

ARTHUR FROMMER'S

TRIP COACH  
GOES TO ITALY

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# LETTERS



Your article on 25 travel-inspiring movies was fun (December/January). My husband and I found an even better way of living the life of Amélie: We rented an apartment from perfectlyparis.com in her neighborhood of Montmartre. There were excellent markets and restaurants, plus easy Métro access. We dined out when we pleased, and cooked at home when we felt frugal.

Nina Z. Gormley, Bar Harbor, Maine

### Wait and Save

Your advice that rates will be lower if you reserve a car before you leave home isn't always true (20 Tips, December/January). I booked a car prior to visiting Costa del Sol in Spain, but upon arrival I found cars from local agencies for about 60 percent less than my initial reservation.

Al Menke, Camp Hill, Pa.

### South African Shortcut

The Trip Coach article on South Africa was great (December/January). Before heading to Kruger National Park, the Sullivans should consider buying a Wild card (wildafrica.com). It gains you entrance to major national parks and reserves, as well as access to excellent rental-car rates.

Diane M. Court-Spahr, Wilmington, N.C.

### Aw, Shucks!

I never expected that my longtime dream of seeing China would become a reality until a deal in 40 Best jumped off the page and hit me in the face (March). The trip was amazing, and our experience with Champion Holidays was a joy—they were helpful, kind, and patient. We've subscribed to different travel magazines over the years, but *Budget Travel* is the only one we've actually used to plan a trip. On our flight to Beijing, I realized we weren't alone. As we walked down the aisles, several people were reading BT!

Marshall & Frances Melick  
New Baltimore, N.Y.

WHERE TO WRITE Letters@afbtmag.com or Letters Editor, *Budget Travel*, 530 Seventh Ave., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10018. Include your name and address. We may edit for space and clarity.

### Beautiful Shoes

After seeing your item on the Beautiful shoe store in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, I informed my companions that the shop was a must-see on our trip (Where, July/August). We brought the issue with us, and the designer was surprised to see a picture of one of his designs. He had an endless selection of leather swatches, heels, and soles to design your own shoes. It cost us a measly \$15 for two pairs.

Emily Heeston, Cincinnati, Ohio



### On Traveling Sober

The article "How to Stay Sober and Still Have a Ball" is a wonderful resource for both alcoholics and nonalcoholics everywhere (How, November). Sober vacations give people the option to stay away from the evils of alcohol, and, ultimately, have a better experience for it.

Dan Horning, Conshohocken, Pa.

### Ain't It Grand?

Please add *Somewhere in Time* to your list of movies. It was filmed on Mackinac Island, Mich., which I visited because I was a huge fan of Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. The ambience of the Grand Hotel is awe-inspiring, and I came away with a paramount experience.

Voni Lawson, Spring Valley, Calif.



### So-Called Premium Clubs

Regarding the December/January editor's letter: I've been a member of a rental-car elite club for four years, but gauche behavior on my part—I use coupons to push the costs down—banishes me to the queue. What's more, the same company almost always quotes me a higher rate if I book through my club log-in. My only benefits are getting the run of the lot on intermediate-car bookings, and free-day certificates.

Rusty Cartmill, Alpharetta, Ga.

For those who believe clubs are a smart move, we should note that representatives from Thrifty and Dollar wrote us describing their free premium services, which include expedited counter service and member rewards.

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See first letter above with apartment photo.