

WILL TRAVEL, HAVE FOOD

When planes and boats and trains lead to food, culture and beer.

[GASTRONOMY] School never looked so good as at Culinary and Cultural Learning Vacations, which forgoes the classroom setting with its A Flavour of Spain courses. Chef Mike Powell and wife Hilary's "classes" are set in Andalucia amid tranquil streams and olive groves. Try your hand at trout served with romesco, a Spanish sauce of roasted hazelnuts and almonds, then walk off the pounds with excursions to everything from an olive oil mill to the Alhambra. If cooking classes don't tempt, then culture courses should. Guest lecturer Nick Bantock will read from his latest novel, *Windflower*, set in 1920s Spain. Packages begin in May. Visit www.aflavourofspan.ca or call 888-986-2262. Closer to home but hardly less alluring, the Gulf Islands Tall Sails & Ales cruise package from March 22 to 27 features special tastings at local breweries, chef-prepared meals of local cuisine with brew pairings, and lectures by brewing historian Greg Evans, who, among other things, discusses the "unbuttoned" social history of drinking on Vancouver Island. Call 888-599-5323 or visit www.mapleleafadventures.com. —S.Y.

