

Robb Report

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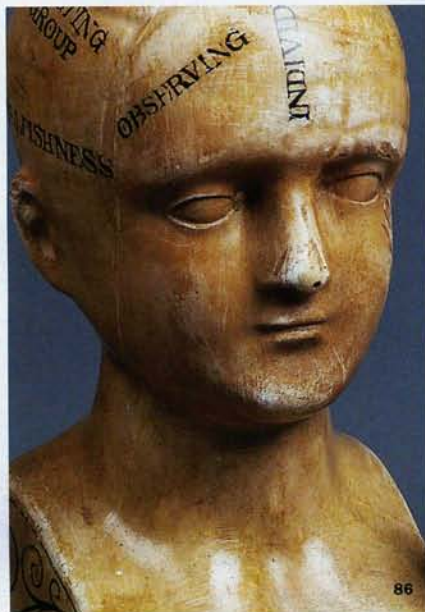


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On the Cover: Location courtesy of the Setai hotel in Miami; photography by Sergio Kurhajec. For clothing and accessories credits, see page 112.

Hotels fashioned from a rock-and-roll retreat and a Boston jail.

PRISON REFORM ✦ When the **Liberty Hotel** (www.libertyhotel.com) opens this summer at the foot of Boston's Beacon Hill, its guests are sure to have more enjoyable stays than did any of the celebrities who lodged in the building during its former incarnation, as the Charles Street Jail. Anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, Malcolm X, and Albert DeSalvo (the Boston Strangler) each resided for a time at the granite, cross-shaped prison, which was built in 1851 and closed in 1990. To the north of a 90-foot-high foyer topped by a 40-foot-high cupola, construction crews have erected a 16-story tower that will hold most of the 300 guest rooms, including a 2,200-square-foot presidential suite. General manager Stuart Meyerson notes that the \$120 million renovation will retain only a few reminders of the jail: "We'll have some bars in the lounge, some photographs," he says. "Other than that, we're freeing this building from its past." . . .

NEO BOHEMIA ✦ Early last year, singer/songwriter Edwin McCain released a tune that described the **Gramercy Park Hotel** (www.gramercyparkhotel.com) as



a place for "the beggar's life"—but it seems he sang too soon. Hotel and nightclub magnate Ian Schrager has transformed the New York City landmark, a haven for rockers in the 1960s and '70s, into a place rich with Renaissance-revival


color and Bohemian flourishes. The 185 guest rooms, including seven suites, feature such touches as leather-top desks, nailhead-studded upholstered furnishings, and a liberal use of jewel-tone velvets and tapestry fabrics. . . .

SELECT SMOKE

Recommended additions to your humidior.

THE IMPORTANCE OF a cigar's wrapper is demonstrated by the **H. Upmann Signature** (www.altadisusa.com). It comes with one of two wrappers, a maduro one grown in Mexico's San Andres Valley or a Nicaragua-grown, Connecticut-seed natural one. The Mexican wrapper delivers the dark-chocolate maduro taste, while the Nicaraguan leaf has a spicier, more intense flavor. We enjoy both cigars but prefer the maduro version. Each is priced at about \$7. . . . **Andre Garcia** cigar cases (www.andregarciacases.com)

come in about 50 types and sizes, all leather and cedar-lined—and often capped with buffalo horn. The cases, made in Calcutta, typically cost \$80 to \$120.

REEL GOOD ✦ The formidable line of custom fly-fishing reels from Hatch Outdoors (www.hatchoutdoors.com) has a new top end. The **9 Plus Pulse** (\$725), built for saltwater big game, joins three other reels, including the redesigned **3 Plus** (\$400), made for trout. The reels' one-piece design eliminates corrosion points, and their sealed drag mechanisms require no lubrication to maintain their smoothness. 

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Gramercy Park Hotel.

