



  
*escape • explore • experience*  

# March Newsletter

SPRINGTIME IS IN BLOOM!

UPCOMING IN APRIL

# Tours in Focus

## Springtime in Oregon

Discover spring in the beautiful state of Oregon. A sight to behold is the kaleidoscope of colours of rows upon rows of blooming tulip fields. The backdrop is the snow-capped beauty of Mt. Hood nestled in the Willamette Valley, now well known for its farm-to fork food scene, world-class wine



industry and the pioneering nature of its people. Portland is one of the favourite destinations in the West. Known as the 'City of Roses' for the famous Portland Rose Parade, Portland is defined by clean air, infinite trees, the famous 'food trucks' and a blend of historic and modern architecture. Enjoy endless acres of tulips and daffodils plus a relaxing cruise on the Willamette River on our spring trip to Oregon. Page 32 in Vacation Planner. **Guaranteed!**

## Spirit of Haida Gwaii

Experience Haida Gwaii in an all-new way on the Spirit of Haida Gwaii tour. Fly to Sandspit to start this northern adventure. A private coach and driver will meet us at the airport then ferry to Graham Island. Our next three nights will be at the Sea Raven in Queen Charlotte City. There is so much to explore – Balance Rock, Jungle Beach, St. Mary's Spring and Port Clements. We will visit the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay'llnagaay which is now a world-class cultural centre and tells the story of the Haida Nation. Experience an authentic Haida Feast, a traditional meal of the Haida Gwaii people. We travel to Masset to see the remains of the famous Golden Spruce. Our journey ends with a flight back to Vancouver.

Page 21 in Vacation Planner.



## Viva Italia! in Penticton

Ciao! Vineyards, orchards, beaches and rolling hills welcome us as we make our way to Penticton on this always fun Italian-themed tour.

**Guaranteed!** Page 24 in Vacation Planner



## Tulip Festival at Angel of the Winds

Witness millions of beautifully in bloom Tulips at Tulip Town and Roozengaarde during the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival season with a two night stay at Angel of the Winds Resort & Casino.

**Guaranteed!** Page 36 in Vacation Planner

COMING THIS SUMMER



**15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party - May 6**

We would love you to join us as we commemorate Paramount's milestone and celebrate friends, travel and life-long memories. Page 34 in Vacation Planner. **Guaranteed!**



**NEW! Gambler's Delight - Jun 25**

Enjoy one night at SWINOMISH and two nights at CLEARWATER with visits to Poulsbo, Kitsap Mall, Tulalip and Seven Cedars plus casino packages. Page 37 in Vacation Planner.

DID YOU KNOW?

**33 Million**

People celebrated St. Patrick's Day in 2017!

**82.5%**

of Celebrators plan on wearing green!

HAPPY EASTER!



Remember Hot Cross Buns?

English folklore includes many superstitions surrounding hot cross buns. One of them says that buns baked and served on Good Friday will not spoil or grow mouldy during the subsequent year. **"Hot Cross Buns, Hot Cross Buns, One a penny, Two a penny, Hot Cross Buns"**



# History of St. Patrick's Day

Courtesy of Wikipedia

Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Much of what is known about Saint Patrick comes from the *Declaration*, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself.

It is believed that he was born in Roman Britain in the fourth century, into a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church.

According to the *Declaration*, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he "found God".

The *Declaration* says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest.

According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. The *Declaration* says that he spent many years evangelising in the northern half of Ireland and converted "thousands". Patrick's efforts against the druids were eventually turned into an allegory in which he drove "snakes" out of Ireland (Ireland never had any snakes).

Tradition holds that he died on 17 March and was buried at Downpatrick. Over the following centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick and he became Ireland's foremost saint.

Today's St Patrick's Day celebrations have been greatly influenced by those that developed among the Irish diaspora, especially in North America. Until the late 20th century, St Patrick's Day was often a bigger celebration among the diaspora than it was in Ireland.

Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, Irish traditional music sessions and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. There are also formal gatherings such as banquets and dances, although these were more common in the past. St Patrick's Day parades began in North America in the 18th century but did not spread to Ireland until the 20th century.

It is customary to wear shamrocks, green clothing or green accessories to celebrate!



**Happy St. Patrick's Day**