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June 15, 2008

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# The Socializer: Kelly Killoren Bensimon is the Woman About Town



"I was meant to go to Africa. Next thing I knew, I was headed to Vegas for a diamond convention with Russell Simmons'



Like Angelina Jolie, Kelly wanted to see Africa firsthand.

Last week I was supposed to go to South Africa with the group CC Africa, which has arranged safaris for Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt in the past. I was very excited to go - I was going to help open a school there - but I missed my flight by 10 minutes! I really had wanted to see the country and all the turmoil that is happening over there; it's so trendy in the news, but I was hoping to see it firsthand. Coincidentally, the minute I missed my plane, my BlackBerry started buzzing off the hook and next thing I knew, I was on my way to Vegas for a diamond convention at the Venetian hotel with Russell Simmons. After looking at sparkly things for a day (and discovering that red diamonds are more expensive and rarer than blue ones!), I decided to indulge in some R&R away from it all in Death Valley. I wanted to be invisible. But whom should I see when I walk into this obscure little hotel but photographer and America's Next Top Model judge Nigel Barker. Even when you want to get away from the New York scene, you can't. Ever. The world is a lot smaller than any of us think, even in the middle of the Californian Sahara.

## Croissants are the thing

You heard it here first: Breakfast is the new nightlife. After I drop my kids off at school, I usually go to EAT on the Upper East Side for coffee. But last

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VIDEO

2/23/2009 10:55 PM 1 of 3



Photo: Donato Sardella/WireImage.com
Tory Burch is part of the pack at Sant Ambroeus.

month, I accidentally walked out without paying and though I ran right back in to fork over the cash, I've been too embarrassed to go back. So I started heading to Sant Ambroeus on Madison Avenue, and it is the scene for the Upper East Side crowd. Fashion designer Tory Burch is often there, and I've seen couturier Johan Lindeberg and Park Avenue doyenne Gigi Mortimer. Recently, Gigi brought a female professor from Rockefeller University who is doing a study on pheromones - she says that when she cracks the secret, there'll be no more divorce! It was cocktail party chatter over morning cappuccinos.



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### My very own Jaws



Photo: Courtesy of Kelly Bensimon
Be afraid, by very afraid: Kelly's taxidermied housemate.

The Hamptons summer season has begun, and while some old-schoolers flee to Montauk to avoid the crowds busing in from Manhattan, I still love it. I've always thought, "Manhattan is where I work; the Hamptons are where I live." So I am excited to be launching my own Hamptons TV program, Behind the Hedges, on Plum TV online, to give people a glimpse into my life on the bay. For the show, I've interviewed architect Richard Meier and artist Lola Schnabel, and I let cameras follow me as I go shopping. And I shop a lot. I am very into interior design, and recently decided that, in a nod to Jaws, I wanted a huge shark for my living room. My daughter is terrified of sharks, so we spent a lot of time on and off camera discussing the issue. But I bought it - for \$1,800 - and I love it.

### Lately I'm obsessed with...

2 of 3 2/23/2009 10:55 PM



The Artist Towel Series, a limited-edition series of beach towels, especially the Jeff Koons design. I'm decorating my pool area this year by buying a ton of his towels and making them into throw pillows!

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3 of 3 2/23/2009 10:55 PM