



PHOTOS BY JULIE L. KESSLER / SPECIAL TO THE STAR-ADVERTISER

By Julie L. Kessler
Special to the Star-Advertiser

If you are a lazy planner, like traveling alone without actually being alone, or want an experience more likely to renew than exhaust, then a Regent Seven Seas all-inclusive South American cruise might be just the ticket.

Since I easily fit all three categories, I flew to Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Often called the Paris of South America for its wide boulevards and belle époque architecture, Buenos Aires doesn't disappoint. There are also art deco, colonial and neo-classic buildings amid cobblestone streets, gentrifying tenements, boho-chic neighborhoods, cafe-lined squares and churches galore.

Then there's the mouthwatering Argentinian beef and world-renowned Malbec, making carnivores and oenophiles doubly rejoice. And the flamboyant tango breathes romance and color into this elegant city.

Starting at pedestrian Avenida Florida, I headed to the impressive Plaza de Mayo's Casa Rosada — pink house — where President Mauricio Macri often holds meetings. Nearby, the massive neo-classic Cathedral



The pedestrian street of Old City of Montevideo, Uruguay, where art galleries, shops and cafes are housed in colonial buildings. At left, a dancer at Carnival, an enormous, annual street party held before Lent, often attracting over 2 million people daily to the streets of Rio de Janeiro.

nose halted me at crowded Perez-H, a quirky food stand serving fabulous hamburgers. Fortified, I passed by microscopic Casa Minima, an 8-by-26-foot house that was originally the carriage house for the mansion next door. Then I strolled by numerous antiques shops, colonial houses and churches until reaching Plaza Dorrego, where artists sell crafts, and cafes spawn impromptu tango dancers.

Like Italians, many Argentinians treat ice cream like one of the four basic food groups. Their version is so creamy and delicious, it's probably the arterial health equivalent of a hydrogen bomb.

That didn't stop me. No trip to Buenos Aires would be complete without visiting La Recoleta Cemetery where members of the

Metropolitana contains a rococo-style altar and houses Argentinian liberator General Jose de San Martin's mausoleum.

Walking up Avenida Defensa toward cobblestoned San Telmo neighborhood, my

Please see CRUISE, E4

