

Topflight Tips for the Discerning Traveler.

the *virtual* voyager

By Griffin Miller

▼ Fairway to Heaven

Once the 2010 Winter Olympics have departed Vancouver, and a certain amount of thawing has ensued, golfers in Whistler will take to the skies. **Big Sky Golf and Country Club, Four Seasons Resort Whistler** and **Blackcomb Helicopters** have joined forces to fly serious golf enthusiasts to the top of Mount Currie (8,000 feet above Big Sky) where they can “tee-off on top of the world with the guaranteed longest drive.” And for those who like their airborne sports outings to include an actual golf course, Big Sky and Four Seasons also offer a Heli-Golf Package (19 holes and a golf cart starting from \$555 Canadian). Fourseasons.com/whistler



Courtesy of Four Seasons Resort Whistler



▲ Czeching In

World travelers with an eye to the edgy know the seductive pleasures associated with **Buddha-Bar**, the high-end music/watering hole/restaurant that debuted in Paris in 1996, only to expand to set the jet-setting standard for wining and dining from Cairo to Vegas. And now, devotees, like Johnny Depp, J-Lo, Michael Jordan, Madonna and Bill Clinton, can slip into something a little more, shall we say, boutique: the **Buddha-Bar Hotel Prague** (36 rooms/three suites) – the concept’s first urban resort set in the heart of the historic Czech city. Beyond visionary (it’s spa is called “Buddhattitude”), the Buddha beat goes on.... buddha-bar-hotel.cz/



▲ The Ultimate Roll: It's In the Bag

For anyone who’s dragged an overloaded duffel around a crowded airport, had a spontaneous suitcase tilt-a-wheel disaster, or nursed a post-trip back strain, salvation has arrived courtesy of **Live Luggage**, a UK company that introduced the world’s first power-assisted luggage boasting Nano wheel technology (wheels with built-in motors). Plus most models come with sensors built into their extendable “anti-gravity” handles to detect a gradient or curb. Not yet available in the US, but global shipping arrangements with UPS allow easy online ordering. Two of their most popular items, the **Hybrid PA Bag** and **2012 Sports Bag**, retail for between \$800-\$950. liveluggage.com

▼ The Now of Tao: Transported

As of last September, **Victoria Cruise Line** elevated their luxury voyages on China’s Yangtze River (glorious pagodas... journeys through the Three Gorges...) to sublime status with the introduction of **The Victoria Jenna**, a vessel offering myriad opulent, unique and techno-savvy options, from white-glove service to lessons in Tai Chi and Mandarin to CDMA–wireless internet, HBO and CNN – and, most notably, their collection of 37 Executive Deck Suites, which offer even more exclusive perks and pampering. victoriacruises.com

