Maximizing your investment in private air transport

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DAVID COPPERFIELD
HE USES MAGIC TO FLY ONSTAGE; ELSEWHERE, HE RELIES ON BUSINESS JETS

3RD ANNUAL Book of Lists
AMAZING HOTEL VIEWS, BEST KID-FREE VACATIONS, PricIEST MOTORCYCLES, MEMORABLE SKI RUNS AND MUCH MORE

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9 Hotels with Amazing Views

1. OBERAI AMARVILAS, AGRA, INDIA. Enjoy breakfast while looking out at the Taj Mahal.

2. MARINA BAY SANDS, SINGAPORE. Expansive suites overlook Gardens by the Bay, Marina Bay and the skyline of Asia’s most expensive city.

3. PANGU HOTEL, BEIJING. Views at this highly rated hotel take in Beijing’s Olympic Park and the Bird’s Nest (National Stadium).

4. CORINTHIA, LONDON. Check in to the penthouse suite, check out the views of the London Eye and the Thames.

5. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, SYDNEY. Spectacular views of the Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge go some way toward justifying the astronomical price tag for the top-floor Presidential Suite.

6. SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, PARIS. From the large veranda of the Eiffel Duplex Terrace Suite, you can wine, dine and enjoy panoramic views of the Eiffel Tower, the Seine and the city.

7. HAVAFEN FUSHI, MALDIVES. Set 200 meters from the main property out over the Indian Ocean, the Ocean Pavilions feature fiber-optic infinity pools that blend seamlessly with the ocean and life-affirming sunsets beyond.

8. THE ALPINA GSTAAD, GSTAAD, SWITZERLAND. The three-bedroom Panorama Suite commands views to both the north and south, taking in the mountains, Alpine meadows and the village below.

9. FAIRMONT LAKE LOUISE CHATEAU, LAKE LOUISE, CANADA. Enjoy spectacular views over mountain peaks, the emerald lake and the Victoria Glacier in Alberta’s Banff National Park.

— G.P.

8 Schools for Extreme Sports

1. GISELA PULIDO PRO CENTER, TARIFA, SPAIN. World-champion freestyle kitboader’s school on the Iberian Peninsula boasts 11- to 17-knot winds more than 80 percent of the year.

2. KITTY HAWK KITES, KITTY HAWK, NORTH CAROLINA. Located on the Outer Banks where the Wright Brothers first flew, the oldest hang-gliding school on the U.S. East Coast provides ratings certification under Hang Gliding Association accreditation.

3. PATTY WAGSTAFF AEROBATIC INSTRUCTION, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA. Three-time U.S. National Aerobatic Champion provides instruction in extreme aerobatics in the Extra EA 300L, the two-place version of the Extra monoplane she flies in air shows worldwide.

4. TRAPEZE SCHOOL, NEW YORK, BOSTON, CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES, WASHINGTON, D.C., PUERTO RICO. Classes and personal instruction in aerial arts, including flying trapeze, static trapeze and silks for all levels.

5. POWDER EXTREME, VERBIER, SWITZERLAND. Ski or snowboard Verbier’s legendary big mountain steeps, couloirs, cliff drops and off-piste powder under the guidance of specialist coaches.
10 Excellent TV Series You Can Watch in Flight

1. COLUMBO: THE COMPLETE SERIES. In the first minutes of almost every episode, you not only find out who committed the murder, you learn the invariably ingenious method. The mystery is in how the seemingly absentminded lieutenant Columbo will crack the case.

2. THE COMPLETE MONTY PYTHON’S FLYING CIRCUS 16-TON MEGASET. If skits like “Argument Clinic” and “The Dead Parrot” don’t make you laugh, you’re probably suffering from a serious psychiatric disorder.

3. DOWNTON ABBEY, SEASONS 1–4. This BBC series about upstairs/downstairs English life in the early part of the last century features a motley crew of lovable characters, plus the occasional villain to keep things interesting.

4. THE HONEYMOONERS: THE CLASSIC 39. It’s amazing what Jackie Gleason, Art Carney and company managed to achieve with shows that were never fully rehearsed, were filmed live with an audience and took place largely in one sparsely furnished room.

5. MAD MEN, SEASONS 1–6. HBO executives must be kicking themselves for rejecting this gripping series about the duplicitous Don Draper and life in and around his 1960s’ ad agencies.

6. MARY HARTMAN, MARY HARTMAN: THE COMPLETE SERIES. One of the strangest and most innovative series in TV history, is it soap opera? Satire? A comment on society? One big joke? Yes, to all of the above.

7. NYPD BLUE, SEASONS 1–6. Insightful scripts and wonderful acting, especially by Dennis Franz, who won more than a dozen Emmys and other awards for his role as a troubled police detective.

8. PLANET EARTH: THE COMPLETE BBC SERIES. The nature scenes—captured worldwide with state-of-the-art video techniques—are awe-inspiring.

9. THE SOPRANOS: THE COMPLETE SERIES. What was left to say about the Mafia after the Godfather trilogy and Goodfellas? Plenty, as it turns out.

10. PROHIBITION. This Ken Burns three-parter is loaded with lessons about the role of government that remain relevant today. Pour yourself a drink and enjoy. —J.B.

9 Best Vacations without the Kids

1. THE BOULDERS RESORT, CAREFREE, COLORADO. Two top golf courses, couples spa-treatment rooms, drop-dead views and unlimited privacy.

2. BALLYFIN, COUNTY LAOIS, IRELAND. Play lord and lady of the manor at this restored Irish country estate, which is dripping with elegance and antiquities.

3. CANYON RANCH, TUCSON, ARIZONA. Take time to de-stress, recharge and try something new at this top American spa for men and women.

4. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL GEORGE V, PARIS. Footsteps from great shopping and dining, this hotel exudes romance in the heart of the city of love.

5. OLD STONE FARM, RHINEBECK, NEW YORK. This field of dreams with a full equestrian center also offers yoga, meditation, nearby shopping and serenity.

6. AMANBAGH, RAJASTHAN, INDIA. Explore the bustling life of Jaipur, then return to a verdant, luxurious oasis among the palm trees.

7. THE NAM HAI, HOI AN, VIETNAM. A posh spot just a short drive from Hoi An and ideal to return to for a snooze at the pool or beach.

8. VICEROY RIVIERA MAYA, PLAYA DEL CARMEN, MEXICO. Hunker down in a villa with a private plunge pool in this beachfront jungle-chic resort.

9. FOUR SEASONS RESORT, SEYCHELLES. Take a safari, then mellow out in a treetop villas at this sexy and chic hotspot. —M.G.

7 Superb Ski Runs

1. VALLEE BLANCHE, CHAMONIX, FRANCE. World’s longest at 13.7 miles, in the shadow of Mont Blanc.

2. THE ELEVATOR SHAFT, ASPEN, COLORADO. This section of the Silver Queen run is Aspen’s steepslest trail.

3. CORVATSCH, ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND. Night skiing on Switzerland’s largest illuminated piste.

4. VENTINA, CERVENIA, ITALY. Spectacular views on one of the longest pisted runs in Europe, with a vertical drop of more than a mile.

5. LE GRAVE, FRANCE. Off piste runs of 7,000 vertical feet of cliffs and crevasses make this a cult destination for hardcore skiers.

6. MARTES CULOIR, LAS LENAS, ARGENTINA. The highest, most exhilarating run at this remote and vast ski area.

7. CORBET’S CULOIR, JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING. Called “North America’s scariest slope” for the 20-foot drop-in to the chute. —J.W.