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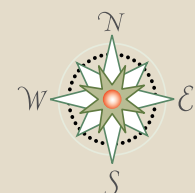
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IS the Destination**

These one-of-a-kind spots guarantee scenic views and an unforgettable getaway.

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Make this Mississippi River city your must-stop this fall and winter with plenty of arts and culture, great cuisine and craft brews.

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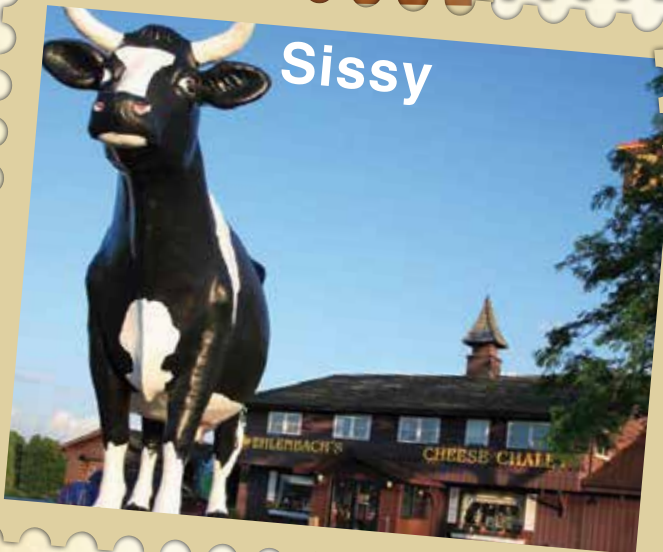
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On the Cover:
Mesmerizing waters at
Copper Falls State Park
in northern Wisconsin.
Photo courtesy of
TravelWisconsin.com.



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Celebrating the Ordinary— and Extraordinary

The colors on the leaves have already started changing, and putting together this issue has motivated me to start plotting what I want to check out this fall and winter. Early in the season, I'll be attending a Packers game which I'm excited about, since the team is celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2019! Each home game during the 2018-2019 season is devoted to a different decade of team history. Want to learn more about how the team is celebrating this massive achievement? Read Mary Bergin's story about it starting on page 34.

I'm also a big fan of fall fests of any kind, and we have no shortage of those around the state. In the Out & About section starting on page 16, we always bring you tons of things to do (find 42 in this issue's list)—but we also name the coolest food and drink fests in our Best Bites feature you should attend, too. I have my eye on Cedarburg's Wine & Harvest Festival. Their historic downtown coupled with great food and drink, makes me excited to welcome the harvest. And I'd love to get to the Kohler Food & Wine Experience to not only see celebrity chefs, but taste delicious eats. See more fests on page 26.

I've always enjoyed sharing the unique stories that make our state a wonderful place to travel if you live within, or outside of, our borders. For example, seasoned travel writer and author Kevin Revolinski shares seven quirky museums that you'll only find here. Accordions, yo-yos, mustard? You'll find shrines to all of these at these only-in-Wisconsin attractions. Read more about it on page 22. Speaking of eclectic, have you ever wanted to stay in a glass cabin, a vintage lakefront cottage, a tiny house or a yurt? Yep, you can overnight at all of these places here, too—and Lisa M. Schmelz's story on page 40 is an intriguing look into these abodes.

As always, thank you for reading! Do you have a story idea you'd like to share with us, or want to send us a note? Please drop me a line at Shayna@ntmediagroup.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Oriental Theater, Milwaukee

Did you know our state hosts quite a few film festivals in the fall and winter? First up is the **Milwaukee Film Festival** (Oct. 18-Nov. 1, mkefilm.org) that screens at five historic venues across the city. The **Flyway Film Festival** (flywayfilmfestival.org) is in Stockholm and Pepin along the Mississippi River, taking place Oct. 19-21. The **University of Wisconsin-Parkside's Foreign Film Series** (uwp.edu/therita) starts weekends in mid-September and goes until late April (check website for specific weekends). The **Green Bay Film Festival** (gbfilmfestival.org) is March 1-3 and typically shows animated, cultural, children and family picks, and more. The **Wildwood Film Festival** commemorates Wisconsin films only (March 22-23, wildwoodfilmfestival.com). The season is bookended by the most well-known celebration, the **Wisconsin Film Festival** (wifilmfest.org), April 4-11. Watch American independent films, international cinema, documentaries and more.

experience
WISCONSIN
Fall/Winter 2018-19

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Wisconsin's Own Walk of Fame

By Kristine Hansen

Considered Wisconsin's Grand Dame hotel, the American Club—nestled in the company town of Kohler—celebrated its one hundredth birthday this past August. As any visitor knows, this overnight retreat built in 1918 (initially as lodging for the Kohler Co.'s workers) is a royal experience, from the uniformed bellmen to the masseuses in the Kohler Waters Spa next door. Inside the red-brick exterior lies oak paneling and woodwork, and gorgeous brass furniture. Steel elevator doors emblazoned with a big “W” that were once in the Wisconsin State Capitol Building in Madison pay homage to Walter J. Kohler, the state's 26th governor. Hung in each guest room is a portrait of a famous American, from Ernest Hemingway to John James Audubon.

Food and drink festivities linked to the centennial celebration include special one hundredth anniversary cocktails at The Winery Bar and a seven-course tasting menu at the luxe Immigrant Restaurant (through November). Each course is inspired by a different ethnic group (from Danish to Normandy) that has worked for the plumbing manufacturer since its start in 1873. In that year, John Michael Kohler—an Austrian immigrant who arrived in America as a 10-year-old—started Kohler Co., and it's been in the family ever since.

There are several reasons to make a trip to the American Club this fall and winter. Fresh off a six-month renovation, there are 13 new treatment rooms at Kohler Waters Spa and also new multi-room bedroom suites at the Inn on Woodlake, which falls under the Kohler umbrella and is located one block away.

Related to the centennial celebration, a new sculpture at the American Club by artist-in-residence Stephen Paul Day features a boy draped in an American flag, an homage to John Michael Kohler. It's crafted out of cast iron made in Kohler's factory, which still operates across the street. History buffs can take a historic tour of the property, led daily at 2 p.m. by historians and concierges. A new history exhibit is also in the American Club library, and posters of historic facts are sprinkled throughout the property for a self-guided tour. Also of note: tours of the factory across the street are led by retired workers and provide an authentic glimpse into what it's like to work for this storied manufacturer.



Shoppist | Fantastic Finds

Madison's Atwood Avenue is now home to a number of excellent restaurants and some great locally-owned boutiques, like Tammy Schreiter's **Hatch Art House**. Founded in 2010, this shop boasts an enclave of regional (and beyond) artists' work, including prints, jewelry, sculpture, mixed-media pieces and pottery. Schreiter's keen eye means the art she selects is approachable, ever-changing—and importantly, affordable. While there, be sure to check out Schreiter's adorable next-door shop **Hazel General Store**, too. Opened in 2015, Hazel's enviable assortment of gift items and home goods and irresistible. hatcharthouse.com, hazegeneralstore.com ew

Rising From the Ashes

What's old is new again—just ask sisters Carey Sharpe and Jenna Golem, who lovingly restored a 90-plus-year-old building in Oshkosh for use as a multi-use event space, concert hall, café and bowling alley, opening this fall. Named after the duo's late grandfather, The Howard is over 30,000 square feet and full of period-perfect details, like decorative carved moldings on the walls, sparkling chandeliers and a clean black and white aesthetic.

“We opened The Howard ... as a tribute to our hometown that we love so much,” says Golem. “It was originally opened 1927 as a male-only Eagles club that fell into disrepair within the last few years. We loved the idea of two sisters reviving a place that was originally built for men-only and restoring it into something that everyone in Oshkosh can enjoy.”

The building had already been legendary in its day, hosting headliners such as Johnny Cash and Fleetwood Mac when they came through on tour over the course of the last century. Now the sisters are packing its inaugural 2018-2019 season with Grammy award winners like Shawn Colvin and Marc Cohn, murder mystery dinner theatre events, live bands of all genres and comedy shows. Plus, hit up their café for fresh eats, the bar for a cocktail or even the bowling alley for a few games. Check out thehowardoshkosh.com for details.



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SEPTEMBER 15-16

Wine & Harvest Festival, Cedarburg

Celebrate fall with great food (harvest apple brats, cranberry turkey wraps, gyros, grilled corn), the wines of hometown Cedar Creek Winery and The Fermentorium craft brews (also made locally). Also see more than 250 juried artists in Art on the Avenue, check out the Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off, participate in Cedar Creek Winery's Grape Stomp, listen to live music and shop in the marketplace. cedarburgfestival.org/wine-harvest-festival



NOVEMBER 10-11

Great River Road Wine Trail Holiday Harvest Wine and Food Festival, Stockholm

Experience all 11 wineries and great food on the Great River Road Wine Trail at this fun holiday fest. Enjoy featured wines and ciders paired with holiday foods at each of the wineries on the Trail. greatriverroadwinetrail.org/holiday-harvest-wine-food-festival



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Warrens Cranberry Festival, Warrens

Get ready for a celebration of the state's fruit at this fun fest. Experience three miles of shopping, a huge Sunday parade and cranberry marsh tours. Also nibble on Cranberries Jubilee, pancakes with cranberry syrup, cranberry cream puffs and even deep-fried cranberries on a stick.
cranfest.com

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September 8-9 Wausau's Artrageous Weekend

This fun fest encompasses four imaginative events throughout the city, including Art in the Park, Festival of Arts, Center for the Visual Arts and Birds in Art. wausaufoa.org/artrageous-weekend

9 Ironman, Madison

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, this iron-willed event features a 2.4-mile swim race, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2 mile marathon. The Madison course is often pegged as a competitor favorite, and spectators can watch and cheer on the participants all day along the race route. ironman.com

22-23 Doors Open Milwaukee

Take behind-the-scenes tours of over 170 of Milwaukee's coolest commercial buildings, breweries, apartments buildings, art galleries, community gardens and more during this fun, mostly free event. Many tours have no charge, while others have a nominal fee that detail Milwaukee's fascinating history and architectural delights in historic neighborhoods.
doorsopenmilwaukee.org

October 2-6 World Dairy Expo, Madison

The World Dairy Expo serves as a forum for dairy producers, companies, organizations and other dairy enthusiasts to come together to show

animals, exchange ideas, knowledge, technology and commerce. Watch animal competitions, sample dairy delights and meet animals in person. worlddairyexpo.com

5-14 Fermentation Fest, Reedsburg

Billing itself as "an annual celebration of live culture in all its forms, from dance to yogurt, poetry to sauerkraut" this festival is an eclectic mix of art events, demonstrations, cooking classes and more. Listen to talks on Native American medicines and foods, the future of farming in Wisconsin, kombucha and home brewing, pretzel and cheesemaking, vegetable fermentation and more. fermentationfest.com

6 Cheesefest, Shullsburg

The town of Shullsburg welcomes visitors to try a variety of Wisconsin's local cheeses in an event that offers fun for the whole family. Enjoy cheese tasting events, entertainment, craft and food vendors, and other autumn-themed activities.
shullsburgwisconsin.org

6-7 Pumpkin Patch Festival, Egg Harbor

This free fest has live music, carnival rides, arts and crafts fair and autumn-themed activities available for the whole family to enjoy.
egg harbordoorcounty.org/events/pumpkin-patch



OCTOBER 27 Beer & Spirits Festival, Lake Geneva

Thirty-five Midwest craft brewers and distillers will be on hand at this fest, featuring brewers such as Milwaukee-based Mob Craft Beer, Madison-located One Barrel Brewing Company and Lake Geneva's Lake Geneva Brewing Co. lakegenevabeerandspirits.com

11-14 Wisconsin Science Festival, Statewide

This four-day statewide event celebrates science, technology, arts and culture, the natural world and more. Challenge the mind to various science, technology, engineering and math related activities that are fun for adults and children alike. wisconsinsciencefest.org

11-14 Wisconsin Book Festival, Madison

Every fall, thousands of people gather for this celebrated literary event that connects the active Midwest literary community with the great authors of today. Check out discussions, readings and activities based on the books themselves. wisconsinbookfestival.org

13 5K Zombie Run, Spooner

This zombie-themed 5K is a great way to get out and be active while showing off spooky Halloween attire. Prizes are awarded to runners who finish among the top of their group as well as those voted best costume. spoonerzombierun.com

18-21 Kohler Food & Wine Experience, Kohler

One of the state's most indulgent food celebrations, this extravaganza features celebrity chefs, cocktails, tastings, culinary seminars and parties, all held at the American Club in the idyllic town of Kohler. Learn about pairing rosé

and beer can chicken, matching up whiskey and chocolate, how to select cheeses to go with chocolates and more. americanclubresort.com/calendar/2018/10/kohler-food-wine-experience

20 Downtown Appleton Soup Walk, Appleton

Warm up and walk along the streets of downtown Appleton and taste all kinds of soups from restaurants along the way. At the event's conclusion, vote for your favorite soup. appletondowntown.org/soup-walk

27 Madison Freakfest, Madison

This party on the street event is the region's largest annual Halloween party and music festival. Featuring popular artists on three different stages, Freakfest has been a spooktacular event for over 10 years. madfreakfest.com

27 Boo at the Zoo, Racine

Calling all candy collectors for this day-long trick-or-treating fiasco, which incorporates all of the zoo's furry and scaly friends. At the event, kids can also enjoy a straw bale maze, arts and crafts, and pumpkin decorating. racinezoo.org

November 4 Swissfest, Monroe

Join this South Central Wisconsin town in celebrating the 52nd annual year of this

Swiss-themed festival. Festivities include a diverse variety of ethnic dining options, live music and dancing in the town's Grand Hall. turnerhalloffmonroe.org/shs.html

17 Milwaukee Holiday Parade

Since 1927, this cherished holiday tradition has featured over 100 units in its annual parade. Festivities include floats, local celebrities, costumed characters, giant helium balloons and of course, Santa Claus. milwaukeekeeparade.com

21 Lakeshore Holiday Parade, Manitowoc

Start your holiday season off right with this illuminated parade through the heart of downtown Manitowoc. Visit with Santa Claus or watch the parade's floats and marching bands. Bring your Christmas spirit! manitowoc.org/292/Holiday-Parade

December Nov. 23-Dec. 31 Rotary Light Show, La Crosse

Gaze upon a 140-foot Christmas tree and tons of light displays (made up of more than two million lights) at this holiday tradition in La Crosse along the river. Additionally, enjoy a live nativity presentation, featured every weekend from the event's kickoff until Christmas. rotarylights.org

JANUARY 18-19 Bald Eagle Watching Days, Sauk Prairie

Celebrate the sacred bird in this weekend event on the Wisconsin River, where dozens of the majestic birds perch in the bare branches along shore. Watch for free public lectures, and stop at the viewing area in Prairie du Sac, overlooking Eagle Island, for telescope viewing in a protected area ideal for photographing eagles. ferrybluffeaglecouncil.org



Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Wizard World Comic Con, Madison

Come and check out your favorite artists, creators and celebrity guests to celebrate the best in pop-fi, movies, graphic novels, cosplay, comics, television, sci-fi, toys, video gaming, gaming, original art, collectibles, contests and more. Wizard World Madison is also the place for costumes, with fans young and old showing off their best costumes throughout the event. wizardworld.com/comicon/madison

143rd Annual Electric Christmas Parade, Lake Geneva

A lighted parade fills the streets of downtown Lake Geneva with holiday cheer. Be sure to visit the shops and restaurants afterward for specials and holiday happenings. visittlakegeneva.com

1, 8 Winter Festival at Taliesin, Spring Green

For two days only, take a one-hour tour around the exterior of the Taliesin estate. After your tour, Frank Lloyd Wright's personal drafting studio will be open for warm, wintry beverages and a holiday story reading by the fireside. The Riverview Terrace Café and Taliesin Gift Shop will be open for lunch and holiday shopping needs. Space is limited. taliesinpreservation.org

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FEBRUARY 1-3 Hudson Hot Air Affair

Celebrate hot air balloons with a Friday night balloon and fire show as well as a parade and fireworks. On Saturday and Sunday, more than 30 balloons launch at sunrise and in the evening they inflate once more, lighting up the dark with glowing colors. Also partake in bingo, a pancake breakfast, kite-flying and ice-carving shows, fun run and an ice-fishing derby. hudsonhotairaffair.com

7 Holidazzle, Beloit

Downtown Beloit businesses glow with holiday lights and music, so you can purchase fine arts and crafts for holiday gift giving. Refreshments are offered by many businesses, clubs and restaurants. Enjoy the free trolley as you travel around this free event with forty-plus locations. Also hear live music, visit with Santa, do kids' activities and nibble on holiday treats. downtownbeloit.com

January 2019 19 Isthmus Beer and Cheese Festival, Madison

Get to know some of the state's most prestigious cheese and beer makers as you sample hundreds of their delicious creations. Choose between general or premium admission, both of which offer a plethora of enjoyable festival extras. isthmusbeercheese.com

26-Feb. 3 Winterfest, Lake Geneva

Lake Geneva hosts the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition during this weeklong festival that celebrates all things winter. Fifteen teams travel from all over the country to Flatiron Park, and with great skill and detail, fashion snow into amazing sculptures over nine feet tall. Also make snowmen at a bonfire; go skiing, snowboarding and tobogganing; and take the whole family on a Cocoa Crawl to a gaggle of participating establishments. visitlakegeneva.com/winterfest

February 1-3 Fish Creek Winter Festival

Check out candlelight skiing, a chili cook-off, ice carving, ice bowling, costumed Fruit Loop Fun Run, an entertaining Stumpf Fiddle Contest and an awesome fireworks show. Fun and games include minnow racing, chocolate sampling, and free trolley rides to the cherry pit spitting competition at Orchard Country Winery & Market. visitfishcreek.com/calendar/winter-festival

2-3 Madison Winter Festival

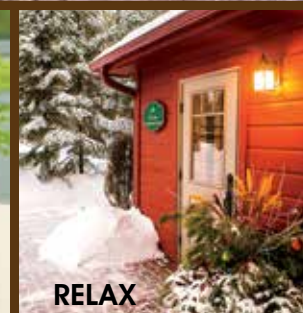
Hosted in Madison's 250-acre Elver Park, events are slated to include candlelight skiing, sledding, a 5K run and a fun run for the kids, ski clinic, ice skating and another Wisconsin appearance for the U.S. National Snow Sculpting champs. There's also mini ice golf and s'mores by the bonfire. Sleds, skates and skis are available for rent. winter-fest.com

8-9 In Celebration of Chocolate, Kohler

Partake in this winter getaway, where a weekend has never been sweeter. This chocolate-themed event at The American Club features a variety of culinary talent, food pairings and evening dinners. americanclubresort.com/calendar



GETTING AWAY IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!



Visit manitowishwaters.org to plan your trip

16 Book Across the Bay, Ashland

Join thousands of cross-country skiers and snowshoers in this starlit 10K over a frozen Lake Superior that spans from Ashland to Washburn, with up to 1,000 luminarias lighting the way along the route. batb.org

22-24 Wisconsin Fishing Expo, Madison

The Alliant Energy Center hosts this annual fishing tradition with even more to offer this year—another wing focused on kayaks and silent watercraft will debut. Explore the numerous exhibits this expo has to offer, which include some of the industry's top professionals and merchandise to peruse. wifishingexpo.com

March

Feb. 22-March 3 Beloit International Film Festival

This annual 10-day film festival celebrates the power of independent film from around the globe. Local residents and visitors from across the nation fill venues ranging in size from 40 to 400 seats to view more than 100 films and meet scores of filmmakers who come from throughout the U.S. and around the world. beloitfilmfest.org

1-3 Bayfield Winter Festival, Bayfield

Embrace chilly temps with events that may include a kickoff celebration with beer and free chili, the Brownstone Trail Candlelight Walk, a

Penguin Egg Hunt, a snow sculpture contest and even a Polar Plunge.

recreationandfitnessresources.org/bayfield-winter-festival.htm

2 Bald Eagle Watching Day, Ferryville

This fascinating day of programs features educational talks on raptors, falcons and owls, plus a chance to meet birds in person. Children's activities and refreshments will round out the day. visitferryville.com

9 Hops & Props, Oshkosh

The Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) 15th annual premier beer-tasting event is back and bigger than ever. Sip unlimited samples of some of the finest beverages in the world, taste delicious food and listen to live music. eaa.org

15-17 Greater Milwaukee Golf Show

Check out the latest and greatest in gear and items to improve your game. Prizes, demos and more will be available. roylegolfshows.com/milwaukee/april

29 Tour the Town Art Walk, Fond du Lac

The city's Gallery Night is a fun and free way to explore the arts. Each location offers a unique art experience with changing exhibits, including artists talks, demonstrations, hands-on projects, music and more. tourthetownfdl.com

April

5-7 Arts on Point: Gallery Weekend, Mineral Point

Over 20 artist galleries and studios, unique shops, live music and special events highlight the creative energy in this beautiful and historic community. artsonpoint.com

27 Wisconsin Grilled Cheese Championship, Dodgeville

This fun and family-friendly event highlights the cheese industry of Wisconsin. Watch the competition, get free cheese samples, see vendors and exhibitors, listen to live music, check out the children's activities and eat at the food trucks. grilledcheesewisconsin.com EW



A year-round place of Discovery and Inspiration



Explore 13,000 years of prehistoric and early life in the award-winning *People of the Waters*. Discover history through engaging exhibitions selected to inspire, inform, and entertain. Marvel at exquisite artwork and decorative arts, stunning carved woodwork and the rich Tiffany treasures in the historic Sawyer home.

Deck the Halls at the Oshkosh Public Museum

November 17 – December 30

Make your holiday season a hygge one. This year the holiday exhibit is inspired by hygge, a Danish concept of savoring life's simple pleasures. Experience the Museum set aglow with a nostalgic display of holiday décor, combining ambient interiors, cozy settings and conviviality – all the makings of a happier hygge holiday.



1331 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901
920.236.5799 • oshkoshmuseum.org

7 QUIRKY MUSEUMS IN WISCONSIN

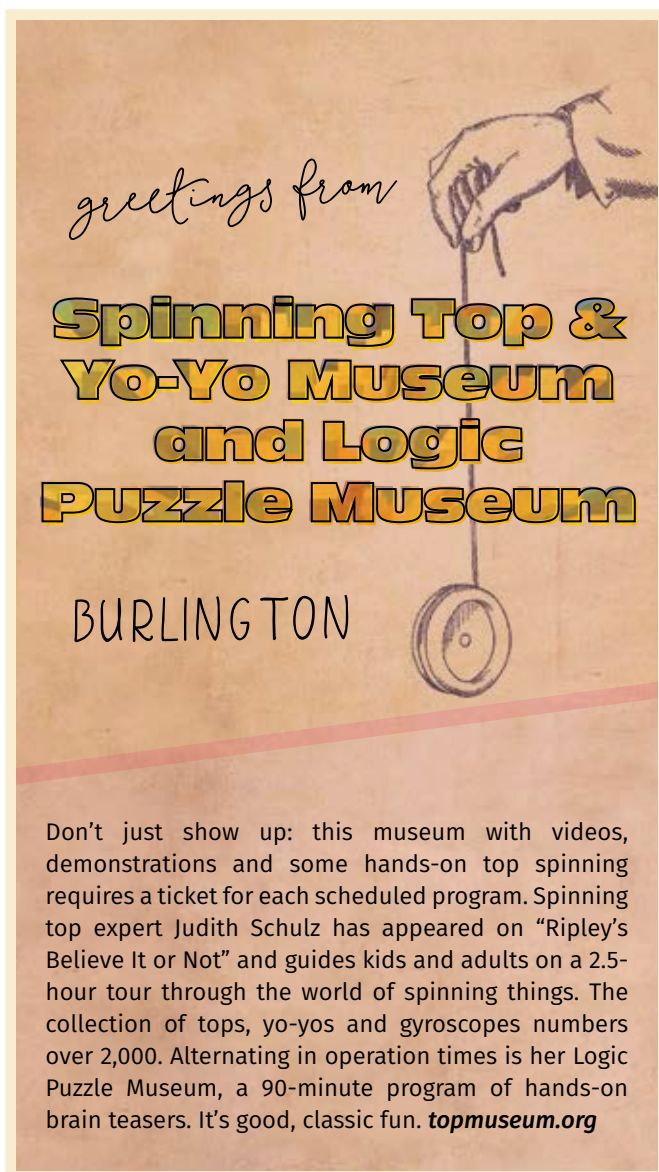
FROM ACCORDIONS TO YO-YOS, HERE'S A ROUNDUP OF SOME OF THE BADGER STATE'S MOST CURIOUS MUSEUMS.

By Kevin Revolinski

greetings from **HOUSE ON THE ROCK** SPRING GREEN

Best-selling author Neil Gaiman calls it “a monument to kitsch and wonder and madness and uncertainty” and writes that he had to “tone down” his description of it in his novel “American Gods” in order “to make it believable.” What started as a curiously designed home open to the public for tours, gradually has grown into a vast network of rooms and warehouses housing the most unusual collections, from an unnerving room full of dolls to a giant whale and sea monster tangled in battle. The massive carousel spins around with 269 creatures—from lions and elephants to centaurs, mermaids, and other mythological beasts—but not a single horse. thehouseontherock.com





Set on seven acres along the Namekagon River, this museum houses over 50,000 lures and 1,000 vintage motors, plus rods and other antiques related to fishing—but only in fresh water. Executive director Emmett Brown admits the world record musky mount is a reproduction but the real mounts include "some tremendous lake trout from the mid-50s." That's pounds, not the year caught. The Hall of Fame honors more than 400 men and women who have made significant contributions to the sport. But the show stealer might be the four-story tall, half-a-city-block-long musky statue outside. Climb up into its mouth for a photo. freshwater-fishing.org



greetings from **TEN CHIMNEYS** GENESEE DEPOT



Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne were already big names on Broadway and in the international theatre community in the early 20th century when they came to live in Wisconsin. Built in stages from 1913 into the 1940s, their Genesee Depot estate is better known for the number of chimneys among its three buildings. Famous guests Laurence Olivier and Noël Coward have bedrooms named for them, and a long list of other stars have stayed here. The music room, with its detailed murals, chandeliers, plush armchairs and grand piano with a painting beneath its lid, could be the set of a period play. The entire place with its artifacts, artwork, murals, and antiques is like something from a fantasy world, and the museum foundation itself likens the complex to a personal diary, carefully designed by the Lunts. tenchimneys.org



greetings from **A World of Accordians Museum** SUPERIOR

"Accordions touch nearly every family in the United States," says Helmi Harrington, the curator of this collection of over 1,300 instruments dating back to the accordion's invention. The guided tour is informative and over 130 exhibits reveal the evolution of the accordion, its various styles and elements, and the countries they originated in. A library dedicated to the subject occupies two floors. A concert hall hosts regular events, and group tours include a performance there. Most visitors spend about an hour, but Harrington says "we also get people who come and stay for a year." Indeed, some may stay for extensive research or to help out in the on-site repair workshop, which even has a program to train accordion repair people. Call ahead for hours of operation. worldofaccordions.org

greetings from **The National Brewery Museum** POTOSI

Situated inside the refurbished historical Potosi Brewery is an impressive collection of breweriana, collectible items regarding the history of breweries; whether that be cans or coasters, serving trays, tap handles, branded glasses, old beer barrels or brilliant neon signs. Watch short documentaries and various classic commercials. A vintage Pabst lithograph on display is worth over \$15,000. Sharing the same building are the Transportation Museum, the Great River Road Interpretive Center and the modern Potosi Brewery Restaurant. Across the street is a giant replica of a vintage Potosi cone-top beer can, the world's largest. potosibrewery.com ew

THE DISH BEST BITES



Fermentation Fest



Green County Cheese Days



Kohler Food & Wine Experience



Beer & Spirits Festival



Cedar Creek Winery



Warrens Cranberry Festival

TOP LEFT ONE: TRAVELWISCONSIN.COM | TOP LEFT TWO: GREEN COUNTY CHEESE DAYS | TOP RIGHT: TRAVELWISCONSIN.COM
MIDDLE: IDEAL IMPRESSIONS | BOTTOM LEFT: WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
BOTTOM RIGHT: WISCONSIN STATE CRANBERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Favorite Food and Drink Fests

By Shayna Mace

Sure, we're known for beer and cheese, but Wisconsin celebrates a lot more than that—savor the state's best sips and bites at these fall and winter celebrations.

Beer & Spirits Festival, Lake Geneva

Running nine years strong, this beer tasting festival is always near Halloween, so expect to see festival-goers donning costumes and having a spooky good time. Thirty-five Midwest craft brewers and distillers will be on hand—so expect to taste suds and sips from Milwaukee-based Mob Craft Beer, Madison-located One Barrel Brewing Company and Lake Geneva's Lake Geneva Brewing Co. This year's festival is on October 27. lakegenevabeerandspirits.com

Fermentation Fest, Reedsburg

Billing itself as “an annual celebration of live culture in all its forms, from dance to yogurt, poetry to sauerkraut” this festival (taking place October 5-14) is an eclectic mix of art events, demonstrations, cooking classes and more. Partially academic (presentations span from talks on Native American medicines and foods to the future of farming in Wisconsin) to just plain fun (kombucha and home brewing, pretzel and cheesemaking, vegetable fermentation and more), pretty much anyone can find something that interests them here. Don't miss the Farm/Art Dtour that's 50-plus miles of free art installations, roadside poetry, performances and local food. fermentationfest.com

Green County Cheese Days, Monroe

Held every two years in even years (this year is September 14-16), this highly anticipated fest celebrates fromage in all of its glory. After all, the county is home to a dozen creameries including Edelweiss Creamery, Chalet Cheese Co-op and Emmi Roth USA. (The latter consistently wins international and national awards and offers tours of their Alp and Dell Cheese Store in Monroe, too). Listen to live entertainment, watch the parades, run in the Cheese Days Chase (5K or 10K), shop for arts and crafts and, oh yeah—taste cheese. cheesedays.com

Isthmus Beer & Cheese, Madison

Pretty much an unbeatable combination, this celebration allows you to taste-test craft brews from an astounding 100-plus brewers from around the U.S., from small (Funk Factory Geuzeria) to large (Sierra Nevada). And what better to pair said beer with than a nibble of cheese from 15-plus cheesemakers, including multiple award-winner Roth Cheese? Listen to tunes while you savor the warmth of indoors during the January 19, 2019, party. isthmusbeercheese.com

Kohler Food & Wine Experience, Kohler

One of the state's most indulgent food celebrations, this four-day extravaganza (October 18-21) features celebrity chefs, cocktails, tastings, culinary seminars and parties—all held throughout the idyllic Destination Kohler. Midwest chefs hold court alongside major international players, like Marcus Samuelsson and Fabio Viviani, for presentations. There's no shortage of fun talks and demonstrations, including pairing rosé and beer can chicken, matching up whiskey and chocolate, and how to select cheeses to go with chocolates. Learn about gnocchi-making, partake in tons of wine tastings and learn about coffee cocktails—it's all here. Each event requires a separate ticket; see the website for details. americanclubresort.com/calendar/2018/10/kohler-food-wine-experience

Warrens Cranberry Festival, Warrens

When the last weekend in September rolls around, get ready for a celebration of the state's fruit (with lots of known health benefits!) at this fun fest on September 28-30. There's three miles (!) of shopping here, a huge Sunday parade, marsh tours—even “Cranberry Royalty” contestants that extoll the virtues of cranberries. Oh, and did we mention the food? Cranberries Jubilee, pancakes with cranberry syrup, cranberry cream puffs and even deep-fried cranberries on a stick all make an appearance. cranfest.com

Wine & Harvest Festival, Cedarburg

For almost 50 years, this celebration kicks off fall (this year on September 15-16) with great food (harvest apple brats, cranberry turkey wraps, gyros, grilled corn), the wines of hometown winery Cedar Creek Winery and The Fermentorium craft brews (also made locally). There's more than just food and wine here though—see more than 250 juried artists in Art on the Avenue, check out the Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off, participate in Cedar Creek Winery's Grape Stomp, listen to live music and shop in the marketplace. cedarburgfestival.org/wine-harvest-festival [ew](#)

Shayna Mace is editorial director of Experience Wisconsin.

THE DISH FLAVOR HUNTER



From Farm Boy to Rising-Star Chef

By Mary Bergin

When FSR (a trade magazine for the full-service restaurant industry) came up with a list of 40 rising-star chefs in 2017, almost all of them were working in the nation's largest cities.

Tyler Sailsbery was an exception. He operates two restaurants within three blocks of downtown Whitewater (pop. 14,500), a college town whose lack of local-centric dining is what turned this business major into a professional chef.

Artsy entrées served in a homey setting of refurbished décor defines The Black Sheep, open since 2012. Think ravioli stuffed with lamb sausage, topped with a rosemary cream sauce. Casual Joe's is Sailsbery's more laid-back eatery, featuring barbecued meats and sides (cranberry slaw, golden corn bake, bacon mac 'n cheese), served on no-fuss aluminum trays.

In 2013, Casual Joe's won over judges of the Food Network show "Food Court Wars." The reward: one year of free rent. Prices here are lower than The Black Sheep's, and that—as the chef-owner sees it—makes hyper-local dining accessible to more people.

Lots of chefs aim to cook with the seasons, using locally grown ingredients. Sailsbery understands that goal deeply because he was raised on a farm. Most of his restaurants' key ingredients come from within 50 miles.

"As a farm boy, it just seemed natural to connect the farmer and the foodie," he says. "This was an integral part from the start."

Sailsbery arranges farm dinners and serves his community in other ways too. Jail inmates grow a garden and use the bounty in a five-course dinner for the public, prepared under Sailsbery's supervision. He makes fun food—like sweet potato ice cream—to introduce children to farmers' market fare.

During the winter The Black Sheep's 2.5-hour cooking classes are popular. Count pasta-making, food and wine pairings, a sushi primer and butcher talk about meat cuts among the topics covered. [ew](#)

Mary Bergin of Madison (roadstraveled.com) loves finding excellent reasons to travel to rural America, especially the Midwest and her home state of Wisconsin.

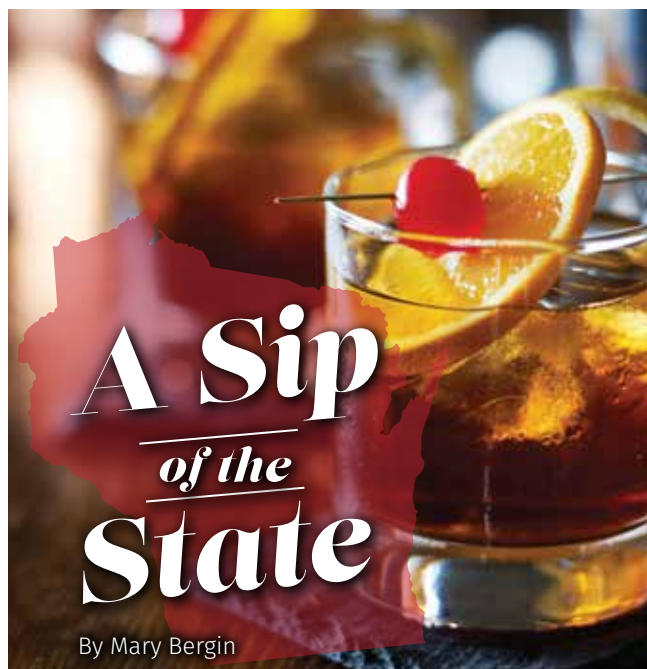
ONE BIG FOAMY MUG OF A BEER DESTINATION.

BEER YOGA. PEDAL TAVERN. BEER GARDEN.
BREWERY TOUR. BEER HISTORY. NO CITY LIVES BEER
LIKE MILWAUKEE - ANY ACTIVITY THAT ISN'T TIED TO
BEER IS A MISSED OPPORTUNITY.

PLAN YOUR VISIT



VISITMILWAUKEE.ORG/GO



By Mary Bergin

Brandy-loving Wisconsin is the top market for California-based Korbel, buying more than one-third of their annual production, but small-batch brandy from Badger State distilleries are gaining attention too. Check out these Wisconsin tasting rooms.



AEppelTreow, Burlington

Apple brandy is made with Wisconsin-grown fruit that ages in new, charred barrels of Wisconsin white oak. The award-winning result is more of a modern version of colonial applejack than a French calvados. Their other brandies use pears and grapes. appletrue.com



Central Standard Craft Distillery, Milwaukee

Brandy with a hint of chocolate is a smooth combo for two award-winning products distilled for Herb Kohler and KOHLER Original Recipe Chocolates. Serve the dark chocolate brandy or chocolate mint brandy straight up, over ice or in cocktails. thecentralstandard.com, kohlerchocolates.com



Door County Distillery, Carlsville

Hints of vanilla and caramel in Door County Distillery's traditional brandy come from a blend of red Zinfandel and Viognier wines. Fruit from local orchards turn into wines that are distilled into cherry brandy and an apple brandy (great for hot toddys!). dcwine.com



Great Lakes Distillery, Milwaukee

Tiny batches of 80-proof fruit brandy are made from a cornucopia of fruit, and some choices change seasonally. The Artisan Series includes a five-year apple brandy, blueberry, banana, peach, pear, kirschwasser (fermented cherries), strawberry, grappa (grape residue from winemaking) and barrel-aged grappa. greatlakesdistillery.com



Infinity Winery & Distillery, Eau Claire

The distillery's Experimental spirits (and wines) are naturally infused and often a limited, one-time production, like their recently released Experimental Peach Brandy Liqueur that's imbued with fruit grown at home by the distiller's father. Next up: a brandy aged in whiskey barrels, targeted for release before Christmas. infinitybeverages.com



Old Sugar Distillery, Madison

The Old Sugar in this distillery's name refers to beet sugar, a part of some spirits. The company's Brandy Station, made with local grapes, is their signature brandy. The Ultimate Brandy Set includes the aforementioned Brandy Station, along with a bottle of Sally Wagon, a pre-mixed Brandy Manhattan; and their Pomeroy Apple Brandy. oldsugardistillery.com



Wollersheim, Prairie du Sac

The longtime winery also produces the award-winning 1876 Press House Brandy, named after the original building used to make brandy on-site in 1876. The formula involves the same varietals used back then too, and the brandy is barrel-aged at least two years before bottling. wollersheim.com



Yahara Bay, Madison

Wisconsin-grown Honeycrisp apples turn into apple brandy here, which ages in a bourbon barrel for almost two years. A 2007 batch that aged 10 years was released in 2017. All of the distiller's products began in a 90-gallon copper still nicknamed "CARL." yaharabay.com [ew](http://ew.com)

Make Mine Sweet

Wisconsin's unofficial state cocktail hands down, is the Old Fashioned. The classic recipe begins with the muddling of a maraschino cherry, orange slice, sugar cube and splash of bitters. Then comes ice, but what happens next depends on the bartender, and customer whims.

Brandy is the liquor typically used. Expect to decide on "sweet or sour" because lemon-lime soda (for sweet) or a sour mixer tops the drink off.

Menus at The Old Fashioned, a popular restaurant and bar on Madison's Capitol Square, embrace the Badger State's most beloved food and drink traditions. That includes at least seven types of the namesake cocktail. The Northern Exposure involves Kessler's, and the Applejack uses apple brandy. The rye bourbon version substitutes brown sugar for a granulated cube. The Orange Rum requires orange-flavored rum.

Although Angostura bitters is the universal favorite to enhance an Old Fashioned, aficionados get picky about cocktail garnishes—but that's a story for another time. theoldfashioned.com

FOLLOWING THE WISCONSIN *Waterfall Trail*

Breathtaking waterfalls aren't only seen in tropical locales or exotic destinations—our beautiful state has several of its own.

By Kevin Revolinski

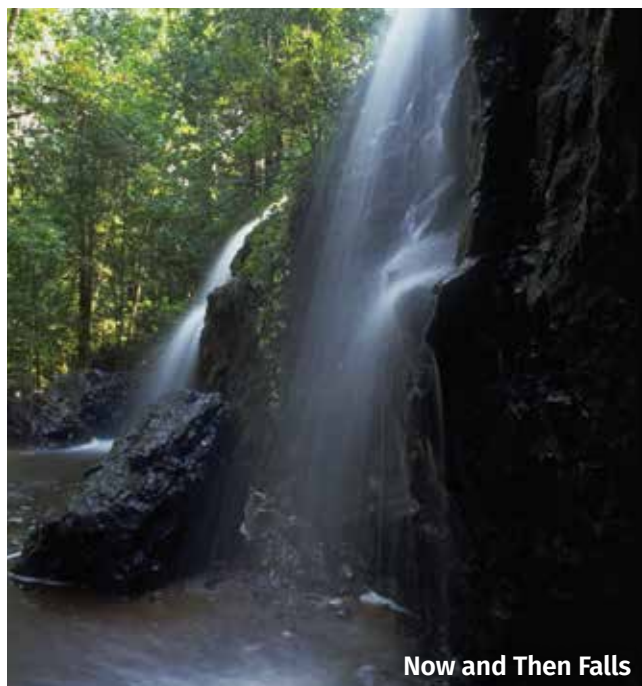
If the colors of autumn aren't enough, why not throw in a beautiful waterfall? Across northern Wisconsin, heading west to east, you can find an abundance of these natural wonders.

Copper Falls State Park

AMNICON FALLS

The geological wonder that is Amnicon Falls State Park lies north of US-2 and serves as a scenic rest stop or a night's stay in the campground. From a covered bridge you can see the Upper Falls to one side, and the Lower Falls to the other—the former falling over ancient volcanic rock; the latter, Lake Superior sandstone. Hike the short loop trail and see a third falls on the Amnicon River, and in rainy periods, a fourth, the appropriately named Now and Then Falls.

Don't Miss: Farther east along US-2 in Iron River is White Winter Winery, makers of a variety of meads (sweet and dry honey wines), plus spirits and non-alcoholic spritzers. Eat at the Delta Diner southeast of there, a 1940s aluminum diner with food worth traveling hours for (and people do!).



Now and Then Falls



Bad River Gorge

BROWNSTONE FALLS

While the namesake cascade at Copper Falls State Park is indeed impressive from where you look down on it from the hiking trail above the 100-foot gorge, it's usually the 30-foot Brownstone Falls people come to see. The former is on the Bad River; the latter is a short walk away on Tyler Forks, where it joins the Bad River and flows north to Lake Superior.

Don't Miss: For some comfort food or a Friday fish fry, head up US-13 a few miles to High Bridge Oasis.



BIG MANITOU FALLS

You'll hear the thundering water long before you see it. Tumbling 165 feet, this is the tallest waterfall east of the Mississippi. The trails here at Pattison State Park bring you close enough to look down into the gorge and see the rush of whitewater from several different angles. Extend your hike into the park and you can also see Little Manitou Falls.

Don't Miss: Head north to Superior to the Anchor Bar, famous for its creative burgers. Try the cashew and Swiss burger and some fresh-cut fries. Be sure to see the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center, named for the Wisconsin native and America's greatest flying ace to date.



MARINETTE COUNTY WATERFALLS

Here lies the highest concentration of waterfalls in the state. There are 15 named falls spread throughout the county, most of them reachable in a single day if you get an early start. Hikes to each range from a dozen steps to a half-mile. From Long Slide Falls cascading 50 feet through a narrow cut in the rock to the easily accessible rushing whitewater of Dave's Falls, the self-guided tour explores one of the more remote corners of Wisconsin.

Don't Miss: The rich forest here was once laid low by one of the most devastating fires in American history—head south to learn more at the Peshtigo Fire Museum. Stop for pizza at Peppino's while you're in town.

LOST CREEK FALLS

Simple and elegant, and highly photogenic if you catch it right, this eight-foot waterfall lies at the end of a 2.2-mile out-and-back hike into pristine forest. The creek slips over a ledge with enough space that you can stand behind the waterfall.

Don't Miss: Halvorson Fisheries out of Cornucopia sells its catch—whitefish, lake trout, and salmon—fresh, frozen or smoked.



POTATO RIVER FALLS

Northeast of Copper Falls State Park is this awesome series of whitewater cascades. The Upper Falls drops 20 feet at a time, twice, while the Lower Falls plunges 30 feet in one go. Views of either can be reached by some stairs and dirt trails from the parking lot.

Don't Miss: Head up to Ashland to see a city full of murals, taste the brews at South Shore Brewery and stop for coffee at the Black Cat Coffeehouse.



MORGAN FALLS

This waterfall is unlike all the others. Inside the Chequamegon National Forest in a shaded gorge, Morgan Creek descends over 70 feet along a narrow trough carved into the gorge wall, almost as if someone channeled it that way. Near trail level it then pours out of the side of that channel into a pool before you.

Don't Miss: While the hike to the falls is just over a mile round-trip, you shouldn't miss the climb up St. Peter's Dome on the same trail. From the top you have a clear view out over the forest all the way to Lake Superior. [ew](#)

100 YEARS OF GRIDIRON GLORY

In 2019, the Packers will mark their 100th birthday—and they're inviting fans and visitors to celebrate with them.

By Mary Bergin



Titletown

Birthday parties usually last a day, unless you're the Green Bay Packers, which turns 100 years old in 2019—and the Pack is already celebrating.

Football fans watched a free game on September 14, 1919, as their new home team competed on a vacant lot next to the future high school. Players were paid from pass-the-hat donations. A \$500 donation covered uniforms and equipment. The donor was the Indian Packing Company, and the star was coach/halfback Earl "Curly" Lambeau. The season record ended at 10-1. And the impact? Titletown USA is born.

Today the Packers are one of 32 National Football League teams, yet it's unique. It's the smallest city that has an NFL team. No other major, professional sports team in the United States remains not-for-profit and publicly owned like the Packers.

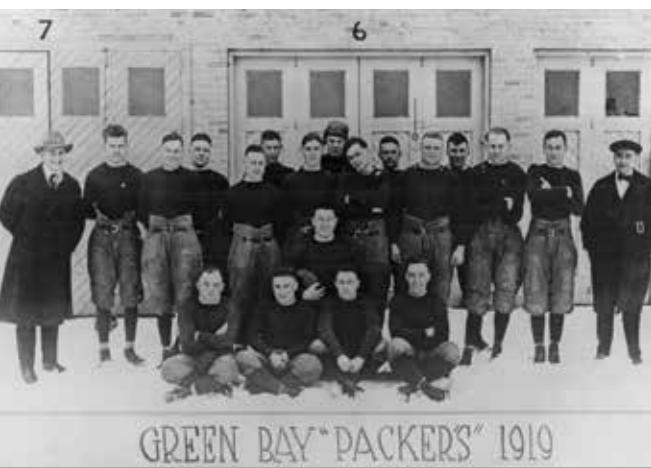
Each home game during the 2018-19 season is devoted to a different decade of team history. On display at the Packers Hall of Fame is "The Origins of Glory," which explores the team's first year and how the NFL franchise was born. Coming in 2019 is "100 Seasons," a definitive book about the team.

The team's evolving Titletown District gives football fans new reasons to linger near Lambeau. The complex includes a plaza with outdoor shuffleboard, ping pong tables, horseshoes, cornhole and foosball play stations. On a roomy, cushy playground is gridiron-inspired equipment, next to a 40-yard-dash track and full-sized football field. Come winter, ice skating and a hill for tubing appear.

Among Titletown's anchors is Hinterland, a craft brewery with restaurants, and LODGE KOHLER, upscale accommodations with water-inspired spa treatments and the fifth-floor Taverne in the Sky with a lengthy wine list. The restaurant has a wall of windows that faces the stadium, a mere 100 yards away.



Titletown



CATCH THE GREEN AND GOLD FEVER

It's all good, but Green Bay has long loved, lived and breathed football, regardless of reason or season. Here's a little bit of where to tour and toast the team outside of the stadium.

ALLOUEZ CATHOLIC CEMETERY

At rest here since 1965 is Curly Lambeau—his modest grave marker is near the Webster Street entrance. Much easier to find is an elevated bronze statue of this legendary team founder, star and coach—at Lambeau Field's main entrance.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF GREEN BAY

Kids have a place to practice their Lambeau Leap, learn about football gear and get a hands-on introduction to tailgating. Inside little lockers is oversized clothing to turn youngsters into a sports announcer, football coach or player. gbchildrensmuseum.org

HAGEMEISTER PARK

This popular restaurant on the Fox River downtown is named after the team's first playing field and has 20-plus TVs and old-time team photos, inside and out. On the meaty menu is chili (ladled over noodles), pierogi stroganoff and lots of pub fare. hagemeisterpark.com

NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM

A permanent exhibit at the local history repository is "Hometown Advantage: The Community and The Packers," which documents personal relationships between the community, team and players throughout Packers history. nevillepublicmuseum.org

PACKERS HERITAGE TRAIL

Historical markers at 20-plus sites identify significant points in team history. Walk and drive at your own pace. Other options include Segway and trolley tours, as weather permits. packersheritagetrail.com, candmpresents.com, glidenew.com

TITLETOWN BREWING

Count Johnny Blood Red, an Irish red ale, among the year-round go-to brews made by the downtown craft brewer. It's a longtime tribute to Johnny "Blood" McNally, the early time Pro Football Hall of Fame halfback. titletownbrewing.com

UNION HOTEL

The favorite haunt of long-ago football greats is one year older than the team, and a longtime equipment manager lived upstairs for 40 years. Venture over for a retro setting and supper-club-style dinner. Order before 9 p.m. facebook.com/unionhoteldepere

ALL ABOUT APPLETON

Just 30 miles from Green Bay, Appleton also boasts attractions with Packers ties, too.

GRIDIRON GREATS

Relive pro football highlights at "Gridiron Glory: The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame" until January 6 at the History Museum at the Castle in downtown Appleton, 30 miles southwest of Green Bay. This is the only Wisconsin stop for the 6,000-square-foot, traveling exhibition from Canton, Ohio.

Expect an unusual blend of championship remnants here (examples: a Jim Taylor jersey, a 1929 championship football, a 1967 Ice Bowl failed heating coil), cultural influences (Brian Piccolo's

jacket, a nod to the 1971 "Brian's Song" movie), interactive things (ways for you to referee), lessons on science (helmet-radio communication evolution) and racism (obstacles to equality). myhistorymuseum.org

COACH'S CUT

Open year-round and five blocks away from the History Museum is Vince Lombardi's Steakhouse, whose décor is all about artifacts from the legendary Packer coach's estate. Count fan mail from U.S. presidents, family photos, high school yearbooks, handwritten game plays, trophies and personal possessions among the 400-plus treasures. vincelombardisteakhouse.com ew.com

Frosty Fun

at Seven Cool Wisconsin Festivals

Cold temps and snowy conditions don't deter these Wisconsin festivals—in fact, chilly weather and having fun in the snow are required.

By Kevin Revolinski

Sauk Prairie Bald Eagle Watching Days, January 18-19, 2019

The bald eagle has really made a comeback in Wisconsin, and sightings in summer are pretty common. But in winter they will gather in abundance around open water looking for a meal. The Wisconsin River between Sauk City and Prairie du Sac (jointly called Sauk Prairie) remains unfrozen beneath the dam and dozens of the majestic birds perch in the bare branches along shore. This weekend event brings in a crowd with binoculars. Watch for free public lectures, and stop at the viewing area in Prairie du Sac, overlooking Eagle Island, for telescope viewing in a protected area ideal for photographing eagles.

Good Eats: Vintage Brewing Co. is family-friendly and has a deck overlooking the river for a good chance to spot more eagles. The Blue Spoon Cafe is a casual spot with upscale, fresh cafe offerings on the river—and is good for breakfast. If you're looking for a supper club experience, try Green Acres or the German-themed Dorf Haus.

ferrybluffeaglecouncil.org



Lake Geneva Winterfest, January 26-February 3, 2019

You'll find snow art in a number of places, but nothing this good. Lake Geneva hosts the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition during this weeklong winter festival. Fifteen teams travel from all over the country to Flatiron Park and the Riviera Plaza, where with great skill and detail, they fashion snow into amazing sculptures over nine feet tall. But it's not just a spectator's week: taste the entries of the chili cook-off, participate in the human sled dog races, listen to live music, laugh at comedy shows, check out magic acts and take the family on a Cocoa Crawl at a gaggle of downtown establishments. An assortment of area resorts and bed and breakfasts offer a respite from the cold, perhaps with more hot chocolate and some time around a warm hearth.

The Ice Judge Cometh: The sculptors themselves judge the sculptures based on creativity, technique and message to award first, second and third place. Additionally, the public votes for the People's Choice Awards.

visitlakegeneva.com/winterfest



TOP: TRAVELWISCONSIN.COM BOTTOM LEFT: SAUK PRAIRIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOTTOM RIGHT: VISIT LAKE GENEVA



Hudson Hot Air Affair



Fish Creek Winter Festival, February 1-3, 2019

Door County does winter right with candlelight skiing, a chili cook-off and a bit of ice bowling—surely soon to be an Olympic sport. There's also a costumed Fruit Loop Fun Run, an entertaining Stumpf Fiddle Contest and an awesome fireworks show. Fun and games include minnow racing, chocolate sampling, and free trolley rides to the cherry pit spitting contest at Orchard Country Winery & Market.

Grape Expectations: Stop in for a tasting at Lautenbach's Orchard Country Winery & Market just south of town. A bit farther south are Stone's Throw Winery and Harbor Ridge Winery.

visitfishcreek.com/events/winter-festival



Hudson Hot Air Affair, February 1-3, 2019

Nothing says winter quite like ... hot air balloons? At least, that's how it is along the St. Croix River in Hudson. A calendar of countdown events lead up to this three-day weekend. Friday evening features balloonists shooting bursts of fire into the night as they roll along a parade route amid kazoo marching bands, ending with fireworks over the river. More than 30 balloons launch at sunrise on Saturday and Sunday, and in the evening they inflate once more, lighting up the dark with glowing colors—making for some dazzling photo ops. Other activities include bingo and a pancake breakfast, kite-flying and ice-carving shows, and a fun run and an ice-fishing derby. Take part in some geocaching and a bit of birdwatching: eagles and trumpeter swans winter here.

Don't Miss: See a current art gallery or catch a show at The Phipps Center for the Arts. Or, learn some local history on a tour of the Octagon House Museum.

hudsonhotairaffair.com



Minocqua Ice Cold Beer Festival, February 9, 2019

One of the Wisconsin Brewers Guild's annual festivals, this beer fest is a celebration of Wisconsin's only rival to cheese for most popular product. Celebrated in the town of Minocqua, the festival is held on an island in frozen Lake Minocqua under a heated big-top tent. Brewers from Wisconsin and its neighboring Midwestern states offer over 250 different beers. Tickets go on sale on October 1 and sell out quickly. The four-hour event also features live music and food for sale, and a VIP ticket gets you in an hour earlier for a special premium beer tasting and complimentary food.

Beer Here: The Minocqua area has four breweries: Minocqua Brewing Co., which hosts the fest; Rocky Reef Brewing just minutes north in Woodruff; Some Nerve Brewing in Manitowish Waters; and Tribute Brewing Company in Eagle River.

wibrewersguild.com/ice-cold-beer

Bayfield Winter Festival, March 1-3, 2019

The first weekend of March you may think the state's northernmost towns might be crazy with cabin fever—but they're just getting started. Past festivities (and likely this year's, too) included a kickoff celebration with beer and free chili, a candlelight hike through a nature conservancy, a Penguin Egg Hunt, a snow sculpture contest and a fat-tire bike tour across the lake ice. Or, go night skiing at Mt. Ashwabay. It may not seem like swimming season, but festival attendees have the opportunity to take the Polar Plunge to raise money for the Bayfield Recreation Center. Costumes are encouraged. (Check their website to confirm all events before you go).

Bed Head: Bed and breakfasts are the way to go up here. Spend the night in the award-winning Old Rittenhouse Inn, a 12-room Queen Anne Victorian home, which serves great food as well in its gourmet restaurant. They also manage the nearby Le Chateau, originally built as a mansion for a lumber baron. Built in 1885, the Pinehurst Inn Bed & Breakfast is an eco-friendly B&B just south of town with a separate Garden House.

recreationandfitnessresources.org/bayfield-winter-festival.html



Madison Winter Festival, February 2-3, 2019

Hosted in Madison's 250-acre Elver Park, this fest provides its own snow if Mother Nature doesn't. With the best ski trails in town, the park hosts candlelight skiing, and the sledding hill is long and fast. Other events have included a 5K run and a fun run for the kids, ski clinic, ice skating and another Wisconsin appearance for the U.S. National Snow Sculpting champs. There's also mini ice golf and s'mores by the bonfire. Sleds, skates and skis are available for rent.

Warm Up: When you're in the area, sip some spicy Mayan Hot Chocolate at Infusion Chocolates on Monroe Street. The Weary Traveler on the east side has several winter cocktails, including hot buttered rum, a quasi-mulled wine they call grog, and "Mayan Coffee" with Kahlua and a tequila-based liqueur.

winter-fest.com ew



When the Lodging IS the destination

Ever wanted to stay in a yurt, glass cabin or vintage cottage? Now you can at these unique vacation spots around the state.

By Lisa M. Schmelz

Sure, Wisconsin has some great traditional lodging. But why book a room when you can book an experience? Below are some one-of-a-kind places sure to make your Wisconsin getaway truly memorable.



CANDLEWOOD CABINS, RICHLAND CENTER

BACKSTORY

Once upon an 80 acres circa 1995, in Richland Center, Norbert and Susan Calnin started Candlewood Cabins with just one cabin. Today, there are five, including three glass cabins. All offer expansive views, nature trails on the property, and are enjoyed by visitors from all over the world.

WHY STAY HERE

“It’s really very private,” says Norbert. “People feel like they have their own space ... and are able to interact with each other and have contact with nature.”

WHAT DO DO

Candlewood offers on-site nature trails, and there are also five state parks or county recreation areas within an hour’s drive. Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin is only a 30-minute drive. In winter, the main house rents out snowshoes.

HOW TO BOOK

International press on the glass cabins has increased demand beyond the owner’s wildest expectations—currently, reservations before 2020 are limited. Rates range from \$140 to \$245 a night, depending on the cabin selected, for the 2020 season. If you’re feeling spontaneous, watch their social media pages for last-minute cancellations. You can book online at candlewoodcabins.com/reservations.



PETER GODSHALL



CANOE BAY & ESCAPE VILLAGE, CHETEK

BACKSTORY

Canoe Bay is a former church camp that has been transformed into a couple's-only retreat and is now in its 26th year. Two hours east of Minneapolis, and one hour north of Eau Claire, the property boasts 27 upscale units. Most are freestanding cottages, but six are in multi-unit buildings. Adjacent to Canoe Bay is ESCAPE Village, an enclave of uniquely designed, eco-friendly tiny homes for those who want to try the small life. If it suits you, you can order one for delivery just about anywhere in the United States.

WHY STAY HERE

"It's a quick detox for everything that is stressful about modern life," says Lisa Dobrowolski, who owns the resort with her husband, Dan. "There's immense peace and quiet."

WHAT TO DO

You're always welcome, and even encouraged, to do nothing. In-room massages are available to make your nothing even more relaxing. The lodge features books and DVDs for guests. In winter, cross-country and downhill skiing are close by, and you can snowshoe for free on the property. A three-course dinner in the glass-enclosed, lakeside dining room is also available for \$170 per couple.

HOW TO BOOK

A basic room starts at \$350 a night, with a two-night minimum, and goes up to \$999 a night for the Edgewood Villa. Rates include breakfast and access to Wahdon Lake and nature trails.

Tiny homes in ESCAPE Village start at \$195 a night. Some amenities in Canoe Bay not be available in the ESCAPE Village. Visit canoebay.com and escapevillages.com to book.



MCINTYRE'S RESORT, DELAVAN

THE BACKSTORY

Want a cabin your grandparents would recognize? Check out McIntyre's Resort on beautiful, spring-fed Turtle Lake in Delavan. These beautifully preserved time capsules were the original cabins at Lake Lawn Resort, on nearby Delavan Lake. Owned today by Pat McIntyre, the tiny resort was purchased by her father, Louis, a police officer, in the 1940s.

WHY STAY HERE

Humble, family-run resorts like this were once common throughout the Midwest. "It's magical here," says Pat. "It's a special place, and people feel it the moment they arrive."

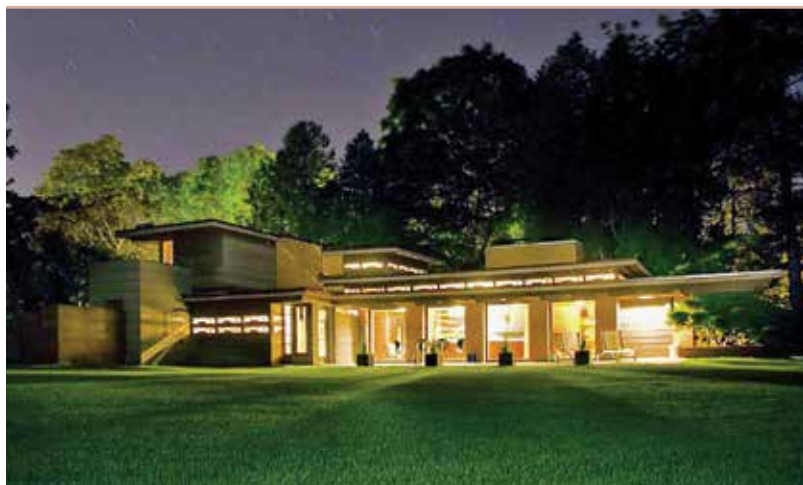
WHAT TO DO

Turtle Lake, just steps from the cabins, is ideal for rowing or paddle boating, which McIntyre's offers free to guests. Ice fishing is good in the winter. Enjoy breakfast at Elizabeth's Cafe on the historic brick road in downtown Delavan. Outdoor enthusiasts can hike, bike or ski in the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine.

HOW TO BOOK

Call Pat directly at (262) 728-9313. Rates start at \$125, depending on the season and the number of people staying.





STILL BEND/THE BERNARD SCHWARTZ HOUSE, TWO RIVERS

THE BACKSTORY

If staying in a Frank Lloyd Wright designed home is on your bucket list, Still Bend is calling. The home was built in 1939 for Two Rivers businessman Bernard Schwartz via LIFE Magazine's Dream House program. In 2003, it was purchased by Michael Ditmer and his brother, Gary, with the goal of making it something the masses could enjoy.

WHY STAY HERE

"What I love about the home is, I'm sure, what other people love about the home—it's the warmth and grandeur all in the same space," says Michael.

WHAT TO DO

Two Rivers is still active as a deep-water fishing port, and features a lighthouse on the National Register of Historic Places. Plenty of hiking trails abound and the community is along Lake Michigan. Be sure to enjoy a Wisconsin supper club experience at Machut's.

HOW TO BOOK

Off season, rates start at \$350 a night with a two-night minimum. Online booking is available at theschwartzhouse.com/renting.



RUSTIC YURTS, BAYFIELD

BACKSTORY

Genghis Kahn stayed in yurts, and you can, too. The forestry department in Bayfield tested the yurt waters with structures in Cable and Mt. Ashwabay. It went so well they added a second yurt in Mt. Ashwabay. It's a humble way to lodge, and you have to hike about a half-mile in and bring all of your own bedding. Restrooms are primitive, but the yurts are available year-round, thanks to a wood stove for heating. All cooking must be done outdoors, just like Khan did, and firewood is provided.

WHY STAY HERE

"It's basically a big tent. You can hear all the noises outside and it's a lot less work. It's definitely a very cool experience. It's camping without a lot of work," says Jen Bratsch, a recreation forester with Bayfield.

WHAT TO DO

Heard of forest bathing? Well, this is the place to do it—simply bathe in what nature offers. In fall and winter you can hike, cross-country ski or snowshoe. Enjoy dinner at one of the many great restaurants in Bayfield near the Ashwabay yurt that feature fresh Lake Superior whitefish and trout. In Cable, it's easy to pop into town to enjoy a meal at the Rookery Pub, Rivers Eatery or the Brickhouse Café.

HOW TO BOOK

The yurts sleep six, and booking is only available on airbnb.com. [ew](http://ew.com)

Lisa M. Schmelz is a freelance writer from Delavan, Wisconsin.

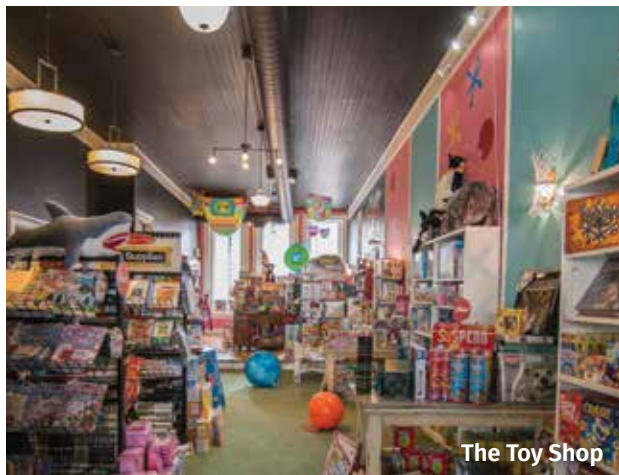


A WEEKEND *in* LA CROSSE

Make this Mississippi River city your must-stop this fall and winter with plenty of arts and culture to experience, cuisine to taste and even craft brews to toast.

By Kristine Hansen

STOP AND SHOP



The Toy Shop

From Midwest-based big brands like **Duluth Trading Co.** (pick up some fall hiking gear or a soft flannel shirt) to boutiques such as the brand-new **Drift Mercantile Co.** (this general store with a modern twist celebrates Midwest makers of candles, clothing and more), eclecticism rides high in downtown La Crosse. Score from big to small—from a chic necklace or an upcycled farmhouse-style table—at **Painted Porch**, or pick up some new-to-you titles to cozy up with

this winter at **Pearl Street Books**, which sells new and used books. **Surf & Scotch**, a new arrival to Pearl Street, lets you bask in the glow of casual surf-town couture, things like graphic tees and Herschel Supply Co.'s backpacks in fun prints and hues. For the tots in your life, pick up gifts at **The Toy Shop**, open since 2015 and specializing in brands like Melissa & Doug. The two-year-old **Willow Boutique** specializes in gals' attire, from athleisure to LBDs.

FEST IT UP

Dubbed the “River of Festivals,” La Crosse’s festival scene doesn’t dim when the weather cools.

Celebrating 58 years in 2018, **Oktoberfest** (Sept. 27-30) is so big that it spans two festival grounds (Copeland Park and where La Crosse Street meets 2nd Street downtown). Here, live German entertainment meets sampling German-style beers. oktoberfestusa.com

Hosted at Riverside Park, the **Rotary Lights Holiday Display** (Nov. 23-Dec. 31) is the state’s largest light display. It’s as much about the glowing lights as it is interacting with live reindeer or jogging in the 5K Ugly Sweater Run. rotarylights.org

The **La Crosse Storytelling Festival** (Sept. 7-8), the state’s only storytelling festival held in Myrick Park, reveals some great yarns to put you on the edge of your seat. The weekend after Labor Day kicks off on Friday night with spooky tales, followed by a family-friendly Saturday daytime lineup and the evening’s adult-only cabaret show. lacrossestoryfest.com





Riverside Park



Downtown La Crosse

FROM DAY TO NIGHT

Put on your comfiest shoes because you're going to log many steps through downtown La Crosse, blending a mix of historic and contemporary sites.

9 A.M. Grab coffee and powder-dusted beignets at The Parlour, the ground-floor, vintage-inspired café inside the **Charmant Hotel**, and linger over the paper.

9:45 A.M. Stroll in **Riverside Park**, which hugs the Mississippi River, and take time to relax on a park bench.

11 A.M. It's time to shop! Downtown's boutiques retail everything from used books to cool tees.

1 P.M. Break for lunch—pick burgers and beer at the three-year-old **The Crow**, like a cheese curd burger, Aloha burger or Sriracha bourbon pork burger. Or, the vegetarian-friendly **The Root Note** has lots of choices, like the cheesy, savory crepes. You won't be sorry!

3 P.M. Work off that lunch with a hike up **Grandad Bluff**. Bring your camera to capture the view—in addition to Wisconsin views, you might see Iowa!

5 P.M. Split antipasto dishes like the gorgonzola fondue, shrimp crostini and hot artichoke dip paired with wines, at **Kate's on State**, a California-inspired Italian eatery.

7:30 P.M. Treat yourself to a live show—such as a musical, play or concert—at the **Weber Center for Performing Arts**. If it's a dark night, take in a current blockbuster hit at the beautifully restored **Rivoli Theatre**.



Grandad Bluff



GET MOVING

Grandad Bluff, a 600-foot-tall city-owned bluff on La Crosse's east side, is a favorite hiking spot for locals. On a clear day, the panoramic view of La Crosse is stunning. In town for New Year's Eve? You're lucky: since the late 1920s, a fireworks show is set off on the bluff at the stroke of midnight—it's La Crosse's version of the ball drop in Manhattan. You're likely to see the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse campus, I-90 and the gorgeous Mississippi River, as well as two neighboring states (Iowa and Minnesota). Once white powder hits, **Mt. La Crosse Ski Resort**, open since 1959, is open daily for downhill skiing and snowboarding. There are 18 slopes and trails, and three chair lifts plus one rope tow. If you're brave enough, test your fear on the Damnation, which is the Midwest's steepest trail. Next to Grandad Bluff, **Hixon Forest Park** is a premiere spot for cross-country skiing, with trails dutifully groomed by the city after each snowfall. Distances on the trails range from 1K to 8K, depending on skill level and time available to ski. That one of the entrances is near Bluffsides Tavern means you can easily grab a pint after!



CHARMING CHARMANT

Part of the the Aparium Hotel Group—which also restored the Iron Horse Hotel in Milwaukee—the 67-room, red-brick **Charmant Hotel** debuted in the fall of 2015, inside the shell of a former 1898 candy factory. (Each guest even receives chocolates at check-in.) Guests pull in to the cobblestone street out front, a block from the Mississippi River and Riverside Park. Luxury is literally at every level, from the chai lattes in the darling Parlour café downstairs to the seasonal rooftop terrace's vertical garden (serving cocktails like Mississippi Mules and wood-fired pizzas). Farm-to-table is the real deal at the hotel's The Restaurant, using ingredients from organic prairie beef to Hook's award-winning cheddar, and the wine list features some gems. Rooms feature exposed-brick walls and antique-style furnishings, plus spa-like baths. thecharmanthotel.com



COZY UP

Too cold and frosty outside to wander around? For dinner and a movie under one roof, visit the **Rivoli Theatre and Pizzeria**—originally a 1920s vaudeville theatre—and now a historic treasure. Movies are all first-run and the café is open for lunch and dinner. Got restless kids? Check out **The Children's Museum of La Crosse**, with its extremely interactive exhibits like a decommissioned fire truck, pint-sized bank and store, and three-story treehouse. Or, hunker down in a cool café with a steaming-hot mocha or hot chocolate, like at the **Jules Coffee House**, whose closure in 2014 after 20 years devastated locals—only to reopen seven months later. Eats include bowls of chili, cupcakes and scones baked fresh each morning. **Pearl Street Brewery's** 16 beers on tap in the taproom (open evenings only) prove that creative minds are behind the scene, with titles like Smokin' Hemp Porter (yep, brewed with toasted hemp seeds) and Breakfast Beer among the selections. Live music is on Fridays and tours take place Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons.



The Breakfast Pub & Club

EXCELLENT EGGS (AND MORE)

Make the most of a lazy weekend with a leisurely brunch. At **Fayze's**, you won't eat light—opt for hearty dishes like a “Chunky Monkey” waffle (a Belgian waffle topped with bananas, sweet cream cheese, chocolate chips and sauce, and whipped cream) or stuffed egg burritos, paired with a signature Bloody Mary. Behind the sunny-yellow door at the **Breakfast Pub & Club**, items riff on '80s films (case in point: “Kevin Bacon Bones” and “Mr. Mom's Breakfast Tacos”). **Uptowne Café & Bakery's** house-made biscuits with honey butter and jam are legendary, as are its trio of signature breakfast hashes cooked in a cast-iron skillet. Enjoy your breakfast with one of their refreshing mimosas. [ew](#)

Kristine Hansen is a freelance writer who calls Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood home.

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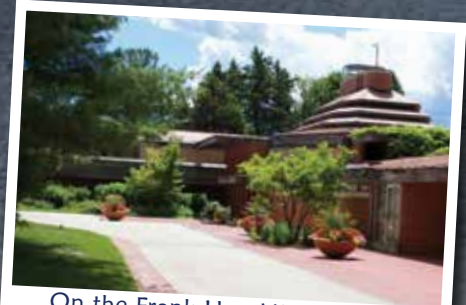
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Save the Dates!



MILWAUKEE **kids**
expo

February 9-10, 2019

Wisconsin State Fair Park

milwaukeekidsexpo.com

MADISON **kids**
expo

March 2-3, 2019

The Alliant Energy Center

madisonkidsexpo.com

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[@ryanyatso]

Color Burst:

Walking the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's Arboretum Trail is a treat in the fall.

[@kaylaeart]

Light the Way:

Port Washington's Breakwater Lighthouse is an iconic symbol of this lakefront city.

[@becomingsararose]

Gorgeous Gourds:

Wisconsin's farm markets and pumpkin patches burst with color and activity, like at Peck's Farm Market in Arena.

[@shaynamace]

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