

Alaska[®] Beyond Magazine

May
2016

Horizon Edition

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the West Coast



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JACK YOUNG-PLACES / ALAMY

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To the future

On April 4, we announced our plan to combine with Virgin America to create the premier airline for people living on the West Coast. This is a big change and one that I believe will be incredibly positive for our

customers, employees and communities. I'd like to tell you why I think this is the case.

If you're reading this, you've likely been flying with us for some time and feel connected—I hope in a positive way—with the people of Alaska Airlines. We're very proud of that, and of what we've built together: A safe airline. An airline that operates on time. An airline with a unique, more personal customer experience, coupled with low fares. An airline that makes its communities stronger, believes in its employees and does right



by them. And, finally, an airline that performs well financially, enabling us to grow and reinvest in our business.

That's exactly what this merger is about—an incredible platform to grow our business and, therefore, better serve our customers. Today, Alaska flies to 112 destinations in 32 states and four countries. But our presence is strongest in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, so those are the places where we can best satisfy our customers' travel needs. We currently don't have the utility in other regions to be the "go-to" airline for customers for every trip.

To illustrate this idea, let's look at SFO (San Francisco International Airport). Today, Alaska flies to just one of the top 10 destinations out of SFO. The merged Alaska and Virgin America will fly to all 10. With Alaska's strong base of traffic originating in the Pacific Northwest and in Alaska, and to some extent in Hawai'i, and with Virgin America's strong presence in California, the combined carrier will be well positioned to become the premier, go-to airline for anyone living on the West Coast.

It's worth noting that our industry is consolidating and changing. Just four airlines control 84 percent of revenue in the U.S.—and Alaska is not among them. Given this changing industry structure, we believe that additional scale and presence along the West Coast will give us the best opportunity to be a strong, prosperous and independent airline well into the future, and a viable competitor to the much larger network carriers.

Now, what about fares and service? Well, our two airlines have thrived in an extremely competitive environment by running solid operations, by providing excellent service and by offering low fares. That's our secret sauce, and we have no intention of messing with the recipe! If you've traveled with both Alaska and Virgin America, you know that the onboard experience differs a bit. This merger will give us what is maybe a once-in-a-career opportunity to look under the hoods, compare the products, talk to customers and make decisions that we believe are best for everyone who depends on us.

We know you probably have a lot of other questions, about things like mileage programs, award benefits and more. We're working on those things and will have lots of news to share with you in the months to come. But one thing we've learned in our 84-year history is that what's good for our customers is good for business. We believe that with this merger we can continue to provide great service, low fares, and a safe and on-time flying experience—and add to that more destinations and a strong, prosperous future.

Thank you for flying with us.

Please turn to page 98 to read a Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements, Important Additional Information About the Merger and Where to Find It, and Participants in the Solicitation, or visit FlyingBetterTogether.com.



Brad Tilden,
Chief Executive
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Zoo centennial



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Exotic animals such as giant pandas, kookaburras and Komodo dragons are among the 650 species and subspecies—more than 3,700 animals—delighting and educating visitors as the **San Diego Zoo** (sandiegozoo100.org) celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

A community centennial event will be held at Balboa Park's Organ Pavilion on May 14, with live music, food trucks and an attempt to break a Guinness World Record for most people wearing hand puppets.

Zoo history is featured in a 75-foot-long mural at Centennial Plaza, where birthday parties are taking place all summer. Nighttime Zoo activities include a centennial-themed "Dr. Zoolittle" show. In addition, the zoo is also developing an 8-acre "Africa Rocks" exhibit, expected to open summer 2017, with animals such as African penguins, leopards and lemurs.

Ongoing zoo experiences range from the **Skyfari Aerial Tram** and **Centennial Bus Tour** to **4-D theater shows** with special effects such as wind and mist.

Alaska Airlines is the official airline sponsor of the zoo and its sister attraction, the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.



PHOTO BY RASCH

Top: A giant panda is one of the impressive animals at the zoo. Above: The Skyfari Aerial Tram provides an above-the-treetops view of the zoo.

San Diego's many lodging options include waterfront properties such as Hotel Del Coronado and Pacific Terrace Hotel; boutique properties such as Pineapple Hospitality's new Hotel Z; the Omni San Diego Hotel connected to Petco Park; and properties that are part of international hotel brands, such as Hampton Inn San Diego Mission Valley and The Westin San Diego.

Also in the San Diego area

To learn more about the activities and attractions below, and many more, go to sandiego.org.

Balboa Park: 15 major museums, such as the Museum of Man and its California Tower, at right; performing-arts venues; and gardens (balboapark.org).



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Golfing: More than 90 courses, including **Torrey Pines Golf Course**, below, where



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the U.S. Open will return in 2021 (torrey-pinesgolfcourse.com).

Water recreation: **Paddle or snorkel** the La Jolla coastline (bikeandkayaktours.com or lajollakayak.com); take a **whale-watching** tour (adventureribrides.com, hornblower.com/home/sd, sdwhale-watch.com and others); or enjoy great **beaches and surfing**.

Sightseeing: From Segway tours of the Embarcadero to visiting wineries, there's a tour for almost everyone. And **Old Town Trolley Tours** has hop-on/hop-off tours (trolleytours.com/san-diego).

Family-friendly: The many options include **Birch Aquarium at Scripps** (aquarium.ucsd.edu), **Legoland**, below (legoland.com/



COURTESY LEGOLAND

Hiking, biking, horseback riding: Active exploration, self-guided or with a company such as **Another Side of San Diego Tours** (anothersideof-sandiegotours.com).

california), **Living Coast Discovery Center** (thelivingcoast.org), **SeaWorld** (seaworld-parks.com/seaworld-sandiego), and **USS Midway Museum** (midway.org).



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PORTLAND, OR

Rose Festival



COURTESY PORTLAND ROSE FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

The MLS Cup-winning Portland Timbers will be given a floral tribute as the focus of Alaska Airlines' float for the June 11 **Grand Floral Parade** at this year's **Portland Rose Festival**. Shown above is the Rose Festival Court for last year's event. Each year, the Festival Court honors 15 outstanding Portland-area young women, who also receive scholarships.

The theme for the 2016 festival, taking place May 27 through June 12, with a variety of associated community events throughout the summer, is "Excessive Celebration"—an enthusiastic celebration of the community and the attributes that make it a great place to live, work and visit.

The festival will begin with opening-night fireworks at Tom McCall Waterfront Park on May 27. **CityFair**, May 27-30, June 2-5 and June 9-12, will feature carnival rides and games, and live music, including a performance by Chicago rock band Chevelle on June 3. The **Starlight Parade**, June 4, will provide an evening display of illuminated floats, followed by the Starlight After Party, with performances by Team EZY and Mija. **Fleet Week**, June 8-12, celebrates active, reserve and veteran military members, with tours of visiting naval ships and submarines.

New this year is the **Symphonic Safari** concert on May 30, with an instrument "petting zoo" and musicians performing while scattered throughout the audience. Alaska Airlines is a premier sponsor of the Portland Rose Festival.

Contact: 503-227-2681; rosefestival.org. —Bridget Hill

news & notes

Fifty independent films—including features, documentaries and shorts—will be showcased at the **Mammoth Lakes Film Festival**, May 25-29 (mammothlakesfilmfestival.com).



KEITH'S CUSTOM PHOTO

At the **Walla Walla Sweet Onion Festival**, June 18-19, enjoy live entertainment, chef demonstrations, an onion-eating contest, onion bowling, Mr. and Mrs. Onion Head decorating, a Kids Zone and a 5K Funion Runion (sweetonions.org).

The **Ride Sun Valley Bike Festival**, June 23-26, will include cross-country and endurance races; a kids' mountain-bike race; demos and an

expo (ridesunvalley.com).

The **U.S. Open of Watercross**, an event on the Pro Watercross Tour circuit for personal-watercraft racing, will take place at the **Sparks Marina**, about 5 miles east of Reno, June 18-19. Some competitors will also try to set an individual Guinness World Record for most consecutive barrel rolls in 2 minutes (prowatercross.com).



Tedeschi Trucks.

The Tedeschi Trucks Band and JJ Grey & Mofro will be among the headliners at the **Waterfront Blues Fest**, July 1-4, in Portland (waterfrontbluesfest.com).

BOZEMAN, MT

Pompeii-related artifacts

An intriguing collection of Roman antiquities is showcased in the traveling exhibit "**Leisure and Luxury in the Age of Nero: The Villas of Oplontis near Pompeii**," which will be at Montana State University's Museum of the Rockies, June 18-Dec. 31. The museum is one of just three sites chosen for the exhibit's world-premier tour, and the only site west of the Mississippi.

The exhibit includes **more than 145 artifacts** from two



luxury villas that were located about 5 miles from Pompeii, in a suburb called Oplontis. Items such as coins, a life-size statue of the goddess Nike, and the lamp at left were preserved by ash from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Regina Gee, an MSU assistant professor of art history, is one of the lead scholars working at the Oplontis archaeological site. One of the villas is believed to have once been the **summer home of Emperor Nero's second wife**, Poppaea Sabina. Contact: 406-994-2251; museumoftherockies.org. —Bridget Hill

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES. THE MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES, THE MICHIGAN HELSLEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN COOPERATION WITH THE MINISTERO DEI BENI E DELLE ATTIVITÀ CULTURALI E DEL TURISMO AND THE SOPRINTENDENZA SPECIALE PER I BENI ARCHEOLOGICI DI POMPEI, ERICOLANO E STABIA.



"I'm still surprised when I look in the mirror and see my new self."

Photo: Arlene Chambers Photography



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As a pediatric dentist and the mother of two young sons, my life was happily busy with work and school events. However, one day, I realized that I was just trying to do too much and, as a result, I wasn't able to do everything as well as I wanted to. I wasn't motivated to exercise and lose the excess baby weight I had gained, I ate out half the time, and was generally sedentary. I wanted to make changes, but I didn't know where to start.

Then I met someone who was going through the 20/20 LifeStyles program. I was so inspired in that moment that I decided it was time to make a change for myself. I realized that I had to prioritize myself and my family as much as work. The My Best 10 program seemed the perfect choice. It was suited to my goals and I felt it would give me the structure I needed.

I wanted to lose about 20 pounds and just feel healthier. I had been quite fit at one time, and I wanted to get back to that vision of fitness and health. I knew I could achieve it if I worked hard enough.

At first, I didn't know what to expect. The first few weeks were challenging as I figured out how to juggle my schedule, but the program really allowed me the flexibility to work around my other commitments.

Having the discipline and being accountable to my appointments with my trainer and dietitian kept me committed and successful. I continue to work with my personal trainer even after the program ended because I feel it's crucial to my continued lifestyle change. I had always wanted to run, but it was something I never thought I'd actually do. I was so excited to run my first 5K this past year. I continue to set new goals for myself like participating in fun, fitness events and it's so exciting!

Adjusting to the weight loss has been surreal. I'm still surprised when I look in the mirror and see my new self. I can't imagine going back to the "old me." Thank you, My Best 10!



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SPOKANE, WA

Discovering 'Treasure'

A 66-inch-long, 22.5-karat gold chain from the 1656 shipwreck of the Spanish ship *Maravillas* in the Bahamas is among the items on display in the 5,000-square-foot exhibit "Treasure!" at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane, through May 29.

The traveling exhibit is divided into seven categories, ranging from "Underwater" to "Treasures in the Attic," and also focuses on the science and technology of treasure hunting.

Artifacts discovered by Bob Weller from his many years of treasure research have been loaned by his wife, Margaret. The items range from an 80-pound silver bar recovered from a 1622 Spanish fleet to a 7-pound gold disk from a 1715 Spanish fleet. Artifacts in the exhibit also include a **War of 1812 cannon**, which was discovered during the 1960s in Lake Erie by an area diving club.

Museumgoers can experience hands-on activities such as panning for gold, as shown above, and piloting a remotely operated underwater vehicle in a tank. The museum is also presenting three companion exhibits: "The Secret Life of an Artifact"



COURTESY: REGI EXHIBITS

Fun Fact: The 19th century cannon found in Lake Erie was retrieved by roping deflated inner tubes around the cannon and then inflating them to lift the cannon from the water.

gives visitors an inside look at how artifacts are cataloged, restored and preserved. "Treasures of Norma Bassett Hall" displays 60 of the artist's woodblock prints and silkscreens. "Treasures of the Nez Perce Tribe" features items related to the tribe's history.

Contact: 509-456-3931; northwestmuseum.org. —Kevin Lee-Simion

AROUND THE ROUTE SYSTEM

Out on the trail

Enjoy a guided hike at sites such as Lopez Island in Western Washington's San Juan Islands during the American Hiking Society's **National Trails Day**, June 4. The National Trails Day celebration fea-



TRACEY COTTINGHAM

tures events throughout the country—many on June 4, but some on other days in June—spotlighting trails that can be enjoyed all summer, and often even year-round. Event-hosting entities range from national parks to local hiking clubs.

On Lopez Island, hikers can trek more than 4 miles amid trees, mosses, lichens and salal in the San Juan County Land Bank, or hike 4 miles from the Lopez ferry dock to Lopez Village, as shown above.

Some celebratory activities include water-related exploration, such as the **Big Paddle** event at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, about 25 miles north of Portland.

To learn more about National Trails Day opportunities, use the events database at americanhiking.org, or call 301-565-6704. —Kevin Lee-Simion



SEATTLE, WA

Seattle Chocolates (seattle-chocolates.com) has crafted a jcoco arabica cherry espresso bar whose ingredients include **CoffeeFlour**, made from fruit pulp that surrounds the coffee bean and that would otherwise be discarded. According to the company, CoffeeFlour makes coffee production more sustainable by turning a byproduct into a cooking ingredient that contains protein, nutrients and fiber.

THROUGHOUT OREGON

Enjoy special wine tastings, dinners and other events at various sites during May, in celebration of **Oregon Wine Month** (oregonwinemonth.org).

THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA

Bicyclists competing in this year's **Amgen Tour of California Men's Race**, May 15-22, are riding one of the event's longest and most challenging routes. The scenic nearly 800-mile route goes from San Diego to Sacramento. The 190-plus-mile Women's Race, May 19-22, goes from South Lake Tahoe to Sacramento (amgentourofcalifornia.com).

talked about

THROUGHOUT NEVADA

The Nevada Department of Wildlife will offer a **Free Fishing Day**, June 11, with no license or trout stamp needed for public-fishing waters. Fishing limits/other regulations still apply (www.ndow.org/fish/free_fishing_day).



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By Paul Frichtl





Alaska Airlines and Virgin America fly young fleets. Alaska: Boeing 737s. Virgin: Airbus A320 family.



COURTESY: VIRGIN AMERICA

Flight attendants working the red-eye flight from Seattle to Newark on the morning of April 4 disembarked with big news buzzing in their ears, news that had only been released at 3 A.M. through a companywide news alert.

Alaska Airlines had reached an agreement to purchase San Francisco-based Virgin America.

As Donna Engelhardt and her fellow flight attendants entered the gate area, a Virgin America crew approached; they wanted to take photos with the first Alaska crew they met.

“We all hugged, and we welcomed them to our family,” Engelhardt said. “It was a moment that was touching and exciting.”

The photo of the two smiling crews quickly went out on social media, immediately liked by hundreds of Alaska employees searching for more information on the purchase, excited by the opportunities that

the combination of two of the West Coast’s favorite airlines presents for not only employees but customers as well.

The agreement came unexpectedly for most, and the truth is, the work is only just beginning. Final approval of the \$2.6 billion cash deal by Virgin America shareholders and federal regulators is expected to come by January 1, 2017. It then may be more than another year—first quarter, 2018—before the two airlines are granted a single operating certificate by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Until then, Alaska and Virgin America operate independently.

On the day of the announcement, Alaska basked in the accomplishment and the possibilities. CEO Brad Tilden quickly credited “the foundation of strength forged by 15,000 employees working together” for making the transaction possible, and noted, “This transaction will make us the premier airline for people living on the West Coast.”



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This merger is a big deal. Alaska currently operates about 1,000 departures each day. Virgin America would instantly add more than 200 departures, creating greater frequency out of key cities already served by Alaska and introducing new destinations across North America. The idea is to create an airline that becomes the go-to carrier on the West Coast, and to do so in such a way that the combined airline will continue serving customers as an independent airline for many years to come.

The resulting company will retain the Alaska Airlines name, will be headquartered in Seattle, and will be managed by the executive team currently led by Tilden. The combined company becomes the fifth-largest airline in the country, flying 39 million passengers each year, with annual revenue totaling more than \$7 billion. The expanded route network would utilize more than 280 aircraft, one of the youngest fleets in the country.

“Simply put, this deal puts Alaska Airlines squarely on the national map, something that would have taken years to accomplish on our own,” Tilden said.

The result is a network with strength in all the major American cities on the West Coast, and greatly enhances service for

customers flying East. Key to that is the addition of Virgin America’s presence in San Francisco and Los Angeles. With 39 million people, California has three times the combined population of the Pacific Northwest states, and it represents the airline’s single largest opportunity.

Through this acquisition, Alaska will be able to offer customers new or improved access—coast to coast—to important destinations such as Dallas; Washington, DC; and New York’s JFK and LaGuardia airports—airports that are so busy and competitive that it can take years for an airline to secure a gate for new service.

Alaska also has an opportunity to grow and improve its award-recognized Mileage Plan loyalty program, ranked “Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Airline Loyalty Rewards Programs” for the past two consecutive years by J.D. Power. As the airlines eventually combine, Virgin America’s Elevate program will merge into Mileage Plan—ranked the No. 1 rewards program by *U.S. News & World Report* for the last two years. While awaiting regulatory clearance, Mileage Plan members will continue to enjoy earning and redeeming miles on Alaska’s 16 airline partners, while Elevate members will continue to earn and redeem



Profile: Alaska Airlines

Alaska’s excellence in service has its roots in its long history in the state of Alaska. The airline started in 1932 with a frontier flyer named Linous “Mac” McGee, who flew his single-engine Stinson aircraft into the bush to deliver supplies for miners, trappers and adventurers. The pilots of the day embodied the can-do spirit of the backcountry—the willingness to do whatever was needed to help out a neighbor. By 1944, a string of more than a dozen mergers among small airlines had resulted in the name Alaska Airlines.

Along the way, Alaska has proved to be a proud and determined survivor. Following the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978, many airlines succumbed to the new competitive environment. While mergers and bankruptcies filled the headlines, Alaska sought opportunities, launching new service into California, Arizona, Mexico and more. The company acquired Pacific Northwest regional carrier Horizon Air in 1986 and Long Beach, California-based Jet America in 1987, but it has remained distant from the acquisitions market since.

In the first decade of this century, Alaska was one of the few U.S. airlines that refused to reorganize under the protections of bankruptcy law. Instead, it embarked on a campaign to cut costs and improve efficiencies. The company focused on becoming an innovator and leader—on the Internet, at the ticket counter, in the baggage area and on the flight deck—while maintaining one of the strongest balance sheets in the industry. It chose to grow organically, spreading its route system to Hawai’i and the East Coast one well-calculated route at a time.

CEO Brad Tilden credits the airline’s commitment to safety, to customers, to investors and to its people with making the deal with Virgin America possible—a deal that will make Alaska Airlines the fifth-largest airline in the country.

By the Numbers

| |  |  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Annual Revenue | \$5.6 billion | \$1.5 billion |
| Annual Passengers | 32 million | 7 million |
| Pre-Tax Profit | \$1.3 billion | \$200 million |
| Frequent-Flyer Programs | Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan™ | Virgin America Elevate® |
| Member Lounge | Alaska Lounge | Virgin America Loft at LAX |
| Destinations | 112 destinations 1,000 total daily departures | 24 destinations 200 total daily departures |
| Hub Cities | Seattle Anchorage Portland | San Francisco Los Angeles |
| Employees | 15,200 | 3,000 |
| Fleets | 219 aircraft Modern, all-Boeing mainline fleet Average fleet age: 10 years | 60 aircraft Modern, all-Airbus fleet Average fleet age: 6 years |



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INSPIRING INNOVATION

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Profile: Virgin America

Virgin America is a young airline. It took to the skies over San Francisco in 2007, created by the diverse Virgin business group led by British business magnate Richard Branson.

Virgin America launched proclaiming a mission “to make flying good again.” The new carrier quickly caught the attention of the travel industry as well as flyers living in California, and almost immediately started winning industry best-in-class awards. Recognition includes Best Domestic Airline in *Condé Nast Traveler’s Readers’ Choice Awards* and *Travel + Leisure’s World’s Best Awards* for the past eight consecutive years.

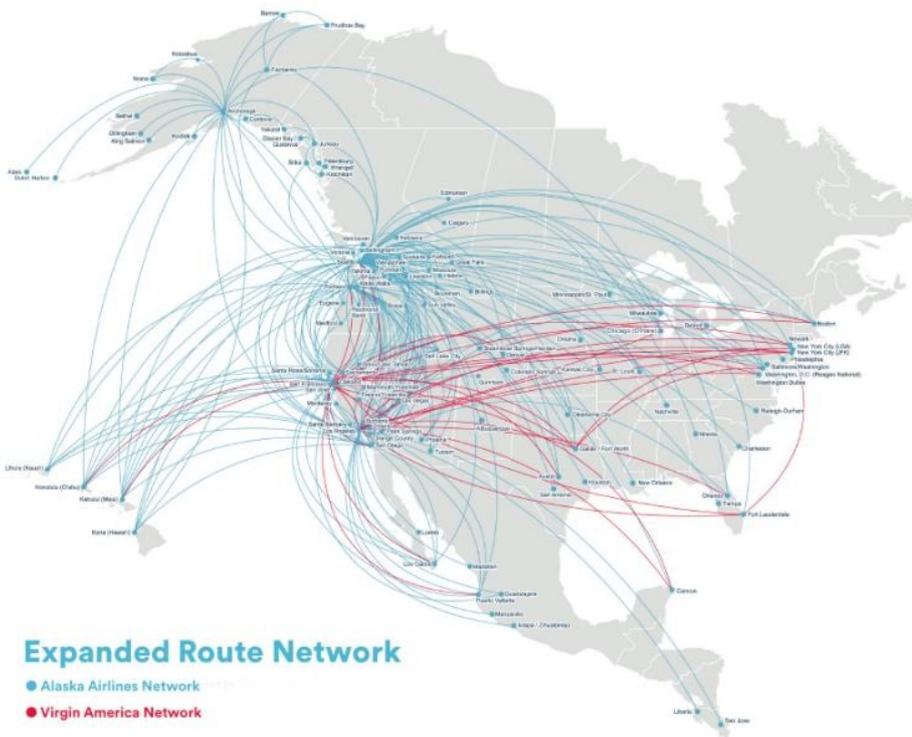
Today Virgin America is noted for its mood-lit cabins, Wi-Fi on every plane, custom leather seats with power outlets, and a seatback entertainment system that allows passengers to order food and beverages from their seats through the system’s touch-screen. Known as Red, the system similarly can order up movies, music and live TV, and streams services such as Netflix.

America’s customers and their needs, and why they love their airline.”

WHILE THE EXCITEMENT of joining the operations is palpable, the two airlines remain committed to taking the time to ensure the merging of the two operations plays to the strengths of each.

“By combining the two airlines, we will be better positioned to deliver more choice for our customers,” Tilden says. “I’m excited about the airline we’re going to become when the deal is done.”

Please turn to page 98 to read a Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements, Important Additional Information About the Merger and Where to Find It, and Participants in the Solicitation, or visit FlyingBetterTogether.com.



Expanded Route Network

- Alaska Airlines Network
- Virgin America Network

points with Virgin America. Customers can continue to fly Virgin America and its partners and accrue points as normal, until the plans combine, and be confident that all points earned prior to or after the transaction announcement will be reflected in new

or existing Alaska Mileage Plan accounts.

“We’ll be looking thoughtfully at both our current portfolio of codeshare and frequent-flyer partnerships and Virgin America’s to ensure that we provide the greatest available network as a combined company,” says Sangita Woerner, Vice President, Marketing, at Alaska Airlines.

Already, the two airlines consistently rank at the top of a wide range of industry surveys. Alaska has been ranked Highest in Customer Satisfaction Among Traditional Carriers eight years in a row by J.D. Power, most recently in 2015. It has been rated the most on-time airline in North America for six years and counting by the industry tracker FlightStats, and the No. 1 airline in the U.S. by *The Wall Street Journal* the last three years in a row.

WSJ’s No. 2 overall performer for 2014 and ’15? Virgin America. The carrier consistently ranks at the top of *Condé Nast Traveler’s Readers’ Choice Awards* and *Travel + Leisure’s World’s Best Awards* for domestic airlines and first class/business experiences.

“Virgin America has built an incredible brand experience,” Woerner says. “They’ve built an emotionally engaging brand, and we have great respect for that. ... We will be examining each of those elements closely and thoughtfully over the coming months and years as we work to understand Virgin

Growing California

Service to Top 10 markets from San Francisco/SFO

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|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
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| Los Angeles/LAX | | ✓ |
| Las Vegas | | ✓ |
| Chicago | | ✓ |
| Boston | | ✓ |
| Seattle | ✓ | ✓ |
| Newark | | ✓ |
| San Diego | | ✓ |
| Denver | | ✓ |
| Washington/Dulles | | ✓ |

Service to Top 10 markets from Los Angeles/LAX

| LAX to: | Alaska Today | Alaska + Virgin America |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| New York/JFK | | ✓ |
| San Francisco | | ✓ |
| Chicago | | ✓ |
| Seattle | ✓ | ✓ |
| Las Vegas | | ✓ |
| Denver | | |
| Newark | | ✓ |
| Honolulu | | ✓ |
| Boston | | ✓ |
| Atlanta | | |

1st

**Mark Kelley
Juneau, AK**

A kayaker watches a glacier calve in Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska.

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2nd

Scott Keelin
Redondo Beach, CA

Lightning strikes the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, Arizona.

PRIZE: Two coach-class tickets to any destination served by Alaska Airlines, including the United States, Canada, Costa Rica and Mexico.

SHOWCASE

2016

CONGRATULATIONS to the prizewinners and finalists in our 24th-annual *Alaska Beyond* and *Horizon Edition Magazines* Photo Contest. Our art directors, editors and staff reviewed more than 2,400 entries to reach our selection of 10 finalists. This year's entrants roamed from the remote bays of Alaska to the shores of Hawai'i and the city plazas of Mexico. They explored the Alaska Airlines route system in ways that inspire travel and celebrate the diverse joys of discovery.



3rd

Andy Porter
Sedro-Woolley, WA

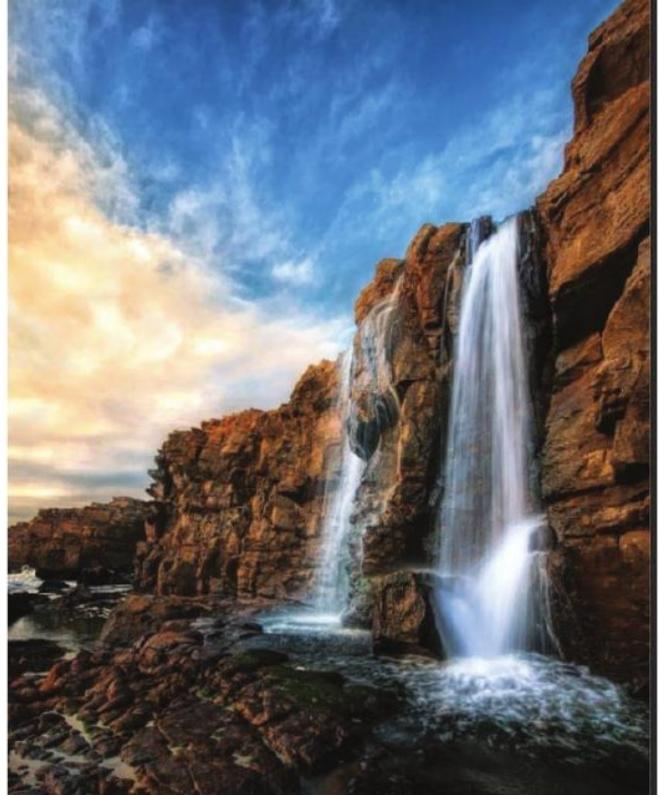
A starry night over First Beach, along Washington's Olympic Coast, near La Push.

PRIZE: Two coach-class tickets to any destination served by Alaska Airlines in the continental United States and Canada.



Valentin Gabriel Stredie
San Francisco, CA

A Mexican folk dancer performs in Guadalajara, Mexico.



Anh Doan
San Jose, CA

Phillips Gulch Falls in Salt Point State Park, Sonoma County, California.



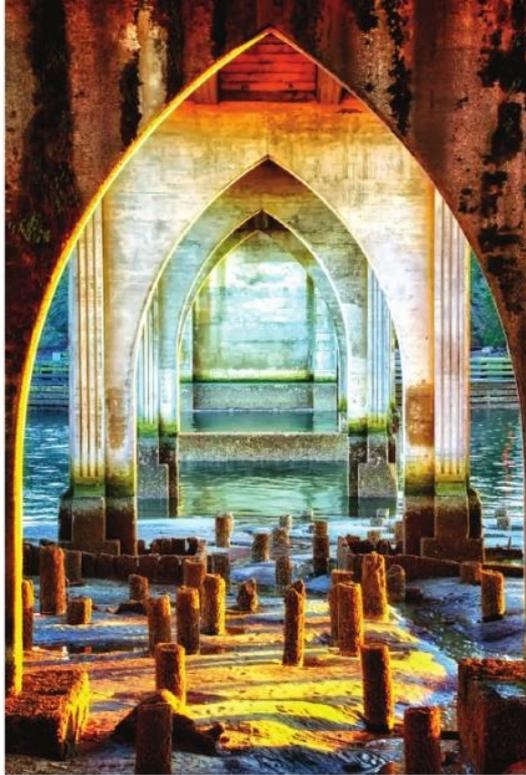
Douglas Oman
Wilsonville, OR

Bear cubs nursing at Lake Clark National Park, Alaska.



Kathy Cheadle
Bow, WA

A gecko hides on a flower at Onomea Bay, on the Hilo side of Hawai'i Island.



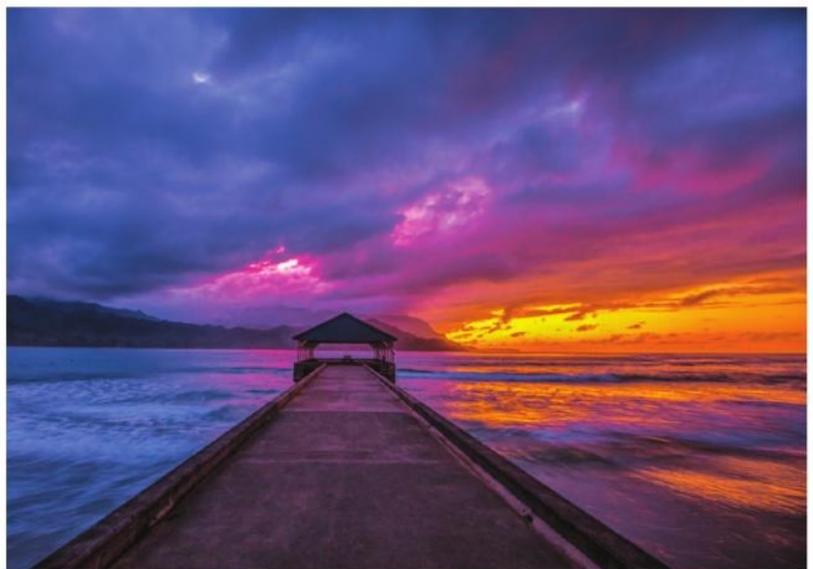
Angie Marcelynas
Hillsboro, OR

Low light creates a cathedral effect beneath the Siuslaw River Bridge in Florence, Oregon.



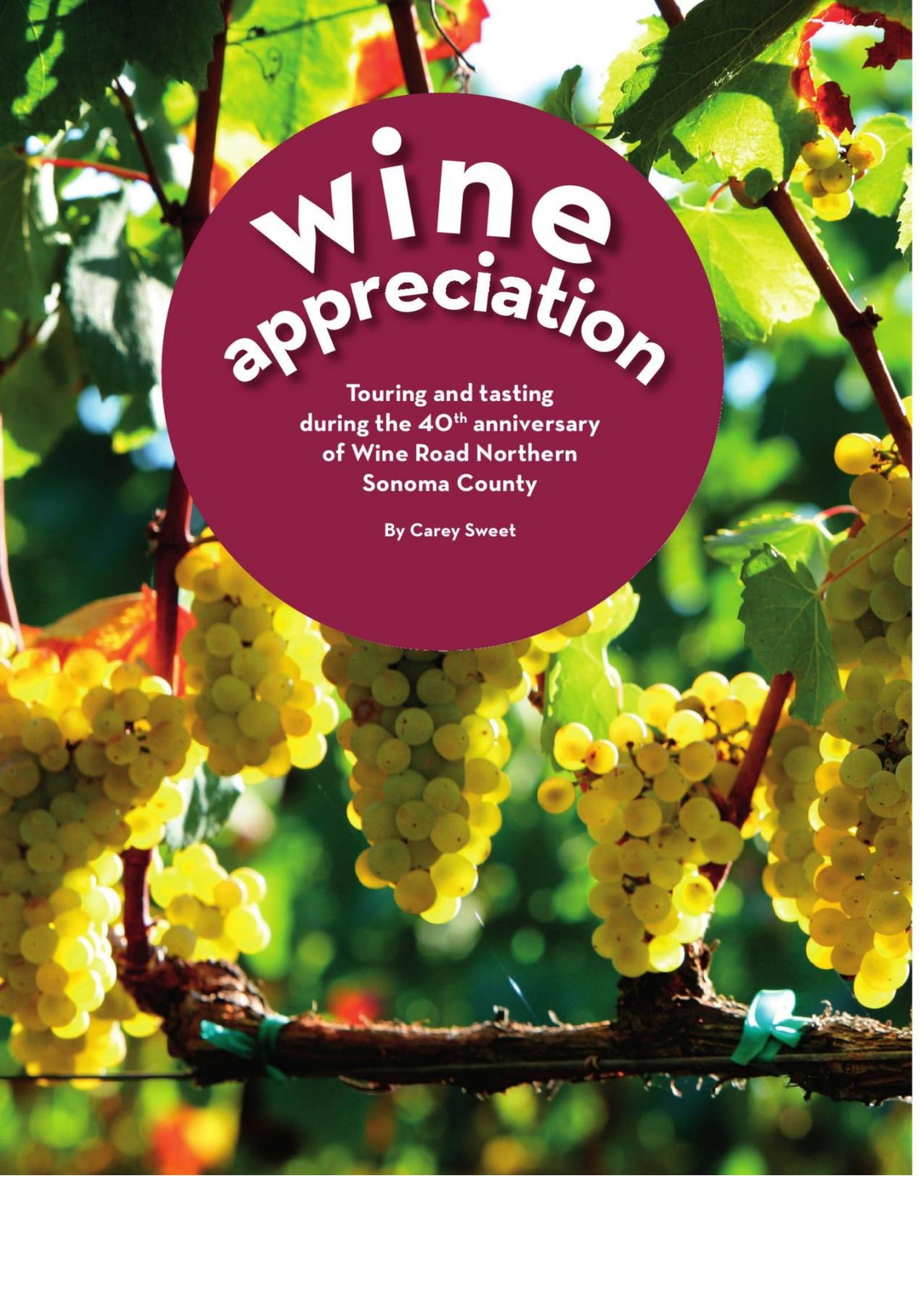
Katherine Holmlund
Petersburg, AK

A pygmy owl perches on a branch near Petersburg, Alaska.



Craig Persson
Fairbanks, AK

Hanalei Pier glows under a sunset on Kaua'i, Hawai'i.



wine appreciation

Touring and tasting
during the 40th anniversary
of Wine Road Northern
Sonoma County

By Carey Sweet

I knew I was in the right place when Freddie Mercury came galloping up to me, batting my knees with a stuffed green alligator clutched in his jaws. I wasn't even in the Mercury Wine tasting room yet, but the 5-year-old black Labrador retriever met me on the sidewalk in the Sonoma County hamlet of Geyserville (population about 1,000), proudly coaxing me to meet his guardian: shop owner and winemaker Brad Beard.

Winery dogs are common in California wine country—where in addition to greeting visitors, they may help to discourage gophers and grape-eating birds—but Freddie is an especially good ambassador. I am now more inclined than ever to step in, and I'm doubly happy I've done so when Beard brings out his 2014 Heritage Oak Alexander Valley Chardonnay. I'm a fan as soon as he describes its provenance from prized Wentecclone vines—originally created as grafts in 1912 from French cuttings—and I taste the Chardonnay's sunny splash of pineapple, guava, melon and a touch of green pepper.

Mercury Wine (mercurywine.com), which opened in 2009, is one of the 200 wineries in the **Wine Road** association of wineries and lodgings (wineroad.com), which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. With self-tour and guided-tour information, maps, recipes and Wine 101 tasting tips, Wine Road showcases northern Sonoma County's Alexander, Dry Creek and Russian River Valley American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). These acclaimed AVAs are three of Sonoma County's 17 total AVAs, which together boast more than 425 wineries, and hundreds of award-winning wines.

The Russian River meanders through or near all three Wine Road AVAs, where numerous microclimates and soils yield an impressive diversity of premium varieties—from Pinot Noir to Chardonnay to Zinfandel to Dolcetto—



COURTESY MERCURY WINE

Brad Beard and his dog, Freddie Mercury, welcome visitors to Mercury Wine.

according to the Wine Road. Early viticulturists included 19th century Italian immigrants, whose influence is still evident in some of the vines and wines at sites such as **Simi Winery**, founded by brothers Giuseppe and Pietro Simi (simiwinery.com) at the northern edge of Healdsburg in 1876.

Today, visitors to Wine Road routes will find an intriguing mix of historic wineries such as Simi, large modern wineries such as **Kendall-Jackson** (kj.com) and **Ferrari-Carano** (ferrari-carano.com), and small, artisanal producers such as **Mercury Wine**.

It's hard to think of a better way to spend a sunny day than touring the unique towns and vineyards of wine country, and things get even more fun at Mercury Wine when Brad's brother and tasting room co-host and artist, Grady Beard, joins us. He jokes that his first job interview was with Freddie, who had to give the OK for Brad to hire Grady.

While enjoying the humor Grady brings to the tasting room, Brad is very serious about his wine, which is one of the reasons he specializes in European-style varietals and blends, with production limited to as few as 50 cases a year, crafted from grapes the winery grows in its 5 acres of Alexander Valley vineyards, and also sources from other vineyards in the Alexander, Dry Creek and Russian River valleys.

After tasting the Chardonnay, I savor a new wine, Mercury's first Sauvignon Blanc, a 2014 that sings with citrus, melon, easy balance, and a bright, crisp finish. The tasting



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notes explain that the blend is 98 percent Sauvignon Blanc plus 2 percent “proprietary.” I earn a “ding ding ding” from Grady when he steers me toward German grapes and I guess Gewürztraminer.

Then he pulls out a 1,000-milliliter jug—a swing-top growler, really—filled with a blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. The \$29 jug is refillable for \$25 from a tap system “filling station” near the bar. Grady explains that the idea is to replicate the swagger of an unpretentious Italian table wine. I find it delicious, in an everyday, mouthwatering, berry-violet-plum kind of way.

Mercury Wine has also taken an unconventional approach to the physical space in which it presents the fruit of its vines. The tasting room, located not far from a tractor store in the tiny farming community, displays edgy style, with bare concrete floors, floor-to-ceiling cubbyholes stocked with wine bottles (there used to be jars of homemade jam and pickled vegetables in the cubbies, too, but Grady tells me he ate them all), and antique doors repurposed into bar tops.

Off to one side, a turntable spins actual vinyl records such as hits from Queen, led by singer Freddie Mercury, although the winery actually took its name from the quick boom-and-bust years of mining ore for quicksilver from 1873 to 1875 in the now nonexistent town of Pine Flat. But you can choose your favorite inspiration from objects around the tasting



ROBERT HOLMES

Right: MacRostie Winery's handsome new tasting room. Below: Owner Steve MacRostie.



KATHRYN MACDONALD

room: the Mercury dimes displayed in a jar, Mercury the comic-book hero starring on T-shirts, Mercury the planet peeking off the edge of the 2010 Russian River Pinot Noir label, Mercury the winged messenger stylized on another wine label (and in

fabric wings attached to the back of Grady's sneakers), or the Project Mercury space program that's honored via blueprints on The Rocket red-blend label.

Whatever. All I really need to know is that this Mercury orbits all around fine wine and fun.

Napa Valley St. Helena



the St. Helena AVA, in the heart of Napa Valley.

St. Helena is a warm area, protected by western hills, with heat radiating off those hills and less fog or wind than many more-southern areas, making it perfect for wines such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Syrah, Zinfandel and Viognier.

Wine-touring options are outstanding and varied, including the following examples:

California wine country also includes Napa Valley, which was designated California's first AVA in 1981, and within its borders lie 16 sub-appellations, including

Cairdean Estate (cairdeanestate.com): This site, including a restaurant, deli and retail, and an arts collection, is nearly a village, located next door to the 50-acre winery complex.

The estate includes 17,369 square feet of wine caves, and there are two tasting rooms—one a luxury public lounge, the other a by-appointment Winemaker's Den. Visitors enjoy pours such as the 2012 Acquaintance Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, whose dark fruit and cherry flavors mingle with spices and herbs.

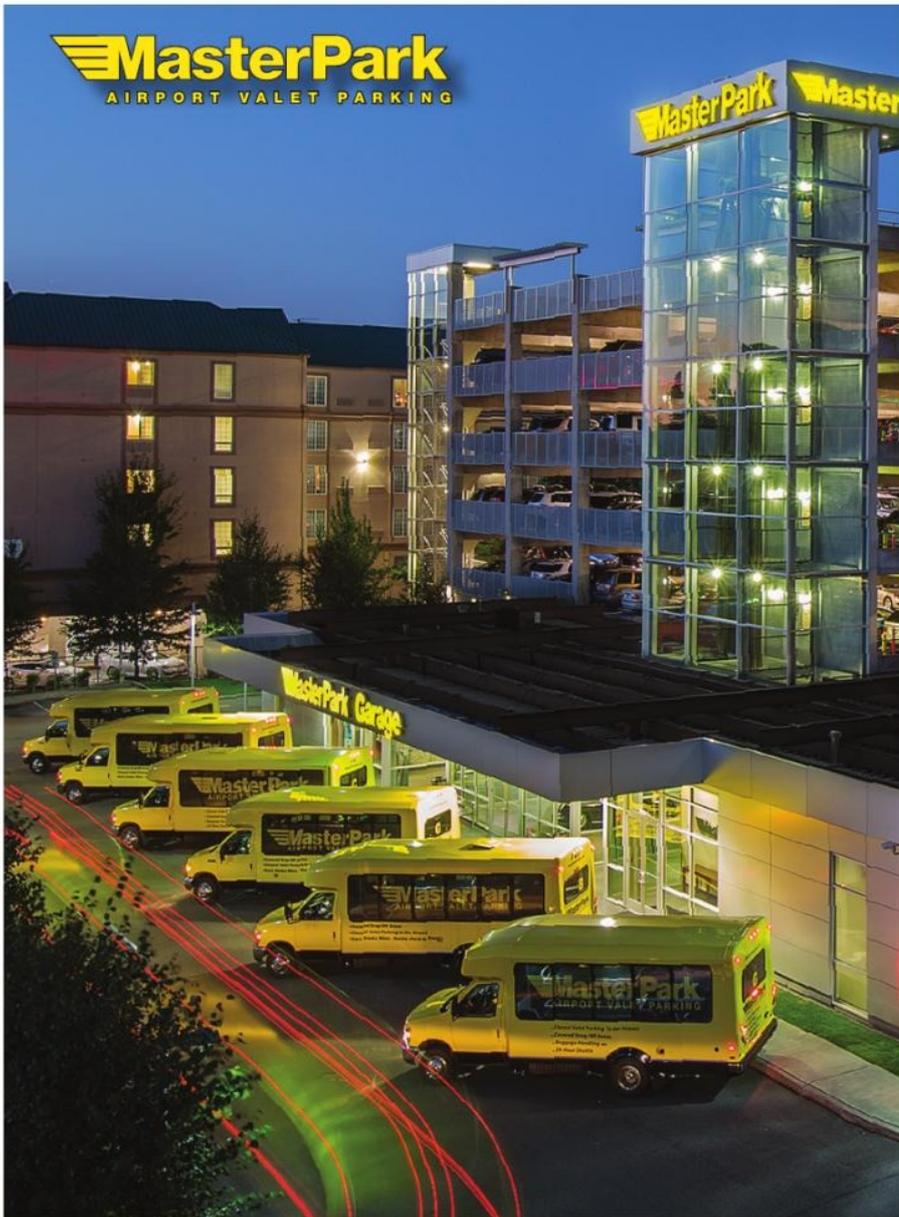
Freemark Abbey Winery (freemarkabbey.com): It's the 130th anniversary of this historic property, which has just emerged from an extensive renovation that retained the beautiful stone facade while updating

the tasting room, library and lounge. Specializing in Cabernet Sauvignon, the winery partners with longstanding top-tier growers up and down Napa Valley.

Ehlers Estate (ehlersestate.com): The 1886 stone-and-wood palace is now offering a novel by-appointment-only “Start Your Day” tasting that begins at 9:30 A.M., with a tour of the 42-acre organically farmed vineyard, samples direct from the barrel, sipping in the luxury tasting room, and fresh-baked croissants from Yountville's famed Bouchon Bakery.

Toast with a creamy, crisp, dry 2015 Estate Sauvignon Blanc perfumed with lime, grapefruit and lemon blossoms. Ehlers wine sales support international cardiovascular research. —C.S.

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wine country

MacRostie Winery & Vineyards, and Estate House

Winery owner Steve MacRostie is a legend in Sonoma County, having founded his winery in 1987; he released his first Carneros Chardonnay that same year with grapes from land where the San Francisco Bay meets southern Napa Valley and Sonoma County. But for a long time he was a man without a real tasting room, operating a small winery out of a bare-bones industrial warehouse just southeast of the town of Sonoma.

Samples were tasted at a picnic table on asphalt, yet the wines were outstanding, eventually featuring grapes from his own 58-acre Wildcat Mountain Vineyard—planted in 1998 in the Carneros AVA, on the border of the Sonoma Coast AVA—and from legendary Sonoma County wine-growing families such as the Duttons and Sangiacomos.

As I walk to the front door of his new estate winery and tasting room (macrostiewinery.com) on Westside Road in the Russian River Valley AVA, I'm impressed. Designed by noted architect Doug Thornley, the modern wood-and-glass building is gorgeous, nestled into a hillside in the Healdsburg region. Opened early last year, it's finally the fitting tribute to MacRostie's art, and is surrounded by his own 13-acre Thale's Pinot Noir vineyard, named in honor of his wife.

Before I can take it all in, a "wine ambassador" greets me in the parking lot with a glass of 2013 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay, a blend drawing from MacRostie's partnership with 30 area Chardonnay vineyards. Every guest gets such a welcome, the host explains, so as to savor the delicate floral aromas, and notes of lemon, peach stone, pie-crust spice and candied orange peel as we walk past the entry gardens.

The interior of the building also brings a taste of luxury to Sonoma County, from the polished concrete floor to the leather chairs, chandeliers with glass globes, landscape abstracts on the walls and gleaming oak tables.

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wine country

I'm here for the Elevated experience, which includes vineyard, barrel-room and fermenting-room tours, and a seated tasting of five wines, with a lavish charcuterie board featuring regionally sourced delights such as blue cheese from Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Co. and olive oil–sel gris (sea salt) flatbread from Rustic Bakery, alongside prosciutto and Spanish Marcona almonds.

WINE FLIES FREE

Check your first case of appropriately packaged wine free of charge for flights from Santa Rosa on Alaska Airlines; for details, see alaskaair.com/wine and sonomacounty.com/wine-flies-free-when-visiting-san-francisco-wine-country.

I take a seat on the tasting room balcony, basking in the sun with a 2013 Wildcat Mountain Chardonnay, a weighty but unusual jewel boasting crushed-gravel notes kissed with lemon and honey.

The winery's ambassadors are equipped with presentation boards to show the various vineyards and climates of Sonoma County and highlight the vineyards MacRostie relies on. It's marvelous to taste the 2013 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir—exploring its distinctive black cherry, blackberry, tobacco and bergamot spice nuances—while learning that the wine features an array of fruit from Thale's Vineyard, the neighboring Flax Vineyard on Westside Road, and two vineyards in nearby Green Valley.

The ambiance is upscale yet pastoral. Cows and sheep graze on hillsides in the distance; guests relax on couches with their dogs at their feet; and at one point, winemaker Heidi Bridenhagen pops in with her 6-month-old niece to greet everyone.

Steve MacRostie, onsite as he usually is, makes the rounds, too. "I've always been a

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SEATTLE

A SPECIAL SECTION OF ALASKA BEYOND
AND HORIZON EDITION MAGAZINES
MAY 2016





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Seattle

S4 ART AND SOUL

Public artworks reflect the city's personality and spirit. By Susan Goracke

S16 EASTSIDE STORY

Exceptional recreation, from Snoqualmie Falls to Woodinville wines to Bellevue blossoms. By Todd Powell

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Attractions, lodging and dining in Greater Seattle neighborhoods. By M. Dill

S35 WHAT'S NEW

S43 SEATTLE SPORTS

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S45 ITINERARY

Cover: Unique perspective of the Space Needle and the *Pacific Sun* sculpture at Chihuly Garden and Glass.

Photo: cdriin / Shutterstock.com



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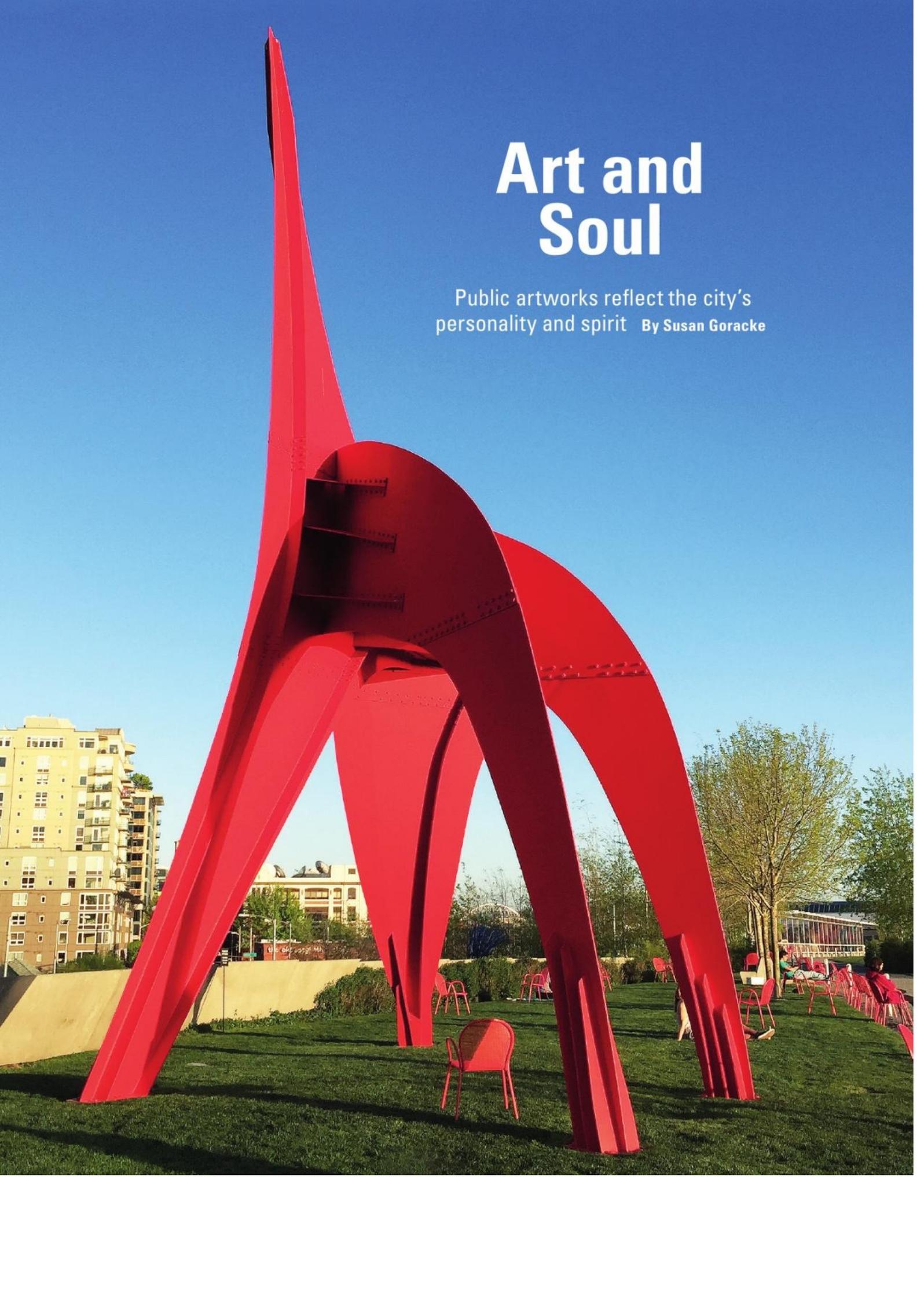
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Art and Soul

Public artworks reflect the city's personality and spirit **By Susan Goracke**



LATE-MORNING SUN

filters through a leafy canopy of Japanese zelkova and London plane trees as my sister, Elizabeth, and I stroll along crushed-granite paths that wind through Seattle Center's delightful **Poetry Garden**. The sun's warmth seems to intensify the sweet perfume of blooming daphnes in this 3,000-square-foot green space just west of the Armory building.

The multicultural nature of the garden's trees complements the 23 Seattle Center Festál cultural festivals—from Japanese and Tibetan to Irish and Latin American—that take place throughout the year in the Seattle Center Armory, which was the Food Circus during the 1962 World's Fair at Seattle Center and continues to provide many dining options. The zelkova trees, and nearby Japanese flowering cherry trees, remind us of Seattle's first sister city, Kobe, Japan, a partnership created in 1957, while London planes were among the trees planted for the World's Fair.

Elizabeth and I are enjoying some restful moments discovering the Poetry Garden's **nature-inspired writings**. The 27 poems or portions of poems are engraved on the polished sides



JACK YOUNG-PLACES / ALAMY



Left: Alexander Calder's *Eagle* at the Olympic Sculpture Park. **Top:** EMP's unique exterior was inspired by the bright colors of electric guitars. **Above:** The Poetry Garden at Seattle Center is a restful place to contemplate poetry and art.

of a dozen rose-hued granite boulders, artfully placed among the shrubs and flowers by local sculptor John Hoge. We chuckle at Shel Silverstein's humorous poem *Early Bird*, from *Where the Sidewalk Ends*:

Oh, if you're a bird, be an early bird / And catch the worm for your breakfast plate. / If you're a bird, be an early bird— / But if you're a worm, sleep late.

Perhaps my favorite among the literary gems is an excerpt from *Poetry* by Nikki Giovanni. It perfectly sums up our Poetry Garden experience—a tranquil interlude in the midst of Seattle Center's bustling campus:

Poetry is motion graceful as a fawn / gentle as a teardrop / strong like the eye / finding peace in a crowded room.

Seattle Center (seattlecenter.com), whose sponsors include Alaska Airlines, is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Poetry Garden, and throughout this year and to the end of Janu-

ary 2017, the garden will also feature a series of temporary art installations inspired by the written word. From May 9 to Aug. 1, the garden will spotlight the imaginative art of Seattle artist Naoko Morisawa, who has created a Morse code pattern using colorful garden hose tubing.

As an Oregonian, I've long wanted to visit Seattle Center during my trips north to see my sister, and I'm elated that during this visit, which I've asked Elizabeth to plan with a focus on public art, we've found time to explore the city's gathering place.

We're awestruck as we visit another arts-related attraction on the Seattle Center campus: **Chihuly Garden and Glass** (chihulygardenandglass.com), a wonderful showcase for world-renowned master glass artist and Puget Sound-area native Dale Chihuly. Eight indoor Exhibition galleries feature many of Chihuly's imaginative glass sculptures, while outside in the Garden, fanciful glass flowers and other glass flora



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DANITA DELIMONT / ALAMY

enhance the natural landscape. In the Glasshouse, a 40-foot-tall atrium, we stand for a long time gazing up at Chihuly's 100-foot-long sculpture of more than 1,300 red, orange and yellow glass flowers, which is suspended from the ceiling.

Nearby, the **EMP Museum** (empmuseum.org), formerly the Experience Music Project, evokes the rock 'n' roll experience in an unconventional building designed by architect Frank Gehry, who was inspired in part by the bright colors of electric guitars.

This popular venue, founded by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, presents concerts, film festivals, academic conferences, and permanent interactive and rotating exhibits devoted to contemporary popular culture.

The **50th-anniversary Star Trek exhibition**—"Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds"—opens May 21, with more than 100 artifacts and props—including Captain Kirk's command chair and the navigation console—from the TV series, spin-offs and films. In a Transporter simulator, visitors can create a film that shows them being beamed to another location. And on July 2, the traveling exhibit "**World of WearableArt**" will make its U.S. mainland debut at EMP.

At **Pacific Science Center**

(pacificsciencecenter.org)—filled with fun learning experiences for kids and adults alike—the exhibit "**The Art of the Brick**," May 28–Sept. 11, features artworks made exclusively with Lego bricks by award-winning artist Nathan Sawaya. The displays include Lego versions of

Above: Foliage and glass art complement each other at Chihuly Garden and Glass.

Below: Spock tunic in the "Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds" exhibit at EMP.



BRADY HARVEY / EMP MUSEUM

masterpieces such as Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Van Gogh's *Starry Night*.

In roughly the middle of Seattle Center, children squeal and frolic in the **International Fountain**, a work of techno-and-hydro art created for the World's Fair and boasting supershooters that send water streams as high as 120 feet.

Seattle Center is also known for concerts and special events

at **KeyArena**; vintage, classic and unusual films at the **SIFF Film Center**; and numerous performing-arts companies.

It's said that no visit to Seattle Center is complete without an elevator ride to the top of the **Space Needle** (spaceneedle.com), the centerpiece of the World's Fair. Since even Elizabeth has never experienced this lofty pleasure, we are excited to ride in the capsulelike elevator to the Observation Deck for the 360-degree view. From our perch about 520 feet above the ground, we can see landmarks such as Mount Rainier, Lake Washington, Lake Union and ferries crossing Elliott Bay. We can even use one of the Observation Deck's mounted cameras to take a "sky-high selfie," with a Puget Sound panorama in the background, to commemorate our visit.

Art Around Town

Public art can engage civic dialogue, attract attention to a city, connect artists with communities, and enhance public appreciation of art. Researching my trip, I discovered that public art is a big deal in the Emerald City. In 1973, the city was one of the nation's first to adopt a percent-for-art ordinance, setting aside 1 percent of eligible capital investment in public facilities (such as for construction and renovation) to be used by the city for purchase and installation of artwork.

The Office of Arts & Culture oversees the public-art program, and has printable maps and downloadable smartphone apps at seattle.gov/arts/experience/maps-and-apps that let people take self-guided art tours by neighborhood. The city's public-art collection now includes more than 400 permanently

Also in Seattle

ATTRACTIONS

Alki Beach Park (seattle.gov/parks), 2.5-mile stretch of beach in West Seattle: Alki is where the first white settlers landed. Also visit the website for information about parks such as Jimi Hendrix Park by the Northwest African American Museum in the Central District.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center (gatesvc.org), by Seattle Center: Exhibits tell the stories of work being done



© BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

to improve people's lives, and activities show how each person can make a difference. Special events throughout the year.

Brewery Tours (seattlebrewery-tour.com): Three Seattle breweries in three hours, led by Road Dog Tours, which also offers a distillery tour and a coffee tour.

Frye Art Museum (fryemuseum.org): Impressive collection of 19th and 20th century American, German and French paintings. "Chronicles of Solitude: Masterworks by Vilhelm Hammershøi from the National Gallery of Denmark" on view July 16–Sept. 25.

Nightlife: Many options, such as 88 Keys Dueling Piano and Sports Bar; The Barrel Thief Wine & Whiskey Bar; The Crocodile live music; Foundation Nightclub electronic dance music; The Triple Door live music; The Tractor Tavern live music; Unexpected Productions Theatresports and improv. ▶



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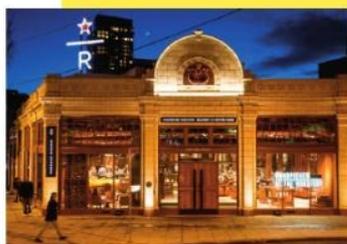


Seattle Art Museum

(seattleartmuseum.org) includes the main downtown Seattle location; the Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park, northeast of downtown; and the outdoor waterfront Olympic Sculpture Park. “Graphic Masters: Dürer, Rembrandt, Hogarth, Goya, Picasso, R. Crumb,” June 9–Aug. 28, at the main location. At the Asian Art Museum, “Mood Indigo: Textiles from around the World,” through Oct. 9.

Seattle Children’s Museum (thechildrensmuseum.org), Seattle Center Armory: Daily programs, and exploration spaces ranging from “Mountain” to “Cog City.”

Starbucks Reserve Roastery & Tasting Room (roastery.starbucks.com), Capitol Hill: Watch some of the world’s rarest coffees being roasted and brewed in this



COURTESY, STARBUCKS

fascinating space that also serves specialty espresso and tea.

Sky View Observatory (skyviewobservatory.com): Panoramic vista from the 73rd floor of the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle, with lunch or dinner available at the Sky View Cafe, featuring Washington beers and wines.

Washington State Ferries (wsdot.wa.gov/ferries): Scenic routes such as sailings to Bainbridge Island (museums, restaurants, wine-tasting rooms, Mora Iced Creamery) and Bremerton (USS *Turner Joy* naval-ship tours, fountain park, restaurants such as Anthony’s at Sinclair Inlet). Also see visitkitsap.com.

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (wingluke.org), ▶



TIM THOMPSON

sited works, as well as nearly 3,000 portable works.

After our Seattle Center visit, my sister and I head south toward downtown Seattle. Walking along Western Avenue through the vibrant Belltown neighborhood, we pause at **Angie’s Umbrella** at the intersection of Western Avenue and Lenora Street. Created by artists Jim Pridgeon and Benson Shaw, this 20-foot-tall kinetic metal sculpture of a bright-red umbrella rotates on its base when a breeze blows through its perforated-aluminum “fabric.” The Arts & Culture website notes that the artists “playfully reference the stormy weather characteristic of the Northwest by showing the ubiquitous sheltering device turned inside-out. ...”

We find one of the city’s most impressive art pieces just outside the Seattle Art Museum entrance on First Avenue. Here, Jonathan Borofsky’s 48-foot-tall **Hammering Man** celebrates workers’ contributions to society. Created with fabricated steel and powered by an electric mo-

Above: The new wall drawing *Blue Sun* at the Olympic Sculpture Park.
Below: *Angie’s Umbrella*, downtown.



CHUCK PEFFLEY / ALAMY

tor, the 22,000-pound sculpture hammers silently several times a minute, except during evening and early-morning hours—and on Labor Day, his one vacation.

Art in Parks

Elizabeth and I also find public art along the approximately 21-mile, paved **Burke-Gilman Trail** (seattle.gov/parks and

kingcounty.gov/parks). We start in Bothell, at the northern end of the trail, to ride bikes toward Seattle, since Elizabeth’s home is at the northern end of Lake Washington. On a future visit, we’ll take the 10.9-mile **Sammamish River Trail** from Bothell to Marymoor Park in Redmond.

Inside the Wayne Tunnel, near Blyth Park in Bothell, we’re surrounded by a colorful mural titled **Ebb & Flow** that covers the inside of the tunnel underneath 96th Avenue Northeast. Created by artist Kristen Ramirez with the help of community volunteers, the mural is a kaleidoscope of bright stripes and symbols that represent the region’s flora and fauna.

Last year *Ebb & Flow* received national recognition as an outstanding public-art project from Americans for the Arts.

We enjoy views of woods and Lake Washington, and pass sites such as Matthews Beach Park during an approximately 9-mile trail stretch before taking a half-mile detour east to **Warren G. Magnuson Park**. The park

The dynamic *Ebb & Flow* mural in the Burke-Gilman Trail's Wayne Tunnel.

offers a mile of Lake Washington shoreline, walking trails, an excellent kite-flying hill and a butterfly garden. We want to see John T. Young's *The Fin Project: From Swords into Plowshares*, comprising 22 decommissioned submarine fins arranged to represent a pod of swimming orcas. The fins, each weighing about 10,000 pounds, are placed at various angles and heights, creating a sense of movement.

Back on the trail, we pedal about 5.5 miles to Gas Works Park—which provides outstanding views of Lake Union and the Seattle skyline from the northern shore of the lake, and is our final stop on today's ride.

At the crest of Kite Hill



REN LAMBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES

(this park also has a great kite-flying site), we view Charles Greening and Kim Lazare's interactive public-art piece called *Sundial*. The large flat sundial is made of multicolored concrete embedded with a cast-bronze sun and moon, plus shells, ceramic pieces and other found objects. To tell time, the viewer becomes the vertical element by standing in the center.

On the Waterfront

Elizabeth and I start the third day of my visit with an exploration of the area known as the **Waterfront**, along Elliott Bay in downtown Seattle. At the north end of the Waterfront, the Seattle Art Museum's 9-acre **Olympic Sculpture Park** is exhibiting 21 permanent and temporary sculptures this spring and summer. SAM offers free public

tours of the sculpture park on various dates.

We admire well-known pieces such as Alexander Calder's 39-foot-tall, red-orange, steel *Eagle*, and we also like less-prominent works, such as Louise Nevelson's *Sky Landscape I*, with welded-aluminum elements that suggest totems reaching toward the sky.

A new exhibit, *Blue Sun*, by Seattle artist Victoria Haven, will be on view through March 5, 2017. Haven's large abstract wall drawing—sketched with pencil and then filled in with paint—covers the PACCAR Pavilion's east interior wall and was inspired by a video project in which she filmed Lake Union from her studio window over 10 months.

Moving south along the wa-

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SEATTLE'S HISTORIC WATERFRONT- PIERS 54-60

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Chinatown—International District; Smithsonian affiliate: Spaces such as the Mahjong room in the historic 1910 hotel where many immigrants first found shelter in America. Also guided walking tours such as the Touch of Chinatown Tour, Bitter & Sweet Tour and Bruce Lee's Chinatown Tour.

LODGING

Hotel Āndra (hotelandra.com): Stylish and sophisticated boutique hotel, within walking distance of downtown attractions.

Hotel Five, Pineapple Hospitality (hotelfiveseattle.com): Funky, modern and fun; convenient to

many Seattle attractions; amenities include complimentary local shuttle service and bicycle use.

Motif Seattle, A Destination Hotel (motifseattle.com): Cosmopolitan ambiance inspired by the region's fashion, music and arts scenes; vast upstairs deck adjoins a spacious lounge with Xbox games.

Palladian Hotel, Kimpton Hotels (palladianhotel.com): Pairs luxe, hip and playful with Old World charm; complimentary evening social hour, use of hotel bikes and yoga mat in every room.

Sheraton Seattle, Starwood Hotels & Resorts (sheratonseattle.com): Contemporary urban retreat in the heart of downtown, with vibrant, innovative and warm hospitality; amenities include the Sheraton Signature Bed and an indoor pool.

DINING

Anthony's Pier 66 (anthonysons.com): Fresh seafood daily, plus a fantastic view of Elliott Bay, by the Bell Street Cruise Terminal.

Assaggio (assaggiouseattle.com): Fresh ingredients in dishes inspired by central and northern Italy, in vibrant Belltown.

Elliott's Oyster House (elliottsoysterhouse.com): Known for fresh shellfish, prepared with care, on the Seattle Waterfront.

Fonté Cafe & Wine Bar (cafefonte.com): Bistro fare at a unique downtown coffee roaster, cafe and wine bar.

Lark (larkseattle.com): Focusing on local, seasonal and organic ingredients, on Capitol Hill.

Metropolitan Grill (themetropolitangrill.com): Premium beef and service at a classic top-tier steakhouse in a handsome space in a historic 1903 building downtown.

Nue (nueseattle.com): Creative rotating menu in a casual gathering place on Capitol Hill, designed to provide an eclectic mix of authentic ingredients and dishes found during travels abroad.

The Pink Door (thepinkdoor.net): A local secret, with a pink metal door but no nameplate, in Pike Place Market; homespun Italian-American dishes, a water-view patio, and entertainment ranging from cabaret to trapeze to tarot.

Radiator Whiskey (radiatorwhiskey.com): Innovative, sometimes avant-garde, dishes, as well as more-traditional items; extensive drink menu; at Pike Place Market.

Sport Restaurant & Bar (sportrestaurant.com): Lively vibe, local sports memorabilia, TVs in all the dining-room booths, and traditional American fare, including gourmet burgers and an acclaimed Reuben sandwich; near Seattle Center.



WILLIAM JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY

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Happy
Salmon

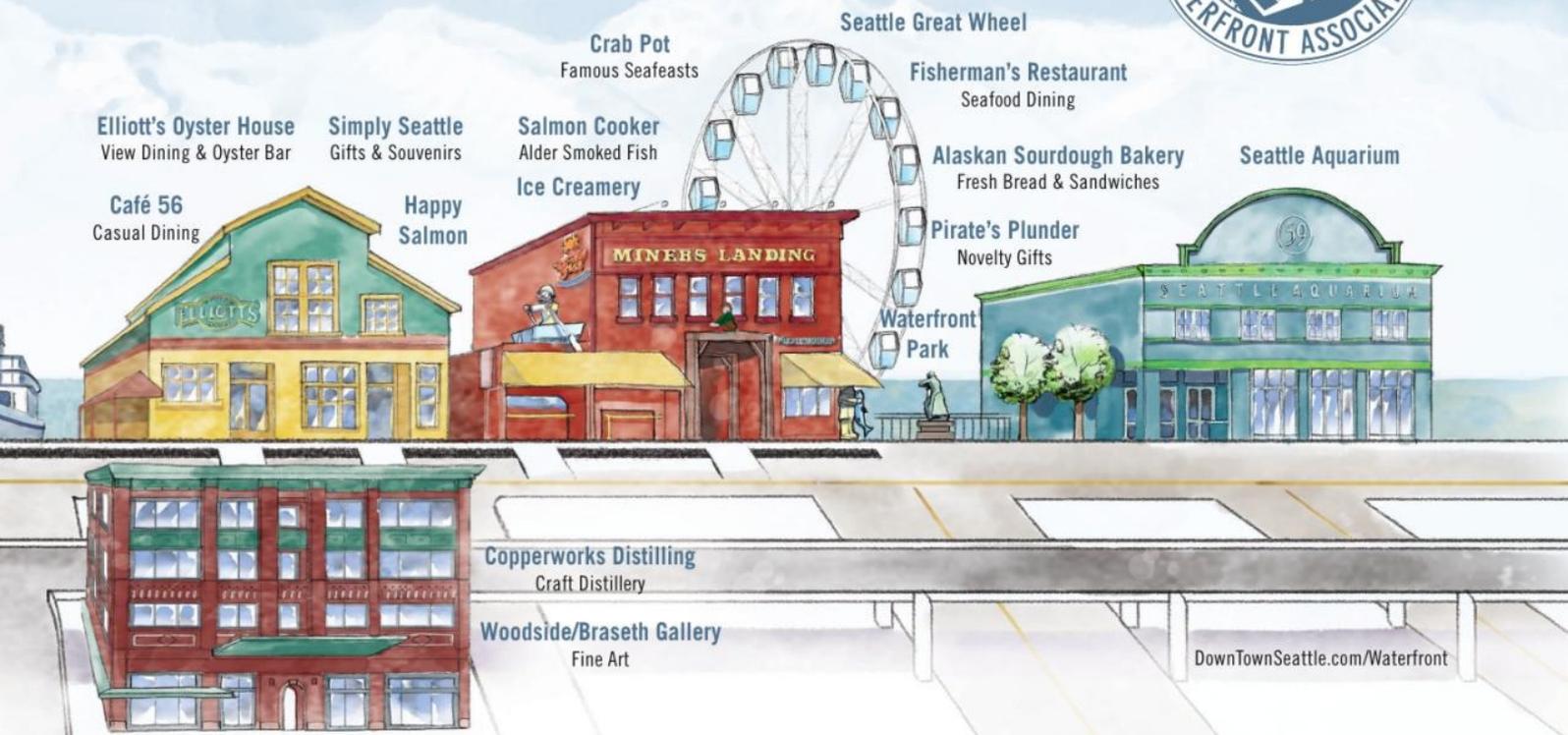
Pirate's Plunder
Novelty Gifts

Waterfront
Park

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DowntownSeattle.com/Waterfront



terfront, we stop at Waterfront Park to enjoy the **Waterfront Fountain**, by James FitzGerald and his wife, Margaret Tomkins. The fountain's cast and welded bronze structure comprises large cubical shapes over which water pours into a pool below, pleasing us visually and aurally.

The 4.8-acre **Waterfront Park**, between Pier 59 and Pier 57, is located at the site where the steamship *Portland* arrived in 1897 with a "ton of gold" discovered in Canada's Yukon. The ship's arrival helped launch the Klondike Gold Rush, with Seattle prospering as a supply center.

Pier 59, north of the park, is home to the **Seattle Aquarium** (seattleaquarium.org), where visitors can see approximately 350 sealife species, from sea otters to giant Pacific octopuses.



INGE JOHNSON / ALAMY

In the Underwater Dome, visitors get a nearly eye-to-eye view of sturgeon, salmon, skates and sharks. And the aquarium's 2016 Beach Naturalist program begins on May 23 this year, with trained volunteers leading fun and educational shoreline tours.

South of the park, at Pier 57, **Miners Landing** (minerslanding.com) includes restaurants, shops, a carousel, and humorous life-size sculptures such as an old salt pulling a giant crab pot. The pier's top attraction, though, is the iconic **Seattle**

Great Wheel. At 175 feet tall, the wheel provides spectacular water and mountain views from its 42 enclosed gondolas.

At Pier 55, **Argosy Cruises** (argosycruises.com) offers narrated tours of Elliott Bay, Lake Union, Lake Washington and the



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Chittenden Locks (aka Ballard Locks), and a **Tillicum Village Excursion** to Blake Island. The four-hour excursion spotlights Native American art in a long-house; a stage performance by Native dancers; and a dinner featuring fish prepared over alderwood fires in traditional Northwest Native style.

At Pier 54, we're enthralled by the 1920s Artizan Factories military band organ playing outside **Ye Olde Curiosity Shop**, which opened for business in 1899, when Seattle was still a frontier town. The organ—a piece of musical art, with its wooden pipes visible and its wooden frame painted with a mountain scene—plays about 100 tunes, including marches. Other curiosities at the shop include real mummies, a three-tusk walrus skull and jumping beans.

New works of art will be on display on the Waterfront in the future when a major seawall reconstruction project is completed. Artists commissioned by the city to create new works for the upgraded waterfront (waterfrontseattle.org/art) include **Buster Simpson** and **Ann Hamilton**. Simpson's work is expected to relate to the environmental restoration of the seawall, and Hamilton envisions a project that conveys and amplifies forces such as wind and tide.

All of the Waterfront attractions, along with restaurants such as **Ivar's Acres of Clams** and **The Crab Pot**, are open during construction; see waterfrontseattle.org/visit-the-waterfront for up-to-the-minute information on how to access each site.

Pike Place Market

Also being enhanced is Pike Place Market (pikeplacemarket.org), another of the city's most



ROBERT HARDING / ALAMY

Left: Miners Landing attractions range from whimsical art to the Seattle Great Wheel. **Above:** Vintage produce signs at Pike Place Market. **Right:** Lamppost figures are part of the *Short Cut* installation at the market.

popular sites. Built in 1907 on a bluff overlooking Elliott Bay, the 9-acre market now has more than 80 farm stalls and 400 other businesses, from arts-and-crafts vendors to restaurants.

After watching fishmongers expertly toss fresh salmon back and forth at Pike Place Fish, Elizabeth and I seek out some of the market's artworks.

These include two bronze statues of pigs, cast by artist Georgia Gerber. **Rachel the Piggy Bank**, the 550-pound mascot of the Pike Place Market Foundation, is located at the market's main entrance on First Avenue, under the huge "Public Market Center" sign and clock. Visitors are invited to drop coins or bills into the slot on her back. The



TIM THOMPSON

foundation uses the money to support social services.

Rachel's little-known cousin, **Billie the Piggy Bank** (600 pounds), is currently located by the Western Avenue level of the Pike Place Hillclimb Walk, which Elizabeth and I used to reach the market from the Waterfront. But Billie will soon be moving about 350 feet to the northwest to the new **MarketFront** plaza, part of a \$73 million project expected to be completed by the end of this year, with an opening celebration in the spring of 2017.

The project is converting a three-quarter-acre surface parking lot on Western Avenue into

a dynamic public plaza with seating and views of Puget Sound, plus table space for farmers, craftspeople and other artisans.

Old Stove Brewing Company plans to move its new brew/gastropub to the site, and other businesses that plan to be part of the MarketFront include Honest Biscuits bakery; indi chocolate; and JarrBar, which makes seafood tapas. These restaurants will complement longtime market favorites such as Lowell's and Three Girls Bakery.

The Pike Place Market Foundation has already commissioned two public art pieces for the market expansion, with more to come. **Three mosaic murals** by longtime market artist Clare Dohna will depict the market's bounty of fish, flowers, fruits and vegetables, and recognize the names of major MarketFront donors.

Western Tapestry, by local artist John Fleming, will comprise 671 4-inch-wide aluminum strips of varying lengths that



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market visitors will have a chance to paint this summer before Fleming arranges them to create a vibrant multicolored tapestry.

After taking a picture with *Rachel the Piggy Bank*, Elizabeth and I stroll a few paces to the north and look up above the crowd to see Aki Sogabe's five porcelain enamel art panels constituting *Song of the Earth*, which shows scenes of farmers tilling the soil, harvesting produce and selling the fruits of their labor. The panels commemorate the history of Japanese-American farmers at Pike Place Market.

We also look for a more unusual type of art we've read about: distinctive **hand-painted wooden produce signs** thought to have been created in the 1950s. We discover them above the market's highstalls inside the Main Arcade. Most are printed with some version of "Quality Fruits & Vegetables Fresh Picked Daily," and one includes a painting of delicious-looking fresh carrots, tomatoes, apples and peaches.

Descending the stairs of the Pike Place Hillclimb Walk to return to our parked car, we notice several fanciful 30-inch-tall, cast-aluminum sculptures of people attached to walls, walkways and ceilings and holding globe-shaped lamps to light the way for pedestrians. It turns out there are seven of these sculptures, which make up the 2010 installation *Short Cut*, by Seattle artist Dan Webb.

As Elizabeth and I chat, recapping our explorations, I realize how impressed I am by the fascinating and varied art Seattle has to offer, and by the number of works that can so readily be viewed and enjoyed at the city's main attractions. **S**

Writer Susan Goracke lives in Portland, Oregon.

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Eastside Story

Exceptional recreation, from Snoqualmie Falls to Woodinville wines to Bellevue blossoms **By Todd Powell**

I'VE YET TO SEE THE SAME WATERFALL TWICE on my visits to Snoqualmie Falls Park. On rainy spring days, the wide, white sheet of **Snoqualmie Falls** can roar with recent snowmelt. Late in the summer, however, the intensity of the cataract narrows into focused chutes of hydraulic energy. And in winter, the freezing spray can crystallize on the surrounding rocks, creating an otherworldly patina of ice that evokes something out of Norse mythology.

I've also seen the difference a few hours can make. An early-morning view, when the fog is clearing, will set in relief the brilliance of the falls against the darkened cliffs, the cascades taking on a blue tint as they spill into shadow. Come afternoon, as the rocks, the trees and the basin brighten, the slate-green Snoqualmie River becomes more prominent.

The falls are on my mind

because this awe-inspiring site is my destination today. Having begun at Nick Loutsis Park in Carnation—about 30 miles east of Seattle, in a part of King County known as the Eastside—I'm riding my mountain bike along the scenic 31.5-mile **Snoqualmie Valley Trail**, the longest trail in King County (kingcounty.gov/services/parks-recreation.aspx).

With sections that travel through a beautiful agricultural



SOPHIE POWELL



Left: The author enjoys the Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

Above: Spectacular Snoqualmie Falls. **Right:** A viewing platform at Snoqualmie Falls Park provides a vista of the scenic Snoqualmie River.

valley with dairy farms, and pass rural towns and a half-dozen designated natural areas, the historic former Milwaukee Railroad route is ideal for walkers, joggers and mountain bikers. Bike rentals are available from compassoutdooradventures.com, which also offers shuttle service in Snoqualmie Valley, and from pedalanywhere.com, which delivers rental bikes throughout the Puget Sound region, including access points for the Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

Last year, the packed-gravel trail, which runs between McCormick Park in Duvall



SCOTT HARDER

rows, searching for the juiciest morsels to put in their flats. Some bicyclists and walkers take a short detour to join the U-pickers, or to enjoy a farm-size sandwich or piece of pie at the Railway Cafe. Later in the summer, visitors will be picking raspberries.

I'm also reminded of a time when my kids were younger and not only rode the train, but also enjoyed other amusements at the farm, including pony rides, a kid-size roller coaster, and a kids' driving track with miniature circa-1900 Ford Model T cars that were created for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair.

As I head toward Fall City and Snoqualmie Falls, the trail's grade gently increases, and the route departs from the lowlands

and Rattlesnake Lake near North Bend, was named a **National Recreation Trail** by the Department of the Interior and its National Park Service, an honor that recognizes exceptional trails and trail systems that link communities to recreational opportunities.

Today's trip to the falls features an approximately 10-mile portion of the trail (20 miles roundtrip), and the journey is as enjoyable as the destination. Emerging from a corridor of evergreens, I feel the breeze ruffling my shirt and see amber rays glinting on trailside grasses.

Soon I'm crossing a bridge

over the Tolt River, which will meet up with the Snoqualmie River about a mile to the west, and I'm offered a glimpse into the Snoqualmie Valley's railroading past as the emerald-green engine of **Remlinger Farms'** 24-inch-gauge steam train comes chugging into view. The half-size train's berry-red wheels and cowcatcher provide a hint of what Remlinger Farms (remlingerfarms.com) is best known for in early summer: U-pick strawberries. The fields where these berries grow come into view, where during strawberry season trail users can see families crouching along the



SCOTT HARDER

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into the forested foothills of the **Cascade Range**. Alpacas and horses are among the farm animals that trail enthusiasts might glimpse along the way, but what I see next makes me smile: Two people standing on bike-size scooters are being given a little extra towing power by their malamutes.

I nod to the various people and their dogs I see on the trail, but for the most part, I'm alone with my gears and my thoughts. Sunlight filters through the moss-covered maples, the firs and cedars, as the trail bends along a hillside. Every now and then I cross a trestle, but one of these will have to wait for another trip, due to repairs. The historic wooden Tokul Creek Trestle, scheduled to reopen in late spring, spans 400 feet across a chasm and was last used by the Milwaukee Railroad in the 1970s.

Varying routes can be used to get to Snoqualmie Falls from the trail, both while the trestle is closed, and when it is open. See the **Compass Outdoor Adventures** blog at compassoutdooradventures.com/journal, or ask the Snoqualmie Valley Chamber (snovalley.org) and other local entities for suggestions.

I've plotted a route that leads to a small bridge over Tokul Creek just past 372nd Avenue Southeast. After crossing the bridge, I climb until the road levels and I reach the **Snoqualmie Falls Park** lower parking area.

This lot—with developed **access for canoes and kayaks**, along with information about the falls and Puget Sound Energy's related hydroelectric project, built in the late 1890s—leads to a boardwalk and an observation deck. Visitors can also hike up a trail to the lookouts above the falls (pse.com/tours).

I lock my bike at a rack near the lot and walk down the boardwalk. The river rushes by on my right, tumbling over huge boulders as I follow the path toward the lookout. And then there it is, the approximately 270-foot waterfall—about 100 feet taller than Niagara

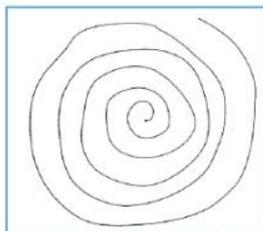
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COURTESY CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE

Also on the Eastside

ATTRACTIONS

Adventura Aerial Adventure Park (adventuraplay.com), Woodinville: Aerial obstacle course, and group activities such as station race; reservations: April–October.

Bellevue Arts Museum (bellevuearts.org): Works by Northwest and international artists; “Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair,” traveling exhibit, May 20–Aug. 14.

Bellevue Downtown Art Walk (bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/Full_version.pdf): Self-guided; more than 120 works.

Boat Tours, Kirkland (argosycruises.com): Argosy Cruises sightseeing tours on Lake Washington, and Waterways Cruises and Events (waterwayscruises.com)



COURTESY CITY OF KIRKLAND

Boat tours of Lake Washington are available in Kirkland.

com) brunch and sunset dinner cruises on Lake Washington.

Emerald Water Anglers (emeraldwateranglers.com), various locations: Guided fly-fishing trips on the Snoqualmie River, as well as on the Yakima and Skagit rivers, and Puget Sound.

KidsQuest Children's Museum (kidsquestmuseum.org), Bellevue: Seven exploration areas, with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). ▶

Falls—an impressive cataract churning up froth and mist.

No wonder people have revered this place for centuries—from the Snoqualmie Tribe, who view it as a sacred place, to the first white settlers, who arrived in the 1850s and tapped the falls for power, to the 2 million visitors who now visit the falls each year. Sacred, powerful, majestic—all of these words describe the ever-changing falls.

Vintage Rewards

The day after my bike ride I'm ready for something that will exercise the taste buds instead of the quads. I head to **Woodinville wine country** (woodinvillewinecountry.com), about 30 miles northeast of Seattle. With more than 100 wineries and tasting rooms, representing every Washington appellation, this area has become a popular destination in its own right. The website provides maps for self-guided tours of the area's four wine districts, and links to companies providing guided tours.

In the Barrel Room at **Chateau Ste. Michelle** (ste-michelle.com), Alex Curry guides me through a Theme Tasting. We

Chateau Ste. Michelle's lovely grounds in Woodinville are a pleasant place for a stroll or a picnic, as well as wine tasting.

start with the winery's **Eroica 2014 Riesling**, a blend of grapes purchased from three noted Eastern Washington vineyards. I check the clarity, then smell the citrusy, tropical notes and take a sip.

“The sweetness and high level of acidity make this an ideal wine for Asian dishes,” says Curry, who is a senior guest services representative at the winery. “Cheeses, salmon. Sushi would be a perfect pairing.”

Riesling is what Ste. Michelle is best known for, and the Eroica is one of its most acclaimed wines. It's also very food friendly. “If you don't know what to bring to a party,” Curry adds, “bring a Riesling or a Pinot Noir.”

We move on to the second wine, a 2014 **Horse Heaven Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc**. Horse Heaven Vineyard is one of the three Eastern Washington vineyards owned by Chateau Ste. Michelle; the other two are Canoe Ridge Estate Vineyard

and Cold Creek Vineyard. The Sauv Blanc is crisp and clean, with a creamier finish that would pair well with oysters or scallops.

Next, Curry pours a sampling of the **Canoe Ridge Estate Vineyard 2012 Merlot**. “These grapes come from softer, dustier soils, which produce Old World–style tannins,” he says. “That's what gives you those dark, jammy, black and red fruit characteristics.” And pairings? Red meats, of course. Strong cheeses, too. Stews. Lamb. Even a good burger.

The fourth and final wine of this tasting is a 2012 Bordeaux-style blend from four vineyards, but primarily Canoe Ridge Estate and Cold Creek. The red blend is part of **Ste. Michelle's Artist Series**, which draws inspiration from such renowned artists as glassblowers Dale Chihuly, Joey Kirkpatrick and Italo Scanga, all with ties to the Northwest.

“The Artist Series really shows the pinnacle of Washington wines,” Curry says. “You're seeing the best fruit and blending techniques in Washington.” He notes the dark, ripe fruit that typifies these wines, and the

Kirkland Downtown Public Art Tour (explorekirkland.com): Self-guided; more than two-dozen outdoor sculptures, from bronze grizzlies to kids leaping over a puddle.

Kirkland Performance Center (kpcenter.org): Performing arts such as The Kingston Trio, May 19, and Seattle Rock Orchestra: Beach Boys Summer Sounds, June 18.

Marina Park (kirklandwa.gov), Kirkland: On the shore of Lake Washington; amenities such as a beach, boat launch, fishing area, and pavilion where live music is performed.

Marymoor Park (kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks), Redmond: Near the Sammamish River; attractions such as birding trails, a velodrome and the early-1900s Clise Mansion. Summer concert series begins June 3.

Mercer Slough Nature Park (bellevuewa.gov/merc_slough.htm), Bellevue: Land trails and a water trail, an environmental-education

center, a blueberry farm and canoe tours.

Parlor Bellevue (parlorlive.com): Billiards, table tennis, comedy club, nightclub.

Redhook Brewery Tours (redhook.com/breweries/woodinville-brewery), Woodinville: Offered most days, year-round; 21st Annual Haul Ash bike ride, May 21, 42 miles roundtrip, Woodinville to Fremont and back, commemorating the eruption of Mount St. Helens.

LODGING

The Heathman Hotel Kirkland, Preferred Hotels & Resorts (heathmankirkland.com): Upscale boutique hotel combining classic elegance and modern luxuries.

Hotel Bellevue (thehotelbellevue.com): Richly furnished luxurious urban retreat, with guest privileges for the spa, fitness classes, three swimming pools and other facilities

at the connected Bellevue Club.

Hyatt Regency Bellevue (bellevue.regency.hyatt.com): Part of The Bellevue Collection of shopping, dining and entertainment options;



COURTESY HYATT REGENCY

contemporary hotel providing “elegant tranquility.” Has an indoor lap pool, and Yuan Spa is across the street from the hotel.

DINING

99 Park (99park-restaurant.com), Bellevue: Daily-changing menu with ingredients from Northwest farms.

Cafe Juanita (cafejuanita.com), Kirkland: Northern Italian cuisine featuring organic local ingredients.

The Commons (thecommonscafe.com), Woodinville: American comfort food, with generous portions.

Deru Market (derumarket.com), Kirkland: Neighborhood eatery serving local, organic seasonal food, with new dinner entrees written on the chalkboard wall each night.

Lynn's Bistro (lynnsbistro.com), Kirkland: Intimate, refined French restaurant specializing in French-Asian fusion cuisine.

Pearl Seafood & Oyster Bar (pearlbellevue.com), Bellevue: Casual elegance and fresh seafood, with preparations changing seasonally.

Seastar Restaurant and Raw Bar (seastarrestaurant.com), Bellevue: Renowned for its fresh-seafood dishes and raw-bar choices, in a bright and airy space.

Volterra (volterrarestaurant.com), Kirkland: Innovative, bold, Tuscan-inspired dishes feature “the bountiful harvest of the Pacific Northwest.”

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COURTESY CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE

Chateau Ste. Michelle's popular Summer Concert Series.

soy-tobacco aromas that result from aging in French-oak barrels. Already I can taste the filet mignon that would go well with my Artist Series wine.

At Chateau Ste. Michelle, it's easy to imagine the finest in dining accompanying the

finest in wines, as well as pairing the wines with the finest in entertainment. Each summer, the award-winning winery hosts an outdoor **Summer Concert Series**, featuring top performers.

You may also find yourself kicking back on the sloping lawn to watch hot-air balloons float overhead during sunset ballooning tours as they make their way down the Sammamish Valley.

Chateau Ste. Michelle is the largest winery in Woodinville wine country, both in terms of production (3 million-plus cases per year) and acreage (107 acres for its Woodinville estate, along with the 3,500 acres of vineyards in Eastern Washington).

The Woodinville grounds—landscaped by the Olmsted Brothers—used to be part of the estate of lumber baron Frederick Stimson. The original 1912 Stimson manor house still remains and is used for special events; it was joined in 1976 by the **French-style chateau that houses the winery**. Inside, you can tour the bottling room and see large stainless-steel tanks where fermentation takes place.

Along the walls, read the story of Ste. Michelle and Eastern Washington's Columbia Valley, where many of Washington's

wine grapes grow in outstanding climate and soil conditions.

Learning such facts is interesting, of course, but it's really just a precursor to tasting and selecting the wine you'd like to enjoy with your picnic dinner and music. That's what summer evenings are about, after all. Getting outside in the open air. Sipping a favorite red or white as dusk arrives and the downbeat kicks in. And, in the end, deciding what pairs well with the elemental funk of Earth, Wind and Fire or Steve Miller's *Fly Like an Eagle* is really up to you—you and your inner sommelier, that is.

Alaska Airlines Visa Signature cardholders can show their card to have tasting fees waived at numerous wineries; visit woodinvillewinecoun-



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GREG VAUGHN / ALAMY

The peaceful Yao Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

try.com/alaskaairvisasignature for a list of participating sites.

Botanical Bliss

The next day, I'm ready to explore on foot again, this time on

the grounds of the **Bellevue Botanical Garden** (bellevuebotanical.org). I've been here before, but each time is a little different, depending on the season.

Today, two artists set up easels as I walk past. The painters stand on a wooden deck at the base of a small waterfall. To their

backs is Rhododendron Glen. Above them, near the start of a trail, stands **Tateuchi Pavilion**, a Japanese-style lookout where visitors can eat lunch or simply sit and take in the dappled sunlight, the large stones breaking up the stream, and the high-pitched songs of birds in the trees. If you look closely, you might even see dark-eyed juncos skittering about in the leaves on the ground.

It's a splendid day to be outside painting, and it's a splendid day to be walking the half-mile Tateuchi Loop Trail toward the garden's **Ravine Experience**, a new attraction since my last time here. Just past the **Native Discovery Garden**, I take the Lost Meadow Trail—so named because this parcel represents how the land looked before the gardens were cultivated. An off-

shoot of this trail leads down to a 150-foot suspension bridge that spans the ravine.

The bridge, set off by a stone entrance, provides a view to natural Northwest habitat below, and access to a narrower, more intimate woodland trail. The bridge also offers just enough bounce to be fun without being unnerving as I cross and peer down at the creek, and at the ferns, cedars and maples of the native understory in the protected ravine.

Crows and spotted towhees squawk and chatter overhead. In addition to these birds, visitors to the garden might spy eagles, hawks, owls, Steller's jays, and, perhaps most striking of all, the vermilion-headed, yellow-breasted western tanager, which can be seen during



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the summer before it heads south.

The garden provides both an oasis for nature lovers and an educational experience for those who tend gardens privately and professionally. In fact, on this day, a group from a professional gardeners association has been attending meetings in the garden's **Aaron Education Center**.

At noon they bring out box lunches and array themselves in the sunshine at locales such as the Rock Garden, the Perennial Border Garden, the Fuchsia Garden and the Spring Courtyard. The people are almost as chatty as the birds I heard in the ravine.

Before leaving, I spend time at the **Yao Garden**, which was created to honor Bellevue's sister-city relationship with Yao, Japan. Passing through a traditional wooden Japanese gate, I enter an enclosed area that blends Japanese and Northwest influences—with a pond, Japanese lanterns, Columbia River basalt stones, Northwest viburnums, azaleas and rhododendrons, and Japanese maples, roses, pieris and spirea. A jogger circles the pond and exits. I follow the same path around the pond before heading back to the visitor center. On my way, I pass the artists at their easels. Their paintings have progressed more than I expected. Their depictions of the waterfall have taken shape.

Has it really been only two hours? Maybe I should stay a couple more. After all, there's something about a waterfall—and the Eastside's many other natural attractions—that commands your attention and invites you to linger. **S**

Todd Powell lives on the Eastside.

Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) flies daily to Seattle, gateway to the Eastside. For more information on activities and attractions, go to websites such as snowalley.org, visitbellevuewashington.com, explorekirkland.com and experiencewa.com, which also lists other Eastside visitor bureaus.

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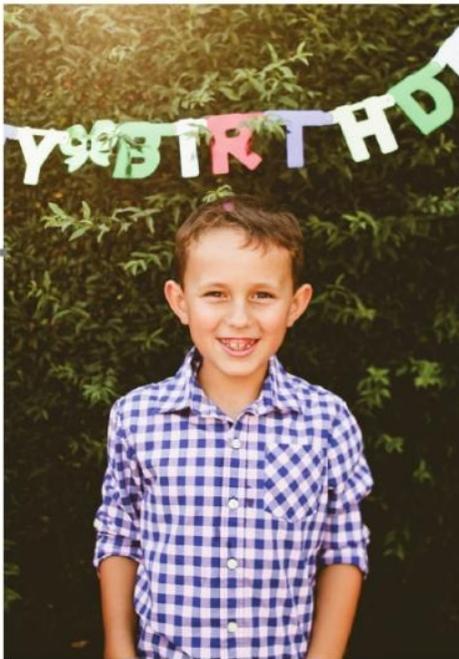
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Day (or Longer) Trips

A few ideas for great excursions from Seattle

Bellingham/Whatcom County

(bellingham.org): Activities range from numerous outdoor adventures to tasting locally made wine, beer and spirits. Enjoy the waterfront, beach and exceptional golf at **Semiahmoo Resort** (semiahmoo.com), and take the **Mount Baker Scenic Byway** to mountain, forest and meadow views in the Mount Baker–Snoqualmie National Forest (www.fs.usda.gov/mbs).



The Flying Heritage Collection.

COURTESY FLYING HERITAGE COLLECTION

Flying Heritage Collection

(flyingheritage.com): More than 20 vintage military aircraft, along with tanks and other rare artifacts, are on display in two large hangars at Everett's Paine Field; also special events throughout the year. The collection is owned and displayed by Seattle Seahawks owner/Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen.

Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour

(futureofflight.org): Spotting Boeing's production line in Everett, this is North America's only publicly available tour of a commercial jet-assembly plant.

Gig Harbor

(gigharborguide.com): This charming maritime area has boutique shops and restaurants; the new **Main & Vine market**, featuring fresh, local foods; a distillery; wine bars; harbor tours; guided fly-fishing; and watercraft rentals. The **Gig Harbor BoatShop** offers a weekend family skiff-building program on various dates. And **Harbor WildWatch** leads interpretive programs such as Get Your Feet Wet and Citizen Science Experience.

Leavenworth

(leavenworth.org): A picturesque region amid the Cascade Mountains, it's known for its Bavarian-themed village and shops. It also has wineries, breweries, distilleries, outdoor-theater performances, watersports (including whitewater rafting), bicycling, fishing, golfing, hiking, climbing, horseback riding, wagon rides, ziplines, and winter activities ranging from Nordic skiing to dogsledding.



Mount Rainier wildflowers.

SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Kayaking in Bellingham.

PETER CAREY / ALAMY

Mount Rainier National Park

(nps.gov/mora), **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument** (fs.usda.gov/mountsthelens) and **Olympic National Park** (nps.gov/olym): Explore these breathtaking nationally protected lands via a self-drive trip, or book an excursion that leaves from Seattle (evergreenescapes.com).

Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater area

(visitolympia.com): Activities and attractions include tours of the 1928 **state capitol building**; the **South Sound Wine Trail**; distilleries; one of the world's largest collections of beads, at **Shipwreck Beads**; the **Thurston Bountiful Byway** agritourism self-tour; kayak rentals; and trails in the **Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge** (fws.gov/refuge/Billy_Frank_Jr_Nisqually).

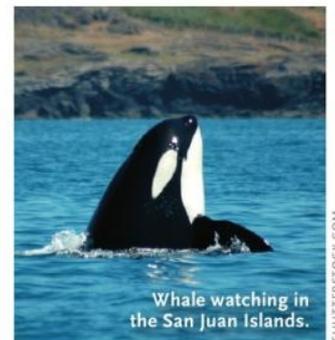
San Juan Islands

(visitsanjuans.com): The islands are world-famous for providing relaxing, scenic getaways, with recreation such as whale watching (and **The Whale Museum**, whalemuseum.org), paddle-

sports, sailing, fishing, cycling, hiking, horseback riding, climbing and ziplining. Also enjoy seaports, villages and boutique shops; locally made wine, beer, cider and spirits; farm visits; and the **San Juan Islands Scenic Byway**.

Skagit Tours

(skagittours.com): Seattle City Light offers several fascinating tours, including a scenic boat excursion on spectacular **Diablo Lake in North Cascades National Park**, Thursdays–Mondays, June 30–Sept. 25. The tour ends with an organic, locally sourced lunch at the lakeside **North Cascades Environmental Learning Center** (ncascades.org). **S**



Whale watching in the San Juan Islands.

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More Recreation Centers

Attractions, lodging and dining in Greater Seattle neighborhoods

By Michele Andrus Dill



URBAN TEXTURE / ALAMY

LAST YEAR I asked Lori, a 12-year-old I was mentoring, how she'd like to celebrate the momentous occasion of becoming a teenager. Her eyes lit up. "I'd like to go to the zoo for my birthday. I remember how much fun we had there when I was younger."

A cat lover, who has two ginger-colored felines of her own, she was doubly thrilled when I told her that three Malayan tiger brothers were now at Woodland Park Zoo, and that three lion cubs had been born.

We spent a lot of time watching the big tigers stride back and forth—"showing off," Lori said—and we laughed at the antics of the lion cubs. Our other favorites included frolicking Humboldt penguins, trotting gray wolves and leaf-munching colobus monkeys. We rode the carousel—twice—and we capped off the day by commissioning a flattering caricature of

Lori to permanently record her new teenage glory.

The zoo is located southwest of the Green Lake neighborhood, one of the many Greater Seattle areas that offer outstanding recreation. Below are a few

suggestions related to four of these regions; please see the websites noted for more information on attrac-

tions, lodging and dining in each area.

South Lake Union

Pedestrian-friendly neighborhood just north of downtown, home to many tech companies and known for its hip vibe (discoverslu.com).



SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Top: Lake Union Park attractions include a model-boat pond, near the Museum of History & Industry. **Above:** The Center for Wooden Boats on Lake Union offers boat rentals and classes.

ATTRACTIONS

Center for Wooden Boats

(cwb.org), at Lake Union Park (atlakeunionpark.org and seattle.gov/parks): Displays of hand-built watercraft; rentals of rowboats, canoes and sailboats.

Lake Cruises: Rent and captain an electric boat (theelectricboatco.com), or take a guided Argosy Cruise (argosycruises.com) or a Sunday Ice Cream Cruise (seattleferryservice.com).

Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) (mohai.org), at Lake Union Park: Highlights Northwest history, with more than 4 million intriguing objects in its collection. Upcoming exhibits include "Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s," July 2–Sept. 25.

Northwest Seaport Maritime Heritage Center (nwseaport.org): Tour the historic *Arthur Foss* and *Lightship No. 83* (tour dates vary); also enjoy chan-



Dunn Gardens.

MIKE STEGEL

tey sings on second Fridays.

Paddling Lake Union:

Rent kayaks or paddleboards to explore the lake and see sights such as houseboats. Rental companies include Moss Bay (mossbay.co), Northwest Outdoor Center (nwoc.com) and Agua Verde (aguaverde.com).

LODGING

Courtyard Marriott Seattle Downtown/Lake Union (marriott.com); **Hampton Inn & Suites Seattle—Downtown**

(near the South Lake Union area; hamptoninn3.hilton.com); **Pan Pacific Seattle Hotel** (panpacific.com/seattle).

DINING

Cuoco (cuoco-seattle.com); **MistralKitchen** (mistral-kitchen.com); **Novilhos Brazilian Steakhouse** (novilhos.com).

Neighborhoods North

Numerous unique and vibrant neighborhoods, including Ballard, Broadview, Fremont, Green

Lake, the University of Washington district and Wallingford (visitseattle.org, ballardchamber.com, broadviewseattle.org, fremont.com, greenlakechamber.com, visitwallingford.org, washington.edu/discover/visit).

ATTRACTIONS

Archie McPhee (archiemcpee-seattle.com), Wallingford: Novelty items from a toy/gift/craft/party-supply shop that prides itself on being weird.

Dunn Gardens (dunngardens.org), Broadview: Century-old gardens with a beautiful 7.5-acre Olmsted Brothers design; guided tours, by reservation, select days and times, April–July and September–October.

Fremont Sunday Market (fremontmarket.com): European-style street market, with up to 200 vendors.

The Fremont Tour (thefremonttour.com): Combines improv theater with the area's fun public art, including the **Fremont Rocket** (a Cold War rocket fuselage, now sporting neon lights, that bears a local



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The Fremont Rocket.

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motto: *De Libertas Quirkus*—“Freedom to be Peculiar”) and the **Fremont Troll** (an 18-foot-tall sculpture of a troll holding an actual VW Beetle, under the Aurora Avenue Bridge). Tours take place Sundays, June 26–Sept. 4.

Green Lake Park (seattle.gov/parks): A 323.7-acre green space with a wading pool, nonmotorized-boat rentals and a 2.8-mile lakeside path.

Hiram M. Chittenden Locks (ballardlocks.org), Ballard: Watch boats transfer between freshwater and saltwater. July to September, salmon swim up the fish ladder.

Nordic Heritage Museum (nordicmuseum.org), Ballard: Celebrates the values, art

and spirit of Nordic peoples.

University of Washington (washington.edu/discover/visit), University District: Waterfront Activities Center canoe and rowboat rentals; performing-arts events; and attractions such as the **Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture** (burkemuseum.org), whose collection includes more than 16

million specimens and artifacts.

Woodland Park Zoo (zoo.org), southwest of Green Lake: More than 1,000 animals representing 300-plus species from around the world. The zoo recently

welcomed a new red panda, and a new butterfly exhibit is scheduled to open in June. Zoo-

Tunes concerts take place June through August each year.

LODGING

Hotel Ballard (hotelballard.com); **Watertown Hotel**, Pineapple Hospitality (watertownseattle.com), and sister property **University Inn** (universityinnseattle.com), both in the University District.

DINING

Bongos (bongosseattle.com), Green Lake; **Canlis** (canlis.com), Queen Anne; **Chaco Canyon Organic Cafe** (chacocanyoncafe.com), University District and Greenwood; **Joule** (joulerestaurant.com), Fremont; **Kisaku** (kisaku.com), Green Lake; **Nell's Restaurant** (nellsrestaurant.com), Green Lake; **Picolinos** (ristorantepicolinos.com), Ballard; **Ponti Seafood Grill**



DOROTHY ALEXANDER / ALAMY

Pioneer Square Pergola.

(pontiseafoodgrill.com), Ship Canal area; **RockCreek Seafood & Spirits** (rockcreekseattle.com), Fremont; **Tilth** (tilthrestaurant.com), Wallingford; **The Whale Wins** (thewhalewins.com), Fremont.

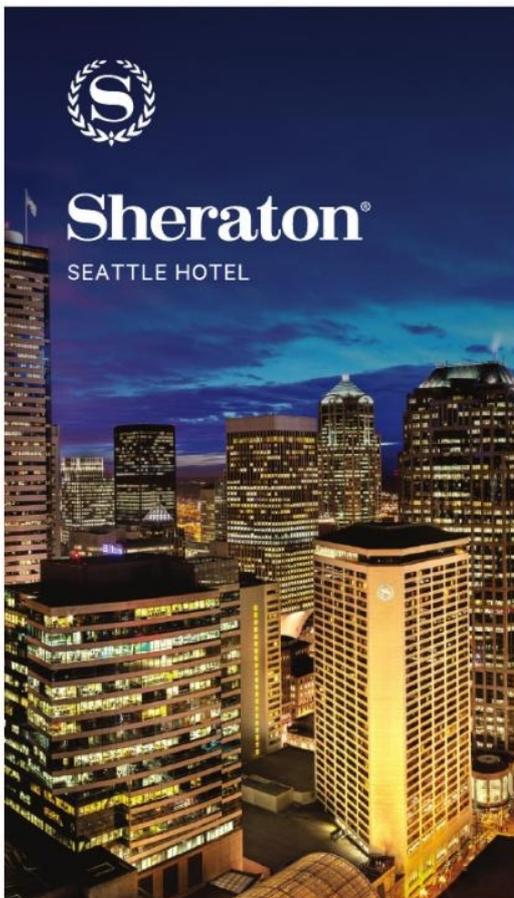
South of Downtown

Includes Seattle's original neighborhood, Pioneer Square, established in 1852 and featuring 1800s Renaissance Revival architecture (pioneersquare.



JEREMY DWYER-LINDGREN

Eagle, a Humboldt penguin at Woodland Park Zoo.



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Fantagraphics Books & Gallery.

URBAN TEXTURE / TALAMY

org); the Stadium District, where three of Seattle's pro sports teams play; and Georgetown, where industry and art both flourish (visitseattle.org).

ATTRACTIONS

Bill Speidel's Underground Tour (undergroundtour.com), Pioneer Square: Entertaining history-and-culture walking tour.

CenturyLink Field (centurylinkfield.com), Stadium District:

Enjoy Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Sounders FC games, and take tours of the stadium.

Fantagraphics Books & Gallery (fantagraphics.com), Georgetown: One of the world's top publishers of comics and graphic novels. President Obama penned the intro to the latest volume (the 25th, being released this month) in Fantagraphics's *The Complete Peanuts* series.

Georgetown Trailer Park Mall (georgetowntrailerpark.com): Independent artists, designers and collectors; open weekends.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Seattle Unit (nps.gov/klse/index.htm), Pioneer Square area: Interactive exhibits tell the story of the Gold Rush era.

Safeco Field (seattle.mariners.mlb.com), Stadium District: Watch the Seattle Mariners play, and take tours of the field, whose 2016 concessions include new options such as The Big Cheese grilled-cheese sandwich bar, featuring local Beecher's cheese.

School of Acrobatics and New Circus Arts (sancaseattle.org), Georgetown: "Single-serving" classes such as "Flying Trapeze for Everyone,"

and performances on various dates.

LODGING

Best Western Plus Pioneer Square Hotel (bestwestern.com); **Courtyard Seattle Downtown/Pioneer Square** (marriott.com); **Silver Cloud Hotel Seattle—Stadium** (silvercloud.com/seattlestadium).

DINING

Bar Sajor (barsajor.com), Pioneer Square; **Brass Tacks** (georgetownbrass.com), Georgetown; **Girin Steakhouse & Ssam Bar** (girinseattle.com), Pioneer Square; **Il Corvo** (ilcorvopasta.wordpress.com), Pioneer Square; **Pyramid Alehouse, Brewery & Restaurant** (pyramidbrew.com), Stadium District; **Taylor Shellfish Oyster Bar** (tayloroysterbars.com), Pioneer Square.

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Southside & Tacoma

Approximately 20 minutes south of downtown Seattle, the Southside—comprising the SeaTac, Tukwila and Des Moines areas—offer lots to do (seattlesouthside.com). And the Tacoma/Pierce County area, approximately 35 miles south of Seattle, has evolved into one of the state's most popular destinations (traveltacoma.com).

ATTRACTIONS

Chambers Bay Golf Course (chambersbaygolf.com), Tacoma area: Spectacular 7,585-yard links-style course with a view of Puget Sound; hosted the 2015 U.S. Open.

Children's Museum of Tacoma (playtacoma.org): Five playscapes—from “Voyager” to “Invention.”

Emerald Downs Racetrack (emeralddowns.com), Auburn, about 10 miles southeast of Des Moines: Thoroughbred racing through Sept. 11.

Foss Waterway Seaport museum, seasonal (fosswaterwayseaport.org), and **Thea's Park** (metroparkstacoma.org), Tacoma: Showcases the history of the Tacoma waterfront and pioneer Thea Foss.



COURTESY LEMAY MUSEUM

LeMay—America's Car Museum (americascarmuseum.org), Tacoma: Vintage vehicles, modern marvels, simulators, and exciting special events such

as Family STEM Day, the third Saturday of each month, and the Vintage Motorcycle Festival: The Meet at ACM, July 30.

Muckleshoot Casino (muckleshootcasino.com), Auburn: Gaming, dining and live entertainment, from music to comedy; celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2015.

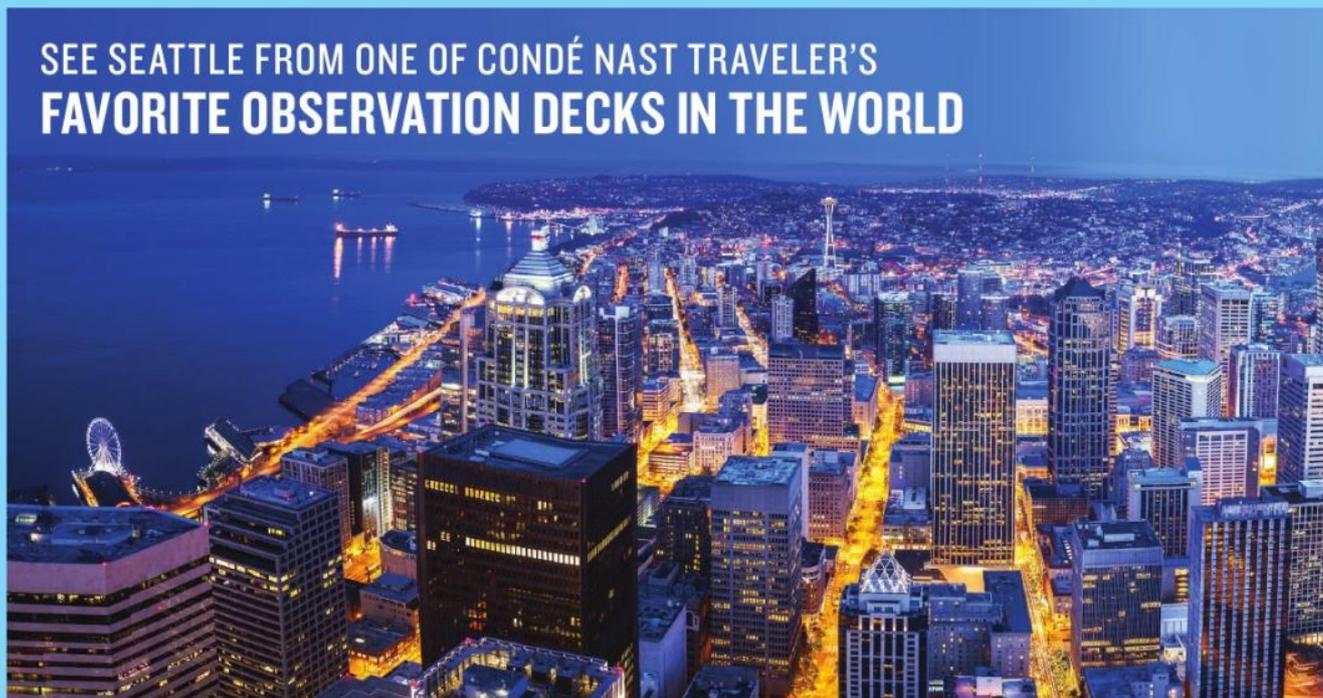
Museum of Flight (museumofflight.org), Seattle-Tukwila area: More than 160 historic planes and space vehicles; the Space Shuttle Full Fuselage Trainer; interactive exhibits; simulators; and “The Boeing Centennial Exhibit,” featuring the world's largest display of Boeing planes and artifacts in celebration of Boeing's founding on July 15, 1916. Also: Boeing's “Above and Beyond” interactive

traveling exhibit for families will be at the Museum of Flight, May 28–Sept. 10 (aboveandbeyondexhibition.com).

Museum of Glass (museumofglass.org), Tacoma: Glass art from the Northwest and the world, with more than 1,000 artworks and more than 66,000 photos in the museum's collections; a Hot Shop where you can watch artists during their creation process; and special exhibits such as “David Huchthausen: A Retrospective Selection,” July 23, 2016–Jan. 8, 2017. Also: Stroll the 500-foot **Chihuly Bridge of Glass**, spotlighting pieces by world-famous local artist Dale Chihuly.

Point Defiance Park (pointdefiancepark.org): The 760-acre Tacoma park boasts sweeping water and mountain

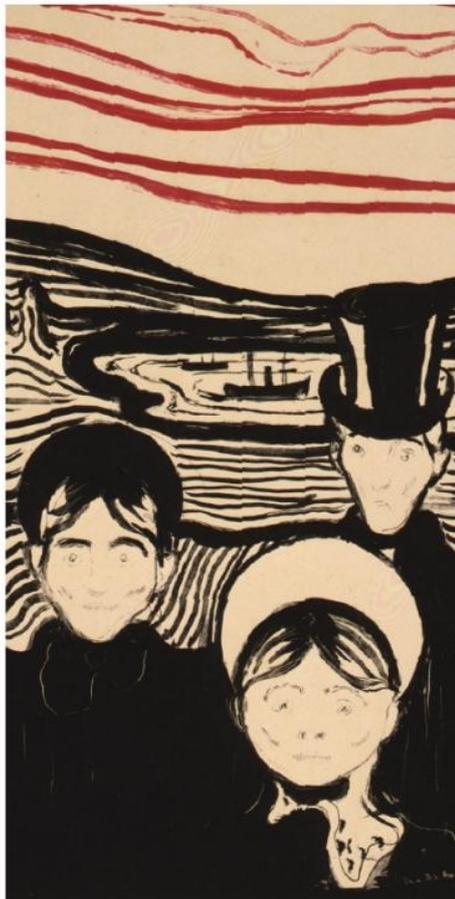
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Edvard Munch (1863-1944), *Angst* (detail), 1896. Color lithograph, 16½ × 15¼ inches. Epstein Family Collection, EFC 061.0. Photo by Philip Charles. © 2016 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

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www.TacomaArtMuseum.org

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views, and popular Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Saltwater State Park (parks.state.wa.us/578/Saltwater), Des Moines: 1,445 feet of shoreline, with tide pools,



COURTESY SEATTLE SOUTHSIDE

hiking/biking trails, and an artificial underwater reef for divers.

Tacoma Art Museum (tacomaart-museum.org): Permanent collection of more than 4,500 works, from Chihuly pieces to art by European masters.

Washington State History Museum (washingtonhistory.org), Tacoma: Excellent exhibits bring the past to life.

LODGING

Cedarbrook Lodge, Coastal Hotels (cedarbrooklodge.com), SeaTac; **Coast Gateway Hotel** (coasthotels.com), SeaTac; **Hampton Inn & Suites Seattle—Airport** (hamptoninn3.hilton.com); **Holiday Inn Express & Suites Puyallup—Tacoma Area** (ihg.com/holidayinnexpress); **Hotel Murano**, A Provenance Hotel (hotelmuranotacoma.com), Tacoma; **La Quinta Inns & Suites Seattle Sea-Tac Airport** (lq.com); **Ramada Tukwila Southcenter** (ramada.com); **Silver Cloud Inn Tacoma Waterfront** (silvercloud.com/tacoma); **Sleep Inn SeaTac Airport** (choicehotels.com).

DINING

Indochine Asian Dining Lounge (indochinedowntown.com), Tacoma; **Marrow Kitchen & Bar** (marrowtacoma.com), Tacoma; **Miyabi Sushi** (miyabisushi.com), Tukwila; **Ram Restaurant & Brewery** (theram.com), Tacoma; **Sharps Roasthouse** (sharpsroasthouse.com), SeaTac; **Wally's Chowder House Broiler** (wallysrestaurants.com), Des Moines; **WildFin American Grill** (wildfinamericangrill.com), Tacoma. **S**



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What's New

A sampling of some of the many happenings around the Puget Sound area

ATTRACTIONS

Holocaust Center for Humanity (holocaustcenterseattle.org), downtown: This new museum and education center includes a thought-provoking permanent exhibit that tells the story of local Holocaust survivors. Also on view is the powerful traveling exhibit "Anne Frank: A History for Today," through May 25. The exhibit, coordinated by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, presents the history of the Holocaust through Anne's life story. Also: Visit the **Seattle Center Peace Garden**, near the base of the Space Needle, to view the Anne Frank Tree Sapling (dedicated May 1), from the chestnut tree Anne saw from her attic window while in hiding.

Above: The new Link light rail station at the University of Washington. **Right:** Celebrating the new State Route 520 Floating Bridge. **Below:** Seattle's Anne Frank Tree Sapling.



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Seattle was one of only 11 U.S. sites chosen to receive a sapling from the tree.

Link light rail service (soundtransit.org) to Capitol Hill, east of downtown, and to the University of Washington, to the north, provides easy carless travel to these dynamic areas, both of which have numerous attractions.

Museum of Flight Aviation Pavilion (museumofflight.org), Southside: Grand opening June 25; will provide an outdoor gallery for 19 commercial and military aircraft, including the

museum's Boeing 747 prototype and Concorde; also new exhibits, a cafe and a kids' playground.

Northwest cider tasting (nwcider.com): Artisanal ciders are a growing sector in the Northwest; taste the results at sites such as Schilling Cider House in Fremont (which claims to have the largest selection of draft hard ciders in the nation), and during Washington Cider Week, Sept. 8–18.

Seattle Streetcar Expansion (seattlestreetcar.org): The



Cedarbrook Lodge's major expansion included a spa.

COURTESY CEDARBROOK LODGE

Also: The Convention Center's art collection is now featured on the STQRY app.

LODGINGS
8th & Howell
(rchco.com),

new First Hill Streetcar route connects Pioneer Square with Capitol Hill.

The State Route 520 Floating Bridge (wsdot.wa.gov)—at 7,710 feet long, the world's longest floating bridge—has been completed across Lake Washington. The new bridge includes an in-process bicycle/pedestrian path.

Washington State Convention Center (wscc.com), downtown: Completed a \$21 million refurbishment last year, including a major upgrade of wireless and fiber-optic connectivity.

downtown: Expected to be Seattle's largest hotel (1,260 guestrooms); scheduled for early 2018 opening.

Bellevue Kimpton (kimptonhotels.com): Luxury boutique hotel; expected to break ground early next year.

Cedarbrook Lodge Expansion (cedarbrooklodge.com), SeaTac: The luxury property has completed a \$16 million expansion that added a 3,350-square-foot spa and a new wing with balcony rooms.

Embassy Suites by Hilton

Seattle Downtown—Pioneer Square (embassysuites.com): Scheduled to open third quarter 2017.

The Fairmont Olympic (fairmont.com/seattle), downtown: A \$25 million renovation of guestrooms and corridors at the historic hotel is expected to be completed this summer.

Hotel 1000 (hotel1000seattle.com), downtown: Has been acquired by Loews Hotels & Resorts, with transition to the Loews Regency brand next year.

Hotel Theodore (hoteltheodore.com), downtown: Upscale urban boutique hotel; expected to open this fall.

Hyatt House Seattle Downtown (hyatthouseseatledowntown.com), by the Space Needle: Extended-stay property with stylish furnishings.

Hyatt Regency Lake Wash-

ington at Seattle's Southport (hyatt.com), Renton: Lakefront site with a 12-floor design in honor of Seattle Seahawks fans; expected to open next year.

The Mark/SLS Seattle Hotel (themarkseattle.com and sbe.com), downtown: Class A office space with a luxury hotel designed by Philippe Starck; opening summer 2017.

McMenamins Anderson School (mcmenamins.com), Bothell: Classrooms are now hotel rooms in the transformed 1931 Art Deco building; amenities include a brewery, a saltwater pool and a movie theater.

Seattle Marriott Bellevue (seattlemarriottbellevue.com): Sleek, modern, residential-inspired style.

Thompson Seattle (thompsonhotels.com), downtown:

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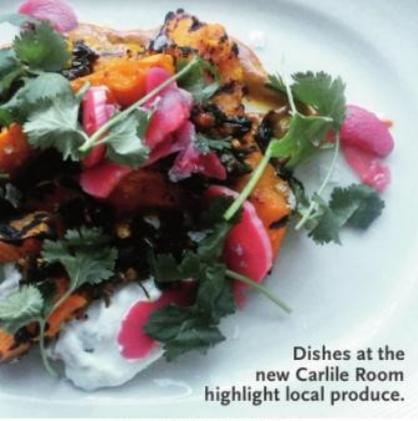
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Contemporary urban luxury in a boutique hotel expected to open in June.

W Bellevue (lincolnsquare-expansion.com): Luxury hotel scheduled to open next spring in Lincoln Square's Two Lincoln Tower at The Bellevue Collection; will have a contemporary Northwest restaurant inspired by the modern Northwest farmhouse (chefjasonwilson.com).

DINING

Bateau (restaurantbateau.com),

Capitol Hill: Steakhouse featuring expertly and innovatively prepared Northwest-raised, grass-fed beef.

The Carlile Room (thecarlile.com), downtown: Named for local singer/songwriter Brandi Carlile; local-plant-based dishes are highlighted, with meat and fresh seafood also available.

Carmine's (ilterrazzocarmine.com), Bellevue: Contemporary approaches to favorite Italian dishes; expected to open this summer.

Circadia (circadiaseattle.com), downtown: Expected to open late this summer; decor and food inspired by the glamour of 1930s Hollywood and New York City restaurants.

Copine (copineseattle.com), Ballard: Expected to open this summer; contemporary American cuisines prepared

using French techniques.

Eden Hill (edenhillrestaurant.com), Queen Anne: Imaginative dishes spotlighting local purveyors.

El Gaucho Seattle (elgaucho.com), downtown: Renowned swanky steakhouse, below the Inn at El Gaucho; live jazz piano music every night; celebrating its 20th anniversary with menu updates, a special 20th-anniversary vintage wine and a contest for the most iconic El Gaucho experiences.

Goldfinch Tavern (goldfinchtavern.com), downtown: Regional seafood and upscale classics at the Four Seasons Hotel Seattle.

Gracia (graciaseattle.com), Ballard: Authentic Mexican food; masa from heirloom corn.

Heartwood Provisions (heartwoodsea.com), down-

Seattle / WHAT'S NEW
town: Artful and rustic cooking, with menus changing weekly to reflect what's in season and also the chef's "collection of tastes, memories, travels and ingredients."

Hurry Curry of Tokyo (hurrycurryoftokyo-seattle.com), Lake Union: Authentic Japanese curry, and Western cuisine-influenced Japanese comfort food.

Lionhead (lionheadseattle.com), Capitol Hill: Unique takes on traditional Sichuan dishes and techniques.

Local Public Eatery (localteryave.com), Lake Union: Pub classics with unique approaches; communal games; bike rack with air pump, water and bike tools; "pooch pound" dog hangout; '80s feel designed to evoke hanging out with friends in a basement rec room.

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Marination (marinationmobile.com), Lake Union: Hawaiian-Korean fusion fare now available at a brick-and-mortar location at Sixth and Virginia.

Nirmal's (nirmalseattle.com), Pioneer Square: Eclectic tastes from multiple regions across India—"Indian cuisine reimagined"—along with global influences.

Orfeo (orfeorestaurant.com), downtown: Contemporary Northwest-focused, seasonally driven food prepared with artisanal techniques, including wood-fired dishes.

Ponti Seafood Grill (pontiseafoodgrill.com), Ship Canal area, north



of downtown: Celebrating its 25th anniversary of impressing diners with wild fish and other fresh local ingredients that combine Northwest bounty, the flavors, scents and spices of Asia, and classic European culinary techniques—all with a water view.

Skillet Regrade (skilletfood.com), Lake Union: The company's latest brick-and-mortar location, redefining modern American fare.

Vestal (vestalseattle.com), Lake Union: Expected to open this summer; inspired by the bounty of the Northwest and influenced by world travels; centered around a coal-fired hearth.

Villa Escondida (villaescondidaseattle.com), downtown: Popular Mexican restaurant, relocated to a site near First and Blanchard; Oaxacan cuisine's a specialty; everything's housemade.

Woodblock (woodblockredmond.com), Redmond: Local and seasonal fare in a wide-ranging menu designed to offer something for everyone.

For more on what's new in Seattle, see sites such as visitseattle.org. **S**

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Exciting Seasons

With summer around the corner, here's a look at the many sporting events that Seattle has to offer.

A POPULAR PACIFIC NORTH-WEST SUMMER experience is spending an afternoon or evening watching the Seattle Mariners at Safeco Field, considered one of the finest baseball parks in the nation.

All-Star outfielder and designated hitter Nelson Cruz had one of his best seasons in 2015, hitting a career-high 44 home runs. Second baseman Robinson Cano, who was slowed by an injury in the first half of last

SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC

Superstar forward Clint Dempsey and fellow forward Jordan Morris, a Seattle-area native who was named the nation's top collegiate player last year, are expected to lead the Sounders in 2016 as the team attempts to reach the MLS playoffs for an eighth consecutive season (soundersfc.com).

SEATTLE REIGN FC

After losing the National Women's Soccer League Championship game to FC Kansas City for the second straight year in 2015, the Reign are back in action and ready to make another run at the league title. Returning this year are two-time Coach-of-the-Year Laura Harvey, league MVP candidate Beverly Yanez and the team's top scorer Kim Little (reignfc.com).

SEATTLE STORM

With the top overall picks in the last two WNBA drafts, the Seattle Storm has jump-started the rebuilding process in 2016.

With last year's first pick, the Storm drafted Notre Dame guard Jewell Loyd, who went on to be named 2015 WNBA Rookie of the Year. In 2016, the Storm chose University of Connecticut star Breanna Stewart, who is expected to be a strong presence at the forward position.

Veteran point guard Sue Bird, who has been named one



Nelson Cruz.

of the WNBA's 15 all-time greatest players, is back to help lead the team. The Storm's home opener will be May 22 against the Minnesota Lynx (stormbasketball.com).

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

After two Super Bowl appearances and one championship

ring in the past three years, the Seahawks remain one of the favorites to contend in 2016. The team will rely on one of the NFL's best defenses and quarterback Russell Wilson (Alaska Airlines' Chief Football Officer), who is among the league's leading passing and running threats (seahawks.com). —Jeff Bond



Russell Wilson.



Jewell Loyd.

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: NEIL ENNIS / SEATTLE STORM; BEN VANHOUTEN / SEATTLE MARINERS; STEPHEN BRASHEAR / GETTY IMAGES

season, is expected to bounce back, and third baseman Kyle Seager should continue his steady play.

The pitching rotation is led by Cy Young Award-winner Felix Hernandez and features veteran All-Star Hisashi Iwakuma and talented young right-hander Taijuan Walker (mariners.com). For every home run hit by a Mariners player, Alaska Airlines donates miles to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Alaska and Washington.

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Entertaining Engagements

The following are a few must-see events this spring and summer.



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SEAFAIR FUN

Don't miss Seattle's most iconic summertime celebration, the 67th-annual Seafair festival. The 10-week event, which runs from June 15 to Aug. 21, features more than 75 activities, including pirate landings, parades, community events and milk carton races.

Among the main activities this year are the 2016 Rock 'n' Roll Seattle Marathon and

Half Marathon—sponsored by Alaska Airlines—on June 18, and the famous Seafair Pirates landing at Alki Beach in West Seattle on June 25.

A highlight of the celebration is the Alaska Airlines Seafair Torchlight Parade, held Saturday, July 30. Clowns, pirates, drill teams, bands and floats will greet crowds along the 2.5-mile parade route through downtown Seattle.



COURTESY SIFF.XZ

SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

About 450 films from more than 80 countries will be shown at the 42nd Seattle International Film Festival taking place May 19–June 12 this year. On June 11, SIFF will honor actor Viggo Mortensen and show his latest film, *Captain Fantastic*, which was filmed in Washington state. The movie is a heartwarming



story of a single father raising six children in a rural area. New this year is the launch of SIFFX, June 2–5, which will incorporate virtual-reality and immersive-video experiences.

Alaska Airlines is the official airline of SIFF, which has a curated channel of films, called SIFF Selects, on Alaska Airlines flights. For more information about SIFF, visit siff.net.

Clockwise from left: Alaska Airlines employees navigate an airplane-shaped balloon during the 2015 Seafair Torchlight Parade. Viggo Mortensen stars in the film *Captain Fantastic*. Edvard Munch's lithograph *On the Waves of Love* will be part of an exhibition on display at the Tacoma Art Museum.

MUNCH AT TAM

In honor of Pacific Lutheran University's 125th anniversary and its Norwegian heritage, the Tacoma Art Museum will be showing the exhibition "Edvard Munch and the Sea," April 9–July 17. The exhibit, which includes 26 of Munch's prints and one painting, focuses on the Norwegian artist's use of the sea as an integral part of his work. ▶



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Munch, best known for his work *The Scream*, was a leading member of the Expressionist and Symbolist movements. He often used the sea as a landscape and to convey meaning in his works. The exhibit was collected from major art institutions, including the National Gallery of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and private collections.

The museum will also be showing the critically acclaimed exhibition "30 Americans," which highlights the works of the most influential African-American artists of the past 30 years.

The exhibit will run from Sept. 24 to Jan. 15. For more information about the exhibits and other displays, visit tacomaartmuseum.org.

Calendar of Events

Teatro ZinZanni: The year-round circus/comedy/cabaret dinner experience presents *Be Italian!* Old country meets new world in this exuberant show, through June 12. 206-802-0015; zinzanni.com/seattle.

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Eatonville: The conservation- and education-themed animal park is home to species ranging from bobcats to bison and moose. It is open year-round and offers popular tram tours. 360-832-6117; nwtrek.org.

Nordic Heritage Museum, Ballard neighborhood: The exhibit "**Nathalia Edenmont: Force of Nature**" features

photography that explores identity and nature, May 20–July 24. 206-789-5707; nordicmuseum.org.

Town Hall Seattle: Upcoming events include a talk by the National Book Award–winner **Louise Erdrich** on "**LaRose, A Novel**," which looks at family, regret and forgiveness, May 16; and the **Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert**, featuring Leonard Bernstein's "Symphonic Dances from West Side Story" on May 21. 206-652-4255; townhallseattle.org.

Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle Center, May 27–30: Enjoy cultural events, music and dance at the 45th-annual Folklife Festival. 206-684-7300; nwfolklife.org/festival.



CHRISTOPHER NELSON

Northwest Folklife Festival.

Bite of Seattle, Seattle Center, July 15–17: The event includes tasty samplings from Puget Sound–area restaurants, accompanied by live entertainment. 425-295-3262; biteofseattle.com.

Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering, Enumclaw, July 30–31. The 70th-annual event will include traditional music, Celtic arts, athletic competitions and exciting combat exhibitions. 206-522-2541; sshga.org. ▶

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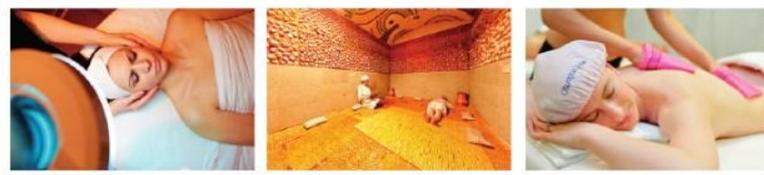
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Bumbershoot: Arts in the Great Northwest, Seattle Center, Sept. 2–4. The festival includes music, theater, visual arts and comedy. 206-673-5060; bumbershoot.com.

Washington State Fair, Puyallup, Sept. 2–25. The fair includes food, rides, livestock exhibits, concerts and a professional rodeo. 253-845-1771; thefair.com.

Seattle Children's Theatre at Seattle Center presents *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat*, through May 22. Upcoming plays include *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Oct. 13–Dec. 11; *Stellaluna*, Dec. 1–Jan. 8; and *The Snowy Day and other stories by Ezra Jack Keats*, Jan. 19–Feb. 26. 206-441-3322; sct.org.

General Theater: ACT, *Bernie's Apt.*, May 6–28 (act-theatre.org). **Book-It Repertory Theatre**, *The Brothers K*, May 3–June 26 (book-it.org). **The 5th Avenue Theatre**, *Paint Your Wagon*, June 2–25 (5thavenue.org). **Theatre at Meydenbauer Center**, *Bollysteps Dance presents Nachle 4*, May 14–15 (meydenbauer.com/theatre-



JOAN MARCUS

Beautiful—The Carole King Musical.

meydenbauer). The **Paramount Theatre**, *Beautiful—The Carole King Musical*, Oct. 19–30 (Alaska Airlines is the official airline sponsor of the Broadway at The Paramount series; stgpresents.org).

Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, July 15–30 (patterson.org). **Seattle Repertory Theatre** presents *Sherlock Holmes and The American Problem*, through May 22 (seattlerep.org). **Seattle Shakespeare Company**, *Romeo and Juliet*, May 4–22 (seattleshakespeare.org). **Taproot Theatre Company** presents *The Realization of Emily Linder*, May 11–June 11 (taproottheatre.org). **Village Theatre**, Issaquah, the musical *Billy Elliot*, May 12–July 3 (villagetheatre.org).

Additional Performing Arts: **Pacific Northwest Ballet**, *American Stories*, June 3–12 (pnb.org). **Seattle Opera**, *The Flying Dutchman*, performed May 7–21 (seattleopera.org).



SEATTLE OPERA / ©PHILIP NEWTON

Seattle Symphony, "Sci-Fi at the Pops," May 20–22 (seattlesymphony.org).

For information about Puget Sound-area recreational activities, including **hiking, biking, diving, golfing, rafting, fishing, sailing, kayaking, indoor skydiving, swimming, skiing and ziplining**, visit comprehensive visitor-information websites such as visitseattle.org, visitbellevuewashington.com, explorekirkland.com, seattlesouthside.com, traveltacoma.com and experiencewa.com. **S**

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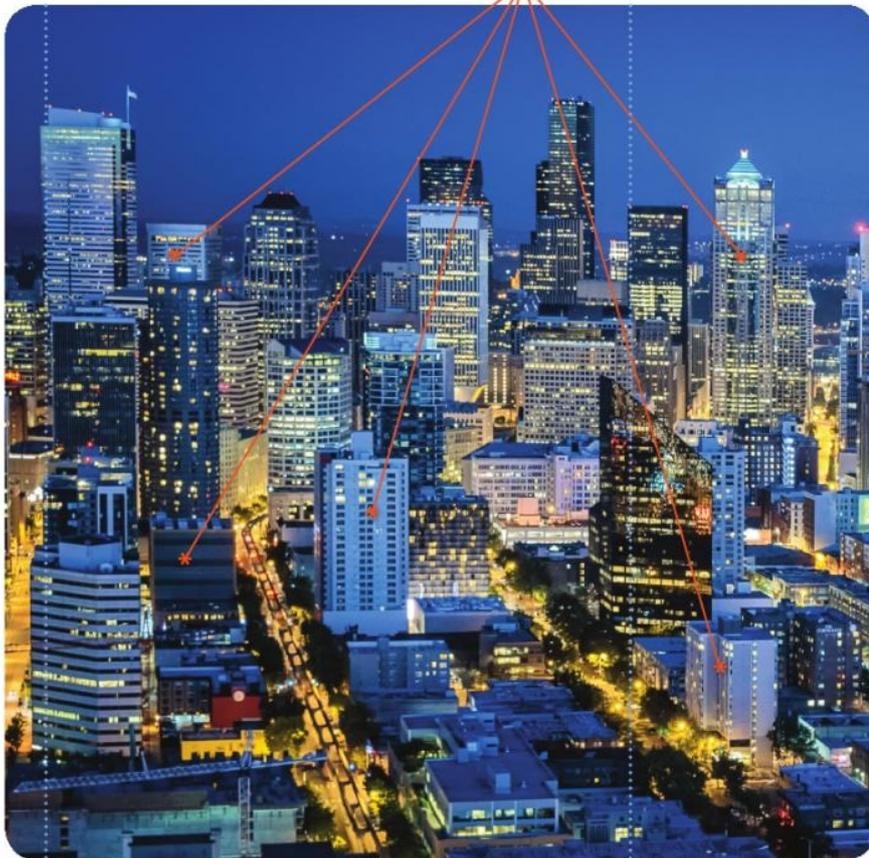
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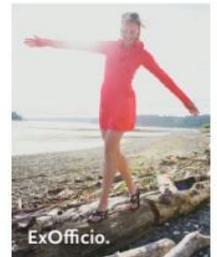
Shop Talk

The Puget Sound area offers excellent shopping opportunities, from major companies to one-of-a-kind boutiques. Below are several notable options.

Compass Rose (compassroseolympia.com): Novel and useful gift items.

E. Smith Mercantile (esmithmercantile.com): Artisan home goods, apparel, gift items and antiques.

ExOfficio (exofficio.com): Clothing and accessories designed for comfortable performance; famous for its travel underwear.



Farinaz Taghavi (farinaz.com): Classic, chic women's clothing.

Filson (filson.com): New 6,500-square-foot Seattle flagship store has the entire Filson collection, from outdoor clothing to limited-edition items.

Glasswing (glasswingshop.com): Clothing and home goods shop introducing shoppers to new products.

Momo (momoseattle.blogspot.com): Eclectic mix of local, Asian and European items.

Nordstrom (nordstrom.com): Leading Seattle-based North American fashion-specialty retailer, renowned for its service culture; remodel of flagship Seattle store is expected to be completed in June.

Simplicity Decor (simplicitydecor.com): Unique furniture, home accents, gift items.

Ted Baker London (tedbaker.com): UK retailer of luxury clothing, accessories, tech and more; new in The Bellevue Collection (bellevuecollection.com). **S**

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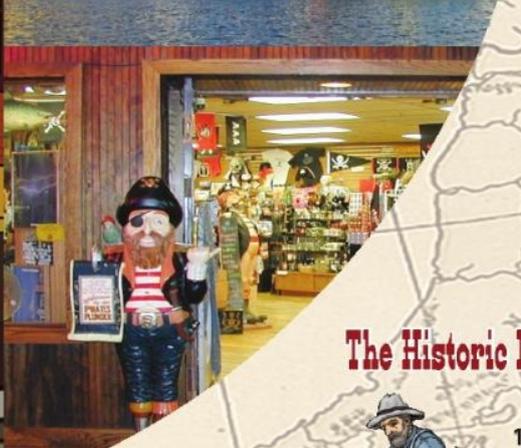
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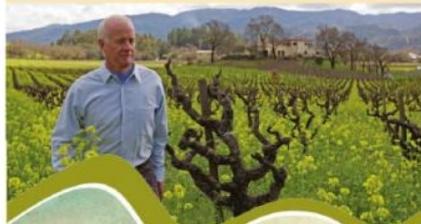
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From page 30

wine hobo," he says with a laugh, clearly admiring his new palace. "It's good to finally have a home."

Papapietro Perry Winery

You'd never guess, based on the simple set-up of Papapietro Perry Winery's tasting room and winery (papapietro-perry.com), in the large Healdsburg region, which includes part of the Dry Creek, Alexander Valley and Russian River Valley AVAs, that this label is highly coveted by Pinot Noir and Zinfandel lovers. The tasting room is hidden away in a small, red, barnlike structure within a villagelike group of buildings at the Timber Crest Farms collective.

But Papapietro Perry is one of the gems of the Dry Creek Valley, with old-school-style wines crafted by Ben Papapietro, who owns the winery with his wife, Yolanda Papapietro, and Bruce and Renae Perry. Both men had grandfathers who made wine for their families. When Ben started producing wine in his garage more than 25 years ago, he invited his wine-aficionado friend Bruce to join him. In the 1990s,

Award-Winning

In 1976, a Chardonnay by Chateau Montelena Winery (montelena.com), in Napa Valley's Calistoga AVA, bested—in blind tastings—nine other Chardonnays, including some very prestigious ones from France, in what became known as the Judgment of Paris, after the city in which the competition took place.

The winery's achievement, along with a win among the competition's reds by the S.L.V. Cabernet Sauvignon from Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, also from Napa Valley, forever changed Northern California's standing in the wine world, and on May 24, the 40th anniversary of the competition, Chateau Montelena and Stag's Leap Wine Cellars are each hosting an open house with special tastings, displays and activities to celebrate the Judgment of Paris. —C.S.



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after their “garagista wines” were competing favorably with premium California Pinot Noirs, they moved into a winemaking facility and officially launched their Papapietro Perry company. Renae is the CEO, and Yolanda oversees distributor relations.

The team sources and personally manages fruit from superb, carefully chosen, long-time-partner vineyards, including Pauline’s Vineyard, directly across the street from their winery, and the Timber Crest Farms vineyard right outside Papapietro Perry’s front door.

I’m looking at a wall of shirts emblazoned with cute sayings such as “Lush & Lively,” but there’s also a spectacular glass-and-metal-embossed wine barrel in the center of the room, on display as part of the **Art of Oak** celebration for the Wine Road’s 40th anniversary.

My tasting host explains that Wine Road invited 40 local artists to create original art from recycled wine barrels, to be shown at Wine Road wineries through May 10. The barrels will then be auctioned off for private



COURTESY PAPIPETRO PERRY WINERY

Papapietro Perry Winery, in the Dry Creek Valley.

enjoyment or permanent public display.

The winery branched out to a Zinfandel in 2004 and added its first Chardonnay in 2007. I’m sipping the 2012 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel from elegant Riedel stemware, charmed by the wine’s complexity. It’s a sumptuous choice—glittering dark garnet, with flavors of brambly blackberry, blueberry and cracked black pepper, plus a hint of tobacco and plenty of spice. Usually Zin is quite a big-bodied, bold wine, but this one has a wonderful gentleness to it, with lots of juicy ripe berry.

My host tells me why: Papapietro Perry uses many of the same winemaking techniques for its Zinfandel as it does for the Pinot Noir for which the winery is best-known. That means cold-soaking the grapes for three days, then hand-punching them down in open-top fermenters, a method not commonly used with Zinfandel. The juice is then aged in French oak for 15 months, providing a toasty oak underlayer. “It’s Zin for the Pinot lover,” my host says.

To me, it’s a delicious bit of Sonoma County heaven, on a deck that also sparkles, thanks to an awning hung with lights, and the ambiance of stacked aging barrels. I raise my glass and toast the vines, just steps away, that delivered the beautiful Zinfandel in my glass. ■

Carey Sweet lives in Sonoma County.

Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) provides regular service to the Sonoma County city of Santa Rosa, which is also the most convenient air gateway to Napa Valley and Mendocino County wine tasting. Visit wineroad.com/events to see the fun and educational events taking place each month during this 40th-anniversary year.



Sokol Blosser Winery, Andrea Johnson Photography

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Beyond Wine

Sonoma County offers numerous ways to round out a wine-tasting vacation, including hiking, bicycling and golfing, along with attractions such as the following:

Charles M. Schulz Museum (schulzmuseum.org).

Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve; Jack London State Historic Park; Sonoma Coast State Park, including Bodega Head; and **Sonoma State Historic Park**, including Mission San Francisco Solano (www.parks.ca.gov).

Graton Resort & Casino (gratonresortcasino.com).

Green Music Center (gmc.sonoma.edu) at Sonoma State University.

Luther Burbank Home and Gardens (lutherburbank.org).

Sonoma City Hall in historic Sonoma Plaza.



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More information:

To learn more about Sonoma County wineries, activities and attractions, see sonomacounty.com, and see sonomawinegrape.org for information about wine. Also visit sonomavalley.com for information on attractions (including Sonoma Plaza, a National Historic Landmark) in the southeastern part of the county. Sonoma Valley is often considered the birthplace of California's wine industry. For information on Napa Valley (16 AVAs, 400+ wineries), go to visitnapavalley.com; for Mendocino County (10 AVAs, 100+ wineries), see visitmendocino.com.

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Western Exposure

Montana adventures highlight the history and culture of the West

BY JEAN ARTHUR

The Yellowstone River is known for its Lewis and Clark-related history as well as its excellent fishing.



We float the Yellowstone River

along basalt cliffs and under willows, past elk and deer watching us ride riffles, until my husband, Lynn, spots the perfect place to fish. He casts his faux mayfly under a cutbank created by the ever-carving cerulean waters.

Lynn teases unseen trout with a few casts, then whomp! A strike. I see a splash of gold launch half out of the water and snap up the mayfly. Lynn pulls up on the line as the sunshine-colored Yellowstone cutthroat trout chomps down. My husband grew up honing that cast on storied Montana rivers—the Blackfoot, Clark Fork, Rock Creek and Bitterroot. Now he’s putting that experience to good use on this unhurried, 4-mph-current section of the **Yellowstone River** in southwestern Montana’s Paradise Valley.

The trout dives deep and plunges under our 14-foot inflatable fishing raft. (Guided trips are available from outfitters such as the Dan Bailey Fly Shop in Livingston.) The raft’s rowing frame and oars allow me to maneuver the watercraft and fly rod closer to the fish. Lynn plays the cutthroat into the current on an eddy’s edge. I catch glimpses of the trout’s black-speckled flanks and red lower jaw markings as Lynn guides the fish closer to the raft. It makes another run under an overhanging willow, an attempt to hide and possibly tangle the line among hidden tree roots, but Lynn coaxes the 18-inch native out of the dark water, and it soon tires enough for Lynn to bring it to the side of the raft and scoop it into a net, but not out of the water. > > >



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“Beautiful,” Lynn whispers. The fish squirms as Lynn gently removes the barbless hook, and the trout wiggles back into the river, flipping its tail our way in what seems to be a final note of indignation.

The scientific name for cutthroat trout is *Oncorhynchus clarki*—the genus name means “hooked nose,” and the species name honors explorer William Clark, because the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition were among the first white people to record seeing cutthroat trout.

Our float-and-fish excursion is enhancing our appreciation for the Corps of Discovery. After reaching the Pacific coast and wintering there, **Captain William Clark, Sacagawea and some other members of the expedition floated east through Montana on the Yellowstone River in 1806.** The river flows eastward, making the trip a downstream passage, and they



TRIPLE J WILDERNESS RANCH

rejoined Meriwether Lewis’ group near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers to finish their homeward journey to St. Louis.

To start our expedition, we drove southeast from our home in Boze-

Mountain and meadow scenery on a Triple J Wilderness Ranch trail ride.

man to launch near the town of Emigrant at the Grey Owl Fishing Access, approximately 35 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. We’re floating northeast about 25 miles to the Carter’s Bridge Fishing Access near Livingston, an area where Clark and his group camped before setting out on the Yellowstone River.

Like us, the members of the L&C Expedition likely would have seen, just southeast of Livingston, the dramatic beauty of the Rocky Mountains’ rugged, snow-topped Absaroka Range, part of which is now in the **Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness**, which is known for its 943,000-plus acres, 950-plus alpine lakes, and 20 or so peaks above 12,000 feet in elevation.

A flotilla of American white pelicans flaps wings—with astonishing 9-foot wingspans—as we drift down the river to our takeout site. This species also intrigued Meriwether Lewis, who recorded it in his journals. We leave the avian flotilla near a sandbar and find lodgings of our own at the lovely, funky, 1904 **Murray Hotel**, which has hosted celebrities such as Calamity Jane, Buffalo Bill, Robert Redford and Jack Palance. And it is reported that humorist Will Rogers and his buddy Walter Hill once tried

More Montana Experiences

For additional activities and attractions, go to visitmt.com.

Dinosaur-related digs, with Two Medicine Dinosaur Center staff, in central Montana, a region where researchers have discovered nests of *Maiasaura* eggs and collected bones from five tyrannosaurs and at least seven hadrosaurs. Dig programs include instruction in dig basics, and participating in an active dig site (tmdinosaurcenter.org).



Cycling trips, with Adventure Cycling Association, which provides guided trips, and also maps and trip support for self-guided trips, including a route along the Continental Divide (adventurecycling.org).

Craft-brews touring in Bozeman, which has several sites along the Montana Brewers Trail (montanabrewers.org/trail-map), including Bozeman Brewing Company, with beers such as the balanced, refreshing Bozone Select Amber Ale. It contains Montana-grown and malted pale barley. Montana’s strong agricultural tradition includes growing barley used locally and by brewers throughout the country.



Hiking trips (stock-supported), with Dropstone Outfitting, in the 1.5 million-acre Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (shown at right) in northwestern Montana, home to more than 100 lakes, 1,000-plus miles of trails, and wildlife such as moose, deer, lynx and grizzly bears (dropstoneoutfitting.com).

TOP: TWO MEDICINE DINOSAUR CENTER; BOTTOM: DROPSTONE OUTFITTING



ANDRE JENNY / ALAMY

The 1904 Murray Hotel has hosted celebrities ranging from Calamity Jane to Will Rogers.

to bring a favorite saddle horse to a third-floor suite, via the hand-cranked 1905 Otis elevator. The horse didn't fit in the conveyance.

After freshening up, Lynn and I stroll past museums, art galleries, and shops with cowboy collectibles. We're particularly charmed by the International Federation of Fly Fishers Museum's antique reels, watercolors and fly collections.

We stop for dinner a few blocks from the hotel at Montana's Rib & Chop House, and I chuckle when Lynn reminds me that this

town was the subject of Jimmy Buffett's 1978 song *Livingston Saturday Night*.

On other trips to this region, we've continued about 115 miles to Billings—using Interstate 90 to parallel

the Lewis and Clark Expedition's eastward journey down the Yellowstone River—to visit attractions such as the **Western Heritage Center**, whose artifacts and exhibits present the natural and human history of the area.

About 30 miles east of Billings, we've enjoyed exploring the 51-acre **Pompeys Pillar National Monument**, where an approximately 150-foot-tall sandstone butte alongside the Yellowstone River bears an etching that says, "Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806," alongside numerous Native American petroglyphs. Clark's signature is viewable by climbing around 100 wooden steps that start near an interpretive center. Clark apparently named the natural tower—from which he saw "emence herds of Buffalows, Elk and wolves," according to his journal—for the nickname of Sacagawea's baby boy, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, although Clark spelled it Pompy.

Lynn and I love living in a state

that tells so much of the story of the West, from Lewis and Clark's explorations to Native American history, to cowboy and ranching culture. We've found the Treasure State to be the quintessential place to enjoy Western recreational experiences. Our many treasured outings also include attending a colorful celebration on the Flathead Indian Reservation in northwestern Montana and saddling up at the Triple J Wilderness Ranch near Great Falls.

Montana
by the numbers

| | |
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Native Powwow

The **Arlee Celebration**, in the town of Arlee, about 20 miles north of Missoula, dates back to the late 1800s, and is an *esyapqeyni*—"celebration" in the Salish language—of the Confederated Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille Tribes. Drumbeats ricochet from teepees to aspens to pickup trucks on the 1.5 million-acre reservation, guiding our family toward the powwow parade grounds. We arrive at the stadium in time to see the Jingle Dance, in which women and girls compete for best-dancer honors while wearing handmade festive "jingle dresses" adorned with small bells. The thousands of tiny bells sound like a flock of songbirds—sweet tones atop the complex boom-boom of the drumming accompanying the dancers.

The rhythm entrances us, and even the red Flathead Nation flag seems to snap in the July breeze to the beat of the hand-



crafted drums. The complex footwork also mesmerizes the crowd, including our 20-something kids, Gretchen and Bridger, who have been dancing at powwows since grade school. The judges are evaluating the dancers based on intricacy of footwork; quality of beadwork, quilling and sewing on the regalia; and how well dancers keep time with the drum.

Not long after the **Jingle Dance**, the announcer invites all comers to join in an

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open dance. The stands empty—we can't wait to move to the beat ourselves. We aren't nearly as good as the competitive dancers, of course, but as we step and stamp in rhythm, I think we're having just as much fun.

Another popular dance, this one just for competitors, is the **Chicken Dance**. I learn that a Blackfeet version of the dance's origin tells of a warrior who heard noise in the grass—a prairie chicken in its mating-ritual display. The warrior shot the prairie chicken with an arrow. The chicken came to the man in a dream and taught the Blackfeet the sacred chicken dance, now danced by many tribes.

Other Arlee Celebration events typically include a run/walk, a dance honoring veterans, and an evening horseback parade. The 2016 celebration will be June 29–July 4.

Cowboy Culture

My horse, an American paint, climbs steadily up a trail that winds from corrals through a stand of aspen trees to a wildflower-wrapped slope on Mortimer Peak. The 3-mile trail is a favorite morning ride at **Triple J Wilderness Ranch**, about 80 miles west of Great Falls, and my spouse, kids and I are enjoying it with other guests.

In shady areas along the trail, I see pink trillium. In a marshy area, purple wild irises experiment with sun, and yellow arrowleaf balsamroot points our way along the route to the ridgetop. From the apex of Big George Ridge, named for a local trapper, we admire Sun Butte, Elk Hill and Sheep Reef, which is dotted with bighorn sheep.

Back at the ranch, which has been run by the Barker family for 40 years, we assess the Angus yearlings that we dudes and dudettes can try to corral later during team-penning lessons. We also notice guests—especially kids—learning to throw a lariat over the head and horns of a mechanical steer. And every day the kids get to groom and saddle their horse-for-the-week (adults can do so, too, if they want).

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Puzzle on page 100.



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ing and pole bending (weaving through poles) in preparation for the guest rodeo.

In the evenings, we gather in the dining room for beef raised in nearby Augusta; salad greens grown in Choteau, about 30 miles from here; ranch-baked bread; and delicious desserts.

One evening after dinner, **Blackfeet Indian singer and guitar player Ike Hall** makes us all laugh during his sing-alongs, and we get teary-eyed during his love songs, such as *Piikuni Woman*, about his grandmother, Beaver Eyes, who married Texan John Hall in 1895. In the song, John Hall hears a nighthawk, and his heart beats fast for the lovely Beaver Eyes.

"I can hear the drum a beating/see the fire burning bright/I can hear a coyote howling in the pale moonlight," Hall sings. He tells us that his family has ranches near Glacier National Park for five generations.

My husband, kids and I hum Native American and cowboy tunes as we walk to our comfortable log cabin. We happily snuggle under down comforters, knowing we will awake to hummingbirds zipping outside the window, deer munching the gardener's produce, and another day of Western experiences that will feed our souls. ■

Writer Jean Arthur lives in Bozeman.

Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) flies to cities throughout Montana that are gateways to Western experiences; for more information about Montana, go to visitmt.com.

Continued from page 19

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This communication contains forward-looking information about Alaska Airlines, Virgin America and the proposed transaction. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. These statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "believe," "expect," "may," "will," "should," "project," "could," "plan," "goal," "potential," "pro forma," "seek," "intend" or "anticipate" or the negative thereof, and may include discussions of strategy, financial projections, guidance and estimates (including their underlying assumptions), statements regarding plans, objectives, expectations or consequences of announced transactions and statements about the future performance, operations, products and services of Virgin America and/or Alaska Airlines. Alaska Airlines and Virgin America caution readers not to place undue reliance on these statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties. Consequently, actual results and experience may differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include: the failure to obtain Virgin America stockholder approval of the proposed transaction; the possibility that the closing conditions to the proposed transaction may not be satisfied or waived, including that a governmental entity may prohibit, delay or refuse to grant a necessary regulatory approval; delay in closing the transaction or the possibility of non-consummation of the transaction; the occurrence of any event that could give rise to termination of the merger agreement; the risk that stockholder litigation in connection with the contemplated transaction may affect the timing or occurrence of the contemplated transaction or result in significant costs of defense, indemnification and liability; risks inherent in the achievement of anticipated synergies and the timing thereof; risks related to the disruption of the transaction to Virgin America and its management; the effect of announcement of the transaction on Virgin America's ability to retain and hire key personnel and maintain relationships with suppliers and other third parties; labor costs and relations, general economic conditions, increases in operating costs including fuel, inability to meet cost reduction goals, an aircraft accident, and changes in laws and regulations. These risks and others relating to Alaska Airlines and Virgin America are described in greater detail in their respective SEC filings, including (i) as to Alaska Airlines, Alaska Airlines' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, as well as in other documents filed by Alaska Airlines with the SEC after the date thereof, and (ii) as to Virgin America, Virgin America's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, as well as in other documents filed by Virgin America with the SEC after the date thereof. Alaska Airlines and Virgin America make no commitment to revise or update any forward-looking statements in order to reflect events or circumstances occurring or existing after the date any forward-looking statement is made.

Important Additional Information About the Merger and Where to Find It

This communication may be deemed to be solicitation material in respect of the merger of Virgin America with a wholly owned subsidiary of

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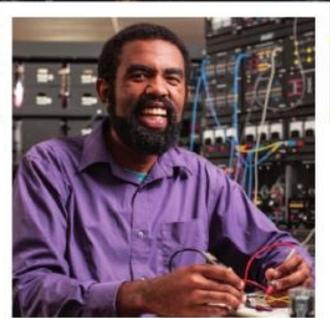
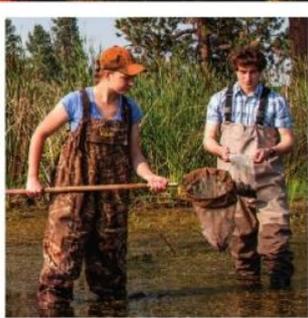
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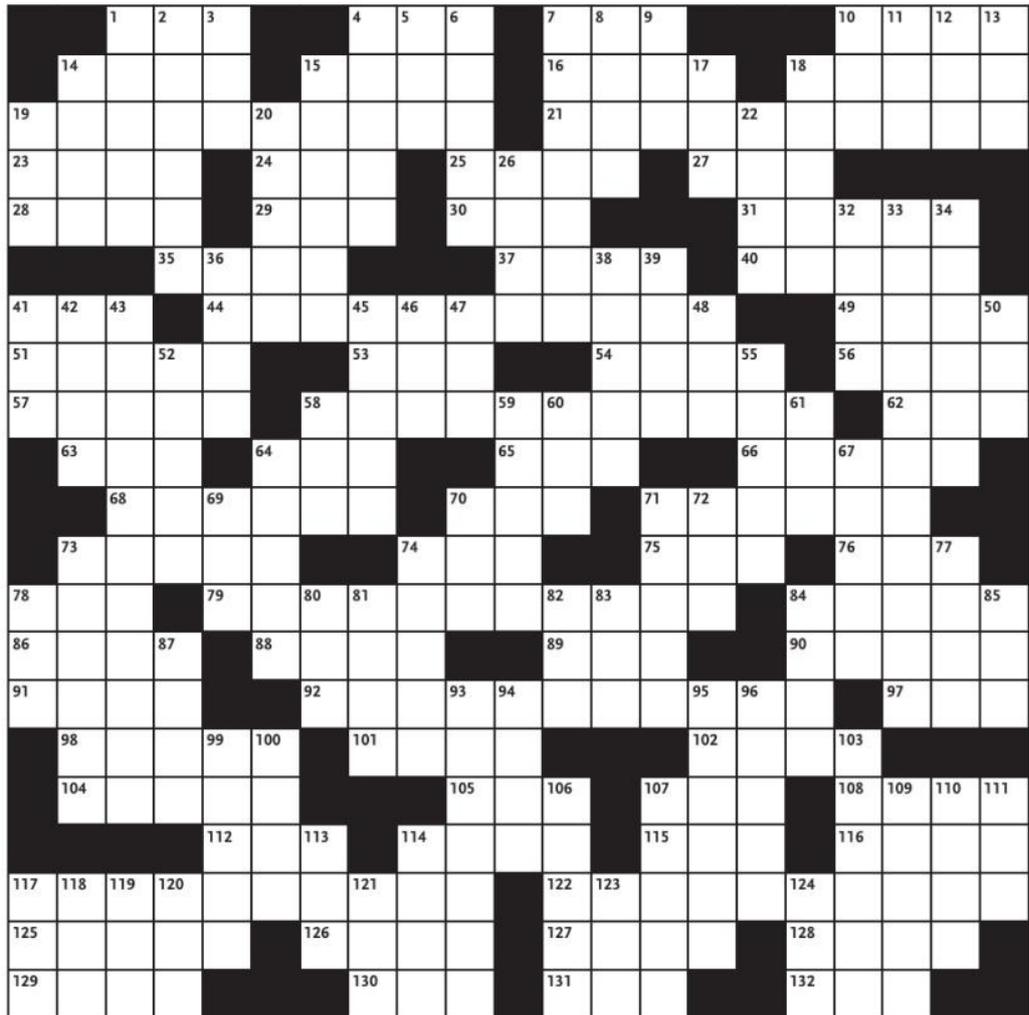
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A C R O S S

- 1 Crib
- 4 Suffers from
- 7 Network letters
- 10 Pet
- 14 Peony pot
- 15 Dye
- 16 Field
- 18 Dactyl beginning
- 19 Tyler's partner
- 21 Revolutionary Baron
- 23 Words of insight
- 24 Colonist?
- 25 Seine seasons
- 27 Ford's Solo
- 28 DEA agent
- 29 Mormon abbr.
- 30 Thrust
- 31 Immature insect
- 35 Hawthorne offering
- 37 Intent
- 40 Obvious
- 41 ____ Mahal
- 44 He had a doctrine
- 49 Exile isle
- 51 Sporting spot
- 53 Messy stuff
- 54 Food scraps
- 56 Current
- 57 Flight part
- 58 Kentucky pioneer
- 62 Aquatic flier
- 63 SASE, e.g.
- 64 Facilitate
- 65 Wild, wild West
- 66 Nelson and Duane
- 68 Splits
- 70 Identify
- 71 Tile over
- 73 She feels pretty
- 74 Mongrel
- 75 Yore
- 76 Hold up
- 78 Boorish sort
- 79 Freedom symbol
- 84 Entangled
- 86 Cleveland Indian?
- 88 Old Italian dough
- 89 Western tribesman
- 90 Like some beavers
- 91 Spoils
- 92 Paine tract
- 97 Sibilant sound
- 98 River mammal
- 101 Tres plus tres
- 102 Jazzy James
- 104 Keen
- 105 RR stop
- 107 Auditing agcy.
- 108 Ornate fabric
- 112 Rider's command
- 114 Doing business
- 115 Go bad?
- 116 Steel beam
- 117 No battle was fought here
- 122 Pickett's Charge site
- 125 Studio sign



- 126 Hindu practice
- 127 Therefore
- 128 Chance
- 129 Lady's man
- 130 Formal vote
- 131 Vintage auto
- 132 Sugary suffix

D O W N

- 1 Bag option
- 2 Appearance
- 3 It makes ma mad
- 4 Intimates
- 5 A year in Spain
- 6 Range rover?
- 7 Stone Age character
- 8 Sibs for sis
- 9 Yen division
- 10 Actor Erwin
- 11 Beak
- 12 Dudgeon
- 13 Ore quantity
- 14 Travel agent?
- 15 Bicycle type
- 17 Smoker's evidence

- 18 Punitive
- 19 Sardine's milieu
- 20 Showy lily
- 22 Fine powder
- 26 Starchy root
- 32 Snorkeler's haven
- 33 1777-78 winter site
- 34 Shady recesses
- 36 Cracked, in a way
- 38 Question closely
- 39 Corrida creature
- 41 Grad. helpers
- 42 Museo display
- 43 Early privateer
- 45 "Zounds!"
- 46 Male delivery
- 47 French pronoun
- 48 DDE's command
- 50 Barley beard
- 52 More congenial
- 55 Mortimer ____
- 58 Conk out
- 59 ____ board
- 60 Trail
- 61 Tokyo, once

- 64 Purpose
- 67 "Andrea ____"
- 69 Trouble
- 70 Set
- 71 CSA bigwig
- 72 Angled annex
- 73 Strand
- 74 Thick drink
- 77 Queen's followers
- 78 Done, in poetry
- 80 Big name in pens
- 81 Amor
- 82 Roll
- 83 French connections?
- 84 Proper
- 85 Ph.D. holders
- 87 This, senora
- 93 Game gaffe
- 94 Bone affix
- 95 At hand
- 96 Yarn
- 99 The heavens
- 100 Bust a gut
- 103 Court stories
- 106 Rile

- 107 Outset, slangily
- 109 Maltreat
- 110 Impression
- 111 Bit of work
- 113 What for?
- 114 Olympian Korbut
- 117 Fen
- 118 Nice article
- 119 Bobbsey girl
- 120 Drummer's rig
- 121 Charged atom
- 123 Poetic palindrome
- 124 Theater warning

Solution on page 97.



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San Juan Islands
www.visitsanjuans.com

Seattle Southside
www.seattlesouthside.com

Sonoma County Airport
www.sonomacountyairport.org

Sonoma County Tourism
www.sonomacounty.com

Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau
www.sonomavalley.com

Sun Valley Resort
www.sunvalley.com

Tacoma Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.traveltacoma.com

Travel Oregon
www.traveloregon.com

Visit Roseburg Land of Umpqua
www.visitroseburg.com/finewine

Visit Seattle
www.visitseattle.org

Washington County, Oregon
www.visitwashingtoncountyoregon.com

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center
www.gatesvc.org

Charles M. Schulz Museum
www.schulzmuseum.org

Chihuly Garden and Glass
www.chihulygardenandglass.com

EMP
www.empsfm.org

Flying Heritage Collection
www.flyingheritage.com

Hellgate Jetboat Excursions
www.hellgate.com

LeMay - America's Car Museum—Tacoma, WA
www.lemaymuseum.org

Mount Rainier Railroad and Logging Museum
www.mtrainierailroad.com

Museum of Glass
www.museumofglass.org

Seattle Historic Waterfront Association
www.downtownseattle.com/neighborhoods/waterfront

Sky View Observatory
www.skyviewobservatory.com

Space Needle
www.spaceneedle.com

Tacoma Art Museum
www.TacomaArtMuseum.org

Tour DeVine by Heli
www.tourdevinebyheli.com

Woodland Park Zoo
www.zoo.org

WINE & WINERIES

Antolin Cellars
www.antolincellars.com

Barnard Griffin Winery
www.barnardgriffin.com

Fogline Vineyards
www.foglinevineyards.com

Papapietro Perry
www.papapietro-perry.com

Ponzi Vineyards
www.ponziwines.com

Sonoma County Winegrape Commission
www.sonomawinegrape.org

Wine Road Northern Sonoma County
www.wineroad.com

SHOPPING

Boston Street Baby Store
Pike Place Market - Seattle

ExOfficio
www.exofficio.com

Gargoyles Statuary
www.gargoylestatuary.com

Seattle Cutlery
www.seacut.com

GIFT IDEAS

Seattle Chocolates
www.seattlechocolates.com

TRibella
www.tribellawine.com

GOOD IDEAS

Aquacide
www.killlakeweeds.com

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Flyer guide

Your overview of the Alaska experience.

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Seagram's Tonic

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Orange Juice
Cranberry Juice
Apple Juice
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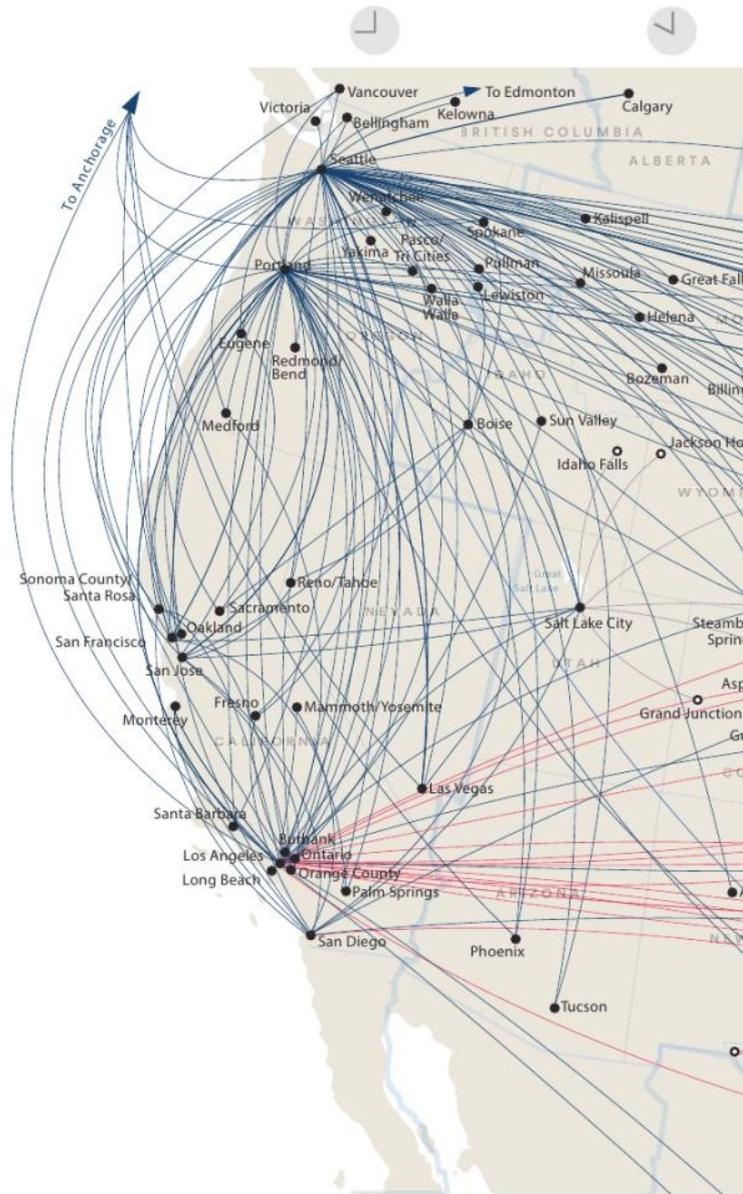
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LEGEND

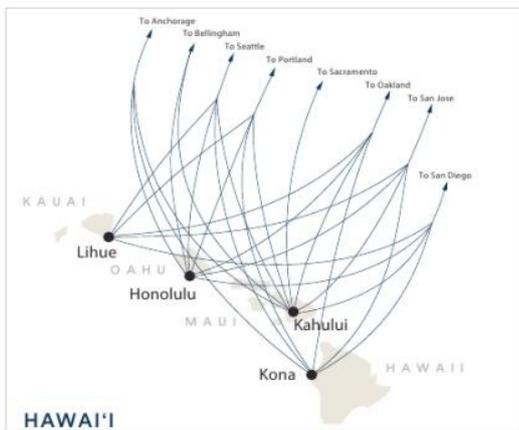


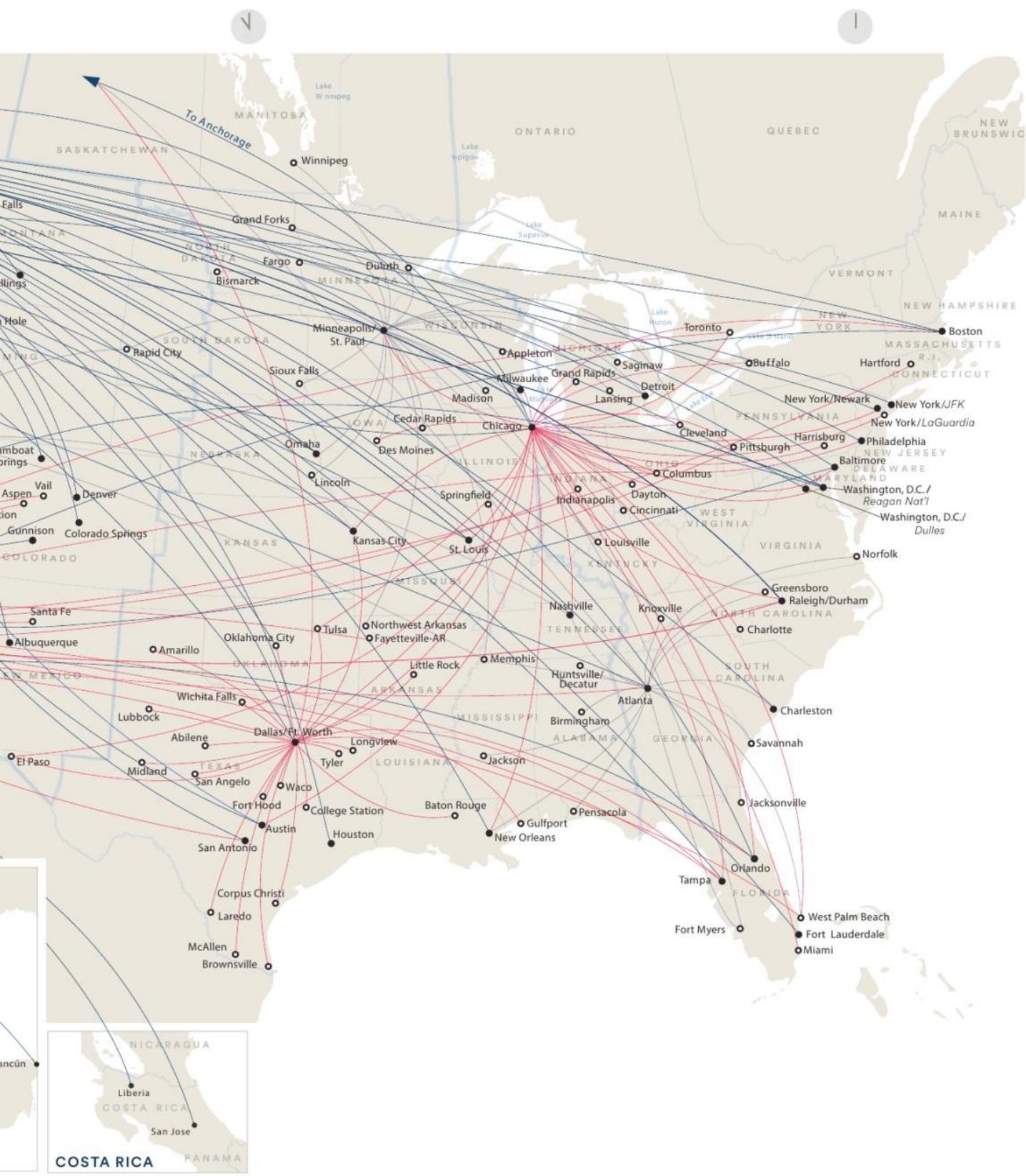
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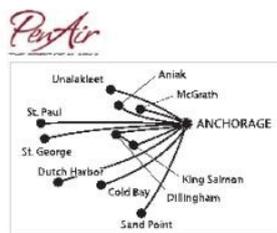


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Airport terminal maps

A quick guide to help you make easier connections.

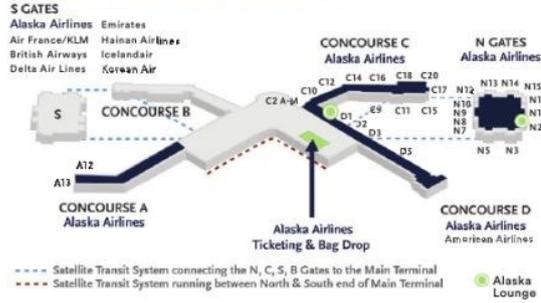
ANC

Anchorage International Airport



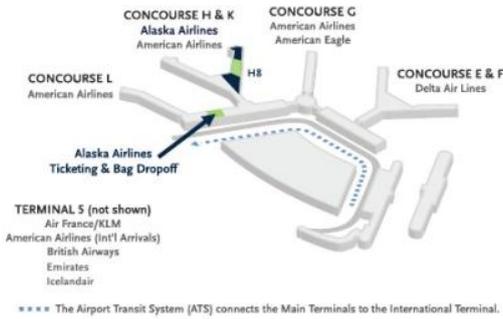
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Pedal Mettle

Inspiring cyclist rides more miles than most people drive | BY CRAIG HILL

My calves twitch as if they might cramp. My head drops as I search for an energy reserve. My outlook on age changes. ■ I'm riding hill repeats with Leon Matz on a secluded road about 40 miles south of Seattle, and all I can think is: "No way this guy is 23 years older than I am. No way he's 65."

Leon is a high school counselor and married father of four adult daughters, and he long ago discovered that, for him, the fountain of youth is pedal-powered. So he keeps riding his bike. More than 15,000 miles last year. More than 16,000 miles in 2014. For a little perspective, the U.S. Department of Transportation says Americans drive their cars an average of 13,476 miles per year. And the miles Leon logs aren't easy ones.

Riding uphill, he climbed a total of 460,502 feet (nearly 32 times the height of Mount Rainier) last year.

Leon says he feels as if he's 30, which seems about right to me. As we reach the top of the 1,000-foot hill that we're climbing by bike today, I get the sense that he's slowing so he doesn't leave me behind.

"Sometimes I surprise myself when I look in the mirror," Leon says with a laugh. "Who is that old guy?"

That old guy is an inspiration to cyclists and athletes of all ages. In 2015, he became the second known person to bike up the 100 toughest road climbs in the United States. The first was John Summerson, the man who compiled the 100-toughest list for his 2007 book *The Complete Guide to Climbing (By Bike)*.

"It's the most special athletic thing I have ever done," Leon says. Now he is training for his encore. Starting in late June, he plans to bike from Ocean Shores, Washington, to Yorktown, Virginia—more than 3,000 miles—in less than a month.

I occasionally train with Leon, who has invited me to tag along for part of his 115-mile-per-day journey. I plan to join him for a day early in his trip, even though I wonder if I might slow him down.

I logged more than 5,200 miles in 2015. Not too shabby. But Leon logged more miles than that during the first quarter of this year.

I mention this to Leon's longtime friend and riding partner, Michael Hassur.

"You can't compare yourself to Leon," Michael says. "He skews the bell curve of what's normal."

This, I think, is why I find Leon so inspirational. For so many, normal is the pursuit of comfort. For Leon, it's staying perpetually challenged. He embraces adversity as something that makes him stronger.



Fitness is just part of the reward Leon gets from his time in the saddle. It also helps to keep him energized as a teacher, he says.

"Being around young people keeps you young," says Leon, who is in his 43rd year of education, but the increasing demands on educators bring plenty of stress.

"Cycling provides a combination of physical activity and camaraderie that allows me to deal with the stress," he says. "I still really

enjoy my job. If I didn't have cycling and my cycling group, I probably would have retired a long time ago."

His cycling group is called the Puyallup Cyclopaths. Puyallup is a city in the Puget Sound region. Leon and Michael founded the group in the late 1990s with the goal of coordinating challenging rides through the mountains. The club has grown to a few dozen members, including one from Germany who participates when he comes to town. Members range from a college student to a retired doctor in his 70s.

The rides are as much about community as they are about hammering up hills, Leon says, with discussions ranging from family to carbon-fiber bike frames.

Some Cyclopaths plan to join Leon this summer for part of his cross-country trip, and none are surprised that Leon has no plans to slow down his biking efforts after he rolls into Virginia. For his next project, he plans to cycle-tour each of the country's 58 national parks.

He'll keep inspiring us as he pedals onward and upward. Riding with Leon reminds us that with goal-setting, determination and effort, we can achieve greater heights than we realized in life. And perhaps we, too, can stay young as long as we keep pedaling.

Craig Hill writes for The News Tribune in Tacoma.

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