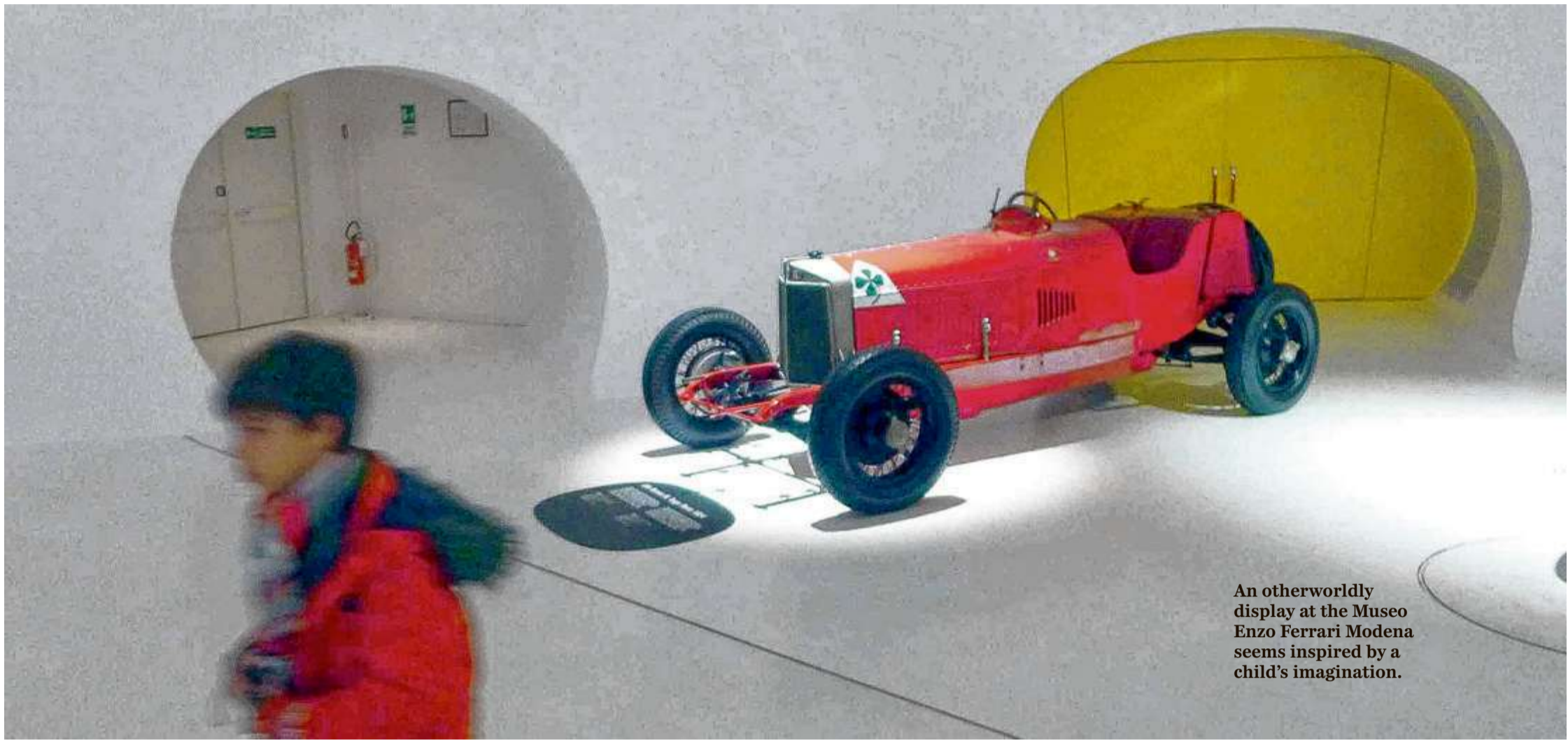


The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



An otherworldly display at the Museo Enzo Ferrari Modena seems inspired by a child's imagination.

DAVID LYON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON, LOVE FERRARIS

By David Lyon

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT



MODENA, Italy — Some children seem born in fifth gear. They learn to run before they walk, and they prefer their toys noisy and with wheels. Enzo Ferrari was surely one of those kids. Born in 1898 in this northern Italian city best known for balsamic vinegar, Enzo was introduced to motoring at the age of 5 when his father, Alfredo, bought a one-cylinder De Dion Bouton from France. Alfredo was soon tinkering with engines in his workshop, and when Enzo was 10, his father took him to watch the Circuit di Bologna auto race. The younger Ferrari vowed on the spot to become a race car driver. Little did he know that his family name would one day be synonymous with some of the fastest and most beautiful cars in the world.

My father had that same love of speed that seems imprinted on the Y chromosome. When I was very young he talked about racing monoplanes in college — a sport for which he lost his taste when his flying buddies didn't come back from the European theater. One of the earliest gifts he gave me was a kit to build a Formula I model race car. We even toyed (unsuccessfully, since I was a mechanical klutz) with Soap Box Derby racers.

So when I was in Modena this spring, I had to visit the new Museo Enzo Ferrari Modena in my father's memory. It opened in Ferrari's hometown last year to tell the story of one man's dreams of speed and to display some of the cars that still set every auto aficionado's pulse racing.

Part of the museum occupies a long brick structure that was both the Ferrari family living quarters where Enzo was born and the workshop where his father worked on early race car engines. Giant block letters on the structure literally spell out its significance: "Officina Meccanica Alfredo Ferrari," or "mechanical offices of Alfredo Ferrari." In 1932, after more than a decade as a race driver for hire, Enzo Ferrari brought his Scuderia Ferrari ("Ferrari Stable") to this building. The team's racing designs were so influential that it effectively became the technical racing research and development team for Alfa Romeo. Its high point was the design and construction of the 1937 Alfa Romeo 158 that would dominate the international racing world in the years before World War II.

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Italy's assigned national color.

The 27,000-square-foot display area inside is filled with stunningly beautiful cars — either Ferraris or related cars that Enzo Ferrari drove. The cars stand on small plinths as if they were precious sculptures. Every hour, a film tells the Ferrari story, from the wide-eyed little boy in Modena to the captain of industry and lord of the Grand Prix circuit.

Finally, in 1947, Enzo Ferrari founded the Ferrari company to build race cars. To finance the research and development — and the racing teams — for Formula I competition, the company began selling sports cars in 1953. With its combination of freeways and scenic seaside highways, California embraced Ferrari in a big way. Hollywood, in particular, had a love affair with the sleek speedsters. All the models are on the showroom floor, leading up to the mid-engined V12 Pininfarina 250 Testarossa (or "redhead") of 1986, perhaps Ferrari's most impressive supercar for the street.

Surrounded by all that speed and elegance, it was a bit of a letdown to board the shuttle bus for a 20-minute ride to Ferrari's other museum at its production facility in Maranello. While the Modena museum chronicles the Ferrari story with an emphasis on sports cars, the factory museum focuses principally on enshrining Ferrari's winning Formula I race cars and their drivers. It might be one of the world's biggest trophy rooms.

But there was compensation for the shuttle bus ride. Both museums let the Walter Mittys among us drive a Ferrari Formula I car in a realistic simulator. My father was one of the scariest drivers I've ever known, since he loved to open all the windows and put the pedal to the metal. The simulator would have been perfect for him: all the sensation of speed and no small animals to get in his way.

When it came my turn, a Ferrari company driver reached into the cockpit and showed me how to work the shift paddles on the clutchless transmission. Sure, the "Monza track" was only a video of that pilgrimage site of the Italian Grand Prix, and I would get to "drive" for only seven minutes (long enough to fall hopelessly behind). But when the attendant dropped the flag, I jabbed the accelerator with one quick thought: "OK, Dad. This one's for you."

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HERE

YOUTH CIRCUS ENTERTAINS NEW ENGLAND
Circus Smirkus, a Vermont-based international youth circus, hits the road this summer with its 2015 Big Top Tour, Bon Appétit! The young troupers, ages 10 to 18, perform as clowns (pictured above), jugglers, aerialists, acrobats, dancers, and more in their own 750-seat European-style one-ring big top tent. The award-winning company debuts its new season with two shows in Greensboro, Vt. (June 28), before traveling to shows in a dozen-plus locations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Connecticut, culminating in the season finale back in Greensboro (Aug. 14-15). Shows go on rain or shine; length is two hours with a 15-minute intermission. The ticket booth opens one hour before show time, and seating is general admission. A concession tent offers popcorn, hot dogs,

cotton candy, and beverages. Tickets from \$18-\$25, depending on location. 877-SMIRKUS, smirkus.org

SET SAIL FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY IN MAINE

Fans of historic sailing vessels won't want to miss the 39th annual Great Schooner Race on July 3 in scenic Penobscot Bay. Hosted every summer since 1977 by the Maine Windjammer Association, the all-day race from Islesboro to Rockland features more than 20 schooners (pictured below) divided into four classes based on size and design. Those who want to participate — and not simply observe — can sign up for 6-night Great Schooner



Race packages offered by the Maine Windjammer fleet (June 28-July 4). Packages include all meals, accommodations, activities, and participation in the race such as taking the helm, tending the lines, and raising the anchor and sails. No prior sailing experience is required. The event culminates in an award ceremony for race participants with live music, food, and drinks. Rates from \$740. www.greatschoonerrace.com

THERE

LUXE STARGAZING EXPERIENCE IN NOVA SCOTIA

You may know about ecotourism and culinary tourism, but how about astro-tourism? A growing trend celebrating destinations without excessive light pollution, you can experience such night-sky splendor in 5-star style at Trout Point Lodge in Nova Scotia. Located adjacent to the Tobeatic Wilderness, the lodge offers 15 rooms and suites, a restaurant with cooking classes, and outdoor activities including canoeing, kayaking, stargazing, barrel sauna, wood-fired hot tub, hiking trails, and more. There is a resident astronomer as well

as a stargazing platform and telescopes. (1-902-761-2142, www.troutpoint.com) Making it easy to journey from Boston, the lodge has partnered with the Nova Star ferry and Amtrak Downeaster train to offer a four-night, five-day Nova Scotia Wilderness package. Includes round-trip train, ferry, and transfers; two-night accommodations and dinners at the lodge; one-night accommodation in Portland, Maine; choice of one resort activity, and more. Available June 23-Oct. 14. From \$1,159 per person, double occupancy. 888-574-0777, downeasterpackages.com/nova-scotia-wilderness/

CONTEMPORARY ART IN TWO HISTORIC HOMES

For the first time since the 19th century, artists are exhibiting new works in the residences and surrounding landscapes of the historic Hudson River Valley homes of renowned painters Thomas Cole (1801-48), founder of the Hudson River School of art, and Frederic Church (1826-1900), Cole's student who became the school's leading practitioner. "River Crossings: Contemporary Art Comes Home" features works by 28 contemporary artists —

including Chuck Close, Maya Lin, Cindy Sherman and Kiki Smith — at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, N.Y., and the Olana State Historic Site in Hudson, just 2 miles away, across the river. Through Nov. 1. Admission at each site \$12; ages 16 and under free with adult. Those paying admission at both sites receive a commemorative gift. www.rivercrossings.org

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Extreme sport and outdoor travel enthusiasts who need to charge hand-held electronics in challenging circumstances should check out Revolt 9000, a new portable power device by Brunton. Shockproof and weatherproof (IPX5-rated debris and waterproofing) — with a silicone exo-shell to protect against harsh drops — it provides up to six smartphone charges. Planet friendly high-yield lithium polymer battery (9000mAh) keeps wasteful alkaline batteries out of landfills. Includes 3-in-1 adapter cable (Micro USB, Lightning, 30-Pin to USB). Easy to pack and transport. Available in orange, black, yellow, olive, and mint. \$99.99. www.brunton.com/products/revolt-9000 NEECE REGIS

