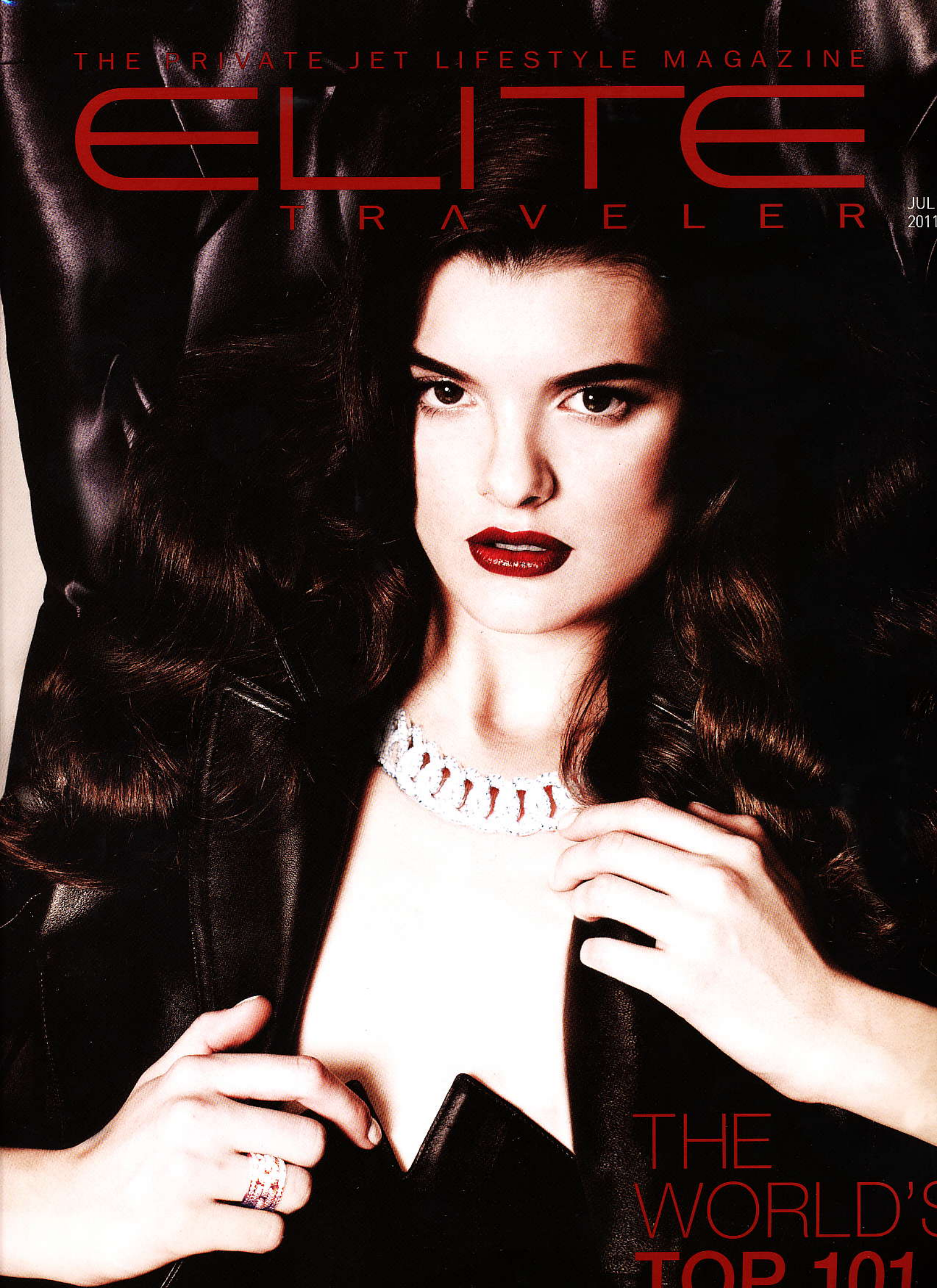


THE PRIVATE JET LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

# ELITE

TRAVELER

JUL  
2011



THE  
WORLD'S  
TOP 101

EDITORIAL TEAM LETTER



PRESIDENTIAL SUITE / MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MUNICH



DUPLEX TERRACE PENTHOUSE SUITE / TRUMP SOHO NEW YORK



EMPEROR SUITE / MANDARIN ORIENTAL, LAS VEGAS



FLEMING VILLA GOLDENEYE HOTEL & RESORT



SUITE EMOTION

Without fail, when our annual Top 101 Suites issue comes out, my friends and acquaintances all look at me in awe and express their jealousy. I mean, I am the editor, so I must personally inspect every one of the magnificent top suites we feature in the issue, right? No such luck, unfortunately. If you do the math, you'd quickly determine that it is impossible for any one person to go to all these places in a year and still perform a demanding job. We depend on the entirety of our on-the-road staff (especially assistant editor Drew Taylor), our crack team of freelance writers and a cadre of loyal readers (some of them celebrities) to compile our list of the world's best new, newly renovated and classic hotel suites. That said, my job is still pretty good. In fact, this year's list has a few hotel suites that I *have* been fortunate enough to visit recently. And while they all offer very different approaches to luxury, they all embody the spirit of the Top 101 list.

TRUMP SOHO NEW YORK

I have lived and worked in New York for over 25 years now and my stay in a **Penthouse Suite** at the new **Trump SoHo New York** afforded me stunning city views I could only have seen from a helicopter before. Shooting 46 stories above low-rise SoHo, the commanding position of this residential gem is the most striking of its highlights,

but I must also give kudos to the hotel's spot-on concierge staff, who helped me plan out a spontaneous in-room dinner so I could share my views with some friends from the neighborhood. Plus, Trump's unique **If You Love It, Own It** program lets you buy your accommodation outright if you experience love at first sight. Get the full details on p. 76.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, LAS VEGAS

The unveiling of **Glenmorangie's** latest limited edition malt whisky, **Pride 1981**, brought me to the new **Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas** recently. What I found was a sky-high sanctuary of calm amid the Strip's legendary hoopla. While you can find plenty of traditional Vegas action in the new CityCenter complex at the southern end of Las Vegas Boulevard, the serenity of the MO, as epitomized by the superb 3,000-square-foot **Emperor Suite** (see p. 73), redefines Las Vegas luxe. Don't skip a visit to the always-terrific Spa at Mandarin Oriental and the nearby scene-setting pool plaza before you hit the town for the night.

GOLDENEYE HOTEL & RESORT

I have been to record mogul Chris Blackwell's **GoldenEye Hotel & Resort** (formerly the estate of James Bond creator Ian Fleming) three times and watched it grow over the years, while never losing its very special "guest house" aura of Caribbean

authenticity. The addition of two new freestanding villas to the original compound offers an amazingly private "resort within a resort" experience. Plus, the recent upgrading of an airfield in nearby Oracabessa to a full-fledged private jet center, **Ian Fleming International Airport**, will undoubtedly make this a hot destination for the jet set in Jamaica. See for yourself on p. 81.

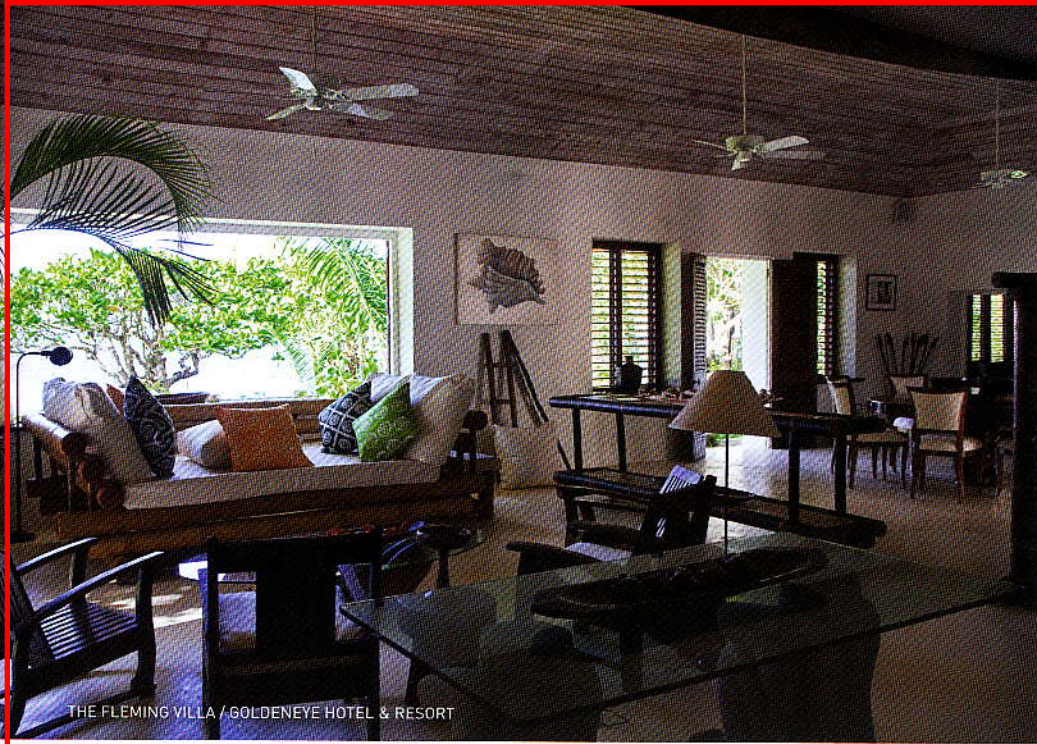
MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MUNICH

Munich has so much more to offer the elite traveler than sausage and beer (both of which, by the way, are exceptional in this Bavarian capital). Steps away from Maximilianstrasse, the **Mandarin Oriental, Munich**, led by charming GM Lars Wagner, is establishing a new level of refinement here. The hotel's newly refreshed tower suites all offer commanding views and terrific amenities, but the **Presidential Suite** is its most magnificent accommodation. Leave it only to check out the hotel's rooftop bar, China Moon, easily Munich's chicest nightlife destination. You can discover more on p. 89.

Kind regards,

*Mike Espindle*

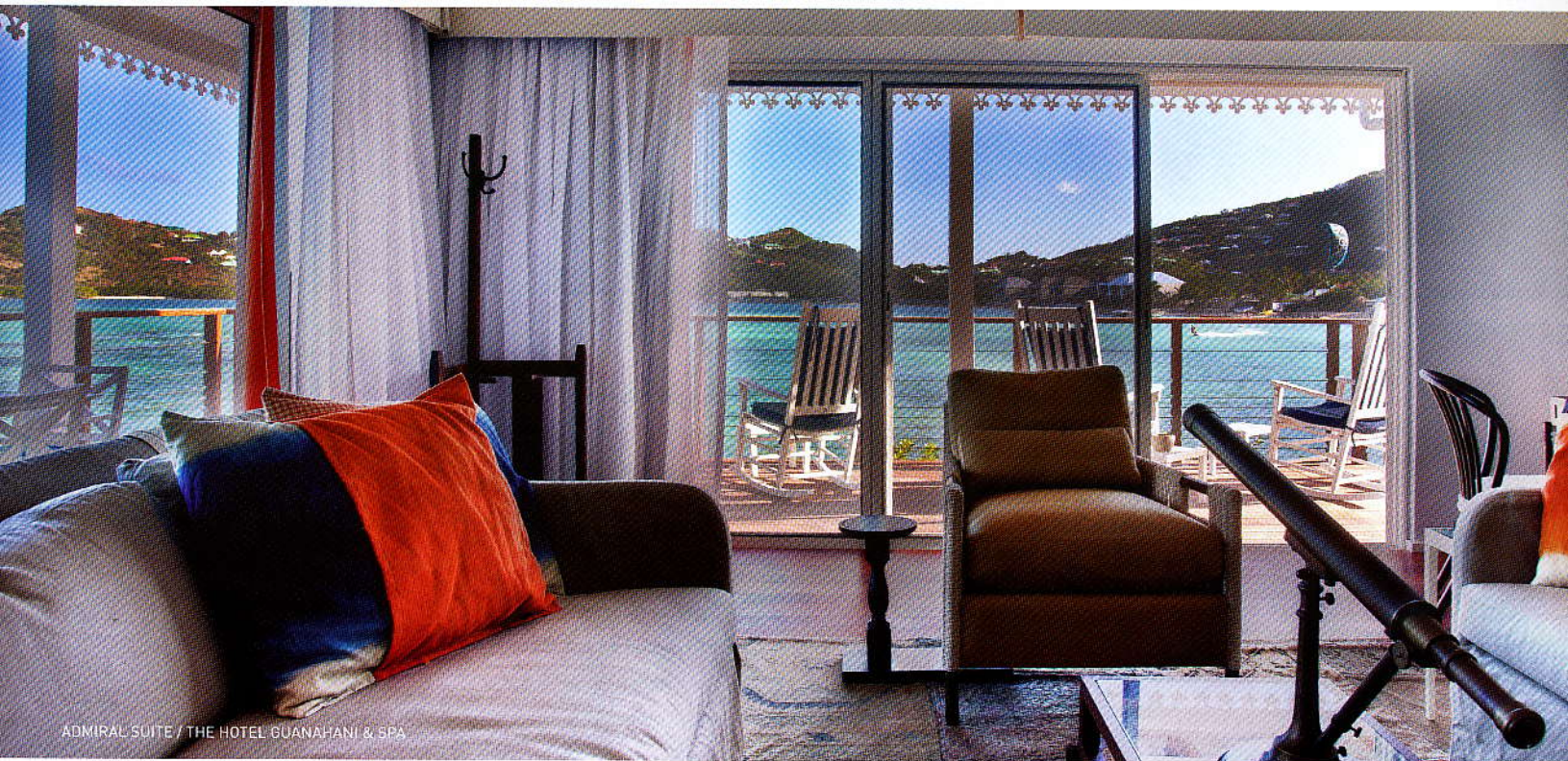
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THE FLEMING VILLA / GOLDENEYE HOTEL & RESORT



GOVERNOR'S SUITE / ST. REGIS BAHIA BEACH RESORT, PUERTO RICO



ADMIRAL SUITE / THE HOTEL GUANAHANI & SPA

## St-Barthélemy | French West Indies

### THE HOTEL GUANAHANI & SPA

#### ADMIRAL SUITE

**Square Footage** | 1,184

**Why We Love It** | This St-Barths staple unveiled its stately new suite just in time for the high season. Designed by Luis Pons (who was inspired by the intrepid Christopher Columbus), it features a private wraparound terrace, custom furnishings and nautical touches like an antique spy glass in a nod to the great explorer.

**Rate** | From about \$3,914

**Contact** | General Manager Marc Thézé, 590-27-66-60; hotel@leguanahani.com; www.leguanahani.com

## Oracabessa | Jamaica

### GOLDENEYE HOTEL & RESORT

#### THE FLEMING VILLA

**Square Footage** | 7,536

**Why We Love It** | Live it up like Bond, James Bond, in this five-bedroom villa compound, where namesake Ian Fleming once lived and worked, penning all 14 of his smash spy novels here. Following a recent refresh, it offers a high-tech media room—but fans will be most charmed by nostalgic touches, like Fleming's original writing desk.

**Rate** | From \$4,400

**Contact** | General Manager Jenny Wood, (876) 975-3354; jenny.goldeneye@cwjamaica.com; www.goldeneye.com

## Rio Grande | Puerto Rico

### ST. REGIS BAHIA BEACH RESORT, PUERTO RICO

#### GOVERNOR'S SUITE

**Square Footage** | 2,510

**Why We Love It** | Design team Hill Glazier incorporated the island setting into this top suite's style: Situated in a Caribbean plantation-style building with a beamed ceiling, the airy accommodation features a rainforest shower that extends into a second-floor outdoor terrace for nonstop ocean views.

**Rate** | \$3,100

**Contact** | General Manager Erik Berger, (787) 809-8000; erik.berger@stregis.com; www.stregisbahiaibeach.com