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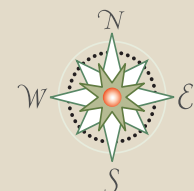
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Get ready to experience these six idyllic Wisconsin farm stays.

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SPRING/SUMMER 2019 DEPARTMENTS



ON THE COVER:

The evening sky, shot at Devil's Lake Lavender Farm.

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Sweet Slices of Life

In my mind, there's nothing better than spring and summer in Wisconsin! Admittedly, I'm a warm-weather person, so I love nothing more than attending an outdoor concert, taking a scenic run outside or enjoying a meal lakeside when the sun is shining. What's your favorite Wisconsin warm-weather activity? (By the way, this issue will give you plenty of inspiration if you need ideas!).

When we redesigned Experience Wisconsin two years ago, I made a conscious effort to pepper in as much cool content as we could get in the magazine—which is no small task in our exciting, diverse state! On this page you'll see a "What's Happening" tidbit that highlights interesting people and places. We also have The Insider page that features fascinating, quick-hits reads on other things to see and even where to shop. And throughout the whole magazine, check out the sidebars in stories that bring attention to other ways you can experience the topics we write about—like in our Perspective article on page 32, in which writer Mary Bergin shares where you can sign up for a Bitters Boot Camp or taste Milwaukee-made bitters.

It's those small slices of life that make Wisconsin one-of-a-kind. Speaking of unique, did you know that our state boasts several accomplished pastry chefs and bakers, as well as a chef that hosted his own reality series? Read all about them on pages 28 and 29.

I'm especially proud of our features in this issue, all of which highlight distinct ways you can explore the state—from the bustling metropolis of Milwaukee to

rural farm stays. Milwaukee-based writer and author Kristine Hansen shares four unique ways you can experience that city—from appreciating its arts and architecture to kayaking its waters. Check it out starting on page 45. And if you'd like to slow down and appreciate Wisconsin's natural charms, read Shelby Deering's feature on page 34, where she profiles six blissful farm stays where you can meet alpacas, sleep in lavender-scented bedding and ride horses.

One more thing—we're kicking off our Experience Wisconsin Best Of reader's choice survey! Running from May 10, 2019, through June 21, 2019, our short online survey asks for your favorites in a number of categories like fish fry, festival and craft brewery. Read more about it page 49, or check it out NOW on experiencewisconsinmag.com.

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.

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



BURGEONING BELOIT

If you haven't visited Beloit's happening downtown yet, make it a point to do so this summer. One of the city's newest stylish boutique properties, **Hotel Goodwin**, just opened this past fall and is an homage to Goodwin House, the 19th-century luxury hotel that once graced the downtown streets. Inside Hotel Goodwin find **Velvet Buffalo**, a pizza and small-plate restaurant, with an extensive by-the-glass wine list. Hotel Goodwin's sister hotel, the **Ironworks Hotel**, is also downtown and boasts industrial-chic décor and an on-property steakhouse called **Merill & Houston's Steak Joint**. Time your visit for a weekend, when you can catch a free al fresco Friday night **Music at Harry's Place** concert at Riverside Park, a trip to the Saturday morning **Beloit Farmers' Market** (the second-largest in the state) and a **Beloit Snappers** game, which is the Class A affiliate for the Oakland Athletics.

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Mighty Murals

By Jessica Steinhoff

Many walls symbolize separation, but not those of Madison Mural Alley, one of Wisconsin's newest public art destinations. Here, they celebrate collaboration.

Last summer artists from across the country teamed up with local youth to create five large-scale works. What was once a dingy alley behind the Madison East Shopping Center on the east side of the city is now a colorful display of graphics, imagery and even historic city references for passersby to discover while biking or walking on the nearby Starkweather Creek Path.

The project began with the ingenuity of the neighborhood planning process. According to Karin Wolf, Madison's arts program administrator, it's a testament to the power of placemaking, an approach to city planning that uses arts, culture and community members' ideas to transform struggling spaces.

"When people biked past this alley, they used to see dumpsters and rats," Wolf explains. "As part of a planning process, neighborhood residents said they'd like to use murals to give the spot a more positive face."

Before long the project secured funding from the Madison Arts Commission, and the Bubbler, the Madison Public Library's art initiative and makerspace, signed on to coordinate the details.

Inspired by San Francisco's Mission District murals, Bubbler chief Trent Miller and his team recruited artists known for letterpress printing, hand-painted signs and more. In addition to helping conceptualize the murals, Madison kids—including residents of the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center—learned about printmaking and typography at artist-led workshops.

Five artist teams painted the alley through August 2018, despite searing temperatures and severe thunderstorms. Two of the murals—"Squeeze the Life Outta Lemons" by Detroit's Amos Paul Kennedy and "Better Together" by Flavia Zimbardi and Caetano Calomino of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Henrique Nardi, a Brazilian artist living in Madison—highlight the power of words. The former uses song lyrics to promote perseverance, while the latter urges viewers to erase the lines that divide society. The project also features works by Wisconsin-based artists Lesley Anne Numbers, Pete Hodapp and Richie Morales.

2707 E. Washington Ave., behind the Madison East Shopping Center and Hawthorne Library
madisonpubliclibrary.org/new/madison-mural-alley

Shoppist | Lovely and Local

The maker movement isn't going away anytime soon, and **The Local** owner Alison Magnuson is doing her part to make sure it's firmly represented in downtown Wausau, where her charming shop is located. Carrying about 50 Wisconsin makers' and artists' work, Magnuson partners with each to carry bath and body items, jewelry, baby goods and home décor pieces. Some of the makers and artists also teach workshops at the shop, too. The Local has become so popular Magnuson is opening a second location in May in Weston, about 20 minutes away, that will carry an expanded assortment of Midwest maker items. thelocalwi.com ew



Wear Your Wisconsin

Want to remember your trip to Wisconsin or show a little love to your home state? There's no shortage of cool, home-grown brands that let you wear your heart—and your state—on your sleeve.

The Midwest Girl® (shopthemidwestgirl.com) was developed by two Wisconsin sisters and has clothing for women, men and kids with cheeky sayings like "Beer Tent Babe" and "Supper Clubs Fish Frys Old Fashioneds"—coined for Wisconsin's famous Friday-night outings. **Up North Clothing & Jewelry's** (upnorthboutique.com) line says it "captures the spirit and comfort of the Northwoods." Find shirts for adults, kids and babies ("Mama Badger" and "flannel and cheese are all you need" are among them), as well as minimalist, nature-inspired jewelry pieces. **Sconnie Nation** (sconnie.com) is one of the original Wisco-love companies, having been started in 2004 by two UW-Madison freshmen. Their famous "Sconnie" T-shirts are ubiquitous and they also sell a line of Packers-themed items. **Forward Apparel Co.** (forwardapparel.co) offers cool Wisconsin-themed T-shirts, hoodies, hats and even a camo windbreaker for a refreshing take on state style. **Giltee** (giltee.com) was started by a husband-and-wife team and has city-themed tees (like "K-Town" and "414") and other fun items. **Lake Effect Co.'s** (lakeeffectco.com) hoodies, tanks, tees and more have sayings that are a nod to Northwoods and lake life, like "Cabin Style" and "Lake Day."



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JUNE 6-9 Pridefest, Milwaukee

Wisconsin's largest celebration of LGBTQ+ pride takes place at the Summerfest grounds in Milwaukee for a weekend of music, dance and pride. pridefest.com



JULY 31-AUGUST 4 CrossFit Games, Madison

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SCENE OUT & ABOUT



JUNE 7-9

Door County Lighthouse Festival, Door County Area

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May

24-26 Brat Fest, Madison

Nothing says summer like kicking back outside with family and friends. Enjoy brats fresh off the grill and a variety of music and entertainment options (like Wheelhouse and Smash Mouth) with the Madison skyline in the background this Memorial Day Weekend. bratfest.com

24-26 Woodland Indian Art Show & Market, Oneida

Learn about the artistic traditions of Native American nations throughout the Midwest at this market and art competition. woodlandindianart.com

24-27 ChocolateFest, Burlington

Indulge in one of Wisconsin's sweetest summer traditions. With yummy treats and wild rides, ChocolateFest is fun for the whole family. chocolatefest.com

June

1 Cars on State Classic Car Show, Madison

Summertime nostalgia cruises into town each summer as classic cars line Madison's State Street. Grab a bite to eat and browse State Street's many shops while downtown. visitdowntownmadison.com

1 Cows on the Concourse, Madison

Get in the mood for summer by pairing the Dane County Farmers' Market with a meet-and-greet with cows on the Capitol Square. cowsontheconcourse.org

1-2 Winding Roads Art Tour, Viroqua

A self-guided tour of the Driftless Area's art studios and galleries allows visitors to take in the landscapes and culture of southwestern Wisconsin. windingroadsart.com

8 Osceola Rhubarb Fest

With summer in full swing and rhubarb in season, visit this festival for rhubarb desserts, arts, crafts and family fun. rhubarbdays.com

7-9 Mineral Point Chamber Music Festival

Experience the charm of small-town Wisconsin at this festival where three professional ensembles put on unique chamber music concerts. artsmp.org

8 Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival, Waukesha

Dig into the gourmet food truck trend on this food truck tour of America that stops outside of Milwaukee. foodtruckfestivalsofamerica.com



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JUNE 19

Juneteenth Day, Milwaukee

Marking the end of slavery in the United States, Juneteenth Day celebrates African American identity and culture. Visit the marketplace or watch the pageant and parade. juneteenthdaymilwaukee.com

9 Locust Street Festival of Music & Art, Milwaukee

Enjoy music, art, lots of food and a beer run in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood. locuststreetfestival.org

14-15 Steel Bridge Songfest, Sturgeon Bay

Thirty-plus songwriters showcase their brand-new songs over two nights during two performances with after-parties afterward. This songwriting collaborative is the perfect summer event for writers and music enthusiasts. steelbridgesongfest.org

15 Isthmus Paddle & Portage, Madison

Downtown Madison becomes a paddler's paradise as teams portage their boats across the isthmus and paddle Madison's lakes. paddleandportage.com

16 Fyr Bal Festival, Eagle Harbor

Celebrate the shift of the seasons with music, crafts, dancing and artisans. As the sun sets, a Scandinavian bonfire is lit to celebrate the summer. ephraim-doorcounty.com

20-30 Tour of America's Dairyland, Various Locations

This series of professional road cycling races visits 11 cities in southeastern Wisconsin, with amateur and pro road cyclists looping through downtowns and speeding down main streets. tourofamericasdairyland.com

21-23 Lakefront Festival of Art, Milwaukee

Over 170 jury-selected artists showcase their work on the grounds of the Milwaukee Art Museum, overlooking the shores of Lake Michigan. Take in fine art, architecture and sprawling views of the lake at this Milwaukee summer tradition. foa.mam.org




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27-29 Country USA, Oshkosh

Alabama, Dierks Bentley and Brad Paisley headline CUSA 2019, a festival featuring contemporary country music. countryusaoshkosh.com

29-30 Spring Green Arts and Crafts Fair, Spring Green

Browse the work of local and national artisans on the downtown main drag and take in the stunning natural beauty and small-town charm of Wisconsin's Driftless Area. springgreenartfair.com

July

7 Ducktona 500, Sheboygan Falls

Enjoy live music and entertainment, an antique car and boat show, and a rubber duck race down the Sheboygan River. sheboyganfalls.org

11-14 Elkhorn Ribfest, Elkhorn

Experience four days of delicious barbecue and entertainment on the grounds of the Walworth County Fair. Live music, carnival rides and family fun also await. wisconsinribfest.com

11-14 Balloon and Rib Fest, Wausau

A sight to behold, hot air balloons fly over Wausau and rib vendors serve up barbecue below. Carnival rides, fireworks, a 5K run/walk and more promise fun for the whole family. wausauevents.org

11-14 Bastille Days, Milwaukee

C'est magnifique! Celebrate French culture and peruse an international market in Milwaukee's Cathedral Square beneath a 43-foot replica of the Eiffel Tower. easttown.com

12-14 U.S. National Kubb Championship, Eau Claire

The largest kubb tournament outside of Europe, the U.S. National Kubb Championship welcomes visitors for a weekend of good spirited competition. Players of all ages are welcome, no experience needed. usakubb.org

13-14 Art Fair on the Square, Madison

Enjoy a weekend around the Capitol Square at this 61st annual event. With nearly 500 artists exhibiting their work and food and music to create the ambience, Art Fair on the Square is a quintessential Madison experience. mmoca.org

20 Port Fish Day, Port Washington

Enjoy a Wisconsin tradition at the world's largest single-day fish fry in this lakeside city. portfishday.com

21 Armenian Fest, Milwaukee

Dig into lahmajoun, kabobs, paklava and more at this fest, which celebrates Armenian food, music and culture. milwaukeearmenianfest.com

22-28 EAA Airventure, Oshkosh

Summertime takes flight at this 50th anniversary of the EAA Airventure. This year's theme is the "Year of the Fighter" with lots of vintage up to present-day military aircraft on display. Also join in the fun as rides, air shows, and plenty of food and music liven up the city of Oshkosh. eaa.org

26-28 Taste Of Wisconsin, Kenosha

Savor an array of Wisconsin foods in beautiful downtown Kenosha on the shores of Lake Michigan. tasteofwi.com

26-28 Nicolet Bank Tall Ships®

The Port of Green Bay will be home to nine majestic vessels that will offer dockside tours and boat cruises down the river into the bay. Also enjoy a wide variety of entertainment. tallshipswisconsin.com

27 Disability Pride Festival, Madison

Celebrate diversity at this seventh annual festival, with food, music, art and accessible recreation and entertainment. disabilitypridemadison.org

August

1-4 Mile of Music, Appleton

Visit the shops and restaurants of Appleton while listening to music by 200-plus up-and-coming artists along a one-mile downtown stretch in this summertime tradition. mileofmusic.com

1-11 Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis

Experience the best of Wisconsin's food, music, animals and more. wistatefair.com

2-3 Sugar Maple Music Festival, Madison

Celebrate traditional and folk music at this family-friendly festival where artists host educational workshops, jam sessions and performances. sugarmaplefest.org

2-4 Blues on the Chippewa, Durand

Beat the dog days of summer at this weekend of good music, as well as browse crafts and nibble on good food and drink. bluesonthechippewa.com

14-18 Lake Geneva Jaycees Venetian Festival, Lake Geneva

The lighted boat parade around Lake Geneva is the crown jewel of the Lake Geneva Jaycees Venetian festival, paired perfectly with rides, snacks, and more. venetianfest.com



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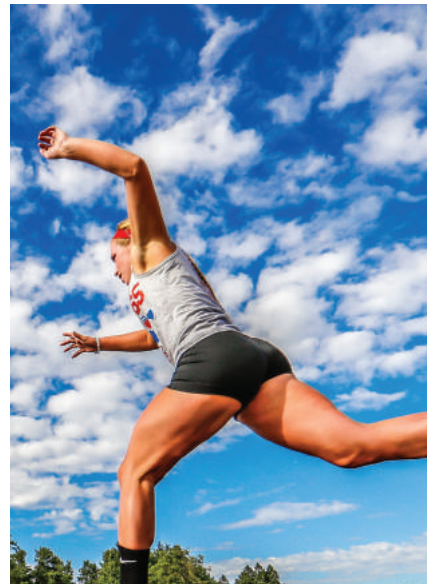
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Megan Roessler is a freelance writer and cartographer based in Madison.

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In Full Bloom

Take a stroll in a wonderland of flora at these historic Wisconsin gardens.

By Lisa M. Schmelz

Paine Art Center and Gardens

Some of the earliest evidence of man's desire to create inspiring outdoor plant-based spaces can be found in 16th-century Egyptian tomb paintings. While Wisconsin's history of landscape architecture doesn't date back quite that far, we aren't lacking in historic gardens. Those below are sure to inspire.

Black Point Estate and Gardens, Lake Geneva

BACKSTORY: This sprawling lakeside estate was the dream of Chicago beer baron Conrad Seipp and was a summer home for the Seipp family for generations. It's viewed by experts to hold one of the most intact collections of Victorian life in the Midwest.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND: In addition to a tour of the house, walks of the newly restored woodland gardens are now available. The look of the scenic gardens is in a similar style to the estate's original plan, but within a smaller footprint. Bordered by a wide variety of hostas and hydrangeas, visitors can imagine lawn games being played at the turn of the twentieth century. Near the mansion, the color palette is soft with pinks and purples. As you move away, annuals and perennials become brighter.

IF YOU GO: The only way to access the estate is by boat with the Lake Geneva Cruise Line, although access for motorcoach tours can be arranged. Tickets are \$39 for adults, \$37 for seniors and \$27 for children.

MORE TO DO: Back in Lake Geneva, there are plenty of places to eat and shop. Extreme green thumbs might want to walk the Lake Geneva Shore Path west from Library Park to the edge of Glanworth Gardens. Also known as the Richard Driehaus Estate for the venture capitalist who purchased and restored it, the gardens viewable from the Shore Path are spectacular in summer. The original landscape was designed by the Olmsted brothers, of New York City's Central Park fame. Though you cannot stray off the path and onto the property, there is plenty to take in from the shoreline.

Paine Art Center and Gardens, Oshkosh

BACKSTORY: Built for Nathan Paine and Jessie Kimberly Paine, construction started on this elegant English country-style estate in the 1920s and concluded in 1947. The estate opened to the public in 1948. Nathan made his fortune in lumber and Jessie was the daughter of the co-founder of Kimberly-Clark. From the start, the Paine's goal was to design an elegant estate, showcasing exceptional architecture, furnishings and art, which would be open to the public for educational and cultural pursuits. The Paines never lived here, but built this for public consumption.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND: The Paine estate features twenty garden areas—like an herb, formal and rose garden. Native trees, shrubs and wildflowers are also on display. Bulbs and annuals also change each year for new and exciting vistas.

IF YOU GO: Summer hours from 6/22 to 9/22 are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., open daily. (Before 6/22 and after 9/22, the gardens and estate are open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Tickets are \$9-\$12 for adults and \$5 for children.

MORE TO DO: Oshkosh is a city of surprises, and host to a number of local cafés and restaurants. Worth checking out is Brooklyn Grill on South Main Street. The building dates to the 1800s and the atmosphere exudes the 1940s.

West of the Lake Gardens, Manitowoc

BACKSTORY: Ruth St. John West and John Dunham West were wealthy business owners and philanthropists in Manitowoc, a charming community on Lake Michigan. It was mostly Ruth's doing that turned six acres of quack grass and thistle into the beautiful flower gardens now known as the West of the Lake Gardens. Once a streetcar right-of-way, this lakefront space was purchased by the Wests in 1934. Ruth, along with the couple's gardener, hand-spaded all six acres and planted 200 tulips. By the 1950s, the tulip count exceeded 30,000—a tulip for almost every man, woman and child in Manitowoc today.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND: Over time, the garden was redesigned to include ongoing color. You can't tiptoe through the tulips today, but you will find an Eastern influence, a sea of roses and begonias, and an intricate web of raised beds all on the lakefront. In total about 18,000 annuals are planted in the garden every year.

IF YOU GO: The gardens are free and open to the public from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, weather permitting.

MORE TO DO: The garden is a great secret, to be sure. So, too, is the Mariner's Trail that goes right past it. A seven-mile, paved, lakeshore trail, it joins Manitowoc and Two Rivers and is open to bicyclists, walkers, joggers and skaters. If you get to West of the Lake Gardens via Mariner's Trail, you'll also be able to take in native lakefront flora and fauna and view public art along the trail. The trail will also take you to lighthouses and restaurants. [ew](#)

Lisa Schmelz is high school special education teacher and freelance writer from Delavan. Her award-winning work has appeared in books, magazines and major daily newspapers.

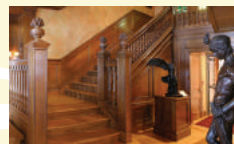
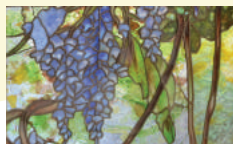
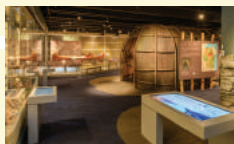


Black Point Estate



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Coming Soon! The Menominee Clans Story displays wood figures carved by the Menominee traditional artist, James F. Frechette, Jr. Known by the Menominee as The Little Menominee, the intricately carved and painted figures stand between twelve and twenty inches high. Through an indigenous art form of the tribe, Mr. Frechette faithfully captured the cultural dimensions of the ancient clan system depicting dress, symbols, tools, colors, traditions, and many details of the now fast fading way of life.



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Field to Fork

By Mary Bergin

Wisconsin has a plethora of farm-to-table dining options—all you have to do is book a seat at one of these farms for a delicious, property-raised and prepared meal. Choices are popular and growing. Be aware that some destinations reach capacity weeks or months ahead of time. Prefer spontaneity? Opt for a farm-based pizza night or a meal at a farm-based café.

Braise Farm Dinners, Milwaukee

Chef-owner Dave Swanson, a James Beard Award semifinalist, occasionally leaves his restaurant in Walker's Point during the growing season to conduct classes and cook on farms where he buys key meal ingredients. These three-course, family-style dinners for 30 are served with matching wines. Start the evening off right by walking the acreage with an appetizer and cocktail. braiselocalfood.com

Campo di Bella Winery and Farm to Table, Mount Horeb

Marc Bellazzini loves his Italian heritage and introduces additional international fare by preparing leisurely, themed, three-course, 20-person meals on Friday evenings and five-course, farm-to-table 30-person dinners on Saturday evenings. Even better, the dinners are served year-round. Savor pork confit to pesto lasagna in a two-story, solar-powered wine house on the family's 20-acre farm. They raise heritage-breed animals, grow heirloom produce and grapes that turn into dry red wines. campodibella.org

Holy Hill Art Farm, Hubertus

The farm's fifth-generation owner shares her homestead for art fairs and barn dances.

During summer, guest chefs cook as local musicians perform country, folk and bluegrass. Up to 125 can dine in the 154-year-old barn. Arrive early to stroll the farm's 80 acres—one path leads to a hilltop view of Holy Hill National Shrine of Mary, a basilica just down the road. holychillartfarm.com

Nesbitt's Nursery & Orchard, Prescott

Soak in seven acres of orchard views while indulging in breakfast, lunch or bakery items at Oasis Eatery, open seasonally at the farm. As weather warms, Wednesday is Pie Night: That means pizza, quiche and dessert pies. Ingredients from within 100 miles dominate whatever hits the plate. Eat indoors or outside, within view of playground equipment for the kiddos. nesbittsnursery.com

North Star Homestead Farm, Hayward

Sisters Laura and Kara Berlage tend orchards, gardens, livestock and fish (raised in an aquaponics greenhouse) on their grandparents' land. They cook too, producing three-course dinners for 25 on Fridays during summer. "It's an immersive experience to have with us as farmer-owners, and how we're living out our dream

in a sustainable model," says Laura Berlage about the dinners. They also serve casual fare in their outdoor oven, like kebobs and seasonal dishes on "woodfire Thursdays" and pizza on Saturdays. The farm's combo gift shop/café serves breakfast, lunch and treats like gelato made from sheep's milk and bakery items baked on-site like muffins, breads and cookies, year-round. northstarhomestead.com

Taliesin, Spring Green

Visiting chefs use ingredients grown on the farm of Frank Lloyd Wright's estate in multiple-course meals matched with locally-made beer and wine. Held twice this summer (in July and August) these meals for 100 diners are served outdoors, where the setting is Wyoming Valley's rolling hills. The Fazenda Boa Terra ("Good Earth Farm") crew teaches environmental sustainability to other farmers as 150 varieties of 50-some organic veggies and broiler chickens are raised. taliesinpreservation.org *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.

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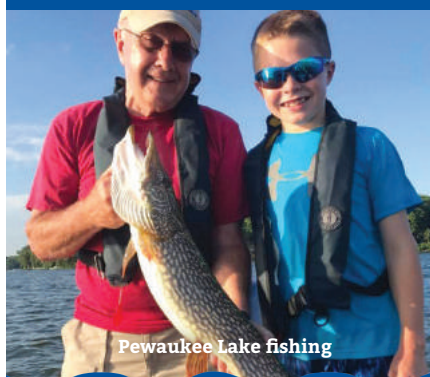
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THE DISH FLAVOR HUNTER



European Flair in the Northwoods

By Mary Bergin

Restaurants with German food are abundant in Wisconsin, but a chef in a Northwoods town of 2,100 adds authenticity beyond bratwurst and hot potato salad with bacon.

Running the kitchen at Black Forest Pub & Grille in Three Lakes is Marcel Biró, whose career began as one of Germany's youngest master chefs. By age 24, he already had worked for then-Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Also on the resumé: "Kitchens of Biró," a nationally syndicated and 26-episode reality TV series based in Sheboygan; the start-up of Edgar's Grille, a fine dining project for Goodwill Industries and Helms College in Georgia; and a partnership with Regal Ware on a cookware line.

Biró barely spoke English upon arrival to the U.S. in 1999, first to cook German favorites at the annual Christkindlmarkt in Chicago, then to work in Wisconsin.

The decision to settle into a small-town business (which originally opened in 1934) brings life full circle. "What we really like about this town is that it's little," the chef

says. He walked to school as a boy and says his two daughters could do the same.

The work of selling Biró as a business brand has taken a back seat to more family time, but Biró and his wife, Heather, are cautiously introducing fine dining to the area. After a farm-to-table dinner for 100 sold out last summer, the couple added five-course wine and beer tasting dinners over the winter. "People will splurge for a unique experience," says Heather.

Business as usual is a mix of pizzas and burgers, schnitzels and pork shanks, onion rings and spaetzle. Expect Old World recipes and sly deviations from tradition. One example: fried cheese curds with a side of lingonberry sauce.

Recent hires include Gary Rankin of Arkansas, a "Sweet Genius" on the Food Network. He switched from engineering to culinary school after surviving a serious motorcycle accident.

Under development is an outdoor beer garden, on the front lawn. blackforest3lakes.com **ew**

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Indulge in sweet treats crafted by the Dairy State's best pastry chefs and bakers.

By Kristine Hansen



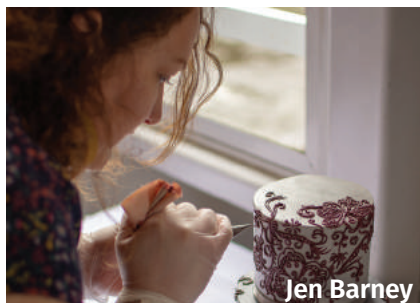
Nicolas Blouin



Susan Holding



Elizabeth Dahl



Jen Barney



Kurt Fogle & Katie O'Neil

Wisconsin's culinary fame has long tilted toward savory (cue brats and cheese), but pastry chefs are now in the spotlight.

Armed with training in France or high-profile restaurant cities like Chicago or Las Vegas, their contributions to the state's sweet treats bring a little bit of worldliness to visitors and natives alike.

Nicolas Blouin—who began baking pastries at age 15 at a bakery in his native Toulouse, France—left the fast pace of the Bellagio in Las Vegas behind for the tranquil village of Kohler. He met his wife, a Chicago native, while working at the casino resort. “She wanted to be closer to family but I didn’t want to live in Chicago,” says Blouin.

Blouin joined Kohler's hospitality venues, including **The American Club**, as head pastry chef in 2017. Wisconsin reminds him of his French roots. “I like the pace of life,” he says, and the sense of community and outdoor recreation that includes fishing and trail-running. His “cheesecake surprise” is an artful riff on the all-American cheesecake. “A cheesecake is always rich so I mix it with the fruit,” he says. For fall and winter, this means caramelized apples and cinnamon with green-apple sorbet—and graham crackers inside.

Also inspired by France's pastry tradition, Susan Holding of **The Little French Bakery** quit her job in healthcare IT to attend the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. She now teaches others how to make macarons, tarts and croissants at her North Freedom cooking school, through full- and half-day classes. “I get families, I get groups of friends, and book clubs. People will sometimes do it in lieu of a wedding shower. There’s no experience required. It’s all on-the-job training,” she jokes. But it’s also relaxing: “People compare the classes to being at the spa.” (Note that Holding’s business is only a cooking school and not a walk-in bakery.)

Just like Blouin, Elizabeth Dahl (pastry chef at **Deja Food Group** in Madison, which includes **L’Etoile**) shifted her career from the big city of Chicago to the mid-

size one of Madison. Soon she found her stride. “I enjoy baking in the Madison food scene because people here are traveled enough to know about some of the things I like to make—canelé, financier, et cetera—but also love eating things that are super seasonal,” she says, “or sometimes a little weird or foraged.”

A must-stop for sweet teeth is anywhere **Meringue Bakery’s** pastries are sold. This includes cupcakes at **Bean Juice** in downtown La Crosse. Jen Barney started baking in her mid-twenties after a brief career as a corrections officer—and she’s appeared on (and won) two Food Network shows. She won the fourth season of “Holiday Baking Championship” and the fifth season of “Homecoming Special.” “I got a phone call one day [from the producers] asking me to apply,” she says. “It’s definitely given me some street cred.”

Later this year Barney will open a Meringue Bakery storefront. “I want to give downtown La Crosse something special,” says Barney. “It will be every baking experience I’ve ever loved all in one space.”

Pastries are an Old World tradition and Kurt Fogle intends to bring that back to downtown Milwaukee later this year when he opens **Milk Bottle Bakery** with his fiancée, Katie O’Neil. His first job as a teen was at the famed kringle-maker O&H Danish Bakery in Racine. Fogle never planned to return to Wisconsin though after graduating from the French Pastry School in Chicago, working under the esteemed Jacquy Pfeiffer. An instructor at the school suggested he make the move back to his hometown, where he could help out with the “pastry and dessert scene here,” says Fogle.

Aiming to focus on American bakery, Fogle says they’ll focus on regional and international specialties. “It’s going to be at the intersection of the masters and our grandmothers,” says Fogle. [ew](#)

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

Go Take a Hike

Get out and have some family fun on these easy, kid-approved paths and trails throughout the state.

By Kevin Revolinski

Science has spoken: A walk in nature is good for kids and adults alike. And, learning about our state's plants, animals and insects in real time can be more instructive (and interesting!) to children than reading about them in a book. Check out these seven Wisconsin hiking destinations the whole crew can tag along on.



Ferry Bluff, Sauk City

Named for a former river ferry crossing, this towering bluff is home to eagles in winter. In summer the 300-foot exposed sandstone cliff is a popular lookout. It's a steeper climb than the others listed here, but the short 0.3-mile trail is crushed rock with some timber steps and mostly shaded until the top. The reward for your efforts is a bird's-eye view of an undeveloped portion of the Wisconsin River Valley and its sandbars, as well as an eye-level look at vultures riding the thermal updrafts.



Harrington Beach, Belgium

An oft-overlooked escape north of Milwaukee, this state park features an easy trail around an old Quarry Lake, with a few interpretive signs marking the ruins of a former mining community that was once here. The trail is shaded and the breeze off Lake Michigan tempers the heat on a summer day. A mile of sandy beach on the big lake is great for a picnic. Throughout the summer the Northern Cross Science Foundation hosts several astronomy evenings at the on-site observatory as well.



Horicon Marsh, Horicon

Split between state and federal management, the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States offers boardwalks, level trails and lookouts from which you can spot the abundant resident and seasonal birds. Waterfowl are a guarantee and blue herons nest here in summer. The state portion features the Explorium, an interpretive center with hands-on displays. The federal side has its own interpretive center, and the floating boardwalk through the cattails shouldn't be missed.



Lapheam Peak, Delafield

This unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest offers miles of trails of varying length and difficulty. The 1.8-mile Plantation Path is an accessible, paved interpretive trail through prairie and wooded areas. Cut-off trails can shorten the loop for shorter legs. Nearby is also a butterfly garden, a great place to linger amid wildflowers and watch the winged residents flutter about. The park's central 45-foot observation tower provides a sweeping view from the highest point in the county.

New Glarus Woods, New Glarus

From trails of 0.4 and 0.8 miles to the full 4.2 Havenridge Trail (pick up the trail guidebook at the park entrance or office), this state park is the king of interpretive hikes. In addition to being part of the Wisconsin Explorers program, the park loans Discovery Backpacks to families hitting the trails. Topics include trees, bugs, birds and raptors, and each pack provides activities, materials, equipment and more for children of all ages. After the hike, stop off in New Glarus for ice cream and fudge at Maple Leaf Cheese & Chocolate Haus.



Pike Lake, Hartford

The Astronomy Trail in this unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest provides interpretive signs for the planets along its route through the forest. A separate 0.8-mile, self-guided nature trail starts from a parking lot at the park's center. Add the observation tower atop Powder Hill, the swimming area on the lake, and a half-mile accessible boardwalk trail along the lakeshore, and you have the makings for a great family outing.



The Ridges Sanctuary, Baileys Harbor

This nature preserve outside Door County is home to a simple system of level trails and boardwalks amid some unique terrain. Named for partly overgrown sand dunes that mark the historical changes of the shoreline of Lake Michigan, the Ridges Sanctuary is home to many birds, unusual plants and a rare species of dragonfly. Two range lighthouses stand on property, and one trail crosses the road to a small sandy beach on Lake Michigan. Guided hikes and admission are free for hikers under 18. [ew](#)

Kevin Revolinski is a Wisconsin outdoors writer and author of FalconGuides' "Paddling Wisconsin", a guidebook to the best paddling throughout the Badger State.



Fun Adventures

Known as the Wisconsin Explorer program, this state park challenge sets your child on a mission of games, crafts and scavenger hunts that revolve around nature and the outdoors. Kids earn patches as they complete each of the themed booklets, and booklets are grouped by age (ages 3-5, 6-8, and 9 and up). Pick them up at one of Wisconsin's state parks, forests or recreation areas. You can also download the booklets at the DNR website (dnr.wi.gov; type "explorer" in the search bar).

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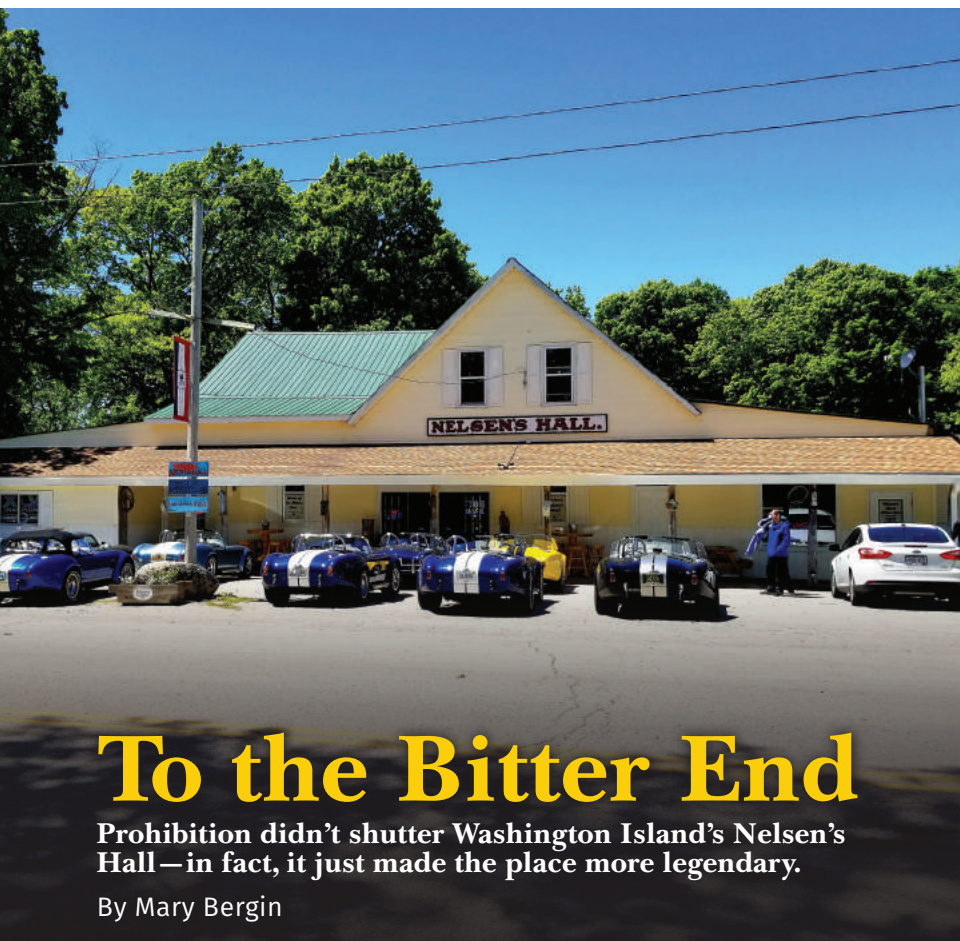
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To the Bitter End

Prohibition didn't shutter Washington Island's Nelsen's Hall—in fact, it just made the place more legendary.

By Mary Bergin

Most saloons closed when Prohibition kicked in almost 100 years ago in 1920, but a big exception was Nelsen's Hall on Washington Island, at the tip of Door County. That's thanks to owner Tom Nelsen's pharmacy license.

The barkeep successfully argued that Angostura bitters—a mix of herbs and spices, steeped in alcohol—had medicinal value as a stomach tonic. The Trinidad product was created in 1824 as a cure-all for seasickness to hiccups.

Nelsen's Hall marks its 120th year of business in 2019, and no bar in Wisconsin has legally stayed open longer. Consider it a typical, casual watering hole—with one big difference.

No place reportedly goes through more Angostura bitters in the nation and, perhaps, the world.

Modern-day bartenders use bitters by the dash in cocktails. Nelsen's Hall still is best known for serving bitters by the shot, and tens of thousands have downed one to gain membership in the bar-restaurant's Bitters Club.

That's it. There is no need for a secret handshake, annual dues or meetings. Anyone of legal drinking age can join. The founder's nephew Gunner began the club by setting up a ledger for new members to sign and issuing membership cards (on each is a bitters-dipped thumbprint).

"I've seen bitters cards from the early 1950s," says Doug Delaporte, who with Robin Ditello took over Nelsen's Hall ownership 20 years ago. The card design hasn't changed since then, and they order 10,000 per year.

Delaporte has no idea how many members are in the club, but he says "people come here just to get into the Bitters Club, day and night." Ghost hunters find their way here too because stories of the paranormal are abundant. Some say Tom Nelsen never left, and Nelsen's Hall routinely makes "most haunted" lists in Wisconsin. The bar is even featured in the first episode of the TV show "Haunted State" (2019, find it on Amazon Prime)—Delaporte says ghost hunters came and recorded paranormal activity in the building.

The ingredients that make up Angostura bitters—water, alcohol, spices, natural aromas, sugar—haven't changed since 1824, and little has changed about the looks of Nelsen's Hall, too. The wood back bar, for example, is from the 1850s.

Nelsen's bartenders go through 80 or 90 cases of bitters in a year, compared to Delaporte's estimate of four or five bottles at the average bar. Some of the locals—including a couple of bartenders—like it for more than the novelty of getting a membership card, and Tom Nelsen purportedly drank a pint of bitters daily.

On Delaporte's food menu are burgers and soups that are flavored with bitters. The bar's Bloody Mary cocktails contain bitters too.

"We experiment with it," says Delaporte, who is the cook and says his signature dish is chicken marsala. No bitters go into it. It's the same with his lasagna, Saturday prime rib and locally caught whitefish—all examples of how some things are best left alone.

Nelsen's Hall is open from May 1 until mid-November, and then just weekends through December. [ew](#)

The Bitters Bounty

• Sip, nosh and experiment during the **Bitters Boot Camp** at the **Avenue Club** and the **Bubble Up Bar** in Madison. That means learning the history of bitters, cultural influences and how bitters change a cocktail's taste. Make your own take-home bottle by adding one or more of 20 botanicals (such as cardamom, cloves, cherry bark vanilla and cacao nibs) to vodka and letting it steep for a couple of weeks. Follow a winning formula—or come up with your own. avenueclubmadison.com/bittersbootcamp



• In the Avenue's stock of bitters are **Bittercube** products, made in Milwaukee since 2009. What began with one-gallon batches has grown to 210 gallons at a time. The company moved to larger digs in 2018. Take a 30-minute tour (by appointment) and peek at products in research and development. Linger at the Bittercube Bar and Bazaar for a seasonal, traditional or even experimental cocktail. Can't decide which of eight blends of bitters (plus limited-edition combos) is your favorite? Buy a six-pack assortment from the Bazaar. bittercube.com



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DOWN ON THE FARM

Plan a one-of-a-kind vacation where friendly animals graze outside your window and country breezes restore your soul.

By Shelby Deering



There's a travel trend that's right at home in Wisconsin—agritourism. Visitors book a stay at a farm outfitted with accommodations and enjoy the country charm. Guests create memories alongside cows, beehives and natural beauty, or, they can even join in the farm work.

Get ready to explore these six idyllic Wisconsin farm stays.

Circle M Market Farm

SABAMBA ALPACA RANCH

We can all agree that alpacas are adorable, and you can see 50 of their fuzzy faces at De Pere's Sabamba Alpaca Ranch. Sally Schmidt and her husband, Tom, started a bed and breakfast on their 12.5-acre property in 2009. When guests aren't relaxing in one of the B&B's two classic, comfortable rooms or eating a homemade breakfast, you'll find them spending quality time with the alpacas. "When a guest books, we ask them if they would like to interact with the alpacas while staying with us," Sally Schmidt says. "If they would like to be interactive, they may wish to help with chores, walk with the alpacas or take a photo with an alpaca." Tours are also offered.

After hanging out with Silver Rose, Mercedes or Twinkles (yes, those are some of the alpacas' real names!), you can kick back in your accommodations outfitted with private baths, Wi-Fi, or a whirlpool tub or electric fireplace.

FUN FACT: On the Sabamba Alpaca Ranch website, there's a list of due dates for when baby alpacas will be arriving. Also known as a cria, guests can time their stay to see a baby alpaca being born.

sabambaalpaca.com



DEVIL'S LAKE LAVENDER FARM

Down the road from Baraboo's Devil's Lake State Park, there's a lavender farm sharing the same name. The sea of purple in an otherwise wooded setting is a feast for the eyes and staying at the farm makes for an even better experience. Rebecca Powell Hill, founder and owner, provides Airbnb accommodations to immerse yourself in the 12,000 lavender plants on the farm. There's a 6,200-square-foot, six-bedroom home available to rent that's on the farm, furnished with luxe amenities like an outdoor fireplace, hot tub, wet/dry sauna and patio with sweeping views of the lavender fields. There's also the historic 1895 Bonham FarmStay for guests that's at the entrance of Devil's Lake State Park and doubles as a garlic farm.

Your stay will be steeped in lavender, with lavender items, culinary products (lavender used in food, drinks and cocktails) and a choice of lavender-scented bedding. Pamper yourself with morning and sunset yoga (where goats stop by) and the farm's on-site medi-spa.

FUN FACT: Before opening the Airbnbs, Powell Hill says that people were so keen to stay on the farm and learn about lavender that they "volunteered to sleep in sleeping bags in the fields to help with the extensive and intensive process of growing and harvesting lavender."

facebook.com/devilslakelavender



SPUR OF THE MOMENT RANCH

If you've ever had a dream to stay at a real horse ranch, this is your chance. Spur of the Moment Ranch is a northern Wisconsin destination that lies in the heart of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. You can choose from four inviting log cabins with fireplaces, kitchens and bathrooms; four rustic cabins with a shared bathhouse; or five RV campsites (guests bring their own RV). But the true stars of the show are the horses. There are several opportunities to have one-on-one time with the equine residents, including trail rides, carriage rides or you can book an "encounter" as it's called, where you'll learn about basic horse care, saddling and riding.

Owner Ann Maletzke, who has been running the ranch for 19 years, says that kids particularly love to feed the horses. She says, "Many of our young guests enjoy feeding time at the ranch and are invited to join us for that activity either in the morning or evening."

FUN FACT: The ranch is very animal-friendly. Dogs are allowed in all cabins (with an extra cleaning charge) and guests' horses frequent the ranch as well. "Last year, we probably had over 500 of them stay with us," Maletzke says.

spurofthemomentranch.org





CIRCLE M MARKET FARM

Less than an hour from Madison in Blanchardville, Circle M Market Farm BnB is a certified-organic veggie and fruit farm with diverse animals, including sheep. This property that wholeheartedly embodies the farm-to-table spirit is where you can see your farmers' market goodies brought to life. Book a stay at the farm's stylish accommodations, which include lovingly-restored vintage travel trailers and two rooms in the 135-year-old farmhouse. There are near-endless activities provided to guests, anything from helping milk goats to taking a class in knitting, spinning, felting or soap-making, and you can even get your hands dirty with some chores on the farm. "Often, guests will come prepared to help with carpentry projects and barn painting," owner and manager Kriss Marion says. "And there is always lots of weeding in the veggie and flower gardens!"

And, you'd be pretty hard-pressed to find a fresher breakfast than the one that's served to guests at Circle M Market Farm. Marion says, "We serve huge, multi-course breakfasts that feature our own meats and lots of our own veggies."

Fun Fact: Have you ever wanted to learn how to knit with just-sheared wool? Marion says that she sells her own wool and teaches beginning spinning classes right next to the sheep.

circlemfarm.com



WHITEFISH BAY FARM

With its cherry groves and lavender fields, it makes perfect sense that Door County is home to a lovely farm stay dotted with flocks of sheep: Whitefish Bay Farm. Nestled just north of Sturgeon Bay, innkeepers Dick and Gretchen Regnery, (who are both also shepherds and fiber artists), have been operating the farm for 36 years. Their sheep produce wool sold worldwide, all while guests soak up the atmosphere of the charming bed and breakfast readied with four guestrooms. After eating a hearty breakfast, you can visit the on-site art gallery, watch Dick and Gretchen weave, spin and dye their fiber creations and of course, visit with the sheep during a tour.

Gretchen says that amiable sheep often welcome tour participants to the pasture. "Currently our 'official greeter' is Cinnabun," she says. Gretchen explains that during the tour, guests are encouraged to ask questions about raising sheep, wool production and grazing. "Our guests usually have a wonderful time socializing with some of the world's friendliest sheep," she says.

Fun Fact: Dick shares that they raise Corriedale sheep, which are highly regarded for producing fine, soft, garment-quality wool. They've had as many as 145 sheep, and currently they have 79.

whitefishbayfarm.com

UPPER TOP: SARAH ANNA HANSEN LOWER TOP: PHOTO COURTESY OF CIRCLE M MARKET FARM
BOTH BOTTOM: PHOTO COURTESY OF DICK REGNERY



RAINBOW RIDGE FARMS

Over 20 years ago, Cindy Hoehne and Donna Murphy found a beautiful piece of property in Onalaska and planned to start a farm and bed and breakfast on the 35 acres. Dubbed Rainbow Ridge Farms, Murphy says the name is appropriate: “We frequently see rainbows up on the ridge. Once, the rainbow even stopped in our pasture. We looked for the pot of gold but realized that our farm is the pot of gold.”

Today, the farm is home to a B&B equipped with four guestrooms, all with private baths. Expanded continental breakfasts are offered on weekdays, and a full, stick-to-your-ribs breakfast is whipped up on the weekends. The property brims with a plethora of farm animals, including goats, donkeys, a llama, pigs, chickens, cats and dogs. Guests are invited to participate in many activities. Up for milking the goats or goat yoga? Collecting eggs? Feeding the pigs? Visiting the pumpkin patch? Whatever your whim, you can have an authentic, pull-your-boots-on farm experience at Rainbow Ridge Farms.

Fun Fact: Donna says that guests really enjoy a tree nicknamed the “Monkey Tree” because goats love to climb up into the tree. Oftentimes, adventurous guests will join them in the tree-climbing fun!

rainbowridgefarms.com ew

Shelby Deering is a Madison-based writer who contributes travel content to regional and national publications, including Country Living, USA Today and At The Lake.

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Oconomowoc

A true paradise with 156 Acres, private lake, and a 4 BD, 4 BA ranch home with 2 tier 4 car garage. Perfect for hunting, fishing, enjoying nature, snowmobiling, & horses! \$1,799,000



Ashippun Lake

Georgian colonial estate features 4.4 acres in a beautiful equestrian development with 206 ft. of lake frontage. Stately home has 5 BD, 3/1 BA, & stunning library. \$1,399,000



Golden Lake

60+ acre farm with 80 ft. of frontage on beautiful Golden Lake has a completely updated farmhouse, 3 car detached garage, vintage silo, machine shed and pole barn. Country living on the lake! \$1,249,000



Middle Genesee Lake

Spacious level lot nearly 2 acres with 150 ft. of lake frontage and an under construction ranch home ready to complete with your choice of finishes! \$1,199,000



Potters Lake

Vintage lake cottage with 79 ft. of frontage on Potters Lake has 3+ BD, 2 BA, and bunk room/rec room on the 2nd floor, many beautiful original features like HWFS! \$649,000



Lower Nashotah Lake

Gorgeous sunset views from this 4 BD, 4/1 BA home with expansive deck looking out over the lake. 150 ft. frontage and over 1 acre of land. \$1,085,000



Rock Lake

100+ ft. frontage along the desirable east shore of crystal clear Rock Lake! Boat house with track system, deck to enjoy sunset views, 4+ BD, 3 BA, extra det. GA. \$1,599,500



Moose Lake Lot

Beautiful land along the shores of Moose Lake situated high on the eastern bank offers sunset views and potential to build with a walk-out LL. 100 ft. of frontage, existing seawall, and 2 story boathouse. \$544,900

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FIELDS OF *Dreams*

The only thing better than smelling fresh lavender? Strolling fields filled with the purple plants, tasting treats featuring the herb and shopping for products made with its essence, as four Wisconsin lavender farms prove.

By Katie Vaughn



The first thing you notice is the fragrance, that soothing aroma that announces you're in the presence of lavender. But follow your nose and your eyes are soon rewarded as you glimpse row upon row of the plants, basking in the sunshine and beckoning for you to come closer.

Known for its dreamy scent and relaxation properties, lavender has been appreciated for millennia. Since ancient times, people have turned to the herb, a member of the mint family, for its healing and antiseptic qualities as much as for the pleasure of its fragrance.

Lavender thrives in places like the South of France, where the soil is dry and sun and warmth are abundant. Yet there are actually many types of lavender, and some hardy English varieties tolerate Wisconsin's decidedly non-Mediterranean climate. Thanks to a lot of hard work—and rolling with nature's unpredictability—a handful of lavender growers across the state have not only cultivated beautiful fields for visitors to stroll, but also harvested the herb to turn out everything from soaps and lotions to lavender-tinged pies, lattes and ice cream.

PURPLE REIGN

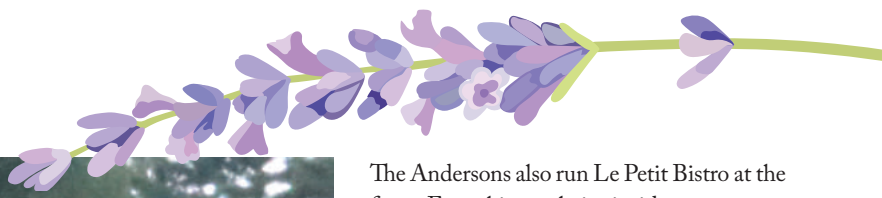
Wisconsin may never have had lavender fields if it weren't for Martine and Edgar Anderson, who opened Fragrant Isle Lavender Farm & Shop and Le Petit Bistro on Washington Island in 2013.

The French-born Martine Anderson spent seven of her young adult years in Provence, where she fell in love with lavender and dreamed of one day growing her own. When she and her husband retired on Washington Island—located seven miles northeast of the Door County peninsula, and a good 4,000 miles from southern France—they smelled an opportunity.

The Andersons have since grown Fragrant Isle into the largest lavender farm in the Midwest, with more than 20,000 plants representing 14 different types of lavender.

The couple and their small staff are committed to farming naturally, forgoing chemicals and pesticides, and they cut, tie and dry lavender to be made into soaps, lotions, candles, oils and more that are sold in their Lavender Shop.





Get your lavender on at the Sauk County Lavender Festival, July 5 & 6. All three Sauk County lavender farms mentioned here (New Life Lavender & Cherry Farm, Devil's Lake Lavender Farm and Rowley Creek Lavender Farm) host events that include tours, workshops and speakers.

Rowley Creek Lavender Farm

The Andersons also run Le Petit Bistro at the farm. From bistro chairs inside or a terrace overlooking the lavender fields, visitors can take their pick of lavender-infused macarons, chocolates and other treats, as well as sandwiches and salads at lunch.

"The first thing you need to do is try the ice cream," Martine Anderson says. "It's all-natural vanilla with lavender. It is absolutely divine."

She also recommends taking a glass of frozen rosé tinged with the farm's lavender syrup to sip on a bench out in the fields. "I promise you will be transported to heaven," she says.

For years, the Andersons hosted the All Things Lavender Festival, which brought thousands of visitors out to the island, which claims just over 700 year-round residents. They've put a pause on the festival, focusing instead on activities that can be experienced throughout the blooming season, like picking your own bundles of fresh lavender or watching how the staff distills pure lavender essential oils that are used in Fragrant Isle's products.

Or come simply to walk the fields. "It's an experience you can't really describe," Anderson says. "It's the fragrance and the color. It's a perfect picture."

Open May 1–October 31. 1350 Airport Rd., Washington Island, (920) 847-2950, fragrantisle.com

BLOOMS AMONG THE BLUFFS

On the other end of the state, lavender is becoming a blooming business. A trio of farms have cultivated fields tucked between the bluffs of Baraboo located in south-central Wisconsin, finding opportunity in the sandy soil. The three even collaborate in holding the Sauk County Lavender Festival the weekend after the Fourth of July.

For Kehaulani and Andrew Jones, growing lavender starts with a deep care and respect for the land. They call their approach to Rowley Creek Lavender Farm "aloha-sustained agriculture," a nod to their Hawaiian and New Zealand roots, respectively.



(L&R) New Life Lavender & Cherry Farm

“It is a phrase we coined to mean that the land is sustained by love,” says Kehaulani Jones, “and based on a Hawaiian belief system that it is our responsibility and privilege to care for the land and the animals and to care for one another.”

The couple opened Rowley Creek in 2016 with their five children, turning a former hobby farm into a place where lavender thrives. They cultivate 23 varieties of the plant over about 2 1/2 acres, and showcase lavender-infused skincare products and other lavender goods in their boutique. Visitors can also purchase fresh-cut lavender and delicious lavender honey at the shop.

In addition to exploring the fields, visitors may also greet the farm’s goats, horses and other animals. Or they can sign up for a “respa,” a mini-respite that may take the form of a tour, class tea party, lavender skin therapy treatment or other special event that encourages healthy and creative living. And a farmstay overnight experience is in the works!

Open May 4-July 27, plus special events. E13901 County Rd. W, Baraboo, (608) 844-9635, rowleycreekfarm.com

Lavender is also a family affair at New Life Lavender & Cherry Farm. In 2015, Aron and Laura McReynolds bought an

abandoned farmhouse and started planting cherries, wildflowers, herbs and lavender on the property’s 40 acres. Two years later, the couple and their three kids opened the farm and farm store to visitors, and today they have more than 10,000 lavender plants made up of 24 varieties.

While an afternoon cup of tea at the farm is delightful, the Farm to Table Wagon Tour is an ideal introduction to New Life. The hour-long tour includes a wagon ride, during which a guide explains lavender and cherry farming and shows off the wildflowers, sheep, bees and fish that also call the farm home.

New Life also features a farm shop filled with lavender bath and body items, cherry and lavender culinary products, and gifts. But you’ll want to bring your appetite on this visit! From lavender tea, lemonade frost and lattes to lavender fudge and ice cream, there’s so much to sample. But Laura McReynolds recommends leaving room for the farm’s signature lavender cherry pie that they make fresh every morning. This past winter, the family expanded the farm store and kitchen, meaning they’ll be cooking up even more goodies this summer. The farm will also host a farm-to-table lavender dinner during the Sauk County Lavender Festival, July 5-6.

Open June 8-September 28, (Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.) plus special events. E10766 County Rd. W, Baraboo, (608) 477-4023, newlifelavender.com

If Baraboo soon becomes synonymous with lavender, it may be thanks to Rebecca Powell Hill.

She started by creating Devil’s Lake Lavender Farm with her daughter Gabrielle Powell, extended family and Michaela Groth on 17 acres surrounding their house, set just a half-mile from the entrance to Devil’s Lake State Park. Open to the public since 2017, the farm now boasts 12,000 lavender plants in 30-plus varieties.

Visitors come to wander the fields and relax in big purple Adirondack chairs that dot the landscape. But that’s just the start of the lavender-inspired experiences to be had. Sign up for a class—on cooking with the herb, photography, rhythmic drumming or yoga with the farm’s friendly goats—or a private tour, writer’s workshop or spa service.

Powell Hill’s passion for lavender is rivaled only by her love for cooking, and she happily combines the two at Devil’s Lake Bistro, which she opened in Baraboo’s historic downtown. “My forte is cooking

with lavender,” she says. “I use it to make tea, cocktails, lemonade, savory dishes like lemon lavender chicken to sweet items like pound cake, cookies and ice cream.”

Powell Hill, who is an author of “ChefMD’s Big Book of Culinary Medicine” (Random House), has also developed several accommodations near her farm, but the ultimate option for lavender lovers is the six-bedroom Airbnb on her property. It’s intended to satisfy curiosity about what it’s like to live among lavender, and it affords an experience that Powell Hill holds dear.

“The most special time for me is to go out into the field after midnight,” she says. “Seeing the Milky Way and the meteor showers from a nighttime lavender field is an experience of a lifetime.”

E11364 Hwy. 136, Baraboo, (414) 690-5060, devilslakelavender.com **ew**

Katie Vaughn is a Madison-based arts, travel and features writer. She is author of “100 Things to Do in Madison Before You Die” and editor of Northerly, an online magazine celebrating family life in Wisconsin.



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ONE CITY, FOUR WAYS

Milwaukee can be experienced in so many different ways. We show you four—all of which are fulfilling and fun. Take a journey with us, won't you?

By Kristine Hansen

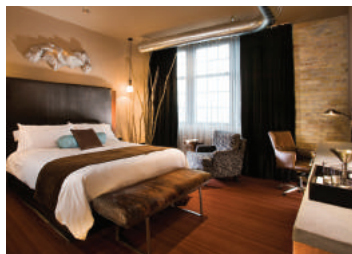


You already know that Milwaukee is a haven for German-style eats and drinks (hello, brats and beer!) and that Lake Michigan's shoreline is a great place to jog or walk. Wisconsin's largest city is also a curator of neighborhoods highlighting cultural crafts, dining and shopping, from Brady Street's Italian roots to the South Side's Latin flavors.

No matter if you are into architecture or food—or maybe both—Milwaukee truly shines come summer with a different ethnic festival every weekend. Most are held at Henry Maier Festival Park on the eastern edge of the Third Ward. Among the most popular are German Fest (late July) and Irish Fest (mid-August). In mid-July locals “storm the Bastille” in a 5K run as a kick-off to the four-day Bastille Days festival in Cathedral Square in downtown Milwaukee. Whether you crave a soft-adventure itinerary or a deep dive into gastronomy, here are some ideas just for your personality type.



ARCHITECTURE LOVER



▲ WHERE TO STAY Iron Horse Hotel

Ten years ago, this 1907 brick warehouse in Walker's Point transformed into a cool 100-room, pet-friendly hotel. Luxe baths in each of the loft-style rooms, plus exposed-brick walls and industrial-era antiques throughout, join three dining and drinking venues. theironhorsehotel.com

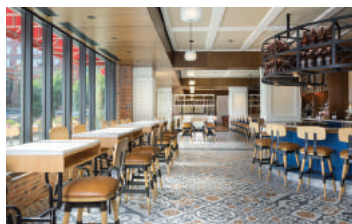
MORNING

Historic Milwaukee tour

Historic Milwaukee Inc.'s walking tours span the city, whether it's Bay View or Brady Street, and discuss the city's architectural styles, plus Brew City history. You even might be inspired to become a Historic Milwaukee member, supporting further preservation! historicismilwaukee.org/tours



FOODIE



◀ WHERE TO STAY

The Journeyman Hotel

Former "Top Chef" contestant Heather Terhune cooks at The Journeyman Hotel's Tre Rivali. Her Vermont farming roots—and love for Wisconsin cheese—all mingle here with past gigs in Chicago and San Francisco. Take the elevator to The Outsider, the rooftop bar, for one of the best views in town. journeymanhotel.com



▲ LUNCH

Sherman Phoenix

Until recently, most of Milwaukee's food scene lay east of I-43, but now Sherman Park gets its turn with a group of black-owned food- and drink-related businesses, from buffalo wings to spring rolls, under one roof for a veritable dine-around. shermanphoenix.com/tenants



OUTDOOR ADVENTURER



▲ WHERE TO STAY The Westin Milwaukee

The brand's wellness angles (like super-foods cookies) and proximity to the lakefront make this a win-win for nature-loving joggers. While definitely indulgent, the food in the hotel's Italian eatery Stella Van Buren is not to be missed.



▲ MORNING Lakeshore State Park

Kick off the day with a stroll through Lakeshore State Park behind Discovery World. It's a rare state-owned green space within a large city, and hugs Lake Michigan. dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakeshore

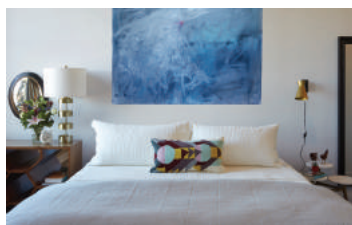
MIDDAY ▶

Milwaukee Kayak Company

Rent a kayak or take a guided group excursion down the Milwaukee and Menomonee Rivers. Tie up at a restaurant or brewery dock in the Third Ward (such as the Milwaukee Ale House) for a well-deserved paddling break. milwaukeekayak.com



BOHEMIAN



◀ WHERE TO STAY

Kinn Guesthouse

Open since 2017, the no-frills (but high-design) eight-room Kinn Guesthouse is above Kindred, an eatery, along Kinnickinnic Avenue, the main drag in Bay View. Make new friends in the communal lounge and kitchen. kinnmke.com



▲ BREAKFAST Beans & Barley

After scoring some fun finds at the South Shore Farmers Market in Bay View, head to the East Side. Vegetarians have loved this healthy twist on breakfast since the '70s, but so do carnivores. Sold in the attached market are vegan cupcakes, magazines and floral aprons. beansandbarley.com

◀ LUNCH

Third Ward exploring

After lunch at the year-old Sweet Diner (which is way cooler than a retro diner—think globe-style, blown-glass chandeliers and Insta-friendly all-day brunch dishes) in the Third Ward, pop over to the nearby The Home Market. Owner Kate Kazlo is an alum of Rachel Ashwell's Shabby Chic brand. sweetdiner.com, shophomemarket.com, historicthirdward.org



▲ AFTERNOON Milwaukee Art Museum

Santiago Calatrava's first North American project (the Quadracci Pavilion at the Milwaukee Art Museum) debuted in 2001 and was crowned "Design of the Year" by Time Magazine. Celebrated for its Outsider and Haitian art, the museum also holds Warhols and O'Keefes in its collection. mam.org



DINNER

Avalon Theater

Eat dinner and enjoy a first-run movie inside the recently reopened and fully restored Avalon Theater in Bay View. Joe Schreier, an alum of The Bartolotta Restaurants, helms the restaurant Mistral (under the same roof) where items like a meatball sandwich or spiked root-beer float are brought to your seat. avalonmke.com



▲ AFTERNOON Milwaukee Food & City Tours

Sign up for a trek (by bus, foot or streetcar) into a themed slice or sip of the city's food culture, whether that's Bloody Marys and brunch, burgers and custard, or pre-Prohibition historic bars. Some are held during lunch hours. milwaukeefoodtours.com



▲ EARLY EVENING Milwaukee Public Market

Stalls at this indoor marketplace riff on Seattle's Pike Place Market. Find award-winning artisan Wisconsin cheese, sushi, tacos, red velvet cupcakes, flutes of Champagne and even rosewater lemonade. Or, sign up ahead of time and take a cooking class (most are held at 5 or 5:30 p.m.). milwaukeepublicmarket.org



DINNER

Sanford

Milwaukee Magazine chef of the year (also a James Beard award-winning chef) Justin Aprahamian plates tasting menus that wow at this fine-dining spot that began in 1989 as the next chapter of founder Sandy d'Amato's parents' grocery store. sanfordrestaurant.com



▲ AFTERNOON Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

Love bird watching? This 185-acre sanctuary in Fox Point along Lake Michigan is your gold mine, with 276 species spotted here since 1974, and hiking trails to enjoy. Check their website for programming. schlitzaudubon.org



▲ DINNER Bradford Beach

Drinks on the beach? Yes, please. Assemble a picnic at Milwaukee's newest food hall, Crossroads Collective, on the East Side then hike down the hill to Bradford Beach, where Tiki cocktails are served under a thatched-hut roof. bradfordbeachmke.com/main.html



▲ AFTERNOON Kinnickinnic Avenue

Flip through vinyl records at Rushmor Records and Acme Records, browse vintage duds at Alive & Fine's curated collections and stop for coffee at Hi-Fi Café, where Formica tables and a jukebox pair nicely with chai tea. rushmor.com, acmerecordsmke.com, aliveandfinestore.com

DINNER Barnacle Bud's

Many locals don't even know about Barnacle Bud's, a Key West-themed fish shack along the Kinnickinnic River bordering Bay View. The menu features oysters, BBQ and other seafood dishes. Grab a picnic table behind the nautical rope. barnaclebuds.com



◀ EVENING

Jazz Estate and At Random

Take in live jazz at the Jazz Estate on the East Side, then enjoy a '50s-themed nightcap (Grasshopper, anyone?) at owner John Dye's other establishment, the recently reopened At Random in Bay View, before retiring back to Kinn Guesthouse. jazzestate.com, atrandommke.com ew.com

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VisitKenosha.com



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Manitowoc.info



Gateway to the Apostle Islands

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1.715.779.3335

Bayfield.org

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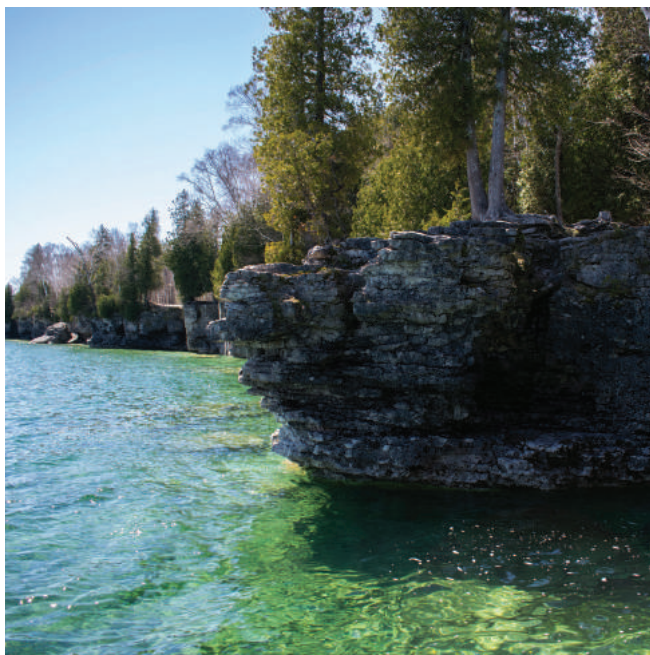
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Flower Power:

Middleton's Pope Farm Conservancy is bringing back their popular Sunflower Days this summer, from July 26 to August 4.

[@photosbykimupton]

A Beauty to Behold:

Door County's Cave Point County Park boasts breathtaking limestone cliffs, beautiful clear waters—and cool underwater caverns.

[@tailorhartman]

Ski Stunners:

Janesville's Rock Aqua Jays water ski team performs on the Rock River on Sunday and Wednesday evenings from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends.

[@rockaquajays]

Peaceful Stroll:

The Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest has more than 160 miles of trails, including the Nordic trail system, where this image was taken.

[@jrohr6]



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5/24 - 27 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

6/16 FATHER'S DAY BBQ BEER BRUNCH

6/29 & 7/4 INDEPENDENCE DAY LAWN PARTIES AND COOKOUTS

7/14 THE CARS TIME FORGOT CAR SHOW

7/26 - 28 SHAKE THE LAKE MUSIC FESTIVAL

8/31 - 9/2 LABOR DAY WEEKEND LAWN PARTY AND PIG ROAST



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