

SUMMER 2009: GREATEST DEALS EVER

Condé Nast Traveler

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A \$25,000
DREAM
TRIP
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TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2009

EUROPE
ON SALE
CRUISING
CLASSIC CITIES

HOT LIST WORLD'S TOP NEW 140 hotels*

50 Restaurants 50 Spas 35 Nightclubs *including 43 under \$250

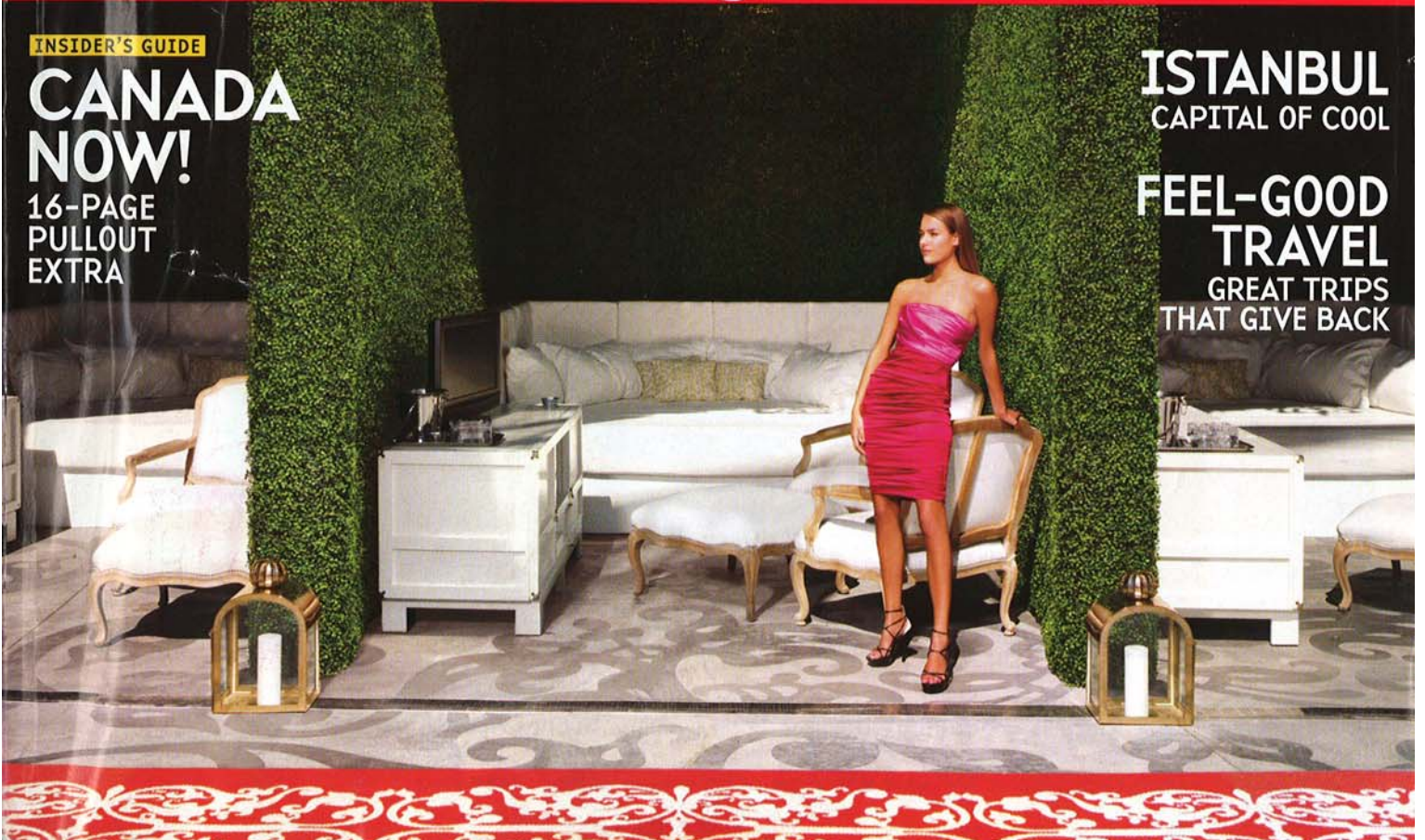
INSIDER'S GUIDE

CANADA NOW!

16-PAGE
PULLOUT
EXTRA

ISTANBUL
CAPITAL OF COOL

FEEL-GOOD
TRAVEL
GREAT TRIPS
THAT GIVE BACK



TREND #3

The return of the green fairy

Absinthe makes the heart grow fonder in cocktails or straight (almost) up.

AS SEEN AT
 APOTHÉKE, NEW YORK; KOKO, MONTREAL

minimalism in a semi-industrial modernist setting—steel and glass elevators and stairways, backlit wooden latticing, oversized sake bottles. **Who goes:** Well-heeled cosmopolitan expat professionals. **Sound track:** Chilled-out but loud trance. **What to wear:** Baggy designer jeans and sneakers for boys; diminutive dress and skyscraper heels for girls. **What to drink:** The Rubabusa and vodka mixed with fresh passion fruit. **Door policy:** Book if you're coming on a Thursday (Dubai's Friday), otherwise walk straight in (Building 6, Gate Village, Dubai International Financial Center; 971-4425-5660).

UNITED STATES

Bardot Hollywood » Los Angeles, California

What: A jumping bar cum salon up an unmarked staircase across from iconic Capitol Records. **The look:** Chicly tattered luxury—velvet banquettes, chandeliers, and multicolored-glass windows in a warren of small bar spaces and a large living room area. **Who goes:** Celebs (Kate Hudson, Mary-Kate Olsen), writers, agents, gel-haired young actors, and hangers-on. **Sound track:** Mondays there's a burlesque show—jazz musicians jam while young women in fishnet stockings and lingerie wrestle with chairs in the manner of Sally Bowles on methamphetamine. In the upstairs bar, groove on tunes spun by DJ/actor Ryan Gosling. **What to wear:** Men don skinny ties and skinnier jeans; women get creative with vintage dresses. **What to drink:** Classic cocktails involving brown liquor match the speakeasy vibe. **Door policy:** Chef Jared Simon calls this a "gastroclub"; you'll have to, as well—making dinner reservations is the only way to secure entrance if you're not a regular (1737 N. Vine St.; 323-462-1307).

Infusion Lounge » San Francisco, California

What: Vegas-style lounge, restaurant, and nightclub below the Hotel Fusion, a few blocks from Union Square. **The look:** Hong Kong action-flick set—all hard edges except for the Buddha bellies, plus a few Goodwill-inspired couches for table service. **Who goes:** A United Nations of club



» THE LOOK

These Library Lounge
 Tokyo

TOP

Haute hoodie by Y-3 Yohji Yamamoto

BOTTOM

Miu Miu's casual slacks

SHOES

"It" sneaks by Kanye for Louis Vuitton

... Prime yourself for the bookish steez of the chill intellectual crowd with a few black currant-and-rum cocktails.

hoppers, a refreshing change from the city's usual crowd of e-geeks and hipsters. **Sound track:** Hip-hop and house. On Fridays and Saturdays, two DJs spin in competing lounges. **What to wear:** Helmut Lang shirts for guys; low-cut and high-hemmed for women. **What to drink:** Vodka and Red Bull—this isn't an artisanal-cocktail crowd, and drinks come in plastic cups. **Door policy:** Tougher for guys, and impossible if you're wearing sneakers. Expect a line on weekends (124 Ellis St.; 415-421-8700).

The Press Club » San Francisco, California

What: Subterranean hot spot that brings Napa to downtown San Francisco, with tasting bars from eight local wineries under one roof (the Four Seasons'), plus snacks in the form of cheese bites and other small plates. **The look:** Industrial chic—concrete floors, walnut paneling, rough-hewn teak tables. **Who goes:** The after-work crowd, and large groups—every pour goes on a single Press Pass tab, which is easy to split. **Sound track:** Barely perceptible ambient house and trance. **What to wear:** Suits and dresses, a tailored skirt or dress. **What to drink:** The Pinot Noir pinot noir; you won't find a better tasting room at its Saratoga winery. **Door policy:** Like the city itself, staff accept all comers (20 Yerba Buena Lane; 415-744-5000).

Liquid Sky » Snowmass, Colorado

What: Vegas cool meets mountain glitz at Scott DeGraff's (of Sin City's Rain and GhostBar) après-ski spot. **The look:** Log cabin luxe—soaring ceilings, teak bar stools, velvet couches, copper mosaic ceiling, and wraparound bar with per-

sonal fire-pit stations for s'mores roasting. **Who goes:** Discerning New Yorkers over for the weekend; chic Aspenites grateful for a hangout other than the Little Nell bar. **Sound track:** DJs Friday through Sunday; otherwise Jack Johnson and Red Hot Chili Peppers on repeat. **What to wear:** Purple puffed-up Moncler and Jimmy Choo boots for ski bunnies; Mack jackets and flannel tie from the J.Crew Mountain store in town for fellows. **What to drink:** The Liquid Sky blends Baileys, Godiva white and dark liqueurs, Stoli vanilla, and a double shot of iced espresso. **Door policy:** The space is huge—getting in is easy (73 Wood Rd.; 970-922-5865).

Louis » Miami Beach, Florida

What: A 500-square-foot throwback to Miami Beach in the mid-'70s. **The look:** Kitsch shout-out to Versailles—boudoir velvets, coiffed wigs in cases, dark mirrored hallways. **Who goes:** Euro types and Latina hotties, just-off-the-plane models. **Sound track:** Everything from Michael Jackson to Madonna. **What to wear:** As short as you dare for the ladies; jeans and a button-down for boys. **What to drink:** A bottle of Ciroc with mixers if you want a table and attention. **Door policy:** Book a room at host hotel Gansevoort South to guarantee entry (2325 Collins Ave.; 305-531-4600).

Sunset Lounge » Miami Beach, Florida

What: The latest throbbing nightclub-in-the-lobby offering from the Morgans Hotel Group folks; the action at the Mondrian (see "Hot List") spills from the jam-packed ground floor bar out to the pool, where iconic bay views give an electric backdrop. Go on Friday nights for the best scene. **The look:** *Alice in Wonderland*: oversize chandeliers, green-covered cabanas, and a secret garden for covert canoodling. **Who goes:** Local hipsters making the nightly party circuit; New Yorkers looking for a more

grown-up scene than SoBe. **Sound track:** Hip-hop and Latin. **What to wear:** Whatever gets you noticed—couture to stripper wear seem acceptable. **What to drink:** Cachaça—there are 50 types of the beloved Brazilian liquor on the list; choose a *caipirinha* if a straight-up shot is not your style. **Door policy:** Get there early to avoid a wait at the velvet rope (1100 West Ave.; 305-514-1500).

Denmark » Copenhagen
 A fire-starter bartender at 1105.



Right: Photograph by Henrik Friis