

Destinations

EVENTS

Season of wine and grits

MAY 1-2
FULTON, ILL.
Dutch Days Festival: Much less expensive than a trip to the Netherlands (last we checked) is a jaunt to Fulton, where next month, the town will host its annual Fulton Dutch Days Festival. The Illinois community of about 4,000 celebrates its Dutch heritage with Dutch dancing, a “Dutch Treasures” display, and plenty of Dutch treats (think beer, meat, cheese, and chocolate). The highlight of your trip should be a drive-by of the city’s Dutch windmill, which is right near the Mississippi River. *9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 4th Street, from 9th to 12th avenues. 815-589-2616. www.cityoffulton.us.*

MAY 23-25
AUSTIN, TEXAS
Austin Wine Festival: Now that the SXSW music festival is over and the lovable hipsters have vacated the capital, the city can start preparing for the wine lovers, who descend next month. This three-day wine celebration, which aims to raise awareness of Lone Star vineyards, includes sips from more than 30 local wineries. Worth noting is that



Double Dutch, triple Dutch, everybody goes Dutch in Fulton, Ill., next month for Dutch Days.

the festival is not just for grown-ups. There’s an area for children with laser tag and video games. There’s also musical entertainment at night. It is Austin, after all. Ticket packages vary. *The Domain, Burnett Road and Esperanza Crossing. www.austinwinefestival.com.*

APRIL 17-19
ST. GEORGE, S.C.
World Grits Festival: Some people demand that you kiss them. We would say it’s much more pleasant to eat them. At this three-day celebration of ground corn, you’ll be able to listen to music, see art displays, take part in a hula hoop contest, and — you guessed it — eat grits in various forms. Highlights of the festival include a corn-shell-ing contest, grits grinding, and a

grits eating contest. Go for moderation — it sticks to your ribs. *Highways 78 and 15. www.worldgritsfestival.com.*

MAY 29-30
WINTERSSET, IOWA
A John Wayne Birthday Celebration: If John Wayne were alive, he’d be turning 102 this year. For folks in the town where he was born, that’s cause for celebration. In Winterset, you can party with local Wayne followers, who will be hosting tours of Wayne landmarks, showcasing live country music, selling things like cowboy hats as part of a Western marketplace, and screening the Wayne classic “Rio Bravo” on a high-def, 25-foot screen. *Locations online. 877-462-1044, www.johnwaynebirthplace.org.*

PLAN AHEAD
JULY 19
HONOLULU
Ukulele Festival: To ensure that Hawaii never forgets the little guitar with which it’s frequently associated, Roy Sakuma Ukulele Studios hosts the 39th annual celebration of all things ukulele. Last year’s festival featured such names as Jack Johnson and an 800-person ukulele orchestra. A flight to Hawaii is pricey, but once you get there, the music is free. *9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Kapiolani Park Bandstand. 808-732-3739. www.roysakuma.net.*

MEREDITH GOLDSTEIN

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online to confirm. Meredith Goldstein can be reached at mgoldstein@globe.com.

Gearing up

Roam if you want to

Short Internet cables in hotel rooms used to trap me at the desk when I would rather have been working from a cushy chair or the bed. Now Apple’s AirPort Express base station lets me turn any area with a broadband connection into a secure wireless zone. I plug an Ethernet cable

into this lightweight, palm-sized router, plug the device into the wall, and I’m free to roam. Hook up a stereo or speakers using the unit’s audio port and you can stream music from your iTunes library. At home, use the router to create a wireless network, complete with a USB-compatible printer, for up to 10 users. AirPort Express sells for \$99 at Apple.com (800-692-7753).

KARI BODNARCHUK



Win A Galápagos Adventure With Alex Trebek

Every Weekday Through May 1st

You could win the trip of a lifetime! Watch Jeopardy! each weekday, then go to jeopardy.com to enter for your chance to win. 25 lucky winners - a new winner every weekday - will explore the spectacular Galápagos Islands with Alex Trebek.



GALÁPAGOS ADVENTURE

Sweepstakes winners will travel October 16th – October 25th, 2009. Galápagos Voyage provided by Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic.



www.jeopardy.com

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Entry is no guarantee of winning; winners will be drawn from all eligible entries. Void where prohibited. Open only to permanent legal residents of the 50 states of the U.S. and D.C., 18 years of age or older as of 3/30/09. Begins 7:00:00 a.m. PT on 3/30/09. Ends 6:59:59 p.m. PT on 5/4/09, but various separate entry periods apply. Winners must be able to travel on specified dates, currently 10/16/09 to 10/25/09, but subject to change. Other prize conditions/restrictions apply. Subject to Official Rules accessible from jeopardy.com. JEOPARDY! © 2009 Jeopardy Productions, Inc. JEOPARDY! is a registered trademark of Jeopardy Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.

The brief, brilliant history of high-tech

► **SILICON**
Continued from Page M1

Also on display are a space-age-looking kitchen computer for recipes (for \$10,000 in 1964 index cards were a better bet), the first laser printer by Xerox (\$100,000), and the first 1976 assemble-it-yourself Apple-1 (for \$666.66).

Rounding out the exhibit are vacuum tube panels from the Sage System, developed by IBM for air defense. Twenty-seven of the computers, each weighing 300 tons, were installed around the country. A circular screen — with built-in cigarette lighter and ashtray — was monitored 24/7 to detect enemy aircraft. Vacuum tubes were used from 1954 to 1983. The United States stopped producing them in the ’70s and imported them from the former Soviet Union.

The museum’s organization of displays felt chaotic, but docent Allen Rozenzweig explained that by 2010 it will be expanded and better arranged according to eras, types, and technologies.

We returned to the lobby in time to see the demonstration of an automatic computing engine designed in 1854 by Charles Babbage. The machine was never built in his lifetime, but in 2002, faithful to the original drawings, one was constructed weighing five tons and consisting of 8,000 parts. The engine here is on loan from Nathan Myhrvold, a former Microsoft technology guru who helped finance the undertaking.

At one end a handle is cranked, engaging the gears. Columns of numbers and switches produce the numerical result at the far end, where it is printed out. Babbage was far ahead of his time. *1401 North Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View, 650-810-1010, www.computerhistory.org. Free.*

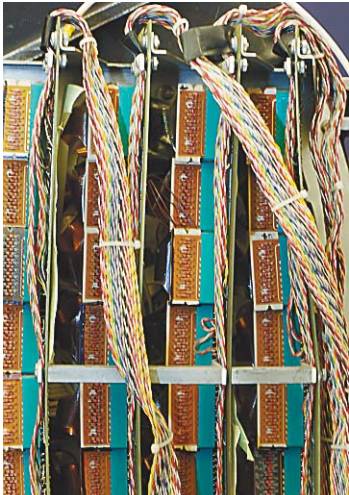
The Tech Museum of Innovation

A sure sign of a successful museum is one where adults seem as happily engaged as their children. The three floors of this museum in downtown San Jose offer something for everyone, including non-techies.

Many displays are hands-on, interactive, and fun. Striking images from the Hubble Telescope lead visitors to the Explorations Gallery, where they can examine a scale Hubble model and listen for sounds of life beyond Earth in an exhibit on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. At “The Transparent Body” exhibit a thermograph displays your heat image, and an ultrasound reveals the bones in your hand.

“Beyond Our Limits” explores technology that allows humans to better train for competitive sports and simulates and analyzes bodies in motion. We watched one child suit up in the gear of a professional hockey goalie and another power a racing wheelchair. “Deep Flight” offers virtual exploration of the museum’s underwater tank in a mini-sub from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

Several times I returned to a huge globe that has an internal projection of weather patterns and ocean currents. It even depicts the spread of waves around the globe from the 2004 Indo-



FRED MERTZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A disk storage artifact at the Computer History Museum.

nesia tsunami.

We popped into the IMAX theater with an eight-story screen for an adventure with Lewis and Clark. (Best to sit in an upper row.) The images soaring over the Missouri River made me a bit dizzy, and the wraparound digital surround sound transformed the buffalo stampede into a visceral rumble.

At the “Quake Watch” exhibit, a US Geological Survey program hourly updates recent earthquakes onto a digital world map.

But the most fun was standing on the “shake platform” to experience re-creations of historic earthquakes. *South Market Street, San Jose, 408-294-8324, www.thetech.org, \$8 includes one IMAX admission.*

Intel Museum

“You need to understand that the essence of a computer is essentially zillions of little on and off switches,” says John Wittenberg, my brother-in-law and a consummate computer geek who accompanied me here. “Whether denoted by ones and zeros, punch-out cards, vacuum tubes, or silicon chips, they’re all versions of on and off switches.”

The Intel Museum, established in the early ’80s to archive the nascent corporation’s history, opened to the public in 1992. As it tripled in size it became a regional educational resource, offering classes in electrical circuitry, technology careers, product marketing, and binary code.

One of the 30 hands-on exhibits that explore computers’ impact on work, play, and communications displays a full-size silicon crystal that looks like a silver cylindrical bombshell. Wafer-thin cross-sections of the crystal are sliced off, creating round LP-size disks.

During our self-guided tour John followed the instructions employees must follow for donning the proper attire before entering the Clean Room, where computer chips are manufactured. At another exhibit I pushed buttons and watched a graphic display of the sequence of multiple layers, etchings, and coatings each disk undergoes to create the grid of hundreds of microprocessors, eventually cut apart to become Pentium chips. *The Robert Noyce Building, 2200 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara, www.intel.com/museum. Free.*

Bill Strubbe can be reached at bsbillbs@yahoo.com.

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For information and reservations call your travel agent or contact Finnair at 1-800-950-5000. Book online at www.finnair.com/us



*Applies to roundtrip only. Valid on direct flights between Boston (BOS) and Helsinki (HEL) only. Minimum stay: the night between Saturday and Sunday. Maximum stay: 30 days. Child discount: 25% discount for children between 2 and 11 years old. No stopovers. Fares are valid between 6/10/09 – 8/26/09. Changes not permitted. Non-refundable. Certain conditions and restrictions may apply. Offer is subject to limited availability, change and withdrawal without notice. Prices quoted to not include US Customs/INS/Aphis fees International Transportation Tax/Passenger Facilities Charges/Civil Aviation Security Service Fee/ domestic and foreign Security and Airport Charges of \$80 - \$120 depending on destination.