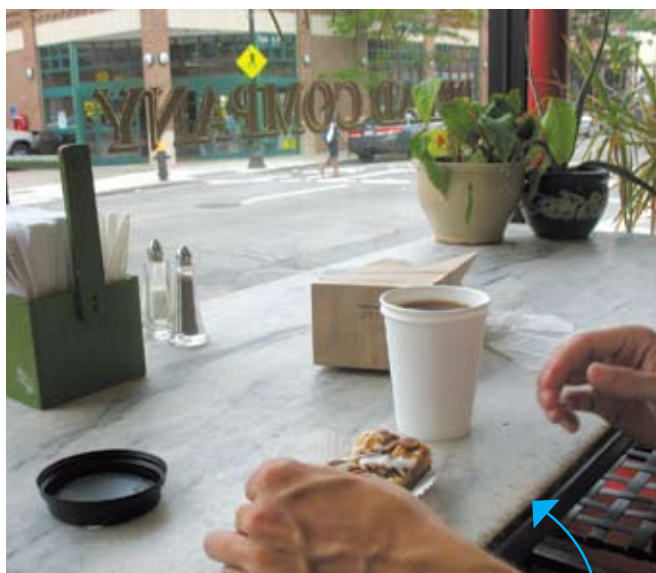
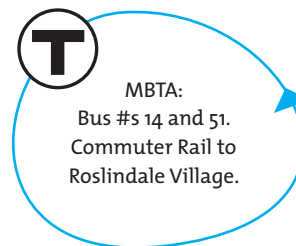


ROSLINDALE

BY JAIME LUTZ

Hating the MBTA bus system as passionately as I do, my trips to southern Boston have typically ended at Jamaica Plain. Directly south of the Forest Hills Station, though, lies Roslindale—a suburb with surprising charm, even if you do have to take the bus to get there.



PORTABLE FOOD

Fornax Bread Company
After reading rave reviews of their pastries, my partner in crime and I were eager to see what this local bakery had in stock to keep us full and happy on our journey. Immediately upon entering the store, our eyes go to the same display case: There are cupcake-sized raspberry cheesecakes. *Portable cheesecakes*, people. Fuckin' A right. [27 Corinth St. 617.325.8852. fornaxbread.com]

GENUINE

Birch Street House & Garden
The mostly residential Rozzie is more of a place to live than go shopping, for the most part. But Roslindale residents (Rozonians?) have made an emblem of Birch Street House & Garden, a funky and affordable bric-à-brac store. We found salt and pepper shakers made for safaris, solid perfume from France and the perfect indie greeting card for a friend. Eclectic, local and independent, this shop is Roslindale to a T. [760 South St. 617.323.3269. birchsthouselandgarden.com]

BROWSE AROUND

Boston Cheese Cellar
In our visit, we stopped into this shop three times, making the shopkeepers increasingly amused. There was just so much to see: huge selections of olives, crackers and—of course—cheese. The staff was refreshingly unpretentious; when I rather stupidly asked if they had anything to go with a red wine, instead of guffawing me out the store like the ignoramus I am, they simply said: “How about this brie?” Needless to say, it was delicious. [18 Birch St. 617.325.2500. bostoncheesecellar.com]

CHEAP BASTARD

Solera
Cheese and wine go together like a rich person's PB&J, and as fate would have it, the Boston Cheese Cellar is right next to Solera, “A Shrine to Wine,” a smart and well-stocked wine store. We went in because they were having one of their regular free wine tastings. Both the spicy red and the fruity white were yummy as all fuck. [12 Corinth St. 617.469.4005]

BE GOOD OR BE BAD

Thrift Shop of Boston
Not that I need an excuse to shop, but the fact that all the proceeds from the Thrift Shop of Boston go to the Home for Little Wanderers, a charity that helps at-risk children, definitely made me feel better about it. Plus, it's cheap—I got a soft-cover edition of *The World According to Garp* for 25 cents. [17 Corinth St. 617.325.5300. thehome.org]

Seymore Green
Rozzie seems like an upstanding neighborhood, so for a while I was mystified at how to be anything but our usually angelic selves. Luckily, we stumbled upon Seymore Green, a head shop where you can get pipes that look like soda cans and similar ephemera. “There's a Freedom Rally on the 18th. You can smoke up freely there,” a man behind the counter told us. Uh, good to know, dude, I said, all nervous-like. I was being bad! [35 Popular St. 617.325.5900]