

HAMILTON JEWELERS

# ACCENT

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**FASHION:  
COLORS  
IN PLUME**

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Holiday Glamour





# PerfectGems

BY DONALD CHARLES RICHARDSON



**St. Tropez** is chic in the summer, but true Tropezians know this charming village is at its best during the spring and autumn. To let you in on the secret, the Hotel Byblos has created Le Saint Tropez Privé (the private Saint Tropez). Guests are met at the Nice airport for a three-night stay that includes spa treatments, breakfasts of local specialties, and a vineyard tour for personally selecting their favorite wines. Finally, there's the rare opportunity to dine with the Byblos Chef and Sommelier at the stunning "B" restaurant. Some things are just better without a crowd. Prices start around \$8,000 for two.

**The makers of Piper-Heidsieck** champagne don't sing the blues when the weather's bad. In 1976, a drought led to a vintage of surprising purity. They christened the 70 percent Chardonnay, 30 percent Pinot Noir blend "Rare". Then, a cold and rainy spring in 1979 resulted in incomparably pure wines that met the "Rare" standard. A few bottles of this vintage are still available at \$1,300. The 1988, a powerful wine created with the help of exceptionally fresh, cool breezes, retails for \$360. And happily, violent hail storms hit the region in 1999, creating a frank and pure champagne that made the "Rare" list. In France, even the clouds are lined with champagne.



**Maybe it is easy being beautiful.**

Stars like Jessica Simpson, Debra Messing, Michelle Williams and Renée Zellweger who need to be camera-ready when they hit the red carpet often turn to Rita Hazan for their hair color. Now any woman can be a "Celebrity for a Day" at Hazan's New York salon. The full treatment includes color from Hazan herself, a haircut from one of her top stylists, makeup application, eye-brow shaping and a mani-pedi. That doesn't sound so difficult, does it? Package available for \$1,250.





**C**amp Jabulani near Kruger National Park in South Africa offers a “Girlfriend Getaway” for women who want to experience the great outdoors without sacrificing vital creature comforts. The trip begins with a 300-mile ride on a Harley-Davidson (a truck follows with the luggage). Upon arrival, guests relax in suites featuring air-conditioning, plunge pools, fully stocked bars and personal butlers. A gym and full range of spa services are also available. Between pampering and cocktails, Camp Jabulani’s renowned elephant-back safaris place you in a



comfortable saddle (behind a trainer) while the gentle beasts quietly navigate narrow paths in single file. The return bike trip includes views of the majestic Drakenburg Mountain Range and dinner at a boutique hotel. Prices start at \$5,000.



COURTESY OF HOTEL VICTOR

Between nightclubs and sunbathing, it’s important to recuperate. The bath at the HOTEL VICTOR is a tempting option. Two hours of spa services prepare you to ease into an infinity-edge tub containing 1,000 liters of Evian Natural Spring Water. It’s topped with daisies, revitalizing the skin and purifying the senses. To stave off hunger pangs during the lengthy retreat, the hotel chef provides Smoked Salmon Lollipops, Potted Cra of Foie Gras and a signature hotel sweet platter—the Seven Sins of Chocolate. The bath costs \$5,000, a suite \$6,000.

**For guests who truly value privacy, Cap Cana in the Dominican Republic**

offers a chance to escape from it all—including the resort itself. Sixteen lavish villas known as the Luxury Retreats are sequestered on Caletón Beach overlooking the Caribbean. Each has its own pool, kitchen, open-air living room, 3 to 4 bedrooms, and personal butler. To maintain your solitude, Chef Daniel Valazco and Food and Wine Director Vicente Rubianes will personally visit your villa to serve up specialties like Sea Bass over passion fruit and banana jelly with cherry-stuffed truffles paired with bottles of Latour Chablis Premier. Prices range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per night.

