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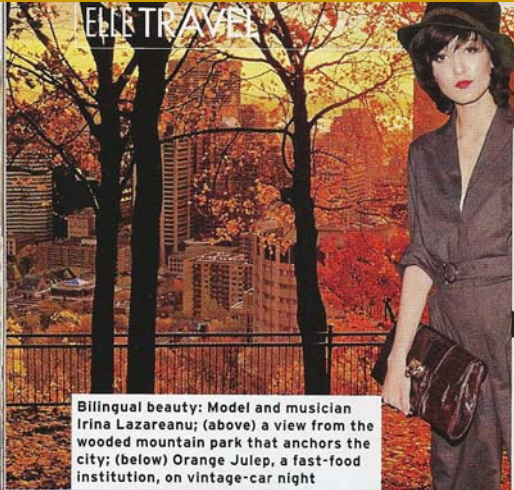
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SPIRITUAL HOME: MONTREAL

A model finds her ideal mise-en-scène in French Canada

Bilingual beauty: Model and musician Irina Lazareanu; (above) a view from the wooded mountain park that anchors the city; (below) Orange Julep, a fast-food institution, on vintage-car night

Irina Lazareanu, who has toured with Babyshambles and walked all the top runways, counts Kate Moss as an *amie*, and is dropping an album with Sean Lennon this month, has the world at her fingertips. But when she needs to recharge her soul, she returns to the same place that took in her family as refugees from Nicolae Ceaușescu's Romania when she was five years old: Quebec, Canada. She's just bought a country retreat in the Laurentian Mountains (fall foliage, fireplace heaven) about two hours outside the city, and, en route, she always makes time for her favorite Montreal haunts. "It's a little North American cross-cultural jewel," Lazareanu says. "The Plateau neighborhood has an almost '80s New York vibe—with artistic squats, poetry cafés, small galleries—that's hard to find anymore." If you're ready to tap in before it's too late (thank you, Arcade Fire!), here's her It-est hit list.

Stay: "For a special treat, I choose the St-James," she says. A sure model lure? The leopard-spot-upholstered room in this grand hotel in an 1870s former bank (355, *rue Saint-Jacques*).

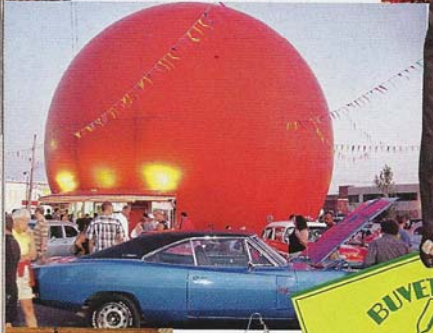
Eat, Drink, and Dance: "Le Club Chasse et Pêche is like a little romantic cave. I

have the amazing steak and fish plate (423, *rue St-Claude*). For the best *poutine* experience [the indigenous fries, gravy, and cheese curd specialty], try Orange Julep; it's been there since the '50s (7700, *blvd Décarie*). For a drink and a bit of a dance I go to the Buvette Chez Simone, which is a bar for artsy kids, like the Beatrice Inn in NYC used to be (4869, *ave du Parc*), or I hit '80s night at Copacabana (3910, *blvd Saint-Laurent*); and though I'm a Molson girl, Bily Küñ is the best beer place (354, *ave du Mont-Royal Est*."

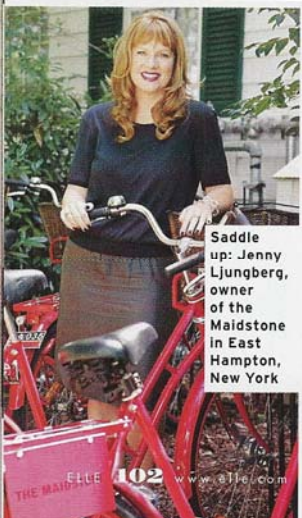
Shop: "For vintage, go to Value Village! There are four locations. You have to dig. I found a Vivienne Westwood cape from the early days for \$35 (valuevillage.com). For furniture, Boutique Jack's—I bought a 1940s marble desk and art deco lamps for my house there" (1883, *rue Amherst*).

Art Watch: Find the next Marcel Dzama or Aurel Schmidt at the warehouse turned gallery Parisian Laundry (3550, *St-Antoine Ouest*).

Hair Do: For a style souvenir, have her stylist, David, snip you long bangs à la Irina, at Salon Helmet (163, *ave du Mont-Royal Est*).—MIRANDA PURVES



City cool: (From left) Parisian Laundry gallery; Lazareanu's earrings and moc-boots from the local Kahnawake reservation; fresh catch at Le Club Chasse et Pêche; Boutique Jack's furniture store—and her beer of choice, eh?



Saddle up: Jenny Ljungberg, owner of the Maidstone in East Hampton, New York

HOTEL PERK OF THE MONTH: BIKES

As cities get ever more bike friendly (yay!), smart hoteliers are offering guests complimentary, stylish two-wheelers. We can't imagine a nicer way to experience the Hamptons off-season than on the Maidstone's red Kronans, adapted from the Swedish Army standard-issue ride (207 *Main Street*, 631-324-5006). Survey New York City's Hudson or East River Park on a cruiser from the newly opened James Hotel, the Bowery Hotel, or the Jane; or explore Boston's Charles River on one of the Liberty Hotel's steel steeds. Longing to test all the cute roadside foodie trucks in Portland, Oregon? The Hotel Monaco or the new, lower-priced W sibling, Aloft, have your carbon-emissions-free, calorie-burning vehicle waiting.—M.P.



Pack along Brit designers Tord Boontje and Emma Woffenden's new scented candles as a prophylactic against iffy guest room miasma. Made by Guatemalan artisans from recycled glass bottles and hand-poured in Los Angeles for Artecnic's Design w/ Conscience Collection. \$36, in *Fresh Cut Grass* or *Ripe Currant*, artecnica.com