

FYI Travel: A tasty vacation

by Anne Gilbert

If you love to cook and love to eat, the renowned Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., has an event planned for the weekend of Oct. 25-28 that you won't want to miss.

FOOD GETAWAY - Special speakers and chefs will be sharing their cooking expertise at the renowned Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., from Oct. 25-28. CNS Photo. Special speakers and chefs will be sharing their knowledge in cooking classes and demonstrations as guests watch and then get to taste their creations. Some of the guest chefs include Peter Schintler, who has worked with six different master chefs everywhere from France to Asia, Gordon Maybury, the executive chef at Loews Miami Beach Hotel and Joshua Wesson, a leading authority on pairing wine and food. The weekend package will include three nights at Greenbrier while guests enjoy the demonstrations and tastings daily, as well as a competitive cook-off, receptions and dining events in the evenings.

The Greenbrier was recently reopened on April 2 after it had been closed for a multimillion-dollar renovation.

Beyond the draw of this special culinary occasion, Greenbrier has other recreational options to explore. There is falconry, fishing, indoor and outdoor tennis, off-road driving, and use of the resort's 40,000 square-foot spa. The package costs \$2,415 for one person and \$3,700 per couple. For further details, visit www.greenbrier.com/culinary, or call 800-908-0740.

HALFWAY ACROSS THE WORLD

The word Africa probably brings to mind several stereotyped images, but does it ever conjure up stunning beaches, vast forests, and immense mountains all in one beautiful area? If not then you have never heard about Hotel Le Vendome in Cape Town, South Africa.

This five-star luxury hotel allows you to be close to all the sights of Cape Town you will want to experience. Try a wild African safari one day, and the next day immerse yourself in a massive shopping center. There are many fine dining opportunities and two championship golf courses nearby. With a five-star hotel, it only makes sense to play golf on a five-star course. Try your hand at the Atlantic Beach Gold Course and Clovelly Golf Course. Both courses offer gorgeous views. The native birds, guinea fowl and pheasant, roam the sand dunes close by adding to the peaceful ambiance.

Hotel Le Vendome has a classic flare with its old French style architecture but still incorporates all the conveniences of technology. The hotel's restaurant, Rive Gauche, is well-known for its culinary masterpieces and the local wines are a perfect addition to the scrumptious meals. A standard room at Hotel Le Vendome runs at \$355 per night and prices are subject to change. For more information visit <http://cybercapetown.co/LeVendome/index.php>

BLACK SEA CRUISE

General Tours is promoting an exotic cruise across the Black Sea that promises 15 days on a first-class ship.

The cruise and tour includes excursions through Istanbul, Nessebar, Odessa, Crimea, Yalta, Sevastopol, Zaporozhye and Kiev.

If you have a passion for exploring the more remote parts of the world this is an exciting opportunity.

Enjoy the scenery of Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania as you sail through the ports and rivers along their coasts. One stop will take you to the place where the Zars used to spend their summer vacation. Another highlight is the site where the original home of the Soviet Fleet used to stand. The tour is rich with history and beauty. The package includes meals, sightseeing and port charges all for only \$2,699 a person, when you sign up as a couple. <http://www.generaltours.com>.

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