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TRAVEL WATCH

And You're Off!

By **SHELLY BANJO**
April 1, 2008

Is the stock market giving you a run for your money? Try betting instead on the horses at the Kentucky Derby.

Head to Louisville, Ky., May 1 through May 4 for a couple of mint juleps and a three-night's stay at the Hampton Inn. At \$2,449 per person (double occupancy), you will receive grandstand tickets to the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks, a gift bag, fast-access passes and an open premium bar and gourmet food each day.

Want to up the ante? Upgrade to the Millionaire's Row Package for \$8,999 per person (double occupancy). Enjoy a three-night stay in your choice of the Seelbach Hilton Hotel, the Brown Hotel or the Hyatt Regency-Louisville, plus the best seats in the house for the big race, on Millionaire's Row, which typically is filled with celebrities and state officials. Book your package at Quint Events, 1-866-834-8663 or visit www.quintevents.com/kd134.

Mexican Getaway

The price of gold has been soaring, but liquid gold, *Xocolatl*, is flowing at the Ohtli Spa at CasaMagna Marriott in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The Girls' Getaway package offers four spa treatments, including two using Xocolatl (pronounced shoco-latl), a drink made with cacao that was reserved for Aztec royalty in ancient times. For \$1,611 per person, you will receive a Chocolate Indulgence spa treatment and a chocolate soak, as well as three nights' stay in a deluxe ocean-view room, a daily breakfast buffet for two at the resort's restaurants, and two passes to wellness areas, sauna and Swiss shower. Call 1-888-PARADISE (727-2347) or book online through Dec. 10 at www.casamagnapuertovallarta.com and refer to rate code FLP.

Europe Opens Doors

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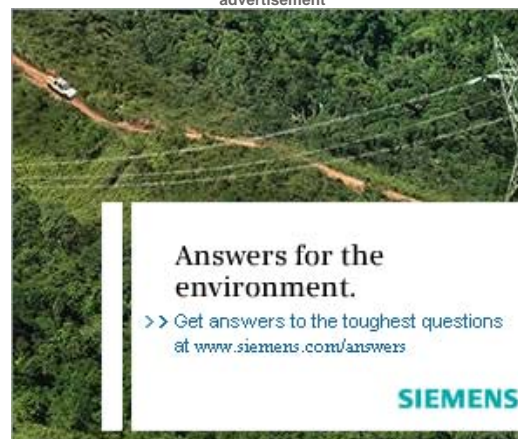
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The open-skies agreement went into effect Sunday, giving passengers more choices of airlines and cities when flying between U.S. and European Union destinations.

In conjunction with the treaty, [British Airways](#) is launching a subsidiary trans-Atlantic airline this summer called OpenSkies, which will add daily direct flights between New York and Paris (with more routes to come through 2009). OpenSkies will offer personal entertainment with more than 50 hours of programming, as well as fresh, healthy meals, British Air said. For details, visit flyopenskies.com.

Briefs:

JetCombo is looking to bypass the major airport hubs by tapping into 5,400 underused U.S. airports, combining private-charter and commercial-jet service to avoid delays and reach destinations underserved by airlines. Go to www.JetCombo.com and enter the city name of your true departure and destination points, Denton, Texas, to Fort Myers, Fla., for instance, and the site will display the most efficient route, whether it be a private flight, national carrier or a combination.

Duck out of work early with a four-day, three-night stay at the Sheraton Grand Bahama Island's Lucaya resort. If your stay includes a Friday, you'll pay only for two nights at \$89 per person per night. Plus, you will receive breakfast, happy hour and unlimited golf for the day. Book by April 16 for travel until Sept. 1 at www.travelocity.com/freefridays.

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