

BRIEFS

Victorian gym found buried in Scotland

Archeologists in Scotland have uncovered the remains of an outdoor 19th-century gym, complete with thrilling Victorian contraptions like the Great Sea Serpent. The Royal Patent Gymnasium was billed as The New Wonder of Edinburgh when it opened in the Scottish capital in 1865. It was designed to help factory workers keep their weight in check and featured devices such as the Sea Serpent, which was a circular platform that allowed 600 people to row simultaneously. The park also featured a pond with boats and a canoe, springboards, climbing poles and rotary ladders. In the winter there was ice skating. “I cannot think of anything else like it,” project manager Phil Richardson told The Scotsman, describing it as more of a theme park than a gym. Archeologists say exercise machines on the site included a 100-foot-long see-saw that could lift 200 people 15 metres into the air before lowering them. There was also a “velocipede paddle merry-go-round” that seated up to 600 people who propelled it with their feet.

Ireland promotes Game of Thrones

The beady-eyed stares of bureaucrats at Belfast city hall have some competition — from three-eyed ravens. The animatronic birds have been installed around the municipal corridors of power in a social-media-driven stunt to promote the popular HBO show Game of Thrones and its Northern Ireland filming locations. Other show props let loose in the real world have included swords, daggers, maces and even a remote-controlled dragon’s egg as part of the Tourism Ireland-HBO joint venture. “Fans will see these (props online), spiking their curiosity about the landscapes and locations featured in the series and inspiring them to come and explore them for themselves,” the tourist body said, adding more stunts are planned to coincide with the next round of the fantasy series. Tourism Ireland is the third-largest tourism board in the world on Facebook after Australia and the U.S., the Irish Independent reported.

Dubai cracks down on praying drivers

Drivers in Dubai who pull to the side of the road to perform prayers are now feeling the wrath of the traffic cop. A spokesman for the Gulf state’s General Department of Traffic said 284 tickets have already been handed out to bus drivers since the beginning of the month, and that 28 buses belonging to repeat offenders have been taken off the road. “We have noted this behaviour and have warned drivers against the dangers of stopping on the side of the road,” Col. Saif Al Mazrouei told The National newspaper. “Patrols are cracking down on this phenomenon.” He added: “Despite warnings, some are committing the same offence again, and this is why we impounded 28 buses.” Anyone found praying at the side of the road faces a fine of up to \$330 and possible confiscation of their driver’s licence.



The bar at the Tides Beach Club is one of the venues for the movable feast Table, in and around Kennebunkport. KENNEBUNKPORT RESORT COLLECTION

EXTRA TABLE

Kennebunkport resorts bring epicurean adventure to Table

Food and drink classes, demonstrations, dinners and tastings

ROCHELLE LASH
MONTREAL GAZETTE

The delectable and movable feast called Table is sizzling at a handful of smart boutique hotels in Kennebunkport, Maine.

The Kennebunkport Resort Collection (KRC) of one-of-a-kind hotels and inns has launched Table, a sociable epicurean adventure of food and drink classes, demonstrations, dinners and tastings.

You’ll experience French bouillabaisse created by chef Pierre Gignac of Ocean at Cape Arundel Inn & Resort (he is originally from Montreal) and learn the story of eggnog with Joel Souza, beverage director of the buzzy Kennebunkport place-to-be, David’s KPT in The Boathouse Waterfront Hotel.

“Each of KRC’s chefs and barmen expresses epicurean passion in a different style, and Table is a mouth-watering way for them to pass along their knowledge,” said Table’s manager, Kristin Fuhrmann-Simmons.

Table is also strong on social media. You can post images and stories at tablemaine.com, plus check out chefs’ recipes, study videos of kitchen techniques and register for events. Each KRC property has its own hashtag to mark your special message and photos.

KRC is operated by hotel maestros Tim Harrington and Debra Lennon. It has a central reserva-

tions system and some communal services like KRC’s Dinner Trolley to affiliated restaurants, ideal for guests who do not want to dine and drive. Table’s programs are the latest linked venture. Here is a sampling:

On the Rocks: 2-4 p.m., Mon., May 25, June 1 and 8; Monday Mixology with cocktails and bar snacks at the Tides Beach Club on Goose Rocks Beach. Bar manager Ben Lohnes will demonstrate his yummy watermelon martini and the vanilla bourbon fizz; (\$25 for three samples, or free for Tides and Hidden Pond guests).

The Tides is a darling, beach-chic oceanfront inn, a Victorian treasure overhauled with sunny fabrics, cool cuisine in a stylish bistro and creative cocktails at the trendy bar.

Progressive Trolley Dinner: 5:30-9:30 p.m., June 21, \$125, including wine. Kennebunkport’s Intown Trolley will ferry patrons to a multi-course dinner at four stops, including the classic Nonantum Resort and the handsome new steak house, One Dock Prime, at the Kennebunkport Inn.

AUTUMN-WINTER

The Tides Beach Club Classics: 2-4 p.m., Sun., Oct. 18; \$45 p.p. Chef John Shaw will prepare small-plate favourites like BBQ lamb ribs, with craft beer and cocktails; followed by The Tide is Turning dinner, 6:30

p.m., \$45 (or \$80 for both).

Prix-fixe Resto Dinner at Ocean: from 5:30 p.m., every Thursday, October through December, \$40. Provençale cuisine with New England ingredients; chef Gignac specialties include bouillabaisse, cod and artichoke beignets, cheeses with poached fruit and roast lamb.

Bourbon Tasting: 3 p.m., Oct. 24; and Scotch Tasting, 3 p.m., Nov. 14, at One Dock Prime, Kennebunkport Inn; \$40 with food pairings and premium spirits.

Beaujolais Days with chef Gignac at Ocean: Sat., Nov. 7, \$55; French-inspired cooking class with wine pairings, followed by Beaujolais-themed dinner, also at Ocean (about \$45). Cape Arundel is a charming, romantic, hilltop getaway overlooking the Atlantic, and Gignac is a long-ago graduate of l’Institut de tourisme et d’hôtellerie du Québec in Montreal.

Boozy Desserts à la Mode: 2-4 p.m., Nov. 14, \$40. Use spirits to craft scrumptious sweets such as Grand Marnier ganache brownies and tequila-lime ice pops; at The Lodge on the Cove, with Table director Kristin Fuhrmann Simmons, a pastry chef turned food writer.

Progressive Trolley Dinner: Nov. 15, \$125, including wine; multi-courses at stops including the Nonantum and Ocean.

Holiday Punches: 2-4 p.m., Sat., Nov. 21; at David’s KPT at The

IF YOU GO

Kennebunkport Resort Collection: 800-573-7186, kennebunkportresortcollection.com.
Table: 207-967-1510, tablemaine.com, kristin@tablemaine.com. If you book a room online for a Table weekend at tablemaine.com, using the code Table, there is 15 per cent off lodging.
Maine tourism: 888-624-6345, visitmaine.com.

Boathouse, \$40; David’s KPT is a hot social hub with walls of windows and a huge deck overlooking the Kennebunkport harbour. The Boathouse’s 25 guest rooms are modern boutique-style getaways, many with water views.

Table events continue Jan. 30 and Feb. 20, 2016, with Winter Pop-up dinners by gourmet chef Justin Walker of Earth at Hidden Pond.

rochelle@rochellelash.com
twitter.com/rochellelash



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|---|--------------|---|---------------|
| SANTA LUCIA, CUBA Gran Club Santa Lucia ★★★ Upgrade to Junior Suite • Jun 04, 11 | \$545 | NEGRIL, JAMAICA Fun Holiday Beach Resort ★★★ Garden View Room • Jun 06 | \$795 |
| VARADERO, CUBA Memories Jibacoa ★★★★★ Garden View Room • Jun 01, 08 & 15 | \$645 | RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO The Reef Coco Beach ★★★ Hotel Room • Jun 05, 07, 12 & 14 | \$825 |
| HOLGUIN, CUBA Memories Holguin Beach Resort ★★★★★PLUS Hotel Room • Jun 05 & 12 | \$675 | GRAND BAHAMA, THE BAHAMAS <i>on sale</i> Viva Wyndham Fortuna Beach ★★★★★PLUS Super Saver Room • Jun 07 & 14 | \$1055 |
| CAYO COCO, CUBA ★★★★★PLUS Memories Flamenco Beach Resort Junior Suite Terrace Garden View • Jun 05, 12 & 13 | \$695 | ST. MAARTEN ★★★★★ <i>on sale</i> Sonesta Maho Beach Resort & Casino Superior Room • Jun 04, 11 & 18 | \$1045 |
| CAYO SANTA MARIA, CUBA ★★★★★PLUS Memories Paraiso Azul Beach Resort Junior Suite Ocean View Balcony • Jun 01, 04, 08 & 11 | \$695 |  <p>FLIGHTS ONLY (roundtrip) from Montreal to Orly with Corsair International June 15 to 25 from \$884 per person, taxes included</p> | |
| PUERTO PLATA, D. R. Riu Merengue ★★★★★PLUS Hotel Room • Jun 02, 09 & 16 | \$695 |  <p>1-877-SellOff (735-5633)</p> | |
| PUNTA CANA, D. R. Tropical Princess Beach Resort & Spa ★★★★★ Hotel Room • Jun 03, 10 & 17 | \$795 | | |

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