

# SOAR HAUFAX

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*From Druids to*  
*modern science*

*Dublin*  
*From Vikings*  
*to modern art*

## EUROPE 2014

### DISCOVER OUR CONNECTION

2 WORLD WARS  
STRAWBERRY FIELDS  
THE FALL OF THE WALL  
CELTIC HOMECOMING

*Taste* PORTUGAL'S EXOTIC WINES  
*Explore* EDINBURGH OFF THE MAP  
*Revisit* THE LOST QUARTER OF PARIS

### ROUTE 66

*Take* A CALIFORNIA  
ROAD TRIP

### BRAZIL 2014

*Party* AT THE  
WORLD CUP

*Nova Scotia* ... MIKE WEIR & CO. ACE ASHBURN ... 5 ROMANTIC GETAWAYS

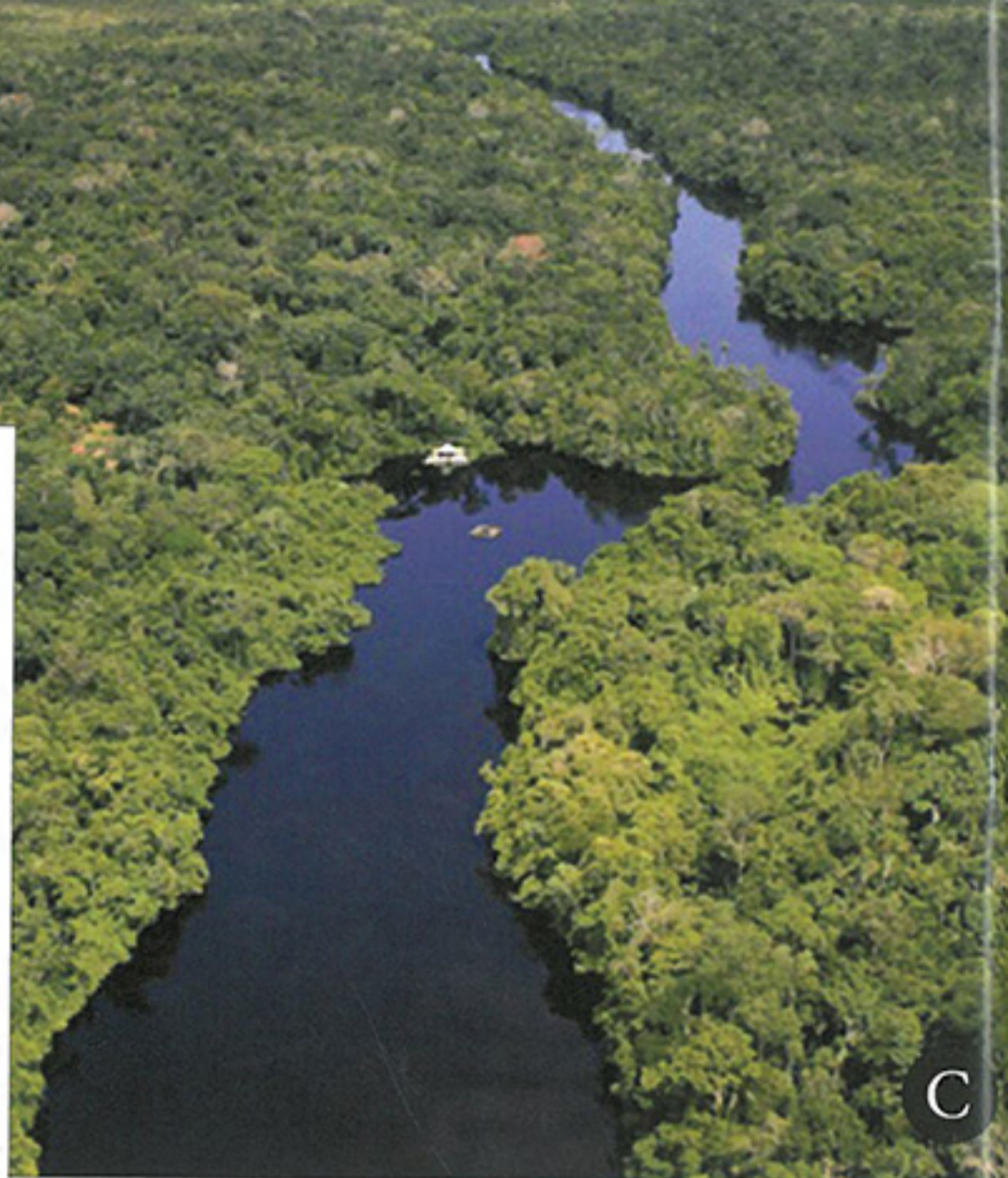
Feature • BRAZIL

# MY BRAZIL NUT TREE

BY Bruce Sach

*The Brazilian Amazon is huge, remote and filled with trees. It's also a slice of paradise.*

The news was both mind boggling and even ridiculous. A published article in Science Magazine indicated there were 390 billion trees covering the Brazilian Amazon. The implication was that now that we knew, we'd better not destroy them all. I immediately thought of my Brazilian Amazonian tree – of my Brazil nut Brazilian Amazonian tree.



Rather than trying to visualize the vast expanse of the impenetrable Amazonian forest, I recalled one particular 200-year-old tree. A tree that I'd spent quality time with. The real thing was out of this world. Must have been 150 ft high and so wide that the seven of us in our group could not even begin to make a ring around it, even when joined together and holding hands. It was probably older than the combined age of the group of us.

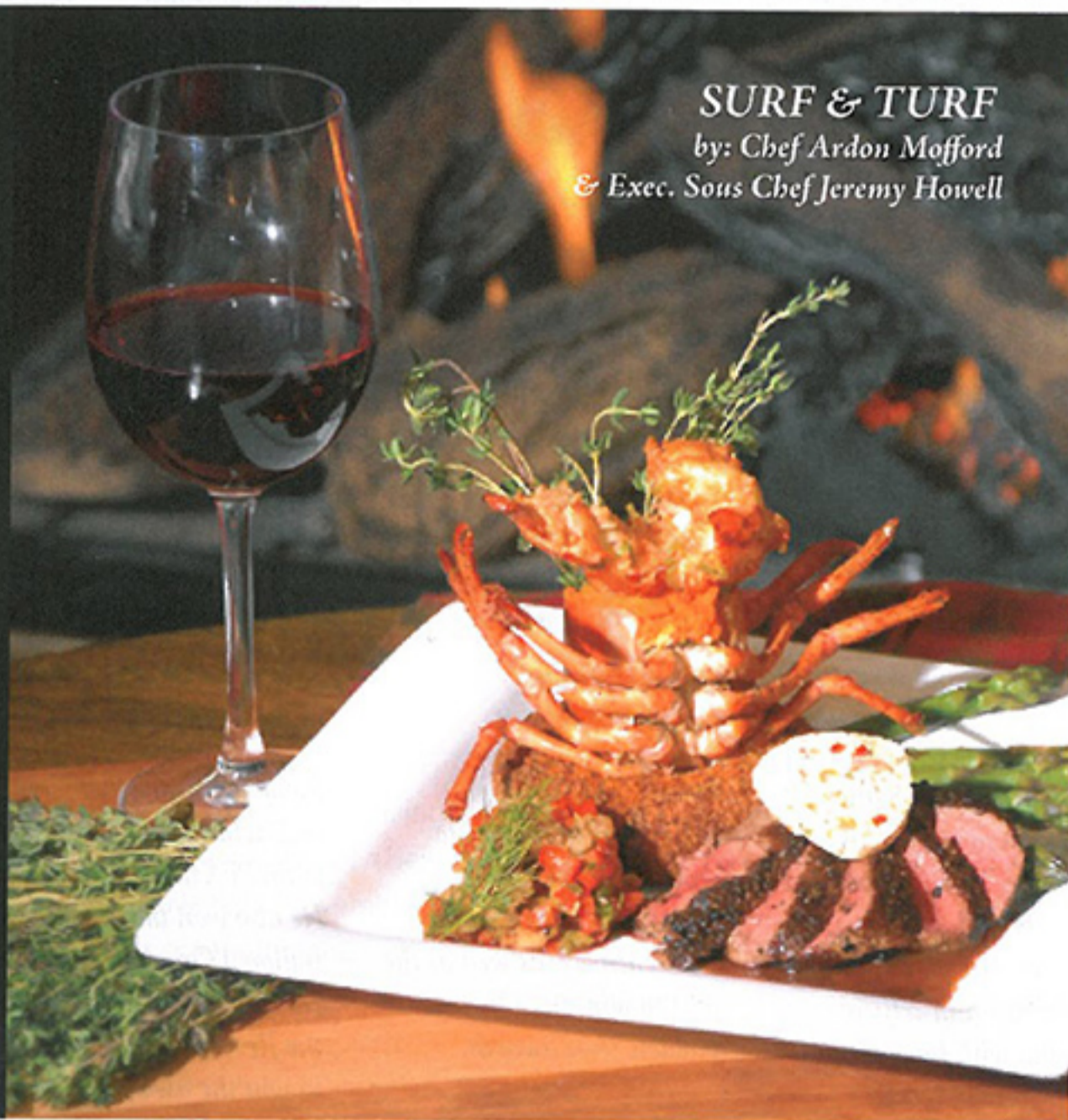
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### SURF & TURF

by: Chef Ardon Mofford  
& Exec. Sous Chef Jeremy Howell

Only one local creature, the beaver-like **A** agouti, has the strength in its jaws to open the acorn to get at the nut. The agouti doesn't eat all the nuts, but buries them here and there allowing for new seedlings to sprout. Talk about the perfect symbiotic relationship. And to ensure that the trees continue to grow, Brazilian law makes it illegal to cut them down.

There were no agoutis nearby to open the nuts, so **B** one of our guides hacked away at the acorn with his machete. I happened to have some Canadian granola bars and some Cana-

dian-purchased Brazil nuts in my backpack, and was able to sample them right after tasting the real thing in the Brazilian jungle. Verdict: Brazilian Brazil nuts win hands down in the taste category!

The trip to Brazil's **C** Cristalino National State Park allowed me to visit an area which few Brazilians see. Our guide, fellow Canadian Brad Davies, an expert in all things Amazonian, explained that discoveries are being made all the time; for example, that dozens of birds thought to exist only in the Peruvian Amazon area were

now being spotted regularly in the Brazilian one.

At Cristalino, where incursions into the dense rainforest are encouraged, we stayed at a lodge with the comforts of home, but one that retained a real Brazilian feel. Mind you, we had to engage in a few sacrifices to fully enjoy the area. I don't mean the swimming in Giant Otter-infested waters; that is standard and always welcomed. It meant getting up well before the sun—really cool in the jungle in both senses of the word; oddly enough, it's cold in the jungle at night—doing a fair bit of jungle trekking and, in one instance, climbing a 160 metre tower to observe monkeys and birds in the Amazonian canopy.

But it's that massive Brazil Nut tree that will never leave my mind. **S**



## THE CRISTALINO NATIONAL STATE PARK

### IF YOU GO

*The Cristalino Jungle Lodge is located within a private nature reserve twice as large as Manhattan Island. Despite its remoteness it is quite accessible – at least by Brazilian standards. Sure, getting to Brazil involves a 12-hour air flight from Canada. But once you get to São Paulo, it's just two short trips by air, a one-hour bus drive, and a 30 min. boat ride. Then you're in paradise.*



### THE AGOUTI

*Agoutis are monogamous creatures (one couple mate for a lifetime). They mate during the whole year, but the greatest number of babies is born when the food is abundant (during March and July).*



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