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February 14–27, 2005

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PANORAMA

February 14-27, 2005

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE
OF BOSTON

PANORAMA, Volume 54, Number 20

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WHAT'S HOT *in* BOSTON DINING

Everything you need to know about the great dining city that is Boston—including the hottest restaurants, chefs, trends and more by Christine Celli and Christopher Wallenberg

Buzz. It's a hard thing to create and even harder to capture, particularly in our instant gratification, attention-deficit-disorder society. In Boston's flourishing dining scene, what's hot and what's not can change faster than J. Lo switches husbands. So to compile our Hot List, we've ferreted out those restaurants, culinary artists and food trends that are on everyone's lips—right now—but that have the staying power to endure beyond their buzz-worthy status.

HOT CUISINE: ITALIAN

Once upon a time, if you wanted great Italian food, you went straight to the North End. But now there are celebrated Italian eateries all over town, from **Via Matta** in Park Square to **Teatro** in the Theater District, and two newcomers have further stoked this fire. **Umbria** (295 Franklin St., 617-338-1000), which opened with a splash in the Financial District last fall, focuses on the nuances of the oft-overlooked Umbria region of Italy. The impeccable team of Marisa Iocco and Rita D'Angelo execute the more robust, meat-centric Umbrian dishes for hungry diners. On the other hand, **La Morra** (48 Boylston St., Brookline, 617-739-0007) reminds us that Tuscany is still a lovely place to be—except perhaps for Atkins dieters. Reunite with pasta made to perfection on a 1940s-era machine or savor the succulent roasted meats that have made this northern region of Italy a popular reference for Italian-American chefs for decades.

HOT CONCEPTS: SIBLING RIVALRY and MERITAGE

Beantown's now got its own version of TV's "The Iron Chef." Brothers Bob and David Kinkead square off in a battle of recipes at **Sibling Rivalry** (525 Tremont St., 617-338-5338), a high-concept new eatery in the South End. What's the hook? Each brother creates a dish based around a particular ingredient—be it beets, ginger, clams, cod or whatever else they decide. The results are tantalizing. While Bob uses duck confit to enliven a salad of red cabbage, endive, apple and Roquefort, David fashions an entree of laquered duck meat kissed with port and accompanied by chestnuts, sauteed quince and roasted vegetables. This is one familial food fight you won't want to miss.

Whether you're an oenophile, a wine novice who wants to learn more or just a fan of the critically acclaimed, hit movie *Sideways*, you're sure to love **Meritage** at the Boston Harbor Hotel (Rowes Wharf, 617-439-3995). Nationally renowned chef Daniel Bruce has created an ingenious wine and food pairing menu that helps illuminate and enhance the flavors of both. Diners choose a wine category—sparklers, light whites, fruity reds, robust reds, etc.—then pick one of four corresponding dishes. Both small and large plates are available for each selection, so patrons can experience a number of combinations in one meal.

HOT FRENCH: PIERROT BISTROT

In 2004, the Hub bid au revoir to two classics in French cuisine—the landmark restaurant Maison Robert, and the legendary chef who brought French cooking into our homes for decades, Julia Child. Fortunately, just when we feared the Eiffel



HOT SPOT TO SPY A CELEBRITY NOIR

Sure, celebrity sightings in Beantown are hardly commonplace, but when they do happen, **Noir** (at the Charles Hotel, Cambridge, 617-661-8010) seems to be the locale. We're guessing it's the dark, sultry atmosphere and classically cool libations that allow patrons to feel Hollywood chic while keeping a low profile. The late-night menu created by chef Jody Adams of Rialto doesn't hurt either. President Bill Clinton certainly appreciated Noir's virtues when he hosted a Democratic National Convention party and invited a who's who of movie stars, including Glenn Close, Ben Affleck and John Cusack.

Tower would be the next to go, we spied the retro-esque menu of this new eatery in Beacon Hill (272 Cambridge St., 617-725-8855), full of dishes like coq au vin, chocolate mousse and duck a l'orange. Better still, the eatery is the creation of Jacky Robert, scion of the Robert family. Seems Julia is still shouting "bon appetit" from the heavens.

HOT SUSHI: OSUSHI

Boston may be known around the world for its seafood restaurants, but when it comes to sushi, the Hub usually bows to our California counterparts. So here's hoping the arrival of this sleek little sushi bar marks the beginning of a raw fish craze in our seafood-loving burg. Located in the Westin Hotel across from Copley Place (refer to listing, page 57) with a new location downtown at 101 Arch Street, this cool eatery dishes up some of the freshest sushi around. But it's the innovative maki rolls—creative combos like crystal rainbow (eel, avocado, cucumber and tobiko, topped with tuna, sake and white fish) and TNT (baked spicy salmon, lettuce, avocado and cucumber, atop homemade hot sesame oil)—that will make you forget all about that great sushi you had on your last visit out West.

HOT HEALTH FOOD: LUCY'S

Fad diets come and go, but some nutritional suggestions persevere. Keep it fresh, keep it low fat. Which is why the varied menu at **Lucy's** (242 Harvard St., Brookline, 617-232-LUCY)—which includes everything from pizza and french fries to slow-cooked pork and an artisan cheese plate—gets our vote for the health-conscious. By preparing its food without butter or cream, Lucy's lets patrons fulfill all their cravings without feeling like they're denying themselves a thing.

HOT PRE/POST THEATER: TEATRO and B&G OYSTERS

A few things are key when it comes to finding the best spot for dinner before theater: location, convenience and cost. But since no one likes to sacrifice quality to satisfy those goals, we're happy to report some restaurants embody all four qualities. If you're in the Theater District, look no further than **Teatro** (refer to listing, page 56). Heading to the new theaters in the South End? Try **B&G Oysters** (550 Tremont St., 617-423-0550). Both offer a variety of quick bites at reasonable prices as well as flavors you'll savor well through the first act.

HOT PRE/POST CELTICS: ANTHEM

Finally, jocks can combine date night with sports and still keep their pride thanks to the stand-out North Station-area eatery **Anthem** (138 Portland St., 617-523-8383), which combines the efficiency and fun of a sidewalk sausage vendor with some outstanding, upscale cuisine. That means Dude Food like meatloaf and beer-braised beef stew prepared in a way that won't induce heartburn. Better still, the menu includes smaller plates like a Cuban sandwich and a poached pear and brie salad for those looking for a quick bite before tip-off. You can also head there after the game for innovative cocktails in its classy, plush velvet lounge.

HOT TREND: AMUSE-BOUCHE

A French culinary tradition meaning "amuse-

HOT CHEFS GABRIEL FRASCA and PINO MAFFEO

After nearly 20 years honing his kitchen skills under Boston's top chefs— from Gordon

Hammersley to Michael Schlow—**Gabriel Frasca** (pictured below) finally got his chance to shine as executive chef of **Spire** (refer to listing, page 53). Combining French, Italian and Spanish influences, his enthusiasm for cooking bursts from his menu through creative dishes like the diminutive Spire clam bake—a first course that packs the punch of the full entree; Maine diver scallops served in a clementine-almond milk with braised endive; and the succulent, maple-brined pork chop. Best of all, Frasca rarely lets the menu speak for itself, making trips around his dining room to field questions—all with the big grin of a proud new papa.

Meanwhile, **L** restaurant's talented **Pino Maffeo** has helped re-invigorate the former Café Louis, located inside the luxe clothing boutique Louis Boston (refer to listing, page 54). Both audacious and refined and trained under the acclaimed Patricia Yeo, Maffeo has crafted a menu that isn't *exactly* fusion, but comes pretty darn close, melding a yen for Asian and other Eastern ingredients and spices with a keen sense of classic French and Italian techniques.

Witness the Kobe beef-wrapped potato spring roll, surrounded by small pools of miso dipping sauce and smoked chipolte. Or order the steak special and you'll enjoy one of the most robust, tender pieces of beef you've ever had.



ment for the mouth," these small, delightful bites, or mini-appetizers, are meant to whet the palate before the meal begins or cleanse it between courses. And the amuse bouche seems to be popping up everywhere these days. Of course, it's the whim of the chef that will determine what appears at your table. But Pino Maffeo at **L** (see sidebar) seems to be having the most fun with the concept. Recent visits produced a shot of tomato water topped with a swizzle stick of prosciutto and cappuccino-flavored cotton candy.

HOT DESSERTS: KIDDIE TREATS FOR GROWN-UPS

With the non-stop deluge of war, politics and natural disasters, Beantown's chefs seem to be retreating from all the bad news and getting in touch with their inner child. Look no further than their playful, whimsical dessert ideas—with grown-up twists, of course. The **aphrodisiac milkshake** at **Union Bar and Grill** in the South End (1357 Washington St., 617-423-0555) is a retro-concoction with a kick-start of Godiva liqueur that you drink through a big, fat straw. At **Spire** (see sidebar), the **Manhattan float** is awash in bourbon-flavored ice cream, homemade Bing cherry soda and vermouth whipped cream. Meanwhile, the tattooed, motorcycle-riding chef Robert Fathman continues to push the envelope at **Anthem** with the **fried twinkie**, an actual Hostess treat topped with berry coulis.

HOT GENRE: STEAKHOUSES

There seems to be no limit to Bostonians' hankering for red meat these days. Exhibit #1: Anthony Ambrose, the city's king of Asian-influenced fusion cuisine, closed the doors on his acclaimed Ambrosia on Huntington last year to open **Blackfin Chophouse and Raw Bar** (116 Huntington Ave., 617-247-2400), a paean to surf and turf. Already bursting with enough chophouses to feed a small country, Boston recently welcomed another powerbrokers-haven, the **Smith and Wollensky** franchise, which moved into the historic Castle at Park Plaza (101 Arlington St., 617-423-1112). Later this year, the country's biggest steakhouse chain, **Ruth's Chris**, takes over the former Maison Robert digs at Old City Hall.

Romantic Boston

Our guide to a romantic night out in the Hub

by Christine Celli

Whether you're a twittering lovebird or a desperately-seeking single, Valentine's Day is that rare excuse to do something romantic. But why leave all the fun to just one night a year? We've come up with several date ideas more potent than Love Potion #9 that make for a perfect evening out in Boston—whether it's Valentine's Day or any day.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID

It's become such a romantic tradition at the **Brattle Theatre** in Harvard Square (refer to listing, page 16) that apparently more than one patron has proposed marriage before the credits roll. Starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, *Casablanca* is screened twice on Valentine's Day (7:30 and 9:45 p.m.). After the lights come up, head next door to **Casablanca Restaurant** (40 Brattle St., 617-876-0999) for a cocktail at this eatery inspired by the classic film. For a sweet ending, try **Finale** (refer to listing, page 50), a restaurant specializing in desserts that's open 'til 12:30 a.m.

MY FUNNY VALENTINE

When Bogey took Lauren Bacall out on the town, the setting was probably a dimly lit nightclub, enhanced by a jazz band fronted by Ella Fitzgerald. If this sounds like your idea of a perfect evening, spend the night listening to the Big Band stylings of **Kendrick Oliver & The New Life Jazz Orchestra**, performing at **Sculler's Jazz Club February 18 & 19**. Tickets for the show can be combined with dinner, adding up to a perfectly affordable evening (refer to listing, page 19). Another good bet for

great jazz performances is the legendary **Wally's Cafe** (refer to listing, page 20). A variety of blues, swing and jazz music can be enjoyed in this South End club seven nights a week until 2 a.m.

FIRE AND ICE

There's nothing like strapping on a pair of skates and taking a spin around the ice under city lights. The **Frog Pond** (refer to listing, page 45) is the Hub's version of Rockefeller Center, with a charm all its own. Nestled on the Boston Common, it pairs the natural setting of the park with the surrounding urban skyline. After a twirl or two around the ice, warm up at the nearby **Hungry i** (pictured above, refer to listing, page 53). With three working fireplaces and exquisite French cuisine, only a trip to Paris could warm your heart more.

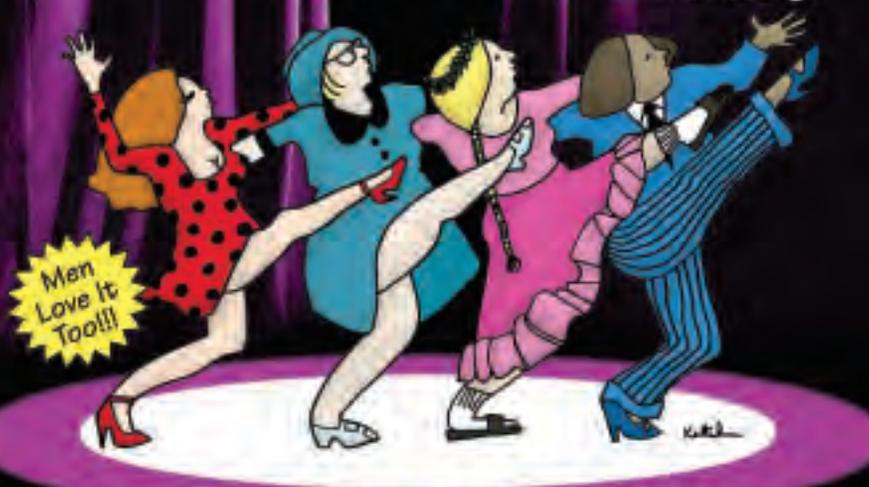
STARS IN YOUR EYES

Since most love songs mention the moon and the stars, the **Museum of Science** (refer to listing, page 37) may have just the thing to put a twinkle in your lover's eye. The Charles Hayden Planetarium offers a crash course on the heavenly bodies found in the night sky. Afterwards, if the moon in the sky has you craving pizza pie (that's amore, right?), grab a slice from **Pizzeria Regina** (11 Thatcher St., 617-227-0765). This North End landmark is open 'til midnight and boasts one of the best pies in town. 



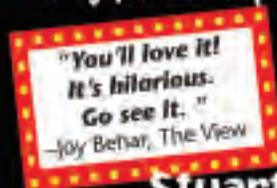
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PANORAMA'S PICK



Making **HASTY** by Scott Roberto

Awards season is upon us once again. For all of you who are eagerly awaiting the upcoming Oscars, rest assured that the Hub is not left out of the ubiquitous celebrity-worshipping. But this being Cambridge, not Hollywood, mind you, there's a more, shall we say, *unique* tradition to fete beloved stage and screen stars. That would be the **Hasty Pudding Theatricals Man and Woman of the Year Awards**, wherein two lucky entertainment icons tear themselves away from whatever tropical setting they've ensconced themselves in to rush to frigid New England so they can be ridiculed in public by men in drag. On **February 10**, Harvard University's oldest student organization paraded the female recipient, **Catherine Zeta-Jones**, through Harvard Square in Cambridge en route to a roast at the Hasty Pudding Theatre. The fun and frivolity continues on **February 17**, when the 2005 Man of the Year, **Tim Robbins**, (past "winner" Billy Crystal is pictured above) gets his award on opening night of the group's new burlesque, *Terms of Frontierment*, which runs **through March 20**. Refer to listing, page 21.

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CLASSICAL

Boston Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., 617-266-1200. Tickets: \$27-95. Renowned throughout the world for its distinctive sound, impressive range and virtuosity, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, led by new music director James Levine, celebrates its 124th year in a season that brings fresh perspectives to a well-known repertoire while offering insights into the future of classical music. **Feb 16** at 7:30 p.m. (open rehearsal), **Feb 17 & 19** at 8 p.m., **Feb 18** at 1:30 p.m.—Atlanta Symphony music director and frequent guest conductor, Robert Spano returns to the podium with world-renowned pianist (and Harvard professor) Robert Levin in a program of works by Wagner, Mendelssohn, Wyner and Haydn; **Feb 24** at 10:30 a.m. (open rehearsal), **Feb 24-26** at 8 p.m.—Young German conductor Ingo Metzmacher returns to Symphony Hall for the American premiere of the *Fourth Symphony* by Karl Amadeus Hartmann as well as a performance of works by Mozart.

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.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, 1-866-468-7619. Tickets: \$10-20, children \$5. **Feb 20** at 1:30 p.m.—Sunday Concert Series: Musicians from Marlboro; **Feb 26** at 7 p.m., **Feb 27** at 1:30 p.m.—Composer Portraits: Music of Nicolai Roslavets.

Orchestre National de France, Bank of America Celebrity Series, Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., 617-482-6661. **Feb 27** at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$37-77. Led by music director Kurt Masur, the Orchestre National de France is recognized worldwide for its impeccable interpretations of the best in the French orchestral repertoire. Renowned pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet joins them for a performance celebrating the masters of that most French of musical styles—impressionism—including Debussy, Ravel and Rimsky-Korsakov.

Renee Fleming and Hartmut Holl, Bank of America Celebrity Series, Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., 617-482-6661. **Feb 18** at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$37-70. Soprano Renee Fleming, considered an icon in the opera world, performs music by Purcell, Handel, Schumann and Berg joined by pianist Hartmut Holl.

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.

Feb 14 at 8 p.m.—Wendy Liebman, tickets: \$12; **Feb 21** at 8 p.m.—Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, tickets: \$12; **Feb 15 & 22** at 8 p.m.—Paul Nardizzi, tickets: \$12; **Feb 16** at 8 p.m.—Nick at Nite's Search for the "Funniest Mom in America," tickets: \$12; **Feb 17 & 24** at 8:30 p.m.—Frank Santos "The R-Rated Hypnotist," tickets: \$15; **Feb 18** at 8 and 10:15 p.m., **Feb 19** at 10:45 p.m., **Feb 20** at 7 p.m.—Ralphie May, tickets: \$27.50; **Feb 23** at 8 p.m.—Tony V, tickets: \$12; **Feb 25 & 26** at 8 and 10:15 p.m.—Jake Johannsen, tickets: \$21; **Feb 27** at 7 p.m.—Frank Santorelli, tickets: \$12.

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. **Feb 15 & 22**—Magic Lounge; **Feb 16 & 23**—Tony V Experiment; **Feb 17 & 24**—Dan Sally Show; **Feb 18**—Tommy Morello and friends; **Feb 19**—Nate Johnson and friends; **Feb 25**—Chris Coxen and friends; **Feb 26**—Mike Whitman and friends.

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. **Feb 17 & 24**—Greg Howell and friends; **Feb 18 & 19**—Tony Moschetto hosts Boston's Best Standup; **Feb 20**—Chris Walsh hosts Boston's open mic night; **Feb 25 & 26**—Courtney Cronin

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Improv Asylum, 216 Hanover St., 617-263-6887. Showtimes: *Wed & Thu at 8 p.m.; Fri at 9 p.m.; Sat at 8 and 10 p.m.* Tickets: \$15–20, dinner packages available. *Every 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. 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. Culppepper's Improvisational Jamboree.

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Davis Square, Somerville, 617-591-1616. Founded by comic, actor and writer Jimmy Tingle, this multi-use venue features both established and aspiring performers. **Feb 17 & 24** at 7:30 p.m.—Jimmy Tingle's Stagetime Variety Show, tickets: \$15; **Feb 18 & 19** at 7:30 p.m., **Feb 20** at 3 p.m.—A Weekend with the Presidents, tickets: \$25; **Feb 18 & 25** at 10 p.m.—It's Not That Late Show hosted by Peter Dutton, tickets: \$10; **Feb 20 & 27** at 7 p.m.—Women in Comedy, tickets: \$10.

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. **Feb 17**—Ken Rogerson; **Feb 18 & 19**—Paul Nardizzi; **Feb 24–26**—Chance Langton.

Orpheum Theatre, 1 Hamilton Place, 617-931-2000. The Orpheum opened in 1852 and was the sight of the first Boston Symphony Orchestra performances and lectures by Booker T. Washington and Ralph Waldo Emerson. **Feb 26** at 10:30 p.m.—Ron White, of the "Blue Collar Comedy Tour" fame, tickets: \$34.75–39.75.

CONVENTIONS & EXPOS

Bayside Expo & Conference Center, 200 Mount Vernon St., 617-474-6000. **Through Feb 20**—New England Boat Show, tickets: \$10, children \$5; **Feb 26 & 27**—Boston Children's Expo, Boston's largest family event featuring live entertainment, hands-on activities, and the latest products and services for kids from toddlers to young teens, tickets: \$9, children \$5.

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer St., 617-954-2400. **Feb 22**—Association of Facilities of Engineering.

Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., 617-954-2000. **Feb 15–17**—Web Services Edge 2005 East; **Feb 15–17**—Linuxworld 2005; **Feb 19–28**—Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.

DANCE

Three Modern Masters, The Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemerway St., 617-912-9222. Performances **Feb 17–20**. *Thu–Sat at 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m.* Tickets: \$5–16. *Tensile Involvement* (1953) and

Noumenon Mobilis (1953) are signature works of Alwin Nikolais, known for using complex images of kinetic excitement and abstract investigation. *Diversion of Angels*, created by Martha Graham in 1948, is a lyrical poem about young love. *Boston* magazine (Best of Boston, 2002) describes Murray Louis' *Four Brubeck Pieces* as "high-octane dancers careening... through a mélange of moods with uncanny finesse."

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: **Feb 14**—*Casablanca*; **Feb 15–17**—Animation Celebration with screenings of *Ghost in a Shell* and *The Triplets of Belleville*; **Feb 18–27**—The 10th Annual Bugs Bunny Film Festival; **Feb 27**—Oscar Gala and Pre-Party, the pre-party includes an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction fundraiser for a minimum \$50 donation per person. Afterwards watch the Academy Awards on the big screen and enjoy a cash bar and light snacks.

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: **begins Feb 18**—*Watermarks*; *Being Julia* and *The Take*. Special events: **Feb 14**—Valentine's Day screening of *The Princess Bride*; **Feb 21**—Academy Award nominated short documentaries. Midnight screenings: **Feb 18 & 19**—*The Return of the King*; **Feb 26**—*The Found Magazine* Video Show, a program of totally found footage.

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, 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: **through Feb 26**—The African Film Festival includes screenings of Ousmane Sembene's acclaimed *Moolaade* and an array of eight features and three short films produced in various countries throughout Africa.

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: *Amazing Journeys*; *Forces of Nature*; *Mysteries of the Nile*; *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: *Galapagos*; *Aliens of the Deep*; *Into the Deep*.

Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, 617-625-4088. **Feb 19** at noon—Boston Phoenix 30th Annual Boston Sci-Fi Festival, tickets: \$50; **Feb 22 & 23** at 7 p.m.—BANFF Mountain Film Festival, tickets: \$13.50–16.50.

Wang Motion Picture Mondays, Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., 617-482-9393. **Feb 14** at 7 p.m.—*Shakespeare in Love*. *Free admission.* Winner of seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, *Shakespeare in Love* is a romantic comedy set in London in 1593 that follows the trials and tribulations of Will Shakespeare, a struggling young playwright suffering from a bout of writer's block.

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 exhibits: Sally Moore: Extend.

Bromfield Art Gallery, 27 Thayer St., 617-451-305. *Wed–Sat noon–5 p.m.* Boston's oldest artist-run gallery features shows by members of the cooperative, while exhibitions by visiting artists are selected by current members. Special exhibits: Karen Clarke's Surroundings: Work in Collage; Brian O'Malley: Transitions and Undoings: Painted Realizations.

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: Edward Page and His Circle; Leo Meissner Drawings; Lithographs of Gordon Grant.

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 exhibits: Harriet Casdin-Silver, Holographic Portraits and other work; Reese Inman, Algorithm Map Series.

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 exhibits: Robert Cumming; New Work and Bill Burke: Recent Portraits.

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

L'Attitude Gallery, 218 Newbury St., 617-927-4400. *Tue–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun & Mon noon–5 p.m.* Features contemporary sculpture, crafts and art for the home, garden and commercial environments. The gallery also boasts an outdoor sculpture garden. Over 75 U.S. and international artists are represented in various mediums, including glass, ceramics, wood, stone, mixed media and textiles.

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: Laurel Hughes: New Work.

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PANORAMA'S PICK

FISH Story by Diana Aramburu

It's the kids' winter break, you're all out of ideas, and weather woes are keeping everyone indoors. Fortunately **Disney On Ice** is in town and has transformed the FleetCenter into the oceanic wonderland from the hit film **Finding Nemo from February 18-27**. This icy recreation of the adventures of a lost little clown fish named Nemo and the duo trying to find him—his over-protective father, Marlin, and Dory, whose forgetfulness causes no end of trouble—is interpreted by figure skaters who breakdance as sea turtles, use balletic moves as jellyfish and become a precision skating school of moonfish. The show's stunning acrobatics come to life thanks to the musical score and colorful costumes that add an aquatic allure and give each fish species its own unique personality. Whether you find yourself in the big blue sea with Marlin and Dory or with a desperate Nemo trapped in a dentist's fish tank, you'll be smiling, laughing and, above all, enjoying a worry-free break from wintertime. *Refer to listing, page 21.*

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

NIGHTCLUBS

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

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

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

The Alley, One Boylston Place, 617-351-7000. *Thu-Sat 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover: \$5-10. Located in the famous Boylston Street alleyway, this one-stop hotspot 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-POOL. Ranked Number One Billiard Club in the country by *Billiards Digest*, this hotspot is perfect for pool aficionados and novices alike. *Mon*—free lessons; *Wed*—Ladies' Night: each lady gets 25 percent off table time. Four ladies per table play for free; *Sun-Thu*—League Night.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPERA

The Little Prince, Boston Lyric Opera, The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., 1-800-447-7400. *Performances Feb 16-27: Wed-Sat at 7 p.m., Sat & Sun at 2 p.m. Feb 23 at 2 p.m. only. Tickets: \$40-75.* In the North African desert, a downed pilot meets the Little Prince, who tells him of his curious adventures. With music by film composer Rachel Portman (*Emma, The Manchurian Candidate*) and libretto by playwright Nicholas Wright, this new, modern opera, based on the beloved tale by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and making its East Coast premiere, will entrance children and touch grown-ups with its exploration of love and lost innocence.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Boston Wine Festival, Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, 1-888-660-WINE. *Call for ticket prices and full event schedule or visit www.bostonwinefestival.net. Feb 17*—Niebaum-Coppola Winery, Scott McLeod, wine-maker at the estate owned by director Francis Ford Coppola for 13 years, will lead this seminar and dinner, *tickets: \$145, \$195 includes seminar; Feb 20*—New Orleans Jazz Brunch, sway to a jazz trio while enjoying a selection of sparkling, white and red wines that complement a variation on the Big Easy's Cajun cuisine buffet, *tickets: \$70; Feb 22*—Bordeaux Blends from Around the World, *tickets: \$185, \$235 includes seminar; Feb 23*—Ramey Wine Cellars, known for its big cabernet sauvignons and chardonnays produced at its Healdsburg, California winery, *tickets: \$145, \$195 includes seminar; Feb 24*—Mayacamas Vineyards, known for its unique method of growing small crops of tiny grapes to preserve the intense fruit from which they produces full character developed wines, *tickets: \$185; Feb 25*—Châteaufort-du-Pape, Alain Jauguenet, founder and president of Wines from France, Inc., will explain the wines of the largest and most highly regarded appellation of the Rhône Valley, which dates back to the 14th century, *tickets: \$185, \$235 includes seminar.*

10th Annual Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program, Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., 617-267-4430. *Classes take place from 1-3 p.m. and are \$50 per person. Feb 19*—Gordon Hamersley, chef and owner of Hamersley's Bistro and author of *Bistro Cooking at Home*; **Feb 26**—Andy Husbands, chef and owner of Tremont 647.

Disney on Ice: Finding Nemo, FleetCenter, Causeway St., 617-931-2000. *Performances Feb 18-27: Feb 18 at 7 p.m., Mon & Wed at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tue, Thu & Feb 27 at 1 and 5 p.m., Fri at 1 and 7 p.m., Sat & Sun at 11 a.m., 3 and 2 p.m. Tickets: \$15-70.* In this innovative live, ice skating production, join Nemo, the curious clownfish with the "lucky" fin, and his overprotective father Marlin, as they embark on an aquatic adventure on ice in an effort to reunite just as they do in the popular Disney film. Along the way, run into absent-minded yet lovable Dory, and ride the current with "super-dude" turtle Crush, as they help Marlin navigate the big blue.

Filene's Basement Bridal Sale, 426 Washington St., 617-542-2011. **Feb 18, doors open at 8 a.m.** The legendary Filene's Basement Bridal Sale features at least 1,500 gowns made by many designers who appear in bridal magazines and elsewhere. The gowns are available for one day only, for just \$249. *Refer to story, page 25.*

Hasty Pudding Awards 2005, Hasty Pudding Theatre, 12 Holyoke St., Cambridge, 617-495-5205. On **Feb 10**, Catherine Zeta-Jones was escorted by 14 men in drag to the Hasty Pudding Theatre to receive her award, as part of Harvard University's time-honored tradition. Next, on **Feb 17 at 7 p.m.**, the Man of the Year Tim Robbins takes his position on center stage to receive his award. *Refer to story, page 14.*

SPORTS

Beanpot Hockey Tournament **Division I NCAA Hockey**
FleetCenter, Causeway St., 617-931-2000. *Refer to story, page 20.*
Feb 14 at 5 p.m. Consolation Game
Feb 14 at 8 p.m. Championship Game

The Boston Celtics **National Basketball Association**
FleetCenter, Causeway St., 617-523-3030 or 617-931-2000.
Feb 16 at 7 p.m. vs. Memphis Grizzlies

2005 USA Indoor Track & Field Championships, Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont St., 617-541-245. **Feb 25-27. Tickets: \$15-25.** The concluding event of USATF's Indoor Visa Championship Series, the USA Indoor Track & Field Championships is the world's oldest indoor track championship, with the first meet being held in 1888 in New York. **Feb 25**—Weight throw; **Feb 26**—Finals for the women's and men's high jump, shot put, long jump, 5000m race walk, 1500m and 3000m races, and women's pole vault; **Feb 27**—Finals for the women's and men's triple jump, 400m, 800m and hurdles, and men's pole vault.

THEATER

Blue Man Group, Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., 617-931-2787 or 617-426-6912. *Performances: Wed & Thu at 8 p.m., Fri at 7 and 10 p.m., Sat at 4, 7 and 10 p.m., Sun at 2 and 5 p.m. Tickets: \$43-53.* This giddily subversive off-Broadway hit features three muted, blue-painted performers who spoof both contemporary art and modern technology through wry commentary and bemusing

PANORAMA'S PICK



Allen Brisson-Smith



Douglas Kirkland

Seeing STARS

by Christopher Wallenberg

Elliot Norton, the famed dean of Boston theater critics, dubbed the Hub “Broadway Down East” during its heyday as a tryout town for plays and musicals bound for New York. Those halcyon years have long since passed, but Beantown still gets its fair share of bold-faced names and pre-Broadway engagements. Indeed, there’s a veritable wealth of top-line actors appearing in brand-name shows on Hub stages over the coming months. Starting things out is the first major revival of Edward Albee’s *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in almost 30 years. The whiskey-voiced **Kathleen Turner** and noted actor, playwright and theatrical clown **Bill Irwin** headline as combustible couple George and Martha at the Wilbur Theatre. Meanwhile, two-time Tony Award-winner **Brian Dennehy** plays legendary blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo (*Roman Holiday*, *Spartacus*) in the imported off-Broadway hit *Trumbo* at the new Wimberly Theatre in the South End. Both shows run **through March 6**. Refer to listings, page 23.

antics. The show was recently updated to include new performance pieces, new music and alterations to the sound and lighting design.

Blue/Orange, Zeitgeist Stage Company, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont Street, 617-933-8600. Performances: *Thu–Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 4 and 8 p.m., Sun at 7 p.m., Feb 27 at 3 p.m. only. Tickets: \$25; seniors & students \$19.50; Thu: pay what you can.* Two psychiatrists—one an intern, the other his supervisor and mentor—come to ideological blows over a delusional young black man in their care who is about to be released. The shrink-in-training believes the patient needs further treatment, while the veteran psychiatrist believes the man has a “borderline personality” condition that is largely a product of ethno-cultural factors and should be released. The ensuing power struggle highlights this incendiary tale of race, mental illness and human isolation.

Cats, The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., 1-800-447-7400. Performances **Feb 22–27**: *Tue–Thu at 7 p.m., Fri at 7:30 p.m., Sat at 2 and 7:30 p.m., Sun at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$25–75.* There’s no better way to introduce your family to the wonders of live theater than with the magic, the mystery, the memory of *Cats*. Winner of seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, the show features 20 of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s timeless melodies, including the hit song “Memory.”

The Far Side of the Moon, American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-547-8300. Performances **through Feb 27**: *Tue–Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$46–72.* This fantastic voyage into space—outer space, and the space within ourselves—by Canadian director Robert Lepage is a glorious investigation into

the limits of human perception. Featuring music by Laurie Anderson, the play uses dazzling technical wizardry to tell two stories: the public history of the space race and the private story of two brothers coming to terms with a personal loss.

Kipling’s Just So Stories, Boston Children’s Theatre, McCormack Hall at UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., 617-424-6634. Performances **Feb 19–21, 24–27 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$12–22.** Do you remember, oh Best Beloved, How the Camel Got His Hump? Have you heard about The Cat that Walked By Himself? Do you know How the First Letter was Written? Families of all ages will enjoy these and other magical scenes of far-off times, adapted by children’s playwright Auran Harris, with all the flair and flavor of Rudyard Kipling himself.

The Lion King, The Opera House, 539 Washington St., 617-931-2787. Performances **through Feb 20**: *Tue–Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun 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 ail-

ments—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.

Miss Saigon, Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton, 617-244-0169. Performances: *Thu–Sat at 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$24, seniors & students \$17.* The Tony Award-winning smash musical from the creators of *Les Misérables*, based on Puccini’s opera *Madama Butterfly*, recounts the tragic love story of a Vietnamese girl and an American soldier set against the turbulent backdrop of the Vietnam War.

The Moonlight Room, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Roberts Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. Performances **through Feb 19**: *Wed–Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 4 and 8 p.m., Sun at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$35–40, seniors & students \$30–35.* This 2004 off-Broadway hit by Tristine Skyler, hailed by *The New York Times* as “One of the Best Plays of the Year,” is a tale of urban adolescence that takes place in the waiting room of a New York City hospital as two teenagers look for news on the fate of a friend. With relationships tested, families strained and blame misplaced, the play follows a harrowing 24 hours where everything is put at stake.

The Producers, The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., 617-931-2787. Performances **begin Feb 22**: *Tue–Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30.50–97.50.* Winner of more Tony Awards than any show in Broadway history and still one of New York’s biggest hits, Mel Brooks’ lively spoof, based on his 1968 cult film, is the story of down-on-his-luck theatrical producer Max Bialystock and mousy accountant Leo Bloom. Together they hatch the ultimate scam: raise more money than they need for a sure-fire Broadway flop and pocket the difference. Their theatrical fiasco? None other than the musical *Springtime for Hitler*. Enjoy what *The New York Times* calls “a blissful spectacle that will leave you delirious.”

Red Herring, Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., 617-437-7172. Performances **begin Feb 18**: *Wed at 2 and 7:30 p.m., Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 4 and 8 p.m., Sun at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$19–45.* Three love stories, a murder mystery and a nuclear espionage plot converge in this noir comedy about a marriage and other explosive devices. It’s 1952. Senator Joe McCarthy’s daughter just got engaged to a Soviet spy and Boston detective Maggie Pelletier has to find out who dumped a dead guy in the Harbor—or else lose out on a honeymoon in Havana. This Boston premiere by Michael Hollinger is a blunt-nosed, sharp-eyed look at love and tying (and untying and retying) the knot.

The Sanctuary Lamp, Sógán Theatre Company, Roberts Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. Performances **through Feb 26**: *Wed–Fri at 8 p.m., Sat 4 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$34–38.* This New England premiere of the controversial 1975 play by Tom Murphy concerns three lost souls who occupy a city church for a night. Betrayed by his best friend and wife and grieving over the death of his daughter, ex-circus strongman Harry talks to the sanctuary lamp to assuage his pain, his guilt and his murderous intentions.

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

The Sound of Music, Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, 617-879-2300. Performances **through Feb 27**: *Fri at 7:30 p.m., Sat and Sun at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$12–20.* Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Tony Award-winning classic, based on Maria Von Trapp’s autobiography, follows the adventures of a high-spirited young woman sent to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed officer, who runs his home as if it were an Austrian naval vessel. However, Maria soon wins their hearts with her exuberant love of life.

Topdog/Underdog, New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands, 617-928-9834. Performances **begin Feb 23**: *Wed at 7 p.m., Thu–Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 4:30 and 8:30 p.m., Sun at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$30–48.* This darkly comic fable—which earned Suzan-Lori Parks distinction as the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2002—tells the story of two brothers, one a legendary former street hustler-turned-Abraham Lincoln impersonator and his younger sibling who wants to follow in his brother’s three-card monte-playing footsteps. This thrilling comic-drama digs deep into the existential dilemma of being African-American and male in the United States.

Trumbo, Huntington Theatre Company, Wimberly Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-266-0800. Performances: *Tue–Fri at 7:30 p.m., Sat at 2 and 7 p.m., Sun at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$46–50.* Tony Award-winner Brian Dennehy stars as legendary screenwriter Dalton Trumbo (*Spartacus*, *Roman Holiday*, *Exodus*) who in 1947, at the top of his career, stood up to the House Un-American Activities Committee and was thrown into prison as one of the infamous Hollywood Ten. Though vilified, exiled and destitute, Trumbo refused to be silenced. Through his brilliant and funny letters emerges the story of a family’s survival and one stubborn artist’s quest to break the blacklist. Refer to story, page 22.

Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, The Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., 617-931-2787. Performances: *Tue–Thu at 7:30 p.m., Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 2 and 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Feb 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$55–85.* The much-anticipated revival of Edward Albee’s modern classic comes to Boston in a pre-Broadway tryout, starring Kathleen Turner and Bill Irwin and directed by Anthony Page. The play’s caustic look at married couple George and Martha, who square off in an alcohol-fueled war of words in front of their hapless house guests, blazed its way into theatre history with its groundbreaking debut in 1962, winning Albee his first Tony Award, and almost as famously getting rejected by the Pulitzer Prize advisory board. Refer to story, page 22.

TICKETS

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

TRANSPORTATION

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

PANORAMA's PICK



The Patriot Ledger

The Runaway **BRIDES** by Diana Aramburu

FILENE'S BASEMENT 426 Washington St., 617-542-2011

All brides-to-be have one thing in common when it comes to planning their wedding—finding the perfect dress. Yet this quest can drive even sane women over the edge. So it's no surprise that the **Running of the Brides** sale at **Filene's Basement**, a tradition at the world-famous bargain retailer since 1947, turns ladies into ravenous, dress-obsessed hordes known to ransack the store's rows in less than 60 seconds. Every year engaged women from all over the world arrive in the early morning hours to be first in line for the sale at the original store at Downtown Crossing. This year's event happens on **February 18 from 8 a.m.–9 p.m.** With over 2,300 designer dresses originally sold at prices as high as \$8,000 now priced from \$249 to \$699, the reason for all the madness is obvious. Although the race for the gowns can bring out the worst in these shoppers, the brides-to-be end up bonding and cheering each other on until each one finds the dress of her dreams.

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

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

NEWBURY STREET

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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

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

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

BACK BAY/BOYLSTON STREET

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simon's Men's Clothing, 220 Clarendon St., between Newbury and Boylston, 617-266-2345. *Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Wed & Thu*

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

CHARLES STREET

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

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

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

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

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

DOWNTOWN CROSSING

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

The Corner Mall, corner of Winter and Washington streets. *Open daily.* One-stop shopping and eating in Downtown Crossing. Across

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from Filene's Basement, you'll find the latest styles at a variety of exciting shops, from Discovery Imports and Bath & Body Works to Lids and Aldo Shoe. In addition, the Corner Mall features an international food court offering eateries to please every palate, including Cafe La Brioche, Sakiko Japan, India Express and Bourbon Street Cafe.

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 Hilfiger 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.

H & M, 350 Washington St., 617-482-7081. *Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-7 p.m.* This youthful, cutting-edge European department store opened its Boston outpost in 2001. Its mantra of "fashion and quality at the best price" translates to inexpensive, trendy clothes for men and women. H & M scours the globe in search for the freshest, most up-to-date fashion trends in color, material and style.

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

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

FANEUIL HALL MARKETPLACE

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

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

Marketplace Center, located between Faneuil Hall and the Waterfront. Twenty-four distinctive shops surround an open court known as the Exedra, where you will always find a wide range of unusual pushcarts and entertainment events unique to this wonderful area. Within walking distance are literally hundreds of other shops, restaurants, pubs and nightspots. *SEE LOCATOR #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 two-level thrift warehouse is a local institution. The offerings include an array of corduroys, painter pants and vintage Levi's; knock-off designer dresses; ironic old-school T-shirts; '70s go-go boots; and more polyester than at a convention of used-car salesmen. The ambitious (or desperate) among you can sift through the mounds of clothing at the downstairs Dollar-A-Pound.

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

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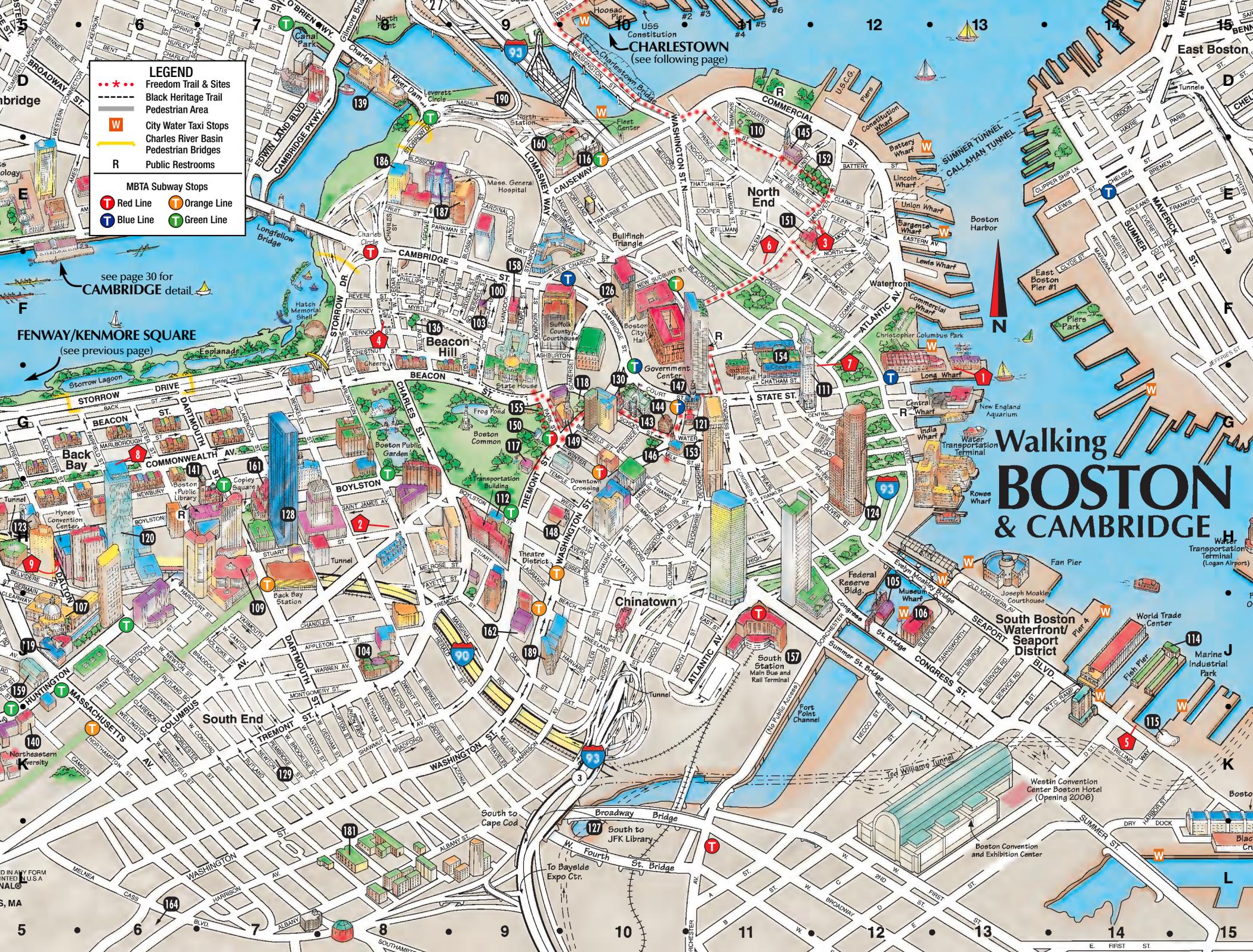
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- City Water Taxi Stops
- Charles River Basin
- Pedestrian Bridges
- Public Restrooms

MBTA Subway Stops

- Red Line
- Orange Line
- Blue Line
- Green Line

Walking BOSTON & CAMBRIDGE

see page 30 for
CAMBRIDGE detail

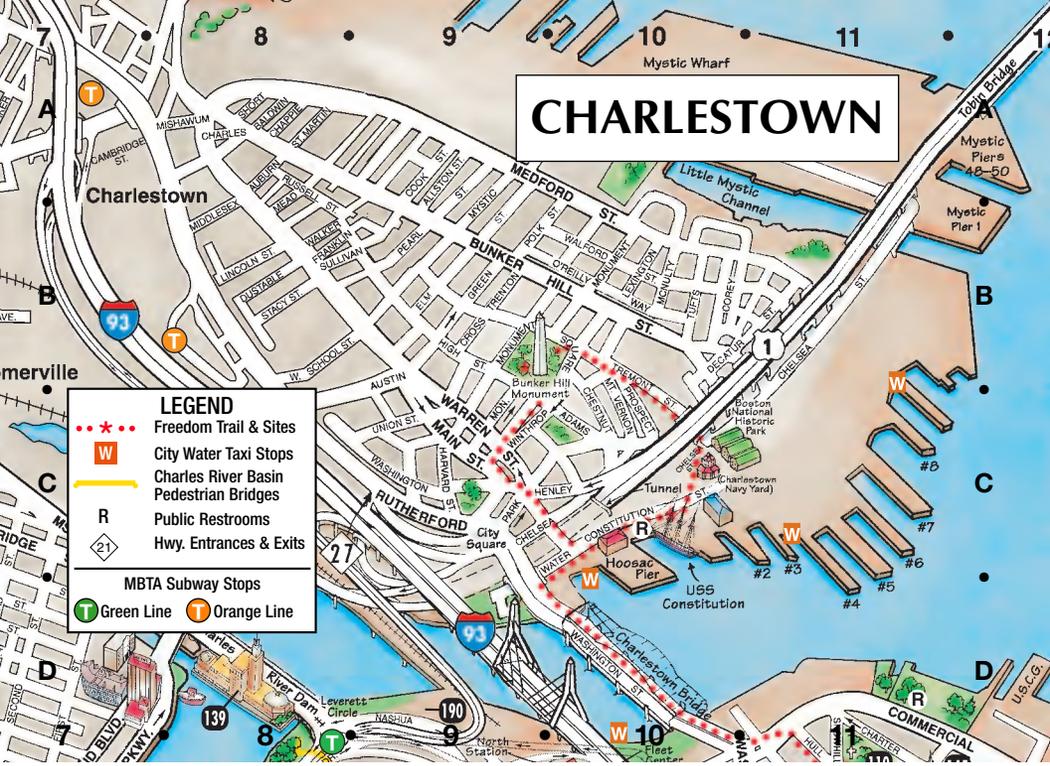
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Westin Convention
Center Boston Hotel
(Opening 2006)

Boston Convention
and Exhibition Center

Boston Convention
and Exhibition Center



CHARLESTOWN

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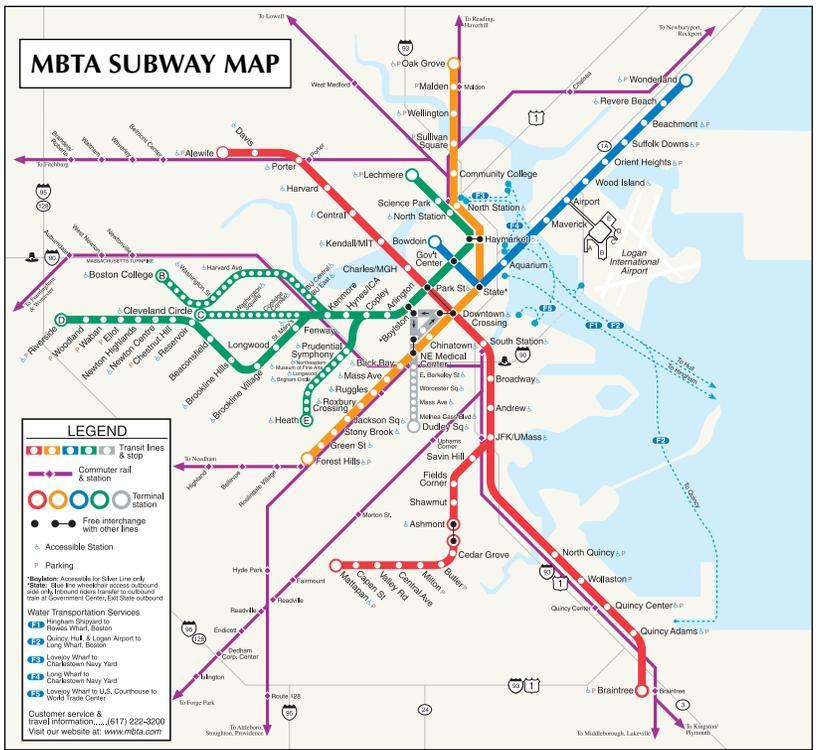
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PANORAMA's PICK



Chuck Close, Lyle, 2003

Who's **WHO** by Scott Roberto

Artists have been congregating and creating communities for centuries, from Renaissance-era Florence up through Andy Warhol's Factory days in New York. So it's a surprise that an exhibit such as **Likeness: Portraits of Artists by Other Artists**, currently at the **Institute of Contemporary Art**, has not been seen until now. Consisting of more than 50 works, this show not only offers the opportunity to star-gaze, but also tells the background of the artists' relationships, whether colleague or admirer, with their subjects. Often the story reveals more about the creator than the artist who is depicted. Techniques as ancient as painting and drawing, as well as traditional photography, stand alongside modern media like silk screen, video and computer animation. Famous subjects include Warhol, Chuck Close, Louise Bourgeois, David Hockney and Cindy Sherman. Some of the artists are equally well-known: Nan Goldin, Robert Mapplethorpe and, again, Chuck Close, whose portrait of photographer Lyle Ashton Harris (pictured) is a highlight. Refer to listing, below.

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BOSTON

Boston CityPass, www.citypass.com. Visit six of Boston's best attractions for one low price. Save 50 percent and avoid ticket lines. *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.

The Children's Museum, Museum Wharf, 300 Congress St., 617-426-8855. *Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri 'til 9 p.m. Admission: \$9; children (2-15) & seniors \$7; children (one-year-olds only) \$2; children (under 1) free; Fri 5-9 p.m. (Family Night) \$1.* The museum features a variety of educational and entertaining activities for children, including inter-

active 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: Think Tank, find new ways to solve old problems and exercise creative thinking through activities including puzzles, mirror magic, optical illusions and more; Boston Black: A City Connects celebrates Boston's many black cultures; Airplay illustrates the amazing powers of air; access/ABILITY, educates people about living with disabilities. Refer to Kids Corner in Currently for special events.

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

Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., 617-266-5152. *Open Tue, Wed & Fri noon-5 p.m., Thu 'til 9 p.m.; Sat & Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$7; students & seniors \$5; children (under 12) free; Thu 5-9 p.m. free.* Installations, featuring contemporary paintings, sculptures and photographs, change regularly. Special exhibits: Likeness: Portraits of Artists by Other Artists, including Robert Mapplethorpe's photograph of Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Kass' silkscreen of Cindy Sherman as Liza Minnelli, Elizabeth Peyton's painting of David Hockney, Felix Gonzales-Torres' textual

portrait of Julie Ault and Tacita Dean's film *Mario Merz, refer to story, page 36*; Momentum 3: Kanishka Raja, the Calcutta-born, Boston-based artist creates large-scale paintings of strange, disorienting interior spaces that play with texture, pattern and perspective. Special events: **Feb 16 at 5:30 p.m.**—Learning to Look: The Three-Way Gaze, a lecture exploring aspects of the three-way dialogue between artist, sitter and viewer and how this triangle affects the final product, *tickets: \$15*; **Feb 18 at 8 p.m.**—Artists' Visions of Other Artists Film Series featuring a screening of *Cindy Sherman* by Michel Auder and *The Fancy* by Elisabeth Subrin; **Feb 24 at 6:30 p.m.**—Winter Author Events at the ICA Bookstore with Roy Grundmann, author of *Andy Warhol's Blow Job*.

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 exhibit: Chairs, by artist in residence Dayanita Singh. Special event: **Feb 17 at 7:30 p.m.**—Eye of the Beholder Lecture on Chairs with designer Andrea Anastasio, *tickets: \$7*.

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, off Morrissey Boulevard, next to UMass Boston, Dorchester, 1-877-616-4599. www.jfklibrary.org. *Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$10; students & seniors \$8; children (13-17) \$7; children (under 12) free.* This museum portrays Kennedy's life, leadership and legacy in 21 exhibits, three theaters, 20 video presentations and more. Special exhibit: Presents for a President and First Lady, a display of 65 state gifts given to President and Mrs. Kennedy by foreign leaders from around the globe. Special events: **Feb 15 at 5:30 p.m.**—A Conversation with Tim Russert; **Feb 21 at 2 p.m.**—President's Day Event, a special screening of rarely seen footage of the Kennedy family followed by a Q&A with Allan Goodrich, chief archivist at the JFK Library; **Feb 25 at 10:30 a.m.**—Crabgrass Puppet Theatre.

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.

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.** Special exhibit: Accommodations of Desire: Surrealist Works on Paper Collected by Julien Levy.

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: Threads of Faith, recent works from the Women of Color Quilters Network.

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: Photographs by Hiroshi Sugimoto: The Sylvan Barnet and William Burto Collection; Early Chinese Landscape Painting; Pursuits of Power: Falconry and the Samurai, 1600-1900; Lethal Elegance: The Art of Samurai Sword Fittings; Damien Hirst; High Style and Hoopskirts: The 1850s; Sets, Series and Suites: Contemporary Prints.

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

Museum of 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: Playing With Time, a unique look at events that happen too quickly or too slowly for humans to perceive. At the Mugar Omni Theater: *Extreme; Forces of Nature; Roar: Lions of the Kalahari.* Refer to Currently section under Film for complete Mugar Omni Theater listings. Showing at the Planetarium: *Countdown to the Supernova; 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 daily 11 a.m.-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. Special exhibit: The 26th Annual U.S.S. Constitution Model Shipwright Guild Exhibit.

CAMBRIDGE

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

Busch-Reisinger Museum, Werner Otto Hall, 32 Quincy St. (enter through the Fogg Art Museum), 617-495-9400. Open Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m. Tours: Mon-Fri at 1 p.m. Admission: \$6.50; seniors & college students \$5; children (under 18) free; free Sat 10 a.m.-noon. A museum devoted to promoting the enjoyment and critical understanding of Central and Northern European artists, with an emphasis on German-speaking countries. Special exhibit: "As though my body were naught but ciphers," crises of representation in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna.

Fogg Art Museum, Quincy and Broadway streets, 617-495-9400. Tours: Mon-Fri at 11 a.m.; see Busch-Reisinger Museum for hours and admission fees. The museum displays European and American masterpieces from the Middle Ages to the present and hosts concerts and guided tours.

Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., 617-495-3045. Daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$7.50; college students & seniors \$6; children (3-18) \$5; free Sun 9 a.m.-noon. 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.

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 exhibit: Pavel Braila, includes the premiere of *Barons' Hill* (2004), a large scale installation of six video projections and large scale photographs, and *Shoes for Europe* (2002), a film projection accompanied by short text.

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: The Clipper Ship Era; Visualizing Physics: Transforming Science Learning at MIT.

Sackler Museum, Quincy and Broadway streets, 617-495-9400. Tours: Mon-Fri at 2 p.m.; see Busch-Reisinger Museum for hours and admission fees. Designed by James Stirling, Britain's famous post-modernist architect, the museum houses ancient Oriental and Islamic collections. Its lecture hall hosts concerts, lectures and films. Special exhibits: The Sport of Kings: Art of the Hunt in Iran and India; Marks of Enlightenment, Traces of Devotion: Japanese Calligraphy and Painting from the Sylvan Barnet and William Burto Collection; A Compelling Legacy: Masterworks of East Asian Painting.

BEYOND BOSTON

Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Road, Concord, 978-369-9763. Mon-Sat 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun 1-4 p.m. Admission: \$8; seniors & students with I.D. \$7; children (6-17) \$5; family rates available. Ample free parking on Cambridge Turnpike. Re-live Concord's history, from Native American habitation and European settlement to the days of Emerson, Thoreau, the Alcotts and Hawthorne. Special exhibit: Connecticut Valley Furniture.

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: Pretty Sweet: The Sentimental Image in Contemporary Art; Abstract Elements: The Dr. Beatrice H. Barrett Collection of Art.

National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, 781-861-6559. Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun noon-5 p.m. Free admission. Dedicated to presenting exhibitions on a wide variety of topics in American history and popular culture in an effort to preserve our national heritage. Special exhibits: **opening Feb 19**—George Washington: Freemason and Founding Father; Revere's Ride and Longfellow's Legend; Deep Inside the Blues: Photographs by Margo Cooper; The Western Pursuit of the American Dream: Selections from the Collection of Kenneth W. Rendell.

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: **opening Feb 19**—Island Thresholds: Contemporary Art from the Caribbean; Our Land: Contemporary Art from the Arctic; In Nature's Company; The Art of Shopping in China; Carved By Nature: Untamed Traditions in Chinese Decorative Art; Yin Yu Tang, the stately 16-bedroom home of a prosperous Chinese merchant of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), ticketed separately: \$4.

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. Special exhibit: DreamingNow, features the works of nine artists from around the globe that depict the world of dreams through mixed mediums.

Salem Witch Museum, 19 1/2 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.

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PANORAMA'S PICK



Scott Roberto

FROZEN Fun

by Diana Aramburu

Why envy New York's Rockefeller Center Ice Skating rink, when you can perfect your pirouettes in the heart of Harvard Square? **The Charles Hotel Ice Skating Rink**, a 54-square-foot ice surface, is the first of its kind built on urban hotel property. Opened in early December, hotel guests and visitors alike can break a sweat surrounded by luxury and sophistication as they listen to jazz and classical music or current pop sensations. After a brisk skate, patrons can enjoy rink-side refreshments from the hotel's award-winning restaurant, **Henrietta's Table**, which offers winter favorites such as hot chocolate and quick bites like warm pretzels and cookies. The Hub's other ice-skating favorite, the **Frog Pond** on **Boston Common**, has long been a staple of wintertime fun in Boston. But the Charles Hotel's new rink now gives skaters another reason to sharpen their blades, whether you're looking for family fun or a romantic night on the ice. Refer to listing, page 45.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

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

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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 Red Sox. It is also a mecca of clubs (on Lansdowne Street), sports bars and restaurants. Several of the city's prominent cultural institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Symphony Hall, are located nearby.

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

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

Somerville. Just northeast of Cambridge, the city of Somerville has long attracted students, artists and musicians with its low rents, proximity to Tufts and Harvard universities and easy access to the T, adding a creative flair to this traditionally blue-collar area.

Activity focuses around two commercial centers, Union and Davis squares, which feature a wide array of ethnic restaurants, cafes, galleries and shops.

South 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. Special event: **Feb 26 & 27 noon–4 p.m.**—The Camellia Society's 176th Annual Exhibition featuring hundreds of dazzling beautiful blooms of the camellia japonica, a winter-flowering plant, *free admission.*

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, including one that commemorates the popular children's book *Make Way for Ducklings*. Other fixtures include the Lagoon, home to the famed Swan Boats from April through Labor Day, and a suspension bridge designed as a miniature replica of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Copley Square, 617-536-5400. *Mon–Thu 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; Fri & Sat 'til 5 p.m.; Sun 1–5 p.m. Free admission. Art & Architecture tours offered Mon at 2:30 p.m.; Tue & Thu at 6 p.m.; Fri & Sat at 11 a.m.* The first publicly supported municipal library in the world hosts one million visitors a year who come to view this architectural masterpiece and its collection of more than five million books. Film festivals, exhibits and children's programs run throughout the year. Special exhibit: Riot and the Rule of Law: The Boston Massacre, John Adams and the Trial of 1770.

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. Tours may be cancelled due to weather conditions, call ahead.* Boston's first skyscraper, the Custom House stands high over Boston Harbor as one of the city's most impressive landmarks. Crowned by its distinctive clock tower and restored with modern luxuries, the building epitomizes the preservation of Boston's historic architecture. Today, the Marriott Corporation operates this landmark.

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

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

Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., 617-524-0128. *Open daily from 7:30 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: \$8; 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 Hancock Tower, 200 Clarendon St., 617-572-6429. Rising 62 stories into the sky, this I.M. Pei-designed, sliver-of-glass

skyscraper is New England's tallest building and is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful skyscrapers in the world. The building houses the headquarters of its namesake, insurance giant John Hancock Financial. Unfortunately, the observatory on the 60th floor was closed after September 11, 2001.

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

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

The Skywalk Observatory at the Prudential Center, 617-859-0648. *Open daily 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Skywalk kiosk closes at 6 p.m. Admission (including a headset audio tour of points of interest): \$9.50; seniors \$7; children (under 12) \$6.50. Observatory may be closed due to weather conditions, please call ahead.* 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 8 a.m.–6 p.m.; tours available.* Built in 1877, this house of worship, a combination of Victorian, Gothic and French Romanesque styles, is one of the great masterpieces of American church architecture. The building is located in Copley Square adjacent to the I.M. Pei-designed John Hancock Tower, itself a contemporary architectural masterpiece. The church is currently in the midst of a \$53 million preservation initiative.

TOURS AND TRAILS

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

Boston Chocolate Tour, 617-269-3626. *Every Sat & Sun at 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Tickets: \$60. Departs from the Trolley Stop Store at the corner of Boylston and South Charles Streets.* This three-hour, fully guided tour stops at various restaurants and confectioners city-wide, sharing fun facts and decadent desserts with guests. The grand finale is provided by the Langham Hotel's Chocolate Bar Buffet, offering more than 25 enticing, all-you-can-eat delicacies.

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. *Call or visit www.thefreedomtrail.org for tour 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.northendmarketstours.com. *Wed & Sat 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 2–5 p.m.; Fri 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. Reservations required. Custom tours for groups available. Tickets:*

\$49 per person. Michele Topor, an authority on Italian cuisine and culture, hosts award-winning culinary walking tours through one of the nation's oldest Italian-American communities.

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

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) \$15.* 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: 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WILDLIFE

Franklin Park Zoo, One Franklin Park Road, Franklin Park, 617-541-LION. *Open 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.*

ICE SKATING

Charles Hotel Ice Skating Rink, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-864-1200. *Mon–Fri 3–8 p.m. Sat & Sun 1–8 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 boasts rink-side refreshments from the New England-influenced restaurant Henrietta's Table, including hot toddies and vanilla-infused hot chocolate. *Refer to story, page 40.*

Frog Pond Ice Skating Rink, 617-635-4505. *Mon 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tue–Thu & Sun 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Fri & Sat 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Fees: \$3; children (under 13) free; rental skates \$7; children (under 14) \$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.

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: \$7; children \$4; rental skates \$5.* 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.

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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 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 9 a.m.–5 p.m., except holidays. Guided tours Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.* The famous golden dome of the State House marks the government seat of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The cornerstone was laid by Samuel Adams, and the building stands on land bought from John Hancock. The red brick portion was designed by the legendary architect Charles Bulfinch.

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

contemporary. Built in 1809, this church was described by Henry James as “the most interesting mass of brick and mortar in America.”

Old Granary Burying Ground (4). Tremont Street next to Park Street Church, 617-635-7389. *Open daily 9 a.m.–3 p.m.* This historic cemetery, formerly the town granary, is the final resting place of John Hancock, Paul Revere, Robert Treat Paine, Samuel Adams, Peter Faneuil, James Otis and the victims of the Boston Massacre. A stone inscribed “Mary Goose” (a.k.a. Elizabeth Goose) allegedly marks the grave of Mother Goose.

King's Chapel and Burying Ground (5). Tremont and School streets, 617-227-2155. *Open Mon, Fri & Sat 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Sun 1–3 p.m. Services: Sun at 11 a.m., Wed at 12:15 p.m. Burying Ground open daily 8 a.m.–3 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.

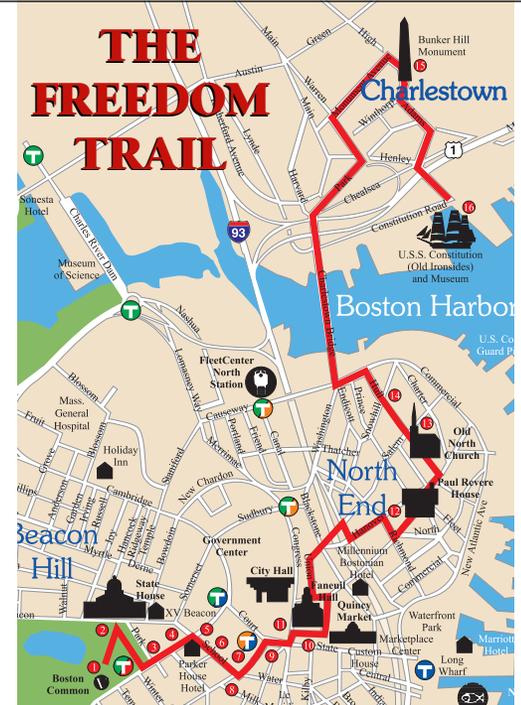
Site of the Old Corner Bookstore (7). School and Washington streets, 617-367-4000. Constructed as an apothecary in 1718, the ground floor was later used as a bookstore that became the center of literary Boston and the meeting place of such notables as Emerson, Hawthorne, Longfellow and Thoreau.

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

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

Faneuil Hall (11). Merchants Row and Faneuil Hall Square, 617-523-1300. *Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Historical talks given daily every half hour 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Military museum open Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.* “The Cradle of Liberty” combines in



one building a free enterprise market on the first floor with a free marketplace for the exchange of ideas upstairs.

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

Old North Church (13). 193 Salem St., 617-523-6676. *Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Sun services at 9 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.–5 p.m. Lodge and museum open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m.* The site of the historic battle of June 1775.

U.S.S. Constitution (16). Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown, 617-242-5670. *Free guided tours Thu–Sun from 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.* This 44-gun frigate is the oldest commissioned warship in the world. The U.S.S. Constitution Museum, located adjacent to the ship, is open daily from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Call 617-426-1812.

© The Freedom Trail Foundation

Boston's own “yellow brick road” is actually a red brick line weaving through the city and connecting 16 key historic sites. Each one tells a piece of the dramatic story of America's birth. These sites are not amusement park replicas; they are the actual places where Revolutionary War-era patriots like Paul Revere and John Adams once gathered. The Hub's most famous attraction, the Freedom Trail is walked by some three million visitors every year. The two-and-a-half-mile red brick pathway unites historic markers from the State House, with its brilliant gold dome, to the 204-year-old U.S.S. Constitution, a.k.a. “Old Ironsides.” In between, there's the Old Granary Burying Ground, the final resting place for American patriots like John Hancock, Paul Revere and James Otis; the Old South Meeting House and Faneuil Hall, where some of the most fiery debates of the Revolution took place; and the Old North Church, where two lanterns were hung to signal Paul Revere during his famous midnight ride.



PANORAMA'S PICK

Lucky NUMBER by Christine Celli

33 RESTAURANT & LOUNGE 33 Stanhope St., 617-572-3311

Its name may come from its address, but any place that shares numbers with Celtics legend Larry Bird is going to catch the attention of locals. Only **33 Restaurant & Lounge** is worlds away from the old Boston Garden. Even with the exposed brick and rafters of this rustic warehouse space, the dining room and downstairs lounge are decidedly modern thanks in large part to the spectacular rainbow colored-changing light show supplied by the bar. Not surprisingly, the funky atmosphere makes it a top choice for fashionable, cocktail-sipping night crawlers. But the other attraction is unquestionably the food. Executive chef Anthony E. Dawodu, previously of the Four Seasons, has filled his menu with what is described as contemporary American cuisine. Yet thanks to a little French and Italian flair, even familiar flavors like lobster risotto, topped with tender butter-poached lobster meat and seasoned with soft leeks and truffle, will taste exotic. The majority of entrees are more classic bistro-style offerings such as the succulent beef tenderloin prepared in a merlot reduction and served with fingerling potatoes and wild mushrooms. But with a few surprises like the Asian-tinged ahi tuna steak, diners should find something on the menu to suit most palates. What's more, even the budget-conscious can enjoy Dawodu's fine fare thanks to the prix fixe menu available six nights a week. For just \$33, guests are served a three-course meal that changes bi-weekly, with wine pairings available at \$7 a glass. Whether your evening plans include dinner or drinks or both, 33's a slam dunk.

B = Breakfast	AVERAGE PRICE OF DINNER ENTREES	\$ — Most entrees less than \$12
L = Lunch		\$ — Most entrees less than \$12
D = Dinner	\$ — Most entrees less than \$12	\$ — Most entrees \$12-18
BR = Brunch	\$ — Most entrees less than \$12	\$ — Most entrees \$12-18
SB = Sunday Brunch	\$ — Most entrees less than \$12	\$ — Most entrees \$12-18
C = Cocktails	\$ — Most entrees less than \$12	\$ — Most entrees \$12-18
LS = Late Supper	\$ — Most entrees less than \$12	\$ — Most entrees \$12-18
VP = Valet Parking	\$ — Most entrees less than \$12	\$ — Most entrees \$12-18
* = Entertainment	\$ — Most entrees less than \$12	\$ — Most entrees \$12-18

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

I	American	49
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N	French Country	53
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E	New England	57
	Seafood	58
	Southwestern	59
	Steakhouses	60
X	Vietnamese	60

AMERICAN

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

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

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

***Bob the Chef's**, 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. Both the original Beacon Hill and Faneuil Hall locations offer a mouthwatering selection of traditional fare and an abundant beverage selection, including their award-winning Bloody Mary and a variety of draft beers. Pick up officially licensed Cheers merchandise at the gift shop. L, D, C, LS. \$

***Dick's Last Resort**, Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., 617-267-8080. This is the joint your mama warned you about. Dick's

HIGH 5: FRIENDLY FIREPLACES

Since most hallmarks of winter seem designed to make us uncomfortable—shovelling out your feet plowed in by several feet of snow, for example—it's nice to be reminded of the few things that make the wait for spring a little easier: Namely, restaurants with roaring fireplaces to warm your toes by. Here are five with a spot by the hearth.



1 BEACON HILL BISTRO, 25 Charles St., 617-723-1133. This French-inspired bistro serves everything from brunch to late-night dinner. And thanks to its large fireplace, upscale dining and comfort go hand-in-hand.

2 HUNGRY I, 71½ Charles St., 617-227-3524. Considered by many to be one of Boston's most romantic restaurants, Hungry i boasts not one but three working fireplaces that provide just the right ambiance for its country French fare served in the heart of Beacon Hill.

3 JAMES'S GATE, 5-11 McBride St., Jamaica Plain, 617-983-2000. Not all Irish pubs are created equal. A trip to James's Gate will prove as much, though it's hard to decide why we love it most—the ski lodge-esque environment or its bargain-friendly entrees like the fish and chips and steak au poivre.

4 ROUGE, 480 Columbus Ave., 617-867-0600. The food at this eatery is all southern comfort, with a barbeque-heavy menu and cajun classics including fried catfish. But with its deep red walls and fireplace, Rouge belongs right here in Boston, where we know how to heat things up even when its snowy outside.

5 UPSTAIRS ON THE SQUARE, 91 Winthrop St., Cambridge, 617-864-1933. This Harvard Square institution moved from the Hasty Pudding to its new space a few years ago complete with fireplace intact. But even with its funky decor, the focus remains on its fine, New American cuisine. —Christine Celli

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 and its signature "molten chocolate cake." Chef Nicole Coady's menu is complemented by its luscious drink menu of ports, champagnes, cordials and its well-known "Finale Favorites." A light dinner menu is available. L & D. \$\$\$

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

Jer-Ne Restaurant & Bar, The Ritz-Carlton Boston Common, 12 Avery St., 617-574-7176. Chef 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's eatery showcases sophisticated American cooking, including salads, grilled fish chicken and comfort food, such as meatloaf. Casual elegance at its best with sidewalk cafe, club-like bar and skylit dining space. Mon–Sat 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.–10 p.m. L, D, SB 10 a.m.–3 p.m., C, VP Tue–Sat evenings. \$\$\$

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

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

Union Bar and Grille, 1357 Washington St., 617-423-0555. This sleek, upscale American bistro in the up-and-coming SoWa District, features 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. 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 flagship of the Chau Chow chain features authentic Swatowese seafood dishes, such as clams in black bean sauce, lobster or crab with ginger and scallion, and spicy fried calamari. The service is superb, and the daily dim sum attracts those with adventurous palates. Also a great place for an after-midnight meal. L, D, LS. \$\$\$

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. Traditional Chinese cuisine and American hospitality combine in this upbeat bistro. Specialties include Chang's chicken in soothing lettuce wraps, Dan Dan noodles and orange peel shrimp. An array of vegetarian dishes such as Sichuan-style long beans and stir-fried

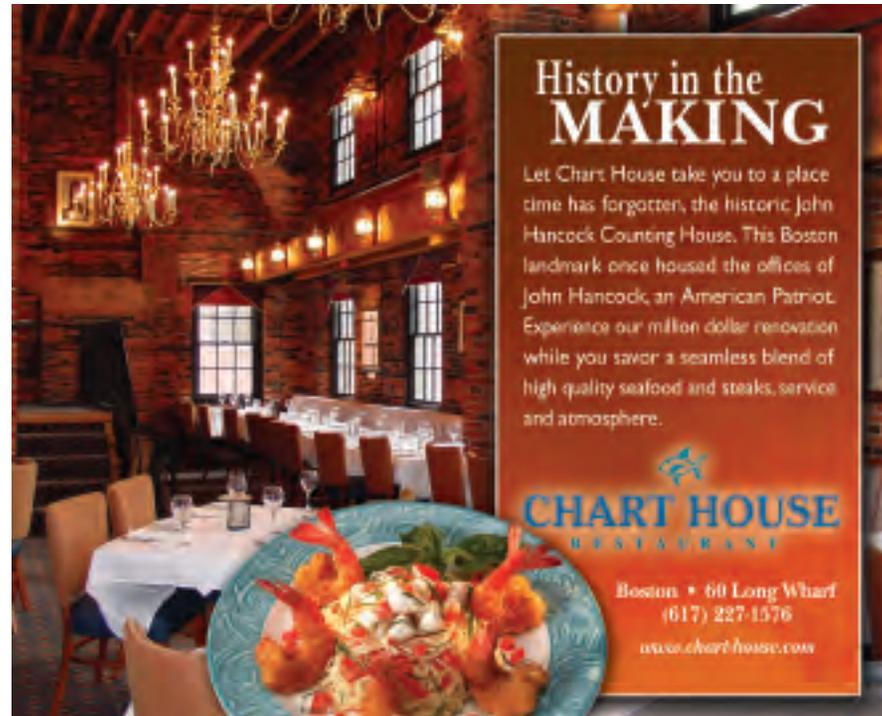
spicy eggplant are also available. Enjoy an impressive list of over 50 wines. Reservations accepted but not required. L & D Sun–Wed 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Thu–Sat 'til midnight. C, LS. \$\$\$

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Lala Rokh, 97 Mt. Vernon St., 617-720-5511. Lala Rokh, the legendary princess immortalized in the 19th-century tale by Irish poet Thomas Moore, is honored by brother/sister team Babak and Azita Bina. Using their mother's home-style Persian recipes and unusual imported spices, they've created a unique dining experience in the only restaurant of its kind in New England. Elegant and affordable, it's a highlight of historic Beacon Hill. L Mon–Fri noon–3 p.m.; D nightly 5:30–10 p.m. Reservations recommended. VP www.lalarokh.com \$\$\$

FRENCH/FRENCH-AMERICAN

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



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

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

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

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

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

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. This welcoming bistro in 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. D, VP. \$\$\$

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

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

FRENCH COUNTRY

Hungry i, 71 1/2 Charles St., 617-227-3524. This restored two-story Beacon Hill townhouse features three working fireplaces and a charming outdoor patio. Chef Peter Ballarin celebrates over 20 years of romancing patrons with French country cuisine and his flair for creative desserts. Signature dishes include venison au poivre, braised rabbit a 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

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

Shanti, 277 Huntington Ave., 617-867-9700; 1111 Dorchester Ave., 617-929-3900. Hailed by the *Boston Phoenix* as "one of the best [South Asian] restaurants Boston has ever had," Shanti specializes in cuisine from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, blending such unique flavors as garlic, ginger, mint and fresh coconut. The Huntington Ave. location is ideal for pre- or post-symphony or theater dining and boasts a large beer and wine selection. L daily 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; D 5–11 p.m. \$

INTERNATIONAL

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

Intrigue, Boston Harbor Hotel at 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



A True Taste of Eastern Mediterranean in Historic Boston

Tucked away in Boston's historic Beacon Hill is Lala Rokh, featuring the culinary delights of Persia. Since its opening in 1995, the restaurant has received ecstatic reviews by some of the country's toughest critics including *Zagat*, *Gourmet* and *Food & Wine* magazines. For a memorable evening of distinctive cuisine, beautiful surroundings and gracious hospitality, visit the Mediterranean world of Lala Rokh.



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RESTAURANT GUIDE

with French and Italian preparations and techniques. Dishes such as the roasted cod coated in panko bread crumbs, as well as playful amuse bouches such as cappuccino-flavored cotton candy, keeps L's fashionable crowd coming back for more. L & D. \$\$\$\$

Mantra, 52 Temple Place, 617-542-8111. 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 seasonal dinner menu items such as grilled pork tenderloin with Ligurian potato-cheese pie, pine nuts and basil. D only. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$

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

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

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

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

IRISH

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

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

***Hennessy's of Boston**, 25 Union St., 617-742-2121. Located near Faneuil Hall, Hennessy's serves up items like wood-grilled Irish salmon, 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, SB. \$

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

ITALIAN

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

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

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

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

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

Florentine Cafe, 333 Hanover St., 617-227-1777. Revered by visitors and residents since its post-Prohibition debut, this historic North End cafe has become one of Boston's culinary landmarks. Lobster ravioli with fresh tomatoes and lobster cream sauce, seared veal with grilled shrimp in Frangelico mushroom sauce, and grilled prosciutto-wrapped Angus beef with alfredo risotto are just a few of the Italian wonders awaiting you in this charming bistro setting. Daily noon–1 a.m. L, D, C. SEE LOCATOR #3 ON CENTER MAP. \$\$\$

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

Lucca Restaurant & Bar, 226 Hanover St., 617-742-9200. Winner of the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence 2002, *Zagat Survey's*



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"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. "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 \$\$\$

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

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

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

JAPANESE/SUSHI

GINZA, 16 Hudson St., Chinatown, 617-338-2261; 1002 Beacon St., Brookline, 617-566-9688. This 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 serves creative Mediterranean cuisine and offers an exceptional wine list. Enjoy grilled Greek salad flatbread pizza or tagliarini provencale in a cosmopolitan atmosphere. L, D, C, LS. \$\$\$

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

MUSEUM DINING

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

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

NEW ENGLAND

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

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

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

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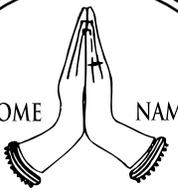
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SEAFOOD

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. \$\$\$

Chart House, 60 Long Wharf, 617-227-1576. 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.** \$\$\$

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

Great Bay, Hotel Commonwealth, 500 Commonwealth Ave., 617-532-5300. Christopher Myers and chef Michael Schlow (Radius, Via Matta) present their unique take on the seafood and raw bar concepts. This eclectic space in Kenmore Square serves delectable fare such as fish tacos and the acclaimed baked stuffed lobster. L, D, 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 #9 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." Extensive wine list. L & D. \$\$\$

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

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

Skipjack's Seafood Emporium, 199 Clarendon St., Copley Square, 617-536-3500; 1400 Worcester Rd. (Rte. 9), Natick, 508-628-9900; 55 Needham St., Newton, 617-964-4244. Enjoy fresh-grilled seafood in a comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes and lobsters. Winner of Best of Boston 2003 award for seafood restaurant. Swing with the 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 features seven-foot-high French windows, swooping Hollywood banquettes, mahogany paneling and cobalt blue tile. Private dining rooms accommodate 10–140 guests. Discounted VP at The Westin Hotel Copley Place. L, D, C, LS. \$\$\$

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

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

SOUTHWESTERN

Border Cafe, 32 Church St., Cambridge, 617-864-6100. Sizzling fajitas, overstuffed quesadillas and giant margaritas are the highlights at this Tex-Mex hotspot in Harvard Square. Other specialties include



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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 \$\$\$

STEAKHOUSES

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

Bonfire Steakhouse, 64 Arlington St., Park Plaza Hotel, 617-262-3473. Todd English's latest culinary triumph is an American steakhouse with European influences, boasting a delectable menu that spans all the regions of the world. A firewall is the main focus of the dining room, running along the back wall where the cooking becomes entertainment. 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** \$\$\$

***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. \$ P



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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TEA for ALL

all images courtesy of Historic Tours of America, Inc.

A unique piece of Boston history returns to the Hub by Christine Celli

Just a few short months after Boston lost something else to Texas (you know, that whole presidential election thing), word got out that a souvenir from one of Beantown's most famous historical events was finally being returned from the Lone Star state.

The story of the modest crate, now being called a national treasure, begins here in Boston on December 16, 1773, the night the uprising known as the Boston Tea Party took place. After Samuel Adams and his Sons of Liberty wreaked havoc on the tea shipment of the British-backed East India Company, the beaches along Boston Harbor were strewn with the refuse of the previous night's protest. Despite knowledge that the possession of any evidence would be considered an act of treason to the British, a young John Robinson of Dorchester hid a discarded tea chest under his coat and brought it home to his family as a souvenir of the event that would go on to spark the American Revolution.



Nearly two centuries later, in what reads like an episode of "Antiques Road Show," the box—which served as everything from a game

TEA PARTY MUSEUM TO RE-OPEN

The Robinson Half Chest will be the centerpiece of a new museum dedicated to the Boston Tea Party. After fire destroyed the previous building in 2001, plans were hatched to rebuild the site and double its size, adding replicas of all three tall ships involved in the protest (previously only a replica of the brig *Beaver* was on display). Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring.

board to a doll chest over the years—was found in the home of Robinson's descendants, the Goodman family of Laredo, Texas. Now known as the Robinson Half Chest, it was purchased by Historic Tours of America (for an undisclosed price) and will eventually be on display as part of a rebuilt museum honoring the Boston Tea Party. Despite the fact that hundreds of these boxes were dumped into the harbor that night in 1773, the Robinson chest is one of only two known to exist and has had several interested buyers over the years (even Lipton Tea!). Fortunately for Boston, it's found its way home.

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