

A Master Showcase

THE MUSCARELLE'S 'AMAZING' EXHIBIT

Aaron De Groft, director of the Muscarelle Museum of Art at The College of William and Mary, is busy preparing for the museum's 25th anniversary, and he's excited. From January 26 through March 23, the Muscarelle will host an exhibition of Old Master paintings called "Painting the Italian Landscape: Views from the Uffizi." "It's a nationally significant exhibition coming to our community," says De Groft. "It's amazing to be exposed to some of the great masters of painting, and you don't have to go to the big cities or Europe."

The show is the first stop in a year-long U.S. tour of the 44 Uffizi pieces and was curated by Uffizi director Antonio Natali. In addition to these pieces, five paintings are on loan to the Muscarelle from the Lauro collection in Naples. "I just want to shamelessly promote these great pieces because I'm proud to get a show from Uffizi [in Florence]—it's one of the world's best museums. People who go to museums and travel will recognize these works and names," says De Groft. Among them: Botticelli's *The Adoration of the Magi* and, from the Lauro collection, a rediscovered Velázquez modello (sketch) for *Apollo in the Forge of Vulcan* (below).

Beginning with Botticelli's 16th-century piece, the exhibit covers five centuries of works, and De Groft explains, "It shows the evolution of landscape painting." The exhibit traces landscapes from their role as a background for pictorial subjects in the 16th century to their place as main subjects in the 17th and 18th centuries, then to stylistic experiments with light and focus in the 19th and 20th centuries, the last best evidenced by Giacomo Balla's 1942 work, *Gusts of Wind*.

"The idea was to have the greatest show we've ever had for the 25th anniversary," says De Groft. WM.edu/Muscarelle
—ANNE-RYAN HEATWOLE



Where the Cold Wind Takes You

TWO REDOUBTS FOR WINTER UNWINDING

Winter is a season for hunkering down—in style. Many people do so in their homes (where are those chips and the remote?), but there are better alternatives for settling in. One of them is the **Goodstone Inn & Estate**, just outside Middleburg. Goodstone is an idyllic, 265-acre country redoubt (with an ampersand in the name, it almost *has* to be), quiet and refined and offering some spectacular scenery, for those who appreciate rolling hills. The Warburg family—the German and U.S. banking clan—owned the property from 1939 to 1996, operating it as both a horse farm and dairy until the 1960s.

These days, the Goodstone is simply an elegant place to unwind. The inn's focal point, to the extent there is one, is the carriage house. There, beneath a cathedral ceiling, guests can sip tea in the afternoon or enjoy an *aperitif* before dinner—in winter, in front of a fire. Erstwhile horse stalls have been converted into four charming guest suites, each with a different décor. In addition, there are four stand-alone cottages on the estate, each with two to four bedrooms, that are ideal for groups—a Dutch cottage, a spring house, a French farmhouse (with a country kitchen and great room), and the manor house, once the Warburg residence. All have fireplaces and outdoor patios, along with complimentary wine and sherry. Though each

has a full kitchen, the staff drops off coffee and baked goods in the morning. The manor house, on a hill overlooking the estate, is a genteel setting for a corporate retreat, especially since the Goodstone is only about 40 minutes from Dulles Airport.

The inn's newly opened restaurant, Hilltoppers, is a major enhancement, serving "refined American cuisine with European influences." Executive chef Christopher Carey, a graduate of the French Culinary Institute in New York and Cordon Bleu in Paris, worked previously as the executive chef at both the Ashby Inn and the Clifton Inn in Virginia. Sous chef Matthew Mohler, formerly executive chef at the Hunter's Head in Upperville and sommelier at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Maryland, is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America.

Manager Brian Crook, who spent

10 years in Bermuda before joining the Goodstone, throws special wine dinners monthly; most recently, he brought in Patrick O'Byrne from Henriot Inc., one of the last family-owned Champagne *maisons* in France, to host a champagne dinner. With snow falling outside, O'Byrne opened the meal by saying that "drinking burgundy makes us think of naughty things, drinking Bordeaux makes us discuss them, but champagne makes us do them."

Over a five-course dinner featuring sturgeon with braised leeks and endive and poached veal medallion "pot au feu," guests enjoyed three non-vintage and two vintage Henriot champagnes, including an exquisite 1996 brut. Henriot, a small producer, is known for its long aging and mix of pinot noir and chardonnay grapes.

Autumn and spring are the Goodstone's high seasons, what with hiking and biking trails and canoeing on Goose Creek "when there is water," says Crook. And there are many charming villages in the area, of course—but it's hard to think of a better place to be in winter, especially when there is snow in the air.

Looking for something more rustic? Dr. Vernon Sylvest, a pathologist in Richmond, has just opened his **Healing Waters Lodge** on nearly 200 acres in Highland County—about as far west from Charlottesville as you can go before hitting West Virginia. Sylvest, also a practitioner of holistic medicine, is marketing the lodge as a place to go for a six-day program of "health maintenance." The program features two yoga sessions daily, hiking, physical conditioning, modified vegetarian meals (fish but no meat) and a massage. In the evening, after dinner, there will be communal "sharing" sessions featuring Sylvest or others and focused on how to perceive, and experience, life in more positive ways. The lodge, once owned by Elizabeth Kübler-Ross, is a pre-Civil War log cabin, with a modern addition, that sleeps up to nine in a simple, family-style setting—three rooms with twin beds, another with three twins. The cost for a week's stay is \$2,500. Weekend guests are welcome—that, in fact, is the only time Sylvest will be on the property. As the doctor says, "Reach a place of peace and stay healthy."

—RICHARD ERNSBERGER JR.



Healing Waters Lodge

INFO

Goodstone Inn & Estate

Middleburg, Virginia. (877) 219-4663; GoodstoneInn.com

RATES: A two-night "getaway" package is \$550; cottage rates start at \$500 a night (winter weekdays) and go up.

Healing Waters Lodge

Headwaters, Virginia. (540) 905-4726; HealingWatersLodgeVirginia.com

RATES: \$2,500 for a week's stay, all inclusive; group discounts.