

SEXY CITIES



La Barra Bridge

PUNTA DEL ESTE 2008 100th Anniversary

Once again, I descended upon one of my favorite hotspots to ring in the New Year! Seems like the world is catching on. The jetsetters who arrive ahead of the pack have finally discovered my hidden gem. I met trendoids from Russia, Australia, Germany, NYC etc...No longer do people say Punta what! Now it is oh yeah, **PUNTA DEL ESTE**, cool place!

For those still not Punta savvy, check out my first Sexy Cities newsletter at www.ehopeinternational.com/sexcities.htm which will give you the scoop. It is located in **Uruguay** a stone's throw across the **River Plate** from **Buenos Aires, Argentina**. You can take the ferry across or hop a **Pluna** plane and be there in a half hour. From Miami, you can fly direct to **Montevideo** and then drive a couple hours.

I landed super exhausted after all the arty parties for **'Art Baselmania'** in Miami! But I arrived just in time to drop my luggage, shower, change and head to one of the kickoff parties of the season being held for **Lacoste** at **La Huella** in Jose Ignacio. And yes, all the scenesters showed up on cue. The handsome Ralph Lauren model/polo player **Nacho Figueras** and his lovely wife, **Delfina Blaquier**, one of the top socialite couples in this neck of the woods. And a slew of other pretty party people ready for the new Punta season! Lights, fireworks, action...let the parties begin! And this was only December 27, 2007.

A few days later, after everyone jockeyed for their **New Years Eve** position, I landed at **The Setai** tent. I went with my new Aussie friends from a small world, the upscale invitation-only online community. At first I was upset that I was not going to what had been coined **'The NYE Party in Punta'** thrown by **Cipriani**. 'Slumming it' at The Setai (www.setaijoseignacio.com) turned out fine. The first boy I saw upon entering was the gorgeous **Martin**



Nacho Figueras & Delfina Blaquier



Barrantes, part royalty/part polo player... and my first kiss in 2008! So I rang in the new year with a smile on my face. And the fireworks never seem to end South of the Equator....they went on and on and on...not like the blink and you miss them displays stateside.

Asmallworld is quite active in Punta. One South African born member, **Paul Lucas** throws an annual bash January 2 for about 1000 of his closest global friends on his ranch. Guests are greeted by the local gauchos cooking the asado (BBQ of cattle parts & pigs)...that is of course once you get past the door people with your requisite wristband. One friend who forgot her band, got her first battle wounds of the new year by jumping the barbed wire fence meant to keep the cattle in and the party crashers out. Oh well, what we will do to get into a party... This party was a diverse mix of countries and cultures from around the world.



Martin Barrantes & Hope

Asado / BBQ



A few days later, I invited my new friend, **Lucy** from Oz to the **Chandon White Party**. It turned out to my surprise, to be a real estate party for a new Punta project, **Laguna Escondida** (www.lagunaescondida.com) and our Miami star developer, **Jorge Perez** was the host. From the moment we entered the party, we knew it was the place to be! You felt the vibe and saw all the beautiful people from BA mingling about. Not an ugly girl or boy in the batch. We posed for pix with endless gorgeous guys.



White Party People: Juan, Hope, Javier & Roxanna

Punta del Este Houses



Yes, real estate is exploding in **Punta del Este**...and personally I feel it will become the next 'St. Tropez' of the planet. Now is the time to buy buy buy... some land, a house or a piece of a project. Numerous choices to choose from geographically and style-wise. There are farms they call chacras, beachfront villas, country estates, condos etc...from **Punta Ballena** to **La Barra** to **Jose Ignacio** and beyond with **Rocha** becoming the remote new chic chic spot. So far **Philippe Starck** has hit the town of Punta and The Setai is coming to Jose Ignacio. Plus, Uruguay has special tax advantages and titles are presented outright to owners. Prices are beginning to escalate so spend those euros, pounds or dollars soon!

I have seen the expansion from over 20 years ago when no roads or electricity were in place in what today is the most elite area, Jose Ignacio. Development is growing at a record pace. Contact me and I'll tell you my personal favorites and help you find what's right for you, whether you are an individual



investor or a developer. One German friend bought some hectares for a golf course community while some Mexicans set their sites on beachfront bachelor pads. A favorite pastime for those with foreign currency cash in their pockets was real estate shopping this holiday. And if you missed out this year, I can set visitors up with villa rentals or hotel reservations for next year. If you've got the South Beach blues (been there, done that), plan on Punta for next NYE!



I discovered three standout hotels this year in three different areas of Punta. Near La Barra, a brand spanning new white-washed Mykonos-style design hotel, **Posada de los Pajaros** (www.posadadelospajaros.com.uy) opened its doors in 2008. In Jose Ignacio, I came upon **Casa Suaya** (www.casasuaya.com) which feels more like a personal guest house since the owner also has his home right on the property next to his hip hotel. And near the airport, in an area called **Laguna del Sauce**, is the charming **Las Cumbres Hotel – Art & Spa** (www.cumbres.com.uy), with the most breathtaking panoramic view. Here the daughter of the owner, **Ivanna** who also happens to be the GM, graciously gave me a personal tour of her family's beloved property (5 estrellas/ stars).



A trip to Punta is not complete without attending a polo match. I went to cheer my cute polo boys onto victory while sipping **Chandon** champagne

(www.chandon.com.ar) from the sidelines. And for the male visitors, there are always plenty of magnificent models parading about in Punta. The model agencies from Buenos Aires set up shop with beachfront homes.

One of the highlights this year was the **20th Anniversary party** for renowned agency owner, **Pancho Dotto** (www.dottomodels.net).

The Conrad Hotel (www.conrad.com.uy) also celebrated it's **10 year anniversary** with special guest, **Nikki Hilton**.

And **Gente** Magazine hosted their annual Rose party. Pink was the required clothing color and guests were treated to endlessly flowing rose Chandon champagne, pink chocolate fountains and more!



Pancho Dotto & Hope



T-shirts with great big phrases seemed to be make a statement this season...from a guy flaunting **"I can satisfy you"** to another saying **"Never enough"** to a model's T with the words **"Don't make me come down"**. Fashionistas are everywhere in Punta.

And everything is **VIP** here! Even the beaches have roped off VIP areas where the



model babes sit on daybeds and are fed complimentary food & drink.

Novecento is still the favorite meeting place for dinner and **Flo Café** for café con leche and snacks. **La Huella** has the most delicious lunch



on the beach serving the freshest dishes cooked with orgasmic flavors. **Marismo** is off the beaten path, but worth finding for

dinner outdoors. **El Puesto** offers the traditional BBQ so come hungry. **Tequila Bar** is still the late night or rather early morning hotspot...but beware of the discriminatory doorman. If you are not one of the local hipsters from BA, you will be treated like an outsider and probably left outside! A more friendly, fabulous saxophone player (www.rmsaxo.com.ar) serenaded me at **Serena Hotel** (www.serenahotel.com.uy) this season.

Arexte is a cool lounge near the funky La Barra bridge. **Crobar** (www.crobarbsas.com.ar) opened its doors for the late night crowds in La Barra this year. The gathering spot as everyone crawls out of the clubs at sunrise is **Medialunas Calentitas** (www.medialunascalentitas.com) where

mouth-watering homemade croissants pop out of the oven and right into your mouth. And the most stunning reward for staying up all night is catching the sunrise. Probably one of the most spectacular I have ever seen anywhere in the world!

My last night in Punta, I found myself dining with the entire **Argentine polo team** at **El Puesto**....so it was as if I died and went to polo heaven. Time to leave this paradise. I can't top that!



BUENOS AIRES 2008

**Approaching its Bicentennial
Year in 2009**

"It was a strange labyrinth, ten languages, a thousand imaginings, Gauchos, Spaniards, Italians, Arabs, and the miracle of coexistence."

"It was all Buenos Aires, like a cosmos of cities, enthralled by the pulse of a magical city....and so many ways of saying 'Love!'"

Tango Lyric – H. Ferrer & R. Garelo
1097

**MODERN & NOSTALGIC...
NOCTURNAL & MYSTERIOUS**

"Modern, European, cosmopolitan, bohemian, nostalgic, nocturnal, mysterious, Latin, in the vanguard...Buenos Aires is a

city whose nature can never be fully defined.

Birthplace of the tango, prime-quality beef, centennial wineries, excellence in polo, majestic racetracks, football where the air is alive with raw emotions, European style, historical buildings, antique shops, traditional neighborhoods, tropical touches all filled with overwhelming Latin sensibility"

Excerpted from Faena Art District Buenos Aires book

Today foreigners are flocking here with open wallets!



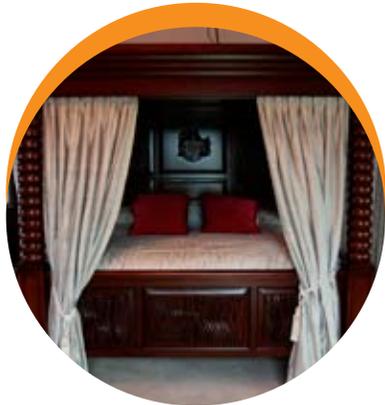


Casa de Lord

LOBOS

Polo in the Pampas

I was scooped up at the **Buenos Aires** airport by the British Lordship himself, **Lord Alain Levenfiche**...or as he is known, **“The Luxury Lord”**. He then shuttled me quickly for a sneak peak to his **Edificio Kavanagh** apartment (more details later) before transporting me in the middle of the night to **“Casa de Lord”**, his estancia in Lobos (polo country in the pampas). We arrived in pitch black darkness to the countryside where no lights are visible other than the stars in the sky. Then as we approached through the private gates of **Santa Maria**



de Lobos (www.santamariadelobos.com), the lights on his estancia illuminated a grand entrance for me! I felt like a princess arriving at her palace. This place is painted a pink just like **Casa Rosada** (the Pink House of the President of Argentina) and has the Lord’s family crest above the entryway. For full effect, the pool fountains and lights were also shooting up to the stars above.

So my first night in Argentina in 2008 was spent in a queen-size canopy bed in the home of The Lord. Sweet dreams for this privileged babe from South Beach! The next morning breakfast was served on the veranda overlooking the polo field with the club house across the way. Next, I ventured off for my daily run, breathing in





the fresh air complimented with the aroma of eucalyptus leaves. I was greeted by ducks near the nature preserve lagoon and polo ponies in the fenced fields plus a few cattle and numerous varieties of birds overhead. Then back to 'the ranch' so to speak for a lazy afternoon poolside with the super strong sun shining down on me.

Lady Dayah



Several hours later, it was feeding time again. Now, the parilla (BBQ) smell was making me hungry. Not normally a big meat eater, but in Argentina...you MUST indulge. Here the meat is soooooo fresh, literally right off the cattle's back, hormone-free. Lomo is the soft tender meat to try. And **Lady Dayah** (Lord Alain's prettier half), makes her own secret sauce that puts chimichurra to shame. Then sunset over the pampas, a movie on the big screen and once again time to hit the pillow.



Oh, I forgot to mention the state-of-the-art sound system and light show that exist in the interior courtyard. And the gentleman's room which serves as an English pub. Plus, huge picture windows everywhere at **Casa de Lord**...so you can view polo from every place, even while in the bath or bed. Outside, the pool bar and quincho as the BBQ area is called are additional amenities to enjoy adjacent to the tiki huts. And one of the neighbors, actor **Tommy Lee Jones** has his polo place here too.

Lord Alain Levenfiche



In the town of Lobos, you can buy the real polo gear, not the touristy stuff... including elegant gourds of all shapes and sizes for mate. Drinking **mate** with friends is actually a national pastime in Argentina.



BUENOS AIRES

Bs As

Back to the big city after a weekend escape to the country...in just an hour we hit the hustle and bustle of BA. I take a moment to flashback in time in the **Kavanagh** lobby. It has not changed one iota since it was built in 1935 by the same architect as the Empire State Building in NYC. It is declared a national treasure and thus untouchable or changeable. The portenos worship this masterpiece overlooking **Plaza San Martin** which was their first real skyscraper and tallest building in South America at the time.



Just knowing I was staying in the original apartment of **Corina Kavanagh** (one of Argentina's wealthiest women) and where **Eva Peron** (First Lady of President Peron - Evita) was also rumored to have lived, I was becoming somewhat of a newfound legend myself. Seduction

came naturally, when entering my

new lair. And the beautiful boys of BA each had their own special techniques. I found it quite entertaining to experience each of their styles. Seduction School... what a great concept for the BA boys to teach to the American men in dire need of some basic 101 training!

Edificio Kavanagh



Plaza San Martin



Fernanda & Beau



Hope & Juan



My friend, **Lord Alain** completely gutted the entire 14th floor that this historical apt occupied and turned it into a jaw-dropping place, complete with its own disco dance floor with a checker-board pattern of changing lights, smoke and bubble machines plus laser beams all in a seamless white loft-like open space with huge floor to ceiling glass French doors opening out to one of the biggest terraces of the city with panoramic views. The furniture is part **Phillipe Starck** style and part Thai mixed with the requisite, rich Argentine leathers. The triangular apartment has three terraces with breathtaking sunrises and sunsets...with the **River Plate** and **Puerto Madero** on one side and the busy city on the other overlooking Plaza San Martin.

To toast the decadent space, **Piso 14** in **Edificio Kavanagh**, I hosted a **Saint Valentines Red Party** with Lord Alain and in strolled a sexy assortment of potential

lovers and other strangers. Once again, rose **Chandon** champagne flowed endlessly poured by cute **Cuk** (www.cuk3.com) bartenders...so I had to postpone my flight home the next day and pamper my hangover.

Oh well, that just meant two more Valentines parties to attend (they call them **Anti-Valentines** here for the single scenesters) – one at **Rubio Y Negro** (blonde & black), run by the BA Crobar owners and another at a big venue, the **Hippico** with about 1000 revelers. Other nightspots worth venturing to include: **Faena Hotel** on Thursdays (www.faenahotelanduniverse.com), **Goya Bar** on Fridays, **Milion** Saturdays (www.milion.com.ar), **Gran Danzon** wine bar any night after work (www.granbardanzon.com.ar), **Osaka** any night you can get a coveted reservation (www.osaka.com.pe), **Sucre** also any night for dinner (www.sucrerestaurant.com.ar) or **Bardot** in Palermo Soho plus **Crobar**, **Rumi** and **Jet** for clubbing, and anywhere any night in **Las Canitas** for food, drink and people watching. To rest

your head, try one of the quaint B&Bs like **Malabia** (www.malabiahouse.com.ar), **Bobo** (www.bobohotel.com), **Five Cool Rooms** (www.fivebuenosaires.com), **Home** (www.homebuenosaires.com) or **Hotel Moreno** (www.morenobuenosaires.com).

Kavanagh Disco Dance Floor



This extra weekend provided me with the chance to attend my first ever soccer game...and this one was with **Boca Juniors**, the most famous of all at **La Boca** stadium. I loyally donned my yellow hotpants and blue tank top to fit in amongst the wildly loyal fans. And the next night, I got the VIP treatment at the **Telmex Tennis Cup** where I got to see top Argentine pro, **Nalbandian** win his match. Immediately after, the champion hit a few rounds with kids from the crowd. Children seem to have a special place in the sports world in **Argentina**, whether at polo matches or here on center court.



Oh, and a tango CD to keep me in the mood...



I took some side trips one Sunday to two very different places. My friendly tour guide, Patricia drove me first to the town of **Mataderos** where they slaughter the cattle – how lovely...not! But then she showed me the church of the **Lady of Lujan**, a bit more appropriate for a Sunday stroll. Here I waited in line like everyone to touch this sacred figure who is known as the "**Protector of Argentina**".

And lovers also seem to be out and about everywhere. In broad daylight on lunch hours, coffee breaks, Saturday afternoon strolls...I would always, always see young lovers embracing in **Buenos Aires**. **Love is definitely in the air**...'good air' after all is the meaning of this city's name. Even **Al Gore** I don't think would complain about air filled with love?



Since the almighty dollar keeps shrinking, I did not shop til I dropped like I had on past trips. I kept my hard earned pesos in my pocket this go around with the exception of slick silver party boots! I couldn't resist...they were like a party ready to happen. Why not a little booty for the babe?!





Villa Maria

Having some faith was good for me!

Another field trip, another day was to the most famous estancia, **Villa Maria** (www.estanciavillamaria.com) just 15 minutes from the **Buenos Aires** international airport, Eizeze. It is being turned into an amazing real estate development community with all the right names handling the various sports activities – **Guillermo Vilas** for the tennis center, **Nacho Figueras** for polo, and a top equestrian, **George Morris** for that area, plus golf. This old English style manor situated on elaborate grounds filled with tremendous trees is spectacular. Plots are being sold at a rapid pace so place your orders

soon with me.

MENDOZA Wine Country

Mendoza, Argentina’s wine country beckoned. Time for **Malbec** tasting. I visited the **Pulenta vineyard** (www.carlospulentawines.com) where I was the personal guest of daughter, **Paula Pulenta** in their restaurant, **La Bourgogne** which is ranked best winery restaurant in the world! They also have **La Posada** where guests can stay overnight right at the vineyard. Nearby, **Santa Maria de los Andes** (www.santamariadelosandes.com) is a special real estate development overlooking the Andes. **Sarah**

Ferguson, Duchess of York has invested here. You too can buy your own vineyard coop style at a reasonable rate. The developer will have their oenologists (wine experts) do all the work for you growing the grapes and making the wine...and voila, you have your very own vintage with your own label. Now that is impressive and can certainly impress others! Where else can you have polo ponies stomp your grapes into wine at the breathtaking foothills of the Andes mountain range? Place your vineyard order with me whenever you are ready to choose your grapes. Did you want to plant **Malbec** or **Savingnon Blanc** or both???

Something to ponder over your next glass of vino!

Santa Maria de los Andes





REAL ESTATE

Endless Options

So if you are interested in owning either the most amazing, historical **Kavanagh** apartment in **Buenos Aires**, your own vineyard in **Mendoza**, polo estancia in **Lobos** or a place in **Villa Maria's** world class community...just let your fingers do the walking to my email and I can arrange a trip to amazing **Argentina!** I am the agent for these properties and projects (Kavanagh/BA apt, Casa de Lord estancia/Lobos, Santa Maria de Lobos/Lobos, Santa Maria de los Andes/Mendoza and Villa Maria/BA). And Punta is my passion too!

In my spare time, (between sipping vino and chugging champagne) I started developing a reality TV show to follow my friend, **Lord Alain** on all of his global ventures...stay tuned and look for us on one of your cable channels sometime soon!



Thailand beckons. That is where the **Luxury Lord's** magic carpet is headed next. I hope he finds room for **HOPE!** Thai silk sheets ...I can handle that. More sweet dreams in another hemisphere! I am ready.

Bon voyage!

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