The Bonni-e-Voyageur

The Voyagers Travel Club Online
Newsletter  February 2004
LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE  2700 East Leland Road
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Featuring
Greetings to all!

*The Bon-e-Voyager (The Bonnie)* is written with both the student and the travel professional in mind. Each month, you can expect to find relevant and timely information about what is happening in the industry, first hand travel tips & testimonials, and a calendar of fun upcoming Voyagers Travel Club events. Don't forget to flex your writing muscles for the "Amateur Author's Corner". Try your hand at the word jumble. A $10 prize will be awarded to the winner of each.

Regular features will include:
- **Resources** to use when planning trips
- **Tips** for preparing for the national TAP (Travel Agent Proficiency) Test, Destination Specialist exams, and other professional tests
- **Profiles** of graduates of the Travel Marketing Program
- **Information** about networking opportunities in the travel industry
- **News** from the recently formed Walnut Creek chapter of OSSN (Outside Sales Support Network)

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Marie Burns and I am the President of the Voyagers Club at Los Medanos College for the Spring semester in 2004. This is my second semester at Los Medanos, and my first semester serving in a position on the Board. To those who are new, I am excited to welcome you into the program. To those of you who are returning students, I am excited to spend another semester getting to know you all. Last semester we built wonderful friendships, pulled together through some tough times to organize a wonderfully successful fund raiser, and had a blast at some fun and unique events. We sampled whiskey at our “Taste Of The British Isles” evening, strapped on our lederhosen for an evening at Oktoberfest, toured three very different but unique hotels, and even did a little belly dancing at our Moroccan feast! They were great times that left us with wonderful memories, and it is a semester that will be hard to top, but I’d like to try!

I’d like this to be one of the best semesters that the Voyagers Club has ever seen. We would love to have each and every one of you as a member of the Voyagers Club. I want to know each and every one of you by name. I would love to hear your input on club business and upcoming events. This club is a democracy. The Voyagers Club is for the students, by the students. The Voyagers Club is your club, and I want you to be proud to be part of it. Most importantly, I want each and every one of you to have a voice.

This semester the Voyagers Club has countless benefits to offer to you, and exciting events planned! Please see the calendar for an outline of planned events for the Spring 2004 semester. If you are a new student, and you are a member in good standing with the Voyagers Club, you are eligible for a $100.00 New Student Scholarship that you can use at the Bookstore next semester. If you are a continuing student and are a member in good standing with the Voyagers Club, you may know that you are eligible for the Continuing Student Honor Scholarship, which offers a cash award in the amount of $250.00. Information and the application form is at [www.losmedanos.edu](http://www.losmedanos.edu). For further information on these Scholarships and how to apply, see Kiran Kamath, Chris McGill, Janet Robertson, or myself. Further financial benefit offered is partial reimbursement for industry exams, given by The Travel Institute and proctored by Los Medanos College. Partial reimbursement is offered for successful completion of The Travel Agent Proficiency Test, and also for successful completion of Destination Specialist Exams.
Club meetings offer a fun and friendly environment in which to get acquainted with your colleagues. The people you interact with at Club meetings are the same people that are in your classes. Between meetings, classes, and club activities and events, these people will become great friends. Sometimes gradually, sometimes quickly; but I guarantee you will build great friendships that will carry over outside class, and even beyond LMC. Your participation in the club offers you a chance to network with others in the industry. The people you meet here will be your first business contacts when you enter the Travel Industry. You can learn from each other, help each other network in the industry, and some of you may even end up working together. You will also add or gain leadership experience and confidence to help you advance to and succeed in the job you want.

Club activities also offer a fun and friendly environment in which to get acquainted with your colleagues. What makes them even more fun than meetings is that they offer a chance for members to interact and enjoy themselves outside of school. Every activity that is organized by the Voyagers Club is not only fun, but also educational. Club events are carefully organized to maximize learning through cultural experience. By immersing ourselves in the culture of other countries - whether through food, dance, or tradition - we are allowed the unique opportunity to have fun in the moment, and still walk away with usable knowledge. Sometimes the best way to learn is through experience, and the best education is the one you don't even realize you're receiving.

Dues to become a member are only $10.00 per semester, and the club is open to all registered students and faculty of Los Medanos College, as well as alumni. Membership dues help fund various club activities. The Voyagers Club has a lot to offer you, and I want you to be a part of it. Please share your love of travel with others who feel the way you do and are going through the same learning process. Join us in becoming an active member and meet new friends, start networking and making contacts for your current or future career, and learn more about the travel industry as we all continue our educational journey together.

If you have any questions at all about the Voyagers Club, please Email us at voyagers@losmedanos.edu. You can also contact me personally at Luv2Travel79@aol.com. Thank you very much for your interest in the club. I hope to get to know you well this semester, and I especially hope that I see you at our next meeting!

Marie Burns  
President-Voyagers Club  
Los Medanos College
Specialization: Your key to Success!

By Kiran Kamath, CTC (Life Member)

Specialization and Niche Marketing are no longer a choice, but are essential for success!

The technological revolution has enabled mass marketing “en-masse”. Consumers who are driven by price can buy just about any ‘commodity’ online or in a mass-market travel “Walmart” store like Expedia. There are however a growing number of discerning consumers who are driven by quality and value and who do not feel valued or appreciated by the mass market. These customers want to be recognized for their purchase and made to feel special. They are looking for high-quality products and high-touch customer service provided by knowledgeable travel professionals.

Forward thinking organizations like the Center for Travel Marketing (CENTRAM) at Los Medanos College in California are training the next generation of travel professionals. CENTRAM has developed the country’s first Niche Travel Specialist Certificate. The same technological revolution used by mass marketers lends itself wonderfully to niche marketing and to specialization too! This technology is the greatest ally of the focused or specialized travel professional. The combination of high-tech along with the expertise of the niche marketing specialist is just what sophisticated and demanding (also bigger spending) customers are looking for!

The next generation travel professionals are restoring the best of what travel consultants did for their clients in the not-too-distant past (25 years ago, before computers and mass marketing) and leap-frogging forward with the best of what technology offers them today to practice niche marketing on a big scale. “Mass customization” is not an oxymoron. Many successful organizations like Runaway Tours, Hawaii World, Princess Cruises, Silverseas Cruises, Virgin Atlantic Airlines, and others are doing this.

We at CENTRAM encourage our students to specialize based on their personal interests, their passion, their expertise and the business viability of the niche. Students graduating with a Niche Marketing Specialist Certificate may chose to
specialize in a specific product such as culinary and wine vacations; a specific
demographic or psychographic group such as the gay and lesbian market; a
specific region such as Asia; or a combination of the above such as culinary and
wine vacations for the gay and lesbian market to Asia!

The Internet enables these niche marketing specialists to market their
expertise to clients around the world. Their clients do not have to be in the
neighborhood or ‘accidents of geography’! Technology fosters data-base
marketing and enables relationship marketing and relationship selling. These
specialists are able to work with the best vendors from around the world either
directly or through intermediaries due to wonders of technology. Since the area
of expertise of these travel professionals is narrow, their knowledge can be
deep and detailed, their market can be global, and in turn, they can command
greater respect from the consumer and the vendor, and higher profits for their
specialized knowledge. Just like doctors who specialize make more money than
general practitioners, travel professionals who specialize make more money
than all-purpose travel “agents” (who may also be just order-takers or data-
entry people!).

This next generation of niche travel professionals that CENTRAM is graduating is
a valuable asset to the future health and ‘professionalization’ of the travel
industry. Many of these graduates will become home-based travel professionals
operating their own solo business, some will join travel organizations as
independent contractors or as outside employees, and yet others will join
forward thinking organizations who know how to value and nurture their
greatest resource (their employees). CENTRAM is partnering with forward
thinking organizations to spread the word and value of this specialized,
motivated new generation of travel professionals who bring their unique skills
and passion to benefit their employers, colleagues and customers.

These are the travel professionals and the travel products that tomorrow’s
discerning customers are looking for. The fate of order-takers, mass commodity
products, and ‘bottom-line preoccupied’ (i.e. poor customer service)
organizations has shifted to Internet merchandizing or to “low-margin, volume-
based just-about surviving organizations”. The specialized, high tech- high
touch, high quality, passionate, knowledgeable niche marketers are the future
of the profitable and rewarding segment of the travel industry.
Yes they most certainly do and one of our students just did! Eileen Burke, was the recipient of three of these scholarships from the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) Foundation - the George Reinke, the Stan and Leone Pollard, and the Norcal/Richard Epping Scholarships. 2003 was the first year that ASTA would consider an applicant for up to three scholarships. In previous years, one could apply for up to three scholarships, but was eligible to win only one scholarship. ASTA also reported that they had more applicants this year than the last two years combined, so congratulations Eileen! Way to Go!

Eileen was a former linguist in the US Air Force, and is now a busy mother and student at LMC in the Travel program. To-date, Eileen has completed the CTA certification, Western Europe Destination Specialist certificate. She is now weaving her way through the requirements to complete her Certificate of Achievement in Travel Marketing. Her goal is to be home-based travel specialist focusing on the destinations of Alaska, Hawaii and Ireland serving family, spa, walking and golfing vacationers.

The following nuggets of information were offered by Eileen:

- There’s a scholarship out there for everyone—literally thousands of dollars in scholarships.
- An added bonus is the recognition, inspiration and motivation when the system works for you!

So take Eileen’s advice and check out ASTA’s website for all the pertinent information at http://www.astanet.com/education/edu_scholarships.asp

Eileen’s tips on applying:

1. Start out by making your own checklist of exactly what needs to be accomplished, and check things off as they are completed. Recheck your list to ensure nothing has been missed.
2. Write from your heart (regarding the essays) and edit and proofread and rewrite. Make sure you get somebody to read it who will give their honest opinion. Be thorough and always be true.
3. Los Medanos College has a Scholarship office dedicated to assisting students find and apply for scholarships, so don’t be shy!
4. Some requirements take time to collect so ask early, especially for any item
that you need to request from somebody else e.g. transcripts or a letter of recommendation.

5. Final note: don’t procrastinate!

Many thanks Eileen for your insight and inspiration to others, and here’s wishing you future success.

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**Super Saturday classes**

Check out the selection of wonderful classes we offer on Saturdays. A series of 3 seminars on Home-Based Travel are offered on the first working Saturday of each month. Two hands-on classes on Cyber Travel are offered in February and March. All these classes are from 9 am to 6 pm.

- **February 14, 2004** Resources for the Home-Based Travel Professional (Travel 104)
- **February 21, 2004** Cyber Travel (Travel 89)
- **March 6, 2004** Business and Financial Plans for Home-Based Travel! (Travel 105)
- **March 13, 2004** Cyber Reservations for Travel Professionals (Travel 94)
- **March 20, 2004** Marketing and Promoting your Specialty (Travel 112)
- **April 3, 2004** Home-Based Travel and the Law (Travel 106)

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**Important Message**

*Don’t Forget*

Each Home –Based class has its own course module which will be used in class. Please purchase the modules in the LMC bookstore prior to each class session! Don’t wait until the day of class to purchase the module…the bookstore is closed on Saturday!!!

For more information, please contact:

Chris McGill cmcgill@losmedanos.edu or Kiran Kamath kkamath@losmedanos.edu
The "El Morocco"

The Voyager Club’s December Celebration at the "El Morocco"

By Sandra Holt-Smith

Authentic Moroccan cuisine, warm hospitable service and lively entertainment were among the highlights provided by Fadil Shahin and his staff at The “El Morocco” Restaurant of Pleasant Hill. El Morocco was the gathering place of the Voyagers Club’s final event of the 2003 Fall semester in December. We all enjoyed a fun filled afternoon of laughter and belly dancing, as we indulged in the culture, cuisine and stimulating entertainment which were provided by the “El Morocco”.

On behalf of the Voyagers Club, I’d like to thank Fadil & Genee Shahin and their staff for their welcoming hospitality and the use of their facility. Special thanks to Inge Yarbourough for putting this event together. We really do
appreciate all the hard work that you contributed towards this most memorable event!

For more information about the “El Morocco”, visit their website at:
www.elmorocco.net/welcome.htm

Fadil and Genee Shahin
Owners of the El Morocco Restaurant in Pleasant Hill, CA

New this semester!

Become a winner by submitting your special destination travel tips within the Greater Bay Area…in the form of an essay!!!

Each month’s winner will have their article published in the prestigious “Bonni-e” Bon-e-Voyageur newsletter and receive a $10.00 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble bookstore.

Let our readers benefit..... from YOUR “Secret Bests”!

Please e-mail your articles to the Voyagers Club voyagers@losmedanos.edu
Basket Fundraiser A Success!

During the Fall semester of 2003, The Voyagers Club held it's annual Basket Raffle Fundraiser. Four themed baskets were hand arranged by volunteers from the club using items donated primarily by students in the program, as well as items donated by local businesses. The four themes were Entertainment, Spa and Relaxation, Sports and Fitness, and Picnic/Getaway. The completed baskets were quite impressive, and were proudly displayed in the window of the scholarship office for two weeks while raffle tickets were sold for $1.00 each. On November 26, the long-awaited raffle was held in LCC228. The basket themes were Entertainment, Spa and Relaxation, Sports and Fitness, and Picnic/Getaway.

The following individuals and organizations graciously donated items for the baskets that were raffled, contributing to one of the best basket fundraisers to date! Thank you!

Albertson's, Lone Tree Way in Antioch
Albertson's, Somersville Road in Antioch
Brenden Theater, Pittsburg
Craig A. Rothlisberg, General Manager at Red Lobster, Pittsburg
Eric Simmonds at Trader Joe's, Concord
Target Greatland, Antioch
Wild Orchid Salon, Antioch

Thank you again to all of the students who donated items, sold tickets, purchased tickets, and volunteered their time to sell tickets at the table outside of the cafeteria. Your efforts were greatly appreciated, and thanks to you, the Voyagers Club raised more than $750.00. These funds allow the Voyagers Club to host fun and exciting activities, offer scholarships to new and continuing students, and offer reimbursement for successful completion of industry exams such as Destination Specialist Tests.

Stay tuned for announcements about our next Basket Raffle, taking place this Spring!!!!

February's Featured Articles
Authored By
Voyagers Club Editors
Vive l’amour! Discover the Romance of Paris

By Janet Robertson

In Paris you will find yourself surrounded by architectural splendors capturing the style and spirits of past eras which continue to create unforgettable memories for us today. Climb to the top of Notre-Dame or the Arc de Triomphe and spend a moment or two enjoying the spectacular views of the city. Remember Notre-Dame offers the added bonus of “cuddly” gargoyles to snuggle up next to!

Ladies, if food is the way to a man’s heart, then you have arrived! French cuisine is regarded as some of the world’s finest, even a simple picnic of breads, cheeses and wine becomes a work of art. Time to indulge! Spend an
evening dining and enjoying world class entertainment at the 100 year old Moulin Rouge, the oldest cabaret in Paris, and of course, see the famous French Can Can being performed live. Or enjoy a romantic gastronomic dinner cruise on the river Seine sure to delight the pallet. Sip a glass of champagne, as you glide down through the heart of Paris enjoying the beauty of the illuminated world famous sights of the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre as your backdrop, while you are serenaded by a selection of French and International musical favorites performed by the musicians and singers on-board.

A trip to Paris would not be complete without a visit to the Eiffel Tower and of course dinner in the Jules Verne restaurant on the 2nd platform. The best time to arrive would be between 8.00 - 8.30 p.m. as darkness falls and the white lights of the city turn on and the night comes alive. A gastronomic feast awaits you along with an unforgettable view. Make reservations at the Jules Verne in advance to avoid disappointment.

Paris offers a vast array of parks to relax in. One of the most romantic has to be Jardin du Luxembourg on Paris’ Left Bank. A perfect spot for picnicking and enjoying a gentle walk by fountains, statues and beautiful flowers or a stroll through the orchard with its hundreds of apple and pear trees which are in full blossom each spring. For a little desert head to Isle Saint Louis (near Notre-Dame) and sample some Berthillon, a delicious ice-cream only found in this neighborhood.

There is only one thing left to top that off. It is the most romantic setting (just like in the movies) to take your honey to the middle of one of the bridge’s crossing the River Seine and pucker up for the ultimate French kiss. Au Revoir!
The City by the Bay is indeed one of the world’s most romantic places with its spectacular views of land and sea, mysterious fog and excellent food and wine.

Set the mood with a limousine tour of the city stopping at that world famous Golden Gate Bridge. Take time for a walk along this architectural classic looking back towards the city for that million dollar view; Enjoy the drive along the rugged Pacific coastline with a stop at the Cliff House to take in the views and perhaps even the sighting of a whale; Experience that cool ocean air, and the sand between your toes with a stroll along Ocean Beach, and Have your chauffeur drive you to Stow Lake, in Golden Gate Park, offering the perfect picnic spot and a little rowing on the lake to complete your afternoon.

If that picnic needs a little more walking off, your next stop at the top of Lombard Street is sure to set you straight! Your limousine will pick you up at the bottom. Sweets for your sweetheart, Ghirardelli Square holds the key with its Soda Fountain and Chocolate Shop. Share the legendary hot fudge sundae as you enjoy the views of the tall ships in the bay and the nearby island of Alcatraz. No trip would be complete without a cable car ride, those who dare ride on the outside!

A wonderful wooing platform for romantic souls craving cocktails would be a stop at number 1 Nob Hill, and step inside the elegant Top of the Mark located at the top of the Mark Hopkins Hotel. The Top of the Mark has been a place to go since 1939 and offers breathtaking 360 degree views of the city and beyond. Enjoy afternoon tea, or sip cocktails whilst enjoying the live jazz music played daily after 8.30 p.m.

For the ultimate, romantic experience ....your yacht awaits. Watch the twinkling lights of the San Francisco skyline turn on and reflect gently in the water as you sip a glass of champagne. Unwind in luxury at Pier 39 listening to the gentle lapping of waves, watch the sun go down while enjoying your candlelit dinner. Your sunrise promises to be just as spectacular as you sip
Traditional, Yet Modern, Love in Hong Kong

By Contessa Abono

Lovers are sure to be spoiled in Hong Kong. Romantic days and nights await you as Hong Kong offers a plethora of choices for accommodation, entertainment, sightseeing, dining and much more. Together you can enjoy any of the many diverse activities in which to spend your vacation. Such as charting a junk or yacht for the day, complete with a crew. Dine on board or tell the captain to set a course for a seafood feast at picturesque Sai Kung, Lei Yue Mun or tranquil Lamma Island. Alternatively, hire a sampan for a private tour of Sai Kung’s stunning bay and small islands. Stroll along a white-sand beach bounded by lush green mountains and the South Sea of China. You may wish to have your fortune told in the pavilions of serene, incense-filled temples. Relax on the beach in scenic Repulse Bay, where the movie Love is A Many Splendored Thing was filmed. Or, enjoy drinks in one of the wonderful hotels and savor the magnificent views of Hong Kong Island and Victoria Harbor. If you’re looking for a more traditional experience you can admire the richly embroidered and sequined red wedding outfits and ornaments in the
Chinese wedding shops on Shanghai Street, Yau Ma Tei.

The SoHo area (South of Hollywood Road) on Hong Kong Island and Knutsford Terrace in Tsim Sha Tsui are two of Hong Kong’s most fashionable dining hotspots and perfect for a romantic meal. As the culinary capital of Asia, Hong Kong has just about any dish imaginable. The superb cuisine choices available in these compact, bustling areas of bars and restaurants are surprising. French, Italian, German, Vietnamese, Spanish, Indian, Mongolian, Chinese- you’d delight in this United Nations of unforgettable wining and dining! You never know what marvelous adventures await you in this passionate city, full of love and laughter.

Romance in the Midst of the Past
By Contessa Abono

The city of Prague is as charming as it is sensuous. This stunning capital of Czech Republic has become increasingly popular with tourists, and recently has become among Europe’s most romantic city-break destinations. Its architecture is remarkably divers- spanning most of the major architectural movements of the last several centuries, from the Renaissance to Baroque to
Gothic to Art Deco- and much of it was inexplicably undamaged by World War II. Thus, captivating architectural details and facades are at every corner, which makes exploring Prague’s winding cobbled streets a magnificent stroll. The nine dramatic bridges over the River Vltava make walking an easy and enjoyable way to explore this Central European City. When you’re ready to give your feet a break you can delve into one of Prague’s three opera house or numerous jazz clubs.

The dominant symbol of the city of Prague is its castle. It was the palace of Bohemian princes, kings and emperors. The gates to Prague Castle in Hradcany have been open since the Velvet Revolution. The castle is more than 1000 years old and it reverberates with national identity. An examination of its enchanting grounds is an essential and informative part of any visit to Prague. The St. Vitus’s Cathedral, in one of the castle courtyards, is the spiritual center of Bohemia and its spires loom high over the city. A site to surly muse over.

Mala Strana, below, is the craftsman’s quarter and contains a strange mix of large baroque palaces, gabled townhouses and smoky cafes. Its windy streets are full of such evocative detail that it is popular for period film shoots. On the other side of the Vltava, Stare Mesto is full of drinking establishments, cinemas and galleries. It’s a very jumbled area but there are certain landmarks to head for, such as the Old Town Square. The square is home to the 500 year old Astronomical Clock (the figures of the apostles that pop in and out of it on the stroke of each hour are a popular sight with tourists).

Serving as one of the cities focal points the Charles Bridge always has plenty to amuse, from street performers to students strumming guitars. Then there is the museum and ancient Synagogue of the Jewish quarter also, where the cemetery of tilting tombstones, is a beautiful but haunting reminder of the plight of Jews before and during the war. House of the Black Madonna in Stare Mesto is worth a visit for the building alone, but it’s also used by the Czech Museum of Fine Arts for an exhibition of Czech cubism and contemporary artists. Whether you’re a history or culture buff, a romantic, or simply out to have a wild weekend, Prague is truly not to be missed!
"A realist, in Venice would become a romantic, by mere faithfulness to what he saw before him."

- Arthur Symons

Venice has long been called "The Romance Capitol of the World", and for good reason. Comprised of 117 islands and 100 bridges, with buildings that appear to be floating on water, Venice provides an atmosphere unlike that anywhere else on earth. Here cars are not allowed, and the only way to get around is to stroll through the hidden streets and alleys, rent a bike (for one or two), or enjoy a scenic gondola ride where you can observe the unique architecture and unparalleled beauty that is Venice. The buildings in Venice are actually built on millions of closely spaced poles, also called pilings, that penetrate through alternating layers of clay and sand beneath 25 feet of waterlogged subsoil. Marble foundations were placed upon these pilings, and the city was built on these foundations. As there is no land surrounding the building, the province of Venice, Italy is a breathtaking sight, "floating" off the coast of Italy, surrounded by water and often blanketed in fog.

In Venice you can find romance everywhere you turn. There is of course the ultimate Venetian symbol of love, the gondola. While you are cruising down the Grand Canal, your gondolier will serenade you. You may even be fortunate enough to select one of the few gondolas with a heart shaped cushion just the perfect size for two people to sit on. If you take a ride at sunset you will find yourself breathless as the canals reflect the beauty and colors of the setting sun. The gondola floats along down the Grand Canal, which stretches all the way from one end of the city to the other, a distance that can be traveled by foot in an hour. As you slowly glide by, you will get a good look at the culture and beauty of Venice, as the Grand Canal is lined by exquisite palaces, and such famous sights as Ca'd'Oro, the Accademia, Gritti Palace Hotel, and Church of Santa Maria della Salute.

After your gondola ride, take your loved one by the hand begin to explore the city. Walk the city streets and see the quaint homes complete with flowers cascading from the balconies. There are countless hidden streets and cobblestone paths, and it is quite easy to lose your way in Venice. But every street leads to another and eventually, every hidden street and path in Venice ends up back at the Grand Canal. Now that your gondola ride has gone from a romantic fantasy to a precious memory, take time to walk to and explore some
of the famous sights you saw while cruising the canal. Shop in some of the local stores or open air markets for unique handicrafts and local art. Visit an authentic vineyard and enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting, or take a walk along The Lido (the beach). You may not want to swim at this beach, but the scenery is marvelous, especially when the sun rises and sets. There are three islands that are also part of Venice, and offer activities of their own. First, you can take a ferry ride to the island of Murano, famous for its glass. On Murano, you can view intricate and unique glasswork, watch a demonstration on the art of glass blowing, and even do some shopping. You may also wish to visit Burano, where you can see a demonstration of the delicate process of creating Venetian lace. Burano is famous for Venetian lace, as well as its brightly colored houses. Finally, you can visit Torcello for a dose of history, as it is nearly deserted and features Italy's oldest cathedral. In Venice, everywhere you go you are surrounded by culture, history, world-class art and sculpture, and spectacular period furnishings.

At the end of the day, when it's time for dinner, not surprisingly, most of the food you will find is Italian. Most restaurants in Venice are family owned and have been run by the same family for generations upon generations. A sense of family and feeling of acceptance is standard in Italy, and these families do everything they can to make you feel at home. The portions are more than generous, and while enjoying a romantic candlelight dinner, you will be seranaded my musicians who move through the dining room, singing romantic Italian songs to add to the feel of love that is already in the air. Your server will offer a wine selection as well as a recommendation, and often the house wine is from a vineyard that is owned by the same family that owns the restaurant.

So as you can see, Venice didn't get it's reputation as one of the most romantic cities in the world for no reason. These activities, sights, and experiences are just the beginning of what Venice has to offer. Venice has long been - and will long be - the perfect backdrop for romance and love. This city was made for lovers, and though there is a logical explanation to it's appearance, that doesn't diminish the romance. It is easy to see why many artists, writers, and lovers have been inspired by the extraordinary city of Venice.
The Passionate Nightlife of Brazil’s Rio de Janeiro!

by Contessa Abono

When it comes to love Rio is in a class by itself. One of the most picturesque cities in the world, Rio has been the setting of several movies. To name a few, Ginger met Fred while Flying Down to Rio, Bette Davis went there to find true love in Now Voyager, James Bond escaped from evil Jaws in Moonraker, and Joe Carioca showed Donald Duck how to have some fun in The Three Caballeros!!! So why not join the pleasures and entertainment of Brazil’s most exciting city, Rio de Janeiro.

One of the major Rio attractions is the myriad nightlife possibilities. Carrioca’s are a festive breed, and seem to find a different thing to do every night of the week. Warm up at the bars and cafés is a great way to start a romantic evening. Rock and roll fans may wine and dine among memorabilia at Rock in Rio Cafe, (Rio’s version of the Hard Rock).! Stretch out the night at the samba halls, dance clubs and special parties. Bars and Cafes are the places where Carrioca’s get together before they go out dancing. Sip a beer and flirt at one of the popular baixos streets that concentrate a number of venues. The dance scene is very diversified. Do not miss the Rio de Janeiro’s famous samba halls. Learn some new steps, dance to local beats like samba, pagode, and bossa nova, or other familiar ballroom staples, like salsa or tango. There’s a lot to do if you’re young, old, single, married, straight, gay, lesbian, or anything in-between. This is a city that caters to all tastes.
If your coming to Rio for the first time try to get here in the summer, for the festivities of Carnival are a must see. The 4-day celebration starts on a Saturday and ends on Fat Tuesday, or Mardi-Gras. Dates change every year but just remember Carnival Sunday is seven weeks before Easter Sunday. The festivities attract thousands of people from all corners of the world. All the glamorous costumes and wonderful music is exciting but the best part about Carnival is the fun-loving Carrioca’s and entertainers that make up the party. The way the people make the streets come alive is truly from the soul.

Now what ever do you wear to such a styling town? Well, forget your beach sandals at home, and buy a pair of Havaianas flip-flops at local shops. You don’t need anyone to tell you that you will need plenty of T-shirts. Bring something dressier for the evening. That little black dress works everywhere, and for the boys a button-down shirt without a tie should be enough. Remember again you may sweat, so pack something suitable (some colors are better than others).

Rio is a very exciting city, and there’s a lot to do and see. If you don’t plan your activities ahead, you will be asking yourself where to start even before you unpack. This does not mean you should have a pre-determined schedule to follow that you should stick to no matter what. Leave some room for improvisation, though, and go with the flow whenever you feel like. So now that you know a little about what Rio has to offer I hope your thinking of a way to get there, the sooner the better!

Certificate Recipients From Fall Semester 2003

Hawaiian Destination Specialists

Marie Burns
Barbara Butler
Candie Lally
Debbie Larsen
La Verne Milton
John Riley
Sandra Holt-Smith
Kaori Yamato
Inge Yarborough
Caribbean Destination Specialists
  Marie Burns  
  Barbara Butler  
  Sandra Holt-Smith  
  Candie Lally  
  Debbie Larsen  
  Carolyn McGinnis  
  Paulette McWalters  
  Anthony Miller  
  Kristine Nguyen  
  La Verne Milton  
  John Riley  
  Abigail Rivera  
  Kaori Yamato  
  Inge Yarborough

Western Europe Destination Specialists
  Regina Brinker  
  Eileen Burke  
  Sally Flanagan  
  Debbie Larsen  
  Laverne Milton  
  Janet Robertson  
  Inge Yarborough

TAP Test
  Ann Abitz  
  Marie Burns  
  Edward Tucker  
  John Riley  
  Charisse Lewis  
  Ronell Ellis

Calendar Of Events

Spring 2004
February 9th..................................First General Meeting
March 8th......................................General Meeting
March 27th.....................................Polynesian Event
April 8th-16th..................................Spring Break
April 26th......................................Election Meeting
April 30th.................................OSSN Meeting at Chris McGills

Enter to win a $10 gift card for Barnes and Noble Bookstore. One lucky winner will be drawn from all the correct entries. Send us your entry by February 26th, 2004. You can:

1. Mail your entry to:
   Voyagers Club
   Los Medanos College
   2700 E. Leland Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565

2. Drop off your entry in the Jumble Box in room 228

3. Respond by e-mail to the Voyagers Club:

voyagers@losmedanos.edu

Please include your name, phone number and complete address.

Thank You!

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**Club Officers For Spring 2004**

President: Marie Burns
Vice President: Janet Robertson
Secretary: Sandra Holt-Smith
Treasurer: Cynthia Bauer
Associate Treasurer: John Riley
ICC Representative: Tony Miller
Publicity Coordinator: Candie Lally
Newsletter Co-Editors:
    Janet Robertson
    Marie Burns
    Contessa Abono
    Sandra Holt-Smith
Newsletter Publisher: Sandra Holt-Smith
Advisors: Kiran Kamath and Chris McGill

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Center for Travel Marketing
Website: [www.centram.org](http://www.centram.org)
I hope you’ve enjoyed reading the first edition of

Bon-e-Voyageur

The Voyagers Club Online Newsletter February 2004

Sandra Holt-Smith
Publisher- Voyagers Club
Los Medanos College

The Voyagers Club would like to thank the Antioch office of AAA for its kind donations of door prizes for our first club meeting, and recent travel reference materials to the CENTRAM program...Thank You!