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• C • L • U • B •



## Greetings from the Chairman...

Dear Friends:

In February I was honored to be a keynote speaker at the Global Summit on Peace through Tourism held in Geneva, Switzerland, February 5-8. The gathering proudly included numerous heads of state; prime ministers; ministers of tourism, security and other branches of governments, and travel and tourism leaders from many countries throughout the world. In addition, the conference was held in the shadow of the United Nations facility in Geneva thereby attracting many ambassadors representing many additional countries with an interest in our topic.

In honor of the strategies we discussed for peace, I am making this the subject of my comments to you now. We have all been completely overwhelmed with sentiments on war and terrorism. Let us – for the moment at least – focus on a better, more positive future for us all.

What role can you or I – each of us with the freedom and means to travel – play in building a culture of peace in the world? Some people think the question is simplistic and meaningless...that we travel for our own purposes, for business or pleasure. But can't our purposes include our interest in other people and other places to the point of caring what happens to them? How their lives and livelihoods effect ours? How many of you have been somewhere on this planet – other than the major capitols of the world – and come home to suddenly pay more attention to the stories about that particular place?

continued on page 6



## Barbados Unspoiled

By Roderick Mann

Spend even a few days in Barbados and you get the impression that the British had put out the lights, shut down their country and moved here en masse. They're everywhere! It is relatively easy for them – a non-stop flight from London, even a Concord once a week - so why hang around in the rain and chill when you can be basking in the sunshine of this glorious island (which, incidentally, provides all the things you are used to: golf, polo, horse racing – even cricket, for those baseball fans – all carried out under a beautiful blue sky almost 365 days a year!)

For the British, a lot here seems familiar. No surprise. They were here for more than 300 years until the island achieved independence in 1966.

British Prime Minister Anthony Eden – Churchill's deputy in World War II - came here to live in the lush Villa Nova after the war. "I love this island," he told Queen Elizabeth when she visited him. The house, set in 15 acres of tropical gardens, is now a boutique hotel (actor Patrick Stewart was just leaving when we arrived).

Actress Claudette Colbert lived here until she died. Even George Washington came here in 1752 and paid his first ever visit to a theatre in Bridgetown. Actor Tom Selleck has a house here (and reportedly brought his Lamborghini with him). And recent visitors include Oprah, Dionne Warwick, Michael Jackson and Mick Jagger. Even Jerry Springer was there holidays.

Barbados natives, called Bajans, claim their island is the friendliest in the Caribbean and

continued on page 11

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## *Calm Lagoons, Exotic Locations and a Luxury Super-Yacht*

The world's first boutique cruises using custom-designed and built super-yachts take to the calm lagoons of Bora Bora and its leeward island neighbors this summer.

Bora Bora Cruises' two gorgeous 230ft. Motor Yachts – 'Tia Moana' and 'Tu Moana', each with just thirty-seven spacious cabins, glide across the calm lagoons of Huahine, Raiatea, Taha'a and Bora Bora on a 7day/6night cruise that just bursts with romance!

Special touches and events include old movies shown on a deserted island under the stars, a full breakfast served on linen and china – at tables in the warm waters of the lagoon, a canoe expedition for two up a tropical river, and elegant dinners onboard with some of the best French cuisine available anywhere.

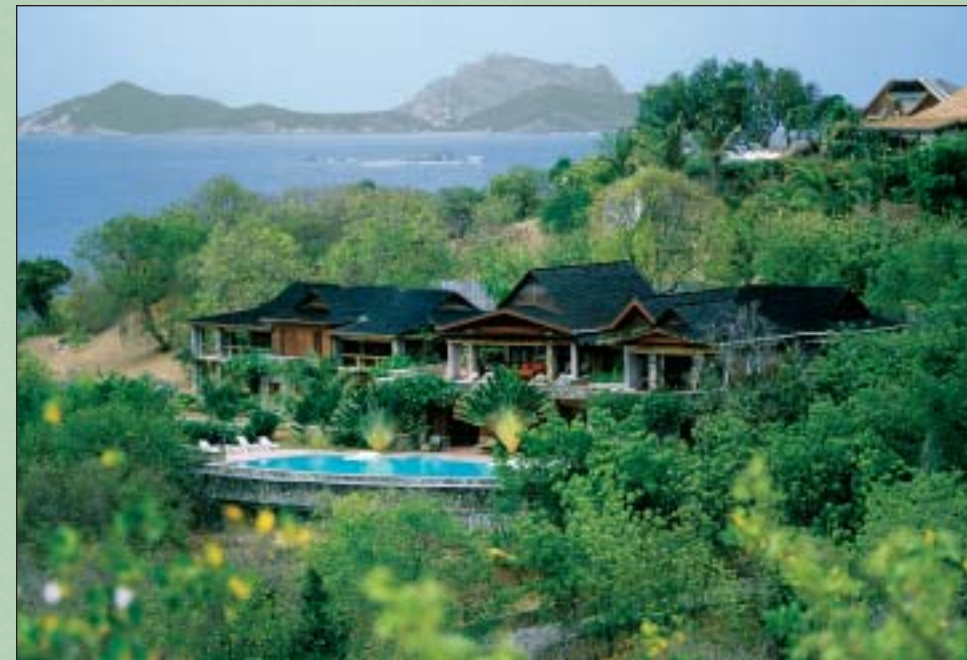
Your super-yacht has a number of sundecks, Jacuzzis, and a number of other facilities that make a calm-water lagoon cruise an experience that you and your lover will cherish forever. Cabins are elegant, with designer facilities throughout, and even a flat screen TV and DVD!

Bora Bora Cruises leave Bora Bora every Monday morning, returning a lazy seven days later on a Sunday afternoon, and are offering special inaugural year 2003 prices.

To book your exotic Bora Bora Cruise, just call the travel experts at Corniche (310) 854-6000.

# MUSTIQUE ISLAND

*There really is a Camelot and it's in the Caribbean*



tique. Water sports abound while day and sunset sails to neighboring islands are a favorite pastime.

Each Tuesday evening the Mustique Company hosts a cocktail party at the impressive Great Room of The Cotton House, the island's only full service hotel, a member of Leading Small Hotels of the World.

Mustique remains the island of choice for those who seek privacy, peace and quiet, yet enjoy a social atmosphere, should you so desire. With the repeat guest ratio at 77%, you soon realize this holiday experience is addictive and not easily duplicated.

For additional information about Mustique, or reservations, call Corniche Travel at (310) 854-6000.

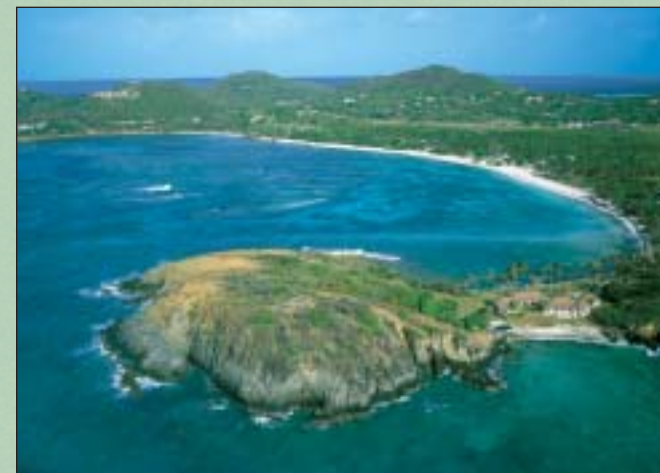
Though only 1,400 pristine acres in size, this private island boasts the world's most magnificent villas and is second home to many of the US and Europe's A+ list. One of its many redeeming qualities is its encompassing management by the Mustique Company, insuring a seamless guest experience. (Direct access through Barbados – 50 minute daily scheduled flights.)

55 private residences are available for weekly rental and with ownership from twenty countries.

Mustique offers a truly international environment, sophisticated yet fun, current with services and technology, yet unspoiled with unpaved roads and little signage or crowds.

With an abundance of architectural styles and prices, you may select your villa by architectural or interior design preference (Tuscan, Balinese, French Colonial, typical Caribbean Gingerbread, etc.). Each villa is privately owned and reflects the personal taste of the owner. The dedicated staff are thoughtfully managed by the Villa Rentals Department. From two to eight bedrooms, \$3,500 to \$40,000 and only two rate seasons, the tariff includes a minimum of three staff and use of one vehicle. The vast majority of residences have swimming pools, a few have tennis courts and fitness rooms, etc.

Recreational activities include a tennis program, equestrian centre and fitness trail. The new beachfront spa has four treatment rooms and a stylish bou-



## TRAVEL TIP

Try out the new website for the Transportation Security Administration. They are now responsible for airport security in the USA. The site has all the latest info on security at airports with what to expect and how to pack, what not to bring and even how to dress!  
<http://www.tsa.dot.gov/public/index.jsp>

# A Taste of the Good Life – Champagne

We came up the rise past Pol Roger, turned left at Mercier, continued through Perrier-Jouët until the road finally crested the hill at Moët et Chandon. Just a two-hour sprint from Paris along the A4, the Champagne region in north-eastern France is a landscape written with popping corks. Births, marriages, Formula 1 victories, graduation, Oscar awards, the launching of ships, the vanquishing of our enemies – where would we be without champagne – and the mood of celebration hangs over these quiet hills just as surely and seductively as the smell of worldly success hangs over the French Riviera. If you're looking for a bite-size corner of France where you can idle away a few days in classic countryside with a noble theme to lend purpose to your travels, Champagne fits like a glove.



Exterior façade of Cathedral of Notre Dame in Reims

The northern gateway to the Champagne region, the city of Reims is one of the historic treasures of France. Between 816 and 1825, a total of 37 French kings were crowned inside its famous cathedral. The present version of the city's Cathedral of Notre Dame dates from the thirteenth century, although there has been a church on this spot for many centuries before. This is one of the benchmarks of the Gothic style – and one of the linchpins of French Catholicism.

The facade is a marvel. Moses, the Apostles, Christ, the Virgin Mary, God and several hundred attendant angels peer serenely from the heights, along with a grotesquerie of squirming gargoyles and small mysteries, such as the head of a squinting rhinoceros. Despite the wonders inside – the Chagall stained glass window, the fifteenth century astronomical clock – the cathedral is actually better from the outside. The interior is cavernous but – for anyone used to the florid decoration of Italian churches – curiously naked.

Away from the cathedral, Reims is a likeable, leisurely city, large enough for a smartish array of shops yet compact enough to find parking space even close to the centre. Come dusk and a lively café scene brings a sparkle to the pedestrian plaza of Place Drouet-d'Erlon.

South from Reims, the Champagne vineyards begin, spreading across slow, tumbling hills that rise and dip with the certainty of an ocean swell. Exploring is easy if you stick to the Route Touristique du Champagne, seven colour-coded wine trails

of the region, with maps available from the regional tourist offices. These routes knit together the rural highlights of the region – the finest vineyards, the prettiest churches and chateaux, the best views and the most photogenic villages.

Among the loveliest is Hautvillers, which crowns a high ridge overlooking the river Marne. It was here in the local monastery that Dom Pérignon discovered the process for making champagne as we know it. Pérignon was a Benedictine monk who was appointed treasurer at the Abby of Hautvillers in 1688. Among his duties was the management of the cellars and wine making, which provided the monastery with its income, but Pérignon had to grapple with mother nature. The cool climate of the region meant that grapes were often not ripe until late in the season. Winter would frequently intervene to halt the fermentation process before all the sugar was converted into alcohol. When the weather warmed up in the following spring – voila – the yeasts would leap into action to resume the fermentation process and unleash tiny bubbles of carbon dioxide. If the wine was bottled

before this secondary fermentation took place, you had a sparkling wine.

Frothing wine was regarded as an aberration at the time, but Pérignon decided to turn it to his advantage. He perfected the art of blending to produce a wine of astonishing brightness, and added small amounts of sugar to control the secondary fermentation. "Brothers, come quickly, I am drinking stars", Pérignon supposedly said when he finally perfected the process at the age of 60, and the world has been applauding ever since.

While any tour of Champagne will take you past a litany of illustrious names, one of the surprises is the number of small producers. On any country road, look for the sign "point d'accueil" and you will find a small winemaker who will gladly explain some of the finer points of the business and probably show you around his cellars. This is not a tasting tour. Given the economics of the industry, it's hardly surprising that producers do not pop their corks gratis for anyone who happens to saunter in the front door.



Champagne producer, Claude Corbon

What do the citizens of Champagne do when they tire of quaffing champagne? They eat, and everyone deserves at least one grand meal in Champagne. In the world of haute cuisine, they don't come much better than Boyer "Les Crayeres", on the outskirts of Reims. The Michelin Guide gives it three stars – their highest accolade. The Gault Millau rates it 17 out of 20, and Eurogourmet.com names it second best on its list of fantastic European restaurants. Just turning down the driveway and into the woodsy grounds of the chateau which once belonged to Madam Pommery is enough to cause the taste buds to flutter in anticipation. Inside, chef and proprietor Gerard Boyer has created a gastronomic temple. Our meal began with duck foie gras moistened with a light duck stock. This was followed by a pan-fried fillet of red mullet, sautéed lobster and finally roast squab before the cheese trolley

rolled into view. The crème brûlée – said to be bettered only by Paul Bocuse – wasn't available. Instead we had a velvety chocolate biscuit piled with fresh raspberries. Every course was a revelation. I felt like the churchy elders in Babette's Feast – dazzled, baffled, swept off my feet – as fresh marvels appeared from the kitchen.

At the very heart of the Champagne region, the town of Épernay is to champagne what Las Vegas is to slot machines. Épernay itself is almost clerkishly dull but it has a source of considerable fame in the Avenue de Champagne, where the most prestigious of the champagne houses run in a long and imperious line of baroque and neo-renaissance facades. Beneath their foundations, the chalk substrata is riddled with several hundred kilometres of tunnels sheltering millions of bottles of slowly maturing champagne bottles. Moët et Chandon, the colossus, has about 90 million bottles housed in 28 kilometres of tunnels, and a tour of the cool, damp cellars

is a rite of passage for any conscientious traveller.

At their southern extremity, the Champagne vineyards melt into the pocket-sized city of



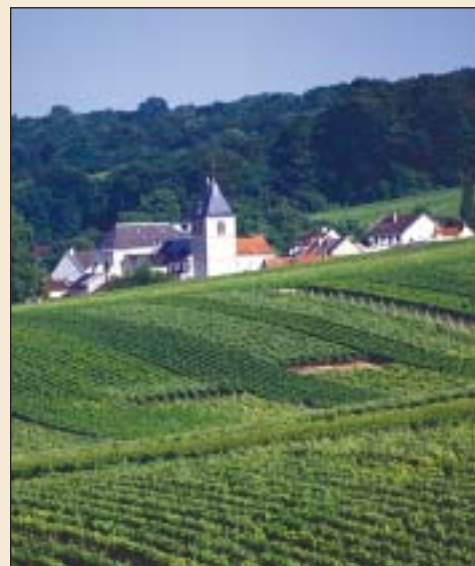
Entering village of Chigny les Roses on the Route Touristique du Champagne

Troyes. Much of the city centre consists of half-timbered buildings that line the narrow streets in a dense and compact tangle of doll's houses, leaning drunkenly against their neighbors. This is a place for wandering and getting lost, where even such unpromising-sounding sights as the Pharmacology Museum and the Tool and Social Philosophy Museum hold a treasury of small delights. In the evening, head for Rue Champeux which ends at the expansive Place Alexandre-Israël. On summer evenings there's music in the air, geraniums spilling from the window boxes around the square, the pop of corks, the sound of music, handshakes and kisses all around. It could be nowhere but provincial France, and really, what more could you ask of life than an evening like this?

To experience Champagne first hand, call the travel experts at Corniche at (310) 854-6000.

## PACKING TIPS FOR AIR TRAVELERS

- **Foods:** Cheese and chocolate can be mistaken by bomb-detection machines for explosives and register a "false positive" reading. Screeners will hand-search bags that register a positive reading.
- **Shoes:** Pack last to make it easier for screeners to hand-search luggage.
- **Film:** Do not put in checked bags because screening equipment will damage it.
- **Books:** Spread them out rather than stack them.
- Leave bags unlocked so screeners won't have to force them open to search them by hand. They can be secured with plastic cable or "zip" ties (available at hardware stores), which cut off easily. Put toothbrushes and other personal items in clear plastic bags so screeners won't have to touch them.



Outskirts of Chigny les Roses in Reims

## "CLOSE TO HOME CRUISING™"

Two ships in the Clipper Cruise Line small-ship fleet feature North American-based itineraries and proudly fly the American flag to signal their U.S.-registry. Clipper's slogan "Close to Home Cruising™" emphasizes the Nantucket Clipper's and Yorktown Clipper's domestic voyages and all-American crew.

The 100-passenger Nantucket Clipper is specifically designed to cruise the shallow, coastal waterways common to eastern North America. Primarily sailing the Atlantic Seaboard on various voyages from Maine to Florida, the Nantucket Clipper also cruises inland along the St. Lawrence Seaway and into the Great Lakes. The schedule extends to the barrier reef of Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras in the winter months.

Nantucket Clipper cruises are perfect for those interested in rediscovering American history through hands-on experience, for wildlife enthusiasts, and for individuals who appreciate relaxing, in-depth destination tours. Since the ship rarely leaves coastal waters, shorter transits offer travelers more time for discovery among magnificent museums like New York's

Metropolitan Museum of Art; quaint villages in the Great Lakes; or historic monuments. During cruises through New England, the playful activities of whales and other marine life will entertain guests; while the majestic bald eagle and other birds are often observed along the shores of the Hudson River.

The 138-passenger Yorktown Clipper highlights the natural beauty of the West Coast



*The Beauty of Small-Ship Adventure Travel*

through itineraries in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska, before sailing Central America and the Caribbean during the winter. Its small size allows passengers to explore areas not typically traveled by larger cruise ships such as the hidden fjords in Alaska or the rivers and tributaries surrounding the San Francisco Bay.

Passengers aboard the Yorktown Clipper appreciate these destinations' natural beauty,



culture, and soft-adventure activities. These travelers enjoy Clipper's relaxing cruise through Alaska's Inside Passage for its pristine wilderness featuring cascading waterfalls, impressive glaciers, and abundant wildlife – including seabirds, sea otters, seals, bears, and a variety of whales.

Both ships offer passengers a casual atmosphere for exploration, similar to that of a floating country inn, serving as the home base with the destination the primary focus. Meals aboard the ship are freshly prepared to order by chefs trained at some of America's most prestigious culinary institutes, offering cuisine that takes on the regional flavor of the areas visited. Clipper's onboard experts - naturalists, biologists, historians, and other specialists – offer a better understanding of the region through commentary and informal discussions during each cruise. For more information, contact Corniche Travel at (310) 854-6000.

*Chairman's Message, continued from page 1*

If you have visited Cambodia surely the people there touched your heart. Did you see the killing fields? It's considered a tourist attraction. But it will change your lives to see it. Suddenly the stories of the Khmer Rouge take on a whole new meaning. What about Africa? Have you had a safari in Kenya. Tanzania or Zimbabwe (the greatest travel experience on earth)? Do you read more about eastern and southern Africa now than you ever would have before? Been to Machu Picchu? What about the changes in Peru these days? Have you experienced the awe of Petra? Did you know the Israelis and the Jordanians are working together to open the Spice Route in the Middle East... in conjunction with the Palestinian Territories? We don't see many stories about that, do we?

Tourism is now considered by most countries a leveler in the balance of trade. Some

countries, like Japan, even issue passports to its people based on trade balances. Most countries in the world have Ministers of Tourism to oversee the benefits of the major economic impact of the tourism dollar on their quality of life. They work to enhance tourism and improve their travel "product." They understand that "getting to know you" means more now than ever before.

So when the time comes to go beyond visiting the beautiful beaches of Hawaii or Mexico or the French Riviera, think about the extraordinary role you can play as a representative of your nation, as a visitor with a mission to get to know and care about the people you are about to meet. Some people want to go a step further. For this reason there are now numerous programs throughout the world called Volunteer Vacations, where any individual can spend anywhere from one or two weeks to one or two years

in the country of their choice, doing volunteer work for the betterment of the children and people of that land. And carry back to your home-town communities stories of your personal experience to help build a better, more-caring society.

We are only touching on a very large subject here. Anyone wanting more information about the International Institute of Peace through Tourism (IIPT) can contact Louis D'Amore at [iipt@together.net](mailto:iipt@together.net) or me at [anas-tasia@corniche.com](mailto:anas-tasia@corniche.com).

When we all care about our fellow man, woman and child - not just our fellow "countrymen" - the world will indeed be on the road to peace. May we all have the opportunity to travel that road.

*Anastasia*

## MAGNIFICENT Alaska Cruises



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## CORNICHE OFFERS SOME HEALTH AND BEAUTY TIPS FOR FLYERS.

- Choose carbohydrates over protein. Mountain climbers eat carbs because they are more easily digested in low-oxygen environments. Fruit is a good source of carbohydrates and vitamins.
- Eat small portions. Your body can more easily digest them in flight.
- Avoid salty foods (skip the peanuts!). They can make you feel bloated and cause your joints to swell.
- Drink lots of water to fight the dehydrating effects (and jet lag) of air travel. Bring your own large bottle of water so you'll be sure to have enough. Carbonated beverages can make you feel bloated; the gas expands at high altitude.
- The eyes and skin dehydrate at high altitude. Put natural saline tear drops in your eyes often during the flight; they replenish the moisture without adding chemicals found in other eye drop solutions.
- Spritz your eyes and face. A small plastic spritzer with plain water can keep your eyes and face from drying out. While face and hands are still damp, use moisturizing cream.

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# Your Tranquil Escape

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Hidden among the most remote and culturally intact islands of Fiji is the sublime Yasawa Island Resort, one of the most exclusive resorts in the South Pacific.

Just 16 luxury bures stand hidden among the palms, each peeking out at a stretch of pristine white beach on an island overlooked by the modern world.

There are no other resorts, no televisions, no traffic and no mobile phones. The only neighbors are in the Fijian villages nearby, including one of only two remaining thatched villages in Fiji.

Each air conditioned bure is superbly fitted in contemporary Fijian style – local timbers, traditional art, thatched roofs and a cool, open plan. Timber plantation shutters bring in the sea breezes while French doors open to a private deck overlooking the ocean.

Every bure has its own thatched beach hut, a pair of shaded outdoor day-beds and a hammock strung between the palms. Inside is a shower for two with a view of the ocean, or there's a discreet shower outside on its own screened sundeck.

Yasawa is an island of isolation, but also one of abundance. Each day the resort's chef prepares superb contemporary food with an



emphasis on the succulent seafood caught in the surrounding waters. Lobster plucked from the island's many reefs is a specialty. Resort owner and host Garth Downey is also a qualified viticulturalist who has gathered arguably the finest wine cellar in Fiji.

Activities at Yasawa include snorkeling, sailing, windsurfing and tennis. The resort's staff can arrange visits to the nearby villages or take guests to one of 14 deserted beaches to enjoy a picnic platter prepared by the chef.

The resort's dive shop is staffed by a fully qualified PADI dive instructor and takes expeditions to the island's pristine coral reefs aboard a purpose-built dive boat. Or there's the resort's Blackwatch game fishing

boat which takes guests in search of tuna and other deep-sea fish.

Yasawa Island Resort is 35 minutes by air from Nadi International Airport, Fiji. Tariffs include all meals, non-alcoholic beverages and all activities except scuba diving, game fishing and massage/facials.

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The word 'secluded' seems so inadequate. On the very fringe of the Fijian islands, it may as well be on another world. It's just you, a partner, a luxury bure, a 5 star bar and the Horizon pool. No television, no internet, no email, no work, no phone calls, no interruptions to whatever it is you find yourself doing. On a whim. On a deserted beach. On a tennis court. On a coral dive. On an exploration around a Fijian village. Just you and whatever takes your fancy.

Yasawa Island Resort. **Where less is more than enough.**



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# THE LALU, Sun Moon Lake

GHM, the hotel management company that managed the famous The Datai in Langkawi forays into North Asia with the opening of The Lalu, Sun Moon Lake. There is no better place to pamper yourself with a delicious array of spa treatments while simultaneously soaking in the cultural sights and sounds of the Taiwanese countryside. Conjure up the image of misty mountains and calm, tranquil waters. This is the view just outside your windows as you lie on crisp white linens, feeling your tension knots ease away under the therapist's nimble fingers.

While many tend to think of Taiwan in terms of Taipei – as an urban megalopolis – nothing can be further from the truth. If you step outside the city limits, you will uncover a countryside that retains much of its pristine beauty and ancient cultures – of waterfalls shrouded in mists, aboriginal tribes in scattered villages and day-long temple rituals.

Located in the heart of Taiwan, just a four-hour drive from Taipei international airport, The Lalu is an ideal getaway to these hidden treasures. It sits along a ridge overlooking the famed Sun Moon Lake, the biggest fresh water lake in Taiwan, so named because its southern half is shaped like a sickle moon while the northern end is shaped like the sun. Originally called the Han Pi Lou Hotel, the resort dates back to 1901 and was known to be the favorite getaway of President Chiang Kai Shek. Today,



the original structure of the Han Pi Lou still stands, however, gutted through and uplifted to house the resort's spa and suites.

The rest of the resort, however, is all brand new, including the seven private courtyard villas. Each villa comes with a 12-meter swimming pool and an outdoor dining pavilion for complete and utter privacy. You can luxuriate in a self-imposed exile and not step out of your villa for the duration of your stay (except perhaps to nip into the spa). The suites are cozy and intimate, with living areas charmingly decorated in local wood and stone. In line with the aim to create a modern retreat in harmony with nature, every room in The Lalu commands spectacular panoramic vistas of the lake.

The Lalu Spa and Rejuvenation Centre offers Eastern and Western restorative treatments using only the best curatives from nature. Revitalize the body and mind with a host of amenities ranging from herbal steam rooms to aromatic saunas and plunge pools. Professional spa therapists pamper with attentive services catered to each individual. Only the finest health and massage products are available in The Spa boutique, for personal use or as special gifts.

Guests have a variety of restaurants to choose from. Instead of the usual pool bar, located adjacent to the pool is The Chinese

Tea House. The Chinese Tea House serves the best grade speciality Chinese tea, a wide selection of savory snacks complete with assorted refreshments. For the all day dining, The Oriental Brasserie offers contemporary Chinese and Western cuisine served in full view of the lake and its surrounding mountains. Enjoy dining indoors or on the large outdoor terrace. The Japanese Restaurant presents the finest choice of Sashimi, Sushi, Teppanyaki, Sukiyaki and other delights amidst a contemporary Japanese setting. The Lobby Bar and Lounge relaxes guests with its creative cocktails, drinks and delectable snacks, served indoors or on its picturesque outdoor terrace. A terrace fireplace creates the perfect ambience for socializing beneath the stars.

For the more adventurous and active guests, the resort offers trekker guides who will take you on various hiking trails such as the Maolin Hiking Trail, which winds along beautiful cedar forests. Boating and fishing trips on the lake are also popular activities with both locals and tourists. Fancy a round of golf? Not a problem at all – there are not one, but two golf courses situated just 40 minutes away by car.

Call Corniche Travel the next time you think of rewarding yourself with a well-deserved spa getaway and head out to the glorious mountain ranges of Taiwan instead of your usual beach destinations.

Barbados, continued from page 1

the most re-visited. Certainly by film director Ken Annakin (“Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines”). He goes every winter, staying at the beautiful and charming Coral Reef Club, right on the beach and made up of cozy plantation style cottages separated by luscious gardens. This is a wonderfully relaxed place of good food and discreet, friendly service. “I’d never stay anywhere else,” says Annakin. It is beautifully run by two generations of the O’Hara family who have owned it since the 1950s.

We were fortunate to stay at both the lovely Coral Reef Club and the world renowned Sandy Lane, just a short drive apart from each other. Recently rebuilt from scratch, tastefully glamorous Sandy Lane – superbly run by general manager, Colm Hannon – is very elegant and is host to a number of celebrities. Guests of the hotel are met at the airport by chauffeur driven, air conditioned limousines and, on arrival, presented with the traditional rum punch. There are several choices for dining facilities and an elaborate spa and pool area opposite the main entrance.

Coral Reef also greets you with rum punch, which is flavored with a special nutmeg making it ever so delicious!

There are scores of restaurants on the island – at last count about one hundred. Our



A quiet moment on the upper terrace at Sandy Lane.



Tropical paradise at the Coral Reef Club

favorite for dinner is The Cliff, a gem of a place set right over the sea, extremely romantic with delicious fare and glowing candlelight throughout.

So the hotels are great and the restaurants fine and the white sand beaches among the best in the Caribbean. What is there to do? A lot.

Barbados boasts some of the finest underground caves I have ever seen. In Harrison’s Cave an electric train takes you through a mile long underground cave festooned with stalactites and stalagmites (some 30 feet long) past emerald pools and cascades of water. Incidentally, the water here is good to drink and is the pure tap water available throughout the island.

Then there are the plantation houses. When sugar profits were at their peak there were more than 1200 plantations, each dominated by a grand house.

There is the submarine, Atlantis, which takes you underwater to view the tropical fish and old wrecks in the Caribbean. There is a wild life reserve, featuring green monkeys and iguanas among other species. And for shoppers, a free shuttle service from the main hotels to the capitol, Bridgetown, for

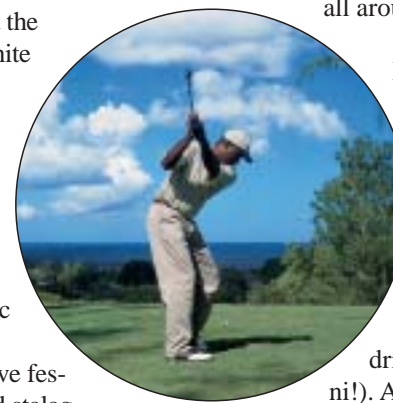
tax-free shopping.

A big plus for some – Barbados claims to have the best medical services in the Eastern Caribbean.

Barbados takes some getting to. It’s 3 1/2 hours from Miami and 4 1/2 hours from New York, which makes it a long haul for Californians. In fact it is quicker to fly there from London – just 8 1/2 hours (and less, of course, by Concorde).

But worth it? You bet. It is, indeed, one of the friendliest of islands – anywhere.

So are there any negatives? Some, perhaps. Gas costs more than \$4 per gallon and they drive on the left. If this doesn’t deter you call Top Car Rentals for an adorable mini car (this company has the nicest people!) (246) 435-0378. Or get Randy Hallett – private driver extraordinaire who knows the history and secrets of the island by heart and with heart (246) 230-5890 and he will drive you all around. He is worth it.



Noel Coward used to quip: “There’s a good reason some places remain unspoiled. It’s because you can’t get a decent drink there.” He agreed that Barbados was an exception. They invented rum so, yes, you can get a decent drink here (even a perfect martini!). And it still remains unspoiled.

For additional information about Barbados, or reservations, call Corniche Travel at (310) 854-6000.



Inside Harrison’s Cave