

Diversions

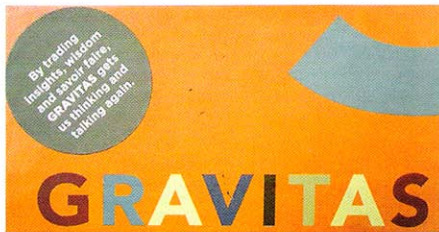
Stocking up on fun, fries and freebies

Game on

You've spent the day sightseeing and now it's time to kick back in your hotel suite or villa with your travel pals. Sure, you could play cards, but try these amusements:

Wine Opolo Wine drinkers get a taste of the wine business in this Monopoly-inspired game, where players compete by buying wine and grapes. Sounds easy, but import tax and serving faux pas can get in the way. Along the way, there's plenty of fun facts about wine. www.lateforthesky.com

Gravitas Created by Ontario resident Alan Gratias, this "little box of big questions" turns players into philosophers, and chats into meaningful discussions. Questions are posed about true-life events and lessons learned. The best, most insightful answer, earns the player a card. Three are needed to win, and earn the title of "philosopher king". www.gravitasthegame.com



Strange but true travel news



World's coolest beach?

In Dubai, temperatures can reach a sizzling 40 to 50 degrees Celsius. To make its precious guests more comfortable, the new Palazzo Versace has come up with a novel way to chill

out. Its beach will have a network of pipes beneath the sand that will absorb heat from the surface. The swimming pool will be refrigerated and giant fans will keep a breeze blowing.

Want fries with that?

In Belgium, fries have been elevated to gourmet fare, so perhaps it's not too surprising that the city of Bruges recently opened a museum to pay homage to one of the world's most popular snacks. The *Freit Museum* shows the curious, and controversial, evolution of fries and sells them in paper cones. It claims that it was the Belgians who invented them in the 1700s. A word to the wise: Whatever you do, don't call them French fries!

