

H O P E

Hot Lines

august 2005
south beach



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SUMMER SENSATIONS!

Three letters say it best L-U-X!

This summer I had the fortune of experiencing the **LUX** of all **LUXURY** both near and far. And the folks responsible for these luxuries are true blue entrepreneurs.

Corporate managers live by rules, while entrepreneurs create them --- or insist upon having none at all. **Adrian Zecha, Founder & President/CEO Amanresorts.**

Close to home (just a few blocks from where I live), is the newest member of Adrian Zecha's hotel empire. He has helped Miami Beach reach its highest level of luxury by raising the bar with the new hotel, **THE SETAI** in **South Beach**. This Asian-influenced property is being operated by Zecha's GHM Hotels and was developed by Jonathan Breene and John Conroy. It is positioned as South Beach's most upscale asset. With room rates at double the Ritz Carlton and Four Seasons, it is in a category all its own. The hotel is also launching a private vacation club to maintain its exclusivity. Founding members include the likes of Lenny Kravitz, Cheryl Crowe, Boris Becker and Heidi Klum. The **Amanresorts** (<http://www.amanresorts.com>) are a brand defined by a lifestyle free of limits on land.

This summer I also met an interesting entrepreneur, **Jim Clark, founder of Netscape** who dreamed up and built his own boat to give him total freedom at sea. I boarded his masterpiece in Monte Carlo: **Athena**, a 295 foot schooner; the largest aluminum sailing yacht ever built constructed by **Royal Huisman** shipyard in the Netherlands. This magnificent yacht was one of many, I had the pleasure of boarding while at the **Showboats International** Yacht Awards in Monaco. A rare few ever get to step foot on these amazing vessels that are in a class by themselves.

Forget megayachts. Welcome to the new world of **GIGAYACHTS**. This is the new name for those measuring over 400 feet long. Today the largest measures in at 525 feet, owned by the Crown Prince of Dubai called **Platinum**. I was able to fraternize with the man behind the German shipyard heralding in the Gigayacht revolution, **Peter Lurssen** of Lurssen in Bremen, Germany. Peter is an affable guy that builds for billionaires. His company proudly boasts the making of **Octopus**, the 414 foot vessel owned by **Paul Allen, Co-Founder of Microsoft** costing a mere \$250 million. I caught a glimpse of **Octopus** in Antibes with 7 decks, 2 helipads, swimming pool, basketball court, movie theater, recording studio, concert hall seating 260, underwater viewing salon and a garage for Land Rovers. Lurssen also built 452 feet long **Rising Sun** costing \$377million for **Larry Ellison** of Oracle trumping Allen in the process. But for the moment, **Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum** is the king of the Gigayachts.

While in France, another Summer Sensation was making history on land. **Lance Armstrong** won his seventh Tour de France before retiring. To many, Armstrong is more than the world's greatest cyclist. He is also a ray of hope. Miami Herald writer says it best: *He is hope, in the flesh. Each time he pushes himself to the top of a mountain, he is proof of the body's ability to heal and mind's ability to dream.* His books titled **It's Not About The Bike** and **Every Second Counts** are inspirational reads. And now lucky Lance can relax next to his crooning Crowe.



Edge & Hope Monte Carlo
Costume Party



While hanging out in the **FRENCH RIVIERA**, I met many of the captains of these mega and gigayachts. One of them was a captain on a mere \$20 million boat which the owner never once stepped foot in 5 years! So if you do not have a spare \$20-500 mil, you can always sign up to be a crew member and enjoy living at large on these amazing vessels. And by the way, there is a shortage of crew to service the 651 new mega and gigayachts being built now.



Octopus

Our safe space shuttle journey is another summer wonder. And the newest planet to pop into our solar system, *Xena*, the 10th planet or 2003UB313 as it is officially called is another summer sensation.



Dutch Wedding Children



At my friend's fairytale-like wedding in a castle (www.slotzeist.nl) dating back to 1632 in the Dutch countryside, the children were the little summer sensations and hats off to them in my picture of the month. And my daily run took me past a pasture of cows that agreeably posed for me...providing the pet picture of the month.



Hope in Holland

My favorite new hotel along the **COTE D'AZUR** is **3.14** (<http://www.3-14hotel.com/>) that I discovered in **Cannes** just off the Croisette. It is a fun, kitschy, brightly colored place reflecting Miami style, with neon touches. This one-of-a-kind property stimulates all of your senses.....as you step off the elevator to each floor you enter a different country and the sight, sound, smell and touch of the place are enfolded into the environment. Doorman wear Jean Paul Gaultier-like long skirts and the bartenders are right of out central casting. On the rooftop bar, I was served my refreshing glass of rose by bartender/Ralph Lauren model, Matthias. In the main bar, Martinique wonder, JoJo holds court offering his secret ginger love potion to the ladies.



Bartender Jojo at 3.14



Audrey & Hope at Villa Dawa

My French country villa of choice is **Villa Dawa**, a private bed & breakfast run by hostess with the mostest, **Trixie** - my pal whom I met at one of my parties in South Beach. When you enter this magical place, time stops and the party starts. The world comes to Villa Dawa so there is no need to escape. Even the free range chickens roam freely and provide fresh eggs for breakfast...but few visitors ever partake since like Miami, as the sun rises, the parties set themselves to sleep.

CORSICA was calling me. The best kept secret from Americans. From Nice, I took a ferry to this island where I discovered the most breathtakingly beautiful coastline in the world. Corsica lacks commercialism so you are spared the tackiness that tourism promotes... and are able to enjoy the island as perhaps, Napoleon once did.



Corsican coastline

I returned to Miami in time for *Catch for Kids*, an inaugural charity benefitting **Miami Children's Museum**. A select few enjoyed the generous hospitality of **George Wallner** on his yacht *Tumblehome* where champagne flowed endlessly while others went deep sea fishing.

If you prefer land to sea, then join the bandwagon of boomers purchasing second homes at a record rate. A record 2.82 million second homes were purchased nationally in 2004. Of all homes purchased in 2004, 36% were for investment or vacation homes. The cost to buy your second home is rising at rapid speed. In Miami-Dade prices rose 27% in June this year over June 2004. Statewide there was a 31% price increase in June which is more than double the cost of a Florida home five years ago. The **National Association of Realtors** reported the biggest price increase since November 1980. Demand is greater than supply in South Florida for homes. Our region is a favorite of second home buyers from the Northeast, South America and Europe. So if you wish to have a home on the American Riviera, don't procrastinate.

My **COLLINS PARK** neighborhood in South Beach is experiencing a cultural revival. We now have an expanded **Bass Museum**, **Miami City Ballet** headquarters, a new **Miami Beach Public Library**, a **Frank Gehry** designed Symphony building on the drawing board, **Cirque Du Soleil** rumoured to be coming fulltime to the Jackie Gleason Theater and of course numerous new condos and condo hotels plus the aforementioned Setai Hotel with membership available for a mere \$300,000.

The hottest new property coming to my hood is **W South Beach**. This is my pick of the month for real estate. Sales will begin momentarily...and you too can enjoy one of these condo hotel units priced from \$800,000 to \$8 million, completely furnished. Amenities will include 2 pools, the famed **Mr. Chow** restaurant and **Bliss Spa** plus a nightclub all on beachfront property at Collins Avenue between 22nd & 23rd Streets. So if you wish to be a preferred *Friends or Family* to jump the long list of buyers...just give me a holler. Your new place will be ready for move in 2007.



But by summer 2006, you can see the **NEW MIAMI** on the silver screen...that is **Michael Mann's** vision thru the lense for his **Miami Vice** movie. Highrises are in as he moves Miami Vice from the 80's to the millennium. Mann says Miami is more sophisticated, affluent and cosmopolitan today than 20 years ago. According to Mann, then it was *Des Moines, Iowa on the water...and now it is kind of a Caribbean Las Vegas.*

Well, when **MTV MUSIC VIDEO AWARDS** hit the town shortly, Miami will become the Bling Bling Capital and Party Central! Watching the Pershings bring Ushers and Mariah's along Biscayne Bay to a red carpet entrance at American Airlines Arena is a sight to be scene. So get your bling bling polished, your gigayacht ready and **On your mark, get set, GO to the Magic City!**



May Miami be music to our ears!

Cheers,
HOPE
Hope International

<http://www.ehopeinternational.com>
<http://www.sbierealty.com>