



VOGUE ENTERTAINING AND TRAVEL, FEB/MAR 2006

TREND FORECAST

2006 HOT LIST

Keep one step ahead of the pack with VE+T's guide to what's going to be hip in food, drinks and travel in the coming 12 months. If it's worth watching, it's in the following pages

Words Carrie Hutchinson, Adam McCulloch and Franz Scheurer

MEET YOU AT THE PARKER

It began life in 1959 as California's first Holiday Inn, then became Gene Autrey's Melody Ranch, before changing hands and names again as Merv Griffin's Resort & Givenchy Spa. Now this monument to retro-luxe situated in the cool-again desert town of Palm Springs has had another makeover – this time we're calling it the Parker – from US design guru, ceramicist Jonathan Adler. Think shag-pile rugs, modernist chairs and pendant lamps >

PHOTO: JEFFREY MAYER / GREGG DEGUIRE



The glorious view from the Parker pool. **LEFT**, the terrace at Norma's. **PREVIOUS PAGE**, there's no reception, so guests are individually greeted.

> throughout. Adler's design philosophy – his mottos include 'Minimalism is a bummer' and 'We believe colours can't clash' – are in evidence throughout the property, including the two restaurants: a diner called Norma's and a more chi-chi à la carte number, Mister Parker's. +1 760 770 5000, theparkerpalmsprings.com.

MOVING READING

With lazy summer holidays still stretching on for the lucky few, it's a perfect time to catch up on some reading. One genre that seems to be coming into its own is the humorous travel narrative. Some of our favourites include **The Call of the Weird: Travels in American Subcultures** by Louis Theroux (Pan Macmillan, \$33), Brian Thacker's **I'm Not Eating Any of that Foreign Muck (Travels With Me Dad)** (Allen & Unwin, \$24.95), and **The Great Psychedelic Armadillo Picnic: A 'Walk' in Austin** by the Texas Jewboy himself, Kinky Friedman (Random House, \$24.95). Who said you can't learn something and have a laugh at the same time?



HOT ENOUGH YET?

Get into **FLASHPACKING**. This new term describes the travel experience of an increasing number of people who seek adventure and authentic experiences, combined with **TOUCHES OF LUXURY**, when they holiday. They might not have months to explore, but they have the means.

We asked **Sir Richard Branson** what the next big travel trend would be and the answer he gave us was out of this world: "We've always had a dream of developing a space tourism business. For years I have dreamt of seeing the beauty of our planet from space, experiencing true weightlessness and fully appreciating for the first time that our tiny planet is part of something so much bigger. The launch of Virgin Galactic is just the start of what we believe will be a new era in the history of mankind, making the affordable exploration of space by human beings real. The first flights are planned for 2008, and we are now starting to take reservations for the first year of operations. Over five years, Virgin expects to create around 3000 astronauts, and the price per seat on each flight, which will include at least three days of pre-flight training, has been set at US\$200,000." www.virgingalactic.com.

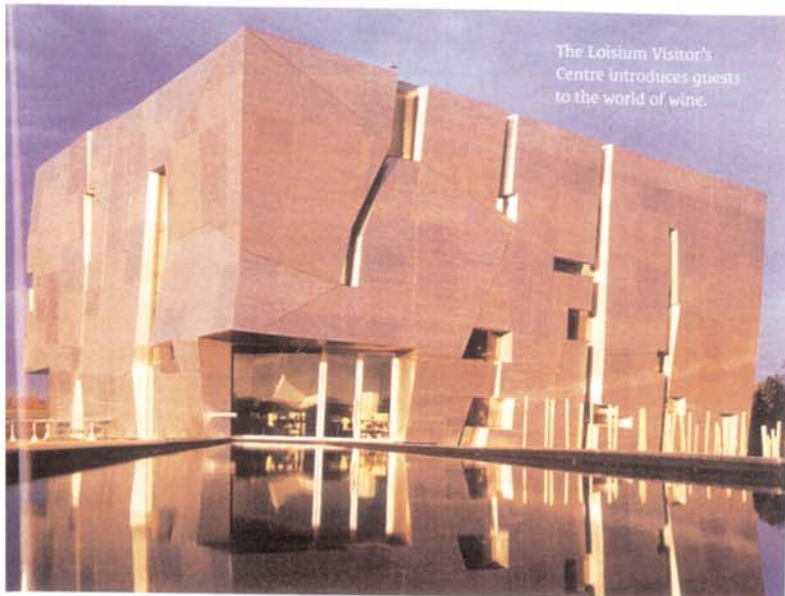


SKI BULGARIA? REALLY?

From London to Milan and Sydney to San Francisco, the downhill set is shooting past the expensive Alps to go skiing in Bansko, a hamlet high in the foothills of the Pirin Mountains of south-western Bulgaria. It's not St Moritz yet, but with the recent opening of the Kempinski Hotel Grand Arena (+359 (0)7443 8888; www.kempinski.com), the perfect picture of a cosy alpine lodge, things in Bansko are definitely looking up.



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for art's sake



For many, the notion of hotel art means little more than a faded Monet reproduction screwed to the wall. Thankfully, hoteliers with a love of fine art are turning properties into galleries, filling them with museum-quality pieces. The owner of Four Seasons Washington DC (+1 202 342 0444, www.fourseasons.com), William Louis Dreyfuss, has donated eight million dollars worth of art from his private collection to show in his hotel. In Seattle, the owners of Hotel Max (+1 206 728 6299, www.hotelmaxseattle.com), above, have entrusted the design to the hands of local artists and photographers. The door to each guestroom is a full-sized photographic print. **AMC**

for donated holidays and proceeds go to nominated charities, www.generousadventures.com

MUST-HAVES IN 2006



BEACH BABES Former *Howl* models Anna Hewitt and Libby are behind the gorgeous Anna & Libby swimwear collection. They use Italian fabrics, bold prints, and a clear peach tintlet on each of their pieces. The nautically-inspired one-piece in knit fabric, above, retails for \$740. For stockist details, call (02) 9547 7578.

WIRED FOR SOUND When Ewan McGregor revealed he wanted a Beosound 2 digital music player, we thought we should check it out. We understand his lust. The 10g stainless-steel beauty will definitely turn the head of the lovely young thing sitting next to you on your next journey. \$450 from Bang & Olufsen, 1900 811 234.



COLOUR KIT Smaller than a flonx and just as handy is Lancôme's Make-up Traveler, \$79. Enclosed in a zip-up wallet are blushers, powders, lipstick, mascara and five gorgeous eye shadows. Perfect for when you need to pack light. Available from department stores.

CATCH IT ALL Not only can you pop the funky Canon IXUS 1 zoom (\$599) in your pocket, but you can wrap the five megapixel digital camera in its own reusable water-blasting (3189) and 9/11 snorkelling to three metres. Tel: 1800 021 147, www.canon.com.au.

