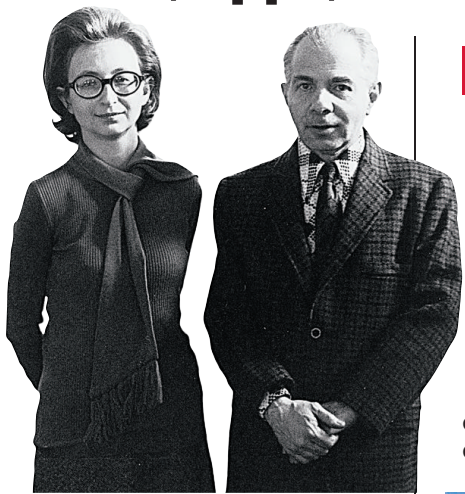


## News, Apps, Deals, and Gear from New England and Beyond

### HERE

#### 'FIFTY WORKS FOR RHODE ISLAND'

Art lovers are making a beeline to Providence to the Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design to view the exhibition, "The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Rhode Island." The Vogels, a postal clerk and a librarian, built one of the world's finest contemporary art collections in their small Manhattan apartment, acquiring more than 4,000 works over a span of 50 years. Called "visionary collectors" and "thoroughly modest Medicis," the Vogels established a Fifty Works for Fifty States project, including this gift to the RISD museum's collection. Through Dec. 2. Admission \$3-\$10. 401-454-6500, [www.risdmuseum.org](http://www.risdmuseum.org)



#### HORSE AND PONY RIDES AT ATTITASH

You'll find guided horseback trails and pony rides at the Fields of Attitash, open at 9 a.m. daily during the summer season at Attitash Mountain Resort in Bartlett, N.H. New this year: A lower-priced (\$30 per person), half-hour guided tour option in addition to the longer, one-hour ride (\$50 per person). For younger children who may not meet the minimum age (8) and height (over 48") requirement to ride horses, the stables also offer hand-led pony rides. Call ahead for availability. 603-374-0961, [www.attitash.com/summer.html](http://www.attitash.com/summer.html)

#### A GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND WONDERS

"New England's Natural Wonders: An Explorer's Guide" by outdoor writer, photographer, and historian John S. Burk, has been released by Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. This coffee table tome, with nearly 200 color photographs, allows armchair travelers to tour popular destinations such as Cape Cod, Franconia Notch, Cadillac Mountain, and Quechee Gorge, as well as less-known destinations. Each site description details why the area is unique, how it was formed, and offers historical anecdotes and access information. \$34.99. 610-593-1777, [www.schifferbooks.com/newschiffer/](http://www.schifferbooks.com/newschiffer/)

### THERE

#### A NASHVILLE TRIBUTE TO PATSY CLINE

Head to Nashville, where the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum pays tribute to a legendary singer with the exhibition "Patsy Cline: Crazy for Loving You," opening in the East Gallery on Aug. 24. Though she recorded for only eight years and made her last record nearly 50 years ago, her body of work — classic torch songs and ballads of heartache — continues to resonate with music fans. This exhibit explores Cline's musical contributions, and also offers a look at the person behind the songs. Through June 2013, it includes an ongoing series of programs. Adults \$20, children ages 6-17 \$12. 615-416-2001, [countrymusicHalloffame.org](http://countrymusicHalloffame.org)



#### YACHT WITHIN A SHIP

If you like the bells and whistles that large cruise ships offer, but prefer the privacy of smaller vessels, consider the trend-setting concept offered by MSC Cruises: the MSC Yacht Club. A self-contained private area on the foredecks of the ship with sweeping sea views, butler-served superior suites, private lounge, dedicated restaurant, bar, swimming pool, deck, and private elevator access to the spa, the club is your own private yacht-within-a-ship. Three vessels that cruise the Mediterranean year-round offer this experience: MSC Fantasia, MSC Splendida, and the newly launched MSC Divinia. Seven-night Mediterranean MSC Yacht Club rates from \$1,469 with Upscale Upgrade promotion for MSC Fantasia and MSC Splendida only through Oct. 15. MSC Cruises 877-665-4655; Yacht Club 855-469-2582, [www.msccruisesusa.com](http://www.msccruisesusa.com)



### EVERYWHERE

#### FAST-DRYING SWIMWEAR

Tired of packing wet bathing trunks at the end of your vacation? The premium performance swimwear company Dry Dudz is promoting its colorful, fast-drying apparel for men and women. Just in time for the dog days of August, these duds are perfect for active travelers who love extreme sports or general outdoor activities. Men's boardshorts come in five contemporary graphic designs, stylish enough to serve as upscale casual wear. Women's trunks and bikinis can be worn high for water sports or rolled low for a great tan. Available online. Men's boardshorts \$95, women's boardshorts \$85, bikini tops \$40. [www.drydudz.com](http://www.drydudz.com)



the Daily Meal community by sharing your favorite dish at that destination. Compatible with iPhone and iPad. [itunes.apple.com/us/app/best-dishes-where-what-to/id529818136?ls=1&mt=8](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/best-dishes-where-what-to/id529818136?ls=1&mt=8)

#### 'BEST DISHES' APP

Eager to help hungry travelers find the best food and drink experiences, the Daily Meal has launched its first mobile app, "Best Dishes." This app not only helps you decide where but also what to eat at the top restaurants and bars near your location. Search for a restaurant by name or cuisine, then read authoritative and user-generated reviews for each listing. Like a place where you have dined? Become part of

NEECE REGIS

# Cuban influences mix sunnily with a beach state of mind

► TAMPA  
Continued from Page M1

building, and serves up original family recipes.

A few miles from Ybor, I get my favorite Cuban sandwich at West Tampa Sandwich Shop. Besides the traditional Cuban sandwich — made with mustard, pickles, Swiss cheese, roasted pork, ham, salami, and Cuban bread — they do a version with honey that's oddly great. Finish your lunch with a sweet café con leche de espresso and steamed milk. If it is an unusually hot day, ask for it on ice.

Ready for some local suds? Head back to Ybor City and Cigar City Brewing, one of Tampa Bay's best breweries.

Getting to and from Ybor City can be half the fun. Tampa's old trolley line has been rebuilt and is slowly being extended. When you've finished your beer, hop on for a short ride to the excellent Florida Aquarium. You'll love not only the sea life exhibits but the air conditioning. My son, 9, is never happier than when he is at the aquarium, petting stingrays and starfish in their special tanks.

A few miles west is downtown Tampa's Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park on the banks of the lazy Hillsborough River. On any given day here you find children (and not a few grown-ups) splashing in fountains, dads and teens boating soccer balls or throwing Frisbees, and families picnicking on the sloping grand lawn.

When you're ready for a break from the sun, duck next door to the boxy-but-beautiful Tampa Museum of Art, which has some nifty Greek and Roman antiquities, along with a revolving cast of visiting exhibits. The neighboring Glazer Children's Museum is great for the under-8 set. Plus, parents will praise the food at the SONO Cafe.

From the park, admire the University of Tampa's silvery minarets across the water. The heart of the school is a former hotel whose celebrity guests in-



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

The skyline of downtown Tampa, a city hosting its first national party convention and which, like Charlotte, N.C., is in the middle of a so-called battleground state.

cluded Colonel Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders, who camped out on the lawns. A stroll through the botanical gardens makes you feel like you're in a Merchant Ivory flick.

Speaking of movies, don't let the foreign film subtitles at the Tampa Theatre, a historic movie palace in downtown Tampa, deter you. Dark and gargoyled-filled, the theater serves the best movie popcorn I've had.

If you need more kinetic fun, head just north of Tampa to Busch Gardens, an amusement park packed with gut-churning roller coasters, along with zoo exhibits housing everything from alligators to zebras. Animal enthusiasts should visit Tampa's world-class Lowry Park Zoo, or Big Cat Rescue, home to more than 100 wild cats.

For a real critter treat, head to the Clearwater Aquarium, made famous by resident bottlenose dolphin Winter, whose story was chronicled in last year's tearjerker movie "Dolphin Tale." You can't go wrong with any of the animal encounter programs, though their trainer-for-a-day experience, while not cheap, is still some-

thing my son raves about.

If you're game to splurge on dinner, head to Bern's Steak House in South Tampa. Even with changes made by the son of the late owner, Bern Laxer, this world-renowned restaurant retains its curiously charming bordello decor and obsessive attention to steaks. Ask your waiter for a tour of the absurdly big wine cellar and to reserve a booth upstairs in the dessert room.

Or try South Tampa's stylish and intimate Restaurant BT. Proprietor and chef BT Nguyen has built a loyal following for her clever interpretations of French-Vietnamese food.

For those looking for night life, head to the elegant Sapphire Room bar in the newly renovated Floridan Hotel, once Tampa's grandest and tallest building, and sip a signature "Between the Sheets" cocktail. Or if you like your fun less buttoned down, there's Skipper's Smokehouse, just north of downtown, where you can dance to live bands on the sandy floor.

If you have wheels, drive across the bay to St. Pete. Hit the Howard Franklin Bridge

early enough and you may glimpse ospreys fishing or even dolphins playing in the water nearby.

St. Pete has an arts and restaurant scene that's even more vibrant and hipper than Tampa's. Weekends, and many weekdays, you will find waterfront cafes and bars will be packed. Stroll along Beach Drive until you find a place you like. Cassis American Brasserie is among my favorites.

Less than a mile down the road is the new and fittingly odd-looking Dalí Museum, packed with more of the artist's works than anywhere outside of Spain.

A skip across town takes you to the white sands of St. Pete Beach. Some people are partial to Pass-A-Grille, the charming and laidback village at the southern tip. Others prefer the bikini and buff dudes scene on Clearwater Beach to the north. I'm happy with either, as long as I have a book. And maybe a bottle of Cigar City Brewing beer.

Paul Abercrombie can be reached at [paul@paulabercrombie.com](mailto:paul@paulabercrombie.com).

#### If you go . . .

**Where to stay**  
**Don Vicente de Ybor Historic Inn**  
1915 Republica de Cuba  
Tampa  
813-241-4545  
[www.donvicenteinn.com](http://www.donvicenteinn.com)  
In the heart of historic Ybor City. Rooms from about \$100.  
**Floridan Palace**  
905 North Florida Ave., Tampa  
813-225-1700  
[www.floridanpalace.com](http://www.floridanpalace.com)  
Elegantly restored 1920s landmark hotel downtown. Rooms from about \$190.  
**TradeWinds Island Grand Beach Resort**  
5500 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach  
727-367-6461  
[www.justletgo.com](http://www.justletgo.com)  
Quintessential family resort. Rooms from about \$150.  
**Where to eat**  
**Columbia Restaurant**  
2117 East 7th Ave., Tampa  
813-248-4961  
[www.columbiarestaurant.com](http://www.columbiarestaurant.com)  
Landmark Spanish restaurant. Flamenco dancers perform nightly (except Sunday). Signature dishes include Snapper Alicante (\$24.95) and the 1905 Salad (\$9.95), so named after when the restaurant was founded.  
**West Tampa Sandwich Shop**  
3904 North Armenia Ave.  
Tampa  
813-873-7104  
[www.westtampasandwichshop.com](http://www.westtampasandwichshop.com)  
Great Cuban grub. Honey Cuban (\$3.69) is worth a trip alone.  
**Bern's Steak House**  
1208 South Howard Ave.  
Tampa  
813-251-2421  
[www.bernssteakhouse.com](http://www.bernssteakhouse.com)  
Renowned restaurant with amazing wine list. A 10-ounce filet mignon with French onion soup, salad, baked potato, onion rings, and choice of veggie (\$41.40).  
**Restaurant BT**  
2507 South MacDill Ave.

Tampa  
813-258-1916  
[www.restaurantbt.com](http://www.restaurantbt.com)  
Intimate ambience and innovative French-Vietnamese food. Daily specials and standards such as Vietnamese bouillabaisse (\$32) and Peking duck burrito (\$12).  
**Cigar City Brewing**  
3924 West Spruce St., Tampa  
813-348-6363  
[www.cigarcitybrewing.com](http://www.cigarcitybrewing.com)  
Among best area breweries. Tours and tastings.  
**Cassis American Brasserie**  
170 Beach Drive Northeast St. Petersburg  
727-827-2927  
[www.cassisab.com](http://www.cassisab.com)  
French-American bistro fare served breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Entrees from \$17.50.  
**What to do**  
**Florida Aquarium**  
701 Channelside Drive, Tampa  
813-273-4000  
[www.floridaaquarium.org](http://www.floridaaquarium.org)  
Adults \$21.95, under 12 \$16.95, 2 and under free.  
**Tampa Museum of Art**  
120 West Gasparilla Plaza  
Tampa  
813-274-8130  
[www.tampamuseum.org](http://www.tampamuseum.org)  
Adults \$10, students \$5, 6 and under free.  
**Glazer Children's Museum**  
110 West Gasparilla Plaza  
813-443-3861  
[www.glazermuseum.org](http://www.glazermuseum.org)  
Adults \$5, children \$9.50, under 1 free.  
**Tampa Theatre**  
711 North Franklin St., Tampa  
813-274-8981  
[www.tampatheatre.org](http://www.tampatheatre.org)  
Movie tickets: adults \$10, 2-12 \$8, under 2 free. Tours of the theater available.  
**Clearwater Aquarium**  
249 Windward Passage  
Clearwater  
727-441-1790  
[www.seewinter.com](http://www.seewinter.com)  
Ticket prices vary by month.