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An easy-to-make piñata sure to leave party guests abuzz

Behind this innocent scoop of ice cream?
A sweet success story.

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to leave party
guests abuzz

Heart of the Country

19 Art that's outdoor-friendly, the best source for vintage cookbooks, and an amazing white wine for \$7 a bottle. Plus: salty caramel ice cream!

Fresh Picks

- 29 A Natural Approach Capture Victorian curio style with flora- and fauna-themed accessories.
- 32 Something to Smile About Bring a bit of glamour to a guest bath with beautifully packaged European toothpaste.
- 34 Winsome Windsor Benches These roomy seats expand on the iconic country chair.
- 36 Denim Done Light Chambray delivers rugged, all-American good looks in a feminine, featherweight kind of way.

Collecting

- 43 Play for Keeps With vibrant lithographed imagery, turn-of-the-century games claim a monopoly on fun.
- 46 What Is It? What Is It Worth? Block-print art from the 1930s, a \$2 thrift-shop pitcher valued at \$1,500, and more.

Idea Notebook

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Out and About

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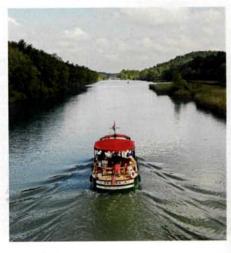
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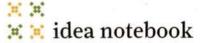
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- 136 Portrait of America At 135 years old, this Rhode Island carousel has taken numerous generations for a spin.



43
This menagerie of Victorian game pieces bowled us over with its charm.

Pilot your very own houseboat for a cruise down the Erie Canal.





Brilliant Ways to Front a Border

With graceful growth habits and dainty blooms, these petite plants deserve prime placement.

Like the opening act of a play, the first tier of a border introduces its audience to the story of the bed beyond. Which puts more than a little pressure on the plants chosen for this role. Do they entice with texture, shape, and color, while also ceding attention to the back rows? Can they successfully blur the boundary between yard and garden without encroaching upon the lawn? The short-but-sweet perennials here deliver, with subtle charms—like unusual foliage and small, fragrant flowers—that demand to be admired up close.



Nine perennial picks—including options for sun and shade, in a range of bloom times—that can fill just about any front-row seat

FULL SUN

PARTIAL SHADE

FULL SHADE





Speedwell (Veronica umbrosa 'Georgia Blue') Zones 4-9

Just six or so inches tall, this diminutive variety boasts loose clusters of electric-blue blooms that last until summer.



Lungwort (Pulmonaria officinalis 'White Wings') Zones 3-9

Silver-spotted leaves create a distinct foundation for bell-shaped white flowers that reach heights of up to a foot.



Bugleweed
(Ajuga reptans 'Black Scallop')
Zones 4-9

Known for its ground-hugging evergreen foliage, this deer-resistant beauty also sends up violet spikes.





Pinks (Dianthus gratianopolitanus 'Bath's Pink') Zones 3-9

The itty-bitty pink blossoms on this low-growing plant emit a delightful clove scent.



Cranesbill
(Geranium sanguineum 'Alpenglow')
Zones 4-8

This 12- to 18-inch-tall geranium produces magenta flowers and velvety foliage that turns crimson in fall.



Foam flower (Tiarella 'Spring Symphony') Zones 4-9

Sweet-smelling, 10-inch-high pink cones top leaves with burgundy stripes that intensify come autumn.





Tickseed (Coreopsis verticillata 'Crème Brûlée') Zones 5-9

The butter-yellow flowers of this feathery, relatively statuesque option (at two feet) can persist into October.



Bleeding heart (Dicentra 'King of Hearts') Zones 4-9

Deep-pink blooms dangle dramatically from 10- to 15-inch-tall arched stems. Deadhead to encourage new growth.



Deadnettle
(Lamium maculatum 'White Nancy')
Zones 3-9

This dense ground cover sports silvery, green-edged leaves and delicate white flowers.