

NEWS+PREVIEWS



SPA SPLENDOR

Fresh from a \$50 million resort-wide makeover that ushered in lighter room interiors, extensive meeting space and spa facility improvements, a redesign of the legendary golf course and a hip new adults-only pool and cocktail area dubbed **EDGE**, Southern California's original destination spa just north of San Diego (**La Costa Resort & Spa** opened in 1965 making it the first resort spa in the United States) is ready to entertain yet another new generation of elite sybarites. The resort comprises a virtual "village of wellness" with over 600 accommodations, from 660-square-foot **La Costa Suites** (from \$389 a night) to 2,200-square-foot **Three Bedroom Villas** (from \$1,200 a night) set on over 400 serene acres. The renovation sparks a reenvisioned and modern mission while still delivering some of the most reliably therapeutic treatments and therapists in the world. New menu items like a **Bamboo Fusion** (\$230) do not disappoint, but neither does a traditional **La Costa Signature Massage** (\$225), while new Spa Courtyard additions like a reflexology path and fragrant herb gardens serve to enhance an already perfectly relaxing experience. For nourishment between blissful sessions, **BlueFire Grill** serves up delicious spa-friendly fare. *Contact: VIP Manager Teresa Mosteller, (800) 854-5000; tmosteller@lacosta.com; www.lacosta.com*



ROCK-STAR STYLE

While the **Hard Rock Hotel** chain has always evoked an intensely fun musical vibe, a new program called "**The Sound of Your Stay**" turns the volume up on its rock-meets-luxe signature style. It starts with easily downloadable, curated song lists to match your mood, but, more to the point, each Hard Rock Hotel now features an arsenal of top **Fender** guitars available free for loan to each guest. On a recent trip to the stunning Hard Rock Hotel in San Diego's happening Gaslamp Quarter, our vintage-look Telecaster (Jaguars, Stratocasters and Jazz basses are also on offer) was waiting in our suite, along with a pro-quality Mustang floor amp loaded with effects (and a pair of headphones so the neighbors wouldn't complain). Whether you are a musician or just a noodler, or even if you've rarely picked up a guitar, such first-class equipment can make anybody sound good. Alternatively, **Traktor S2 DJ** systems are also available at the San Diego and Chicago Hard Rocks if your musical talents tend towards the digital. In either case, rock out in one of the San Diego property's 17 **Rock Star Suites**, each uniquely designed to please the most decadent and demanding idol on tour (\$499 to \$5,000 a night). *Contact: General Manager Matt Greene, (619) 702-3000; mattg@evolutionhospitality.com; www.hardrockhotelsd.com*

POSH PETS IN TOW

BY KELLY CARTER

TRÉS CHIC The French are legendary for spoiling their pets and that pampering continues on St. Barths. **Hotel Guanahani & Spa** and **Eden Rock** are just two of the elite hotels that welcome four-legged guests. Eden Rock once accommodated a very chic Maltese poodle whose owner demanded that all three of the poodle's daily meals be freshly prepared by a personal chef, offering the likes of duck breast, deboned loin of organic lamb and filet of beef, all garnished with fresh herbs and freshly grated carrots. Imported water served in the pup's personalized Goyard bowls completed the star treatment. At Guanahani, pet parents can order meals for their furry friends from the regular room service menu, whose French fare they find divine. If travelers don't bring their own pets, they can play with and feed the very friendly felines that live at the hotel.

PETS ON JETS Pets travel "furs class" with London-based **Victor**, which recently began selling airline seats for dogs on its private jet charters operating throughout Europe. Rather than have pets travel as checked baggage, Fifi can have her own seat next to her pet parent for the same price as a regular ticket (\$1,600 from the United Kingdom to Mallorca, for example), while very small pets fly for free. Operating as the world's first marketplace for private jet charters and per-seat bookings, Victor allows members to charter a jet with the option to sell surplus seats to other Victor members, buy seats for themselves and Fido on a member's charter or get together with other pet parents and share the tab. Alongside launching seats for pets, Victor debuted a "Pet Owners" community to facilitate communication.

STAR SERVICE Coddled canines staying at the **Sunset Marquis** hotel receive the same rock-star treatment as the legendary musicians known to frequent the West Hollywood property tucked away on a leafy residential street. Gourmet dog treats from Castello di Fido in Napa, decorative feeding dishes, bottled water and wee-wee pads are among the amenities offered to small pets. The concierge can also arrange for professional dog walkers and sitters, who come in handy since pets can't be left alone in the rooms. The hotel allows pets weighing 15 pounds or less and charges a nonrefundable \$150 pet fee per stay.