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Cover: The Seattle Great Wheel on the Seattle waterfront has become one of the city’s icons and most popular attractions since opening last June. Photo by Terry Donnelly.

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From high above Elliott Bay, aboard The Seattle Great Wheel, I have a sweeping view of sunbeams waltzing on Puget Sound and snow crowning the rugged Olympic Mountains to the west. When I look over my shoulder, I can see Seattle’s vibrant waterfront behind me. I feel lucky—lucky to live in such a scenic place and to be viewing it from one of Seattle’s outstanding new attractions. Normally afraid of heights, I’m surprised to find that I’m quite comfortable and relaxed in one of the wheel’s 42 climate-controlled, glass-windowed gondolas during the ride’s three gentle rotations.

In operation since June 2012, the 175-foot-tall Ferris wheel—the tallest observation wheel on the West Coast—adds another world-class recreation option to the waterfront, which also boasts the Seattle Aquarium, the Olympic Sculpture Park, a Washington State Ferries terminal and access to Pike Place Market.

Built on Pier 57, the 280,300-pound wheel was erected in less than a year but was the culmination of a longtime dream for businessman and restaurateur Hal Griffith, whose family owns the pier and its Miners Landing complex comprising restaurants, shops, an arcade and a carousel. The pier is located at the site where a steamship bearing “a ton of gold” discovered in northwestern Canada arrived in July 1897, launching the Klondike Gold Rush and boosting Seattle’s economy as local merchants provisioned hopeful gold seekers.

Griffith had wanted to bring a Ferris wheel to Seattle for 30 years, and after becoming aware of design advances such as enclosed all-weather gondola cars and a smaller footprint at the base, he realized he could make his dream come true right on his own pier.

I got a ticket for the VIP gondola, which includes four leather bucket seats (traditional padded-bench-seat gondolas seat six adults or up to eight passengers if some are children), a digital music-player dock and an additional window in the floor, allowing me to gaze down at seagulls floating in the bay, since the wheel extends almost 40 feet beyond the end of the pier.

Weddings have been performed on the wheel, and the ride’s ups and downs might be an apt metaphor for marriage, but the enchanting view is the biggest draw: Mount Rainier to the south, Bainbridge Island and the Olympic Peninsula to the west, the top of the Space Needle to the northeast, the Cascade Range farther east, and the urban cityscape at the wheel’s doorstep. This vista would enhance any special occasion.

As I admire the scenery from the fabulous new wheel, it occurs to me that numerous attractions have been added to the Puget Sound area over the past year. Perched above my glorious hometown, I decide to spend the next few weeks experiencing as many of them as I can, including Chihuly Garden and Glass at Seattle Center; the relocated and enhanced Museum of History & Industry in the South Lake
The outdoor garden by the Glasshouse is a magical place.

Union neighborhood; NASA's Space Shuttle Trainer at The Museum of Flight on the south end of Boeing Field; the Living Computer Museum in the SoDo (south of downtown) neighborhood; and LeMay—America's Car Museum in the city of Tacoma.

CHIHULY GARDEN AND GLASS

Showcasing five decades of significant works by famous glassblower and Tacoma native Dale Chihuly, including some of his drawings, this 1.5-acre attraction opened in May 2012. The eight-gallery Exhibition Hall, the 40-foot-tall Glasshouse and the 23,080-square-foot outdoor Garden take my breath away.

Starting with the Exhibition Hall, I ponder the creativity behind one of Chihuly’s earliest large-scale installations, Glass Forest, then enter the Northwest Room, which not only features glass art evoking Native American vessels, but also Chihuly's personal collections of Native baskets, trade blankets and Edward S. Curtis photogravures. The Sealife Room is filled with delicate glass waves, and ocean creatures ranging from sea stars to manta rays, while the Persian Gelling is a canopy of colorful forms called Persians that are often plate-like and scalloped. Impish parti (cherub-like figures) peek out from behind the Persians.

I could spend half a day just gazing at the varied colors, sizes and shapes of the elegant Mille Fiori (Italian for 1,000 flowers) installation, inspired by Chihuly's mother's garden. Another spectacular installation, Rekane and Float Bost, was inspired by the artist's visit to Finland in the mid-1990s, where he crafted glass forms at a local factory and tossed them into the Nuujaat River to see how they interacted with water and light, and local children retrieved them in rowboats.

The Chandeliers gallery contains otherworldly creations that are marvels of construction. I'm particularly taken with an orange chandelier that to me looks like a flower (Italian for 1,000 petal views) in 19 forms that collectively include 300 flowers (Italian for 1,000 flowers) installation, inspired by Chihuly's mother's garden. Another spectacular installation, Rekane and Float Bost, was inspired by the artist's visit to Finland in the mid-1990s, where he crafted glass forms at a local factory and tossed them into the Nuujaat River to see how they interacted with water and light, and local children retrieved them in rowboats.

On the second floor, magnificent murals of sites such as the Brooklyn Bridge and the Colosseum bring the visitors to the heights of history and art. Chihuly's glass art evokes Native American culture, South American culture, and the beauty of the natural world.

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MUSEUM OF HISTORY & INDUSTRY

Also enjoying the results of a makeover is the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI), which in December reopened to the public in the historic, the remodeled 1942 Naval Reserve Building at Lake Union Park. The museum—which highlights the rich history of the Pacific Northwest and has more than 4 million objects in its permanent collection—has also relocated its offices, research library and conservation labs, to a different site south of downtown Seattle.

The two exhibitions allowed the museum to almost double its exhibition and public-program space to 50,000 square feet. The $60 million renovation of the Naval Reserve Building—which was built partially on pilings above Lake Union and is now on the National Register of Historic Places—include creation of the 56-foot-tall Faye G. Allen Grand Atrium (named for mother of Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen), which is the centerpiece of the museum.

My friend Mike and I begin our exploration in the atrium, in front of a sculpture by Seattle artist John Grade that reminds us of both an old marine piling and an aged, hollow tree trunk. Grade used salvaged Douglas fir planks from the hull of a World War I-era ship;—a 19th-century Puget Sound-based lumber-transport schooner—to create the nearly 65-foot-tall sculpture, which extends above the museum's roof. We enter an opening in the sculpture to stand within the artwork, where we can look up to the sky visible through a plexiglass covering at the top, and down through a plexiglass window to the dark water below. "Far out," Mike says.

Also on display in the atrium is a 1919 Boeing B-1 seaplane—Boeing's first commercial aircraft—which raced in Seattle's inaugural 1950 Seafair festival, setting a boat-speed world record of 160.32 mph on the mile straightaway, besting the prior record by nearly 20 mph.

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The Grand Atrium at the Museum of History & Industry showcases artifacts such as a 1959 Boeing B-1 seaplane—Boeing's first commercial aircraft—which was used to deliver mail to Victoria, British Columbia.
This is where hope will live for years to come.

Seattle Children's has opened the doors to the new Cancer, Critical and Emergency Care Expansion. It's a facility we call “Building Hope”—330,000 square feet of technology, skill and compassion.

It's a place for caregivers, designed to support safe and highly personalized attention for each patient. It's a place for children and their families, filled with thoughtful amenities. It also houses the largest dedicated space for teen and family community gallery will feature the exhibit “Still Afloat: A Contemporary History of Seattle's Floating Homes,” June 15–November 3. The exhibit will include stories, pictures and artifacts. Linda Johnson is president-elect of the MOHAI board. The Walter Gallery (named for local philanthropist and past MOHAI board chairwoman Maggie Walker and her husband, Doug) features the exhibit “Celluloid Seattle: A City at the Movies” through September 8. Mike and I are fascinated by photos of Seattle's historical theaters, and we have a great time inserting ourselves via green screen and videocamera into popular local filming locations such as Pike Place Market, Gas Works Park and the top of the Space Needle.

Items displayed in the exhibit include a Sleepless in Seattle script signed by Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. “I really should have been cast in Sleepless in Seattle,” I tell Mike, who follows my script and agrees.

THE SPACE SHUTTLE TRAINER AT THE MUSEUM OF FLIGHT

Or, maybe I could appear in an upcoming space movie, I think as I approach the Space Shuttle Trainer—a full-scale nonmoving replica of the 50-foot-long Canadarm (invented by a public-private joint venture in Canada) dedicated to space missions and pushed the boundaries of what's possible. The trainer went on display in November at Seattle Children's Hospital, one of the historic boats docked behind the naval building.

One of the most interesting exhibits in the museum is a theater where the Great Seattle Fire of 1889 is creatively reenacted via displays, photos and music. And the museum's 35 interactive exhibits include building your own videogame (available through the end of September) and pouting of railroad spikes, which causes a computer program to add elements to a computer-generated drawing. MOHAI also showcases local companies such as Microsoft and Amazon. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has gifted $10 million to the museum to create a Center for Innovation, which is in the development stages and expected to open this fall.

In the Maritime Gallery, we take turns with a Navy periscope for a view of Lake Union, and Mike is intrigued by the 1885 Fresnel lens once used in a Puget Sound—area lighthouse. The Linda and Ted Johnson Family Community Gallery will feature the exhibit “Still Afloat: A Contemporary History of Seattle's Floating Homes,” June 15–November 3. The exhibit will include stories, pictures and artifacts. Linda Johnson is president-elect of the MOHAI board.

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THE SPACE SHUTTLE TRAINER AT THE MUSEUM OF FLIGHT

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The trainer went on display in November at the 353,000-square-foot museum, whose displays include more than 2,100 flight deck and flight deck crew areas (age, height, footwear and other restrictions apply).

As I crawl out of the trainer, I feel humbled by NASA's achievements and the courageous astronauts who have dedicated themselves to space missions and pushed the boundaries of what's possible. The trainer is on view in the museum's new 15,500-square-foot Charles Simonyi Space Gallery, which also displays a Russian Soyuz space capsule that flew to the International Space Station in 2009, as well as intellectual challenges of a space journey.

I climb up a metal ladder to the flight deck and look through a window at the large payload bay, which could hold a school bus. During missions, the real space shuttle bay was used to carry objects such as satellites into orbit, and also held supplies and equipment needed to build and maintain parts of the International Space Station. The trainer has a full-size nonmoving replica of the 50-foot-long Canadarm (invented by a public-private joint venture in Canada) used to maneuver payload items into position.

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The Hibulb Cultural Center features 23,000 square feet of rich history and the traditional culture of the Tulalip Tribes.

Living Computer Museum displays include the PDP-9, introduced in the mid-1960s, that was one of only four such machines still in existence, and is the only one in working condition.

While the museum tour starts with that not-so-small computer, it ends with smartphones, tablets and laptops. “You know, we are walking around with more technology on our phones than was involved in putting a man on the moon,” Taylor says. “Who knows what we’ll be featuring here in 10 or 20 years? A Surface tablet might look bulky and obsolete.”

LEMAY—AMERICA’S CAR MUSEUM

Some designs, on the other hand, are considered classics, which is one of the reasons I head to LeMay—America’s Car Museum next to the Tacoma Dome, about 30 miles south of Seattle, to see what has recently rolled in. The museum works to preserve and celebrate the world’s automotive history and culture. There are approximately 175 motorized conveyances—donated or loaned by private collectors, corporations, foundations, educational institutions and the LeMay Family Collection—on display at any given time at the 165,000-square-foot museum, which opened in June 2012. The LeMay Family Collection includes vehicles that Tacoma residents Harold and Nancy LeMay began collecting in the 1960s, 150 of which are now in the museum’s permanent collection of approximately 300 vehicles.

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Recent gifts from other donors include a 1964 Buick Wildcat prototype and a custom 2010 “Ferrambo” (Ferrari-Rambler hybrid). Cars on loan to the museum include the 1964 Lincoln “Papal Continental.” Loaned by a foundation and expected to be on view through May, the car was custom-made to safely transport Pope Paul VI during his 1965 visit to New York. The Vatican ordered modifications that included stretching the car to nearly 21 feet, and adding seating, a bulletproof shell and windshield, a public address system, a removable roof and special as artifacts such as spacesuits. A temporary exhibit, “Space Shuttle: Conquering Low Earth Orbit,” created by NASA, includes actual shuttle artifacts such as parts of tires, hatches and engine components, some of which have flown in space. Visitors can even touch some of the items. The exhibit will displayed through June 30.

LIVING COMPUTER MUSEUM

Advances in computer processing over the past five decades have contributed to advances in aerospace and other industries. The Living Computer Museum, located on the second floor of an unassuming four-story former warehouse, brings home to me just how far computers have progressed. Founded by Paul Allen, the 15,000-square-foot museum had a quiet “beta-test” opening in October 2012, with a grand opening celebration in early April. The young tour guide, Taylor, who walks me around is engaging, informative and eager to customize the information to my level of geek.

“Visitors can interface with anything that has a keyboard,” she explains, gesturing toward the various machines in the room that are humming, blinking and occasionally printing out tape or paper. The museum’s name was inspired by the fact that visitors can touch and interact with many of the computers on display. “These systems live—they respond to you in ways that foreshadow the digital miracles often taken for granted today,” notes explanatory information on the museum’s website.

Taylor starts our tour with the Digital Equipment Corporation PDP-7, introduced in the mid-1960s, with a $65,000 price tag, it’s the oldest machine in the building and one of only four such computers still in existence, of the 120 originally built. It’s also the only one that still works. Originally owned by the University of Oregon nuclear physics department, whose Ph.D. students used the PDP to do research, it’s about the size of five 6-foot-tall filing cabinets pushed together, making its original classification as a small computer a joke by today’s standards.

But it’s the grandaddy of much of our modern technology, and the UNIX operating system was created to run on a PDP-7.

Taylor shows off other beauties such as the console panel for the IBM 360 Model 91, released in 1967, whose flashing board looks like a high-tech version of a Lite-Brite toy, and the Xerox Alto, released in 1973, which utilized a mouse and a graphical user interface, instead of typed words, to direct functions. It is considered by many to be the first PC. The 1979 Apple II Plus is described as having the computer industry’s first “killer app”—a visual spread sheet program (VisiCalc).
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the history of the Tacoma waterfront, including the accomplishments of late-19th century pioneer Thea Foss, who built a maritime business from her houseboat. The Tacoma Maritime Fest (maritimefest.org) will take place at the waterfont and park, August 24 and 25, with reproductions of historical vessels on display.

The Fremont Troll (fremont.com/about/fremonttroll.html), in the Fremont neighborhood north of downtown Seattle, is one of the city’s most beloved sculptures. Sculpted in 1989, the 18-foot tallbig guy—made from rebar steel, wire and concrete—lurks under the north end of the Aurora Bridge, near the intersection with N. 36th Street (3508 Troll Avenue).

The Frye Art Museum (fryemuseum.org) has an impressive collection of 19th and 20th century American, German and French paintings. Special events such as art classes and art-history lectures take place regularly, and an exhibit about Russian-American artist Nicolai Fechin is on view through May 19. Admission to the museum is free.

Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour (futureofflight.org): Not only can you take a tour of the jet-assembly plant, but you can participate in interactive activities such as designing and virtually testing a jet.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center (visitorcenter.gatesfoundation.org), at the Gates Foundation headquarters across from Seattle Center, features exhibits that tell the stories of work being done to improve people’s lives. Many exhibits are interactive, such as one in which you can lift a 16-pound water bucket and think about what it would be like to carry water to your home each day. There’s also a section of the visitor center that suggests actions each person can take to make a difference. Special events are held throughout the year. Admission is free.

KidsQuest Children’s Museum (kidsquestmuseum.org), currently in Bellevue’s Factoria area but planning to move to downtown Bellevue in 2015, is a hands-on, interactive museum, with exhibits such as “The Backyard,” “The Garage,” “The Treehouse” and “Waterways.” Special activities and events include Water Week, May 28–June 2.

Museum of Glass (museumofglass.org) in downtown Tacoma focuses on contemporary glass art, with top glassblowing artists from around the world demonstrating their expertise in the museum’s Hot Shop. The exhibit “Northwest Artists Collect,” featuring the personal collections of seven Northwest glass artists, continues through October 27. From May 17, 2013–January 26, 2014, the exhibit “Links: Australian Glass and the Pacific Northwest” will be on display.

The Pacific Science Center (pacificsciencecenter.org) presents educational displays; hands-on activities; IMAX films such as Air Racers 3D and Star Trek: Into Darkness; an IMAX 3D Experience (opening May 15); and numerous special exhibits, including “Imagine,” June 1–September 2. The center also organizes the Seattle Science Festival (sponsored in part by Alaska Airlines), which will be June 6-16 this year. The festival will feature speeches by luminaries of the science world, along with activities, demonstrations, performances and Expo Day (seattlesciencefestival.org).

Pike Place Market (pikeplacemarket.com), founded in 1907, is one of Seattle’s most popular attractions. Here you can purchase produce and flowers from area farms, fresh fish, gourmet sweets and crafts from local artisans—all while being entertained by buskers.

Point Defiance Park (metroparkstacoma.org) is a 702-acre municipal park in Tacoma that includes ancient forest; miles of beachfront; and attractions such as the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (pdza.org), which has more than 12,000 animals, including polar bears and clouded leopards.

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ferry or the Victoria Clipper or Kenmore Air. and hiking—that can be reached via a drive/state Olympic Sculpture Park (seattleaquarium.org) The Seattle Aquarium The San Juan Islands display installation— through the year, is located on the Seattle aquarium, which also hosts special events, the 1962 World’s Fair, is an Emerald City icon. You can ride the elevator 520 feet to the Observation Deck for views of Lake Union, the Olympic Mountains, the Cascade Range, Safeco Field and CenturyLink Field. The Tacoma Art Museum (scaamuseum.org) has a collection of more than 5,500 works, many by Northwest artists, including an extensive array of Chihuly pieces. It also has one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. The exhibit “Beyond Books: The Independent Art of Eric Carle” is on view through July 7. The Seattle Children’s Museum (thechildrensmuseum.org) at Seattle Center has daily programs, plus exploration spaces such as “Mountain,” “Global Village,” “Coc City” and “My Neighborhood Adventures.” Smith Tower (smithtower.com), completed in 1914, is one of Seattle’s most famous buildings. The Observation Deck on the 35th floor of the 522-foot-tall structure is currently open to the public and provides a view of landmarks such as Mount Rainier. Snoqualmie Falls (snoqualmiefalls.com), about 30 miles east of Seattle, cascades 270 feet, for the 1962 World’s Fair, is an Emerald City icon. You can ride the elevator 520 feet to the Seattle Asian Art Museum (tacomaartmuseum.org) at Seattle Center has daily programs, plus exploration spaces such as “Mountain,” “Global Village,” “Coc City” and “My Neighborhood Adventures.” Smith Tower (smithtower.com), completed in 1914, is one of Seattle’s most famous buildings. The Observation Deck on the 35th floor of the 522-foot-tall structure is currently open to the public and provides a view of landmarks such as Mount Rainier. Snoqualmie Falls (snoqualmiefalls.com), about 30 miles east of Seattle, cascades 270 feet, followed by a show featuring stories and symbolism of Coast Salish tribes. Argosy Cruises provides narrated boat cruises to the island. U.S.S. Turner Joy (ussturnerjoy.org) on the Bremerton waterfront, west of Seattle, is a Vietnam-era destroyer maintained as a museum by the Bremerton Historic Ships Association. Visitors can explore almost the entire ship, from the engine room to the wheelhouse to the crew mess. The Underground Tour (undergroundtour.com), a walking tour combining history and humor, is a fun and informative activity. Visitors learn about late-19th century life in Pioneer Square—the city’s first central business district—and see storefronts that were near sea level before civic leaders raised the street as part of rebuilding after the 1889 Great Seattle Fire. A sister tour, the SubSeattlte Tour (subseattletour.com), is done by bus and provides a look at “offbeat neighborhoods and sights.” The University of Washington (seattleuw.edu/discover/visit), north of downtown, was the site of the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. University performing-arts events and museums are open to the public, including the Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture (burkemuseum.org). Founded in 1885, the Burke Museum is Washington’s oldest museum. Its collection includes more than 15 million specimens and artifacts. From June 12–October 27, the museum will present an exhibit about artistic cooperatives that are empowering women and transforming communities in various parts of the world. The Washington State History Museum (wshm.org) in Tacoma, with roots going back to 1895, has excellent living-history displays that bring the past to life. The permanent “Great Hall of Washington History” features many interactive displays, such as a video journey down the Columbia River and a computer station where you can learn Native words. Temporary exhibits include “Let’s Ride! Motorcycling the Northwest,” through June 23, and “In the Spirit: Contemporary Northwest Native Arts,” June 8–August 18. The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (winglake.org), which this year became a National Park Service “affiliated area” gives visitors the opportunity to view spaces such as the kitchen and Mahjong room in the historic nipa hotel where many immigrants first found shelter in America. The museum, which is located in the heart of Seattle’s Chinatown-International District, also offers guided walking tours such as the Touch of Chinatown tour, the Bitter and Sweet tour (including the terraced gardens in japtown and streets mentioned in Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet), and the Taste of Chinatown tour, which includes lunch. Some tours require a minimum number of participants. Current exhibits include “Paper Unbound: Horiuchi and Beyond,” on view through July 14. Woodland Park Zoo (zoo.org), in Seattle’s Green Lake neighborhood, presents about 1,000 individual animals representing more than 300 species from around the world. Twin sloth bear cubs born in December are making their public debut May 4 in a temporary exhibit, and the grand opening of the first phase of a Bamboo Forest Reserve complex will also take place that day. The new complex will feature Asian small-clawed otters (the world’s smallest otter species), a tropical aviary and a kids’ nature play area. Phase 2 will include Malayan tigers and a permanent home for sloth bears. Zoofest concerts take place throughout the summer each year.

—Michele Andrus Dill & Jennifer Worick
When you enter the aesthetically pleasing lobby of a respected hotel and are greeted by service-oriented staff members, it’s a good indication you’ll be happy with your stay. Three boutique hotels—Cedarbrook Lodge, The Heathman Hotel, and Watertown Hotel—are among the Puget Sound-area accommodations pleasing guests with excellent ambiance, amenities and service.

Cedarbrook Lodge, which will celebrate its fifth anniversary as a hotel next year, is a scenic, restful hideaway on 18 acres in a quiet residential neighborhood near Sea-Tac Airport. The Heathman Hotel, which turned five in October and is celebrating its August 2012 reopening after renovations, is an oasis of luxurious comfort in Kirkland, on the east side of Lake Washington. Watertown Hotel, celebrating its fifth year under its current ownership group and the December completion of remodeling, is a modern urban hotel in the University District. All three lodgings are warm and welcoming; showcase numerous original works of art; emphasize eco-conscious and sustainable operations; and are convenient to notable attractions and activities.

Cedarbrook Lodge excels at the extras. At check-in my husband, Michael, and I are greeted with apple cider and told about the croquet set we can use at no charge for a game on the lush lawn. Then we stroll past intriguing nature photos by Seattle artist Johsel Namkung to a foliage-lined path that leads to the Dogwood Building. Like the nearby Spruce Building, Dogwood has a handsome, upscale Living Room, open to all guests, with full grain-leather sofas, a fireplace, a flat-screen TV, a microwave, a refrigerator and an impressive array of complimentary snacks. We set our luggage down to take a quick look, noting items ranging from Tim’s potato chips to Häagen-Dazs ice cream, plus bottled water.

After entering our corner Studio Suite—soothingly decorated in gold and caviar colors, with pin oak cabinetry and furniture—we discover a Keurig coffeemaker, bathrobes, Green Natura bath products and a soaking tub. A seven-choice pillow menu lists possibilities ranging from buckwheat to hypoallergenic, along with pleasant-dreams sachets of lavender or chamomile.

Michael turns on the gas fireplace and finds the TV remote control while I claim the window seat to gaze out at dogwoods, flowering quince and buttercup winterhazel. “This is really nice,” my spouse enthuses.
The Spruce Building houses the well-appointed 24-hour fitness center, although many guests like to walk around the lodge to hear birds singing and to view the garden plots that help supply produce for the farm-to-fork Copperleaf Restaurant.

We take a short path from the Dogwood Building to a large deck off the restaurant that has chairs for lounging near a stone fireplace or near a pond with a waterfall. When our dinner-reservation time arrives, we’re seated by the fireplace in the intimate 52-seat restaurant, which is located in a section of the lodge’s beautiful, high-beamed Great Room.

It’s easy to decide what to order: tonight’s five-course tasting menu (a separate all-vegetarian tasting menu is also offered each night). The tasting menu seems like the ideal way to enjoy the marvelous tours de force of Culinary Director Roy Breiman and Executive Chef Mark Bodinet, who led the Cedarbrook team in presenting dinner at the James Beard House in New York in April 2012. Each course is paired with one of the Northwest wines that make up more than 85 percent of the varietals offered by the lodge, or with a creative nonalcoholic option. In January, Copperleaf received the Washington State Wine Commission’s Independent Restaurant of the Year award.

Breiman and Executive Chef Mark Bodinet, who received the Washington State Wine Commission’s Independent Restaurant of the Year award.

We rave so much about Chef Mark’s creamy yet savory Ozette Potato Soup, with black truffle, garden thyme and pickled hedgehog mushrooms, that a nearby dining-alone businessman we’ve been chatting with decides to order it, too. He gives it a A+. The other dishes are incredible, as well, including the fantastic combination of mustard, tender Anderson Ranch lamb served with pommes Dauphine, tart stewed cherries, young turnips and braised red cabbage.

The nicely dressed woman sitting next to me by the marble fireplace in the Heathman lobby, before she goes to lunch in the hotel’s Trellis Restaurant, she says, gesturing with a smile at the glossy cherrywood-paneled walls; the arrangement of fresh flowers such as red ginger, orange bird of paradise and yellow alstroemeria on a round Italian-stone table; and the abstract painting by Northwest artist Dan Larsen that for her evokes a garden.

It’s been an awesome morning, capping an awesome hotel stay. “What a great time and great place,” Michael says as we’re checking out. “Yes, this property is extra special,” I remind him.

“Try a Puget Sound excursion—ferry ride to a Puget Sound cutthroat trout— at a Puget Sound park just 15 minutes from the lodge. The nicely dressed woman sitting next to me by the marble fireplace in the Heathman lobby, before she goes to lunch in the hotel’s Trellis Restaurant, says she lives in one of the nearby upscale condos. “I like to come here because it’s such an oasis,” she says, gesturing with a smile at the glossy amber-colored travertine floor; the gleaming cherrywood-paneled walls; the arrangement of fresh flowers such as red ginger, orange bird of paradise and yellow alstroemeria on a round Italian-stone table; and the abstract painting by Northwest artist Dan Larsen that for her evokes a garden.

It’s easy to see why even locals are drawn to the gorgeous hotel, where the collection of contemporary artwork complements the motto “Where service is still an art.” Indeed, as we sit by the fire, Ed—whose official job is hotel chauffeur, so he stands ready near the lobby to take people places—approaches and asks if guests can enjoy a guided fly-fishing excursion—for native, wild, sea-run cutthroat trout—at a Puget Sound park just 15 minutes from the lodge.

The Heathman Hotel
220 Kirkland Ave., 425-284-5800; heathmankirkland.com

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we might like some ice water. Earlier, he turned on overhead heat when I sat down in an outside lounge area, and before that, he helped Michael and me adjust hotel-loaned bikes for a scenic ride along Lake Washington and part Kirkland’s many shops, restaurants, galleries and pieces of public art.

The city’s top attractions include one located right here at the hotel: the acclaimed Trellis Restaurant, whose curved oak ceiling connotes the inside of a wine barrel, and whose large, covered outdoor dining area is graced with live plants that vary seasonally.

Northwest wine country–inspired Trellis serves many Washington and Oregon wines, as well as wines from California, Europe and New Zealand. The restaurant’s farm-to-table cuisine features produce—often heirloom varieties—from Executive Chef Brian Scheehser’s 10-acre Woodinville garden. Chef Brian, who has been featured at New York’s James Beard House and was again chosen for the James Beard Celebrity Chef Tour series this year, is constantly working on new culinary creations.

He radiates enthusiasm as he stops by the table where Michael and I are celebrating our wedding anniversary (hotel packages include the Romance Getaway), to congratulate us. He also tells us more about the trio of six-month-aged artisan jack cheeses he’s worked with local Cherry Valley Dairy to craft.

Containing ingredients from his garden, the cheeses—blueberry-basil, carrot-nasturtium and lavender-rubbed—are phenomenal. Chef Brian has also begun preserving his produce—bottling items such as blueberry jam, orange-tomato marmalade, spicy carrots, dilly beans and winter harvest beets—so that diners can enjoy his garden ingredients year-round. And he’s using honey from his own apiary, too, in flavors such as squash blossom and fall berry.

Whether you’re eating fresh or preserved items from Chef Brian’s garden, his food is remarkable. That’s our conclusion as we savor dishes such as roasted Sonoma duck with braised endive and watercress, heirloom-tomato soup, salmon with sautéed apples, and honey-rosemary ice cream.

That’s our conclusion as we savor dishes such as roasted Sonoma duck with braised endive and watercress, heirloom-tomato soup, salmon with sautéed apples, and honey-rosemary ice cream.

Another kind of menu—the hotel’s “Art of Sleep” menu—features options such as pillowtop, Tempur-Pedic and feather. Our corner Terrace Suite—in a palette that our dinner leads me to think of as vanilla, cinnamon and golden raspberry—has a pillowtop mattress and a dual-sided gas fireplace that warms the sitting room and bedroom. The suite also has a separate shower, soaking tub and water closet, and amenities such as robes and slippers, French press Café Vita coffee, an electric teakettle, and Gilchrist & Soames bath products.

French doors on one side of the room open to a Juliet balcony; a glass door on the other side opens to a large deck with a table and chairs, and two wooden chaise longues.

Guests staying April through September can also enjoy fresh air and sunshine by using complimentary hotel-provided vouchers (two per guestroom) for an Argosy Cruises Kirkland Lake Tour on Lake Washington.

Other top attractions in the Kirkland area include the Kirkland Performance Center, just a couple of blocks from the hotel. The center presents approximately 300 music, theater and family-oriented performances a year, and we’re enchanted by an evening of Celtic music.

Strolling hand in hand back to The Heathman after the show, we converse about what a fabulous anniversary weekend we’re having, thanks to our stay at the hotel. “It’s one we won’t forget,” Michael agrees.

Room rates start at $169; 91 rooms; 4,555 square feet of meeting space; complimentary local shuttle service, including to Bellevue shopping and entertainment, and to Woodinville wine country; in addition, the stop for Metro bus service to Seattle, less than 15 miles away, is just a half-block from the hotel’s front door. Part of The Heathman Hotel group.

The Heathman Hotel feature double-sided fireplaces.

Area attractions include the Kirkland Performance Center near the hotel.

Terrace Suites at The Heathman Hotel feature double-sided fireplaces.
As we relax in Watertown’s chic lobby, my eyes are repeatedly drawn to the neon sculpture by Dutch artist Willem Volkersz, now a Montana State University emeritus professor of art. The sculpture, titled But You Can’t, depicts Volkersz as a boy in Holland, looking out at an expanse of sea, determined to do things he’d been told he could not, such as travel the world. An explanatory plaque under the photo says, “It’s a wonderful lesson to us all to think that maybe, ‘we can.’ ”

“That’s a good sculpture for Watertown,” I comment to Michael, “because they’re so focused on ‘Yes, you can.’ ”

For instance, you can park your car at no charge in the hotel’s gated underground lot. You can enjoy complimentary Starbucks coffee and mint pineapple cupcakes—the pineapple is a universal symbol of hospitality, according to the hotel—in the lobby each afternoon. You can obtain complimentary-use movies, board games and kids’ art supplies at the front desk. You can do laundry in the no-charge washer-dryer unit on each guest floor (laundry soap is available from the front desk for a small fee).

You can use the fitness room 24/7, enjoy the seasonal pool at a sister property, University Inn, just a block away, and take a ride on the nearby Burke-Gilman Trail with the hotel’s loaner bikes. All of these things are free of charge, and special deals for hotel stays are often available, too.

“We’re not surprised when we ride up the elevator with a guest from France, and he says, ‘This hotel is great.’ ”

When we get to our guestroom, we see that it...

“...some memories rise to the top..."
AAM 05.13 SeaLodging.indd   28

large windows providing views of the opaque-glass porthole—a playful nod to other bathroom fixtures by a door with an hypoallergenic Evoke flooring in the bathroom supply Tommy Bahama products, and the sink area is divided from microwave popcorn and bottled water. Bathrobes for complimentary use during your stay are available on request.

The light, airy corner suite also has its own terrace with a view of the University of Washington campus, a comfy king bed. From the inviting chair/ottoman and a view of the hotel's courtyard.

We access a portion of the 18.8-mile paved Burke-Gilman Trail on the University of Washington campus, less than a mile from the hotel. “Glorious ride,” I call out to Michael as we zip along the fairly flat, often-wooded trail to 22-acre Matthews Beach Park about six miles north.

At the park, located along the shore of Lake Washington and named for a pioneer who homesteaded here, we take a break to eat our snacks. Our conversation meanders into how much we liked our Thai-ker Tips room restaurant on bustling University Way (known as The Ave), a few blocks from the hotel.

We also discuss our afternoon plans, deciding to explore the Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture at the University of Washington, to visit the renowned, locally owned Parfumerie Nasreen.

Around the hotel group.

Also Notable

Alderbrook Resort & Spa, Union, 360-887-2200, alderbrookresort.com; 93 guestrooms, 7,000 sq. ft. of meeting space:

Alderbrook, two hours west of Seattle, on lovely Hood Canal waterfront, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year with numerous special events. Amenities at the updated property include the Alderbrook Golf Club, a spa, an indoor pool, a marina, and a restaurant that showcases fresh local seafood and seasonal produce.

The Alexis Hotel, Seattle, 866-356-8894, alexihotel.com; 121 rooms, 4,000 sq. ft. of meeting space. Amenities at this boutique, renovated 1901 property include a spa, a private- use steamroom, a restaurant, and shops such as the renowned, locally owned Parfumerie Nasreen.

The Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle, 888-951-5022, fairmont.com/seattle; 450 rooms, 28,200 sq. ft. of meeting space. The hotel opened in 1924 on the original downtown site of the University of Washington. It has retained its historic charm while continually updating to provide modern amenities, including a spa and an indoor pool, as well as premier restaurants such as The Georgian.

Four Seasons Hotel Seattle, 206-749-7000, fourseasons.com/seattle; 147 rooms, 10,570 sq. ft. of meeting space:

Four Seasons, near Pike Place Market, displays original works of art and reproductions of works in the Seattle Art Museum collection, and has a spa and an outdoor pool with a view of Puget Sound. At Art Restaurant, chef Kerry Sear serves fresh local seafood and seasonal produce.

Hotel Ballard, Seattle, 206-789-5012, hotelballard.com; 29 rooms, 1,400 sq. ft. of meeting space:

Hotel Ballard, in the Ballard neighborhood, north of downtown Seattle. The hotel will include a restaurant and a rooftop pavilion, and will offer free 24-hour access to an adjacent athletic club. Ballard attractions include the Nordic Heritage Museum, Golden Gardens Park and the Chittenden Locks.

Hotel Max, Seattle, 866-986-8087, hotelmaxseattle.com; 165 rooms, 299 sq. ft. of meeting space:

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Seattle Flavors  | By Candace Dempsey

The Seattle area has many lascivious options for dining out. Today’s diners are experiencing the best of the region’s establishments, including bin on the lake, a romantic wine bar and restaurant in Kirkland; Palisade, a 20-year-old landmark waterfront restaurant in Seattle’s Magnolia neighborhood; and Shanik, a lauded new Indian restaurant in the up-and-coming South Lake Union neighborhood.

BIN ON THE LAKE

1270 Carillon Point, 425-803-5595; thewoodmark.com/bin-on-the-lake

Some Seattleites arrive by boat to have a meal at bin on the lake, a beautiful wine bar and restaurant on Lake Washington’s east side, complete with outdoor patio and pier. You don’t have to be a wine aficionado to love bin, but it is named after the French word for a wine-storage area; not by accident, its initials spell out botl.

“This must be what it feels like to dine in your own waterfront mansion,” I tell my friend Doris when we arrive at the luxurious Woodmark Hotel, which owns bin. Doris and I remember when the space was occupied by Yarrow Bay Grill; the redesign for bin gives the dining area a calm, elegant feel. The warm, woodsy colors are meant to evoke the Pacific Northwest: greens and grays with a little purple to brighten the mix. Servers are down-to-earth and knowledgeable, especially when it comes to choosing wines to pair with entrees; many diners opt for wine flights.

Although we’ve come for dinner, we would be happy just sitting by the fireplace in the charming corner bar, which offers more than 40 wines by the glass, plus cocktails. The menu features snacks such as maple-bacon popcorn, and raw plates including oysters on the half shell and black cod crudo.

Chef de cuisine Dylan Giordan—a popular Seattle chef who migrated here from Serafina a year ago—created bin’s new menu. A self-taught Italo-ophile, Giordan emphasizes locally sourced ingredients, using them to create dishes that have the seasonal flavors of the Northwest, but with a Mediterranean spin. For bin, “local” means using everything from honey from the restaurant’s own apiary to pork from a small farm in central Washington that feeds its pigs hazelnuts, resulting in especially flavorful meat.

We start with an amuse bouche of angel hair pasta (the chef chooses a different item each night), wrapped around a fork and topped with salty...
More Games, More Fun!
The Biggest and Best in the Northwest.

Canadian sturgeon eggs and crème fraîche; meant to be eaten in a single bite, it is silky and satisfying. At our server’s suggestion, we pair it with a lovely Antoine de Clèroy brut rose Champagne.

We order a variety of dishes to share, including the charcuterie plate, which features bites made in-house by chef Giordan: the house mortadella with pickled grapes and shallots, a country pâté of pork with fig moutarde, and culatello—a prized cut of ham—with shaved fennel. We follow this with a plate of La Tur, a creamy mixture of cheeses from cow’s, sheep’s and goat’s milk. Both plates come with crisp rosemary-­accented crackers.

We move on to seared Brussel sprouts with crisp pancetta and a garlicy aioli, and seared scallops served with a parsnip pure, chantenelle mushrooms and truffle butter. We also enjoy the braised pork cheeks: little mounds of succulent dark meat with peppers caramelized in olive oil, accompanied by braised white beans. We pair the entrees with a flight of white wine; the list is lengthy, and we seek our server’s advice before choosing a Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc, DeLille Cellars Chaleur Blanc and Leth Grüner Veltliner.

For dessert, we order a delightful medley, a succulent macaroon (Doris’ favorite), flourless chocolate cake with a luscious crème anglaise sauce and a red velvet cake pop.

We leave bin on the lake feeling happy and satisfied. We plan to come back in summer, to enjoy the view of Lake Washington from the outdoor patio. Chef Giordan will by then have a new seasonal menu; we can’t wait to see what he comes up with next.

PALISADE RESTAURANT
2601 W. Marina Pl., 206-285-1000; palisaderestaurant.com

Like many Seattleites, I’ve come to Palisade for special occasions. This is Karen’s first visit to Palisade, which is famous for serving expertly handled seafood. Recently renovated in light contemporary colors, with a new blue carpet and chairs covered in tan or blue fabric, the room overlooks a marina bobbing with white yachts, and there’s a saltwater-fresh fragrance in the air.

We’re thrilled to have a window table, but each Koa-­wood table offers views: of the marina, the Olympic Mountains, ferries crossing Puget Sound or the giant Ferris wheel on the Seattle waterfront. Palisade has developed a role as a local institution: Many a wedding proposal has been popped at these tables, and the restaurant’s welcoming character has earned it a number of devoted regulars. (To help out-­of-­town guests enjoy the restaurant, Palisade offers free town-­car pickup from downtown hotels.)

The menu is attractive to regulars, since the Chef’s Selections change seasonally. The recently revamped menu emphasizes Northwest cuisine and locally sourced ingredients, with nods to Asia, including sushi and a raw bar, along with playful additions such as a kung pao calamari appetizer.

Starters range from apple-­smoked salmon chowder and avocado-­and-­tomato salad to appetizers including Dungeness crab cakes and maki rolls stuffed with seafood. We start with the legendary Palisade’s Ocean Tower, a sensational presentation of lobster, oysters on the half shell, jumbo prawn cocktail, ocean salad and a kung pao calamari appetizer.

Canadian sturgeon eggs and crème fraîche; meant to be eaten in a single bite, it is silky and satisfying. At our server’s suggestion, we pair it with a lovely Antoine de Clèroy brut rose Champagne.
ful touches,” Karen says. We share a delicious roasted-beet salad while we ponder our entrees, and order cocktails: a mai tai for Karen, and I opt for the restaurant’s Honey Blossom, made with Hendrick’s gin, honey and lemon. In keeping with the emphasis on local ingredients, Palisade offers local draft beers, including Manny’s Pale Ale and Mac & Jack’s African Amber, and has an extensive selection of Northwest wines.

We share entrees. First, a juicy petite prime top sirloin with Dungeness crab cake and jumbo prawns, served with lemon butter, chimichurri and Yukon Gold “smashed” potatoes. Next, we try the sea scallops with lobster risotto—we can’t decide which we like better, the tender seared scallops or the creamy risotto, which has wonderful flavors of the sea.

We also share dessert, starting with a super-rich flourless espresso chocolate cake and locally made Olympic Mountain ice cream mixed with bourbon. Then, the restaurant’s popular crème brûlée, served in three little pots, each with an individual flourish; my favorite is the vanilla topped with crisp bits of sugar, while Karen favors the Grand Marnier, a sweet custard spiced with orange peel. The chocolate version is warm and bittersweet on the tongue. We finish with cappuccino and, reluctantly, head home.

Lamb popsicles with coconut curry at Shanik in Seattle’s South Lake Union neighborhood.

Indian restaurant caused a culinary sensation when it opened in hip South Lake Union last year. The Seattle area is rich with Indian restaurants, but Shanik offers something different. Shanik’s unique, modern flavors have sifted down from Vancouver, British Columbia, thanks to restaurateurs Meeru Dhalwala and Vikram Vij, the husband-and-wife team who own the popular Vij’s and Rangoli...
restaurants. In Vancouver, Dhalwala is the creative genius, constantly fine-tuning the menu, while acclaimed chef Vij shares business chores with chief operating officer Oguz Istif. In Seattle, Dhalwala rules the kitchen while co-owner Istif crunches the numbers and oversees the front of the house. Both commute back and forth to Vancouver, where Vij is keeping an eye on everything.

I invited my friend Jessica to dine with me at Shanik. She fell in love with India during a business trip and longs to return. She smiles as she enters the rectangular dining room; it has a warm, contemporary feel, with wooden ceilings, floors and tables, and wooden fixtures with exposed bulbs shine soft light over the young, well-dressed clientele. A bar in the back offers benches and tables, and there is also a private table in the kitchen that seats seven.

“It smells so good in here,” Jessica says, breathing in the rich mix of spices being seven.

We particularly like a vegetarian dish: kale, jackfruit (a large fruit with a chicken-like texture and, when cooked, a savory flavor) and cauliflower. It comes with a creamy potato curry and roasted almonds. Jessica likes the flavorful beef tenderloins in tamarind so much that she orders some to take home to her husband. I love the silky black cardamom and cream curry. “Let’s come here again,” I tell Jessica, as we enjoy dessert: rice pudding with toasted almonds, plus gulab jamun—spongy donutlike balls bathed in a sweet, rose-scented syrup. Both items are a light, perfect way to end any culinary passage to India. $  

Candace Dempsey is a writer in Seattle.
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Also Notable
Agrodolce, Seattle, 206-547-3703, agrodolcecafe.com: Prominent chef Maria Hines opened Agrodolce late last year in the Fremont neighborhood, north of downtown, to focus on Southern Italian and Sicilian cuisine, using organic and sustainable Northwest ingredients. The pasta is all housemade. Gluten-free pasta options are also available.

Anthony’s HomePort, Kirkland, 425-822-0225, anthony’s.com: Locally owned Anthony’s restaurant group opened its first HomePort restaurant nearly 40 years ago on the shores of Lake Washington in Kirkland, northeast of Seattle. The restaurant group now owns 27 establishments, all serving excellent local seafood provided by Anthony’s Restaurants’ own seafood company.

Aqua by El Gaucho, Seattle, 206-956-9170, elgaucho.com: The motto “Dinner as theater” sets the stage for attention to presentation and quality at Aqua, one of five Northwest El Gaucho restaurants owned by the Mackay Restaurant Group (now El Gaucho Hospitality), named best restaurant group in the Washington State Wine Commission’s 2005 Washington State Wine Awards. Views of Elliott Bay are complemented by dishes such as all-natural, dry-aged Certified Angus beef; fresh seafood; and the Emerald City Volcano, a baked Alaska flamed tableside after sunset.

Assaggio Ristorante, Seattle, 206-441-1399, assaggiosea.com: Assaggio, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary, focuses on bold, robust cuisine typical of central and northern Italy. Wine from Italy and fresh fish from Pike Place Market are restaurant hallmarks.

Blueacre Seafood, Seattle, 206-659-0735, blueacreseafood.com: Blueacre serves fresh U.S. seafood—listed as sustainable on the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch List—in creative preparations influenced by chef/owner Kevin Davis’ eclectic worldwide experience in locales such as France, Napa, New Orleans, Australia and the Northwest.

Blue C Sushi, Seattle, 206-633-5410, bluecuss.com: Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the restaurant’s founding in the Fremont neighborhood, Blue C Sushi has introduced a new menu, adding unique items such as The Philly Cheesesteak Roll to traditional items such as Takoyaki, and vegetarian options.

Book Bindery, Seattle, 206-283-2661, bookbinderyrestaurant.com: Located in a former book bindery along the Lake Washington Ship Canal, this restaurant has consistently received praise for its artistic preparations of dishes influenced by...
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Canlis, Seattle, 206-383-8939; canlis.com: This Seattle icon located north of downtown is known for its elegant ambiance, including a superlative view of Lake Union, and its high-end Northwest cuisine and outstanding wines.

The Capital Grille, Seattle, 206-382-0900, thecapitalgrille.com: Located in the historic Cobb Building downtown, the upscale restaurant incorporates fresh, local ingredients in artfully prepared classic steakhouse fare (steaks are dry-aged on the premises) and in creative seafood dishes, including a Chef's Daily Seafood Feature.

Coyaba Grill, Muckleshoot Casino, Auburn, 800-804-4994, muckleshootcasino.com: The name of this restaurant means “a place of heavenly feasting” in the language of the Arawaks, indigenous peoples of the Caribbean, according to the casino. Diners feast on entrees ranging from Karubi Pork Short Ribs to Pan-Fried Oysters with lemon, caper and dill aioli.

The Crab Pot Restaurant & Bar, 206-624-1960, thecrabpotseattle.com: For more than 25 years, dining at The Crab Pot, at historic Pier 53, has been a quintessential Seattle experience. The restaurant is known for its huge Seafood platter (shellfish, andouille sausage, red potatoes, corn on the cob), as well as entrees such as wild Alaska salmon.

Cutters Crabhouse, Seattle, 206-448-4884, cutterscrabhouse.com: The restaurant completed an extensive renovation last year to create modern decor with classical details. Located near Pike Place Market, Cutters emphasizes fresh and flavorful dishes, accompanied by great views of Elliott Bay.

Daniel’s Broiler, Seattle, 206-621-8626, schwartzbros.com: This restaurant is known for its prime USDA steaks and its views of Lake Union. It also serves a variety of nonbeef items, including vegetarian dishes.

Dragonfish Asian Cafe, Seattle, 206-467-7777, dragonfishcafe.com: Chefs prepare inventive pan-Asian cuisine in the exhibition kitchen at this restaurant in downtown Seattle’s popular Paramount Hotel, now owned and managed by Paramount Hotels.

Elliott’s Oyster House, Pier 56, Seattle, 206-621-4340, elliottsoysterhouse.com: The natural flavors of quality Northwest seafood are emphasized at Elliott’s, which has been a top seafood destination for more than 30 years, and is particularly well known for its shellfish. Located

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The article discusses various restaurants in Seattle, including:

- **Flying Fish, Seattle** (p.407-409): Located in the South Lake Union neighborhood, Flying Fish serves distinctive dishes influenced by world flavors.
- **Frolik Kitchen + Cocktails, Seattle** (p.407-408): Frolik opened in April at the downtown Red Lion, with a philosophy of keeping dishes fresh and simple, and using natural and organic ingredients wherever possible.
- **Metropolitan Grill, Seattle** (p.408-409): For almost 30 years, Metropolitan Grill has had a well-deserved reputation for serving premium wines, and outstanding USDA prime, corn-fed, custom-dried aged beef. Sommelier Thomas Price was named Sommelier of the Year in the Washington State Wine Commission's 2013 Washington State Wine Awards. The restaurant is so locally renowned, virtually everyone knows what you mean when you simply say, “The Met.”
- **John Howie Steak, Seattle** (p.409-410): This highly regarded restaurant, one of chef/owner Howie’s five establishments, which also include the Seattle and Bellevue Seastar locations, offers guests a premier dining experience featuring custom-aged steaks and equally good side dishes. Steak choices include USDA Prime, American Wagyu from Idaho’s Snake River Farms, Australian Wagyu and Japanese Wagyu. The restaurant uses two separate grills: mesquite charcoal fired and apple wood fired. Howie hallmark’s are prime ingredients, attention to detail, and extraordinary preparation and presentation. The acclaimed chef also helped to pioneer plank cooking.
- **Koral Bar & Kitchen, Bellevue** (p.411-412): This “New American kitchen,” designed to offer a relaxed ambiance, accessible prices and upscale comfort food, opened last year at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. “Appetizers and Small Plates” and “Bigger Plates” are available, with a menu that ranges from Penn Cove mussels to pan-roasted Idaho trout, to juicy burgers. Sister restaurant Pearl Bar & Dining, also in Bellevue, centers its menu around fresh, seasonal products, prepared with contemporary flair.
- **Island Grille, Little Creek Casino Resort, Shelton** (p.411-412): Located about 75 miles southwest of Seattle in Shelton, a gateway to the scenic Olympic Peninsula, the restaurant focuses on quality steaks, seafood and chophouse fare, including all natural steaks from Columbia River Basin—raised beef.
- **Joey Lake Union, Seattle** (p.412-413): The stylish Joey Lake Union sits right by the lake and attracts both hip and cultured diners. Joey Restaurants’ head chef Chris Mills leads the way at the company’s dining rooms, which serve variations on U.S. favorites, enhanced by unique global flavors.
- **LloydMartin, Seattle** (p.413-414): Located in the Queen Anne neighborhood, LloydMartin updates its menu daily to reflect fresh ingredients. It has a diverse selection ranging from game-based items such as elk Bolognese to gourmet vegetarian dishes.
- **Lowell’s Restaurant & Bar, Seattle** (p.414-415): More than 50 years, this Pike Place Market restaurant has been noted for its Elliot Bay views and for using fresh Northwest ingredients sourced from market vendors.
- **Ponti Seafood Grill, Seattle** (p.415-416): Exceptional food and service have made Ponti a Seattle classic. The name of the Tuscan-style restaurant means “bridge” in Italian, and diners enjoy views of the Fremont Bridge and Lake Washington Ship Canal, along with excellent service, and a menu featuring flavors ranging from pan-Asian and Mediterranean to classic European and Pacific Northwest fusion.
- **Poppys, Seattle** (p.416-417): Chef/Owner Jerry Traunfeld emphasizes the East Indian that, a platter served to each guest and containing a variety of small dishes that spotlight seasonal Northwest ingredients.
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The light rail station is connected to the fourth floor of the main parking garage. Trains to downtown Seattle run every 10-15 minutes from 5 a.m. to midnight daily. soundtransit.org

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SALTY'S ON ALKI BEACH, West Seattle, 206-937-1660, saltysonalki.com: Noted for its marvelous views of the Seattle skyline, Salty’s on Alki Beach became a sought-after dining destination not long after it opened in 1989. It pleases diners with its fresh seafood and award winning Sunday brunch.

SITKA & SPRUCE, Seattle, 206-514-0662, sitkaand

spruce.com: The menu at this popular Capitol Hill restaurant focuses on seasonal Northwest ingredients, highlighting fresh local ingredients, and Burgundy, California and Northwest wines.

RAY’S Boathouse, Seattle, 206-789-3770, rays.com: A longtime Seattle favorite, located in the Ballard neighborhood north of downtown, the restaurant completed an extensive remodel in January. It also expanded its menu to include dishes such as lobster, lamb shank, Idaho Wagg’s beef, and mushroom, goat cheese and fig-stuffed crepes, in addition to Northwest seafood.

RELISH Burger Bistro, Seattle, 206-216-7600, relish Seattle.com: The bistro, which opened in March, offers contemporary takes on the classic burger, with 10 options, including the Pike Place special, featuring Niman Ranch beef and Beecher’s cheese.

BHNQ, Seattle, 206-426-7424, michaelmina.net: Chef/owner Michael Mina’s downtown urban wine bar and restaurant, named for Route Nationale 12, which passes through France’s Burgundy region, serves modern interpretations of regional French cuisine, highlighting fresh local ingredients, and Burgundy, California and Northwest wines.

SALTY’S on Alki Beach, West Seattle, 206-937-1660, saltysonalki.com: Noted for its marvelous views of the Seattle skyline, Salty’s on Alki Beach became a sought-after dining destination not long after it opened in 1989. It pleases diners with its fresh seafood and award winning Sunday brunch.

STICK & SISU, Seattle, 206-514-0662, stickand

spruce.com: The menu at this popular Capitol Hill restaurant focuses on seasonal Northwest ingredients, including vegetables and sausage from the restaurant’s own Vashon Island, Washington, farm. Chef Matt Dillon won the James Beard Foundation’s Best Chef Northwest award for 2012.

SIX SEVEN, Pier 67, Seattle, 206-269-4375, edgewa
terhotel.com/seattle-restaurants.aspx: New American cuisine inspired by the season, and spectacular water and mountain views, with outside seating available, make this waterfront restaurant at The Edgewater a perennial favorite.

SPINNAKES, Seattle, 206-251-7973, spinna
cese.com: Noted chef Jason Stratton’s restaurant in the Capitol Hill neighborhood is celebrating its fifth anniversary. The menu features simple yet refined dishes grounded in the techniques of Italy’s Piedmont region, with ingredients from artisan and small farm producers in the Northwest.

SUSHI KAPPA TAMURA, Seattle, 206-547-0953, akihana located in the Eastlake neighborhood, this restaurant uses seasonal Northwest ingredients in authentic Japanese preparations, and its sushi is highly regarded.

TANAKAAN, Seattle, 206-448-2001, tom douglas.com: This new restaurant by chef/owner Tom Douglas, who won the James Beard Foundation’s national Outstanding Restaurateur award in 2012, is expected to open June 7 in the Belltown neighbor
hood, just north of the downtown core. The modern American-Asian restaurant’s menu will range from savory robata skewers to Chongqing Sister City Duck, and will reflect the sensibilities of Tom Douglas Restaurants longtime executive chef and partner Eric Tanaka. Featuring a friendly, casu
al high-spirited vibe, the restaurant (the 10th in the Douglas group), will be part of a 10,000-square-foot Assembly Hall that will also include a juice/ coffee shop, a bread bakery, and a market and deli.

VOLterra Restaurant & Bar, Snoqualmie, 425-888-4441, woodlandodge.com: The restaurant pays tribute to the Puget Sound area’s pioneer forefathers with its location in the 1902 Woodman Lodge—once Modern Woodmen of America Camp 890—about 30 miles east of Seattle in the bucolic Snoqualmie Valley. The renovated “steakhouse and saloon” offers a variety of 28-day aged steaks, as well as dishes such as elk medallions. —M. Dill
**Alaska Airlines SeaFair Torchlight Parade**

See giant helium balloons, spectacular floats, impressive drill teams, amazing equestrian units, lively bands and swashbuckling pirates during the Alaska Airlines SeaFair Torchlight Parade, starting at 7:30 p.m. on July 27. The procession will follow a 2.5-mile route, primarily along Fourth Avenue, from Seattle Center to S. Washington Street.

Pre-parade festivities will include the SeaFair Torchlight Spectacular, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Seattle Center, with displays, giveaways and the opportunity to preview various floats. The SeaFair Torchlight Run, with 5K and 10K races, will begin at Seattle Center at 6:30 p.m., and the Miss SeaFair Scholarship Program for Women Coronation will take place at 7:30 p.m. at Fourth Avenue and Pine Street as the parade begins.

SeaFair, celebrating its 64th year, also features events such as a marathon, a half marathon; a triathlon; a Fourth of July celebration; the 7:30 a.m. 5K and 8K races, will begin at Seattle Center at 6:30 p.m., from 2 Avenue, from Seattle Center to S. Washington Street.

**Seattle Reign FC**

Outdoor soccer is back in Seattle as Reign FC—one of the eight teams in the new professional National Women’s Soccer League that began league play in April—will be playing at 7:30 p.m. on Fourth Avenue and Pine Street as the parade begins.

Seattle Reign FC (reignfc.com)

**Seattle Mariners**

The Mariners re-signed standout starting pitcher Felix Hernandez to a seven-year, $175 million contract, and sluggers such as Michael Morse, Jesus Montero and new acquisition Kendrys Morales should benefit from a new configuration for the home ballpark that brings the outfield wall from 4 feet to as much as 17 feet closer to home plate. The Mariners’ system also includes strong up-and-coming players such as the team’s 2012 first-round draft pick, catcher Mike Zunino, and pitchers Taijuan Walker and Danny Hultzen. The Mariners are playing at home against Baltimore, Oakland, Texas and San Diego in May. For information on home games for the team’s local Triple-A affiliate, the Tacoma Rainiers, visit tacoramainers.com.

**Seattle Storm**

Star players Sue Bird and Lauren Jackson will be out for the season, recovering from surgeries, but veterans Tanisha Wright, Camille Little and Tina Thompson return for the Storm, along with second-year player Shekiema Stricklen. Newcomers Noelle Quinn and Nakia Sanford provide versatility and strength to an experienced roster. The Storm also acquired fresh talent from a strong 2013 WNBA Draft. The Storm’s home opener will be June 2 against Phoenix.

**Seattle Seahawks**

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson eludes Atlanta Falcons players in the NFC divisional playoffs in January.

Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson eludes Atlanta Falcons players in the NFC divisional playoffs in January.

Alaska Airlines SeaFair Torchlight Parade

Seattle Reign FC

Seattle Mariners

Seattle Storm

Seattle Seahawks

**SPORTS**

Visitors and residents enjoy watching professional soccer, baseball, basketball and football games. Below is a look at this season’s prospects for the Sounders, Reign, Mariners, Storm and Seahawks.

**Seattle Sounders FC**

The Sounders made the playoffs during their four previous MLS seasons, including the Western Conference finals last year. Key players for the team’s fifth MLS season include star forward Eddie Johnson, who scored 14 goals last season and is also on the U.S. national team; midfielder Mauro Rosales, who set a club record with 15 assists in both 2011 and 2012, and Nigerian striker Obafemi Martins, who signed as a designated player in March. Martins, who has extensive international experience, scored 18 goals in 38 appearances for the Nigerian national team. The Sounders also acquired seven-time MLS All-Star midfielder Shalrie Joseph in a trade with Chivas USA, and signed former EPL defender Oyimi Traore. The Sounders play at home against San Jose and Dallas in May.

**Seattle Reign FC**

Reign FC—one of the eight teams in the new professional National Women’s Soccer League that began league play in April—is fielding stars such as midfielder Megan Rapinoe (part of the gold medal-winning 2012 U.S. Olympic team) and midfielder Jess Fishlock (captain of the Welsh national women’s soccer team). Also on the roster is former Penn State mid- fielder Christine Nairn (a finalist for the 2012 Mac Hermann Trophy), whom Reign FC picked in the first round of the 2013 College Draft. The team hopes its Olympic gold medal-winning goalkeeper, Hope Solo, currently recovering from wrist surgery, will be able to play the second half of the season. Reign FC plays at home against Kansas City; Washington, DC; New Jersey; and Portland in May.

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Wnba.com/storm/

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Seattle Reign FC

Seattle Mariners

Seattle Storm

Seattle Seahawks

**SHOPPING**

Whether you’re interested in designer products or locally crafted items, Seattle’s shopping destinations are perfect places for retail therapy. Below are a few examples.

**Pacific Place**

In the heart of downtown Seattle, boasts nearly 50 retailers, including Tiffany & Co., Barneys New York, Club Monaco, J.Crew, lululemon athletica, Trophy Cupcakes, and Sixth Avenue Wine. Tenants such as Emilio Sloan, The Art of Shaving and Destination Maternity have recently joined Pacific Place. The no-restaurants include Il Fornaio, which also offers cooking classes. In addition, Pacific Place has an 11-screen movie theater; pacificplaceシアトル.com.

**University Village**

In the University District north of downtown Seattle, is an open-air shopping center featuring more than 200 retailers, many of them locally owned and others internationally known, such as Anthropologie and Tommy Bahama. New tenants include Athleta; Peek;.; Seattle Team Shop; Ives Outdoor Clothing; Tazo Tea; Room & Board (modern furniture); and Aritzia, from Vancouver, British Columbia, which sells innovative women’s fashions. The nine dining options include new additions Veggie Grill; Evolution Fresh and Elemental Wood Fired Pizza. This fall, University Village will add a dozen more restaurants and shops, along with 700 more parking spots; uvillage.com.

**The Bravern**

In addition, the team traded its first- and seventh-round picks in the 2013 draft and a mid-round pick in 2014 to the Minnesota Vikings for outstanding receiver and kick returner Percy Harvin. The defensive line is expected to be enhanced with the signings of free agents Cliff Avril, Michael Bennett and Tony McDaniel. The Seahawks, which posted an 11–5 record, finished the season with the third-youngest team in the NFL. This year, says coach Carroll, they have just as much enthusiasm but much more experience. The team’s first regular-season home game will be in September. —Rasidyn Dillito

**SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

A new “African Pictures” program will be highlighted at this year’s Seattle International Film Festival, May 16–June 6. The festival will screen more than 100 “African Pictures” selections, including the North American premiere of The African Cypher, a documentary about street-dance styles across South Africa; the North American premiere of Spud 2 as a schoolteacher. Recognized as one of the top film festivals in North America, SIFF, whose sponsors include Alaska Airlines, screens more than 250 features and 150 short films from more than 70 countries each year. Contact: 206-534-9999, siiff.net. —M. Dill

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**Calendar**

- **Teatro ZinZanni circus/comedy/cabaret dinner theater:** Celebrating its 15th season in Seattle, the theater presents Dinner at Watan—an adventure featuring Nordic gods—through May 12. A new show, Lucky in Love, will run May 16–Sept. 8. 206-822-2041; diners.zinzanni.org.

- **Nordic Heritage Museum, Ballard neighborhood:** The exhibit “Sissies for a Brush,” featuring the art of paper cutting, with works by Danish-Norwegian artist Karen Bit Vejle, is on view through June 16. 206-789-5707; nordicmuseum.org.

- **Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Eatonville:** This 235-acre, 200-plus-animal park is open year-round, and its activities include tram tours. The park’s 30th-anniversary Slag Fest will be June 22–23. 360-834-3000; nwtekfestival.org.


- **For more information on Seattle-area recreation ranging from the arts to outdoor activities such as golfing the Chambers Bay course (site of the 2015 U.S. Open) and hiking in Mount Rainier National Park, please go to visitseattle.org.**
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