



LEXUS

Q2 2008

COLORS OF HONDURAS

THE SIGHTS & SCENTS OF
COFFEE COUNTRY

+

LEXUS HYBRID DRIVE IN CANADA

PORTRAITS OF INNOVATION
INSIDE & OUTSIDE THE LS 600h L

BEYOND SURFING

HAWAII'S NEW WATERMEN

TABLE SETTINGS

PARIS HOTELS LEAD THE CULINARY WAY



touch **WORLD OF WATER**

The designers of the eco-friendly company Dimension One Spas of San Diego are the NASA scientists of hot tubs. The company's one giant leap for mankind is a \$40,000 model dubbed the Aqua Fit 19 DT, an indoor or outdoor "swim spa" that is both a resistance pool and a low-impact, circuit-training gym. You can row, run in place, perform biceps curls and even Pilates. Best of all, this 19-foot-long aquatic fitness center, which is also ideal as a relaxing whirlpool for socializing (you can invite up to a dozen friends to join you), only costs \$35 a month to power. And unlike you, it is super-low maintenance: just change the filter cartridge once every six months. (www.aquaticfitnesssystems.com)

Turn to our Active department (page 66) as two Lexus journalists test their strength, endurance, and knowledge of *Entourage* by joining boot camp classes in New York and L.A. —CATHAY CHE

scent **PURPLE PLAIN** OJAI VALLEY, CALIF.

Famed for its agricultural abundance, the Ojai Valley of California is now being recognized for the stalks of brilliant purple lavender that dot its landscape. The Ojai Lavender Festival celebrates this local profusion of the floral-scented herb on June 28 at Libbey Park. In addition to typical festival fare, visitors can collect tips on growing lavender from one of the area's commercial growers and get help locating individual cultivars of the plant. Bath products, herbes de Provence, and unique lavender products including jellies, vinegars, and sorbet are available for purchase. (www.lavenderfestival.net)

+++++ The wide array of lavender celebrations across North America include those held on Vashon Island, Wash. (www.vashonlavender.com) and in Blanco, Texas (www.blancolavenderfest.com). Or visit Provence (www.provencebeyond.com), the French region most associated with lavender, and the town of Digne-les-Bains, which holds a five-day lavender festival each August. For more French indulgence, turn to page 34. —DAVE JOHNSTON



sound **JAZZ HOT**

Warmer climes mean outdoor tunes, especially in America's most scenic spots. Southern cities hop on the bandwagon first. On April 25–27 and May 1–4, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival (www.nojazzfest.com), which debuted in 1970 with Mahalia Jackson and Duke Ellington jamming away, tunes up for an estimated crowd of 650,000 fans. May 2–4 brings the Beale Street Music Festival to Memphis, as Tennessee's deep river spirit joins together more than 60 soul, rock, gospel, and R&B artists for a three-day, four-stage party set on 33 acres above the Mississippi on Beale Street, the birthplace of the blues. (www.memphisinmay.org)

+++++ Western tunes in June: the Taos Solar Music Festival (June 27–29) celebrates that city's devotion to solar power (www.solarmusicfest.com), while June 19–22 brings Telluride Bluegrass to coincide with the summer solstice. (www.bluegrass.com/telluride) Our music coverage continues on page 62. —ADAM BAER



OPPOSITE PAGE: DAVID CLUGSTON; THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (LAVENDER AND SPA)