

A WORLD OF STYLE

WHERE TO SEE IT, SHOP IT, LIVE IT!

Condé Nast **Traveler**

16-PAGE
PULLOUT
GUIDE
**MEXICO
NOW!**

TRUTH IN TRAVEL / OCTOBER 2010

India

The Splendors
of Jaipur

Italy

LOVE AT A
PERFUME COUNTER

Rio

BEACHES, BIKINIS,
AND MORE!

Morocco

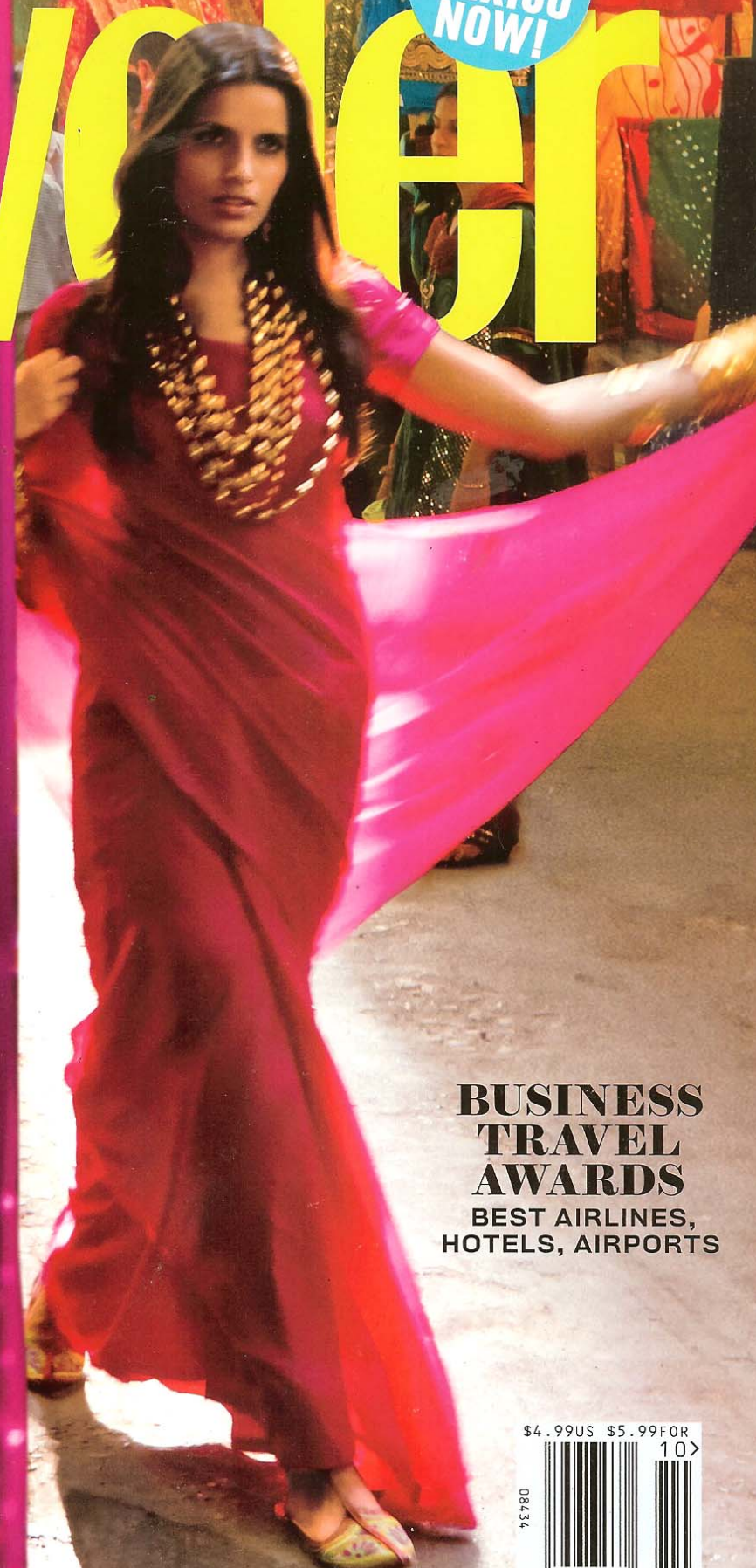
MAGNIFICENT MARRAKECH

New York

HOT SPOTS: AN INSIDERS' GUIDE

+265

FABULOUS HOTELS,
RESTAURANTS, GALLERIES, BARS,
AND SHOPS WORLDWIDE



BUSINESS TRAVEL AWARDS

BEST AIRLINES,
HOTELS, AIRPORTS

\$4.99US \$5.99FOR



10>

Condé Nast Traveler

SPECIAL
SECTION

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

Mexico's Moment

LATIN AMERICA'S MOST EXCITING
NATION IS BLOOMING WITH
AVANT-GARDE ART, SUBLIME
SNACKS, LUXE BEACH
HIDEAWAYS, SERIOUS SURF,
AND SEXY SOUVENIRS.
WE GIVE YOU THE SCOOP



MEXICO CITY
CALLING ALL
CONTEMPORARY-ART BUFFS
P. 86

OAXACA
THE GASTRONOME'S
MUST-GO
P. 88

BAJA CALIFORNIA
WHERE THE WILD
THINGS ARE
P. 112

MÉRIDA
COLONIAL-
ARCHITECTURE COOL
P. 114



The Seaside

Bay Watch

Forty years after the rum coco-sodden flick "The Night of the Iguana," Puerto Vallarta is a big hitter with a small town vibe

RICHARD BURTON presented Puerto Vallarta as an exotic, rugged seaside village where the sun beat, the sea sparkled, and the living was loose-moraled, in *The Night of the Iguana*. Actors liked it (and each other—Elizabeth Taylor was a frequent caller to the set) so much that they bought property here, and the gringos followed. But there is still plenty of charm to be found among the souvenir shops and "your name on a grain of sand" vendors on Banderas Bay, including an impressive crop of art galleries and restaurants.

THE SLEEP Burton bought Hacienda San Angel as a Valentine's Day present for his wife, Susan, after shooting *The Night of the Iguana* in PV. The property is now part of

an elaborate 16-room hotel (their bedroom is the Celestial Suite). With four-poster beds, three swimming pools, an elegant terrace restaurant, wonderful views of Banderas Bay, and copious angel sculptures, it's the place to stay in El Centro (52-322-222-2692; suites, \$435–\$670). Owner Janice Chatterton is converting Burton and Taylor's love nest, Casa Kimberley, down the road, into another hotel. It's expected to open next year.

THE SCARF Near Hacienda San Angel, *La Esquina de los Caprichos* does a refreshing gazpacho and an excellent aioli (402 Miramar; 52-322-222-0911; entrées, \$6–\$9). For *cocina tradicional*, try *El Arrayán*. Start with the house arrayán-fruit

margarita, and follow it with sweet hibiscus quesadillas and fiery *chile ancho relLENOS* (344 Al-lende; 52-1-322-222-7195; entrées, \$9–\$17). For a bite of café society circa 2010, nab a table at Med restaurant *Trio*, overlooking Banderas

Back to the fuchsia: Sample authentic Mexican fare at *El Arrayán* (top), and dine amid sculptures at *Café des Artistes*.



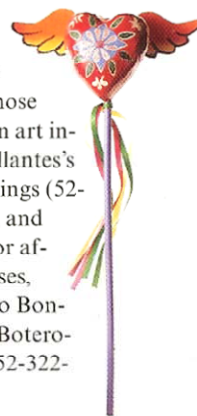
Bay (264 Guerrero; 52-322-222-2196; entrées, \$14–\$25).

THE SLURP It's worth dodging the hair braiders for sundowners at *La Palapa*, right on the beach (103 Pulpito). Bar-restaurant *Café des Artistes* is the sophisticated option for a digestif and dessert: Splash out on a syrupy dram of Don Julio Real, which has the taste (and price tag) of a fine cognac (740 Guadalupe Sánchez). Britney Spears knocked back margaritas at *Si Señor*, which has balcony seating and a leafy, tiered terrace (274 Guadalupe Sánchez).

THE SHOP Celebrate the centennial of the Mexican Revolution with an Emiliano Zapata beach bag from one of the market stalls around town. Scoop up a Noah's Ark worth of beaded Huichol sculptures, plus ghoulish but gorgeous skulls, at *Artesanias Watakame* (327 Libertad; no phone). For papier-mâché wands, jewelry, and lotto card-covered boxes, head to the adjoining boutiques *Ponciana* (258-A Basilio Badillo; 52-322-222-2988) and *Serafina* (260 Basilio Badillo; 52-322-223-4594), and for Fri-

da Kahlo matchboxes and pretty cushions, hit up *In Latino* (239 Basilio Badillo; 52-322-223-5544).

THE ART The Old Town between Guadalupe Sánchez and Morelos is dotted with PV's galleries. Don't miss the two *Corsica* outposts for bright but baleful portraits by Vladimir Cora and whimsical work by Ana Fuentes (52-322-223-1821); *Galeria AL*, whose Latin American art includes Jose Collantes's pixelated paintings (52-322-222-4406); and *Galeria Uno*, for affordable canvases, including Pedro Bonnin's slim-line Boteroesque figures (52-322-222-0908).



THE BEACH Superior sands lie above and below Puerto Vallarta. Try Punta de Mita, an hour north—home to a complex of high-end hotels, including a *Four Seasons* (52-329-291-6000; doubles, \$540–\$1,090) and a *St. Regis* (52-329-291-5800; doubles, \$550–\$1,199)—and, for a complete contrast, rustic Yelapa, a fishing village a water-taxi ride south of town.

