

- Getty
Christina
Aguilera

LIVE LIKE A star!

the al fresco Garden Room where J.Lo brunched. But why deny our public?

Now, the hard part of money being no object: The endless choices. For instance: Veuve Clicquot or Moët & Chandon? Oh, it's too tough ... besides, at only \$124 each, we'll just order both. And really they're just a warm up for the \$950 bottle of Mondavi/Rothschild 'Opus One' 1987. (A good year ... so fresh-faced back then, and now, thanks to Doc Hollywood.)

"Let's see, one Assiette of Duck and one Vanilla Poached Lobster," we say rather loudly to the waiter, hoping someone will overhear and report it to the tabloids. (Those anorexia rumours are getting old.) "And for dessert ... we'll have an Orange Blossom, Mimosa Royale and Ritz 75. Yes, we're aware that's the cocktail list." (If you're going to consume calories you might as well get a buzz for your bulge.)

Want to live like a star? Here's your chance. 24 hours goes undercover to take a glimpse at how the "other half" lives, and gives you the chance to win a lifestyle-of-the-rich-and-famous weekend.

■ **DAY ONE, 4 p.m. Opus Hotel, Vancouver**
(www.opushotel.com)

"Our people" check us in, and we check out the lobby. Opus gets our need to 'see and be seen' at all times. TV monitors in the bathrooms even ensure we don't miss a single A-list entrance.

Speaking of which ... isn't that...? "Yoo-hoo, Ben!" Humph. Guess not. He wouldn't have dashed off. And that wasn't Jenn.

On the way to the elevator, we almost trip over a white fuzzy thing tethered to its chic owner's arm. Honestly, Opus has gone to the dogs. When Christina Aguilera was in house, her entourage included her three fur babies, KoKo, Chui and Stinky. We would have brought our own petit chien but she was otherwise engaged ... in rehab, if you must know. (It started innocently with chew toys but escalated to Jimmy Choos. So sad, really.)

Stepping inside the elevator, we glance down at the impression Cher made on her last visit. A deep scratch on the floor is courtesy of the life cycle she insisted be hauled up to her room.

Ding! Ah, our 645 square foot Penthouse suite is the size of some people's apartment (or so we've heard). We flop on the chrome four-poster bed and decide to rest before dinner. Constantly having to thank people for being at your beck and call is exhausting.

■ **7 p.m. Elixir Restaurant/Bar** (www.elixirvancouver.ca)

Uh-oh, gawkers! Sure, maybe we're slightly over, or rather, under-dressed for dinner, but they do call it a 'bra'-sserie-style restaurant. Maybe we should ask to be seated in the privacy of the Velvet Room, where Sting and Annie Lennox went tete-a-tete. Or



- photo submitted

Opus Hotel, Vancouver

■ **DAY TWO, 6 a.m. Opus Hotel penthouse suite**

Yawn! Slipping out of our Frette robe, we freshen up with L'Occitane products and a quick hit on the in-room Oxia oxygen canister (the best antidote to an all-nighter) and we're good to go. OK, hair and makeup started working two hours ago while we were sleeping but still, that's a record in low-maintenance for us.

■ **8:30 a.m. Whistler Mountaineer** (www.whistler-mountaineer.com)

"All aboard!" Granted the three-hour train to Whistler is not the fastest way to go, but time is money, and we have scads of both, so why not take the scenic route?

We know we made the right decision when, seated in the Glacier Dome coach, they break out the bubbly for morning mimosas.

- Photo Illustration
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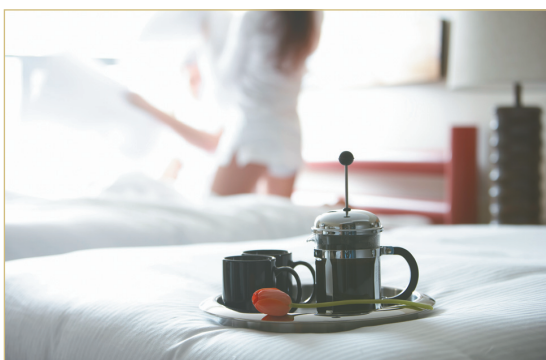
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Whistler Mountaineer

After a delicious breakfast (train food is better than plane food) we head back to the open-air Heritage Observation Car.

Alas, our adoring fans are everywhere. At every crossing, through every small town, there they are waving frantically to get our attention. We graciously wave back, as do the rest of our travelling companions (how cute).

The ocean breeze is lovely as we chug along beside Howe Sound. Natural beauty is really underrated, we think, taking in the sparkling sea, snow-capped peaks and churning waters of the Cheakamus Canyon. But then one of our false eyelashes threatens to come loose, so we retire to our seats to take in the view in a more civilized fashion, behind glass.



-photo submitted

Adara Hotel, Whistler

■ **Noon, Adara Hotel, Whistler** (www.adarabotel.com)

We're so sick of the Hiltons ... and so it's so refreshing to step into the charming boutique hotel of Adara. Outfitted like a cutting-edge log cabin, a white bearskin rug

(not real) is strewn over a funky wire chair and a row of orange antlers (also faux) don the wall above reception. We're inspired by all the outdoorsy-ness. Maybe we'll even hike over to Birks later ... no, that's ridiculous.

Our dozen bags deposited in our loft-style room, and we're comforted that there's one TV above the bed upstairs and another in the living room. Anything less is really roughing it. And the rain showerhead is about as close to nature as we plan to get.

Just beyond our bedroom is a huge private patio with a mountain view, but there's no down time for us. Duty, and the pool, beckons.

■ **3 p.m. Solarice Wellness Centre and Spa** (www.solarice.com)

ZZZZZZ! Oops, it must be all the air and exercise we got at the pool. Or perhaps it's the massage during the Extreme Muscle Relief Treatment that's lulling us into unconsciousness.

Forget downhill mountain biking, this is our idea of an extreme sport. Just trying to stay awake is keeping our adrenaline pumping.

We're even getting dirty as detoxifying moor mud is alternated with hot towels. We sneak a scoop of mud when the therapist isn't looking to wipe on our face. (All the better to fit in during après.)

The pied de resistance, however, is a foot massage that restores our faith ... in Manolos. We float out of Solarice, the stress drained from our shoulders. (What? We work harder than Lindsay Lohan.)

■ **7 p.m. Ric's Grill** (www.ricsgrill.com)

Sometimes it's necessary to avoid the predictable to dodge the paparazzi. So we made a beeline for new-on-the-radar Ric's Grill. The chophouse is dim-lit, but bustling, which makes it the perfect place to hide out in.

Just as we're seated, there's a flash. And only after our bodyguard wrestles the camera from the shutterbug do we realize it's only a tourist. Still better safe than on the

cover of *Star*.)

Soon, we're swooning over Almond Herb Crusted Goat Cheese on toasted crostinis with fire-roasted tomato sauce. Then two perfectly done New York strips are set before us. Despite the hat and sunglasses, our server gives us a curious look, but to her credit she pretends not to recognize us. And so we're happy to grant her discreet request for an autograph at the end of the night when she brings our credit card receipt.

■ **Midnight, Adara Hotel**

Tucked back in bed we snuggle deeper in the faux mink blanket, and dread returning to reality. But, the yacht needs to be taken out for a test run and the house in St. Tropez needs to be opened up for fall. Sigh. Another day, another billion dollars.

—Ivana Beahstar,
as told to Carly Krug, 24 hours



-photo submitted

Solarice Wellness Centre and Spa, Whistler



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Ric's Grill, Whistler

LIVE LIKE A star!

Enter to win this "lifestyles of the rich and famous" weekend including one night's stay at Vancouver's Opus Hotel, and dinner for two at Elixir. Two Glacier Dome seats on the Whistler Mountaineer train, including breakfast (northbound) and afternoon tea (southbound). Two night's stay at Whistler's Adara Hotel, including dinner for two at Ric's Grill and two Extreme Muscle Relief Treatments at Solarice Wellness Centre and Spa.

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In 20 words or less, tell us why you think you should live like a star at win@24hrs.ca



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