

## Select Brochure Text / Destinations v.4

[page 2: Select Escapes, 65 words]

### **I travel, therefore I am.**

Welcome to Continental Airlines Select Escapes. We chose these premium properties because they are the best — the world's unique, historic, uncompromising hotels, resorts, and trains. We proudly offer this fabulous showcase because we know what you want: everything.

[page 4: Europe, 66 words]

Soak in the beauty of Europe. Lucky passengers on elegant trains view timeless landscapes with ancient castles as they pass before panoramic windows. In the world's leading galleries, art lovers gaze enrapt in amazement just to behold the great masters. The stylish abandon their fast modern lives in favor of warm cozy bistros. Students of dance find authentic flamenco and shoppers find all that they crave.

[page 5: Italy, 59 words]

When in Rome, lovers live *la dolce vita*, strolling the Via Veneto, climbing the Spanish Steps, and throwing lucky coins in the Trevi. Aficionados gaze up in the Sistine Chapel and seek all the wondrous art

of the Vatican. In Venice, folks lounge over coffee in Piazza San Marco. In Murano, they see artists in glass create beautiful pieces.

[page 8: Portugal, 40 words]

Visit charming Lisbon, a 16th-century capital rich in timeless culture, and the site of Sao Roque Cathedral, a masterpiece in mosaic. Shoppers stroll the elegant Chaido, where baroque churches mingle with luxurious boutiques. The devout make a pilgrimage to Fatima.

[page 9: Spain, 51 words]

Explore the alluring galleries of Madrid. Take in the Prado, one of the world's great museums. Visit the Thyssen-Bornemisza and behold the Dutch masters. In the contemporary Reina Sofia, fall under the spells of Picasso, Miró, and Dalí. After dark, imbibe the Spanish nightlife. Experience flamenco. Be seduced by *la vida*.

[page 10: Greece, 53 words]

Bathe in the font of Western civilization. This ancient country has 17 sites on the World Heritage List. Lovers of art and architecture can gaze for hours at the Acropolis and countless other famous landmarks. Seekers can quiz the oracle at Delphi. Gourmands can taste authentic Greek cuisine.

[page 12: France, 55 words]

Travelers escape the New World for this timeless one — beautiful, romantic, and vain. They revel in art, haute couture, and fine dining. Pass

the hours in bohemian cafés. Experience the spectacular Lido cabaret and the immortal Moulin Rouge. At Château de Versailles, a leisurely stroll can be magical.

[page 14: England, 60 words]

Indulge the excesses of London, city of opulent restaurants, bars, and shops. Among the countless galleries and historic sites, words cannot describe the exquisite Crown Jewels, ensconced in the Tower. Commoners can view such ancient regalia as St. Edward's Crown, commissioned in 1660 for Charles II, and the royal orb and scepter, made of gold encrusted with diamonds and stones.

[page 16: Scotland, 43 words]

All players must make a pilgrimage to the cradle of golf, site of five hundred links. Play at the auld grey *toon* of St. Andrews, where the rules of the game are preserved, or challenge the formidable Gleneagles, home to three championship courses.

[page 18: Ireland, 41 words]

Experience the haunting, eccentric, emerald isle of legendary Saint Patrick. Craggy coastlines, soaring mountains, and idyllic lakes offer peaceful spots to escape. Friendly pubs in quaint little towns invite you to hoist the local stout or taste a fine Irish whiskey.

[page 20: Canada, 52 words]

Witness whales breaching in the deep blue Pacific. Watch an eagle swoop down to snatch up a fish. High in the mountains, an early riser cuts the day's first trail through freshly fallen powder. Another casts out for a salmon. Across the continent, couples skate together in the heart of Old Québec.

[page 24: United States, 65 words]

Over Hawaii, choppers circle peaks and plunge through ravines. In Napa Valley, wine lovers tour vineyards and learn from their masters. In the desert, big boys place their bets on the black and the red. In the Rockies, couples toast each other on a train from the movies. Down south, friends drink from glasses with little umbrellas. On Fifth Avenue, sisters go shopping for sparklers.

[page 25: New York, 58 words]

The girls want *Purple*. The kids want *Hairspray*. The guys want *Young Frankenstein*. They all see their shows. Then go out shopping — from Fortunoff to Wempe, from World of Disney to FAO Schwarz, from NBA to NikeTown. Of course, they all do the big sites, the Met and the Modern, the Empire State, and old Miss Liberty.

[page 26: Las Vegas, 47 words]

They come to play blackjack. Try their hands at some poker. They flock all the big shows, from Monty Python's *Spamalot* to Cirque du Soleil's *Love* and *Zumanity*. They graze five-star restaurants, then lounge at the spa. Some come to get married or renew the old vows.

[page 28: Hawaii, 47 words]

Imagine gazing down at the waterfall from up high in a helicopter. Imagine watching humpbacks as they breach off your bow. Imagine seeing the sun rising over a crater, or a volcano spewing lava down into the ocean. Imagine snow before lunch, then the beach shortly after.

[page 30: Florida, 51 words]

Join with the spirits of Hemingway and Audubon. Stare at the sun as it descends in the gulf. Browse tiny galleries full of color and joy. Wrestle a marlin that weighs more than you. Dive in clear waters with tropical fish. Ride in an airboat on a river of grass.

[page 32: Mexico, 63 words]

As the pink-nosed boy chases the speedy green iguana up the limestone cliff bathed in warm orange sunrise, dad digs his pale white toes in the opaline beach. He stares up at the cliff with the millennial gray temple, which dominates a vast blue horizon, and marvels at how the small cinnamon people could have built such a grand golden city as Tulum.

[page 36: Islands, 53 words]

Warm-hearted locals work their soft lilting accents to welcome and serve the new guests. Seaplanes and skiffs connect islet to islet, as fishermen search for new coves. Riders mount horses; golfers whack balls; and swimmers go play with the dolphins. Shoppers score bargains on duty-free watches, 'til they drop into hammocks for naps.

[page 38: Jamaica, 34 words]

Taste fiery jerk chicken. Climb Dunn's River Falls. Watch as clay becomes art, and then buy it. Explore the cool source of great Blue Mountain coffee. See where Marley was born and sing reggae.

[page 40: South America, 47 words]

When it's winter here, it's summer there, a great time and place to learn tango. Stand in the plaza before Casa Rosada and cry for Evita if you feel it. For more color and rhythm and fun and flamboyance, you can learn to dance samba in Rio.

## Select Brochure Text / Sites / All

### WESTIN EXCELSIOR, ROME

[92 words]

Luxuriate in this magnificent turn-of-the-century palace on Via Veneto — epicenter of *la dolce vita* just Steps from Piazza di Spagna — linking Rome's legendary past with its dynamic present. Facilities include the sumptuous Mediterranean Restaurant Doney, lounge bar on the famous *via*, and art-deco ORVM bar, each perfect to see and be seen. Accented with marble, brocade, and crystal chandeliers, every room pays homage to exquisite taste. As the Excelsior's highest expression of elegance, Suite Villa la Cupola spans 11,700 square feet with private cinema, fitness room, sauna, steam, Jacuzzi, and sun deck.

### IL PALAZZO AT THE BAUER, VENICE

[129 words]

Treat yourself to all-out luxury, an authentic 18th-century palace behind a beautiful Gothic façade at the historic center of Venice. Walk just five minutes to renowned Piazza San Marco. Take advantage of the modern wellness center, invigorating Jacuzzi, and delightful boutique. Dine in the award-winning De Pisis restaurant, offering innovative gourmet fare either indoors or out on a splendid terrace overlooking Grand Canal. Enjoy breakfast on this timeless city's highest terrace, exclusive Settimo Cielo (Seventh Heaven), with a magical view of the lagoon. No two of the cozy hotel's 35 luxurious guest rooms and 40 regal suites look quite the same, but they all feature high stucco ceilings, Murano glass chandeliers, antique gold mirrors, original furnishings, marble

bathrooms, and damask drapes. Many open up to sweeping views of Venice.

#### SAN CLEMENTE PALACE HOTEL & RESORT, VENICE

[94 words]

Tucked away on the 12th-century island oasis of San Clemente, in the lagoon facing famous Piazza San Marco, this updated 17th-century monastery retains all of the wonderful charm and atmosphere of its ancient origins. Sample fine Mediterranean cuisine, ranging from gourmet to informal, in the hotel's four themed restaurants. Enjoy the tennis courts, swimming pool, fitness center, and manicured gardens with enclaves perfect for thoughtful moments. Attended by devoted staff members, most of the elegant rooms and suites — with high ceilings, Italian marble, and modern amenities — overlook the lagoon and the picturesque piazza beyond.

#### VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS, ROME-VENICE-PARIS-LONDON

[160 words]

Step aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and return to a more gracious age of travel. Follow your attentive-yet-discreet personal steward to a sumptuous double or single compartment with gleaming wood, polished brass, hot water, soft towels, and ever changing views of idyllic European countryside, from Rome to Venice to Paris to London.

Memorable dinners commence in the stylish bar car, the heart of the train, where your perfect cocktail awaits in a warm convivial atmosphere. Designed by Gerard Gallet, the bar car makes an ideal rendezvous for relaxed conversation around the mellifluous baby grand.



One of three classic dining cars — Lalique, Etoile du Nord, or Chinoise — welcomes you with muted lighting, fine linen, French silver, and heavy crystal. French chefs prepare delicious selections with fresh local ingredients collected along the way, to be served by Italian waiters.

Go ahead and dress up for the occasion, a fabulous part of this luxurious experience. You can never be overdressed aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.

#### LAPA PALACE, LISBON

[121 words]

From a hilltop overlooking Lisbon's elegant Embassy District, this former home to Portuguese aristocrats places you amid the city's best shopping. Guests enjoy magnificent views of the River Tagus, the city, or the garden oasis. In the Palace Wing, each unique room presents its own individual style, from 18th-century classical Portuguese to 20th-century art deco. Ample space, private balconies, and attentive service by dedicated staff all distinguish this hotel.

The concierge helps with all manner of arrangements, while guests relax in the wellness center or lounge in Lisbon's only heated swimming pool set in tranquil gardens. Facilities include a spa with indoor pool, sauna, steam, gym, and massage. Five golf courses await nearby, as do tennis facilities, horseback riding, and sailing.

#### HOTEL RITZ MADRID

[140 words]

Inspired by King Alfonso XIII to create a hotel that rivals the Ritz in Paris, the Hotel Ritz Madrid shares the reputation of its namesakes in Paris and London as the original grand luxury hotels of Europe.

Designed by, built under the supervision of, and named for legendary hotelier Cesar Ritz, the king himself attended the 1910 grand opening of the baroque palace. For more than a century, the Ritz has played a central role in the high-style life of this European capital, close to the botanical gardens and such celebrated galleries as the Prado, Thyssen Bornemisza Museum, and Centro de Arte Moderno Reina Sofia. Rooms are appointed elegantly with magnificent handmade carpets, embroidered linens, and antique furnishings. Luxuriant bathrooms are clad in marble, with gilded accessories. To stay at the Hotel Ritz Madrid is an experience no one forgets.

#### VEDEMA RESORT, SANTORINI

[82 words]

On a magical Aegean isle, Santorini's deluxe resort is designed around a 15th-century winery. Its Vinsanto is the finest dining room on the island and the wine bar Canava hosts daily tastings. Pastel villas have marble bathrooms and lovely terraces. Pool suites are inspired by the simple island lodges of Santorini. The Presidential Villa is a masterpiece of luxury. The fitness center and spa feature Cybex, sauna, Turkish bath, and therapies to soothe and renew. A minibus runs to stunning black beaches.

#### GRANDE BRETAGNE, ATHENS

[157 words]

Dominating Constitution Square, just blocks from the iconic Acropolis, one of Europe's most prestigious hotels gives easy access to the major sights and great shopping of Athens. Since its grand reopening in 2003, renovated rooms and suites merge modern facilities, like flat-screen

televisions and high-speed internet, into the hotel's Old World elegance, restored with luxurious antiques and fabrics.

In the hotel's cellar, 3,000 bottles await to fulfill any wine lover's request. From its rooftop restaurant and bar, unsurpassed views of the ancient Acropolis, National Gardens, and old Olympic Stadium accompany the artful Mediterranean menu. Other exquisite restaurants include GB Corner, Winter Garden, and Royal Room. Alexander's delights aficionados of cognac, brandy, and cigars. The exquisite Grand Ballroom enhances any special event.

The palatial GB Spa, with indoor and outdoor swimming pools, fully equipped gym, and holistic treatments, is a destination worthy of the most discerning client. Its restorative effects will outlast your stay at the Grande Bretagne.

#### BLUE PALACE RESORT & SPA, ELOUNDA, CRETE

[131 words]

This impressive resort of stylish and spacious bungalows serves people seeking natural beauty, fine cuisine, and a world-class spa. Amid stone walls, olive trees, and the cobalt blues of the Cretan Pelagos, elegantly appointed suites and private villas all enjoy magnificent views. The site is just two miles from the village of Elounda, opposite sparkling waters from the island of Spinalonga, with its medieval fortress.

Three bars and five restaurants offer exquisite choices from international cuisine to Italian fare, Asian fusion, traditional Greek, and Mediterranean gourmet, plus snacks.

Right on the beach, the huge Elounda Spa & Thalassotherapy, created to promote relaxation in a truly inspiring environment, is the proud recipient of prestigious awards. Its philosophy is to combine the

effectiveness of thalassotherapy rituals with the pampering of a world-class spa.

## CHÂTEAU D'ESCLIMONT

[117 words]

Built for the Archbishop of Tours in 1543, this lovely château, an hour southwest of Paris, has been home to aristocrats, statesmen, and political leaders, due largely to its proximity to Versailles. Today it commands a 150-acre park of woodlands, moats, and ponds — the very icon of a French country château. An array of sporting facilities include the most romantic setting imaginable for a swimming pool, and the interiors exemplify a renaissance elegance of old and new in perfect harmony. With a cellar of over 400 wines, haute cuisine served in a magnificent dining room will transport you to a giddy height of pleasure. After the grand indulgence of Château d'Esclimont, fond memories endure for a lifetime.

## HOTEL PRINCE DE GALLES – PARIS CHAMPS ELYSÉES

[157 words]

Elegance reveals itself in this art deco palace, steps from the Champs Elysées. Marble floors under a gold-leaf chandelier welcome guests to the majestic lobby of a grand hotel, which blends Parisian elegance with warm hospitality.

Guest rooms and suites offer indigenous design in muted tones of blue, white, and yellow. In Restaurant Le Jardin des Cygnes, experience French cuisine under soaring ceilings behind glass doors that display a magical courtyard. In the English-style Regency Bar, a sumptuous ambiance for lunch or cocktails is set by leather, wood, and velvet. Host

an intimate meeting or lavish event in rooms for up to 200, with catering teams trained and attentive.

From the hotel's lofty perch on Avenue George V, explore the renowned boutiques of the Golden Triangle, as well as the city's most famous landmarks, the Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower. Luxury, seduction, and intimacy converge at the Hotel Prince de Galles, in the heart of Paris.

#### TRIANON PALACE AND SPA, VERSAILLES

[156 words]

Minutes from Paris, this Westin retreat sits at the heart of historic Versailles, in a three-acre park not a mile from Louis XIV's royal château. It melds comfortable contemporary décor with the charm of the legendary establishment built in 1910. Select a guest room or suite in the historic Palace building, surrounded by the park's centenarian trees and lush gardens, or in the more modern Pavilion building. Choose a view of château or city.

Enjoy cocktails and light meals in the Gallery, under majestic chandeliers, or in la Veranda, a brasserie for casual dining. Dine famously in the new restaurant Gordon Ramsay at Trianon, modeled after the eponymous chef's London flagship. Try one of the region's exclusive golf courses; work out in the new state-of-the-art gym; or experience the expansive Spa Trianon, a 30,140-square-foot kingdom dedicated to beauty and well-being, including an heated indoor swimming pool. Enjoy relaxing treatments that include massage, facial, and soothing hydrotherapy.

#### THE RITZ LONDON

[160 words]

Unveiled in 1906 by renowned hotelier Cesar Ritz, the very name is a synonym for lavish architecture, glamour, and excitement. Today the Piccadilly landmark, in the heart of London's theater district, allows one to walk to fashion houses, art auctions, and leading museums. Returned to private ownership in 1995, the fully restored property accommodates business and leisure travelers in elegant Louis XVI rooms and suites with all modern amenities.

Windows in the classically gourmet Ritz Restaurant, one of the world's most beautiful rooms, overlook the terrace, Italian Garden, and park. The Palm Court offers traditional afternoon tea, popular since the hotel first opened. The stylishly updated Rivoli Bar features an art deco interior.

Private dining facilities in the William Kent House, an 18th-century mansion, include possibly the most opulent private rooms in London, perfect for receptions, weddings, board meetings, and galas. The Ritz London is the first hotel to receive a royal warrant from the prince of Wales for banqueting.

## THE STAFFORD LONDON

[90 words]

Paradoxically, this wondrous enclave has the feel of an English country house, despite its central London location, tucked behind Green Park in genteel St James's, surrounded by the shops of Bond and Jermyn streets. The Stafford is quietly lavish, while warm and welcoming, with period furnishings in bedrooms and public areas. Twenty-six new suites in the exclusive Stafford Mews join the historic Carriage House rooms, none rivaled in London. The haven seems miles from bustling Piccadilly, actually just steps away. Dutiful staff strike a delicate balance between professionalism and friendliness.

## 51 BUCKINGHAM GATE

[162 words]

These luxurious suites and apartments, steps from Buckingham Palace in the heart of Westminster, occupy the most coveted address in London. Personal butlers spoil their guests in the cool contemporary suites of 51, with fully equipped kitchens and high-speed wireless, the perfect vantage for a night or a month. For the ultimate indulgence, settle into the Prime Minister's Suite, with five bedrooms in 4,500 square feet.

Across the beautiful courtyard, London's al fresco dining secret, discover three exciting restaurants: Bistro 51 for classic British and French cuisine, Quilon for contemporary Indian fare, and Bank Westminster for a modern menu with a British twist. Two lively bars, Hamptons and Zander, conjure an array of tasty cocktails.

After a productive day of business, sightseeing, or shopping at nearby Harrods, relax in the Spa at 51, employing 100 percent organic treatments and staff specially trained in them. Take advantage of personal trainers in the gym, or go for a walk in peaceful St. James Park.

## THE ROYAL SCOTSMAN

[127 words]

Ply the timeless heart of Scotland, as rugged castles on misty hillsides glide past the window of this legendary train. Don your kilt and sample malt whiskies nearly unknown outside of these highlands. In the dining car Victory, choose an intimate table. In the Raven, share a larger table and make friends with your neighbors. Dinner reflects the seasons perfectly, with fresh ingredients gathered along the way and served amid rich mahogany. An extensive "cellar" provides just the right wine to accompany dinner. Over your favorite liqueur, listen closely as a clansman wields his thick Scottish brogue to recount local legend. When

evening is done, retire to your comfortable cabin, finished in beautiful marquetry. With a good supply of hot water, each has its own private shower.

## THE GLENEAGLES

[152 words]

For those addicted to golf, Gleneagles puts players in the midst of a paradise. The challenging King's, charming Queen's, and nine-hole Wee courses are all championship layouts. A fourth exceptional course, the PGA Centenary, was created by Jack Nicklaus for the 40th Ryder Cup, to be played in 2014.

This luxurious golf resort, designed in the style of a French château on 850 stunning acres in Perthshire, was proud to host the G8 summit in 2005. Although Gleneagles means Scottish golf at its best, there is much more: riding, shooting, fishing, tennis, biking, croquet, even falconry. Less strenuous pursuits include a leisurely day at the spa or relaxing swim in one of two pools.

Bedrooms, with spacious bathrooms, feature sensual fabrics in muted colors. Impeccable though the place may be, guests also enjoy its refreshingly relaxed manner, served by warm friendly staff. From the first hearty welcome, they look after you well.

## FAIRMONT ST. ANDREWS

[153 words]

Commanding the rugged east coast of Scotland, with spectacular views of bay, beach, and town, no visit to the medieval home of golf would be complete without a round at the Fairmont St. Andrews. Play the Torrance, sweeping down to the sea, and the Devlin, a championship



course that begins innocently enough, then turns wicked after luring you in. Indulge body and soul in the spa, with a wide range of treatments plus fitness, steam, sauna, and pool.

Meticulous service and attention to detail infuse guest rooms, restaurants, and lounges, which offer convivial dining, great food and drink, and an extensive selection of wines. Taste Dundee cake at afternoon tea, or choose lobster from the East Neuk of Fife for a gourmet dinner. Sit back and relax in Kittocks Den for a wee nip and snack; the cliff-top Clubhouse for its wondrous views; or terracotta-toned Esperante for a fine-dining tour of the Mediterranean.

#### GLENLO ABBEY, GALWAY

[130 words]

Two miles from central Galway, family owned and operated Glenlo Abbey — ideal for weddings as well as meetings and leisure — features unrivalled personal service, deluxe accommodations, state-of-the art conferences, and award-winning restaurants. A nine-hole double-green golf course rolls around hills and lakes with fabulous views. Archery, fishing, and clay pigeon shooting are organized. In nearby Connemara National Park, guests hike, bike, and ride horses through mountains and bogs.

In free-spirited Galway City, hospitable locals draw visitors with annual festivals including comedy and jazz. Each July, the cultural capital throws Galway Arts Festival with theatre, dance, music, visual arts, and literature. In September, height of the Galwegian calendar, Galway International Oyster Festival has entertainment, food, wine, Guinness, and of course, oysters. In 2009, yachting's prestigious Volvo Ocean Race pays a visit.

## SLIEVE DONARD RESORT AND SPA

[93 words]

Where the mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea, the Slieve Donard Resort and Spa, one of Northern Ireland's most popular hotels for a short break, residential conference, or grand event, stands on six acres of private grounds that include a top golf course, Royal County Down. The Victorian building evokes the golden age of railway hotels, welcoming guests with cozy bars, roaring fires, and equally warm hospitality. View coastline and mountains from the contemporary Spa at Slieve Donard, an oasis of tranquility designed in conjunction with ESPA, a leading spa company.

## ASHFORD CASTLE, COUNTY MAYO

[97 words]

Lovers of European history simply must experience this authentic Irish castle with roots back to 1228. Founded on the west coast of Ireland by the Anglo-Norman de Burgo family, expanded over the next 780 years, Ashford Castle now ranks among the rare handful of most luxurious resorts in the world. Much updated in the 20th century, this spectacular property offers a nine-hole par-35 parkland golf course, great fishing on local rivers and lakes, and a culinary experience too sensuous to describe. Just to spend one night at Ashford is an honor to be cherished for a lifetime.

## FAIRMONT LE CHÂTEAU FRONTENAC, QUEBEC

[121 words]

High on a bluff overlooking the mighty St. Lawrence River, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac is no mere hotel, it is the very heart and image of Old

Quebec. Offering exquisite dining opportunities and superior meeting facilities with distinctive Gallic charm, this stately architectural gem presides over the city's historic center, a UN World Heritage site. Walk easily to all the wonderful sites of Old Quebec, truly among the most beautiful cities in the world.

Regal décor in the guest rooms and suites make you feel like you've traveled to Europe. Modern facilities serve both the business and leisure traveler, including the Fairmont Gold Floor, a hotel within a hotel, plus an indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, three restaurants, and high-speed internet.

#### THE FAIRMONT EMPRESS, VICTORIA

[137 words]

Overlooking Victoria's spectacular Inner Harbour, the Fairmont Empress captures the spirit and energy of Vancouver Island in grand fashion. This landmark château-style resort features luxuriously appointed guest rooms, two award-winning restaurants, and a signature lounge.

The 8,000-square-foot Willow Stream Spa indulges guests with magnificent locally inspired treatments, while the 6,400-yard Arbutus Ridge Golf & Country Club makes a perfect introduction to golf on the island, treating players to the stunning views of tranquil Satellite Channel and snow-capped Mount Baker. Whale-watching safaris delight kids of all ages to witness orcas frolicking up close.

Experience award-winning restaurants, whether to join in the English ritual of afternoon tea, savor the curry buffet with a perfect martini in the Bengal Lounge, or dine regally in the wonderful Empress Room. Cuisine, views, activities, and relaxation all await in this luxurious resort.

## THE FAIRMONT CHÂTEAU WHISTLER

[187 words]

The Fairmont Château Whistler defines luxury amid the northern Rocky Mountains, surrounded by the soaring peaks and breathtaking vistas from magnificent Blackcomb Mountain. From dog sledding to heli-hiking, this setting is ideal for exploring outdoor passions all year. The château holds distinctions as Canada's #1 golf resort and #1 ski resort, according to Condé Nast.

In winter, the elite property offers an effortless transition from the warm elegance indoors to the eight thousand powdery acres outdoors with ski-in/ski-out access. Come the warmer months, take advantage of mountain golf on a course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.

The Wildflower Wine Room, Whistler's highest-rated restaurant, is complemented by four additional fine dining options and 32,000 square feet of function space. Guests also enjoy tennis facilities, full-service spa, slope-side health club, and popular après-activity lounge with mountainside terraces.

Perhaps the most endearing feature of the château is the impeccable service of the professionals who attend you sincerely, promising that your holiday will leave a memory to cherish for a lifetime. No wonder the Fairmont Château Whistler has been tapped to co-host the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2010.

## THE FAIRMONT BANFF SPRINGS

[100 words]

Few resorts rival the Fairmont Banff Springs for scenery — timeless, pristine, framed by snowy evergreens amid the wilderness of Banff National Park. Woodsy opulence and northwestern seclusion combine to

create the icon of a Rocky Mountain retreat. Every bit the image of a Scottish baronial castle, the cozy property features a broad range of cuisines to go with the stunning vistas.

Banff straddles the raging Bow River, barely east of the Continental Divide, surrounded by skiing and golf. Ride the gondola to see grizzly bears, elk, and bighorn sheep. Unwind in the warm mineral waters of the famous hot springs.

### THE FAIRMONT CHÂTEAU LAKE LOUISE

[119 words]

Breathe the crisp mountain air and marvel at Mother Nature's handiwork, which envelopes the Fairmont Château Lake Louise. Tucked deep inside Banff National Park, on the banks of the eponymous lake, this inspiring resort combines Rocky Mountain scenery with attentive hotel service to make your stay outstanding. Discover why snow worshippers call this vantage a "diamond in the wilderness."

Three fabulous ski areas await nearby: Lake Louise, with a 3,250 foot vertical drop and four mountain faces, Sunshine Village, a vast bowl of deep powder from November through June, and Mount Norquay, offering the rare experience of nighttime skiing. Well-groomed cross-country trails originate just outside the château. For those who crave extreme adventure, try heli-skiing on the local glacier.

### THE WALDORF TOWERS

[261 words]

World renowned for over a century, the Waldorf=Astoria was among the first grand hotels to blend luxury, elegance, and a myriad of amenities

and services. The art-deco landmark attracts discerning visitors and New Yorkers alike.

Like a pair of elegant society hostesses, the Waldorf=Astoria and her sister, the Waldorf Towers, a boutique hotel from floors 28 through 42, offer a wealth of luxurious accommodations. Each of the 1,416 guest rooms, including 313 suites, is decorated just a bit differently, but all feature marble bathrooms, dual-line telephones, voice mail, premium cable, high-speed internet, and video check-out.

Guests of the Waldorf Towers and the executive level receive deluxe amenities like the exclusive Astoria Lounge, perfect to enjoy complimentary continental breakfast, evening hors d'oeuvres, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Legendary dining at the Waldorf, a diverse and distinctive destination, features four fine restaurants, three elegant lounges, and private dining salons. They include Peacock Alley, a jewel in the hotel lobby, renowned for brunch and its extensive menu of seafood; the Bull and Bear, a Manhattan institution, serving classic steaks in a sumptuous setting; Oscar's, an American brasserie, offering casual dining all day; and Inagiku, completing your options, with innovative cuisine from Japan. At Cocktail Terrace, enjoy afternoon tea and evening libations. Sir Harry's Bar serves until late.

This year the Waldorf=Astoria will unveil its new Guerlain Spa and Fitness Center. Expanding the hotel's lengthy list of amenities, the spa will ensure an extraordinary rejuvenation experience for each guest. It will feature 16 treatment rooms, each with private bath and dressing area, and two relaxation lounges.

THE BELLAGIO

[99 words]

Prepare your senses for overload in the luxurious world of Bellagio. Glorious food comes casual, with bold flavors to share with friends (Café Bellagio, Pool Café), or contemporary, with classic flavors prepared in surprising ways (Sensi, Olives, Fix), or as culinary splendor, imagined by chefs who win lofty awards (Le Cirque, Jasmine, Picasso). Don't forget wine by master sommeliers and deserts by Chef Jean-Philippe Maury, artist in chocolate and pastry.

Save time for the spa, entertainment by Cirque du Soleil, nightlife at The Bank, shopping for treasures like hand-blown glass flowers, and of course, the stylish Bellagio casino.

#### WYNN LAS VEGAS

[96 words]

Designed to be explored, to excite the senses of each guest, the new Wynn Las Vegas resort and casino defines casual elegance through 2,716 high-technology guest rooms and suites. Imaginative restaurants elevate dining to a high level, while nightclubs arouse even higher energy.

The Wynn offers guests such indulgences as a shopping promenade of renowned designers, championship 18-hole golf course, tranquil spa and salon, Ferrari and Maserati dealerships, and extraordinary meeting facilities. Entertainment includes the provocative *Rêve* by Dragone and musical *Monty Python's Spamalot*, based on the hilarious movie classic, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

#### GRANDLUXE EXPRESS – ROCKIES, SIERRAS, NAPA

[146 words]

Experience the dramatic Rockies, Sierras, and Napa Valley aboard this luxurious cruise by rail. From majestic mountains, around sapphire lakes,

to rolling vineyards, each day reveals American beauty through the ever-changing scenery of the GrandLuxe Express. Indulge in a week of pampering with leisurely five-course dinners, attentive butler service, live music on the baby grand, and enriching tours at each stop.

The excitement commences in Denver as you relish your first onboard dinner. Wake up with the sun as it lights up the Rockies and marvel as Moffett Tunnel cuts through the Continental Divide. Traverse beautiful Glenwood Canyon and inspiring landscapes at Arches and Canyonlands national parks. Admire Salt Lake and Park cities, beautiful Lake Tahoe, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Tour legendary wineries in Napa Valley, America's culinary capital, and savor your five-course farewell dinner aboard. Say good-bye — until next time — at San Francisco Bay.

#### THE FAIRMONT SONOMA MISSION INN & SPA

[119 words]

Northern California's historic wine country resort offers championship golf and a world-renowned spa designed to promote health, relaxation, and rejuvenation. Spa features include bathing ritual, mineral baths, private whirlpools, and Watsu pool. Sonoma Golf Club, home to the PGA's Charles Schwab Cup, stretches 7,087 yards through native oaks and redwoods, offering serenity that every golfer treasures.

Beautifully appointed guest rooms offer elegant décor inspired by the wine country. Attend a daily wine tasting. Dine on progressive wine-country cuisine in the signature restaurant, Santé, or more casual fare in Big 3, health-conscious meals at Spa Café, and outdoor dining at Water Tower café. For gatherings of friends, family, or business colleagues, the inn crafts personalized events for 10 to 300.



## PRINCEVILLE AT HANAIEI

[124 words]

Magnificent by nature, amid the splendor of Kauai's exclusive north shore, elegantly appointed with 18th- and 19th-century antiques, and designed to reflect the scenery, this ocean-side retreat weaves a spell of true luxury. Hawaiian hospitality sets the gracious tone.

Large rooms and suites feature tasteful decorations, original oil paintings, lighted closets, bedside controls, and a "magic" window that changes electronically to allow transparency, translucence, or opacity.

Facilities include an exercise room, three restaurants, comfortable lounges, and 5,000 square feet of freshwater swimming pool. Explore world-class golf on two championship courses, Prince and Makai, making 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. Ride horseback among the majestic Na Molokama Mountains. Kayak the idyllic Hanalei River. Or just gaze on the sunset over Hanalei Bay.

## THE FAIRMONT KEA LANI, MAUI

[96 words]

Enjoy the spectacular beaches, gentle breezes, and stunning sunsets of southwestern Maui. In this luxurious haven on 22 tropical acres, wedged between Polo Beach and championship golf courses, the all-suite-and-villa Fairmont Kea Lani offers authentic Hawaiian cultural experiences and the warm service that is "aloha."

Soak up the scenery from your personal lanai. Suites include master bedroom, spacious living room, entertainment center, wet bar, refrigerator, and microwave. Two- and three-bedroom villas add a full kitchen, private plunge pool, and barbeque. Resort facilities include spa,

fitness, tennis, and swimming pools. Spend days golfing, snorkeling, diving, and sailing.

#### THE FAIRMONT ORCHID, HAWAII

[99 words]

Graced by seashore, sea turtles, and sacred mountains, the Fairmont Orchid offers elegant repose amid the beauty of Hawaii's Kohala coast, on the big island, with four acclaimed restaurants, bars and lounges, and a gourmet deli.

Beach boys introduce a mesmerizing culture of canoes and ocean adventure on a sheltered white beach, while dramatic black lava sets 36 holes of championship golf. The renowned Spa Without Walls offers soothing treatments, and guests enjoy tennis and children's programs on site.

A Fairmont Gold Floor entitles one to private check in, sateen sheets, high-touch concierge, private lounge, honor bar, and other amenities.

#### LITTLE PALM ISLAND RESORT & SPA, FLORIDA KEYS

[283 words]

Like treasure raised from the deep, Little Palm Island awaits just offshore from the major Florida Keys, accessible only by seaplane or boat. Enter another world, another time — a quiet world of warm winter sunshine, profoundly blue horizons, and world-class water sports.

Wedged between the coconut palms, 28 thatched-roof bungalows and two grand suites — with names like Osprey and Ibis, interiors inspired by the tropics, comfy private sundecks, and vast ocean vistas — offer the ultimate in Caribbean privacy to guests over 16 years of age.

As action-packed or deliciously lazy as you wish, the Florida Keys offer the very best sunning, diving, snorkeling, sailing, and deep-sea fishing in the United States. The resort arranges everything.

In the mood to explore? Sign up for excursions to Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary and descend to the wreck of the *Adolphus Busch*. Not certified for scuba? Instructors right on the island can get you a PADI card as part of your vacation.

No card is needed to swim Little Palm's freshwater lagoon or to lounge poolside with a tropical cocktail. Pick a classic from the library and park yourself on a favorite patch of beach.

Exotic oils, aromatic herbs, and volcanic clays — expertly deployed — revive your mind, body, and soul at Spa Terre. Participate in healing meditative classes from yoga to reiki. Indulge and be changed.

Wrap up the day with classic meals infused with Caribbean, Floridian, and Latin flavors, served high on a terrace perched over the beach or down by the water where key deer may visit.

Before returning to the world, enjoy a diversion to nearby Key West, a compact island city that escaped civilization. See why Hemingway and others love these eccentric keys.

## RITZ-CARLTON, PALM BEACH

[136 words]

South Florida's new hottest hotel embraces its destination to touch all the senses, starting with Palm Beach Breeze, the resort's slightly citrusy signature scent. Linger at the tranquil Grand Spa, with 41,000 square feet of treatment area, green space, water elements, and a natural Mediterranean feel.

The Modern American Angle restaurant — all chocolate velvet, glowing candles, and 840 bottles of wine on the wall — delivers chic Palm Beach dining through its seafood and prime cuts with regional influences.

The unique resort-turndown experience expands the guestroom service to transform the entire hotel from energetic daytime mode to a glowing evening ambiance, with fire and soul activities on the terrace and in the lobby bar. AquaNuts for kids and Coast for teens are unconventional youth entertainment programs, so everyone can have a great time and learn something too.

#### RITZ-CARLTON, NAPLES

[100 words]

Luxuriate at The Ritz-Carlton on Florida's Paradise Coast for dazzling views and golden sunsets over the Gulf of Mexico, plus the pristine three-mile beach, two pools, and world-class spa with 30 treatment rooms for relaxation, therapies, wellness, fitness, and personal training. Tiburon Golf, a championship 36-hole course, lies in a serene setting by Greg Norman. Players chose from five tee boxes.

Seven restaurants include Artisans in the Dining Room, seafood with style; the Grill, best steakhouse; H2O, cuisine for wellness; and the Terrace, family-friendly Italian. Gumbo Limbo serves bar food with views and the Gourmet Shop has coffee and gelato.

#### ROYAL HIDEAWAY PLAYACAR, RIVIERA MAYA

[161 words]

For discriminating Caribbean travelers, Royal Hideaway Playacar feels like a vacation home with staff. The all-inclusive property includes

unlimited dining, premium drinks, tennis, fitness, PADI dive center, and non-motorized water sports.

On an eccentric Yucatán beach, the iridescent blues and greens of the Caribbean are impossible to capture on a postcard. They must be witnessed in person. Lounge in the cascading infinity pool, three relaxation pools, or solarium.

Succulent culinary creations, designed by a team of masters, are all served with flare. The stylish new Las Ventanas by Sergi Arola features an exquisite menu by the Michelin-rated Spanish chef.

Throughout the property, friendly but discreet staff practically read your mind, making desires appear before you ask. Each tasteful villa in the adults-only resort has its own concierge. A full-service spa revitalizes guests with indigenous and international treatments.

Walking distance up the coast from Royal Hideaway, Playa del Carmen, the heart of Riviera Maya, has become the new bohemian playground of Mexico.

## FAIRMONT MAYAKOBA, RIVIERA MAYA

[118 words]

On a soft white beach by America's largest reef, hip international Playa del Carmen attracts golfers, friends, divers, couples, bohemians, and families. Their worlds intersect at Fairmont Mayakoba, which honors Mexican art and heritage while also offering broad beaches, water sports, designer shopping, and impeccable service. Dine on Maya, Mexican, and international fare in four extraordinary restaurants.

Sustainable design means getting around by foot, bicycle, golf cart, or boat. From elegant rooms and suites, in low-rise *casitas* with terraces, guests can gaze onto lagoons and the sea. Enjoy nature walks, swimming

pools, kids club, and excellent beach. Take salubrious treatments at Willow Stream Spa. Play the championship golf course El Camaleón de Mayakoba, which now hosts the PGA Tour.

#### LA CASA QUE CANTA, ZIHUATANEJO

[97 words]

Adobe dwellings with just 33 suites overlook the Pacific Bay of Zihuatanejo, with spa, tennis, water sports, and fresh- and saltwater pools. Lounge on a ledge like a watery chaise and gaze out to the bay down below.

Each suite gets a view of the Pacific. Inside, Mexican folk art hangs on walls and artists decorate beds with flower petals. Oversized showers are clad in pink marble.

From the dining terrace, watch the sun slide down as lights come up. Authentic Mexican cuisine relies heavily on fresh seafood. Taste tamales with shrimp and chicken *chilapas* with avocado.

#### GRAN VELAS ALL SUITES & SPA RESORT, NUEVO VALLARTA

[227 words]

Cavernous suites enjoy spectacular Pacific Ocean views from their private terraces. Each comes furnished tastefully in teak imported from Bali, decorated in elegant contemporary style with a tropical color palette. Amenities include down duvets and pillows, bathrobes and slippers, DVD player, minibar, and twice-a-day maid service.

Grand Velas All Suites & Spa Resort answers the increasing demand for grand all-inclusive lodging, where everything is covered and still fabulous. Find the resort conveniently on the golden Mexican Pacific

coast, at the edge of protected Banderas Bay, just 15 minutes from Puerto Vallarta Airport.

Cuisine at Grand Velas spans the culinary world from deli to French, fusing traditional flavors with artful new presentations in a welcoming atmosphere: Azul International, with oriental, Italian, delicatessen, grill, and Mexican fare; Frida fine Mexican dining; Lucca Italian-Mediterranean specialties; and Piaf classic French cuisine. For fast casual service, Selva del Mar Snack Bar has waiters in the pool and beach areas. Aqua Bar, Lobby Bar, and 24-hour suite service give non-stop access to food and drink.

Luxury, harmony, and beauty await at award-winning Grand Velas Spa, providing personalized service distinguished from other spas. With steam, sauna, Swiss shower, hydrotherapy, hydro-reflexology, hot and cold lagoon plunges, 12 treatment collections, and 20 treatment rooms, this lustrous retreat covers 16,500 square feet of paradise. Take advantage of Life Fitness equipment, exercise classes, Pilates, yoga, and meditation.

## GRANDLUXE RAIL JOURNEYS, COPPER CANYON

[124 words]

Cruise by rail through Mexico's stunning Copper Canyon, perhaps the most scenic rail journey anywhere. Although four times the size of the US Grand Canyon, only savvy travelers have yet discovered Copper.

On GrandLuxe Express, enjoy pampering during seven days of awe-inspiring views and dramatic changes in climate. It took a feat of engineering just to get the track down 6,550 feet to the Pacific Ocean. Along the way, observe colonial architecture, cobblestone streets, and plazas where time has stood still. Start with Champagne and dinner in Chihuahua.

Choose from myriad excursions like a Jesuit mission, dance demonstrations by Tarahumara natives, homes and gardens of a 17th-century silver town, sea cruise with dolphins and sea lions, and working pearl farm. Say farewell over dinner, then disembark at Mazatlán.

#### THE COVE ATLANTIS, PARADISE ISLAND

[137 words]

In this contemporary architectural experience — stylish, sophisticated, sensual, social — a grand colonnade sweeps your eye out to sea. Water is everywhere, the essence of Cove Atlantis, set in the midst of a vast archipelago at the edge of the brilliant blue Gulf Stream.

Two unique pools enjoy stunning locations at the apex of Cove and Paradise beaches, among the world's most beautiful. Water, Mother Nature's most compelling element, lures visitors to indulge.

The Cove creates a rhythm by day, inspired by its sunny surroundings, then makes a seamless transition to the nighttime experience, with seductive views inside as well. Architecture opens up the building to embrace aquatic breezes. Walkways of cool stone and dark wood meander past water gardens toward your suite. Shaded by tropical foliage, amid African cichlids and lilies, your journey of renewal has definitely begun.

#### ROYAL PLANTATION, JAMAICA

[261 words]

Visitors who choose extreme service enjoy the all-suite, all-seafront, all-inclusive Royal Plantation resort at Ocho Rios. Founded in the age of Old World luxury, the boutique resort maintains its reputation as



Jamaica's perfect inn. From high on a bluff overlooking the Caribbean, each sumptuous suite receives heart-stopping views.

Bask blissfully on two private beaches — golden coves where you can spend hours in the sunshine, sipping cold *mangos* delivered by discrete butlers — like living in your dreams. Take afternoon tea on the lovely terrace. Use the 24-hour fitness center, tennis courts, steam room, sauna, and library.

Three à la carte gourmet restaurants excel at every culinary level, with exceptional menus and wine. The cellar is stocked by the resident sommelier to please the most discerning palate. Nosh in Jamaica's only Champagne and caviar bar.

Golf means Sandals Golf & Country Club at Upton, 750 feet up in the hills. Elevated tees and greens on the 6,311-yard par-71 course make for interesting shots. While the fairways are deep green, the backdrop is blue sea.

Minutes away at Dunn's River Falls, the most popular spot in all of Jamaica, torrents of cool water cascade down hundreds of feet, flanked on both sides by dense foliage. Strangers clasp hands to help climb the rushing water. Near the falls, the humans swim and play with smart athletic dolphins. Or ride horseback along the beach and down into the sea. High in the hills await lush botanical gardens. East of town is Firefly, hilltop home of playwright Noel Coward.

Porters transfer guests to and from the airports at Kingston and Montego Bay.

GOLDEN BEAR LODGE, CAP CANA

[100 words]

In Cap Cana, heart of Dominican paradise, the first Golden Bear Lodge welcomes visitors with its exquisite design and amenities, plus the championship layout and winning style of legendary golfer and outdoorsman Jack Nicklaus. Launch exciting adventures in golf, yachting, or deep-sea fishing. Use the full service marina. Savor signature restaurant cuisine from the finest ingredients.

Condominiums with one or two bedrooms, private pool, Jacuzzi, and personal golf cart sit high on a bluff overlooking the Caribbean Sea, between the Punta Espada and Las Iguanas golf courses, 10 minutes from the Punta Cana airport. Soothing breezes set a peaceful tone.

#### VILLAS CALETON, CAP CANA

[100 words]

Be among the first to enjoy the superior luxury of seafront Villas Caletón for an intimate weekend or family vacation, in the Dominican resort of Cap Cana, 10 minutes from Punta Cana's airport. Lounge in a sparkling pool with swim-up bar. Challenge a Jack Nicklaus golf course. Sail the Caribbean from the great marina. Dine in the Caletón Grill or poolside *palapa*. Invite up to 500 friends.

Choose cavernous three- and four-bedroom villas ideal for entertaining, with great room, sophisticated décor, kitchen, pools, golf cart, amenities, and personal butler. Savor the lavish style to which you plan to become accustomed.

#### ALVEAR PALACE, BUENOS AIRES

[80 words]

Combine European elegance with modern technology in the heart of Recoleta, a Buenos Aires barrio of pleasant parks and wide avenues, fine restaurants and cozy cafés, famous museums and cultural centers.

Fine art graces the suites and public areas of Alvear Palace, designed in the Empire and Louis XVI styles. Guests enjoy butler service, fresh flowers and fruit, 500-thread-count Egyptian linens, Hermès de Paris toiletries, smart phone, wireless internet, email address, and daily newspaper. Choose non-smoking floors or handicapped rooms.

### COPACABANA PALACE, RIO DE JANEIRO

[80 words]

Since 1923, Brazil's most famous hotel has welcomed the rich and famous to the promenade facing magnificent Copacabana Beach. The world knows legendary Copacabana Palace for its sumptuous style, fine cuisine, and impeccable service.

The drama of Rio begins with its landscape. Sugarloaf Mountain rises up at the confluence of ocean and bay. Giant art-deco Christ the Redeemer, icon on every postcard, surveys the city from the top of its mount. The Palace puts guests in the middle of everything.

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