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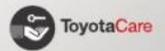
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Cover: Early morning light shines on the Grant Grove of giant sequoias in Kings Canyon National Park. Photo by Larry Gerbrandt / Getty Images.



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Glenn Johnson

Flying The Last Frontier

One of the lures of aviation is the opportunity it provides to stretch your wings, explore beautiful places and meet interesting new people.

And that's exactly what Horizon Air did last month as we expanded into the great state of Alaska by operating nine daily roundtrip flights for our sister carrier, Alaska Airlines.

Under the new schedule, Alaska increased its flights between Anchorage and Fairbanks from seven to nine daily roundtrips, and Horizon operates eight of these with its state-of-the-art 76-seat Bombardier Q400s. A Horizon Q400 also replaced an Alaska Boeing 737 on one of two daily roundtrips between Anchorage and Kodiak.

In my 31 years with Alaska Air Group, I've spent a lot of time in the Great Land. I've certainly developed an affinity for the state and its residents, along with their particularly special association with air travel (in many remote areas, air service is the only way in or out of towns). Needless to say, I'm excited about this opportunity.

To celebrate our new service, we repainted two of the three Q400s we're using in Alaska to feature the colors and logos of the state's two largest universities: the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. We previously painted nine other aircraft to honor universities in the Lower 48, and they've been big hits among fans and alums. I'm confident these two aircraft will generate the same enthusiasm. Go, Seawolves! Go, Nanooks!

Why is Horizon service in this state so important? The smaller aircraft help us better match capacity with customer demand and allow for increased flight frequency. That means a more convenient shuttlelike schedule that can accommodate travelers' needs throughout the day.

Using Q400s also means Alaskans can take advantage of the many touches that have made Horizon so popular. Among them: our A La Cart planeside baggage service; complimentary wine and microbrews, including Silver Gulch's locally brewed Old 55

Pale Ale; and our two-by-two seating configuration (no middle seat!). Not to mention the warm, caring service we're known for.

And here's some extra good news: The Q400 has lower operating costs than the 737, so we hope to eventually pass savings on to our customers with lower fares on these flights. Also, by freeing up the 737s that had been used on the routes, Alaska launched service to two new destinations from Anchorage: Phoenix and Las Vegas.

Technically, this isn't Horizon's first service in the 49th state. Way back in 1992, a runway construction project in Nome made it impossible for Alaska to fly its jets there, so Horizon shuttled passengers between Kotzebue and Nome for 10 days on 37-seat turboprops.

Our operation is very different today. Our Q400s, although they also feature propellers, are in an entirely different class. They incorporate the latest technology, such as noise and vibration dampeners, as well as highly sophisticated navigation systems that enable safe, smooth landings even where topography and weather are challenging.

The aircraft are also accustomed to the cold weather in Alaska—we've

successfully flown Q400s for years in Canada and Montana, and other airlines fly them in places such as Siberia and northern Europe.

Horizon plans to be in Alaska for the long haul. We're hoping, frankly, that these initial flights will provide a springboard for additional service within the state. To support this effort, we've opened up a flight-crew base in Anchorage that's home to 60 pilots and flight attendants, many of whom are Alaska residents.

Whether you're an Alaska resident flying in a Q400 for the first time or a longtime Alaska/Horizon customer reading this on a flight somewhere in the Lower 48, please know we very much appreciate your business.

Thanks for flying with us today.

Glenn Johnson, Horizon Air President and Alaska Air Group EVP



PHOTO BY SUSAN EW BANK

Horizon Air Q400s began service in Alaska last month.

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PORTLAND, OR

Spring sampling

More than 40 Northwest craft breweries will be pouring samples of 90-plus beers during the 20th-annual Spring Beer & Wine Fest, April 18–19 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. The festival will also feature live musical entertainment; presentations and seminars; and a wine competition, with wineries vying for gold, silver and bronze medals.

Speakers will include Oregon and West Coast food experts such as charcutier Christopher Leach, owner of The Beautiful Pig, who will demonstrate recipes and pair dishes with festival wines. A cheesemaker from Cypress Grove Chevre will pair artisan cheeses with small-batch beers. Chocolatier Jeff Shepherd, owner of Lillie Belle Farms, will pair chocolate confections with local distilled spirits. Oregon Brew Crew will provide tips on home brewing. And Damian Magista, owner of Bee Local honey, will showcase unique local beers made with honey.



The festival is a time to enjoy and appreciate a gathering of tastes, as indicated by its inclusion of beer, wine, spirits, charcuterie, chocolate and cheese. Contact: 503-238-3770; springbeerfest.com.

—Madison Cavell

STANFORD, CA

Early photos of the American West

Yosemite, the Pacific Coast, the Columbia River and Oregon



In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act, the first land grant legislation to protect wild land for all time, according to the National Park Service. The act, which helped lay the groundwork for establishment of Yosemite National Park in 1890, was inspired in part by photos of Yosemite Valley—picturesque rivers, waterfalls, trees and mountains—taken by Carleton Watkins, a San Francisco photographer in his early 30s.

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant Act, around 80 of Watkins' original prints—taken with a camera custom-built to create “mammoth” 18-inch-by-22-inch glass-plate negatives—will be displayed in “Carleton Watkins: The Stanford Albums,” April 23–August 17 at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. Individual photos from unbound albums in the university's collection will be framed for the exhibit, which is divided into three sections, each representing a different album.

“Photographs of Yosemite, 1861 and 1865–66,” with approximately 36 photographs, contains two

groups of prints. The first comprises photographs taken in 1861 that helped bring about the Yosemite Grant Act. The second, taken during Watkins' 1865–1866 trip to Yosemite Valley, focuses on individual natural features. For example, *Pompompasos, the Three Brothers, Yosemite 4480 ft.* (shown above) shows a famous rock formation, and *Pohono, the Bridal Veil, Yosemite 900 ft.*, is a print of Bridalveil Fall.

Another section, “Photographs of the Pacific Coast, 1862–1876,” displays approximately 25 photos of the coast. The third section, “Photographs of the Columbia River and Oregon, 1867,” includes approximately 21 photos that Watkins took for the Oregon Steam Navigation Company.

Watkins' photography equipment, including a mobile darkroom tent, weighed nearly a ton and had to be carried by a team of mules. The photographer was known for his technical skill and his ability to produce unique painterly compositions even amid the dust, dirt and other difficult conditions of the Western wilderness.

Contact: 650-723-4177; museum.stanford.edu.

—Madison Cavell

I THOUGHT I WAS ON TOP OF THE WORLD

By Pat O'Day

My career had been spent in radio and rock and roll. I ran the No. 1 radio station in Seattle and on the air when I also started the world's largest rock-and-roll concert company. On this day I was broadcasting my show from the top of Seattle's new skyscraper, the Columbia Tower. I mean, what could be wrong? Well, several things.

I'd been drinking to excess for years. Being on the road with our rock acts, from Hendrix to Zeppelin, The Beach Boys to Bad Company, cocaine and other things also entered the picture. Oh sure, I thought I was just fine, but several acquaintances saw it differently. There was an unwelcome intervention where a little group of friends cornered me and demanded that I get treatment. "Are you kidding?" I thought. I'm no weak, simpering alcoholic or addict. I just like to drink.

The group demanded I go to Schick Shadel Hospital in Seattle, which has a unique ten-day medical treatment that halts addictions. "OK, fine." I said, "Ten days, these guys will get off my back and I can drink again, socially of course."

Ten days later I walked out of Schick Shadel Hospital to never, ever, have another drink or any bad substance. My habit, the urges, the desire and the mixed-up rationale had simply gone, vanished; I was sober, happy and healed. **So, may I tell you the rest of the story?**

Mr. Charles Shadel of Seattle once said, "Something just isn't right. People are addicted to alcohol. It's wrecking lives. They know they should quit, and they want to, but they can't. Churches, rehab centers, counselors all try to help, but the craving seems impossible to extinguish. Soon, they're right back into drinking or the drugs. Shadel said, "We must be doing something wrong!"



Photo of Pat O'Day, Seattle radio personality, celebrating the completion of Seattle's Columbia Tower with a broadcast in 1984. (Photo courtesy of Dennis Law)

He joined with Doctors Lemere and Voegtlin in search of a solution. It was clear from their studies that the conscious portion of the brain, the portion you're using as you read this, once addicted, lacks the power to erase overpowering urges of dependency. Those latent cravings simply become overwhelming. So they concluded, "To truly halt the habit, we must employ a more powerful portion of the brain, the subconscious." **And they did!** Their stunning achievement created a medical treatment that is proven to be very successful. **Logically, you're asking, "What is it they do?"** The answer is two powerful but painless medical innovations were combined to erase patients' habits.

First, they developed a powerful "Counter Conditioning" method that brings the patient to hate the sight, smell, taste and thoughts of using the addictive substance, be it alcohol or drugs. Further medication isn't required to maintain this protective shield.

Second, the doctors introduced medically administered deep sleep therapy. The cleansing of the patient's low self-esteem, guilt, regrets and other emotional burdens are critical to long-term mental health.

Understand that Schick Shadel's approach contends these habits are not the fault of the patient. We live in a world of intoxicants and many people are genetically unprotected from their addictive impact. Such vulnerability is passed from parents to kids, generation to generation.

Following these two treatments, patients can leave the hospital after just 10 days, free from cravings, guilt and destructive habits. The original wonderful individual returns. This success is enjoyed by many thousands of former patients including myself. It's now been 27 sober, happy, healthy years for me. It took no willpower; they simply erased my addictions.

So may I say to you, "Your life on this earth is so very short. You needn't let intoxicants control or wreck it, when eliminating the problem is so quick and easy at world-famous Schick Shadel Hospital."

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SEATTLE, WA

Miró exhibition

Spanish artist Joan Miró (1893–1983) often used primary colors, combined with black and white, to achieve bold compositions that lived up to “Miró’s insistence that a painting should ignite the imagination,” explains an interpretive panel for the exhibit “Miró: The Experience of Seeing,” on view at the Seattle Art Museum through May 26.

SAM is the only West Coast venue showing the exhibit, which comprises approximately 50 paintings and sculptures created from 1963 to 1981. The works, such as *Woman, Bird and Star (Homage to Picasso)*, shown above, are Miró’s most significant and defining pieces, according to exhibit curator Carmen Fernández Aparicio, chief curator of sculpture at Madrid’s



Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, which loaned the pieces for “The Experience of Seeing.” These later works demonstrate “a dialogue of paintings and sculpture” dealing with the same subject matter, as well as Miró’s use of found objects, ranging from spoons to rakes, to create inventive sculptures, Fernández says. She adds that Miró felt that anything accidental that happened in his studio, such as paint drips or smudges,

“could provoke a new work of art.” The exhibit, organized by SAM and the Madrid museum, reflects the Spanish museum’s “new policy of sharing our collection on an international level so other people can enjoy it,” Fernández says. Contact: 206-654-3210; seattleartmuseum.org.

AROUND THE ROUTE SYSTEM

Enter to win an adventure trip

Located in the heart of Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front, where the mountains meet the prairie southeast of Glacier National Park, The Nature Conservancy’s Pine Butte Guest Ranch offers activities ranging from horseback riding to hiking (shown below). Ranch guests also have exclusive access to the Conservancy’s nearby Pine Butte Swamp Preserve, an important habitat for wildlife, including 43 mammal species and about 200 bird species.

You can enter to win a one-week stay for two at the ranch, including air transportation to Great

Falls, Montana, from any Alaska Airlines–served city, by entering a sweepstakes being sponsored by Alaska Airlines and The Nature Conservancy in honor of Earth Month. The contest spotlights six Conservancy projects in the West: preserving prime grizzly bear habitat, and ensuring healthy grasslands for wildlife and family ranchers in Montana; protecting wild-salmon habitat across Alaska; creating “pop-up habitats” for migrating birds in California’s Central Valley; restoring coral reefs in Hawai’i; protecting wetlands for wildlife at the Great Salt Lake in Utah; and

restoring Puget Sound for people, fish and wildlife in Washington.

Visit Facebook.com/alaskaairlines for more information on each project, then vote for your favorite by May 31 for a chance to win. Also see Facebook.com/alaskaairlines for contest details and rules. The project that gets the most votes will receive a contribution from Alaska Airlines. The trip will be available during Pine Butte Guest Ranch’s 2015 season.



AROUND THE ROUTE SYSTEM

news¬es

- Seattle Southside Visitor Services, the tourism organization for the Puget Sound–area cities of Tukwila, SeaTac and Des Moines, has opened a new Visitor Center at Westfield Southcenter mall. Visitor center sponsors include The Museum of Flight (seattlesouthside.com).
- The Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport now has a program that allows visitors to snorkel in the “Passages of the Deep” exhibit, amid sea-life such as rockfish, wolf eels, skates, halibut and sturgeon (aquarium.org).
- Chandler’s Crabhouse, part of the Schwartz Brothers Restaurants group in the Seattle area, is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The restaurant is renowned for serving Dungeness crab from Washington waters (schwartzbros.com).
- Enjoy a celebration of fine wine and winemakers during



the Wine Extravaganza, April 25-27 in downtown Coeur d’Alene, ID (cdawinefest.com).

- The annual Steinbeck Festival, presented by the National Steinbeck Center, will be May 2-4 this year in Salinas, CA (steinbeck.org).
- The inaugural GO Fest, Whistler’s Great Outdoors Festival, including family-friendly activities and The Great Snow-Earth-Water Race, will take place May 16-19 (greatoutdoorsfest.com).



NATURAL GRANDIEUR

National parks are among the top vacation destinations in North America, drawing virtually every demographic, from college students to honeymoon couples, from families to retirees. In these grand parks, visitors are awed and inspired as they explore nature, history and culture. | **Writers Mark Grossi, Jean Arthur and Terry W. Sheely** share experiences at spectacular national parks in their home states. | Photo: The General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park.

SIPS FUEL AND GUSHES TECHNOLOGY

2014 **ESCAPE**



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SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

Details: Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks encompass 865,964 acres, and are home to 204 native species of birds and 83 native species of mammals, including black bears, bighorn sheep, mountain lions and bobcats.

A free shuttle travels several routes in Sequoia National Park (generally running from Memorial Day to Labor Day; nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/parktransit.htm).

Activities in the parks include recreation such as cross-country skiing, sledding and snowshoe treks, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing and cave tours.

For an expert's analysis of giant sequoias, visit the following website: pubs.usgs.gov/dds/dds-43/VOL_II/VIL_C55.PDF.

For more information on the parks: nps.gov/seki; 559-565-3341. Check weather/road conditions before your visit.



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

By Mark Grossi

I still remember how my son squeezed my hand, stopping me mid-sentence during one of our many excursions to

Sequoia National Park, as I talked about the life and times of the largest tree, by trunk volume, on the planet: the General Sherman Tree. At nearly 275 feet tall, with more than 52,500 cubic feet of wood, the sequoia loomed just 20 yards from where we were standing. As always, we were impressed by the enormity of the approximately 2,200-year-old tree, but then Joseph, age 7 at the time, pulled me toward a scrubby white fir.

I spotted red and black feathers. Chips of white fir bark were flying everywhere. Joseph had discovered something I'd never seen in more than 25 years of visiting the park: a pileated woodpecker, the largest woodpecker in the Sierra Nevada.

Serendipity had struck again in the land of giants. A few years earlier in the Grant Grove, just up the road in the adjoining Kings Canyon National Park, we had seen a 300-pound black bear and her cub from a distance. Giant sequoias seemed to bring us critter luck. The Grant Grove is home to the General Grant Tree, a 268-plus-foot-tall colossus—approximately 1,700 years old—that is the second-largest tree on Earth, with more than 46,600 cubic feet of trunk wood. The Grant Tree was named in 1867 for Civil War general Ulysses S. Grant, who became president of the United States in 1869. The Sherman Tree was named for Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman, who served under Grant.

Top: The stunning scenery in Kings Canyon National Park includes the Rae Lakes area.

Left and right: Pileated woodpeckers and bighorn sheep are among the animals found at Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks.

The two trees are just 30 or so miles apart—about an hour's drive along the winding Generals Highway, the road connecting the parks, which were established in 1890, when what is now Kings Canyon National Park began as the smaller General Grant National Park. For efficiency, the National Park Service has



Did You Know?

Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks protect 250 caves, including half of the caves more than a mile long in California.

Source: National Park Service



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JOHN ELK / GETTY IMAGES



YELLOWSTONE

Details: Yellowstone National Park, named for the appearance of rocks along the river that the Minnetaree Indians called the Rock Yellow River, is accessible via five entrance stations, three of them in Montana. Parts of the park are open year-round.

Activities include cross-country skiing; snowcoach, snowmobile and snowshoe tours; hiking; biking; fishing; horseback riding; private or group sightseeing tours; and educational courses offered by the Yellowstone Association Institute (yellowstone-association.org). The timing of wildflower blooms can vary year to year, so check with the park in advance for trip planning. Also check weather/road conditions. For more information: nps.gov/yell; 307-344-7381.

Did You Know?

Yellowstone's approximately 10,000 thermal features include the world's largest collection of geysers—more than 300.

Source: National Park Service

managed both parks with one administration since the 1940s.

Each of the majestic parks has giant sequoias, glaciers and oh-my-gosh views of the high Sierra. They are also lands of contrast.

For instance, a blizzard might be roaring at higher elevations in early April while gentle rain falls on California poppies in the foothills. And Sequoia is home to 14,494-foot Mount Whitney, the tallest mountain in the Lower 48 states, while Kings Canyon is named for one of the country's deepest canyons, at 8,200 feet.

On this trip with Joseph, we first drove Highway 180 about 60 miles east from Fresno to the Big Stump Entrance of Kings Canyon National Park. The trailhead for the Grant Grove starts just a few minutes' drive from the gate. As we walked the short, easy trail to the Grant Tree, we saw sooty grouse and western tanager.

At the tree, whose dark-red trunk seemed to glow in the sunshine, we looked up ... and up ... and up ... marveling at this natural monument that Calvin Coolidge designated the nation's Christmas tree in 1926.

Visitors may want to stop in at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center to get directions for hikes such as the approximately 2.5-hour, five-mile roundtrip hike to Panoramic Point or a trek on the Park Ridge Trail to an old fire lookout for a breathtaking view of the jagged Sierra Crest. For overnight adventures such as hikes to the Rae Lakes area, which require per-

mit and advance planning to ensure safety, see nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm.

mits and advance planning to ensure safety, see nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm.

We drove on to Sequoia National Park by heading back toward the Kings Canyon Big Stump Entrance and then turning south onto the Generals Highway. We reminisced about a prior visit to the park, when my wife, Sue, and I took all three of our kids on the 50-minute Family Tour of the Crystal Cave. The children loved the metal spiderweb gate and the marble formations of this underground world.

Sue and I were mesmerized by the eerie maze of columns, soda straws, stalagmites and stalactites, and fascinated to learn that scientists have discovered species of spiders and millipedes here that evolved without eyes in the darkness. Tickets for cave tours (there are several options, for different ages, and even an Explorer's Lantern Tour) must be purchased at the park's Lodgepole or Foothills visitor center before you arrive at the cave itself; tours usually begin to be offered sometime in May, but be sure to check in advance of your trip whether a specific tour will be offered during your visit.

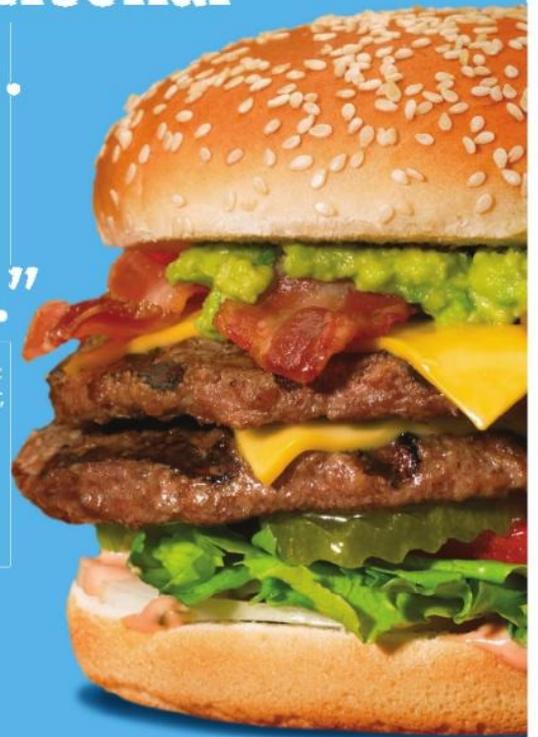
On this trip to view the big trees, Joseph and I also saw plenty of young giant sequoias. This is prime giant sequoia turf: Roughly a third of all naturally occurring giant sequoias grow in Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, including the biggest of them all. While other tree species can

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NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX

Details: Activities in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex include hiking, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, climbing, rafting, and pack trips by horse or llama. Concessionaires offer guided trips for many activities, and the North Cascades Institute (ncascades.org) has an extensive program of classes and field excursions.

The North Cascades Visitor Center, usually open May through early November, is near State Route 20's Milepost 120 and the town of Newhalem. For year-round information: nps.gov/noca; 360-854-7200.

For year-round information: nps.gov/noca; 360-854-7200.

Did You Know?

More than half the glaciers in the Lower 48 states are concentrated in the mountainous wilderness region called the North Cascades; the North Cascades National Park Service Complex has more than 300 glaciers.

Source: National Park Service



grow taller and wider, the General Sherman Tree wins for sheer volume. And as I told Joseph: "It's still growing."

Mark Grossi is also the author of *Longstreet Highroad Guide to the California Sierra Nevada*. *Alaska Airlines* (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) flies daily to Fresno.

Above: Beautiful Diablo Lake is in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. **Below:** A backpacker enjoys the scenic Sahale Arm Trail, which leads to the base of a glacier in the park complex.

fringed gentians are unfolding petals in geyser basins such as Old Faithful, while yellow glacier lilies are poking through West Yellowstone's melting snow. June through September, elegant white yarrow is in blossom parkwide.

Yellowstone has 1,150 species of native flowering plants, including some of my favorites, such as shooting star and bitterroot

(May–June), wild strawberry (May–July), yellow monkeyflower (May–August), elephant head (June–July) and aster (May–September).

My husband, two kids and I are enchanted by the first blush of spring beauty in the Mammoth Hot Springs area. We're also awed by the colorful geothermal features along the one-mile Mammoth Hot Springs boardwalk.

The trail passes 61 fantastic travertine formations, collectively known as the Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces, many of which are colored by microorganisms that flourish in the superheated waters. Sites along the trail live up to their names: green, brown and orange Palette Spring; bright-yellow

Yellowstone National Park

By Jean Arthur

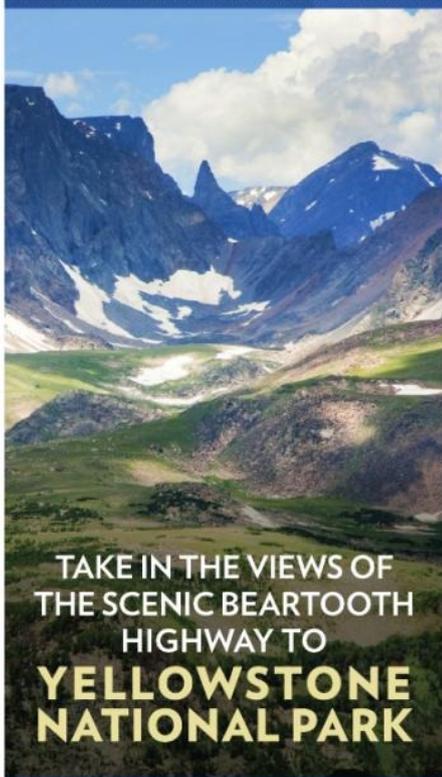
Each spring, bursts of floral delight bloom in meadows near Mammoth Hot Springs at the northern end of Yellowstone National Park. Wildflowers such as the delicate, white spring beauty begin their exquisite show in April and May in this region, earlier than in other areas of the 2.2 million-acre park, where factors such as elevation, temperature, soil type and precipitation determine what flowers blossom where.

Because of the variety of climate and terrain, the world's first national park, established in 1872, is in bloom spring to fall. By May, purple



BELOW: CLIFF LEIGHT / GETTY IMAGES; ABOVE: GALYNA ANDRUSHKO / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

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Canary Spring; Orange Spring Mound.

We use the new “Microbes of Yellowstone National Park” identification color wheel—created by the park’s official educational partner, the Yellowstone Association, and available for purchase online and at stores such as the Mammoth store at the Albright Visitor Center—to match colors to microbes. For instance, hot pools inhabited by *Thermochromatium proteobacteria* have the same purple hue as the lupine that blooms parkwide all summer.

For an afternoon wildflower hike, we drive about five miles from Mammoth Hot Springs to the Glen Creek trailhead parking area, and trek westward about four miles on the Fawn Pass Trail through the Gardners Hole Valley to the Gardner River footbridge. Meadows green up under the intense sun at the 7,300-foot elevation. Swan Lake, visible from much of the trail, reflects the azure sky. My kids discover shed elk antlers.

“They are so heavy!” says Gretchen, as she struggles to pick up the 6-foot-wide bony appendage. Bull elk shed antlers each winter, regrow them each spring and show them off each fall in a display of brawny charm, impressing the elk cows ... and some of the park’s 3.5 million annual visitors. Yellowstone is home to 67 mammal species, headlined by elk, bison, grizzly bears, black bears, wolves, moose, bighorn sheep and coyotes. Some of these species depend on wildflowers for food. For instance, grizzlies dine on glacier lilies; ground squirrels collect wild strawberries; and porcupines munch flower petals.

We leave the antlers for the next visitors to discover (it’s also the law to leave them where they are), and make plenty of noise as we hike to let any animals know we are passing through this meadow. A patch of snow in the shadows reminds us that it was a good idea to pack extra hats and jackets, since spring precipitation can suddenly dust the landscape sugar white.

The sun continues to shine on this hike, however, and everyone is thrilled when we

find clumps of yellow flowers announcing spring. Arnica, which emerges in most places in June, often blooms earlier in this meadow, while sprouting greens promise Indian paintbrush, sticky geranium and wild rose by late May or June.

One of the most amazing flowers in the park is the Yellowstone sand verbena. The



The “Microbes of Yellowstone National Park” color wheel can help visitors identify microorganisms.

unassuming, pale-yellow, sand-hugging plant roots within splash distance of Yellowstone Lake’s shores in the southern part of the park, and grows nowhere else

in the world. Botanists aren’t sure how long its seeds survive or even how the verbena is pollinated.

Our family is frequently captivated by the flora and fauna we see on our Yellowstone hikes. We’ve watched vast bison herds in fields of yellow bell in the Hayden Valley. We’ve spied grizzly bears lolling among wild flax in the Lamar Valley. We’ve grinned as wolves howled at sunrise near the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, where asters bow in the breeze, complementing the rainbow of colors in the rock walls. We’ve laughed at huge, awkward white pelicans as they’ve touched down on lakes adorned with yellow pond lilies.

As rays of light linger in the meadow we’re exploring today, we find gentian, wild iris and larkspur, and we imagine that we can hear bells chiming as we discover bluebells and harebells shaking their heads in the breeze. We ponder the numerous colors—botanical, geothermal and geological—of this amazing park called Yellowstone.

Jean Arthur writes from Bozeman, Montana; her newest book, *Top Trails: Glacier National*

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Park: Must-Do Hikes for Everyone, will be available at bookstores in early June. Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) flies daily to Bozeman and Billings, air gateways to the park.

North Cascades National Park Service Complex

By Terry W. Sheely

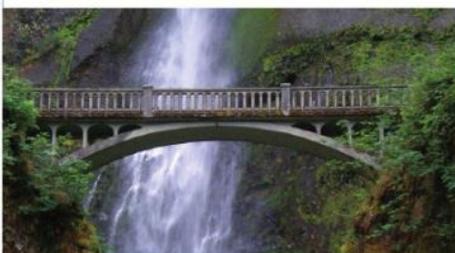
Snowmelt trickles along cliff-wall cracks in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, pausing in weathered gouges, then rushing to join the thundering 66-foot plunge of John Pierce Falls into the eastern arm of Diablo Lake.

The horsetail-shaped falls are a photogenic stop on our four-hour tour of the lake onboard the 40-passenger *Cascadian*, which operates early July through mid-September. The Diablo Lake Boat Tour is one of the Skagit Tours offered via a partnership of North Cascades National Park; Seattle City Light, which owns three hydroelectric dams along the section of the Skagit River that crosses the North Cascades National Park Service Complex; and the North Cascades Institute, whose Environmental Learning Center is on the north shore of Diablo Lake. The tour leaves from the learning center, about a three-hour drive northeast of Seattle or a two-hour drive southeast of Bellingham.

The Diablo Lake reservoir and nearby Ross Lake reservoir are centerpieces of the 680,640-acre North Cascades National Park Service Complex, designated in 1968, with a North Unit that extends to Canada and a South Unit that extends to Lake Chelan. The complex includes North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

For my wife, Natalie, and me, the Diablo Lake Tour is a great introduction to the scenery and geology of the breathtaking park, whose steep, snow-custed peaks rise as high as 9,206 feet. The tour began at the Environmental Learning Center with a lunch featuring local ingredients, including fresh, organic greens. Then we toured the center, which has classrooms, overnight accommodations, and programs that range from day-trip canoeing to multiday options such as learning from scientists studying songbirds.

On the boat tour led by a park ranger and a North Cascades Institute naturalist,



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Diane, age 42



Photos: Gerald Pope

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I thought the program would balance out my hormones and help me look a bit better from the neck up. I was delighted to discover that it was actually a full body makeover which started with my hormones and moved into every part of my life.

At first, I was concerned that my hormones might swing wildly like they did before I went vegetarian, but they didn't because of the expert care I received. Dr. Upton is the kindest and most patient doctor I've ever had the privilege of working with. He listened to my concerns and started me off slowly with the various treatments.

When the results of my second DEXA scan showed an increase in lean muscle mass, as well as an increase in body fat, I was

disheartened. However, Dr. Upton had the answer. He continued to work on increasing my testosterone to normal levels as I also began strength training.

My next DEXA scan revealed I was on the right track. I finally began to see the results I was looking for, gaining over five pounds of muscle and losing over two pounds of fat.

In nine short months, I went from a wheelchair and crutches to joining an X-TREME fitness class. I'm more positive, energetic, and industrious than I've been in years. I couldn't be more elated with my life!

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More Western Parks

Below are just a few more of the many extraordinary national parks in the western United States and western Canada.

Western United States (the National Park Service safeguards approximately 400 sites nationwide; nps.gov)

Bryce Canyon: nps.gov/brca/index.htm.

Crater Lake: nps.gov/crla/index.htm.

Glacier: nps.gov/glac/index.htm.

Joshua Tree: nps.gov/jotr/index.htm.

Mount Rainier: nps.gov/mora/index.htm.

Olympic: nps.gov/olym/index.htm.

Yosemite: nps.gov/yose/index.htm.

Zion: nps.gov/zion/index.htm.

Western Canada

(Parks Canada oversees 215 sites nationwide; pc.gc.ca)

Banff: parkscanada.gc.ca/banff.

Jasper: parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper.

Mount Revelstoke: parkscanada.gc.ca/revelstoke.

Pacific Rim: parkscanada.gc.ca/pacificrim.

the intriguing narration includes an explanation of the hydroelectric projects and the mountain/lake ecosystem, along with tidbits such as the curious history of Monkey Island, named for the captive monkeys that

amused visitors here during the 1930s.

The view that most dazzles and hushes the sightseers aboard the *Cascadian* is from the bow, as we look into the cascading runoff of John Pierce Falls, and hear the noisy rumble of water sorting through a talus of boulders and into the glacial jade green of Diablo Lake.

It's astounding that this gorgeous park is still one of the best-kept secrets in the national park/recreation system. Park officials count fewer than a half million visitors a year, a fraction of the number at many national parks, but that's not for lack of scenery, diversity or superlatives.

Ninety-four percent of the North Cascades complex is mountainous wilderness. The complex includes 316 glistening glaciers, making it the most heavily glaciated national park in the United States outside of Alaska; 400

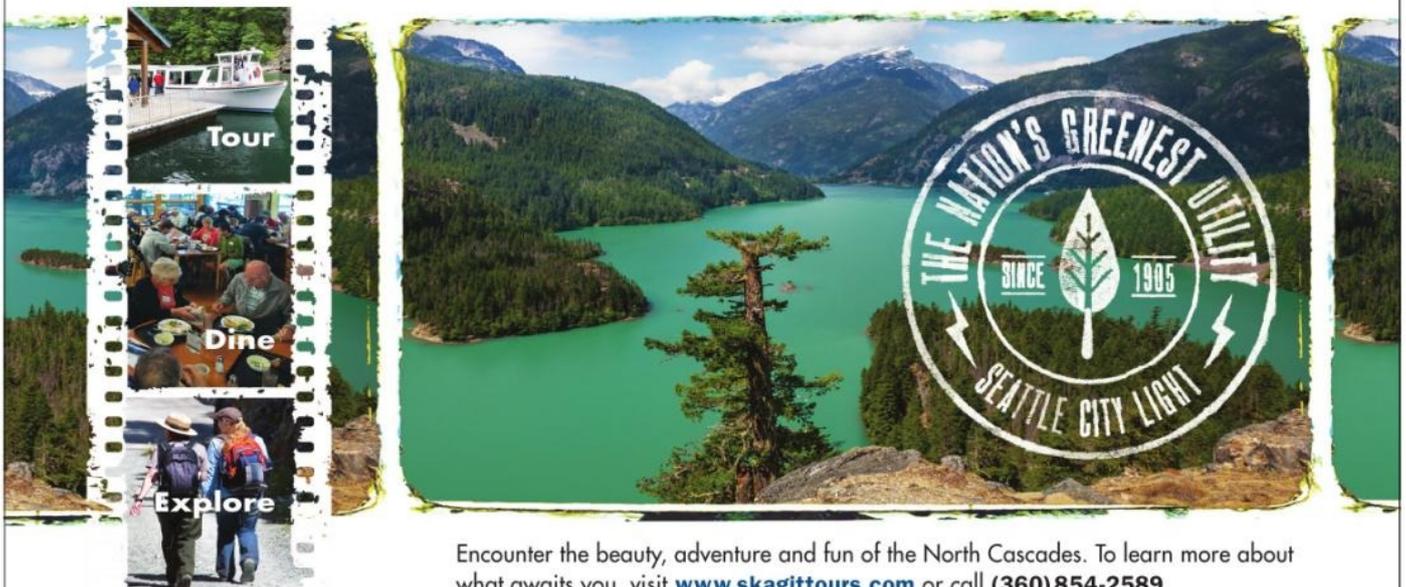
miles of hiking trails, including part of the famous 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada; and some of the largest, deepest and most pristine lakes in the Pacific Northwest, which along with the park's quick streams are lightly fished for rainbows, cutthroats and Dolly Varden.

The park complex is crossed by a single east-west road—State Highway 20, known as the North Cascades Highway—which leads across thickly forested mountain shoulders separating the north and south units. A Washington State Scenic Byway, the paved road curves, switchbacks and rolls across 140 miles of high-mountain scenery, past waterfalls and lakes, and the cathedral-like spires of peaks so spectacular, they're often called the American Alps.

The highway has plenty of pullouts for enjoying sights such as Liberty Bell mountain, east of the park complex, and is a seasonal summer treat because the highest-elevation 40 miles from Ross Lake to Silver Star Creek is typically closed from late November to mid-April when buried under snow. Although some of the park complex may be inaccessible during winter, the *Lady of the Lake* provides year-round transporta-

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tion on 55-mile-long Lake Chelan—the largest natural lake in Washington and, at 1,486 feet, one of the deepest lakes in North America.

Park Service geologists, biologists and botanists describe the North Cascades National Park Service Complex as one of the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. It includes the temperate rain forests of Western Washington and the arid sagebrush valleys of the Columbia Basin. Its pickets of jagged peaks, some nearly two miles above sea level, include summits streaked with year-round snow patches, and beautified by flowering heather, blueberries, mountain ash and stands of wind-twisted subalpine trees, called krummholz (German for “crooked wood”).

The rugged park supports more than 1,600 plant species, about 200 bird species and about 75 mammal species. Wildlife includes golden and bald eagles, ptarmigan, gray wolves, grizzly and black bears, mountain goats, black-tailed and mule deer, cougars, lynx, bobcats, fishers, martens, moose and wolverines.

The key to unlocking much of the park's vast vertical backcountry solitude and off-highway highlights is sturdy, lug-soled hiking boots. Most of the trails are strenuous, such as the breathtaking Sahale Arm Trail to the toe of Sahale Glacier, but one of the most popular exceptions is East Bank Trail under the forest canopy paralleling the eastern shore of Ross Lake. We found the trailhead at the marked Ruby Creek pullout on the shoulder of Highway 20 at Mile Marker 138.2, a few miles east of a large overlook of the lake. The trailhead is marked by an interpretive sign about the late-1880s Ruby Creek gold rush.

After a short downhill walk from the highway, we cross the creek on a suspension bridge and follow the easy grade of a long-abandoned and overgrown mining road toward the Ruby Arm of Ross Lake.

Like many day-tripping park explorers, we're satisfied with a scenic trek through the woodlands on the relatively level first 2.8 miles of the 31-mile trail. We turn around when our leg muscles protest the first serious uphill climb.

Backpackers carrying overnight gear and wilderness permits can continue on the East Bank Trail through towers of old-growth conifers and snatches of alpine views, climbing through the marshy mead-

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ows at Hidden Hand Pass before camping near the shores of Ross Lake, about 14 miles from the trailhead. The route continues past Willow Lake and Hozomeen Lake to Hozomeen Campground, near the Canadian border. Side-route options along the way include the lung-testing ascent to the abandoned lookout at the summit of 6,000-foot Desolation Peak. According to the Park Service, Beatnik writer Jack Kerouac served as a fire lookout here in 1956, and the experience inspired his book *Desolation Angels*.

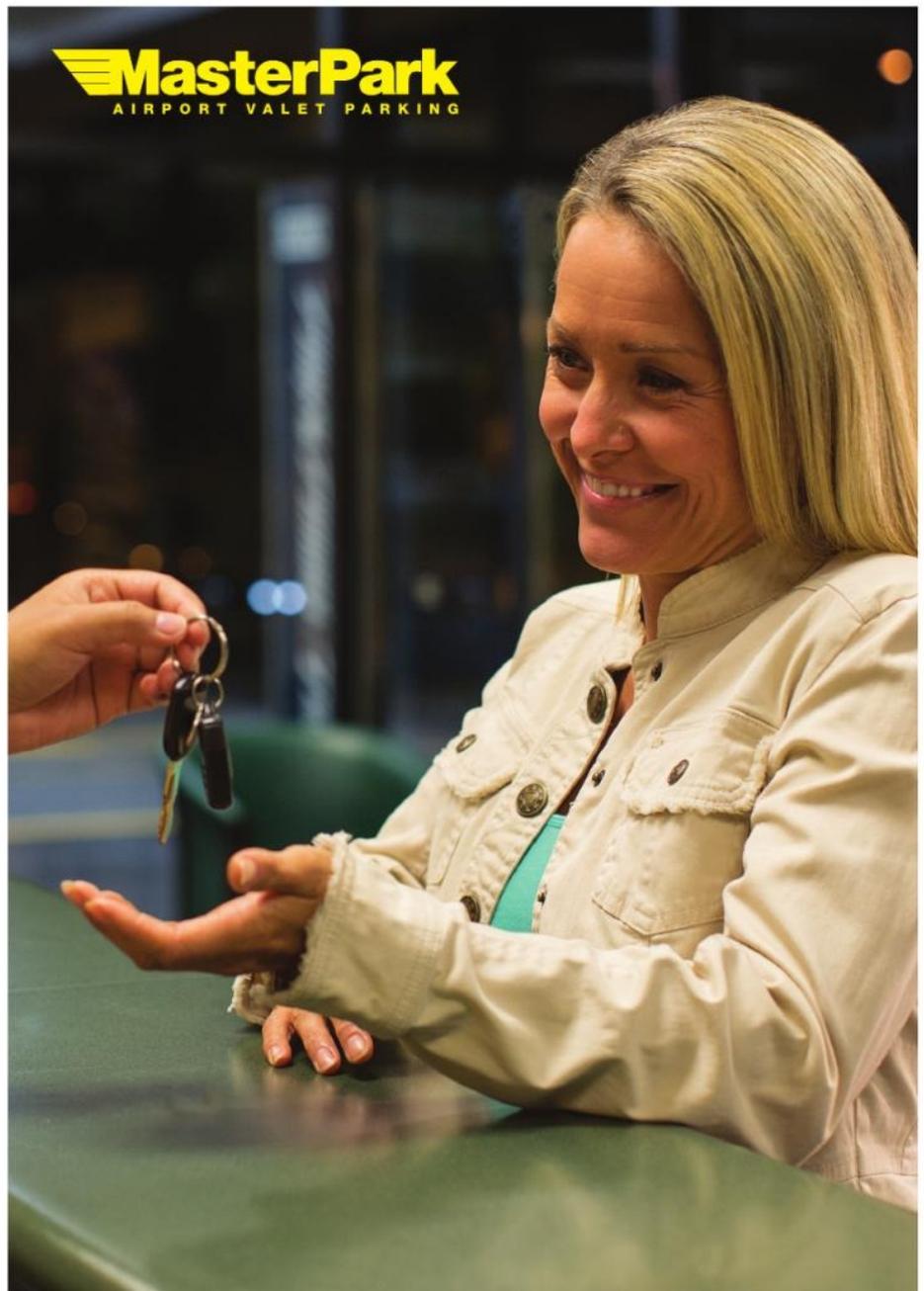
As we finish our day hike, Natalie lets me know she's charmed by the option of staying in a rustic floating cabin at Ross Lake Resort, and wants to return sometime to do that.

Renovated from an old-time logging camp, the floating resort is in a road-inaccessible area of the reservoir. Getting there is itself an adventure. If you don't have much gear, you can park at the trailhead for the Ross Dam Trail and hike about a mile to a telephone box where you can call for a boat from the resort to pick you up. The other option is to board the Diablo Lake Ferry, which drops you at a site farther north up the lake. There, you meet a flatbed truck that shuttles you up a haul road to a site on the shore of Ross Lake to rendezvous with a boat from the resort, which is located on the opposite side of the lake. The entire journey takes about an hour.

The cold, clear water of Ross Lake is said to harbor nearly unfished schools of trout and char wherever tributaries flow into the reservoir. The resort has watercraft for rent, so I'll bring a fly rod.

To discover more of this undiscovered park, I'll ghost along the roadless shoreline in a silent canoe, casting small, dark caddis fly patterns into the shimmering reflection of the glaciers in the high crags of the North American Alps, hoping for a tug from a wild trout. ■

Terry W. Sheely lives in the Greater Seattle area. He is the author of numerous books, including the Washington State Fishing Guide. Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) flies daily to Seattle and Bellingham, and also to Wenatchee, a gateway to Lake Chelan. The airline will be offering special deals related to various national parks; check out alaskaair.com/parks for details beginning April 8.



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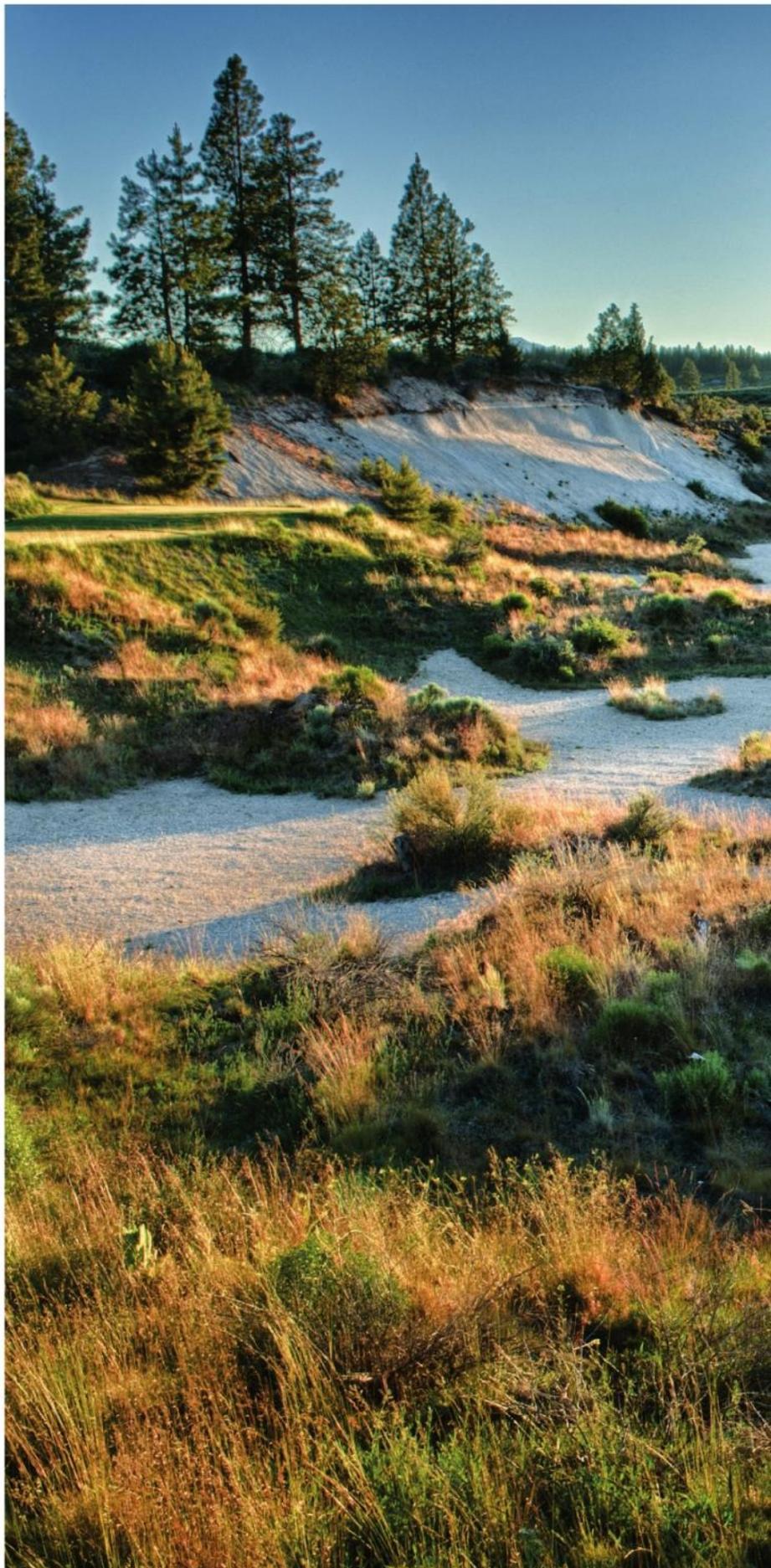




Fabulous Golf Resorts IN Central Oregon

BY JEFF WALLACH

Standing on the first tee at Tetherow Golf Club, I look out upon a rolling landscape that includes plenty of humps and hummocks, tucked pot bunkers, waving native grasses and a stretch of golf fairway that is as firm and fast as anything I've played in Scotland. ♦ If I'm accurate, or lucky, my drive should careen exactly in the direction of the hole. As on the best Scottish links courses, I can use the terrain to help move the ball forward. Except that I'm not in Scotland. I'm in the gloriously warm high-desert country of Central Oregon, surrounded by snowcapped peaks, sagebrush, lava flows and the other geographical features that make the area a leading Western resort destination. It is also one of the nation's top golf vacation spots, offering 30 excellent venues within 45 minutes of the town of Bend. >>>





Built on the site of a former pumice quarry, the par-3 17th at Tetherow is one of the course's most dramatic and memorable holes.

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BEND OREGON

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In golf's long history, the sport has been influenced the most by terrain, and aficionados travel the globe to experience the rugged mountain courses of British Columbia, the sand belt tracks of Australia, the heathland layouts found throughout England, and other varied locales where topography stamps its imprint on the royal and ancient game.

One of the great aspects of visiting Bend for a golf vacation is that within a few miles you can play rounds at five excellent resorts that offer this same variety. There is even a well-crafted nine-hole course consisting of par 3s. Also, because these lay-

outs are located at an elevation of between 3,000 feet and more than 4,000 feet, players get the bonus of watching golf balls travel about 10 percent farther than they would at sea level.

The following is a look at five world-class golf resorts that allow you to experience a diverse selection of tracks in the Bend area.

Tetherow Golf Club

Most courses have a strong connection to golf's ancient Scottish origins.

In Central Oregon, this is certainly true at Tetherow, located about four miles southwest of downtown Bend. Designed by Scottish architect David McLay Kidd, Tetherow features wide seas of fescue grass—the same grass used on most Scottish links. It lends the golfing surface a quick, rolling feel and calls for players to show inventive shotmaking. According to Tetherow officials, it is one of the first



Above: As a morning mist rises from the water, a golfer hits an approach to the par-4 third hole at Sunriver Resort's Meadows Course.

Below: The par-5 second hole at Black Butte Ranch's Glaze Meadow Golf Course requires an accurate approach shot to an elevated green.

high-desert courses to successfully import the famed coastal grass.

Pot bunkers, deep full-size bunkers, odd knobs and occasional knolls must all be negotiated on the way to large tiered greens that require touch and creativity. Because of its ecologically friendly layout, Tetherow is the first in Oregon—and one of only 82 tracks in the world—to be named an Audubon International Certified Signature Sanctuary.

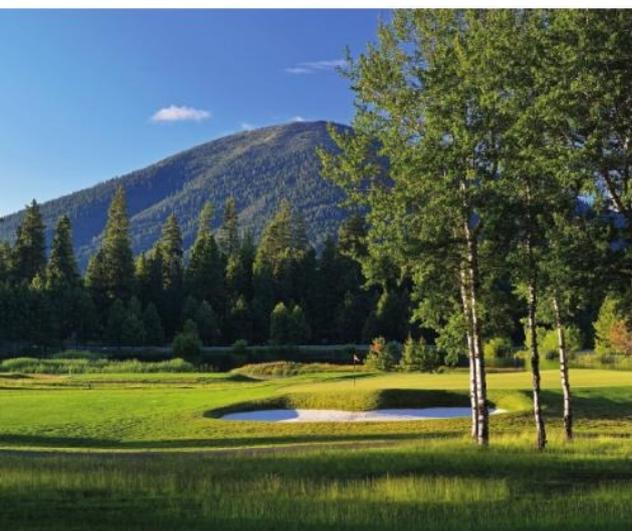
One Scottish-accented theme repeats itself at Tetherow: Don't necessarily aim at the flagsticks, or even the centers of the greens. For despite its high-desert location, this is a links course in spirit and should be played using the territory to move your ball toward the hole.

Players may have trouble grasping all the nuances of this layout. That is why forecaddies—caddies who don't carry clubs but advise players on correct club and shot selection—are required. Despite having a forecaddie, you will likely ignore his or her advice at some point and make an error either in tactics or execution, which is part of the fun.

The 17th hole on this stunning track presents the best photo opportunity. The hole tunnels through a sunken pumice quarry to the smallest green Kidd has so far created. His intention is for players to hit tee shots into the slope behind the green so that the ball will trickle back toward the pin.

With its high degree of difficulty, Tetherow makes for a great match-play venue. So forget about keeping score. Once you toss the pencil, the fun and beguilement will only increase. Eighteen terrific holes await, giving you the chance to say "Blimey!" if you fail to make par.

This month, the resort is planning to open two lodges, which will offer a total of 50 guest suites.



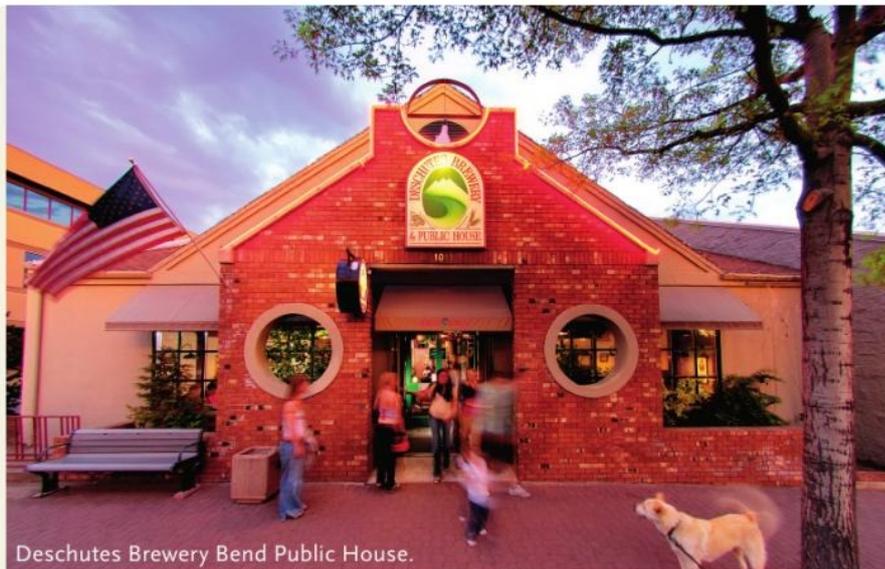
ABOVE: COURTESY, SUNRIVER RESORT; BELOW: BLACK BUTTE RANCH/MIKE HOUSKA

Scotland may be famous for its single malt whiskey, but Bend boasts its own malted beverage—beer—available at a connoisseur’s cornucopia of brewpubs and from small craft producers. Here are two favorites—among the oldest and newest in town:

The **Deschutes Brewery Bend Public House**, where everything from the bread to the sausage is made on the premises, is the old granddad of Bend craft brewing. Renowned for its “try anything” attitude that has resulted in such beers as Mirror Pond Pale Ale and Black Butte Porter, Deschutes has also crafted small-batch delights, including The Abyss, Hop Trip and The Dissident.

I experimented with a sampler that included the light and lovely Deschutes River Ale; the sweet and strong Jubelale, first brewed in 1988; a smoked porter; and a taste of the XXV Black Butte Porter, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Ensnconced in a former transmission shop, the new **Crux Fermentation Project** has quickly developed a strong following,



Deschutes Brewery Bend Public House.

COURTESY: DESCHUTES BREWERY BEND PUBLIC HOUSE

and for good reason. Every detail about this brewpub has been designed with care, from the reclaimed wood used for the bar and furnishings (a tribute to Bend’s history as a mill town) to the wallpaper in the bathrooms (from a 1911 edition of the Brewer’s Association publication). Even the tap tower—used to dispense various beers—is made from an old fire sprinkler

pipe. This same detail is used in brewing Crux’s beer, of which I sampled about 10 varieties, ranging from an unfiltered German pilsner to the DoubleCross, a strong dark Belgian ale packing a flavor as rich as European royalty. Another standout favorite was the Peated Scotch Ale with low hop bitterness, slight caramel flavor and a high character of peat. —J.W.

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Sunriver Resort

About 17 miles southwest of downtown Bend is Sunriver Resort, located on the site where, about 150 years ago, fur trappers built lodgings in meadows along the Deschutes River.

Today the only traps to worry about in the area are those set by course architects on the property's 63 excellent and varied golf holes, which are divided into three championship layouts and one nine-hole track suitable for beginners.

At the pinnacle of Sunriver's collection is Crosswater: 600 acres of target golf reminiscent of the best British heathland courses—if British tracks had views of nearby 10,000-foot snowcapped volcanic peaks. Crosswater dazzles with difficulty as well as design excellence as it crosses the Little Deschutes River more than half a dozen times. The layout is the work of Robert Cupp, who expresses the essence of his golf philosophy through the creation of so-called "risk-reward" situations on many of his golf holes. Some players who spy a yawning bunker or the blue glint of the river may make the mistake of altering their stance to hit as far away from the danger as possible. However, by doing so they risk ignoring one of the principles that course architects rely on: Hitting a good shot closer to the hazard will often result in a bonus to the skilled—or the daring, or at least the lucky—player, whose next shot will be eas-

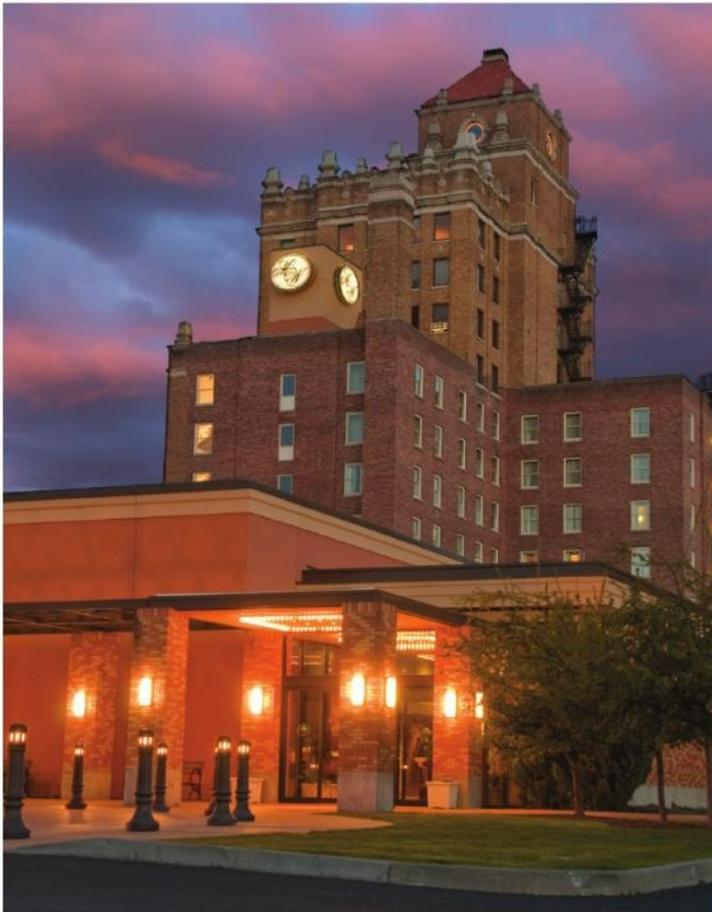


COURTESY: PRONGHORN GOLF

ier than for those playing it safe.

The resort's other tracks include plenty of challenges. In the 1999 redesign of Meadows, John Fought took a page from the game's great architects and created a number of classic holes that feature faced bunkers, directional bunkers, and other elements of both strategic and artistic excellence. Sunriver also boasts Robert Trent Jones II's excellent Woodlands Course—which is known for its use of water and lava rock outcroppings. For family fun,

The fast and firm Jack Nicklaus Signature Course at Pronghorn is a picturesque and challenging layout built atop an undulating lava flow.



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there is the nine-hole Caldera Links.

Sunriver offers more than stellar golf—namely cycling, fishing, horseback riding, tennis and various other action sports, including rafting. Sunriver's Sage Springs Club & Spa offers the latest body and beauty treatments. Nearby, the Sunriver Homeowners Aquatic and Recreation Center has two pools, playgrounds and other amenities available for a small fee.

Also on the resort's 3,300-acre property is the Oregon Observatory, home to the largest collection of telescopes—more than a dozen—for public viewing in the United States. Next door to the observatory is the Sunriver Nature Center, which has a number of exhibits featuring amphibians, birds of prey and reptiles. Visitors will find a variety of guestrooms, suites, condominiums and vacation homes to rent.

Black Butte Ranch

Located about 30 miles northwest of Bend, and a short distance from the quaint town of Sisters, you will find Black Butte Ranch, home to two of the best mountain golf venues in the region. The ranch, a residential resort community with about 1,800 acres,

offers play on Big Meadow and Glaze Meadow—both of which are lined by tall galleries of ponderosa pines and aspens.

Few area golf layouts have benefited more from a well-planned renovation than Black Butte's Glaze Meadow. Originally opened in 1982, the venue is beloved as one of the earliest golf destinations in the region. In 2012, prolific golf architect Fought completed a redesign that enhanced the course's meandering among stands of stately trees and over streams, wetlands and natural areas.

Fought helped Glaze Meadow take maximum advantage of its setting and live up to its potential as a fun walking course that encourages you to take a few chances. He extended Glaze Meadow to more than 7,000 yards, rebuilding all the greens, and improving lines of play and shotmaking options. Square tee boxes, elevated putting surfaces, deep grass-faced bunkers and enough doglegs for at least two dogs lend it a classic feel.

In 2008, Damian Pascuzzo lovingly renovated Big Meadow, Black Butte's other major track. The layout also encompasses more than 7,000 yards of expansive fair-

ways, sweeping cape-and-bay-style bunkering and elevated greens. On the 14th hole, golfers will see one of the best views of Three Fingered Jack, a jagged volcano that can be seen rising beyond the ponderosas.

From the ranch's property, which is full of pools, ponds, bike paths, tennis courts and more, guests can glimpse as many as seven Cascade Range peaks. The resort also includes the full-service Spa at Black Butte Ranch, a fitness center and a family recreation area, which has everything from basketball courts to bocce ball courts.

In September, Black Butte will begin an \$11.5 million renovation of the resort's main pool and its recreation facilities. The project includes adding a new restaurant, locker room, fitness facility and retail area. The project is scheduled for completion in June 2015.

Pronghorn

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Glaze Meadow Course, Golf Inc.

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Central Oregon, Golf Digest

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COURTESY: BRASADA RANCH RESORT

The Brasada Canyons Golf Club is an excellent mountain course boasting stunning views of snowcapped peaks.

Nicklaus design complexity and no small degree of difficulty, the golf legend took some risks of his own here, in the form of split fairways, blind shots, grassy swales, crowned greens and other architectural intricacies—all of which help create an unpredictable layout. Built atop an undulating lava flow, the Jack Nicklaus course plays firm and fast with crisp transitions. Pot bunkers dot immaculate fairways. Small tee boxes are located amid islands of natural high desert and wildflowers.

Waste areas and rock outcroppings force you to start strategizing from the tees, and canny players

the best golf resorts to be found anywhere in the West, boasting intoxicating views of area peaks.

The Jack Nicklaus Signature Course, measuring 7,381 yards from the tips, provides a wondrous tour of local geography. Golfers will often find themselves viewing such local landmarks as Smith Rock to the north and the Three Sisters peaks to the west. While the venue reflects typical

will punch run-up shots to the fast, sloping and often water-protected greens.

The resort's second championship track is the private Tom Fazio Course. This 7,462-yard behemoth is considered among the best and most challenging layouts in the area and home to one of Bend's most famous holes—the 187-yard par-3 eighth, in which players are required to hit over an exposed lava tube to reach an elevated green. The resort's impressive clubhouse is designed in the style of the West's great national park lodges. Guests can rent condominium-style units at the resort, which also includes a children's camp, adventure programs, a spa and a fitness center. The resort is planning to build the 105-room Huntington Lodge hotel, which is scheduled to be completed in early 2015.

Brasada Ranch

The Brasada Canyons Golf Club, a Peter Jacobsen/Jim Hardy-designed layout, is another course that rambles across the foothills of Oregon's Cascade Range. Located at the Brasada Ranch Resort, about 20 miles northeast of Bend, the venue is composed of 11 holes that twist through canyons and seven that unfurl across ridgetops, lending an open and airy quality to your round.

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Shevlin Commons - Bend, OR | \$1,700,000

Unobstructed Cascade Mtn. views from this modern villa on Bend's desirable westside. Protected by a landmark conservation easement, the views are as outstanding as the thoughtful care that was put in to this home's construction. Numerous windows bring in the views and yet present superb privacy. Exclusively listed by the Norma DuBois & Julie Moe Team. To view call 541.312.4042



61733 Tam McArthur Loop - Bend, OR | \$274,350

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1684 NW City View - Bend, OR | \$529,900

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the best lines of play and incorporated a few pin positions that may send you over the edge—literally.

Depending on which tee set you choose, Canyons offers either the longest or shortest routing in Central Oregon. During my round here—and against all odds—my playing partner and I both executed perfect tee shots over a cluster of bunkers at the 292-yard par-4 15th hole.

The balls expertly bounded toward the green, with my friend having his drive come to rest on the putting surface, 20 feet from the pin. While my ball ended up perched on the fringe. What could possibly be more fun than that? And yes, we both ended up with birdies, thanks for asking. We played quickly and hardly saw another golfer all day.

We ended up playing a second round the next afternoon and discovered that some holes were easier from a farther-back set of tees, even with the longer yardage resulting in a few forced carries. We found that the site lines were clearer, fairways were—in many cases—more welcoming, and it was difficult to drive through them and into the rough. Approach distances to the greens also seemed more reasonable.

Our conclusion was that lower-handicap players might want to try playing from both the gold (the third-longest) and black (the fourth-longest) sets of tees—or a combination of the two—to best enjoy the course.

One of Brasada Ranch's greatest charms may be its solitude—the resort is situated in the foothills outside Bend, with views of various snowcapped peaks. It offers suites and well-appointed cabins. Guests can also enjoy Spa Brasada, fishing and whitewater rafting tours, helicopter trips, athletic facilities and other amenities.

I find that playing these properties in Central Oregon always makes for a legendary golf trip. Here you can combine great golf with unforgettable outdoor adventures and world-class resorts, all without needing to find your passport. ■

Jeff Wallach is a freelance golf journalist writing from Portland, Oregon.

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Sense of Place

Boise's outstanding public art reflects the city's history and values

By Buddy Levy

A tunnel-like row of three brushed-aluminum rings, their interiors lit neon green, draws my attention as I look out the window of my guestroom at Hotel 43. The rings make up the 10-foot-tall sculpture *Grove Street Illuminated*, located right at the base of the hotel in downtown Boise, and I'm eager to get a closer look at the artwork in the daylight tomorrow.



Clockwise from top:
The *Julia Davis Memorial* depicts the pioneer woman for whom Julia Davis Park was named. A box housing traffic-light electronics has an intriguing art wrap. *Grove Street Illuminated* symbolizes an 1866 irrigation canal and also the wheels of time.



I've been coming to Idaho's capital city for various reasons—ranging from fine dining and skiing to golfing and mountain biking—for many years, and this weekend, my wife, Camie, and I have decided to do something totally different: a free public-art tour of the City of Trees. Over the past 15 or so years, Boise has not only become one of the 100 most populated cities in the United States (the current Boise population is more than 212,000), it has developed an impressive array of public art. The city now boasts more than 100 varied works, and the commitment to public art is serious, long-term and sustained. Since 2001, the City of Boise has required that 1 percent or more of expenditures for various municipal capital projects be used to acquire public art. Such dedication is paying off, with pieces by artists from the Boise area and other parts of the country adding vitality and beauty to an already thriving community that Livability.com listed as No. 12 on its 2014 ranking of Top 100 Best Places to Live.

Many of Boise's leaders, planners and developers want to put their community at the top of that list, as the most livable city in America, and they believe that public art is an

integral part of achieving that goal. "Public art creates a sense of place, a sense of identity, and can even help brand a city," says Mayor David Bieter. Noted Boise artist Ward Hooper observes that such art "makes life more livable or enjoyable, brings happiness to people, and it also makes them think. It improves and defines a cityscape."



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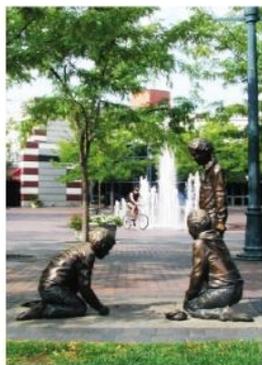
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Left: One of the flaglike sculptures at the entrance to the Basque Block.

Below left: The *Keepsies* statue is a local favorite. **Below:** *River of Trees* evokes leaves shed from area trees such as cottonwoods and alders. **Below right:** *Sidney's Niche* enlivens an outdoor escalator.



'Much of our public art highlights the importance of who we are as a city, underscoring what we value: history, nature, culture.'

Downtown Art

The day breaks clear and cloudless over Boise as Camie and I head downstairs for Saturday breakfast in the Metro Cafe at Hotel 43. We've got an active morning planned, so we enjoy oatmeal with organic bananas and fresh blueberries, plus a croissant. After breakfast, we go to the *Grove Street Illuminated* sculpture to meet Karen Bubb, the full-time public-arts manager for the city's Department of Arts and History, which provides free art tours by advance appointment (boiseartsandhistory.org).

Karen, who has a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a master's degree in public administration, is energetic and enthusiastic, and clearly very good at her job, as she's been Boise's public-arts manager since 1998. She explains how *Grove Street Illuminated*—created in 2003 by Boise artist Amy Westover—is a good example of public art that encompasses the city's history, cultural identity and sense of place. It's an inviting piece, with large, partially buried rings aligned so that you can actually walk through them. The rings, which have historical photos and text embedded, symbolize the 1866 irriga-

tion canal created along Grove Street to irrigate poplars and elms. The rings also evoke the wheels of time turning during the three major evolutions of Grove Street. Expensive Victorian homes were built along the street in the late 1800s; followed by a transition to boardinghouses for Basque shepherders and Chinese laborers in the 1880s and 1890s; followed by transformation into a commercial area starting in the 1960s, with attractions now ranging from the contemporary Hotel 43 to the Bardenay Restaurant and Distillery in the Basque Block. According to Bardenay, in 2000 it served the first cocktail that included spirits distilled in a U.S. restaurant—making it the nation's first legal restaurant distillery.

The exterior of each ring in *Grove Street Illuminated* includes etched text with interesting information, such as the fact that Grove Street got its name from the groves of trees planted by horticulture enthusiast Lafayette Cartee, the first surveyor general of Idaho, who lived on this street.

We continue east a block to enter The Grove Plaza, and Camie nudges me, telling me to listen. I hear drumming overhead to my right, and after stopping and starting a few times, I realize that our movement is activating a series of street lamps called *Homage to the Pedestrian*. Created in 2002 by Patrick Zentz, the interactive installation uses motion detectors to trigger sounds such as bells, cymbals and drums. Very clever.

The Grove Plaza, a community gathering place, features a number of excellent sculptures. I'm drawn immediately to *Great Blues*, a 1990 mixed-media sculpture by David Berry. It features three stainless steel great blue herons, and conjures wildlife and the natural world in an urban setting. You can see great blue herons year-round along the nearby Boise River.

Also in the plaza is a local favorite called *Keepsies* (1985, by Ann LaRose). The bronze sculpture depicts three kids playing marbles. While we stand viewing the whimsical art, a little girl kneels down and tries to play alongside the sculpted children, attempting to pick up the marbles embedded into the plaza paving.

My favorite piece near the plaza is *1867* (also known as *The Miner*), created by Bernie Jestrabek-Hart in 1984. The larger-than-life miner panning gold



was commissioned by a local bank and commemorates the year—1867—that the bank was chartered to safeguard miners' gold after rich deposits were found in the Boise Basin about 25 miles northeast of Boise in the 1860s.

"Much of our public art highlights the importance of who we are as a city, underscoring what we value: history, nature, culture," says Karen as we resume our tour.

She stops us at the Capitol Boulevard entrance to the Basque Block, the cultural center of Boise's large Basque community. The entry is framed by two flaglike sculp-

tures whose seven total steel ribbons represent the seven provinces of Basque country in Spain and France. Made by Ward Hooper

'River of Trees' makes the sidewalk beautiful. It's art you can walk on.

in 2000, the installation is an enticing gateway to the block, which includes the Basque Museum and Cultural Center, along with Basque food at Bar Gernika, Leku Ona and the Basque Market.

As we stroll more of the downtown cultural district, Camie notices that many of the traffic boxes display unique art. Karen says that 70 boxes—and counting, the project is ongoing—in the city are art-wrapped. She adds that original murals and posters also decorate many of the city's bus stops/transit shelters.

At the corner of Ninth and Idaho streets, Karen points out the lovely *River of Trees* (1999, by Judith and Daniel Caldwell). The meandering sidewalk installation comprises bronze leaves floating along a concrete river. The art makes the sidewalk beautiful, soothing and functional—it's art you can walk on.

The Eighth Street escalator, leading to the second floor of the mixed-use Capitol Terrace building/parking garage, between Main and Idaho streets, is another example of improving existing space with public art. The side of the escalator has been painted with the scene of a white rat trotting along a circular gear that appears to make the escalator operate. Called *Sidney's Niche* (1992, by Rick Thomson; recommissioned in 2002 after water damage), the piece also suggests the proverbial rat race that threatens to overwhelm us if we are not careful.

On the corner of Idaho and Eighth, Camie pauses to admire *Boise Totems* (1993, by sculptor Rod Kagan). These three bronze columns in the heart of downtown are a nod to Boise's connection and proximity to the Pacific Northwest region. From the totems we walk down *Freak Alley Gallery*, located in the alley between Eighth and Ninth streets. The walls feature "graffiti by permission," according to Karen. "It's artist-organized and artist-run," she says, noting that it "brings vitality and life to an otherwise stagnant service alley."

It's almost noon as our excellent tour concludes, so we stroll to The Boise Farmers Market near Hotel 43. The 60-plus-stall outdoor market (open Saturdays, early April–October), is bustling, and we're impressed by the amount of locally grown produce.

After a nap back at the hotel, we settle on dinner at Pho Nouveau, a superb Vietnamese bistro. Then we wander Boise's vibrant downtown, where locals and visitors are enjoying live music and entertainment at venues such as The Knitting Factory, the High Note Cafe and the Morrison Center (*Wicked* will be on stage April 16–May 4). We pop in for a nightcap at Bardenay, which



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Art at Boise Airport

The airport is currently showcasing 10 commissioned pieces, with art annually rotated. People arriving or departing the airport can enjoy works such as *Boise Wings* (by Adam Leventhal, 1998), *WWII Aviator* (by Benjamin Victor, 2009) and *Slipstream* (by Kelly McClain, 2005).

Boise Wings features 30-foot-long stainless steel and blue neon wings extending from the top of the airport's parking garage. Shown at right, *WWII Aviator*, at the entrance to the airport, is a bronze sculpture symbolic of an aviator holding a parachute as he strides off the runway, and honors the airmen who trained and flew out of nearby Gowen Field during WWII, as well as the many Idaho veterans who have served. *Slipstream* is a school of blown-glass steelhead trout, which swim through a river of textured steel at the security gates exit. —B.L.



in addition to its own creations, offers spirits and craft brews from other notable producers, including Boise's Sockeye Brewing.

Julia Davis Park

Camie and I are delighted by how much fun we're having. We've been to numerous famous galleries of the world, but this is our first weekend getaway entirely centered on public art, and Boise is astonishing us with the volume and variety of its offerings.

Sunday morning we decide to ramble through Julia

Davis Park, just a third of a mile from our hotel, to see a few things there. The 89.4-acre park was founded in 1907 after pioneer Thomas Davis, who helped lay out the city's blueprint in the early 1860s, donated land to the city for a park in honor of his wife, Julia. The lovely green space is home to the Boise Art Museum (whose sculpture garden features works by contemporary Northwest and national artists), the Idaho State Historical Museum (where the bronze sculpture *Sacajawea and Pomp* was unveiled outside near the entrance in 2003 in honor of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial), the Idaho Black History Museum, The Discovery Center of Idaho, Zoo Boise, the Rose Garden and part of the 25-mile Boise River Greenbelt.

First on our list of public installations to view is the *Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial* near the Capitol Boulevard entrance to Julia Davis Park. Camie has more than a dozen relatives in Amsterdam, and she and I visited the Anne Frank House together some years ago, so we are eager to see the Idaho memorial, which opened to the public in 2002. Idaho Falls architect Kurt Karst designed the site, integrating natural elements—water, stone, native plants—into the space, which includes a life-size bronze statue of Anne Frank by Greg Stone, saw cuts in the stone floor to indicate the actual

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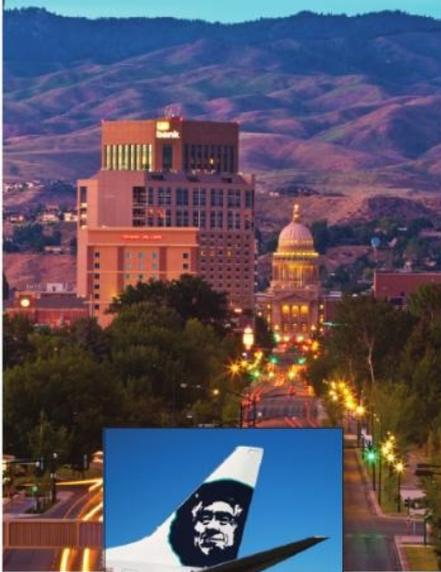


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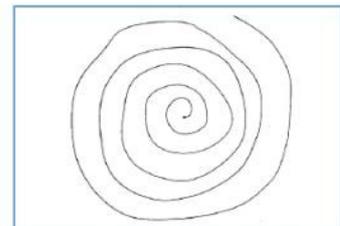
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size of the annex where Anne and others hid, and the entire Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

After an hour or so of reflection, we move on to look at two more sculptures. Located at the southeast end of the Rose Garden, the *Julia Davis Memorial*, created in 2002 by Jerry Snodgrass, is a life-size bronze depicting the pioneer woman offering an apple to a small, barefoot girl. Julia was known for her kindness and hospitality, and she aided families traveling the Oregon Trail who hitched their wagons along the Boise River.

Nearby is a bronze replica of a statue by Idaho-born, Paris-trained sculptor Gutzon Borglum, whose parents were Danish immigrants. Borglum is best known for his masterpiece of the four presidents' heads at Mount Rushmore. The *Seated Lincoln* at Julia Davis Park is an enlarged replica of Borglum's famous sculpture in Newark, New Jersey, which was dedicated in 1911 by Theodore Roosevelt. The Boise replica, recast and detailed by Boise artist Irene Deely and dedicated in 2010, was created using precision technology such as computer scanning that recorded six million data points on the original statue.

I particularly like the piece because it was Abraham Lincoln who, in 1863, signed the act that created Idaho Territory.

Reluctantly, Camie and I leave the park for our journey home, but as we travel, we talk about all we've seen. We've learned that Boise, which we once associated primarily with a thriving tech industry and the blue turf of the Boise State football stadium, is considerably more than that. It's a place where quality of life and quality of visit are enhanced because art, history, nature and culture are revealed in so many locations—including street corners, sidewalks, building walls and public parks. ■

Buddy Levy is also co-author, with WSU coach Mike Leach, of Geronimo, due out in May.

Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) flies daily to Boise, with new nonstop service between Salt Lake City and Boise beginning June 16. Boise also offers performing arts such as ballet, opera, contemporary dance and the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, along with 20-plus wineries, tours of the historic Capitol Building, and world-famous outdoor recreation. For more information on the Boise area, go to boise.org and visitidaho.org.



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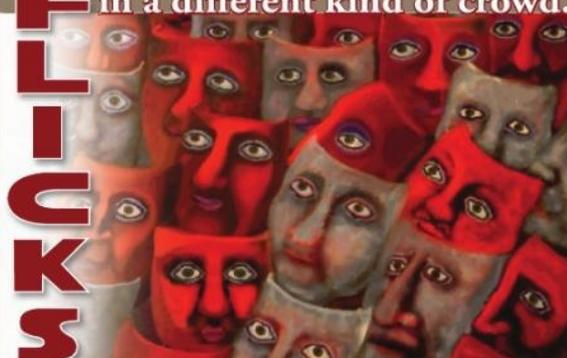
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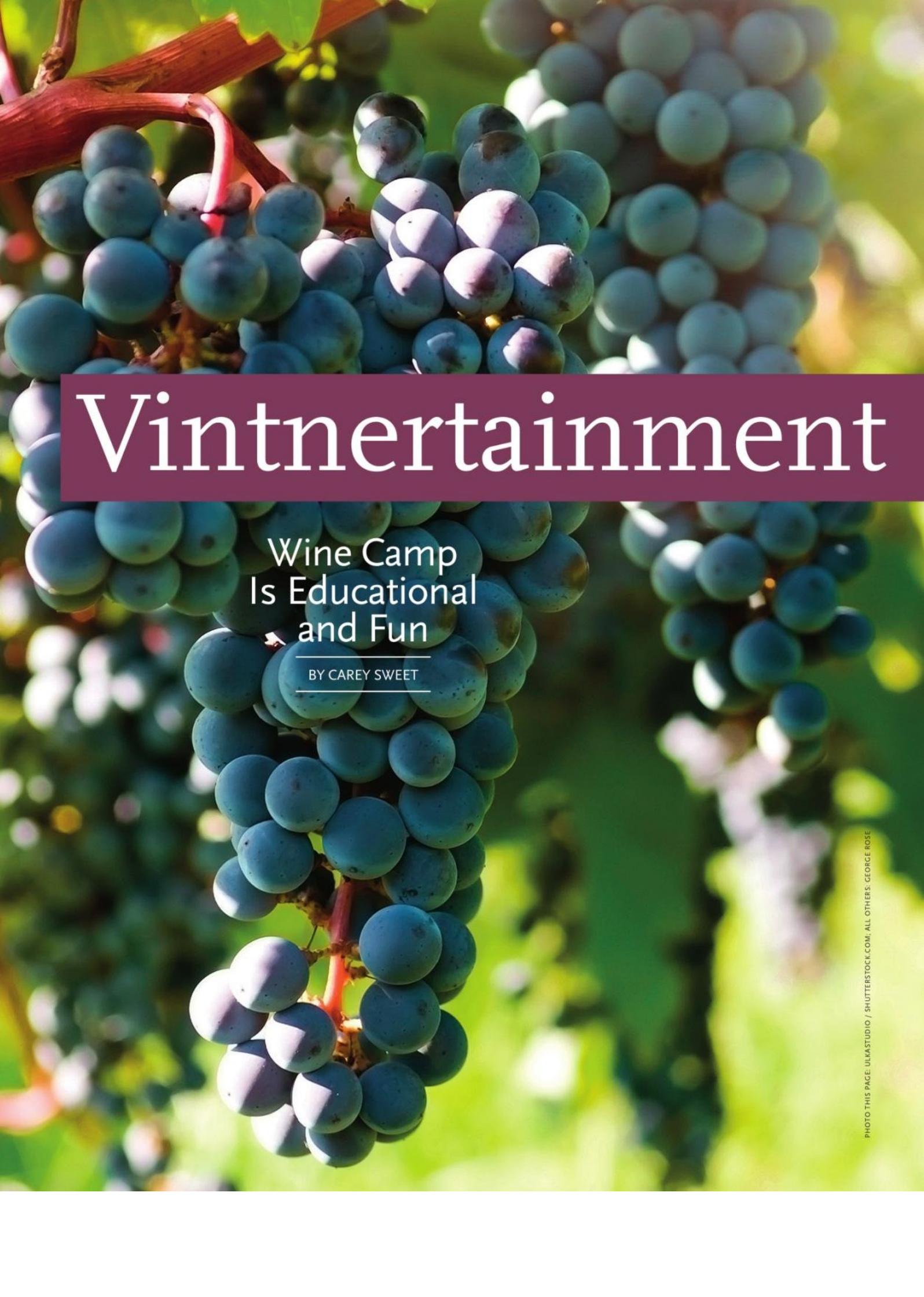
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BY CAREY SWEET



Frank Wren has been an amateur enologist since 2005, using his New Jersey garage to craft several hundred bottles of wine for family members each year. But he learned how to make better wine when he attended the Sonoma County Grape Camp in California last fall. The camp brings together wine lovers for a 2.5-day immersion in winemaking, led by industry professionals.

“I’ll never forget it,” says Wren, a physician who attended with his wife, Maura. “We were blending wines, and I asked Greg La Follette, ‘How do you know when a wine is right?’ He told me, ‘You taste it.’”

La Follette, winemaker at acclaimed La Follette Wines, whose tasting room is in Sebastopol, explained that wine should offer rich fruit aromas and flavors, with notes of flowers, leaves, herbs, spices and wood. In addition, it’s important to have a balance of acids, sweetness, tannins and alcohol.

“He really embodied that winemaking is more than a science and more than an art—it is a combination of the two,” Wren says.

La Follette was one of the dozen wine luminaries who shared their insights with our intrepid band of 30 campers, who traveled from around the country to get their hands dirty. Described as “the ultimate wine and food adventure,” the annual camp is hosted by Sonoma County Winegrowers in partnership with Sonoma County Vintners and Sonoma County Tourism.

Enjoying wine dates back to ancient times, but in the 21st century, wineries and wine-related organiza-

tions are increasingly offering experiences that go beyond the glass and into the fields and cellars. The Sonoma County Grape Camp includes vineyard work, grape growing and processing presentations, and wine-blending seminars, as well as lavish meals and sipping of many wines, some rarely available to the general public. By my count, campers can taste some 100 wines during the grape camp adventure, which I’ve dubbed “vintertainment.”

The idea, says Sonoma County Winegrowers Marketing Manager Sean Carroll, is to provide hands-on experiences for anyone who ever wondered how their favorite wine was created. “Campers receive a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to interact with some of Sonoma County’s top vineyard owners, winemakers and other experts to learn about the evolution of grapes from vine to glass,” he says. “They may be wine geeks, but they’ve never lived and breathed what it means to be a winemaker.”

The camp starts with a late-afternoon wine-and-hors d’oeuvres reception at our home base, Vintners Inn, which is nestled among Ferrari-Carano’s vineyards in the Russian River Valley. After the reception, we are chauffeured to Lynmar Estate in Sebastopol for a tour of the grounds, including barrel sampling of balsamic vinegar in an old seed barn and a visit to the bee-friendly garden.

Sitting at sun-dappled picnic tables beneath redwood trees, we savor an aperitif of Lynmar’s 2012 Rosé of Pinot Noir, which glows in a deep salmon hue and offers aromas of pomegranate and watermelon, with flavors of cranberry and strawberry.

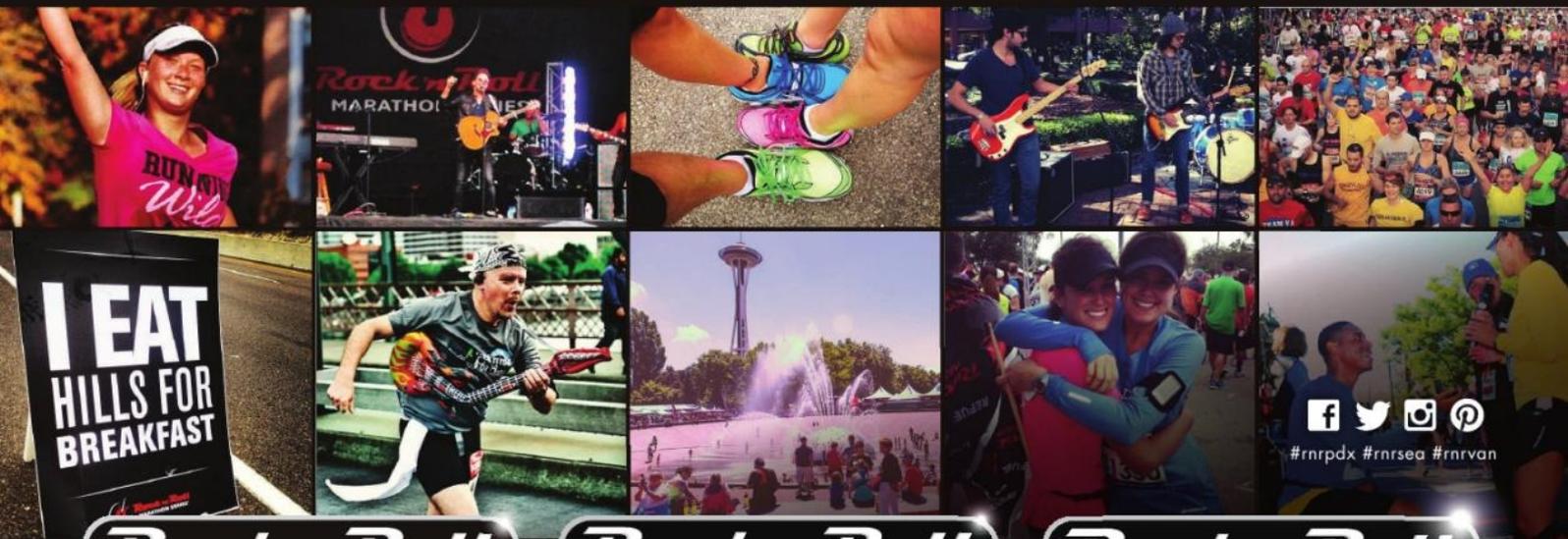
Then winery chef David Frakes presents the first course: chilled estate heirloom-tomato soup sparkling with watermelon juice, avocado, lime, micro-

Above: A Sonoma County Grape Camp attendee helps fill a bin with clusters of grapes he picked at Sangiacomo Family Vineyards.

Left: Sonoma County is one of the country’s top viticultural regions.



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Above left and right: Camp participants tour the garden at Lynmar Estate and sip a Lynmar Estate Pinot Noir. **Below:** A member of Lynmar Estate's tasting-room staff pours Rosé of Pinot Noir for the group.



Every cluster of ripe, high-quality grapes is to be harvested ... since each precious piece of fruit means precious wine.

arugula and toasted pepitas, paired with a Lynmar 2010 Russian River Chardonnay that hints of vanilla cream and brioche from having aged 11 months in French oak.

A spicy 2010 Pinot Noir, with rhubarb and plum notes, is paired with rich Sonoma County duck accompanied by Korean red garlic confit and peacock kale, while the apricot-kissed 2011 Divinity Late Harvest Chardonnay is paired with Meyer lemon poundcake in olallieberry crème.

Sated and sleepy, we slumber soundly in gracious Vintners Inn rooms outfitted with featherbeds, down comforters and fireplaces.

our chilled fingers into borrowed well-worn gloves.

Vineyard co-owner Steve Sangiacomo provides an orientation. The early start was soft, actually, he explains, since most picking is done at night to protect the delicate harvested grapes from the sunshine that cuts through the fog mid-morning, warming the landscape by as much as 40 degrees. This temperature cycle is perfect for grapes, he says, since the dramatic swings between cold nights and warm days result in more concentrated color, aroma and flavor.

Every cluster of ripe, high-quality grapes is to be harvested, Sangiacomo stresses, and no individual grapes can be allowed to drop to the ground to rot, since each precious piece of fruit means precious wine. We should expect to glean about a ton and a half of fruit on our eight-hour shift, and that had better be good grape weight, not tubs littered with lots of leaves, raisins and unripe berries.

The vineyard's clients, after all, expect only the best fruit when they purchase from the third-generation grower, whose operation supplies such top Sonoma County wineries as B.R. Cohn, Ram's Gate and Landmark.

After picking for about 45 minutes—crouching to hack the sturdy stem clusters with sharp knives, then lugging heavy plastic tubs down the long vineyard rows—some of us wimps give up. But not Midwesterner Maxine Desselle, 64, a licensed clinical social worker with a doctorate in child development, who is still going strong when we wrap up our hour-long session. Sangiacomo's eight-hour-shift comment turns out to have been in jest, although thinking



Our first hands-on adventure is at the private Sangiacomo Family Vineyards in the Sonoma Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA)—also known as the Valley of the Moon. It's one of the 16 appellations in Sonoma County, which has more than 400 wineries. As the day dawns with a temperature of 30 degrees Fahrenheit, we tromp out to a vineyard draped with morning fog, and curl

about picking for eight hours does give us tremendous appreciation for professional grape harvesters.

"Picking grapes is a highlight of the whole trip—outdoor exercise, the companionable atmosphere, the sense of accomplishment," Desselle says. "I'm a country girl. I could have done it all day."

She had purchased the camp adventure as a birthday gift for her husband, Azenor Gradney, thinking that after all their explorations of wineries across Europe over the years, it was time to get to the heart of the matter.

Our next stop is Schug Winery in the Carneros AVA, where we're surprised to see that the three-dozen or so tubs of Chardonnay grapes we just picked have been trucked over for us. The winery is in full harvest mode, with workers scurrying every which way, but winery founder Walter Schug personally leads us through sorting the grape clusters by hand to remove leaves, twigs, and unripe or damaged fruit that escaped our notice during picking, followed by the machine destemming. He also explains the machine-operated crush and lets us taste the virgin juice to marvel at what a difference fermentation and aging make to wine flavor.

Good to Know

Wine Flies Free: Check your first case of wine free when you fly Alaska Airlines from Charles M. Schulz—Sonoma County Airport. For details, visit alaskaair.com.

Taste and Tote: Tasting fees are waived at participating wineries when you show a current Alaska Airlines boarding pass for a flight into the Walla Walla, Pasco/Tri-Cities or Yakima airport. Also check your first case of wine free on an Alaska Airlines flight from any of those airports. For details, visit tasteandtote.com.



Schug says this is his 60th harvest. Born in 1935 in Germany, he was raised on the grounds of the Pinot Noir estate his father managed, and as a young adult trained for six years at wineries in Germany, England and California, finally becoming a permanent resident of the Golden State in the early 1960s. As we taste wines such as his 2009 and 2010 Pinot Noirs, we're impressed by how each vintage has its own character—achieved, Schug explains, by his technique of blending juice from the grapes of several vineyard lots, each cultivated from different clone plantings, cut from mother vines selected for their desired flavor or aroma.

We move on to the Ramekins Culinary School in the town of Sonoma, where we prepare a Southern-style lunch of spicy, fried, locally raised chicken, with sides such as braised local greens

and bacon. Our après-lunch activity is a relaxed seminar with tastings at Kunde Family Estate in the Sonoma Valley AVA. Two prominent winegrowers and two respected winemakers tell us more about the delicate clones that are grafted to disease-resistant rootstock, and how different soils, climates, berry sizes and maturation rates direct a wine's flavor, so that a grape such as Cabernet Sauvignon



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gnon, Zinfandel or Pinot Noir grown in one place may taste very different from that same kind of grape grown elsewhere. The most important thing we learn, though, is that just as every winemaker has a different favorite grape, and a different technique for his or her winemaking, each of us will have favorites based on our personal taste preferences. There is no right or wrong choice.

Camp isn't for the weak of energy or appetite, since the seminar is followed by dinner at Flanagan Winery in the Bennett Valley AVA. A specific celebrity chef is highlighted each year, and this time the honor goes to Sondra Bernstein and her lauded the girl & the fig restaurant in the town of Sonoma. Highlights of the four-course wine-paired meal include the 2009 Flanagan Cabernet Sauvignon, chosen because its classic profile of red and black fruits, minerals and mocha complement the entree of juicy, black olive-crust lamb loin.

"I had no idea when we left the hotel early in the morning that we wouldn't come back until late night," Desselle says, "but I've loved every minute of it."

We're off to an early start again the next day, with grape harvesting at Warnecke Ranch and Vineyards, which has the distinction of spanning four Sonoma County appella-



tions: Alexander Valley, Chalk Hill, Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast. Family-owned for 100 years, the property is usually open only for artist residencies and nonprofit retreats. Its founder was John Carl Warnecke, an architect who designed the John F. Kennedy Eternal Flame memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, and who hosted guests at the ranch ranging from the Grateful Dead to Senator Ted Kennedy to Russian architects.

John Carl Warnecke's daughter, Margo Warnecke Merck, and granddaughter, Alice Warnecke Sutro,

Steve Sangiacomo, a third-generation co-owner of Sangiacomo Family Vineyards, explains the proper technique for harvesting grape clusters from the vines.



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A grape camp attendee pulls a cluster of Chardonnay grapes from the vine.

take us on a tractor cart tour of the vineyards, then let us peek at the original JFK Memorial blueprints.

A dream comes true for Desselle when the winery crew brings out bins of Pinot Noir grapes for an impromptu barefoot stomping—as wine was crushed in the old days before machinery. “It was a surprise,” Desselle says of her sticky waltz through the soggy slosh of fruit. “It wasn’t on the itinerary, but when I said I had dreamed of stomping, they set it up just for me.”

Our entire group takes a hilarious turn—laughing and teasing each other—and Sean Carroll, the

Sonoma County Winegrowers marketing manager, informs us that stomping will be part of all future wine camps.

After tidying up, we’re shuttled to a Knights Valley AVA winery that’s so private, its owner asks us not to share its name. Owned by an acclaimed chef, the property boasts an amazing garden, from whence many of our lunch ingredients come. The meal, also featuring local beef and chicken, is served with three wines, including a Sauvignon Blanc showcasing the mineral crispness of the mountainside winery’s renowned rocky volcanic soils.

The afternoon is given to the blending seminar with La Follette, focusing on the clonal varieties of Pinot Noir and why the grape is considered one of the hardest to coax into the luxurious perfumed wine people love (think thin, delicate skin, and traditionally low yields of grapes per vine).

And then, before we know it, we are sitting down to the graduation reception and dinner, held poolside on the Balletto Vineyards & Winery estate in the Russian River Valley AVA. Catered by renowned chef Tom Schmidt of Santa Rosa’s John Ash & Co. restaurant, the five-course wine-paired meal begins with hors d’oeuvres and a 2011 Russian River Valley Estate Pinot Gris blend, whose silky structure resulted from half of the wine being fermented in neutral oak barrels, with the other half being fermented in stainless steel tanks.

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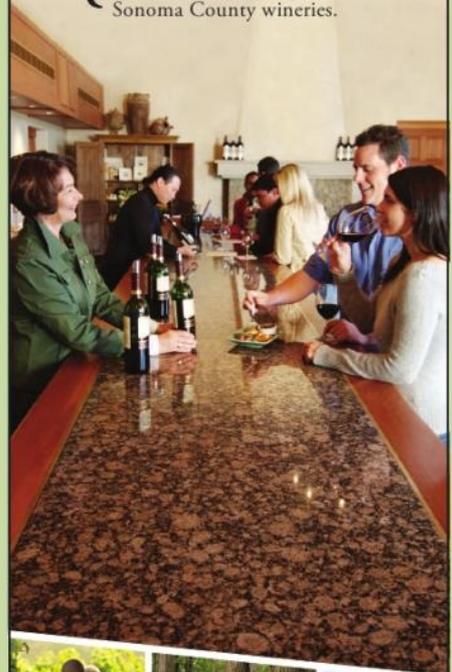


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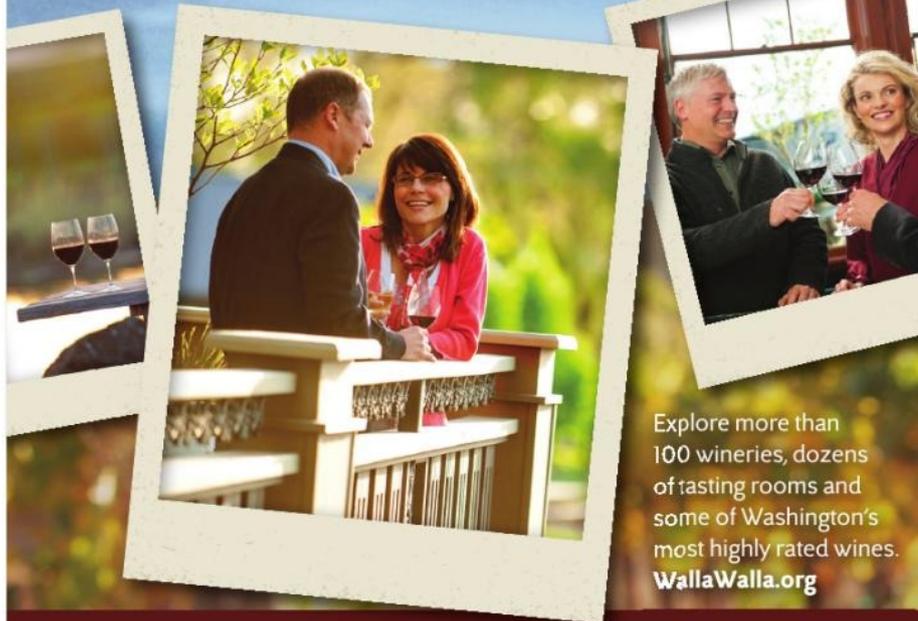
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We savor dishes with locally sourced ingredients, such as Black Pig Meat Co. bacon wrapped around scallops atop Alma Tierra farm mixed greens and Dry Creek Peach & Produce peaches. The dish is paired with a tart but creamy 2011 Chardonnay, presented by winery owner John Balletto and winemaker Anthony Beckman. We take turns speaking about our favorite parts of the grape camp experience, marveling that the action-packed days felt more like a week's vacation. A few campers are moved to tears as they clutch their official graduation certificates.

Frank Wren notes that this was his and Maura's first vacation without their kids, a 9-year-old, an 8-year-old, and 5-year-old twins. "We felt like royalty, being taken everywhere [during the wine camp]," he says. "We could let our minds float, and just enjoy the experience, or make it active as we learned and were challenged. And we never once had to order chicken nuggets."

Did You Know?

Sonoma County, adjacent to Napa Valley, boasts not only premium wines, but also farm-to-table dining, ancient redwood forests, oak-covered mountains, quiet rivers and more than 50 miles of stunning Pacific Coast.

Source: *Sonoma County Tourism*

Desselle says she's already making plans to come back to Sonoma County. "The cuisine and wine were absolutely fantastic—really farm-to-table," she says. "I was astonished by the bouquet of the white wines and Pinot Noirs. I had no idea this was here. We felt like we were back in Europe."

Carey Sweet lives in Sonoma County.

Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) flies daily to Santa Rosa, gateway to wine country. The Sonoma County Grape Camp will be September 22–24 this year. The camp typically sells out well in advance, so timely reservations are recommended. For more information: 707-522-5864; sonomagrapecamp.com. For more information on Sonoma County wineries and recreation: sonomacounty.com.

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Here are a few of the many Western region special events with experiences that go beyond tasting:

British Columbia

(winebc.com and hellobc.com)

Okanagan Wine Festivals: The Fall Okanagan Wine Festival (October 3–13 in 2014) is the premier event produced by the Okanagan Wine Festivals Society in the Kelowna/Okanagan area. Visitors can expect a grape-harvest experience, with activities ranging from barrel-tasting seminars to helping out in the vineyard (thewinefestivals.com).

Whistler Cornucopia, November 6–16, 2014: An extensive lineup of seminars provides information about Northwest and world wines, beers and spirits, with complementing culinary workshops and food-and-drink events (whistlercarnucopia.com).

California (discovercaliforniawines.com and visitcalifornia.com)

Bacara Crush, Santa Barbara, available September through November, based on vineyard availability: Participants visit noted sites and work alongside winery staff, walking the vines, sorting grapes and assisting with punch-downs—in which the fermenting juice is circulated with a handheld paddle or other device to push down flavor-imparting grapeskins, seeds, pulp, etc., that have risen to the surface (bacararesort.com).

The Wine Road Northern Sonoma County concierge service can help you line up a self-tour itinerary of wineries with vineyard-touring options and hands-on activities (wineroad.com).

Oregon

(oregonwine.org and traveloregon.com)

North Willamette Wine Trail Weekend, April 12–13 this year: More than 20 wineries are participating, with educational and hands-on activities such as learning how Pinot Noir is made, with a barrel tasting; learning about organic and biodynamic agricultural practices; observing vineyard pruning; and even grafting your own grape plant (nwvintners.org).

TO PAGE 64

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- 1 "That ____"
- 5 Mixed greens
- 10 Biblical pronoun
- 14 Computer accessory
- 19 Hunch
- 20 Concert venue
- 21 Mom's sister
- 22 Hoist
- 23 Dominican monk
- 25 Bobby Vinton song
- 27 Conger
- 28 Meadows
- 29 Appears
- 31 Actress Dahl
- 32 Easter flower
- 33 Showroom cars
- 34 Tissue layer
- 35 New York's capital
- 38 Elaine ____ on "Seinfeld"
- 39 Scoop water
- 40 Paper or plastic?
- 43 Falsify
- 44 Weaver film
- 45 Glided
- 46 Chimney part
- 47 Chinese gelatin
- 48 Fill to excess
- 49 Injury mark
- 50 Goes bad
- 51 Anatomical pouches
- 52 Follow orders
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- 56 Ancient kingdom
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- 58 Slight flaw
- 59 Skedadddled
- 61 Treats as comparable
- 63 Unwritten
- 64 Scrubs
- 66 Like some scrambled eggs
- 67 Trading center
- 69 Giant of a slugger
- 72 Thanks, to Jacques
- 73 Impressive
- 74 Rhythmic cadence
- 75 Actress Spelling
- 76 On the ball
- 77 Vitality
- 78 Salt Lake City's state
- 79 Fragrance
- 80 Shine's partner
- 81 Coral formation
- 82 Spas
- 84 Dessert pancake
- 85 Make a doily
- 86 Decade numbers
- 87 Stories
- 88 Praised
- 89 Traveler's stop
- 90 Naval detention centers
- 91 Frying vessels
- 92 Expunge

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- 96 Having wings
- 97 Small coin
- 98 Brouhaha
- 101 Dangerous arachnid
- 103 Like physical laborers
- 106 Pepper plant
- 107 "American ____"
- 108 "Superman" portrayer
- 109 Shrek, for one
- 110 Ingrid Bergman, e.g.
- 111 Doctrines
- 112 European viper
- 113 Highlander

DOWN

- 1 Scoff at
- 2 Loafing
- 3 Authentic
- 4 Varnish ingredient
- 5 Securely
- 6 Orderly grouping
- 7 Luau souvenirs
- 8 Book of sayings
- 9 "Roseanne" daughter
- 10 No-nos
- 11 Unwieldy ships
- 12 Burden
- 13 SUV cousin
- 14 Actress Ladd
- 15 Farmer's place?
- 16 Rant's partner
- 17 Cookie cooker
- 18 Dole
- 24 "The Big Chill" star
- 26 Legitimate
- 30 Portent
- 32 Hideouts
- 33 Jupiter or Mars, e.g.
- 34 Skating couples
- 35 Put down
- 36 "____ Eagles"
- 37 Cuckoo clock's home
- 38 Muffin sweeteners
- 39 Horseshoe makers
- 40 Aristocratic
- 41 Of the ear
- 42 Verse of romance
- 44 Provençal poem
- 45 Type of biscuit
- 46 Rock strata

- 48 Wares
- 49 Like some roofs
- 50 Baseball, e.g.
- 53 Trademark
- 56 Worth
- 57 Author Dominick ____
- 58 Back-and-____
- 60 Monetary reward
- 62 Guzzle
- 64 Clever
- 65 Singer Cruz
- 68 Woe is me!
- 70 Metaphor, e.g.
- 71 Exhausted
- 73 Astronaut John ____
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South Willamette Wineries Barrel Tours, Southern Route, June 7, and Northern Route, June 28: Each route includes winery touring, with discussions on everything from harvesting to fermentation to final bottling (southwillamettewineries.com).

Washington (washingtonwine.org and experiencewa.com)

Celebrate Walla Walla Valley Wine:

The World of Syrah, June 19–21, will include acclaimed guest speakers, as well as tastings and winemaker dinners (wallawallawine.com/celebrate).

Lake Chelan Wine Valley Annual Crush Festival, October 4–5 and 11–12: Approximately 20 wineries invite visitors to watch grapes make their journey from destemming to pressing, then taste the raw juice. Other activities include grape stomping, punchdowns, and field and lab tests (lakechelanwinevalley.com/events/lake-chelan-crush.html).

Woodinville Crush, Woodinville, Washington, northeast of Seattle, October 11: About a dozen wineries are participating, with presentations on topics ranging from knowing when to pick the grapes to in-the-cellar fermentation (woodinvillewinecountry.com).

Taste Washington, Seattle, spring 2015 (dates to be announced): Billed as the nation's largest single-region wine-and-food event, it includes more than 70 Seattle-area restaurants, and about 225 wineries offering tastings, with wine experts from around the country presenting seminars on Washington wines. Alaska Airlines is the official airline sponsor of the event, which is also sponsored by Alaska Airlines Visa Signature Card (tastewashington.org).

Washington State University: Opportunities for exploring grape cultivation and wine production include WSU Winery and Vineyard Tours of wine regions such as Eastern Washington, Oregon's Willamette Valley and Napa (email tbeaver@wsu.edu); three weekend grape and wine camps for students enrolled in WSU's online Viticulture & Enology certificate programs (wine.wsu.edu/education/certificate); and Washington State Grape Society/WSU Viticulture Field Day, likely Aug. 15, for grape growers/potential growers (wine.wsu.edu/research-extension). —C.S.

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Puzzle on page 62.



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Glenn Johnson,
President

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ONBOARD AMENITIES

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- Sun Liquor Gin
- Sun Liquor Rum

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- The Glenlivet Crown Royal



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- Tazo® Wild Sweet Orange herbal infusion (caffeine-free)



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- Apple Juice
- Cranberry Juice

Sodas & Mixers:

- Coca-Cola Classic
- Coke Zero
- Diet Coke
- Sprite
- Sprite Zero
- Fanta Orange
- Ginger Ale
- Tonic Water
- Sparkling Water
- Bloody Mary Mix
- Athena Bottled Water
- Club Soda



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comfortably
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FOR YOUR SAFETY

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Buckle Up. Please fasten your seat belt whenever the seat belt sign is illuminated. We ask that you keep your seat belt fastened throughout the flight whenever you are seated in case of undetectable clear-air turbulence.

Seat backs and tray tables must be in the upright, locked position during taxi, takeoff and landing.

All carry-on baggage, including laptop computers, must be stowed under a seat or in an enclosed overhead bin upon boarding and prior to landing, as directed.

Pets must remain in their carrier for the entire flight. The carrier must be stowed under a seat for taxi, takeoff and landing.

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Allowed on the Ground and in the Air



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- › Tablets/smartphones (Airplane Mode after door closure)
- › Wireless mouse/keyboard
- › e-readers
- › Media/CD/DVD player
- › Noise-cancelling headphones
- › Cell phones (prior to door closure only)

Not Allowed During Flight



- › Voice calls of any kind, including VoIP
- › Devices with cell service enabled
- › AM/FM radios or TVs
- › Personal air purifiers
- › Remote-control toys
- › Electronic cigarettes

IT'S THE LAW

Interference with crew members' (including flight attendants') duties is a violation of federal law. Under the law, no person may assault, threaten, intimidate or interfere with crew members in the performance of their duties.

Smoking is not permitted on any Horizon Air flight.

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Seat-belt extension use is not allowed in exit rows for the safety of all passengers due to the possibility of entanglement by the extensions.

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UPON LANDING

Please remain seated until the plane comes to a complete stop and the seat belt sign has been turned off.

Use caution when opening an overhead bin, as items may have shifted during flight.

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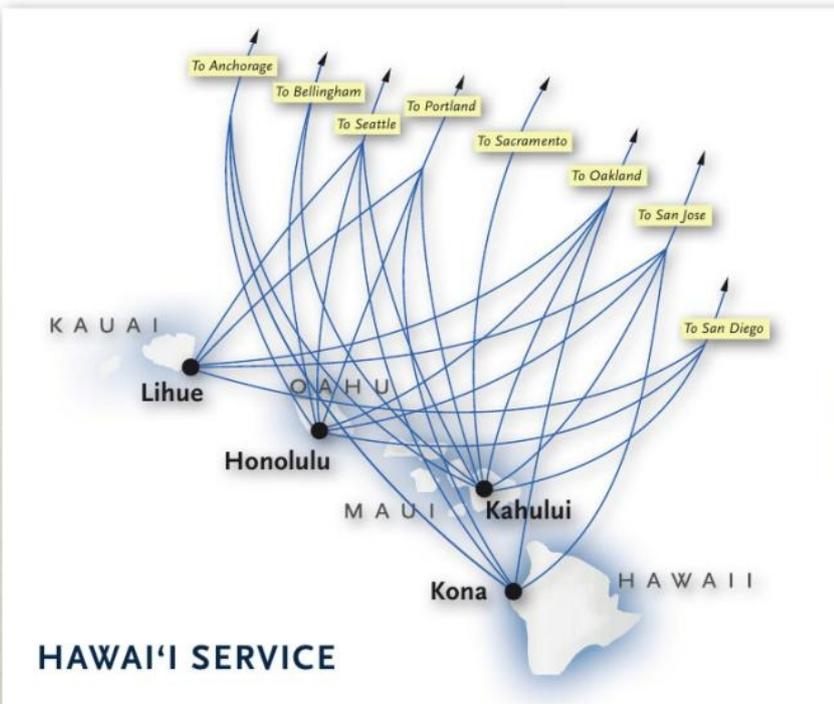
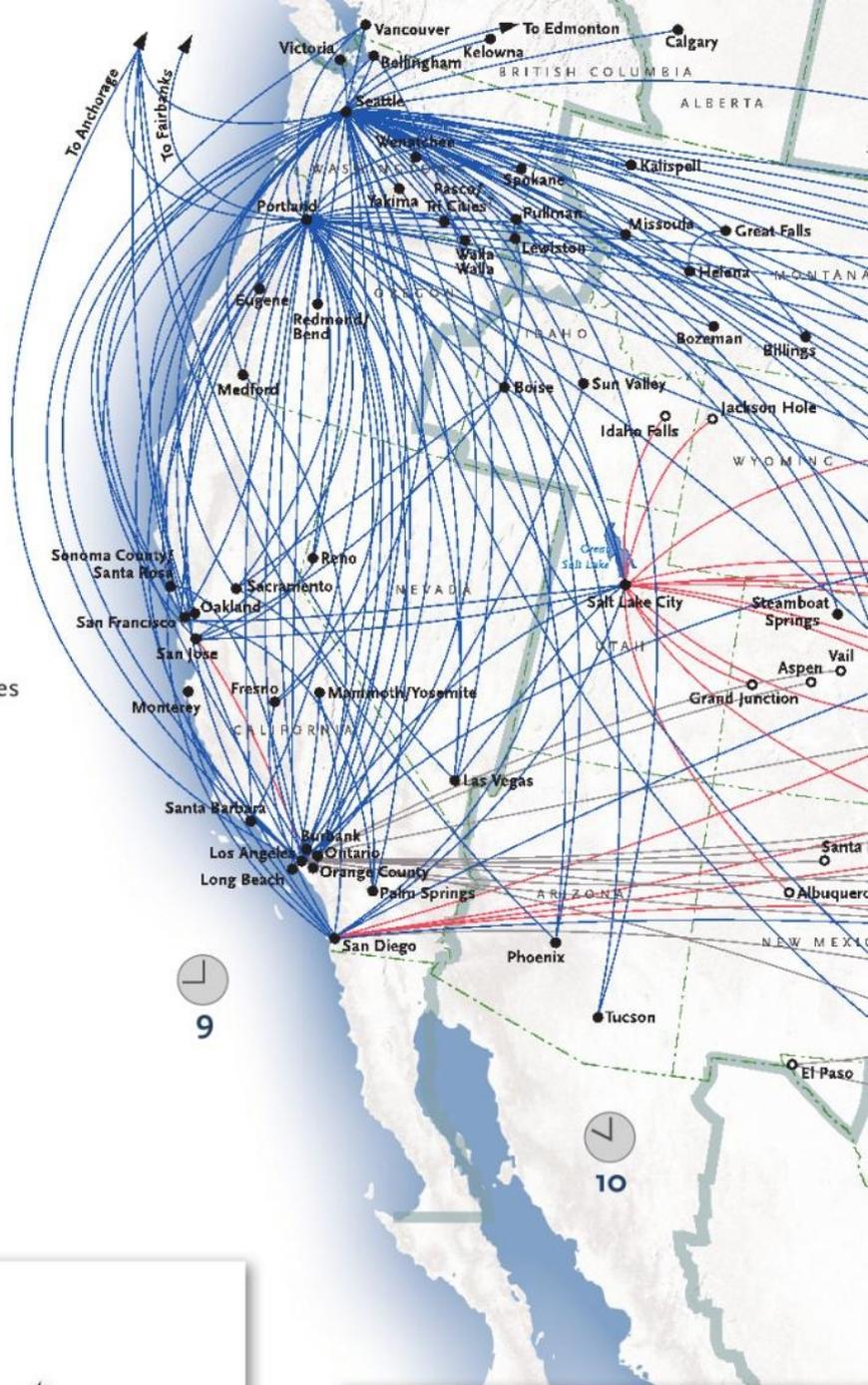
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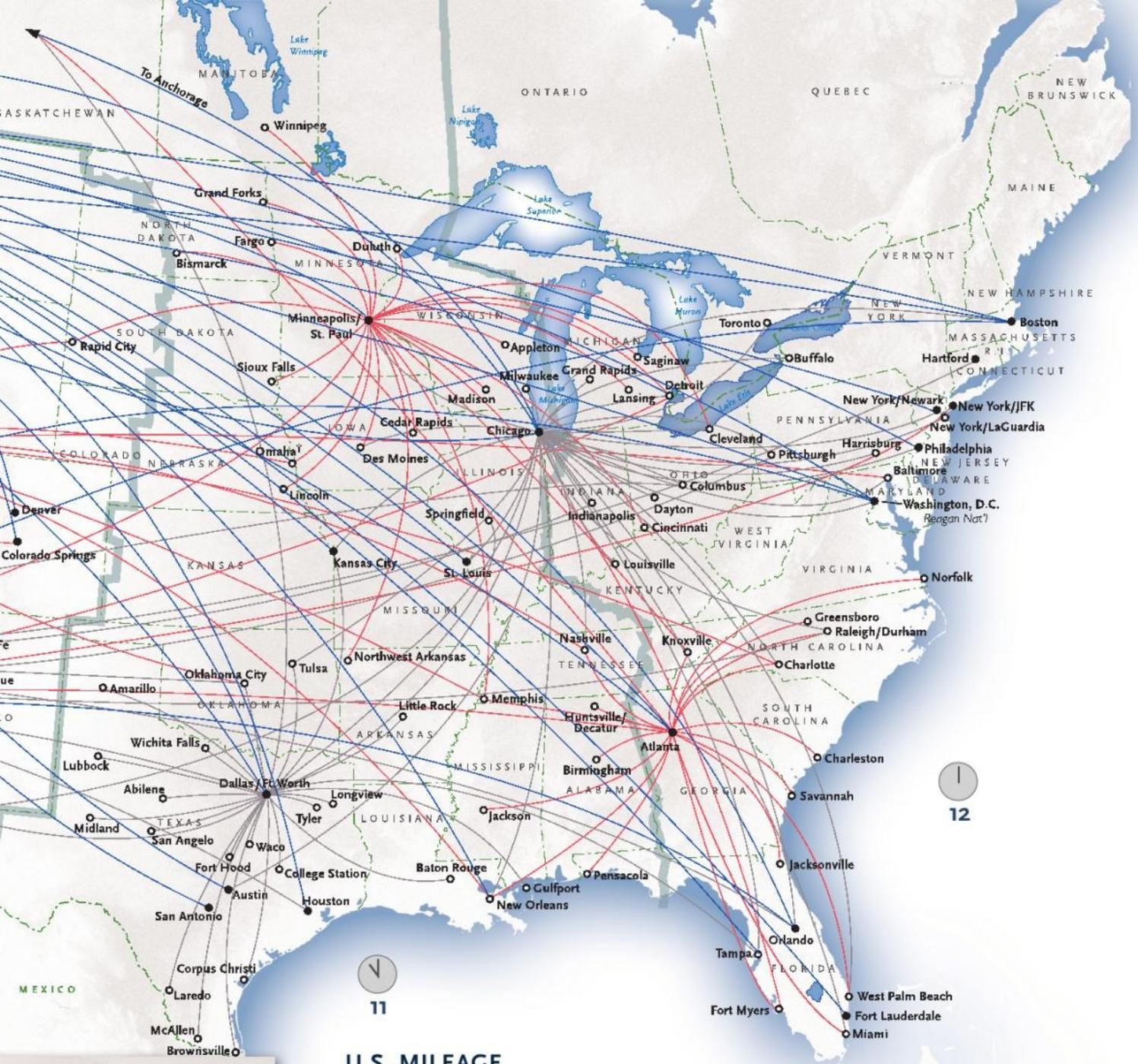
LEGEND

Routes served by:

-  Alaska Airlines
-  American Airlines
-  DELTA

Some Alaska Airlines service operated by Horizon Air or SkyWest Airlines.
Some routes shown operate seasonally.





U.S. MILEAGE

Between	Mileage
Seattle &	
Boston	2496
Denver	1024
Honolulu	2677
Los Angeles (LAX)	954
Fort Lauderdale	2697
New York City/Newark	2401
Phoenix	1106
San Diego	1050
San Francisco	678
Washington, D.C.	2306
Portland &	
Los Angeles (LAX)	834
Phoenix	1009
San Diego	933
San Francisco	550

Mileage Plan members receive mileage credit (500 miles minimum) based on the nonstop mileage between the origin and destination indicated on the ticket.

UPCOMING NEW SERVICE

Route	Service Begins
Salt Lake City–Portland	June 9, 2014
Portland–Kali spell	June 9, 2014
Salt Lake City–San Diego	June 10, 2014
Salt Lake City–Los Angeles	June 11, 2014
Seattle–New Orleans	June 12, 2014
Salt Lake City–San Jose	June 12, 2014
Salt Lake City–Boise	June 16, 2014
Salt Lake City–Las Vegas	June 16, 2014
Salt Lake City–San Francisco	June 18, 2014
Seattle–Tampa	June 20, 2014
Seattle–Detroit	September 4, 2014



ALASKA



ALASKA MILEAGE

Between	Mileage
Anchorage &	
Cordova	160
Kodiak	252
Fairbanks	261
King Salmon	289
Dillingham	329
Bethel	399
Nome	539
Kotzebue	549
Juneau	571
Prudhoe Bay	627
Ketchikan	776
Dutch Harbor	792
Seattle	1448
Portland	1542
San Francisco	2045
Los Angeles	2375
Honolulu	2776
Chicago	2847

Between	Mileage
Fairbanks &	
Barrow	503
Seattle	1533
Chicago	2785
Juneau &	
Sitka	95
Petersburg	123
Yakutat	199
Ketchikan	235
Seattle	909
Ketchikan &	
Wrangell	83
Sitka	185
Juneau	235
Seattle	679

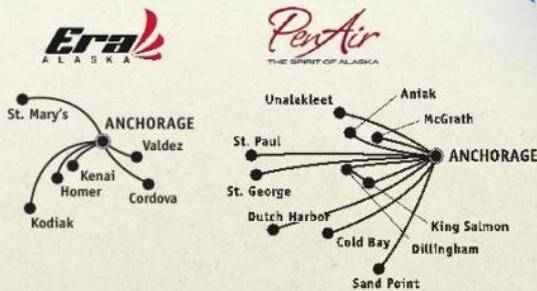
Mileage Plan members receive mileage credit (500 miles minimum) based on the nonstop mileage between the origin and destination indicated on the ticket. For more information on the Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan, see page A2.

● Alaska Airlines Cities

Some routes shown operate seasonally.
 † Dutch Harbor–Anchorage service operated by PenAir.

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CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

Customs and Immigration forms are distributed by flight attendants during your flight. Prior to landing, complete all forms that pertain to you, following the tips below.

Las formas de Aduana y Migración son distribuidas por los sobrecargos durante el vuelo. Antes del aterrizaje en su destino final complete las formas correspondientes usando las indicaciones que se proporcionan a continuación.

TO THE UNITED STATES

U.S. CUSTOMS DECLARATION

Who must complete this form?

All travelers

Helpful tips

- One form per person or one per family with same address
- Lines 5, 6 — If not using a passport, leave these lines blank
- Line 9 — Enter "AS" for Alaska Airlines
- Sign at the "X"



DECLARACION DE ADUANA

¿Quién debe completar esta forma?

Todos los pasajeros

Datos de ayuda

- Una forma por persona o por familia con la misma dirección
- Línea 5, 6 — Si no tiene pasaporte, deje esta sección en blanco
- Línea 9 — Use "AS" para Alaska Airlines
- Firme en la "X"

DECLARACION DE ADUANA

¿Quién debe completar esta forma?

Todos los pasajeros

Datos de ayuda

- Una forma por persona o por familia con la misma dirección
- Sección 6 — No es necesario declarar sus medicamentos de uso personal

FMM

Who must complete this form?

All travelers except citizens of Mexico

¿Quién debe completar esta forma?

Todos los viajeros, excepto los ciudadanos de México



TO MEXICO

MEXICO CUSTOMS DECLARATION

Who must complete this form?

All travelers

Helpful tips

- One form per person or one per family with same address
- Section 6 — It is not necessary to declare medicine for your personal use



FEM FOR MEXICAN NATIONALS

Who must complete this form?

Citizens of Mexico

FEM PARA MEXICANOS

¿Quién debe completar esta forma?

Ciudadanos de México (Aun siendo residentes permanentes de EE.UU.)

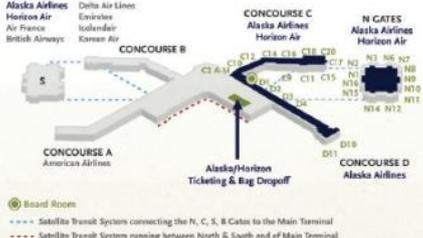
Datos de ayuda

- Complete una forma por persona. No olvide firmarla.
- Seleccione la opción "Entrada a México".
- En la línea 5 escriba el tipo y número del documento que usara como identificación.



AIRPORT GATE LOCATION MAPS

Seattle/Tacoma International Airport (SEA)



Portland International Airport (PDX)



Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)



San Francisco International Airport (SFO)



Mr. Fix It

It would be handy to be handy | BY TODD POWELL

I was so proud of myself the other day. Went out to feed the chickens, heard a hissing sound, and thought, hmm, that sounds like spraying water. Turns out I was right. A garden faucet near the corner of our chicken coop was leaking in a multitude of directions. This was a faucet with prior offenses. The turn knob had come off, for one thing, and we had to shut off the water with a Vise-Grip. But now the problem had reached a deeper level. It wasn't just the knob; it was the connection to the supply line, which consisted of a series of corroded pipes and adapters rising above the ground about a foot. The faucet appeared to be leaking where it met the top adapter.

So I thought, OK, I can handle this. I can handle this, and I won't even tell my wife that I'm handling it. I won't tell her because I will surprise her with how adept I've become at handling things. Call me Mr. Fix It.

Or not.

My wife likes to tell the story that when she first met me, I didn't even own a screwdriver. She also likes to tell the story about the first time she saw me attempt to fix anything, which was a leaky roof. When I climbed down from the rooftop with a roll of duct tape in my hand, she just shook her head and told me where to find the roofing tar.

She comes from a line of people who worked with their hands. Her grandfather was a builder. Her dad, a retired dentist, constructed wooden hydroplanes as a hobby. Our garage is now full of their sturdy tools: a table saw, a band saw, a drill press, a jointer. And those are just the big items. We have monogrammed toolboxes, drill bits galore, wrenches, vises, hammers, sanders, levels, clamps, measuring tapes, chop saws, circular saws, reciprocating saws, jigsaws, handsaws and, of course, a fine selection of screwdrivers, electric or otherwise.

What I didn't have for many years was any idea how to use most of this stuff. Under the category of handyman, I was more like Wreck-It Ralph than Fix-It Felix. When my wife and I remod-

eled a bathroom, for instance, my job was the demolition. (I've demolished four bathrooms in my life now.)

I am grateful she has been patient with my handyman learning curve. In addition to remodeling the bathrooms together—which required learning about tiling, installing shower surrounds and cabinets, and, naturally, plumbing—we've built a deck, a chicken pen with a shed roof, a guinea pig/rabbit hutch and a treehouse for the kids. For each of these projects, she's been the brains behind the operation, and I've been the brawn.

But this time I was determined to fix something on my own.

Thinking ahead, I shut off the water supply, drained the line and examined the faucet. Half-inch pipe, I surmised. So I was off to the hardware store, where I found a faucet without even asking for help. Back home, I grabbed an orange plumber's wrench and got down to business. Trouble was, the faucet didn't unscrew where I thought it would, and the half-inch faucet was too small. Now the fitting appeared to be an inch in diameter.

Go figure.

This time I took the old faucet with me to the hardware store, studied it, compared it to a new 1-inch-diameter faucet, got a refund for my previous purchase, returned home—and discovered that my latest purchase was too big. Thinking my Goldilocks moment would arrive in the form of a 3/4-inch-diameter faucet, I finally broke down, called my wife, and asked if she could buy one on her way home from work.

Fortunately, she refused.

Fortunately, I say, because none of the store's faucets would have fit. When she inspected everything the next morning, she realized that because our setup was 40 years old, the threading never would have matched.

She gave me credit for trying on my own, but one thing I've learned is that we get more done as a team. Together, we yanked all the metal piping and adapters from the supply line and took the old pieces, including the faucet, to the hardware store for reference in choosing new ones. Grand total: about \$27 in parts and about one hour of labor. Together, we made it work.

Good thing I'm married to Mrs. Fix It.

Writer and aspiring handyman Todd Powell lives in the Seattle area.



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