

GLOBAL HOPE

Diary of a Jetsetter

HOPE GAINER

Miami, New York, Los Angeles,
London, St. Tropez,
Buenos Aires, Punta del Este,
Phuket, Abu Dhabi &
The Full Moon.

HURRAY FOR TONY MURRAY

On Saturday of 'Super Party Week' in St. Tropez, the A-Listers show up at Tony Murray's long running villa party (ongoing for about 30+ years). But not just anyone can make an appearance. You must be on the much scrutinized guest list. I got lucky and happen to know Tony's next door neighbor, a polo patron I met in Miami, Franck Dubarry so he put my name on the 'list'

That day at Nikki Beach Club, my Argentine friend, Sandy was invited by a house guest of Tony Murray so now not only were we both 'on the list', but we had Mr.



Murray's private chauffeur pick us up...and better yet, we ended up at the head table. My dinner table guests included Joan Collins to my left, Ivana Trump on my right, Mr. Murray across

from me and Thomas Kramer on the end. So we had quite a cast of characters at our table. I posed for pix with my fellow German/Miami buddies, TK and Christian Jagodzinski, owner of Villazzo, the worldwide ultra-luxury villa rental company. I also took a souvenir picture with Joan Collins, but I must say, she looked better than me! So I am keeping that picture to myself.



PARTY SUNSET TO SUNRISE

The week of parties continued on with a "White Party", "Love & Peace Party", "Harle"

megayacht BBQ, among many more. One St. Tropez restaurant is a 'party', Villa Romana, where the customers are given themed hats from angels to devils depending on what the waiter thinks suits you best! Stay tuned for the new Villa Romana outpost opening this Fall in Cannes! Brasserie des Arts is a new hotspot that rocks on Place des Lices. I went to meet some friends there and instead was greeted by tennis legend, Bjorn Borg. He recognized me, but I didn't recognize him...his blonde locks were now gray. We had met years ago when I helped launch his Bjorn Borg Design Group apparel & accessories collection in America. Previously, on Denise Rich's yacht, I had met another former tennis star, Boris Becker...so tennis icons seemed to be popping up this season in St. Tropez.

During the day in St. Tropez, each beach club offers a different scene. La Voile Rouge has their staff in different costumes each day spraying the crowd with champagne. The afternoon I was there 'Superman' had the honors. And a bevy of babes spontaneously became go-go dancers to the delight of the male 'audience'. Le Club 55 is more refined with preppy polo and linen shirt set. I got caught there one day between a sea of paparazzi and Kate Moss. Designer, Roberto Cavalli is a regular for lunch hopping off his mauve colored yacht



Art in public spaces hit the beach this year with monumental size mummies. See for yourself!



My favorite new hotel in St. Tropez is Kube Hotel which I finally checked out on my last night. It is more Miami style than traditional St. Tropez with its big white blocks of contemporary architecture and cool neon lighting by night. It has a rooftop Sky Bar and an Ice Bar (have no fear, parkas provided) and the hippest staff around. The spectacular views are overlooking the megayacht packed Mediterranean. At dusk, I discovered Apogee and Wedge Too.

LONDON CALLING

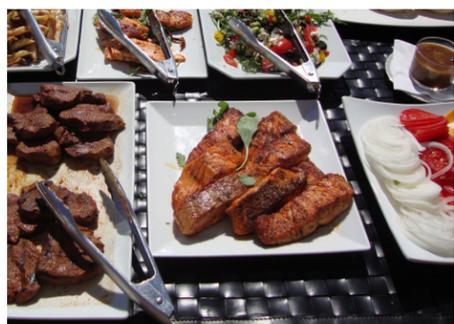
Time to board my British Airways flight home... But first a stopover in London. I have to say, I had an excellent experience on this airline. Everything went super smoothly even in these tight times for airlines. No fees for my luggage and no problem with my carry-ons...I was lucky since I still have not learned to pack light, being the forever fashionista that I am. And my connections were short and sweet, just enough time for my luggage and me to make my connecting flights.

to dine at 55. Club Les Palmiers is more peaceful and trendy...while Nikki Beach Club is party time in high gear with hundreds of champagne bottles being sprayed (aka Spring Break for rich adults).

After dinner and attending parties, the nightly ritual included a visit to Le Byblos Hotel, first to the terrace to see and be seen and then to hit The Cave, the 'locals' term for Les Caves du Roy, 'THE' Nightclub of St. Tropez. My South Beach friend, Carl became such a 'regular' he was greeted each time by the 'gate keepers' with open velvet ropes and a pat on the back. VIP Room is the other nightclub in town and this year celebrated it's 20th Anniversary with a star-studded party. Our local Miami celeb, Lenny Kravitz made an appearance. But this

year the theme song of Summer 2009 was "I Know You Want Me" by Pitbull...with its lyrics: "One, two, three, four. Uno, dos, tres, quattro... I know you want me!"

My final meal in St. Tropez was largely liquid aboard "Harle" megayacht compliments of owner, Michael Saylor. The



Veuve Cliquot servings never ceased and of course I never ceased to stop drinking it. The crew did, I admit, serve a fabulous gourmet lunch with scrumptious grilled salmon and special salads.



The pool at Kube Hotel on right: Hope at Kube's bar

It has been over 20 years since I have landed across the pond in London so I was long overdue for a visit. My iPhone, Facebook and ASW network are now loaded with Brits I have met jet setting about. They all make it to sunny South Beach so I decided to pay them a visit. I brought them a priceless gift – Florida sunshine! I arrived to a wet, rainy London night, but awoke to a sun-drenched day and weekend. I ran in Hyde Park, walked around Portobello Market and of course no trip to London is complete without a visit to Harrods. Being August and the beginning of Ramadan, it was wall to wall packed with ladies from the Middle East. This was a new sight for my eyes. We do not see women covered up to this extent in America. These special shopaholics did not seem to be worried by the



world financial crisis. Harrods was the beneficiary of their super shopping spree.

On the other side of the spectrum in London, are single chicks showing a lot more skin. A new trend for bachelorette parties (called 'hen parties' in the UK), is hiring a belly dancer to teach 'the bride to be' and her unwed gal pals how to shake their booty and sashay their hips while exposing their bare midriff. An Indian friend whom I met in St. Tropez works as a top exec for a prestigious media company by day and transforms into a belly dancing teacher by night. Everyone is single in South Beach so

I won't be able to bring this new trend to an American 'hen party' anytime soon. But like pole dancing, maybe belly dancing is good to add to a single girl's repertoire.

During my short visit to London, I discovered a lovely restaurant in Notting Hill I highly recommend, Notting Hill Brasserie with



amazing food, drink, ambience, live music and décor. A newfound St. Tropez friend based in London took me to the renowned private club, Annabel's...so now I can say, been there, done that! On my last night in London, a Danish friend whom I originally met in South Beach, took me to his private members club, Home House Madonna is rumored to be a member. This neo-Classical 18th century building is traditional with a twist. It has a space-age style bar designed by starchitect, Zaha Hadid where you can order 'The House' signature cocktail consisting of Bison Grass vodka, white grapes, mint and lemons.

It was finally time to go back across the pond to my 'home sweet home', sunny South Beach!

Photos:
Background- Royal Museum of London
Right- Goat Cheese and Beets from Notting Hill Brasserie

Details:

www.villazzo.com
www.villa-romana.com
www.lavoilerouge.fr
www.nikkibeach.com
www.byblos.com
www.lescavesduroy.com
www.viproom.fr
www.kubehotel.com
www.harrods.com
www.nottinghillbrasserie.com
www.annabels.co.uk
www.homehouseclub.com
www.zaha-hadid.com

Bliss

I do balance my party lifestyle with a regimented health, fitness and wellness regime...working out 365 days a year, doing green juice fasts, visiting my healer to practice energy transformation techniques and traveling to Bali to meditate and find my calmer side (ha – haven't found it yet)...Everyone seems amazed with my endless energy!

"If you follow your bliss, you put yourself on a kind of track that has been there all the while, waiting for you, and the life that you ought to be living is the one you are living. When you can see that, you begin to meet people who are in your field of bliss, and they open doors to you. I say, follow your bliss and don't be afraid, and doors will open where you didn't know they were going to be."

Joseph Campbell, renowned mythologist & professor

If you can't find your own bliss, then come to South Beach...a Bliss Spa is opening soon in my favorite new hotel here, W South Beach! Check in and check it out.

Hope to see you all soon in my sandbox!

Cheerio,
HOPE

HOPE INTERNATIONAL

Contributing Editor,
Hope Gainer,
President of Hope
International, is a

global image-maker, marketer and branding expert with 30 years of lifestyle experience with a focus today on the luxury market. She produces unique upscale events around the world. Gainer is a founding member of the Florida Luxury Council and a contributor to several other luxury publications including Elite Traveler, Haute Living and Social Affairs. She also represents spectacular "trophy" real estate properties.

Visit: www.ehopeinternational.com