

'Sinapupunan' to compete  
in Venice film festival

B5

Prince William's hairline  
gets dissed by Bieber

B6

KRISTIN ALDANA-LERIN Contributing Editor

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# APRIL IN PARIS

BY MANNY GONZALEZ, PLANTATION BAY RESORT AND SPA

(First of two parts)

It sounded like a good idea at the time—take three beautiful girls to the Continent. Experience April in Paris. Savor springtime in Rome. The idea was born during a 2011 visit to Plantation Bay by Philippine Star's Grace Glory Go and her French diplomat friend Thierry Mixa, who waxed eloquent on the glories of Paris in spring.



Grace, Thierry, and Hannah – one of the three girls. Okay, so Hannah isn't exactly beautiful. But she has a pleasant personality. *Mabait pa.*

Then many things started to go wrong. But, not to bore you with the details, finally, six months later and with the mishaps behind us, there we were, on a Segway tour of Paris.

Geli Reyes, Manny Gonzalez, Hannah Patalinghug, and Zuri Almendras. The first thing the girls wanted to see was this prominent erection.



Dinner on the Champs-Élysées, Paris's grandest avenue:



However, in Paris's famous Père Lachaise cemetery, the girls (having gone shopping instead) missed this other, equally fascinating erection.

Victor Noir was a nineteenth-century journalist who was shot dead one night. But, as the groin area of his death effigy shows, he was thinking happy thoughts when he bought a bullet. Today, women come from all over the world, around the clock, to leave him flowers, and kiss his...ahem...

The author ordered sauerkraut and sausage (cheap). Everyone else ordered oysters and côte de boeuf grillé (not cheap). And in case you are wondering, the oysters did NOT work.



Paris's famous Bateaux Mouche (tourist boats), and three girls, after a wine and cheese picnic. The girls were flat on their backs, soused at mid-day. Oh, sorry. The editor said we can't show pictures of drunken women. Anyway, here are Zuri's drunken arms.





Another compulsory stop is the Louvre, of course.



The Louvre's glass-pyramid lobby features prominently in *The da Vinci Code*. Here is Manny trying to look like Tom Hanks. Geli (left) is showing off her Kate Spade bag; Zuri (right) is just showing off.

But instead of spending all your time looking at the Mona Lisa, which generally has a solid wall of people in front of it, you should broaden your horizons and instead look at the wall to the right of the Mona Lisa, where you will find this.



Montmartre, the artists' quarter, and the Sacre Coeur Basilica are reached by this long flight of steps.



In the old days when there was no internet porn, rich people amused themselves with educational paintings of classic mythology, such as this one of Cupid sneaking off after exchanging bodily fluids with Psyche. It's okay, you can look longer. It's Art.

But as you can tell from the big smiles and relaxed expressions, we were smart enough to take a cab.

Actually, the Sacre Coeur is a very prominent Paris erection, as this shot taken from far away, at the Musee d'Orsay, to be exact shows.



For the tourist in a mood to be fleeced, dinner at the Jules Verne restaurant, on the second level of the Eiffel Tower, is *de rigueur*.

Hannah, Geli, Manny and Zuri about to spend the GDP of a small country on dinner. And if you put on an Hermès tie and come with three beautiful and sexy women (okay, two beautiful and sexy women; sorry Geli), you might even get a window seat, with a view of all Paris beneath you.

Paris is a city where beauty lurks around every street corner. Visitors with more time to spend can discover a lot that the typical tourist doesn't, such as this lovely square.



The Place des Vosges was built for royalty.

And by all means get out of town to see – no, not Disneyland – the Loire Valley, where there are many fairy-tale castles and romantic hideaways, like – Azay-le-Rideau, one of the Loire Valley's loveliest chateaux, guaranteed to put you in the Mood.



And on our last day in Paris, we of course had to get together with Thierry, who had inspired us and made the whole trip possible.



Hannah, Thierry, Geli, Manny, Zuri, and Abby. Le Procope is the oldest restaurant in Paris. Everyone from Voltaire to Ben Franklin to Adolf Hitler has eaten there. Now we have, too. And that was our April in Paris.

Next week: Springtime in Rome



## APRIL IN PARIS, SPRINGTIME IN ROME

*by Manny Gonzalez, Plantation Bay Resort & Spa*

Part One: April in Paris

[intended to be laid out like a scrapbook, with the pictures askew and the captions written in hand-printed letters, arrows leading into the pictures, and the like]

It sounded like a good idea at the time – take three beautiful girls to the Continent.

Experience ***April in Paris***. Savor ***Springtime in Rome***.

The idea was born during a 2011 visit to Plantation Bay by Grace Glory Go (of the Philippine Star) and her French diplomat friend Thierry Mixa, who waxed eloquent on the glories of Paris in spring.

Paris 0 [city and number in red print denotes a picture]

Grace, Thierry, and Hannah – one of the three girls. Okay, so Hannah isn't exactly beautiful. But she has a pleasant personality. *Mabait pa*.

Then many things started going wrong. But, not to bore you with the details, finally, six months later and with the mishaps behind us, there we were, on a Segway tour of Paris.

Paris 1

Geli Reyes, Manny Gonzalez, Hannah Patalinjug, and Zuri Almendras. The first thing the girls wanted to see was this prominent erection.

However, in Paris's famous Pere Lachaise cemetery, the girls (having gone shopping instead) missed this other, equally fascinating erection:

Paris 2

Victor Noir was a 19<sup>th</sup>-century journalist who was shot dead one night. But, as the groin area of his death effigy shows, he was thinking happy thoughts when he bought a bullet. Today, women come from all over the world, around the clock, to leave him flowers, and kiss his [ahem].

Dinner on the Champs Elysees, Paris's grandest avenue:

### Paris 3

The author ordered sauerkraut and sausage (cheap). Everyone else ordered oysters and Cote de Boeuf Grillé (not cheap). And in case you are wondering, the oysters did NOT work.

Paris's famous Bateaux Mouche (tourist boats), and three girls, after a wine and cheese picnic. The girls were flat on their backs, soused at mid-day. Oh, sorry. The editor said we can't show pictures of drunken women. Anyway, here are Zuri's drunken arms:

### Paris 4

Another compulsory stop is the Louvre, of course.

### Paris 5

The Louvre's glass-pyramid lobby features prominently in *The da Vinci Code*. Here is Manny trying to look like Tom Hanks. Geli (left) is showing off her Kate Spade bag; Zuri (right) is just showing off.

But instead of spending all your time looking at the Mona Lisa, which generally has a solid wall of people in front of it, you should broaden your horizons and instead look at the wall to the right of the Mona Lisa, where you will find this:

### Paris 6

In the old days when there was no internet porn, rich people amused themselves with educational paintings of classic mythology, such as this one of Cupid sneaking off after exchanging body fluids with Psyche. It's okay, you can look longer. It's Art.

Montmartre, the artists' quarter, and the Sacre Coeur Basilica are reached by this long flight of steps.

### Paris 7

But as you can tell from the big smiles and relaxed expressions, we were smart enough to take a cab.

Actually, the Sacre Coeur is a very prominent Paris erection, as this shot taken from far away (the Musee d'Orsay, to be exact) shows:

### Paris 8

For the tourist in a mood to be fleeced, dinner at the Jules Verne restaurant, on the Second Level of the Eiffel Tower, is *de rigueur*.

## Paris 9

Hannah, Geli, Manny, and Zuri about to spend the GDP of a small country on dinner. And if you put on an Hermès tie and come with three beautiful and sexy women (okay, two beautiful and sexy women; sorry Geli), you might even get a window seat, with a view of all Paris beneath you.

Paris is a city where beauty lurks around every street corner. Visitors with more time to spend can discover a lot that the typical tourist doesn't, such as this lovely square:

## Paris 10

The Place des Vosges was built for royalty.

And by all means get out of town to see – no, not Disneyland! – the Loire Valley, where there are many fairy-tale castles and romantic hideaways, like –

## Paris 11

Azay-le-Rideau, one of the Loire Valley's loveliest chateaux, is guaranteed to put you in the Mood.

And on our last day in Paris, we of course had to get together with Thierry, who had inspired us and made the whole trip possible:

## Paris 12

Hannah, Thierry, Geli, Manny, Zuri, and Abby. Le Procope is the oldest restaurant in Paris. Everyone from Voltaire to Ben Franklin to Adolf Hitler has eaten there. Now we have, too.

***And that was our April in Paris.***

























*Next week: Part Two: Springtime in Rome*



## APRIL IN PARIS, SPRINGTIME IN ROME

*by Manny Gonzalez, Plantation Bay Resort & Spa*

### Part Two: Springtime in Rome

Everything I know about Rome, I learned from the movies – Roman Holiday, Only You, Three Coins in the Fountain, Under the Tuscan Sun, etc. And when you get there, guess what? Rome looks exactly like the movies!

This, however, does not look like Rome:

#### Rome 1

That's because it is Florence, where we spent three days en route to Rome. From the rooftop of our hotel we could see the famous Duomo (Florence's cathedral). Hannah Patalinjug and author Manny Gonzalez.

Okay, now this looks like Rome:

#### Rome 2

The Colosseum is Italy's most famous landmark. Not that Zuri Almendras (left) or Geli Reyes (right) knew what it was, since they don't watch many movies.

#### Rome 3

Most visitors to Rome are too rushed to appreciate its magnificent pine trees, which are almost everywhere.

The Spanish Steps figure in many movies set in Rome:

#### Rome 4

This is Hannah's Ralph Lauren look. And Zuri's "What, me worry?" look.

Everyone raves about the Sistine Chapel, but in the author's opinion, the absence of paintings of naked women (see last week's instalment) considerably detracts from the Sistine's charms. This is much more impressive:

#### Rome 5

Even without naked women, the Vatican's Hall of Maps is stunning.



The Vatican also has large open spaces.

#### Rome 6

This is about as holy as any of these four will ever look. Hannah was thinking of St. Peter (the Rock).

Rome's second most-famous tourist attraction is the Trevi Fountain.

#### Rome 7

After midnight, having had – again – too much to drink, one of the girls – who shall remain unnamed – stripped and waded around the pool before getting caught by a policeman. But the editor made me crop that part of the picture.

Almost wherever you are in Rome, St. Peter's is visible.

#### Rome 8

The Tiber is is a much wilder-looking river than most people imagine.

If you watched Angels and Demons, you should recognize this – the Castel St. Angelo (aka Hadrian's Mausoleum).

#### Rome 9

- and the Piazza Navona, which is where one of the movie's most exciting scenes takes place.

#### Rome 10

(Though Geli is even more exciting, when she puts her mind to it.)

In Only You, Robert Downey Jr. and Marisa Tomei danced on a romantic bridge over the Tiber.



## Rome 11

No Robert Downey Jr., no Marisa Tomei. But this is the bridge – the Ponte Fabricio.

*And that was our Springtime in Rome.*





















