

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

A world of insects to website for bus and train travelers

By Neece Regis | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT MARCH 15, 2014



Sip on wine and munch hors d'oeuvres while learning the basics of aroma identification at Cellardoor Winery.

HERE

WINE, DINE, AND LEARN IN MAINE

Explore the world of wine and food pairing at monthly classes offered by Cellardoor Winery at its Farmhouse in Lincolnville, Maine. Sip on wine and munch hors d'oeuvres while learning the basics of aroma identification. Each class highlights a different pairing aspect such as bridge ingredient, cooking technique, acidity, and sweetness. Island Inspiration (April 19, 2-4 p.m.) pairs tropical flavors with refreshing wines. A Little Latin (May 24, 3-5 p.m.) looks at how the spice in Latin cuisine can affect your palate. Other scheduled events include

Asian Fusion, Patriotic Small Plates, Farmers Market Creations, and more. \$35 per person. 207-763-4478, www.mainewine.com

BUG’S WORLD IN THE NUTMEG STATE

Step into a world in southeastern Connecticut where bugs tower over humans at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center’s special exhibit, “Backyard Monsters: The World of Insects.” See giant robotic insects — up to 96 times their normal size — including a pair of fighting beetles, an 11-foot-tall tarantula, and a 19-foot-wide monarch butterfly. The exhibit focuses on nature and natural history and offers hands-on displays such as learning how insects communicate, taking a mechanical bug for a walk, bug rubbings, and more. Permanent exhibits at this nonprofit museum bring to life the history and culture here of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. 800-411-9671, www.pequotmuseum.org

THERE

ZOO PACKAGE FOR FAMILIES

CONTINUE READING BELOW ▼

Animal lovers can take advantage of the Family Fun Package at the Zoo offered by the Jefferson Clinton Hotel, member of the Historic Hotels of America in Syracuse, N.Y. The package provides tickets for one adult and one child to visit the Rosamond Gifford Zoo where you’ll see more than 900 animals including reptiles, birds, lions, tigers, apes, penguins, and a new elephant exhibit. Also includes one-night stay, buffet breakfast, valet parking, \$20 gift certificate to the zoo gift shop, taxi transportation to and from the zoo, gift bag with sweet and salty treats, and more. Junior suites from \$259, executive suites from \$299. Book three days in advance. 315-425-0500, www.jeffersonclintonhotel.com

CAVE HOTEL DEBUTS IN SANTORINI

Greek hospitality reaches new heights with the April 1 opening of Iconic Santorini, a boutique cave hotel on the rim of a volcanic caldera. Located in the village of Imervogli, the highest settlement on the caldera, the 22-room retreat offers dramatic views of the Santorini cliffs and Aegean Sea from each of its five levels. Rooms and suites have verandas, white arches, traditional fabrics, TVs, and luxury amenities. The property also offers a cliff-top infinity pool, taverna, gym, and spa. Rates from \$649 a night for two include breakfast, poolside



Iconic Santorini, boutique cave hotel.

snacks, taxes, and Internet. Packages listed on website. 011-30-22860-28950,
www.iconicsantorini.com

D-DAY EXCURSION IN NORMANDY



Les Andelys on the Seine

CONTINUE READING BELOW ▼

Commemorate the 70th anniversary of the June 6, 1944 D-day landings in France with the special Normandy excursion package offered by CroisiEurope. Available on select sailings along its popular river cruises, the daylong, optional excursion will visit five beaches — Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword — where Allied forces began the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi control. Guests will explore the historical impact of major events and visit the American Cemetery overlooking the beach from the rocky cliffs of Colleville sur Mer. Excursion from \$130 per person on select April to October CroisiEurope itineraries. 800-768-7232, www.croisieurope.com

EVERYWHERE

CHIC NOMAD GETAWAYS

The website Boutique-Homes was created for discerning travelers who appreciate out-of-the-ordinary vacation properties. Curated by designers, builders, and decorators Veronique Lievre and Heinz Legler, it showcases hip and unusual vacation rentals, villas, and small hotels in Africa, Asia, Australia/Oceania, the Americas, and Europe. Search by categories including architects, sustainable, chic and cheap, historical, mid-century modern, beach houses, and more to find unique properties such as a modernist retreat in Tasmania, vintage houseboat in Newport, R.I., or a contemporary villa with a view of the sea in Sicily. No booking fees. www.boutique-homes.com

BUS AND TRAIN TRAVEL SIMPLIFIED

Find and book travel by bus and train with Wanderu, a website that partners with more than 20 major intercity bus providers in the Northeast. New this year: Wanderu launches

connections on the West Coast and in the Southeast, making it easy to locate routes from southern Canada to the tip of Florida. Scroll to the bottom of its webpage for ticket search, bus routes, bus stations, bus and train guides, and coverage map. Wanderu does not sell tickets but links directly to each carrier's ticket confirmation and purchasing page.

www.wanderu.com