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Condé Nast Traveler

TOP
81 CRUISE SHIPS
WORLDWIDE

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

FEBRUARY 2008

WIN!
A \$25,000
DREAM
TRIP
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Intimate Caribbean

10 IDYLIC ISLANDS FOR
STAYING AND PLAYING

SPECIAL

DOLLAR POWER

27 AFFORDABLE
TOP HOTELS

IN THE AMERICAS, EUROPE,
THE MIDDLE EAST, ASIA

GREAT COUNTRY COOKING

22 FARM TABLES
IN THE U.S.
AND CANADA

ITALY

BEST OF NAPLES

PLUS

PARIS,
MELBOURNE,
SARAJEVO,
HONG KONG



\$4.50US \$5.50FOR

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our
TOWN

Mountain man:
Edgar Ramirez
in El Ávila
National Park.

CARACAS

Edgar Ramírez, 30, actor

The Bourne bad guy on dancing salsa and eating ant bonbons

Best Walk "Behind Caracas's chaotic skyline is a gorgeous green mountain, **El Ávila National Park Cerro**, which is crisscrossed with hiking trails." **Best Neighborhood** "I love **La Candelaria**, created by the Galicians and the Portuguese, for its great restaurants and multicultural atmosphere." **Best Breakfast** "They do a wonderful, typically Venezuelan breakfast at **El Hornito Andino**, in Campo Alegre: *arepa*—like a flour tortilla—stuffed with meat, octopus, or scrambled eggs, plus black beans and white cheese [2nd Transversal; 58-212-265-9334; breakfast, \$5]." **Best Museum** "The **Museo Sacro**, where seventeenth- and eighteenth-century religious and Spanish colonial art is displayed. I'm fond of the colors and imagery [Esquinas de Torre a Gradillas; 58-2-861-6562]." **Best Restaurant** "**Catar** serves dishes from all over the world. I order egg-plant timbale with ratatouille or chicken paillard [6th Transversal, between 3rd and 4th avenidas; 58-212-285-0649; entrées, \$15–\$21]." **Best Bar**

"**Suka** is an eclectic Moroccan-Indian place with bossa nova one evening, electro house the next. Everyone from designers to diplomats hangs out there [Centro San Ignacio, Nivel Blandin, La Castellana; 58-212-263-5249]." **Best Club** "**El Mani es Así**, an old-school salsa club, is a cozy spot to drink rum and dance to some of the best live music around [corner of Calle El Cristo and Avenida Francisco Solano; 58-212-763-0523]." **Best Store** "**Kakao** sells artisanal chocolate, including bonbons filled with hot sauce made from Amazonian ants—trust me, they're amazing [Centro Cultural Trasnocho, Paseo Las Mercedes; 58-212-993-5583; ant bonbon, 60 cents]." *Edgar Ramirez's latest movie is Cyrano Fernandez.*



WOM in Motion For videos of the latest, greatest things to see and do around the world, presented by Word of Mouth's editors, go to cntraveler.com.



Snow Patrol

Private residence clubs with extra bang for your buck

A less than stellar U.S. housing market is giving buyers at ski destinations cold feet. So developers are piling on amenities at private residence clubs, while keeping the price at about 30 percent of a typical home. Here, three notables:

Club at Solaris, Vail, Colorado

The Pitch This private residence club, opening in 2010, offers guaranteed access to 19 three- and four-bedroom residences, even during peak season. It limits membership to five per residence, and booking is at least 30 days in advance (available for five visits during high season). **Cost** Membership starts at \$1.9 million. **Contact** 970-476-7885; clubatsolaris.com.

Residences at the Chateaux, Deer Valley, Utah

The Pitch Full ownership of a home in the area would usually cost \$1 million plus. Deeded interests in these luxury homes are just over a third of this price. A one-sixth ownership guarantees four weeks' planned vacations yearly, plus unlimited use as available. **Cost** Three-bedrooms from \$356,000. **Contact** 866-658-8555; chateauxresidences.com.

Stowe Mountain Lodge, Stowe, Vermont

The Pitch Prospective owners can use the *Alpine Concierge*, a program that arranges dinner reservations and child care (among other services). The development will include a 108-unit full-service condominium hotel and a 34-unit private residence club. **Cost** From \$350,000. **Contact** 888-403-7739; lifestowe.com.

home
FRONT