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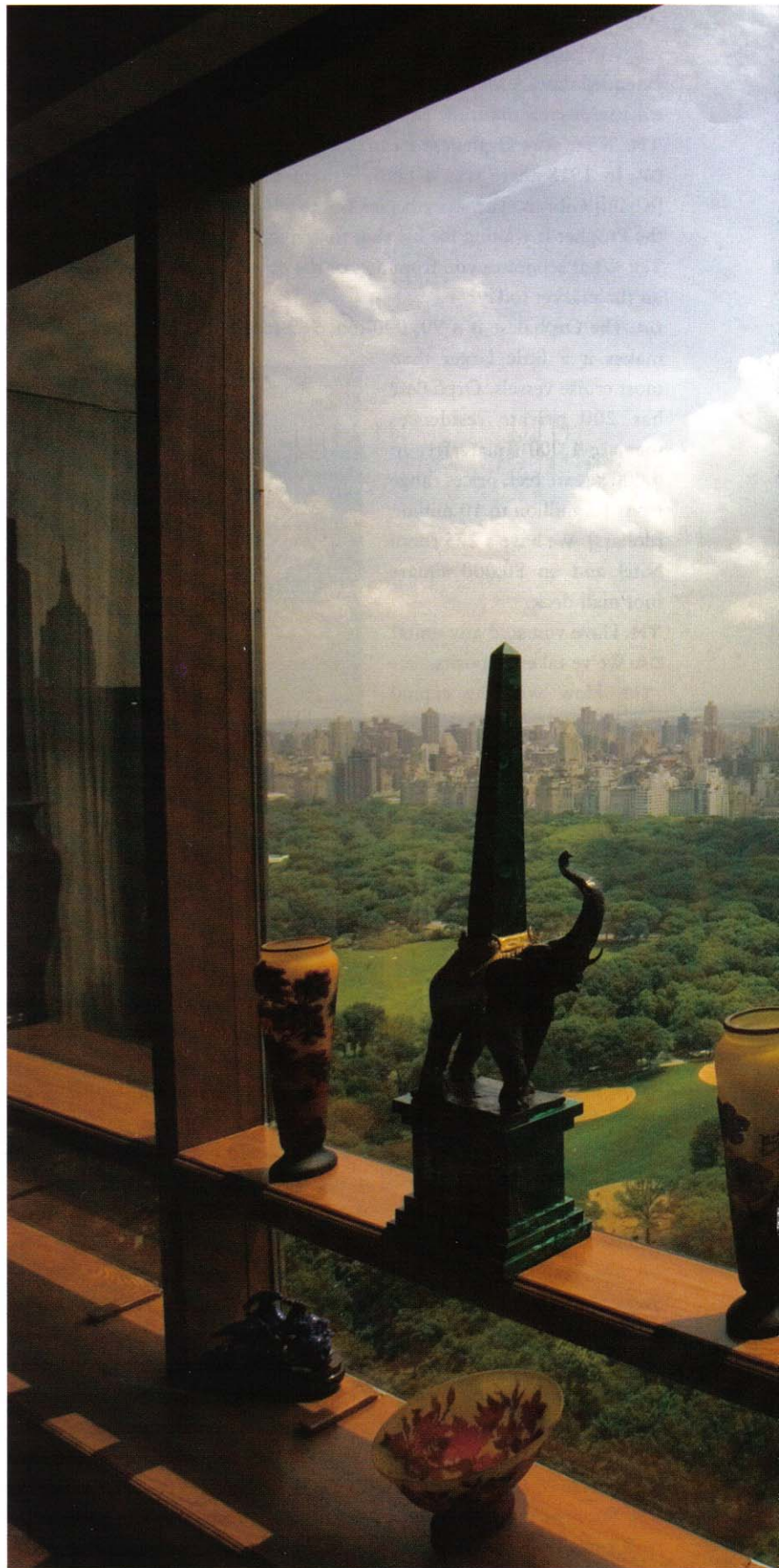
# Sky's The Limit

Get a load of these views! From Manhattan's skyline to Miami sunshine, Tuscan hills to Wyoming peaks, wake up to the world's choicest views—for a price.

by ALEX R. AUSTIN

If your tastes run towards spare and lean, read no farther. It wasn't enough to buy two coveted apartments in the Trump International Hotel & Tower at the corner of New York's Central Park. The European owners of this spread lavished millions of dollars on a renovation, creating an opulent home in the sky. Located on a high floor of One Central Park West, the apartment encompasses a grand 6,360 square feet of space, spread over 11 rooms. The rich tone is apparent from the second one enters the foyer and gallery, which is paved with several kinds of marble, adorned with gilded brass medallions and solid marble columns, topped with a hand-painted mural.

The apartment includes six bedrooms and six marble baths, each done in a different color, and floor-to-ceiling windows throughout. The corner living room faces Central Park. The antique Versailles floors contrast nicely with the shining lacquered mahogany walls, which rise to a coffered ceiling gilded in gold. Leather-lined shelves surround a hefty onyx dry bar in the corner, and





The spare-no-expense master bath in the Trump International apartment

an entertainment set is cleverly concealed along one wall. The extraordinary attention to detail extends to every corner of the home. Brass rods in the custom closets pull out at a touch. Twin wine coolers are concealed behind mahogany doors. The eat-in chef's kitchen has a sound and odor-proof glass door separating it from the rest of the home—though who needs a kitchen when you have Jean-Georges downstairs?

Perhaps the most stunning room is the master bath (one of two in the suite), which is clad in brilliant blue lapis lazuli, accented with gold-toned marble. The

star-patterned dome above the round tub complements the striking city views. Priced at \$33 million, it is listed with Elizabeth Sample and Brenda Powers at Brown Harris Stevens.

#### BELLA VILLA

With its russet tile roofs and verdant vineyards, Tuscany can exert a powerful pull on the imagination. But the reality of owning a villa—finding a charming farmhouse to restore, navigating the laws governing foreign ownership, not to mention the maintenance—can be a sour grape to swallow.

Castello di Casole, a new (yet old) luxu-

ry estate in the Italian countryside, offers a way around all those obstacles. The 6,000-acre development is centered around a centuries-old castle that is being transformed into a luxury resort and spa. It lies 45 minutes from Florence and two and a half hours from Rome. Perhaps even more special than the castello itself are the estates that surround it—a number of vintage farmhouses, each on at least 20 acres of property. These rustic *casali* are being restored, updated and furnished to meet the standards of the most sophisticated international traveler. And they are being offered for sale, as whole or fractional ownerships, to discerning buyers who want to experience hassle-free Tuscan living.

The classic villas will have a host of sumptuous details, from Frette sheets to hand-set travertine floors to Philippe Starck fixtures. Though each one is unique, all seven compounds feature guest residences, infinity pools lined in Italian tile, and outdoor fireplaces. The homes are individually furnished with fine antiques and contemporary pieces. Castello di Casole provides luxury services to all owners—a personal chef, daily housekeeping, wireless Internet access—so they can turn their attentions to hiking, biking, touring, or simply enjoying the views of the gently folding land.



Castello di Casole nestled in the Tuscan hills



**Mediterranean-style mansion on Key Biscayne**

Of course, no Tuscan estate would be complete without a culinary component. The grounds of Castello di Casole have black truffles to be hunted and cooking and wine classes will be available. Grapes and olives are harvested from the property, and wine and oil are bottled under the estate's private label. Prices range up to \$6 million for full ownership. For more information, visit [castellodicasole.com](http://castellodicasole.com).

### **BISCAYNE BEAUTY**

Think it's impossible to have an island lifestyle just ten minutes from downtown? Try settling in Key Biscayne. The four-mile-long barrier island dangles between the Atlantic Ocean and Biscayne Bay, just seven miles from Miami. Though small, the northernmost Florida key has more than 30 acres of pristine beaches. Both ends of the island are covered by parks that help preserve its exclusive feel.

Make like one of the power elite with this decadent new Mediterranean-style mansion. The residence lies at the end of a cul-de-sac, its apricot façade and tile roof sheltered behind walls and gates. It overlooks the Pines Canal and Bill Baggs State Park. The waterfront

home includes eight bedrooms, eight baths and two half baths in 11,000 square feet of space. A gracious entrance leads to a grand salon, with a Macedonian stone fireplace, high beamed ceilings, and Palladian windows that stretch to meet them. Throughout the home, floors are made of exotic woods and inlaid Crema Marfil marble. The detailed millwork is fashioned from mahogany.

The estate was designed for gracious entertaining, from the gourmet kitchen to the barbecue gazebo. The billiards room has its own wet bar and the paneled theater is furnished with leather recliners.

In the rear of the house, iron and glass doors open onto the poolside terraces, which look out over the water. The master bedroom is a prized retreat, with views of park and water, its own sitting room, two fireplaces, a wet bar and his and hers marble baths. Six other bedrooms have en-suite baths, and the one-bedroom guesthouse has a full bath and kitchen. Of course, such luxury does not come cheap. The residence is priced at \$15 million and is available through Audrey Ross at Esslinger-Wooten-Maxwell. 