

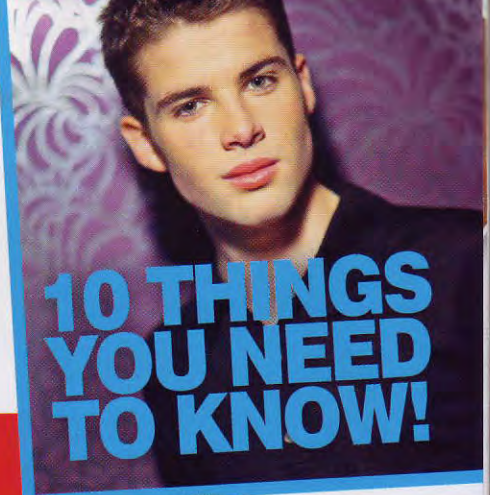
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STAR

EXCLUSIVE

Jordan's tearful phone call to Pete:

"PLEASE TAKE ME BACK"



ISSUE 307



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EXCLUSIVE PICS



DUMPED ALEX

"I feel so humiliated"



POSH "I'm like a single mum"

WE'RE ALL HEADING FOR...

Santa Monica

The stunning Hotel Shangri-La has had an £18m facelift

Be sure to check out the Santa Monica Pier...

When it comes to glamorous locations, few destinations beat the

Californian city of Santa Monica – home to A-listers galore including Cameron Diaz, Jake Gyllenhaal, Ben Affleck and his Mrs, Jennifer Garner.

Whether you're wandering around its stylish boutiques, sipping cocktails by the pool at the Hotel Shangri-La or eating ice cream at the pier, you'll be entranced by its charming Art Deco buildings and palm-lined white-sand beaches.

Combine this with glitzy nightlife, delicious cuisine, all-year-round glorious sunshine

and the chance to celeb-watch 24/7, and you'll be wishing you could move here permanently!

WHAT TO DO

Overlooking miles of dazzling Pacific Ocean coastline, and just 13 miles from downtown Los Angeles, Santa Monica is packed with attractions. Plus it is surprisingly compact, at 8.3 square miles, so it's the perfect place to get around by foot.

Start off with a lazy stroll along Ocean Avenue, which is filled with joggers and Paris Hilton lookalikes carrying small dogs! Then wander down to Muscle Beach where California's beautiful bodies work out on its pristine sands.

Don't forget to check out the Santa Monica Pier, which just celebrated its centenary. One show that's definitely worth seeing here is the acrobatic and clowning extravaganza *Cirque du Soleil Kooza*. It runs until 20 December and is a truly unforgettable experience.

The pier is also home to Pacific Park – a great family amusement park. Its Ferris wheel is the perfect setting from which to watch some of the most beautiful sunsets.

Santa Monica is also a haven for shopaholics, so make sure you start off at Third Street Promenade, which has



Hang with the beautiful people on Muscle Beach

Hit the shops on Third Street Promenade



Jake and Cam both love living in Santa Monica

a wide array of stores including US faves Banana Republic and Abercrombie & Fitch. One shop that's not to be missed is the Fred Segal department store on Broadway – a favourite with the likes of Li-Lo and Rihanna.

For more eclectic finds, visit Montana Avenue, where celebrities can often be seen hitting the boutiques and hanging out for long lunches. Try Aphrodite, which has high-end fashion and accessories at high-street prices.

Another must is the city's Palisades Park, a 26-acre garden, which stretches for 1.6 miles along Ocean Avenue above the beach, and has appeared in many iconic movies, including *Pulp Fiction*.

After all that sight-seeing, relax with a rejuvenating Guinot Hydradermie And Lift facial at The Spa at Le Merigot, which Jennifer Aniston loves. No visit to Santa Monica would be complete without a trip to Hollywood and Beverly Hills either. Take the StarLine City Sightseeing tour – a hop-on, hop-off service that stops at landmarks including Rodeo Drive, the Chinese Theatre and the Hollywood Walk Of Fame.

EATING & DRINKING

Experience top-floor dining and have delicious seafood at The Penthouse, a top-notch rooftop restaurant situated on the 18th floor in the Huntley hotel, which has 360-degree panoramic views of the city.

For a celebrity experience, visit Stefan's at LA Farm. Launched in August by Stefan Richter, the finalist of US reality show *Top Chef*, the restaurant

serves up amazing Californian fare and has recently been visited by Sir Anthony Hopkins.

If you're in the mood for romance, try Oliverio restaurant at the chic Avalon Hotel in Beverly Hills – a favourite with Teri Hatcher, Natalie Portman, Brad Pitt and Uma Thurman. Situated around a swimming pool, this is luxury alfresco dining, where you can enjoy an array of incredible Italian food.

You'll also love eating at The Dining Room at the Hotel Shangri-La, where the fresh, innovative and unpretentious cooking makes "you feel at ease" – which is a polite way of saying it doesn't bloat you!

WHERE TO STAY

For an unbeatable location and stunning views of the ocean, book into the luxurious Hotel Shangri-La.

Recently restored following an £18 million refurbishment, this exclusive 1930s boutique hotel is an Art Deco landmark with 71 rooms and suites, and has become a celeb retreat for stars including Anne Hathaway, Kristin Davis and Avril Lavigne.

The chic rooms feature king-size beds, iPod docks and bathrooms with sunken tubs. Plus, the owner is such an Anglophile that she even makes sure the restaurant serves up British teabags in case you're missing your fave cuppa!

The hotel also has a tranquil courtyard with a gorgeous swimming pool and cabanas where you can work on your tan and sip a refreshing glass of Californian wine.

In one word: bliss! ■

Sarah Robertson

BOOK IT! 
SANTA MONICA

GETTING THERE

Virgin Atlantic (0870 574 7747; www.virgin-atlantic.com) flies from Heathrow to LAX on a daily basis. Fares from around £448.30, including all taxes.

WHAT TO DO

Cirque du Soleil Kooza (www.cirquedusoleil.com). Tickets start from around £36 per adult.

Pacific Park (www.pacpark.com). Unlimited ride wristbands cost from around £7.80.

The Spa Le Merigot (www.lemerigotohotel.com). The Guinot Hydradermie And Lift facial is around £114. Packages from around £150.

StarLine City Tour (www.starlinetours.com). A 24-hour ticket costs around £18 per person, while a 48-hour ticket costs around £24 per person.

WHERE TO EAT

The Penthouse (www.thehuntleyhotel.com).

Stefan's at LA Farm (www.stefansatlafarm.com).

Oliverio (www.avalonbeverlyhills.com).

The Dining Room (www.shangrila-hotel.com).

WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Shangri-La (www.shangrila-hotel.com). A Deluxe Ocean View room costs from around £208 per night including breakfast.

PHOTOS: MATRIX; PHOTOLIBRARY.COM; SPLASH NEWS