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# BEYOND

HORIZON EDITION MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 2017

# GOING BIG

SKI RESORTS WITH ROOM TO RUN

**CHEFS' THANKSGIVING**  
Professionals share memories,  
traditions and dishes **PAGE 34**

**SCENES FROM THE WILD**  
Intriguing wildlife photography **PAGE 42**

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# WELCOME»

## HERE WE GROW

» **Andrew Harrison**, our chief commercial officer, talks about something that is near and dear to his heart—growth. While he's growing his family, we're also growing here at Alaska, adding more places to fly, especially for our guests in California. Enjoy. —Brad Tilden

Growth. It's a word that can be applied to all aspects of life. Growth is about increasing in size, becoming stronger and adding to what you have. My wife and I have eight children (including one newborn), and I can attest that growth comes with a lot of sleepless nights. It often means that challenges have to be overcome, new frontiers explored and, yes, some discomfort dealt with along the way—which, if you are like me, you prefer to avoid! Admittedly, however, growth is well worth the journey.

Alaska Airlines is no exception to this. As many of you no doubt know, Alaska Airlines has operated in the Pacific Northwest for more than 80 years, originating flights predominantly from Alaska, Washington and Oregon. To be sure, we now fly all over the nation from the Pacific Northwest, including the East Coast and Hawai'i, but we had always served primarily those who call the Pacific Northwest home. If you take just the past 10 years, Alaska Airlines has grown out of the Pacific Northwest by nearly 70 percent, adding 64 routes. But, just like life, where the newborn becomes a toddler and the senior heads off to college or to their first "real" job, growth is essential.



**Brad Tilden,**  
Chief Executive  
Officer



**Andrew Harrison,**  
Chief Commercial  
Officer



None of these things are achieved without it.

Last August, Virgin America celebrated its 10-year anniversary, and this December, we'll mark the first full year since Alaska and Virgin America joined forces. The question has often come up in conversation as to why this marriage occurred, and the answer is really quite simple—to enable growth.

We at Alaska Airlines have known for some time that if we wanted to continue to grow, we would need to branch out farther than our hometown. Virgin America has spent 10 hard-fought years growing California, from the airline's original fleet of only two aircraft, serving just three cities, to 68 aircraft serving 31 cities. With this growth, the airline was able to acquire critical airport infrastructure and route authorities (such as slots in New York, and gates in San Francisco and Los Angeles) to serve very large and important routes.

Alaska Airlines has served California for nearly 40 years and, even prior to the merger, had 175 flights a day. With Alaska and Virgin America joining forces, we now have a foundation for steady and measured growth. It's true we've announced a lot of new routes out of California since the acquisition (27 to be exact), but this was to help round out key routes to provide utility for Californians, which Virgin America has done an amazing job of starting.

The real excitement here is that whether you live in the Pacific Northwest, California or one of the many other cities we serve, Alaska's growth is all about you and your travels. Some of the exciting things to accompany this growth have already been delivered, or will be delivered in the coming months, as follows:

- A modern, warm and welcoming vibe on our aircraft, including onboard music, mood lighting, new uniforms, and surprising new food and beverage offerings.
- New satellite Wi-Fi on our Boeing and Airbus fleets.
- Free Movies and Free Chat™ (which you can enjoy once you've read this magazine).
- Greater opportunity for upgrades for our elite members as we add more premium seating on our Airbus fleet.
- Alaska Mileage Plan is the country's top-ranked frequent-flyer program, and it will continue to get better with our new expanded network and new global partners. And because it is miles-based, you will never be penalized for finding that great low fare.

As you can see, our growth has already begun to deliver great benefits for our guests, and there's more to look forward to. If this is your first flight with us, we're glad to be able to host you today. If it's your 1,000th, it's great to see you again! —Andrew Harrison

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## TEAM SOCIAL

By Caitlin Goettler

» **Social media never sleeps**, and neither does Alaska Airlines. Whether it's assisting a guest with a mileage request or responding to inquiries about a storm on the East Coast, Alaska Airlines social care is a 24/7 operation. It's a team of 12 people, with rotating shifts, responding to hundreds of inquiries throughout the day and night—all in 140 characters or less, and all in a social media minute.

Gabe Oronia is a customer care representative who has worked on the social care team for three years. While his primary responsibility is to assist guests on Alaska's social media channels, he also assists customers via phone from the airline's Seattle-based call center.

If you're a frequent flyer, chances are you've had a conversation with Oronia or other members of the team. They're the people behind the tweet responding to you about the status of your flight, commenting on your Instagram photo, or wishing you a nice trip on Facebook.

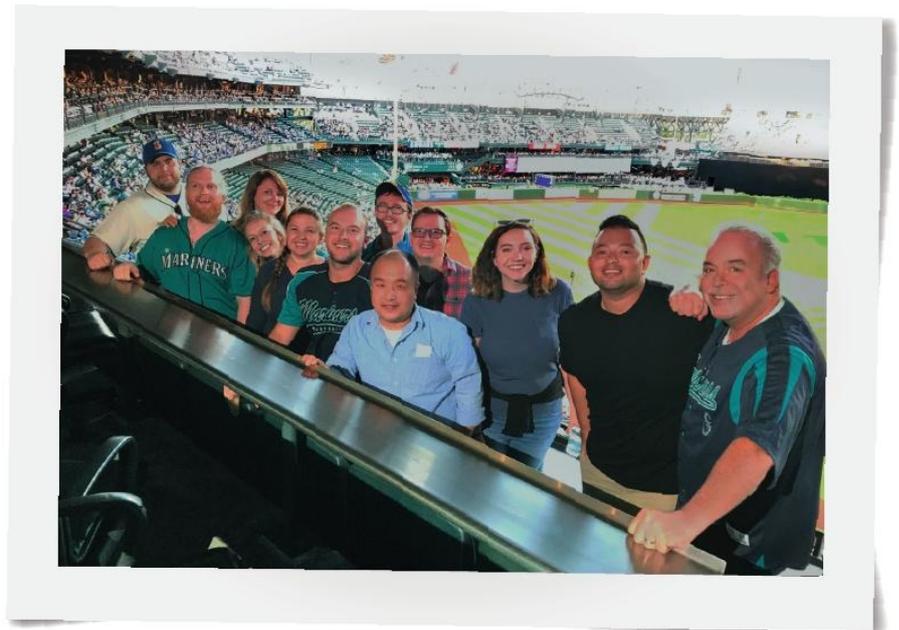
"It's such a fun job," Oronia says. "I love the interaction we have with people and how we're able to build relationships with them."

### Quick customer service

Social media has provided a way for airlines to quickly address customer-service needs. Alaska has embraced the changes, using social media as an extension of its customer care program. You can still call the Alaska Airlines customer care team, but if it's after-hours or you're, say, on an airplane, you can reach a customer or social care representative as your needs arise.

According to Conversocial's Airline Benchmark Report, the average social media response time across the airline industry is 1 hour, 5 minutes. While Alaska aims to respond within 15 minutes, its actual average response time is just 2 minutes, 34 seconds.

» IN SEPTEMBER, ALASKA WON an international 2017 SimpliFlying Award, which celebrates airline social customer care on social media.



"Social allows us to be truly 'in-the-moment' with our guests and to help solve travel-related issues when they happen, as they happen," says Michael Roy, social care program lead.

But speed isn't everything. From the start, Alaska placed a heavy emphasis on using real people to have real conversations. "We discourage quoting company policies and procedures verbatim," Roy says. "Instead, we encourage our people to communicate like they would with a friend. We empower our team members to share using their own words when crafting their responses."

When it comes to creating that personal connection, it's the little things that count. Every tweet or comment is signed with the responding agent's first name. Some agents, like Oronia, take the time to write down a guest's name when assisting with an issue, so they can make the conversation more personal and friendly.

"The result has been fun," Roy says. "Some of our followers have taken a liking to our social care team members, each of whom have different interests and insights to share."

» **Alaska's social care team enjoys a team-building excursion at a Seattle Mariners game at Safeco Field.**

### A juggling act

Travel can be stressful, and even though Alaska Airlines has worked hard to make the travel experience hassle free, things like weather and air traffic can cause unavoidable delays. Explaining this within the confines of a tweet can sometimes be difficult.

"I just try to think of how I would feel in that situation," Oronia says. "I do my best to explain, to be understanding and to take care of them."

In these irregular-operation situations, agents may have to juggle multiple issues at once. While Oronia is waiting for Central Baggage Service to locate a guest's bag, he may also be checking the status of a flight for another guest, while also helping another with their Alaska Mileage Plan account.

The toughest part of the job, Oronia says, is when circumstances don't allow him to help. "We all feel that personal connection to our guests, so when they're hurting, we're hurting."

Since January, the social care team has nearly doubled in size. "As social continues to mature and our airline continues to expand," Roy says, "we'll grow right along with it." ■

“This is the greatest gift I’ve ever given myself!”



Photos: Gerald Pope

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Before the program, I was in a bit of a slump. My friend, and workout partner, had moved away, so my motivation to exercise just wasn't there. My body felt “soft.” When I got up in the morning and looked in the mirror, I didn't recognize who was looking back at me.

When I read about the My Best 10 program, I knew it was exactly what I needed – and it surpassed my expectations.

I had expected to work hard and lose weight. What I hadn't expected was that the lessons I'd learned during the program would become even more important two years later.

After successfully completing the program and losing 15 pounds, I felt better than ever. However, sometimes, old habits are hard to break. When my weight began to slowly creep back up, I knew it was time to take control again. I have the philosophy that obstacles are not an issue. I simply identify them and climb on over. Challenges keep it interesting and give me a sense of victory.

So I returned to what I'd learned through My Best 10 – protein shakes, lean protein

and no cheating. After I lost four pounds in the first week, I knew I was back on track. Personal training had been a key to my success in the program. My trainer provided the accountability I needed to get to my workouts and made me want to work hard. She always had something positive to say about my progress. And, most importantly, she made me feel good about myself again. If someone had told me a year ago that I'd be able to deadlift 145 pounds, I'd have called them insane. But today, I can do it. I'm happier, healthier, more comfortable in my own skin – and in the best shape of my life!

A major improvement in my life after My Best 10 is my energy level. Before the program, it was difficult to get going in the mornings. I felt tired even after getting eight hours of sleep. Now, I get up easily and sometimes even get a workout before the kids go to school. It's amazing how much better I feel now!

I'm a huge fan of MB10! This was the greatest gift I've ever given myself!

# THE REGION»

NEAR SUN VALLEY, ID

## DARK SKIES, BRIGHT STARS

» Known for its lunarlike landscape, Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve, about 65 miles southeast of Sun Valley, Idaho, was a 1969 training ground for several Apollo 14 astronauts seeking to learn more about volcanic geology before their 1971 moon landing. Now the otherworldly landscape has been designated Idaho's first International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark-Sky Association. The IDA is an organization dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of dark night skies. Craters of the Moon has often been cited as one of the country's best destinations for stargazers. In winter, the night sky is particularly spectacular, according to Ted Stout, the park's Chief of Interpretation and Education. Visitors can also take ranger-guided daytime snowshoeing tours, and camp in designated areas. Recreationists should be well-prepared for variable winter weather conditions. For more information, visit [nps.gov/crmo](https://nps.gov/crmo).

In addition to celebrating the Craters of the Moon designation, community leaders in Sun Valley, Ketchum and Stanley are working to submit an application to IDA to designate 1,400 square miles of Central Idaho as the United States' first International Dark Sky Reserve. That designation requires "a core area meeting minimum criteria for sky quality and natural darkness, and a peripheral area that supports dark sky preservation in the core."

For more information, visit [idahodarksky.org](https://idahodarksky.org).

—Kristen Gustafson



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# [ I GROW ]

## to nourish minds

Kids find harvesting their own crops at school very fun and rewarding. As the first seeds begin to sprout and micro-greens start bulking up, students can nourish their minds and their tummies, on the success of their endeavor. The educational benefits to growing in the classroom can be great. It is an exciting and hands on experience for students that will teach them not only about the science of plant growth, but also the responsibility and care it takes to establish and maintain a healthy garden.

Easy-to-grow crops such as beans, lettuce, and herbs are a great starting point for any classroom and age group. For great results, Super Sprouter® brand propagation plugs is where to start. Super Sprouter® also offers a complete propagation kit that includes a growing tray, clear humidity dome, warming mat and an 18 inch T5 fluorescent grow light. These items are key to a successful start! Once sprouts mature they can be transferred and grown in containers on a windowsill or under a larger grow light such as the popular Sun System® brand lighting fixtures.

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## BILLINGS, MT MY HERO!

» Few people can say they've taken a trip with Batman. Paris-based photographer Rémi Noël is on that short list. On photo excursions to Texas and California, Noël travels with his son's Batman action figure. He uses the figure in noir-style photographs, some of which can be seen in the exhibit **"My Hero! Contemporary Art and Superhero Action"** at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, Montana, through Jan. 2. Noël's photos show scenes such as the Dark Knight lounging by a motel pool, cape draped over an enormous white chair; making a phone call from a rickety pay phone; and standing atop a manhole cover, shown at top right. What began as a reminder of home has morphed into a humorous series that takes the viewer on a nostalgic trip through the American Southwest while placing the Gotham City hero in interesting, atypical settings.

Noël is one of more than 40 artists showcased in the exhibit, organized by Carrie Lederer, Curator of Exhibitions at the Leshner Center for the Arts' Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek, CA. The exhibit features nearly 130 pieces—ranging from photography to painting, collage and sculpture—by artists from all around the world who create new works with classic comic-book art, celebrate nostalgia and question what it means to be a hero (as well as another burning



» In the exhibit **"My Hero! Contemporary Art and Superhero Action,"** visitors can view Rémi Noël's **Third Avenue, NY, above,** and Mike Alcantara's **Spider-Man, left.**

query: What happens to Superman after he retires?). Austin, Texas-based artist Mike Alcantara, also featured at the exhibit, uses the pages from vintage comic books to create collages. His 24-inch-by-18-inch piece *Spider-Man*, pictured at left, shows the hero swinging on a web over a patchwork of art from the Spider-Man universe.

In addition to exploring the exhibit, attendees ages 10 to 16 can participate in a comic-book drawing workshop, Nov. 25, taught by a member of the museum staff. For more information, visit [artmuseum.org](http://artmuseum.org). —Avalon Ashley

## SEATTLE, WA CHRISTMAS CRUISE

» Celebrate the holidays with a festive ship-to-shore experience. During the 2017 Argosy Christmas Ship Festival, Nov. 24–Dec. 23, participants can board an Argosy Cruises ship to ply various Seattle-area waterways or can enjoy the festival from onshore. Alaska Airlines is a sponsor of the Christmas Ship Festival.

Three experiences are available for celebrants. The two boat options include the Lead Boat Experience and the Follow Boat Experience, while the Shore Experience can be enjoyed from a variety of local waterfront communities. In the *Spirit of Seattle* "Lead Boat," guests can hear local choirs and other performers sing holiday tunes live and hear a reading from Santa, and kids can enjoy holiday activities. On a "Follow Boat," you can hear the music being broadcast while you enjoy your



» Children's entertainer **Caspar Babypants** will perform on an Argosy Christmas Ship Festival cruise.

time on the water, and hear a holiday reading (possibly by Santa), and kids receive a holiday craft bag. The boat experiences last approximately 2 to 3 hours.

During the "Shore Experience," you can join others at a waterfront park to hear a 20-minute performance broadcast from the ships. Locations vary each night, and range from Gas Works Park on Lake Union to Alki Beach Park in Elliott Bay, to Kirkland City Dock on Lake Washington, and Dash Point State Park in the southern part of Puget Sound. Some shore stops include additional fun aspects, such as bonfires and tree lightings.

The festival includes several showcase events. For instance, on Dec. 10, the cruise experience will feature children's performer Caspar Babypants for an afternoon of kid-friendly tunes (performances will not be broadcast to Follow Boats or to the shore). For more information on the festival: [argosycruises.com](http://argosycruises.com). —Madeline Sargent

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## Across

- 1. Aged
- 4. You might break into one
- 9. Caffeine, e.g.
- 13. One female deer
- 14. National Zoo sight
- 15. \_\_\_ of passage
- 16. Skanska office since 1972 (City, St)
- 18. Kitchen appliance
- 19. Bert's best bud
- 20. Racing swimwear brand
- 21. Really bad at
- 22. Mails
- 24. Of better quality
- 26. Oozes
- 29. Famed Argentine player
- 31. Genre for Kendrick Lamar
- 34. Skanska office since 1946 (City)
- 36. Crawling plant
- 38. "What?"
- 39. Baby's bleat
- 40. Daniel \_\_\_ Kim of Lost
- 41. Plastic \_\_\_ Band
- 42. Skanska off. Location in the Bay Area
- 46. Tolkien tree creature
- 47. Certain Wyoming mountain
- 49. Rancor

## Down

- 1. Smells
- 2. SNL's Michaels
- 3. Takes out of a can?
- 4. Place to relax
- 5. Desire
- 6. Former MLB player Chavez
- 7. Decorate
- 8. Sticky stuff
- 9. Quadcopters, e.g.
- 10. Skanska office location since 1919 (City)
- 11. W. Tx. Sch.
- 12. Might accompany a lady
- 13. Copy
- 17. They're bad if buried
- 21. Slurpee competitor
- 23. Observe
- 25. Set list shorthand for a Rubber Soul staple?
- 27. Chess piece
- 28. Fill a task force
- 30. He was Great or Terrible
- 31. P, to Socrates
- 32. Bee, Em or Beru
- 33. Skanska office in the sun (City, St)
- 35. Kind of street
- 37. But
- 42. One and only
- 43. Funny Gasteyer
- 44. Painting, e.g.
- 45. Like a vegan cookie recipe
- 48. A toast
- 50. Liquefy again
- 52. Home to S. Claus
- 54. Boys
- 55. Tuscan city
- 56. Earpiece?
- 57. Corn flour
- 59. N \_\_\_ Nancy
- 60. Tibetan bovids
- 62. Deadhead's trip?
- 64. Notes to follow sols
- 65. Maiden-name preceder?



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# WANT TO KNOW ABOUT JOB SATISFACTION? ASK A TEACHER

More than 92 percent of teachers reported that they are satisfied in their jobs based on a Teacher Job Satisfaction Report completed in June 2016 by The National Center for Education Statistics' Teacher.

When Ryan Crane decided to go back to school his one goal was to find a career that he loved and allowed him to make an impact while being impacted by others. That drive led him to enroll in Western Washington University's Master in Teaching program at the Everett University Center. He now teaches 11th grade U.S. History, as well as an elective course in social justice.

During his student internship, Ryan invited students of a local middle school to volunteer at a food bank with him. When 25 students arrived for a day of service, he was amazed. This experience, which he referred to as "profound," helped solidify for him that as a teacher, he would have a much greater impact than helping students achieve good test scores. He would help them become better people and contributors to society.

"I have a job where it's not just a paycheck," said Crane. His comments were echoed by Tovah Fairshot, graduate of Western's Elementary and Special Education program in Seattle. Fairshot wrote a letter to future educators about her journey to become a teacher.

In her experience, teaching is a rewarding career through self-discovery. Fairshot wrote, "You will learn so much about your students and you will witness them grow academically and emotionally, but you have no idea how much you will learn about yourself and grow as an individual. Congratulations on embarking on quite possibly the most important profession and no doubt one of the most rewarding."



While both Crane and Fairshot chose career paths that are traditional to teaching, graduates like Mara Vlastic took a route less conventional. She completed Western's TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) certificate program.

"TESOL was an opportunity to see the world. The benefit of the program at Western was that they prepare you for teaching English in any classroom, in any setting in the world," Vlastic explained. "I felt like I could walk into a classroom anywhere and immediately connect with the students." Vlastic is now living a life of adventure as an Education Coordinator in Tanzania.

If you took a job satisfaction survey today, would your comments include making an impact, self-discovery, or adventure? If not, perhaps it is time to consider shifting your path towards a career in teaching.

Western's Woodring College of Education began more than 100 years ago as the New Whatcom State Normal School. Signed into law in 1893 by Governor John H. McGraw, New Whatcom State Normal School was the third publicly supported teacher training school in the young state of Washington, following Cheney and Ellensburg. It was the second normal school, a school created to train high school graduates to be teachers, in Whatcom County. To this day, teacher training remains at the heart of the institution that is now Western Washington University.

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## AROUND THE WEST ZOO LIGHTS

» For the 30th consecutive year, visitors to the **Oregon Zoo in Portland** can view a spectacle of lights strewn along pathways and in exhibit areas across the zoo's 64 acres. From colorfully lit landscapes to bright animal shapes, the zoo's grounds are decorated with more than 1.5 million lights during **ZooLights** evenings, Nov. 24 through Jan. 7 (excluding Dec. 24–25 and Jan. 1–4).

Visitors can view most of the lights via the zoo's walking paths, and can see additional

lights from the zoo train, for which advance reservations are recommended. Train rides, which last 6 to 8 minutes, include a stop for a holiday music performance near the Family Farm and the Elephant Plaza.

The zoo also offers a selection of festive food options, including elephant ears, hot cocoa, and meals from on-site food carts and restaurants. For more information, see [oregonzoo.org](http://oregonzoo.org).

Additional zoos in the West showcasing holiday lights include the **Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle**, which also includes a nightly indoor "snowball" fight with plush fake snowballs ([zoo.org](http://zoo.org)), and **Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma, Washington** ([pdza.org](http://pdza.org)); **ZooMontana in Billings, Montana** ([zoomontana.org](http://zoomontana.org)); and the **San Diego Zoo in California** ([sandiegozoo.org](http://sandiegozoo.org)). Alaska Airlines is a sponsor of the San Diego Zoo. —Lara Douglass

## AROUND THE WEST THANKSGIVING FUN RUNS

» Last year, nearly a million people participated in Thanksgiving runs and walks, according to Running USA, a nonprofit organization that tracks road-racing trends. Joining a "turkey trot" is a fun and active way to celebrate the holiday.

In **Reno, Nevada**, for instance, the **Wobble Before You Gobble** run, Nov. 23, is a family run/walk around some of the city's most scenic downtown areas, with 5K and 10K options. The event starts at the waterfront Reno City Plaza, then follows a tree-lined path along the Truckee River, through the 49-acre Idlewild Park. The mostly flat course is beginner- and stroller-friendly, and awards are given for fastest runners, best costumes and more. After crossing the finish



line, participants can enjoy live music and refreshments.

Pre-Thanksgiving runs around the West include **The Green**

**Lake Gobble & Mashed Potato Munch Off**, Nov. 19

in **Seattle** ([promotionevents.com/tg/default.htm](http://promotionevents.com/tg/default.htm)), while Thanksgiving Day events take place in cities such as **Mammoth Lakes, California** ([mammothtrackclub.com/events](http://mammothtrackclub.com/events)); **Portland** ([oregonzoo.org](http://oregonzoo.org)) and

**Eugene, Oregon** ([level3racing.com](http://level3racing.com)); **Boise, Idaho** ([turkeyday-5k.com](http://turkeyday-5k.com)); and **Missoula, Montana** ([runwildmissoula.org](http://runwildmissoula.org)).

Post-Thanksgiving Day options include the **Leftover Turkey Trot**, Nov. 25 in **Yakima, Washington** ([yakimagreenway.org/leftover-turkey-trot](http://yakimagreenway.org/leftover-turkey-trot)). —Lara Douglass



■ The **Columbia Gardens Urban Wine & Artisan Village**, with tasting rooms and wineries in repurposed industrial buildings along the Columbia River waterfront in Kennewick, WA, opened in October. The village will also eventually house a cluster of specialty markets and galleries. In addition, the City of Kennewick has constructed a waterfront trail connecting the village to Clover Island, downtown Kennewick and the Sacagawea Heritage Trail.

■ **Whistler Cornucopia**, Nov. 9–19, presents culinary tastings, and food and drink seminars, with topics such as "Canada's 150th—A Cultural Culinary Journey," which explores Canadian ingredients and regional cuisines ([whistlercornucopia.com](http://whistlercornucopia.com)).

■ Nordic skiing clinics, competitive races, biathlon races and cross-country skiing on nearly 25 miles of groomed trails can be enjoyed at the **Yellowstone Ski Festival**, Nov. 21–25



in West Yellowstone, MT ([skirun-bikemt.com](http://skirun-bikemt.com)).

■ The **Readiness Acceleration and Innovation Network (RAIN)**, a new nonprofit in Tacoma, south of Seattle, provides support to life-science startups. It was founded as a collaboration of the University of Washington Tacoma, MultiCare Health System, and Madigan Army Medical Center ([rainincubator.org](http://rainincubator.org)).

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**AROUND THE ROUTE SYSTEM**  
**HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS**

■ **The Handmade Showroom**, at Pacific Place in downtown Seattle, features an impressive curated selection of items made by more than 100 Pacific Northwest artisans. For instance: **Unusual stuffed-animal creatures/pillows** (above) from Careful It Bites; **handmade heirloom-quality chopsticks** from Hank by Henry; **The Snowdrop Cowl** from Victory Garden Yarn; and **Salted Caramel Sauce** from Delicately Sweet Confections (thehandmadeshowroom.com).

■ **Celebration Gift Baskets**, in Bellevue, east of Seattle, creates elegant and fun gifts such as the festive **Northwest Gourmet Holiday Christmas Gift Basket** (right) with **Wine or Champagne or Sparkling Cider**. It's filled with more than a dozen artisanal Northwest foods, including items from Fran's Chocolates, Chukar Cherries and Portlock Smoked Salmon. Or choose the colorful **Pacific Northwest Sleigh Ride**, a metal sleigh filled with gourmet foods; the handsome **Northwest Entertainer with Hammered Tray and Serving Bowl**; or a sports-fan gift such as the **Seattle Seahawks Tin Filled with Yummy Snacks** (celebrationgiftbaskets.com).



■ Light up your campsite or other spaces, and also charge devices such as phones and tablets, with the **Gear Aid Flux** (right), from Bellingham, WA-based **Gear Aid**. The Flux, which has 10 brightness settings, is also compatible with tripods and GoPro mounts. Run time is 13 to 192 hours (gearaid.com).

■ **Eva Gates Homemade Preserves**, founded in 1949 in Bigfork, MT, provides gift boxes filled with your choice of **handcrafted preserves** (right) and **syrops**, ranging from wild huckleberry to black raspberry, which can be accompanied by summer sausage or buffalo salami, and honey mustard (evagates.com).



■ **Plumhill pure body essentials**, in Eagle, ID, northwest of Boise, creates all-natural products. The company grew out of the owner's need to relieve her own dry skin in 1999. Products come in varieties such as **Coconut Lime** (right), **Cranberry Orange** and **Winter Vanilla**. Travel sets are available (plumhill.net).



■ Pop culture-inspired gifts from **Re-POP Gifts/ Miss Courageous** in Boise, ID, include upcycled items such as a clip-on **Lego-brick bowtie** (below), **record-vinyl jewelry**, **recycled-wine-cork cufflinks** and **clocks made from board games**. Other fun items include small **Grump Notebooks** (set of three includes Daily Disappointments, Things That Annoy Me and Fresh Rants), and **Doctor Who**-related **TARDIS** (Time and Relative Dimension in Space) **key fobs** (repopgifts.com).



■ Family-owned, Seattle-based **Manzanita Kids** creates durable, ecosensitive, hand-made wood toys, such as a unique modular **dollhouse** (right), **castle**, **rocket ship** and **treehouse**; name **puzzles** and **shape puzzles**; **alphabet blocks**; and **animal-shaped rattles**, including Sasquatch (manzanitakids.com).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RESPECTIVE COMPANIES EXCEPT FOR STUFFED ANIMALS PHOTO, BY MARLO M., AND PLUMHILL NOURISHING CREME PHOTO, BY BARB BERGESON

» THE REGION

■ Plant kits such as **Bonsai**, **Prickly Pear** and **4-Leaf Clover**, and **terrarium kits** such as **Desktop Garden**, are among the gift options from **JPants** in Portland, OR. Some kits come in a three-pack of mini plastic Germination Greenhouses, each about the size of a Rubik's Cube. Other kits, such as the roughly matchbox-size 4-Leaf Clover Kit, perfect for a stocking stuffer (with about 10,000 seeds and at least one 4 leaf, JPants notes), come with directions for where to sprinkle seeds, or the clover can be planted in a patio container (jpants.com).



■ **Vella Cheese**, dating to 1931, and the winner of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Cheese Society, handmakes and handcuts all its cheeses, and does not use animal rennet. Choose the **“A Bit of Everything” gift box** (items shown above right) for half-pound wedges of Mezzo Secco Monterey Jack, Regular Dry Monterey Jack, Daisy Cheddar, Asiago, Original High Moisture Monterey Jack, and Monterey Jack with Rosemary. Also available from the Sonoma, CA, company are the **Gold Medal Box**, the **Box of Jacks**, several **Variety Box options**, and salame (vellacheese.com). ■



WINE-GIFT OPTIONS:

- Washington ([washingtonwine.org](http://washingtonwine.org)).
- Oregon ([oregonwine.org](http://oregonwine.org)).
- Idaho ([idahowines.org](http://idahowines.org)).
- Sonoma County ([sonomacounty.com/wineries](http://sonomacounty.com/wineries)).
- BC's Okanagan ([winebc.com](http://winebc.com)).



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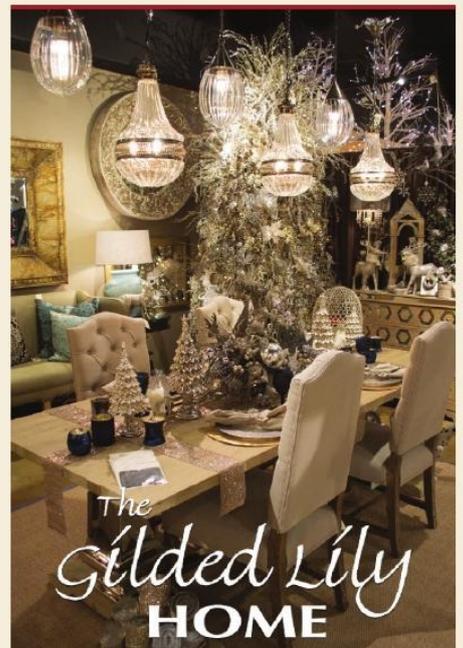
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# GOING BIG

**BIG SKY, MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN AND SUN VALLEY  
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*A skier enjoys a  
spectacular run at  
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BY TED ALVAREZ



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» **We are alone.** We're the only skiers on roller-coastering Horseshoe, a local-favorite blue run that feels like coasting down the sinewy back of an anaconda constricting the mountain. It's the second week in April; two inches fell the night before; and yet expert skier Chris Jones and I have the trail to ourselves as we mine neglected veins of ankle-deep powder, which line the entirety of the run's 2-mile descent. ❄️ With 5,800 skiable acres and 300 named runs spread across four peaks, Big Sky Resort is one of the biggest ski areas in North America. Pacific storms lose much of their water weight over the Cascade Range closer to the coast but typically bestow 400-plus inches of dry Rockies powder on Big Sky's 4,350 feet of vert. At night, the H2O falls like soap flakes, and skiers awake to bluebird skies and yellow sun glinting off snow smooth as velvet.

Those are ideal conditions that have made Big Sky a terrific resort, yet without a corresponding crush of crowds. "Even at full capacity, there's about 2 acres of terrain per skier," says Chris, the resort's manager of mountain guides, who steers both regular folks and celebrities to fresh powder on visits to Big Sky ([bigskyresort.com](http://bigskyresort.com)). "There's so much skiable terrain out here that you almost want more people to share it with."

Big Sky joins Mammoth Mountain and Sun Valley as top-tier ski resorts with plenty of mountain to go around, practically perfect powder, and convenient flights that get you to the slopes quickly and easily. These are places you whisper about to your snow bros and shred sisters at other properties when you're standing in lift lines and navigating overpacked après options. The three resorts are an unbeatable trio for winter fun. Here's how I make the most of them:

### **Best-Kept Secret: Big Sky, Montana**

Chris and I next cruise through barely touched Elk Park Meadows, a ski family's dream of a run, with terrain ranging from gentle glades to tree tunnels. Then we dash over to Headwaters Ridge, in an experts-only section where short hikes lead to dizzying steeps and powder that keeps all week long. My smile is milewide

as I weave and dodge through a powder-choked nest of aspen trees. Tomorrow I'll come back for more.

The Big Sky Valley is dominated by 11,166-foot Lone Peak, a diamond of a mountain that towers 2,000-plus feet over the resort's other three ski hills—Andesite Mountain, Flatiron Mountain and Spirit Mountain—and looks like the Paramount logo. In 2013, Big Sky Resort acquired Moonlight Basin, a separate resort on the north shoulder of Lone Peak, boosting the total skiable terrain to the current 5,800 acres. Seven terrain parks with more than 100 jibs complement the ski runs.

Wilderness abounds in this area, and most residents live in the somewhat rolling tongue of meadow and forest at the valley entrance. The West Yellowstone Entrance to Yellowstone National Park is less than 60 miles to the southeast, and Bozeman is less than 60 miles to the northeast.

Area Realtor Tallie Lancey says that because the Big Sky region was developed relatively recently, locals here welcome newcomers and visitors.

"Fifty years ago, there was no town here—it was just cattle and sheep," she says. "It's so new. We just paved what will be Main Street. A high school opened up eight years ago. But there's so much opportunity: You might be the first to open your type of business in Big Sky."



» **Sunny weather and a refreshment break bring smiles at Big Sky, where the locals are known for their friendliness.**

Cowboy courtesy reigns in the burgeoning town. At the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, a boot-scootin' watering hole with an ace barbecue, I receive numerous offers for ski partners and dance partners.

"Almost everyone is from somewhere else—there isn't that attitude of, 'We don't want you to know about Big Sky,'" Lancey says. "You experience that welcoming spirit at the coffee shop, the bagel shop, the ski shop. When you're riding the chair, I'd be surprised if you weren't invited to ski with a local when you got to the top. Locals say, 'Come with me—I'll show you around.' That's evident as soon as you get off the plane."

A major contributor to that kind of generosity is obvious when you reach the ski slopes: There seems to be as much mountain as sky. Big Sky Resort competes with some of North America's biggest ski areas when it comes to the amount of skiable acreage, but sees a fraction of the traffic.

What's more, despite, or perhaps because of, occasional bouts of upper-Rockies cold, the mountains here almost always offer a gift. "If it's been sunny and warm for a week, no matter what, there's

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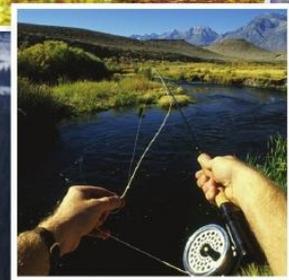
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a great pocket to ski,” Lancey says. “If it’s been windy, go where the wind has blown in old snow. It’s always good, regardless of weather.”

If this sounds like some kind of alpine promised land, that’s because it is: The origin stories of many Big Sky locals reflect this. Erin, one of my new Gallatin Riverhouse Grill friends, came here from Cleveland 20 years ago, on a journey north when a Colorado ski resort didn’t quite measure up.

“I turned into the valley, saw the mountain, and knew instantly: This is it,” he says.

### Family Favorite: Mammoth Mountain, California

“618 inches.” That astounding number, a near-record-breaking snow total for the 2016–17 season, will define Mammoth talk for years to come. Locals will recount with a grin how they were deluged with face-shots from November to May, with snow so deep it blew into their goggles, and how good skiable terrain lasted all the way to August 6, when Mammoth Mountain Ski Area ([mammothmountain.com](http://mammothmountain.com)) finally closed for the summer. Pilgrims from elsewhere will talk in reverent tones of their trips to this snowy hub.

I’m here in mid-June—wearing a T-shirt—racing down Cornice Bowl and crushing smooth Super-G turns into the surprisingly swift St. Anton’s, turned buttery smooth in the mid-morning sun.

“Now that ... was nice,” enthused my ski partner, Rob. “Let’s do it again. And maybe again.”

“I think we’re going to need more sunscreen,” I huffed.

Mammoth Mountain, a high-altitude wonder tucked into the serrated fringe of the Eastern Sierra, regularly logs epic snow accumulation from Pacific Ocean storms that snag on the mountain’s 11,053-foot summit (the highest ski summit in California). And while this year’s snow didn’t break the record (668 inches



» Left: A powder-perfect blue-sky day at Mammoth Mountain. Below: Visitors gather around a fire pit at Campo restaurant in The Village at Mammoth.

in 2010–11), the flakes fell so hard and so late that the town of Mammoth Lakes actually called in the National Guard to help free the streets from 44 feet of snow blanket. A squad of 10-ton tactical trucks came to the rescue.

All that abundance might make you think the resort is larded with difficult terrain that attracts only high-commitment experts, but Mammoth surprises people with how family-friendly it is. A full 65 percent of its 3,500 acres is dedicated to green and blue runs—wide and fun groomers such as Easy Rider, Lower Solitude, Stump Alley and Broadway. When skiers and boarders are ready to upgrade, gentle dark-blue blacks such as Andy’s Double Gold and Blue Ox buff confidence and nudge intermediate athletes closer to advanced.

Not that the mountain lacks challenge. Chair 23 offers access to the rocky steeps of Dropout and Wipeout chutes, where the mountain’s famous chalky “wind buff” snow collects between the stone teeth.

If GoPro glory is your goal, Mammoth is the scene. The terrain park, Unbound, unites nine separate parks into an outra-



geous playground with more than 50 jumps, four halfpipes and 100 jibs. It’s so solidly constructed and well-respected, it hosted U.S. initial-selection competitions for the 2018 Olympics in slopestyle skiing, halfpipe skiing and slopestyle snowboarding. This season, it will host the final selection events and will be the site where the country’s 2018 Olympic snowboard and freeski teams will be announced.

After Rob and I take a few more laps to the top of the mountain to gaze at the fierce Minarets and distant hints of Yosemite peaks, we ditch the hot afternoon sun, drop our skis at the Western-style ski-in, ski-out Mammoth Mountain Inn at



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Main Lodge, and stroll The Village at Mammoth. Fellow snow-sports enthusiasts are taking a break around fire pits or refueling with meals at popular restaurants such as Campo.

Next we head about a mile east to explore the low-key town of Mammoth Lakes. The stellar espressos at Black Velvet Coffee reenergize us, and afterward we stride out for a 6-mile roundtrip creekside hike on the Sherwin Lakes Trail, followed by refreshment about 25 miles north in the June Lake area, where June Lake Brewing serves rich IPAs, saisons and porters on a sunny deck with a view of imposing 10,866-foot Carson Peak and the glittering lake.

Waterfalls pour from the vast snowfields crowning the summit of the peak. To the northeast, 10,090-foot June Mountain also rises above the lake, and provides 1,500 acres of skiing on 41 named trails, with 2,590 feet of vertical, from approximately mid-December into April.

The bar at June Lake Brewing gets louder as chatty locals and their adorable pups filter in, but we can't stay for the party. Tomorrow's an early morning in an Eastern Sierra wonderland where winter goes on and on.

### Luxe Legend: Sun Valley, Idaho

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, Demi Moore, Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Hanks, Clint Eastwood, Bruce Springsteen—those are just a few of the luminaries who've flocked to Sun Valley Resort ([sunvalley.com](http://sunvalley.com)) during its illustrious eight decades.

It makes sense that in an area with gold and diamond spa facials, and a median home price in the town of Ketchum of just under a cool mil, glitz would dominate the



» *The thrill of downhill at Sun Valley Resort comes with breathtaking views of nearby peaks.*

conversation on and off the mountain.

Why are celebs drawn here? For one thing, 9,150-foot Bald Mountain has a world-famous gradient and runs so long, you forget about time. Plus, wind usually takes a holiday, meaning the resort's 220 inches of snow a year has an exceptionally long shelf life, enhanced by expert man-



made stuff. Inhale the mountain's entire 3,400 feet of vertical in one 10-minute ride on the Challenger lift; exhale all of it on Limelight, a 3,000-foot continuous, straight-shot ripper that connects to Warm Springs all the way back to the bottom. (Intermediate skiers can take blue-green Warm Springs all the way for a similar but mellower experience.)

Then there's Cold Springs, offering phenomenal trees, while the suite of powder-stocked troughs pouring from Baldy's summit (try Mayday) match the finest bowl skiing anywhere.

"The groomed skiing is so good in Sun Valley that you often hear hoots and hollers that are normally reserved for powder days," says vaunted skier Mike Hatstrup, a 23-year Ketchum resident who starred in various ski films and was on the U.S. Freestyle Ski Team



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in the late 1980s before experiencing a knee injury. He is now a sales specialist for Fischer Skis. “If you have fresh snow, the mountain completely opens up. The bowls are good; the south slopes ski really well; and the new gladed section is exceptional.”

Pro freeskiier Lexi du Pont grew up in the Sun Valley area and has traveled the world for ski competitions. But she chooses to live and train in her hometown, where she thrills family and friends who come to see her on the slopes.

Her insider recommendation? “Seattle Ridge is the place to go,” du Pont says. “There is a fancy lodge with incredible food, steep groomers to really open up the throttle and ski fast, a beginner run that would build up the confidence of the groms [kids], and some sick pow stashes. When my cousins from New

York come to town, we spend the entire day over there because it is perfect for every ability.”

Founded in 1936, Sun Valley Resort has 2,054 skiable acres that provide lots of room for the average of 2,900 skiers per day. It is the country’s oldest destination ski resort, and the birthplace of the chairlift, but it doesn’t rest on its laurels. Its Dollar Mountain options are being updated for the 2017–18 season, including flow-style terrain parks and progressive features to challenge skiers and riders of all levels.

A complete renovation of Sun Valley Lodge, finished in 2015, is being followed by a remodel of 25 rooms at Sun Valley Inn, in Sun Valley Village, for the 2017–18 season, with the remaining 80 rooms being updated in fall 2018. The Ram restaurant at the inn will see updates

such as an exhibition kitchen, while The Ram Bar at the inn is getting a new fireplace and big-screen televisions.

The inn will also have a new restaurant, Village Station, expected to open in mid-December. It will include big-screen TVs and a seasonal creekside patio, along with a family-friendly menu, plus a full-service bar.

At Apple’s Bar & Grill, at the base of the Warm Springs side of Bald Mountain, you can see memorabilia related to Sun Valley’s many Olympians and the culture of skiing in Sun Valley, and in the town of Ketchum, you can view classic photos of Ernest Hemingway at the Pioneer Saloon.

The Casino Club (which had actual casino games until the 1950s) is a Ketchum landmark that was established the same year as Sun Valley Resort. Today, patrons enjoy pool



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But for one of the most quintessential Sun Valley experiences, try a Hemingway Daiquiri—Mount Gay silver rum, Luxardo maraschino liqueur, fresh grapefruit juice and lime juice—back at the Sun Valley Lodge’s Duchin Lounge, where Papa himself frequently hung out. Not too much, now: Sun Valley’s superlative slopes await. ■

*Ted Alvarez writes from the Seattle area.*

*Alaska Airlines provides service to Bozeman, Montana, gateway to Big Sky, and service to Mammoth Lakes, the Sun Valley area and many other ski areas. For more information on flying Alaska to these and your other favorite ski destinations, see [alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com).*



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# CHEFS' THANKSGIVING

COME THANKSGIVING, MOST OF US ARE GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, OR TUCKING INTO A PLATE OF TURKEY WHILE WATCHING FOOTBALL. BUT WHAT DO THE PROFESSIONAL COOKS DO? CHANCES ARE YOU'LL FIND THEM—WHERE ELSE?—IN THE KITCHEN, WHETHER THEY'RE DONNING AN APRON AT THEIR OWN RESTAURANT OR SERVING FOOD AT HOME. ...

BY MEGAN HILL



**Jake Sirianni's viral rap video** landed him his dream internship on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

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## CHEFS' THANKSGIVING



ALL-CHEN/ISTOCKSY



**JOHN HOWIE,  
CHEF AND OWNER,  
SEASTAR RESTAURANT  
& RAW BAR,  
BELLEVUE, WA**

This Thanksgiving will mark the 15th year that I will host a three-course, fine-dining feast at Seastar Restaurant & Raw Bar at no cost to clients of several local community charities. Every year, around 650 guests attend through Bellevue LifeSpring, Hopelink in Redmond and Bellevue, Olive Crest, Redmond YWCA and The Sophia Way. The meal is made possible by personal donations and local vendors who provide more than 600 pounds of turkey, 500 pounds of potatoes, 90 pounds of cranberry sauce and mountains of pies. Numerous volunteers (approximately 75 Seastar crew members, families and friends) participate as servers, cooks and dishwashers before we all sit down at the end of the day to share a Thanksgiving meal together.

Some diners attend because they're unable to prepare a meal or can't afford to. Others are in need of fellowship. Foster families are often invited so they can enjoy a stress-free holiday.

I started this because I was struggling

with not feeling as thankful when Thanksgiving began, feeling like it was just another day of cooking. My wife and I decided to open the restaurant that first year to low-income families and treat them to something special. After that, we knew we'd continue doing it forever. My youngest son doesn't even really remember Thanksgiving before we started serving at Seastar. Now my grandchildren are part of our tradition.



**TRAVIS TAYLOR, CHEF,  
SUNRIVER RESORT,  
SUNRIVER, OR**

Being a chef at a resort means that you're usually working on Thanksgiving. So my chef friends and I will often do a Thanksgiving for friends once we're done serving Thanksgiving dinner to our guests.

One year, three other chefs and I got together and did a turkey cook-off. And of course, because we're chefs, we couldn't be outdone by our fellow chefs, so we went over the top.

I prepared a deboned turkey with a carrot, celery, bacon and Rogue Creamery's Oregon blue cheese and bread-

... *WHICHEVER IS THE CASE, THEY'RE FINDING WAYS TO PUT THEIR OWN TOUCHES ON THANKSGIVING. HERE, SEVERAL WESTERN U.S. CHEFS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE MEMORIES, DISHES AND TRADITIONS.*

crumb stuffing. I rolled it, smoked it, deep-fried it and served it with a Frank's RedHot gravy. It was a combination between hot wings and turkey dinner—the best of both worlds!

Who was the winner of the cook-off? Well, all of us.

One of my favorite things to make the day after Thanksgiving is what I call a "Leftover Thanksgiving Dinner Sandwich" that I create out of my Thanksgiving favorites. I layer cranberry, cream cheese, turkey (of course), thick slices of heirloom tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce on a lightly toasted croissant. I'll

CHEF PHOTOS, FROM LEFT: KEVIN FUJII; SUNRIVER RESORT

even add stuffing and mashed potatoes, if there's any left over. It sounds strange, but it's delicious!



MELISSA PERELLO,  
CHEF AND OWNER.  
FRANCES AND OCTAVIA.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Hands down, my favorite Thanksgiving dish is my mother's cornbread stuffing. It's a staple on all of our family Thanksgiving menus. She makes everything from scratch, and she stresses out about it every year, but it always turns out perfect. Other than that, there is nothing too out of the ordinary—just simple and delicious food.

One of my personal favorite things to make each year is some variation of a savory galette, typically involving some

type of roasted winter squash and some type of cured pork or sausage.

We are also not big turkey fans in the family, and more often than not, we'll opt for a roasted cut of pork, such as a rack of pork, pork loin, porchetta or ham.

My mom and I always go for a big salad of hearty greens such as kale or mustard greens. Mashed potatoes are always a staple at the table, too.

There is always apple pie for dessert, as well, because it's my father's favorite.



RICHARD LANGSTON,  
CHEF AND OWNER.  
RICHARD'S. BOISE, ID

Growing up in central Louisiana, I learned that with cooking there's Southern, and then there's everything else. As Southern-

ers we always had cornbread dressing in our turkey on Thanksgiving: homemade cornbread (cooked in bacon grease, of course), eggs and cream. No sage. My grandmother didn't like sage.

Fast-forward 20-some years, and I'm married to a woman whose family is originally from Iowa. After her parents moved to California, we lived near them when we were first married, so her mother hosted Thanksgiving and made the turkey—and the dressing. Bread dressing made with Pepperidge Farm dried bread cubes, chicken stock, onions, celery and sage. Lots of sage.

Fast-forward another 10 years. Living in Idaho, we were on our own for Thanksgiving dinner. That's when it sank in how attached people are to what they've grown up with. It's the one holiday that's all about food, where the smells and tastes

FROM LEFT: MICHAEL SUGRUE / COURTESY FRANCES; RICHARD'S

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## BREAD DRESSING, CHEF-STYLE

Provided by Richard Langston, chef/owner of Richard's in Boise, Idaho; serves eight.

### Ingredients:

1 lb. baguette (about two baguettes)  
Turkey bits from 1 uncooked turkey (e.g. neck and wing tips)  
1 large onion, diced  
1 bunch celery, diced  
8 black peppercorns  
1 carrot, roughly chopped  
2 bay leaves  
1/4 cup sage, chopped  
1 tablespoon garlic, chopped  
2 tablespoons butter  
Salt and pepper to taste



### One day ahead:

Dice baguettes into 1/2-inch cubes and leave out overnight to dry.

### On the day of:

Prepare the turkey stock. Make this from the turkey parts most

people don't eat, such as the neck and wing tips. Place in a large stockpot, and cover with 1 gallon water. Set aside 1 cup chopped onion, and add any leftover onion, including the skins, to the stockpot. Set aside 1 cup celery, and add any leftover celery, including tops, to the stockpot.

To the stockpot add 8 black peppercorns, one roughly chopped carrot and 2 bay leaves. Bring the stock to a slow boil, then reduce to a simmer. Cook for 1 hour. Cool and strain. Discard the vegetables, and save the giblets for gravy if that is part of your plan.

Sauté over medium heat the reserved cup of onion, the reserved cup of celery, the chopped garlic and the chopped sage in the butter until soft, but not brown. Remove from heat. Refrigerate if you are not proceeding to the rest of the recipe immediately.

If the dish is going straight to the oven, preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Combine sautéed vegetables with bread cubes in a large bowl. Add enough stock to moisten—this should be about 2 cups, depending on the bread. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Cook the dressing in a buttered baking dish, covered, for 1 hour. At this point the temperature should read about 160 degrees F. Remove the cover and continue cooking until the internal temperature is 165 degrees F and the top is crusty—about 15 minutes.

My wife prefers it cooked in the turkey (can fill a 12-pounder), but sometimes the chef wins.



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## CHEFS' THANKSGIVING

are inextricably linked to childhood memories. So my wife and I would “discuss” what kind of dressing we would make: cornbread or plain bread. Finally, it was “happy wife, happy life,” so I leaned into bread stuffing, but, being a chef, I had to spiff up my mother-in-law’s version—with fresh baguette bread, and just a little bit of sage (please see sidebar on p. 39).



BRIAN SCHOTT,  
EXPLORE WHITEFISH

**ANDY BLANTON,**  
CHEF,  
CAFE KANDAHAR,  
WHITEFISH, MT

One of my favorite

Thanksgiving dishes to prepare is a deep-fried turkey. I like to brine the turkey for at least 36 hours, usually with salt, sugar, molasses, white wine and herbs.

Once the bird is out of the brine, I inject the turkey with a cayenne-butter mixture before deep-frying. There is an amazing dark brown color (which, to me, means flavor) that results from the brine, adding to the crispiness from the hot oil. Plus, the added spices and butter keep the turkey super moist, the brine doubling down on juiciness, creating a well-seasoned feast.

This deep-fried masterpiece will go with just about anything—savory or sweet sauces and accompaniments—making it a versatile go-to option for Thanksgiving.

Personally, I would not have it any other way. Unless, of course, it were duck, slow-roasted at a low temperature with honey-pecan gravy over some crawfish-cornbread dressing. ■

*Megan Hill is a Seattle-based food and travel writer.*

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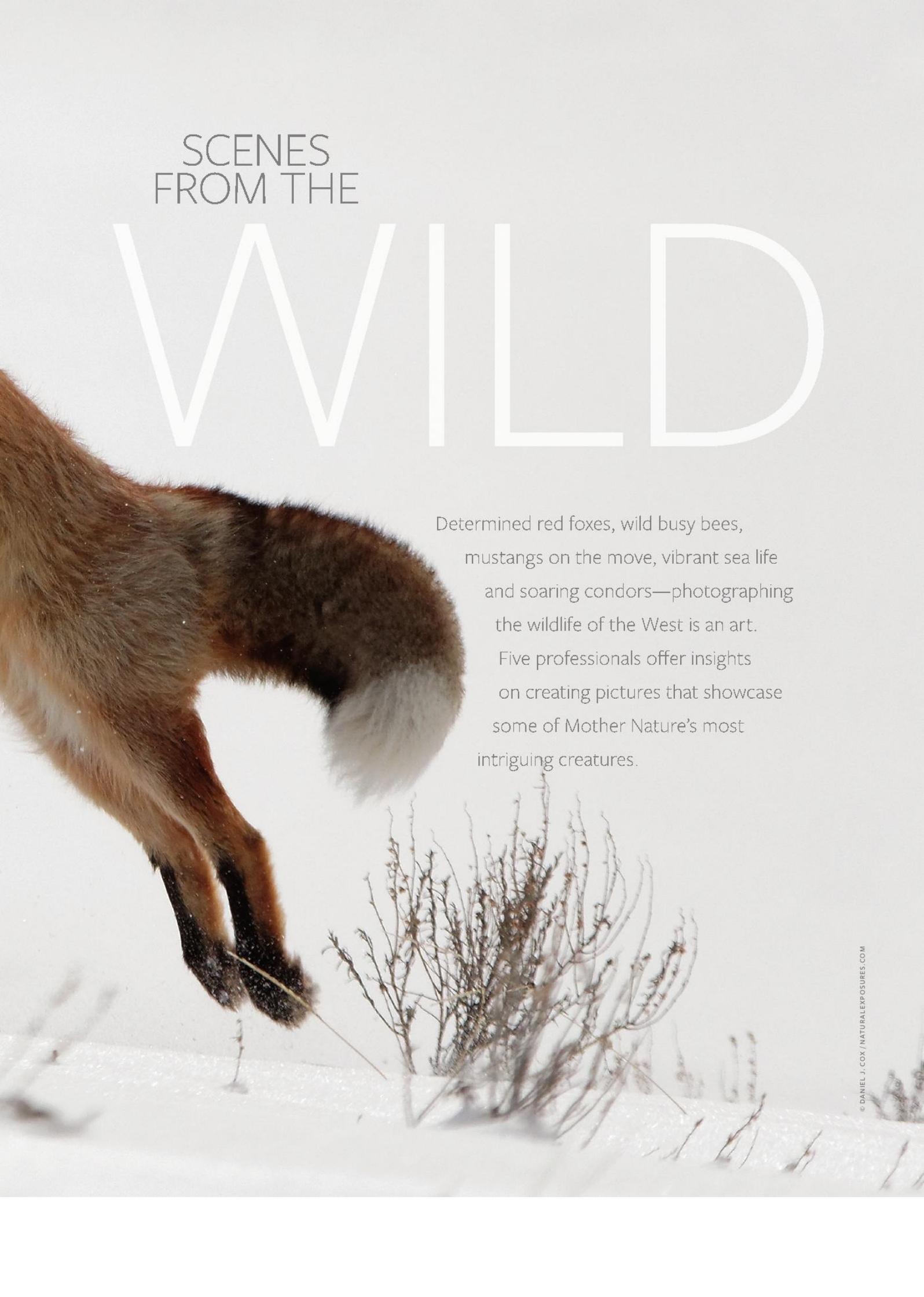
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SCENES  
FROM THE

# WILD

Determined red foxes, wild busy bees, mustangs on the move, vibrant sea life and soaring condors—photographing the wildlife of the West is an art. Five professionals offer insights on creating pictures that showcase some of Mother Nature's most intriguing creatures.

## Mr. Red

Photographed by Daniel J. Cox  
Yellowstone National Park, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming

This beautiful animal, whom I dubbed “Mr. Red,” was hunting on a snowy ridge when we saw him from the confines of our warm and comfy snow coach. I led our small group of winter photographers outside to the front of the van and suggested we keep our distance to not affect the fox’s hunt. The most important principle of good wildlife photography is the safety of your subject and yourself. Long lenses, such as the Leica 800mm I used for these images, allow me to stay out of the way.

The fox cocked his head, listening intently. Then, like a cat on springs, he jumped, his nose spearlike as gravity drove him to the prey below. —D.C.



To see bees up close is to understand their distinct beauty.

## Buzzing By

Photographed by Michael Durham  
Mount Hood National Forest, Oregon

Wild bees are magnificent to observe in their native habitat amid colorful fields of wildflowers. Coming in all shapes and sizes, there are more than 20,000 types of bees buzzing around the world, and to see them up close is to understand their distinct beauty.

I’m most interested in capturing photos of them flying. To accomplish this takes a fair bit of specialty equipment, including a custom, high-speed shutter, laser sensors and ultrafast flash units. The equivalent shutter speed is 1/40,000th second. The top photo was taken with a Canon 50D, the bottom with a Canon 60D. I used a Canon 100mm macro lens for both. I also used a Cognisys High Speed Shutter, Cognisys Laser Beam Sensor and Canon 540 EZ flash units.

Photographing bees also requires patience. It can take all day to wait for a bee to fly into a precise point of space so I can capture an exposure. I’ve found that photographing where there are lots of busy bees increases the odds of making a good image. Despite the needed patience, the work is always worth it when I see the detail of the waving antennae and the sun glinting off patterns in the bees’ wings. —M.D.





### On the Run

Photographed by Michael Luque  
Snake River Canyon area, Idaho

*It had taken me more than an hour to slowly approach and get within 100 yards of these wild horses. I was in the Owyhee Mountains photographing the Black Mountain Herd of nearly 40 mustangs in the Snake River Canyon area.*

*I spent four hours shooting with my Nikon 200–400mm lens and camera, capturing amazing shots of these powerful equines. When it was time to go, I slung my tripod over my shoulder and started walking away.*

*The horses followed.*

*I stopped, snapped a few more photos and then kept walking. That's when I heard the quickening hoofbeats. I looked over my shoulder and saw the herd running through the brush. Do I hit the dirt, wave my hands or keep taking photographs? I reached for my camera, of course.*

*The mustangs went around me and kept going, and I managed to capture the photo at right. It took my heartbeat a long time to stop galloping. —M.L.*



I looked over my shoulder and saw the herd running through the brush.

## Underwater Wilderness

Photographed by Brandon Cole

Cape Flattery and Deception Pass, Washington

Photographers willing to take the plunge will find colorful creatures and beautiful scenery in Washington's underwater wilderness. For 30 years I've used scuba gear to explore beneath the waves—from Puget Sound's protected reaches to the exposed Olympic Peninsula—capturing wildlife large and small, weird and wonderful.

In the shot at right, a diver glides through a reef fissure at Duncan Rock, off Cape Flattery—the northwesternmost part of the contiguous United States—and appears to be approached by curious sea lions. I used a Canon 5D Mark IV camera and 16–35mm f-2.8 II wide-angle zoom lens inside a waterproof Nauticam housing. Exposure settings were 1/200th second, f-9 aperture and ISO 800. Two Ikelite DS161 flashes provided illumination.

The bright bouquet of painted sea anemones, below, was taken at Deception Pass, off the north end of Whidbey Island in Washington. Each year, millions of people drive across the Deception Pass Bridge, but few people probably realize that beneath them, in the swirling, emerald-green waters, intrepid divers drift along a reef wall decorated with a living tapestry of marine life. To get the shot, I used a Canon 5D Mark III camera and 50mm macro lens inside a waterproof Nauticam housing. Exposure settings were 1/200th second, f-13 aperture, ISO 200. Two Ikelite DS160 flashes created the light. Myriad fish scooted over sponges and finned between burgundy feather duster worms, and camouflaged crabs marched past rainbow sea stars in a scene reminiscent of Dale Chihuly's fantastical glasswork. —B.C.



Intrepid divers drift along a reef wall decorated with a living tapestry of marine life.



### Capturing Condors

Photographed by Joshua Asel  
Big Sur, California

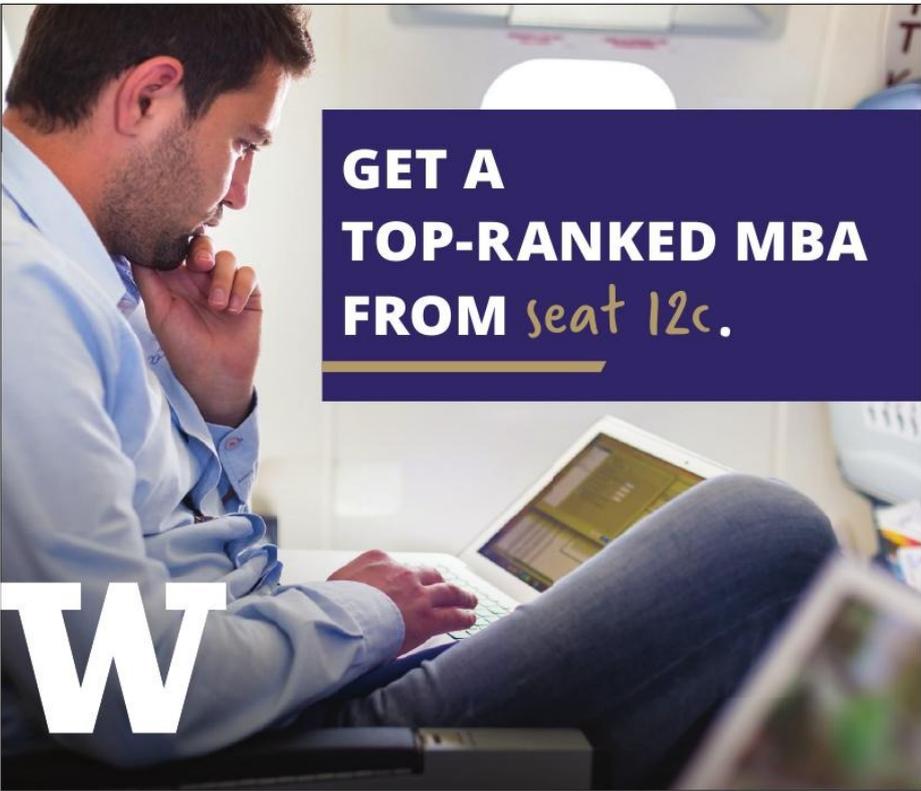
*In the Santa Lucia Range, nearly 40 California condors, their wingspans stretching 10 feet, soared above me. I had set out with members of the Ventana Wildlife Society to visit the 80-acre Big Sur Coast Sanctuary, where I watched and photographed the work of the California Condor Recovery Program. VWS staff captured, blood-tested and GPS-tagged—and released back into the wild—members of one of the world's largest flying species. In a giant aviary with food and water, biologists and volunteers examined the birds of prey. More condors flew overhead and into the valley below—toward the meeting of mountain and ocean.*

*I used a Nikon D90 with a 70–210mm f-4 Nikkor lens—and one other kit lens, an 18–55mm f-5-5.6 that came with the camera—to capture these pictures.*

*It was an amazing experience made even better by knowing that, with the work of groups such as VWS, the California condor has gone from near extinction to a population of more than 440 birds. —J.A.*

Condors flew into the valley below—  
toward the meeting  
of mountain and ocean.





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### Three tips for perfecting your photography

Professional photographers Joshua Asef, Brandon Cole, Daniel J. Cox, Michael Durham and Michael Luque offered advice on wildlife photography. Here is a compilation of their recommendations.

#### **Put background front of mind.**

Obviously, the subject of your image is critical, but paying attention to the background and the quality of light can make all the difference in how your subject looks.

Find interesting lines, shapes and even colors that can lead the viewer's eye into your main subject. Certain textures, colors and shapes look better in shaded, softer light, while others look their best in direct sunlight. Have patience as you make adjustments—even the best photographers struggle to get it right.

**Tell a story.** Think of your subject like a character in fiction. What are her motivations, and what stands in her way? Without a story, your image might lack power. Play around with unusual angles and unexpected camera settings, and keep working the scene.

**Shift your focus.** In your photography, always try to look at things in a new light. If you specialize in photographing animals, spend a day just shooting landscapes and another day focused on people.

The new experiences will add to your perspective on important elements such as movement, exposure and composition, and allow you to find more potential in every image.

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## FLAVORS OF SAN DIEGO

By Barbara Beckley

» We've just finished dessert—the S'Mores Sundae (a delicious mix of chocolate mousse, salted caramel, smoked meringue and espresso gelato)—at Craft & Commerce when the hostess approaches our table. “Now,” she says. “Follow me.”

She guides us to the back of the trendy restaurant in San Diego's Little Italy neighborhood, climbs a few steps, opens an industrial refrigerator door and leads us through a walk-in cooler to a second door that is a portal to a Polynesian paradise. She gestures toward the mellow glow and hum of conversation inside. “Welcome to False Idol” ([falseidoltiki.com](http://falseidoltiki.com)).

“Whoa!” I gasp in delight.

My friend and I are Tiki lovers, and this cocktails-only, speakeasy-style place is over the top. The 1,000-square-foot room is decorated with a profusion of Polynesian pop-inspired carvings, masks, artifacts and tapa cloth. Dried pufferfish and glass buoy balls hang from the ceiling.

No wonder we had to make reservations two weeks in advance. False Idol is open daily from 6 P.M. to 2 A.M., and walk-ins are welcome promptly at

6 P.M., but after that, reservations are a must. We pass a wall sporting a floor-to-ceiling waterfall, and find seats at the bar counter. Other patrons are relaxing in plush booths or at chairs pulled up to small wooden tables.

I admire the bar's ornate, custom-made Tiki mugs that share space with the collection of 200-plus rare and vintage rums and other spirits that go into making False Idol's handcrafted libations.

» Above, the colorful and intriguing False Idol Tiki bar.

Below, Craft & Commerce's S'Mores Sundae.



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What to order? Everything on the 36-item cocktail menu looks tempting, from vaunted recipes such as Trader Vic's Mai Tai (said to have been invented by California restaurateur Victor J. Bergeron in 1944) to original creations such as the signature "Alkala the Fierce" punch-bowl-style cocktail for up to four (or maybe even more) people.

"We'll have the Alkala the Fierce," my friend decides. As the server approaches, the lights go dark. Thunder and lightning fill the room—the sign that an Alkala the Fierce is being served.

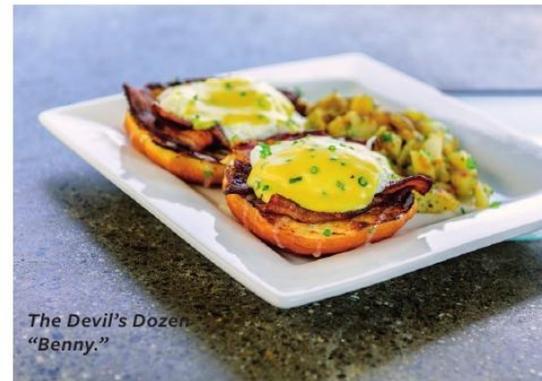
Fire spews from the 4-inch-tall ceramic volcano in the center of the 12-inch-diameter Alkala the Fierce bowl. Once the flames go out, we dip in our straws and enjoy the chai-infused bourbon, aged rum, dark rum, vanilla, pimento dram and orgeat. It's a perfect choice to celebrate being in this oh-so-popular Polynesian-themed hot spot.

Alkala the Fierce is among the many examples of menu creativity and quality that have helped to make San Diego a top foodie destination. Below are five more items representative of the area's intriguing culinary offerings.

### Devil's Dozen "Benny" at Firehouse Pacific Beach (firehousepb.com).

Is it a doughnut? Is it eggs Benedict? It's actually both: a vanilla-glazed doughnut (from the local Devil's Dozen doughnut shop), topped with maple-peppercorn bacon, poached eggs and lemon hollandaise, with a side of breakfast potatoes. All this—and an ocean view, too—at the Firehouse American Eatery and Lounge in Pacific Beach. The Benny is served daily from the time they open (varies by day) until 3 P.M.

## » EXPLORE FLAVORS OF SAN DIEGO



The Devil's Dozen  
"Benny."

### Nigiri Sushi Flight of Baja Hiramasa at Lionfish (lionfishsd.com):

Fresh catches prepared with innovative twists is the hallmark of the popular Lionfish restaurant in downtown San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter. For instance,



The Nigiri Sushi Flight of  
Baja Hiramasa.

the four-piece Nigiri Flight of Baja Hiramasa (yellowtail) includes one piece with kumquat marmalade and soy glaze; one with horseradish crème fraîche; one with white sturgeon caviar; and one with fresh wasabi and nikiri (sweet soy).

### Raindrop Cake at VaniTea Cafe (vaniteacafe.com):

This Japanese translucent cake—served with a housemade syrup that includes brown sugar, soybean flour and a "secret sauce" to bring out the aroma of the cake, and decorated with an aster or other small, colorful flower—tops the sweet-tooth charts. True, the chilled



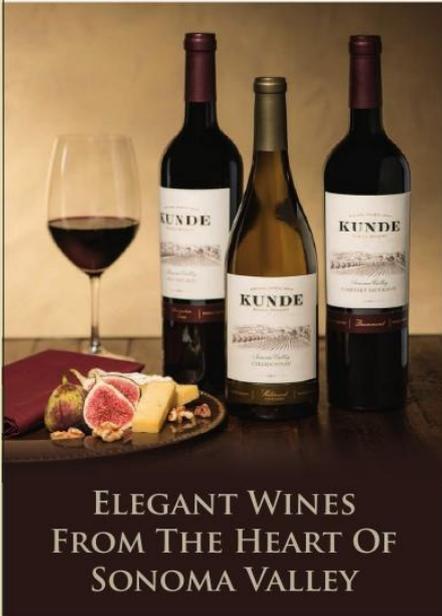
The Raindrop  
Cake.

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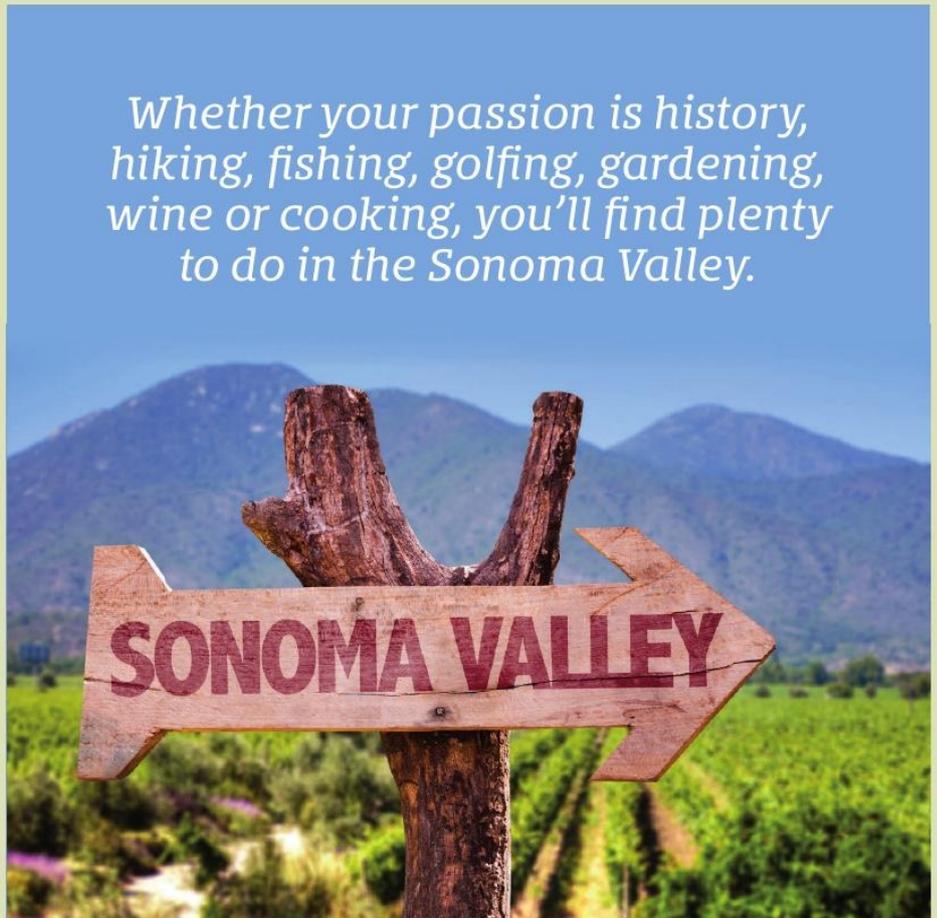
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FLAVORS OF SAN DIEGO

Raindrop Cake isn't really a cake, since the main ingredients are agar (gelatin derived from red algae) and mineral water, but it's delicious, and VaniTea Cafe—a small Chula Vista specialty shop known for handcrafted desserts, teas and coffees—is one of the first to make it in San Diego.

**Seared Cauliflower Steak at Kindred** (barkindred.com): All-vegan Kindred in



MONICA HOOVER

the South Park neighborhood is easily one of San Diego's quirkiest restaurants—it's decorated with heavy-metal imagery. The food is as much a draw as the decor, attracting even meat lovers, thanks to creative cocktails, and a dinner menu comprising housemade snacks, salads, sandwiches, mains and sweets. The Seared Cauliflower Steak is a popular choice. It features a hearty cauliflower topped with orange-squash purée, tahini beets, puff pastry and house vegan steak sauce.

**Señor Croque sandwich at The Crack Shack** (crack-shack.com): Named for its focus on chicken and eggs, The Crack Shack in downtown's Little Italy neighbor-



STUDIO MAHA / COURTESY KINDRED

» Above, the all-vegan Kindred.

Left, the Señor Croque sandwich at The Crack Shack.

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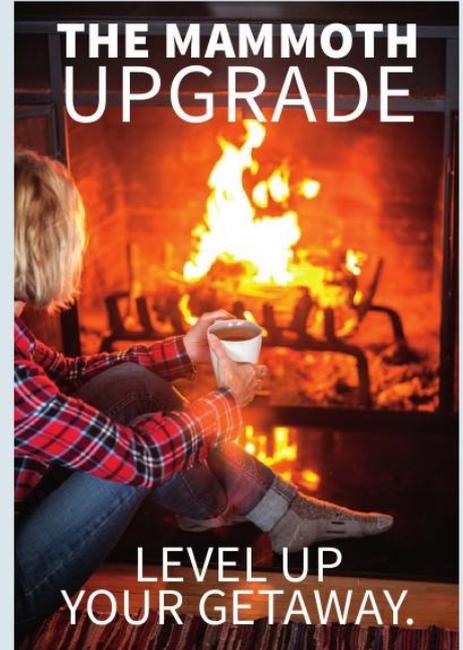
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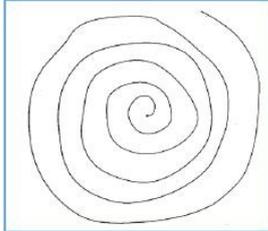
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## » EXPLORE

### FLAVORS OF SAN DIEGO

hood elevates those farm ingredients to a mouthwatering level. Guests order at a counter, then relax outdoors at awning-shaded picnic-style tables and chairs to enjoy favorites such as the Señor Croque sandwich of crispy chicken, bacon, a fried egg, white cheddar cheese and miso-maple butter on brioche. ■

Barbara Beckley writes from Southern California. For more info on San Diego-area dining, see [sandiego.org](http://sandiego.org). Alaska Airlines ([alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com)) provides regular service to San Diego.

## ALSO IN SAN DIEGO

**Balboa Park December Nights** (40th year), Dec. 1-2: Live entertainment, holiday lights. Free Balboa Park museums admission, 5 to 9 P.M. ([visitdecemberevents.org](http://visitdecemberevents.org)).

**2017 Stance ISA World Adaptive Surfing Championship**, in which physically challenged surfers showcase their skills, Nov. 29–Dec. 3: More than 75 athletes, from 20-plus countries, are expected to compete in La Jolla, north of San Diego ([isaworlds.com/adaptive](http://isaworlds.com/adaptive)).

**Gaslamp Quarter walking tours**, most Thursdays and Saturdays: Learn about structures such as the 1850 Davis-Horton House, the 1874 Old City Hall and the 1890 Romanesque-style Keating Building. Led by the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation, the tours also tell the stories of several people who shaped San Diego ([gaslampfoundation.org](http://gaslampfoundation.org)).

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Puzzle on page 58.

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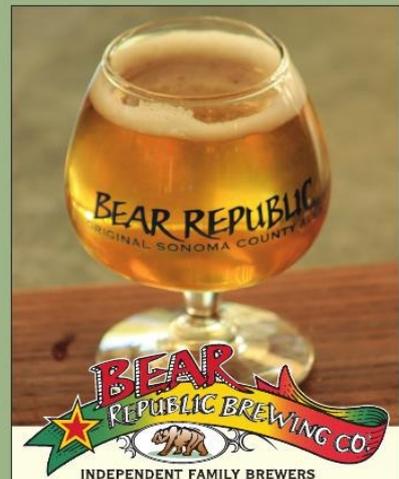
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# Flyer guide

Your overview of the Alaska experience.

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Last year, we placed our largest aircraft order in our history, ordering 30 Embraer E175 regional jets. The new aircraft will offer a first-class cabin, spacious overhead bins, inflight Wi-Fi and the Alaska Beyond Entertainment streaming entertainment system. The first two of these new aircraft recently entered service.



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# Your safety and comfort

## AT YOUR SEAT

- Buckle Up. Please fasten your seat belt whenever the seat belt sign is illuminated. We ask that you keep your seat belt fastened throughout the flight whenever you are seated in case of undetectable clear-air turbulence.
- Seat backs and tray tables must be in the upright, locked position during taxi, takeoff and landing.
- All carry-on baggage, including laptop computers, must be stowed under a seat or in an enclosed overhead bin upon boarding and prior to landing, as directed.
- Pets must remain in their carrier for the entire flight. The carrier must be stowed under a seat for taxi, takeoff and landing.

## WHILE IN THE AIR

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

- Smoking is not permitted on any flight.
- Child-restraint devices must bear the FAA approval sticker.
- Seat-belt extension use is not allowed in exit rows for the safety of all passengers due to the possibility of entanglement by the extensions.
- Horizon Air prohibits the use of items that do not meet Federal Aviation Regulations or Company regulations, including the use of seat-belt extensions not provided by Horizon Air.
- Chewing tobacco and electronic cigarettes are not permitted.
- Alcohol may not be consumed unless it has been provided by a Flight Attendant.
- Cellphones may be used while the boarding door is open until advised by your Flight Attendant that cell service must be turned off. Upon landing, your Flight Attendant will advise when cell service can be enabled.
- Headphones must be worn when using portable electronic devices that produce sound.

## USING YOUR DEVICES

We know use of your electronic devices is important, and we've adjusted our procedures to give you more time with those devices.

### Allowed on the ground and in the air

- Laptops (must be stowed for taxi/takeoff/landing)
- Tablets/smartphones (Airplane Mode after door closure)
- Wireless mouse/keyboard
- e-readers
- Media/CD/DVD players
- Noise-canceling headphones
- Cellphones (prior to door closure only)

### Not allowed during flight

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

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Alaska Airlines have set these rules and regulations to assure your safety and comfort.

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## Join the conversation.

Come chat with us—and your fellow flyers—online. Tag your journey with #iFlyAlaska so we can all share in your adventures. Have a question? Ask away. Our Social Care Team is available 24/7 on Facebook and Twitter.



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- Check in from your phone
- Access Mileage Plan™ information
- No more paper—access your mobile boarding pass and Alaska Lounge membership card.
- Pre-reserve meals

# Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan™

## Welcome to a world of rewards.

Earn miles on hotel stays, car rentals, and everyday purchases, too.



See the world and earn miles doing it.

Earn or redeem miles on every Alaska flight and flights to more than 900 destinations worldwide with our airline partners.



The more you fly, the richer the rewards.

Partner miles flown also count toward elite status qualification.\*

### MVP

(20,000 miles flown on Alaska)

- Priority check-in
- Two free checked bags
- Eligible for complimentary First Class upgrades
- 50% bonus miles and more

\*Miles flown on PenAir and Ravn do not count toward elite status qualification.

### MVP GOLD

(40,000 miles flown on Alaska)

- All MVP® benefits, plus:
- Waived ticket change fees on Alaska
  - Four annual guest upgrades
  - 100% bonus miles and more

### MVP GOLD 75K

(75,000 miles flown on Alaska)

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- Complimentary inflight entertainment player
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  - 125% bonus miles and more



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Learn about all card benefits at [alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com). The benefits above apply to Visa Signature® accounts only and different benefits apply to

Platinum Plus® accounts. Card type is determined by creditworthiness.

Apply at [AlaskaOffer.com](http://AlaskaOffer.com) or ask your flight attendant.

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You can now book nonrefundable one-way award travel within the continental United States and Canada starting at just 5,000 miles.\*

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5,000 miles	12,500 miles	Less than 700 miles	Seattle–San Francisco
7,500 miles	12,500 miles	701 to 1,400 miles	Los Angeles–Portland
10,000 miles	12,500 miles	1,401 to 2,100 miles	Portland–St. Louis
12,500 miles	12,500 miles	More than 2,101 miles	New York–Seattle

\* Plus taxes and fees from \$5.60 each way. Award availability and pricing may vary.

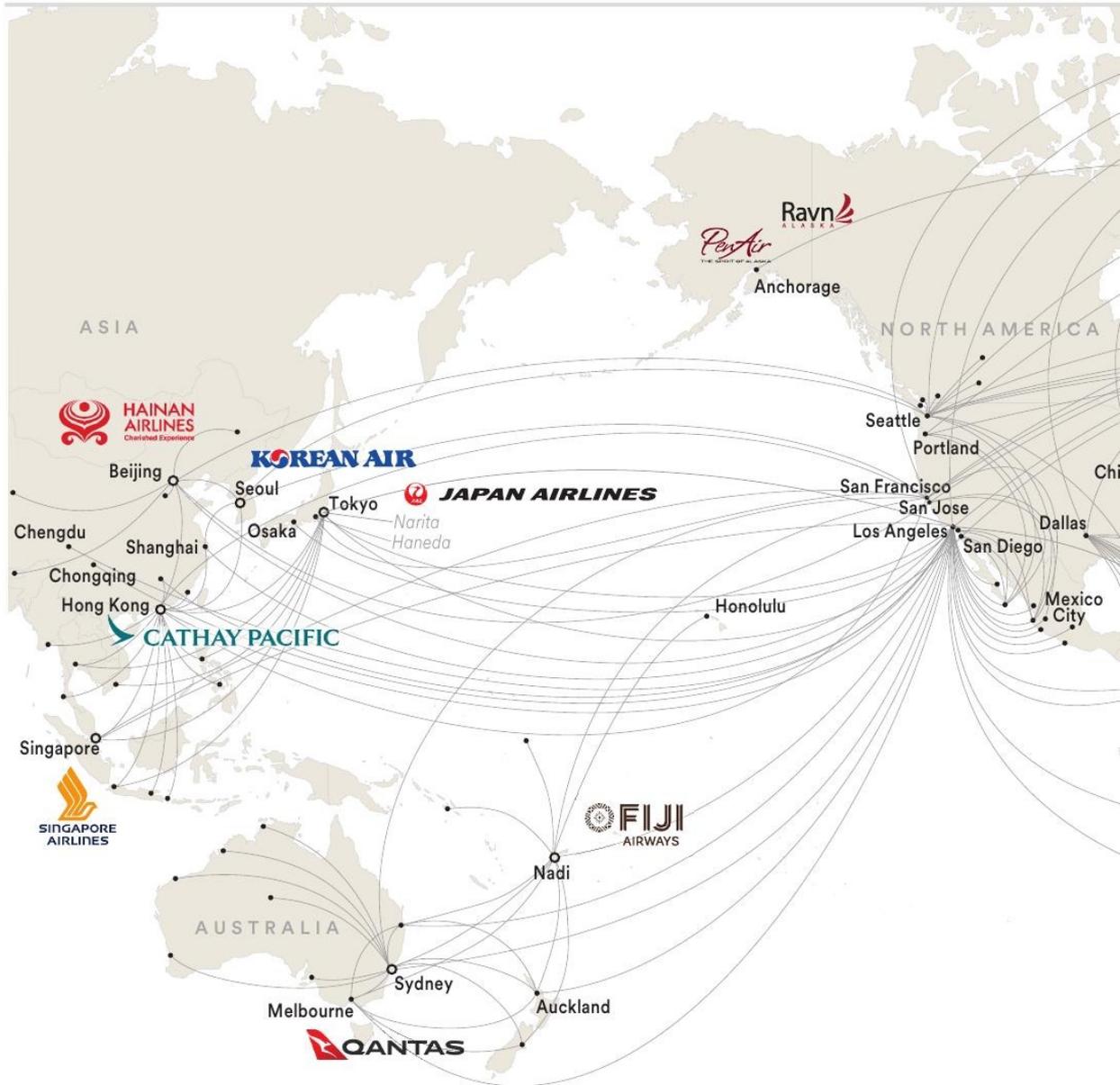
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# Mileage Plan gives you the world

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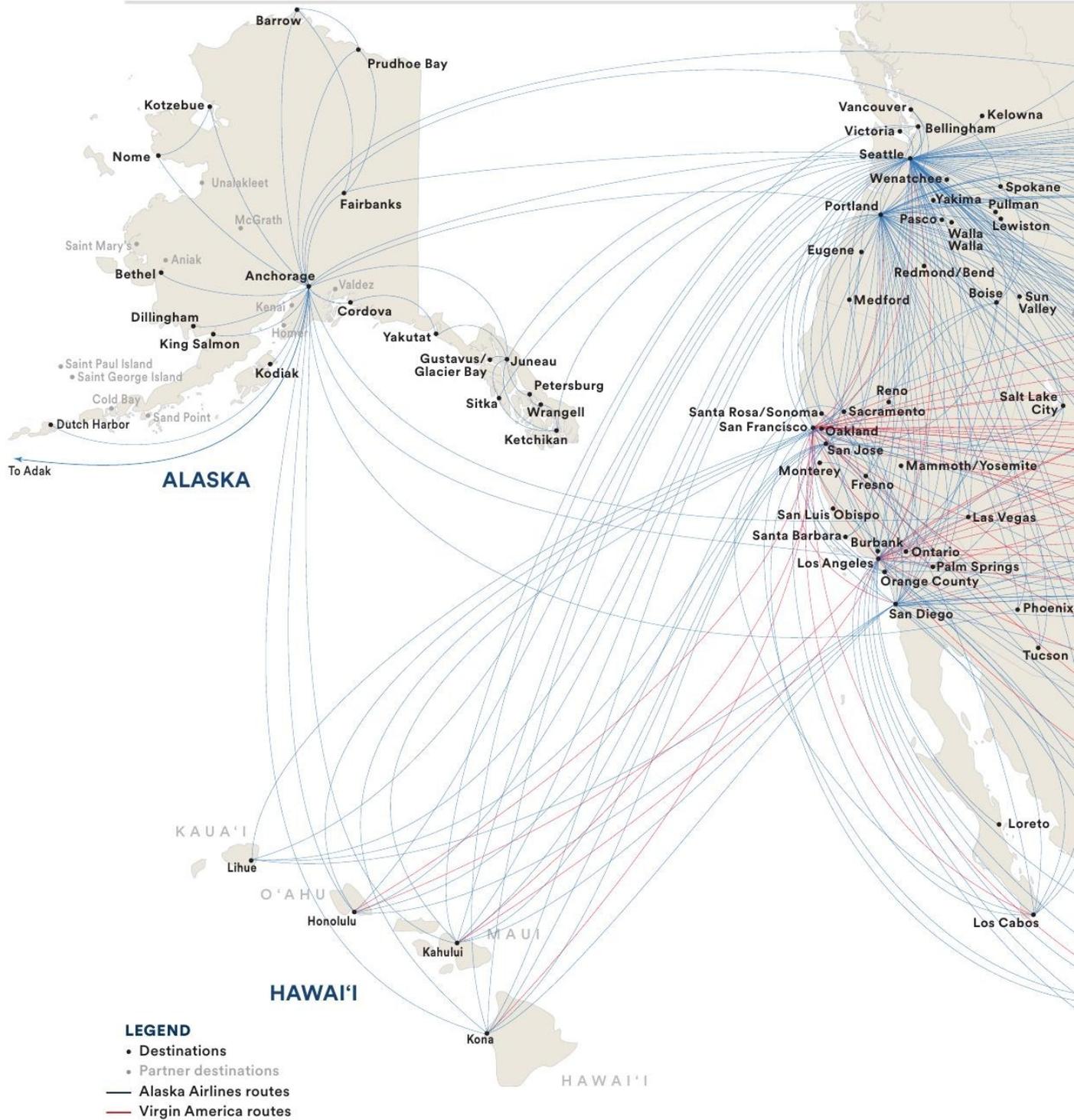


**Reykjavik, Iceland**  
*Icelandair*



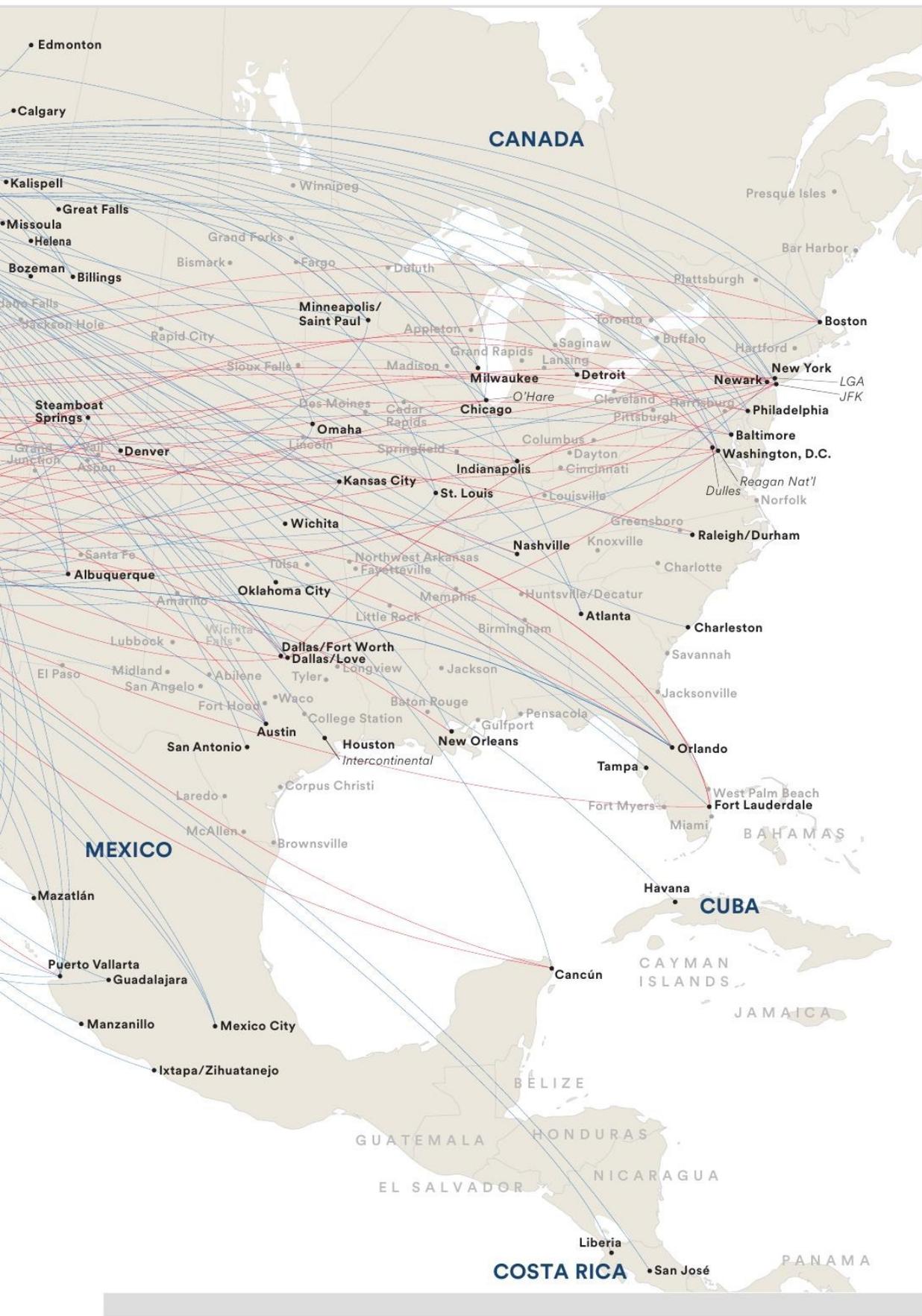
# Where we fly

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Route	Service Begins
Portland, OR—New York Kennedy (JFK)	November 6
San Diego, CA—Mexico City, MEX	November 6
San Diego, CA—Minneapolis, MN	November 18
San Francisco, CA—Kona, HI	December 14
San Diego, CA—Kansas City, MO	December 15
San Diego, CA—St. Louis, MO	December 15



Some Alaska Airlines service operated by Horizon Air or SkyWest Airlines.

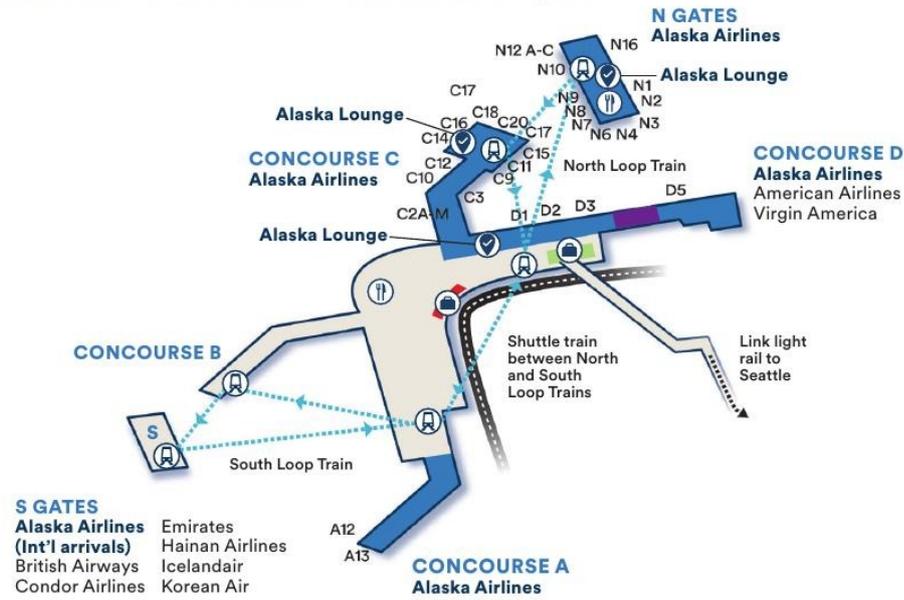
Some routes shown operate seasonally.

# Airport terminal maps

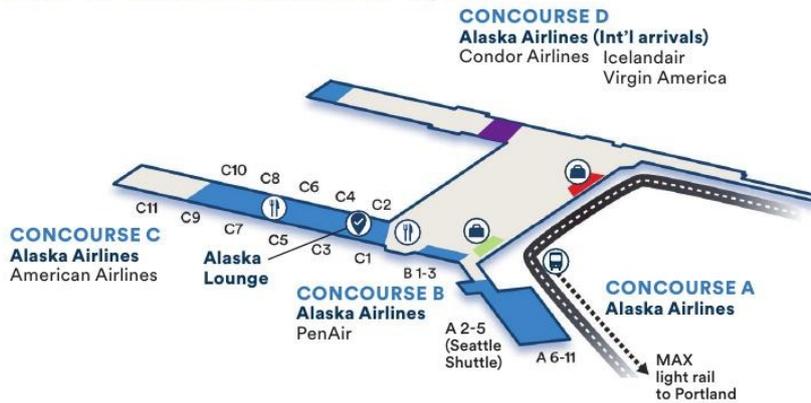
## SEA Seattle/Tacoma International Airport

**Tip:** Connecting to an Alaska Global Partner? You'll need to take the shuttle train to the South Loop Train to get to the S gates.

**Tip:** Our new Alaska Lounge opened in the C Concourse: Raise your "preflight" game. We have complimentary food, premium drinks, Wi-Fi and great views.



## PDX Portland International Airport



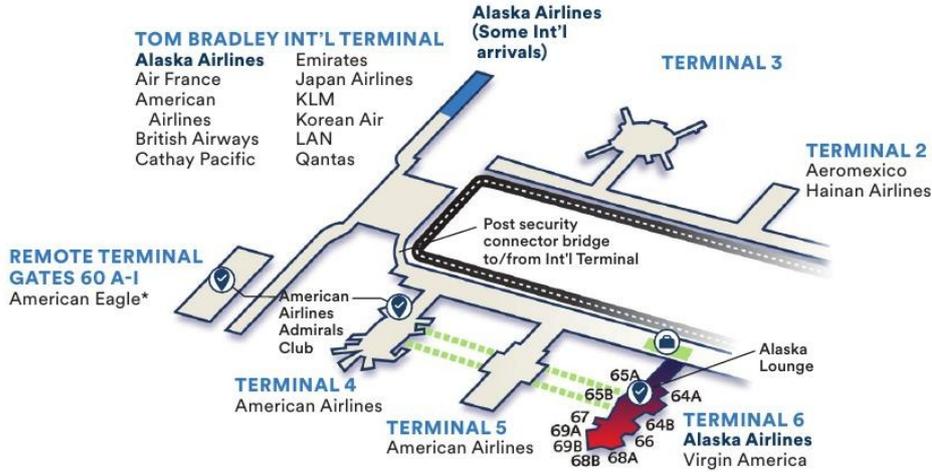
## SFO San Francisco International Airport

**Tip:** Alaska Lounge members have access to the Cathay Pacific Lounge at SFO when traveling on Alaska.



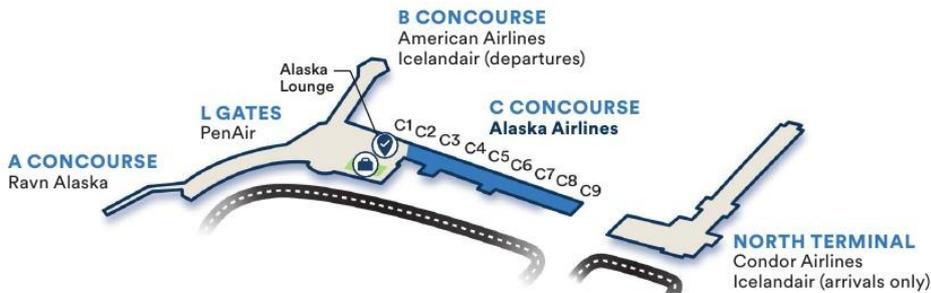
- Legend:**
- Lounge
  - Dining Options
  - Alaska Airlines check-in
  - Virgin America check-in
  - Public transportation
  - Airport transportation
  - Underground walkway

## LAX Los Angeles International Airport

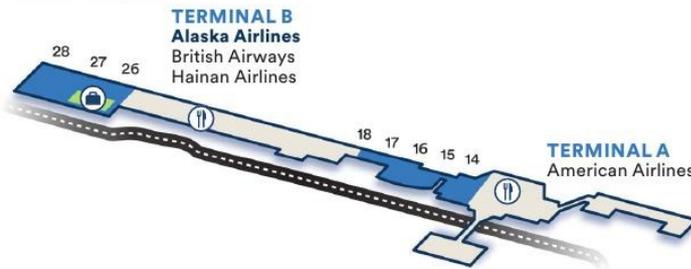


**Tip:** Virgin America has moved to Terminal 6. Virgin America Loft has closed. Please visit the Alaska Lounge at Terminal 6.

## ANC Anchorage International Airport



## SJC San Jose Mineta Airport



## SAN San Diego International Airport



# FAMILY RECIPE

Ingredients for a healthy sibling relationship

By Andrew Waite

» **My sister, Jackie,** and I were adults the first time we shared a roof. That's because we're half-siblings who grew up on opposite sides of New York state. Yet despite only seeing each other every few weeks as kids, the two of us have always shared a connection as introverts who love swimming, taking lawn sports way too seriously, and most importantly, our next meal. We both will look up from our cereal and ask, without irony, "What's for lunch?"

So when I was 23 and moving to Washington, D.C., I was excited to live with my older sister and her wife, Rebecca, while my friends and I searched for an apartment. I think about this experience every Thanksgiving, when family dynamics are as ripe as squash, because it's what ultimately gave me a deeper understanding of siblings' unconditional love.

During the two months I lived with Jackie and Rebecca, we got to know each other as adults while we cooked vegetarian chili and clinked pints in a neighborhood tavern. Jackie and I played competitive games of racquetball, and Rebecca and I talked about novels we both liked. It was perfect in so many ways. Except that we were sharing 700 square feet and one bathroom.

I frequently failed to put the toilet seat down and close the curtain after showers. I seared meat in a vegetarian household. I whistled. I left dishes in the sink. And I ate leftovers, meant to last days, practically before they cooled. Sensing my welcome wearing thin, I offered to leave. My friends and I had signed a lease, but it was still two weeks before we could move in. Until then, maybe I could live with family friends in Maryland? I thought Jackie and Rebecca would tell me I was being ridiculous, that we were family.

I was out the next day.

Sure, I understood why they wanted me to go, but I'd really meant my offer more as an acknowledgment of the trying situation. They called my bluff.

That year, the abrupt departure lingered. I'd see Jackie and Rebecca about every month, and we'd talk about work and politics, but we'd always hesitate, careful not to tread into topics fraught with potential friction. On one visit, they invited me to help paint, and I let the roller brush glide too far, streaking the ceiling with the wrong color. Jackie and Rebecca got mad, and I felt stupid—the way I felt when I'd been called out for leaving crumbs on the table or not doing my dishes. So for a second time, I fled their house. But this time, it was

followed by the necessary discussion. We talked on the phone that evening, and I told them how upset I was the day I moved out. They were sad and apologetic, and so was I. We just wanted to get back to swimming laps and eating veggie stir-fry.

But this wouldn't quite come until life took me to Seattle. Living 3,000 miles away made me realize that nothing compares to the tacit understanding between people who share genes. I missed seemingly small things, like how Jackie and I, with just a look, as our dad delivered a lame pun, could smile and know we were in on the same joke, seeing life through a similar lens. Living under one roof made us question how much we liked each other, but living an airplane ride away helped us see how much we love each other.



I know my sister shared the sentiment, because at my wedding, Jackie and I had an impromptu huddle. We told each other that even if there was a country between us, we were still siblings and would always be there for one another—past actions be darned. I don't think we would have done this had the infamous move-out never happened.

A few months later, I was in D.C. for work, and I stayed with Jackie and Rebecca. They were out of town for the end of my trip, but they told me to make myself at home. After a day of work and an evening in the gym, I was starving, so I was delighted to find a Tupperware container full of what appeared to be vegetarian chili.

As the dish spun in the microwave, a rich and spicy aroma filled the small kitchen. The first bite burst with flavor, sweet but mostly hot. I texted my sister to thank her, knowing that she, perhaps more than anyone, would appreciate my current hunger. No response. I kept eating, intense spice starting to overpower my tongue and throat. Suddenly, it felt like I had a mouthful of fire ants.

"What exactly is in this chili?" I texted.

"That's not chili, you goof!" Jackie responded with a smiley emoji.

Apparently, I had just consumed an entire can of chiles en adobo that was meant to be part of a future dish.

So maybe I'll always be the younger brother eating my sister's food, but at least I learned one thing: After quenching the spice with milk, I remembered to put the glass in the dishwasher.

*In between meals, Andrew Waite works as an associate editor at the magazine.*



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