



BELGIUM

PHOTOS BY JOE RAY/FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Stalking a wild brew Spontaneous

fermentation and vintage methods make lambic reminiscent of another time and good times

BY JOE RAY | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

BRUSSELS — Belgium is boring. That was the preconception. Then I remembered: great fries, friendly people, beautiful architecture, and beer that makes aficionados drool. What was I thinking? I grab a cone of fries and head to a brewery where I begin to understand why beer, particularly lambics — “wild beers” that are products of “spontaneous fermentation” and aged for three years in oak barrels — runs in Belgians’ veins.

“There was a choice, and then again, there wasn’t a choice,” says Jean Van Roy, who, along with his semiretired father, Jean-Pierre, runs the Cantillon brewery, which was founded in 1900 and calls itself the last traditional brewery in Brussels. “My parents worked so hard to bring it back that, psychologically, I couldn’t do anything else.”

The machines and methods used at Cantillon are decades and even centuries old and create beers that have blissfully little to do with the mass-produced brews that line the world’s supermarket shelves.

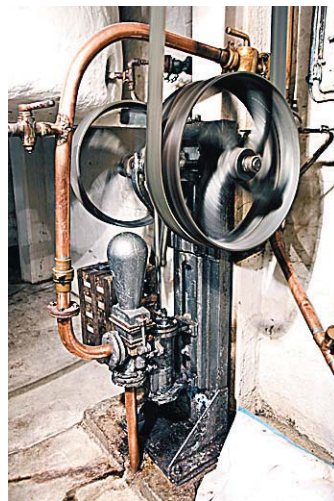
On a production day, light streams through the window, people work in overalls, and steam collects in drips on the ceiling. The tiny facility is a perfect way to understand how beer is made.

To begin, huge quantities of crushed wheat and malted barley are given a hot-water bath in a giant wooden tub, creating a heady-smelling liquid called wort, but this is where the similarities between lambic and mass-market beer end.

Aged hops — more of a preservative than a flavoring agent for lambics — are added and the near-boiling liquid is pumped upstairs to catch a cold. In a shallow copper vat known as a cooling tun that’s nearly as large as the drafty, musty room it’s kept in, the wort is exposed to the elements, particularly the wild yeasts native to Brussels’ Senne Valley (especially *Brettanomyces bruxellensis* and *Brettanomyces lambicus*) and perhaps others unique to the brewery itself.

Inoculated with the wild yeasts that will kick-start the fermentation process and turn this water into beer, the liquid is aged in winery-style

LAMBIC, Page M4



Top, then left to right: At Cantillon brewery in Brussels, hot wort pours into a cooling tun and wild yeasts settle onto it. Jean Van Roy adds hops to some wort; the engine that drives most of the brewery’s moving parts; Jean-Pierre Van Roy (Jean’s father) samples lambic in the tasting room; storage at Joost de Four’s restaurant in Liedekerke; Gert Christiaens with a barrel for aging beer at Oud Beersel in Beersel; blanche beer at de Four’s restaurant.

INSIDE

Where once were South Carolina rice plantations is **Brookgreen Gardens**, founded by a sculptor and home to works by her and many others. **M4**

EXPLORE NEW ENGLAND

Climbing in New Hampshire is cold and challenging in winter. Oh, but the views. **M5**

The Appalachian Trail is a **thru-hiker’s** dream, and its own job. **M5**



MARK ARSENAULT FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

FOR THOSE WHO KEEP A COUNT, WHAT COUNTS AS A VISIT?

By Christopher Klein
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

As the verdant peaks of the Great Smoky Mountains nestled under a blanket of Tennessee fog, the magnificent panorama rewarded our decision to take a short detour across the border from North Carolina.

I had still another reason to be happy about our jaunt to the Volunteer State.

“Well, Tennessee is number 25! I’m halfway home to visiting



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all 50 states,” I boasted to my wife as we approached the state line for our return trip.

“That doesn’t count,” she said, throwing water as cold as the mountain streams on my milestone.

“Why not? We were in Tennessee for three hours. I even got out of the car a few times and walked around.”

“Yeah,” she said, “but you didn’t have a meal in Tennessee, **COUNTING, Page M3**



Hampton Court Palace was a find for BU's Kelly Proulx.

World class

A SEMESTER IN LONDON

Ever since she was a little girl, Kelly Proulx has loved all things British. A senior at Boston University majoring in English and English education, Proulx says it was a "no-brainer" to spend three months in London in a BU student teaching practicum in connection with Roehampton University (www.roehampton.ac.uk). She teaches five classes, from sixth to eighth grades, at the Lampton School in the Borough of Hounslow. "I am really partial to the sixth-graders," says Proulx, who hopes to teach middle school English after she graduates.

FLAT LIVING: "I live in Boston University housing in London. Like any other dorm, my building contains singles, doubles, triples, and quads. In a 'flat' arrangement, I share my kitchen and common space with about eight other girls."

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: "Crumpets, crumpets, crumpets! They are fantastic. I may have to smuggle some back to the States. In London, people eat many of the same things that Americans do. The difference comes in preparation and taste. I think that the Brits use significantly less salt in everything, so most food comes across as bland until you get used to it."

SAY AGAIN?: "Being from just outside Boston, I tend to drop R's and pronounce 'room' as 'rum' and 'drawing' as 'drawing.' I have worked more on clear pronunciation rather than on differences in language. [But] countless natives have told me that I don't sound American and ask me where I am really from. Maybe they just think of the South and Texas whenever they think of America."

IN STYLE: "The high fashion in Europe makes me and my Old

Navy shirts feel like a walking fashion 'don't.' What we would consider nightwear in Boston, Londoners wear during the day to go sightseeing or just to the store. They just look much more in-style and trendy than [Americans] do. I have updated my wardrobe a bit, and I have stopped wearing pajama pants outside of my bedroom."

TUBE ALERTS: "Unlike the T, the Tube alerts its customers to every incident and keeps them informed of the arrival time of every train. Sometimes it is a bit difficult to get to outside parts of London via buses and trains, but it is possible."

ON THE TELLY: "All the other teachers in my department are obsessed with 'True Blood' and 'The Wire.' I never thought that British people would be able to watch all of our American TV and actually enjoy it. It is really nice to be able to talk American TV and get a different spin on it."

SOUNDPROOFED: "The Lampton School is actually on the flight path to Heathrow, so we hear airplanes rumbling past about every hour or so. Surprisingly, the students just ignore it and carry on with their work."

SCHOOL WORK: "Students in the UK learn in a different way than American students do. They take more subjects and have less work per subject. I am only allowed to assign two homeworks a week, instead of one every night [which US middle schoolers would have]. In the end, I think it evens out. Adolescents will be adolescents. . . . I know that my 11- to 14-year-old students would rather be hanging out with friends than doing the work I have assigned."

CHRIS MURPHY

Destinations

ARTS

All hail Caesar, Burton, Renoir

THROUGH APRIL 26

NEW YORK

"Tim Burton": The words "a film by Tim Burton" immediately conjure up certain associations — darkness, playfulness, inventiveness, Johnny Depp, a predictable unpredictability. Burton's not just a film director, of course, but also an illustrator, photographer, and writer who has been as influenced by pop art and Surrealism as he has by Hollywood. For this mammoth retrospective, the Museum of Modern Art has assembled more than 700 examples of Burton's work: drawings, paintings, maquettes, photographs, storyboards, puppets, costumes, and various other items related to Burton's films. Many have never been exhibited or shown only rarely. In addition, MoMA is screening Burton's entire filmography, shorts as well as features, including such celebrated titles as "Beetlejuice," "Batman," "Edward Scissorhands," "The Nightmare Before Christmas," and "Ed Wood." 11 West 53d St., 212-708-9400, www.moma.org

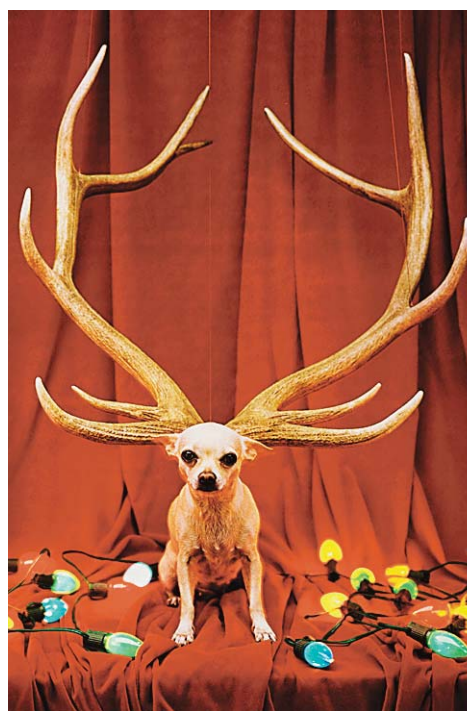
OXFORD, ENGLAND

Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology: Britain's oldest public museum reopened last month after an extensive renovation and expansion costing \$100.5 million. Architect Rick Mather's design more than doubles the Ashmolean's exhibition space. There are 39 new galleries, as well as an education center, studios for art conservation, and a rooftop restaurant. Beaumont Street, 011-44-1865-278000, ashweb2.ashmus.ox.ac.uk

THROUGH SEPT. 19

ARLES, FRANCE

"Caesar: The Rhone as Memory": Over the past two decades, the Rhone River has yielded a treasure trove of archeological objects from Roman times. Some 700 of those items are on display at the Museum of Ancient Arles. The star of the show is a marble bust of Julius Caesar that's believed to be the only surviving sculpture of the ruler executed during his reign. Other highlights include a 6-foot marble carving of the god Neptune and



MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

"Untitled (Christmas Photo)," one of 700 items in the Tim Burton exhibit.

a gold-leaf-covered bas-relief of the Roman goddess of victory. Rue du Cirque Romain, 011-33-4-90-18-88-88, www.arles-antique.org

THROUGH SEPT. 24

ROME

"Rome: The Painting of an Empire": Roman art is most commonly thought of in terms of sculpture and architecture. Yet painting was an important part of Roman visual culture as well. This exhibition at the Scuderie del Quirinale consists of 100 examples of Roman painting from 49 BC (right around the time that bust of Caesar now in Arles would have been executed) to the 5th century. There are frescoes and mosaics, as well as paintings on clay, wood, and glass. Via XXIV Maggio, 011-39-06-696-271, www.scuderiequirinale.it

FEB. 12-AUG. 31

WASHINGTON

"Framing the West: The Survey Photographs of Timothy H. O'Sullivan": This exhibition at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art is the first big show in almost 30 years devoted to O'Sullivan's Western photographs. Taken between 1867-74 in the mountain and desert regions of the West, the more than 80 photographs and stereographs on display helped shape Americans' understanding of their farthest frontier. 8th and F streets NW, 202-633-7970, www.americanart.si.edu

FEB. 14-MAY 9

LOS ANGELES

"Renoir in the 20th Century": This exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art takes an unprecedented look at the final stage of Pierre-Auguste Renoir's career, focusing on the last three decades of his life. The show, which later goes to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, comprises some 80 paintings, drawings, and sculptures by Renoir, as well as another two dozen by such younger artists who influenced him or whom he influenced as Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse. 5905 Wilshire Blvd., 323-857-6000, www.lacma.org

PLAN AHEAD

MARCH 6-SEPT. 17

"Matisse to Malevich: Pioneers of Modern Art": The second exhibition at Hermitage Amsterdam draws on the St. Petersburg museum's renowned holdings of late-19th and early-20th-century paintings from the School of Paris (with a bow to Russia's own Kazimir Malevich). Among artists with works in the show are Picasso, Kees van Dongen, Maurice de Vlaminck, and Andre Derain. Amstel 51, 011-31-20-530-87-51, www.hermitage.nl/en

MARK FEENEY

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online. Mark Feeny can be reached at mfeeny@globe.com.

Gearing up

Merge your playlist, then submerge

You can be doing laps in the hotel pool or snorkeling among tropical fish and still listen to your favorite music or an audiobook. The SwimMP3.1G, a waterproof MP3 player made by Finis, clips onto most swim goggles and snorkeling masks, and is slim and sleek enough that it won't get in your way. It uses bone-conductive sound technology to transmit crystal-clear audio recordings when submerged. Plug the

device into your computer's USB port to load songs and then choose a tune, select "shuffle," or adjust the volume easily while wearing the SwimMP3. It comes with an eight-hour rechargeable battery, holds about 240 songs, and works with MP3 and WMA formats. The SwimMP3.1G sells for \$149.99 through Finis (888-333-4647, www.finisinc.com).

KARI BODNARCHUK



On this they can agree: An airport layover doesn't qualify

► COUNTING

Continued from Page M1

so it doesn't count."

"Of course it counts," I replied. "If you drive in a state, you're there. If I get pulled over by the Tennessee Highway Patrol, I don't think it's going to fly if I say, 'Sorry, officer. You see I'm not really here in Tennessee because I haven't yet gorged myself at a local Waffle House.'"

While I had a sneaking suspicion that my wife, feeling me catching up to her tally of 26 states, was grasping for a technicality to deny me credit for a state she had checked off years ago, our disagreement as to what constitutes a "visit" to a state, country, or any geographic jurisdiction was just the latest in an ongoing debate.

Nearly every traveler holds a strong opinion as to what qualifies as a "visit" — and what does not. Do you need only to plant two feet on the ground? What about riding in a car or on a train without stopping? Jet-setters looking to rack up states and countries like frequent flier miles may count places they fly over, while strict constructionists believe you need to buy something from a local store or stay overnight or — ahem — use a toilet before adding another notch to your fanny pack.

The desire to quantify our travels has given rise to online applications such as Where I've Been, which allows you to post a map to your Facebook profile with all the states and countries you've visited highlighted in color. There are even a handful of membership organizations devoted to the quest to visit every country, every state, and even every US county.

Most of these clubs simply require that you get your boots on the ground in a geographic area

for it to be classified as a visit. For example, the All Fifty States Club considers it a visit if a person "has set foot on the natural ground of that state and breathed the air."

What are not visits, however, are airport layovers, undoubtedly the source of the most contentious arguments among travelers enumerating states and countries. "Counting airport layovers is cheating," says Alicia Rovey, founder of the All Fifty States Club. "The confines of an airport do not allow you to truly experience a state for what it is. You can't truly experience the people or culture because the airport is full of travelers, not locals. You can't truly experience the landscape because you're inside an airport facility. You can't experience an Arizona dry heat or the windy Chicago cold if you don't leave the airport building."

To many travelers like Rovey, airport terminals should be treated like Cinnabon-laden foreign embassies, within the geographic confines of a country but neutral territory. To others, airports count since they are technically within the borders of a jurisdiction and you can easily spend more time in them than, say, driving through Delaware or Liechtenstein.

Airport layovers and ports of call qualify as visits for the Travelers' Century Club, whose approximately 2,000 members have visited 100 countries or more. Klaus Billep, club chairman, says its criteria have been unchanged since the origin of the club in the 1950s, when short stopovers may have been the only practical way to visit some countries.

The standards on MostTraveledPeople.com prohibit the organization's 8,000 members from adding airport transits to their global tallies. "In my opinion, the

absolute minimum requirement for a visit is to arrive legally in a place, which means going through the trouble of obtaining a visa if it's required, and going through immigration," says Charles Veley, the group's founder. "Where immigration is required, an airport transit is not a legal entry to a country." There is no minimum time requirement for a visit to qualify, but members of MostTraveledPeople.com are required to have both feet on land fully within an entity's border for it to count.

What about travelers riding the rails through a country? "During the day, count it," Veley says. "At night, you should at least wake up and stand down at a station. Sleeping through the night on a train across an area is the same as flying over — you haven't consciously experienced it. Same with driving. If you're navigating yourself through an area, count it, but being asleep on a bus doesn't meet the common-sense test."

Counting states or countries visited is a somewhat useful metric in determining how well traveled someone is, but like many statistics, there are limitations. Am I really more of a seasoned traveler than other Americans who have set foot in far fewer states or do I just benefit from living among the Lilliputian states of the Northeast? If I can color in Mexico on my map because I walked a few blocks in Tijuana, does that carry the same weight as another who spent weeks hiking the Yucatan? No way.

The rankings of the number of geographic entities visited by members of MostTraveledPeople.com read like high scorers on a video game. Veley, one of the ultimate globetrotters who has racked up more than 1.5 million miles and visited all 192 coun-

tries recognized by the United Nations, acknowledges that some travelers might be too focused on amassing passport stamps than truly experiencing foreign lands. Next year, the organization plans to work with local tourist offices to establish checklists of places and activities that would encourage depth and quality of visits.

"You can't say you've seen the country just because you've vis-

ited each state," says J. Stephen Conn. When Conn hit the magical 50-state mark 15 years ago, he pulled out a map. "It struck me all the places where I hadn't been, and I decided to go back and visit every county."

Conn, among several hundred "county collectors" in the Extra Miler Club, is just 91 counties shy of visiting each of the 3,142 counties across the country. He adds

to his total whenever he sets foot across a county border, no meals or overnight stays required. "The way I look at it is this: If I was struck by a bolt of lightning or hit by a meteorite, the obituary would say I died in Podunk County. How could you die there unless you were there?"

Christopher Klein can be reached at chris@christopherklein.com.

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