

VANITY FAIR

A full-page photograph of Teri Hatcher, the actress who plays Meredith Grey on the TV show Grey's Anatomy. She is wearing a white, off-the-shoulder, ribbed sweater that is pulled down to her elbows, revealing her shoulders and upper arms. She has long, wavy brown hair with bangs and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

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SPECIAL TERI HATCHER'S DESPERATE SECRET

BY LESLIE BENNETTS P. 60

"THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE
TRIED TO HIDE MY WHOLE LIFE.
I haven't tried to kill myself, but I've certainly thought about it."

PLUS!

MICHAEL WOLFF ON STEVE JOBS,
JAMES WOLCOTT ON LAURA BUSH,
AND DOMINICK DUNNE'S DIARY

WWW.VANITYFAIR.COM

ALSO!

DIRTY LOBBYIST
JACK ABRAMOFF TALKS
BY DAVID MARGOLICK
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THE HONEYMOON-CRUISE MYSTERY
BY BRYAN BURROUGH
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ON THE GROUND WITH U.S. FORCES
IN AFGHANISTAN
BY SEBASTIAN JUNGER
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BOB WOODWARD COMES CLEAN
BY MARE BRENNER
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TRAVEL

April 2006

BEIJING

JUMP-STARTING CHINA'S HEART

MOSCOW

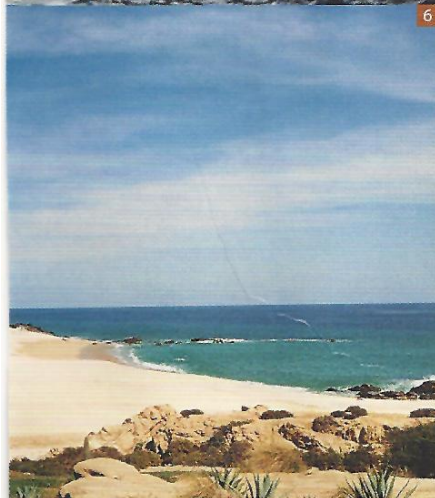
SEX, DRUGS, NOUVEAU RICHE

KENYA

AN AFRICA TO CALL HOME

PLUS ...

AMALFI, BAJA CALIFORNIA, BERLIN, AND SHOP THE WORLD



DOWN MEXICO WAY

- (1) "El Arco". (2) Boho chic at Hotel California.
- (3) Lounging at Las Ventanas. (4) Easy living at the Hotel California.
- (5) Palmilla Chapel. (6) All rooms at Palmilla have a sea view.
- (7) Palms and ferns add a lush touch at Palmilla.

BAJA IS A NEW RIVIERA:
FIFTY PER CENT OF
THE GUESTS AT THE
SWISH RESORT OF LAS
VENTANAS AL PARAISO
ARRIVE BY PRIVATE JET
FROM NEW YORK AND
LOS ANGELES.

are moving in. Organic farms? The markets at Todos Santos and Mireflores are fabulous. And then there's Esperanza – Auberge Resorts' seaside sister to Auberge du Soleil in Napa Valley: arty, relaxed, very linen. Alan Fuerstman, the big hotel-industry noise, with his Montage Hotel & Resort at Laguna Beach, is thinking of coming to build on the only beach at Baja where you can actually swim (Baja's big disadvantage, which no one tells you, is that the sea is mostly unswimmable, except by whales).

So in Baja you can do resort life, but you can also do local life – that funny old idea of being in a foreign place. The restaurants are joyously cool: you eat seafood at La Panga Antigua, pastries at the French Riviera Bakery, drink chilled Monte Xanic – better than most New World wines – and wake in the morning to see a pelican fly-past, skimming over the sea.



THE BEST OF BAJA

BEST WAY TO GO **UK reservations.** Elegant Resorts (Call 01244 897222, or go to elegantresorts.co.uk.)

BEST PLACES TO STAY With five staff per guest and a sheet menu – “Would madam like 100-per-cent Egyptian spun-cotton, Jacquard sateen or pure linen?” – **One&Only Palmilla** is \$110 million-worth of grand glam. All rooms and suites face the sea – you can look out but no one looks in, which is why it's such a big hit with the rich and famous (palmillaresort.com). **UK reservations:** Elegant Resorts (Call 01244 897222, or go to elegantresorts.co.uk.) **Las Ventanas al Paraíso** is über-chic, all jewel-coloured Mexican fabrics and lovely white-washed rooms – five with plunge pools on the balconies (lasventanas.com). **UK reservations:** Seasons in Style (Call 01244 202000, or go to seasonsinstyle.co.uk.) **Casa Natalia** is an adorable boutique hotel enthusiastically owned and run by Nathalie Tenoux. Each of the 16 rooms is different, wacky, and the beating heart of the hotel is the courtyard, with 39 palm trees, waterfalls, a bar and restaurant (Nathalie's husband Loïc is chef). (For reservations, call 00 52 624 142 5100, or go to casanatalia.com.) Overlooking beach, cliffs, waves, sunset, **Esperanza** is not only sheer, full-on drama, it's fun and laid-back. The bedrooms and balconies are slightly small, but hey, you're there to be cool (esperanzaresort.com). **UK reservations:** Carrier (Call 0161 491 7600, or go to carrier.co.uk.)

BEST CAFES AND BARS At Todos Santos, have lunch at **Café Santa-Fe**. For drinks and cigars, go to the bar at the **Hotel California** (hotelcaliforniabaja.com).

BEST RESTAURANTS In San José del Cabo, **Morgan's** offers everything from tapas to tortillas in a great atmosphere. (For reservations, call 00 52 624 142 3825.) **La Panga Antigua** serves fish and modern Mexican in a charming colonial courtyard. (For reservations, call 00 52 624 142 4041.) Stroll to the **French Riviera Restaurant & Bakery** for Mediterranean and Mexican – and divine pastries. (For reservations, call 00 52 624 142 3350.)

BEST READS **Moon Handbooks Baja** by Joe Cummings (Avalon Travel) for an up-to-date guide with useful contacts, maps and day-trip suggestions. **The Log from the Sea of Cortez** by John Steinbeck (Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics) is the author's compelling study of the lives of marine invertebrates, gleaned from his trip along the Californian coast with biologist Ed Ricketts.

BEST INSIDER INFO

Do take a trip down to the Sea of Cortez, where you can go **whale-watching**, anytime between December and April. **Don't** wear sandals in the desert – if a cactus doesn't get you, the rattlesnakes will.