

WorldDenver Presents:

# STAYCATIONS

a new way to travel the world without leaving your home

## PASSING THROUGH ST. PETERSBURG

*Have you heard there's a rumor in St. Petersburg? Have you heard what they're saying on the street?* Although International Women's Day had been started with action from the women's labor movement in the U.S., it became revolutionary in 1917. Russia (where International Women's Day was established in 1913) was facing unrest as a country exhausted by war, widespread food shortages and escalating popular protest. The nation's 1917 International Women's Day demonstration was held on March 8th of that year — Feb. 23rd in the old Russian calendar, thus named "The February Revolution." If you had been visiting Petrograd (now known as St. Petersburg), there would have been tens of thousands of women with banners marching, demanding bread, eventually forcing the abdication of the tsar and ending the Romanov dynasty.

Around the world, International Women's Day is a massive holiday where mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, and girlfriends get gifts or flowers, and there are parades and protests about alleviating the unpaid labor women do in the home. More than 25 countries mark it as an official holiday, and we invite you to join WorldDenver on March 8th for the largest IWD celebration in Colorado. This year, we're going virtual with a live broadcast from the Denver Center for Performing Arts from 11am-1pm. [Register for FREE today!](#)

## CULTURE

Russian women demanded — and gained — the right to vote in 1917 as a direct result of the protests and after more than 40,000 women and men again took to the streets demanding universal suffrage. This made Russia the first major power to enact suffrage legislation for women, a year earlier than Britain and three years earlier than the United States. Take a journey to the past exploring one of the world's largest museums in this virtual tour and learn more about the history of St. Petersburg and the Russian people. Housed within the grandiose walls of the Winter Palace, this iconic museum complex used to be the residence of the Russian Tsars. Anyone who's tried knows that visiting the inexhaustible [collection of the Hermitage](#) on foot in a single day is unattainable — so now enjoy the privilege from the comfort of your home.

## CUISINE

*Now, elbows in and sit up straight, and never slurp the stroganoff*

!Russian aristocrats would often hire French cooks for their kitchens, but retain a palate honed in the homeland. According to the cookbook *A Taste of Russia*, the original beef Stroganoff recipe derived from a basic French mustard for seasoning beef, combined with a dollop of Russian sour cream, which Count Stroganov's chef named after his benefactor. Rich and creamy, stroganoff is traditionally made with thinly-sliced meat cooked on a bed of mushrooms and onions then mixed into a sour cream-based sauce, often served with pasta or potato, and always with a side of dill pickles. Try it!

## BEVERAGE

*Dear old Uncle Vanya loved his vodka.*

Vodka has played an important role in Russian history and is even considered a major player in the highest levels of Russian government. "Vodka" is a diminutive of "voda," the Russian word for water (with diminutives often used to show endearment). But even Russians enjoy a mixed cocktail now and again, and nothing is a better pair than kvass. Deeply rooted in Russian history, an ancient version of kvass is said to have existed in Ancient Egypt, Babylon and Greece, although the exact origin is unclear. Kvass came to Russia just over 1,000 years ago, and it was mentioned in Russian manuscripts from the time. It was an everyday drink in old Russia, valued for its thirst-quenching properties and energising effect and today, it remains a symbol of patriotism and of true Russianness. Consuming kvass, as opposed to sugary Western alternatives, remains a sign of loyalty to the country and pride in national products.

Pick up some Kvass locally at Black Sea Denver and try your hand at making a Kvasya!