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Luxury on Lease

Money can't buy love, but it sure can *rent* a bunch of other cool stuff. Here are just a few ways Houstonians can live large, on lease, right now! —Peter Barnes



Jet Set?

Like yachts and summer homes, planes can be money pits. Luckily, **XOJET** has new lower-price charters (from \$14,000) to zip you around in rides like the Cessna Citation X—the fastest civilian aircraft. xojet.com

Do the Zoo

You *could* rent a tiger (and trainer) from **Amazing Animal Productions** for your next safari-themed bash or kid's birthday party for \$15,000. But, at around \$10,000, elephant rental is a way better deal. Or, if you really want to go *big*—4,500 animals big—may we suggest renting the entire **Houston Zoo** for a mere \$25,000? amazinganimalproductions.com; 713.533.6833, houstonzoo.org



Clockwise from left: XOJET's Cessna; Caswell; the zoo's red panda, Toby; and a Porsche 911

Go Fish!

What would it take to convince fun-loving celeb chef **Bryan Caswell**—one of *Food & Wine's* Best New Chefs of 2009—to take you fishing on his boat? And gut and prepare your catch during a private party for you and all your pals at his lauded **Reef** restaurant in Midtown? \$22,500. 2600 Travis St., 713.526.8282

Drive My Car

For a \$19,900 joining fee and monthly fees starting at \$1,950, a **Houston Motor Club** membership allows you to reserve sexy cars like the Lamborghini Gallardo, Bentley Continental GT, Ferrari F430, Porsche 911 and more—to drive whenever you want, for up to 60 days per year. houstonmotorclub.com, 713.481.4469

STAYCATION OF THE MONTH

Yes, More Drama

Dare to diva! Do this dramatically decadent getaway, with costs calculated for a weekend for two, taxes and tips not included.

BOOK: The Magnolia Hotel's (1100 Texas Ave., 713.221.0011) huge, Ike-damaged, 22nd-floor prez suite, now reno'd. Plaid draperies mix modly with the likes of a chartreuse chest and a fireplace. Best part?



Magnolia's lobby and Milana Optics' Swarovski-crystal opera glasses, at milanagifts.com

The view from the floor-to-ceiling windows, original to the 1926 building. *From \$1,250.* **PACK:** Swarovski-crystal opera glasses, \$200. **EAT:** Steak sauced with homemade Worcestershire at House of Blues' private Foundation Room (1204 Caroline St., 888.402.5837), where walls are upholstered in Indian textiles. The menu's brand new. *Memberships from \$2,250, \$250 for dinner.* **SEE:** *Lohengrin* (houstongrandopera.org). In HGO's mega-drama, a knight's romance ends in tragedy. What'd you expect from an opera? *Orchestra seats from \$100.* **DO:** Balance Spa at Hotel Icon (220 Main St., 713.224.4266), touting newly streamlined services—and prices. A 90-minute massage that went for \$225 is now \$160. They also switched to products by charity-minded Houston-based Tikkun. **PAY:** \$3,470 total



Donatella Versace and one of the artists participating in Art Unites and, at right, a work of art to be featured on the canvas tote bags, available in the Galleria.

Drawing Attention

Donatella Versace is known for many things (a deep tan and oodles of glamour spring to mind) but now it's her charity work that has people talking. She's teamed up with the Whitney's Education Department to create **Art Unites**, an initiative that aids seriously ill children in the U.S. and those affected by the earthquakes in the Sichuan Province of China by providing post-trauma counseling through visual arts. More than 1,000 kids created drawings that will adorn Versace totes with all proceeds benefiting the foundation. Talk about a fashion statement. \$250 at Versace, in the Galleria, 713.623.8220 —Lauren DeCarlo