

Alaska

BEYOND

HORIZON EDITION MAGAZINE MARCH 2018

**SPECTACULAR
SAN DIEGO**
Adventures on land
and sea **PAGE 25**

**THEME PARK
DISCOVERIES**
Family fun in the
western U.S. **PAGE 40**

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PLEASE REUSE AND RECYCLE

INSIDE»



FEATURES

- 20 California Wine Country**
Enjoy wine tasting, mountain trails and a historic plaza.
- 25 San Diego**
Visit a fascinating aquarium, wonderful waterfront and appealing park.
- 30 Style to the Max**
The maximalism design style is bold and colorful.
- 40 Theme Park Discoveries**
Family fun in the western U.S.



DEPARTMENTS

- 5 Welcome**
A message from CEO Brad Tilden.
- 9 The Region**
 - Snow Geese Take Flight.
 - Adventure Quest.
 - Say Cheese!
 - Brick by Brick.
 - Taste Washington.
 - News & Notes.
 - Mountain Bluegrass.
- 51 Explore**
Portland park places.
Plus: Timbers preview.
- 58 Crossword**
- 61 Flyer Guide**
- 72 Airtime**
The Method to Our Madness: Celebrating the Big Dance of basketball ... and friendship.

ON THE COVER: A hiker enjoys one of Sonoma County's scenic trails.

Photo by Rebecca Jane Call / Shutterstock.com.

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WELCOME»

CHANGES YOU'LL LOVE

» **One of the best parts** of our merger with Virgin America is that it has allowed us to change. Change is all about getting out of your comfort zone to allow tremendous opportunity. Here, Andrew Harrison, our chief commercial officer, talks about some changes in the works this year that will make your experience traveling with us even more remarkable. —Brad Tilden

Change. It's exciting for sure, but at the same time it takes us out of our comfort zone. Human nature is such that even though something new could make life better, we resist it. My wife would say that I am Exhibit A of resistance.

Case in point: It was the early '90s, and work colleagues asked whether I had received their "email." I responded, "Got your what?" To which, they smiled and said, "You know, a message on the computer." My immediate response was to march down to the IT department and have them remove me from this email thing. I mean, I don't have time to randomly go to a computer to see if someone may have sent me a message. What a bad idea, right?

Don't worry, I do learn from life lessons—so please read on.

I share this because it reminds me that when we introduce significant change here at Alaska, we need to talk about what it means to you, our guests, before you see it at an airport or onboard our planes. Since no matter what,



Brad Tilden,
Chief Executive
Officer



Andrew Harrison,
Chief Commercial
Officer



human nature needs some time to process change. Knowing this, I am pleased to tell you about some new and exciting changes that Alaska Airlines will be rolling out as a result of our merger with Virgin America. My hope is that, unlike my early start with email, this is something you can really look forward to.

Here's what you can expect from us in the coming months:

- **High-speed satellite Wi-Fi** installations begin in April on our Boeing and Airbus aircraft. You're going to find this new service a game changer to keep you connected and entertained during your flight.
- You'll be able to relax in style at our **New York/JFK Lounge**, which is opening in early May.
- You'll enjoy a **single Alaska Airlines** shopping, booking and airport check-in experience in late April across our 90 airports and 1,200 daily flights.
- Sit back and relax in **new, modern interiors** on our Boeing aircraft starting this fall. This includes new First Class and Main Cabin seat designs, power outlets, carpeting and mood lighting. Our airport makeovers are taking place, as well, and you'll soon see Alaska

signage at all of our airports—and hear some great tunes playing at our counters, to get you in the mood.

- You'll have the opportunity to receive more complimentary upgrades on our 737 Airbus aircraft once we update the interiors, **which will increase the number of First Class seats**. We'll also introduce Premium Class on these aircraft.
- You can stay connected with continued **free texting**, and more than **200 movies and TV shows for free**, direct to your device.
- Eat healthy and enjoy natural ingredients with the introduction of **West Coast-inspired onboard food and beverage choices**. You'll enjoy full-pour regional wines and microbrews, and more choices in both First Class and the Main Cabin. You can also pre-order, to make sure we have your choice onboard.

We are so appreciative that you are part of the Alaska Airlines family, and we are really looking forward to sharing these changes with you soon.

Now, it's back to those emails, which, as you read at the beginning of this article, are not my favorite task. Thanks for flying with us!

—Andrew Harrison



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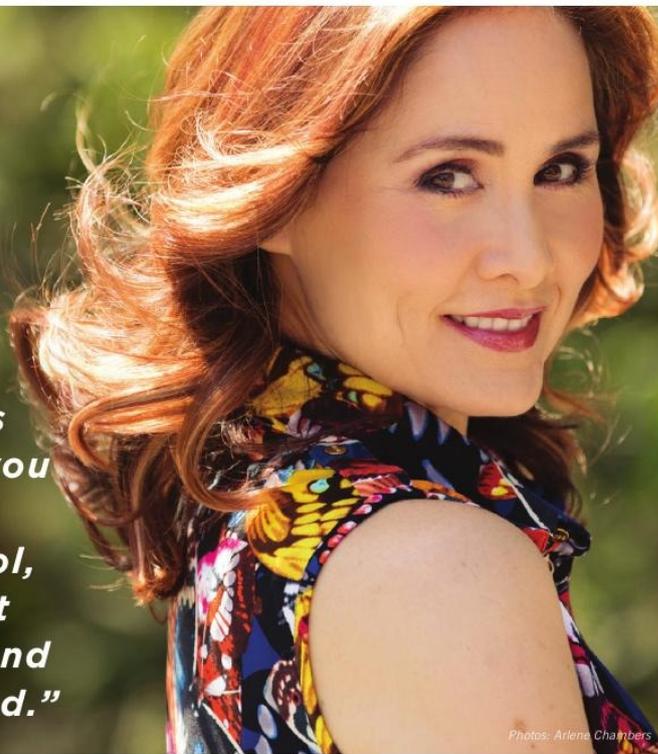
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“When life gets too crazy and you no longer feel you’re in control, you need to put on the brakes and regain command.”



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10 WEEKS TO YOUR BEST YOU!

As an empty-nester, I wanted to find a new, meaningful role for the next phase of my life. My son had been ill for several years and being his primary caregiver had taken its toll. I felt burnt out and too exhausted to take care of myself. But I was tired of being tired. I knew that, in order to be successful, I needed support.

I wanted many things for myself. Physically, I wanted to lose 10 pounds, get stronger, eat well and generally feel better. I also wanted to care about how I looked again. Mentally and emotionally, I wanted to break out of my rut and become more productive. My Best 10 was designed to meet these goals, while rewarding me with pampering luxuries along the way. It was just what I needed!

I was pleasantly surprised that my eating plan, which I had figured would be methodized, was actually tailored to my needs. It was individualized and not just another “one-size-fits-all” program. I looked forward to meetings with my registered dietitian, Amanda. Initially, I thought I had to go to these meetings just to “check a box,” but I soon found that she had a lot of great information and tips to share.

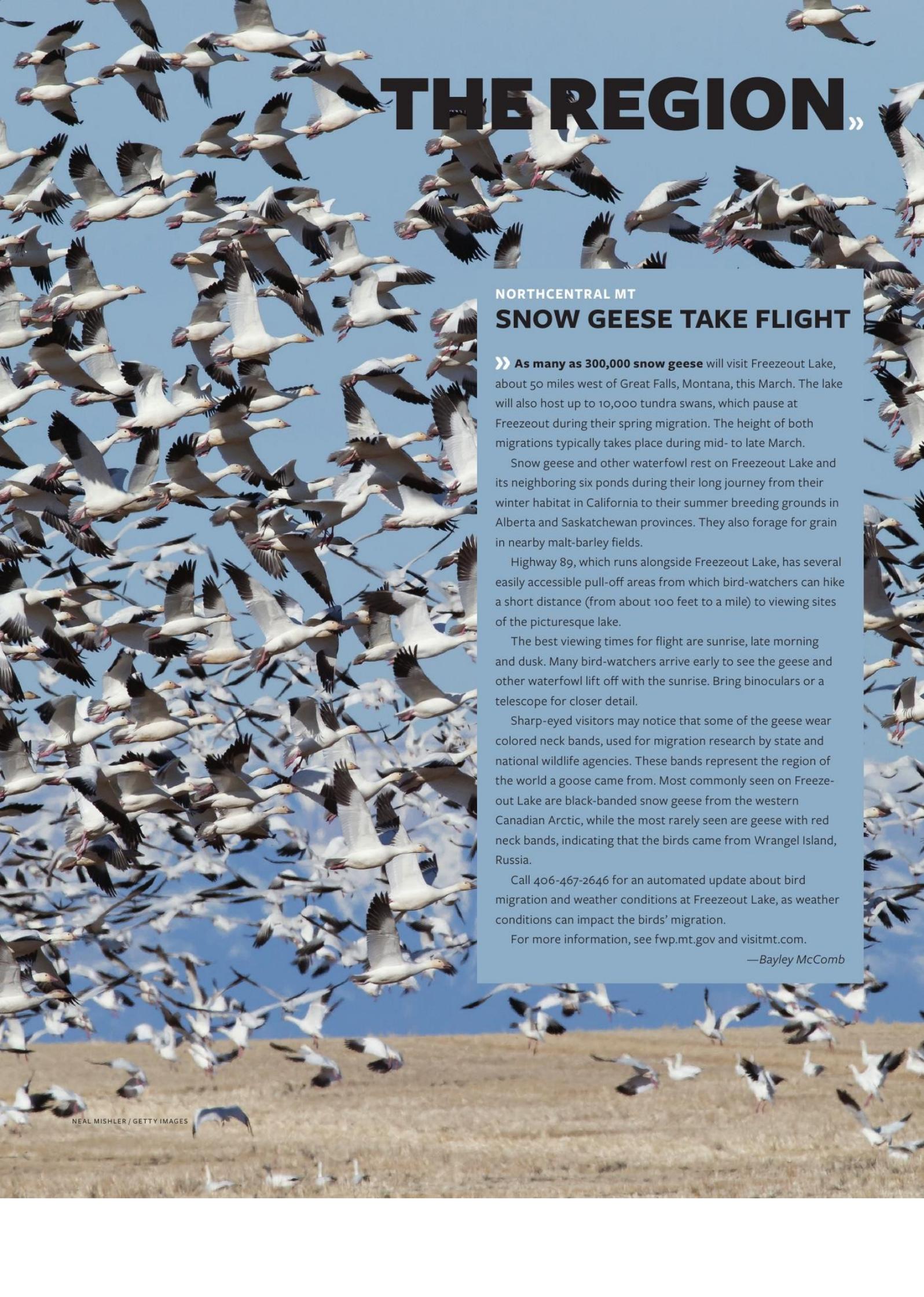
For the most part, I’ve always loved fresh fruit and vegetables, preferring to eat grilled over fried foods. But I’ve

constantly struggled with a sweet tooth that is nothing short of an addiction. Once, when I admitted to eating a piece of chocolate, instead of making me feel bad, Amada congratulated me for being able to limit myself to just one piece. She reminded me that being able to control and be satisfied by a small treat is a huge accomplishment. It’s a skill that will contribute to a sustainable lifestyle.

I still use the tips I learned through the program. My eating habits also changed how my husband eats, so it makes it easier to maintain this new lifestyle. In fact, he also ended up losing weight.

I also enjoyed working with my trainer, Sol. He’s the perfect combination of hard core and encouraging. I was impressed by how quickly he was able to modify my workouts on the fly. I’m a wanna-be dancer. Hip hop is my favorite, but I started committed to learning ballet and jazz. It’s slow coming, but fun! The best part of dancing is that it doubles as exercise that I actually enjoy.

When life gets too crazy and you no longer feel you’re in control, you need to put on the brakes and regain command. I knew I wouldn’t set the time aside unless I was accountable. My Best 10 was the perfect solution!

A large flock of snow geese is captured in flight against a clear blue sky. The geese are in various stages of flight, with some showing their dark wings and others their white bodies. They are flying over a field of dry, golden-brown grass. The overall scene is one of a massive migration.

THE REGION »

NORTHCENTRAL MT

SNOW GEESE TAKE FLIGHT

» As many as 300,000 snow geese will visit Freezeout Lake, about 50 miles west of Great Falls, Montana, this March. The lake will also host up to 10,000 tundra swans, which pause at Freezeout during their spring migration. The height of both migrations typically takes place during mid- to late March.

Snow geese and other waterfowl rest on Freezeout Lake and its neighboring six ponds during their long journey from their winter habitat in California to their summer breeding grounds in Alberta and Saskatchewan provinces. They also forage for grain in nearby malt-barley fields.

Highway 89, which runs alongside Freezeout Lake, has several easily accessible pull-off areas from which bird-watchers can hike a short distance (from about 100 feet to a mile) to viewing sites of the picturesque lake.

The best viewing times for flight are sunrise, late morning and dusk. Many bird-watchers arrive early to see the geese and other waterfowl lift off with the sunrise. Bring binoculars or a telescope for closer detail.

Sharp-eyed visitors may notice that some of the geese wear colored neck bands, used for migration research by state and national wildlife agencies. These bands represent the region of the world a goose came from. Most commonly seen on Freezeout Lake are black-banded snow geese from the western Canadian Arctic, while the most rarely seen are geese with red neck bands, indicating that the birds came from Wrangel Island, Russia.

Call 406-467-2646 for an automated update about bird migration and weather conditions at Freezeout Lake, as weather conditions can impact the birds' migration.

For more information, see fwp.mt.gov and visitmt.com.

—Bayley McComb



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BOISE, ID

ADVENTURE QUEST

» An unconventional event designed to make memories that last a lifetime, the **Questival Adventure Race**, April 13–14 in Boise, encourages locals and visitors to create new and interesting experiences.

The festival starts at Ann Morrison Park in downtown Boise with a mystery kickoff challenge that will be revealed the day of the race, and continues with nearly 150 additional challenges from which teams of two to six can choose. Be it filming a video while running a Statue of Liberty football play, taking a dip in Lucky Peak Lake, or eating Idaho’s official vegetable prepared your favorite way, Questival Boise offers a platform to meet like-minded adventurers and challenge yourself to explore the city and its surroundings.

This year’s race is themed “The Space Tour” and is designed to encourage participants

to explore the natural spaces around them. Challenge categories include outdoors, service, camping, community, fitness, food and more.

The level of difficulty varies among the challenges, from hiking and taking a picture on your favorite trail or at a state park, such as at Malad Gorge State Park, shown at right, to eating tacos with no hands. Some challenges also include good deeds, such as picking up litter from parks and communities, volunteering at local nonprofits and performing random acts of kindness.

At the end of the race, prizes such as gear and adventure passes will be awarded to up to 20 winning teams. The majority of Questival challenges are free, although there may be costs associated with challenges that involve driving around or seeking permits to photograph iconic spots. The race will also



offer checkpoints at which teams will perform team-building exercises and observe other teams doing the same. Additional Questival locations include Seattle, April 13; Portland, Oregon, May 18; and Missoula, Montana, June 15. For more information, visit cotopaxi.com/products/questival-boise-2018. —Chhavi Mehra

CENTRAL POINT, OR SAY CHEESE!

» Taste delicious samples of cheese from more than 20 skilled Oregon cheesemakers and additional creameries from around the West at the **Oregon Cheese Festival**, March 17–18 at Rogue Creamery in Central Point, Oregon, about 5 miles north of Medford. The event features cheeses ranging from cheddar and blue to *queso botanero* and smoked Gouda.



On the evening of March 16, before the festival officially begins, the Oregon Cheese Guild Benefit Cheesemakers’ Dinner at Larks Restaurant in Medford will begin the festivities with a cheese-centric dinner. A four-course menu features dishes incorporating Oregon cheeses, each paired with a local wine or beer, while special guest David Gibbons, a cheese expert and columnist for *Wine Spectator*, shares his insights on the various cheeses listed on the dinner menu.

Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to interact with cheesemakers from award-winning creameries, including Briar Rose Creamery, whose goat milk feta and Lorelei goat cheeses won awards at the 2018 Good

Food Awards, and Tillamook County Creamery Association, whose Vintage White Extra Sharp 4 Year Reserve Cheddar won a first-place award at the 2017 American Cheese Society Judging & Competition.

Festival attendees can also enjoy specialty-food tastings that include jerkies, chocolates, preserves, jams and blue-cheese popcorn, all paired

with local wines and beers. Food trucks also will serve meals such as barbecue dishes, sandwiches, crepes and Peruvian food.

A cheese-carving booth by acclaimed cheese aficionado Sarah Kaufmann, also known as The Cheese Lady, will feature her large cheese sculptures, such as the state of Oregon and various animal representations.

For children, there will be petting zoos with baby cows, and activities such as games, and photo booths with fun props and costumes.

For more information, visit oregoncheesefestival.com.

—Chhavi Mehra

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PORTLAND, OR BRICK BY BRICK

» Build or view

fascinating Lego brick inventions in 18 fun and exciting themes—ranging from castles and pirates to *Star Wars* and superheroes—at the AFOL (Adult Fans of Lego) Convention, March 22–25, and the Bricks Cascade Public Exposition, March 24–25, both at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

Participants of the AFOL Convention can bring intricate Lego brick scenes, known as “My Own Creations,” which will then be displayed at the Bricks Cascade Public Exhibition. Convention visitors can also attend workshops and lectures, such as “Great Ball Contraption Basics,” which explains structures in which one



module passes a ball to the next module, similar to a Rube Goldberg machine.

At the Bricks Cascade Public Exposition, attendees can talk to hundreds of builders from the Northwest and

around the world; race a brick-built car (such as the one shown above) on a derby track; and also have a place to display their own builds. Thirty vendor booths will showcase unique Lego products, such as T-shirts from Brick Shirts that feature Lego bricks and characters, as well as custom Lego jewelry and other items from The Brick Chick.

For more information, visit brickscascade.com. —*Elisha Rosli*

SEATTLE, WA TASTE WASHINGTON

» One of the largest wine and food festivals in the nation, Taste Washington, March 22–25 in Seattle, brings together more than 235 Washington State wineries, as well as 65 restaurants and 60 other culinary exhibitors, providing fun tasting experiences.

As part of the festival’s Taste Washington on the Farm event, March 23, participants are taken to an area farm and given the opportunity to tour the property with the farmer to gain insight on sourcing of ingredients for Seattle restaurants; to chat with renowned chefs who are crafting a locally sourced meal; and to sip wines made by local Washington winemakers.

The Grand Tasting event, March 24–25, at the CenturyLink Field Event Center, features wine and food samples as well as hourly demonstrations at the Alaska Mileage Plan Chefs stage by national all-star chefs, including Brooke Williamson, Bravo’s *Top Chef All-Stars* Season 14 winner.



Enjoy a pairing of food and music at a Taste Washington event that is new this year, the Sunday Brunch at Quality Athletics restaurant. The brunch is a collaboration of singer/songwriter Kris Orlovski; Huxley Wallace Collective executive chef and founder Josh Henderson; and Quality Athletics chef Daniel Cox, on Sunday, March 25. Alaska Mileage Plan is the welcoming sponsor of Taste Washington. For more information, visit tastewashington.org. —*Elisha Rosli*



■ Experience the beauty of **Glacier National Park, MT**, via two-hour ranger-led snowshoe walks. Tours depart from Apgar Visitor Center, about 35 miles from Kalispell, Saturdays and Sundays through March 18. Snowshoe rentals are available at Kalispell sporting-good stores (<https://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/ranger-led-activities.htm>).

■ The North American premiere exhibit of “**Let Me Be Myself—The Life Story of Anne Frank**” is on display at the **Holocaust Center for Humanity in Seattle**, March 4 to May 30. Along with information on Anne Frank’s life, the exhibit includes a section on contemporary teens and intolerance (holocaustcenterseattle.org).

■ See notable bands such as **George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic at Treefort Music Fest**, March 21–25 in **Boise** (treefortmusicfest.com).

■ Seattle Seahawks quarterback and Alaska Airlines Chief Football Officer **Russell Wilson** will host a concert featuring **Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, Ciara** and the **Seattle Symphony**, May 10 at Benaroya Hall. The concert, which is presented by Alaska Airlines, will benefit youth, equity and education programs (seattlesymphony.org).



OLYMPIC VALLEY, CA
**MOUNTAIN
 BLUEGRASS**

▶▶ **Cap off a morning on the slopes** with a great concert. The **WinterWonderGrass** festival, April 6–8, will bring some of the nation’s best bluegrass and folk music to the base of the Squaw Valley Ski Resort in California’s Lake Tahoe area, about 50 miles from Reno, Nevada.

The festival features more than 30 bands and artists, including The Infamous String-dusters, who won the 2017 Best Bluegrass Album Grammy Award for *Laws of Gravity*, and additional headliners, The Devil Makes Three and Railroad Earth.

The headliners will perform on an outdoor stage backdropped by the spectacular Sierra Nevada.

Festivalgoers also can enjoy beer and cider from more than 20 California producers while listening to additional artists on the three beer-hall stages, and enjoying food from local food trucks.

The Squaw Valley festival will also feature a coffee lounge, where you can warm up at after tackling the slopes.



Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows offers 6,000 skiable acres and a wide range of runs, from the beginner areas in Alpine Meadows to Squaw Valley’s black diamond Headwall Face, which starts at an elevation of nearly 8,700 feet.

WinterWonderGrass also emphasizes sustainability. For instance, each ticket holder receives a commemorative stainless steel mug to use instead of single-use plastic cups.

For more information, visit winterwondergrass.com. —Chace Mortimer-Davy

▶▶ **Noteworthy bluegrass and folk bands will play on scenic outdoor stages during the WinterWonderGrass festival.**



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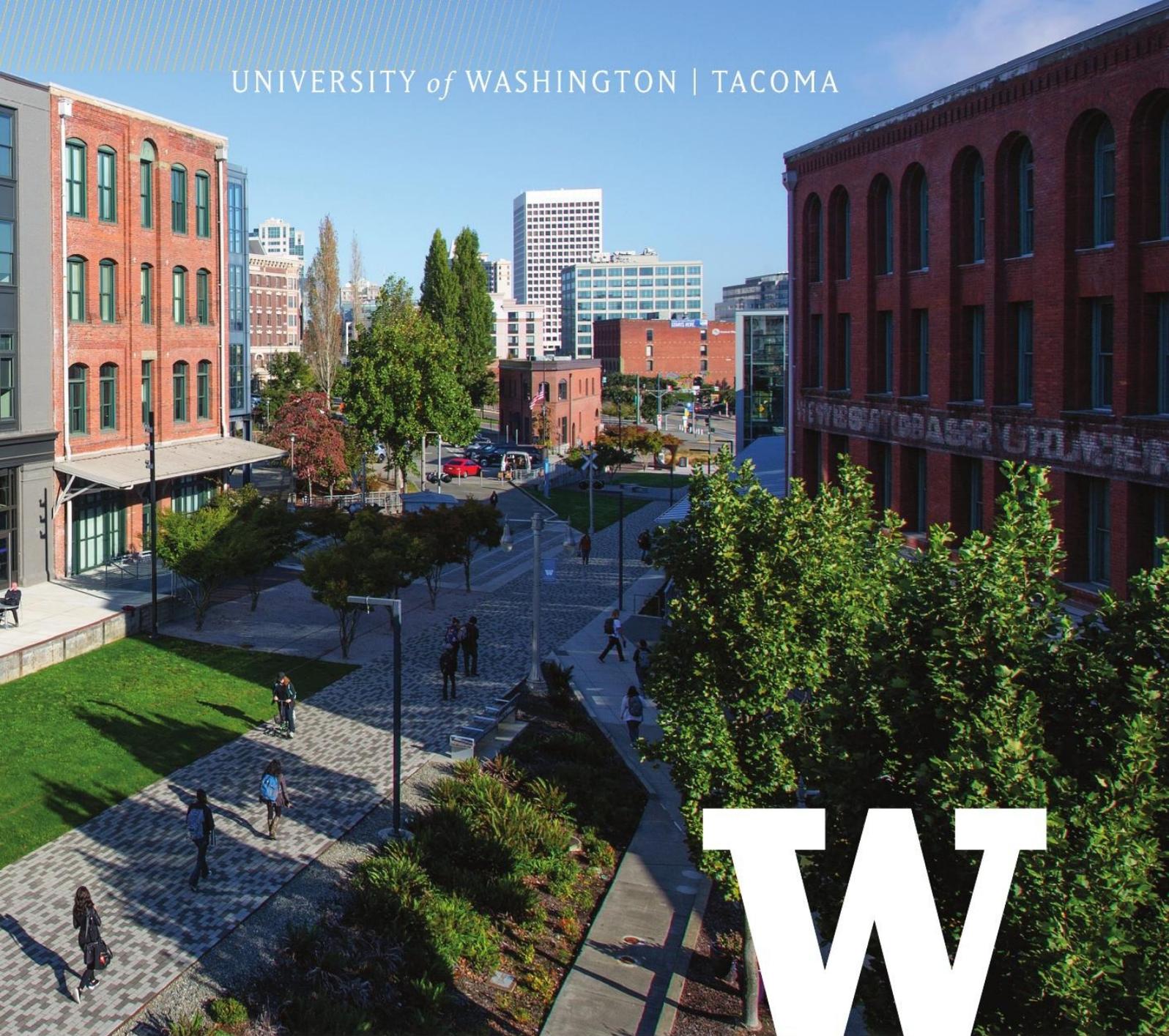
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California Trip Trios

The Golden State is known for the quality and variety of its landscapes, activities and attractions. In the pages following, a Sonoma/Napa writer and a San Diego writer each share three recommendations for fun experiences.

Wine Country

Russian River Vineyards, Taylor Mountain, Sonoma Plaza / **BY CAREY SWEET**

1. As I lounge on a comfy overstuffed armchair on the outdoor stone patio of Russian River Vineyards, I enjoy the beautiful views from this fabled winery in the Sonoma County town of Forestville.

Centered around an old family farm that began in the 1890s, the vineyards were first planted here in 1964. Recently, the winery has been lovingly renovated into a gorgeous destination cherished by locals and visitors.

My wine, a 2014 Estate Vineyard Merlot, has a velvety texture and concentrated dark-berry flavors that are kissed with a hint of lavender. The winemaker and winery partner-owner, Giovanni Balistreri, stops by to say hello and explain that the estate's Merlot vines are among the oldest in Sonoma County.

They look the part, with thick, gnarly trunks and roots that dig about 20 feet deep into the land's volcanic soils. Being close to the coast also allows the occasional fog to caress the fruit.

As I savor the wine, my dog sits

at my feet, hoping for nibbles from my cheese plate, with unique cheeses and herb crackers hand-made by the winery's on-site chef.

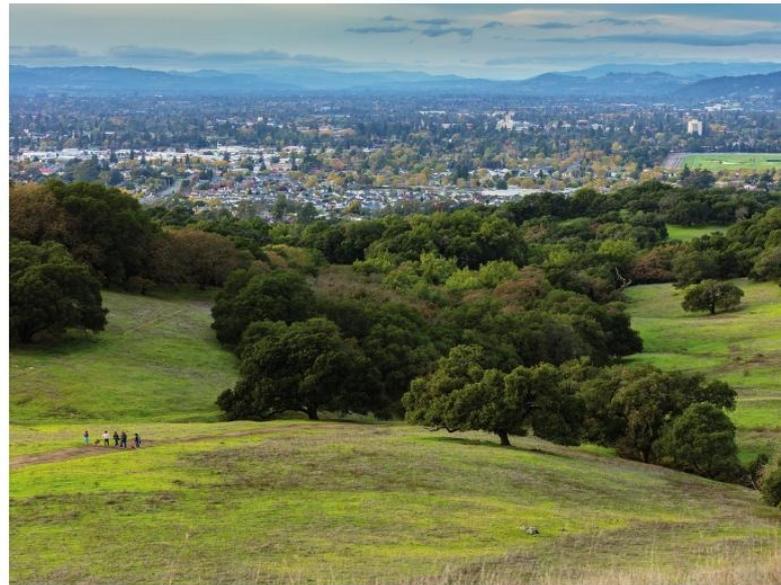
The newly refurbished Russian River property boasts even more places for me to explore. I can relax at two new tasting bars with local art on the walls, and cuddle with the friendly charcoal gray cat, Truffles, that adopted the winery.

There is an outside bar in the back of the surrounding tasting garden, and a picnic area with a view of the estate's grounds.

Visitors can also tour the winery's heritage chicken coop and its 1.25-acre culinary garden full of fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs and beans.

However, the winery's most interesting tasting lounge is its newest, located inside a rustic building resembling a hop kiln tower that had been used for barrel storage.

The pointy-roofed structure is a luxurious retreat with leather chairs, velvet chaises, antique wood tables and metal trunks. I am also drawn to a huge painting



● **Russian River Vineyards offers wonderful wines and fine-food pairings, opposite page. Taylor Mountain Regional Park, above, has many attractions, from trails to disc golf. Sonoma's City Hall, left, is in the town's historic plaza.**

hanging high on a wall that portrays a bull staring down at me, with bold intensity.

If these weathered wood walls could talk, they would assuredly tell me proud tales of an iconic property reborn to grandeur.

To the east of Sonoma County, over the southern flanks of the Mayacamas Mountains, the equally famous wine center of Napa County boasts hundreds of esteemed wineries. Together, Sonoma and Napa are the heart of California's iconic wine country,

and are home to more than 800 wineries. They are also among the state's leading attractions.

2. Taylor Mountain Regional Park

One of wine country's popular attractions is Taylor Mountain Regional Park, which opened to the public in 2014.

The park spans 1,100 acres of paradise in south Santa Rosa. In a salute to the area's agricultural roots, cattle still graze in the area, alongside the hiking, biking and

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CALIFORNIA 1·2·3

San Diego

Birch Aquarium, Downtown Waterfront, Balboa Park / BY DOUG HANSEN

1. A bronze sculpture depicting a life-size gray whale and calf, breaching out of an outdoor fountain, greets us at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Birch Aquarium in the La Jolla area, about 15 miles north of downtown San Diego. The statue reminds us that thousands of gray whales travel along the California coastline each year during their migration between Alaska and Mexico.

Inside the aquarium, my wife, Sharen, and I are fascinated by exhibits featuring nearly 5,000 fish and invertebrates (such as sea stars, sea urchins and jellies).

My favorite exhibit contains leafy sea dragons, which are native to Australia. They can reach nearly 14 inches in length, and they look like seahorses adorned with strands of seaweed. Just as with seahorses, it's the male sea dragons that "get pregnant." The female deposits her eggs on a spongy patch on the underside of the male's tail, with fertilization taking place during the transfer. The male carries the eggs—as many as 300—for six to eight weeks, until they are ready to hatch.

During mid-morning leopard-shark feedings at an outdoor tank, we can see sharks zooming after chunks of fish, squid and shrimp that have been scattered into the tank, and July through September, we can return to take a morning snorkeling tour with an aquarium naturalist, to see pregnant leopard sharks—considered docile—in



shallow ocean waters off La Jolla's coast. Mid-October through mid-April, ocean experts from the aquarium provide insight and information during Flagship Cruises & Events' whale-watching tours from downtown San Diego.

Today, Sharen and I end our visit at the outdoor tidepool plaza, where kids and adults alike are exclaiming over close-up looks at animals such as hermit crabs, lobsters and sea stars. But for us, the best part of the plaza is the fabulous view of Scripps Pier—where osprey, among the 500 bird species found in the San Diego area, like to perch—and the dazzling view of the Pacific Ocean. Aqua water transitions to deep-blue sea not far from shore, and sunshine lights the horizon where ocean and sky meet in similar cobalt colors.

Just 2 miles north of the aquarium, we enjoy a different but equally fascinating sunlit scene. At the Torrey Pines Gliderport, paragliders and hang gliders with colorful sails leap from the cliffs to soar over the water. Tandem



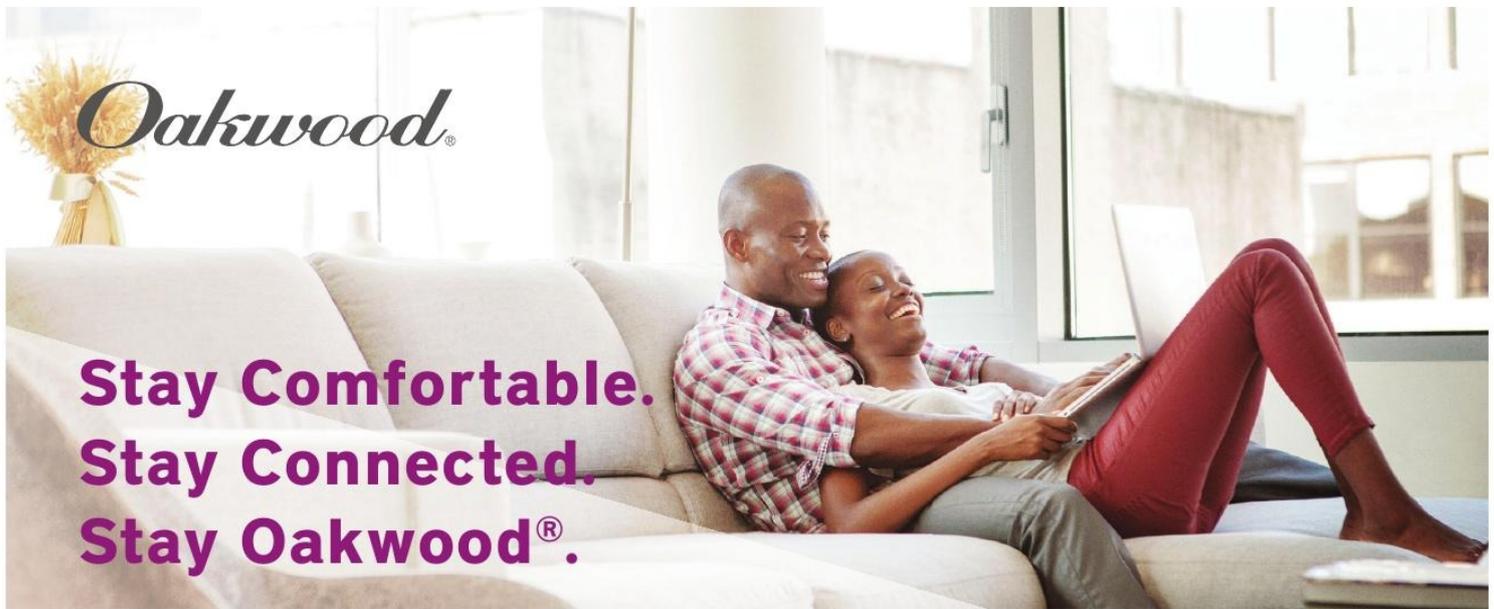
● *Clockwise from top left: A fun Birch Aquarium snorkeling experience. Paragliders soar in the La Jolla area. Seaport Village is popular for shopping, dining and entertainment.*



More to See

- **Cabrillo National Monument** (nps.gov/cabr/index.htm): Located at the tip of the Point Loma Peninsula, this area provides spectacular views of downtown San Diego, Coronado Island and the ocean. The park also has an 1855 lighthouse, a museum, walking trails and tidepools.
- **Legoland California Resort** (legoland.com): Located about 35 miles north of San Diego, the Carlsbad amusement park will be debuting new attractions such as the Lego City Deep Sea Adventure Submarine Ride this summer, with a real submarine going underwater amid 2,000 live animals, including stingrays and sharks.
- **Maritime Museum** (sdmaritime.org): See one of the world's finest collections of histor- ➔

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT, BIRCH AQUARIUM AT SCRIPPS; MAKENA STOCK MEDIA / GETTY IMAGES; SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



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flights, as well as lessons, are available.

Next we head back south to the oceanside village of La Jolla. We find ourselves enthralled by a scene that includes rocky coastline, sandy beaches and protected marine reserves. We stroll along a coastal sidewalk above La Jolla Cove, looking down at pelicans, cormorants and barking California sea lions that are hanging out on rocks and a beige beach. Energetic sea lions dart through nearby frothy waves.

2. Downtown Waterfront

The curving cobblestone footpaths of downtown San Diego's Seaport Village—which is located on San Diego Bay and has been called the city's front porch—lead us past a hand-carved 1895 carousel, a balloon artist, and 50 unique shops, with products ranging from wooden toys, handcrafted candles and chimes to nautical decor, magic tricks and kites. (Many afternoons, you can test kites right outside the shop door, if weather conditions allow, before making a final decision.)

Another fun attraction is The Headquarters at Seaport, a former San Diego Police headquarters that now houses shops and restaurants, including one of my favorite Mexican dining spots, Puesto. Its creative takes on tacos include ingredients such as mushrooms, octopus, and even zucchini and cactus.

Special events at Seaport Village range from the annual Spring Busker Festival, March 3–4 this year, to the year-round Sunday Concert Series.

Seaport Village is located near



the south end of the mile-long waterfront Embarcadero, whose attractions also include launching points for harbor and whale-watching excursions; tours of historic ships such as the 1945 USS *Midway* aircraft carrier; and ferries offering 15-minute rides to Coronado Island. Sharen and I enjoy strolling 1.5-mile Coronado Beach, whose wonderful expanse of soft sand derives its silvery color from mica.

3. Balboa Park

We like to arrive early at the 100-acre San Diego Zoo—one of the many attractions in famed Balboa Park, just north of downtown San Diego—to ensure we have ample time to explore. I'm captivated by the variety of species among the 3,500 animals. We watch tarantulas crawl and giant Galápagos tortoises lumber. We see hippos yawn, koalas cling to tree branches and knobby-kneed pink flamingos walk in water.

We see bear species—grizzly, polar, Andean and giant panda—with impressive claws, while big graceful cats at the zoo include leopards, jaguars, cheetahs and



● From top: A polar bear at the San Diego Zoo in Balboa Park. The Unconditional Surrender statue on the Embarcadero.



→ ical and replica ships and submarines, including the 1863 *Star of India*, at this “floating museum” on the downtown San Diego waterfront.

● **Mission Bay Park** (sandiego.org/missionbay): Twenty-seven miles of shoreline, with 19 beaches and eight designated swimming areas, make this a popular park (right). Rentals are available for numerous types of water activities, and you can also take a self-guided tour of park wildlife preserves.

● **Old Town** (www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=663): Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is the site of one of California's first European settlements, dating to 1769. Located 4 miles from downtown, the park has historical buildings, plus shops, museums and Mexican restaurants. Nearby is **Whaley House Museum**, built in the 1850s and said to be haunted by several Whaley-family ghosts. —D.H.



lions. We learn that a lion's roar can be heard up to 3 miles away.

I'm also surprised to discover that the zoo's flora is as impressive as its fauna. The 700,000-plus exotic plants include carnivorous American pitchers; intriguing cycads, including species that date to the late Paleozoic era; and flowers ranging from bird-of-paradise to passion vine.

Orchids grow in the indoor Orchid House, which is open for tours the third Friday of each month. Alaska Airlines is a sponsor of the San Diego Zoo and its sister property, the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, about 30 miles north in Escondido.

After our morning at the zoo, we explore some of the other

appealing sites at Balboa Park, which offers visitors a choice of 16 museums, nearly 20 gardens, and landmarks such as the iconic California Tower—featuring multiple architectural styles, from Baroque to Gothic—built for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition.

The park also has an organ-concert pavilion, an Imax theater, restaurants, and the House of Pacific Relations International Cottages, founded in 1935 when San Diego hosted the California Pacific International Exposition.

The house's name reflects both fostering peaceful relations and the Pacific Ocean's importance as a travel-by-ship gateway to the world in the early 1900s. The

cultures of more than 30 countries, from Argentina and Austria to Ukraine and the United States, are showcased during open houses on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Each cottage also takes a turn hosting a lawn program, with a spotlight on music, dance, clothing, arts and foods from the country the cottage represents.

We stop to watch happy kids astride a menagerie of animals on the 1910 Balboa Park Carousel, and we visit the Spanish Village Art Center, whose buildings and courtyard were created for the 1935 exposition and evoke a charming village in Spain.

The appealing center now hosts more than 200 artisans, from painters and jewelry de-

signers to glass-blowing artists.

From the art center, we follow a walkway to a promenade where street performers provide varied and mesmerizing entertainment. A gymnast does spellbinding somersaults over crouched volunteers, and I find it an apt metaphor for my feelings about San Diego: I flipped over it many years ago when I first moved here, and I continue to be captivated by "America's Finest City." ■



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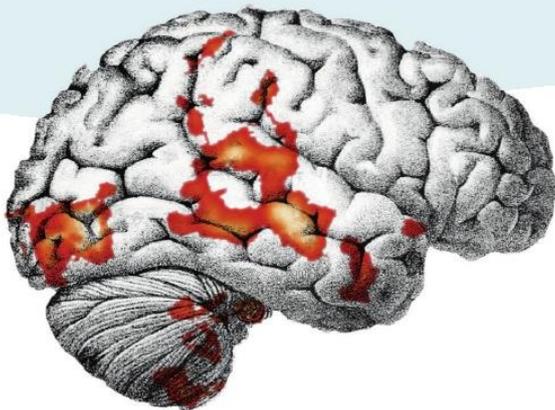
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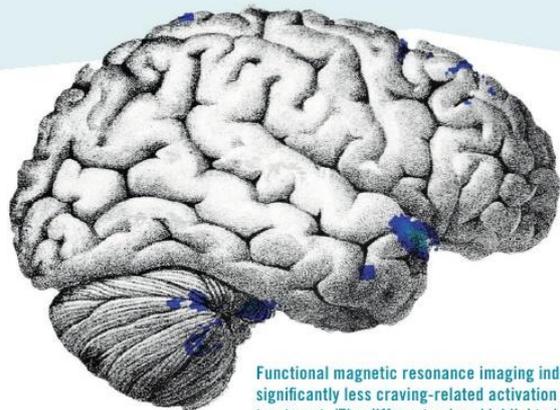


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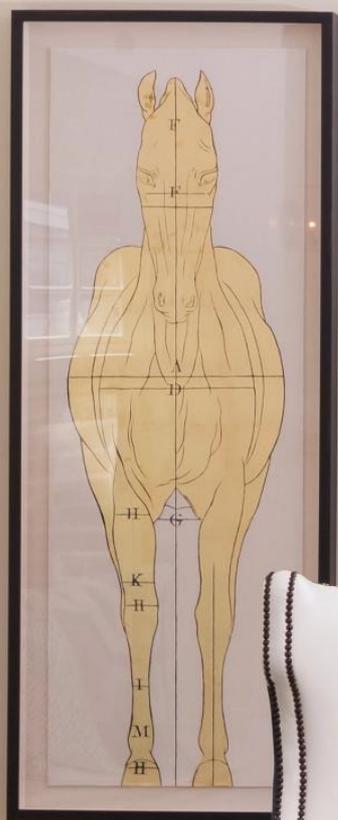
TO
THE

MAX

MAXIMALISM IS A BOLD,
COLORFUL AND LAYERED
DESIGN LOOK PACKED
WITH PERSONALITY

BY M. SHARON BAKER

Patterns, textures and layers give a maximalist look to this Seattle Craftsman, which was decorated by Pulp Design Studios.



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“It is time for richer, more layered, more colorful interiors to express the individuality and creativity of the homeowner,” says Hutton Wilkinson, a Beverly Hills, California, designer and president of Tony Duquette Inc. Wilkinson’s book, *More Is More*, has helped define the “more is more” maximalist mantra.

Designers say they see maximalism not necessarily as a trend that’s sure to fade but more as an alternative set of aesthetic guidelines that can help clients incorporate unique features to better express themselves.

As Wilkinson writes in *More Is More*, maximalism “is a realization that the human soul needs to be enchanted with color and pageantry, a personal and individual vision that is more than the plain white surface.”

Patterns with Personality

When Audrey and Geoff moved into their 1909 Seattle Craftsman a few years ago, they didn’t want to bring their furniture, which contained matching box-store pieces they liked but that didn’t quite seem to go together. And although the home had been updated, it desperately needed color.

“It had no personality, and we hated all the light fixtures,” says Audrey. “The kitchen had blue cabinets, but the rest of the house was white, beige and blah.”

They hired Pulp Design Studios’ Carolina Gen-

try and Beth Dotolo to design an interior that was more cohesive, coordinated and colorful.

“This couple is very fashion-forward, and they’re risk takers, but their home didn’t reflect that,” says Gentry. Patterns, colors and textures helped evoke their individuality.

Take their Vivienne Westwood wallpaper-clad master bedroom. Although a light turquoise green is the predominant color, the redesigned room is a mix of stripes and swirls, scallops and scales, and texture at every turn.

Metallic-gold-patterned wallpaper, featuring loops with rough fuzzy edges, covers the ceiling and walls. The bed has a tall, gray, herringbone-textured headboard and is dressed in white linen. Two creamy white accessory pillows are textured with a 3-D pattern that closely resembles the wallpaper pattern, and they are paired with two shorter mint-green pillows with a wide white stripe and dotted with metallic gold circles. Two wooden side tables flank the bed and feature metallic gold stars. At the foot of the bed are two turquoise benches. The final touch is a cream-colored silk duvet cover and a larger teal herringbone-patterned throw blanket.

“Our clients love fashion, so we built the room around a Vivienne Westwood wall covering, then used pattern and color to balance and complement that wallpaper, which covered all four walls and the ceiling,” says Dotolo. “We also told the story of their love for fashion with a vanity area at their dresser, decked with jewelry displays.”

On a dresser sits a cross-knotted textured lamp, a medium-size metallic gold hand that holds colorful necklaces, and a silver textured bowl that holds other treasures. Above the dresser is an oversize circular gold-wire mirror framed with three outer layers of different widths, each filled with small shapes of mirrored clear glass.

“It’s our favorite room,” says Audrey. “At first I thought it would be so busy, but it’s so warm. It was hard to imagine art on the patterned walls, but we found a photo of a woman in the water on Etsy,



Bold art, such as this piece, provide some of the finishing touches in a maximalist bedroom.



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and it goes perfectly with the wallpaper pattern.”

She admits her parents were initially a bit shocked at the heavily patterned interior.

“But then they offered so many compliments as they warmed up to it.”

Resetting the Stage

Alice Bossart, a managing broker for Re/Max Metro Realty Inc., bought her Seattle farmhouse in 2016. To give it pizzazz, she consulted with Seattle-area interior designer Midori Yoshikawa, who helped choose a colorful palette for the exterior and interior.



Peacock blue and golden paints give character to the exterior of this Seattle farmhouse.

Bossart’s house stands out due to its Marea Baja (peacock blue) exterior by Sherwin-Williams and cheerful Benjamin Moore Fields of Gold front door.

“I love old houses and the charm of them, and Midori helped me pick the colors,” says Bossart. “She has a great eye for what fits a certain character. I love color, so we did bright orange in the laundry room with cool patterned tiles and a modern look in the kitchen with yellowish-green walls and gray accents.”

When it came time to sell the house, Bossart wanted to showcase the personality she and Yoshikawa had cultivated. Staging is often done with a neutral palette and conventional choices,

MAXIMALIST STYLE POINTS

To give visitors to the Ranch at the Canyons development near Bend, Oregon, a glimpse of maximalism, designer Morgan McCollum, owner of Billie & Co., painted a room’s ceiling a rich jade blue and its walls cream. Then she mixed textures and objects such as a paisley-print sofa, a table made of salvaged wood, leopard-patterned pillows, tribal art, a chain lamp and a zebra-patterned shade.

“That’s a lot in one little space,” McCollum says. But the room (shown at right) works, thanks to McCollum’s trained eye and attention to colors, patterns, shapes and textures. We asked designers such as McCollum to offer advice on how to maximize a space. Here are some tips.

START SMALL. “An easy way to start is by choosing a small space like a powder room or small bedroom,” says Pulp Design Studios’ Carolina Gentry.

IDENTIFY YOUR LOOK. Karen Cervarich, owner of KCD Staging, suggests collecting pictures and photos, and identifying what you love about them so that you can develop your own aesthetic.

GO FOR GLOSS. When painting, use a high-gloss finish, says Joy Rondello, founder of J+Studio in Seattle. The reflective surface adds dimension to the walls. “It’s important to make sure walls are smoothed out completely before painting to help maximize the mirror effect,” she adds. “Consider painting the baseboard and trim work the same wall color for a modern look.”

MAINTAIN NEUTRAL TERRITORY. Black, gray and white are anchoring colors, and, as shown in the photo at right, these neutrals play well against the brighter colors, because they provide contrast and help guests notice the shape of items.

FIND YOUR FOCUS. Group objects of the same type together to create an interesting and highly personal focal point, says Rondello. Examples of collections are patterned vases, framed photographs and a group of blooming orchids.

EXPLORE NEW HEIGHTS. Try displaying pieces at different heights. Typically, taller pieces work best placed in the middle of an arrangement.



ADD SHINY OR METAL OBJECTS. Reflective pieces help elevate a room and make it more interesting.

BALANCE IT OUT. Make sure you have some balance, which can be achieved with symmetry; add matching striped chairs or matching end tables, for example.

Overall, as with spaces such as those at left, achieving maximalism “is about creating pops of color, mixing patterns, and achieving a layering effect with texture and different furniture styles,” says Gentry. It’s “patterns, style and textures that tell a story of some sort to express yourself.” —M.S.B.





Patterned pillows, hanging mirrors and fluffy carpet help create a unique staged look.

but maximalism gave Bossart a new framework. Real estate professionals such as Bossart are using the design style to help sellers show buyers that homes can have personality.

Bossart hired Karen Cervarich, owner of KCD Staging. Recognizing the need to appeal to a relatively broad audience, Cervarich chose a staging concept that took its cues from maximalism by subtly mixing in different textures and patterns throughout the house.

Since guests arrive through the yellow front door into the living room, she had to make it feel comforting, warm and welcoming. Cervarich found a gray couch to match the walls and paired it with two gray chairs that matched the fluffy rug covering the hardwood floors.

She hung two sculptured mirrors—each with four different circles. Then she placed two large black vases and a metal sculpture on a gray cube-shaped table.



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The couch was flanked by two metal three-legged tables with glass tops. On the tables, she placed lamps with round white honeycomb-textured bases and gray shades. To tie the room together, Cervarich layered yellow and white pillows on the chairs and added white pillows with black patterns and medium-gray solid pillows to the couch.

The end result? A “remodeled farmhouse that brings a modern aesthetic, with textures and colors that made things pop,” says Bossart. “The whole mixture and layers made it look real cool.” Even better, the home sold within a week.

The Right Fit

Earl and Janet, of Bend, Oregon, weren’t necessarily planning to outfit their home in a maximalist way, but designer Morgan McCollum helped them see how the style matched theirs.

“Earl and Janet have traveled to many exotic



MAX
STYLE

Designer Morgan McCollum’s maximalist style emerges with details such as striking sculptures and pops of color.



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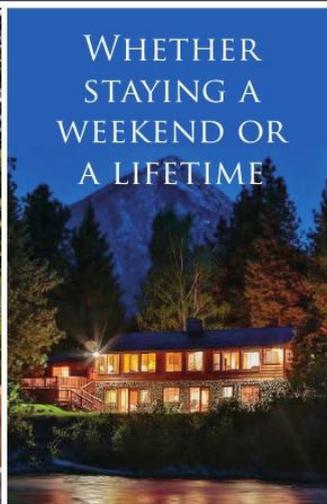
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MAX STYLE

places, where they've collected a lot of art," says McCollum, who owns Billie & Co. in Bend. "Maximalist design gives them the freedom to display their extensive collections of books, art, dramatic sculptures and Oriental rugs, and not worry about breaking design principles or coordinating every piece."

In true maximalist fashion ... the room is filled with colorful art, interesting objects and lavish rugs.

For instance, in the sitting room, it was hard to find a sofa that worked with Earl's solid walnut bookshelves and colorful Oriental rugs.

"Nothing seemed to be the right fit until Earl found the perfect sofa," McCollum says. "In true maximalist fashion, it happened to be blue leather. The sofa perfectly balanced and grounded the room, which is filled with colorful art, interesting objects and lavish rugs."

"When people walk into our house now," says Earl, "they always remark upon how much they love the colors." ■

M. Sharon Baker writes from the Seattle area.



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Theme Park



Discoveries

» Visitors to Silverwood Theme Park in Athol, ID, enjoy thrilling loops and rolls on the "Aftershock" roller coaster. Right, the Wings & Waves Waterpark in McMinnville, OR, features a splash pool and waterslides.

Family fun in the West

By Kim Cooper Findling



A

Boeing 747 sits on the roof of a building, as if ready to fly. You've just climbed seven flights of stairs and entered the fuselage of the big white jumbo jet on the top story of the Wings & Waves Waterpark in McMinnville, Oregon. Through windows, views of the Western Oregon countryside stretch into the distance. A voice booms from the wall: "Slide attendants, prepare for takeoff." Now, you must make a choice of four different slides, each leaving the plane from a different door.



If your selection is Sonic Boom, you'll sail down a single-person tube while enjoying a bird's-eye view of the entire park through the open top of the slide. Launching into Tail Spin means journeying swiftly through a series of sharp curves, almost entirely in the dark. Choose Nose Dive, and you'll climb inside a two-person inner tube and hurtle around a circular bowl. Mach 1 takes you, sliding through the water without an inner tube, down fast-moving twists and turns, before you splash into the pool below.

Wings & Waves Waterpark offers fun for the whole family, themed around aviation. The park's four biggest water-slides all initiate within the Boeing 747 that is permanently parked on the roof. The center of the park, where Mach 1 riders are deposited, also includes a wave pool, an aqua-play structure and a vortex pool, as well as a learning center for chil-

FROM LEFT: GARY P. SMITH / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES; COURTESY WINGS & WAVES WATERPARK



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» The Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, adjacent to the Wings & Waves Waterpark, displays more than 150 aircraft. Below, the family-friendly Disneyland Railroad.

dren called “H2O: Life Needs Water,” with interactive exhibits. Wings & Waves Waterpark is open on weekends year-round, opening special hours for some school holidays, and daily, June 15 to Aug. 31 (wingsandwaveswaterpark.com).

The aviation-themed water park is adjacent to the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, founded in 1991 to house more than 150 aircraft, including Howard Hughes’ H-4 Hercules, better known as the *Spruce Goose*.

The massive plane, built by Hughes Aircraft during WWII to carry troops and supplies over the Atlantic Ocean, is one of the largest airplanes ever constructed. It sits in its own hangar, the Aviation Building, which is big enough to accommodate the *Goose’s* 320-foot wingspan (that’s longer than a football field!). Gazing up on the huge aircraft is truly awesome, especially taking into account that, because of wartime limits on metals, the plane is made almost entirely of birch wood (evergreenmuseum.org).

The Wings & Waves Waterpark and Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum are just a couple of the many fun attractions

in the western United States.

You and your family might enjoy exploring the following theme parks together.

Disneyland Park Anaheim, California

The granddaddy of America’s theme parks is known for big thrills such as “Splash Mountain,” “Guardians of the Galaxy: Mission Breakout,” and “Haunted Mansion.” The thousands of delights within the marvelous Disneyland Park include some classic gems. The Disneyland Railroad experience is a peaceful breather and terrific small tour of the park, and a peek back in time.

Walt Disney was a railroad enthusiast, and when he envisioned his Magic Kingdom, a narrow-gauge train was always at the heart of the plan. When Disneyland opened in 1955, the Disneyland Railroad carried guests on a tour of the park, past landscapes inspired by four of America’s rivers, through Tomorrowland and New Orleans Square, and into a tunnel that held Disney’s legendary dioramas of the Grand Canyon and the Primeval World. The railroad, just under a mile long with additional stops in Main Street, U.S.A., and Mickey’s Toontown, reopened last summer after renovations, and the classic, nostalgic pleasure of touring the park by the original, meticulously restored



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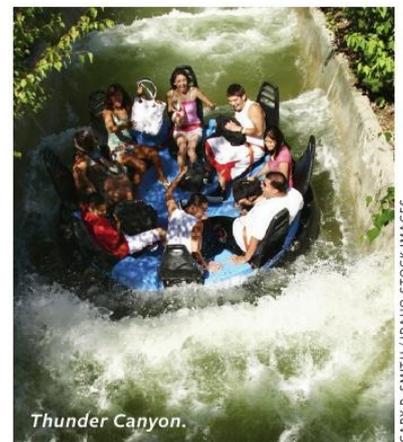
Theme Park

steam engines is perfect for all ages (disneyland.disney.go.com).

Additional California option: California's Great America, in Santa Clara, will launch one of the country's first single-rail steel coasters, "RailBlazer," when it reopens for the 2018 season this spring. The coaster's 1,800 feet of track will include three inversions, one of which is a zero-gravity roll (cagreatamerica.com).

Silverwood Theme Park Athol, Idaho

You might not expect to find the largest theme park by acreage in the Northwest nestled in a thick pine forest near the scenic mountains and alpine lakes of North Idaho. And yet there it is, just 20 miles north of Coeur d'Alene and 45 miles northeast of Spokane—Silverwood Theme Park: 221 beautifully landscaped acres comprising 70 rides, slides, shows and attractions, including "Thunder Canyon," a thrilling white-water river-raft ride.



Thunder Canyon.

GARY P. SMITH / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

Silverwood was born on a bit of a whim, when in 1986 Gary Norton spontaneously bid on a 1915-era locomotive at an auction in Reno. Norton brought the train home to his property in Athol, Idaho, and built a Wild West Main Street around it. As the park grew, it was always a family

Discoveries

affair. Today, Norton's five children all work in the park—even his grandchildren help out from time to time. Silverwood eventually grew to its current size and scope and is one of the most visited attractions in Idaho.

One of the most interesting rides to be discovered in the park towers 191 feet over the surrounding plateau. This is the "Aftershock" roller coaster, purchased from Six Flags Great America in Chicago and transported to Silverwood via 70 truckloads in 2008. From the top of the tower, "Aftershock" plunges down and through a cobra roll and an inverted loop at speeds of up to 65 miles per hour and with 4.5 Gs. Silverwood Theme Park is open May through September (silverwood-themepark.com).

Additional Idaho option: Silver Rapids Indoor Waterpark, about 35 miles east of Coeur d'Alene, has multiple floors with four slides, lazy-river rafting and the FlowRider—a standing wave, simulating speeds of 35 miles per hour, that can be boogie boarded or surfed. The park also offers a "Pollywog Pond" for little ones, with kiddie slides and a bungee swing. Silver Rapids Indoor Waterpark is open daily to Silver Mountain Resort guests during summer and winter, and on weekends to all visitors during shoulder seasons; online reservations are required (silvermt.com).

*The Reef Indoor Water Park
Billings, Montana*

The Reef Indoor Water Park, which is as big as a football field, is located at the Big Horn Resort in Billings. The park invites big kids and adults to rocket three stories down monster slides such as the Barracuda Blaster or the Tropical Twister. After

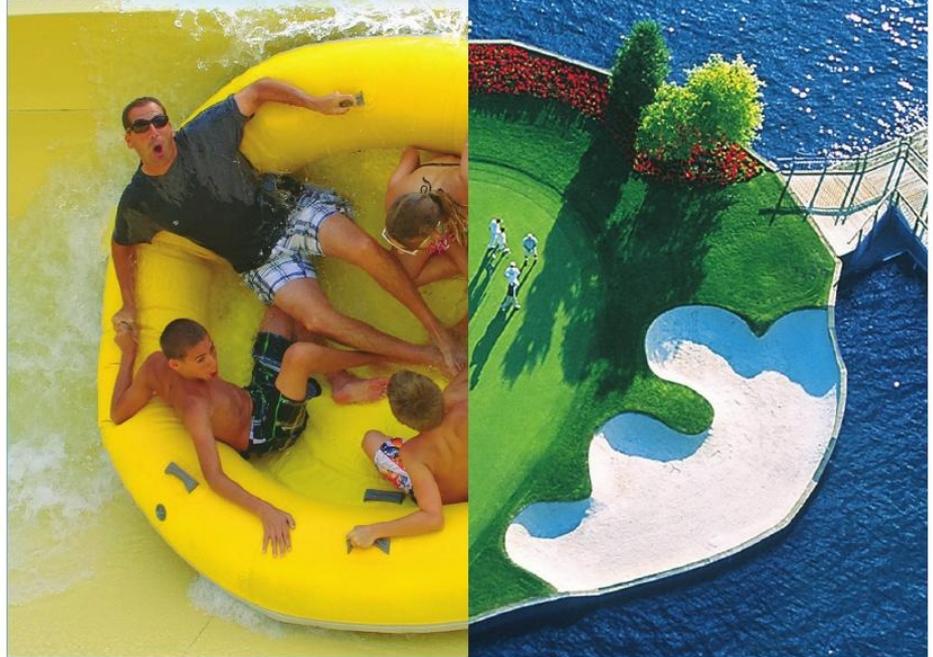


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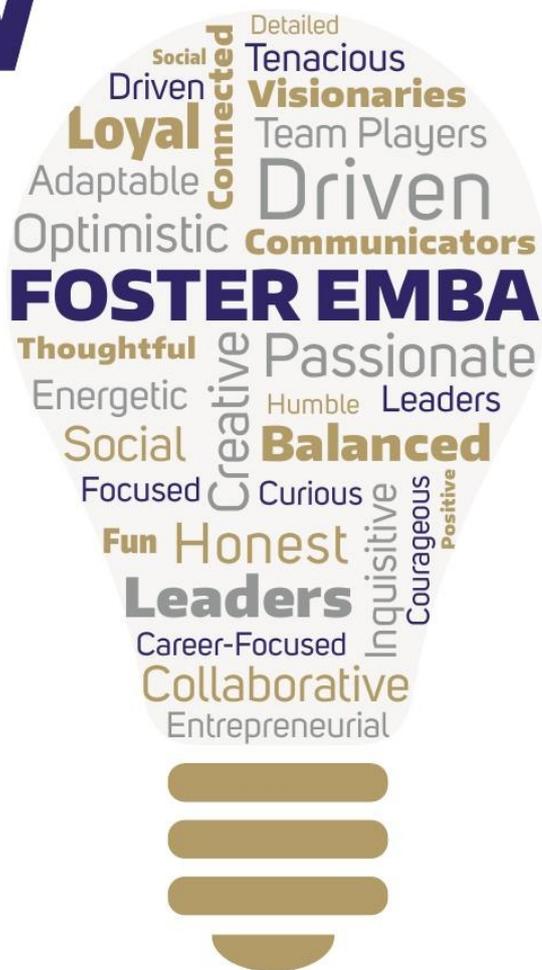
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Theme Park Discoveries

satisfying their needs for speed and splash, visitors can ride 3-foot waves in the rolling waters of the 55,000-gallon wave pool.

But the hidden gem at The Reef is an interactive playhouse for the little ones—and for any parent who has ever felt challenged trying to find theme-park sections for toddlers and the pre-K set—a place where young ones can safely explore while having just as much fun as the big kids. The interactive playhouse is designed for toddlers and kids up to 48 inches tall. Tunnels, slides and mini tubes entertain, and splashing play comes by way of squirt guns and a dumping bucket that releases a (gentle) waterfall on the children's heads. The Reef Indoor Water Park is open daily, May 31 to Aug. 19, and Thursday through Sunday year-round (thereefindoors.com).

Additional Montana option: Big Sky Waterpark, in Columbia Falls, about 20 miles north of Kalispell, offers 10 acres of thrilling rides and twister slides, as well as additional fun activities such as bumper cars, beach volleyball and a rock-climbing wall. Big Sky Waterpark is open daily, mid-June through Labor Day (bigskywp.com).

Wild Waves Theme & Water Park Federal Way, Washington

Wild Waves Theme & Water Park, about 25 miles south of Seattle, offers about a dozen rides in each of four categories: thrill, water, family and kiddie. In the theme park section, take a ride on the "Wild Thing Roller Coaster," or mimic a daredevil skydive in the "I-5 Dive Skycoaster." Family members of all ages can enjoy the antique carousel or hop on the Wagon Train. In the water park, you can ride in two-person tubes down



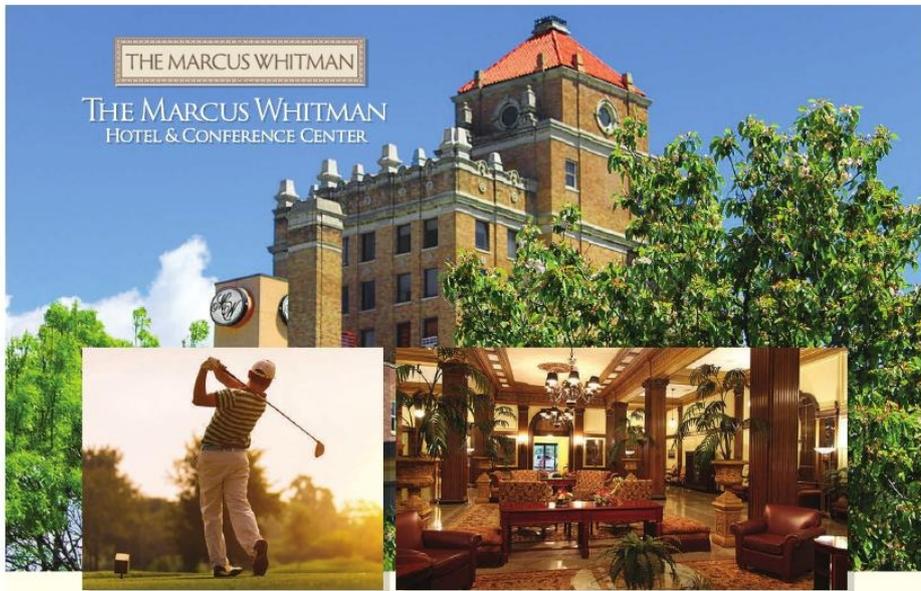
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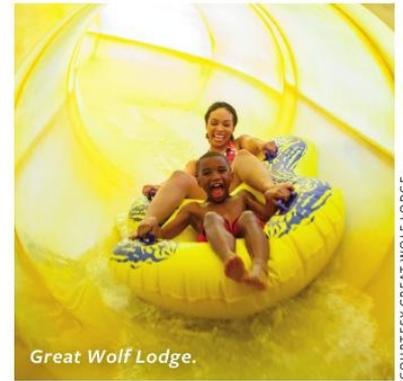
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Theme Park Discoveries

the thrilling "Raging River Ride," grab a tube and slide down one of four twisting Konga Slides, raft down the wide Zooma Falls or slide in circles in the Riptide. Wild Waves Theme Park is open weekends in May; daily, June through August; and has special hours Sept. 1 through Dec. 30 (wildwaves.com).

Additional Washington option:

Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound—about 80 miles south of Seattle and about 100 miles north of Portland—is a 56,000-square-foot water park that bills itself as a weatherproof family vacation. Besides water play, young guests can engage in a mysti-



Great Wolf Lodge.

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cal adventure called "MagiQuest." Great Wolf's signature interactive game puts a "magic" wand in the hands of young guests who follow clues from place to place within the resort, discovering crystals that glow and animated dragons that come to life with the wave of a hand. Great Wolf Lodge, open to resort guests, operates 365 days a year (greatwolf.com).

From splashing on water slides to riding thrilling roller coasters and enjoying some nostalgic fun, theme parks around the West offer entertainment for the whole family. ■

Kim Cooper Findling writes from Bend, Oregon.



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Today, Oregon wineries range from large producers to intimate, artisanal winemakers. Visitors often discover the individual pouring tastes behind the counter is the winemaker, owner, vineyard operator; sometimes even all three! Eugene is a perfect starting point to embark on a relaxing day trip through the vines this year.

Take a beautiful 20-minute drive along Territorial Highway (known as the Territorial Wine Trail) just southwest of Eugene, to visit Iris Vineyards. Nestled in the hills of Lorane, Iris offers wines which pair so well with sweeping views of the vines, forests and foothills.

Then, drive north along the Territorial Wine Trail. Choose among the many wineries along the route, including the intimate setting of Brigadoon Wine Company. This winery is also a producer of high quality Oregon-grown rootstock, aiding wineries throughout the state in taking root.

Head back into Eugene to explore the urban wine scene. Visit Territorial Vineyards & Wine Company to discover a winery in the popular Whiteaker neighborhood. This winery brings in grapes from their vineyards near the Territorial Highway, to craft their wine on-site, right in town.



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EXPLORE»

PARK PLACES

Portland is famous for its soul-soothing green spaces

By Susan G. Hauser

» The best vantage point for understanding how important parks are to Portlanders is from up in the air, coming in for a landing at Portland International Airport. I've heard newcomers to our city loudly exclaim from their airplane seats over the expansive carpet of foliage that seems to stretch out for miles below. As a native of the City of Roses, the sight of all that green whenever I return home is not surprising, but a calming relief.

Governor Tom McCall
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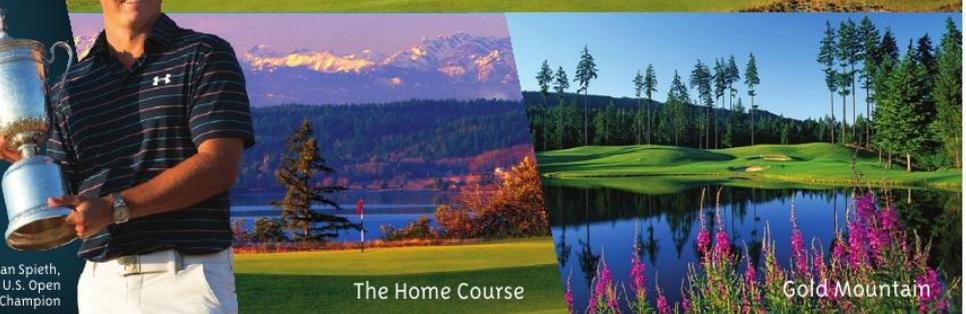
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Chambers Bay



The Home Course

Gold Mountain

Portland's founding fathers must have had an idea of how soothing to the soul parks would be. Establishing a Parks Board and an extensive inventory of city green spaces were top priorities. In the late 1800s, as now, most neighborhoods on the west side of the Willamette River had green spaces or parks.

In the city's early days, the desire to make residents' park experiences as rewarding as possible resulted in the hiring of famous New York City-based landscape architects John Olmsted and Frederick Olmsted Jr. The dynamic duo of American city parks was in demand at the time by cities from coast to coast (including Northwest cities such as Seattle, Spokane and Walla Walla). The Olmsteds recommended in their 1903 report to Portland officials that the city make the Willamette River more accessible, while linking existing and potential parks and parkways in a walkable loop around the city, so that citizens would never be far from nature.

The 40-Mile Loop, as visualized by the Olmsteds, was never fully realized, but never abandoned, either. A serpentine chain of parks, trails, gardens and natural areas, still bearing the 40-Mile Loop moniker, now winds along and within Portland's borders. Over the years, the number of parks and the acres of green spaces and trails have increased. The Loop, popular with hikers and bicyclists, has now expanded to about 140 miles through 30 parks.

The concept of allowing easy access to a soothing dose of nature's wonders still guides the work of today's Portland Bureau of Parks & Recreation. The bureau oversees nearly 12,000 acres of parkland and natural areas, including more than 200 parks. Also under its purview are six golf courses, one motor sports track (Portland International Raceway), six skateboard parks and 34 off-leash dog parks.

I love my local green space, 91-acre Gabriel Park, which until 1950 was owned by Ulrich Gabriel, one of many Swiss dairy farmers in the Hillsdale neighborhood. (Today, the only surviving Swiss dairy in the area is Alpenrose.) Cows once grazed in the meadows on either side of the park's stream-crossed woodlands. In the spring, huge wild rhododendron bushes



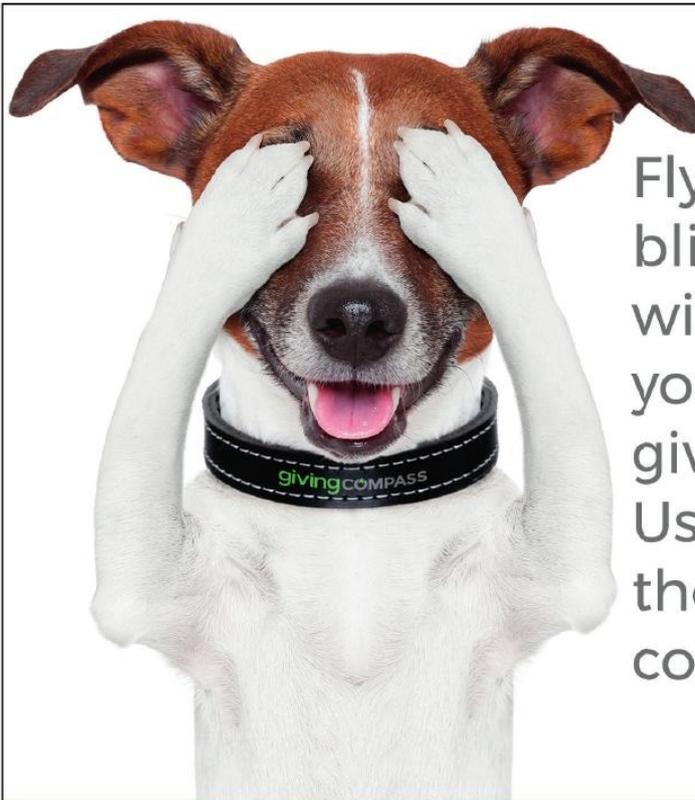
» *The area's many beautiful green spaces include the Portland Japanese Garden, top, the International Rose Test Garden, right, and Forest Park, above.*

burst into bloom, making my stroll to the dog park even more pleasant. Gabriel Park features a dog park, a skate park, tennis courts, baseball and soccer fields, and the Southwest Community Center, with a pool and fitness classes.

The city's Bureau of Parks & Recreation also oversees one of the largest city parks in the nation (5,200-acre Forest Park) and the

world's smallest (24-inch Mill Ends Park). Mill Ends, formerly a hole for a light pole in a median on Portland's Naito Parkway, began as a joke in the late 1940s by an *Oregon Journal* writer whose newspaper column bore the Mill Ends name. In 1976, Portland officially adopted the tiny circular hole as a park, which is now planted with vegetation (and reputed to be inhabited by tiny invisible leprechauns).

Forest Park, however, is no joke. Covering a large portion of Northwest Portland, the park is a favorite escape for people seeking solitude in an urban wilderness crisscrossed by more than 60 miles of hiking trails and inhabited by a



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diverse population of trees, birds and mammals. A significant segment of the 40-Mile Loop is the park's Wildwood Trail, which is actually 30 miles long all by itself. The trail connects Forest Park to one of Portland's most famous green spaces, 160-acre Washington Park, which was created in 1871. Perched on the West Hills and located above downtown Portland, the park includes some of the city's most popular attractions, such as the Oregon Zoo, the Portland Japanese Garden, the Hoyt Arboretum and the International Rose Test Garden.

At the time the Olmsted Brothers submitted their 1903 report, the only large park on the east side of the Willamette River was the 35-acre Columbia Park, which had been acquired by the city in 1891. It's still a wonderland of trails and trees, and thanks to its indoor pool, its "splash pad" outdoor sprinkler, and a large play structure, the park is the perfect place for kids on a summer's day.

The Olmsteds recommended creating Eastside parks in the Mount Tabor and Sellwood neighborhoods, and the city acquired the land for both in 1909. Today, both parks are jewels of their neighborhoods, with Sellwood Park overlooking the Willamette River and Mount Tabor Park providing some of the best westward-facing vistas of the city, including views of the river and the West Hills. The 282 steps leading to the summit of Mount Tabor provide a popular cardio workout, while picnicking on the slopes of a dormant volcano offers another kind of thrill. Don't worry. Mount Tabor last erupted more than 300,000 years ago, so standing in its cinder cone is a rather tame experience.

I suspect that John and Frederick Olmsted would have given a thumbs-up to the development of Fields Park in the Pearl District, a recently completed portion of the South Waterfront Greenway and the new Luuwit View Park in the Eastside's Argay neighborhood.

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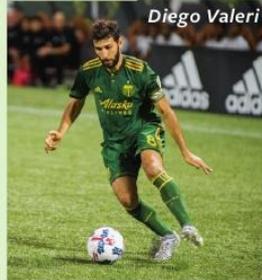
By Jim Moore

» There are two things that you can almost always say about the Portland Timbers, who play their first home game of the season on April 14: The Major League Soccer team is unpredictable and never boring. After winning the 2015 MLS Cup championship, the Timbers missed the playoffs entirely in 2016. Last year, the team captured the regular season Western Conference Championship, and then lost in the first round of the playoffs to the Houston Dynamo, 2-1.

This year, nearly everything else about the Timbers seems to be in flux. The changes start at the top: After five years with the Timbers, including leading them to the MLS Cup, head coach Caleb Porter stepped down in November. Soon after, the team signed Giovanni (Gio) Savarese, of the North American Soccer League's New York Cosmos, to coach the team. A longtime player who coached the Cosmos for five seasons (2012-2017), Savarese had led New York to three NASL champion-

ships using an attacking, high-scoring style, and he's regarded as an up-and-coming star among coaches.

The Timbers' offseason roster moves were just as significant, including trading away Darlington Nagbe, a star for the team and a starter for the U.S. Men's National Team. The Timbers also signed key players, including Costa Rican defender Julio Cascante and Peruvian attacking wing Andy Polo.



Diego Valeri

The changes also extend to the stadium. The Timbers have begun a \$55 million stadium expansion of Providence Park. By 2019, the stadium will have 4,000 more seats, bringing the total capacity to 25,500. That will be good news to the more than 13,000 fans on the season-ticket waiting list.

However, several things have not changed for the Timbers. For example, 2017 MLS Most Valuable Player Diego Chará, Liam Ridgewell and Fanendo

Adi. The Timbers Army, among the most fervent fan bases in North American soccer, will also rock the stadium as always, with giant banners, nonstop chanting and singing, and mascot Timber Joey chain-sawing a slab of a Douglas fir log every time the home team scores. Alaska Airlines is the jersey sponsor and official airline of the Timbers. ■

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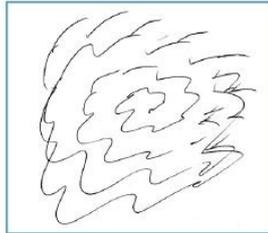
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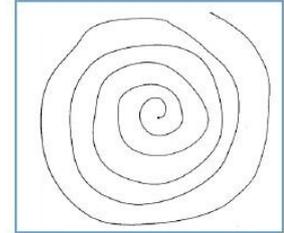
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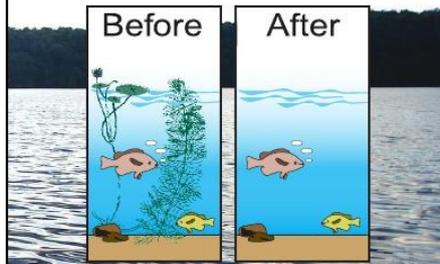


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Puzzle on page 58.



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And assuredly the famed Olmsted brothers would have given a hearty “hurrah!” to the park that since 1978 has lined a section of the Willamette River’s west bank in downtown Portland. Governor Tom McCall Waterfront Park, which replaced Harbor Drive, was named for the former governor, who in the 1960s led the charge to clean up the river and its banks from industrial pollution. The park is popular with residents and visitors who enjoy the many festivals held there, as well as the park’s cherry blossoms and river vistas.

The Olmsteds would love how these green spaces beautify so many neighborhoods. After all, in many ways, it was their idea. ■

Susan G. Hauser writes from Portland, where she walks her dog in many city parks.

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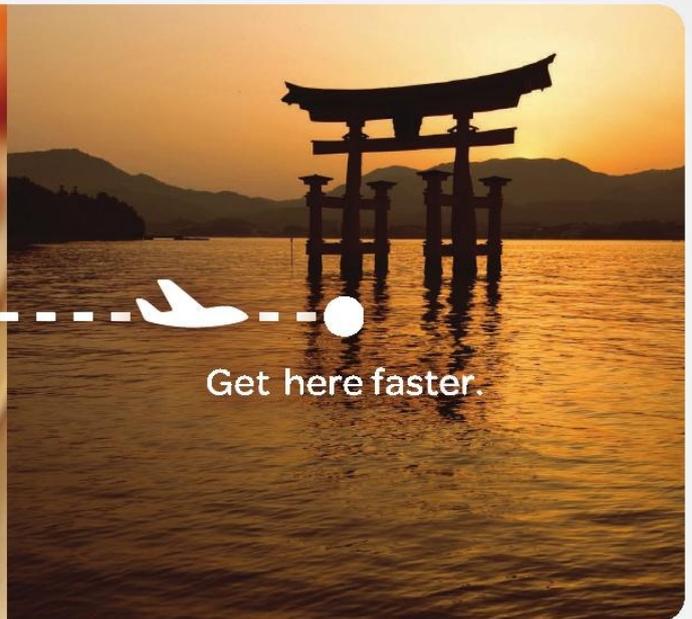


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» Mount Tabor Park features a picturesque outdoor reservoir that once held the city’s drinking water.



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» CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Bouncing toy
- 5 Slender nail
- 9 By way of
- 12 Burglarize
- 17 Voyaging
- 18 Uncle of fables
- 20 Sorrel
- 21 Monks' garments
- 22 Act independently
- 26 Moses' mount
- 27 Narrate
- 28 Accustom
- 29 Chorus lead-in
- 32 Epochal
- 33 Summer quaff
- 34 Ushers
- 38 Garfield, e.g.
- 39 Mock
- 40 Doctrine
- 43 Makes a bad start
- 48 Lowest tide
- 49 Prefer charges
- 50 Male descendants
- 51 Blazing
- 52 Data-transmission path
- 55 Brash
- 58 Cleverness
- 59 Heaps of wood
- 60 Posterior
- 62 Loses power
- 64 Moose's kin
- 66 Golfer Ernie ____
- 67 Scarab
- 69 Rub vigorously
- 71 Expunges
- 74 Greek cross
- 75 Depot info
- 77 Dubai bigwig
- 78 Filter
- 79 Mustang, e.g.
- 82 Galley blade
- 84 Provoke
- 86 Flashing light
- 90 Primes the crime
- 91 Movie whale
- 93 Dawn goddess
- 95 Extent of space
- 96 Relaxes
- 102 Emeril's sound
- 103 Cariou or Dawson
- 104 Tomahawk
- 105 Loftiest
- 106 Days of yore
- 107 Eliminate
- 108 Singer Zadora
- 109 Egyptian city
- 112 Tire choice
- 115 Edgy
- 120 Do the same job as another
- 125 Sacred cows
- 126 Is unable
- 127 Vietnam's capital
- 128 Lunch hour
- 129 Farm squawkers
- 130 Boastfulness

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120							121	122					123	124							
125							126					127						128			
129							130						131						132		

- 131 Democrats' opp.
- 132 Gambling stake

DOWN

- 1 Deep tone
- 2 Wine city
- 3 Slant
- 4 Smallville girl
- 5 Slangy chum
- 6 Stimp's pal
- 7 Latin love
- 8 Sand ridge
- 9 U or I
- 10 Writer Fleming
- 11 Hill builder
- 12 Tea treat
- 13 Bean curd
- 14 Spouted pitcher
- 15 To the safe side
- 16 Mil. vessel
- 19 Pick
- 20 Spins
- 23 Likewise
- 24 Abraham's wife

- 25 Expand
- 30 Soccer off.
- 31 Pound comments
- 33 Disciples
- 34 Drip
- 35 List shortener
- 36 Be ambitious
- 37 Potage
- 39 Corbin in "L.A. Law"
- 40 Doubtful
- 41 Party
- 42 Mushrooms
- 43 Oxlike beast
- 44 Necessities
- 45 Imagine!
- 46 Chasm
- 47 Kinski role
- 53 Angler's aid
- 54 Cabbagelike plant
- 56 Bridal shower?
- 57 Stipulations
- 61 Rearranged, as machinery
- 63 Gray flannel ____

- 65 Mr. Kringle
- 67 African tree
- 68 Archimedes' exclamation
- 70 Quick
- 72 Astern
- 73 Bombard
- 74 "All ____ Jazz"
- 76 Producer Spelling
- 80 Check
- 81 Winding curve
- 83 Nipper's master
- 85 Carrot, e.g.
- 87 Unrefined minerals
- 88 Borscht vegetable
- 89 Corrode
- 92 Resolute
- 94 Ginger cookie
- 97 Let
- 98 Zinc ____
- 99 Magical object
- 100 Yale alumnus
- 101 Bed boards
- 106 Serrated

- 107 Maine town
- 109 ZIP numbers
- 110 Healing lily
- 111 Misfortunes
- 113 Distantly
- 114 Solitary
- 116 Alcohol lamp
- 117 A noble gas
- 118 Espy
- 119 Medieval slave
- 120 ____ Newton
- 121 Winter hazard
- 122 Henpeck
- 123 Alley ____
- 124 Poetic contraction

Solution on page 56.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- A2 Beverages**
 - Regional wines and microbrews
 - Our fleet
 - Feedback
- A3 Your safety and comfort**
 - Discover Alaska Airlines
- A4 Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan**
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12,500 miles	12,500 miles	More than 2,101 miles	New York–Seattle

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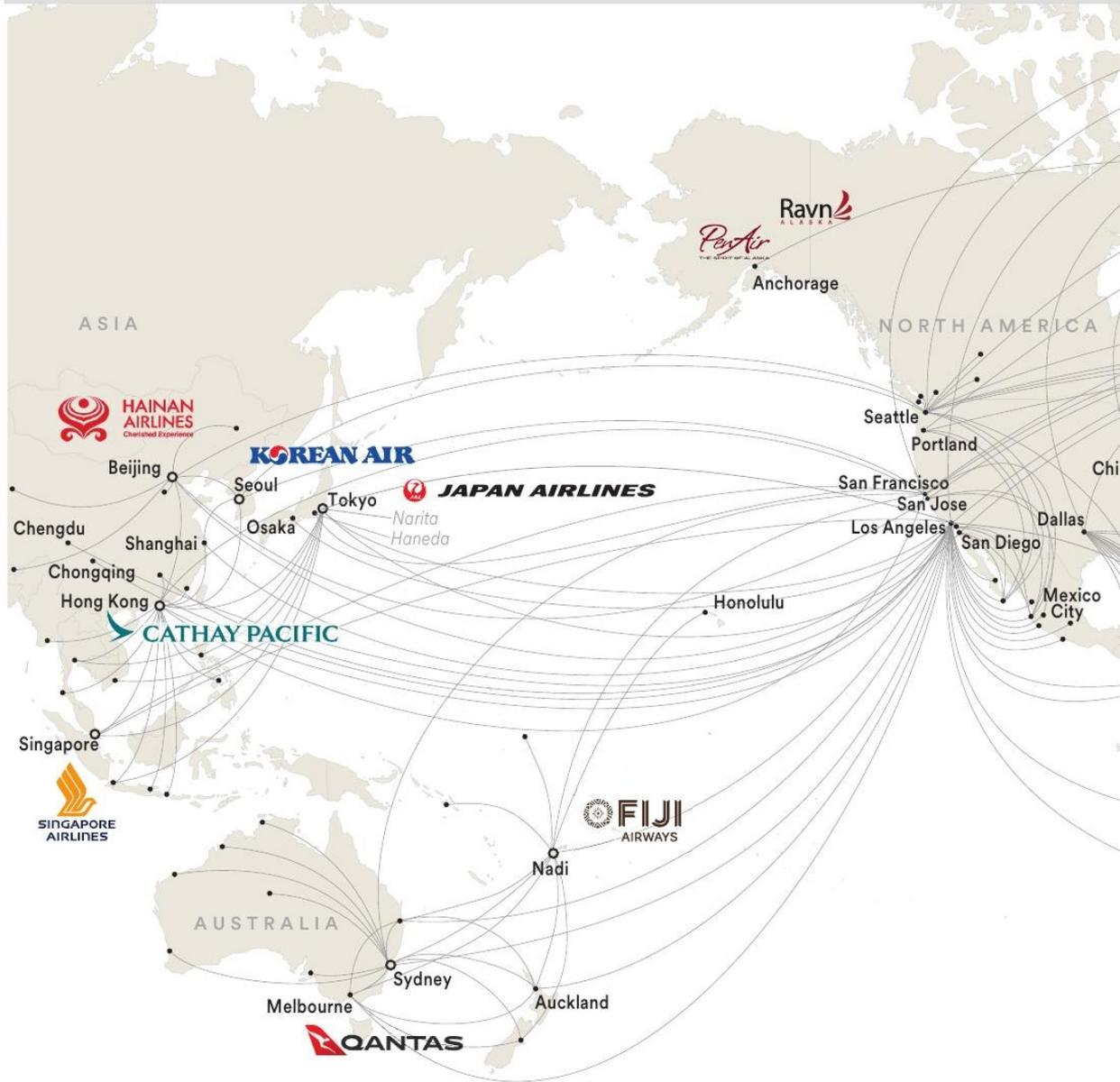
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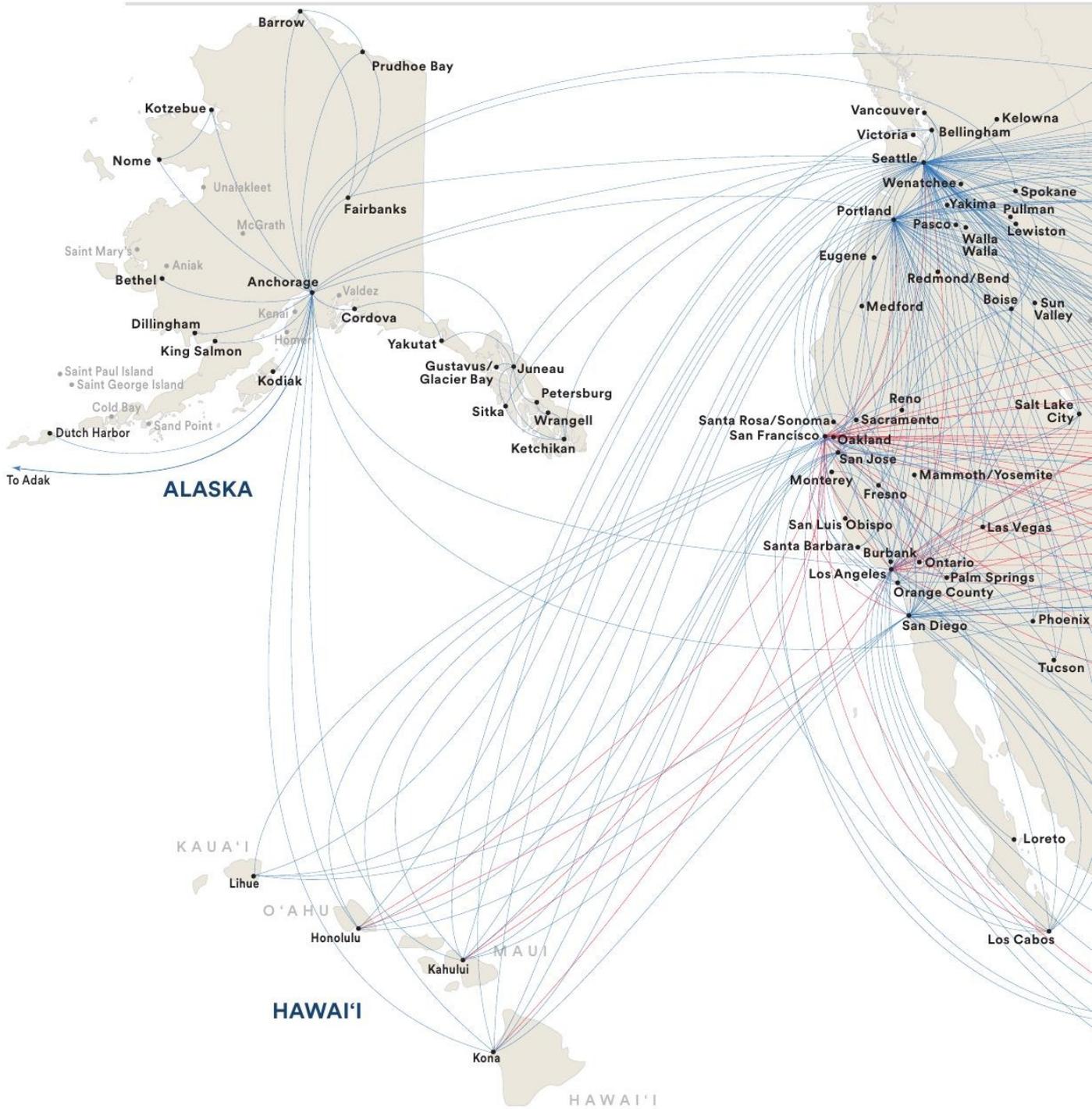
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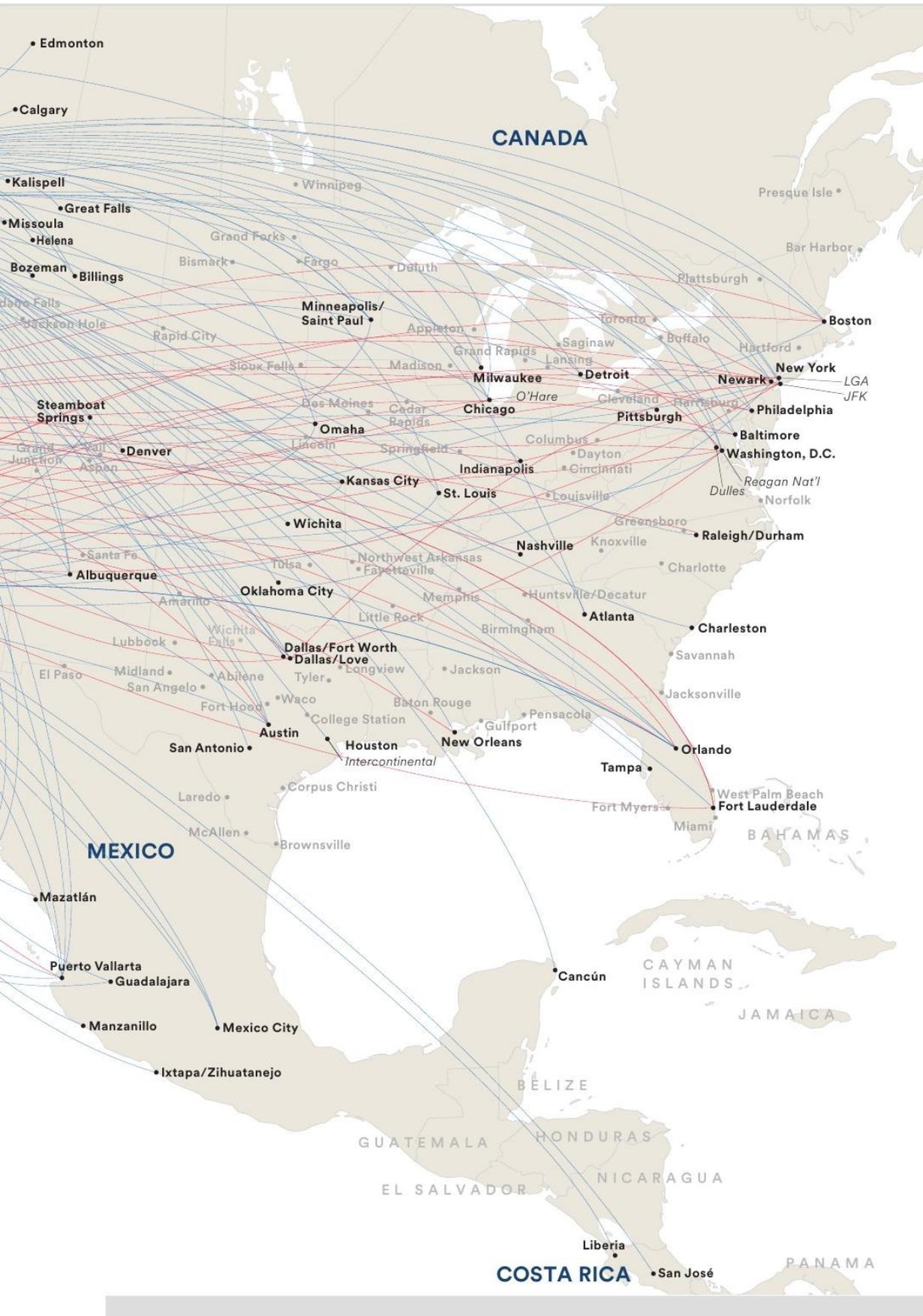


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- Destinations
- Partner destinations
- Alaska Airlines routes
- Virgin America routes

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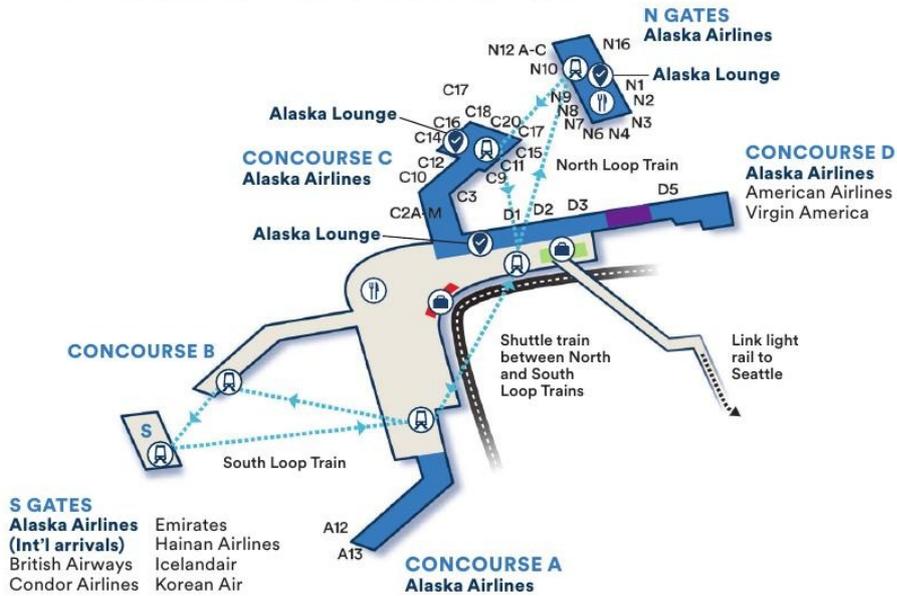
Some routes shown operate seasonally.

Airport terminal maps

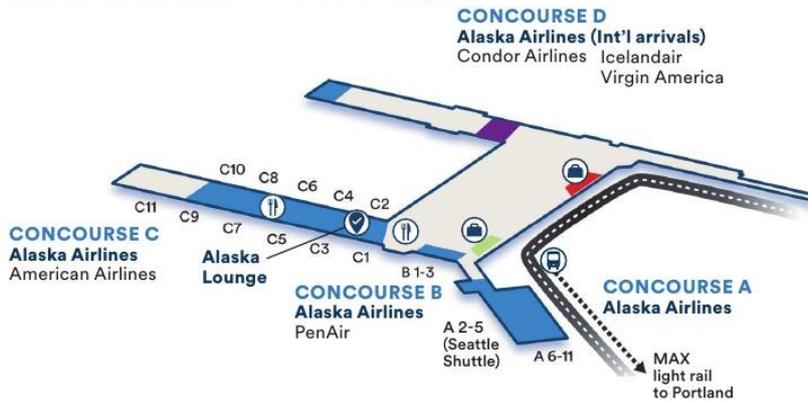
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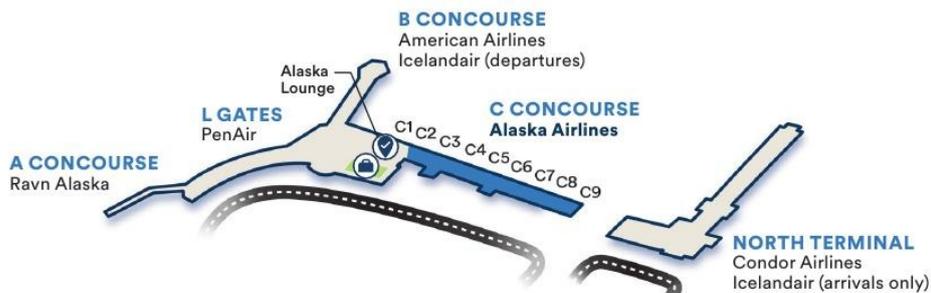


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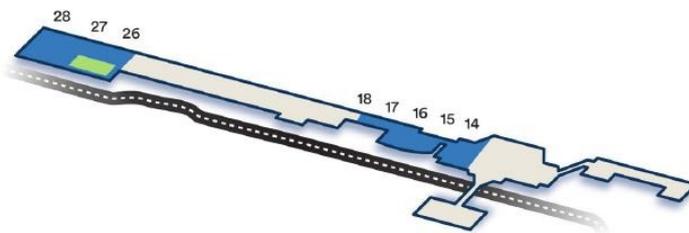
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THE METHOD TO OUR “MADNESS”

Celebrating the Big Dance of basketball ... and friendship

By Matt Villano

» **It was a close game.** Time was winding down. Some of our fellow fans at the Las Vegas hotel sportsbook where we had gathered simply wanted the men’s basketball team representing their college to emerge victorious. My friends and I had different interests: Not only did we want the players in red to win, but we needed them to win by more than four points.

We yelled. We hopped up and down. We sang the team’s fight songs. At one point, one of my buddies looked like he was praying.

In the end, the team in blue drained a bucket as time expired, denying what had seemed like a surefire moneymaker.

I tore up my betting tickets in disgust. Then I sulked for about five minutes. But soon enough we all moved on. It wasn’t much later that we were cheering our next can’t-lose favorite, bantering about our alma maters and leading other patrons of the sportsbook in ridiculous, gregarious chants. Sure, we lost money on a few games that day. Overall, however, the experience fell squarely into the win column.

This month, most of America will be obsessing over brackets and hunkering down to watch the National College Athletic Association Division I Men’s Basketball Championship tournament. And for the opening weekend, I’ll once again be kicking back in a comfortable Las Vegas sportsbook, reconnecting with eight of my closest pals.

The trip has become an annual ritual, the kind of commitment each of us marks on his calendar in pen. It’s just dudes, and it always takes place on the first weekend of the tournament. We fly in from all over the country, and the four days in Vegas are this group’s only in-real-life time each year—an opportunity to catch up over beers instead of over text messages, phone calls and Facebook Messenger.

It’s my favorite weekend of the year.

This March Madness tradition started in 1997, well before I joined in. For the first few years, it was a handful of guys virtually camping out in the sportsbook at one of the top Vegas Strip hotels, leaving only to shower back at a shared room across the street.

I joined the mix in 2006. By then the group had graduated to reserved seating and alternated among a few sportsbooks on the Strip.

In 2012, my buddies and I moved our base to the Red Rock Casino Resort & Spa, at the west edge of town. It’s quieter, it has lower bet limits, and we can talk. There, in the sportsbook’s booths, basketball moments on big screens have served as backdrops to the airing and sharing of some of the biggest moments in our lives.

We were there when my childhood friend told us that he had found love again after losing his first wife. We were there when I announced news of my third child. Over the years, my friends have also opened up about job changes, illnesses, failing marriages and simply growing older. In this sense, the gathering has doubled as a support group.

Don’t get me wrong, though. There is still plenty of silliness.

There was the time we watched a game with sportscaster Brent Musburger, who was with friends in the booth next to ours. Or the year CBS interrupted the broadcast of a game for a news alert, and we got the crowd to chant, “No real world! No real world!”

On top of these impromptu moments, we have developed some funny recurring traditions.

Exhibit A: Matching T-shirts. Every year someone is in charge of designing and ordering shirts; we ship them to the hotel and pick them up when we arrive. One year a guy made shirts that mocked an adventure-travel video blog I was doing for the federal government. Another year we got shirts celebrating a player whose hyphenated last name was identical to the full name of someone in our group.

Exhibit B: Bingo. We mostly take part in this activity to banter with the regulars, who are consistently amused that a bunch of 30-something and 40-something men want to buy markers and dab up a storm.

For a while, we started every trip with a night at a suburban go-kart course. Every year we splurge on a really nice dinner—and most of us roll into the swanky steakhouse in college hoops jerseys, unnerving servers and patrons alike.

Sometimes somebody rents a limo for a night on the Strip. And this year we also hope to secure a suite at T-Mobile Arena to bear witness to the winningest expansion team in NHL history, the Vegas Golden Knights.

Really, though, it doesn’t matter what we do; the schedule is secondary to the roster. For us, what happens in Vegas every year stays with us forever, and that’s precisely why we keep coming back. Regardless of the game results, we all win the minute we step off the plane. Good friendships last longer than any jackpot ever could.

Matt Villano is a writer and editor based in Healdsburg, California.





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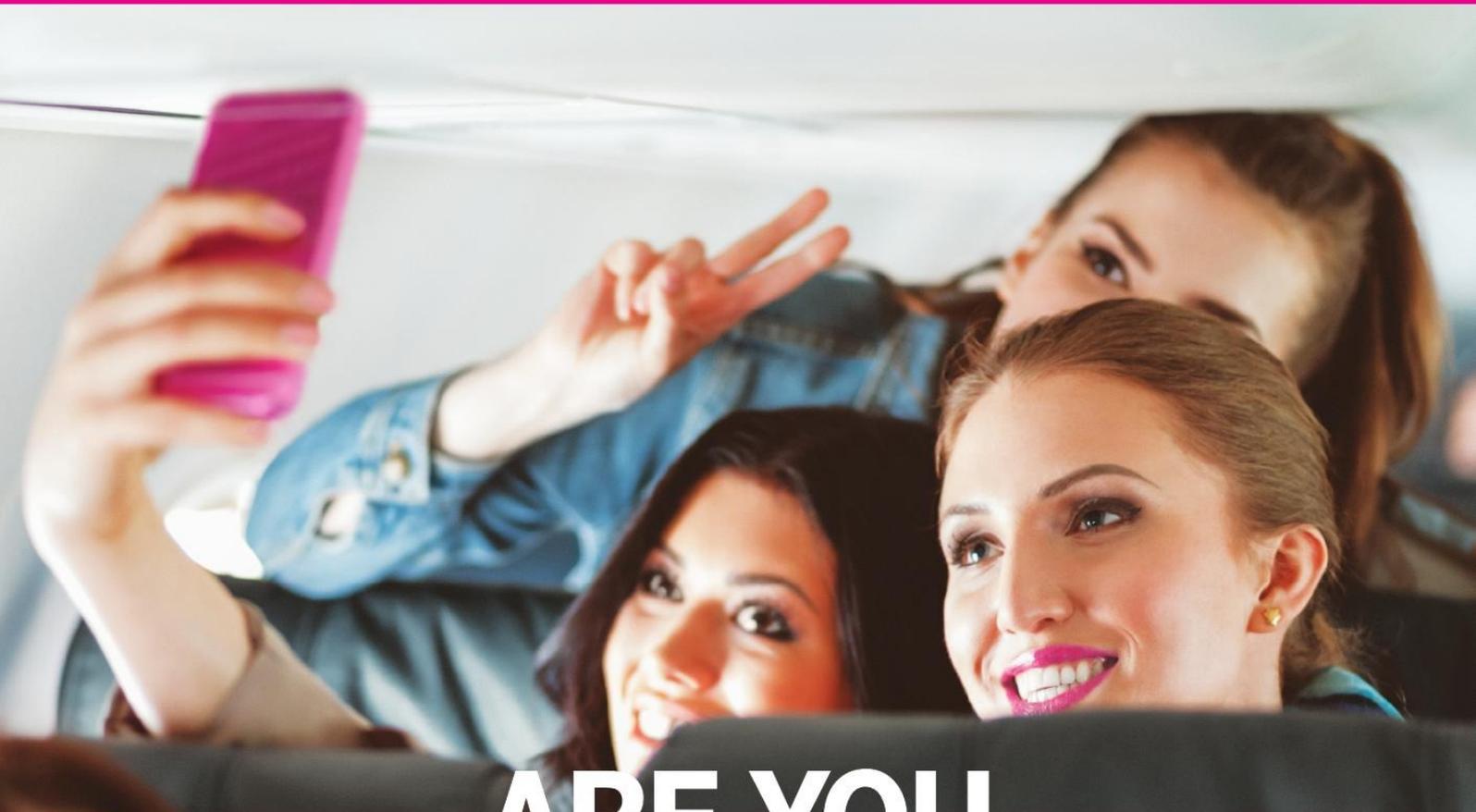


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