Cruise America’s Waterways

CRUISE AMERICA’S WATERWAYS

AMERICAN CANADIAN CARIBBEAN LINE

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New England Islands, Coast of Maine
Erie Canal, Montreal and Quebec

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Great Camaraderie, Since 1966

Historic Ports, Only 100 Guests

Flavor Savory:

Ten Tables, Jamaica Plain

At night, this no-frills Irish pub bustles with patrons who come for the pint and the live music. But at lunchtime, this friendly place is peaceful. For a ten-spot, the “Farmhouse Plate” will leave you full, bulled with a generous mix of pies, spiced beef with fennel and apple, thick-cut Irish bacon, and pickled cabbage. Entrees from $14. 34 Harvard St. 617-232-0188;

suisseteen.com

Price Cuts:

James Joseph Studio, Boston

Every last hair stylist and salon knows his or her stuff backwards and forwards, whether that’s refined color, stylish-but-workable cuts, conditioning treatments, or updos that will knock the socks off anyone. Entrees from $29. 6600; jamesjosephstudio.com

BOSTON & BROOKLINE

BARGAINS

Best Bookstore:

Barth’s, Jamaica Plain

With an epic selection of used and new books, this impressively organized shop is the best place to kill an afternoon—flipping through the staff’s always-excellent suggestions, pursuing the comprehensive fiction and nonfiction section, or listening to a major author read. 279 Harvard St. 617-366-8660;

brownsbookshop.com

Best theater:

Boston Opera House, Boston

This ornate jewel box of a theater spotlights popular musicals, legendary acts (“Lord of the Dance” is coming in May), and hipster bands, as well as family attractions and local traditions (such as Boston Ballet’s beloved Nutcracker). Terrific acoustics. 539 Washington St. 617-295-3490; bastropetheatre.com

Best Actors: Danish Country, Boston

This small Beacon Hill shop is crammed with a thoughtful mix of European and Asian pieces, sometimes stacked floor-to-ceiling. It’s a question for this age of multitasking: Why just shop, drink, or eat when you can do all three at once—and with such aplomb? This boutique-cum-bar/restaurant brings together superb fashion for men and women and equally superb food by chef Michael Leviton at Persephone. 283 Summer St. 617-442-5217 (t人心), 617-495-2237 (restaurant); ariel-boston.com

Best Children’s clothing:

The Red Wagon, Boston

Find well-made outfits in fun colors that won’t break the bank or fall apart after washing. Acces-

sories are functional and irresistible, plus there’s a thoughtful selection of books and toys. 69 Charle-

so 617-523-8403;

bogcham.com

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Best furnishings store:

Bliss Home, Boston

Tastes may vary from century to century, but Blue spans almost all of them, seamlessly. Classy like Bernardaud fine china and Graves Limited Edition kettles, funk modern marvels such as bamboo rugs and Ferrucio Laviani table lamps. 225

Natick St. 617-421-5540; blithemass.com

Best spa:

Bella Sante, Boston

Who do we adore Bella Sante? Maybe it’s the co-

sewing body treatments, the meticulous mani-

cures and pedicures, the massages that end with nothing left of you but a human puddle, or the amenities-

stocked locker room and healthy snacks and tea. Most probably, it’s all of the above. 78 Newbury St. 617-424-9930; bellasante.com

Best city view:

Suites at Nine Zero, Boston

There are the five-star-worthy amenities, but if your accommodations offer floor-to-ceiling windows, the real show is the extraordinary view across downtown Boston, over the Common, and on into Cambridge. Call for current rates. 90 Tremont St. 617-772-5000;

ninezero.com

Best shopping experience:

The Achilles Project, Boston

It’s a question for this age of multiskilling: Why just shop, drink, or eat when you can do all three at once—and with such aplomb? This boutique-cum-bar/restaurant brings together superb fashion for men and women and equally superb food by chef Michael Leviton at Persephone. 283 Summer St. 617-442-5217 (restaurant), 617-495-2237 (restaurant); ariel-boston.com