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December 20, 2004–January 2, 2005

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PANORAMA

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE
OF BOSTON

POP! GOES THE NEW YEAR

Toast 2005 in Style
with our Guide to
First Night and
other **New Year's
Eve Celebrations**

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Ideas** in our **HOLIDAY
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PANORAMA

December 20, 2004 to
January 2, 2005

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE
OF BOSTON

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Jerome Rosenfeld
Chairman

Tim Montgomery
President/Publisher

Christopher Wallenberg
Editor

Scott Roberto
Art/Production Director

Christine Celli
Associate Editor

Kristin K. Carr
Design/Production Associate

Elizabeth Bridleman
Production Assistant

Diana Aramburu
Editorial Assistant

Jacolyn Ann Firestone
Vice President, Advertising

Dennis Lloyd
Vice President, Strategic Sales

Rita A. Fucillo
Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Patrick Manchon
Senior Account Executive

Jessica Barry, Tadd Rosenfeld
Account Executives

Peter Ng
Information Technology Manager

George Ghareeb
Technical Consultant

Melissa J. O'Reilly
Business Manager

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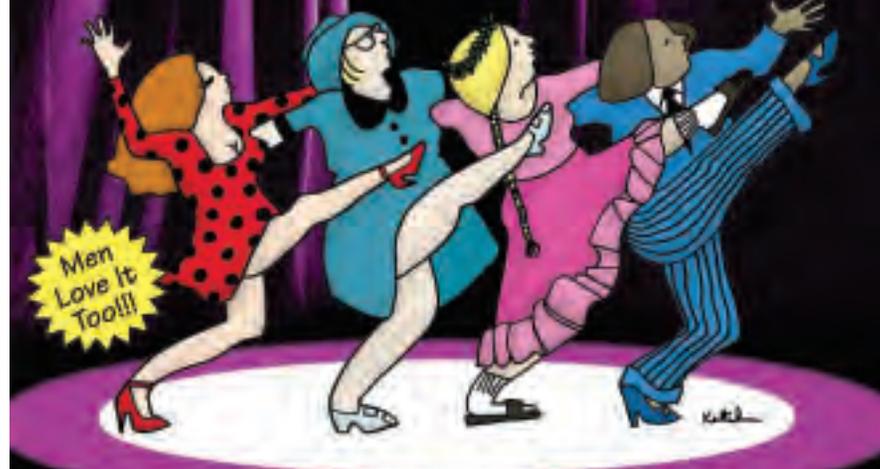
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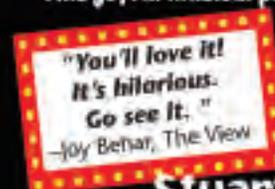
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First Impressions

Everything you need to know about First Night fun in the Hub by Scott Roberto



Sitting in front of the tube to watch a glowing ball descend upon Times Square in New York City maybe be a fine tradition and all, but it's not really making the most of your New Year's Eve now, is it? If you'd rather get out and actually, you know, *do* something as 2005 makes its debut, it doesn't get much better than Boston's 29-year-old **First Night** celebration. The family-focused, citywide jubilee begins early on **December 31** and lasts until the spectacular fireworks display at midnight. With hundreds of things to do and see, from museum exhibits to ice sculptures to music and dance performances, there's more than enough fun to be had by all.

FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES

For those with young children who can't stay out late, the annual **Family Festival** at the **Hynes Convention Center** from 1–6 p.m. packs in dozens of entertainment options amongst its many halls and rooms. Highlights include Cambridge-based children's storyteller **Brother Blue** (1:45 and 3 p.m.), high-

flying daredevils **The Skyriders** (1:20, 2:50 and 4:20 p.m.) and a host of child-friendly musicians, magicians, ethnic dance demonstrations and puppet shows.

MUSIC TO YOUR EARS

From classical to rock, there's plenty of offerings for music lovers of all stripes. For teen pop fans, get an early start on the day with **Aaron Carter** at City Hall Plaza at 11:30 a.m. At Berklee Performance Center, catch former members of seminal Boston rock bands like the Modern Lovers, Face to Face and 'Til Tuesday in their new roots music project, **Family Jewels** (8:45 & 9:45 p.m.). Other stand-outs include Buffalo Tom frontman **Bill Janovitz** and his new band **Crown Victoria** (7:30 & 9:30 p.m.) and British post-punk troubadour **Graham Parker** (pictured above, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.) at the Orpheum Theatre.



THE REEL DEAL

Cinephiles can rejoice with a slew of screenings, from the classic to the contemporary. The Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline hosts the **First Night Film Festival**, showing a Looney Tunes Extravaganza at noon and the new film version of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* starring Al Pacino (pictured right) at 9 p.m. Fans of animation from the Far East can catch the best of old and new **Japanese Anime** at the Hynes Convention Center (1, 2:15, 3:30 & 4:45 p.m.).

LOOKING FOR LAUGHS

Boston's best funny men and women look to fill the Hynes Convention Center with laughter throughout the day, beginning

with the **Airborne Comedians**, who juggle everything from electric guitars to lawn chairs (1:40, 3:10 and 4:40 p.m.). Then in the evening, local comic **Tony V** takes a side-splitting look at the past year, from politics to shoe styles (7:30 & 9 p.m.), while **ImprovBoston** busts out with on-the-spot hilarity fueled by audience participation (7:30 p.m.).

FIRE, ICE AND SPARKLING LIGHTS

As you stroll around town, keep an eye out for six colossal **ice sculptures** on display throughout the city, including the "Ice Dragon" at the Boston Common Frog Pond and "First Night Big Top" in Copley Square. New Year's reveling in Boston would not be complete without a front row spot for the famed Boylston Street **Grand Procession** (commencing at Hynes Convention Center at 5:30 p.m. and ending at the intersection of Charles and Beacon streets at 7 p.m.), this year entitled "The Story of A Life." This glimmering entourage of community leaders, children and local talent whoop it up Mardi-Gras style, sporting costumes representative of the city's cultures and its notable icons, from the Emerald Necklace to Boston Harbor. The parade ends with the **Family Fireworks Celebration**, hosted by Mayor Thomas Menino, which lights up Boston Common at 7:10 p.m. But even after the children are nestled

all snug in their beds, the late-night crowd can still enjoy the revelry, at least until the midnight hour. Get up close and personal with the anchors from CBS4 for the **Countdown to Midnight** (beginning at 11 p.m.) as the Boston Public Library facade in Copley Square is transformed by synchronized lighting and stellar special effects. Finally, as the clock ticks into 2005, the skies over Boston Harbor are lit by the brilliant **Fireworks Extravaganza** grand finale at midnight.



WHERE TO BUY A BUTTON

The **First Night Button** is your general admission ticket to all indoor festivities and is on sale for \$15 at a number of area retailers including participating Star/Shaw's Supermarkets, Store 24, Lil' Peach, Tedeschi's and Borders Books & Music. Buttons can also be purchased at most museums, sights and visitor centers including the Boston Common Visitor Information Center, the Prudential Center Visitor Kiosk and BosTix. Buttons are also available at the Hynes Convention Center, the Park Street "T" station, City Hall Plaza and the corner of Arlington and Boylston streets on December 31. For a full list of retailers and a complete schedule of events, visit www.firstnight.org or call 617-542-1399.

BEYOND FIRST NIGHT When the fireworks are over, hang onto that First Night button—it carries benefits that extend well into the post-holiday season. Here is just a sampling:

- 15 percent off **Boston Symphony Orchestra** concerts for most performances in January.
- Half-price admission to the **Children's Museum** on Jan 1, \$1 off through January.
- Half price admission to the **Harrison Gray Otis House Museum** through March.
- \$2 off admission to the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** through March.
- \$1 off adult admission to the **Institute of Contemporary Art** through Jan 2.
- Free admission to the **Old South Meeting House** through Jan 15.
- Two-for-one admission to the **Old State House Museum** through March.
- Receive a free gift when purchasing a full-price ticket to **Blue Man Group** at the Charles Playhouse through March.
- \$1 off adult admission to the **John F. Kennedy Library and Museum** through Jan 15.

POP! goes the New Year

Still don't know what you're doing for New Year's Eve? Try these sure-fire, last minute ideas for a fantastic night of fun by Christine Celli

Boston's First Night extravaganza fills the city's streets with all sorts of revelry on New Year's Eve, but it's not the only party in town. In fact, Bay State night spots have something to fulfill nearly everyone's idea of fun. Whether you're Cinderella or Prince Charming, the following should help ensure that when the clock strikes midnight, your evening out will be a perfect fit.

WINING AND DINING

Most area hotels and restaurants pull out the white linen and silver on New Year's Eve, offering upscale evenings of fine dining and entertainment to help patrons celebrate the arrival of 2005. The **Park Plaza Hotel** (64 Arlington St., 617-262-3473) is hosting two affairs to remember. The first is a five-course dinner with champagne (\$90 a person) prepared by local culinary darling Todd English in his **Bonfire** restaurant. The menu features pan-seared pheasant breast with caramelized apples and lemon raspberry ricotta tart with champagne sorbet. Afterwards you can make your way into the Grand Imperial and Georgian ballrooms for the formal Resolution Ball, which boasts entertainment from The Felix Brown Band and DJ Alex S. The

Boston Harbor Hotel, with its famous waterfront archway, hosts its own dinner and dancing event on the Hub's picturesque harbor. The five-course meal courtesy of chef Daniel Bruce with Viennese dessert buffet is \$125 per person.

SHAKE YOUR BOOTY

For a little taste of Studio 54 in its prime, look no further than **Avalon** (refer to listing, page 23). Boston's premiere nightclub hosts its annual New Year's bash with help from resident DJs Dave Ralph and Steve Porter. Guest DJ Eli Wilkie will also be on hand, spinning house and techno music *until 4 a.m.*, while live video feeds share the goings-on at Avalon outposts in New York and Las Vegas. The night kicks off at 9 p.m. and costs \$40 in advance. And **Aria** (246 Tremont St., 617-338-7080) holds a similar event *from 10 p.m.–3 a.m.* where for \$50, you can shake your booty to all your favorite dance hits, enjoy party favors and partake in a champagne toast *at midnight*. There's even a continental breakfast to give you the energy you'll need to make it home at the end of the night. Or consider **Whiskey Park** (64 Arlington St., 617-542-1483). This hip nightspot is known for its see-and-be-seen atmosphere and New Year's



left: Catherine McDermott-Tingle; above: Christopher DeGaetano

Eve will be no exception with New York DJ Sensae spinning sonic jams. The party goes *until 3 a.m.* and costs \$60.

AND ALL THAT JAZZ

For a swinging night of dancing to live jazz and Motown classics, the quick-to-sell-out affairs at **Scullers Jazz Club** (refer to listing, page 20) should suit your fancy. Superstar trumpeter Chris Botti headlines the bill, performing two shows, *at 8 and 11 p.m.* Each party is ticketed separately and can include a five-course dinner (*beginning at 5:30 p.m. or 8:30 p.m.*) for \$269–339 a couple. Tickets for the concert only are \$50–60.

ROCK 'N' ROLL ALL NIGHT

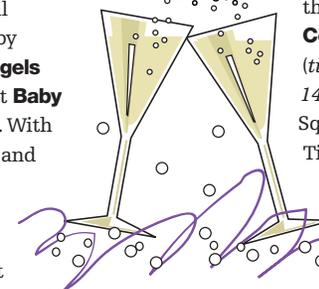
If pumping your fists, banging your head and generally rocking out sounds like the ideal way to shake the demons of 2004, look no further than the Middle East Cafe (refer to listing, page 20). This Cambridge hangout hosts local punksters **Darkbuster** joined by **Jerry's Kids** and **Lost City Angels** downstairs, with indie rock act **Baby Strange** entertaining upstairs. With the cheap cover price (\$10–12) and even cheaper beer (Pabst Blue Ribbon anyone?), a rowdy, late-night party is guaranteed. Just around the corner at

RING IN THE NEW—Enjoy the political-tinged comedy of Jimmy Tingle at his theater in Somerville (top left) or the raging dance party at Avalon on Lansdowne Street this New Year's Eve.

T.T. the Bear's Place (refer to listing, page 20), the Elvis Costello-inspired **Emergency Music** headlines a night of mod-stylings for only \$10, with DJs spinning U.K. classics from The Beatles to The Smiths. Meanwhile, Harper's Ferry (156 Brighton Ave., 617-254-9743) in Allston presents the soulful stylings of **Superhoney**, winners of the award for best rhythm and blues/soul band at the Boston Music Awards. Call for ticket prices.

SEND IN THE CLOWNS

Some say laughter is the key to happiness. And with this in mind, two of Boston's best stand-up comedians hope to inspire a bliss-filled new year. Dane Cook, the hottest comedian of the year according to *Rolling Stone* magazine, takes the stage at the **Comedy Connection** for two performances (tickets: \$70, refer to listing, page 14). Over in Somerville's Davis Square, Boston comedy vet Jimmy Tingle culls bits from 2004's biggest news stories for two shows at his Off-Broadway Theatre. Tickets are \$25 (refer to listing, page 15).



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Scott Roberto

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Joan Marcus

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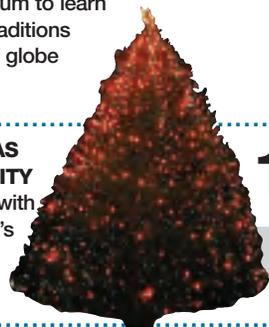


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OMEGA

PANORAMA'S PICK



ICE Dreams by Scott Roberto

You've been cordially invited on a trip to not one, but four fabulous destinations—but there's no need to pack your bags. All you need to do is purchase a ticket to the **Disney On Ice** presentation of **Mickey & Minnie's Magical Journey** at the FleetCenter, **December 26–29**. You won't find this quartet of locales on any map, however. They're all based on the cartoon worlds found in the Disney classics *Lilo & Stitch*, *The Little Mermaid*, *101 Dalmations* and *Peter Pan*. With eternal icons Mickey and Minnie Mouse as your guides, journey from tropical Hawaii to Ariel's undersea kingdom to the misty streets of London and fabled Never Land, all in the space of a few hours. Marvel at the dazzling sets and world-class skating as your favorite Disney characters come to life in front of your eyes. So leave your passport at home and head over to Causeway Street for a trip you won't soon forget. Refer to listing, page 23.

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CLASSICAL

Refer to Holiday Events for more Classical performances.

Boston Baroque, Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge, 617-484-9200. **Dec 31** at 8 p.m., **Jan 1** at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$27–63. Gala New Year's Eve & First Day Concerts ring in 2005 with this bright, celebratory program featuring Boston Baroque's Grammy-nominated chorus and orchestra performing Bach's *Orchestral Suite No. 2 and No. 3* as well as his lighthearted *Coffee Cantata*. Intermission includes a champagne reception.

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: **Dec 24** at 10 a.m.—a holiday performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

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. **Dec 20 & 27** at 8 p.m.—Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, tickets: \$12; **Dec 21 & 28** at 8 p.m.—Paul Nardizzi & Robbie Printz, tickets: \$12; **Dec 22** at 8 p.m.—Frank Santorelli, tickets: \$12; **Dec 23 & 30** at 8:30 p.m.—Frank Santos "The R-Rated Hypnotist," tickets: \$15; **Dec 29** at 8 p.m.—Mike Donovan, tickets: \$12; **Dec 31** at 7 p.m.—Steve Sweeney, tickets: \$70; **Dec 31** at 9:15 and 11:30 p.m.—Dane Cook, tickets: \$70; **Jan 1** at 8 and 10:15 p.m., **Jan 2** at 7 and 9:15 p.m.—Dane Cook, tickets: \$35.

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. **Dec 21 & 28**—Mystery Lounge: Mind-reading, manipulation, and disappearing doves; **Dec 22**—The Tony V Experiment with guests Mandy Donovan, Mary Beth Cowan and more; **Dec 23**—Jerry Peasley, Cesar Cervantes and more; **Dec 24**—Brian Kiley, Malissa Hunt and more; **Dec 25**—Brian Kiley, Baratunde and more; **Dec 26**—Patrick Bulger, Andrea Henry and more; **Dec 31 & Jan 1**—One show each day at 8 p.m., call for acts; **Jan 2**—The Erin Judge Show with Patrice Vinci, Arik Marks and Robby RoadSteamer.

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.

Improv Asylum, 216 Hanover St., 617-263-6887. www.improv asylum.com. 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 **Sat** at midnight—*The Midnight Show* promises to be quick-witted, controversial and hilarious; **Wed–Sat**—*Lies, 1/2 Truths and the American Way* features a prison duet with Martha Stewart and Saddam Hussein, obnoxious supermarket clerks who only want you to "Press OK" and a song about passing the blame around.

ImprovBoston, Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 617-576-1253. www.improvboston.com. 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**—Carol Lombard Live! 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. www.joffbroadway.com. Founded by comic, actor and writer Jimmy Tingle, this multi-use venue show-

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DECEMBER 2004							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
			1 7:30 PM	2 7:30 PM	3 8 PM	4 3:30 PM	
5 10 & 30 PM	6 8:00 PM	7 7:30 PM	8 7:30 PM	9 7:30 PM	10 8 PM	11 3:30 PM	
12 10 & 30 PM	13 8:00 PM	14 7:30 PM	15 7:30 PM	16 7:30 PM	17 8 PM	18 3:30 PM	
19 10 & 30 PM	20 8:00 PM	21 7:30 PM	22 7:30 PM	23 7:30 PM	24 8:00 PM	25 8 PM	
26 10 & 30 PM	27 8:00 PM	28 7:30 PM	29 7:30 PM	30 7:30 PM	31 8 PM		

MUST LEAVE FEBRUARY 20! Tickets are subject to availability, fees and service charges. No exchanges or refunds.

THE OPERA HOUSE • Boston

cases both established and aspiring performers and productions. **Dec 31** at 4, 7 and 10 p.m.—Join Jimmy Tingle as he brings down the curtain on 2004 and opens up 2005 with a laugh, *tickets: \$30; Jan 1 & 2* at 8 p.m.—The Newest and Best of Jimmy Tingle: Topical and timeless material from stand up comic and commentator Jimmy Tingle drawing on material from over 20 years of performing as well as fresh, up-to-the-day observations on the State of the Union and the World, *tickets: \$25.*

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. **Dec 23**—Kevin Knox, the wildman of comedy. *Call for full schedule.*

CONVENTIONS & EXPOS

Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., 617-954-2000. **through Jan 1**—The Enchanted Village holiday display, *refer to listing, page 18.*

FILM

The Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-876-6837. *Call for showtimes and complete schedule. Tickets: \$8.50; matinees \$7.50; seniors & children \$5.50.* Classic, cutting-edge and world cinema with a different double feature almost every day. Now showing: **Dec 20**—*Urg!* *A Music War*; **Dec 21**—*It's a Wonderful Life*; **Dec 22, 23 & 26**—*The Leopard*; **Dec 25, 27 & 28**—*La Dolce Vita*; **Dec 26–Jan 1**—*Stooge-O-Rama.*

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: **opening Dec 22**—Pedro Almodovar's *Bad Education*, *Kinsey*, *The Sea Inside*. Special events: **Dec 31** all day—First Night Film Festival, *free admission with First Night Button.*

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.

Museum of Fine Arts, Avenue of the 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: **Dec 28**—*Antonio Gaudi*; *Tiny Snowflakes*; *Stop It, I'm Out*; *The First Letter* and *Bonjour, Monsieur Shlomi*; **Jan 1**—*Living With Slim*; **Jan 2**—*Antonio Gaudi* and *Bonjour, Monsieur Shlomi.*

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 domed screen five stories high. Now showing: *Forces of Nature*; *Roar: Lions of the Kalahari*; *Extreme.*

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: *The Polar Express*; *Santa vs. the Snowman*; *Galapagos*; *Into the Deep*; *Volcanoes of the Deep Sea*; *Ocean Wonderland.*

GALLERIES

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 exhibit: Sets featuring Tara Donovan, Carroll Dunham, Donald Judd, William Kentridge, Sol LeWitt, Brice Marden, Sarah Morris, Julian Opie, Robert Ryman, Fred Sandback, Richard Tuttle and Terry Winters.

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.

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: **through Dec 23**—George Nick.

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: Boston Scenes; Les Petits Tableaux; We Like It So Much: Prints.

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: **through Dec 24**—John Coplans: Photographs.

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. Special exhibit: 11th Annual Holiday Poster Show.

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: Great Gifts, Small Packages: Group show featuring one of a kind jewelry and works in glass, metal and ceramics.

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 exhibit: Paintings by Jake Berthot.

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 Dec 24**—Tabitha Vevers: Miniatures.

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 exhibit: Contemporary Vernacular, a group show featuring contemporary responses to vernacular, or everyday photography, including family, found, anonymous and domestic imagery and themes. Artists include Yolanda del Amo, Louise Bourque, Nancy Dudley, Susan E. Evans, Joseph Heidecker, Priya Kambli and David Prifti.

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 exhibit: Mallory Lake: Mystery and Light.

Robert Klein Gallery, 38 Newbury St., 617-267-7997. *Mon–Fri 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, Diane Arbus and Sebastiao Salgado. Special exhibits: **through Dec 23**—DW Mellor and Laura Letinsky.

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 ceramics range from cutting edge to traditional and from functional to sculptural.

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: Sunlight and Shadow: American Impressionism in New England and Abroad.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Boston Ballet's The Nutcracker, The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., 617-931-2787. *Performances through Dec 31:*

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PANORAMA'S PICK



Holiday MAGIC

by Christine Celli

Boston Ballet's rendition of *The Nutcracker* has long been one of the area's biggest holiday events—in fact, it annually attracts more people than any other staging of *The Nutcracker* in the country. This year, however, the 41st edition of the beloved classic moves from the Ballet's traditional home at the enormous Wang Theatre to the more intimate confines of the historic Colonial Theatre, where it takes up residence **through December 31**. To mark the occasion, the company has retooled the production, creating all-new sets, costumes and choreography to best utilize the new venue. So far, the new version of this beloved story ballet—based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's fairytale about a little girl's nutcracker that comes to life and set to the memorable compositions of Tchaikovsky—has won over the critics and continues to captivate audiences both young and old at its new, temporary home. *Refer to listing, page 17.*

Tue–Thu at 2 and 7:30 p.m., Fri at noon, Sun at 1 and 5:30 p.m. Tickets: \$25–80. The holiday season isn't complete without Boston Ballet's annual tradition. This year, a new chapter in the life of this holiday favorite opens when the Ballet brings *The Nutcracker* to the Colonial Theatre for the first time in a production designed especially for the intimate and historic venue. *Refer to story, above.*

Boston Holiday Pops, Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., 617-266-1200. *Performances through Dec 31: Mon–Thu at 4 and 8 p.m., Dec 24 at noon, Dec 26 at 3 and 8 p.m., Dec 28–30 at 8 p.m. only, Dec 31 at 10:15 p.m. Tickets: \$23–107.* Boston's beloved, world-renowned orchestra comes home for the holidays, with December concerts featuring performances of holiday favorites led by Pops maestro Keith Lockhart and guest conductors. *Refer to story, page 22.*

A Christmas Carol, North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, 978-232-7200. *Performances through Dec 24: Tue, Wed & Thu at 7 p.m., Thu & Fri at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$27.75–63.* Starring perennial favorites David Coffee and George Dvorsky, one of New England's brightest holiday traditions enters its 16th year. The spirit of giving returns to NSMT to warm your heart this holiday season. Reintroduce yourself and those you love to the season's most enduring story of charity, hope and redemption.

A Christmas Carol, Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham, 781-279-2200. *Performances through Dec 24: Tue–Thu at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$16–32.* Come celebrate the

season with the Crachits, Jacob Marley, good ol' Fezziwig and all the rest as three holiday ghosts lead Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey like no other in this spirit-filled adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic story.

The Christmas Revels, Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge, 617-496-2222. *Performances: Dec 22, 23 & 27 at 7:30 p.m., Dec 26 at 1 and 5 p.m., Dec 28 at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$20–42; children \$12–32.* The 34th edition of *The Christmas Revels* features traditional Quebecois music and dance from members of the group Danse Cadence, fiddlers and spoon players, a bevy of clog dancers, the Revels Chorus, the Quebecois Kids, musician and song leader David Coffin, and old friends the Pinewoods Morris Men and the Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble. *Refer to story, page 22.*

Enchanted Village, Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., 617-954-2000. *Open daily through Jan 1 from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Tickets: \$1.* The Enchanted Village is a magical recreation of a turn-of-the-century, Victorian-era village on a snowy Christmas Eve, complete with storefronts, brownstones, living room displays and animated figures. The decades-old display was originally a holiday fixture of the Jordan Marsh department store in Downtown Crossing and was taken over by the city when the chain was bought by Macy's in 1998.

Holiday Festival of Lights, Edaville Railroad, off Rte. 3 South, 7 Eda Ave., Carver, 1-877-EDAVILLE. *Mon–Fri from 4–9 p.m., Sat & Sun from 2–9 p.m. Closed Dec 25.* Call for tickets and reservations. Board Edaville's heated passenger train and

take the more than five mile journey through forests, past lakes and over cranberry bogs, filled to the hilt with animated displays and millions of Christmas lights. Children's rides, concessions and a cranberry museum are among other activities offered. *Refer to story, page 9.*

Radio City Christmas Spectacular, The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., 1-800-447-7400. *Performances through Dec 31: Dec 21, 22, 27, 29 & 30 at 2 and 7:30 p.m., Dec 23 at 2 and 8 p.m., Dec 26 at 1, 4 and 7 p.m., Dec 28 at 7:30 p.m., Dec 24 & 31 at 1 p.m. Tickets: \$18.50–74.50.* Now in Boston for the first time ever, this holiday extravaganza starring the world-famous Rockettes has been cheered as "A sleightful of magic and fun" by *The New York Times*. Direct from Radio City Music Hall, this brand-new edition features a host of unforgettable thrills, including the classic "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," the awe-inspiring "Living Nativity," as well as the Rockettes' all-new tap-dancing showstopper "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Join Santa Claus and a cast of 50 in this memorable Christmas celebration. *Refer to story, page 22.*

Santaland Diaries, TheatreZone, Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea, 617-887-2336. *Performances: Dec 23 at 8 p.m., Dec 25 & 26 at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10–18.* Inspired by David Sedaris' sardonic and merrily subversive short story, this humorous and acerbic account of working as an elf at Macy's in Manhattan has become an "anti-holiday" cult classic.

Spirit of Boston Holiday Cruise, Commonwealth Pier, 617-748-1450. *Lunch cruises daily noon–2 p.m.; dinner cruises Mon–Fri 7–10:30 p.m., Sat 8:30 p.m.–midnight, Sun 6–9:30 p.m. Call for prices and reservations.* Tour Boston in a light-bedecked cruise ship featuring on-board entertainment.

Spirit of the Season at Old Sturbridge Village, off Route 20 West, One Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, 508-347-3362. *Daily from 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m. Call for tickets and reservations.* Want to know what a wassail is? Or where the tradition of hanging stockings over the fireplace comes from? Meet Father Christmas himself and learn all about early yuletide traditions, holiday music and favorite foods. Christmas Traditions by Candlelight take place in select houses and shops around the Common *Fri and Sat from 5–8 p.m.*

Who's Afraid of the Virgin Mary?, The Gold Dust Orphans, Machine Nightclub, 1256 Boylston St., 617-265-6222. *Performances through Dec 23: Tue–Thu at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$25 (cash only).* Written and performed by local comedic playwright and actor Ryan Landry, this spoof combining the biblical story of the birth of Christ and the classic Edward Albee play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* finds Mary and Joseph lost in time and still living in Bethlehem. The pair is struggling through their daily existence, drinking into oblivion while taking out their frustrations on the world, each other, and an unsuspecting young couple, Santa and Mrs. Kringle, who think they're just out for pleasant cocktail. *Refer to story, page 22.*



KIDS CORNER

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. **Dec 29 at 10:30 a.m.**—Santa's North Pole Express with the Wayne Martin Puppets, complete with a cast of beautifully crafted and costumed large-scale hand puppets and marionettes.

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: **Dec 20–23, Dec 26–30 from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**, **Dec 24 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**—Cultural Celebration: A Season of Light; **Dec 27–30 from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.**, **Dec 31 'til 3 p.m.**—Celebrate winter with vacation week camp; **Dec 31 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**—First Night Wearable Art; from 1–3 p.m. Cultural Celebration: Haitian Independence Day.

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., 617-267-9300. Refer to listing in Museums section. 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.

New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, 617-973-5200. Refer to listing in Museums section. Events may require pre-registration, call for more information. Dedicated to advancing knowledge of the world of water, this outstanding aquatic zoo features a 200,000-gallon circular tank with a Caribbean coral reef. Special events: **Dec 28–30 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**—Create-a-creature Art Workshop, kids will learn about coastal creatures and create puppets to carry during the culminating parade as part of Boston's First Night events.

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. Dec 22 & 23 at 10:30 a.m.**—Gingerbread Boy & Others; **Dec 24 & 26–30 at 1 and 3 p.m.**—Beauty and the Beast.

LIVE MUSIC

Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424. This popular nightclub hosts rock and pop music acts prior to evening dance nights with DJs. **Dec 28 at 7 p.m.**—The Disco Biscuits, **tickets: \$20.25; Dec 31 at 9 p.m.**—Avalon New Year's party, refer to listing, page 23, for more information.

Axis, 13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437. This popular nightclub hosts rock and pop musical acts prior to evening dance nights with DJs. **Dec 27 at 6 p.m.**—Catch 22 with Punchline, Socratic, Stray Bullets, **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. **Dec 22 at 8 p.m.**—BCMFest Teaser with Shannon Heaton & 10-Speed Trad, **tickets: \$12; Dec 23 at 8 p.m.**—Aine Minogue, **tickets: \$15; Dec 27 at 7 p.m.**—Songwriter Tribute Night: Greg Brown, **tickets: \$12; Dec 30 & 31 at 7 and 10 p.m.**—Ellis Paul, **tickets: \$18–25.**

Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., 617-267-8080, www.dickslastresort.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. **Dec 20**—Natural Born Spitters and guests, **tickets: \$15, VIP admission \$25; Dec 30 (upstairs)**—Radar Recordings 2nd Annual End of the Year Bash featuring On Fire, Seneca, Constants, Harris and Those Who Wait, **tickets: \$9; Dec 31 (upstairs)**—Baby Strange, Aloud, The Halogens and Violator, **tickets: \$10; Dec 31**—Darkbuster, Jerry's Kids, Lost City Angels and Road To Ruin (Ramones tribute band), **tickets: \$9; Jan 1**—Just Before August and Brother Mosley, **tickets: \$12–15.**

Paradise Lounge, 969 Commonwealth Ave., 617-562-8814. Call for complete schedule. The lounge is a vibrant bar and restaurant dedicated to the arts with a passion for music and all it encompasses. **Wed**—Blackout Bar with DJ Mark V and guests spinning the underground side of rock with a nod to classics.

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. **Dec 28 at 8 p.m.**—Sonia Dada, **tickets: \$15; Dec 29 at 8 p.m.**—Benevento with Russo Duo, Mike Gordon and Hopewell, **tickets: \$17.50–20; Dec 30 at 9 p.m.**, **Dec 31 at 10 p.m.**—Assembly of Dust with Ryan Montbleau, **tickets: \$15–16.50, \$20 for New Year's Eve show.**

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. **Dec 31 & Jan 1**—New Year's Eve/Day with Chris Botti. **Tickets: \$269 per couple for the early show with dinner, \$339 per couple for the late party, New Year's Day show: \$30, \$68 with dinner.**

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. **Dec 20**—Mike Patterson, Loves Night Is Noon and other acoustic acts; **Dec 21**—Girl on Top; **Dec 22**—Free Holiday Party featuring: AdFrank, Jake Zavracky, The Knee-Hi's, Brett Rosenberg and more; **Dec 23**—Mr. Airplane Man and The Tamponiffs; **Dec 30**—Loudly Fernando & Dom and Papermoon; **Dec 31**—New Year's Eve party with Emergency Music, The Charms, Violet Nine and DJs from The Pill spinning tunes.

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. Walcott, 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 DJs from

around the world at "Avaland"; **Sat**—Total Request with DJ Tim Collins; **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 nightclub is perfect for pool aficionados and novices alike. **Mon**—free lessons; **Wed**—Ladies' Night: have three ladies at a table and receive 25 percent off your table time, four ladies and it's 50 percent off; **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**—Gone7 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

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PANORAMA'S PICK



Happy HOLIDAYS

by Scott Roberto

Not quite in the holiday mood yet? If not, there's no shortage of opportunities in the Boston area to help spice up your season. A longtime Hub tradition running **through December 31** is the **Boston Pops'** annual **Holiday Pops** concerts at Symphony Hall, where maestro Keith Lockhart leads the orchestra in selections from its new holiday CD. Straight out of NYC, The Rockettes, newcomers to Beantown, kick up their heels at the Wang Theatre **through December 31** in the **Radio City Christmas Spectacular**. On the Cambridge side of the Charles River, enjoy the 34th edition of **The Christmas Revels**, a lively mix of dance and music that this year features a French-Canadian theme, at the Sanders Theatre **through December 28**. Of course, holiday cheer is not for everyone. Indulge your inner Scrooge with the hilarious spoof **Who's Afraid of the Virgin Mary?** at Theatre Machine **December 21–23** at 8 p.m. Refer to listings, pages 18 & 19.

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.

ManRay, 21 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-864-0400. Wed–Sat 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover varies. 19+. Home of New England's underground/alternative scene. Wed—"Crypt/Mekanism," industrial electronic; Thu—"Campus," boy-pop and high-energy house; Fri—"Fetish Friday," goth/industrial fetish; Sat—"Transmission," retro new wave. Creative attire encouraged.

Milky Way Lounge & Lanes, 405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain, 617-524-3740. Open daily 6 p.m.–1 a.m. The Milky Way is a laid-back but stylish club and bowling alley with a mix of nightly entertainment. DJ nights feature everything from reggae and salsa to house, but the Milky Way also keeps it real with local bands. Tue—Rev. Pete's Rockstar Karaoke; Sat—Mango's Latin Dance, free salsa lessons.

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.

Phoenix Landing, 512 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 617-576-6260. Bar: open daily 11 a.m.–1 a.m. Club: open daily 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover: up to \$5. 19+ on Tue, Wed, Thu & Sun; 21+ on other nights. This "alternative Irish bar" turns into a dance club every night. Mon—"Makka Mondays," reggae, hip-hop and rap; Tue—"Deep Tones," acid-jazz; Wed—Deep house, trance and techno; Thu—"Elements," drum 'n' bass fusion; Fri—"Shake What Your Momma Gave You," hip-hop, Top 40 and disco; Sat—"Boom Boom Room," '70s and '80s disco, new-wave and one-hit wonders; Sun—"Bump," deep house 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—"SalsaBoston.com"; Fri—"Sangria and Salsa"; Sat—DJ Edwin Matos.

Venu, 100 Warren 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

See Holiday Events for more Special Event listings.

11th Annual Artists Market, DeCordova Museum, 51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln, 781-259-8355. **Through Dec 31:** Mon–Thu 9:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m.; Fri & Sat 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Sun 11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., extended hours **through Dec 23**. This six-week holiday sales event showcases jewelry, pottery, glass, frames, creative children's toys and paper goods by the region's best artisans.

Avalon New Year's Eve, 15 Lansdowne St., 617-931-2000. **Dec 31** from 9 p.m.–3 a.m. Tickets: \$40. Must be 19 and over to be admitted. Featuring resident DJs Dave Ralph and Eli Wilkie and guest DJ Steve Porter spinning club, house and trance music at this annual New Year's Eve bash. One ticket allows you access to party at a bevy of other Lansdowne Street clubs, including Axis, ID, Embassy and The Modern.

Disney On Ice, FleetCenter, Causeway St., 617-931-2000. **Dec 26–29:** Sun & Tue at 11 a.m., 3 and 7 p.m.; Mon & Wed at 1 and 5 p.m. Tickets: \$12–70. Join Mickey and Minnie Mouse as they travel to four magical destinations all in one action-packed ice production. This year's ice spectacular transports audiences straight into the magical worlds of popular Disney films, including *Lilo and Stitch* in Hawaii; Ariel and Sebastian's *Little Mermaid*-inspired undersea kingdom; as well as scenes featuring *101 Dalmatians*, Peter Pan and Tinker Bell. Refer to story, page 14.

First Night Boston 2005, dozens of locations throughout the city, 617-542-1399. www.firstnight.org. **Dec 31** from 1 p.m.–midnight. First Night buttons: \$15; children (under 4) free. The largest New Year's Eve arts celebration in North America, First Night Boston shines brightly as an art-centered, alcohol-free way to ring in the New Year. See ice sculptures and artworks, two fireworks displays, evening performances and the Grand Procession down Boylston Street. First Night buttons may be purchased at local retailers and other locations. Refer to feature story, page 8, for more information.

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PANORAMA's PICK



Without RESERVATION

by Christine Celli

Bad day jobs may be a rite of passage for most struggling actors, but for Sam, who makes ends meet by taking reservations for a hip new Manhattan eatery, it seems life couldn't get much worse. Not so for Boston-bred actor John Kuntz, who tackles all 40 characters in **Fully Committed**, a one-man comedic play written by Becky Mode that runs at the Lyric Stage Company **through December 23**. After carving out a niche creating his own one-man-shows, Kuntz has become one of the city's top actors, attracting critical acclaim for everything from playing Shakespearean villains to Beckett's clowns. Sam, on the other hand, is trapped manning a phone line that won't stop ringing, fielding calls from pushy socialites, mafioso, Naomi Campbell's assistant and his dear old dad, who's just hoping Sam will be able to make it home for Christmas. Kuntz may be portraying a struggling actor, but watching him morph from one character to the next, it's clear he'll never become one. *Refer to listing below.*

and performed by Pamela Gien in which she inhabits 28 characters to tell the story of an interracial family, is the first in a series of three plays to be staged by the A.R.T., 10 years after the fall of apartheid, to celebrate the vigor and diversity of South African-inspired theatre.

Fully Committed, Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., 617-437-7172. *Performances through Dec 23: Wed & Thu at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$19-41.* Elliot Norton Award-winning actor John Kuntz stars in this devastatingly funny portrayal of one day in the life of an out-of-work actor who mans the red-hot reservation line at Manhattan's number-one restaurant. Coercion, threats, bribes—desperate callers will stop at nothing to land a prime reservation. Kuntz plays 40 wildly diverse characters in this holiday treat. *Refer to story, above.*

Leo Tolstoy's The Kreutzer Sonata, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell, 978-454-3926. *Performances begin Dec 30: Thu & Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 8:30 p.m., Sun at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$43, seniors \$39, students \$16.* From the pen of one of Russia's greatest authors comes a penetrating look into the mind of a married man. Starring and adapted by Larry Pine, this one-man tour-de-force creates a darkly funny, mesmerizing performance that floats on a musical landscape, as a man consumed with obsession and jealousy reveals his deadly secret, leading the audience on an extraordinary theatrical journey.

The Lion King, The Opera House, 539 Washington St., 617-931-2787. *Performances: Dec 21, 28-30 at 7:30 p.m., Dec 22 & 23 at 2 and 7:30 p.m., Dec 25 & Jan 1 at 8 p.m., Dec 31 at 2 and 8 p.m.,*

SPORTS

The Boston Celtics National Basketball Association
FleetCenter, Causeway St., 617-523-3030 or 617-931-2000.
Dec 22 at 7 p.m. vs. New York Knicks
Dec 31 at 3 p.m. vs. Washington Wizards

New England Patriots National Football League
Gillette Stadium, One Patriot Place, Foxborough, 1-800-543-1776.
Jan 2 at 1 p.m. vs. San Francisco 49ers

THEATER

See *Holiday Events* for more Theater listings.

Blue Man Group, Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., 617-931-2787 or 617-426-6912. *Performances: Dec 21-23 at 8 p.m., Dec 24 & 27 at 2 and 5 p.m., Dec 26, 28, 29, 30 & Jan 2 at 2, 5 and 8 p.m., Dec 31 & Jan 1 at 4, 7 and 10 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 was recently updated to include new performance pieces, new music and alterations to the sound and lighting design.

The Syringa Tree, Festival of South African Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-547-8300. *Performances begin Dec 30: Tue-Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$36-72.* *The Syringa Tree*, a one-woman show written

Dec 26 & Jan 2 at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$27.50-132.50. Christening the newly restored, historic Opera House, Disney's blockbuster show based on the hit animated film won seven 1998 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Director for avant-garde filmmaker Julie Taymor. Marvel at the breathtaking puppet-like costumes and bold, vibrant colors as the animals of the Serengeti plains are vividly brought to life through Taymor's incomparable, bold vision, enhanced by Elton John and Tim Rice's Oscar-winning score.

Menopause the Musical, Stuart Street Playhouse, Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., 1-800-447-7400. *Performances: Tue-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 Provok'd Wife, American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-547-8300. *Performances through Dec 26: Tue-Thu at 7:30 p.m., Sun at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$36-72.* The Brutes have a terrible relationship. Lady Brute married for money, Sir John for sex—and now he has been driven to drink and she to dreams of adultery. Flanked by a squadron of drunken rakes, debauched aristocrats and lascivious French maids, the Brutes turn London into a battlefield of love and infidelity, armed to the teeth with their dazzling, sharp-honed wit. First staged in 1697, *The Provok'd Wife* is the crowning glory of the English Restoration.

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.

Seussical The Musical, Boston Children's Theatre, C. Walsh Theatre at Suffolk University, 55 Temple St., 617-424-6634. *Performances Dec 27-30 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$10-22.* Gertrude McPhuzz? Maysie? Horton? The Grinch? Cindy Lou Who? Who are these creatures? Surely you know The Cat in the Hat and the many other wonderful, witty, whimsical characters of the greatest Thing-Thinker of all time, Dr. Seuss. This smashingly entertaining Broadway musical by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty will be the highlight of your holidays.

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.

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Stage Spotlight

YOUR GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND THEATRE



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PANORAMA

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

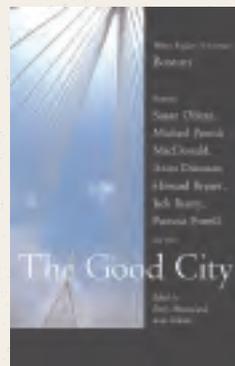
Find that perfect, last-minute holiday gift for everyone on your list right here in the Hub

by Christine Celli

You've made your list and you've checked it twice, but you *still* haven't finished shopping! And now your wife is insisting that you just *have* to pick up something for her dear old Aunt Betty. Well fear not, because Boston boasts several malls, outdoor shopping areas and a slew of quirky shops and department stores that have great, last-minute gift options. We encourage you to take a stroll through historic Faneuil Hall's popular outdoor market; bargain shop at off-price retailers in Downtown Crossing like H&M, TJ Maxx and Filene's Basement; and peruse the Shops at the Prudential Center for popular department stores like Lord & Taylor and Saks Fifth Avenue. For higher-end items, try Neiman Marcus and Gucci at Copley Place or hit the CambridgeSide Galleria for more mainstream chains, from J Crew to Best Buy. For the eccentric to the eclectic, from Newbury Street to Harvard Square, Boston is a sprawling shopping mecca and we've found the hottest spots for the coolest gifts. So if you're hoping to head home this holiday season with a unique slice of Beantown and don't know where to start, our gift guide has the solution for everyone on your list!



Christine Celli



Parents

MOM

We know moms aren't supposed to choose favorites, but that doesn't mean you can't try to persuade her. Since most moms claim

to love functional gifts above all else, consider a handcrafted mahogany or cherry wood bowl (A) made in Vermont. These teak or clarendon bowls are beautiful, durable and practical and are available in a variety of sizes (from \$25–289) at **Bowl and Board** (1063 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-661-0350). If you need to step it up a notch, we know just where to send you. The elegant, handcrafted jewelry at **John Lewis** (97 Newbury St., 1-800-266-4101) is the best way to spoil mom rotten. The store's unique array of 18k gold bands soldered together into one breathtaking piece (B), with or without stones, is sure to be the talk of the season. For more affordable items that still inspire awe, surprise her with an open-forged sterling silver bracelet (\$50–119) or 18k gold-hammered circle earrings (\$91).

DAD

Whether dear old dad enjoys travelling as much as you do, or just likes to learn about history and far off places from the comfort of home, head to the **The Globe Corner Bookstore** (28 Church St., Cambridge, 617-497-6277), which boasts one of the largest selections of travel guidebooks, maps, literature and more, right in Harvard Square. For books about the Hub, the store's staff recommends *The Good City: Writers Explore 21st Century Boston* (\$11) (C), a collection of essays by local writers. If he's a sports fan, we suggest *The Curse of the Bambino* by *Boston Globe* sports scribe Dan Shaughnessy (\$14). Now that the Red Sox have finally won the World Series, he may enjoy learning what all the fuss was about. When he's ready to start globetrekking, send him out in style with a pair of wingtips or oxfords from **Allen-Edmonds** (36 Newbury St., 617-247-3363) (D), world-famous for its expertly crafted shoes.



Christine Celli

E

Kids & Teens

KIDS

If you have any new moms on your list, they'll be thrilled by the one-of-a-kind gifts available for wee ones from **Mulberry Road** (46

Gloucester St., 617-859-5861). Still in its infancy itself, Mulberry boasts hand-crafted toys such as the brightly colored wooden My First Train (\$34) (E) and colorful knitware—from monogrammed sweaters to hats—created by local designers.

Don't let the name fool you. Although Curious George paraphernalia is plentiful (stuffed animals, \$13.95) (F), **Curious George Goes to Wordsworth** (1 JFK St., Cambridge, 617-498-0062) in Harvard Square offers plenty of other options as well. Its two floors are chock full of stuff for newborns through teenagers, from Beatrix to Harry Potter. You can even find favorites from your own childhood.



Jordan Salvatoriello

F



Christine Celli

G

TEENS

Shopping for teenagers is never an easy task, so skip the daunting department stores and head to **Urban Outfitters** (361 Newbury St., 617-236-0088 and 11 JFK St., Cambridge, 617-864-0070), home to more affordable (and hip) clothing and accessories. And for the latest in DVDs, CDs and video games, just stroll across the street to the **Virgin Megastore** (360 Newbury St., 617-896-0950). But if you really want to make the teen in your life think you're the coolest ever, head to **Diesel** (G), the Italian jean designer that has had trendy hipsters going gaga over its denimware since Brooke Shields outgrew her Calvins. The clothing line just opened a new store hocking its latest designs at 339 Newbury St. (617-424-6555). But just down the way at 160 Newbury (617-437-7344) is a privately owned franchise that sets itself apart from the flagship store by selling only hard-to-find or out-of-stock products from the company's line.



Christine Celli

H

Significant Others

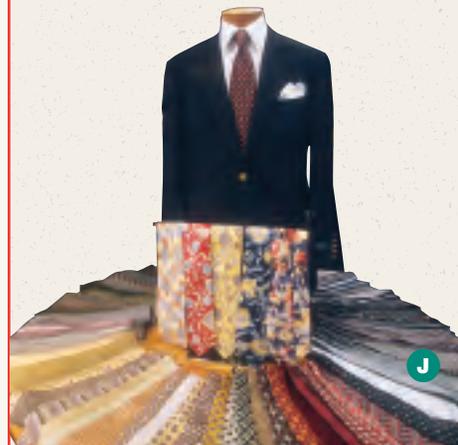
WOMEN

Perhaps a lady's favorite gift comes in a tiny box with a hefty price tag, but jewelry isn't the only way to show you care. Since we

know picking through fashion trends is almost as frightening as trying to guess her size, we suggest skipping clothes altogether and heading to **Lush** (166 Newbury St., 617-375-5874). This popular U.K.-based company creates the freshest-possible beauty products made from all natural ingredients. Its soaps and bath treats resemble baked goods (H) and come in pre-wrapped gift boxes that range in price from \$10–200. If your best gal really had her heart set on clothes, consider **Helen's Leather** (110 Charles St., 617-742-2077), which specializes in Western-style clothing, including classic, handmade Lucchese cowboy boots (\$395 and up) (I). And for something truly unique, try the **International Poster Gallery** (205 Newbury St., 617-375-0076) (K), which sells original vintage posters, considered to be one of the fastest-growing areas of art collecting. Choose a poster advertising her favorite hobby or an art nouveau or art deco travel poster and prove you know what she likes with a gift that may even appreciate in value.



I



J

MEN

Thanks to the simplicity of men's fashion, buying clothes for your best man often requires little more than picking out a new pair of khakis. Ladies who are hoping to help their man's work attire look more Clark Gable than Clark Kent should try **Simon's** (220 Clarendon St., 1-877-266-2345) (J), which has been in the business of dressing Boston's men in the latest fashions for more than 100 years and sells finely tailored suits at reasonable prices. For something more hip, designer du jour **Marc Jacobs** has just opened a boutique (81 Newbury St., 617-425-0707) selling the latest from its >>



Significant Others (cont.)

popular men's line. Or you could stick with casualware by heading to the **Levi's Store** (The Shops at Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 617-375-9010). And since punctuality is the best way to make a good impression in life, it's hard to go wrong with a timepiece from **Alpha Omega** (The Shops at Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 617-424-9030; 1380 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-864-1227) (L). America's watch and diamond specialist offers watches from all the popular designers, from Calvin Klein to Fossil, as well as its own precision watches and high-end time pieces from century-old watch manufacturers including A. Lange and Sohne. If your guy prefers toys, try **Bang & Olufsen** (30 Newbury St., 617-262-4949), purveyors of innovative, high-end gadgets, including the Beoplayer 2, a lightweight, pocket-sized MP3 player and headphones that finally gets comfort and sound quality in one tiny package.

K



L



Pets

Let's face it: a lot of us love our pets more than the people in our lives. To pamper your furry friend right, head to **Polka Dog Bakery** (256 Shawmut Ave., 617-338-5155) (M). This unique pet bakery and boutique proffers the finest homemade treats with no salt, sugar or preservatives to muck up your dog's health. You can purchase your pup a lunch box filled with pizza or peanut butter flavored treats for \$12, or a treat tin filled with after-dinner mints made from parsley and mint for \$24. The boutique also offers playfully designed leashes, collars and a Polka Dog calendar (\$24) that benefits the Animal Rescue League and is filled with black and white photographs of man's best friend.

M



Christine Celli



Grab Bag

Whether it's for a Christmas stocking, a Yankee swap or something for a friend or co-worker, we have a ton of smaller gift ideas for all ages and interests.

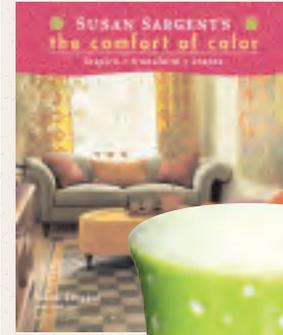
Founded in 1883, **Levitt and Pierce** (1316 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 617-547-0576) is primarily known as a tobacconist, but the historic shop has long been popular with Harvard University folk as much for its pipes and cigars as for its array of chess boards (\$20 and up) (N) and game supplies, including satirical playing cards depicting politicians and antique board games. For the hard-to-buy-for, **Levenger** (The Shops at Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 617-536-3434) offers items that are equal parts useful and unique, with especially good gift ideas for bookworms, from simple writing implements (\$28 and up) and leather journals (\$34 and up) to a luxurious, deluxe leather Scrabble set (\$2,499) (O) for the person who has everything. Gift sets from **Sephora** (Shops at the Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 617-262-4200) provide the perfect solution for that emergency, last-minute gift or grab bag item. Try the Shea Travel Treasures Set (\$32), a travel bag filled with bath products from France's L'Occitane en Provence, or Philosophy's Kiss Me Trio (\$25) of lip glosses in sugar cookie, peppermint patty and the unscented yummy red. Since making your home pretty seems even more popular these days than making ourselves pretty, local interior decorator **Susan Sargent's** new book *The Comfort of Color* (\$30) (P) makes a great gift for nesters hooked on TLC's "Trading Spaces" and its ilk. Sargent even owns a local boutique (132 Newbury St., 617-262-2226) that sells colorful items from holiday mugs and pottery to throw pillows and welcome mats that will inspire even the novice decorator to kick-up the festive feel of their home during the holidays.

N



Christine Celli

O



P

F

PANORAMA'S PICK



ART for the Holidays by Christine Celli

Are you still searching out gift ideas that will really make an impact with those impossible-to-buy-for friends and relatives? Try something truly unique like handmade items from local artists. The largest and most varied selection of goods can be found at the **11th Annual Artists Market** at the **DeCordova Museum** (refer to listing, page 23), which turns its gift shop into a holiday bazaar, jam-packed with crafty creations, including ceramics made from Maine sea shells and cast paper animal sculptures perfect for adding a unique flair to your Christmas decorating. Or consider a handcrafted ornament, like those on sale at the **Society of Arts and Crafts** (refer to listing, page 17). The Society also boasts jewelry and other wearable art that make for great one-of-a-kind presents. And for a gift that truly says Boston, look no further than **Childs Gallery** (refer to listing, page 16), currently hosting an exhibit of works depicting scenes from around the Hub.

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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, hand-

made 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.

Ermenegildo 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.

The Hempest, 207 Newbury St., 617-421-9944. *Mon-Sat 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun noon-6 p.m.* The Hempest offers quite possibly the largest selection of hemp clothing and accessories in the country. www.hempest.com.

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

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handpainted 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.

MaxMara, 69 Newbury St., 617-267-9775. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m.* Founded in 1951 and with more than 1,000 stores worldwide, MaxMara is Italy's largest women's ready-to-wear manufacturer. Its hallmarks are luxurious fabrics, stylish silhouettes and hand detailing. MaxMara embodies the principles of truly great Italian fashion—classic design and excellent quality.

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.

Small Pleasures, 142 Newbury St., 617-267-7371; 92 State St., 617-722-9932. *Newbury St.: Mon–Sat 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; State St.: Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–5 p.m.* Specializing in antique jewelry and vintage watches, this unique store with locations in the Back Bay and the Financial District features watch brands like Rolex, Cartier and Tiffany and engagement rings from the 1920s, as well as custom design and repair services, all in an intimate Art Deco setting. **SEE LOCATORS #9 & 10 ON CENTER MAP.**

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.

Adesso, 200 Boylston St., 617-451-2212. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m.* Adjoining Boston's Four Seasons Hotel and across from the Public Garden is one of America's leading resources for beautifully designed furniture, lighting and accessories. Adesso imports and stocks a vast range of Europe's finest designer products such as Ligne Roset, France, renowned for its beds, sofas and comfortable seating, and Alessi, Italy, famous for its stainless-steel teakettles and serving pieces. www.adessoboston.com.

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.

Lord & Taylor, 760 Boylston St., 617-262-6000. *Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat 'til 8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.* One of the oldest and most respected names in retail, this upscale department store features top-of-the-line clothing for men, women and children in

addition to department store staples like cosmetics, jewelry and clothing accessories.

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.

Neiman Marcus, 5 Copley Place, 100 Huntington Ave., 617-536-3660. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m.* Nearly a century of tradition and dedication to gathering the most enviable products the world has to offer has helped make this Dallas-based retailer a world-class fashion authority. Neiman's has proven that it can stay in step with the times, in addition to stepping ahead to deliver the unexpected.

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.

Saks Fifth Avenue, The Shops at Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., 617-262-8500. *Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m.* One of the country's premier upscale retail giants, Saks proffers a wide selection of high-end fashion apparel, accessories, cosmetics and home decor pieces from an assortment of unique and name-brand designers.

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, 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. Stop by the customer service desk to purchase a PRUferred Card (\$5) which grants discounts to customers at more than 50 shops and restaurants. Mention *Panorama* and receive 50% off the card price.

Simon's Men's Clothing, 220 Clarendon St., between Newbury and Boylston, 617-266-2345. This truly unique shop is the oldest

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Wisteria
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Be transported to an ambience of once city and contemporary with a gourmet Asian twist. Wisteria offers an innovative menu that is the inspired synthesis of New England seasonal and Asian fusion cuisine. Impeccable service and attention to detail are apparent, from the unique presentation of entrees on signature china to the welcoming hot towel upon being seated.

Conveniently located in Boston's Theatre District, Wisteria is ideal for pre- and post-theatre dining. Located on Washington Street at the Doubletree Hotel Boston-Downtown.

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL 617-956-5111.
A Corcoran/Jenison Property.

family-run men's clothing store in Boston. Simon's has been offering fine men's clothing at realistic prices for four generations. 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 also ship anywhere in the world. Tradition has it that many of the thousands of students who graduate from colleges in Boston buy their first interview suits at Simon's. They continue to shop wherever they roam via the extensive Simon's website. www.simonsclothing.com.

Tall Girl Shop, 211 Berkeley St. at Boylston St., 617-424-7164. *Mon, Tue and Fri 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; Wed and Thu 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–6 p.m.* At Tall Girl, you'll find an incredible selection of fashions for taller women of all ages. Tall Girl fashions have been expertly proportioned to fit long-limbed women of sizes 6–22.

The Tannery, 402 Boylston St., 617-267-0899. *Mon–Sat 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun 10 a.m.–7 p.m.* Also: 11A Brattle St., Harvard Square, Cambridge, 617 491-0810. Serving customers since 1973, The Tannery is recognized as one of the world's best footwear stores. With locations in both Boston and Cambridge, The Tannery offers customers 200 of the top name brands to choose from, including Birkenstocks, Danskø, Ecco and Clarks.

Tiffany & Co., Copley Place, 100 Huntington Ave., 617-353-0222. *Mon, Tue & Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Wed–Fri 'til 7 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–5 p.m.* This world-renowned jeweler has been synonymous with quality, integrity and tradition for more than 150 years. The Copley Place store features an exquisite array of diamonds, rings, timepieces and accessories.

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 on Beacon Hill and in Harvard Square.

Devonia Antiques, 43 Charles St., 2nd floor, 617-523-8313. *Mon–Sat 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; closed Wed & Sun.* Perched on "Antiques Row," this unique, 1,200-foot showroom specializes in antiques for the dining room, including an array of English porcelain, European stemware circa 1880 and hand-painted cabinet plates.

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, 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, briefcases 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.

Moxie, 73 Charles St., Suite 1A, 617-557-9991. *Mon–Fri 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m.* This cozy women's footwear boutique features shoes from such fashionable designers as Nicole Miller, L'Autre Chose, Cynthia Rowley, Rafe and Isaac, as well as purses and handbags.

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.

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, Sakkio Japan, India Express and Bourbon Street Cafe.

Eddie Bauer, 500 Washington St., 617-423-4722. *Mon–Sat 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.* This local outlet of the renowned Seattle-based chain offers seasonal collections of fine-quality, casual apparel, footwear, travel gear and accessories for men and women, all at steep discounts from the regular retail prices.

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 Croscill. Filene's complimentary personal shopping service assists all your shopping needs. Call 617-357-2100, ext. 2611.

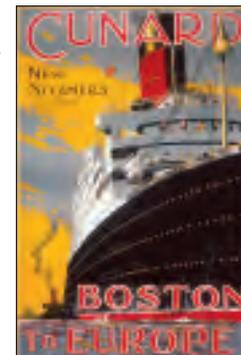
Filene's Basement, 426 Washington St., 617-542-2011. *Mon–Fri 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m.* There are certain "musts" for visitors to Boston: a ride on the Swan Boats, a tour of the Freedom Trail and a shopping trip to Filene's Basement. For more than 90 years, the Basement 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.

ARTS & ANTIQUES

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THE SOCIETY OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

Contemporary American Craft

Ranging from functional to sculptural, SAC's first floor gallery represents over 250 artists working in clay, glass, metal, wood and fiber from across the United States. The second floor exhibition gallery features four curated shows each year. www.societyofcrafts.org.

175 Newbury Street
(between Dartmouth & Exeter Streets) — 617-266-1810
Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun noon–5 p.m.



Kimberly Keyworth
silver, gold and enamel pendant

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.

Old South Meeting House Museum Shop, 310 Washington St., 617-482-6439. *Open daily from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.* The Museum Shop offers historical books, puzzles, maps, jewelry, handcrafted ceramics and pottery. As the historic site that launched the Boston Tea Party, the Meeting House sells "Boston Harbour Tea," which is, of course, tax-free! The children's section of the store has a variety of whimsical and educational toys and books, which includes "hurdy-gurdys," wooden tops, historical paper dolls and much more. www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org

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.

Faneuil Hall Heritage Shop, Zero Faneuil Hall Square, Stall #13, basement of historic Faneuil Hall, 617-723-1776. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-6 p.m.* Rediscover a true Boston landmark. Opened in 1973, when its only neighbors were meat and produce wholesalers, the shop continues to offer quality colonial reproductions in pewter as well as scrimshaw, blown glass, Dedham pottery, hand-hammered copper weathervanes, prints, and sterling and gold charms of historic Boston locales.

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 #7 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 Coop at Harvard Square, 1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-499-2000. Harvard Book Building: *Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun 10 a.m.-9 p.m.* Brattle/Palmer Building: *Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun noon-7 p.m.* Founded by Harvard students more than 100 years ago, this behemoth Harvard Square landmark offers a massive selection of books, reference materials and periodicals, as well as the finest collection of Harvard insignia merchandise.

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 giant, two-level thrift warehouse is a veritable local institution, featuring duds both funky and cheap. The voluminous 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.

Reside, 266 Concord Ave., Huron Village, Cambridge, 617-547-2929. *Thu-Fri 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun noon-6 p.m.* Specializing in vintage, mid-20th century furniture and accessories, this eclectic store has quickly gained a following for its unique inventory of the best in European and American modern design.

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.

BY THE NUMBERS

Emergency Numbers

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British Airways (800) 247-9297
Continental (800) 525-0280
Delta (800) 221-1212
United (800) 241-6522
US Airways & US Airways Shuttle (800) 428-4322
Amtrak (800) 872-7245
MBTA (T) (617) 222-3200
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Boston Cab (617) 536-5010
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Town Taxi (617) 536-5000
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Alamo (800) 327-9633
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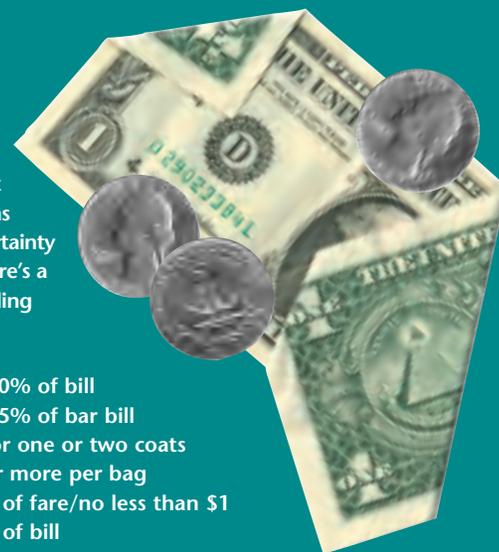
Visitor Information

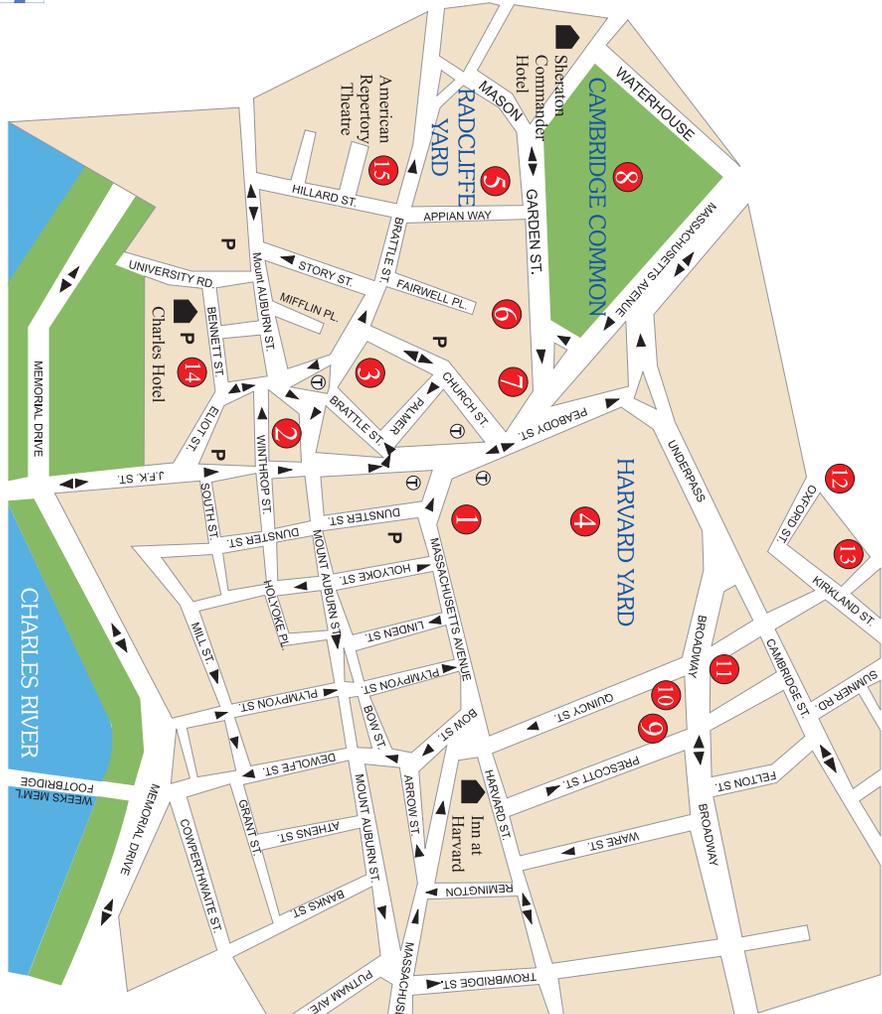
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Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism (617) 973-8500
Telephone Directory Assistance 555-1212
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Here's a Tip...

It happens all the time. A bellhop carries your bag, a bartender pours you a cold brew or a taxi driver delivers you to your destination. It's at the end of these momentous occasions when that awkward moment of uncertainty arrives. How much should you tip? Here's a quick list to ease the suffering of handing over too much or too little.

- Waiter/Waitress 18-20% of bill
- Bartender 10-15% of bar bill
- Coat Check \$1 for one or two coats
- Airport Skycap \$1 or more per bag
- Taxi Driver 15% of fare/no less than \$1
- Hairdresser 15% of bill
- Hotel Concierge \$2-3 (quick help & info)
\$5 (detailed information)
- Hotel Bellhop \$1-2 for carrying luggage
- Hotel Chambermaid \$2 per day. Usually left at the end of your stay.





MAP LEGEND

1. Harvard Square
2. Winthrop Square
3. Tony Row (Brattle St.)
4. Harvard Yard
5. Radcliffe Yard
6. Christ Church
7. First Church
8. Cambridge Common/Old Burial Ground
9. Busch-Reisinger Museum
10. Fogg Art Museum
11. Sackler Museum
12. Harvard University Museums of Natural History
13. Semitic Museum
14. Charles Square
15. American Repertory Theatre

POINTS OF INTEREST

- African Meeting House F9 100
- Arlington Street Church G8
- Back Bay Station J7
- Berklee College of Music H5 102
- Berklee Performance Center H5
- Black Falcon Cruise Port L15
- Black Heritage Trail - - - F9 103
- Boston Center for the Arts J8 104
- Boston City Hall F10
- Boston Common G9
- Boston Convention & Exhibition Ctr. K13
- Boston Design Center K15
- Boston Massacre Site G11
- Boston Public Library H6
- Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum J12 105
- Boston University G2
- Bunker Hill Monument B9
- Bunker Hill Pavilion (Charlestown map) C10
- Charles Playhouse H9
- Charlestown Navy Yard (Charlestown map) C11
- Cheers Bar G8
- Children's Museum J12 106
- Christian Science Center J5 107
- Christopher Columbus Park F12
- Citgo sign G3
- Colonial Theatre H9
- Conference Center at Harvard Medical J2 108
- Copley Place J7 109
- Copley Square H7
- Copley Theatre H7
- Copps Hill Burial Ground E11 110
- Custom House Tower G12 111
- Cuttler Majestic Theatre H9
- Downtown Crossing H10
- J1-J11
- Emerald Necklace H9 112
- Emerson College J2 113
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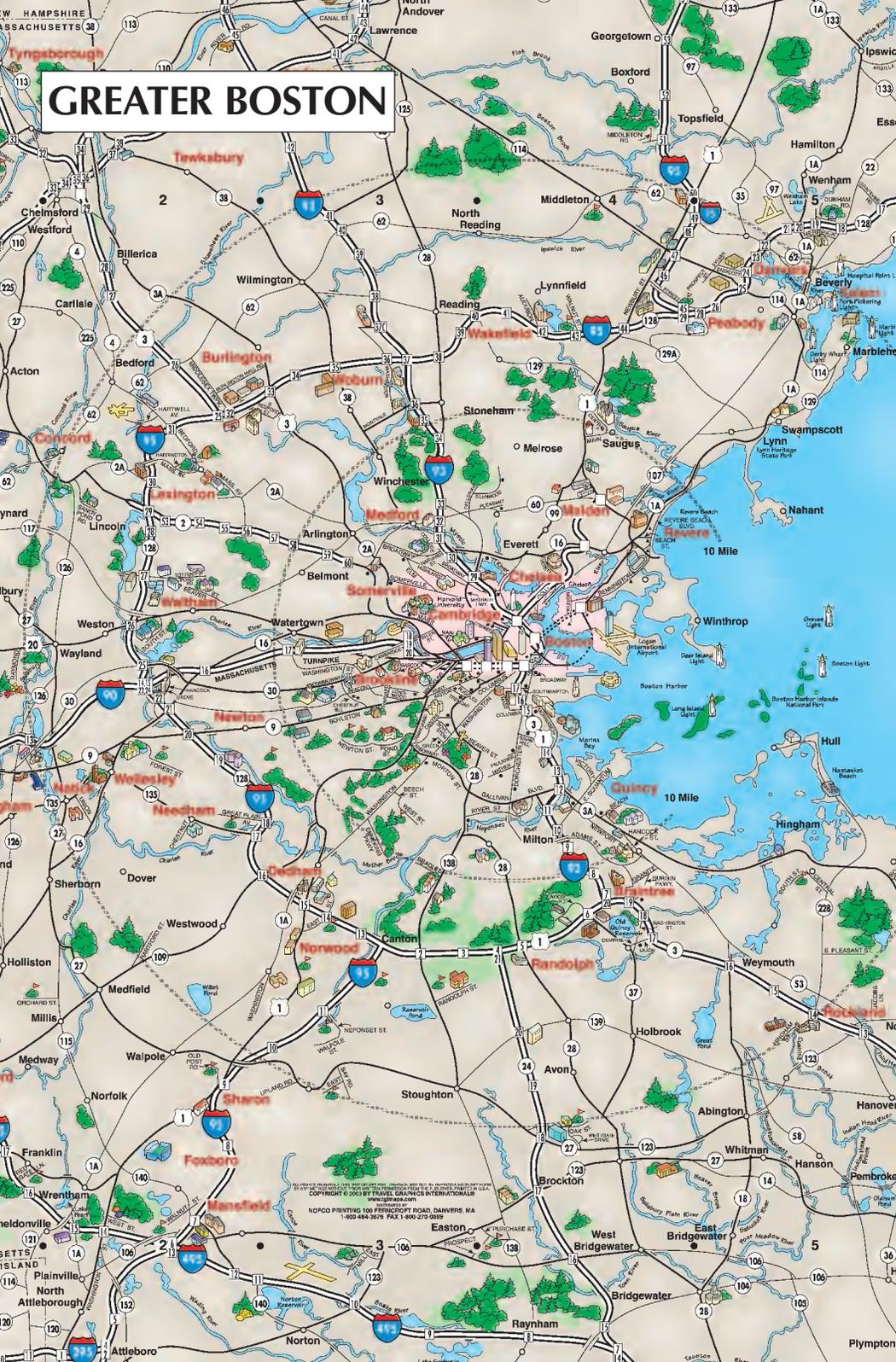
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GREATER BOSTON



M

USEUMS

PANORAMA'S PICK

A Perfect SETTING

by Diana Aramburu

What better way to become an expert in hosting holiday dinner parties than to relive Boston's golden age of entertaining? Patrons can learn from famed Boston icon and philanthropist Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840–1924), who practically wrote the book on the art of entertaining, with the **Holiday Table** installation at the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**. Complete with a setting for eight on a 16th century Tuscan table and featuring examples of the Venetian china, silver and glassware that Mrs. Gardner culled from her travels, the annual Holiday Table exhibit recreates a famous holiday dinner party hosted by Mrs. Gardner on December 23, 1904. The display also draws on Mrs. Gardner's notes, which describe an elaborate menu, the order in which the courses would be served and the musical entertainment for the evening. As guests to Gardner's home had noted in the past, Gardner always strived for "aesthetic perfection" as the best way to wow her guests. *Refer to listing, page 50.*



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(Family Night) \$1. The museum features a variety of educational and entertaining activities for children, including interactive exhibits such as Grandparent's Attic, Construction Zone and Science Playground that allow children to learn about science, history and culture through hands-on experience. Special exhibits: Boston Black: A City Connects, decorate a float at the Carnival Garage, celebrate Caribbean culture, shop at the Colmado Store, style hair at the African Queen Beauty Salon and dance at a Cape Verdean cafe; Airplay, illustrates the amazing powers of air; access/ABILITY, educates people about living with disabilities. *Refer to Kids Corner in Currently for special events.*

BOSTON

Many museums may have special hours during the holiday season, please call ahead.

Boston CityPass, www.citypass.com. Visit six of Boston's best attractions for one low price. Save 50 percent and avoid ticket lines. *Booklets: \$36.75; youth (3–17) \$25.50. Ticket booklets are available at the first attraction visited and are good for nine days.* 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.

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.

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.*

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 **through Jan 2**: Boris Mikhailov: A Retrospective; Momentum 2: Lucy McKenzie. Special event: **Jan 2 at 2:30 p.m.**

Held when the museum is closed to the public, the Learning to Look slide presentation, exhibition tour, and discussion is a unique opportunity to get an in-depth glimpse at ICA exhibitions and understand critical issues in specific artists' work. *Tickets: \$15, reservations required.*

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, 617-566-1401. *Open Tue-Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$10; weekends \$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 exhibits: Annual Holiday Table display, a seasonal evocation of the elegant, turn-of-the-century dinners that Isabella Stewart Gardner hosted during the holidays, *refer to story, page 49*; Off the Wall: New Perspectives on Early Italian Art.

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 presented to President and Mrs. Kennedy by foreign leaders from around the globe.

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. Special event: **Dec 21** at 7 p.m.—Esteemed automotive historian Fred Roe "talks about cars, old ones!" Roe is the author of *Duesenberg: The Pursuit of Perfection*, published in 1982.

McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill, 617-552-8100. *Open Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat noon-5 p.m. Free admission.* This museum is lauded for presenting interdisciplinary exhibits that spark new questions and is renowned for its European, Asian and American collections. Gallery tours held every *Fri* at 12:30 p.m.

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 **through Dec 31**: Visual Stories: The Artwork of James Ransome.

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: High Style and Hoopskirts: The 1850s; Cerith Wyn Evans; Art Deco: 1910-1939 (Gund Gallery); Josef Sudek: Poet with a Camera. Special events: **Dec 22** at 6 p.m.—Holiday Spirit: Music for the Season featuring the Choir of Men and Boys of the Parish of All Saints, Ashmont.

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.

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 exhibit: Strange Matter, explore the amazing and bizarre realm of manmade substances and glimpse where research into "strange matter" might take us in the future. At the Mugar Omni Theater: *Adrenaline Rush: The Science of Risk; Extreme; Forces of Nature; India: Kingdom of the Tiger; Roar: Lions of the Kalahari.* *Refer to Currently section under Film for complete Mugar Omni Theater listings.* Showing at the Planetarium: *Mission to Saturn; The Sky Tonight.*

Sports Museum of New England, 5th and 6th floor premium seating levels, FleetCenter, Causeway Street, 617-624-1234. *Open Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun noon-5 p.m. Admission on the hour only, until 3 p.m. Hours subject to change due to FleetCenter 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. 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. Please note that numbered sites correspond to the map of Harvard Square on page 40.

Busch-Reisinger Museum (9), 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: **through Dec 31**—Extra Ordinary Every Day, an extensive collection of works of art, objects of design and other materials related to the Bauhaus, Germany's famous art and design school from the post-World War I period; Prints: System, Style and Subject; **through Jan 2**—Dependent Objects by Gerhard Richter.

Fogg Art Museum (10), 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: American Art at Harvard, works include John Singleton Copley's *Nicholas Boylston*, Albert Bierstadt's *Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak* and Charles Sheeler's *Upper Deck*.

Harvard Museum of Natural History (12), 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.* 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 exhibit: Origins: Life's First 3 Billion Years.

Take your brain to Brunch.

Enjoy Sunday brunch with a view of the Charles. Packages start at \$32 and include brunch, your choice of an Omni film or planetarium show, and parking when available. Seatings at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Reservations recommended.

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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. Special exhibits **through Dec 31**: John Coplans: *Body Parts—A Self-Portrait*; Cerith Wyn Evans: *Thought Unsaid, Now Forgotten*; Yael Bartana: *Three Works*.

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 Dec 30**: *Telling It Like It Is: Student Activism at MIT During the Vietnam War*; *The Art of Structural Design: A Swiss Legacy*.

Sackler Museum (11), 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: **through Jan 2**—*Closely Focused, Intensely Felt: Selections from the Norma Jean Calderwood Collection of Islamic Art*; *Masterworks of East Asian Painting*; *Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the National Gallery of Canada*.

BEYOND BOSTON

Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Road, Concord, 978-369-9763. *Mon–Sun 9 a.m.–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 **through Jan 2**: *American Writers at Home*, photographs and a selection of the writers' manuscript poems and letters from some of our most important literary figures, including Hemingway, Wharton, Frost, Twain, Dickinson and more. Special event: **through Jan 2**—*Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature*, 35 trees whimsically decorated with original ornaments inspired by classic and contemporary children's books, tickets: *\$12.50; seniors \$10; children \$6.50.*

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 **through Jan 2**: *Robert ParkeHarrison: The Architect's Brother*; *Luminous Forms: Abstractions in Color Photography*; *mobiustrip*. Special event **through Dec 31**—*Eleventh Annual Artists' Market*, refer to story, page 32.

Museum of Bad Art, Dedham Community Theater, 580 High St., Dedham, 617-325-8224. *Mon–Fri 6–10 p.m.; Sat, Sun & holidays 1–10 p.m. Free admission.* The world's only institution dedicated to preserving, exhibiting and celebrating bad art in all its forms and all its glory. This irreverent, hilarious exhibit would make even your upbeat grade-school art teacher cringe with horror.

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



DOWN AND DIRTY—Explore the amazing and bizarre realm of manmade substances at the exhibit *Strange Matter* at the Museum of Science through January 3.

national heritage. Special exhibits: **through Jan 2**—*A Changing World: New England in the Photographs of Verner Reed, 1950–1972*; *Deep Inside the Blues: Photographs by Margo Cooper*; *The Western Pursuit of the American Dream: Selections from the Collection of Kenneth W. Rendell*; *Satisfaction Guaranteed: Mail-Order Catalogs in the United States*.

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: *Our Land: Contemporary Art from the Arctic*; *In Nature's Company*; *The Art of Shopping in China*; *Havana: Photographs by Robert Polidori*; *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.*

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*. **F**

SIGHTSEEING

PANORAMA'S PICK

Hitting the ICE

by Diana Aramburu

Feeling cold? It's finally happened—Old Man Winter is here icing the city's streets and dusting snow atop its trees. But in Boston, that's no cause for grief thanks to the **Frog Pond**, a 16,000-square-foot ice skating surface nestled on Boston Common. While in the summer months, the Pond features a wading pool complete with a 70-foot-high spray fountain, in winter it's transformed into Boston's own version of the famous Rockefeller Center ice rink. A popular oasis for skaters young and old, this outdoor rink won't let you down, remaining functional even on those atypical warm days thanks to a refrigeration system that keeps you spinning on your skates in temperatures up to 55 degrees. But if the usual frigid temps are in play, the Frog Pond has just the cure: concessions and a heated rest area where you can warm your toes. Bring or rent blades for \$7 and, as Mayor Menino advises, "come for fresh air, healthy outdoor exercise and the camaraderie of sharing the ice with others." Refer to listing, page 60.



Kristin Kammerer

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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 teem 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 streetlamps 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, 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, Bambino-cursed 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.

Roxbury is one of the city's earliest settlements, founded by English colonists in 1630. Today, it is the heart of Boston's African-American community and is home to such landmarks as Mission



courtesy of Arnold Arboretum

WINTER WONDERLAND—The 265-acre, Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain features thousands of species of trees and plants and is open year-round, from sunrise to sunset.

Church, a massive, Romanesque-style basilica built in 1876; Franklin Park, designed by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and containing a zoo and golf course; and the Museum of the National Center for Afro-American Artists, which displays a wide range of works by black artists.

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, while 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.

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 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.

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, Tue–Fri from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Trolley tours and sites closed 'til spring. Tickets: \$3; 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.

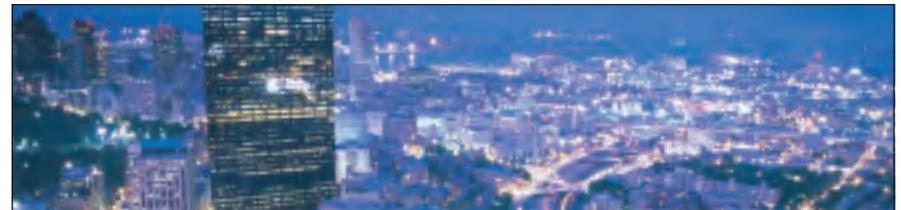
Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, 617-524-1718. *Grounds open year-round, sunrise to sunset. Free admission. Visitor Center open Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sun noon–4 p.m.* This 265-acre tree sanctuary designed by Emerald Necklace architect Frederick Law Olmsted opened in 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. *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 that include one commemorating 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 Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, all islands are within 4–10 miles of downtown. Ferries and water taxis depart from Long Wharf, and schedules can be obtained from Boston Harbor Cruises at 617-227-4321. www.bostonislands.com. *Some islands have limited access during the fall and winter, call for more information.* This national recreation area contains a variety of small islands situated within the Greater Boston shoreline. The islands are rich in natural and cultural resources and places where you can explore tide pools; walk through a Civil War-era fort; climb a lighthouse; hike lush trails and salt marshes; camp under the stars; or relax while fishing, picnicking or swimming.

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



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Prudential Center, 800 Boylston Street, Boston

skywalk
observatory

collection of more than five million books. Film festivals, exhibits and children's programs run throughout the year.

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum, Congress Street Bridge, 617-338-1773. *Temporarily closed due to fire damage.* This replica of the famous ship, being repaired off-site, remains an indelible token of patriotism on the site of the "single most important event leading to the American Revolution." On a cold evening in 1773, a group of colonists led by the Sons of Liberty snuck aboard a British ship and threw hundreds of chests of tea into Boston Harbor in protest of taxation without representation.

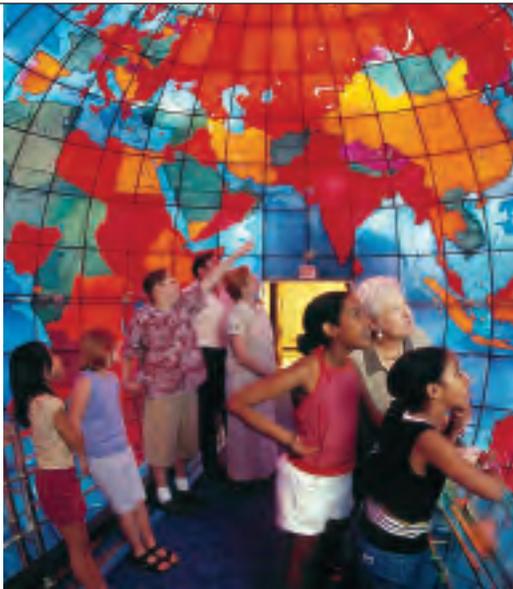
Bunker Hill Pavilion, Boston National Historical Park Visitors Center, Charlestown, 617-242-5601. Located yards from the *U.S.S. Constitution*. *Visitor center and bookstore open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monument open daily from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission.* Check out "Whites of Their Eyes," a dramatic 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, windsurf, 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. (no 10 a.m. tour on Sat).* 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 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.* 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.*



courtesy of the Christian Science Center

AROUND THE GLOBE—Witness the world as it existed in 1934 by visiting the Mapparium at the Christian Science Center's Mary Baker Eddy Library.

Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., 617-524-0128. *Open daily from 8:30 a.m. 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.

Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., 617-227-3956. *Tours: Wed–Sun 11 a.m.–4:30 p.m. every 30 minutes. Admission: \$5; seniors \$4; students \$2.50; free to 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 F. Kennedy National Historic Site, 83 Beals St., Brookline, 617-566-7937. *Closed for the winter.* This modest frame house is the well-preserved 1917 birthplace and childhood home of the 35th president of the United States, and also the first home shared by the president's father and mother, Joseph P. and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. Includes a collection of household furnishings, photographs and significant mementos personally collected and arranged by the president's mother.

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.

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Longfellow National Historic Site, 105 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-876-4491. **Closed for the winter.** This 1759 Georgian mansion was home to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow from 1837 to 1882 and a central gathering place for writers and artists in the 19th century. It also served as George Washington's headquarters during the siege of Boston in 1775-76. Original furnishings, books and art from around the world are on display.

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*.

Minute Man National Historical Park, Concord and Lexington, 978-369-6993. Minute Man Visitor Center is located on Route 2A West; North Bridge Visitor Center is at 174 Liberty St. *Both open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m.* Created in 1959 to preserve the sites associated with the opening battles of the American Revolution, Minute Man Park consists of over 900 acres of land along original segments of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, including Lexington Green and Concord's North Bridge. The park also preserves The Wayside, the 19th-century home of literary greats Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott and Margaret Sidney.

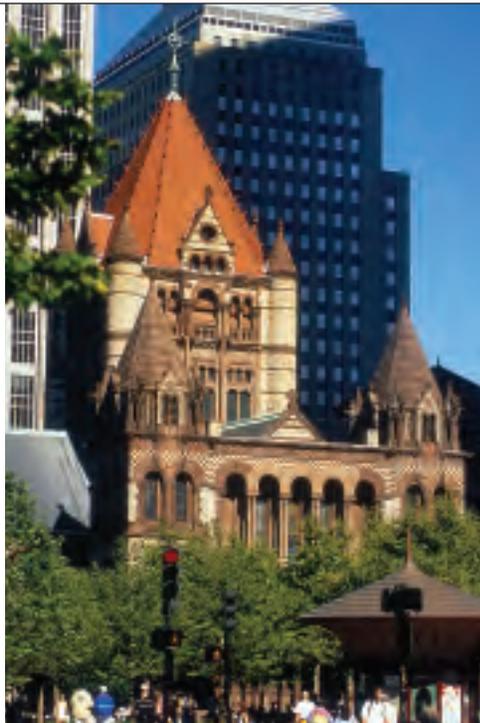
New England Holocaust Memorial, Congress Street near Faneuil Hall. This haunting memorial features six luminous glass towers etched with the six million prisoner numbers of those who perished in the Holocaust. Visitors can walk under the towers and read the dramatic stories of the victims and heroes 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. From the 50th floor of the Prudential Tower you can look down on the best of Boston: the historic Back Bay, Boston Harbor and the Charles River. It's the only place in Boston offering a 360-degree view. On a clear day, you can see all the way to New Hampshire and Vermont. **SEE LOCATOR #9 ON CENTER MAP.**

Trinity Church, Copley Square, 617-536-0944. *Open daily from 9 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, which is 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. *Special Winter Wonderland tour of the Museum of Fine Arts: Daily 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or by appointment. Tickets: \$50 (includes admission to the muse-*



Kindra Clineff/Mass. Office of Travel & Tourism

SQUARE DEAL—H.H. Richardson's architectural masterpiece Trinity Church overlooks Copley Square in the heart of the Back Bay.

um). Tours depart from the MFA's West Wing lobby. Give the Gift of Art: Peruse local galleries for the best art to buy this holiday season, Tue-Sat, through Dec 23 from 3-5 p.m. Tickets: \$40. Reservations required. 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.

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 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. Tickets: \$10; seniors \$9; children (under 14) \$8.* 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. and 1 p.m. through Dec 24; call or visit www.thefreedomtrail.org for post-holiday schedule. 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 micro-breweries. 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.northendmarketours.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: \$47.25 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.-5 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

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Photo Walks, 617-851-2273. *Tours: daily at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call for reservations and departure locations. Tickets: \$25; children (under 12) \$10.* Explore Boston on a photographic journey that reveals the scenic treasures of Beacon Hill, the Freedom Trail and the waterfront. Each walking tour provides fascinating historical information and simple, creative tips on composing artistic photographs of area attractions.

Samuel Adams Brewery Tour: Drink in a Little History, 30 Germania St., Jamaica Plain, 617-368-5080. *Tours: Wed at 2 p.m.; 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.

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. Please note that numbered sites correspond to the map of Harvard Square on page 40.

Cambridge Common/Old Burying Ground (8). 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 (6). This 1761 Tory house of worship was utilized as a Colonial barracks during the American Revolution.

First Church Unitarian/ Universalist (7). Harvard College provided the pews for its students in this 1833 building erected for the then-newly founded Unitarian Church.

Harvard and Radcliffe Yards (4 & 5). The centers of two institutions that have played major educational roles since Harvard's founding in 1636.

Harvard Square/Old Cambridge (1). 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) (3). 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 daily from 10 a.m.-4 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.

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 visit 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.*

Stone Zoo, 149 Pond St., Stoneham, 781-438-5100. *Open daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: \$7; seniors \$6; children (2-15) \$4.50; children (under 2) free.* Highlights include Snowy Owl creek, Mexican gray wolves, snow leopards, reindeer, river otters, llamas and miniature donkeys, as well as educational programs at the Animal Discovery Center. The Zoo is also home to the nation's first "Earth Park." Special event **through Dec 30: Zoo Lights.**

ICE SKATING

Charles Hotel Ice Skating Rink, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-864-1200. *Daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fees: \$5; children (under 12) \$3; rental skates \$5.* This 2,900-square-foot, illuminated outdoor ice skating rink marks its first season and will boast rink-side refreshments from the New England-influenced restaurant Henrietta's Table, including hot toddies and vanilla-infused hot chocolate.

Frog Pond Ice Skating Rink, 617-635-4505. *Mon 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tue-Thu and Sun 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri & Sat 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fees: \$3; children (under 13) free; rental skates \$5; skate sharpening \$5; lockers \$1.* Ice skating on Boston Common's Frog Pond has become a staple of wintertime in Boston. The heated skate house offers hot chocolate, snacks and music. *Refer to story, page 53.*

Larz Anderson Skating Rink, 25 Newton St., Brookline, 617-739-7518. *Thu from 10 a.m.-noon; Fri 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sat & Sun noon-5 p.m. Fees: \$5; rental skates \$4.50.* Named one of the most romantic destinations in the Hub by *Boston* magazine, Larz Anderson Park was the former residence of the Anderson family and is now a 64-acre public park that is home to the Museum of Transportation, several themed gardens and historical artifacts. The skating pavilion sits atop a wooded hill in the middle of what was once an Italian garden designed by Charles A. Platt in 1901.

PROVINCETOWN

Despite being bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on three sides, P-Town (as the locals call it) at the very tip of Cape Cod is far more than just the sum of its beaches and shores. Established in 1727 as the fishing and commerce center of the Cape, the area has grown to be culturally diverse, from the Portuguese fisherman that were early settlers to its current reputation as a popular vacation spot for the gay and lesbian community. P-Town offers visitors top-notch dramatic arts, galleries and a hopping nightlife scene during the summer months. And yes, it also has some of the Northeast's most spectacular beaches.

If you go, start your day with a stroll and some people watching on Commercial Street. The area's main drag is lined with eclectic shops, candy stores and, well, drag queens! For a high-speed tour of the nearby beaches and the famous dunes, check out Art's Dune Tours (Commercial and Standish Streets, 1-800-894-1951). The one-hour tour takes you through the National Seashore Park and by the dune shacks, once inhabited by shipwrecked sailors and later by literary figures such as Jack Kerouac and Eugene O'Neill.



Jim McElholm



Kendra Clineff/MOTT

HOW TO GET THERE

Provincetown is 114 miles southeast of Boston at the very end of Cape Cod. By car, you'll want to take Route 3 to the Sagamore Bridge and then Route 6 all the way to the end. It's approximately a three-hour drive.

BY LAND: Bus service is available from Logan Airport and South Station on the Plymouth & Brockton Street Railway Co. Call 508-746-0378 for schedule and ticket information.

BY AIR: Cape Air flies between Logan Airport and Provincetown Municipal Airport. Call 1-800-352-0714 for more information. Flights take about 15 minutes

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New Year's Celebration
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 January 4, 2004

Martin Luther King Weekend
 January 16-19

Valentine's & Presidents Wknd
 February 13-16

For information, please contact The Tourism Office (508) 487-7000, #536



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 will resume in the spring from the Boston National Historical Park Visitors Center at the corner of State and Devonshire streets. 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.–4 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 5 p.m.* 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, 617-635-4505. *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 daily 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; closed Mon. 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.

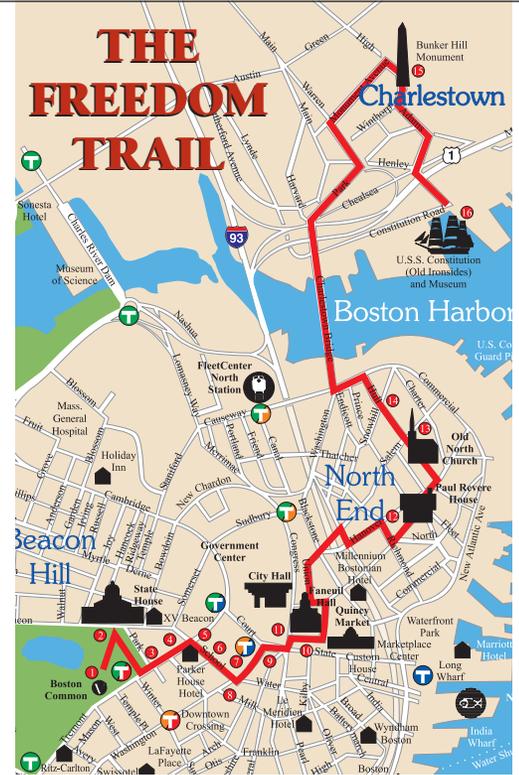
Site of the Old Corner Bookstore (7). School and Washington streets, 617-367-4000. Constructed as an apothecary in 1718, the ground floor was later used as a bookstore that became the center of literary Boston and the meeting place of such notables as Emerson, Hawthorne, Longfellow and Thoreau.

Old South Meeting House (8). 310 Washington St., 617-482-6439. *Open Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sat & Sun 'til 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, 617-720-1713. *Open daily 9:30 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. Admission: \$2.50; 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 a.m. & 4 p.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.

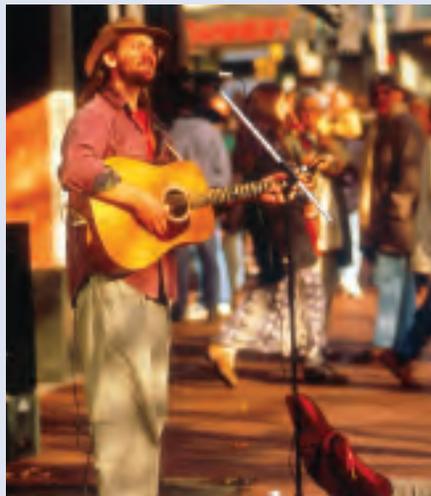
Copp's Hill Burial Ground (14). Hull Street. Set out in 1660, Copp's Hill was Boston's second cemetery. Many remarkable people are interred here, including Increase Mather, his son Cotton, Cotton's son Samuel Mather and Edmund Hartt, builder of the *U.S.S. Constitution*.

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 9:30 a.m.–3:50 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.

Cambridge

Densely populated with immigrants, artists, students, professors and professionals, Cambridge is a study in diversity—a melding of tradition and progression. Stretching along five major squares, this city by the Charles River is like a museum of human ambition, boasting some of the best colleges and universities in the world, innovative museums, quirky second-hand shops, a vibrant music scene and ethnically diverse restaurants.



© Kindra Clineff/Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC—A variety of street musicians and other performers entertain shoppers and passersby in Harvard Square.

The people of Cambridge would like to inform the world that their fine city is not a neighborhood of Boston. Although it often gets lumped together with Beantown, Cambridge stands alone with all the sustaining qualities of an international city center. Yet some people don't even realize it's a separate city. Others associate Cambridge with Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), complete with stereotypical images of tweed-coated intellectuals in stuffy library halls and tech geeks in mad scientist laboratories. And with good reason. Cambridge's legacy in academia is as well-founded as Shakespeare's place in English literature. The city is home to 60 Nobel laureates and counting, a working population of which one-third holds professional or graduate degrees, and more bookstores per capita than in any other city in America. But there's more to this city than you can fit into a syllabus. Throughout Kendall, Central, Inman, Harvard and Porter Squares, nearly 100,000 residents share a spirited range of cultural influences.

Kendall Square is home to M.I.T. with its conspicuous concrete dome—the scene of many famous pranks. Although it looks more like a high-brow business park than a neighborhood, there are a few secret hiding places for fun among the sleek biotech firms and research labs, including the Kendall Square Cinema, the Kendall Cafe and the CambridgeSide Galleria, which houses over 100 stores, including Filene's, Banana Republic and Best Buy.

A little farther up the Charles, **Central Square** sets a swift pace as the social center for Cambridge professionals, college students and other urban dwellers. It's lined with coffee shops, burrito joints, down-home music stores, live music venues and its own share of great restaurants.

Just north of Central Square, the more residential, quieter **Inman Square** prides itself on hometown sensibility with diverse working-class inhabitants, many of whom speak Portuguese. It is a place where food brings people together at a range of local ethnic markets and restaurants known for their bold flavors.

There's even more joyful chaos at the grand cultural and geographical nucleus of Cambridge—**Harvard Square**. History is everywhere, including storied Harvard Yard, home of the homonymous Harvard University, which makes its quaint presence on the north side of the square. With all this intellectual energy flowing, it's no surprise that Harvard Square has been dubbed "the book mecca of the world." Not everyone here is a student, though. Along Massachusetts Avenue and JFK Street, musicians, magicians and street performers add color to the already bustling square.

The young artistic crowd fills the stretch of Cambridge just beyond Harvard Square. **Porter Square** brims with eclectic second-hand shops, restaurants and bars.

Just remember, Cambridge isn't Boston. But the friendly competition between the two cities won't keep Bostonians or other visitors from crossing the Charles River to experience the carnival of flavors that makes up one of America's most vibrant urban centers.

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PANORAMA'S PICK



True BLUE by Christopher Wallenberg

AZURE 61 Exeter St., 617-933-4800

The sleek restaurant **Azure** in the tony Lenox Hotel may take its name from its blue-purple-accented decor, but we'll color the place urbane, inspired, even dazzling. Opened over two years ago with the innovative Robert Fathman at the helm, Azure features a seafood-centered menu that fuses contemporary American cuisine and exotic flavors with classic French technique. Throw in Fathman's famously whimsical and envelope-pushing ideas (oysters in bondage, anyone?), and you're in for a great night of dining. While he's often daring, Fathman treats each ingredient with the proper reverence. Those oysters, for instance, are wrapped in smoked salmon and encrusted in a potato coating that's fried and topped with creme fraiche and small bits of caviar. A confit of duck leg is kissed with white bean fondue and garlic, while the grilled corn chowder is infused with a cilantro-mint pesto and studded with rock shrimp fritters. Entrees rise to the occasion, too. A flaky, juicy pan-roasted sea bass is splayed on grilled zucchini salad. A tender filet mignon, paired with grilled Hawaiian blue prawns, is accented with shallots, mashed potatoes and green beans. And while the chef may sport tattoos and ride a motorcycle, his dining room is nothing if not sophisticated. The turquoise blue-tinted glass bar is backed by a large mirror surrounded with shimmering cobalt tiles. Vaulted ceilings complement the elegant, classical-style windows. And plush chairs and cozy banquettes offer comfort in a gorgeous room that will have you feeling anything but blue.

- 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	67
	Chinese	69
	Eastern Mediterranean	70
	French/French-American	70
	French Country	72
N	Indian	72
	International	72
D	Irish	74
	Italian	74
	Japanese/Sushi	76
E	Mediterranean	77
	Museum Dining	77
	New England	78
	Seafood	78
	Southwestern	80
X	Spanish/Tapas	80
	Steakhouses	80
	Vietnamese	80

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. Serving B, L and D daily. 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**, 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. One of the key attractions at Bob the Chef's is the Sunday brunch with live jazz from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$\$

***Cheers**, 84 Beacon St., 617-227-9605. Also: Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-227-0150. Cheers Beacon Hill, the original inspiration for the setting of the TV series, offers sports on 10 DirecTVs. Cheers Faneuil Hall is a replica of the famous Hollywood set and boasts dancing and live DJs Fri & Sat nights. These pubs offer a

HIGH 5: WINTER WARMERS

If Jack Frost won't stop nipping at your nose, a warm drink in a cozy locale is just the thing to help you nip back. From sinfully rich hot cocoa, to grown-up treats like hot cider and mulled wine, countless Boston-area haunts have just the thing to warm the cockles of your heart. Here are five of our favorites.



1 HENRIETTA'S TABLE, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-661-5005. Once its new ice skating rink opens later this month, this New England-inspired eatery will really get into full-swing, offering rink-side refreshments including the barn burner: hot apple cider with Southern Comfort, lemon rind and a cinnamon stick.

2 OAK ROOM, Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., 617-267-3500. With plush leather couches, dark wood accents and candlelight throughout, the Oak Room is the perfect place to cozy up with a hot toddy on a cool winter's night.

3 L.A. BURDICK CAFE, 52-D Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-491-4340. The hot chocolate at Burdick's is a legendary blend of rich, dark chocolate imported from France and steamed milk—as delectable as their world famous chocolates, only melted in a cup.

4 TEALUXE, 108 Newbury St., 617-927-0400, 0 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-441-0077. The perfect place to enjoy a pot of tea, both for Tealuxe's precision brewing technique and the coziness of the shops, adorned with copper ceilings and walls filled with tea boxes.

5 GRENDDEL'S DEN, 89 Winthrop St., Cambridge, 617-491-1160. Tucked away in a basement in the heart of Harvard Square, this venerable Harvard haunt may have a fake fireplace, but it will still melt your heart thanks to its spicy mulled wine, a half-priced happy hour food menu and even cheese fondue.

—Christine Celli

mouthwatering selection of traditional fare and an abundant beverage selection, including their award-winning Bloody Mary and a variety of draft beers. Pick up officially licensed Cheers merchandise at their gift shop. L, D, C, LS. \$

Delux Cafe, 100 Chandler St., 617-338-5258. This tiny South End pub has long been a local favorite for its inexpensive eats and rock-and-roll atmosphere. Don't expect typical bar food, however, as the eatery's monthly menu can include everything from pan-seared tuna to a grilled cheese sandwich featuring brie and chutney to chips and salsa made with seasonal fruit. 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, 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 \$\$\$

Excelsior, The Heritage on the Garden, 272 Boylston St., 617-426-7878. Lydia Shire's newest culinary masterpiece delivers bold and contemporary American cuisine at this stunning Back Bay location. An impressive collection of 500 wines, representing all regions of the world, is displayed in Boston's only climate-controlled glass wine tower. Pre- and post-theater dining available. D, C, LS. \$\$\$\$

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 (as featured in *Bon Appetit*) and their signature "molten chocolate cake." Chef Nicole Coady's menu, which the Food Network says is one of the best in the country, 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. \$\$

***The Good Life**, 28 Kingston St., 617-451-2622; 720 Mass. Ave., Central Square, Cambridge, 617-868-8800. A swinging restaurant, bar and jazz den boasting red leather booths, Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald on the sound-system, and martinis and other cool cocktails to boot. The restaurant serves up all-American diner/comfort food such as burgers, steak tips, barbecued chicken wings and a classic meatloaf. L, D, C, LS. \$

***Hard Rock Cafe**, 131 Clarendon St., two blocks from Boylston St., 617-424-ROCK (7625). In the heart of Copley Square, the 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 Ulrich Koberstein 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. \$\$\$\$

Perdix, 560 Tremont St., 617-338-8070. A New American bistro in the South End run with flair by chef Tim Partridge and his wife Nini Diana. Elegant and charming, this welcome newcomer has been acclaimed for such whimsical signature dishes as "Today's steak with whatever Tim wants" and the dessert staple, "Really freakin' good chocolate torte." 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 showcases sophisticated American cooking, memorable salads, grilled fish and chicken. For comfort food, try the meatloaf. Casual elegance at its best with sidewalk cafe, club-like bar and skylit dining space. Superb location, newly renovated. 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. \$\$\$

The Sunset Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave. (corner of Harvard and Brighton avenues), Allston, 617-254-1331. This popular Allston hangout features Boston's best beer selection, with more

than 112 beers on tap and over 400 microbrews. Its food entices too, with award-winning steam beer burgers, famous curly fries, buffalo wings and giant nachos. L, D, C, LS, SB. \$

***Sweetwater Cafe**, 3 Boylston Place, 617-351-2515. This casual pub offers classic American comfort food, including steak tips, burgers and sandwiches, in a relaxed atmosphere. Sweetwater also boasts a large beer selection, patio dining, food 'til 1 a.m. and live music Thu–Sat. Open daily 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m. \$

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 of executive chef Mark J. Porcaro complements the breathtaking views. L Mon–Sat 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.; D Mon–Thu 5:30–10 p.m., Thu–Sat 'til 11 p.m. Late night dining from the bar menu Thu–Sat 'til 2 a.m. Live jazz seven nights a week. \$\$\$\$

Union Bar and Grille, 1357 Washington St., 617-423-0555. Boston restaurant veterans Seth Woods, Matt Burns and Jeffrey Gates offer this sleek, upscale American bistro in the up-and-coming SoWa District, featuring everything from gourmet comfort

food like the Reuben sandwich and a beef-and-sausage burger to the award-winning \$10K tuna in a roasted tomato vinaigrette. D, C, LS, SB. \$\$\$

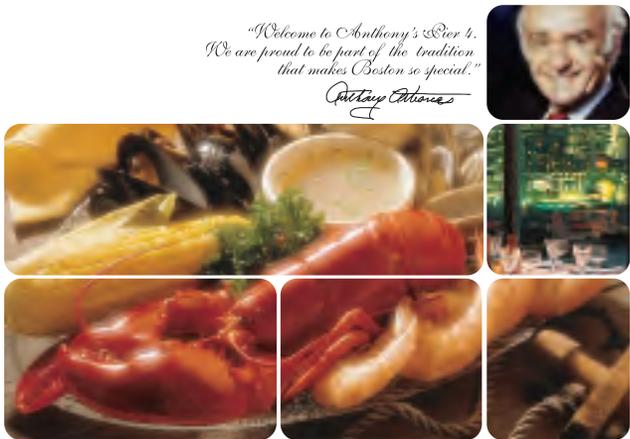
UpStairs on the Square, 91 Winthrop St., Cambridge, 617-864-1933. The accolades for this vibrant Harvard Square eatery have piled up since owners Mary-Catherine Deibel and Deborah Hughes relocated their beloved UpStairs at the Pudding to its new location. Boasting an eclectic decor, this lush urban oasis features everything from gourmet pizza to Colorado rack of lamb, created by renowned chefs Amanda Lydon and Susan Regis. L, D, C, LS. \$\$\$

Vinalia, 101 Arch St., Downtown Crossing, 617-737-1777. Boasting more than 40 wines by the glass and menu items ranging from delectable wood-grilled pizzas to pan-seared scallops and steak frites, this downtown dining destination has created a buzz among Hub vino aficionados and diners alike. Not to be missed are the monthly wine pairing dinners and the weekly wine tastings. L, D, C. \$\$\$

CHINESE

Chau Chow City, 83 Essex St., Chinatown, 617-338-8158; 52 Beach St., Chinatown, 617-426-6266. This somewhat glitzy flagship of the Chau Chow chain sits near the top of the list as one of the best eateries in Chinatown. The menu features authentic Swatowese seafood dishes, such as clams in black bean

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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. \$\$

New Shanghai Restaurant, 21 Hudson St., Chinatown, 617-338-6688. Specializing in Shanghai and Cantonese cuisine, this much-lauded Chinatown destination features a menu chock full of Chinese favorites, such as General Gau's chicken and Peking duck, as well as delectable seafood dishes, like the crispy whole fish and scallops with black peppercorn glaze. 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. Presents a blend of traditional Chinese cuisine and American hospitality served in an upbeat bistro setting. 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, all available by the glass. 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. \$\$\$\$

L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., 617-262-3023. Situated in a historic Back Bay townhouse, this sophisticated French classic helmed by top chef Frank McClelland is a favorite of both power brokers and couples on a romantic night out. D. \$\$\$\$

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. \$\$\$\$

Pigalle, 75 Charles St. South, 617-423-4944. Earning a "bravo" as a "brilliant newcomer" to the Boston dining scene from *Zagat Guide 2002*, this recent addition to Park Square brings exquisite French cuisine to the Theatre District via the inventive culinary artistry and personally charming service of co-owners and husband-and-wife team Marc Orfaly and Kerri Foley. Validated parking and valet at the Radisson Hotel. D. \$\$\$

Radius, 8 High St., 617-426-1234. James Beard Award-winning chef Michael Schlow continues to churn 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. \$\$\$\$

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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, 71½ 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 #4 ON CENTER MAP* \$\$\$\$

INDIAN

India Quality, 484 Commonwealth Ave., 617-267-4499. This longtime Indian eatery in Kenmore Square has become a favorite by offering authentic, affordable fare served in a welcoming atmosphere. Specialties include its many spicy vindaloo entrees, dishes featuring fresh goat meat, and 20 different homemade breads. L & D. \$

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. \$

INTERNATIONAL

Blue Ginger, 583 Washington St. (Rte. 16), Wellesley, 781-283-5790. Chef Ming Tsai, known for his hit "East Meets West" cooking show on the Food Network, 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 Rowes Wharf, 617-856-7744. Casual elegance surrounds this unique cafe. Beautiful decor and breathtaking harbor views are perfect for those who desire a cosmopolitan, 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 Kobe beef-wrapped spring rolls and 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. \$\$\$\$

Mantra, 52 Temple Place, 617-542-8111. Situated in a former bank building, this sleek, buzz-worthy eatery combines a stylish interior, complete with a 15-foot-high, woven-wood "Hookah Den." The kitchen creates classical European and French fare with an innovative use of Indian spices and ingredients in such dishes as pan roasted red snapper in a yogurt dressing and seared foie gras with a panacetta-filled wonton and a sweet mission fig. L, D, C. \$\$\$\$

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 Harvard Square with 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 plates designed for today's busy lifestyles. The tapas-like dishes feature eclectic, wood-grilled fare like sushi-grade tuna tartare and wood-grilled tiger prawns and are designed to encourage sharing. Traditional servings offered as well. The setting features spectacular views of the Boston skyline. B, L, D, C. \$\$\$

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IRISH

***Black Rose**, 160 State St., next to Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 617-742-2286. Long regarded as one of Boston's most popular eateries, the Black Rose is located in the Faneuil Hall Marketplace area. Aged beef, chicken, fresh native seafood, light fare, hearty sandwiches and other American and Irish classics from the grill are served in a casual, jovial pub atmosphere. Live Irish music nightly and weekend afternoons. Enjoy fine Angus beef at the Black Rose Steakhouse upstairs. Daily 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m. Bar opens at 11 a.m. L, D, LS, SB. Traditional Irish breakfast served. www.irishconnection.com \$

Clerys, 113 Dartmouth St., 617-262-9874. A neighborhood bar with 400 regulars. Located on the corner of Dartmouth and Columbus street, Clerys combines comfort and style in a unique setting for any season. Cool down by the open French windows in the bar area or relax on the couches in the cozy lounge. The menu features pub fare, pizzas and a wide range of beers on tap. Casual, L & D, SB 10 a.m.–3 p.m., full bar, validated parking. Open daily 11 a.m.–2 a.m. www.irishconnection.com \$

***The Green Dragon Tavern**, 11 Marshall St., 617-367-0055. Boston's premier 18th-century tavern, located on the Freedom Trail. Proudly serving L and D daily with lobster specials Mon–Thu. Home of 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. Open daily 11 a.m.–2 a.m. Hearty Irish B Sat & Sun 11 a.m.–3 p.m. L, D, C. \$

***Hennessy's of Boston**, 25 Union St., 617-742-2121. This purveyor of fine food and spirits serves lunch, dinner and an authentic Irish brunch with a traditional carvery, Sun 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Located near Faneuil Hall, Hennessy's serves up items like wood-grilled Irish salmon, Kilmacalogue 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 and SB. Open daily 11 a.m.–2 a.m. \$

***The Purple Shamrock**, 1 Union St., 617-227-2060. Located across from City Hall, The Purple Shamrock offers a lively atmosphere with street-side dining and nightly entertainment. 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. Traditional Irish breakfast served Sat & Sun from 9 a.m.–noon. L & D daily 11 a.m.–2 a.m. \$

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 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, 89 Broad St., 617-348-1234. Located in the Wyndham Hotel in the heart of Boston's Financial District, this casual, upscale restaurant features Cal-Ital cuisine with seasonal New England flavors. Offering diners a lively blend of culinary influences from Northern California and Italy, including hearty Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. 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. The warm and charming atmosphere, excellent cuisine and outstanding service make this a favorite of locals and visitors alike. 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 #3 ON CENTER MAP. \$\$\$

La Groceria Ristorante Italiano, 853 Main St., Cambridge (off Central Square), 617-876-4162. This charming, unique and popular 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 truly 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 #5 ON CENTER MAP. \$\$\$

Mamma Maria, 3 North Square, Prince and Garden Court streets, 617-523-0077. "A serious restaurant with fabulous food" (*Zagat Survey* 2004); "Easily the most attractive restaurant in the North End" (*Boston* magazine, January 2004); "One of Boston's most romantic restaurants" (*The New York Post*, 2003). 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 \$\$\$

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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. \$

Ristorante Fiore, 250 Hanover St., 617-371-1176. This restaurant features excellent service and tantalizing fare such as homemade pasta, seafood, veal and daily specials. All dishes are cooked to order and overseen by owner/chef Fiore Colella. One of the largest establishments in the North End, Ristorante Fiore boasts three separate dining rooms with designated areas for special functions. During the winter, the fireplace lounge is a great place to congregate with friends and enjoy your favorite cocktail. Reservations recommended. L, D, LS, VP. \$\$\$

Ristorante Villa Francesca, 150 Richmond St., 617-367-2948. This traditional Italian restaurant has been a North End institution for 26 years. Its Old World setting features four private dining rooms. Rated "Boston's Best Calamari" by *Zagat*. Featured in *Who's Who in America's Restaurants*. C, VP, all credit cards, reservations accepted. Late night menu 'til 1 a.m. \$\$

Teatro, 177 Tremont St., 617-778-6841. Located next to Loews Boston Common Cinema, Teatro is one of the hottest new additions to the Theatre District. Its reasonably priced Italian-influenced menu was created by executive chef Robert Jean (Mistral) with owner/chef Jamie Mammano (Mistral). 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). Teatro also serves dinner late for post-theater crowds. 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 another buzz-worthy restaurant on their hands. An Italian-style trattoria, Via Matta was named one of "America's Best New Restaurants" by *Esquire* and "One of America's Best Restaurants" by *Gourmet*, while *Bon Appetit* dubbed it "Best Late Night Hang Out." L, D, LS. Closed Sun. VP. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$

JAPANESE/SUSHI

Fugakyu, 1280 Beacon St., Brookline, 617-734-1268. One of the largest Japanese restaurants in the area, this popular eatery features a floating boat sushi bar and tantalizing specialties like the caterpillar maki (eel and avocado) and the house special (salmon, tuna, clam and octopus), as well as tempting tempura and seafood dishes. L, D, LS. \$\$\$

Ginza, 16 Hudson St., Chinatown, 617-338-2261; 1002 Beacon St., Brookline, 617-566-9688. Located in Chinatown with a second outpost in Brookline, the restaurant is a favorite of many sushi-loving Bostonians. Dine on the freshest raw fish and tempura with specialties like the Ginza Surprise, boasting a selection of exotic sushi rolls and sashimi. L, D, LS. \$\$\$

Gyuhama, 827 Boylston St., 617-437-0188. This Back Bay institution is known for its late-night "rock 'n' roll" sushi beginning at 10 p.m., when the music is cranked up and the chefs create an array of tasty maki rolls and nigiri sushi. Gyuhama also offers an array of tempura and teriyaki dishes. L, D, LS. \$\$\$

Osushi, 10 Huntington Ave., 617-266-2788. This newcomer to the sushi scene has earned raves for its fresh fish and dazzlingly innovative maki rolls, such as the godzilla, crystal rainbow and spicy TNT maki, all served in a chic, minimalist atmosphere. L, D, LS. \$\$\$

Shino Express Sushi, 144 Newbury St., 617-262-4530. This tiny, subterranean sushi bar specializes in freshly prepared maki rolls and fun specials, offering Newbury Street shoppers a fast, cheap dining alternative. L & D. \$

MEDITERRANEAN

Bar 10, The Westin Hotel, Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., 617-424-7446. This sleek, contemporary bistro, located in the historic Back Bay, serves creative Mediterranean cuisine and offers an exceptional wine list. Enjoy executive chef Christoph Leu's grilled Greek salad flatbread pizza or tagliarini provencale in this cosmopolitan atmosphere. L, D, C, LS. \$\$\$

Maurizio's, 364 Hanover St., North End, 617-367-1123. Casual, intimate, understated—serving some of the best Mediterranean cuisine in Boston. Enjoy fresh fish from the grill, roasted rack of lamb with rosemary and garlic in a Chianti sauce as well as chef/owner Maurizio's favorite pasta dishes. L & D. Reservations accepted. \$\$

Olives, 10 City Square, Charlestown, 617-242-1999. Boston celebrity chef Todd English, an international restaurateur with dozens of worldwide ventures, 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. Located on the second level in the West Wing Galleria, 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*

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\$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. \$\$

B&G Oysters, 550 Tremont St., 617-423-0550. This sophisticated South End raw bar from James Beard Award-winning chef Barbara Lynch (No. 9 Park) and partner Garrett Harker features bivalves from Wellfleet to the West Coast, as well as signature dishes like the lobster BLT and the Maine lobster roll. L, D, LS, VP. \$\$

The Barking Crab, 88 Sleeper St. (Northern Avenue Bridge), 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 monstrous 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 the requisite lobster and crabmeat rolls. L & D. \$\$

Chart House, 60 Long Wharf, 617-227-1576. Newly renovated and located on historic Long Wharf within walking distance to Faneuil Hall Marketplace, the New England Aquarium and the North End, the Chart House boasts an impressive menu of fresh seafood, steaks and more. Surrounded by waterfront views, the eatery offers specialties like the crab, avocado and mango stack appetizer; shrimp fresca; macadamia crusted mahi-mahi; slow roasted prime rib; and its signature dessert—

hot chocolate lava cake. Private parties for 30 or more by reservation only. L Sat 11:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m.; D Mon–Fri 5–10 p.m., Sat 'til 10:30 p.m., Sun 'til 9 p.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." And with more than 30 years of experience, these restaurants 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. L & D Mon–Fri 11 a.m.–10 p.m. **www.dolphinseafood.com** \$\$

East Coast Grill, 1271 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 617-491-6568. If you're looking for hot and spicy barbecue and seafood, then Chris Schlesinger's Inman Square eatery is not to be missed. Fresh seafood, grilled fish and meats are served with traditional sides like coleslaw, beans, corn bread and watermelon. An oyster bar, cabana-like cocktails and a funky atmosphere prove that fine dining can be fun. D, SB. \$\$\$

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) are at it again, this time with a 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, 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 3–5 p.m.; D Mon–Thu 5–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m., Sun 3–9 p.m. **SEE LOCATOR #11 ON CENTER MAP.** \$\$\$

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 #5 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," which has been served at Presidential Inaugurations since 1981. Legal has won numerous awards, including being named Best Seafood Restaurant in America by NBC's "Today Show." Extensive wine list. Open daily for 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. Seafood entrees combine Pacific Northwestern flavors, East Coast specialties and regional favorites like Maine lobster and Massachusetts scallops. 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, flown in from around the world, 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 Winiker 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 \$3 million renovation of the dining room and bar 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 is located in the Theatre District. It offers an innovative menu that is the inspired synthesis 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. \$\$\$

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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

Border Cafe, 32 Church St., Cambridge, 617-864-6100. Sizzling fajitas, overstuffed quesadillas and giant margaritas are the high-lights at this Tex-Mex hotspot in Harvard Square. Other specialties include Cajun and Creole dishes, all served in a bustling, lively and fun atmosphere. L, D, C, LS. \$

Casa Romero, 30 Gloucester St., 617-536-4341. This romantic Mexican favorite in the Back Bay boasts a vine-covered garden courtyard and sophisticated, creative Southwestern fare such as huitlacoche mushrooms wrapped in a spinach tortilla and breast of chicken in a mole poblano sauce, as well as delicious margaritas and sangria. D. \$\$\$

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 \$\$

Tu Y Yo, 858 Broadway, Somerville, 617-623-5411. This home-style Mexican eatery just outside Davis Square offers dishes made from family recipes that go back more than 100 years. From homemade salsas to meat sauces, each item is freshly made, lending an unparalleled authenticity to everything from the quesadillas to the pulpo picirillo (octopus in red wine vinaigrette). D. \$\$\$

SPANISH/TAPAS

Dali, 415 Washington St. (at Beacon Street), Somerville, 617-661-3254. The authentic Spanish tapas are perfect for sharing, and with at least 40 offerings on the menu it's easy to find something for every taste. Garlic potatoes, pork sausage with shrimp, roast duckling with berry sauce and saffron-battered shrimp are just some of the delectable creations. Entrees are also served, and it all can be washed down with a pitcher of sangria and the ubiquitous flan. D. \$\$\$

Tapeo, 266 Newbury St., 617-267-4799. This popular Back Bay cousin to Dali in Somerville offers delectable, authentic tapas in a glorious Newbury Street setting, complete with seasonal patio dining for prime people-watching with your scallops in saffron cream, lobster ravioli and sangria. D. \$\$\$

STEAKHOUSES

Abe & Louie's, 793 Boylston St., 617-536-6300. Boasting the service, style and elegance of a New York steakhouse. A superior

waitstaff offers guidance on a menu that includes hand-selected, prime-aged cuts of beef, fresh fish and poultry dishes, as well as wine recommendations from an extensive selection. The sophisticated mahogany and brass-accented decor creates a comfortable environment perfect for entertaining. L, D, C, LS. \$\$\$\$

Bonfire Steakhouse, 64 Arlington St., Park Plaza Hotel, 617-262-3473. Rated "Excellent" in *Zagat Survey* 2004 and picked as one of Boston's Top 5 Most Romantic Restaurants in 2004, Todd English's latest culinary triumph is located in the heart of downtown Boston. This American steakhouse with European influences boasts a delectable menu that spans all the cattle-ranging regions of the world. A firewall is the main focus of the dining room, running along the back wall where the cooking becomes entertainment. The rustic theme of Bonfire delights with a mouth watering variety of cooking and Todd English's signature touch. D, C, LS. \$\$\$\$

Capital Grille, 359 Newbury St., 617-262-8900. Everything you expect in a steakhouse can be found right here at this upscale Newbury Street favorite, from the extraordinary dry-aged porterhouse to the homemade cheesecake. 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 #2 ON CENTER MAP \$\$\$

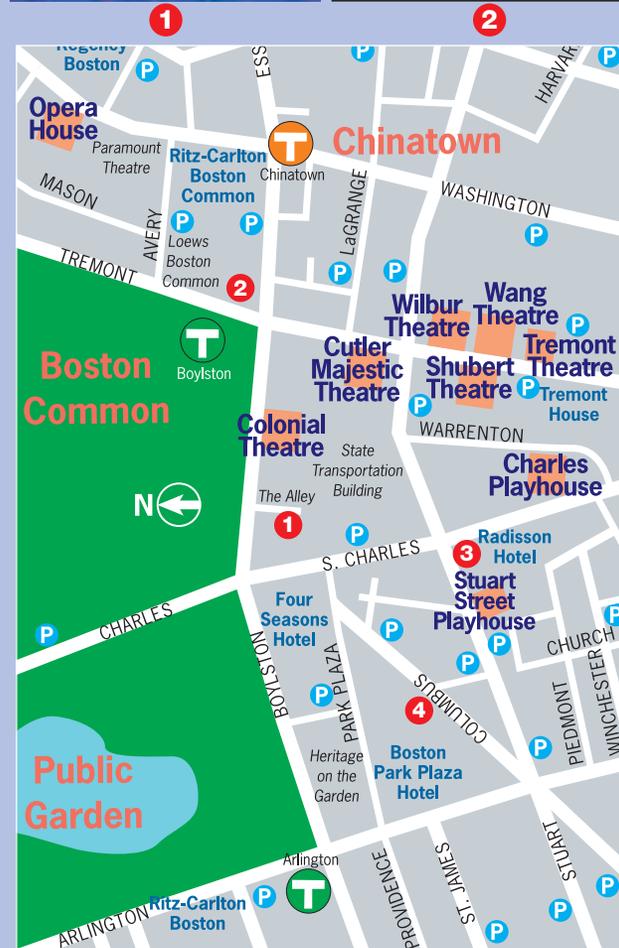
Grill 23 & Bar, 161 Berkeley St., 617-542-2255. This Mobil four-star property still sets the standard by which other independent Boston steakhouses are measured. Offers prime dry-aged beef, imaginative fish and seafood, and an impressive wine list, as well as a clubby yet congenial atmosphere. Past and present accolades include Top Steakhouse, Top American Seafood, Top Bar, Top People Watching and Top Desserts. Inducted into *Boston* magazine's Hall of Fame for Best Steakhouse. Reservations strongly suggested. D. \$\$\$\$

***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. \$\$\$\$

VIETNAMESE

Pho Pasteur, 119 Newbury St., 617-262-8200; 36 Dunster St., Cambridge, 617-864-4100; 137 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-783-2340; 682 Washington St., 617-482-7467. Enjoy the flavorful, low-fat cooking of authentic Vietnam in beautiful surroundings. Winner of "Best of Boston" 1994–99, this unique restaurant offers hearty noodle soups, fresh spring rolls, Vietnamese salads, shrimp on sugarcane and delicious vegetarian dishes. Take-out available. Reservations recommended. L & D. Beer and wine at all locations. \$

Theatre District Dining




CITY LIGHTS—The Theatre District sparkles at night.



LALA ROKH

Nestled just off Charles Street on historic Beacon Hill lies **Lala Rokh**, one of the few restaurants in the country serving traditional Persian food—the kind served exclusively in most Iranian households.

Owned by the brother-sister team of Babak Bina and Azita Bina Seibel, the eatery is more than just a family business. Lala Rokh (meaning “tulip cheeks”) holds a special place in their hearts because this is the food they grew up on. The menu is based on recipes handed down from their mother, Aghdas Zoka, and from her mother before her—making the recipes something of a family heirloom.

A few words about the food for novices: it’s not spicy, as some might expect. Many of the ingredients are soft and subtle, yet flavorful and aromatic. Rhubarbs, apples and grape leaves are common fixtures in many of the dishes. Appetizers include both hot and cold options, the eggplant selection being Lala Rokh staples. The *kashk-e bademjan* contains an enlivening mix of eggplant, caramelized onions and goat’s milk yogurt

garnished with minced beef and mint oil. On the cold side, the *borani-e esfenaj* is a refreshing melange of sauteed spinach, caramelized onions, walnuts and homemade yogurt.

The menu features *kabab* and *chelo kabab* (skewered) selections, food usually served in Iranian restaurants; however, we recommend trying the traditional, home-style dishes. These are divided into *khoresh*, slow-cooked stews, and *pollo*, meats and veggies paired with flavored basmati rice. The popular *fesenjan*, juicy Long Island duck, is lathered in a tangy sauce made with pomegranate, topped with walnuts and served atop basmati rice. A special of *grilled filet of salmon* is brushed with a bright green glaze made of basil, feta cheese

and garlic and accompanied by saffron-seared potatoes and tasty grilled vegetables.

“We agreed that I would use her recipes, but I would not cheat,” says Bina Seibel of the watchful eye her mother keeps over her children’s progress. “She did not want me to Americanize the food.” What can we say? Mother knows best. 

LALA ROKH
97 Mt. Vernon St.
617-720-5511
Refer to Restaurant
Guide, page 70

“ Many of the ingredients are soft and subtle, yet flavorful and aromatic. ”

CLIENT PROMOTION

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.

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

OH, CHRISTMAS TREE



Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau

Panorama looks at the origins of the official City of Boston Christmas tree that lights up the Hub every year by Scott Roberto

Some gifts just keep on giving...and giving...and giving. So it has been for the past several decades with the Christmas tree donated to the city of Boston by the people of Nova Scotia, Canada. As befits the spirit of the season, the tradition originated from an act of kindness when Boston came to the aid of its neighbor to the north in its hour of need nearly 90 years ago.

In the days of World War I, Halifax, Nova Scotia was a bustling port for warships headed to and from Europe. But the prosperity this brought came at a terrible price when, on the morning of December 6, 1917, a Norwegian ship and a French ship laden with explosives collided off the coast, causing a fire on the latter vessel. After almost two hours adrift, the French ship came to rest at a Halifax pier, where it

soon exploded, ending the lives of nearly 2,000 people and injuring thousands more.

Boston, in the wake of the tragedy, was one of the first cities to respond, sending much-needed supplies and a large contingent of emergency workers. Because of this, the Canadian province has donated the Hub's holiday evergreen since 1971. This year's lighting of the 46-foot white spruce on **Boston Common** featured Mayor Thomas Menino, who flipped the switch on the electric spectacle, and appearances by the Radio City Rockettes and the Red Sox's 2004

World Series trophy with a contingent of Sox players and brass—not to mention Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus themselves. That's enough yuletide cheer to ensure a truly jolly holiday season for all.

OTHER WAYS TO LIGHT UP YOUR HOLIDAYS

Holiday lights abound in the Boston area. Here's where you can see some of the best.

- **Faneuil Hall Marketplace:** Strings of white lights enliven this already lively shopping area.
- **Downtown Crossing:** Filene's features a gigantic, lighted tree atop its Washington Street facade.
- **Harvard Square:** Cambridge's Sparklefest sets the venerable square a-glitter.
- **Back Bay:** Commonwealth Ave. and Newbury and Boylston streets are annually aglow for the season.
- **Stone Zoo:** The Zoolights festival at this gem north of Boston shines every year. *See listing, page 60.*

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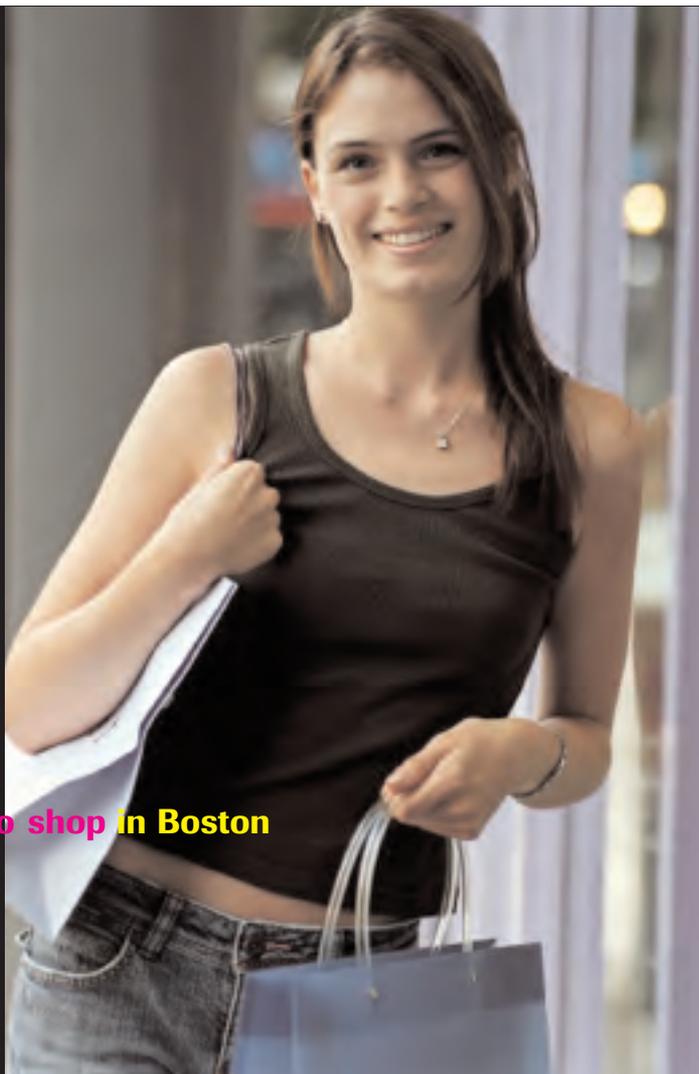
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