



VANESSA WILLIAMS

## GLITTERATI ON THE GO

BY KELLY CARTER

**ARGENTINA ADVENTURE:** One of the souvenirs *Ugly Betty* star Vanessa Williams bought during her first trip to Argentina was a *patito feo* ("ugly duckling") doll for her youngest daughter Sasha. "It reminded me of the TV show I'm on," Vanessa said. More aesthetically pleasing was Faena + Universe Hotel, where

the actress stayed in Buenos Aires. The chic hotel, a collaboration of Alan Faena and Philippe Starck, unveiled three new suites recently, including a triplex on the top floor. "The Faena was sexy, cozy and very hip," said Vanessa, who soaked up rays poolside. "I loved the red color combinations."

**ATHLETIC HOTELS:** Since buying the ritzy Hôtel Le Toiny on St. Barths in 2007, seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong figures he has only spent 15 nights at the property, a collection of 15 luxurious, hillside villas spread over 38 acres. "I had never even been to St. Barths before," he said. "We (he and his business partners) did it just because it was an interesting opportunity." He's not the only athlete to turn hotelier. Retired tennis stars Andre Agassi's and wife Stefanie (she's no longer Steffi) Graf's sumptuous hotel at Tamarack Resort in Idaho is scheduled to open in 2010 (followed by their tennis and lifestyle village resort at Cacique in Costa Rica shortly thereafter). "A guy like Agassi...his whole life is travel," Lance said. "He can't retire and just stay home. Mentally he's used to traveling. And I'm the same way. I stay home for a couple of weeks and I start itching."



JOSS STONE

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**TRAVELING IN STYLE:** Actress Angie Harmon wasn't only thinking about fashion while sitting front-row as designers showed their Fall 2008 collections during Fashion Week in New York City. Holidays to England and the Caribbean occupied her mind as well. "I'm obsessed with renting a house in the English country-

side, especially after Carolina Herrera's show," the star of ABC's *Women's Murder Club* said. "The music was unbelievable. You literally felt like you were in the countryside in England on your horse. There were six-foot-long pheasant feathers on hats and slate blues mixed with oranges and chocolate browns. It was gorgeous. I wanted to rent a house in England before. Now I've taken it as a sign from God that I have to." When she visited Oscar de la Renta backstage, the designer formally invited her to stay in one of the 15 beachfront villas at Tortuga Bay at Punta Cana Resort & Club, where he and Julio Iglesias own homes and are co-investors in the Dominican Republic property. De la Renta designed Tortuga's interiors. "How do you refuse?" Harmon asked.

**HOME AWAY FROM HOME:** When British soul singer and songwriter Joss Stone is in London she loves to stay at the SoHo Hotel. "It is bloody lovely," Stone, who skipped the 50th annual Grammy Awards so she could go home to Devon, England, said of the 91-room hotel. "It feels like you're in a home. All of the rooms are different. There's one room that has a little fireplace and is very cute. It's home. Downstairs are the best cocktails ever in the world."



HELENA CHRISTENSEN

## GLITTERATI ON THE GO

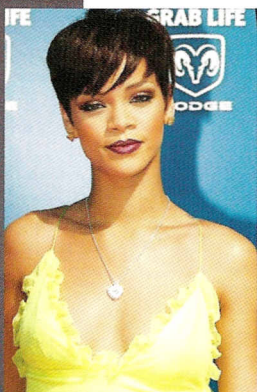
BY KELLY CARTER

**MAGICAL MOROCCO:** The lure of Morocco continues to seduce supermodel Helena Christensen, who's traveled to the country several times but most recently on a five-night excursion with Abercrombie & Kent. When she wasn't relaxing in her Maison Jardin at the luxurious Amanjena in Marrakech, the leggy Dane

scoped out Ksour Agafay, bustling Jemma El Fna, the coastal city Essaouira and Yves Saint Laurent's Majorelle Garden. "If there is one place in the world that still makes you feel like you've been transported back to a magical time in another life, then Morocco is that place," Christensen cooed.

**BELLINI BLISS:** Everyone knows that George Clooney's second home is on Lake Como (he owns a villa in the village of Laglio). But his home-away-from-home in Italy is the famed Hotel Cipriani, which turns 50 this year. It's Clooney's hotel of choice during the Venice Film Festival, which kicks off on August 27 with the Coen Brothers' *Burn After Reading* (starring Clooney, Brad Pitt and John Malkovich). Look for Clooney to gather his gang nightly at the Fortuny Bar, which always accommodates the star by staying open well past its usual 10 p.m. (and even named a drink after the generous tipper).

**ISLE OF MAN:** The latest private island to attract attention from boldface names is Little Whale Cay in the Bahamas (part of the Berry Islands). Nicolas Cage and Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page are among those to recently stay on the 93-acre spread that rents for \$9,500 a day for up to 12 guests and boasts its own 2,000-foot landing strip, marina, sea-view infinity pool and white, unspoiled, sandy beaches.



RIHANNA

## GLITTERATI ON THE GO

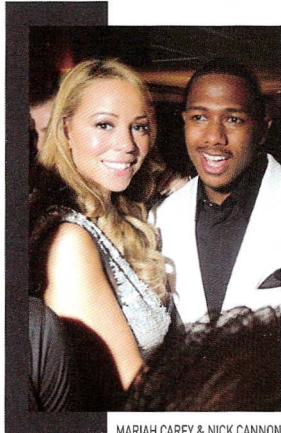
BY KELLY CARTER

**SOBE HEATS UP:** South Beach's latest celeb hotspot is the new Gansevoort South Hotel, Spa & Residences, which, like its New York counterpart, features an action-packed rooftop pool/lounge (aptly called Plunge) with a happening bar and deejay (and also cabanas and views of Miami Beach from 18 stories above the

sand). Among the first guests to check in was tennis star Serena Williams, who played Rafael Nadal on top of the 110-foot-long pool. Since then, actors Brittany Murphy and Wilder Valderrama, designer Tommy Hilfiger and singers Eve and Earth, Wind & Fire have also bunked at the hot spot.

**NOT PLACED BY THE GIDEONS:** Annette Bening and Warren Beatty's four children stayed with their mother at Boston's Liberty Hotel, the former Charles Street jail-turned-luxury-hotel, while she filmed *The Women*, a remake of the 1939 George Cukor classic (also starring Eva Mendes, Meg Ryan, Jada Pinkett Smith and Debra Messing). The offspring were befuddled when they couldn't find a Bible in their room. David Sargent, the hotel's chef concierge, bought one from a nearby Borders bookstore and presented it to the actress when she passed through the lobby. Annette spun around to her kids, hands on hips, and said, "Studying the Bible behind mommy's back?"

**CARIBBEAN QUEEN:** Singing sensation Rihanna hails from Barbados, but when it comes time for vacationing in the Caribbean she doesn't always head to her native island. She recently checked out Virgin Gorda, where she stayed at the new Aquamare Villas. There's no arguing over the master suite in these villas because each one features three identical master suites in each of the three, five-suite, beachfront villas.



MARIAH CAREY &amp; NICK CANNON

**WELCOME TO MARIAH'S WORLD:**

Five-time Grammy winner Mariah Carey wasted no time introducing her new husband, actor/rapper Nick Cannon, to her glamorous world after the couple pulled off a surprise wedding ceremony at her Sea Lilly estate on the Bahamian isle of Eleuthera this spring. The newlyweds spent much of the next few months traveling to Hawaii,

the West Indies and Capri, where the songbird has been a regular for years. Carey has said they try to stay "away from the pressure of the world," but still "go lots of places. We have a good time." Maybe they should give a certain pink hotel credit for getting the whirlwind romance off to a start during a March meeting to discuss Cannon's appearance in Mariah's *Bye Bye* video. "From the first time we sat down to discuss the video at the Beverly Hills Hotel, we connected," Cannon said.

**WINDY CITY OVER BREW CITY:** No offense to Milwaukee but after Grammy award winning pop rock band Maroon 5 performed in Wisconsin's largest city on a Saturday night, the men made a beeline to Chicago where they spent the rest of the evening sipping Patron, Moët & Chandon rosé and Corona at The James Hotel's JBar. Naturally, front man Adam Levine snagged the hotel's Penthouse. While staying in the top suites at fine hotels has to ease the pain of traveling to some degree, touring seems to be catching up with Levine. "I've spent my 20s on tour and there's no consistency in my life, which can take its toll," he said. There's light at the end of his tunnel. Maroon 5's current tour is scheduled to end Dec. 10 in Dubai.

**BEATING THE HOUSE:** Count model/actress Molly Sims among the new fans of the revamped Atlantic City. During her recent stay at the new Water Club, A Signature Hotel by Borgata, she camped out for half a day at the Immersion Spa where she enjoyed a Collagen Veil Facial that she raved about for days later as well as the spa's amenities, which include a menu created by chef Geoffrey Zakarian of New York City's Country and Town restaurants, an infinity-edge lap pool and relaxation area on the 32nd floor, and a steam room/sauna with deluge shower. That evening she feasted at Chef Michael Schulson's (of The Style Network's *Pantry Raid*) new restaurant Izakaya inside the Borgata.