

CELEBRATING WORLDLY INDULGENCES & LUXURY LIVING

CAVIAR AFFAIR

*Falling in
Love with*

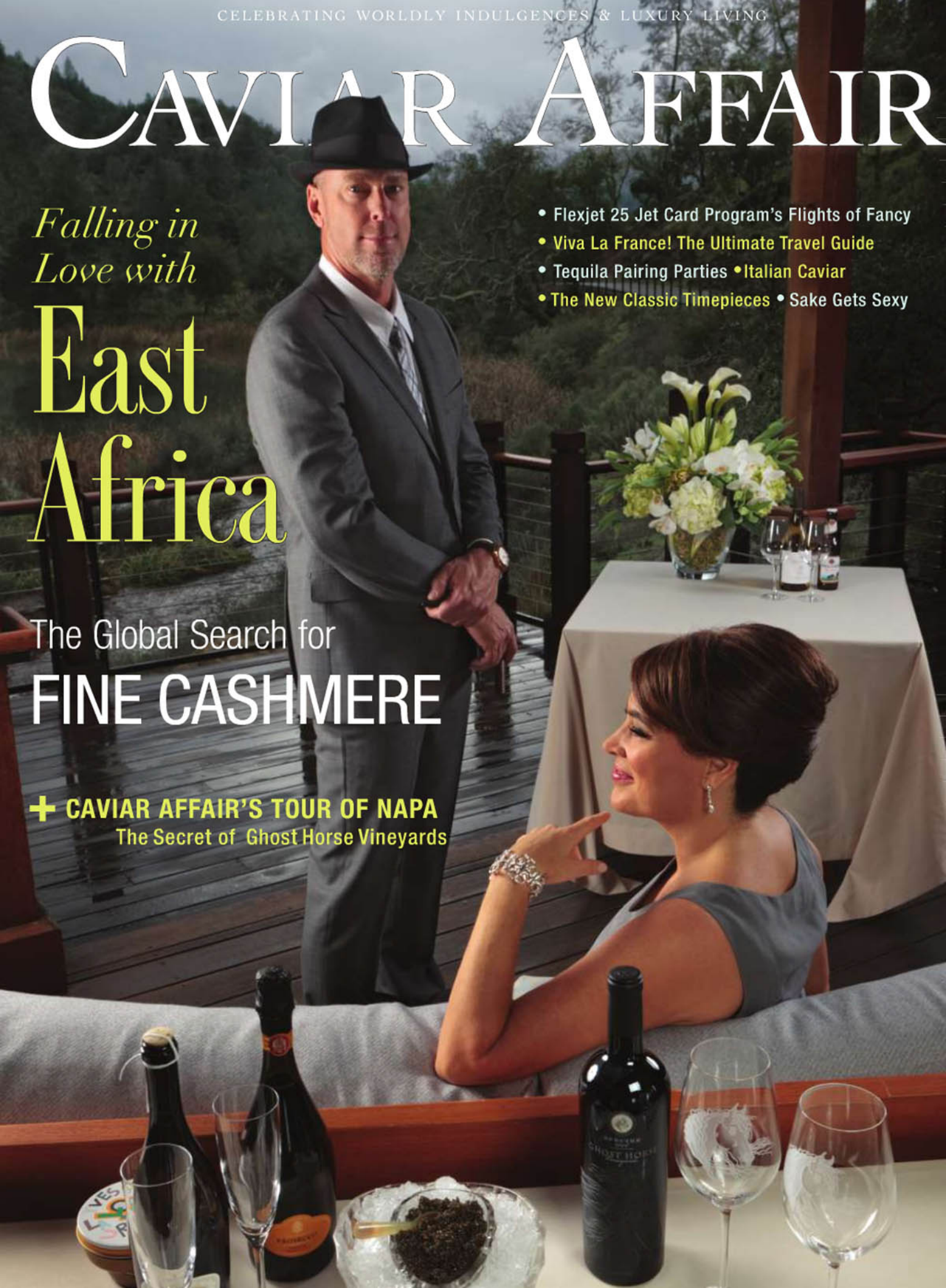
East Africa

The Global Search for

FINE CASHMERE

+ CAVIAR AFFAIR'S TOUR OF NAPA
The Secret of Ghost Horse Vineyards

- Flexjet 25 Jet Card Program's Flights of Fancy
- Viva La France! The Ultimate Travel Guide
- Tequila Pairing Parties • Italian Caviar
- The New Classic Timepieces • Sake Gets Sexy



editor's letter

from Polina Steier



Winter is a time for starting fresh with a new year. If you're like me, well-being is a long-term goal, one that makes relaxation a priority. My bed of choice is a Sweden's handcrafted DUX mattress with a customizable Pascal Comfort system, dressed in down, etc.'s dreamy pillows cocooned in Tiara Silks cases, and Icelandic St. Geneve Eiderdown duvet and cashmere silk sheet

During the day, I daydream about my best trips abroad, the ones that really let me connect to the people and places, tap into my passions (hello, wine and caviar!). Recently, *Caviar Affair* traveled to Mongolia with textile experts at Loro Piana to visit the farmers who produce the world's finest baby cashmere (p. 110). For some inspiration, check out the travel companies this issue highlights, as well as my story

about traveling to Africa with Marcia and Elizabeth Gordon's Extraordinary Journeys tour company (p. 104). If you have something more European in mind, flip to Peter Sukonik's essays and photos of Paris, Burgundy's celebrated hotels, Champagne estates, and favorite bistros (p.126).

Confession: While abroad, I can't help but to do a little shopping. OK, a lot. Like our Japan correspondent, Kate Klippensteen, I have a real appreciation for handcrafted items with a good story behind them, such as the kitchens and traditional cookery tools Japan's top chefs use (p. 152). Spirited readers will enjoy Camper English's guide to all things scotch (p. 43) and Roger Morris' Champagne and Prosecco picks (p. 28). Our master barman Tony Abou-Ganim also offers up essentials in stocking home bars (p. 49). Sip with Fred

Minnick in the heart of bourbon country (p. 135), deconstruct a vintage cocktail with Brian van Flan-dem (p. 44), and toast Anthony Dias Blue to the rise in sake programs at restaurants around the world (p. 45).

Be sure to read our test-drive of Bugatti's new sports car (p. 85). There are also touching reads, such as Princess Yasmin Agha Khan's tribute to her actress-mother (p. 165). And our food news will hopefully provide you with enough inspiration to make this a year of eating and living well.

To get you started, here's a short list of must-eats for 2011. Cheers!

San Francisco: Ozumo, ozumo.com

San Francisco: Bushi-tei, bushi-tei.com/

Napa: Go Fish, gofishrestaurant.com

ON THE COVER:

MODELS: Todd Anderson, Maggy Howe

PHOTOGRAPHY: Chris Hardy

HAIR AND MAKEUP: Jennifer Smallwood
The Powder Room; itsadate.biz

CLOTHES: Barsalino fedora from Cable Car Clothiers cablecarclothiers.com; Michael Toschi shoes toschi.com

FROM SHREVE & CO: 18K white gold and diamond Crochet bracelet by Kwiats; platinum diamond earrings by Jewels by Star; 18K rose gold Master 8-Day Perpetual by Jaeger-LeCoultre

PROPS: Jessica Switala/Fleurs France fleurs-france.com; Steuben's sterling silver tortoise caviar set from Tedd Muehling steuben.com; Frances Stoia horn caviar spoons.

SHOT ON LOCATION: Calistoga Ranch at the Lakehouse Restaurant overlooking Lake Lommel, 580 Lommel Road, Calistoga, CA 94515; 707-254-2800 calistogaranch.com



The pool at Calistoga Ranch offers a spectacular view of the valley.



accommodations

napa: Romance and opulence define the **POETRY INN** (poetryinn.com), an intimate five-room hillside escape on the Silverado Trail. With unrivaled sunset vineyard views, spacious suites, three-course gourmet breakfast on your own private terrace.

In downtown Napa within walking distance to more than 20 wine-tasting rooms is the new **AVIA HOTEL** (aviahotels.com). Inside this sexy property is the Riddling Rack bar and a restaurant that offers nightly small-plate food and wine pairings created by chef Chris Aken. A rooftop terrace with fire pits is perfect for a cocktail.

MILLIKEN CREEK INN & SPA (millikencreekinn.com) offers 12 exclusive suites with fireplaces, canopy beds, rain showers, and oversized hydrotherapy tubs outfitted with green tea bath salts and votive candles. The spa combines holistic and restorative therapies.

rutherford: **AUBERGE DU SOLEIL** (aubergedusoleil.com), the first luxury inn in Napa Valley, sits among 33 acres of hillside olive groves in Rutherford. Stroll through a self-guided tour of Wolk Gallery's sculpture gardens for a unique art experience, and lounge on the hopelessly romantic terrace for a sunset Champagne toast and breathtaking vineyard views.

yountville: In the walking town of Yountville, home of the famed French Laundry, is the new **LUCA** (hotellucanapa.com), an intimate 20-room Italian-inspired boutique hotel, spa and restaurant, Cantinetta Piero.

During Yountville's Winterscape festival, visit the Tuscan style **VILLAGIO INN AND SPA** (villagio.com), home to one of Napa's best spas. Their Stay, Dine & Skate package comes with daily Champagne breakfast buffet, ice skating tickets/rental for two, and choice of three-course dinner at **BOTTEGA RESTAURANT**, **BISTRO JEANTY**, or **HURLEY'S RESTAURANT & BAR**.

calistoga: **SOLAGE** (solagecalistoga.com) is more than a resort. The green-friendly hideaway exceeds expectations of high-end style associated with the Auberge Resorts brand. Located in Calistoga just below Mount St. Helena, this California-chic, dog-friendly property has 89 studio-design guest rooms, a modern bistro, and lounge. Its focus on wellness and active guests means bocce courts, fitness facilities, and a 130-foot swimming pool. Its 20,000-square-foot spa features natural geothermal spring waters and a mud bar (try the signature Solage Mudslide for Two).

CALISTOGA RANCH (calistogaranch.com), in a secluded canyon, offers unparalleled privacy and personal attention. A celebrity haven, this four-star 48-guest lodge on 157 wooded acres features hiking trails with views of Mount St. Helena, spa treatments at the Bathhouse, private tastings, the **LAKEHOUSE RESTAURANT**, and, of course, concierge services, which happen to include trail-riding and romantic picnics.