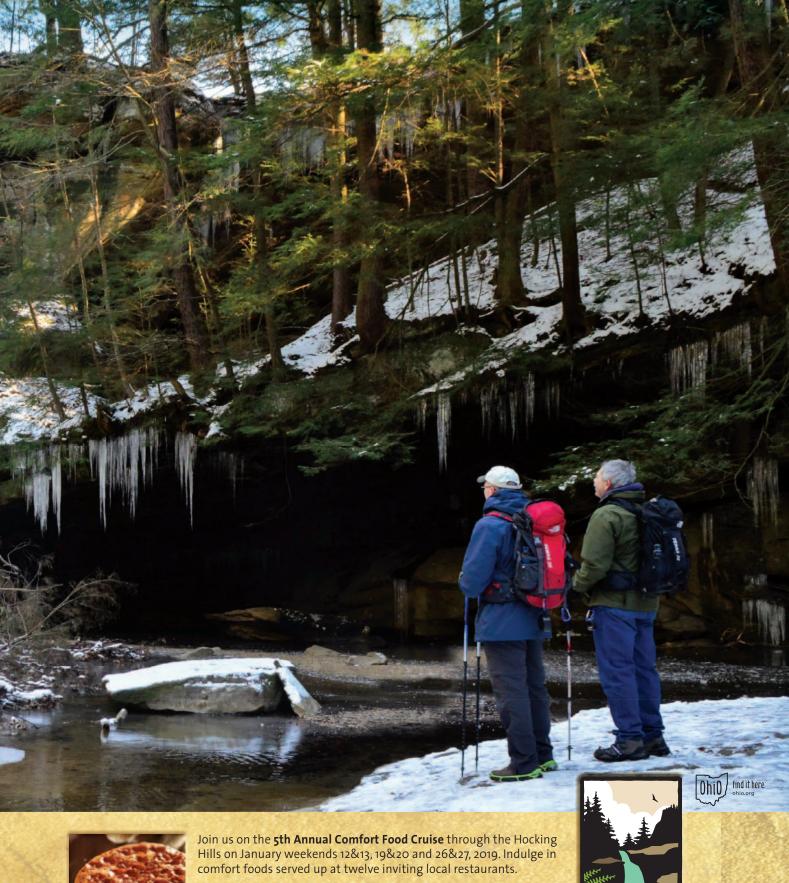




Travelers from around the globe are discovering the natural beauty of Ohio's Hocking Hills in autumn. Marked by stunning craggy caves and frozen waterfalls, this one-of-kind destination boasts extraordinary experiences, from outdoor adventures through to pampering spas and fully-loaded luxury cabins. Galleries and antique malls pepper the hills and stargazers will love exploring some of Ohio's darkest night skies at the newly opened John Glenn Astronomy Park.



Shop for unique holiday gifts during the 4th Annual Hocking Hills Holiday Treasure Hunt and enter to win one of more than 25 prizes.





You'll find all this and more in the Hocking Hills. Ohio's Natural Crown Jewels.

Hocking Hills

To get your free visitor's guide and find out more about the Comfort Cruise and Treasure Hunt call or click: 1-800-Hocking | ExploreHockingHills.com

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AN URBAN OASIS

goes downtown.

Branson is known as the Las Vegas of the Ozarks.

MICHIGAN'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Take time to celebrate the season in

Where time is an abstract concept and

Vancouver is where the great outdoors

Making magical memories in

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Michigan this winter.

Cover: Old Man's Cave, Hocking Hills Ohio







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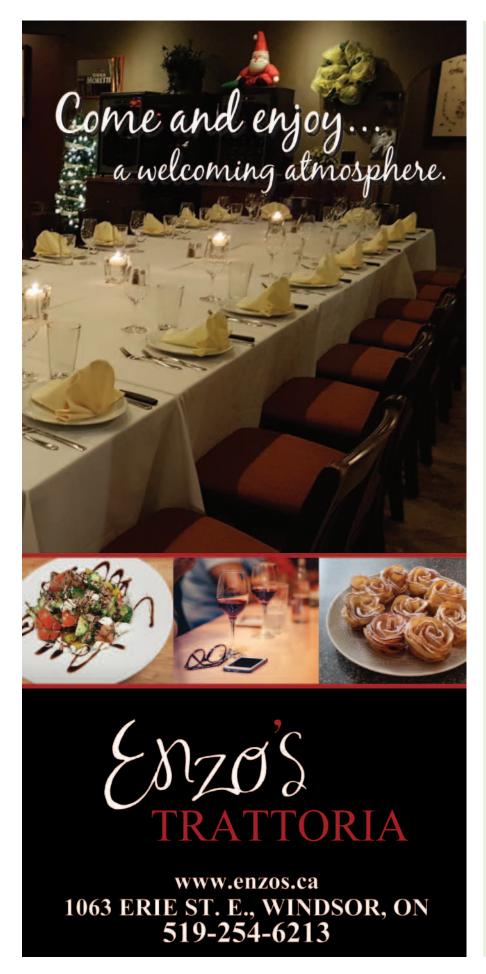
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Grossings

EDITORIAL

Publisher AJR Publishing

Managing Editor Renu Saggar

Art Director Wayne Mansfield

Assistant Editor Adelina Irvine

Contributing Editors Parker Zone
Gail Mero-O'Neil

ADVERTISING

National Sales Renu Saggar

I455 Normandy LaSalle, ON N9I 3NI

 Phone:
 519-969-7646

 Fax:
 519-969-1066

 Email:
 Renu_Crossings@hotmail.com

AIR PUBLISHING INC.

President Renu Saggar
Office Manager Adelina Irvine

Email: Adelinalrvine@hotmail.ca

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Old Man's Cave In Winter

Head for the Hocking Hills Ohio's natural crown jewels

Scott Fitzgerald once wrote "Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall." Is there a time of year more magical than fall and winter? Spectacular autumn colors set the landscape ablaze. The smoky smell of a camp fire fills the air along with laughter and stories of the day floating on a breeze. Lucky you, you're in the Hocking Hills.

The natural crown jewels of Ohio are located a mere four and a half hours from some of the US and Canadian borders.

Ohio's most visited state park, *Hocking Hills State Park* welcomes more than four million visitors a year with the majority coming to enjoy family vacations, girlfriend getaways, romantic rendezvous and a reinvigorating return to nature during the summer months and fall color season. When the chilly days and nights of winter descend on the Hills the real magic begins.

Here's the quintessential Hocking Hills winter getaway. Begin by finding the perfect accommodations. The Hocking Hills is best known for the natural beauty of the region and there is definitely too much to experience in a day. Over the past decades hundreds of cabins, cottages and lodges have been tucked into the Hills providing any size group with your personal resort.

Whether it's just you and your sweetheart or a reunion of the whole family there is beautifully appointed lodging perfect for you. Cabin might be a bit misleading. The cabins have a rustic elegance with all the comforts of home and a few you might not have at home like a hot tub on a private deck and a cozy fireplace and fire pit. Your four-legged family members will also be made to feel right at home.

So now you know where you will lay your happy head each night. Time to get familiar with the main attraction. The Hocking Hills State Park is made up of seven non-contiguous parks, including one State Nature Preserve and the new *John Glenn Astronomy Park*. In winter these parks become other-worldly. Waterfalls freeze in suspended animation and sandstone cave walls boldly wear ice beards. Hemlock tree branches create snow canopies as the essence of serenity fills the cool air.

The holiday season ushers in the enchanted season in the Hills. From November to December 12th, go on a treasure hunt. The *Annual Hocking Hills Holiday Treasure Hunt* features more than twenty-five locally owned shops and galleries. Each participating shop provides a prize. Treasure hunters who collect six

BY RENU SAGGAR

different stickers from any of the participating shops are entered in the drawing for one of the prizes including a grand prize getaway for four.

How about a nostalgic small-town holiday tradition? The *Logan Christmas Parade* on December 1st, will remind you of your childhood as Santa arrives in all his splendor. If you prefer a natural holiday tradition don't miss *Christmas in Ash Cave*, in mid-December. Bring the kiddos. Santa will be there along with carolers. Make holiday gifts for critters by coating pinecones with peanut butter and bird seed to hang in the trees.

Make a New Year's resolution to have some fun. In January, you can go on a guilt free comfort food cruise. The annual *Hocking Hills Comfort Food Cruise* features authentic, locally made comfort foods on Saturdays and Sundays, January 12 to 27. This is a real guilt-free food cruise, because as you go from restaurant to restaurant, there are plenty of stunning spots to stop and take a hike. You can burn off the biscuits and gravy, or build up an appetite for a decadent dessert.

If one of your resolutions for the new year is to test your endurance, don't miss the opportunity to hike the *Grandma Gatewood Trail* at the annual *Winter Hike* on January 19th. This six-mile trek traverses hills, gorges, prehistoric caves and the most spectacular scenery you can imagine.

After testing your endurance head to town. Logan is the Hocking Hills' hometown. Following the Winter Hike join the locals for *Logan Frozen Festival*. There are dozens of ice sculptures, ice games, an iceless skating rink, ice carving demonstrations, live music, great local restaurants and food trucks.

There are plenty of shops and galleries featuring the works of local artists and craftsmen open year-round. Lift your spirits on Friday and Saturday evenings at a local brewery or winery and enjoy great bands, many of which are local legends.

Ohio's natural crown jewels never shine quite as bright as they do during the soft season.

Visit ExploreHockingHills.com to begin your magical adventure.



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Holiday celebration in Wooster

Ohio is Awesome

utumn in Ohio is undeniably awesome. When the heat of summer gives way to shorter days and cool nights, the trees are aflame with beautiful colors, and cooler temperatures make outdoor activities more enjoyable. Ohio's sheer diversity makes it ideal for a leisurely vacation or weekend getaways. Many towns host harvest festivals featuring old-fashioned, homespun fun — with everything from small towns, to apple fairs and Christmas villages.



Castle Noel in Medina

Medina County

Medina County is a great place to be during the fall. Visit the area farms, parks, historical societies, and shops and experience for yourself all that Medina has to offer this fall. Visit the many unique shops and outlets this holiday season. You can find gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list in Medina County's small towns. Whether you are just window shopping or looking for decorative ideas and gifts, Medina will

make your visit a unique experience.

Castle Noel is a one-of-a-kind holiday entertainment complex. The museum features America's largest collection of Christmas movie props, set pieces and costumes along with NYC department store Christmas window displays, including those from Bloomingdale's, Sax Fifth Avenue, Macy's and Lord and Taylor. Walk through the Blizzard Vortex, or stroll through the 'I Had That' Toyland Experience and find the toys you remember as a child. Feel what Santa feels when he drops down the chimney when you walk through the Santa Squeeze. Located in the lower level, meet the aliens in a Freaky 3D, black-light, 18-hole mini golf course. Open weekends all year but starting November 16th six days a week. It's fun for the whole family!

Nearby, is *High Voltage Indoor Karting* with an electric go-kart track. New is *Scene75* in Brunswick with mini-golf, karting, laser tag and arcade games.

Medina County also has many unique holiday events throughout the season, for example, the *Candlelight Walk in Medina*, November 16-18; and *Christmas on the Ranch* at Creek Bend Ranch, December 1&2. For kids, stop at *Spring Mist Farms* and enjoy a *Candy Cane Christmas*. There are many more events for you to see and do.

Medina County is a family-fun location near Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. For more information about Medina, go to www.visitmedinacounty.com.

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Enjoy the beautifully decorated shops of Wayne County this holiday season. Watch Santa arrive in Downtown Wooster on Nov. 16 and you may see him again in Orrville on Nov. 23 for their Home for the Holidays. The Dalton Holidays Festival is Dec. 1-2.



www.wccvb.com 1.800.362.6474









Ohio is Awesome

Lake County

Lake County is one of Ohio's hidden treasures. There are miles of quiet Lake Erie shoreline dotted with New England style fishing villages. Relax in 28 parks including the breathtaking *Lake Erie Bluffs* or Ohio's largest winery district.

Ohio's smallest county is also home to blue chip attractions like the *James A. Garfield National Historic Site*, home of America's 20th President and *Historic Kirtland Village*, a restored 19th century village that features a Holiday Nativity Show with 700 crèche's. *Holden Arboretum* is a 3,600-acre paradise of flowers and trees, with quiet walking trails bordered by flora from all over the world.

Fairport Harbor, a village located 30 miles east of Cleveland, is home to two lighthouses and two museums.

If you travelling south for the winter or just looking for an easy, close to home weekend getaway, Lake County, Ohio is your destination. Stay in a distinctive Victorian B&B, or the Frank Lloyd Wright Vacation Rental House. Not a museum, or open to the public, the Wright House

is located in the forested suburb of Willoughby Hills. From the comments left in the guest book, visitors call it an existential experience.

On a grander scale, nothing compares with the *Steele Mansion Inn* in Painsville. Constructed in 1867, the lovingly restored French Second Empire Inn has sixteen luxurious rooms, each with its own distinctive décor. Once scheduled for demolition, the mansion is now a designated Ohio historic landmark.

Fitzgerald's Bed & Breakfast is ranked as one of the top 15 B&B's in North America. The restored 16 room French Tudor property features an 11-foot fireplace, castle-like architecture, and Irish hospitality and cuisine.

The *Riders Inn* in Painesville, and *Home-stead House B&B* near leafy downtown Willoughby, are two more good options.

Two B&B's near Ohio's largest concentration of wineries are *The Lost Pearl Inn*, and *His Majesty's B&B*, both in Madison, the later offering personalized wine tours in the Grand River Valley Wine Region.

Lake County, including nearby Geneva, is home to Ohio's largest concentrations of wineries. One of the newest Lake County vintners is *Laurentia Vineyards*

in Madison, housed in an extraordinary rustic, but luxurious log cabin style building, surrounded by acres of peaceful vineyards and a lake.

For more information go to MyLakeOH.com

Wayne County

Are you 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 villages of Wayne County, Ohio. It's a place where you can shop in a relaxed stress-free atmosphere and experience Christmas Shopping the way it was meant to be. Shop Downtown Wooster, where parking spaces are as abundant as the many shops who call this historic main street community home.

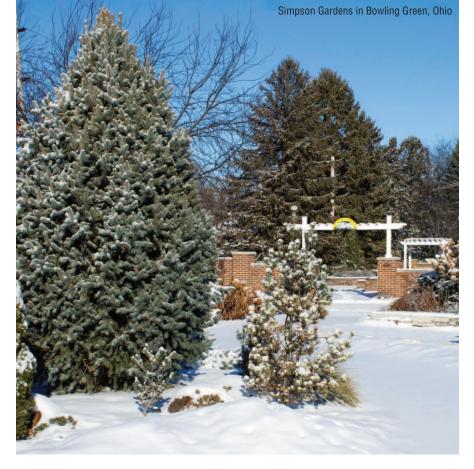
Enjoy the "unwrapping" of the Christmas windows on November 16th as the Downtown Merchants celebrate *Window Wonderland* and the arrival of Santa. Just south of Wooster is the *Pine Tree Barn*, an historic 1868 landmark barn and 200-acre Christmas Tree Farm. You'll find beautiful gifts, home furnishings, a year-round Christmas shop and a gourmet luncheon restaurant. Take a horse-drawn wagon into the field to cut your own tree!

Stop in the small towns and villages for that special holiday experience. Located near or along the historic Lincoln Highway, you'll find the *J.M. Smucker Company Store and Café* in Orrville. Smucker's jams and jellies have been proudly made here for over 100-years. The *P. Graham Dunn Retail Gallery* in Dalton, invites you to their showroom for inspirational wood décor that can be personalized. Don't miss *Lehman's Hardware* in Kidron, offering creative solutions for a simpler life.

The village of Smithville boasts many fine shops in the *Barn Restaurant Complex*, including the *Oak Cupboard General Store* and *Toyrifix Specialty Toy Store*, where it is rumored that the shelves are stocked by Santa's elves.

The village of Shreve invites you to stroll its main street and shop at an *Old Fashioned Hardware Store*, for that hard to find gift for the man on your list. Next door you'll find the *Des Dutch Essenhaus Restaurant*, *Quilt Shop*, & *Bakery*, stocked with tasty cookies and cinnamon rolls.

Visit the Wayne County Convention & Visitors Bureau on line at www.wccvb.com for a complete list of holiday shops and events in their area, or to request a printed guide.



Bowling Green

Bowling Green is putting its best foot forward to host holiday events and experiences just for you! Bowling Green was named a Best Hometown by Ohio Magazine for the second time for the 2017-2018 year. Visitors will be welcomed with special events in the historic downtown which will be all decked out for the holidays!

No matter what your shopping style, you are certain to find that one-of-a-kind piece you have been looking for at one of the downtown retailers. Stop in at one of their local eateries and re-discover an old favorite or try something new. There are a variety of restaurants to suite any taste and budget.

Kick off the season with the lighting of the community tree on the lawn of the Wood County Library at 7 p.m. on November 16th. On November 17th. the Best Hometown Holiday Parade will get started downtown at 10 a.m. Floats, marching bands, groups, lots of candy and of course, Santa himself will be in Bowling Green to help kick off the holiday season. Celebrate Shop Small Saturday November 24th with holiday shopping & dining specials across the downtown area. Santa will be at the Four Corners Center at 130 S. Main St. from 11 to 1 p.m. for pictures and plenty of crafts and entertainment to choose from.

Travelling South? Located just off I-75, 25 miles south of Toledo, Bowling Green is the perfect stopover for Canadian Snowbirds on their way to, and from Florida or any other destination. Bowling Green has a variety of lodging properties located right off the highway, and a vibrant downtown full of shopping and dining awaits you. So stay in Bowling Green to discover why it is the best! For more information visit their website at VisitBGOhio.com.

Portsmouth & Scioto County

Located at the confluence of the Ohio, Scioto, and Little Scioto rivers, Portsmouth and Scioto County occupies one of the Ohio's most scenic stretches. Visitors can follow the road along the Ohio River, to Alexandria Point, where the Ohio and Scioto Rivers meet.

Spend some time browsing the antique and specialty shops in Portsmouth's historic *Boneyfiddle District*. The area, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, recalls of the town it was in the 1860's. Stop in at *Portsmouth Brewing Company* for a craft beer and some pub

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Ohio is Awesome

grub, or the *Second Street Dari Creme*, a hot dog stand famous for their "footers."

The Portsmouth Area Jaycees' 80th Annual Christmas Parade will be held downtown on November 15th. Kick off your holiday shopping at the *Main Street Portsmouth Holiday Open House*. The charming shops and boutiques are open November 18th and December 2nd and will feature special events, promotions, and refreshments. On December 14th, tour the historic churches of Portsmouth, with music and snacks in the Courthouse.

The Southern Ohio Museum occupies a handsome Beaux Arts style building on Gallia Street in the heart of Portsmouth's downtown. Among its collections is "Art of the Ancients," 10,000 prehistoric Native American objects from the Charles and William Wertz Collection. A horseshoe-shaped Indian burial ground is located in Mound Park, on 17th St. Six miles from town is Tremper Mound, where the famous Indian "stone pipe" artifacts were first discovered.

Mural artist *Robert Dafford* began painting murals on the city's floodwalls in 1993. Today there are sixty, 20-foot-tall murals that span the history of the area,

from the ancient mound building Adena and Hopewell cultures, to modern sporting events and notable natives like Roy Rogers and Shawnee leader Tecumseh.

This stunning visual representation of the area's rich history is arranged in chronological order.

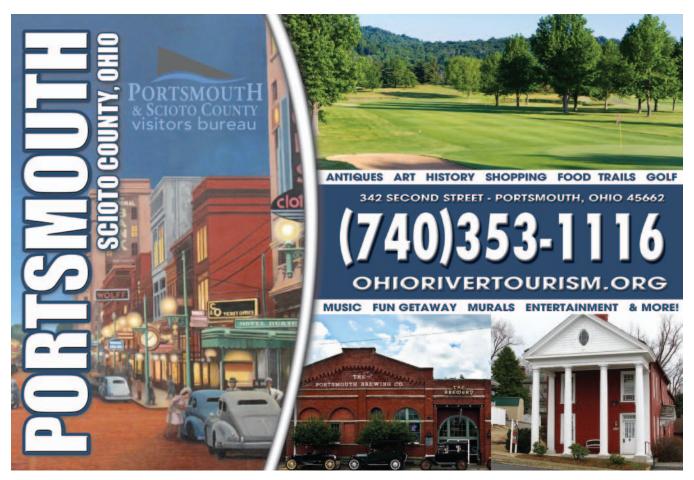
Nestled in the bosom of the *Shawnee State Forest*, the region is a mecca for outdoor lovers. Travel through the woods on well-marked trails and discover wildflower-filled glades, and scenic vistas with phenomenal views from every vantage

point.

Explore the solar system and the galaxy at the *Clark Planetarium*. Located at Shawnee State University, it was the first in the country to install the Konica Minolta Mediaglobe II system. Not only does this system project a realistic view of the night-time sky, it can also show the explosive death of a star, or a journey inside a living cell.

For more information visit Portsmouth-Scioto County Visitors Bureau at portsmouthoh.org.





Fripp Island Golf & Beach Resort

ocated in the lowcountry of South Carolina, Fripp Island, is a serene barrier island and the perfect escape for those looking to get away from the cold, northern winter. With two championship golf courses and 3 1/2 miles of uncrowded, unspoiled beaches, Fripp Island Golf & Beach Resort offers a vacation and golf experience you'll always remember.

Named one of the "100 Best Golf Resorts in North America" by Links Magazine, Fripp Island

Beach & Golf Resort boasts two of the most spectacular golf courses in America. *Ocean Point*, designed by George Cobb, offers dramatic views of the Atlantic, and the rare chance to play an authentic links-style course. This seaside masterpiece features beautifully manicured fairways and well-bunkered greens that place a premium on accurate iron play. Ocean breezes require careful club selection and both the front and back nine finish against a backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean.

Ocean Creek was golf great Davis Love III's first signature course. Four distinct rolling dune lines and ridges climb as high as 15 feet, as they corkscrew across the fairways, so you'll need to bring your "A" game.



Fripp Island boasts two, spectacular golf courses

Even if you don't golf, there is plenty to do. With eight fast-dry and two hard courts, tennis and pickleball are year round sports at Fripp as well. The *Nature and Activity Center* is run by a knowledgeable staff, who can both entertain and educate you while exploring the island by bike, trail or kayak. As a Certified Wildlife Habitat and an Audubon Important Area, you'll find an abundance of wildlife here. In addition to the plentiful deer,

Fripp Island is home to over 100 species of birds.

Just a short drive down the road is Beaufort. Topping many top 10 travel lists, this historic town has a vibrant arts community. The narrow streets of the city's historic district are lined with centuries-old, moss-draped live oaks. Even closer is St. Helena, which is home to *The Penn Center* and vibrant Gullah culture.

Offering comfortable, well-equipped vacation rentals from one to eight bedrooms, the resort can be your winter home away from home. Come experience all that Fripp Island Resort has to offer and you will fall in love with the hospitality and quiet splendor of the South Carolina lowcountry.

Fripp Isl

Visit them online at frippislandresort.com.



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

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Coral Medical Health Spa

OTOX® Cosmetic® is an approved, safe prescription drug which is used to reduce or minimize facial wrinkles in the area(s) it is applied. The treatment involves very tiny injections into the muscles under the skin in order to temporarily relax the muscles. This will prevent the muscles from fully contracting and this will minimize wrinkling typically associated with negative expressions such as: worry, anger or stressed appearance.

How does it work?

BOTOX® works to stop the information transfer that occurs between your nerves and your muscles. It does this by blocking the release of acetylcholine, which is the substance that transmits information and as a result, the muscle doesn't receive the message to contract. This means the muscle spasms stop or are greatly reduced after a BOTOX® treatment, providing predictable and reliable relief from symptoms.

What is Juvederm?

Juvederm is soft injectable filler made from hyaluronic acid which creates volume in the face giving it a healthy and youthful appearance. A naturally occurring substance found in your body, Juvederm adds volume to reduce the appearance of wrinkles, sagging skin and thinning lips. Juvederm is best used in the mid to deep dermis for the correction of moderate to severe facial wrinkles. Hyaluronic acid injections have also been shown to stimulate collagen production. The results are instant, look natural and treatments take less than an hour. How does Juvederm Filler Work?

Juvederm filler is injected into the skin with an ultra-fine needle. It combines with water in your skin to instantly restore lost volume, smooth out lines and wrinkles and enhance lips. Juvederm is the first approved hyaluronic acid dermal filler with demonstrated safety and effectiveness in people of colour descent. In addition, Juvederm includes Lidocaine freezing within the substance to instantly numb the area on contact. This makes the treatment much more comfortable to the patient and nearly pain free!



Champion Boxer & UFC Coach Kara Ro before and after treatment



Dr. Zoia Sherman, MD

What are Juvederm's advantages?

There are many benefits to injectable filler treatments including smoothing the lines around your mouth & nose, enhancing the size and shape of your lips, reducing crow's feet and laugh lines and filling out your cheeks. Juvederm is virtually painless, has instantaneous results has a smooth consistency for natural results and is effective for all skin types. When you come in for your individual assessment and extensive consultation with Dr. Sherman, she will use her 15 years of expertise to formulate the perfect customized treatment for you!

What do actural Coral clients have to say about their injectable treatments?

"I highly recommend Dr Sherman and the team at Coral Medical Health Spa. I can not believe the difference in my skin from dark spots and fine line removal to facials and skin care products that match my skin type. My face has never looked better. People always say, there is no way you are 42 and that is just within the last year I have been working with Coral. I am so grateful for the years they have given back to me Thanks for everything amazing Coral Team."

— Kara Ro Former World Champion Professional Boxer, UFC Pro Coach, Radio Show Host, mother of 2

All BOTOX® and Juvederm Filler treatments are performed by Dr. Zoia Sherman, MD. Dr. Sherman is a licensed General Practitioner, with special interests in the practice of Women's Health and Cosmetic Medicine and is a board certified Anti-Aging and Functional Medicine Specialist. In addition to being Coral's owner, founder and medical director, Dr. Sherman has practiced with Injectables such as BOTOX® Cosmetic and Juvederm Filler treatments for over 15 years.

Help with Migraines and TMJ

Yes! BOTOX® is approved for and widely used for medical purposes to control muscle spasms and treat migraine headaches, TMJ, teeth grinding & clenching and neck spasms (Torticolis). As well as Excessive Sweating (Hyperhidrosis) in areas such as the hands, feet, groin, face and underarms.

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An Enchanted Mountain Fall & Winter

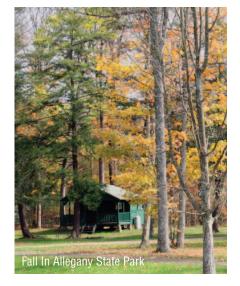
'Tis The Season in Cattaraugus County New York

hen summer turns to fall and the days grow shorter the Enchanted Mountains of Western NY will still leave visitors with a warm feeling.

There is still time for a weekend getaway at *Allegany State Park*, with great fall fishing. Visitors are also welcome to hunt but must first receive a hunting permit at the Park Police Station. The thick woodlands yield some of the largest bucks in the region.

No matter what the weather, the weekend will be full of adventures, outdoor activities and family togetherness. The weather is usually good into November and December and you can still hike, bike, and picnic. When the weather does turn cold, you can try XC Skiing. There are over 20 miles of groomed trails in the Art Roscoe Trail System. Rentals are available at the Summit Mountain Shop. Options for cabins range from full scale kitchens and bathrooms to ol' fashion rustic style.

Follow the *Amish Trail* for unique gifts for the Holiday Season. Why stress out at the malls and department stores, when you can take your time and find an enjoyable shopping experience? Drive



BY **ADELINA IRVINE**

from Amish home to Amish home, finding quality hand-crafted items including furniture, warm quilts, jams, jellies, candies, iron works, toys and more.

Small Business Saturday is on November 24th. There are many unique shops that offer so much more than large department stores. If you're the type of person who likes to give thoughtful, purposeful

gifts, then be sure to check out the yearly blog (EnchantedMountains.com/Blog) on where to shop this year.

Lots of festivals take place that weekend as well, including Olean's Santa Claus Lane Parade, November 23rd. Ellicottville has their Christmas Celebrations Nov. 23rd-25th. Don't forget that's just the start! Gowanda, Salamanca, Allegany State Park, and Randolph all hold their Christmas events the following weekend of November 30th-December 2nd. For a list of the hometown events, see EnchantedMountains.com/events.

Winter means hitting the slopes! Plan ahead and take advantage of the lower ticket prices before the season starts at Holiday Valley and Holimont. A winter wonderland, Ellicottville also offers exquisite dining, eclectic shopping, and fun night life. The Mountain Coaster is open whether there is snow or not, so plan on trying this thrilling ride down the side of one of the hills, as you zigzag and spiral your way all the way to the bottom! Not a skier or boarder? There's tubing at Holiday Valley Tubing Co., scenic nature walks through the Nannen Arboretum or even indoor fun with bowling at Tim N'Bonnies restaurant and bowling alley.

Make it a point to visit area museums, galleries and stage productions like the Regina A. Quick Center's "Broadway's Next Hit Musical," or Southern Tier Symphony's "Music from the Movies". Area theatrical companies include Olean Community Theater, Olean Theater Workshop, and the Ray Evans Seneca Theatre. Upcoming shows include "West Side Story", "Little Women", and "Cabaret Christmas".

The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts, is a world class museum, located on the campus of St. Bonaventure University. The museum is free, open to the public and in addition to its changing exhibits, hosts performances throughout the year.

Try your luck at the *Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino* and take in one of their exciting performances at the Events Center. This year brings Donnie and Marie's Holiday Tour, as well as Jewel's Handmade Holiday Tour.

This fall and early winter, come see this serene, peaceful region located just a short distance from Niagara Falls and Buffalo. For Free maps, or the Cattaraugus County Activities Guide, visit them at EnchantedMountains.com.









Explore the Enchanted Mountains by snowmobile this winter season on the 425+ miles of snowmobiling trails.

Discover a winter wonderland at Allegany State Park's Art Roscoe Cross Country Ski Trails, which includes 20+ miles of groomed trails.

Snowshoeat Pfeiffer Nature Center where the views are sure to captivate you.

Learn more about Cattaraugus County at **EnchantedMountains.com** or

call 1-800-331-0543.







Photos: Aaron Peterson for Travel Marquette

Making Magic in Marquette

Fall & Winter in the heart of Upper Michigan

arquette County is located in the heart of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The rugged Huron Mountain range and Lake Superior shoreline define the landscape, making it the perfect place to linger and enjoy all types of outdoor activities.

Fall is when Mother Nature puts on her best show and Marquette offers a picturesque setting to take in autumn's splendor.

Bike along 47 miles of the *Iron Ore Heritage Trail*, a paved route that stretches along tree-lined paths that are resplendent in fall color. Experience amazing vistas from the peaks of Sugarloaf, Hogback and Top-of-the-World mountains. Park and go from well-marked trailheads and catch a bird's eye view of the color show.

January is full of family-friendly festivities, including the *Heikki Lunta Winter Festival* in downtown Negaunee. Crosscountry ski, snowshoe, bike or skijor the scenic and serene Noquemanon trails during the *Noquemanon Ski Marathon*, January 25-27. Watch the exciting start of the February 15-17 *UP200*, in downtown Marquette as 12-dog teams take off into the night on a 230-mile race from

Marquette to Grand Marais, and back.

Adventures of the culinary kind are always easy to find in Marquette County. Choose fine dining as well as a variety of ethnic menus and locally sourced cuisine, including fresh whitefish. Restaurants located downtown and along Third Street in Marquette, are locally owned and independently operated, spicing up the county's food scene. And visit the popular

dining establishments of Negaunee and Ishpeming. Be sure to try an authentic U.P. pasty during your visit!

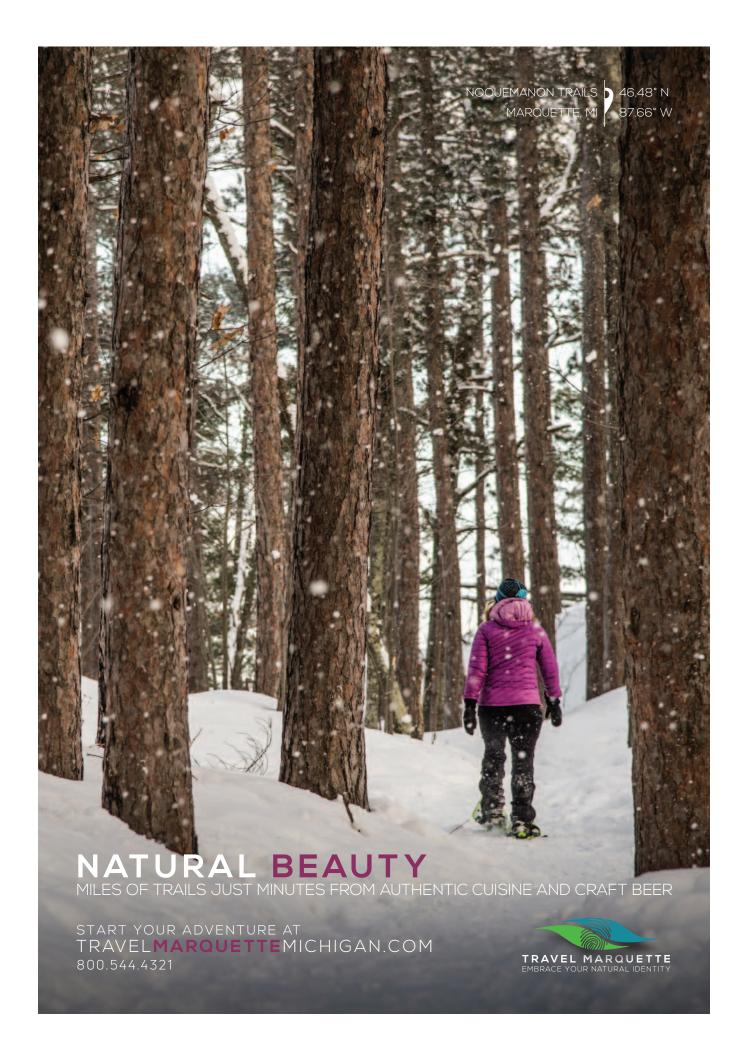
European splendor and charm meet modern convenience at the historic *Landmark Inn* in downtown Marquette. Amelia Earhart, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and The Rolling Stones have been among its guests. Following a meticulous renovation, the grand architecture and interiors remain, complemented by a fresh, up-to-date ambiance ideally suited for modern travelers. Dining options include inspired Northern Italian fare at the Piedmont, and the rooftop North Star Lounge, which offers floor-to-ceiling views of the city skyline and Lake Superior.

Set aside time in your travels to visit sites dedicated to preserving the story of Marquette County. In the city, spend time at the Regional History Center. Visit the statue of Father Marquette, the Jesuit explorer from the 1600's and Marquette County's namesake. Linger at the Marquette Maritime Museum and Harbor Lighthouse. In Ishpeming, explore the fascinating Cliffs Shaft Mining Museum and take in the Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Travel anytime to Marquette County. Stay awhile where the deep blue of Lake Superior meets the shimmering Northern Lights. Where lodging accommodations exceed your expectations, all within minutes of city or woodland adventures. Where delectable cuisine is served with craft beer coaxed from the purest ingredients.

Embrace your natural identity in Marquette County, Michigan. Plan your adventure at TravelMarquetteMichigan.com.







Flint & Genesee County Creating a Flurry of Holiday and Winter Fun

lint & Genesee provide spaces and places to discover something new, come together with family and friends, and reconnect with the past throughout fall and winter. The area is experiencing a renaissance with recently added and renovated attractions, shopping and dining developments.

All is Bright

The Whiting is a performing arts venue located on the Flint Cultural Center campus. Each year, the 2,043 seat theater hosts the Flint Symphony Orchestra, performances presented by Flint Youth Theatre and The Whiting Presents Broadway hits, touring musical and dance groups and guest artists from around the world. A major renovation in 1999 restored The Whiting to its former glory, combining the charm and grace of old European theaters with the beauty and comfort of modern day.

They provide facilities, programs and services to promote and support the presentation of the best regional, national and international performing artists.

The lights are back on in Flint's *Capitol Theatre*. The historic downtown venue re-opened last December, after a \$37 million restoration. Built in the Italian Renaissance style, it was designed to resemble a Roman garden. One ceiling in the 90-year-old building recreates

the outer vestibule of the Vatican's St. Peter's Basilica. Today, the 1,600-seat theatre looks much like it did when it first opened in 1928.

Now operated by nonprofits The Whiting and Uptown Reinvestment Corp. Mid-Michigan's premiere performing arts venues showcase the highest quality

BY RENU SAGGAR

live shows, including touring Broadway shows, ballet and modern dance and award winning family shows.

This season's lineup includes the DRUMLine Live Holiday Spectacular December 6th,Russian National Ballet's Sleeping Beauty January 10th, RENT – January 25th & 26th, Cirque Mechanics 42 FT – January 31st all at the Whiting and Classic Albums Live – The Eagles Hotel California January 18th, at the Capitol. For tickets and more information on upcoming shows visit thewhiting.com.

The Flint Institute of Arts, Michigan's second-largest art institute recently expanded with its Hot Shop, a glassblowing arena and Contemporary Craft Wing, featuring stunning glass and ceramic pieces.

Baby, It's Cold Outside

Fall and winter are cool in Flint & Genesee with recreation and sports options throughout the seasons. Bring your skis or snowshoes and explore our Genesee County Parks or participate in one of their upcoming events including a superherothemed race for kids and families. You can be fit and jolly this winter when you join the YMCA of Greater Flint's Santa Run. This 5K Fun Run/Walk and one-mile walk around downtown Flint is perfect for any runner, walker or family in the mood for holiday fun outdoors. Registration includes a five-piece Santa suit.





Nearby Mt. Holly Ski & Snowboard Resort offers ski and snowboard rentals for use on 19 trails ranging from beginner to advanced.

Looking for something indoors? Our OHL Flint Firebirds turn up the heat as the temperature drops. Be sure to catch a game! Check out Planet 3 Extreme Air Park, an indoor trampoline park just minutes away from Genesee Valley Center.

Fall & Winter Family Fun

Spend some quality family time together in Flint & Genesee. At the Flint Children's Museum where children and adults alike can satisfy their curiosity and get playful through immersive handson exhibits.

One of mid-Michigan's favorite holiday family traditions, Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad features a turn-ofthecentury Christmas where you can stroll through historic buildings and experience

Christmas magic of yore. With more than 34 historic structures, visitors experience first-hand what life was like in a small village in Michigan in the late 1800s. In addition, the Huckleberry Railroad is decked out for the holidays to take visitors on a festive nighttime ride.

In nearby Holly, you can visit the Dickens Festival, a celebration of Victorian Christmas traditions. The Holly Dickens Festival is open weekends throughout late-November to December.

For more information or help planning your trip, visit www.flintandgensee.com.

The Sloan Museum offers two locations filled with entertaining and educational experiences that will surprise and inspire. Visit the original Sloan Museum in the Flint Cultural Center, as well as a new exhibition space, just four miles down the road at Courtland Center Mall.

Now through January 6, 2019, experience roaring, moving, animatronic dinosaurs at the new Courtland Center Mall location. Dinosaurs Unearthed features over 15 animatronic behemoths. These striking reproductions of feathered fossils give credence to the theory that dinosaurs are the ancestors of modern birds-not reptiles as previously thought. Come face-to-face with a life-size juvenile T. Rex—accurate to scientific findings that it was covered in downy protofeathers from the time of its hatching through adolescence.

Over 30 vehicles from Sloan Museum's automotive collection also are on display

at Courtland Center Mall, including concept cars, trucks, and classic cars dating from the early 1900s to the late 1980s.

All of these vehicles have historic ties to Flint and Genesee County.

At Sloan Museum's original Flint Cultural Center location, visitors can explore a new traveling exhibit, RACE: Are We So Different?open through December 9, 2018. The exhibit examines the science of human variation, the history of the idea of race, and the contemporary experience of race and racism in the United States. Dozens of interactive videos, artifacts and opportunities for written reflection help visitors engage with thought-provoking information.

Of course, the Sloan Museum experience isn't complete without a stroll through the Flint history galleries, chronicling the people and industry of this scrappy rust-belt town, from the Flint Sit Down Strike, to the Arsenal of Democracy and beyond. Over 600 artifacts and photographs are on display, including rare antique automobiles, colorful neon signs, period clothing, household furnishings and commercial goods. Plan your visit at SloanMuseum.org. 🖾





Located on the beautiful Flint Cultural Center campus in Genesee County, Michigan 1221 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48503 | 810.237.3400 | SloanLongway.org



FLINT & MID-MICHIGAN'S PREMIER PERFORMING ARTS VENUE

RUSSIAN NATIONAL BALLET SLEEPING BEAUTY THURSDAY, JANUARY 10 @ 7:30PM

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE PRESENTS THE EAGLES HOTEL CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 @ 7:30PM @ CAPITOL THEATRE

RENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25 @ 8PM & SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 @ 2PM & 8PM

CIRQUE MECHANICS' 42FT THURSDAY, JANUARY 31 @ 7:30PM

ARTS MIDWEST WORLD FEST ONDEKOZA FROM JAPAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7 @ 7PM

AQUILA THEATRE'S A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15 @ 7:30PM @ CAPITOL THEATRE

WE SHALL OVERCOME SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 3PM

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 7PM



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Traverse City. is a winter sports Mecca

Make Tracks to Traverse City

hat makes a town a pretty great place? It's not in the list of attractions, natural beauty or a calendar of events. It's more than that. It's the power of all those attributes combined and how their differences make them all the more magical. Rustic yet refined, locally made though globally focused. On their own, they fall flat. But together, they become magic. They become intangible. They become the making of a pretty great place.

In the intimate seasons of autumn and winter, you can experience Traverse City the way the locals do. It's the time of year when the shopping and dining are more relaxed, and people can take the time to meet over a hot mug in a cozy downtown café. If anything, autumn makes Traverse City's beauty even more memorable; it's a gentler, more nostalgic season here – a time of crisp mornings, golden afternoons and cool, starry evenings. The region's characteristic landscape of rolling ridges, lush forests and wide expanses of open water are the quintessential backdrop for fall color.

Of course, to experience the full rich-

ness of autumn, you have to get out and crunch the leaves, breathe the cool air and smell the spicy aroma of apples and wood smoke. Hike or cycle the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, paddle along Old Mission Peninsula, or head to the green at Michigan's "Golf Coast" – here in the north, we encounter authentic fall beauty.

BY RENU SAGGAR

As winter settles in and the snow falls across this glacier-carved landscape, the entire region becomes a sparkling playground for recreation. More than 200 miles of the country's finest snow shoe, ski and snowmobiling trails are here in the enchanted Boardman and Jordan River valleys and the downhill skiing is a second home for many in the Great Lakes region.

Shoppers are drawn to the city's pedestrian-friendly downtown, where a decade of thoughtful restoration has yielded beautiful results: 150 boutiques, restaurants, galleries and lots of places to relax. (Meanwhile, the Grand Traverse Commons, a former mental asylum, offers shopping and dining adventures of its own.)

As for foodies, they come for Traverse City's fresh, locally-inspired cuisine. The 40+ wineries of the Leelanau and Old Mission peninsulas are a belly-warming compliment to a harvest meal. And they'd be missing the quirk of craft beer without Traverse City's 20 microbreweries, taprooms and distilleries.

But you, what defines your pretty great place? Do you need to stretch your legs, savor a bite or sip the harvest of the 45th Parallel? Come take a rest and discover your intangible.

Get on your way to a pretty great place at traversecity.com.





Park Place Hotel

The elegant downtown Park Place Hotel, is the only hotel and conference facility located in the heart of downtown Traverse City. It's just steps from downtown shops and restaurants, or an easy stroll to the bay and beach. Traverse City's historic, full Service landmark hotel has come to occupy a prominent and cherished role in the area. The gracious accommodations, memorable views, and thoughtful amenities make this a very special place.

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

The Park Place Hotel & Conference Center has a new Conference Center. It's a classically modern facility customized to accommodate a variety of groups.

"This center has brought a new age of conference settings to Traverse City," said Jean Derenzy, CEO of the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority. "The look and spirit of the Park Place and the downtown is embraced."

The *Grandview f*eatures windows along the entire north wall, which are fitted with automatic room darkening shades. It offers suspended projection, and seats 500 attendees. Each half; Grandview I and Grandview II, seat 250. Grandview II can be sectioned into 3 breakout rooms; Front, State and Park, each seating 80.

The Boardman offers a unique curved wall and suspended projection, accommodating 90. Every room features its own temperature control system. Function space is aptly named after its surrounding streets, commemorating the Park Place Hotel & Conference Center's prime loca-

tion in the very heart of Traverse City.

"It not only looks stunning, but the space is so functional," notes Tori Piersante, vice-president of sales, Traverse City Tourism. "It will create a whole new buzz about the Traverse City area."

Also completed in late June, were renovations to the Tower guest rooms, and a new indoor pool facility, complete with whirlpool, splash pad and fitness room. Come experience the Park Place Hotel and Conference Center in beautiful Traverse City, Michigan!

Start planning your visit now by visiting www.park-place-hotel.com.



NEW CONFERENCE CENTER NOW OPEN!

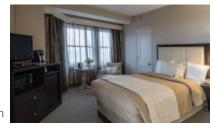


traverse city

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DISCONER Blue





The Bluewater Bridge at night

Along the eastern shores of Michigan lies a collection of communities that are boastful about the color blue. The Lake Huron and the St. Clair River shoreline unites the quaint towns of Clay, Algonac, Marine City, St. Clair, Port Huron, Lexington, Port Sanilac, Harbor Beach and Port Austin. And the waterfront is always something to behold even when the weather turns cooler. Perched along the border with Canada it's the perfect, nearby international destination.

St. Clair ushers in the holiday season with floats, marching bands and the jolly old elf himself during its popular Celebration of Lights and Santa's Lighted Parade on November 16th. Santa pushes the magic button to illuminate the city's official Christmas tree in Palmer Park.

Ring in the holidays during Marine City's Lighted Santa Parade on November 20th. The parade starts at 7 p.m. on S. Water Street and goes to Historic City Hall on Broadway. While you're downtown, take advantage of the great sweet shops, antiques and specialty stores.

The Festival of Trees on December 1st, in Port Huron's Blue Water Convention Center, has become a holiday tradition. Enjoy a visit from Santa, Mrs. Claus and their reindeer along with a children's area that has arts and crafts and cookie decorating. Enjoy local performers that

include singers, dancers and figure skaters.

Santa visits Algonac on an antique decorated tractor during Algonac Santa Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting December 5th. After the parade Santa will light the Christmas Tree at city hall.

Horses have holiday spirit, too! See beautifully decorated horses, buggies and carriages parade through downtown Lexington on December 8th. So saddle up and watch the horses on parade.

For more information visit www.blue-water.org.

River Crab Restaurant & Blue Water Inn

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

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

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

River Crab is operated by Landry's, a leader in the casual restaurant category. The menu is full of fresh seafood, steaks and pastas. Join them for Happy Hour with discounted drinks and appetizers.

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

No matter how you arrive, the end result is the same, unmatched views in a casual, fine dining atmosphere.

Look for special events and promotions on their website www.rivercrabbluewaterinn.com.



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road. Shop 'til you drop at the many unique galleries, shops and boutiques throughout the area. Coldwater Country is also home to Michigan's Antique Capital – Allen, with the largest concentration of antique dealers in the Midwest. The area is home to five stately antique malls, including the *Allen Antique Barn*, boasting two floors of more than 25,000 square feet of treasures.

As the weather cools and the snow falls, the area's lakes offer ice fishermen an opportunity to get outside and breathe in the cold, clean air, then watch that bobber go under water, and anticipate which fish is on the hook.

Plan a winter getaway to Coldwater Country to celebrate the snowy season. The last Saturday of January, Coldwater welcomes the annual *Ice Festival*. Watch as ice carvers dazzle, artistically carving giant blocks of ice. Themed ice sculptures, live ice carving demonstrations, soup cook-off, hot cocoa, live music and a pub crawl make this a fun event.

In February, Coldwater Country's village of Quincy welcomes a weekend of

Come into Coldwater Country

tep back to when life was a slower pace, things less complicated, and find yourself in Coldwater Country. Make memories in the quaint communities of Coldwater, Bronson, Quincy, and Union City. Conveniently located in south-central Michigan along the US-12 Heritage Trail, halfway between Detroit and Chicago, Coldwater Country has many adventures waiting to be explored.

Visitors can escape to one of the more than 100 freshwater lakes. Rent a pontoon or kayak and spend the afternoon floating and taking in the fall color. Anglers will find a hot spot for reeling in the catch of the day. Bluegill, perch, pike, and walleye are among the fish to be caught.

Kids and kids at heart will love the the abundance of fun activities! Ride the the rails on the *Little River Railroad*, or take the kids to *Adventure Zone*, the number one family destination in the tri-state area. Their 3400 square foot Lazer Tag Arena is two stories of fun and excitement for anyone 6 and older. Blast your way to number one by shooting up the competition and destroying their base.



The Santa Train

For an evening of entertainment, *Tibbits Opera House* has become a must-see destination in the area. The historic setting and quality theatrical performances, including holiday favorites like *The Nutcracker*, will bring joy to the holidays. This intimate 500-seat theatre welcomes yearround entertainment from professional theatre and concerts, to community events and children's theatre.

Take your holiday shopping on the

family fun with fishing contests, snow-mobile races, wood cutting contests, craft show, a cornhole tournament and more, all part of the *Quincy Tip-Up Island Festival*.

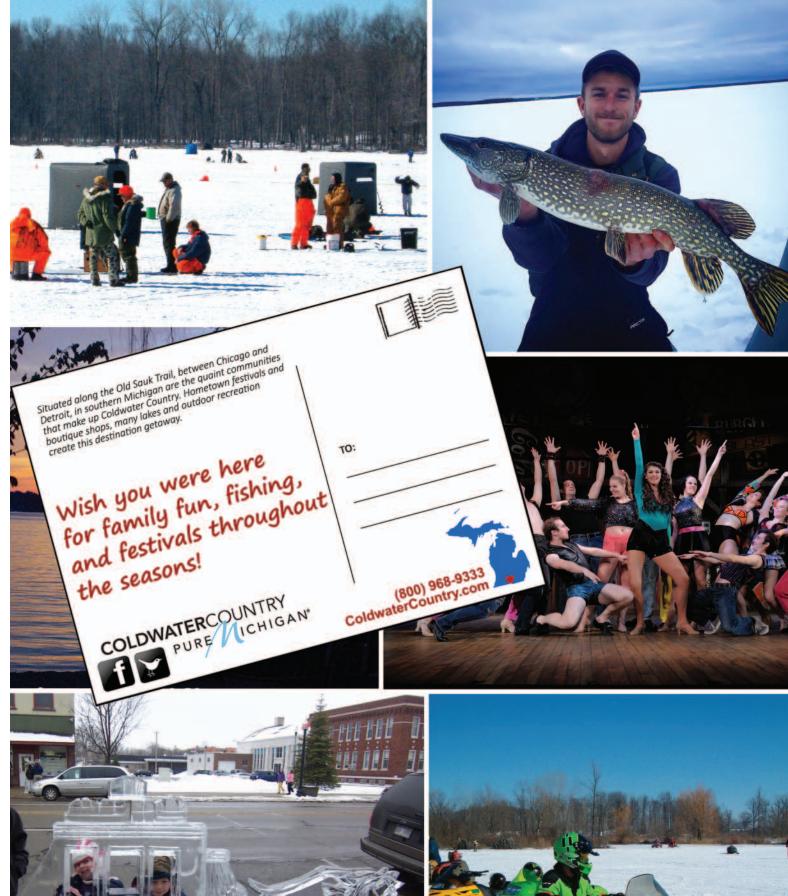
Need an incentive to drop a line this winter? Try it as part of the Free Fishing Weekend, February 16-17, 2019. This annual weekend provides two days where no fishing license is required for residents or non-residents, although all fishing regulations still apply.

After a day on the lake, enjoy some down time followed by a mouth-watering meal at one of Coldwater Country's locally owned diners, restaurants, or pubs. Enjoy the flavors, local scene, and hospitality at one of the area's many destination restaurants.

At the end of a fun-filled day and exciting night on the town, check into one of the many hotels or B&Bs to rest and relax. Stay today and do it again tomorrow and bring the memories back home.

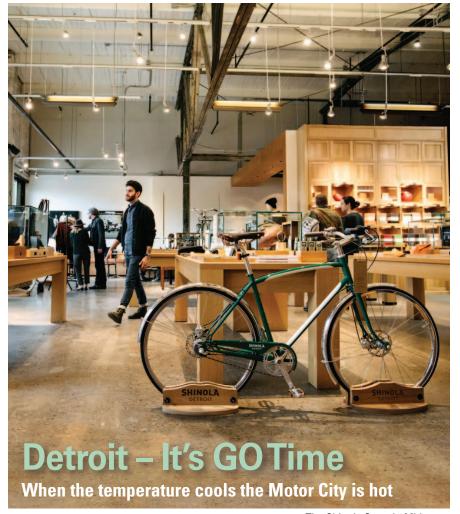
So, whether you're looking for a fun fall getaway, a holiday retreat, or an ice fishing adventure and winter festival, look to Coldwater Country.

Visit ColdwaterCountry.com 🖾









The Shinola Store in Midtown

he weather may be cooling down, yet Detroit continues to turn up the heat as it constantly transforms and continues to wow with big-name shopping, innovative restaurants, new boutique hotels and lots to see and do. In fact, Lonely Planet named Detroit number two in the world "Best In Travel 2018 Top Cities."

It's shopping time

Attention shoppers: Detroit has every shopping style covered, from high-end malls to Michigan's largest indoor outlet center to quaint downtowns. Nike, Under Armour, Moosejaw and Lululemon have all found a home in The D along with numerous boutiques and specialty shops. The Somerset Collection in nearby Troy has high-fashion favorites Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Burberry. Great Lakes Crossing Outlets offers deal hunters all the bargains they can carry from Kate Spade New York Outlet and Michael Kors Outlet. Downtown Birmingham charms with a variety of antique, eclectic and upscale boutiques, including Teacups & Toys, a fashion stop for dogs of all sizes.

It's show time

There's nothing like the energy of a live performance. See Broadway shows

at the spectacular Fisher Theatre, local talent at the Hillberry Theatre or enjoy a night out at the Macomb Center for Performing Arts. The Detroit area boasts a plethora of concerts, clubs and bars. Enjoy a symphony at Orchestra Hall, world-class jazz at Baker's Keyboard Lounge or a good laugh at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle. World Travel Guide stated: "Detroit now has an enviable nightlife."

Campus Martius Tree Lighting



BY RENU SAGGAR

It's indoor-tour time

If the weather isn't agreeable, the fun goes indoors. Take an inside look at Studio A at the Motown Museum, where superstars like Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and Michael Jackson recorded chart-topping hits. The Detroit Institute of Arts always amazes with its world-class collection. History buffs, step back in time at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation.

It's stay the weekend time

As Detroit's reputation as a tourist destination grows, so does its number of distinctive boutique hotels. The Siren Hotel opened earlier this year in the beautifully restored Wurlitzer Building. The Shinola Hotel, born of the luxury goods Shinola brand, opens this winter in Midtown. By the end of the year, the Element Detroit Hotel in the former Metropolitan Building will open 110 extended stay rooms. Luxury suburban properties include the historic elegant Royal Park Hotel and upscale The Henry Hotel.

It's revival time

Detroit is undergoing substantial growth, with more than \$10 billion in new development planned. The iconic Brush Park will soon be united with City Modern, a thoughtful integration of modern design and everyday urban living merged with the area's historic character. Orleans Landing riverfront apartment community will enhance the formerly industrial waterfront as an urban green space. Monroe Block, in the downtown business district, will boast a 35-story office tower, residential units, and plenty of public and retail space.

It's wet your whistle time

Food and Wine states, "Detroit is America's next great beer city." So raise your glass and celebrate at dozens of local breweries and distilleries. Batch Brewing Company and Brew Detroit are historic Corktown staples, serving rotating taps with seasonal beer. Atwater Brewery has a cozy taproom and if the weather is right, relax on the beautiful rooftop biergarten. Calling the historic West Knitting Mill home in scenic Rochester, Rochester Mills Beer company serves handcrafted ales and lagers.

All year long, Detroit shines on so many levels. It's time to experience it all for yourself. Detroit. It's GO time.visitdetroit.com



Photo courtesy of Emily Berger

"One of the top hottest food cities ..." - Zagat

The D is a growing foodie mecca, where fabulous meals go from farm to table in just a few miles. Whet your appetite on vegan specialties, unique international cuisine, independent coffee shops and distinctive distilleries. Whatever you might be craving, it's time to get a taste of Detroit.





all may be segueing into winter, but there is still is plenty to see and do in Michigan. Whether you're planning to hit the slopes, taking a quick shopping trip, or a romantic weekend getaway, Michigan can wrap up the perfect gift for the holiday season.

The Henry

Experience the art of hospitality and a newly imagined vision of modern luxury at The Henry, a Marriott Autograph Collection hotel in Dearborn. From the moment you enter the magnificent lobby adorned with vibrant contemporary art, you will experience an elegant boutique hotel that you will want to call home.

The Lobby, the track-lit main hallway, and even the halls on the guest room floors showcase stunning artwork from some of the greatest artists that ever lived — Picasso, Chagall, Rembrandt and Renoir — to the best modern artists of our time, like Peter Max, Alfred Gockel, and Yaacov Agam. You'll see life-size bronze works by the world-famous Colombian artist, Nano Lopez, and hand-blown glass by the Detroit artist, April Wagner. This is not your ordinary "hotel art".

Relax in the indoor pool, hot tub and massage rooms or recharge in the fitness center. Rooms and suites offer boldly luxurious living spaces graced with contemporary artwork, high-tech accents, and custom furnishings such as The Henry Bed. Feel right at home with complimentary bottled water, free wireless Internet, a safe, refrigerator and work desk.

Savor truly creative American cuisine at TRIA — An American Brasserie. It offers inspired cuisine, uniquely prepared and presented in a casual and engaging atmosphere. The seasonal American menu highlights local and sustainable foods. Not only will you get the freshest tasting produce, meats, fish, cheeses and more, but you'll also help local small and mid-sized businesses. Specialties include the House-Pulled Smoked Mozzarella, Dry Aged Angus Sliders, Caraway Dill Seared Salmon, and the Rocket Arugula

BY RENU SAGGAR

Salad. Flatbreads and small plates are also signatures of TRIA.

Come out of the cool fall weather for a signature craft cocktails created by the talented beverage staff. To celebrate the grape, TRIA has assembled more than 35 wines by the glass, available in four sizes, including an 8 oz quartino meant for sharing. Visit BEHENRY.com for more information.

Weber's Ann Arbor

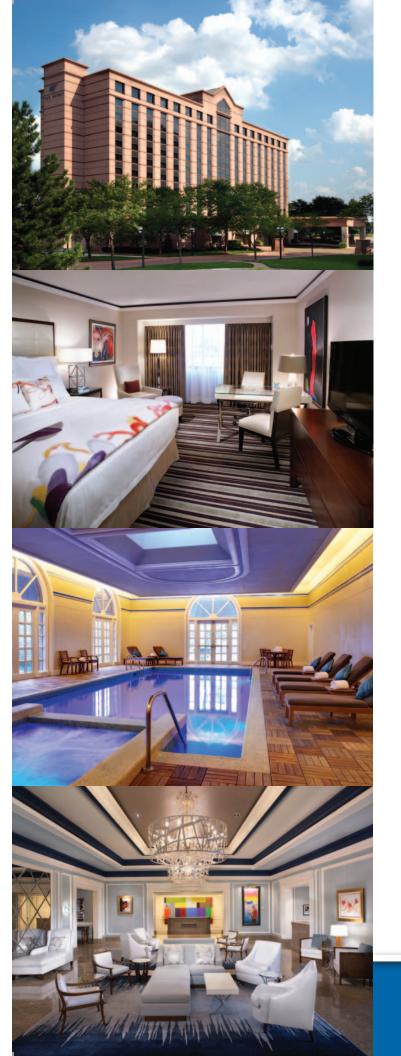
Weber's Restaurant and Boutique Hotel is Ann Arbor's deluxe, full service hotel, restaurant, banquet & conference center. Located in Ann Arbor's beautiful west side across from Dolph Park and Nature Area, it's moments from downtown and the University of Michigan's Central Campus.

It's an Ann Arbor tradition, serving timeless steakhouse fare from the kitchen and bakery since 1937. Guests can indulge in their famous prime rib, live Maine lobster, and house-made desserts. Classic cocktails and a well-curated international wine list round out the perfect dining experience.

The dining room features stunning A-frame architecture, stained glass windows, and a baby grand piano. It's the classic American dining experiience. The moderate prices, relaxed upscale design and friendly service turn new customers into regulars.

Follow up dinner with a visit to the attached bar, The Habitat, for a nightcap,







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THE ART OF HOSPITALITY

Michigan

live music, and dancing. The music roster runs the gamut of jazz, soul, rock, pop and beyond. Enjoy expertly prepared small plates, sliders and oysters.

Order a custom birthday or wedding cake at the *Bakeshop*. Part bakery, part fine wedding cake shop, pastry chef Marybeth King has been leading Weber's innovative and talented Bakeshop team for the past 15 years. All of their cakes and desserts are made fresh in house and from scratch.

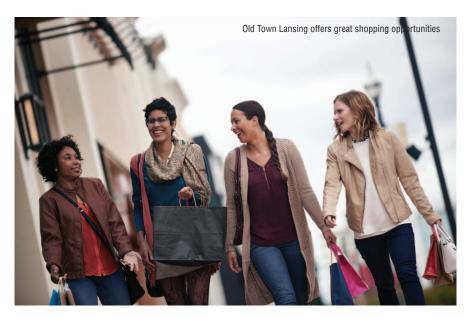
Weber's Boutique Hotel guest rooms feature Simmons pillowtop beds, bluetooth Bose speakers and Italian porcelain tiled bathrooms. There are custom-built rainfall showers, and sliding glass barn doors. The friendly and helpful staff makes your stay memorable and business desks and

complimentary high speed Internet keep travelers connected.

Weber's popular pool side hotel rooms and suites are unique, featuring balconies and spiral staircases, or a first floor walk out to the Four Seasons Pool and Recreation area. Resort & Café suite amenities include a small refrigerator, separate bedroom with plush top king bed, living room area, two 37" LCD televisions, luxurious bath with French limestone, a large Jacuzzi tub for two and a separate glass shower. Ask about their Rewards program.

This year, celebrate New Year's Eve at Weber's with almost 400 festive guests. This special package includes deluxe accommodations, a spectacular dinner buffet, evening-long entertainment, and dancing in the ballrooms.

Visit webersannarbor.com for details.





Lansing

Want the recipe for a perfect weekend getaway? Mix together diverse dining, craft cocktails and micro-brews, live music, exciting attractions and a vibrant art districts and discover the flavor of Greater Lansing and the essence of Downtown Pure Michigan.

Experience fall color tours and leaf peeping in a whole new way, whether it be kayaking the Red Cedar River, biking Michigan State University campus or sitting back and enjoying a leisurely lunch aboard the *Michigan Princess* paddleboat cruising the Grand River.

Festivals abound in Greater Lansing and you won't want to miss November's Silver Bells in the City, a premiere event kicking off the holiday season. Get a front row seat to the electric light parade, delight as Michigan's official Christmas tree lights up the Capitol lawn and fireworks cascade behind the Capitol dome.

If holiday shopping is on your mind, *Old Town Lansing* has fabulous unique boutiques and galleries offering the perfect opportunities to cross off those hard to find items on your list.

Greater Lansing is just a short drive over the border, and with over 150 unique and exciting things to do, you are sure to find something to suit every taste. Locals love Lansing and want you to love Lansing as much as they do! Book your stay today.

Don't miss the chance to see Silver Bells in the City, November 16. Lansing will glow with thousands of lights to kick-off the holiday season. The Electric Light Parade, Silver Bells Village, lighting of the State Christmas Tree, fireworks over the Capitol dome and musical entertainment are all part of this Lansing tradition.

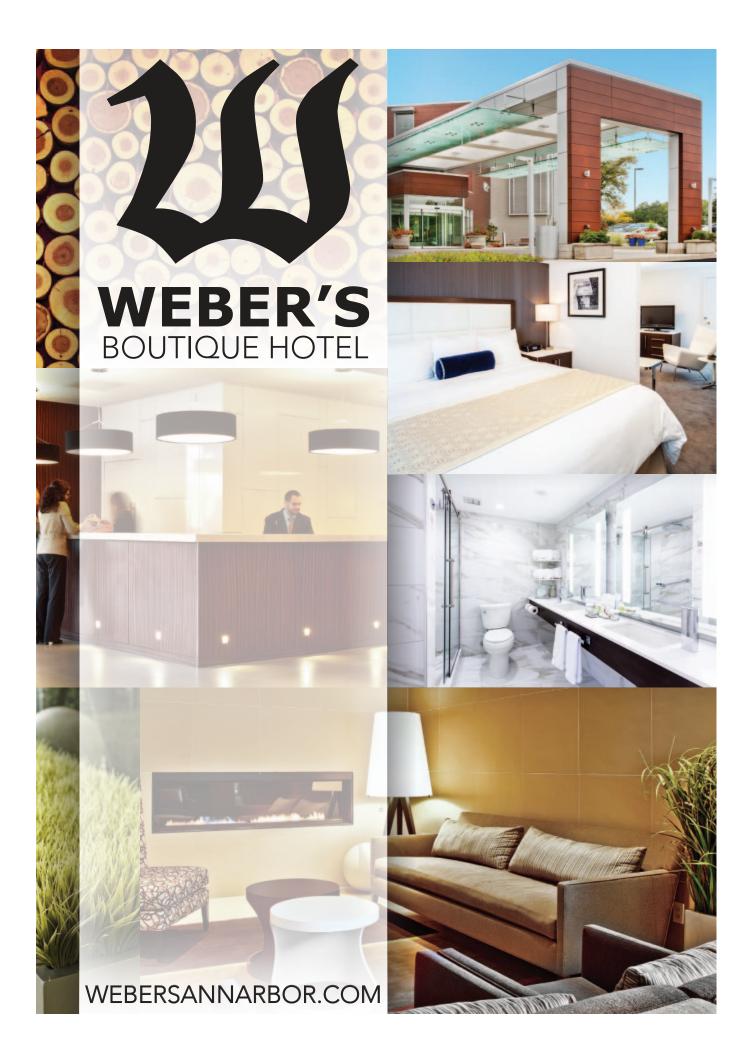
Holiday Pops with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, December 16th, celebrates the season with carols, festive tunes, and the enchanting Nutcracker Suite.

The MSU Arts & Crafts Winter Show, December 1-2, is one of the largest in the state with four floors of booths. A broad range of vendors will offer handmade items, including candles, furniture, jewelry, clothing, children's toys, paintings, sculptures and more!

Make it a Michigan capital getaway! For everything you need to know visit lansing.org.

Choice Hotels Michigan

When you're ready to book the perfect Michigan getaway, finding comfortable and affordable accommodations near all the best destinations is one of your first



Michigan

priorities. With over 100 Choice Hotels in Michigan to choose from, Choice Hotels can be the perfect place to create the vacation of your dreams. Brands include Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn, Clarion & the one-of-a-kind, upscale Ascend hotels, combining the amenities of a luxury resort, with the intimacy of a bed and breakfast.

Choice Hotels has locations in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Traverse City and more. They've got the amenities to make your stay enjoyable, whether you're taking a business trip, or planning a family vacation. These may include hot or Continental breakfast, pools, business centers and pet friendly properties.

Clarion locations feature restaurants, bars and event space, where you can meet for business, celebrate special occasions or visit with friends.

Quality Inn properties have free Q Value amenities like high-speed Internet, local calls and 24-hour coffee and tea in the lobby. Start your morning with a hot, fresh and healthy Q Breakfast.

Join Choice Privileges and get more from

each stay with exclusive member rates, points for free nights, gift cards and more. Earn extra rewards on your very first stay. Choice Privileges was voted the "Best Hotel Loyalty Program" by USA TODAY for the second year in a row.

Book early at ChoiceHotels.com/Michiganhotels to fit any budget with great savings.

Holland

Named one of "America's Prettiest Towns" by Forbes Magazine, and an "All-American City" by the National Civic League, downtown Holland's cobblestone sidewalks line the streets with over 100 locally owned shops, galleries, eateries, and brew pubs. Local shops, live music, and outdoor dining make downtown the place to be!

As the leaves begin to fall, the charming downtown transforms from the bright and vibrant hues of summer, to the crisp breezes of fall. "Live Mannequin" night kicks off the fall festivities, offering up an evening of window shopping and admiring the live-themed mannequins in store fronts.

On the heels of this event is the annual *Fall Fest!* Enjoy the fall activities including pumpkin carving from some of the

nation's best carvers, a walk downtown to admire the glowing jack-o-lanterns, fall-themed games and crafts at the *Holland Farmers Market*, pumpkin painting, hayrides, and much more! A truly local family-friendly experience, there is plenty of entertainment during Fall Fest for all ages!

Historic downtown Holland also provides the perfect cozy backdrop for *Dutch WinterFest*, which kicks off the holiday season with a festive holiday open house complete with strolling carolers and roasting chestnuts. The fun continues with seasonal shopping deals, visits with Santa, and even a petting corral with reindeer!

Enjoy the creatively lit floats in the *Parade of Lights*. Visit with *Sinterklaas*, the Dutch version of St. Nicholas and his mischievous helper *Zwarte Piet*.

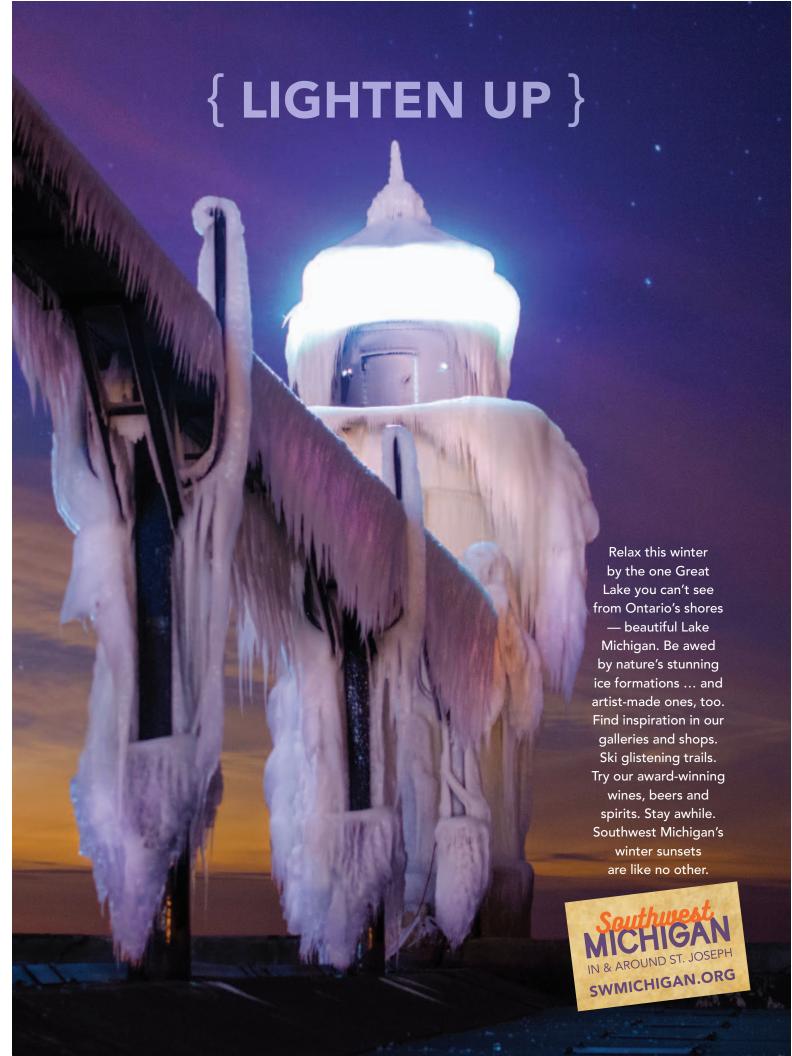
Stroll through the *Kerstmarkt*, a European style open-air Christmas market, where you can shop for locally-made artisanal holiday gifts.

There are holiday theatre and musical performances, a greens sale, home tours, Victorian Christmas teas, and an annual tree-lighting ceremony.

Holland's heated cobblestone side-

Mt. Pisgah Dune Climb and Boardwalk, Holland Michigan





Michigan

walks, have the nation's largest snowmelt system. Browse one-of-a-kind shops, and galleries, and relax at local microbreweries, and eateries. Best of all, Holland offers accommodations to fit every budget!

Visit Holland.org for more information.

St. Joseph

Acclaimed as "Michigan's Most Romantic City" and "The Riviera of the Midwest" thre's no denying the charm of this Lake Michigan resort town. St Joeseph and Southwest Michigan are popular honeymoon, baby-moon, anniversary and just-for-the-fun-of-it destinations for twosomes, as well as groups.

Downtown is filled with Victorian storefronts and brick paved streets. Spend an afternoon shopping, then sample vintages grown and made right in Southwest Michigan at one of three wineries. *Lake Bluff Park*, overlooking Lake Michigan, is just two blocks away, and the sunsets are always spectacular.

Getting into the holiday spirit is easy during the month of December. *Light up the Bluff* transforms Lake Bluff Park on Friday, December 7, with a million lights,

community tree and holiday-themed displays. Later, visitors can stroll the downtown and enjoy *Live From Downtown!* Dozens of store fronts will participate in this inaugural holiday window decorating event from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Gift hunters will appreciate the unique selection, special prices, and festive shopping atmosphere that evening and throughout December!

Downtown St. Joseph hosts the 15th *Annual Magical Ice Fest,* February 1-3, 2019. Watch carvers magically turn frozen blocks of ice into works of art! Take a selfie on the *Magical Ice Throne*, and witness the *Fire & Ice Tower*, a breathtaking display of frost and flame. Watch pro carvers duel it out in *Ice Wars*, 15 minute bouts of ice-carving chaos!

On Saturday, join local magician John Dudley as he visits serveral downtown locations and performs a variety of magic. He is sure to be entertaining for all ages.

Warm up in the Silver Beach Carousel which turns into a tropical paradise for Waikiki Weekend, with Hawaiian Luau performances in the beautiful Shadowland Ballroom. The Silver Beach Carousel is located at the Silver Beach Center — one of the best, year-round entertainment venues in Southwestern Michigan.

Watch storefronts and windows of participating downtown businesses come alive from 7 to 8:30pm during the first annual *March Mannequins* event. Dozens of community volunteers will pose perfectly still, like mannequins. Visitors can vote for their favorite window.

For more information visit them online at stjoetoday.com. 🕰

Grand Haven

There is nothing like a winter wonderland by the lakeshore. The Grand Haven Area is not only known for its miles of freshwater coastline, but as a great destination for outdoor activities.

Pigeon Creek Park provides ski rentals for cross country skiing, sledding and snowshoeing down trails that wind over 10-miles through bottomland forests along the river. The trails are groomed, tracked and reset throughout the day to ensure a smooth ride for both classic and ski skating. Three miles of the ski trails and a sledding hill are illuminated, so the fun doesn't stop when the sun goes down.

Those looking to spend more time in the snow can explore the hidden gem of *Mulligan's Hollow,* where downhill skiing and snowboarding are a must as soon as the first layer of fresh snow hits the ground. It offers eight downhill runs, tow ropes and lighted paths. After a run take a break at Mulligan's Lodge next to the outdoor fire pit.

Finish up that holiday shopping in the historic downtown district. The Grand Haven Area has dozens of specialty shops, boutiques and galleries that are sure to hold the perfect gift for that special someone. Afterward, grab dinner and drinks at one of many local restaurants, or breweries. The sidewalks and streets have a special snowmelt system to ensure a safe and comfortable walk around town.

Celebrate the heart of the winter season at *Grand Haven Winterfest*, January 24-27, 2019. A winter tradition for over 30 years, enjoy a full weekend of winter activities that's sure to bring the season's joy to all ages. Activities include a family dog pull, cardboard sled racing, snow angel contest, beer and wine tasting, a snowboarding and skiing competition, and much more.

Don't let the cold weather give you the wintertime blues. The Grand Haven Area is the perfect place to be when the temperature starts to drop. Whether its outdoors or indoors, there is a wintertime activity waiting for you.

For travel information about the Grand Haven Area, explore VisitGrandHaven.com.





Put the beach in reach Life's a beach in Panama City Beach

anama City Beach Florida has been called "the best beach this side of paradise." Home to 27 miles of pristine beach the talcum-like sand is attributed to quartz crystals washing down from the Appalachian Mountains centuries ago. Along the way, the crystals were bleached, ground, smoothed, and polished. The surf and tides of the Gulf of Mexico are responsible for depositing millions of grains of sugar-white sand on the shore.

This laid back slice of Florida's Gulf Coast is actually closer in distance and demeanor to Dixie than to its flashy Florida siblings. Visitors will find more than 16,500 rooms, ranging from resorts, hotels, town homes, condos and villas, many at affordable rates.

St. Andrew's State Recreation Area is famous for its jade green waters and the park's 1,260-acres of sand dunes are fringed by woodlands on one side and the ocean on the other. It's a perennial pick as one of Florida's Best Beaches by Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, better known as Dr. Beach.

Here you'll find Florida at its most natural, complete with graceful sand dunes, coastal scrub forest, pine hammocks, and an inland lake

Visitors can take a shuttle over to nearby *Shell Island*. This 700-acre wildlife sanctuary is home to a number of wild bird species, including pelicans, sandpipers, and snowy plovers. Dazzling tropical fish, sea turtles and other aquatic life also call the

area around Shell Island home. Legend has it that pirates once buried their booty on the island's *Spanish Shanty Point*. The abundant sea is one of the most densely populated bottle-nosed dolphins habitats in the world.

Divers can explore historic wrecks, including a 441-foot World War II ship, a coastal freighter, several tugboats and the Gulf of Mexico's most famous wreck, the 465-foot *Empire Mica*.

Away from the beach visitors will find unique family attractions. *Pier Park*, located in the heart of town across from City Pier. The largest shopping/dining/ entertainment venue in Northwest Florida, it features a colorful mix of popular national chains and favorite local boutiques and

BY RENU SAGGAR

eateries and something completely different. Summer 2018 welcomed the grand opening of Skywheel, an observation wheel that will rise more than 200 feet above the Gulf of Mexico. Located in Pier Park, this Ferris wheel-style attraction gives riders 360-degree panoramic view of Panama City Beach from the safety of a climate controlled, glass-enclosed gondola. At the bottom of the structure families can enjoy a ropes course, threestory zip line, miniature golf course and refreshments.

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

The Russell Fields Pier extends more than 1,600 feet into the calm gulf waters. Located directly across the street from Pier Park, the city pier is known as a prime fishing spot.

Visitors to Panama City Beach will have a lot of fun exploring the destination's newly launched Costal Decor By The Shore Trail, a vast selection of stores and shops specializing in costal-themed antiques, furniture, gifts, accessories and one of a kind coastal decor. "We are thrilled to be able to connect visitors with the Costal Decor By The Shore Trail", says visit Panama City Beach Vice President of Marketing Jayna Leach. "Our carefully curated selection is a unique feature of Northwest Florida and we are proud to be able to provide our visitors with endless options for shopping for their loved ones."

For updated information on Panama City Beach Florida go to VisitPanamaCityBeach. com. 🕰





BY RENU SAGGAR

The Artisan Grill

A Change of Seasons

outhwestern Ontario really lights up for the holiday season. Cities and towns are aglow with entertainment and special events, while shops, galleries and bistros will offer you a warm welcome for holiday shopping and dining. The countryside is perfect for outdoor adventures or peaceful walks. No matter what your passion Southwestern Ontario has something for you.

Windsor Crossing Premium Outlets

Windsor Crossing Premium Outlets

Season's greetings! Windsor Crossing Premium Outlets is offering much more than incredible deals this Holiday Season! Join them December 5th, 12th & 19th for three nights of Christmas Market with wonderful vendors and family fun. Get unique gifts, taste amazing food and take pictures with Santa.

Just minutes from the US border, Windsor Crossing Premium Outlets is conveniently located along Hwy 401 and only fifteen minutes from the Ambassador Bridge. They offer over 40 brand name outlets – think Coach, Tommy Hilfiger, Puma, Columbia

- not to mention the exchange rate!

For those bargain hunters living in southern Ontario there is no need to cross the border to find amazing deals - no passport required. It's an easy excursion for visitors who want to get their dose of outlet deals and spend the day shopping. They Have Brands You Can't Find Anywhere Else.

Don't be fooled by seasonal window displays. Like full-price retail stores, Windsor Crossing Premium Outlet stores house their merchandise with the deepest discounts at the back of the store. Now you know where to go to track down a true bargain. Outlet shopping can be a fun challenge. Searching for a great deal is extremely satisfying and can become something of a treasure hunt. There is no better feeling than knowing you can get the best possible deal. Finding it, is half the fun.

While there, don't forget to visit their Guest Services to receive coupons and visitor discounts. For more information visit them at www.WindsorCrossing.com or their Facebook

page @WindsorCrossingOutlets.



Bylyse at A La Mode



Windsor Essex Region

Windsor Essex is the perfect place to take in fall colours. Take a drive along County Road 50 and tour the wineries on the Lake Erie coast. Cycle the southernmost stretch of the Trans-Canada Trail, or hike to the tip of Point Pelee National Park. No matter what you choose, Windsor Essex has a lot to offer.

Explore EPIC Wine Country (Essex Pelee Island Coast) with over eighteen wineries that will make you want to stay to try them all. Purchase an EPIC Passport for just \$10 and redeem it on different offerings at participating wineries.

During the fall migration, you can spot golden eagles, peregrine falcons, red-necked phalaropes, and ong-billed dowitchers, at *Point Pelee National Park*. Other birds that are rare in spring, but can be seen regularly during autumn. Make a stop at *Holiday Beach Conservation Area* and take advantage of their three-storey observation tower for the best views of the changing foliage and migrating birds of prey.

Cyclists can pedal the *Ganatchio Trail*, which cuts through the City of Windsor and the Town of Tecumseh. The *Chrysler Greenway Trail* stretches over 50 km through Essex County and the much newer *Cypher Systems Greenway*, which crosses the county from Essex to Amherstburg as the southernmost link of the *Trans Canada Trail*.

Windsor Essex is home to a cornucopia of fall flavours. Experience the *Barrels, Bottles and Brews Trail,* explore the wine region, or dive into the *Coffee Culture* to taste what our local wineries and brew houses have to offer.

Quality brews and small batch ultra premium spirits are the hallmark of the Barrels, Bottles and Brews Trail, where you can experience the history of Canadian Whisky at *J.P. Wiser's* and learn more about Windsor's role in Prohibition at *Walkerville*

Brewery. Check out *Wolfhead Distillery* for small batch whisky and vodka. If craft beer is more your thing, quaff a thirst-quenching pint at one of the trail's 11 breweries. Completing the trail with your Barrels, Bottles and Brews Passport makes you eligible for a featured takeaway.

Fall is also the season for WIFF, the Windsor International Film Festival and the Media City Film Festival. WIFF's mission is to recognize and celebrate the art of cinema by showcasing Canadian and international films and filmmakers. Attend one or two screenings, or make a weekend of it and fit in as many shows as you can!

Music fans will find concerts and shows at Caesars Windsor's Colosseum and venues at the Chrysler Theatre, Olde Walkerville Theatre and the Capitol Theatre. The Windsor Symphony Orchestra has a full fall season planned with themed concerts like their Witches and Wizards, the music of Harry Potter concert the Simple Symphonies Series and their Spirits and Strings night.

For more information and events, go to visitwindsoressex.com.

A La Mode

It's all about the fashion at A La Mode, making the shopping experience comfortable, personable and affordable. They can dress you from head to toe with accessories like handbags, shoes, jewelry, scarves and hats.

A La Mode carries a wide variety of styles taking you from day casual to evening chic! Clothing lines include fashion forward labels like *Joseph Ribkoff*. This Canadian designer always delights with figure flattering styles, and unique details. Ribkoff creates formal dresses and separates for parties and special occasions. Their designs reflect an in-depth understanding of fashion trends and consumer preferences for resort, cruise, office, formal, or evening wear.





They recently launched their first ever accessories and denim collections for Spring/Summer 2019. Their 15-style bag collection ranges from structured satchels to clutches, a transparent tote and a crossbody bag. They include practical features such as adjustable and removable straps.

Bylyse is designed for women who get younger with time.



Joseph Ribkoff purses at A La Mode

Canadian designer Lyse Spenard designs personify the perfect combination of luxury comfort, versatility and timelessness that brings ease to her customer's busy lifestyle. She injects personality into her designs with exclusive prints, innovative textures, rich colours and feminine detailing. She respects the diversity of her clientele and prides herself in creating outfits that flatter every size and body type. Visit A La Mode for their newest line

Grande Madame, a Canadian designer for that sophisticated woman, casual yet formal.

Make an appointment with A La Mode's professional staff, who can help you mix, match and coordinate your pieces at any of their three locations. Alterations are done on site at the Amherstburg location.

Visit their website at www.alamodefashions.ca.

Koi Sushi

Koi Sushi & Japanese Cuisine offers an authentic taste of Japan in a stylish, and welcoming atmosphere in the heart of LaSalle, Kingsville, and Kona Sushi in Walkerville.

Their menu is sculpted to share. Specialty & large rolls like *Firecracker* are made with shrimp tempura & cream cheese, topped with crab, house sauces & baked until golden brown. Small plates include Gyoza (pork dumplings) and tasty Panko Scallops.

The *Bento Box Lunch Special*, served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. includes one 8 piece small roll, Koi Salad and choice of vegetable tempura, gyoza or eggroll.



Koi Sushi

They do not just offer great food, but also a wonderful dining experience that you must try. So don't forget to order your Holiday platters for Christmas, New Years and Valentines. Catering services are also provided. Visit them at koisushi. ca and konasushi.com.

Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge

If its a casual, yet chic atmosphere you are looking for, *Mezzo Ristorante and Lounge* is the place for you! Located in the heart of Little Italy, Mezzo offers a contemporary twist on Italian classics.

Their menu consists of only the freshest ingredients, to create those tantalizing menu selections. Mezzo goes far beyond innovative and award-wining cuisine. They go the extra mile to make your dining experience exceptional! Whether you







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Southernwestern Ontario

are dining inside, or on their outdoor patio, you will not be disappointed.



Mezzo

Mezzo is the perfect place to host Christmas parties, New Years, romantic Valentine's dinners, corporate events or family gatherings. They offer seating for up to 120 and their lounge area is ideal for cocktail parties or pre dinner drinks. The private room is perfect for groups of 35-40 and can be set up to accommodate any gathering. The menu can also be

customized to suit your specific needs and budget along with catering for any occasion.

Visit them online for their full menu and upcoming events at Mezzo.ca. Don't forget to make your reservation, book your special event or have them assist you with your catering needs! Discover authentic Italian cuisine in the heart of Via Italia!

Joe Malden Jewellers

Whether you are planning an engagement, shopping for wedding bands, or just looking for watches, bracelets, earrings, or other items, Malden Jewellers has the finest selection. A family run business for over 20 years, owner Joe Khouri's passion for exquisite jewellery runs deep. There is no pressure, Malden Jewellers prefers to build long term relationships and provide clients with the kind of professional advice they deserve.

There are a variety of options to suit your taste and budget, with the perfect blend of unparalleled design and superior



Malden Jewellers

craftsmanship. They carry a large selection of diamonds, precious and semiprecious gemstones, pearls, gold, sterling silver, titanium and platinum jewellery. Or bring in your idea, then work with Joe to create your very own signature piece, fusing old world techniques with a contemporary sensibil-

ity. They also offer appraisals and custom engraving.

Metal tends to wear down over time, prongs become loose, or chains stretch and break risking the loss of a treasured item. Repairs are done on site with a level of craftsmanship that will satisfy even the most discerning customer. When a piece of jewellery is no longer a part of your life they also pay top dollar for gold. Jewellery can make that occasion shine and deliver memories for years to come The perfect piece is waiting for you at Malden Jewellers!

Enzo's Trattoria

With over 20 years experience in the world of gastronomy, Enzo's passion and commitment to excellence is exemplified in every dish he presents. A member of the Canadian Culinary Federation, Enzo serves authentic Italian food in Windsor's Little Italy with exceptional service.

The trattoria is just right for casual family dining. Made from scratch, hearty and delicious Italian cuisine served in a





Enzo's Trattoria

warm inviting atmosphere. His menu combines only the freshest local ingredients to create signature dishes. Whether you try the Chef Special or order off the menu, you will surely not be disappointed. There is a taste of Italy for everyone's palette.

Enzo's is the perfect place to host an event, for date night or

a night out with friends! Visit them at Enzos.ca to view their full menu, business hours and to book that special reservation!

Amherstburg

Saturday, November 24th and Sunday, November 25th, the popular River Lights Holiday House Tour is making a return this holiday season. The self-guided tour features some of Amherstburg's most spectacular private homes, all decked out for the holidays. Eight homes are featured this year, as well as a stop at Vivace Estate Winery, which is hosting the Christmas Tree Dress Exhibit, as well as providing complimentary tea, treats and wine tasting. Tours run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Tickets are priced at \$25 per person for more information call the Amherstburg Tourism office.

Artisan Grill & Fleur De Lis

Artisan Grill is a perfect blend of fine dinning, quality food and a casual relaxed atmosphere. You can dress up or down, or dress in between. Either way you're going to enjoy a variety of carefully chosen menu options to satisfy all palettes.

Located in a heritage building on Dalhousie St. in historic downtown Amherstburg, the menu is handmade, crafted from fresh, farm to table ingredients and changes with the seasons. Meals are made from scratch, but made swiftly, tapping into the culture of the local community.

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



Chandelier at Fleur De Lis

Artisan Grill is fullylicensed with a variety of carefully selected local and international beer and wines, plus an extensive selection of cocktails, martinis, fine spirits and premium craft beers.

Come and enjoy a wonderful time with live

dinner music every Friday and Saturday night. The Artisan team is standing by to take your reservation for your corporate or holiday party, New Years, Valentines Day or any special occasion. Visit them at www.artisangrill.ca.

Opening soon, Chef Matthew Johnston's newest venture Fleur De Lis, a French-themed, fine dining establishment with upscale amenities. The romantic atmosphere sets the stage and the food takes the spotlight. And haute cuisine is not exclusively about what's on the plate. Elaborately choreographed service, the depth of the wine cellar and sumptuous surroundings — these are the elements that distinguish a meal from an extraordinary culinary event.















In business for over 23 years, the gallery's knowledgeable staff are there to assist you in capturing just the right custom frame. International Art Designs has an extensive frame collection for any budget. Producing creative solutions for framing your memorabilia, photos, sports jerseys and much more is what they do best. Customers are delighted to find out that art prints, canvases and mirrors can be custom ordered to any size! This unique service separates them from the rest. The gallery showcases a wide variety of home decor, art and mirrors. In home consultations are available to help with your decorating needs. At International Art Designs their attention to detail and customer service will make your visit a memorable one.

www.internationalartdesigns.com URBAN SELECTIONS PLAZA 5975 MALDEN RD. LASALLE, ON



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through prestigious fellowships. In truth many immigrate to Canada – making these programs an exclusive back stage pass to citizenship and medical practice in Canada. All this while we have qualified Canadian and permanent residents unable to access scarce medical residency training despite having passed all required Canadian medical exams.

Shouldn't this program stop?

It is time to request that Canadian Universities end new intakes of Saudi medical residents, fellows and other visa trainees. We now know the cost and risks and can see that any further reliance on visa trainees subjects Canadians to a known vulnerability in public health care delivery. Media reports identified that over 1,000 Saudi medical residents and fellows are in hospitals from coast to coast, with close to half in Ontario alone. There are 11 participating universities including McMaster, McGill, Toronto, Ottawa, Dalhousie, Western Ontario, UBC, Queens, Calgary, Montréal and Alberta.

These universities should turn their attention to Canada's national interest by advocating for increased funding for residency positions for Canadians, including those who have studied medicine abroad.

Residency system is unfair to Canadians

anadian hospitals and universities should increase medical residency positions to train Canada's doctors instead of training thousands of Saudi Arabia's doctors. Here's why we think you'll agree.

Risky reliance on foreign medical staff

Canada's unexpected diplomatic dispute with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remains unresolved. Canadians learned a disquieting truth — that our universities sell scarce medical residency positions to the highest bidder, and our hospitals are dependent on this free foreign labour. We pay a high price because we train fewer of our own doctors, and we bare an unacceptable level of risk on our healthcare delivery by relying on tenuous foreign labour.

When the Kingdom immediately called home over 1,000 medical residents and fellows, hospitals from coast to coast scrambled to respond to their imminent departure. In some cases, more than half of a program's medical staff would be gone overnight. It became very clear, despite weak claims to the contrary, that these positions are not "extra" and that Saudis and other "visa trainees" are relied upon to deliver essential medical services, research and training in Canadian hospitals. What was also very clear is that Canadians expect our teaching resources and hospitals to be used to teach our own doctors who will contribute to Canada's health care needs in the future. Unfair back door to medical licensing in Canada

These medical residency positions truly are an unfair back door to medical practice in Canada. There are many qualified Canadians vying for limited medical residency positions, yet the positions offered to foreign visa trainees are not even open to Canadians. Furthermore, in some provinces visa trainees are not required to pass standard Canadian medical exams before entering residency and treating patients. Finally, it is often claimed that these Saudi doctors are not taking spots from Canadians, as they are supposed to return to their home country after completing residency placements or upgrading their skills

It is time for a change

Fortunately, there are sufficient qualified Canadians available to fully replace all visa trainees now and in the future – including Canadian International Medical Graduates (IMGs). Training Canadians is a better use of medical expertise developed with Canadian tax dollars. Moreover, it is an investment in physicians who will ultimately deliver health services to Canadians, including underserved regions and underserved specialties across Canada. Many Canadians expressed this view as they learned about our current reliance on Saudi medical residents.

It is time for Canadians to call on their governments to fund more medical residency positions and make them available for all qualified Canadians and permanent residents. Ensuring Canadians trained abroad are eligible is essential to cost-effectively respond to our future needs for doctors as almost 40% of our doctors are within 10 years of retirement age. Canadians trained abroad, in countries like the UK, Australia, Ireland, and in US accredited Caribbean medical programs, provide tremendous financial value because their medical education is not subsidised by Canadian taxpayers.

It is time to push back on the outdated policy of rationing health care by rationing post-degree training for Canadians. Most Canadians have friends, family and neighbours in underserved parts of Canada, without a family doctor, or facing long wait times for medical procedures.

It is time for our medical schools and hospitals to show futurefocused leadership in the promotion, education and training of Canadian physicians as a first priority.

Let's hope that our medical schools and hospitals seize this indispensable opportunity to refocus medical training in Canada toward the promotion, education and training of Canadian physicians as a first priority. Please ask your provincial and federal representatives and health ministers to stop hiring foreign medical residents and to instead fund medical residency training for Canadians. Now is clearly the time.



The 2018 Toyota Sienna has a new front grille

he 2018 Toyota Sienna family van has had a face lift, quieter cabin, new Entune multimedia systems and most importantly, standard Toyota Safety Sense P (TSS-P). A larger lower grille, larger fog light compartments, plus sculpted lower rocker panels from the SE, give Sienna a road-hungry look. And why not for a family van?

It's still the only family van available with All-Wheel Drive and Toyota's Active Torque Control. The system is a plus for those who frequently find themselves on snowy or icy roads, although it does reduce seating capacity from eight to seven.

The Sienna is a pretty powerful cruiser as well with a 296 horsepower D-4S directinjection V6 engine and Direct Shift 8-speed automatic transmission, both added last year. It rides atop a sport-tuned suspension and exclusive 19-inch wheels and tires. The combination of sportier underpinnings and footwear sharpens the handling on twisty roads. (Yes, a van that likes twisty roads.)

For 2018, it's also quieter too, thanks to a new laminated front-row side window glass on the Limited model.

The Sienna remains at heart an exemplary people-mover, with an expansive cabin. Stow the Sienna's third row seats and remove the second row to open up 150 cu. ft. of available cargo space, all eas-

ily accessible from the wide, dual sliding doors. A power lift gate comes standard on SE, XLE and Limited grades. A spacious alternative to less practical crossovers, Sienna can even carry 4x8-ft. sheets of plywood — a DIYer's necessity.

With the Tip Up and Long Slide feature, the seats can be easily moved forward and back on extended rails, adjusting room as needed for passengers or cargo. There's storage bins and cup holders galore and the Limited model comes standard with perforated leather seats that are both

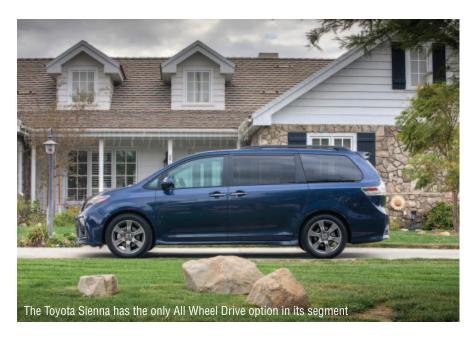
supple and supportive.

Sienna drivers will be better informed with a 7-inch TFT multi-information display and exclusively for the Limited Premium grade, a new available Bird's Eye View monitor. This practical machine offers three sophisticated new colors for 2018: Toasted Walnut Pearl, Alumina Jade Metallic and Parisian Night Pearl.

The Sienna is also a more connected cruiser with upgraded Entune multimedia systems, plus five USB ports covering all three rows. Limited grades come standard with Entune 3.0 Premium JBL Audio with Dynamic Navigation and Destination Assist with Sound Staging, Low Frequency Sounds and Clari-Fi technology for amazing sound quality. An available Rear Seat Entertainment system now includes streaming capability for Android devices.

Parents should never take their eyes off the road to check on the kids. That's what the standard conversation mirror integrated into the overhead console is for. It gives the Sienna driver an allencompassing view of rear passengers. The available *Driver Easy Speak* feature, meanwhile, essentially gives the driver a built-in public address system.

TSS-P is a comprehensive upgrade that equips the Sienna with Pre-Collision System with Pedestrian Detection (PCS w/PD), Lane Departure Alert with Steering Assist (LDA w/SA), Automatic High Beams (AHB) and Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC). Standard TSS-P makes Sienna the only minivan in its segment to have active braking standard.



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Hang Loose in Hawaii

Where Aloha is a way of life

ther places may take some getting used to, but with Hawaii it's always love at first sight. Sculpted by wind and fire dense lowlands give way to verdant hills, steaming volcanoes and fragrant thickets of flowers stained crimson by the sunset.

It was at the summit of Haleakala volcano that the demigod Maui first captured the sun. He released it after exacting a promise that it would travel more slowly across the Hawaiian sky. Today, the ancient beat of pahu drums still echoes through the evening air as legends are retold in the sultry sway of the hula, with movements as soft and languid as the landscape. The Hawaiian term is "Pali Uli" meaning a place of perfection — a state of mind that cannot be found on any map.

Sunrise at Haleakala is a pilgrimage worth losing sleep over — literally. Mark Twain described it as "the most sublime spectacle I have ever witnessed." Visitors wake up early to drive to Maui's Haleakala

Visitor Center, to see the sun peek over the horizon in an ever-changing spectacle of light and color. Perched above a steep cliff overlooking the ocean, the fabled Road to Hana snakes along the island's northern coast for 52 miles. It can take as little as 3 hours, or last an entire day, depending on how many stops you make for photos, or roadside food stands you sample. After you've navigated the more than 600 white-knuckle turns and 54 one-lane bridges, you'll arrive in Hana—a charming small town where time is an abstract concept and Aloha is a way of life.

Scattered over 1,600 miles in the North Pacific. Hawaii's eight principal islands are a garden of earthly delights. The "Big Island" of Hawaii is getting bigger every day thanks to the Kilauea Volcano, which has added more than 20,000 acres to the island since 1983. Kilauea is said to be the home of Pele, the Fire Goddess and has been erupting steadily for the past 20-years. White-hot lava flows directly into the sea in a spectacular show of fire and brimstone. Hilo, the island's eastern gateway, is said to be the prettiest city in the Pacific.

The Kona-Kohala coast is studded with black sans beaches and deluxe resorts while he peaks of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, dominate the island's lush, windward region. On the eastern side, rustic towns are set amidst giant tree ferns and orchid fields. The Waipi`o Valley Overlook is one of Hawaii's most spectacular natural attractions.

The "Garden Isle" of Kauai is considered by many to be Hawaii's most beautiful



island. Lush green hills are ribboned with waterfalls and crowned by rainbows. This is where Captain Cook first landed and discovered Waimea Canyon, the spectacular "Grand Canyon of the Pacific". The hidden valley of Kalalau is like nowhere else on earth. It is often referred to as the "Valley of the Kings" because it was once home to many of Hawaii's rulers.

Kauai has been the setting for countless movies including South Pacific, where Mitzi Gaynor washed that man right out of her hair on Lumahai Beach. You can hike along rugged trails and explore Hanalei's famous Bali Hai cliffs.

Oahu is an island of endless green vistas, and golden beaches capped by towering volcanic peaks. Known as "the gathering place," Hawaii's major city, Honolulu, is here. So is Waikiki the world's best known beach. This is where East merges with West in a blend of hula and high-tech, creation myths, Shinto shrines and a melting pot of ethnicities. When the sun touches the mist over the Koolau Mountains, rainbows form a bridge between the earth and the high heavens.

Where else can you surf the biggest

waves, golf at a dozen championship courses, or hike up a dormant volcano? The extinct caldera at Diamond Head is said to be the home of Pele, the Fire Goddess. A hiking trail runs almost a mile up from the crater floor.

Whether you want to luxuriate in a spa, hang loose on the beach, or sip a Mai Tai in a Tiki hut, your Hawaiian holiday will be everything you imagined. Go "holo holo" on a circle island tour, visit a pineapple plantation, or sample poi — a traditional Hawaiian dish served Luau style. If your interest is surfing, point your board toward the North Shore.

Oahu has over 125 miles of beaches including Lanikai Beach, on the windward coast. "Lani Kai" transliterates as "Heavenly Sea," and this tiny strip of sand is considered among the world's most beautiful.

Hanauma Bay, a crescent-shaped cove formed by two sunken craters, is famous for its breathtaking views and coral gardens filled with tropical fish. During the winter and early spring you can spot humpback whales breaching along the coast. On clear days, the islands of Molokai and Lanai are visible.

Pay your respects at the USS Arizona

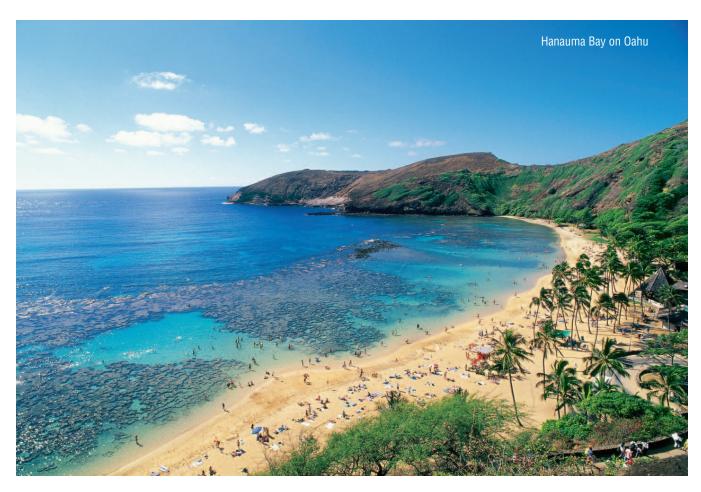
Memorial at Pearl Harbor. The National Park Service ferries visitors to the gleaming white shrine straddling the sunken battleship, the final resting place of about 950 crewmen.

Iolani Palace is the only royal palace on U.S. soil. The lavish, European-style palace was built in 1882 by King David Kalakaua, and installed electricity four years before the White House.

Visitors can take a peaceful stroll through lush tropical gardens leading to a spectacular 40-foot waterfall at Waimea Valley. In addition to one of the finest collections of Polynesian plants in existence, there are several significant religious and cultural sites, including the Ku'ula Shrine and Hale Iwi or House of Bones.

Perched a thousand feet above the jagged coastline, the Nu'uanu Pali Lookout is Oahu's scenic masterpiece. Just a 5-mile drive northeast of Downtown Honolulu, the panoramic views of the lush Windward Coast and the powerful trade winds will literally blow you away.

The perfect souvenir is one you'll never take home with you. Your "komo mai" or welcome to the island will be an intricately woven lei of flowers to wear around your neck.





Vancouver is an Urban Oasis

et like an emerald among the steep green slopes of the North Shore Mountains, there's no denying the beauty of Vancouver's natural setting. Vistas of green coastal mountains and the deep blue Strait of Georgia, rub shoulders with gleaming glass towers that glow golden in the twilight over Burrard Inlet. If that sounds a bit like San Francisco, it's an apt comparison, but there really is no place like Vancouver.

No doubt the southwestern British Columbia wilderness impressed Capt. George Vancouver. An officer in the British Royal Navy, he sailed into Burrard Inlet on June 13, 1792 while searching for the Northwest Passage. Vancouver named the inlet after his friend Sir Harry Burrard, but lent his own name to the city and the large island that lies between the mainland and the Pacific.

Vancouver's lions are a pair of pointed peaks along the North Shore Mountains

that resemble the ears of a lion. They were named after the famous Landseer lion sculptures in London's Trafalgar Square.

BY GAIL MERO-O'NEIL

The downtown peninsula is home to many of the city's attractions. Robson Street is where you'll find Vancouver's trendiest shops, and cool cultural attractions. Vancouver is also something of a culinary paradise with everything from fresh caught seafood, to izakaya a form of Japanese street food.

Granville Island is a former industrial site that has been transformed into an artsy, upscale neighborhood filled with funky shops, cafes, a wharf and a large pubic market. The short water taxi ride offers some excellent views of Vancouver's West End.

Historic *Gastown* was named after Vancouver's first settler, riverboat skipper and saloon-keeper Jack "Gassy" Deighton. His likeness stands at the circle where Water, Alexander, Powell and Carrall streets converge. Taking a selfie in front of the old salt is a prime Vancouver photo op. Gastown offers an eclectic mix of brick walks, bistros, galleries and nightlife, as well as the city's famous steam-powered clock on the corner of Water and Cambie Streets.



The Millennium Gate, at Pender and Taylor, marks the entrance to Chinatown but most of the action is a few blocks further east and along Keefer Street, one block south. The second largest Chinatown on the West Coast boasts a weekend-night market not dissimilar to those found in Hong Kong and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, is a Ming-dynasty style garden that combines traditional Chinese buildings, plants, a small lake and curved footpaths.

Tea lovers will find an unsurpassed selection of teas, and hundreds of beautifully handcrafted imported teapots. One of the rarest is called "monkey pick" because the plants are grown on cliffs so inaccessible, that only trained monkeys can harvest it!

Despite a reputation for being a bit pricey, Vancouver is full of things to do that cost nothing, or next to nothing. Often described as a "thousand-acre therapeutic couch" *Stanley Park* is one of the world's great urban spaces. Walking the 6-mile seawall around this green oasis that's bigger than Central Park is almost a rite of passage for visitors. You can follow the seawall all the way around to *Canadian Place*, the cruise ship terminal

and convention center that looks a lot like the Sydney Opera House. The park is also the home to the *Vancouver Aquarium* where visitors can see beluga whales, sea otters and more than 70,000 exotic fish and marine life.

The *Trolley Bus* is an excellent way to visit Vancouver's famous parks, and gardens. The entire tour takes abut two hours, but you can get off the trolley at any of the 17 stops, then re-board another trolley to continue your tour.

Outside Magazine rates Vancouver as one of the 10 best cities in the world for its abundance of outdoor recreation. Grouse Mountain, the 4,100-foot-high summit in Vancouver's backyard can be reached via North America's largest aerial tramway, or by a lung-busting trail known as the Grouse Grind. The world-famous Skyride offers some of the most spectacular viewpoints in Vancouver.

The Capilano Suspension Bridge has thrilled visitors since 1889. The wobbly, 450 foot long, and 230 foot high bridge dangles precariously over the Capilano River and the stunning location is a Vancouver landmark. The privately owned park also has the world's largest collection of totem poles.

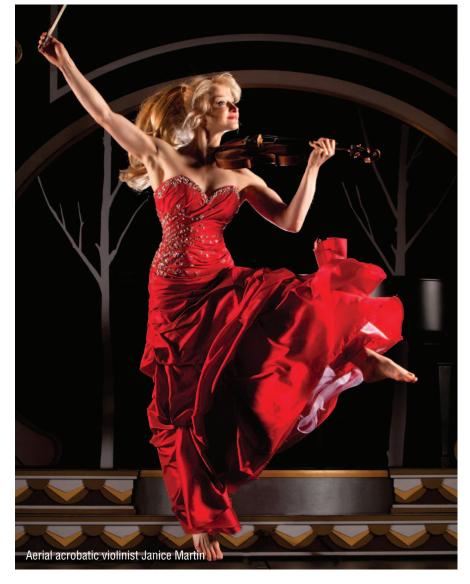
Whistler, about 75-miles from Vancouver, will be the setting for Olympic alpine skiing events. With two gigantic mountains rising directly beside picturesque Whistler Village, North America's favorite ski destination is filled with luxury hotels, designer boutiques and more celebrity sightings than snowflakes.

Some of the most valuable employees at Whistler-Blackcomb have four legs. Ever since "Powder" the St. Bernard greeted skiers at the top of the Gondola in the 1970s, the canine members of the Whistler-Blackcomb Ski Patrol still play a valuable part in search-and-rescue missions and avalanche rescues.

For après-ski and after dinner, Whistler has a vibrant variety of bars and nightclubs. Shopping is a delightful wander down the brick-paved lanes of the pedestrian-only village. And visitors can rejuvenate their weary bodies at one of Whistler's many spas.

The two-hour drive from Vancouver along the *Sea-to-Sky Highway* has been called "one of the most romantic drives in the world" with the road hugging the edge of a stunning glacial fjord with the ocean on one side and the mountains on the other.





Las Vegas of the Ozarks

here's no business like show business and in Branson Missouri, it may be the only business. Dean Dutton earned a doctorate in economics from the University of Michigan and was a tenured professor of economics for 26 years. Today, he plays rhythm guitar, in *The Duttons*, a family of fiddlers that includes wife Sheila, their children and grandchildren. The "America's Got Talent" finalists perform over 300 shows a year, while operating their own theatre, hotel and restaurant in the heart of Branson's theatre district.

Situated within a day's drive of 50 percent of the U.S. population, Branson is one of America's top "rubber tire" destinations with the vast majority of the 65,000 daily visitors arriving in cars, RVs and tour buses. Often called the *Las Vegas of the Ozarks*, millions of visitors come to Branson every year.

Tourists began coming to this bucolic

neck of the woods a century ago, drawn by author Harold Bell Wright's vivid description of the Ozarks in his best-

BY RENU SAGGAR

selling novel "The Shepherd of the Hills". Visitors can still get a taste of what life was like back then at *The Shepherd of the Hills Homestead*, where you can take in a live production of The Shepherd of the Hills in the outdoor theater and tour the historic homestead.

The real boom came about five decades later when a few Branson families like the Presley's and Baldknobbers opened music halls that played off the region's hillbilly roots. Families that had been pickin' and grinin' for generations took to the stage, while their relatives ran the concessions.

Today, Branson boasts more theatre seats than Broadway and is home to dozens of musical, magic, comedy, variety and Broadway-style shows.

Critics may eschew Branson's down-home sensibilities, but where else can you find a Japanese-born fiddler and a Russian comic performing sold out shows? *Shoji Tabuchi* fiddles his way through country, bluegrass, western swing, and jazz and comedian *Yacov Smirnoff* guarantees that you'll laugh once a minute during his show or he'll give you your money back.



Branson used to be more than a little bit country, but the mix of entertainment has gradually evolved to embrace pop, rock, R&B and Opera Buffa. Marquees are ablaze with show stoppers like Motown Downtown, The Dublin Irish Tenors, The Texas Tenors and "Thank You For The Music" a musical tribute to the maddeningly memorable music of Swedish pop legends ABBA.

Departed celebrities are still some of Branson's biggest attractions. James Garrett sings John Denver's best-loved hits in a *Tribute to John Denver*, while Mike Walker brings Conway Twitty back to the stage in *Conway Remembered*. All Crazy 'bout Patsy is a heartfelt homage to the late country legend.

And Elvis has never left the building. The patron saint of posthumous performers pops up at all over town, in shows like *Legends in Concert* at the Dick Clark American Bandstand Theater and *Million Dollar Quartet*, at the Welk Resort Theatre. Based on the Tony Award winning Broadway musical, it tells the true story of the famed recording session that brought Elvis together with now departed fellow icons Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, and "The Killer" a still very much alive

Jerry Lee Lewis.

At *Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede* patrons chow down on a hearty, home-style meal, while dozens of beautiful horses perform incredible feats with flaming hoops, trick riding and pageantry. After the show, guests can meet the stars of the show in their stables.

Holiday shows include the Janice Martin Cirque Christmas Show at the Starlite Theatre. The World's Only Aerial Acrobatic (and Juilliard trained) violinist takes you on an enchanting magical, musical and aerial journey, joined by her Cirque family of singers, aerialists, magicians, jugglers and more!

The 700-seat *Showboat Branson Belle* plies the waters of Table Rock Lake, on two-hour lunch and dinner cruises that include live entertainment, a three-course meal and spectacular scenery.

The Branson IMAX Entertainment complex boasts a massive projection, 6 stories tall and 83 feet wide, the tallest screen in the Midwest! A state-of- the-art dual 4K laser projection systems deliver ultimate picture quality and sound.

Spectacular views of wooded hills are as numerous and as ever changing as the seasons, but when the weather turns unseasonal area museums draw everyone from history buffs, to pop-culture aficionados and automobile enthusiasts. One of the coolest things about the *Branson Auto & Farm Museum* is that you can take home the exhibits — if you can afford them, of course.

In the *Titanic Museum* visitors will find over 400 artifacts from the doomed ocean liner on display.

In the winter. Branson resembles a tableaux from the Precious Moments figurines that are made nearby. Take a nostalgic excursion through the Ozark foothills in the restored, 1940-50 era railcars of the *Branson Scenic Railway*. This one hour 45 minute trip takes you through tunnels, over trestles, and through the southwest Missouri, or northwest Arkansas wilderness, home to abundant wildlife and ghost towns, whose names are found only on old railroad maps.

Take a leisurely ride through Branson's historic downtown district with the *Original Branson Carriage Company*. Looping along the historic streets, you'll learn about the area's history and view some of the major highlights and attractions including Branson Landing and Lake Taneycomo.



LHSC Cardiac Team makes history, again

Implants next generation valve through the aorta



The Heart Team at London Health Sciences Centre

he London Health sciences centre Heart Team continue to do pioneering work in the treatment of the disorders of the heart valve, and remain at the forefront of innovation. In a Canadian first, the multidisciplinary heart team at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) implanted a new generation of transcatheter valves called the Medtronic Evolut Pro valve (Minneapolis, Minnesota).

This valve was implanted through the groin artery and has the advantage of reducing the leakage that occurs after implantation of the transcatheter valves in the previous generation of transcatheter valves. The reduction of the incidence of leakage from around the valve, will result in better long term outcome after the valve implantation in patients with narrowing of the aortic valve.

Until March 2018, the Medtronic Evolut Pro valve had not been implanted in any alternative approaches other than through the groin arteries. When the multidisciplinary Heart Team at LHSC had to treat a very high risk patient who could not have the valve implanted through the groin arteries, they became the first team in the world to implant this new generation of valve through an alternative approach, through the main artery called the aorta.

The outcome from this alternative approach was excellent, allowing the patient to recover rapidly and leave the hospital in 3 days. This way the patient experienced the best advantage of a new technol-

ogy applied in an alternative manner, avoiding possible complications of the standard surgery and reducing the length of stay in the hospital with great outcome.

The patients who have had this new generation of valve implanted, are doing extremely well with complete resolution of their symptoms with minimal leakage of the new implanted valve on follow up heart ultrasound.

The Heart Team has also been successful in designing other innovative procedures for the management of narrowing of the aortic valve who are not

suitable candidates for transcatheter valve intervention. Their intention was to have another minimally invasive procedure for the treatment of people with narrowed aortic valve. After collaborating with several international physicians, they were able to design a robotic assisted procedure for the treatment of aortic valve.

Hence, the heart team at LHSC under the leadership of Dr. Bob Kiaii, were the first centre in the world to treat a patient's aortic valve narrowing by performing a robotic-assisted aortic valve replacement.

The patient did extremely well with a short stay in the hospital.

The robot that was utilized was the da Vinci robotic system by Intuitive Surgical (Sunnyvale, California). The da Vinci Surgical System is a sophisticated robotic platform designed to expand the surgeon's capabilities and offer a state-of-the-art minimally invasive option for major surgery. According to the manufacturer, the da Vinci System is called "da Vinci" in part, because Leonardo da Vinci's study of human anatomy eventually led to the design of the first known robot in history.

The Heart Team, which is a group of committed and dedicated surgeons, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, radiologists, intensivists, nurses, and clinical perfusionists, deliver care in a multidisciplinary manner. They remain very focused in accomplishing their mission to improve the care of patients with heart disorder in the least invasive manner.





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