

Indeed



Madness



Even though [Miami](#) has become a year-round destination, I enjoy traveling around the Mediterranean over the summer. [St. Tropez](#) is one of my favorite scenester spots. [Ibiza](#) has the world's greatest Dj's and music ambience. And [Mykonos](#) with its white-washed walls and island hopping is always worth a visit. [Croatia](#) is the new kid on the block. Plus, many other destinations are perfect for summer, but this year I only had time for two stops, St. Tropez and Ibiza.

LOVE SAINT - TROPEZ

St. Tropez

UNE SAISON DE PLAISIRS

Being the furthest point out on a peninsula, St. Tropez is not the easiest to get to. Unless of course, you hop a heli or have your private driver sweep you up the back roads. The single lane roads leading to this hotspot are wall to wall traffic during high season. I arrived into the Nice airport late evening, so I had smooth sailing into St. Tropez minus the madness. Ferries also

transport pleasure seekers to **Bridget Bardot's** playground if you time your arrivals right. Or coming by yacht or megayacht is another favorite means of transportation to this port town. They come in all shapes and sizes with names like "Lady Joy", "Oasis", "Secret", "Lazy Me", "Gossip" and "Where the Dreams Have No End".



Hope & Carole Rome



The last week of July is like the Super Bowl week of parties...with parties galore and one bigger and better than the next in magnificent villas and megayachts. And the rich, powerful and beautiful come to mix and mingle at these extravagant affairs.



There are a variety of theme parties and I arrived the day of the Belgium "Pink Party" at Nikki Beach. This gave me the opportunity to start my liquid diet of French rose which is ever so light and refreshing (perfectly suited to the pink party theme)...and was to continue endlessly for the next several weeks. Ah, will power came easy.

Anna, Karina & Hope



I did cheat a bit and ate some French baguettes and paninis that are available at every turn and alternated glasses of rose with champagne. I loved walking home from the clubs just before sunrise and seeing the local bakers (not quite the American 'Dunkin Donuts' man, but a younger, hipper, fitter shirtless variety showing off their bodies through the windows of the patisseries) baking the daily bread.

Nikki Beach Pink Party Pool



I do have a weakness for European men! And the French accent is oh so lovely to listen to regardless of what they are saying to you.

Beach Pooch



The next day, I started my daily routine sleeping off my hangover, running, checking emails and then heading to the plages (beaches) to make the rounds of the trendy beach clubs inhabited by the 'see and be scene' folks. La Voile Rouge has been around for years as well as Le Club 55 founded in 1955. The newcomer is Club Les Palmiers. Each one has its own distinct personality and crowd, but you do tend to keep bumping into the same faces everywhere.

Nikki Dancer



La Voile Rouge



German bad boy, **Thomas Kramer** (www.thomaskramer.com) from **South Beach** was given a Presidential pardon and thus, finally back in Europe after a 30 year hiatus. You can't help but see and hear him wherever he is. And the rest of the jetsetters included a motley crew of Americans (surprised to see so many with our worthless dollar), Europeans, Russians and Indians. And of course, a few celebs spotted here and there. Club 55 is a power lunch place and there I ran into the paparazzi pouncing on **Harvey Weinstein** who was having lunch with **ASW** founder, **Erik Wachtmeister** and **ASW** GM, **Joe Robinson** (www.asmallworld.net).



I was shocked the next afternoon at **Nikki Beach** (www.nikkibeach.com) when I saw them lining up all the champagne for the spraying ritual and someone yelled out my name from the super VIP area guarding the liquid loot! It was my Swedish ASW friend, **Linda** who was there with her new Indian boyfriend, **Mahesh**. Mahesh had ordered the 1000 bottles of champagne on the steps for the afternoon's champagne shower. And he told us it was his fourth day of this ritual...not a cheap task at 300 euros per bottle. I quickly grabbed one for myself to chug before all the liquid landed on the floor. Nikki Beach even has a gal on champagne patrol protected with a snorkel mask. Getting all those bubbles into your eyes rather than your mouth can yield a mean sting. Who knew goggles were recommended eyewear at Nikki Beach rather than your showy **Chanel**s or **Gucci** glasses!



From top to bottom:
Thomas Kramer
Linda & Mahesh
Goggle Girl
Champagne galore!



Denise Rich

Diva, **Denise Rich** (www.deniserichsongs.com - grammy award-winning songwriter whose husband was pardoned by **President Clinton**) hosted a party along with **ASW** online network aboard her new yacht, "**Lady Joy**" for about 1000 of her friends and ASW members. Luckily, I was 'on the list' for this overcrowded bash. Sightings included **Ivana Trump** and **Naomi Campbell** among the rest of the **Tropezienne** party people. Here I met my friend **Sandy** from Buenos Aires and **Anna** from Stockholm to form an international trio hunting together for eligible global bachelors.



Anna, Hope & Sandy



The next night was for the "**White Party**" at a 90 million euro estate. The grounds were exquisite and the party décor classy and festive. I loved this chic party palace. The new party accessory this season was a revolving outdoor dance floor. It is great for checking out potential partners...if you miss them, you know the carousel will be back around in a few minutes...so you can keep checking out the one you want to meet! Here I ran into Miami developer, **Ugo Colombo** and his lovely wife, **Sara**.

Tony Murray's annual party required not merely your name on the list, but proof by showing your passport to show 'you' were really 'you'. Everyone knows the trick of stealing a name that you know will be on the list and 'posing' at the door as that person to the name taker. We **South Beach** party people are pros at list control. **Thomas Kramer** forgot his passport, but who could ever mistake him for anyone else! Getting past party gatekeepers is not an easy task in **St. Tropez**. Looking the part of a "player" is NOT enough in a town where everyone is a player!

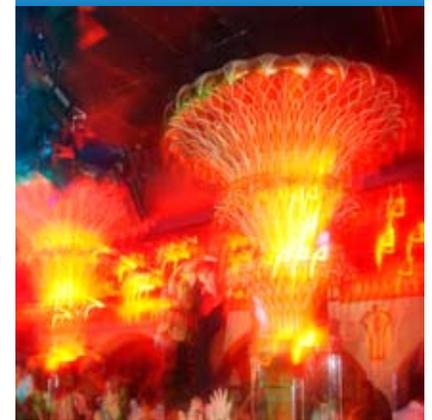
That same night, the **Rodriguez Rendezvous** (www.rodrieguezgroup.com) for their **Mangusta** owners offered a fireworks display over the water that was quite impressive. This annual event takes over the port for 24 hours. Other yacht hopping events included an afternoon BBQ on the **Harle** yacht and a birthday dinner on a Saudi Prince's boat.

The restaurant scene has a few favorites from **Joseph's** (www.joseph-saint-tropez.com - there are about 5 so make sure you know which one you are meeting your friends at) and **Villa Romana** (www.villa-romana.com - nice intro video and venue movie), the funky theme place. Here girls are given angel halos to wear and waiters are dressed as cops and other bad boys. Drinks are super-sized with multiple straws for sharing. I had my first major celeb sighting at Villa Romana and it was none other than number 1 bachelor, **George Clooney**! He was dining with **Cindy Crawford** and **Randi Gerber**, but no hot babes at his side. Hip hip hurray!! Got close, but not close enough, darn! Spotted and said hello to **Tommy Hilfiger** at Joseph's one night and had a champagne compliments of ASW hostess,



Susan Girbaud one evening at **La Tour Joseph**, yet another of the Joseph's with the best waterfront views. **The Strand** is another good dining option. Or eat at **Alain Ducasse's Spoon** restaurant at **Le Byblos Hotel** to stay close to the evening's action. **Pearl Beach** (www.thepearlbeach.com) is a tranquil waterfront dining environment with a Balinese vibe. Between dinner and dancing, **La Maison Blanche** (www.hotellamaisonblanche.com) is a good pre-clubbing outdoor lounge to check out.

After all the dinners and private parties end, the festivities continue nightly at **Les Caves du Roy** (www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZDYJlfidEw), the glitzy, glamorous underground nightclub at **Le Byblos Hotel** (www.byblos.com) where you can watch the sheiks and shakers hit the disco dance floor. The hotel's courtyard is the initial 'meet market', before going into the 'Caves'. Once inside (if you are lucky enough to get picked by the doormen) you are mesmerized by the pumping music, and glittering lightshow on the trademark chandeliers. And it is best to arrive a bit tipsy, since even a water will set you back about 20 euros and a cocktail around 50 euros! "American Boy" was the theme song of this trip and all the foreign babes still had the hots for our homegrown men. And mention, you are from Miami and both boys' and girls' eyes pop out! Seems **South Beach** is still the ultimate desired lifestyle! Everyone from everywhere seemed to want to visit and/or move to our sunny shores. **VIP Room** (www.viprooom.fr – check out the videos in the events St. Tropez section) is the other club in St. Tropez along with **Le Papagayo**...but Les Caves is the top choice on my list and the A-listers.



Joseph, Carl & Hope

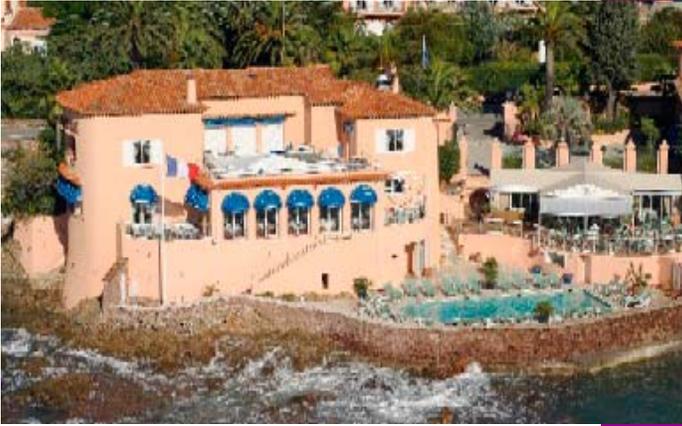


Chateau de la Messardiere

When the sun rises and you need to finally rest your weary head, there are several popular spots to sleep. If you prefer to sleep like a prince or princess in a chateau, **Chateau de la Messardiere** (www.messardiere.com) is the ultimate choice, perched on a hilltop with panoramic views. It has its own shuttle that takes you to the village and conveniently drops you off just outside the steps to Les Cave du Roy. **Le Byblos** (www.byblos.com) in town is another favorite and puts you right where the action is late night. **La Ponche** (www.laponche.com) is a good four star choice. Popular well priced places include the **B-Lodge Hotel** (www.hotel-b-lodge.com), **Hotel Sube** (www.hotel-sube.com) and **Hotel Ermitage**...all a stones throw from Le Byblos as well as **Les Hotel Des Lices** (www.hoteldeslices.com). **Hotel Benkirai** (www.hotel-benkirai.com) is a designer hotel on the way to the beaches designed by rising star, **Patrick Jouin**. Of course, sleeping on a megayacht or in one of the spectacular villas is priceless.

Shopping....well this year with the dollar in the dumpster, I tried to avoid all the narrow streets winding through the village filled with fabulous shops. **Faith Connexion** was a new brand name I spotted a lot. All the usual designer brands can be found at both retail and on the local Tropeziennes roaming about. **Roberto Cavallo** likes to hit St. Tropez with his easily recognizable purple yacht with leopard print décor.





St. Maxime Estate for Sale



St. Tropez Vineyard

St. Tropez diversions include wine tasting, polo matches (www.polo-st-tropez.com) and art exhibitions. One afternoon I took a 15 minute ferry to **St. Maxime** where I toured a **stately waterfront estate** of a lovely new friend I met at one of the many yacht parties. She enlisted me to assist with selling this magnificent family property. It has 6 bedrooms and bathrooms in the main house along with a guest house, spa, wine cellar, pool and dock among many more amenities. In its heyday, heads of states, movie stars and other VIPS stayed at this unique place. Feel free to contact me for more details, but it will set a buyer back about 25 million euros! A bargain considering the villa that just sold in St. Tropez for 90 million euros!



Art Display

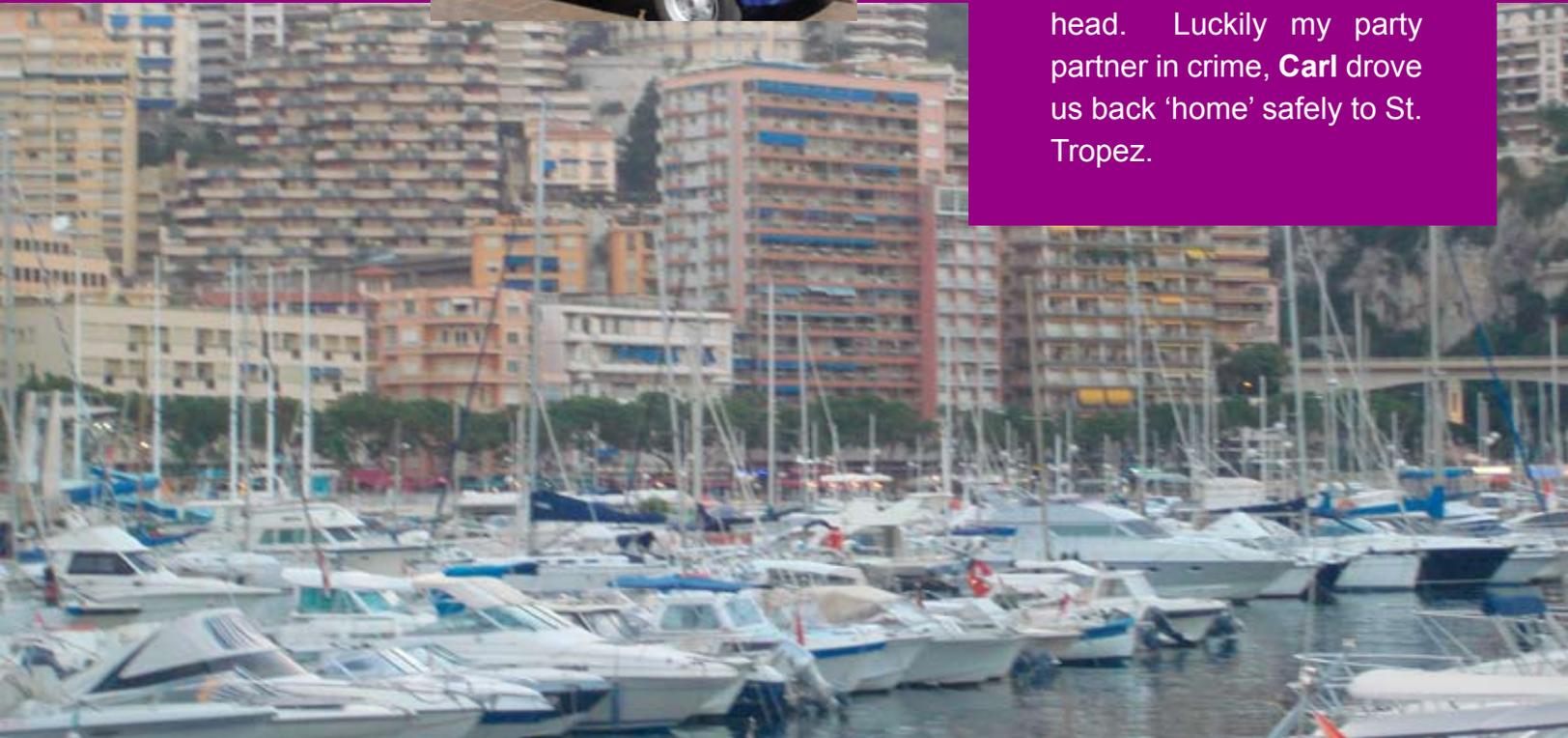


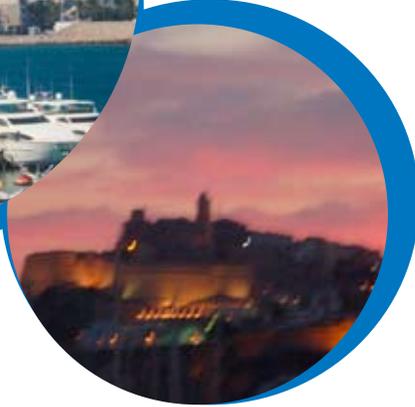
Monaco

DAY TRIPPING



One Sunday, we decided to take a road trip to **Monaco** to board my **ASW** friend, **Claudio Fabbri's** new speedboat for a spin about the Med. The usual requisite ratio of boys to girls aboard existed with more than double females to males. We were a nice international mix representing **Dubai, London, Stockholm, Gotenburg, Madrid, Monaco** and **Miami**. Our après boating spot was the **Sea Lounge** at the **Monte Carlo Beach Club** (www.montecarloresort.com). Then we drove back to St. Tropez on typical French unlit roads and missed our turnoff giving us an unwanted tour of the countryside cliffs in pitch black with no guard rails... with thoughts of **Grace Kelly** racing through my head. Luckily my party partner in crime, **Carl** drove us back 'home' safely to St. Tropez.





Ibiza

MUSIC TO YOUR EARS



Lord Alain

After extending our stay several times in **St. Tropez**, it was finally time to hit the road. We flew from **Nice** to **Barcelona** and then boarded another plane to **Ibiza**. There my friend, **Lord Alain** was waiting to collect me and my many suitcases (Yes, with the new high fuel costs and baggage fees I really do need to learn to travel lightly, but how does a fashionista do that?). And my second resolution is to learn

Spanish. After all, I live in **Miami** and spend significant time in **Buenos Aires**. I've had Latin lovers, but they did not teach me...so I guess I will have to learn the hard way and dust off my **Berlitz** tapes.

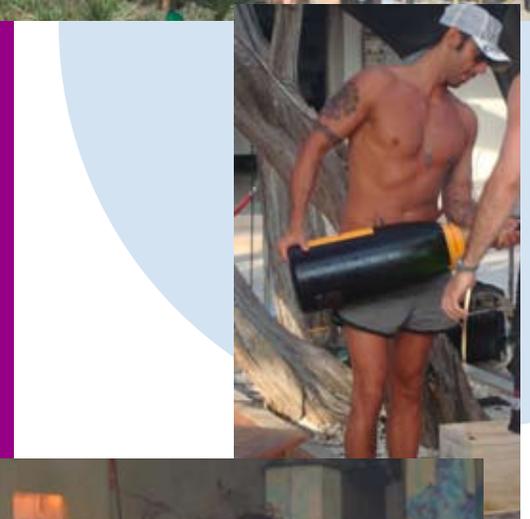


Lord Alain & Hope



Blue Marlin at Cala Jondal Beach

The journey from **St. Tropez** to **Ibiza** is not just in miles or meters, but in lifestyles...from the chic chic to the bohemian, from designer duds to hippywear. From small, A-list clubs to 10,000 revelers packed like sardines. From commercial Dj's to celebrity Dj's...Ibiza is all about the music! The beach clubs are more like a lovefest than a scenester setting. **Blue Marlin** (www.bluemarlinibiza.com) at **Cala Jondal Beach** is this season's choice. **Malibu Beach Club** at **La Salinas Beach** is another popular spot. My favorite nightclub is **Pacha** (www.pacha.com) and my favorite theme party is "Flower Power". My trip was timed just right to partake in this party. Pacha was the summer '08 home for **Defected in the House** and also hosted **F*#ck Me, I'm Famous** on Thursdays. Celebrity sightings like **Kate Moss** and other supermodels and even **Jade Jagger** can be seen on occasion. **Pacha** which has become a lifestyle brand, also has its own hotel, **El Hotel** (www.elhotelpacha.com). **Ibiza Gran Hotel** (www.ibizagranhotel.com) is a brand new, large, contemporary, five star full amenities hotel next to the marina. **Hotel Ocean Drive** (www.ayrehoteles.com) is a knock-off of **South Beach** neon lit hotels on **Ocean Drive** with amazing staff and service. I highly recommend it. Rooms have balconies overlooking the marina and Ibiza town in the distance. Staying in the **Neuvo Puerto/marina** side of **Ibiza** is what I prefer over the craziness of Ibiza town crawling with kids at night. But still be sure to hit the old town, **Dalt Villa** for shopping and fine dining on top of the hill. A couple of stylish hotels off the beaten path include **Insotel Fenicia Prestige** in **Santa Eulalia** (www.insotel.com) and **Hotel Hacienda Na Xamena** (www.hotelhacienda-ibiza.com).



Flower Power Partiers @ Pacha



Mountaintop Retreat for Sale

If you are in the market for a special place to hang your hat in **Ibiza**, I have a **spiritual mountaintop retreat** for sale overlooking the sea with a pool, temple, 7 bedrooms (4 of which are like private studios with their own kitchen & bathrooms) and chill-out areas. It is surrounded by a nature reserve located only 10 minutes from Ibiza town. This haven can be yours for about 2.5 million euros.



Bambuddha Grove (www.bambuddha.com) is worth the trek for good Thai food and **Al-Ayoun** for Moroccan cuisine coupled with belly dancers. And **B.for** is the spot for sushi before sashaying over to **Pacha**. A sidetrip to the **Hippy Market** is a colorful excursion in **Es Cana**. And catch the sunset at the infamous **Café del Mar**, the original home to all those great music CD's.



Al-Ayoun



Al-Ayoun

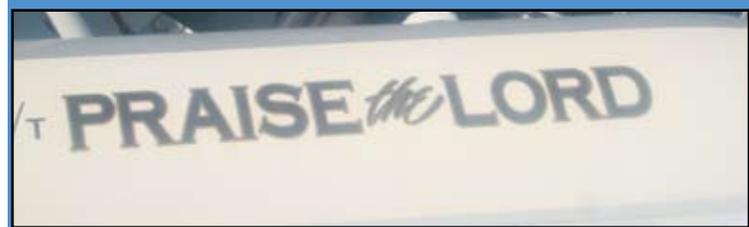


Lord Alain & Davah

Yachts are also prevalent in Ibiza. The newly designed **Philippe Starck** yacht that looks like a submarine was floating about amongst many others. **Formentera** is the ideal day trip by boat or ferry for the best beaches and one of the most relaxing places on the planet. It is more a chill island.

I hosted a day aboard “**Praise the Lord**” 90 ft. yacht of **Lord Alain** for a clan that included a South Beach contingent in Ibiza for **Tony Cho’s** 30th bday celebration: **Swarovski** furniture designer, **Pedro Rivera Wiener** and his girlfriend, **Maria**, Dutch **DJ Lippy** plus my close Dutch friends, **Didi & Monique** & new Italian friends, **Fabio & Daniele**, my American travel buddy, **Carl** as well as **Tim Heuer** from Miami. We were showcasing **Lord Alain’s** real estate holdings worldwide and a British reality TV show crew was following around the Lord and his main squeeze, **Lady Dayah**. We had fabulous Ibiza homegrown rose wine provided by **Laurent Fresard** of **Ibizkus** (www.ibizkus.com) as well as **Veuve Cliquot** champagne to keep everyone in the party spirit. And any outing on “Praise the Lord” is not complete without its signature Jacuzzi bubble bath on the foredeck. For the right price, you too could own this floating party palace. Bidding starts at 2 million+ euros and includes your first launch party produced by Hope.

From Top to Bottom:
Fabio, Hope & Daniele
Jacuzzi Bubble Bathers
Tim & Monique





We went from the boat to dinner to dancing to the airport...you never sleep in **Ibiza** by the way. Sleeping is for mere mortals, not party people in **Ibiza** or **St. Tropez**.

So now I am home in **South Beach**, not exactly a complacent place. Life goes on from one party point on the planet to another.

Maybe I will catch some zzzz in the next millennium!

Coming up next, **Dubai**...stay tuned!

Ciao,
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