

LEADER'S

# edge



## DRIVING YOU **MAD**

Eyes off the road, hands off the wheel,  
driverless auto coverage off the map.



## NASHVILLE

## Music City

**You can't swing a Nashville Cat in Music**

City without hitting a live music club. In the Gulch, The Station Inn has been a faithful bluegrass outpost since 1974. Across the river in East Nashville, The 5 Spot is one of the hot spots for the city's thriving indie music scene. Along the rollicking "Nashvegas" strip of clubs in downtown, Tootsies Orchid Lounge packs in the tourists. But as the country music icon-covered walls attest, everyone who's anyone has played the small corner stage sometime during the club's 55 years.

For your ultimate listening pleasure, catch a show at the Ryman Auditorium, where the acoustics are among the finest. With pews for seating, stained-glass windows and musicians who play as if moved by the spirit, it is understandably called the "Mother Church of Country Music." Last summer, the Ryman unveiled its \$14 million expansion and renovation, including the "Soul of Nashville," a multidimensional experience that uses special effects, archival images and concert footage to tell the story of the 125-year-old National Historic Landmark. They also expanded the lobby and added

more bars, where you can buy craft beers and top shelf spirits. Yes, you can drink in church—just don't spill.

Known as the most famous former home of the Grand Ole Opry, which recently celebrated its 90th anniversary, some of country's tightest bands like those of Ricky Skaggs, Larry Gatlin and Marty Stuart, perform regularly and are guaranteed to blow your doors off. Not a fan of country? The reverential venue also gives a warm welcome to local and national acts across genres. As evidenced by upcoming performances by Boz Scaggs, Ben Folds and Bonnie Raitt, the only requirement is that they are really good.

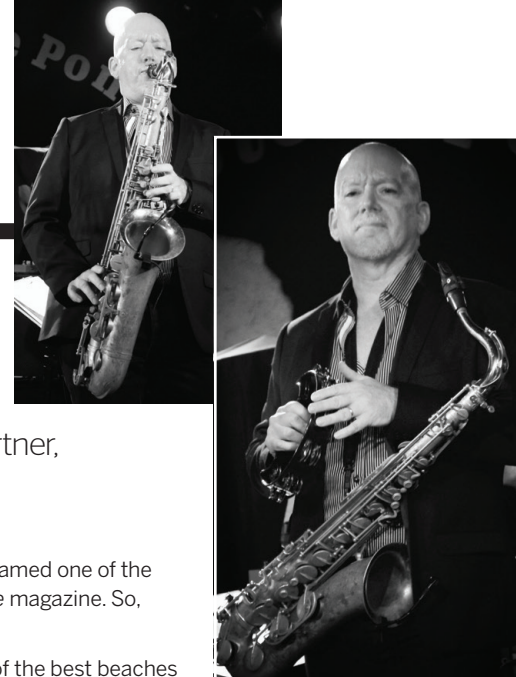
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Top left, both photos: M.C. O'Connor; top right: Lotuff Leather; far right, center: David Leavitt/Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

## SEASONED TRAVELER TOM COUGHLIN

## My Asbury Park, New Jersey

Tom Coughlin, CPCU, National Partner, Willis Towers Watson



**What's to love »** Asbury Park was recently named one of the top 10 places to visit in 2016 by *Travel & Leisure* magazine. So, that is saying something!

**Vibe »** With a revitalized boardwalk and one of the best beaches in New Jersey, Asbury Park's diverse culture is growing and stronger than ever.

**Restaurant scene »** There are many great restaurants, both on the ocean and in town. We have everything from high-end cuisine and beachfront tacos to pizza and beer gardens.

**Favorite eats »** We tend to hit **Langosta Lounge**. The food and people are great, and it has wonderful ocean views. The menu has something for everyone with internationally inspired dishes and favorites like lobster sliders. The owners are also dedicated local philanthropists.

**Drinks »** The drinks and pizza at **Porta** cannot be beat!

**Music scene »** The music scene is alive and well in Asbury Park with great national and local acts playing venues like **The Stone Pony**, **The Wonder Bar**, the **Paramount Theatre** and **The Saint**. I am happy to say that I have been making my own small contribution to this music scene for years, playing in local bands in many of these spots.

**Stay »** The fully restored **Berkeley Hotel** is a throwback to a bygone era with 250 rooms just across the street from the ocean.

**Do »** For me, Asbury Park is still all about the music and the beach. But the town has a long history of urban decline and renewal. To understand the overall culture, read *4th of July, Asbury Park: A History of the Promised Land*. It offers a good perspective on Asbury Park from its beginnings to now.

## SLEEP/EAT/DO » NASHVILLE

Stay tuned! Known for its sophisticated design and luxe amenities, **Thompson Hotels** is slated to open a new hotel in the Gulch in late 2016.

## SLEEP » MODERN

**HUTTON HOTEL**

» Easy access via I-10 to Nashville's healthcare businesses and minutes from downtown's country music attractions, this is a convenient place to stay.

» White leather headboards, whimsical but comfy chairs and a burgundy and taupe color scheme make the rooms and suites feel modern but not trendy. Spacious desks have mobile device charging and A/V outlet



The Hutton Hotel

strips, while the bathrooms boast walk-in showers and Molton Brown products.

» Count Southern hospitality among the full-service amenities that include a fitness center, spa services and 24-hour room service.

**KUDOS!** A free eco-friendly hybrid vehicle is available for guest drop-off and pickup within a three-mile radius, one of the hotel's green initiatives. [www.huttonhotel.com](http://www.huttonhotel.com)

## SLEEP » CLASSIC

**THE HERMITAGE HOTEL**

» Nashville's historic grande dame is a short walk to the Ryman Auditorium and Nashville's

» The vaulted ceiling, a painted glass skylight and Italian marble columns in the lobby of this Beaux-Arts beauty wow in its first impression.

» The classic décor is akin to the home of one of Nashville's society ladies. Rooms and suites have custom beds made with inlaid wood, plush sofas and chairs in the seating areas, and elaborate gold mirrors—to go with the flat screen TVs and iPod players.

» A celebrity watering hole, the Oak Bar serves cocktails made from its

own barrel of Jack Daniel's single-barrel Tennessee whiskey. [www.thehermitagehotel.com](http://www.thehermitagehotel.com)

## EAT » THE GULCH

**ADELE'S**

» Like many of the city's new restaurants, Adele's is located in an industrial building, in this case an old tire shop that retains its original steel beams and bays that open up to a patio on sunny days.

» From pizzettes to burgers, many dishes are cooked in wood-fired ovens, creating a mouth-watering aroma.



JW Chicken at Adele's

Bottom left: Attic Fire Photography; bottom right: Alanna Syler

Bottom right: Ryman Hospitality Properties

**FAVORITES:** Shredded kale salad, elevated with anchovies and pecorino cheese. Meatballs made from beef, pork and Breton's bacon and kissed with smokiness. JW Chicken, chef Jonathon Waxman's specialty, slow-cooked to juiciness and served with a salsa verde of fresh herbs, garlic and olive oil.

» Adele's signature milk punch is aged in batches with Gosling's rum, Cognac, citrus and fresh spices and then strained, making it more syrupy than milky and quite potent. [www.adelesnashville.com](http://www.adelesnashville.com)

## EAT » GERMANTOWN

**ROLF AND DAUGHTERS**

» This hot hipster eatery has established its

cred as one of the best in the city.

» Reclaimed wood slats on the ceiling, exposed ductwork and a communal table are part of this intimate restaurant's charm.

» The menu features eclectic meat, veggie and gluten-free small, medium and large plates. The common denominator: super fresh deliciousness.

» **FAVORITES:** Stracciatella cheese with crusty bread and fresh radishes with the greens lightly dressed. House-made pastas, including a casonsei stuffed with ricotta and served with Swiss chard, crumbled walnuts and aged Balsamic vinegar.

» **SPIRITS:** In addition to highly original craft cocktails, the wine list, which is predominately French and Italian, features several orange wines. [www.rolfanddaughters.com](http://www.rolfanddaughters.com)



Ryman Auditorium

## DO

» Take a back-stage tour at the **Ryman Auditorium** and stay on for the Grand Ole Opry. [www.ryman.com](http://www.ryman.com)

» Squeeze into **Tootsies Orchid Lounge** for a longneck beer and a first-class country act. [www.tootsies.net](http://www.tootsies.net)

» Catch the bluegrass jam at **The Station Inn**, a down-to-earth joint in the Gulch. [www.stationinn.com](http://www.stationinn.com)

» Hang out with the cool kids at **The 5 Spot** to spot Nashville's next breakout indie artist. [www.the5spot.club](http://www.the5spot.club)

## BRIEFCASE

**CARRY** Wheeled bags rolled out in 1970. Suitcases made of lighter, more durable materials are now the standard. Ones with built-in GPS, Wi-Fi hotspots and USB chargers are the future. Where do these advances in luggage technology leave the romantic? Carrying a **Lotuff** leather bag. Handmade in the United States, these timeless totes are hand cut from vegetable-tanned natural leather, a laborious process that uses only clear dyes in a range of colors that enhance the character of the leather. The result is a range of classic bags—duffels, weekenders, totes—that harken back to a golden age of travel. [www.lotuffleather.com](http://www.lotuffleather.com)

**READ** You can't discover the soul of a city on your smartphone. For that, dive into a book from **Bloomsbury's** "The Writer and the City" series. Successful authors offer their unique perspective on the world's most enchanting cities, with beautiful covers inspired by each city adorning each hardback book. The latest release is *Prague Pictures: Portrait of a City* by John Banville. Others include *Florence: A Delicate Case* by David Leavitt, *The Flaneur: A Stroll Through the Paradoxes of Paris* by Edmund White, and *30 Days in Sydney: A Wildly Distorted Account* by Peter Carey. [www.bloomsbury.com](http://www.bloomsbury.com)



**PACK** Packing for a trip can be anxiety inducing even if you're of the "If I didn't bring it, I'll buy it" mindset. Suggestion: Download the new packing list app **PackPoint**. Enter where you will be traveling, your dates, and the type of trip (business or leisure). Choose from a list of activities icons—working, gym, international, etc.—or add a custom activity. Click on begin packing. The app then checks the weather in your destination and generates a list of items by category. Check the ones you need, reducing or increasing the recommended number, to get a final list that includes everything from an umbrella to a Kindle to three pairs of long socks. [www.packpnt.com](http://www.packpnt.com)

