

# Unique Winter Escapades

Exclusive experiences.
Exceptional shopping deals.
Extraordinary escapes.

# Enjoy *One-of-a-Kind* Holiday Vacations

UK in Slow Motion
The Best of Beach Shopping
The Romantic Side of Vietnam
Hungary's Wine and Dine Must Try's
Action-packed Winter Vacations

# **EDITOR'S NOTE**

As the year comes to a close, I always like to take some time to contemplate and reflect... about my life and how I have affected the life of others. I started a 'bucket list' 2 years ago, and it includes staying in a traditional Riyadh in Morocco, taking a rail journey across Rajasthan, and cruising across Alaska – experiences which I want to share with my husband during our lifetime together.

At RCI, we understand that vacation is an important time for you and your loved ones, and we continuously strive to offer new ideas to help enrich your holiday experience, be it a personal time to relax and unwind, or being with the family to simply enjoy the company of one another.

In this issue of Endless Vacation, we urge you to dare to be different—take a unique cruise expedition to EXPLORE the magnificent 18th century canal system of United Kingdom, FEAST on the delectable treats and scrumptious food, fine wines and thermal baths in Budapest; and have FUN to the extremes with an adventurous holiday in Colorado, be it fishing, camping, hiking and/or skiing.

For those who do not have the luxury of time, but would love to have an entirely different experience, RELAX as you're enveloped in an other-worldly scenic landscape, at the 'heaven on earth', Zhejiang, China. Or simply hit the sun, sand, surf, sea and shop to the much-loved "Island of the Gods" in Bali. As Henry Miller says, "One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things."

Thank you all for your continuous support. May 2012 be an even better one for all of us!



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# CONTENTS

ISSUE 4 - 2011

- 2-3 **United Kingdom**Drift Away in the UK
- 4-5 **Bali, Indonesia**Sun, Sand and Shop
- 6-7 **Zhejiang, China**The Tourists' Paradise
- 8-9 **RCI** + me
- 10-11 **Budapest, Hungary**Budapest Banquets
- 12-13 **Colorado, USA**Adventure Seekers' Paradise
- **14-15 New Resorts Update**
- 16-17 RCI Platinum

# Legend

Look for these symbols throughout the magazine.

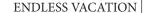














# **Drift Away In the UK**

Slow down, see the sights in a different light and experience a different kind of UK with Canaltime.

Offering visitors spectacular sights with more than 20 world heritage sites and dozens of iconic landmarks, the United Kingdom has always been an ideal travel destination. It is one of the largest states in the world, comprising of England, North Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It's a place teeming with diversity and culture, ensuring no less than exciting travel experiences.

One can go the usual path exploring the country with land tours to marvel in its rich heritage. But being at a place which has been dubbed great, the UK definitely offers more. Over the past few years, more and more people are taking a different ride to enjoy their holidays in the UK — the Canaltime Narrowboat.

## **Explore UK in slow motion**

Canaltime Narrowboats let you explore the best UK has to offer in a relaxed pace. At just two to three miles per hour, it takes you to the most remote country sides as well as through the buzzling hearts of cities while you navigate through the magnificent canal system built in the 18th century. Being in a narrowboat, you have no choice but to slow down. This makes it a perfect getaway; it opens up your mind as it gives you a different view of the country, at the same time lets you escape from your normal state of being in a rat race.

### A different kind of adventure

The Canaltime narrowboat is a unique living environment. These compact, strategicallydesigned vessels come fully-equipped with facilities that will let you go about your daily activities smoothly (it has comfortable sleeping quarters, fully-functional kitchen and even a centralised heating system). Operating the vessel is also a quest as you and your travel mates play a part in the expedition. Everyone gets to contribute in the journey. Most of the time, children enjoy taking care of the locks.





At the locks, you will get to meet different people as you engage in friendly chats with other Canaltime travellers. Since everyone's on a slower pace, everyone has the time to connect with others and share stories. It's also a sort of time travel as you get to soak in the history of the sites surrounding the canals better with others. You will also uncover UK's finest pubs that overflow with great hospitality as you pass by a number of canal-side pubs throughout your journey.

If you want to start planning your Canaltime adventure, get familiar with the most popular English, Welsh and Scottish cruising canals as each has its own distinct flavour. Learn more about the routes at http://www.canaljunction.com/ canal/maps.htm.

### Canaltime at Sawley Marina

Sawley, Long Eaton Nottingham, England Website: www.canaltime.com

#### Canaltime at Union Wharf

The Canal Basin, Leicester Road, Market Harborough Leicestershire, England Website: www.canalboatclub.com

# Adventure in a Floating House

It was such a wonderful trip! Nothing like we ever had.

Setter from a member

We had such a great time, cruising along the canals and enjoying the scenery. We were surprised to realise how amazing a narrowboat ride can be. We even called the boat our 'floating house'!

We also had the luxury to pause-in-time as we floated along our routes at 4km/hour. We got to explore the nice small villages where we docked for, what else, but shopping! It was fun to handle the boat, and of course the locks! We assumed it as a team building activity as we discussed and help each other unlocking them.

It's a great way to reward yourself after being loaded with work throughout the year. It was very relaxing; a retreat not just for the body, but for the mind as well! We will definitely go for this wonderful vacation again in the future, and possibly bring more of our beloved friends.

Thank you RCI!

JINNA SEBSAITHAI, Thailand



## Ready for your retail therapy?

**Denpasar.** A place where old meets new, Denpasar is Bali's capital. Here,

**Ubud.** The centre of art and craft communities, Ubud is the best place to get

Kuta Beach. Considered the shopping Mecca for tourists and locals alike,

**Lombok Island.** If you're on a hunt for pottery, furniture and textile, Lombok is

"Tahiti has been spoiled for many years, but Bali is one of the few cultures with origins in one of the great ancient cultures which is still alive."

Arthur Erickson -

# **Beach Shopping in Bali**

Bali has always been a popular tourist destination. It has a rich colourful culture renowned for its diverse and sophisticated art forms that include painting, sculpting, woodcarving, handicrafts and performance arts.

Here you can find fine art, antique furniture, delicately carved jewellery or woven and dyed fabrics, making the popular beach destination a shopping haven as well. But Bali shopping is also a form of art. Get ready to bargain for everything!



# STAY

### RVC at Hotel Rama Candidasa

Jalan Raya Sengkidu Candidasa,

# Bali Shangri-La Beach Club

Desa Bugbug, Banjar Samuh Candidasa, Amlapura, Karang Asem Bali, Indonesia 80582 www.balishangrila.net



## Keep these shopping tips in mind

- Carry cash. Most shops don't accept cards.
- Don't shop with a tour group. Shop on your own at modest shops.
- Shop in the morning. Shops are eager to make an early sale, so your chances of getting better bargains are higher in the morning.
- Bargain. Start by offering 30% less of the amount offered or even up to 1/3 of the price given by the vendor.
- Bargaining is like a chess game for the Balinese. So, keep smiling during the whole process.

**ENDLESS VACATION** 

Old Chinese saying-

# The most beautiful sites in Zhejiang

#### West Lake

Located in Hangzhou, Zhejiang's capital and a key national tourist city, West Lake is one of the ten best scenic spots in China. It covers an area of 5.6 square kilometres and has a circumference of 15 kilometres. It is surrounded by emerald hills on three sides, and the city stands on its east. It is also surrounded by famous cultural relics and scenic spots shrouded in luxuriant vegetation.

West Lake is known for the wonderful scenery of one moon in the sky having three reflections in the lake. This unique aspect of the West Lake is known as 'The Moon Reflected in Three Ponds', because within the lake are islands, and within those islands are lakes which catch the reflection of the moon at night.

### Liuhe Pagoda

The Liuhe Pagoda (Pagoda of Six Harmonies) is a famous octagonal pagoda built in 970AD. It is made of brick and wood, and is considered a masterpiece of traditional Chinese architecture. It stands 59.9 meters high (seven floors total) on the Yuelun Mountain by the Qiantang River. Its stone staircase leads to the top where one can enjoy the beauty of the Qiantang River.

## **Qiantang River**

The Qiantang River is the longest river in the province of Zhejiang. Its soaring tides are a marvellous spectacle under the heavens, and it is believed that only the Amazon River's surging tide can rival it.

# **Yandang Mountain**

One of the China's top ten must-see mountains, Yandang Mountain is famous for its magnificent peaks, waterfalls and caves. It is composed of eight scenic areas, most famous of which are the Three Best Wonders: the Spiritual Peaks, the Big Dragon Waterfall and the Spiritual Rocks.

It was named a World Geopark by UNESCO in 2005.

# STAY

FVC @ Xiaoshan International Hotel NO.1 Wenhua Rd, Xiaoshan Hangzhou, Zhejiang 311203 China www.fvc.cn

# ZHEJIANG, CHINA: The Tourists' Paradise

Unwind in a place called 'Heaven on Earth'

Situated on the southeast coastal line of China and the south of the Yangtze Delta, Zhenjiang is known for its scenic spots and picturesque landscapes. It's been a favourite tourist destination of locals and tourists alike since the ancient times, and has been referred to as 'heaven on earth' by an old Chinese saying everyone knows about.

It is also the province with the most islands in China, having more than 3,000 islands along its coast. Needless to say, it's a place with countless wonders that will surely fascinate you and take you to a new level of relaxation. Discover the beauty of this wonderland.



## **Zhejiang fast facts**

- Qiantang River is the longest river in Zhejiang Province and the spectacular Qiantang River Tide is often used as a metaphor for the fighting spirit of Zhejiang people
- Zhejiang is known for its rice and fish, beautiful silk and Xihu Longjing tea
- The history of Zhejiang goes back to ancient times. It is regarded as one of the cradles of Chinese civilization







# RCI +ME®

"Just a 20-minute drive from our hotel in Downtown Vancouver, Grouse Mountain was the perfect place for my family to bond and enjoy snow for the very first time!"

William Rogando/ Edna T. Rogando, Philippines

Stayed at Rosedale on Robson Vancouver, Canada



"Mud monsters beware! We were clowning around in our private mud bath at Hell's Gate Rotorua."

> Dr. Cynthia Ee, Malaysia Stayed at Duxton Hotel Okawa Bay Rotorua. New Zealand



"Three temples down, five more to go!"

Hermie & Jean Zialcita, Philippines Stayed at Risata Bali Resort & Spa Bali, Indonesia



"Greece is an enchanting country. Here I am horsebackriding at the Aegean Sea. Just having a great time."

> Flor Ofilada, Philippines Stayed at Village Heights Golf Resort Greece



"Phew! Managed to take a picture with my daughter's favourite character. Mission accomplished!!!"

Ng Kean Tuck, Malaysia Stayed at City Garden Hotel Hong Kong



'Welcome to the Chocolate World!!!"

Surat Limtrakool, Thailand

Stayed at The Villas at Tree Tops Pennsylvania, U.S

"RCI is the perfect choice for a smart traveller. We enjoyed touring in Toronto and seeing the Niagara Falls."

Wu Kuei-Hua, Taiwan

Stayed at The Georgian Manor Resort and Country Club Collingwood, Canada



## ENTRY FORM

The personal information collected on this form will only be used to conduct this competition and is consistent with the RCI® Privacy Policy.

- Each member can send a maximum of 5 entries.
- Each entry must be accompanied by a caption or write-up not more than 50 words with mention of the location where the paragraph was taken.
- All entries must indicate the RCI Membership Number.
- Please do not staple or pin the prints.
- RCI® reserves the right to publish these photographs in any of its publications.

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Name:
Home Country:
RCI Membership No.:
Picture Caption:

Name of Accommodation During Stay:
All prints and slides should have been taken while on an RCI holiday, and will be considered the property of RCI Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.

Signature

Date

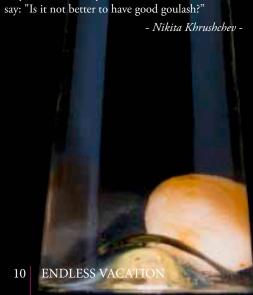
**For Prints:** Complete and attach this form (photocopies accepted) together with your pictures and mail to "Holiday Snapshots", The Editor, Endless Vacation, RCI Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, 37 Jalan Pemimpin, #05-01 Blk A Clarus Centre Singapore 577177 before **31 Dec 2011**.

For Digital Images: Include the information above with your high resolution pictures (300 dpi preferred) and email to: ev-editor@rci.com before 31 Dec 2011.

8 ENDLESS VACATION ENDLESS VACATION 9



# "If we were to promise people nothing better than only revolution, they would scratch their heads and



# Budapest banquets

Escape to the perfect winter destination with hot springs, happening festivities and sizzling plates.

Winter in Budapest definitely is one-of-a-kind, as this melting pot of culture at the heart of Europe offers more ways than one to keep you warm, cosy and full of the holiday spirit.

Considered as one of the spa capitals of the world, one can start off a warm winter vacation by staying at a spa hotel, or enjoying thermal baths around the city as Budapest has a multitude of thermal springs and baths.

You can also keep warm here by drinking! Budapest has been a major wine-producing country for centuries, and is most renowned for the Tokaj— a sweet, dry, full-bodied and rich dessert wine, and the Bikavér also called 'Bull's Blood' which is a heavy dry red wine.

Then there's the famous Hungarian liqueur, Palinka — a strong brandy distilled from a variety of fruits (but most commonly apricots or plums). There's also the Unicum, a bitter aperitif that has been around since 1790, said to aid digestion.



# MENU

Aside from sampling choice spirits, feasting on delectable dishes will keep you cozy in Budapest. Here are must try Hungarian signature dishes:

Goulash. A hearty soup enough to be eaten as a main course with rye bread, this dish benefits from a long, slow cook. Sour cream is often used to soften its flavour.

Hungarian Chicken Paprikash. This is a famous sour cream-rich dish that goes well with some type of noodle or dumpling. This is a favourite in pollucks.

Palacsinta. These Hungarian pancakes can be made with or without sugar for sweet or savoury fillings. These paper-thin crepes make a great base for creamed meats, seafood and vegetables, fruits, custards and mousses.

Toltott Paprika. These are Hungarian stuffed peppers cooked-up moist in a slow cooker. It can also be cooked on the stovetop or oven.

Your palate has a lot more to explore in Budapest.
Try the mouth-watering favourites in small-eateries that will give you an authentic taste of the local flavour.







## **Budapest Dining**

## Do's & Don'ts

- \* Always insist on seeing a menu and wine list with prices. Always ask for an itemised bill.
- ★ See whether the main course includes the price of garnishes or side dishes.
- **★** Tipping is part of the culture in Hungary. Give about 10-15 per cent of the bill. At some places where service charge is included in the bill, no tip is expected.
- \* In restaurants with live Gypsy music, musicians go up to the tables and play a song on request. Give them 100 Ft and they'll move to the next table. If you do not like this kind of entertainment, sit away from the band or go to a 'music-free' restaurant.
- **★** Smaller restaurants accept only cash.

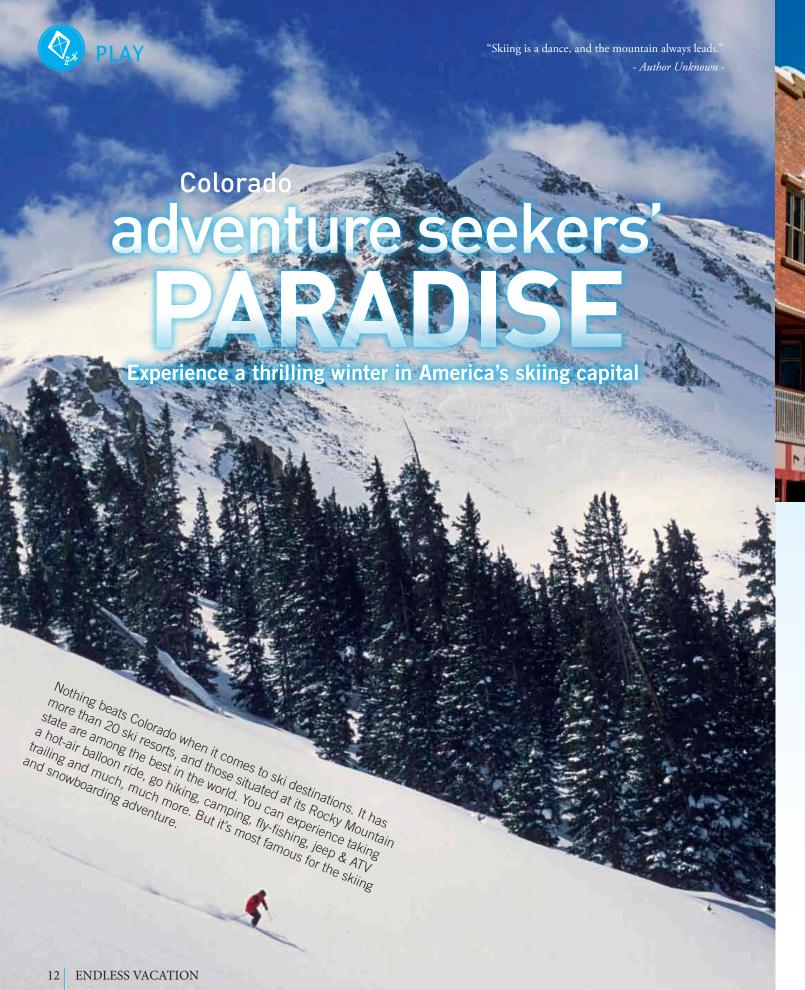
Budapest Michelin Star Restaurants

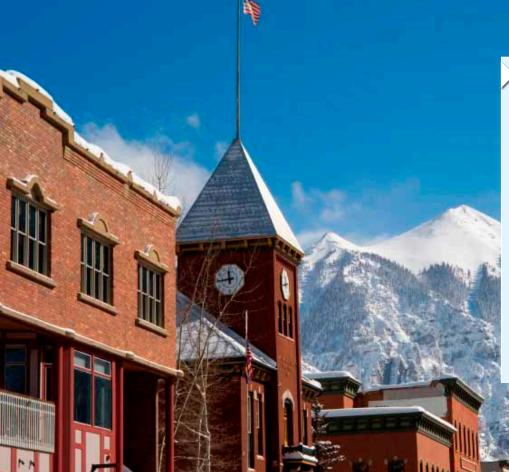
- > Costes Restaurant
- > Onyx Restaurant

# STAY

**Petnehazy Club Hotel Feketefej Utca 2-4** Budapest, 1029 Hungary www.petnehazy-clubhotel.hu

ENDLESS VACATION 11





# STAY

#### The Christie Lodge

0047 E. Beaver Creek Blvd. Avon. CO 81620. USA www.christielodge.com

## Rams Horn Village Resort

1565 Colorado Highway 66 Estes Park, CO 80517, USA www.rhvresort.com

#### **Legacy Vacation Club** Steamboat Springs — Suites

1485 Pine Grove Road P.O. Box 774306 Steamboat Springs, CO 80477, USA www.legacyvacationclub.com

#### Vail Run Resort

1000 Lionsridge Loop Vail, CO 81657, USA

# Here's our top 5 pick of the Best Colorado Ski Resorts

One of the most historic towns in Colorado, Aspen is a real town with year-round residents. It has four ski areas with more than 300 ski runs which include the best run for beginners, Buttermilk. With its ritzy reputation and happening nightlife, it's most frequented by ski enthusiasts and celebrities alike.

#### **Breckenridge**

Skiers of all abilities would delight in Breckenridge's fabulous trails. It has a rustic feel, as it was previously a gold-prospecting settlement. In between skiing, you can tour the Country Boy mine or go dog-sledding with Siberian huskies. Never miss a stop at the Breckenridge Brewery & Pub as it has the best hand-crafted beers in the country.

#### **Steamboat**

This ski resort has 2.965 acres of ski terrain. It is one of Colorado's oldest and most advanced ski areas with more than 80% of its trails classified as intermediate or higher level. This is probably why it has produced 69 Winter Olympians more than any other town in North America.

A serious destination for committed ski lovers. Telluride is located in one of the most remote areas of Colorado. It has three of the top ski areas in the country: Prospect Bowl, Black Iron Bowl and Revelation Bowl. The longest run at this Colorado ski resort is the 4.6-mile 'Galloping Goose', but more than 25 of its 125 total trails are beginner level.

The resort also has an Eco Adventures Program which offers activities such as snowmobile tours, ice climbing and heli-skiing.

The largest ski resort in Colorado and the entire United States, Vail has over 5,000 acres of ski terrain. It's every serious skier's Mecca. With 193 trails and 34 lifts, this resort has enough difficult slopes to keep advanced skiers challenged, and beginners as well as intermediate skiers busy as well. It also has a free bus system that makes getting around easy, but prices here can be a bit steep.

Being America's flagship ski resort, Vail has the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Museum and Hall of Fame.



Our ever-growing portfolio of extraordinary destinations now includes the following resorts:

C386 ROYAL BALI BEACH CLUB AT SANUR, INDONESIA



Located in Sanur, Bali's biggest traditional village and one of the most established tourist areas, this resort offers access to fine restaurants and modern entertainment, traditional village drama and dance, Bali Safari Marine Park and the Bali Zoo Park, all within a half hours drive. It is also a great starting point for those looking to see the island with tours at Kintamani, Lake Batur, Puri Tirta Empul, Bedugul, Botanical Garden and Tanah lot.

The resort also features a pool in the midst of beautifully landscaped surroundings where you can relax and bask in the ambience of the island paradise. You can also wander along the paved beachside path, running the full length of Sanur where you can check out a multitude of shops and restaurants. Royal Bali Beach Club is also just a short drive away from Ubud, Bali's cultural centre featured in the famous book and movie "Eat Pray Love" which makes it a place where you can enjoy the delights of staying on a tropical island, as you gain a real appreciation for Balinese culture and local life.

# C389

# PATONG BAY GARDEN, THAILAND

Patong Bay Garden Resort is located on the popular Patong Bay in Phuket, Thailand offering a full range of facilities and activities, along with the classic touch of Thai charm and hospitality. The beachfront resort offers 71 charming and affordable rooms with a range of styles to meet the varied needs of the modern international traveler – for both families and couples alike – from wireless internet access and varied food and beverage options to a spa and beauty salon as well as a retail outlet.





A509 EL PUERTO MARINA BEACH RESORT, PHILIPPINES Seemingly designed for vacationers on the look-out for tranquil seas and a laid-back retreat, the El Puerto Marina Beach Resort and Spa in Pangasinan is one tropical paradise where one could take a quick break that would seem like an eternity. With nothing but the sun, sand and verdant surroundings, El Puerto warmly welcomes everybody— whether you are an adventure tourist, an old-fashioned romantic, or a wise vacationer — as it offers an array of possibilities both entertaining and functional. The resort invites you to enjoy the sun and sea in peace, but it also has facilities that will make your stay more engaging and memorable including a spa, outdoor pool, and a host of sporting and recreational activities.



With thousands of RCI® vacation exchange possibilities available, narrowing down yours may have been difficult...until now. On RCI.com you will get personalized vacation recommendations to making choosing your dream vacation faster and easier than ever before!

We'll offer specific resort recommendations based on your travel history, your recent searches, most searched-for resorts, and more. You'll be able to look for a vacation destination that's just right, faster ever.

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It Provides the Ultimate in Vacation Flexibility

It Provides Peace of Mind

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Throughout the past year, we've been working to show you that your vacation means the world to us®! Trading power transparency, the ability to combine deposits and the receipt of Deposit Credits give you more flexibility and choice than ever before. In fact, thousands of RCI® subscribing members have already experienced the programme enhancements, which is why many have upgraded to the RCI Platinum® membership.

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RCI Platinum members have the opportunity to receive complimentary unit upgrades if a larger unit becomes available within two weeks of check-in.

That means even more room to relax and enjoy your vacation without paying additional fees. Simply indicate that you are interested in a unit upgrade, and we'll do the rest. As soon as a larger unit becomes available, you'll receive a revised confirmation without the hassle.\*



#### PRIORITY ACCESS

You'll be among the first in line when it comes to exchanging for sensational upscale hotels and resorts in destinations such as Chicago, San Francisco, Singapore

and Hong Kong. RCI Platinum members benefit from Priority Access to specially-acquired exchange vacations in highly sought-after destinations in many different locations.



#### **PLATINUM REBATES**

Receive Platinum rebates on each of the following RCI transactions: earn a \$25 rebate when you give the gift of vacation with an RCI® Guest Certificate

toward accommodations, or a \$30 rebate when you book an Extra Vacations<sup>SM</sup> getaway or when you combine multiple deposits or Deposit Credits. It's easy to earn! Your rebates are automatically credited back to your RCI Platinum account to use for future RCI transactions.



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Book a cruise with RCI Platinum Cruise Exchange at the exchange fee of \$199 (compared to \$388 with RCI standard membership).

It also gives you the exclusive ability to exchange with a Deposit Trading Power of just 7 (compared to a Deposit Trading Power of 14 with standard RCI membership).<sup>1</sup>

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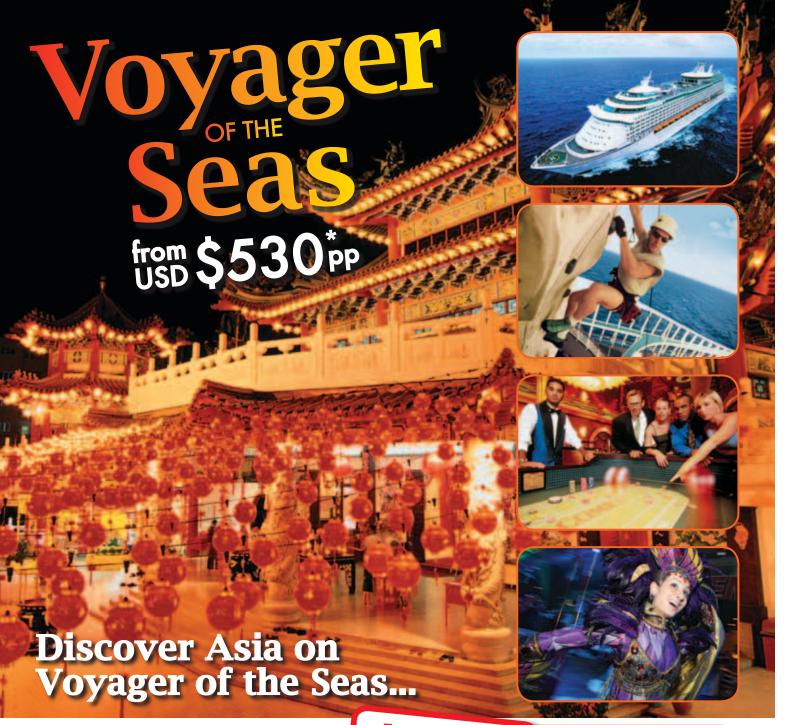
**Premium Residences** – Premium hotels and serviced apartments with specially priced accommodation in various locations in the Asia Pacific and Europe.<sup>2</sup>



#### Something to Note:

Most RCI Weeks subscribing members can upgrade to RCI Platinum<sup>SM</sup> membership at any time, so long as it is at least 5 months of paid membership. Contact RCI to start enjoying the benefits of RCI Platinum<sup>SM</sup> membership today!

- \* Additional housekeeping or other resort-specific fees may apply based on the increased unit size. These vacations are limited. Destinations and travel times are subject to availability and confirmed on a first come, first served basis. Offer includes only accommodations and specifically excludes travel costs and other expenses that may be incurred. Taxes, additional fees and charges may apply. All-inclusive resorts may charge a mandatory all-inclusive fee. Other restrictions may apply.
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4 night cruises from USD\$530\*pp

Sailing round trip from Singapore to Port Klang - Malaysia & Phuket - Thailand

**Departures:** 29 May 2012 & 7 June 2012

8 night cruises from USD\$937\*pp

Sailing from Singapore to Shanghai via Ho Chi Min - Vietnam, Hong Kong & Xiamen - China

Departure: 11 June 2012

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RoyalCaribbean



On board Celebrity Equinox 11 night Exotic Caribbean cruise from USD\$1453†pp

Sailing from Fort Lauderdale **Departure:** 2 January 2012

