

MIDWEST LIVING January/February 2008 Issue Highlights

-Editors Available for Interview-

Your Essential Winter Guide

PARTY FOOD: MARTINI MASHERS – Page 16

Here's the perfect excuse to play with your food. For your next winter gathering, start with a scoop of warm mashed potatoes (it's quick with frozen or refrigerated) in a martini glass and let guests custom build their spud masterpieces with assorted toppers. Gravy, bacon, peas, cheese cubes and broccoli are some of our favorites.

MIDWEST MAPLE SYRUP SEASON – Page 20

Steeped in tradition and folklore, the Midwest maple syrup season reminds us of our pioneering heritage. Learn about the maple syrup story, upcoming festivals celebrating the amber liquid and tips for telling different syrups apart. Also, put the sweet stuff to use with recipes for Apple Pie Pancakes, Maple Oat Muffins, Maple Syrup Cake, Maple Meat Loaf and more.

2008 SUPER BOWL MENU – Page 33

Celebrate the Super Bowl or just a fun Friday night with our fast party recipes including: Mini Italian Beef Sandwiches with Pepperoni Slaw, Crispy Cheesy Potato Bites, Pepperoni Pizza Pull and Ice Cream Sandwich Sundaes.

BEST FURNITURE BUYING TIPS – Page 39

A furniture store's maze of styles, colors and shapes can be overwhelming – if you don't know what to look for. *Midwest Living* and consumer reporter and author Jennifer Litwin give you simple tips to keep you from getting lost in all the choices. Learn what to look for and think about when buying upholstered furniture and case goods, including the pros and cons of the different shopping sources.

HOT PLANTS FOR 2008 – Page 42

Four new plants you must have in your Midwest garden: Cute cuphea, happy heuchera (coral bells), electrifying petunias and a super rose. Also, did you know that the Midwest has the biggest percentage of vegetable-gardening households – 26 percent – in the country, according to the latest report of the National Gardening Association?

WINTER ESCAPE TO NEW ORLEANS – Page 45

Come along as a new mom escapes a Twin Cities winter to experience the warm breezes, history, cuisine and character of indomitable New Orleans. Learn when to go, where to stay, what to do and – most importantly – what to eat.

THE STATE OF SOUPS: A RECIPE FOR EVERY MIDWEST STATE – Page 59

As snow sprinkles down and temperatures hover below freezing, the ultimate comfort food beckons with promises of warmth and flavor. We created a dozen bubbling soups, stews and chowders to celebrate ingredients from Midwest states. They're each guaranteed to soothe. Try Michigan Great Lakes Salmon Chowder, North Dakota Potato Dumpling, Missouri Kansas City Steak Soup, Illinois Pumpkin-Corn Chowder and South Dakota Pastry-Topped Pheasant Stew.

15 ESSENTIAL WINTER EXPERIENCES ALONG LAKE MICHIGAN – Page 66

From climbing a frozen dune and cross-country skiing with the birds to gallery hopping in St. Joseph and a fireside breakfast in bed at the Harbor Grand hotel in New Buffalo, there is an adventure fit for everyone.

STAY AT A FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT HOUSE – Page 86

One of the world's greatest architects, Frank Lloyd Wright designed many homes in his native Midwest – and you can stay in some of them! Make your plans early to stay in the Seth Peterson Cottage in Wisconsin, Louis Penfield House in Ohio or Muirhead Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast in

Illinois; space fills far in advance.

CHICAGO GALLERY SPREE – Page 97

Art lovers looking for a more unexpected experience than the crowded galleries of Chicago's Art Institute should explore the city's privately-owned commercial galleries; each has its own specialty. *Midwest Living* shares a neighborhood-by-neighborhood list to get you started on a tour of your own

The January/February issue of *Midwest Living* magazine is available on newsstands now.

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