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Travel

DESTINATIONS, TIPS AND TOURS

Libation of the year: tequila and Tang on a remote Baja beach at dusk. My **favorite appetizer** was an après-ski, three-mushroom (chanterelle, shiitake and oyster) appetizer on a November night at the Tamarack Lodge in Mammoth Lakes. **Favorite dinner:** ravioli Caprese at La Campannina on via le Botteghe on Capri in April. **Most excessively trendy dinner:** nouveau pub cuisine at the North Pole, in Greenwich, England, with a goldfish circling above us in a water-filled chandelier. **Loudest meal:** Terence Conran's enormous and American-filled Mezzo restaurant on Wardour Street in London's West End. **Most humiliating meal:** black coffee and dry cereal at 7 a.m. at a campground in Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains, following the midnight theft of my milk by a skunk.

Places I don't need to see again: Tombstone, Ariz. (here's the theme park, but where's the town?); downtown Cabo San Lucas (time-

Best museum was the Art Institute of Chicago, an Impressionist treasure trove. **Best souvenir** was a pretty little Alvar Aalto glass pitcher purchased for about \$25 at the Helsinki Airport, well-loved but broken in my move to L.A. **Best airline deal**, hands down, was Cathay Pacific's All-Asia Pass, offering 21 days of travel among 16 Asian cities for \$999. **Best meal:** a five-course extravaganza for two for about \$300 (with wine) at Le Cirque in Las Vegas' new Bellagio Hotel. **Best sunset:** from the porch at Hubbard's Yellowstone Lodge in the Paradise Valley of southwestern Montana.

A collection of trinkets keeps past trips from slipping from my memory. My accumulation may be larger than the average curio trove—in almost seven years as a professional tourist, I've logged 479 days on the road and slept in 261 different lodgings—but we all want to keep such memories alive.

