

# Out & About

WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO SEE, AND HOW TO FIND MARCH'S BRIGHT SPOTS

| ON THE ROAD |

## FIRST BLUSH

Nature's earliest bloomers burst onto the scene this month, heralding warmer days ahead. For a spectacular preview, visit **Cheekwood Estate & Gardens**, in Nashville. During *Cheekwood in Bloom* (March 6 to April 11; [cheekwood.org](http://cheekwood.org)), you can wander along 150,000 unfurling tulips, and unwind in weekend meditation classes. Here, more places to see spring's awakening.



### 📍 KENNETT SQUARE, PA.

Like a rippling magic carpet, three million perennial bulbs, including bell-like blue squill and buttercup-yellow daffodils, flutter in the fields at **Longwood Gardens**. [longwoodgardens.org](http://longwoodgardens.org)

### 📍 DALLAS

At **Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden**, you'll take in the hyacinths, pansies, and tulips at ground level, and the snowy blossoms of 150 Yoshino cherry trees, which pop in late March, overhead. [dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org)

### 📍 NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF.

Year-round mild temps at **Sherman Library & Gardens** make it a paradise for thousands of global specimens. This season's star: a fuchsia camellia espalier climbing up a main office wall. [thesherman.org](http://thesherman.org)



| WHY NOT? |

## Aim High

Spot hot-air balloons—or hop in one and float up, up, and away—at these fests.

### Winthrop Balloon Roundup

Watch up to 25 local fliers drift by snow-capped peaks in tiny **Winthrop, Washington**, nestled in the North Cascades. **March 5 to 7; [winthrop.washington.com](http://winthrop.washington.com)**

### Pahrump Balloon Festival

Learn to launch in **Pahrump, Nevada**, where pilots demo takeoff techniques to early-arriving passengers. Tethered rides hover 20 feet in the air; reserve one in advance at the Chamber of Commerce. **March 25 to 28; visit [pahrump.com](http://pahrump.com)**

### Homestead-Miami Balloon Festival

Park at the **Homestead, Florida**, speedway at dusk to see dozens of anchored, lit-from-within orbs sway in the night sky. **March 26 to 28; [balloongloutour.com](http://balloongloutour.com)**



| ON OUR BOOKSHELF |

To *Modern Family* fans, Jesse Tyler Ferguson is the endearingly hotheaded Mitchell. But to *his* family, he's Jesse Stewart. **Food Between Friends** (Clarkson Potter) compiles dishes he and his chef BFF Julie Tanous love cooking together, like fried chicken brined in Crystal hot sauce. The novel **Red Island House** (Simon & Schuster) whisks you to the island of Madagascar. Andrea Lee spins interconnected stories set on the beach where an Italian businessman builds a gaudy vacation house; they're all centered around his new African-American professor wife's eye-opening adventures (like getting a curse on the place removed, for starters). Each chapter of **A Year at Clove Brook Farm** (Rizzoli), organized by season, shows how ceramist Christopher Spitzmiller gardens, raises fowl, decorates, and entertains (much like his friend Martha, who wrote the foreword) at his eclectic Greek Revival home in the Hudson Valley. Beginning with the cover image of her daughter's room, with its repro of the Madeline mural from NYC's Bemelmans Bar, **Every Room Should Sing** (Rizzoli), the first volume of London interior designer Beata Heuman's work, is filled with spaces that exude her whimsical, wholly original style.

