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fantastic tales—and there are plenty—can compare with how the past feels when you're the first person in millennia to touch it with your hands.

Later I visit the Israel Museum, in Jerusalem. Wandering through the exhibits, I realize that the excavation has changed me. Once I loved museums. Now the windowless, glass-and-marble structure feels like an orphanage. The restored pots, displayed in glass cases, look like lost children plucked from their crib in the earth. The display labels sound knowledgeable, but dead. *Bronze Age. Possibly of Hebrew Origin. From Hazor.*

In the dirt, broken, the pots were alive.

JESSICA SEIGEL is a senior writer with Brill's Content magazine.

**TRAVELWISE** ■ **Best For:** Students (18 and up) and adult volunteers prepared for basic tasks and very early mornings. Activities run from heavy excavation to meticulous tool work to sweeping. ■ **Basics:** Contact Pennsylvania State University, Jewish Studies Program, 103 Weaver Bldg., University Park, PA 16802; 814-863-8939, fax 814-865-6204; e-mail [megiddo@psu.edu](mailto:megiddo@psu.edu). The dig is an hour's drive from Tel Aviv. Amenities include swimming pool, air-conditioning, three meals daily (no pork). \$1,100 for three weeks. Dates for year 2000: June 10-July 28.

## ARTS

### Glass by Design

See glass in unexpected incarnations at the Corning Museum of Glass, in Corning, New York.

BY ANNIE OSBURN

I'm sitting in the front row of the Hot Glass Show at the Corning Museum of Glass, in upstate New York. Six-foot-high glass shields bordering the stage do almost nothing to contain the 2,350°F heat, which whooshes from the "glory hole" furnace. I glance around and see that everyone in the audience is leaning forward, transfixed. Like me, they're

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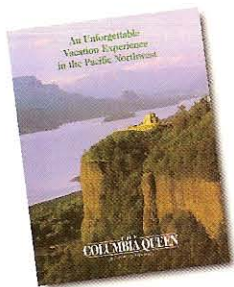
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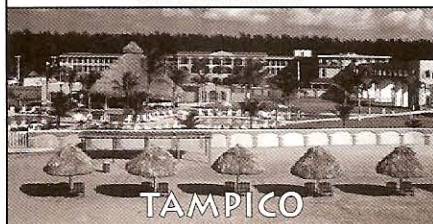
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TAMPICO

## TRIPS

watching red-hot molten glass evolve into extraordinary shapes. Exhaust fans overhead labor loudly to cool the room. I am as close as I can get to the glass without making it myself.

That task I leave to master gaffer and glassblower Don Pierce. Pierce spins an iron rod with a molten gob of soda and lime glass at its tip. His cheeks balloon with air, then deflate as he blows into the rod. A tiny puff into the end of the iron and the gooey gob widens into a bubble. A few minutes of spinning and swinging the iron—his arms arching and bending with the agility of a dancer—and Pierce has created an elegant vase fit for a chandeliered dining room. Like a magician, his sleight of hand turns illusion into reality. Beyond the stage on which he works I can see the Steuben glass factory.

"If this were an actual Steuben piece, we would now put it into an annealing oven to cool," intones narrator John Cowden, of the museum staff. "But Steuben sells only crystal; it would be too costly to use such materials for a demonstration. As much as Don and I would love to give this piece away, they won't let us. It's too bad, don't you think?" And CRASH! Cowden smashes the luminous vase into a bucket on the stage floor—a task he performs without remorse maybe 12 times a day.

"Do you ever wear gloves?" a visitor asks at the end of the show, while looking at the gaffer's bare hands. No, the gloves would limit his dexterity. My own question is silent: How often does he get burned? A small aloe plant under the marvering table (used for rolling iron rods in the glassmaking process) hints at the answer.

As wine is to California's Napa Valley, glass is to Corning. In fact, it's difficult to find anywhere in this tidy town that's without a touch of glass. The centerpiece of this local industry, of course, is the Corning Museum of Glass, which includes the Glass Innovation Center, the Studio (which offers glassmaking classes and workshops), the Rakow

Library, with more than 70,000 volumes on glass, a new Sculpture Gallery for 20th-century glass sculptures, and the Glass Shops. The Steuben factory, owned by Corning, Inc., is adjacent.

The museum's permanent galleries house a collection of 30,000 objects spanning 3,500 years of glass design and history, everything from prehistoric weapons carved out of glasslike obsidian to one of the elaborate glass fantasies choreographed by acclaimed artist Dale Chihuly. The works perch under non-reflective glass panels with specially muted lighting—which creates an optical



**Ceramic look-alike, this 1880s glass portrait is one of many unconventional glasswares on display in the Corning museum.**

illusion that foils me: While absent-mindedly reaching toward an Italian 19th-century mosaic tabletop, my fingers bash into the protective shield.

I should have waited to visit the new Glass Innovation Center—the gem of the museum's recent \$62-million renovation—where hands-on exhibits lead you through everything from optics (eyeglasses to giant telescopes) to the development of glass vessels for electric lights and television bulbs. This potentially ho-hum exhibit is craftily housed in a bulb-shaped glass room that hangs

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS



from the ceiling. Compelling in another way is the floor in the Windows Gallery, which is folded like a giant piece of concrete origami. Here you trace the evolution of flat glass, from ancient windows to today's sophisticated applications in vehicles and buildings.

Just as Napa isn't only wine, Corning is more than glass. Sure, the Rosewood Inn, a Victorian bed and breakfast in town, has a fine collection of rare American crystal. But an equal attraction are

#### TRAVEL GEM

### In the Saddle

*Lookin' to horse around? Try Millbrook Equestrian Center.*

**Y**ou haven't a drop of champagne left in those glasses," says Maj. Paul J. Lindsay, director of the **Millbrook Equestrian Center**, in New York's Hudson Valley (Cross Country International; 914-677-6000 or 800-828-8768; e-mail [xcintl@aol.com](mailto:xcintl@aol.com)).

I look down. I see no glasses, no champagne—just the neck of a Thoroughbred, reins, and my hands, which have not been still enough to please my instructor. Or keep imaginary champagne in imaginary flutes.

With charm, humor, visualization techniques, and the skills that come with a British Horse Society certification, Lindsay and his staff turn so-so riders into skilled ones, good riders into great ones. The day before, Lindsay tested the strength and positioning of my lower legs by placing his leather glove between my calf and the horse. "Each time that glove falls to the ground," he intoned in his crisp British accent, "you owe me a dollar." In no time I was down several bucks.

For the perfect introduction to riding, sign up for a long weekend of private lessons: days riding in the ring and through fields, nights at Hilltop B&B. You'll come away champing at the bit to return. —*S.F. Buckmaster*

Rosewood's owners, Suzanne and Stewart Sanders; Suzanne dresses in period garb as a rule, while Stewart is known for cooking up a breakfast storm, referring to his collection of a thousand (count 'em) cookbooks.

Also part of Corning is historic Market Street, where you'll find Pelham's Upstate Tuna Co. and some of the freshest fish west of New England. Choose from the ample menu or select your own fresh swordfish, tuna steak, or salmon and grill it to perfection yourself at your table. With a few tips from the chef, you'll create your own dynamite fish dish, cause to raise—what else?—a celebratory glass.

**TRAVELWISE** ■ **Best For:** Everyone; the striking shapes, colors, patterns, and uses possible with glass will wow even the contrarian.

■ **Basics:** Corning Museum of Glass, 607-937-5371 or 800-732-6845; [www.cmog.org](http://www.cmog.org); admission. Rosewood Inn, 134 E. First St., Corning, NY 14830; 607-962-3253; e-mail [rinn@stny.lrun.com](mailto:rinn@stny.lrun.com); [www.rosewoodinn.com](http://www.rosewoodinn.com). Seven guest rooms, two suites with private entrances, \$85-165. Pelham's Upstate Tuna Co., 73 E. Market St.; 607-936-8862; reservations recommended.

#### OUTDOORS

### Aaahh—Baja!

*Move to the rhythms of the Sea of Cortez on a go-slow sea kayak expedition.* BY MIKE EVERITT

**I**f you really want to experience Baja, you need to do it from a sea kayak."

I'm on the phone with Clark Casebolt, owner of Outdoor Odysseys Sea Kayaking Tours, watching a cold rain fall outside as he tells me about his kayak tour of the southeastern part of Baja California's peninsula. "The trip from Loreto to La Paz is the ultimate adventure on the Sea of Cortez: phenomenal wildlife, fabulous snorkeling, and beautiful beaches for camping. But I have to warn you, it's not for everyone."

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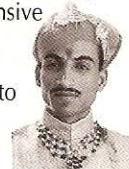


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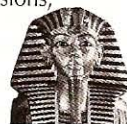
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