

Letter from the Publisher



Dear Readers:

In April we should be in Paris, or at least in some exotic place. So we ventured to Singapore, invited by the Singapore Tourist Board to explore and expound on the many virtues of this marvelous island country. You will enjoy reading about our adventures and hopefully, you will go there also. In any case, it is time to plan your travels, it's easy to find a place that suits your tastes, with a variety of ways to get there. Cruising has become one of the most popular and safe modes of travel whether alone or with a group. Spring has sprung!

April is "Cancer Control Month" and thank goodness, prevention and the proper medical care is available by the best practitioners and institutions in South Florida. Many of them are represented here in *BoomerTimes & SeniorLife*. Make use of their services and advice. Consider integrative medicine, using the holistic approach. It has finally come of age!

Everyone loves children and we are happy to present some of the captivating entrants into our "Cutest Grand/Great-Grandchild Contest." We wish each one could have won, so instead, we have presented all of them to you anyway...such proud great/grandparents!

Be sure to go to the workshops and events listed on the Seminar page. Most of them are free with added bonuses. How can you lose? By not going!

—Anita Finley, Gerontologist

April 2005

Happy Passover
& Awesome April!



BoomerTimes & Senior Life *Book of the Month*

The 100 Best Art Towns in America: A Guide to Galleries, Museums, Festivals, Lodging, and Dining

Author: John Villani — Reviewed by Anita Finley

Millions of people across the U.S. work in creative arts fields, contributing to the quality of life in towns both large and small, helping give rise to what economist Richard Florida has called "the creative class." Now an all-new edition of *THE 100 BEST ART TOWNS IN AMERICA: A Guide to Galleries, Museums, Festivals, Lodging, and Dining* celebrates this convergence of economy and culture by completely reexamining and reevaluating the arts in cities and towns across the U.S. and Canada.

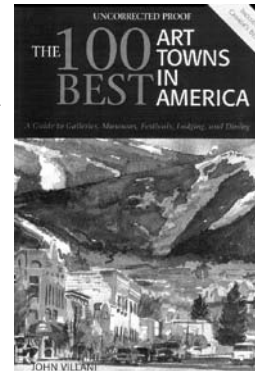
Santa Fe, New Mexico heads the list of top ten small cities with the most robust arts economies; the list includes such diverse communities as Sarasota, Florida; Portland, Maine; and Bellingham, Washington.

Part guidebook for travelers and part relocation guide for those on the move, the 100 towns covered in this guide range in size from under 1,000 to nearly 1,000,000 in population. Written by John Villani, one of the nation's top arts travel writers, *The 100 Best Art Towns In America* singles out communities with the best to offer in visual and the performing arts. He also addresses how revitalization through art-driven economic development has put these cities at the vanguard of an important national trend.

In addition to the non-ranked list of 100 best art towns, Villani also provides two ranked lists of the Top Ten Art Towns, based on population. Santa Fe, New Mexico heads the list of Top Ten Art Towns between 30,000 and 100,000 in population. Naples, Florida heads the Top Ten Art Towns with a population below 30,000.

Other towns that made the Top Ten Art Towns list with populations between 30,000 and 100,000 include, in order: Loveland, Colorado; Sarasota, Florida; Hot Springs, Arkansas; Asheville, North Carolina; Boulder, Colorado; Portland, Maine; Lawrence, Kansas; Bellingham, Washington; and Chico, California.

Additional towns that made the Top Ten Art Towns with populations less than 30,000 include, in order: Ashland, Oregon; Provincetown, Massachusetts; Taos, New Mexico; Northampton, Massachusetts; Aspen, Colorado; Eureka, California; Marfa, Texas; Salt Spring Island, British Columbia; and Brattleboro, Vermont.



John Villani, the author of *The 100 Best Art Towns in America* is Director of Communications for the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His writings on travel and sports have been published in *Vanity Fair*, *Art in America*, *Art News*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Southwest Airlines Spirit*, *the Dallas Morning News*, *the Miami Herald* and *the Christian Science Monitor*. He was art critic for the *Arizona Republic* for nearly four years, and travels extensively in researching the communities profiled in his books. He lives in Santa Fe.

(Publisher: The Countryman Press, May 2005, paperback edition is \$19.95 and can be purchased at your local bookstore or on amazon.com)

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