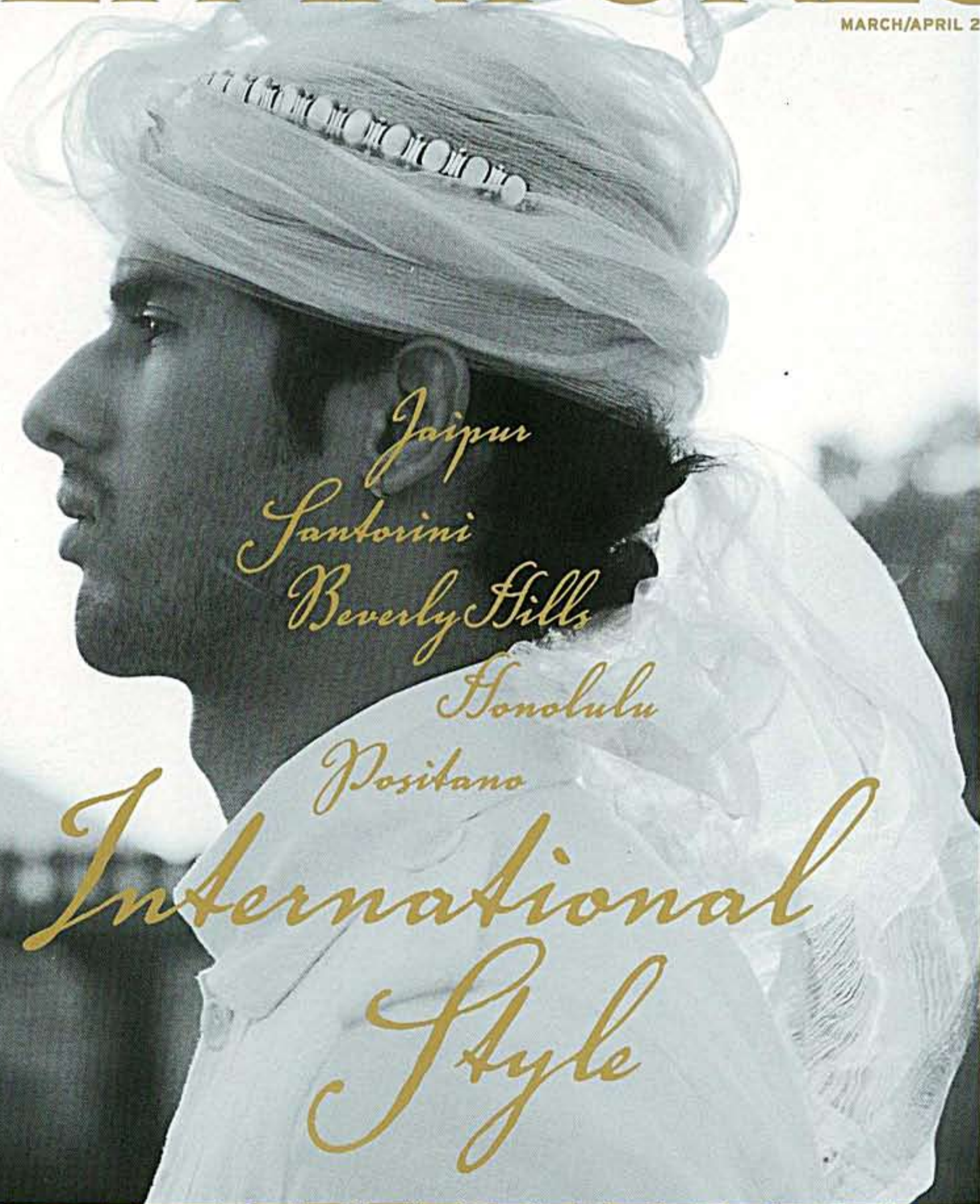


DEPARTURES

MARCH/APRIL 2007



Jaipur
Santorini
Beverly Hills
Honolulu

Positano

International
Style



The Somerset on Providenciales, Turks and Caicos

CARIBBEAN TREND

Croquet Makes a Comeback

Long thought of as a boring old pastime for British royals on holiday, the distant cousin of golf has become the game du jour in the Caribbean, with courses cropping up at posh hotels everywhere from Antigua to Nisbet. But nowhere is its resurgence more noteworthy than at the just-opened **SOMERSET ON GRACE BAY** on Providenciales, Turks and Caicos. This spring the resort—which boasts super-spacious suites of up to five bedrooms and swimming pools brilliantly outfitted with underwater music—will launch “extreme croquet” (which, surprisingly, is not something the Somerset made up but rather an underground phenomenon with devoted enthusiast clubs). The beachside course features moving wickets and water challenges that are certain to make old pros wince and competitive types cheer. Fortunately for traditionalists who aren’t enticed by the smaller-than-usual wickets and formidable course terrain, a classic croquet course sits on a manicured lawn just yards away. From \$650; 649-946-5900; thesomerset.com. —KATIE ALICE COX



GREAT FIND

SUGAR HIGH We met our new favorite diet-destroyer when a staffer brought back from Italy the Sienese almond-paste cookies called *ricciarelli*. Originally served at Tuscan court weddings, they are best nibbled with a glass of Vin Santo; same goes for the chocolate-frosted variety. Pasticceria Nannini in Siena (pasticcerienannini.it) makes what are arguably the world’s best, but Gilli in Florence (gilli.it) and Grace’s Marketplace in New York (gracesmarketplace.com) sell sufficiently blissful versions. —ELETTRA FIUMI



FAMILY AFFAIR

Vegas, Baby!

Several years ago Las Vegas launched a publicity campaign to attract families, and though the ads were quickly replaced with the “What happens here, stays here” theme, the city does still have its kid-friendly pleasures.

1. Stay at the **Four Seasons Hotel**. Occupying the five top floors of the Mandalay Bay Resort, with a separate private entrance and express elevators, the Four Seasons has no distracting casino and a tranquil pool adjacent to Mandalay’s Disneyesque aquatic environs, which the kids can access. Not to mention free M&M’s and child-size bathrobes in the rooms. 702-632-5000
2. Visit **Valley of Fire State Park**. Its red sandstone formations will make the wee ones think they landed on Mars.
3. Head to **Mount Charleston**, just 35 miles away, for skiing in winter and hiking in summer.
4. Escape to **Lake Las Vegas**. The activity-packed kids’ programs at Loews and the Ritz-Carlton are a welcome reprieve for all. loewshotels.com; ritzcarlton.com —DEBORAH FRANK

