

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

SIP & STAY, IN LUXURY



NECEE REGIS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

At Quinta da Pacheca, a stunning rural vineyard in Portugal, guests can sleep in luxury accommodations shaped like wine barrels.

BY NECEE REGIS | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Both serious oenophiles and weekend plonk drinkers love traveling from one vineyard to another (and another) for wine tastings and tours. Recently, a new crop of wineries has upped the luxury quotient in their on-site vineyard hotels, making it even more desirable to sip and stay. These four wineries have recently — or will soon — debut new luxury digs. Wine for breakfast? Yes, please!

Entre Cielos Wine Hotel + Spa, Mendoza, Argentina

A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, the property has unveiled eight new “vineyard lofts” for its 2019 season. Located throughout its own Malbec vineyard, overlooking the majestic snow-capped Andes, the lofts are the latest additions to the 16-room boutique hotel and spa. The 450-square-foot lofts feature king beds, private bathrooms with shower, small sitting area, and large outdoor terrace accessed by floor-to-ceiling sliding-glass doors. All loft guests can access the amenities available in the main hotel, including Katharina Bistro and the award-winning Spa Hamam, which also offers “vinotherapy” treatments. www.entrecielos.com/hotels/mendoza

Quinta da Pacheca, Duoro Region, Portugal

Now you can do more than drink wine from a barrel, you can actually sleep in a barrel at this stunning rural vineyard. OK, so not really in a barrel, but in one of 10 luxury sleeping accommodations designed in the shape of one. Celebrated as a premier estate in the Douro, and one of the first properties to bottle wine under its own label, the property is also home to The Wine House Hotel, an 18th-century manor house with 15 upscale rooms. Guests

can dine at the hotel’s intimate restaurant and enjoy meals paired with Quinta da Pacheca wines. If you’re lucky to visit during harvest season, sign up for a chance to crush grapes with your feet. quintadapacheca.com/

Denbies Farmhouse, Surrey, England

You might not associate the United Kingdom with vineyards, but the Denbies Wine Estate (circa 1986) hopes to change your mind. Beginning this spring, you can stay in style at what is said to be England’s largest vineyard. Located on the outskirts of the historic market town of Dorking — a mere 40-minute drive from Heathrow — the original historic farmhouse has been refurbished to accommodate seven modern, double en-suite rooms. A full English breakfast, lunch, and afternoon tea are served in the light, airy conservatory overlooking the garden and 265 sweeping acres of vines. Enjoy white-tablecloth offerings for lunch and weekend dinner at the Gallery restaurant. www.denbies.co.uk/accommodation/

Four Seasons Resort & Residences, Napa Valley, Calif.

Plan ahead for fall travel: Debuting as a Four Seasons five-star resort on Nov. 1, this property will boast its own winery, hand-farmed vineyard, and 85 luxurious rooms and suites. Unwind

from your Northern California wine-tasting adventures in single- and two-story villas that nestle amid estate-grown Cabernet Sauvignon vines. Located at the northern end of Napa Valley, in bucolic wine country, the resort will also feature a spa and fitness center (with signature mud baths); adults pool, family pool and Jacuzzis; wine cave and private wine library; walking trails through the vineyards; general store; fire pits and bocce; and world-class restaurant and bar. napaluxuryliving.com/resort/

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ENTRE CIELOS

Entre Cielos Wine Hotel + Spa in Argentina has unveiled eight “vineyard lofts” for its 2019 season. The lofts, located throughout the vineyard, offers views of the Andes.

HERE

Celebrate spring at Boston festival Learn about beekeeping, meet baby chicks, gather tips on planting vegetables, and more at the second annual Agricultural Festival at Boston Public Market, April 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This free event takes place throughout the marketplace. Head to the Kids Nook between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to meet bunnies and more than 50 chicks, and then stay for face painting from noon to 2 p.m. Siena Farm of Sudbury presents a talk on kale and lettuce planting, Stow Greenhouses hosts a flower crown-making class, and the Boston Honey Company offers beekeeping 101 talk and honey tasting. Also enjoy veggie noodle-making demos and pesto tasting with Stillmans Farm throughout the day and live music in the plaza between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Nightshift Brewery will serve cold beer at the pop-up Market Bar. www.bostonpublicmarket.org.

The perfect place for mom

Give mom the gift of peace, quiet, and relaxation with a stay at Whitehall in Camden, Maine. This 1901 recently renovated inn offers a special Mother’s Day Package for any two nights between May 10 and 12, featuring fresh flowers upon arrival, a signature welcome drink, and a Mother’s Day brunch for two from the local Café Miranda. The boutique property has 36 rooms and suites, blends modern and vintage furnishings, and has lovely porches where mom can kick back and take in views of Camden’s lovely sheltered harbor. Or, it’s just a 10-minute stroll into town to explore. Room



rates start at \$139, plus \$60 for Mother’s Day Package, includes brunch for two. 207-236-3391, www.whitehall-maine.com.

THERE

See the new Hamilton exhibit

Chicago hosts a new, 360-degree immersive exhibit, “Hamilton: The Exhibition,” at a new venue on Northerly Island through Sept. 8. This traveling exhibit, narrated by the creator of the Broadway musical, Lin-Manuel Miranda, examines the life and times of Alexander Hamilton and chronicles events leading to the founding of the United States. See replicas of New York City in 1776, step into George Washington’s war tent and hear about the strategy for the Battle of Yorktown, and learn how Hamilton’s work in St. Croix helped him create our country’s financial system. *Admission for timed entry: \$39.50 adults, \$32.50 senior/military, \$25 ages 4-14, free 3 and younger.* www.hamiltonexhibition.com.

Arctic tours for ‘mature’ folks

Sign up for a new Arctic trip for travelers 55 and older and you can cruise by polar bears and beluga whales, learn about climate change and ice flows, and hang out on the bridge with the ship’s captain. Boston-based Overseas Adventure Travel has launched a new 15-day trip, Arctic Expedition: Untamed Norway & Svalbard, that includes 10 days aboard the 150-passenger M/V Hondius, a new state-of-the-art expedition cruise vessel. Travelers fly from Oslo to Longyearbyen in the Svalbard archipelago, where they hop aboard the ship and begin their Arctic



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exploration (insider tip: the best months for spotting polar bears are June and July). See walrus, narwhals, reindeer, arctic foxes, and tons of birds on this adventure. Thanks to the ship’s open-bridge policy, you can hang out with and ask questions of the captain whenever available. The trip includes many educational talks and discussions. *Rates start at \$12,895, including international airfare. Book now for 2020. 800-955-1925, www.oattravel.com.*

EVERYWHERE

Portable meals for travelers

Whether you’re heading into the backcountry for an overnight adventure or landing at a hotel late at night, bring a few portable meals to keep you going. Maine-based Good To-Go has created two new tasty options for travelers that are lightweight and easy to tuck into a suitcase or backpack. The gluten-free and pescatarian New England Clam Chowdah comes loaded with sweet potatoes, onions, corn, protein-rich bonito flakes, and whole milk. The gluten-free and vegan Kale and White Bean Stew has antioxidants, plant-based protein, and all-around healthy ingredients (fennel, olive oil, garlic, and rosemary, in addition to the nutrient-rich kale and white beans). To prepare, just add hot water, wait 15 minutes, and enjoy a hearty meal. Available at REI, EMS, and other outdoor stores, or online. *\$6.95 (3.4-ounce) to \$12.95*

(6.7-ounce) package. 844-484-8646, www.goodto-go.com.



Pack a snack or meal

Bring a snack on your travels with OtterBox’s new collapsible 2-quart storage container. This container expands to hold a meal and then collapses down to easily fit into your carry-on bag. Or use it to hold leftovers, or fill it with water and freeze it to make an ice pack for your travels. The dishwasher-safe container has a leak-proof lid and is made using food-grade polypropylene. *\$34.99. www.otterbox.com.*

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