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April 25–May 8, 2005

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PANORAMA

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE
OF BOSTON

Spring Flings

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Springtime
in the Hub

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ON THE COVER:

Boston comes alive with color every spring, as evidenced by these vibrant apple blossoms in front of Emmanuel Church on Newbury Street, which is also home to exceptional shopping and outdoor dining options.

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PANORAMA

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OF BOSTON

April 25–May 8, 2005

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Rites of Spring

Scott Roberto

17 Sure Signs of Springtime in the Hub by Christine Celli and Marketa Hulpachova

Budding trees and balmy winds are enough to rouse even the grumpiest Bostonian from hibernation. Temperatures are on the rise and winter-worn locals are shedding their coats and venturing out of their hovels to savor the sun's welcoming rays. As it thaws from winter lethargy, the Hub celebrates springtime by offering a wide range of outdoor activities. So head outside for a boat ride, baseball game or a leisurely afternoon in the park. Here are a few ways to join in on all the fun.

1 CATCH A SOX GAME
The Boys of Summer actually get their season started in early April, and as ecstatic Red Sox fans continue to celebrate the end of the hometown team's 86-year championship drought, you'd better believe this city of rabid sports enthusiasts will sell out storied Fenway Park for every single home game. If you have trouble scoring tickets to a game while in the Hub, you can still tour historic Fenway Park daily up until three hours before game time. The history-steeped ballpark—the oldest active stadium in the Major Leagues—is a must see for even the casual sports fan. *Refer to listings, pages 22 and 44.*

2 EXPLORE THE EMERALD NECKLACE
Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted did us Bostonians a huge favor when he sought to create a ring of green spaces around Boston. Because of him, we have an abundance of parkland to explore when the weather is right. The actual necklace is comprised of six parks: the Back Bay Fens, the Riverway, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park. They stretch five miles from the Charles River to Dorchester, and if you're up for it, the Boston Park Rangers will take you on a walk through all six parks. Not to be missed, but not technically part of the Emerald Necklace, is historic Boston Common

and the Public Garden, the nation's first botanical garden. *Refer to listings, page 43.*

3 RIDE THE SWAN BOATS
Perhaps the most toy-like and beloved fixture in the Public Garden are the world-famous Swan Boats. Owned and operated by the Paget family since 1877, the stately paddle wheel-propelled vehicles take passengers on short jaunts around the central Lagoon. The trip, one of the best bargains for visitors in town (only \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for kids), is unquestionably the most relaxing way to take in the Garden and the surrounding skyline. *Refer to listing, page 45.*

4 SEE WILDLIFE AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO
The Franklin Park Zoo, founded in 1911 as part of Frederick Law Olmsted's legendary Emerald Necklace, is home to more than 200 species of animals—including giraffes, lions and kangaroos. And spring tends to be the time of year when that number increases as the park welcomes the birth of new furry friends. *Refer to listing, page 45.*

5 EAT HOT DOGS AT CASTLE ISLAND
WILLIAM J. DAY BLVD., SOUTH BOSTON, 617-268-5744. This free, family-friendly destination is perfect for spending a sunny afternoon. Kids will love exploring Fort Independence or cavorting on the playground, while the whole family can enjoy chowing down on the famous foot-long hot dogs served at Sullivan's Snack Bar. After the kids work up an appetite running around, order up enough eats for the whole gang and dig in while watching planes take off and land at Logan Airport across the Harbor. Or make like a local by getting in some fishing while basking in the afternoon sun.

6 LICK AN ICE CREAM CONE
352 NEWBURY ST., 617-236-1666; 659 CENTRE ST., JAMAICA PLAIN, 617-524-6740. Bostonians eat more ice cream per capita than anyone else in the country, so it's no surprise that the Hub boasts some of the best ice cream parlors of any city. Try the homemade, hometown flavors of **JP Licks**, which include such offerings as



UP IN THE AIR—A sure sign of spring in Boston is the return of street performers to Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

Cherry Garcia—vanilla ice cream with chocolate chips and cherries, named after Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garcia. We also like the fact that the Newbury Street locale provides some great people-watching opportunities.

7 TOUR THE CITY
Springtime is when citywide tour groups kick their sightseeing excursions into high gear, offering visitors a guided spin through town, be it by car, boat or on foot. If you're tucked out and want to rest your feet, consider **Old Town Trolley** tours, which drives visitors to all the big sites and allows you to get on and off as you like; or board the amphibious vehicles of the **Boston Duck Tours** and see both land and waterfront landmarks. If you want to exercise while sightseeing, try **Boston By Foot** (call 617-367-2345 for more information), which gives guided, themed walks, including one on the Victorian sites of the Back Bay and another on Boston's underground featuring our historic subway lines and the Big Dig. *Refer to listings, pages 52 & 53.*

8 EXPLORING THE CHARLES RIVER ESPLANADE
The Esplanade is perfect for all sorts of outdoor activities, including kayaking, sailing and jogging. The picturesque, tree-lined asphalt paths that run along the Charles River are especially great for bicycling. Try renting a bike from



left: Kindra Clineff/Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism; above: Christine Celli

Back Bay Bikes (366 Commonwealth Ave., 617-247-2336). And when you need a break, catch a free concert or flick at the DCR Hatch Shell.

9 WANDER THE SCULPTURE GARDENS

The Victorian landscaping of **Forest Hills Cemetery** provides an elegant backdrop for its nationally recognized 19th- and 20th-century memorial sculptures. You can visit the final resting spots of everyone from Anne Sexton and e.e. cummings to playwright Eugene O'Neill in this 275-acre cemetery founded in 1848. In addition, you can attend poetry readings recited in the spirit of the literary giants who are buried here. Be sure to also check out the contemporary sculpture path with its ever-changing free exhibits. Walking tours are offered *Sundays at 2 p.m.* for \$8. Nearby Lincoln, Mass. is home to another striking outdoor sculpture park at the **DeCordova Museum**. The 35 acres of rolling woodlands and lawns boast an exhibition of large-scale, contemporary American sculpture that can be explored free of charge. *Refer to listings, pages 39 & 44.*

10 CHALLENGE THE CHESS MASTER

AU BON PAIN, 1360 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., HARVARD SQUARE, CAMBRIDGE, 617-497-9797. Every May for more than two decades now, chess master and Harvard dropout Murray Turnbull takes his place at the table nearest the sidewalk in front of the Au Bon Pain in Harvard Square. For \$2 a game, you can attempt to checkmate him. We wish you luck, but our money's on Murray.

WATER WAY TO GO—Spring signals the return of the Duck Tours boats (left), as well as green foliage, sailing and jogging along the Esplanade (above).

11 CATCH A STREET PERFORMANCE

No one wants to be indoors on a nice day. So forego those big, pre-summer blockbusters in favor of the talented street performers who showcase their acts at **Quincy Market** and **Harvard Square**. Expect to see anything from a magic show to choreographed break-dancing routines, all for free—or for whatever you can toss in their hats at the end of the show. Weekends are the best time to catch a wide array of acts, but performers can usually be found any day of the week.

12 CRUISE BOSTON HARBOR

Springtime weather may be too temperamental for a day at the beach, but it's the perfect time to get out on the water. **Boston Harbor Cruises** (One Long Wharf, 617-227-4321) offers various tours of Boston Harbor, including visits to the harbor islands and the *U.S.S. Constitution*. If you have the time to spare, they also offer that New England favorite—whale watching.

13 SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP ON NEWBURY STREET

If you're looking to update your fair weather wardrobe, look no further than

Newbury Street. The Rodeo Drive of Boston features an array of fashionable boutiques, ranging from Urban Outfitters and NikeTown to Chanel and Louis Boston. And best of all, instead of being cooped up inside a mall while you shop, you can be out under the sun, strolling past the brownstones of the Back Bay. *Refer to listings beginning on page 24.*

14 ENJOY A PEDICURE

THE DARYL CHRISTOPHER SALON & DAY SPA, 37 NEWBURY ST., 617-424-0250. While you're on Newbury Street, you can reunite with the feet you've hidden inside heavy boots all winter and get ready for sandal season with a spa pedicure. Sit back and leave the scrubbing, filing and toenail painting to the experts and, before you know it, you'll be ready to slip into those strappy Manolo Blahniks you shelled out all that dough for.

15 CELEBRATE MAY DAY

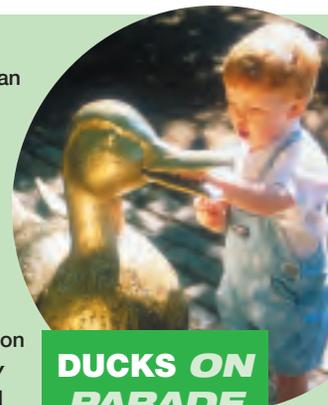
Each year on the first of May, the town of Cambridge celebrates the coming of the warm season with the **Harvard Square MayFair**—an eclectic music, art and food extravaganza. Join in the festivities by browsing among over 200 arts and crafts vendors, or get your face painted while listening to live music at one of the six main performance areas. For lunch, sample a wide spectrum of international cuisines provided by dozens of Harvard Square restaurants. And if you are an early bird, raise a Maypole at dawn with the Newtowne Morris Men as they perform traditional English country dances at the Harvard Footbridge. *Refer to story, page 12 and listing, page 21.*

16 WATCH THE SUNSET FROM THE TOP OF THE PRUDENTIAL

One of the best places to soak in the late evening sunsets of spring is from the **Skywalk Observatory** atop the Prudential Tower or at the **Top of the Hub** restaurant on the 52nd floor. You can dine on the restaurant's New England fusion menu or sit in the lounge and listen to live jazz while sipping cocktails.

17 The Swan Boats are the

Public Garden's most famous family tradition, but another beloved local institution waddles into the park on Mother's Day, **May 8**. The 24th annual **Ducklings Day Parade**, celebrating



DUCKS ON PARADE

Robert McCloskey's 1941 children's classic *Make Way For Ducklings*, enlivens the park *beginning at 1 p.m.* Parents and their children are encouraged to dress up as their favorite characters from the book, which was inspired by a real-life mother mallard who, once upon a time, escorted her offspring to the Public Garden in a daily traffic-stopping procession.

The Ducklings Day Parade starts on the Boston Common (across from the State House) and is led by parade marshal Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. "Ducklings" follow Mayor Menino, a motorcade of vintage cars and the Harvard University Marching Band in a procession that winds its way through Beacon Hill before proceeding to the bronze *Make Way For Ducklings* statues in the Public Garden. Registration begins *at noon* near the start of the parade. Children who participate receive prizes, refreshments and enjoy entertainment from Elizabeth Accardi of Upon A Star, a children's education group dedicated to encouraging participation in music and movement. A Mother's Day Grand Prize Drawing benefits Boston's Historic Neighborhood's school programs. This year's prizes have yet to be announced, but in past years, winners took home four tickets to see the Boston Red Sox and dinner for two at Aujourd'hui. Tickets for the parade are \$20 in advance, \$25 day of the parade; Grand Prize tickets are \$35. Call 617-266-5669 to order.

photo: Kindra Clineff/Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism



PANORAMA'S PICK

Fairs in **SQUARE** by Josh B. Wardrop

Visitors to Cambridge often come looking to “pahhk their cahh at Hahhvid Yahhd,” but this month they’ll want to amend that to “come take pahht in Hahhvid ahhts.” In May, the epicenter of higher education transforms itself into an all-singing, all-dancing, all-shopping celebration of creativity and fun. First up, on **May 1**, is the 22nd annual **Harvard Square MayFair**, a one-day extravaganza of unique street performances, artisans and crafters, ethnic food and diverse music and dance by local performers. Then, from **May 5-8**, it’s the 13th annual **Arts First festival**. Founded by Harvard alum and acclaimed actor John Lithgow to recognize and showcase the artistic creativity of Harvard students, this year’s festival features an Art Walk exhibiting student works; orchestral performances by the Bach Society Orchestra and the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum; theatrical performances of productions such as *Damn Yankees* and *Twelfth Night*; a Bandfest, featuring Freefall, Natural Progression, and other Harvard undergrad bands of all genres; dance performances, student films and much more. *Refer to listings, page 21.*

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CLASSICAL

Boston Conservatory of Music, 8 The Fenway, 617-912-9222. **Apr 28 at 8 p.m.** Free admission. Wind Ensemble with the Boston Conservatory Chorale, conducted by William Drury and Dr. William Cutter.

Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge, 617-496-2222. **Apr 28 at 7:30 p.m., May 1 at 3 p.m.**—Cellist Alexander Baillie performs Penderecki’s *Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima*.

The Boston Secession, First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge, 617-499-4860. **Apr 29 at 8 p.m.**—Join the Boston Secession for an evening of Stravinsky’s *Le Rot des Etoiles*, *Les Noces* and *Symphony of Psalms*, which detail the composer’s special scale or code that dominates his compositional style.

Boston Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., 617-266-1200. *Tickets: \$27-95.* Renowned throughout the world for its distinctive sound, impressive range and virtuosity, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, led by new music director James Levine, celebrates its 124th year in a season that brings fresh perspectives to a well-known repertoire while offering insights into the future of classical music. **Apr 26 at 8 p.m.**—German cellist Alban Gerhardt joins conductor

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Christoph von Dohnányi for Schumann's *Cello Concerto*, Lutoslawski's *Concerto* and Ravel's *La Valse*; **Apr 27 at 8 p.m.**—Maestro Levine and pianist Evgeny Kissin perform a number of piano four-hand pieces in an all-Schubert evening; **Apr 28 & 30 at 8 p.m.** and **Apr 29 at 1:30 p.m.**—Conductor Christoph von Dohnányi leads *The Shadow of Night* by Sir Harrison Birtwistle along with Mahler's *Symphony No. 1 in D*; **May 3 & 5 at 8 p.m.** and **May 6 at 1:30 p.m.**—Guest conductor Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos wields the baton for pianist Stephen Kovacevich in Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto* as well as Italian composer Ottorino Respighi's *Fountains of Rome* and *Pines of Rome*.

Chanticleer, Bank of America Celebrity Series, Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., 617-482-6661. **Apr 29 at 8 p.m.** *Tickets: \$41–51* Twelve male voices ranging from counter-tenor to bass, the ensemble has earned international renown as “an orchestra of voices.” Chanticleer's program includes the Boston premiere of *Purple Syllables*, a new work by composer Augusta Read Thomas, set to texts by Emily Dickinson and co-commissioned by the Celebrity Series.

Emmanuel Music, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., 617-536-3356. *Sun at 10 a.m. Admission: free will offering.* Conductor Craig Smith leads the Orchestra and Chorus of Emmanuel Music in the Weekly Bach Cantata. Special event: **May 1 at 4 p.m.**—A program including *Schön Hedwig, Op. 106*, *Spanisches Liederspiel, Op. 74* and *Kinderszenen, Op. 15* features soprano Jayne West, mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal, tenor Frank Kelley and baritone Donald Wilkinson.

Itzhak Perlman, Bank of America Celebrity Series, Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., 617-482-6661. **May 1 at 3 p.m.** *Tickets: \$37–70.* Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman performs a program of works by Mozart, Beethoven, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich and Smetana joined by pianist Rohan De Silva.

Music at the Gardner, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, 1-866-468-7619. *Tickets: \$10–20, children \$5.* **May 1 at 1:30 p.m.**—The Borromeo String Quartet perform the *Complete String Quartets of Arnold Schoenberg, Part I*.

COMEDY

The Comedy Connection, Quincy Market, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-248-9700. *Cover and times may vary. Call for full schedule.* Named “The Best Comedy Club in the Country” (*USA Today*), this venue has featured national and local stand-up acts such as Wendy Liebman, Chris Rock, Rosie O'Donnell and Dave Chappelle. **Apr 25 at 8 p.m.**—Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, *tickets: \$12*; **Apr 26 at 8 p.m.**—Paul Nardizzi, *tickets: \$12*; **Apr 28 & May 5 at 8:30 p.m.**—Frank Santos “The R-Rated Hypnotist,” *tickets: \$15*; **Apr 29 at 8 and 10:15 p.m.** and **Apr 30 at 7:30 & 9:45 p.m.**—Jim Norton, *tickets: \$25*; **May 1 at 7 & 9:15 p.m.**—Adele Givens, *tickets: \$25*; **May 4 at 8 p.m.**—Frank Santorelli *tickets: \$12*; **May 6 & 7 at 8 and 10:15 p.m.**—Artie Lange, *tickets: \$38.50*.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-661-6507. *Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; nightly shows begin at 8 p.m. Call for complete schedule. Cover: \$7–10.* A place where fresh talent is discovered and headliners experiment. **Apr 26 & May 3 at 8 p.m.**—The Magic Lounge: Long-running professional magic show; **Apr 27 at 8 p.m.**—Tony V Experiment with Mike Bent and others; **Apr 28 at 8 p.m.**—Dan Sally with Robby Road Steamer and others; **Apr 29 & 30 at 8 p.m.**—Dr. MaGoGo, Sean Lily

and others; **May 1 at 8 p.m.**—Erin Judge Presents: Anthony Spencer and others; **May 4 at 8 p.m.**—The Dan Sally Show with The Steamy Bohemians and others.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault, Remington's Restaurant, 124 Boylston St., 617-482-0110. *Call for reservations and complete schedule.* Showtimes: *Thu–Sat at 9 p.m.; open mic Sun at 9 p.m. Cover: \$10–25.* Located in an actual bank vault downstairs in Remington's Eating and Drinking Exchange, this club features Boston's top comics. **Apr 28 & May 5**—Greg Howell and Friends; **Apr 29 & 30**—EJ Murphy and Boston's Best Standup; **May 1**—MYK Kaplan hosts Boston's Open Mike Night. **May 6 & 7**—Mike Whitman and Boston's Best Standup; **May 8**—Jake Daniels hosts Boston's Open Mike Night.

Improv Asylum, 216 Hanover St., 617-263-6887. Showtimes: *Wed & Thu at 8 p.m.; Fri at 9 p.m.; Sat at 8 and 10 p.m. Tickets: \$15–20, dinner packages available. Every Fri—The Night Shift* features troupes from around the region as well as original shows by Improv Asylum main stage members and alumni, *tickets: \$10; Every Sat at midnight—The Midnight Show* promises to be quick-witted, controversial and hilarious.

ImprovBoston, Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 617-576-1253. Showtimes: *Wed at 8 p.m.; Thu & Fri at 8 and 10 p.m.; Sat at 6, 8 and 10 p.m.; Sun at 7 p.m. Cover: \$5–12.* This comedy troupe features sketch comedy, games, original music and audience participation. *Wed*—The Hump; *Thu*—UnNatural Selection and The Great & Secret Comedy Show; *Fri*—Backstory and TheatreSports; *Sat*—ImprovBoston Family Show and ImprovBoston Mainstage; *Sun*—Sgt. Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree.

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Davis Square, Somerville, 617-591-1616. Founded by comic, actor and writer Jimmy Tingle, this multi-use venue features both established and aspiring performers. **Apr 25 at 9 p.m.**—College Comedy Night, *tickets: \$8, students \$5*; **Apr 28 at 7 p.m.**—Jimmy Tingle and Friends, *tickets: \$10*; **Apr 29 at 7:30 p.m.**—Todd Barry, *tickets: \$20*; **Apr 29 at 10 p.m.**—It's Not That Late Show hosted by Peter Dutton, *tickets: \$10*; **Apr 30 at 7:30 p.m.**—An Evening with Jimmy Tingle, *tickets: \$20*.

Nick's Comedy Stop, 100 Warrenton St., 617-423-2900. *Thu at 8:30 p.m.; Fri & Sat at 8:45 p.m. Cover: \$10–15.* Nick's is the city's longest-running comedy club. **Apr 28–30**—Jim McCue from Comedy Central.

Margaret Cho, Orpheum Theatre, 1 Hamilton Place, 617-931-2000. **May 7 at 7 and 10 p.m.** *Tickets: \$29.50–45.* Lauded for her political and cultural based comedy, Cho's latest show *Assassins* targets public figures from President Bush to the Pope employing her usual array of characters, funny voices and animated facial expressions.

CONVENTIONS & EXPOS

Bayside Expo & Conference Center, 200 Mount Vernon St., 617-474-6000. **Apr 30 at 5 p.m.**—Hot Import Nights: Import Car Show, *tickets: \$25*.

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer St., 617-954-2400. **Apr 28–30**—North American Truck Show.

Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., 617-954-2000. **Apr 29**—Anime Boston 2005.

DANCE

Savion Glover's Improvography, World Music, Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., 1-800-233-3123. *Performances May 6–8: Fri at 7:30 p.m., Sat at 3 and 8 p.m., Sun at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$35–50.* Hailed by late tap master Gregory Hines as “the best tap dancer that ever lived...a genius,” Glover won a 1996 Tony Award for his smash hit *Bring In 'da Noise, Bring In 'da Funk*. His latest show, a Boston premiere, is filled with heart-stopping improvisation and brilliant choreography, with Glover performing an exhilarating 40-minute solo accompanied by a live band, featuring his Ti Di di dance troupe.

The Sleeping Beauty, Boston Ballet, The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., 1-800-447-7400. *Performances begin May 5: Thu at 7 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat & Sun 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets: \$39–83.* With its scenario drawn from the stories of Perrault, a glorious score by Tchaikovsky and choreography by Marius Petipa, this ballet has been enchanting audiences for over a century. More than the tale of a princess, a spell and a kiss, *The Sleeping Beauty* is a tour de force of classical dancing, with brilliant solo choreography and ensemble pageantry.

FILM

The Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-876-6837. *Call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: \$9; students & matinees \$7.50; seniors & children \$6.* Classic, cutting-edge and world cinema with a different double feature almost every day. Now showing: **through May 2**—Screenings from the Independent Film Festival

of Boston; **May 4**—*The Philadelphia Story*; **May 5**—Stanley Cavell, Harvard philosopher and author of *Pursuits of Happiness: The Hollywood Comedy of Remarriage*, introduces and discusses *The Awful Truth* starring Cary Grant; **May 6–8**—Boston Underground Film Festival; **May 7 & 8**—*A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard Ave., Brookline, 617-734-2500. *Call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: \$8.50; members \$5.50; seniors & children \$5.50.* This independent movie house screens recent indie films, as well as the classics. Now showing: *Watermarks*; *Kung Fu Hustle*; **opening Apr 29**—*Funny Ha-Ha*; **opening May 6**—*The Best of Youth*. Special events: **Apr 28**—Grub Street Screenwriter Salon; **May 1**—Sneak Preview: *Mad Hot Ballroom*; **May 2**—Box Office Babies, a mom-and-baby-friendly screening of *Kung Fu Hustle*.

Harvard Film Archive, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge 617-495-4700. *Call for showtimes, complete schedule and ticket prices.* With over 300 films shown per year, HFA is one of the most active art cinemas in New England. Now showing: **Apr 26 at 7 p.m.**—Fashion and Films: Various Short Films; **Apr 30 at 7 p.m.**—*Panorama Ephemera*; **May 2 at 7 p.m.**—*A Tale of Two Sisters*; **May 4 at 9 p.m.**—*Mulholland Drive*; **May 7 at 9:15 p.m.**—*The Man Who Left His Will on Film*.

Loews Boston Common, corner of Tremont and Avery streets, 617-423-3499 or 617-333-FILM. *Call for showtimes, complete schedule and ticket prices.* This state-of-the-art cineplex is the largest downtown movie theater in New England, featuring 4,500 stadium seats and 19 oversized screens spanning 100,000 square feet.



PANORAMA'S PICK

Planet **ROCK** by Josh B. Wardrop

Conserving our natural resources and protecting our planet may be heavy concepts, but there's nothing that says Earth Day can't be a celebration as well as a time to learn. That's the approach Boston radio station 92.9 WBOS has taken for 12 years, as they've packed their annual **EarthFest** full of great musical performances, unique exhibitors and a sunny vibe that reminds us all how good we have it here on planet Earth. (Trust us, Mars and Venus might sound exotic, but the weather is even more extreme than in New England). For this year's rain-or-shine event, WBOS brings an eclectic mix of talented musicians to a gorgeous outdoor location—the DCR Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade. Performing at the free **April 30** festival, *from noon–6 p.m.*, are popular acts The Wallflowers (pictured above), Five for Fighting, Ari Hest, Carbon Leaf, Low Millions and Anna Nalick. So come out and rock out for good old Mother Earth. *Refer to listings, page 21.*

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., 617-267-9300. Screenings Thu–Sun, call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: \$9; students & seniors \$8. The Museum of Fine Arts' Film Program has grown to become one of the nation's finest exhibitors of contemporary international cinema, restored classics and premieres of American independent films. Now showing: **Apr 28** at 2 p.m.—*Mondovino*; **Apr 30** at 11 p.m.—*Choreographing Cinema*; **May 5** at 6:30 p.m. and **May 7** at 2:40 p.m.—*Cowards Bend the Knee*.

Mugar Omni Theater, Museum of Science, 617-723-2500 or 617-333-FILM. Call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: \$7.50; seniors \$5.50; children (3–11) \$6.50. Discounted admission for showtimes after 6 p.m. This IMAX theater presents larger-than-life images on a five-story high, domed screen. Now showing: *Roar: Lions of the Kalahari*; *Amazing Journeys*; *Forces of Nature*; *Mystery of the Nile*.

Simons IMAX Theater, New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, 1-866-815-4629. Open Sun–Thu 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m.; Fri & Sat 10 a.m.–9:45 p.m. Call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: \$8.95; seniors & children (3–11) \$6.95. This recent addition to the New England Aquarium is the first large-format theater in Boston to have 3D viewing capability. Now showing: *Aliens of the Deep*; *Sharks 3D*; *Galapagos*.

GALLERIES

Arden Gallery, 129 Newbury St., 617-247-0610. www.arden-gallery.com. Mon–Sat 11 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Arden Gallery is a contem-

porary art gallery representing regional, national and international painters and sculptors ranging in styles from realism to complete abstraction. Special exhibits: **through Apr 30**—Margaret Gerding, *New Landscapes*; **opening May 2**—New works by Lynda Lowe.

Barbara Krakow Gallery, 10 Newbury St., 617-262-4490. Tue–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. The Barbara Krakow Gallery attracts top contemporary artists from around the world, showcasing work that focuses on minimalism and conceptualism. Special exhibits: **through May 4**—Born to Shop by Jonathan Seliger and Long Playing: Record Covers by Artists.

Bromfield Art Gallery, 27 Thayer St., 617-451-305. Wed–Sat noon–5 p.m. Boston's oldest artist-run gallery features shows by members of the cooperative, while exhibitions by visiting artists are selected by current members. Special exhibits: **through Apr 30**—Reconstruction by Kathy Halamka; Stage Flight: New Paintings by Arthur Hardigg.

Childs Gallery, 169 Newbury St., 617-266-1108. Tue–Fri 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Mon & Sat 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The longest-running of the commercial Newbury Street galleries, Childs has one of the largest inventories of oil paintings, drawings, watercolors, prints and sculpture in the United States. Special exhibits: Werner Drewes, 1899–1985; Gertrude Beals Bourne; Artists in Brahmin Boston; Alexander Brook: Selected Drawings.

Gallery NAGA, 67 Newbury St., 617-267-9060. Tue–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Gallery NAGA specializes in studio furniture and paintings by New England artists, and also exhibits works by contemporary photographers, printmakers and sculptors. Special exhibit: **opening Apr 29**—Todd McKie: Paintings.

Howard Yezerski Gallery, 14 Newbury St., 3rd Floor, 617-262-0550. Tue–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Features contemporary art, including photography, sculpture and prints. Special exhibit: Denise Marika: *New Work*.

International Poster Gallery, 205 Newbury St., 617-375-0076. www.internationalposter.com. Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m. This internationally recognized fine art poster gallery displays original vintage posters from the 1890s through the post-World War II modern masters.

L'Attitude Gallery, 218 Newbury St., 617-927-4400. Tue–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun & Mon noon–5 p.m. Features contemporary sculpture, crafts and art for the home, garden and commercial environments. The gallery also boasts an outdoor sculpture garden. Over 75 U.S. and international artists are represented in various mediums, including glass, ceramics, wood, stone, mixed media and textiles. Special exhibit: Paper and Paint: New Works by Corinne Okada and Lana Gordon. Special event: **May 7** from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.—Rebecca Scott Jewelry Trunk Show.

Nielsen Gallery, 179 Newbury St., 617-266-4835. Tue–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Renowned for its fine collection of contemporary paintings, drawings and sculptures. Special exhibits: Sachiko Akiyama: *Between Dream and Memory*; Spring Works on Paper Exhibition.

Pepper Gallery, 38 Newbury St., 617-236-4495. Tue–Fri 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sat 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Committed to presenting contemporary representational and abstract work by living artists, the gallery rotates its exhibitions every five weeks to represent different members of the artistic community, both established and upcoming. Special exhibit: **through Apr 30**—Recollections: Assemblages and Collages: Suzi Cohens, Marcus Kennedy and Randa Newland.

Photographic Resource Center, Boston University, 832 Commonwealth Ave., 617-353-0700. Tue, Wed, Fri from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thu from 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sat & Sun from noon–5 p.m. Admission: \$3. PRC exhibitions and educational programs are guided by a philosophical inquiry into the intersection of photography with other aesthetic, professional and critical discourses. Special exhibits: **through Apr 30**—Northeast Exposure Online presents Rania Matar; **through May 5**—LAND/MARK: Locative Media and Photography.

Pucker Gallery, 171 Newbury St., 617-267-9473. Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sun 1–5 p.m. Featuring works by Israeli, American and internationally known contemporary artists. Named by the *Boston Phoenix* as one of the best art galleries in the city: "You can make a case for the Pucker Gallery as Boston's best gallery—though it's really more like a wonderful miniature museum." Special exhibits: Ali (Alison Cann Clift): *Layers and Fabrications*; Marco Abarca: *Legends*.

Robert Klein Gallery, 38 Newbury St., 617-267-7997. Tue–Fri 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sat 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Devoted to fine art photography from the 19th century through the present day, the gallery has featured works by such well-known artists as Ansel Adams and Diane Arbus. Special exhibits: **through Apr 30**—Olivia Parker; **opening May 5**—Tom Baril.

Society of Arts and Crafts, 175 Newbury St., 617-266-1810. Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m. The oldest non-profit crafts organization in the country (more than 100 years old) specializes in contemporary American crafts. The jewelry, furniture, glass and

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ceramics range from cutting edge to traditional and from functional to sculptural. Special exhibit: **through May 1**—Susie Ganch: Necklace.

Vose Galleries, 238 Newbury St., 617-536-6176. *Mon–Fri 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.* Established in 1841, Vose Galleries—the oldest family-owned art gallery in the United States—specializes in American artists from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Special exhibit: Vose Contemporary: Group Exhibition.

KIDS CORNER

The Beanstalk, the Giant and Jack, Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, 617-879-2300. *Performances through May 8: Fri at 7:30 p.m., Sat & Sun at 3 p.m.* Tickets: \$12–20. Watch five magic beans sprout into a world of adventure. What waits for Jack at the top of the towering beanstalk? Young and old alike will roar with laughter at the antics of a crazy cast of characters, drawn from the classic figures of the Commedia dell'Arte of 15th century Italy.

Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Copley Square, 617-536-5400. *Refer to listing in Sightseeing section.* The first publicly supported municipal library in the world hosts many activities and special programs for children, including live performances, storytelling, interactive computer activities and films. Special event: **May 6 at 10:15 a.m.**—Kids Cinema.

The Children's Museum, Museum Wharf, 300 Congress St., 617-426-8855. *Refer to listing in Museums.* Daily organized activities in the Art Studio, Play Space and KidStage such as music and movement, finger puppet making and kitchen science. Special events: **Apr 29 & May 6 from 3–5 p.m., Apr 30 & May 1 and May 7 & 8 from 2–4 p.m.**—Zoom Zone; **Apr 30 from 11 a.m.–4 p.m.**—Sense of Smell Day: Explore the power of your nose through fun facts and activities.

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., 617-267-9300. *Refer to listing in Museums.* The fine arts are not just for adults. Special activities: **Mon–Fri at 3:30 p.m.**—Children's Room, free gallery and workshop program for children ages 6 to 12, offering active exploration of the MFA's collection through art projects, drama, poetry and music; **Tue & Wed at 3:30 p.m.**—Books Bring Art Alive explores the MFA collections using picture books, gallery activities and adult/child art projects.

Puppet Showplace Theatre, 32 Station St., Brookline, 617-731-6400. The first puppetry center in New England presents the magical world of puppet theater to a broad community, enlightening audiences of all ages. Tickets: \$8.50. **Apr 27 & 28 at 10:30 a.m.**—*The Frog Prince*; **Apr 30 & May 1 at 1 and 3 p.m.**—*Critters and Creatures* by Larry Hunt; **May 4 & 5 at 10:30 a.m.**—*The Kingdom of Riddles* by Sparky Davis; **May 7 & 8 at 1 and 3 p.m.**—*Hansel and Gretel* by Tanglewood Marionettes.

LIVE MUSIC

Agganis Arena, Boston University, 925 Commonwealth Ave., 617-931-2000. Located within BU's new John Hancock Student Village, Agganis Arena is a state-of-the-art, multipurpose sports and entertainment center with more than 7,200 seats for concerts, sporting events and family shows. **May 4 at 8 p.m.**—Alicia Keys, tickets: \$45–75; **May 5 at 7:30 p.m.**—Sting, tickets: \$40.50–61.

Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424. This popular nightclub hosts rock and pop music acts prior to evening dance nights with D.J.s. **Apr 25 at 8 p.m.**—An Evening with Paul Westerberg and His Only Friends Band, tickets: \$28; **Apr 27 at 8 p.m.**—Dave Attell: The Insomniac Tour, tickets: \$35; **Apr 29 at 7 p.m.**—Rob Thomas with Beth Hart, tickets: \$35.25; **May 8 at 7 p.m.**—Weezer, tickets: \$29.50.

Axis, 13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437. This popular nightclub hosts rock and pop musical acts prior to evening dance nights with D.J.s. **Apr 26 at 7 p.m.**—Underoath with The Chariot, These Arms Are Snakes and Fear Before the March of Flames, tickets: \$13; **May 2 at 6:30 p.m.**—All-American Rejects, tickets: \$15; **May 5 at 6 p.m.**—Punchline, tickets: \$10; **May 6 at 6 p.m.**—Big D and the Kids Table, tickets: \$13.

Bob the Chef's Restaurant and Jazz Cafe, 604 Columbus Ave., 617-536-6204. *Cover varies. Call for complete performance schedule.* Casual dining and live entertainment. Enjoy soul and jazz from local performers **Thu–Sat at 7 or 7:30 p.m.** Kick back with a leisurely jazz brunch **Sun 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**

Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge, 617-492-7679. *Call for full schedule.* Tickets: \$12–14. This intimate coffeehouse in Harvard Square was a starting place for legendary folk icons such as Joan Baez and Bob Dylan. **Apr 28 & 29 at 8 p.m.**—The Weepies, tickets: \$15; **May 4 at 8 p.m.**—Everett Lilly and the Lilly Mountaineers, tickets: \$18; **May 5 at 8 p.m.**—Pierce Pettis and Tom Kimmel, tickets: \$15; **May 6 at 7 & 10 p.m.**—Ryan Montbleau, tickets: \$12.

Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., 617-267-8080, www.dicks-lastresort.com. *No cover. Call for complete performance schedule.* Live music daily from classic rock acts and cover bands, 74 kinds of beer and dining options that include buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, crab cakes, chicken and crab legs.

The Middle East, 472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-864-EAST. *Doors open at 8 p.m., show starts at 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Call for complete schedule.* Cover: \$8–20. Whether Upstairs, Downstairs or in the Corner, this entertainment club showcases the best alternative and indie rock bands in town. **Apr 25 at 7 p.m.**—Louis XIV with Runner and the Thermodynamics, tickets: \$12; **Apr 28**—The Wedding Present, tickets: \$15; **May 6**—Darkbuster, The Ragging Teens, Brunt of It and Three Sheets, tickets: \$10; **May 7**—Mike Doughty, tickets: \$15; **May 8**—The Mountain Goats and Shearwater, tickets: \$12.

Orpheum Theatre, 1 Hamilton Place, 617-931-2000. The Orpheum opened in 1852 and was the sight of the first Boston Symphony Orchestra performances and lectures by Booker T. Washington and Ralph Waldo Emerson. **Apr 29 at 8 p.m.**—Ani DiFranco, tickets: \$32–35; **May 6 at 7:30 p.m.**—Patty Griffin, tickets: \$29–33.

Paradise Rock Club, 967 Commonwealth Ave., 617-562-8800. *Call for complete schedule.* Intimate setting with a big sound, Paradise is one of Boston's favorite rock clubs. *All shows 18+ unless otherwise noted.* **May 2 at 8 p.m.**—Jimmy Chamberlin Complex with On Fire, Taxpayer, tickets: \$10; **May 3 at 8 p.m.**—Ivy Stars, tickets: \$14; **May 4 at 8 p.m.**—Prefuse 73, tickets: \$13; **May 8 at 8 p.m.**—Lisa Marie Presley, tickets: \$25.

Regattabar, third floor of The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-661-5099. *Call for complete schedule and ticket information.* **Apr 26 at 7:30 p.m.**—Osmany Paredes Quintet, tickets: \$10; **Apr 28 at 7:30 p.m.**—JR Records Presents: CD Release Party

Part "Two," tickets: \$10; **Apr 29 & 30 at 7:30 and 10 p.m.**—Chris Potter Quartet, tickets: \$22.50; **May 5 at 12:30 p.m.**—The World Famous Harlem Gospel Choir, tickets: \$15.

Scullers Jazz Club, DoubleTree Guest Suites Hotel, 400 Soldiers Field Road, 617-562-4111. *Showtimes: Tue–Thu at 8 and 10 p.m.; Fri & Sat at 8 and 10:30 p.m.; Sun at 7 and 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted.* Tickets: \$15–65. *Combination tickets include dinner and show.* **Apr 25**—James Cotton, tickets: \$22, \$60 with dinner; **Apr 26**—Airtio's Jam Band featuring Flora Purim, tickets: \$24, \$62 with dinner; **Apr 29**—Sylvia Greenberg, tickets: \$20, \$58 with dinner; **Apr 31**—Richard Elliott, tickets: \$24, \$62 with dinner; **May 5**—Marta Topferova, tickets: \$15, \$53 with dinner; **May 6**—Joey DeFrancesco, tickets: \$20, \$58 with dinner; **May 7**—Myanna, tickets: \$12, \$50 with dinner; **May 8**—Najee, tickets: \$28, \$66 with dinner.

Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, 617-625-4088. **Apr 29 at 7:30 p.m.**—Mission of Burma, tickets: \$24.50; **Apr 30 at 8 p.m.**—Libana, tickets: \$19.50–24.50; **May 6 at 8 p.m.**—Melissa Ferrick, tickets: \$19.50–24.50.

T.T. the Bear's Place, 10 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-492-BEAR. *Shows start at 8:30 p.m. Call for complete schedule.* Cover: \$8–14. **Apr 28**—Chris Scruugs, Jimmy Ryan, Sarah Borges; **Apr 29**—Damn Personals, The Dents, The Glow and Rory Breaker; **Apr 30**—Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings, Andrea Gillis and PJ Gray; **May 5**—Superlow, Distinguished Members CD Release and Short Film; **May 6**—The Gentlemen, Rocketscience, Auto Interiors and Deep Purple Helmet; **May 7**—Aukytton and Amun Ra.

Wally's Cafe, 427 Massachusetts Ave., 617-424-1408. *Mon–Sat from 9 a.m.–2 a.m.; Sun from noon–2 a.m.* Bands play at 9 p.m. *No cover.* Wally's was established in 1947 by Joseph L. Walcot, the first African-American to own a nightclub in Boston. It played a large part in the growth of jazz music in this country and continues to host live jazz daily.

NIGHTCLUBS

Aria, 246 Tremont St., 617-338-7080. *Tue–Sun 11 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover: \$5–15. Call for age restrictions.* Located in the basement of the Wilbur Theatre, this nightclub features a chic decor with plush red couches and dance music—from International to House. Dress to impress.

Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424. *Thu–Sun 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover: \$10–20. 19+ on Thu & Fri; 21+ on Sat & Sun.* One of Boston's premier nightclubs featuring Euro and Top 40 dance nights. It's also the city's largest club venue for live music acts. **Thu**—Hip-hop night; **Fri**—renowned D.J.s from around the world at "Avaland"; **Sat**—Tease with DJ Adilson; **Sun**—Gay Night.

Axis, 13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437. *Mon & Thu–Sun 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover: \$5–20, 19+.* **Mon**—"Static," gay night; **Thu**—"Spend" (no cover); **Fri**—"Avaland," hip-hop; **Sat**—"Lushlife," alternative party hits.

The Alley, One Boylston Place, 617-351-7000. *Thu–Sat 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover: \$5–10.* Located in the famous Boylston Street alleyway, this one-stop nightclub includes the Big Easy Bar, Sugar Shack and



Sweetwater Cafe. Party Mardi Gras-style on Boston's version of Bourbon Street.

Boston Billiard Club, 126 Brookline Ave., 617-536-P00L. Ranked Number One Billiard Club in the country by *Billiards Digest*, this nightspot is perfect for pool aficionados and novices alike. *Mon*—free lessons; *Wed*—Ladies' Night: each lady gets 25 percent off table time. Four ladies per table play for free; *Sun*—*Thu*—League Night.

Boston Rocks Nightclub, 245 Quincy Market (near Faneuil Hall), 617-726-1110. *Thu*—*Sat* 9 p.m.—2 a.m. Cover varies. 21+. Where Boston comes to rock. *Fri*—6one7 presents The Loft with R & B and hip-hop music; *Sat*—Shotgun Saturdays with VJ Johnnie Walker Black spinning Top 40. No hats allowed.

Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., 617-536-0966. *Thu*—*Sat* 9 p.m.—2 a.m. No cover. In the back of the 209 restaurant, you'll find the Moonshine and Satellite lounges, voted "Best of Boston" by *Boston* magazine and *The Improper Bostonian* for best gay and lesbian nightspot.

Jillian's Boston, 145 Ipswich St. (behind Fenway Park), 617-437-0300. www.jilliansboston.com. Open daily 11 a.m.—2 a.m. One of Boston's largest entertainment complexes, this fun and diverse club attracts over a million people a year. Features 50 pool tables, 200 high-tech games, blackjack for fun, six full bars, Lucky Strike Lanes on the third floor and full-service dining and late-night dancing at Tequila Rain on the first floor. Proper dress required.

The Modern, 36 Lansdowne St., 617-536-2100. *Tue, Thu, Fri & Sat* 10:30 p.m.—2 a.m. Cover varies. Located behind Fenway Park, this chic lounge offers a laid-back alternative to the dance clubs that fill most of the street. DJs perform nightly, specializing in international music.

The Rack, 24 Clinton St., 617-725-1051. Open daily, 11:30 a.m.—2 a.m. No cover. This upscale billiards club, restaurant and bar is known for attracting celebrities, as well as Boston's young professional crowd. Live music every night except Saturday. DJs nightly from 10 p.m.—2 a.m.

The Roxy, 279 Tremont St., 617-338-7699. *Thu*—*Sat* 10 p.m.—2 a.m. Cover: \$10—15. *Thu*—"The Latin Quarter"; *Fri*—R&B, hip-hop and reggae; *Sat*—High-energy house, techno and dance music.

Sophia's, 1270 Boylston St., 617-351-7001. Cover varies. A romantic, upbeat favorite of those who like to salsa. Whether it's on the outdoor upper deck or in the exposed-brick interior, guests keep movin' to Latin beats and live music. *Wed*—*Sat*—salsa lessons; *Wed*—"Salsa Boston.com"; *Fri*—"Sangria and Salsa"; *Sat*—DJ Edwin Matos.

Venu, 100 Warrenton St., 617-338-8061. *Thu*—*Sun* 11 p.m.—2 a.m. Cover varies. You'll find a highly fashionable Euro crowd at this Theater District club. DJs nightly.

Whiskey Park, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., 617-542-1482. Rande Gerber, husband to Cindy Crawford, opened the latest installment of his Whiskey franchise, a posh addition to the Boston night scene. The 3,500 square-foot space contains two separate bars—one more intimate, and the other a lively lounge.

OPERA

Flight, Boston Lyric Opera, The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., 1-800-447-7400. Performances begin Apr 27: *Tue*—*Fri* at 7:30 p.m., *Sun* at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$34—159. The East Coast premiere of Jonathan Dove's acclaimed 1998 comedy tells the tale of a group of grounded airline passengers who endure a storm-ravaged night in an airport lounge that changes their lives in ways they hadn't anticipated.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Arts First 2005, sites throughout Harvard Yard, Cambridge, 617-495-8676. **May 5-8** from noon—6 p.m. Harvard University's 13th annual festival, one of the nation's largest collegiate arts festivals, celebrates the creativity of students and faculty in the arts and features over 200 concerts, theatricals, dance productions, multimedia presentations, exhibitions and public artworks. Festival highlights include a parade **May 7** at 11 a.m. through Harvard Square led by event founder John Lithgow and the Harvard University Band, a weekend performance fair, and a conversation with poet and 2005 Harvard Arts Medal recipient Maxine Kumin on **May 6** at 4 p.m. Refer to story, page 12.

Big Apple Circus: Picturesque, Bayside Expo and Executive Conference Center, 200 Mount Vernon St., Columbia Point, 617-931-2787. Performances through **May 8**. *Wed*—*Fri* at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., *Sat & Sun* at 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. Tickets: \$13—53. The 27th season under the big top borrows from the world's greatest artists, including Renoir, Degas, Chagall, Toulouse-Lautrec, Calder and Picasso, and their depictions of the circus. This one-ring circus brings its art to life with acrobats and jugglers, birds and horses, flying men and women and clowns in a show you won't soon forget.

12th Annual Festival for the Earth, DCR Hatch Shell, 617-822-9600. www.earthfest.com. **Apr 30** from noon—6:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. This annual festival celebrating Earth Day features music headliner the Wallflowers as well as performances by Five For Fighting, Carbon Leaf, Low Millions and Ari Hest. Attendees can visit over 100 environmental exhibits and displays prior to the festival and in between acts. Refer to story, page 16.

Harvard Square May Fair, JFK Street, Brattle Street and Mass. Ave. and Charles Square, Cambridge, 617-491-3434. **May 1** from noon—6 p.m. The 21st annual festival celebrates spring and the eclectic atmosphere of Harvard Square, featuring over 200 merchants and vendors of arts and crafts, jewelry, clothing and other gifts from around the world, along with a variety of ethnic cuisine and free entertainment for adults and children. Refer to story, page 12.

Make Way for Ducklings Parade, parade begins at Boston Common across from the State House and concludes at the Public Garden, 617-426-1885. **May 8** at 1 p.m., registration at noon. Tickets: \$15—20 (\$30 to register for grand prize). Dress the children as their favorite character from Robert McCloskey's *Make Way For Ducklings*, the children's book that inspired the famous statue in the Public Garden and this 22nd annual springtime parade that takes place on Mother's Day. Follow marching bands, tour historic Beacon Hill and the Public Garden and enjoy refreshments, entertainment and prizes. Proceeds benefit Historic Neighborhood's programs for Boston youth. Refer to story, page 11.

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PANORAMA'S PICK



Bruce Bennett

PLANT Envy

by Christopher Wallenberg

From the swishy Captain Hook to the svengali-like Engineer in *Miss Saigon*, there's nothing better than a deliciously devilish villain to get audiences' blood pumping. In the revival of the spoofy musical comedy *Little Shop of Horrors*, the villain, Audrey II, may appear a harmless plant, but it's actually a trash-talking man-eater intent on devouring every human in sight. The hero of the story, a nebbish florist named Seymour, gets caught in a Faustian deal with said shrub in order to woo the girl he loves. Not unlike the ravenous, ever-expanding Audrey II, *Little Shop* grew from a cultish-sounding off-Broadway musical based on a 1960 Roger Corman B-movie into a record-setting hit that ran for 2,209 performances and spawned a 1986 film starring Rick Moranis and Steve Martin. Featuring book and lyrics by Howard Ashman and music by Alan Menken, the musical was revived in 2003 on Broadway and its national tour comes to the Colonial Theatre **May 3-16**. Refer to listing, page 23.

Walk for Hunger, Walk begins and ends at Boston Common, 617-491-3434. www.projectbread.org. **May 1**, registration from 7-9 a.m. This is the nation's largest annual one-day fundraiser to alleviate hunger. People of all different backgrounds and ages come together to take part in this wonderful Massachusetts tradition that helps feed hungry families in our communities. The route is 20 miles, weaving through Boston, Brookline, Newton, Watertown and Cambridge. You may walk as little or as much as you like.

SPORTS

The Boston Celtics National Basketball Association
TD Banknorth Garden, Causeway St., 617-523-3030 or 617-931-2000.

Call for playoff schedule and ticket information.

Boston Red Sox Major League Baseball
Fenway Park, 4 Yawkey Way, 617-482-4SOX
Apr 25 & 26 at 7:05 p.m. vs. Baltimore Orioles
Apr 27 at 1:05 p.m. vs. Baltimore Orioles
May 6 & 7 at 7:05 p.m. vs. Seattle Mariners
May 8 at 2:05 p.m. vs. Seattle Mariners

RAW World Wrestling Entertainment
TD Banknorth Garden, Causeway St., 617-523-3030 or 617-931-2000.

May 2 at 7:45 p.m. Tickets: \$20-45. Raw superstar professional wrestlers Triple H, Batista, Ric Flair, Chris Jericho, Edge, Shawn Michaels and more battle on live television for Raw supremacy.

THEATER

Blue Man Group, Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., 617-931-2787 or 617-426-6912. Performances: *Wed & Thu* at 8 p.m., *Fri* at 7 p.m., *Sat* at 4, 7 and 10 p.m., *Sun* at 2 and 5 p.m. Tickets: \$43-53. This giddily subversive off-Broadway hit features three muted, blue-painted performers who spoof both contemporary art and modern technology through wry commentary and bemusing antics. The show has been updated to include new performance pieces, new music and alterations to the sound and lighting design.

Chevalier: Maurice & Me, Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., 1-800-233-3123. Performances *through May 1*: *Thu-Sat* at 7:30 p.m., *Wed* at 2 p.m., *Sat & Sun* at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$25-65. Elevated by renowned singer and performer Tony Sandler, this surprising bio show follows legendary French entertainer Maurice Chevalier on a roller coaster ride that transforms a savvy street urchin into an international icon adored by royalty and commoner alike. This is an elegant, uplifting tribute to one man's odyssey of survival, courage, love and nobility of purpose.

Culture Clash in AmeriCCa, Wimberly Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-266-0800. Performances *through May 8*: *Tue-Sat* at 7:30 p.m.; *May 4* and *Sat & Sun* at 2 p.m.; *Apr 30* at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$14-50. This high-octane fusion of satire, schtick and sociology uses humor and spoken word to create a non-traditional evening of theatre that explores this country's diverse peoples and histories. The troupe consists of three Latino members (Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Siguenza) who have been performing together for 20 years.

Each artist plays multiple characters, crossing all racial, social and sexual boundaries.

Damn Yankees, Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton, 617-244-0169. Performances: *Thu-Sat* at 8 p.m., *Sun* at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$17-24. Here's a tale any Red Sox fan could appreciate. Baseball fanatic Joe Boyd trades his soul to the Devil for a chance to lead his favorite team to victory in the pennant race against the New York Yankees. Becoming young baseball sensation Joe Hardy, he transforms the hapless Washington Senators into a winning team, only to realize the true worth of the life (and wife) he's left behind. Can Joe outsmart the Devil himself and still shepherd the Senators to the World Series?

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Agassiz Theatre, 10 Garden St., Cambridge, 617-496-2222. Performances *begin May 5*: *Thu-Sat* at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Winner of six Tony Awards in 1963, as well as Best Actor statuettes for Nathan Lane in the 1996 revival, this classic musical comedy by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim is set in ancient Rome and centers around the escapades of a witty slave who attempts to win his freedom. The hilarious result involves debauchery, cross-dressing, mistaken identities and a vial of mare's sweat.

The Home Coming, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell, 978-454-3926. Performances *begin May 5*: *Wed-Fri* at 8 p.m., *Sat* at 4:30 and 8:30 p.m., *Sun* at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$29. The prodigal son returns—and this time he's brought his wife. A deceptively simple story about the bitter balance of family power turns sexually wicked with deviously disturbing results. Harold Pinter, one of the greatest dramatists of all time, creates a seedy portrait of a sinister family in this masterpiece that remains as fresh, funny, and shocking as when it premiered on the London stage in 1965.

Little Shop of Horrors, Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., 617-931-2787. Performances *begin May 3*: *Tue-Sat* at 8 p.m., *Sat & Sun* at 2 p.m., *Sun* at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$37.50-67.50. From the producers of *Hairspray* and *The Producers* comes the first-ever Broadway production of everyone's favorite boy-meets-girl, plant-eats-world phenomenon. Scored by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, this musical comedy masterpiece tells the story of a lovable loser, the girl he adores and the man-eating plant that is about to change their lives forever.

Menopause the Musical, Stuart Street Playhouse, Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., 1-800-447-7400. Performances: *Wed-Fri* at 8 p.m., *Sat* at 4 and 8 p.m., *Sun* at 2 and 5 p.m. Tickets: \$42.50. This hilarious celebration of women and "the change" starts with four ladies at a Bloomingdale's lingerie sale who bond over their menopausal ailments—memory loss, brain skips, hot flashes, night sweats, not enough sex, too much sex and more. The joyful musical parodies 28 classic Baby Boomer songs.

The Phantom of the Opera, The Opera House, 539 Washington St., 617-931-2787. Performances: *Tue-Fri* at 8 p.m., *Sat* at 2 and 8 p.m., *Sun* at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$23-83. With some of the most lavish sets, costumes and special effects ever to have been created for the stage, Andrew Lloyd Webber's masterpiece, directed by Harold Prince, traces the tragic love story of a beautiful opera singer and a young composer shamed by his physical appearance into a shadowy existence beneath the majestic Paris Opera House.

Shakespeare in Hollywood, Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., 617-437-7172. Performances *begin May 6*: *Wed* at 2 and 7:30 p.m., *Thu* at 7:30 p.m., *Fri* at 8 p.m., *Sat* at 4 and 8 p.m., *Sun* at 3

p.m. Tickets: \$19-41. Welcome to Tinseltown 1934, where sexy starlets, cigar-chomping producers and ga-ga columnists collide in a delectable blend of farce, fact and fantasy. When filmmaker Max Reinhardt's re-make of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* loses its leading men, a flash of madcap magic allows Shakespeare's Oberon and Puck to play themselves on the silver screen. This New England premiere is the latest hit from Ken Ludwig (*Lend Me a Tenor*).

Shear Madness, Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warrenton St., 617-426-5225. Performances: *Tue-Fri* at 8 p.m., *Sat* at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., *Sun* at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$34-50. Boston's hilarious whodunnit where the audience takes a stab at catching the killer. Become an armchair sleuth in the longest-running non-musical play in U.S. history.

The Sunshine Boys, Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham, 781-279-2200. Performances *begin May 5*: *Tue-Thu* at 7:30 p.m., *Fri* at 8 p.m., *Sat* at 4 and 8 p.m., *Sun* at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$21-42. Neil Simon tells the story of aging vaudevillians Willie Clark and Al Lewis, played by beloved television star Dick Van Patten ("Eight is Enough," *Spaceballs*). The former partners, who haven't spoken to each other since retirement, are reunited for a television special in this hilarious salute to vaudeville.

Take Me Out, SpeakEasy Stage Company and Boston Theatre Works in association with Broadway in Boston, Roberts Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. Performances *begin Apr 29*: *Wed-Fri* at 8 p.m., *Sat* at 4 and 8 p.m., *Sun* at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$40. Richard Greenberg's acclaimed play chronicles the unexpected and dramatic turn of events when the most charismatic, successful and universally praised player in professional baseball suddenly decides to come out of the closet. The 2003 Tony Award winner for Best Play has been hailed as "A brilliant comic paean to baseball" by *Time Out New York*.

Tooth & Claw, Zeitgeist Stage Company, Plaza Theatres, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. Performances *begin Apr 29*: *Thu & Fri* at 8 p.m., *Sat* at 4 & 8 p.m., *Sun* at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15-25. This poignant examination of personal and biological evolution by Michael Hollinger (*Red Herring*) is set in the pristine Galapagos Islands during a violent confrontation between conservationists and native Ecuadorian fisherman trying to make a living. The play draws parallels between capitalism and natural selection, questioning whether humanity is improving or inching ever closer to extinction.

TICKETS

Bostix, Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Copley Square, 617-723-5181. *Mon-Sat* 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Faneuil Hall closed Mon); *Sun* 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Information and tickets, including half-price seats on day of event, for the best performing arts around Boston. Subject to availability.

TRANSPORTATION

Boston Town Car, 617-782-4000. Downtown to Logan: \$20; Back Bay to Logan: \$25. Lincoln Town Car executive sedans available at reasonable rates. Professional, courteous drivers for tours, airport, getting around town and long distance runs. All major credit cards accepted.

PANORAMA'S PICK



Shawn Kenney

The **LONG** Run by Diana Aramburu

MARATHON SPORTS 671 Boylston St., 617-267-4774 and three other locations.

Robert Kirsch, the business manager of **Marathon Sports**, knew the runner's boutique was a hit when one of its customers ran right off the Boston Marathon's course and into its store in Wellesley Hills. The athlete's shoes were causing a blister on her instep to bleed, and as Kirsch recalls, "We immediately dressed her wound, got her a fresh pair of socks and a new pair of shoes and got her back out on the course to finish the race." One of few runner's specialty stores nationwide, all four Marathon shops share a similar focus. Even casual joggers benefit from an attentive staff ready to fit you with the proper shoes by taking into account your body's range of motion, and even sending customers outside for a test drive. All of the fuss comes from the philosophy that everybody can maintain an active lifestyle with the right shoes. If Marathon is right, shopping may finally help lighten your load without just draining your wallet.

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Boston is a shopper's paradise. You'll discover stores ranging from heavy-weights like Filene's, Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue and Giorgio Armani to unique, closet-sized boutiques. Whether your tastes run to exclusive designer creations or the casual, country look, handmade furniture or the latest electronic gadgetry, antique jewelry or superbly crafted leather goods, there's a store to fulfill

every shopper's dream. The best way to grasp the city's diversity is simply to explore. The following pages describe the various shopping areas and provide a taste of what they offer.

NEWBURY STREET

One of the most popular shopping areas in the city, Newbury Street is the home of exclusive designer boutiques and high-end fashion shops, numerous art galleries, interesting restaurants and cafes, beauty salons and spas, and unusual gift and jewelry shops.

Akris, 16 Newbury St., 617-536-6225. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.* Founded in Switzerland in 1922 by the Kriemler family, this design house is the only true couture house outside of Paris and Milan that has distinguished itself for its creative, elegant and modern fashions. Its designer collection for women is comprised of elegant, understated suits, coats, dresses and a selection of evening wear.

Allen-Edmonds, 36 Newbury St., 617-247-3363. *Mon-Sat 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun noon-5 p.m.* Step out in luxurious style with Allen-Edmonds' collections of wing tips, capped toes and slip-on kilties and tassels. This world-class men's footwear retailer, famous for its

212-step construction process, features shoes made of top-quality leather and all-natural materials. Available in 164 different size and width combinations.

Cartier, 40 Newbury St., 617-262-3300. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.* If diamonds are forever, the House of Cartier is timeless. With more than 150 years of experience as one of the world's leading luxury goods companies, Cartier is a symbol of prestige, glamour, innovation and quality. This premier jeweler offers a dazzling display of diamonds, jewelry and accessories, including timepieces, silver, crystal, perfume, designer pens and leather accessories.

Chanel Boutique, 5 Newbury St., on the ground floor of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 617-859-0055. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.* Modeled after the famed Chanel Boutique in Paris, the Boston outpost of this storied franchise offers a range of Chanel products, including a line of clothing designed by Karl Lagerfeld, as well as shoes, accessories, handbags and fragrances.

Ermengildo Zegna, 39 Newbury St., 617-424-9300. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun noon-5 p.m.* Originally a small, family-run textile business transformed into a world leader in elegant men's clothing, this Italian design house has focused passionately on quality since its founding in 1910. Today, Zegna is a fourth-generation, family-run enterprise that boasts a tradition of designing and producing the finest in menswear by utilizing exclusive fabric designs. Zegna is also known for its vast, first-rate necktie selection.

John Fluevog, 302 Newbury St., 617-266-1079. *Mon-Sat 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun 1-6 p.m.* This funky footwear retailer features shoes created by the maverick designer. His highly original creations range from mind-bending platforms to the classic black boot and his tried-and-true "Angels," placing him on the cutting edge of footwear design for both men and women. The Newbury Street locale is the only place in Boston to find a wide range of his styles.

John Lewis, Inc., 97 Newbury St., 617-266-6665. *Tue-Sat 11 a.m.-6 p.m.* John Lewis has been creating jewelry of imaginative design in Boston's Back Bay for more than 30 years. Using only solid precious metals and natural stones, he makes the jewelry in his own workshop and signs it with the unique John Lewis trademark. His aim is "to make jewelry at a reasonable price, of excellent workmanship and uncommon beauty." Jewelry designed by John Lewis is creative, professional and impressive—a statement of good taste and a constant delight to the wearer.

A Knit and Needlepoint Store by Mary Jo Cole, 11 Newbury St. (between Arlington and Berkeley streets), 617-536-9338; fax 617-536-9333. *Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun by chance.* The fine art of hand-painted needlepoint and gorgeous knitting yarns are showcased here. Individual instruction is available at a moment's notice from the knowledgeable staff and there is never a charge for lessons when the project is purchased here. Whatever your particular interest, Mary Jo Cole has a broad selection of patterns and materials from which to choose. Also offering fine finishing. Visit the website at www.needlepoint-boston.com.

Louis Boston, 234 Berkeley St., 617-262-6100. *Mon 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tue & Wed 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thu-Sat 'til 7 p.m.* Housed in a historic Back Bay building that was once the New England Museum of Natural History, this Boston institution is one of the most unique and influential clothing stores in the world. It has maintained its cutting-edge allure by offering upscale men's fashions by a range of up-and-coming designers, as well as women's fashions, bed and bath items, and home accessories.

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Newbury Comics, 332 Newbury St., 617-236-4930. *Mon–Thu 10 a.m.–10:30 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–8 p.m.* Also: Government Center, 1 Washington Mall, 617-248-9992; 36 JFK St. (in the Garage Mall), Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-491-0337; 211 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge, 617-491-7711. You'll have a "wicked good time" at this upstart local chain of music stores, which offers hands-down the cheapest CDs in town, including import, domestic, independent and major label releases. It also features an array of T-shirts, comic books, jewelry and other pop culture kitsch items.

Niketown, 200 Newbury St., 617-267-3400. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m.* An enormous temple to the Nike franchise, this sporting goods retailer proffers all things Nike, including footwear, apparel, equipment and accessories. The store features an homage to the Boston Marathon, seats from the old Boston Garden and autographed shoes from former Marathon champion Uta Pippig.

Pucker Gallery, 171 Newbury St., 617-267-9473. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sun 1–5 p.m.* Founded in 1967 as a showcase for the talents of Israeli artists, the gallery has displayed and sold a wide range of art across the United States, Canada and around the world, including works by Chagall, Picasso and Hundertwasser. Recent special exhibits include the distinctive work of Samuel Bak and Brother Thomas.

The Society of Arts and Crafts, 175 Newbury St., 617-266-1810. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m.* The oldest nonprofit craft organization in the country, established in 1897. The Society specializes in contemporary American crafts, jewelry, furniture, glass and ceramics ranging from cutting edge to traditional, and from functional to sculptural. In addition to the retail crafts gallery, there is an exhibition gallery featuring four shows each year.

Urban Outfitters, 361 Newbury St., 617-236-0088. *Mon–Thu 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m.; Sun noon–8 p.m.* Also: 11 JFK St., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-864-0070. Where urban hipsters turn for a wide selection of funky men's and women's fashions, from cutting-edge independent designs to clothing staples. The store also features a wide array of housewares, shoes, accessories, gifts, books, cards and other bric-a-brac.

Virgin Megastore, 360 Newbury St., 617-896-0950. *Daily 10 a.m.–midnight.* The British music retail heavyweight makes its New England debut with its 22nd North American location. Three levels and more than 40,000 square feet of space feature thousands of books, CDs, videos and DVDs, as well as interactive listening kiosks and the Virgin Cafe on the top floor.

BACK BAY/BOYLSTON STREET

In the area framed by the Hynes Convention Center at one end and the famed jewelers Shreve, Crump & Low, the beautiful Public Garden and the bustling Theater District at the other, shoppers can find many department stores, bookshops, florists, jewelers and restaurants.

Crate & Barrel, 777 Boylston St., 617-262-8700. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* Also: Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-742-6025; 48 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-876-6300. *Call for other location hours.* This fun yet sophisticated home fashions store features everything from kitchenware and furniture to flatware, glassware and bath and body accessories.

Copley Place, Copley Square, 617-369-5000. The magnificent Copley Place features more than 100 upscale stores, including Neiman Marcus, Tiffany & Co., Gucci, BOSS Hugo Boss and Williams-Sonoma. A variety of restaurants, including Legal Sea Foods, provide shoppers with many dining options. To receive a free Ultimate Shopping Excursions card, which offers savings at many Copley Place shops as well as at a number of nearby tourist attractions, stop by one of the customer service kiosks.

The Heritage on the Garden, 300 Boylston St., 617-426-9500. *Call for individual store hours.* This residential/office/retail complex located alongside the Public Garden features a handful of upscale retailers, including St. John Boutique, Sonia Rykiel, Escada, Hermes, Candela Spa and Anne Fontaine.

Kim's Fashion Design, 2 Copley Place, Suite 200, 617-267-9299; 12 Kneeland St., Chinatown, 617-426-5740. *Copley: Daily 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Chinatown: Daily noon–6 p.m.* Kim Pham, owner and seamstress of these unique stores, has been a driving force in the Asian fashion industry for over 20 years. As a child, Kim was introduced to the family business of custom design in a small shop in Vietnam, and her motivation and passion for the industry has only grown with time. Specializing in couture, Asian-inspired apparel for both men and women, Kim uses only the finest silks for each piece, with painstaking attention to detail and overall fit.

Lux Bond & Green, 416 Boylston St., 617-266-4747. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thu 'til 7 p.m.* Since 1898, Lux Bond & Green has provided its customers with diamonds, gold jewelry, watches and giftware from around the world. The store offers a corporate gift division, bridal and gift registry, a full-service repair department, gift certificates and elegant gift-wrapping.

Marshalls, 500 Boylston St., 617-262-6066. *Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; 350 Washington St., Downtown Crossing, 617-338-6205. Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–7:30 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* Its mantra "Brand name clothing for less" has made this discount retailer a bargain-hunter's dream come true. From Ralph Lauren to Calvin Klein, Marshalls features designer clothing for men, women and children.

Restoration Hardware, 711 Boylston St., 617-578-0088. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m.* This unique hardware retailer features sleek, distinctive, high-quality items for the home—from classic home furnishings to lighting and kitchen accessories to garden supplies, tools, books, fixtures and other unique devices. Each product is imbued with the store's classic design, affordable pricing and whimsical product information.

Shreve, Crump & Low, 330 Boylston St., 617-267-9100. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.* Serving Bostonians since 1796, this tried-and-true Boston institution boasts of being the oldest continuously operating luxury business in the country. Its landmark art deco store is filled with cases of glittering diamonds, fine jewelry and watches. The galleries also offer silver, china, crystal, porcelain, stationery, furniture, antiques, giftware and much more.

The Shops at Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 1-800-SHOP-PRU. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* Located in the heart of Boston's Back Bay, The Shops at Prudential Center features over 75 shops and restaurants including The Cheesecake Factory, Legal Sea Foods, Saks Fifth Avenue, Ann Taylor, J. Jill and Alpha Omega Fine Jewelry and Watches. It is also home to the city's best

tourist destinations, including Boston Duck Tours, Beantown Trolley and Boston's tallest skyscraper observatory, the Skywalk View and Exhibit.

Simon's Men's Clothing, 220 Clarendon St., between Newbury and Boylston, 617-266-2345. *Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed & Thu 'til 7 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m.* This store has been offering fine men's clothing at realistic prices for four generations and is the oldest family-run men's clothing store in Boston. Located just off Newbury Street in historic Copley Square, Simon's has both business and casual wear in classic and updated styles. Featuring quick, expert alterations for busy travelers, they can often do complete tailoring the same day and ship anywhere in the world. Many of the thousands of students who graduate from colleges in Boston buy their first interview suits at Simon's and continue to shop wherever they roam via Simon's extensive website. www.simonsclothing.com.

CHARLES STREET

Charles Street is the main commercial area of historic Beacon Hill. Brick sidewalks, gas-lit streetlamps, quaint stores, romantic restaurants and cozy cafes tucked away on every level of the brownstones make this one of the most charming areas in the city.

Black Ink, 101 Charles St., 617-723-3883; 5 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-497-1221. *Mon–Sat 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m.* Trendy knick-knacks, from silk change purses to sensual candles to sushi-eating accessories, and nostalgic memorabilia such as tin lunch boxes can be found at this quirky, fun gift shop.

Helen's Leather, 110 Charles St., 617-742-2077. *Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Thu noon–8 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m. Closed Tue.* For over thirty years, Helen's Leather has been supplying New Englanders with one of the area's largest selections of quality Western boots. Boot makers include Lucchese, Liberty, Tony Lama, Justin, Nocona and Frye. Along with the boots, Helen's also has a great selection of Western belts, buckles, shirts and Stetson hats, as well as a great selection of leather jackets and bags.

Koo de Kir, 34 Charles St., 617-723-8111. *Mon–Fri 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m.* This sleek home goods store exudes warmth and irreverence with its selection of unique, fashionable home essentials, from serving trays and lamps to teapots and coffee mugs.

Wish, 49 Charles St., 617-227-4441. *Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Thu 'til 8 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m.* Proving you can find hip couture off Newbury Street, this fashion boutique is home to designers like Nanette Lapore, Rebecca Taylor and Jean Yu. The chic yet welcoming shop offers cashmere sweaters, pink chiffon dresses, rhinestone-detailed turtle necks and beaded purses—all perfect for a night on the town.

DOWNTOWN CROSSING

Dynamic Downtown Crossing is jammed with stores and services of every conceivable nature. Streets are bricked over to form a pedestrian walkway where cars are not permitted during business hours. The area offers outdoor benches, street vendors and fast-food eateries that create a convenient shopping district.

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The Corner Mall, corner of Winter and Washington streets. *Open daily.* One-stop shopping and eating in Downtown Crossing. Across from Filene's Basement, you'll find the latest styles at a variety of exciting shops, from Discovery Imports and Bath & Body Works to Lids and Aldo Shoe. In addition, the Corner Mall features an international food court offering eateries to please every palate, including Cafe La Brioche, Sakiko Japan, India Express and Bourbon Street Cafe.

Filene's, 426 Washington St., 617-357-2100. *Mon-Sat 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-7 p.m.* Founded in Boston in 1851, Filene's is New England's premier department store, offering six floors of apparel and accessories for the entire family. Discover the latest collections from renowned designers such as Donna Karan, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilffiger as well as cosmetics and fragrances from Chanel and Lancôme and bed and bath products by Laura Ashley and Crossill.

Filene's Basement, 426 Washington St., 617-542-2011. *Mon-Fri 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-7 p.m.* There are certain "musts" for visitors to Boston: a ride on the Swan Boats, a tour of the Freedom Trail and a shopping trip to Filene's Basement. For more than 90 years, the Basement has provided Boston shoppers with terrific bargains. The store's automatic markdown system guarantees that the longer the item remains on the selling floor, the greater the discount.

H & M, 350 Washington St., 617-482-7081. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-7 p.m.* This youthful, cutting-edge European

department store opened its Boston outpost in 2001. Its mantra of "fashion and quality at the best price" translates to inexpensive, trendy clothes for men and women. H & M scours the globe in search for the freshest, most up-to-date fashion trends in color, material and style.

Macy's, 450 Washington St., 617-357-3195. *Mon-Sat 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-7 p.m.* This famous New York-based department giant features floor after floor of the latest culinary tools, bed and bath items, incredible gifts and the hottest fashions. Choose from your favorite designers—Polo, Liz Claiborne, Nautica, Jones New York and DKNY—or Macy's exclusive labels.

T.J. Maxx, 350 Washington St., 617-695-2424. *Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-6 p.m.* This discount retailer offers brand name and designer fashions for men, women, teens and kids, as well as accessories, fine jewelry and items for the home. Prices are slashed 20 to 60 percent off most department store rates. T.J. Maxx offers current trends of the highest quality.

FANEUIL HALL MARKETPLACE

Quincy Market, the centerpiece of Faneuil Hall Marketplace, was an early American marketplace filled with food and produce vendors. Now it houses countless stores, restaurants and snack counters. The North and South Markets are home to more than 125 stores where shoppers indulge in everything from jewelry and clothes to flowers and art.

Bill Rodgers Running Center, 353 North Market Place, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-723-5612. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-8:45 p.m.; Sun noon-6 p.m.* Owned by four-time Boston Marathon winner and legend Bill Rodgers, this footwear retailer is committed to helping runners of all levels choose the most suitable shoes, not just the bestselling or most expensive. Features include a vast selection of shoes, apparel and accessories along with an experienced, knowledgeable staff.

Marketplace Center, located between Faneuil Hall and the Waterfront. Twenty-four distinctive shops surround an open court known as the Exedra, where you will always find a wide range of unusual pushcarts and entertainment events unique to this wonderful area. Within walking distance are literally hundreds of other shops, restaurants, pubs and nightspots. *SEE LOCATOR #10 ON CENTER MAP.*

CAMBRIDGE/HARVARD SQUARE

Home of Harvard's hallowed halls, this eclectic neighborhood is the heart of Cambridge. This mecca of stores includes an array of small bookshops, clothing stores, quaint coffee houses and restaurants.

Alpha Omega, 1380 Mass. Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-864-1227. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thu 'til 7 p.m.; Sun noon-6 p.m.* Also: The Shops at Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 617-494-9030. Dedicated to the art of timekeeping, Alpha Omega is an

authorized agent for more than 20 prestigious watch brands including Akteo, Bertolucci, Breitling, Georg Jensen, Movado, Omega, Rado, Seiko, Alain Silberstein, TAG Heuer and Raymond Weil. Don't miss the exceptional collection of jewels, gold and platinum treasures or the new and vintage Swatch collection.

CambridgeSide Galleria, 100 CambridgeSide Place, Cambridge, 617-621-8666. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-7 p.m.* Conveniently located at the Lechmere stop on the Green Line, this three-level mall features department stores such as Filene's, Sears and Best Buy, as well as more than 100 other stores and specialty shops including the largest Gap in Boston, Abercrombie & Fitch, J. Crew, Old Navy, Borders, Victoria's Secret and more.

The Garment District, 200 Broadway, Cambridge, 617-876-5230. *Sun-Tue 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wed-Fri 'til 8 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m.-7 p.m.* A vintage clothing-lover's paradise, this two-level thrift warehouse is a local institution. The offerings include an array of corduroys, painter pants and vintage Levi's; knock-off designer dresses; ironic old-school T-shirts; '70s go-go boots; and more polyester than at a convention of used-car salesmen. The ambitious (or desperate) among you can sift through the mounds of clothing at the downstairs Dollar-A-Pound.

Tower Records, 95 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-876-3377. *Sun-Thu 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri & Sat 'til midnight.* This music superstore features everything from CDs, tapes and records to videos, books and periodicals. Its music selection runs the gamut from classical to country to current pop, rock and soul sounds. **■**

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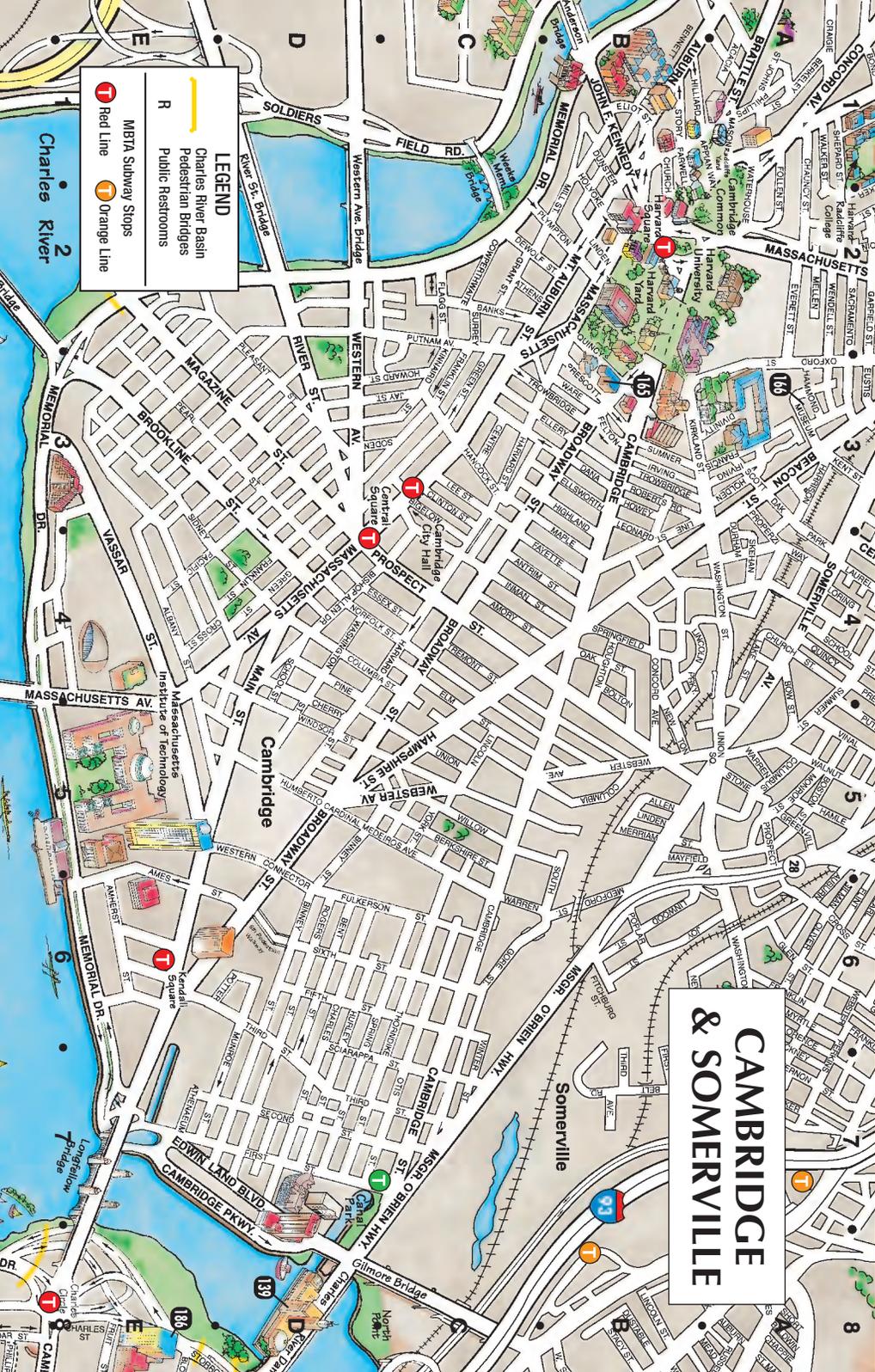
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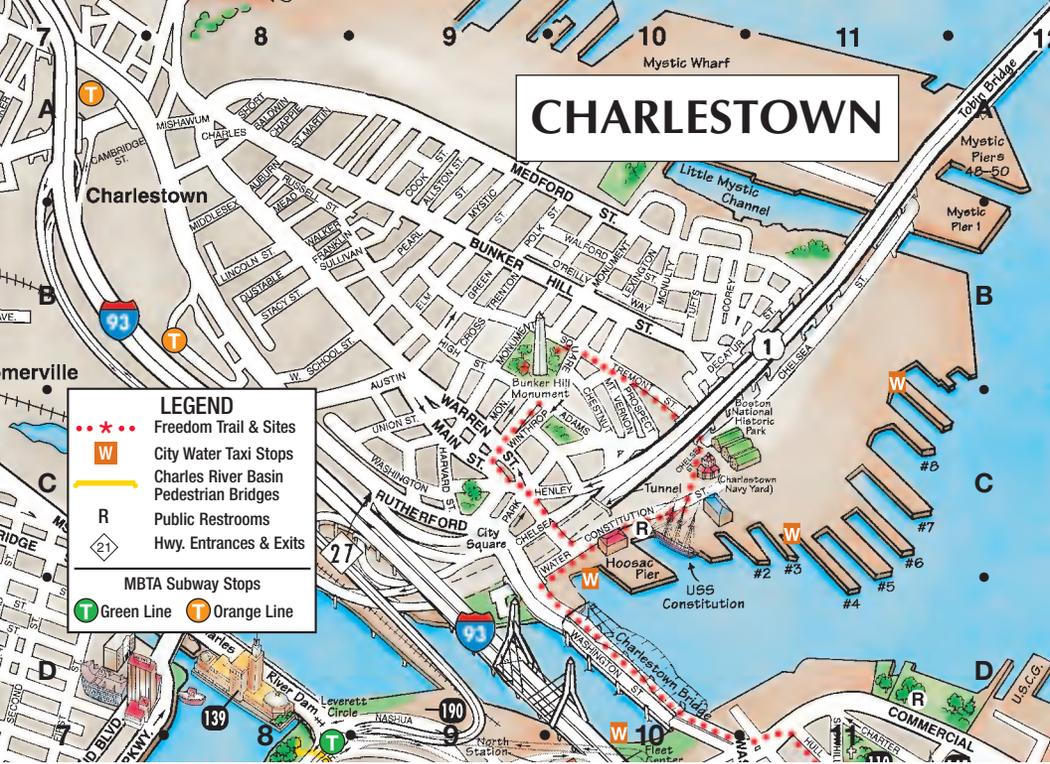
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Only 8 miles from Boston: Mass Pike (90) W; 128 N to Exit 26 (Rt. 20 E); right on Moody Street; right at Felton (first light).



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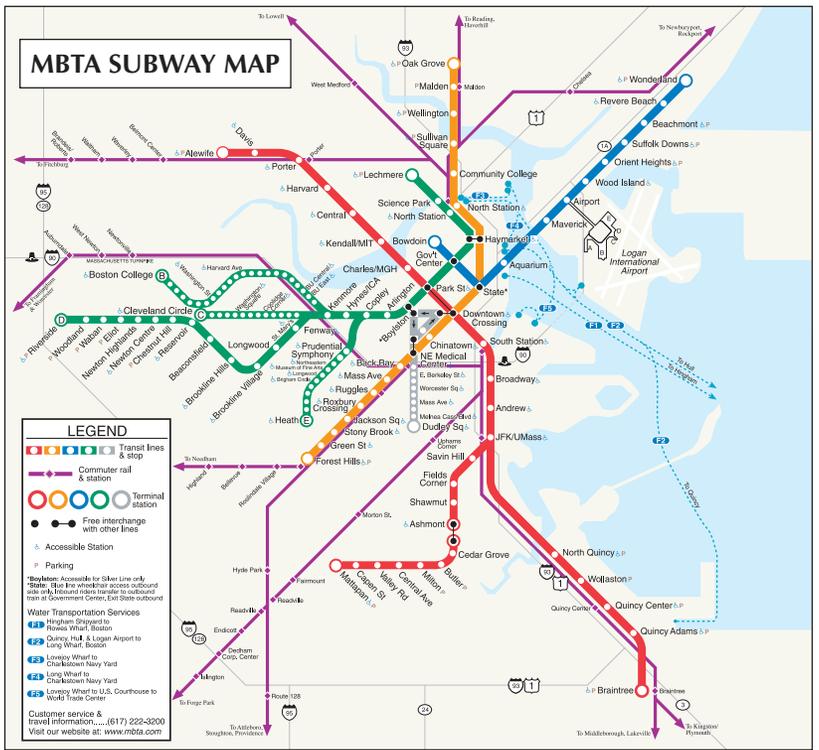
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PANORAMA'S PICK

Winged WONDERS

by Marketa Hulpachova

Spring may have only just sprung in Boston, but it's already summer at the **Museum of Science**. With its balmy temperature and sun-bathed interior, the newly unveiled **Butterfly Garden** exhibit offers visitors a breath of tropical serenity. A lush greenhouse, where sweet-smelling exotic plants blossom alongside a trickling waterfall, offers the perfect sanctuary for hundreds of brilliantly colored butterflies of all shapes and sizes. Here, children and adults can learn little-known facts about butterfly metamorphosis, as well as its feeding and mating habits, or simply stand mesmerized as they flutter about, often settling on the garments of observers. Outside the pavilion, curious visitors can peruse the **Insect Zoo**, where live creepy crawlers such as the giant African millipede help illustrate bug physiology, and where employees are on hand to answer critter-related questions. Best of all, the species of plants and butterflies on display change with the seasons, making each visit a unique experience. *Refer to listing, page 38.*



George Riley/courtesy of the Museum of Science

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BOSTON

Boston CityPass, www.citypass.com. Visit six of Boston's best attractions for one low price. Save 50 percent and avoid ticket lines. *Booklet price: \$39; youth (3–11) \$19.50.* Ticket booklets are available at the first attraction visited and are valid for a year. The CityPass ticket booklet includes admission to six major attractions: the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, New England Aquarium, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, Skywalk Observatory at the Prudential Center and Harvard Museum of Natural History.

The Children's Museum, Museum Wharf, 300 Congress St., 617-426-8855. *Open daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri 'til 9 p.m. Admission: \$9; children (2–15) & seniors \$7; children (one-year-olds only) \$2; children (under 1) free; Fri 5–9 p.m. (Family Night) \$1.* The museum features a variety of educational and entertaining activities for children, including interactive exhibits that allow children to learn about science, history and culture through hands-on experience. Special exhibits: *Boats Afloat* allows kids to explore urban water

environments; *Boston Black: A City Connects* celebrates Boston's many black cultures; *Airplay* illustrates the amazing powers of air; *access/ABILITY* educates people about living with disabilities. *Refer to Kids Corner in Currently for special events.*

Commonwealth Museum, Massachusetts Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Blvd., 617-727-9268. *Mon–Fri from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., second and fourth Sat of the month 'til 3 p.m. (except holiday weekends). Free admission.* Across from the JFK Library, this museum houses the collection of the Massachusetts Archives and is ideal for fans of history or genealogy. Special exhibits: John Adams: Atlas of American Independence; Archaeology of the Central Artery Project: Highway to the Past.

Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., 617-266-5152. *Open Tue, Wed & Fri noon–5 p.m., Thu 'til 9 p.m.; Sat & Sun 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$7; students & seniors \$5; children (under 12) free; Thu 5–9 p.m. free.* Installations, featuring contemporary paintings, sculptures and photographs, change regularly. Special exhibits: *Likeness: Portraits of Artists by Other Artists*, including Robert Mapplethorpe's photograph of Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Kass's silkscreen of Cindy Sherman as Liza Minnelli and Elizabeth Peyton's painting of David Hockney; *Momentum 3: Kanishka Raja*, the Calcutta-born, Boston-based artist creates large-scale paintings of strange, disorienting interior spaces that play with texture, pattern and perspective. Special event: *Apr 30 at 8 p.m.*—Boston Creative Music Alliance: Wadada Leo Smith and Ikue Mori.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, 617-566-1401. *Open Tue–Sun 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$10; week-*

ends \$11; seniors \$7; students with I.D. \$5; children (under 18) free. Visitors named Isabella are admitted free. Commissioned by Boston aristocrat Isabella Stewart Gardner and modeled after a 15th-century Venetian palace, the museum exhibits 2,500 objects, including the works of Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian and Matisse. Special exhibit: *Chairs*, by artist-in-residence Dayanita Singh.

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, off Morrissey Boulevard, next to UMass Boston, Dorchester, 1-877-616-4599. www.jfklibrary.org. *Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$10; students & seniors \$8; children (13–17) \$7; children (under 12) free.* This museum portrays Kennedy's life, leadership and legacy in 21 exhibits, three theaters, 20 video presentations and more. Special exhibit: *Presents for a President and First Lady*, a display of 65 state gifts given to President and Mrs. Kennedy by foreign leaders from around the globe. Special event: *May 4 from 5:30–7 p.m.*—Celebrating the Red Sox; *May 8 from 4–5:30 p.m.*—Shirin Ebadijoh.

Larz Anderson Auto Museum, Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline, 617-522-6547. *Open Tue–Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$5; students, seniors and children (6–18) \$3; children (5 and under) free. Admission to the Lawn Events: \$7; children \$5. Fee includes admission to all museum exhibits.* The oldest collection of historic automobiles in the nation is displayed in the owner's original home. Special exhibit: *L'automobile—A Century of Innovation and Style* celebrates the French automobile industry.

The Museum of Afro-American History, African Meeting House, 46 Joy St. (corner of Smith Court), Beacon Hill, 617-725-0022. www.afroammuseum.org. *Open Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Free admission; donations welcome.* Explore the history of Boston's 19th-century African-American community at the African Meeting House, the oldest African-American church still standing in the United States. In addition, there are tour maps available for the Black Heritage Trail. Special exhibit: *Progressing In the March of Improvement: A History of the Abiel Smith School, 1835–1855.*

The Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, 300 Walnut Ave., Roxbury, 617-442-8614. *Open Tue–Sun 1–5 p.m.; by appointment for groups. Admission: \$4; students & seniors \$3.* Housed in the former Oak Bend Mansion, a neo-Gothic structure built in the early 1870s, this museum holds a slide archive and an extensive collection of African artifacts, prints and drawings; it also hosts national and international traveling exhibits. Special exhibit: *What We Collect: Works from the Permanent Collection.*

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., 617-267-9300. *Open Sat–Tue 10 a.m.–4:45 p.m.; Wed–Fri 10 a.m.–9:45 p.m. (Thu & Fri after 5 p.m., west wing only). Admission (includes two visits in a 10-day period): \$15; college students & seniors \$13; Thu & Fri after 5 p.m., \$2 discount; Wed after 4 p.m., pay as you wish; children (under 18) \$6.50 on weekdays before 3 p.m., free at all other times.* Separate ticketing for *Gund Gallery* exhibit. The museum houses an outstanding collection of paintings, prints, sculptures, furnishings and other artwork from ancient times through the present, and boasts the most comprehensive collection of Asiatic art in the world. Special exhibits: *through May 8*—Rockwell and the Red Sox, featuring Norman Rockwell's *The Rookie*, and a selection of Red Sox memorabilia; *Speed, Style* and



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PANORAMA'S PICK



Stuart Davis, *Hot Still-Scope for Six Colors*—7th Avenue Style, 1940

FLOWER Power

by Scott Roberto

Everything is coming up roses this month at the **Museum of Fine Arts'** annual **Art in Bloom** festival. From **April 30–May 3**, the museum hosts nearly 90 flower arrangements made to complement some of the greatest masterworks in its collection. The flower displays can be viewed for free with museum admission. Special events surrounding this colorful event include the first-ever Family Day on **April 30** from 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., in which art-making activities and performances for all ages can be enjoyed. That night, from 6–9:30 p.m., patrons who purchase a \$175 ticket can witness the opening celebration, which features cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, music, special guided tours and the opportunity to see *Speed, Style and Beauty: Cars from the Ralph Lauren Collection*. The rest of the festival includes demonstrations and lectures by a variety of floral professionals, as well as a benefit drawing which visitors can enter to win tickets to see that *other* venerable Fenway institution—the Red Sox. Refer to listing, page 37.

Beauty: Cars from the Ralph Lauren Collection (separate ticketing); Photographs by Hiroshi Sugimoto: The Sylvan Barnet and William Burto Collection; Pursuits of Power: Falconry and the Samurai, 1600–1900; Lethal Elegance: The Art of Samurai Sword Fittings. Special event May 1–3: Art in Bloom, an astonishing array of floral design created to compliment the great collections of the museum and displayed alongside the source of inspiration. This fundraising event also includes lectures and demonstrations with world renowned florists and landscape architects. Exhibit is free with museum admission, lectures are ticketed separately. Refer to story, above.

Museum of Science, Science Park, 617-723-2500. Open daily from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri 'til 9 p.m. Admission: \$14; seniors \$12; children (3–11) \$11; children (under 3) free. *Planetarium, laser show and Omni theater tickets: \$8.50; seniors \$7.50; children (3–11) \$6.50. Combination ticket prices and evening discounts available.* Interactive exhibits covering all the sciences, plus laser and astronomy shows in the Charles Hayden Planetarium and films in the Mugar Omni Theater. Special exhibits: **through May 1**—Playing With Time, a unique look at events that happen too quickly or too slowly for humans to perceive; *Butterfly Garden*, tickets: \$4. Refer to story, page 36. At the Mugar Omni Theater: *Mystery of the Nile; Extreme; Forces of Nature; Roar: Lions of the Kalahari.* Refer to *Currently* section under *Film* for complete Mugar Omni Theater listings. Showing at the Planetarium: *Countdown to Supernova.* At the Wright 3D Theater: *Bugs!*

Sports Museum of New England, 5th and 6th floor premium seating levels, TD Banknorth Garden, Causeway Street, 617-624-

1234. Open daily 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission on the hour only, until 3 p.m. Hours altered during TD Banknorth Garden events, call ahead. Admission: \$6; seniors & children (6–17) \$4; children (under 6) free. The Sports Museum showcases the rich sports heritage of New England through an unparalleled collection of artifacts, multimedia and works of art. Exhibits include the Boston Bruins Hall of Fame portraits, the Boston Garden Penalty Box, New England's Olympic Heroes and much more.

U.S.S. Constitution Museum, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown, 617-426-1812. Open daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m., beginning May 1 daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Free admission. The museum preserves the treasures of "Old Ironsides," the U.S. Navy's flagship and the world's oldest remaining commissioned warship. Includes weapons, documents, journals and more. Interactive exhibits allow visitors to load and fire a cannon, try out a sailor's sleeping quarters and virtually command the *Constitution* in battle.

CAMBRIDGE

Due to limited parking, it's best to take the Red Line when traveling to Harvard, Central or Kendall squares. The Cambridge Discovery Booth located at the Harvard Square "T" entrance provides additional information.

Busch-Reisinger Museum, Werner Otto Hall, 32 Quincy St. (enter through the Fogg Art Museum), 617-495-9400. Open Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sun 1–5 p.m. Tours: Mon–Fri at 1 p.m. Admission:

\$6.50; seniors & college students \$5; children (under 18) free; free Sat 10 a.m.–noon. A museum devoted to promoting the enjoyment and critical understanding of Central and Northern European artists, with an emphasis on German-speaking countries. Special exhibits: *Extra Ordinary Every Day: The Bauhaus at the Busch-Reisinger*; "As though my body were naught but ciphers," crises of representation in fin-de-siecle Vienna.

Fogg Art Museum, Quincy and Broadway streets, 617-495-9400. Tours: Mon–Fri at 11 a.m.; see *Busch-Reisinger Museum for hours and admission fees.* The museum displays European and American masterpieces from the Middle Ages to the present and hosts concerts and guided tours. Special exhibit: *Heart and Hand: Persian, Turkish and Indian Drawings from the Stuart Cary Welch Collection.*

Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., 617-495-3045. Daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$7.50; college students & seniors \$6; children (3–18) \$5; free Sun 9 a.m.–noon and Wed 3–5 p.m. Among the museum's 17 galleries is the internationally acclaimed Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants, a unique collection of over 3,000 glass flower models created between 1886 and 1936. Special exhibits: *Origins: Life's First 3 Billion Years; Dodos, Trilobites & Meteorites: Treasures of Nature and Science at Harvard; Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline.*

MIT List Visual Arts Center, 20 Ames St., 617-253-4680. Tue–Sun noon–6 p.m.; Fri 'til 8 p.m. Free admission. One of Boston's premier showcases for contemporary art, the List Center reflects MIT's position as a cutting-edge research institution by presenting works from the world's leading contemporary artists.

The MIT Museum, 265 Mass. Ave., 617-253-4444. Tue–Fri 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sat & Sun noon–5 p.m. Admission: \$5; students, seniors & youth (5–18) \$2. Exhibits interpret themes and ideas related to MIT research and activities. Special exhibits: **through May 1**—The Body Plus, works which see, record, and transform live movement; *The Clipper Ship Era; Visualizing Physics: Transforming Science Learning at MIT.*

Sackler Museum, Quincy and Broadway streets, 617-495-9400. Tours: Mon–Fri at 2 p.m.; see *Busch-Reisinger Museum for hours and admission fees.* Designed by James Stirling, Britain's famous post-modernist architect, the museum houses ancient Oriental and Islamic collections. Its lecture hall hosts concerts, lectures and films. Special exhibits: *Asian Games: The Art of Contest; In the Realm of Princes: The Arts of the Book in Fifteenth-Century Iran and Central Asia.*

BEYOND BOSTON

Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Road, Concord, 978-369-9763. Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun noon–5 p.m. Admission: \$8; seniors & students with I.D. \$7; children (6–17) \$5; family rates available. Ample free parking on Cambridge Turnpike. Re-live Concord's history, from Native American habitation and European settlement to the days of Emerson, Thoreau, the Alcotts and Hawthorne. Special exhibit: *Connecticut Valley Furniture by Eliphalet Chapin and His Contemporaries, 1750–1800.* Special event: **May 1** at 7 p.m.—Object Study with Leigh and Leslie Keno, tickets by reservation: \$25, \$20 members.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, 51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln, 781-259-8355. Museum: Tue–Sun 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$9; seniors, students & children (6–12) \$6. *Sculpture Park: open sunrise to sunset, free admission.* Tour one of the largest contemporary art museums and the only permanent public sculpture park in New England. Special exhibits: *The 2005 DeCordova Annual Exhibition; Abstract Elements: The Dr. Beatrice H. Barrett Collection of Art.* Special events: **Apr 30** at 3 p.m.—Meet the Artist: Lalla A. Essaydi; **May 7** at 3 p.m.—Meet the Artist: Milan Klic and Mark Wethli.

National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, 781-861-6559. Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m. Free admission. Dedicated to presenting exhibitions on a wide variety of topics in American history and popular culture in an effort to preserve our national heritage. Special exhibits: *George Washington: Freemason and Founding Father; Revere's Ride and Longfellow's Legend; Deep Inside the Blues: Photographs by Margo Cooper.*

Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem, 1-866-745-1876. Daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$13; seniors \$11; students \$9; children (16 and under) free. The nation's oldest continually operating museum boasts a brand-new wing with a 190-seat auditorium and a glass-covered atrium. The collection showcases African, Asian, Pacific Island and American folk and decorative art; a maritime collection dating back to the museum's earliest days; and the first collection of Native American art in the hemisphere. Special exhibits: *Island Thresholds: Contemporary Art from the Caribbean; Our Land: Contemporary Art from the Arctic; In Nature's Company; The Art of Shopping in China; Carved by Nature: Untamed Traditions in Chinese Decorative Art; Yin Yu Tang, the stately 16-bedroom home of a prosperous Chinese merchant of the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911), ticketed separately: \$4.* Special events: **Apr 28** at 8 p.m.—Lecture: Nobel prize-winner Derek Walcott; **Apr 30** at 4 p.m.—Films: *Havana, Mi Amor* and *Sugar Cane Alley*; **May 7** at 7 p.m.—Annual Spring Gala, tickets: \$350; **May 8** from 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.—Mother's Day Brunch, tickets: \$35.

Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Exit 4 from Route 3 Southbound, 508-746-1622. Daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission to *Plantation and Mayflower II* (2-day pass): \$24; seniors \$21; youths (6–12) \$14; children (under 6) free. *Plantation only: \$21; youths (6–12) \$12; children (under 6) free. Mayflower II only: \$8; youths (6–12) \$6; children (under 6) free.* Accompany English colonists as they go about their daily tasks in the 1627 Pilgrim Village. Listen to stories told in period dialects of their journey and first difficult years in New England. Visit the home of the Hobbamock, the Pokanoket Wampanoag and step aboard a replica of the original *Mayflower*.

The Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, 415 South St., Waltham, 781-736-3434. Tue–Sun noon–5 p.m. Admission: \$3; museum members and children (under 16) free. The Rose houses Brandeis' collection of modern and contemporary art, widely recognized as the finest collection of its kind in the area, with pieces by artists including de Kooning, Johns, Rauschenberg and Warhol.

Salem Witch Museum, 19½ Washington Square North, Salem, 978-744-1692. Daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$6.50; seniors \$6; children (6–14) \$4.50; group rates available. Life-size stage settings and historically accurate narration recreate the hysteria of the infamous Salem Witch Trials and executions of 1692. Translations available in Japanese, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Special exhibit: *Witches: Evolving Perceptions.*

PANORAMA'S PICK



Kindra Clineff/Mass. Office of Travel & Tourism

SWAN Song by Katie Cunningham

There's a saying that birds of a feather flock together, but when spring comes to Boston the "birds" that everyone flocks to are the world-famous **Swan Boats** of the Public Garden Lagoon. For more than 125 years, the descendants of Robert Paget, inventor of these unique pedal-powered boats, have been ferrying tourists and locals alike around the Public Garden Lagoon. Immortalized in such quintessential Boston-based children's books as *Trumpet of the Swan* and *Make Way for Ducklings*, the paddle-wheeled Swans have become a symbol of the city's unique history. The boats, which can seat up to 20 passengers, offer 15-minute rides around the Lagoon and depart every few minutes. And at only \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for kids, the Swan Boats one of the best sightseeing deals in town. For those who want to see the real thing, though, don't miss the **Return of the Swans** on **May 4 at 11:30 a.m.**, a parade and ceremony in which Romeo and Juliet—the Public Garden's resident, flesh-and-feathers swans—are returned to their summer home on the Lagoon. Refer to listing, page 45.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Boston Proper, the area visitors frequent the most, is defined by seven adjoining communities, many of which were created out of the landfill projects of the 1800s: Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Chinatown, the Fenway, the Financial District, the North End and the South End. But the city's limits stretch out to include several more residential neighborhoods with unique cultures and personalities of their own. And just north of the Charles River, "T"-accessible from Boston, are the cities of Cambridge and Somerville, which team with academia, culture and entertainment options that rival those of the Hub. The following is a summary of some of Greater Boston's most prominent areas.

Back Bay. Once a low-lying harbor basin flooded at high tide, the Back Bay was transformed by the massive landfill projects of the 19th century. The project took some 50 years to complete, but the result was one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the world. Marked by its regal brownstones, tree-lined thoroughfares and alphabetically arranged street names, the Back Bay is home to Newbury Street ("the East Coast's own Rodeo Drive"), Copley Square and the Boston Public Library.

Beacon Hill. The Hub's reputation as one of the most European of American cities is most likely earned by the neighborhood of Beacon Hill. Louisburg Square takes you back to London circa 1600, and the area's narrow cobblestone streets, brownstones and gas-lit street-lamps all add to its "old world" charm. Beacon Hill boasts the quaint shops of Charles Street, the nearby Boston Common and the Massachusetts State House with its eye-catching golden dome.

Brookline. The birthplace of former President John F. Kennedy, this Green Line-accessible borough, which is practically part of Boston, has also spawned such prominent personalities as Mike Wallace of "60 Minutes" fame and late night talk show kingpin Conan O'Brien. It is also home to the art-house movie palace Coolidge Corner Theatre, a multitude of diverse dining options and bucolic Larz Anderson Park, which contains an auto museum.

Cambridge. This city on the other side of the Charles River is home to two world-renowned institutions of higher learning: Harvard University, the oldest college in the country, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A bastion of American liberalism, Cambridge is also known for its diverse squares—Harvard, Central, Kendall,

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Porter and Inman—which boast a flock of cultural, historic, shopping and dining attractions.

Charlestown. This neighborhood's legacy dates back to the Revolutionary War, when it was the site of the Battle of Bunker Hill. The battle is memorialized by the Bunker Hill Monument, a towering white obelisk overlooking the harbor. Charlestown also hosts the *U.S.S. Constitution*, which is docked at the Boston National Historical Park. Long considered an insular Irish community, Charlestown has grown more diverse thanks to real estate developers and the opening of several popular bars and restaurants, such as Todd English's landmark eatery, Olives.

Chinatown. Once regarded as a pale version of the Chinatowns in New York and San Francisco, Boston's focal point for Asian and Asian-American culture contains a wealth of shops selling Asian imports and groceries, as well as countless eateries offering regional cuisine and late hours, making it one of the best places to go for an after-midnight meal.

Downtown/Financial District. One of Boston's most active urban centers, this area encompasses Government Center, the Financial District, Downtown Crossing and the newly dubbed Ladder District, an area known for its wide array of bars and restaurants that cater to the after-work and pre-theater crowds. Downtown Crossing is a blend of commerce and culture, with street vendors and shopping at department stores like Macy's and the world-famous Filene's Basement standing alongside historical sites such as the Old South Meeting House and Old City Hall. Government Center, home to the current City Hall and its surrounding Plaza, lies adjacent to historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

The Fenway. Named for the Fens, the green parkland that winds its way through the neighborhood, the Fenway is home to Fenway Park, the legendary ballpark that hosts Beantown's beloved Red Sox. It is also a mecca of clubs (on Lansdowne Street), sports bars and restaurants. Several of the city's prominent cultural institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Symphony Hall, are located nearby.

Jamaica Plain. One of the city's most diverse areas, "J.P." contains thriving Latin-American, African-American, Irish and gay communities and is home to Jamaica Pond and Arnold Arboretum, two of the city's finest green spaces. Once a "country resort" area for Boston Brahmins, the neighborhood boasts striking 19th-century mansions on the streets closest to the Pond and eclectic shops and restaurants along Centre Street.

North End. Boston's own "Little Italy," the North End's uniquely European character is exemplified by narrow streets, cobblestone sidewalks and brick rowhouses. Although gentrification has changed the face of the neighborhood, the North End is still home to the best Italian dining in the city. The Old North Church, the Paul Revere House and Copp's Hill Burial Ground—all of which are stops on the Freedom Trail—are located here.

Somerville. Just northeast of Cambridge, the city of Somerville has long attracted students, artists and musicians with its low rents, proximity to Tufts and Harvard universities and easy access to the "T," adding a creative flair to this traditionally blue-collar area. Activity focuses around two commercial centers, Union and Davis squares, which feature a wide array of ethnic restaurants, cafes, galleries and shops.

South Boston. "Southie," as this neighborhood is commonly called, is a community bordered by Boston Harbor, the Financial District and Dorchester. The popular recreational spot Castle Island is home to historic Fort Independence. The Fort Point Channel area is known as an artists' enclave and is also home to the Boston Children's Museum. The fast-developing Seaport District, including Fish Pier, contains seafood restaurants, the World Trade Center Boston and the newly completed Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. But the heart of "Southie" is its boisterous Irish community, which hosts a renowned annual St. Patrick's Day parade along Broadway.

South End. Every city has a neighborhood that is a locus for cutting-edge art and culture. In New York, it's SoHo. In San Francisco, it's the Haight. In Boston, it's the South End. Brimming with art galleries, unique shops, bookstores and some of the hottest restaurants in the city, the South End is definitely where it's at.

CRUISES

Boston Harbor Cruises, One Long Wharf, 617-227-4321. *Call for reservations and departure times.* Boston's oldest and largest cruise company has something for everyone. Whether it's New England's only three-hour, high-speed catamaran whale watch, a sunset or lunch cruise, a historic sightseeing tour or a visit to Boston's unique Harbor Islands, BHC's variety of cruises and convenient scheduling make it easy to fit a harbor cruise into your plans.

Odyssey Cruises, departs daily from Rowes Wharf, 1-888-741-0281. *Brunch/Lunch: daily noon–2 p.m. Tickets: \$34–45. Dinner: Mon–Thu 7–10 p.m.; Fri & Sat 8–11 p.m.; Sun 6–9 p.m. Tickets: \$75–87. Boarding begins one hour prior to departure. Prices include meal.* Cruise historic Boston Harbor while enjoying lunch, brunch or dinner aboard this elegant cruise ship. Three lavish decks offer a myriad of entertainment choices, from jazz to contemporary music, and every on-deck stroll reveals the glorious Boston skyline.

SIGHTS OF INTEREST

Adams National Historical Park, 1250 Hancock St., Quincy, eight miles south of Boston, 617-770-1175. Take the "T" to the Quincy Center stop on the Red Line. *Visitor Center is open daily from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Trolley tours: depart every 30 minutes from 9:15 a.m.–3:15 p.m. Tickets: \$5; children (under 16) free.* This oft-overlooked historical gem offers insight into the lives of U.S. presidents John Adams and son John Quincy Adams. Tours stop at the birthplaces of both presidents, as well as "The Old House," which was home to five generations of the Adams family. Stop by the Visitor Center to register and purchase tickets.

Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, 617-524-1718. *Grounds open year-round, sunrise to sunset. Free admission. Visitor Center open Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sun noon–4 p.m.* This 265-acre tree sanctuary designed by Emerald Necklace architect Frederick Law Olmsted opened in 1872. Now a National Historic Landmark, the arboretum and its gardens contain more than 7,000 varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers, all labeled for your perusal.

Boston Athenaeum, 10½ Beacon St., 617-227-0270. *Member hours: Tue–Fri 8:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Mon 'til 8 p.m. Public tours: Tue & Thu at 3 p.m. Reservations required.* One of the oldest and most

distinguished private libraries in the United States, the Athenaeum was founded in 1807. For nearly half a century, it was the unchallenged center of intellectual life in Boston, and by 1851 it had become one of the five largest libraries in the country.

Boston Public Garden, bordered by Arlington, Charles, Beacon and Boylston streets. *Open daily dawn to dusk.* Established in 1837, the Public Garden is the nation's first public botanical garden. Its 24 acres are filled with scenic and diverse greenery, as well as sculptures, including one that commemorates the popular children's book *Make Way for Ducklings*. Other fixtures include the Lagoon, home to the famed Swan Boats from April through Labor Day, and a suspension bridge designed as a miniature replica of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Copley Square, 617-536-5400. *Mon–Thu 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; Fri & Sat 'til 5 p.m.; Sun 1–5 p.m. Free admission. Art & Architecture tours offered Mon at 2:30 p.m.; Tue & Thu at 6 p.m.; Fri & Sat at 11 a.m.* The first publicly supported municipal library in the world hosts one million visitors a year who come to view this architectural masterpiece and its collection of more than five million books. Film festivals, exhibits and children's programs run throughout the year.

Bunker Hill Pavilion, Boston National Historical Park Visitors Center, Charlestown, 617-242-5601. Located yards from the *U.S.S. Constitution*. *Visitor center and bookstore open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monument open daily from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission.* Check out "Whites of Their Eyes," a dramatic multimedia presentation of the Battle of Bunker Hill, one of the first major battles of the

Revolution. Or climb the nearby Bunker Hill Monument, a 221-foot granite obelisk.

Charles River Esplanade, 617-635-4305. This tree-lined park along the Charles River basin is a popular spot for leisurely strolls and picnics as well as recreational activities. Sports enthusiasts are drawn to the 17-mile biking, jogging and walking path between the Museum of Science and Watertown, while others flock to the water to sail, wind-surf, canoe or kayak. The nearby DCR Hatch Shell frequently hosts concerts and films, as well as the famous Boston Pops concerts.

Custom House Tower, 3 McKinley Square, 617-310-6300. *Free historical tours daily at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tours may be cancelled due to weather conditions, call ahead.* Boston's first skyscraper, the Custom House stands high over Boston Harbor as one of the city's most impressive landmarks. Crowned by its distinctive clock tower and restored with modern luxuries, the building epitomizes the preservation of Boston's historic architecture. Today, the Marriott Corporation operates this landmark.

Emerald Necklace, parks throughout Boston, 617-635-7487. *Free guided tours by appointment only.* This world-famous string of parks that runs through the city was the brainchild of renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, and took almost 20 years to complete. The six green spaces—Back Bay Fens, Riverway, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park—stretch five miles from the Charles River to Dorchester and make up over 1,000 acres of parkland. The necklace is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Although not officially part of the Emerald

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Necklace, Boston Common and the Public Garden are sometimes considered the starting points, and are connected to the Necklace by the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

The First Church of Christ Scientist, 175 Huntington Ave., 617-450-3790. *Services: Sun at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Wed at noon and 7:30 p.m.* The original Mother Church built in 1894 is at the heart of the Christian Science Center, situated on 14 acres in the Back Bay. The Romanesque structure is made from New Hampshire granite with stained glass windows illustrating Biblical events. *Also see listing for the Mary Baker Eddy Library.*

Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., 617-524-0128. *Open daily from dawn to dusk.* Created in 1848, this cemetery serves as the final resting place of Eugene O'Neill, Anne Sexton, e.e. cummings, William Lloyd Garrison and former Boston Celtic Reggie Lewis. The 275 acres of twisting paths also contain sculptural treasures, an arboretum, a "library" of life stories and an open-air museum. *Special event: May 1 at 2 p.m.—Poetry reading by Suzanne Owens, Lainie Senechal, B.G. Thuston and Deborah Warren.*

Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., 617-227-3956. *Tours: Wed–Sun 11 a.m.–4:30 p.m. every 30 minutes. Admission: \$8; seniors \$4; students \$2.50; free for kids. Historic New England members and Boston residents.* Built in 1796 for Harrison Gray Otis and his wife, Sally, this grand mansion is a brilliant example of high-style Federal elegance. *Tours offer insight into the social, business and family life of the post-Revolution American elite.*

John Hancock Tower, 200 Clarendon St., 617-572-6429. Rising 62 stories into the sky, this I.M. Pei-designed, silver-of-glass skyscraper is New England's tallest building and is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful skyscrapers in the world. The building houses the headquarters of its namesake, insurance giant John Hancock Financial. Unfortunately, the observatory on the 60th floor was closed after September 11, 2001.

The Mary Baker Eddy Library, 200 Mass. Ave., 617-450-7000. *Open Tue–Sun from 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thu & Fri 'til 9 p.m. Admission: \$5; seniors, students with ID and youth (6–17) \$3; children (under 6) and members free.* Home to the world-famous Mapparium, a three-story stained-glass globe depicting the world as it existed in 1934, which guests can walk through. Visitors to the library can follow Mary Baker Eddy's quest for insight and embark on one of their own through interactive exhibits in the Quest Gallery, or try out a "desk job" at the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Christian Science Monitor*.

New England Holocaust Memorial, Congress Street near Faneuil Hall. This haunting memorial features six luminous glass towers etched with the six million prisoner numbers of those who perished in the Holocaust. Visitors can walk under the towers and read the dramatic stories of the victims and heroes of this tremendous human tragedy.

The Skywalk Observatory at the Prudential Center, 617-859-0648. *Open daily 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Skywalk kiosk closes at 6 p.m. Admission (including a headset audio tour of points of interest): \$9.50; seniors \$7; children (under 12) \$6.50. Observatory may be closed due to weather conditions, please call ahead.* Enjoy spectacular 360-degree panoramic views of Boston and beyond and learn about the city's 375 years of culture and history on the new Antennae Audio Tour. Recently added displays include "Dreams of Freedom," featuring the Boston immigrant experience; an exhibit overlooking Fenway Park dedicated the legendary Red Sox slugger Ted Williams and a new the-

ater showing "Wings Over Boston," a spectacular aerial tour of the entire city. *SEE LOCATOR #11 ON CENTER MAP.*

Trinity Church, Copley Square, 617-536-0944. *Open daily from 8 a.m.–6 p.m.; tours available.* Built in 1877, this house of worship, a combination of Victorian, Gothic and French Romanesque styles, is one of the great masterpieces of American church architecture. The building is located in Copley Square adjacent to the I.M. Pei-designed John Hancock Tower, itself a contemporary architectural masterpiece. The church is currently in the midst of a \$53 million preservation initiative.

TOURS AND TRAILS

Boston Art Tours, 617-732-3920. *Call for full tour schedule.* Boston Art Tours offers various excursions to area museums and galleries that highlight different historical time periods. Families may choose from age-appropriate tours offering lively descriptions of works to help further the understanding of art.

Boston Bike Tour, 617-308-5902. *Tours: Mon & Wed–Sat at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Sun feature tour from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Tickets: \$18, Sun tour \$25. Rentals: \$5 an hour; \$25 per day. Call for more information.* Tours make stops at various sites while your guide shares history and pokes playful fun at the city and its heritage. *Tours leave from the Boston Common Visitor Center at Park Street Station (bikes and equipment are provided).*

Black Heritage Trail, 617-742-5415. *Tours: Mon–Sat at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Call at least 24 hours in advance for reservations.* A guided tour through the north side of Beacon Hill, including the homes of politicians and entrepreneurs; the African Meeting House, built in 1806; the oldest standing house built by an African-American (1797); and the home of Lewis and Harriet Hayden, who harbored runaway slaves. Maps are available at the Museum of Afro-American History.

Boston Duck Tours, Prudential Center and Museum of Science. *www.bostonducktours.com. Tours: seven days a week, 9 a.m. 'til one hour before sunset. Tickets: \$25; seniors, students & military \$22; children (3–11) \$16; (under 3) \$3; special needs \$10. Group discounts available.* Experience the city in an amazing vehicle that rides on land and water. The 80-minute tour visits most of Boston's famous sights. And just when you think you've seen it all, your Duck splashes into the Charles River for a spectacular water view.

Boston Irish Heritage Trail, various sites Downtown and in the Back Bay, 617-696-9880. Maps available at Boston Common and Prudential Visitor Information Centers. *www.irishheritagetrail.com.* A self-guided, three-mile walking tour that covers 300 years of history as it takes you through Boston's downtown, North End, Beacon Hill and Back Bay neighborhoods. Learn about famous politicians, artists and war heroes and the rich tradition of rebellion, leadership and triumph that personifies the Boston Irish.

Fenway Park Tours, 4 Yawkey Way, 617-226-6666. *Tours daily each hour from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. or until three hours before game time. Tickets: \$12; seniors \$11; children (under 14) \$10.* Tours originate at the Souvenir Store located on Yawkey Way across from Service Gate D, rain or shine. Have you dreamt of walking across the field where Red Sox legends spent their glory days? This tour offers a behind-the-scenes look at America's oldest active Major League ballpark, including a glimpse behind the famed "Green Monster."

The Freedom Trail Foundation's Freedom Trail Players, departing from the Visitor Center on Boston Common, 617-357-8300. *Tours daily at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Tickets: \$12; children (12 and under) \$6.* Explore the Freedom Trail with costumed actors portraying famous patriots such as James Otis, Abigail Adams and William Dawes in this 90-minute tour. Stops include the Park Street Church, the Boston Massacre Site, the Old State House and Faneuil Hall.

Harpoon Brewery Tour, 306 Northern Ave., 1-888-HARPOON ext. 522. *Tours: Tue–Sat at 3 p.m.; Fri & Sat at 1 and 3 p.m. Free admission.* This waterfront institution is one of Boston's only microbreweries. Visitors gather at the Tap Room, which overlooks the brewery, for 30- to 45-minute tours of the plant.

The Innovation Odyssey, departing from 28 State St. (at 2 p.m.), free shuttle from Museum of Science (at 1:45 p.m.), 617-350-0358. *Tours: 2nd Sat of every month at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$25; students (with ID) \$15; children (under 10) \$10; family rate \$50.* This two-hour journey showcases Boston as the birthplace of such innovations as the telephone, the Internet and modern surgery. Board a luxury motorcoach to visit Boston's hidden historical treasures, including the MIT Museum, Harvard Medical School and the Ether Dome at Mass General Hospital. DVD program included.

The Literary Trail, departing from the Omni Parker House, 60 School St., 617-350-0358. *Guided tours: 2nd Sat of every month at 9 a.m., rain or shine. Tickets: \$30; children (under 12) \$26. Group tours also available. Tickets include entrance to all museums on the trail.* This 20-mile tour includes stops at the Boston Athenaeum; the Omni Parker House; Cambridge's Longfellow House; the Concord Museum, which houses Ralph Waldo Emerson's study; and famed Walden Pond.

North End Market Tour, 64 Cross St., take the T to Haymarket, 617-523-6032. *www.northendmarkettours.com. Wed & Sat 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 2–5 p.m.; Fri 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. Reservations required. Custom tours for groups available. Tickets: \$49 per person.* Michele Topor, an authority on Italian cuisine and culture, hosts award-winning culinary walking tours through one of the nation's oldest Italian-American communities.

Old Town Trolley Tour of Boston, 617-269-7010. *Departs every 15–20 minutes daily from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Tickets: \$26; seniors & students \$24; children (under 12) free.* With 16 stops throughout the city, including the New England Aquarium, U.S.S. Constitution Museum, the Trolley Stop Store on the corner of South Charles and Boylston streets, and most major hotels (see your concierge), patrons can enjoy a 100-minute, fully narrated sightseeing tour of more than 100 points of interest aboard the orange-and-green, all-weather trolley.

Samuel Adams Brewery Tour: Drink in a Little History, 30 Germania St., Jamaica Plain, 617-368-5080. *Tours: Thu at 2 p.m.; Fri at 2 and 5:30 p.m.; Sat at noon, 1 and 2 p.m.; one-hour tours include samples (ID required). Tickets: \$2; donation given to a local charity.* Learn about the art of brewing beer and taste the rich malts and spicy hops on this tour of the original Samuel Adams brewery.

Swan Boats, Public Garden Lagoon, 617-522-1966. *Rides: daily from 10 a.m.–4 p.m., weather permitting. Tickets: \$2.50, children (2–15) \$1.* One of Boston's oldest and most treasured traditions, these pedal-powered boats glide around the Public Garden and under the smallest suspension bridge in the world. *Refer to story, page 40.*

CAMBRIDGE

Due to limited parking, it is best to take the Red Line when traveling to Harvard, Central or Kendall squares. The Cambridge Discovery Booth located at the Harvard Square "T" entrance provides additional information.

Cambridge Common/Old Burying Ground. A grazing pasture and cemetery for Puritan Newtowne, as well as a favorite meeting spot for public figures and a tent site for the Continental Army. Early college presidents and town residents were buried in "God's Acre" across from the Common.

Christ Church. This 1761 Tory house of worship was utilized as a Colonial barracks during the American Revolution.

First Church Unitarian/Universalist. Harvard College provided the pews for its students in this 1833 building erected for the then-newly founded Unitarian Church.

Harvard and Radcliffe Yards. The centers of two institutions that have played major educational roles since Harvard's founding in 1636.

Harvard Square/Old Cambridge. The center of Cambridge activity since the 17th century, the Square is home to Harvard University, historic buildings, bookstores, cafes, restaurants and shops.

Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge, 617-547-7105. *Open daily from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.* Founded in 1831 by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Mount Auburn was the first landscaped cemetery in the country. Many prominent Americans are buried here, including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Isabella Stewart Gardner and Winslow Homer. The cemetery is also an arboretum, sculpture garden and wildlife sanctuary.

Tory Row (Brattle Street). One of the nation's most beautiful residential streets, Tory Row is the site of Loyalist mansions and their elegant neighbors from every period of American architecture.

WILDLIFE

Franklin Park Zoo, One Franklin Park Road, Franklin Park, 617-541-LION. *Open Mon–Fri from 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat & Sun 'til 6 p.m. Admission: \$9.50; seniors \$8; children (2–15) \$5; children (under 2) free.* Home to more than 210 species, including many endangered animals. Roam the Australian Outback Trail with wallabies and kangaroos; explore the Tropical Forest and see the gorillas; marvel at the lions at Kalahari Kingdom; and visit zebras, ostriches, ibex and wildebeests at Serengeti Crossing. *Special event: Apr 30 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m.—Spring Fling, a celebration of spring featuring entertainment by Radio Disney.*

New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, 617-973-5200. *Open Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sat & Sun 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Admission: \$15.95; seniors \$13.95; children (3–11) \$8.95; children (under 3) free. Refer to Currently section under Film for IMAX theater listings. Combination ticket prices available.* Dedicated to advancing knowledge of the world of water, this outstanding aquatic zoo features a 187,000-gallon Giant Ocean Tank containing a Caribbean coral reef with sharks, sea turtles, moray eels and other aquatic life. Be sure to check out the popular penguin habitat. *Special exhibit: Amazing Jellies.* The adjacent Simons 3D IMAX Theater is the first theater of its kind in the Boston area. *Refer to Film in Currently for complete IMAX theater listings and Kids Corner for special events.*



THE REDCOATS ARE COMING—Men costumed as British loyalists march in formation along the Freedom Trail near Faneuil Hall.

The Freedom Trail begins at the Boston Common Information Kiosk where you can obtain a free guide or rent a handheld self-guided audio tour complete with sound effects and anecdotes for \$15, \$12 for each additional adult and \$10 for children. Free 90-minute, park ranger-guided tours begin **April 16** and depart from the Boston National Historical Park Visitors Center at the corner of State and Devonshire streets, Mon–Fri at 2 p.m., Sat & Sun at 10 & 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. First come, first serve. Arrive 30 minutes prior to tour. Call 617-242-5642 for more information. The number accompanying each site listed below refers to the site's location as shown on Panorama's map (see facing page).

Boston Common (1). Set aside in 1634 as a military training field and grazing pasture, the Common is the oldest public park in America. The park served as quarters for British as well as Colonial troops, and housed Civil War regiments. The British Army set out for the start of the Revolutionary War from what is now Park Square.

The State House (2). Beacon Street, top of Beacon Hill facing Boston Common, 617-727-3676. Open Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–5 p.m., except holidays. Guided tours Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. The famous golden dome of the State House marks the government seat of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The cornerstone was laid by Samuel Adams, and the building stands on land bought from John Hancock. The red brick portion was designed by the legendary architect Charles Bulfinch.

Park Street Church (3). Corner of Park and Tremont streets, 617-523-3383. Sunday services at 8:30 & 11 a.m. and 4 & 6 p.m. Morning services are traditional, evening services are contemporary. Built in 1809, this

church was described by Henry James as “the most interesting mass of brick and mortar in America.”

Old Granary Burying Ground (4). Tremont Street next to Park Street Church, 617-635-7389. Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. This historic cemetery, formerly the town granary, is the final resting place of John Hancock, Paul Revere, Robert Treat Paine, Samuel Adams, Peter Faneuil, James Otis and the victims of the Boston Massacre. A stone inscribed “Mary Goose” (a.k.a. Elizabeth Goose) allegedly marks the grave of Mother Goose.

King's Chapel and Burying Ground (5). Tremont and School streets, 617-227-2155. Open Mon & Fri 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Sat 9–4 p.m., Sun 1–3 p.m. Services: Sun at 11 a.m., Wed at 12:15 p.m. Burying Ground open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Tours: Mon and Thu–Sat 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Tue and Wed 1–4 p.m. Visitors are reminded that King's Chapel is a house of worship. The chapel was established in 1687 as the first Anglican congregation in Boston. The second chapel, built in 1754, became the first Unitarian church in America after the Revolution.

Site of the first public school and Ben Franklin's statue (6). On School Street, marked by a column and commemorative plaque. On April 13, 1635 the town voted to establish the first public school in the country (the forerunner of the Boston Latin School). Nearby is Benjamin Franklin's statue, built in 1856, the first portrait-statue erected in the United States.

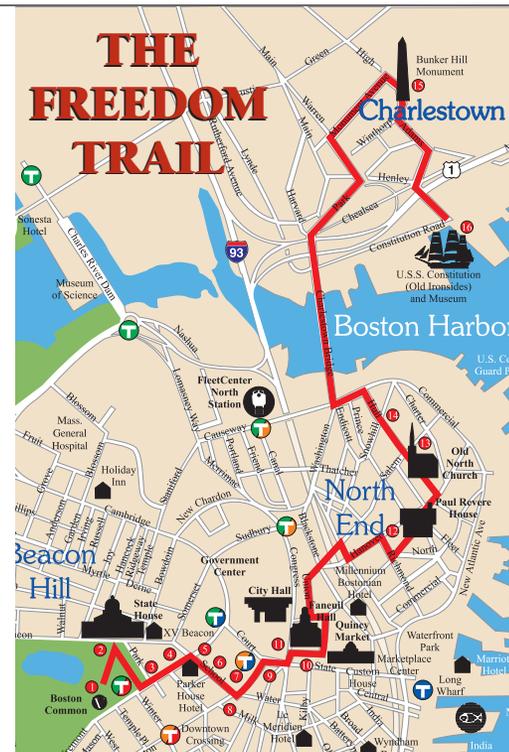
Site of the Old Corner Bookstore (7). School and Washington streets, 617-367-4000. Constructed as an apothecary in 1718, the ground floor was later used as a bookstore that became the center of literary Boston and the meeting place of such notables as Emerson, Hawthorne, Longfellow and Thoreau.

Old South Meeting House (8). 310 Washington St., 617-482-6439. Open daily 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$5; students & seniors \$4; children (6–18) \$1; children (under 6) free. This building housed many town meetings, the most famous of which triggered the Boston Tea Party. Permanent exhibit: Voices of Protest.

Old State House (9). Corner of Washington and State streets, 617-720-3292. Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission: \$5; students & seniors \$4; children (6–18) \$1; children (under 6) free. Built in 1713, this seat of colonial government was the center of activity for such patriots as John Hancock, and Samuel and John Adams. It was from the east balcony that the Declaration of Independence was first read in Boston.

Boston Massacre Site (10). State Street in front of the Old State House. At the next intersection below the State House, a ring of cobblestones marks the site of the clash between a jeering Boston crowd and a British guard of nine soldiers on March 5, 1770.

Faneuil Hall (11). Merchants Row and Faneuil Hall Square, 617-523-1300. Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Historical talks given daily every half hour 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Military museum open Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. “The Cradle of Liberty” combines in one building a free enterprise market on the first floor with a free marketplace for the exchange of ideas upstairs.



Paul Revere House (12). 19 North Square, Hanover Street, 617-523-2338. Open daily 9:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m., beginning **Apr 15 'til 5:15 p.m.** Admission: \$3; students & seniors with I.D. \$2; children (5–17) \$1; (under 5) free. The oldest home in Boston, built about 1680, was occupied by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800.

Old North Church (13). 193 Salem St., 617-523-6676. Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Sun services at 9 and 11 a.m. Known as Christ Church and erected in 1723, this is Boston's oldest standing church, where two lanterns were hung on April 18, 1775, signaling the Redcoats' departure by sea for Lexington and Concord.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground (14). Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Hull Street. Set out in 1660, Copp's Hill was Boston's second cemetery. Many remarkable people are interred here, including Increase Mather, his son Cotton, Cotton's son Samuel Mather and Edmund Hartt, builder of the U.S.S. Constitution.

Bunker Hill Monument (15). Breed's Hill, Charlestown, 617-242-5641. Climb the monument from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Lodge and museum open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. The site of the historic battle of June 1775.

U.S.S. Constitution (16). Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown, 617-242-5670. Free guided tours Thu–Sun from 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. This 44-gun frigate is the oldest commissioned warship in the world. The U.S.S. Constitution Museum, located adjacent to the ship, is open daily from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Call 617-426-1812.

PANORAMA'S PICK



HEART of Italy by Christopher Wallenberg

UMBRIA 295 Franklin St., 617-338-1000

Once upon a time, if you wanted great Italian food, you headed straight to the North End. But now there are celebrated Italian eateries all over Boston. One such newcomer to the dining scene, **Umbria**, focuses on the oft-overlooked “green heart of Italy.” Though it isn’t as well-known or as well-trodden as nearby Tuscany, the Umbria region possesses a distinct culinary palate. Umbrian cuisine, like much Italian cooking, is prepared with pure, rustic simplicity, focusing on a handful of flavorful ingredients like robust meats that pull together, not overwhelm, each dish. Umbria the restaurant is a chic, 21st century take on an old-school Italian trattoria, with an expansive interior that includes an open kitchen, exposed brick walls and ceiling beams, and French doors that open up during summer. As for those potent ingredients, executive chef Marisa Iocco has partnered with a farm in Monterosello to supply her with the freshest goods. With spring finally arriving, appetizers like slow-braised octopus and wild boar sausage have given way to grilled calamari stuffed with house-cured spicy pork sausage, as well as a plate of assorted cheeses and homemade salamis paired with poached spicy pears. For entrees, try the eye-opening lobster brodetto, stuffed with crab meat and faro—a popular Mediterranean grain—and drowned in a mouth-watering broth. The fresh pastas, made on premises, include Umbria’s signature fettucelle Amatricana, wide linguini tossed with house-cured pancetta, sweet onions and a light tomato sauce. And don’t miss the divine desserts by one of Boston’s best pastry chefs, Lee Napoli.

- B** = Breakfast
- L** = Lunch
- D** = Dinner
- BR** = Brunch
- SB** = Sunday Brunch
- C** = Cocktails
- LS** = Late Supper
- VP** = Valet Parking
- *** = Entertainment

AVERAGE PRICE OF DINNER ENTREES

- \$** — Most entrees less than \$12
- \$\$** — Most entrees \$12–18
- \$\$\$** — Most entrees \$19–25
- \$\$\$\$** — Most entrees more than \$25

Many restaurants offer a wide range of entrees and prices; therefore, the classifications are only approximations. Restaurants listed accept major credit cards unless otherwise specified.

I	American	49
	Chinese	50
	Eastern Mediterranean	50
	French/French-American	51
	French Country	52
N	Indian	52
	International	52
D	Irish	53
	Italian	54
E	Mediterranean	56
	Museum Dining	56
X	New England	56
	Seafood	57
	Southwestern	59
	Steakhouses	59

AMERICAN

Apropos, Sheraton Boston, 39 Dalton St., 617-375-6500. Drawing its influences from American regional cuisine with a strong New England flair, the menu at Apropos offers hearty, satisfying dishes ranging from pan-roasted Chilean sea bass to grilled New York sirloin and herbed roasted chicken. The menu, created by executive chef Joseph Nartowicz, exudes the flavors of Boston. B, L, D, SB. \$\$\$

Aura, Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, 617-385-4300. Aura’s seasonal menus showcase chef John Merrill’s passion for using fresh, local ingredients in his recipes. Chef Merrill partners with local farmers and fishermen to select freshly harvested vegetables, seafood that is just off the boat and specially aged meats and cheeses to create his award-winning meals. B, L, D, SB. \$\$\$

***Avenue One**, Hyatt Regency, Financial District, 1 Ave. de Lafayette, 617-422-5579. Enjoy Boston’s most extensive fondue menu in a relaxed atmosphere. Live jazz every Thu. B, L, D, C. \$\$

***Bob the Chef’s Jazz Cafe**, 604 Columbus Ave., 617-536-6204. Boston’s premier soul food restaurant features a wide array of talented local jazz musicians as well as a delightful assortment of southern and Cajun cuisines to satisfy any palate. Live jazz SB 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. D Mon–Thu 5–10 p.m., L & D Fri & Sat 11:30 a.m.–midnight. www.bobthechef.com. \$\$

***Cheers**, 84 Beacon St., 617-227-9605. Also: Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-227-0150. Both the original Beacon Hill and Faneuil Hall locations offer a mouthwatering selection of traditional fare and an abundant beverage selection, including their award-winning Bloody Mary and a variety of draft beers. Live entertainment is offered Thu–Sat nights. Pick up officially licensed Cheers merchandise at the gift shop. L, D, C, LS. \$

***Dick’s Last Resort**, Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., 617-267-8080. This is the joint your mama warned you about. Dick’s serves buckets of barbecue pork ribs and chicken, as well as lobster,

HIGH 5: CHIPS SAHOY!

Who knew that Massachusetts is home to one of the country’s most ingenious inventions? Formerly known as the Toll House Cookie, the chocolate chip cookie was born at a New Bedford inn in 1930. Seventy-five years later, its gooey goodness is served fresh at dozens of bakeries in Boston and around the world. Indulge your senses at these local neighborhood favorites.



1 BOSTON CHIPYARD, 257 Quincy Market, 617-742-9537. A Quincy Market meal is not complete without a trip to this sweet shop, which was founded by two brothers from Newport, California. Wait for the cookies fresh out of the oven for a truly divine experience.

2 MIKE’S PASTRY, 300 Hanover St., 617-742-3050. Aside from its acclaimed cannolis, this famous North End pastry shop offers over 50 cookie varieties. Have a seat at the Italian-style café and enjoy a cappuccino while munching on scrumptious specialties such as the chocolate Florentine and chocolate rainbow.

3 FINALE, One Columbus Ave., 617-423-3184; other location. This swank “desserterie” offers an exquisite array of desserts and light appetizers, leaving little need to fuss with entrees. Cookie options include triple chocolate, chocolate chip walnut and white chocolate cranberry.

4 BOVA’S BAKERY, 134 Salem St., 617-523-5601. Located in the North End, this 24-hour, family-run bakery is a haven for night owls and early birds. Complement a late night calzone with your choice of freshly baked cookies, cream puffs and other Italian delicacies.

5 FLOUR BAKERY & CAFE, 1597 Washington St., 617-267-4300. This highly praised South End bakery serves treats fresh out of the oven. Try the Schraffenberger chocolate chip or the Schraffenberger double chocolate for the ultimate cookie-munching experience.

—Marketa Hulpachova

shrimp and crab legs, steak and salads. There are also 74 kinds of beer. Dick's has SB 10 a.m.–3 p.m., which includes Belgian waffles, omelets, crab cake Benedict, breakfast burritos, fresh fruit and a make-your-own Bloody Mary bar. Live music, no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The Shame of Boston." L 11:30 a.m.–4 p.m.; D Sun–Thu 4 p.m.–midnight, Fri & Sat 'til 1 a.m. www.dickslastresort.com \$\$

The Federalist, Fifteen Beacon Hotel, 15 Beacon St., 617-670-2515. The menu at this powerbrokers' haven offers artistic imagination in the preparation of dishes ranging from Colorado rack of lamb to skillet-roasted French Dover sole, in an atmosphere that evokes the stately traditions of the world's most private clubs. A rooftop herb garden and in-kitchen fish tanks help to ensure culinary perfection. B, D, Sat & SB, C, LS. \$\$\$\$

Finale, One Columbus Ave., behind the Four Seasons Hotel, 617-423-3184; 30 Dunster St., Harvard Sq., Cambridge, 617-441-9797. One of the only dessert restaurants in America, Finale features items like the caramel carnivale and its signature "molten chocolate cake." Chef Nicole Coady's menu is complemented by its luscious drink menu of ports, champagnes, cordials and its well-known "Finale Favorites." A light dinner menu is available. L & D. \$\$

***Hard Rock Cafe**, 131 Clarendon St., two blocks from Boylston St., 617-424-ROCK (7625). HRC Boston serves up the best down-home American food possible, seasoned with a healthy dose of rock 'n' roll. Try the infamous "Pig" sandwich, excellent burgers and chicken sandwiches. Memorabilia highlights include "The Aerosmithsonian," the "Boston Wall of Fame," Phish's vacuum, Jim Morrison's leather pants and Madonna's bustier. L, D, C, LS. \$

Jer-Ne Restaurant & Bar, The Ritz-Carlton Boston Common, 12 Avery St., 617-574-7176. Chef Jason Adams sets an uncharted course of adventure in contemporary cuisine, featuring American favorites, seafood and steaks, all artistically presented. The artful menu is created from a palette of lush local flavors. The restaurant also boasts an exhibition kitchen. B, L, D, SB, C, LS. \$\$\$\$

Locke-Ober, 3 Winter Place, 617-542-1340. Helmed by local culinary innovator Lydia Shire (Biba, Excelsior), this downtown landmark has been refurbished and restored to its former glory. The menu of this Boston Brahmin bastion has been updated, but Shire has kept many of its classics, including the steak tartar and the legendary lobster Savannah. L, D, LS. \$\$\$\$

Meritage, Boston Harbor Hotel at Rowes Wharf, 617-439-3995. Fresh, seasonal cuisine is carefully matched to an appropriate vintage from the 12,000-bottle wine collection. The restaurant's interior combines slate, marble, exotic wood and leather, creating a luxurious atmosphere to accompany a hearty meal. All menu items come in appetizer and entree sizes. D, LS. \$\$\$\$

Parker's Restaurant, Omni Parker House, 60 School St., 617-725-1600. Executive chef Jerry Tice celebrates nostalgic cuisine with a contemporary flair. The stately dining room reflects the rich culinary heritage that lives on at the birthplace of Boston cream pie and the Parker House roll. B, L, D. \$\$\$\$

Speeder & Earl's, Copley Square Hotel, 47 Huntington Ave., 617-536-9000. Boston's "quirkiest" breakfast and coffee bar, serving traditional and innovative favorites such as eggs Benedict and malted waffles. Boston's best pastries and premium blends of gourmet

coffee from Speeder & Earl's of Vermont and are also featured. B, L, Sat & SB, D. \$

The Spinnaker, atop the Hyatt Regency, 575 Memorial Dr., Cambridge, 617-492-1234. Enjoy a panoramic view of the Boston skyline and Charles River while dining in Boston's only revolving rooftop restaurant and lounge. Spinnaker features American cuisine for dinner and Sunday Brunch. Savor a cocktail or dance under the stars on Fri & Sat evenings. D, LS, SB. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$

Stephanie's on Newbury, 190 Newbury St., 617-236-0990. Recommended by *The New York Times*, chef/owner Stephanie Sidell's eatery showcases sophisticated American cooking, including salads, grilled fish chicken and comfort food, such as meatloaf. Casual elegance at its best with sidewalk cafe, club-like bar and skylit dining space. Mon–Sat 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.–10 p.m. L, D, SB 10 a.m.–3 p.m., C, VP Tue–Sat evenings. \$\$\$

Theatre Cafe, Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., 617-574-2752. Located in the heart of the theater district, this restaurant features traditional American fare in a comfortable atmosphere and is a great location for pre- and post-theater dining. Seasonal outdoor dining and discounted parking at on-site garage is available. Open daily for B, L, D. \$\$

***Top of the Hub**, 800 Boylston St., Prudential Center, 617-536-1775. There is nothing like sitting 52 stories above Boston for dining and a spectacular view of the city. The magnificent cuisine complements the breathtaking views. L, D, LS, C. Live jazz seven nights a week. \$\$\$\$

CHINESE

Chau Chow City, 83 Essex St., Chinatown, 617-338-8158; 52 Beach St., Chinatown, 617-426-6266. This flagship of the Chau Chow chain features authentic Swatowese seafood dishes, such as clams in black bean sauce, lobster or crab with ginger and scallion, and spicy fried calamari. The service is superb, and the daily dim sum attracts those with adventurous palates. Also a great place for an after-midnight meal. L, D, LS. \$\$

Peking Tom's Longtang Lounge, 25 Kingston St., 617-482-6282. This hip, funky downtown eatery specializes in gourmet makeovers of traditional Cantonese and Polynesian dishes such as kung pao chicken and the ubiquitous pu pu platter, as well as potent, colorful cocktails like the scorpion bowl and the innovative kumquat mojito. L, D, C, LS. \$\$

P.F. Chang's, 8 Park Plaza, Theatre District, 617-573-0821. Traditional Chinese cuisine and American hospitality combine in this upbeat bistro. Specialties include Chang's chicken in soothing lettuce wraps, Dan Dan noodles and orange peel shrimp. An array of vegetarian dishes such as Sichuan-style long beans and stir-fried spicy eggplant are also available. Enjoy an impressive list of over 50 wines. Reservations accepted but not required. L & D Sun–Wed 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Thu–Sat 'til midnight. C, LS. \$\$

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Lala Rokh, 97 Mt. Vernon St., 617-720-5511. Lala Rokh, the legendary princess immortalized in the 19th-century tale by Irish poet

Thomas Moore, is honored by brother/sister team Babak and Azita Bina. Using their mother's home-style Persian recipes and unusual imported spices, they've created a unique dining experience in the only restaurant of its kind in New England. Elegant and affordable, it's a highlight of historic Beacon Hill. L Mon–Fri noon–3 p.m.; D nightly 5:30–10 p.m. Reservations recommended. VP. www.lalarokh.com \$\$\$

FRENCH/FRENCH-AMERICAN

Aujourd'hui, Four Seasons Hotel Boston, 200 Boylston St., 617-351-2037. Featuring an ambiance of contemporary elegance with the Public Garden as a backdrop, this eatery is one of only two restaurants in the state to receive the AAA Five Diamond Award. With its recent re-opening and new look, Aujourd'hui welcomes chef de cuisine Jerome Legras, whose debut menu of modern French cuisine uses the freshest regional ingredients. To complement the flavors, sommelier Ted Davidson offers an award-winning selection of wine from an 1,800-bottle library. Reservations recommended. D Mon–Sat 5:30–10:30 p.m., Sun 6–10 p.m.; SB 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. \$\$\$\$

Brasserie Jo, The Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave., 617-425-3240. Regional French cooking in the classic brasserie style. The "sister" of chef Jean Joho's award-winning Chicago restaurant combines traditional favorites (coq au vin and steak frites) with unique specialties (Uncle Hansi's onion tart). Home-brewed beer, a wine list and desserts in the French tradition complete this Gallic experience. Seasonal outdoor patio. B, L, D. \$\$

***Café Fleuri**, Langham Hotel Boston, 250 Franklin St., 617-451-1900. Feast under the stars in Mediterranean ambiance. Enjoy what *Boston* magazine hails as "the best Sunday brunch in Boston" or partake in a wonderful à la carte menu featuring Mediterranean fare, regional American specialties, and authentic French pastries and desserts—all within a beautiful sunlit garden atrium. B Mon–Fri 6:30–11:30 a.m., Sat 7:30–11 a.m.; L daily 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; D Mon–Sat 6–10 p.m., Sun 4–10 p.m.; SB 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. \$\$

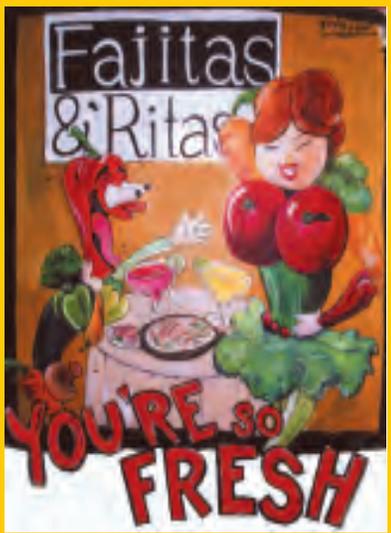
Clio, The Eliot Hotel, 370-A Commonwealth Ave., 617-536-7200. James Beard Award-winning chef Ken Oringer serves up French-American fare with some striking Asian influences in a sleek, sophisticated atmosphere that's styled after a Parisian supper club. Bacon-wrapped foie gras, caramelized swordfish au poivre and ginger-glazed oxtail keep customers coming back for more. D. \$\$\$\$

Hammersley's Bistro, 533 Tremont St., 617-423-2700. This pioneering French-American classic, helmed by the husband and wife team of Gordon and Fiona Hammersley, first put the South End dining scene on the map. Try the duck confit or the roast chicken with garlic, lemon and parsley. Long regarded as one of the city's top tables. D. \$\$\$\$

***Julien**, Langham Hotel Boston, 250 Franklin St., 617-451-1900. The award-winning Julien offers creative contemporary French cuisine in a formal dining room of unparalleled elegance and intimacy. An ideal setting for pre-theatre dining, a private business dinner or a romantic celebration. D Mon–Sat 6–10 p.m. Tapas menu available at bar Mon–Fri 4–7 p.m. \$\$\$\$



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No. 9 Park, 9 Park St., 617-742-9991. Nationally acclaimed chef Barbara Lynch serves up French and Italian style dishes in a sophisticated bistro atmosphere atop Beacon Hill. Chef Lynch has a subtle hand in the kitchen, turning out inventive renditions of classic Italian and French fare such as fresh pasta and foie gras. L, D, LS. \$\$\$\$

Radius, 8 High St., 617-426-1234. James Beard Award-winning chef Michael Schlow churns out impeccably prepared nouveau French fare such as foie gras-suffused Vermont pheasant and New Zealand loin of venison in an ultra-modern, minimalist setting. Pastry chef Paul Connors creates rapturously delectable desserts. The ambiance is powerbroker chic, and the service is top-notch. L, D, C, LS. \$\$\$\$

Spire, Nine Zero Hotel, 90 Tremont St., 617-772-0202. Alluringly ensconced in Boston's most fashionable luxury boutique hotel, Spire features a striking interior and chef Gabriel Frasca's cuisine, which combines flavors from France, Italy, Spain and Portugal with seasonal New England ingredients. Named one of "America's 50 Best Hotel Restaurants" by *Food and Wine*. B, L, D, LS, VP. \$\$\$\$

FRENCH COUNTRY

Hungry i, 71 1/2 Charles St., 617-227-3524. This restored two-story Beacon Hill townhouse features three working fireplaces and a charming outdoor patio. Chef Peter Ballarin celebrates over 20 years of romancing patrons with French country cuisine and his flair for creative desserts. Signature dishes include venison au poivre, braised rabbit à la moutard and turbin of sole. L Thu and Fri only, noon-2 p.m.; D 5:30-9:30 p.m.; SB 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Private dining room available upon request. *SEE LOCATOR #6 ON CENTER MAP*. \$\$\$\$

INDIAN

Gandhi, 704 Mass. Ave., Central Square, Cambridge, 617-491-1104. Savor the scents and flavors of India and enjoy exceptional Indian cuisine in the heart of Central Square. Only the freshest produce, herbs and delicate spices are used to prepare the healthy fare. L daily noon-3 p.m.; D noon-11 p.m.; SB noon-3 p.m. L buffet daily noon-3 p.m., "All you can eat" \$5.95. Beer & wine. \$

Shanti, 1111 Dorchester Ave., 617-929-3900. Hailed by the *Boston Phoenix* as "one of the best [South Asian] restaurants Boston has ever had," Shanti specializes in cuisine from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, blending such unique flavors as garlic, ginger, mint and fresh coconut. The Huntington Ave. location is ideal for pre- or post-symphony or theater dining and boasts a large beer and wine selection. L daily 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; D 5-11 p.m. \$

INTERNATIONAL

Blue Ginger, 583 Washington St. (Rte. 16), Wellesley, 781-283-5790. Celebrity chef Ming Tsai combines the flavors of Asia, Europe and the Americas to produce a unique cuisine that has won the praise of critics. Signature dishes like sake-miso Chilean sea bass with wasabi oil and soy syrup make it worth the short ride to the suburbs. L & D. \$\$\$\$

Intrigue, Boston Harbor Hotel at Rows Wharf, 617-856-7744. Casual elegance surrounds this unique cafe. Beautiful decor and breathtaking harbor views are perfect for those who desire a cos-

mopolitan, relaxed atmosphere. Enjoy a global menu created by renowned chef Daniel Bruce. B, L, D, LS. \$

***Jacob Wirth**, 37 Stuart St., 617-338-8586. Opened in 1868, Jacob Wirth is the city's second-oldest restaurant and a Boston classic, serving European, American and traditional German fare, including wiener schnitzel, sauerbraten and a great selection of German beers. This Theater District mainstay still has the look of an old-time saloon, complete with an ancient mahogany bar, weathered hardwood floors and weekly piano sing-alongs. L, D, C, LS. \$\$

L, 234 Berkeley St., 617-266-4680. Located at the upscale clothing institution Louis Boston, this chic, minimalist-style eatery features a menu by chef Pino Maffeo that melds Asian ingredients and spices with French and Italian preparations and techniques. Dishes such as the roasted cod coated in panko bread crumbs, as well as playful amuse bouches such as cappuccino-flavored cotton candy, keeps L's fashionable crowd coming back for more. L & D. \$\$\$\$

Rialto, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-661-5050. One of Greater Boston's top restaurants features fine wines and cuisine from France, Italy and Spain. Chef Jody Adams lends her creative talents to seasonal dinner menu items such as grilled pork tenderloin with Ligurian potato-cheese pie, pine nuts and basil. D only. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$

***The Ritz-Carlton Hotel**, 15 Arlington St., 617-536-5700. This 1927 culinary landmark offers award-winning contemporary French cuisine. The Dining Room: D, SB. The Cafe: B, L, D, Sat & SB. The Lounge: L, D, C, LS. The Bar: L, D, C, LS. \$\$\$\$

Saint, 90 Exeter St., 617-236-1134. This luxe hotspot—part restaurant, part nightclub—boasts a chi-chi decor, exotic cocktails and a "mini cuisine" menu by acclaimed chef Rene Michelena, whose Southeast Asian-inspired fusion dishes have won over the hip crowd that congregates here. D, C, LS, VP. \$\$\$\$

Sonsie, 327 Newbury St., 617-351-2500. Recommended by *Boston* magazine as the place to "see and be seen." The lively restaurant features a streetside cafe, 50-foot mahogany bar, brick oven and colorful dining room. The menu by award-winning chef Bill Poirier includes tempura tuna roll with avocado, mizuna and tobiko caviar and herb pappardelle with asparagus. L Mon-Fri 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Sat & SB 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; D Sun-Tue 6-11 p.m. and Wed-Sat 6 p.m.-midnight. C, LS, VP. Check out the Red Room cocktail lounge downstairs. \$\$

Zephyr on the Charles, Hyatt Regency Cambridge, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, 617-441-6510. This restaurant serves small-portioned, tapas-like dishes, featuring eclectic fare like sushi-grade tuna tartare and wood-grilled tiger prawns. The setting features spectacular views of the Boston skyline. B, L, D, C. \$\$

IRISH

***Black Rose**, 160 State St., next to Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-742-2286. Located in the Faneuil Hall Marketplace area, this popular pub features aged beef, chicken, fresh native seafood, light fare, hearty sandwiches and other American and Irish classics from the grill served in a casual, jovial atmosphere. Live Irish music nightly and weekend afternoons. L, D, LS, SB. Traditional Irish breakfast served. \$



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RESTAURANT GUIDE

***The Green Dragon Tavern**, 11 Marshall St., 617-367-0055. Boston's premier 18th-century tavern, located on the Freedom Trail, is home to Boston's only Guinness/Oyster Festival. Microbrews and a large selection of imported beers flow from its taps. Live entertainment nightly, with a traditional Irish seisiun (session) Sat 4-8 p.m. L, D, C, Sat & SB. \$

***Hennessy's of Boston**, 25 Union St., 617-742-2121. Located near Faneuil Hall, Hennessy's serves up items like wood-grilled Irish salmon, Kilmacallog chowder, shepherd's pie, burgers, soups, salads and a huge bar appetizer menu. An extensive beer and wine list, private snugs, farmer's tables and a turf-burning fireplace. Featuring live entertainment five nights a week and monthly performances by pop bands directly from Ireland. L, D, SB. \$

***The Purple Shamrock**, 1 Union St., 617-227-2060. Named after former Boston Mayor James Michael Curley, the character of the Rascal King is captured through historical decor and an energetic environment. Fresh New England seafood, lobster specials, aged Angus steaks and traditional favorites are some of its specialties. L, D, Sat & SB. \$

ITALIAN

Antonio's, 288 Cambridge St., 617-367-3310. One of Boston's finest Italian restaurants (across from Massachusetts General Hospital on historic Beacon Hill). Traditional Italian food with nightly specials and complementing wine list. Specials include homemade fusilli, shrimp margarita and chicken/sausage vinegar peppers and potatoes. L, D Mon-Thu 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri & Sat 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. \$

Caffe Pompei, 280 Hanover St., 617-227-1562. Pompei features a wide variety of coffee, 160 wines by the glass, Italian cordials, pizza, Italian sandwiches, homemade cannoli and ice cream imported from Italy. Open daily 4 p.m.-12:30 a.m., LS 'til 3:30 a.m. SEE LOCATOR #2 ON CENTER MAP. \$

Caffe Vittoria, 296 Hanover St., 617-227-7606. This popular European-style cafe in the North End offers a variety of desserts, cappuccino and espresso. Sun-Thu 8 a.m.-midnight, Fri & Sat 'til 12:30 a.m. \$

Caliterra, Wyndham Boston Hotel, 89 Broad St., 617-348-1234. Located in the heart of the Financial District, this casual, upscale restaurant features Cal-Ital cuisine with seasonal New England flavors. B, L, D. \$\$\$

Cantina Italiana, 346 Hanover St., 617-723-4577. Opened in 1931, this longtime favorite is the oldest restaurant in the North End and serves some of the best traditional Italian cuisine in Boston in a warm and charming atmosphere. Reservations recommended. D, LS. \$\$

Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse, 75 Arlington St., 617-357-4810; Royal Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge, 617-661-4810. Refer to listing under Steakhouses for full description. \$\$\$

Florentine Cafe, 333 Hanover St., 617-227-1777. Revered by visitors and residents since its post-Prohibition debut, this historic North End cafe has become one of Boston's culinary landmarks.

Lobster ravioli with fresh tomatoes and lobster cream sauce, seared veal with grilled shrimp in Frangelico mushroom sauce, and grilled prosciutto-wrapped Angus beef with alfredo risotto are just a few of the Italian wonders awaiting you in this charming bistro setting. Daily noon-1 a.m. L, D, C. SEE LOCATOR #5 ON CENTER MAP. \$\$\$

La Groceria Ristorante Italiano, 853 Main St., Cambridge (off Central Square), 617-876-4162. This charming neighborhood restaurant boasts the freshest vegetables, the finest herbs and spices, handmade pasta, fresh grilled fish, lobster and steak. For 33 years La Groceria has been an Italian classic, having been featured in *Gourmet* magazine, *The Boston Globe*, the *Boston Herald* and *Zagat Survey*. Enjoy excellent Northern Italian cuisine in a casual, home-style atmosphere. Children's menu available. Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat 3-10 p.m., Sun 1-9 p.m. www.lagroceriarestaurant.com \$\$\$

Lucca Restaurant & Bar, 226 Hanover St., 617-742-9200. Winner of the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence 2002, *Zagat Survey's* "Top New Restaurant 2002" and winner of Best of Boston 2001, this new North End eatery is racking up accolades for its regional Italian cuisine, award-winning wine list, lively bar and elegant atmosphere. D nightly 5-11 p.m.; weekends 5-11:30 p.m.; bar menu 'til 12:15 a.m.; C 'til 1 a.m. VP. SEE LOCATOR #9 ON CENTER MAP. \$\$\$

Mamma Maria, 3 North Square, Prince and Garden Court streets, 617-523-0077. "Mamma Maria stands for what Italian food is. Simplicity, quality ingredients and fun... the food of love." (Emeril Lagasse, *Food Network*, 2004). "Best Italian Cuisine" (*Frommer's Boston 2005*). Set in a three-story, 19th-century brick row house overlooking North Square in the North End, Mamma Maria offers charming views of the neighborhood and city skyline, as well as a *Wine Spectator* Award-winning wine list. The seasonal menu features regional Italian dishes using local ingredients. Five private dining rooms available. D Sun-Thu 5-10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m. Reservations accepted. VP. www.mammamaria.com \$\$\$

Massimino's Cucina Italiana, 207 Endicott St., 617-523-5959. Owner/chef Massimino was formerly head chef of England's Birmingham Hotel, Naples' Hotel Astoria and Switzerland's Metropolitan Hotel. Elegant, comfortable surroundings. Specialties include: veal chop stuffed with arugula, prosciutto, smoked mozzarella and black olives; and Norwegian salmon stuffed with escarole and shrimp in a wild mushroom cream sauce. Parking nearby. L, D, LS, C. Mon-Thu 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m.; Sun noon-9 p.m. \$

Teatro, 177 Tremont St., 617-778-6841. One of the hottest additions to the Theatre District, Teatro's reasonably priced Italian-influenced menu was created by executive chef Robert Jean with owner/chef Jamie Mammano. The restaurant has been praised by foodies and critics alike, dubbed "Best Pre-Theatre Dining 2003" (*Improper Bostonian*) and "Best Italian Restaurant 2003" (*Boston* magazine). D Mon-Sat 5 p.m.-midnight; Sun 4-11 p.m. Reservations accepted. www.teatroboston.com \$\$\$

Via Matta, 79 Park Plaza, 617-422-0008. Radius owners Michael Schlow and Christopher Myers have created an Italian-style trattoria that was named one of "America's Best New Restaurants" by *Esquire* and "One of America's Best Restaurants" by *Gourmet*. L, D, LS. Closed Sun. VP. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$

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MEDITERRANEAN

Bar 10, The Westin Hotel, Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., 617-424-7446. This sleek, contemporary bistro serves creative Mediterranean cuisine and offers an exceptional wine list. Enjoy grilled Greek salad flatbread pizza or tagliarini provencale in a cosmopolitan atmosphere. L, D, C, LS. \$\$

Olives, 10 City Square, Charlestown, 617-242-1999. Celebrity chef Todd English got his start with this local eatery and the Charlestown flagship restaurant is still the unparalleled king of his endeavors. Sample English's multi-layered, ingredient rich, pan-Mediterranean creations. Reservations are not accepted, so arrive early and be prepared to wait. D. \$\$\$\$

MUSEUM DINING

Bravo, Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., 617-369-3474. Bravo is an exciting addition to the culinary offerings at the MFA. Chef Benjamin Cevelo brings the creative flair he developed while working with Wolfgang Puck, offering a light, eclectic and contemporary menu. The restaurant is a work of art itself, with bold colors and clean lines created by famed restaurant designer Peter Niemitz. The inviting, warm ambiance complements a rotating selection of some of the MFA's modern masterpieces. L daily 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; D Wed–Fri 5:30–8:30 p.m.; SB 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. \$\$\$

Museum of Science, Science Park, 617-723-2500. Dinner and a movie is old news—today it's brunch and a movie at the noontime Skyline Sunday Brunch, offering views of the Charles River and the Cambridge and Boston skylines. The package includes tickets to the newest IMAX film in the Mugar Omni Theatre, admission to the exhibit halls and free parking. Tickets: \$32; seniors \$31; children \$30. Reservations recommended. The Science Street Cafe offers appetizers and drinks before or after viewing the exhibit hall, Fri from 6–10 p.m. \$

NEW ENGLAND

***Durgin-Park**, 340 Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-227-2038. A Boston landmark in historic Faneuil Hall (where your grandfather and great-grandfather may have dined) features steaks, chops and seafood in a New England tradition. Piano and oyster bars open late. L, D. \$

Henrietta's Table, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-661-5005. "Fresh and Honest" is its creed. Nothing but locally grown and organic produce are used to create a lively and textured menu of reinterpreted New England classics. Daily specials feature the best available in fruits, vegetables, fish, poultry and meats, prepared in an open kitchen. Private dining room available. B Mon–Fri 6:30–11 a.m.; Sat 7–11 a.m.; Sun 7–10:30 a.m.; Sat and SB noon–3 p.m.; L Mon–Sat noon–3 p.m.; D daily 5:30–10 p.m. \$

Sheraton Commander Restaurant, 16 Garden St., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-234-1365. New England-style cuisine in a relaxed, elegant setting with a casual atmosphere. B, L, D, SB. \$\$

SEAFOOD

Anthony's Pier 4, 140 Northern Ave., 617-482-6262. For 37 years, this world-renowned institution has catered to a local, national and international clientele with its incomparable selections and innovative preparations. Featuring Maine lobster from its own lobster company, fresh New England seafood, imported Dover sole, prime steaks and a wine list of more than 500 selections. The dining room offers exquisite views of Boston Harbor and the city skyline. L & D Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Sat noon–11 p.m., Sun noon–10 p.m. \$\$

The Barking Crab, 88 Sleeper St., 617-426-CRAB. No frills, just down-and-dirty dining at this ramshackle little clam shack that has become a Boston dining institution. You'll pluck mussels and steamers from plastic buckets and drink wine out of styrofoam cups under a red and yellow outdoor tent brimming with communal-style picnic tables. The fare includes fresh fish specials of the day, the Barking Crab cake burger and lobster and crabmeat rolls. L & D Sun–Wed 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Thu–Sat 'til 1 a.m. SEE LOCATOR #1 ON CENTER MAP. \$\$

Dolphin Seafood, 1105 Mass Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617-661-2937; 12 Washington St., Natick, 508-655-0669. Its motto is "Fish fresher than ours hasn't been caught yet." These family-owned restaurants, which have served the local community since 1975, offer seafood hand-picked every morning from the Boston piers. Relax in a casual and friendly atmosphere. Specials include: salmon, scrod, seafood combination plates, clambake dinners and steamed lobsters, complemented by their famous "Dolphin tini" cocktail. L & D Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m. www.dolphinseafood.com \$\$

Gourmeli's Seafood, Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., 617-236-5800 ext. 6741. Enjoy the sushi bar or indulge in fresh lobster, swordfish and more. Offering an array of fresh New England seafood and entrees. B, L, D. \$\$\$

Great Bay, Hotel Commonwealth, 500 Commonwealth Ave., 617-532-5300. Christopher Myers and chef Michael Schlow (Radius, Via Matta) present their unique take on the seafood and raw bar concepts. This eclectic space in Kenmore Square serves delectable fare such as fish tacos and the acclaimed baked stuffed lobster. L, D, SB, C, LS. \$\$\$

Harborside Grill, Hyatt Harborside, 101 Harborside Drive, 617-568-6060. The Harborside Grill offers panoramic views of the Boston skyline from every seat in the dining room. During the day, the casual atmosphere makes it a welcoming location for a cup of coffee or bowl of chowder. In the evening, the Grill is transformed into a sophisticated dining room featuring fresh New England seafood. Open daily 6 a.m.–10 p.m. B, L, D, SB, C, LS, VP. \$\$\$

Jasper White's Summer Shack, 50 Dalton St., 617-867-9955; 149 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge, 617-520-9500. World-renowned chef, cookbook author and Boston foodie godfather Jasper White brings his extensive knowledge of seafood and New England fare to the Back Bay and Cambridge. For a casual night out, the restaurant offers the freshest seafood available, including the chef's famous pan-roasted lobster, hearty chowders, grilled fish, award-winning fried chicken and an unparalleled raw bar. Boston: Daily 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m., raw bar Thu–Sat 'til 1 a.m. Cambridge: L Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Lighter fare served from

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Jimmy's Harborside, 242 Northern Ave., 617-423-1000. Since 1924, visitors and natives alike have found Jimmy's Harborside to be among New England's most famous landmarks. From the waterfront location, you'll enjoy world-renowned seafood and views of historic Boston Harbor. Features award-winning chowders, Maine lobster, traditional Boston haddock and jumbo baked stuffed shrimp. A substantial, acclaimed wine list is modestly priced. Mon–Thu noon–9:30 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 10 p.m., Sun 4–9 p.m. **SEE LOCATOR #8 ON CENTER MAP.** \$\$\$

Legal Sea Foods Restaurant, 26 Park Plaza, Park Square Motor Mart, 617-426-4444; 255 State St., Long Wharf, 617-227-3115; Copley Place, 100 Huntington Ave., 617-266-7775; Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 617-266-6800; 5 Cambridge Center, Kendall Square, Cambridge, 617-864-3400; other locations. For over 50 years, Legal Sea Foods has served the freshest seafood possible, including oysters, wood grilled fish, succulent New England lobsters and its famous clam "chowda." Extensive wine list. L & D. \$\$\$

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 34 Columbus Ave., 617-482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market, 617-720-5522. Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers more than 30 varieties of fresh seafood, as well as steak, chicken and pasta dishes and a unique menu that changes daily. L daily 11 a.m.–4 p.m.; D Sun–Thu 4–11:30 p.m., Fri & Sat 4 p.m.–midnight. Bar open daily 'til 1:30 a.m. Bar menu Mon–Fri 3:30–6:30 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 p.m.–midnight. Casual attire. \$\$\$

Oceana, Marriott Long Wharf Hotel, 296 State St., 617-227-3838. One of Boston's premier seafood spots. Boasting a breathtaking view of the Harbor, Oceana offers uniquely prepared fresh seafood. B, L, D, SB. \$\$

Skipjack's Seafood Emporium, 199 Clarendon St., Copley Square, 617-536-3500; 1400 Worcester Rd. (Rte. 9), Natick, 508-628-9900; 55 Needham St., Newton, 617-964-4244. Enjoy fresh-grilled seafood in a comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes and lobsters. Winner of Best of Boston 2003 award for seafood restaurant. Swing with the Winker Orchestra Jazz Brunch Sun 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Boston: L & D Sun–Thu 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m. Newton: L & D 11:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m., Sun 'til 9 p.m. \$\$\$

Turner Fisheries, Westin Hotel Copley Place, corner of Stuart and Dartmouth Streets, 617-424-7425. Seafood, honest and current, is on the menu at one of Boston's newest and grandest seafood restaurants. Known for its fresh seafood and winner of several regional awards, Turner's features seven-foot-high French windows, swooping Hollywood banquettes, mahogany paneling and cobalt blue tile. Private dining rooms accommodate 10–140 guests. Discounted VP at The Westin Hotel Copley Place. L, D, C, LS. \$\$\$

Wisteria, Doubletree Hotel Boston, 821 Washington St., 617-956-7900. This restaurant and bar with a nouveau Asian twist offers an innovative menu that synthesizes of New England seafood and Asian cuisine. Impeccable service and attention to detail are apparent, from the unique presentation of entrees on signature china to the welcoming hotel towel offered upon being seated. L & D. \$\$\$

Ye Olde Union Oyster House, 41 Union St., 617-227-2750. Steps away from Quincy Market on the Freedom Trail stands America's oldest restaurant, serving Yankee-style seafood, flame-grilled beef and chicken. Famous for its oyster bar where Daniel Webster dined daily. Specialties include clam chowder, shrimp, swordfish, seafood platters and fresh lobster. L, D Sun–Thu 11 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 10 p.m. VP. www.unionoysterhouse.com \$\$\$

SOUTHWESTERN

Cottonwood Cafe, 222 Berkeley St., 617-247-2225. Specialties include open-grill steaks, poultry, seafood, pasta and vegetarian dishes. Voted "Boston's Best Southwestern Restaurant" and "Boston's Best Margarita." Reservations recommended. Private function rooms. Two hours free validated parking. L Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; D daily 'til 11 p.m.; Sat & SB 11 a.m.–3 p.m. C, LS, VP. www.cottonwoodboston.com \$\$

Fajitas & 'Ritas, 25 West St., 617-426-1222; 1327 Hancock St., Quincy Center, 617-774-1200. Established in 1989, Fajitas & 'Ritas is an easygoing, fun restaurant and bar which features fresh, healthy Tex-Mex and barbecue cuisine. The award-winning locations stress generous portions, affordable prices, open casual space and prompt, friendly service, and is a great place to throw a party. Boston: Mon–Tue 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Wed, Thu & Sat 'til 10 p.m. Fri 'til 11 p.m., Sun noon–8 p.m. Quincy: Mon–Wed 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Thu–Sat 'til 10 p.m., Sun 5–9 p.m. C, LS. www.fajitasandritas.com. **SEE LOCATOR #4 ON CENTER MAP.** \$

STEAKHOUSES

Abe & Louie's, 793 Boylston St., 617-536-6300. Boasting the service, style and elegance of a New York steakhouse, this establishment offers a menu that includes hand-selected, prime-aged cuts of beef, fresh fish and poultry, as well as an extensive wine selection. The sophisticated mahogany and brass-accented decor creates a comfortable environment perfect for entertaining. L, D, C, LS. \$\$\$

Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse, 75 Arlington St., 617-357-4810; Royal Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge, 617-661-4810. The menu includes selections of the finest cuts of meats, homemade pastas, fresh seafood and more. Enjoy lighter fare and a late night menu in the spacious bar and parlor area. The Park Square location is close to the theater, historic sites, shopping and includes function space for 10–300 people, while the Cambridge location on the banks of the Charles River features an outdoor patio and a spectacular view of the Boston skyline. L Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; D Sun–Tue 5–10 p.m., Wed–Sat 'til 11 p.m.; C, VP. www.davios.com. **SEE LOCATOR #3 ON CENTER MAP.** \$\$\$

***The Oak Room**, 138 St. James Ave., Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 617-267-5300. This sophisticated restaurant offers a traditional steakhouse menu of prime steaks, generous chops and fresh New England seafood. Replete with stately wood paneling and accented with rich draperies and wall ornaments for a comfortable yet elegant feel. B, L, D daily. The Oak Bar specializes in classic and contemporary martinis, offering a raw bar and the complete Oak Room menu. \$\$\$

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The NORTH END

Renowned as Boston's "Little Italy," the North End is constantly brimming with the aroma of garlic and freshly cooked cuisine. But its storied history is also part of its charm. The oldest neighborhood in the city, it gave birth to the American Revolution on its narrow cobblestone streets and has been home to wave after wave of new immigrants. Today, with such strong ties to its past, the North End remains one of the most European neighborhoods in America, offering the best in Old World cooking and tradition along with a variety of sightseeing and entertainment adventures year-round. Here's a look at what you'll find:

FOOD

The North End is widely known for its abundance of Italian restaurants. The cuisine is authentic and consistently delicious, whether Old World Sicilian, traditional Northern Italian or Mediterranean fusion. And though the ambience can be boisterous, romantic or somewhere in between, the setting is usually intimate, with patrons rubbing elbows with one another in crowded dining rooms—it's all part of the European feel.

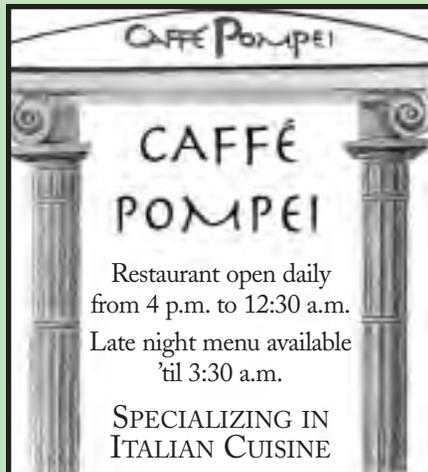


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SIGHTSEEING

One of Boston's most well-known attractions is, of course, the Freedom Trail. Three of its sites are located in the North End. The **Paul Revere House**, Boston's oldest home built circa 1680, was occupied by the famed silversmith/patriot/midnight rider and his family (including 16 children!) from 1770–1800. Christ Church, a.k.a. the **Old**



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North Church, Boston's oldest standing church (built in 1723) served as the signal tower that spurred Revere on his jaunt through the countryside. And **Copp's Hill Burying Ground**, founded in 1660 as the Hub's second cemetery, provided the final resting place of many famous colonials, such as the Puritan preachers of the Mather family, including Salem Witch Trial-era firebrand Cotton Mather, and Edmund Hartt, whose shipyard constructed the U.S. Navy's flagship *U.S.S. Constitution*.

ENTERTAINMENT

In keeping with its Old World character, the North End observes many traditions imported from the shores of Europe. One such annual rite is the weekly **Italian feasts and processions**, kept alive by immigrants and their descendants, that take place throughout the summer and enliven this already spirited locale. These spectacles usually celebrate the patron

saints of Italian villages and center around jubilant parades of the saints' statues through the North End's winding roadways. Food vendors, hawking everything from sausage to calamari, add their own flavor to the scene.

If you're looking for belly laughs instead of a full belly, have a seat at the **Improv Asylum** on Hanover Street to take in the wild antics of this innovative comedy troupe. The Asylum offers off-the-cuff fun and hilarity at its original North End venue.

And if you haven't had enough of good old Paul Revere, check out **Paul Revere Tonight**, which runs at the Old North Church during the summer and fall. Award-winning actor David Conner re-creates this legendary figure and tells the oft-untold stories of Revere's upbringing and his midnight ride.

See listings in *Currently and Sightseeing*.



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Goodbye, Fleet, HELLO GARDEN!

The return of the Garden sparks a wave of nostalgia by Diana Aramburu

It was probably the least fancy of all NHL arenas and the most unconventional NBA court, but the old Boston Garden still holds a special place in the hearts of Celtics and Bruins fans—even those who never set foot in the place. The Garden, much like the fans it housed for decades, wasn't pretentious—it was full of rats, quirks and warped floorboards, but in its 70 years, it housed stars like Larry Bird, Bobby Orr and Gerry Cheevers. Considered one of the most revered landmarks of 20th century New England, the Boston Garden on Causeway Street was, until its dis-



DID YOU KNOW? While the deal for a permanent naming rights partner for the FleetCenter was negotiated, single-day naming rights were auctioned off via eBay with the proceeds benefitting local charities. Bostonians cringed on March 1, 2005 when one jokester attempted to rename the arena the

DerekJeterCenter after the New York Yankees' shortstop. Calls of protest poured in, and eventually a friend of the bidder ponied up extra dough to instead name it The Jimmy Fund Center, in honor of the Boston Red Sox's favorite charity.

merger made the name obsolete will now be the TD Banknorth Garden.

While most New England sports fans would agree that the current 19,600-seat arena is flashier and shinier, the arena lacks some of the old Garden's trademark charms. In the Garden's heyday, for example, Celtics legends like Bob Cousy were said to have used the wooden parquet floor's warped boards to steal dribbles and passes from opposing teams. (The parquet—perhaps the only legendary floor in history—was moved to the

FleetCenter in 1995, and later retired in December 1999.) Even today, though, fans have the opportunity to purchase pieces of the parquet, which can range from a minimal \$25 to \$150 for framed and autographed pieces. The continued market for such souvenirs suggests that the old Garden's popularity has hardly faded, and that the return of the Garden name should be a slam dunk success.



mantling in September 1995, more than just a sports arena. It drew crowds to watch everyone from The Beatles to Disney On Ice, and served as a forum for political events and speakers such as FDR, Winston Churchill and JFK.

A recently signed 20-year deal has returned the Garden name to the home of the Celtics and Bruins. The arena we knew as the FleetCenter for the last decade until a bank

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