

Let summertime get you to another zone

► TIPS

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ITALIAN FOR TRAVELERS

"Allegramente." Ah, the sweet lilt of Italian, the musical language. AllegraMente, a one-week, 10-hour conversation course for travelers, takes you from the classroom to the medieval, cobbled streets of beautiful Alghero on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia. Learn the basics of Italian in shops, restaurants, and bars and interact with people whose deep-rooted culture makes this island one of the most fascinating European destinations. Pintadera, the small and intimate Italian language school, also offers intensive courses for adults and children, cooking lessons, and wine tastings with a sommelier who looks like George Clooney. Peretto! Tuition: \$200. www.pintadera.info, www.alghero-turismo.it

SHARON BLOMFIELD

CHIC CORNER OF FRANCE

Pack a picnic basket and trudge 150 steps to the top of the Dune of Pyla, Europe's tallest sand dune (350 feet) and gem of France's southwestern Atlantic coast. The panorama includes pristine blue waters leading to Arcachon Bay, a swirl of a sandbank, Cap Ferret, the Landes forest, and the 1.8-mile-long dune. If you want the view but no sand on your feet, follow the "It" crowd a few miles up the coast to LaCo(o)rniche. Perched on a cliff, the hotel-restaurant reopened last year after a chic makeover by French designer Philippe Starck. Plan ahead: Terrace tables are coveted at sunset. *LaCo(o)rniche*, 46 Boulevard Louis Gaume, Pylasur-Mer, 011-33-55622-7211. Starters \$21-\$32, main courses \$31-\$52. High-season rooms from \$372. www.lacoomiche-pyla.com. Dune of Pyla, 33115 Pylasur-Mer, www.dune-pyla.com/english

SUSIE WOODHAMS

HIGH TIME IN UTAH

Everybody knows Park City, Utah, as a skier's paradise and headquarters for the star-studded Sundance film fest. But come June, this 9,000-foot-high destination morphs into a hiking, mountain biking, and golfing paradise. Clip your bike onto the town lift and head up to the top of Summit Mountain, where you can pedal for miles along the (relatively) flat ridgeline or take a thrilling downhill spin back into town. There are 150 miles of bike trails, plus alpine coasters and ziplines. Another reason to visit this summer: Hotel rates plummet by 50 percent or more, making properties like the luxe Stein Eriksen Lodge a bargain at \$115 per person, double occupancy. That includes a three-course dinner for two in the Glitretind restaurant, gratuities not included. 435-649-3700, www.steinlodge.com, www.parkcityjinfo.com

BETH D'ADDONO

RED SAILS IN THE SUNSET

Already one of the most beautiful harbors on the East Coast, Newport looks even better at sunset from the deck of a 12-meter yacht that once competed for the America's Cup. In addition to charters, the seven retired contenders in the America's Cup Charters fleet operate ticketed sails daily from the Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina. Help sail one of the 68-foot maritime greyhounds on a spin past Castle Hill Light and Rose Island and out into the straits of Narragansett Bay, or just lie back on deck and let the wind ruffle your hair. 401-846-9886, www.americascupcharters.com

PATRICIA HARRIS AND DAVID LYON

JERKY 21 WAYS

The 250-mile stretch of Interstate 45 that links Dallas and Houston is low on aesthetics and high on billboards advertising pecans, fried pies, and fruitcakes. Hungry? Stop midway — in Centerville — home for 30 years to Woody's Smokehouse, the self-proclaimed "jerky capital of the world." A butcher since he was 18, Dudley Wood has evolved his gas station-convenience store business to reside on both sides of the highway, offering sit-down or take-out ribs, brisket, and German sausage, among other hearty fare. Prepare to linger over long cases of jerky (21 varieties



LIONEL FLUSIN/FILE/2009

The Montreux Jazz Festival marks its 45th year amid Switzerland's Lake Geneva and the French Alps. Below left, Cody Nite Rodeo is part of a summer of rodeo in Cody, Wyo.; Eataly in New York will bustle indoors and out, with a new rooftop restaurant.



STEPHEN G. SMITH



EVAN SUNG

SIMMER FIRST

Look at the season's menu before things get too hot, at www.boston.com/travel.

including elk, venison, and buffalo); daily made fudge; and canned Texas specialties, from cobbler to pickled okra. *Interstate 45 and Highway 7, exit 164*, 903-536-9663, www.woodys-smokehouse.com

SUSIE WOODHAMS

PADDLE WITH EYES OPEN

Scope cormorants and snowy egrets while cruising the brackish waters on the Bay State's South Shore. From Scituate's driftway, it's a short paddle on the Herring River to "the spit," a stretch of pristine beach by the mouth of the North River and a bird-watcher's paradise. On hot, sunny days, this spot becomes an impromptu beach barbecue, so pack a picnic and make a day of it. For a longer voyage, paddle south with the tide onto the North River. Pass historic former shipbuilding sites, gaze at the gorgeous real estate, and enjoy the quiet. Wait for the tide to turn before you head back, or have a friend pick you up at the Union Street Bridge in Marshfield. *North and South Rivers Watershed Association*, 781-659-8168, www.nsrwa.org

NICOLE CAMMORATA

SUMMER AT THE LAKE

Inspired by George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, Manoir Hovey in North Hatley, Québec, goes the original one better with a third of a mile of shoreline on pristine Lake Massawippi in the spruce forest just north of Vermont. Indolence never felt better than lounging in the heated pool set into a rock garden, though the lake could seduce you into rising early to paddle a kayak or canoe across its glassy surface. A pioneer of the farm-to-fork movement, executive chef Roland Ménard makes every meal a gastronomic revelation of just how good Québec cuisine can be. 800-661-2421 or 819-842-2421, www.manoirhovey.com

PATRICIA HARRIS AND DAVID LYON

MAINE ESCAPE

Impeccably restored in 2004, Chebeague Island Inn, perched above the shores of Casco Bay's largest island, never seemed to catch on with mainlanders. That was until last summer when Mainer Casey Prentice and his



DAVID LYON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE



LAKE COMPOUNCE

Lake Compounce Family Theme Park in Bristol, Conn., and, farther north, elegant Manoir Hovey in North Hatley, Québec.

family purchased the circa-1920 estate and instilled the property with a dose of youthful enthusiasm. Word spread quickly about Chef Justin Rowe, who trained at the White Barn Inn in Kennebunkport and knows how to create tasty dishes from local catch. Now Portlanders think nothing of taking the 15-minute water taxi or ferry to Chebeague for cocktails on the wraparound porch, dinner, even an overnight stay in one of the 21 rooms in the three-story home. *Rooms from \$222 a night*. www.chebeagueislandinn.com

STEPHEN JERMANOK

CHAPS AND SPURS

Windswept prairie 52 miles west of Yellowstone National Park, Cody, Wyo., "The Rodeo Capital of the World," lives up to its claim with a rodeo season that stretches through summer. Staged nightly at 8 o'clock June 1 through Aug. 31, the family-friendly Cody Nite Rodeo is a lively scuffle between bulls, broncs, and local cowboys. The highlight of the season is the Cody Stam-

pede Rodeo, July 1-4, a world-class competitive event that features bareback and bull riding, steer wrestling, roping, and barrel racing by top competitors. All events are held at the Cody Stampede Grounds. 800-207-0744, 307-587-5155, www.codystampederodeo.com, www.codynightrodeo.com

ALEXIS M. ADAMS

A WYETH WORLDVIEW

See a "world" through the eyes of its painter in "Andrew Wyeth, Christina's World and the Olson House," on view at The Farnsworth Museum's Wyeth Center, June 11-Oct. 30 in Rockland, Maine. The exhibition marks the 20th anniversary of the museum's acquisition of the Olson House, the Cushing homestead that is expected to be named a National Historic Landmark this year. The show comprises 50 watercolors and drawings depicting Alvaro and Christina Olson and their home, including 38 from a Japanese collection that have rarely been seen in the States. Although "Christina's World" is not

part of the show, a dozen preparatory drawings and drafts of it are included. *\$12 adults Rockland campus, \$17 including Olson House, free Wednesdays 5-8 p.m. and the first Friday of the month*. 207-596-6457, www.farnsworthmuseum.org

HILARY NANGLE

SLOW FOOD IN ITALY

Hungering for a taste of the real Italy? Nibble, sip, and savor through Piedmont/Italian Riviera or Tuscany/Umbria on one of Perillo Tours' new Italian culinary and cultural adventures. Both itineraries were developed with Slow Food Italia to celebrate the regions' traditional and sustainable foods and beverages. Highlights include visits to vineyards, wine cellars, wineries, farmsteads, and artisan producers of cheese, chocolate, sweets, and cured meats; cooking classes; and meals at restaurants listed in the "Osterie D'Italia Slow Food Guide." Since man does not live by bread alone, also scheduled are visits to museums and historical sites housing world-class art and artifacts, ancient villages, and UNESCO World Heritage sites. The 12- or 13-day small-group tours are scheduled between June 17 and Oct. 21. *Prices from \$4,290 per person/double*. 800-431-1515, www.perillotours.com

HILARY NANGLE

WATCH, LIKE THE HAWKS

Bird-watchers flock to eastern Pennsylvania's Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Kempton during the annual migration from late summer through fall of some 18,000 birds of prey. Bird lovers spot hawks, vultures, eagles, and falcons soaring along the Appalachian Flyway. Hike to the outlooks. The easy, wide, 100-yard stroll to South Lookout is wheelchair-friendly, while the 1½-mile, round-trip hike to North Lookout has a stone staircase and gains 300 feet in elevation. A visitors center has exhibits, a gift shop, hosts year-round programs, and features a native plant garden. *Adults \$5, seniors \$4, children ages 6-12 \$3; autumn weekends (September-November) and national holidays \$7/\$7/\$3*. 1700 Hawk Mountain Road, 610-756-6961, www.hawkmountain.org

MARTY BASCH

GET THAT PACIFIC FEELING

Nothing says "romantic summer getaway" better than a bun-

galow near the beach. In this case, the beach is in Santa Monica, Calif., with its sweeping cliffs to the north and the iconic pier and Ferris wheel to the south. The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows offers summer specials that include a nighttime carousel ride and strawberries with champagne. After a day of lolling near the ocean or poolside, it's a short walk to restaurants and boutique shopping along the pedestrian-only Third Street Promenade. *Doubles from \$349; online packages, 101 Wilshire Blvd., 866-540-4470*, www.fairmont.com/santamonica

NECEE REGIS

DINING IN ASHEVILLE

With farm-to-table dining practically de rigueur, farmers are starting to share the menu with foragers. In what is billed as a "forest-to-table" dinner series, "No Taste Like Home" in Asheville, N.C., shows guests how to reduce their food miles to the ground under their feet, and a bit beyond. Diners, led by veteran wild crafters, will stalk the Appalachian woods and meadows for such ingredients as sunchokes, chickweed, and even the much-maligned kudzu. After a few hours of hiking and hunting, foragers will retire to the kitchen, where a visiting chef will whip up earthy delights that might include chickweed salad with perisimmon vinaigrette, stinging nettle pesto, and morel and ramp ragout. Sounds wild. *Held monthly on a Saturday from 3 to 9 p.m., \$125 includes foraging, cooking demo, live music, and five-course dinner with local wine*. 828-774-1922, www.notastelikehome.org

DIANE DANIEL

EATALY TAPS INTO BREWS

The largest artisanal Italian food and wine marketplace in the world, New York's Eataly, fronted by Mario Batali and Joe and Lydia Bastianich, has been a runaway success. Featuring full-service restaurants, a cafe, wine shop, and bakery, Eataly this summer adds a beer-focused rooftop restaurant. With awesome views of the Manhattan skyline, La Birreria, a 300-seat space, will feature beer from Italian brewmasters Teo Musso of Birrifico Baladin and Leonardo Di Vincenzo of Birra del Borgo, and Sam Calagione of Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, as well as three Eataly-exclusive cask ales. A menu of Eataly-inspired fare rounds out the experience. *200 5th Ave., 212-229-2560*, eatalyny.com

MARIE ELENA MARTINEZ

BUBBLING WITH ACTIVITY

The country's oldest continuously operating theme park, Lake Compounce Family Theme Park in Bristol, Conn., is the perfect summer day trip. The 427-acre property offers 50 rides and attractions, including 12 water-based activities. Boulder Dash, one of three roller coasters, consistently ranks among the top wooden coasters in the world. New this year is "The Rev-O-Lution," which rocks, rolls, and spins a full 360 degrees on a half-pipe-shaped track up to five stories tall. At Splash Harbor Water Park, visitors will find water slides, fountains, tube slides, a wave pool, a 60-foot lighthouse, and an 800-foot lazy river. Soda is free throughout the park — but not the fried Oreos. *Adults \$36, children under 52 inches tall \$26, seniors \$18, age 3 and under free*. 822 Lake Ave., 860-583-3300, www.lakecompounce.com

ELLEN ALBANESE

HIP ENOUGH FOR ALL

With an exquisite backdrop of Lake Geneva and the French Alps, the town of Montreux, Switzerland, transforms itself into a hip European party scene on July 1-16 for the 45th Montreux Jazz Festival. A thousand artists perform Latin to hip-hop, R&B to rock, and of course, jazz. While pricey tickets have already sold out for Carlos Santana's opening night, Sting, and B.B. King, remaining concerts at Auditorium Stravinski and Miles Davis Hall are just as star-studded (Diana Krall to Deep Purple), and 10 of 12 venues are free. Passing through for the day? Soak up the scene on a grassy hill or buy a pass to dance, dine, or drink on a jazz boat or train. www.montrouxjazz.com

SUSIE WOODHAMS