

ALFA ROMEO RETURNS: TEST-DRIVING THE NEW 8C COMPETIZIONE

Robb Report

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Special Issue *The*
ULTIMATE HOME



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Plus
CUSTOM CLOTHES & HELICOPTERS BY HERMÈS
CONTEMPORARY CARIBBEAN VILLAS
EXOTIC ASIAN JEWELRY

First class reaches new heights; clothing that can break a bicyclist's fall.

LONGUE VACATION * On the Caribbean island of Saint Martin, one of the most pleasantly deserted beaches lies on the Baie Longue. Since 1973, the **La Samanna** resort (www.lasamanna.com) has occupied 55 acres overlooking this beach. Resembling a Greek seaside village, the property features a whitewashed main building and 15 smaller ones that contain a total of 81 rooms. Orient-Express Hotels, which acquired the resort in 1996, has added a spa, a Pilates studio, a fitness center, boutiques, and other facilities. Just to the east of the resort, on a small bluff above the beach, the company is building eight four-room villas that will share the resort's Mediterranean look. The villas, offered for about \$7.3 million each, should be completed by the end of this year. . . .



La Samanna

CLASS ACTS * **Cathay Pacific Airways** (www.cathaypacific.com) has made a trip from the United States to China much more comfortable—dare we say, even enjoyable. On a first-class flight from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to Hong Kong (priced at about \$24,000), the seats fold down to create a bed more than

6.5 feet long and 3 feet wide. You can choose from more than 50 feature films and TV programs to watch on an adjustable, 17-inch screen. And the airline provides made-to-order meals, with unlimited caviar, at any time. The seats are equipped with a massage function, to ensure that you are relaxed as well as entertained, rested, and well fed. . . . Oberoi Hotels & Resorts

(www.oberoihotels.com) offers a way to see India in style: private, guided tours with accommodation at an Oberoi property at each stop. The 9-, 14-, and 22-day **India in Luxury** excursions, which range in price from about \$7,600 to \$17,200 per person, take place on dates that you choose. Destinations include the Taj Mahal, the Jagdish Temple at Udaipur, and Jaipur, the "Pink City of India," famous for its ancient pink lime-plaster structures. . . .

STIFF RESISTANCE * The skiwear company **Spyder** (www.spyder.com) has introduced body armor for bicyclists. The fabric used to make the **Spyder Froeydo d30 Armored Top** (\$350) and **Ultimate Chamelo Short** (\$270) contains molecules that flow when you move but lock together on impact, providing some protection in a wipeout or collision. Once the pressure is lifted, the fabric again becomes soft. ☐

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SELECT SMOKE * Recommended additions to your humidior.

LIGERO TOBACCO comes from the top leaves of a tobacco plant, which have the strongest flavor. Just a bit of this tobacco adds considerable power to any blend, so a cigar labeled "double ligero" might seem intimidating. Rest assured, though, that the **La Flor Dominicana Double Ligero "A"** tames its substantial quantity of ligero with milder Dominican leaves and a mellow wrapper grown from Sumatran seeds in Ecuador. The result is a taste that,

while undeniably heavy, remains balanced and smooth throughout the cigar's 9-inch length. (\$180 for a box of 10) www.laflor.dominicana.com

CIGARS MUST BE STORED at roughly 70 percent humidity; if their environment is more humid, they are likely to collect mold; if less, their wrappers may crack. The humidification elements that come with most humidors almost never provide

a consistent environment, because they dry out quickly between refills. One exception is the **Cigar Oasis XL**, which maintains perfect humidity for months on a single refill. When humidity drops below 70 percent, the device's internal fan activates automatically to spread moisture from a small tank holding distilled water. The XL, which you can plug into an outlet or power with a battery, will fit inside almost any humidior. (\$119) www.cigaroasis.com