

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

## HERE



### FILM FESTIVAL ISLAND STYLE

The Martha's Vineyard Film Festival hosts its 13th annual event (March 15-17) at the Chilmark Community Center with films from the festival circuit as well as shorts and features with local appeal. Watch movies on comfy couches in the "community living room" outfitted with state-of-the-art projection and sound. Stay for post-screening discussions with filmmakers and others. Events include live music hosted by the Hay Cafe and a daily feast prepared by chef Chris Fischer. Tickets \$15, members \$7. Couch seating add \$5. Weekend pass \$150. 508-645-9599, [www.tmvff.org](http://www.tmvff.org). The Harbor View Hotel & Resort in Edgartown is offering a Martha's Vineyard Movie Escape package, including two-night stay (March 15-16) and two all-access festival passes, \$479, with reserved couch seating \$679. 800-225-6005, [www.harbor-view.com](http://www.harbor-view.com)

### CULINARY RETREAT WEEKENDS IN VERMONT

Indulge your passion for food while getting away from it all. In the village of Brandon, Café Provence and the Lilac Inn have teamed up to offer Vermont Culinary Retreat Weekends for couples (March 22-24, April 5-7, 19-21) that celebrate farm-to-table cuisine with a focus on Vermont ingredients. Chef Robert Barral, former executive chef of the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston, leads a hands-on class where you'll help prepare (and later eat) a four-course meal, and a Sunday brunch cooking demonstration. Includes a champagne reception, two nights' lodging at the luxury inn, all meals, and a tour of goat cheese-making facilities at the nearby Blue Ledge Farm. Limited to six couples, \$995, includes taxes and gratuities. 802-247-5463, <http://lilacinn.com>

## THERE

### BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS GETAWAYS

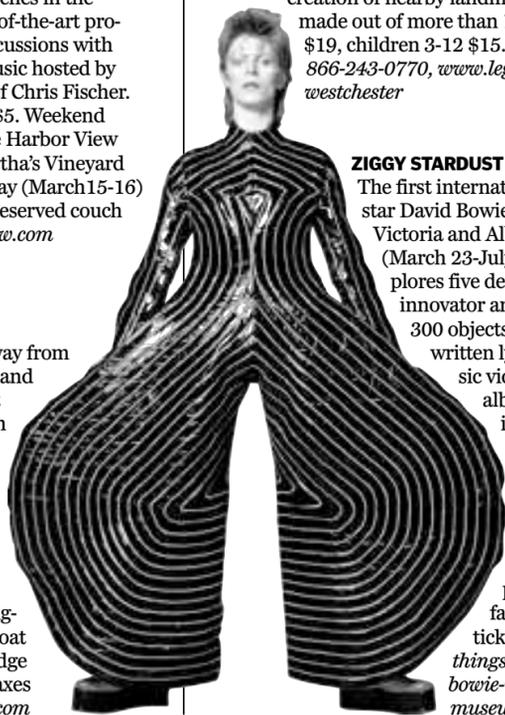
Discount lodging and packages are available at both Skyland Resort and Big Meadows Lodge at Shenandoah National Park. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, all accommodations are near the Shenandoah River, a popular destination for canoeing, kayaking, and white-water rafting. The Skyland Resort, a complex of buildings and cabins perched at the highest point of the 105-mile Skyline Drive, opens March 28. Big Meadows Lodge, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, opens May 15. Promotions include the Skyline Sweetheart Getaway, Bed and Breakfast Package, Shenandoah Spectacular Package, and more, \$80-\$235. 877-247-9261, [www.goshenandoah.com](http://www.goshenandoah.com)

### LEGOLAND OPENS IN NEW YORK

LEGO lovers traveling to New York and the lower Hudson Valley area can add a new destination to their itineraries. LEGOLAND Discovery Center Westchester opens March 27 in Yonkers, N.Y. Geared to children ages 3-10 and their families, the 32,300-square-foot attraction features more than 3 million LEGO bricks, hands-on play areas, 4D cinema, LEGO building classes, and two LEGO rides. Don't miss MINILAND, a re-creation of nearby landmark locations and buildings made out of more than 1 million LEGO bricks. Adults \$19, children 3-12 \$15. Book online for discounts. 866-243-0770, [www.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/westchester](http://www.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/westchester)

### ZIGGY STARDUST LANDS IN LONDON

The first international retrospective of pop star David Bowie's career debuts at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London (March 23-July 28). "David Bowie Is" explores five decades of his work as a musical innovator and cultural icon. More than 300 objects on display include handwritten lyrics, photography, film, music videos, set designs, instruments, album cover artwork, and fashion, including Ziggy Stardust bodysuits designed by Freddie Burretti. Tickets \$14-\$22. 011-44-20-7942-2000, [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk). The Radisson Blu Edwardian hotel offers a package (from \$249 per night) that includes breakfast for two, plus exhibition tickets. [www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/27365183-david-bowie-is-at-the-victoria-and-albert-museum](http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/27365183-david-bowie-is-at-the-victoria-and-albert-museum)



## EVERYWHERE

### GOURMET COFFEE IN YOUR POCKET

When you're on the road, in the air, or hiking in the wilderness, a good cup of java can be hard to find. Now a new company offers a solution for coffee-obsessed travelers. Jiva Cubes are individually wrapped instant coffee cubes for those on the go. Made from free-trade Colombian arabica beans and sweetened with panela, raw unrefined cane sugar, you only need to mix with hot water or milk to enjoy flavorful coffee anywhere. Available in two flavors: classic and mocha. 24 cubes \$14.99, sample eight-cube pack \$5, signature mug and travel mug set \$24.99. [jivacubes.com](http://jivacubes.com)

### EASY WAY TO CHOOSE A CRUISE

With so many ships and destinations vying for your attention, deciding which cruise is the right one for you and your family can be difficult. Find your ideal voyage with CruiseCompete, a competitive-quote website that simplifies planning. This free and anonymous service allows you to browse ships and specials, compare competing offers from travel agents, see consumer reviews of agents and agencies, request quotes for the cruise of your choice, and receive competing offers. If you like a deal that is offered or have questions, you can call a cruise specialist, and then contact travel agents directly to book a trip. 800-797-4635, [www.cruisecompetite.com](http://www.cruisecompetite.com)



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## The List

### HOTEL TOURS

#### 1

#### WALDORF ASTORIA New York

The Landmark Tour focuses on Art Deco architecture (below) and history. Includes lunch at Peacock Alley or Oscar's Restaurant. 10:15 a.m. on Thu, Sat. Reservations required. \$50. 212-872-1275, [www.waldorfnyc.com](http://www.waldorfnyc.com)



#### 2

#### GRAND WAILEA Maui, Hawaii

Guided tours of the resort's art collection include more than 80 paintings, sculpture, graphics, murals, and artifacts in the NaPua Gallery and throughout the property. 10 a.m. on Tue, Fri. Free. 800-888-6100, [www.grandwailea.com](http://www.grandwailea.com)

#### 3

#### AMWAY GRAND PLAZA Grand Rapids, Mich.

Self-guided historical tour includes The Pantlind Lobby, circa 1913, featuring one of the world's largest gold-leaf ceilings. Free. 800-253-3590, [www.amwaygrand.com](http://www.amwaygrand.com)

#### 4

#### JW MARRIOTT IHILANI RESORT AND SPA Oahu, Hawaii

On Reef and Ray Adventure program, tour saltwater ponds with sharks, stingrays, starfish, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers. Includes reef shark feeding and interaction with Hawaiian rays. Adults and children ages 4-12, \$35.89-\$44.79. 808-679-0079, [www.ihilani.com](http://www.ihilani.com)

#### 5

#### ROME CAVALIERI Rome

Self-guided mp3 tour of over 1,000 art objects in the hotel's private collection including Old Masters, contemporary art, French antiques, rare tapestries, sculpture, and ceramics. 011-39-06-3509-1, [www.romecavalieri.com](http://www.romecavalieri.com)

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## The Tip

### WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, TO HOST IRONMAN CANADA

WHISTLER, British Columbia — Three and a half years after hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics, Whistler will welcome thousands of athletes and spectators for IRONMAN Canada, a long-distance triathlon that had been running in Penticton in the Okanagan Valley for the past 30 years. Whistler won the bid to host the event until 2017, beating out Kelowna, north of Penticton in the Okanagan, and Huntsville, Ontario.

Nestled in the stunning Coast Mountains, this laid-back, outdoorsy community is just a couple of hours north of Vancouver (and its international airport) along the newly expanded Sea to Sky Highway.

The inaugural event takes place Aug. 25, when an expected 2,500 athletes will swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles, and then run a marathon in Whistler and surrounding communities. Athletes will swim two loops around Alta Lake and then bike up into the Callaghan Valley, home to the 2010 Olympic Nordic events, before heading north to Pemberton with views of the area's glaciated peaks. After returning to Whistler along rolling terrain, triathletes will



MIKE CRANE/TOURISM WHISTLER

run two loops around Lost and Green lakes on the Valley Trail, passing through Whistler Village at the halfway point. They will finish the event at Whistler Olympic Plaza.

Spectators will have plenty to do before and after the race. Whistler offers a variety of stunningly beautiful trails for hiking and biking, ranging from level, easy routes to rugged alpine scrambles. The Whistler Mountain Bike Park is

ranked among the world's best. Visitors can also go golfing and on zip-line adventures; visit the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre to learn about the area's First Nations groups; spend part of a day at the fabulous ScandinaVe Spa Whistler, which has more than a dozen outdoor hydrotherapy pools; or wander around the village.

The World Triathlon Corp. will run an expo in the days leading up to the event, with about 100 vendors, and an awards ceremony and celebration on Aug. 26. All events are free and open to the public.

Open registration has closed, but you can still sign up: Registration costs \$1,250 per person. Half of this fee goes to the nonprofit IRONMAN Foundation, and \$50,000 of the money raised through these registrations goes to Whistler-area nonprofits.

Not quite ready yet? IRONMAN Canada will be held in late July from 2014 to 2017.

813-868-5940, [www.ironman.com](http://www.ironman.com); 800-944-7853, [www.whistler.com](http://www.whistler.com)

KARI BODNARCHUK

## Artisans and the adventurous shop on Laurier East

MONTREAL — This city's edgier Laurier Avenue East is like the fun-loving niece to Laurier West's more elegant, and better-known, matriarch. These shops along three

### SHOPPING FINDS

blocks reveal the French-flavored Plateau Mont-Royal neighborhood's more adventurous and artisanal side.

**Buk & Nola** College pals Laurence Marinacci and Caroline Jodoin combined their expertise in fashion and marketing to create an intimate home decor and gift shop that is parts buoyant bohemian and spare Scandinavian. Several items are locally made, including Anita Designs linens (\$18-\$48) and fabric-covered lampshades created for the shop (\$140). Pillows (\$34-\$138), big on colors and bold graphics, line a shelf along a brick wall, including ones from Montreal's Les Triplettes and London's Roddy & Ginger. 1593 Laurier Ave. East, 514-357-2680, [www.buknola.com](http://www.buknola.com)

**Gaia Ceramics** Catherine Auriol's sizable space is a combined studio, classroom, and gallery for her and her fellow Canadians' clay creations. If you are shopping for the perfect souvenir, check out resident potter Marianne Chenard's maple syrup jugs adorned with Quebec-themed images with a twist (\$28-\$38), a line she calls "Un-made in Canada." 1590 Laurier Ave. East, 514-598-5444, [www.gaiaiceramique.com](http://www.gaiaiceramique.com)

**David Rogers Leather** Native Coloradan and former itinerant leather artisan David Rogers has planted himself in a small corner shop on



DIANE DANIEL FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Laurence Marinacci and a college friend created Buk & Nola, a home decor and gift shop on Laurier Avenue East.

Laurier East, where he makes leather goods, including shoes and sandals (\$200-\$400), belts, wallets (\$40-\$100), and handbags and briefcases (\$200-\$500). Rogers displays a small collection of items for sale, but also can whip up custom orders in a day or two. 1397 Laurier Ave. East, [www.davidrogersleather.com](http://www.davidrogersleather.com)

**Mariane Alexandre** This shop, tucked inside David Rogers Leather, is a misnomer. Jeweler Mariane Seguin now works on her own, without former business partner Alexandre. That she's been too busy to change the name is a testament to the appeal of her clean and bright silver creations. In the Volt collection (\$28-\$92), Seguin uses color to play with asymmetry and reversibility, while pearls are the only adornment in her dressier Sphere line (\$72-\$152). Men get counter space, too, with an assortment of rings (\$30), cufflinks (\$112), and even earrings (\$20-\$30). 1397 Laurier Ave. East, 514-272-8543, [www.marianealexandre.com](http://www.marianealexandre.com)

**Fromager Maitre Affineur Maitre Corbeau** When it's break time, head to this cheese shop, which carries close to 300 types of fromage, half from Quebec. For accompaniment, you'll find fresh bread and a wide selection of beer and cider, all brewed in the province. The perfect picnic spot awaits only a block away, at lively Laurier Park. 5101 Rue Chambord (corner of Laurier), 514-528-3293

DIANE DANIEL