THE GOLFCOAST

Mexico's sparkling Riviera Maya is fast becoming one of the sport's hottest destinations. But is it all style and no substance?

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RALEIGH IN BRIEF

BY THE NUMBERS

30
The number of rooms in the grand Victorian North Carolina Executive Mansion, built in 1891, which includes six bedrooms and 12 bathrooms

100
approximate minimum age (in years) of preserved houses in the Historic Oakwood district

11
year-round and seasonal microbrews available from Raleigh's own Big Boss Brewing Company

5,000
number of years of artistic heritage on display at The North Carolina Museum of Art
**NEWS FLASH**

**Rembrandt in Raleigh ///** With approximately 50 paintings, one of the largest collections of original Rembrandts to ever be shown in the United States is coming to Raleigh. Rembrandt in America; Oct. 30-Jan. 22; ncartmuseum.org

**The Boys are Back in Town ///** After admitting only females for more than 150 years, Peace College becomes William Peace University and opens its doors to males in the fall of 2012. Check out its leafy downtown campus, with pre-Civil War buildings set amid a 20-acre oak grove. peace.edu

**Final Flight ///** Researchers from North Carolina State University sent a group of Arabidopsis plants into space on the final mission of the Atlantis shuttle, testing the effects of microgravity on plant-growth to pave the way for a future mission to Mars. ncsu.edu

**Easy Being Green ///** Delighting joggers, bikers and outdoor-smen alike, Raleigh's greenway system—which currently encompasses 69 miles of trail—is set to expand to over 110 miles over the next two years.

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**CULTURE CALENDAR**

**Oct. 13-23**

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR**

This 150-plus-year-old fair attracts more than 800,000 visitors per year with a dazzling array of rides, games and exhibits. Oh yeah, and food—if you can dream it, North Carolinians can fry it, like the Krispy Kreme bacon cheeseburger. Elephant ears and thrill rides aren’t your thing? Take in musical performances by the likes of George Jones and hometown hero Tift Merritt, catch the nightly fireworks display or check out the fair’s countless agricultural exhibits. ncsstatefair.org

**Oct. 13-30**

**DRACULA AND THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH**

In this hair-raising hybrid, Dracula meets Edgar Allan Poe’s *The Masque of the Red Death* for some “spooky, off-the-wall fun” (Triangle Arts & Entertainment) at the Fletcher Opera House Theater. Decadent costumes, creepy sets and expert dancing bring these macabre tales to life—or afterlife. Mark Scarece’s music is performed by a live orchestra, with the Tony-nominated Broadway and television star Alan Campbell returning as Dr. Seward in Dracula. carolinaballet.com
Experience the largest collection of Rembrandt paintings ever presented in America—and the first exhibition to explore the collecting history of the artist’s works in this country—at the North Carolina Museum of Art!

Our partners—like Crabtree Valley Mall and Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown—are making it easy for you to join Greater Raleigh in celebrating this unique exhibit with great deals and discounts!

Visit our website to see how you can win tickets to Rembrandt in America, a two-night stay at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown and two round-trip tickets to RDU! visitRaleigh.com/goDutch
LOCAL FACES

Three Raleigh residents—a chef, an art curator and a museum co-founder—are innovating, each in their own way.

**Ashley Christensen**
Chef and owner of Poole's Diner

*Claim to fame:* Christensen lost a chum salmon cook-off to Bobby Flay on *Iron Chef* in July.

*Can you describe the history of Poole's?* "Poole’s was originally a pie shop, and added a lunch counter in the early 1950s to accommodate the growing businesses in downtown Raleigh. As the two businesses became busy and successful, the pie shop, Poole's Pies, moved out, and Poole's Luncheonette remained in the original space."

*How would you describe the food philosophy of the modern Poole’s Diner?* "Southern food with a little bit of French influence. It’s ingredient-driven, locally focused seasonal food. The menu is all chalkboard, and changes a little each day."

*What makes Poole’s unique among Raleigh restaurants?* "I think our commitment to evolving the menu on a daily basis keeps things fun for us and our guests. The majority of our guests are tremendous regulars, more than I’ve experienced in any other restaurant. I don’t know if that makes us unique, but it sure does make us feel special."

**Bill Thelen**
Co-founder and director of Lump Gallery

*Favorite artists:* Paul Thek, Ray Johnson and Joe Brainard

*How would you describe Lump Gallery’s taste and style?* "It’s an artist-run space that mainly operates outside of the commercial sphere. The gallery has on-site studios to help pay the mortgage, so Team Lump is an ever-evolving roster of artists with no defined membership. It’s a project space where artists can try new things without worrying too much about success or failure—a kind of an extension of the studio."

*What can visitors expect to see in October?* "We’ll have a show by Neil Gibbons, a video artist and MFA student at UNC. I believe he’s doing video, but he’s also been working on collages—so while I’m sure there will be a video component to it, who knows? Artists get a pretty free hand in using the space; it’s a curatorial playground."

*Where else should art lovers go in Raleigh?* "I love to go to Askew-Taylor for art supplies. Also, the people at Capitol Club 16 have been really good to Team Lump, they always save us a table. I hesitate to mention any of the other small galleries because I’d leave someone out, but I would definitely send visitors to the new Contemporary Art Museum. Even the more commercial galleries excite me; the more the merrier."

**Juanita B. Palmer**
Co-founder and program director of the African-American Cultural Complex

*Breaking ground:* In 1964, Palmer became the first African-American classroom teacher in Chapel Hill Public Schools.

*How did the AACC get its start?* "My husband, Dr. Palmer, and I started the museum in 1984. We were both educators and it was time for us to retire, so we had extra time on our hands. We wanted to showcase the contributions of African-Americans. We especially had interest in young African-American men—who seemed to be getting lost in the shuffle—to give them an interest in their self-worth."

*What will people see on your guided tours?* "We have three display houses located along a nature trail. The first house features inventions—African-Americans invented many everyday things—the toning board, the broom and the light bulb. People always say Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, because that’s what’s in the textbooks, but Lewis Latimer invented it. The second house commemorates people of distinction, such as Sheriff John Baker and former NC Central University Chancellor Julius Chambers. The third house has a lot of history—a display on Duke University, for example, whose west campus and chapel were designed by Julian Abele."

OCTOBER 2011
MUSCADINE WINE & DINE

The nation's first cultivated grape, muscadine, is a long-standing tradition among Raleigh area vintners. Spend the day visiting wineries, pick up a bottle or two, then head back into town to tie them with the best in local cuisine. Here, we pair muscadine wines with the top BYOs in town.

**Matthew Red**
The serene semi-sweet reds is light, finely nuanced with pear, hazelnut, and everything from cherry and blackberry to plum sauce, prunes, and pepper jack cheese.

ADAMS VINEYARDS
3010 Johnston Road, Raleigh, NC 27605, (919) 667-3010, adamswineco.com

**Hush Hush Blush**
The aromatic blend of Caros and Jeffreys muscadines features cherry, blackberry, and a clean finish. It pairs well with anything chocolate.

A SECRET GARDEN WINERY
1080 Apollo Blvd, Apex, NC 27502, (919) 762-0790, agwif.com

**Mary Elizabeth**
The sweet white muscadine wine pairs well with white fish, fried chicken, and vegetables, but also makes for a refreshing summer wine.

GREGORY VINEYARDS
5555 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28216, (704) 396-9469, gregorywinery.com

**Carlos**
The sweet white muscadine wine pairs well with vanilla pudding, cheese, and pecans. It also could be quite pleasant served with spiced rum and mincemeat.

OLDER FAMILY VINEYARDS
8834 Old Walnut Ridge Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27557, (919) 462-3300, olderfamilyvineyards.com

**Tar Heel Red**
The deliciously sweet muscadine wine pairs well with lima beans, and a salad with a light vinaigrette is a perfect match.

RUNNING FAMILY VINEYARDS
1953 Old Airport Road, Raleigh, NC 27612, (919) 966-4340, runningfamilyvineyards.com

**Burk**
The red wine is a perfect match for the classic family's sweet tooth.

BURLINGTON, NC 27205, (336) 382-4234, burlingtonwineco.com

**IB SEABEACH**
1100 SEABEACH AVE, BURLINGTON, NC 27215, (336) 591-2383, ibseaboard.com
MUSEUM MATCHUP

The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) just pumped $72 million into renovations, and the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) just opened its doors. Here’s how the spaces—old favorite and new underdog—stack up:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART</strong> 2110 Blue Ridge Rd, 919-833-2822, ncmuseum.org</th>
<th><strong>CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM</strong> 409 W Martin St, 919-513-0848, camraleigh.org</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original buildings designed by Edward Durrell Stone, a prominent architect in the early 1900s, and Thomas Phifer, an award-winning contemporary architect</td>
<td>A former produce warehouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956 (original site); 1983 (current site)</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>164 acres, including the museum park</td>
<td>20,000 square feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50% years old</td>
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<td>30% public, 70% private</td>
<td>Yes, to the tune of $25.1 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 (East Building): 1 (West Building)</td>
<td>3.988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Automated shutters admit natural light into the new West building, which is 50% glass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auguste Rodin, Claude Monet, Gerhard Richter, Winslow Homer, Frank Stella, Marsden Hartley, Joseph Cornell</td>
<td>A dramatic, fin-shaped canopy roof</td>
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<tr>
<td>European painting from the Renaissance to the 19th century; Egyptian funerary art; ancient Greek and Roman pottery; American art from the 19th through 20th centuries</td>
<td>Dan Steinbiber, Rebecca Ward, Naoko Itô, Marcel Wanders, Paul Noble, Vik Muniz</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THE TWO VENUES</strong></td>
<td>Contemporary art and design; emerging and mid-career artists; new media</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESIDENCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>SIZE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>YEAR OPENED</strong></td>
<td><strong>PERMANENT COLLECTION</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OLDEST HOLDING</strong></td>
<td><strong>FUNDING</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ENDOWMENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>FLOORS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NUMBER OF WORKS IN COLLECTION</strong></td>
<td><strong>ADMISSION TO MAIN COLLECTIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PEST ARCHITECTURAL FEATURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>TYPICAL ARTISTICAL NAMES NOBODY KNOWS, NAMING YOU DON’T</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURATORIAL STRENGTHS</strong></td>
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FRESH PERSPECTIVE: Allen Clapp—an instructor at the newly opened Carter Building Art Center, an artist-run cooperative that houses dozens of studios—offers his take on the museums:

How does CAM compare to NCMA? “The two museums are really quite different. [The NCMA] is much larger, much older, and has endowments to help it acquire large works. CAM, meanwhile, is helping revitalize the downtown art district. There are several new galleries there now, and more are coming. As a result of CAM, some of the other buildings in that area are being considered for working artist spaces. So CAM has really been a spark to revitalize part of downtown Raleigh.”

What might visitors find at each? “NCMA has all ranges of art: contemporary, old masters, sculpture, everything. So you don’t necessarily go there for one type of art, although you can. CAM is going to be a little bit more on the forefront in many cases. The emphasis for NCMA is quite broad. It’s many times the size of CAM, and they’ve got things that are thousands of years old, as opposed to being only contemporary.”

How about the architecture? “They have different feels, but both are very professionally done spaces. The new building at NCMA has been winning awards all over the world as a new way to treat the museum atmosphere—it’s very open, so viewers can make visual connections across many parts of the collection. CAM was designed for a slightly different thing, because it has space for performance art. Not just paintings on a wall, not just sculpture—it’s a very adaptable space.”