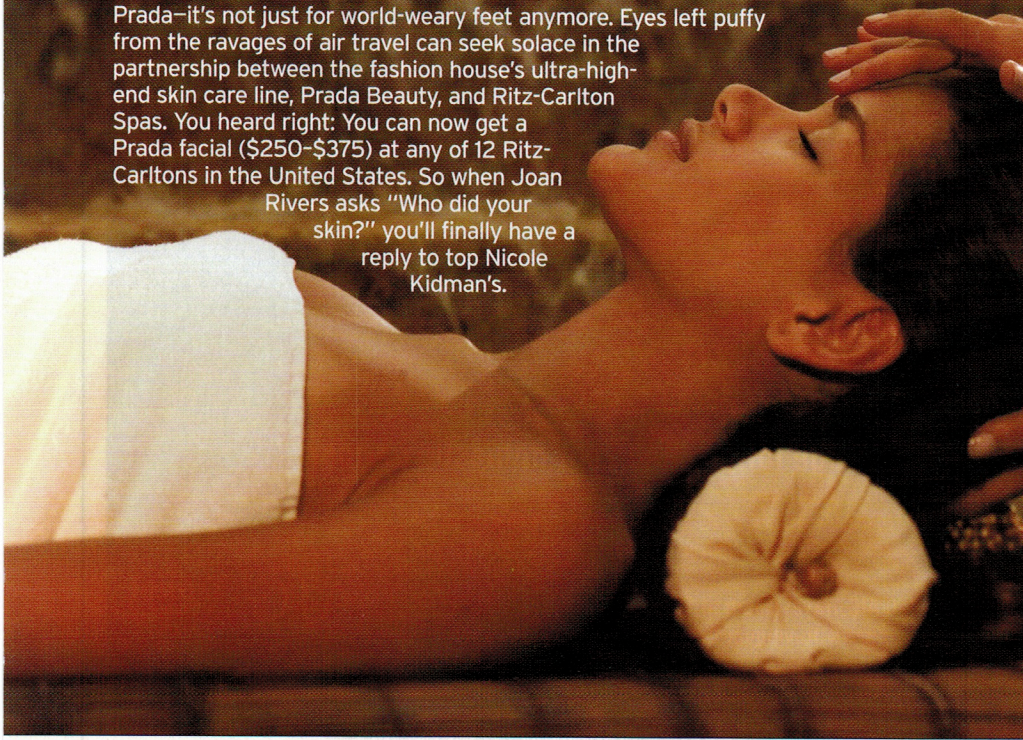


PUTTIN' ON PRADA AT THE RITZ

Prada—it's not just for world-weary feet anymore. Eyes left puffy from the ravages of air travel can seek solace in the partnership between the fashion house's ultra-high-end skin care line, Prada Beauty, and Ritz-Carlton Spas. You heard right: You can now get a Prada facial (\$250-\$375) at any of 12 Ritz-Carltons in the United States. So when Joan

Rivers asks "Who did your skin?" you'll finally have a reply to top Nicole Kidman's.

**HOT HOTEL GYMS**

JUST WHEN you thought Equinox Fitness Clubs couldn't get any more plush, the ever-expanding chain has outdone itself in Los Angeles with its **Century City Fitness Club and Spa**, which opened in February as a part of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The location is so impenetrably exclusive that even mere bearers of Equinox's all-access membership cards won't get past the ironclad fortress of the venue's fingerprint recognition entry system. (Hotel guests pay \$20 a day.)

Billed as a "boutique facility," Equinox Century City offers all the gold-plated bells and silver whistles you'd expect from an Equinox gym, plus a 20-room spa offering an array of pampering to stretch the bounds of the imagination: 14 types of massage, microdermabrasion, LED light therapy, sugar body polishing, and yes, the "ultraluxe diamond experience facial." Once you're all shiny and new, you can peruse the upscale wares of the Fred Segal retail store.

East Coast travelers can take their workouts up a notch when **St. Regis Resort's gym and spa** in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., opens this summer. Once

you've glided up in the Bentley that the hotel provides for airport transfers, you can soak up a combined 17,000 square feet of spa and gym facilities.

Searching for a sleek and sexy hotel gym in New York City? Sprint on over to hotelier Ian Schrager's Gramercy Park Hotel, where the on-site **AeroSpace High Performance Center**, blessed with a view of the park, offers video-guided boxing workouts designed by former number 1-ranked middleweight boxer Michael Olajide Jr., now a trainer to the stars.

—Benjamin Ryan



Gramercy Park Hotel's AeroSpace High Performance Center

HIV Travel Ban to Loosen?

HIV-POSITIVE foreigners may soon find their passports welcome at U.S. borders after more than a decade of slammed doors.

The Department of Homeland Security's ban on visitors with HIV has stood since 1987 and was codified into an act of Congress in 1993, thanks to the efforts of homophobic senator Jesse Helms. Waivers for short visits are available but are difficult to obtain. But California representative Barbara Lee plans to introduce legislation in Congress later this year that would overturn the ban.

Lee's response follows a December 2006 announcement from President Bush that he had begun turning the legal wheels to eventually allow "categorical waivers" for HIV-positive visitors to visit the country for short stays. The White House has indicated it will soon release the exact wording of the proposed rule change, with a period for public comment to follow. This has prompted skepticism from HIV rights advocates.

"The immigration restrictions on people who are HIV-positive do not make sense from any medical, economical, or political standpoint," says out Massachusetts congressman Barney Frank. "I appreciate the fact that the president is acknowledging that this is a very imperfect policy in his request for some regularized exceptions. But exceptions to a bad policy are not enough. The time has come to abolish it."

The ban's initial passage so outraged travelers from other countries that organizers of the International AIDS Conference have since refused to consider the United States as a host for the event. **Only about 15 countries worldwide maintain such a ban**, including China, Iraq, Russia, and Saudi Arabia, according to the Global Health Council.

—B.R.