

ART COLLECTOR'S  
Fall Agenda

BESPOKE  
Jet Interiors

LUXURY LIVING  
On the Course

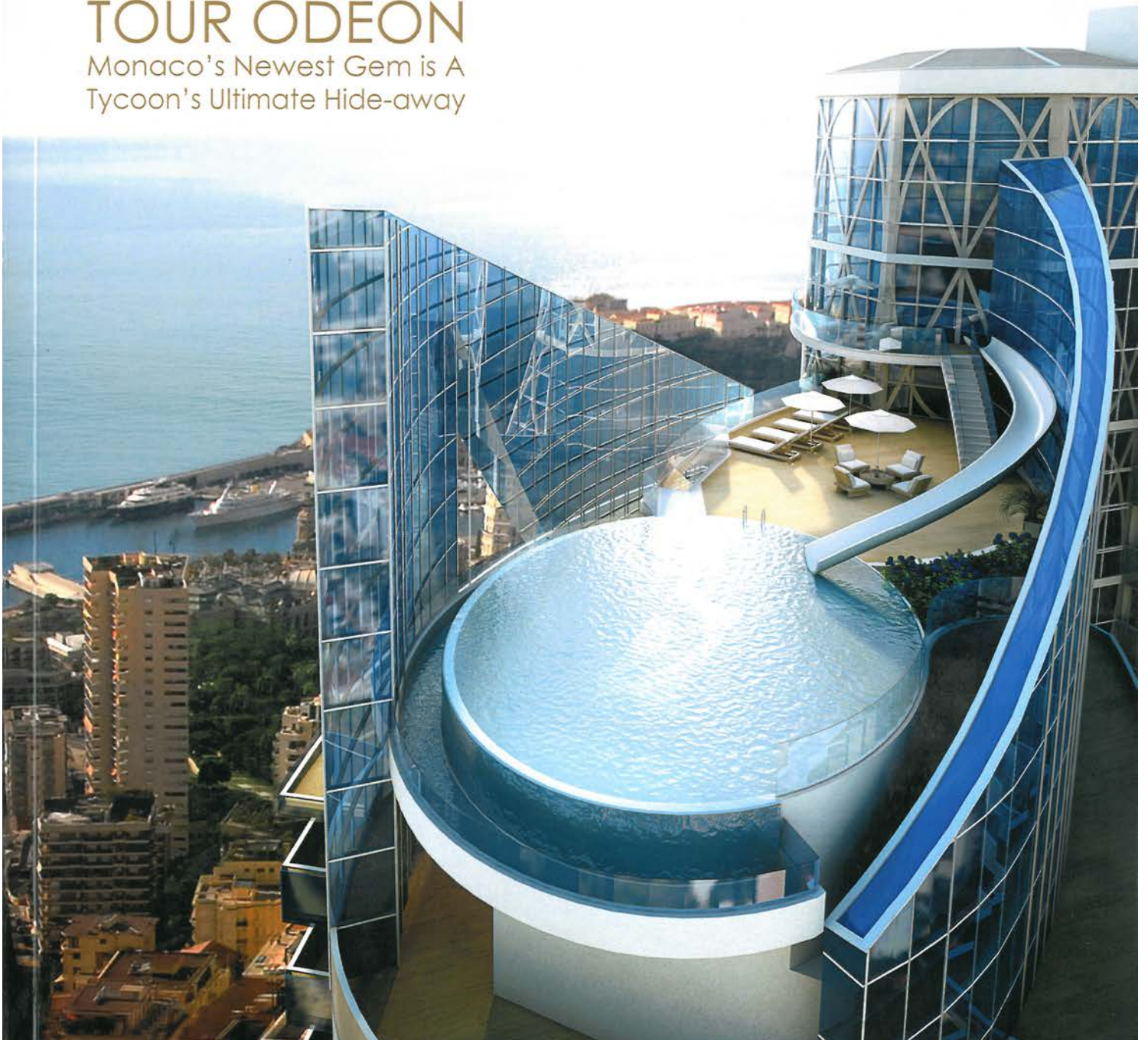
# PRIVATE AIR

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## LUXURY HOMES

### TOUR ODÉON

Monaco's Newest Gem is A  
Tycoon's Ultimate Hide-away



the / **zimmerman** / agency

(continued)



## Little Palm Island: Paradise Found

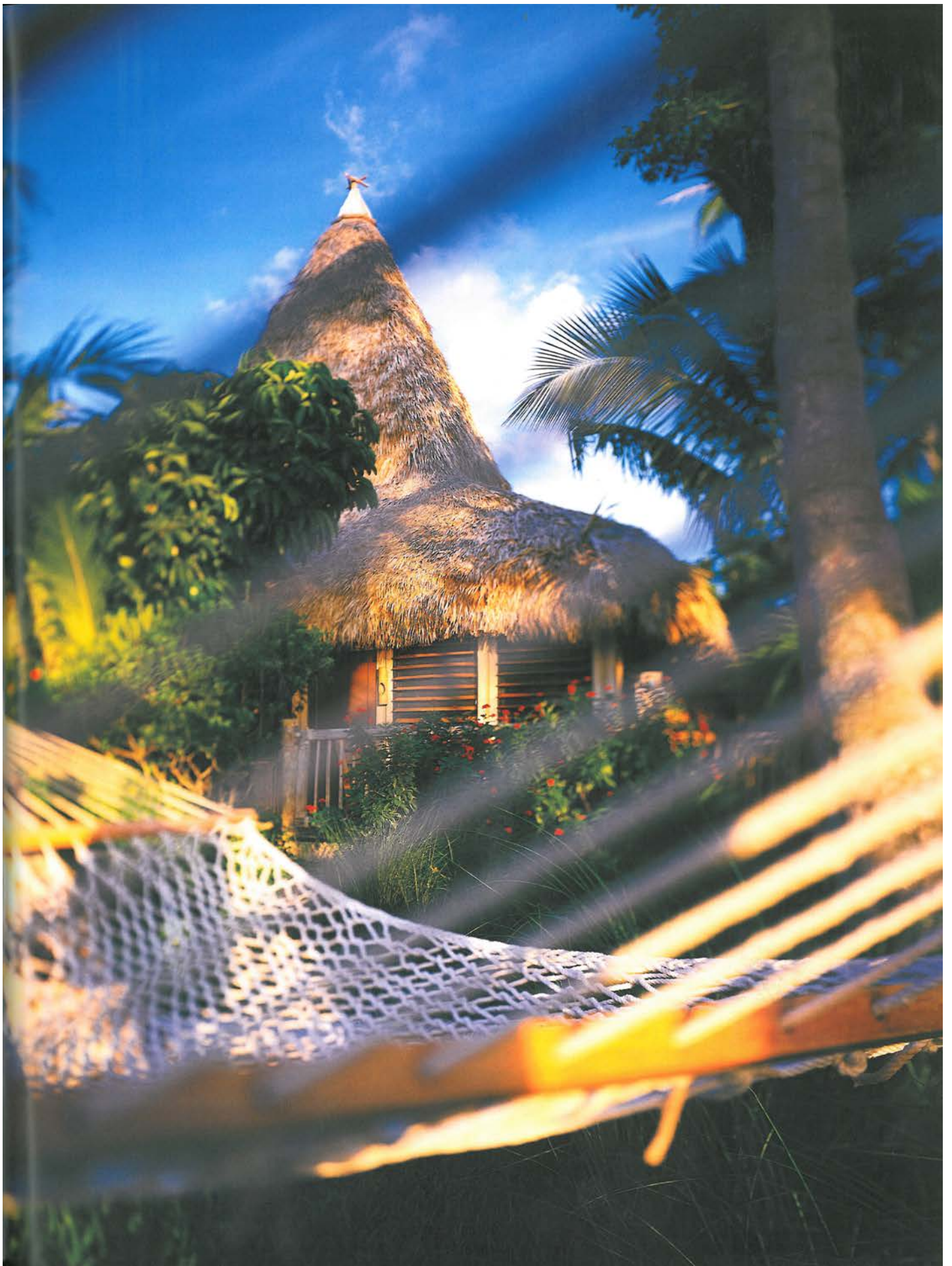
In today's tech-savvy world of social media and smart phones, sometimes it pays to just sit back, relax and let life happen as it comes. For a chance to disconnect in front of Mother Nature's most beautiful views, follow my lead and head south towards the Florida Keys to jet out to the Sunshine State's very own secluded island resort: Little Palm Island, an oasis of serenity for the romantic in you.

Making the 2.5-hour drive from Miami to Little Palm Island, I didn't quite know what to expect—but what I got was even more than I could have imagined. Since my only way there was by boat or seaplane, I headed south to Mile Marker 28.5—the site of the Little Palm Island “Welcome Station,” a small, Keys-style cottage reminiscent of Gilligan's Island—and arrived just in time to check in and catch the last ferry to the resort. Within minutes, the receptionist had already parked my car, gathered my bags and handed

me a freshly-made “welcome drink”: their signature “Gumby Slumber,” a tropical mix of cranberry, pineapple and orange juices, Parrot Bay and Captain Morgan Spiced Rums, and a topping of shredded coconut marinated in 151-proof rum. As I sat on the couch and sipped my cocktail, having yet to step foot on the ferry, I could already tell that my vacation had begun.

Located just three miles off the Florida coast—a 15-minute ferry ride—Little Palm Island is a 5.5-acre private island in the Lower Florida Keys. Originally named Little Munson Island, after Newton Munson, who planted more than 250 of the Jamaican coconut palms still there today, it was once a favorite vacation spot of President Harry S. Truman. Bought in 1986 and transformed into the resort we now know and love, Little Palm Island is presently a part of Noble House Hotels & Resorts—a collection of 18

of the world's most coveted luxury, boutique hotels and iconic resorts, located throughout the United States. Now owned by Noble House Hotels & Resorts Founder and Chairman, Patrick Colee and his wife, Diane, Little Palm Island has become a haven for politicians, celebrities, CEO's and affluent travelers looking to escape the limelight and spend a weekend in civility. Housing only 60 guests in 30 thatched-roof bungalow suites, it offers anonymity for the rich and famous in an environment that is intentionally romantic, personal, and most importantly, exclusive. Designed with couples in mind, today, this resort is a premier destination for weddings, honeymoons and anniversaries alike. Though decades have passed since Little Munson Island was first discovered, touches of its history still exist today. Take the resort ferry, for example—named “The Truman,” after the man you now know was one of the island's biggest fans.



## DEPARTURES

As I got off the boat and followed the Captain on a short tour of the island, I came to my very own weekend bungalow suite: Number 21, the “Green Heron.” Marked with my last name on a wooden nameplate, and featuring a raised deck, outdoor dining area and a chaise lounge overlooking ocean views, my new home was the essence of casual luxury. Inside, an expanded living room with plush seating, hardwood floors, green accents and a décor that only the Florida Keys could provide led to an even more impressive bedroom; where the most comfortable California king bed I’ve ever slept in, wrapped in a veil of mosquito netting cascading from above, set the scene for an intimate backdrop of romance and privacy. Surrounded by small windows on all sides, I could catch a glimpse

Bacardi Limón, fresh watermelon, jalapeño slices, mint and freshly-squeezed lime juice—and lay under a canopy of coconut palms. After lunch, I found the Zen garden—a sacred space where individuals and couples alike can enjoy some peace and quiet, read a good book, or spend quality time together amidst a backdrop of lily pads and bubbling brooks. From there, I hit the SpaTerre for a Balinese Massage, my personal favorite; a combination of exotic, Indonesian oils, careful acupressure, and rhythmic strokes that left me feeling completely free and relaxed. When sun went down, I had a glass of wine by the fire pit with unobstructed views of the stars overhead. Through it all, I discovered that no matter how I decided to spend my time, my Little Palm Island vacation was

French toast with mascarpone, almonds and homemade guava marmalade. For lunch, I satisfied my hunger pains with the resort’s Cuban sandwich, homemade yucca fries and the best pina colada I have ever tasted. Heading to The Dining Room for dinner, a main event on the island, I could choose from one of three, set five-course menus—vegetarian, meat or seafood—each concluding with a Chef’s Dessert Sampler. Selecting the meat option, “From the Land,” I enjoyed Chef Pous’ Grilled Lamb Sausage, Succulent Kurabuta Pork Belly, Moulard Duck Breast, Blackened Wagyu Steak and a dessert plate of Chocolate Mousse with a raspberry garnish, Banana Custard and a unique twist on Trés Leches. Those who were feeling really romantic enjoyed these same dishes in their own



of the early morning sun while remaining in complete isolation. My favorite part of every morning, however, was rinsing off in my outdoor, bamboo shower—allowing me to enjoy the natural splendor of my environment in a way that only a weekend at Little Palm Island could provide.

Even without access to Internet, television, phone or an alarm clock (because who needs one on vacation?), I had no shortage of activities to enjoy at my leisure. I woke up each morning with the option to take a complimentary kayak, paddleboard or Boston Whaler out on the Atlantic; relax in one of the many hammocks hidden throughout the resort; or bask in the sun on the private, white-sand beach. When I got sick of the sand, I could go to the pool for one of the Palabra Bar’s delicious “Island Mojitos”—a refreshing combination of

designed to let me disconnect in anyway I chose. With a staff-to-guest ratio of 1-to-2—giving me unlimited, personal service throughout my stay—I relaxed knowing that my only responsibility for the weekend was to sit back, succumb to the serenity and let my worries float away with the sea.

No vacation is complete without an abundance of delicious food and drink, and Little Palm Island is no exception. Led by Executive Chef, Rolando Cruz-Taura, and his team of culinary greats, the menu at Little Palm Island features an eclectic mix of original recipes with French and Cuban inspirations; incorporating fresh produce indigenous to the South Florida region, like mango and guava, into many resort dishes. To start my day, I had a mango mimosa and the team’s delicious

private, thatched-roof gazebo on Palapa Point, the Chef’s Table in the middle of the award-winning kitchen, or an intimate table at the island’s Harbor Point—each with a dedicated wait staff available just for them.

With rooms costing nearly \$1000 a night, this level of luxury comes at a price—but at Little Palm Island, I promise each dollar spent is well worth it. Whether you’re there for a week or a weekend, stop by for dinner, or rent out the entire island for a family get-together or lavish wedding (available for a minimum of \$250,000), turn off your phones, head to the Welcome Station and learn what it means to really disconnect. By the end of your stay, you’ll realize it was never a question of how to spend your time. In fact, the only question I have is this: “How soon can I go back?”