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Travel

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In Transit

TRAVEL NEWS, DEALS AND TIPS



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CALENDAR

Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, France

The 65th edition of this festival, which runs through July 27, will mark two important 200th birthdays in classical music: Giuseppe Verdi's, with productions of "Rigoletto" in a medieval palace, and that of Richard Wagner (above), with arias from "Tristan und Isolde" and "Die Walküre" performed by the Orchestre de Paris.

Old Fiddlers' Convention, Virginia

Fans of country and mountain music have flocked to the Old Fiddlers' Convention, to be held Aug. 5 to 10 in Galax, Va., almost every year since 1935. Guests can attend competitions of flatfoot dancers, folk singers and string players on fiddle, dulcimer, mandolin and banjo performing old-time and bluegrass music. The event



BETH SCHLANCKER/SANTA ROSA PRESS DEMOCRAT, VIA NEWS.COM

is among the world's oldest and largest of its kind, its organizers say. Tickets, sold at the gate, start at \$6. Campers are welcome (and can often get sneak peaks at rehearsing fiddlers). Campsites are \$80 a space.

Events in Santa Fe, N.M.

Always a destination for artists, Santa Fe brims with creativity during the summer, starting with the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market, July 12 to 14, which brings together nearly 200 folk artists from 60 countries. The Traditional Spanish Market, July 26 to 28, features hundreds of local Hispanic artists as well as live music, dance



PETER ANDREWS/REUTERS

No Clouds or Crowds A sunny day in June on the shore of the Vistula River in Warsaw brought out two women who had their sunbathing all to themselves.

TRENDING

Hotel Bars Offer Their Own Blends

Hotel restaurants have long poured private label wines. But with the rise of artisanal distilling and craft brewing, custom-made selections are now the toast of hotel bars.

In southern Brazil, Ponta dos Ganchos commissions three distinct blends of cachaça, aged two to eight years, from the distiller Adega Scherer. They are available in caipirinhas as well as neat at the beach resort.

In the United States, the Brown Palace Hotel and Spa in Denver recently teamed with the local Wynkoop Brewing Company to create a series of cask beers using ingredients specific to the hotel, including honey produced from rooftop beehives.

The Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston recently introduced Oak Long Bar Blend, a bourbon with notes of vanilla and port from the small-batch producer Angel's Envy, at its Oak Long Bar and Kitchen.

Perhaps most impressive, 10 years ago, in anticipation of its 25th anniversary this year, the Wauwinet on Nantucket Island bought a proprietary barrel of single-malt whiskey from the island's Triple Eight Distillery; it's now available as the resort's unique 10-year-old Woody 25. Guests can sample it at the Wauwinet bar or order a 750-milliliter bottle through room service for \$250. *ELAINE GLUSAC*



HOTELS

A Magazine's Resort Line

Southern Living magazine has its own line of furniture, bedding and even plants. Now, in an uncommon marketing move, it is branding 15 independent Southern resorts as its Southern Living Hotel Collection.

The inaugural group, planned to expand to 100 addresses, includes well-known his-

Q&A

Washington history isn't all monuments, ANDREW CARROLL says



For the last 15 years, Andrew Carroll has traveled to military bases and V.F.W. halls across the country for the Legacy Project, a repository for American war letters he founded in Washington.

Along the way, he would present a challenge to himself: find a forgotten historic site in each city. After filling 24 cabinets with notes on places, ranging from the Paisley Caves in Oregon, which contain human DNA from more than 13,000 years ago

to the spot in front of New York Hilton Midtown, where the first cellular phone call was made, Mr. Carroll decided to turn his hobby into a book "Here Is Where: Discovering America's Great Forgotten History."

Of all his discoveries, Mr. Carroll said those closest to his home in Washington captured his interest the most. Below are edited excerpts from a conversation with him on forgotten historic sites around the nation's capital. *EMILY BRENNAN*

Q. Was there a site that you had long known, but didn't realize held historical import?

A. The Chain Bridge over the Potomac River. During the War of 1812, when the British came to torch the city, I learned that a quick-thinking government clerk named Stephen Pleasonton grabbed the country's essential documents, including the Declaration of Independence, smuggled them out of the city, crossed the Chain Bridge, an earlier version of the one there today, and stashed them in a grist mill in Virginia. To think of this lone man crossing the bridge, being all that separates the British from getting a hold of these documents, it completely transformed how I saw it.

Any forgotten aspects you discovered of a well-known landmark?

The Statue of Freedom on the top of the Capitol's dome has a fascinating history. As the story goes, the Italian sculptor hired to assemble the plaster model of the bronze statue demanded more money, so he was fired. But because of the way it was done, the mold could have easily broken apart, and the only person who figured out how to transport it to the foundry for casting was Philip Reid a slave. Now when Reid

On the heels of the Fourth of July, can you recommend any other historical sites of the revolution?

This one is in Baltimore. En route to Fort MCHenry, the fort that withstood an assault by the British in 1814 and prompted Francis Scott Key to compose "The Star-Spangled Banner," you'll pass by 125 East Baltimore Street. You'll find a Rite Aid there now, but that's where, in January 1777, a printer named Mary Katherine Goddard published the first broadside of the Declaration of Independence with all the signers. Remember, at the time, that printing the Declaration of Independence was an act of treason. It was by no means guaranteed that we were going to win the war, and you would have been held accountable if the war had gone differently. Goddard's a true American heroine who's been overlooked.

How can others go about finding forgotten historic sites?

The thing I always say to parents and teachers is, put the kids in charge. They're all very savvy about the Internet, and it's easy: type in the city's name and key words like "forgotten history" and "secret" to see what comes up. Be sure to double and triple