



Encounter

TYNGSBORO

## Roadside distraction

Inside the Dream Diner, along the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border north of Tyngsboro, regular customers pour their own coffee. The menu celebrates another era: The Swingle, a feta and cheese omelet, for example, takes its name from a model of diner once built in Middlesex, N.J.

On a weekday morning, a customer named Eddy slaps a few quarters on the counter for his coffee and talks about the change that keeps coming outside the Dream Diner's doors.

"When they widened Route 3, man, that just opened it right up," Eddy said.

His hands arc up in the air, and Eddy exclaims: "Whoosh!"

TOM HAINES

Globe-trotting

NOTES FROM OUR BLOG

## Southwest, AirTran deals

Southwest and AirTran have launched fare sales for travel through at least late June. Southwest is offering nationwide one-way fares of \$49-\$129. Purchases must be made online before March 3 for travel through June 24. A 14-day advance purchase is required and May 21-26 are blacked out. AirTran is offering a similar sale with one-way fares from \$49-\$149. Trips must be booked before March 6 for travel through Nov. 4 and a 10-day advance purchase is required. There are blackout dates.

## Hertz's car-share move

Increasing the pressure on industry leader Zipcar of Cambridge, Hertz Corp. will begin offering car-sharing services in Greater Boston by late spring. With this move, Hertz, which has 8,100 traditional rental locations in 147 countries, emerges as the main competitive threat to Zipcar in global car-sharing. Both companies envision networks that would allow members access to vehicles in a variety of cities around the country and the world.

PAUL MAKISHIMA



NEWS, DEALS, DISPATCHES

Boston.com/travel is where to go no matter where you want to go.

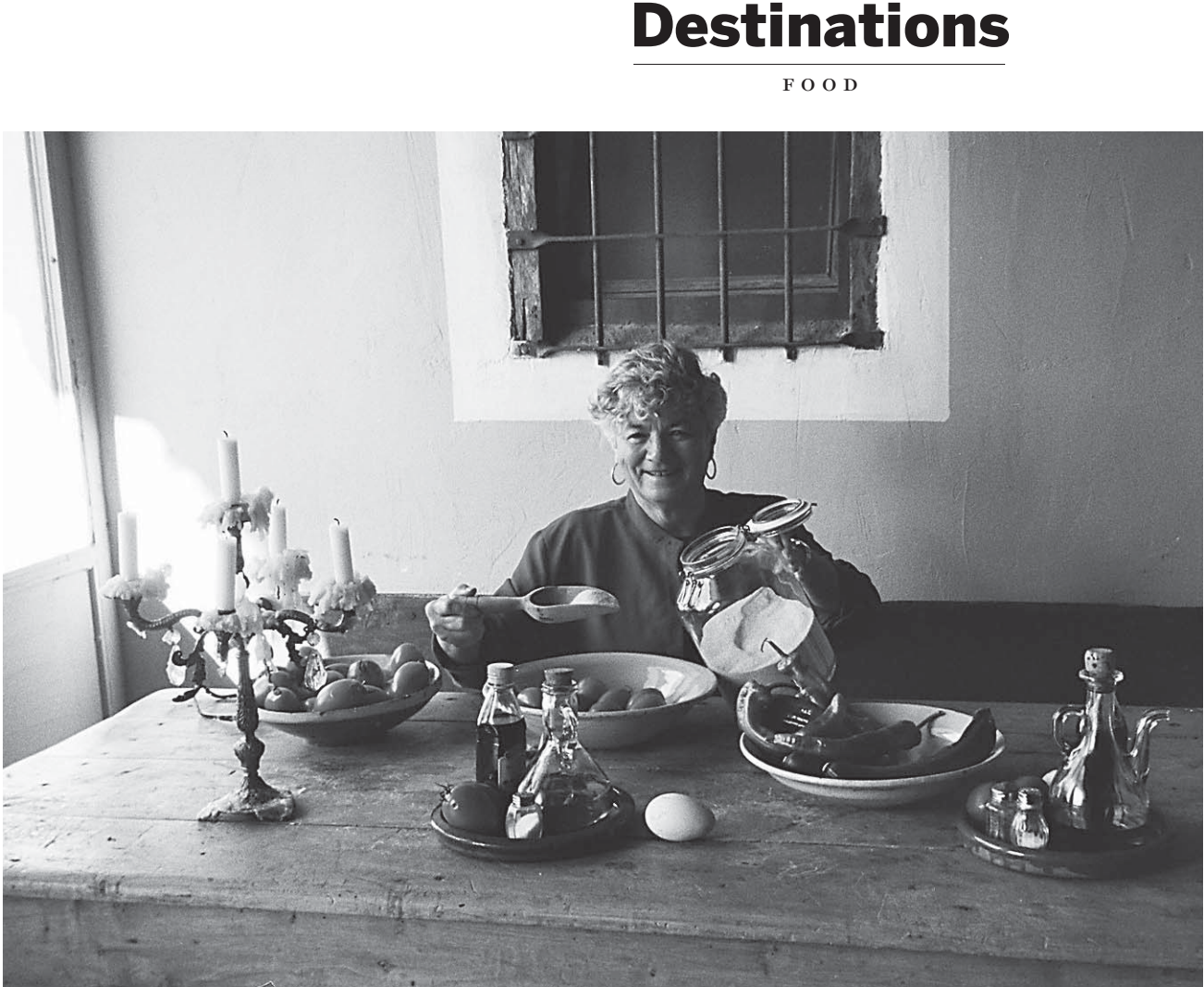
Gearing up

Photos in a flash

With the Eye-Fi Explore card, you can return from your travels, put your camera on your desk, turn it on, and watch your photos be instantly uploaded onto your computer and even your favorite photo website, like Picasa, Flickr, or Costco. No fussing with cords and card readers. The 2GB Secure Digital memory card automatically transmits images from camera to computer using your home wireless network or thousands of Wi-Fi hot spots (no computer needed at hot spots).

The card also "geotags" your photos, marking them with data on the location where they were taken, which you can upload to sites like Flickr and Google Earth and view there. It retails for \$109.99 at www.Eye-Fi (877-873-9334), but you'll find it at Buy.com and Adorama.com for \$105.

KARI BODNARCHUK



Mary Grace Smith of Wellfleet assembles ingredients for a rustic lunch during a Spanish Journeys trip.

# To Catalonia, body and soul

**MAY 25-30**  
BARCELONA

**Spanish Journeys Pilates and Cooking Retreat:** Pilates workouts might be the perfect way to stay in shape while learning about and indulging in cuisine. Participants on this five-day experience will stay at a villa surrounded by organic gardens. They'll forage for raspberries, pick artichokes, and taste cava. Besides five Pilates classes with renowned master teacher Karrie Adamany, there will be hiking and bicycling trips. Cooking classes will focus on Catalan dishes with visits to local markets. One day will include a hike along the Costa Brava followed by a tour of a small, biodynamic winery. The trip, which is limited to 16 participants, can be extended for three days of guided tours of Barcelona's restaurants and sights. The cost ranges from \$2,950 to \$3,450. 508-349-9769, [www.spanishjourneys.com](http://www.spanishjourneys.com).

**MARCH 22-25**  
PARIS

**Paris Tea and Chocolate Tour:** To see past the Eiffel Tower, you might want to sign up for an in-depth exploration of the city's chocolatiers, pâtisseries, and tea shops. Sally Peabody, author of "Paris, Tea Capital of the World," leads this jaunt to tea salons and makers of artisanal chocolates. Highlights will include a visit for tea and pastry at Mariage Frères, tasting of blue-vert tea at La Maison de Trois Thés, and demonstrations of artisanal chocolate making. Daily lunches, teas, talks, tastings, and guided walks are included for \$1,650. 781-391-6183, [www.yourgreatdaysinparis.com](http://www.yourgreatdaysinparis.com).

**APRIL 22-26**  
HOUSTON

**Grand Wine and Food Affair:** This five-day event ranges from gala wine dinners to tastings, demonstrations by chefs, seminars on budget wines and blending,

and explorations of Texas vintages. Featured chefs include Houston notables Randy Evans of Haven and Robert Gatsby of Bedford. Winemakers from Texas and beyond and comedian Kinky Friedman will be in attendance. Prices for seminars and dinners range from \$20 to \$225. A three-day package is \$200. 281-491-0216 [www.thegrandwineandfoodaffair.com](http://www.thegrandwineandfoodaffair.com).

**APRIL 19-MAY 2**  
SINGAPORE

**World Gourmet Summit:** This two-week extravaganza celebrates cuisines and wines from around the world with gourmet safaris to Singapore restaurants, vintners' dinners, awards for culinary and wine excellence, master cooking classes, and a champagne fest. Chefs who will attend include Alfonso Castellano of Estado Puro in Madrid, Herve Boutin of Le Cordon Bleu in Sydney, and Wylie Dufresne of wd~50 in New York. Prices vary. [www.worldgourmetsummit.com](http://www.worldgourmetsummit.com).

**APRIL 23-26**  
SARASOTA, FLA.

**Florida Winefest & Auction:** Balmy breezes and white sand beaches are the backdrop for this 19th annual festival. Along with a gala dinner and dancing, a food and wine tasting, seminars on food and wine, and a charity auction of fine wines, there will be a \$15 al fresco wine tasting and antique car showing called Sip & Sounds, Wine & Wheels. Prices range from \$65 to \$300. The festivities benefit local children's charities. 941-952-1109, [www.floridawinefest.org](http://www.floridawinefest.org).

**PLAN AHEAD**  
**JUNE 11-14**  
DUBLIN

**Taste of Dublin:** If you're planning a trip to Ireland, drop in on this celebration of all things culinary. Held in the Iveagh Gardens, the festival will feature 20 restaurants and include the chefs of Bon Appetit, Chapter One, and L'Ecrivain. Live music, cooking classes, and cocktail demonstrations will be part of the festival. Prices are about \$7 to \$43. 011-353-01-210-9290, [www.tastefestivals.ie](http://www.tastefestivals.ie).

ALISON ARNETT

*Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online to confirm. Alison Arnett can be reached at [alacarte59@aol.com](mailto:alacarte59@aol.com).*

## Where they went

WEST POINT, N.Y.

**WHO:** Bill, 62, and Diane Reilly, 58, of Lynn, and Jim, 62, and Rachel Farley, 60, of Peabody.

**WHERE:** West Point, N.Y.

**WHEN:** Two days in October.

**WHY:** To visit the United States Military Academy and attend a football game.

**EAGLE-EYED:** The couples, who have traveled together for two decades, had originally hoped to see Boston College play Army. "Jim is an avid Boston College sports fan, so the original plan was that the next time BC played Army, we'd go there. But then Army dropped BC from its football schedule," Bill Reilly said.

**FOLIAGE CALLED:** They decided to go anyway, and picked Columbus Day weekend for peak foliage in the Hudson River Valley. It happened that Army would face Eastern Michigan. "It was easy to get tickets online, but what was hard was finding a place to stay because it was homecoming weekend," Reilly said. They found rooms in Newburgh, about 15 miles north of West Point.

**FABULOUS FORMATION:** They left home at 4:30 a.m. on game day, and reached the Academy some four hours later. They headed to the traditional cadet review. "They marched in front of a reviewing stand all in dress uniforms and carrying their weapons while the Army band plays. There are two brigades, about 2,200 total in the formation. It was very moving to see."

**FLAGS IN FLIGHT:** The highlight, Reilly said, was a jump by eight members of the US Army Parachute Team, known as the Golden



Bill and Diane Reilly, left, and Rachel and Jim Farley took in a game at Michie Stadium at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Knights. "First there was a helicopter, just a speck in the sky, and then eight paratroopers jumped from the sky. They were corkscrewing, with smoke trails behind them. It's pretty impressive. One of them was carrying the American flag, and it was blowing in the breeze, and another had an Army flag. It was very patriotic."

**LOOKING BACK:** Before the game the couples toured the campus of granite buildings situated alongside the Hudson River and visited the West Point Museum, which specializes in military history. "I wish we'd had more time to look around there. I'm a history guy."

**STORIED STADIUM:** Reilly said Jim Farley was especially thrilled to see a game at Army's famed Michie Stadium. "Before the game about 1,000 cadets march into the field all dressed in white. They line up and then the national anthem is played and they all salute the flag. At the command to dismiss, they go to the seats together, but they stand during the whole game. Sometimes they'd throw some of the smaller cadets up in the air and catch them." The couples cheered for the host Black Knights, who won, 17-13.

DIANE DANIEL

 **SEE WHERE THEY ALL WENT**

For more photos and to share yours, visit [boston.com/travel/wheretheywent](http://boston.com/travel/wheretheywent). Send suggestions within two weeks of your return to [diane@dianedaniel.com](mailto:diane@dianedaniel.com).

## Rave



SHIRLEY MOSKOW FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

## A cookie crossroads

ALBUQUERQUE — Fond childhood memories of the baker who always greeted him with a cookie inspired Pratt Morales to open a neighborhood bakery. Now the proprietor of Golden Crown Panaderia, Morales greets each customer with a biscochito, the anise and cinnamon-flavored shortbread that is the official cookie of New Mexico.

Using a 50-year-old dough cutter and 75-year-old brick ovens, Morales and his son Chris turn out pastries, some with recipes dating 500 years to Spanish, Mexican, and Native American cultures. Morales has updated them, eliminating lard and blending three flours.

"Food should be beautiful, delicious, and nutritious," says Morales. He specializes in baking bread in such shapes as dragons, trombones, and even life-sized

people. One of the most popular items at the bakery, which has been featured on The Food Network and Gourmet magazine, is Morales's green chili bread, made with roasted chiles, tomatoes, cilantro, onions, and spices. He embellishes the top with a coyote baying at the moon.

An easy walk from Old Town, the Golden Crown Panaderia is slightly off the beaten path in a residential area. An artist has adorned its adobe walls with exuberant green vines and flowers. The small covered patio invites lingering over a whole wheat pizza or sandwich on a freshly baked bolillo, Mexican hard roll.

*Golden Crown Panaderia, 1103 Mountain Road Northwest, Albuquerque, 877-382-2924, [www.goldencrown.biz](http://www.goldencrown.biz).*

SHIRLEY MOSKOW

# Get thrifty in Vegas, go green in New York, or be playful in Salem

A Las Vegas hotel room for \$18? It's possible, says Hotels.com, if you book by March 16.

**REAL DEALS** The \$18 room is downtown at the Plaza Hotel and Casino, and several other hotels have nightly rates of \$20-\$70. To get the lowest rates, there may be conditions such as minimum-stay requirements, and although the sale is for occupancy through March 31, the best prices appear to be until March 17.

Visit [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and click on Las Vegas Sale or call 800-246-8357.

### \$109 ski suite

Shell Vacations Hospitality has fireplaced suites at Crotched Mountain Resort in Franconstown, N.H., for \$109, which is \$50 off the regular rate. The price is available until March 31.

Visit [www.shellhospitality.com](http://www.shellhospitality.com) or call 603-588-2000 or 866-729-7182.

### Rock the boat

Harvey Robbins's 17th annual Doo-Wop and Rock 'n' Roll Boston-to-Bermuda cruise will be May 22-29, aboard the Norwegian Spirit. There will be three

concerts during the week, and performers will include singers from the Jive Five, the Midnighters, the Tune Weavers, and the Interludes. Private parties and meet-and-greet sessions with the singers are included. Rates start at \$836 per person.

For bookings that include the shows, call 978-256-6472 or 800-772-0847.

### Lucky discounts

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, two of New York's Kimpton Hotels are serving up deals. The Muse New York, steps from the

St. Patty's Day parade route, is featuring a You're in Luck package throughout March, which includes the fourth night free with a booking of three nights, complimentary continental breakfast, Guinness beer upon check-in, and a map of the best local Irish pubs. Also, the 17th person to check in on March 17 gets that night free. Meanwhile, 70 park avenue hotel is offering 17 percent off the best available rate throughout March. On St. Patrick's Day, guests will hear a harpist at the complimentary wine hour, and Irish food will be

served at the Silverleaf Tavern. For both packages, rates start at \$279 per night.

Call 800-KIMPTON and use rate code PLUC. The website is [www.kimptonhotels.com](http://www.kimptonhotels.com).

### Artful lodgers

Mandarin Oriental, Boston has teamed with the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem for a package that highlights the new museum exhibition "Mahjong: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection." The package, available until May 15, includes a night's accommoda-

tions, breakfast at the hotel's Asana restaurant, two tickets to the exhibit, and limo service to and from the museum. Prices begin at \$605.

Visit [www.mandarinoriental.com/boston](http://www.mandarinoriental.com/boston) and click on Tempting Offers or call 617-535-8880 or 866-526-6567.

RICHARD P. CARPENTER

*Most prices quoted are for double occupancy, minus taxes and fees. Offers are subject to availability. Richard P. Carpenter can be reached at [carpenter@globe.com](mailto:carpenter@globe.com).*