

Celebrate Mother's Day in style



SPECIAL TO WNC PARENT
The gardens are bursting with color during the Biltmore Estate's Festival of Flowers.

By Lockie Hunter
WNC Parent contributor


This Mother's Day, treat her to something special. As the definition of motherhood has evolved, so has Mother's Day. From the cultural to the whimsical, we've gathered a variety of ideas to please a diversity of moms.

1. Festival of Flowers at Biltmore Estate

Bring mom to Biltmore for free on Mother's Day. Adult or youth ticket purchase required. Enjoy live music in the gardens and in Biltmore House along with floral displays, springtime dining specials, and shopping opportunities. For information, visit Biltmore.com or call 225-1333.


2. Mother's Day Greek luncheon

Sponsored by The Land of the Sky Ahepa Chapter 28 at the Hellenic Center of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, the luncheon will feature a variety of Greek gourmet dishes including pastichio, moussaka, Greek meatballs, spanakopita and much more. There will also be an assortment of



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PHOTO BY STEVE DIXON

Take a family hike at Chimney Rock Park for Mother's Day.

Greek pastries as well as Greek dancing. Hellenic Hall is at 227 Cumberland Ave. Call 253-3754.

3. Chimney Rock Park

Mother's Day is one of Chimney Rock's "Special Deals for Special Days" said Meghan Rogers, public relations and events manager for the park. "This year, you can give mom what she really wants — quality time with her family. Spend the day taking in 75-mile views from high atop Chimney Rock, shopping for locally made pottery and crafts and reconnecting with nature and each other." The park is on U.S. 64-74A in Chimney Rock. Call 243-2019 or visit chimneyrockpark.com.

4. 'The Heidi Chronicles'

N.C. Stage Company (For)Play Series presents the play by Wendy Wasserstein. This free event is part of a series of plays about women and their relationships. Amanda Leslie, managing director of N.C. Stage, explains that they "take classic plays and explore them. It's for people who like thought provoking plays and interacting with the actors in the play." Appropriate for teens and older. The performance will be at the YWCA, 185 S. French Broad Ave. Call 239-0263.

5. Asheville Art Museum

Beverly Buchanan is a "contemporary African-


American artist with expressionistic bold, colorful works," says Kim Zbanowicz, communications manager at the museum. Her opening reception is from 5-7 p.m. May 8. Buchanan is speaking in the gallery at 1 p.m. May 9, and her sculptures and paintings will be on display in the museum. Mother's Day is also the last day to view "the shape of life" exhibit by Eva Zeisel. Zeisel is "quite the example of balancing being a mother and having a career in the arts. She is an industrial designer, designs ceramics and furniture, and she also developed the Schmoos," Zbanowicz says. The art museum is at Pack Place, 2 S. Pack Square. Call 253-3227.

6. Handmade Wearables fashion show

Throughout Mother's Day weekend, the Folk Art Center will be bursting with color as craftspeople share their inspiration and expertise in a variety of fiber arts. A fashion show featuring clothing and accessories designed and handmade by members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild will be at 1 and 3 p.m. May 10. The Folk Art Center is at Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Call 298-7928.

7. Spa time


Kelly Fisher, director of operations for Innovative Spa Management, has ideas for spa services. "Perfect for mom's hardworking hands and feet, Suraj Spa Salon offers a complimentary manicure with every signature pedicure during the month of



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Treat mom to a pampering spa service like a facial at an area salon.

Ideas to help you celebrate Mother's Day in style

May," Fisher says. Suraj Spa Salon is at 520 Hendersonville Road, Asheville. Call 277-7705.

"For even more mom pampering, try the organic orange blossom scrub at Spa Theology," she suggests. "The treatment includes warm Italian orange oil and honey to leave mom refreshed and hydrated for her special day." Spa Theology is at 53 College St., Asheville. Call 255-4171.

Fisher even has a wallet-friendly

choice: "On a tight budget but still interested in spoiling a special lady? Privai Academy has students of esthetics performing pure skin luxury European facials for \$30." Privai Academy is at 6 Roberts Road, Asheville. Call 279-4489.

Lane, Flat Rock. Call 696-9094. Grove Park Inn is at 290 Macon Ave., Asheville. Call 252-2711, ext. 2000. Never Blue is at 19 S. Main St., Hendersonville. Call 693-4646.

9. Breakfast in bed

Try this recipe for apple French toast if you're staying in for the morning.

8. Take Mom out for brunch

"Season's Restaurant buys flowers and hands them out to all the mothers on this day. We always have special featured wines that we offer our guests," said Lisa Keeter, marketing manager for Highland Lake Inn and Season's. "We also invite our guests to walk around our 26-acre property, down to the lake and organic gardens and the critter barn."

The Grove Park Inn's Blue Ridge Dining Room offers a big spread, too.

"Mother's Day at The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa has become a family tradition for residents of Asheville and surrounding communities," said Jay D. Winer, director of public relations at the Grove Park Inn. "The Grand Ballroom offers carved fruit displays and ice carvings. There will be continuous dinner music provided by Highland Fling Trio and The touch of Rose Trio."

Jesse and Edson Roque, chefs/owners of Never Blue in Hendersonville, say they wake up early to cook, using many items from local farms, dairies and specialty producers in their Mother's Day dishes.

In addition, all mothers will receive a special gift of Never Blue's hand-made boxed chocolates.

Highland Lake Inn is at 86 Lilly Pad

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Mother's Day apple french toast

- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup butter
- 2 Tablespoon light corn syrup
- 2 large tart apples (ex Granny Smith), peeled and sliced ½" thick
- 8-10 slices of day old French bread (3/4 inches thick)
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ¾ cup milk

Mix the first three ingredients in a small saucepan and cook until thick (5 minutes). Pour this syrup mixture into an ungreased 9 x 13 dish. Arrange apples over syrup. Mix eggs, vanilla and milk in a flat bowl (for dredging the toast). Dip bread into milk mixture. Let each slice sit one minute. Place bread over apples. Cover and refrigerate overnight or freeze. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. If frozen, thaw overnight and set at room temperature for 30 minutes before baking. Bake uncovered for 40 minutes at 350 degrees. Serves 10. From the kitchen of Martha Montgomery

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