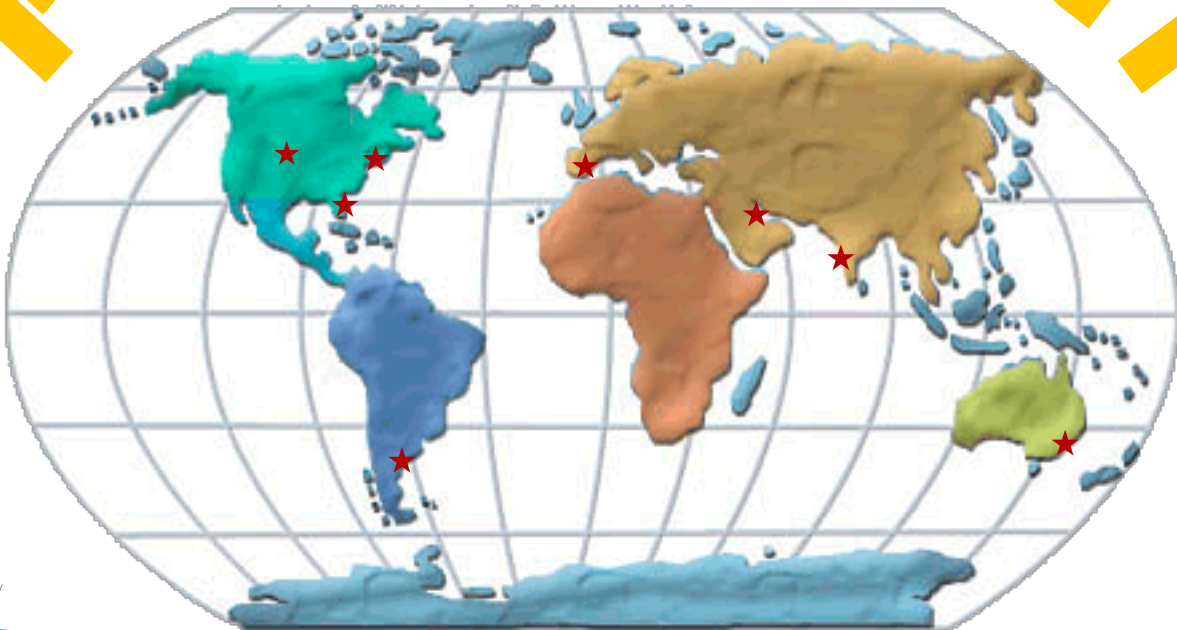




PARTY PLANET



Todd Rome, Dee Ocleppo, Tommy Hilfiger, Carole Rome @ the Red Cross Ball



Seasons come and go, but I am not talking about the traditional four seasons. Rather, the party seasons around the globe.

THE HAMPTONS

This past half year, I made it to the Hamptons end of August for the wind down of the Manhattanites summer season in the sun. I attended the Red Cross Ball at the lovely estate of Carole & Todd Rome in Southampton. And stay-tuned for my own Red Cross project (www.redcross.org) unveiling in 2007.

IBIZA

Then I hit Ibiza just before their season closing parties in late September.

There I boarded "Praise the Lord", the yacht of Lord Alain where the party never ends. Fashion TV (FTV) shot sequences for the "Best of the Best of Ibiza 2006" aboard "Praise the Lord" while I was there. So I knew I had arrived at party central. Previously, Playboy TV shot some segments dubbing my host, "The Luxury Lord".

For starters, the first afternoon in Ibiza, we headed to Salinas beach while bathing in a foam bubble bath on the foredeck Jacuzzi enroute while guzzling champagne. Most of the time, "Praise the Lord" yacht stays in its primo position just a stone's throw from El Divino nightclub (www.eldivino-ibiza.com) in the new port. One night we dined with the Saudi club owner in his circular glass house way up a hilltop with panoramic views overlooking Ibiza. Another favorite place for our dinners was at Bambuddah Grove (www.bambuddah.com) where trendoids and fashionistas like Kate Moss can be spotted.

And of course, no trip to Ibiza is complete without checking out Manumission, the sex show at Privilege (www.privilegeibiza.com), the largest nightclub in the world with a capacity of 10,000. And Pacha (www.pacha.com) held its "Flower Power" party while I was there. Amazingly, Pacha first opened its doors in 1973 and is still going strong. In fact, it is a now a global brand with destinations worldwide and in addition to clubs and apparel, it opened El Hotel (www.elhotelpacha.com) in Ibiza. That's some shelf-life for a discothèque! Café del Mar (www.cafedelmarmusic.com) is still the sunset spot for chilling to their great music. And for an antidote to civilization, a day at Formentera is what the doctor orders. Normally, "Praise the Lord" is filled to capacity with babes, but I chose the one week a year where Lord Alain invites all of his male business partners from around the world. Hope is no fool!





MIAMI

I arrived back in Miami in time for the star-studded gala weekend celebration for the inauguration of the long awaited [Carnival Center for the Performing Arts](http://www.carnivalcenter.org) (www.carnivalcenter.org). Designed by world-renowned Argentine architect, **Cesar Pelli**, for just under \$500 million, it has the most advanced technology for sound and sight and incorporates works by fine artists as well. I had the honor of accompanying my good friends, **Dr. Sanford and Dolores Ziff** for whom the new **Ziff Ballet Opera House** was named after, to all of the festivities. After several nights filled with ballet, opera and symphony performances, I chose to close down my weekend with the Columbus Day Regatta where I won many beads and witnessed the most magnificent Miami sunset sailing home.

The first mega place to open this season in Miami is the \$25 million, 42,000 square foot sanctuary of art, cuisine and entertainment, **Karu&Y** (www.karu-y.com). And get ready for **Tottem Gardens**, a zen-like parkland complete with waterfalls and a river running through it to complete this global destination in early 2007. Visionary, **Cesar Sotomayor** from Sao Paolo is the brainchild behind this hedonistic hideaway that has definitely raised the bar in Miami. I am proud to be named Ambassador to this magnificent place!

And it helps if you are one of today's **HNWI's** (high net-worth individuals) or better yet, one of the **UHNWI** (ultra high net-worth individuals) when your check arrives. The Karu&Y experience comes at a price for not the average joe. When you get your bar bill for your **Truth Serum** cocktail (**Dom Perignon**, 150-year old **Grand Marnier**, **Patron Platinum** and gold leaf), you better be able to pull out your Black American Express card. Don't leave home without it, when headed to this new hotspot.



1. Sanford & Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House
2. Anastasia "The Great" & Hope
3. Dr. Sanford & Dolores Ziff
- 4 - 5 - 6. Karu&Y

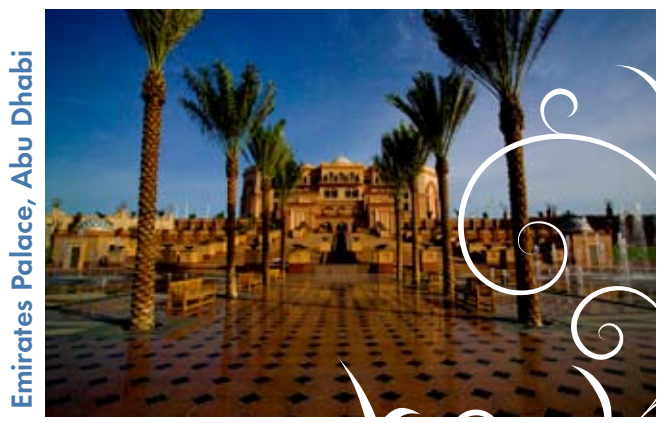




Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi

GLOBAL WEALTH

I attended a "Connect High Net" conference this Fall at the Mandarin Oriental held by Inman News (www.inman.com). They revealed that 1 in 100 Americans are millionaires today. And the mega-wealthy worth more than \$30 million is growing. In 2005, there were 8.7 million HNWI's worldwide with total wealth of \$33 trillion. UHNWI's with financial assets over \$30 million total 85,400 worldwide and together control 24% of global wealth. Developing countries have a growing number of HNWI's with South Korea increasing 21%, India 19% and Russia 17%. And India, like China will surpass all western economies except America. They have 30 billionaires today in India and they are doubling annually.



Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi

MUMBAI TO ASPEN

Mumbai makes The List as "the priciest real estate on earth" on a price per square foot basis. Maybe the Indians should buy a place in Aspen which now has the most expensive house on the market. Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz listed his Aspen home for \$135 million trumping even Trump whose Palm Beach estate carries a mere \$125 million price tag. The Prince's 56,000 square foot Aspen home sits on 95 acres with over 30 rooms, an indoor pool, trails, snowmelt driveway and horse stables. The main house on the property is bigger than the White House.



ABUDHABI

Or maybe they can just hop an air taxi, the latest mode of transportation taking to the skys for this elite class of world citizens and head to Abu Dhabi. Now the Sheiks of Abu Dhabi are trying to keep up with the Sheiks next door in Dubai. They too have adapted the "build it and they will come attitude" where every new structure is bigger and more expensive than the last. Alas, they have created Emirates Palace (www.emiratespalace.com). It cost in excess of \$6 billion to build, is more than half a mile long and 2.6 million square feet. The hotel has 3.9 million cubic feet of marble, 64,500 square feet of gold leaf, 7000 doors, 1002 Swarovski chandeliers, 140 elevators, 128 kitchens plus a staff of 2000 including butlers and buggy drivers. It also has a public lounge the size of two football fields with a gilded, domed ceiling larger than that in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. There are 302 guest rooms and 92 suites. And don't miss the 'Desert Experience', a day of sand skiing and camel riding followed by dinner under the stars.

NYC

If you are not sure if your wallet can handle a night in a palace, stay at Dream Hotel (www.dreamny.com) where maybe you can wake up with a dream come true. "Most dreams symbolize what our mind's eye would have us pay attention to, what we ultimately would like to see in our daily lives." At least that is what their brochure tells us.

And sweet dreams await us these nights at hotels around the world as the latest trend is in-room menus offering more than food - from duvets to pillows. Yes, pillow menus are the newest range.

CHARITY

If not a dream, how about a wish. The 12th Annual Make-A-Wish Ball (www.wish.org) granted more than 500 wishes this past year to children with life threatening medical conditions. My favorite was the wish for a treehouse. And for the philanthropists, they got not a wish, but a surprise when Dutch performing artist, Naning Lining poured them champagne hanging upside down from her Happy Hour Chandelier designed by the fun and quirky Dutch designer, Marcel Wanders (www.marcelwanders.com).

ART BASEL

And bubbles were not bursting at the **Art & Style Soiree** I produced and hosted at the **Casa Blanca** waterfront estate on Hibiscus Island (with a price tag of \$22 million) during Art Basel. Singapore artist Lita C-Y's beach bubble act (www.lita-cy.com) is meant to signify that money isn't everything. But for an art fair that **New York Times** writer, **Guy Trebay** called "An Art Costco for Billionaires" money not only talked, but screamed as collectors scattered red dots everywhere (the symbol that the art was SOLD). Or as Andy Warhol once said, "I like money on the wall."



Lita C-Y @ Art & Style Soiree



Lita C-Y, John Turchin & Hope



Lei Marco Italy

Lumari fashion show



Casa Blanca

Lotus Girl @ Celebrating Art event



Scull Sisters & Son Michael



Perez Celis & Hope



Ema Savahl Couture



Kicking off **Art Basel** week, I once again lit up the I. M. Pei landmark building with **Blue Capital** (www.intlplacemiami.com) in downtown Miami and hosted artists and Consul Generals from a variety of countries in the spirit of unity. Argentine Master, **Perez Celis** (www.perezcelis.com) unveiled his paintings of the building and live mannequins in the pool showcased European fantasy couture (www.emasavahl.com) while a nymph floated around in a lotus flower waiving to the crowd.



Casa Décor

REALESTATE

We are coming off one of the hottest real estate markets in Miami history where prices escalated to record levels. Buyers have been on the sidelines over the past year, but now they are coming back. They were waiting for a collapse that never happened. Prices are "normalizing" and now is a good time for buyers again. As one broker advises, "Eat while the plates are full and not when the crumbs are left."

And with Americans getting older as 76 million baby boomers reach retirement age, second-home sales are hitting record highs. From condo hotels to club memberships and fractional ownership, choices are many.

HISTORY

Miami (www.gmcvb.com) has come a long way from the pre-1800's when the Tequesta Indians were most likely the indigenous population. In 1870 Henry and Charles Lum bought 165 acres in South Miami Beach for 75 cents per acre from the government to grow coconuts. By the late 1800's the Lum brothers gave their land to their partner, John Collins, a Quaker from New Jersey. He built a bridge to the mainland and connected with businessman, Carl Fisher. And the rest as they say, is history.

DESIGN

With all of the exteriors being completed on so many new buildings in Miami, now is the time for the interiors to be done. And just in the nick of time, Casa Décor '06 (www.casadecor-usa.com), hit America. And Miami was the debut city with the transformation of the historic Miami Women's Club where a variety of designers each designed different rooms or spaces presenting some of the finest and most desirable home furnishings in the world. This was a showcase well worth seeing...so put it on your 2007 agenda if you missed it. Like Art Basel, I am sure Casa Décor will blossom. And of course, more parties along with it. One room was even dedicated exclusively to Veuve Cliquot champagne. And House Beautiful also did a Designer Showhouse at Aqua last Fall.

VANITY

And if you are headed to South Beach, a youth-obsessed society, make a pitstop at one of your favorite anti-aging places first. In Miami, I recommend the Miami Institute for Age Management and Intervention (www.miami-institute.com). And if you need some boobs, who else but our one and only Dr. Boobner, Lenny Ruedner is the man! After all, Miami has become the "Fake Breast Capital of America". We have one plastic surgeon for every 28,500 people. In LA, they make do with only one per every 43,000. Of course, there is always Brazil where the most famous of all docs resides...

PUNTADELESTE

But for now, I will remain au naturale as I head to my favorite place in South America, Punta del Este. May the 2007 party season begin...And if you thought Art Basel had more social data than you could tap into your blackberry, Punta is out of control. My new best friend whom I "met" online at my favorite place asmallworld.net (the jetset membership website you must be sponsored to become a part of) has just emailed me the Punta del Este social calendar where the 'who's who' of the jetset go for the first fortnight in January. I am exhausted just reading it. And I haven't even left home yet!

May all your wishes & dreams come true in 2007. After all, this is the year with the lucky "7" in it!

Happy New Year!

HOPE

Ehopeinternational.com
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