

ENTREE

AN UNCOMPROMISING AND
CONFIDENTIAL TRAVELERS
NEWSLETTER • PUBLISHED
MONTHLY • AN INSIDER'S LOOK
AT HOTELS, RESTAURANTS &
© TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD

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ROMANTIC *LE TAHA'A ISLAND RESORT & SPA* is the most exclusive resort in *French Polynesia*. A member of *Relais & Chateaux*, it is superbly located on flower-shaped *Motu Tautau*, atop a coral reef with sparkling waters and glistening beaches. Here, a rich aroma of vanilla fills the air and Tahitian life is traditional and tranquil. What separates this oasis from the scene on Tahiti is its authenticity, respect for detail and total indulgence provided for guests. Le Taha'a has 48 over-water suites and 12 beach suites, all with private decks and direct access to the lagoon. Public areas including three fine restaurants built into the trees. The entire resort was built with native hands using local natural materials. Cuisine is derived from the freshest local ingredients and service is crisp and always provided with soft smiles. The heart of the resort is the *Manea Spa*, blessed with an exceptional site nestled in the shade of a coconut grove between the meandering waters of a small lake and the lagoon. Built in pure Polynesian style to merge perfectly with its motu environment, this sanctuary provides soothing treatments. Our favorite: a massage in the lagoon. Silence and harmony with nature are two of the gifts that Le Taha'a gives its visitors. So are 18th and 19th century archeological sites, beach barbecues, picnics, helicopter tours, 4x4 tours, handicraft shopping, and diving. Visit www.letahaa.com.



ON OUR LAST VISIT TO LONDON WE CURLED UP in the loving embrace of *The Montague on the Gardens* (www.montaguehotel.com), a quiet and cozy sanctuary filled with precious antiques just around the corner from the British Museum in fashionable Bloomsbury. Profusely blooming window boxes mark the building; just look for the pretty flowers. Inside, a team of happy professionals bends over backwards for guests. This hotel is a real find with superb rooms. We loved *The Guv'nor's Suite*, a two-bedroom apartment with a stately marble entrance, walls of faux suede fabric and original prints. Under floor heating and ceiling spots create a warm and relaxed mood. Among the numerous features are an inviting copper bathing tub and plenty of antique furnishings. This suite has a garden and full kitchen. The Montague has a terrific dining room and memorable cuisine and an outdoor dining terrace that overlooks the Duke of Bedford's private gardens. You will be treated like a member of the Royal Family here. The Montague's bar buzzes while *Mustafa*, one of the best concierges in all London, serenely commands the lobby with his insider knowledge. He was even able to get us into the best club in London with his vast connections.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING, MAKE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, AND NOWHERE IS IT more special than in *London*. We are happy to report that *Red Carnation Hotels* are offering their *It's a Wonderful Life* package at three magnificent five-star London properties: *The Milestone*, *The Egerton* and “41.” This is a perfect package for those on a break, shopping London’s stores or simply visiting. Available through January 11, 2009, It’s a Wonderful Life includes a minimum two-night stay in luxurious accommodations; deluxe tree ornament plus a DVD of the classic movie “It’s A Wonderful Life;” full English breakfast daily; tea for two with Christmas cake on one day; a bottle of red and white wine; lunch or dinner for two on one day with mince pies, of course; mistletoe on pillow at turndown; a stocking stuffed with seasonal goodies (if stay is on Christmas eve); taxi to Oxford Street to see the Christmas lights and to start pre-Christmas or New Year sales shopping; and free gift wrapping service. Rates for this package at The Milestone Hotel are from \$1285 for a double and from \$2810 for a junior suite. At “41” and The Egerton, junior suites and studios are from \$2112. Rates quoted are based on double occupancy, inclusive of taxes, and subject to availability. If planning on a longer stay, consider the exquisite apartments at “41” and the two-bedroom suites at The Milestone. For further details or to make a booking, in Europe call 00 800 1698 8740; in the U.S. call: (877) 955-1515. View online at www.milestonehotel.com, www.egertonhousehotel.com, www.41hotel.com and

www.redcarnation.com. Red Carnation Hotels is a proud collection of luxury family-run properties in London, Geneva, South Africa, Dorset, Guernsey and Palm Beach, Florida.

TN 2009 *ORIENT-EXPRESS* IS PLANNING TO CARRY LUCKY PASSENGERS FROM *Venice* to *Krakow* on a few special journeys. This itinerary is not their usual route schedule and is an opportunity to be savored. The journey is an overnight one, giving passengers a chance to revel in extraordinary cooking, arresting scenery and the magic service and Golden Age atmosphere of the train's vaunted Art Deco cars. Visit www.orient-express.com.

THE LARGEST CAVES IN THE WORLD CAN BE FOUND IN *BORNEO* AT THE *Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak*. Catch a flight from *Miri* and check in at the park headquarters to be assigned your room. Or stay at the upscale *Royal Mulu Resort*. Take a longboat trip to a local village for handmade craft shopping and then visit the Cave of the Winds and Clearwater Cave. A must is a trek to Langs Cave and Deer Cave to watch millions of bats taking flight for their nightly dinner, an unforgettable sight to behold. Walks through the rainforest, to see 1000-year-old trees and bugs of every size and shape, cool river swims, and exotic Malay cuisine-these are the attractions of a visit to Borneo, where the planet's longest network of hauntingly beautiful caves await. Visit www.tourism.gov.my. To get to Borneo, fly first to *Kuala Lumpur* on *Malaysia Airlines* (www.malaysiaairlines.com), a superior carrier devoted to comfort, cuisine and on-time performance. In KL, the only place to stay is the dramatic *Mandarin Oriental*, www.mandarinoriental.com/kualalumpur, a five-star luxury hotel with extraordinary spa, five restaurants and a pool, all centrally located overlooking the soaring Petronas Towers.

THE *U420LX 20-INCH EXPANDABLE CARRY-ON UPRIGHT* FROM *BRIGGS & Riley*'s signature *Baseline Collection* is a great gift for the serious traveler. This new revamped collection comes in classic black and earthy olive. They've also just added a delicious new chocolate color. With almost all the largest airlines charging for checked luggage, it has never been more important to find a carry-on bag that will help you save money. The 20" Expandable Carry-On at \$369, is extremely efficient and roomy enough to fit all your travel needs. It features Briggs & Riley's One-touch expansion system that increases capacity by 30%, and an Outsider(r) handle for wrinkle-free, flat packing. Undergarments, socks and shoes easily pack in the interior elastic pockets, and the patented SmartLink system allows travelers to securely attach a second bag for easy transport. Visit www.briggs-riley.com.

THE LEGENDARY *HOTEL CIPRIANI* IN *Venice*, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, is dramatically set in exquisite gardens on the lagoon side of *Giudecca Island*. This landmark *Orient-Express* jewel is just five minutes by private launch from the wonders of St. Mark's Square, one of the most renowned piazzas in the world. Staying there is a sublime privilege and the best way to enjoy exquisite Venetian hospitality. The Cipriani has completed the first phase of a three-year rolling renovation project, which includes ten fully refurbished rooms and suites located in the Redentore and San Giorgio wings, all offering smashing views of the Lagoon. The new rooms, six luxury doubles and four exclusive suites, include beautiful bathrooms with large walk-in showers, double basins, and Carrara marble and mosaics depicting a Byzantine-Venetian tradition. Extra lavish touches such as cashmere and silk blankets have been added to make each guest's stay at Hotel Cipriani more comfortable. In the process of expanding the space available in the new rooms and suites, twelve old rooms were sacrificed, bringing the total room count of the hotel down to 92. Interior designer *Michel Jouannet* has used Venetian artifacts, hand-made stuccos, Murano glass, antique mirrors and fabrics by Fortuny and Rubelli to create the luxurious new rooms. To maintain a connection with the past, the same skilled Venetian maestro, *Franco Fogliata*, who decorated many of the Cipriani's suites in 1958, has been appointed to create precious hand made stuccos, following the same designs and methods used over 400 years ago. More prosaically, each new room was equipped with complimentary broadband Internet, high definition satellite TV and the latest technological equipment. The Cipriani still has the greatest pool in Italy and *Cip's Club* dining is an incomparable romantic experience. Visit www.hotelcipriani.com.



FOR A GOOD TOURIST HOTEL IN *LONDON*, WE CAN RECOMMEND THE *Radisson Edwardian Hampshire Hotel*. Situated on the south side of *Leicester Square* (improbably pronounced "Lester" by the Brits), it enjoys a position in the central hub of tourist activity in London, adjacent to *Piccadilly Circus*, *Fortnum and Mason* and *Regent Street*. London's tube runs beneath the square, from which you can get to all points of interest in London as well as the major train stations. The Piccadilly line runs directly to and from Heathrow Airport and is just 5 short stops on the *Bakerloo Line* from *Paddington Station*, where the superb *Heathrow Express* ends. If you have never taken the Heathrow Express, this is probably the best way to arrive in central

London from the airport. The 17-pound journey takes only 15 minutes. It is a quiet and comfortable alternative to a costly black cab. The Express also allows you to avoid the predictable traffic jams when coming from or, more importantly going to, the airport. The rooms at the Hampshire Hotel are large and extremely comfortable. A Bang & Olufsen TV delivered great sound and picture quality while we rested and enjoyed very efficient room service. As with most hotels, it is the quality of the staff that can make or break the experience. We are happy to say that at this hotel, the staff was helpful, polite and extremely proficient. Rarely, for example, were there less than two bowler-hatted doormen in attendance. Dotted around Leicester Square are various bars and restaurants, and we tried a few of them during our stay. They were all agreeable albeit touristy, and some rowdy ones at that. *The Hampshire Bar and Restaurant*, however, distinguished itself by high quality of food and service. While being smack dab in a lively tourist area, the manager and staff clearly work hard to keep the hotel a step above the competition. Our Saturday lunch here was memorable. There is nothing quite as enjoyable as sitting outside on a beautiful day in London eating good food, sipping great wine and listening to and watching the sights and sounds of this great city. Visit www.RadissonEdwardian.com.

HOT TICKETS TO THE MOST POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT ACROSS THE globe are available from *Keith Prowse*, one of the world's largest independent ticket agencies. The company's product line is extensive, including best seats to Broadway and West End theatre, Las Vegas shows, Sydney, Vienna, Prague, concerts, ballet, opera, sports events, theme parks, museums, festivals, attractions and hotel packages worldwide. Keith Prowse is officially appointed by the promoter, producer or venue owner to sell tickets, thereby eliminating any middlemen and avoiding double margins. The end price to the consumer is often the most competitive in the marketplace, and the seat quality is exceptional. Keith Prowse prices are well below what a hotel concierge can offer, and clients report they are always pleased with the seats they get, as well as the time and money they save. For more itinerary suggestions and reservations, contact your local travel agent or Keith Prowse 24/7/365 via the toll-free number, (800) 669-8687, or via the website, www.keithprowse.com.

GOODYE TO *CARLOS LOPES*, THE GENIUS WHO BRILLIANTLY RAN THE beautiful *Bel-Air Hotel* for the past six years. Carlos has rejoined his old partner *Eric Prevett* to buy, develop and manage fine hotels. It will be hard to replace a man of his character, charm and style who loved this great property and did so much for it.

ENTREE RECENTLY HAD the good fortune to spend a few days at *Miraval*, admired as one of the top spa facilities in the world. We are almost always instinctively skeptical at any such grandiose claims, but in general, Miraval more than lived up to its billing. Although one's first contact at entry point into this gated spa is a somewhat alienating, discombobulated voice over a speaker phone (can't you at least organize for a member of staff to be on hand to welcome guests?), our initial hesitation quickly melted away as we walked through this stunning desert resort about 50 miles from *Tucson, Arizona* by the foothills of the Catalina Mountains. Invigorating fitness activities, such as swimming in a superb 20-meter lap pool, horseback riding, rock climbing, tennis, golf, meditation and yoga techniques, and a host of spa treatments combined to make this an ideal de-stressing and invigorating break. The fitness facilities were large and first-rate (as were the trainers, who were particularly helpful pointing out how our fitness level could impede or aid in the prevention of some of common and preventable diseases), the grounds spectacular, and the health spa offers an excellent variety of massage and hydrotherapy suites, a complete range of facial and oriental body treatments and a full service salon. Ayurvedic treatments, acupuncture, Chi Nei Tsang, Shiatsu, Thai massage, seaweed wraps and more are just the start of more than 100 treatment options. For massages, *Ella* and *Bethany* were particularly outstanding, effortlessly eliminating the kinks from our bodies after a long plane journey and drive. Nobody gives a better seaweed wrap treatment than *Michael*, and *Christy* is the "queen of extraction" for anybody in desperate need of a thoroughly cleansing and detoxifying facial. For those more inclined to cerebral activities, holographic memory resolutions, sand play, hypnotherapy and lifestyle consultations are all on offer to facilitate letting go of stress, boosting creativity and changing unwanted habits. All rooms feature a nice, muted desert palette, with large mahogany desks, 42-inch plasma screens and wireless Internet facilities (for which the resort thankfully didn't charge extra-surplus Internet charges are a particular pet peeve of ENTREE). Cell phone reception was somewhat irregular, but since the main objective is to get away from the tyranny of mobile communication, this was no hardship, just something to bear in mind for the jet setting executive who wants to combine a massage and workout with a bit of work. Baths and showers feature sleek Kohler fixtures and Cactus cream toiletries, which personally were not to ENTREE's tastes. But the spa does offer a huge array of high quality



option alternatives, such as Emergi C, Phyto, and Kerstin Florian. Would we rank this amongst our best spa stays anywhere? Close, but not quite 5-star. Miraval offers glimpses of perfection, but service, particularly in the restaurant and spa, is still somewhat erratic. Staff at the spa reception were somewhat indifferent and inattentive. As far as the restaurant went, breakfasts were top-notch and invariably filling, with excellent fresh fruit and loads of healthy, tasty courses. Lunch is also good, but not great, and dinner was where we found some inconsistencies. Our first meal on Saturday was poor, the fish arriving dry and obviously warmed over. This from a resort that says it features "flavored, fresh, healthy cuisine with local ingredients and non-traditional techniques to create familiar flavors and textures." Well, for a spa which urges its clientele to "live in the moment," we were somewhat disappointed with the presentation of vegetables which looked they had gone "well past the moment," and were decidedly not fresh. By Sunday, the chef was very much on top of his game, with an excellent mahi-mahi featuring a wonderful mango chutney, but by the next day, we sadly reverted to average meals, like the vegetable cassoulet that was dry and devoid of a tasty broth. Thankfully, our spirits were more than lifted by the cheerful efficiency of *Kristin*, who embodies all that a great server ought to—cheerful and attentive, without being overly cloying, ensuring that all were well looked after. *Mona* was a particularly pleasant maitre d', who did her utmost to ensure that we were seated comfortably and happily, away from the bugs. These two represented the gold standard to which all Miraval staff should aspire, but we had a slight sense of a resort getting a touch complacent and resting on its laurels when it came to the service ethos. Easily correctable, but we certainly wouldn't want to see Miraval descend further down the slippery slope toward mediocrity. Minor blemishes are always easier to tackle before wholesale reconstructive surgery becomes necessary. Nevertheless, we have a special place in our hearts for Miraval and will gladly give it another shot in the near future because it is so close to reaching the peak of perfection. Visit www.miravalresort.com.

OVER THE SUMMER WE HAPPILY SAW THE REAL TREASURES OF *VENICE* with the husband and wife team *Mike* and *Karen Henderson* of *The Venice Experience*, www.theveniceexperience.com, two delightful Americans who make their home there and conduct informative insider tours of nooks that tourists rarely see. If you are going to Venice, make sure and visit the small and charming restaurant *Osteria Oliva Nera*, (www.osteria-olivanera.com), a beautiful place to avoid the crowds and enjoy quality Italian cooking (by a talented Japanese chef), local wines and the engaging company of pretty owner *Isabella* and her ebullient husband, *Dino*.

MAMaison Le Regina is Warsaw's most elegant and sophisticated hotel, with a prestigious location in Old Town. With 61 air-conditioned rooms on three levels of a lovingly restored historic building, the hotel feels more like an eighteenth century palace, yet one outfitted with all modern amenities. Guests enjoy free high-speed wireless Internet (WIFI) in each room. Centered around a lush courtyard garden, MaMaison Le Regina is somewhat reminiscent of a peaceful monastery with a comfortable lobby and lounge with cozy fireplace and a relaxing spa area, which features a Roman-style swimming pool, fitness equipment and a sauna. Guest rooms are spacious and accented in pleasant natural shades of brown and vanilla, uniquely adorned with hand-painted frescos in antique floral patterns. All rooms are decorated with custom-made wood furniture of fine Italian artisanship. The bathrooms are designed in a tasteful contemporary style, outfitted in pale sandstone and authentic Venetian mosaic. The hotel's restaurant, La Rotisserie, is exceptional, where only the freshest ingredients are used to create perfect and delicious compositions. Chef *Pawel Oszczyk* attracts discerning diners of distinction. Cooking is refined with innovative twists on Polish, as well as French dishes. Connoisseurs are further tempted to indulge their taste buds with an extensive collection of interesting wines, alcohols and liqueurs and a top selection of coffees, teas and cigars. This is a small and beautiful restaurant-30 guests only-open all week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. During summer it expands into a lovely courtyard. Visit www.leregina.com. This hotel is a winner of ENTREE's Golden E Award for excellence.



LUXURY AND LOCATION CONVERGE IN PERFECT BALANCE AT **HYATT Regency San Francisco**. The only Four-Diamond downtown San Francisco hotel situated right on the Embarcadero Waterfront, guests enjoy immediate access to both the Financial District and the city's most famous attractions. You'll find the historic Ferry Building on one side of this expansive property, the ferry to Alcatraz and the Bay on the other, with stunning views all around. With so many options, you may choose to wander from Chinatown to Fisherman's Wharf, shop in Union Square or board the cable cars for a citywide riding tour. Equally impressive are the extensive in-house amenities, with venues created to host any number of group events, tempting dining choices and, of course, the impeccable service that is the hallmark of this remarkable hotel in downtown San Francisco. Visit www.sanfranciscoregency.hyatt.com.

LOVE FRESH SMOKED SALMON? A HIGHLY LAUDED *SANTA BARBARA* company called *The Santa Barbara Smokehouse* imports only the finest fresh Scottish salmon from pristine waters which they then slowly smoke over oak and apple logs from the Santa Ynez Valley to yield a delicate, buttery smoked salmon. This is the smoked salmon the *New York Times Syndicate* called “the finest in the world.” This is a family-owned business and owner *Tim Brown* smokes his salmon in small quantities in a traditional artisanal manner in a \$4 million state-of-the art plant to supply some of the world’s finest hotels and restaurants. Santa Barbara Smokehouse salmon is thinly sliced and 100% Kosher. It is NEVER frozen. The family sells a limited amount of their smoked salmon to the public and ships by overnight delivery. For this reason, they would appreciate knowing your order for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s now so that they can serve you with their usual care. An approximately two-pound side of salmon is \$79.95 plus \$35 overnight shipping; a full side of herb-lemon-pepper salmon is \$89.95 plus \$35 overnight shipping. A tenderloin of smoked salmon, approximately one pound, is \$49.95 plus shipping. Two and a half pounds of hot smoked salmon, cooked and ready to serve hot or cold is \$79.95 plus shipping. This is the best smoked salmon we have ever tasted. Call (805) 966-9796 to place an order. We only nibble on this particular elysian salmon here at ENTREE.

NAMED ONE OF *LAS VEGAS*’ TOP TEN NEW RESTAURANTS BY CITYSEARCH, *Hawaiian Tropic Zone* boasts a sexy modern décor, alluring dining room, mouth-watering menu items, cat-walk stage for nightly entertainment, the largest video wall in Las Vegas, cabaret dancers, full bar, water wall entrance, strip-side patio and a live DJ appearing nightly. Exotic and friendly Hawaiian Tropic models serve as “table concierges” to assist with guests’ every dining need as well as participate in nightly beauty pageants. Costume designer *Nicole Miller* and world-famous chef *David Burke* have come together to bring glitz and entertainment back into fine dining and make Hawaiian Tropic Zone the hottest place on the Las Vegas Strip. Hawaiian Tropic Zone is located inside *Miracle Mile Shops* at *Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino*. For \$119.95 per person, plus tax and gratuity, those looking for an evening of exquisite fare and entertainment will receive a three-course dinner and a VIP ticket to *Steve Wyrick-Real Magic*. Steve Wyrick pulls out all the stops in his one-of-a-kind mega-illusion magic experience, performing some of the most imaginative and mind-blowing illusions anywhere, even making a Lear Jet 35 and an AS 350 helicopter appear, and a West Coast Chopper disappear, in mid-air. His signature, larger-than-life illusions headline, but it is Wyrick’s personal touches that make the show truly unique, allowing audience members to experience both the largest

and smallest magic in one unforgettable performance. To purchase a dinner and VIP ticket package, visit the hostess stand at Hawaiian Tropic Zone or online at www.HawaiianTropicZone.com. For more information, call (702) 731-4858.

ENTREE ESCHEWED THE STRIP IN LAS Vegas recently to dine at the sleek and popular *Twin Creeks* inside *Silverton Casino Lodge*. We enjoyed a splendid classic dinner of fresh seafood, mouthwatering prime rib, tender chicken and delectable side dishes. *Twin Creeks* serves superb cold-water lobster tails, salmon parpadelle and a fresh catch of the day. Diners can also enjoy salt and pepper crusted prime rib in three cuts such as kings double, queens and petite. Other tempting options include chicken Milanese, 8-ounce filet mignon and bourbon BBQ bone-in rib eye. The menu here is both traditional and innovative, thanks to clever chef *Mark Chapman*. His entrées easily rival the best fine dining restaurants on the Strip and at a fraction of the prices. After receiving a \$3.7 million redesign, *Twin Creeks*, in addition to its appetizing new menu, signature boutique bourbons and extensive wine list, has a restyled interior and exterior. Designer lighting throughout three distinct dining areas produces the ideal ambiance. High top tables in the bar area provide casual dining and conversation, while custom designed booths offer seclusion and privacy. New finishes throughout the restaurant such as wood floors, ceiling beams, sheers and candle niches are all part of *Twin Creeks'* transformation into one of the best dining options in Las Vegas. *Twin Creeks* is open for dinner 5-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 5-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Call *Twin Creeks* at (702) 914-8594. Voted "Best Locals Casino" in AOL CityGuide's City's Best awards, *Silverton Casino Lodge* features all-inclusive amenities characteristic of an upscale, contemporary luxury lodge-themed resort. *Silverton's* attractions include the world-class, live action Seasons buffet, Sundance Grill, a terrific 24-hour restaurant/grill, the Zagat Las Vegas Nightlife-listed *Shady Grove Lounge*, and the new, Mexican-inspired *Mi Casa Grill Cantina* as well as 300 large deluxe rooms and suites that offer luxurious amenities. The staff is beyond friendly. In addition to an incredible 165,000 square-foot *Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World*, *Silverton* offers 60,000 square feet of gaming with 1,400 slot machines and 30 table games, an intimate poker room and the *Mermaid Restaurant & Lounge*. The property features a 117,000-gallon saltwater aquarium, voted "Best Free Attraction" in the Best of Citysearch 2008 awards, with more than 5,000 sharks, stingrays and tropical fish. For more information, call (702) 263-7777 or visit www.silvertoncasino.com.



NTREE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT THE magic of discovery. That is why we are excited to tell you about a recent and valuable travel find, the *Marmara Manhattan*, a luxury, extended-stay hotel on the Upper East Side close to fine restaurants, great shopping, museums, parks and schools. The Marmara Manhattan is low-key in nature, punctuated by high-profile design and the dramatic look of a sleek 32-storey apartment building. A sharply dressed doorman stands by the entrance to welcome guests. The atmosphere is very residential and quiet, as is the tree-filled neighborhood. Inside, the Marmara Manhattan explodes with a sun-filled genteel mahogany-paneled lobby, shining marble floors, Japanese courtyard, art gallery and congenial front desk and concierge. As you ascend in the elevators you become aware that the Marmara has no more than five one-, two- and three-bedroom suites per floor and each is designed with contemporary tasteful furnishings. Kitchens are modern and fully equipped. Bathrooms are marble and cutting edge. There are plenty of closets and some suites have Jacuzzi tubs. All suites have complimentary health club privileges plus daily housekeeping, cordless telephones, valet laundry and modem for fax and computers. The *piece de resistance* is the *Marmara's Penthouse Suite*, a one-bedroom aerie that commands mesmerizing views of the city and the East River. Sun-filled and roomy, the suite has a large living room with a giant flat-screen television, modern eat-in kitchen, large regal bedroom and a thoughtfully planned bathroom (with sauna and Jacuzzi tub) the size of most New York upscale apartments. This penthouse has a glamorous wraparound terrace over the East River and is totally peaceful and private. The good news is that while the building normally specializes in long term stays (one month is the minimum), a number of suites can be rented nightly. And very few people know this. In fact, when we tried to secure a room for the New York Marathon and found each and every decent hotel booked to capacity in

New York, the Marmara happily was able to accommodate us. The Marmara Manhattan is at *301 East 94th Street*, (212) 427-3100, visit www.marmaramanhattan.com. Suite rates start at a



bargain \$319 a night. Tastefully decorated studios start at \$4500 per month, perfect for a pied-a-terre, in-between apartment living or après-divorce indecision.

CONTRARY TO RUMOR, THERE ARE SOME EXCELLENT RESTAURANTS IN *Venice* that offer good value. *Anice Stellato* and *Corte Sconsa* are two examples. This report just received from one of *New York's* best concierge and limousine services, www.abcnycconcierge.com, owned by the debonair *Russell Figaredo* who knows all: *London Lennie's* in *Queens* is the quintessential seafood restaurant. Not a joint by any means, every dish on the menu here is special. *London Lennie's* has a fresh feel about it with a wait staff that is friendly, happy and sharp. One of the most amusing things to do here if you've brought kids along is to fish for lobsters at the live lobster tank. Martinis at *Lennie's* are exquisitely dry, and the wine picks always spot on. Linguini with clam sauce is authentically tasty and not overloaded with pasta. Chicken Cordon Bleu light and well seasoned, Caesar salad always tangy and correct. A lobster bisque was perfect and jumbo shrimp cocktail the perfect size for the little buggers. *London Lennie's* is expensive but well worth it. All customers seem to walk away perfectly satisfied. It's not in the city, true, but for the freshest seafood, the experience is worth the drive. We really can't imagine not finding something for everyone here. *London Lennie's*, 6388 *Woodhaven Blvd., Flushing, (718) 894-8084*.

ENTREE has found a terrific travel agent: Nancy Chapin and her company, Vista Travel Associates in Palm Beach Gardens. Nancy and her team have extensive travel experience and true clout in the industry. They can get practically anything done with ease. High end travel is their specialty but Nancy and her company are sensitive to budgets, also. You actually can get a person on the phone when you call Vista and that stands true 24 hours a day. Nancy Chapin and her associates are consummate professionals and totally detail-oriented. They talk great pride in the jobs they do, no matter how unique the challenge. You will be sure to be pleased if you work with Vista Travel Associates, (800) 537-5066.

ENTREE highly recommends the John's Island Real Estate Company, the preeminent broker for one of the world's finest communities, John's Island, in Vero Beach, Florida. If your plans are leaning in that direction, we urge you to consider John's Island. It has no equal for golf, beach, tennis, architectural integrity, and quality lifestyle. For years, Chairman Robert Gibb and his staff have served discriminating buyers, sellers, and renters looking for flawless, knowledgeable, and personal attention. Mr. Gibb's team of dedicated experts specialize only in John's Island and we heartily endorse them. Visit www.johnsislandrealestate.com or call (800) 327-3153.

ENTREE'S BEST EVER GIFT IDEAS FOR 2008

IT'S TIME TO REWARD who's been nice and ignore those who have been naughty. Santa is checking his lists as we speak. The little man in the red suit seems to know just what we're yearning for. Then again, he is a pro. If you're stumped on what to give this year, take a look at our ideas collected over a year in the trenches testing, evaluating and tasting.

FOR THE KIDS: HIT entertainment creates entertaining content and rich characters that are a springboard for a child's imagination. HIT's characters like Barney, Fireman Sam and Angelina Ballerina are great friends for life's early lessons and help children grow through new adventures and encourage children to actively explore and discover their ever-widening world filled with exciting music, stories, people and places with www.hitentertainment.com; Power Rangers Deluxe Master Megazord action figure by Bandai. Kids will love battling to save the universe with its "motorized thunder punch" and its ability to morph into three different creatures, www.bandai.com; The Wave combines surfing, snowboarding and skateboarding in a unique 2-wheel design for carving on concrete. Makes practicing for the snow and surf easy when away from your element, \$99, www.streetsurfing.com; Personalized educational DVDs for kids, a must-have for every young learner, Billy says the name of the child and answers questions such as "Why Do Giraffes Have Long Necks?" Ages 3 and up, www.billybluehair.com; From acclaimed game developer Treasure comes the most explosive missile shooter game ever, Bangai-O Spirits is playable on Nintendo DS systems and is designed for kids 10 and up, www.d3publisher.com; Itzy Ritzy crafts cute and cuddly baby products made from baby bamboo. This eco-friendly fabric is sustainable and grown without pesticides and fungicides. For soft and sweatshop free burp cloths, nursing covers, adorable Bitzy Blankets—an unparalleled designer baby blanket, Baby Ritzy Riders—adorable infant car seat covers, Ritzy Riders trendy toddler car seat covers and their most popular item, the Ritzy Sitzy shopping cart and high chair covers, visit www.itzyritzy.com; Spalding Rookie Gear allows small hands to shoot, kick, throw and catch more easily than ever before. Designed to weigh 25% less than standard youth balls for kids 8 and under. A lighter ball creates a better playing experience for kids, so practicing proper fundamentals and building the confidence they need with a ball that is appropriate in size and weight is fun, www.spalding.com/rookiegear; Jeep Racing video game is a wild ride on racetracks from rainforest and desert settings to challenging dunes and beaches. Race your favorite Jeep, the original all-terrain vehicle on your Playstation or Xbox, www.jeep.com; The adorable 3-disc DVD collections of favorites like Strawberry Shortcake and Carebears for the little ones with classics like "Berry Merry Christmas" and "Grizzly Adventures," www.strawberryshortcake.com and www.care-bears.com.



FOR HIM: SCOTTEVEST makes innovative, versatile, technology-enabled clothing - jackets, fleece layers, cargo vests, pants, shorts, shirts and more, all designed to help you store, manage, and carry your electronic gadgets and other gear essentials, www.scottevest.com; Liz Earle for Men Face Scrub has the purest ingredients designed to leave your handsome face squeaky clean, www.lizearle.com; Perfect Pushup Travel handles for the most effective pushup. Designed by a Navy Seal, they engage more muscles than the traditional pushup and fits easily into luggage, www.perfectpushup.com.

FOR HER: Move over Birkin and Kelly bags, we much prefer the New Bedford Nylon Kate by MZ Wallace. Similar in shape to their best selling Jane bag, this larger sized addition to the Bedford Nylon collection makes the perfect diaper/overnight/gym bag. With extra interior and exterior pockets for carry-all function, the Kate is soft, lightweight, Teflon-coated for water repellency and lined with satin nylon. We love it in orange but the black, plum or rose versions are pretty, snazzy, too. Comes with an additional, attachable shoulder strap. This very useful and chic bag has 4 exterior zipper pockets, 2 side bottle pockets, ten interior pockets, a large zipper pocket containing 2 further interior technology pockets, 6 accessory pockets (each wide enough to accommodate a Blackberry, Treo, iPhone, baby bottle, diapers, etc. and a metrocard / business card pocket. There is also a handy detachable market purse (5" X 3.5" X 2")—holds a Blackberry, key ring or other personal items. Remove the Market Purse and its attachment strap becomes a key ring clip. The Bedford Nylon Collection features Italian leather and custom hardware. \$390, visit www.mzwallace.com; Save Your World, the first company in the United States to launch a personal care product line infused with organic yerba maté and organic aloe vera, has expanded its product offerings to now include a Save Your Body brand, a line of exfoliating bar soaps made with organic oils, as well as Save Your Lips, a line of all-natural, oil-infused lip balms, www.saveyourworld.com; Joey Junior Purse Mate, the fast and easy way to organize your purse and the Joey Junior foldable purse hanger to keep your purse secure and off the ground; Y.e.s. Young Essential Skincare, rejuvenating anti-aging potions with extracts of Aloe Vera, Tea Tree Leaf Oil, Salvia and Pimpinella Anise Fruit. Provides a perfect base for makeup, www.yesskincare.com; Sothys total resculpting serum, a new cellulite solution with a global slimming complex and exclusive active ingredients that work efficiently and on a long-term basis with all types of cellulite, www.sothys.com; Joey Junior Purse Mates organize and create order in your purse for keys, cosmetics, blackberry and more so all items are in plain sight for easy access. Roomy pockets and crafted from luxurious ultra suede, www.joeyjunior.com; Two Liz Earle products from their Naturally Active Skincare range: Orange Flower Hand Wash containing orange flower water, pro-vitamin B5, coconut oil, 7 pure essential oils and natural softeners, designed to protect, clean and hydrate skin. Liz Earle Hand Repair with echinacea, hops, pure essential oils and natural vitamin E ensures refreshed, soft and silky hands, www.lizearle.com; Beautifully packaged and healthy for the skin, Napa Soap is made with cold-pressed grape seed oil in the Napa Valley. It's hand made by the admirable and dedicated Sheila Rockwood and is so carefully created that it must be done in very limited quantities—less than 50 bars at a time, www.napasoap.com; Chic and stylish things made from bamboo to wear from Lotus Blossom Style whose goal—"transforming culture through clothing"—eliminates the use of pesticides and other toxins in clothing production, we especially love the Lakshmi Bamboo tee, www.lotusblossomstyle.com; Eco-cashmere slippers, the perfect marriage of cozy cashmere and a conscience, made from dye-free, eco-friendly cashmere, www.simplysoles.com; Mambino organics maternity cream is a rich, luxurious blend of nature's most nourishing and healing botanicals for expecting moms. It softens the appearance of old and prevents new stretch marks. Restores elasticity and hydration, while soothing dry, itchy skin. www.mambinoorganics.com.

FOR ONE AND ALL: Poo-Pourri, a diverting, scented blend of natural essential oils create a barrier to embarrassing bathroom odors. Just a few sprays and no one will ever know why you momentarily disappeared from the party, www.poopourri.net; My Smart Pac personal care travel kits. Carry-on approved, conveniently packaged toiletry kit with all the essentials, including toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, shave gel, face cleanser and more, www.mysmartpac.com; Slide and Store picture frames—stores up to 10 photos in a slot in back of the frame for a convenient and fast way to display your treasured photographs, www.slideandstore.com; USB Heater Mug keeps tea and coffee warm this season at your desk and in your car. Plugs into your USB port or car lighter, www.giftsatprincess.com; Easy Quick Jumper by Wagantech, recharge dead car batteries safely, quickly and easily within 5-10 minutes from your car's cigarette lighter, www.wagantech.com; Verilux Book & Travel Light, natural spectrum reading light with palm sized portability. Running on both USB power and batteries, it even has a built-in battery charger—www.verilux.com; Bluetooth LCD Hands-Free Car Kit by VR3 Sound Labs. New rules of the road make this a must for cell phone junkies—with echo and noise canceling, call forwarding, call waiting, redial and other powerful extras, www.v-3r.com; The Ultimate Travel Pillow by TravelRest. Its ergonomic shape enables weary travelers to conquer the challenge of sleeping upright. Wonderful for long flights and car drives, www.travelrest.com; Store all “don’t leave home without “gadgets in the PowerStation Traveler. An inner power strip stores and charges 3 devices- ipod, cell phone and BlackBerry at your fingertips charged and powered up in a convenient carry case, www.resourceproducts.com; CableBox is the solution for our tangle of TV and computer cords. It hides messy looking cables and wires from chargers, power strips and wires in an attractive and discreet case, www.bluelounge.com; Pelican’s L4 pocket light with a lifetime guarantee, generates a bright LED beam, fits in your shirt pocket, and has 50 hours of life in its replaceable batteries, www.pelican.com; Viviscal is a naturally-based dietary supplement that has been specifically designed to address thinning hair. It contains the exclusive AminoMar C Marine Complex that supplies vital nutrients needed to nourish thinning hair and promote existing hair growth for men and women, www.help4hair.com; Do your small part in the fight against global warming today while saving money on batteries with the Bedol water-powered clock. Just add water and a dash of salt every 2 to 3 weeks and your clock is good to go, www.bedolwhatsnext.com; Skin Doctors Cosmeceuticals’ Ingrow Magic for effective yet gentle relief of ingrown hairs and razor bumps, www.skindoctors.us; Fun, quirky specialty watches for every occasion, the faces are embedded with witty and intriguing miniature figurines and are terrific conversation starters, www.whimsicalwatches.com; Keep your electronics safe with iFrogz cases for iPhones and iPods. Made from a 100% polished silicone for superior quality and to help repel lint and dust, www.ifrogz.com; Browse the largest collection of quality back scratchers available in one place. With hardwood back scratchers, telescoping back scratchers, other back care supplies—even a special “cast scratcher” designed at the request of an orthopedic surgeon to scratch down inside an arm or leg cast, www.backscratcherworld.com; i-vue Personal Digital Magnifier, for easy reading of books, newspapers and hobbies, pocket-sized with 5-20x magnification, www.clarityusa.com; The VRBT300V Aura Mobile BT is the perfect way to turn your cellphone into a hands-free speakerphone. Sleek and uncomplicated, it easily syncs with your phone and has clarity and fidelity like no other, www.spracht.com; Kipling makes the finest handbags, backpacks, totes, luggage and wallets we’ve ever had the pleasure of hauling around. Designed with flair and style, they are made to exacting standards of the finest materials and will enhance any outfit, visit www.kipling-usa.com; Zippo has produced reliable and durable pocket lighters since 1932. Their newest creation, the Zippo BLU, has a sleek new look with the same rugged reliability, classic styling and flint-wheel ignition. Backed by a lifetime guarantee, www.zippo.com; Since 1941, Jeep has represented the rugged adventure of outdoor off-road challenges. Now, a handsome line of products from Jeep duffels and coolers to tough but elegant wristwatches pay tribute to this durable and

innovative company, www.jeep.com; Zapi toothbrush sanitizer uses germicidal UV light to eliminate germs in just minutes and works with most manual toothbrushes and electric heads, www.violight.com; The Bamboo Tornado ball pen writes beautifully and makes a donation to the Arbor Day Foundation to rescue rainforest and the habitat it protects. Made from solid bamboo, a fast growing, renewable wood that is beautiful, strong and abundant, www.fahrneypens.com; LaLicious is a high-end bath and body product collection that was created to moisturize and smooth bodies to perfection. Their famous scrubs, butters, oils and soaps are available in eight scrumptious scents including their best-selling Brown Sugar & Vanilla line. Using only the most natural ingredients available including soothing and conditioning oils such as almond, coconut and vitamin E oils, all LaLicious products are proud to be free of paraben preservatives and also sulfate detergents, www.lalicious.com; Bionic gloves are designed by a leading orthopedic hand surgeon and have a range of styles specially crafted for golf, driving, dress, equestrian, workouts and gardening. Their bionic technology is found in the design based on the anatomy of the hand and the science of ergonomics, www.bionicgloves.com; Hanky Tanky Hangers are unique closet space savers that will triple your current closet space, their swivel hooks allow you to quickly find needed clothes item at a glance, can hang up to 12 tops or bottoms on one hanger and fit in any size closet www.hankytokyhanger.com; Hand painted Great Composer Bobbleheads are fun and expertly custom-crafted bobble heads of the greatest composers of all time. A considerable amount of research time and design development is put into each of their busts with attention paid to the fashions, colors and styles of the day to ensure that hair styles, whether natural or wigs, were appropriate for the truest likeness of Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and Bach, www.greatcomposerbobbleheads.com; 7EYE sunglasses provide superior protective properties and extraordinary performance. Using the most advanced lens technology, powered by NXT(r), to deliver first-rate clarity and color management in every lens. Their patented frame designs feature Airlock, a non-air-permeable shield against wind, glare and airborne irritants that maintains a comfortable environment for your eyes, www.7eye.com; Why didn't anyone think of this before? Compact and lightweight iGo Everywhere universal wall and auto charger is a convenient all-in-one power solution for practically every gadget we use including MP3 players, cellphones, digital cameras and GPS devices, www.igo.com; Davek Folding Umbrellas specialize in the art of folding travel umbrella. A few notches above the typical folding umbrella, each one employs a carbon WindFlex Frame System, solid steel shaft, Superior-quality fabric and a beautiful brushed nickel Handle. Each umbrella comes with an unconditional lifetime guarantee and the thoughtful loss protection card where you can redeem a replacement umbrella from the company at half-price, www.davekny.com.

SAVORIES: The best smoked salmon we have ever tasted from Santa Barbara Smokehouse in Santa Barbara, buttery and gently smoked or smoke-roasted, call (805) 966-9796 to place an order; Parkview Gourmet Spanish Extra Virgin Olive Oil: a blend pressed from Picuda, Hojiblanca, and Picual varietals, this oil shows the best of each olive with its superior fragrance, www.parkview-gourmet.com; Sublime cheeses by mail from Murray's (especially their Greatest Hits collection of five of their most popular cheeses) in New York, the 68-year fragrant and legendary fromage shop, www.murrayscheese.com; Walden Farm's delicious calorie and carb-free chocolate dips, syrups, peanut butter and salad dressings. Made with Splenda, they actually guarantee your taste buds will be delighted, www.waldenfarms.com; Sorelle Paradiso handcrafted organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil with a flavor reminiscent of Old World Italy. Lovingly made by two Italian sisters in small batches with olives picked by hand, www.sorelleparadiso.com; xplore'r's Bounty certified organic teas are ultra eco-friendly and exhilarating too. Blended with South American Maté, the national drink of Argentina, it's air dried rather than smoked for a smooth taste and finish, www.explorersbounty.com; Shaman Chocolates, organic gourmet chocolate, all profits

support the Huichol Indians whose gifted beadwork, vibrant mythology and healing traditions we adore and admire, www.shamanchocolates.com; Theo Chocolates is the only roaster of organic cocoa beans in the United States, Theo Chocolate strives to lead the industry with the excellence and integrity of its offerings while raising standards for both farmers and consumers. Theo defines the intersection of true chocolate making and sustainable practices, www.theochocolate.com; Scrumptious patés, cheeses, chocolates and more can be found at [igourmet.com](http://www.igourmet.com); They're one of the few sites ENTREE trusts to provide gourmet food and gifts. Offering over 600 specialty cheeses, thousands of fine foods, and a complete line of exquisite gift baskets, each accompanied by detailed information and useful serving suggestions. Surfing around the site, we recently discovered delicious Patchwork Pâté made with organic chicken livers and fresh creamery butter laced with inventive touches like Brandy, Tequila, Mushrooms, Garlic, Cranberries, among other concoctions. It's perfect for an elegant buffet, a dinner party or to share on a quiet night, www.igourmet.com; Woodhouse Chocolates are proudly handmade in Napa Valley and use only the highest quality, freshest nuts, cream, butter and spices available and put together in their own unique way while honoring traditional flavors and techniques, www.woodhousechocolate.com; Los Olivos- made Global Gardens use only the freshest of organic, natural, pesticide-free ingredients to make their exclusive line of extra virgin olive oils, fruit vinegars, appetizer spreads, glazes, savory snacks and confections, www.globalgardensgifts.com; Handmade chocolate by DeBrand is extraordinary and has gained an elite reputation for creating outstanding chocolates, www.debrand.com; The next time you travel to New York, Washington, D.C., or Los Angeles, head to a Le Pain Quotidien restaurant and pick up some great gourmet treats like olive paste, artichoke spread or chocolate spread to bring home or as a gift. Find locations at www.LePainQuotidien.com; Sandra Lee's "Semi-Homemade Cooking" recipe cards. 55 fast and simple family favorite meals, prepare in minutes, www.semi-homemade.com.

MUSIC TO OUR EARS: Optex Music Systems Fretlight guitar, the fastest way to learn guitar with an innovative design in a high quality instrument— learn solos and chords quickly to your favorite tunes. It includes your first 30 interactive lessons on award-winning software titles designed for first-time players and advanced musicians, \$399-\$899, www.fretlight.com; Rediscover the cool groove of Miles Davis' Kind Of Blue. Miles' seminal jam with John Coltrane turns 50 this year and is as fresh as ever. To honor and celebrate, Columbia Records has produced a beautiful 2 disc commemorative box set with unreleased studio outtakes and alternate takes, including a mesmerizing 17-minute version of "So What" recorded live in Holland in 1960. With a 60-page accompanying book, DVD documentary, session transcripts and remastered audio quality, available at www.amazon.com and all retail outlets; Audio-Technica ultra light headphones make annoying and unhygienic ear buds obsolete, and their high fidelity is sure to get you rocking out in comfort and style, www.audio-technica.com.

TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS: The South of France had wonderful grapes this year. This season we're loving Robert Skalli's Pinot Noir, a powerful yet smooth, harmonious wine, with rich notes of chocolate and licorice. Created with sustainable farming methods, it is partly matured in barrels to preserve its roundness, and partly in vats to preserve its fruitiness. Skalli's Chardonnay is elegantly rounded with notes of honey and vanilla, while the cabernet is nuanced with blackberry and currant notes, www.skalli.com; Clos Poggiale wines are organically crafted overlooking the plain of Costa Serena on the east coast of Corsica. We've been reveling in their AOS Corse blend of Syrah and Nielluccio with its raspberry and rosy nose, and woody finish, www.clospoggiale.com; Maison Bouachon's Red 2005, winner of the bronze medal at the International Wine Challenge 2006. Its ruby color and cherry and plum notes are frank, mixing beauty and structure with an almond finish and rich and subtle tannins giving

fullness to this elegant and complex vino. Their Les Rabassières Red 2006 reveals all their know-how of the southern Rhône valley in the art of the blending Grenache - Syrah. With clean colours, lovely aromas and well-balanced structures with coated tannins. We tasted strawberry, blackcurrant, and raspberry with notes of peppermint and sweet spices like vanilla, www.maisonbouachon.com; Remy Martin Grande Champagne Cognac, harvested from 30- to 40-year old vines, result in intense and beautifully aromatic and balanced cognac. Aged for 18 years in small Limousin oak casks, it has a fruity and floral clove character which we find supremely outstanding, www.remymartin.com; Blue Lotus Vodka, a proprietary blend of Taurine, Guarana and caffeine to add a bit of pep to your holiday elixirs, www.bluelotus.com; The perfect aperitif, Dry Sack Medium is a distinctive blend of Palomino and Pedro Ximenez grapes aged in oak casks for six years by the traditional Solera method. Dry Sack Medium Dry has a light, yet satisfying taste and is best served chilled straight-up, or on the rocks, www.kindredspiritsusa.com; Distinctive and elegant yet super affordable Black Swan wines are the essence of the Australian experience. Created with premium grapes from the premiere winemaking regions of South Eastern Australia, their varietals are bold, yet remarkably smooth. We enjoyed their Shiraz with black cherry and peppery spice hints and guests at a recent garden party loved their Chardonnay with a crisp, refreshing taste, www.blackswanwines.com; Catdaddy Carolina Moonshine is traditionally made from corn and born in their authentic copper pot still. The difference is their "secret ingredients" which delivers a truly unique and indescribable taste that is a little sweet, with a little spice and hints of vanilla, cinnamon, and citrus, www.catdaddymoonshine.com; Ventura Limoncello's premium lemon liqueurs are handcrafted with all-natural infusions with locally grown fruit grown in the protected valleys and rolling hills of Ventura County, California. Their lemons are lovingly ripened in steady sunshine, tempered by fresh breezes from the Pacific and bottled using a generations old recipe, [www.ventralimoncello.com](http://www.venturalimoncello.com); Partida Tequila is smoother than almost every tequila we sampled. The reason? Their blue agave is cultivated for 7-10 years until the piñas are perfectly ripened with concentrated sugars, harvested by hand and then slowly baked in state-of-the-art stainless steel autoclaves, preserving the freshness of each agave. www.partidatequila.com; Black Swan Riesling 2007 from South Eastern Australia, a vivacious citrusy flirt with a lime flavor, a hint of pear and a crisp finish, www.blackswanwines.com; Prohibition is finally over. Lucid Absinthe Superieur represents a breakthrough product for the U.S. market, as it is the first, true Grand Wormwood-based Absinthe of its type since before Prohibition. Unlike imitators in the U.S. and many of the so-called "Absinthe" products that litter the international markets, Lucid is crafted directly from selected whole herbs, including Grand Wormwood, and never from cheaper assemblages, macerations, extracts or oils. Visit www.drinklucid.com; Vinturi, a clever wine aerator that enhances flavors, smoothes finishes and encourages wine to breathe instantly, www.vinturi.com; The new Vertical Rabbit by Metrokane stands up on the wine bottle and operates vertically. Like the Original Rabbit, it pulls a cork in three seconds, ejects the cork automatically, and carries a 10-year warranty. The Vertical Rabbit features a die-cast metal lever handle and comes in your choice of high-sheen racing-car finishes: Gun-Metal Grey and Candy Apple Red. And this baby parks in a hinged Lucite presentation case. \$60.00, visit www.metrokane.com.

Books always make great gifts: NAUGHTY PARIS: A Lady's Guide to the Sexy City by Heather Stimmler-Hall and any book on CD from Random House Audio, especially AMERICAN PRINCE (Tony Curtis' memoir), BONES (Jonathan Kellerman's murder thriller), LULU IN MARRAKECH (Diane John's romance novel), THE WIDOWS OF EASTWICK (John Updike delightful sequel), BUYOLOGY (Martin Lindstrom's book about he truth and lies about why we buy), POE'S CHILDREN (Peter Straub's collection of literary horror), CREATING MAGIC (Lee Cockerell sets forth 10 common sense leadership strategies from a life at Disney); BUILDING LONDON: The Making of a Modern

Metropolis, Universe Publishing, \$55, by Bruce Marshall who takes readers on a visual tour of London's evolving streetscape over the past 150 years. Drawn from the vast Getty Archives, there is stunning visual detail how London was fashioned into the thriving international city it is today. Organized thematically and chronologically, BUILDING LONDON looks at royal palaces, Parliament, and other government buildings; hotels, restaurants, and pubs; public spaces such as gardens and parks; transportation hubs, canals and utilities; cultural and entertainment venues; educational establishments; and sports venues-all of which serve as an architectural record of London's rich history. WONDERS OF THE INDIAN WILDERNESS, Abbeville Press, \$185, by Erach Bharucha, over 800 pages devoted to exploring the rich biodiversity of India and its national parks and wildlife with 2000 stunning images. A feast for the eyes and the mind.

FOR TRAVEL: Filson is a leading outdoor apparel company whose 110-year legacy is defined by classic styles that stand up to the toughest conditions. A gift of Filson luggage or apparel is synonymous with timeless design and quality and represents for many a gift that will last a lifetime. Filson's small and smart duffel bag is built to carry as heavy a load as your shoulder can handle, www.filson.com; The Ultimate Travel Pillow by TravelRest. Its ergonomic shape enables weary travelers to conquer the challenge of sleeping upright. Wonderful for long flights and car drives, www.travelrest.com; Store all "don't leave home without "gadgets in the PowerStation Traveler. An inner power strip stores and charges 3 devices—ipod, cell phone and BlackBerry at your fingertips charged and powered up in a convenient carry case, www.resourceproducts.com; Protect your valuables while on the road with the superior quality and thoughtful details of Pac Safe anti-theft backpacks, bags and bag locks. We remember when they started 10 years ago with a single product, now they have developed into a full line of travel security products including adventure, urban and leisure, women's, computer bags, motorcycle gear and travel accessories, www.Pacsafe.com; Franklin's 12 language global translator is almost as essential as your passport. Containing over 450,000 words and 12,000 phrases, it speaks 115,000 words in a recorded human voice. Ideal for communicating on almost any continent with 12 languages and translations to and from Chinese (Mandarin), Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, www.franklin.com; Planet Dog's durable, safe and fun products for canines on the go. With more and more hotels allowing pets, their travel food bags, and water bowls are a must if you're planning on bringing your pooch along, www.planetdog.com; Pak-Lite LED flashlight with over 600 hours of life, and 2 super bright white LED bulbs, it weighs only 1.5 ounces and has a lifetime warranty, www.9voltlight.com; Word-Lock combination locks enable you to set your combination in words not numbers, TSA approved-these locks only allow entry and relocking by you, airport security (cross your fingers) and no one else, www.wordlock.com; Data Safe Series Kenna Kai genuine Italian leather wallets, use a patent-pending shielding material - similar to that used in the U.S. State Department's new ePassports - to protect your personal information, www.kenakai.com; Nomad Adventure Journals-with cues to record every detail of your trips and activities as a diary would, while still providing plenty of space to record your own observations, www.nomad-journals.com; Any traveler knows things fall apart at the worst possible time. In these moments, we keep our cool with a compact bottle of Mighty Mendit, an incredibly versatile bonding agent that repairs everything from leather to plastic to upholstery, www.mightymendit.com; U.S. citizens wanting international cell phone service need a phone that is GSM-compatible and SIM-unlocked. Until now, for dubious reasons rooted in locking you into a multi-year contract, most U.S. carriers cannot or will not be of much assistance in many parts of the world, at least not with exorbitant roaming charges and hidden fees. We're overjoyed that Telestial, a forward thinking company, has come to the rescue. With a variety of options for all corners of the globe calling home and keeping business on track is easier than ever, www.telestial.com. The Scala Rider Q2 is the

latest and greatest among the Scala Rider line of Bluetooth helmet-mounted headsets. This technological gem allows bikers to receive GPS voice instructions, communicate with the passenger on the back seat, to conduct calls on their mobile phone and listen to the embedded FM radio or their MP3 player. Last but not least, the Q2 offers biker-to-biker intercom communication, www.cardowireless.com; Join the Roberts with their fun DVD that enables you be a part of the family as they journey to exotic places around the globe, meet the locals, try new foods, discover history and nature and have a genuine adventure. Find out what it's like to travel with kids from temper tantrums to sibling rivalry to (gasp!) honest to goodness family bonding, www.travelwithkids.tv.

All of us at ENTREE wish all of you a very joyous holiday season, filled with love and happiness.

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THE SANTA BARBARA
SMOKEHOUSE

*Home of Cambridge House
Smoked Salmon*

November, 2008

Dear Friends:

We are excited to announce our holiday season offerings for this year.

Of course, we are selling our popular traditional smoke-roasted salmon which made our company famous. We are the only company left in the U.S. that is still using a very unique approach of slow smoking that results in a salmon that melts in your mouth, perfect for parties and special dinners. This special side of salmon comes attractively sealed and packaged. Please note that due to limited availability for this very special salmon, a week's notice is required to fulfill an order.

We are also offering our delicious Herb-Lemon Pepper salmon, a delicately seasoned salmon that has a delightful peppery-lemon taste. And we are introducing two new products this season: a hot smoked salmon, approximately 2 pounds in weight, cooked and ready to serve cold or to be heated. And we are proud to offer our new mini salmon, one pound in weight, that comes sliced and ready to serve.

Much of my life has been devoted to the art of smoking the world's best salmon. Starting on the borders of Scotland as a young man and in England's Lake Country, I have always been committed to superior quality. In 1999, I carefully expanded to America and opened Cambridge House smokehouse in Santa Barbara. The response of the public and chefs all over this country has been most gratifying and our goals have not changed: to import the finest fresh Scottish salmon from the cold, deep waters of the Shetland Islands and then slowly smoke in our custom-built, traditional open-fire smokehouses. I believe we are the only smokehouse in the United States to use this traditional artisanal approach, a dry cure using an old fashioned recipe and smoking over genuine oak and applewood logs from the Santa Ynez Valley. We have recently re-named our company Santa Barbara Smokehouse and the smoked salmon we are producing is better than ever. We take great pride in our salmon: all sides are fully trimmed and sliced straight from the smokehouse, then delivered directly to your door for optimum freshness. Our salmon is NEVER frozen. It is 100% Kosher approved. Each pre-sliced side normally weighs about two pounds. For those of you who prefer a very delicate mild smoke only, please just let us know; we'd be delighted to accommodate your specific tastes.

We believe our unique approach is why the New York Times Syndicate voted Cambridge House salmon the "#1 in the world." So many fine hotels, resorts, cruise ships and restaurants agree as they serve our salmon exclusively. As President of Santa Barbara Smokehouse, I am confident when you try our salmon, you will agree and I offer a 100% guarantee of this. I hope you will consider ordering our salmon for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's parties and dinners. These smoked salmons also make marvelous, elegant gifts and we are always happy to enclose a personalized gift card with your message.

I know you will not be disappointed with our salmon. An order form is enclosed that can be faxed or mailed to us. Alternatively, we would be delighted to hear from you by telephone. And by all means, if you are in the Santa Barbara please come by for a tour of our sparkling new smokehouse. We are very proud of it. I thank you and wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,



TIM BROWN

President

312 N. NOPAL STREET, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93103
TEL (805) 966-9796 ♦ FAX (805) 966-9794

THE NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE SAYS:
"The World's Best Smoked Salmon!"
Served at the world's finest hotels and restaurants

THE SANTA BARBARA
SMOKEHOUSE

*Traditionally Smoked
with an Open-Fire*

Order Form

Yes, please send me

- CH1 one full side of sliced smoked salmon at least 2.2 pounds in weight.
\$79.95 plus \$35 overnight shipping. (\$25 for 2-day shipping.)
- CH2 one full side of sliced Herb-Lemon -Pepper Salmon at least 2.2 pounds in weight.
\$89.95 plus \$35 overnight shipping. (\$25 for 2-day shipping.)
- CH3 Tenderloin of Smoked Salmon mini side, approximately one pound in weight.
\$49.95 plus \$30 overnight shipping. (\$20 for 2-day shipping.)
- CH4 Pastrami Smoked Salmon mini side, approximately one pound in weight,
\$49.95 plus \$35 overnight shipping. (\$25 for 2-day shipping.)
- CH5 Hot Smoked Salmon, appoximately 2.5 pounds in weight,
cooked and ready to be heated or served cold.
\$79.95 plus \$35 overnight shipping. (\$25 for 2-day shipping.)

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