



on the phone
with Mary J. Blige

We lent the hip-hop queen our mobile
and rang her at random for a week

☎ **Tuesday, 8:42 P.M.**

"I'm at [Estiatorio] Milos, this Greek restaurant in New York, with my boyfriend, and I just had crab cakes. Delicious. I had a great day—did about 50 radio stations in one shot. It's exhausting—but it's OK because I was sitting the whole time."

☎ **Tuesday, 9:34 P.M.**

"I'm in bed in my suite at the Four Seasons, and I'm about to watch *Swordfish* on pay-per-view. The room's nice—big enough to do what you need to do. And I've got two

bathrooms, so people who come here don't have to use my personal bathroom. I'll probably fall asleep watching the movie. I'm tired. I have to be out of here at 7:30 tomorrow morning. OK, you're welcome. I mean, thanks."

☎ **Wednesday, 12:01 P.M.**

"Just taped *Rosie*, and I'm back in the hotel room, about to take a four-hour nap. OK, baby. Bye-bye."

☎ **Wednesday, 6:11 P.M.**

"I'm in my room waiting for my stylists to come and help me get ready for these par-

ties I'm going to tonight. I've got something to celebrate. My album is at No. 2 on the charts. No. 2! It feels good to be me. I'm pleased with the decisions I've made and my personal love for God."

☎ **Thursday, 11:03 A.M.**

"Just waking up. I'm reading my words to start my day. The Bible gives me instructions—lets me know why I'm here on Earth. Last night was good. I went to Puffy's party at Tao and had my first glass of red wine in about a month. Smoked some cigars too. I'm going to the gym today—get some of this stuff that I've been eating off of me. Need to get some cardio and some weights in."

☎ **Friday, 9:03 P.M.**

"I'm about to go into Merchants NY to celebrate my girlfriend's mother's birthday. She's a friend from Harlem. I don't really have a lot of friends in the industry. Of course, there's Missy [Elliott] and [Lil'] Kim. I'm not going to stay very long tonight. I'm sleepy now. I recorded the remake of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?" today with Bono and Nelly and Jermaine [Dupri]. Bono's always great. He's just a free spirit who loves people. I'm really happy with how my part turned out."

☎ **Saturday, 1:09 P.M.**

"I just went for a run. There's this steep hill in front of my

house that I like to run up and down. Running gives you quicker results than just dieting. It clears your head too. I'm at my home in New Jersey. I used to live on Long Island with my sister. I moved in here about nine months ago, so I don't have any furniture. There's nothing here really—except that special gift from Elton [John], a black baby grand piano. I have a guitar too. My boyfriend bought me that for Christmas. Or was it my birthday? I'm not sure. We're trying to do the first floor and the bedroom first—that's a priority. My bedroom has a bed, a flat-screen TV and a bunch of DVDs. I've got most of the *Twilight Zone* episodes, but I still need to get about 15 more."

☎ **Sunday, 10:16 P.M.**

"I just saw the Baby Phat [fashion] show. I saw the Catherine Malandrino show earlier today. Everything was pretty organized. They were both excellent. There was a lot of stuff where I was like, I've gotta have it."

☎ **Monday, 6:49 P.M.**

"I'm home, about to head out to some functions—like a charity event for children. It's been fun talking to you. It was cool to be at each and every place and have you find me. I enjoyed it. OK, bye, baby." —Jeryl Bunner

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