

### **Jim Strong**

Accessibility, attention to detail—especially in hotel selection—and an unabashed penchant for luxury drive Strong, who, together with his mother, Nancy Strong, customizes European trips that focus on five-star stays. His itineraries are filled with special experiences and contacts for round-the-clock assistance. *Specialties: Italy, U.K., and France; minimum daily spend: none; 214-361-0027; jim@strongtravel.com.*

### **Kendra Thornton**

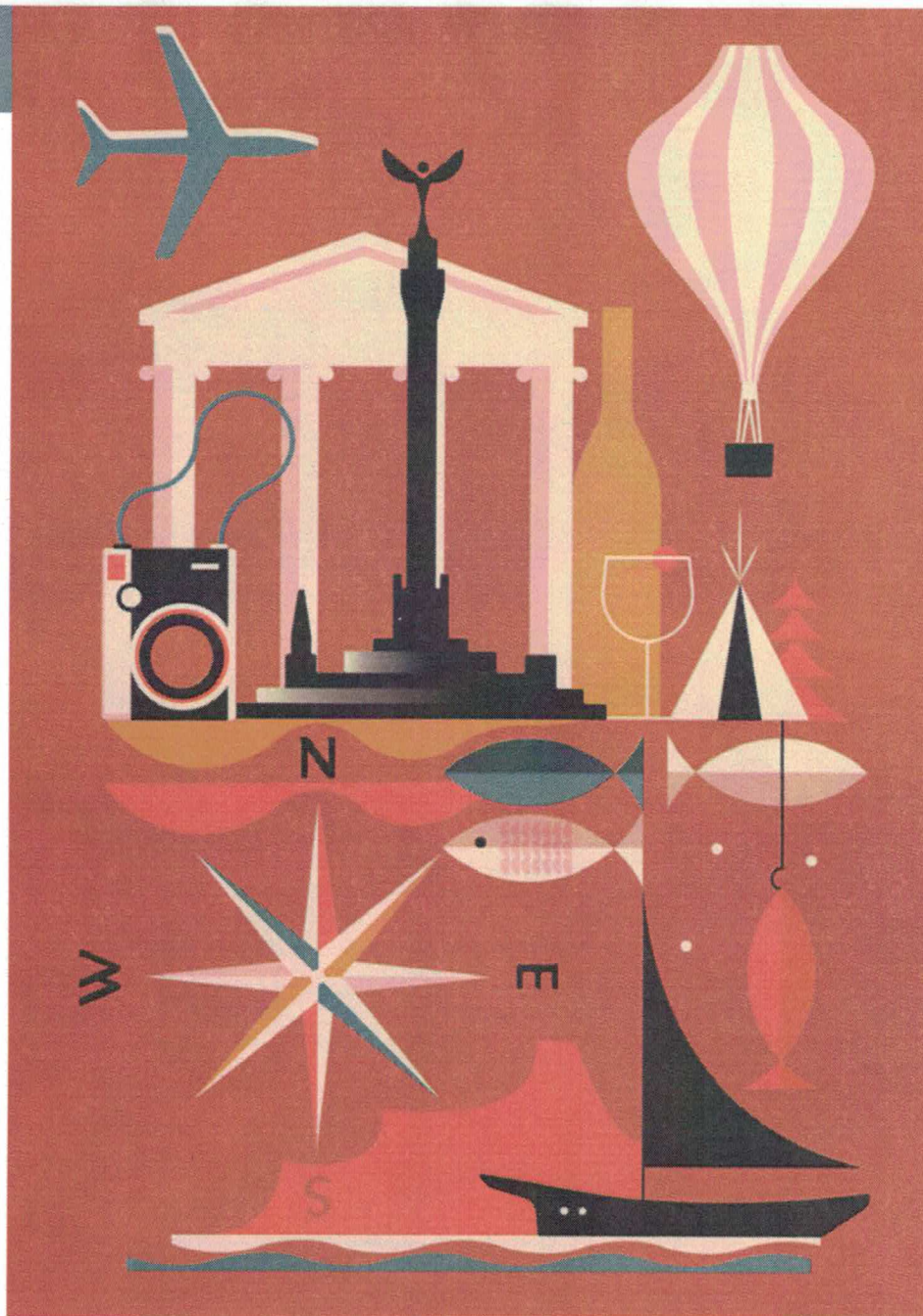
Thornton, whose parents own Royal Travel & Tours, has witnessed the evolution of the industry for more than 35 years. She currently serves as the company's vice president of new business development and marketing, but still makes time to plan trips for clients interested in visiting the Caribbean. *Other specialties: family travel and honeymoons; minimum daily spend: none; 815-217-0608; kthornton@royal-travel.com.*

### **Keith Waldon**

Waldon started his career in luxury travel in college as an intern for Rosewood Hotels. Later he founded Departure Lounge, an innovative retail travel agency, as well as Global CommUnity, a family-travel company specializing in cultural experiences. He uses a visual survey to get to know new clients and is often able to provide upgrades and perks. *Specialty: family travel; minimum daily spend: \$1,250–\$1,500; 512-750-1012; kwaldon@departurelounge.com.*

### **Kimberly Wilson Wetty**

The co-president of Valerie Wilson Travel, Wetty has clients who have relied on her expertise for more than two decades. She keeps tabs on their travel history and interests to continue to make informed trip suggestions, from adventures in Africa to luxury cruising in the Caribbean. *Specialties: small- and medium-ship cruises, family travel, and the Caribbean; minimum daily spend: \$1,000; 212-592-1218; kimberlyww@vwti.com.*



## SPECIAL-INTEREST EXPERTS

### • Air Travel

#### **Paul Tumpowsky**

Tumpowsky is the CEO and cofounder of Skylark, where he uses his connections in the airline industry to negotiate air contracts in every class on major airlines (American, Delta, United, Emirates). This allows him to save his clients thousands of dollars and deliver perks like flexible booking and refundability. Skylark's elite package deals also offer premium access to airline clubs and an expedited check-in

process with no membership required. *Minimum daily spend: \$500; 212-759-5275; p@skylark.com.*

### • Adventure Travel

**Sandy Cunningham** (see page 61)

#### **Brooke Garnett**

Garnett developed her appreciation for travel while working as a dive master on Koh Phi Phi Don, a tiny Thai island in the Andaman Sea. She is lauded for her adventure-led itineraries,

many of which include activities like gorilla trekking in Rwanda, heli-fishing in Canada, and motorbiking in Namibia. She also has a passion for luxury hotels, and is constantly scouting new properties for her clients. Some of her recent favorites include the Six Senses Bhutan and the Awasi Patagonia. *Additional specialties: Africa, South America, and Antarctica; minimum daily spend: \$1,250 per person; 914-275-8820; brooke@mayamayatravel.com.*