

TRAVEL + LEISURE

JUNE 2005

japan's
spa secrets

ireland's top
country-house
hotels

SPECIAL

hotels issue

our favorite rooms,
bars, beds,
views, and more

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and play

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classic's magic
makeover

barcelona's
best new
restaurants



GO TO A HOTEL MONTH

shops + services

A personal assistant at the Beach House, Barbuda. Left: The shop at the Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay.



what's in store

A good hotel shop disproves the cliché and says, Yes, you can take it with you. If admiring local handicrafts was the high point of your Indonesian vacation, get some to go at the Boutique & Gallery at **Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay**, which sells local artifacts, silk sarongs, and stunning jewelry. ● La Galería Que Canta, in the Mexican Riviera's **La Casa Que Canta**, carries a handpicked selection of ceramics, jewelry, and folk pieces. ● For those who love fashion as much as art, the gift shop at **Carlisle Bay**, on Antigua, offers Vilebrequin swim trunks, Babylone jewelry from Paris, and hand-embroidered Isabelle Fraysse clothes from India. ● **Vanessa Noel Hotel** on Nantucket stocks sought-after shoes created by the inn's designer-owner. ● Spa and fitness buffs rave about the shop at the **James Hotel Scottsdale** in Arizona, which sells Aesop skin care and its own line of urbane T-shirts and gym wear. ● Along with Ole Henriksen skin care products and beach towels, the Cottage at **Shutters on the Beach**, in Santa Monica, carries much more evocative souvenirs, including Italian handblown glasses and candles by Archipelago Botanicals.

ULTIMATE PACKAGES SHOPPING

CALIFORNIA 2005 Le Shopping at Le Meridien Beverly Hills Two nights in a suite; five hours with personal shopper; two one-hour spa treatments; and dinner at Arnie Morton's steak house. \$2,005, double, through September 4. 800/645-5624; www.limeridienbeverlyhills.com.

ITALY Damiani at the Grand Hotel or Westin Excelsior Two nights in a junior suite at either hotel; three hours with personal shopper; beauty and makeup consultation at Aldo Coppola Salon; dinner at the hotel; breakfast and consultation at the Damiani jewelry boutique. \$3,300, double, through July 15. Florence; Grand Hotel, 39-055/2716-3749; Westin Excelsior, 39-055/2716-3757; www.starwood.com.

GREECE T+L Ultimate Art at the Athenaeum InterContinental Athens One night in a club-level junior suite; half- or full-day private tour. \$767, double, with half-day tour or \$1,168 with full-day tour (extra nights \$367 each), through December. 30-210/920-6000; www.intercontinental.com.

people power

They say God is in the details. These helpful souls, then, are the gods of small things; it's their extra attention that can transform a run-of-the-mill vacation. Personal assistants at the **Beach House, Barbuda** book massages, run essential errands, or just fulfill your every whim. ● The 23 butlers at the **Lanesborough** in London will not only unpack suitcases but also track down favorite wines and even translate speeches for business travelers. ● The **Park Hyatt Milan's** discreet concierge, Mario Eroico, secures hard-to-get tickets (La Scala—tonight!) and also sets the mood—he sent 100 roses to one guest's fiancée every day for a year. ● Momoko, the chief concierge at the **Hotel Seiyō Ginza** in Tokyo, is an expert at helping guests relax, finding Reiki and shiatsu masters at a moment's notice. ● Milner Trotman, the grandmotherly babysitter available at **Ariel Sands** in Bermuda, is so beloved by children, parents, and locals, her nickname is Sister. ● The **Dorchester** in London employs E-Butlers for guests' computer emergencies. ● At the **Ritz-Carlton, Boston**, six fireplace butlers kindle custom blazes after advising guests on wood choice (cherry to scent the room, say, or birch for a quick burn). »