

# In Transit

TRAVEL NEWS, DEALS AND TIPS

## Q AND A

### The wine writer MARK OLDMAN on going to the source.



According to the wine writer Mark Oldman, 47, drinking wine is only a part of its enjoyment. "In order to truly appreciate a good wine," he said, "you need to make a pilgrimage to its source."

He should know: His job keeps him on the road for more than half the year, but his travel to wine-producing destinations picked up even more while he was researching his new book "How to Drink Like a Billionaire," in which he offers advice on drinking wine with confidence and covers topics such as undiscovered wine regions and surprising wine and food combinations.

Below are edited excerpts from an interview with Mr. Oldman.

#### Q. What's your advice on how to best explore a wine-producing destination?

**A.** First of all, in advance of your vacation, sample as many wines as you can from the region you're visiting because your trip will be so much more meaningful if you do. And don't make the mistake of trying to visit too many wineries in a day — two or three is plenty. Rushing is the opposite of what wine drinking is about, and you want to give yourself the opportunity to spend more time at a winery if there is a chance to; you may get immersed in a conversation with the owner or decide to have an impromptu picnic on the grounds. Also, if possible, avoid wineries on weekends when they're far more crowded.



DAVID GRAY/REUTERS

At the Frogmore Creek winery, in Tasmania. Mr. Oldman said Tasmania's cool climate makes for world-class sparkling wines.

#### Napa Valley, Tuscany and Bordeaux are very touristy wine regions. How can travelers unearth hidden gems in these destinations?

Avoid wineries that can accommodate large buses because these are likely to be where tourists go. Also, many wineries in these areas are open to visitors without reservations, which means that you're unlikely to get any personal attention or meet the owner. Wineries that take only visitors with reservations, on the other hand, are more intimate, and the chances of meeting the owners and tasting special wines is much higher. You can find these producers through a web search or through sites such as wineberserkers.com or chowhound.com.

#### There are many emerging wine destinations around the world. Which

#### ones are your favorites?

Southern England for the sparkling wine and the scenic area of rolling hills, apple orchards and barns that feels rustic and endearing. In the United States, I am a fan of the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia — the chardonnays and rosés are great, and you hear about Thomas Jefferson everywhere you go because he's from Virginia and was such a wine lover. Also, the countryside has these grand Jefferson-era homes. Paso Robles, which is halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, is another notable up and comer; the red blends are terrific, and you can go to wineries and spend hours interacting with the owners if you want to. The region is what Napa was before it was discovered.

My biggest find of this year, however, is Tasmania. The cool climate

makes for world-class sparkling wines, and the pinot noirs are good, too. It's an incredible trip. The island is a vivid green, and the air is crisp and pure.

#### A growing number of wineries are giving their guests a chance to participate in their harvest. Is this a genuine way to immerse yourself in the local wine culture?

It can be, especially at a smaller winery, because you're out in the wine fields picking grapes with the farmers, but you're limited to when it's harvest season, which is short. A better way to have a cool, insidery wine country experience is to set up a barrel tasting at a winery or two. This means that wine is drawn straight from a barrel as it's aging so you get to taste it while it's in progress. Not all wineries offer these, but you shouldn't miss it at the ones that do.

SHIVANI VORA

## TRENDING



AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT COMPANY

A loft suite on the American Duchess.

## More Mississippi Cruises

Three new ships launching within one year on the Mississippi River will more than double the market for cruises in Mark Twain territory.

In October, the new French America Line launched its first ship, the 150-passenger Louisiana. Based in New Orleans, it features French cuisine and a French Quarter Lounge devoted to jazz.

Last spring, American Cruise Lines, which already operates the Queen of the Mississippi, launched the paddle wheel ship America, offering 185 passengers free shore excursions, nightly musical entertainment and an onboard historian.

Next spring, the American Queen Steamboat Company will introduce the 166-passenger American Duchess on the river. It will incorporate two-story "loft suites" and two restaurants serving regional fare.

"We were starved for capacity," said Ted Sykes, president of the American Queen Steamboat Company, citing 95 percent occupancy on its present Mississippi paddle-wheeler, the American Queen.

With the new launches, operators aim to attract new travelers. The American Duchess will offer shorter itineraries out of Nashville and New Orleans designed to appeal to working professionals, and introduce journeys in and out of the Chicago area.

"We're seeing a transition in travel styles of people who are starting to be interested in the Mississippi," said Carolyn Spencer Brown, editor in chief of CruiseCritic.com.

The Mississippi could roil again when and if Viking Cruises, the biggest European river operator, enters the market. In 2015, it announced its intention to begin Mississippi cruises, only to retract its launch date. Viking wouldn't comment on its delay, though observers tie it to domestic construction capacity. By law, operators on American rivers must build their boats in the United States.

ELAINE GLUSAC

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ONLINE BLOG, WRITTEN BY THE EDITORS AND REPORTERS OF THE TRAVEL SECTION, AT NYTIMES.COM/INTRANSIT

## CORRECTIONS

An article last Sunday about Charleston misidentified the capital of South Carolina. It is Columbia — not Charleston, which was the capital during much of the historical period discussed in the article. The article also misidentified the police department that an officer facing murder charges worked for. It is the police department of North Charleston, not of Charleston. The article also referred incorrectly to John Drayton, who built Drayton Hall. He was not a governor of South Carolina. (His grandson, of the same name, was once governor.)

An article last Sunday about Martha's Vineyard misstated part of the name of a road on the island. It is Edgartown-West Tisbury Road — not Edgartown-Airport Road.

An article on Nov. 13 about the Paris terrorist attacks misidentified the administrative district in which the restaurant Taillevent and the wine bar Les 110 de Taillevent Paris are located. They are in the Eighth Arrondissement, not the Ninth.

## COMMENTS



SARA FOX

Our article on Oct. 23 by Porter Fox about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota ("Into the Wild") drew several responses. Below are two, edited.

#### A Place of Peace

We live about 15 miles from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. It is magical. It, or we, need this publicity, because the younger generation has not caught the desire to inhabit this quiet refuge. Our world could use many more people who spend time in the wilderness and are soothed by it.

JIM BOYD

I visited the area for the first time when I was 8 years old with a divorced mother, older brother, family friends and all the confusion of the world. This is a special place that helps remind us that we are part of something far greater.

BEN HALL

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## TRAVEL TIPS

### If Your Wallet Goes Missing on the Road

Losing your wallet or having it stolen is a nuisance anytime, but when you're on vacation, it can ruin the hope of a good trip, according to Chris McGoey, a security consultant who has traveled to more than 110 countries. "People carry critical personal information like credit cards and a driver's license in their wallet, and a lost or stolen one is a bigger headache and harder to recover from when you're traveling," he said.

But there are ways to minimize the damage from that missing wallet and keep your trip from going awry, and Mr. McGoey shared advice on how to do just that.

**KNOW YOUR WALLET'S CONTENTS** You know your wallet is important, but do you know what's in it? In his training seminars, Mr. McGoey said that he has his attendees look inside their wallets and he finds that most are surprised at what they unearth. "People have insurance cards, credit cards and other pieces of personal information they forgot they had, but if you don't know what's in your wallet, you can't report it missing," he said. He suggests keeping an inventory of your wallet's contents in your email or on an encrypted cloud server such as



LARS LEETARU

Google Drive or Dropbox.

**CARRY ONLY ESSENTIALS** Most people carry too many credit and ATM cards in their wallet, Mr. McGoey said, advising that you travel with only the ones you rely on daily. Also, don't carry both your Social Security card and driver's license in your wallet because one piece of identification is generally sufficient when you're traveling. "The more personal information you lose, the more work you have to do to get replacements," he said.

**HAVE BACKUPS OF DOCUMENTS** Make copies of all the documents in your wallet, and leave these copies with a

family member or trusted neighbor back at home. And include a checklist of phone numbers to call in case your wallet goes missing, such as the numbers of your bank and credit card company. You can also scan and email these copies to yourself or store them on a cloud server.

These backups and numbers allow you to quickly report your cards missing. Also, if you're flying, you won't be left without the identification you need to get back home.

In addition, Mr. McGoey suggested having a copy of a backup credit card on your email or cloud server and leaving the actual card at home with someone you trust — if you need a replacement right away, that person can send you the card overnight.

**RELY ON THE U.S. EMBASSY** If you're traveling internationally and end up losing your wallet but have no backups of your credit cards and license, the local United States Embassy is your best resource to get your life back in order. "The embassy can help you get temporary identification and also loan you cash," Mr. McGoey said. Your tour company, if you used one, may also be able to assist.

SHIVANI VORA

## UPDATE

# Turkey Cautions Citizens About Travel to the U.S.

Reasons for warnings range from postelection protests to attacks.

By SHIVANI VORA

After the election of Donald J. Trump as the next president of the United States, the Turkish government thinks that the United States isn't the safest travel destination for its citizens: The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has posted a travel warning on its website, citing the protests that erupted in several cities immediately after the election including New York, Miami, Los Angeles and Seattle.

The statement was issued only in Turkish, said Aydan Karamanoglu, a spokesman for the Turkish Embassy in Washington, and made no mention of Mr. Trump. It did say that the demonstrations occasionally become violent and that the United States had seen an increase in anti-foreign and racist physical attacks and harassment; the statement advised Turkish citizens to take increased security measures and to be cautious in the cities where

the protests are taking place.

Turkey is the latest of several countries that have issued warnings against travel to the United States this year, for reasons ranging from Zika to police shootings.

The trend is unprecedented, said George Taylor, vice president of global operations for iJet International, a travel intelligence firm based in Annapolis, Md. "There are more travel warnings to the United States recently than there have been in the past," he said.

This warning is a turning of tables for the United States: after the series of terrorist attacks in Turkey over the last year, the State Department issued numerous warnings against traveling to Turkey.

In the most recent advisory, updated on Oct. 29, it said, "U.S. citizens should avoid travel to southeast Turkey and carefully consider the risks of travel to and throughout the country. The U.S. Department of State is updating this Travel Warning to reflect the October 29, 2016, decision to order the departure of family members of employees posted to the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul,



YANA PASKOVA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A protest underway in front of the Trump Parc condo building in Manhattan.

Turkey. The Department of State made this decision based on security information indicating extremist groups are continuing aggressive efforts to attack U.S. citizens in areas of Istanbul where they reside or frequent."

Turkey's warning may be, in part, retaliation for this strong statement, Mr. Taylor said. "We came down pretty hard on Turkey

after their terrorist attacks and attempted coup, and this is a little bit of tit for tat."

But while tourism to Turkey from the United States has decreased since the terrorist attacks there — over 20 percent fewer American tourists visited Turkey in the first five months of this year compared with the same period last year, according to the Turkish

Culture and Tourism Office in New York City — Mr. Taylor said that the warning from Turkey is unlikely to result in a dramatic decline of Turkish citizens coming to the United States.

(The number of foreign visitors overall to the United States was on the rise earlier this year — non-resident arrivals to the United States increased 2.1 percent from January to April, compared with the same period in 2015, according to the United States Department of Commerce.)

In Turkey, some residents said that the warning wasn't big news. Bike Gursel, the chairman of Marmara Hotels, a chain of five hotels in Turkey and two in New York, lives in Istanbul and said that while locals were aware of the advisory, it wasn't necessarily top of mind. "We have had press about the warning and know about the protests in America, but it's not the most important news in Turkey right now," she said.

Warnings from other countries about traveling to the United States include one in April when the British Foreign Service Office advised gay, lesbian, bisexual and

transgender Britons to be cautious if they were traveling to North Carolina or Mississippi because of the anti-L.G.B.T. laws in both states. And, in early July, after the shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., that left 49 people dead and a racially fueled shooting in Dallas that left five police officers dead, the Bahamas advised young male citizens traveling to the United States to be especially cautious when interacting with police.

Also, several countries including Canada and Britain have advised pregnant women as well as women who plan to get pregnant against traveling to Zika-affected areas in the United States, specifically certain parts of Florida.

Despite these specific warnings, travel warnings, generally, are not cause for concern, said Tim Horner, head of the security risk management practice at the security firm Kroll. "At any given time, there are hundreds of travel advisories around the world related to personal safety, health risks and the weather. They're meant to keep travelers informed, not scare them," he said.