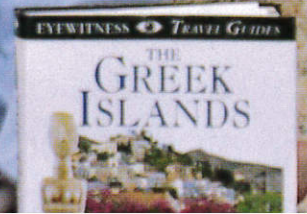


March-April 2012

# Savvy

Fine living at

Great



# r crazy

gray skies? Area travelers  
come of their favorite destinations

By CATHY BARRINGER

**L**ittle snow and mild temperatures aren't keeping people from heading off to their favorite getaways to escape these dreary winter days before warmth returns.

Whether it's zip-lining through the jungles of Costa Rica or cruising the Greek Isles, many are dashing off to faraway destinations this time of year, area travel experts said.

Several Savvy readers who've crisscrossed the globe share their preferences about where to get away from it all.

## World is their oyster

Frank and Nancy Moore of St. Clair have been traveling the world since 1985, even more so since both retired in 1996.

Their journeys have taken them to the Orient, Budapest and South America — and many places in between.

Each year the couple, who have been married for 53 years, sit down and decide the top five places they'd like to visit that year.

This year's winners: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; St. Louis, Mo.; the Amazon; a river cruise through France; and the Black Sea, east of the Mediterranean.

See COVER STORY, Page 13



## COVER STORY

Continued from Page 12

The Moores' favorite place to visit is Tuscany, Italy, with its hill towns, olive groves and wineries. One photo the couple has shows Frank, the retired chief executive officer of Commercial and Savings Bank in St. Clair, in a vibrant vineyard surrounded by the Tuscany countryside.

Having visited there six times, the last in 2009, they recalled a particular trip in the fall of 1997 when they rented a room on the grounds of a winery.

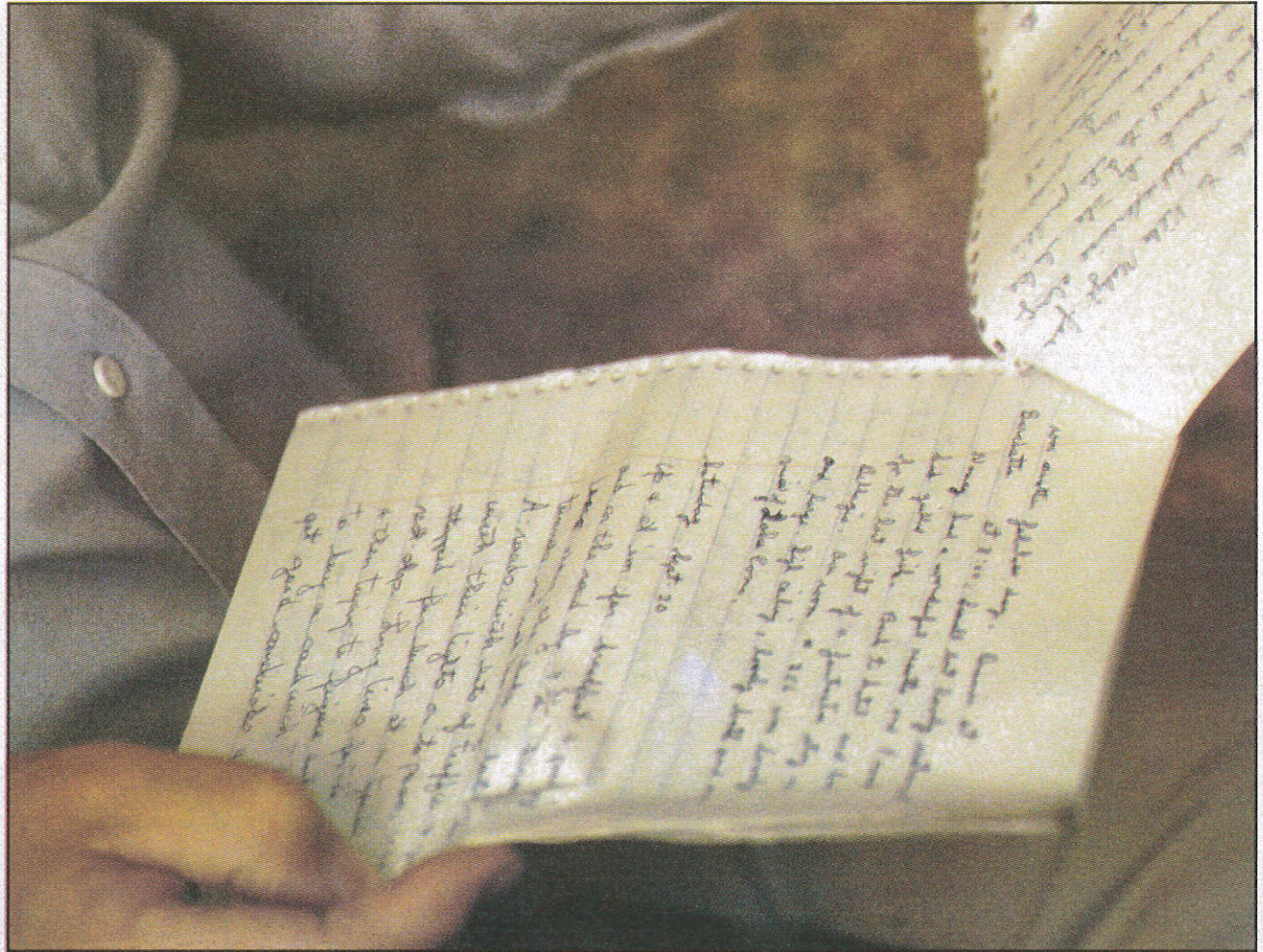
"It's very pretty," Frank said. "It's hill towns., It's olive orchards. It's vineyards, which are especially delightful in the fall when they're bringing in the grapes. The towns are small and interesting to visit."

Said Nancy: "It's fun to be there when they're harvesting the grapes, because it smells delicious."

The couple said their most unusual — but best — trip was to Kenya, Africa, where they saw herds of zebras, water buffalos, giraffes and elephants.

"We had a wonderful safari trip in Kenya," said Nancy, who co-owned St. Clair Travel for many years.

"We were there when the animals were migrating. It's not for everyone, but we loved it," she said.



See COVER STORY, Page 14 Frank Moore looks over notes taken during a trip with his wife Nancy to Tuscany, Italy, in 1997.



# WE BUY GOLD & SILVER

## \$\$ TOP PREMIUM PRICES PAID \$\$

### GOLD OR SILVER JEWELRY, COINS, DENTAL GOLD,

### FLATWARE, ANTIQUE SILVER, PLATINUM

### U.S. Coins, Minted in 1964 & Earlier

### & Canadian Coins, Minted in 1966 & Earlier\*





More reminisce about the sights and experiences they had during a trip to Tuscany, Italy, while looking through their photo album.

## STORY

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### WHAT'S HOT

#### TOP DESTINATIONS

Here is a list of some of the more popular destinations this time of year.

### WORLDWIDE

- » Costa Rica
- » Italy
- » The Caribbean
- » Bahamas
- » Greece
- » Ireland
- » Mexico

### UNITED STATES

- » Phoenix
  - » Las Vegas
  - » Hawaii
  - » Kentucky
  - » Gulf Coast
- Sources: St. Clair Travel and Faraway Places.

children, Mike and Jill, for Christmas in 2008. There they enjoyed hiking and zip-lining through the rainforest.

It was on their "bucket list" of places to see in their lifetimes.

"King Kong was nowhere to be seen, but you can see where it all began and the ecosystems still shared their journey," Sue said.

"The rainforest also was on our bucket list and was a great trip of volcanoes, whitewater rafting, zip-lining, butterfly preserves, crazy monkeys and incredible sunsets."

One of the Setters' favorite trips was in 2005 to Santorini, Greece, where the sky meets the water as one. The trip, a cruise, was to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

"Every building on the island is whitewashed with a signature blue roof, yet the beauty remains unique, and the Greek people are friendly and welcoming to share their culture," Sue said.

but visiting different cities.

The Setters also enjoyed their 2007 travels to French Polynesia and the picturesque island of Bora Bora.

"The water surrounding these islands is so very clear, and the coral beneath is shades of purple, oranges and blues," Sue said. "The snorkeling allows you to enter the world of fish of every color, sharks, octopus and other incredible sea creatures."

The Setters also are starting to travel more within the United States to see the sights such as Mount Rushmore, Philadelphia and Seattle, Wash.

Another great option is Hilton Head, S.C., where condominium rental is available, Erbe said.

"It has bike trails, fine restaurants, golf courses, dolphin tours," she said. Hawaii, Las Vegas, couples-only resorts in Jamaica, and resorts in Mexico that require adult-accompanied teens, also are popular.

han of Port Huron Township, you can't beat a cruise.

She enjoys the all-inclusiveness of a cruise on a ship.

Her last one in November was a return trip to the Greek islands. She boarded in Athens at the start of the 10-day trip and visited Italy and Monte Carlo before departing from Rome. She also has cruised the Caribbean as well as down the Seine River in France.

"I like the cruises because you unpack once," Sharon said. "Also, the food on the cruise ships is really good, and you're not exposed to too many strange things. It's fun to eat at the destinations, but you have to be careful."

She has sailed on such cruise lines as Princess and Holland America but prefers a smaller line called Oceania, which just added its two biggest ships, the Marina and the Regatta.

Like any trip, Sharon, who taught at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in Port Huron for 36 years, recommended travelers do their homework beforehand.

"Explore the cruise line and make sure what their reputation is," she said. "On the website, there are comments from people that used them. That's a good indicator.

"There will be complaints, but there's always complaints," she said. Cathy Barringer is a freelance writer from