

Luxury Redefined

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE AMAZING HOTELS AND RESORTS THE STARS FREQUENT WHEN “GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL”

Catering to the Hollywood elite definitely ain't easy. These first-class destinations did their homework and mastered making exclusivity look effortless. —*Mona Buehler with Jim Colucci*

EXQUISITE EATS: THE FOUR SEASONS TORONTO

If you're visiting in September, it's best to book far ahead, as this sumptuous palace is a favorite for celebs attending the Toronto International Film Festival. Located in chic Yorkville, known for fashionable shopping, dining and entertainment services, The Four Seasons Toronto is culinary heaven. Executive Chef Claudio Rossi concocts contemporary French cuisine at the award-winning Truffles restaurant, the only Canadian restaurant with five-diamond distinction, and easily the best dining in town. The Rolling Stones, Shakira, Lauren Graham and Michael Caine, among other celebrities, have been known to pop in to the Avenue Bar—fabulous for people-watching, whether you are looking for stars or creative inspiration. fourseasons.com

SUITE PERFECTION: THE ST. REGIS NEW YORK

Built by John Jacob Astor in 1904, this elegant New York landmark takes opulence to a new level with its European-inspired Bottega Veneta Suite. The 1,700-square-foot, two-bedroom, two-bath private palace—complete with living room/dining room, a working fireplace and large windows overlooking Fifth Avenue—boasts Bottega Veneta's sophisticated aesthetic and design. Extraordinary leathers and fabrics, signature colors, natural-hued limestone, mohair velvet wall coverings and expert craftsmanship mixed with classic Louis XVI-style furniture create a unique, exclusive sensibility. Add in the white-gloved, on-call 24 hours pampering from your personal tuxedoed butler, and this suite will satisfy even the most clamorous celebs. starwoodhotels.com



The Four Seasons Toronto

LUGGAGE FREE: THE RITZ-CARLTON, SAN FRANCISCO

Once home to Metropolitan Life Insurance's headquarters and nestled in the heart of San Francisco atop Nob Hill, this stunning, multi-award-winning luxury hotel spent \$100 million on its landmark restoration wisely. Museum-caliber artwork, crown moldings, Louis XVI blue marble and spectacular city and San Francisco Bay views make this place worthy of any lady, gent—or celebrity such as Julia Roberts, Sean Penn, Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, and Will and Jada Pinkett Smith. For VIPs, the Club Level Lounge ranks No. 1 in North America—it's the only San Franciscan luxury hotel offering this amenity. The exclusive Luggage-Less Travel program has become very popular among celebs who regularly commute between L.A. and San Francisco. A-list stars can simply leave their Gucci, Prada and Chanel at the hotel and with a quick call, everything will be pressed, perfect and waiting the next time they take a last-minute, one-hour plane trip up north. For a quick post-flying pick-me-up,



Julia Roberts



Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise

Roberts: Holmes, Cruise: RP Photos; St. Regis: Bruce Buck



The Bottega Veneta Suite at The St. Regis New York

the hotel's signature Spa Caviar Facial is a favorite for plumping, brightening and nourishing tired skin. ritzcarlton.com

MOUNTAIN CLUB & SKI CONCIERGE: THE LITTLE NELL, ASPEN, COLO.

Uniquely situated just 17 steps from the mountain base and thus Aspen's only ski-in and ski-out resort, this premier five-diamond luxury retreat oozes with amenities and will make anybody feel like royalty. Stars and businesspeople alike adore the exclusive, members-only retreat Aspen Mountain Club. Designed by David Anthony Easton, this 7,000-square-foot ultimate ski lodge membership includes two lifetime ski passes to Aspen, 20 single-day VIP passes, Sorel slippers, a personal ski locker, ski boot warmers, full-staff concierge, fine dining, massages and access to the Game Creek Club in Vail, The Club in Telluride, the Corviglia Club in St. Moritz and the Eagle Ski Club in Gstaad. Actors Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Kevin Costner, Robert Wagner and Jill St. John, along with tennis star Martina Navratilova, are Mountain Club regulars who enjoy the top-notch service and privacy. thelittlenell.com

ECO-LUXURY: KIMPTON'S HOTEL SOLAMAR SAN DIEGO

Stylish, swank and right in the downtown Gaslamp Quarter, what makes this San Diego destination spectacular is its hip green appeal and funky ambience. Designed by Susan Caruso, the unique décor evokes a playful *Alice in Wonderland* feeling with unexpected details like a massive, framed floor-length mirror in every room, windows that actually open and in-room recycling. With chocolate and aqua tones, rich mahogany woods, Fuji soaking tubs, pet pampering and complimentary yoga accessories, the 235 rooms will invigorate you body and

soul. Up-lit palm trees, private cabanas and rooftop bar LOUNG-Exix's fire pits make this the go-to hot spot for celebs and locals. Recent sightings include Justin Timberlake, Coldplay, Charlize Theron, Cameron Diaz, Harry Connick Jr., Michael Jordan and Katie Couric. hotelsolamar.com



Bill Clinton



Goldie Hawn

MODERN DESIGN: THE RITZ-CARLTON, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

To those who complain "they don't build 'em like that anymore," behold The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale. Opened in summer 2008 and already having catered to such guests as Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, George Michael and Ozzy Osbourne, the hotel features a whitewashed façade of undulating curves, designed by the renowned Miami firm Arquitectonica to suggest a ship a-sail on the shimmering blue Atlantic. Within its 24 tiered and glass-walled stories, The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale boasts 192 oversized and amenity-rich guest rooms, including eight oceanfront suites which also peer down upon the resort's panoramic pool deck, perched eight stories up. There, from your own private cabana in the sky, it's just a short stroll across the hotel's private pedestrian walkway to one of South Florida's most famous beaches. The only luxury hotel and an instant landmark on the city's beachside

strip, The hotel sets a nautical scene in its interiors, too. Its cool, sleek lobby, with art deco touches in white and gray Italian Carrara marble, iridescent mother of pearl and mahogany, evokes a glamorous age of travels past. The adjacent restaurant Cero features a sophisticated menu with an emphasis on fresh local and organic ingredients, served al fresco on a curving seaside patio, while the resort's exclusive leather-bound Wine Room, separated from the bar by translucent glass, boasts a 5,000-bottle collection. ritzcarlton.com



The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale

Room With a View

Revisit the lighthearted and romantic lives of the folks at San Francisco's elegant St. Gregory Hotel when *Hotel: The First Season* (\$54.99) opens its doors on DVD July 21. The 1984 People's Choice Award winner for Favorite New TV Dramatic Program, *Hotel* debuts as a six-disc set from CBS Home Entertainment and Paramount Home Entertainment, featuring

all 22 first-season episodes. The set includes the series' rarely seen made-for-TV movie pilot featuring two-time Academy Award winner Bette Davis (*All About Eve*) in a rare television appearance as hotel owner Laura Trent. The series was set at the real-life Fairmont Hotel San Francisco, where CBS *Watch!* photographed *CSI: NY* star Melina Kanakaredes for its April 2008 cover.

