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See page 83.

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Congrats, Tess Wolfe-Stelzer!
Your amazing Literary Lamp
is the best project of the year!
See page 57.



Place Setting

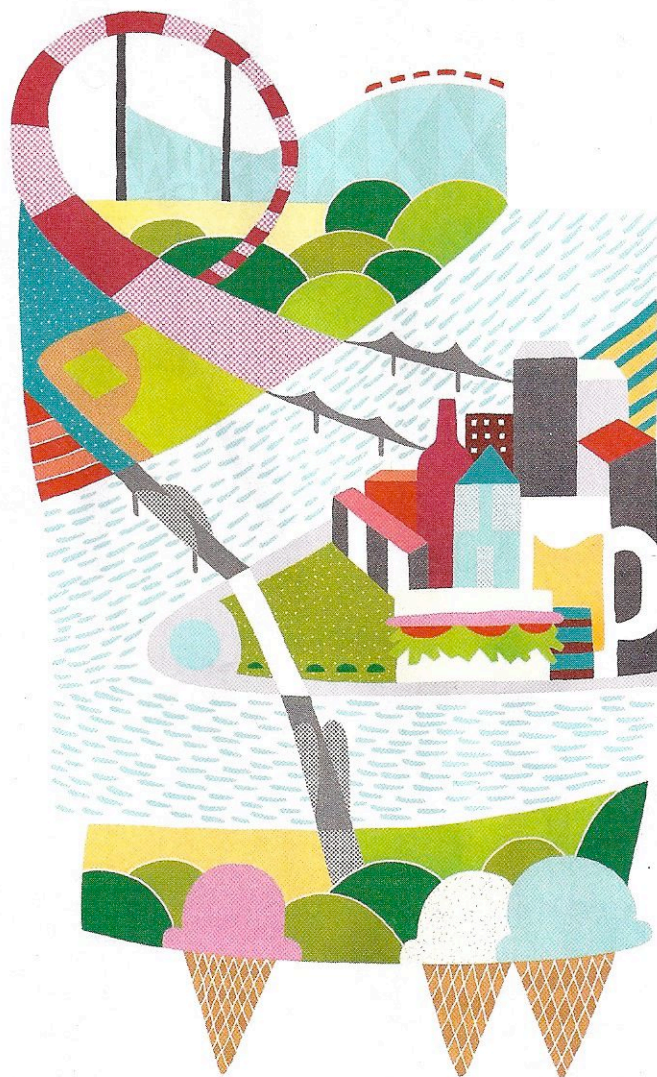
Such a Steel

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Pittsburgh stacks up for sports fans who also dig art, culture, and chowing on a serious sandwich.

Until I left Pittsburgh for college 15 years ago, I didn't realize what the rest of America assumed about us: a "world made of steel, made of stone" (as described in the theme song from *Flashdance*, which was set in the Burgh)—stereotyped by grit, grime, and working-class malaise.

My Pittsburgh is a city of dive bars and cheap eats, but also a brilliant mix of museums, architecture, sports, and markets punctuating a patchwork quilt of (often hilly) neighborhoods nestled among the dramatic vistas of our famed three rivers and the Allegheny Mountains. Tradition is strong, but upstart ingenuity keeps the city alive. And though I'm an expat currently living near N.Y.C., I'm still stocking my fridge with Iron City beer and acting as a cheerleader for my hometown.

The soaring halls of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (carnegie.mnh.org) are my touchstone for every visit. As a child, field trips to see diplotocus and gilded mummies always made my world seem much bigger, and now I can follow up with a spin around the Andy Warhol Museum (warhol.org)—a seven-story building housing hundreds of works from the guy who fights Jeff Goldblum for the title of Pittsburgh's most deadpan native son. I also cherish visits to SPACE (space.pittsburgh.org), a gallery in the revitalized downtown cultural district that's been bringing free contemporary art exhibitions, plays, and musical performances to the neighborhood for the past few years.

It's well-known that our most beloved citizens are athletes and, in

Don't Miss List

DINNER

Legume

legumbistro.com

Featuring local meats and produce

DESSERT

Oh Yeah! Ice Cream & Coffee Co.

facebook.com/theohyeah

100-something mix-ins to try

DRINKS

Round Corner Cantina

roundcornercantina.com

Killer tequila selection

MUSIC

Club Café

clubcafelive.com

Indie rock, acoustic, bluegrass, soul, hip-hop, and much more

SHOPPING

Pittsburgh Public Market

pittsburghpublicmarket.org

For general goodies

Hot Haute Hot

hothautehot.net

Filled with quirky design

Sen. John Heinz History Center

heinzhistorycenter.org/estore

Some of the best Burgh memorabilia

this town, he who wields the championship ring (or comes close) is king. A quintessential weekend event is tailgating at Heinz Field before a Steelers game or seeing the Penguins kick ice at the brand-new Consol Energy Center arena. But what's really making the city so great is the community of people who came here to affordably build their dream businesses. From Dozen Bake Shop (dozenbakeshop.com), a local bakery chain that makes delicious lemon basil cupcakes, to the blocks of indie shops and galleries on Lawrenceville's Butler Street (lvpgh.com), every neighborhood is teeming with imaginative entrepreneurs brightening the face of the city.

No matter how much I've packed into each outing, I never leave without wolfing down the world's greatest sandwich from the legendary Primanti Bros. restaurant (primantibros.com). All piled between two thick slices of Italian bread is your choice of meat (I go with kielbasa/kolbassi), sweet and vinegary coleslaw, fries, tomatoes, and provolone. It's enough to keep me satisfied until my next trip home. ★

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