



Pet-friendly Inn by the Sea, on the southern tip of Portland, Maine, has Doggie Happy Hour and a menu of Meat Roaf, Bird Dog and Canine Ice Cream. PHOTOS: INN BY THE SEA.

Portland's Inn by the Sea welcomes you

Boutique resort is relaxed, directly on a tiny bay and pet-friendly

ROCHELLE LASH
MONTREAL GAZETTE

The vibrant city of Portland beckons with culture, day cruises and harbour life. The Old Port Festival on June 14, will pop with a parade, free concerts and a huge display of arts and crafts.

Some of the mainly Maine highlights in Old Portland are Vena's Pizz House pub, the historic anti-slavery Portland Freedom Trail, Wharf Street, DiMillo's On the Water floating restaurant, the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, the Shipyard Brewery Shop, Leroux Kitchen, the Children's Museum & Theatre and Gorgeous Gelato.

The oceanfront Inn by the Sea in Cape Elizabeth at the southern tip of Portland is a place to take it all in.

This is an exceptional boutique resort, relaxed, contemporary and directly on a tiny bay of the Atlantic with a full beach. It has a comprehensive spa, a popular bar and a new chef. It's serene, sociable and sophisticated, but also kid-friendly and very pet-friendly.

Inn by the Sea has luxurious fireplace guest rooms, one- and two-bedroom suites, plus fully equipped apartments with indoor/outdoor fireplaces, full kitchens and furnished decks.

The gorgeous oceanfront Sea Glass dining room and the fireplace lounge have been overhauled with new lighting, carpets, artwork — and most importantly, a new chef.

Executive chef Steve Sicinski worked most recently at Top-notch Resort & Spa in Vermont and previously at the upscale spa Mii Amo in Arizona. He is creating delish menus featuring local lobster, bone-in filet mignon and crispy duck breast, sea scallops and monkfish.

The social calendar includes jazz concerts on the lawn (early eve-

IF YOU GO

Portland: 207-772-5800, visitportland.com; Maine tourism: 888-624-6345, visitmaine.com.
Inn by the Sea: 800-888-4287, innbythesea.com, Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Dog-friendly; deluxe rooms start at approximately \$439 US, including spa steam room, fitness room, outdoor swimming pool, beach with chairs and umbrellas. Suites and full apartments available. Children 14 and under stay for free. Breakfast, lunch, bar menu and dinner served.

nings, July 5, Aug. 9 and Sept. 7). Signature drinks include the blueberry martini and the S'moretini for kids. Lobster Bakes will feature traditional Maine potato cakes, homemade sausages, corn chowder with Lobster from Alewives Farm next door

Inn by the Sea is the most pet-friendly hotel I know. Fanny Turley Groffiths, my fair-weather hiking pal who just happens to be a pretty golden Lab, loves the Doggie Happy Hour and L.L. Bean dog blankets.

And during the last two weeks of October, the beachfront pool is closed to people and open for pets for a watery romp. Fanny has already made her reservation, looking forward to bites of Meat Roaf, Bird Dog and Canine Ice Cream. rochelle@rochellelash.com twitter.com/rochellelash



Inn by the Sea, on the southern tip of Portland, Maine, is a luxurious hotel and spa on the Atlantic shore.

Carnival launches social-impact cruises



PHIL REIMER
Ports + Bows

Help a lot of people and make a little money.

That appears to be the mantra behind the launch of Carnival Corporation's new cruise line, fathom.

Last week, when Carnival called the media to the United Palace Theatre in New York we were all expecting an announcement about a new cruise line.

But not this. Social-impact travel is the best way to describe what Carnival Corporation is trying to achieve with its 10th cruise line.

Fathom will take cruisers to foreign countries for the purpose of helping local residents.

Arnold Donald, CEO of Carnival Corporation was blunt in his assessment of the new line: "We're not shying away from the reason for this line. It's for-profit but it's such an efficient and sustainable way to deliver social impact."

Tara Russell, fathom's president, appears to be the perfect choice. She has a business background and is the founder of Create Common Good.

The first destination for fathom will be the Dominican Republic — specifically the northern half, where Carnival is building its newest port — Amber Cove at Puerto Plata.

While in the Dominican Republic, passengers will contribute by teaching English, introducing water purification initiatives, and assisting a women's cooperative that harvests cocoa to make organic chocolate.

The seven-day cruises will home-port in Miami, with the

first one scheduled to sail in April 2016. It's not cheap. Prices start at \$1,540, well above normal for a seven-day Caribbean cruise. However, a portion of each fare will go to the charities on the ground that operate participating projects.

The cruise line is starting off small with P & O's 730-passenger Adonia, which will be transferred to fathom early next year.

En route to the Dominican Republic, foods of the country will be served and part of the sea days will be used to train participants for what to expect when they arrive. On the ground, they'll be busy for just over three days. But each passenger decides how much time they'll volunteer.

The cruise line is expecting millennials to dominate the demographic, along with families who want their children to experience benevolence, and retirees who have time and skills that are needed.

I doubt the Corporation would've launched this line in the climate it faced a few years ago. Millions watched after the Carnival Triumph lost power for days before being towed to Mobile, Ala. The Costa Concordia, another Carnival Corp. ship, sank off the coast of Italy.

Time has changed the cli-

PHIL'S PICK OF THE WEEK

There is always a hunt for cruises where the single supplement is waived and I've found one on the river. Uniworld is waiving it on a variety of 2015 cruises.

Destinations include:

- Bordeaux to Bordeaux
 - Budapest to Passau
 - Basel to Amsterdam and more
- Keep in mind that these solo offers are capacity controlled. It's best to call a cruise agent on this one or contact uniworld.com.

mate. Costa built a new ship, the Diadema, and was one of the first lines into China, where it now has three ships. The signature brand, Carnival, experienced a resurgence when it brought in entertainers Journey, Lady Antebellum, The Band Perry, Heart and others for its Carnival Live shows. And now a line known for cruises of seven days is featuring Carnival Journeys of 10 to 12 days.

Let's hope the other nine brands in Carnival Corporation pick up some of fathom's DNA. Fathom is now on sale at fathom.org Visit portsandbows.com, sponsored by Expedia CruiseShipCenters, 1-800-707-7327, www.cruiseshipcenters.com, for daily updates on the latest cruise news, best deals and behind-the-scenes stories from the industry. You can also sign up for an email newsletter on the site for even more cruise information. Phil Reimer may be contacted directly at portsandbows@gmail.com.



P&O's 730-passenger Adonia will be transferred to fathom, Carnival Corporation's new cruise line, next year. PHOTO COURTESY OF P&O

MONTREAL GAZETTE

Check out today's Montreal Gazette tablet edition.

EUROPE FOR EVERYONE

Greece

\$2699

City & Island Hopping Package
Aegean Vistas¹
Cruise, Santorini & Athens
7 nights | 14 meals
July 8 & 15

transat

Holidays

FROM SEA TO SKY,
THIS IS LIFE IN BLUE

Melanie - Santorini, Greece #ExperienceTransat

Montreal departures including: Flight, accommodation & transfers

MEDITERRANEAN Sale

SAVE UP TO \$1100 PER COUPLE¹

Italy

\$1689

Rome City Package
Hotel Centro 3★
7 nights | 7 meals
July 2

France

\$1699

City Hopping Package
Marseille & Nice¹
2 inclusions
8 nights | Kitchenette
August 8 & 15

Italy

\$2259

Coach Tour
Da Vinci
7 nights | 12 meals
4 inclusions
Guaranteed departures:
July 24, 31, August 7 & 28

Hungary

\$2299

Coach Tour
Wonders of Hungary
7 nights | 15 meals
8 inclusions
Guaranteed departure:
September 2

France

\$1549

Paris City Package
Hôtel Le Royal
Rive Gauche 3 1/2★
7 nights | 7 meals
July 1st, 2 & 3

Mediterranean

\$2189

Celebrity Cruises®
Celebrity Constellation® 5★
7 nights from Venice
Interior stateroom Cat 12
August 22

Greece

\$3499

City & Island Hopping Package
Olympian Voyage¹
Cruise, Coach Tour & Athens
14 nights | 31 meals
July 2 & 5

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1 Savings of \$1100 per couple/\$500 per person calculated on the price before taxes & fees and applies to the Marseille & Nice City Hopping Package, departures on August 8 & 15. Flights are from Montreal via Air Transat. Prices per person, based on double occ., in lead room category, including flights, transfers, accommodation or cruise, certain meals, applicable rebates, taxes and fees. Prices available at press time, valid for new individual bookings made from June 13 to 15, 2015 and subject to availability. Cruise: Includes roundtrip airfare, cruise & transfers. Cruise sails the following day. Prices valid for booking made on June 13, 2015. Cabins available at these prices: 5 per departure. Ship registry: Malta. 1Option1, inside cabin. 1Accommodation at Appart City Marseille Euromed 3★ & Appart City Nice 5★, no transfer between hotel & train station. For full descriptions and terms and conditions, refer to www.transatholidays.com. Transat Holidays is a division of Transat Tours Canada Inc. and is registered as a travel wholesaler in Quebec (Reg # 754241). *Base reward mile offer is 1/35 on vacation packages, cruise fares and charter flights. Other conditions may apply. Travel agency fees may apply. Club Voyages is a division of Transat Distribution Canada Inc. Quebec (Reg. #753141). ©1999 Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Co. and Transat Distribution Canada Inc.

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