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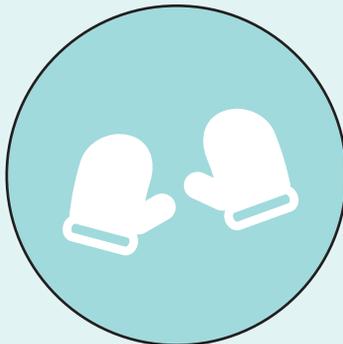
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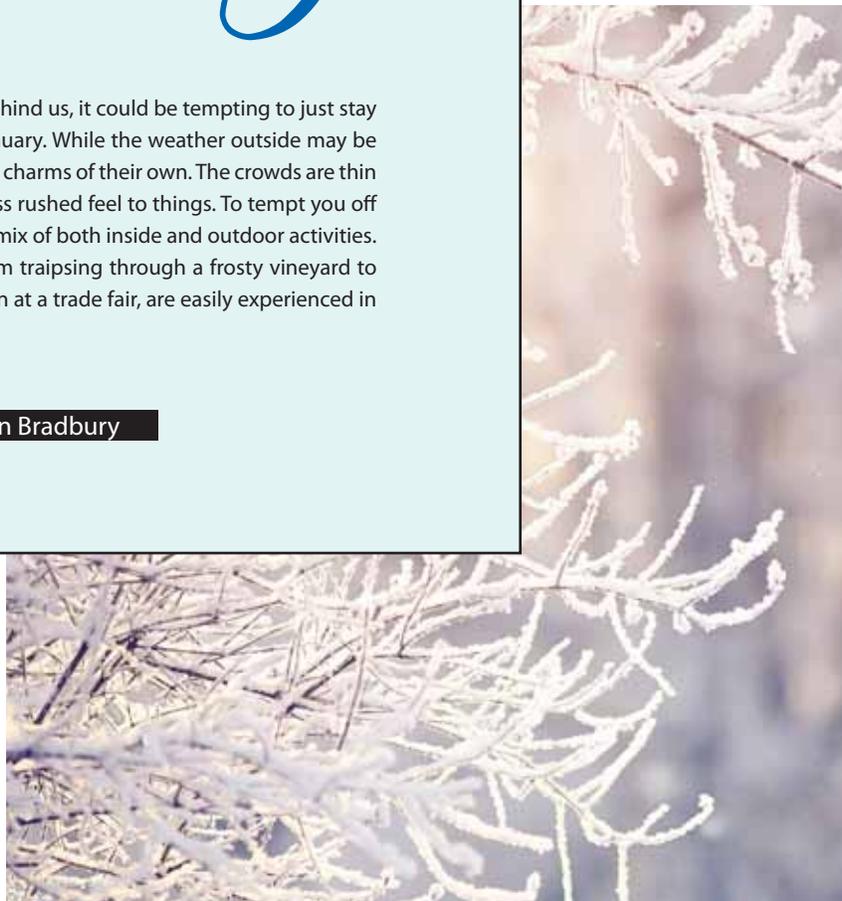


HELLO *january*

EVENTS AROUND GERMANY

With the holiday hustle now behind us, it could be tempting to just stay put for the entire month of January. While the weather outside may be frightful, outings in winter have charms of their own. The crowds are thin on the ground, and there's a less rushed feel to things. To tempt you off your sofa, we've compiled this mix of both inside and outdoor activities. Many of our January picks, from traipsing through a frosty vineyard to seeking out vacation inspiration at a trade fair, are easily experienced in the form of a day trip.

By Karen Bradbury



Editor's Picks

january



CHRISTMAS CIRCUS

Through Jan. 5 in Wiesbaden

Acrobats, clowns, dogs, tigers and ponies are among those set to entertain with their heart-stopping acts. The action unfolds in a heated big-top tent.



IRISH CELTIC

Jan. 3 - 6 in Stuttgart

A talented tap dance ensemble reveals the magic of Irish dance through intricate choreography set to traditional folk songs and thundering dance music.



HORN SLEDGE RACES

Jan. 6 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Teams of four racers on old-fashioned wooden sleds compete for the fastest time down a run. As the sleds have no brakes, hair-raising spills are common.



INTERNATIONAL DOG SLED RACES

Jan. 11 - 12 in Unterjoch

Over 100 mushers and 500 dogs from throughout Europe converge on this village to compete in races over various distances.



THE HOLIDAY EXHIBITION

Jan. 11 - 19 in Stuttgart

More than 2,000 exhibitors offer holiday inspiration with information about countries, destinations and all types of vacations from cycling to cruising.



WINTER LIGHTS

Jan. 18 - Feb. 23 in Mannheim

As dusk falls, the pretty Luisenpark is transformed into a sparkling winter wonderland through the clever illumination of its trees, bushes and water features.



RED WINE HIKE

Jan. 24 in Freinsheim

The now-bare vineyards surrounding a small Pfalz village set the scene for a four-mile walk punctuated by stops for food and drink at 16 stands en route.



MOSEL WINE FORUM

Jan. 24 - 26 in Trier

Tickets go fast to this event at which wines of the Mosel region are the stars of the show. Tastings take place within the walls of the old Roman baths.

PLAN
AHEAD

HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

Feb. 5 - 9 at Bad Wiessee

Hot air balloons in all shapes, colors and sizes take to Bavaria's winter skies. The event's high point comes on Feb. 8, when illuminated balloons pierce through the darkness and huts along a lakeside promenade serve warming drinks and tasty treats.





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Embracing GERMANY

Kaffee und Kuchen

By Amanda Palumbo



When a German friend first explained the “Kaffee und Kuchen” tradition, my eyes lit up like a child who first spots their birthday cake. He explained some of his fondest memories were having cake and coffee in a cafe with family every Sunday after church.

He laughed as I suspiciously questioned him, like any good journalist, to confirm it was common practice to frequently gobble delicious sugary carbs while sipping on strong German coffee. I also assumed not partaking would greatly offend the locals. I was assured the latter was not true but I was trying to validate to my metabolism why we were about to carb load on cake. “When in Germany,” I said.

It should be noted coffee and cake, or “Kaffee und Kuchen,” is much different than having cake and coffee in America. German cakes tend to be less sweet and slightly drier, a refreshing change.

Here’s what to expect when you partake in this tasty tradition.

COFFEE

There won’t be an expansive coffee menu like Starbucks. Do not walk in and order a venti half-caff, four-pump, sugar-free cinnamon dolce soy skinny latte. The barista will be confused, annoyed and walk off. German cafes stick to the caffeinated basics but do those basics very well. A typical coffee menu will have the following:

- Kaffee
- Espresso
- Cappuccino



IT SHOULD BE NOTED COFFEE AND CAKE, OR “KAFFEE UND KUCHEN” IS MUCH DIFFERENT THAN HAVING CAKE AND COFFEE IN AMERICA.



- Latte (sometimes referred to as “Milchkaffee”)
- Latte macchiato

For sizes, “groß” means large (sometimes referred to XXL on a menu) and “klein” is small. There will also be a nearby stand for “Milch und Zucker” or milk and sugar. To order in German say, “Einen Kaffee, bitte” or “one coffee, please.” If they ask you if it’s “mitnehmen” that means “to-go.”

CAKE

Now let’s talk about the real reason you’re reading this: cake or “Kuchen,” pronounced “coo-ken.” In most bakeries or “bäckerei,” cakes will be on display at the main counter. There are some consistent sweet staples along with seasonal cakes. In the summer, you’ll see berry and plum cakes and in the winter, apple cakes. If you’re having trouble deciding, ask the baker their favorite. They’ll enthusiastically tell you which is their specialty. Here are some classics:

“Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte” - Chocolate sponge cake layered with thick whip cream,

along with cherries and chocolate shavings. A.K.A ‘Black Forest cake’ and is by far my favorite.

“Obsttorte” - Vanilla cake with a lip along the outside to hold a mild pudding with seasonal fresh fruit and gelatin.

“Biskuitrolle” - Sort of like those Swiss Rolls you ate as a kid but life-changing. A thin layer of cake rolled with a filling of cream or jelly, along with fruit. These come in a variety of flavors with strawberry being the most popular.

Apfelstrudel - Flaky croissant-like crust stuffed with apple cinnamon goodness topped with either powdered sugar or ice cream.

To order a slice of cake say, “ein Stück Apfelstrudel,” if you’re ordering apple strudel. If you’re unsure of the cake’s name just say, “ein Stück vom Kuchen” and point to whatever you want.

While I’m a big fan of both coffee and cake, “Kaffee und Kuchen” is about so much more. It’s about catching up with friends and family, smiles and laughter and making new memories. ■





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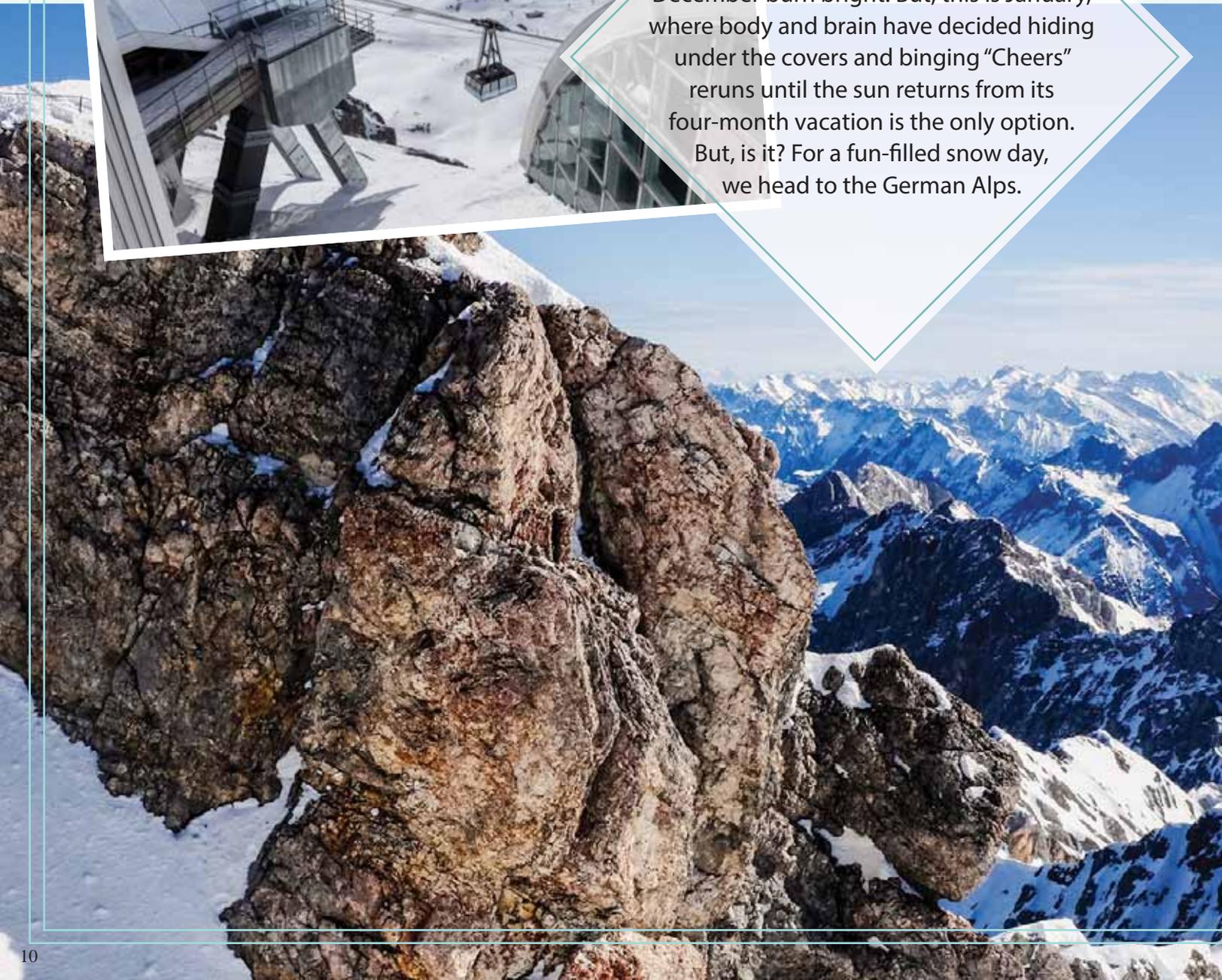
GERMANY'S HIGHLIGHT

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

By Shereece Spain & Amanda Palumbo



The cheerful magic of the Christmas markets made December burn bright. But, this is January, where body and brain have decided hiding under the covers and binging “Cheers” reruns until the sun returns from its four-month vacation is the only option. But, is it? For a fun-filled snow day, we head to the German Alps.



WITH ITS BRIGHTLY COLORED, HALF-TIMBERED BUILDINGS NESTLED IN FRONT OF A CONSTANT BACKDROP OF THE SNOW-CAPPED ALPS, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE STEPPED ONTO A DISNEY SET.

Can I “Alp” you get through winter?

When the train first pulled into Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the quaint, picturesque village didn't look real. With its brightly colored, half-timbered buildings nestled in front of a constant backdrop of the snow-capped Alps, it seems like you've stepped onto a Disney set. Even if you never step foot on a ski or snowboard, the view alone is well worth the trip.

Garmisch offers two stellar places to enjoy the snow - Zugspitze Glacier and Garmisch Classic Ski Resorts, Germany's highest glacier, was the first in Germany to become an official Certified Ski Resort. Their 20 kilometers of runs cater to snow bunnies and the most experienced snow rabbits. Not too far away, the Classic Ski Resort boasts three different mountains (Alpspitze, Hausberg and Kreuzeck), with 40 kilometers of slopes and 17 lifts. You'll find varying degrees of difficulty to accommodate all skill levels of skiers and snowboarders. Borderline professionals can put their skills to the test on Kandahar, the site of the 1936 Winter Olympic Games and 1978 and 2011 Alpine Ski World Cups.

Despite being a Bavarian ski resort, Garmisch is quite reasonably priced. They offer all-day and half-day passes for adults, youth (16 to 18-years-old) and children (6 to 15-years-old). If you want to save, check out the family passes or Deutsche Bahn train and skiing combination tickets.

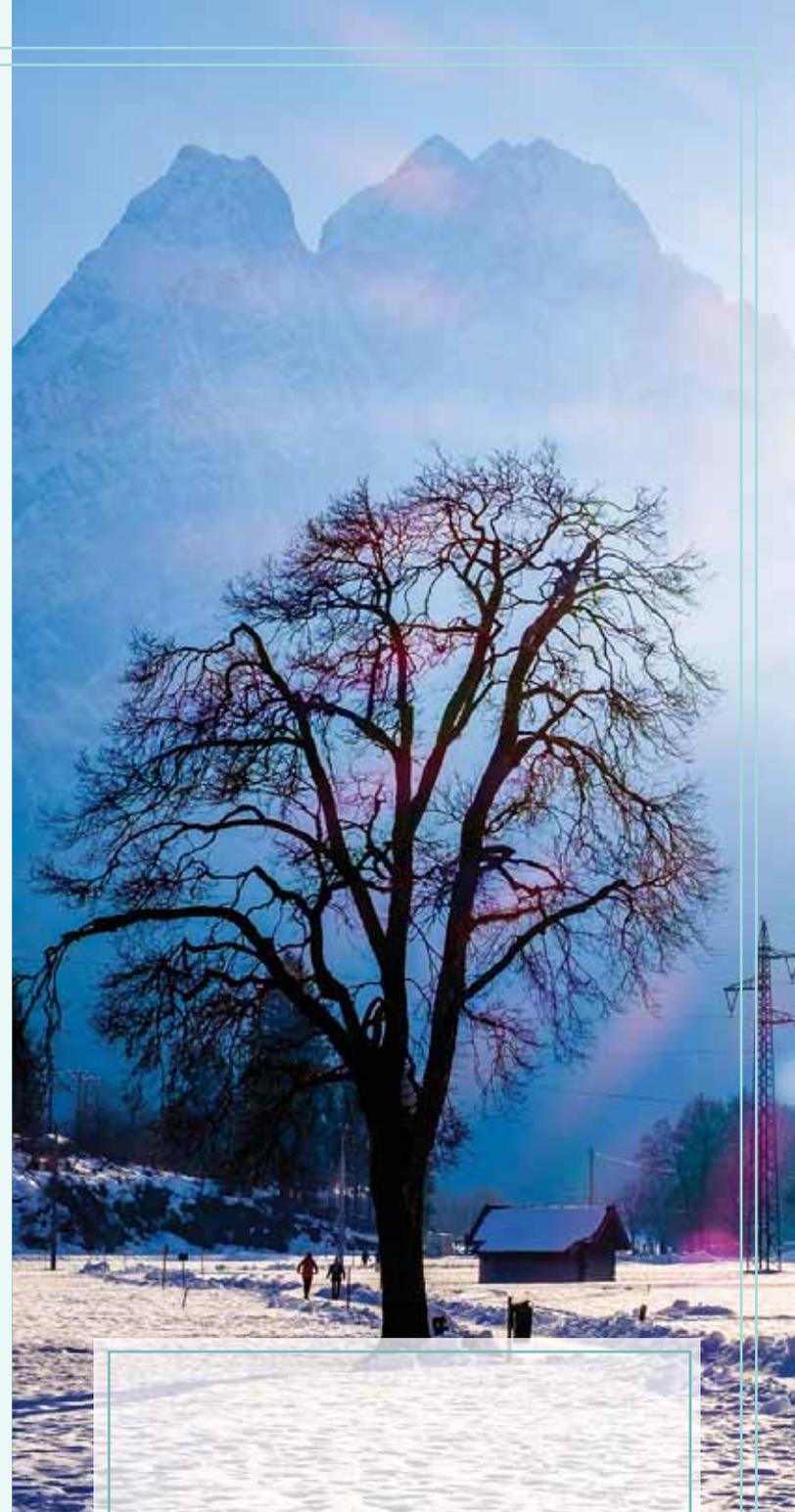
There's “snow” business like “snow” business

If you have zero balance and coordination, there are other activities than snow sports. Avid hikers will enjoy Mount Wank. A gondola carries you up to a nice snow-covered hike or snowshoeing around the plateau of the summit. Kiddos young and old will be giddy over sledding or toboggan runs (depending on the time of year).

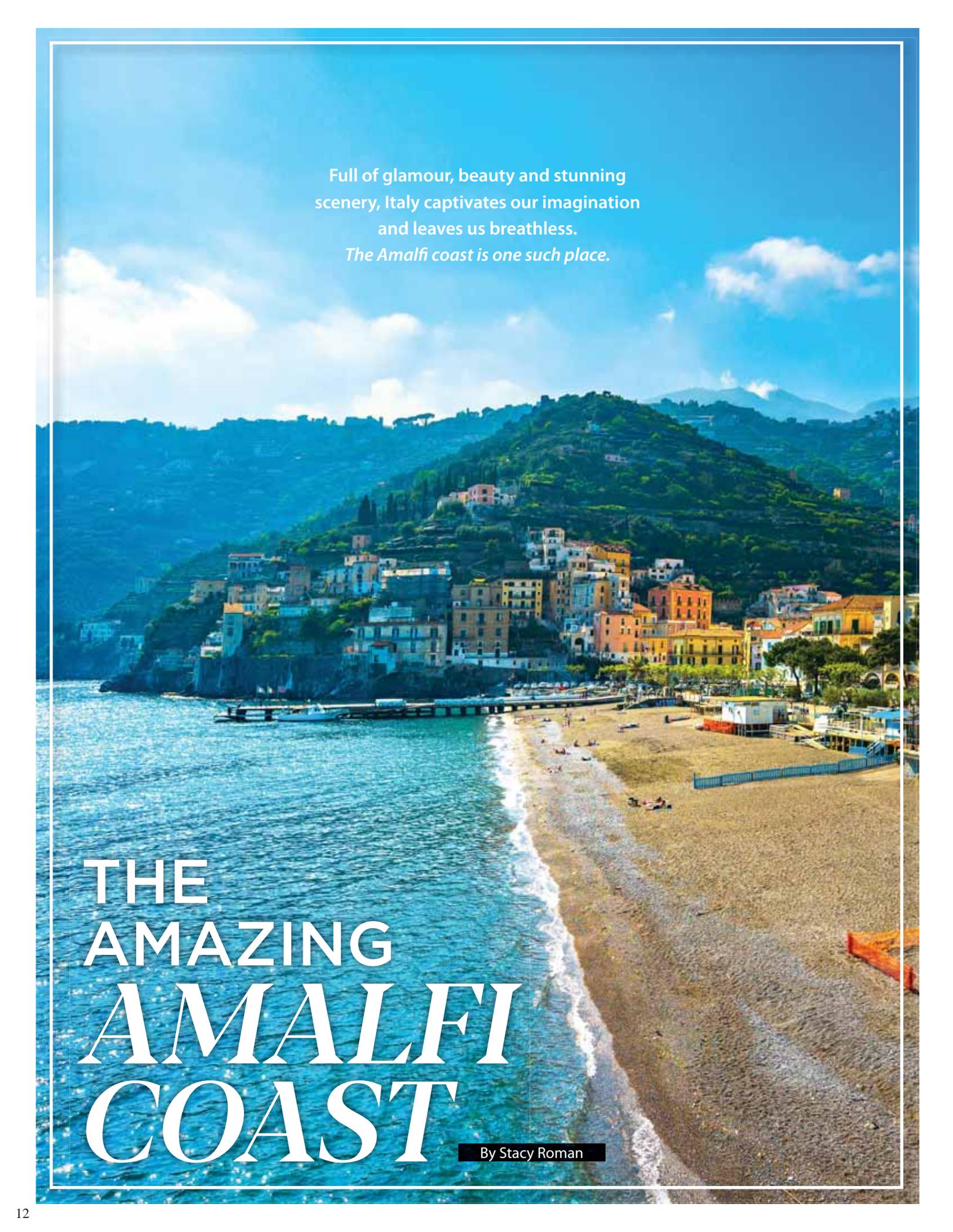
When you're ready to take a break from your thrilling runs, each location also offers several restaurant and bar options. The Kandahar may be above your skill level; however, you can enjoy the Kandahar 2 for a refreshing beer or hot coffee and a snack. No matter where you dine, the savory Bavarian food and spectacular views will not disappoint.

There's “snow” place like home

On occasion, military life affords us more than just one day to get away. If you stay overnight, there are several options. One way to truly make your trip memorable is staying in one of Zugspitze Igloo Village's snow suites. Cuddle with the family or your sweetheart under some of the coziest blankets and take a dip in bubbling hot tubs to warm up and relax. If you think we're done with these snow puns, not “snow” fast. “Snow” matter what, there is “snow” way out of winter. Experience love at “frost” sight with Garmisch and bodily go where “snowman” has gone before. “Ski” you later! ■



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TUCKED ALONG a 50-kilometer-long stretch of rugged coastline, lemon and olive groves flourish in the rocky and jagged hills above the crystalline waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea. While visitors often flock to the busier and more well-known cities of Positano, Salerno and Sorrento (and rightfully so), there are plenty of tiny villages dotting the landscape of this UNESCO World Heritage site yearning to be discovered.

PRAIANO

A mere 25-minute drive from larger Positano, it's easy to see why the ancient fishing village of Praiano was a favorite summer residence for the Amalfi royalty. Sun-bleached houses line the craggy hillside above the idyllic beaches below. Take a hike to the ruins of Torre a Mare, a tower which once protected the town from pirates. During the summer, catch the time-honored festival Luminaria di San Domenico in the Piazza San Gennaro. More than 2,000 lights and candles illuminate the square, with locals performing heart-stopping fire dances.

CONCA DEI MARINI

Nestled into the rocks of the "Valley by the Sea," this charming village is a fantastic spot to eat, drink and be merry. Visitors can take a short boat trip to Grotto dello Smeraldo, a cave with stalactites jutting from the ceiling and stalagmites piercing through the floor. Filled

with turquoise water, the light emanating from fissures in the grotto give it an ethereal glow. Once you've got your land legs back, head to one of the quaint cafes for the local delicacy "sfogliatella Santa Rosa." This mouth-watering flaky pastry was invented by local nuns and has become so popular, a weeklong festival is held in its honor every August.

Filled with turquoise water, the light emanating from fissures in the grotto give it an ethereal glow.

ATRANI

Escape the hustle, bustle and mass tourism of neighboring city Amalfi and head approximately 10 minutes east to the quiet village of Atrani. This peaceful hamlet is one of the best preserved ancient fishing villages in this part of Italy. With less than 1,000 people, visitors get a more genuine Italian experience and gorgeous vistas of Amalfi minus the crowds. There are plenty of medieval churches and castle ruins to explore, as well as a golden, warm beach to relax on.

RAVELLO

With jaw-dropping vistas of the rocky cliff sides and the Tyrrhenian Sea, Ravello is one of the few villages along the Amalfi coast which isn't directly on the water. Tucked three kilometers above the shoreline, this bustling town is known for its beautiful, locally hand-made pottery and the stunning white-washed Duomo di Ravello. Built in the 11th century, the cathedral features an ornate pulpit and colorful mosaics. Need a breather from sight-seeing? Why not try your hand at Italian cooking? The famous Mamma Agata Cooking School offers delicious, family-friendly culinary classes in authentic cuisine.

MAIORI

A summer paradise since the Roman Empire, Maiori is a fantastic place to unwind. Boasting the longest stretch of sandy beach along the coast, there are plenty of spots to soak up the sun. As you walk through the village, you'll notice the architecture may be more modern than expected. In 1954, a devastating flood ravaged much of the original historical center. Luckily, the exquisite Santa Maria a Mare cathedral was spared. With a uniquely tiled dome, colorful artwork and panoramic vistas, it's well worth the 200 steps to get to the top.



ERCHIE

Vibrant lemon groves, winding vineyards and olive trees abound in the sleepy fishing village of Erchie. Less than 100 people call this tiny locale home, which lends to an old-world feel and charm. Take a boat through the crystal clear waters of the nearby grotto to reach the secluded Spiaggetta degli Inamorati, or lovers' beach. Don't worry too much about traffic and congestion in town – the seaside area is inaccessible to cars and motorcycles.

VIETRI SUL MARE

Only 15 minutes west of Salerno, the dividing line between the two cities is literally a concrete harbor wall jutting out in the azure waters. Vietri sul Mare is more industrious and less reliant on tourist dollars than its neighboring villages. Dating back to the Roman Empire, they've perfected the art of ceramics and porcelain-making. With distinctive hues of greens, blues and yellow, the quintessential pottery is sold in storefronts along the steep, narrow alleys and streets. You can't miss the distinguished tiled dome and bell tower of the Church of St. John the Baptist, which dates back to the 1730s. Sip on locally made limoncello cocktails while watching the sun fade into gorgeous hues of pink and purple.

Whether you're looking for regional specialties, one-of-a-kind adventures, dazzling sandy beaches to relax on, or just an authentic Italian experience, you won't want to miss the amazing Amalfi coast. ■



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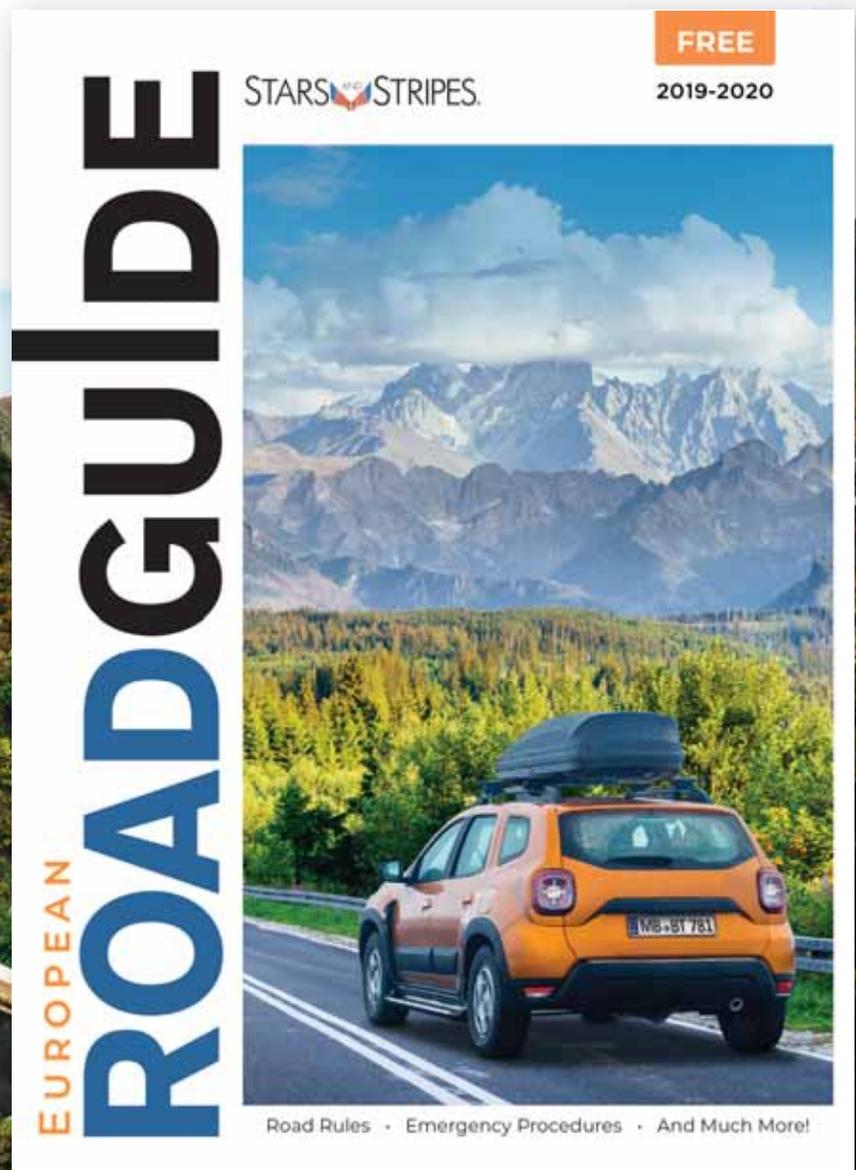
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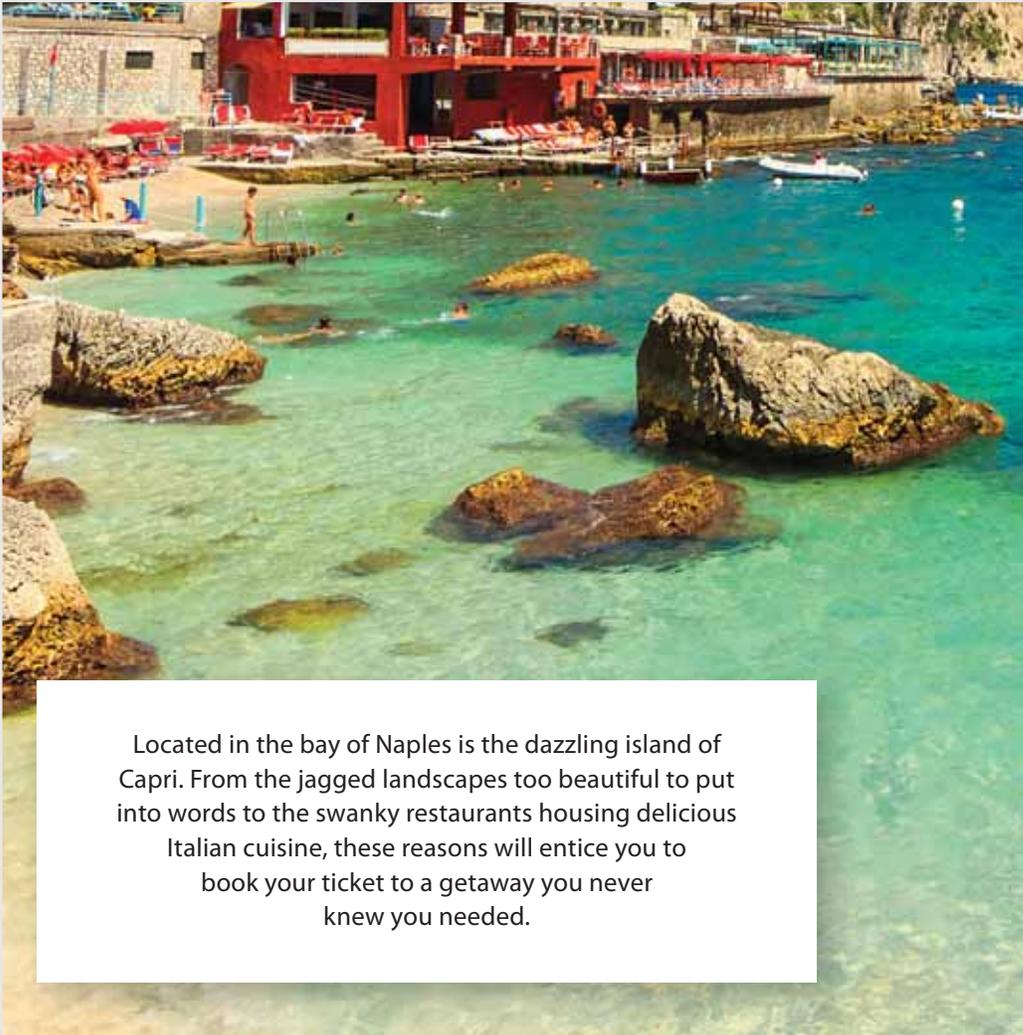
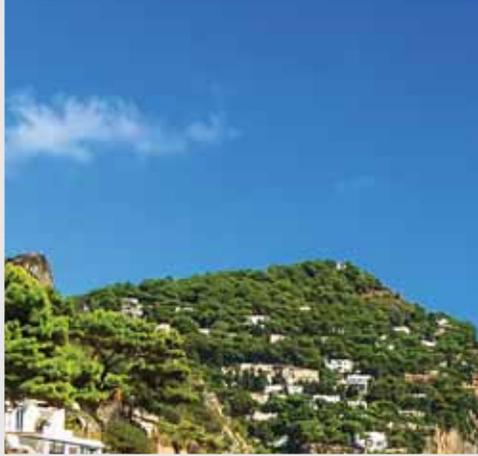
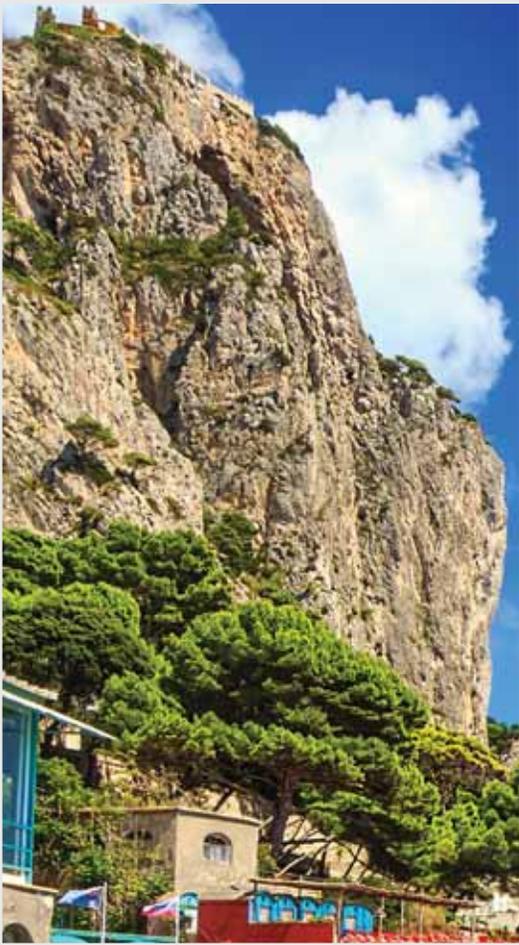
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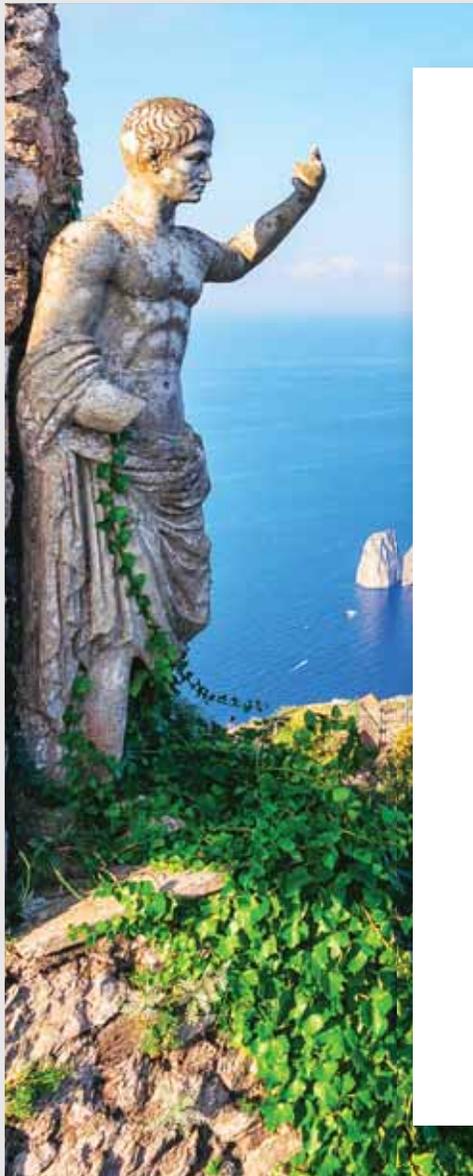
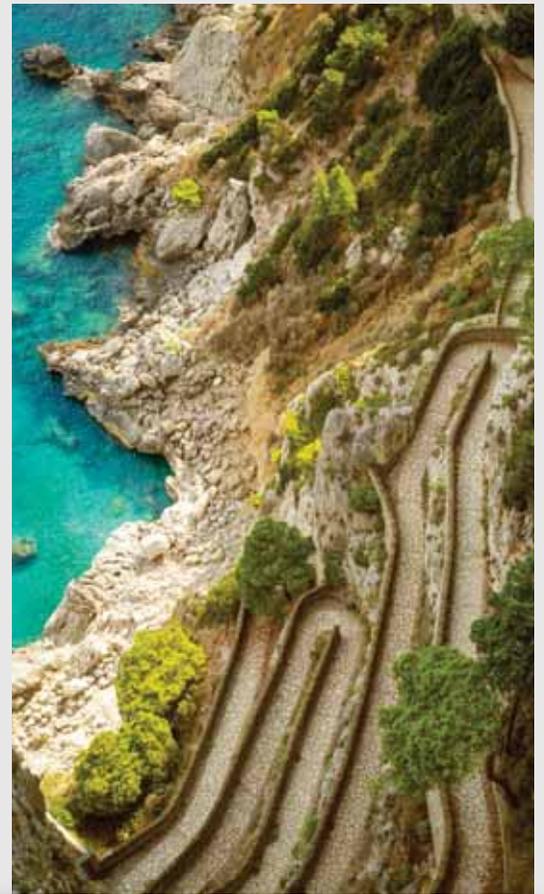
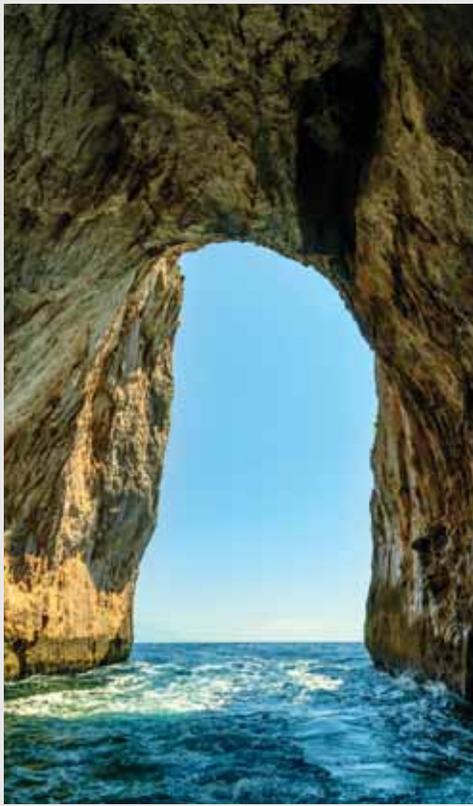
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Located in the bay of Naples is the dazzling island of Capri. From the jagged landscapes too beautiful to put into words to the swanky restaurants housing delicious Italian cuisine, these reasons will entice you to book your ticket to a getaway you never knew you needed.



10 Reasons to Love Capri

By Mary Del Rosario

1. Any dish you eat will be finger-licking good, from pasta to seafood.
2. The views you capture from Mount Solaro will be the star of your Instagram feed.
3. Piazza Umberto, the main square in Capri, is always buzzing and is peppered with bars and restaurants.
4. It's the perfect backdrop to enjoy a nice limoncello after dinner.
5. You can feel glamorous by taking a boat tour to see the breathtaking Faraglioni Cliffs.
6. The Grotta Azzura, or the Blue Grotto, is any adventure seeker's dream.
7. Though pebbly, the Marina Grande Beach provides crystal-clear water.
8. Via Krupp, a paved footpath, should not be missed to see gorgeous views of the island.
9. Villa Jovis, a Roman palace, is rich in history.
10. Gelato. That is all.

Biarritz, France



WHY GO THERE

Keep Biarritz on your radar for an unforgettable adventure in a stunningly beautiful cliffside town. The beaches are the perfect location for soaking up the sun or hitting the waves. The casino will take you back in time and there are numerous spots to admire the gorgeous landscape. Tucked away in the south of France, there is no better spot to spend your holiday. This trendy resort town is sure to make you fall in love and want to visit over and over again.

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— *Biarritz, France* —

ON YOUR RADAR

By Jessica Zen

While the cliffside towns of Italy have made a prominent name for themselves, there is no lack of gorgeous beaches and steep coastal bluffs in Biarritz, France. Once a whaling town, Biarritz is now a glamorous holiday destination on the Basque Coast. Located in southwestern France, this cliffside town that was once the vacation spot of Napoléon III is a seaside gem with elegant villas, pristine beaches and a thriving surfing scene.

Rocher de la Vierge (Rock of the Virgin) is a symbol of Biarritz. This large rock formation was once used as a whale watching platform. Today, there is a bridge that connects the rock to the mainland. A statue of the Virgin Mary rests on top. This rock is a spectacular place to look out over Bay of Biarritz or down to the Côte des Basques. If you look off into the distance, you can just make out the Pyrenees mountains.

Another superb location for viewing the area is the Biarritz Lighthouse. Located at Pointe Saint-Martin, it has been guiding mariners to the shore since 1834. You're free to enter and go up the 248 steps to the top to look out over the water. If you would rather not make the climb, visit at sunset and watch the sun slowly sink behind the sparkling water.

At the height of Biarritz' popularity among aristocracy and nobility, there was a large Russian population. They created a demand for a place of worship. The Église Russe de Biarritz is a church that was built in Neo-Byzantine style. The interior is adorned with icons from St. Petersburg and the church is symbolic of the alliance between France and Russia.

Perched on the beach is a local jewel, the Casino Municipal. This 1929 art deco building brings guests back in time. Bust out the flapper dresses and fedoras and get ready to venture to the roaring 20s. Spend an evening trying your hand at the slot machines or in a game of blackjack.

While the stunning architecture is surely something to behold, the most fantastic part of Biarritz is by far the beaches. Grande Plage is

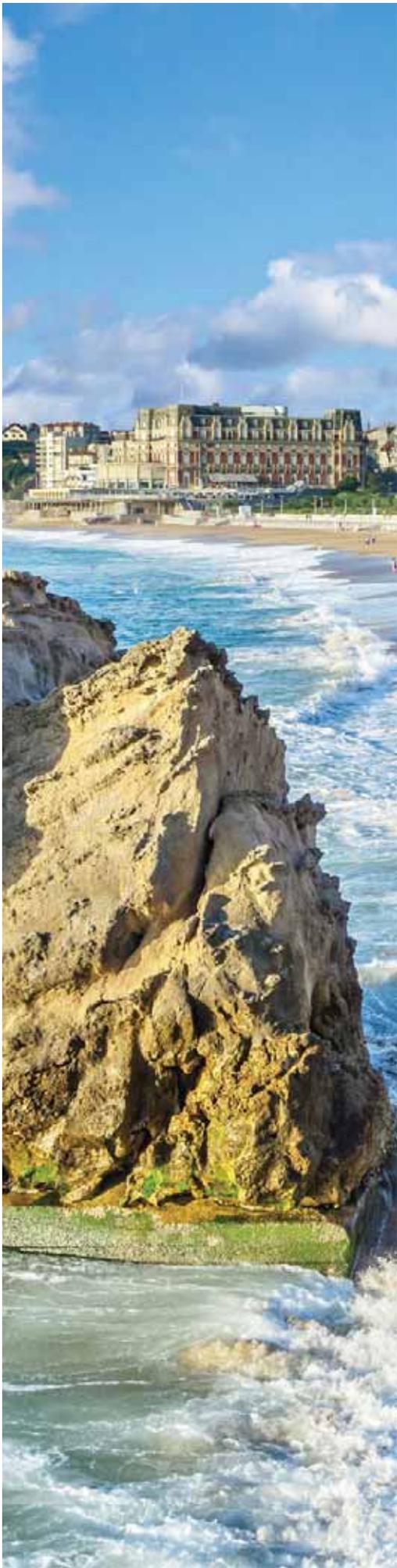
a postcard-perfect beach that features a golden bay with fine soft sand. Stroll up and down the promenade and enjoy the shops, cafes and restaurants or lounge under a striped beach tent.

Surfers will especially love La Côte des Basques. It is potentially the birthplace of surfing in Europe. The story goes that in 1957,



American Peter Viertel brought his surfboard from California while he was visiting France to film a movie. If surfing is your passion, this is the place to be! If you'd like to learn, there are also several surf schools that offer lessons. Stroll down the boardwalk and grab a drink or a bite to eat, and don't forget to "basque" in the beauty that surrounds you. ■

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BRUGES BEER FESTIVAL

Feb. 1-2 in Bruges, Belgium

Some 400 beers from 80 breweries await discovery in a heated tent set up on the stunning medieval market square and in the belfry's courtyard. Entry is free.



JOKKMOKK WINTER MARKET

Feb. 6-8 in Jokkmokk, Sweden

The culture of the Sámi, the indigenous people of northern Sweden, is on full display at a market of exquisite handicrafts and delicious locally sourced foods.



VENICE CARNIVAL

Feb. 8-25 in Venice, Italy

Carnival season is celebrated with street parties, sumptuous balls, boat parades, traditional foods and mysterious figures in elaborate masks and costumes.



JORVIK VIKING FESTIVAL

Feb. 15-23 in York, England

The legacy of those great traders and raiders known as the Vikings is brought to life through historical encampments, talks, a market and combat performances.

THINGS TO DO NEXT MONTH!

February

By Karen Bradbury



LEMON FESTIVAL

Feb. 15-March 3 in Menton, France

A city along the French Riviera celebrates its beloved fruit with parades and clever exhibits made of citrus. The theme chosen for 2020 is "Festivals of the World."



WINTER RUN

Feb. 22 in Prague, Czech Republic

Neither ice nor snow will prevent this running race held in Ladronka Park to take place. The brave runners who take it on can choose from a 4.2 or 8.4 km course.



ROSE MONDAY PARADE

Feb. 24 in Cologne, Germany

Costumed marchers, music groups and massive floats form a vibrant and noisy parade stretching four miles as spectators clamor for flowers and sweets.



FANTASPORTO

Feb. 25-March 8 in Porto, Portugal

This film festival screens films across many genres but has a special taste for fantasy, sci-fi and horror. The legendary Vampire's Ball closes its run for another year.



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