



Weekend Warrior

A Taste for Speed

Chocolate master Thomas Haas on riding the world with Trevor Linden and fending off the virtual competition

In 2009 I made a retirement cake for Trevor Linden, and some people at the party asked me, "We're starting a bike club. Would you like to join?" That's when my little weekend ride turned into three-hour evening training sessions and a 4 a.m. Cypress-Seymour-Grouse Mountain climb before work.

Then our training group signed up for races in Europe. We always said the week when the 12 of us would be somewhere in the Alps for 10 days was the best week of the year because all you do is ride your bike, laugh, drink-and the next day you ride again. After Day 5 you hate it, like, "I'm never going to do this again," because it's so hard. And then on Day 7 you sign up for next year again.

There's an app that came up around this time, it's called Strava, and it has taken off like crazy and also cost a lot of friendships. If you're on a GPS cycling computer, it tracks your rides, so I can make a segment from Dundarave to Horseshoe Bay. It tracks everybody that

does that segment and creates a leader board. The fastest person gets a "crown"-and then the ego starts, and people get totally obsessed about it.

A lot of riders track their heart rate, so it ranks your fitness level; I'm not a big number guy so I use it mainly for the basics. I made a rule: I only follow people I have ridden with, but I have a lot of people follow ing me who are curious how m ride was. While it brings apart some individuals, it actually creates a great community. Yo see who rode today and you can put a "thumbs up" and make a comment, so by the time you hit the road, you know so many people.

as told to Marcie Good

In this issue: the latest developments from the world of travel

New + Improved

AIRPORT/Cathey Pacific business travellers have a new place to relax at YVR. The airline's business class lounge in the international terminal is a tranquil retreat with a contemporary Asian aesthetic and a mountain view-plus comfy armchairs, free WiFi, workstations with iMacs

TRIP/For a shorter hop, the 35-minute Harbour Air flight between Vancouver and Victoria can be bookended by hotel stays. Until the end of September, the Magnolia Hotel & Spa in Victoria and Loden Hotel in Vancouver have a Best of Two Cities package that includes the flight, drop-off at Waterfront/Harbour, two nights' accommodation in each city, early check-in/late checkout, daily breakfast for two and complimentary bikes

r Bluetooth and charging, fi colour copying or use of the boardroom.

ADVENTURE/For outdoor enthusiasts. BOBusiness 30 Under 30 alum and ShareShed founder Daniel Dubois has launched Guildes com to connect with local guides who will share insider experiences ranging from \$20 outdoor yoga to a \$1,699 backpacking trip.

-Felicity Stone

Thomas Haas was ranked among the top pastry chefs in New York City before moving to Vancouver and starting his eponymous line of chocolates in 2000. Now with two cafe locations in Kitsilano and North Vancouver, he typically makes 20,000 chocolates a week (quadruple that number in November and December).

> hawksworth communications MAGNOLIA HOTEL & SPA



Then. Now. Ne

ISSUES AND INNOVATIONS SHAPING OUR ISLAND



VICTORIA GOT COOL

In a potential boon for local tourism, global tastemaker Vogue recently deemed Victoria the "perfect spot for a cool Northwest getaway." As the article points out, the city has traditionally been left out of regional "cool talks" that focused on Seattle and Portland. But that's changing. An article in New York magazine talks about our "coastal cool" and a Toronto Star article observes that "somewhere along the way, Victoria got cool."



IN 2015, TOURISM VICTORIA'S FACEBOOK PAGE REACHED AN AUDIENCE OF

.973,986 WHILE ITS INSTAGRAM SAW

209% GROWTH

EDITORIAL PLACEMENTS IN TRAVEL AND LIFESTYLE MEDIA INCREASED FROM 311 IN 2014 TO 350 IN 2015.

media's discovery that Victoria is actually cool wasn't just serendipity. According to Tourism Victoria president and CEO Paul Nursey, the organization has four staff dedicated to content, travel media and lifestyle marketing — and he thinks they've been hitting it out of the ball park.
"The Vogue article was one of the

over 300 pieces of coverage we got in the past year, around the world, in travel and lifestyle media," he says.

*That article specifically came to pass with our team's work with the Magnolia Hotel and their high-powered PR team. We invited five really highend lifestyle-media journalists, and we put together an amazing program to show Greater Victoria in a different

way."

Bill Lewis, general manager of the Magnolia Hotel, points to all that's

... where Old World businesses coexist alongside hip new shops and restaurants ... New York Times

"Whether your idea of fun is cavorting outdoors or cocooning inside, the gorgeous B.C. city has vou covered WestJet Magazine

"Victoria has a collegetown vibe ... a bevy of coffeehouses and indie shops that outnumber the Starbucks outlets and retail chains." Washington Post

happening in tech in the city, as well as the food, wine and micro-brew scenes, as contributing factors to the city's cool cred.

"To have something as high-profile as Vogue take that stance puts a halo on the market here," he says. "We've had a lot of great pieces over the years, but we've never seen referral click-throughs from Google analytics like the Vogue story. There were hundreds within the first 10 days, where a good media article usually

gets a few dozen."
It's a good sign for the upcoming summer season, which looks to see last year's significant growth in visitor rates. Nursey, who started at Tourism Victoria in January of 2014, believes the industry. and Tourism Victoria itself, has become "high-octane."

"It was kind of a country club," he says of the changes that have taken place over his two years at Tourism Victoria. "Now it's all about results."

Seattle travellers who booked a trip to Victoria as a result of the spring's Victoria Beyond Words campaign, with an economic impact of \$5.9 million. The increase in visits represents a 78:1 ROI (the industry norm ranges from 12:1 to 20:1).



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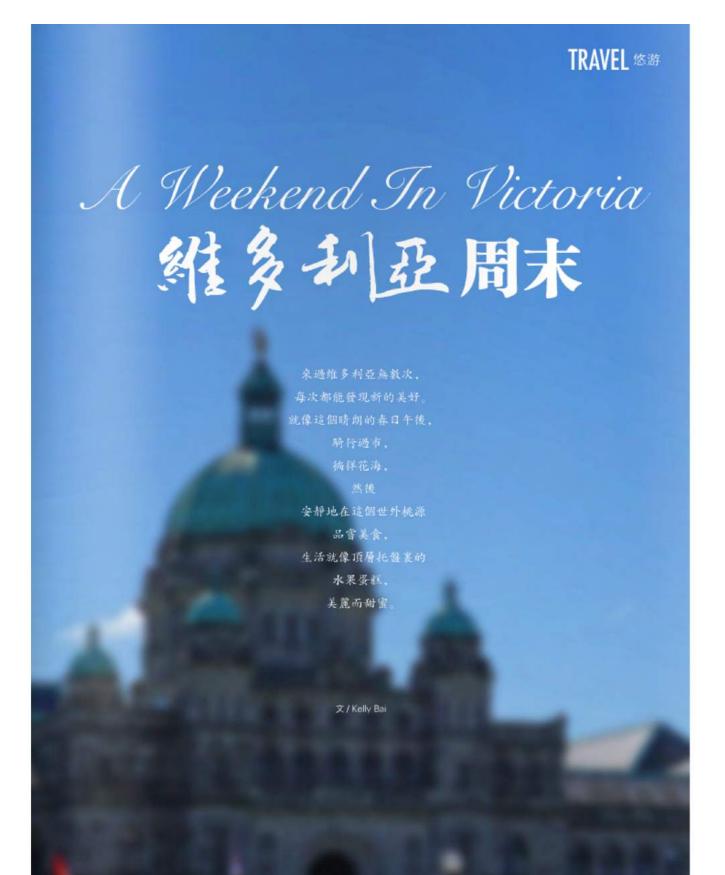
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DEFINING VANCOUVER LIFE AND LUXURY

新居生活









從 Magnolia 酒店的房間可以看到 BC 省議會大厦

DAY1

四月的一個周五,天氣晴好,于是决定去維 多利亞度周末,會會久已不見的朋友。

因馬事情耽搁,趕到位于 Coal Harbour 的 Harbour Air 時已經晚了,預訂的下午 3:40 的飛機正要起飛。漂亮的櫃臺妹妹一番忙碌,把我塞到了 4 點的飛機上。飛機很小巧,全部坐滿也不過十機人。途中一路欣賞着壯闊的大海、秀麗的小島,不知不覺已經降落在維多利亞內港。以往去維多利亞大多是自己開車、乘坐渡輪,這次的水上飛機之旅讓我意識到,從溫哥華市中心到維多利亞市中心原來抵需要 30 分鐘左右的時間,坐 Harbour Air 水上飛機省時又省力!

水上飛機直接降落在維多利亞的內港,從內 港出來步行 5 分鐘,就是下榻的 Magnolia Hotel & Spa。這家酒店不大,但氣氛溫馨,大堂裏有 寬大的壁爐和舒服的沙發,裝潢典雅頗具古韵, 再加上服務員的親切友好,有一種賓至如歸之感。

房間面向內港,落地玻璃窗將美麗的港灣景色框成了一幅天然畫卷。燃氣壁爐、柔軟的大床、 帶脚凳的沙發、衛生間裏的泡泡浴浴缸,讓人 願意宅在房間裏哪也不去。這個酒店被 Cond é Nast Traveler 評馬加拿大頂級酒店之一,而且名 列 TripAdvisor's Travelers' Choice 加拿大最佳 酒店和加拿大最佳奢華酒店兩大榜單,必定是有 理由的。

晚餐定在了唐人街附近的 OLO 餐館, 我趕 到的時候朋友已經等在那裏。

OLO 在奇努克語與法語、英語、美洲印第安語的混合語 Chinook Jargon 語中(舊時在北美西北部沿海地區的商人與印第安人之間使用)是"饑餓"的意思。餐廳不大,風格比較隨意,而

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OLO 餐廳的西餐令人印象深刻

菜品着實令人驚艷。這裏乘承"農場到餐桌"的 理念,所用食材均來自本地,極其新鮮。熱情且 博學的侍者 Devin Mason 馬我們推薦了招牌菜, 并且爲每道菜都搭配了相應的酒。

第一道 Semolina Cubes 是一種小食, Grana Padano 奶酪被包裹在粗粒小麥粉中,炸成金黄色,搭配蒜泥蛋黄醬,外焦裏內,入口即化。之後的甜菜沙拉色彩斑斕,口味清爽。甜菜以可可豆殼熏制,减少其水分,使其更甜更有韌性,輔以葵花籽、漿草和紫蘇油,味道極其豐富。還有楷木烟熏野生三文魚——滑嫩的三文魚切成片,與薄薄的薯片、烤卷心菜、酸乳酪、早金莲花與鹽漬洋葱配在一起,好吃得無法形容。最後的flat iron 牛排更是糟彩,本來前面已經吃過這麼多道,到了牛排這裏已經有點吃不下了,我本身也不太能吃肉,但這道牛排堪稱佳品。肉質鲜美多汁,爽滑入味,淋着肉汁的蘑菇和土豆也美味餐了,尤其是蘑菇,餐館的工作人員當天早晨親自采摘的,鲜美餐了。

四道菜都被我們吃得幹幹净净,終于理解到 這個餐館爲什麼取意"饑餓"了——到這裏來的 人都會像戲漢樣胃口大開。再飽甜品也是不能少 的,Rhubarb 凍糕和巧克力漿果凍糕都可圈可 點,各有風味。這餐吃得真是好滿足,可算是最 近一段時間來最美味的晚餐。

晚上回来,用酒店提供的 Salt Spring Island Sparkling Rhubarb Bubble Bath 泡了個舒服的 泡泡浴,床邊的小桌上放着金葉子形狀的巧克力, 真是貼心,要被龐壤的感覺。

"明天去哪呢?",吃着巧克力,眯着眼睛躺在大床上,腦子裏謀劃着第二天的安排。

星期六, 隱了個懒覺, 在酒店附帶的餐廳



DAY2

Catalano 吃過早餐後,决定嘗試一下酒店設計 的自行車之旅。

Magnolia 酒店似乎不满足于衹做酒店,而是承擔了一部分維多利亞旅游局的責任,爲住店客人們設計了各種有趣的步行、騎車旅游綫路,讓人們盡情發現維多利亞的美妙之處。比如,你可以騎車去游覽美術館、博物館及經典旅游之地,你可以騎車去游覽美術館、博物館及經典旅游之地,或是探索城中各處美麗的花園,要不就來一場痛快淋灘的購物之旅,也可以順着 Tapa Trail 的路线在城中見食……每條綫路都設計精心,配着地圖和說明。

我選了花園加咖啡館的自行車綫路——春天 來了,正是游園賞花的好時候! 騎着酒店提供的 漂亮自行車行駛在路上,和煦的春風拂面而過, 燦爛的陽光暖暖照耀,深刻體會到維多利亞爲何 有"加拿大自行車之都"的隔號——在這裏騎車 真是太舒服了!

一下午, 我轉了 Government House 安寧

静謐的花園,欣賞了 Abkhazi Gardens 各種美麗的奇花异草,在 Beacon Hill 公園的玫瑰園和石頭園徜徉,追着開屏的孔雀照相,還在 Palm Tree House 看到了 15 棵擁有 45 年樹齡、25 英尺高的棕櫚樹。

每個國子各有特色,最想着重筆墨的是 Abkhazi Gardens。這個花園雖然而積不大,但 布局緊凑,各種花草争奇鬥艷,一步一景。

最有趣的是這個園子背後的浪漫故事。

1920 年代,年輕的佩姬與流亡海外的捷克 王子尼古拉斯在巴黎邂逅,彼此傾慕,而後二戰 爆發,兩人失去聯絡,分别被關在集中營中。佩 姬獲釋後于 1945 年 12 月到達維多利亞,買下一塊樹林茂密的高地,後來這裏成爲了 Abkhazi 花園。到達維多利亞不久,佩姬就意外地收到尼 古拉斯的來信,兩人重聚,并在相識 26 年後終 成眷屬。婚後,夫婦二人傾力經營他們的花園, 每株花草都經過精挑細選。如今,Abkhazi 花園 已成爲一件精致的藝術品。

團子裏的主宅落成于 1947 年,是夫婦二人 的居所,現一部分改建爲茶室,供應午餐和下午 茶:其餘分别用作禮品店、植物陳列區和花園歷

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Abkhazi 花圈

史展覽區。騎了一大圈也有些餓了,于是在小巧温馨 的茶室坐下來,享用一顿下午茶。從寬大的玻璃窗望 出去,可俯瞰美麗的花園全景,陽光正好,灑在鬱鬱 葱葱的葉子和花上,閃閃發亮。桌上三層托盤上,蠷 着新鮮出爐的鬆餅、牛角包、小蛋糕、水果塔和各種 口味的迷你三明治,茶的味道正濃。

來追維多利亞無數次,每次都能發現新的美好。 就像這個晴朗的春日午後,騎行過市,徜徉花海,然 後安静地坐在這個宛若世外桃源的地方品位美食,感 覺生活就像頂層托盤裏的水果蛋糕,美麗而甜蜜。



第三日又是懒散的一天,睡過懒覺之後,在 Catalano 吃了一頓豐盛的早午餐,然後悠然步行到 内港,登上水上飛機,轉眼之間就回了溫哥華的家。

這一趟說走就走的周末行留下了太多美好,就像 每一次去維多利亞一樣,讓人回味,并期盼再次相遇。





Harbour Air 的水上飛機

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