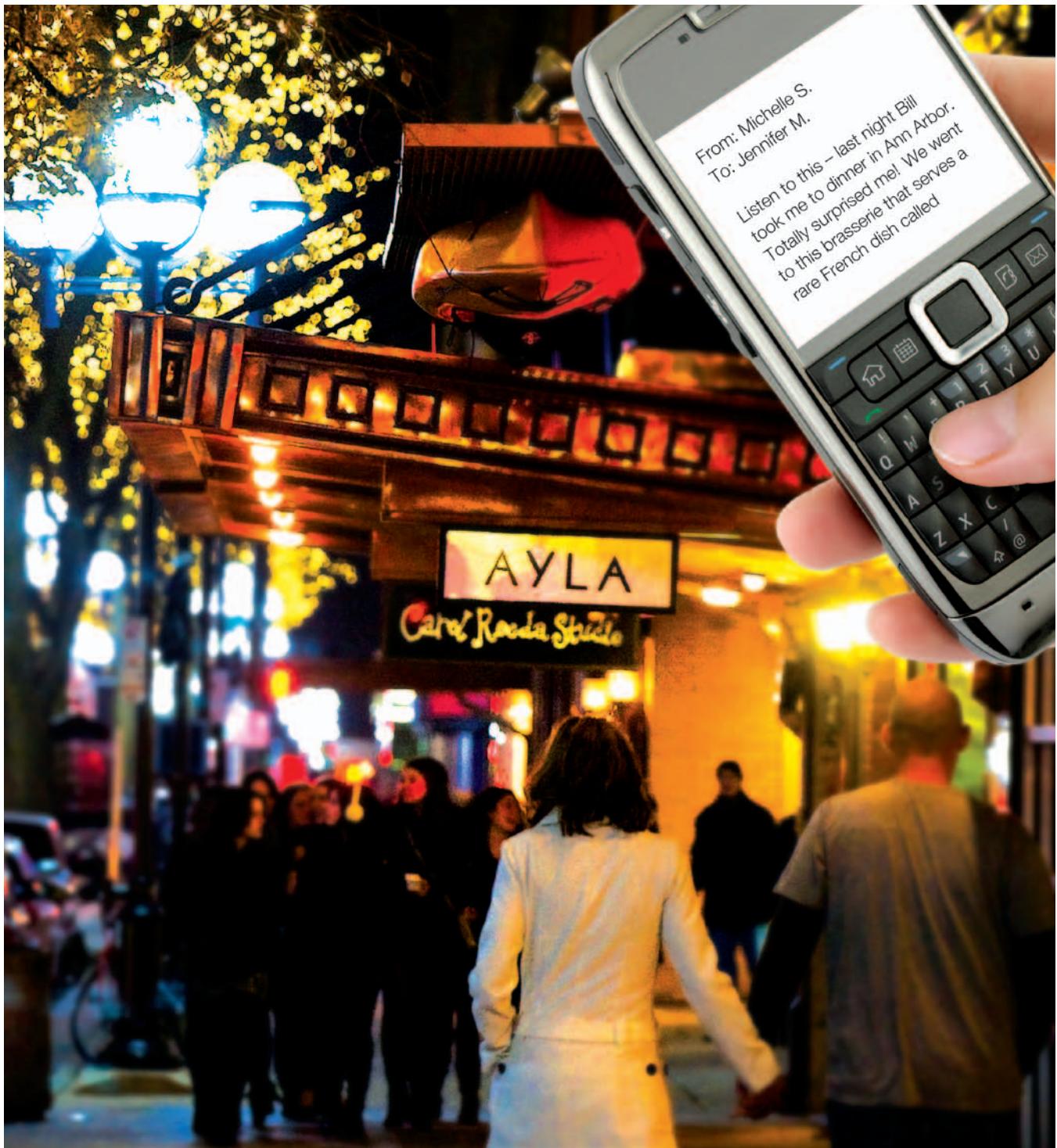


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