

# Robb Report

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## CAR OF THE YEAR



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THE WORLD'S BEST CHASE THE 2008 TITLE

ASTON MARTIN | AUDI | BENTLEY | BMW | FERRARI  
LAMBORGHINI | MASERATI | MERCEDES-BENZ  
PORSCHE | ROLLS-ROYCE | SALEEN & MORE

*Ski the Matterhorn on Matterhorns; shoot through a chicane in a VRX...*



**SNOW BUSINESS** \* The Jiva Hill Park Hotel ([www.jivahill.com](http://www.jivahill.com)) in France has begun offering easy access to some of the finest ski areas in the Alps. The hotel, located on the Swiss border near Mont Blanc, has created a package that includes helicopter trips to Courchevel, Megève, Méribel, and other ski resorts in the region. The \$22,000, two-night visit includes two round-trips to a resort, ski passes, private

ski instruction, and sports massages... Sterling Skis, a Colorado company, recently introduced equipment appropriately named (and fashioned) for the Alps. The \$3,000-a-pair Matterhorn skis ([www.sterlingskis.com](http://www.sterlingskis.com)) are made with nanocarbon bases—the kind that are used for racing—reinforced with an aluminum/titanium alloy and topped with bird’s-eye maple, madrona burl, or palisander santos (a type of rosewood). Sterling plans to make no more than 150 pairs this season... Negotiating a mogul is exciting enough, but you might experience an even more intense (albeit virtual) thrill in VRX Industries’ \$25,000 VRX Mach 4 racecar simulator ([www.virtualracerx.com](http://www.virtualracerx.com)). Ensnconed in a Sparco Monza racing seat, you face three LCDs that together provide a 180-degree view of the track ahead. A screen disguised as a rearview mirror presents an image of the track behind. Surround-sound technology, a virtual wind system, and a 1,000-watt transducer beneath the seat (which VRX techs affectionately call the “butt kicker”) reinforce the realism...

**SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY** \* Addison Mizner no longer wanders the halls of the Boca Raton Resort & Club ([www.bocaresort.com](http://www.bocaresort.com)) dressed in a silk robe and leading a monkey called Ethel on a leash; Mizner died in 1933. But the famed architect and founder of the resort undoubtedly would give his blessing to recent activities there. The pink stucco, 1,047-room complex, located on 356 acres along the Intracoastal Waterway in Florida, is nearing completion of a two-year, \$200 million restoration. The owners have finished updates to the guest rooms, bungalows, spa, and tower-top restaurant and are building a three-pool beach club. They also have redone a lounge called Mizner’s Monkey Bar... Twelve years ago, the first Palm Beach—America’s International Fine Art & Antique Fair ([www.palmbeachfair.com](http://www.palmbeachfair.com)) took place in a tent in a vacant lot. This year it is expected to attract more than 35,000 visitors and some 100 exhibitors, including, for the first time, the French jewelry house Van Cleef & Arpels. Now housed in the more spacious Palm Beach County Convention Center, the fair will run from January 31 through February 10. Royal-Athena Galleries will display the amphora shown below, which dates to about 560 BC...



*Jiva Hill Park Hotel; ancient vase (both sides shown), to be displayed at Palm Beach’s International Fine Art & Antique Fair; Sterling’s Matterhorn skis.*