

# Clubtraveler

SPRING 2018

DREAM  
PLAN  
GO



Hilton  
Grand Vacations

CLUBTRAVELER.COM

PLUS

SECRET'S IN  
THE SAUCE

CRUISE TIPS

SAVE YOURSELF  
STRESS

## DIVE INTO CULTURE

THE CARIBBEAN & CENTRAL AMERICA AWAIT





Members can experience deep relaxation on the island of Koh Samui in Thailand by staying at Anantara Vacation Club Bophut Koh Samui.



Where is your favorite spring getaway? Tell us and send your pictures to [feedback@clubtraveler.com](mailto:feedback@clubtraveler.com).

SCHIRBECK/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

# Clubtraveler

DREAM PLAN GO



COVER STORY

## Tropical Cities, Two Ways

Cartagena and Panama City each offer a vibrant counterpart to beach vacations

20

COVER: TUUL & BRUNO MORANDI  
THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT: AARON GEDDE/GETTY IMAGES;  
AARON SOSA; COURTESY OF SATAY BROTHERS  
INSIDE BACK COVER: ZSOLT HLINKA/GETTY IMAGES  
BACK COVER: CATNAP/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

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### Travel Tip

Old contact lens cases are a great way to transport small amounts of creams or lotions. Write the name of their new contents on the lid with a Sharpie, and enjoy the freed-up space in your carry-on!

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### Club

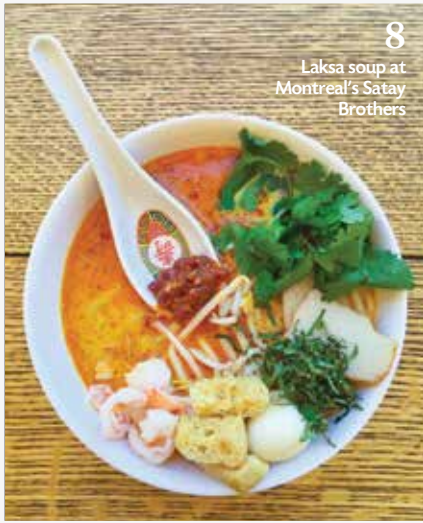
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Laksa soup at Montreal's Satay Brothers



## Dear Club Member



This year is already off to an exciting start, and it's only the beginning! In the first three months alone, we announced our first resort to open in Japan, located in Odawara; our newest resort on Hawaii Island, Ocean Tower by Hilton Grand Vacations Club; and the official opening date for our latest expansion in New York, The Residences by Hilton Club. We expect to announce additional resorts later this year, so keep an eye out for future editions of *Club Traveler* to learn more.

We also ramped up our celebration of Hilton Grand Vacations' 25th anniversary with the launch of our Club Member sweepstakes. Each month throughout 2018, two eligible Members are randomly selected to win 2,500 Bonus Points. One lucky Member will be selected at the end of the year for the grand prize of 25,000 Bonus Points!

Our Member Education Workshops expanded last year, and we hosted four events, helping nearly 800 Members. I had the opportunity to host the event in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and we remain committed to expanding this program in the future. Take a look at the schedule for 2018 on the inside of the back cover of this edition to see if we're coming to a city near you. Also, keep an eye out for content from these sessions available online to help you make the most of what you own.

We continue listening closely to your feedback and hope you see your thoughts driving action. Our focus remains set on enhancing technology in the year ahead, and we are more committed than ever to exploring new potential destinations to expand travel possibilities offered through your Club.

I hope this edition of *Club Traveler* inspires you to travel more and experience all your Club membership has to offer. Helping you make lasting memories is at the heart of all we do, and in our 25th year, we couldn't be prouder to help you do just that.

Happy travels,

**Stan Soroka**  
Chief Customer Officer



### Hilton Grand Vacations Club

6355 MetroWest Boulevard, Suite 180  
Orlando, Florida 32835 USA

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### ASK A CLUB COUNSELOR

**Q.** What's your No. 1 tip for reserving a specific vacation?

**A.** It's tried-and-true advice for a reason: Plan ahead. As soon as the reservation window for your desired property opens up, reserve your dates. The Club Member website—a key tool for your vacation planning—can help you with this. You can use the slider search tool to identify reservation windows for specific properties, and travelers with more flexibility can also see what's available by date and location. Club Counselors are always on hand to support your planning needs as well.

—Nicole W., *Elite Specialist, eight years with Hilton Grand Vacations Club*

### Have a question for a Club Counselor?

Email it to [feedback@clubtraveler.com](mailto:feedback@clubtraveler.com), and it may be answered in an upcoming issue.

# Dream

WHERE TO GO

## Dream Vacation

With iconic blue domes peppering this cliffside island, Santorini acts as a siren, beckoning anyone who has encountered an image of its beauty to visit the Greek isles. This is certainly true for Club Member **Donna K.**, who's owned at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at SeaWorld since 2017. "I have always wanted to visit the Greek isles—for as long as I can remember," she says.

But the isles are just part of Donna's ultimate getaway, which includes stops in mainland Greece and Turkey. On the list of these destinations' draws: scenery, history, the sun and the water. "Exploring ancient ruins intrigues me," Donna says. "I envision leaving from Athens after spending a few days exploring the Acropolis, the city center and the museums." A history buff, Donna names her next

must-sees: the Parthenon, Kalambaka and the Meteora Monasteries. After she's soaked up all that history, Donna says she'd take a ship to those Greek isles she's been dreaming about, making stops in Mykonos and, of course, Santorini. "I would end the trip at Ephesus, Turkey, where the Apostle Paul lived and where the gospel books of St. John were thought to be written."



**WHERE TO STAY** Room in the heart of Athens and then cruise to the Greek isles with ClubPartner Tauck's Treasures of the Aegean 10-day guided tour. Current-year, saved or borrowed ClubPoints and Bonus Points may be exchanged for Tauck travel certificates. Contact a Club Counselor to request certificates or more information.

There's speculation—perhaps aided by the island's sea-hued domes—that Santorini was the inspiration for the myth of the underwater city of Atlantis.

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DREAM: ON THE HORIZON



# LOOK AHEAD

Events worth the trip—whatever your time frame



## 3 MONTHS

### Electric Daisy Carnival, Las Vegas, May 18–20

With countless stages, fireworks, lasers—and electrifying music—the Motor Speedway turns into the stomping grounds of the country's largest electronic dance music festival (pictured above). [lasvegas.electriddaisycarnival.com](http://lasvegas.electriddaisycarnival.com)

### Florida Film Festival, Maitland, Florida, April 6–15

The 27th iteration of this festival features more than 180 films, including 20 world premieres. [floridafilmmfestival.com](http://floridafilmmfestival.com)

### Giant National Capital Barbecue Battle, Washington, D.C., June 23–24

Dig into brisket, chicken and other samples, or take lessons from top pitmasters vying to be America's national barbecue champion. [bbqindc.com](http://bbqindc.com)

### Stars & Stripes Tournament, Los Cabos, Mexico, June 28–July 1

With proceeds going to charities, this golf and deep-sea fishing contest will make you feel all kinds of good. [starsandstripestournament.com](http://starsandstripestournament.com)

## 6 MONTHS

### Breckenridge Wine Classic, Breckenridge, Colorado, September 13–16

Enjoy Breckenridge's fall foliage through wine-tinted lenses during this three-day event that includes a Farm to Fork Wine Dinner, demonstrations, a grand tasting and more. [gobreck.com/breckenridge-wine-classic](http://gobreck.com/breckenridge-wine-classic)

### Pirates of the High Seas, October 5–7, Panama City, Florida

Channel your inner Jack Sparrow in this free festival that brings pirate fun to a whole new level.

[visitpanamacitybeach.com/event/pirates-of-the-high-seas-festival/22560/](http://visitpanamacitybeach.com/event/pirates-of-the-high-seas-festival/22560/)

### Orlando Beer Festival, Orlando, Florida, November 10

Get awash in hundreds of sudsy samplings from Florida and the world over, with scrumptious snacks, live music and games adding to the buzz. [orlandobeerfestival.com](http://orlandobeerfestival.com)

## 9 MONTHS

### A Grand Strand Holiday, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, November and December 2018

Impressive displays—like the Night of a Thousand Candles, the Festival of Trees and a tree-lighting ceremony—meet a bevy of plays and parades around the Grand Strand, Myrtle Beach's epicenter of holiday merriment. [visitmyrtlebeach.com/things-to-do/events/festivals](http://visitmyrtlebeach.com/things-to-do/events/festivals)

### Sugarloaf Craft Festival, Chantilly, Virginia, December 2018

Enjoy live music, snacks and

kids' activities while you browse art, jewelry, fashion, furniture and more from hundreds of the country's top craftspeople. [sugarloafcrafter.com/festivals/schedule](http://sugarloafcrafter.com/festivals/schedule)

### Winter Jazzfest, New York City, January 2019

The 15th annual iteration of this acclaimed weeklong marathon gives stage time to the classics while showcasing forward-thinking newcomers who are keeping the hepcat genre alive. [winterjazzfest.com](http://winterjazzfest.com)

## 12 MONTHS

### Honolulu Festival, Oahu, Hawaii, March 2019

Fueled by its Pacific Harmony theme, this cross-cultural extravaganza showcases art demonstrations and dances—from Japan, Australia, Tahiti, South Korea and more—and finishes with a jubilant parade down Kalakaua Avenue (pictured at right). [honolulufestival.com](http://honolulufestival.com)

### Okinawa International Movie Festival, Okinawa, Japan, March 2019

The Yell, Laugh & Peace Countdown—a spectacle rife



with comedians and street performers—kicks off this 10-day international film festival. [oimf.jp.e.abg.hp.transer.com](http://oimf.jp.e.abg.hp.transer.com)

### Frieze New York, New York City, May 2019

Plunge into the center of the art world when over 200 galleries show their best works. [frieze.com/fairs/frieze-new-york](http://frieze.com/fairs/frieze-new-york)

# Out-of-Office Replies

**The time has come to set your out-of-office reply before cartwheeling out the door. Instead of the usual ho-hum message, have fun with your response. Here are 10 outlandish emails to get the creative juices flowing:**

**1.** I am out of the office until the 15th. Please be aware I'd much rather toil in my cubicle, but my wife insisted we jet to the Fiesta Americana Villas Cancún resort, sip margaritas, gorge on tacos and tan for a week. It will be awful. Trust me.

**2.** Aloha! Looking for me to answer a work query? I'm at the Hokuani Waikiki by Hilton Grand Vacations Club on Oahu, returning the 12th, and the only question I'm currently answering is: "Would you like to make that mai tai a double?"

**3.** Howdy! I'm on a ski trip at Sunrise Lodge, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Park City, Utah. Like last year, it's likely my phone will *accidentally* be dropped from the chairlift into 2 feet of fresh powder. I will respond the moment I find it. Promise.

**4.** I'm currently on vacation. However, my neuroses will not allow me to unplug, so expect to hear from me in five minutes. If you do get a message back from me, please assist me in my relaxation goals by suggesting (in all CAPS) that I stop checking emails on vacation. Thank you!

**5.** I'm not in the office this week, but *you* are. Each day I'm away, please pluck an apple fritter from the break room's doughnut box and place it in my desk drawer. I may be scuba diving in Thailand, but I will not be denied my rightful doughnut.

**6.** Ciao! I'm on a two-week road trip through Italy. The Tuscan countryside is the land of *la dolce vita*, which translates to "I'm not returning messages."

**7.** Sorry to miss your email. I'm on a Caribbean cruise, which can't hold a candle to the department meeting I'm missing. You'll be in my thoughts as I suffer through jet skiing off Grand Cayman.

**8.** I'm away from my computer until the 31st, indulging my perfectly healthy obsession with

finding *Lord of the Rings* filming locations in the mountains of New Zealand. Upon my return from Queenstown's Anantara Vacation Club, I shall respond only to emails in which I'm addressed as King Théoden of Rohan.

**9.** Hi! I'm away from work, in Las Vegas, without email or my usual level of restraint. Should I hit a multimillion-dollar slot machine jackpot, consider this out-of-office message permanent.

**10.** *Doumo arigatou* for your email. In honor of my trip to Japan, a haiku for you:

Kyoto beckons  
My unattended inbox  
Means take a number



**BONUS MESSAGE** Write an out-of-office email entirely in emojis, like this:







#### HOW TO GET THERE

ClubPartner Perk Tauck offers an eight-day tour of the Pacific Northwest. In addition to a voyage through the Olympic Peninsula, the tour includes a wine tasting in Oregon, a trip to the Butchart Gardens in Victoria, British Columbia, and a treetop canopy walk in Vancouver. Contact a Club Counselor to request your travel certificate using ClubPoints or Bonus Points for this tour.

# The Olympic Peninsula

Olympic National Park in Washington is known for the verdant greens of its temperate rainforest, but the peninsula is a color riot. Sky-blue subalpine lakes and polka dots of wildflowers form part of the palette; tide pools complete it. Violet starfish, emerald anemones and crimson-clawed crabs reward shoreline wanderers with an experience both beautiful and profound: “Contemplating the teeming life of the shore, we have an uneasy sense of the communication of some universal truth that lies just beyond our grasp,” wrote author and conservationist Rachel Carson. “In its very pursuit we approach the ultimate mystery of Life itself.”

SEAN XU/GETTY IMAGES

Second Beach (pictured here) is considered one of the best places to tidepool-hop in the area.



A gourmand's Montreal mini-circuit: Sip coffee at a café on Saint Paul Street (shown here), and pick up a cheese selection at Le Fromagerie Atwater (at right).

# Canada's Culinary Capital

Take a bite out of Montreal



## Where to Stroll

Some of Montreal's most picturesque pathways run alongside Lachine Canal. This former fur-trade artery cuts through the lower part of the city, from the Old Port to the historic borough of Lachine. Picnic by the water's edge behind Marché Atwater ([marchespublics-mtl.com](http://marchespublics-mtl.com)), a covered market that's open year-round. La Fromagerie Atwater ([fromagerieatwater.ca/en](http://fromagerieatwater.ca/en)) is your best bet for local cheese and charcuterie, or visit the popular Satay Brothers stall ([sataybrothers.com](http://sataybrothers.com)) for street food inspired by Singapore. Walking north along the canal will lead you to the cobbled streets of Old Montreal. While there, pause along Saint Paul Street West for coffee at Olive & Gourmando ([oliveetgourmando.com](http://oliveetgourmando.com))

or an aperitif at Philémon Bar ([philemonbar.com](http://philemonbar.com)).

## Where to Eat

Near the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, glass-walled Brasserie T! ([brasserie-t.com](http://brasserie-t.com)) was made for people-watching. This casual offshoot of the celebrated Restaurant Toqué serves French classics like beef tartare and steak frites slathered in herbaceous compound butter.

Reservations are a must at Nora Gray ([noragray.com](http://noragray.com)), an intimate Italian spot known for its natural wine selection and sharing plates. Feeling

spontaneous? The Dinr app ([getdinr.com](http://getdinr.com)) flags last-minute openings at the city's hottest tables, including the difficult-to-book Joe Beef, a temple of nose-to-tail eating where even the mashed potatoes are served with bone marrow.

## How to Get Around

Bring walking shoes: Montreal is a city of steep hills and inclines. (During the city's icy winters, footwear with decent grip is essential.) Watch out for what locals call "Montreal directions": Streets and transport routes named

"east" and "west" don't strictly abide the compass. Still, it's easy to get around using the color-coded Metro lines and STM bus services.

## Where to Stay

The Embassy Suites by Hilton is conveniently located between downtown and Old Montreal. Just opposite, the Palais de Congrès convention center provides access to the weatherproof "Underground City"—a tunnel network connecting the most important buildings of central Montreal—and Place-d'Armes metro station.



## HOW TO GET THERE

From Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, taxi transfers to the city center are a flat rate (CAD \$40). As French is Quebec's official language, not all cabdrivers speak English—but the dispatcher, near the main exit, can help with your arrangements. Alternatively, Montreal's public transport system, the STM ([stm.info](http://stm.info)), offers a shuttle: The aptly numbered 747 bus serves a series of downtown stops, including the René-Lévesque/Jeanne-Mance stop, a five-minute walk from the Embassy Suites by Hilton. Purchase one-way tickets (CAD \$10) from the STM self-service machines by the exit, or directly from the driver if you have the correct fare in coins.



# Plan

MAKE IT  
HAPPEN

Bordeaux is the largest wine region in France, both by vineyard acreage and amount of wine produced.

## All Aboard

**Mary and Jim M.** used their Hilton Grand Vacations Club membership to cruise the Bordeaux River aboard the *Scenic Diamond* in August 2017. One of their cruise highlights:

"We want to visit all the great wine regions of the world. Since we're already familiar with California and Italian wines, seeing the Bordeaux region with a cruise was superb. The Club organized cycling excursions that let us experience the area in a hands-on way, getting to know wines

we weren't as familiar with in one vacation. We'd ride our bikes down a country road, seeing chateaus as we went; we'd pull over, pull off a grape, sample the wines. We saw how the vines were hand-trimmed, to get the grapes exposed and keep them close to the ground. You develop a more intimate appreciation of the terroir when you're up close, standing there actually among the vines. Now, when we drink wines from Bordeaux, we know what we're drinking. We taste the earth."

09





PLAN: GET CRUISING

# BON VOYAGE!

Cruise news, tips and facts for smooth sailing

## Maiden Voyages New ships setting sail in spring 2018. Break out the Champagne!

**CARNIVAL Horizon**  
(Launching April 2018)  
Onboard smokehouse and brewery from Guy Fieri

**ROYAL CARIBBEAN Symphony of the Seas**  
(Launching April 2018)  
Hit two destinations at once: More than 12,000 trees and plants make up the ship's NYC "Central Park" experience

**NORWEGIAN Bliss**  
(Launching May 2018)  
Two-level go-kart track on the top deck—the largest track of its kind

**MSC Seaview**  
(Launching June 2018)  
Panoramic-view elevators and a 360-degree glass promenade translate to stunning sea views

## GO YOUR OWN WAY

Think cruises aren't your thing? Trust us, there's a cruise for everyone: cat lovers, fans of *Star Trek* and *The Walking Dead*, vegans, Goths, knitters, Green Bay Packers enthusiasts, psychics and aficionados of '80s music. Sail on!

[meowmeowcruise.com](http://meowmeowcruise.com), [startrekthecruise.com](http://startrekthecruise.com), [walkerstalkercruise.com](http://walkerstalkercruise.com), [atasteofhealth.org](http://atasteofhealth.org), [gothiccruise.com](http://gothiccruise.com), [craftcruises.com](http://craftcruises.com), [packerslegendscruise.com](http://packerslegendscruise.com), [divinetravels.com](http://divinetravels.com), [the80scruise.com](http://the80scruise.com)



## Cruise Tip: Become a bookworm

A common fear of first-time cruisers is they'll be unable to find solitude outside of their cabin, or that all shared spaces will come with the expectation of chatting up fellow passengers. Enter the introvert's escape: the library. Most ships have a library with books, magazines, and crossword and jigsaw puzzles, making it a good place to find some quiet time beyond your cabin walls. While you're there, take a peek at what other passengers are reading—once you're feeling social again, you'll have an opening line at the ready.



### LEARN MORE

Cruise Specialists are available to help you use your Points to book cruises through CruisesOnly. Visit [hgvc.cruisesonly.com](http://hgvc.cruisesonly.com) to find your best cruise match, then call CruisesOnly at 800-364-3656 to arrange applying your ClubPoints, Bonus Points or cash supplement.



The collar of each Vumos Toiletry Kit bottle can be rotated to show whichever label you'd like.



# Keep Calm While Carrying On

From laptop bags to helpful apps, these travel essentials will get you through airport security and into your seat as efficiently as possible



The Nomader comes with a lifetime warranty.



## Nomader Collapsible Water Bottle

How many times have you made it to the front of the security line only to be told to toss your water bottle (and buy an overpriced new one on the other side)? This ingenious roll-up bottle solves that problem by fitting into your carry-on until it's ready to be deployed at a water fountain near your departure gate. It's also leak-proof and BPA-free, and it comes in 11 colors. [nomader.com](http://nomader.com)

## Vumos Toiletry Kit

Siphoning 3 ounces of shampoo is annoying enough that you may be tempted to just do without. But this color-coded set of four squeezable, refillable silicone bottles will have you singing in the shower no matter where you're headed. The sturdy, clear-plastic bag makes it so easy for TSA agents to inspect that you

may find yourself singing (quietly) in the security line as well. [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

## Brookstone Genius Pack Packing Cubes Set

Packing cubes are a travel game-changer. This three-pack covers all your bases, with a small cube that's perfect for a few carry-on essentials (like a change of underwear in case your main bag gets lost), a medium one for T-shirts and jeans, and a large one that's expansive enough to fit an incredible 13 dress shirts. [brookstone.com](http://brookstone.com)

The Brookstone Genius Pack Packing Cubes are made of durable nylon.



## Incase EO Travel Backpack

Rummaging through your bag to retrieve your laptop, then frantically tossing it onto the conveyer belt is part of the airport experience, right? Not if you're sporting this expandable backpack with a convenient 17-inch laptop compartment that opens flat, meaning that your computer can be screened without having to be removed.

Organizer pockets can carry chargers, and its breathable mesh panels keep the stylish bag cool against your back. [incase.com](http://incase.com)



Compression straps keep the EO Travel Backpack (below) stable.



## TSA App

Like many governmental agencies, the TSA can feel ... opaque. Fortunately, its travel app is excellent. It provides 24/7 access to the most requested airport security information,

including a useful—and amusing—database of items that are and aren't allowed in carry-ons. Bear spray and spear guns are definite no-nos, but shock collars and Harry Potter wands get the go-ahead. [iTunes](http://iTunes), [Google Play](http://Google Play)





### Fun Fact

Time zones are not all one hour apart. Some are only 30 or 45 minutes.

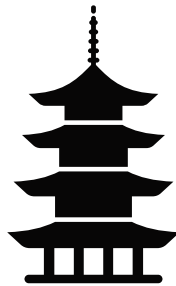
Umami-rich mushroom and tomato powder + lavender mochi rice cakes + licorice ice cream = all served in Monarch Airlines' Mood Food boxes meant to reduce stress + promote upbeat attitudes while flying



# 95

The percentage of Florida's Biscayne National Park that's underwater

## IN THE KNOW: TRAVEL TRIVIA

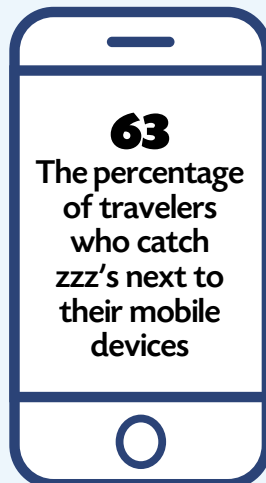


# 705 A.D.

Year the world's oldest hotel opened, in Japan

### Aloha State:

Longest life expectancies + happiest residents



# 63

The percentage of travelers who catch zzz's next to their mobile devices



# 46%

of travelers prefer face-to-face flight check-in over self-serve kiosks

## In the sky at any given moment

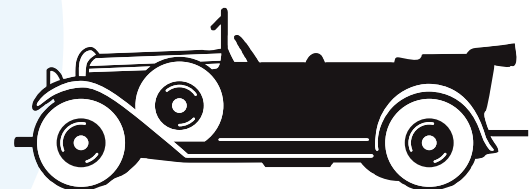
9,728 planes  
carrying 1,270,406 people

## Six months

How long it would take to drive to the moon at 60 mph

# 1902

Year the first written speeding ticket was issued





PLAN: PICTURE PERFECT

Photo collage techniques can transform already-stunning panoramic images and turn them into your magnum opus.



# Turn Your Pictures Into Pieces of Art

13

We all have that one vacation shot; every time we look at it, we're transported back to a magical moment. Now, what if you could make the colors glow, wipe away imperfections or transform it into a black-and-white masterpiece? You can, with the click of a button. Elevate your smartphone snapshots with these photo editing tools and apps, available on iTunes, Google Play or Windows Store.

## Brightness and White Balance

Instantly rescue images that turned out too dark or off-color. This tool is available in most editing programs, including many built-in camera apps, as well as Adobe Photoshop Express for Apple, Android and Windows.

**Photo Collage** Show off a collection of Alaskan wildlife pictures or landscape images by combining them into one canvas through the magic of overlapping

and merging, reminiscent of a surreal painting or double-exposed film images. Try using AutoDesk Pixlr (Apple, Android or Windows) or LightX Photo Editor (Apple or Android).

**Creative Filters** Experiment with softening photo edges by applying a vignette, wiping away background distractions, applying a texture to lend a watercolor or oil-painting style, or adjusting colors with traditional filters. Explore Filterstorm Neue (Apple), Bonfire Photo Editor Pro (Android), Snapseed (Apple or Android) or even Instagram for popular filters.

**Cosmetic Tools** Love that selfie at Machu Picchu, but not that pimple? Enhancing tools offer teeth whitening, blemish healing and red-eye removal. Look into Aviary and AirBrush photo editors, or experiment with TouchRetouch (Apple or Android).

## DISPLAY YOUR ART

Once you've transformed your best image, display it by going beyond classic matte or glossy finish. Experiment with photo printing on stretched canvas for a classic appeal, free-standing glass plaques for the office, distressed metal for your walls or wood panels to complement rustic decor. Explore innovative printing options at Shutterfly, Woodsnap, Snapfish and Bay Photo.

Techniques that mimic double-exposed film lead to evocative, one-of-a-kind images.





# Stress Less

Save yourself from travel anxiety with these simple strategies

## Ready to Exhale

Whether you can't take the turbulence on your flight or your rowdy neighbor is getting on your nerves, this deep breathing exercise relaxes your mind and body. Start by closing your eyes and focusing on your breathing. Next, breathe in for four counts, then out for eight. Pay attention to your expanding lungs and stomach. Repeat the pattern until your anxiety (or annoyance) fades.

## Snack Attack

Getting hangry on vacation is a buzzkill, so bringing on-the-go grub is always a good idea. Nuts are perfect

because they're packed with protein and good fats to keep you satiated. Granola bars are another fix, but avoid ones that are candy bars in disguise. Instead, look for the low-sugar, high-fiber variety.

## Pack Away Stress

Make a mini travel kit tailored to your anxiety triggers, and carry it with you at all times for peace of mind. Does the thought of getting hurt on the road send you spiraling? Stuff Band-Aids and aspirin into a small tin. If it's dirty hands that stress you out, put sanitizer and wet wipes into a zip-top bag. Getting (and staying) wet? Make it a poncho coupled with

a plastic bag to stuff wet socks into. You get the picture.

## Strike a Pose

When you're bound to your seat and feeling either sluggish or restless, try this seated twist: Sit up tall, grab the sides of your seat, and twist your torso to the right and left, holding each side 10 to 20 seconds. When you have a little more space, try a modified mountain pose: Stand up tall and bring your feet together, toes forward. Hands clasped, raise your arms above your head. Slowly raise your heels so you're standing on the balls of your feet. Hold 10 seconds.

## LET'S CHAT

Meeting locals is one of the best parts about travel. But striking up a conversation can feel awkward—ergo, stressful. Ask these three questions to start talking.

1. **What are you reading right now?** You could use the "I need something to read on my flight" excuse.
2. **Where is your favorite place that you've visited?** Gabbing about memorable

experiences is always fun, and could give you ideas for day trips near your destination.

3. **What's your go-to restaurant?** This one's a twofer—you'll get great ideas for dinner while learning about local hangouts.



# Go

## WHAT TO DO

Springs Preserve boasts a world-class collection of Mojave cactuses and succulents, on display at the preserve's botanical garden.

### Local Perspective

Between California and Arizona sits the brightest city on earth from outer space: Las Vegas. Club Members can stay in the City of Lights at **Elara, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**, conveniently located in the center of the city's famous Strip. Beyond the Strip, make time to see and feel the warmth of this glowing city with tips from area native **Daja Gegen**.

"People generally only experience the Strip when they visit, which presents a one-dimensional view of the city," says Daja. "But Las Vegas is a city of transplants, and with that brings a diverse population, people who moved there to experience the ethos of the West—that all things are possible, rules are meant to be broken and individuality is welcomed."

Daja recommends getting a taste of this diversity off the Strip and in Chinatown, located in a strip mall near the Flamingo. "It's actually a bit of a misnomer because you can get all kinds of amazing Asian food there," says Daja.

However, she says the key to truly enjoying Las Vegas is to get outside. "I love Springs Preserve and Red Rock Canyon. It's hot in the summer, yes. But the rest of the year is as good as it gets." Both are less than 15 miles from the Strip: The 180-acre Springs Preserve boasts a botanical garden, hikes and live animal exhibits, while the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area—a desert nirvana surrounded by mountains—invites travelers to hike, picnic in or drive its crimson landscapes. [springspreserve.org](http://springspreserve.org), [redrockcanyonlv.org](http://redrockcanyonlv.org)



# Get Sauced

Pour on worlds of flavor with specialty sauces from around the globe



## Mole

Native to the Mexican states of Puebla and Oaxaca, mole now has many regional variations. While it may seem odd to serve chocolate—crucial to traditional mole—with meat, when blended with spices and prepared properly, it forms a smoky, savory sauce.

## Peanut Sauce

A terrific complement to a skewer of grilled meats such as chicken or beef, or even tofu and fresh vegetables, Indonesian peanut sauce is endlessly versatile. The sweet-salty sauce usually features garlic, chili, soy, brown or palm sugar and coconut.



## Balsamic Vinegar

Two towns in the Italian region of Emilia-Romagna are to balsamic vinegar what the Champagne region of France is to, well, Champagne. Only balsamic vinegar made in Modena or Reggio Emilia is the “real deal” with a designation of origin seal. Dress salads with this tangy sauce, and drizzle over vanilla gelato for an elegant dessert.

## BBQ Sauce

Tastes in barbecue sauce are varied, from the smoke of Kansas City to the spice of Texas and the sweet heat of North Carolina. One to try is Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q White Sauce from Alabama. Use it on poultry, pork and even seafood (and see recipe at right).



## Brined Chicken With Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q White Sauce

Did you know that most Hilton Grand Vacations Club properties feature outdoor gas or charcoal grills? On your next trip, try this simple saucy recipe:

### Brine

1 cup each apple juice, water  
1 tablespoon each salt, honey  
½ tablespoon each dark brown sugar, soy sauce, fresh lemon juice  
¼ tablespoon garlic powder

### Chicken

8 boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
1 bottle Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q White Sauce ([bigbobgibson.com](http://bigbobgibson.com))

Combine all brine ingredients in a medium bowl. Add chicken, immersing in brine; cover and refrigerate 1 hour. Remove chicken from brine; wipe off excess salt.

Preheat grill to 400° F. Place chicken directly over heat; grill 5-6 minutes on each side, or until golden and firm to the touch; internal temperature should be 160° F. Submerge chicken in white sauce. Remove from sauce and serve. Serves: 8

## Jerk Sauce

Add Caribbean flair to your next cookout with a spicy Jamaican jerk sauce. The combination of spices, brown sugar and Scotch bonnet peppers is easily negotiated, so you can go as hot—or not—as you like. Plan ahead, though; you'll want to marinate for at least eight hours.



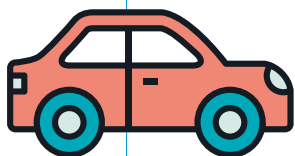


# On the Road Again

Keep joy in the journey at every step by knowing how to appeal to your kids' interests and needs, from toddlers to teens. Here's how to keep them ...

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## Entertained in transit



**TODDLERS**

Activities and snacks are key. Bring surprises like pieces of dried fruit strung on a thread so toddlers can pluck snacks and eat slowly. Encourage discovery while playing "I Spy" when riding the airport escalators or cloud-spotting out your plane's window.

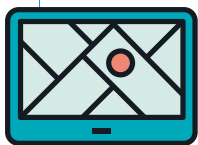
**TWEENS**

Have your chargers and power strips with USB outlets ready, as tweens love to stay plugged in en route. Upload a destination guide or a destination-themed game to get them interested in where they're headed.

**TEENS**

At this age, your kids can entertain themselves, undoubtedly with a tablet or other electronic device. Just remind them to download whatever they need—movies, e-books, holiday reading assignments, etc.—via Wi-Fi before leaving home.

## Off (or on!) mobile devices



**TODDLERS**

It might seem like a splurge back home, but technology is your friend when traveling with toddlers. Load your device with apps they can play without Wi-Fi to keep them busy during a meal or in a long line.

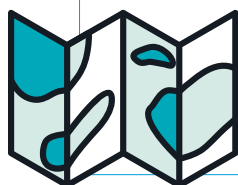
**TWEENS**

Once you arrive, have them power down and take the lead as the family's guide for a day (they can research pre-trip). Set a budget together, then let your tween make suggestions and show the way.

**TEENS**

Hands-intensive activities like kayaking and cooking classes can help keep them off their gadgets. But teens can feel punished if you confiscate their devices. Instead, put technology to good use, challenging your teen to uncover a special restaurant or play DJ by compiling a destination-themed playlist.

## Engaged while sightseeing



**TODDLERS**

Read and show pictures to your young ones about the places you're visiting. Let them pick out brochures at visitors' centers, or select a postcard at a gift shop to instigate a scavenger hunt for a landmark.

**TWEENS**

Find ways to relate the sights you're seeing to your tween's favorite school subjects. "Treasure hunts" for souvenirs related to what they're studying (history, science) are fun gifts for friends back home, too.

**TEENS**

Having some control over their experience can keep teens engaged. Give them some independence by letting them hit that gelateria, or the beach, on their own, then having them meet you at the museum. Just make sure their phones are charged for coordinating a meetup later.



# 3 Days in... Hot Springs, Arkansas

**The smallest national park in the United States, Hot Springs beckons with “the water cure” of thermal baths and fountains spouting drinking water straight from the earth. Coupled with the scenic splendor of the nearby Ouachita National Forest, Hot Springs earns its place in history as America’s original wellness retreat.**

## Day One

Hot Springs consists of 47 geothermal pools and is the oldest protected property in the National Park System. That protection ensures the waters are safe to drink, so fill up your water bottle at any of the “jug fountains” around town. Sip the curative waters while strolling down Bathhouse Row, a collection of bathhouses built from 1892 to 1923. This enchanting enclave is dotted with cellphone-tour signs. Dial in and listen to the history of these facilities—some of which still offer therapeutic baths for under \$35, as at Buckstaff Bathhouse, in operation since 1912, with spa services available as add-ons. [www.buckstaffbaths.com](http://www.buckstaffbaths.com)

## Day Two

Part of “taking the cure” is enjoying the town’s natural beauty. Hot Springs National Park offers 26 miles of scenic trails; hike the Peak Trail to the Hot Springs Mountain Tower for magnificent views of the Ouachita Mountains. After a half day on the trails, head to The Gangster Museum of America, which eulogizes the history of Al Capone, Frank Costello and Bugs Moran, to name a few of the more sinister who vacationed at the springs during Prohibition. For Derby fans, from mid-January to mid-April, end your day at the races at Oaklawn Racing & Gaming, launching pad for 2015 Triple Crown winner American Pharoah. Not a gambler? Browse the antique shops downtown instead. [tgmoa.com](http://tgmoa.com), [oaklawn.com](http://oaklawn.com)

## Day Three

Some of the Ouachita National Forest’s most interesting areas lie an hour northwest of town. Lake Ouachita, the largest man-made lake in Arkansas, is known for its crystal-clear water. Visitors can swim, scuba dive, water ski and fish—bream, catfish, stripers and largemouth bass are abundant. (Ouachita Outdoor Outfitters in Hot Springs rents fishing kayaks.) For mountain biking, Womble Trail on the west end of Lake Ouachita is a popular path. If you plan to extend your stay, a magnificent spot for camping and hiking is the Caney Creek wilderness area, home to the beautiful 4.3-mile Buckeye Trail. [ouachitaoutdoors.com](http://ouachitaoutdoors.com)

Quapaw Baths (pictured at far left) offers thermal soaks for \$20 ([quapawbaths.com](http://quapawbaths.com)); the town of Hot Springs hosts a number of hiking trails, including North Mountain (pictured here).



The vaults of Cartagena's walled city (pictured here) make for a shopping arcade today. At right, a traditional print worn by an indigenous Kuna woman typifies the vibrancy of the region.

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# TWO TROPICAL CITIES, TWO WAYS

A trip to the Caribbean and Central America conjures up images of beachside lounging for days on end—

but that's just one way to experience the glory of the region. Cartagena and Panama City can usher you into the rich culture that lies beyond the postcards.

GARY TOGNONI/GETTY IMAGES, OPPOSITE: BLAINE HARRINGTON/III





The old city center of Cartagena was walled off in the 16th century to prevent pirate raids; today the streets contained within make for one of the region's most rewarding urban strolls.

## CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA ■

The lush, languid romance of Cartagena—Colombia's top destination and one of the most beautiful cities in South America—is fanned both by its welcome sea breeze and a vibrant past. Its historic center, full of meticulously restored colonial architecture and cobblestone streets and encircled by stone walls built by the Spaniards to repel pirates who were after the booty the conquistadors pilfered, has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984.

Colombian Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel García Márquez, affectionately known as Gabo, lived in Cartagena off and on until his death in 2014, and the city inspired much of his work, including *Love in the Time of Cholera* (the movie version, starring Javier Bardem, was also filmed in Cartagena). Take the self-guided Gabo audio walking tour, or go deeper on the three-hour Route of García Márquez guided tour, which includes dozens of sites.

More than 500 gold objects created by the Zenú people are elegantly displayed in the

Gold Museum in Cartagena. The city has also installed a number of enormous bronze statues created by Colombian artist Fernando Botero in a nod to more recent works of art.

The city embodies that peculiarly Caribbean combination of vibrant colors and flavors with a devil-may-care pace, which you can relish at one of Cartagena's restaurants. Take a quick trip to Cuba by booking a table (reservations are essential) at La Vitrola, where the décor, food and live music channel Old Havana. La Cocina de Pepina is a mellow place to try seriously good Caribbean classics. Order a sweet and sour corozo juice, made from seasonal palm fruits, and a plate of refreshing *ezcapacio*, which is made by pickling chunks of tuna with carrots and peppers. Harry's Restaurant and Bar was recently opened in the Charleston Santa Teresa Hotel by Colombia's original celebrity chef, Harry Sasson. And try a different take on the city's ubiquitous ceviche with a plate of *tiradito* (thinly sliced and marinated raw fish) at La Perla. Finish off with an icy treat at La Paletteria, which uses

super-fresh ingredients to make its homemade-style popsicles stand out from the many other shops selling the frozen delights.

About an hour inland from Cartagena is the El Totumo volcano, one of the smallest volcanoes in the world at just 50 feet high. It's also an unusual mud volcano filled with mineral-rich mud heated naturally deep within the earth. This makes it a popular spot for a soak in the healing mud baths. (Legend has it that a local priest, offended by the hell-like fire and brimstone that came out of the Totumo crater, sprinkled it with holy water until the fire went out, filling the volcano with mud. Geologists beg to differ.)

Wooden stairs lead up the volcano's modest flanks and down into the crater itself, which is filled with mud the color and consistency of melted milk chocolate. It's silky, warm and surprisingly buoyant. After your soak, head to the nearby river to rinse off and cool down. El Totumo is sometimes surrounded by tiny yellow butterflies that seem to have flown right off the pages of García Márquez's *100 Years of Solitude*. Many tour companies in Cartagena, like Ecoturismo Los Pinos, offer half-day tours to this spot.

**Resources** [tierramagna.com/en/our-audiotours](http://tierramagna.com/en/our-audiotours), [tourincartagena.com/pages/route-of-garcia-marquez.htm](http://tourincartagena.com/pages/route-of-garcia-marquez.htm), [banrepccultural.org/gold-museum](http://banrepccultural.org/gold-museum), [lacocinadepepina.blogspot.pe](http://lacocinadepepina.blogspot.pe), [hotelcharlestonsantateresa.com/en/dining](http://hotelcharlestonsantateresa.com/en/dining), [facebook.com/LaPerlaCartagena](http://facebook.com/LaPerlaCartagena), [lapaletteria.co/en](http://lapaletteria.co/en), [ecoturismolospinos.com](http://ecoturismolospinos.com)

## PANAMA CITY, PANAMA ■

Like Miami, Panama City is a bustling metropolis tempered by its laid-back seaside location. High-rises stud the business district, while the bohemian and historic Casco Viejo neighborhood, which was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997, beckons with bars, shopping and art. Its popular waterfront walkway and park are well-used, including the volleyball courts, which are popular with the Kuna people, one of Panama's largest indigenous groups.

Also on the waterfront is the Amador Causeway, home of the Biomuseo. Designed by architect Frank Gehry, whose wife is Panamanian, the museum celebrates the region's biodiversity. The distinctive roof is inspired by the colorful clothing traditionally worn by indigenous groups in Panama.

Panama City is also emerging as a city of cuisine, with craft breweries like La Rana Dorada and renowned restaurants like Maito, ranked No. 20 on the 2017 list of Latin America's 50 Best Restaurants. Head to the local institution of Granclement in Casco Viejo for homemade, all-natural, French-style ice cream and sorbet. For a full meal, take a cue from Bono and make time for Manolo Caracol, also in the Casco Viejo neighborhood, where Manuel Madueño has been serving farm-to-table cuisine since before it was cool.

Panama City functions as the gateway to the Panama Canal, the 48-mile-long engineering wonder that enables more than 14,000 vessels a year to cut 8,000 miles and millions

of dollars off their transport costs by short-cutting between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans through the Isthmus of Panama.

A half-day Panama Canal transit on the *Pacific Queen* tourist boat takes about six hours and transports travelers through two locks on the canal to experience the sensation of rising and lowering inside each lock as changing water levels move the *Pacific Queen*, along with massive cruise ships and even larger cargo ships, through to the canal's next level. Onboard narration imparts a treasure trove of information about the canal, which celebrated its 100th birthday in 2014. Bone up on more Panama Canal history before or after your transit at the excellent Canal Museum of Panama. Audio guides in English are available.

**Resources** [biomuseopanama.org](http://biomuseopanama.org), [aranadorada.com](http://aranadorada.com), [maitopanama.com](http://maitopanama.com), [granclement.com](http://granclement.com), [manolocaracol.net](http://manolocaracol.net), [pmatours.net/pacific-queen/panama-canal-partial-transit-tour.html](http://pmatours.net/pacific-queen/panama-canal-partial-transit-tour.html), [museodelcanal.com](http://museodelcanal.com)



Frank Gehry's design of the Biomuseo, which opened in 2014, tells the story of how Panama unites two continents. A Kuna woman, at right, wears traditional garb.



These popular ports of call deliver dreamy coastal sophistication and once-in-a-lifetime adventures available nowhere else in the world, for a complete experience and an unforgettable vacation.

LEFT TO RIGHT: FRANCESCO LATRUCCI/GALLERY STOCK; DAN HERRICK/GETTY IMAGES; TUUL © BRUNO MORANDI



## Exclusive Excursion Into Costa Rica's Rainforest

During the Member Cruise to Costa Rica, the Caribbean, Panama and more, Members can join an exclusive adventure into the Costa Rican rainforest, which was one of *National Geographic's* Top 10 Adventure Destinations in 2015.

After a *pura vida* welcome and refreshment, settle into an open-air gondola for a revealing 90-minute tour through the rainforest canopy adjacent to Braulio Carrillo National Park, the second largest in Costa Rica. From this rare vantage point, guides help visitors spot examples of the 500-plus bird species and more than 130 mammals that live among the area's 600 varieties of trees.

Back on solid ground, an ample lunch awaits, followed by a walk through the rainforest and a visit to the nearby Butterfly Garden, Hummingbird Gallery, Orchid Garden and Terrarium to see more of the jungle beauty up close. (For those not on a Member Cruise, this unique rainforest adventure is available at other times of the year.)



Hawksbill Villa (pictured here) is another option at Turks and Caicos' Grace Bay.



## NEW ELITE PARTNER TO OFFER A PIECE OF PARADISE

Imagine dipping your feet into your personal infinity pool. Beyond that seemingly infinite body of water is another—the ocean. No one is around, save your significant other and your personal chef, who is approaching with a glass of your favorite wine in one hand and a plate of freshly seared scallops in the other. As you savor your first bite, you think to yourself, “This villa is my own personal paradise.” And you’re not wrong.

Hilton Grand Vacations Club Members with Elite status can now discover their own villa paradise thanks to a new partnership with Villas of Distinction. Choose from thousands of luxurious villas—ranging from one-bedroom penthouses to 42-bedroom estates—in more than 50 destinations around the world.

Not only is every Villas of Distinction

property distinguished, but so is each guest. The trademark Villa Concierge team will assist you in planning a one-of-a-kind getaway. From arranging for tee times and in-villa spa services to more involved requests like organizing a 20-person family photo shoot or a hot air balloon ride, the Villa Concierge team can turn your dream vacation into a reality.

Beach lovers should consider booking a villa in the Caribbean, where members with Elite status can choose from hundreds of villas in 18 countries.

### Doctor's Cave Beach, Montego Bay, Jamaica

Known for its silky white sands and turquoise waters—averaging 78 to 84 degrees year-round—Doctor's Cave is an especially inviting beach for families. Stay nearby in Montego

Bay at the Villas at Half Moon, where each villa features a personal cook, butler and housekeeper, garden or ocean views, two golf carts and more.

### Grace Bay Beach, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos

Ranked among the top beaches in the world, Grace Bay is beloved for its 13 miles of pristine powdered-sugar sand. Make your home base the Windsong villa, an oceanfront property with breathtaking views of Grace Bay. With four bedrooms, a plunge pool, a fire pit and beachside spa services, this villa is ideal for a wedding, a family reunion or a week away with friends.

### Juanillo Beach, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Soak in the sun on this secluded white-sand beach lined with palm

trees. Rest your head at the Arrecife 23 villa in the Punta Cana Resort. From here, enjoy the colorful coral reefs and calm waters, or plunge into your own private swimming pool. Adventurous travelers will also have access to the resort's many activities, from windsurfing to scuba diving.

### Anse Chastanet Beach, St. Lucia

With warm waters, silver sands and lush palms, Anse Chastanet Beach typifies St. Lucia serenity. You'll find some of the best snorkeling in the Caribbean here. Stay at the Colibri Cottage, featuring gardens, an infinity pool, views of the Petit Piton mountain peak and more. Sleep up to 12, and spend the week at the beach or visiting nearby attractions from the rainforest to the Soufriere Volcano.





# Club

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

## Ask the Resort

Orlando is synonymous with theme parks, but there's plenty behind their dazzle. We asked **Mike M.**, the general manager at Las Palmeras, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club, for his take on the lesser-known side of Orlando.

"We have two new attractions, Topgolf and Andretti Karting & Games. Both are just a short walk from Las Palmeras. Topgolf ([topgolf.com](http://topgolf.com)) has climate-controlled bays and golf games that make it fun for people at all levels to play together. Andretti ([andrettikarting.com](http://andrettikarting.com)) is great for mixed groups, too—speedsters can hit the go-karts, thrill-seekers can swing on zip lines, and gamers will find plenty to keep them occupied.

"For something less sporty: I live in Winter Garden, about 15 miles from downtown. Every Saturday, there's a farmers market for the locals with a number of different artists and food vendors. It can kick off the perfect Orlando Saturday: Start your day at the market, then head to Disney in the afternoon and enjoy the park's fireworks in the evening."

Not a golfer? Not to worry: 51 percent of Topgolf visitors aren't golfers at all, and only 8 percent are avid players.





# What's New With Club?

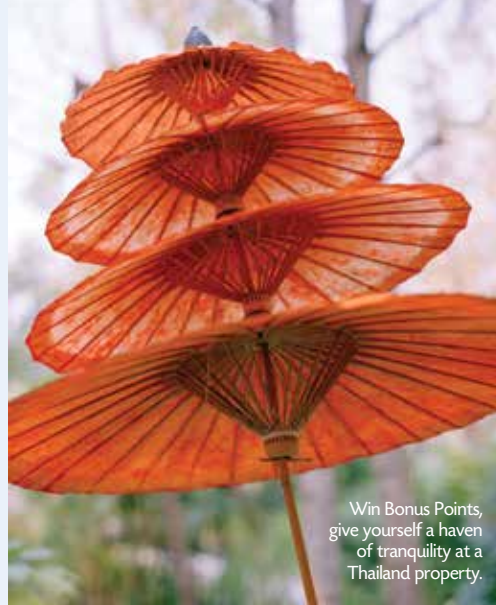
News, tips and updates from Club:  
There's a lot going on this spring

## Added Benefits

### Priority Pass Is Celebrating With an Exclusive Member Discount

You may already know that Priority Pass offers Club Members a 10 percent discount on its plans year-round, but to celebrate Hilton Grand Vacations Club's 25th anniversary, Members can benefit from even bigger savings. Through the end of 2018, Members can enjoy up to 25 percent off the cost of Priority Pass membership, or save even more by using Bonus Points. Membership through Priority Pass grants access to more than 1,000 lounges worldwide. Partnerships like this ensure your vacation is more enjoyable by making the trip there more pleasant.

Annual membership has three levels: Standard, which lets members use lounges for a \$27 fee; Standard Plus, which offers 10 free visits and \$27 visits thereafter; and Prestige, which offers unlimited free lounge entry.



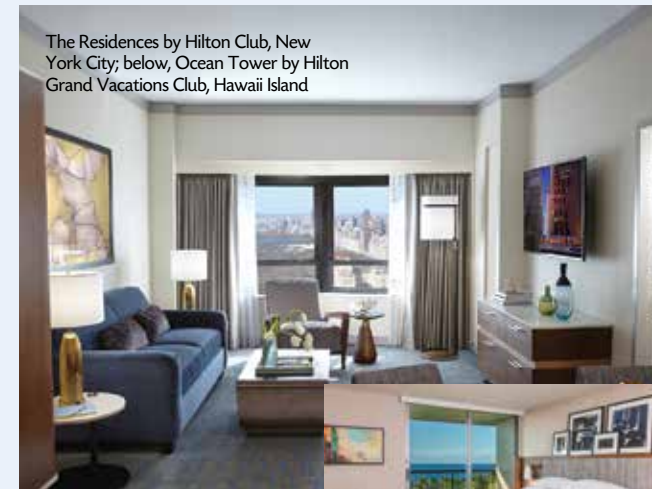
### Priority Pass' special anniversary offer will include:

- Up to 25 percent off Priority Pass memberships for direct/"cash" enrollments
- 25 percent off Standard, 15 percent off Standard Plus and 10 percent off Prestige memberships
- Increased discount when purchasing with Bonus Points

### Win Bonus Points With New Monthly Sweepstakes

All eligible Members in good standing will be automatically entered into a monthly sweepstakes for a chance to win one of two prizes of 2,500 Bonus Points and a drawing for the grand prize of 25,000 Bonus Points.

The best part about it? You don't have to do anything to enter! Monthly drawings started in January and will continue each month through December; sweepstakes winners will be announced on the Club website and in the following month's eClub Traveler newsletter.



## New Properties Announced

This June, The Residences by Hilton Club will open in the top floors of the Hilton New York Midtown—giving Members even more options in Manhattan. The Residences boasts:

- Premier and penthouse one-bedrooms, as well as premier, premier plus and penthouse studios that include in-room spas and Central Park views
- Fitness center, business center, restaurant and bar, on-site convenience store and private owners' lounge
- A location convenient to Rockefeller Center, Bryant Park, Central Park and the Empire State Building

The newly announced Ocean Tower by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, located in Hilton Waikoloa



Village, is slated to begin hosting Members during the fourth quarter of 2018, and will be the first Hawaii Island property to offer Members direct ocean views. Ocean Tower will include:

- One-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom suites, each featuring an ocean or resort view, full kitchen, balcony and spacious living and dining areas
- Inviting studios with kitchenettes
- Exclusive fitness center, a check-in and departure lounge and access to Hilton Waikoloa Village's amenities, from its swimming pools, tennis courts and tram to the village's boat rides, shops, restaurants and spa

Property images proposed and subject to change. ©2018 Hilton Grand Vacations Inc.



Some people begin their days solving a crossword puzzle; José F. spends his workday solving real-life puzzles. As the maintenance supervisor at Ocean 22 by Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, his job entails making sure that every appliance works properly—and, more to the point, figuring out how to fix any problem that arises. "I learn new things all the time," José says. "It's a challenge, but a good one. Everything I work with is a puzzle." *Club Traveler* talked with José about life at Ocean 22.

### Can you walk us through a typical day at Ocean 22?

I come in at 6 a.m. and take care of the pools, making sure the chemicals are all correct, and then I find out what needs to be taken care of for the day. I'll check out the vacant rooms and make sure everything's working correctly. Is the furniture OK? The cabinets? Is there chipped paint? Are all appliances working, everything OK in the bathroom? Anything technical, I'll take care of it.

### What do you like about working in maintenance?

Learning new things is one of the best parts of the job. You just try to identify the problem, then you find a way to solve that problem. You take your basic knowledge of electricity, for example—you've got electricity coming in and

coming out, so if there's an electrical problem, it's one of those two things. You figure it out from there.

### What got you into hospitality?

Well, if you live in Myrtle Beach, you'll work in hospitality in one way or another! But really, I always loved taking care of people. I've been working since I was 13; I had my own hot dog stand, and I loved giving people that fun in their day. Then I worked as a dishwasher, then in housekeeping and banquets, then purchasing. I was working the front desk at Hilton Garden Inn in Myrtle Beach and they needed someone to help out in maintenance, so I gave it a try.

### What do you enjoy the most about your job?

The people. I like interacting with the guests—there are families that come every year, even three times a year. There are people from Colombia and Mexico who visit, and I grew up speaking Spanish and English, so we'll talk in Spanish. The people I work with are great—we help each other out, always working together. In maintenance, we know that if we keep everything right, people will be able to just relax instead of having to call every five minutes to have a lamp fixed. Everybody does their part. The general manager is a big part of that. The way managers treat workers is how workers treat the guests, so guests here experience a real friendliness.

**FRESH LOOK, SAME GREAT CONTENT**

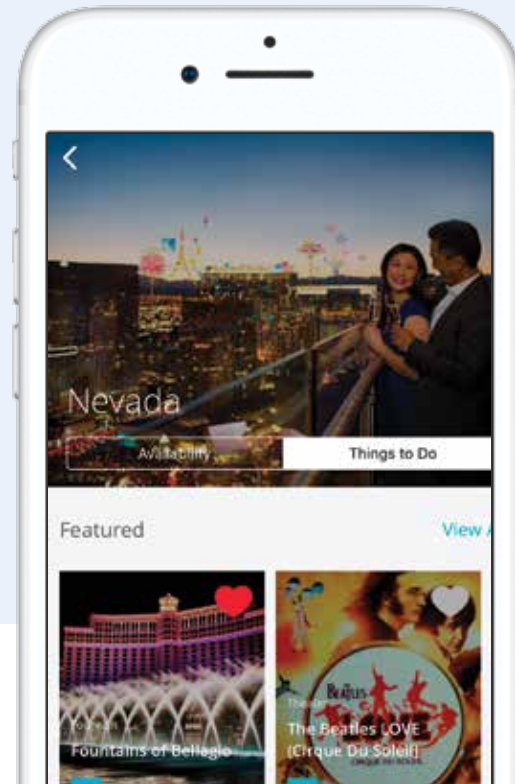
**ALL ABOARD!**  
For the latest cruise news, check out pages 9 and 10.

All Hilton Grand Vacations content has started appearing in one place, the Club website. This transition was made for your convenience and the continuity of your experience. From *Club Traveler* articles to your Member dashboard, everything you need to plan a vacation is now in one place.

### INTRODUCING MOBILE BOOKING AND WEBSITE UPDATES

Now app users can search for the perfect vacation with HGV's mobile-friendly booking engine. If you know the dates you'd like to travel, choose "My Dates" to see only what is available for those dates. To see what's available across a range of dates, or during the Open Season window, select "Flex" or "Open Season."

Plus, improvements to the mobile app trip dashboard have been made to provide Members with more at-a-glance details, like the status of Members' home weeks, facilitating better organization of multiple trips. Furthermore, each region now features a "things to do" section to assist Members in planning their vacations.



STACY HOWELL (JOSE F.); DANIEL WARD/GALLERY STOCK (PARASOLS)



# RCI®

# Your Vacation. Your Choice.

Whether you're dreaming of sun-drenched beaches, bustling cities or serene moments in nature, RCI has you covered. You can experience amazing destinations around the world with access to **thousands of RCI affiliated resorts**<sup>1</sup>, including those resorts that received the coveted RCI Gold Crown Resort® property or RCI Silver Crown Resort® property award for their quality standards.

Did you know?

One of the many benefits of being a Hilton Grand Vacations Club Member is that you also automatically become an RCI® subscribing member. This means you have access to a world of exciting exchange vacation opportunities!

## Escape to the Caribbean

### PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

With 10 beaches to choose from, Punta Cana is a sun seeker's paradise. The 20-mile coastline here is the stuff of dreams: sunbathers soaking up the rays, warm Caribbean waters lapping the shore and lazy palm trees swaying in the gentle breeze.



### OCHO RIOS, JAMAICA

Few Caribbean islands offer Jamaica's mash-up of nature and culture. You can spend your days enjoying the golden beaches and sky-splitting sunsets, or venture beyond the gates of your resort and dive deeper into the island's colorful culture.



TIP

Not sure how to vacation with RCI?

Give us a call at **800.932.4482** for personalized help. You can also search and book online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.





# Nature Retreats

## SEDONA, ARIZONA

Travelers flock to the ancient red rocks of this low-key desert town for adventure of all kinds. More than 150 hiking trails snake through the canyons and offer something for leisurely strollers as well as fitness warriors.



## GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE

This east Tennessee mountain village is full of small-town charm and is surrounded by some of the most picturesque mountains east of the Mississippi. Use Gatlinburg as your base for exploring the mountains, where you can enjoy hiking, zip lining and breathtaking views.



**Member Tip:**  
Start an  
Ongoing Search

Can't find what you are looking for? With an **Ongoing Search**<sup>2</sup>, you tell RCI your parameters (such as dates, destinations, even specific resorts) and RCI will continue searching for you 24/7. Once a match is found, RCI will notify you to either confirm the vacation or release it and continue to search for another option.

To set one up, click on **“Start an Ongoing Search Request”** in the box above your search results on the RCI website. Then, fill out the form with your desired criteria.

RCI makes it easy  
to search, book and  
get away.

1. Log in to [club.hiltongrandvacations.com](https://club.hiltongrandvacations.com)
2. Go to the **“Club Membership”** section
3. Select **“RCI Account”** to link to your RCI® subscribing member account and start searching

Questions?  
Give us a call at **800.932.4482**

<sup>1</sup>These vacations are limited and subject to availability and your accessible Points balance.  
<sup>2</sup>The current RCI Exchange Fee is required to set up an Ongoing Search. The Exchange Fee may be refundable if no match is found, provided the member is otherwise in full compliance with all applicable exchange program requirements.  
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Charmayne S. and  
daughter Kira

**Karl,  
Charmayne, and  
Kira S., with friends  
Leslie F. and Lee W.**

**Club Members since 2008**

Featured Trip: Hilton Grand  
Vacations Club at Borgo  
alle Vigne, June 2017



# La Dolce Vita

Members share their favorite  
Tuscany vacation memories

We have a family tradition where my wife, daughter and I rotate choosing destinations. It began with Charmayne and me wanting to give our daughter experiences as opposed to things, and to show Kira that it's a big world out there—travel can help her appreciate her place in the world. This particular trip was Charmayne's idea, inspired by *The Da Vinci Code*.

We went all around the area, driving most places and taking the train into Florence. We went to Pisa one day and did the typical tourist thing—walking around, looking at the Leaning Tower—and decided to have dinner there before driving back to the property. When we finished dinner, we

saw groups of people walking toward the river, so we followed them. The windows of the buildings along the river were decorated with light, and people were sitting on the walls lining the banks. We climbed onto the wall, too—some of us got up easily, for others it was more comical—and then music started playing and fireworks started shooting into the sky. It turns out it was Pisa's annual Luminara festival for their patron saint. I don't know what we did right that we happened to be there on that night.

You feel like you have your own apartment there. That means you have to supply some things for yourself, but grocery shopping is one of the best parts of being in Italy. You're forced to figure out Italian pretty quick! We'd observe people in line in front of us—

looking for things that indicated the cashier was asking, say, "How will you pay?"—and then we'd respond in Italian in the way they did. And the wine! Boxed wine is looked down upon there, but we saw a box that was only 1 euro, so we thought, *What do we have to lose?* The next grocery trip we bought five of them!

I want to take in culture when I travel; I'm not the kind of person who enjoys vacations where you just sit on the beach. But you don't need the beach to relax. At the end of the day, we'd go out on the canopied patio at the property and just sit there with a glass of wine and look across to the town on the hillside across from us. That way of life is plenty relaxing for me.

**It's important to book ahead for your stay at Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Borgo alle Vigne, which is a particularly popular destination.**

**Reserve your stay as far ahead as your booking window allows to ensure your taste of la dolce vita.**







# Upcoming Member Education Workshops

Optimize the use of your membership  
with tips from education workshops

To help Club Members make the most of their memberships, the Hilton Grand Vacations team will continue holding Education Workshops throughout 2018. Learn how to use your Points and keep a vacation state of mind year-round at one of the scheduled Member Education Workshops below.

## 2018 MEMBER EDUCATION EVENTS

### SATURDAY, JUNE 23

#### **Chicago: Member Education Workshop, Morning Session**

**Where:** Embassy Suites by Hilton Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile

**When:** Registration opens at 9 a.m.; Workshop begins at 9:30 a.m., with the knowledge center and a reception to follow

#### **Chicago: Member Education Workshop, Afternoon Session**

**Where:** Embassy Suites by Hilton Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile

**When:** Registration opens at 3 p.m.; Workshop begins at 3:30 p.m., with the knowledge center and a reception to follow

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

#### **Dallas: Member Education Workshop**

**Where:** Hilton Dallas Lincoln Center

**When:** Registration opens at 9 a.m.; Workshop begins at 9:30 a.m., with the knowledge center and a reception to follow

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

#### **Atlanta: Member Education Workshop, Morning Session**

**Where:** Hilton Atlanta (downtown location)

**When:** Registration opens at 9 a.m.; Workshop begins at 9:30 a.m., with the knowledge center and a reception to follow

#### **Atlanta: Member Education Workshop, Afternoon Session**

**Where:** Hilton Atlanta (downtown location)

**When:** Registration opens at 3 p.m.; Workshop begins at 3:30 p.m., with the knowledge center and a reception to follow



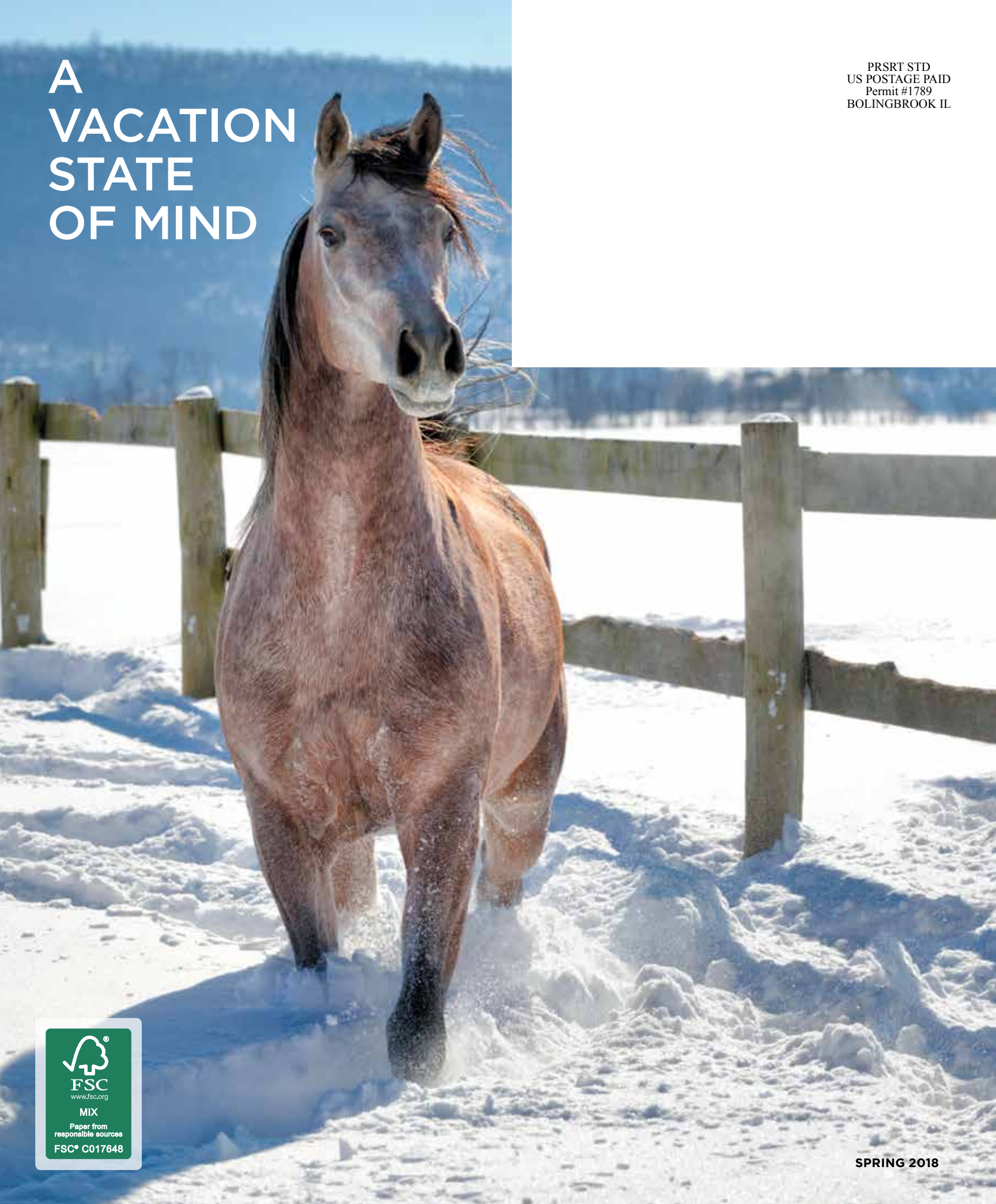
# A VACATION STATE OF MIND





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