

# CLUB TRAVELER

SUMMER 2021

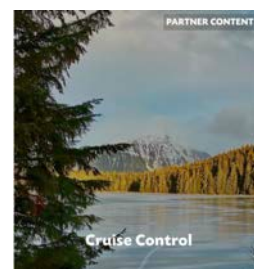
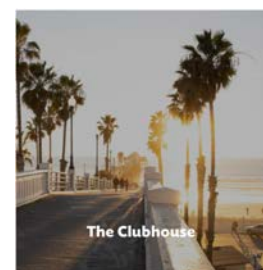
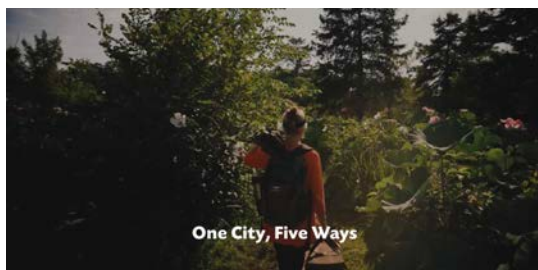
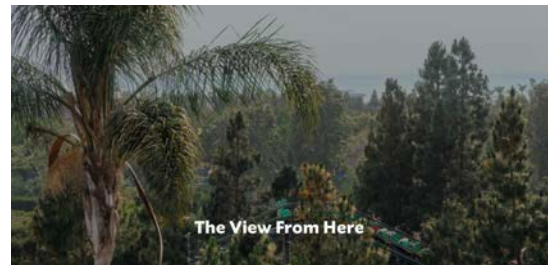
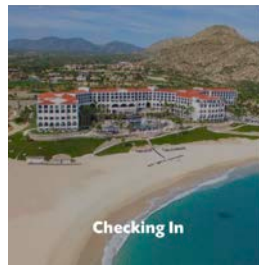
A  
TASTE  
OF  
MAGIC



Discover where to sample the  
best of Orlando's dining scene



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To book any of the above holidays or for more information, visit the Club website.



## Welcome from Stan Soroka

### FOR HILTON GRAND VACATIONS

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Dear Club Members,

Summer is here, and with this new season, we are excited to announce a bigger and better Hilton Grand Vacations. As you may have read, HGV has completed its acquisition of Diamond Resorts, and I am sure many of you are eager to know what this means for you.

In short, we are now one of the world's largest timeshare companies with a combined portfolio of more than 150 properties in sought-after destinations. I want to emphasize that for the time being, nothing changes — you will continue to make reservations the same way you do now, and your ownership and Club membership remains the same. Integrating both companies will be a multi-year, phased approach. And with every decision we make, I want to assure you that our focus will remain on providing you with exceptional travel opportunities. I look forward to serving our Club Members in the months and years ahead as we integrate our two companies. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please visit [my.hgv.com/acquisition](http://my.hgv.com/acquisition).

In other exciting news, it's hard to believe we are already halfway through 2021! It certainly has been an exciting year for HGV. We're celebrating the successful openings of new properties in Mexico (La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club) and Charleston (Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club), and have added to your New York City options with the debut of The Central at 5th by Hilton Club. We are also gearing up for the openings of The Beach Resort Sesoko by Hilton Club and Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations.

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on the outstanding dining scene in and around Orlando. Long known for its theme parks, the City Beautiful is enjoying a culinary renaissance that is worthy of exploration during your next visit. And as travel continues to accelerate, it's been fantastic to see so many of you returning to Hawaii. With our second feature, we explore two water activities to try on your next visit to Oahu — outrigger canoeing and swimming with turtles. Join our writer as she provides a first-hand account of each uniquely Hawaiian experience.

Also in this issue, I invite you to embrace some California dreaming with the scenic surroundings of Hilton Grand Vacations at MarBrisa; explore the variety of experiences offered in Washington, D.C. at The District by Hilton Club; and fall in love with Chicago's family-friendly attractions and activities, which can be experienced with a stay at Hilton Grand Vacations Chicago Downtown/Magnificent Mile.

When I reflect on where the travel industry was a year ago and how far we've come in just 12 months, I am thrilled with the possibilities that lie ahead for our Club Members. Travel is back, and it truly is a new chapter for our growing company.

To reference the famous Johnny Nash song, "it's gonna be a bright, sunshiny day!"

Happy Travels,

Stan Soroka  
Chief Customer Officer



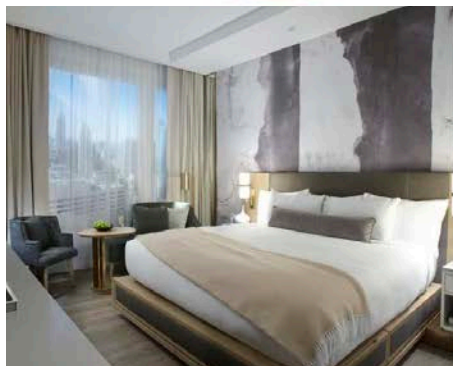


## Checking in

Our favorite HGV properties, right now

# New Adventures Await

At Hilton Grand Vacations, we're always looking for ways to enhance your vacation experience — here's what you'll want to know about our three newest resorts



### The Central at 5th by Hilton Club

12 East 48th St, New York, NY

Stay right in the heart of the action on your next trip to New York City. With its prime Midtown Manhattan location, [The Central at 5th by Hilton Club](#) offers easy access to the alluring boutiques and gleaming department stores of 5th Avenue — ideal for those planning to indulge in some retail therapy. You'll also be minutes away from other headline attractions: Take in 360-degree views of the city from the Top of the Rock observation deck at the [Rockefeller Center](#), watch a performance at [Radio City Music Hall](#), or admire world-famous paintings and sculptures at the [Museum of Modern Art](#).

After an exhilarating day spent exploring all that the Big Apple has to offer, make your way back to The Central at 5th, where the spacious studios and one-bedroom suites all feature top-notch amenities (think a plush king-sized bed and 50-inch wall-mounted TV) and expansive views of the city's famous skyline.



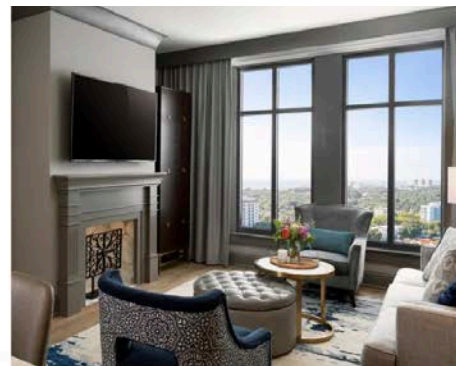
### La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club

Carretera Transpeninsular Km19.5, Los Cabos

Dreaming of paradise? You'll find it at [La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club](#). Overlooking the Sea of Cortés on the tip of the Baja Peninsula, our first Mexico property offers exclusive access to 11.3 acres of beachfront, which means there's ample space for swimming, sunbathing or simply soaking up the glorious sea views.

The studios at La Pacifica feature a wet bar, while the one- and two-bedroom suites come complete with a full kitchen (watch our room tour video [here](#)). What's more, you'll get to enjoy the amenities of the [Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort](#), which include four pools, a fitness center and a full-service spa.

If you manage to tear yourself away from the resort, check out the [Gallery District](#) in San José del Cabo for art or head to [Luxury Avenue](#) in Cabo San Lucas for shopping. Alternatively, sign up for a camel riding or deep-sea fishing excursion for an unforgettable day out in nature.



### Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club

75 E. Bay St, Charleston, SC

From historic architecture and scenic waterfront parks to upscale restaurants and contemporary art galleries, there's so much to see and do in Charleston. In fact, the city consistently tops travel lists: It was named "The South's Best City of 2020" by *Southern Living* magazine.

Planning a visit to this Southern Belle? Make your base at [Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club](#), our latest property in the Lowcountry. The resort's comfortable studios and spacious one- and two-bedroom suites are fitted with king- or queen-sized beds, 55-inch TVs and well-equipped kitchens. It is also ideally placed, offering easy access to some of the city's best restaurants.

With its superb accommodations and central location, it's no surprise that Liberty Place Charleston is already in high demand. As inventory is limited, we highly recommend booking your stay as soon as the Club Booking window allows.

## ClubPoints Planning Tip

### The Central at 5th by Hilton Club

**Platinum Season:** 1,575 Points for a three-night stay (Mon–Thu) in a Studio to 21,000 Points for a seven-night stay in a One-Bedroom Penthouse

**Gold Season:** 1,125 Points for a three-night stay (Mon–Thu) in a Studio to 14,500 Points for a seven-night stay in a One-Bedroom Penthouse

### La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club

**Platinum Season:** 1,860 Points for a three-night stay (Mon–Thu) in a Studio to 16,800 Points for a seven-night stay in a Two-Bedroom Premier Suite

**Gold Season:** 1,440 Points for a three-night stay (Mon–Thu) in a Studio to 11,600 Points for a seven-night stay in a Two-Bedroom Premier Suite

**Silver Season:** 1,020 Points for a three-night stay (Mon–Thu) in a Studio to 8,400 Points for a seven-night stay in a Two-Bedroom Premier Suite

### Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club

**Platinum Season:** 1,020 Points for a three-night stay (Mon–Thu) in a Studio to 12,600 Points for a seven-night stay in a Two-Bedroom Plus

**Gold Season:** 720 Points for a three-night stay (Mon–Thu) in a Studio to 8,700 Points for a seven-night stay in a Two-Bedroom Plus





# The View From Here

Enjoy vistas of beaches and theme parks while soaking up the California sun

Guests at Hilton Grand Vacations at MarBrisa can glimpse LEGOLAND California's rides and rollercoasters from the resort's grounds

Images: Marie Monforte

## Hilton Grand Vacations at MarBrisa

Situated in the sun-drenched coastal city of Carlsbad in California, this Mediterranean-style resort offers easy access to numerous beaches — from the pristine sands of Tamarack Surf Beach to the bustling pier and snack stands of Oceanside City Beach. Swim and surf to your heart's content, or simply lounge by the water with an engrossing book. Once you've had your fill of sun, sea and sand, landmark attractions such as LEGOLAND California (which can be glimpsed from the resort), The Crossings at Carlsbad and The Flower Fields are a short walk or drive away.

Of course, there's plenty to do at MarBrisa, too. The 56-acre property is divided into two distinct neighborhoods, each with its own charms. On the northwest side of MarBrisa, The Cove's amenities include a bar and grill, two large pools and a slide, three hot tubs, fire pits, barbecue and picnic areas, a fitness center and a children's playground. Over on the southeast side, The Pointe features a Sunset Pool (with a pool deck), two hot tubs, a toddler's Splash Pad, the Imagination Station arts and crafts center, and a volleyball court. It's also home to Inspiration Pointe, which serves as the neighborhood's central hub and offers glorious sunset views — undoubtedly best enjoyed with a cocktail in hand.







Guests can take a dip at The Cove on the northwest side of MarBrisa



The Pointe on the southeast side of MarBrisa is home to a volleyball court



LEGOLAND California can be viewed from the resort

## Near the Resort



### LEGOLAND California

Adults and kids alike will relish a trip to this popular theme park, which offers more than 60 exhilarating rides. Make a day of it by visiting the adjacent SEA LIFE Aquarium, where you can get up close with marine creatures ranging from seahorses to sharks.



### The Crossings at Carlsbad

Hone your swing at this 18-hole championship golf course. Designed by renowned landscape architect Greg Nash, its unique layout complements the surrounding hills and valleys, and offers seriously spectacular views of the ocean in the distance.



### The Flower Fields

If you're planning to visit MarBrisa next year, be sure to check out The Flower Fields, which are carpeted in an array of beautiful blooms between the months of March and May. You can even purchase freshly cut ranunculus flowers at the on-site gift shop.

To book any of the above holidays or for more information, visit the Club website.





# ONE CITY, FIVE WAYS: WASHINGTON, D.C.

## *Washington, D.C.* One City, Five Ways

Words: Nell Mauer

Explore the many different facets of the U.S. capital, from history to nature and culture

Too often, the spotlight on Washington, D.C., shines on politics and government affairs. The pull of American history is certainly strong, but beyond the city's gleaming white monuments, there's a vibrant metropolis waiting to be discovered.

In recent years, innovative restaurants and food halls have rejuvenated previously under-the-radar zones just north and south of the U.S. Capitol. The city's comprehensive public transportation system — comprising trains, buses and water taxis — makes it a breeze to get around. Plus, the pleasure of exploring storied neighborhoods like Georgetown and Capitol Hill on foot never gets old. Here are five ways to experience D.C. like a local.



The National Museum of African American History & Culture has a striking facade inspired by African art



## American history

Of course, no visit to D.C. is complete without checking out a few of its famous museums and monuments. Get a crash course in U.S. history at the [National Museum of American History](#) and the [National Museum of African American History & Culture](#). The latter, housed in a dramatic metal-clad building meant to resemble a West African crown, celebrates Black chefs, artists and musicians. Keep an eye out for artifacts including the cherry-red Cadillac convertible owned by rock legend Chuck Berry.

Smaller, lesser-known sites also examine the role D.C. has played on the national and international stage. [President Lincoln's Cottage](#), a gabled 19th-century house where the president spent time during the Civil War, is open for self-guided tours (and selfie-taking with a bronze statue of the man himself). Then there's also the [Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial](#), which examines the life and career of the 34th U.S. president through sculptures and a wall of light art.



Tuck into a hearty Middle Eastern spread at Albi

## Food and drink

D.C. has long been associated with steakhouses, but it is finally shedding that image thanks to a wave of exciting culinary openings. No place showcases this energy better than the edgy NoMa (North of Massachusetts Avenue) neighborhood. Here, two lively food halls, [Union Market](#) and [La Cosecha](#), house cheese shops, cookware boutiques and buzzy restaurants. At the latter, which salutes Latin American cuisine and culture, be sure to try Venezuelan bonbons like soursop truffles at [Arcay Chocolates](#) and Salvadoran *pupusas* (quesadilla-like stuffed flatbreads) at [La Casita Pupuseria](#).

With more than 175 embassies, it's hardly surprising that international flavors abound in the capital. Savor Ethiopian-meets-French fare at [Melange](#), near the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Order The National, a fried chicken dish that pays homage to *doro wat*, a spicy Ethiopian chicken stew. Alternatively, head to [Albi](#), which serves up sophisticated Middle Eastern fare — much of it cooked over open flames — in a bright, breezy space.

Watering holes in D.C. veer between the historic and the modern. [Martin's Tavern](#) in Georgetown is a wood-paneled, decades-old hideaway where John F. Kennedy is said to have courted his wife Jackie. At the other end of the spectrum, the cutting-edge [Columbia Room](#) is a mixologist-driven bar that shakes up cocktails and mocktails using local ingredients.





# Three

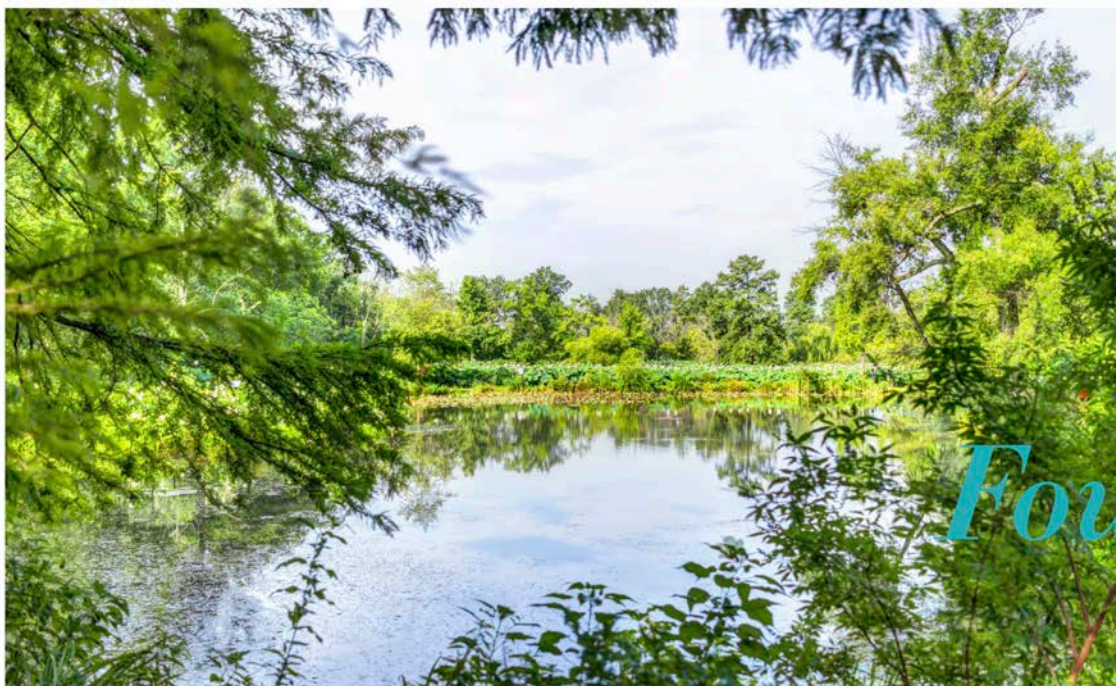
including The National Gallery of Art

## Arts and culture

The capital is a powerhouse for arts and culture largely thanks to [The Smithsonian Institution](#), a consortium of 19 museums founded in 1846. Venues with new exhibitions (and COVID-19 safety policies) include the [National Museum of American Art](#), which displays works ranging from colonial-era paintings to contemporary video pieces. Housed in a circular Brutalist building, the [Hirshhorn Museum](#) is a temple of modern art. Its recently redone outdoor sculpture garden showcases 30 works including *We Come in Peace* by Huma Bhabha, an imposing, other-worldly figure intended as an anti-war statement.

D.C. is also dotted with vibrant [street art](#). Check out the open-air [DC Alley Museum](#) in Blagden Alley, which is adorned with abstract rainbow walls and portraits of locals. In neighborhoods including Shaw and Dupont Circle, you'll find outsized tributes to Amanda Gorman, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and John Lewis.

The city's performing arts scene is expected to kick back up in summer and fall 2021. Major stages such as [The Kennedy Center](#) and [The National Theatre](#) frequently host Broadway hits, while smaller local venues such as [Woolly Mammoth](#) and [Studio Theatre](#) showcase indie productions. For live music, [The District Wharf](#), a dazzling modern development on the Anacostia River is home to several clubs including the jumbo [Anthem](#) and intimate country/folk spot [Pearl Street Warehouse](#).



# Four

The Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens offers visitors a breath of fresh air from the bustling city



## Nature

D.C. has [more green space per person](#) than it has roads or buildings. Minutes from [The District by Hilton Club](#), [Rock Creek Park](#) — the ribbon-like National Park running through Northwest D.C. — offers running and biking paths with river and creek views. For birds and blooming water lilies, head to the lesser-known [Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens](#).

You're bound to find plenty of gardening inspiration on a stroll through the sculpture-filled [Dumbarton Oaks](#), a historic estate tucked away in Georgetown. Or head to the [U.S. National Arboretum](#), a verdant sanctuary filled with groves of trees, roses and picnic spots.

For a different vantage point, the city's monuments and parks look stellar from a boat on the Potomac River. You can rent kayaks and canoes from [Boating in DC](#) or hop on a [water taxi](#) between the Wharf and Georgetown.

# Five



Kids will love watching orangutans climb the rope bridge at the National Zoo

## With the kids

Traveling with little ones in tow? In leafy Upper Northwest D.C., you'll find pandas, seals and even a small herd of elephants at the [National Zoo](#). Kids will be particularly thrilled by the outdoor orangutan rope bridge, where the primates swing overhead several times a day.

The [National Children's Museum](#) is expected to reopen later in 2021, offering STEM-friendly exhibits including the Innovation Sandbox, where young visitors can learn more about climate change. Older kids will relish a trip to the [International Spy Museum](#), where they can try cracking secret codes or learn the art of going undercover.

For giddy all-ages joy, there are old-timey carousels located along the tree-lined [National Mall](#) (America's most visited national park), at the National Zoo and in the vintage [Glen Echo Park](#) near the border with Maryland.

To book any of the above holidays or for more information, visit the Club website.



# Destination Spotlight



## Barbados

Most visitors to Barbados spend their days lounging on the beach, and for good reason — after all, the allure of the island's sugary sands and azure waters can be hard to resist. However, venture beyond the beach and you'll discover attractions such as the [Animal Flower Cave](#), the only accessible sea cave on the island. Situated under the cliffs at North Point in the parish of St. Lucy, it is home to natural rock pools and colorful sea anemones (known locally as "animal flowers"), and offers some seriously spectacular views of Barbados' northern coast.

To book any of the above holidays or for more information, visit the Club website.





# ORLANDO'S CULINARY MAGIC

The city's dining scene is reaching new heights thanks to the kitchen wizardry of forward-thinking chefs and restaurateurs

Words: Terry Ward Photography: Brian Carlson



Thanks to its famous theme parks, Orlando has never had a problem drawing the crowds — but until recently, its culinary cachet has largely been limited to celebrity-owned restaurants and theme park kitchens.

Today, however, its food scene is truly on the rise. In sophisticated downtown neighborhoods like Winter Park, James Beard-heralded chefs and restaurateurs are pushing boundaries with an array of adventurous dining options. Catering to both savvy locals and intrepid visitors seeking memorable foodie experiences, they are bringing a new — and utterly delicious — kind of magic to the happiest place on Earth. Here, we shine a spotlight on three key players shaking up Orlando's culinary landscape.

**"I'm just going to keep creating, motivating  
and thinking outside the box"**





Chef Henry Moso runs Kabooki Sushi, which is one of the best Japanese restaurants in Orlando

## Henry Moso, Kabooki Sushi

Laos-born chef Henry Moso moved to Orlando at the age of 15, when he started washing dishes and bussing tables at a Thai-Japanese fusion restaurant owned by his mother on the outskirts of town. Today, the 30-year-old — who was nominated for Rising Star Chef of the Year at the 2020 James Beard Foundation Awards — helms the city's most celebrated Japanese restaurant, [Kabooki Sushi](#), which has two outposts near Downtown Orlando and in the Dr. Phillips area.

According to Henry, his obsession with Japanese cuisine started at an early age back in Laos. He first sampled California rolls with freshly grated wasabi at the local restaurants, and was captivated by the artistry and attention to detail that underpins sushi-making.



Attention to detail is crucial at Kabooki Sushi, whether it is slicing sashimi or plating up a piece of nigiri



A selection of immaculately plated starters and sushi at Kabooki Sushi

It's no surprise, then, that impeccable aesthetics and quality ingredients define the food at Kabooki Sushi, which sources its fish from Tokyo's famous Toyosu Market, the waters around Mexico's Baja California Peninsula, and elsewhere around the globe. Its omakase menu has become the hottest ticket in town: On any given night, diners are served an impeccable selection of *nigiri* (a thin slice of fish atop a mound of vinegared rice) featuring seasonal catch like king salmon belly and Japanese amberjack. And while the restaurant's cuisine is rooted in tradition, Henry doesn't shy away from adding his own unique twist to his sushi creations — be it a truffle, mushroom and olive oil pâté, a dollop of paddlefish caviar, or a touch of house-made balsamic truffle soy.

After all, as Henry explains, Orlando has been "the land of opportunity" for him — a place where he has ample freedom to pursue his culinary ambitions. "There is no limitation, so I'm just going to keep creating, motivating and thinking outside the box," he says.



# Celebrity Chef Restaurants

At Disney Springs, these celebrated spots warrant a reservation, too



## Frontera Cocina

Seven-time James Beard winner Rick Bayless' Mexican restaurant is known for its authentic Oaxacan mole, *cochinita pibil* (achiote-marinated pork) and a tequila-lined Wall of Fame.



## Jaleo

Enjoy top-notch Spanish cuisine at José Andrés' fifth Jaleo outpost, where the lauded Spanish-American chef serves a seafood-laden paella cooked over a wood fire and where the sangria flows freely.



## Chef Art Smith's Homecoming

Local ingredients take center stage at Art Smith's restaurant, which serves comfort foods like buttermilk fried chicken and braised short ribs. Leave room for the mini doughnuts (made fresh daily).



A vibrant tomato salad at The Ravenous Pig

## Clay Miller, The Ravenous Pig

It's impossible to talk about downtown Orlando's culinary evolution without mentioning the city's power cooking couple, Julie and James Petrakis. The award-winning duo grew up in Winter Park and met while studying at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. Together, they are responsible for some of Orlando's best restaurants, including fast-casual eatery The Polite Pig in Disney Springs and Southern public house Cask & Larder at Orlando International Airport. However, they are undoubtedly most famous for their acclaimed gastropub [The Ravenous Pig](#) in Winter Park, which has cemented its status as a beloved local institution.

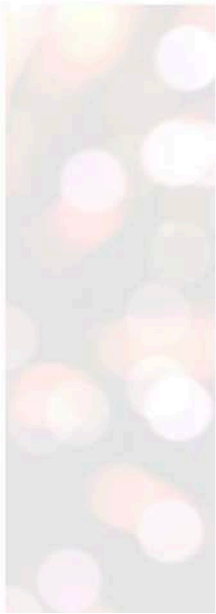
Today, the person running the show at the Rav Pig (or The Pig), as loyal patrons have affectionately dubbed it, is 50-year-old Clay Miller. With more than 25 years of culinary experience under his belt, he has trained under decorated chefs like Thomas Keller and Michael Mina.



Here, chefs at The Ravenous Pig plate up an array of dishes, including the popular Pub Burger



“We’re just a great American restaurant ...  
Our food is meant to make you say, ‘That was good’”



Chef Clay Miller, who heads the kitchen at The Ravenous Pig, has more than two decades of culinary experience

“As a young chef, I always felt like I had to get to a major market to make it,” says Clay. Many years on, however, he is entirely satisfied to be plying his trade in Orlando — which is, after all, home to one of the most promising dining scenes in the country.

In The Ravenous Pig’s main dining room, industrial-style décor is offset by white linen tablecloths, while the adjoining taproom features a long communal table that invites socializing. Outside, a new bar garden complete with a shuffleboard court and cornhole board hosts occasional whole pig roasts and serves small plates, such as hoagie sandwiches, from a separate mobile kitchen.

From the perennially popular steak frites to specials like duck ham cured overnight with brown sugar, bourbon and maple syrup, Clay says his focus at The Ravenous Pig is on executing dishes that people come back for time and again. “I would never call us fine dining. We’re just a great American restaurant,” he says. “Our food is meant to make you say, ‘That was good.’”

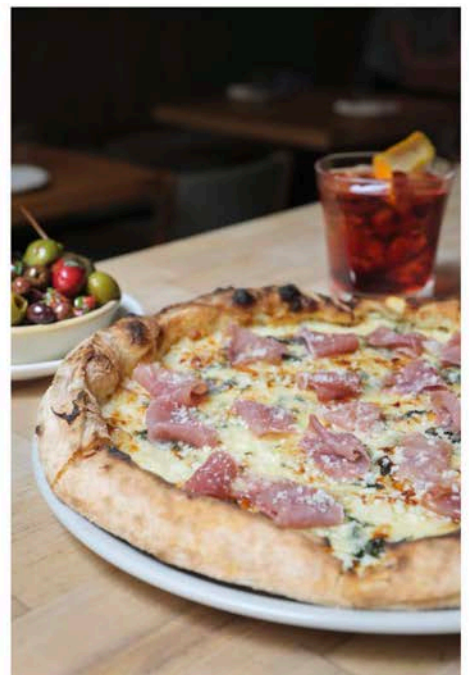
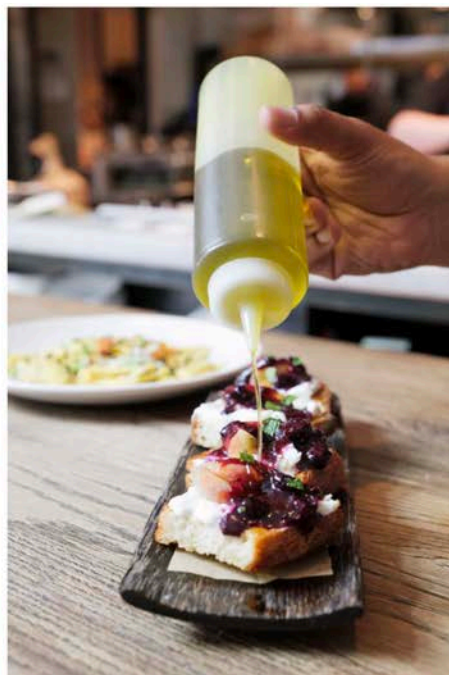
## Brandon McGlamery, Prato



A staff briefing at Prato before lunch service

With its leafy, cafe-lined streets, the fashionable neighborhood of Winter Park near downtown Orlando wouldn’t look out of place in Europe. Cozy Italian restaurant [Prato](#) — with its rustic farmhouse-style interiors and tables cascading out onto scenic Park Avenue — further adds to the evocative vibe.

Packed to its open-frame wood rafters on any given evening, Prato is the brainchild of celebrated Orlando chef Brandon McGlamery, who is a two-time semi-finalist at the James Beard Foundation Awards. The 48-year-old first honed his culinary skills at famous restaurants, including The French Laundry in Northern California and Bacchanalia in Atlanta, before launching the now-closed Luma on Park in Orlando in 2006. He went on to open Prato in 2011, to great acclaim.



Some of Prato’s most popular dishes include the mustard spaghetti cacio e pepe, the burrata crostini and the Fiorentina pizza



## “Diners have the means to travel, and they’re looking for big-city treats in our little-city community”



Prato chef Brandon McGlamery is a two-time semi-finalist at the James Beard Foundation Awards

At Prato, Brandon’s culinary ethos is driven by simplicity and purity of ingredients. At least one component in every dish is touched, in some way, by the wood-burning fire in the restaurant’s two Acunto ovens imported from Italy. For instance, the radicchio in the mustard spaghetti *cacio e pepe* is given the open-fire treatment. The same goes for the savory onions that top the veal meatballs (a crowd favorite), the latter of which are also hearth-roasted in-house. “I try to cook really good food that piques people’s interest,” he explains.

Over the years, Brandon has witnessed Orlando’s birth as an up-and-coming culinary destination. “Some of the city’s best restaurants are tucked away in cool communities and neighborhoods north of the theme parks,” he observes. And with the growth of neighboring Tampa, he sees the area west of Orlando as fertile ground for new restaurants in the future, too. “Diners have the means to travel, and they’re looking for big-city treats in our little-city community,” he says.

## Where to Drink

Orlando food blogger Ricky Ly of [Tasty Chomps](#) shares his favorite bars for a fun night out



### The Courtesy

Ricky recommends visiting this intimate speakeasy-style bar for “sophisticated hand-crafted cocktails that are made with love and care by knowledgeable mixologists.” There’s also a diverse absinthe and whisky selection on offer.



### Tori Tori

According to Ricky, this izakaya-style restaurant and pub in Orlando’s Mills 50 district (once called “Little Vietnam”) serves Japanese whiskey highballs alongside delicious, stomach-padding dishes like garlic crab fried rice.



### Mathers Social Gathering

Tucked away on the third floor of a 19th-century building in Downtown Orlando, this popular bar feels like a “private library with great drinks,” says Ricky. Try the Pisco Sour, which is brightened with house-made mixed berry syrup for a sweet Florida twist.

## Dine for a Good Cause

For the 16th edition of Visit Orlando’s Magical Dining program (from August 27 to October 3, 2021), diners can enjoy a three-course, prix-fixe dinner at some of the city’s most popular restaurants for just \$37 per person. Plus, a dollar from each meal will be donated to local nonprofits to help those in need. Find out more on [Visit Orlando’s website](#).

To book any of the above holidays or for more information, visit the Club website.





# Make a Splash in Oahu

Words: Sunny Fitzgerald Illustration: Giordano Poloni

Get out on the water for an immersive – and uniquely Hawaiian – experience

Above the water

## Outrigger canoeing

“There’s a turtle,” says my outrigger canoe guide Mark Norfleet, pointing at a brown teardrop-shaped shell just below the surface of the beryl-blue sea surrounding us. We’ve only paddled a few strokes, but already the sound of the water lapping gently against the canoe’s hull has replaced the hum of traffic and chattering of voices back on the shore.

Born on Oahu, Mark grew up on the island and has been paddling these waters for more than 40 years – both in outrigger canoes, called *wa’a* in Hawaiian, and as a professional surfer. In his younger years, he joined an outrigger crew led by a coach who was taught by legendary Hawaiian waterman Duke Kahanamoku. The crew went on to become one of the best in the state. “We learned to paddle how Duke taught people to paddle,” he says. Today, he passes on this knowledge of the traditional water sport through his business, [Kapakahi Tours](#).

“The first people [Polynesian settlers] to land in Hawaii came in double-hulled sailing canoes, so that’s where it all started,” says Mark. Traditionally used for fishing, transporting goods, traveling around and between islands, and even stealth landings during wartime, the significance of outrigger canoes extends beyond recreation.

“It’s such a big part of growing up here. Your siblings, parents and sometimes even your grandparents paddle with you,” he says. Generations of families often take to the waters together, passing on knowledge, *mo’olelo* (stories, history, traditions) and language – chants, songs, outrigger terminology and paddling commands are often spoken in Hawaiian. For many locals, paddling connects them both to the ocean and to their cultural heritage.

“I think that’s Francis,” Mark says, turning the canoe to offer me a better look at a turtle swimming up ahead. “Sometimes I give the turtles the names of friends that have passed away. I feel like they’re still out here with us.”

Hawaiian green sea turtles, called *honu* in the local language, are well-loved and respected here. Some legends say that *honu* guided the first Polynesian settlers to the Hawaiian Islands. *Honu* are known to be navigators and are considered a link between humans, land and sea. They’re also regarded by some Native Hawaiians as *aumakua*, a deified ancestral spirit guardian. And, as Mark says: “They’re good luck.”





Outrigger canoeing is a time-honored tradition – and a popular pastime – in Hawaii

Indeed, with clear skies above and clear water below, it seems this particular *honu* has already brought us good fortune and perfect paddling conditions. We point the canoe east through the channel and spot a few surfers. “I know where we can catch some waves,” Mark says. Scoping out the surfers in the distance, I’m hoping he doesn’t mean *those* swells. I’m relieved when, after a few more strokes, we find ourselves positioned near smaller waves, without a single boat or surfer beside us. But there is another turtle, which reassures me.

“Ready?” he asks, turning our canoe toward the shore. I do a quick mental review of the instructions he’d given me back on the beach. But before I have a chance to respond, I hear the wave approaching.

“Let’s go! Paddle hard!” Mark says. I dig in and try to pull water. I feel the wave begin to lift us and he yells, “Watch the *ama* (outrigger float)!” This is my cue to bring the paddle into the canoe and lean onto the *’iako* (crossbeams that connect the hull to the *ama*). Salt water sprays my face and I erupt in laughter. Glancing left, I’m riveted by the sight of the wave rolling along beside us. I recall something Mark said back on the beach when I asked what advice he’d offer a novice like me: “Learn to work with the ocean – feel its energy, don’t fight it.”

In this moment, riding the waves, I certainly feel one with the water.



Green sea turtles are native to the Hawaiian Islands



## Snorkeling with turtles

I'm not a strong swimmer. The last time I went snorkeling, I ended up inadvertently swallowing salt water. So, when Greg Mehus, the captain of [Hawaii Nautical's Spirit of Aloha catamaran](#), recommends that the stronger swimmers get in the water first, I hang back.

"Are you coming?" one of the other guests asks me. Only a handful of people have entered the water; the majority are still on the catamaran, so it seems I'm not alone in my hesitation. But of course, it's impossible to snorkel with turtles if you never leave the boat, so I grab fins from the crew, pull my mask over my head and take the plunge.

Once everyone is in the water, our snorkel guide Brad Kakuda leads us to Turtle Canyon, a reef area off the coast of Waikiki. "It's a natural cleaning station — a spot on the reef where turtles know certain fish like *kole* (a type of surgeonfish) will be. The fish clean algae off the turtles' shells," he explains. "Fish get fed. Turtles get clean." And curious snorkelers like us get the chance to see them.

Green sea turtles are one of only two indigenous reptiles in Hawaii and, unlike other sea turtles, they are herbivores. They are also the largest hard-shelled sea turtles in the world, reaching up to four feet in length, and can live up to 100 years — provided they survive a myriad of threats, including coastal development, reef destruction, propeller strikes, pollution and their natural predator, sharks.

"There's a big one over there," Brad says, pointing to a large turtle surfacing about 15 feet away. "And two more down here," he says after peering briefly underwater.

I submerge my masked face. No longer able to hear the whipping wind, it seems I've crossed into another world in an instant. Yellow tang and *humuhumu`ele`ele* (black triggerfish) dart about, while a school of silvery chub cruise along. And beyond them, near the reef below, two turtles — and the fish feeding on their shells — float calmly, swaying gently with the current. As I observe them, I feel my body relax into the rhythm of the water too.

But then, I remember that I can't stay in this spot for long — hovering above the turtles can prevent them from coming to the surface for air. I glide away slowly and pop my head out of the water.

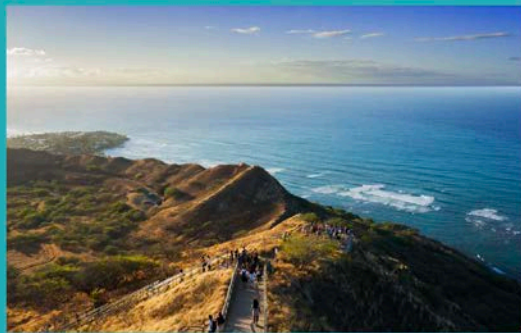
"There's another one here," Brad says.

And so, we continue moving between these two worlds, above and below. It's only when I start shivering from the extended time spent in the water that I realize it might be time to go. I pop my head up and find that everyone except Brad and four others have returned to the catamaran. I'm reluctant again — but this time it's to get out of the water.

Back on the boat, I rinse off and stash my gear as we set sail toward Diamond Head. I'd heard that Hawaii is one of the only places in the world where sea turtles bask on the beach. Feeling the warm Hawaiian sun on my skin, I feel reinvigorated. I imagine that if I keep doing this — floating in the ocean and emerging to soak up the sun — maybe like the Hawaiian green sea turtles, I, too, will live till I'm 100.

### On-shore Adventures

If you prefer to keep both feet planted on the ground, there's still plenty to do on Oahu. Make the 1.6-mile round-trip trek up the [Diamond Head](#) trail for panoramic views of Honolulu, from *mauka* (mountain side) to *makai* (ocean side). Immerse yourself in the sights, scents and sounds of the rainforest with a guided meditative walk with [Forest Bathing Hawaii](#) in Manoa. Or dig in and learn more about *malama`āina* (care for the land) and the cultural significance of taro with a *lo'i kalo* (wetland taro farm) experience at [Na Mea Kupono](#) in Waialua.



Hike up Diamond Head for spectacular views of the coast



The Grand Islander by Hilton Grand Vacations is located minutes from the beach

### Where to Stay

The [Grand Islander by Hilton Grand Vacations](#), located within the [Hilton Hawaiian Village](#), is ideal for ocean lovers. You'll be steps from the beach so you can start your day snorkeling with turtles, spend the afternoon enjoying stand-up paddle-boarding, and finish by watching the sunset on a catamaran cruise.

Alternatively, a stay at [Hokulani Waikiki by Hilton Grand Vacations](#) grants you easy access to all that Waikiki has to offer. Some of the city's best restaurants, bars and shops — including Duke's Waikiki and the recently renovated International Marketplace — are within walking distance. And, when you're ready for a dip in the ocean, the beach is just a few blocks away.





# The Clubhouse

Everything you need to know about your Club membership  
this quarter, from travel updates to insider tips



Sunset at Oceanside Pier near Carlsbad, California

## Safe Travels

While the future of travel is looking bright, there are still some guidelines to keep in mind.  
Here's what you need to know to travel safely this summer and beyond.

### Enjoy greater peace of mind

At Hilton Grand Vacations, we place the safety and wellbeing of our Club Members above all else. This is why we continue to review and update operations and services at our resorts, sales galleries and corporate offices around the world. Read the latest on our ongoing COVID-19 response [here](#), and learn more about our Enhanced Care Guidelines with Hilton CleanStay™ [here](#). As COVID-19 guidelines continue to change, we ask that Owners and guests follow CDC requirements, as well as local and state regulations, when it comes to face coverings.

### Ensure you're ready to fly

Every U.S. traveler 18 years of age and older will soon need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or [another acceptable form of ID](#) to fly within the country. REAL ID-compliant cards are marked with a star. These are not automatically issued, so get yours before the new law takes effect in 2023. Find out more [here](#).

International travelers flying to the U.S. will need to get tested no more than three days before their trip and show their negative result to the airline before boarding their flight. Alternatively, be prepared to show documentation of recovery (proof of a recent positive test and a letter from your healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you are cleared to travel). Read more [here](#).

**Travel tip:** Always check travel requirements for your destination, including face-covering mandates and pre- and post-arrival testing protocols. Do also plan ahead to ensure that car rentals are available, and that restaurants and attractions are open – reservations are always recommended.





Click the icon to turn  
the audio on/off



*Happy to meet you*

Laurie L. from Iowa has been a Club Member since 2013. For her, the best thing about traveling with HGV is “knowing that I don’t have to worry about the quality of my room when visiting new resorts. It’s one less thing to stress about.” Click on the icon on the left to listen to her most memorable trip with HGV.

Audio transcript

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## Club Program Updates

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We’re constantly improving our offerings to ensure you get the most out of your Club membership. Read on to find out more.

### Diamond Resorts acquisition

On August 2, HGV announced its acquisition of Diamond Resorts, creating one of the world’s largest vacation ownership companies. Watch President and CEO Mark Wang’s [video](#) to learn more about the acquisition, and read his email to discover what this means for HGV Owners.

“We recognize the world of travel is changing and through this transformational combination, we are better positioned to provide you with more options in more destinations, which means more flexibility in where, how and when you travel in the future,” says CEO Mark Wang.

Integrating the two companies will be a multi-year, phased initiative. Until then, both companies will continue to operate independently. The Club website has a list of frequently asked questions about the acquisition. Visit [my.hgv.com/acquisition](https://my.hgv.com/acquisition) to learn more.

### 2022 payments

Be on the lookout for your Assessment Statement Notice in the fall, which will contain all the payment instructions you need. Please know that there will be no changes to any of your 2021 Club Dues or maintenance fees as a result of the acquisition. To receive your 2022 maintenance fees and Club Dues statement sooner, we recommend opting in to receive digital loan and association communications from HGV [here](#).

International HGV Owners can pay annual maintenance fees for their U.S.-based properties in their local currency. We have partnered with Flywire, a third-party service that offers several payment options, including local bank transfer. As such, international HGV Owners of properties in the U.S. may be able to save on bank fees and exchange rates when selecting to pay with this service. To learn more about using Flywire, visit our [dedicated page](#) on the Club website.

To book any of the above holidays or for more information, visit the Club website.



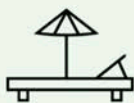
## HGV teams up with Lyft

Thanks to our new airport transfer partner Lyft, you can now get around in style on your next vacation. Club Members may redeem their Hilton Honors Points for Lyft credits. You will also earn three Hilton Honors Points for every \$1 spent on Lyft rides (economy, luxury and extra seats). To do so, you must first link your Hilton Honors account to your Lyft account. Find out more [here](#).

Club Members with Elite Premier status may opt in to receive an annual \$250 Lyft Pass credit for airport and HGV resort transfers within the U.S. This perk replaces our previous Elite Premier one-way airport transfer service. Visit the [Club website](#) for more details.

## Your HGV by the Numbers

HGV's acquisition of Diamond Resorts creates one of the largest timeshare networks in the industry, combining HGV's brand and culture with Diamond's strong independent portfolio. This will increase product and service offerings in the future, while providing the same level of hospitality you've come to expect from both companies. Here's a snapshot of the acquisition:



**20**

Number of new markets  
in HGV's resort portfolio



**92**

Number of Diamond  
Resorts properties acquired  
by HGV



**710,000**

Total number of Owners  
under the combined  
companies



# The Q&A Family Travel Edition



Discover what Pam W. enjoys most about fun-filled family getaways with Hilton Grand Vacations

Owners Pam W. and her husband Gary, from California, are parents quite unlike any other. Despite having five grown children of their own, the couple decided to adopt seven young siblings who were left orphaned after a tragic car accident in 2018. Today, Pam shares her newfound family's colorful adventures on Instagram at [@second.chance.7](#), including a recent stay at [Hilton Grand Vacations at MarBrisa](#) in Carlsbad, California. Here, she tells us more about family vacations with HGV.

## How often do you travel as a family?

We never go a year without a family vacation together. It keeps us connected amid our busy lives. It recharges us all and allows us to remember the importance of family!

## Tell us more about your family's recent trip to MarBrisa. What were some of your favorite features at the property?

We took advantage of the pool and game area a lot. We also loved that the resort had s'mores kits for sale at the front desk and numerous fire pits. We found our own little spot where we could relax uninterrupted, and it was wonderful! Also, everything felt super clean. From the room seal to the specially wrapped TV remote, we were assured that everything was sanitized before our arrival.

“ We never go a year without a vacation together. It allows us to remember the importance of family ”



Making the most of the room at Hilton Grand Vacations at MarBrisa



Enjoying barbecued snacks in the sun



**What are some of your other favorite memories of traveling with HGV?**

My best HGV trip was when I had all of my adult children and grandchildren together on a multi-generational getaway. We stayed at [Elara, by Hilton Grand Vacations](#) in Las Vegas, and the convenience of the resort was perfect. The grown-up kiddos could head out to dinner and dance at venues located a short walk away, while the grandkids stayed behind with Gary and me for a night swim in the pool.

**Do you find that vacation ownership affords you benefits when traveling with a large group?**

Yes. It is easy to book multiple rooms with the Points we have, and to combine everything into one big family trip. We also love the fact that we can interchange HGV ClubPoints with Hilton Honors Points, and having RCI as another option is also a huge plus. There is just so much flexibility.

**What kid-friendly amenities do you look out for when traveling with HGV?**

A great pool is a must! On-site dining is also super important, as well as extra activities like a game room. Our stay at MarBrisa was great in this respect as the property had a pool table, a foosball table, waterslides and a playground. We couldn't have asked for more!

**What is one tip you have for those planning a family vacation?**

Book a large family suite, which is super fun to share. A full kitchen ensures that the kids can always be fed quickly, and a washer and dryer always come in handy — going home without any laundry to do is a great feeling.



Having a splashing good time at the pool



## 48 hours in ... Chicago

It's easy to fall in love with Chicago thanks to its myriad attractions and activities — from kayaking along the Chicago River to shopping on Armitage Avenue, the Windy City will sweep you off your feet

### Day one 10 A.M.



For the perfect introduction to the city, start with the Chicago River. Instead of the typical boat cruise, join [Urban Kayaks](#) for a two-hour guided tour of Chicago's historic spots. You'll paddle past architectural icons, including the neo-Gothic Tribune Tower, the famous Wrigley Building and other jaw-dropping skyscrapers. Even the river itself is a feat of engineering — its natural flow was manually reversed in 1887 to improve the city's sanitation.

### 1 P.M.

After you've worked up a sizable appetite, head to Lakeshore East for lunch at [MingHin Cuisine](#), one of the city's largest dim sum restaurants. Use the iPad at your table to order plate after plate of succulent shrimp dumplings, pan-fried vegetable rolls and creamy salted egg yolk buns. If you're craving something sweet after, stop by [The Original Rainbow Cone](#) at Navy Pier. A classic Chicago dessert, each towering cone features slices (yes, slices!) of ice cream in flavors such as orange sherbet, pistachio, strawberry and chocolate.



### 3 P.M.

The Windy City is home to some of the country's most celebrated museums, including the [Art Institute of Chicago](#) and the [Field Museum](#). Take the opportunity to visit a lesser-known but equally notable institution, the [Chicago History Museum](#). Here, you'll learn about Chicago's colorful past through hands-on exhibits, such as a restored vintage "El" train from the 1800s, Abraham Lincoln artifacts and a life-size Chicago-style hotdog.



### 7 P.M.

Return to your studio or suite at [Hilton Grand Vacations Downtown Chicago/Magnificent Mile](#) to freshen up before heading out to dinner at [Soulé](#), a stylish soul food restaurant in West Town. Dig into comforting Creole classics, such as fried green tomatoes, creamy garlic shrimp, blackened catfish over dirty rice and honey-drizzled fried chicken. Don't forget to save space for the decadent peach cobbler. Drinks are BYOB.



### 10 P.M.

Cap off a memorable day with a show at [Second City](#), the Chicago-born comedy club and improvisation school that helped launch the careers of celebrities Tina Fey, Steve Carrell and John Belushi (to name a few). While no two shows are the same, you can always expect nonstop laughs. Plus, that comedian you see on stage might just be the next big Hollywood star!



## Day two 9 A.M.

For breakfast, pick up a couple of *paczki* — traditional Polish doughnuts fried in vodka — from old-school [Roeser's Bakery](#), which was founded back in 1911. Then, [rent a bicycle](#) and explore [The 606](#), an abandoned railway line that has been transformed into a 2.7-mile elevated hiking and biking trail. Along the way, you can make pit stops at some of Chicago's most vibrant neighborhoods, including Logan Square and Wicker Park.



12 P.M.

Take a break for lunch at [Small Cheval](#) in Wicker Park. Its cheeseburger is identical to the one dished up at its famous sister restaurant, Au Cheval — minus the three-hour wait time. Served on a toasted bun with cheese, Dijonaise, house-made pickles and onions, the burger has been named among the best in the country by both *Food Network* and *Bon Appetit*.



2 P.M.

On Armitage Avenue in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, you'll find rows of charming Victorian houses and one-of-a-kind boutiques. Shop for a custom leather bag at [Laudi Vidni](#), stationery at [All She Wrote](#) and local art at [Fortunate Discoveries](#). Afterward, stroll through the neighborhood's namesake park and admire its manicured gardens. Be sure to visit the [Lincoln Park Zoo](#), which is home to over 200 animal species, including meerkats and giraffes.



6 P.M.

Housed in a former 1920s speakeasy, [The Drifter](#) transports its guests back to the Prohibition era. The cocktail menu, which features creative riffs on classic drinks, changes nightly. Sip a pre-dinner tippie, such as a Manhattan with rye and walnut, while watching quirky performances by jugglers, magicians, contortionists, dancers and more.

8 P.M.

Home to one of the largest Mexican communities in the United States, Chicago boasts some of the nation's best Mexican food. At [Tzucó](#), Carlos Gaytán — the first Mexican chef to earn a Michelin star — fuses the cuisine of his native country with the French techniques he has learned throughout his career. Enjoy specialties including French onion soup with poblano peppers, guacamole topped with crispy pork belly and carne asada with goat cheese fondue.







# Cruise Control

For a smooth-sailing adventure, consider embarking  
on a cruise for your next vacation

Explore the scenic landscapes  
of Alaska on a cruise

From the fun-filled onboard activities to the exploration of several bucket-list destinations on a single trip, there's plenty to love about cruises. And did we mention that you only need to unpack once?

After a long hiatus, cruises are finally in full swing again, which means you can now book your next seafaring voyage through Hilton Grand Vacations' [ClubPartner Perks program](#). Our Partner [CruisesOnly](#) works with major cruise lines, such as Carnival and Royal Caribbean, and offers a range of itineraries spanning nearly 2,000 ports of call — from the wild beauty of Alaska to the magnificent ruins of Pompeii. Whatever the duration or time of year, there's a cruise to transport you to new horizons.

Every booking comes with a "best price guarantee" commitment: If you find a lower price elsewhere, CruisesOnly will match it and refund you 110% of the difference. What's more, you can earn Bonus Points when securing your reservation with cash, as well as other perks such as dining and airfare credits.





Get up close and personal with flamingos on the Discover the Galápagos: Outer Loop voyage with Celebrity Cruises  
Image by Steve Allen/Shutterstock

Need some inspiration? Consider the [Discover the Galápagos: Outer Loop](#) voyage with Celebrity Cruises. This 10-night adventure aboard the Celebrity Flora, which is slated to run from December 31, 2021 to January 10, 2022, will see you sailing around the pristine Galápagos Islands and socializing with fellow HGV Club Members. During the trip, you'll get to spot exotic wildlife such as iguanas and flamingos, lounge on beautiful black-sand beaches and more. You can even extend your trip with an optional guided land journey to the awe-inspiring ancient ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru.

### Booking Tips

- You can use current-year, Saved or Borrowed ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points, cash or any combination of these currencies to book your next cruise.
- Cruise reservations using current-year ClubPoints can be made for travel throughout the rest of the calendar year, based on availability.
- Reservations should be made at least 30 days in advance of your departure date to ensure proper documentation is completed.





# Travel Your Way With RCI

Embark on a vacation that checks all your boxes with RCI,  
your global travel network

**RCI**<sup>®</sup>

Whether you want to scale mountain peaks, relax on sunny beaches or marvel at city skylines, RCI can help you book your dream getaway. As a Hilton Grand Vacations Club Member, you get priority access to Select Exchange properties before they become available to other RCI members.

Ready to start booking? Here are some ideas to inspire your travel planning.

## Bask in the sun

If your idea of the perfect vacation involves sun-kissed sand and salty sea air, then choose from our list of destinations that are ideal for a beach break. Ocean City has miles of historic boardwalks, Galveston is home to pristine beaches, and the San Diego coast offers some of the best sunsets in the country.

## Immerse in nature

Explore the most beautiful natural landscapes in the United States with RCI — from dramatic desert canyons to epic mountain valleys. Fill your days with winery tours and waterfall hikes in Shenandoah Valley, go kayaking on the serene waters of Lake Tahoe or climb the famous red-rock cliffs of Sedona.

## Hit the city streets

If there's nothing you enjoy better than a day of shopping and sightseeing followed by a fun night out in town, then consider booking a city break. Soak in the colorful culture and cuisine of New Orleans or hit the dance floor in Nashville. Alternatively, take a trip to Denver, where you can enjoy big-city fun with a laid-back atmosphere.

Do you have previously deposited Points sitting with RCI? Consider returning to your favorite HGV property by using those Points via RCI Exchange.

Plan tomorrow's vacation today. If you need a hand along the way, your RCI Travel Guide can assist with booking or planning. Call us at [800-932-4482](tel:800-932-4482) or visit the [Club website](#) today.

## Get started:

- Log on to your [Club Member Dashboard](#).
- Under Club Member Benefits, locate RCI and click [Explore your vacation options with RCI](#) to link to your RCI subscribing member account.
- Once you've reached your RCI account, you can start searching from the homepage or by clicking "Book" on the top navigation bar.

Having trouble finding availability for your desired destination? Start an Ongoing Search, and RCI will contact you when your dream vacation becomes available.





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