

T&C's INSIDER TRAVEL GUIDE: *Best Escapes for Sun & Sand*

# TOWN & COUNTRY

JANUARY 2013

# GLORIA VANDERBILT

An Intimate Story *Never Told*

**SEXY  
LITTLE  
BUNDLES**

# 10

Elegant Coats  
That Will Keep  
You Toasty

**WHITE  
HOUSE  
AFTER HOURS**

*Late Night  
Antics from JFK  
to Obama*

[PAGE 84]

★  
**THE  
DOWNTON  
ABBEY  
HEARTTHROB  
WHO MADE  
PBS COOL**

[PAGE 94]

JANUARY 2013 \$4.99  
01>  
0 279311 3



# THE BIG ISLAND

The beach bum's go-to.

THE SCENE

**FALLING WATER**  
Travelers walk the Waipio Valley beach, beneath Kaluahine Falls. The black sand was once red-hot lava.

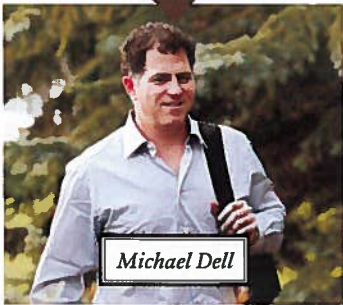
THE PERENNIALY POPULAR ISLAND OF HAWAII IS BEST DESCRIBED by its nicknames: the Big Island and Volcano. Roughly the size of Connecticut, it's actually five volcanoes, one of which (Kilauea) is continuously erupting, to the continuous delight of the many visitors to Volcanoes National Park. But if lava isn't your thing, there are mountains to climb, waves to catch, and miles of pristine beaches on which to vegetate and sip a Fire Rock Pale Ale.



From left: Hermès beach towel (\$550); Warm body oil (\$50); Eugenia Kim headband (\$150); Brooks Brothers flask (\$78); Gucci swim shorts (\$750).



WHO GOES



Michael Dell



Julia Roberts and family



Denzel Washington and family

THE MIX IS ECLECTIC AND USUALLY INCLUDES ASSORTED NATIVE HAWAIIANS—THEMSELVES A DIVERSE BUNCH—AS WELL AS HIPPIES, TECHIES, GOLFERS, SURFERS, NORTH AMERICAN AND ASIAN TOURISTS, FARMERS, AND THE OCCASIONAL FUTURE PRESIDENT. THE BIG ISLAND IS ALSO A FAVORITE GET-AWAY FOR SILICON VALLEY AND HOLLYWOOD EXECS. PAUL ALLEN HAS A COMPOUND IN KONA, AND NEIGHBOR MICHAEL DELL OWNS THE LOCAL FOUR SEASONS FRANCHISE, WHICH IS FAVORED BY NANCY PELOSI, AMONG OTHERS. DENZEL WASHINGTON AND LEONARDO DICAPRIO HAVE VISITED RECENTLY, AS HAS JULIA ROBERTS, WHO IS RUMORED TO BE MOVING THERE SOON.



# DON'T MISS

The Mauna Kea Beach Hotel is situated on a postcard-worthy strip of ocean that captivated its founder, Laurance Rockefeller, when he sailed around the island in the early 1960s. On Tuesdays the hotel hosts traditional luaus, with grass-skirted entertainment. For brand loyalists, there's the equally well-appointed Four Seasons Hualalai, which opened the Ulu Ocean Grill & Sushi Lounge in October. Both hotels have exceptional collections of indigenous Hawaiian and Pacific art. (Those interested in investigating the island's history further are advised to consult the Kohala Book Shop's 20,000 volumes online at

abebooks.com.) Hawaii once exported sugar by the boatload and imported everything else, but as big sugar has declined in recent decades, a dynamic group of small growers has taken its place, cultivating vanilla beans, macadamia nuts, and a variety of unusual fruits. For a taste of the island's bounty, sample the rambutan, a hirsute cousin of the lychee, at the Hilo farmers market, get a cup of the local Kona at the Kohala Coffee Mill in downtown Hawi, and reserve a table at Merriman's in Waimea; chef Peter Merriman has been called the Alice Waters of Hawaii. Take in the sunset over a cocktail at Huggo's, in Kona, and, if you're feeling festive, carry on to the Lava Lava Beach Club, in Waikoloa, for a faithfully mixed Blue Hawaiian. The adventurous are advised to mount up for a ride with the *paniolos*—Hawaii's cowboys—on the breathtaking 130,000 acres of the Parker Ranch, one of America's biggest and oldest working cattle ranches.



From top: Fendi bag (\$5,780); Ralph Lauren Blue Label bikini top (\$50) and bottom (\$50).



INSIDE GUIDE

PAUL THEROUX

"The happiest experience I've had on the Big Island—it may be unique to Hawaii, if not the world—was riding my bike from Hilo to the top of the Saddle Road, about 6,000 feet up, camping there, and then riding it to 10,000 feet on Mauna Kea, getting a lift to 13,000 feet, and, after a tour of the observatories, setting off in light snow and sleet and riding all the way to sea level on the sunny Kohala coast, and—the *pièce de résistance*—getting an outdoor massage at sunset in the Four Seasons Hualalai."