

# Town & Country

ESTABLISHED IN 1846

**SUNNY  
SUMMER  
STYLE!**

**CAPE TOWN  
COMES  
ALIVE**

**ONE-OF-  
A-KIND  
GEMS**

**PLUS:  
TODAY'S  
POOR  
LITTLE  
RICH  
GIRLS**

**SWE  
A  
SULT  
MOL  
SIM**

JUNE 2010 \$4.50  
0 74470 08833 2 0 6 >



Molly Sims

**FAST FACT**  
 In 2008, one of  
 Monet's water-lily  
 paintings sold for  
 more than  
 \$80 million.



'Marmorata' water lilies at the Latour-Marliac gardens.

## MONET'S INSPIRATION

**FRANCE** Legend has it that at the 1889 Paris World's Fair, Claude Monet made a pivotal discovery: cultivated water lilies grown by horticulturist Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac. The artist later bought some of the nymphaeas, planted them in a lake in his garden at Giverny and painted them into eternity on his glorious canvases. Latour-Marliac did not gain the same level of fame; his nursery and gardens, in Le Temple-sur-Lot, fell into neglect. Four years ago, however, thirty-four-year-old American Rob Sheldon made a discovery of his own: the **Latour-Marliac** nursery and its six-acre grounds were on the block. Sheldon, a lifelong aquatic-gardening hobbyist, purchased the property and began restoring the gardens to their 19th-century splendor. Visitors to this idyllic spot, halfway between Toulouse and Bordeaux, can now relax at the outdoor café while musing on the exquisite bursts of color and can even take home a rare specimen—a direct descendant of the lilies featured in Monet's beloved nymphaeas series. 011-33-5-53-01-08-05; [latour-marliac.com](http://latour-marliac.com).

CAROLINE TIGER



## BECKETT'S BRIDGE

**IRELAND** Sliced in half by the river Liffey, Dublin has always been split both geographically and spiritually, but its latest landmark is bringing the two sides a little closer. Spanning the capital's maritime gateway into Dublin Bay, the newly inaugurated **Samuel Beckett Bridge** is a tribute to one of Ireland's greatest literary heavyweights. The bridge's audacious lines, which resemble those of a harp lying on its side, were designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, who looked to this most Irish of symbols for his vision. It is the second Calatrava bridge in the city; the structures are part of a long-term plan to rejuvenate Dublin's hitherto neglected dock district. Another recent addition: a Daniel Libeskind theater. AOIFE O'RIORDAIN



## MARCO POLO SLEPT HERE

**CROATIA** Secluded Adriatic swaths of vineyards, a well-medieval quarter: the dimly-lit Croatian island of Korčula o old-world authenticity. Yet a jumble of ancient dwellings, some believe, next door to Polo was born—lies the epitome of modern elegance. At the **Lešić Dimitri Palace**, an 18th-century building has been reinvented as a boutique with just six guest residences named for, and inspired by, Marco Polo's Road travels. The Venice Suite, with its dark-backed chairs and intricate carvings, for instance, pay homage to the former Italian rulers, while the Venice Suite resembles a Bedouin tent with its cloud-white drapery. The hotel's expert concierges can organize a variety of experiences that show the island's highlights: an art lecture by a renowned Croatian sculptor, a dinner served aboard a masted gulet, or a walk would make the explorer's journey. **Doubles from \$330.** 1-607-233-1000; [lešićdimitri.com](http://lešićdimitri.com).



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