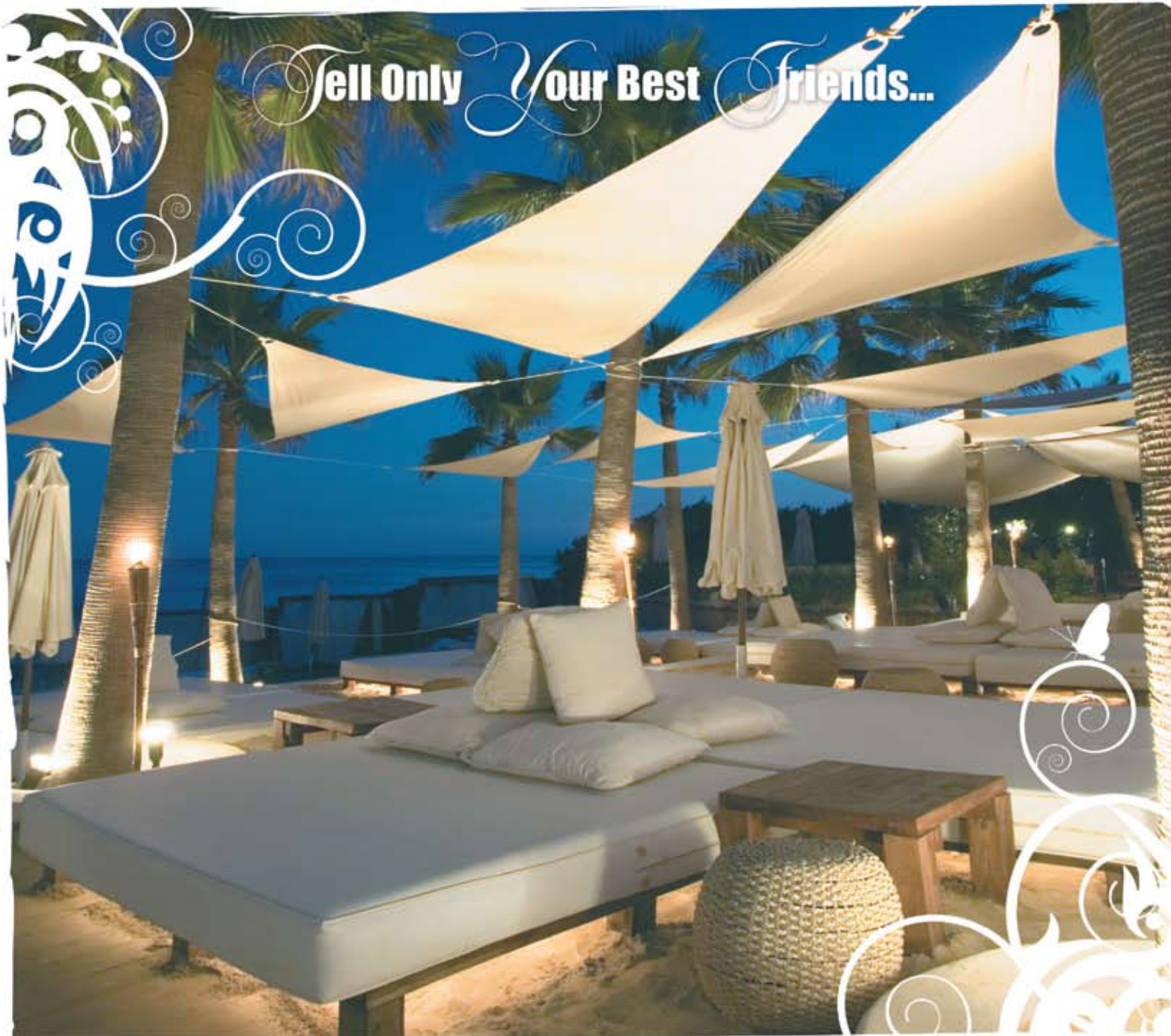


A unique blend of glamour, style and hedonism under a sunny sky, in one of the world's most exclusive resorts.

NIKKI BEACH™

For sun drenched days and leisurely lunches against a backdrop of swaying palms, tee-pees and exotic bamboo beds

Nikki Beach Marbella open from 11 am to 1 am for another sizzling summer



CABO SAN LUCAS | HOLLYWOOD | MARBELLA | MARRAKECH | MIAMI | NEW YORK | PORTUGAL | PUERTO VALLARTA | SARDINIA | ST. BARTH | ST. TROPEZ

Reservations + 34 952 836 239 / + 34 646 444 343
marbella@nikkibeach.com • www.nikkibeach.com

Playa del Hotel Don Carlos, Ctra de Cadiz, km 192, 29600, Marbella, Spain



Bubble 'O' Seven

Text: Dave Vickers Photos: Courtesy of Rinspeed

Once again the ingenuity of science-fiction writing becomes science fact. These mind bending prophecies rarely stay on paper or film for long, the second one of these whimsical geniuses trump up a mad fantasy, some clever clogs has to go and make it work. In this latest episode of far-fetched innovation, the 'Q' of non fiction has tackled the lip-smacking prospect of **amphibious motoring**, and skilfully cracked the surface on a spanking new obsession - Scuba Driving!



Frank M. Rinderknecht, Founder and CEO of Rinspeed Inc.

“It is undoubtedly not an easy task to make a car watertight and pressure-resistant enough to be maneuverable under water. The real challenge however was to create a submersible car that moves like a fish in water.”

The Rinspeed sQuba is the very latest in Marine amphibious technology, and contrary to its competitors, it's a looker too. We say 'competitors' but that isn't really fair, amphibious vehicles are usually bulky, track-driven army craft loaded with armour plating. These clumsy-colossi roll precariously along the seabed before emerging from the waves and scaring the Speedos off deck chair attendants. Not so with sQuba, as pretty as Aqua Marina and twice as nimble, this concept-cabriolet is the world's first real submersible car, and she literally flies under water. Yep, you're not dreaming; the James Bond movie-fake can now be put to bed - thanks to the 'Q' of non-fiction, Rinspeed boss Frank M. Rinderknecht. Obviously, for Swiss automobile visionary Frank, the **world is not enough!** He has dreamed of sub-aqua success for thirty years, ever since he first sat down and watched 007 take that virtual-plunge in his famous Lotus Elan. Frank certainly has the credentials, his company Rinspeed, are world leaders in concept-car design and speed-boat customisation. Serial crowd-pleasers at the Geneva motor show, they regularly shock and surprise with madcap schemes like transparent cars and flying four wheelers, but this project seems to have a bit more mileage, albeit nautical, and it's got the motor press all jammed in a J-Turn! Rinderknecht himself states: "It is undoubtedly not an easy task to make a car watertight and pressure-resistant enough to be maneuverable under water. The real challenge however was to create a submersible car that

moves like a fish in water." A challenge he and Swiss constructors Esoro tackled, and supremely conquered with some incredible results. Not only have they jointly realized comfortable under-water flight, the car's transition between land and liquid-mode is a complete showstopper. sQuba rolls straight in to the sea, no messing, no adjustments, she drives, she dives! The open-top class seems a peculiar choice for a marine vehicle; occupants breathe piped oxygen via scuba masks, obviously essential for any under water activity, and perhaps also useful for driving through Sheffield. However, the manufacturers chose the open-top design for safety reasons. In an emergency, opening a door at ten meters down (sQuba's optimum flight depth) would be nigh on impossible, leaving you in that rather chilling - open a window; flood the cabin; take a breath and kiss your ass goodbye - escape-conundrum! Thankfully leaving us alive to **die another day** (sorry!) wasn't the only reason for choosing an open-top design; an enclosed volume of just two cubic meters would mean adding an extra two tonnes in weight to the car, just to counteract the extra buoyancy. This would render it the slowest cabrio on terra firma, and being left behind at the lights by a double-decker is not something Rinspeed want their good name associated with. However, with a top speed of 77 Mph, the car won't actually win any track awards. sQuba's power is supplied by rechargeable Lithium-Ion batteries. Rinderknecht proudly informs, "The 'sQuba' is a zero-emission