

word of mouth

they faced fierce opposition from developers of Manhattan's then up-and-coming Meatpacking District, who deemed it an eyesore. But armed with a vision of a grand promenade in the sky, the duo rallied the celeb-studded Friends of the High Line to campaign for its preservation. "These guys had so little chance to win," says von Furstenberg, whose apartment and fashion empire's HQ are near-



by, "but they had a wonderful idea—a park that weaves through the city like a green ribbon." The result is a pedestrian-only space planted with birch and cherry trees, shrubs and grasses, and flanked by benches and lounge chairs. Businesses continue to flock here: Couturiers **Moschino** (401 W. 14th St.) and **Matthew Williamson** (413 W. 14th St.) are the latest to set up shop, while the Spotted Pig team's new **John Dory** fish restaurant looks set to be the area's hottest table (85 Tenth Ave; 212-929-4948; entrées, \$14–\$55), and André Balazs is giving visitors a bed for the night at his new **Standard Hotel**, a glittering 18-story edifice straddling the park, fusing New York's industrial past and its artsy present (212-645-4646; standardhotels.com; rates not available at press time). "The High Line takes this very workaday part of Manhattan, celebrates it, and moves it forward," says Balazs. Entrances will be on 14th, 17th, and Gansevoort streets (thehighline.org).



White stuff: Ten million skiers are expected annually by 2010.



(Buzz) ski CHINA Dragon Slopes

The Olympic torch was snuffed out months ago, but China's enthusiasm for sport isn't dimming. The country is pitching itself as a premier ski destination, with new luxe resorts to rival international favorites. In northeastern Heilongjiang Province, five existing ski areas are being transformed into swank alpine spots. Properties include the 24-suite **SUN MOUNTAIN YABULI** hotel, at the peak's summit (86-451-5345-8888; melcochinaresorts.com; doubles, \$210–\$250). Meanwhile, the **PINGTIAN RESORT**, in Xinjiang Province's Tianshan Range, has 12,000 acres of varied terrain designed by the team behind Breckenridge and Deer Valley (852-2806-3307; pingtianresorts.com).

Sure to glamorize the dreariest winter day, this rain-repellent wool coat brings magenta and mink to a 1930s-era design by British clothier Aquascutum—which counts Sophia Loren among its fans.

Aquascutum Vintage Pink Diplomat Coat, \$3,790 (bergdorfgoodman.com).

(Buzz) museum STUTTGART Speed Date

A cathedral for car worship is born this winter in Germany's motor city. Automaker Porsche is following hot on the bumpers of BMW, Mercedes-Benz, VW, and Audi—who recently opened their own shrines to auto ingenuity—with Austrian architectural firm Delugan Meissl's cantilevered **PORSCHE MUSEUM**, which hangs over Stuttgart's Porscheplatz. Classic models, race cars, and a restoration workshop tell the story of the world's smallest independent car company (49-711-911-256-85; porsche.com).



Beam me up: The Porsche Museum.

Still life by Jens Mortensen. Map by Joyce Pendola



Philanthropy gets fragrant with **SIX SCENTS**, by Gareth Pugh and fellow Designers Against Aids (six-scents.com; \$85).