

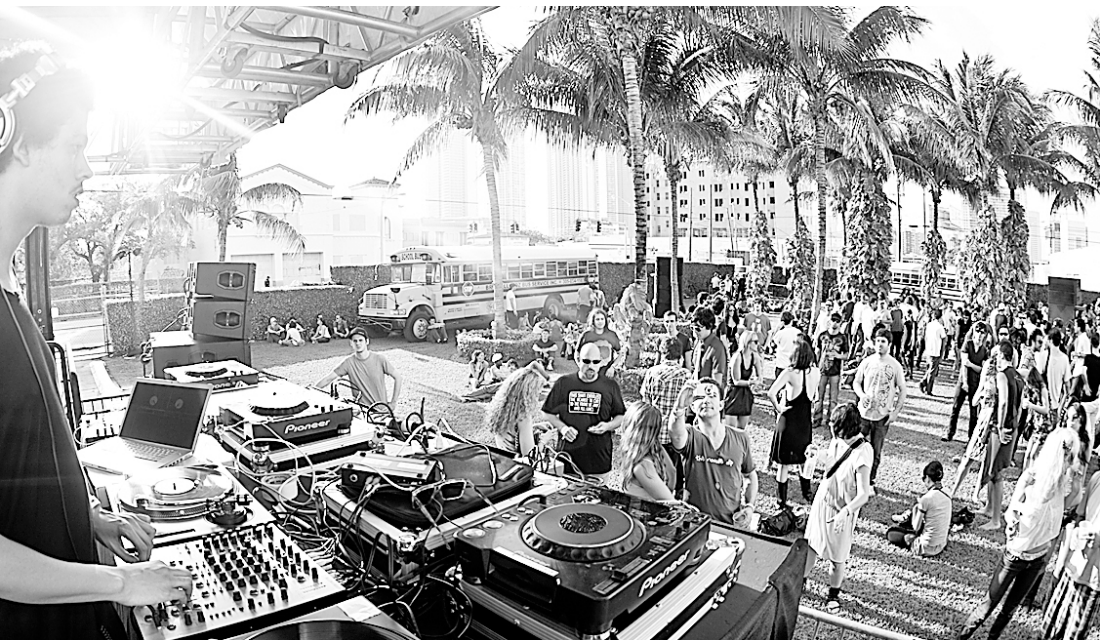
Destinations

NIGHT LIFE

Dance and sip and sing, sing, sing

MARCH 25-27
MIAMI
Sunday School: The Lost Weekend: It may be held at a venue called the Ice Palace, but Sunday School promises to be anything but chilly. The 36-hour nonstop gathering is an opportunity to hear cutting edge DJs such as Richie Hawtin, Tiga, Victor Calderone, Josh Wink, Robert Deitz, Seth Troxler, and Martin Buttrich. Wristbands that allow for full access are currently available for \$90; they allow reentry into the event for those who need a moment to rest. For diehards who cannot bear to leave the action, food will be sold at the show. Doors open at 10 p.m. 29 NW 14th St., 917-723-9381, www.madeevent.com

MARCH 13-15
VANCOUVER
Tales of the Cocktail: After eight years of spreading its intoxicating taste around New Orleans, Tales of the Cocktail heads north to defrost Canadians with gallons of well-mixed libations, prepared by some of North America's finest bartenders. This mini festival features six seminars by top mixologists including: Famous New Orleans Cocktails; For the Love of Gin: How the Historic Spirit Is Making a Comeback; the Birth, Death and Rebirth of Canadian Whiskey; the History and Importance of Ice in Cocktails; the Science of Cocktails: New Techniques Behind the Bar; and Who's Your Daddy? A Mai Tai Paternity Test. There will also be a tribute to the Caesar, Canada's unsung cocktail, plus a Vancouver bar crawl. Appropriately, the weekend ends with a Mardi Gras-style party. Tickets are \$155. www.talesofthecocktail.com



BENNETT SELL-KLINE FOR MADEEVENT.COM/FILE

Seth Troxler will be back spinning with the hot DJs at Sunday School in Miami next month.

MARCH 12
LOS ANGELES
HARD Weekend: The regular electronic gathering brazenly mixes live sets and DJ sets from acts such as Simian Mobile Disco, Fake Blood, the Juan Maclean, Mumbai Science, Totally Enormous Extinct Dinosaurs, and Blondes. Tickets are \$30, and do not despair if you cannot make the Los Angeles edition; there are also HARD festivals taking place

in New York and Miami in March. *Nokia Theater, 800 West Olympic Blvd., www.hardfest.com*

MARCH 16-20
AUSTIN, Texas
South by Southwest: This is the Whopper of festivals, the Big Mac of music, the . . . well, you get the idea. South by Southwest is the country's largest annual music festival. Originally set up as a show-

case for up-and-coming talent, the festival is now an overwhelming week of concerts from lowly newcomers to internationally known acts. There are 1,900 bands scheduled to play this year, including Chromeo, the Kills, Owen Pallett, Surfer Blood, Flogging Molly, Low, GAYNGS, the Antlers, John Grant, Josh Ritter, the Omar Rodriguez Lopez Group, the Rural Alberta Advantage, the Dodos, Sharon Van Etten, Freddie Gibbs, Sage Francis, DJ A-Trak, Portugal. the Man, The Death Set, Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr., Dum Dum Girls, Mount Kimbie, Blaqstarr, and Wild Flag. But all this music does not come cheaply. Access badges for the week start at \$750. www.sxsw.com

PLAN AHEAD
MAY 6-8
SOUTHPORT, England
Southport Weekender: Tickets sell out quickly for this incredible party that takes place in the seaside town of Southport. With an emphasis on soul and R&B, the nonstop dance party also features an eclectic mix of electronic DJs. This year's lineup includes Derrick Carter, Joy Orbison, DJ Spinnna, Jellybean Benitez, Karizma, and Dixon. The party takes place at the Butlins Minehead Resort, and accommodation there is included in the \$265 price. www.southportweekender.co.uk
CHRISTOPHER MUTHER

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online. Christopher Muther can be reached at muther@globe.com.

World class

A SEMESTER IN RUSSIA

John Casper, a junior at Boston College majoring in political science with a minor in Russian, chose a study-broad program at St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University. He wanted to improve his Russian but also to learn more about a country and culture that Americans generally know little about. Casper lived with a host family and studied Russian language, art history, modern Russian life, and the politics of communism.

RISE AND SHINE: "The day starts later in Russia. People usually start work at 10 in the morning and dinner is usually not eaten till 10 at night. People also live in smaller living quarters over here as well. The majority of Russians live in large apartment complexes. A family living in a single-family house is a rarity."

HEAVY PLATES: "People tend to eat food centered around meat, potatoes, and bread. The food tends to be heavy and bland but filling. I live with an ethnic Russian family and they tend to cook traditional Russian meals such as borscht and beef stroganoff. Russians tend to eat staples for breakfast that would be considered dinner in the United States. Many times my host mother has given me pasta



John Casper in front of 16th-century St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.

and meatloaf for breakfast."

PERFECT WITH CAVIAR: "I have become a big fan of blini, which are like crepes but much thinner. The Russians put a variety of different foods in them like chocolate, ham and cheese, cabbage and eggs, and of course caviar."

LESS STRESS: "Students take their work just as seriously as American students, but they do not stress as much about it as American students do."

DAY IN THE LIFE: "On my first Saturday night out in St. Petersburg, I went to a club and did not get home till 6 in the morning. The city is busy at all times of the night. You can go clubbing, go grocery shopping, or go to a restaurant at any time."

FRESH SOUND: "I have become a big fan of Vera Brezhneva. She is an ethnic Russian from Ukraine. She's Russia's equivalent of [Jennifer Lopez]; she sings, acts, and models. Her newest song, 'Love Will Save the World,' has been a big hit in Russia."

MULLET POWER: "If a guy wants to look cool he has to be rockin' a mullet. For some reason that type of haircut is huge in St. Petersburg."

SERIOUS BUSINESS: "People tend not to smile out in public as they do in the United States. While it is fine to smile and nod at strangers in the United States, in Russia a person might think you are crazy or strange. People keep to themselves very much."

CHRIS MURPHY

Currents

Mobile app spots last-minute rooms

Whether you are stranded at Logan Airport or simply don't feel like driving home from Boston after a late night, you can get a last-minute room at a bargain rate through a new mobile application, HotelTonight. Each day at noon, HotelTonight releases three featured hotel deals — hip, elegant, basic — in each of six cities: Boston, New York, Washington, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Once you download the free app (available to iPod, iPhone, and iPad users) and register, you can check details and photos of each hotel, and book a room up to 2 a.m. One recent deal featured a Copley Square Hotel room for \$144 (normally \$229). 800-208-2949, www.hoteltonight.com

Tibet's sacred sites

On WildChina's eight-day guided trip, Soul of Tibet, you will explore sacred monasteries and pilgrimage routes, meeting artisans and villagers along the way. You will visit Samye Monastery, believed to be Tibet's first, and Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, founded by the first Dalai Lama. Then meet a Tibetan medicine specialist to learn how tradition plays a role in daily



COPLEY SQUARE HOTEL

The app HotelTonight offered a Copley Square Hotel room.

life, and explore the landscape of this western China region, including holy Yamdrok Tso Lake. Stay an extra three days and explore Mount Everest Base Camp. Dates for this personalized trip are flexible; rates start at \$2,410. 888-902-8808, www.wildchina.com

Do a Tour de France route

You can view Alpe d'Huez and Croix de Fer on The Sports Network's Tour de France coverage this summer. Or you can sign up for one of Discover France Adventures' bike trips along these renowned mountain routes. You might cycle the

same routes that some of the world's top pros raced on hours earlier, and also meet several of them. The company offers nine VIP tours on moderate to challenging terrain in the Pyrenees and Alps, and several itineraries for non-cyclists. Trip dates for cyclists are July 9-16 and July 16-23. Prices start at \$3,635, and include high-end lodging, cycling guides, support vans, and most meals. Three- and five-day tours give non-cyclists VIP access while they watch various Tour stages and finish-line sprints. 800-960-2221, www.discoverfrance.com

KARI BODNARCHUK

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*Prices vary by departure date. Prices are per person, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise stated and include roundtrip airfare from Boston, Puerto Vallarta via Delta Airlines or other U.S. certified air carrier, hotel transfers, hotel tax and baggage handling. Please see the individual air carriers website for a full detailed description of baggage charges. Bookings within 14 days of departure add \$10 per person. \$127.16 (U.S. and foreign taxes/fees, \$2.50 per segment September 11th Security Fee, airport user fees) not included. All prices shown include applicable fuel surcharges. Holiday surcharges and weekend add-ons may apply. All packages are capacity controlled and subject to availability and change. Fares are for general information only and not a reflection of current seat availability. Apple Vacations not responsible for errors or omissions. See Apple Vacations' Fair Trade Contract. nad_121_021311_Boston_cl

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