

*Anthea Gerrie's crème de la crème guide*

# The VIP treatment

**N**OW THAT SO many former five-star-only treats are standard in four-star hotels, it's the really special services that make the top tier stand out from the crowd.

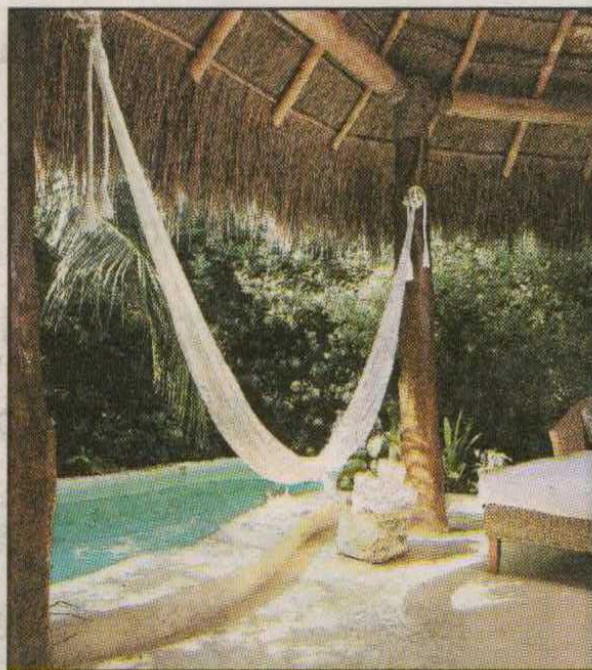
The Kulm Hotel, in St Moritz actually guarantees to fulfil a guest's every dream. It has so far arranged for visitors to conduct an orchestra, take part in a West End musical and play golf with an international sporting star.

At The Ferme de Moudon, an uber-posh chalet sleeping 10 in the French ski resort of Les Gets, they hand out cashmere bedsocks to guests, to warm their tootsies after a hard day's skiing.

In Paris, The Bristol will arrange out-of-hours visits to top museums for guests who want to have the place to themselves – that even includes the Louvre. Top New York concierges bring the best of Barneys and other fashion emporia to the rooms of busy guests, for a private trying-on session.

The Tides, on Mexico's Mayan Riviera, has a "soap concierge" who creates a personal selection for guests from a choice of herb-scented slabs. Other concierges are more like a PA. The one assigned to me at the Como Shambhala retreat on Bali shadowed me every step of the way, making sure I didn't miss a yoga or massage appointment.

Villas Valriche in Mauritius offers an "e-concierge", to schedule everything



**Tides: veranda with plunge pool**

you want to do before you arrive, so you don't miss out on trips that might sell out fast. He will also shop for groceries and book you a private chef, butler, nanny or golf coach.

A surprising number of British hotels will treat your pooch to gourmet chicken-and-rice dinners, comfy beds, matching food and water bowls and a welcome biscuit. Fewer make special arrangements for children, though the best offer five-star high tea for youngsters – at the Isle of Eriska in Scotland, our three-year-old was served from a silver salver. And Bovey Castle in Devon offers "Toddler Turndown", with pint-sized robe and slippers for little ones and warm milk at bedtime.