

# TRAVELER'S NOTEBOOK



**BUSH BOUTIQUE** The legacy of F. M. “Bunny” Allen, the safari leader who made his name in Kenya, continues at a new luxury boutique on Madison Avenue. **F. M. ALLEN** offers bespoke trip planning, durable luggage from South Africa (from \$135), a signature line of classic, functional fashions made in a moisture-wicking fabric (from \$150) and an impressive collection of antique accessories and British campaign furniture, such as the daybed pictured above (\$7,250). The creative force behind the store—a trio of New Yorkers with a passion for Africa—drew inspiration from Allen’s remarkable life, which they first learned about after he died last year at the age of ninety-five. The obituaries called him the last of the white colonial-era hunters and told how his charisma and bush skills attracted the attention of Hollywood. In the 1950s Allen worked on several films, including *Mogambo*, in which he acted as Clark Gable’s stunt double and reportedly romanced Grace Kelly and Ava Gardner. His namesake store, a joint venture with Allen’s family, is devoted to the best of all things safari and to the lore and style of a bygone era. 962 Madison Avenue; 212-737-4374.

CHANTAL M. McLAUGHLIN



## RAJASTHAN REVEALED

For her glorious new photography book, **RAJASTHAN** (Assouline; \$65), Pauline van Lynden traveled throughout India’s second-largest state over the course of fifteen years, capturing the vibrancy of its fairs, forts, markets and people. To reveal the region’s splendor, van Lynden devotes entire chapters to the making of jewelry and textiles, as well as to daily life. “I have brought together my photographs as a collage,” she explains, “using them as if they were paint, to portray more forcefully what catches my eye and my soul.” Her layering technique is deeply affecting: on one page you’ll see a fort shot from afar paired with a detail of its carved wooden door. *Rajasthan* is the rare travel book that leaves you both awed by what the author has seen and inspired to make the trip yourself. M.B.B.

**STYLE ON THE SLOPES** Jump-start your après-ski conversations with **SOPHIA SWIRE**’s witty cashmere-and-silk sweaters and hats, which bear such declarations as “I’m an heiress,” “Rock Star,” “Can Ski” and “Can Skate.” Ten years ago, after a stint as an aid worker in Pakistan, Swire launched a successful pashmina-shawl business. Now knitwear is her focus, and the avid skier—who can be found on the pistes of Verbier most winters—designed her line, which comes in red, black, ivory, gray and purple, so she’d have something cute and comfortable to wear. Her other bons mots include “Lolita,” “Nuts” and “Red Hot.” Selected hats (\$95) and sweaters (\$225–\$275) at Ultimo, Chicago; 312-787-1171. For more stores, visit [www.sophiaswire.com](http://www.sophiaswire.com). C.M.M.



Town & Country (USA), November 2003