

The T&C Traveler



RAVES & REVIEWS

“When in Rome, I find that the most gracious and hospitable place to stay is the **RAPHAËL HOTEL** (011-39-06-682-831; [www.raphaelhotel.com](http://www.raphaelhotel.com)). Located half a block from the Piazza Navona, the hotel has light-filled rooms that look out on the most interesting ancient quarter in Rome. The extraordinary rooftop terrace restaurant, with views of the architecture of Bramante, Bernini and Borromini, is great for lunch, cocktails and dinner. Almost all the staff working in the Raphael have been there for many years, so returning there is as welcoming as returning home.”

-RICHARD HEIER  
Architect

*At press time, Richard Heier & Partners Architects was overseeing an important renovation of the hotel's exterior.*



PRIVATE  
ANGUILLA

The current buzzwords in travel are “privacy,” “space,” “exclusivity” and “indulgence.” Suddenly five-star hotels are not enough for the ever-discerning and constantly demanding traveler. Instead what’s required is villas with all the amenities: butlers, Frette linens, gourmet foods

and every conceivable luxury 24/7. The three **Altamer Resort** villas, on the tiny Caribbean island of Anguilla—the Russian Amethyst, the Brazilian Emerald and the very newest, the African Sapphire—are designed by New York architect Myron Goldfinger. These visions of light and space open onto the white sands of Shoal Bay West. The names are derived from the decorative accents and artwork used in each villa: an antique Russian candleabra in the first, carnival masks and ecclesiastical objects from Brazil in the second and chieftain chairs and a chandelier made from 100,000 beads in the third. While the villas are situated next to one another, each is landscaped for total seclusion. Each also has a staff of ten, from six to eight bedrooms and six to nine bathrooms, a swimming pool, a hot tub, an elevator, a game room with a pooltable, a fitness center, an office with high-speed Internet access, a flat-screen TV and a digital sound system with 10,000 musical selections. Guests can dine at the beachside Altamer Restaurant, which serves delicious French and Caribbean food, or they can dine in. Rent one villa or rent them all and host a party or a meeting (there is a fully equipped conference center). Now that Anguilla has extended its runway to cater to private jets, this well-kept secret of Denzel Washington, Robert DeNiro and certain captains of industry will be even more accessible to those seeking pure indulgence. From \$15,000 a week per villa; 262-499-4000; 866-652-6966; 877-513-7400; [altamer.com](http://altamer.com). -JD POLET



**H**ave you been on a “WHISK-AWAY” yet? It’s a new adventure for the really well-traveled. An acquaintance of mine was flown for a friend’s fiftieth birthday party from Dublin to Le Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat, on the French Riviera, for lunch and was back in Ireland by 3:00 P.M. I left the Bellagio, in Vegas, at 5:00 P.M. and flew with the president of Blue Star Jets to Sedona, Arizona—we landed just as the sun set on the red rocks—had dinner at L’Auberge de Sedona and was standing again under the Dale Chihuly ceiling at the Bellagio by 11:00 P.M. It certainly made for a memorable, albeit brief, night out. -W.S.S.