

EUROPE'S NEW ILLEGALS • CHINA'S TIPPING POINT

Newsweek

June 11, 2007

Newsweek.com

AFTER BUSH

How to Restore America's Place in the World

By Fareed Zakaria



PHOTOGRAPH BY EROS HOAGLAND — REDUX



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|----------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Algeria | \$15.00 | B.V.I. and T.C. | US \$3.75 | Costa Rica | C 1,500.00 | El Salvador | US\$4.00 | Mexico | \$40.00 | Uruguay | N \$115.00 |
| Andia | AF 7.25 | Cayman Islands | CI \$3.50 | Cuba | US \$3.50 | Guatemala | C 30.00 | Neth. Antilles | NAF 7.25 | Venezuela | BS 6,500.00 |
| Bahamas | BAH \$4.00 | Chile | \$2,300.00 | Dominican Rep. | RD \$105.00 | Honduras | L 50.00 | Nicaragua | US \$3.50 | West Indies | EOC \$12.00 |
| Barbados | BD \$7.25 | Colombia | COL \$10,400.00 | Ecuador | US\$4.00 | Jamaica | Jam\$360.00 | Panama | B 4.25 | | |
| Belize | BZE \$6.50 | Costa Rica | C 1,500.00 | El Salvador | C 30.00 | | | Paraguay | GS \$12,500.00 | | |
| Bolivia | BS 25.00 | Cuba | US \$3.50 | Guatemala | Q 31.50 | | | Peru | US \$4.00 | | |
| Brazil | R \$11.00 | Dominican Rep. | RD \$105.00 | Honduras | L 50.00 | | | Trinidad/Tobago | TT \$28.00 | | |

FOOD

Special Deliveries

For cooks who can't find that obscure recipe ingredient at the local market, specialist food Web sites offer door-to-door delivery of everything from white truffles to cuttlefish ink. **Osgrow.co.uk** specializes in alternative meats such as bison, buffalo, crocodile, ostrich and wild boar. Their selection is not for the faint-hearted; they offer such unusual fare as rattlesnake, python and even locust meat, a good source of protein advertised to have a light nutty flavor and crispy texture. At **thegarlicstore.com**, garlic is not

just a bulb; it's a delicacy that varies region to region, like fine wine. The site sells such varieties as chesnok red (the top seller), Russian giant and shantung purple, and offers recipe suggestions. For the

Acquired taste
Jellied eels cost £15.70 for 750g

sugar-free cacao nibs. Offering more than 200 kinds of seafood, **thefishsociety.co.uk** delivers products like frog legs, puréed seaweed and trophy fish



Big package Giant red crab legs come up to 40 centimeters long from thefishsociety.co.uk



South America's Blue Parallel has arranged for clients to chill with members of the Brazilian soccer team. U.K.-based

harmonious rich goji berries and

-ALISON MOODIE

TRAVEL

The Inside Track

CONCIERGES HAVE LONG MADE DINNER RESERVATIONS or gotten theater tickets for hotel guests. Now well-connected tour operators are tapping friends to help their clients gain access to people, places and events that were once out of reach. South America's Blue Parallel has arranged for clients to chill with members of the Brazilian soccer team. U.K.-based Quintessentially got one customer front-row seats at a Milan fashion show and another tickets to a sold-out U2 concert in Dublin. Latitude International recently set up a memorable day on the links for a client's husband who just turned 50. "He was an avid golfer so we arranged for European legend Seve Ballesteros to meet him at the tee for 18 holes," says director Dominic Hampshire. Often such matchmaking is done as a favor; though the client pays the concierge service, the local mover-and-shaker accepts no money. History buffs enjoy lunch in the home of a Scottish duke or duchess, arranged by Latitude International, which donates the fee to the aristocrat's charity of choice. It's the closest many travelers will ever get to living like a king.



I KNOW THE WAY: New concierges offer power trips

HOT SPOT



HOTEL DEGLI ORAFI FLORENCE

Tucked between the Uffizi Gallery and the Ponte Vecchio, there is a place to sleep in style. Suite 414 is a masterpiece set his 1908 novel "Room With a View," and where the touching finale of the 1986 movie adaptation was shot.

Ambience: Passing through the arched doors is like stepping back into the 13th century, when the property was built as a convent. Even though it was renovated after a 1993 Mafia bombing of the adjacent Uffizi, the hotel oozes with traditional Florentine charm. The library still has original frescoes and the ruins of a medieval tower are evident in the foyer. The first-floor breakfast room retains 19th-century frescoes from its life as a ballroom.

Rooms: There are 42 lovely rooms, but none beats Suite 414. The original room with a view is divinely dressed in deep colors but it's the large private terrace that makes it worth the €570 a night. Here you can sip wine, survey the skyline and gaze down upon the Ponte Vecchio and Arno River.

Amenities: If you tire of the view from your room, head up to the bar on the panoramic terrace to take in the stunning details of the historical center of Florence. The hotel has no restaurant, but the concierge will gladly book you in a nearby dining room. Don't forget to bring a copy of Forster's novel to compare the details.

-BARBIE NADEAU