

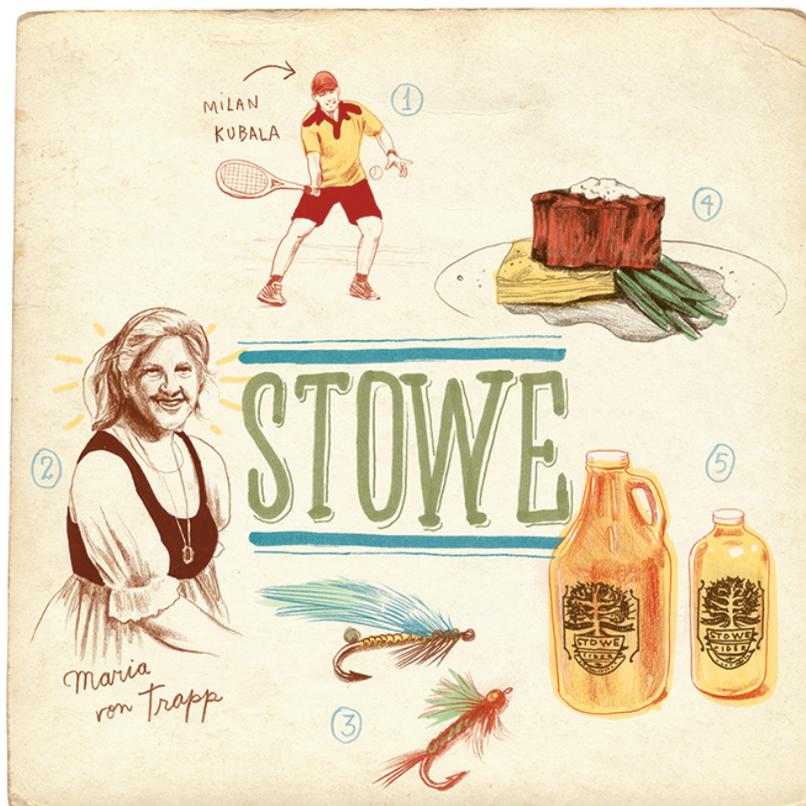
AIR CANADA enRoute



5 Ways to Experience Stowe, Vermont

Try your hand at fly-fishing, take a hike at sunrise or just kick back while sampling bourbon cider.

OCT 09, 2014 · BY DAWN CALLEJA | ILLUSTRATIONS BY CATHERINE LEPAGE



1. Topnotch Resort

At the foot of Mount Mansfield, Topnotch has been a local stalwart since 1953. A recent \$15-million renovation transformed the rustic lodge into a luxe retreat – request an executive room with cathedral ceilings and views of the 1,339-metre peak. The property also boasts one of the top indoor tennis facilities in the U.S. and a 35,000-square-foot spa, where you can get a sea-salt rubdown after a centre-court lesson with Czech champion and tennis director Milan Kubala (ace!). At nightfall, stop by the firelit Roost bar for a game of shuffleboard and a gooey grilled cheese made with tangy Vermont cheddar, served up with a pint of local ale.

4000 Mountain Rd., 800-451-8686



Photo: Topnotch Resort

2. Trapp Family Lodge

Yes, this Austrian-style resort is owned by those von Trapps, who inspired *The Sound of Music*. Take a tour of the 2,500-acre property, which includes the family cemetery, where more than one obsessed fan has been caught stretched out on the Baroness' grave. Then grab a bratwurst and a pint of house-brewed Vienna Amber at the on-site deli, and sit at a picnic table outside. You'll understand why the family ended their wandering here.

700 Trapp Hill Rd., 800-826-7000

3. Fly Rod Shop fishing clinic

Stage de pêche du Fly Rod Shop Bob Shannon is a master of the art and science of fly-fishing. Spend an hour practising your roll cast in his pond. (As you suspected, it's all in the wrist.) Then don some waders and head to the Lamoille River, where Shannon will do everything in his power to help you hook a keeper. If you're not up for fishing, he'll take you out on the Waterbury Reservoir in his 21-footer to ogle the sunset-coloured foliage.

2703 Waterbury Rd., 802-253-7346

4. Michael's on the Hill

Michael and Laura Kloeti's rambling 1820 farmhouse is a favourite among locals, who call out to each other as they sip cocktails in the lounge. The Kloetis relocated from New York, where Swiss-born Michael was cooking at four-starred Lespinasse, to get closer to farm-fresh ingredients. The only outsiders on a plate of grass-fed beef tenderloin, creamed spinach and foraged mushrooms are the Italian truffle-topped frites.

4182 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, 802-244-7476

5. Stowe Cider

Stefan and Mary Windler packed up their three young children and left Hawaii for Stowe in 2012. They bought an old market and spent a year perfecting their preservative-free, not-too-sweet cider. Stefan, who studied biochemistry, has since concocted a holiday spice blend, a blueberry brew and a bourbon cider (aged in barrels from a nearby distillery), which can be sampled at their tasting counter.

1815 Pucker St., 802-730-7447