

Search

Stock Quote

[HOME](#) [BUSINESS](#) [TECH](#) [MARKETS](#) [ENTREPRENEURS](#) [LEADERSHIP](#) [PERSONAL FINANCE](#) [FORBESLIFE](#) [LISTS](#) [OPINIONS](#)

[Video](#) [ForbesWoman](#) [CEO Network](#) [Org Chart Wiki](#) [Mobile](#) [Portfolio Tracker](#) [Blogs](#) [E-mail Newsletters](#) [Special Reports](#)

[E-MAIL](#) [SHARE](#) [PRINT](#) [COMMENTS](#) [YAHOO! BUZZ](#)

Passions

## Passions

Ann Abel, 10.17.09, 09:30 AM EDT

ForbesLife Magazine dated November 02, 2009

**How Texas oilman John Havens went from wells to wellness.**



©Brad Swonetz

A geologist by training, John Havens is the president of Seismic Exchange, a Houston-based company that provides seismic data to the oil and gas industry. While he remains devoted to his vocation--he's worked 31 years with the company, which was founded by his father--he revamped his life when he followed his avocation and bought Cal-a-Vie, a luxury spa outside San Diego, with his wife, Terri. The purchase, completed in 2000, grew out of his interest in fitness; he's a former marathoner and an avid jogger. The father of three children (ages 7, 8, and 12--"we had a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth," he says of becoming a parent in his 40s), he makes time for traveling, collecting antiques, and restoring historic homes, and is a benefactor of Texas Children's Hospital. He talks here about his beloved places and pursuits.



©Basi

### European Antiques

Havens makes yearly trips to France and sometimes Florence and typically ships back a container of 17th- and 18th-century pieces for his home and another for Cal-a-Vie. Parisian broker Patricia Dallemagne leads most of his expeditions (and led him to the Italian giltwood reliquary at right).

He's currently erecting a French chapel on his Houston property and recently repaved his driveway with 20,000 square feet of cobblestones from Lyon, purchased from Ruth Gay's architectural salvage shop, [Chateau Domingue](#), in Houston.