



City & Shore

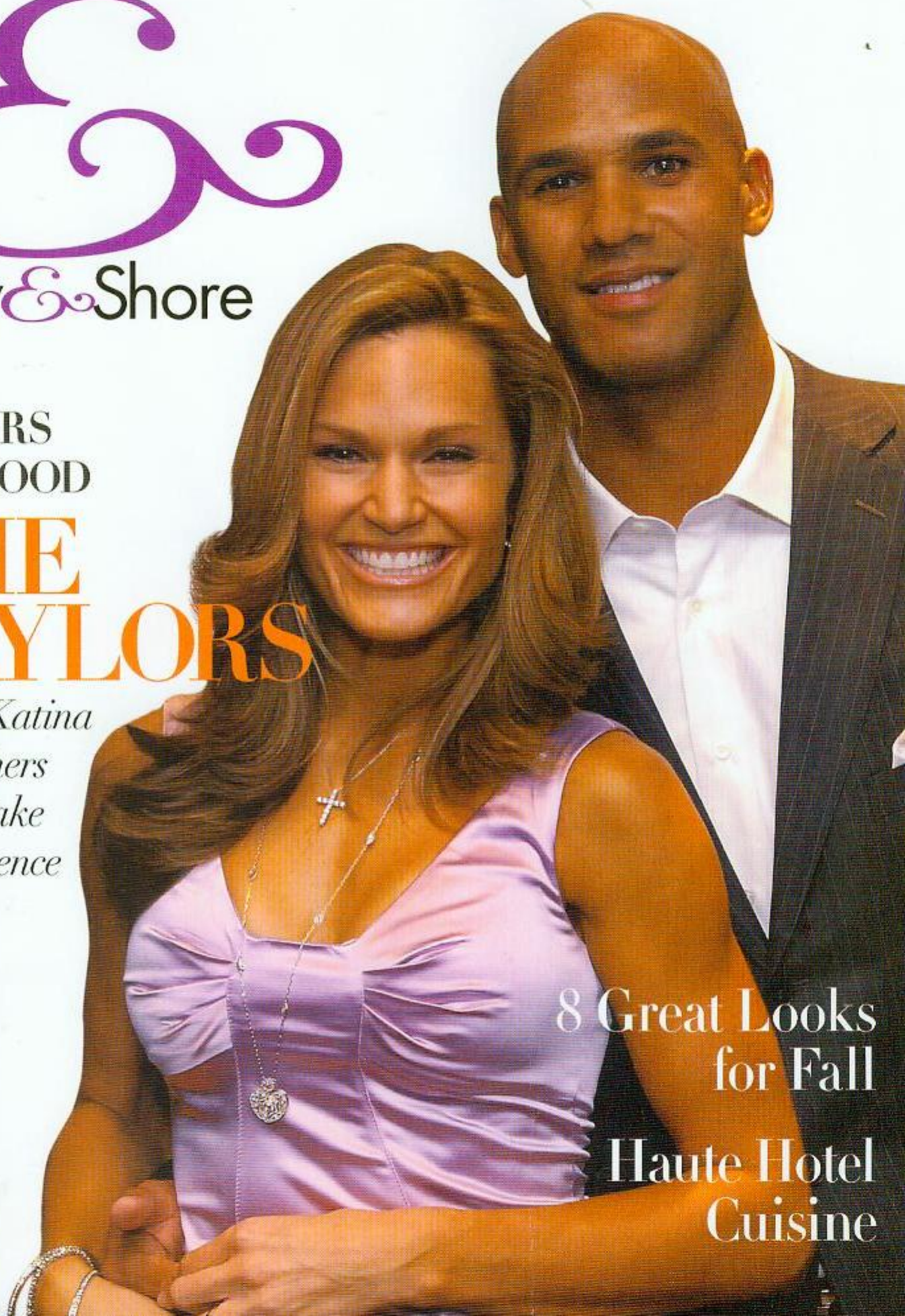
POWERS
FOR GOOD

THE TAYLORS

*Jason, Katina
and Others
Who Make
a Difference*

8 Great Looks
for Fall
Haute Hotel
Cuisine

Aug/Sept
08



The Las Olas River House's cozy library perfectly suited the concert's unplugged vibe. At right: singer-songwriter Richie Supa, Bruce Rossmeyer, CEO of 15 Harley-Davidson locations, and Bon Jovi's Richie Sambora.



An open house like no other: Chart-topping guitarist



There are many ways to sell a home in a tough market. You can scent the air with freshly baked cookies; throw in a couple of flat screens, even a luxury car or two.

Or you could have a rock star play your open house.

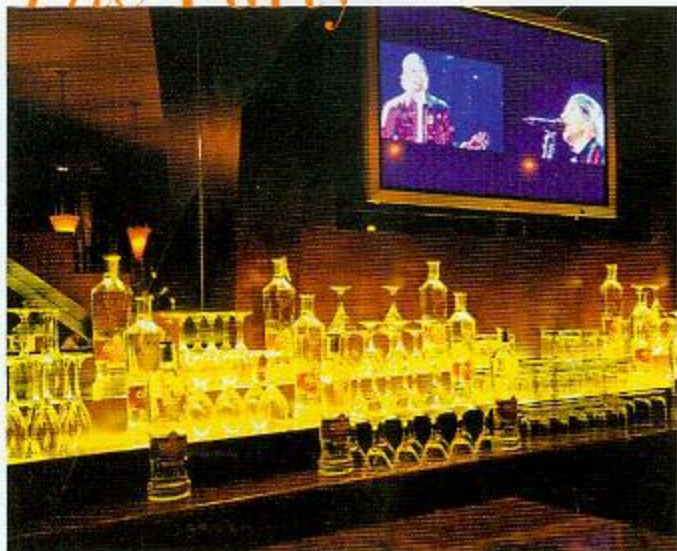
Not that we have anything against cookies or new cars, but that last one is definitely intriguing. After all, how often does a chart-topping guitarist pull up a chair in your living room?

No doubt, a private concert from singer-songwriter Richie Sambora, lead guitarist of Bon Jovi for 25 years, was something of a treat – even for the most jaded home-buyer or concert-goer.

The occasion was the Tarragon Corp.'s reintroduction of its \$10 million penthouse atop The Las Olas River House.

Richie Sambora rocks the penthouse. By DEBORAH WILKER

The Party



stretched out on stellar acoustic versions of *Living On A Prayer*, *Wanted Dead or Alive*, as well as a couple of Aerosmith tunes and original compositions.

Imbued with a *VH1 Storytellers* feel, the event featured the performers discussing the hit songs each had written and how they came to be.

"I was down on South Beach at the Marlin Hotel," Supa said about a mid '90s songwriting session with Aerosmith's Steven Tyler. "We were writing a song called 'Kink.'"

He explained that the work day had been going badly, so they stepped out for

From top: the Orzel Bar, the penthouse, Trish Schneider and Robert Cullins, Orzel president and CEO.

With many custom furnishings, the sweeping tri-level unit boasts 360-degree views of city, ocean and New River, the usual private elevators, home theatre, two master suites, its own gym, even a new-age toilet shaped like a hotbox – all in more than 8,000 square feet.

After a generous tour and cocktails downstairs for about a hundred or so high-rollers, organizers brought Sambora onto a make-shift stage in the building's members-only library – a cozy reading-room perfectly suited to the unplugged vibe.

Sambora was joined on stage by old friend and songwriter Richie Supa, a longtime local who has written hits for Aerosmith and others in the music business.

Scheduled for just 40 minutes, the concert quickly went over an hour, as the duo



some air – and spotted "a 1966 pink Cadillac Eldorado convertible with a gorgeous blonde in pink stiletto heels and a mini skirt. ... Steven turned to me and said, the song is not Kink – it's Pink!"

Then he and Sambora launched into the tune, which became a Top 40 hit in 1998. How cool was it to sit at the feet of Bon Jovi's guy while he reinterpreted Aerosmith's stuff?

"This is unbelievable," said party-goer Joe Insalaco.

For his part, Sambora quickly put the audience at ease by acknowledging his highly publicized March arrest (on suspicion of DUI)

right off the top, and then set about mining his rocky personal life for humor. Despite a string of well-chronicled personal setbacks the past couple of years, he hasn't missed a single date on Bon Jovi's continuing world tour (the band plays outdoor stadiums again this summer) – and on this particular evening he seemed no worse for wear.

There were jokes about dating and the quality of his mug shot, as well as about his trips to rehab (where he says he crossed paths with Lindsay Lohan). Of the Malibu incident, he told guests that it had happened "on the way home from *Horton Hears A Who* with



Audience members, including Tarragon Executive Vice President Jamie Helman, and the show's producer Dan Barnett of Wizard Entertainment, were clearly appreciative. Most spent the evening huddled closely around the stage, where they even bantered with the performers much as old friends might do around the living-room piano.

In this bare setting without a stitch of net, Sambora ably demonstrated why he (and Bon Jovi) have always been due greater respect. It was just one of those entirely unique evenings – pure fly-on-the-wall fun, as well as terrific musicianship – something few rock fans, let alone house-hunters, ever witness.

"I'm really getting into this gig," Sambora said midway through. "Maybe I'll buy an apartment here."



From top: Sambora, River House developer Jamie Helman, and Supa; the penthouse; Martine and Craig Zinn of Zinn Automotive Group.

my daughter."

In talking about his long ride with Bon Jovi, Sambora said he had a particular fondness for the band's 2000 hit *It's My Life*, because it had unexpectedly catapulted the group back atop the charts after a six-year hiatus.

"When we put this song out we were at one of those phases of our career, right around the millennium, one of those moments when you know things could go either way," he said of a time when the band wasn't sure it would even stay together. "But this was just one of those crazy songs!" he said before playing the unplugged version.

