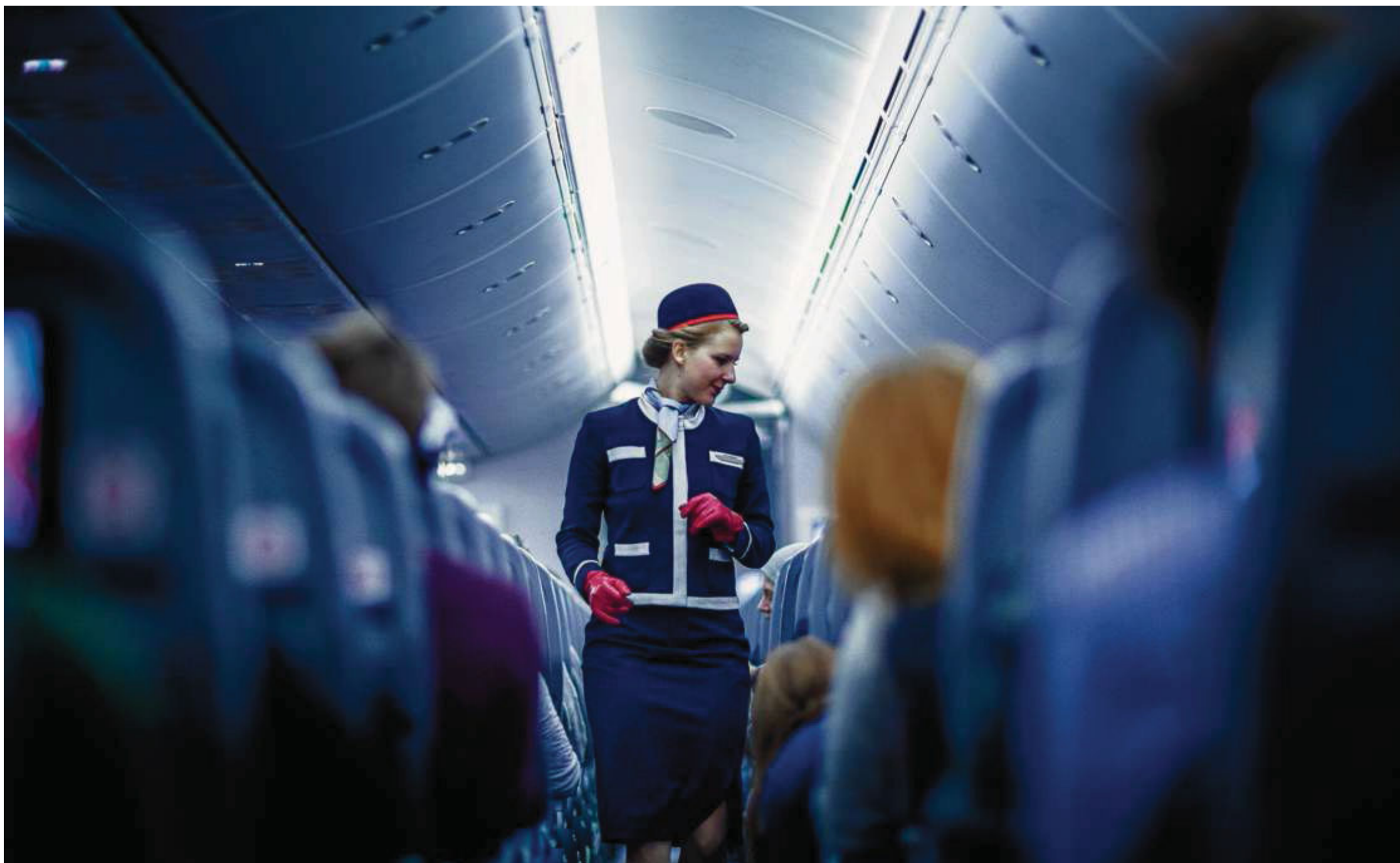


WITH: NEW ENGLAND DESTINATIONS

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE FEBRUARY 14, 2016 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM/TRAVEL



BO MATHISEN

Norwegian Air

storms

the US

The airline made a splash with low fares to the Caribbean and is planning to expand Boston-to-Europe flights in 2016 — but at what cost?

BY CHRISTOPHER MUTHER | GLOBE STAFF



CHRISTOPHER MUTHER

The pilot seemed to know the question on everyone's mind, and he answered it on the tarmac as we sat waiting for departure.

"You might be wondering why Norwegian Air's first flights out of Boston are to the Caribbean," he said in that reassuringly calm, casual tone that somehow most pilots have mastered. You know the one I mean. "In the off-season we have planes that just sit in Europe. We thought this would be a better use for them."

Those otherwise dormant planes were brought to Boston and are currently in use for a seasonal route to Martinique and Guadeloupe (the routes end the weekend of March 23). Although Norwegian is a new arrival in Boston, it has much grander plans than a three-month schedule to the Caribbean.

"Boston is really our main focus for 2016," said Anders Lindström, US director of communications for Norwegian Air. "We already have Martinique and Guadeloupe, and then in 2016 we're adding London, Oslo, and Copenhagen."

Norwegian made a splash when it arrived here in De-

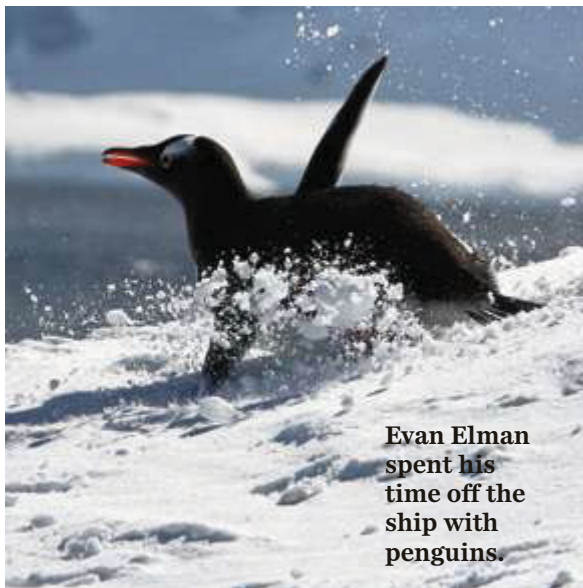
ember because it dangled a carrot in front of travelers with impossibly low fares to the Caribbean. I paid about \$250 roundtrip for my flight to Guadeloupe in early December. Had I bought my ticket the day I departed, I could have flown down for \$49 one way. As you can guess, those bargain fares mean flights don't come with much in the way of amenities. Like Iceland-based WOW, which debuted in Boston two years ago, you'll pay for everything on a Norwegian flight, from your snacks (\$2.50 for a bag of potato chips, or \$3 for a can of Sprite) down to the bottled water (\$2.50). A little pre-departure shopping in the airport can help you avoid those prices.

Your carry-on (no more than 22 pounds) and one small personal item (emphasis on small) are free.

Before the flight I was concerned that the check-in experience would be a disaster. Currently Norwegian has no self-service ticketing at Logan. Lindström said the company is working toward introducing self-serve kiosks in 2016, but couldn't offer a timetable for their arrival. The last time I flew an economy flight with no do-it-yourself check-in process was shortly after the introduction of Ice-

MUTHER, Page M5

Norwegian Air (top) is focusing on Boston in 2016.



Evan Elman spent his time off the ship with penguins.

PHOTOS BY EVAN ELMAN

Sea adventure for young chef

By Neece Regis
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Evan Elman, 26, grew up in Cambridge and attended the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School before heading to college at the University of British Columbia. After cooking for a series of restaurants in Vancouver, Elman spent 50 days as a sous chef aboard a 383-foot polar research and luxury tourism ship that traveled to Antarctica.

Q. How did you land this gig?

A. I didn't seek out going to Antarctica; the opportunity fell in my lap. A friend's mother posted on Face-

CHEF, Page M5



Inside

ON SAIL
What cruise is right for you?

M2

YOUR APPLE VACATION INCLUDES NON-STOP ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FROM BOSTON, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, ALL MEALS, DRINKS, TIPS AND TRANSFERS!



Book, Pack,
GO!

Visit us at applevacations.com for other great deals or Call Your Travel Agent!

APPLE VACATIONS

Cancun's Riviera Maya

Grand Oasis Cancun

PLUS ALL-INCLUSIVE

Apple Vacations guest receive the following exclusive amenities: a Free bottle of wine in the room, U.S. magazines and newspapers, Oasis Plus concierge service with a separate check-in and more.

Dreams Tulum Resort & Spa

Golden ALL-INCLUSIVE

Non-stop transfers included—an Apple Exclusive, \$200 Resort Coupons per room, per stay! Located just minutes from the Tulum ruins. Ask about the Sip, Savor & See Dining Experience.

Secrets The Vine Cancun

Golden Unlimited-Luxury®. Adults Only (18+)

Deal of the Day (room is 100% non-refundable). Non-stop transfers included—an Apple Exclusive. Elegantly appointed rooms and suites with 24-hour concierge, room services and multiple gourmet restaurants.

7 Nts **\$1099***
SUN, Apr 3, 10

7 Nts **\$1749***
SUN, Feb 28

7 Nts **\$2399***
SUN, Mar 20, 27, Apr 3

Punta Cana

Grand Bahia Principe Turquesa

PLUS ALL-INCLUSIVE

Located on one of the most beautiful beaches in the Dominican Republic. Great family resort with a kids' waterpark, mini-golf, playground area and more.

Now Garden Punta Cana

Unlimited-Luxury®.

Non-stop transfers included—an Apple Exclusive, \$200 Resort Coupons per room, per stay! Located on beautiful Bavaro Beach. Ask about the Sip, Savor & See Dining Experience.

Dreams Palm Beach Punta Cana

Golden Unlimited-Luxury®.

Non-stop transfers included—an Apple Exclusive, \$200 Resort Coupons per room, per stay! Ask about the Sip, Savor & See Dining Experience.

7 Nts **\$1399***
SAT, Mar 19, 26

7 Nts **\$1649***
SAT, Feb 27

7 Nts **\$1859***
SAT, Mar 23

*Prices per person based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated) including round-trip airfare from Boston via Icelandair, or other U.S. certified air carriers, round-trip airport/hotel transfers, hotel taxes and baggage handling, fuel surcharges, all pre-collected U.S. and foreign taxes and fees including September 11th Security Fee, \$10 late booking fee if applicable (for bookings within 14 days of departure) and the services of an Apple Representative. Cancun and Punta Cana via Icelandair. In some instances, pricing may specifically apply to one of multiple flights on select departure days. Restrictions/blackout dates may apply. All packages are based on the lowest hotel/air classes available at time of publication, capacity controlled and subject to availability and change without notice. Promotional pricing may only be available for a limited time. Some all-inclusive/Unlimited-Luxury/Unlimited-Fun resorts do not include watersports. Baggage fees apply for carry-on, 1st and 2nd checked bag based on carrier flown. Please see a full description of baggage fees on www.applevacations.com. **Premium Seating and Preferred Perks First Class pricing subject to change. Preferred Perks surcharge is based off of A class of service. Upgrading from B class will have a larger surcharge. \$10 Dominican Republic Tourist Card fee payable at resort airport upon arrival-cash only, U.S. dollars. Square Deals are discounted air and hotel packages guaranteed to be at least the Apple rating indicated—no meals/food and beverage are included unless otherwise stated. Apple Vacations is not responsible for errors or omissions. Cancellation policies apply. See the Apple Vacations Fair Trade Contract ©2016. All public charter flights on Icelandair PC#15-030 are operated by Apple Vacations, LLC. CST2036661-40 nad_0105_021416_BOS_d

Highs and lows of a new airline in Boston



► **MUTHER**
Continued from Page M1

land's WOW, and it was a disaster. Fellow passengers, not aware of weight restrictions, did the luggage shuffle. A little more in this bag, a little less over there. A few additional layers of clothes worn on the plane to lighten carry-ons, until proper, fee-free weights were achieved.

I imagined the weigh-in process at a Weight Watchers meeting was less angst-filled and painful than watching WOW passengers struggle with luggage sizes.

I had no difficulty with my old-school Norwegian check-in process. I've since heard from other Norwegian flyers that they experienced a bit more turbulence at the ticket counter. There were so few people on my Norwegian flight that I imagine luggage weight was not an issue.

But Norwegian is not interested in being put in the same category as WOW or Spirit Airlines. They see their closest relations to be JetBlue or Virgin America. But let me clarify here that the entertainment offerings were lagging far behind JetBlue, unless you have a keen interest in Norwegian-language movies and television programs.

You can also bring your laptop and log into the free Wi-fi, but the connection was so slow on my flight that I think we had landed by the time my first e-mail departed my inbox. I may be exaggerating just a little bit, and I did appreciate the gesture of free Internet. Seat comfort did not appear to be a priority. I believe I wrote "park bench" in my notes. The chair felt slightly more comfortable on the return flight.

Regardless of Norwegian's shortcomings, the airline is growing at a frantic clip and will begin flights from Boston to London in March, quickly

followed by Oslo and Copenhagen. Expect more bargain introductory fares (currently you can find an April fare to London Gatwick for \$195 one-way). The company has hinted at \$69 one-way fares by 2017 on direct flights from the United States to Europe, but those will be occasional sales and not the norm.

Norwegian will also begin flying Dreamliners out of Boston with discounted first-class fares. Instead of paying \$2,000-plus for first class (Norwegian uses the term "premium" seats), you'll pay an average of about \$800 each way. Those premium spots on Dreamliners will feature lie-flat seats.

"Boston is another destination that is doing really well for us," said Norwegian CEO Bjorn Kjos in a statement. "Which is why we've moved ahead our European launch dates, and we can't wait for our Dreamliner to arrive at Logan."

Norwegian is currently Europe's third largest budget car-

rier after Ryanair and EasyJet. But the airline may soon best its competitors. In October it announced that it ordered 19 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners at a price of \$5 billion. It will take delivery of the planes between 2017 and 2020, and has an option to order an additional 10. It's also waiting on orders of smaller planes.

"We're the world's fastest growing airline," Lindström said. "We announce more routes constantly than any other airline."

I'm excited to hear about forthcoming routes, but I'd also be excited to hear about faster in-flight Internet or slightly more comfortable seats. But if Norwegian comes through with \$69 fare sales to Europe, I'll happily forgive the sluggish Internet quality.

Christopher Muther can be reached at muther@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @Chris_Muther and on Instagram @Chris_Muther.

HIGHEST VALUE, TOP QUALITY EUROPEAN TOURS

Simply the best value! All/mostly-inclusive tours w/air, hotel, meals, guides, escort, txfrs, daily sites
FALL '15 RHINE/DANUBE RIVER CHARTER CRUISES- Save \$1000's! All-inc.w/air, meals, drinks, tours from \$3699!
ITALY - Grand Tour, Ital./Fr.Riviera of Lakes Region w/ World's Fair, Sorrento, Calabria, Puglia, Sicily, Tuscany
OTHER - Downton Abbey England, IRL, France, Aust/Germany, Prague/Vien/Bdpst Port/Spain/Greece, China
DURGAN TRAVEL SERVICE
STONEHAM, MA 800-234-9959
 Complete trip listings at our all-new site www.durgantravel.com



LEARN A LANGUAGE ABROAD

ENTER TO WIN A GOPRO CAMERA!

Study at one of 12 schools in 8 Countries around the world

Come visit us at booth #646 to see how you can learn a language in Costa Rica, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, China and Japan!

Show only special:
Save 5% on any course, 3 weeks or longer.

Contact Us
1-800-992-1892
ILS@ef.com
www.livethelanguage.com

International Language Centers



Ship lets young chef earn, save, and savor

► **CHEF**
Continued from Page M1

book: "Any chefs looking to go to Antarctica from October to December?" I private-messaged her and she forwarded the e-mail address for the company. I shot my resume off and 10 minutes later my phone was buzzing. I talked back and forth with the company for a couple days and eventually they told me to pack my bags because I was going to Antarctica.



EVAN ELMAN

Q. Was it worth it financially?
A. I made more money in three months than I ever could have working at any restaurant in the city. All of my airfare, accommodation, transportation, food, and living expenses were covered for 50 days. Even the days I was traveling. In my line of work, that is unheard of.

Q. How much free time did you have each day?
A. My day started anywhere from 5 to 7 in the morning. I usually took a nap around 2, and would then work from 3 or 4 to 10 at night. All in all, my weeks wound up being around 100 hours. I never had a day off.

Q. How often were you able to get off the ship?
A. At least once a week, usually to see wildlife. I saw wildlife that less than 1 percent of the world will ever be able to witness. It was straight out of a Discovery Channel special. I half expected David Attenborough to pop out of the grass and begin talking about the wandering albatross.

"Nobody had set foot on this island in about 200 days — it was very early in the season," says Evan Elman of his trip to Gold Harbor in the South Georgia Islands.

Q. What was the highlight of the trip?
A. One day I took an hour break with Katie, a 33-year-old merchant marine and pastry chef from Seattle. We went on a private tour of Gold Harbor in the South Georgia Islands, a one-mile stretch of beach that was covered by seals and penguins. The snow was champagne powder and penguins were sliding on their bellies down a big hill. I know cats are cute and all, but penguins have them beat. Penguins are so awkward when they walk on land, they sort of just waddle. But in the water, they are streamlined like fish.

Q. Who else was there?
A. It was just Katie, myself, and

about 600 penguins. The snow was untouched. Nobody had set foot on this island in about 200 days — it was very early in the season. Katie took off to the right, I went straight ahead and walked up a white hill where tiny black dots were awkwardly waddling from colony to colony. I laid down on my stomach in the snow and got my camera ready. The penguins walked around me like I didn't exist. Some pecked at me, but to them I was not a predator. I stayed there for a while shooting photos and thinking about how my life led me to that moment. I thought about how cool it was that this was my "break." No kidding. This was my break from work. The entire excursion took an hour.

Q. What was worst part of the trip?
A. Going through the Drake Passage in 30-foot seas while having to cook for 120 people.

Q. Takeaway experience?

A. If you spend 16 hours a day cooking for 50 days straight, the little things and comforts that you have in day to day life don't matter anymore. I didn't miss my phone, Facebook, Netflix, or any of that. I was in nature submerged into sheer wilderness bliss. After it was all done I came home and sat in my parents' living room in Miami thinking about the whole experience. I was now a full-blown sous chef. I had prepared three plated meals a day for 120 people. I boarded that ship as a tadpole and left as a bullfrog.

Q. Would you do it again?
A. It was a great experience but I'm hoping I never have to be on a boat for that long ever again.

Q. Now what?
A. I love cooking. I'll use the next exciting job as fuel to keep my passion going. I've been to Antarctica and I'm now a first cook at Hawthorth, the second-best restaurant in Canada. This summer I'll be going to Peregrine Lodge, a five-star fishing resort in British Columbia. In the fall I'm hoping to move somewhere hot so that I can feel like I never need to take a vacation.

To see Elman's food, follow him on Instagram @youngchefbutter. Necee Regis can be reached at necee.regis@gmail.com.



Discover Portugal.

Win a 6 night hotel stay at Altis Hotels in Lisbon and Algarve, inclusive of air from Boston, tours of Lisbon and Sintra and transfers. Visit Sagres Vacations, booth #642 for a chance to win.

Don't Just Travel, Experience It with Sagres Vacations



Blackout dates and other restrictions apply.

GUADELOUPE ISLANDS
French Caribbean

NON-STOP Flights from BOSTON
VISIT US AT BOOTH #823
BOSTON GLOBE TRAVEL SHOW

GET 20% Off on your Norwegian Air Airfare!

The New York Times | Condé Nast Traveler
 "52 Places To Go in 2016" | "Top 16 Places To Go in 2016"

Hate to Fly?
Cruise Round-trip from Boston, MA

Sail away to Bermuda, Canada or the Caribbean from under \$100 per person per day!

 7-Night Bermuda from \$549* pp.	 7-Night Bermuda from \$799* pp.	 7-Night Canada/NE from \$557* pp.
14-Night Canada/NE from \$1,659* pp.	7-Night Canada/NE from \$999* pp. <small>(Requires Return Flight)</small>	12-Night Caribbean from \$1,010* pp. <small>(Requires Return Flight)</small>

Choose from FREE Beverage Packages / Shore Excursion Credits / Internet Packages / Dining Packages / Onboard Credits up to \$400
 Call one of our specialists to find out how to get all 5 offers included!
All offers available on select sailings. Offers vary by cruise line and category booked. Restrictions apply. Call toll free to speak to one of our cruise specialists for details on these amazing offers.

Visit www.DirectLineCruises.com/bostonglobe for a special BONUS cruise offer available to Boston Globe subscribers.

Travel Insurance Included with sailings 5-nights or longer. Senior and resident rates available on select sailings!

Official Agency for the Cruise Industry

Call toll-free for a FREE Brochure & Reservations

1-877-589-7519

www.DirectLineCruises.com

* Rates shown above apply to select sailings and are subject to availability. Gov't. taxes and fees are additional.