

THE GUIDE
TO PRIVATE
MEMBERSHIP
CLUBS
AROUND THE
WORLD

the city's heritage, there is no need to leave the building—and that's Palazzo Pauly's true selling point. When Morawetz snapped up the faded palazzi, then used as warehouses, the dusty spaces were bursting with thousands of pieces of guano-encrusted glass he planned to junk. It was only after chatting with close friend and onetime Sotheby's chairman Alfred Taubman that the developer learned he'd accidentally bought the world's most important modern Murano glass collection, gratis, with the building. The so-called Pauly collection is a 1,000-piece El Dorado for Venetian-glass aficionados, selected from the 160,000 items Morawetz originally discovered and said to be worth about \$7 million. (The remainder was auctioned off.) Morawetz then hired conservator Giordana Naccari and earmarked a section of the club's first floor for a museum; now a rotating selection of these top pieces is on display. *Membership fee, \$6,830 a year. For inquiries, contact Andrea Barbali at 39-041/520-8026 or andrea.barbali@palazzopaully.com (palazzopaully.com).*

Palazzo Tornabuoni

A former Florentine Medici palace, Tornabuoni is now a private residence club with 288 art-minded international members who share a love for Florence. Original artwork created during the building's 500-year history fills the 30-foot-high common space and 36 apartments, while the walls of the Pope's Suite, once home to Pope Leo XI, feature frescoes by Agostino Ciampelli, whose work is also on display at the nearby Uffizi Gallery. The Opera Suite is where *Dafne*, the world's first opera, debuted. Religious motifs date back to the 1500s, and other apartments, renovated in the 17th and 18th centuries, have decorative touches like the floral stucco detailing of the palazzo's two-bedroom Michelozzo Residence. The staff also provides unique access, such as members-only visits to private art collections and an alternative entrance to the Uffizi, as well as other bespoke arts, vineyard, and hunting outings. *Initiation fee, \$336,000–\$845,000; annual fee, \$12,700–\$32,500. For inquiries, contact Carmel D'Arienzo at 866-753-6667 or info-us@palazzo-tornabuoni.com (palazzotornabuoni.com).*



Palazzo Tornabuoni's grand staircase

AUTO

Classic Car Club and Spin

Classic Car Club (initiation fee, from \$1,500; annual dues, from \$7,500; classiccarclub.com) is a global private auto club that gives members access to a stable of more than 50 classic vehicles from Ferraris to traditional American muscle cars. Members must join a specific city outpost but can use cars from all locations. A Gold Carbon Fiber membership offers drivers 50 to 60 driving days in vehicles from the top fleet, say, the Bentley GTC, as well as another 20 to 30 days to use autos such as the 1968 Porsche 911. In Venice, California, Spin (membership fee, from \$9,550 for 20 days of driving a year; spin-la.com) puts drivers in one of its beautifully restored classics like the '55 Cadillac Coupe de Ville and the *Smokey and the Bandit* 1978 Trans Am. Members buy a package of driving days at this club, and nonmembers can rent by the day. Spin will sell its models to those who simply can't bear to return them.

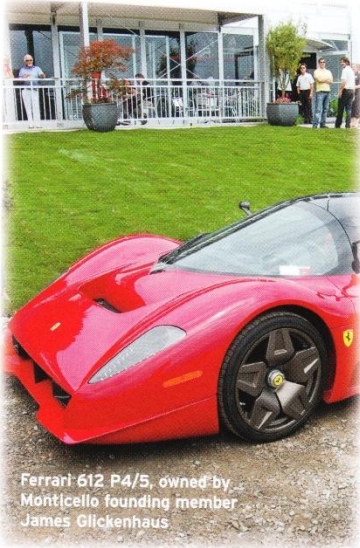
Ferrari 250 GTO Anniversary

Every five years the envy of the car-collecting world gathers to celebrate the

birth of one of the most desirable vehicles ever produced: the Ferrari 250 GTO. (At \$10.7 million, it once held the record for most expensive car ever sold at auction.) Invitations are sent to the owners of each of the 36 racecars, which were produced for only two years, from 1962 to 1964. Twenty-some people typically make the Moët & Chandon-hosted rally, where they exchange stories and drive from one estate to another to visit everything from great car collections to wineries; past destinations have included the private showroom of Ferrari collector extraordinaire Pierre Bardinon and the Rothschild and Margaux vineyards. Most important, though, is that when these members get together, they drive. Last year the group met in California's Napa Valley, exercising their multimillion-dollar rides on the legendary Highway 1, with its twists and turns and breathtaking ocean views. In 2012 the anniversary drive will depart from Moët & Chandon's headquarters in Epernay, France, and zip along back roads for up to five days before arriving at the test track in Ferrari's hometown, Maranello, Italy—a sort of 50th-anniversary homecoming for the most storied name in racecars. *No membership fee. For inquiries, contact Jean Berchon at jberchon@moet.fr.*

Monticello Motor Club

Just opened in July, Monticello is a super-exclusive auto club for amateur drivers as well as pros (Jeff Gordon is a member). The thrill here is driving your car to the max, say, 200 mph. The brand-new track features 22 turns, many banked and sharp, over 4.1 miles and incorporates a former airplane landing strip as a straightaway. What's more, the course is adaptable; it can be driven in its full length or partitioned into three independent circuits to create dynamic experiences. Already spotted on the track in the club's short era of operation: a \$1.8 million Bugatti Veyron, a Ferrari 599, a Bentley GT Speed, and a Lamborghini Gallardo. Monticello is just 90 minutes from Manhattan—or 25 minutes via helicopter to the track's private landing pad—and also offers private instruction, overnight stays, garage services, and access to its stable of exotic autos. Membership will be capped at 500. *Initiation fee,*



Ferrari 612 P4/5, owned by Monticello founding member James Clickenhaus

\$125,000; annual dues, \$7,500. For inquiries, contact Jason Bannerman at 877-578-7223 or jbannerman@monticellomotorclub.com (monticellomotorclub.com).

Van Horsen Group

With just a quick phone call, a Van Horsen member booking a late-notice flight can have a Ferrari F430 or an Aston Martin Vanquish S waiting at the airport or at a private airstrip in, say, Kansas. With just 48 hours' notice, the Scottsdale, Arizona-based club will deliver any of its cars to members anywhere in the United States. With only 100 current members (and a 2008 limit of 400), this is one of the world's most exclusive car clubs. *Initiation fee, \$6,820; car rentals, from \$3,415 a week.* For inquiries, contact Ron Van Horsen at 602-312-3276 or rvh@vanhorsengroup.com (vanhorsengroup.com).

BEACH

Hualalai Club

This is a private residence club on the Kona-Kohala coast of Hawaii's Big Island. Life for the 269 members (a number that will grow to 585) centers on Hualalai's Canoe Club, a clubhouse overlooking Uluweu Bay. Here the staff curates all types of activities, from surfing and snorkeling trips to races in

traditional outriggers. Hualalai Club membership is available only to residents of the Hualalai Resort, which has two stunning golf courses, one designed by Jack Nicklaus and the other by Tom Weiskopf. *Initiation fee, \$225,000; annual dues, \$28,125.* For inquiries, contact John Freitas at 808-325-8482 or jffreitas@hualalairesort.com.

Lyford Cay and Old Fort Bay

Founded in the Bahamas in the early fifties by Canadian businessman Edward Plunkett Taylor, Lyford Cay (membership fee, about \$85,000; lyfordcayhomes.com) still represents the sober midcentury resort club. In recent years the old guard here has become a bit... old, hence its nickname, Lifeless Cay. "There's like a page of rules about how to wear a baseball cap," says one member. But the surrounding area is taking on a new chic with the influx of a younger set at Old Fort Bay (initiation fee, \$215,000; annual dues, \$5,040; oldfortbay.com), which abuts Lyford. Opened in 2003, it occupies the ruins of a British antipirate fort. Although Lyford remains much harder to get into and is still the big hitter in terms of services (golf course, 12 tennis courts, a large clubhouse), Old Fort Bay has the most beautiful beach on the island as well as an extraordinary bar and restaurant tucked into the jungle, a welcome break from Lyford's suburban leanings. "The rules are more relaxed at Old Fort," says a member of both clubs. "It's younger, cooler."



Breakfast at the Lightbourne House, one of Lyford Cay's first estates, built by Bill and Babe Paley

Ocean Reef Club

Few places remain that hark back to a different time, one when the wealthy were more homogenous and the public display of money was considered vulgar. And of these, some have succumbed. Nantucket, for instance, is home to \$30 million houses, and Hummers have been spotted on the island. But the ORC, on Key Largo, an hour from Miami, still manages to keep the lid on the Maybach set. In the past if you wanted to visit, a member would have to sponsor you for a stay in one of the bungalows or mansions. Now, in an effort to broaden its membership base, the club allows nonmembers to reserve a place twice in a five-year period. There are two golf courses, fitness facilities, and an extensive pool area, with tons of activities for kids. The offshore fishing is superb; snapper can be caught almost as soon as the lure enters the water. A spa is undergoing renovation, and one of the restaurants has a celebrity chef: Michelle Bernstein, a James Beard-award winner who hosts *Check, Please*, her own TV show. *Initiation fee, \$215,000; annual dues, \$5,040.* For inquiries, contact Michelle Simpson at 305-367-5921 or msimpson@oceanreef.com (oceanreef.com).

Royal Island

Former Dallas Cowboy great Roger Staubach is behind this new residence club on a 432-acre private island in the Bahamas, 50 miles northeast of Nassau. Royal Island is scheduled to open December 2010—but 24 of the 269 homes have been sold already. Members can choose from oceanfront estates, marina villas, and parcels of land as large as 24 acres. The marina is on a natural harbor that requires no serious dredging and has 200 slips from 50- to 400-feet long, which members will have access to. There will be boutique shops, cafés, a captain's club with a pool and lounge for crew, two private beach clubs with six restaurants, and a center for watersports. And the golf course here is the very first in a global portfolio of 25 Jack Nicklaus Signature courses worldwide that will operate as part of the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club—and Royal Island offers 35 spots there for its founding members. *Membership fee upon request.* For inquiries contact Karl Hansen at 954-703-3606 or karl.hansen@royalislandbahamas.com.