

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

HERE

ALL COMEDY DINNER THEATER

The dinner theater season returns with an all-comedy lineup to the Cape Codder Resort & Spa in Hyannis, and the John Carver Inn & Spa in Plymouth. Laugh your winter blues away while enjoying a buffet dinner and live performances that include stand-up, rock 'n' roll parodies, Jon Stetson's "Psychic Mindblowing Comedy Show," "Finnegan's Wake," mystery theater, and renditions of your favorite performers by the "Man of Many Voices," Joey Canzano (through May 4). \$59.99 per person. Overnight packages from \$126 per person, double occupancy. *Cape Codder: 855-861-4370, www.capecodderresort.com; John Carver: 888-906-6181, www.johncarverinn.com*

NEW HAMPSHIRE INN STAY INCLUDES SNOW TUBING

Take the family to the Bartlett Inn and go snow tubing for free. A family of four (two adults, two children age 12 or under) staying one or more nights will receive four tubing tickets to Great Glen Trails in New Hampshire's White Mountains. The same vouchers can be used for free cross-country ski or snowshoe trail passes. The package includes a full breakfast and afternoon cocoa, hot cider, and cookies. Accommodations feature two queen beds, cable TV, Wi-Fi, and private bathroom. From \$99 per night non-peak midweek; from \$115 weekends. There are no blackout dates but peak weekends require a two-night stay. 800-292-2353, www.bartlettinn.com



THERE



ARIZONA DUDE RANCH

Saddle your horses at the family-friendly Tanque Verde Ranch in Tucson. Located on 600,000 acres of desert with views of the Santa Catalina and Rincon mountains, this ranch encourages your kids to unplug (no TVs) and explore the outdoors. Activities include horseback riding lessons and trail rides, guided mountain bike and hiking tours, nature walks, fishing lessons, tennis, basketball, swimming, yoga, and arts and crafts. The all-inclusive rates include luxury accommodations, three hearty meals each day, activities, and more. Seasonal rates. Doubles \$425-\$595 per day. Children ages 4-11 \$89-\$99. 800-234-3833, www.tanqueverderanch.com

WOMEN'S WELLNESS GETAWAY IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Hershey Hotel isn't only about chocolate. At the 2d annual Women's Wellness Weekend (March 8-10), enjoy fitness classes including yoga, Pilates, water aerobics, stretching, and nature walks, plus lectures on managing stress and a candlelight meditation. The package also features nutrition and cooking demonstrations, beauty and skin care sessions, and a wine dinner with Katie Madigan from St. Francis Winery and Vineyards in Sonoma, Calif. A continental breakfast, a \$100 resort credit, and admission to the Museum Experience at The Hershey Story are included. From \$674 per room, per night, double occupancy. Single from \$469. 800-437-7439, www.TheHotelHershey.com

A WIZARD OF A DEAL IN FLORIDA

Universal Orlando Resort is offering a deal that allows guests a third day of theme park admission and a fourth night of hotel accommodations for free, with rates beginning at \$49 per person, per day for a family of four (\$769, tax inclusive). The package includes early park admission to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, access to live entertainment at Universal CityWalk, and free scheduled transportation from your hotel to the park. Choose from multiple partner hotels, including the CoCo Key Hotel and Water Resort with its three pools and 14 slides. Purchase by March 28, must arrive by June 16. 877-801-9720, www.UniversalOrlando.com

EVERYWHERE

WASHING MACHINE IN A KNAPSACK

Need to hand-wash your clothes but don't have access to a sink? Outdoor enthusiasts, campers, and frequent travelers will like the Scrubba Wash Bag, a compact laundry system engineered to clean clothes in less than five minutes. Simply put water, cleansing liquid, and items to be washed inside the waterproof bag, expel excess air through a valve, and then press down and rub clothes against the internal flexible washboard. \$59.95. The Scrubba Travelers Kit includes a travel towel, clothesline, and travel bag. \$99.95. Free standard shipping worldwide. www.thescrubba.com



BABY FLIGHT SAFETY VESTS

Protect your baby against unexpected air turbulence with the Baby B'Air Flight Vest, approved by the FDA for in-flight use. Constructed of 100 percent cotton, it slips over the child's head and is worn like a vest with adjustable straps that connect to the seat belt of the adult. The baby can be held, fed, and changed while both parent and child remain securely fastened in their seat. Not for use during takeoff or landing. Available in two sizes: small for infants up to 6 months, and large for 6 months to 2 years. \$34.95. 800-417-5228, www.babybair.com

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Meals in Paris can be the equal of the grand attraction nearby

By Denise Drower Swidey

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

PARIS — On a quick trip to France, food lovers will want to make every meal count, but, of course, there are all those sights to see. There's no need to sacrifice memorable meals for attractions. These finds are either close by or on the grounds of several top sites.

At the Eiffel Tower, a reservation at Jules Verne gets you not only a Michelin-starred meal, but also a private, line-free elevator ride up the tower, and a luxurious retreat from high winds, making that attraction even more attractive. At all these establishments, consider lunch instead of dinner to enjoy the same experience at a fraction of the cost. Internet reservations are easy and a must to ensure a table.

Spring Restaurant (near the Louvre)

When Chicago native Daniel Rose opened Spring in 2006, open kitchens were a rarity in Paris, as were Americans opening restaurants there. Rose and Spring are getting trans-Atlantic buzz from the ultra-imaginative spin he puts on the season's freshest ingredients. So fresh in fact, that Rose handwrote our menu only after we finished. Our multicourse dinner was seafood-centric: oysters and gravlax with flavors and colors that popped like works of art. Worth the 10-minute walk from the Louvre, Spring serves a three-course lunch menu Wednesday to Friday from noon-2, for about \$65 per person. 6 rue Bailleur, 011-33-1-45-96-05-72, www.springparis.fr

Jules Verne (in the Eiffel Tower)

Panoramic views from 410 feet aloft, massive iron lattice arches, and enormous turning elevator gears, along with funky Space Odyssey-style decor all work to evoke Paris's past and future simultaneously. The food



SARA DROWER

The dining room at Jules Verne, in the Eiffel Tower.

does the same with Alain Ducasse's modern updates of French classics like foie gras and brioche. Glance away from the view to your plate to appreciate that the golden, salted pommes soufflés are engineered to be tower-shaped. The \$122 per person three-course prix-fixe weekday lunch is the way to go, with seatings from noon-1:30 (bank holidays excluded). 2d floor, Eiffel Tower 011-33-1-45-55-61-44, www.lejulesverne-paris.com

Gordon Ramsay au Trianon (Versailles)

Versailles is under 40 minutes by car or rail from Paris, and after touring the gilded grounds of Louis XIV, you may want to dine like a king. This is easily done less than a mile away at modern-day despot Gordon Ramsay's Michelin two-star restaurant in the four-star hotel, Trianon Palace. The clean, bright flavors and presentation of a dish like the pan-fried John Dory coupled with the airy light of the dining room are a nice respite from Baroque Château de Versailles. Prix-fixe lunch is noon-2:30, Fridays and Saturdays, for \$118 per person.

1 Boulevard de la Reine, Versailles 011-33-1-30-84-55-55, www.trianonpalace.com/gordon-ramsay/au-trianon.html

Restaurant Georges (Pompidou Center, National Museum of Modern Art)

On the top floor of the city's modern art mecca, Restaurant Georges (Pompidou's first name) gives you the feeling that you haven't left the exhibition space, with crazy organic-shaped metallic structures that separate seating areas and a George Jetson-style bar. This isn't your typical museum cafeteria, with an à la carte menu including grilled turbot with Bernaise sauce and lobster ravioli. Don't be surprised if you encounter some service lapses, just relax and enjoy the spectacular landscapes — both exterior and interior. Closed Tuesdays, entrees \$27-\$54. Pompidou Center, 6th floor, 011-33-1-44-78-47-99, www.maisonthierrycostes.com/georges/accueil

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