

AAA WORLD

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

A Quiet Corner of the Caribbean

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**NOT ALL GASOLINE
IS CREATED EQUAL
CIRCUS 2.0
PEARL HARBOR**

**REVIEWS:
FORD SUPER DUTY,
VOLVO XC90,
KIA CADENZA**



FROM OUR CEO

On the Road for the Holidays? Plan Ahead, and Pack Your Patience

As we approach the busiest holiday travel period of the year, you may be among the millions of Americans getting ready to travel, near or far. At some point, most of us will welcome guests to our homes, while others of us may be setting out to explore a destination or two this season. Whether you're going on a much-anticipated escape or road-tripping it to family gatherings, AAA wants you to enjoy the experience of getting there safely and on time.

As North America's largest motoring and leisure-travel organization, we at AAA suggest early planning, ongoing flexibility and managed expectations to help you and your family members avoid those stressful moments that often accompany hectic holiday travel.

If you'll be driving your own vehicle, it pays to take the time to ensure that your car is ready for the long drive. AAA automotive research reveals that more than a third of motorists skip or delay service or repairs recommended by their vehicle dashboard alerts, factory maintenance schedules or trusted mechanic. Despite significant advances in automobile technology, newer vehicles, just like older ones, are still vulnerable to breakdowns if they are not properly and regularly maintained. Save yourself time and money by investing in routine maintenance, and keep in mind that battery and tire problems are typically



the top reasons for roadside service.

Besides a breakdown, nothing taints "road trip joy" more than traffic congestion and inconsiderate or dangerous aggressive driving, which can transform even shorter trips into stressful experiences. A recent survey by AAA found that nearly 2 out of 3 drivers believe that aggressive driving is a bigger problem today than three years ago, and 9 out of 10 believe that aggressive drivers are a serious threat to their personal safety.

A study released by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety shows that nearly 80 percent of drivers have expressed significant anger, aggression or road rage behind the wheel at least once in the past year. Angry and aggressive behaviors include purposely tailgating, cutting off another vehicle and knowingly trying to block another vehicle from changing lanes.

Drivers who avoid such dangerous, bad behaviors are also likely to avoid the vehicle crashes, costly traffic tickets

and legal fees that contribute to higher automotive insurance premiums, report the experts at AAA Insurance.

While AAA will always come to your aid, as we did a record 32 million times last year, we want you and your road trips to be free of stress, breakdowns and bad behavior by irresponsible drivers.

Remember, getting there can be half the fun! So to help make the journey more fun and less frustrating, get an early start on any holiday travel, pack some patience, and keep your AAA membership information handy, just in case of an emergency. We'll always be there for you.

From our family to yours, have a joyful and safe holiday season.

Berni H. Koch

*Berni Koch
CEO, Mid-Atlantic Region*



AUTOMOTIVE

Auto Reviews: Computers on Wheels

Ford Super Duty, Volvo XC90, Kia Cadenza

Not All Gasoline Is Created Equal

Quality gasoline can minimize engine deposits, increase performance and improve fuel economy.

AND MORE

From Our CEO

On the road for the holidays?

Membership Matters

Protecting your personal information

Member's Circle

Making the most of your AAA membership

Along the Way

Dogfish Head innovation, a recipe from Philadelphia's Fork restaurant and more

Thirty for the Road

Flying pumpkins, grilled cheese and holiday celebrations

Unexpected Mid-Atlantic

Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens in Washington, D.C.

ON THE COVER: View from the top of Jamesby,

Tobago Cays

Photo by Ted Alan Stedman

FEATURES

Pacific Valor

Seventy-five years after the devastating attack, Pearl Harbor remains a place of remembrance and national pride.

Circus 2.0

Circus has veered in a new direction, and Mid-Atlantic circus schools are bringing it to the masses.

A Quiet Corner of the Caribbean

Lose yourself in an uncrowded island world lost in time.

Travel Gadgets Galore

Pack these go-to gadgets for a smooth and enjoyable journey.

2 Days, 1 Night: Doylestown, Pennsylvania

This bustling borough offers an inviting quaintness with just a dash of quirkiness.

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Protecting Your Personal Information

Just as squeezing a balloon causes a new shape to emerge, putting restrictions on access to certain personal consumer information is causing identity thieves to seek out new avenues of exploitation—avenues that it is hoped will also result in dead ends for thieves. Such is the effect occurring as U.S. financial institutions reissue millions of credit and debit cards with EMV chip technology to counteract fraud. According to a benchmark study by Auriemma Consulting Group of 30 major U.S. credit card issuers, financial losses from counterfeit credit card fraud has reached its lowest levels since early 2013.¹

Of course, we don't know the exact shape of things to come as identity thieves conjure up ways to access personal consumer information. We do know, however, the importance of AAA members taking proactive measures to monitor their personal consumer information to detect any possible misuse. But with so much information potentially at risk, how can you keep track of it all?

As your advocate, we offer the membership benefit of identity-theft monitoring with ProtectMyID from Experian. With ProtectMyID, you can monitor personal information that is potentially at risk. Choose either of two levels of coverage available to AAA members: ProtectMyID Essential, which is included with every AAA Mid-Atlantic membership at no additional cost and provides daily monitoring of your Experian credit report, e-mail alerts based on key changes, fraud resolution and even lost-wallet assistance; or ProtectMyID Deluxe, to which you may upgrade at member-only discounted rates and which includes all the features of ProtectMyID Essential, plus daily monitoring of all three credit



reports (Experian, TransUnion and Equifax) and \$1 million identity-theft insurance. AAA members save 60 percent on this enhanced protection and peace of mind.

“The ProtectMyID products offer our members great options to choose how they might monitor and protect their personal information. ProtectMyID Essential is an example of how AAA delivers more to its members,” says Rick Rugel, vice president of Membership at AAA Mid-Atlantic.

To find out how you can use ProtectMyID to monitor and protect your personal information, call 877/440-6943, or go to AAA.com/idmonitoring to enroll. (Online enrollment requires a AAA.com login registration.)

¹<https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2016/07/07/854313/10163963/en/Counterfeit-Credit-Card-Fraud-Reaches-Lowest-Level-Since-2013-Other-Fraud-Types-Increase-says-Auriemma-Consulting-Group.html>

Identity Theft Insurance underwritten by insurance company subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. (AIG). The description herein is a summary and intended for informational purposes only and does not include all terms, conditions and exclusions of the policies described. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

ProtectMyID® Essential and Deluxe are provided by ConsumerInfo.com, Inc., an Experian company. To be eligible to enroll in and receive this benefit, you must be 18 years of age or older, have a valid e-mail address and be a current valid AAA member. Benefit subject to change or termination at any time without notice. Certain terms, conditions and restrictions apply.

AAA WORLD

Publisher

Terry Rubritz

Associate Publisher, Director of Advertising

Joseph Fernandez

Senior Editor

John C. Moyer

Associate Editor

Theresa G. Medoff

Print/Digital Content Manager

Nicole Bumbaugh

Contributing Editor

Stacy Tillilie

Creative Director

Susan Kilcoyne

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Michelle Bailey

Barbara Curtis

Alan Kistler

Advertising Coordinator

Jan Shallcross

Advertising Sales Representatives

Maryland/Washington, D.C./No. Virginia

Alan Kistler, 302/300-5727

So. Virginia/West Virginia/North Carolina

Michelle Bailey, 540/937-3440

Pennsylvania/Delaware

Barbara Curtis, 302/353-0829

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North Dakota/South Dakota/Nebraska/Colorado/Kansas/

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Canada

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MEMBERSHIP

Give a Gift, Get a Gift

Looking to give that perfect gift this holiday season—and get one, too? Then give the gift of AAA membership.

When you give a AAA membership, we'll upgrade that membership for free to AAA Plus,* waive the enrollment fee and, if you sign up for our secure Automatic Renewal program, provide an additional \$5 off. As an added bonus, we'll also give you a gift: a \$10 gift card to the merchant of your choice with every gift membership purchased.** Choose from a wide variety of nationally recognized merchants.

AAA membership is the perfect way to ensure that all your loved ones are covered by AAA. AAA membership follows your friends and family members everywhere they travel—whether they are the driver or a passenger in the vehicle. Even when you cannot be there in person, you can provide protection with the help of the trusted professionals at AAA.

With the free AAA Plus upgrade, your loved ones will receive the following benefits:

- Up to 100 miles of 24/7 towing service
- Dead-battery assistance and jump-starts
- Free fuel and delivery if a vehicle runs out of gas on the road
- Flat-tire assistance
- Up to \$100 in automotive lockout services
- Access to travel and shopping discounts nationwide.

Don't delay; give the gift of AAA membership today. Call 866/MEMBERS (636-2377), go to AAA.com/GIFT, or visit your local AAA Store.

*Limited-time offer. Available on new Primary memberships only; current AAA members may purchase but may not receive gift memberships. Free upgrade to AAA Plus is for first year only. Normal dues apply at renewal. There is an initial 7-day waiting period for some Plus services, including the free towing up to 100 miles. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer and/or promotion. Limit one \$10 gift card per membership. Certain restrictions apply. Offer not available in all markets. Offer valid through 12/31/16.

**Gift card is fulfilled by a third-party vendor. Please allow 4–6 weeks for delivery. Fulfillment instructions will be sent via separate e-mail or USPS if e-mail is not available. Terms and conditions are applied to gift cards/certificates. Please see the merchant gift card/certificate for additional terms and conditions, which are subject to change at merchant's sole discretion. Please call 866/642-7710 if you have questions. Must be 16 years or older to participate. A U.S. address is required for delivery. Other restrictions may apply.

MEMBERSHIP

AAA Premier Members Get More Value

AAA Premier members now get even more value from their membership. We have been working nonstop to bring you even better service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As of October 3, 2016, AAA Premier members receive the following benefits.

More 200-mile Tows—The free 200-mile tow was limited to one per membership/household, but not any longer! Now, AAA Premier memberships qualify for one 200-mile tow for each member on their membership.

More Lockout Service Coverage—Both the Automotive and Home Lockout Service coverage limits have been increased to up to \$150 per incident.

More On-Your-Way Reimbursement—Premier members now qualify for up to \$55 for On-Your-Way Reimbursement for alternative transportation during a qualified roadside event.

New Premier Battery Option—Now, AAA Premier members can add a special option to their AAA membership that qualifies them for one free battery replacement per membership household during their membership year should their battery fail at a AAA roadside event.

For more details, call 888/222-9688.

Certain restrictions apply. Please refer to AAA.com/PremierBenefits for complete details.



DISCOUNTS & REWARDS

A Season of Savings

Everyone loves to save money, and AAA loves to help members save big, especially during the holiday season. That's why AAA has partnered with many leading merchants to offer you exclusive on-the-spot discounts at more than 100,000 store locations nationwide. Or shop online with more than 30,000 merchants at AAA.com/Discounts, where you can also earn WOWPoints for your online purchases with select retailers.

We at AAA love saving and gift-giving, too, which puts the following offers at the top of our holiday shopping lists.

New York & Company: Save 25 percent off purchases, including select discounted merchandise. Discounts are valid in-store only at

your local New York & Company store.

Dell: Save up to 30 percent on select Dell system configurations when you shop at AAA.com/Dell.

1-800-Flowers.com: Save 20 percent off purchases at AAA.com/1800flowers with code 20AAA. Or save 25 percent site-wide November 10–24, 2016, and then again December 12–24, 2016, with promo code AAAFD4 at AAA.com/1800Flowers.

Sprint: Save on select products and services with Sprint. Check out the current offers at AAA.com/Sprint.

For a complete list of retail partners and offers, visit AAA.com/Discounts. Happy saving!

● AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS

All Roads Lead to AAA

One minute you're planning to buy a new car. The next, you're taking it in for a tune-up. Or helping your teen learn how to drive. Or waiting for emergency vehicle assistance on the shoulder of the road. That's the thing about the road of life: you never know when the planned will become the unplanned. With AAA, you'll be prepared for all those moments because for everything your car needs, AAA has an answer. And AAA will be there to help you navigate every twist, turn, bump and milestone along the way.

For more than 100 years, America has depended on AAA Roadside Assistance. But did you know that you can also purchase a vehicle, secure an auto loan and get your vehicle insured through AAA as well? Or how about the fact that AAA has nearly 400 Approved Auto Repair shops that offer quality repair and maintenance services to keep your car healthy? Have you heard about AAA's Driver Services program that offers training solutions to educate drivers and help reduce the number of vehicle crashes? AAA offers all of these great services and more.

Your automotive needs have evolved; so has AAA. To learn more about what AAA can do for you and your vehicle, visit AAA.com/Autos.

● INSURANCE

Protecting Your Home From Winter Storms

Winter storms can wreak havoc on your home. Keep your family and your home safer during the chilly months ahead with these preventive measures.

- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts to allow melting snow and ice to flow freely. To help prevent ice dams from forming, keep the attic well-insulated.
- Inspect your roof for damaged shingles, and have them replaced. Inspect the area at the base of the chimney, and repair any cracks.
- Check your yard for dead tree branches or overhanging limbs, and remove them to minimize risk to your home and vehicles.
- To prevent pipes from freezing and bursting, insulate exposed pipes, and seal cracks in outside walls near pipes.
- Have your chimney professionally inspected, cleaned and repaired.
- Use caution with space heaters to prevent electrical fires.
- Bent attic rafters or internal doors may mean there's too much ice and snow on your roof. Hire a professional to remove it, or do it yourself with a snow roof rake.

For more information on protecting your home and vehicles this winter, visit

AAA.com/Insurance, call 866/AAA-4YOU (222-4968), or stop by your local AAA Store.

● CAR CARE

Online Garage Makes Vehicle Care and Maintenance Easier

One of our AAA members recently used a colorful analogy to describe the shrill noise blasting from his 2007 sedan one morning on start-up. "It was like a banshee had possessed my car, and when I accelerated, I thought the sound might shatter my windows."

As it turns out, the vehicle had a squealing belt problem. Our member learned this by consulting the diagnostic tool in Online Garage—with just a few clicks of a mouse. Within minutes, he was heading to a local repair shop, which he'd found using the shop-finder feature. Also thanks to Online Garage, he booked an appointment online and even knew what he could expect to pay for the repair before visiting the shop.

Online Garage, powered by AAA, can help you manage the care of all the vehicles in your household. It tracks your car's shop-visit history and notifies you of upcoming maintenance needs. Online Garage also alerts you to recall information, provides you with discounts and helps you avoid unnecessary expenses. You can even contact an unbiased ASE-certified mechanic online for free advice. Plus, SMART*trek* customers will see their real-time vehicle health status and their Online Garage maintenance information all in one place.

Sign up for your free Online Garage today at AAA.com/MyVehicle.

● ONLINE EXTRA

AAA: Working on Your Behalf

In this month's online edition of *AAA World*, members can learn all about AAA's advocacy efforts on behalf of our members from Cathy Rossi, vice president of Public and Government Affairs for AAA Club Alliance Inc. Rossi and her staff work to influence local and state governments to protect and improve the rights, safety and mobility of motorists and travelers. They publicize AAA news, including AAA research related to driving behavior, technology and vehicles, and travel. It's Public and Government Affairs, for example, that issues travel forecasts, advocates for fixing roads and bridges, and reports on fluctuating gas prices. Rossi spoke with the magazine staff about recent successes, current projects and future goals. Log on to AAA.com/World to see the video interview.



Click here
to see the
video

● AUTOMOTIVE

On the Road to Safety and Savings This Season

Between Thanksgiving 2015 and January 1, 2016, AAA rescued more than 198,000 motorists stranded on the side of the road in the Mid-Atlantic region.

This holiday season, you can avoid some common vehicle breakdowns and the associated costly automotive repairs and, instead, save that money for family celebrations, gifts or even a warm winter getaway. How? By checking off the “Big 3” of vehicle maintenance before the festivities begin.

1. CHECK YOUR TIRES for tread depth, uneven wear and cupping. In cold weather, check tire pressures once a month and before driving any long distance. Consider replacing worn tires before the first snowfall.

2. CHECK YOUR ENGINE (or have your mechanic do so) for symptoms such as hard starts, rough idling, stalling or diminished power, which all could worsen in frigid weather.

3. CHECK YOUR BATTERY, and clean any corrosion from battery posts and cable connections. If in doubt, have your battery checked by a professional to ensure that it's strong enough to power your vehicle through the winter.

If you need a battery check or new battery, you'll find the AAA Battery at a special member-only price at your local AAA Approved Auto Repair (AAR) shops. To find your nearest AAR shop and a mechanic whom you can trust, call toll-free 855/328-9083, or visit

AAA.com/AAARepair.

● CAR CARE

How Cold Weather Affects Batteries

When the temperature drops and your car won't start, it's usually an issue with your car battery.

Cold, damp weather plays havoc on batteries as vehicle electrical systems have to work harder. Cold temperatures affect the chemical process inside the battery that produces and stores electricity, slowing it down and reducing the battery's ability to hold the charge. Be sure to take these precautions this winter.

- Switch off all loads including lights, wipers, heater, etc. before switching off your engine at the end of your journey. This prevents unnecessary drain on the battery the next time you start up.
- Avoid using heaters for longer than you have to, as they put high demand on the vehicle's battery. Some satnavs, in-car DVD players and iPods can also drain the battery if left connected.
- Check that there are no interior lights left on or any accessories such as phone chargers left connected.
- Park your vehicle in a garage whenever possible.

Most important, get your battery tested at your local AAA Car Care Insurance Travel Center or a AAA Approved Auto Repair location before the temperatures drop.

The AAA Battery, which is offered at a special price for members only, is available for purchase at all of our Car Care Centers and select Approved Auto Repair facilities. AAA batteries come with a free three-year nationwide replacement warranty and are recycled at an EPA-approved recycling facility.

● ASK THE EXPERT

Oh, Deer! How a Run-in With Bambi Can Impact Your Insurance

With Ursula Lienbach, AAA Mid-Atlantic Insurance counselor

Q I've seen quite a few deer standing on the side of the road this fall. How would accidentally hitting an animal impact my insurance?

A As far as auto insurance is concerned, hitting a deer is typically a covered loss. Normally, however, only comprehensive coverage will reimburse drivers for loss due to contact with animals. Here's a quick refresher of auto insurance coverage types.

Collision coverage covers damage to your car as a result of hitting or being hit by another vehicle or object, such as a tree. Collision coverage will not cover an auto-deer collision.

Comprehensive coverage helps pay for damages on covered costs that aren't caused by a collision—for example, storm damage, a rock hitting your windshield or, in this scenario, deer.

Q Would my insurance rates increase after a deer accident?

A While accidents caused by deer are common, how the

situation unfolds will determine if your insurance rates will increase or not.

If a deer runs out on the road and you do not have the ability to brake, your safest option is to hit it. While this is upsetting, it's the best option for your safety. In this case, if you have comprehensive coverage, the damage will be covered by your insurance policy. Since you had no control over the situation, it's likely your insurance premium will not increase.

Every scenario is different, though. For example, if you were to swerve to avoid a deer, cross the median and cause an accident, you've created a different and much more serious situation, which can cause different insurance coverages to be activated.

Remember, both collision and comprehensive coverages are optional unless you have an auto loan or are in a vehicle lease, so it's important to make sure you're getting the right auto insurance protection at the right price. Visit AAA.com/Insurance to get an easy, no-obligation quote; call 866/AAA-4YOU (222-4968); or stop by your local AAA Store.

● CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

Toy Stories



This year, AAA Mid-Atlantic will again serve as an official Toys for Tots drop-off location to collect toys to benefit children in need. AAA members are invited to participate by bringing in a new, unwrapped toy to any AAA Store or AAA Car Care Center during regular business hours November 1 through Friday, December 16, 2016.

With special emphasis on helping children and families, AAA Mid-Atlantic strives to assist those in need throughout the communities that we serve. Last year, as part of our Corporate Citizenship program, 60 AAA Stores participated in the toy drive, and our generous members and associates donated thousands of toys.

To find your local AAA Store, visit midatlantic.AAA.com/About/StoreLocator.

EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

AAA Mid-Atlantic's community service initiatives extend beyond the holiday season. In August and September, we partnered with local elementary schools during our third annual School Supplies Collection Drive, helping to ensure that children started the new school year with the tools they needed to succeed.

Thank you for your continued generous support of these important community programs.

Visit [facebook.com/AAAmidatlantic](https://www.facebook.com/AAAmidatlantic) or twitter.com/AAAmidatlantic for the latest information. We also invite you to share ideas via e-mail to corporatetcitizenship@AAAmidatlantic.com.

● FINANCIAL SERVICES

Give the Gift That Always Fits

Clothes are the number-one holiday gift purchase, followed by gift cards and electronics. So, if you're certain about the style, size and color of clothing to buy, you're all set to fulfill your holiday gift list. If you're not so confident about purchasing clothes for everyone on your list, then you might want to consider a AAA Visa Gift Card.

Just select the amount—between \$10 and \$500—and give your gift recipients the freedom to shop at millions of merchants that accept Visa. Once registered by the recipient, the gift card can be replaced if lost or stolen.

The No Purchase Fee AAA Visa Gift Card promotion runs from November 25 to December 25, 2016. Visit your local AAA Store today for details.

Card is issued by MetaBank, Member FDIC, Pursuant to a license by Visa U.S.A. Inc.

● FOUNDATION

Keeping Teens Safe

We all want our young drivers to be safe behind the wheel. Educating teens about the risks associated with distractions as well as with alcohol and drug use is so important that the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education and AAA are collaborating on a new project to provide teens with a hands-on learning experience in safe driving.

IDrive on the Go is a mobile learning lab that contains equipment to provide teens with multiple simulation experiences. To create an impaired driving experience, the lab houses a golf cart that teens can actually drive while wearing special goggles that simulate how vision and coordination are impaired by alcohol or marijuana use.

The dangers associated with all forms of distraction are simulated when teens perform certain tasks while driving the golf cart, such as texting or reaching for objects, listening to loud music or chatting with a passenger. Through actual experiences, teens quickly learn how distracting these activities can be for the person behind the wheel.

Other simulation stations aim to create awareness of the importance of wearing seat belts properly as well as the potential dangers of deployed airbags.

Our first IDrive on the Go unit was piloted in Richmond, Virginia, this past September in partnership with the Virginia State Police. Through ongoing fundraising and special events, the Foundation hopes to create a series of these mobile learning labs to broaden outreach in all regions served.

For more information about teen driving and IDrive on the Go, please visit midatlantic.AAA.com/Foundation/RoadsPrograms/TeenDriving.



● FINANCIAL SERVICES

New for Your 2017 Financial Toolbox: Unsecured Loans

Does this ever happen to you: you want to access your cash for something important, but you don't want to divert it from your high-performing assets?

What if you could quickly get from \$5,000 to \$100,000 to close the deal on the classic car you've always wanted or consolidate your credit-card debt to a lower rate? Or perhaps you could finally build that pool in the backyard or refinance your timeshare, just to name a few possibilities.

LightStream, a division of SunTrust Bank, offers a refreshingly simple online loan process to those with good credit. And as a AAA Mid-Atlantic member, you get a special discount on LightStream's already-low rates.


The LightStream loan could be the financial tool you need. It's a fixed-rate unsecured loan with no home-equity requirements and no fees. You can apply online in minutes from your computer, smartphone

or tablet. Have your funds deposited directly into your bank account, and you can negotiate your best deal as a cash buyer. You can get a LightStream loan for practically anything. Rates vary by loan purpose.*

To check rates, terms and conditions, visit AAA.com/LightStream. You must apply directly through MidAtlantic.AAA.com, with cookies activated on your browser, to get your AAA member discount.

AAA Mid-Atlantic may be compensated for the referral of loan customers to LightStream.

*All loans are subject to credit approval by LightStream. If approved, your APR will be based on loan purpose, amount, term and your credit profile. Conditions and limitations apply. Advertised rates and terms are subject to change without notice.

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● TRAVEL PRODUCTS

Go-To Gifts at Great Savings

Looking for a special gift this holiday season? Shop your neighborhood AAA Store, and take advantage of everyday member values. Here are a few of this season's new and best-selling gifts.

MEGALITE X-WEAVE II SPINNER LUGGAGE. This extremely lightweight suitcase (available in blue and pewter) features eight wheels for 360-degree mobility and an expander zipper for extra carrying capacity. The fully lined interior features cross straps, a mesh pocket and slip pockets. Member prices: \$77.99 (22-inch), \$86.99 (28-inch), \$95.99 (32-inch)

BAGGALLINI BRYANT POUCH. You'll look polished and posh with this compact crossbody purse (available in black, charcoal, Pacific and apple). Conceal your credit cards, cell phone and other valuables inside this slender, durable silhouette. Whether you're visiting a faraway land or just going to the supermarket, this little bag is a splendid lightweight travel companion. Member price: \$29.99

LIFEHAMMER SAFETY HAMMER EVOLUTION. This automatic safety hammer is easy and safe to use in an emergency. Simply press the hammerhead against a car's side window, and the ultra-hard ceramic hammerhead will come out, shatter the window and reload automatically. An integrated seatbelt cutter lets you easily cut any seatbelt. Member price: \$22.49

SCOTTEVEST. This lightweight vest by SCOTTEVEST (available in black and khaki, for men and women) keeps you safe, organized and connected. Pocket icons help organize your travel documents, ID, camera, Bluetooth headset, cell phone, tablet, books, maps, sunglasses and more. A special RFID-blocking pocket protects your passport and credit cards from high-tech identity thieves. The lightweight, breathable poly fabric is Teflon-treated for water- and stain-resistance and is machine washable. Member price: \$134.99

For more gift ideas and holiday discounts for AAA members at retailers nationwide, go to AAA.com/HolidayGuide, or visit your AAA Store, where you can pick up a free copy of the *AAA Holiday Shopping Guide*.





ONLINE EXTRA:

AAA PUBLIC & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS WORKING ON YOUR BEHALF

In this month's online edition of *AAA World*, members can learn all about AAA's advocacy efforts on behalf of our members from Cathy Rossi, vice president of Public and Government Affairs for AAA Club Alliance Inc. Rossi and her staff work to influence local and state governments to protect and improve the rights, safety and mobility of motorists and travelers. They publicize AAA news, including AAA research related to driving behavior, technology and vehicles and travel. It's Public and Government Affairs, for example, that issues travel forecasts, advocates for fixing roads and bridges, and reports on fluctuating gas prices. Rossi spoke with the magazine staff about recent successes, current projects and future goals.

Cuba Comes Stateside



© AMNH/C. RAXWORTHY

Eleutherodactylus iberia is the second-smallest frog in the world.

For those of us who haven't made it to Cuba yet, the next best thing might be going to New York City to see *¡Cuba!*, an exhibition about the nature and culture of this Caribbean island opening November 21 (through August 13, 2017) at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). The bilingual exhibition was created in cooperation with the Cuban National Museum of Natural History.

Cuba, which is an archipelago of 4,000 islands and cays, boasts an exceptional biodiversity. About 50 percent of its plants and 32 percent of its vertebrate animals are species found only on the island. They include such distinctive wildlife as a venomous mammal and the world's smallest bird.

The AMNH exhibit will immerse museum-goers in the nation's biodiversity through the presentation of live animals, including lizards, boas and frogs; artifacts and lifelike models; and re-creations of island environments, such as Zapata wetlands, home to the endangered Cuban crocodile, and a reconstructed cave environment where visitors can examine the fossil remains of extinct species such as a giant ground sloth.

Beyond Cuba's rich environment, *¡Cuba!* will showcase the island's culture and life—its art, music, spiritual traditions, celebrations, food and farming. And if you're wondering what those Havana nights are like, you can stroll down a boulevard evoking the street life of a Cuban city complete with music, dance performances and interactive experiences. amnh.org

Eggcellent!

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' renowned Fabergé collection—the largest public collection outside Russia—has just returned from an international tour. It's now back on permanent display in Richmond in five new galleries built to showcase some 280 Fabergé objects and Russian decorative arts, including 5 of the 52 Russian Imperial Easter Eggs created by the Fabergé firm led by jeweler Karl Fabergé. The Fabergé firm famously created its eggs and other decorative objects using hardstones, gemstones, precious metals, diamonds and other materials.

Curator Barry Shifman praises the “exquisite craftsmanship and technical virtuosity” of the individual works on display, adding that the opulent objects provide visitors with “a mirror into the doomed lives of the last imperial family of Russia.”

Interactive elements in the new Russian galleries will allow visitors to virtually peek inside the eggs at the intricate ornamental “surprise” hidden within, and they'll also be able to create and share their own egg design. A mobile app brings to life the fairy tales that are illustrated on the various decorative objects and provides an in-depth look at Russian history as well. vmfa.org



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Imperial Rock Crystal Easter Egg

Celebrating 40 Years

They numbered just 81 out of a class of 1,300, but the women inducted into the U.S. Naval Academy in 1976 were making history: they were the nation's first female plebes. This year, the Naval Academy Museum commemorates that milestone with the exhibit *Ability, Not Gender*, which explores the successes and challenges of women at the academy past and present.

To create the exhibit, museum staffers met with representatives of nearly all of the 40 co-educational classes to date, making this the first time the museum has “crowd-sourced exhibit concepts,” according to project lead and Museum Curator Tracie Logan. In addition to more than 50 items on display—uniforms, letters, sports and academic memorabilia—the exhibit includes first-person accounts that can be accessed via QR-Codes on-site and on the museum website (usna.edu/museum/abilitynotgender/stories/index.php). The exhibit is on display through May 31, 2017. usna.edu/museum

Dinner, With a Twist

Chef John Patterson continues a 20-year tradition of excellence at Philadelphia's Fork restaurant.

Executive Chef John Patterson is looking for a reaction from diners at Fork, a AAA Four Diamond restaurant in Old City Philadelphia. It's not enough for Fork diners simply to enjoy the food that he prepares; Patterson wants to surprise and delight them.

That desire goes back to his early days in the restaurant business, when the Delaware County native was still working as a server. "I was at [the former] Restaurant Taquet in the Wayne Hotel. ... The kitchen was filled with guys who had come from France and Morocco, where they had trained since 12 years old to be chefs. The food was so artistic. You would bring it out to the table, and there would be these reactions from the guests that were palpable. You could feel their reaction, and to me, that was exciting," Patterson says.

Those reactions from guests convinced Patterson that his true calling was as a chef. So, he transferred to the kitchen at Taquet, enrolled in the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College, and eventually worked his way up the cooking ranks at well-regarded restaurants such as Talula's Table in Kennett Square and Blackfish in Conshohocken (both in Pennsylvania) as well as Gramercy Tavern in Manhattan, where he was sous chef under Chef Michael Anthony when Anthony earned the James Beard Award for Best Chef, NYC, in 2012.



Chef John Patterson of Fork

PHOTO BY JIM GRAHAM

When Patterson returned home to Philadelphia three years ago, he knew he wanted to work at Fork, then under the purview of highly regarded chef Eli Kulp, himself a James Beard honoree.

"I wanted to be able to really put forth what I had learned and keep moving with the momentum that had occurred in New York, and I wanted to find a restaurant that was interested in doing the same. Three years later, here I am," he says. During Patterson's tenure as chef de cuisine under Kulp, Fork was twice named James Beard semifinalist for Outstanding Restaurant. In March 2016, Patterson took over as executive chef at Fork, replacing Kulp, who had been seriously injured in a train wreck. Kulp and business partner Ellen Yin own High Street Hospitality Group, parent company of three Philadelphia establishments: Fork, High Street on Market and a.kitchen+bar at the AKA Rittenhouse Square. Kulp continues to consult with Patterson.

"Eli [Kulp] was here last week tasting food and sort of guiding my thought process when I was having trouble and hitting a wall. He brings a different perspective, which is great," Patterson says. "I'm fortunate to have him around—and Ellen [Yin]. She's a great sounding board, whether it's menu ideas or putting food in front. She's

done this for so long, and she really has a good idea of what people are looking for."

Indeed, after 20 years, Fork has cemented its reputation as one of the city's best restaurants, whether it's for a weeknight or weekend dinner or Sunday brunch with live jazz. In addition to Patterson, who was named one of the nation's top "Up and Coming" chefs by the online publication *Imbibe & Inspire*, Fork looks to Pastry Chef Samantha Kincaid, named Best New Pastry Chef in 2014 by *Food & Wine*, and Baker Alex Bois, a James Beard finalist in 2016.

Fork has a roster of farms and cooperatives that it relies on to provide its meats and produce, including Plowshare Farms in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, with which the restaurant has partnered to sponsor a seasonal Saturday farmer's market outside the restaurant. Seafood, likewise, comes from local purveyors whenever possible. Fresh ingredients are just the start, though.

"When I worked at Gramercy, they taught me how to cook to represent the character of the ingredient in front of you. When I came here [to Fork], something that Eli was doing was taking that concept and then pushing it. There was always a twist. There was

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something in there unexpected that makes you go, ‘ah,’” says Patterson. “And that’s something that I’ve taken from Eli that hopefully comes across on the plate. You’ll be able to recognize the ingredients; you’ll be able to taste them, to identify them, but there should be something exciting about them.”

That ‘ah’ moment comes with menu items such as the handmade black & white pici served with squid, mussels, scallops, lobster and pickled chili, or in the scallop crudo with fermented parsley. During the summer, Patterson was also serving Duroc pork—loin, rib and belly—with summer squash, chanterelles and smoked jalapeño.

Now that fall is well established, diners will likely find on the menu some cold-weather Fork favorites: apple-fennel soup, stuffed pumpkin pasta and Patterson’s own take on scungilli. He prepares the conch—brought in from Cape May, New Jersey—the Italian way, braised and dressed with chili oil, lemon juice and parsley, but at Fork, it’s served very thinly shaved, layered with shaved turnips and garnished with grapefruit.

The menu in colder months will definitely include duck, which is dry-aged in house for three to five days, cooked in a CVap that simultaneously steams and roasts the bird, and finally pan roasted. Last year, it was served with smoked oats and almonds with duck jus poured tableside. “This is a really nice way to be able to sauce the plate as well as give you your starch in a way that keeps it loose and nice and elegant and refined,” Patterson says.

Actually, those are pretty good adjectives to describe many of the foods on the menu as well as Fork restaurant itself, where you can expect to find refined fare that’s not too serious to be surprisingly playful as well.

—Theresa Gawlas Medoff



PHOTO BY MICHAEL PERSICO

DUCK BREAST WITH OATS AND BABY VEGETABLES

DUCK BREAST INGREDIENTS

1 duck breast, approximately 6 ounces, rib cage attached
Salt and pepper, to taste
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 sprig of thyme

INSTRUCTIONS

Dry age duck breast on cage for 3 to 5 days. Season breast liberally with salt and black pepper.
Cook in CVap at 160 degrees (full steam) until breast reaches 122 degrees; *alternatively, cook in a conventional oven at 275 degrees, with a cake pan full of water inside the oven, until breast reaches 122 degrees.*
Remove duck from CVap, then remove breast from duck cage and score skin in cross-hatch pattern.
Slowly render breast, skin side down, in a saucepan over medium heat.
The fat will begin to melt in the pan; carefully drain off excess fat.
Once rendered, add 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, 1 crushed garlic clove and 1 sprig of thyme.
Once butter begins to brown slightly, begin to baste the breast.
Continue to baste for 3 to 5 minutes, until the meat feels firm to the touch (similar to the fleshy area between your thumb and index finger).
Flip breast over to skin side up and transfer to a cool area to rest.

SMOKED OATS INGREDIENTS

8 ounces of steel-cut oats
1 onion, halved

1 carrot, halved
1 celery rib, halved
Salt, to taste
4 ounces duck jus (*or 1/2 C chicken stock for home cooks*)

INSTRUCTIONS

Wash steel-cut oats well.
Place oats in saucepan with halved onion, carrot and celery. Fill with enough water to cover oats. Place over medium-high heat and cook until oats become plump and tender, about 20 minutes.
Carefully strain oats through colander.
Rinse oats with cold running water, stirring aggressively to wash off excess starch.
Season with salt.
Lay oats out on a sheet tray, and smoke with hickory wood for 3 to 5 minutes.
Add to duck jus, made with the carcasses of the duck, and spoon over duck breast.

BABY VEGETABLES INGREDIENTS

4 baby carrots
4 green beans
4 pickled baby corn
4 pickled okra
4 pickled shallots (*or giardiniera, to replace the pickled vegetables, for home cooks*)
4 pickled blackberries (*or fresh blackberries, for home cooks*)

INSTRUCTIONS

Blanch and shock baby carrots and green beans.
Char pickled baby corn, okra and shallots.
Finish with blackberries.

SERVES 1

Dogfish Head Founder Sam Calagione Talks About Innovation and the Mid-Atlantic



If you're a craft beer lover, you know the name Sam Calagione. Twenty-one years ago, the former creative writing student founded Dogfish Head Craft Brewery at a small brewpub in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Today, Dogfish Head, which now has its production facility in Milton, Delaware, is the 16th-largest craft brewery in the country, according to the Brewers Association. Dogfish Head beers are distributed in 30 states and Washington, D.C. (To find out where you can purchase your favorite brew, go to **Dogfish.com** and use the "fishfinder.")

Calagione, who was featured in the documentary *Beer Wars* and was the subject of the Discovery Channel series *Brew Masters*, is known for creating innovative beers and for collaborating with unexpected partners. He teamed with the Grateful Dead to develop the beer American Beauty—which includes granola in its list of ingredients—for instance, and with archaeologists from the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia on *Midas Touch*, a re-creation of an ancient beverage using chemical evidence found while excavating the tomb believed to be that of the real King Midas. *AAA World* spoke with Calagione about his beers and what he loves about Delaware.

AAA World: Dogfish Head uses some pretty unusual ingredients in its beers. Where does your inspiration come from?

Sam Calagione: The short answer is we get inspiration from everywhere except the beer industry, meaning we've worked very hard to express our creativity as brewers in an imaginative way that's not derivative of what's already for sale in the beer world. So we were the first American beer brewery to do a coffee stout; we were the first to do a fruit-infused Berliner-style wheat beer; the first to do a dark IPA with our Indian Brown Ale. We love pushing the boundaries and doing exotic things, but in general, I'll say our goal was to be the first brewery focused on making the majority of our beers incorporating culinary ingredients instead of just brewing lager beer styles.

AAAW: What would you say is the most unusual ingredient you've used?

Calagione: Currently, people are pleasantly surprised at how we've incorporated sea salt into one of our most recent releases: SeaQuench Ale, a lower-alcohol, slightly tart beer made with lime juice and sea salt. We brewed SeaQuench Ale in collaboration with the National Aquarium [in Baltimore, Maryland], a wonderful Mid-Atlantic tourism destination. They helped us design the sea salt that goes into the beer based on the salty water at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

AAAW: You've even re-created ale recipes from chemical archaeological evidence. Why look to the past to brew beer for today?

Calagione: We really think of these beers as liquid time capsules, where people who are not just beer lovers, but history lovers, archaeology lovers, science lovers can get very excited about trying these beers. [These re-created beers] truly tell the story about how creative human beings have been for millennia. [Dogfish Head's] *Midas Touch* is based on evidence found in a 2,700-year-old Turkish tomb believed to belong to King Midas, [a recipe that had] evidence of honey and saffron and grapes in it. The ancient recipe we do called Chateau Jiahu, which is a 10,000-year-old Chinese recipe, has evidence of rice and hawthorn fruit, which is like a tart pomegranate. So these recipes let us show that globally thousands of years ago, different cultures were making beers very distinct from each other, and there's nothing to stop us from resurrecting those traditions.

AAAW: You've been a real proponent of coastal Southern Delaware. What do you think is so special about the area?

Calagione: It starts with the physical beauty of the area. I love living at the beach, and I love that we have the seasons. It snows, and it rains, and the leaves turn colors, but it's not a super-cold or long winter. ... Here in Delaware, we have a beautiful spring with the crops and the flowers in the fields. So I love the seasonality and the proximity to the ocean, but I also love our accessibility. Coastal Delaware is as beautiful as the Hamptons and Cape Cod or the Outer Banks, but coastal Delaware is only two hours from D.C., two hours from Baltimore, two hours from Philadelphia. We're only three-and-a-half hours from Manhattan, so it's a really easy place to get to from these major metropolitan cities, and yet it is world-class in its coastal beauty.

AAAW: What are some of the things that you like to do recreationally in Southern Delaware?

Calagione: Well, today I got up and went for a bike ride through the beautiful Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes. I saw foxes and squirrels and deer and osprey. Yesterday, I went for a long paddleboard on the canal between the towns of Lewes and Rehoboth. So I love to get outside into nature and work off the calories that I take in by drinking so many good beers.

AAAW: How does sampling an area's food and spirits enhance the travel experience?

Calagione: I think some of my greatest memories are smells and tastes in different exotic locations I've been lucky enough to be in. I've been fortunate enough to brew beers everywhere from Peru and New Zealand to Italy and Egypt and Prague and Australia, so I've brewed around the world. And always when I do my travels, I try to make sure I spend some time in the local herb and spice markets and restaurants and see if there are culinary flavors or combinations of ingredients from these different cultures that I can bring back to America and potentially incorporate into a Dogfish Head beer sometime in the future.

AAAW: What would be your ideal vacation day?

Calagione: It would be with my whole family—my wife, Mariah, and our kids, Sammy, 16, and Grier, 14. It'd be somewhere outside America, learning about a new culture and a new city through its culinary world, so traveling with a local beermaker or winemaker from that region and seeing how the local beers and wines complement the local cuisine would be the bulk of our day. That way, we're talking to local farmers and entrepreneurs that make food and beverages and learning about their culture and about their city through the eyes of people who make it so special. And then at the end of the day, maybe going snorkeling in the beaches of that town to burn off the calories that we took in that day, because everyone in my family loves the ocean as much as I do.

AAAW: Dogfish has collaborated with some diverse companies, such as the Brooklyn Brine Co. for the Hop Pickle, and just this past September, it hosted the sixth annual music, spirits and arts festival Analog-A-Go-Go. What's it like to collaborate with all these different kinds of people and businesses?

Calagione: We learn something from every collaborative project that we do, whether it's from a bigger company or more renowned artists than we are, like the Grateful

Dead or Miles Davis' family, or with local artists and local artisanal food producers, like our friend Seamus at the Brooklyn Brine Co. So we really look at collaboration primarily to express our creativity, to expand our boundaries as a company by working with people outside our company to create something, but we do it as a way for us to learn, because whenever you work with another company, bigger or smaller, you get to see how they bring a product to market or how they integrate different departments into the teams that work on the project. So it's the opportunity for creative expression and the opportunity to learn from an outside group how to inform and influence and evolve your own business.

AAAW: Why did you start Analog-A-Go-Go?

Calagione: Because I'm as much of a music geek as I am a beer geek. Really, I started it for selfish reasons. I love to drink cask-conditioned beers—beers that are naturally carbonated in the vessel that you serve them in; it's an English, very pure, historic way of serving beer. I love vinyl records, and I love drinking cask-conditioned beer, so I thought maybe if I start a festival where we're doing both, then I can share these two passions with other people who are into beer and other people who are into good music.

AAAW: Can you give us a sneak peek into what Dogfish Head is working on for the future?

Calagione: We have probably our most Mid-Atlantic-themed beer ever coming out in November. It's called Beer for Breakfast, and so we're taking the concept of a breakfast stout and putting everything but the kitchen sink into it. Beer for Breakfast is made with coffee; it's made with chicory, milk, sugar, Applewood-smoked barley; it's made from maple syrup from the high school in Massachusetts where [my wife] Mariah and I once went—Northfield Mount Hermon—and then it's also made with scrapple, which is, of course, the official breakfast meat of the Mid-Atlantic region. Our Beer for Breakfast is made with a special super-lean version of Delaware-made scrapple from the RAPA Scrapple Company.

AAAW: Interesting. And how does that beer taste?

Calagione: It tastes like its name would make you think. It tastes like all of your favorite breakfast foods distilled into a cup of coffee that's flavored with beer.

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Holiday Events

Click on the ornament to learn more about Pennsylvania and Delaware holiday attractions and lodging.



From flying pumpkins to grilled cheeses to holiday celebrations, there's a little bit of everything going on this time of year. Find more on the AAA Mobile app.

STAFF PICK

Sights and Sounds of the Season

November 24–January 8, 2017

The gardens at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, will ring with the sounds of the season during the musically inspired **A Longwood Christmas**. The 18-foot Fraser Fir in the Music Room will be decorated with real musical instruments. Strolling carolers will roam the grounds, and there will be special musical performances in the Conservatory. Add to that more than 6,000 seasonal plants and 50 trees decorated with red, gold and green glass ornaments. Timed admission tickets are required. longwoodgardens.org



COURTESY OF LONGWOOD GARDENS/L. ALBEE

18-foot Fraser Fir at Longwood Gardens

Kid Stuff

October 26–November 6

Kids in the Metro D.C. area can enjoy a two-weeklong festival of European arts and culture during **Kids Euro Festival**. Presented by the 28 European Union Member States, the festival will include storytelling, movies, concerts, workshops and more at venues throughout the region. kidseurofestival.org



COURTESY OF PUNKIN CHUNKIN

Punkin Chunkin

Slurping Time

November 4–5

Whether you get there by boat, car, truck or bus, head on over to Virginia's **Urbanna Oyster Festival**. This is the 59th annual festival, so the organizers must be doing something right—and it's probably the oyster pot pie or maybe the oysters Rockefeller or the raw, steamed, roasted, fried or stewed oysters. Of course, there's more than food at the festival, including two parades, arts and crafts, an antique auto show, a new microbrewery garden and the ever-popular oyster shucking contest. How many more reasons do you need? urbannaoysterfestival.com

Airborne Orbs of Orange

November 4–6

Every year during the **World Championship Punkin Chunkin** competition in Bridgeville, Delaware, pumpkins that have survived Halloween are hurled through the air—launched by trebuchets, catapults, air cannons and more. Yes, the event also includes a chili cook-off and the ever-popular Punkin Chunkin Pageant, but the stars of the show are the folks with their machines of pumpkin mayhem. You'll believe a pumpkin can fly. punkinchunkin.com

You'll Feel a Little Tug

November 5

Songs will be sung and poems will be written about the gallantry and courage displayed during the battle between the Maritime Republic of Eastport and the city of Annapolis...well, maybe. Nevertheless, the **Eastport vs. Annapolis Tug of War** over Spa Creek is a party you'll remember. Music, dancing, food and drinks are available on both sides. themre.org

Give Me Bluegrass, or Give Me a Draft

November 5

Are you thinking that maybe it's time to kick back with a favorite beverage and listen to some tunes before the holidays kick in? We've got an idea. Patrick Henry's Red Hill in Brookneal, Virginia—his last home and final resting place—hosts its annual **Bluegrass, Barbecue & Brew Festival** to “embrace the flavors and sounds of Southern Virginia.” Word has it that old Patrick was quite the fiddler. bluegrassbarbecuebrew.com

Apples to Apples

November 5–6

Here's a sweet event: the **Apple Festival** at Peddler's Village in Lahaska, Pennsylvania. Fresh-from-the-orchard apples will be available by the bushel, and don't forget the caramel apples! The festival also features pie-eating contests, entertainment and more. peddlersvillage.com/festivals/apple-festival

Pretty Cheesy

November 6

It's not a legendary event—yet—but the **Hampton Roads Grilled Cheese Festival** caught our attention. In its first

year at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia, the festival hopes to find the Most Ridiculous and Most Cheesiest, along with every grilled cheese sandwich's favorite companion: the Best Tomato Soup. hrqcfest.com

Seeing Green

November 11–13

It's a weekend to celebrate Irish heritage with song and dance and, yes, drink. The **Maryland Irish Festival** in Timonium brings together traditional Irish food, children's activities, cultural exhibits and plenty of live music. Among the bands scheduled to appear are the Screaming Orphans, Blackwater, Seamus Kennedy and The Shamroques. irishfestival.com

Vintage Finds

November 11–13

Find something special for yourself or your home at Winterthur's 53rd annual **Delaware Antiques Show**. Highlighting American antiques and decorative arts, including furniture, paintings, rugs, ceramics, silver, jewelry and more, the show at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington is one of the most anticipated in the U.S. every year. Novice collectors need not fear; dealers

post “Find!” signs near objects of special interest and value.

winterthur.org/das

Jazzy Weekend

November 11–13

Headliners Wynton Marsalis and Cécile McLorin Salvant will lead the **Exit Zero Jazz Festival** 5th anniversary celebration in Cape May, New Jersey. The multi-venue festival will also feature Squirrel Nut Zippers, Jane Bunnett & Maqueque, High & Mighty Brass Band and New Orleans Swamp Donkeys, along with others. exit0jazzfest.com

Crying Fowl

November 11–13

Easton, Maryland, one of the classic “small towns” on the Eastern Shore, is home to the annual **Waterfowl Festival**. Highlights of the festival include the Delmarva DockDogs retriever demonstrations, fly-fishing demonstrations and a fishing derby for kids, wildlife art exhibitions, a sportsman's expo, plenty of food and drink, live music and more. waterfowlfestival.org

Picture This

November 12–20

Imagine if one of the country's most “ready-for-our-close-up” cities held a celebration of photography. Well, Washington, D.C., is doing just that. During **FotoWeek DC**, there will be more than 150 exhibitions and events focusing on world-class photography and providing exposure for photographers working locally and worldwide. fotodc.org

Christmas at the Cape

November 18–January 1, 2017

Christmas in Cape May arrives with six weeks of festivities, including Christmas candlelight tours of private homes, bed-and-breakfasts and churches; a Dickens Christmas Extravaganza with programs, lectures and a Dickensian Feast; a Ghosts of Christmas Past Trolley Ride through the historic district and much more. capemaymac.org



COURTESY OF PEDDLER'S VILLAGE

Apple Festival at Peddler's Village

To Be Young at Yuletide

November 19–January 8, 2017

This year's **Yuletide at Winterthur** examines the holidays through the eyes of children. Displays at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, the home of Henry Francis du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware, will evoke winter holidays enjoyed by children during the first half of the 20th century, including H.F. du Pont's 1930s Christmas tree awash with colorful lights and glittering glass ornaments. The exhibition *Lasting Impressions: The Artists of Currier & Ives* of classic winter scenes will also be on display. winterthur.org

Get Glowing

Throughout the Holiday Season Holiday lights are back, and Virginia's got more than its fair share. The annual **100 Miles of Lights**, stretching from the capital city to the Atlantic Ocean, illuminates holiday events in Richmond, Williamsburg, Newport News, Hampton, Norfolk, Portsmouth and places in between. Dates vary by location. Check the website for info on the many holiday happenings. 100milesoflights.com

Lancaster Tubas

November 25

Here's an alternative to your Black Friday shopping plans. **The Mayor's Tree Lighting & Tuba Christmas** is the kickoff to a month-long holiday party in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The evening's festivities start with entertainment provided by the city's Prima Theatre. Next, Santa arrives and the tree in Penn Square is illuminated. After that, more than 30 tuba players flood the square and dig into some of everyone's favorite tunes. visitlancastercity.com

Twelfth Night

November 25–January 1, 2017

Holidays at Hagley at the 1803 du Pont family ancestral home, Eleutherian Mills, sees Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware, decorated with dried flowers, fruit and greenery. Displays interpret the French traditions of exchanging gifts on New Year's Day and the celebration of Twelfth Night.



Christmas in Cape May

COURTESY OF MID-ATLANTIC CENTER FOR THE ARTS & HUMANITIES (MAC)

Twilight tours are available on selected days (reservations are required). hagley.org

Night Lights

November 25–January 1 (except December 24–25)

An annual holiday tradition in the Washington, D.C. area, **ZooLights** at the Smithsonian's National Zoo brightens its winter landscape with holiday light displays featuring more than 500,000 lights during this free event. Try out the snow-less tubing and the Speedwell Foundation Conservation Carousel. Don't miss riding the National Zoo Choo-Choo all around the Great Cats exhibit. nationalzoo.si.edu/events/zoolights

Past and Presents

November 25–January 8, 2017

The Brandywine River Museum of Art's collection of Wyeth and American art is reason enough to visit Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, but its **A Brandywine Christmas** event every year just adds to the fun. See a layout of O-gauge model trains running on nearly 2,000 feet of track and a collection of rare antique dolls dressed in beautiful period clothing, and then check out the Critters ornaments and decorations crafted from natural materials by museum volunteers. brandywinemuseum.org

Deck the Houses

December 1–30

Historic Old New Castle, Delaware, will be dressed in its holiday best during **Holidays at the Amstel and Dutch Houses**. Decorated as it would have been during its 18th-century life as Governor Nicholas Van Dyke's home, the Amstel House will be ready for a traditional colonial holiday celebration. Meanwhile, the Dutch House will provide a tribute to the legend of Saint Nicholas, the Dutch patron saint. newcastlehistory.org

Walk Like a Scot

December 2–3

Celebrate the rich Scottish heritage of Old Town Alexandria and start your December off with two days of fun and good spirits (as in distilled spirits). Yes, it's time for the annual **Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade**. Friday night, the Taste of Scotland features a Scotch tasting menu with spirits direct from Scotland distilleries and a sampling of Scottish ale. On Saturday, the sound of bagpipes fills Old Town Alexandria as marching units wearing magnificent tartans of Scottish Clans, Scottish dancers, Scottie dogs, dignitaries, classic cars and even Santa Claus take part in the parade. Holiday home tours are also part of the events scheduled. campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend

Magic Garden

December 2–January 1, 2017

If you've never been to Annapolis Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, in Solomons, Maryland, put it on your bucket list. Then check it off with a visit during their holiday show, **Annapolis Sculpture Garden In Lights**. As you stroll through the woods, spectacular lights and one-of-a-kind light sculptures will greet you at every turn. Don't miss the Ornament Show & Sale, nightly entertainment, exhibits and the Holiday Café—all found in the Arts Building.

annmariegarden.org

What's Cooking

December 3–4

If cooking and entertaining are in your near future, **Metro Cooking DC** is here to help. Celebrity chefs are only the beginning at what is dubbed the Ultimate Food Lover's Weekend, held at the Washington Convention Center. Check out culinary demonstrations on the James Beard Cooking Stage, sample foods from more than 50 restaurants, and sharpen your skills at a cooking class.

metrocookingdc.com

Chocoholics Unite

December 4

Save all thoughts of dieting for your New Year's resolutions when you visit the first (but not the last, we hope) **Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival**. Sunday afternoons will never be the same. Vendors along West Street will invite you to purchase and indulge in chocolate caramels, bars, truffles, fudge, cookies, rice crispies, fondue, martinis and more. There will be entertainment and fun activities for the kids and chocolate, chocolate and, yes, chocolate.

annapolischocolatefestival.com

Flipping the Switch

December 4

Celebrate like a colonist during **Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination** in Virginia. Back in the day (way back), major events in the 18th century were celebrated with pyrotechnics.



Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination

The Revolutionary City adds musical performances on multiple stages to go along with the fireworks going off above the Capitol, Magazine and Palace. colonialwilliamsburg.com

Christmas Crossing

December 11 and 25

Call it courageous, call it plucky, call it risky, but General George Washington's plan to cross the Delaware on Christmas Day in 1776 proved to be a stroke of genius as his troops went on to defeat the Hessians in Trenton. You have two opportunities to watch several hundred reenactors **Crossing the Delaware** at Washington Crossing Historic Park in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania. (Check the December 31 listing below for what happens next.) washingtoncrossingpark.org

Family Time

December 27–29

Presented by the Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, D.C., this annual three-day **Kwanzaa Celebration** offers music, dance, crafts and more. Day two offers a special performance by the Taratibu Youth Association, a young people's performing arts company that focuses

on African and African American culture. anacostia.si.edu

Philly All-Stars

December 27–30

One of our favorite places in Philadelphia is the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, and its **All-Star Days** are coming up soon. Enjoy the best of the museum during Bugs and Butterflies Day (December 27); Dinosaurs Unearthed Day (December 28); and Fur, Feathers, and Scales Day (December 29)—all leading up to Weird-Things-In-Jars Day (December 30). aansp.org

After the Crossing

December 31

Once you've watched the dramatic crossing of the Delaware (December 11 and 25, see above), you won't want to miss the reenactments of **The Battle of Trenton** and The Battle of the Assunpink (also known as the Second Battle of Trenton). The reenactments are hosted by the Old Barracks Museum as part of Trenton, New Jersey's Patriots Week (December 26–31), a celebration of the city's pivotal role in the American Revolution. barracks.org, patriotsweek.com

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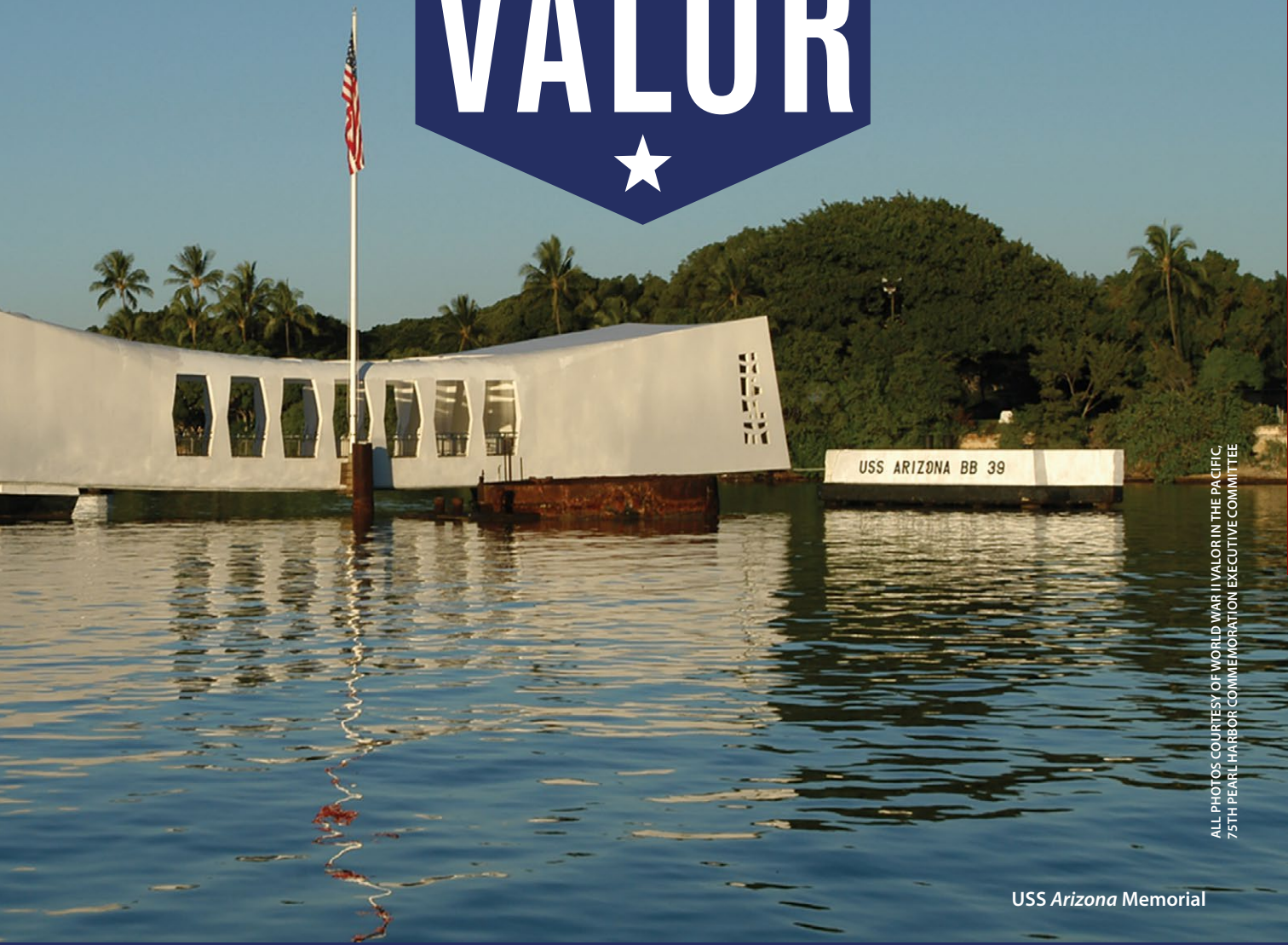
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75TH PEARL HARBOR COMMEMORATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

USS Arizona Memorial

Seventy-five years after the devastating attack, Pearl Harbor remains a place of remembrance and national pride.

BY REBECCA L. RHOADES

ON THE MORNING of December 7, 1941, Lieutenant Edward Colestock and his wife, Jane, looked out their bedroom window and saw Japanese planes flying over Naval Air Station Kaneohe. Within minutes, their lives—and the lives of thousands of servicemen and civilians on the Hawaiian island of O’ahu—would change forever.

"Our car has a machine gun bullet hole in the rear window and a tire ... was shot Superficially, the station looks the same except for the skeleton of a burned hangar, wreckage of a Japanese plane scattered on the hill and, of course, gun emplacements ... helmets, rifles, pistol belts, unshaven officers, etc.," Jane Colestock wrote to family members on the mainland. "If I live through this, I'll be glad not to have missed it."

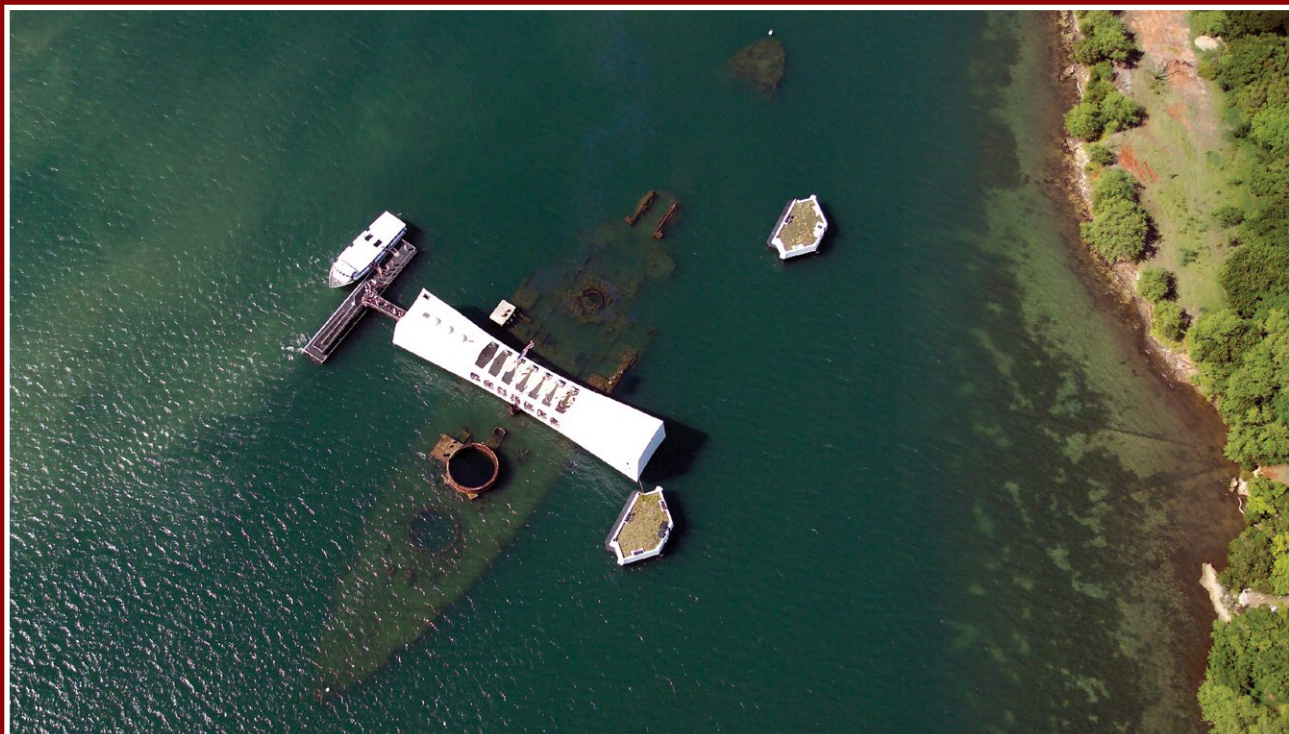
On the opposite side of the island, U.S. Naval Reserve officer George Macartney Hunter was stationed aboard the USS *West Virginia*. He wrote in his journal of the day's events: "Pearl Harbor was a devastating sight. ... The sky was rapidly filling with [anti-aircraft] fire, but high altitude

bombers flew directly overhead in perfect formation. They came in waves, five to each formation. We counted at least 10 of these groups. ... We had been under attack for 15 minutes, and the harbor was a living hell. Astern of us the *Arizona's* forward magazine had blown up; the *Vestal* alongside of her had been hit squarely amidships. Smoke was spreading rapidly over the harbor. Very shortly the day became black as night; it was terrifying beyond means of description."

These are just a few of the many stories of the day then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt famously proclaimed as "a date which will live in infamy." And, as we approach its 75th anniversary, it's a day that folks

around the world, and especially visitors to O'ahu, continue to look back on and remember the horrifying events and brave men and women who fought and died in the attacks.

Each year, more than 1.8 million visitors from around the world travel to the third-largest Hawaiian island and visit the remains of the USS *Arizona*, the battleship Macartney Hunter described in his journals. It is the top destination in the state and one of nine major historic sites incorporated into the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. In addition to the USS *Arizona* Memorial, four of these sites are located within Pearl Harbor: the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial, the USS *Utah* Memorial, the chief petty officer



Aerial shot of the USS *Arizona* Memorial

bungalows on Ford Island, and mooring quays F6–F8, which formed part of Battleship Row.

“When visitors come to the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, home of the USS *Arizona*, at Pearl Harbor, they learn about the broader perspective of the day,” says Daniel Martinez, chief historian of the National Park Service site. “This wasn’t just an attack on Pearl Harbor, but it was truly an attack on O’ahu.

“The national monument serves as a vivid reminder that you can have a beautiful place like Hawaii, but from time to time, events transcend it,” he adds. “The events of December 7—not only the loss of life but America’s entry into World War II—was a complete historic shift for us. Everything was at risk. The very life of our nation was at risk. And a visit here reminds

people that everything we enjoy today was for one moment in time in the balance of being extinguished.”

HALLOWED WATERS

Pearl Harbor is one of the few relatively modern battlegrounds on American soil. While there are battlefield memorials—for example, sites related to the Civil War, such as Gettysburg National Military Park—they are simply that: memorials. The USS

Arizona, however, is much more; a solemn place of remembrance, it also is a mass grave. Of the 1,177 sailors and marines who were killed on ship, more than 900 are forever interred in its sunken hull. To this day, oil—dubbed “black tears” by survivors—still bleeds iridescent droplets into the harbor’s crystal-blue waters.

“To see that is part of the experience,” says Martinez. “Visitors to the USS *Arizona*

If You Go

- The World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, home of the USS *Arizona* Memorial, is open daily 7 a.m.–5 p.m., except for Thanksgiving Day, December 25 and January 1.
- Timed programs on the USS *Arizona* Memorial, which include a short documentary film and a boat ride to the memorial, run every 15 minutes beginning at 7:30 a.m.; the last program is at 3 p.m.
- Tickets to visit the memorial are free and are available by reservation at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or at the visitor center on a first-come, first-served basis.
- For more information about Pearl Harbor and its 75th anniversary, visit [nps.gov/valr](https://www.nps.gov/valr) and [pearlharbor75thanniversary.com](https://www.pearlharbor75thanniversary.com).



A Pearl Harbor veteran visits the USS Arizona Memorial.

Memorial know that more than 900 men are still serving that ship. They look at those ghostly metal remains, and they're overcome by the breadth of loss—the greatest loss of life of any American warship in history." In total, more than 2,400 Americans died on the island on that fateful day, 68 of whom were civilians.

The iconic 184-foot-long memorial, built in 1962 by Alfred Preis, an Austrian refugee who fled to the U.S. during the war, straddles without touching the ship like a bridge, with its two end peaks connected by a concave arch. "Wherein the structure sags in the center but stands strong and vigorous at the ends, expresses initial defeat and ultimate victory," the architect once said. It can hold up to 200 visitors at a time, who are brought by boat from

the visitor center to the site. At its far end is the shrine room. Here, a large marble wall lists the names of those who died on the ship. To its left, a smaller plaque contains the names of survivors who chose to rejoin their comrades in their final resting place.

Pieces of the USS *Arizona* itself, including one of its three almost 10-ton anchors and one of its two bells, are on display at the visitor center. Two museums on-site tell the story of the attack and World War II through artifacts, personal objects, stories and a film that details "the attack on Battlefield O'ahu," says Martinez. "Visitors are sometimes overwhelmed by what we have, from a blood-stained uniform of a pharmacist mate who worked on the wounded to a letter to the President from Japan's emperor.

Looking at and touching the objects lends a broader understanding of the events of December 7, 1941."

In addition to viewing the aftermath of the USS *Arizona's* devastating defeat, visitors to Pearl Harbor can also witness the military might it sparked.

Anchored just 500 yards from the USS *Arizona*, the USS *Missouri*, the last battleship commissioned by the U.S., was launched in June 1944. Nicknamed the "Mighty Mo," she fought in the battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and it was on her deck on September 2, 1945, that the Japanese signed the official Instrument of Surrender, marking the end of the war. Access to the site is available by bus from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. A 35-minute tour, which includes a stop on the Surrender Deck, and a more in-



A sailor plays the trumpet at a sea ceremony.

depth 90-minute tour that takes guests deep into the ship's inner workings are available daily.

Adjacent to the visitor center on the harbor's shore is the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park. Launched exactly one year to the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USS *Bowfin*, dubbed the "Pearl Harbor Avenger," went on to sink 44 enemy ships during war. She was retired to Pearl Harbor in 1971 and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1986.

"Having the opportunity to go inside a submarine or a battleship and understand how they were used enhances the entire Pearl Harbor experience," notes Martinez.

"Ours is an in-depth, immersive experience," he adds. "By visiting the museums and going to the memorial, guests understand what we here on-site understand: that every day here is Pearl Harbor day." <<

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the attack on O'ahu and Pearl Harbor, the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, home of the USS *Arizona*, will be featuring 11 days of events, beginning December 1. Following are some of the highlights. For a complete calendar, visit pearlharbor75thanniversary.com.

DECEMBER 2

1:30–2:30 p.m.

USS *Arizona* Reunion Association Wreath Laying Ceremony

During this solemn ceremony, which is free to the public, survivors and association members will honor the fallen at the National Memorial Cemetery in the Pacific (Punchbowl).

DECEMBER 5

8:45–10 a.m.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band Performance

Enjoy a live performance of patriotic and stirring melodies at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center Lanai. Free.

DECEMBER 7

7:45–9:15 a.m.

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration

The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy co-host the 75th commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor. A live stream of the ceremony is available for viewing in the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center theaters and online at pearlharbor75thanniversary.com.

10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Freedom Bell Ringing

Visitors are encouraged to remember the service of loved ones by ringing the Spirit of Liberty Foundation Freedom Bell at the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park. Free.

Noon–1 p.m.

75th Anniversary Pearl Harbor Mass Band Performance

More than 1,000 student musicians will pay respect and remember the tragedies of World War II through "A Gift of Music." Battleship *Missouri* Memorial. Free.

1–2:30 p.m.

USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Ceremony

Commemorate the devastating loss of the ship and 429 of its crew members. Transportation to the site on Ford Island is available by bus from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. Free.

4:30–7:30 p.m.

Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade and Public Ceremony

The remaining Pearl Harbor survivors serve as Grand Marshals in this event that honors and recognizes veterans, active-duty military and their families. Kalakaua Avenue, Waikiki. Free.

DECEMBER 8

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Doris Miller Bust Rededication Ceremony

Doris "Dorie" Miller was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross for her actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Doris Miller Housing, Honolulu. Free.

6–9 p.m.

Righteous Revenge

Local newscaster and actor Joe Moore and TV personality Pat Sajak reprise the play *Righteous Revenge*, which tells the true story of the "Doolittle Raid" of 1942. A reception and photo ops with the stars follow. Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. Tickets \$125/person. For more information, call 808/447-1794.

Circus 2.0

Forget the big top and the elephants. Circus has veered in a new direction these days, and Mid-Atlantic circus schools are bringing it to the masses.

BY THERESA GAWLAS MEDOFF

In a fenced-in grassy area within view of Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., a young woman is swinging by her knees from a trapeze 23 feet in the air. She releases her legs and then flies, arms outstretched, into the waiting hands of an instructor who is hanging upside down from a nearby trapeze. The trick complete, she lets go and drops to the net beneath her, a broad smile on her face.

It's a Saturday afternoon in late summer, and the Trapeze School New York–Washington, D.C. (TSNY-DC), has a busy schedule of classes. In addition to the outdoor trapeze, there's a second flying trapeze in the adjacent building, which opened just last February. There, nine young women—seven of them first-timers—are taking their turn at learning the basics of flying trapeze. Other daredevils are attempting to do flips on a trampoline, while a woman across the room is wrapping her body in artistic ways around a lyra, a circus apparatus that looks like a hula hoop hanging from the ceiling.

Jennifer, one of the trampoline students, is a regular here at TSNY-DC, where she has also taken classes in lyra, static trapeze, flying trapeze and partner balancing, sort of a combination of yoga and acrobatics in which one person lifts and holds the other in various impressive positions. Circus arts such as these are the best workout for core strength, Jennifer says, adding that the adrenaline boost of flying through the air is like no other feeling she's ever had.

Flying trapeze student at Trapeze School of New York - Washington, D.C.

COURTESY OF TRAPEZE SCHOOL NEW YORK - WASHINGTON, D.C.



JOINING THE CIRCUS MOVEMENT

In years gone by, you either had to be born into a circus family or you—quite literally—had to run away to join the circus to learn skills such as tightrope-walking, flying trapeze or contortion. These days, all you need to do is enroll in one of numerous schools in the Mid-Atlantic that are devoted to teaching the circus arts to children and adults, both those planning performance careers and those who take to apparatuses such as trapeze, fabric, rope, lyra and Spanish web for fun and fitness.

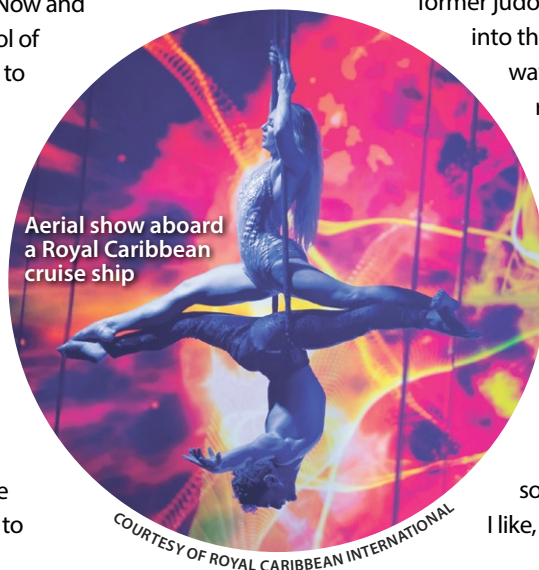
"I think everybody has a different reason for doing circus. I grew up doing martial arts, and then I started circus when I was still a little kid," says Adam Woolley, managing director of the nonprofit organization Circus Now and head coach at the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts (PSCA). "Those who come to it recreationally as adults? I can see in people's faces why they do it: it makes them happy. I think people are constantly surprised and impressed with what they are able to do. It's very empowering to start doing this and to see yourself get better at it. . . . It's addictive, and you're constantly leveling up and learning new tricks."

While still nowhere near as common as dance schools and karate studios, circus schools are beginning to

catch on in this country. There are about 250 circus schools in the U.S. that have classes for youths. Add in the number of such schools that cater exclusively to adults, and the number is considerably more, says Amy Cohen, executive director of the American Youth Circus Organization/American Circus Educators Association. Although an accurate number is hard to come by, Woolley guesstimates that 70,000 to 80,000 people participate in circus in the U.S. either professionally or as students.

Among them is Alice Dustin of Ardmore, Pennsylvania, an oil painter by profession who takes classes at PSCA. Dustin has been studying aerial skills such as rope, fabric, static trapeze and Chinese acrobatics at PSCA for nine years now. A former judo brown-belt, Dustin, now 74, segued into the circus arts when she was seeking a way to "stop the clock" of aging without risking serious injury. She taught herself juggling and unicycling before discovering PSCA.

"I can't get so much interested in going to the gym and doing workouts just to keep in shape. It seems boring to me," Dustin says. "I like the challenge of trying new things [in circus], and there's a small element of scariness that you have to overcome. . . . There's something challenging about it that I like, and I like the performance angle of it"





Silks act in a student show at The Circus Place

COURTESY OF THE CIRCUS PLACE



Royal Caribbean Trapeze School

COURTESY OF ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL



Contortion is among the arts taught at the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts.

COURTESY OF WANDERING LENS PHOTOGRAPHY / PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL OF CIRCUS ARTS



Student at The Circus Place performing with LED hoops

COURTESY OF THE CIRCUS PLACE

THE NEW MEANING OF CIRCUS

The continued existence of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus notwithstanding, the meaning of circus has been evolving over the past half-century to include something more intimate, more artistic and more accessible. You no longer have to wait for the circus to come to town once a year, for circus performance is all around us.

Consider Cirque du Soleil, that small troupe of stilt walkers, jugglers, dancers and musicians that began performing in the streets of Baie-Saint-Paul, Québec, in 1984. Just three decades later, Cirque has grown to include 1,300 artists performing at resident theaters and with traveling shows throughout the U.S. and around the world. There's even a Cirque musical, *Paramour*, on Broadway now.

The circus arts are being incorporated into performances of popular music, too, most famously by P!nk at the 2014 Grammys. Aerial shows are also a big attraction on cruise ships. Royal Caribbean even offers Trapeze School on its Quantum-class ships to guests who want to be high-flyers. In most any large city, you'll find a street performer juggling or riding a unicycle at an outdoor market, and touring acrobats regularly perform at local theaters across the U.S.

"Right now, we're part of a movement of contemporary circus. A lot of times, when people think about circus, what comes to mind are tents and elephants and lions and, you know, white-faced clowns

Fabric performer from the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts



and whatnot. With contemporary circus, we break all those rules and stereotypes,” says Guinevere DiPiazza, owner of The Circus Place in Hillsborough, New Jersey, a school for children and adults. Contemporary circus rarely involves animals. Instead, it focuses on people performing moves that are at once physically challenging and artistic, and performances often take place in more intimate spaces than the big top of yore.

DiPiazza credits Cirque du Soleil with helping to spark interest in this new type of circus. Cohen also points to the 1976 Olympics in Montréal, when Russian gymnastics exploded onto the scene, as well as U.S.-born circuses such as the Big Apple Circus and the Pickle Family Circus and “radical street performers” of various stripes, all of whom laid the foundations of this country’s “grassroots” circus.

The proliferation of circus performance in contemporary culture, in turn, feeds the growing interest in circus schools. “It’s a very noticeable trend,” says PSCA founder Shana Kennedy. “It started out with the fitness idea. People were seeing that circus people were really fit and strong, and so a lot of adults in the early 2000s who were looking for alternative fitness regimens would come to circus, but it’s gone so much more mainstream than that. People understand that it’s something you can do recreationally... and there’s room for a lot of creativity, and so people are drawn to it not just for the

physical muscle-building but also for the performance and artistic aspects.”

When it comes to professional training, the U.S. currently lags behind Canada, Russia and numerous European countries that have established programs of higher education in the circus arts. But that’s about to change. September 2017 will see the opening in Philadelphia of Circadium, the country’s first full-time, three-year professional school of circus arts. The school is the brainchild of Kennedy, who sees it as the logical next step for circus in the U.S., one she hopes will help to transform circus into a recognized art form on the same level as dance or opera.

When fully operational, Circadium will have up to 60 students preparing for careers in circus. Those whose interest in circus is purely recreational can find listings of schools that teach circus arts at **CircusNow.org** and **AmericanCircusEducators.org**.

Circus continues to grow in popularity because of the way it speaks to people, including adults, Cohen says. “Circus presents an opportunity to be playful but also to really work hard. Adults are forced into this box of having to be serious and responsible all the time, and circus takes that responsibility and seriousness about training and then makes it playful. I think that’s a really good thing for humanity, especially at this moment in time.”

OUR FOREFATHERS' AIM IN VISITING WHAT WOULD BECOME America was at first mere curiosity. But now it feels right to sacrifice for a cause as noble as the rolling hills here are beautiful.

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TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TED ALAN STEDMAN

Caribbean islands ringed by clear waters are as beautiful as they are familiar to travelers like me. Still, I was awestruck as our boat approached a postage stamp of an islet poking above a calm aquamarine sea so translucent that we could easily see a swirling tapestry of vibrant marine life 30 feet below. As a scuba diver, I can say that it rarely gets better than this, and with my dive guide, we plunged in and explored a sunlit reef glistening like a jewelry box with brilliant corals, neon sponges and thousands of colorful reef fish.

If the name Tobago Cays doesn't ring a bell, it's understandable. The most remote and undeveloped of the 32-island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tobago Cays, a cluster of five unpopulated islands, is a pristine, protected marine park adored by boaters and divers lucky enough to navigate here. Their sun-sand-sky-sea austerity makes a stunning scene, and it's remarkable to consider that unadulterated islands like these still exist only a few hours from the U.S. mainland.

South of Saint Lucia and west of Barbados, the main island of St. Vincent tethers a portion of the Grenadines archipelago as it swoops 45 miles southward to form isolated outposts of the Windward Islands. The first European explorers here encountered Kalinago natives who were aggressive in preventing colonization until long after most other Caribbean islands had well-established European settlements. But that early independence also served as a welcome mat for scofflaws, and St. Vincent grew to become a pirate's lair, further deflecting potential settlers. Gradually, as European armadas made seas safer, escaped African slaves, shipwreck survivors and native Caribbean islanders comingled to become the Vincentian population as it is today.

The presence of the armadas also brought colonization. French settlers founded Kingstown, the capital city, in the 18th century. A subsequent 196-year British rule eventually gave way to independence in 1979.



View from the top of Jamesby,
Tobago Cays

Diving St. Vincent



Orten King at his Old Hegg
Turtle Sanctuary, Bequia





Relative isolation and an independent streak have been a mixed blessing for SVG, as it's called. As a long-time haunt for moneyed yachtsmen favoring its many calm lagoons and remote cays, the islands remained an insider's secret for decades. Even today, SVG has largely taken a back seat to other more promoted and developed regional islands. There are no direct flights from the U.S. mainland and no casinos as yet. You can count the big resorts on one hand, as boutique accommodations are preferred.

The largest and northernmost island of St. Vincent has a densely forested, mountainous interior dominated by the 4,000-foot active volcano La Soufriere. On the southwest coast lies Kingstown, the nation's colonial-era capital and primary entry point. Hopscotch south, and just seven islands within St. Vincent's Grenadines are inhabited, each delightfully underdeveloped. The largest and most populated are Bequia, Mustique, Canouan and Union Island, with the smaller, lush green islands of Mayreau, Palm Island and Petit St. Vincent sprouting like emeralds from a tourmaline sea.

ISLAND TIME

As do most travelers, I arrived on 11- by 18-mile St. Vincent, home to all but 8,000 of SVG's population of 106,000. The compact capital shows its age handsomely. With bumpy cobblestoned streets, stone arched doorways, patina-stained brass fixtures and window boxes choked with flowers, Kingstown's tight corridors feel like passageways to colonial times. But it's no walk in the park here. The steep streets mirror the surrounding hilly countryside, and the tropical midday sun is withering to those on foot.

One way to beat the heat is the shady St. Vincent Botanic Garden, a 20-acre city oasis established in 1765 and noted as one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere. It is florid with ornamentals, canopied with old growth trees and graced with an aviary dedicated to breeding endangered St. Vincent Amazon parrots. The gardens were once visited by Captain William Bligh, the rigid taskmaster of *Mutiny on the Bounty* fame, who purchased breadfruit tree seeds here in 1793 before his disastrous voyage to the South Pacific.

Outside Kingstown, the island reveals its natural side. Driving the narrow road along the eastern windward coast, you'll find a bucolic landscape dotted with colorful villages, agriculture, deeply forested valleys and a shoreline of empty beaches. The thinly populated coast is a genuine ode to Caribbean-style rural living, complete with goats, pigs and chickens amid hamlets that have germinated near freshwater creeks, which serve as the local substitute for municipal tap water.

Halfway along the windward side lies St. Vincent's second-largest town: Georgetown. The earthy enclave is surrounded by large coconut groves and is a handy stop for a cool drink and a place to stretch the legs. Grilled breadfruit and mackerel appeared to be favorite items at food shacks and common daily sustenance for agricultural workers as well as itinerant tourists. With a full belly, I wandered a handful of narrow streets hemmed by tiny shops, kitchen cafés and rustic homes with corrugated tin roofs, all with friendly Vincentian tagalongs who weren't bashful if I pointed a camera their way. As I continued to drive the entire 30-plus

miles northward, I ultimately came to road's end at the Owia Salt Pond. After all the potholes, bumps and errant goats, this was my hard-won reward, and I luxuriated in a large naturally protected tidal pool brimming with sea life.

LEEWARD HO!

Jumping over to St. Vincent's leeward coast is an entirely different affair. The Caribbean side claims a few modern resorts and tourism-dependent shops, and I settled in on private 35-acre Young Island, a one-minute boat jaunt off the main island's southwestern coast. There are pools, fine dining and beach bars, not to mention a waveless kid-friendly beach with complimentary water toys. It's the kind of boutique resort where you can simply relax and do nothing or you can opt for a menagerie of water sports right outside the door.

As a diver, I chose the latter and investigated famous local dive sites. The main island of SVG in particular is famous in scuba circles for its flourishing marine life—from petite seahorses to boisterous sea turtles—and none of my half-dozen dives were anything short of spectacular. But diving was usually an a.m. affair. Come afternoons, I boated with other guests to nearby Fort Duvernette, a monolithic islet 50 yards off Young Island, and climbed the steep 225 steps to where the British fended off French and local Caribs with canons that still remain. In present tense, it's the perfect panoramic perch to watch Caribbean sunsets.

St. Vincent's leeward coast also has a reputation as an eco-outpost with demanding hiking trails threading the rainforest and leading to spectacular waterfalls. The headliner I was told to visit is Darkview Falls, reached by an hour's scenic coastal drive that veers into the mountainous interior. Despite its remoteness, it's one of the island's more accessible and picturesque tumblers, its 70-foot twin falls nearly obscured by impressive stands of bamboo said to be the biggest and oldest in the Caribbean. After a reasonable hike, I lingered in the cooling spray pool while hummingbirds and butterflies gorged on nearby orchid nectar. It seemed as if I were immersed in a scene straight from the Nature Channel.

Due south lies Bequia, the first and largest island of the Grenadines chain. Though it's a mere 25-minute ferry ride from Kingstown, it bears little resemblance to St. Vincent. You'll first gaze upon a colorful flotilla of international boats anchored in the turquoise waters of Admiralty Bay and then spot the colorful clapboards of the waterside town of Port Elizabeth, the gateway for far-flung sailing and diving throughout the Grenadines. I hung my flippers at Bequia Beach Hotel, which sits along vacant Friendship Beach, and I took to the water on a couple occasions with a local dive shop to explore a sunken tugboat and aquarium-like reefs inside the bay. My verdict for divers, snorkelers and swimmers: Bequia is pleasantly easy, safe and rewarding for nearly any experience level.



Sunset off Tamarind Beach, Canouan



Resident parrot, Bequia



Tobago Cays



Abandoned Moonhole stone house, Bequia

By land, this seven-square-mile island is no slouch when it comes to sightseeing. I booked a Jeep tour with a dreadlocked local whose impressive stories of pirates, mutineers and colonists enhanced the postcard views that appeared at nearly every hilltop turn. For anyone going it alone, the 18th-century Hamilton Fort is the favorite for its unrestricted views of the bay and island siblings strung into the horizon.

As the day's oppressive heat gave way to a temperate evening, I strolled the Belmont Walkway that meanders along the Admiralty Bay waterfront, catching a glimpse of island life as it's existed for decades. Seeing a community's authenticity through a glass is something I swear by, and local watering holes such as the Porthole and Tommy's Cantina serve up potent Jamaican rum along with plenty of flavor, courtesy of the friendly residents, yachtsmen and diving tourists who make up Bequia's mellow mix.

COLORFUL CANOUAN

The last leg of my island traipsing brought me to Canouan, a sleepy five-square-mile gem in the southern Grenadines. With a barrier reef and enormous shallow lagoon known as The Bathtub, it's the envy of Caribbean

islands everywhere. While the 300-acre Canouan Resort at Carenage Bay lays claim to the shoreline here, up over the hill, on the leeward side near the hamlet of Charleston Bay, life is traditional. A hodgepodge of weathered stores sells basic provisions, while chickens, goats, iguanas and even turtles (Canouan means "Turtle Island") roam freely.

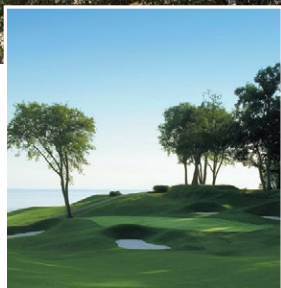
A several-night stay at the woodsy Tamarind Beach Hotel struck the appropriate balance between evening comfort and fulfilling daytime castaway fantasies, whether it was walking on empty white beaches or on trails draped by crimson-flowering flamboyant trees. And being an hour's boat ride away from the isolated Tobago Cays, Canouan was the nautical gateway to some of the best underwater adventures I'd ever experienced.

With Caribbean travel, there's plenty of talk about authenticity, natural beauty, how locals interact with visitors and what makes for a memorable experience that lasts a lifetime. I think of a healthy, clean ocean encircled by bountiful reefs, snow-white sand beaches, islands crowned by lush rainforest, no crowds and friendly locals. And that will always bring to mind St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a slice of the remote Caribbean that I had previously only imagined.

Notice: St. Vincent and the Grenadines is among the Caribbean destinations that are included on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control warning list for Zika virus. The level-two warnings advise pregnant women to avoid travel to the area and recommend that other travelers protect against mosquito bites and practice safe sex. For complete information, visit wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/zika-virus-saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines.

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TRAVEL GADGETS GALORE

Before you leave for your next trip, pack these go-to gadgets for a smooth and enjoyable journey. • By Kari Bodnarchuk

SOME OF THE LATEST TRAVEL GADGETS help you stay connected—to your family, your friends, your suitcase and even your home. Others can make your travels run more smoothly and make the journey to your destination more fun. Consider these items as you prepare for your next trip.



◀ A smart bag with hidden features

The Bluesmart One looks like a regular carry-on suitcase, but this stylish and unassuming bag is full of tricks. The 22-inch wheeled suitcase has a digital lock, a built-in luggage scale, location tracking and two USB ports for charging devices on the fly. The built-in 10,400 mAh battery has enough oomph to charge your cell phone or other USB-compatible device up to six times. Use the Bluesmart app to lock or unlock your suitcase, set proximity alerts (in case you accidentally walk away from your bag or it wanders away from you), track your bag's location (GPS and SIM technology track your bag in more than 100 countries), and weigh your suitcase (lift the bag by its handle, tap "Scale" on the app, and see your bag's weight displayed). The suitcase has a moderately rigid outer shell, two fleece-lined laptop and tablet sleeves that sit behind the lockable front flap, and several pockets for stashing flight documents and small items—oh, and enough internal space to pack for a weekend getaway. \$449. 888/313-9677, bluesmart.com



An invaluable device that tracks luggage worldwide ▶

GlobaTrac's palm-sized TrakDot located my missing luggage in Los Angeles—long before the airline staff could find it—and then sent me text-message updates as my bag flew to Europe to catch up with me. Slip TrakDot into your golf bag, bike box or checked suitcase, and it will keep tabs on

your belongings worldwide. The luggage tracker has an internal

GSM chip that uses cell towers rather than satellites to triangulate its position. Thanks to the built-in accelerometer, the device automatically stops transmitting and receiving signals as the plane speeds up for takeoff. It switches back on after landing, reconnects to local cell towers, and sends you a text message or e-mail indicating your bag's location. Also look up your bag's whereabouts and location history on the TrakDot website. \$39.99 on Amazon.com, not including \$24.99 annual service fee. 855/558-8722, trakdot.com





◀ A speedy way to transfer files

Countless times, I've headed for the door and then realized I forgot to download fresh songs for my road trip, a kid's movie or an e-book for the plane, or a year's worth of photos to show grandparents at our destination. Then I discovered Toshiba's TransferJet wireless adapters, which let users transfer large files—or large numbers of files—between devices quickly (up to 560 megabits per second) and wirelessly. That means I can transfer hundreds of photos in seconds, for instance, and not have to fuss with cords. The adapters work with Apple and Android smartphones and tablets as well as Windows-based PCs. Just attach a USB, microUSB or lightning adapter to each device, download the TransferJet software, and then place the devices within several centimeters of each other to make the transfer. The biggest challenge: keeping track of these tiny, roughly thumbnail-size gadgets. \$59.99–\$79.99. 888/592-0944, toshiba.com

The ability to stay safe and connected while driving ▶

What if you could wave your hand over your phone like a magic wand and then make phone calls, send texts and play your favorite tunes without having to take your eyes off the road? Logitech's new ZeroTouch smart car mount lets you do just that—and more. Choose between two Android-compatible mounts: one that attaches to your air vent or another that firmly suctions onto your dashboard. Affix a magnetic strip onto the back of your phone (on or beneath your phone case) so that it can dock on either magnetic mount. Then download the free ZeroTouch app, and connect your phone via Bluetooth. Every time you dock your phone, you trigger the voice-controlled app. Wave your hand over your phone to wake it up, and then ask it to call someone, send a text or read a reply, play music through Pandora or Spotify, or navigate using Google Maps, Navigon or Waze—clever, reliable and safe. \$59.99 (air vent mount); \$79.99 (dash mount). 646/454-3200, logitech.com



◀ A laptop built for travel

Samsung's new Notebook 7 spin can refuel quickly and rotate into different viewing modes, making it ideal for travelers. Its impressive turbo-charging battery enables it to go from zero to 100 percent power in 100 minutes, or get a 2-hour boost in 20 minutes—perfect for a short airport layover. The 360-degree rotating screen lets you transform the Notebook 7 from laptop to “tent” or tablet mode, making it easier to watch movies on your flight or train ride. The 13.3-inch version weighs 3.88 pounds and comes with an Intel Core i5 processor, 1 terabyte of hard-drive space and 8GB of RAM. It has a backlit keyboard—perfect for night flights—and a vibrant full-HD touchscreen display (1,920 x 1,080 pixels). The laptop has one HDMI, USB-C and USB 3.0 port; two USB 2.0 ports; and a microSD slot. Starts at \$799; available in 13.3-inch and 15.6-inch versions. 855/726-8721, samsung.com



The power to charge multiple devices at once ▶

One downside to traveling with a laptop: the bulky cord. Leave that cumbersome cord behind, and bring the Zolt Laptop Charger Plus. This sleek and lightweight charger measures about the size of a 2-ounce shampoo bottle, but packs enough power—70 watts—to let you charge three devices at once, such as a laptop, smartphone and tablet. It comes with a six-foot PC cable and eight interchangeable power tips that work with most major laptop brands, including Toshiba, Dell, Samsung, Lenovo, HP and Acer. Plug the PC cable with the proper tip into your laptop and the other end into one of three USB ports on the charger. Attach any other two devices into the remaining USB slots, and plug the charger into one wall outlet to power all your gadgets simultaneously. \$99.99. MacBook charging cable available for \$19.99. 866/855-9658, gozolt.com





◀ Headphones that block noise, enrich sound

Parrot's Zik noise-cancelling headphones have been my go-to for years. They provide the most superior sound with a rich concert hall-like audio experience and the ability to filter out everything from noisy hotel neighbors to throttling airplane engines. The new Zik 3.0 headphones still offer some of Parrot's coolest features, including the ability to pause playback when you slip them off your head as well as change tracks and volume with a simple finger swipe on the right earpiece. They also come with a wireless charger (2 hours of charging gets you 18 hours of use), a widened headband for added comfort and fun designs (think leather, crocodile-textured and colorful). An added bonus: Parrot's Audio Suite app lets you quickly check battery life while on the go and adjust the equalizer and other sound effects. \$399.99. 877/972-7768, parrot.com

Home security with an added twist ▶

Keep an eye on your home while you travel with Netgear's Arlo security cameras and easy-to-use app. These high-definition wireless cameras work indoors and outdoors, have night vision and connect to a base station that plugs into your router. Like many home security cameras, they capture motion and audio—and can send you notifications when something is amiss. But Arlo cameras can also be programmed to respond to these triggers. You can create a "recipe" so that if motion is detected, for instance, then it will trigger your Wi-Fi-connected hue lights to switch on (and, therefore, scare away a potential intruder). Use the app to arm and disarm the cameras, set a recording schedule and view your library of video snippets. \$179.99 (base station and one camera). 408/638-3750, arlo.com



◀ An ultra-portable kid carrier

You won't have to gate-check Hammacher Schlemmer's latest kid carrier, recognized by Guinness World Records as the "world's smallest folding stroller." The Compact Airline-Friendly Stroller transforms from a sturdy, full-fledged stroller to a small lap-sized package in seconds. The 9.5-pound stroller collapses by pushing two buttons on the handles, folding in a set of wheels and the two handlebars, and then pushing a latch into place to keep the tiny bundle contained. It unfolds just as quickly, and it doesn't sacrifice quality or features for wow factor. The stroller comes with four sets of double wheels, a padded seat with a five-point harness; cushioned handles for the driver; and a lower compartment for stashing snacks, toys and your airport purchases. It supports kids up to 55 pounds. \$249.95. 800/321-1484, hammacher.com



2 Days/1 Night

PHOTO BY STACY TILLILIE



Fonthill Castle

Doylestown Delights

This bustling borough in the heart of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, offers an inviting quaintness with just a dash of quirkiness that makes for a memorable getaway.

By Stacy Tillilie

STROLLING THE STREETS OF DOWNTOWN

DOYLESTOWN on a weekend afternoon—browsing the eclectic boutiques, perusing the enticing menus of the friendly eateries and cozy cafes, and ogling the tidy historic homes with their welcoming porches and colorful window boxes—you might think for a moment that you’re in a tony resort town. Yet, meandering past the massive modern courthouse standing sentry at the north end of town, you are quickly reminded that you’re in the county seat of Pennsylvania’s Bucks County, a distinction that Doylestown has held since 1813 when the government seat was moved here from Bristol because of Doylestown’s central location within the county.

While Doylestown may serve as a convenient home base to explore bucolic Bucks County—and is situated less than 30 miles north of Philadelphia—visitors won’t want to venture far from this well-heeled historic haven that offers all the makings of a remarkable two-day getaway.

DAY ONE

GOING THE MERCER MILE

Start your journey along the Mercer Mile, a tribute to the legacy of Doylestown archaeologist Henry Chapman Mercer and his three concrete landmarks: Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Fonthill Castle and the Mercer Museum. (Why concrete? It’s fireproof to protect the collections inside, of course.)

Born in Bucks County in 1856, Mercer was fascinated with the pre-Industrial Age and, in 1897, became an avid collector of early Americana. While searching for pottery for his collection, he developed a love of the craft, and by 1899, he was making intricate architectural tiles that would put his name on the artistic map. Today, his craft is still being carried on at the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, a Spanish mission-style factory that Mercer built from 1910 to 1912 that is now a National Historic Landmark. Here, you can enjoy self-guided tours, purchase handmade tiles and mosaics, and watch

artisans make tiles by hand, much the same way Mercer did in his day.

Sharing the sprawling 60-plus-acre grounds of the Moravian museum is Fonthill Castle. Mercer built this 44-room masterpiece, with its 200 windows, 32 staircases and 18 fireplaces, from 1908 to 1910. As if taken from the pages of a Harry Potter novel, Fonthill is a melding of Medieval, Gothic and Byzantine architecture and features a menagerie of Mercer's decorative tiles, prints and furnishings throughout its storied rooms. (Select rooms are available for tour; reservations are highly recommended.) Mercer resided here until his death in 1930, willing his "Castle for the New World" as a museum with rights to his housekeeper to be able to live here for the rest of her life, which she did until her passing in 1975. Holiday time at the castle brings special candlelight tours, a self-guided Holiday Lights Meander and family-friendly activities. (Note that, for lack of modern HVAC, many rooms in Fonthill can be chilly in winter and hot in

summer, and touring requires tackling many stairs.)

From Fonthill, head a mile toward downtown to the Mercer Museum, a six-story castle built by Mercer from 1913 to 1916. Celebrating its 100th birthday this year and its recent designation as a Smithsonian Affiliate, the museum houses some 40,000 diverse objects, particularly tools and products used prior to the Industrial Revolution, representing everyday life in 18th- and 19th-century America throughout 55 exhibit rooms and alcoves. The center court has been affectionately called the "oh, my gosh room" because that's how people react upon seeing the fascinating tangle of artifacts covering the walls and hanging from the ceilings, according to Museum Director Doug Dolan. You can't miss the whaling boat, horse-drawn carriages and antique fire engine suspended from the ceilings.

Upon completing Mercer's touring trifecta, you'll see the

James A. Michener Art Museum sitting directly across the street from the Mercer Museum. But save the delightful surprises of that museum for tomorrow, for the shops and restaurants of downtown Doylestown await.

DINING AND UNWINDING

An ambitious itinerary deserves a dining experience to match. Just a few blocks' walk from the Mercer Museum, you'll find everything from gourmet restaurants to lively cafes to casual eateries flanking the tree-lined main streets. Local favorites include Genevieve's Kitchen for Italian and Mediterranean dishes, Empanada Mama for South American hand-pies, Doylestown Brewing Company for craft beer and burgers, and Maxwell's on Main (M.O.M.'s) for American fare with Southern influences, including complimentary bacon served in mason jars.

Sprinkled among the restaurants and specially decked out for the holidays

are independently owned boutique shops that invite you to browse their unique wares, from clothing and jewelry to art and collectibles. Be sure to visit the Doylestown Bookshop for rare-find reads; Monkey's Uncle for funky rock-star looks (these are the old stomping grounds of Doylestown native-turned-musician P!nk, after all); and Busy Bee Toys for imaginative playthings. Or check out what's playing at the County Theater, an Art Deco theater dating to the 1930s that's among the country's last remaining neighborhood movie houses. Here, you can enjoy independent, foreign and art films as well as Hollywood classics and kids' matinees.

Retire for the night at the Hargrave House Bed & Breakfast, a Georgian-style stone house with 7 guest rooms, or check in at the Doylestown Inn, a boutique hotel with 11 guest rooms and an on-site restaurant and bar. Both are tucked in the historic district and known for their well-appointed rooms and genuine hospitality. Other small bed-and-breakfasts and familiar hotel brands also dot the area, just a few minutes' drive away.

DAY TWO EXPLORING ART FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Enjoy homemade breakfast and organically grown coffee at The Zen Den before picking up where you left off yesterday at the James A. Michener Art Museum. Named after the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, who helped establish the museum in 1988, "The Michener" was once home to the Bucks County Prison (back in 1884) before being transformed into a showcase of both historic and contemporary Bucks County art works. The museum houses a permanent collection of more than 2,700 objects, including a world-famous collection of Pennsylvania impressionist paintings as well as outdoor sculpture, decorative



COURTESY OF VISIT BUCKS COUNTY

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

furnishings and works on paper.

Grab a bite to eat at The Terrace Café at the Michener, which serves farm-to-table cuisine for breakfast and lunch, before hopping in the car and heading out to the "country," less than five miles from the historic district, to picture-perfect Peace Valley. Here, among the rolling hills and sweeping waterfront vistas, 1,500-acre Peace Valley Park offers a nature center with year-round environmental awareness programs, 14 miles of nature trails, and a paved walking/bike path skirting scenic Lake Galena, a 356-acre reservoir. Birdwatching opportunities abound in every season; in fact, the park is known as a hotspot for rare and unusual sightings among birders. Fall brings warblers, kinglets, sparrows, tanagers, orioles and flycatchers in droves, and during winter, you're likely to spot bald eagles, European lesser black-backed gulls and Canada geese, just to name a few.

Across the road from Lake Galena, perched high on a hill, the Peace Valley Lavender Farm offers handmade lavender gifts, including bath and body products, home and garden goods, and even lavender soda and cookies. Nearby,

Peace Valley Winery welcomes visitors to its tasting room to sample its 13 different wines, including special holiday vintages. Stop by the gift shop for gourmet wine baskets and your favorite bottle of wine bearing your own custom holiday label.

Across the lake, nestled on 170 acres of land overlooking Peace Valley, is the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. This beautiful Catholic shrine, the only one in America dedicated to the Polish saint, welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and features a visitor center, an exhibition hall displaying artwork and religious articles, a chapel, outdoor Stations of the Cross, exquisite stained glass and a sculpture of the Trinity.

Having relaxed, reflected and recharged, you're bound to leave Doylestown feeling as if you just vacationed in a resort town—because if a resort is designed to delight its visitors, indeed, you've just experienced that. <<

For more information on Doylestown and surrounding attractions, check out visitbuckscounty.com.

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Computers on Wheels

The latest automotive technology includes features that make driving easier, more enjoyable—and safer.

By Alan Rider

Cars with serious computing power have been around for decades. Nevertheless, with the dizzying pace at which these automotive computers (along with the sensors that feed them) are evolving and the sheer number of new purposes to which the automakers' engineering teams are applying them, we're now crossing a very real threshold. In short, we're going from cars as simple transportation to cars as rolling technology platforms—some with enough onboard computers to qualify them as server farms on wheels.

While we admit some of these developments smack of technology for technology's sake, these mobile computers are also being used to create some surprisingly useful features. You'll find several such features highlighted in these three new models.

Ford Super Duty

Big dumb truck. It's a phrase you won't hear anyone applying to the all-new 2017 Ford Super Duty models, because these heavy haulers are loaded down with some of the most advanced technology ever seen on a pickup.

For starters, the F-250, F-350 and F-450 models feature body panels made of lightweight military-grade aluminum. Combine that lighter weight with a more powerful version of Ford's optional 6.7-liter turbodiesel V8, and you get a maximum towing capacity of an impressive 32,500 pounds.

In terms of towing technology, a new blind-spot warning system extends to cover the length of the trailer. Trailer tire pressure can be remotely monitored on an in-cab display. There's even an on-screen feature that actually tells you which way to turn the steering wheel when you're backing a trailer.

Seven available cameras give you a top-down view that's invaluable when maneuvering in tight quarters. Included in that number are a front camera that's helpful when pulling out of streets where visibility is limited and another one in back with on-screen guide lines that make hooking up a trailer single-handedly a snap.

All of this technology adds up to one very smart truck, indeed.

STRENGTHS

- New longer bodies mean more interior room for passengers and cargo.
- The adaptive steering option makes this big truck feel lighter on its feet.
- A long list of available technology includes adaptive cruise control, LED headlights, automatic high-beam control and more.

WEAKNESSES

- Not everyone needs such a big truck.
- With so many new features, learning them all may take a while.

BOTTOM LINE

This all-new model makes other heavy-duty trucks seem outdated by comparison.

PRICING

Base Price: \$32,535

As Tested: \$62,110

SAFETY

NHTSA: Not tested

IIHS: Not tested

M.P.G. (CITY/HIGHWAY)

Not available

INTERESTING TECHNOLOGY

The optional rearview camera can be mounted on the back of the trailer and viewed in-cab.

ALSO CONSIDER

Ram Heavy Duty, Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty

Volvo XC90

If we were to characterize the new 2017 Volvo XC90 crossover, we'd have to say it was like a marriage between a Swedish supermodel and a Silicon Valley genius.

For starters, this long-awaited second-generation version has good looks to spare. Sleek lines give it a presence that stands out in a crowded field of five- and seven-passenger crossover SUVs. Inside, high-quality materials such as supple leather, genuine wood and even carbon fiber give the cabin a decidedly fashionista air.

The cabin's technological centerpiece is the large, vertically oriented central touch-screen that Volvo claims makes for much more natural map viewing and menu access. The technology parade continues under the hood with our top-of-the-line Inscription model test car's 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine that's both turbocharged and supercharged, an uncommonly advanced design good for a healthy 316 horsepower.

Not surprisingly, Volvo has kitted out the XC90 with cutting-edge safety technology, including a frontal crash-warning system with cyclist and pedestrian recognition and automatic emergency braking. A new feature will even apply the brakes if the driver tries to turn in front of an oncoming car.

Put it all together, and you have an unlikely relationship that works out better than you might expect.

STRENGTHS

- A larger interior with roomier second- and third-row seats
- An available built-in second-row child booster seat can be scooted forward to put Junior within easy reach.
- The plug-in hybrid version is among the most fuel-efficient crossovers on the market.

WEAKNESSES

- The base four-cylinder feels a little anemic.
- The fuel-saving engine auto-start/stop is a bit intrusive.
- The central touch-screen could benefit from the addition of physical buttons/knobs for oft-used controls.

BOTTOM LINE

Perhaps the most stylish and high-tech way yet to haul seven passengers

PRICING

Base Price: \$43,950

As Tested: \$63,250

SAFETY

NHTSA: Five (out of five) Star Overall; Five Star Frontal Impact; Five Star Side Impact

IIHS: Top "Good" rating in all frontal- and side-impact tests

M.P.G. (CITY/HIGHWAY)

22/26 (Base 2.0-liter)

20/25 (Turbocharged/supercharged 2.0-liter)

53 (M.P.G. equivalent; Plug-in Hybrid)

INTERESTING TECHNOLOGY

New Run-Off Road technology automatically snugs up seatbelts, while bottom seat cushions absorb spinal shocks.

ALSO CONSIDER

Acura MDX, BMW X5

Kia Cadenza

You may be thinking that cars chock-full of the latest technology are only for a privileged few. Well, the completely redesigned 2017 Kia Cadenza stands that notion on its head. That's because the second generation of this full-size luxury model has just about everything you could ever want in a car—at a price that's thousands less than its competitors.

Available features include LED headlights, high-beam assist that automatically dims headlights, and adaptive cruise control that will maintain a preset distance from the car in front of you even at traffic-jam speeds. There's even a 630-watt Harmon Kardon surround-sound audio system with 12 speakers and technology that actually improves the sound quality of whatever music source you're listening to.

More than just creature comforts, there's advanced safety technology available here, too, including a forward-collision warning system with autonomous braking, lane-keeping assist that will gently guide the car



back into the proper lane if you find yourself inadvertently drifting over the line, and a fighter jet-style head-up display that shows your speed, the posted speed limit and more.

All of this is wrapped up in svelte sheet metal that'll make you feel like a million bucks.

STRENGTHS

- Sleek lines make this car a real head-turner.
- High-quality, comfortable interior
- A standard Apple Car Play/Android Auto makes for seamless smartphone integration.

WEAKNESSES

- The wireless smartphone charging only works with Android devices.
- The seat heaters automatically turn themselves down after a set time.

BOTTOM LINE

Loads of technology offered at a relatively low price point

PRICING (not finalized at press time)

Base Price: \$32,000 range

As Tested: \$44,000 range

SAFETY

NHTSA: Not tested

IIHS: Not tested

M.P.G. (CITY/HIGHWAY)

20/28

INTERESTING TECHNOLOGY

A “smart” blind-spot monitoring system keeps your car in your lane if it detects a vehicle in your blind spot.

ALSO CONSIDER

Chrysler 300, Toyota Avalon

Not All Gasoline Is Created Equal

Quality gasoline can minimize engine deposits, increase performance and improve fuel economy.

When it's time to fuel up, AAA's research shows that motorists tend to scout out the most convenient location (75 percent of survey respondents) or the lowest price (73 percent of survey respondents). The quality of the gas or whether it includes an enhanced detergent package carries less weight in the decision. In fact, even though 63 percent of motorists believe there is a difference in the quality of gasoline sold by different locations, only 12 percent consider gasoline quality when fueling up.

A new analysis by AAA determined that gasoline meeting TOP TIER standards results in 19 times fewer engine deposits, which are known to reduce fuel economy. And, at roughly 3 cents per gallon more, it could be a cost-effective way to help keep your vehicle running smoothly.

"AAA was surprised to learn the extent to which detergent additives impact gasoline quality," says John Nielsen, AAA's managing director of Automotive Engineering and Repair. "As advertised, tested TOP TIER gasolines kept engines remarkably cleaner than other fuels we tested."

All gasoline meets standards mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency. Some automakers believe the standard does not go far enough to ensure optimal vehicle performance needed to meet increasingly stringent fuel economy and emissions requirements. The TOP TIER performance standard was designed and supported by several major automakers to guarantee that



these gasolines meet stricter targets for engine cleanliness.

"When it comes to selecting a gasoline, automakers got it right: TOP TIER gasoline performs best," continued Nielsen. "By selecting a quality gasoline, drivers can minimize engine deposits, increase vehicle performance and improve fuel economy."

In addition to reducing fuel economy by 2 to 4 percent, carbon deposits increase emissions and negatively impact vehicle performance, particularly on newer vehicles. Motorists may experience a

rough idle, especially when the engine is cold, or hesitation during acceleration.

"Fortunately, consumers can reverse some engine deposits simply by switching gasoline brands," says Greg Brannon, AAA's director of Automotive Engineering. "After a few thousand miles with TOP TIER gasoline, performance issues like rough idling or hesitation during acceleration can often be resolved."

To find a TOP TIER gas retailer, visit **TOPTIERgas.com/retailers**. The site includes a list of brands that have achieved TOP TIER certification.

PRICE AND CONVENIENCE DRIVE FUEL DECISIONS

A recent AAA survey revealed that nearly half (47 percent) of U.S. drivers do not regularly buy gasoline that contains an enhanced detergent additive. Men (44 percent) are more likely than women (26 percent) to regularly buy a gasoline that contains an enhanced detergent package, as are baby boomers (41 percent) compared with millennials (32 percent).

"Americans are six times more likely to choose a gas station based on the price of gasoline rather than the quality of the fuel," says John Nielsen, AAA's managing director of Automotive Engineering and Repair. "Since TOP TIER gasoline is widely available and only an average of 3 cents more per gallon, AAA urges drivers to reconsider their priorities when selecting a gas station."

Learn more about fuel quality at **AAA.com**.

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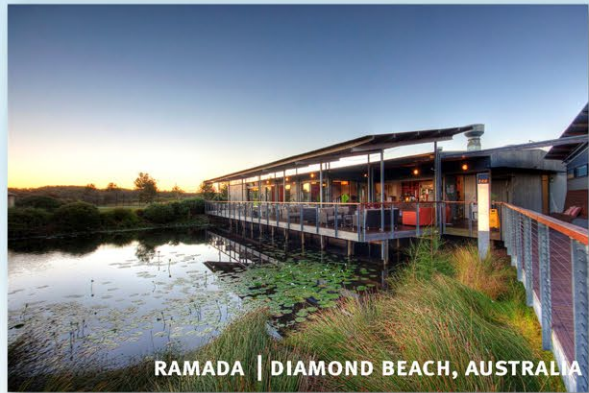
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An Estate That's Dressed to the Nines

From Fabergé eggs to French decorative arts, the personal collection of cereal heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post is a showcase of eclectic elegance at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.



COURTESY OF HILLWOOD ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS

IT WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL EASTER EGG

I had ever seen—encrusted in gold, set with tiny diamonds and pearls, decorated with miniature paintings on pink opalescent enamel panels.

Crafted by the great Russian house of Fabergé, it was a gift from Tsar Nicholas II to his mother, Maria Fedorovna, on Easter morning 1914.

The Catherine the Great Easter Egg (the surprise in this egg was a mechanical sedan chair with Catherine the Great seated inside) is just one of the masterpieces of Russian art on display at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens. The sparkling egg is the centerpiece of a shimmering treasure-filled room in a striking 36-room Georgian mansion set on 13 acres of formal gardens—from which you can just glimpse the top of the Washington Monument six miles away.

Hillwood, in Washington, D.C., is the former home of cereal heiress and collector Marjorie Merriweather Post, who always meant for the art treasures she amassed during her lifetime to be on display for the public to enjoy. The Russian collection, including some 90 Fabergé works, is considered the most comprehensive assemblage of 18th- and 19th-century Russian imperial art outside Russia.

If Hillwood's elegant dining room—with its oak paneling, tasseled red drapes and sparkling chandelier—brings to mind a French chateau rather than a Russian palace, it's because Post's other collecting passion was 18th-century French decorative arts. Tapestries from the famed Gobelins factory, furnishings and small objects such as a rare gold snuff box from the 1720s convey a sense of French aristocratic life in the time of Louis XVI. One room is devoted to pieces from France's famed Sèvres porcelain factory, including the renowned *bleu celeste* or "heavenly blue" wares.

"People come here not knowing exactly what to expect," says Angie Dodson, director of learning and engagement. "Some are transported to 18th-century France, and some to 19th-century Russia." And with evidence of Post's own lavish mid 20th-century lifestyle, such as a dumbwaiter in the kitchen and a high-fidelity sound system hidden in a closet, there's a bit of *Downton Abbey* in the mix. Estella Chung, Hillwood historian and Post biographer, describes the effect as "*Downton Abbey* set in the 'Mad Men' world."

Like the house, the gardens reflect Post's diverse interests. They range from a formal French *parterre* to a fragrant rose garden to a serene Japanese-style garden with millstones and bridges crossing pools of water. Visitors can also see the greenhouse, which produces most of the flowers used in the mansion's gorgeous fresh flower arrangements. Audio tours not only describe the collections and plants but also offer a glimpse into the charmed life of a socialite who loved beauty and wanted to share it with others.

Winter at Hillwood brings the annual Russian Winter Festival and wreath-making workshops in the greenhouse. Beginning around Thanksgiving, the mansion will be decked out for the holidays, with decorated trees echoing the year's themed exhibitions. This year, one tree will reflect a Japanese deco style, and four others will represent the four seasons. Like everything at Hillwood, Dodson says, trees and other holiday décor will be "à la Marjorie Post—always done to the nines."

—Ellen Albanese

WHAT:
HILLWOOD ESTATE,
MUSEUM & GARDENS

WHERE: 4155 Linnean
Avenue, NW, Washington,
D.C.

WHEN: Tuesday through
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays, most
national holidays and
several weeks in January

HOW MUCH: Suggested
donations are \$18 adults,
\$15 seniors, \$10 college
students, \$5 children age
6–18 (audio tours included).
Active military and their
families are free from
Memorial Day through Labor
Day, as Hillwood is a Blue
Star Museum participant.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
202/686-5807 or
hillwoodmuseum.org



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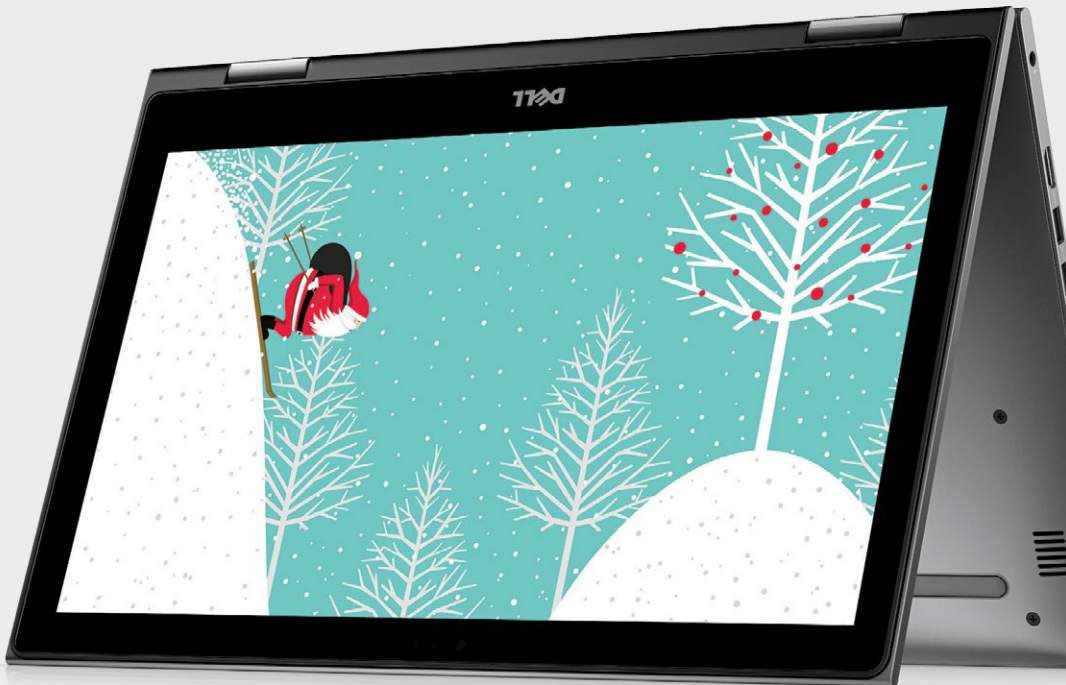
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