

take mom on her dream vacation

Sure, it's a grand gesture. Can you think of anyone who deserves it more?

BY SARAH ROSE

why she's earned it

A year of her services, on the open market:

47	medical diagnoses	.....	\$150/ea
7	chicken soup deliveries	.....	\$8/ea
4	birthday cakes	.....	\$35/ea
63	hours career-counseling	.....	\$85/hr
28	hours fashion-coordinating	.....	\$50/hr
24	hours interior-decorating	.....	\$75/hr
16	hours holiday-hostessing	.....	\$100/hr
22	hours peacemaking	.....	\$500/hr
730	hours cooking for Dad	.....	\$65/hr
300	hours cleaning for Dad	.....	\$30/hr
Annual Total			.....\$84,851



Has your mom ever looked this blissed out? Or as positively adoring? It's finally official: You're her favorite child. Victory!

how not to kill each other

You love each other to death. It's possible to take that literally in close quarters.

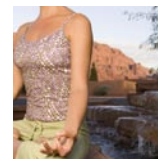
IN THE HOTEL ROOM Schedule a little alone time. Don't wait until she gets on your nerves: Take a walk by yourself once a day to establish a pattern and avoid hurt feelings.

AT DINNER Sit at the bar or join a communal table and chat up the locals. Remember, a bonding trip doesn't mean you never talk to anyone but each other.

AFTERWARD Retell your travel stories in a way that flatters her. Don't seek out punch lines.

where we're taking our moms

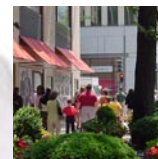
Treat her to massages, cooking classes or clothes.



THE SPA At Utah's Red Mountain Resort & Spa (1275 E. Red Mountain Circle, Ivins, redmountainspa.com; Last Minute Super Deal doubles from \$199, massages from \$89 for 50 minutes), you'll want to bike all morning, then get rubbed down all afternoon.



COOKING SCHOOL The white-clapboard walls of The Essex, Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa (70 Essex Way, Essex, vtculinaryresort.com; rooms from \$169, cooking classes from \$35 per person) give no hint that the New England Culinary Institute is inside.



SHOPPING TRIP The centrally located Fairmont Hotel Chicago (200 N. Columbus Drive, Chicago, fairmont.com/chicago; doubles from \$159, Internet-only FairmontSavers deals save 20 percent) is an ideal home base for a weekend of browsing and buying.

what to bring

Her purse is a bottomless bag of emergency supplies. Tell her to leave the 10-pounder at home—you've got her covered.

Hard candies
They'll remind you both of Grandma.

Hand sanitizer
Let me see your hands!

Stain stick
Listen to Mom and treat any stains before they set.

Various meds
Just in case.

Travel-size perfume
Get her favorite kind.

MP3 and headphones
In case one of you snores.

Eye mask
When you want to read and she wants to sleep.



win it! Capture every moment with Mom. One reader will win a Sony High-Definition Handycam Camcorder, valued at \$600. Enter to win at rachaelraymag.com/bigdeals.

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS Tips provided by: **Amy Graff**, blogger for Best Western hotels • **Deborah Tannen**, author of *You're Wearing THAT? Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation* • **Paula J. Caplan**, author of *[The New] Don't Blame Mother: Mending the Mother-Daughter Relationship*