

# CLUB TRAVELER

ISSUE 1, 2026

## Making Waves

Boating adventures  
worth climbing aboard



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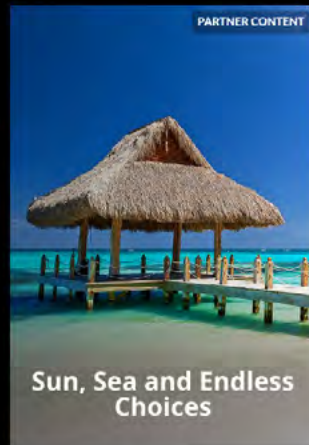


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PARTNER CONTENT

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# Welcome From Derek De Salvia

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Welcome to the first issue of Club Traveler Magazine for 2026! This year is already off to an incredible start. In January, we kicked things off at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions in Orlando, and in March, we celebrated the opening of [Tradimo Kyoto Gojo, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club](#) in Japan's cultural heart.

Thank you for trusting us with your most meaningful travel moments. Helping you create extraordinary memories is a privilege that continues to inspire every Team Member across our organization.

The Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, held from January 29 to February 1 at the Lake Nona Golf & Country Club, remains one of my favorite events of the year. Paired with our growing collection of HGV Ultimate Access experiences, it reflects our commitment to thoughtfully curated, one-of-a-kind moments. A new digital platform to explore and reserve these events will launch later this year, so stay tuned for details.

We also continue to expand the ways Members discover new destinations. Our Local Picks video series brings destinations to life through the eyes of the Team Members who know them best. In our latest installment, we head to Honolulu to explore local favorites that capture the true spirit of the island.

Speaking of new destinations, take a look at our current selection of Hosted Trips. These curated experiences help Members explore the world through transformative, small-group journeys led by expert hosts who plan every detail around discovery and connection. The upcoming 2027 Hosted Trips itineraries will feature culturally rich destinations and bucket-list landscapes designed to inspire deeper exploration.

In addition, we're equally excited about MyExplor+, your AI-powered travel companion on the unified Member website. By learning your preferences and interests, it recommends destinations and experiences you may not have considered — helping you uncover trips that match your travel style.

When inspiration turns into a travel plan, we offer protection options designed to provide flexibility should the unexpected arise and you need to cancel your reservation. You can add these options when booking or afterward, allowing you to travel with confidence knowing you have support if circumstances change.

As you look toward your next getaway, this issue is filled with inspiration — from sun-soaked water escapes to mountain adventures and some of the world's most iconic cities.

## Fresh Upgrades For Club Traveler

This year, we're introducing several refreshed and expanded departments designed to bring you even more inspiration.

"[Tasting Notes](#)" now explores global cuisine through the lens of culture and tradition — beginning with an exploration of Japanese flavors in honor of the opening of Tradimo Kyoto Gojo. "[Eat, Play, Stay](#)" offers beautifully curated snapshots of how to fully experience a single destination, starting with Vail, Colorado, in this issue. Finally, "[Pindrop Destinations](#)" highlights standout locales and hidden gems — with Cannes taking center stage this month.

## Smooth Sailing

Our cover story, "[Making Waves](#)," invites you to dive into unique boating experiences around the world, from England's canal boats to catamaran cruising around Hawaii's Big Island. With an expanding portfolio of exceptional properties, there are countless ways to enjoy the water from a new perspective.


## Adventure Awaits

For those craving an active escape, "[The Wander List: Grouse Mountain](#)" takes you step-by-step through Vancouver's legendary climb — from forested beginnings to breathtaking summit views. And in "[Postcard From New Orleans](#)," we spotlight the sights, sounds and flavors that define the Big Easy.

Whether you're a longtime reader or new to Club Traveler Magazine, we hope this issue inspires you to explore, connect and savor everything HGV has to offer. Hearing from Owners and Members about their journeys is something I value deeply. Thank you for being part of the Hilton Grand Vacations family — we look forward to helping you create unforgettable vacation memories in 2026 and beyond!

**Derek De Salvia**

Executive Vice President & Chief Customer Officer  
Hilton Grand Vacations



## Tasting Notes: Japan on the Plate

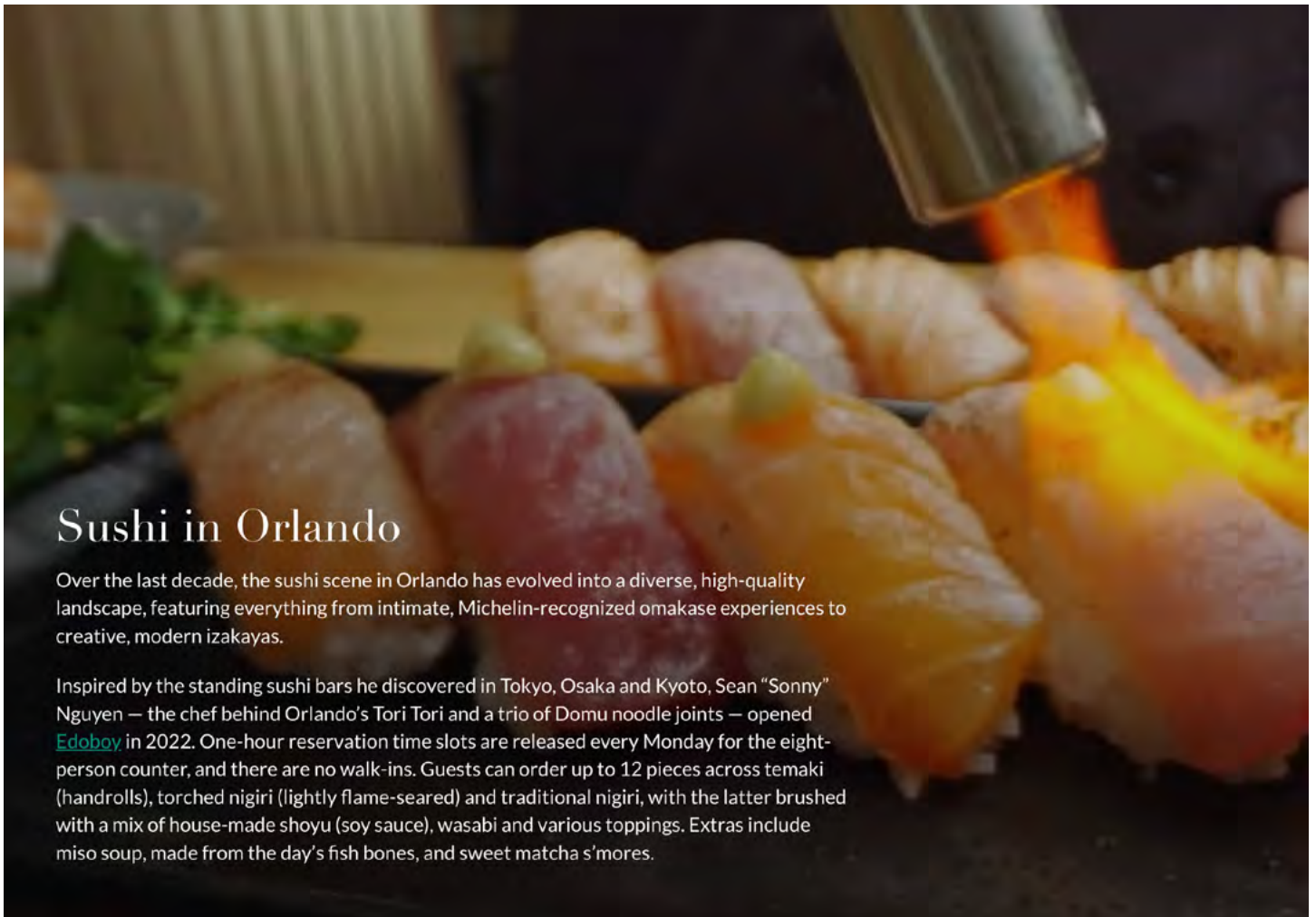
From temple-lined streets in Kyoto to neon-lit dining counters in Las Vegas, Honolulu and Orlando, Japanese cuisine continues to evolve and inspire. At its heart is Kyoto — Japan's cultural capital — where centuries-old techniques meet a new generation of chefs reimagining local ingredients with a fresh perspective. To mark the opening of our new property in the city, we explore the people, places and philosophies shaping Japanese dining today, at home and abroad. Discover where to eat, what to try and why Kyoto remains the starting point for it all.



## The Kyoto Restaurant Scene

This city might be renowned as the birthplace of kaiseki — a series of delicate small courses, each a work of art — but its dining culture is anything but static.

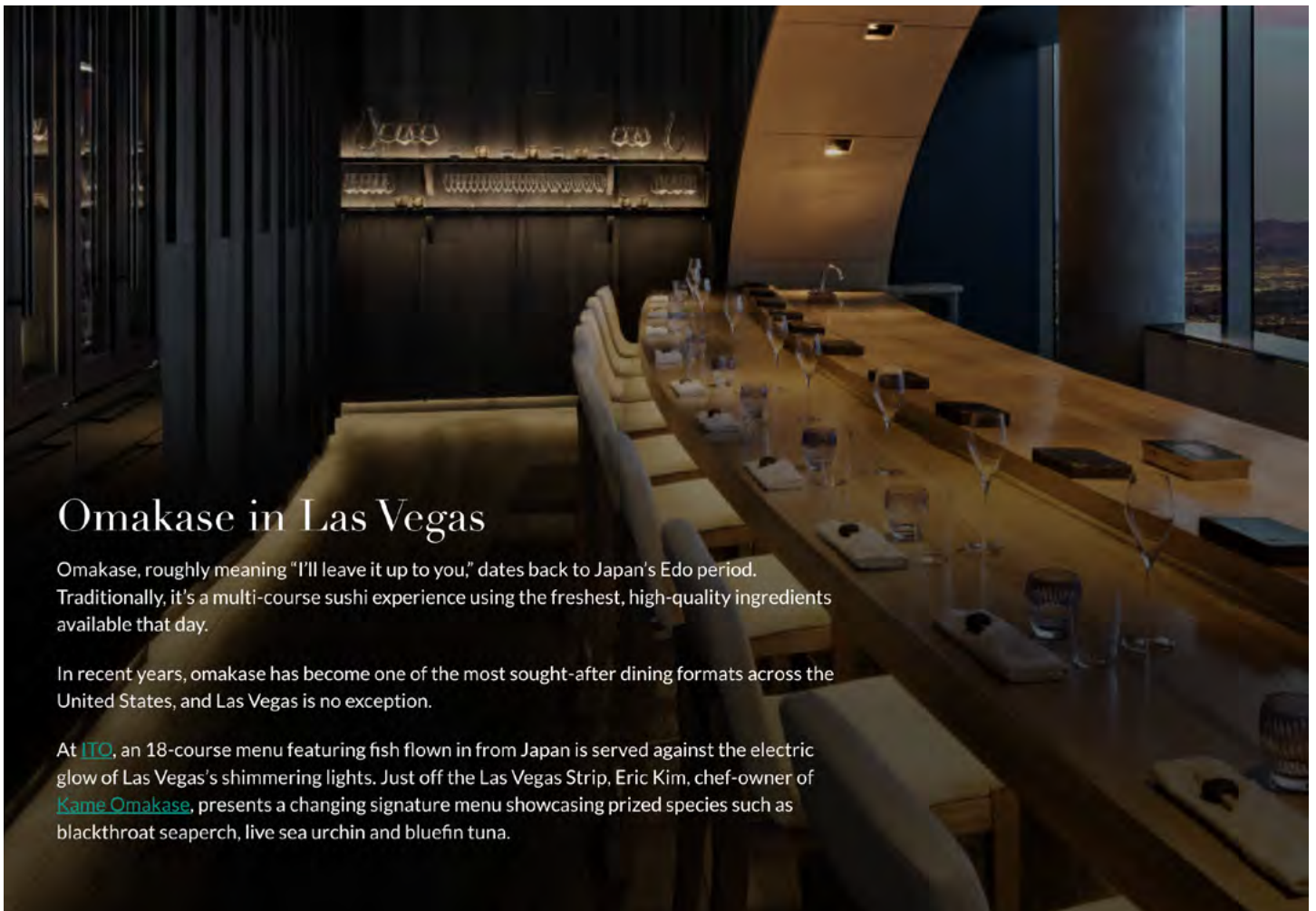
Wood-fired sourdough pizzas made with regional flours and toppings like butterbur sprouts headline chef Yoshihiro Imai's tasting menu at [Monk](#). At farm-to-table restaurant [Tan](#), produce grown two hours north in Kyotango shines in dishes like the lunchtime rice bowl with tempura conger eel and wild mountain vegetables. At [Sonoba](#), fans line up for Kento Yoshida's soba noodle specials with bamboo shoots or sudachi.



## Sushi in Orlando

Over the last decade, the sushi scene in Orlando has evolved into a diverse, high-quality landscape, featuring everything from intimate, Michelin-recognized omakase experiences to creative, modern izakayas.

Inspired by the standing sushi bars he discovered in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto, Sean “Sonny” Nguyen — the chef behind Orlando’s [Tori Tori](#) and a trio of [Domu](#) noodle joints — opened [Edoboy](#) in 2022. One-hour reservation time slots are released every Monday for the eight-person counter, and there are no walk-ins. Guests can order up to 12 pieces across temaki (handrolls), torched nigiri (lightly flame-seared) and traditional nigiri, with the latter brushed with a mix of house-made shoyu (soy sauce), wasabi and various toppings. Extras include miso soup, made from the day’s fish bones, and sweet matcha s’mores.

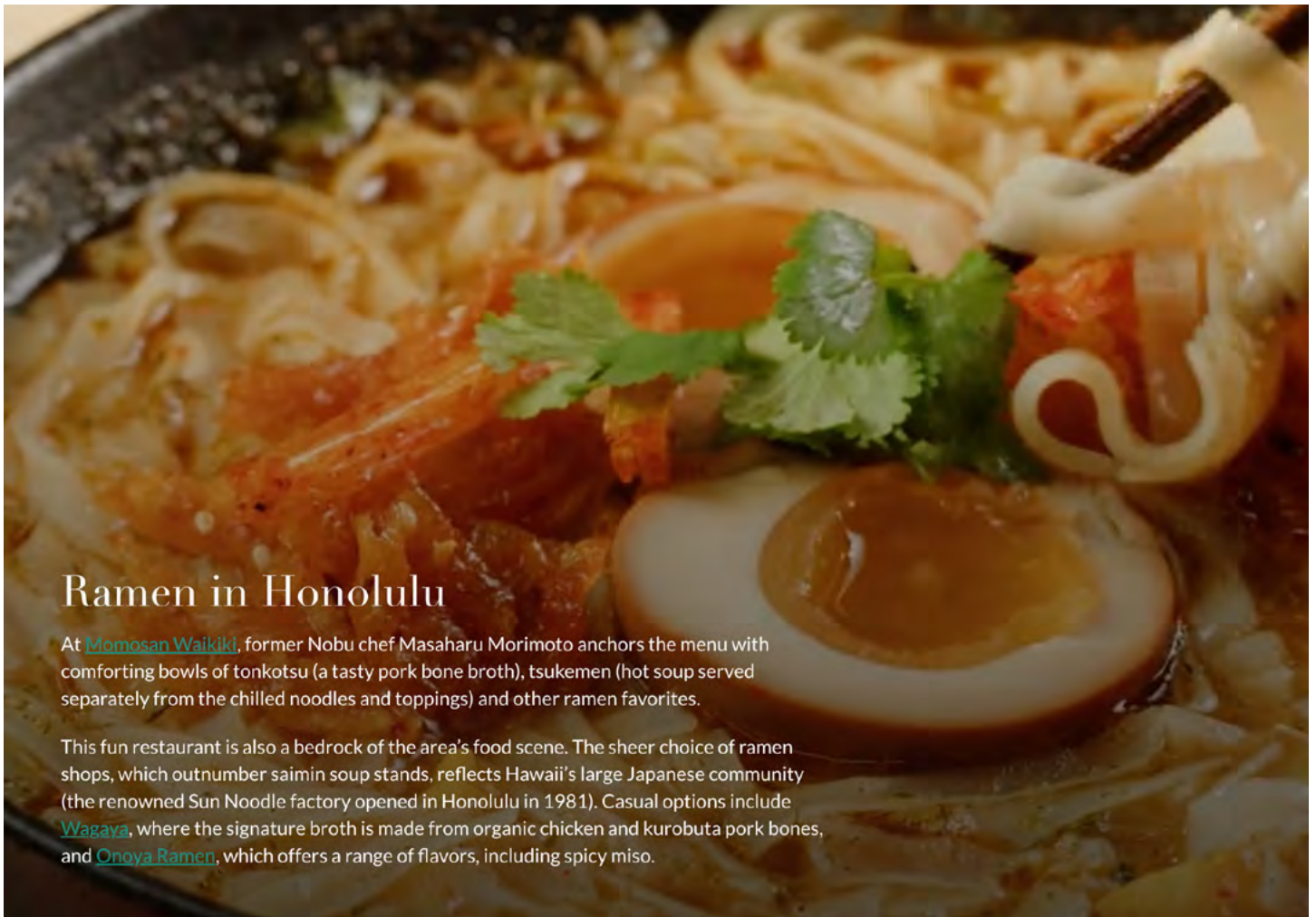


## Omakase in Las Vegas

Omakase, roughly meaning “I’ll leave it up to you,” dates back to Japan’s Edo period. Traditionally, it’s a multi-course sushi experience using the freshest, high-quality ingredients available that day.

In recent years, omakase has become one of the most sought-after dining formats across the United States, and Las Vegas is no exception.

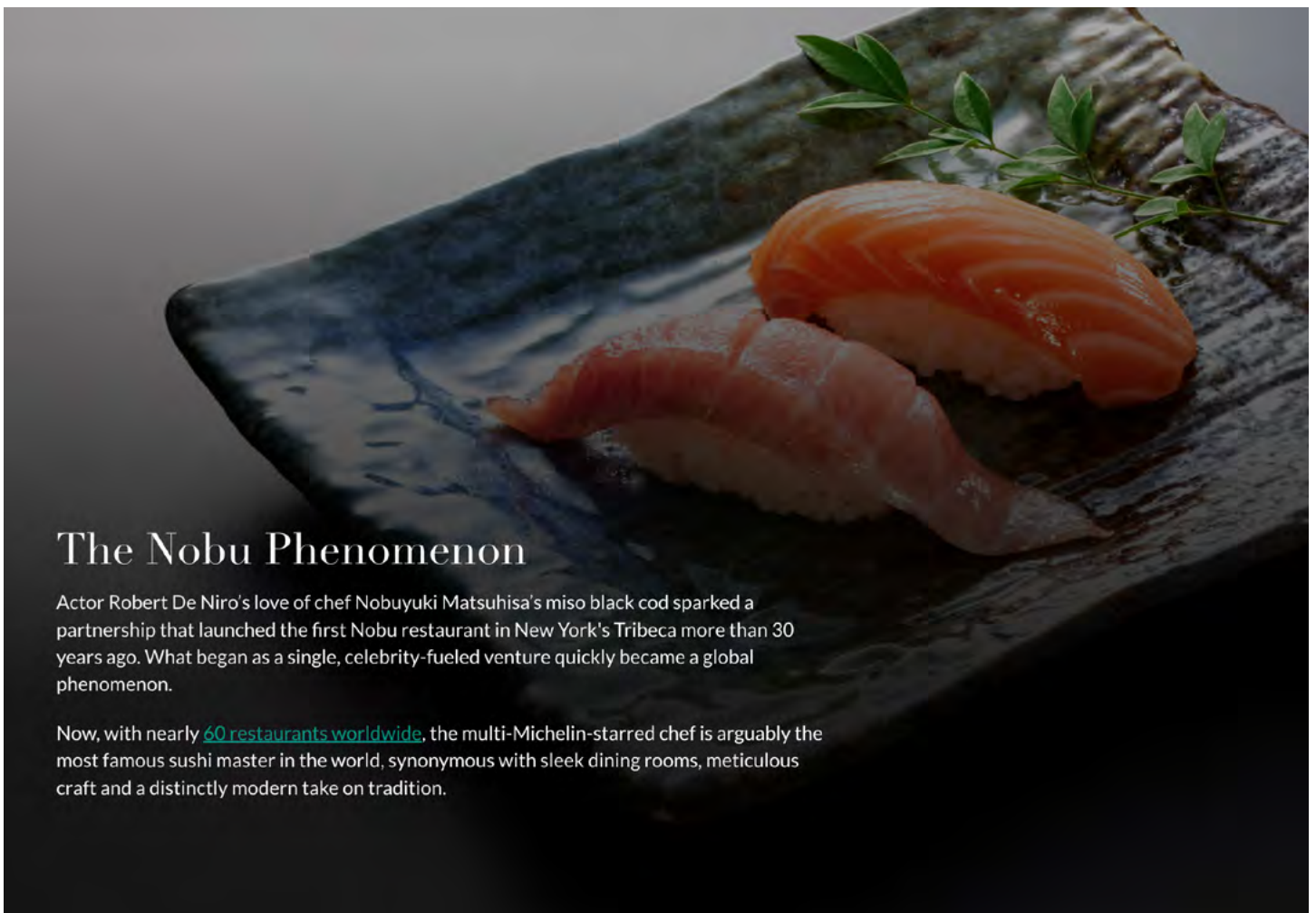
At [ITO](#), an 18-course menu featuring fish flown in from Japan is served against the electric glow of Las Vegas’s shimmering lights. Just off the Las Vegas Strip, Eric Kim, chef-owner of [Kame Omakase](#), presents a changing signature menu showcasing prized species such as blackthroat seaperch, live sea urchin and bluefin tuna.



## Ramen in Honolulu

At [Momosan Waikiki](#), former Nobu chef Masaharu Morimoto anchors the menu with comforting bowls of tonkotsu (a tasty pork bone broth), tsukemen (hot soup served separately from the chilled noodles and toppings) and other ramen favorites.

This fun restaurant is also a bedrock of the area's food scene. The sheer choice of ramen shops, which outnumber saimin soup stands, reflects Hawaii's large Japanese community (the renowned Sun Noodle factory opened in Honolulu in 1981). Casual options include [Wagaya](#), where the signature broth is made from organic chicken and kurobuta pork bones, and [Onoya Ramen](#), which offers a range of flavors, including spicy miso.



## The Nobu Phenomenon

Actor Robert De Niro's love of chef Nobuyuki Matsuhisa's miso black cod sparked a partnership that launched the first Nobu restaurant in New York's Tribeca more than 30 years ago. What began as a single, celebrity-fueled venture quickly became a global phenomenon.

Now, with nearly [60 restaurants worldwide](#), the multi-Michelin-starred chef is arguably the most famous sushi master in the world, synonymous with sleek dining rooms, meticulous craft and a distinctly modern take on tradition.

# Where to Stay



All conceptual images. Features and amenities subject to change without notice.

## Kyoto

[Tradimo Kyoto Gojo, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club](#) places you in the heart of Kyoto's historic Gojo district, moments from Nishiki Market's centuries-old food stalls and the refined shopping along Shijo Street. One-bedroom Suites blend Japanese minimalism with full kitchens, while the location delivers easy access to Nijo Castle's imposing gates and the serene grounds of Sento Imperial Palace — making it an ideal base for exploring both ancient temples and Michelin-starred dining.



## Orlando

Close to Orlando's flourishing sushi scene, [Orlando's Sunshine Resort™](#) offers contemporary, spacious Suites — the perfect retreat after exploring standout spots like Seito Sushi or intimate, eight-seat omakase counters such as Sushi Saint. Following a day of dining discoveries or theme park excitement, retreat to your Suite to relax in the whirlpool tub and screened balcony.



## Las Vegas

Studios, Suites and Villas at [Polo Towers, a Hilton Vacation Club](#) come equipped with full kitchens, though you may find yourself eating out more than in when the city's most revered sushi counters are just minutes away. Between culinary adventures, enjoy the rooftop pool's stunning views and the relaxed, casino-free atmosphere.



## Hawaii

As part of Hilton Hawaiian Village, [The Grand Islander, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club](#) offers an extra special, indulgent escape with spa-like bathrooms and oversized balconies. Step directly onto the sand for outrigger canoe surfing or paddle out to Turtle Canyon's offshore reef to snorkel alongside green sea turtles and tropical fish. Nearby Sans Souci Beach is one of Waikiki's best spots for shore-entry snorkeling.



## New York

[The Quin, a Hilton Club](#) offers spacious accommodations steps away from exceptional dining in Midtown Manhattan and close to Nobu Downtown. In Chicago, the elegant Suites at [Hotel Blake](#) by Chicago's Loop are steps from acclaimed eateries — perfect for pairing a Nobu visit with other culinary adventures.

Explore exciting foodie escapes with Hilton Grand Vacations.

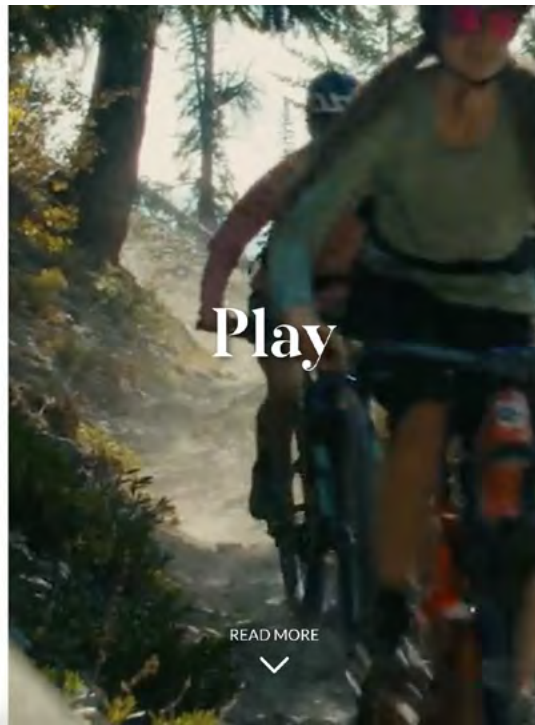
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### Member Resort Availability

	Bluegreen Vacation Club	Bluegreen Vacation Club With HGV Max	HGVClub	HGVClub With HGV Max	The Club	The Club With HGV Max	Extraordinary Escapes	Extraordinary Escapes With HGV Max
Hotel Blake	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Orlando's Sunshine Resort™	✓	✓						
Polo Towers, a Hilton Vacation Club		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
The Grand Islander, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club			✓	✓		✓		✓
The Quin, a Hilton Club			✓	✓		✓		✓
Tradimo Kyoto Gojo, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club			✓	✓		✓		✓



Eat



Play

READ MORE



Stay

## Vail

This Alpine-style resort in Colorado comes into its own in the lull between ski season and summer's festival buzz, when spring is in the air and the crowds have dispersed

### Eat

Vail's dining scene easily rises to the occasion. For polished Italian with contemporary flair, Tavernetta is a standout, serving handmade pasta and wood-fired dishes in a stylish, Milanese-inspired space that hums from late afternoon into evening. Almresi answers with Bavarian-specialties in a cozy, timber-lined room. Order schnitzel or fondue, settle in with a local beer and embrace the feeling of an alpine hideaway.

### Play

As the snow retreats, Vail swaps skis for sun without losing its mountain magic. Its traffic-free village is easy to explore on foot — a loop of boutiques, galleries and café terraces ideal for people-watching. Ride the gondola for views of Alpine meadows beginning to bloom, and varied hiking trails, from gentle strolls along Gore Creek to more adventurous hikes with sweeping views of the Gore Range. Spring also signals the start of fly-fishing season and the reopening of mountain biking routes.

### Stay

Set along the rushing waters of Gore Creek, [Bluegreen's StreamSide at Vail](#) offers a peaceful retreat with village access just a short walk away. The resort feels comfortably secluded, making it easy to unwind after a day outdoors. Suites are designed for longer stays, featuring full kitchens, relaxed living areas and a clean, mountain-modern feel. End the day in the heated pool or hot tubs as dusk settles over the valley.

Discover vacations in Vail and beyond with Hilton Grand Vacations.

Visit [bluegreenowner.com](https://bluegreenowner.com) or [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](https://club.hiltongrandvacations.com) to book now!

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Bluegreen's StreamSide at Vail	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓



# Making Waves

From laid-back pontoons in Miami to the slow canal cruises in rural England and the ritzy on-board luxury of a Caribbean cruise, Hilton Grand Vacations opens the door to boating adventures worth climbing aboard.

Traveling by water offers a completely different way to experience the world, sharpening the senses and bringing destinations into view from lesser-explored angles. Whether you imagine yourself skimming across turquoise seas or drifting through centuries-old waterways, there's a waterborne adventure to match every mood.






## A Fresh Perspective on Miami's Shoreline

Easygoing and spacious, pontoon boats are ideal for seeing a new side of Miami's waterways with family, friends and even pets (many pontoons are dog-friendly). These flat-decked crafts offer a front-row seat to glossy marinas and waterfront neighborhoods, where yachts and mansions share the shoreline.

With plenty of room to stretch out, swim or cast a line, the open deck also allows for al fresco dining, photography or simply relaxing with a good book as the city glides by. As captain for the day, you're free to drop anchor for a picnic or pull up to a waterside restaurant such as [Kiki on the River](#) for a Greek feast. Whether you're navigating lively harbors or quieter stretches of open water, a pontoon outing captures the Miami experience at its most carefree.

*Where to Stay* 

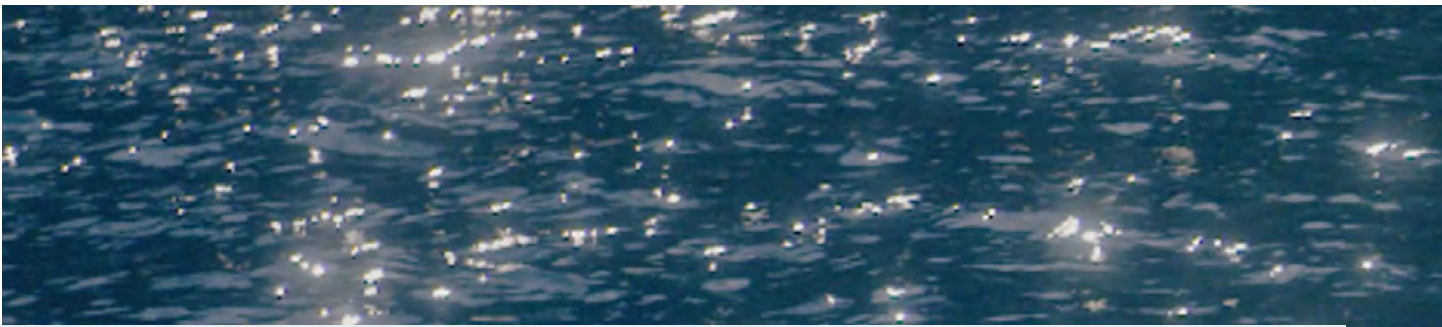
## *Where to Stay*

[Crescent on South Beach, a Hilton Vacation Club](#) is a boutique Art Deco resort in the heart of South Beach's Historic District, offering spacious 1- and 2-Bedroom Suites with fully equipped kitchens and private balconies. Steps from the beach, it's perfectly placed for shopping, dining, nightlife and sun-soaked relaxation.

**Book Here:** [Boatsetter Miami/Fort Lauderdale pontoon rentals](#)  
(Create an account and use code HGV2026 to get a 5% discount)



**Crescent on South Beach, a Hilton Vacation Club**

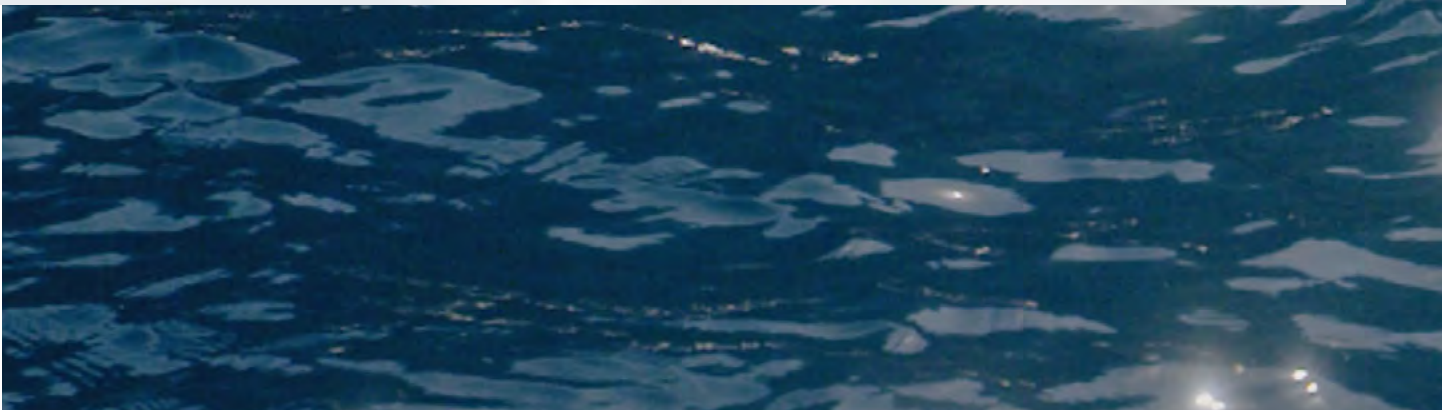


## Catamaran Around The Big Island, Hawaii

The turquoise waves and volcanic landscapes of Hawaii's Big Island provide a stunning backdrop for a catamaran adventure on the open ocean. For beginners or families, choose a half-day trip to explore the shallow coral reefs of Kealakekua Bay Marine Sanctuary. Full-day excursions could include visits to pristine secluded beaches like Makalawena, exploring caves and crystal-clear coves filled with colorful marine life.

Knowledgeable guides share insights into local ecosystems, Hawaiian history and volcanic geology, making this a spectacular and educational day on the water.

*Where to Stay* 



## *Where to Stay*

[Ocean Tower, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club](#) is set on the Kohala Coast within Hilton Waikoloa Village. This family-friendly resort offers Studios and multi-Bedroom Suites with full kitchens and private balconies. Members can enjoy pools, a snorkeling lagoon, beaches, dining, golf, canal boats, trams and endless adventures.

**Book Here:** [Sea Island Catamaran Tours](#)



**Ocean Tower, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**



## Explore Shakespearean England by Canal Boat

Experience England at the gentle pace of a canal boat, winding past peaceful countryside scenes and navigating historic locks. The route to Stratford-upon-Avon lets you moor at waterside pubs like the historic Hatton Arms for a pint or a traditional Ploughman's lunch. You'll also pass through picturesque villages and historic landmarks.

This hands-on adventure requires no boating license, and with a top speed of just four miles per hour, you'll have time to fully savor the timeless rural charm.

*Where to Stay* 

## *Where to Stay*

[Wychnor Park Country Club](#) is a serene English country retreat on 55 acres of rolling hills, just over an hour's drive from Stratford-upon-Avon. Enjoy indoor swimming, tennis, gardens and on-site dining before unwinding in spacious 1-, 2- or 3-Bedroom Suites with home comforts and picturesque countryside views.

**Book Here:** Bluegreen and HGVClub can book via [RCI Canal Boat Rentals](#). Members of The Club can book by searching "canal boat" in the drop-down menu on the [main Member website](#).



**Wychnor Park Country Club**



## Charter a Fishing Vessel From St. Petersburg

Chartering a private fishing vessel on Florida's Gulf Coast blends adventure and wildlife spotting with moments of ocean calm. Anna Maria Island's sunlit shoreline is known for frequent sightings of dolphins and manatees, as well as plenty of opportunities for that big catch.

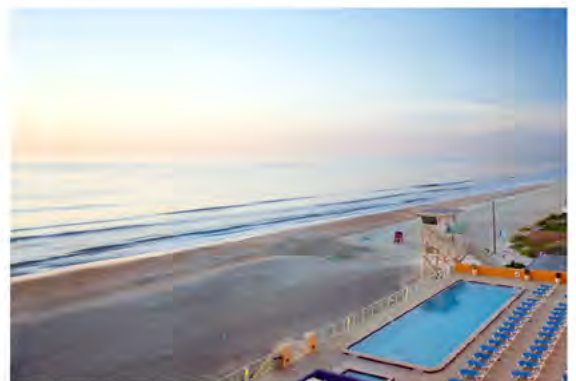
Most boats are equipped with modern navigation and fish-finding technology, and an experienced captain ensures a smooth, safe experience for anglers of all levels. Bring snacks, play your favorite tunes and contemplate your next catch before enjoying the sunset. Stop occasionally near quiet beaches to spot shorebirds or simply take in the Gulf's shimmering waters. It's a perfect day trip for families, friends or couples looking to connect with Florida's marine life and each other.

*Where to Stay* 

## *Where to Stay*

[Via Roma Beach Resort](#) brings a touch of Mediterranean style to Florida's Gulf Coast. 1- and 2-Bedroom Suites have ocean views and spacious living areas. Guests can enjoy access to a beachside pool, water sports and family-friendly activities.

**Book Here:** [Boatsetter Anna Maria Island Fishing Charters](#)





## HGV Hosted Trips

HGV Hosted Trip cruises blend culture, history, cuisine and relaxation. River Seine itineraries visit Normandy's D-Day beaches and other historic landmarks, enriched by insights from a local historian. Between ports, explore riverside towns like Conflans, follow in Van Gogh's footsteps, sample regional specialties such as French crepes and fine wines or soak up the quiet rhythms of river life while cycling through Le Havre or strolling Rouen's medieval quarter.

Other 2026 itinerary highlights include New England and Canada, tracing the fall foliage along harbors and coastal towns. Looking ahead, 2027 introduces new routes through the Greek islands, Croatia, Italy and an Alaska Cruise Tour – all offering a curated balance of discovery and time to savor the journey.

**Book here:** Visit the Hosted Trips page on the [Bluegreen Member website](#) or the [unified Member website](#) for all other Clubs.



## All Aboard a Cruise Ship

Modern cruising goes far beyond simply sailing between destinations, pairing immersive port experiences with the luxurious amenities of today's mega-ships. Days at sea balance family-friendly fun – such as waterslides, climbing walls and standout dining – with itineraries that invite deeper cultural discovery.

In the Caribbean, Guests explore ancient Mayan sites in Cozumel, encounter stingrays in Grand Cayman and drift through mystical cave systems in Belize. Beyond the region, sailing opens doors to Asia's contrasts, from Vietnam's historic Cu Chi Tunnels to the floating markets of Bangkok and Singapore's striking skyline – transforming ports into unforgettable, multi-generational experiences.

**Book here:** Visit the [Bluegreen Member website](#) or the unified Member website for all other Clubs: [HGVClub](#), [HGVClub with HGV Max](#), [The Club/Extraordinary Escapes](#).

Discover more vacations on the water with Hilton Grand Vacations.

Visit [bluegreenowner.com](http://bluegreenowner.com) or [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](http://club.hiltongrandvacations.com) to book now!

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Boatsetter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crescent on South Beach, a Hilton Vacation Club		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Hosted Trips	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ocean Tower, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club			✓	✓		✓		✓
Via Roma Beach Resort	✓	✓						
Wychnor Park Country Club					✓	✓		

POSTCARD FROM

# New Orleans

Make the most of New Orleans with our photo guide to the best of the Big Easy

Words by Jonathan Thompson

Photography by Jess Kearney

## Order Cocktails at Carousel Bar

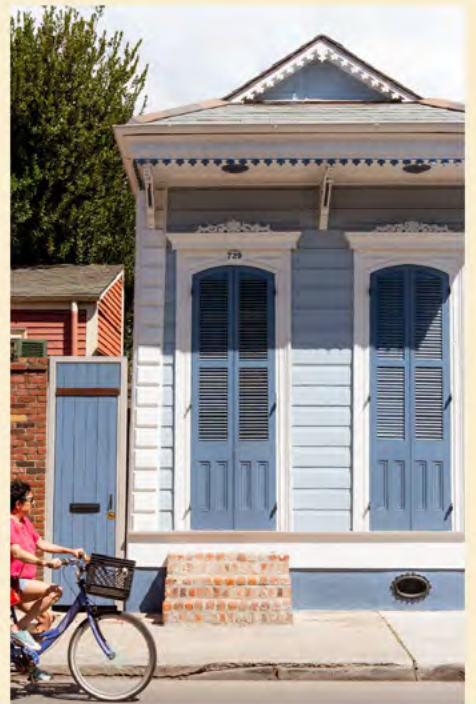
Part drinking establishment, part fairground ride, the legendary Carousel Bar at Hotel Monteleone has been a New Orleans staple since 1949, and it's just as enchanting today. After grabbing a spot at the revolving 25-seat bar, the traditional order is a Vieux Carré whiskey cocktail. The real trick? Making each drink last a full 15-minute turn and recognizing when your head starts spinning faster than the bar.





## Wander the French Quarter

Set aside a few hours to stroll through New Orleans' celebrated Gallic grid, with its labyrinthine lanes, tightly packed Creole townhouses, wrought-iron balconies and tranquil courtyards. Take in the stately St. Louis Cathedral and lively Jackson Square before browsing the quirky shops and street performers along Royal Street — and the unique arts and crafts of the historic 18th-century French Market.





### Savor New Orleans Classics at Brennan's

Serving delicious Creole-inspired food for more than 75 years, Brennan's is a true French Quarter icon. Situated in its signature pink building on Royal Street, the restaurant is famed not only for local delicacies like Eggs Sardou and turtle soup, but also as the birthplace of bananas foster, a fiery Louisiana treat flambéed tableside for you.





## Ride the Garden District Streetcars

You could easily spend an entire day riding New Orleans' iconic streetcars, but the leafy avenues of the Garden District are a particular treat. Hop on and off among the grand homes and hip boutiques before stopping for lunch at the legendary Commander's Palace on Washington Avenue. Here you'll find haute Creole cuisine served to live jazz music in a stunning Victorian mansion.



## Bite Into Beignets at Café du Monde

New Orleanians love their sugar-dusted beignets: hot, soft, square-shaped donuts without a hole. The classic place to enjoy them is Café du Monde on Decatur Street, which has been frying up these sweet treats since 1862. They come in orders of three and are best paired with rich, dark-roasted chicory coffee.



## Admire the Bywater Street Art

Thanks to a recent influx of artists and creatives, the formerly run-down Bywater enclave is now one of the hippest neighborhoods in town. Wander through the riverside streets in search of vibrant murals, stenciled poems and abstract designs that bring the district's colorful spirit to life.





### Pay Your Respects at Preservation Hall

A mecca for music lovers, Preservation Hall has been showcasing traditional New Orleans jazz for more than 60 years. The intimate music hall on St. Peter Street is one of the city's most beloved, hosting several 45-minute performances a day — and it's a sight to behold in full flow. Just remember your dancing shoes: It's hard to sit still in this place.



### Indulge in New Orleans' Signature Cuisine

No trip to New Orleans is complete without trying the city's most iconic dishes. Start with a po'boy at Parkway Bakery and Tavern, one of the oldest purveyors of this beloved sandwich invented for striking streetcar workers in the 1920s. The overstuffed fried shrimp and gravy-soaked roast beef versions are local legends. Then head to Heard Dat Kitchen in Central City for gumbo — the rich Louisiana stew brimming with shrimp, chicken, sausage and "a crazy amount of spices." While you're there, don't miss the lobster mashed potatoes and barbecue shrimp fries.





## Experience the Nightlife of Frenchman Street

While Bourbon Street may be more famous (and raucous), locals flock to Frenchman Street for its authentic music-driven bar scene and artsy cocktail lounges. Located in the Marigny neighborhood, it's lively and endlessly strollable. Follow the music and laughter to iconic venues like The Spotted Cat and Snug Harbor, or browse the nightly Frenchmen Art Bazaar, an open-air market showcasing local artists.





**Unwind in the Heart of City Park**  
 The beloved vast green oasis is known for its ancient live oak trees draped in lichen and scenic lagoons. It's also home to the New Orleans Museum of Art, Sculpture Garden, Botanical Gardens and family attractions like Carousel Gardens and Storyland.

## Where to Stay

Tall, elegant and stylish, [The Marquee](#) combines sweeping views of New Orleans with an unbeatable location in the heart of the Theater District. Perched at the edge of both the iconic French Quarter and the lively Central Business District, it offers a peaceful retreat from the boisterous buzz of the Big Easy. Along with well-appointed, generously-sized Villas, the showstopper is the 17th-floor rooftop terrace — complete with an open-air pool and firepit for nighttime lounging.



**The Marquee** is just steps away from New Orleans' legendary music, cuisine and culture

Discover New Orleans and beyond with Hilton Grand Vacations.

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The Marquee	✓	✓						

The Wander List

# Vancouver's Steepest Challenge

Scaling the heights of Grouse Mountain is a Vancouver rite of passage and one of its most rewarding experiences for visitors

Words: Jonathan Thompson



It's funny how many cities feature a challenging climb on their must-do lists, from the Sydney Harbor Bridge to Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh. But one destination stands above all others in the ascension stakes: Vancouver and its infamous "Grouse Grind." Nicknamed "Mother Nature's Stairmaster," the lung-busting Grind is a notoriously steep hike — 2,600 feet of vertical ascent in just 1.55 miles — up the face of Grouse Mountain on the city's northern outskirts.

Despite the steep gradient, completing the Grind is a milestone for both visitors and locals, with the fittest Vancouverites even using it as a weekly workout. Professional athletes train here year-round — on foot and on skis — while Hollywood celebrities often make appearances during film shoots. Among them are Ryan Reynolds, Russell Crowe and Matt Damon, and they'll likely be joined by a who's who of soccer stars when the World Cup comes to town this June. The trail is open seasonally for hiking from May to October.

Encouraged by the fact that roughly 800 people attempt the Grouse Grind each day, I lace up my trail shoes to join the clambering masses during a summer visit to British Columbia. The first thing to note about the climb is that it truly earns its nickname. The route to the summit involves 2,830 "steps," some so tall that you need to use your hands. In comparison, the Empire State Building is a challenging climb at 1,860 steps, but they're all nice and even.

The trail was carved out of the hill's southwest face by mountaineers in the early 1980s and begins gently enough, despite the ominous red sign warning: "Challenging! Steep Terrain. Rough, Uneven Trail Surface!" The ascent is neatly divided into four quarters, with most beginners reaching the top in around two hours (the current record is a frankly ridiculous time of 23:48).

The first quarter is genuinely enjoyable, as three friends and I hike the trail through a swaying, sun-dappled forest. But the conversation tapers off as we approach the halfway point. Soon, all chatter is replaced by panting as the path becomes a vertical onslaught.

Like Mount Everest (and it feels that way during the third quarter), the Grouse Grind has faced complaints about too many climbers. It is undeniably busy this summer morning of my visit, yet I find the constant presence of fellow climbers strangely calming. Red, puffy faces nod encouragement as we pass; others share candy and glucose tablets. The strongest hikers mutter words of solidarity and commiseration in equal measure as they breeze past us.



The final quarter, where the trail becomes an uneven scramble over rock, mud and roots, is the toughest of all, acknowledged by another official warning sign: "We Didn't Say This Was Going To Be Easy!" By now, though, the path isn't the only thing that's breathtaking. As the gnarled trail twists upward, the trees give way to tantalizing glimpses of the view beyond. Beneath us, ocean-fringed Vancouver glimmers in all its metropolitan grandeur.



When we finally break out of the forest and spot the gondola station of Grouse Mountain Resort, my thighs are screaming and my calves feel like rubber. I collapse at the top of the Grind, pulse still racing, to drink in the views of Mount Baker to the southeast and Vancouver Island to the west. We've made it to the top in a respectable 98 minutes — not bad for a group of untrained out-of-towners. To celebrate, we settle down with beers in hand, quickly followed by some well-earned burgers.

Hiking back down the mountain is prohibited, so after another beer (purely for recovery purposes), we head for the gondola. Floating above Vancouver's sea-to-sky panorama during the ride back down feels even sweeter now that we're fully-fledged Grinders. At least until someone points out that we could have simply taken the cable car up in the first place.

## Where to Stay

While exploring Vancity, an ideal base is [Embarc Vancouver](#). This sleek, modern resort is in a prime, walkable location at the heart of the action and has cozy condo-style Suites in multiple configurations. What truly sets it apart, though, is its extensive list of amenities, including on-site dry cleaning, an indoor lap pool, a fitness center and a hot tub.



At **Embarc Vancouver**, enjoy great city views before setting foot on the mountain

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Embarc Vancouver				✓		✓	✓	✓



## Pindrop Destination: Cannes

As the French seaside icon celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Cannes film festival, we put the spotlight on the best places to go

Words by Rick Jordan Illustration by Antoine Corbinau

Every May, the glamorous Mediterranean town rolls out the red carpet for its world-famous film festival, which will be popping Champagne for a landmark 80th anniversary in 2026. But Cannes keeps its A-list glow year-round. At its heart is the palm-lined Boulevard de la Croisette, with storied palace hotels on one side and white-sand beaches on the other — the perfect setting for a spring or summer escape by the sea. Here are our highlights (tuxedos not required).



### La Cantine Provençale

It's possible to spend a small fortune dining out in Cannes, but La Cantine — opened just a few years ago with chef Atanas Mindev at the helm — is a charming little bistro that won't break the bank. Slide into a seat at one of the banquettes inside or a cane chair on the terrace and choose from an artful menu that stirs up Mediterranean ingredients like fennel, lamb, sea bass and figs. Save space for the chestnut tiramisu dessert.



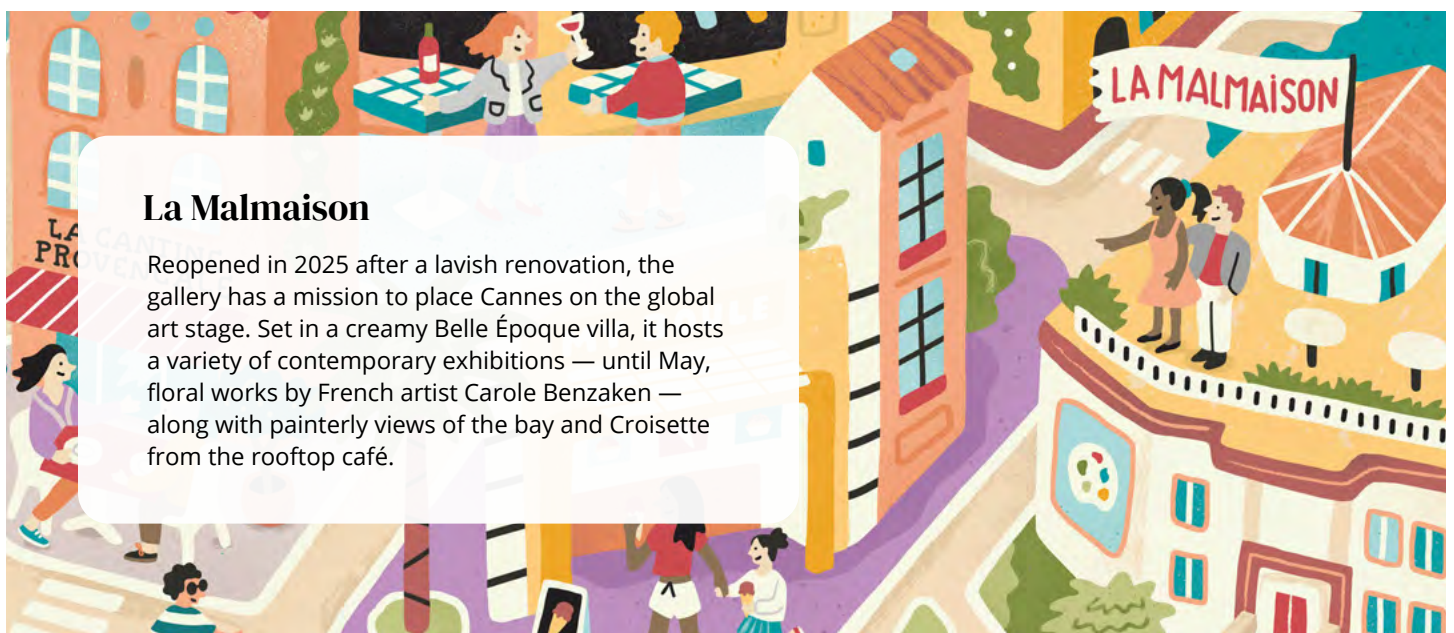
## Le Chemin des Étoiles

Hollywood has the Walk of Fame, but Cannes has the Path of Stars. Set in bronze on the sidewalk near the Palais de Festivals, its cast list features almost 400 hand prints and the signatures of those who have dazzled at the film festival over the decades. It's your chance to high-five (well, low-five) Quentin Tarantino, Nicole Kidman and legendary French actress Catherine Deneuve.



## Quille

This little bar and “cave” (a French wine store) is the passion project of three friends, led by sommelier Pascal Paulze. All are happy to share their knowledge of southern French wines — from grand crus to obscure natural wines — preferably with a plate of truffle croques or Galician sardines to hand.



## La Malmaison

Reopened in 2025 after a lavish renovation, the gallery has a mission to place Cannes on the global art stage. Set in a creamy Belle Époque villa, it hosts a variety of contemporary exhibitions — until May, floral works by French artist Carole Benzaken — along with painterly views of the bay and Croisette from the rooftop café.



## Marché Forville

To get a sense of Provence's rich food traditions, head to the market, which has been a gathering place for locals since the 1930s. Take your time: Stalls are piled high with local specialties such as socca (a chickpea flatbread) along with vine peaches, oysters and stuffed courgette flowers. Don't forget to stop for a glass of rosé before you leave.



## Le Vieux-Port

A-list stars may be elusive, but at the marina you'll easily spot visiting superyachts, the divas of the waves. Big-ticket events like the Régates Royales and the Yachting Festival are sailing season highlights, while ferries make daily crossings to the nearby Lérins Islands. Head to Ile Sainte-Marguerite for quiet coves for swimming, Mediterranean pine forests and the storied fort linked to the "Man in the Iron Mask."



## La Suquet

Long before Cannes became a global glam icon, it was a little-known fishing village, and La Suquet was its epicenter. Today, it's still the most atmospheric place to explore cobble streets lined with boutiques (don't miss Made in Provence for lavender soap and artisanal gifts), bars and bursts of bougainvillea. Climb to the 11th-century monastery-turned-museum for panoramic sunset views.



### My Boule

With a sunshine-yellow interior that resembles a beach umbrella, the ice-cream parlor and coffee shop draws a devoted following. Regulars happily line up for signature flavors like Fraise Melba, featuring homemade strawberry coulis and meringue, and Pistache Royal, finished with caramelized sprinkles.



### La Môme Plage

For classic Riviera glamour, this beach club is set on its own private sands and pier, with a design inspired by vintage Riva boats and Slim Aarons photographs. Settle into a sun lounger, people-watch through your sunglasses and indulge in sushi rolls, king-prawn risotto and plenty of caviar — all with the Mediterranean as your backdrop.



### Where to Stay

Set in the pretty hilltop village of Mougins, once home to Picasso, the terracotta-hued [Le Club Mougins](#) makes an ideal base from which to explore Cannes — just a 15-minute drive away — and the beaches of the Côte d’Azur. Bring back market provisions to the self-catering Suites, which have balconies overlooking the surrounding hills, and cool off in the outdoor pool.



**Le Club Mougins** is your French Riviera home away from home

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Le Club Mougins				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Eight Reasons To Get Excited About 2026



Here are all the things you need to know about your membership with Hilton Grand Vacations this year

As Hilton Grand Vacations continues to grow and evolve, so do the benefits available to you. With new resorts, enhanced Member offerings and innovative tools designed to make vacation planning easier than ever, 2026 is set to deliver exceptional value. Here are eight updates you won't want to miss.



## 1. Our Community Continues To Grow

HGV has expanded significantly over the past five years, thanks to two major acquisitions: Diamond Resorts in 2021 and Bluegreen Vacations in 2024. These additions bring even more Owners and Members into the HGV family and expand our resort portfolio around the world. With this growth comes major benefits: more value, flexibility and more ways to travel than ever before.



## 2. More Rebranded Resorts Prepare for Unveiling

We're continuing our multi-year rebranding of Bluegreen Vacations and former Diamond Resorts properties. Some of the latest rebranded sites to open include **Lodge Alley Inn**, a **Hilton Vacation Club** and **King 583**, a **Hilton Vacation Club**, both in Charleston's historic downtown.

And the excitement doesn't stop in the United States — Europe is next. A selection of beloved European properties will proudly unveil their new HGV identities later this year. Get ready for inspiring reveals coming soon.



## 3. Discover More Through HGV Max

Members with HGV Max benefits enjoy access to an expanded portfolio of properties, including Bluegreen Vacation Club resorts, with more on the way in 2026 and beyond. Members can also take advantage of an extended booking window that allows reservations up to seven months before check-out, making it easier to secure your preferred resorts and travel dates.



## 4. Elevate Your Stays With HGV Ultimate Access

Unforgettable experiences can take a vacation to the next level. With [HGV Ultimate Access](#), Members can elevate their trips with once-in-a-lifetime events. Picture yourself behind the scenes at major sporting events like NASCAR and the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions. Or book seats for an exclusive private concert featuring artists such as Chris Lane and Ashley Cooke.

HGV Ultimate access also offers bespoke culinary evenings and exclusive Member cruises — enhance your next vacation now. And stay tuned for a new digital platform to explore and reserve these events launching later this year!



## 5. Explore Even More With Travel Services Benefits

Enhance every trip with a variety of convenient, points-eligible travel benefits, including car rental, airfare options and personalized itinerary planning.

Last year, we introduced Hosted Trips for all [HGV](#) and [Bluegreen Members](#), curated journeys ranging from a cowboy adventure in the American West to a cultural escape along the French Riviera. Look out for additional trips available for 2027.

Looking for a memorable family getaway? Members in the premium tiers can book a remarkable collection of exclusive and private luxury villas, resorts and boutique properties.



## 6. Hit the Water With Boatsetter

Members can now make waves on their next vacation with [Boatsetter](#), a leading boat rental platform offering exclusive access to a curated selection of vessels across the United States and Mexico. From luxury catamarans in Honolulu to yacht cruises along the Carolina coast, 2026 is your chance to make it a year on the water.



## 7. Travel Planning Made Easy

Planning your next vacation is easier than ever on the HGV Member website. The [HGV MyExplorer+](#) personalized search tool learns your preferences — from past stays to favorite destinations — and recommends trips tailored to you. Combined with our new intelligent chatbot, finding and booking your ideal vacation is now faster and more intuitive. HGV MyExplorer+ is available to Members on [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](https://club.hiltongrandvacations.com).



## 8. A New Club Traveler Experience

We've refreshed our bimonthly Club Traveler newsletter for 2026 to bring you an even more streamlined and inspiring experience. The redesigned Club Traveler Member Update brings essential Club news and timely tips and insights to help you get the most from your membership. Each update is designed to highlight what's new, what's changing and what opportunities are available to enhance your travel experiences. Make sure to bookmark the [Club Traveler Member Update](#) to stay informed on everything happening across HGV.

Visit [bluegreenowner.com](https://bluegreenowner.com) or [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](https://club.hiltongrandvacations.com) for the latest updates!





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- Cruising through Croatia and Italy
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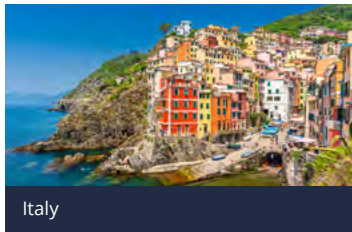
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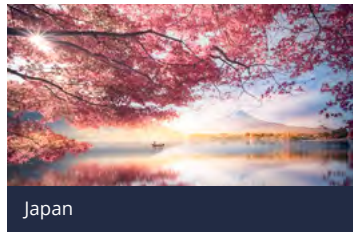
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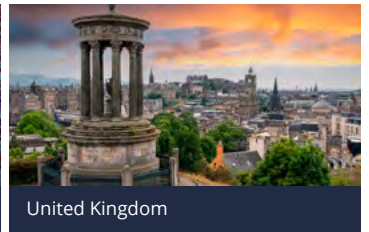
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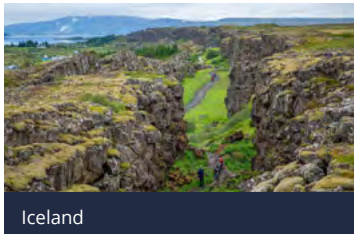
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✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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This season, three standout destinations offer the ideal blend of beaches, culture and experiences for every type of traveler.



### San Diego, California

Cool coastal breezes and laid-back West Coast energy set the tone in Southern California. Spend your days exploring iconic attractions, interactive museums and sun-soaked beaches before unwinding with waterfront dining and local flavors. This is a destination where kids can stay curious and adults truly relax.

### Savannah, Georgia

Charming, walkable and made for together-time, Savannah invites you to stroll through historic squares, browse riverfront shops and hop aboard guided trolley tours through the city's rich past. Balance it all with a laid-back beach day on nearby Tybee Island for the perfect blend of culture and coastal calm.





## Florida's Panhandle

In Panama City Beach and Destin, sugar-white sand meets emerald waters. From dolphin cruises and water sports to nature preserves and family-friendly attractions, this region delivers a fresh take on the classic summer beach trip.

Designed for how families travel today, RCI Extra Vacations<sup>SM</sup> Getaways work around your plans — not the other way around. Whether you're craving cultural charms or planning a sunny beach escape, your next summer getaway is simple to book and closer than you think.

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✓	✓	✓	✓				

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				✓	✓	✓	✓

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