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WHEN THE MANSION-LIKE BLACK IRON gates swung open for us at lovely *Casa Velas* in the marina of *Puerto Vallarta*, we knew we had arrived at a very special place. We were not disappointed for one minute at this extraordinary resort. Greeted by a smiling staff, cold towels and a cool drink, these touches—especially after a long, hot flight—were like entering heaven. *Mauricio*, the gentlemanly know-all concierge, quickly became our good friend and showed us down marbled halls and through romantic archways to a bright and spacious suite that overlooked the golf course. Each suite at Casa Velas is designed with traditional Mexican furnishings and décor and all have large marble bathrooms, white goose down pillows and comforters plus soothing views of the surrounding gardens and fountains. The hacienda-style Casa Velas, a member of *Leading Small Hotels of the World*, is located just five minutes from Puerto Vallarta Airport and only 15 minutes from the popular downtown area, art galleries and *El Malecon*, the boardwalk. There are just 80 suites, some with private pools and Jacuzzis. The perfect vacation for golfers, Casa Velas is nestled on the well-manicured grasses of Marina Vallarta's 18-hole golf course and also offers golf privileges at two other top 18-hole golf courses designed by *Jack Nicklaus* and *Tom Weiskopf* only 20 minutes away. *Spa Casa Velas*, a *Leading Spa of the World*, is world-



class and encompasses five treatment rooms, a hydrotherapy area, a fitness gym and a beauty salon. There are numerous fine dining venues offering a grand combination of local culture and flavors. We enjoyed a gourmet dinner featuring local cuisine at the regal *Emiliano* restaurant. Emiliano's a la carte fine dining is in the hands of one of the area's leading chefs and his take on Mexican and international cuisine uses only the best market ingredients. We enjoyed grilled steaks and roasted local fish while watching the peacocks strut outside. Try the Mexican wines along with the other international selections. There is fine sushi and drinks at the *Beach Club Restaurant and Lounge* and top flight 24-hour in-suite dining. Guests also have the option of dining at one of two tantalizing restaurants located at the Casa Velas' sister hotel, *Velas Vallarta Resort*. Casa Velas is paradise—an adult only, all-inclusive experience fit for a *rey* and his *reina*. For reservations call (866) 529-8813 or visit www.hotelcasavelas.com. Accommodations (and remember, this is all-inclusive—all wines, meals, drinks and service charges are yours for the asking) start at a bargain \$240 per person with a generous upgrade until December 18.

NOT ONE SINGLE INCIDENT OF the swine flu occurred in Mexico's *Playa Del Carmen* and the *Riviera Maya* where ENTREE was embraced once again by the familiar and exotic hospitality Mexico is



revered for. The appropriate precautions and keen observation remain, though do not hinder the flow of travel when departing to or from Mexican airports. Located on the Caribbean shores of the *Yucatan* peninsula, the Riviera Maya matches modern day luxury with old world attractions. Its proximity to awe-inspiring archeological sites like *Cobá* and *Chitzen Itza's* towering pyramids of the ancient Maya makes visiting this region of Mexico more than just a beach retreat. The hidden entrances in the jungle floor called *cenotes* allow the adventurer access to underground river systems, unique to the Yucatan, that once fueled an advanced civilization. Navigate with mask and snorkel through pure water in colors of blue rarely seen by the human eye, passing through cathedral-like caves with million-year-old stalactites overhead. Follow your guide upstream, downstream and side-stream to eventually emerge in a different part of the jungle. Several luxury resorts dot the coastline of the Riviera Maya, taking advantage of the some of the world's most prized beaches and ocean-bound activities. Most of these are all-inclusive with tasty cuisine fusing Mexican ingredients with European techniques. Whether looking for souvenirs or \$1000 custom leather cowboy boots, Playa Del Carmen's *Fifth Avenue* is

host to a bounty of interesting shops and colorful eateries. With the significant number of Italian transplants living in the area, a great plate of pasta is not hard to come by; however, we did find the lack of plentiful local fresh seafood one associates with a coastal destination to be a tad disappointing. At the nearby *El Dorado Maroma*, a designer beachfront resort, ENTREE enjoyed a relaxing lunch in the breathtaking outdoor setting and were treated to their unusual signature dessert, Crème de Cohiba. Curious excitement preceded this provocative concoction of crème fresh subtly spiked with a sweet hint of fine tobacco on the finishing end, paired with Grand Marnier and a stick of dark chocolate. Playa Del Carmen continues to succeed in making a visit memorable. In November they host a first rate jazz festival on the beach absolutely free of charge. This year, *Herbie Hancock* will headline a list of well-known artists. Go to www.rivieramaya.com for more details. While strolling along its pristine white sand beaches caressed by the clear Caribbean sea, shopping and dining on impressive Fifth Avenue, partaking in one of the many adventurous activities and tours, or just relaxing in the comforts of a luxury suite, this cosmopolitan beach town delights the soul while not losing its Mexican charm.

PHIATON, A LEADING PROVIDER OF PERSONAL AUDIO GEAR, OFFERS THE ultimate solution for maximizing your travel sound needs. Phiaton's stunning lineup of high-end headphones and earphones brings brilliant concert hall sound quality to you whether you're at home, at work or on the go. Phiaton gives music fans of all styles the opportunity to hear great music from their favorite artists in stunning clarity. With an advanced lineup of terrific sounding and very stylish headphones and earphones, perfect for hearing great tunes, Phiaton's premium family of personal audio gear includes our newest favorite—their *PS 200 Earphones*. These sound-isolating, ear bud-style earphones connect to MP3 players, CD players and laptop computers and provide enjoyable, rich bass and terrific high range fidelity. The PS 200 offers high definition sound, specifically tailored for acoustic and string instruments and the pleasing sound of crisp, classical music. To ensure optimum sound reproduction and a perfect, comfortable fit, the PS 200 earphones come with soft silicon tips in three sizes. The PS 200 is perfect for the consumer who loves to listen to every note and detail of music because the earphones employ *Dual Balanced Armature* drivers with passive crossover that provide stronger bass sounds and a wider frequency range than traditional earphones. The manufacturer's suggested retail price for the PS 200 earphones is \$249. Visit www.phiaton.com.

HAVING BEEN RATED AGAINST THE finest hotels around the globe, *Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Wellness Retreat* was voted the Best Hotel in the World in the 2009 US Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards Reader's Survey. We salute the fine men and



women behind this extraordinary jewel. The exclusive five-star wilderness retreat at the foothills of the *Cederberg Mountains*, some 270 miles north of *Cape Town, South Africa*, also took pole position as #1 Lodge/Resort in Africa and the Middle East. Sister property, *The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa*, performed equally well, winning top honors as both Best City Hotel in Africa and the Middle East, as well as Best Hotel Spa in Africa and the Middle East. Readers rated hotels on rooms/facilities, location, service, restaurants/food and value. The Travel+Leisure World's Best Awards can be viewed online at www.travelandleisure.com/worldsbest. Since its inception in 1996, Bushmans Kloof has consistently received worldwide recognition, not only for its renowned hospitality, service and facilities, but also for its dedication to restoring and preserving the natural beauty of the 7500-hectare reserve. In 2007 Bushmans Kloof won the coveted *Relais & Châteaux Environment Trophy* for its exceptional environmental and conservation projects. Less than three hours' drive from Cape Town, the lodge is located within an ecological oasis that is a sanctuary to many endangered species of flora and fauna. It is recognized as one of South Africa's Natural Heritage sites and is the proud custodian of over 130 pristine Bushman rock art sites—some dating back 10,000 years. To make a reservation or for more information, visit www.bushmanskloof.co.za. Bushmans Kloof is a proud member of *Relais & Châteaux*. Bushmans Kloof is located within the *Cederberg Wilderness Area*, which forms part of the beautiful *Cape Floral Region*. Bushmans Kloof is a proud *Red Carnation* hotel, an exquisite family-owned collection of thirteen of the world's best small properties, visit www.redcarnationhotels.com.

COSTA RICA'S FIRST BOUTIQUE HOTEL, *FINCA ROSA BLANCA*, CONTINUES to achieve the highest score in the Costa Rican *Certification for Sustainable Tourism* and was recently voted one of the top 10 eco-resorts in the world by *Trip Advisor*. Situated above the beautiful Central Valley, Finca Rosa Blanca is an authentic Costa Rican hideaway. It was built with the goal of creating an ecological haven and a sustainable tourism destination in a high-quality, aesthetic environment for visitors who want to experience the biodiversity of Costa Rica. The inn has 30 acres of hard bean

coffee which is certified organic by an international organization called *OKO Garantie* and is certified sustainable by the *Rain Forest Alliance* and *CICAPE*, the *Costa Rican National Organization for Coffee*. Guests are encouraged to participate in hands-on production and cultivation in order to gain an appreciation for coffee and the local culture. The Inn also offers 13 unique suites focused on coffee culture, comfort, art and design. Surrounded by volcanoes and indigenous gardens, the inn is a spectacular gateway to a Costa Rican getaway as it is only 20 minutes from the international airport. Visit www.fincaros-ablanca.com. Rooms start at \$240.

FRIENDS OF ENTREE IN *VENICE*, WHO OWN THE PRESTIGIOUS *OLIVA Nera* restaurant, have a lovely apartment that available for rent by the week and allows visitors a true Venetian look at life there. It is located not far from St. Mark's Square, just behind *Oliva Nera*, in an historic old building on the first floor. The apartment is priced at \$2500 a week and it is newly decorated with a fully equipped kitchen. That's a steal in Venezia. There is a master bedroom and a sofa bedroom with two full bathrooms. Included are wireless Internet and one housekeeping visit a week. Lovely towels and sheets are provided. Any other services can be arranged and *Isabella*, the attractive and gracious owner, takes personal care of all guests in the way only a generous Venetian can. A lunch or dinner at their terrific restaurant is included in all rentals. Contact Isabella at info@osteria-olivanera.com and visit www.olivanera.com.

HUMAN TOUCH IS THE U.S. MARKET LEADER OF INNOVATIVE LIFESTYLE and massage products. 2009 marks Human Touch's 30th anniversary as the leading brand of high-technology, design-oriented massage chairs and products for today's modern and traditional living spaces. This innovative company offers advanced technology and designs for consumers seeking to incorporate health and wellness into their everyday routines. Appealing to back pain sufferers, sports enthusiasts and those looking just to relax from today's hectic lifestyles, Human Touch delivers high-quality *Robotic Massage* chairs, zero-gravity recliners and other industry-leading massage products that lovingly help people feel better, play better and perform better. We recently tried Human Touch's *HT-5040* model (www.humantouch.com/ht-5040.html) and found a dreamy place of refuge and respite. We fell in love with the HT-5040's Robotic Massage capabilities and its suite of additional features designed to deliver a therapeutic, full body massage and stretch that melt away sore and achy muscles at the push of a button. Indistinguishable from loving

human hands, it is the best \$1,999 (through the website, \$2299 at stores) we could imagine spending. And this chair is good-looking, too, available in PU Performance upholstery and in three colors. Human Touch products are available online at www.humantouch.com, back care specialty stores, fine furniture stores across the country and through international retailers and distributors in more than 48 countries.

WE HAD RECENTLY GIVEN UP ALL HOPE THAT the airport experience could be anything but an unpleasant one. Then we found *The Parking Spot* at *LAX*. Hallelujah. The Parking Spot is the nation's leading off-airport parking company. To start, guests of The Parking Spot receive a complimentary newspaper upon arrival and chilled bottled water at exit. Imagine that. The Parking Spot's immaculate signature yellow-and-black spotted shuttles pick up guests at their vehicle and run to the airport every five to seven minutes, with shuttle drivers who offer complimentary luggage assistance on their departure and return. Guests may also join the *Spot Club*, the industry's most flexible airport parking rewards program that offers free parking with as few as seven paid days. Several facilities also offer an *On-Airport Valet* service. Simply make a reservation online at www.theparkingspot.com and drop off your car with a valet at the airport. They'll even wash your car if you so desire. The Parking Spot has expanded to 19 locations in its short ten year history, bringing quality service to new cities and travelers across the country. With near-airport parking facilities serving twelve airports in ten cities, The Parking Spot continues to gain a following nationwide and will open several new facilities in the near future. The Parking Spot locations include *Atlanta* (two locations), *Austin*, *Dallas* (three locations serving DFW and Love Field), *Houston* (four locations serving Bush Intercontinental and Hobby), *Kansas City*, *Los Angeles* (two locations serving LAX on Century and Sepulveda Boulevards), *Phoenix*, *St. Louis* (two locations), *Orlando* and *Nashville*. For directions, reservations and more information, visit www.theparkingspot.com. Covered parking starts at \$17.95 a day, valet parking is \$19.50 and open-air self parking is \$13.95. ENTREE is giving away week-long passes to The Parking Spot so keen are we that you will become addicted like we are. Just e-mail wtomicki@aol.com; the first six people who request the pass will be treated to a week at The Parking Spot.



E AT AT JOE'S!—A PHRASE REMINISCENT OF DAYS LONG PAST—IS A reality for those living in *Chicago*. Dining at Joe's is a must for visitors. The original *Joe's* has been a *Miami* tradition for ninety-six years. New opportunities to enjoy this great cuisine now include The Windy City and *Las Vegas*. Famous for stone crab claws, prime steak and seafood, Joe's satisfies the most discriminating diner with delicious entrees and a variety of side dishes. Our Friday night dinner was a dream meal of seafood orchestrated by our colorful waiter, *Charles Raether*. This was our second visit to Joe's, having had a memorable lunch on a previous trip to Chicago. Reservations are suggested for this corner of Grand and Rush Street restaurant (call (312) 379-5637). For those wishing lighter fare, there is a bar food menu available. If you are not in the vicinity of the three restaurants, but wanting a Stone Crab fix, Joe's offers shipping directly to your door with overnight delivery of ice packed Stone Crab claws. These can be ordered by calling (800) 780-CRAB (2722).

LUXE RODEO DRIVE HAS THE privilege of being the only hotel situated smack on the most luxurious and famous shopping street in *Los Angeles*. With 88 very well appointed guest rooms, each designed by famous interior designer *Vicente Wolf*, Luxe offers guests a chic and surprisingly economical environment with unrivalled access to its famous neighboring shops and restaurants. Each room features a flat-screen TV, a multi-line telephone, complimentary WiFi and 24-hour in-room dining. While many rooms feature balconies overlooking Rodeo Drive, the penthouse offers the hotel's most prestigious nest with wrap around balcony and inspiring views of surrounding Beverly Hills, Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles. Hotel guest may dine for breakfast, lunch or dinner in the Luxe's *Café Rodeo* restaurant serving a global-infused menu and providing the only outdoor dining on Rodeo Drive. After dinner, move on to *Bar 360*, where a nightly cocktail hour and live music prevail. Luxe Rodeo Drive delivers exceptional, personalized service and provides guests with total comfort in the middle of glamorous Beverly Hills. *Luxe Hotel Rodeo Drive, 360 N. Rodeo Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210, www.luxehotelrodeodrive.com, (800) 468-3541*. Rooms start at a reasonable \$199.



BALLY'S HOTEL AND CASINO HAS BEEN entertaining guests for nearly 30 years at its prime location in the heart of the *Las Vegas Strip*. Owned by respected *Harrab's Entertainment*, Bally's is big with over



2800 guest rooms and suites. Yet we found rooms to be large, well appointed and in terrific condition and the service very personalized. In its main ground floor 67,000 sq. ft. casino attraction, guests will find high rolling excitement. In addition to gaming, Bally's offers dining options that include their worthy Italian ristorante, *al Dente*, a classic steakhouse as well as numerous quick casual snacking spots. One excellent reason to stay at Bally's is their critically acclaimed revue, *Jubilee*, an elaborately mounted music and dance extravaganza that harkens back to the feathered, sequined, long-legged beauties of yesteryear. Totally up to date, *Jubilee* is a larger than life, jaw-dropping production that has been pleasing crowds for over 25 years and reason enough to head for Vegas pronto. With over 17,000 shows under its belt, *Jubilee* is topless for most of its performances, but does offer a family show. *Jubilee's* way over-the-top nostalgia enchants, titillates, teases and makes you laugh, all in one happy evening. There are seven acts, some of which gather 80 performers on stage at a time. With ticket prices from \$52.50-\$112.50, this spectacular is well worth it for the *Bob Mackie* costumes (or lack thereof) alone. ENTREE's experience also included a soothing visit to *The Spa at Bally's* for total indulgence. Reward your mind and rejuvenate your body with one of the relaxing services offered by a caring staff of certified massage therapists. Deep tissue massage, hydrotherapy treatments and mineral body wraps are but a few of the soothing services available to guests. Practice your backhand on one of Bally's eight championship-caliber tennis courts. These upgraded areas are fully illuminated, so you can enjoy a singles match or a game of doubles either by day or by night. And you can leave Las Vegas a better player than when you came, as experienced tennis



professionals are available to provide private or group instruction. Wade your cares away in an oversized, outdoor swimming pool. Highlighted by palm trees and attentive, poolside service, this is the perfect place to lose track of the day. Harrab's Entertainment's guests enjoy preferred access to two of the nation's most beautiful courses, *Cascata*

and *Rio Secco*, as well as premier golf instruction at the *Butch Harmon School of Golf*. Bally's is also home to *Bally's Avenue Shoppes*, a collection of over 20 stores and boutiques as well as various nightlife attractions including popular

Sully's Bar, the lively *Indigo Lounge* and the *Tequila Bar and Grille*. Bally's is ideally located, adjacent to the *Paris Hotel* and a quick walk to *Bellagio*, *Caesar's Palace* and *Planet Hollywood*. Visit www.ballyslasvegas.com, (702) 967-4111. You can get often a room for as little as \$45 a night these days at this wonderful hotel.

CURSES! WE HAD A WEEK TO bask in the luxury of *Yosemite Valley's Ahwahnee* hotel, only to find that the 1927 classic was sold out. Pondering Plan B while lunching in the Ahwahnee's baronial dining room, we decided to make a day of



Sue De Lapa

it in the valley anyway, taking a stroll to the base of 2,425-foot Yosemite Falls, renting bikes and rafting down the gentle (in this stretch) Merced River. The 1870s *Wawona Hotel* just inside Yosemite's southern boundary is a charming throwback to the pioneer days, but we spent the night a few miles farther south on Highway 41 at the modern, topnotch *Tenaya Lodge, P.O. Box 159, 1122 Highway 41, Fish Camp, 93623*, (888) 514-2167, www.tenayalodge.com. It features an old logging road trail leading through a pine forest to the stables and a waterfall. The next day we headed west out of Yosemite National Park to *El Portal*, where the Merced, now a mighty torrent, roared past our balcony at the comfortable *Yosemite View Lodge*, (800) 321-5261). Four miles downhill on Highway 140 we found *Zephyr Whitewater*, next to the bounding Merced, offering a far more exciting voyage than the float back in Yosemite Valley, (www.zrafting.com, (800) 431-3636). The real gem in Mariposa County's gold rush country is the bustling town of *Mariposa*, with its fascinating *Museum and History Center* (5119 Jessie St., (209) 966-2924, open daily, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.) We were lucky enough to witness a jolting demonstration of the giant stamp mill, once used to crush gold-bearing quartz. *Coulterville* is one of those sleepy, forgotten Gold Rush towns whose most famous resident is *Whistling Billy*. The eight-ton locomotive once hauled ore over what was called "The Crookedest Railway in the World." Not much changes in Coulterville so it was big news when *Peter* and *Cherylann Schimelfennig* reopened the historic *Hotel Jeffrey* along with its bar, where bearded locals drop in for a drink, (5001 Main St., (209) 878-3471.) The rooms, rates start at \$89, are mostly tiny and friendly ghosts are said to walk the halls. A planned week in Ahwahnee luxury turned out to be a colorful trip through California's yesteryear.

A 9,000-POUND BRONZE pivot door gently opens as you enter *San Diego's* newest hotel darling, *Sè San Diego*. Striving to bring to bring chic, world-class amenities, stunning beauty and sophistication to the most



discerning traveler, the hotel easily succeeds. In the lobby alone, you will find black ebony columns adorned with turquoise patina beads, teardrop crystals, Nepali carpets, silver leaf covered walls and shagreen upholstery. Look one way and you will see artist *Ken Gangbar's* ceramic "Finn Wave" wall installation leading up to a restaurant; look another way and you will find yourself admiring a sculpture; turn around and you will find someone fast approaching to offer a beverage and hand you a room key. Easy check in? Yes. Beautiful rooms? A restaurant for a foodie? Spa? Check, check, check. All accommodations are designed with Italian furniture and complemented with Brazilian walnut floors. Bathrooms feature floor-to-ceiling stone walls finished in Jerusalem bone limestone. Luxury linens, 24-hour laundry service, 24-hour private in-room dining and concierge, even a sleep concierge offering a pillow menu are all guestroom features and services. Natural and organic is the theme of *Suite and Tender* restaurant, featuring the cuisine of James Beard award winning Chef *Christopher Lee*. The impressive décor of the restaurant encompasses leather wrapped metal columns, exposed vintage brick, walls covered with inscribed wood panels, and a gold art piece featuring the City of San Diego. Naturally. Entering *Sè SPA* we immediately took note of hundreds of small, colored teacups on the wall. Mesmerized by peace and serenity, we were shown to Moroccan-style chaise beds to relax while waiting for our treatment. And then the spa service occurs—bliss. *Sè San Diego's* signature pedicure and martini service was amazing. As soon as we walked in, we were offered tea and a Soma shot of organic vodka mixed with honey and pomegranate. Soon after, we were ushered to an alcove with three chairs in a row, each with a foot bath. What made the experience so tranquil was the curtain behind the pedicurist, that allowed for privacy from passersbys. The service ended with a "Spatini," much like the Soma shot, and some hors d'oeuvres. We must hand it to the hotel, they are very detail oriented and extremely service driven. Visit www.sesandiego.com. Accommodations normally start at \$500 and soar to \$20,000 per night. Prices vary in the week, depending on what night it is, whether or not there are any special events and room type. However, *Sè* is currently having special rate deals with rooms starting at \$179. (619) 515-3000.

OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE STAYED IN ALMOST ALL OF THE *AFFINIA Hotels* in *New York City*. We like them a lot. Each is unique in many ways and similar in the most important aspect—they maintain the comfort of guests as their first priority. The *Affinia Shelbourne*, where we stayed most recently, is a perfect example. It has 264 suites with separate sleeping and living areas, some with terraces. All the suites have been recently remodeled and they are very comfortable. One of the nice features of the remodeled suites are the fully equipped kitchens. The focus is on family conveniences, which means adequate space and functional, user-friendly kitchens. Grocery service is also available and, of course, there is a full health club on the premises. On the lobby level is the *Rare Bar & Grill* for great breakfasts and burgers later in the day. We would suggest asking for a suite as high up as you can as the higher you go, the quieter it is and the better the views. We had a great corner suite (#1511) with the quintessential New York panorama—the Chrysler Building out one window and the Empire State out the other. The Affinia building dates from the 1920s and at the time was pretty hot stuff. Fred Astaire was known to play miniature golf on the roof which is now a great aerie of a bar. The lobby, like many of the other Affinia hotels, is not elaborate but the rooms are and that is where it counts. Visit www.affiniashelbourne.com or call (212) 320-3120 for reservations. Rooms start at \$340.

SANTA MONICA'S *WILSHIRE* RESTAURANT SERVES A MOUTHWATERING contemporary Californian menu and supports its neighbors through daily trips to farmer's markets for the freshest, locally grown, organic and sustainable ingredients. Executive chef *Andrew Kirschner*, a Santa Monica native, beautifully highlights the quality of his ingredients by creating bountiful dishes that overflow with lively, tingling flavors. Chef Kirschner is dedicated to using the highest quality, and he carefully selects what is best of the season, then preparing all in a way that enhances their natural flavors and textures. The atmosphere is cool, comfortable, and romantic at once, featuring a beautiful two-tiered patio and bar under glamorous candles and tree-strung fairy lights. Wait staff missed not a beat, and we appreciated Kirschner's nods to his prep cooks in the menu. Chef Kirschner's fried Thai whole snapper is strangely alluring and endlessly tasty. Singaporean soft shell crab is lightly breaded and served with a tangy mung bean salad. Miso-marinated black cod was a journey into flavorful exotica. A simple dish of peeled heirloom cherry tomatoes and Burrata with cucumber in white Balsamic became sublime in Kirschner's hands. Filet mignon and Japanese Kobe steaks, both wood-grilled and garnished with an arugula parmesan salad and roasted garlic, delighted as well. In addition to excellent food, the restaurant features a well-priced extensive wine list (wines by

the glass range from \$8-\$15) and serves various specialty cocktails providing the perfect thirst-quenchers on a special night out. An extraordinary happy hour is on hand and Thursday nights you will find delicious \$1 martinis from 10 p.m.-11 p.m. All summer long, Chef Kirschner hosts a Sunday afternoon barbecue on Wilshire's airy and leafy patio featuring gourmet dishes not offered on the regular menu. For reservations call (310) 586-1707 or visit www.wilshirerestaurant.com. All in all, an experience to be savored. The Santa Monica culinary scene continues to evolve with excitement, cementing the city's 8.3 square miles as one of Southern California hottest destinations. For more information on Santa Monica restaurants and attractions visit www.santamonica.com.

AIRTAMER LETS TRAVELERS BREATHE CLEANER, HEALTHIER AIR wherever they go. Worn around the neck, clipped to a shirt or blouse, attached to an armband or belt while awake and placed on a nightstand while sleeping, the AirTamer utilizes advanced ionic/electrostatic purification technology to create a cleaner zone of healthier air while traveling or in other poor air quality locations. Producing and emitting healthy negative ions, the AirTamer forces airborne pollutants, bacteria, viruses, smoke, mold, dust mites, pollen and other allergens and harmful particles away from your breathing space. The AirTamer has no filters to buy or clean and can run for 20 days continuously on a standard lithium coin cell battery. The AirTamer comes with a sturdy metal traveling case, retails for \$59.95 and can be purchased online, via phone at (866) 625-3218 or at retailers throughout North America. Visit www.filterstream.com.

ENTREE has always had a soft spot for the lovely town of Vero Beach on Florida's East Coast ever since that great resort community John's Island was founded there in 1970. We know of no place that can match Vero's assets: perfect weather, distinguished residents, diverse activities, upscale residential options, top golf, beautiful beaches, and more. We urge you to consider Vero Beach if Florida is in your future plans. And if it is, we want to recommend Cliff Norris Real Estate to you. Cliff is the third generation of his family to be involved in South Florida real estate. He knows Vero like no one else, having grown up there. Cliff and his company cater to buyers, sellers and renters at John's Island but he is well-versed in all Vero Beach property. Cliff Norris Real Estate, LLC, 4853 North A1A, Vero Beach, FL 32963, (772) 231-5595.

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