

MEDITERRANEAN

The best of the Silk Road and beyond....

magazine

SUMMER 2026

Buddy from Brooklyn

FILM PRODUCTION



in Theatres
JUNE 2028

SUMMER
COCKTAILS

KORČUL



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PUBLISHED BY LUXURY CHAMBER MEDIA GROUP



Why *Korčula* is Becoming the Mediterranean's New Late-Summer Playground

As Europe's elite quietly leave the crowded Riviera behind, one Croatian island is emerging as the destination where luxury travelers prefer to end their Mediterranean summer. Every decade the Mediterranean crowns a new destination that quietly captures the imagination of sophisticated travelers before the rest of the world catches on. Saint-Tropez enjoyed its golden era. Capri remains timeless. Mykonos became the social capital of the Aegean. Today, an increasing number of yacht owners, entrepreneurs, celebrities, and discerning travelers are discovering that the island everyone will soon be talking about is Korčula.

Located along Croatia's spectacular Dalmatian Coast, Korčula possesses a rare balance that has become increasingly difficult to find elsewhere in Europe. It offers medieval beauty without overwhelming crowds, world-class dining without excessive pretension, luxury accommodations that blend naturally into the landscape, and crystal-clear Adriatic waters that rival those of the Caribbean.

While neighboring Dubrovnik remains Croatia's most internationally recognized destination, many experienced travelers now view Korčula as the place where the true Mediterranean spirit still thrives. During late August and September, the island enjoys warm sea temperatures, gentle sunshine, comfortable evenings, and a noticeably more relaxed atmosphere after the peak summer rush.

The New Yacht Capital of the Eastern Adriatic

One of the strongest indicators of an emerging luxury destination is the movement of private yachts. Increasingly, vessels that once spent entire summers anchored along the French or Italian Riviera are extending their itineraries eastward through the Adriatic. Korčula has become one of the preferred stops for captains seeking calm anchorages, picturesque harbors, exceptional restaurants, and authentic local experiences.

The island's waterfront comes alive during the late afternoon as elegant sailing yachts, motor yachts, and classic wooden vessels arrive from Hvar, Vis, Split, Montenegro, Venice, and the Greek Islands. Cafés begin filling with multilingual conversations while visitors stroll marble streets that have remained remarkably unchanged for centuries.

Medieval Elegance Without the Crowds

Korčula Town is often described as one of the most beautiful fortified medieval towns in the Mediterranean. Built on a small peninsula, its narrow limestone streets were ingeniously designed centuries ago to channel cooling sea breezes while shielding residents from stronger winter winds.

Unlike many heavily visited European destinations, visitors here still experience moments of genuine tranquility. Hidden courtyards, family-owned wine bars, artisan boutiques, and quiet seaside terraces encourage guests to slow down rather than rush from attraction to attraction.

Sunset becomes one of the day's great rituals as golden light reflects across the ancient stone walls before disappearing behind neighboring islands that dot the Adriatic horizon.

Croatia's Culinary Renaissance

Croatia's international culinary reputation continues to rise, and Korčula stands among its finest showcases. Fresh Adriatic seafood arrives daily from local fishermen, while nearby vineyards produce distinctive white wines such as Pošip and Grk that have become favorites among European sommeliers.

Dining is refreshingly unhurried. Long lunches overlooking the sea often extend into sunset cocktails before evolving naturally into elegant dinners featuring locally produced olive oils, handmade pastas, oysters, octopus, truffles, and fresh lobster prepared with understated Mediterranean simplicity.

September: The Mediterranean's Best-Kept Secret

While much of Europe returns to business after August holidays, seasoned travelers know that September may be the finest month to experience the Adriatic. Sea temperatures remain wonderfully warm, restaurants are easier to enjoy, charter yachts become more available, and picturesque villages settle into a slower rhythm.

The weather remains ideal for swimming, sailing, cycling through vineyards, kayaking along secluded coves, or simply enjoying an afternoon espresso overlooking one of the Mediterranean's most beautiful natural harbors.

LOYALTY IS EARNED. LEGENDS ARE MADE.



BUDDY

from

BROOKLYN

BASED ON A TRUE STORY



IN THEATRES NATIONWIDE

★ JUNE 2028 ★



— 3RD ANNUAL —

FERRARI'S & FLORAL'S

Magnum PI Theme Party



JULY 20, 2026

— *Six O'Clock* —



TRULUCK'S®

on the Beach

FORT LAUDERDALE



Jay Shapiro's Bio:

How Multiple Colliding Synchronicities Culminated in Media Maven Jay Shapiro's Divine Decision to Produce the Highest Grossing Mafia / Drama / Action / Romance flick of all time!

"Buddy from Brooklyn"

Jay was born in 1972 north of the Iron Range. His connection to the Buddy Jacobson story is contemporaneous, personal and steeped in synchronicity. His mother, Dawn Eve, was discovered by one of Jacobson's model scouts in Minneapolis and she accepted the offer to live in NYC and model for his firm: My Fair Lady Modeling Agency. She lived in the model's penthouse on 84th street in the Upper East Side across the street from Nicola's restaurant which happened to be one of Buddy's favorite dining spots. Dawn was offered a lead supporting actress role in the movie Taxi Driver with Robert De Niro. After reading through the script and being turned off by certain elements of the big city life in NYC she turned it down. When Jacobson's life exploded into the largest and most expensive scandal in the entire history of NY, Dawn walked away from the scene and never looked back.

In June 2025, everything came full circle.

The synchronicities which collided and unfolded all at once:

- **BILLIONAIRE BOOK / BILLIONAIRE COUSIN.** Out of curiosity Jay decided to do a maternal DNA test in the spring of 2025. A few weeks prior to receiving the maternal DNA results he started to work on writing his book: **PERFORM LAB** – "How to Perform Like a Billionaire" On June 12, 2025 the DNA results arrived. Jay googled the names of several of his cousins. Jay was delighted to find that he had a late great Chabad Rabbi as a cousin as well as dozens of German-Jewish cousins most of whom are or were multimillionaires. He googled the name of an exact match cousin: "Jeffrey Gural" He found out that Gural is perhaps the largest billionaire in NY. A man who happened to own all of the race track casinos in NY, his family built knickerbocker village, his firm has bought and sold a huge percentage of the skyscrapers in NYC and philanthropy is one of the cornerstones of Gural's business strategy. Synchronicity Summary: During the covid era Jay stated writing his book about billionaires and their success strategies. He wrote a few pages and then ignored the book for a couple years. In late May and into June of 2025 he started writing the book again. On June 12 he finds out that his relative is perhaps the largest billionaire in NY at the same time he is writing a success book about billionaires.

- **BILLIONAIRE COUSIN / BUDDY JACOBSON.** After finding out Jay happens to have billionaire blood he decided to find Mr. Gural's official corporate website to learn more. The site for GNP Real Estate™ had a very impressive company timeline starting in the 1950's. When Jay landed on the 1970's page he could not believe his eyes. Buddy Jacobson was Gural's business partner!!! Synchronicity Summary: Jay and his mother are not even from NY, they are from northern Minnesota yet by chance, very oddly it happens to be fact that his mother's modeling manager happened to be a close business associate with his newfound cousin Mr. Gural who happens to be the most powerful horse racing magnate in the world.

- **BUDDY'S FRIEND / BOOK SIGNING / THREE ROBERTS** Fast forward to mid-July 2025. Jay's book had been published for several days and he decided to do a book signing at one of his favorite Italian restaurants, Matteo's Trattoria in Hallandale Beach. Jay was standing at the bar signing a book for a patron named Robert when all of a sudden a man who looks just like Robert De Niro (De Niro was a former Buddy connection via Scorsese) walks up to Jay after overhearing him talk about horses and buddy Jacobson. The man's name was actually Robert. They chatted for a few minutes and Bob said to Jay: Let me introduce you to somebody. Jay and Robert walk down the bar about 3 bar stools away and Robert introduced Jay to Robert! Turns out Robert is a highly successful race horse owner who happened to be very good friends with Howard Buddy Jacobson! Robert showed Jay many photos of him with Buddy, some of them in black and white. He was absolutely shocked that Jay knew about Buddy Jacobson from the 1970's. (Jay is only 53) Robert was to fly to Saratoga the very next day. Synchronicity Summary: Robert to Robert to Robert introductions lead to a chance happening. Meeting Buddy's close friend! To top this off, Robert recently attended the funeral of Sonny Franzese. Sonny was a well-respected man in NY. Sonny's son happened to have attended one of Jay's Lighthouse Point charity events many years prior. And Sonny was cousins to one of Jay's good acquaintances Jay is no stranger to synchronicities. All of his life he has been blessed with an extremely high level of intuition and good old-fashioned luck!

Right after the DNA results arrived he focused only on writing the book. He worked 15 hours per day non stop and even 22 hours in once instance. Jay said that he felt like he was propelled by a higher power and it did not seem like work at all.

Right after the Matteo's meetings he automatically drove home and registered the domain name: BuddyJacobsonMovie.com and did not even have to think about it. He is off to the races producing the movie! Two months ago if you would have asked Jay if he would consider producing a movie he would have said: Hell no! Jay states that the synchronicities somehow magically elevated him and the motivation was and is like being on auto-pilot!

North American Olive Oil Association Announces Nation's Most Comprehensive Olive Oil Testing Study

Effort to Bolster Consumer Confidence as Heat and Drought Conditions Raise Prices

The North American Olive Oil Association (NAOOA), whose members represent over half the olive oil sold in the United States, today announced plans to commission the nation's most comprehensive, rigorous olive oil testing study to date. In the spirit of collaboration, NAOOA has invited other industry stakeholders to provide both strategic and financial support for this important project.

The announcement comes as drought in Europe and elsewhere in the Mediterranean has caused lower yields and tightening global olive oil supplies. These market conditions are expected to keep olive oil prices at historic highs for the coming months. In light of these circumstances, the NAOOA testing study is intended to further strengthen consumer confidence in the authenticity and quality of the olive oil they buy.

"Our industry has successfully undertaken an ambitious, years-long effort to significantly improve the quality of olive oil in the American marketplace. As a result, consumers today can have tremendous confidence in the integrity of the olive oil available in U.S. stores," said Joseph R. Profaci, executive director of the NAOOA. "As prices climb due to current market conditions, we think it's even more important to assure consumers that they're getting the quality and authenticity they deserve. That's why we're launching this testing effort, which sets a new, even higher standard for our industry. The NAOOA has conducted random, off-the-shelf testing of both members' and non-members' products for years, but this study will vastly broaden those efforts."

This study's aim is to create a new benchmark for olive oil testing, further strengthening the quality of olive oil industrywide. The NAOOA has asked Tassos C. Kyriakides, Ph.D., assistant professor of biostatistics at the Yale School of Public Health, to design and oversee a sampling protocol that will set the standard for the industry, with the following proposed elements:

- **Largest Sample Size:** The program will test over 200 samples, which is more than any single domestic study conducted previously.
- **Retail Samples:** The program will test olive oil purchased directly from supermarkets and other retail outlets – not from samples supplied directly from producers.
- **Foodservice Samples:** The program will sample olive oils from wholesalers who supply restaurants and other foodservice outlets.
- **Geographic Diversity:** Olive oils will be tested proportionately from across the country to reflect geographic distribution.
- **Branded and Private Label:** The testing will encompass both proprietary brands and private label products.
- **Sampling by Independent Sampling Agencies:** The sampling will be conducted by independent sampling agencies unaffiliated with the olive oil industry in accordance with strict protocols based on regulatory guidance.
- **Testing in Independent, Accredited Lab:** The testing will be conducted in an independent lab accredited by the International Olive Council (IOC), an organization chartered by the United Nations more than 60 years ago to oversee standards for the production and quality of olive oil around the world.
- **Full Physico-Chemical and Organoleptic Testing:** Each sample will be subject to full chemical and organoleptic (sensory) testing of all parameters that are included in the proposed federal standard of identity for olive oil (including PPP and DAGs).
- **Inclusive of All Grades:** The study will test all olive oil grades and types commonly available to U.S. consumers (i.e., extra virgin, regular and light-tasting).

"Olive oil is one of the healthiest foods people can eat, but consumers who lack confidence in it will sadly turn to other, less healthful oils," said Dr. Kyriakides. "That's why this testing program is so important. It's designed to test olive oil at a scale and level of transparency never seen before, so consumers can continue to feel great about buying this incredibly healthy food."

The testing program will begin sampling in early 2024 to coincide with the first major shipments of olive oil from the most recent northern hemisphere growing season. The study is being announced in advance in part to deter any potential misconduct by bad actors seeking to capitalize on current market conditions. For any oil that fails to meet authenticity standards, the NAOOA intends to notify the responsible parties and take any responsive actions deemed appropriate under the circumstances, up to and including notification of government authorities and/or initiating direct legal action.

Contact: info@naooa.org

Ancient Wonders, Modern Luxury: Four Seasons Egypt Invites Travellers to Take a Fresh Look at the World's Most Enduring Destination with New Experiences and Customized Adventures

From the classics and to the eclectic, the River Nile to the Mediterranean and Red Seas, Four Seasons guides guests through centuries of history, culture and adventure and the thrilling diversity of 21st century Egypt

A fixture on any serious traveller's itinerary for centuries thanks to its abundant architectural marvels and important historic sites, Egypt is now a favoured destination for those seeking deep cultural immersion, craving the thrill of adventure, treasure hunting in the markets, thirsting for pan-Arab dining and delighting in Insta-worthy views at every turn. This summer, Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza, Four Seasons Hotel Alexandria at San Stefano and Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh invites travellers to discover – and rediscover – it all.

In the company of true royalty, witness where the story of life began with the 5000-year-old Pyramids of Egypt, the only remaining wonder of the Seven Wonders of the World.

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"The incredible thing about Egypt is that there's always more – from exciting archaeological finds and newly restored landmarks to its more recent emergence as a playground for desert and sea adventures, and the many exciting new attractions just waiting to be experienced," says Simon Casson, President, Hotel Operations - Europe, Middle East and Africa. "With the insider knowledge and genuine care that only Four Seasons can provide, a truly memorable experience will leave guests with only one question: when are we coming back again?"

Well-established in Egypt for more than two decades, Four Seasons can customize the perfect holiday for families, couples and friends in one, two or more Egyptian destinations, completely tailored to individual needs and wants. With insider access, trusted local guides and seamless travel arrangements – not to mention the comfort of luxurious accommodations at the end of each adventure-filled day – all that's left to do is enjoy every moment.

Top of the list for any visitor to Egypt is the highly anticipated opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) in Cairo. None other than Ramses II (in the form of an 11 metre / 36 foot statue carved 32 centuries ago) welcomes visitors to the largest archaeological museum in the world. The striking contemporary building houses most of the treasures unearthed a century ago in King Tut's tomb, plus more than 100,000 additional artifacts spanning 7,000 years of Egyptian history and culture. GEM is partially open now, with an expected grand opening later this year.

From there, the opportunities are endless. Below is a taste of the possibilities, a few recommendations, and ways to get started on planning an Egyptian adventure this summer.

