

## MYKONOS A timeless place with new appeal



## Rediscovered Isle

Hip even before Jackie O. disembarked there in the '70s, Mykonos is suddenly this summer's side trip

A whitewashed dot in the Aegean and a magnet for the rich and the fabulous, Mykonos is far from untrammeled. But thanks to the upcoming Athens Olympic Games (and Mykonos's accessibility, a 45minute flight, not a day's boat ride, from the capital), this perennial spot is one of 2004's most desirable add-on destinations. Rule of thumb: The older a place, the more happening it is-but there are a few recent arrivals worth checking out, or into. In the heart of Mykonos Town, the 39-room Hotel Belvedere hosts a chic European clientele

who unwind on in-room Moroccan-style daybeds, by the artful pool, or in the adjacent Nobu restaurant (30-22890-25122; doubles, \$174-\$588; entrées, \$22-\$70). The Saint John Hotel, an impressive newcomer to the south, has comfy modern rooms, an infinity-edge pool, and prime sunset views (30-22890-28752; doubles, \$200-\$360). No matter where you stay, be sure to rise after noon-as is the custom-for drinks on Psarou Beach at Nammos, where the inhouse DJ preps the crowd for the night's revelry (30-22890-22440).

## >> BARCELONA A fab confab in Catalonia



A city can welcome the Olympics only every so often, so what to do when it's not your turn? Barcelona, which blossomed dramatically upon hosting the 1992 Summer Games, is hoping to re-create the magic with this year's Universal Forum of Cultures. The UNESCOsupported assembly features exhibits and performances, open to all. Attendees may also apply to participate in dialogues encompassing the arts, environmental awareness, and that ever-illusive ideal, peace. Sting, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and Brazilian



superstar Caetano Veloso are on the bill, as are Bill Clinton, author Paul Auster. and 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi. Chef Ferran Adrià, of foodie fave El Bulli in Montjoi, outside Barcelona, is also expected (as is his experimental cuisine). Following the lead of Frank Gehry's 1992 Vila Olimpica Fish Sculpture, a new piece of prominent architecture is debuting. Herzog & de Meuron's futuristic Forum Building, located at the Diagonal Mar, should continue the development of the city's beaches that began during the run-up to the Olympics. And for those who miss the sporting events of 12 years ago, the Forum's Pangea Island is an artificial Isle accessible only to those who swim there (barcelona2004.org; May 9-Sept. 26).