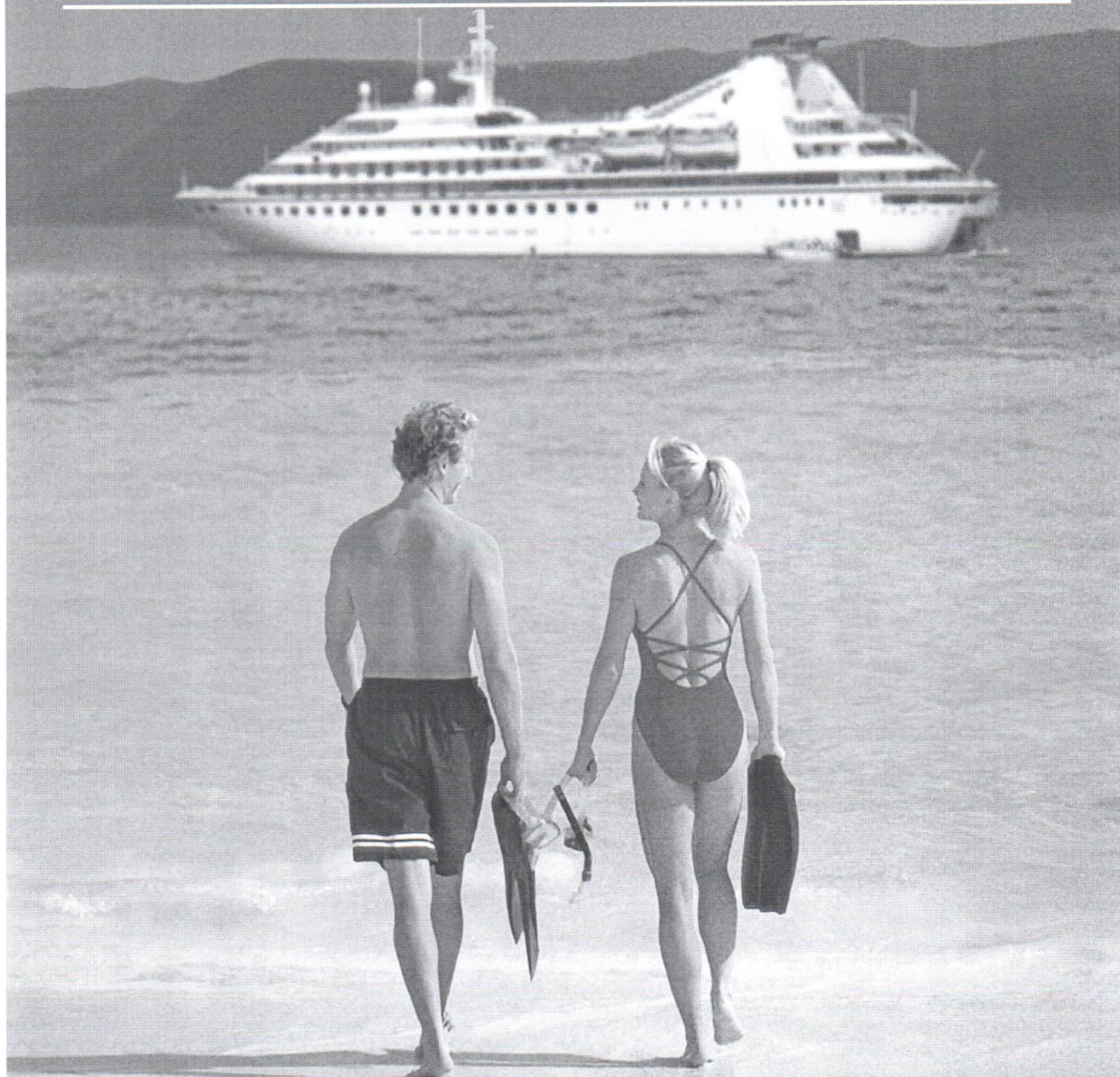


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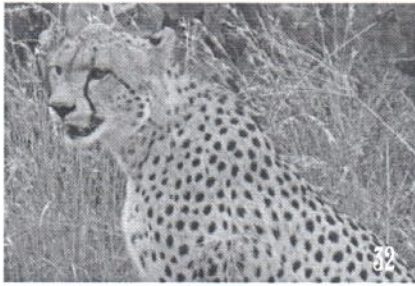
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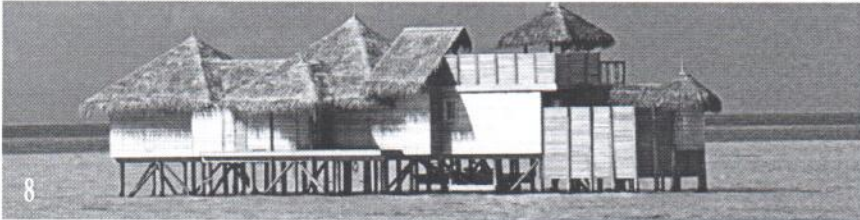
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14



32



8



23

Contents

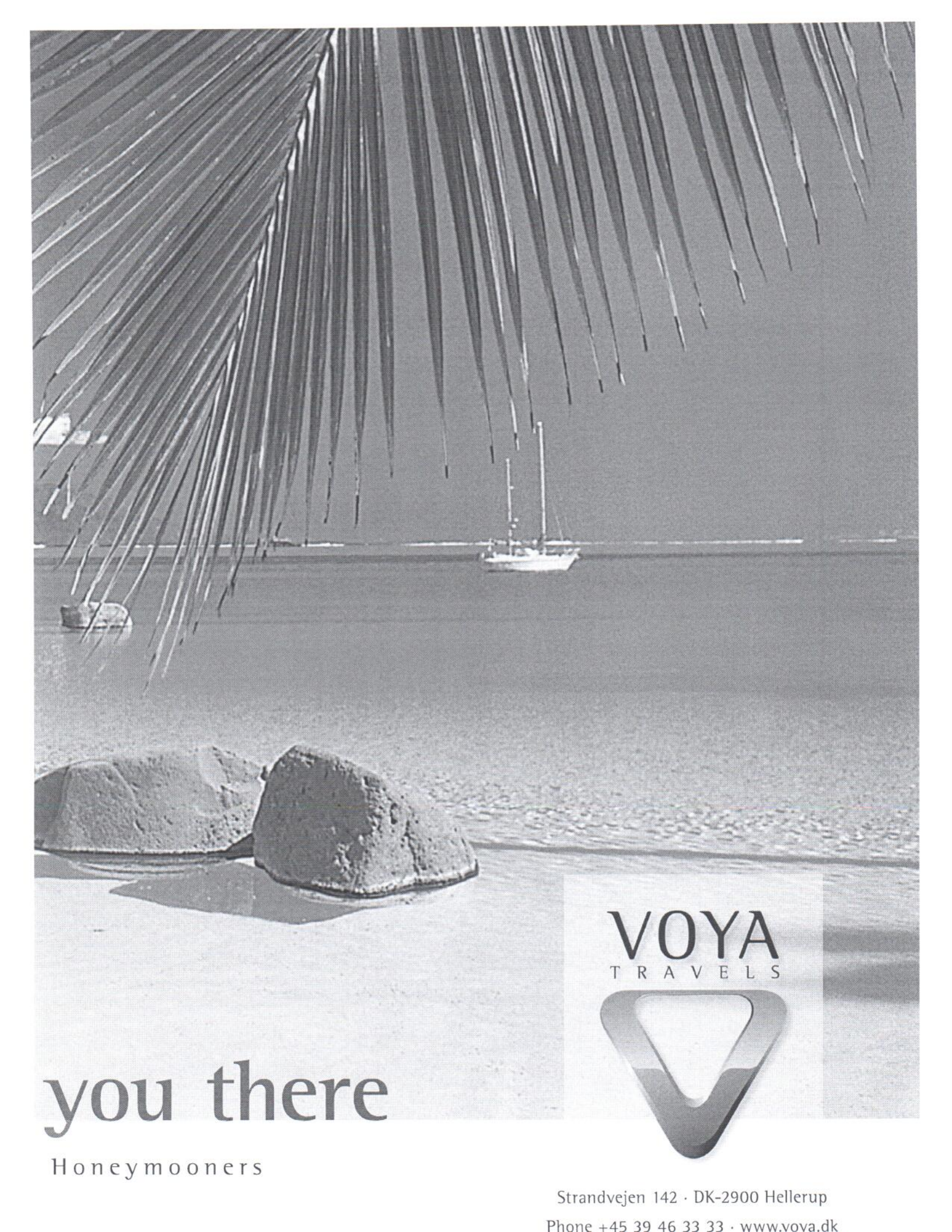
6	Editor's Letter	41	Deluxe Spa Resorts Prepare yourself for the royal treatment at these fine spa resorts.
8	Soneva Gili Resort and Spa Suspended over the sparkling turquoise water of the Maldives are 44 thatch-roofed suites on stilts, the perfect island getaway to go snorkeling, to get a massage, or to simply listen to palm leaves rustle in the warm, spicy breeze.	44	Luxury Cruising on the Canals of France Nothing has been spared in the transformation of two working freight barges into the most exclusive and luxurious hotel barges to ply the rivers and canals of France.
12	Travel Essentials Everything you need to enhance your trip.	48	Lemuria - Seychelles Nestled amidst natural gardens in the Seychelles, the Lemuria Resort & Villas offers a five-star view of two lovely beaches, an 18-hole golf course, and unspoiled beauty.
14	The Riviera's superior residence At the super-exclusive villa Résidence Supérieur celebrities and commoners alike are treated like royalty. An impressive car park are at the guests' disposal so you can cruise the Riviera the fashionable way.	52	Tahiti There is something magical about Tahiti and her sister islands. We will take you there.
18	Blue Train All aboard! See the South African tapestry roll past your window in comfort and style.	57	Miramonte - Tuscany in California Tuscany meets California at this exclusive retreat in Palm Springs, California.
23	Indulge yourself We explore what \$25,000 will buy you in the world of luxury accommodations.	61	Golfing in Sweden The Barsebäck Golf and Country Club is home to one of Scandinavia's finest golf courses.
32	Big 5 in 4 days at Singita Private Game Reserve The only thing between you and the lions, leopards and cheetahs of Sabi Sands Private Reserve will be your telephoto lens and a sense of exhilaration at this exclusive safari retreat.	64	Non-profit profile Operation Smile is changing lives one smile at a time.



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from the editor



It seems fitting to launch the premiere issue of Deluxe Traveller Magazine by quoting the famous Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen, who chronicled his journeys in numerous literary sketches. This is particularly true now because, coincidentally, this first copy of Deluxe Traveller begins its life on the 200th anniversary of Andersen's birth.

Hans Christian Andersen wrote that "to travel is to live." Once he'd been bitten by the travel bug he spent much of his life exploring Europe and beyond, by every means available: by carriage, on foot, on horseback and mule. But with the spread of rails across Europe, Mr. Andersen welcomed train travel above all for its convenience, speed, and relative luxury.

At Deluxe Traveller, we share the author's passion for comfortable travel. In the spirit of Hans Christian Andersen, we want to open your eyes to new vistas while providing you information on the very best hotels, resorts, lodges and villas. It is our passion to find those unique hideaways where discerning travellers can unwind, recharge, and reinvigorate their sensibilities.

We hope that the stunning photographs we've provided will inspire you to visit these places for yourself, just as the words of Hans Christian Andersen continue to arouse this desire in us.

Please feel free to email me if you, too, are a deluxe traveller with destinations to share.

Bon voyage, and above all, enjoy!

Kenneth Reece
Publisher and Editor in Chief

DELUXE TRAVELLER

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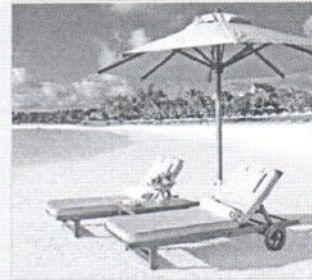
Please go to our web site for information regarding submitting freelance material.



Cover photo courtesy of
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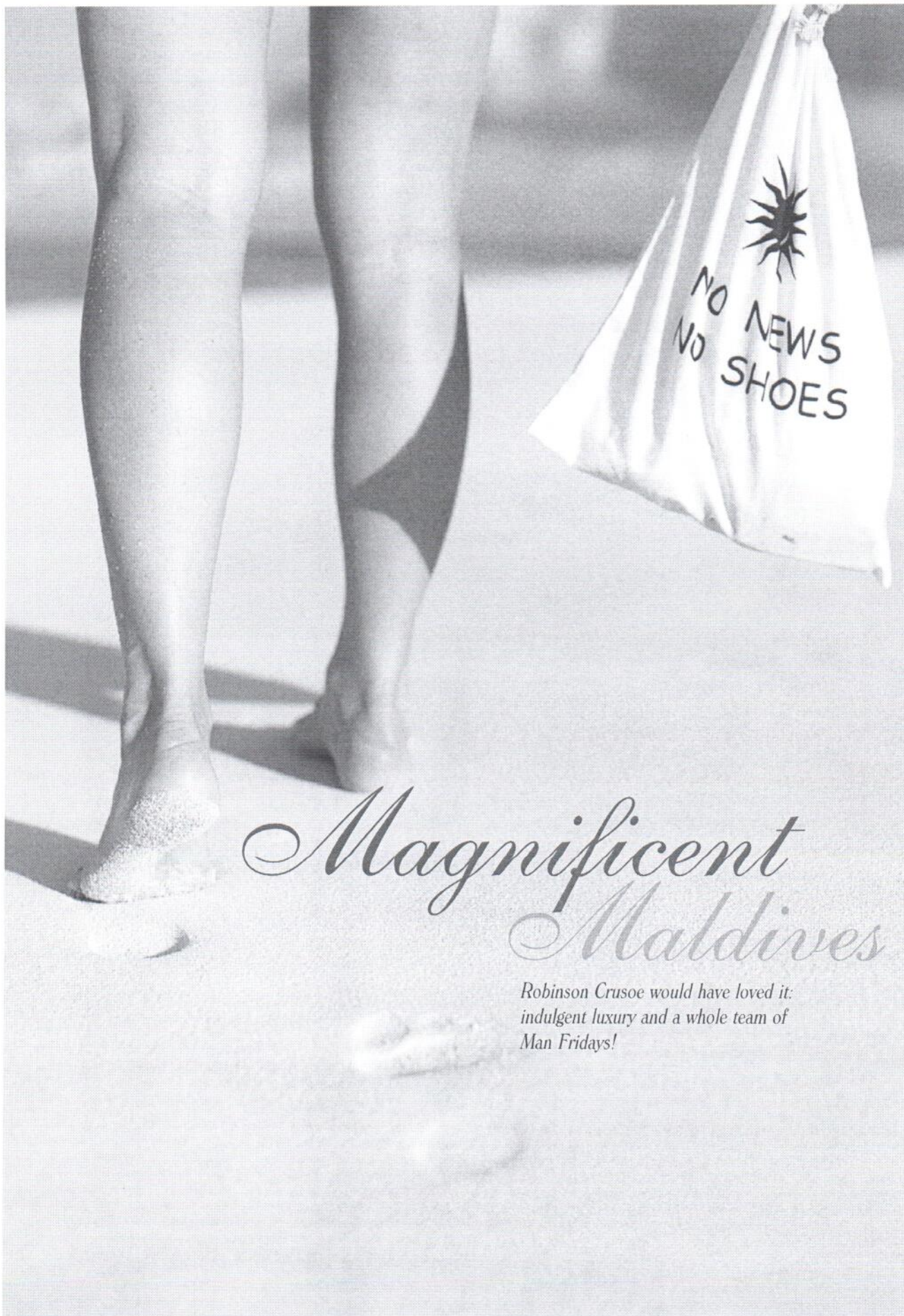


Inspired by turn-of-the-century plantation houses, The Residence Mauritius is reminiscent of the palaces of yesteryear, each refined detail is a tribute to the delicious elegance of a sophisticated lifestyle.



THE RESIDENCE
MAURITIUS

Take • refuge • from • the • norm



Magnificent Maldives

*Robinson Crusoe would have loved it:
indulgent luxury and a whole team of
Man Fridays!*

If you are looking for secluded relaxation on pristine beaches, enjoy swimming in crystal clear water, and want to sample some of the finest cuisine in the world, head for the Maldives. Furthermore, this Indian Ocean island heaven offers superb snorkeling and diving and of course every other imaginable water sports activity. However, don't be fooled into thinking that every resort in the Maldives will satisfy the discriminating travellers quest for quality. They will not. Fortunately, for those in the know, there are several 5 star resorts to chose from, one more spectacular than the other.

On the private tropical island of Lankanfushi you will find the Maldives' first all over-water villa resort, a unique retreat called Soneva Gili. The resort's claim to be "Elegance of Water" is fully justified with its 44 suites and seven Crusoe Residences all suspended over the water where they majestically sit on stilts. Here, you can get close to the aquatic wildlife and enjoy the view of the myriad of fish in the lagoon.

Total privacy

Well-separated for privacy along wooden jetties, the spacious villas offer rooftop and over-water sun decks, a stunning open-air bathroom, and sumptuous daybeds. Even though modern amenities such as hi-fi equipment, satellite TV, minibar, safe etc. are available in the villas, the natural harmony and atmosphere on the island is cleverly conserved by tucking away all electronic equipment into hand-build wooden cabinets.

All the suites and residences are situated at least twenty meters apart thereby affording all occupants total privacy to enjoy their own personal piece of paradise. The accommodations feature open-air bathrooms designed with a separate shower that is accessed along an open-air walkway, and each has its own private water garden.

The seven Crusoe Residences stand side by side in the lagoon, with a view beyond the coral reef to the open sea. Each suite and residence has been built and designed with the utmost attention to detail and crafted from natural materials. Catering to those seeking total seclusion, the Crusoe Residences are only accessible by boat. However, when you have had enough peace and seclusion, you can, of course, come ashore for activities and dining.

Dining

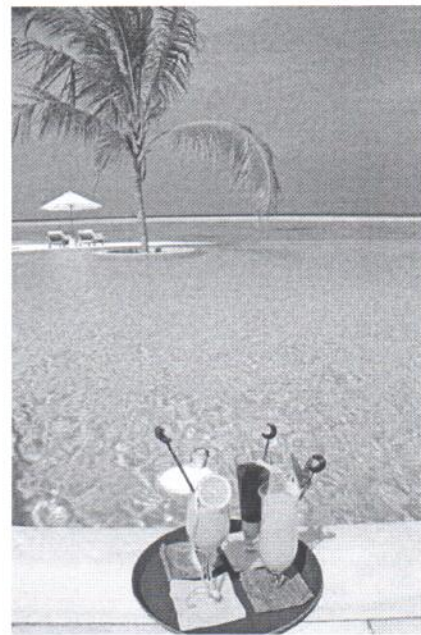
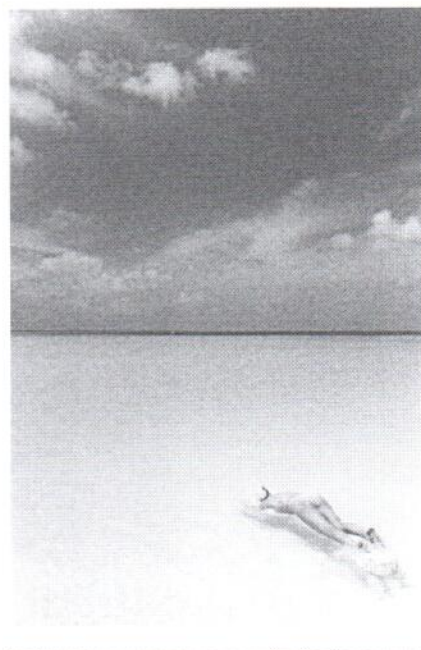
Dining in one's villa is a panoramic dream: their cantilevered sun decks rest just above water level, so guests have an uninterrupted view of their gorgeous surroundings, whether they're gazing at the morning sun as it peeks over the blue horizon or marveling at the night sky.

When you are in a romantic mood, you can have an open-air moonlight dinner delivered right to your suite. Guests might also opt to dine on a pontoon boat as it cruises the lagoon underneath the Maldivian constellation, or they might rather eat over the water in the al fresco restaurant.

The exceptional settings for dining at Soneva Gili are completed by an equally fantastic culinary experience. High quality, fresh ingredients arrive from international sources, and are supplemented by the resort's own organic herb and vegetable garden and the surrounding ocean from which an enticing selection of fish appears each day. The fine wines and excellent malts complete the experience for even the most discerning traveller.

Spa

At Soneva Gili everything is possible, so expect the unexpected. While you gear up for your daytime adventures, consider visiting the professional beauty therapists and masseurs at the Six Senses Spa. The staff provides a wide variety of treatments, including a specially designed jet lag treatment. There, the unexpected





reveals itself beneath your feet, where they've installed glass floor panels, so while enjoying a massage one can gaze on the fish that cavort just above the ocean floor. The spa also offers a special Maldivian sand massage for those who like to try something a bit more exotic.

Get active

After watching the fish from the comforts of the spa, you may want a closer experience. The Maldives is a paradise for snorkeling and no visit to the Maldives is complete without getting your head under water. Soneva Gili has its own fully-equipped PADI diving school.

For those guests preferring an active vacation on land, a variety of sports are available as well, such as tennis, table tennis, badminton, volleyball and much more. You are sure to find something you will enjoy, even if it's a quiet game of Chess under the cool shade of a coconut tree.

A casual and peaceful atmosphere encapsulates this unique place on Earth making it the perfect place to lay back and chill out while enjoying a truly unique experience. The temperature is warm and comfortable all year round, which invites you to wear light and natural clothing made from cotton, linen, or silk. There is a "no shoes" policy on the island and most guests are seen sporting polo shirts, shorts, light summer dresses, or sarongs rather than elegant suits and dresses, which can be quite impractical if you plan on cycling or strolling the island's sandy paths. While the resort offers a laundry service, there are no dry cleaning facilities. But who needs dry cleaning in Paradise?

Soneva Gili

How to get there

Soneva Gili is situated in the Male Atoll, one of 19 atolls that stretch over 800 kilometers through the Indian Ocean.

The island of Lankafushi is one of the 1190 islands which are the Maldives.

The island is a 15 minute speedboat journey from Male, the country's capital and home to the international airport.

Climate

Tropical climate with warm and comfortable temperatures throughout the year requiring only light clothing. In the winter months the temperature in the evenings can fall to around 23-24 degrees sometimes calling for a light jacket or sweater.

More information

www.sixsenses.com/soneva-gili



TRAVEL *essentials*



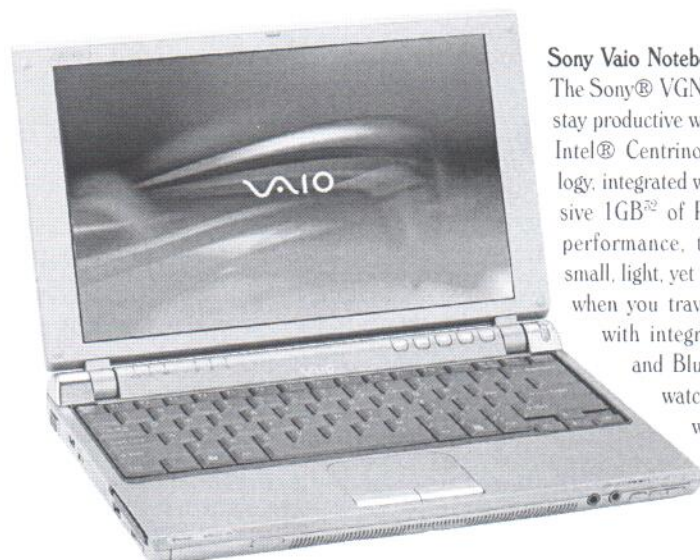
Atlas Pro GPS Navigator

Atlas Pro is a compact, light and powerful GPS navigator for outdoor and urban navigation in towns and cities as well as the countryside. This pocket-sized device combines a traditional GPS with a tourist guide, and can locate anything from a local store to a highway junction even recording the position of a favourite holiday spot.
www.silva.se



Bose QuietComfort 2 headphones

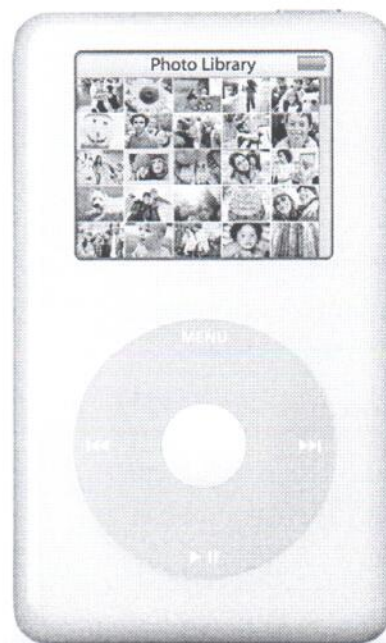
Experience the innovative combination of superior noise reduction technology and quality headphone audio performance with these headphones. They dramatically reduce unwanted noise, and their ergonomic design allows for a comfortable fit. The fold-flat feature makes storage of these lightweight headphones easy. Particularly on flights in America, you will see many satisfied travellers relaxing with these headphones, blissfully unaware of any cabin noise.
www.bose.com



Sony Vaio Notebook

The Sony® VGN-T270P/L helps you stay productive while on the go. With Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology, integrated wireless LAN, a massive 1GB² of RAM and enhanced performance, this notebook is a small, light, yet powerful companion when you travel. Stay connected with integrated wireless LAN and Bluetooth or burn and watch DVDs.

www.sony.com



iPod Photo

This enhanced iPod is more than a music player. The crisp color screen allows you to browse your playlists via vivid menus, thumb through album and audiobook cover art on the go, even play games and view your calendars in color. The 60GB models allows you to carry an entire library of music — up to 15,000 songs and full-color album cover art — or as many as 25,000 photos in your pocket.
www.apple.com/ipod

Pentax *istD S Single Lens Reflex Camera

This is the camera Deluxe Traveller's editor in chief carries when travelling. Housed in one of the world's smallest, lightest digital SLR body, the *ist D S comes equipped with an array of advanced functions and user-friendly features. Best of all, this 6.1 megapixels camera is compatible with existing Pentax 55mm-format interchangeable lenses and accessories.
www.pentax.com

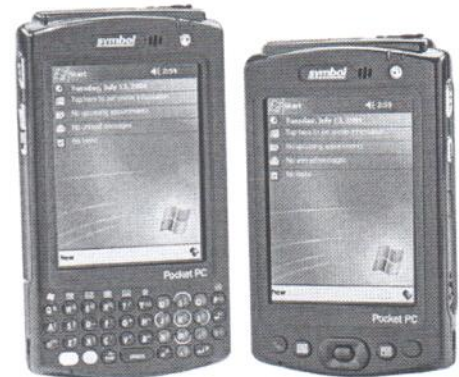


Limited Edition Travel Bag

This exclusive leather bag is a true copy of the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen's beloved travel bag. Rich in detail and made in carefully selected materials, this bag is an essential companion for the discerning traveller. The bag is not as large as it appears, so all airlines will allow it as a carry-on. Each bag is numbered and only available in a limited supply.
www.hansson.dk

MC50 Enterprise Digital Assistant

The MC50 from Symbol Technologies is a small, lightweight mobile computer with features such as advanced data capture options, flexible voice and data communication and easy wireless local area network (WLAN) synchronization.
www.symbol.com



Bushnell Legend Binoculars

The Legend™ series binoculars boast powerful magnification and crystal clear BaK-4 optics deliver a full range of color and clarity – images like no other in their class. Pick them up and you'll instantly notice how nicely balanced the solid, grippy rubber-armored design is.
www.bushnell.com

Sony DVD camcorder

The DCR-DVD201 utilizes a 1.0 Megapixel CCD imager, delivering exceptional video and still images that all of your family and friends will enjoy. The DVD recording format delivers digital picture and sound quality comparable to that of MiniDV, but on DVD—the disc plays back in compatible DVD Players, computers and even PlayStation 2 video game consoles.
www.sony.com



Résidence Supérieur

- A Dream Come True



*N*estled in the exclusive hills above Cannes, quietly situated just a short drive to the numerous restaurants, shops, and beach at the famous La Croisette, is a small celebrity hide-away community known as Super Cannes. Deluxe Traveller has visited the jewel in the French Riviera crown, a magnificent private luxury villa called Résidence Supérieur.



By Ken Lee

Richard Nilsson, the owner of *Résidence Supérieur*, is there to personally greet us as we exit the arrival's hall at Nice Airport. After his staff has relieved us of our luggage we are escorted to a waiting helicopter. We embark on a short exhilarating flight, which presents a unique opportunity to enjoy an amazing view of the French Riviera. When we land at the helipad in Cannes, a limousine, with Champagne on ice, is waiting to take us the last stretch of our journey — to the villa. This is not a bad start.

More than a villa

Résidence Supérieur is much more than a private villa rental. It is an ultra-luxury concept, with the elegant villa serving as a comfortable base for a number of unique activities and experiences, which the staff will arrange for you. If you feel like cruising the French Riviera in a Ferrari or one of the most exclusive open sports cars in the world, just pick a car and off you go. The villa's garage is stocked with the most impressive car park we have seen to be included when renting a villa. A Ferrari 575M, a classic Weismann sports car, and a S-Class Mercedes are all available for your use at no extra charge.

Says Richard Nilsson: "Our clients pay us to provide them with the ultimate service experience throughout their visit with us. Picking them up at the airport and escorting them via limousine and helicopter to the villa is where it begins. Providing access to some of the finest cars in the world is another aspect of our dedication to our clients."

The owner is surprisingly young. Most owners of extreme luxury villas are in their 50's or above, but Mr. Nilsson is the exception to the rule. He appears to be in his thirties. At the young age of 29 he established his own investment bank, which was later sold to another bank.

Today, the hugely successful portfolio manager only manages the portfolios of an elite group of High Net Worth Individuals. "I prefer to handle a few very large portfolios rather than many smaller ones as I did when I was younger" he says, adding "it is less demanding and it allows me to provide a better service to the few clients that I choose to work with." It also allows him to dedicate more time to working with *Résidence Supérieur*.

This classic Wiesmann is only one of several luxury cars in Résidence Supérieur's garage



This Ferrari 575M is also part of the fleet



Owner Richard Nilsson created Résidence Supérieur to cater for the most discerning clients.



This S-Class Mercedes is available for formal occasions and when you want more space than the sports cars provide.



Sunseeker's Manhattan 56 is one of your options if you want to charter a yacht.



Accommodations

After we arrive at the villa we are offered refreshments and taken on the grand tour of the villa. The award winning house was designed by renowned Sardinian architect Savin Couelle, and occupies a total of 450 square meters. Each of its 4 guest rooms have private bathrooms with a Jacuzzi, private terrace or balcony, and of course a splendid view of the ocean.

The living room boasts a cozy fireplace for romantic evenings, and an advanced lighting system allows you to change the color of the room to whatever you wish.

On the villa's main terrace there is a large swimming pool from where you have perfect view of the ocean. The house is stylishly decorated with mostly Italian designer furniture, and should you wish to combine business with pleasure, it also has a conference room.

The tour of the house ends with an introduction to the fleet of luxury cars that sits in the garage. Combined, the three luxury cars will be our sporty, classic and stylish ride for the next week. If you have never driven a Ferrari before, you will receive adequate instructions on how to handle it properly.

Our luggage already awaits us in our room, along with fresh flowers, a welcome gift from the staff and the spectacular view of the ocean. After unpacking and settling in, we are served a marvelous gourmet dinner and we end the day resting on the terrace with a Hennessy X.O. and a good cigar, while we enjoy watching the sun set in the horizon. This, will indeed be our home for the next week.

Impeccable service

An integral part of the concept behind Résidence Supérieur is to provide outstanding service to their client. Even very special and demanding requests will be attended to and fulfilled if humanly possible. If you want tickets to get into the Ferrari stables during the Grand Prix, the staff will get them for you. If you need a bodyguard or an armored vehicle, that too can be arranged.

Since every customer has their own opinion about what constitutes perfect service, each guest can decide exactly how they want it. If you prefer to eat out at some of the area's many renowned gourmet restaurants, you probably will not need a full time chef standing by. On the other hand, if you prefer to dine in the privacy of the villa, you can request that a full time chef is available. Most guests, however prefer to dine out, and perhaps have a gourmet chef come to the house for a few special occasions.

There are splendid ocean views both from the balcony and the pool area.

Celebrity hide-away

While Résidence Supérieur's guest book reveals they the villa has played host to its share of celebrity guests, Mr. Nilsson asks us not to disclose who they are. "We respect our clients' right to privacy and we don't believe in abusing their celebrity status to market our villa. On the contrary, we go out of our way to accommodate those clients who are concerned about annoying paparazzi." In an industry where celebrity name-dropping is very common, Mr. Nilsson's integrity has earned him a faithful clientele among those who demand total privacy and secrecy -- even after they leave.

An abundance of activities

If you have your own agenda of what you would like to see or do during your stay, you can just let the staff know, and they will help make it happen. Alternatively you can take advantage of some exclusive packages the staff has prepared for clients who request a proposed itinerary. These packages comprise the best of the best from the region, and include golfing at some of the finest courses in Europe, wine tours to some world renowned wineries, or a gourmet adventure where you are flown by helicopter to dine at exquisite restaurants.

Unforgettable golf on the French Riviera

The French Riviera is home to some spectacular courses and golfing is naturally one of the many options for the guests. One of the golf packages takes you to Golf country Club de Cannes - Mougins, which was opened in 1926 and has steadily gained both national and international fame. The course, designed by Peter Allis and Dave Thomas, is 6,512 m, par 72. It is located between two forests, and a river winds its way through it, which makes the course technically

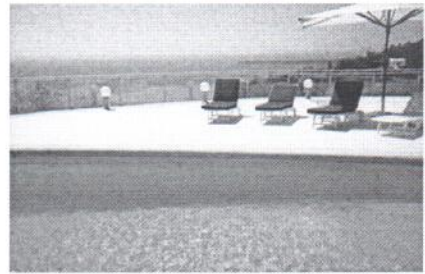
challenging. It has open fairways and long greens.

You can drive to the golf course in one of "your" luxury cars, but if you want to drink wine with the 3-course meal after your game, the staff will be happy to provide a chauffeur.

A favorite package among car enthusiasts is Résidence Supérieur's Formula 1 package, where life long dreams of driving a real Formula 1 car can finally be realized. The day starts out with breakfast and an introduction to the team that will guide you through the day until the climax when you are finally able to lower yourself into the 650 horsepower thoroughbred racing car for an unforgettable experience, which will leave you memories for a lifetime. Before you are let lose on the track, however, you will receive adequate instructions. You will also get practical training by driving 15 laps in a Formula 3 car, an Opel Lotus. After the exhilarating Formula 1 experience you will receive a certificate and your accomplishment is celebrated in the proper manner with champagne.

While the boys are out playing with the big toys, a favorite of the ladies is to have the staff prepare a special day of luxury spa treatments and exclusive shopping. It is only your own imagination that determines the limits of what you can experience during your stay at Residence Supérieur. If you like yachting, have the staff charter a yacht for you. The popular Manhattan 56 from Sunseeker is considered by many to be the ultimate small motor yacht. The 61 foot boat is actually surprisingly spacious and can easily provide comfortable accommodations for a few days of fun on the ocean. The staff can arrange the charter for you.

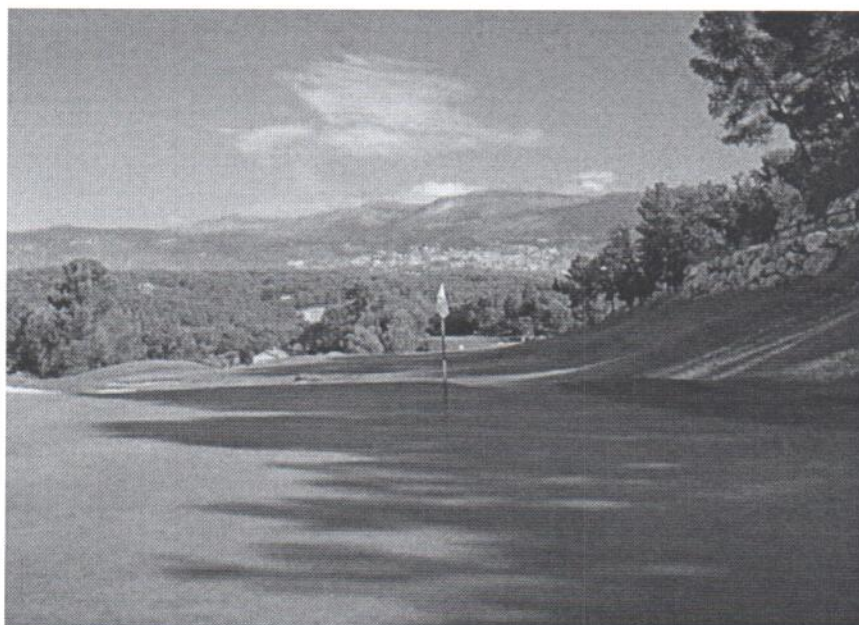
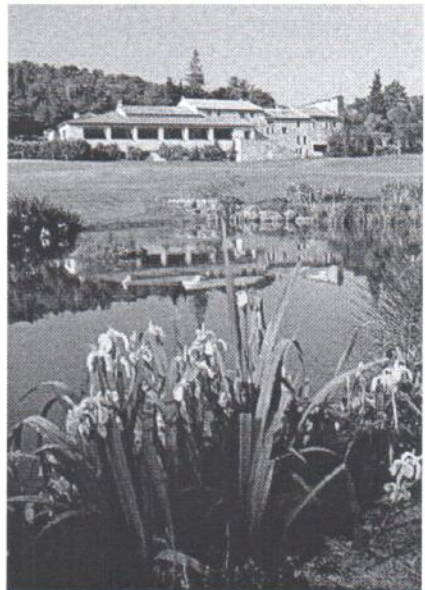
Whether you are looking for an action filled vacation on the French Riviera, or a quiet hide-away where you can bask in the sun by the pool, Résidence Supérieur is a safe bet if elegant luxury and impeccable service is what you are looking for. One thing is for sure: We'll be back.



From the pool there is a magnificent oceanview



The famous La Croisette



Golfing in Mougins offers some splendid views.

Résidence Supérieur

Website:

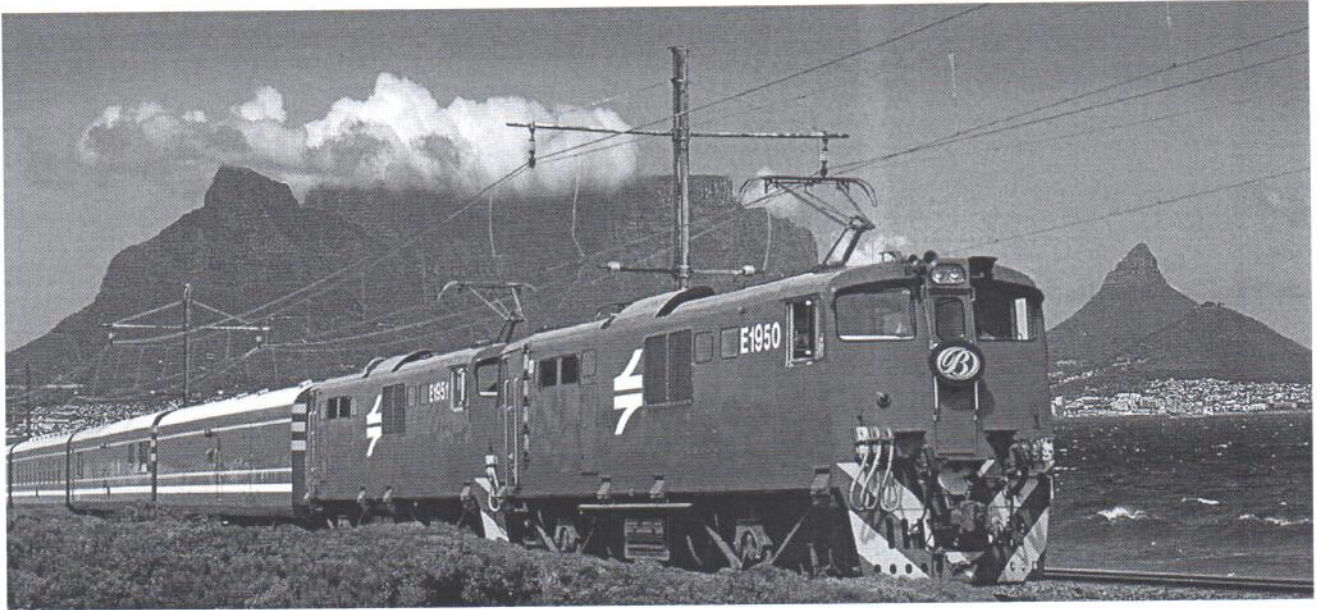
www.residencesuperieur.com

E-mail:

info@residencesuperieur.com



The Blue Train



Text: Joan Scales. Photos courtesy of The Blue Train.

Imagine a world that is cocooned in luxury, dressed in finery, passing through a landscape that is startlingly beautiful and yet untouchable. You are an onlooker to one of the most beautiful countries on earth. A passer-by to vistas of mountains, gorges, rivers, valleys, deserts, vineyards, and remote farmhouses. On the journey you will traverse hundreds of miles and yet it will cause you no physical hardships.

The journey is a very special one, and one that will live in your memories for a very long time. The images can be played over for re-enjoyment, for how often in life do you feel totally cosseted and special.

Born in an age before jet travel and the haste to be somewhere before you leave, the Blue Train is a journey into the past, with the comforts of the present. A mode of transport through one of the most beautiful and exciting countries in the world –South Africa.

Wide open spaces and infinite sky are the backdrop for a leisurely journey by rail, a journey that is taken in such comfort as to lull you into a world of unsurpassed luxury. My journey began with the backdrop of Table Mountain, in Cape Town. A thousand miles lay ahead to Pretoria – 26 hours of wonder.

Arriving at Cape Town station the blue-liveried staff tag and take your bags, check you in and lead you to the Blue Train Departure Lounge to await the train. Champagne and caviar canapés are a fitting start to the experience ahead.

On the way to my suite the sheer length of the train strikes me – 416 yards long. My butler, Eddie awaits. He explains the mechanics of television, which will relay the views outside the train, CD player, adjusting the air conditioning, the remote control to raise and lower the blinds, cellphone and hotline to the train manager.

When he withdraws, I dart around, checking out everything, admiring the bathroom with its gold taps. The idea of having a bath on a train is inviting. But I must wait; it would be too odd to have a bath in the station.

The suite is furnished with a table, ottoman window seats, lockers, a large sofa, cabinet, and wardrobe, in blue and earthy coloured upholstery that reflects the Blue Train's colours. The veneered wood panelling oozes warmth. In a suite that is 3 meters wide, I am awed at the designers who have turned limited space into such an accommodating environment. The fixtures and fittings blend with the design and anything that is not needed can be stowed or folded away.

It is time to explore the entire train. First stop is the Club Car. Fitted out in soft brown and fawn tones the animal-print upholstery gives an indication of where we are. The Library area is well stocked with books, magazines and newspapers. The bar is semi-circular and just the right height to lean languidly against.

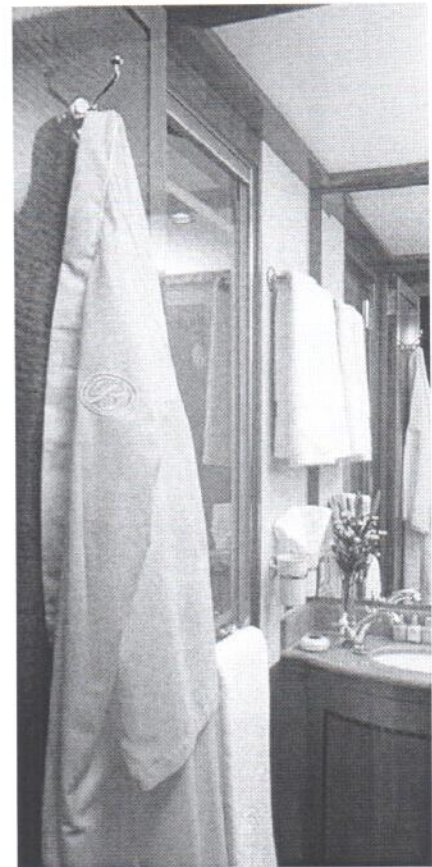
Past the kitchens, the white-hatted chefs are already hard at work preparing lunch. The lounge is just the place to take afternoon tea or play some board games, while watching the scenery pass by. The Dining Room is bustling with waiters preparing the tables. Fresh flowers on each and the finest

glassware, china and cutlery. There's a little shop, where a glamorous lady is preparing her stock of Blue Train memorabilia.

Finally, the Panorama Car. The whole back wall of the train is a picture window. You can sit here and watch the countryside change and the track disappearing behind. Today it is set up for a conference. I wonder how they intend to get any business done with such a view. All through the train are items of original African art, a picture here and sculpture there, carefully chosen to reflect the surroundings.

Exploration over it is time to go back to the Club Car to wait the whistle. Just as I sit down the train begins its journey. I am so excited, slowly it pulls out of Cape Town station, through the city and gathers speed, until it reaches its normal journey rate of 68 miles per hour. As it passes, on-lookers stand and watch. Time for a Blue Train cocktail – what else?

There are two sittings for lunch noon and two o'clock. We have opted for the later sitting and now have time to sit, relax and watch the scenery. The train is heading westwards first through the Stellenbosch, the Winelands, along the Hex River Valley this is the fertile Cape country. Turning north it traverses the Great Karoo desert and climbs to the High Veldt to reach Pretoria.



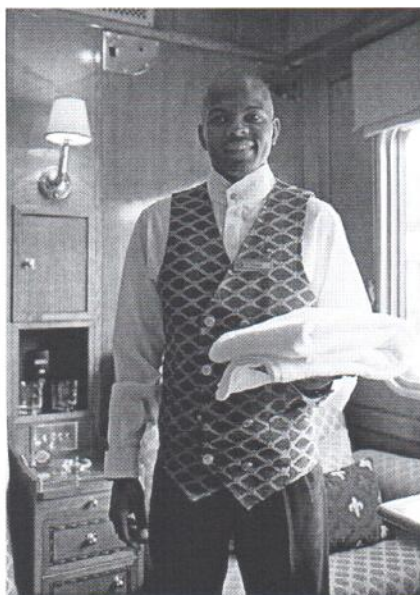
Not your usual train bathroom.



Sweet dreams



The bar



The butler service is outstanding

This is the track that tells a story of South Africa. The lines that carried British Troops into battle against the Boers during the 1899-1902 war. These are also the lines that hauled men and machinery to extract gold from the Witwatersrand Reef and diamonds from the hard, black soil of Kimberley. The lines that carried families inland to farm. These are the lines that built South Africa.

It is autumn-time and the vines are changing colour. Rows and rows of reds, golds, browns, yellows and flame-coloured vines dominate the scenery. We had visited the Stellenbosch by road but had failed to realise how extensive the Winelands are.

Time for lunch and the steward leads us to our table. Decisions, decisions, what are we going to have. The wine list if pored over, it is an extensive selection of South Africa's best vintages. We chose a Semillon Chardonnay to accompany the starters and the Meerlust Rubicon for the main course. Lunch is a languorous affair, exclaiming over the food and the scenery. Service is friendly and unstuffy, the waiters are renowned for their deadpan humour and Winston gave us touch of it. He suggests we take coffee in the Club Car, where we lounge on the sofas with our feet up. There is one stop coming up around 4 o'clock. The only stop on the journey, Matjiesfontein, once a desert outpost, once a health resort, once military base, now a one-street village famous for two things. The Lord Milner Hotel and the Blue Train's only stop on its northward journey. It is a corner of South Africa that will be forever British. A Victorian relic that has survived and yet has not changed.

At the Lord Milner, you can take sherry or afternoon tea and enjoy the Victoriana of it all. Take a visit the museum or boost the local economy by purchasing some souvenirs.

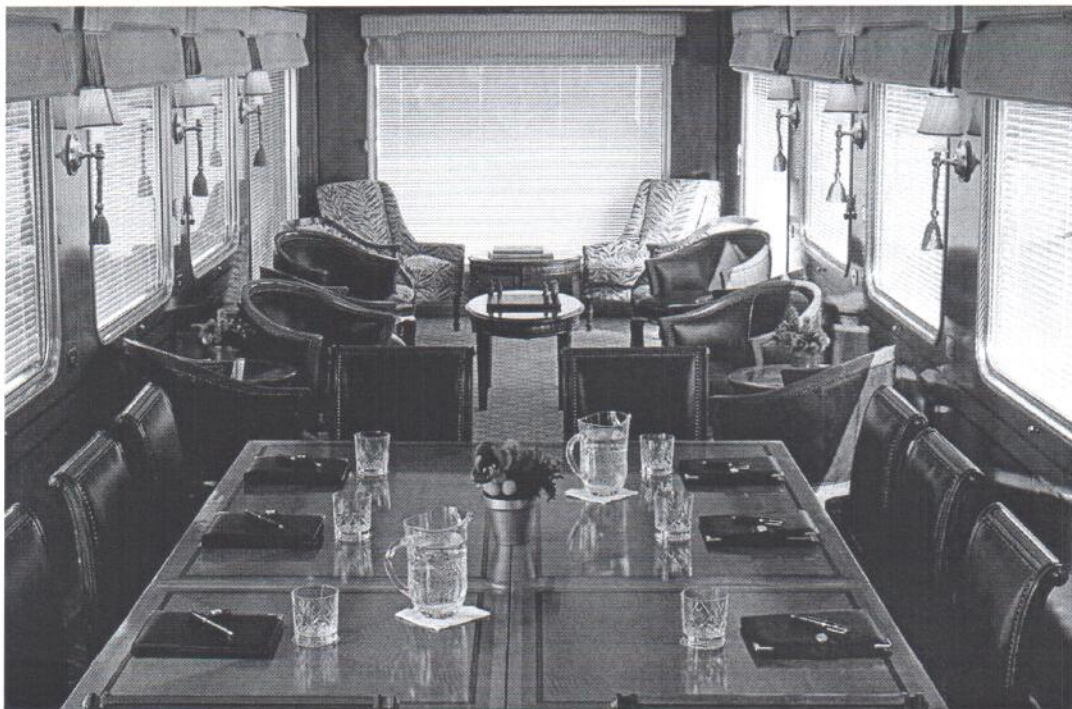
The most famous resident was Olive Schreiner, whose first novel "The Story of an African Farm" was set in the Karoo. She lived here and kept up correspondence with her European friends such as George Bernard Shaw and William Gladstone.

In correspondence with Havelock Ellis she says "now I am going to put my hat on and go out for a walk over the Karoo, such a sense of wild exhilaration comes over me when I walk over the Karoo. The effect of this scenery is to make me so silent and self-contained. And it is all so bare, the rocks and the bushes, each bush standing separate from the others, alone by itself."

There is no time to experience Olive Schreiner's walk – the Blue Train waits for no one. A little lie-down is just the antidote to lunch. Eddie has been in and converted my suite into a sleeping compartment. I climb up onto my bed, it is so high I feel a bit like the Princess, but there is no pea. The scenery is too distracting for sleep, so I lie between the stiff cotton sheets and luxuriate in having the time to do nothing but watch it pass by.

Time passes in an almost hypnotic state, it is so hard to draw myself away from the moving pictures, but the bath is calling. I fill it as high as possible with lots of bubbles and then lie back for a long soak. My mobile phone works and I set about ringing everyone I can. After all who can say that they have had a bath on a train. My mother wants to know if I am sipping champagne too. I kick myself, all I had to do was ask Eddie and he would have brought it.

Dusk is starting to fall, cocktail time approaches, and time to dress for dinner. Dinner is formal but not as formal as black tie. Jackets and ties for the men and cocktail dresses for the women. We meet in the Club Car for aperitifs, admiring each other's finery. There is a definite feeling of Hollywood glamour and the movies, it is all so romantic.



The Panorama Car can also double as a conference room, for those who wish to combine business with pleasure.

Dinner is called at nine o'clock and in we go to yet another sumptuous meal, choices include West Coast crayfish tail, ostrich fillet, loin of lamb and lemon tart. There is no hurry, again we pore over the wine list, finally consensus is reached, everyone is happy with the choices. Photographs are taken and a giddy meal passes in convivial company.

After dinner we adjourn to the Club Car for drinks. It is definitely cigar time for the gentlemen, the ladies try a Davidoff too. The atmosphere is decidedly clubby. The conference group, who have been hard at work all day, join us too. They are South African business people, a mixture of black and white, men and women. We share stories and question them at length about their country.

Outside it is as black as black, with the odd light in the distance. The night moves on and friends are made. Time for bed. Eddie, now working behind the bar, hears me saying I don't want to get up for breakfast and whispers, would I like it in bed. Thumbs up for service. When I return to my suite, the bed as been remade and the carelessly strewn clothes expertly folded.

A discreet tap on my door at nine and here he is with a beautifully set tray, coffee, fresh fruit, warm croissants and a cut flower. During the night the scenery has changed again, we are climbing up the higher, drier veldt. We pass towns and villages with more frequency. The journey's end is getting closer.

The Club Car has become the outpost of the Irish and honorary Irish, we meet to discuss the previous evening's fun. Coffee, canapés and sandwiches arrive, just in case we are hungry. A sense of sadness is also beginning to creep over the passengers, increasing as we get closer to Pretoria. The train begins to slow down and make its way into Pretoria Station. We disembark, clutching our Blue Train certificates, the hustle and bustle of a busy station is overwhelming, our feet lack sensation and legs have developed a definite marine-like gait. The fantasy disappears in a puff of reality and all too soon we are standing outside the station looking for a taxi and wishing we were taking the Blue Train anywhere.



The dining car



Blue Train Journeys

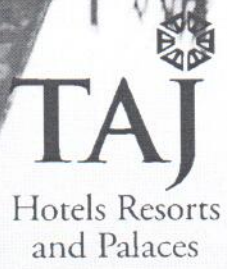
The Blue Train is actually two identical trains that cover scheduled and charter routes. The most frequent route for The Blue Train is between Pretoria and Cape Town, where on average it travels three times a week. It also operates between Pretoria and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth (Garden Route), and Pretoria and Hoedspruit in Mpumalanga/Eastern Transvaal (Valley of the Olifants/Safari land) on a less frequent basis.

Pretoria is The Blue Train's central departure station.

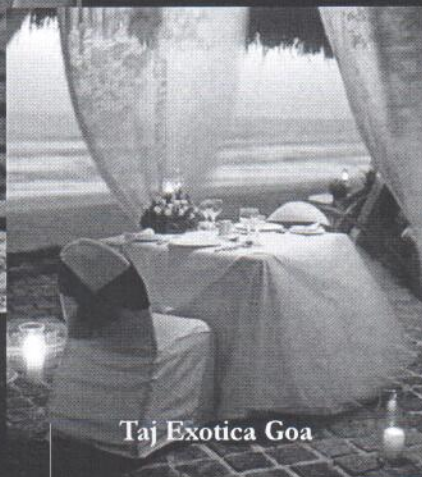
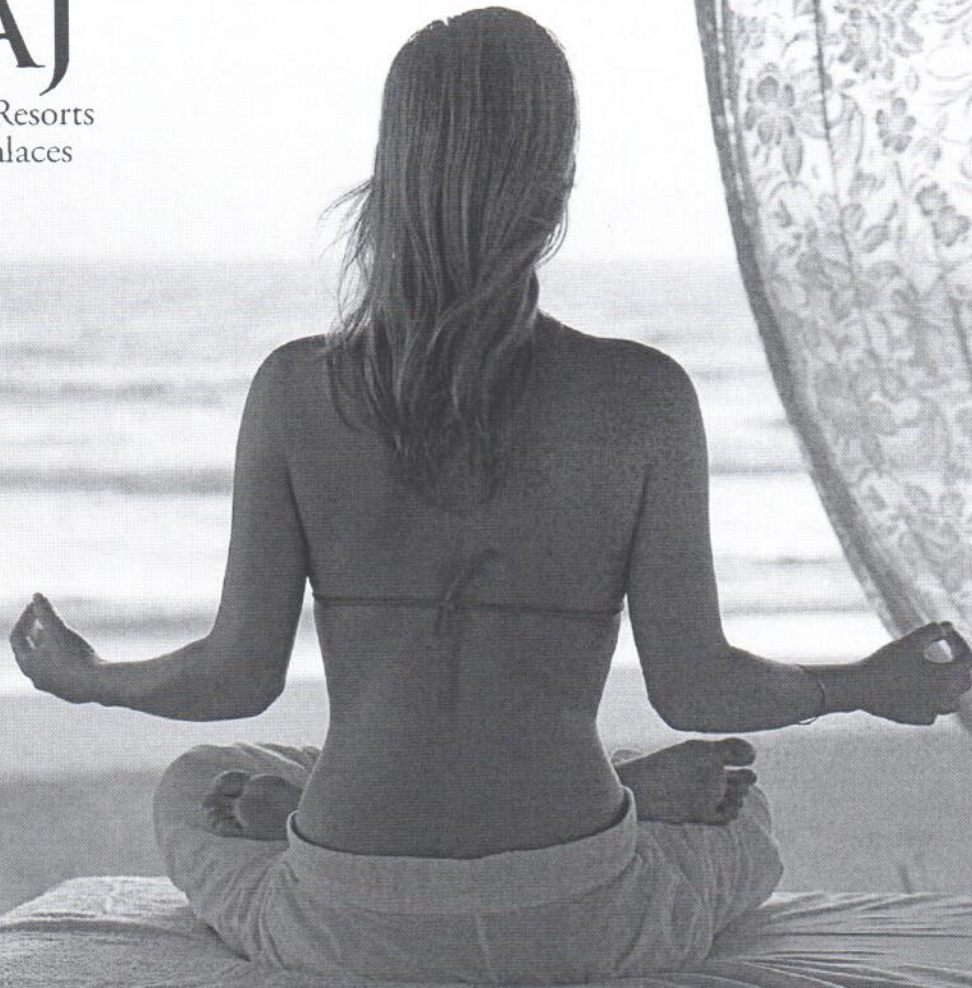
The cost is fully inclusive of all drinks, meals and accommodation and prices for the route.

More information:

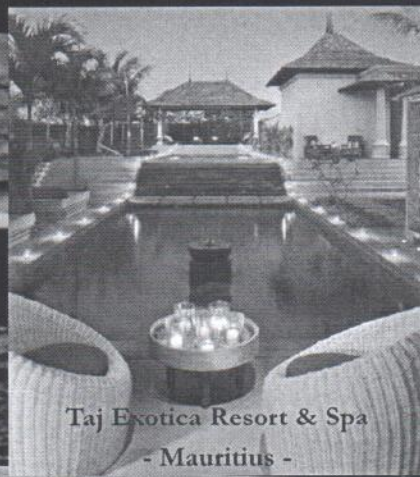
Further details on the Blue Train can be read on www.bluetrain.co.za.



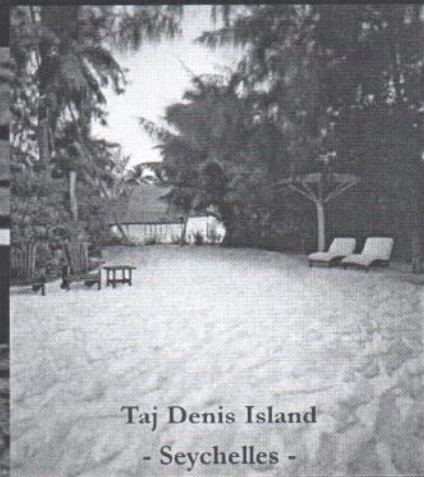
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Deluxe Traveller takes a closer look at how far \$25,000 will get you in the world of luxury accommodations.

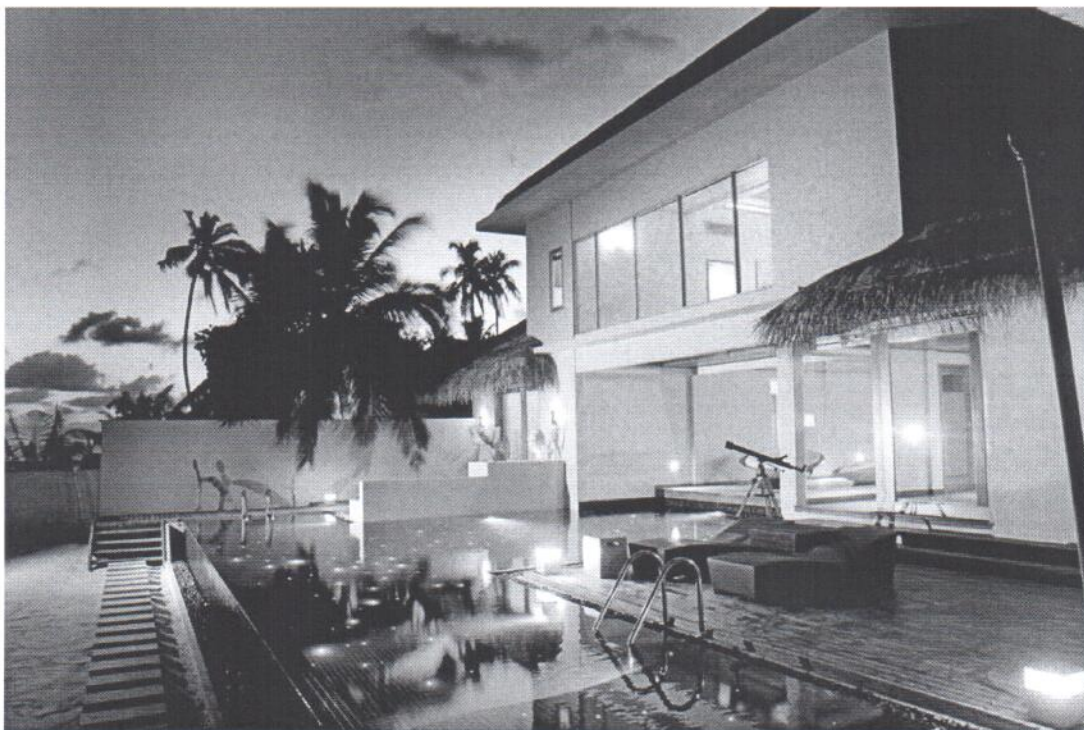


Villa La Cupola at Westin Excelsior

The Westin Excelsior in Rome is home to one of the most amazing suites in the world. Their two bedroom suite, Villa La Cupola, covers more than 700 square metres including a large balcony. Complete with a private cinema, private elevator and a Jacuzzi, this magnificent suite is perfect for your getaways to Rome. Your \$25,000 will buy you two days.

www.westin.com/excelsiorrome

Indulge Yourself



Beach Pavilion with Private Pool at Huvafen Fushi, Maldives

This beach pavilion is perfect for the ultimate hideaway with its private beach, open-air shower and a private Jacuzzi nestled in the lush garden. The Beach pavilion features 800 square meters of indulgence from the master bedroom on the upper level offering a spectacular view of the lagoon and to the expansive pool flowing from inside the Pavillion and out. When it is time to relax inside the living area is fully equipped with a Bose surround sound theatre system with 60" Plasma screen and DVD. A personal butler on call 24 hours a day completes the experience and \$25,000 will buy you 9 days of relaxation and indulgence. www.huvafenfushi.com

Indulge Yourself



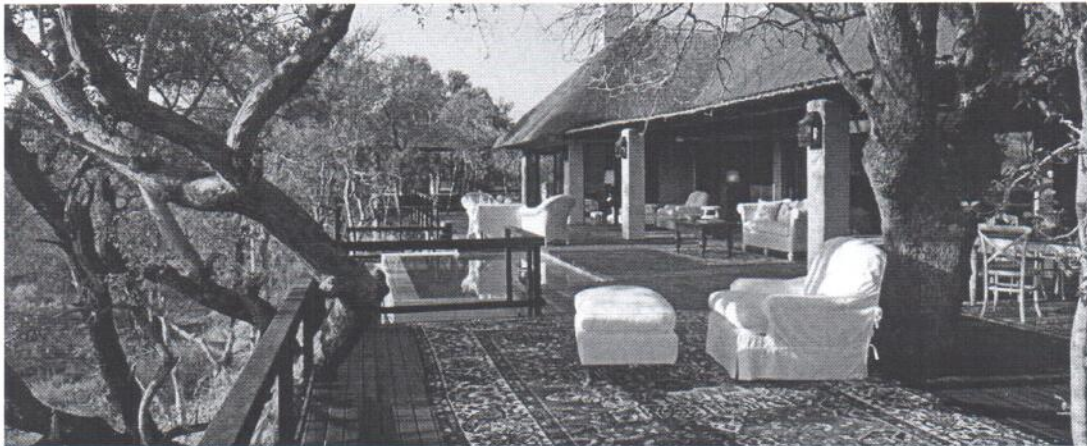
Presidential Suite at The Sanctuary, South Carolina

The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island is a new luxury oceanfront resort and spa, which opened in 2004. The hotel is situated on a barrier island off the coastal South Carolina, 21 miles from Charleston.

The Presidential suite features elegant furnishings, fireplace, a flat-screen plasma television, and enjoys sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean. The rate for the 300 square metre suite is \$4,500 per night, allowing you a 5-night stay within the confines of a \$25,000 budget.

www.thesanctuary.com

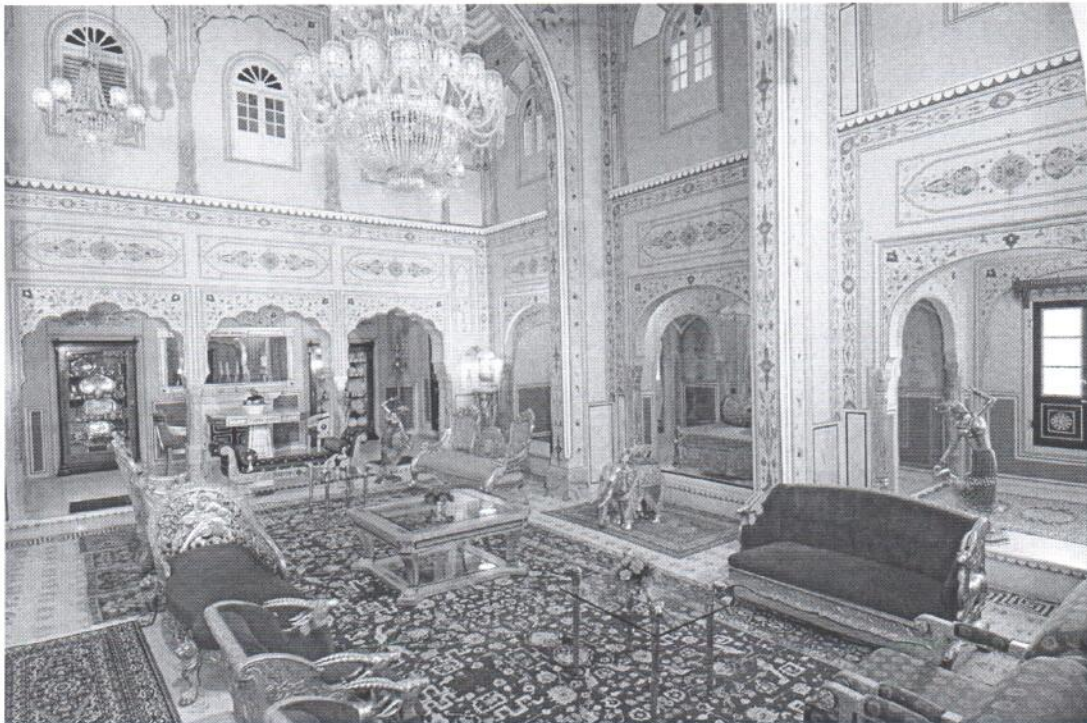
Indulge Yourself



Royal Malewane, South Africa

One of the most indulgent experiences on the African continent is a stay in The Royal Suite at the Royal Malewane game lodge in South Africa. The suite can accommodate up to four people and consists of two en-suite rooms, private lounge and dining facilities, and private deck with a pool. \$25,000 will ensure your group four unforgettable days. Rates include accommodations, all meals, local beverages, private butler, private chef, private masseuse, and private game drives.
www.royalmalewane.com

Indulge Yourself



Durbar Suite at The Raj Palace, India

This suite was once the private lounge of The Royal family. Its exceptional interiors and double height room with frescoes & gold leaf work on ceiling and walls makes it a truly unique suite. The suite has two bedrooms, one with gold furniture and one with silver furniture. The real gem of this suite is the living room, which takes you to a past of richness, royalty and glory. At a mere \$2100 per day, the Durbar Suite is available for extended stays of up to 12 days on a \$25,000 budget.

www.rajpalace.com

Indulge Yourself



Necker Island, British Virgin Islands

Renting a private island may be the way to go if you require total seclusion and ultimate privacy. \$25,000 is the daily rate for up to 14 guests on Sir Richard Branson's private island paradise, Necker Island at their mid-season rates. You rent the entire island, which can accommodate up to 26 guests. Included are transfers between Virgin Gorda or Tortola airports and all meals and drinks. Twice a year, during Celebration Week in September and October couples can visit Necker Island on a non-exclusive basis. \$25,000 will buy a couple one week in the master suite during Celebration Week.

www.necker.com.

Indulge Yourself



True North from North Star Cruises, Australia

A cruise onboard the True North provides an opportunity to explore the unspoiled wilderness of Western Australia in true style. The 50-metre luxury cruiser travels with a helicopter and 6 tender vessels for shore excursions, allowing her passengers greater freedom and flexibility than competing offerings. A total of 36 passengers can be accommodated in 18 cabins. A 15-night Kimberley Wilderness cruise will cost around \$25,000 for two passengers depending on cabin category.
www.northstarcruises.com.au

Indulge Yourself



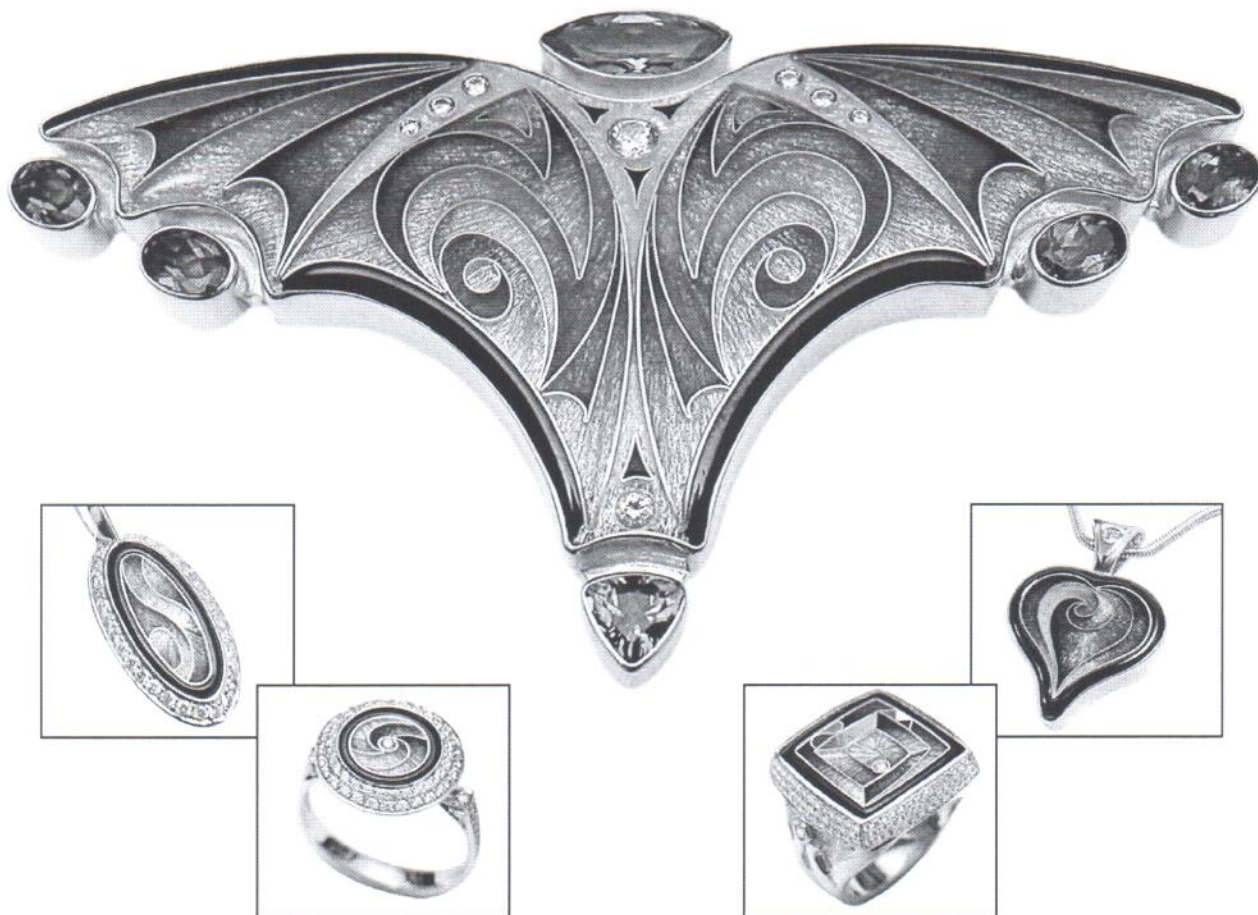
Myres Castle, Scotland

Myres Castle is situated only 40 kms from Edinburgh Airport and is within striking distance of the historical university town of St. Andrews as well as the city of Perth, the gateway to the Highlands. The facilities are luxurious, the cuisine is outstanding, and the more than 100 golf courses a short helicopter flight away, make Myres a good choice for your Scottish golf adventure. Their rates are surprisingly modest at less than \$400 per person. The nine luxury bedrooms can accommodate up to 18 guests. The price includes breakfast, light lunch, Afternoon Tea, and a five course gourmet dinner.

www.myres.co.uk



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Three nights, four days, BIG FIVE

The Story of a South African Safari

In the shade of Knobthorn and Jackalberry trees, with the Sand River below, the sound of birds, sights and smells of the wild vastness of Africa provide an absolute intoxication experience for the visitor of this world-class private game reserve.

Text by Esme Smit. Photos by Bjarke Gottfredsen and Singita

*S*ingita - a Shangaan word meaning miracle - is situated on 18 000 hectares of private game farms, shares a fenceless border with the Kruger National Park in the area between the Sabi and Sand rivers, and teems with a variety of wild animals. This upmarket game reserve features two luxurious private lodges, namely the Ebony Lodge and the Boulders Lodge, both with spas and suites with private pools. Its combination of untamed Africa with elegant and sophisticated accommodation makes for an unforgettable experience for the discerning traveller.

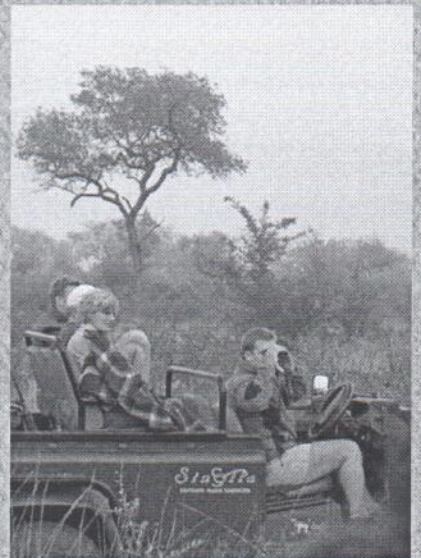
Upon arrival, we enjoyed a buffet lunch consisting of a pancake tart with shebo, feta and baby marrows, couscous salad, crumbed chicken, gammon and green salad. Across the Sand River about 30 metres away, a giraffe was drinking water while a herd of zebras were grazing on the savannah grassland. This is just the start of what awaits you when you arrive at Singita.

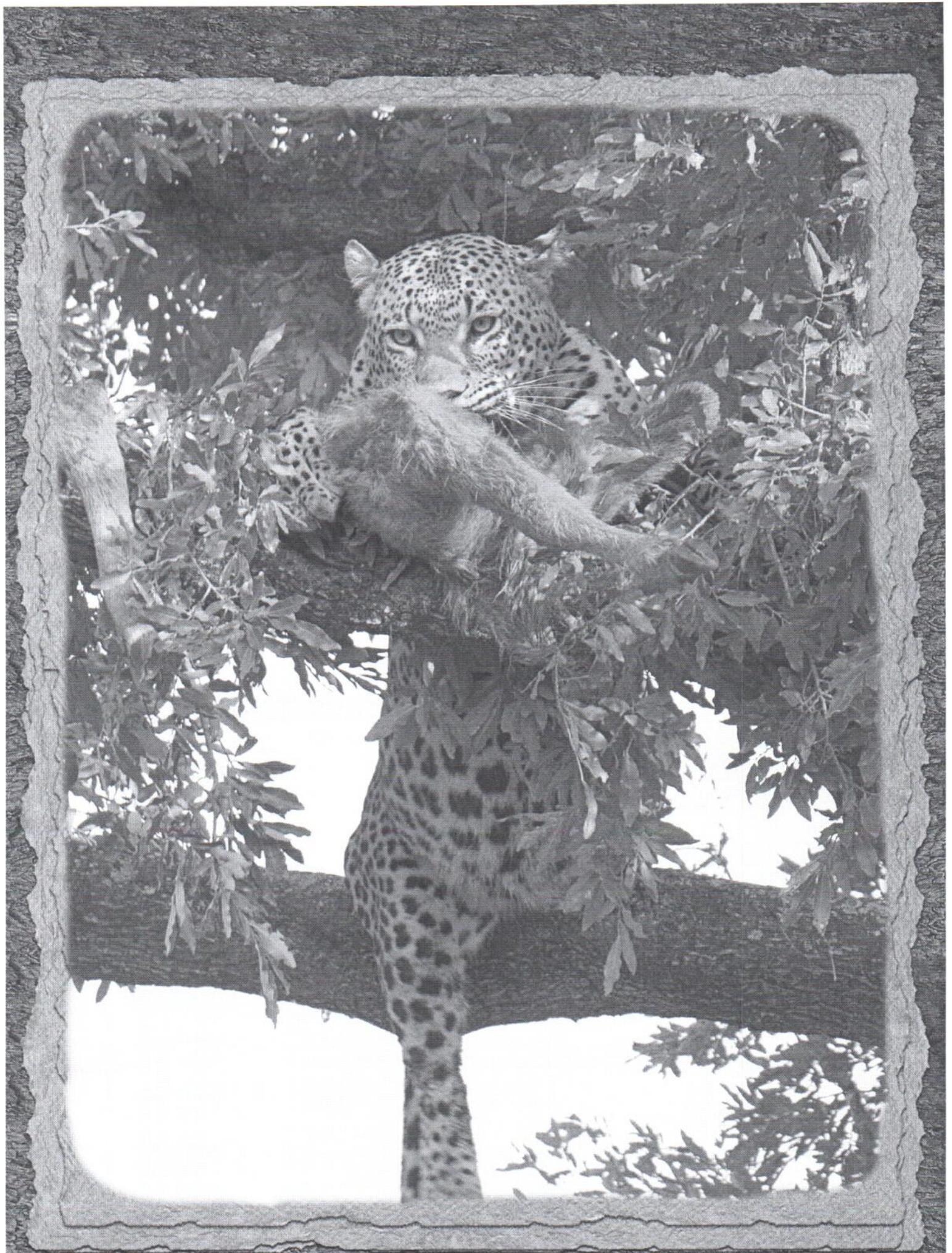
Game viewing, either on foot or in a Land Rover, can be arranged with your ranger. Viewing is also possible from the panorama deck outside your luxury and very private suite overlooking the Sand River. Game viewing start at five in the

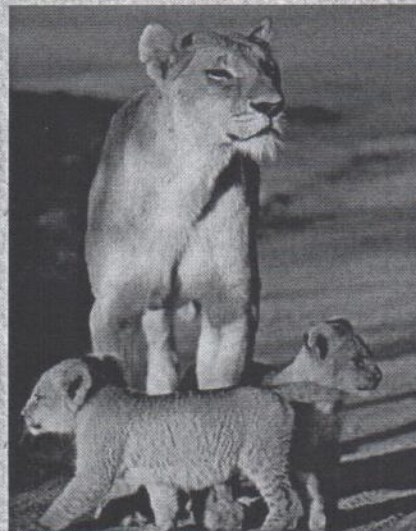
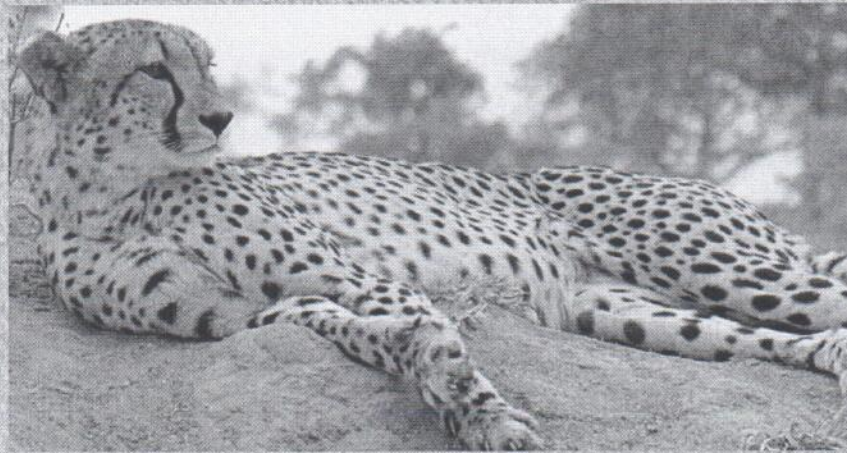
morning when your personal game ranger wakes you and you get ready for an incredible experience, which in our case delivered the big five in only 3 days!

Within the first 24 hours at Singita we had a total of seven hours of game driving that delivered not only a beautiful cheetah female with two male cubs, but also a herd of impala and hippopotamus lazing around in the shallows of a water hole.

The second game drive of the day was from 15:30 to 19:00, with a short stop for a refreshing sundowner and snacks consisting of biltong,



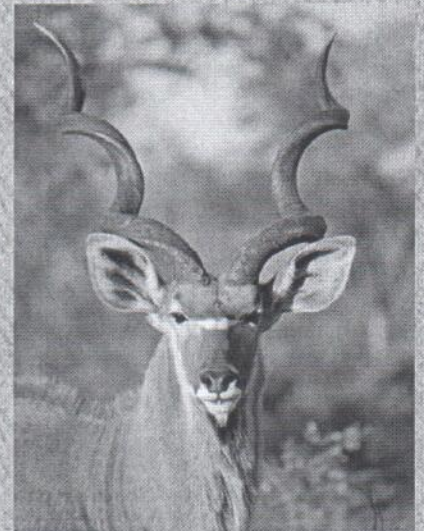




dried mango and hot, roasted nuts which were heated on a small gas stove, while we gazed at the last rays of the setting sun. During this drive we encountered two female lions with six cubs, a troop of baboons with babies clutching their mothers' bellies, as well as warthog and wildebeest. We also came across a large buffalo herd nibbling on leaves.

We returned to the lodge and dined at eight. Dinner was served in the boma and included a rich variety of pan-seared scallops with dolmades parcels or vegetable rice paper wraps with a chilli dipping sauce or cream vegetable soup with pearl barley as a choice for starters. The main course offered a choice between lemon and herb chicken or chilli lemongrass kingklip, oxtail, boerwors or whole roasted rump. To complement your choice you had to decide between Shangaan cabbage, green beans and balsamic glazed onions, carrots with honey and tarragon, mushroom and sun-dried tomato pap tart or traditional Africa shebo sauce. This was accompanied by an interesting tasting of the two superb Springfield Chardonnays, the one à la méthode ancienne with native yeast fermented in barrels and the other unwooded with wild yeast. Traditional African dancers, accompanied by singing and drums, formed the backdrop to this scrumptious dinner under a clear and starry African night sky.

The next day's early rise proved worthwhile, for we came across a solitary young male lion under a marula tree. After enjoying the presence of the king of the jungle at a distance of about 7 metres and basking in the first rays of the sun, we drove off to find yet another beautiful wild animal, a male cheetah, which had just killed a young impala. The cheetah was still panting and extremely nervous, as chee-



tahs are after hunting down their prey. It devoured its prey as fast as possible before other predators could arrive. On our way back we enjoyed coffee with Amarula and muffins and then stopped to watch a yellow billed hornbill prodding around in buffalo dung as well as a black shouldered kite hovering in the mid-morning air looking for prey.

We drove back to Ebony where we were welcomed with a breakfast consisting of mouth-watering French toast with Canadian bacon and mascarpone cheese, home-baked bread with South African farm cheese, Greek style yoghurt, guava, kiwi, pawpaw, seeds, and fresh fruit. A platter of sliced gammon and pastrami served with mustard, egg dishes and other gastronomical delights was also ordered from the kitchen. A feast like this after first encountering a lion and a cheetah is a great way to start the day.

After a most relaxing day reading or napping in our air-conditioned suite and on the wooden deck around our pool, we met our ranger for the evening safari drive. This time round we found giraffes leisurely stripping the leaves off knobthorn, russet-bushwillow, marula and rain trees. On our way back to the lodge our tracker, Givani, pointed out a wide-eyed little white face owl in a candelabra tree.

We arranged to have dinner at the neighbouring Boulders Lodge, only two minutes' drive from Ebony Lodge where we stayed. There is a marked difference between the style, feel and décor of Ebony and Boulders. While Ebony is decorated in a colourful colonial style, Boulders boasts a contemporary African décor. Built eight years ago, Ebony presents an exceptional integration of trees and nature with a more scenic, almost classical romantic setting. Boulders has been in operation for only three





years and its décor is a combination of roughly hewn timber, leather, stone and thatched roofs. The rough textures of Africa contrast with the extensive use of glass doors and walls and creates the feeling of space and light. All suites are spacious and modern.

Sitting down for dinner under a magnificent night sky on an open deck with paraffin lamps hanging in the trees, we sipped wine from a well-stocked cellar dug into the cool riverbed rock below. This cellar houses more than 12000 bottles of the finest South African wines. Wine connoisseur Francois Rautenbach hosted a wine tasting which combined two of South Africa's best offerings to the world: rare game and the best wines from the country's renowned wine lands. He selected Jean Daneel - Signature Chenin Blanc 2005 (Wine of the year in Platter Wine Guide 2005). We decided to have this Jean Daneel with our dinner because of the unique combination of pineapple and apricot leading to yeasty, honeysuckle and marzipan aromas. Another excellent white wine was the Quoin Rock - Oculus 2001. A product of Simonsberg in the Western Cape, this wine has a grippy, savoury vinosity that has developed interesting nuances with bottle maturation. We also tasted Neil Ellis - Vineyard Selection Cabernet 1999 from the Jonkershoek Valley near Stellenbosch, which displays a sleek sophistication of classic blackcurrant fruit held by a meaty, gamy character, richly woven around whiffs of the humidior and freshly roasted coffee. Another couple decided on the superb Mas Nicolas - Cape Shiraz/Cabernet 2000, also from the Stellenbosch region. To describe this wine words such as macerated sour plum, raspberry and violet, spice and pepper, warm burly Rhône-like with a uniquely Stellenbosch Cabernet touch, come to mind.

We had a choice of any of these wines as well as a Rust en Vrede Estate Blend 1999 from the Helderberg Ridge region. This blend, using 30% Shiraz matured in American white oak barrels blended on a firm Cabernet backbone and rounded out by a small fruit driven dash of Merlot, was a favourite with the American couple we met during the safari.

To round off a perfect dinner we had chocolate tart with strawberry coulis and a variety of South African farm cheeses served with another outstanding desert wine, Paul Cluver - Weisser Riesling Noble Late Harvest 2003, the last of many exquisite taste sensations for the evening.

The excitement and adventure never ends at Singita because we came across another two of the Big Five the next morning after waking with memories of the excellent food, wine and atmosphere we enjoyed the previous evening. It was still dark when we drove off, but the first signs of daybreak soon appeared in the sky. Seeing the sun rising through the trees and hearing the sound of birds, was an experience of exquisite beauty and wonder that left a lasting impression.

The excitement started when our tracker discovered fresh elephant tracks. We followed them for a while when suddenly, in the distance, the clamour of agitated monkeys indicated that danger was ahead. It was decided to abandon the elephant tracks to investigate the cause of the disturbance among the monkeys. Our tracker led us to a tree where a leopard was feeding on a waterbuck. Vultures were already circling in the early morning air above.

After a while we once again followed the elephant tracks and soon found three magnificent male bachelor elephants in their early twenties. After such an exhilarating morning it was decided to leave tracking rhinos, the last of the Big Five we haven't seen yet, for the next drive. Back at the lodge, we had scrambled ostrich egg with biltong for breakfast, and then headed for the spa where we were treated to an African hot stone massage.

During one of the next two game drives we came across rhino in the mist. The uncanny sight of these huge creatures in the early morning mist completed the Big Five adventure, and left us with a new appreciation of the splendour of nature and the beauty of Africa.

It is impossible to describe Singita, the miracle of Africa, in one article. I haven't mentioned the glorious sunset behind a herd of zebra, the hyena in the parking lot, our shopping at the local trading store, the excellent service and friendly people serving you 24 hours a day, the state-of-the-art gym available after the 1998 Klein Constantia Noble Late Harvest we had with fresh fruit and double mocha ice-cream, the Singita Caesar salad with Drunken Pecorino, the wonder of finding traces of elephants on an acacia tree, looking for the small five on a walking trail and discovering an ant lion, leopard tortoise and rhino beetle. The small miracles of nature and the vast beauty of Africa may be captured in the words of Ellen Levine we found in our suite: "I hope to find joy in the great things of life - but also in the little things. A flower, a song, a butterfly on your hand."



Additional information

Singita can be accessed either by land or by air. Connection flights are available from Johannesburg International through Federal Air.

The philosophy of Singita is that everything is there to enjoy, therefore everything is included in the rates, excluding spa, French champagne and telephone usage. Special request can be send prior to arrival.

Contact information:

www.singita.co.za

Telephone: (+27) 15 735 5456

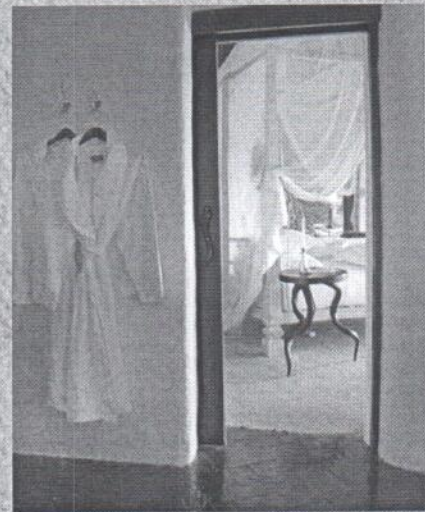
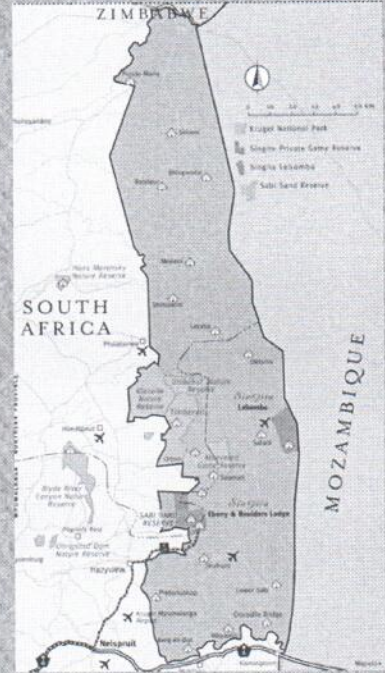
Staff compliment:

155 staff to 36 guests at any given time.

12-15 trackers and rangers.

9 suites at both Ebony and Boulders.

A community tour is also available. The tour leaves 10:50 in the morning and you will be back at 13:00. Go around the village, see their homes, tasting stamp meales, home made pap and peanut butter, also visit the pre-primary school and see a performance of the JBB – boys band – Justisa Best Boys, formed by one of the Singita staff members about 5 years ago. The Community Tour costs R250 (\$42) per guest and these funds go to the village to build cattle grids, assist farmers and buy computers for the village school.



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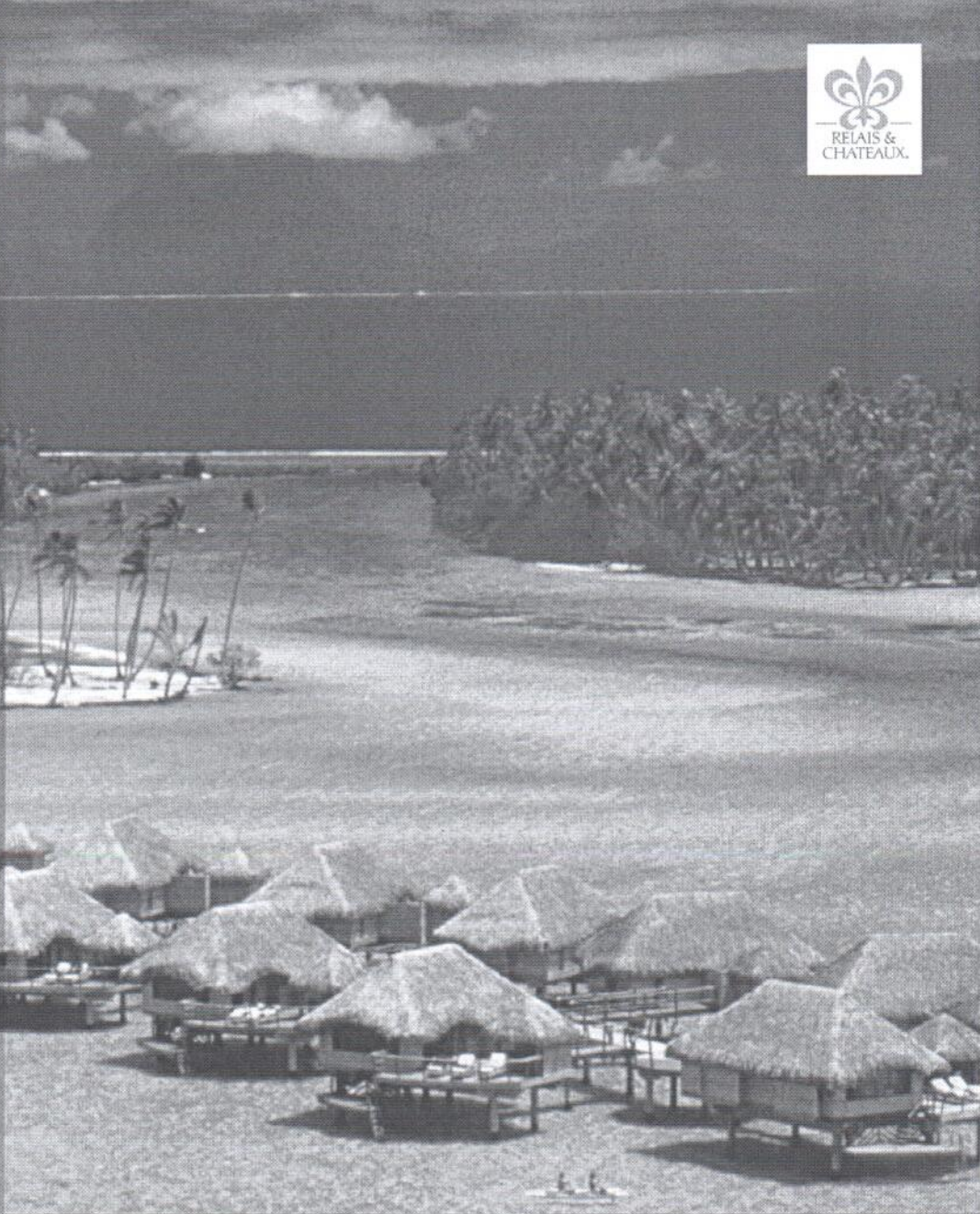
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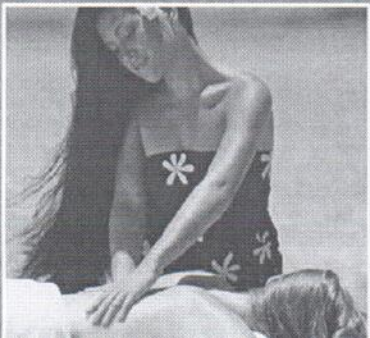
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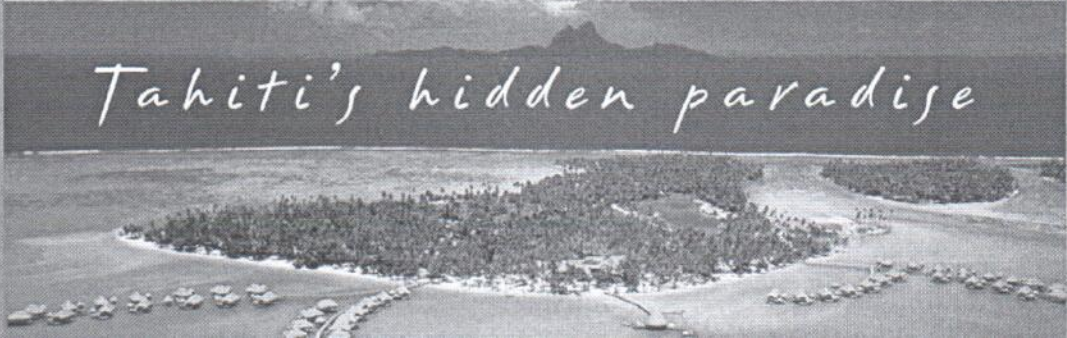
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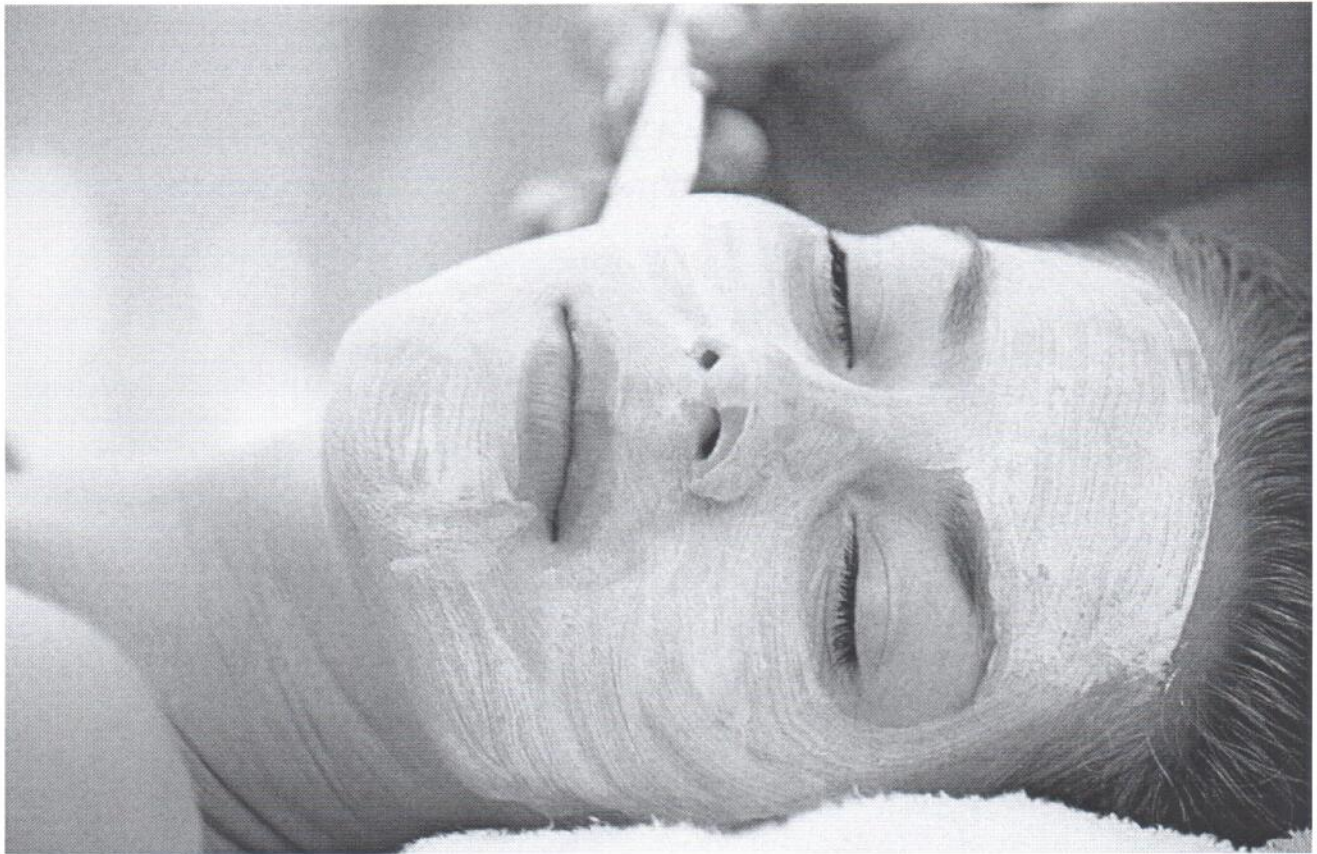


MANEA
Spa



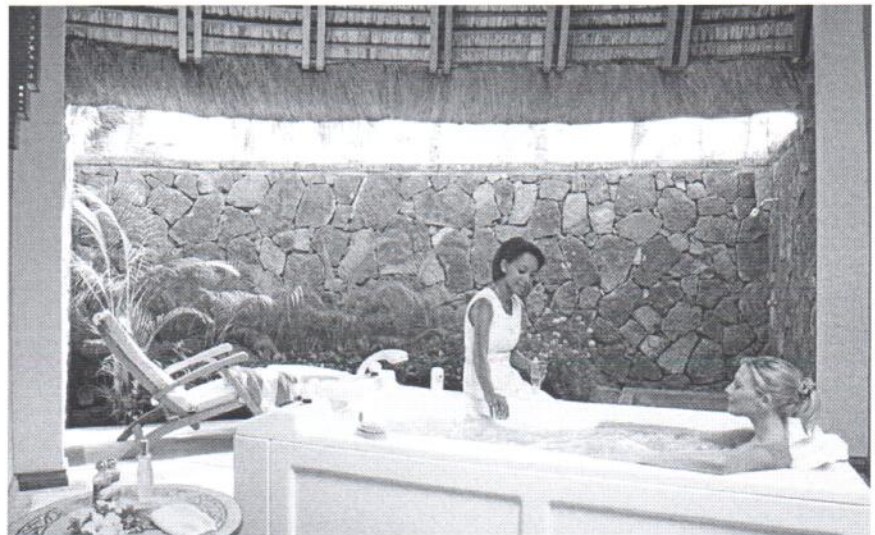
Tahiti's hidden paradise





Royal Palm Hotel, Mauritius

The spa at Royal Palm Hotel in Mauritius offers a wide range of beauty treatments that are sure to suit every taste. Whether you desire relaxation, slimming, or revitalization you will for certain find a treatment matching your needs at this beautifully designed spa facility with a soft oriental ambiance. The facilities include: 2 saunas, 2 hammams, 2 balneotherapy rooms, 4 massage rooms, a pool as well as a beauty parlour. The spa utilizes exclusively the well celebrated products of Clarins, Paris for its treatments. For those wishing to pamper their body extensively, the spa features a small intimate poolside restaurant serving light, flavorful dishes. www.beachcomber-hotels.com



Aman Spa, Phuket

The spa is situated in a coconut grove that gently slopes toward the Andaman Sea. Treatments are carried out in individual spa pavilions that can be used by individuals as well as couples. The spa pavilions are scattered throughout the shaded plantation thereby offering space and peace for privacy and reflection. The services include a wide range and variety of treatments from healing therapies to the more traditional spa treatments such as massages, facials, body wraps, scrubs, baths, and hair treatments. www.amanresorts.com



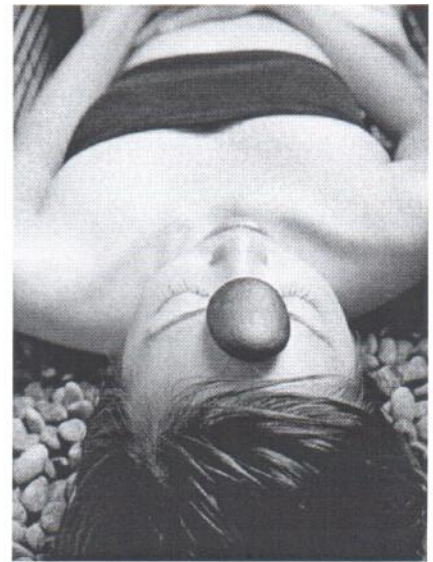
Banyan Tree Spa, Seychelles

Let your body and soul benefit from treatments that are inspired by Asian tradition that dates back centuries providing a complete sensory experience that will make you feel as if you have been born again. In an atmosphere of seclusion and luxury your senses are indulged from the moment you step into this cocoon of tranquility and harmony. The spa offers an extensive range of treatments: massages, body scrubs, body conditioners, hand and foot treatments, hair treatments, and facials as well as a wide variety of treatment packages with sessions lasting from three to seven hours. www.banyantreespa.com/seychelles



Miramonte Resort and Spa, Palm Springs

This spa is truly an oasis in the vast Californian desert, and in few other places in the U.S. are you likely to find a beauty so strikingly dramatic and yet romantic as here. Upon entering the 1100 square meter spa an atmosphere of intimacy and classical old-world style will welcome you. You will immediately feel shielded and protected from the stress of everyday life. The techniques used are inspired by Tuscan living and include therapeutic muds, oils, wine extracts, and refreshing waters that are sure to bring both relaxation and rejuvenation to not only your body but also your soul. The facilities include, among many other things, 10 out-door treatment spaces and nine indoor treatments suites, Watsu pool, quiet meditation room, beauty salon, and sauna. www.miramonte-resort.com





Travel to Iceland
for a cool weekend!



Explore amazing waterfalls, stunning glaciers and impressive volcanoes. Spend a day in the thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. Experience Icelandic history and culture, the folk tales, the sagas and myths. Wonder at nature, the flora, birds and wildlife from whales and dolphins to arctic foxes and Icelandic horses, set against a unique backdrop that is the home of Icelandair.

Visit www.icelandair.net for more information.

Canal Cruising *in style*

You may ask yourself why you never did this before. At least that was our reaction when we first learned of a couple of exclusive luxury barges quietly cruising the canals of France.

If your tumultuous lifestyle asks for refreshment, a relaxing French Waterways cruise is the ultimate way to recharge your spirits, while slowing you down to appreciate the natural beauty and charms of the French countryside. Enjoy the serenity of gliding through beautiful, natural scenery, like an Impressionist painting, with majestic châteaux, medieval stone villages, picturesque pastureland and fields of wildflowers.

The canal and river networks of Europe date back to Roman times, and take the traveller through areas which are otherwise forgotten or

inaccessible. In France alone, there are 8000 kilometers of canals crossing the great cities and linking them directly to rural splendour and country estates.

Travel by canal is in itself a very a unique and special experience but the combined talents of chef Stephen Pope and Parisian fashion designer Martine Gibelin has taken this experience to an elevated level of luxury and comfort.

Upon arrival on the barge we are welcomed with champagne and exquisite canapés by the friendly crew of four instantly making us feel at home.

The captain welcomes us aboard and the chef proposes to us a wide selection of French culinary specialties, which make our moths water while at the same time encouraging us to let him know if we have any special wishes.

Then our personal guide introduces us to the many possible excursions and visits along the route and we know immediately we will not be bored. Should we take a private tour of a Château, visit a cheese farm, a chocolate maker, a cellar with private wine tasting, or should we instead see an art gallery, local museum or antique dealer.



Perhaps we will do something sporty instead like hiking, biking, horseback riding or enjoy a game of golf. We will of cause also need to set aside time for shopping. The options seem endless.

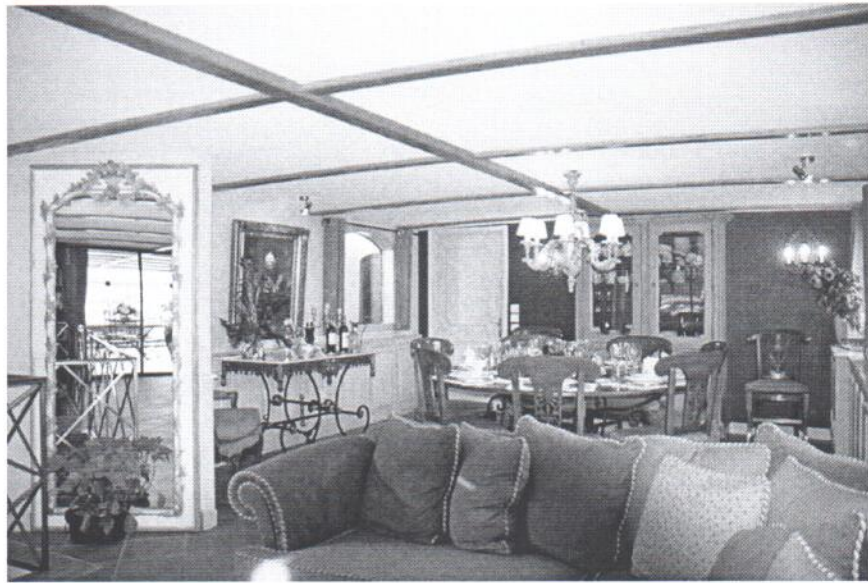
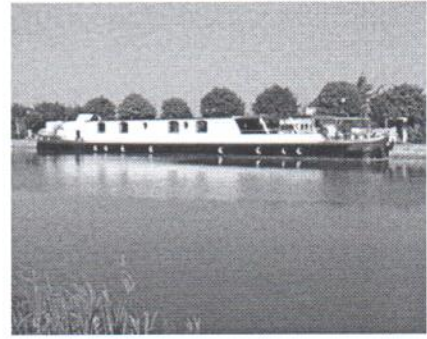
After the welcome we retreat to our room to finish unpacking. The boat is like a floating palace, with sumptuous accommodations and elegant living areas, and accommodates 8 guests in 4 luxuriously appointed suites with the style and comfort of a 5 star hotel. Each of the four very spacious guest apartment includes two single or 1 king size bed, exquisite console and chairs, drawers, a large closet, and an attractive, large bathroom with an enclosed shower stall, toilet, vanity, hair dryer, terry robes, heated towel bars, magnifying mirrors, generous storage space, and fabrics and linens from France's most exclusive Houses, stylish furnitubre, original paintings, fine china, crystal and silverware, marble, teak and handmade terracotta tile adorn each suite. The main salon and adjacent dining area are similarly furnished with impeccable taste, with beautiful bouquets of fresh flowers adorning the rooms.

There is no routine when travelling with French Waterways, and the crew surprised us daily: from a picnic in the vineyards, a visit to the farmers' market with the Chef where we assisted him in choosing the freshest ingredients for tonight's dinner; to a "Pétanque" tournament (traditional French ball game), a cooking class, a wine tasting, an invitation to table setting (from napkin folding to flower arrangement), a small quiz around the cocktail hour, or a surprise party...

The atmosphere aboard is relaxed and you quickly come to feel at home. The kitchen is open to all, so if you are interested, curious or just like to watch the show, take a glass of wine and enjoy.

What you feel like doing and when is totally up to you. We enjoyed the freedom to choose to one day go shopping and the next just to bathe in the sun by the Jacuzzi and enjoy a cool drink only to end the day with a barbeque under the stars on the deck in. The food onboard is exceptional and always a highlight in the day. Breakfast is served whenever you like and features fresh croissants and rolls from nearby bakeries, local butter and jam, juice, fresh fruit, yogurt, cereal and of cause fresh coffee and tea. Lunch can be enjoyed on the deck while you watch life pass you by and could be a quiche, a tart, soup, salads and a selection of local cheeses the kind you will find nowhere else. And then there is dinner which is always a celebration featuring a wide selection of appetizers, entrees, cheeses, and desserts (see the sample menu) everything cooked and arranged to perfection and accompanied by fine wines.

The crew is exceptionally friendly and helpful and the slow pace of the cruise allow you to step on and off by each lock making it possible to create you own unique experience of the French waterways that encompass exactly the things you find make up the perfect luxury vacation.



Sample menu:

TO START

Amuse Bouche
(a specialty of the chef)

APPETIZER

Foie Gras Frais Grille aux Raisins
(Fresh foie gras grilled with grapes in a red wine sauce)

Salade de Champignons des Bois et Petits Lardons au Vinaigre de Framboise Caramelise
(Salad of wild forest mushrooms and bacon in a caramelized strawberry vinegar dressing)

Feuillete d'Escargots Sauce au Cognac, Ail et Estragon
(Escargot in pastry with Cognac sauce, garlic and fresh tarragon)

ENTREES

Medaillons d'Agneau et Farci, Sauce Vin Rouge, Gratin de Pomme de Terre et Petits Legumes a la Provencale
(Lamb medallions in a red wine sauce, potato gratin and young spring vegetables, Provencal style)

Filet de Sole Sauce au Vin Blanc et Beurre blanc, Fenouil Braise au Pastis et Pates Fraiches au Basilic
(Sole filet in a white wine sauce, fennel caramelized with Pastis liquor and pasta tossed with pesto)

Canard aux Petits Navets, Sauce a l'Orange, Puree d'Artichaut et Pois Gourmands
(Roasted Duck with mini turnips, orange sauce, puree of artichokes and fresh garden peas)

CHEESE

Epoisse, Crottin de Chavignol, Bleu de St. Agur, Livarot, St. Marcelin et Brie de Meaux...

Fromage de Chevre Chaud et Bleu d'Auvergne Chaud sur Toast et Lit de Salade
(Warm goat cheese and warm blue cheese on toast with a bed of crispy salad)

DESSERTS

Delice aux 3 Chocolats sur un coulis de framboise
(Three chocolate desserts in a raspberry coulis)

Mousse givree aux fruits rouges
(Iced mousse cake with warm red fruits)

Tarte aux framboises
(Home made raspberry pie with French custard)

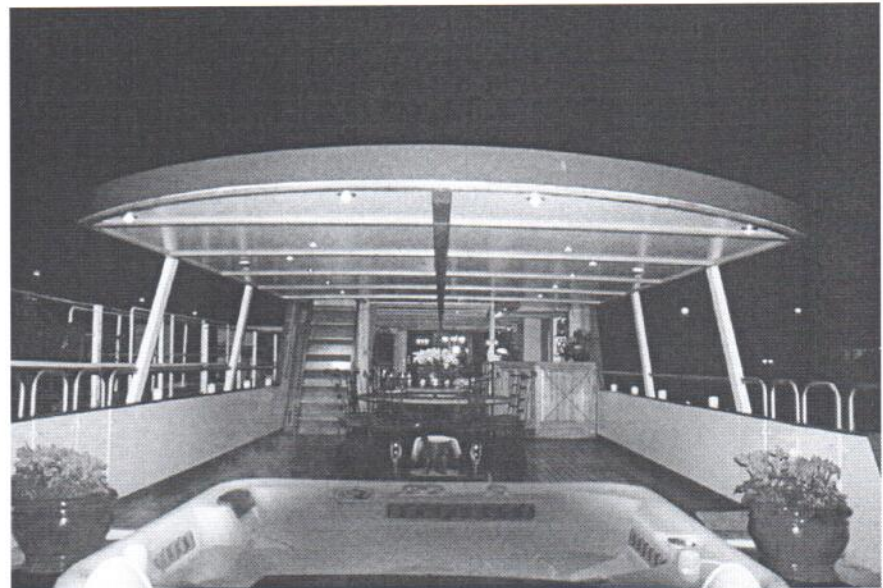
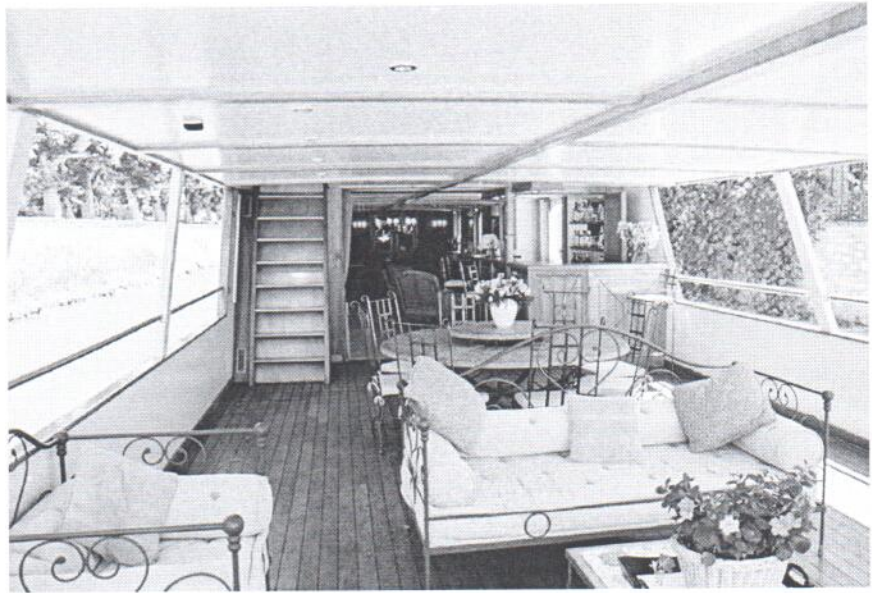
AFTER-DINNER COFFE, CHOCOLATES, LIQUEURS
(Chocolats et Pralines)

WHITE WINES

Sancerre La Grande Cuvee (Domaine Jolivet)
Puligny Montrachet (Domaine Leflaive)
Meursault Charmes (Domaine Bouzereau)
Chablis Grand Cru "Les Preuses"

RED WINES

Bordeaux Chateau Lynch Bages
Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles" (Domaine Faiveley)
Beaujolais Fleurie (Georges Duboeuf)
Chassagne Montrachet (Domaine Prieur-Brunet)



Prices

Le Bonne Amie
Full Boat charter 32000 EUR
Individual Cabins 8800 EUR

Price incl. 6 nights/7 days

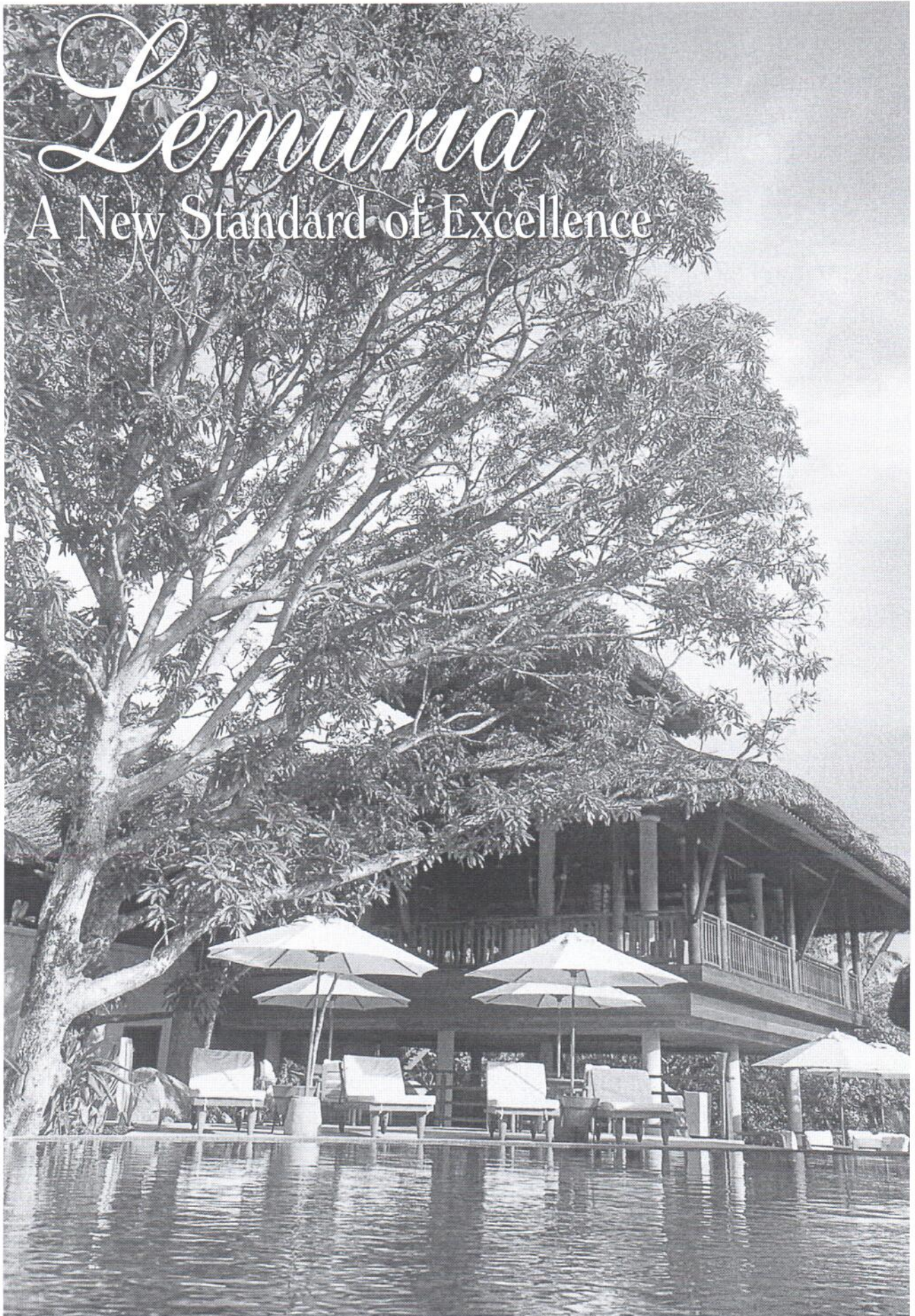
- Transportation from and return to Paris.
- Accommodation onboard with private bath.
- All meals on board.
- A selection of fine wines and open bar.
- Mini bus with guide/driver available for sightseeing expeditions, shopping etc.
- Entrance fees to all museums chateaux etc.
- Bicycles kept on board for you use.

For more information
www.frenchwaterways.com
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Lémuria

A New Standard of Excellence



It was once a common conception in the travel industry that what the Seychelles had in spectacular natural beauty, it lacked in quality of accommodations and friendly service, which Mauritius among others is well known for. Then, along came Constance Hotels and introduced Lemuria Resort and Villas and instantly the bar had been raised for the benefit of the islands' visitors.

The resort is in a class of its own; there is no other resort like this in Seychelles. Not only is it a magnificent hotel, its setting is absolute breathtaking. Sitting on the slope of a hillside, the Lemuria Resort with its majestically vaulted colonnade overlooks the two Anse Kerlan coves with a panoramic view of the lagoon. Anse Georgette, one of the hotels three beaches accessible by sea, is considered to be one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

The architecture of the hotel was conceived to preserve the exceptional natural beauty of the environment. The main building with its thatch roof and one of the three exciting swimming pools, one cascading to another over the natural granite boulders, blend in with the rocks and the vegetation. The bungalows ensure not only comfort, but also harmony with the environment. The small size of the property, only 88 suites, keeps the project within human dimensions. All the suites are located less than 15 meters from the shore and, being spread over more than 100 hectares of land, provide each guest with the isolation and privacy necessary for rest while keeping the facilities within easy reach.

A unique and striking use of natural materials in all the hotel buildings, chosen for their empathy with the surroundings, provides an ambiance of total tranquility and refined elegance. Teak, granite, and marble floors furnish the suites. The 8 senior suites and the 80 junior suites have fully equipped bathroom as well as a terrace or balcony.

There is a choice of three restaurants and four bars, offering International, Mediterranean, and Creole cuisine. For lunch, the "Pool Bar" with

tables near the water's edge, offers a range of snacks, sandwiches, and salads "a la Creole". You may opt for the cool shade of the "Beach Bar" perched on the granite rocks and just a step from the beach. Picnic baskets are also provided on request.

The "Legend Restaurant" provides a wonderful setting for a candlelight dinner overlooking spectacular gardens. For pre- or after-dinner drinks, the "Legend Bar" is tastefully decorated with refined wood and natural colors of African inspiration. A few meters away in the hotel gardens, you will be able to dine in a more relaxed ambience at the golf course restaurant and bar "Sea Horse" offering Mediterranean cuisine.

Facilities also include a lounge, room service, meeting room, library, laundry, two boutiques, a "turtle" club for children, excursions, and car rental.

Activities

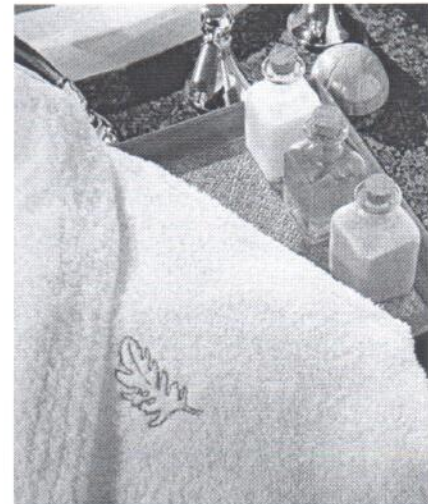
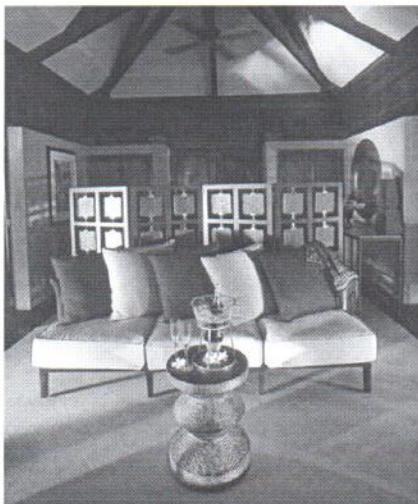
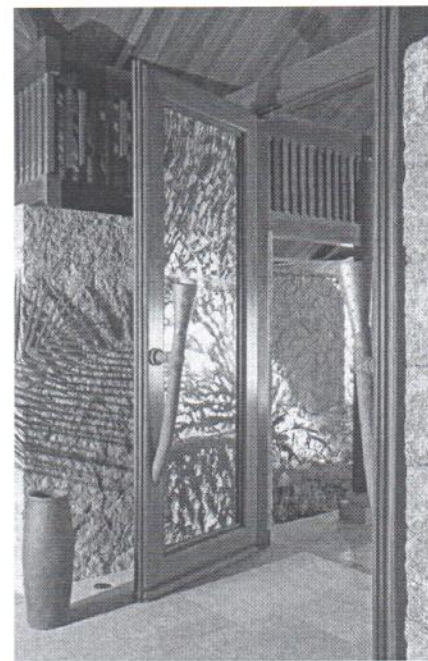
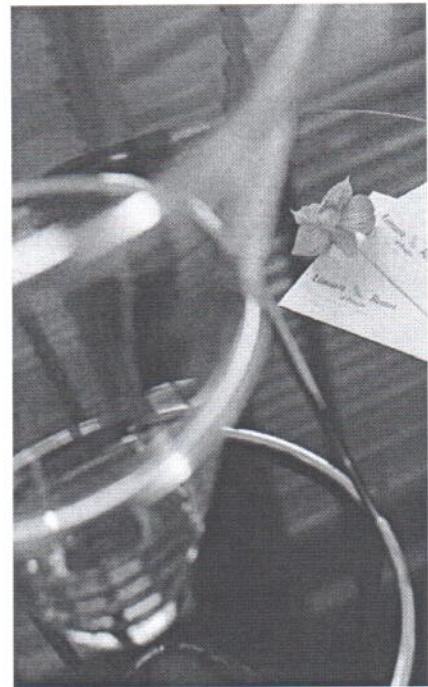
The complimentary sport facilities include two floodlit tennis courts, pedalos, snorkeling, sailing boats, catamarans, kayaks, and windsurfing. Scuba diving (PADI), deep-sea fishing and daily cruises to neighboring islands are available at additional cost. Facilities also include a lounge, room service, meetingroom, library, laundry, two boutiques, and car rental.

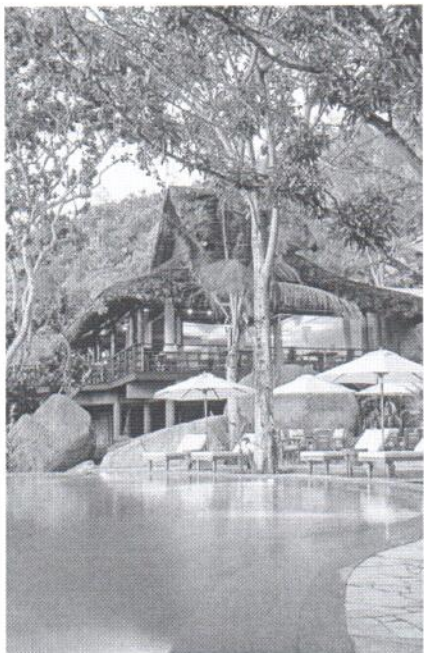
For the children the hotel features the miniclub, "Turtle Club" which is set amidst the palm groves and welcomes children from the ages of 4 to 12 until 21:00 each day. Children can enjoy sports activities, shows, educational and video games and outings to the Vallee de Mai. Babysitting is available on demand and is payable.

Golf

Lemuria boasts the only 18-hole championship golf course in Seychelles, one of the most spectacular golf courses, which benefits from a remarkable natural environment.

The course makes full use of the topography, in some places flat and in others steep, and is truly a outstanding facility set in a backdrop of





breathtakingly beautiful scenery. Green fees for golf are complimentary for residents of the Lemuria. Use of club car is compulsory and Tee Off starts at 07:00 and all starting times are with 10 minutes interval.

Health and spa

At close proximity from the golf club house, the Fitness Centre provides a wide range of treatments and keep-fit exercises, in small elegantly appointed bungalows, where wood and stone dominate in a haven of peace and relaxation—a real harbor of tranquility where you can abandon yourself to lots of pampering and personalized attention offered by a team of trained specialists.

Extra facilities include a sauna, Jacuzzi, steam bath, bodybuilding equipment, a hairdresser, and beauty & body care treatments. There is also a spa where magic hands will massage away all stress using aromatherapy methods.

Wildlife

The grounds cover more than 100 hectares rich in wildlife. A conservation manager acts both as guardian and guide to guests. Regular nature walks are organized and a replanting program aims to extend the area covered by endemic palms and trees and encourage birds, including the Seychelles Black Parrot, found only on Praslin. Turtles haul themselves up the beach to lay and the lighting of the hotel and vegetation of the beach crest have been planned to maximize their chances of breeding success. Furthermore, the beach restaurant, for example, will not operate at night and no beach furniture is allowed. Everything is in total harmony with the environment and in accordance with the strict conservation regulations that govern and protect the outstanding beauty of the Seychelles.

Lemuria, the inspiration for the name of the hotel, was, according to legend, a lost continent similar to Atlantis. Geographers looked at the Indian Ocean and saw a line of small islands stretching from the neighborhood of western India through Seychelles to Cosmoledo and east to the Chagos. They guessed that these islands traced the outline of a drowned continent and called it Lemuria. Almost unwittingly, they uncovered elements of truth — if there is such a thing as a lost paradise, it is Seychelles. Lemuria is a living legend and it is fitting that its name should be preserved by one of the finest hotels in the world, in arguably the most beautiful hotel site, where paradise may be rediscovered.

Contact

Voya Travels can provide you with more information.

Website: www.voya.dk

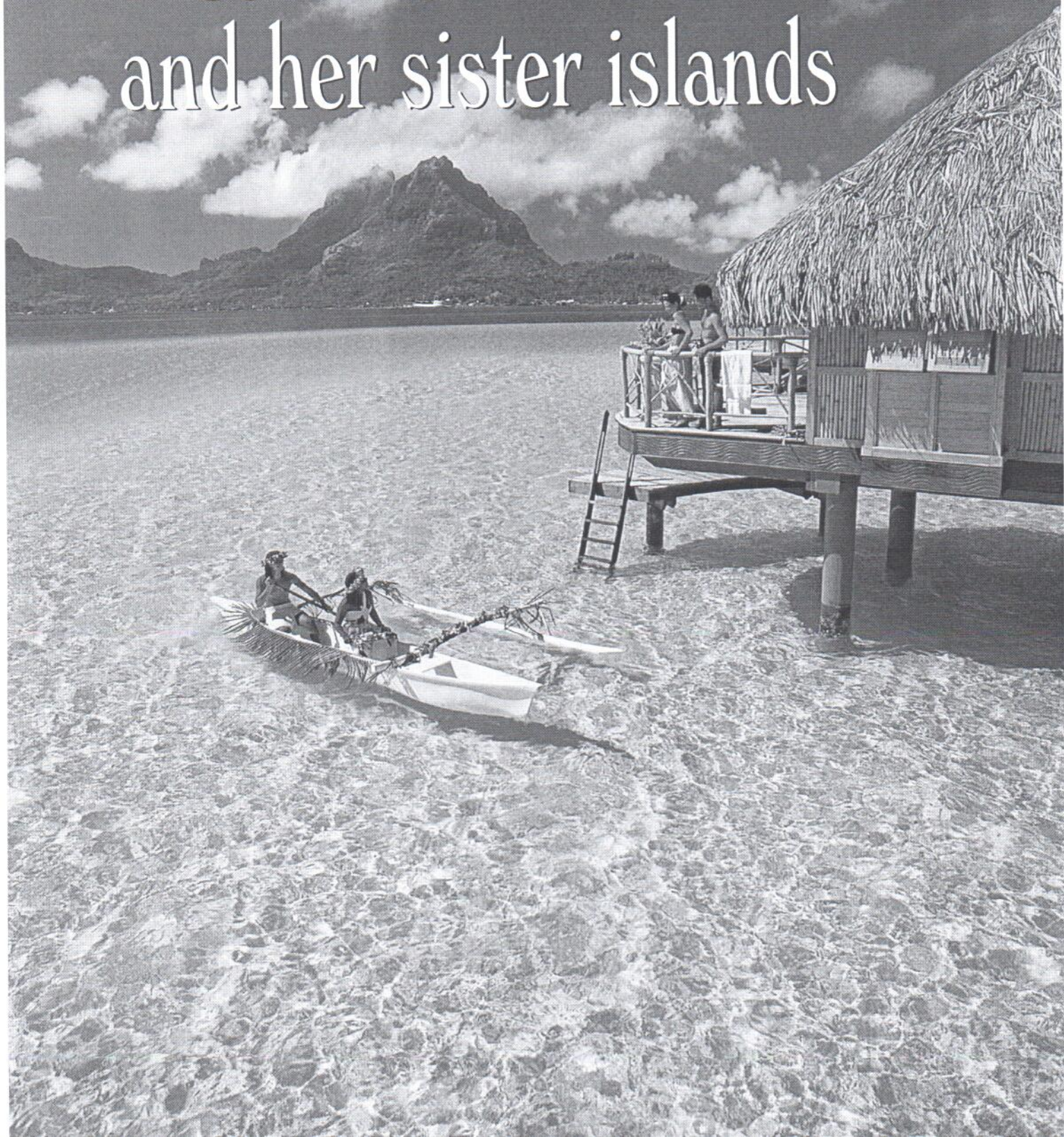
Email: charlotte@voya.dk

Phone: (+45) 3946 3333



Tahiti

and her sister islands



Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora – high and mythical islands with deep valleys exhaling the intoxicating perfume of the Tahitian flower tiare.

At what seems to be the end of the world, these “pearl islands” enclose in their jewelry box lagoons and universes undreamt of, with the sun illuminating the blue depths where time has deposited the pearls of Tahiti.

These fragrant paradise islands combine all the different impressions lavished by generous Mother Nature. Secret or rebellious savage but never hostile, their beaches, shaded by coconut trees, tell of the centuries of erosion which made them gold or basalt, atoll or mountain.

Everything here whispers the legends of the “maohi”, the people who discovered these crumpled land, where the breadfruit, the wild banana, and the tuberole thrive. Worlds are murmured like incantations in gratitude to these generous islands that tell us “Maeva”.

Tahiti

Tahiti, with its 1045 square kilometers and a population of 155,000, is not only the largest but probably also the best known of the French Polynesian Islands. Two volcanoes standing upon an emerald sea gave birth to this slice of heaven, which with its steep cloud-hatted mountains, deep valleys, luxurious ferns, zippy water rivers and black beaches are waiting for you to step through its gates and experience this “isle of love” with an air full of alluring dreaminess.

Clearly visible from Tahiti is its sister island Moorea, which is the next stop on our quest.

Moorea

Moorea is a mysterious island, soaring magically out of the ocean in an explosion of green velvet, and it is the archetype of what you would imagine a South Seas island to be like.

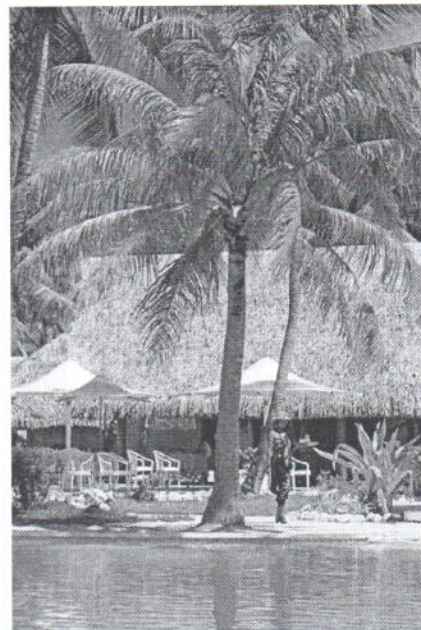
A wide, shallow lagoon surrounds the island's vertical mountains where poetic threads of waterfalls tumble down fern-softened cliffs. Peaceful meadows flanked by pinnacles of green will fill your senses and renew your belief in the majesty of nature. Pastel-painted houses surrounded by gardens of hibiscus and birds of paradise, circle the island in a fantasy of happy, yet simple villages.

From Moorea we venture further into heaven on Earth when we end our endeavor on the Bora Bora Islands.

Bora Bora - The Romantic Island

Bora Bora, with a lagoon resembling an artist's palette of blues and greens, is love at first sight.

Honeymooners and romantics from around the world have laid claim to Bora Bora where the castle-like Mount Otemanu pierces the sky. Lush tropical slopes and valleys blossom with hibiscus, while palm-covered motu circle the lagoon like a delicate necklace. Perfect white-sand beaches give way to emerald waters where impossibly colored fish animate the coral gardens.





Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort

At the Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort you can discover the sparkling magic of the lagoon, admire the awe-inspiring Mount Otemanu while luxuriating in the peace and tranquility of the surroundings. Located only 10 minutes by boat from Bora Bora airport and 15 minutes from Vaitape, Bora Bora's main city this 5 star resort is characterized by a welcoming and friendly spirit that will immediately make you feel at home.

Manihi

There are some heavenly places which do not need an introduction. Manihi is a string of islets where palm trees languish and white-sand beaches abound. Bathed in a "South Seas" emerald water, Manihi is the perfect setting for a Stevenson novel.

Manihi Pearl Island Resort is located on the magnificent Tuamotu atoll of Manihi.

The friendly Tuamotu Pearl Beach family will share their love for the island and lagoon, its native treasure, the black pearl, its spectacular underwater world, its pristine natural islets called "motu" and its unique tranquility and serenity with you. Count on them to do everything they can to help you realize your Polynesian dreams.



Where to stay

Tikehau Island – The Pink Sand Island

Pink and white sand beaches border the turquoise beaches lagoon of Tikehau. This location favors idleness or strolls through the village of Tuherahera. On the little "motu" located in the lagoon, you will also be able to observe magical flocks of birds that bear names such as red-footed boobies, great-crested terns, blue-grey noddies or lesser frigate birds and The Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort welcomes guests in this 4 hectares enticing tropical paradise where an exclusive hideaway is successfully combined with elegant informality and Polynesian hospitality.

Located on secluded white sandy beaches fringed with palms, this resort offers both beach and over water bungalows, which have a glass section in the floor from which you can enjoy the spectacular underwater life of the lagoon. All bungalows are designed in true Polynesian style, very spacious, and equipped with a fan, mini bar, coffee / tea making facilities, direct dial phone, safe, television and private verandah. The bar and restaurant located at the poolside provide an idyllic setting to observe the shimmering stars above. Many excursions and activities are also available to guest such as snorkeling, kayaks, sunset cruises, fishing, and scuba diving to name a few.



Climate, Fauna & Flora

French Polynesia, which is predominantly influenced in a trade-wind belt and benefits from a tropical climate.

However, people are used to talk about "warm season" from December to March and about cool season from June to September. There is no big difference between the seasons and in spite of the wet warmth of the Austral Summer, we can talk about a well matched climate with no stringency neither excess. The vegetation is luxurious and if you come to French Polynesia during the warm season, you will be welcome with loads of colored and scented flowers: Tiara, Jasmine, Gardenia, Hibiscus.

Official Languages

Tahitian (called Reo Mao'li) and French are the two official languages but English is fluently spoken in the tourist industry.

More information

Voya Travels Denmark has several packages and custom made trips to French Polynesia.

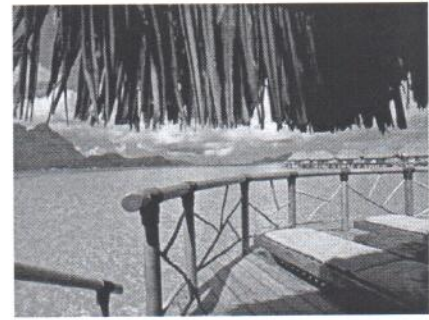
Example:

Price per person from DKK. 25.000 includes flights, air taxes, hotel transfers and 9 nights.

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A Tuscan-Inspired Village In The California Desert

A charming village lies below majestic peaks. Nature when it's most vibrant under an ever-present sun. Here, a guest lingers in an olive grove, while others relax on their private terrace—villa doors flung open to welcome the outdoors in. The pace is serene, embracing of life. And yet every sense—sight, sound, taste and touch—is intensified. The feel is pure Tuscan but the setting is Palm Springs, California.

Miramonte Resort & Spa brings the spirit of Tuscany to the California desert community of Indian Wells, just minutes from Palm Springs. A collection of villas set amidst 11 acres of bougainvillea-filled gardens and Italian fountains, this intimate resort provides sanctuary from the pace of 21st century living.

The outside world fades immediately as guests arrive at Miramonte. Approaching the entrance, one's eyes are drawn above the entry doors to a trompe l'oeil mural depicting a window, spilling over with bright blooms, from a centuries-old Tuscan villa. It is a small but meaningful detail that sets the tone for what guests will experience during their stay. Inside, the lobby manages to convey the grandness of an Italian mansion. Here, guests will find the Vineyard Lounge—a comfortable setting where guests can enjoy signature martinis, fine wines and cordials while listening to the soft sounds of local jazz artists. A short stroll across the lobby and guests can experience Brissago, a casual and inviting dining room offering Mediterranean-inspired specialties presented Tuscan family-style.

Beyond the lobby guests are drawn into Miramonte's lush gardens. A grand Italian fountain rises in front of a stunning view of the Santa Rosa Mountains, competing for the eye with the vivid hues of bougainvillea that hang from every balcony. The aromas of citrus, rosemary, lavender, and roses perfume the air while the sounds of gently cascading water create a sanctuary of tranquility far removed from the world outside. Citrus groves and olive trees abound throughout Miramonte's gardens; Miramonte uses the fresh lemons from the citrus trees to create their signature lemonade and other specialty drinks.

Comfortable Accommodations

Pathways meander throughout the grounds, leading guests to their accommodations, which



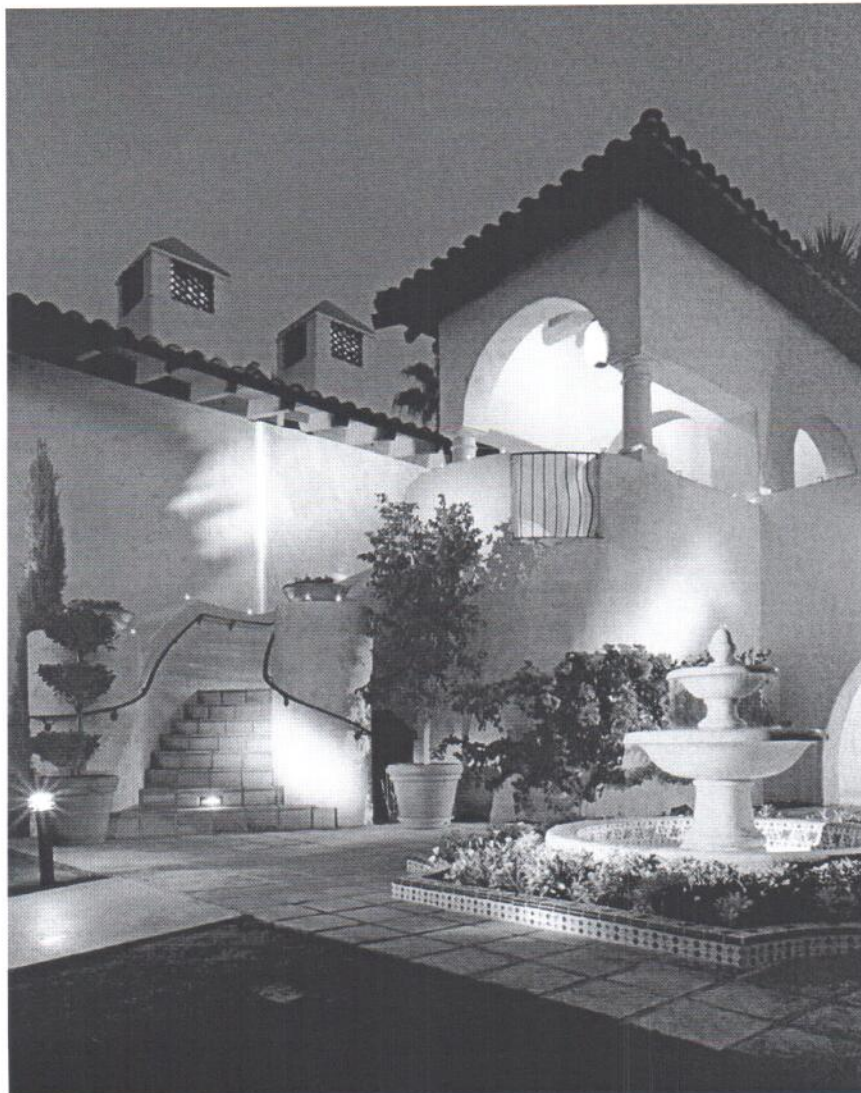


are located in 14 two-story villas nestled around Miramonte's two swimming pools. The villas are of charming, Northern Italian architecture, with red-tiled roofs, bougainvillea draped balconies and arched breezeways paved with terra cotta tile.

Within the villas are 215 generously-sized guest rooms and suites, each with a private terrace. Guests will find every comfort here allowing them an idyllic escape from everyday life, yet providing the ability to instantly connect to it if they so choose.

With a recent refurbishment came luxurious new bedding—lofty, pillow-top mattresses layered in the softest down bedding will tempt guests to tuck themselves in for the duration of their stay. Bathrooms are equally extravagant, with marble vanities and baths.

Connecting guests to the outside world are cable television with movie and sports channels, three telephones with dataports, and high-speed wireless Internet access. Among the many other features are minibars, terry bathrobes and slippers. Twice-daily maid service and 24-hour room service, speaks to Miramonte's commitment to personalized service.



Villa d'Este is ideal for high-level executive retreats or small groups. This separate and private enclave contains four one-bedroom suites, as well as a 5,000-square-foot Presidential Suite with a separate living room and dining/conference area. The 7,800-square-foot "private mansion" offers all the comforts of the Miramonte guest rooms, as well as separate living rooms and deep sunken Jacuzzi tubs with separate showers. Each suite is also outfitted with three televisions, four telephones, Bvlgari bath amenities, and Bose Wave radios.

Distinctive Desert Spa

The discerning guest will encounter a different experience when visiting The Well at Miramonte, the unique spa, which has become the "centerpiece of Miramonte's Tuscan inspired village." The 1150 square-meter spa offers 10 outdoor and 9 indoor relaxation suites, four mud bars, two signature river benches and a Watsu pool.

Unique among Southern California spas in its intimacy and attention to detail, The Well is a sanctuary from 21st century living, with classic old-world style. The services offered will incorporate techniques inspired by Tuscan living including therapeutic muds, wine extracts, oils, and refreshing waters.

The spa also incorporates an element of playfulness for the "adventurous" spa-goer. One of the signature services, Pittura Festa (Painting Party), encourages guests to find their artistic side—not to mention their inner child—using brushes to paint colorful muds and clays on themselves or a partner's body, face and hair. Post-painting artists can then bask in the warm desert sun in their private cabana while a therapist performs scalp massages and touches upon facial pressure points.

Other distinctive features and services include Watsu, bagno vino (wine bath) and Vichy showers with tables built from 100-year-old Acacia cedar, carved in the shape of mangrove leaves. In addition, two river benches allow couples to lie upon a sculpted stone chaise lounge immersed in a shallow stream of water much like lounging in a natural riverbed. A beverage bar offers spa guests light and healthful refreshment. Guests are welcomed to dine in their spa robes on the patio at Brissago, just a short stroll from The Well.

Dining Pleasures

Brissago, named for an idyllic village on Italy's Lake Maggiore, serves Mediterranean-inspired specialties featuring fresh California ingredients presented Tuscan family-style in an inviting and relaxed setting. Executive Chef Darren McCabe uses fresh herbs from the resort's gardens in an array of tempting and artfully presented dishes inspired by the tastes of Italy and the Mediterranean.

One of the unique experiences Chef McCabe brings to Brissago is his personal interaction with each guest. He welcomes the opportunity to prepare a family-style feast or take requests from guests, creating individualized menus based on the freshest ingredients available. Brissago is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

For lighter fare, The Vineyard Lounge offers cocktails, appetizers and entrée selections. Alternatively, guests can choose to dine twenty-four hours a day in the privacy of their room. Private dinners for up to 10 guests can also be arranged in the resort's poolside cabanas.

In addition to Chef McCabe's outstanding cuisine, Miramonte also offers a culinary experience that enhances the village-like feeling of this unique resort. The Merchant of Miramonte tours the village and stops to greet guests. His overflowing bicycle basket contains an array of wines, gourmet breads, charcuterie and artisanal cheeses, which he shares with those desiring a light snack or refreshment.

Meetings and Social Events

Meetings at Miramonte Resort & Spa can be held in a variety of unique spaces around the property. Outdoor weddings and banquets are especially popular in the Olive Grove and on the Miramonte lawn, where inspired views of the Santa Rosa Mountains soar in the background. The Piazza is an ideal venue for an event. This second-floor terrace provides fabulous views of the pool, gardens and mountains, and a large fireplace provides warmth and ambience on cool desert evenings.

Personalized service is also an integral part of a Miramonte meeting or event. All meeting and event planners are partnered with their own Event Butler, who can be summoned at anytime by the client. At present, the resort can accommodate groups of up to 500 guests with 12,000 square feet of flexible space; with an additional 8,000 square feet being added in 2005.

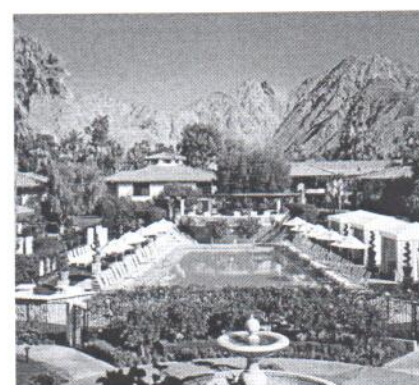
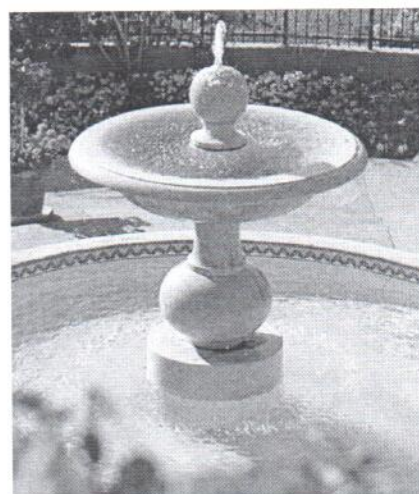
Activities Aboard

Guests can relax at either of the resort's two swimming pools, which offer several private cabanas. Bicycling, bocce, lawn chess, croquet, and a variety of outdoor fitness activities, such as yoga, pilates, and tai chi are available year round. Miramonte's fitness center is equipped with treadmills, Stair Masters and more.

While the sanctuary-like embrace of the resort may tempt guests to stay within its reach, a venture out has its own rewards. Nearby, 36 holes of championship golf beckon at the Ted Robinson-designed Golf Resort at Indian Wells, which offers preferred pricing and tee times to Miramonte guests. In addition, the world-famous Indian Wells Country Club, home to the PGA Tour's Bob Hope Classic, is adjacent to the resort. Miramonte's golf concierge can arrange preferred tee times on over 100 of the valleys best courses, including PGA WEST, Desert Willow, Landmark and Trilogy to name a few.

Tennis enthusiasts can play at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, where the world's top players compete in the Pacific Life Open. And just minutes away is El Paseo, the "Rodeo Drive of the Desert," with its exclusive shops, restaurants and galleries.

In the words of Pino Luongo, renowned author of *Simply Tuscan* and an authoritative source on the Tuscan lifestyle, "to be Tuscan is to honor all your senses." Miramonte Resort & Spa inspires guests to do just that, providing them with memories they will treasure for a lifetime.



The Miramonte Resort & Spa

For more information:
www.miramonteresort.com



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Golfing in Sweden

When considering golfing in Scandinavia, Barsebäck Golf & Country Club inevitably comes to mind. Deluxe Traveller has visited one of the best golf courses Scandinavia has to offer.

By Philip Nevhage

There are many theories and speculations about the origin of golf. Questions about where, when, and how the game came about, are often raised and discussed along with the subject of which golf courses are the best. Each player has his or her own subjective criteria that determine how high a golf course scores on the player's personal ranking system.

There are a few things that most golf players have in common. We all share the desire to get the ball from the tee to the green in the fewest possible shots and most of us have a strong determination to improve our game and do better next time. But which criteria is it that determines how we rank a particular course? To some it is the camaraderie with friends and acquaintances. To some it is determined by the difficulty of the golf course, and for others it is merely the nature experience and the setting of a course that makes playing it an unforgettable golfing experience. The bragging rights that come with teeing off at a historical course such as the Old Course at St. Andrews, undoubtedly also play a role to some of us. However, to most players it is a combination of all the above factors and many more that ultimately determines how high we rank a particular golf course.

One of my personal favorites is Barsebäck Golf & Country Club on Sweden's West Coast. The club is conveniently located close to Copenhagen Airport and Sturup making it possible for visitors to choose between the many accommodations available in wonderful Copenhagen, interesting Malmö, or picturesque Helsingborg.

Be prepared for quite a different experience as the seabirds and squirrels at the Barsebäck Golf course creates and an atmosphere and environment beyond the ordinary.

Upon arrival at the main entrance you get a sense of the elegance and classical tone that characterizes the club. After the beautiful entrance, a ravishing meandering driveway cuts pleasantly through the establishment, however, there is no risk of getting dents in your car from stray balls.

When you arrive at the clubhouse you will find plenty of parking space, and you will appreciate the well-planned establishment with short distances between the clubhouse, the driving range and the rest of the practice area, the first tee — on both courses — and of course the restaurant.

Before embarking on the two 18 holes courses you might want to consider the newly established, but equally prominent 9 holes course, which can serve as a good appetizer.

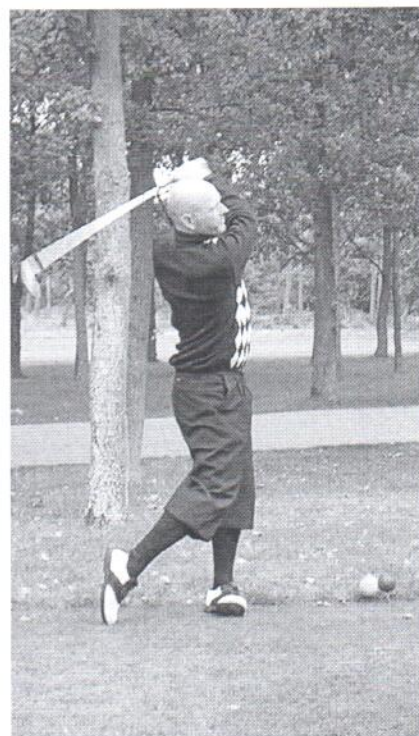
The club's management is very professional and doing an excellent job at attending to every detail, and keeping Barsebäck an enjoyable experience for everyone. The tempo at the courses is sure to keep all golf players satisfied, regardless of experience level. Players will also be delighted to find all the holes spread enough apart to avoid any risk of being hit by a "Fore".

The club has on several occasions hosted tournaments on the highest levels, which no doubt is the ultimate stamp of approval for any golf course. Scandinavian Masters and Compaq Open are a

few of the examples where some of the stars and well-known names of golf have visited. When living golf legend Jack Nicklaus visited the club in the 1980 he was clearly impressed: "Very interesting and unusual with a course that has such different characteristics as Barsebäck; opening hole in the park-environment, totally surrounded by forest and then purely seaside holes. I like it."

It is recommended to spend at least a couple of days at Barsebäck to really have the time both to experience and digest the impression of the Masters Course as well as Donald Steel Course. The club's idyllic location by Öresund offers you a unique nature experience, and the management's dedication to maintaining a high quality level, will ensure you a unique and enjoyable experience.

The quality at Barsebäck is impeccable which not only has benefited the world stars of golf but also the members and obviously all the green fee players. It was thus a dream come through for Barsebäck when the Masters course was made permanent in 2005 and the new greens with the grass type Penn A-4 was opened. Barsebäck's ambition of always being one step ahead in the evolution of golf ensures that its players are guaranteed only the best. For those players looking to improve their game Barsebäck Golf Academy offers both very competent and friendly golf trainers who can assist you implementing the newest and most advanced video and data processing equipment to help improve your game, and at the restaurant you can enjoy a well-deserved meal or drink while processing the impressions of the course.



Getting there

If you are travelling by car or taxi the highway E6 offers quick and effective access to Barsebäcks Golf & Country Club. For those who prefer to live in direct connection with the golf course Järvallen Conference & Country Club offers excellent accommodations.

Contact

Golf

Barsebäck Golf & Country Club

Website: www.barseback-golf.se

Email: bgcc@barseback-golf.se

Phone: (+46) 46 77 62 50

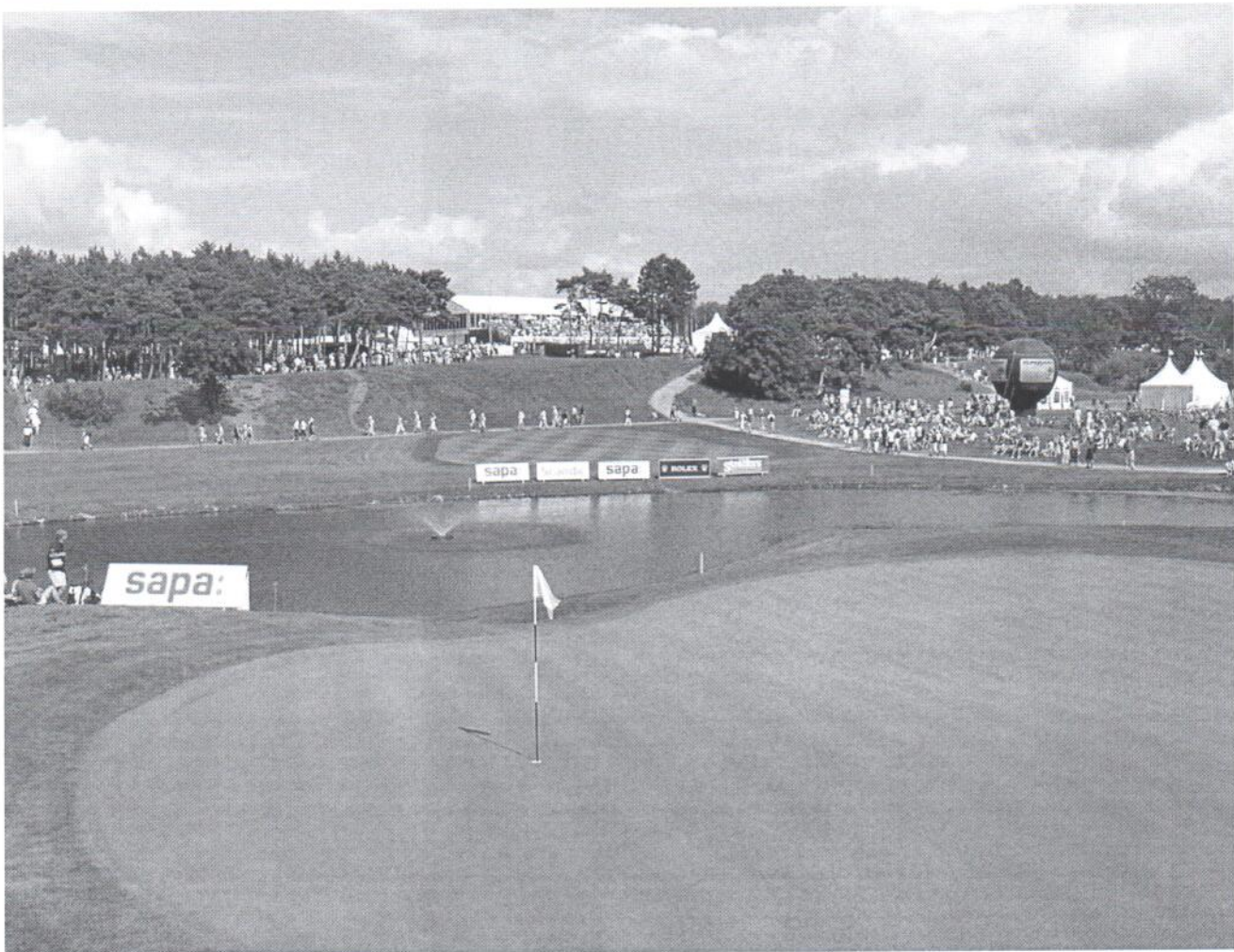
Hotel and Conferences

Järvallen Conference & Country Club

Website: www.jarvallen.se

Email: jarvallen.conf@jarvallen.se

Phone: (+46) 46 77 70 50



Non-profit Profile

At Deluxe Traveller we believe in giving something back to the local communities of the destinations that we feature in our magazine. In each issue we invite a unique non-profit organization with international operations to present itself to our readers.

Operation Smile

— Changing Lives One Smile at a Time

"Harelip" is a terrible name for a child. But for the first nine years of his life, that's what Thanh was called by everyone in his village. Each day, the cleft lip he was born with caused him pain and humiliation. On his first day of school, the other children taunted him because of his disfigured mouth. He refused to go back to school. It seemed that his whole life would be ruined by this deformity. Then Operation Smile came along. During Operation Smile's medical mission in Vung Tau, Vietnam, in July 2005, he received a new smile and reclaimed his birth name, Thanh, which means "Blue Sky." He has returned to school, and to life, with confidence and joy.

Operation Smile was founded by Bill Magee, a plastic surgeon, and his wife, Kathleen, a nurse and clinical social worker. In 1982, the Magees traveled to the Philippines with a group of medical volunteers to repair children's cleft lips and cleft palates. They were not prepared for what they encountered. Kathy recalled, "People pushed their babies at us, tugged at our sleeves with tears in their eyes and begged us to help their children." For five days the surgical team operated on nearly 150 children in three cities. But another 250 children had to be turned away.

When the Magees returned home to Norfolk, Va., they made the commitment to return to the Philippines to care for those children who were left

behind. Within a few months, Bill and Kathy raised money and received donated surgical equipment and supplies. Operation Smile was launched when the Magees and 18 volunteer doctors and nurses went to the Philippines on its first mission. This time, they operated on 200 children. But hundreds of children remained on the waiting list. The Magees knew that Operation Smile had to become a permanent organization.

Today, Operation Smile supports missions to 23 countries in Central and South America, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, providing free reconstructive surgery to children and young adults who suffer from cleft lips, cleft palates, tumors, burns and other facial deformities. "The bottom line is changing the life of one child at a time," says Bill. And to date, Operation Smile has provided free reconstructive surgery to more than 90,000 children and young adults around the world.

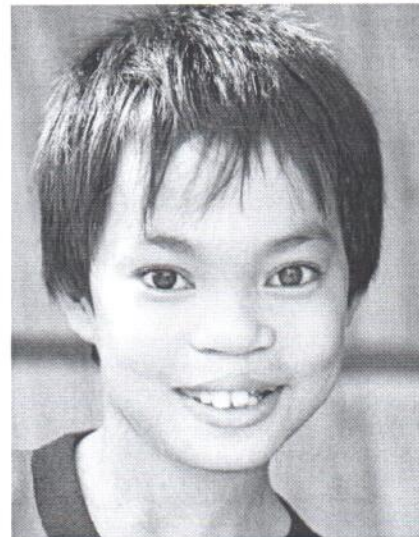
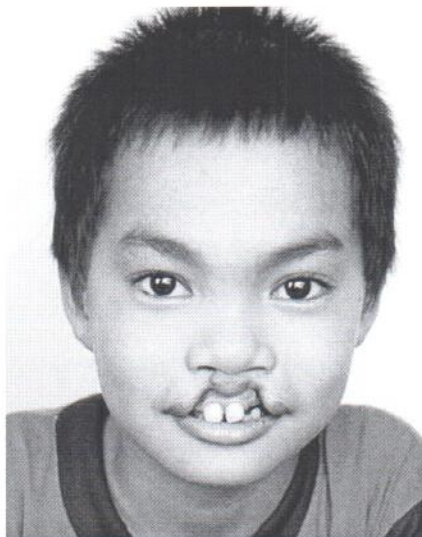
Thousands of medical volunteers have joined Operation Smile to share their time, skills and love. Volunteers from countries around the world work side by side during two-week medical missions to treat children suffering from deformities. An Operation Smile medical mission team includes plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, a pediatrician, dentist, speech pathologist, child life specialist, and biomedical technician. Dur-

ing a typical two-week mission, approximately 300 to 500 patients receive free medical evaluations; an average of 100 to 150 are surgically treated. In as little as 45 minutes, a surgeon can repair a child's cleft lip, bringing hope and possibility not only to the child but also to the family and their village.

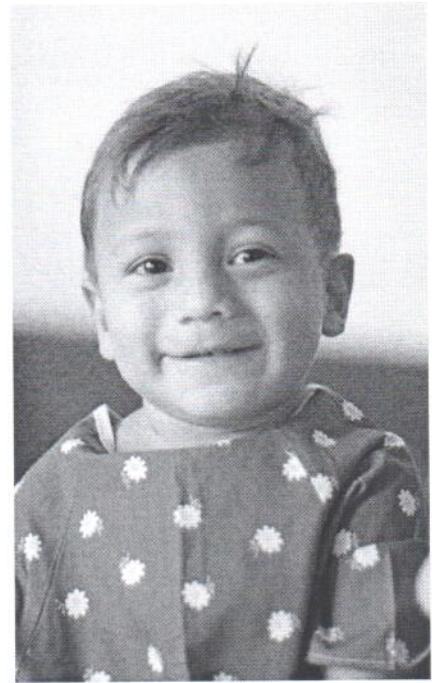
In the developing world, one child in 500 suffers from a facial deformity, almost double the rate in the U.S. Children born in the U.S. with these conditions receive corrective surgery in early childhood, but in developing countries families cannot afford surgery or don't have access to the health care they need.

Operation Smile provides education and training around the world to physicians and other health professionals to achieve long-term self-sufficiency. Since 1982, thousands of health care professionals have been trained by Operation Smile. Once a mission country's resources and volunteer base are established, Operation Smile brings a wealth of medical knowledge to the nation, pairing in-country teams of physicians, nurses and allied health professionals with universities and educational institutions across the globe, training them in the most advanced techniques, partnering with them in research, and sharing the gift of healing.

Operation Smile's Student Program is a powerful example of the impact young people can have in the world. More than 250 Operation Smile Student Associations in the United States and around the world build awareness, raise funds and educate students about values of commit-



Thanh before and after his life-changing surgery

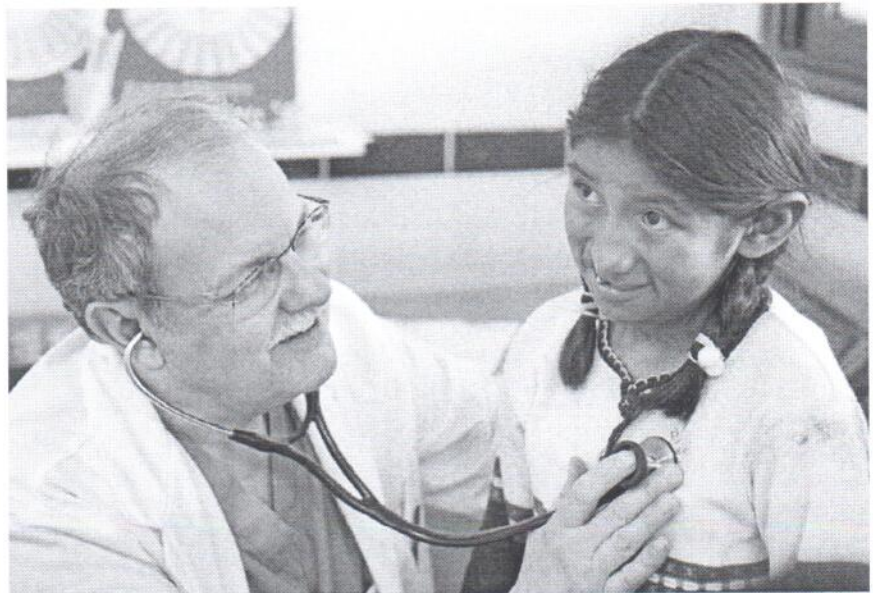


Junior received surgery in Honduras

ment, leadership and volunteerism. Two students and a student sponsor are part of every Operation Smile international mission team.

Operation Smile spends just 15% of its budget on overhead, allowing 87% of donations to go directly to programs helping children. Last year, Operation Smile received nearly \$52 million in donated services and supplies. Operation Smile is a member of the 2004 Forbes Annual Survey of Charities.

Since two out of three children must be turned away, Operation Smile's work is far from finished. One surgery alone costs approximately \$240, but Operation Smile provides so much more – medical education and training, student programs, quality assurance and sustainable development programs for an average cost of \$750 per child.



How to Make a Donation

Many children are turned away because of a lack of funds. You can help change that!

On the Internet

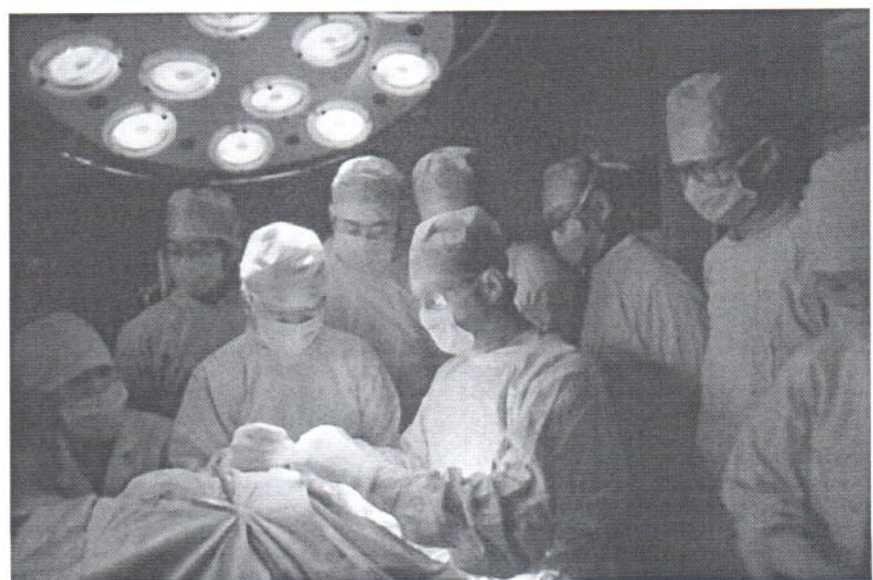
www.operationssmile.org

Check or International Money Order

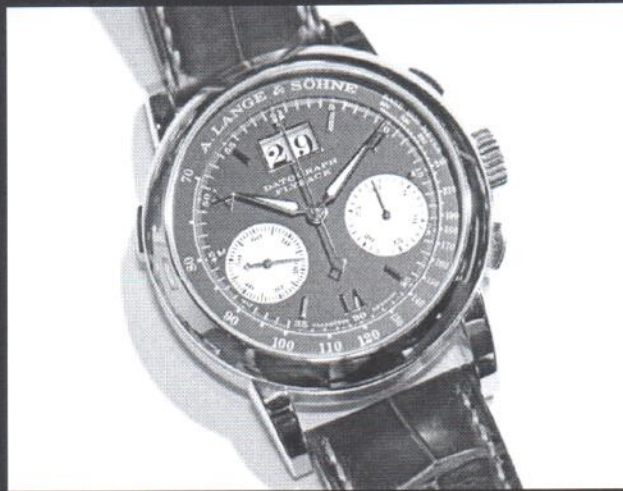
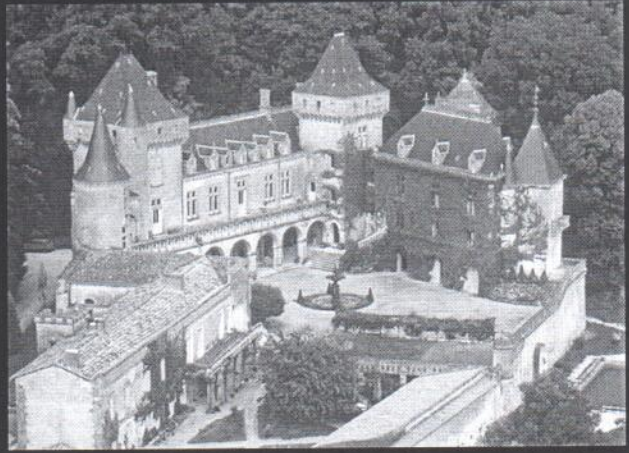
Make it out to Operation Smile
6435 Tidewater Drive
Norfolk, VA 23509
USA

Call in Your Donation (U.S.)

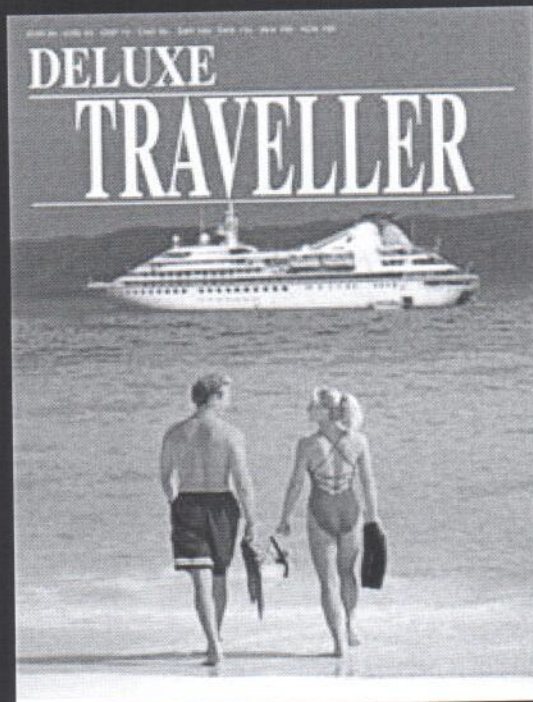
1-888-677-6453 with your credit card number and expiration date.



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