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Travel news you can use

Phil Marty
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Here are some of the more interesting deals and Web sites that came across our desk this week:

--If you can get together four people, Dooley Vacations' "Tuscany & A Taste of [Venice](#)" package will give you airfare from Chicago, four nights in Tuscany, two nights in Venice and a manual-shift rental car from \$789 a person. Travel has to be from November to March. dooleyvacations.com/vacations/tuscany-venice-pkg

--The fourth annual Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival along the beaches of Ft. Myers and Sanibel Island, Fla., will be held Oct. 23-Nov. 1 and celebrates the 190-mile marked paddling trail. calusabluewaypaddlingfestival.com

--The Navajo Tourism Web site is sponsoring a photo contest that has a grand prize valued at \$3,500. discovernavajo.com

--For opera buffs, The Inn of the Five Graces in Santa Fe offers an "Opera Butler" package for ticketholders to shows in the 2009 season of the Santa Fe Opera. Cost is \$550 per night and includes a CD, a locally made medicine pouch and a choice of dinner options for one evening -- either a filled picnic basket, bottle of wine and dining essentials for tailgating or a three course prix-fixe menu and a bottle of wine chosen by the sommelier at the Pink Adobe. fivegraces.com

--Pocono Whitewater in [Jim Thorpe](#), Pa., has a one-night moonlight rafting trip on the Lehigh River several nights during the summer and fall for \$89.95 a person.

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poconowhitewater.com/specialtytrips.html

--The Reef Resort on Grand Cayman is offering beachfront suites starting at \$149 a night. One of the activities available at the resort is power snorkeling, with snorkelers outfitted with a dive propulsion vehicle so they can cover more territory. thereef.com/en/reservations/vacationSpecials.html#entry_53

--Madrid's 60-day "Summer in the City" festival runs through Aug. 23. It includes a total of 1,166 performances, among them 65 concerts, 50 plays, 30 dance companies, 200 film screenings and two circuses. esmadrid.com/en/portal.do

--If you're looking for a trip you can really get your teeth into, the Phuket Vegetarian Festival in Thailand is Oct. 17-26 this year. phuketvegetarian.com

--South Seas Island Resort on the north end of Captiva Island in southwest [Florida](#) has rooms as low as \$135 a night, or as low as \$149 a night with one night free on a four-night stay. The offer is good through Oct. 31. southseas.com

--Through Dec. 18, you can stay at the all-inclusive Allegro Papagayo resort on Costa Rica's northern Pacific coast for as low as \$68 per night, per person based on double occupancy. occidentalhotels.com

Deals and Web sites listed here have been checked for availability, but the listings are not an endorsement.

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