

GRAND OPENINGS » 22 of the World's Best New Hotels and Resorts

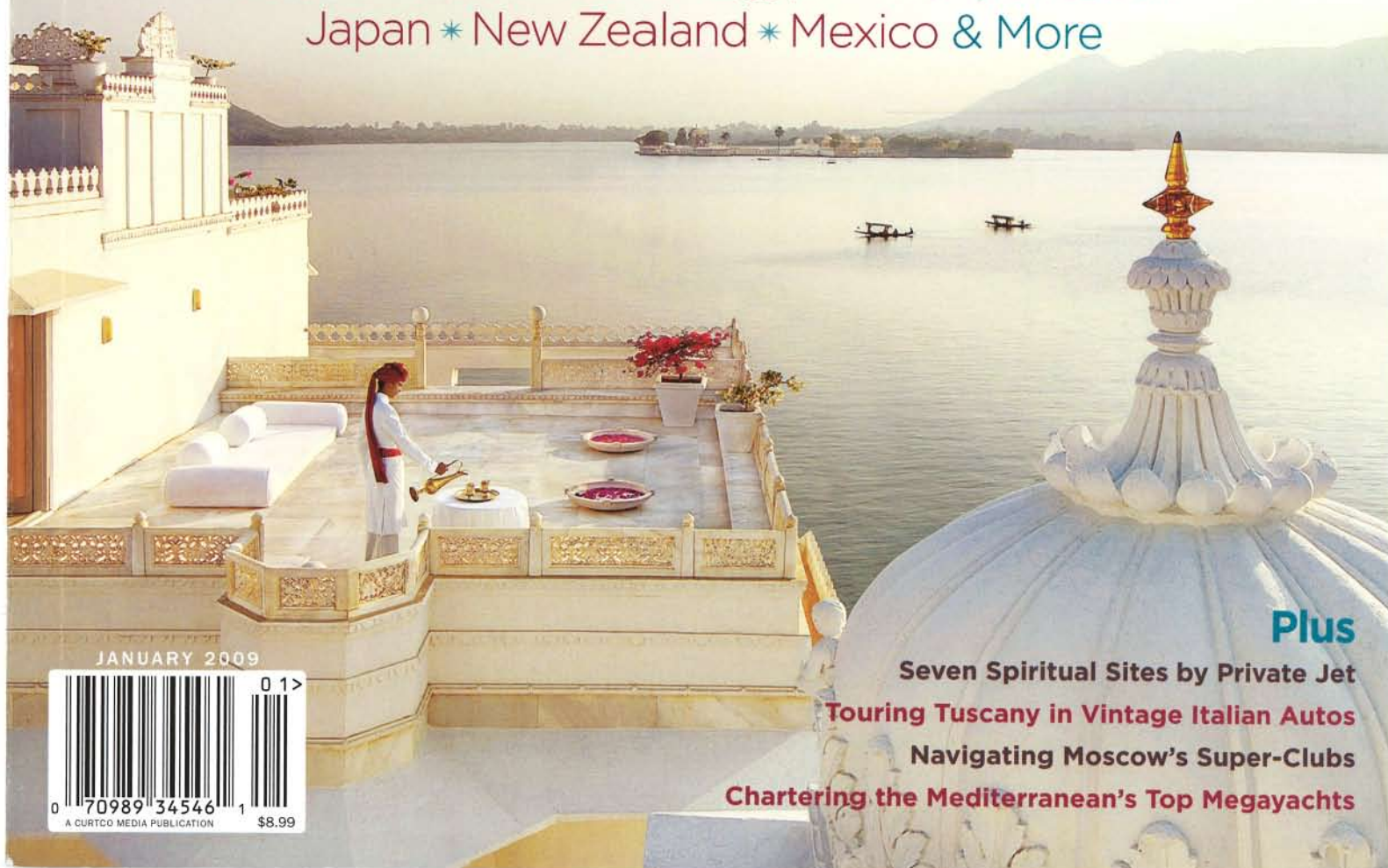
# Robb Report

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## *The* Travel ISSUE

FANTASTIC JOURNEYS

India \* Africa \* Alaska \* Egypt \* The Caribbean  
Japan \* New Zealand \* Mexico & More



JANUARY 2009



**Plus**

Seven Spiritual Sites by Private Jet

Touring Tuscany in Vintage Italian Autos

Navigating Moscow's Super-Clubs

Chartering the Mediterranean's Top Megayachts

# · FRONT RUNNERS ·

*Tumi's trunk show of force. . . .*



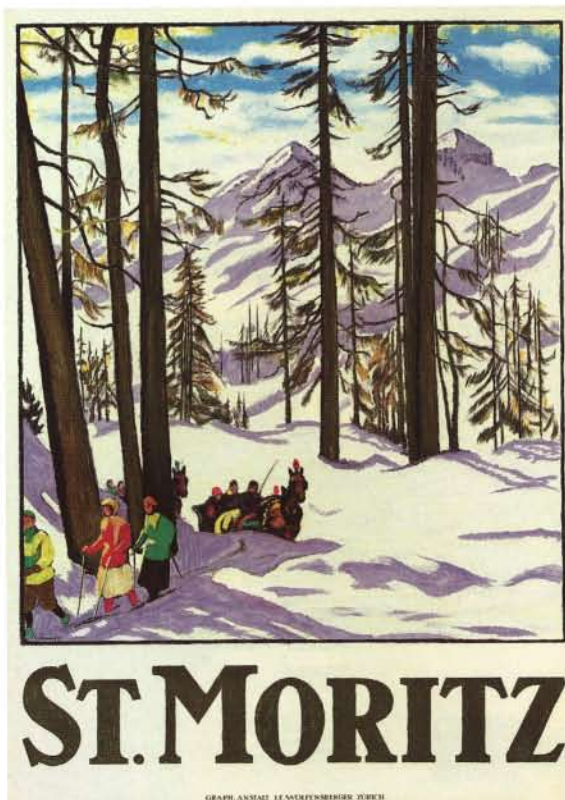
**D**AVID CHU BELIEVES that it is not just clothes that make the man, but also what you pack those clothes in. "How you travel is an extension of your personality," says Chu, the executive creative director for the luggage and accessories company Tumi, "and a good-looking bag—polished and of premium quality—speaks of confidence, power, and style."

The new Tumi Townhouse collection ([www.tumi.com](http://www.tumi.com)) makes

such a statement with trunks and boxes, as well as bags. The line—modeled after luggage from the 1920s and '30s, when transatlantic steamer journeys represented the height of luxury travel—comprises the hatbox and wardrobe trunks shown here (\$2,500 to \$7,000 apiece), and a briefcase, satchel, and wheeled case. Select pieces are upholstered in tan cloth; the hatbox is available only in black ballistic nylon trimmed with leather. . . .

*Tumi's new Townhouse line includes trunks and a hatbox, shown with Optimo Hats' \$750 Montecristi Panama fedora ([www.optimohats.com](http://www.optimohats.com)).*

An upturn for downhillers, and a ski glove that could be the talk of the slopes. . . .



Vintage ski posters from Christie's upcoming Ski Sale, and the Swany G.Cell Bluetooth Glove.



**POWDER PRINTS** \* The upcoming **Christie's Ski Sale** ([www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)), to be held January 28 at the auction house's South Kensington location in London, will include some 300 vintage promotional posters that span the first half of the 20th century. The posters depict winter-sports resorts and equipment ranging from the earliest Telemark skis to the first aluminum skis. A poster from 1938 (pictured) shows two skiers about to hit the Norwegian slopes with that year's newest gear: sharp-tipped wooden skis and bamboo poles. The sale also includes one of the first ski posters ever made, the circa-1900 "Chamonix Mont Blanc," which has a presale estimate of \$22,645 to \$25,878. Christie's touts an upturn in the market for vintage ski posters, noting that those depicting scenes from Swiss and French resorts have been commanding the most attention. At the auction

house's 2007 Ski Sale, a circa-1930 example showing skiers flocking to the French slopes brought in \$15,755, and a circa-1925 poster of Wengen in the Swiss Alps sold for \$37,406. . . .

**TALK TO THE HAND** \* The new **Swany G.Cell Bluetooth Glove** ([www.swanyamerica.com](http://www.swanyamerica.com)) may never be immortalized in a poster, but it could allow you to call in auction bids from the slopes—without exposing your fingers to the cold. Billed as the world's first cellular ski glove, the G.Cell (\$500) connects to your mobile phone via Bluetooth technology and provides as much as four hours of talk time. The glove vibrates at the wrist when it receives a call, and you answer by touching the back of the glove. An earpiece installed in the tip of the thumb works in conjunction with a mouthpiece in the palm. The G.Cell also has a voice-command function, further ensuring that you can stay in touch without freezing your fingers. . . .

*Skiing as a contact sport, and a green retreat in Greenough. . . .*



Anton Gliders Carbon EX skis, and a Resort at Paws Up Wilderness Estates home.

**ALONG FOR THE GLIDE** \* Anton Wilson, the engineer who founded the Bozeman, Mont., company that makes Anton Gliders skis, describes the Total Control Suspension system of the new **Carbon Series Anton Gliders** ([www.antongliders.com](http://www.antongliders.com)) in automotive terms. “It’s like going from a pickup to a Ferrari,”

both icy and powdery conditions. Released in September, the \$3,990 Carbon EX (shown) is the highest-performance ski in the Anton Gliders line. . . .

**INTO THE WILDERNESS** \* Owners of the 10 new **Resort at Paws Up Wilderness Estates** ([www.pawsup.com](http://www.pawsup.com)) in Greenough,

come fully furnished—including linens, china, and artwork. Homeowners can avail themselves of the Resort at Paws Up’s activities and facilities, including horseback riding, fly-fishing, and a full spa. Owners can also make their homes—and their electric cars—available for rent through the resort. . . .



says Wilson, whose system, like a finely tuned automotive suspension, helps improve handling and speed. The Total Control Suspension continually redistributes your weight to maintain consistent pressure on the tips and tails, a design that keeps the entire length of the skis in constant contact with the snow. This contact enables you to ski in a more relaxed manner while carving hard edges in

Mont., can navigate the 37,000-acre property without polluting the Big Sky. Each of the 3,248-square-foot timber vacation homes comes with a Miles Electric Vehicle, a low-speed car that can be charged on a 110-volt wall socket. The houses, priced from \$1.675 million to \$1.875 million, also feature professional-grade kitchens, great rooms with vaulted ceilings, and lofted game rooms, and all

**DOWN TIME** \* The **Mandarin Oriental Riviera Maya** ([www.mandarinoriental.com](http://www.mandarinoriental.com)) will take you to new depths—maybe even to the underworld—with its new Submerged in Riviera Maya package. In addition to four nights’ accommodations at the resort—which opened in early 2008 on Mexico’s Caribbean coast, 26 miles south of Cancún—the three-day scuba-diving program includes classroom and in-pool training sessions, two open-water dives to depths of 40 feet, and two open-water dives to 60 feet. Upon completion of the course, you receive PADI open-water certification, which is recognized at dive sites around the world. The Riviera Maya region is considered one of the world’s top scuba destinations, thanks to its proximity to the Western Hemisphere’s largest barrier reef. The area’s diving attractions also include numerous cenotes, or freshwater caves, which early Mayan civilizations believed led to the underworld. . . .

TOP: BOB GRIER PHOTOGRAPHY

Porsche's place in history, and a watch with a precise sense of place.



A rendering of the Porsche Museum in Stuttgart, Germany (above), the IW Club at the Indian Wells Golf Resort (below left), and the Vogard 18kt Gold Edition world-time watch.

**EXHIBITIONS OF SPEED** ✱ In racing and in sales, German sports-car manufacturers are fierce competitors. So it is not surprising—after Mercedes-Benz opened a new museum in 2006 and BMW debuted one in 2008—that Porsche is opening a new **Porsche Museum** ([www.porsche.com](http://www.porsche.com)). The sharp-angled, aerodynamically shaped structure, which is located next to the Porsche factory in Stuttgart, Germany, was, at press time, scheduled for completion



in December. The museum will accommodate more than 80 historical vehicles, some of them, including the 909 Bergspyder, on display for the first time. The facility will also contain a Classic Workshop that services historical Porsches and allows visitors to view restoration experts at work. . . .

**A FITTING ADDITION** ✱ The new **IW Club** ([www.indianwellsgolfresort.com](http://www.indianwellsgolfresort.com))—a \$30 million, 53,000-square-foot, two-story clubhouse at the Indian Wells Golf Resort outside of Palm Springs, Calif.—features one of only nine Callaway Performance Centers in existence. In addition to offering Callaway club fittings, the center includes two high-tech indoor studios with launch monitors that can analyze your swing to determine its effect on the ball's launch angle, spin rate, and carry distance. The sandstone-and-glass clubhouse also features a nine-hole putting course, a golf shop, and dining venues. Indian Wells' two 18-hole courses, the Players and the Celebrity, both recently reopened after renovations. . . .

**IN THE ZONES** ✱ Vogard, a small-scale Swiss watch manufacturer, specializes in custom travel watches built for the demands of, say, Bostonians who recoil from dialing up a time-zone setting marked "New York." The \$32,200 **Vogard 18kt Gold Edition** ([www.vogard.com](http://www.vogard.com)) can be engraved with virtually any set of destinations, and it comes with a certificate guaranteeing that the company will not

reproduce your watch bezel. Past custom models built by Vogard include watches engraved with the names of vineyards, nightclubs, and even the names of one client's mistresses, who were scattered across the globe. ☐

CONTRIBUTORS

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FAR LEFT: CHRIS MILLER