

**WINTER  
ESCAPE PLANS**

FOR REPLICANTS, ADVENTURERS, FAMILIES, GLAMOUR SEEKERS AND MORE

**SUFJAN  
STEVENS'S SYMPHONY FOR THE  
BQE**



**THE MAKING OF  
HILLARY AND BARACK**

WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG, BY JOHN HEILEMANN



OCTOBER 22, 2007

# NEW YORK

I feel bad  
about her  
face

that skeletor

LOSER

bloated  
has-been

no

greasy, self-absorbed hipster

Sadult

Ug.  
she looks like  
she's made of  
lumpy half  
melted wax

Particularly  
dimwitted  
twit

Generation Hack Avec Walrus Mustache

senseless  
butt  
goblins

Old, old dork

## The Age of Insolence

Gawker.com and the Culture of Bile.

By VANESSA GRIGORIADIS

street-walking socialite

inept frat boy

So irrelevant for so long and yet stupidly refusing to die



IDEAS FOR

## The Adventurer

A day on the beach? Are you kidding? Ascend a wall of ice, or scuba dive amid the eels and crabs below the Pacific waves.

### Easter Island

*A.k.a. Rapa Nui*

✎ It's arguably the most remote vacation spot on Earth, about 26 hours door-to-door starting from JFK and flying on LAN, the only airline that flies there. After a shower and a long nap at

Explora's new boutique lodge (a three-night all-inclusive trip starts at \$1,794 per person; 866-750-6699 or [explora.com](http://explora.com)), coordinate with the staff an itinerary based on your level of bravery. Go spelunking in the vast cave system, hike to the quarry where the giant Moai were carved, then walk the length of the



Learn to ice-climb ten minutes from Québec City.

island, examining the hundreds of monoliths scattered about. immortalize your trip with one final stunt: Get inked with a \$40 bird-man petroglyph icon at the Moko-mae Tattoos shack in the dusty little town of Hanga Roa.

### Parc National des Volcans

*Rwanda*

The getting there is tough—a 6 a.m. wake-up call followed by at least two hours hiking through bamboo forests escorted by gun-wielding guards and sharp-eyed trackers. The payoff? Rare mountain gorillas. Fewer than 800 remain in the wild, and about half of them are in Rwanda. Follow one of seven gorilla families (the largest has up to 35 members) in a hike stretching into five hours—each way. Recover nicely at the upscale new Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge (from \$570 for two; 254-20-273-4000 or [governorscamp.com](http://governorscamp.com)) located just two miles from the park. Eight spacious cottages have terra-cotta roofs, African artwork and large verandas for post-trek volcano watching.

### Napier

*New Zealand*

✎ November to February is prime diving season on the Pania Reef, just off the North Island town of Napier. Oversize conger eels and secretive blue butterflyfish can be spied poking out of the kelp forest, while plump crayfish and mussels often get scooped up and cooked over bonfires lit by Maori long-boarders at Tutaekuri River mouth. The guys at AdventureDive (64-684-35-148 or [adventuredive.co.nz](http://adventuredive.co.nz)) provide the best views underwater. For a great spot on dry land, request the wraparound balcony at Mon Logis (rooms from \$90; 64-683-52-125 or [babs.co.nz/monlogis](http://babs.co.nz/monlogis)), which faces the Pacific Ocean.

### Beaver Creek

*Colorado*

☑ See how the better half ski. At arguably the country's ritziest ski resort—Beaver Creek—the World Cup downhill competition from November 29 to December 2 signals some unusual bargains for those who stay at its deluxe Inn at Beaver Creek (800-859-8242 or [beavercreek.com](http://beavercreek.com)). First, it's free to attend the races and transportation is provided. What's more, \$370 gets you three nights at the inn and lift tickets—a deal in effect from November 24 to December 18. Watch, ski, and use the savings

to warm up Bode style at Loaded Joe's (970-748-1480 or [loadedjoes.com](http://loadedjoes.com)) bar in neighboring Avon, recently connected to Beaver Creek by a speedy gondola.

### Rio Grande do Sul

*Brazil*

Ride on horseback through the hills and beaches of Rio Grande do Sul with Campofora expeditions (from \$250 a day; 55-54-32-7814-54 or [campofora.com.br](http://campofora.com.br)). Camp under the stars, or arrange a stay at a ranch, where trained cowboys do all the dirty work, like grilling the steaks churrasco style under the Southern Cross. City slickers should steel themselves for an authentic, roughing it adventure; these are real ranches—not day spas with horses—and gauchos don't coddle the squeamish.

### Québec City

*Play with gravity*

Dig in your ice ax to ascend a frozen waterfall ten minutes from downtown Québec City. No need to invest in pricey technical hardware: Your instructor provides an ax, boots, and crampons—but do remember to bring ski gear and long underwear. Leave your vertigo at home or don't sign up for a vacation scaling a slippery face of ice. It's slow going, frequently chilly, and you must be in shape. Some rock-climbing experience is helpful, but you need not be a trained mountaineer for this white-knuckle course (\$100 per person, 418-647-4422 or [rocgym.com](http://rocgym.com)). Look down condescendingly at the snowshoers (cowards!) 200 feet below. After you're untethered from the safety lines, drive to Québec City's Auberge Saint-Antoine (from \$162; 418-692-2211 or [saint-antoine.com](http://saint-antoine.com)) to download your photos and rest up for the next day's ascent.

### Bandhavgarh and Pench National Parks

*India*

Tip a little extra and maybe use some of that New York chutzpa to convince the safari guide to take you off-road, atop an elephant. Or have a peaceful (albeit rifleless) stroll through the tiger preserve. When you get back in one piece—you will—take a long soak in the big tub in your suite at one of two recently opened Taj-CC Africa lodges (rates, with safari, start at \$767 per person; no telephone; [tajsafaris.com](http://tajsafaris.com)).

KEY

BEACH... LOCAL... CHEAP... ☑



IDEAS FOR

## Foodies

Where to go for Ligurian honey, fresh snake blood, Canadian smoked meat, and other strange delicacies.

### Great Barrington *Massachusetts*

Tuck a napkin into your shirt for countryside deliciousness in the Berkshires town of Great Barrington. The sushi that Bizen chef Michael Marcus serves comes from the same supplier as Nobu, and just-opened Allium serves locally raised rib eye (\$32). The Sunday brunch at Xicoh stars slow-cooked pork with guacamole, grilled scallions, and cactus leaf (\$15). Push your limits with a scoop of Dirty Chocolate ice cream (\$4) at Soco Creamery before a nightcap of port at the pricey but worth it Wheatleigh Hotel (from \$650; wheatleigh.com or 413-637-0610).

### Montreal

*Order for Pick-up*

To experience what a New York delicatessen was like in its heyday (its fare plentiful, cheap, and cured in-store), head to Montreal's temples of meat—Schwartz's, Lesters, Abie's, and Snowdon. With small menus, Montreal's delis focus on one thing with religious zeal: smoked meat, the smoky, pepper-flecked love child of pastrami and corned beef. Order medium-fat

Montreal's Schwartz's deli nosh.



smoked-meat sandwiches, double-fried fries, a Cott's black-cherry soda, and a mustard-soaked stick of karnatzel (thin salami). Then pick up a dozen hand-twisted bagels from St-Viateur Bagel Bakery. Take Roloids at the Ritz (from \$175 per night; 514-842-4212 or ritzmontreal.com).

### Chapel Hill *North Carolina*

The town's budget-minded students and surfeit of profs require high-achieving southern food. The two camps converge on Franklin Street, where \$8 crab-and-corn cheese pies from Crook's Corner (crookscorner.com) and \$6 duck congee with cracklings from Lantern (lanternrestaurant.com) are supplied by organic farmers and Slow Food purveyors in the surrounding Piedmonts. Start your morning with a country breakfast at Fickle Creek Farm (rooms from \$100; 919-969-8846 or home.mebtel.net/~ficklecreek).

### Kangaroo Island *Australia*

South Australia's 100-mile-long Kangaroo Island, circled with dozens of pristine beaches, churns out deliciously light honey from what is claimed to be the world's purest strain of Ligurian bees, rare Australian marrons (giant freshwater crayfish), tangy sheep's-milk yogurt, and remarkably delicious free-range chickens. Early next year, base yourself at the new glassy, modern Southern Ocean Lodge overlooking Hanson Bay (\$900, all-inclusive; opens March 2008; 800-441-6880 or southernoceanlodge.com.au) and nibble your way across the island.

### Lyon *France*

With its high proportion of starred Michelin chefs, Lyon—not Paris—is France's capital of fine dining. Just witness Parisians swooping into the outdoor markets—more than 40 in all—to stock up on fishy quenelles and porky boudins aux noisettes. Graze the traditional small restaurants called *bouchons*, and book a midweek table at one of the restaurants of Paul Bocuse's quartet, L'Ouest, Le Nord, Le Sud, and l'Est (each representing a different region of modern French cuisine), or stalk the star himself during his regular Sunday rounds at Les Halles de Lyon. Stay at the value-priced Bellecour sur Cour (rooms from \$100; 33-06-159-4546 or bellecoursurcour.com), and save your splurging for edibles.

### Taipei *Taiwan*

Order oyster omelettes from a vendor in the circuslike Huashi Street Snake Alley Night Market and you'll get a fresh-shucked

crustacean encased in sticky potato and topped with chile egg. Also delicious: crab vermicelli, stewed beef noodles, and crispy salt-and-pepper tripe. Snacks cost \$1 to \$2. Extreme eaters can try freshly killed cobra. Stay at the Grand Hyatt Taipei (from \$209; 886-22-720-1234 or taipei.grand.hyatt.com).

### Sofia *Bulgaria*

Make reservations a day in advance, and follow the haze of tobacco smoke into Pod Lipite (359-2-866-5053), a tavern where animal skins, musical instruments, and farm equipment dangle from the rafters. Gather at one of the long wooden tables to devour braised lamb's head (\$5) and stewed boar (\$6). Wash it down with Mavrud wine (\$8 a bottle), a spicy red from the Thracian Valley, and sleep it off in the bright Sunflower Room at the new Hotel Les Fleurs (from \$156 per night; 359-2-810-0800 or les-fleurshotel.com).

Snake Alley Night Market in Taipei.

