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CORNICHE

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Greetings from the Chairman...

The horrific events of September 11th have changed all our lives in ways we cannot express. Many of us have lost family, friends and associates. All of us have lost compatriots.

What we must not lose is our sense of self and our ability to live comfortably and securely in our free world. Then we have lost this "war" no matter what the foreseeable battles bring.

Many people are afraid to travel. Others are clearly not. Most of us do not want to do any more at this moment than get through one night's sleep without dreaming all those catastrophic scenes — over and over again. All of us are grief stricken and frustrated.

But we must remember who we are. Who all the world now claims to be. Americans. Free Americans. How kindly and warmly the nations of the world have embraced our plight as their own. Many people throughout the world — even free world — know the face of terrorism much more than we do — than we did. They have lived their daily lives coping with the constant fear of bombs, be it from the IRA, the Palestinians, the Israelis. Everyone has a point of view, a different opinion on what is right or justified behavior in light of their cause. But one thing the entire civilized world — sane world — has joined hands with America for today is freedom. Because if it can happen to us, it happen to anyone.

So this is our call to strength. To that special something that makes this country so great, and so unique around the world... Our mish-mosh of cultures, religions, nationalities and opinions, all of which enjoy this unlimited freedom and access to opportunity. We must force ourselves to get back to business as usual. To support our economy. Our jobs. Every person who backs away in fear is contributing in some small way to the change in America those terrible people wanted to create. We cannot let that happen.

Yes, we must grieve. And we must heal. But let's not stop living. Working. Traveling. Dining out with family and friends. Let's get back to the business of being Americans.

Prastava



Villa Arabesque Arabian Nights on Acapulco Bay

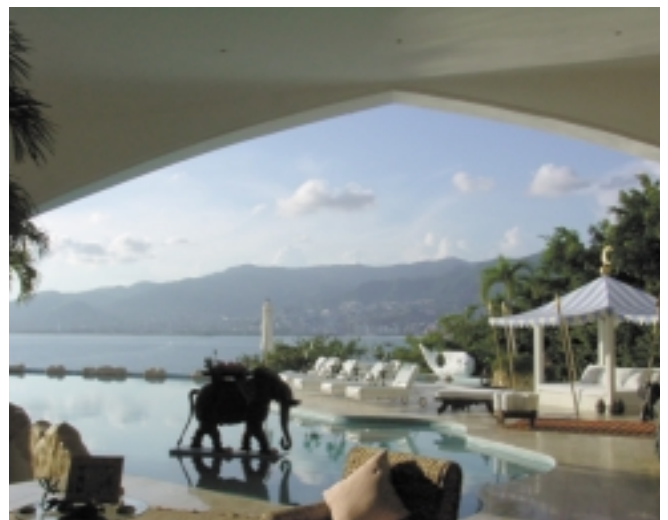
The world's most exclusive and beautiful private home is now available for your personal use.

Internationally renowned, Villa Arabesque was the private home of the late Baron and Baroness Di Portanova. The fabulous setting of hundreds of luxurious parties, the Villa's Arabian architecture lends itself to sun-blessed days and exotic evenings. Its guest list includes heads of state and international celebrities such as: Dr. Henry Kissinger, Placido Domingo, Tom Hanks, Elizabeth Taylor, Kirk Douglas, Kevin Costner, Joan Collins, Frank Sinatra, Julio Iglesias and Lady Bird Johnson just to name a few.

Built on multiple levels, Arabesque flows from lush tropical gardens to the beautiful blue waters of the Bay of Acapulco. Arabesque features a paddle tennis stadium, three lovely free form pools and breath-taking waterfalls that run throughout the villa. A funicular transports you to every level of the Villa. Other amenities include the spacious Camel Roof where receptions are held; a piano bar; movie screening section and your own, private disco.

Twenty-eight staff members are on duty to take care of your every need from offering you an endless variety of international menus to be enjoyed in your choice of several exotic dining areas, a variety of sporting activities and games to serving you pina colodas while you relax by the turquoise tiled pool. They will also arrange

Continued on Page 5



LE MÉRIDIEN GROSVENOR HOUSE HOTEL

Built in 1928 on the site of the first Grosvenor House (famed for its eighteenth century grandeur, royal parties and fine art collections), the hotel has a rich history of quality service and entertainment. Now world-renowned, the luxurious Le Méridien Grosvenor House enjoys a deserved reputation as being *the* place to stay when in London.

Located on Park Lane in London's Mayfair district, guests at Le Méridien Grosvenor House are minutes from chic Knightsbridge shopping and London's classy West End theatres. Overlooking the

three-hundred and sixty-acre Hyde Park, the hotel provides a perfect balance of proximity and tranquillity; truly elegant but refreshingly relaxed.

The hotel's spacious Edwardian bedrooms and suites echo past splendour while delivering all the modern facilities expected by today's leisure or business guest. From its towers of luxury accommodation, to its newly-refurbished health club and dedicated business floors, Le Méridien Grosvenor House offers a range of rooms for the discerning hotel guest.

As one of Europe's finest conference

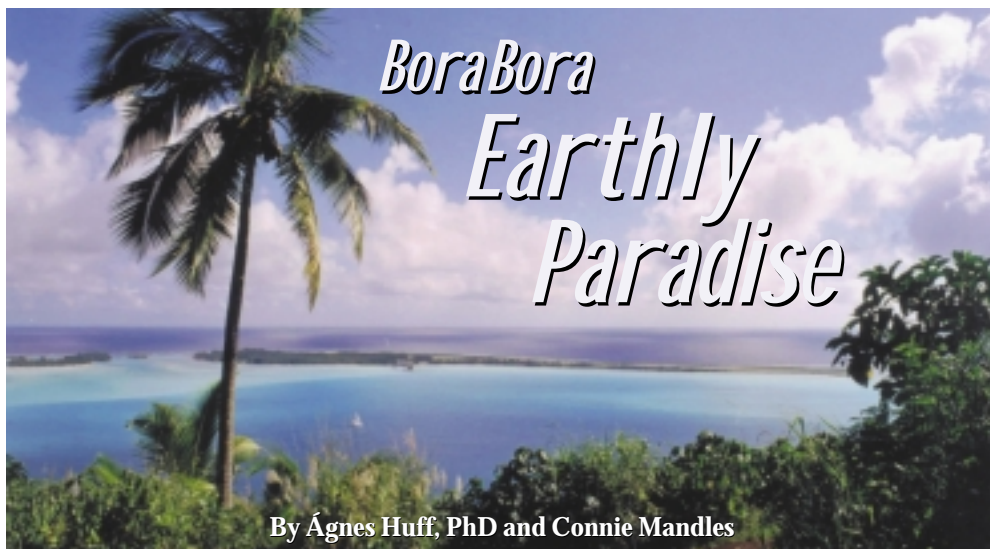
venues, Le Méridien Grosvenor House hosts everything from intimate cocktail receptions to grand banquets, product launches to awards ceremonies. With the world-famous Great Room and Ballroom in its impressive portfolio, the hotel has venues with characters and capacities to suit every occasion.

The hotel is easily accessible from Heathrow, Gatwick and London City Airports, all the mainline railway stations and the Eurostar terminal.

The nearest tube station is Marble Arch, served by the Central Line.



LE MÉRIDIEN GROSVENOR HOUSE • Park Lane, London, W1K 7TN
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By Ágnes Huff, PhD and Connie Mandles

When the pace of life accelerates to supersonic speed, and rest and relaxation are desired, head for the ultimate retreat from civilization, the tiny island of Bora Bora in French Polynesia. Images of solitude, romance and breathtaking beauty make this island virtually an earthly paradise.

Since 19th-century romantics began spreading the word about this Garden of Eden, it has been a magnet for travelers who are invariably seduced by the island's appeal. Worlds away in ambience and attitude, Bora Bora is located 4,100 miles from Los Angeles, and the flight to the capital city of Papeete, takes about eight hours. From there, it's just 150 miles northwest of Tahiti.

The incredible beauty of Bora Bora astounded us. Exquisite turquoise-colored lagoons and a fringe of barrier coral reefs encircle the 17 square mile island. The stories of Bora Bora's beauty are legendary, fueled by the writings of James Michener, who called it the most beautiful island in the world. We celebrated our arrival to this 'Pearl of the Pacific' with views of twin towering volcanic mountains whose basalt peaks are often shrouded in clouds.

Arriving at the Bora Bora Moana Beachcomber Parkroyal, we were treated to traditional Tahitian hospitality: plenty of smiles, cool refreshing towels and delicious tropical drinks, then escorted to our over-water bungalows. Perfectly situated, our thatch-roofed, Tahitian-style quarters were more lovely than we imagined. The generous living area, with a glass-topped table that doubles as an aquarium, and a deck with steps that lead to the crystal

blue lagoon, were perfect to feed the fish or take a sunset swim. A king-sized bed and bathroom shrouded in flowering vines provided the ultimate in luxury, and we felt happily marooned on our own private paradise.

To explore the island, we hired a car and navigated a narrow road that traverses the 17-mile shoreline, passing through the colorful villages of Vaitape, Faanui and Anau. The 5,700 islanders live on this flat coastal strip. A few steps off the main road bring you into the island's mountainous interior, lush with tropical foliage, muddy tracks and leftover World War II military gear. Don't attempt to go off-road here without a four-wheel drive vehicle, and an experienced driver!

Bora Bora's translucent lagoon offers something the best resort pools in the world can't provide — the living ocean. Accessible to beginning snorkelers or divers, there are all varieties of sea life: corals, tropical reef fish, stingrays, octopuses, barracuda, and even sharks. Especially memorable was our outrigger canoe excursion for a shark and stingray feeding expedition. The shark feeding was a bit intimidating, but the sight of 30 stingrays swimming towards our boat for the daily feeding was exhilarating.

At home, we never find time for scuba certification. On Bora Bora, it's possible to do a semi-private recreational dive in calm, pristine blue waters, where even novices felt completely safe with our certified dive master. Equipped with masks, wetsuits and tanks, our gear even provided for underwater communication.

We booked ourselves for tandem jet

skiing, an adventurous 4x4 Island Safari and some boating (canoes, outriggers, motorized hobie cats and more).

Bora Bora's main road is filled with shops, as are the major hotels. The village of Vaitape, probably offers the most concentrated shopping area, although mostly of the souvenir variety. For inexpensive and unusual Tahitian souvenirs, check out the Centre Artisanal de Bora Bora, located near the wharf.

Looking for real keepsakes, we embarked on some serious shopping for Tahitian black pearls. These highly prized, luminescent spheres adorn just about every type of jewelry: pendants, earrings, bracelets and more! After a lot of comparison-shopping, we couldn't resist a few exquisite pieces. The best surprise was that black pearls are native to French Polynesia, which is considered a developing nation, and U.S. residents do not pay any duty!

Although we were sad to leave, our spirits were buoyed by many fond memories of the beauty of what we can only describe as paradise on earth!



Ágnes Huff, PhD and Connie Mandles are LA-based travel writers for Girls On The Go, a subsidiary of Ágnes Huff Communications Group. Girls On The Go offers a full range of travel writing and other related services. Visit their web site at www.girlsonthego.com or call (310) 641-2525 for more information.



GALLIVANTING THROUGH THE GALAPAGOS

by Anastasia Mann, photos by Alexandra Sheldon and Anastasia Mann, sisters

Traveling to South America for any reason sounds like an adventure. But the major cities of the great countries way south of the border are so cosmopolitan that the intrepid traveler may feel a little *deja vu*. So using them as gateways on your way to the more challenging destinations, then enjoying them for care and pampering on the way home is just the right combination.

And that is just what we did!

But in between we had the most fun.

One of those “in between” was our exploration of the Galapagos Islands. Encompassing approximately 23,000 square miles of Pacific Ocean, some 600 miles west of Ecuador, there are 13 islands and numerable islets within these pristine boundaries. While there is still moderate volcanic activity (over 2000 craters are scattered throughout), the islands were formed by volcanic and plate tectonic activity during the same period that man’s early ancestors were emerging as a species in Africa. And not much has changed since then.

We began our adventure upon arrival by air to Baltra Island. Petite and adorable, Colette Moine greeted us as we emerged from immigration. This young French woman was going to be our guide. And lucky us. A guide sent from heaven in every way. She whisked us through the airport and shortly we were clambering

aboard the *M/S Rachel*, a stalwart old sailing boat with limited facilities but a good-hearted crew — and better still — really good food. The sleeping quarters were, to put it charitably, hard to adjust to, but we made the best of it. In no time at all we were hobbling off onto North Seymour Island. What a lot of noise! Scads of sea lions welcomed us flipping and flopping and honking their horns at our arrival. Blue footed Boobies did mating dances, meditated and marched, showing off their fancy footwear to our delight. Overhead the frigate birds — some with their great red pouches inflated to the point of popping — swirled and swooped over our heads with an aerial show to remember forever. What a welcome.

Morning left us slightly bent from the bunks, but we good-naturedly continued on our way to Bartolome island (near the west coast of Santiago) and Sullivan’s Bay where penguins greeted us on the rock formations — the land lubbers waving at the little heads bobbing in the sea, taking us all by surprise. Lava rolls and marine and land iguanas make strange bedfellows but you will see them all, plus the occasional feral goat on Santiago Island. Later that day we climbed to the peak of Pinnacle Rock, a tall, leaning tuff cone — as back patients we had to take it slowly and sturdily, but the view from the top took our breath away. The only way to describe it is “pre-historic.” Had a brontosaurus appeared it would have only seemed natural.



Colette and friends deep in conversation

That afternoon we took our sea legs to Santa Cruz island where a driver met us in a colorful but rickety miniature bus and took us up the mountain to see the giant tortoises — each weighing over 600 lbs. Slow, methodical and deliberate these extraordinary creatures cause your heart to skip a beat as they meander through the meadow of their only homeland on earth. Later in the day we saw their smaller cousins, the sea turtles, mating on shore with the currents aiding and abetting.

Our last morning we had a surprise and unscheduled visit to Turtle Cove where we entered the marshes by small boat and were immediately surrounded by varieties of rays. Groups of spotted rays and golden rays circling the boat had our faces and cameras nearly underwater. Birds we had not seen before peaked out at us, chirping unusual songs, from thick mangroves. What a wonderful, miraculous experience.

Then on to Lima and the sumptuous Swiss Hotel to regroup and recoup. And yes I would go again. Anytime.



Say cheese



Golden rays escort us through the marshes



600 pounds of independence

Villa Arabesque

Continued from page 1

for massages, manicures, pedicures, facials and hair styling, as you require.

The villa has eight unique and individually themed bedrooms. Each bedroom has been recently hand painted with

whimsical Arabian scenes and offers down comforters, feather beds and feather pillows and fine Italian bed linens. They are all equipped with air conditioning, fans and direct television.

During your stay, the Villa's private concierge will arrange all your activities in

Acapulco including boating, water skiing, shopping, sight seeing, nightclubbing, etc. But the likelihood is you'll never want to leave your private palace. Your stay at the Villa Arabesque will be unforgettable.

Call Corniche for additional information, photographs and pricing.

The Claremont Resort & Spa

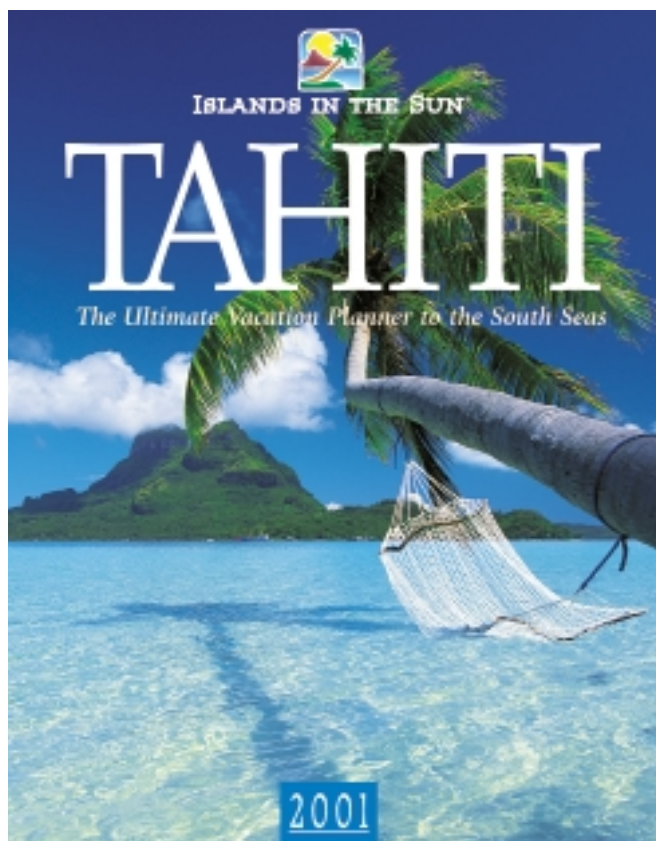


Nestled in the Berkeley/Oakland Hills, The Claremont Resort & Spa lies in one of the world's leading travel destinations — the San Francisco Bay Area. Opened in 1915, The Claremont gained a reputation as a retreat for the wealthy San Franciscans to escape the fog on “the sunny side of the Bay.”

This recently-renovated 279-room, four-diamond property rests on 22 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens with unequalled views of the San Francisco Bay and city skyline. Experience world-class service and distinctive charm amid tastefully appointed surroundings. Indulge and pamper at the all-new Spa Claremont or treat your self to the extraordinary cuisine of Jordan's Restaurant, rated “excellent” by the Zagat Restaurant Survey. The Claremont Resort & Spa's location — just 12 miles from downtown San Francisco or an hour's drive to California's renowned wine country — make it ideal for both business and leisure travel. Rich in history, The Claremont's warmth and character will provide an experience you will soon want to repeat.

For more information, please contact Corniche Travel at (310) 854-6000 or 1-800-852-4417.

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Rome's St. Regis Takes Center Stage *Grandly Restored*

Designed by Cesar Ritz and built in 1894 as the first deluxe hotel in Rome, the St. Regis Grand is located within walking distance to Via Veneto, main shopping areas and historical monuments. It reopened its doors in December 1999 after an investment of over 35 million USD and a nine month renovation program which restored this hotel completely to once again become Rome's finest hotel.

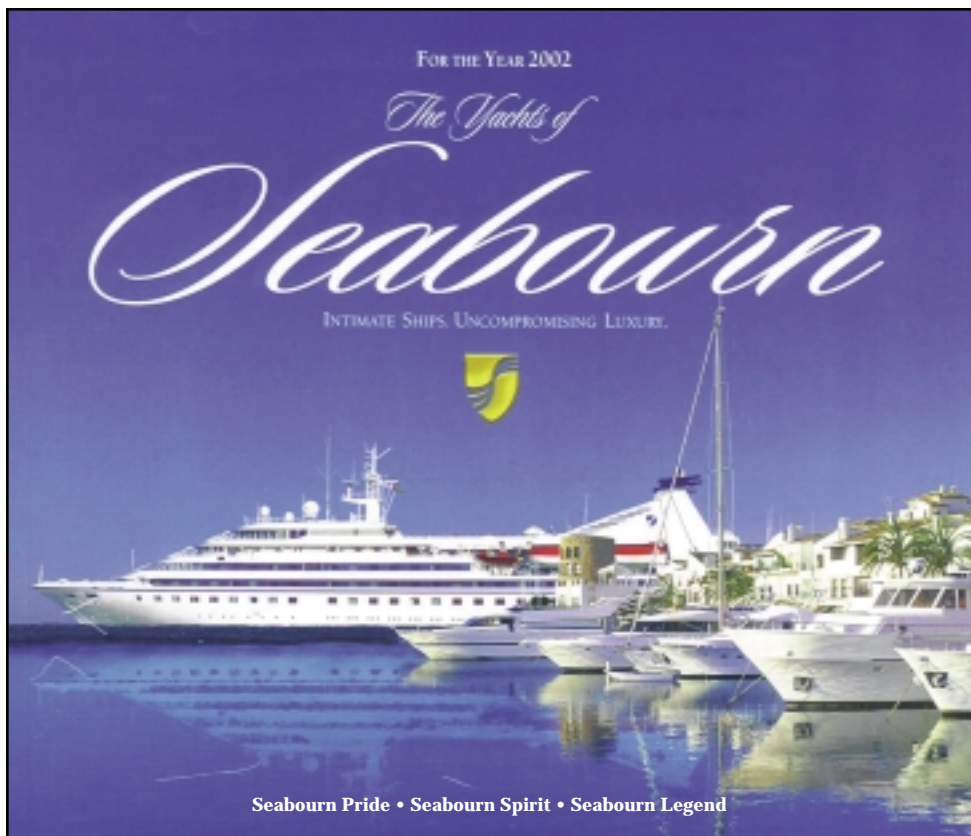
All 161 guestrooms, including 23 suites, are decorated in a true Roman color scheme featuring rich reds and shades of beige and gold. Each guestroom is personalized with a unique hand painted fresco reproducing evocative views of Ancient Rome.

The St. Regis Grand offers two floors of 24 hour Butler service dedicated to pampering and offering extraordinary privileges and comfort including valet service, "concierge" services and luxurious bath amenities.

Vivendo, the classically decorated restaurant with contemporary touches offers a superb selection of Italian dishes flavored with Asian seasonings and ingredients.

For more information, please contact Corniche Travel at (310) 854-6000 or 1-800-852-4417.





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