

A WORLD OF STYLE
WHERE TO SEE IT, SHOP IT, LIVE IT

▼
BEST
IN BUSINESS
TRAVEL
55 TOP HOTELS
& AIRLINES

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL // OCTOBER 2011

ITALY

SECRET, SEXY MILAN

ENGLAND

GREAT HOUSES,
GORGEOUS GARDENS,
MAD HATTERS

MEXICO

OAXACA'S MARVELOUS
MARKETS

LOS ANGELES

THE COOLEST TOUR IN TOWN

PARIS

CONFESSIONS OF
A SHOE FETISHIST

+120

FABULOUS HOTELS,
RESTAURANTS,
GALLERIES, BARS, AND
SHOPS WORLDWIDE

7-PAGE SPECIAL

WHERE TO BUY
GEMS
A GLOBAL GUIDE
TO EMERALDS, SAPPHIRES,
RUBIES, AND MORE

At the Villa d'Este, a
classic grand hotel on the
shores of Lake Como.

TOP FIVE

The Queen Goes Boho

Style-setting *Brighton Rock* star **Helen Mirren** shares her favorite off-beat fashion destinations—in no particular order

No. 1

NEW ORLEANS "It's easy to wear Prada and carry Gucci and choose the right shoes, but I prefer invention and creativity, which is why I love the eclectic feel in **New Orleans**, where there's such a deep-rooted culture of music, food, and aestheticism. The homes are not expensively decorated, but they're beautifully decorated."

No. 2

EAST LONDON "Brick Lane, Spitalfields, Whitechapel Market, Columbia Market—all of London's really cool street markets are on the city's east side. **Brick Lane Market** especially has become unbelievably happening and excit-

ing. I go there practically every weekend to buy things [Brick Lane; Sun. 9 A.M.–5 P.M.]. At **Old Spitalfields Market**, young artisans make interesting scarves and hats [16 Hornet Sq.; Sun.–Fri. 9 A.M.–5 P.M.]."

No. 3

EAST L.A. "Individual style is hard to find in L.A., but I like 'East Los' for its edginess and the beautiful murals—you could do a proper art walk taking them all in. There's also a great Mexican food market, **Los Cinco Puntos** [3300 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.; 323-261-4084], and restaurant, **La Serenata** [1842 E. First St.; 323-265-2887; entrées, \$14–\$19]. At Christmas, the area's homes have fabulous decorations outside."

No. 4

KWAZULU-NATAL "Fashion, to me, is a reflection of individualism and deep culture. The Zulus in this South African province have an amazing sense of style. Everything they wear is tasteful and perfectly placed. The short time I spent there was really memorable for that reason."

No. 5

HUNGARY "We have a house in Gallipoli, Puglia, that's filled with Hungarian country furniture. I was filming in Budapest when we were getting the place together, and found an antique furniture place outside the city, **Ódon-Fon**, that was just fantastic. We bought beautiful pieces that were shipped to Italy

[Vác, Balassagyarmati utca 2; 36-20-9-357-068; by appointment only]. I love that Hungarians are always going out—eating and drinking and chatting. They're not long out of communism, so they have such an appreciation for freedom, especially in terms of bohemian fashion."

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ROOM REPORT

L.A. Hotel Hop

Old favorites and newbies have stepped up their offerings



The pool at Mr. C.

FOOD

Angelenos are fans of food from Japan (see Katsuya) and Italy (Mozza, The Palm), so it's time a chef blended the two: Nobu-trained Joseph Elevado is trailblazing with Japanese-Italian food like angel hair pasta with shiso pesto, anchovies, and Italian roe at his new (as yet unnamed) **L'Ermitage Beverly Hills** restaurant (310-278-3344; prices unavailable at press time).

SPA

It'll be tough to get an appointment when the highly anticipated Spa by La Prairie opens at the overhauled **Hotel Bel-Air** in late October. If you snag one, book the "Recharge Overnight" (\$270), which uses oxygen and myriad balms to renew skin in 24 hours. Afterward, indulge at the hotel's Wolfgang Puck-managed restaurant (310-472-1211; prices unavailable at press time).

CHEAP CHIC

Maison 140's cute Kelly Wearstler-designed rooms start at a rate unheard of in Beverly Hills: \$185 a night. The design doyenne recently added textured-silk walls, vintage French lamps, oversized upholstered headboards, and chinoiserie screens to create a playful Parisian vibe (310-281-4000).

SCENE

Cipriani glamour is reborn with all the old requirements—great drinks, an attractive crowd, a sense of airy prestige—spun into a new Beverly Hills hotel. **Mr. C** has a super-sceney restaurant, a pool surrounded by plush orange cabanas, and a swank 1950s-style bar serving L.A.'s best Bellinis. The 138 retro-style rooms have private balconies and Chesterfield couches befitting Don Draper (310-277-2800; doubles, \$349–\$419).



THE SITE

Sister Act

Once London socialite Tatiana Santo Domingo became known for returning from trips with heaps of sarongs, beaded jackets, and velvet slippers, she had England's gentry begging her for global wares. "Everyone was asking me to pick something up," she says. Hence her and friend Dana Alikhani's new online shop, **Muzungu Sisters**, with belts, caftans, and embroidered boots from places like Venice, Bali, and Peru. Prices range from accessible to slightly over the top (the Moroccan velvet-and-silk jacket at left costs \$780), but the site's an inspiration at the very least—and the two ensure that craftsmen get a fair wage and credit for their work (muzungusisters.com).