

BEST DECADENCE

The latest from the Soho House stable has private beach huts, a second-floor bar tricked out in homage to 1940s Cuba, Venetian-inspired food at Cecconi's and One While Changing—Grey Goose cocktails mixed in your room in that moment between bathtime and dressing. Inhale the sweet smell of excess perfect for Mi-Lons, the Miami-London hedonists. sohohouse.com



BEST PHONE POUCH

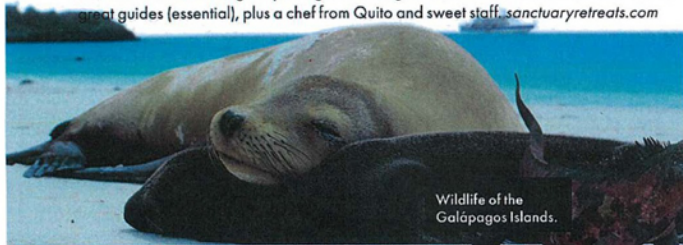
Spoil your iPhone with a super-chic Smythson cover in jade: you'll never fail to spot it in the dark recesses of an aeroplane seat. smythson.com

BEST LIST

2011

BEST ADVENTURE

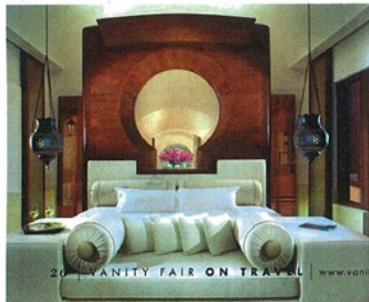
To visit the Galápagos is nature's equivalent of a religious experience. The boat you choose is vital to the privilege of being in the islands: go small, go luxurious, otherwise don't go. The Sanctuary *M.V. Eclipse* is super-luxe, a new level to the faux-luxe yachts with brown food that went before. You're there for the blue-footed boobies, the marine iguanas, tortoises and snorkelling with sea lions, but there's a limit. A lovely cabin, hot shower and a fine dinner are not crimes against nature, it's the way to go. *Eclipse* carries 48 passengers, has masses of room, inside and out, so you can have lunch, sunbathe and read in the shade during the passages. All the gizmos, a doctor on board, four Zodiacs, great guides (essential), plus a chef from Quito and sweet staff. sanctuaryretreats.com



Wildlife of the Galápagos Islands.

BEST BED

Very Bond, James Bond. At Phulay Bay, the new Ritz-Carlton Reserve on Krabi, Thailand, the beds in the villas are four by two metres: sleep any which way round. Custom-made linen, pillows in different combinations of down and feathers. Good night, sleep tight. reserve.ritzcarlton.com

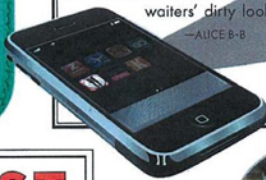


HAPPY APPS

BIG TIPPER

Never get it wrong again. The Big Tipper will advise you on the polite amount to tip, wherever in the world you might be. And if figuring out fractions and poring over percentages isn't your forte, enter your bill amount and it will do the number crunching for you. No more waiters' dirty looks.

—ALICE B-B



SMART SET LUNCHES

Weekend Wine at Amber, the Landmark, Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong

Head sommelier Hervé Pennequin has carefully wheedled out the best wines and most exceptional vintages from all four corners of the world to match the contemporary-French deliciousness dished out by two-Michelin-starred chef Richard Ekkebus (pictured, inset above). M Pennequin is dead keen to impart his oenological information.

So if anyone asks, you're "at a lecture". It's a great cover-up for a long, liquid lunch.

mandarinoriental.com —ALICE B-B