

DEPARTURES

MARCH/APRIL 2011

GLOBAL STYLE

*TOM FORD'S
TOUGH LUXE
FOR SPRING*

MALIBU COOL • ENGLISH COUNTRY HOTELS • OUT OF INDIA • HAUTE PARIS • VIENNA MODERN

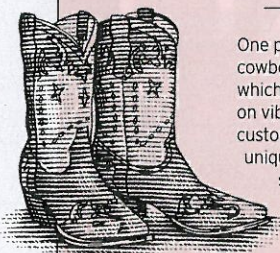
Smart Money

What \$500 Buys In...

COMPILED BY CANDICE CHAN AND JOHN WOGAN

Austin, Texas, has become the **top U.S. place to live for twenty- to thirtysomethings**—and it's not hard to see why. The city's ever-growing music, art and dining scenes have made it a new cultural destination, thanks in large part to the annual South by Southwest festival, which kicks off this year on March 11....No longer just a stopover on the way to Machu Picchu, Peru's historic capital, Lima, is having a moment as well, and the recent expansion of the Jorge Chávez International Airport is **expected to double tourism in the next year**. With increasingly dynamic restaurant and shopping options and exciting new hotels on the way, there's never been a better time to plan a trip....And in Toronto, a host of **new establishments have sprung up downtown**, especially around the entertainment district, home of the annual Toronto International Film Festival. There's the TIFF Bell Lightbox theater, which debuted for the event last fall, and the much-anticipated Ritz-Carlton, opening this month.

Austin

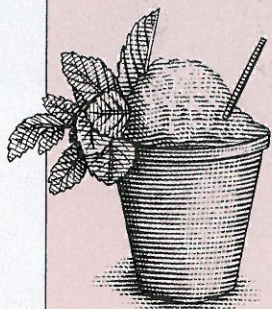


One pair of handmade leather cowboy boots from **Heritage Boot**, which just moved into roomier digs on vibrant South Congress Street. Its custom designs, intricate details and unique materials like ostrich and sharkskin make this an Austin institution. heritageboot.com.

One night in a corner suite and dinner at the hotel's restaurant, Trace, at the **W Austin**, which opened in downtown Austin's trendy 2nd Street district in December. The 251 rooms pay homage to the city with guitar strap-bordered mirrors and original concert photography by local artists. The restaurant focuses on sustainable and organic ingredients collected by an on-site food forager. whotels.com.

Four handcrafted recycled glass vases by found-object artist Jason Middlebrook, plus admission for five to the Members Rooftop Lounge at **Arthouse at the Jones Center**. After a \$6.6 million renovation, the contemporary visual arts organization has nearly tripled in size and now features a 5,000-square-foot open-air roof deck. arthousetexas.org.

Two Bamboo Bliss massages in the Bamboo Room, an outdoor treatment suite at **Lake Austin Spa Resort**, one of the top spas in the States. The new 80-minute massage uses an assortment of bamboo tools that are warmed and infused with lemongrass oil, then rolled and kneaded all over the body. lakeaustin.com.



Four seven-course chef's tasting menus at **Congress** followed by three rounds of mint juleps (served in traditional pewter cups) at the adjoining lounge, **Bar Congress**. These downtown spots were opened last December by top Texas chef David Bull; drinks are by talented mixologist Adam Bryan. congressaustin.com.

Lima

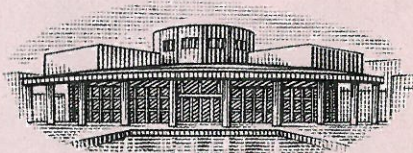
A four-course lunch for six at **El Mercado**, a lively cevicheria that debuted last summer from renowned Lima chef Rafael Osterling. Inventive dishes like grilled octopus in chile-pepper sauce are served in a canopy-covered room with wooden tables and rattan-backed chairs. rafaelosterling.com.



A pair of José Francisco Ramos heels, a Maria Luisa Negri lace dress and an amethyst necklace by Marino Mixán at **Trend Studio**, a nine-month-old boutique that stocks only Peruvian designers. trendstudioperu.com.

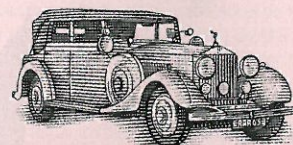
A cultural tour for two with top South American travel specialist **Dehouche**. The well-connected guides have access to some of Lima's most exquisite private art collections, from ancient Incan tapestries to contemporary Latin American sculptures and paintings. dehouche.com.

A firming coca massage, a bio-lifting facial and a pedicure for two at the spa at **Hotel Paracas**, which opened last summer in Paracas. Nicknamed "the Hamptons of Lima" because of its beautiful beaches, this coastal town is an ideal day trip from the capital city. starwoodhotels.com.



Ten appetizers for four, including grilled scallops and an Andean potato tortilla, a bottle of wine and dessert, at **Mesa 18** at the Miraflores Park Hotel. The outdoor terrace at this six-month-old spot sits near the Playa La Estrella and is decorated with comfy white sofas and wrought-iron tables. mesa18restaurant.com.pe.

Toronto



The VIP after-hours tour for four of the "Maharaja" exhibit at the Frank Gehry-redesigned **Art Gallery of Ontario**. Henry Royce's last custom Rolls-Royce and Cartier's largest single-commissioned diamond necklace are two of the treasures on display. *Through April 3; ago.net*.

One night in a Lake View Deluxe King room, with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Lake Ontario, at the new **Ritz-Carlton, Toronto**. The 53-story hotel has 267 rooms, a 13,000-square-foot spa and a restaurant featuring Canadian-inspired cuisine helmed by Tom Brodi, formerly of celebrated Toronto dining spot Canoe. ritzcarlton.com.

Two oxygen facials at Gee Beauty along with the purchase of a Le Labo candle and perfume at the owners' new concept store next door, **6 By Gee Beauty**. The four-month-old shop offers a carefully edited selection of beauty and travel items, plus Canada's only Le Labo fragrance bar. 6bygeebeauty.com.



Two rounds of Hot Toddlies (there are four types) and pecan pie for ten people at **Sixteenth Floor**, the Thompson Toronto's uber-exclusive private rooftop bar. The 102-room hotel—the first international location from the Thompson brand—opened in Central King West Village in June. thompsonhotels.com.

Dinner for six, plus two bottles of Pinot Noir from Canadian winery Tawse, at **Quatrefoil** in Dundas. The ten-month-old French eatery serves inventive twists on dishes like grilled quail and roasted scallops in an elegant former Victorian home. quatrefoilrestaurant.com.

As of January, 1 Peruvian nuevo sol = 36 cents, and 1 Canadian dollar = \$1.