

THE STYLE + CULTURE ISSUE

TRAVEL + LEISURE

OCTOBER 2007

mexico's
*** next**
great beach
towns

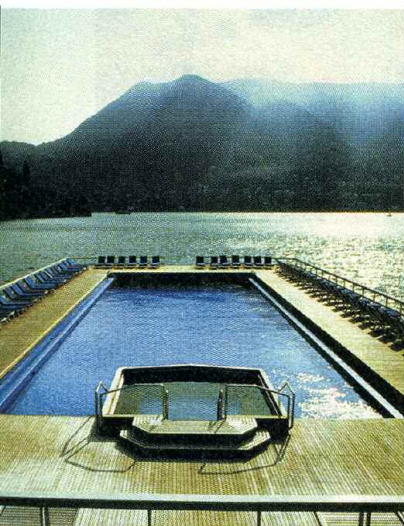
the
pleasures
of
italy

INSIDER TIPS
ON FLORENCE
POSITANO
AND BEYOND

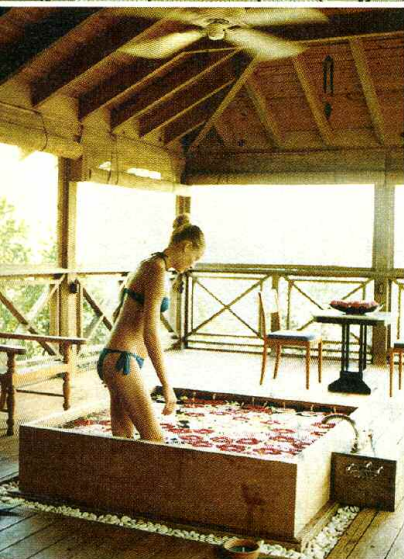


EXCLUSIVE!
22 GREAT
WINTER
GETAWAY
DEALS
FOR YOU





Pure Bliss From top: A spa pool overlooking Lake Como, at Villa d'Este, No. 3 in Europe; a flower bath at Parrot Cay, No. 2 in the Caribbean; Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai, the top-ranked spa in Asia.



Top 10 Hotel Spas Mexico and Central and South America

- 1 **ESPERANZA** Los Cabos, Mexico 89.29
- 2 **FOUR SEASONS RESORT COSTA RICA AT PENINSULA PAPAGAYO** 88.62
- 3 **ROYAL HIDEAWAY PLAYACAR** Playa del Carmen, Mexico 87.50
- 4 **FOUR SEASONS RESORT PUNTA MITA** Mexico 86.22
- 5 **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL** Buenos Aires 86.14
- 6 **LAS VENTANAS AL PARAÍSO** Los Cabos, Mexico 85.68
- 7 **ONE & ONLY PALMILLA** Los Cabos, Mexico 84.26
- 8 **PARADISUS RIVIERA** Cancún 84.13
- 9 **PUEBLO BONITO** Los Cabos, Mexico 83.63
- 10 **RITZ-CARLTON** Cancún 81.99



Top 10 Hotel Spas Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East

- 1 **FOUR SEASONS RESORT CHIANG MAI** Thailand 95.51
- 2 **THE ORIENTAL** Bangkok 94.06
- 3 **JW MARRIOTT PHUKET RESORT & SPA** Thailand 93.75
- 4 **FOUR SEASONS RESORT BALI AT JIMBARAN BAY** 90.94
- 5 **THE PENINSULA** Bangkok 90.44
- 6 **OBEROI AMARVILAS** Agra, India 90.06
- 7 **RITZ-CARLTON BALI RESORT & SPA** 89.93
- 8 **SHANGRI-LA HOTEL** Bangkok 88.82
- 9 **CAPE GRACE** Cape Town 87.13
- 10 **INTERCONTINENTAL** Hong Kong 81.48

Top 5 Hotel Spas Europe

- 1 **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL GEORGE V** Paris 89.02
- 2 **LE SIRENUSE** Positano, Italy 88.13
- 3 **VILLA D'ESTE** Cernobbio, Italy 82.14
- 4 **BRENNER'S PARK-HOTEL & SPA** Baden-Baden, Germany 80.15
- 5 **WESTIN EXCELSIOR** Rome 75.00

Top 10 Hotel Spas The Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Bahamas

- 1 **COUPLES NEGRIL** Jamaica 89.88
- 2 **PARROT CAY** Turks and Caicos 89.82
- 3 **LITTLE DIX BAY, A ROSEWOOD RESORT** Virgin Gorda 88.99
- 4 **ONE & ONLY OCEAN CLUB** Paradise Island, Bahamas 87.28
- 5 **ROUND HILL HOTEL & VILLAS** Montego Bay, Jamaica 87.15
- 6 **FOUR SEASONS RESORT** Nevis 86.35
- 7 **RITZ-CARLTON** Grand Cayman 86.14
- 8 **COUPLES SANS SOUCI** Ocho Rios, Jamaica 84.72
- 9 **CUISINART RESORT & SPA** Anguilla 83.87
- 10 **RITZ-CARLTON GOLF & SPA RESORT** Rose Hall, Jamaica 82.84

FRANCO, ANTONIO, AND CARLA SERSALE

Hoteliers / Positano

It would be worth traveling to Positano just to meet a *galantuomo* (gentleman) like Franco Sersale, dressed in white linen trousers and shirt, sitting on the terrace of his hotel, **Le Sirenuse** (30 Via Cristoforo Colombo; 39-089/875-066; sirenuse.it; doubles from \$684). The rooms here feel like someone's house, with objects assembled over time. That is the key sensibility of the place—that it did not happen overnight. Sersale's son Antonio runs the property with his wife, Carla, and they all present themselves as modestly as the rippling waves that come ashore at the beach below the hotel.

POSITANO FAVORITES

The Sersales like **Don Alfonso** (11–13 Corso Sant'Agata, Sant'Agata Sui Due Golfi; 39-081/878-0026; donalfonso.com; dinner for two \$275), where chef Alfonso Iaccarino—who also has a restaurant at the hotel—"combines Neapolitan cooking with nouvelle cuisine lightness." **Next 2** (242 Viale Pasitea; 39-089/812-3516; dinner for two \$138) is a lively meeting place, and **Music on the Rocks** (51 Via Grotte dell'Incanto; 39-089/875-874) is a "fabulous discothèque on the beach." A number of restaurants are accessible by boat: **Lo Scoglio a Marina del Cantone** (Nerano; 39-081/808-1026; dinner for two \$110) is "the best for style, atmosphere, and quality of food." The family also recommends **La Conca del Sogno a Recommono** (9 Via San Marciانو, Nevano; 39-081/808-1036; dinner for two \$138), where you can sit outside, and **Da Adolfo** (40 Via Laurito; 39-089/875-022; lunch for two \$124), where the specialty is grilled mozzarella on lemon leaves. +

Carla, Antonio, and Franco Sersale at Le Sirenuse, their hotel in Positano. Carla's dress is by Alberta Ferretti.

