

How to \$pend the Long, Hot Summer in Fort Lauderdale

30 cool things that will change your life

By Cyn. Zarco

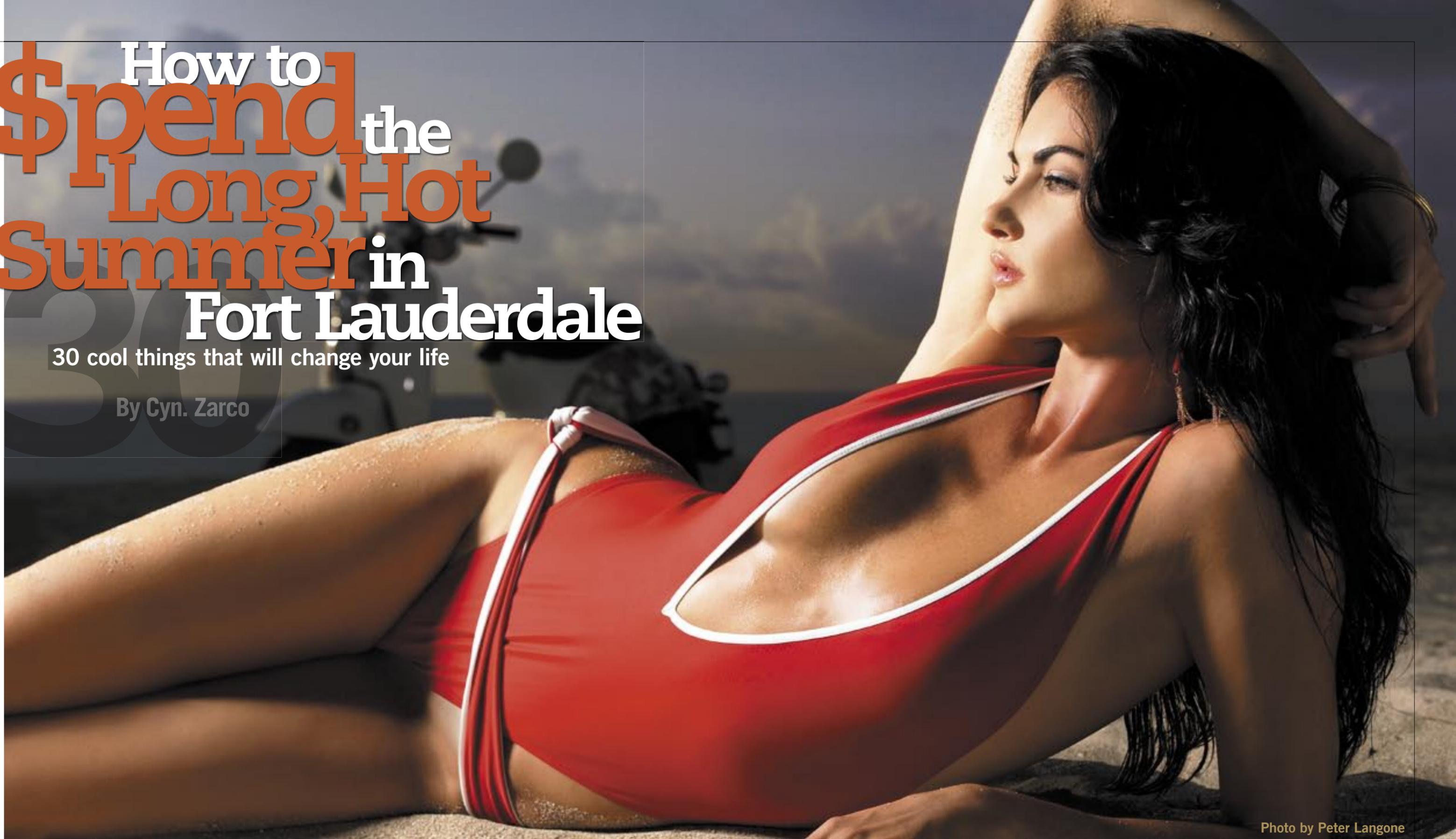


Photo by Peter Langone

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hen I was a lowly grad student in New York, my best friend and I couldn't afford to go away for the summer. So, brilliant writers that we were, we did the next best thing: We rewrote the script and pretended to be tourists. We saw the sights New Yorkers take for granted — the fountain at the Plaza Hotel, the Oyster Bar underground at Grand Central. Heck, we canoed in Central Park. We dressed funny and put on accents, and we took pictures. We had a blast!

Who says you have to leave town to have fun? Not everyone can summer in the South of France or weekend in the Hamptons. (Hey, some of us have to work for a living.) But, sticking close to home this summer doesn't have to be ho-hum. Get creative. You too can be a tourist in Fort Lauderdale. (You already drive like one. Just kidding!)

Hey, guy, when was the last time you clocked in some real beach time? (It's around the corner.) Or yelled, "Surf's up!" (And I don't mean the web.) Or tried a new sport, like entertaining, or having a few friends over for a luau? (Who knows? You might get lei-d.)

And ladies, ever dream of dumping, I mean, dropping off the kids at Grandma's and checking into a hotel for the weekend? Ask for Demi and Ashton's suite at the Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa and get the full enchilada — your body slathered all over with very expensive black mud, then wrapped like a hot meal while your significant other's out touring the back nine. Nice. Very nice.

One day, try paddling out to sea in a see-through kayak for two. Think goldfish bowl-meets-glass-bottom boat, only this one's plastic. The Clear Blue Hawaii Molokini kayak is great for spearing hog snapper out on the reef some 300 yards out. (Sweet spot: the 2nd round marker between Port Everglades and Commercial.) Not into seafood, just the hunt? No problem. While your big Kahuna's trying to catch his dinner, you, too, can do some shooting. See the sea turtles and pretty parrot fish swim down below with your seaworthy Olympus Stylus 770 digital underwater camera. Aren't you the eco-friendly one!

Having fun yet? Need to take notes? Better write this down.



Scoot & Surf

1. Do what the Euros do: Leave your gas-guzzler in the garage and scoot to South Beach Park on A1A in this fuel-friendly, ultra-reliable, super-cool, 49 cc-engine machine — the 2007 Honda Metropolitan. Comes in solids and groovy graphics from Red Kanji (shown above, top left) to black-and-white checks. Warning: You may never drive a four-wheeler again. \$1,899. Rick Case Honda, 15701 Rick Case Honda Way, Davie; 954-364-3212. www.rickcasehonda.net.

2. Do one thing you've never done every year. Pray for waves. Head over to Water-Play, the Watersports Superstore, and try a Nat Young long board on for size. Next, go where the surfers go — to the Spoils, just north of Port Everglades, by the jetty. Hey, if Nat's 58 and hangin' ten, what're you doin'? Both \$519: Bic Surf 2007-CTS 9'4" long-board (blue); Bic Surf 2007-CTS Limited 9'4" long-board. Water-Play, 2000 S. Federal Hwy, Ft. Lauderdale, 954-523-7778; 1440 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach; 954-783-7796. www.water-play.com.

3. Try to stay awake. These fat terry beach towels are so fluffy you'd swear you were lying on a featherbed. \$42. Tommy Bahama, Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale; 954-527-8868. www.tommybahama.com.

4. A beach is like a crowded nightclub, only everyone's horizontal. Break the bank. Have Dania designer Dania Demu dream up an eye-popping thongkini or plunging one-piece like this red, peek-a-boo, convertible halter number on Lubyanka (opening photo, previous spread). \$150 and up. By appointment; call 954-483-1368. www.diniademu.com.

5. Also on model: Betsey Johnson's "Coral Fringe" earring, \$45. Macy's at Coral Square, 9129 W. Atlantic Blvd., Coral Springs; 954-345-3300. www.macys.com.

6. She's got Rebecca Norman's curvy bangles — 18-karat gold vermeil over silver. Half-dozen, \$200; dozen, \$360. Neiman-Marcus, 2422 E. Sunrise Blvd.; 954-566-6666. www.neimanmarcus.com.



XAVIER MARAÑÓN





A Day at the Beach

- 7. Carry precious cargo.** The Bardot straw tote by Lilly Pulitzer. Short shoulder straps, tropical-ista lining, drawstring enclosure. \$165. Lauderdale Lifestyle, 819 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale; 954-524-5459. www.lauderdalelifestyle.com.
- 8. "Grow tomorrow."** Go green (not a color choice) with Cargo's PlantLove natural lipsticks created by eco-celebs, like Lindsay, Courteney, Mariska. Best part: Biodegradable carton's made of corn, embedded with wildflower seeds. Moisten, plant. \$20 (\$2 goes to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital). Sephora, Galleria Mall, 2414 E. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale; 954-630-3636. www.cargocosmetics.com.
- 9. Hurry up and wait.** Apple's ETA for the iPhone is now, so get on the list. Yak, text large, browse web, snail-mail photos, hear iTunes, podcasts. Leave that pesky laptop home. Your little mousy finger never had it so good. Cell service, Cingular. Price: TBA. \$499? Apple Store, The Galleria, 2414 E. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale; 954-331-4501. www.apple.com.
- 10. Show some leg.** Circle your tan in gold divined from Me&Ro, pioneers of the art of fashion jewelry as spiritual talisman. Big Om. Anklets, L to R: Tiny hammered gold discs, \$700; full tiny hammered gold discs on leather, \$2,835; signature gold lotus petals, \$800. Alas, only one store outside NYC, but nearby — at the Shore Club, 1901 Collins Ave., Miami; 305-672-3566. www.meandrojewelry.com.
- 11. No need to tippy-toe on the hot sand.** Crocs Prima ballet flat is femme and seawater-proof. \$24.99, Dillard's, The Galleria, 2500 E. Sunrise Blvd., 954-565-5245; Broward Mall, 8000 W. Broward Blvd., 954-370-8182. www.crocs.com, 866-306-3179.



Kids' Playdate

- 12. Reminisce.** Single-girl bliss! Ahhh, the French Riviera. *L'amour, l'amour*. Lean like Grace Kelly in this hard-to-find classic Colombe wooden folding deck chair. \$125. www.conranusa.com, 866-755-9079.
- 13. Kids just wanna have fun.** Five feet square, five feet tall, with a wee window in back — Mack's striped play tent. Tops for naps on beach or sleepovers in back yard. \$325. www.geniusjones.com. 1-866-GENIUSJ.
- 14. Matchy-catchy.** Mack's striped beach tote for Mom. \$65. www.geniusjones.com. 1-866-GENIUSJ.
- 15. Don't leave home** without Dr. Hauschka's holistic sun-care products for friends and family. Sunscreen lotions, creams SPF8-30, \$19.95-27.95; after-sun lotion, \$22.95; sunscreen stick, \$14.95; Hey, natural was never this sexy — gold-toned Novum lipstick, \$19.95. Sephora, 2414 E. Sunrise Blvd., 954-630-3636; Whole Foods, 2000 N. Federal Hwy., 954-565-5655. www.drhauschka.com.
- 16. Know when to turn over.** Custom 30-meter, stainless steel, wood (or enamel) inlay Nixon watch is worn by the hottest (yum!) surfers, skateboarders and snowboarders in the world — Team Nixon. In bamboo: Rotolog (his, \$220); Chalet (hers [inset], \$200). www.baseworld.com; www.nixonnow.com.





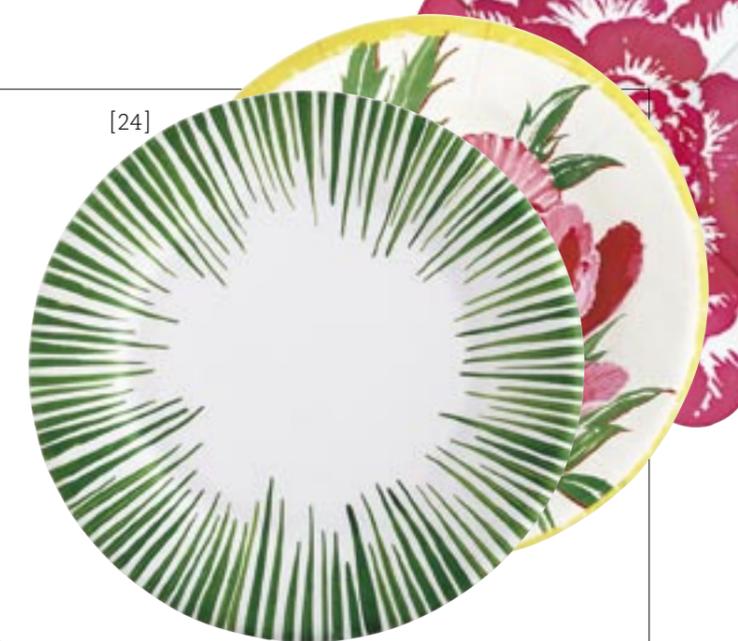
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On A Clear Day

17. Glam up no matter what in Stuart Weitzman's clear jelly flip-flop with Swarovski sparklies. They're Divinyl; they're delicious; they're \$135. Neiman Marcus, 2442 E. Sunrise Blvd., 954-566-6666; www.neimanmarcus.com. 800-274-0094.

18. Remember, three-fourths of the earth is water. The better to kayak in, m'dear, especially in Clear Blue Hawaii's 2007 Molokini. This transparent two-seater's born from jets—well, the same durable polymer used to make canopies for F15s, anyway. Weight: 40 lbs. Length: 11'1." Way cool. \$1,489, incl. two paddles. Water-Play, 2000 S. Federal Hwy., Fort Lauderdale, 954-523-7778; 1440 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach, 954-783-7796. www.water-play.com.

19. Gotta get me some of those — the new 2007 Eagle, Aqua Sphere's nifty underwater readers. They're swim goggles, really, with interchangeable prescription lenses for the visually challenged. Now you can dive without contacts. Made in Genoa, their cunning design lets you "pop & swap" lenses (grades: -1.5 to -6.0) as your eyesight changes. Goggles, \$24.99; \$12 per lens. Divers Direct, 180 Gulfstream Way, Dania Beach, 954-925-7630, or call manufacturer at 760-597-5000. www.aqualung.com.

20. Now that you can see again, grab the Olympus Stylus 770 SW, an indestructible, 7.1 megapixel digital camera you can drop (from 5 feet), dunk (to 33 feet), freeze (14°F) or crush (up to 220 lbf). Not that you'd want to. It's skinny, pretty, and blur-free, and its hyper-crystal, 2.5-inch LCD is squint-proof. Plus, it has a built-in manometer (I've got one of those) that measures air and water pressure to gauge the altitude and depth of your photos. \$379.99. Wolf Camera, 1001 N. Federal Hwy., 954-522-6500. P.S. Olympus website sells anti-slip silicon skins



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Luau Lounge

21. Think 60s — Doris and Rock in Pillow Talk floating in your pool, only in Kauai. Yeah. Get Saturdays started at your house with Sports Stuff's rad Pool-n-Beach cabana lounge. Its detachable nylon canopy adjusts for full sun or shade. Good in or out of the pool. \$199.99 Water-Play, 2000 S. Federal Hwy, Ftort Lauderdale, 954-523-7778; 1440 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach, 954-783-7796. www.water-play.com.

22. Get in character. Get your coconuts in a row, and party like Brando gone loco in Tetiaroa. Four-piece, plastic coco cup set, \$15.99, \$3.99 each; ceramic tiki hut bev dispenser, \$24.99. Online only, www.target.com. 1-800-591-3869.

23. Calling all girls! Paint the patio pinktini with X-rated Fusion liqueur, a cool concoction of ultra-premium French vodka mixed with Provence blood oranges, Brazilian mangoes and passion fruit. Shake it; don't stir. Now leave. \$27.99, 750ml bottle. Available at most liquor stores.

24. Don't do the dishes. Paper plates this pretty are tough to trash, but, hey, it's maid's day off. Fill patio with Isabelle de Borchgrave's hand-painted, floral, 52-piece collection — tablecloths, placemats, serving bowls, napkins, candles, even chair covers. \$2.99-up. Target, 3200 N. Federal Hwy., 954-390-7992. www.target.com, 1-800-591-3869.

25. Turn down the lights. Spin bottom of luau lamp against palm. Designed by Vessel of Boston, this poly wireless wonder emits up to 50 watts of ambient surround. Lasts 6-10 hours indoors or out. \$250, inc. 36-bulb LED pack, rechargeable NiMH batteries. Design Within Reach. www.dwr.com, 1-800-944-2233.

26. Bamboo-zle thy guests. Turn 'em into tree-huggers by serving hubby's fresh-caught snapper wrapped in banana leaves on Russel Wright-ish, bamboo plates. Durable, reusable, not microwaveable. Hand wash, please. Dinnerware, flatware, trays, tongs: \$3.95-\$29.95. Set on Maya, khaki stripe Abaca, Pompeii placemats, \$3.95. Crate and Barrel, www.crateandbarrel.com, 1-800-967-6696.



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Golf, Spa, Hurrah



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XAVIER MARGANON (2)

27. Be a star. Look the part. Snag a hot pair of shades for your weekend clandestine at the Diplomat Country Club & Spa. Be first to show off Just Look'N owner-designer Daniel Oberti's top-of-the-line, high-end eye bling. Left: "Portofino," white gold with diamonds by Oberti, \$8,900. Right: "Cher," matte gold with blue tint by Loree Rodkin, \$1,175. Bodyguard extra. Just Look'N Eyewear, 1200 E. Las Olas Blvd., 954-761-5000; 2250 N.E. 163 St., N. Miami Beach, 305-354-2020. www.jleyewear.com.

28. Get a room — preferably the penthouse at the Diplomat Country Club & Spa where Ashton and Demi holed up in between trips to the Kabbalah Centre. (That's kabbalah, not cabana.) A shuttle away from big sis, the Westin Diplomat Resort on AIA, this 60-room oasis is a diamond in the rough.

Who'da thunk there'd be a luxe Starwood Spa around the corner from the 24-hour Wal-Mart? Or a Joe Lee, par-72 18-holer in condoville? That's what I love about South Florida — beauty's in the darnedest places: 1) a gourmet cheese *et chocolat* plate in my suite; 2) \$8 (!) margaritas — Nikki Beach, Diplomat Landing; 3) the Tiki Hut party boat kitsch-ing the Intracoastal; 4) a full moon; 5) sunrise on Hollywood Beach; 6) an enervating two-hour, mineral mud body mask, herbal soak and deep-tissue massage at the spa; 7) perfect crab cakes and lobster salad at the Links Grill; 8) ten clay courts and ball machine; 9) ParView global positioning on golf carts, what I call OnStar for dummies; and 10) two kinda cute goofballs hitting golf balls on the driving range.

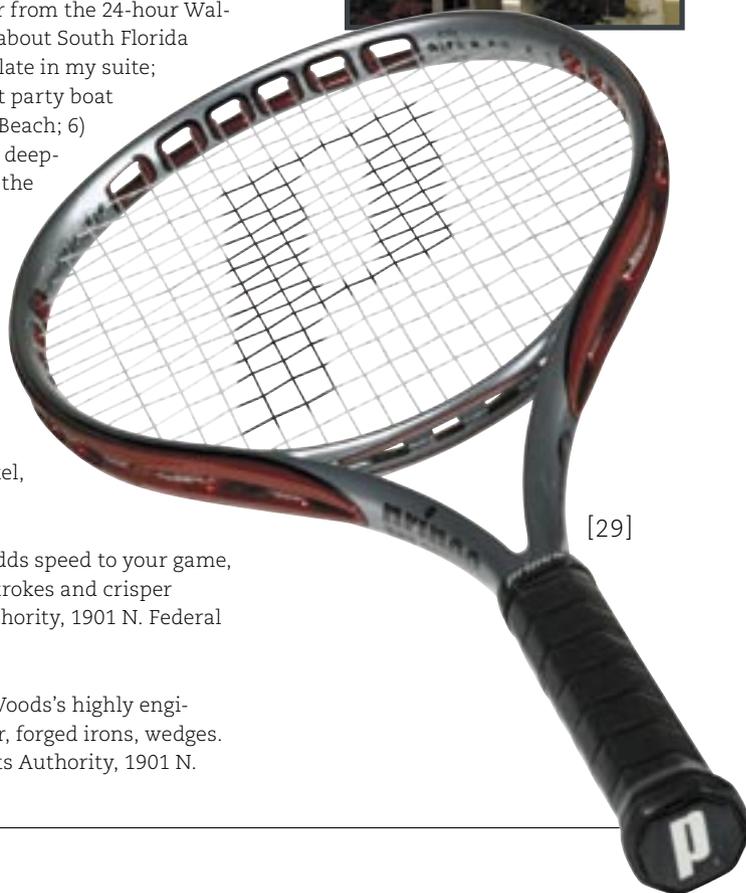
Yup, a lil' bit of Palm Springs in the neighborhood. Best part: It's open to the public. No sleepover? No problem. Dade, Broward resident golfers always get half off green rack rate (Summer: \$79/M-Th, \$89 F-Su; \$59 after 2pm). Tennis day rate, \$22 per. Spa day pass, \$30; treatments extra. Room rates variable. www.diplomatresorts.com. Diplomat Country Club & Spa, 501 Diplomat Parkway, 954-883-4000; Westin Diplomat Resort Hotel, 3555 S. Ocean Drive. 954-883-4900.

29. Pay to play. Prince's Speedport O3 adds speed to your game, power to your serves, more penetrating ground strokes and crisper volleys. A.K.A. Sharapova's ax. \$249.99. Sports Authority, 1901 N. Federal Hwy., 954-568-6226. www.princesports.com.

30. Tiger up. You can't lose with Nike's Tiger Woods's highly engineered collection of golf clubs — Sasquatch 460 Ti driver, forged irons, wedges. That's all the golfspeak I know. Individually priced. Sports Authority, 1901 N. Federal Hwy., 954 568-6226. www.nike.com. ●



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