

HOTELS PLAY GENIE

GRANT GUESTS' WILD WISHES

By **DANICA LO**

June 12, 2007 -- New services at the city's top hotels are giving New York's tourists more bang for their buck - literally.

Starting next week, The Bryant Park Hotel, which has played host to Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lopez and Usher, will be offering a 12-item "Objects of Pleasure" menu in partnership with sex-toy store Pleasure Chest.

From Botox-and-lox brunches at The Sagamore in Miami to pole-dancing vacation packages at W Hotels in New York, all across the country, high-end hotels are pushing the envelope to keep guests entertained.

"Sometimes, I'm convinced they're laying up in their beds, thinking, 'What shall I torture her with tomorrow?' " says Christine Serio, chief concierge at the five-star Jumeirah Essex House on Central Park South.

"A couple of years ago, I received a cryptic fax from a travel agent requesting to have a life-size Mickey and Minnie Mouse waiting in a guest's suite for their arrival."

"As it turns out, his girlfriend was an avid Disney fan. The gentleman was planning on proposing while staying with us. I hired actors to play Mickey and Minnie Mouse as well as Cinderella. I also rented a Prince Charming costume for the gentleman so he could be suitably attired for the big event."

A 20-year veteran of the hotel business, Serio has seen it all - guest demands for an autographed guitar from "someone famous," British first-editions of "A Clockwork Orange," and planning foreign travel itineraries are all in a day's work.

At the St. Regis hotel, head concierge Maria Wittorp-Dejongs has sent employees on planes to reunite guests with forgotten makeup bags, ordered enough roses to cover all the surfaces in suites, and arranged for a staffer to serve as a legal secretary to a visiting attorney.

"One gentleman decided that he wanted a male Chihuahua puppy no more than 12 weeks old at 6 p.m. on a Friday evening," Wittorp-Dejongs says.

"A concierge found a breeder who had a litter of Chihuahua puppies which had just been weaned and were ready for new masters."

Michael Shepard, a former Soho House concierge, worked there in a team of four or five with no assistants.

"For April Fools' Day, a guest asked me to get a Borat impersonator to fool his wife and kids," he says. "It was a Saturday request for 9 a.m. Sunday breakfast, but I was able to come up with a Borat look-alike."



SUITE DEAL: Concierges at the city's swankiest hotels have delivered to rooms actors dressed as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, guitars autographed by celebs, and, for April Fool's Day, a Borat impersonator