

A library-quiet cabin. A ride beyond ultra-smooth. Space so expansive, so generous, it offers you more than 30 interior layouts from which to choose. You've never experienced anything like it. The new, ultra-long range Falcon 8X. Falcon. The world's most advanced business jets.





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APRIL/MAY 2017

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Over the past two decades, our columnist has checked into everything from presidential suites to a dump that recalled an infamously **horrific motel**.

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Airbus Helicopters' H160, a medium turbine twin, incorporates innovative technologies, promises strong performance, and looks great, too.

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Dassault Falcon's 7X climbs like a rocket, goes anywhere, and burns up to one-third less fuel than comparable models.

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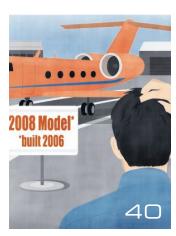
The **model year** assigned to an aircraft can be misleading, and failing to understand why can be a multimillion-dollar mistake.

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62 CALENDAR

Europe's big business aviation event.





The revolutionary Legacy 450 truly transcends previous perceptions of mid-light capabilities. A remarkable union of technology and design, this aircraft flies faster and farther than any other jets in its class. of taking off and landing on shorter runways. This is the only jet in its category with full fly-by-wire technology, and the advanced Rockwell Collins Pro Line Fusion™ platform puts pilots in complete control in passengers enjoy the smooth flight experience in the largest-in-class stand-up cabin with unmatched luxury, comfort and style. The jet's ultra-quiet environment is perfect for working or relaxing. Welcome to the heights that can be reached when your mission is to rethink and redefine what's possible.



The Legacy 450 delivers an enviable performance, including capability a cockpit environment with superior ergonomics and space. Up to nine he Legacy 450 - a new-generation aircraft that is a true reflection of the





WOW, WHAT AN AIRCRAFT!

"Smart Air has been operating the first Legacy 450 in Europe for many months. We receive very positive feedback from customers using the aircraft as a charter. They are extremely pleased with the comfort.

My favorite elements are the quietness in the cabin, craftsmanship quality, the astonishing cockpit from a quality and technology standpoint, the fly-by-wire as a true added value in terms of comfort and safety. Pilots enjoy flying this aircraft. These are remarkable features that are not present in other similarly priced aircraft.

I now realize that my customer experience with Embraer is far better than what I experienced with other OEMs because we remain customers even after the aircraft delivery. The teams are very invested in customer satisfaction. They have a true willingness in accompanying the customer and ensuring his satisfaction throughout the aircraft operation.

The capability of the aircraft to land in Saint-Tropez/La Môle is an important time saver. The landing is done in very safe conditions. The technical data after certification were far better than preliminary data. Those are good surprises when we take the risk of being the first customer on an aircraft not yet certified without any validated performance. It is very nice, as a consultant company, to be able to go back to our customer and say that the choice we recommended is by far exceeding the reality that existed when the decision was made."



-Stéphane Ledermann, Founder & President, Smart Air Watch Stéphane's story and request more information at **EmbraerExecutiveJets.com/Stephane**





INSIDE **BJT**

APRIL/MAY 2017

PEOPLE

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Argentina's richest man uses a fleet of corporate aircraft to manage a worldwide empire that includes energy holdings and wineries.

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50 ATTENTION, THRILL SEEKERS

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52 GETAWAYS

China's Sichuan Province offers a wonderful opera, majestic mountains, and a zoo that houses more than 80 of the country's rare **giant pandas**.

FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR

GEMMA Z. PRICE

Price, who traveled to Uruguay to conduct the interview for this issue's cover story (see page 18), has contributed to **BJT** since 2012. A U.K. native, she has lived in Japan, Australia, Vietnam, and the U.S. and now divides her time between Saigon and San Francisco. She has written for dozens of publications—including *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Travel + Leisure*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Time*—on subjects ranging from travel and food to tech, style, and wellness. Her website is www.gemmazprice.com.



On the Cover:

Argentine billionaire Alejandro Bulgheroni, photographed by Eric Wolfinger.

Coming Soon in BJT

- 6th annual Book of Lists
- Phenom 300 review
- Tax-deductible bizjet expenses





Up Front

A major upgrade for BJTonline.com

evamping a website, particularly a data-rich one like BJTonline.com, is not a job for the faint of heart. Our development team have spent the better part of a year on this project, and we think their patience, dedication, and attention to detail have produced an online home for the magazine that's far more attractive and useful than its predecessor. The responsive, easy-to-navigate site features beautiful photography and a fresh, streamlined design. We hope you like it as much as we do.

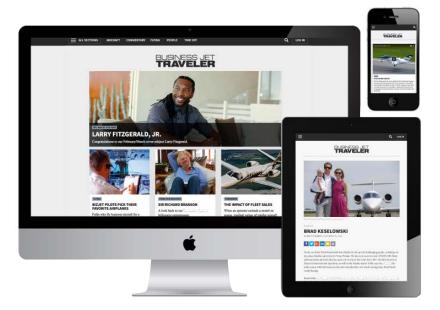
We also hope you'll stay tuned for more, because several major enhancements to the site are yet to come. A searchable aircraft guide will soon make it much easier to learn about and compare models, for example, and we'll also be debuting an improved, regularly updated online version of our **Buyers' Guide's** Yellow Pages directory, with listings of everything from charter companies, insurers, and completion centers to caterers, cabin-electronics manufacturers, and aircraft brokers.

Speaking of those brokers, be sure to check out Ready for Takeoff on page 16 of this issue. This new recurring department will spotlight noteworthy aircraft that are available at press time from the world's top brokers. In each edition of the magazine, we'll highlight a different category of business aircraft, starting with this issue's look at midsize and super-midsize jets.

Jenn L

Jennifer Leach English Editorial Director jenglish@bjtonline.com

P.S. Congratulations to Margie Goldsmith, recipient of a silver award from the North American Travel Journalist Association for "Georgia on My Mind," which appeared in our February/March 2016 issue. This honor marks the 48th editorial award won by Business Jet Traveler and its contributors since 2005.



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MOILBOX ADVICE, ADMONITIONS, AND APPLAUSE

LARRY FITZGERALD, JR.

Regarding Larry Fitzgerald, Jr. [February/March 2017], I consider him a true champion in every sense of the word and an inspiration to all, but especially to young kids coming up, wondering how to be a real man.

Thanks for a great magazine.

Bert Botta posted on bjtonline.com



SUPERSONIC SKEPTIC

The Gulfstream G650 is 99 feet, nine inches long with over a 7,000-nautical-mile range. The as2 is a proposed 170 feet long with a proposed 4,750-nautical-mile range. I'm thinking about airport ramps that could accommodate, and that when push came to shove, the G650 would beat the as2 on a mission over 5,000 nautical miles...no need to stop.

> Aaron posted on bitonline.com

TWIN BEECH VS. RAPIDE

"A Tale of Two Pretties" [Exit, February/March 2017] is an excellent article outlining the differing design and operational outlooks of the British and American airplanes. I wonder how the two airplanes compared in purchase price. My guess is that the Twin Beech was much more expensive than the Rapide.

posted on bitonline.com

Nice comparative article on two different styles of design, and what a beautiful photo of a Lockheed model 12A "Electra Ir." to illustrate the Beech 18.

> Michael Moran posted on bjtonline.com

Mark Phelps replies: Moran is right—we mistakenly showed the Lockheed instead of the Beech (which is pictured above). They're similar enough in appearance that they are often mistaken for each other, but we should have known better.

"A Tale of Two Pretties" is a very good article. I hadn't considered the comparison of the Beech 18 to the DH Rapide, nor how well each fit its respective market. As to cost at that time, the first 18 Beech Monoplanes, as they were called, were Wright- or Jacobspowered and cost \$30,000-\$35,000 (1937–39). The





1939-41 P&W Wasp Jr. powered 18s cost \$45,000-\$50,000.

[The Rapide cost the equivalent of about \$15,000. -Ed.]

> Bob Parmerter posted on bjtonline.com

FEAR OF FLYING

"Cabin Fever" [Exit, December 2016/January 2017 contains much good guidance, especially the idea that fear of flying has multiple presentations. But those of us who specialize in treating these presentations de-emphasize seeking to become more comfortable and emphasize self-regulation and putting oneself in challenging situations despite the presence of uncomfortable sensations. Selfmanagement techniques will ultimately prove effective for many.

> Les Posen posted on bjtonline.com

FLYING IN TO SKI

Regarding "Skiing without Waiting" [On the Fly, December 2016/January 2017]: How about Sun Valley, Idaho? Thirty minutes or less to the gondola from Atlantic Aviation in Hailey (KSUN). Hardly ever a wait in lift lines.

> Jeff Miller posted on bjtonline.com

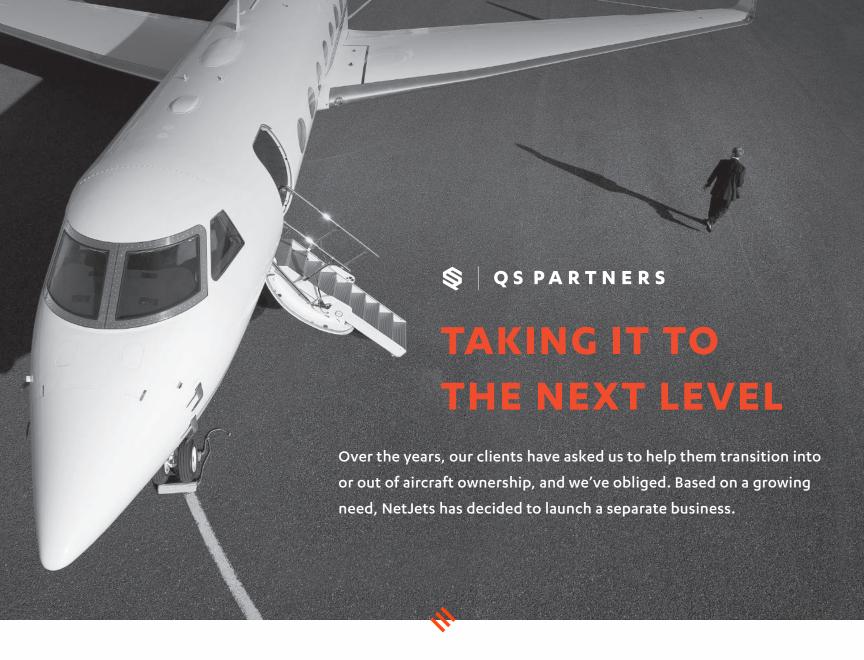
At a mountain airport, I always chat with the line crew to find out which operators fudge the 10-knot tailwind limit and otherwise push the weather. I encourage charter customers to ask their operator for a copy of the company policies relating to mountain airports (the stricter the better). Nothing brings me more joy than the occasional call from a client complaining about a ski country delay or diversion. I smile as I explain that the operator and I have both accomplished our primary job.

> Daniel Herr Fractional Law Murray Hill, New Jersey

CLARIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS:

In the New Aircraft Preview article in our last issue, we indicated that the Cessna Citation Longitude would be certified in 2018, but Cessna tells us that certification will happen this year. The company also says that it opted for Honeywell HTF 7000-series engines not because the originally planned engines were unavailable but because it decided to rethink the aircraft's design. The company additionally notes that it has dropped the Clarity name from its cabin in-flightentertainment system and that it objects to our characterization of the Latitude's seating style, which it says it changed in later models of that aircraft. -Ed.

Your comments are welcome. Please e-mail letters to editor@bjtonline.com. Include your name, address, and a daytime telephone number. Letters are subject to editing and are presumed to be for publication unless the writer specifies otherwise.



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Wine by the App

owadays, more than 100,000 different wines await corkscrews or, increasingly, hand twists. How to deal with this embarrassment of riches? Free smartphone apps can help, though here, too, choices abound. Here are four of the best:

Vivino. This app responds to smartphone snapshots of wine labels (though far from always) with oneto-five-star ratings based on reviews from 15 million users; it also provides information such as average retail price. A monthly charge buys extra features, including a "manage your cellar" function.

Delectable. This app does a great job of recognizing wine labels and offers one-to-10-point reviews from rank-and-file members plus sommeliers, wine writers, and industry folks. Become a follower of someone whose tastes seem to align with yours and you can fast-track your education and better target your purchases. Another plus: the app also covers beer, sake, and spirits.

CellarTracker. Created by a wine lover while on sabbatical from Microsoft, CellarTracker is to a spreadsheet (his former tool) what runway models are to mannequins. Enriching its capabilities, which



include alerts when a vintage has reached peak drinkability, are more than five million tasting notes from the app's 400,000-plus users. Budding wine enthusiasts can learn from one another and from the experienced aficionados who post and engage in online conversations. An annual fee brings more features.

Wine Ring. This app does for wine what Pandora does for music. After you enter basic assessments

of a dozen or so wines-love it, like it, so-so, don't like it-Wine Ring's paradigms click in, predicting what you'll think of a new wine according to your ever-evolving preference profile. There's guidance on food/wine pairings and, if your dining companions are among your Wine Ring followers, you can optimize the night's wine selection by including them in your query. - John Grossmann

HOME FOR SALE INCLUDES TOOTHBRUSH

hinking about moving up to a better home? A newly built residence in Los Angeles's Bel Air neighborhood will take you about as far up as you can go.

Developer Bruce Makowsky constructed it after noting that the average billionaire enjoys private jets and \$100 million yachts but "then they only live in a



\$30 million home." To address that discrepancy, he loaded his 38,000-square-foot property with every conceivable luxury and a \$250 million price tag, making it the most expensive home ever offered in the U.S.

So what do you get for a quarter-billion dollars? For starters, 12 bedrooms, 21 bathrooms, three kitchens, and two crocodile-skin-lined elevators. Also here are wine cellars stocked with 2,500 bottles; six bars; a 40-seat theatre with 7,000 movies; 130 artworks from around the world; an 85-foot pool with swim-up bar and adjacent outdoor 20-foot movie screen; a \$30 million gallery of exotic cars and motorcycles, including a rare Rolls-Royce and a Bugatti; a spa with hisand-hers massage tables; a dining room with drop-dead views and a \$2 million floating glass staircase;

seven employees (for the first two years), including a masseuse, who live in a staff wing; and a fourlane bowling alley.

Oh, yeah: you also get the helicopter that's parked on the roof. As Makowsky told the Los Angeles Times, "The home comes with everything. You don't even need a toothbrush."

Of course, while this property may suffice for many people, inevitably someone is going to want more. And if you're that someone, you won't have to wait long: developer Nile Niami is reportedly already at work on a home in the same neighborhood that will up the ante even further by featuring a casino, a 30-car garage, and 100,000 square feet of living space—nearly double what the White House offers. The target asking price for this one: \$500 million. —Jeff Burger