

DEPARTURES

MAY/JUNE 2000



BERLIN'S ART SCENE

POP ART JEWELRY

**LONDON'S HOUSE
OF WONDERS**

ITALY'S ABRUZZI REGION

CAIRO REDUX

JODHPUR'S HIGH STYLE

**PLUS A SPECIAL
A TO Z ARTS GUIDE**

The

Culture

I S S U E

Checking In

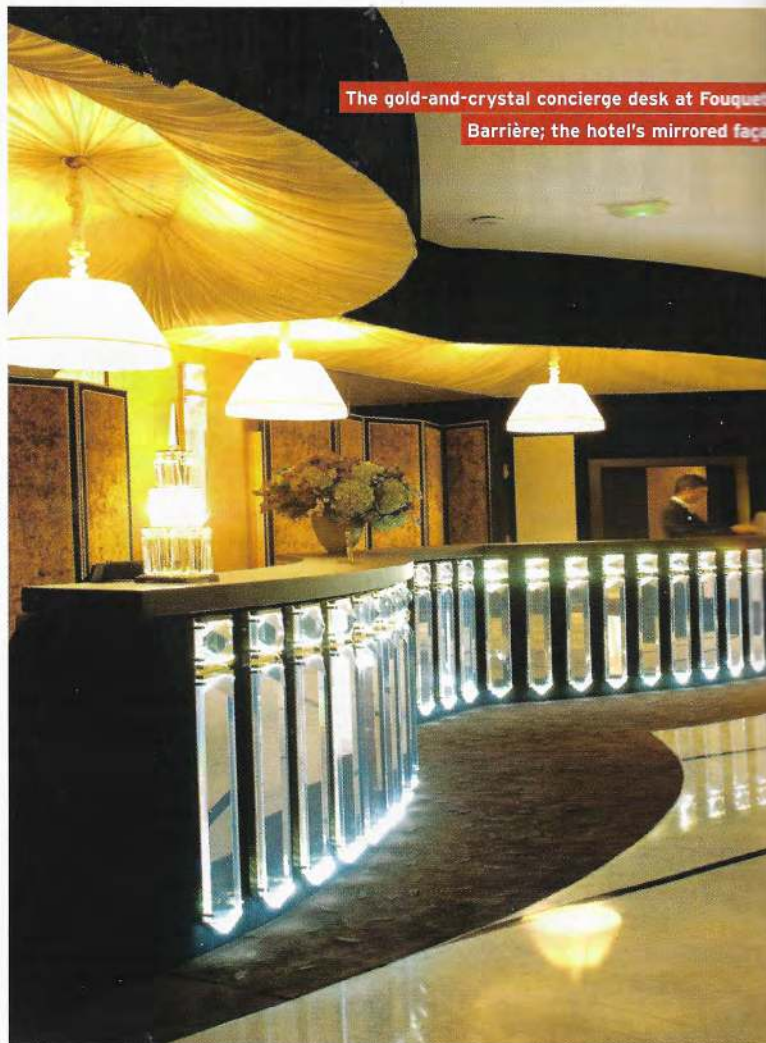
Paris's Hot Property

Despite its prime location on the corner of the Champs-Élysées, **Fouquet's Barrière**—Paris's new self-proclaimed palace hotel—has neither the high-ceilinged glamour nor the historic cachet of nearby competitors like the George V and Plaza Athénée.

Instead the trendy 107-room Fouquet's, which opened to great buzz last fall alongside its namesake restaurant, traffics in a more modern brand of glitz. The lobby is dark yet unobtrusively done up in black, gold, and crystals; at the owner's urging, prolific interior designer Jacques Garcia (of Hôtel Costes fame) kept his crimson impulses in check, resulting in rooms drowning in gold and beige. Still, they are among the most spacious in Paris and they're luxuriously decked out with extras you won't find up the street: flat-screen televisions that rise up from divans, waterproof floating TV remotes for the bathtub; a bedside button that pops open the door to let your but-



ler inside. Indeed, Fouquet's practice of assigning each room a uniformed charge—who arrives with Champagne and will unpack your bags and work out any kinks in the Wi-Fi access—is just one element of its stellar service. From \$900; fouquets-barriere.com. —JAY CHESHES



The gold-and-crystal concierge desk at Fouquet's Barrière; the hotel's mirrored façade

The Fixer

ASIA PERFECTED There's an urge to jam-pack itineraries for far-flung vacations, but loads of logistics are a recipe for stress. Enter **Remote Lands**, which plans bespoke journeys through Asia with access to luxe hotels, private clubs, locals from fishermen to royals, and, best of all, a private plane (translation: no airport lines at every pit stop). Or opt for a themed trip—choose **Cuisine and Culture**, **Golf**, or **Art and Architecture**, then jet off for two weeks with 40 like-minded travelers, including guest speakers. Writers Simon Winchester and Gael Greene are booked for the Cuisine and Culture trip leaving October 13. remotelands.com —D.S.

Must-Have

City Notebooks How frustrating to discover a cool boutique or fabulous under-the-radar café while traveling, only to forget its name or lose the address the moment you get home. This is why we no longer go anywhere without our **MOLESKINE CITY NOTEBOOK**. There are 16 versions (with more cities being added every season), each dedicated to a major metropolis and containing local street and transportation maps, organizing tabs, and, of course, lots and lots of blank pages. moleskine.com —D.S.

