

Kansas City

MISSOURI

BY MARY BLOCH

GO SHOP

Wines by Jennifer

450 Main St, Parkville; 816-505-9463; winesbyjennifer.com
This darling house is filled with a sophisticated array of wines from around the world. An art gallery, tasting room and private party space add to the appeal.

GO SEE

American Royal Center

1701 American Royal Court; 816-931-4686; americanroyal.com
Two hot events hit town on the same weekend this month. The Metropolitan Lawn and Garden Show and the Kansas City Remodeling Show draw hundreds of thousands of eager consumers ready to trade winter in for spring blooms and revamped rooms. Feb. 11-13.

Steamboat Arabia Museum

400 Grand Blvd; 816-471-4030; 1856.com
This fascinating museum tells the story of a dependable side-wheel steamer that sunk in the Missouri River in 1856. After more than 130 years underwater, its remains were painstakingly salvaged and are now on display, along with other artifacts of frontier life.

GO EAT

Westport Café and Bar

419 Westport Rd; 816-931-4740; westportcafeandbar.com
This new French bistro hits all the right notes, with authentic

Parisian floor tiles, mirrored walls and out-of-this-world profiteroles. Stop in any time of day for tuna niceise or steak frites, paired with sophisticated cocktails. \$\$

GO PARTY

Jardine's

4536 Main St; 816-561-6480; jardines4jazz.com
This little gem brings in jazz stars every night of the week to play what *KC Magazine* calls the city's "best intimate live music venue." Though primarily regarded as a nightclub, music lovers often enjoy dinner before a show.

FUN FACT!

Kansas City ignored Prohibition during the 1920s, leading to an abundance of jazz clubs, brothels and gambling halls that earned it the nickname "The Paris of the Plains."

LUTZ OR KLUTZ?

WATCH SKATERS twirl as you sip gourmet hot chocolate by the fire pit or grab a bite in a nearby café. Better yet, put down those shopping bags, lace up a pair of skates and take a turn on the ice. Advance reservations are required.

The Ice at Park Place
W 117th St and Nail Ave; 913-663-2070; destinationparkplace.com



Key West

FLORIDA

BY JOSIE GULLIKSEN

GO SHOP

The Key West Winery

103 Simonton St; 305-292-1717; thekeywestwinery.com
It's not all about grapes here, where wines are made with oranges, strawberries, watermelon, cherries and, well, too many fruits to list them all. The ones with watermelon are quite refreshing and worth a try. The proprietors are friendly and offer snacks during each tasting.

Besame Mucho

315 Petronia St; 305-294-1928; besamemucho.net
Located in the heart of historic Bahama Village, this small cottage shop—the name of which means "kiss me again and again"—sells romantic nostalgia, including apothecary products, sachets, tablecloths and T-shirts.

GO SEE

Tennessee Williams Theatre

5901 College Rd; 305-296-1520; tennesseewilliamstheatre.com
Named for Key West's most famed playwright, this busy theater features performances of all varieties. In the coming weeks, catch 1960s group The Temptations (Feb. 16), Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance* (Feb. 10) and the Key West Symphony Orchestra's Master Concert Series IV (March 2).

Fort East Martello Museum & Gardens

3501 S Roosevelt Blvd; 305-296-

3913; kwahs.com/martello.htm
This daunting Civil War fort—modeled after Italian fortifications—was never completed and never saw hostile action, and it's as quirky as Key West itself. It features a "haunted doll" named Robert, the artwork of famed Keys folk artists Mario Sanchez and Stanley Papio as well as lush, colorful gardens.

GO EAT

Bo's Fish Wagon

801 Caroline St; 305-294-9272; bosfishwagon.com
Three words: fried grouper sandwich. That's the thing to order here, preferably with a cold beer and maybe some fries. Finding it is easy enough: Just look for the beat-up pickup truck and lots of fishing buoys, and keep your nose out for the smell of fresh seafood made to perfection. \$\$

GO PARTY

The Westin Key West Resort & Marina

245 Front St; 305-294-4000; westinkeywest.com
This hotel is right next to bustling Mallory Square—the site of a nightly, raucous sunset celebration—and shares the same incredible view. It's a much quieter and laidback place to enjoy it.

FUN FACT!

In 2004, city officials hired a local barber to be Key West's licensed chicken catcher. He rounded up roughly 500 of the free-range fowl before outraged citizens concocted the three-day ChickenFest Key West in protest. The city promptly withdrew the chicken catcher's license.

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