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A peaceful retreat on Vancouver Island

Globus's Italian vista package and Destination Resorts Hawaii among sweet offers

KATHRYN FOLLIOTT

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Vancouver Island's Oak Bay Beach Hotel has an Experience Oak Bay package that comes with your choice of golf, spa treatments, culinary tour or whale-watching tour, plus a twonight stay and dinner for two. Prices start at \$392 per person, per night with accommodation in a king suite, a dining credit for the on-site pub the Snug, 24-hour access to the hotel's outdoor heated mineral pools and valet parking, plus either a round of golf at the private Uplands Golf Club, a \$120-per-person spa credit for the Boathouse Spa & Baths, an Epicure in the Village tour with partner Feast Concierge or a three-hour whalewatching tour with picnic lunch and transfer to the harbour. Activities can be booked separately or as a couple and the savings is between 10 and 20 per cent. Upscale Oak Bay sits on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, about six kilometres from Victoria. See oakbaybeachhotel.com.

\$999 Italy airfare with Globus

Priced from \$3,618 per person including airfare — as long as you book by Oct. 29 — Globus' new eight-day Italian Vista is about 25 per cent less than the company's other Italy trips, with the tour itself costing just over \$200 per person, per day. Italian Vista travels to Rome, Florence, Venice and Milan as well as Orvieto, Assisi, Padua and Verona and includes ev-

erything from the Sistine Chapel to a Milanese risotto dinner. Other Globus options to Italy include the nineday Gems of Umbria & Tuscany and the Il-day Grand Catholic Italy. The company's \$999 tax-inclusive airfare deal runs until Oct. 29 and applies to select Italy tour packages.

See globusjourneys.ca.

California Dreamin'

<u>Deerhurst Resort</u> has partnered with Treasury Wine Estates for a twonight California Dreamin' weekend Oct. 18-20, featuring wine pairings, a cooking demonstration and a fivecourse dinner.

With accommodation prices start at \$289 per night for two people, based on a two-night stay. See deer-hurstresort.com.

Best buy of the week

With Destination Resorts Hawaii's latest promotion, E Komo Mai (that's "welcome" in Hawaiian), rates start at \$156 (all prices U.S.), a savings of up to 30 per cent off regular prices. The travel deadline is Dec. 19.

See destinationresortshawaii.com. **Kathryn Folliott** is a Toronto-based freelance writer. Prices quoted are subject to change and availability.



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The Grand Lobby at the 100-room Oak Bay Beach Hotel on Vancouver Island offers fireside ocean views.

> PICKS OF THE WEEK

Sunquest: Costa Rica, air & hotel, \$1,313 (Nov. 11). sunquest.ca Air Canada Vacations: Antigua, air & hotel, \$1,697 (Oct. 20). aircanadavacations.com

Nolitours: Riviera Maya, air & hotel, \$978 (Oct. 19). nolitours.com

Signature Vacations: Aruba, air & hotel, \$1,375 (Oct. 28). signaturevacations.com

Transat Holidays: Cayo Coco, air & hotel, \$619 (Oct. 18). transatholidays.com

Hola Sun Holidays: Cayo Santa Maria, air & hotel, \$732 (Oct. 13).

holasunholidays.ca

Bel Air Travel: Bahamas cruise, \$706 (Nov. 10). belairtravel.com **Sunwing Vacations:** Daytona Beach, air & hotel, \$913 (Nov. 2). sunwing.ca

Sell Off Vacations: Puerto Plata, air & hotel, \$601 (Oct. 7). selloffvacations.com itravel2000: Lisbon, air & hotel, \$1,393 (Nov. 10). itravel2000.com

WestJet Vacations: Grand Cayman, air & hotel, \$1,514 (Nov. 10). westjetvacations.com

Tour East Holidays: 11-day China, air, hotel, most meals, sightseeing, \$2,419 (Nov. 20). toureast.com

All Picks of the Week prices include taxes and fees.