

## CAMELOT, CONTINUED



## FLORA, FAUNA & FUN

Comprising 3,400 shimmering glass panels, the new conservatory (right) at the **CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN** resembles a giant three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle. The spectacular structure, the centerpiece of a \$37 million expansion, encompasses two unique ecosystems. "We chose a cloud forest in Costa Rica [below right] and the desert of Madagascar," says executive director Brian Holley. "They are diametrically opposed environments, both of which are at great risk." Combined, these two biomes have many unusual animals and more than 350 species of plants, such as Madagascar's bizarre baobab tree and the tenrec, a seven-inch hedgehog-like creature.

In the cloud forest, too, exotic flora and fauna abound, including the red-eyed tree frog, twenty species of butterflies and hundreds of orchids, some just a pencil tip in width. *Eleanor Armstrong Smith Glasshouse, 11030 East Boulevard; 888-853-7091; cbgarden.org.*



ANNETTE GALLAGHER WEISMAN

It's been forty years since JFK was gunned down in Dallas, but he's never been far from our minds. Two new books capture the aura and the era: Coinciding with the Jacques Lowe exhibit in Dallas, **REMEMBERING JACK: INTIMATE AND UNSEEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE KENNEDYS** (Bulfinch Press; \$45) is a compelling compendium of Lowe's insider images. **JFK: REMEMBERING JACK** (Chronicle Books; \$12.95) is a primer accompanied by a terrific CD that contains historic recordings of the man, beginning with a radio interview he gave right out of Harvard. It's an acoustic journey that both teaches and inspires.

## A "MORE PERFECT" MUSEUM

Conceived by an act of Congress in 1988 and opened this year with a literal bang on Independence Day (a falling display frame barely missed Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor), the **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER** (below) is the newest addi-



tion to Philadelphia's historic district. The angular limestone-and-granite structure, designed by Henry N. Cobb, was outfitted under the watchful eye of Ralph Appelbaum, best known for the interpretive exhibits he created for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Displays explore the Constitution as a living document through mock voting booths; a posting wall on which guests can weigh in on constitutional issues; and an interactive video that allows visitors to watch themselves get sworn in as president. An expanding outreach program of debates, workshops and lectures promises to keep the Constitution Center as dynamic as the document that inspired it. *525 Arch Street; 215-409-6600; constitutioncenter.org.*

SARA KELLY

## CHOCOLATES FOR CONNOISSEURS

Imagine a dark-chocolate truffle with a hint of Japanese ginger and wasabi. Or a milk-chocolate ganache balanced with sweet coconut extract and a pinch of spicy curry powder. These intriguing combinations are among the delectable creations of Katrina Markoff, the Chicago-based chocolatier behind **VOSGES HAUT CHOCOLAT**. Markoff recently opened her first Manhattan shop in a chic SoHo locale, and judging by the number of people I saw snapping up chocolate-filled hatboxes (below), Markoff's reputation clearly precedes her. (The moment she opened her doors, I myself was ready to join her chocolate club, which ships mem-

bers a different exotic variety every month.) Vosges truffles are works of art, among them, a surprisingly addictive confection that's dotted with Taleggio cheese and walnuts. Fusion at its best. *Club Haut Chocolat memberships from \$111 to \$480; truffles from \$2 apiece. 132 Spring Street; 212-625-2929; vosgeschocolate.com.*

MELISSA MILRAD GOLDSTEIN

