

RIVERA

ORANGE COUNTY

AWAY
WE
GO!

TOP TRAVEL SPOTS—FROM
MUSTIQUE TO MARRAKECH

+PLUS

Local O.C. Glam Gurus

Cali's Own Derek Lam

Get Lost at Carmel Valley Ranch

SoCal Style for Summer

& More Expanded Party Pages!

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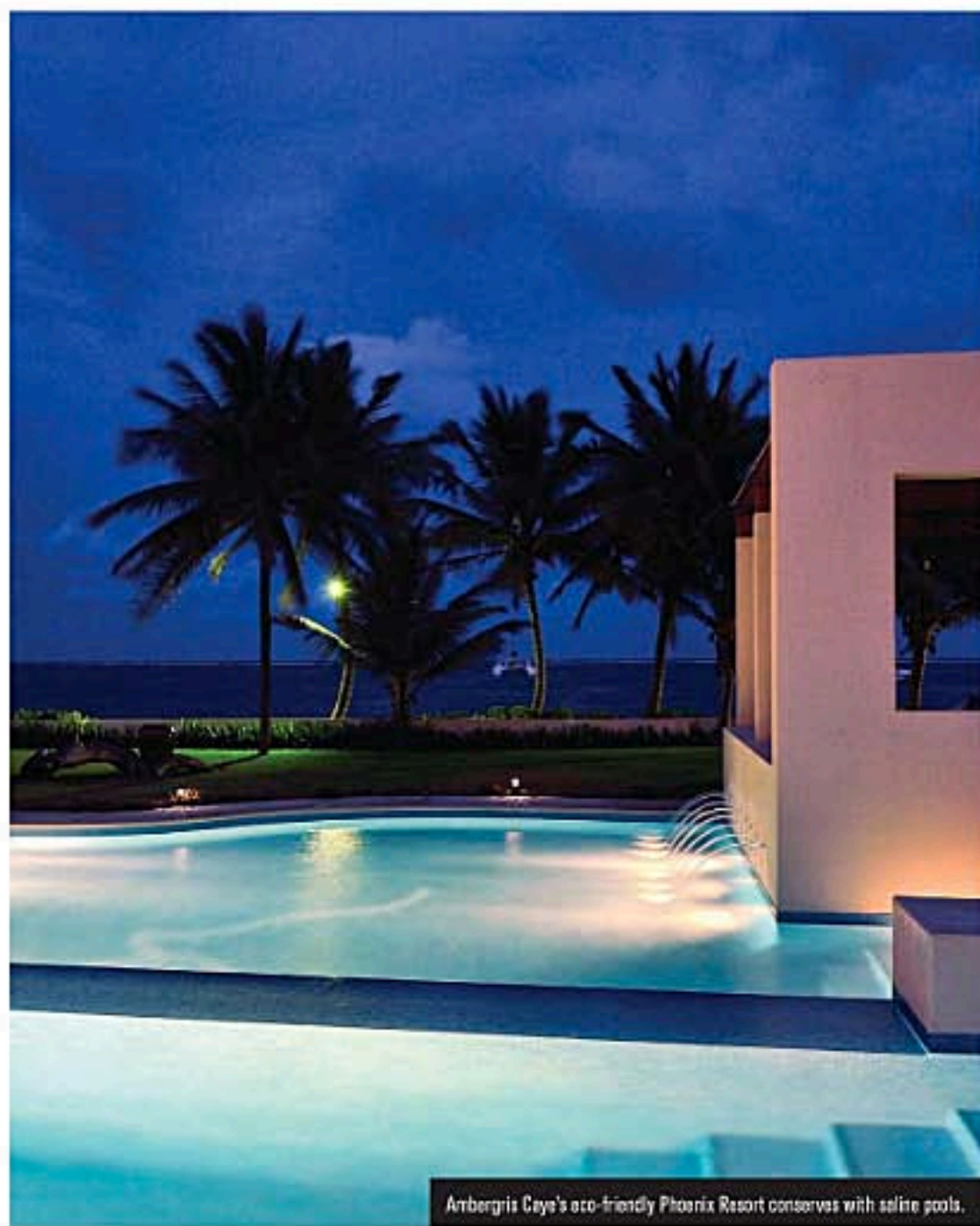
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ISSN 1527-5088

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Ambergris Caye's eco-friendly Phoenix Resort conserves with saline pools.

RIVIERA REPORT

Belize, Please!

The shores of **Ambergris Caye**, Belize's best-kept secret, have in-the-know globe-trotters flocking to the exotic Caribbean up-and-comer. A true get-away-from-it-all experience, the 36-mile-long isle has just one town on its south shore: San Pedro, a relaxed riviera blending Yucatán charm from neighboring Mexico with Caribbean flair. Locals speak English, Spanish, Creole and Mayan. The town's main attraction for avid snorkelers and divers is the world's second-largest barrier reef—less than a mile from the white sand beaches—whose grottoes and tunnels were made famous by Jacques-Yves Cousteau. But there's something on offer for everyone. After settling into a luxe waterfront boutique hotel, such as the eco-chic **Phoenix Resort** or **Las Terrazas**, head to Main Street by foot, bicycle or golf cart for dinner at the open-air **Blue Water Grill**. Rest up for a day-long excursion to the Lighthouse Reef, home to the Half Moon Caye National Monument and minutes from the Blue Hole (the Caribbean's deepest and largest submarine cave), to snorkel among wondrous marine life (red-banded coral shrimp, angelfish and vase sponges, just to name a few) in every imaginable color. Then, decompress at Phoenix Resort's **Sol Spa**, where therapists use organic ingredients and Mayan techniques in ultra-relaxing body treatments. Or take it up a notch and wile away the days in your very own seafront villa on the world-class private island resort **Cayo Espanto**, a short boat ride from Ambergris—personal dock and staff included, of course. —*Alia Batniji*

BURNING QUESTION

O.C. jet-setters: What's on your summer travel playlist?

—Compiled by AB

"Since most of my travels are longer flights, it has to be a nice mix of classics and modern tunes. A typical set would include Janelle Monáe, The Stones, Ray Charles, Band of Horses, Ben Harper, Florence and the Machine, Clash, Modest Mouse, David Bowie and always some Killers." —**GEORGE ESQUIVEL, ESQUIVEL SHOES**

"I love the Zac Brown Band's new album, *You Get What You Give*. The sounds are a mix of bluegrass, country and reggae, and it's perfect for island vacations and road trips." —**NATALIA OLENICOFF, OLEN PROPERTIES/ANDREI'S**

"I recently added 'I Hope This Gets to You' by The Daylights to my list, and I've been enjoying Arcade Fire's new album, *The Suburbs*. From my favorite genre, classical, I purchased this fantastic set of recordings of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony conducted by the iconic Leonard Bernstein. I know I'll enjoy them on my trip to Mykonos this summer." —**ERIC FINLEY, OSCAR DE LA RENTA**

"For me, music is like fashion. It all depends on where I am. When I travel to Europe, I enjoy listening to The Beatles. I never get tired of them. They bring back beautiful memories from when I was 16." —**NASRIN ANSARI, ANSARI COUTURE**



George Esquivel



Natalia Olenicoff



Eric Finley



Nasrin Ansari