

Summer Pasta with Grilled Eggplant Sauce

Even though the exterior of eggplant is a gorgeous deep purple color; the beauty of this vegetable lies on the inside. This recipe takes advantage of the fact that the flesh of grilled eggplant transforms into a luscious creamy sauce that's perfect for dressing up little tubes of rigatoni. To make the most of summer's bounty, cherry tomatoes are grilled alongside the eggplant until bursting with juices, then mixed into this summer vegetable pasta.

Level: Easy

Total: 45 min

Active: 30 min

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

Ingredients:

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
Grated zest (about 1 teaspoon) and juice of 1 lemon
1 pound mezze rigatoni
1 large eggplant, about 1 1/4 pounds
11 ounces cherry tomatoes (about 2 cups), halved (quartered if large)
3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 cup ricotta
1/2 cup grated Pecorino Romano cheese, plus more for serving
1 cup packed basil leaves, chopped, plus more for serving
1/2 cup packed parsley leaves, chopped, plus more for serving
Crushed red pepper flakes, for serving (optional)

Directions:

- 1 Prepare a grill for high heat.
- 2 Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the lemon juice to the boiling water and cook the pasta according to the package directions for al dente. Reserve 1/2 cup of the pasta cooking water, drain the pasta and return it to the pot; set aside.
- 3 Pierce the eggplant a few times with a fork or knife. Place on the grill, cover and cook, turning every 8 to 10 minutes, until completely charred all over and the flesh is soft when pressed, 25 to 30 minutes. Transfer to a large bowl and let cool slightly for 10 minutes.
- 4 While the eggplant cooks, prepare 2 sheets of foil, each 12-by-12-inches, and stack them together. Place the tomatoes, garlic, olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of black pepper in the center of the foil. Fold over 2 opposite sides of the foil then fold in the remaining sides to create a tight seal. When 15 minutes of cooking time remain for the eggplant, add the foil pack to the grill and cook until juices start to bubble out of the top (this means the tomatoes and garlic are sufficiently cooked without having to open the pack), 13 to 15 minutes.
- 5 Remove the eggplant to a cutting board (keeping any juices that accumulated in the bowl) and squeeze gently to crack the skin and expose the flesh. Use a spoon to remove the flesh, transfer to the large bowl and mash lightly with the spoon or a potato masher (you should have about 1 cup of flesh); discard the skin. Stir in the ricotta and Pecorino Romano until smooth then pour into the pot with the pasta and mix until combined. Fold in the contents of the foil pack (including any juices that accumulated), the basil, parsley, lemon zest, 1/2 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of black pepper; stir until combined, adding the reserved pasta water, 1 tablespoon at a time, to thin out the sauce if needed. Serve with more basil, parsley, Pecorino Romano and crushed red pepper flakes if using.



BE YOUR **REAL ID** SELF

DEADLINE: MAY 7, 2025

You are not required to get a REAL ID, however, starting May 7, 2025, if you typically use your driver license or non-driver ID (instead of a passport or other form of ID) to fly within the U.S. you probably want a REAL ID. Otherwise you will need to use a valid U.S. passport or another federally approved form of identification. The Standard New Jersey driver license can still be used for driving.

This Small Town in West Virginia Is One of the Quietest Places in the Country

Thanks to the Green Bank Observatory, cell service and wi-fi are restricted by law here.

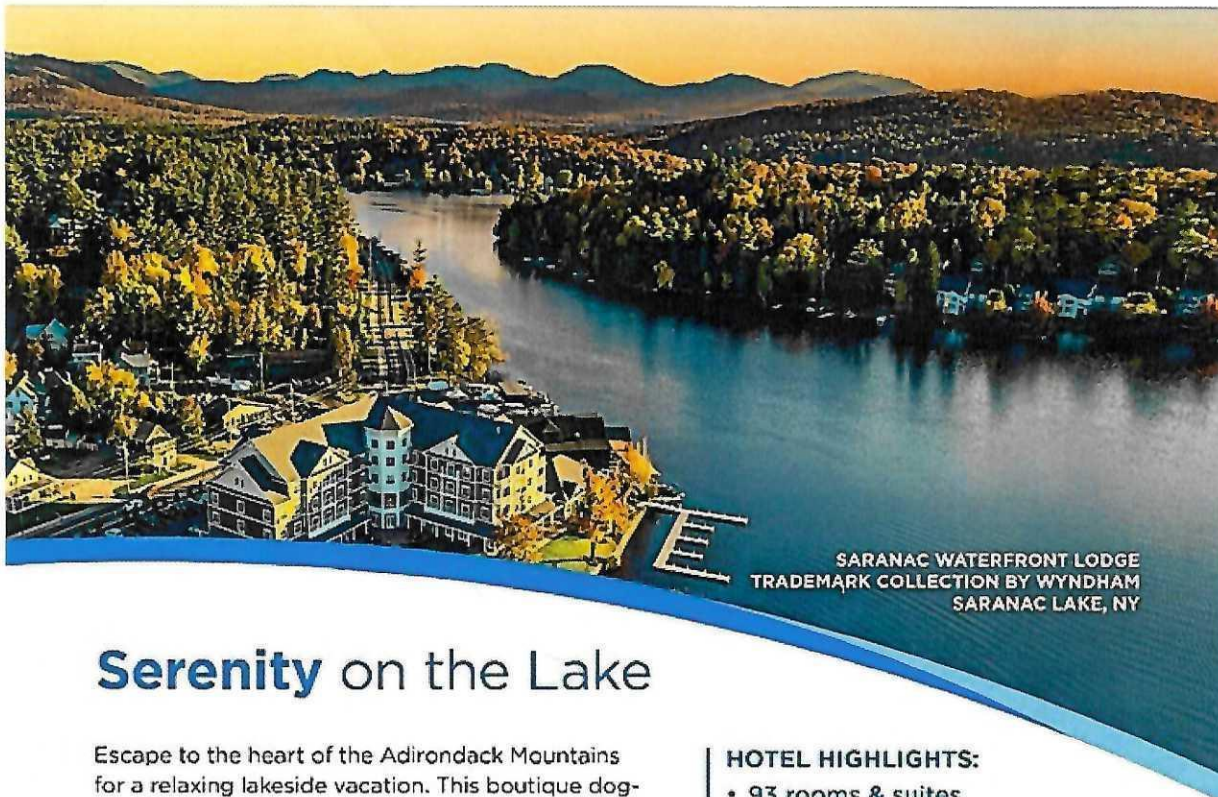
When planning a trip to Green Bank, West Virginia, local experts will remind you to download or print a map well before entering the city limits of the three square-mile town, population: 141. That's because this tiny, idyllic village, nestled in the Allegheny Mountains, is at the heart of the National Radio Quiet Zone—an area where radio transmission, which includes cellular service and wi-fi—are restricted by law. So if you're looking for the quietest place in the country, you've come to the right place.

For those who live in or visit the 13,000 square-mile National Radio Quiet Zone, peace and solitude are at the top of the list of priorities. And in Green Bank, it isn't enough that cellphones, wireless devices, electric toothbrushes, microwaves (they're responsible for electromagnetic current generation) and other vestiges of the 21st century are effectively disabled—they're seriously banned. A so-called radio policeman uses special equipment to detect any and all signs of unauthorized and unregistered electronic devices.

The enforcement of silence isn't simply a gimmick; rather, it's all in service of the Green Bank Telescope, the largest fully steerable radio telescope in the world and key to scientists' attempts to discover signs of extraterrestrial intelligence. The telescope is also credited with a number of key discoveries, including the largest neutron star ever found in 2019. Because the Allegheny mountains protect the telescope from radio interference outside of Green Bank, the instrument is one of the most sensitive and well-positioned to listen (and observe) in the world.

While the town has long attracted scientists, academics, and researchers, it has also become a mecca for those looking for an escape from noise pollution and the seemingly unending buzz of modern-day life. Green Bank, after all, takes unplugging to a new level.

The most obvious attraction is the Green Bank Observatory, whose sheer size is enough to warrant significant marveling at the scientific achievements of recent years (though the fact that it can hear a star dying is pretty cool, too). That said, there are also natural wonders to behold within the Allegheny, with a multitude of hikes and trails readily available in and around Green Bank. But perhaps most precious and inimitable of all the attractions in Green Bank is the opportunity to truly hear the world as it may have sounded long before humans began to walk the Earth, and just maybe, experience a few square miles as they ought to have been.



Serenity on the Lake

Escape to the heart of the Adirondack Mountains for a relaxing lakeside vacation. This boutique dog-friendly retreat is situated on the beautiful Pontiac Bay, by Lake Placid. Just steps from boating, kayaking, fishing, hiking and other outdoor activities, **Saranac Waterfront Lodge** is the ideal lakeside launch pad. Whether you're exploring Whiteface Mountain, hitting the green at Saranac Lake Golf Club, or catching a show at the Pendragon Theatre, this contemporary hotel has the ideal location with all the amenities you'll want and need.

HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS:

- 93 rooms & suites
- Boat and paddleboard rentals
- On-site pub with outdoor scenic dining and a private dining room ideal for meetings, celebrations, and events.
- Pet-friendly
- Heated indoor pool and hot tub

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Heart of Texas

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8 Days
3 Destinations

From \$1,299 pp



If you're looking for the greatest cities to visit in the Lone Star State, this eight-day Heart of Texas rail journey will take you there! From Fort Worth to the capital city of Austin to San Antonio, you'll get to experience everything that makes these three metro areas such popular destinations.

The famous saying is that everything is bigger in Texas, and if you take into account all that these three cities have to offer, it's easy to see why! Starting in Fort Worth, the City of Cowboys and Culture, you'll explore the Stockyards National Historic District's many exciting attractions and experiences, including seeing beautiful Texas Longhorn cattle, visiting the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, and spending some time at Billy Bob's Texas. In San Antonio, your included Grand Tour will show you The Alamo, Japanese Sunken Gardens, El Mercado, historic missions, and so much more! Before wrapping up your rail journey, get a taste of frontier life at The Buckhorn Saloon and Texas Ranger Museums and learn all

A Feast for the Senses: Must-See Places and Culinary Delights in France

France, a country synonymous with romance, art, and gastronomy, is a treasure trove of experiences waiting to be explored. From iconic landmarks to culinary delights, every corner of this enchanting nation beckons travelers with its unique charm. In this guide, we'll unravel the must-see places in France, along with a delectable journey through its culinary landscape.

Paris: The City of Lights

No exploration of France is complete without a visit to the City of Lights – Paris. Begin your journey at the iconic Eiffel Tower, where panoramic views of the city unfold. Stroll along the Seine River, crossing charming bridges like Pont Alexandre III, and immerse yourself in the artistic ambiance of Montmartre, home to the renowned Sacré-Cœur Basilica.

Indulge your artistic sensibilities at the Louvre, home to the Mona Lisa, and the Musée d'Orsay, housing an impressive collection of impressionist masterpieces. For a taste of Parisian chic, explore the haute couture boutiques along Avenue Montaigne.

Eat/Drink: Treat your palate to classic French cuisine at a boulangerie for freshly baked croissants, or savor escargot and coq au vin at a traditional bistro. Don't forget to pair your meal with a glass of exquisite Bordeaux or a flute of Champagne.

Provence: A Tapestry of Lavender Fields and Roman Ruins

The picturesque region of Provence, with its rolling vineyards and vibrant lavender fields, is a visual delight. Visit the ancient Roman amphitheater in Arles and wander through the cobblestone streets of Avignon, home to the Palais des Papes.

For a sensory experience, explore the fragrant Lavender Route in the Luberon region, where the vibrant purple fields stretch as far as the eye can see. Take a leisurely drive through the Gorges du Verdon, often referred to as the "Grand Canyon of Europe," and soak in the breathtaking scenery.

Eat/Drink: Sample the local flavors with ratatouille, bouillabaisse, and tapenade. Pair your meal with a crisp glass of rosé, a specialty of the region.



The French Riviera: Glamour and Seaside Splendor

The French Riviera, or Côte d'Azur, is synonymous with glamour and seaside luxury. Explore the vibrant city of Nice, with its Promenade des Anglais and colorful Old Town. Visit the medieval village of Eze, perched on a hill with panoramic views of the Mediterranean.

Indulge in the glitz and glamour of Monaco, home to the famous Casino de Monte-Carlo. Relax on the glamorous beaches of Saint-Tropez or sip a cocktail at a seaside café in Cannes.

Eat/Drink: Dive into the Mediterranean cuisine with a plate of bouillabaisse or salade niçoise. Enjoy a glass of local rosé as you bask in the Riviera's sun-kissed ambiance.



Bordeaux: A Wine Lover's Paradise

For wine enthusiasts, Bordeaux is a pilgrimage to the heart of French viticulture. Explore the historic vineyards of Saint-Émilion and Pomerol, and visit the impressive Cité du Vin, a museum dedicated to the history of wine.

Stroll along the elegant boulevards of Bordeaux, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and savor the beauty of the Place de la Bourse. Take a wine-tasting journey through the Médoc and Graves regions, where some of the world's finest wines are produced.

Eat/Drink: Pair your Bordeaux wine with local delicacies such as entrecôte bordelaise or canelé, a sweet pastry with a caramelized crust.

Lyon: The Gastronomic Capital of France

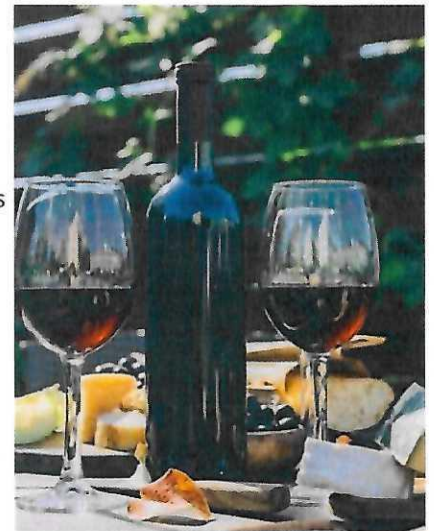
End your French sojourn in Lyon, the undisputed gastronomic capital of the country. Stroll through the cobbled streets of Vieux Lyon, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and savor the beauty of the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière.

Embark on a culinary adventure in the traboules, hidden passageways that connect the city's buildings. Lyon's traditional bouchons offer a taste of authentic Lyonnais cuisine, featuring dishes such as coq au vin and quenelles.

Eat/Drink: Indulge in Lyonnais specialties like boudin noir, salade lyonnaise, and the decadent praline tart. Pair your meal with a glass of Côtes du Rhône wine.

In Conclusion: A French Odyssey of Sights and Flavors

France, with its diverse regions and culinary wonders, promises a journey that engages all the senses. From the iconic landmarks of Paris to the sun-kissed beaches of the French Riviera, every corner tells a story of history, culture, and gastronomic excellence. So, embark on a French odyssey, where every vista and every bite unveils the timeless allure of this captivating nation. Bon voyage!



The
Florida Keys
& Key West
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The Florida Keys and Key West is a 126 mile long string of Islands connected to South Florida by the scenic Overseas Highway; a road that suspends the traveller in a place that bridges the gap between sea and sky. In the Florida Keys you are a world away from the theme parks of central Florida, in a place that envelopes you with its warmth and beauty and grants you permission to shed the worries of the real world you just left behind! The turquoise blue waters that surrounds Key Largo, Islamorada, Marathon, Big Pine Key and Key West is a treasure trove both above and below the waters.



STAR CLIPPERS

GROUPS 2024 AND 2025

OCTOBER 20, 2024-SUNNY PORTUGAL (with optional 4-night Madeira Island extension)

Highlights: Lisbon, Belem, Cork Factory, Evora, Winery visit, Alentejo, Lagos, Algarve, Silves, Setubal, Obidos, and Sintra. Includes eight breakfasts, three lunches and three dinners, all included sightseeing, all current air taxes and fees along with transfers t/from Newark and round-trip airfare. Bookings must be made by April 15th. Rate is \$3,999.00 per person double. PASSPORT IS REQUIRED.

DECEMBER 7, 2024-ROYAL CLIPPER (round trip Barbados)

Would you like to climb the mast to the crow's nest 75 feet above the deck or visit the open bridge where you can help sail the vessel? If so, this tall ship adventure is your ticket. Casual and relaxes with top notch dining and less than 250 passengers. Have a tropical drink while you relax in the bowsprit netting while listening to a steel drum band on deck. Visit Grenada, St. Vincent, Bequia, Martinique and St. Lucia. Rate per person for an outside cabin, including current taxes, is \$2,475.00. Our special pricing also includes pre-paid gratuities and an on board credit of \$200. per person.

MARCH 2, 2025-CELEBRITY ASCENT TO THE CARIBBEAN

Sail on one of Celebrity's newest ships from Ft. Lauderdale. Visit the Dominican Republic, St. Thomas, and St. Maarten along with three relaxing days at sea. Enjoy an unlimited beverage package and complimentary wi-fi. Experience a Prime Edge Stateroom with an infinite verandah for \$2,119.00 per person double.

MARCH 3, 2025-ALASKA'S NORTHERN LIGHTS

Highlights: Anchorage, Northern Lights excursions, Winter Glacier cruise, Prince William Sound, Talkeetna, Alaska Railroad, Fairbanks, and Dog mushing. Two nights in Anchorage, one in Talkeetna and three in Fairbanks, six breakfasts, one lunch and four dinners. With just 12-24 passengers, this is a personal journey and adventure that today's cultural explorers dream of. Rate is \$4,999.00 per person double occupancy including all above and air fare to/from Newark with transfers.

NOVEMBER 25, 2025-ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS ABOARD AMA REINA (Nuremburg to Budapest)

Travel back through centuries as you walk along cobblestone streets through grand cities and historic towns bedecked with twinkling Christmas trees and lined with wooden huts gleaming with handcrafted treasures. Nuremberg's festive Christkindlemarkt, the largest and oldest Christmas market in Germany, Regensburg's Artisan Christmas Market, one of Bavaria's most beautiful and romantic, Vienna with its impressive Christmas Market and Budapest where most products are handmade. Revel in a feast for the senses: sparkling lights, festive sounds of children dressed as angels singing carols and the enticing smells of hot-mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, sausages, and sweet treats of every kind. Rates start at \$3,699.00 per person double occupancy. Air fare and pre and post options will be available in early 2025. A deposit of \$400 per person is required.

Keep your eyes open for Iceland along with a Celebrity cruise to Bermuda in 2025 and plan ahead for that bucket list cruise to Viet Nam and Thailand in March of 2026. Come celebrate my birthday with me!

Poland: Cities Worth Discovering



From the towering Tatra Mountains to the wild Baltic Sea, Poland is filled with vibrant cities known for their splendid heritage, mouthwatering cuisine and stunning architecture. Poland is home to numerous attractions and landmarks that are sure to delight visitors from all over the world. The country's secret lies in the evident diversity between its cities, each of which is waiting to tell a unique story. It's time to be captivated by a fantastic city break crammed with charming districts, modern city centers and bustling streets.

Modern-day Warsaw is a vibrant metropolis where history meets the latest technology, contemporary art and architecture. Warsaw is not only one of Poland's major business centers, but also has a rich history, lively culture and a number of renowned universities, attracting an increasing number of tourists, students, artists and business people.

Poland's capital is full of opportunities and attractions, enabling everyone to get to know Warsaw in their own way. The city's diversity is a perfect metaphor for the journey Poland has gone through over many centuries. Warsaw is a city of contrasts — between glittering skyscrapers and the historic Old Town; traditional Polish dishes and international cuisine and its many green zones with its urban landscape.

The historic capital, Krakow, was once home to Polish kings. Now, it is one of Central Europe's most popular spots for travellers and an important center of art, commerce, and culture. Krakow is Poland's second-largest city, blending an international atmosphere with a cozy vibe, in one charming, well-balanced destination.

Tricity consists of three coastal cities — Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia — that together create a single metropolitan area. With over 1,000 years of tradition and history, Gdansk contrasts with the smaller, quieter Sopot and the young port city of Gdynia, creating a perfect seaside resort with excellent cuisine. Attracting tourists from all over the world, Tricity is bustling with life throughout the whole year.

It is hard to imagine Tricity without picturing Gdansk's majestic shipyard cranes, Sopot's Pier or Gdynia's cliffs. Each city offers different attractions, bound together by a gorgeous coastline with spectacular sunsets and countless restaurants serving fresh seafood. Tricity is also famous for amber, often called Baltic Gold, that can be found on beaches, at souvenir stands and in jewellery shops.

Poland's third-largest city became industrial settlement in 19th century and has been the centre of the country's textile industry ever since. The city is now well-known for its unique post-industrial character. The cityscape is still influenced by this period, as looming brick factories have been transformed into trendy cultural centres, malls, museums, and apartments.

What's captivating about Lodz is the constant change that unfolds all around you. It has the ability to seamlessly transform its industrial areas into modern, alternative destinations while still maintaining their charm. The city is full of creativity and artistic expression focused on reinvention and ingenuity. Once described as "grey", Lodz is now blossoming into a colourful city filled with street art.

Wroclaw is the capital of the Lower Silesia region and is one of the most beautiful cities in Poland. Some describe Wroclaw as "The Venice of Poland" as the Oder River breaks off into separate tributaries that run throughout the city.

With over 100 bridges, small islands, a fascinating market square, picturesque green spaces and a vibrant nightlife, Wroclaw has everything needed for a truly magical getaway. It charms visitors with its unusual architecture, numerous bridges, cultural heritage and scenic boulevards, as well as many monuments and well-preserved historic buildings. Wroclaw can seem like a fairy-tale city, with its chilled vibe, hundreds of gnomes hidden around the buildings and a lighthouse-keeper walking around Ostrów Tumski.