

## GO EXPLORE

**ROOM WITH A MENU:** After a decadent multicourse meal lasting several hours, there's nothing much left to do except loosen your belt and doze off into a contented slumber. That's easy to do at **ABaC**, a much-raved-about contemporary restaurant in **Barcelona** headed by provocative Catalan chef Xavier Pellicer. Last year, ABaC relocated to a grand villa on Avenida Tibidabo, a famed scenic road that winds above the city. The structure includes 15 modern bedrooms and a terrace overlooking



the gardens that surround the property. The interior is as futuristic as Pellicer's cuisine. Each suite is unique, but all are spacious and stylishly outfitted with warm lighting and minimalist furniture in white and beige. Guests wake to stunning views of the city, and a substantial breakfast. And they may see a lot of the chef — to reach the restaurant, hotel guests pass through the kitchen. [abacbarcelona.com](http://abacbarcelona.com)

— Gisela Williams

**DRINK KNOWLEDGEABLY:** If you find yourself in a new city and unsure of where to go for a good Bulleit Kentucky Cutter, there's a new Web site that can help. Partnering with Zagat and TheBar.com, **iDrinkwell.com** is sipping its way around the country, surveying bars and reporting back on what it finds. Visitors can also find classic or newfangled recipes for favorite cocktails, a weekly blog by mixologist Dale DeGroff, and videos of DeGroff and actress/supermodel Molly Sims discussing everything from how to spot a good bartender to favorite seasonal drinks to current trends in mixology.

— Andrew Eitelbach

## CLEVELAND

### Listen Up

**THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE** to hear improvised riffs than **Nighttown** ([nighttowncleveland.com](http://nighttowncleveland.com)), an Irish-inspired restaurant and pub that *Down Beat* magazine has called one of the best jazz clubs in the world. National headliners and homegrown players take the stage nightly. Hear more of this quintessentially American music in venues all around town during the annual **Tri-C JazzFest** ([tricpresents.com](http://tricpresents.com)), April 23–May 3. The lineup for this year's 30th-anniversary celebration includes George Benson, Marion Hayden (pictured), the Dave Brubeck Quartet, and other big names, plus stellar local talent and emerging artists from around the country. On April 29, vibraphonist Cecilia Smith premieres "Crossing Bridges," a new multimedia composition.

— Laura Taxel



## (ART ON THE ROAD)

### Cover Story

OFTEN CALLED THE "Dickens of the paintbrush," Norman Rockwell was one of the most prolific artists of the 20th century. Over a lengthy career he created nearly 3,000 paintings, each telling a story of everyday life.

Starting in his teens as an art director for *Boys' Life* magazine, Rockwell quickly made his name as an illustrator. In 1916 he did his first cover for the *Saturday Evening Post*, beginning a 47-year relationship with the widely read publication that resulted in over 300 covers. Likely his most recognizable works, the *Post* covers portray all aspects of the American dream — families, presidents, soldiers, and, on occasion, even the artist himself. Through these works Rockwell became a household name, appreciated for his ability to connect with ordinary people and evoke a range of sentiments.

Now, for the first time ever, a career-spanning exhibit of his work is traveling across the United States. **American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell** embarked on a nine-city tour last year, and it's currently at the **Detroit Institute of Arts**. The exhibit features highlights from Rockwell's entire career, including 41 oil paintings, every one of his *Saturday Evening Post* covers, and a selection of drawings and posters. Among the works are his famous *Triple Self-Portrait* and the *Four Freedoms* series, which was used by the government to help sell war bonds during World War II. *American Chronicles* is at the Detroit Institute of Arts through May 31 before moving on to the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. [nrm.org](http://nrm.org)

— Cole Rosengren

