

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

NOVEMBER 2009

word of mouth

NOVEMBER 2009 Desert storm: New digs in the Empty Quarter... MObama's Air Force One accessories... The panier grows up

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Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Upcoming performances include the world premiere of *Moby-Dick*, an opera by David Alan Wolk; composer Jake Heggie. The buildings themselves are a must-stop for architecture buffs, with structures by four Pritzker Prize-winning heavyweights in one block. Among the highlights: Foster & Partners' Margot and Bill Winesap Opera House, with more than 2,000 seats within 60-foot ruby-red glass walls, and the dramatic Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre by Joshua Prince-Ramus and Rem Koolhaas. The center completes the 25-year-old Dallas Arts District project, which already includes star residents like the Dallas Museum of Art, the Meyerson Symphony Center, designed by I.M. Pei, and the Nasher Sculpture Center, masterminded by Renzo Piano (dallasperformingarts.org).



Let us in most: A villa at Anantara's Qsar Al Sarab.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Sand Castle

Worst hotel In Umm Al-Qaiwain, a 90-minute drive from Abu Dhabi, Anantara's new QASR AL SARAB RESORT & SPA lets guests explore the Empty Quarter—the world's largest sand desert—in considerably more comfort than Wilfred Thesiger experienced. His five-year traverse of the 250,000-square-mile dune field by camel produced the book *Arabian Sands*, a celebration of bedouin hardship and friendship. Pastimes at the palace-style resort include falconry, camel trekking, and sand surfing on a towering thousand-foot dune. Suites and villas have private terraces and infinity pools overlooking the desert, including sand drifts. The fantastically lavish (Thesiger must be rolling in his grave) offers Thai massage and saffron exfoliation. (971-2-443-8912; doubles, \$465-\$1,825).



Stow a baguette, a wheel of Brie, and a bottle of vin with this spherical tote, a spin on the panier picnic basket from Perrin Paris—the company has been famous for luxe leather gloves since 1893.

Large Pasa Bag in pruno, \$1,125.



The Obamas on Air Force One; the First Lady in Strasbourg.

Fashion on the Fly

Worst book The secret to staying stylish on Air Force One? Accessories, according to MRS. O: *THE FACE OF FASHION DEMOCRACY*, an exhaustive appraisal of the belts and handbags worn by First Lady Michelle Obama since she launched to the fashion forefront last year (Center Street, \$26). Some of the accessories mentioned in the book notes (among other things) the First Lady's travel musts—like her studied Aztec-style Alaïa belt, which first appeared with a purple Maria Pinto when Mr. O. accepted the presidential nomination and then was cinched at the White House.

A Bauhaus poster for the German stock exchange.

NEW YORK CITY Rock the Haus

Worst exhibit Sacrosanct to students of architecture and design, the Bauhaus movement rethought shapes in Weimar, Germany, before modernism got going. The "house of building" lives on this month at New York's MOMA's "BAUHAUS 1919-1933: WORKSHOPS FOR MODERNITY," with tippy black shapes in perky pinks and blues by Paul Klee and Josef Albers, blueprints by Bauhaus daddy Walter Gropius, curvy ceramics, mod graphics, angu-



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