Direct Holidays: Departing
November 24 from Glasgow, seven nights in Tenerife, at the three star Dania Magec Hotel in Puerto de la Cruz, half-board, costs £199 per adult.

ODeparting
November 25 from
Glasgow, 28 nights
in the Costa g

Blanca, at the four star Terralta Apartments in Benidorm, self-catering, costs £199 per adult.

 Departing November 30 from Glasgow, seven nights in Lanzarote, at the three star Attantic Gardens in Playa Blanca, self-catering, costs £149 per adult.
 Departing December 1 from Glasgow, seven nights in Tenerife, at the three star Tamaimo Tropical Apartments in Puerto de Santiago, self-catering, costs £169 per adult. per adult.

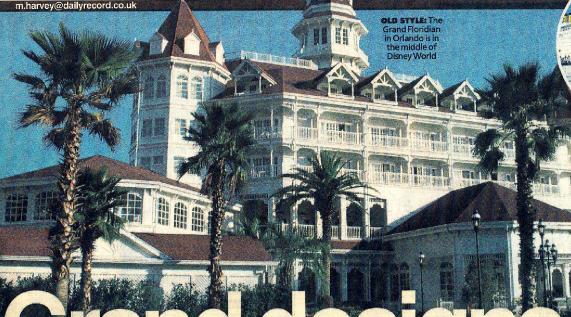
Departing December 1 from Edinburgh, seven nights in Tenerife, at the three star

Tamaimo Tropical
Apartments in Puerto de
Santago, self-catering,
costs £169 per adult.

**Obeparting December 8
from Edinburgh, seven
nights in Tenerife, at the
three star Tamaimo
Tropical Apartments in
Puerto de Serticione. Tamaimo Tropical Puerto de Santiago, self-catering, costs £169

per adult.

For details on other Direct
Holidays deals, call 0870
1919 185, or see Teletay page 265.



Orlando is famed for theme parks but the For accomodation prices at the Grand
For accomodation prices at the Grand
Fordian and the Yardt Club, call Dismay on tox 10
Fordian and the Yardt Club, disneywords do use
Fordian and the Yardt Club, disneywords on an experimental of the Yardt Club, and the Yardt Clu hotels are where adult escapism is found on

N enormous wroughtiron chandelier hangs from a stained-glass dome a full five stories above me.

It illuminates an atrium adorned with potted palms, white wicker bird cages, Chippendale furniture and a brass band playing from a balcony. A caged elevator rises from the paisley-patterned carpet. No, I'm not on the set of a period drama but I sure feel like it.

drama but I sure feel like it.
This is the lobby of Orlando's Grand
Floridian resort and it's definitely not for
anyone who stays in hotels simply to
have a roof over their head.
The Grand Floridian is slap bang in
the centre of Walt Disney World's

colossal complex of four amusement parks and two water parks but there's not a cartoon character in sight. Porters stroll by wearing white waistcoats and straw boater hats and, if

it wasn't for the Hawaiian short-wearing holidaymakers, you'd feel out of place wearing anything less than a linen suit

and panama.

Based on grand seaside resorts of the Victorian era, the Grand Floridian is a sprawling structure of white clapboard and red shingle roofs dotted with dormer windows. It's all squeaky clean

but wonderfully convincing.
Ragtime music plays from hidden speakers along the paths through the immaculate gardens which lead to lodges housing the guest-rooms. And

By Christian Sylt

these would make the Great Gatsby feel right at home.

The attention to detail is infectious The attention to detail is intectious and you find yourself reaching to tap antiques to check if they are genuine. Disney pulls this off at 22 Orlando hotels, ranging from the Floridian to a giant hunting lodge and the Yacht Club, an 1800s New England seaside mansion.

With so much to keep your eyes occupied, it can soon tire you out and this is before you get to the theme parks. But hot-footing around the parks is easiest when based at a Disney hotel because they offer more than just a

Guests get perks such as extra hours in the parks after closing and a room key which doubles as a payment card to charge anything in the resort to your room and have it delivered there.

There's also a complimentary coach to

take guests on the 30-minute journey to and from the airport. Those flying with Virgin can even check in at a dedicated site at the Downtown Disney area.

Free access to resort-wide transport, including boats and monorails, puts all parks at most around 15 minutes away

from each hotel.

The Magic Kingdom park is home to Mickey Mouse and full of kiddie coasters but for more intelligent thrills, head to Epcot. This science-based park has rollercoasters themed to car test-tracks and a glider simulator with seats swaying over a huge screen as scents are pumped in to match the film. With more than 30 malls, Orlando is

the ideal place to take advantage of the great exchange rate.

great exchange rate.

After days spent in Orlando's humid
30-degree heat, it's fortunately easy to
relax in the evenings.

The nightly Cirque du Soleil circus
performance in Downtown Disney is a
must-see. The surreal show combines
breathtaking acrobatics and rock music
realeze animal acrs. to replace animal acts.

Equally spectacular are Disney's pyrotechnic displays. Its Magic Kingdom show features themed fireworks erupting into shapes of stars, hearts and even smiley faces.

For the most relaxing way to watch the fireworks, the music is piped to speakers around the Grand Floridian's pools

open 24-hours.
So you can sit in the outdoor hot tub and watch the display in the distance while

listening to the choreographed music. Although it may seem somewhat extravagant, in Orlando this is the norm.

STARS: Mickey and Minnie

STILL POPULAR: Cruise ships Iravel **news**

ALTHOUGH there is no end in sight to Britain's cruising in sight to Britain's cruising boom, there is a growing risk that passengers could be deterred by immigration hassles and queues to get on and off the glant new superliners.

That's the warning from bouglas Ward, veleran of 950 cruises and author of the 2007 edition—the 22nd—off The Berlitz Guide To Cruising And Cruise Shios.

Berlitz Guide To Cruising And Cruise Ships.
He says being onboard some big ships is like being stuck in a large shopping mall.
Mr Ward said: "Big ships offer great facilities for trailities, but plenty of repeat passengers think it's time to downsize."
"Gelice best into I.S ports like."

it's time to downsize.

"Going back into US ports like
Miami and Fort Lauderdale can
mean such long queues in
immigration that cruises end on a
immigration that cruises end on a."

immigration mar cruises end on a low note, rather than a high one. In Europe, too, Ward says smaller ports in the Greek Islands big ships. In the Caribbean, small islands handle small ships, while the big islands take superliners.

the big islands take superifiers. "Experienced cruise passengers are choosing smaller ships in order to avoid the long lines and the somewhat sanitised experience of the large vessels," says Douglas ward.
In 2007, says The Beritz guide, some 27 ships of more than 100,000 tons will be in service—the largest of them Royal Caribbean's Freedom of the Seas, which debuted in May 2006, with space for 4370 passengers.

which debuted in May 2006, with space for 4370 passengers. But Royal Caribbean's Project Genesis, arriving in 2009, comfortably tops that with an amazing 6400 passengers. Ward also says that three-class cruising is back in fashion, with

cruising is back in tashion, with exclusive areas available only to those willing to pay more. Mr Ward seid: "There is more demand for exclusivity on cruise shipe, and cruise lines are responding to it.

standard £100 per day, many people pay £500 for a suite like an executive floor on a hotel."

Guide To Cruising And
Cruise Ships 2007
(216.99) is available at
bookshops and online
at www. berlitz
publishing.com; Cruise
Advisory Service
(01425 485 100); Mundy
Cruising 020 7734 4404).

'Sit in the hot tub and watch the fireworks'