



COURTESY PHOTO

The rooftop pool at the Hotel Indigo in downtown Fort Myers.

BEST SWIMMING POOL

Hotel Indigo's Rooftop Pool

Recently opened in the River District, Hotel Indigo is Fort Myers' first boutique hotel. From hardwood floors to spa-like showers, the stylish hotel has redefined lodging in downtown Fort Myers. And that's before you've seen the pool. Set on the top floor of the nine-story building, the rooftop pool is the focal point of the open-air lounge and bar that has become downtown's hottest hangout. If you haven't dipped your toes in yet, swing by on Sunday afternoons for Hotel Indigo's pool party. It's the best swim you'll have in Lee County.

BEST MOTORCYCLE RIDE

Buckingham Road

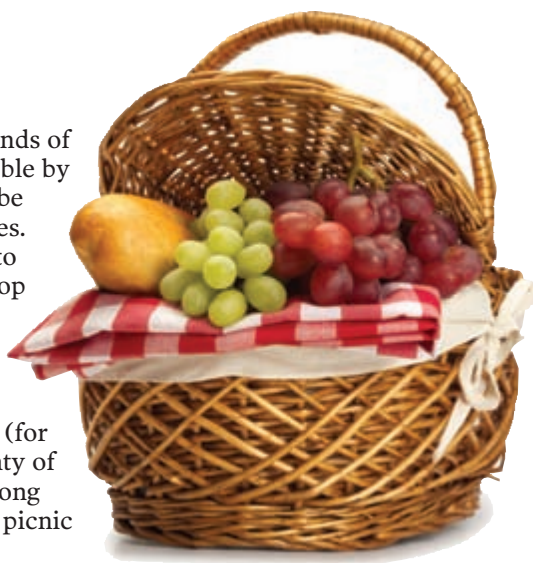
Buckingham Road in east Lee County has it all: the S-curve, the lazy curve, the L-curve and the straight-away. It's a two-lane stretch of about 10 miles, over the Orange River and alongside country estates. Look for the giant rooster statue and the alligator mailbox, but beware of tailgaters. And here's the clincher: The Buckingham Blues Bar is near the halfway point.

Directions: Ride east on Palm Beach Boulevard out of Fort Myers and turn right on Buckingham Road across from the Winn-Dixie. Or go east on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard past I-75, and look for Buckingham Road on your left.

BEST PARK FOR A PICNIC

Lovers Key State Park

Back in the day, the barrier islands of Lovers Key were only accessible by boat, and lovers were said to be the sole visitors to its remote beaches. Today, bridges connect the islands to the mainland, and beachgoers can hop on a tram that shuttles people from the parking lot to the outer beaches. This may dampen some of the romantic appeal, but Lovers Key still makes a great place for a picnic (for lovers or otherwise). There are plenty of shaded places to spread a blanket along the two miles of pristine beach, and picnic tables are provided inside the park.



BEST DOG PARK

Barkingham at Buckingham Community Park

First opened in 2001, this 1.5-acre facility was Lee County's first off-leash recreational area for dogs. The park has separate areas for large and small dogs, water fountains with people spouts on top and puppy spouts on the bottom and benches where humans can watch their canine companions play. The park even provides cleanup bags for the occasional doggy deposit. Take your pet for a spin on the agility equipment, then a cool-down under the dog shower. Dogs on leashes can go for a walk around the lake or through primitive back trails.

72nd annual



The 2010 events take place January 29 - February 21

