

travel news

► New American Wing Galleries Now Open at Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Charles Engelhard Court—the grand, light-filled pavilion that has long served as the formal entrance to **The Metropolitan Museum of Art's American Wing**—reopened this spring after two years of construction and renovation.

Now, the Museum's collections of American ceramics, sculpture, stained glass, architectural elements, silver, pewter, glass, and jewelry will finally

will be devoted almost entirely to the display of a major recent acquisition—250 examples of American art pottery crafted between 1876 and 1956, a promised gift of Robert A. Ellison Jr.—that has never before been publicly seen.

Stained-glass windows of the same period, by Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), William Gray Purcell (1880-1965) and George Grant Elmslie (1869-1952), and George Washington Maher (1864-1926) that incorporate large amounts of clear glass will also be installed nearby, with Central Park visible through them.

In all, nearly 1,000 works of art will be exhibited, including two new cases devoted entirely to American jewelry, ranging from early 18th-century

mourning rings to surprising works of the Arts & Crafts period. From the courtyard below, the new glass-fronted balconies will reveal a panoply of color, form, and brilliance.

The American Wing's 20 period rooms—19 of which returned to view this spring—provide a view of American domestic architecture and interior design over three centuries. Twelve rooms, dating from 1680 to 1810, have been newly renovated.

With the renovation of the period rooms, visitors will be able to take a complete tour of American interiors and decorative arts in chronological sequence, from the 17th century (the Hart Room, 1680) to the 20th century (the Frank Lloyd Wright Room, 1912-14). A new glass elevator will carry visitors directly to the third floor, where the earliest rooms are located.

Touch-screen computers will allow the public to access many layers of information about each room. For more information, visit www.metmuseum.org.



be seen in all their glory. So, too, will its early American rooms—12 of the Met's historic interiors, mostly from the colonial period, located on three floors of the wing's historic core—that have been reordered, renovated, and reinterpreted.

The American Wing Café has also reopened in its previous location on the park side of the court. The opening of the galleries marks the completion of the second part (begun in May 2007) of a project to reconfigure, renovate, or upgrade nearly every section of The American Wing by 2011.

Upon entering The Charles Engelhard Court, visitors will immediately encounter a new display of some 60 examples of large-scale sculpture, mosaics, stained glass, and architectural elements. The monumental sculpture collection will be installed on a new main-floor level—near the stunning loggia designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany for the main entrance of Laurelton Hall (about 1905), his Oyster Bay, Long Island, residence—as well as on a lower level in front of the façade of Martin E. Thompson's Branch Bank of the United States (1822-24), originally located at 15 1/2 Wall Street in New York City.

Included will be marble and bronze figurative works by such American master sculptors as Hiram Powers (1805-1873), Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), Harriet Whitney Frishmuth (1880-1980), and Paulanship (1885-1966). These familiar works have been reinstalled in new groupings to encourage aesthetic and thematic comparisons and allow viewers up-close access.

The American Wing's collections of ceramics, glass, silver, and pewter will be installed in the balcony galleries in an integrated chronological sequence, beginning with the colonial period on the east side and continuing into the 20th century on the west, overlooking Central Park. Individual cases will be arranged by medium or theme. Among the highlights of the silver display will be the work of such familiar names as Paul Revere, Jr., and Tiffany & Company.

A newly constructed mezzanine-level balcony, accessible via a staircase in the northwest corner,

► Women wild about wine event during Virginia Wine Month

The Women Wild About Wine Weekends at the Tides Inn returns in time for October's wine harvest and Virginia's popular wine month. Virginia celebrates its 21st Virginia Wine Month with festivals, tours, concerts and more from the state's 140 wineries. Virginia's wine production ranks fifth in the U.S.

October in Virginia offers autumn leaves and cool temperatures. The two-night "Women Wild About Wine Weekend Package" includes:



► Friday and Saturday night stay in a Vista Suite, including daily breakfast

► Two manicures, two pedicures and a Virginia wine of choice from one of the four nearby wineries

► A picnic basket lunch for a self-guided tour of four Virginia wineries near the Inn: Athena Vineyards, Belle Mount Vineyards, Ingleside Vineyards, and White Fences Vineyard & Winery

► Two "Women Wild About Wine" shirts

► Two-night package, based on double occupancy, is \$335 per night, plus tax

The package is valid for October weekends through November 1, 2009.

Athena Vineyards, Belle Mount Vineyards, Ingleside Vineyards, and White Fences Vineyard & Winery are all part of Virginia's Northern Neck and enjoy a climate similar to Bordeaux, France.

The weather is moderated by the Chesapeake Bay and the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers, allowing the region to grow exceptional wine grapes in



sandy loam soil. Gently rolling hills are planted with American hybrid and grafted European vines, offering breathtaking views and award-winning wines.

The 106-room Tides Inn, set on its own waterfront peninsula in the town of Irvington on Virginia's Northern Neck, has been a Chesapeake Bay tradition for over 60 years. The resort is furnished in British colonial style. The resort's signature restaurant, the Chesapeake Club, serves seasonal regional Chesapeake Bay cuisine.

Additional amenities include a full service spa; an award-winning 60-slip marina that accommodates boats up to 125 feet; a professional sailing school and outdoor recreation including golf, tennis, croquet and volleyball. For information, visit www.tidesinn.com.

► Travel + Leisure's Top Hotel in the U.S. is in Montana

In its 2009 World's Best Hotel Service rankings (6/09 issue), *Travel + Leisure* has named **Triple Creek Ranch** the top hotel in the Continental U.S. and Canada, and the #3 hotel globally.

Based on reader evaluations, collected in the *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards' survey, this positioning marks an all-time first for Montana on both the *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards list and the Best Hotel Service list.

Triple Creek Ranch, a Relais & Chateaux property, offers 23 luxury log cabins set amid the Montana Rockies and range of activities that run the gamut from heli-hiking (new in 2009), horseback riding and cattle driving to Orvis-endorsed fly fishing, bird and wildlife watching, and Nordic skiing.

Also new this summer are helicopter tours, which leave from the resort's own helipad. Guests can choose from an Alpine tour over the Bitterroot Mountains or soar over Glacier or Yellowstone National Park.

Triple Creek Ranch guests have access to over 230 varieties of birds, moose, mountain goats and sheep, deer and elk. Bird walks and driving adventures can be arranged both on and off the property.

Situated on over 600 acres of wooded hillside and open meadows and bordered by the Bitterroot National Forest in three directions, Triple Creek Ranch is a destination for adult travelers seeking a small intimate resort in a tranquil mountain setting. Every cabin offers a wood-burning fireplace and a private or nearby hot tub.

A fully stocked wet bar in each cabin provides soft drinks and complimentary house spirits, along with freshly baked cookies and trail mix. All rooms are equipped with direct-dial phones, satellite television, WiFi, and CD and DVD players.

Stunning views of the West Fork Valley are the backdrop for cocktails in the Rooftop Lounge at the Lodge. With Chef Jacob Leatherman's culinary offerings ranging from traditional French to innovative Northwestern, West Indian, Central American and other international choices. A Chef's Table in the kitchen affords both views of culinary magic and the mountains. Triple Creek Ranch's wine list is a repeat winner of the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence and the Wine Enthusiast Award of Distinction.

The ranch can accommodate 60 adults in the 23 cabins, four of them with two bedrooms/two baths and one with three bedrooms/three baths. Although Triple Creek Ranch is designed for adults, children under 16 are invited when the entire ranch has been reserved for private use.

Triple Creek Ranch also has a heated pool, fitness center, putting green, hiking trails and tennis court. Original Western art is found throughout the property. Artists' Workshop Weekends, Cowboy Roundups, and Vintners' Programs are held annually. Visit www.triplecreekranch.com.