

THE PRIVATE JET LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ELITE

TRAVELLER

JAN/FEB
2011

BEIJING'S
BEST
SUITES

\$50.00



THREE-BEDROOM VILLA / HÔTEL LE TOINY

ST. BARTS BEAUTY

With its reputation for natural beauty and exclusivity, St. Barts' "Côte Sauvage" offers a quiet respite from the nonstop party scene closer to Gustavia. The always elegant **Hôtel Le Toiny**, a Relais & Châteaux property, is your best pick for this part of the island.

Book the **Three-Bedroom Villa** (\$3,680 a night) for unmatched privacy and gorgeous sea-side vistas. While Le Toiny hosts a small but potent spa, first on your list of must-dos should be a meal at the award-winning **Le Gaïac**. With its French orientation and multitude of fine restaurants, St. Barts is a foodie's dream, but chef Stéphane Mazières' work here sets a new bar for flavor and imagination. The rightly famous **Sunday Brunch** features the best of the destination's seafood offerings, done with a continental-Creole flair.

Contact: General Manager Dagmar Lombard, 590-590-278-888; reservations@letoiny.com; www.letoiny.com

PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY

Swiss watchmaker **Vulcain** has an ongoing history with U.S. presidents dating back to 1947 and Harry Truman. Vulcain's innovative **Cricket** alarm calibre was the first wristwatch to successfully incorporate a miniature striking mechanism and was presented to Mr. Buck-Stops-Here and virtually every other American president since (it has been simply dubbed "the **Presidents' Watch**"). In celebration of this tradition, and of the general spirit of the 1950s, the company has released the **Vulcain 50s Presidents' Watch**. The look and feel of



50S PRESIDENTS' WATCH / VULCAIN

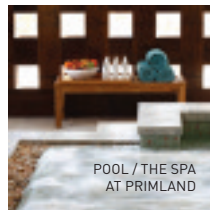
the timepiece is very much inspired by the post-war years, but it houses Vulcain's newest self-winding movement, the Calibre V-21. Two barrels—one to deliver the energy required for the hours, minutes and seconds functions, and the other to power the 20-second alarm function as well as a balance oscillating at 18,000 vibrations per hour—and a 42-hour power reserve hallmark the technology of this classic timepiece (\$24,920 in rose gold).

Contact: Vulcain's Bernard Fleury, 41-32-930-8010; info@vulcain-watches.ch; www.vulcain-watches.ch

MOUNTAIN SPA

The idyllic **Primland** resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains along the Virginia-North Carolina border now sports a relaxing spa as the perfect counterpoint to its many mountain activities. **The Spa at Primland** is not only large (over 8,000 square feet) and outfitted with *hammam*-equipped locker rooms and a glorious indoor pool, but many of its rituals are derived from the mountaintop's eclectic native heritage. Color and directional placement are based on a kind of American Indian *feng shui*, and the Indian medicine wheel and certain native stones play a part in the exclusive treatments. Try the two-hour **Shenandoah** facial, which offers a spectrum of exfoliants, masks and serums, as well as a neck and shoulder massage (\$210).

Contact: Spa Manager Melissa Dillon, (276) 222-3965; spa@primland.com; www.primland.com



POOL / THE SPA AT PRIMLAND

GLITTERATI ON THE GO

BY KELLY CARTER

ESCAPING THE URBAN JUNGLE Tennis star Venus Williams prefers quiet accommodations, even when she travels to Manhattan. "When I'm in New York, I love staying at the **Plaza Athénée** because it provides a calming retreat from the action in New York City," she said. Nestled in a residential neighborhood on the Upper East Side, the boutique hotel recently completed a multi-million-dollar facelift. Williams, an interior designer with her own company, VStarr Interiors, left impressed. "I enjoy the hotel even more now, following the recent guestroom renovations, the addition of a fitness center and the improved spa," she said. "I am a big fan of classic, timeless style with modern influence, and the designers did a great job with this in the updated feel. The coffee-hued hardwood floors in the living room were the perfect shade. Thailand is one of my favorite places to visit so I appreciated the hand-tufted area rug from Thailand in a traditional pattern." As an entrepreneur who designs both commercial and residential spaces, Williams might have picked up a tip or two: "As a designer, I was also impressed by how efficiently the space was maximized, including a clever pocket door between the water closet and bathroom. I have to remember that!"

NO HANG TEN HERE Actor Dennis Quaid and his wife Kimberly hoped to celebrate her birthday in Cabo San Lucas with a big surfing trip—but when the birthday girl broke her foot, the couple relaxed more than they had originally planned at **Esperanza, an Auberge Resort**. When they weren't enjoying their beachfront luxury suite with a private pool, Jacuzzi and 24-hour butler, they were spotted hanging out around the property. They did, however, manage to go sailing one day, and even drove up to artists' colony Todos Santos.

MOMMY AND ME Fashion designer Carolina Herrera and her daughter not only share the same occupation and first name—they also share accommodations, or at least they did during their stay at the luxurious **St. Regis Mexico City**. The duo spent six nights in the hotel's spectacular **St. Regis Suite**. Decorated with white orchids, the two-bedroom, 3,089-square-foot sanctuary features panoramic views of the city. Although the suite has its own private dining room and kitchen, the designing women preferred feasting at **Diana**, the property's signature restaurant. Herrera was particularly impressed with the tortilla soup and guacamole.