



BETH M. HOWARD

The Best Places to Be for New Year's 2000

TRAVEL & LEISURE

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Santa Barbara

SECRET VENICE
5 Walking Tours

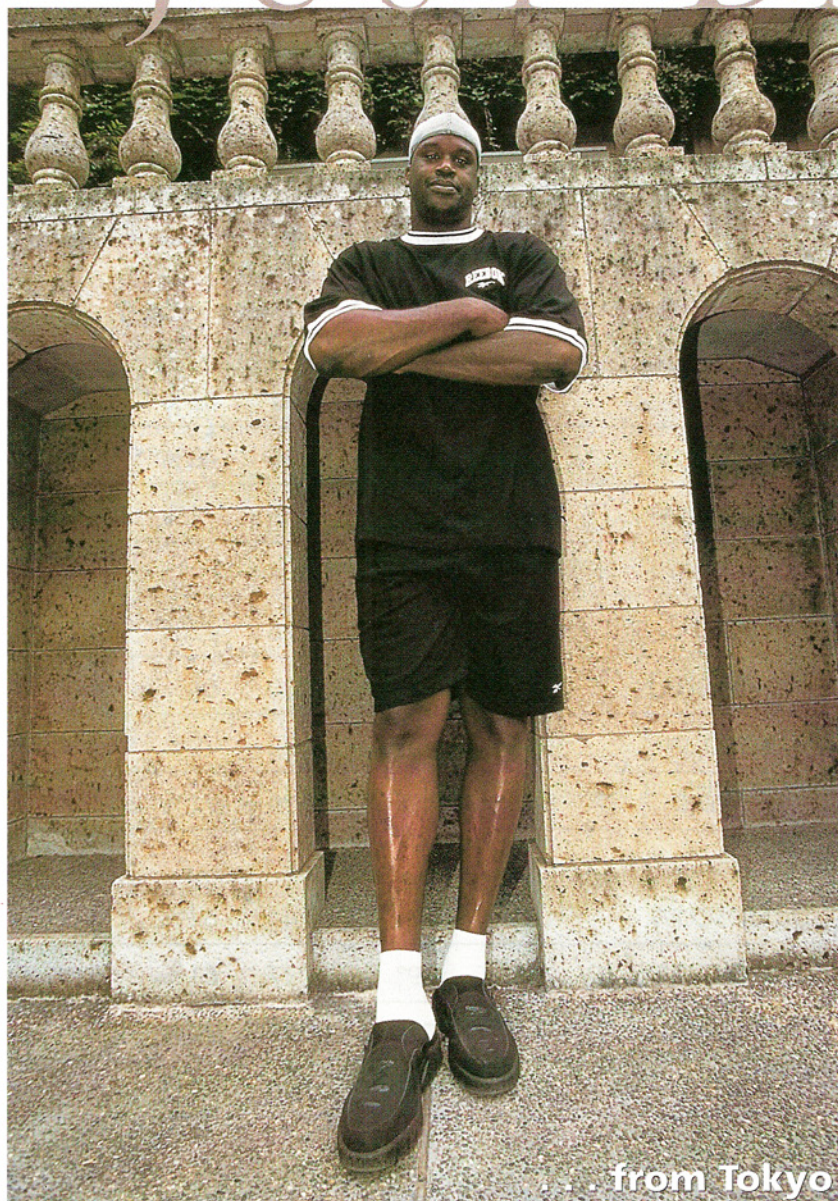
Eating Well in
ISTANBUL

Display until February 3, 1998



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JUST BACK



... from Tokyo **Shaquille O'Neal**

"I sat down on the bench after warming up for a promotional game in the Tokyo Dome, and the sumo champ Akebono came up from behind me and put me in a bear hug. Then he whispered something in my ear—a secret—that I had forgotten I'd told him three years earlier on my first trip to Tokyo. After I realized who it was, we embraced and laughed and started jumping around like big kids."

WHERE TO STAY: "The Four Seasons—the best part is that the beds are big. Most Asian hotels have small beds. This photo shows me in the hotel gardens. There's also a three-story pagoda, high up on a hill overlooking the city."

WHAT TO EAT: "I had room service deliver my meals from Miyuki, one of the hotel restaurants, because large crowds gathered wherever I went. I'm not much of a sushi eater, but in Japan you have to try it—it's so good."

FLEETING IMPRESSION: "I find it weird that some of Tokyo is so modern and some of it so ancient."

BEST SITES: "See the Imperial Palace, and have some fun at Sawa Ski Dome, an indoor slope in the suburb Funabashi."

WHAT TO BUY: "I shopped for an entire afternoon in the electronics department of Seibu, which has everything before we get it in the States. After checking out all the new technology, I bought a Sony digital camera."