

hip
guide THE HIPSET TRAVELS

FRÉDÉRIC FEKKAI



HOWARD BADEN

JETTING FROM BOTSWANA TO ST TROPEZ, sitting next to the world's most famous hair stylist. He's styled Julia Ormond at Cannes and regularly tends to the tresses of Claudia Schiffer, Kim Basinger and Alicia Silverstone. He's not only extremely refined, but smells divinely of the **lavender extract** he sprays on plane seats. Even the most jaded traveler would be jealous of Frédéric Fekkai's favorite traveling companion: son Alexander, whose photo he carries with him at all times in its **red leather travel photo frame**. Alexander is also the reason Frédéric carries around a **portable DVD player** and films like *Beyond the Nightfall* (about artist Julian Schnabel). Frédéric life is all about color and smell. Even if you don't get to see the photos of wild game he snapped on his **digital camera**, you'll smell the scent of trees when he describes the magic 5 a.m. of Kenya. The tones of his clothes capture Aix-en-Provence and Morocco: a **Fedeli-Russo Capri Italian cream long sleeve pique polo**, a **Lyle & Scott cashmere brown turtleneck**, **brown suede hiking boots stuffed with Berlutti shoe trees** and **rust colored corduroy trousers**—all wrapped in his signature yellow tissue paper. "Style is about color coordination," he instructs.

Last year he flew 300,000 miles with his **Vitel, Evian brumisateur**, **silver Dunhill clock**, and **Japanese green tea** in hand. In his own signature camel-toned **Grand Sac Voyage** (Sports Chic Uni Collection), is a brown leather **Giulio Giannini & Figlio journal** in which he documents patterns, textures and palettes for upcoming pieces in his accessories collection. Pasted in are scraps of wrapping that he imagines for the packaging of his products, a photograph of him enjoying a glass of Beaujolais and magazine clippings. It's a visual testament to a sensory life, which is echoed when he talks about his favorite way to travel. "The TGV in France: The panorama out the window changes every moment, as though it is an amazing collection of photos. It is the most civilized way to travel. Even the panini are amazing!"

Syl Tang spies into the weekend bags of the HipSet, and captures the contents of their carry-ons—every month. Reach her at syl@hipguide.com.

CHECKING IN:
BEST OF THE BOUTIQUES

Not one of us would say no to a week at the Ritz, but there's something to be said for things done on a smaller, more intimate scale. That sentiment, along with a desire to be on the cutting edge, has led many a traveler to check in to boutique hotels.

In South Beach, the obvious choice is **Hotel Astor** (956 Washington Ave.), a refurbished 1936 structure. The 40 suites and guestrooms in this art deco landmark boast modern French furniture for a very chic and unique vibe. Every room has halogen lighting and is stocked with waffle-cloth robes, Belgian linens and aromatherapy products. Most boutique hotels are conveniently located so



Lobby at Hotel Astor

guests can enjoy fine dining and other entertainment options nearby. Hotel Astor is unique in that it's also home to chef Johnny Vincenz and the acclaimed Astor Place.

In Delray, guests enjoy Key West-style lodging at the adorable **Crane's Beach House**, just steps from the beach and



Tropical décor at Crane's Beach House

the bustle on Atlantic Ave., (82 Gleason Street). Bungalows decorated with hand-picked furniture and original paintings by local artists on the walls and bed linens further the tropical mood. Owners Cher

and Michael Crane have christened their favorite room, Veranda Suite No.1, "The Crane." Under the huge palm tree painted on the wall in the bedroom is Cher's favorite piece of furniture—the king-size bamboo poster bed draped with flowing sheer scarves, decorative pillows and blanket throw. She calls it the "luxury bed."

In historic Old Naples, **Hotel Escalante** (290 Fifth Avenue South) is a cluster of Mediterranean-style villas surrounded by gardens that seem like they've been cultivated for centuries. They spread over 4 1/2 acres and boast 300 species of botanical beauties. A larger boutique hotel, Escalante has 65 rooms decorated with mahogany furniture and Frette linens, and equipped with imported Molton Brown toiletries.



Surrounded by beauty at Hotel Escalante