

SKY

Delta 

Pink Bermuda
Green North Carolina
Fashion: Coach

Closer to Natalie **28**

YOUR PADMÉ—OR OURS? MS. PORTMAN RUNS THE GAMUT FROM STRIPPER TO SENATOR



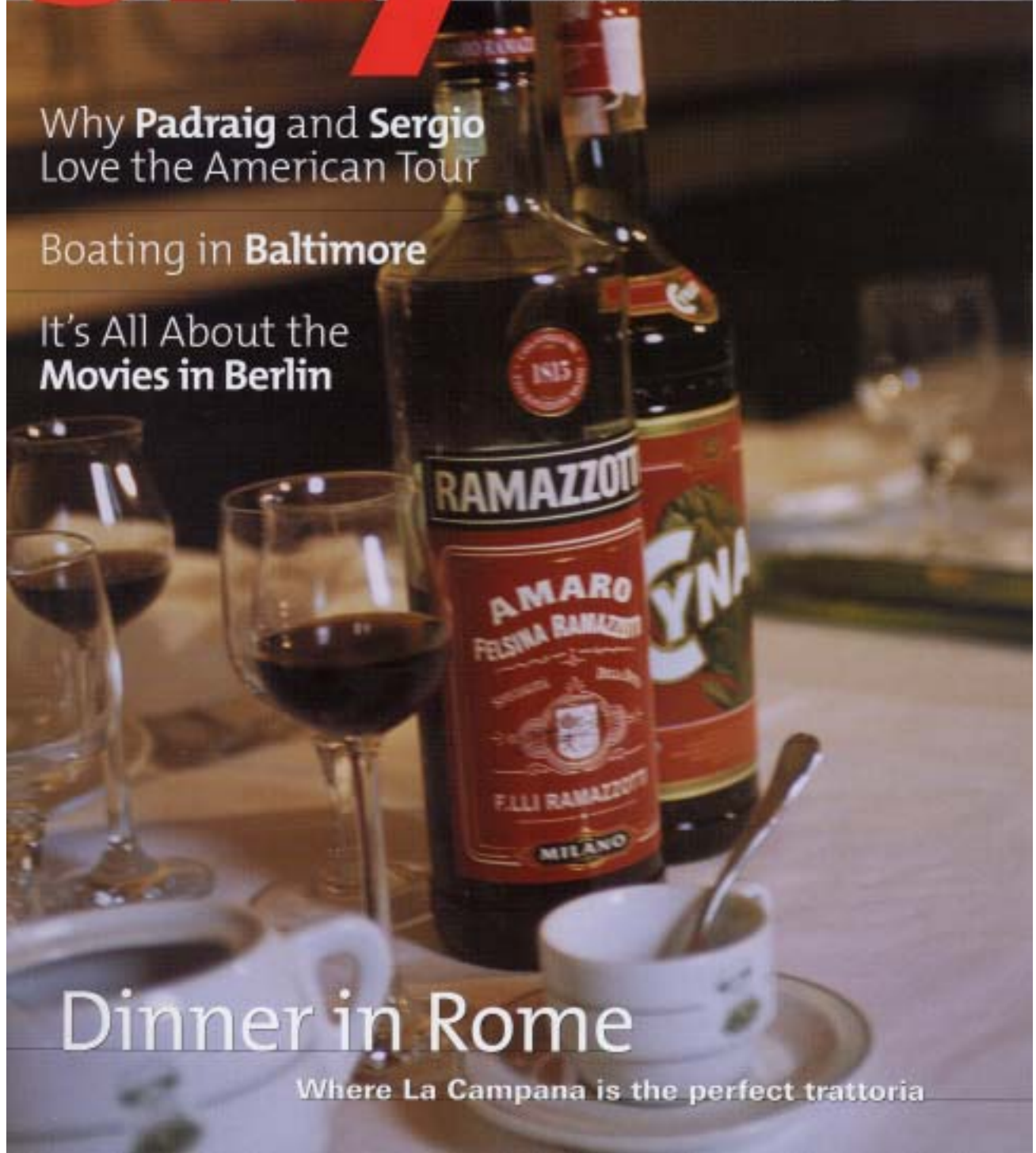
Why **Padraig** and **Sergio**
Love the American Tour

Boating in **Baltimore**

It's All About the
Movies in Berlin

Dinner in Rome

Where La Campana is the perfect trattoria



Lush Life



I take pride in the fact that friends or colleagues are often surprised to learn that I'm an only child. "Really? You don't seem spoiled and self-centered," they say.

Well, they haven't seen me at The Fearington House, located halfway between **Chapel Hill and Pittsboro, North Carolina**. A short stay at this green, country escape brings out a usually dormant me-me-me attitude, an illicit delight in being waited upon, and a palate indulged from an early age in fine cooking.

My humble nature tries to keep hold as I am shown to the guest rooms. Oh, this is too fancy for me, I think demurely. Then I sit on the soft bed and look out over the arbors in the garden. **Demure loses.** This is just what I deserve, I think.

In the lounge of the restaurant, I have afternoon tea: light pastries, finger sandwiches and confections that hint at the culinary fireworks to come during dinners at the restaurant, which is directed by lauded British-born chef Graham Fox.

After tea, I walk a bit. While the inn attracts travelers from all over the world, it is in a year-round community, Fearington Village, which includes homes; shops selling antiques, books and goodies like fancy soap and sparkling jewelry; and even a herd of **Belted Galloway cows** that are Fearington's pampered mascots.

The vision for the village was conceived by R.B. and Jenny Fitch, who purchased the land and buildings of a 200-year-old farm in 1974. In 1980, they opened the restaurant. The inn followed in 1986. Jenny manned the kitchen and designed the first gardens.

At dinner, it's evident her traditions are being carried on well. My dining companion raises an eyebrow as I select **five extravagant courses**, including a rabbit and foie gras terrine, local goat cheese and beets, and seared striped bass. I explain: Why order something I could cook at home? She takes the cue and selects chilled crabmeat, warm lobster and fork-tender beef tenderloin. By dessert (wild plum tart with ginger sorbet for me, chocolate soufflé for her) we are both happily spoiled. And I notice that neither of us offers to share. —*Britta Walker*



www.fearington.com

The Fearington House, 2000 Fearington Village, Pittsboro, North Carolina; 919-542-2121

PHOTO COURTESY OF FEARRINGTON VILLAGE



Escape-o-Meter

THE FEARRINGTON HOUSE RESTAURANT AND COUNTRY INN



Location Fearington is located eight miles south of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and about 26 miles from the Raleigh-Durham International Airport.



Pampering Expect European professionalism from the staff. And enjoy the care taken with the furnishings, from supersoft towels to original artwork.



Weather The month of May could be North Carolina's best: Days average in the mid-70s F (23-25 C), and spring rains produce a show of blossoms.



Gear Bring your most comfortable shoes, your most luxurious pajamas and, for dinner, your most stylish attire. Cooks, ask about culinary classes.



Money Room rates (double occupancy) from \$220 per night, include breakfast and afternoon tea. Honeymoon/anniversary packages are available.

