

**The Music Issue**

# Cleveland

APRIL 2004

# Rock City

**Cameos by  
Bands  
We Love**

MSB

Pere Ubu

Glass Harp

Chrissie Hynde

The James Gang

The Numbers Band

Robert Lockwood Jr.

Nine Inch Nails

Wild Horses

Beau Coup

Liz Phair

Filter

Devo

and More

**Your Exclusive  
Backstage Pass  
to Cleveland's  
Music Scene**

**STARRING**

**Jaded Era**

**Jimmy Scott**

**The Black Keys**

**Mushroomhead**

**The Six Parts Seven**

**PLUS**

**Finless Brown**

**Follow the Struggles  
of a Band on the Rise**

**Sextuplets:  
A Special  
Look at the  
Hanselmans**

**Mike Roberts: A Baseball Fantasy**  
**Inside One Home's 'Green' Transformation**

\$3.50

04



6 02648 65396 1

www.clevelandmagazine.com

# Ripe for the Picking

Traverse City, Mich., offers natural beauty with a cherry on top.

by Barbara Wayman

**Q**uick, when you think of cherries, what comes to mind? Perhaps a homemade cherry pie, still warm from the oven. Or maybe a handful of red, juicy lovelies to savor one by one while slowly rocking on a porch swing.

Chances are, you didn't visualize yourself running through a cherry orchard with boughs of fluffy pink and white blossoms floating overhead. And you almost certainly didn't conjure having your naked body scrubbed with cherry-scented sea salts and then smeared with fragrant cherry lotion. But experiencing these delights broadened our appreciation of the humble cherry. And that's just how the folks in Traverse City, Mich., like it.

A seven-hour drive from Cleveland, Traverse City is blessed with topography and weather that allow it to grow 37 percent of the nation's tart cherry crop each year, making it the cherry capital of the world. (The state of Michigan produces 75 percent of the U.S. tart cherry crop.)

While thousands of people make the pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., each spring to see the blossoming cherry trees that line the Tidal Basin, Traverse City has got the nation's capital beat for sheer volume. The town boasts well over 2 million cherry trees, yielding an annual average of 160 million pounds of cherries.

Residents don't want you to consider the cherry as a mere adornment for the bottom of your cocktail or the top of your ice-cream sundae. This is a town where you can find anything and everything cherry, from a slice of pie (Grand Traverse Pie Co.'s is famous) to an edible cherry postcard.

A unique cherry spa experience awaits you at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. "Cherries have been found to have some really beneficial antioxidant properties to them," says



Life is a bough of cherries in Traverse City.

Mike DeAgostino, the spa's public-relations manager. While you have to *eat* the cherries to derive those health benefits, spa personnel have found that the cherries grown in their own back yard can enhance the appearance and feeling of one's skin when incorporated into massages, baths and exfoliation treatments.

The 100,000-square-foot spa's signature treatment is the Cherry Honey Glow. First, the skin is slathered with a mixture of locally grown cherries, honey, Jojoba oil and Dead Sea salts. Then, it is scrubbed vigorously before shower jets suspended above the treatment table rinse the sticky mixture away. An all-over application of cherry-scented lotion finishes the treatment, which lasts 50 minutes and costs \$90.

The Cherry Essence Massage, Cherry Manicure and Cherry Pedicure are good choices for those who prefer a more subtle cherry fragrance. After some cherry spa services, our skin was so soft and smelled so good that we kept having to stifle an urge to lick it. The resort often offers package deals that combine overnight stays and spa treatments at discounted rates.

To fully appreciate cherries you've got to see how they're grown. Just down the road from the spa is Amon Orchards, run



(Above) The Grand Traverse Resort and Spa's sweet treat for feet: a cherry pedicure; (left) Judy and Dave Amon, owners of Amon Orchards, in their cherry shop

created an assortment of cherry delicacies that are sold in their retail shop.

"My battle cry is 'Cherries aren't just for dessert anymore!'" says Dave. Cherry mustard is their best seller, but you'll want to sample their cherry

jam, syrup, salsa and barbecue sauce, too.

May is the best time to see the flowering trees in all their glory. Over the weekend of May 15 and 16, the town will hold the Blessing of the Blossoms. What began as a simple ritual to help ensure a bountiful harvest has evolved into a weekend of cherry-wine tastings, delicacies and giveaways at area restaurants, shops and bed-&-breakfasts. When the cherries ripen in July, Traverse City holds the National Cherry Festival. The eight-day event attracts more than 500,000 people and celebrates the region's unique qualities that make cherry growing possible. ■

by second-generation grower Dave Amon and his wife, Judy. With their 150-acre plot, the Amons are among the largest tart cherry growers in the world. More than 75,000 visitors come each summer to pick the ripe cherries and take the orchard tour to learn how cherries are raised, harvested and marketed. Dave and Judy have also

## IF YOU GO

### Where to Stay

**Grand Traverse Resort and Spa**, 100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd., 1-800-748-0303, [www.grandtraverseresort.com](http://www.grandtraverseresort.com). This 660-room property on the shores of Lake Michigan includes three golf courses and a shopping gallery and is an Audubon International Certified Cooperative Nature Sanctuary. Rooms start at \$255 during the summer season, but are less at midweek and throughout the spring.

### Very Cherry

Check out these cherry resources:

- **Amon Orchards**, 8066 U.S. Route 31, 1-800-937-1644

[www.amonorchards.com](http://www.amonorchards.com)

- **Blessing of the Blossoms**, May 15

and 16, 1-800-969-4009

[www.chateauchantal.com](http://www.chateauchantal.com)

- **National Cherry Festival**, July 3 through 10, (231) 947-4230

[www.cherryfestival.org](http://www.cherryfestival.org)

