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DREAM
TRIP
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TRUTH IN TRAVEL

AUGUST 2008

NINTH ANNUAL

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128

TOP TRAVEL PLANNERS—
AND WHAT THEY CAN
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ITALY
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47 SHIPS FOR ALL TYPES
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word *of* mouth

AUGUST 2008 A star is born in Santa Fe . . . Woody Allen and friends take Barcelona . . . Beijing's medal-winning nightclubs

Hello, sailor:
Cruising the Bosphorus on Four Seasons' antique launch. The Blue Mosque is in the background.

meal
DEAL
Oh, we do like to be eating fish-and-chips beside the seaside (page 34)

the
DREAM TEAM
Five names to drop in the City of Light (page 36)

exit
INTERVIEW
Bye, Rhode Island! Salaam, Qatar! (page 38)

TURKEY Istanbul

It's not just Istanbul's exotic past that makes it one of the world's most beguiling cities. In recent years, sleek clubs and rooftop bars, flash European-style restaurants, and a fleet of designer boutiques have brought the place where East and West collide bang up to date. Now, a new generation of five-star hotels is giving it the accommodations to match. The **Four Seasons Bosphorus** has just debuted its second Istanbul outpost, in a nineteenth-century Ottoman palace on the water. An antique launch carries guests to St. George's Island and other spots along the banks of the strait, with its many Ottoman palaces, while the spa offers locale-appropriate amenities such as a ▶

the
BUZZ
(the destination)

Turkish bath (90-212-381-4000; fourseasons.com/bosphorus; doubles, \$617–\$664). The new **W Hotel** takes its harem theme seriously: A row of nineteenth-century houses built by Sultan Abdulaziz come with red silk bedclothes and filmy curtains. The hotel's **Spice Market** restaurant, by superchef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, is another sign of the city's internationalization (90-212-381-2121; starwoodhotels.com; doubles, \$435; entrées, \$23–\$80), as is Alan Yau's **Hak-**



kasan, an outpost of his London restaurant (185 Büyükdere St., Kanyon Shopping Ctr.; 90-212-319-8888; entrées, \$32–\$105). Next month the Maçka Palas, designed by Italian architect Giulio Mongheri in 1922, will reopen as a **Park Hyatt**—spring for a spa suite, with steam room and soaking tub (90-212-368-1234; istanbul.park.hyatt.com; doubles, \$550). For more intimate lodgings, try the 15-room **Wittistanbul**, with mid-century-style furniture and marble kitchens (90-212-393-7900; wittistanbul.com; doubles, \$410–\$455). Istanbul has been a world center for Islamic arts for centuries; today the **Istanbul Modern** is one of Europe's key contemporary museums—check out “Modern Experiences,” paintings from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (90-212-334-7300; istanbulmodern.org). It may be a case of in with the new in Europe's most populous city, but don't forget the old: Make sure icons like Hagia Sophia and Topkapi Palace are part of your itinerary.



Light me up: Penélope Cruz in Barcelona's El Born district.

BARCELONA

Vicky Cristina Barcelona

(Buzz) movie

Director Woody Allen chose Barcelona as the backdrop for his latest tale of relationship strife, **VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA**, starring Penélope Cruz, Scarlett Johansson, and Javier Bardem.

Due out August 29, it's an ode to the city as much as to love and lust: Look for Gaudí architecture, including Sagrada Família, a favorite of Allen's. The cast stayed at the **Hotel Arts** (34-93-221-1000; ritzcarlton.com; doubles, \$460–\$720); Allen dined at **Ca L'Isidre**—“it has the best food in Europe” (12 C. Les Flors; 34-93-441-1139; entrées, \$30–\$60) and spent downtime playing jazz at the **Hotel Casa Fuster's** bar (34-93-255-3000; casafuster.com).



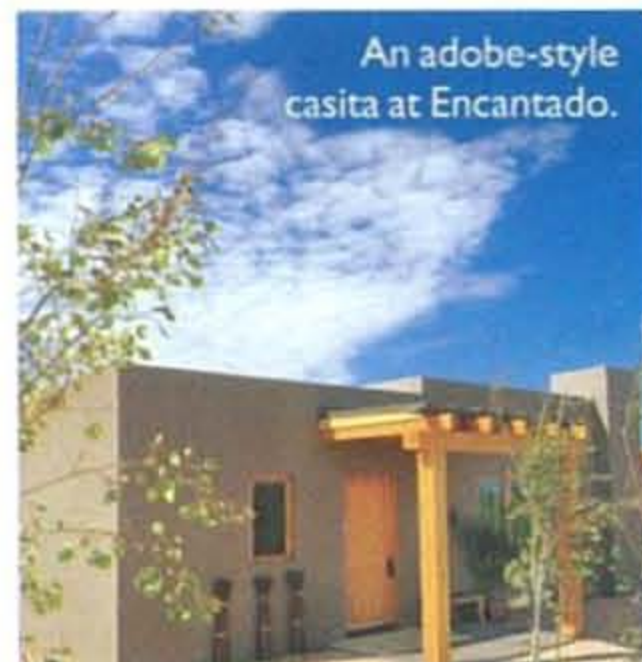
Zena caftan, \$248 (631-329-8883).

Elie Tahari is the latest designer to marry art and fashion: Kenny Scharf's vivid painting Floatungie, created especially for the label, graces a limited edition collection of beachy silk chiffon caftans and cotton voile pareus.

(Buzz) hotel

SANTA FE Encantado

Santa Fe may be spiritual, but its hotels have never been, well, chic. Until now. Auberge Resort's **ENCANTADO** has 65 casitas with wood beams, polished cement floors, and fireplaces for nippy nights. The restaurant is designed by the team behind New York's Public and helmed by Daniel Boulud protégé Charles Dale, and the 10,000-square-foot spa offers all the chakra balancing and herbal elixirs you'd expect in New Mexico's hippie center (877-262-4666; encantadoresort.com; doubles, \$425–\$625).



An adobe-style casita at Encantado.

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