



Wind in My Hair

One trip aboard one of these vessels and you may kiss conventional large cruises goodbye forever! Windstar recently had the equivalent of a facelift to the tune of \$18 million, and its three all-but-brand-new sailing yachts with teak-lined decks, towering white sails and gourmet cuisine take luxury yachting to a new level. Only 148 to 310 guests sail — yes, you actually sail — on each adventure in the Caribbean, the Mediterranean or the Baltics.

It's a privileged way to discover a quieter, less-traveled Caribbean, with itineraries deliberately designed to whisk you to hidden bays and secluded coves off-the-beaten path of the larger ships.

For example, in Martinique, the yachts anchor outside a small town and marina on the southern end of the island, avoiding the dock of the largest city where the mega ships crowd along the cement piers. The exclusive feeling continues as you sail through the ports of St. Maarten, Pigeon Island, St. Lucia, Dominica, Iles des Saintes, and St. Kitts.

Warning: one cruise and you may get hooked on their "pampering without pretense" approach. The extraordinary and elite experience has guests returning again and again to savor different itineraries on trips throughout Europe, the Caribbean, the South Pacific and the Americas, and even on transatlantic crossings.

—Marybeth Bond

www.windstar.cruises.com

DRY OUT IN DRY DUDZ

I love the water but hate wearing a soggy suit in the car after kayaking or swimming. Packing a wet one in my suitcase isn't ideal either. The boardshorts, bikini tops and separates from Dry Dudz™ are made of quick-drying material that wicks moisture away from your skin. The shorts have a comfortable yoga-style waistband that you can roll down if you want more exposure while tanning. No surprise these were invented by a mom! They come in a variety of styles and colors, and boardshorts are available for men as well. \$25 to \$75.

—Jan Schroder

www.drydudz.com



My Bodyguard

We can't all travel around with a personal bodyguard, but this messenger bag with a built-in alarm is the next best thing. The inside has plenty of room with seven compartments and fits up to a 15.5" laptop. The exterior is a durable and lightweight nylon. But the best feature is the easily activated, extremely loud personal alarm with an undetectable activation switch built into the shoulder strap so you can travel safely, wherever you go. \$89.99

—Jan Schroder

www.isafebags.com



HAPPINESS FOR SALE



"This piece has been proven to create happiness 100% of the time, as tested on roller coasters, fields of green and the DMV," read the tags on the Delivering Happiness clothing now available at Zappos. I know I felt

very happy when I slipped into the super-soft three-button leggings (\$49) and the Breezy Teezy T-shirt (\$69) with the small winky face on the shoulder. I've found the perfect traveling outfit for long flights, plus the pieces can be used for sleepwear and layering year-round. A portion of the proceeds of the net profits from the 27-piece collection for men



and women are donated



to the Happiness Movement that sponsors events and classes to "nudge the world to a happier place." It worked for me! —Jan Schroder

www.deliveringhappiness.com

Travelgirl Tip: Chattanooga's new visitors guide is out! Whether you're looking for arts and culture or how to plan your next corporate event in this exciting city on the Tennessee River, you'll want this excellent research tool. Go to www.chattanoogaofun.com and request your free copy — by mail or online.

SALT LAKE STANDOUT:

Bambara

Reserve a table at this lively restaurant in downtown Salt Lake City and let the talents of Executive Chef Nathan Powers wow you. From a AAA Four Diamond Award to an Excellent Zagat rating as one of America's Top Restaurants, the accolades have piled up for Bambara. You'll add your name to the fan list after you try the exquisite cuisine — in a setting equally perfect for a romantic evening or a high-powered business lunch. Travelgirls staying at the adjacent Hotel Monaco (a Kimpton property) will find Bambara especially convenient. Somehow, this New American bistro manages to be elegant, historic and hip all at once. The décor coincides with the building's history as the Continental Bank, with signature elements such as a penny-clad host stand and decorative safety-deposit box art. The Vault bar scene is phenomenal, as is the black and white marble exhibition kitchen — lucky guests can observe from elevated tables nearby. If you're in need of a private room, the space formerly known as the bank chairman's office provides an exclusive and stately wood-paneled retreat from the rest of the eatery; it's an urban oasis with financial district views.

Chef Powers was named Best Utah Chef in 2010, and his time-honored technique includes a dedication to organic and sustainable ingredients. The menu changes by season and is guaranteed to include prime, aged meats, fresh seafood, game, artisan cheeses and out-of-this-world desserts. The wine list and cocktail options also are outstanding.

And despite the history and decorative theme, dining here won't break the bank.

—Stephanie Oswald



www.bambara-slc.com