

THE HOT ISSUE: SUMMER'S STEAMIEST PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

HOME TOUR: THE W'S ARCHITECT INVITES US UP | GETAWAY: HOUSTON | BEAUTY BOOTY GIVEAWAY | SNAPPED!

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Hot, not
bothered

Houston is hot

AND WE DON'T JUST MEAN STICKY AND SWELTERING. HERE'S OUR LIST OF TOP PICKS FOR A WEEKEND GETAWAY.

BY JACKIE BOLIN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY EVANS CAGLAGE

HOT ART

The Menil Collection: Art plays a major part in the lives of Houstonians, who are legendary for their support. The late John and Dominique de Menil led the way, and their vast private collection (nearly 15,000 works from antiquity to avant garde) is showcased in this masterpiece of modern architecture by Richard Fitzgerald & Partners of Houston and Renzo Piano. Just across the street, don't miss the Rothko Chapel — a serene, stunning place of meditation created for 14 Rothko masterpieces.

1515 Sul Ross St., 713-525-9400, menil.org



HOT SLEEP

Hotel ZaZa: Champagne on arrival, downtown views à la *Urban Cowboy*, 3,000-square-foot suites — there's little not to like about Houston's ZaZa. Hotelier Charlie Givens' latest is creating as big a buzz here as the original did in Dallas. Rooms are spacious, quiet and comfortable. But this is ZaZa we're talking about, and you can always find a party. If the 200-plus seat Monarch restaurant isn't where it's at, try the pool, which is lined with chic cabanas stocked with flat-screen TVs.

5701 Main St., 713-526-1991, rooms \$200 to \$5,000, hotelzazahouston.com



HOT BOÎTE

13 Celsius: We heard the buzz from stylish friends before we ever left Dallas: "You have to go to 13 C." The low-key, very cool wine bar takes its name from the optimal temperature to store great wine and maintain its integrity. Housed in an understated raw space in budding Midtown, 13 C is the perfect place to start an evening.

3000 Caroline St., 713-443-2333, 13celsius.com



HOT EATS

Bar Annie: A cross between a club and a cafe, Bar Annie is the sibling to Café Annie, Robert Del Grande's beloved upscale eatery and a Houston staple. For low-key and late night, Bar Annie is the perfect place for a glass of champagne and a nib: guacamole, homemade french fries or maybe a specialty ceviche.

1728 Post Oak Blvd., 713-840-1111, cafe-annie.com



HOT SHOPPING

Our loyalty to Dallas is fierce, but we have to confess: We love shopping Houston. Wheels are required — if you're at ZaZa, opt for chauffeur service in a blacked-out Escalade — but each of these wildly imaginative stores is well worth it.

1 Indulge: Mix's Evelyn Gorman tipped us off to this serene shop that offers everything from heavenly bedding, modern glass and tableware to international design mags, handmade baby toys and fragrances.

2903 Saint St., 713-888-0181, indulgedecor.com

2 Kuhl-Linscomb: Enter KL and you may think you've stepped into one of the best little gift shops and international apothecaries ever. But head out the back door and be truly amazed: Five sprawling residential buildings have been converted into showrooms devoted to everything from furnishings, to closet and kitchen systems, china and stationery. A must for any home-decor aficionado.

2424 West Alabama St., 713-526-6000, kuhl-linscomb.com

3 Mix Modern Clothing: Jil Sander, Chloé, Miu Miu and Balenciaga for women fill an award-winning building designed by New York architect Albert Marichal. Owner Evelyn Gorman (left) has long been a tastemaker in town. She might even tip you off to some of Houston's other hot spots.

2707 Colquitt St., 713-522-0606

4 Hamilton Shirts: One of the city's oldest family-run businesses, Hamilton has been creating fine custom dress shirts (tailoring on par with Savile Row, it's said) since 1883. No Houston shopping trip would be complete without at least considering a shirt (price, \$200 to \$400; delivery, 3 to 4 weeks) from this quality-obsessed shop, which also makes private-label shirts for our own Stanley Korshak.

5700 Richmond Ave., 713-264-8800, www.hamiltonshirts.com

5 Alexandra Knight: Former NY fashion editor Knight sells swanky alligator bags, clutches and accessories from her atelier, a little bungalow a bit off the beaten path. Custom services are also available, as every social in town knows. Knight will dye exotic skins to match any dress, whether it's the deepest purple or a shocking shade of yellow.

2820 Ferndale, by appointment only, 713-527-8848, alexandraknightonline.com