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MANDARIN ORIENTAL, PARIS IS A TRUE LUXURY HOTEL LOCATED ON rue Saint-Honoré just steps from the Louvre and the Place Vendome. With 99 rooms and 39 suites gleaming with Art Deco and Asian details, this is a paragon of style, luxe and warmth. If you seek calm and superior service, you will love it here. The suites are especially dramatic: some have 360-degree-views of Montmartre and are just incredible. There is no more perfect cocoon for honeymooners or high rollers wanting passion in Paris. The spa here is a haven of tranquility spread over two luxurious floors complete with a 46-foot pool. Treatments combine ancient and contemporary techniques with expert knowledge from around the world. The



spa's product line is enhanced by unique scents from French perfume house, *Guerlain*. Hotel guests also have access to a Turkish hammam, and a fitness center. There is haute cuisine dining at *Sur Mesure* (awarded two Michelin stars) and modern cuisine in *Camelia*, all inspired by noted chef *Thierry Marx*. If you long for a pastry, there is Cake Shop, which receives much fanfare. The staff is truly inspired, no doubt due to the talents of the urbane *Philippe Leboeuf* who is in charge of this seamless operation. Mandarin Oriental Paris is the perfect pied-à-terre for discerning travelers who expect the best. We love the interior courtyard garden, one of the most serene spots in Paris. Visit www.mandarin-oriental.com/paris, 251 rue Saint-Honoré, Paris, France, +33 (0)1 70 98 78 88.

FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE UNVEILED ITS 55TH ANNUAL LISTING OF STAR Award-winning hospitality establishments worldwide, and named *L'Ermitage Beverly Hills* to this prestigious list. This rating category joins Forbes Travel Guide's Five-Star and Four-Star ratings designations, which since the company's founding in 1958 as Mobil Travel Guide, have been the gold standard for hospitality excellence. L'Ermitage Beverly Hills is one of LA's finest luxury hotels, embodying the spirit of a sophisticated private club and a gracious urban residence. Serenely situated on a tree-lined residential street, the hotel is a short stroll from the bustle of Rodeo Drive. Renowned for its legendary elegance and uncompromised privacy—drawing discriminating clients from the world over—L'Ermitage guests enjoy quick access to the area's many cultural attractions, prime entertainment centers, shopping destinations and celebrated beach towns. Impeccable service combined with acclaimed dining and lounges, a rooftop pool retreat, an intimate spa, and spacious guest rooms featuring French doors to step-out balconies, complete this exceptional experience for which guests return often. We tip our high silk hat to *Sal Abaunza*, the very talented general manager of L'Ermitage Beverly Hills, who should get the keys to the city for assembling such a crack team whose effort, experience and dedication is the essence of a satisfying guest experience. Visit *L'Ermitage Beverly Hills*, telephone (877) 235-7582 or visit www.lermitagebb.com.



Our Favorite Travel Agent: Vivian Taylor

Reports about the demise of travel agents have been greatly exaggerated. Sure, anyone today can look online for simple travel plans. But for those of you with travel experience who yearn for more exotic locales and complex itineraries, there is nothing like a tried and true travel professional to sort out complicated arrangements and be there when things go wrong. For these reasons we strongly endorse Vivian Taylor who has over 35 years in the biz and can be proud of her reputation to make travel perfect always. Vivian cares and is well traveled. She makes her home in Delaware and Cape Town and enjoys valuable contacts throughout the world. She can make almost anything happen effortlessly and there is not a place on the globe she is not comfortable booking. Her approach is personal and that's just not a word to her. Because of her intimate knowledge, Vivian Taylor has a special knack to create very special opportunities and experiences for her lucky clients. Contact her at (302) 945-7255, (310) 497-2650 or e-mail Vivian@vivantaylor.com.