

TOWN & COUNTRY



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Our Spring
Fashion Forecast

Sunny and

Plus: Los Angeles—
America's Capital of
Cosmetic Surgery

Face Values

Once known as the movie capital of the world, Los Angeles is fast becoming the plastic-surgery capital. The question is: in the land of excess, how much is too much?

BY BETSY SHARKEY. ILLUSTRATION BY PIER CONSAGRA

EXCERPT FROM THREE PAGE ARTICLE

Maggie Lockridge has watched the changing landscape of physiques up close for years. She runs Chantique, one of the most exclusive aftercare cosmetic-surgery facilities anywhere, tucked out of sight in the posh Beverly Prescott Hotel. There are weeks when Chantique's guest roster is like a Hollywood Who's Who. These days, she says, the patients coming through her doors are younger, fitter and coming back more frequently. "Cosmetic maintenance," as she calls it, has become a way of life.

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On the Town



Greetings from L.A.: the Beverly Prescott's entrance, left, and lobby.

BEVERLY THRILLS

Los Angeles The walls are salmon-and-cream striped. There's an oversize mirror on one wall, an overstuffed headboard attached to a king-size bed on the other. The heavy draperies sport a dense floral pattern.

You could be in a very expensive hotel room in London or Paris, or maybe in San Francisco, America's capital of boutique hotels. But then you notice that the

Do Not Disturb sign is movie-themed ("Quiet on the Set" backed with "Make Up") . . . that vitamin packets and tanning creams supplement the usual toiletries . . . and the minibar is stocked with Absolut Vodka and Clos du Bois Chardonnay.

You're at the Beverly Prescott in L.A., a newly renovated and renamed hotel that is probably the city's only establishment of its kind—a small

(140 rooms), stylishly handsome, centrally located place with (most) rooms under \$200 per night.

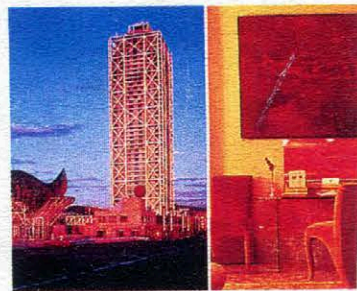
Another sign that you're in L.A.: One floor—with limited-key access—is devoted to Chantique, what the hotel's proprietors call "a discreet hideaway for postcosmetic-surgery care," complete with ten rooms with private balconies, twenty-four-hour nursing care and a secluded underground entrance.

The Beverly Prescott Hotel, 1224 South Beverwil Drive, Los Angeles (just south of the Beverly Hills line). Rates per night: \$175 for a double (corporate rate, \$150); \$200 to \$700 for suites (corporate rate, \$300). Weekend rates: \$125. For reservations, call (800) 421-3212. COLMAN ANDREWS

ON THE WATERFRONT

Barcelona Forget that out-of-town guests love it. The Hotel Arts Barcelona—all forty-four stories of it—has finally opened, and most Barcelonans agree it was worth the wait. Situated within the Olympic athletes' village and yacht marina, the Arts was originally planned as the showpiece hotel of the 1992 Summer Olympics, but a series of technical problems delayed its inauguration for a year and a half. Now, just eight months after its opening, the Arts has become a fashionable meeting place for the city's tradition-minded locals, who could well have been reluctant to accept a Japanese-owned and American-managed hotel in their midst (Ritz-Carlton is the manager, making this its first European property).

The ladies of Barcelona who lunch now do so on the terrace of the Cafe Veranda or at the



poolside Bar Marina. "It's better than we could have ever hoped," says manager Luis Marco.

Located on one of the best sites in the city—the long-ignored Mediterranean waterfront—the Arts' 397 rooms and fifty-eight suites have stunning views of the sea or look out over the skyline to the foothills of the Pyrenees. The spacious bedrooms are unusually well-equipped by Spanish standards, with fax and PC outlets, two telephone lines and compact disk players. Carrer de la Marina, 19-21, 08005 Barcelona; (800) 241-3333. Rates

C'EST CHEESE

Paris Since the release of his Château Clarke wine in 1978, Baron Edmond de Rothschild has been making steady progress toward his goal of rivaling his cousins' renowned Bordeaux vintages, Château Lafite and Château Mouton-Rothschild. Now Baron

Rothschild, who is said to be the richest Rothschild of them all, has taken up a new challenge: cornering France's considerable Brie market. Just this summer he began selling his very own creamy Brie, produced on his farm just outside Paris, at Alléosse, one of Paris' premier cheese shops. The baron's business philosophy? Apparently, it's "take no prisoners"—he's undercutting the competition, selling his Brie at just about \$8 per pound! Alléosse, 13, rue Poncelet, 75017 Paris; (011-33-1) 46.22.50.45.

JEAN BOND RAFFERTY

