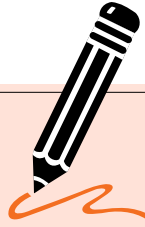


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Volume 9, Number 3
3rd Quarter, 1997



Greetings from the Chairman

An official WELCOME to...
Dynamic Travel and Club Travel who
have joined the Corniche family.

Every year Corniche supports
Operation USA — and this year we
are even more encouraged by their
extraordinary good deeds around the
world.

Please join us in person or via the
internet for this year's travel auction!

Kudos once again to Richard
Walden and his team for dedicating
their careers to Operation USA and
helping others throughout the world.

Operation USA

Please join us on
September 27, 1997

for the Annual

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Live on the Web
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\$250 each

Corniche Travel is the official travel
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MANDARIN ORIENTAL
HYDE PARK
LONDON

Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park
(formerly the Hyde Park
Hotel), enjoys one of London's
most enviable locations, with spectacular
views over Hyde Park on one side and
London's exclusive shopping district on

Exclusive setting overlooking Hyde Park.

the other with Harrods, Harvey Nichols and Sloane Street visible from its marble steps. Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, the Victoria and Albert Museum and many of the city's best theatres and restaurants are just a short distance away.

An Edwardian masterpiece with its perfectly preserved marble and gilded interiors among the finest in London, Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park has 166 bedrooms and 19 suites which all enjoy wonderful views of Hyde Park.

There's never been a better time to enjoy London and Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park is offering a variety of special offers suitable for all occasions.

Ensuring a weekend to remember for 245 UK Sterling per room per night, inclusive of:

- VAT at 17.5%
- English breakfast for two people
- Chilled bottle of Champagne on arrival
- Afternoon tea for two during your stay
- Complimentary morning paper and use of the hotel gym.

Valid until end March 1998, for Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Looking further ahead, Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park offers an exciting Christmas and New Years programme. For details of this and our Theatre and Suite promotions call Corniche Travel on 310-854-6000 or Mandarin Oriental reservations on 800-526-6566.

Elegance at your disposal.

Wailea's Best...

The Kea Lani Deluxe Villas & Suites on Maui

Now with Fifth Night Free Offer!

Luxurious Villas provide privacy and are a favorite among VIP's and Celebrities.

Grocery service at the touch of a button, use of a luxury car or minivan, and a private garden sun deck are among the many amenities offered to guests of the villas at the Kea Lani Hotel, Suites & Villas.

Located along the oceanfront of the Kea Lani property, the hotel's 37 villas are the epitome of luxury, offering accommodations suitable for couples, families or a group vip. The villas offer one, two or three bedroom configurations, with 1000 to 2200 square feet of living space. All are equipped with a gourmet kitchen; lavishly large bathrooms; elegant tropical furniture and a Sony entertainment center—including vcr, cd player, laser disc player, 27-inch television and stereo sound. Each bedroom features a 19-inch television. A laser disc and video library is located in the lobby of the hotel. Each of the villas garden sun decks has its own private plunge pool and barbecue grill.

Villas provide the utmost in privacy and luxury, as well as ample room to entertain. Upon arrival, villa guests will find a refrigerator stocked with basic breakfast makings including coffee, milk, juice, fruit, and muffins along with a sampling of Kea Lani's gourmet jams and preserves. The villas also feature room service from the hotel's restaurants.

VIPs and celebrities alike find the villas a welcome haven and home away from home. Many return year after year, citing the privacy and special amenities as the reason. President George Bush and Barbara Bush, Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Joey Lawrence, Jack Nicholson, Rebecca Broussard, Martin Short, Joe Montana, Natalie Cole, Eddie Van Halen, Wil Smith, and Lindsey Wagner are among the many celebrities who have enjoyed the villas at the Kea Lani Hotel.

For bookings from October 1 to December 20, 1997 the Kea Lani is offering a 5th Night Free with 4 paid nights in the suites and villas.

For reservations and information, contact Corniche Travel at (310) 854-6000 or Kea Lani at (808) 975-4100.

New York, NY

Hotel Westbury

Impeccable, attentive service, an English-manor ambiance and an unbeatable location on Manhattan's Upper East Side along posh Madison Avenue are just a few of the reasons guests keep returning to the Five Star/Diamond Award-winning Hotel Westbury since it opened in the 1920's. The European boutique-style property offers patrons an elegant, Old-World stateliness and grandeur inside and New York's most renowned museums, stores, art galleries and restaurants just outside. Central Park, plus the business and Theater districts, are nearby as well.

All 232 of the hotel's newly renovated rooms, including its 12 suites, feature floral chintz, needlepoint rugs, mahogany furniture and antiques. In-room amenities range from Molton Brown of London bathroom items to fully stocked minibars to two-line phone systems (personal com-

puter and fax adaptable). Morning delivery of *The New York Times*, or a paper of choice, and twice-daily maid service are also provided.

For information, contact Corniche Travel at (310) 854-6000 or Hotel Westbury at (212) 535-2000.

Thanksgiving Week Package \$275/night

Available November 21 through 27
Minimum 2 night stay
in a Superior Room
Price based on double occupancy

Gorgeous accommodations await you at the Westbury.

Mauna Kea Advert
Film Supplied
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COMPARE TO LOS CABOS.
AND NOTHING IN LOS CABOS
COMPARES TO LAS VENTANAS.

JOURNEY TO A SEEMINGLY MAGICAL PLACE. TO THE MOST EXCLUSIVE RESORT IN MEXICO. PAINTED DESERTS. SCULPTED MOUNTAINS. GOLDEN BEACHES MELTING INTO A SHIMMERING SEA TEEMING WITH GRAY WHALES AND BLUE MARLIN. A TREASURE TROVE OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES. CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF, A ROSEWOOD SPA, AND DEEP-SEA FISHING. AND AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL, A LAVISH SUITE OF LUXURIOUS DETAIL. OFFERING DRAMATIC OCEAN VIEWS FROM ITS VAST PRIVATE TERRACE. JOURNEY TO A PLACE CALLED LOS CABOS. AND A RESORT CALLED LAS VENTANAS AL PARAÍSO. FOR RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR ROSEWOOD HOTELS & RESORTS, TOLL FREE, AT 1-888-525-0483. www.rosewood-hotels.com

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HISTORIC WEST HOLLYWOOD

— PART ONE —

Before there was a City of West Hollywood, there was a town called Sherman that was carved from the acres of the old Mexican land grant Rancho La Brea. West Hollywood, it seems, has a very definite, very colorful past. As the following excerpt from a Guide To West Hollywood 's Historic Sites And Cultural Resources shows, it has also long been a bellwether for the area 's life and times. Produced by the city of West Hollywood and the Cultural Heritage Advisory Board, the brochure — full of interesting facts and photos and a selfguided tour of historic sites — is available free on request from the City's Community Development Department (213-848-6475) or West Hollywood Convention & Visitors Bureau (310-289-2525).

road were located in the town of Sherman — what is currently known as West Hollywood.

In the early 1900's, the town of Sherman chose not to incorporate into the City of Los Angeles, and became notorious for the disrepair of its streets and the availability of liquor during Prohibition years. Sherman thrived as a hub for rail access and benefited from the emergence of the movie industry in nearby Hollywood. The Craftsman bungalow became the popular housing of the era.

In the 1920's, the town of Sherman became known as West Hollywood, emphasizing its relationship to its famous neighbor to the east. As the movie industry grew, so did the need for housing and entertainment. West Hollywood remained unincorporated and, as a result of loose land-use regulations and the end of Prohibition, the Sunset Strip became the home of many glamorous nightclubs, such as the Trocadero, the Mocambo and Ciro's. Sunset Tower (now The Argyle Hotel) and many smaller courtyard buildings were home to such notable people as Frank Sinatra, Charlie Chaplin, Howard Hughes, Katherine Hepburn and Marlene Dietrich.

By the 1950's, the glitz of Las Vegas had eclipsed the glamour of the Sunset Strip. However, in the 1960's, Sunset Boulevard revived as the home of thriving new music industry. The glamorous nightclubs of the 1950's were replaced by a new generation of clubs, including the Whisky a Go-Go and The Roxy. The entertainment industry soon became vital to the economy of West Hollywood.

R.M. Schindler House

As early as the 1950's, the design and decorating industry had also found a home in West Hollywood in the area near Beverly and Robertson Boulevards. In the early 1970's, the original site of the railroad yards was cleared of light industrial uses, and the 750,000 square foot Pacific Design Center was built in 1975. It became the anchor for the burgeoning Avenues of Art and Design.

Spurred by a desire for greater local control, a coalition of seniors and the area's growing gay and lesbian population joined together to fight the threat to end rent control under Los Angeles County government, and West Hollywood became incorporated as a city in 1984. In the last decade, the City had undertaken projects to strengthen its economy, revitalize the East Side of the city and has approved the Sunset Specific Plan to guide and promote quality development along historic Sunset Boulevard.

Tail o' the Pup

To be continued in our Winter Edition

The Argyle
West Hollywood's history goes back to the 1780's, when what is now known as Sunset Boulevard emerged as one of the principal routes connecting el Pueblo de Los Angeles to ranchos further west and the Pacific Ocean. In the 1880's, Mexican Dons began to sell their land to settlers from the Midwest and the East Coast, and European immigrants. In 1880, Victor Ponet, the Belgian consul to Los Angeles, purchased 240 acres of Rancho La Brea - the heart of present day Sunset Boulevard.

The railroad moved into Los Angeles in the 1890's, significantly accelerating the development of the region. The main railroad yards for the Los Angeles Rail-

The Best of Mexico

Continued from page 3

food and service amid real beauty. You can lunch or dine under canopies in the garden or in the main, enclosed restaurant. Or just enjoy cocktails in the bar, listening to the pianist and violinist serenade you with an international array of melodies.

Apart from this charming boutique hotel the fun of Guadalajara is traveling slightly out-of-town to Tlaquepaque and Tonalá for buying unique Mexican arts and crafts items — ranging from beautiful paper flowers to one of a kind antiques to hand painted ceramics and colored glassware.

The Quinta Real staff will go out of their way to help you. Edda Mastretta, Assistant Manager, organized a licensed guide/driver to take us on our exploration. Not only was his English perfect, but he even helped in our negotiations. Tlaquepaque is best for excellent restaurants, strolling and mariachis. The best shopping is in Tonalá. Many tourists go to Tonalá on market days (Thursday and Sunday) — our advice is to avoid those days: too hectic and crowded. The quality goods are available in the shops and stalls which are much more accessible on off-market days. Prices — for everything — are extremely reasonable.

Lake Chapala and the town of Tequila are also convenient excursions from Quinta Real. Chapala is not only beautiful, but also the home to a fairly significant American ex-pat community. Tequila is *really* the home of tequila. Today the spirit has reached elite status. You can visit the distilleries, enjoy tastings and judge for yourself.

And go back to Quinta Real for another fine, romantic evening. This is the kind of small hotel you wish they could transplant intact to Los Angeles...

Dream on...

Hyatt Advert
Film Provided
Keyline F.P.O.

TRAVEL TIPS... UPDATE

China Air offers American Express Platinum Members a 2 for 1 price in First and Business class. This offer is good from September 1, 1997, and all travel must be completed by April 30, 1998. Please call Corniche Travel on 310-854-6000 or China Air on 800-227-5118.

Look for the flying tube of Bacci chocolates! Nestle paid **Alitalia** between \$1.2 and \$1.5 million to paint one of its jets to look like the confection that translates as "kisses." The jet will fly the Rome-New York route for one year.

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The Best of Mexico

From the Sea to Central Mexico Palatial Digs Adorn Jalisco's Prime Spots

by Roderick Mann

The Grand Bay Hotel — Mediterranean magic near Manzanillo.

In the story of "Aladdin" a wealthy Sultan decides to build a palace which will be the envy of all who see it. "Spare no expense," he tells the architect. "I want the best of everything."

That fable springs to mind when you complete the 30 minute drive from Manzanillo Airport to Puerto de la Navidad and catch your first glimpse of the **Grand Bay Hotel**, an extraordinary hotel on the Pacific Coast between Puerto Vallarta and Acapulco.

For here, truly, is Xanadu in the wilds, a place of hand-made tile and imported marble and elaborately carved wood which truly merits the overworked title of luxury. Colonial Mexico meets the Hotel du Cap, you think, as you enter the elaborate lobby.

Fess up, now. Had you ever heard of Puerto de la Navidad? Few people outside of Mexico have, but the backers of this brand new luxury hotel are convinced you soon will. For as more and more Mexican Pacific resorts become tourist-clogged, so, they reason, will travelers seek out other destinations.

This hotel is ready for anything. A 200-slip marina, designed as the largest of its kind in Mexico. A 27-hole championship golf course. Three swimming

pools, with one specially reserved for children. And, of course, the usual fitness center, special children's section, conference and banqueting rooms. Plus a theater. Plus a ballroom.

If you're thinking: sounds too damn big for me, you can forget that too.

Spread as it is over 1,200 acres the hotel is so well designed that individual travelers will never be overwhelmed by scores of name-tag-toting executives trooping in and out of conference rooms.

Colonial style Mexico? That it is; a place of glorious arches, balconies, cool fountains and shaded patios. And if you happen to be traveling with a couple of presidents who want privacy, there's even an exclusive lodge adjoining the hotel, the Meson Dona Paz, which has 10 guest rooms and 2 Presidential suites, that has its own tennis court and thatched roof palapa and private swimming pool. After a while you stop counting the number of swimming pools in this complex because the hotel's own Presidential Suite has another one. So three presidents can stay here at the same time without ever having to sneer at each other.

To add to the attractions of this unique place, the native village of Barra de Navidad is just across the bay and boats make

the journey every few minutes. So if you get weary of eating lobster in the hotel's own restaurants, you can make the short trip to the village and lunch or dine at any of the dozen places there. Or you can dine at the Grand Bay's sister hotel, the Cabo Blanco, which is reached by a slightly longer trip up a series of canals reminiscent of Bangkok.

As you'd expect from a hotel of this calibre everything is available for the traveler, whether his or her taste runs to snorkeling, wind surfing, jet skiing, deep sea fishing, tennis, biking or just lying in a slump slurping margaritas. There's even a little island in the lagoon they plan to use for weddings.

Puerto de la Navidad is a place of balmy days and magical, starfilled nights. One day we took a boat up the coast to a small waterside Mexican restaurant run by the family of one of the hotel's waitresses. The lunch was superb. We said it was too bad they didn't open for dinner. "Come back tonight," they said. "We'll open just for you." And they did. And the lobsters were great. That's the kind of place Puerto de la Navidad is; luxury side-by-side with casual friendliness.

You can fly direct to Manzanillo from Los Angeles, or take a one-hour flight from Mexico City or a 35-minute hop from Guadalajara. The hotel will pick you up. We took the flight from Guadalajara and are glad we did, because it gave us the chance to stay overnight at one of the most enchanting small hotels in all Mexico: the **Quinta Real**.

Not only is the Quinta Real an enchanting oasis of style and tranquility right in the city, but it also offers superb

Continued on page 6

Quinta Real — Guadalajara's colonial charm coupled with superb value.

The Whole in One at Wigwam Resort

If you truly love the game of golf, The Wigwam Resort is the perfect place for you. A truly Southwestern resort, honored by Mobil Travel Guide with a Five-Star award for the last 23 years. And our 54 holes of golf has inspired Golf Magazine to name The Wigwam a Silver Medal Golf Resort.

The package of choice for those who can't get enough of the game is the "Driving Passion." It offers a superior value and includes all the following:

- 4 days and 3 nights in a Premier Casita
- Unlimited play on all golf courses, including cart
- Advanced guaranteed tee times
- Breakfast and dinner each day in any of our restaurants or from room service
- Unlimited use of the driving range, health club and tennis courts
- Complementary airport transportation
- Welcome amenity

Fall rate until January 6, 1998, \$777 per person, double occupancy. A superior value, with winter rates rising to \$1,089 per person.

The Wigwam Resort is located just 25 minutes west of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. An easy escape to one of the finest resorts in the Southwest. For reservations and information, contact Corniche Travel at (310) 854-6000 or the Wigwam Resort at (800) 327-0396.

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