

FOURTH ANNUAL GROOVE CITY JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

Cambridge, deemed Groove City by world-class musicians, will be a hotbed of sounds and sights during its Fourth Annual Groove City Jazz and Blues Festival. The diverse musical lineup includes Deanna Bogart, Chris English, Lafayette Gilchrist, Lea Gilmore and the Baltimore-based Junkyard Saints. Side stages will feature the Cambridge South Dorchester Gospel Choir, the Ragin' Unstoppables marching-drum unit and up-and-coming local musicians. Beyond the sounds, the festival boasts foods, crafts and local artisans. Held at Race and Cedar streets, the festival runs from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission and parking is free. For more information, visit groovecityusa.com or call 410-228-1000. - *Jessica Novak*

Host offers free audio tours of Italy

Your trip to Italy most likely won't be free, but your audio tour can be. Rich Steves, travel guru and public TV star, recently wrote, narrated and recorded 12 audio tours through Rome, Florence and Venice, available for free on his Web site and through iTunes. Each tour includes a helpful downloadable companion map.

Since 1973 Steves has spent 120 days a year in Europe. Back in the states from his hometown Edmonds, Wash., he produces European travel guides, a weekly hour-long National Public Radio show and a weekly syndicated column. To download Steves' tours, visit ricksteves.com. - *Jessica Novak*

Give Mom the gift of a weekend getaway

By **Andrea Farnum**
Examiner Correspondent

If anybody needs a rest, it's Mom. After spending the entire year attending to the family's needs, she deserves more than the obligatory bouquet of flowers. Many sons and daughters are now giving the gift of travel for Mother's Day, so Mom can experience what it feels like to be on the receiving end of the pampering.

"I was so bored of giving my Mom the same old flowers and candy year after year, when it dawned on me that she might have had enough of these gifts, too," said Patricia Campbell, a nurse from Columbia. "This year I had all of my siblings pool our money and get her a weekend spa

trip, so she can finally get some rest and relaxation."

A weekend away from it all can be the perfect escape for tired mothers. "On Mother's Day, moms often stay closer to home so they can spend time with children and grandchildren," said Jennie Rideout, owner of the Mill Street Inn in Cambridge. "But the gift of a weekend away can be an indulgent and luxurious gift."

Many area inns and spas are ready to cater to Mom's every whim. "We greet them with gourmet chocolate and champagne," said Rideout. "We also prepare a very special breakfast and can arrange for spa treatments and even in-house massages."

If scheduling your weekend gift

is an issue, gift certificates for travel can give mothers the flexibility they need. "With our gift certificates, Mom can choose from over 1,500 bed and breakfasts and inns all over the country," said Mary White, president of BnBfinder.com. "They can be purchased in any denomination, have no restrictions and never expire."

Last-minute Mother's Day shoppers will also appreciate the convenience. "If you were forgetful this year, you can purchase a gift certificate online on Mother's Day," said White. "Then you can either have the gift immediately e-mailed to Mom or print out the certificate to place in a card — it's that simple."

On the Web

- millstinn.com
- bnbfinder.com



The Mill Street Inn in Cambridge offers pampering and relaxation. - Courtesy photo

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL?



Grandeur of the Seas

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**10 Exclusive Ship Tour & Luncheon
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To find the answers to this question and many more
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RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Ten (10) prizes will be awarded, consisting of an exclusive ship tour and lunch for each of the 10 winners and one guest per winner, aboard Royal Caribbean's Grandeur of the Seas on June 7, 2008.
- Contest is open only to those who are 21 and older; all guests must be 21 and older.
- One entry per email address with 10 answers to be sent at the conclusion of the contest; please include full name and two telephone numbers.
- Incomplete entries will be discarded.
- Entries with incorrect answers will be disqualified.
- Entries must be received by midnight on May 12, 2008.
- Winners will be notified by telephone on May 16, 2008, and provided with the details of the schedule for the day.
- After the winners are notified, all winners and their guests must submit required security information consisting of full name and address, which must match their government issued photo i.d., date of birth, phone number, and driver's license number. Any winner

- or guest who does not comply will be disqualified. Government issued photo i.d. will be required for entrance into the Port of Baltimore's Cruise Terminal and to board the Grandeur of the Seas. Those arriving without government issued photo i.d. will not be granted entrance.
- Business casual attire will be required for the event.
- There can be no substitutions once the winner and guest information is provided.
- Due to security regulations, no photos may be taken in or around the cruise terminal. Photos are encouraged when aboard the ship.
- A group photo will be taken sometime during the event. All winners and their guests must sign a release form so that the photo can be used for promotional purposes.
- Employees and family members of the Examiner, Royal Caribbean, the Maryland Port Administration and all affiliates of these organizations are not eligible to participate in this contest. Travel agents are also excluded from this consumer contest.

New Civil War tour of D.C. courts walkers

WASHINGTON — A new Civil War tour of Washington includes a visit to the newly restored Lincoln Cottage, Abe Lincoln's summer retreat on the campus of the U.S. Armed Forces Retirement Home.

The three-hour tour, "Civil War Washington: Soldiers and Citizens," will be introduced on Memorial Day weekend. It is sponsored by Washington Walks and Cultural Tourism DC.

The tour will be offered at 9:30 a.m. on six Saturdays: May 24 and 31, and June 7, 14, 21 and 28. The cost is \$42 per person, which includes admission to the Lincoln Cottage site.

Other stops on the tour include Fort Stevens, which came under attack during the Civil War; the African American Civil War Memorial in the historic Shaw neighborhood; and Peterson House, where Lincoln was taken after being shot. He died there.

Other Washington Walks tours include "Before Harlem, There Was U Street," "Capital Hauntings," "Capitol Hill," "Embassy Row," "Georgetown," "Memorials by Moonlight," "Moveable Feast: A Taste of DC," and "Duke Ellington's D.C."

Details at washingtonwalks.com. - AP

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