

# PLAYBOY

ENTERTAINMENT

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HOLIDAY  
ANNIVERSARY  
ISSUE

BEST DAMN  
SPORTS  
BEAUTY!

2004

SEXY

KATE  
BECKINSALE

LISA  
GUERRERO

THE PLAYBOY  
INTERVIEW

MAVERICKS OWNER

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LOUD AND PROUD

CAR  
WARS

DETROIT'S  
BATTLE FOR THE

21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY

RING IN THE  
NEW YEAR WITH

JOHN UPDIKE  
JAY MCINERNEY

BRUCE JAY FRIEDMAN

GM HONCHO

ROBERT LUTZ

COLORFUL TUXEDOS

SHEL SILVERSTEIN

CARS OF THE YEAR

AND A  
SPECTACULAR  
PLAYMATE REVIEW

\$6.99



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## Once Upon a Time in Mexico

There was a quiet romantic getaway set in a raging party town...

If you were to leave your New Year's plans to us, you know you'd be in good hands. Try this on for size. You wake up in your private four-bedroom, 5,200-square-foot palace at Villas Del Mar—a secluded enclave of beach villas in Los Cabos at the tip of the Baja California peninsula, where the Pacific Ocean meets the Sea of Cortés. You and your posse spend the day lounging by your infinity pool or on one of the most dramatic white-sand beaches you've ever seen while your personal chef and butler prepare margaritas and fresh local tuna. Recreational options abound to suit your mood. You're in the marlin sportfishing capital of the world, and the diving is outstanding. Or you could hit the 27-hole Jack Nicklaus-designed course while a masseuse at the spa primes your girlfriend for you. For dinner we recommend sampling the menu at Mi Cocina at the Casa Natalia hotel in town ([casanatalia.com](http://casanatalia.com)). And when you're ready to let loose? Club Ninety Six (pictured) at Villas Del Mar—with its two free-form pools and oceanside fire pits—is throwing a belated launch fiesta to ring in the new year. (The place opened in summer.) After midnight, a dip in the cool ocean will give you a second wind, so you can head back into town and dance with hot tamales until dawn. Talk about a tequila sunrise. Villas start at \$1,800 a night. Take a tour at [villasdelmar.com](http://villasdelmar.com) and you'll see it's worth every peso. Would we steer you wrong?

## World Party: Greeting 2006 in Style



**Sydney:** The early time zone makes it the first major city in the world to slam into the new year. Fireworks around the harbor set the tone for the dance-hall parties and outrageous masquerade balls that follow midnight. **Bangkok:** Lose yourself in the citywide street party, where ancient Thai ritual meets New World decadence. Never mind that Thailand's traditional New Year is in April. It doesn't get any weirder than this. **Rio de Janeiro:** Awash in a caipirinha buzz and summer sweat, 2 million white-clad Brazilians pack the sands of Copacabana beach and samba till dawn. **St. Barts:** The rich, beautiful and topless shimmy into midnight at clubs such as Nikki Beach, where it's de rigueur to be showered in Cristal. You gotta love that lather. **Las Vegas:** The mad, lubricated mob that fills the Strip, which is closed to traffic, looks like 1,000 points of happy light from on high at the Palms' 55th-floor Ghostbar roof deck.

## Drink to This

WE DID A STUDY and learned that our readers gulp down more vodka than any other liquor. In the spirit of things, we blind tasted several top-shelf brands and picked Jean-Marc XO (\$50, at fine liquor stores), a relative newcomer. The vodka is produced in the Cognac region of France using French grains and cognac-making methods. With herbal notes and an edge of anise and citrus, it's a vodka made to have flavor rather than lack it. How refreshing.

