



GREAT ESCAPE:

Featuring Rolls Royce & L'AUBERGE DE SEDONA

By Tami Austin, Feature Editor

Jetset | GREAT ESCAPE

F

For the launch of Jetset's "Great Escape," luxury auto and resort review that will take the editors of Jetset Magazine to top locations across the country, the destination choice was a simple one: the world-renowned, "most beautiful place on Earth," Sedona, Arizona. For the drive to and from Sedona, as well as around town, our luxury ride was none other than the 2011 Rolls Royce Phantom.

Our trip began on a Friday when Rolls Royce had the all-new Phantom delivered to Jetset Magazine's corporate headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona. Before the journey could begin, we were briefed on the car's operations. You might be wondering why this was even necessary, but the Phantom is certainly not your average ride. The car

has so many bells and whistles that you would have to spend several hours examining every nook and cranny to discover everything the car has to offer.

I was in awe of the pristine look of the interior, from hand-stitched leather to the veneered dash to flip-down eating trays that convert to large flip-up LCD screens, this car had everything. I was half expecting a chauffeur to pop out of some hidden compartment and ask me where I wanted to go! Needless to say, I was eager to get the horses running and test the handling on this amazing vehicle.

I was not disappointed. Not only did the car handle better than I could ever have imagined, we were the envy of every passerby on the highway. Other cars would speed up to catch us and get a glance at this beautiful automobile. It's certainly not often that the roads are graced with such a presence, so it wasn't surprising that everyone was drooling just a little bit. I know I was!

On the highway at speeds exceeding 75 mph, I quickly realized why this car stands alone in the luxury market. I can honestly say it felt as though I was floating on air with the power of an F-16 jet. There's just no other way to explain it. Not only was the car one of the most comfortable rides I've experienced, the Phantom elevated my feeling of safety and security on the road.

When we pulled up to the valet attendant at L'Auberge de Sedona, we were immediately acknowledged and special accommodations were made for parking the Phantom. We were then escorted to check in with Ryan, the front desk supervisor and native of New Zealand, who was extremely helpful in explaining the "must sees" during our stay. Ryan suggested booking reservations for the Sunday brunch, which we agreed was something we had to experience.

Ryan then introduced us to the Resort Manager, Scott, who drove us to our newly remodeled cottage. In fact, the remodel was so new that we were only the tenth guests to stay. When Scott opened the room, we were amazed; it was breathtaking. The panoramic views were picturesque and mainly unobstructed. The room was





eloquently decorated with hardwood floors, all of the latest technological gadgets, and even an outdoor shower. It was unique and magnificent. Before exiting, Scott was sure to let us know that no request would be out of the question during our stay.

As we were getting settled in the cottage, we received two phone calls: one from Scott to confirm our brunch reservation and the other from Donna, the Spa Manager, who suggested a spa service. We scheduled a couple's massage for the following day, and Donna provided me with her personal cell phone number should we need her in the interim.

Already thrilled with the luxurious, attentive service at L'Auberge, we expected it couldn't get much better. That was before dinner. We strolled down creek side and were greeted by the General Manager of the restaurant, who offered us a creek-side table when it became available. Our waitress seemed to be hovering just outside of our view; she was always there when needed her but was never invasive.

Dinner was to die for. I had the grilled filet mignon while Darrin enjoyed the crispy-skin Columbia River salmon. Yes, we did indulge in dessert: vanilla bean crème



brûlée and apple caramel cheesecake. Full and happy, we retired to our room where we enjoyed a sky full of stars on our private patio.

Although we're both typically early risers, that morning we slept in. The mattress was incredibly comfortable and kept us in bed longer than we expected. Such relaxation!

When we finally did roll out of bed, it was to answer a phone call from the spa, telling us that our massage tables were warm and waiting. As we left our room, we were greeted by an escort who directed us to the appointment and introduced us to the Spa Director and our Massage Therapists. If you haven't enjoyed a couple's massage, I highly recommend it. Relaxing and rejuvenating, it also allows the couple time to be together in that beta zone.

After the massage, we enjoyed a fantastic three-hour hike through the Red Rocks of Sedona. Creeks, swimming holes, and the most beautiful rock formations are everywhere in the Sedona area. It's almost like an inverted Grand Canyon, if you can imagine that. One of the rocks even looks like Snoopy sleeping on his doghouse.

A shower and some lunch later, we were downtown Sedona visiting all of the local shops. Sedona's main street is a window shopper's paradise. We found shirts made from red rocks and more crystals than you can imagine. Sedona is known for its vortexes, which are believed to be spiritual locations where the energy is optimal for prayer, meditation, and healing. If you want to see a psychic or spiritual reader, you will find one in Sedona.

Another restful evening in our cloud-like mattress soothed us after our day of activity and prepared us for Sunday morning's brunch. From steel oats to fluffy pancakes and made-to-order omelets, the restaurant offered anything and everything we wanted to satisfy our taste buds and prepare us for our departure. Believe me, it wasn't easy to say good-bye to this luxurious retreat, recognized as the best romantic hotel in Arizona by voters through The Arizona Republic. However, we were a little less disappointed knowing our wonderful Rolls Royce Phantom was waiting to take us home.