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FROM THE EDITORS OF *Midwest Living*[®] MAGAZINE

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GETAWAYS

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35 AMAZING
STATE PARKS

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Weekend getaways



In 1902, West Baden Springs Hotel's atrium and 200-foot glass dome were called the eighth wonder of the world. A \$500 million renovation returned it to glory. From \$209 (888/936-9360; frenchlick.com).

THE TICKET

* I loved my girlfriends' weekend at French Lick Resort. Many women take advantage of the resort's spas and mineral spring water, but I'm not really a spa girl. So instead, I spent \$39.95 on the two-hour Patoka Lake Sunset Wine Cruise, sampling wines and admiring the sunset and views of Hoosier National Forest (888/819-6916; patokalakemarina.com).

— JAMIE BARTOSCH

original art and fine antiques (765/855-3400); White River Architectural Salvage and Antiques, the place to go to make a decorating statement (765/855-1908; whiteriversalvage.com); and The Enchanted Sleigh, which carries small decorative antiques and contemporary folk art (765/855-2567; theenchanted sleigh.com).

PHOTOGRAPH: JASON LINDSEY

Indiana tourism's slogan, "Restart Your Engines," applies state-wide, even if your weekends find you far from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Vacationers seeking a restful lakeside retreat head for Winona Lake in northern Indiana. East of Indianapolis, Antique Alley ✕ offers plenty of treasure hunting along the Old National Road. Covered bridges nestle west of Indianapolis, where more than 30 Hoosier-crafted bridges span streams in Parke County. In the far north, the University of Notre Dame in South Bend offers exciting football and spots for reflection.

People flock to the state's southern reaches for renewal in vast, hilly tracts of protected woodlands. In French Lick, the grand resort hotels are gleaming again, complete with challenging golf. Brown County has attracted creative types for more than a century, thanks to T.C. Steele, who founded an artists' colony there.

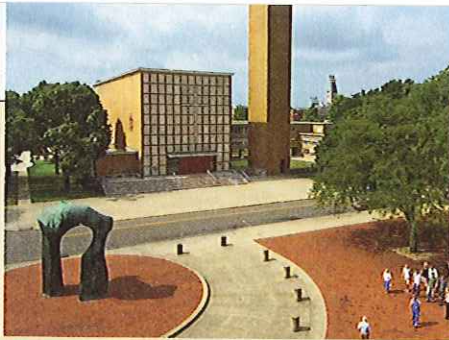
Southeast of Indianapolis, you'll find Columbus, the little city with a great big cluster of modern architecture (not to mention some great restaurants and a new B&B in an old mansion).

ANTIQUE ALLEY ✕

Treasure hunters, here's your haven. Hundreds of dealers and shops cluster along U.S. 40 (it parallels I-70) east of Indianapolis. Small-town-friendly folks and great architecture along the 33-mile stretch from Knightstown to Richmond enrich the route. For information: **Richmond/Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau** (800/828-8414; visitrichmond.org).

What to do Cambridge City Notable shops here are National Road Antique Mall, with owners who love to talk about their wares (765/478-9070); and Vinton House Antiques, which has two floors of high-quality goods, plus the Western Wayne Heritage Museum (765/478-9371).

Centerville Fun places to browse include Wheeler's Antiques, a family shop known for its dolls,



SWEET DEALS *The First Christian Church (Left)* Columbus' architectural story dates to 1942, when the founders of Cummins Inc. asked modernist Eliel Saarinen of Finland to design this church. It is one of 70 buildings and pieces of public art included on a free, self-guided tour through town. You can pick up a map at the Columbus Area Visitors Center, which also offers narrated, two-hour bus tours from \$20. If you're looking to grab dinner or spend the night in town, check the CVB website first. It has coupons that'll save you 15–30 percent (800/468-6564; columbus.in.us).

Where to eat Ghyslain Chocolatier Chef Ghyslain Maurais displays his prodigious talent at his chocolate boutique and bistro in Richmond. The country French cuisine is perfect before a chocolate and coffee (765/966-3344; ghyslain.com).

Little Sheba's Restaurant More than 40 unique sandwiches come with homemade potato or pasta salad in Richmond (765/962-2999; littleshebas.com).

The Pour House Antiques and Sweets Stop at this Cambridge City shop for fresh-brewed coffee, plus muffins, scones and sandwiches (765/478-4000; thepourhousesweets.com).

Where to stay Historic Lantz House Inn Rooms at this Centerville B&B are decorated with antiques; the garden is a lovely place to rest. For breakfast, look for lemon ricotta cheese pancakes. From \$101 (800/495-2689; lantzhouseinn.com).

Philip W. Smith Bed and Breakfast This historic Victorian home is in a pretty Richmond neighborhood called Millionaires' Row. From \$99 (800/966-8972; pwsmithbnb.com).

BROWN COUNTY

Nashville (population: 827), the county seat, is a great destination for cool boutiques, artsy finds, cooking with a Southern touch, plus the artists' inspiration: rolling hills and natural beauty. For information: **Brown County Convention and Visitors Bureau** (800/753-3255; browncounty.com).

What to do Brown County Craft Gallery More than 30 local artisans show their works, including pottery, handmade jewelry and baskets, at this Nashville spot (812/988-7058; browncountycraftgallery.com).

Brown County Pioneer Village Museum Five buildings hold a working blacksmith shop, jail and pioneer cabin in downtown Nashville. Seasonal (812/988-2899; browncountyhistory.info).

Brown County State Park

Indiana's largest state park spreads over the rolling hills southeast of Nashville. Highlights: horseback-riding, hiking, mountain biking and a rustic lodge with indoor water park (812/988-6406; stateparks.in.gov).

Flower and Herb Barn Nursery This Nashville nursery provides lots of garden inspiration and an outdoor tearoom in a natural setting. Seasonal (812/988-7232).

Hoosier National Forest The state's national forest has more than 200,000 acres and offers 266 miles of trails, camping, hunting, fishing and boating.

The campground at Hardin Ridge has great amenities. A section of the forest abuts the shoreline of **Monroe Reservoir**, the state's largest (everyone calls it Lake Monroe). Also see **Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest**, where Indiana's oldest trees grow on 88 acres. Undisturbed since 1816, this preserve recalls how the state looked when the first settlers arrived (866/302-4173; fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier).

T.C. Steele State Historic Site

Nine miles west of Nashville, the 1907 hilltop home and studio of the artists' colony founder and pretty gardens invite reflection. (812/988-2785; tcsteele.org).

Where to eat Artists Colony Inn and Restaurant The focus is on fresh, local ingredients at this eatery (800/370-4703; artistscolonyinn.com).

The Nashville House This local standard serves favorites such as fried biscuits, hickory-smoked ham and apple butter in a homey setting (812/988-4554; browncountyinn.com).

Story Inn Feast on inventive fare in a converted tin-front general store in tiny Story. (Stay here if you dare: This bed-and-breakfast claims to be haunted. From \$129.) (800/881-1183; storyinn.com).

Where to stay Abe Martin Lodge Settle into the stone and timber lodge or cabins at Brown County State Park. From \$72 (877/563-4371; indianainns.com).

Cornerstone Inn This newer hotel in Nashville has 36 individually decorated rooms

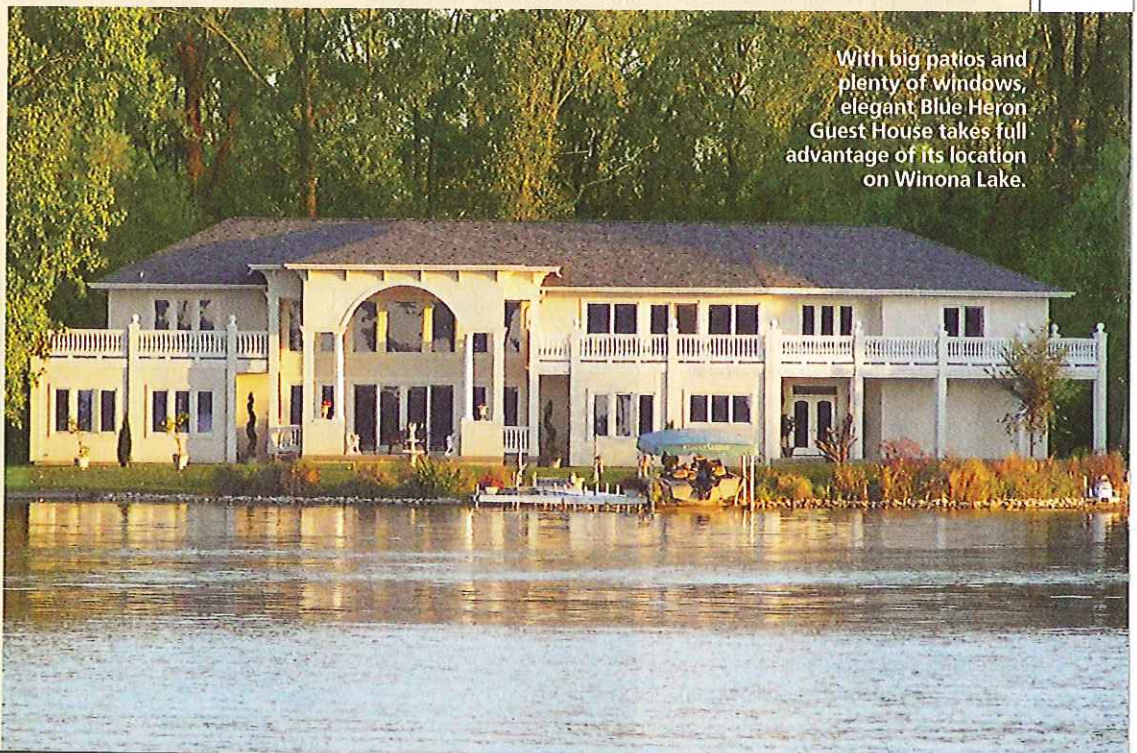
and delicious hot breakfasts. From \$149 (888/383-0300; cornerstoneinn.com).

COLUMBUS

A few years after Eliel Saarinen designed the new First Christian Church, son Eero designed the glass Irwin Union Bank. Soon, architects and artists were flocking to Columbus. The result is a staggering collection in a city of about 40,000, and the architectural tours are the main draw. For information: **Columbus Area Visitors Center** (800/468-6564; columbus.in.us).

What to do Mill Race Park The People Trail starts here and winds around a pretty little lake with a covered bridge. The big observation tower provides a nice view of the city and the modernist landscape architecture (800/468-6564; columbus.in.us).

Where to eat Bistro 310 Housed in a parking garage, this high-end restaurant has a French-influenced menu. Try the seasonally inspired crème brûlée (812/418-8212; bistro310.com).



With big patios and plenty of windows, elegant Blue Heron Guest House takes full advantage of its location on Winona Lake.