

Spotlight

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## SPECIAL REPORT

The people of London (4)

## BUSINESS

The man behind Starbucks

EVERYDAY  
ENGLISH

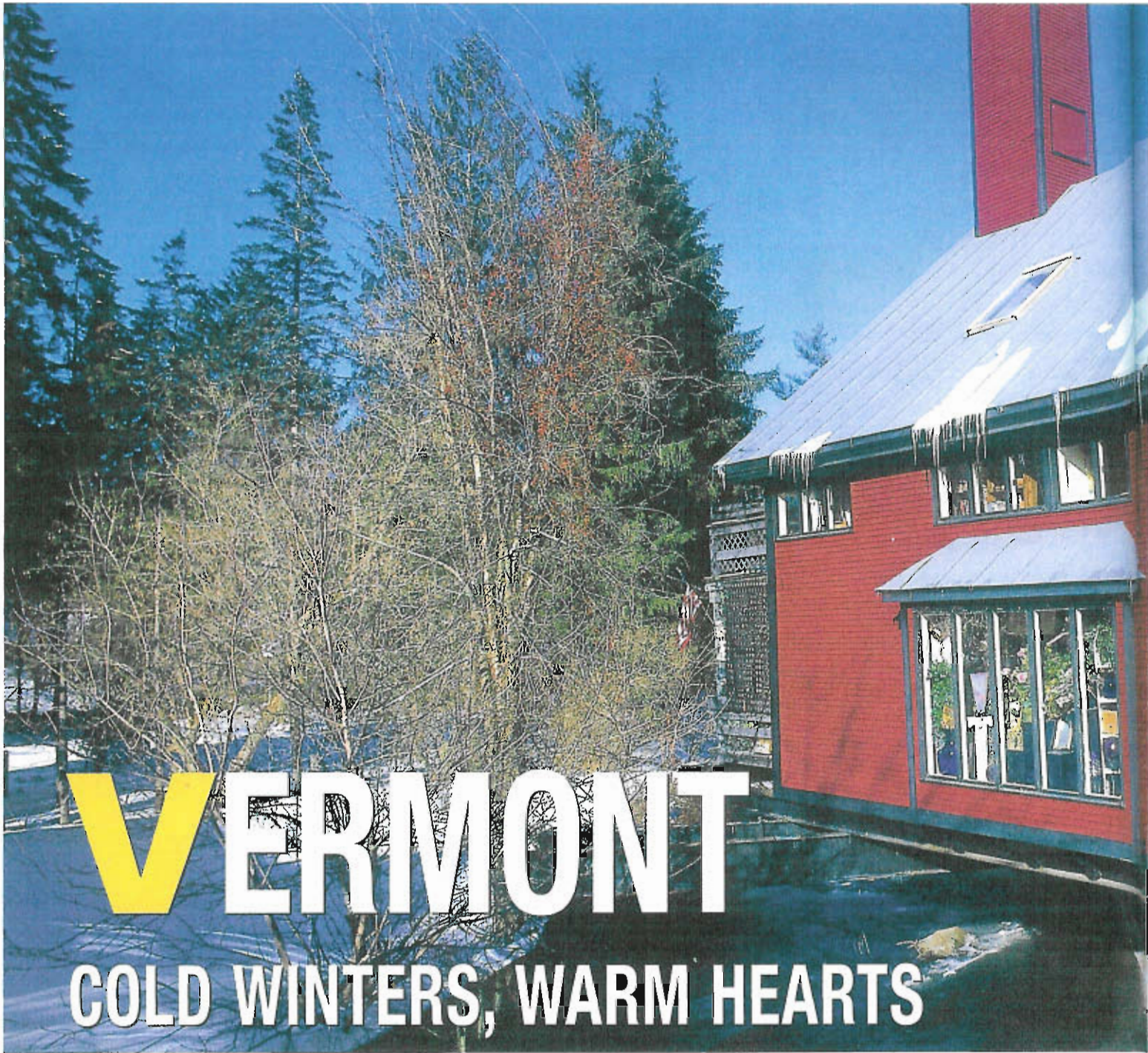
DOING THE  
HOUSEWORK

TRAVEL

# ROMANTIC VERMONT

tschland € 5,25  
reich € 5,25  
veiz sfr 9.50

Benelux € 5,25  
Spartien € 5,25



# VERMONT

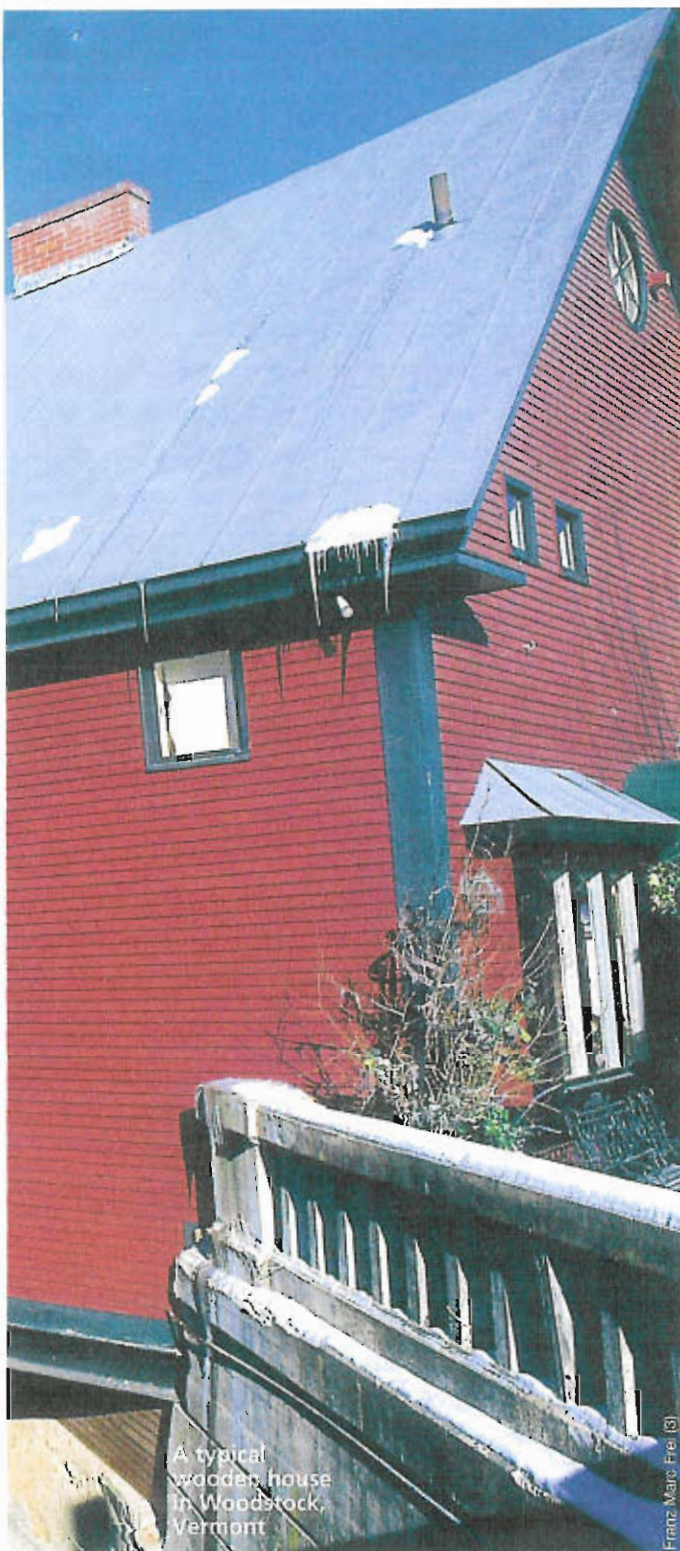
## COLD WINTERS, WARM HEARTS

*Schön ist es in Vermont zu jeder Jahreszeit — am schönsten aber im Winter. Wir genießen die ruhige Schneelandschaft, die Eiszapfen an den Fenstern und die Muße zu langen Gesprächen mit den Einheimischen.*

Von GINGER HENRY-KÜNZEL

**M**ention Vermont, and most tourists think of fall, a time when the trees show their most brilliant colors. But then the leaves fall and winter sets in. Suddenly, the landscape has changed from all kinds of wonderful colors to black and white, with the trees silhouetted against the snow.

For visitors willing to look a little closer, there is much more to see than shades of gray, however; and for anyone who wants to concentrate on getting to know the people and culture of Vermont, winter is perhaps the best season to visit. It's a time when everyone has more time to "set a spell."



A typical wooden house in Woodstock, Vermont

Francis Marc Frel (3)

Winter is an excellent time to get to know the people of Vermont



Country store: meeting place for the locals



People enjoying a sleigh ride

I had planned to stop for only a short time, my visit to the store lasts more than an hour, as I talk to Charlie about the history of the building, what life as a country store owner is like (wonderful!) and how he happened to start living and working there. Like so many others, Charlie is not a native Vermonter. He arrived from California in 1991, after working in a city department store for 15 years. During a two-week visit to the area, he fell in love with the landscape and the slower way of life. Although he returned to California, he was back a year later, looking for a store to buy. When he found the Taftsville Country Store, he knew it was just what he wanted.

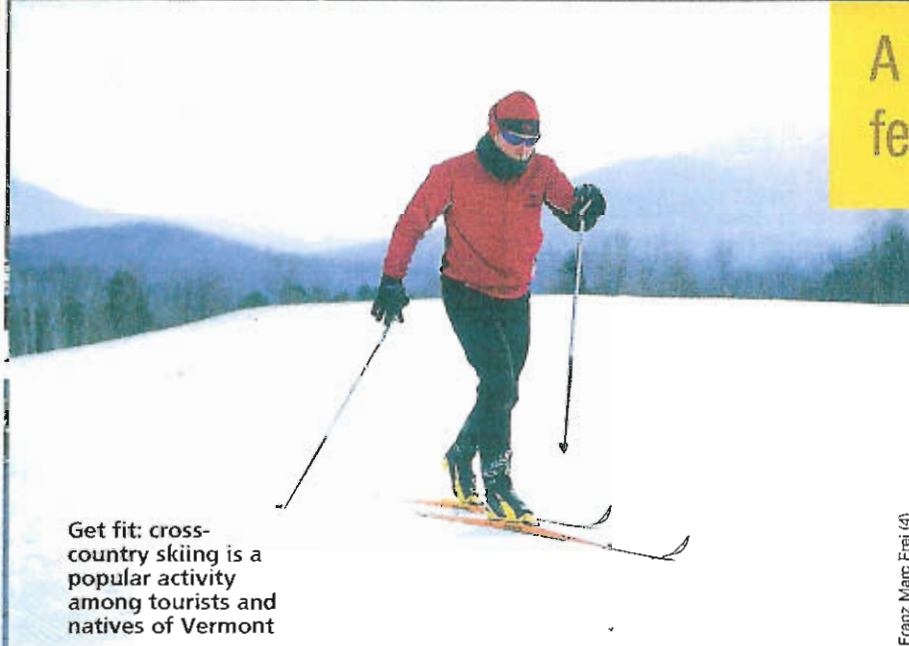
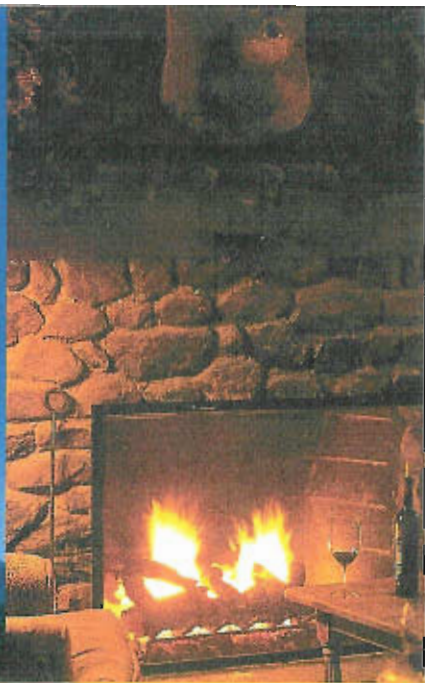
Dusk comes early, bringing longer evenings made for long talks by a warm fire. The best way to experience Vermont in winter is to establish a home base in one of the many inns or B. & B.s across the state, where your hosts will add that special personal touch to your stay. I visited the Mountain Top Inn in Chittenden, from where it is an easy drive to many of the state's most charming attractions.

On a wintry afternoon, I am driving along Vermont's Route 4. At the Taftsville Country Store, I am greeted by the owner, Charlie Wilson. The store sells Vermont food — cheese, maple products, jams and pickles, maple-cured ham, sausage, wine and much more. Although

<b>B. &amp; B. (bed and breakfast)</b> [ˌbiː ənd ˈbiː]	private Frühstückspension
<b>department store</b> [diːpɑːrtmənt ˈstɔːr]	Kaufhaus
<b>dusk</b> [dʌsk]	Abenddämmerung
<b>fall</b> [fɔːl] US	Herbst
<b>home base</b> [həʊm ˈbeɪs]	Ausgangspunkt
<b>host</b> [həʊst]	Gastgeber(in)
<b>inn</b> [ɪn]	Gasthaus
<b>maple-cured ham</b> [ˌmæpəl kjʊəd ˈhæm]	in einer Lake aus Ahornsirup marinierter Schinken
<b>maple product</b> [ˈmæpəl ˌprɒːdʌkt]	Produkt aus Ahornsirup
<b>pickles</b> [ˈpɪkəlz]	in Essig eingelegtes Gemüse
<b>sausage</b> [ˈsɔːsɪdʒ]	Wurst
<b>set a spell</b> [ˌset ə ˈspɛl] US <i>ifml.</i>	eine Pause einlegen
<b>shades of gray</b> [ˌʃeɪdz əv ˈɡreɪ]	Grauschattierungen
<b>silhouetted against: be ~ sth.</b> [ˌsɪluːˈetəd ə ɡenst]	sich von etw. abheben



Hot and cold:  
the clear blue  
sky on a cold  
winter day and a  
warm welcoming  
fire at a B. & B.



Get fit: cross-country skiing is a popular activity among tourists and natives of Vermont

## A fire is burning, making me feel warm and welcome

derful meals, take it. It's a great opportunity to meet some of the local people while enjoying fine home-style cooking. You'll be surprised by the amount of food they'll put on your plate for a fraction of what you'd pay in a restaurant. Your money will be going to a good cause — perhaps the local church, the volunteer fire department or another local organization seeking to raise funds.

Franz Marc Frei (4)

Of course, today's Vermonters usually do their weekly grocery shopping at larger supermarkets. The country stores, however, fill a real need in this rural state with a population density of only about 65 people per square mile. (This may be compared to 401 in New York and 809 in Massachusetts, both of which border Vermont.) People who live locally often come to such stores every day. Just as important, these stores serve as a place for meeting and talking with others.

Anyone who wants to know whether Sue has had her baby or whether the zoning board approved that addition for Jim's house can go to the store to find out. There's always a bulletin board, with plenty of space for posting notices about coming events such as concerts, dances, festivals and — one of my favorites — community suppers. If you have the chance to attend one of these won-

told to create a typical Vermont village with the village green, charming shops and inns, historic clapboard houses, church steeples and, yes, even a covered bridge.

Snow is falling and the mountains are silhouetted against the dark gray sky as I turn off the main route and drive up the five miles (about eight kilometers) of mountain road to the Mountain Top Inn and Resort. My car's thermometer is showing 11 degrees Fahrenheit (about -12 °C) when I arrive. I run through the cold night air into the inn, where a warm glow greets me. A fire is burning in the huge stone fireplace. Everything about this place is warm and welcoming, from the decor to the staff. It's a slower way of life here in Vermont, I remind myself, as I spend some time chatting with the staff. They fill me in on the history of the inn, their childhood in rural Vermont and the animals they saw last night in the grass.



Enjoying the  
a young

<b>addition</b> [ə'dɪʃən]	Anbau
<b>approve sth.</b> [ə'pru:v]	etw. genehmigen
<b>barnyard</b> ['bɑ:njɑ:rd]	Bauernhof
<b>blanket</b> ['blæŋkət]	Decke
<b>bulletin board</b> ['bʊlətən ,bɔ:rd]	Schwarzes Brett
<b>canopy bed</b> ['kænəpi ,bed]	Himmelbett
<b>church steeple</b> ['tʃɜ:ʃ(ə) ,sti:pəl]	Kirchturm
<b>clapboard house</b> [ˌklæpˌbɔ:d 'haʊs]	schindelgedecktes Haus
<b>community supper</b> [kə,mju:nəti 'sʌpə]	Gemeindeessen
<b>contest</b> ['kɒntest]	Wettbewerb
<b>covered</b> ['kʌvəd]	überdacht
<b>cross-country skiing</b> [krɒs ,kʌntri 'ski:ŋ]	Ski-Langlauf
<b>dash</b> [dæʃ]	eilen (Zitat aus "Jingle Bells")
<b>decor</b> [deɪ'kɔ:r]	Inneneinrichtung
<b>fill sb. in on sth.</b> [fɪl 'ɪn ɒn] <i>ifml.</i>	jmdn. über etw. informieren
<b>fireplace</b> ['faɪəpleɪs]	offener Kamin
<b>flannel and plaid clothing</b> [ˌflænəl ənd ,plæd 'kloʊðɪŋ]	see pp. 42–43
<b>folk artist</b> ['fɒk ,ɑ:rtɪst]	Volkskünstler(in)
<b>fraction</b> ['frækʃən]	Bruchteil
<b>grocery</b> ['grəʊsəri]	Lebensmittel
<b>home-style cooking</b> [ˌhəʊmstaɪl 'kʊkɪŋ]	Küche nach Hausfrauenart
<b>icicle</b> ['aɪsɪkl]	Eiszapfen
<b>interior decorator</b> [ɪn,tɪəriə 'deɪkəreɪtə]	Innenarchitekt(in)
<b>Jacuzzi</b> [dʒə'kuzi]	Whirlpool
<b>menu</b> ['menju:]	Speisekarte
<b>mist</b> [mɪst]	Nebel
<b>population density</b> [pɒ:pjuːleɪʃən ,densəti]	Bevölkerungsdichte
<b>primitive</b> ['prɪmətɪv]	naiv
<b>quilt</b> [kwɪlt]	Patchworkdecke
<b>retreat</b> [rɪ'tri:t]	Refugium
<b>rural</b> ['rʊərəl]	ländlich
<b>ski pole</b> ['ski:pəʊl]	Skistock
<b>sleigh ride</b> ['sleɪ raɪd]	Schlittenfahrt
<b>snowshoe</b> ['snəʊʃu:]	Schneeschuh
<b>square mile</b> [skweər 'maɪl]	2,59 Quadratkilometer
<b>stage designer</b> ['steɪdʒ dɪ,zəɪnə]	Bühnenbildner(in)
<b>survey sth.</b> [sə'veɪ]	etw. vermessen
<b>trail</b> [treɪl]	Wanderweg
<b>village green</b> [ˌvɪlɪdʒ 'ɡri:n]	Dorfanger
<b>volunteer fire department</b> [vɒ:lən,tɪər 'faɪə dɪ,pɑ:rtmənt]	Freiwillige Feuerwehr
<b>woodchuck</b> ['wʊdʃʌk]	Waldmurmeltier
<b>wooded</b> ['wʊdɪd]	bewaldet
<b>zoning board</b> ['zəʊnɪŋ ,bɔ:rd]	Planungsbehörde

Lauren Bryant — who owns the inn with her husband Steve — is an interior decorator, and the inn's elegance clearly shows her skills. In my room, the canopy bed with its quilt, a comfortable chair by the window and the Jacuzzi in the bathroom almost make me want to stay in and read a book. But I'm hungry, and I had seen tonight's menu when I checked in. Gourmet dining in an elegant decor, complete with a fire: this is my idea of a mountain retreat!

The next morning, I awake to see long icicles hanging outside my window. Partway down the mountain is a frozen lake, with mist rising from its surface. The entire landscape is covered with clean white snow. It's hard to pull myself out of bed, but I don't want to waste a single minute of daylight. After a big country breakfast by the fire, I go to the Nordic ski center, where I have a choice of joining a snowshoe expedition or going cross-country skiing. Since I've never tried snowshoeing, I decide to do that.

"It's just like walking," my teacher Brian says after he has given me boots and snowshoes. And, in a way, he's right — that is, if you're used to wearing shoes that are three times the length of your feet and holding yourself up with ski poles. But once I get used to it, I'm moving easily over the wooded trails and up the mountain, where I enjoy even more spectacular views.

Next on my list of activities is a visit to the First Annual Woodchuck Festival in West Pawlet, about an hour's drive from the inn. Dolores, who has organized the festival to raise money for the volunteer fire department in this village of 658 people, wants to introduce me to many of them, each of whom seems to have a story to tell.

One farmer tells me: "Life isn't always easy in these parts. The state surveyed my property a couple of months ago and found that part of it, including my house, is actually located in New York, not Vermont." I say I understand, thinking that probably means he has to pay higher taxes. "No," he laughs. "It's a good thing being in New York. I don't think I could have lived through another Vermont winter!"

One of the most colorful characters in these parts is Roy Egg, a folk artist whose works include primitive barnyard scenes painted on old furniture, as well as the winning egg in the 2003 White House Easter egg painting contest. I'm invited to stay for the Woodchuck Ball that evening (flannel and plaid clothing required), but I need to hurry back to the inn for the last sleigh ride of the day.

The setting sun is painting the sky a wintry red, and our driver, Mike, is waiting at the inn with Jack and Jill (the horses) when I arrive. Off we go, dashing through the snow in our two-horse open sleigh — made in Leutasch, Tyrol — covered in heavy blankets, as Mike tells stories of romance. My favorite is the one about the man who built a snowman in the meadow and placed a "Will you marry me?" sign on him before taking a sleigh ride with his girlfriend. You can imagine her surprise when they stopped near the snowman and she saw the sign, Mike says. There must be something about the cold mountain air and the romance of the sleigh: Mike tells me ▶

Home base:  
the Mountain  
Top Inn and  
Resort in  
Chittenden



Listen to part  
of this text on  
our CD/cassette

Franz Marc Frei



that he's already had four marriage proposals among his passengers this winter.

The next morning, I'm up bright and early, ready for my cross-country ski lesson with Betty, one of the inn's instructors. The air is cold, but the sky is that deep blue that seems to exist only in winter. After my lesson, I feel confident enough to go off on my own along the wooded trails. Although I meet up with a few other skiers, most of the time I have the woods to myself, with the quiet broken only by the occasional "plop!" as a load of snow falls from a branch.

By late morning I'm pleasantly tired and ready to head toward home, leaving myself time to visit some of Vermont's lovely little villages. Among these is Brandon, home of Warren Kimble, one of America's best-known living folk artists, and his gallery. Or there's Randolph, with its main street that appears to have changed very little over the past decades. In fact, just about any Vermont town is worth a visit. Try the many antique stores, where you may find a treasure to serve as a souvenir of your trip. The gift shops along the main routes offer more modern souvenirs, such as Vermont crafts and food — including, of course, the ever-popular Vermont maple products.

The sun has already set as I reach Boston, with its heavy traffic and urban sprawl. It's hard to imagine that Vermont — with its idyllic rural landscape, colorful characters and slow way of life — is so close and yet so far from this major metropolis: just a couple of hours by car, I think to myself, but worlds away. ○

<b>antique store</b> [æn'tɪk stɔːr]	Antiquitätengeschäft
<b>bright and early</b> [braɪt ənd 'ɜːli]	in aller Frühe
<b>craft</b> [kræft]	Kunsthandwerk
<b>dog-sled ride</b> ['dɔːg sled ,raɪd]	Hundeschlittenfahrt
<b>heavy traffic</b> [ˌhevi 'træfɪk]	dichter Verkehr
<b>husky</b> ['hʌski]	Schlittenhund
<b>instructor</b> [ɪn'strʌktər]	Lehrer(in)
<b>maple pork chop</b>	in Ahornsirup gekochtes
[ˌmeɪpəl 'pɔːk ˌtʃɔːp]	oder gebratenes
	Schweinekotelett
<b>maple sugaring</b> [ˌmeɪpəl 'ʃʊɡərɪŋ]	Gewinnung von
	Ahornzucker
	Heiratsantrag
<b>marriage proposal</b>	
[ˌmæriːdʒ prəˈpoozəl]	
<b>microbrew</b> [ˌmaɪkrəʊ 'bruː]	Bier aus einer kleinen
	ortsansässigen Brauerei
<b>occasional</b> [əˈkeɪʒənəl]	gelegentlich
<b>scenic</b> ['siːnɪk]	landschaftlich reizvoll
<b>team</b> [tiːm]	hier: Gespann
<b>urban sprawl</b> [ˌɜːbən 'sprɔːl]	riesige Stadtlandschaft

## IF YOU GO...

### WHERE TO STAY

**Mountain Top Inn & Resort**, Chittenden; tel. (001) 802-483 2311; [www.mountaintopinn.com](http://www.mountaintopinn.com) \$130–425 per room per night.

**May Farm Bed and Breakfast & Maple Leaf Cottage**, 4706 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center; tel. (001) 802-244 7306; [www.mayfarm.com](http://www.mayfarm.com) \$80–150 per room per night.

**Mad River Inn B. & B.**, Tremblay Road, Waitsfield; tel. (001) 802-496 7900; [www.madriverinn.com](http://www.madriverinn.com) \$105–150 per room per night.

### WHERE TO EAT

**The Whip Bar and Grill**, Stowe; tel. (001) 802-253 7301; [www.greenmountaininn.com](http://www.greenmountaininn.com)

Try a microbrew and one of the culinary specialties like maple pork chops in this pub inside the Green Mountain Inn. For a more formal meal, the inn's dining room is also excellent.

**The Dog Team Tavern**, just off US Route 7, three miles north of scenic Middlebury; tel. (001) 802-388 7651; [www.dogteamtavern.com](http://www.dogteamtavern.com) Great homestyle cooking in a historic atmosphere.

**Hemingway's Restaurant**, 4988 US Route 4, Killington; tel. (001) 802-422 3886; [www.hemingwaysrestaurant.com](http://www.hemingwaysrestaurant.com) This four-star restaurant was named one of the most romantic in America by *Esquire* magazine.

### THINGS TO DO

**New England Maple Museum**, Pittsford; tel. (001) 802-483 9414; [www.maplemuseum.com](http://www.maplemuseum.com) Learn about the history of maple sugaring and how maple syrup is made today. The museum is closed in January and February. Admission \$2.50.

**Warren Kimble Gallery**, 4 Conant Square, Brandon; [www.kimblehouse.com](http://www.kimblehouse.com)

**Dog-sled rides** Travel through the countryside in a sled drawn by a team of huskies. For details, see [www.vtchamber.com/winter/115.html](http://www.vtchamber.com/winter/115.html)

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit the official Vermont tourism Web site at [www.vermontvacation.com](http://www.vermontvacation.com)