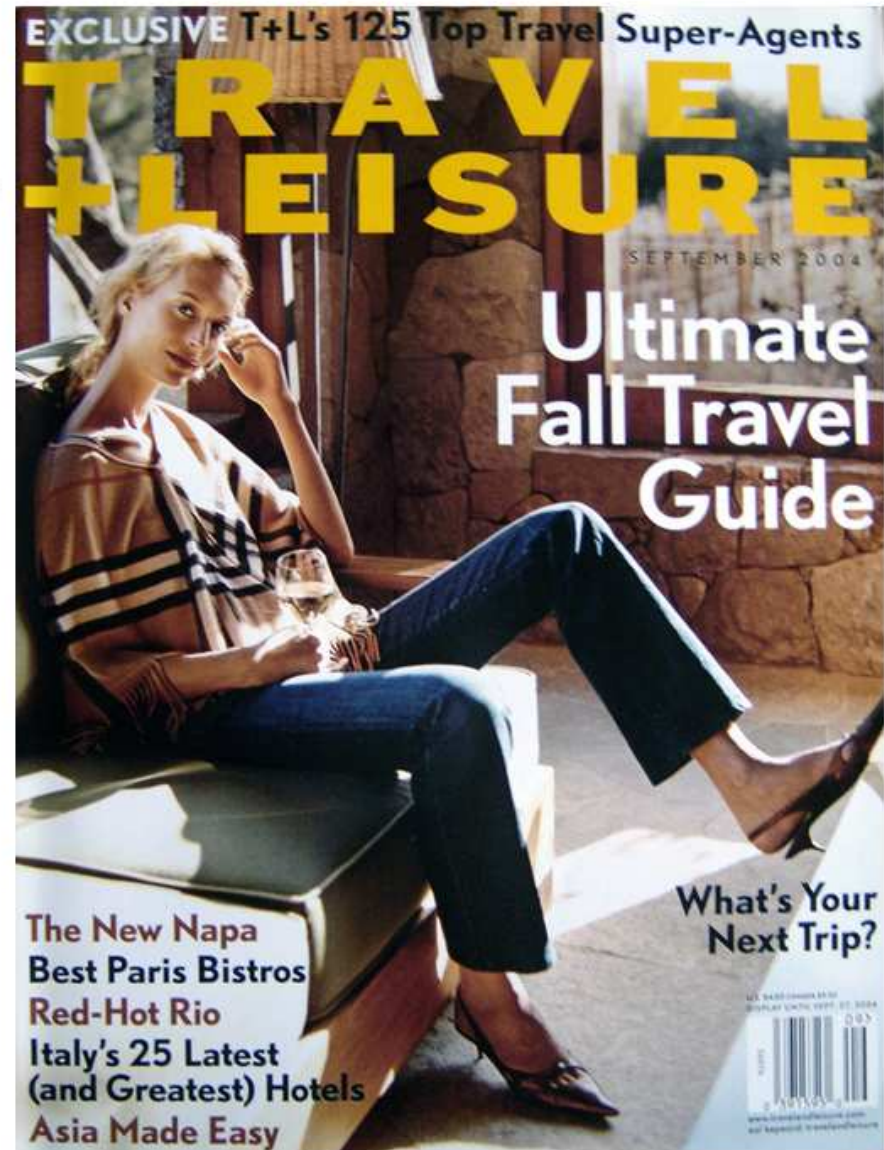


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54 : CHILEAN WATERWORKS

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reports

hamptons hideaway

INN OF THE MONTH

It's all about access in the Hamptons. And there's no better way to get on the inside track than to spend the night with a couple in the know. Year-round residents Sylvia and Gary Muller, owners of the Mill House Inn

031 N. Main St., East Hampton, N.Y. 631/224-4700, www.millhouseinn.com; doubles from \$275, including breakfast, will play concierge, chef, and event planner once you check into their 1899 Dutch Colonial, just steps from Main Street and its trendy boutiques. Guests are welcomed by the strains of Lily Lovett and

enthusiastic tail-wagging from Cory, the inn's Gordon setter; they're also given the Muller's encyclopedic, 175-page leather-bound guide to the area (map included). The 11 rooms and suites come stocked with luxurious essentials for brisk nights: gas fireplaces, roomy bathtubs, and downy leather beds with 340-thread-count linens that promise a great night's sleep. Breakfasts, with Gary at the helm, are epic adventures in glutinous leg-nog-brioche French toast, anyone? But it's the small details—house-made ketchup, fresh cookies around the clock—that make you feel like you've arrived. —RICHARD HOTHAM

high-flying design

TREND Fashion takes off this fall as luxury lines find inspiration in classic pilot gear—again. Hermès's fall collection includes a deerskin aviator cap (\$1,500; 800/441-4488; www.hermes.com). Hogan's boots were modeled after the footwear of legends like Amelia Earhart (1670; 888/604-6426). And Cartier has retrooled its Santos watch (from \$4,200; 800/227-8437; www.cartier.com), to honor the centennial of Louis Cartier's response to a request by aviator Alberto Santos-Dumont for a convenient timepiece, which resulted in the world's first wristwatch.

—LAURA BEGLEY

CHILEAN WATERWORKS

ARCHITECTURE When Germán del Sol learned about a forgotten manuscript discovered 20 years ago amid the remains of a sunken 17th-century Spanish galleon, he became a man obsessed. The chronicle told of a creek on Mount Villarrica, a snowcapped volcano, where the local Mapuche Indians luxuriated in thermal waters. "We found the stream half-buried under natural debris after eleven years of searching," says del Sol. "After much digging, we uncovered more than sixty thermal springs along fifteen hundred feet of the creek bed." The conclusion to the architect's quest is **Termas Geométricas** (www.termasgeometricas.cl; admission \$16).



in southern Chile's lake country. Best known for conceiving the ultramodern Explora lodges in Torres del Paine National Park and the northern Atacama Desert, del Sol created an ingenious network of boardwalks that distributes both hot water and visitors to 17 slate-tiled pools. Skiers, river-runners, and nature lovers who populate nearby resorts in Pucón and Villarrica can have a soak, then gather around an open fire in a quinchu. Beneath that thatched pavilion, del Sol has built an eco-conscious snack bar, where the only lights after dark are the stars overhead and the candles beside the pools.

—MICHAEL MORA