

GO EXPLORE

THERE WILL BE MUSIC: If you stand in the cathedral-like main room of the **House of Blues Boston** with your eyes closed and listen to the rough-throated riffs of a baritone sax or the deep wails of an electric guitar, what you won't hear is the enormity of the space. Here, the blues don't echo, and the sound stays cool. The multitiered, 2,425-capacity concert hall/nightclub opened earlier this year

with the Blues Brothers singing "Dirty Water" to officially christen the venue — a poignant gesture when you consider that buried beneath the stage is a small metal box filled with mud from the Mississippi delta, where blues music

first took root. A stream of A-list performers has rocked the room since then, including Katy Perry, Etta James, George Thorogood, and the J. Geils Band. Local bands play the venue weekly, and the traditional Gospel Brunch on Sunday will have you bowing your head in thanks. houseofblues.com

— A.E.

FASHION IS: The magazine *Gazette du Bon Ton*, first published in 1912, sought to cover luxury and fashion and ended up helping to define what those terms mean. Printed in limited quantities on handcrafted paper with individually hand-colored plates (designed by some of the best illustrators in the business), the magazine muddled the lines between art and fashion, even though it ran a total of just eight years, ending in 1925 (it wasn't published during World War I). Plates from the magazine are on display through May 2010 at the **Kent State University Museum**, an hour south of **Cleveland**, in an exhibit named for the publication. dept.kent.edu/museum — A.E.



NEW YORK/NEWARK

Verve and Folly

ONE OF THE BIGGEST EVENTS IN TENNIS kicks off with some of the sport's smallest participants. The 14th annual **Arthur Ashe Kids' Day**, on August 29, serves as the prelude to the 2009 US Open Tennis Championships. Top tennis stars and featured musical acts will come together for a day jam-packed with activities. Players at past events have included James Blake (above), Andy Roddick, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Serena Williams, and musical guests including Britney Spears, the Jonas Brothers, and Rihanna have also appeared. The event pays tribute to tennis legend Arthur Ashe and benefits the National Junior Tennis and Learning network, which Ashe co-founded with the aim of teaching kids about leadership, academic success, and self-worth. It all takes place at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Continental Airlines is the official airline of the US Open. usopen.org — *Samantha Lavien*

CLEVELAND

Field to Fork

WHEN YOU SIT DOWN to one of Chef Ben Bebenroth's elegant multicourse feasts, you can expect to find all the trappings of fine dining: sparkling glassware and polished silver, white linens, flowers on the table, and deliciously sophisticated dishes paired with just the right wines. But trade your suit for jeans and swap those strappy sandals for a pair of hiking boots, because these classy fine-dining experiences are set outdoors, on farms and in urban gardens scattered around northeast Ohio. The events, which Bebenroth has dubbed **Plated Landscapes**, celebrate fresh, seasonal, local food. Five are scheduled from August through October, including a meal on a bison ranch and another at a postcard-pretty country creamery specializing in goat cheese.

This is the fourth year Bebenroth and his team of sous chefs and servers are setting up their traveling camp kitchen in meadows, barns, and backyards. Menus feature regional artisanal products and just-picked fruits and vegetables. Guests are often enlisted to help harvest or go foraging in the forest for the ingredients that end up on their plates. With Mother Nature as the guest of honor, these dinners are always magical, memorable experiences. Reservations required, \$100 per person. 216.432.9090, spiceoflifecaters.com — *Laura Taxel*

