

MARTHA STEWART

Living

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Out & About

WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO SEE, AND HOW TO MAKE NOVEMBER EXTRA-SPECIAL

| ON THE ROAD |

HOLIDAY INNS

If you're traveling over the next two months, book a room so incredible, Mom and Dad will want to stay with *you*, not the other way around. Outside the Twin Cities, there's Lora (shown), a hotel built into the caves and vaulted warehouses of a former brewery on the St. Croix River. Here, three equally exciting new places to temporarily call home.

📍 Stillwater, Minnesota; lorahotel.com



| WHY NOT? |

Write On

It's National Novel Writing Month, when aspiring authors vow to finish one in 31 days. Stretch your creativity with these journal exercises from short-story maestro Karen Bender, author of *The New Order* (Counterpoint Press).

I Spy Specifics

Try describing a person you know using only concrete details. "Ban all abstract adjectives, like *beautiful* or *boring*," she says. *Jot down the look of her eyebrows and her smile.*

Use Your Nose

And eyes, and ears. "Sensory details—what you see, smell, touch, or hear—get you into a story," says Bender. Take in the trees on the park trail, the aroma of the fire.

The Waiting Game

"Novels can take so many forms, but they are all, on some level, about urgency," says Bender. Make up a character, or picture someone you know. What is she waiting for? What does she want? Write it down.

📍 NEW YORK CITY

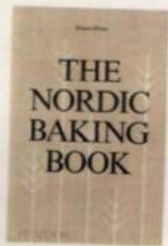
The Ace Hotel's sleek younger sibling, Sister City, has bright, stylish rooms with built-in details inspired by Finnish saunas and bento boxes. sistercitynyc.com

📍 CHICAGO

Stays at Michigan Avenue's St. Jane, an art-deco gem named after Jane Addams, support NICU babies via the Jackson Chance Foundation. stjanehotel.com

📍 CHARLESTON, S.C.

The best address on King Street used to belong to the city library. Hotel Bennett, on Marion Square, has luxe rooms with pedestal tubs. hotelbennett.com



| SECRET SOURCE |

DriedDecor.com

"It has a huge variety of dried grasses for making or embellishing wreaths. I like to arrange them on their own in a vase, or tie them onto a gift or around a napkin. The selection of pinecones is pretty impressive, too."

—Living contributor
Silke Stoddard



| ON OUR BOOKSHELF |

Fill your house with the soul-warming aromas of butter and cardamom, courtesy of Magnus Nilsson's amateur-friendly *The Nordic Baking Book* (Phaidon), which is illustrated with his gorgeous personal photos—our deputy food editor, Greg Lofts, can't wait to cook from it. Let your inner artist bloom with tips from the brilliant New York City floral-arranging duo Putnam & Putnam: In *Flower Color Guide* (Phaidon), Darroch and Michael Putnam teach how to create stunning bouquets by color, from white azaleas to 'Black Star' calla lilies. And treat yourself to *Evening in Paradise* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), an addictive new batch of short stories about wild, wise ladies by the late Lucia Berlin, author of the 2015 best-seller *A Manual for Cleaning Women*.