

A Taste of Traverse City



If you seek a beautiful peninsula, look about you.

- Legend on the Great Seal of Michigan

Where the Straits of Mackinac mark the transition between Lake Huron to the east and Lake Michigan to the west lies a land so attractive that everyone, just everyone wants it. The Chippewa first had it, of course, their “land of the great turtle,” which was so named for the offshore isle – now called Mackinac Island – that if approached by canoe looked so much like a tortoise. Then the French wanted in, with their 1680s Fort Michilimackinac. In 1760 the British snatched it up in the French-Indian War, but then promptly lost it in a 1763 Ojibwa warrior massacre, a possession which gave way in time to the avenging British, who lost again to the invading Americans, who caved to the insistent British, who by treaty at last turned it over to the conquering Americans.



"...more lakes and streams than you can fish in a lifetime."

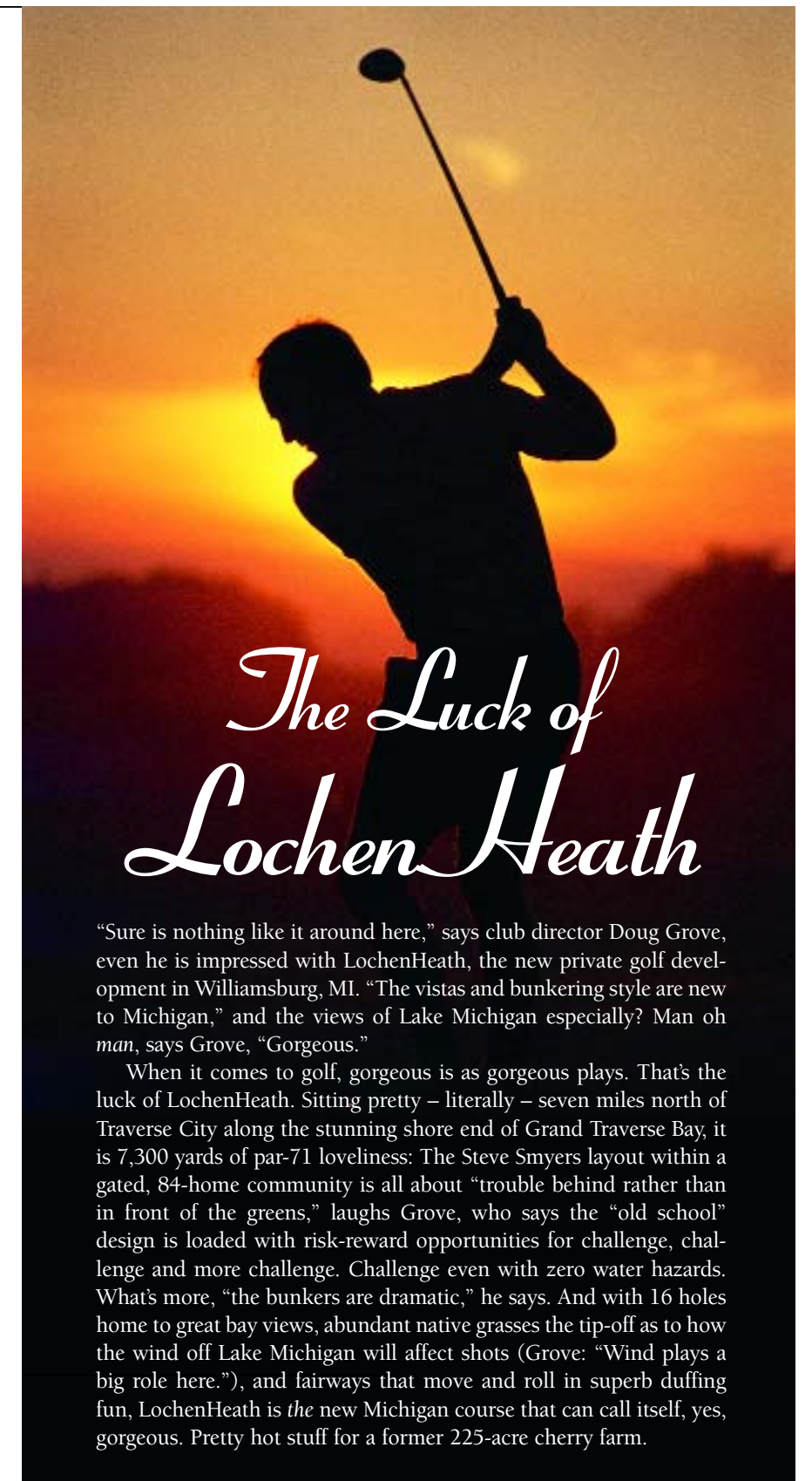
The land that everyone wants is in Michigan – Traverse City, to be exact. And what a winner it must be, indeed, to cause such a tussle for the right to live in its beautiful hills and thrive by its lovely lake. But far be it for the French, the British, the Indians and the settlers to be the only admirers who want to claim this splendid place as their own. There are the fun-loving flyers – us – who after setting the heading to Traverse City will find here heaps and heaps of things that please. Incredible golf. Wonderful wine. Gorgeous resorts. In fact, a flight to this fair and fabulous city where so much history lives will yield excellent flying adventure. Shall we tempt you with a taste of it here?

Oh, yes, let's.

First, wing-into Cherry Capital Airport (TVC) and see how stunning it is, the land. Here, cherry and apple orchards once were so prolific that a National Cherry Festival (this year on July 1-8; cherryfestival.org) had to be established to celebrate the beauty and fruitfulness that always has characterized the area. Lately, vineyards have been overtaking these orchards to carry on the Traverse City tradition of providing joy to those who visit. And oh, what joy there is in discovering Old Mission and Leelanau peninsula wineries, where enterprising vintners perfect their art and craft of bottling compelling Riesling and *methode champenoise* sparkling wines, especially, along with increasingly notable reds, Pinot Noirs and ice wines. Spend a day or several touring and tasting at the many welcoming tasting rooms and understand first-hand why Traverse City always seems so attractive.

Here's a sampler: At family owned Bel

Perhaps nowhere are the present and future as delightfully entwined as in the area's sport. Great golf, dazzling diving, phenomenal fishing



The Luck of Lochen Heath

"Sure is nothing like it around here," says club director Doug Grove, even he is impressed with LochenHeath, the new private golf development in Williamsburg, MI. "The vistas and bunkering style are new to Michigan," and the views of Lake Michigan especially? Man oh man, says Grove, "Gorgeous."

When it comes to golf, gorgeous is as gorgeous plays. That's the luck of LochenHeath. Sitting pretty – literally – seven miles north of Traverse City along the stunning shore end of Grand Traverse Bay, it is 7,300 yards of par-71 loveliness: The Steve Smyers layout within a gated, 84-home community is all about "trouble behind rather than in front of the greens," laughs Grove, who says the "old school" design is loaded with risk-reward opportunities for challenge, challenge and more challenge. Challenge even with zero water hazards. What's more, "the bunkers are dramatic," he says. And with 16 holes home to great bay views, abundant native grasses the tip-off as to how the wind off Lake Michigan will affect shots (Grove: "Wind plays a big role here."), and fairways that move and roll in superb duffing fun, LochenHeath is *the* new Michigan course that can call itself, yes, gorgeous. Pretty hot stuff for a former 225-acre cherry farm.

Although LochenHeath is a private golf course, *Flying Adventures* has made special arrangements for you, our readers, to play their course. It is fabulous! Just call 231-938-8962 to make arrangements. And enjoy. LochenHeath.com



"...the (ship)wrecks around here are world-class."

fishing – in and around Traverse City there are good times sublime.

Like? Like The Bear. This Jack Nicklaus course at the beautiful Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, is an ultra-challenge, even for the pros who say the first hole alone – a two-tiered green guarded by two deep bunkers – is enough tough stuff for one day, never mind how the remaining 17 get progressively more difficult...and, it goes without saying, more thrilling. Whether it is the Scottish-style and highly strategic play of the High Pointe Golf Club, or the way the no. 12 hole of the King's Challenge Golf Club can "bite you in the rear," according to club pro Chuck Olson, Traverse City golf (there are 13 courses in all) is full of delight and surprise.

Then again, you like surprise? With literally thousands of ships at various times sunk in the Great Lakes – 130 since 1850 in Lake Michigan alone – diving in search of shipwrecks is reason enough to wing to this wonderful peninsula. "The wrecks around

here are world class," says local underwater photographer Thaddius Bedford, noting that 16 of 130 have been uncovered and, like *The Three Brothers*, a 1911 steamer, and *Francisco Morazon*, a 1960 freighter, can be explored. "Nowhere else in the world are wrecks preserved like they are here." Great Lakes Scuba (231.943.3483) and Scuba North (231.947.2520 scubanorth.com) are two Traverse City outfits that run guided dive trips in the Manitou Passage – exciting news indeed for divers revved for plenty of underwater adventure.

Above water, the Traverse City fun hardly slows. Here, "you will find more lakes and streams than a person can fish in a lifetime," says local angler Tim Smith, author of *Buck Wilder's Small Fry Fishing Guide*. There is all kinds of water, all kinds of fish, and all kinds of fun, he says. "And that's the real reason I live here. You can't have to many places to go fishing." The Boardman River as it flows under Eighth St. downtown. The docks on West Bay. The

pier behind the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. The North End of Boardman Lake. These are just some of the hot angling spots, says Smith, spots no longer his secret. Lucky us.

There is the city's minor league baseball, where six to seven evenings a week the Beach Bums play ball in the dazzling new \$8 million park, Wuerfel Field. There is the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, where a geologic awe – evidence of long ago glacial activity – seen along Miller Hill Road merely kicks off the many splendid things to see and do – hiking, beachgoing and harvesting berries and wild asparagus, included.

No wonder the Chippewa, the French, the British, and we ultimately blessed Americans tussled to win Traverse City. This place is fun. ✕

For more information on this Michigan site of fly-in delight, visit mytraverssecity.com (800) 872-8377.



Lago Vineyards & Winery, which overlooks glorious Lake Leelanau, the Tempesta cabernet franc blend will woo you. At Ciccone (family) Vineyard, the handcrafted Ciliego Mela Noir cherry, apple and Pinot Noir blend will move you. From Shady Lane Cellars' 1994 Brut (a sparkler to sing for), to Boskydel Vineyards' estate-bottled Soleil Blanc, nice and dry, adventurous vintages showcase the very best of emerging Michigan wines. What's more, the many enjoyments offered by these delightful Traverse City stops, like the yummy handcrafted cheeses made, along with regionally-expressive wines, by Black Star Farms, make for a day or days of happy explorations.

"Michigan is perhaps the strangest state in the Union," says author Bruce Catton in *Michigan, a History* (1974), "a place where the past, the present and the future are all tied together in a hard knot." Perhaps nowhere are the present and future as delightfully entwined as in the area's sport. Great golf, dazzling diving, phenomenal

CHERRY CAPITAL AIRPORT (TVC) TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

AIRPORT DATA

Elevation: 624'
Runways: 10/28 6,501' 18/36 5,379'
Approaches: ILS, VOR, NDB, GPS
ASOS 231.933.0401

FIXED BASE OPERATIONS / FUEL / SERVICES

Harbour Air 231.929.1126

TRANSPORTATION

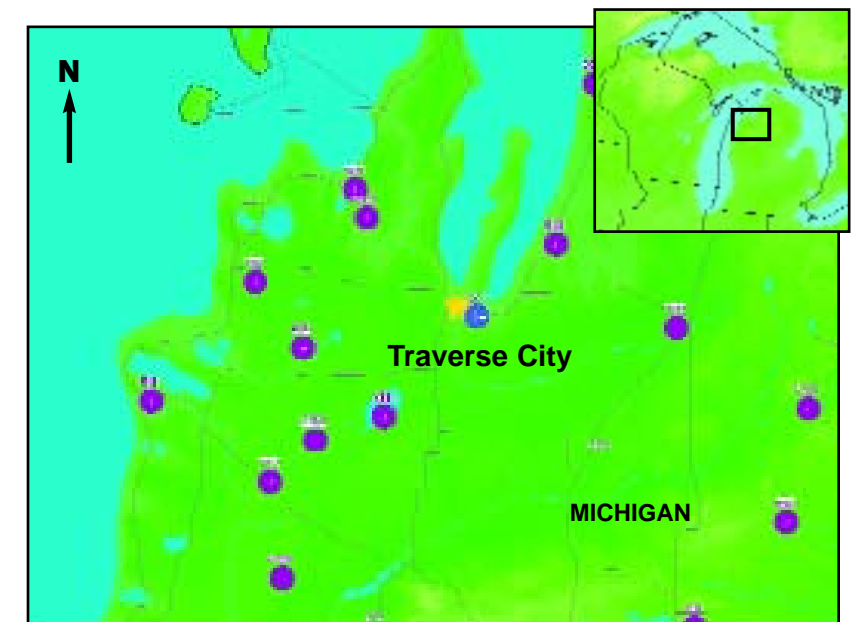
Avis Car Rental 231.946.1222
TC Taxi Cab 231.941.8294
GT Limousine 231.946.5466

AIRPORT RESTAURANTS

Cuppa Joe 231.995.0267

AIRPORT LODGING

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa (4.5 mi)
Free Airport Pickup 800.748.0303



Profile map viewed from Traverse City looking north
Maps provided by Voyager Flight Planning Software

