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10 minutes in a Ferrari

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Travelers have a chance to drive a Ferrari, though not these Modena museum pieces. (Food Valley Travel Photo)

By Phil Marty, Special to Tribune Newspapers

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Italy and sports cars go together, so Perillo Tours has put together the Drive the Dream Italia package. It will put you in the driver's seat of a Ferrari F430 Coupe for a 10-minute drive on Ferrari's test track in Maranello, near Bologna. The package is priced from \$1,380 per person double occupancy and includes three nights' lodging at a five-star hotel in Bologna. Because you'll have a professional driver alongside you, the rate covers just one driver, but you can add another driver and choose from other cars or tracks for an additional supplement. The package isn't all about cars. One day will be spent with a guide for visits and tastings at producers of Parmigiano-Reggiano, Prosciutto di Parma, balsamic vinegar and the local vino. If you'd like to spend more time after your four-day package exploring the area the way it's meant to be seen — in a two-seater ragtop with the top down — a variety of vintage sports cars may be rented by the day or week. tinyurl.com/lvdep5b, 800-482-5925

Maps

- Italy
- New York, NY, USA
- Ireland

2013 Cadillac SRX

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Winter in New York

New York City's a great place to visit, but anyone who's been there knows lodging costs can make it a very pricey getaway, particularly during the summer. Winter rates in most destinations tend to be more affordable, and Hotel Week NYC is a case in point. From Jan. 3 through 12, 30 hotels in a variety of neighborhoods are offering nightly rates of \$100-\$300, with 13 at \$100 and 15 at \$200. An example of a \$100 offering is the Affinia **Manhattan**, in Midtown on Seventh Avenue, near Penn Station and less than a mile from **Times Square**. If you were to stay there after the deal ends, say Jan. 17-20, that room would cost you \$215 a night. If you prefer fancier digs, the Waldorf-Astoria — not part of this promotion — has a pretty affordable \$199 rate Jan. 3-6, but that jumps to \$249 for a midweek stay Jan. 7-10.

tinyurl.com/k5kreyy

Cool destination, hot deals

When temperatures start dropping in Ireland, so do prices, and Aer Lingus, the country's national carrier, offers some very attractive packages. The Aer Lingus Vacation Store has packages as low as \$599 per person double occupancy for travel in November and December, months when daily high temperatures are likely to be in the mid-40s. That price — taxes and fees included — would get you round-trip air New York/Dublin and a manual-shift rental car for six days. Lodging would be on your own. There are also packages such as a four-night Dublin Escape that includes lodging and ups the ante about \$100 per person. Or you could get air, two nights' lodging each in Dublin, Cork and Killarney and rail transport between cities as low as \$927 from New York. Departures are available from other locations. If you book by phone, some packages add a \$25 fee. tinyurl.com/ldob7ok, 800-495-1632

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