

# Going

Pack your bling and your dancing shoes when you head for these destinations, where over-the-top is de rigueur.

By Kimberley Lovato

Burj Khalifa and Dubai skyline

COURTESY OF ARRA



# glamour

*Glamour means more than just expensive price tags and glittering Hollywood stars. True glamour is intangible, a bewitching quality that beguiles with little effort, from which legends are usually born. For travelers, glamour has become synonymous with luxury and excess, and luckily for those in search of both, the world is full of destinations where “more” is standard. These global glamour spots fuse top-of-the-line service with over-the-top extravagance, while delivering an unforgettable experience, most likely on a gilded platter. Here are five glamorous destinations, plus five extras, for the next time your passport calls for a little overindulging.*

## MONTE CARLO, MONACO, FRENCH RIVIERA

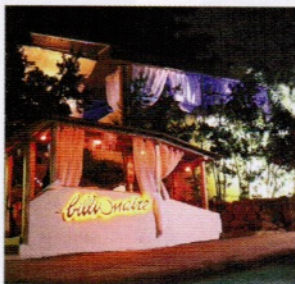
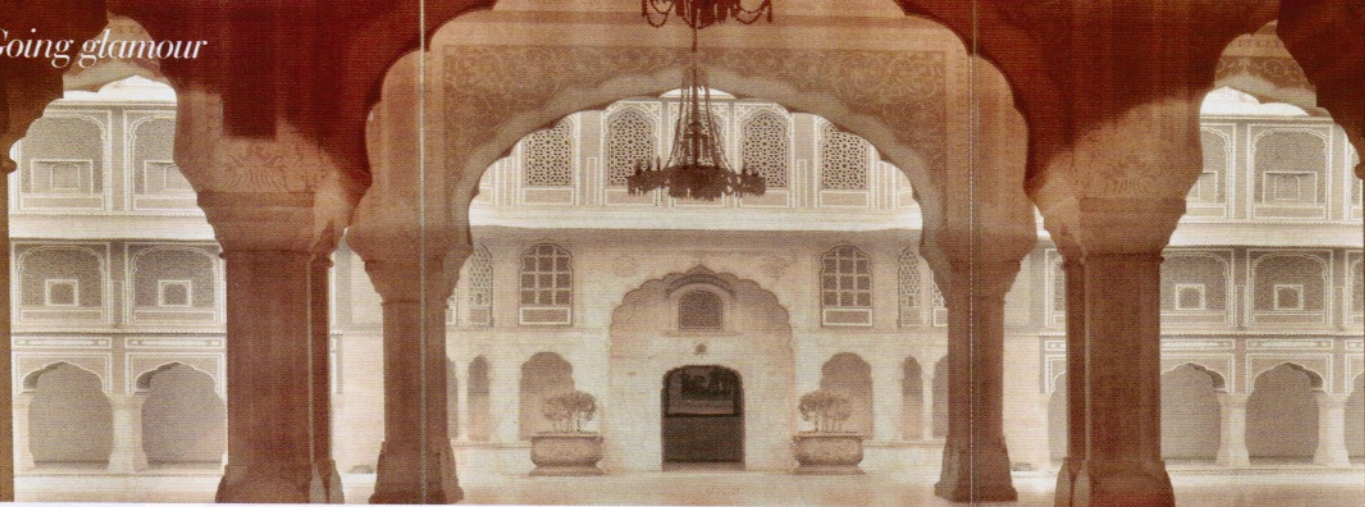
Silver-screen queen Grace Kelly crowned this Mediterranean enclave her “happily ever after” in the '50s, and ever since, Monte Carlo has enchanted jet-setting socialites and real-life royalty who come for the year-round calendar of prestigious events, like the **Monaco Grand Prix** ([monaco-grand-prix.com](http://monaco-grand-prix.com)), celebrating 70 years this May, and legendary locales like the **Casino de Monte-Carlo** (Place du Casino; +377 98 06 21 21; [casinomontecarlo.com](http://casinomontecarlo.com)), the backdrop of two James Bond films and the ultimate haven for high rollers. Haute couture is de rigueur in the streets of Monte Carlo, undisputed capital of luxury, where the greatest names in fashion, jewelry and cars are found in the boutiques

around Casino Square. The plush **Hotel Metropole** (4, Avenue de la Madone; +377 93 15 15 35; [metropole.com](http://metropole.com)) attracts stars of all types, from Hollywood elite (Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, in better days) to Michelin stars, three to be exact, at two onsite restaurants, **Yoshi** and **Joël Robuchon** (with a third on the way); the hotel's new (June 2012) Karl Lagerfeld-designed pool area is Monaco's latest piscine scene. This summer, the global name in see-and-be-seen, **Cipriani** (1, Avenue Princesse Grace; [cipriani.com](http://cipriani.com)), sets up its first Monte Carlo outpost, sure to be the principality's swankest late-night perch.



TERRACE OF CARRE D'OR SUITE, HOTEL METROPOLE





BILLIONAIRE CLUB

## PORTO CERVO, SARDINIA, ITALY

Since purchased by Prince Karim Aga Khan in the '60s, a 34-mile stretch of sapphire seafront on the northern tip of

Sardinia, called the Emerald Coast, has become the Italian address for excess each summer, and Porto Cervo its beating heart. The appropriately named **Billionaire** (Via Rocce Sul Pevero; +39 0789 94 192; [billionairelife.com](http://billionairelife.com)) is arguably Italy's premier nightclub and headquarters of hedonism for wealthy yacht owners and celebrities, like Beyoncé and Jay-Z, who flock here for extravagant parties and a table at the onsite Cipriani, of New York or London fame. Gourmets favor the cuisine and worldly wine list at **Gianni Pedrinelli** (Piccolo Pevero; +39 0789 92 436; [giannipedrinelli.it](http://giannipedrinelli.it)), a traditional Sardinian house turned acclaimed restaurant. By day, the bikini-clad wiggle around the saltwater pool at **Phi Beach** (Olbia Tempio-Baja; +39 0789 95 5012; [phibeach.com](http://phibeach.com)), while links enthusiasts head to **Pevero Golf Club** (Cala di Volpe; +39 0789 95 8000; [golfclubpevero.it](http://golfclubpevero.it)), often heralded as one of Europe's most spectacular courses. Just adjacent is the **Hotel Cala di Volpe** (Porto Cervo; +39 0789 97 6111; [caladivolpe.com](http://caladivolpe.com)), a location so elite it doesn't need an address; it's the backdrop of Hollywood films and a vacation spot for A-listers (*buon giorno*, George Clooney)

who come for hush-hush privacy and over-the-top service.

## LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

For movie star glamour, celebrity chefs and hang-loose lifestyle,



LOS ANGELES SKYLINE

there is nowhere like the original—this is L.A.! Old Hollywood glamour queen **Chateau Marmont** (8221 Sunset Blvd.; 323-656-1010; [chateaumarmont.com](http://chateaumarmont.com)) takes the crown; a nightcap at the Bar Marmont might mean martinis next to your favorite celeb, and power breakfasts take place in the hotel's courtyard restaurant. It's not L.A. without a pool party, so lather on the sunscreen and head to the **SLS Hotel** (465 S. La Cienega Blvd.; 310-247-0400; [starwoodhotels.com](http://starwoodhotels.com)) and the rooftop pool for a dose of eye candy and Champagne. Reserve dinner onsite at **The Bazaar**, where chef José Andrés (named outstanding chef by the James Beard Foundation in 2011) tantalizes trendy patrons with modern Spanish cuisine. Nearby, shoppers can test-drive their platinum cards at the eight-story **Beverly Center** (8500 Beverly Blvd.; 310-854-0070; [beverlycenter.com](http://beverlycenter.com)) shopping mall, or catwalk down Rodeo Drive, a name synonymous with top-shelf luxury labels. A walk along Robertson Boulevard reveals cafés and trendy boutiques as well as **The Ivy** (113 N. Robertson Blvd.; 310-274-8303; [theivyrestaurant.com](http://theivyrestaurant.com)), the perfect perch for a stargazing lunch. Beach lovers prefer Malibu and **Moonshadows** (20356 Pacific Coast Hwy.; 310-456-3010; [moonshadowsmalibu.com](http://moonshadowsmalibu.com)), where sexy singles mingle with seafaring locals for brunch and DJ-spun tunes under the California sun.

ARMANI/AMAL RESTAURANT IN ARMANI HOTEL, DUBAI



ARMANI/AMAL RESTAURANT TERRACE

## DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubai is matchless in the Middle East when it comes to glamour and excess, frequented by local socialites, celebrities and wealthy businessmen looking

for mega-luxe in supsize proportions. Rising to the occasion is the **Armani Hotel Dubai**, occupying 11 floors of Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.





Nightlife is all about private clubbing in Dubai, and the hotel's **Armani Lounge** and **Armani Privé** are rivaling the jet set's other velvet-roped favorites, like the crystal and glittering **Club Cavalli** (Sheikh Zayed Rd.; +971 4 332 9260; [cavallclubdubai.com](http://cavallclubdubai.com)) at the Fairmont Hotel. But the apex of opulence is the **400 Club**, also at the Fairmont (+971 4 332 4900), where gilded grandeur, if you can get in, is served with every Methuselah of vintage Champagne. Like everything, gastronomy, too, goes big in Dubai, and France's famous chef Yannick Alléno oversees **STAY**, a gorgeous, gluttonous and glamorous restaurant at **One&Only The Palm** (West Crescent, Palm; +971 4440 10 10; [thepalm.oneandonlyresorts.com](http://thepalm.oneandonlyresorts.com)). Over-the-top personified is the behemoth **Mall of the Emirates** (Sheikh Zayed Rd., exit 39; +971 4 409 9000; [malloftheemirates.com](http://malloftheemirates.com)), where more than 500 stores, including a faux "Rodeo Drive" for ultra-luxury labels, lure shoppers out of the desert heat, as does **Ski Dubai** (yes, ski), the Middle East's first indoor ski resort (+971 4 409 4000).



ST. REGIS HOTEL, ASPEN

## ASPEN, COLORADO

Once a thriving silver-mining town, Aspen, Colorado, is now the chicest ski resort in America, and guest registers

read like an Oscar party seating chart. Hotels are hot in Aspen (especially by the fire), and **The Little Nell** (675 E. Durant Ave.; 970-920-4600; [thelittlenell.com](http://thelittlenell.com)) remains the epicenter of ski-in, ski-out action, and a perennial favorite. Worth its weight in renovations, the **St. Regis Hotel** (315 E. Dean St.; 970-920-3300; [stregisaspen.com](http://stregisaspen.com)) opened the 2011-12 season with a \$40 million facelift by celebrated interior architect Lauren Rottet. For a break between runs, a sunny table at **Ajax Tavern** (685 E. Durant Ave.; 970-920-6334) is the place to chill. After dark, visitors are spoiled for choice; newcomer **Steakhouse No. 316** (316 E. Hopkins Ave.; 970-920-1893) serves good American fare like mac 'n' cheese and, of course, steak. Also new is the winter hideaway of Miami Beach's **Casa Tua Aspen** (403 S. Galena St.; 970-920-7277), an Italian eatery and private club (with short- and long-term memberships) that draws the glitterati and celebrity crowd—much like Aspen's cornerstone of cool, **Caribou Club** (411 E. Hopkins Ave.; 970-925-2929), an enduring watering hole on the après-ski scene. For a sophisticated souvenir, drop by the boutique of French skiwear label **Moncler** (432 E. Hyman Ave.; 970-544-5558; [moncleraspen.net](http://moncleraspen.net)), whose puffy fur-trimmed jackets are as popular as Champagne in Aspen. **ET**

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## WHY CHECK OUT THESE GLAMOROUS GLOBAL HOTSPOTS?

### Sveti Stefan, Montenegro

Because it's being resurrected (it was once a favorite Adriatic retreat for Hollywood and European royalty), and nostalgia is trendy.

### Koh Samui, Thailand

Because white-sand beaches and coconut palms are as plentiful as five-star hotels and trendy hideaways on

this heavenly island, and Thailand deserves a Riviera, too.

### Saint-Moritz, Switzerland

Because Champagne flows faster than snow-melt in this perpetually sunny setting, and everyone appreciates a real-life snow-globe scene, even the rich and famous.

### Punta del Este, Uruguay

Because the Northern Hemisphere has Saint-Tropez, and South American elite have dubbed this place the Hot! Hot! Hot! spot during south-of-the-equator summers.

### Saint-Barthélemy, Caribbean

Because the A-list crowd dons bathing suits and flip-flops in this sunny paradise.

