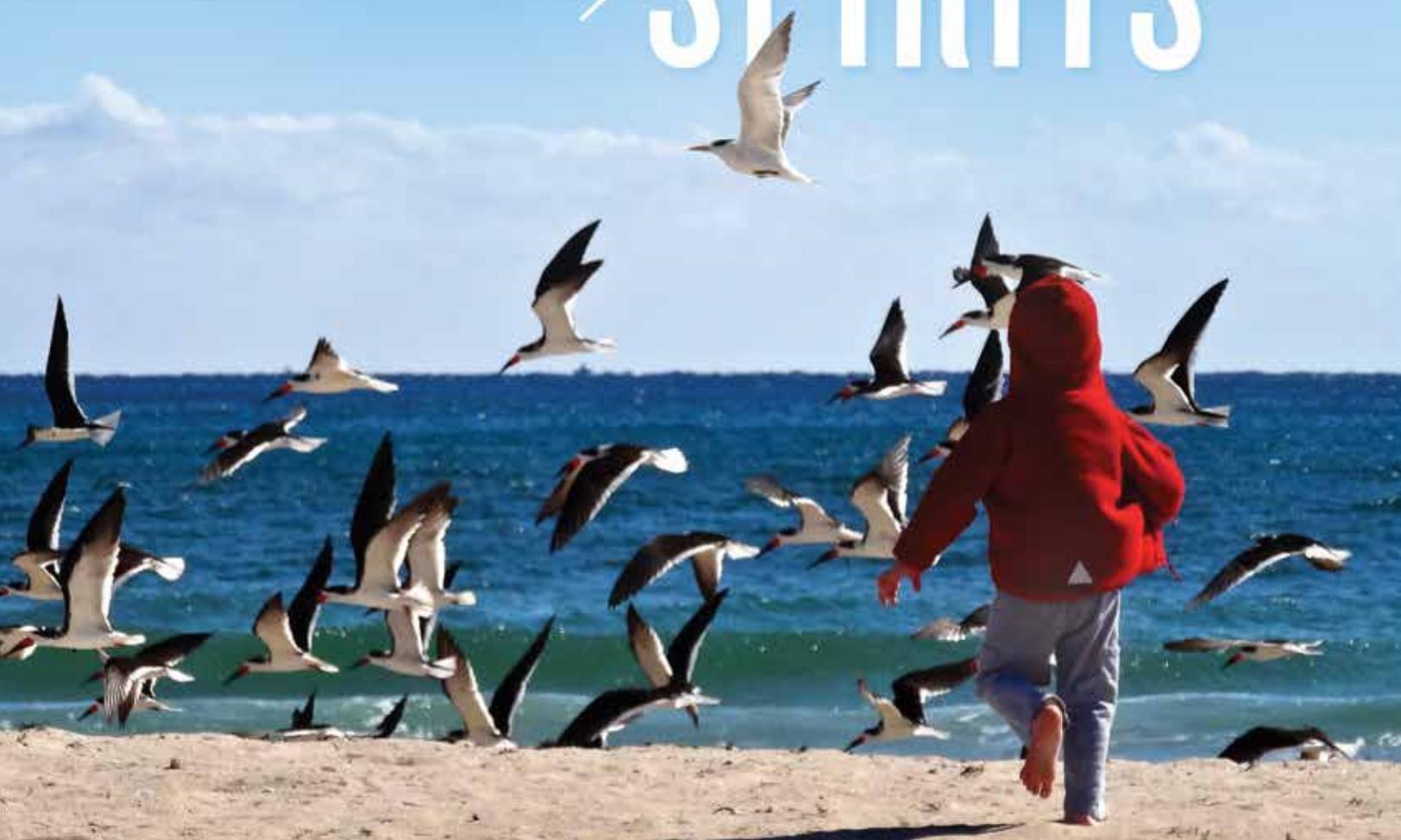


travel | ownership | lifestyle

SPRING 2021

DESTINATIONS

RAISE YOUR SPIRITS



Great Expectations —
TRAVEL TRENDS FOR 2021

Meet Your Color Pop
PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Food & Drink:
TRAVEL THE WORLD

EDITOR'S
NOTE

Cheers to a New Year!

→ **Raise your glass — and your spirits** — because it's 2021 and your travel future is looking bright.

This spring issue was built to bring you a few new ways to boost your mood. From the year's top travel trends and exciting resort additions to colorful owner photos and yummy vacation destinations, there is plenty to get you inspired for your next trip with Club Wyndham.

One of my favorite things to do on vacation is take a tasty tour of the surrounding area.

On site in Nashville, where live music and local history are perfectly paired with comfort food and distilled spirits.



Whether it's noshing on the city's famous eats or sampling locally brewed beverages, the way to this traveler's heart is through the taste buds.

Here's a little look behind the scenes at a resort shoot in Nashville — a city full of local flavors and Southern charm not to be missed. Check out some Tennessee spots worth trying, including a whiskey trail, beginning on page 30.

Safe Travels,

ANNA REINERT,
Editor-in-Chief
mymagazine@wyn.com



WHAT VIRUS-
DELAYED OR
POSTPONED
TRIP

WILL YOU BE TAKING THIS YEAR?



“My honeymoon! I got married last February, and we planned to try skiing for the very first time at Smugglers’ Notch, Vermont.”

EMILY BUNKER
Associate Editor



“I’m looking forward to a much-needed getaway back to the City of Chicago. I miss the excitement of traveling to big cities. COVID has definitely put a pause on big city travel plans”

DANIEL BETANCOURT
Editorial Contributor



“A long-planned, milestone birthday sojourn to Paris for 10 glorious days. It may be a year late but Paris, like Rome, is eternal.”

LESLIE JOHANSEN
Managing Editor

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→ features



**COLOR POP
HONORABLE
MENTION**



Nemia Apolonio
Banff, Alberta



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By Jessica Bohlman

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by Lisa A. Beach

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One of our club specialists talks about your exclusive benefits, and getting the most vacation bang for your buck.



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All the comforts of home plus all the extras of a resort — that's what to expect from your new in-suite and on-site amenities.

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Owners advise on spending holidays at a resort, usually involving extended family coming together from all over.

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Owners agree that variety is the spice of life, but some tried-and-true destinations always work for family get-togethers. Read our winner's story, and think about entering the next contest.

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You're the judge and jury. Owners voted on social media, and the top prize went to this charmer from the photo contest.

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by Daniel Betancourt

Follow your nose for wine, whiskey, cheese, and barbecue. It might lead you down some very interesting paths.

Checking In

DESTINATIONS
Spring 2021

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ENDURING HAPPINESS »

The Sum of Life's Experiences

A psychological study from Cornell University affirms what you probably already know: people derive more enjoyment and satisfaction from experiences like travel than any other kind of purchase. Turns out, our richest, most cherished memories come from sharing new places with the people we love, and sustain us throughout our lifetime. It's part of who we are.



SURVEY SAYS...

WE ASKED. YOU ANSWERED.

What do owners miss the most about not being able to travel? Among the highest scoring answers were seeing and exploring new places, being able to kick back and relax with friends and family, and just getting away from everyday routines. But by far the most common answer? *Everything!*

» People derive more enjoyment and satisfaction from experiences like travel than any other kind of purchase.

HONORING OUR VETS »

Wyndham Destinations Supports Veterans

We thank veterans for their service when we show them in meaningful ways that it's not just words. We promise, and then we prove it — three ways.



1. Top 2020 Best Corporation for Veteran's Business Enterprises

– awarded by the National Veteran-Owned Business Association recognizes supplier efforts in the veteran community.



2. Forbes Best Employer for Veterans 2020

– with emphasis on recruiting of veterans and service members, and accommodating reservists.



3. IHOOT – In Honor Of Our Troops Vacations for Vets program puts vets on vacation through your generous donation of points or credits.

2021 Travel Trends

By Lisa A. Beach

→ **As wanderlust intensifies, travel enthusiasts look forward to mapping out their vacations for 2021.** After all, the new year promises a fresh start and travel opportunities continue to expand. Kick-start vacation planning with a look at these four 2021 travel trends.

No. 1 OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AND ACTIVITIES



After so much time spent indoors

— especially over the last few winter months — people are clamoring to get outside and explore. On the agenda? Fresh air and open spaces, with the backdrop of natural beauty found in the great outdoors. Nature calls, whether that means a trip to the beach, a hike in the woods, a run down the ski slopes, or a boating adventure on the lake. Just like in 2020, travelers will continue to embrace outdoors-focused experiences until the pandemic is gone or under control.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES POSE LESS RISK for the spread of COVID-19, thanks to the open air and easier social distancing. But here's an added benefit: research shows that spending time in nature decreases stress and boosts mental health.



No. 2

GO LOCAL »

With so many small businesses hit hard during the pandemic, there's a renewed interest in staying close to home and reviving the local economy. In 2021, travelers will visit hidden community gems and support local businesses. That might mean a staycation, but it could also mean exploring lesser-known destinations within driving distance.



Nearly half of you feel that dining outdoors is safe and you're more interested in dining outdoors than any other vacation activity.

THIS WILL BE A MUCH-NEEDED BOON for mom-and-pop restaurants, farmers markets, bakeries, craft breweries, artisan crafters, and even quirky roadside attractions. Plus, this helps shine the light on many of a community's best-kept secrets such as museums, art galleries, science centers, zoos, historical sites, and gardens.

» No matter where you visit, check your intended destination for **current travel guidelines, quarantine requirements, restrictions, and health and safety protocols.**

No. 3



DESTINATION TRENDS »

While travelers still hunger for international trips, border restrictions might still make traveling abroad difficult right now. That's why domestic travel will drive the tourism industry's recovery. Staycations and road trips will continue, but many airlines have increased their domestic flights, making accessibility even easier.

WHERE WILL PEOPLE VACATION?

According to Expedia's 2021 Travel Trends report, the majority of travelers want destinations that offer seclusion, warm beaches, and are easy to get to. Top U.S. destinations include Las Vegas, Orlando, Maui/Oahu, and Miami. Similarly, travel search engine Skyscanner recently reported the most searched for U.S. locations include New York, Honolulu, Los Angeles, and Orlando.

No. 4



SAFETY IS A PRIORITY »

While the traditionally more crowded venues (like theme parks and casinos) will still be a top draw, the experience might look different, with enhanced cleaning, social distancing, mobile purchases, mask requirements, and reduced capacity. Ditto for restaurants and bars, which is a good thing. Why? We've heard from you, and nearly half of you feel that dining outdoors is safe and you're more interested in dining outdoors than any other vacation activity.

WITH THAT IN MIND, travelers will likely seek restaurants and bars with patios and outdoor spaces. That might mean dining on the secluded patios of Sinatra at Encore Las Vegas, sipping craft cocktails outside at Stubborn Mule in Orlando, or soaking in the city views at Astra's garden-themed rooftop patio in Miami.

RCI's Tips for Long Flights



→ **If you want to eat pretzels in Germany rather than Texas, or sip wine in Italy instead of California, you're probably looking at a long flight.** Survive a lengthy plane ride with these three tips, and then check out rci.com for all of the international location options available through your external exchange company.

1

Keep it moving.

Sitting for long periods of time can have negative effects on your body, such as increased blood pressure and leg cramps. For flights more than a few hours, consider standing and taking a quick walk up the aisle to the furthest restroom and back. Doing this at least once an hour can help improve the blood circulation in your body and fight muscle fatigue.

2

Stay hydrated.

The humidity on an airplane is 10 percent lower than what the Environmental Protection Agency recommends for your own home. The desert-dry air can zap the moisture from your skin, leaving you susceptible to dehydration, airborne illness, and irritated skin. Bring a stainless-steel bottle through the security checkpoint and fill up at a water fountain.

3

Pack the snacks.

Depending on your plane's carrier, length of flight, and destination, you may receive one or more meals. Be sure to ask your flight attendant for the meal schedule and set a timer on your phone accordingly. If meals aren't available or you don't want to indulge in the expensive prepackaged dining options, pack your own snacks to keep you full.



This is just an excerpt of the full list of tips for long flights.

To read the entire article — and browse many more vacation inspiration and travel tip topics — visit rci.com/dream.

Get With the Program

→ **You asked, your club team answered.**

Vanity Seraaj, a member of your Club Wyndham management team, shares her expert advice to some commonly asked questions about programs and benefits.

Q. What if the destination I'm looking for isn't available through Club Wyndham?

A. As a Club Wyndham owner, you have access to 220+ resorts in North America. When the destination you're looking for is not available directly within the Club Wyndham portfolio, you can use participating exchange programs, such as Wyndham Club Pass and RCI, to further expand your travel options. In addition, you can utilize the Wyndham Rewards Conversion Program for even more travel and leisure opportunities. Check out the Resources section on your owner website to learn more about these exchange and travel options.

Q. I rolled my points over from last year and have more than I know what to do with. What are my options for using my points this year?

A. The best way to make the most of your points is by going on a Club Wyndham vacation. And more points means more options. You could book a bunch of mini-getaways. Take an extra-long vacay. Or snag

your dream resort that's been on your ultimate bucket list.

In addition to booking a reservation, you can use your points to complement your vacations with programs like PlusPartners. If you're a member of PlusPartners, you can use your points to purchase airline tickets, hotel stays, car rentals, cruises, and theme park tickets.

Q. What can I use Club Wyndham Travel for?

A. Club Wyndham Travel is your personal travel agency, and offers a variety of travel options to complement your vacation experiences. As a Club Wyndham owner, you can use cash to book airfare, car rentals, cruises, and hotels. All services are based on availability and as always, booking early is recommended.

Q. How do I sign up for an Education Session?

A. The schedule and topic for each session is available on your Owner Guide page, as well as in your monthly *Insider* e-newsletter. If you see a topic that interests you, register for the session and you'll get email reminders leading up to the live date. It's that easy!

MEET YOUR EXPERT:

Vanity Seraaj

- » **Job Title:** Program Specialist
- » **Associate Since:** 2011
- » **Favorite Vacation Spot:** New Orleans



Q. I've got the winter blues. What are some great warm destinations I can escape to?

A. Check out some of our favorites, like Club Wyndham Bonnet Creek in Orlando, FL; Club Wyndham at Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, HI; or Club Wyndham Clearwater Beach in Clearwater Beach, FL. Or get inspired by dozens of destination guides on the Featured Destinations page on your owner website. Plus, check out the Owner Travel Deals page for locations on a hot discount.

Home Suite Home

→ **Ready to head out on your next vacation?**

No need to pack your own kitchen gadgets or bathroom toiletries — Club Wyndham has you covered with all the comforts of home. And then some.

Brew up good times. Your resort suites come with new perks.

Check out a few of the new in-suite and on-site features coming to your Club Wyndham resorts this year.



Destinations Station
Tune in to Channel 1 on your in-suite TV for your revamped Club Wyndham travel channel.



Resort Wristbands
So much more than a room key. Unlock your suite, resort amenities, and local discounts.



Lavazza Coffee
Start the day with a fresh cup of high-end Italian coffee from Lavazza — your new in-room brew.



Bath Amenities
Give your hair and skin a refresh with these citrusy, tea tree-infused toiletries from Paul Mitchell.



Pin Stations
Build your collection of Club Wyndham resort pins. Swap 'em. Share 'em. And show 'em off.



Club Wyndham Resort Directory Visit the Publications page on clubwyndham.com to check out the digital edition.

COLOR POP

2020
PHOTO
CONTEST



Every vacation holds a rainbow of memories.



It's a full spectrum, from the warm colors of laugh-out-loud fun to the cool colors that inspire peace and serenity. Colors shape the way we experience travel — and certainly make for great photos!

The 2020 *Destinations Photo Contest* asked you to share your favorite vacation moments featuring a pop of color that's meaningful to you.



Here's a look at some of the best and brightest.



RED-Y TO TAKE FLIGHT



FIRST PLACE
Christine Stuhmiller

Hometown:
Madison, New Jersey
Owner Since: 2017

Club Wyndham
Sea Gardens
Pompano Beach,
Florida



2



BENDING ON THE RED ROCKS



SECOND PLACE

Danielle Bonaccorso

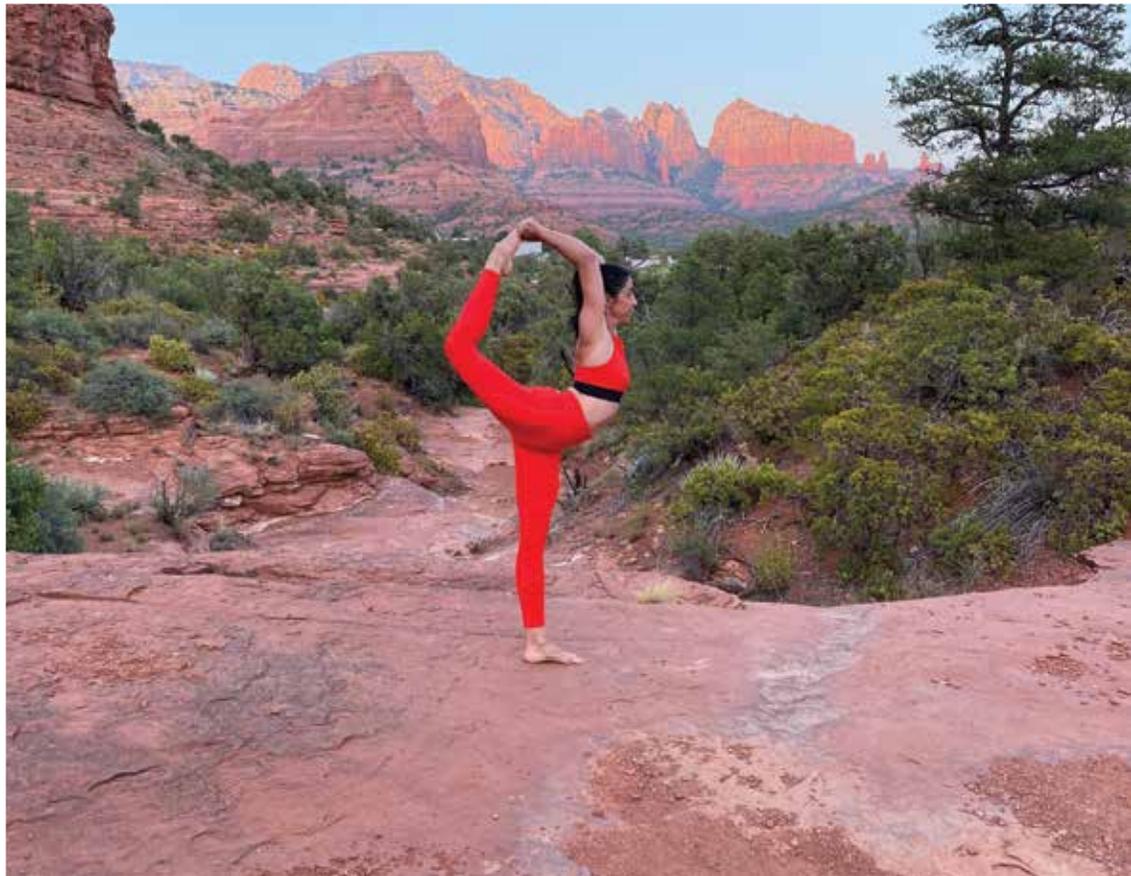
Hometown:

Chicago, Illinois

Owner Since: 2019

Club Wyndham Sedona

Sedona, Arizona



3



AMAZING RAINBOW AT CAPTAIN COOK'S MONUMENT



THIRD PLACE

Elizabeth Jane Hunt

Hometown:

Las Vegas, Nevada

Owner Since: 2019

Club Wyndham

Royal Sea Cliff

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii





HONORABLE MENTIONS

IN FULL COLOR

Check out some of your editorial team's favorites.



A. Kim Hyder
St. George, Utah
B. Scott Wilcox
Lake Tahoe, Nevada

C. Crisanto Estabillo Jr.
St. George, Utah
D. Lauren Bowgren
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

E. Edward McPherson
Princeville, Hawaii
F. Von Nilo A. Vinluan
Bass Lake, California

G. Samuel Gardner
Princeville, Hawaii

Going out to eat is half the fun of vacation,

but how can you indulge in international cuisine while still staying stateside?

Stay Eat Local. Global.

by
JESSICA BOHLMAN



MEZZE, or small dishes, frequently help make up the main meal served with salads, dips, and pita bread.



WITH THIS DINING DESTINATION QUIZ, you can figure out which international food you'll love and where you can find it without a passport.

THE Dining Destination Quiz

My favorite part of a meal is:

- A. Appetizers
- B. Dessert
- C. Sides
- D. Main course
- E. Drinks

My favorite carb:

- A. Pita bread
- B. Sunday bread
- C. Baguette
- D. Cheese bread
- E. A big pretzel

When it comes to dishes, I prefer:

- A. Fresh herbs and olive oil
- B. Cheese, all of the cheese
- C. Noodles and rich broths
- D. Rice and beans
- E. Rich, creamy sauces

I like to pair my meal with:

- A. Spirits
- B. Beer
- C. Tea
- D. Cocktails
- E. Wine

My favorite types of desserts are:

- A. Honey-based
- B. Chocolate
- C. Fruity
- D. Coconut
- E. Pastries

ALL DONE? Tally up how many of each letter you have to find your ideal destination!

MOSTLY A's:
Greek Food,
p. 17

MOSTLY B's:
Swiss Food,
p. 18

MOSTLY C's:
Vietnamese
Food, p.19

MOSTLY D's:
Brazilian
Food, p. 20

MOSTLY E's:
German
Food, p. 21



TARPON SPRINGS,
Florida

It's All Greek to You



LOCATED JUST 20 MINUTES NORTH OF

Clearwater, the historic riverfront town of Tarpon Springs has transported visitors thousands of miles away to a coastal village in Greece for decades. Greek sponge divers arrived in the city in the early 1900s and Greek heritage is still strong in the area. If you're searching for authentic Greek food, you've landed in the right place.



Stroll along Dodecanese Boulevard to see the docked sponge boats and take your pick of more than 15 restaurants, several of which are internationally known. **Hellas, Mama's Greek Cuisine, and Mr. Souvlaki** are a few of the city's best-known, and most traditional Greek restaurants serve up tasty dishes like stuffed grape leaves, gyros, Greek salads, and baklava.

While visiting, head to Tarpon Springs Aquarium to pet baby sharks and stingrays, or pick up a unique souvenir from one of the antique shops in the historic district.



NEARBY RESORTS

Tarpon Springs is an easy drive from Club Wyndham Clearwater Beach. Or, a fun day trip if you are staying at any of the Orlando resorts.



Like other Mediterranean cuisine, Greek food is rich in extra virgin olive oil, herbs, and fresh vegetables, plus it's colorful and nutritious.



NEW GLARUS, Wisconsin

See How the Swiss Roll



WITH ROLLING HILLS

dotted with small towns, farms, and woodland pastures, New Glarus, Wisconsin, reminds many visitors of the alpine farmlands of Switzerland. The city, known as America's Little Switzerland, is proud of its Swiss heritage with classic Bernese Mountain Chalet-style architecture, two museums celebrating Swiss history, its famous festivals, and a wealth of specialty shops and restaurants serving up delicious, savory Swiss fare.

//

Swiss cuisine combines influences from the German, French, and North Italian, however its cuisine varies from region to region. Traditional dishes include cheese fondue, rösti (fried grated potatoes), Cordon bleu, and beef bourguignon.

Decadent Swiss chocolate is the perfect way to end a meal. Top area restaurants include

Chalet Landhaus Restaurant, New Glarus Hotel Restaurant, and Glarner Stube.

Pick one, then stroll through the New Glarus Woods State Park or the Sugar River State Trail to burn off the calories.



NEARBY RESORTS

This charming city is the perfect day trip when staying at WorldMark Galena or Club Wyndham Galena, or the resorts in the Wisconsin Dells.



GET CHEESY

"Swiss" cheese (as Americans know it) is actually just an imitation, not authentic. Try the real deal and savor Emmentaler, Gruyère, or Raclette cheese.

//



While you're dining, don't forget to sample some of Wisconsin's best craft beers from New Glarus Brewing Company. These brews are only sold in Wisconsin, and its Spotted Cow variety is a favorite of many visitors.



PHO
 Pho, a soup served with Vietnamese rice noodles, herbs, and meat, is the ultimate comfort food.



WESTMINSTER, California

You're Crazy Pho Food



HOME TO THE HIGHEST

concentration of Vietnamese Americans, the Little Saigon neighborhood of Westminster, California, bursts with Vietnamese culture. The neighborhood encompasses around 3 square miles of the city and boasts hundreds of restaurants and shops. It's best to appreciate this community on a walking tour.



NEARBY RESORTS

Club Wyndham Peacock Suites, WorldMark Anaheim, Club Wyndham Anaheim, Club Wyndham Dolphin's Cove, and WorldMark Dolphin's Cove.

French fare is a major influence in Vietnamese cuisine, with the traditional Banh Mi sandwich using crusty French baguette as its foundation. Pho, a soup served with Vietnamese rice noodles, herbs, and meat, is the ultimate comfort food. Some of the area's can't-miss restaurants include **Mai Phung, Ngu Binh Restaurant, and Brodard Restaurant.**

While in the area, stroll through the Asian Garden Mall, the largest majority

Vietnamese-owned and operated mall in America. The two-story mall boasts a wide variety of imported products, foods, and fun souvenirs. If you visit during

the annual Southern California Tet Festival, you are in for a treat. Celebrating the Lunar New Year, it is the largest celebration of its kind outside of Vietnam.



Vietnamese food is touted as some of the healthiest cuisines in the world,

featuring a balance of fresh herbs, meats, and a selective use of spices.



FRAMINGHAM, Massachusetts

Fall in Amor with Brazil Cuisine



LOCATED BETWEEN BOSTON AND

Worcester, Framingham, Massachusetts, is home to one of the largest Brazilian populations in the United States. Like the United States, Brazil is a melting pot, so its cuisine is heavily influenced by a variety of countries.

Breakfast is often fruit-based, so incorporating superfood açai in a smoothie bowl is the perfect way to start the day. In general, lunch is the largest and most filling meal of the day. Pão de Queijo, a delicious cheese bread, is perfect to split as an appetizer.

If you have a sweet tooth, you are in luck with plenty of tasty options. Brigadeiros are chocolate truffles popular at parties. Beijinho de Coco, or little kiss of coconut in Portuguese, is made with condensed milk and butter rolled in coconut flakes.



Many dishes use rice or beans as a base ingredient, and common meats include beef, pork, and different kinds of seafood and fish.



NEARBY RESORTS

Club Wyndham Crotched Mountain Resort in Franconstown, New Hampshire, Club Wyndham Bentley Brook in Hancock, Massachusetts, or any of the resorts in Newport, Rhode Island.



FEIJOADA, a bean stew typically made from black beans cooked slowly with pork or beef, is largely recognized as the national dish.



FREDERICKSBURG, Texas

Say, "Guten Tag"

 **THE SERENE**
backdrop of the Texas Hill Country makes Fredericksburg, Texas, a beautiful small town with breathtaking views, award-winning wineries, and authentic German food.

The city's historic Main Street is a mix of architectural styles, including original buildings dating back to the late 1800s, and now is home to boutiques, galleries, and restaurants. Visit Pioneer Museum Complex to learn about the area's history and what brought German settlers to Texas.

Typical German dishes include schnitzels, bratwurst, cabbage rolls, and steaks. Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte, or Black Forest Cake, makes for a decadent dessert, or go for a lighter option with a fruit pastry or German cheesecake. Notable area restaurants include **Friedhelm's Bavarian Inn, The Auslander Restaurant & Biergarten, Der Lindenbaum, and Otto's German Bistro.**



FULL PLATE
With hearty meat portions and rich, creamy sauces washed down with a pint of beer, traditional German food is hearty and rich.



Sample the best Texas Wine Country has to offer with more than 50 wineries in and around Fredericksburg.

There are plenty of local wine touring companies that can customize a half or full-day private itinerary.



NEARBY RESORTS

WorldMark Stablewood Springs Resort, WorldMark Marble Falls, WorldMark New Braunfels, WorldMark Austin, or Club Wyndham Austin.



TRAVEL THE WORLD IN ONE DAY

Why choose one destination when you can sample the best of 11 countries all in the course of an afternoon at Epcot's World Showcase in Orlando, Florida. Sip and stroll from country to country as you dine on the best food from countries like Japan, Italy, Mexico, and more. Be sure to check online for details about reservations and regulations.

FUN & GAMES

Food Slang

By Abigail Miller

→ **The United States is a melting pot of people from all over the world.** If you know anything about food, you'll know that people have unique names for the same food items across different regions of the country. Can you match the most common name with the regional name below?



Match these 8 foods to their regional names.

Write the number of the slang term in the talk bubble of the matching image.

1. Flapjacks

No matter what it's called, this tasty breakfast staple is all the same when you drizzle maple syrup on it. You may also hear Hotcakes or Johnnycakes.

2. Jimmies

This word usually describes the cylindrical kind, but people in Boston and Philadelphia use it for all chocolate or colored varieties.

3. Hoagie

This comes from an area of Philadelphia called Hog Island. The cooks there were known for this big Hog Island specialty, which eventually got shortened to "hoagie."

ALSO KNOWN AS:

Grinder -New England
Po'boy -Louisiana
"Sub" (as in submarine) - Nationwide
Hero -New York

4. Frappe

Be sure to order a frappe when you're vacationing in New England. They describe it as a frothy treat without ice cream!

5. Bismarck

Named after Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, this pastry's name was brought over by central European immigrants to the Midwest and even Boston.

6. Gravy

Italian Americans call their meat sauces "gravy" — just like the Americans.

7. Suckers

Midwest and the South refer to them as suckers — whether spherical or not.

8. Soda

Soda (It's a Northeast, California, and spots in Midwest thing.)

ALSO KNOWN AS:

Pop -Midwest, Canada
Coke -South

The Inside Scoop

→ Get the 411 on vacationing straight from the experts — your fellow owners.



WE ASKED

Tell us your tips for celebrating your favorite holiday while on vacation.



I book the suites for our family of 21, getting a 4 bedroom and 2 or 3 other suites as well, asking for them to be next to each other.

We make the meal plans and purchase the food. We plan our schedule for the week in advance, getting input from each family. We try to do activities, games, and talk times together every day, plus allow time for everyone to do their own relaxation too. The KEY is making it happen!"

→ **DEBBIE HERBSTER**
Indianapolis, IN
Owners since 1995



“ We always travel for Christmas — we need time together, not stuff!

So I pack a small fake tree and colored paper and markers to make ornaments, garland, etc. And cards, a board game, stockings, music, and cocoa. Even in Cabo San Lucas in 90 degrees, we DO Christmas like at home. Fun pajamas for everyone are a must — we have a photo album of all 19 annual trips that document our holiday traditions every year!"

→ **EMMA LEE** Greenville, SC • Owner since 1985



We travel to Glacier Canyon in the Wisconsin Dells every Christmas.

With all the water parks connected to the resort, much of your activity is planned for you. One of our daughters likes to cook, and she takes care of all of the meals in the spacious three-bedroom Presidential suite that she and her family stay in. We don't even go out to eat the whole time we are there. She cooks so well — we usually gain weight!"

→ **DENNIS EEKHOFF** Orange City, IA • Owner since 1994



Last September, my family and I met in Las Vegas for a long weekend to celebrate the 21st birthday of our youngest!

We used our timeshare as a space and opportunity to come together as a family and celebrate a milestone. We maintained some of our long-held traditions as a family, but created opportunity for new traditions as our family has changed being stretched across the U.S."

→ **KRISTINA S. BROWN**
Chicago, IL
Owner since 2001

GIVE YOUR INPUT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

What are your tips for an all-abilities vacation? Visit clubwyndham.com/insidescoop to submit your answer.



Meet Me in the Middle

→ **Families are frequently scattered all over the country.** And for Susan Wurster of East Dundee, Illinois, Pagosa Springs is the perfect midway point for her family to meet up and vacation together.

"I live in the Midwest, and my parents and sister live in Arizona. So we took a look at the map of Club Wyndham resorts to see where we could meet in the middle for a family reunion a few years ago, and Pagosa Springs, Colorado, was a perfect location. There was a total of seven in the group, and we booked a 'house' in the Eagle's Loft section. This option fit our mixed group of adults and teens perfectly, with two bedrooms and a loft with two queen beds. We all drove to Colorado, so we brought food to stock the kitchen, and

bicycles to ride around the resort area. The house had its own driveway — perfect for our three cars — and was right on a lake.

The weather that June was excellent for outdoor activities, and we sure packed them in. The San Juan River runs right through the town, and there are wonderful walking paths with shops and restaurants. The hot springs

area is right next to the river, and there is a fabulous resort with many different pools of the hot spring water — you can select the pool by temperature!

We rode bicycles around town, bought some food at a local shop, and had a peaceful lunch at a park along the river. We stopped for ice cream along the way back. It was fun to watch all the

people tubing down the river. We went on a horseback ride into the mountains, and took a 4x4 ride out to Silver Falls. We went on a river raft trip down the San Juan, where part of it actually went into New Mexico.

There are many places out of town to see. We drove out to Treasure Falls and Wolf Creek Pass. There was still some snow on the ground at





There are so many Club Wyndham locations to choose from, and
I can't wait to make new memories."

the pass, and the kids had a snowball fight. We took a day trip to Mesa Verde National Park and learned a lot about the people that lived there. We also drove the 'Million Dollar Highway' from Durango to Silverton and Ouray. It was spectacular!

The most memorable thing was that my mom and I took a special hot air balloon trip, and we were the only passengers in

the small basket with the pilot.

The kids have grown up since then, so now I am looking forward to planning a girl's trip for me and my sisters in the future. There are so many Club Wyndham locations to choose from, and I can't wait to make new memories."

PICTURED:
 Above: the family gathered around the lake. Right: special mother-daughter hot air balloon trip.

NEXT QUESTION

Where will you vacation next?

Whether or not it's on the books yet, plan out your next Club Wyndham vacation and tell us all about it.

Which resort will you stay at? What bucket list activities would you do? Who will you bring? Plan it all out on paper and share your vacation inspiration.

IF YOUR STORY IS SELECTED

it will be included in the next issue of *Destinations*.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- * Your entry must be submitted online. (Entries submitted by mail will not be accepted)
- * Your entry must be no more than 500 words.
- * Your entry must be accompanied by a photo.
- * Only one entry per owner will be accepted.
- * Agreement to official rules as well as authorization and release will be required.



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAR. 26
 To view full contest rules and submit your story, visit clubwyndham.com/shareyourstory.

MEET THE OWNERS:

Maureen & Rick Von Minden

» Owners Since: 2016

» VIP by Wyndham Tier: Silver



Owners Helping Owners

→ **Expert tips. Vacation stories. And owner-to-owner advice.**

Who better to learn the tricks of the Club Wyndham trade from than your fellow owners?



“A quick escape is great with Club Wyndham. And then, also, a planned, longer escape is great with Club Wyndham as well.”

Q. Why did you choose to become Club Wyndham owners?

A. Maureen: It was the right time in our lives. It was time for us to travel and explore new things. Our children were getting older and they could travel independently, too. We went to a few presentations and we'd already owned with RCI, but it was the right time to buy with Club Wyndham for us.

Q. What's your favorite thing about Club Wyndham resorts?

A. Rick: The escape, the people. I enjoy meeting other people, hearing experiences of going to different destinations. Maureen and I always enjoy traveling. It's just a way to continue to expand our knowledge and enjoy our escapes.

Q. What's the best way to get a reservation at a popular resort?

A. Maureen: Go to the website. Reserve early. With Club Wyndham you should reserve as soon as you think you might want to travel. It's always important to go

early for those reservations, especially at popular resorts, because they do tend to get booked up fast.

Q. What was your most memorable vacation with Club Wyndham?

A. Rick: I'd say all of them. I mean it's really hard to choose because we enjoy traveling, we enjoy Club Wyndham. Every experience we've ever had has always been positive.

Maureen: Every time we travel with Club Wyndham we do have wonderful, wonderful experiences and

never a dull moment, that's for sure. A lot of them were in the Smoky Mountains and Lake Lure.

Q. How do you plan for travel around your teaching schedule?

A. Maureen: We do a lot of traveling in the summer time as well as my vacation breaks. There are times that I will take a few days off and we'll travel to different locations. But Club Wyndham allows us to do that.

Rick: Yeah, a quick escape is great with Club Wyndham. And then, also, a planned, longer escape is great with Club Wyndham as well.

Q. What's your No. 1 tip for owners who are new to the VIP program?

A. Maureen: Owners who are new to the VIP program should always get educated. The most important thing is that you get educated with what you know and what opportunities are out there for you.

“
Go to the website, reserve early.

With Club Wyndham you should reserve as soon as you think you might want to travel.”

» **Hear more from Maureen and Rick** and watch other Owners Helping Owners videos in the Owner Guide section of clubwyndham.com.

2020 DESTINATIONS PHOTO CONTEST



Owners' Choice

→ With 81 Facebook likes by the voting deadline, Carole's photo was named Owners' Choice by you.



WHEEL OF COLOR



Carole A. Williams

Hometown: Ashburn, Virginia

Taken at Club Wyndham National Harbor in Washington, D.C.

Learn all about the new coffee in Resort Report on page 10.

Coffee Delights

By Abigail Miller

→ In honor of the new coffee in your resort suites, here's some inspiration for delicious treats to complement your favorite cup of joe in the morning, at snack time, or at the end of a meal.

Coffee + chocolate = a match made in heaven. Adding coffee to these traditional chocolate treats lifts them to divine heights. Take a look at the easy recipe below to make at home or on your next vacation.

SUITE EATS:

MOCHA TRUFFLES

These coffee-laced sweets make for the perfect afternoon pick-me-up.

Ingredients:

TRUFFLE:

1 (24 ounce) bag semi-sweet chocolate chips
8 ounces cream cheese, softened
3 tablespoons instant coffee granules
2 teaspoons water

COATING:

6 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 tablespoon shortening

Steps:

1. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper.

2. Melt chocolate chips in a microwave-safe glass bowl in 30-second intervals, stirring after each melting, for 1 to 3 minutes.

3. Mix cream cheese, coffee granules, and water into melted chocolate until smooth.

4. Chill chocolate mixture until firm enough to shape (about 30 minutes).

5. Shape chocolate mixture into 1-inch balls and place on prepared baking sheet. Chill truffles until firm, at least 1 to 2 hours.

6. To make the coating, melt chocolate chips and shortening in a microwave-safe glass bowl in 30-second intervals, stirring after each melting, for 1 to 3 minutes.

7. Dip truffles in the melted chocolate mixture and return to the waxed paper. Set aside until firm, at least 30 minutes.

Top it off. Finely chop your favorite nuts and sprinkle on for extra flavor.



Visit more than 20 artisanal cheesemakers during your tour of the Pacific Northwest.

Let Food & Drink Trails Be Your Guide

By Daniel Betancourt



→ The next time you're planning your vacation itinerary, look to these four lesser-known food and drink trails to fill your days in South Carolina, Arizona, Oregon, and Tennessee.

The Arizona Wine Trails

» You might not expect it in Arizona, but there are three distinct grape-growing wine regions in the Grand Canyon State. Tour the **Arizona Wine Trails** in Verde Valley, Sonoita, and Willcox.



Find hundreds of vineyard acres surrounded by mountains and national forests in Verde Valley. There are more than 25 wineries on this trail, most within 45 minutes of Sedona. Enjoy Spanish and Iberian varietals at **Winery 1912**. In southeastern Arizona, explore the hillside vineyards of the Sonoita

wine region. Take a shuttle from Tucson and visit **Charron Vineyards & Winery**, one of the oldest wineries in the area. You'll also find Willcox Wine Country in southeastern Arizona. Travel to **Golden Rule Vineyards** for locally-grown pistachios and more than 10 varieties of wine.



The Oregon Cheese Trail

» The **Oregon Cheese Trail** is your ultimate guide to tasty travels in the Pacific Northwest. Bite into the exceptional quality that put this cheesemaking region on the map.

Sample award-winning goat cheese at **Rivers Edge Chèvre**, just 25-minutes from Newport. This sustainable homestead offers a monthly selection of fresh cheeses. In Portland, stop by the **Cheese Bar & Market**. The nationally recognized cheese counter features more than 200 cheeses and a variety of artisanal products. Just outside of Portland, find farm-to-table dairy and cheese products at the **TMK Creamery**. Take a tour and learn more about the significance of dairy in the cheesemaking process.



The South Carolina Coastal BBQ Trail

» Sink your teeth into authentic southern barbecue on the **South Carolina Coastal BBQ Trail**. The Palmetto State is one of only a few states in the nation where you'll find all four basic types of barbecue sauce: vinegar and pepper, mustard, light tomato, and heavy tomato.

Drop by the **Bar-B-Que House** on Surfside Beach for a taste of all four varieties of barbecue sauce. This family-friendly restaurant features a hefty selection of hickory-smoked ribs, chicken, and more. If you're craving that distinct slow-cooked, smoky flavor, step inside

Brisket in North Myrtle Beach. Here you'll find not only their famous brisket, but also low-and-slow pork butt, chicken, turkey, and ribs. In Charleston, discover award-winning pork, slow-cooked over wood-chopped embers, at legendary **Rodney Scott's Whole Hog BBQ**.



The Tennessee Whiskey Trail

» Discover 30 distilleries and 800 miles of scenic Tennessee terrain on the **Tennessee Whiskey Trail**. The route is separated into three regions: East, Middle, and West Tennessee. You can traverse the entire trail end-to-end or stick to one region.

In the east, visit the **Tennessee Legend Distillery** in Sevierville. This distillery captures the essence of the Smoky Mountains with flavorful moonshines and whiskeys. Sample the Salted Caramel Whiskey for a sweet taste of smooth, golden whiskey. Journey to Middle Tennessee to find a region

teeming with award-winning spirits. Make a stop at the **Corsair Distillery**, the first craft distillery opened in Nashville since prohibition, and try the Corsair Triple Smoke American Single Malt Whiskey. In the west, imbibe artisanal spirits at the **Old Dominick Distillery** in Memphis, a family-owned, 1920s-era distillery.

OUT & ABOUT

Raise a Glass

By Jennifer Zajac

→ **Nothing lifts the spirits like a taste of the local terroir.**

These are the top drinking destinations, bar none.



lager than life: » Breweries

Rooftop Brewing Company

Seattle, Washington

Pull a pint of blood orange wheat beer at this popular local microbrewery, complete with a rooftop patio that's perfect for sipping and socializing.

Jackalope Brewing Company

Nashville, Tennessee

With two taproom locations in downtown Nashville, it's easy to two-step over to Jackalope for a fresh, creative craft brew like the Bearwalker maple-infused brown ale.

Kona Brewing Company

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

This iconic, family-owned Hawaii brewery serves up eco-friendly craft beers as well as refreshingly cool spiked seltzers in tropical flavors, like the fan-favorite POG (Passionfruit Orange Guava).

Can't make it to the islands? Kona Brewing Company's most popular brews are widely available across the country.



cider house rules: » Cideries

Cigar City Cider & Mead

Tampa, Florida • 25 miles from Clearwater

Located in historic Ybor, visit Cigar City for a unique selection of meads and ciders in their tasting room, including inspired flavors like spicy habanero and homemade apple pie.

Stowe Cider

Stowe, Vermont

Found on the Vermont Cider Trail, Stowe Cider is a must-stop. Beyond the classic hard cider, their taproom showcases a variety of unique, limited-time ciders like Blueberry Maple Syrup and Currant Plum.

Noble Cider

Asheville, North Carolina • 23 miles from Lake Lure

North Carolina's craft cider scene is booming, particularly in the town of Asheville. Head to Noble's downtown taproom to try classic, small batch, and seasonal flavors. Try the springtime staple: hard cider with a blueberry twist.



Smooth and Smoky
At Celebration Distillation try the Old New Orleans Amber Rum, featuring notes of rich cocoa and leather.



« *grape escapes:*
Wineries

« *free spirits:*
Distilleries

Desert Door Distillery

Driftwood, Texas (20 miles from Austin)

This chic Texas bar and distillery is the only place outside Mexico producing small batches of the versatile spirit sotol, a cousin of tequila and mezcal that's derived from the wild desert spoon plant.

Celebration Distillation

New Orleans, Louisiana

America's oldest premium rum distillery uses Louisiana sugarcane and molasses to create award-winning, barrel-aged blends.

Copper Fox Distillery

Williamsburg, Virginia

Copper Fox produces hand-crafted, innovative spirits using locally-sourced ingredients. Raise a glass of their specialty: a smoky whisky that's Scotch-inspired, but uniquely American.



«
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Date day in Texas Wine Country; Pinot Noir grapes in Willamette Valley; a fun cocktail with a sotol kick.

Texas Hill Country

San Antonio & Austin, Texas

With more than 50 wineries to explore between Austin and San Antonio, the hot, year-round climate in Texas Hill Country is ideal for growing Syrah and Tempranillo grapes.

Oregon Wine Country

Willamette Valley, Oregon (20 miles from Portland)

Folks flock to the Willamette Valley for the impressive Pinot Noir, but this mild, damp region south of Portland produces many other diverse varieties.

Missouri Wine Country

Hermann, Missouri (70 miles from Osage Beach)

About an hour northeast of the Ozarks is one of America's oldest wine regions. Visit the Adam Puchta Winery in Hermann to sample the fruits of this rich, Rhine Valley-like terroir.

Snack Attack

PACK THIS, NOT THAT

By Jennifer Zajac

→ Whether you're flying or road tripping, no traveler wants to get caught empty-handed when those heinous hunger pangs strike.

The trick? Think light and nourishing — resist the urge to pack snacks with high amounts of sugar, salt, or fiber, as these can leave you feeling sluggish or bloated. Save your precious suitcase space for sundries that aren't readily available in your suite. Here's what we suggest:

THINK AHEAD

Some destinations, like Hawaii and Canada, don't allow visitors to bring in certain food items, like meat or fresh fruits.

DO
Dark chocolate
Rich in antioxidants and satisfies your sweet tooth.

DON'T
Dried fruit
It is often more sugary than we think, and high in bloat-inducing fiber.

DO
Snack-size dips
Hummus or guacamole pair well with crackers or vegetable slices.

DON'T
Potato chips
Potato chips and other salty snacks can leave you feeling dehydrated.

DO
Nut-free energy or protein bar

DON'T
Mixed nuts
Other passengers may be allergic.

DO
String cheese
String cheese or Babybel are a good source of protein.

DON'T
Hard-boiled eggs

DO
Chamomile or ginger tea packets

DON'T
Instant coffee

DON'T FORGET
Respect your fellow travelers' noses and leave your leftovers at home.



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