



KARI BODNARCHUK FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

The view from Great Ocean Road near Melbourne.

Variety of summer deals to Australia, New Zealand

Explore Australia and New Zealand with Down Under Answers, which offers special packages through June 30. Choose a six-night air and land package that includes round-trip airfare from Boston and three nights' accommodations in both Auckland, New Zealand, and Sydney for \$1,524, based on double occupancy. Or do a 16-day self-drive New Zealand adventure for \$2,964, based on double occupancy, which covers all flights and hotels. (Both prices include an extra \$425 for the Boston-Los Angeles leg.) Other packages will take you to Cairns, gateway to the Great Barrier Reef; into the Outback to see formations like Ayers Rock (Uluru); or to Queenstown, New Zealand's adventure capital. Take your pick of nine Australian vacations, nine New Zealand getaways, or eight packages that include both countries. 866-792-5458, www.duatravel.com/australskiwi

Fee-free hotel in Orlando

Walt Disney World Resort's new Holiday Inn in Orlando, Fla., deserves kudos for what it does not have: resort fees, Internet charges, DirecTV bills, not even a charge for local or toll-free phone calls. Children 12 and under eat and stay for free at this 323-room hotel (when accompanied by an adult, of course). And the whole family gets complimentary transportation to Disney's four theme parks: Epcot, Magic Kingdom Park, Disney's Hollywood Studios, and Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park. Each guest room comes with free coffee, a mini refrigerator, and a high-definition TV, and guests can use the heated pool and 24-hour fitness center without paying extra. Room rates begin at \$99 per night. 407-828-8888, www.hiorlando.com

Website offers flight stats

Through InsideTrip.com, an airfare-search website that launched last week, you can get important details of a particular flight before you book it. The site gives each flight a TripQuality rating based on "speed," such as number of stops en route, overall trip duration, and on-time statistics; "comfort," like legroom, the aircraft's age and type, and the flight's "load factor" (how full it typically is, by percentage); and "ease," including its lost bags ranking, average connection time, and gate locations. The site's FinalAirfare feature calculates your total trip fare, including expected luggage and drink fees. Best of all, the site charges no booking fees. 206-569-5209, www.insidetrip.com

KARI BODNARCHUK

Destinations

FOOD

All hail the pungent bulb

JULY 23-25

GILROY, Calif.

32d Annual Gilroy Garlic Festival:

Perhaps the only food festival with an "official breath freshener," Gilroy's huzzah for the stinking rose piles on the pasta, calamari, shrimp, and beef — all seasoned with the pungent bulb. Previous fests have also offered garlic-flavored ice cream, cotton candy, and wine. (Acquired tastes, no doubt.) Live rock, blues, and country music provide the soundtrack for this outdoor event in T-shirt and cut-offs country. Fabio Viviani of Bravo's "Top Chef" series will do a demo on Saturday and host the Garlic Showdown of Bay Area cooks on Sunday. Admission \$17, seniors and ages 6-12 \$8. *Christmas Hill Park, 408-842-1625, gilroygarlicfestival.com*

JULY 10

BEDFORD, Va.

Horse and Hound Wine Festival:

The old canard that Virginia can't make wine is a dog that just won't hunt. This rustic celebration in the Blue Ridge foothills brings together established producers to pour their chardonnays, cabernets, and syrahs while horses and dogs go through their paces. Fruit wineries also participate. The agility dog demonstration involves an obstacle course, and any canine attending the festival can run it after the show. The muskrat race might be the most exciting, as Jack Russell terriers swim furiously after an artificial lure. Admission \$10. *Johnson's Orchards, 2122 Sheep Creek Road, 540-586-3707, www.bedfordwine.com*

JULY 16-17

SANTA FE

Taste of Santa Fe: The first green chile of the season should arrive just in time for this annu-



BILL STRANGE

Scampi chef Pat Vickroy shows off a pan of his shrimp at last year's Gilroy Garlic Festival.

al sampling in a town known for distinctive cuisine. The Friday night gala dinner in the Palace of Governors (\$200 and up) pits local chefs against each other, and includes blind wine tastings. But Saturday's community event is the big deal, featuring samples from more than 50 restaurants, a dessert booth, and a wine garden. Adults \$25 for 12 tastes, \$35 for 18; ages 13-21 \$15, 8-12 \$7. *Santa Fe Railyard Park, 332 Read St., 505-982-6366, ext. 107, www.tasteofsantafe.com*

JULY 22-25

PORTLAND, Ore.

23d Annual Oregon Brewers Festival:

Each of 80 craft breweries from around the country sends its best single beer to this outdoor fest, where malt aficio-

nados compare notes, toast summer by the Willamette River, and trade homebrewing tips. Children and designated drivers get free quaffs of non-alcoholic craft-brewed root beer. Admission to grounds free. Taster packages with mug \$10-\$50. *Tom McCall Waterfront Park, 503-778-5917, www.oregonbrewfest.com*

PLAN AHEAD

JULY 31-AUG. 1

COUNTY WESTMEATH, Ireland

Ballinlough Food Festival:

A part of the general merriment of the Irish National Country Fair, this food fair and farmers' market is all about slow food with a brogue. Not all fare is strictly Irish (they permit cheese

from the continent and alcoholic beverages from Scotland), but the emphasis is on fresh breads, Irish seafood, organic fruit, and locally crafted sausages. The rest of the fair's pretty interesting too, with fly-casting demos, falconry, horsemanship, and spaniels and retrievers competing in gun-dog events. Adults \$19.50, under 16 free. *Ballinlough Castle, 011-44-28-44-832-775, www.irishcountryfair.com*

PATRICIA HARRIS
AND DAVID LYON

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online. Patricia Harris and David Lyon can be reached at harris.lyon@verizon.net. Read their food and travel blog at hungrytravelers.com.