

VOLUME 4

WINTER 2024



OLTRÉ

ÓL·TRE

TRAVEL BEYOND

Wish you were here!



As a new year begins, it's exciting to look ahead at where in the world your travels might take you in 2024. That's why we've sent you this complimentary issue of OLTRE, our exclusive quarterly magazine filled with inspiration and ideas for your next trip.

"Over, above or beyond" – that's what OLTRE means in Italian. And that's exactly what travel advisors do for our clients: plan trips that exceed your expectations, every time, in every way. Thank you for your trust. We look forward to helping you create even more memorable experiences in the year ahead.

The World's Most Awarded Safari Company.



MICATO SAFARIS

A safari is unlike any other experience and
Micato Safaris is unlike any other company:
For every safari sold, we send a child to school.

Contact your travel advisor for details.



60  YEARS ON
SAFARI

TEN-TIME #1 WINNER:

World's Best Safari Outfitter, Travel+Leisure.
Micato is the only tour company in the
Travel+Leisure Hall of Fame





BENTLEY



Make a statement.

The Bentayga Extended Wheelbase Mulliner

The pinnacle of Bentley – and a breathtaking new benchmark for SUV luxury and wellbeing. Visit [BentleyMotors.com](https://www.BentleyMotors.com).

The name 'Bentley' and the 'B' in wings device are registered trademarks.
© 2023 Bentley Motors Inc. Model shown: Bentayga Extended Wheelbase Mulliner.



AT A GLANCE

Winter 2023

SCANDI COATED

36



Copenhagen, Denmark

After rising to fame as a design hub, Denmark's capital city is now resetting the eco standard for the fashion world.

4

SOUND/BAR



32

Oracabessa, Jamaica

Bob Marley, Grace Jones, Protoje, Chronixx... For OLTRE's Vol. 4 soundtrack, we tapped the legendary music producer at Island Records and founder of GoldenEye resort, Chris Blackwell.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS



18

Zagreb, Croatia

The whimsical artwork of Nikolina Petolas envisions a wild, luxurious world.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



86

Tetiaroa, French Polynesia

French celebrity chef Jean Imbert recently relaunched the signature restaurant at The Brando resort, a vision eight years in the making.

FAIRY DUST

40



Tsavo Conservation Area, Kenya

An African adventure with Micato Safaris takes us high and low in search of wonder — and comes alive in the dark of night.

SUPER NATURAL



54

Around the World

Architects and designers harness the biophilic principles of nature to simultaneously root and elevate the very notion of hospitality.



CRYSTAL

EXCEPTIONAL AT SEA



JOIN US ON OUR REIMAGINED SHIPS FOR A VOYAGE OF A LIFETIME

BOOK ONE OF OUR EXCEPTIONAL ITINERARIES BY CONTACTING YOUR PREFERRED TRAVEL ADVISOR.
PART OF **ABERCROMBIE & KENT TRAVEL GROUP**.





6

Call of the Wild

BALI IS BACK! AND WE ARE SO THERE.

- 72 Explore the **healing power of waterfalls**
- 76 Beach to mountain, the **ultimate Balinese restaurants**
- 78 The scoop on Bali's **new It neighborhood**
- 80 Plus: Where to stay with **all the VIP perks**



Heart OF THE RIVER™



Journey through the heart of Europe at springtime on a spectacular Danube River cruise with AmaWaterways. Be enchanted by Germany's vibrant pink cherry blossoms, delight in the reawakening of Austrian grapevines while sipping local wines and enjoy lovely weather for guided hikes and bike tours. From charming Easter Markets to mouthwatering seasonal delicacies, the joy of spring awaits on your Danube River cruise with AmaWaterways.



CONTACT YOUR PREFERRED TRAVEL ADVISOR TO PLAN YOUR NEXT VACATION

YEAR OF THE DRAGON

48

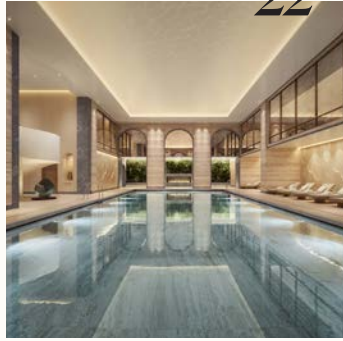


Sunda Islands and Papua New Guinea

Abercrombie & Kent teams with Ponant for a fascinating exploration of the Komodo Islands en route to Australia.

NEWS & BUZZ

22



Around the World

The hottest hotel openings from London to Bhutan. Plus; luxe tequila tasting in Mexico, a new museum in Spain and horse yoga in Southeast Asia.

CRUISE NEWS

30



Around the World

A proliferation of expedition ships has opened up a whole new frontier in cruising.

NIGHT MOVES

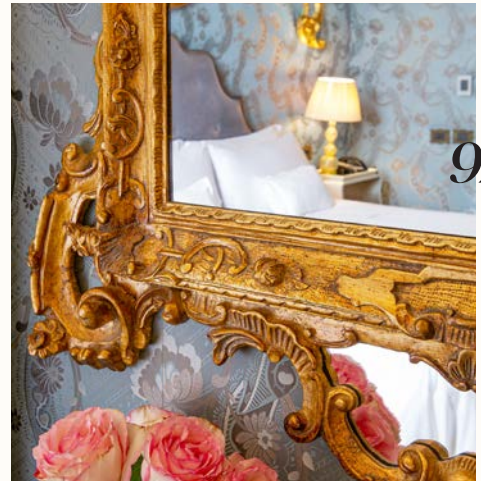
62



Lima, Peru

Most travelers these days know of Lima's reputation for great food. But the drinks came before that, and the city's cocktail scene is having something of a renaissance.

THE LEGEND



92

Venice, Italy

It's hard to imagine a more picturesque front-row seat for the festivities of Carnival than the storied Gritti Palace, overlooking the Grand Canal.

AIR NEWS

28



Around the World

Atlanta, Los Angeles, Los Cabos and beyond: Ultra-exclusive lounges and semi-private flights make flying a joy.

THE OLTRE Q&A

96



Delhi, India

"How many pairs of shoes do you pack for a two-week trip?" The Tiger Princess of India, Latika Nath, answers our questions.

PERSPECTIVE _____ 10

IMPRINT _____ 12

CONTRIBUTORS _____ 14

GRAN MELIÁ
— IGUAZÚ —
ARGENTINA

VISIONS *of* BEAUTY



LUXURY BRANDS

GRAN MELIÁ
HOTELS & RESORTS

The MELIÁ
COLLECTION

ME
BY MELIÁ


PARADISUS
BY MELIÁ



TAKE THE TRIP

So many places, so little time — that’s my travel mantra, and there’s nothing so enticing as a new calendar filled with nothing but possibility. Deciding where to go next is a favorite family pastime, one that’s even more poignant with each passing year, as my kids grow up and into their own adult lives. Last year was our first navigating a holiday season dictated not by the school calendar but by our eldest’s first post-graduate job schedule. We packed a lot into her few days off — holiday celebration at home, a weekend trip to the mountains with friends, even a quick family visit to her new city so she could show off where she lives now — and the brevity made our time together even more meaningful.

Free time is our most valuable nonrenewable asset, and your travel advisor can help you make the most of it. Now’s the perfect opportunity to reach out and collaborate on where to go in the year ahead. And if you’re looking for active adventures, this issue is filled with ideas and inspiration, from Indonesia to Africa and other noteworthy spots in between, plus a roundup of biophilic hotels, an immersive expedition cruise and more.

My grandfather had a quip for every occasion, and one of my favorites was his riff on C.S. Lewis: “Adventures are rarely fun when you’re having them.” I think of him any time my travel plans, hyped as “this will be so much fun,” turn out to be not so much, at least in the moment. It’s a good reminder to go with the flow, appreciate the good with the bad and think about the big picture. My husband refers to the 10-10-10 rule: Will this matter in 10 minutes, 10 months or 10 years? Indeed, I look back on past travel dramas and laugh. Remember when the monkeys got into our tent and ate our snacks? Or that time we got lost in Siem Reap and our transfers left without us, so we had to hire a rickshaw to take us back to our hotel? Ha! It all worked out — everything almost always does. And those mishaps make for better stories later, anyway.

After all, life is short — take the trip. Be adventurous. Make those memories while you can.

Elaine Srnka

Senior Vice President, Content



Six Senses® Residences & Spa Courchevel



Six Senses® Crans-Montana



Experience an out-of-the-ordinary escape

With so many amazing locations around the globe, you can explore the many opportunities with Six Senses® Hotels Resorts Spas.

For reservations, contact your travel professional.

OLTRE

Senior Vice President, Content

Elaine Srnka

Vice President, Publishing

Laura Sport

Editorial Director

Brad A. Johnson

Design Director

Devin Duckworth

Copy Editor

Jennifer Weston

International Correspondents

Sara Lieberman (Paris), Kathryn Romeyn (Bali), Chris Schalkx (Bangkok), Laura Schooling (London), Marina Spironetti (Milan)

Contributors

Addison Bailey, Daniela Carvalho, Tanvi Chheda, Lulu Hoa Bokkenheuser, Mary Holland, Maria Hunt, Jamie Kimani, Anne Lauritzen, Nyethiel Lul, Teddy Minford, Jen Murphy, Maganga Mwangogo, Don Nichols, Nikolina Petolas, Tommaso Riva, Lily Rose, Armin Tehrani, Simon Urwin, Harival Zayuka

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Cruises Pam Young

Destinations Brian Hegarty

Hotel Marketing Alexandra Rivera

Hotel Programs Dennis Grunden

In-Country Partners Haisley Smith

Partner Marketing Stephen McGillivray

Advertising Sales Lisa Calderone-Spierings
Laurelei Papajani

Account Management

Marni Becker

Marshall Davenport

Melissa Dobmeier

Catherine Johns

Ronald Laing

Pam Massey

Sinead O'Connell

Loyde Pires

Becky Serdar

Jeanne Watters

Danielle Whitmore

Database Marketing

Jocelyn Acosta

Elizabeth Broehl

Felipe Castro

Adam Kemerer

James Nathan

Daniel Tennant

Katarzyna Turska

Direct advertising inquiries to advertising@oltremag.com

INTERNOVA TRAVEL GROUP

Chief Executive Officer J.D. O'Hara

President, Global Travel Collection Angie Licca

President, Travel Leaders Group John Lovell

Chief Financial Officer Robert Klug

Chief Information Officer Jeremy Van Kuyk

Executive Vice President, Partner Relations Albert Herrera

Executive Vice President, Partner Relations Peter Vlitas

Senior Vice President, Public Relations Elizabeth Gaerlan

Select and Curated Hotel Rate Key

\$ = Under \$500

\$\$ = \$500 - \$1,000

\$\$\$ = \$1,000 - \$1,500

\$\$\$\$ = Over \$1,500

Categories reflect average midseason rate for standard room. Your travel advisor can secure complimentary Select perks such as hotel credits, breakfast for two, early check-in/late check-out (based on availability) and other extras.

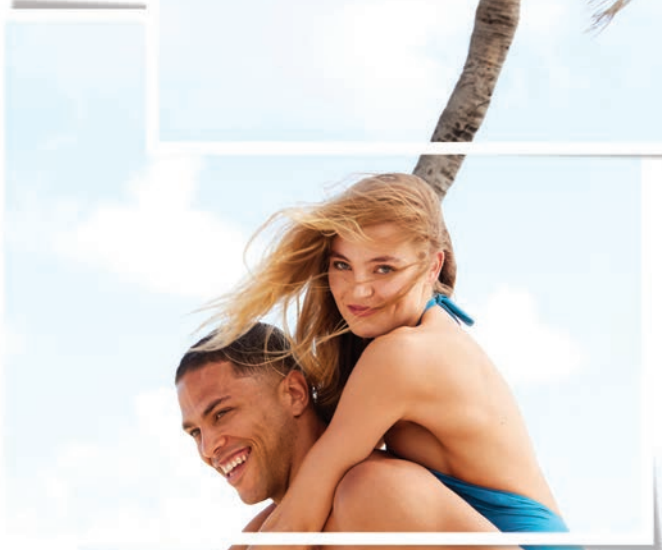
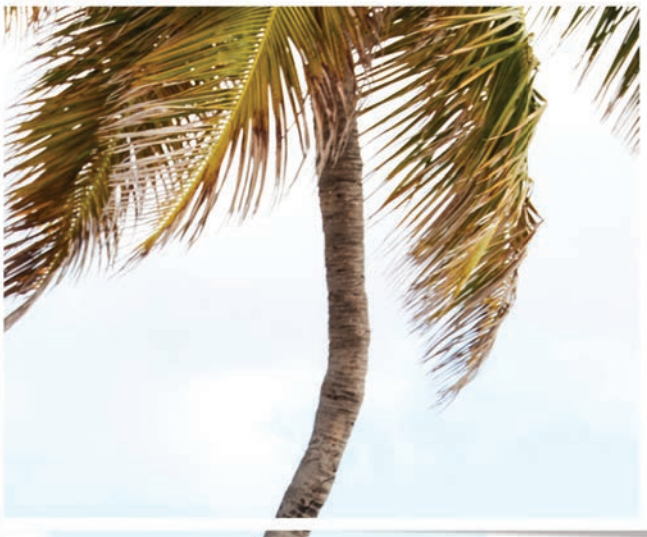
ON THE FRONT COVER:

Shot on location at Capella Ubud, Bali. Photography by Lily Rose.

ON THE BACK COVER:

Shot on location at Pura Taman Pecampuhan Sala, Bali. Photography by Harival Zayuka.

OLTRE is published quarterly by Internova Travel Group, one of the largest travel services companies in the world. Internova brands represent more than 100,000 travel advisors in more than 6,000 company-owned and affiliated locations throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, with a presence in more than 80 countries. Publisher assumes no responsibility for representations or changes to travel information and pricing described herein, which are subject to change and availability, and restrictions may apply. Nothing may be reprinted in whole or in part without written consent of Publisher. Direct editorial and subscription inquiries to editors@oltremag.com and advertising requests to advertising@oltremag.com. Internova Travel Group is headquartered at 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019; Internova.com. Copyright © 2024 Internova Travel Group.



THE BEST WAY
TO PAUSE IS
TO HIT PLAY

Unrivaled views, beautiful
beaches, extraordinary
luxury and the cuisine
of Michelin-starred
Chef Michael White.

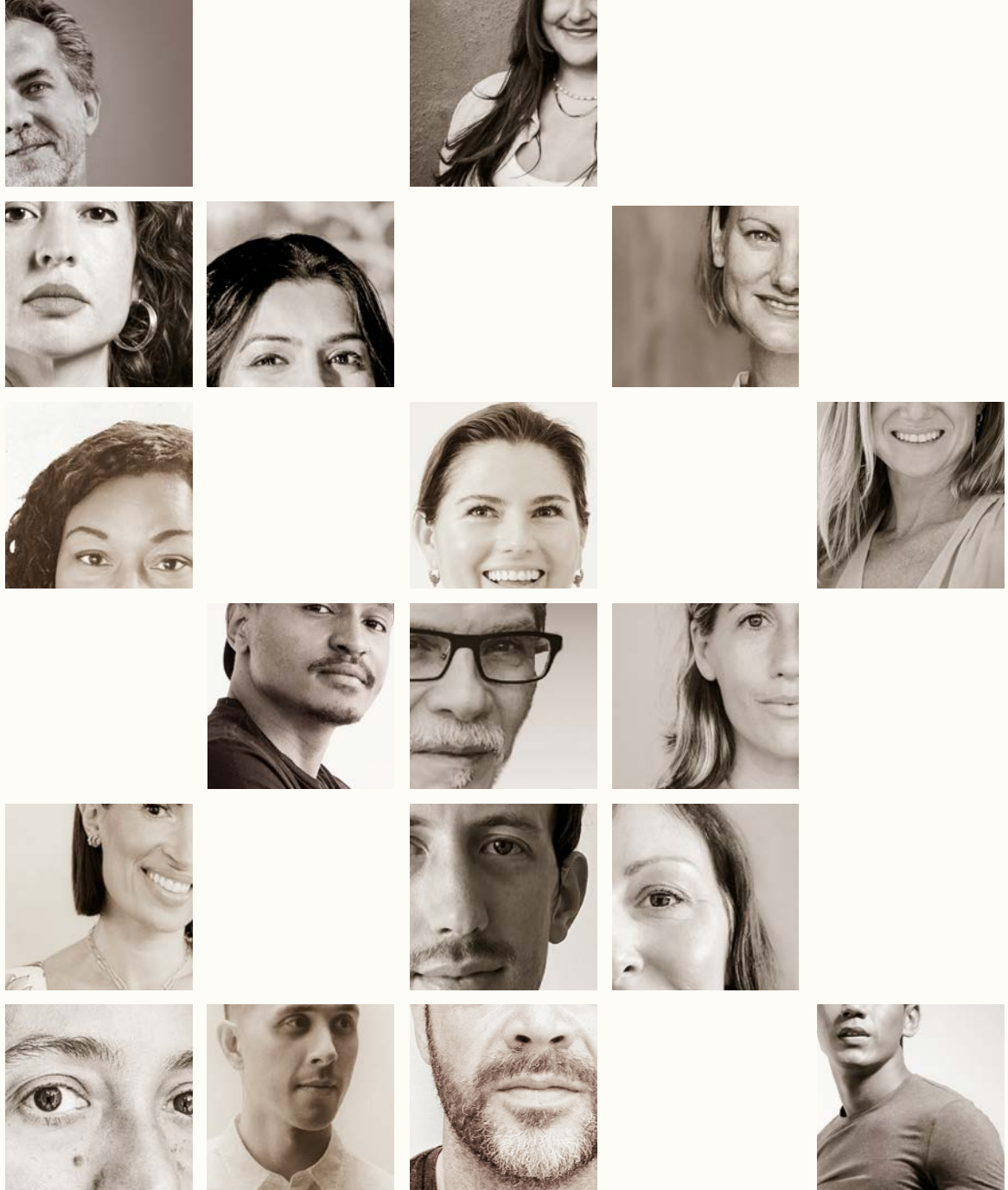
THE
COVE

ATLANTIS PARADISE ISLAND BAHAMAS

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL

HUMANS OF VOLUME 4

Winter 2024



[ROW 1] **Brad A. Johnson**, Editorial Director (Orange County, California); **Devin Duckworth**, Design Director (Los Angeles, California); [ROW 2] **Daniela Carvalho**, Illustration Artist (Barcelona, Spain); **Tanvi Chheda**, Writer (Los Angeles, California); **Mary Holland**, Writer (New York, New York); [ROW 3] **Mary Hunt**, Writer (Oakland, California); **Teddy Minford**, Writer (New York, New York); **Jen Murphy**, Writer (Maui, Hawaii); [ROW 4] **Maganga Mwagogo**, Photographer (Nairobi, Kenya); **Don Nichols**, Reporter (Dallas, Texas); **Kathryn Romeyn**, Correspondent (Bali, Indonesia); [ROW 5] **Lily Rose**, Photographer/Producer (Bali, Indonesia); **Chris Schalkx**, Correspondent (Bangkok, Thailand); **Laura Schooling**, Correspondent (London, England); [ROW 6] **Marina Spironetti**, Correspondent (Milan, Italy); **Armin Tehrani**, Photographer (Copenhagen, Denmark); **Simon Urwin**, Writer/Photographer (London, England); **Harival Zayuka**, Photographer (Bali, Indonesia)

LEGENDARY

WINTER EUROPE SEASON



THE VATICAN, ROME, ITALY

We invite you to see another side of the Mediterranean, away from the seasonal crowds and enjoy a more intimate exploration. Windstar Cruises' new *Legendary Winter in the Mediterranean*, through March 31, 2024, offers the opportunity to discover iconic ports, cultural treasures, gourmet delights, and the captivating history of Spain, France, and Italy in an entirely different light. You'll sail in private-yacht style onboard the award-winning, all-suite *Star Legend*, serving just 312 guests with overnight stays in Rome, Barcelona and Nice.

Contact your Professional Travel Advisor today!

WINDSTAR[®]
CRUISES
180° FROM ORDINARY[®]

Sandals
SAINT VINCENT
AND THE GRENADINES

NOW ON SALE

**LEAVE
THE WORLD
BEHIND**

AT THE EDGE OF THE LESSER ANTILLES,
NESTLED BETWEEN TWO SEAS, LIES SAINT VINCENT
AND THE GRENADINES: A LUSH TUCKED-AWAY ISLAND,
RIPE FOR DISCOVERY. IN THE RESPLENDENT RAINFORESTS,
A NATURAL SYMPHONY OF TROPICAL BIRDS, CASCADING
WATERFALLS, AND THE RUSTLING OF NATIVE GREENERY
PROVIDE THE PERFECT SOUNDTRACK FOR EXCITING
EXPERIENCES TOGETHER.



CALL YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR





The Great Migration

NIKOLINA PETOLAS PAINTS A WORLD IN WHICH ANIMAL INSTINCTS AND HUMANITY CONVERGE.

Zagreb, Croatia



Green Tendencies, 60" x 40"



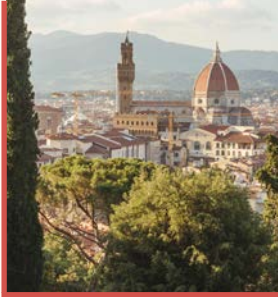
Mindfulness For Beginners, 60" x 40"

Inspired by the architecture and interiors of the aristocratic palaces she visited on her travels around Europe, Croatian artist Nikolina Petolas blends painted and drawn elements with photography to fantasize about a world where all life forms coexist in the social hierarchy. nikolinapetolas.com

WHAT'S ON

SAVE THE DATE: THESE ARE THE TOP EVENTS AND FESTIVITIES ON OUR AGENDA THIS SEASON.

January 9 - 12



Florence, Italy

Pitti Immagine Uomo:
Men's fashion fair at
Fortezza da Basso

January 22 - 25



Paris, France

Fédération de la Haute
Couture: Fashion Week
couture collection shows

January 27 - February 13



Venice, Italy

Carnevale di Venezia:
masquerade balls and
celebrations

February 15 - September 1



London, England

Yoko Ono at Tate
Modern: a seven-
decade retrospective

March 28 - 31



Hong Kong

Art Central and
Art Basel converge
for Hong Kong Art Week

March 25



India

Holi: the festival of
love, color and spring,
held throughout India

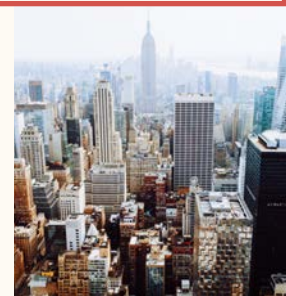
March 15 - 19



Valencia, Spain

Las Fallas: festival of
fireworks and bonfires
to welcome spring

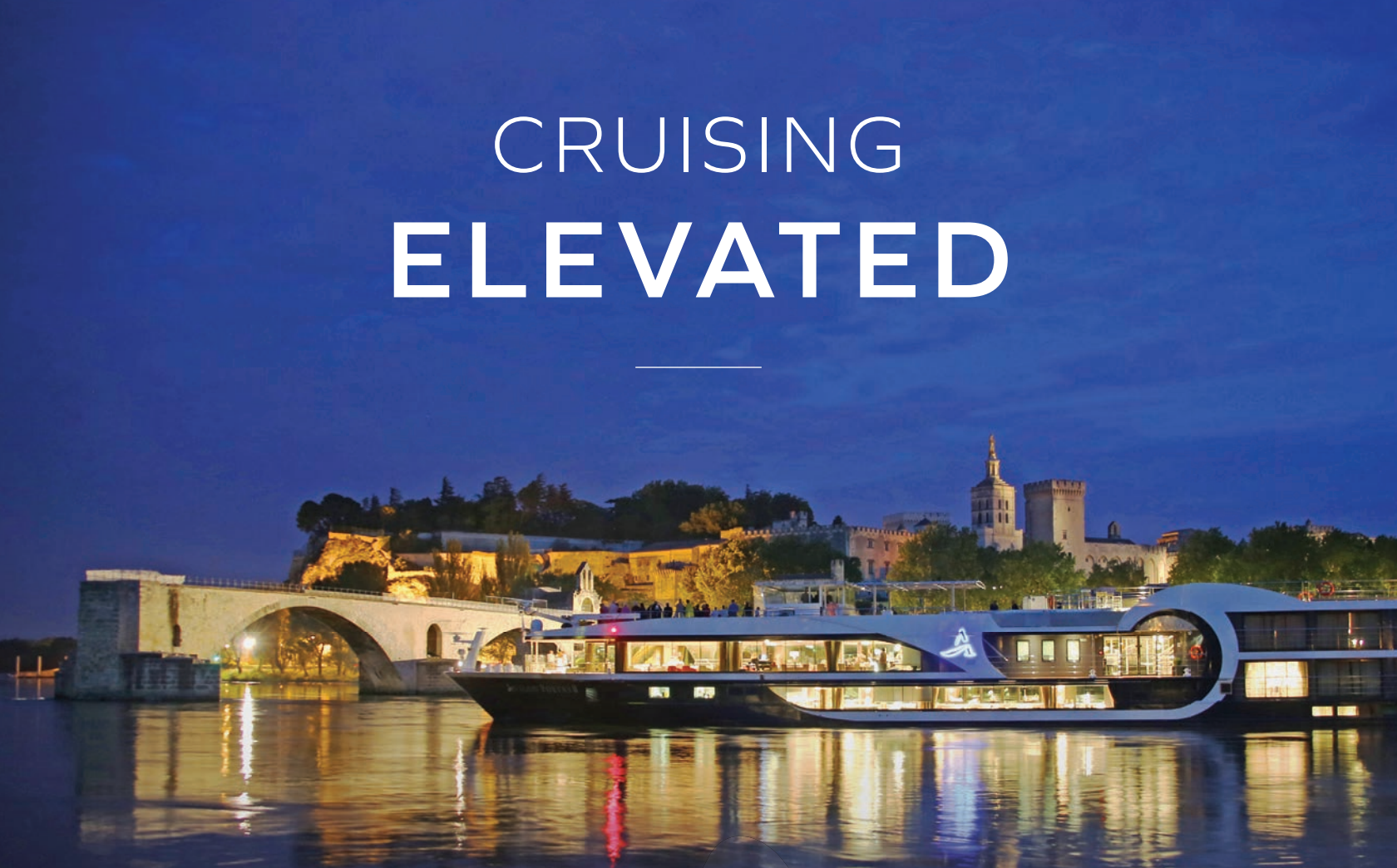
March 14



New York, New York

The Notebook opens on
Broadway at the Gerald
Schoenfeld Theatre

CRUISING ELEVATED

A large, modern cruise ship is docked at night, illuminated by warm lights. The ship's interior lights are visible through large windows, and its reflection is cast on the water. In the background, a stone bridge with arches spans the water, and a hillside with buildings and a church spire is visible under a dark blue sky.

Avalon Waterways has redefined cruising by going against the current and away from the ordinary. Avalon puts you in the captain's seat to navigate your journey, fuel your passions, and steer clear of the unexpected as you cruise down the world's most memorable and mesmerizing waterways. One step aboard our modern, luxurious Suite Ships with the grandest views in cruising and you'll see how the tides are changing.

Welcome to a new wave in cruising. Welcome aboard Avalon Waterways.

CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL TO PLAN YOUR NEXT VACATION

 **AVALON**
WATERWAYS®

WHERE TO GO NEXT

HOTEL JUNKIES, TAKE NOTE.



Raffles London at The OWO

London, England

History truly lives within **Raffles London at The OWO**, the spectacularly remodeled property where Haldane and Churchill plotted Britain's war strategy (WWI and WWII) and MI5 and MI6 roamed the two-and-a-half miles of corridors. At this Grade II listed property, original wood paneling, marble flooring and crown molding are unabashed but warmed by designer Thierry Despont's rich palette of burgundy and cream. There are 120 rooms, including eight corner suites, and five larger-than-life heritage suites are uniquely designed in homage to a namesake with ties to the building's former life. The only hint of nouveau is the service — impeccable, without even a hint of that old-guard stuffiness.

A visit to the hotel's Guerlain spa (the only one in the UK) is the

pinnacle of French pampering. And you won't lack anything to eat. Raffles opened with nine restaurants and two bars. Michelin-starred French chef Mauro Colagreco shines with an outpost of his eponymous dining room, where he works his French magic on local British fare. Meanwhile, the building's former library (where Ian Fleming devised 007) has been reborn as Saison, a "casual" (ahem, still delightfully posh) all-day Mediterranean café, also by Colagreco. In the Spy Bar, a subterranean speakeasy exclusive to hotel guests, martinis are poured in front of the actual Aston Martin DB5 from *No Time to Die*.

Finally, those who know make sure to touch the lion's nose on the grand staircase's right side for luck. (It worked for Churchill...) \$\$\$

22



Southern Ocean Lodge

Kangaroo Island, Australia

One of South Australia's most spectacular lodges burned to the ground in the record bushfires of 2021, but as of December 2023, the famed **Southern Ocean Lodge** is back. Completely rebuilt and largely maintaining its original footprint (but with supposedly even better views), the resort's 25 freestanding suites hug the edge of a dramatic cliff that overlooks endless ocean. This time around, there's also a 6,700-square-foot, four-bedroom residence. And the new iteration of the spa involves hot and cold plunges. The entire complex runs on its own grid, powered by hybrid solar and battery tech, along with an elaborate rainwater collection and recycling system. \$\$\$\$



&Beyond Punakha River Lodge

Details:

Your travel advisor can secure Select perks, including a \$100 resort credit and daily breakfast for two, at any of these hotels.

Punakha, Bhutan

&Beyond Punakha River Lodge marks this luxury outfitter's first fully owned, all-inclusive lodge in Asia, with six glamorous, safari-style tented suites and two villas nestled along the Mo Chhu River deep within the Punakha Valley. Guests have direct access to the four-story temple, Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten, which offers jaw-dropping Himalayan views. You'll want to rise early and visit the nearby Punakha Dzong, one of Bhutan's most important monasteries dating back to the mid-17th century. \$\$

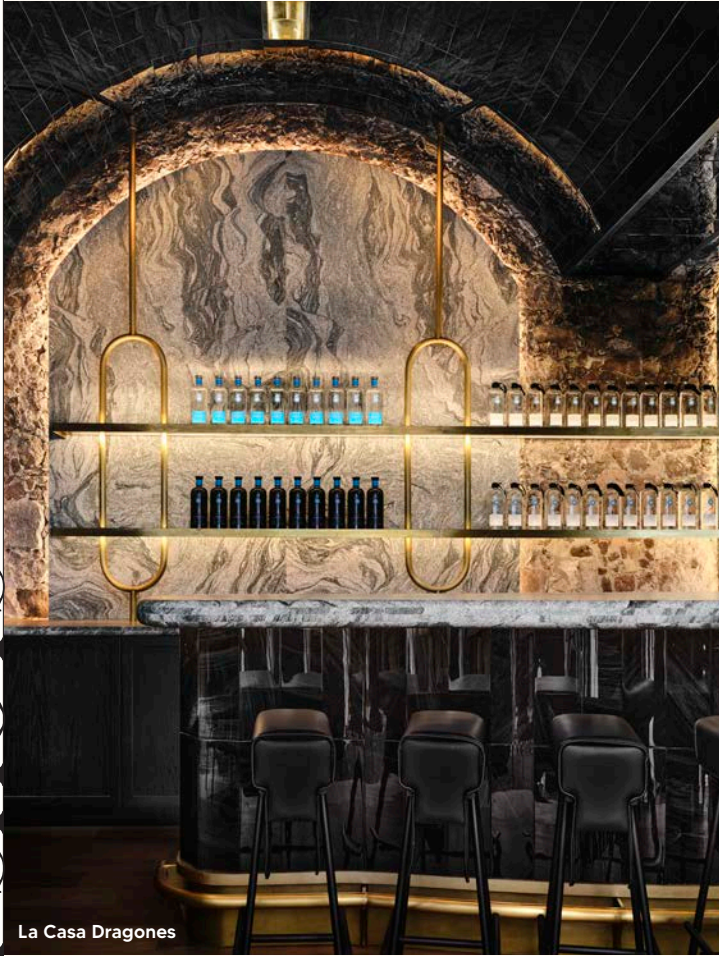


Pendry Newport Beach

Newport Beach, California

Pendry Newport Beach, the younger, more casual offshoot of super-posh Montage hotels, just opened a brand-new, 295-room flagship a few miles up the road from where the company was founded. The hotel took over an existing tower and completely retrofitted it, installing a swanky new steakhouse and sushi bar, a rambling spa and fitness center, and one of the grandest ballrooms in Southern California. Embedded within the hotel — in a separate wing, with a separate entrance — is The Elwood Club, a members-only affair with a private restaurant, cabaret lounge, cocktail bar, golf simulator and separate swimming pool. \$

QUICK NEWS FLASHES FROM AROUND THE WORLD: NIGHTLIFE, WINE TASTING, HORSE YOGA, DINING AND MORE



La Casa Dragones

TEQUILA TASTING

San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Bertha González Nieves disrupted the artisanal tequila category in 2009 when she launched Casa Dragones Joven, a \$270 clear sipping tequila packaged in hand-etched crystal — the first of her many innovations. Her latest oeuvre is the stunning redesign of La Casa Dragones, the private tasting room and mixology bar in San Miguel de Allende. It's a historic building that once served as the stables of the Dragones, the colonial-era Spanish queen's horseback guards, who wore deep topaz blue. When González Nieves learned this was where the Dragones whispered with father Miguel Hidalgo to plan the Mexican Revolution of 1810, she knew it would become the home for her rebellious tequila brand. The two-year project, led by Meyer Davis design studio (Étéreo Riviera Maya and Four Seasons San Francisco), restored the 1751 structure's masonry while taking inspiration from the original Palladian arches. Curator Ana Elena Mallet filled the space with Mexican mid-century pieces like Edmond Spence's 1950s Yucatán chairs for Industria Muebleria, as well as organic modernist designs such as Fernando Laposse's Pup Bench, crafted from shaggy white agave fibers. But the real showstopper is the house's Obsidian Bar, where guests sit on leather-saddle stools to sip Casa Dragones' latest ultra-premium Mizunara reposado, the first tequila ever to be rested in Japanese oak casks. Tasting experiences from \$175.

STOHS
LOH

24



The Maybourne Beverly Hills

NIGHTLIFE

Beverly Hills, California

London-based Maybourne Hotel Group quietly entered the U.S. during the pandemic with the launch of The Maybourne Beverly Hills, unveiled as a slow, methodical transformation of the former Montage Hotel. The property never closed during the changeover, and now that the recasting is nearing completion, the buzz is palpable. The newly installed rooftop bar and restaurant, Dante Beverly Hills — an offshoot of the New York original dating to 1915 — is suddenly the hottest nightspot in town. Martinis flow like the Los Angeles River after a flash flood, except with far more flair.



JAG

DESTINATION DINING

Singapore

Chef Jeremy Gillon opened the 16-seat JAG on Duxton Road in 2018, and it became known almost instantly as one of the best vegetarian restaurants worldwide. After JAG landed a Michelin star, its mere 16 seats weren't cutting it anymore, so in October, the restaurant moved into larger, more refined digs at Robertson Quay — now with a whopping 40 seats. Prettier food is hard to imagine. restaurantjag.com

Experience Extraordinary



In Alaska, extraordinary is an everyday reality. Especially when experienced by sea, train and land on one remarkable Princess® cruisetour. Savor a vacation that combines a seven-day Voyage of the Glaciers cruise with four days on land. Enjoy two glacier-viewing experiences, Direct-to-the-Wilderness® rail service, three overnight stays at Princess-owned wilderness lodges and one night in Anchorage. It's the ultimate adventure!



NATIONAL
PARK
SERVICE
Authorized
Concessioner

Contact your travel professional for more details



NIHI Sumba

SWIMMING HORSE YOGA

Sumba, Indonesia

The remote island resort NIHI Sumba just debuted an equine wellness program from its Sandalwood Stables. The four-part experience (Equi-essence, Equi-feel, Equi-seen, Equi-tuned) combines yoga, meditation, breath-synching and sea-swimming astride the facility's herd of local sports horses. "The horses can help fast-track participants to a powerfully unique and profound state of mindfulness, self-awareness and relaxation," says Evelien Akerboom, NIHI's equine consultant.



Royal Collections Gallery

MUSEUM HOPPING

Madrid, Spain

Art tours in Madrid keep getting even better. The newest must-see stop, the Royal Collections Gallery, opened next to the Royal Palace in June and includes treasures collected by Spanish royalty over the last five centuries. Twenty-five years in the making, this \$186 million gem wows with paintings by the likes of Goya and Velázquez, plus tapestries, royal furniture, sculptures, decorative art pieces and more. patrimonionacional.es



Peller Estates

ICE-WINE TASTING

Toronto, Canada

The 202-room Shangri-La Toronto has introduced private helicopter tours of Niagara Falls in collaboration with Peller Estates, one of Canada's leading producers of ice wines. Choppers retrieve hotel guests at the downtown heliport, then hover over the falls, culminating in a private tasting and multicourse lunch. Tucked deep inside the winery's cellar is an ice cave, where guests wrap themselves in faux-fur coats to sip oak-aged Vidal Blanc until their fingers nearly freeze off. The hotel has a fabulous hammam for warming up afterward.

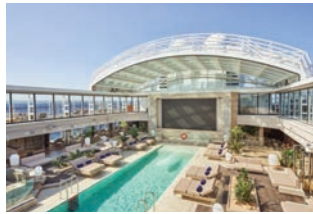


Dior Spa at Plaza Athénée

PAMPERING

Paris, France

Dior opened its first spa in 2008, to great fanfare, at the Dorchester Collection's Plaza Athénée. And having since added more locations (in the Riviera and in Paris), the fashion brand decided its original pampering salon was due for a refresh. The Dior Spa at Plaza Athénée has been completely redesigned and reborn, now with six treatment rooms, sauna, hammam and a "light suite" that offers light therapy to synchronize circadian and chronobiological rhythms — the ultimate fight against jet lag.



DISCOVER THE OCEAN STATE OF MIND

Immerse yourself in Explora Journeys, the newest and most stylish European lifestyle brand that is redefining ocean travel for the ultimate ocean experience.

Relax in spacious ocean-front suites, penthouses, and residences designed to create a home away from home, and delight in diverse global flavours at one of our fine dining restaurants, poolside, or on your private terrace.

The Explora Journeys team looks forward to welcoming you on EXPLORA I – now sailing!

Spotlight Journey

A Journey from Marco Polo's Venice to Athens

VENICE (MARGHERA) TO ATHENS (PIRAEUS) | EXPLORA I

SEPTEMBER 6 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

7 NIGHTS



TO RESERVE A JOURNEY CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR

The Art of Lounging

NOW BOARDING VVIP CLASS: AIR TRAVEL DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DREADFUL.



Glee Club: The private terminal PS lounge at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Airport.

Atlanta, Georgia

Freshly rebranded as PS (formerly Private Suites), the hyper-luxury airport lounge brand that debuted its celebrity-style VIP access at Los Angeles' LAX in 2017 has just launched its second location at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson. Passengers flying through ATL with a PS membership can now swap the airport's chaos for a calm, chic setting away from the public terminals. Eye-catching art and stylish antique and vintage furniture dress up a lounge and three entourage-worthy suites in a private terminal that maxes out at 32 travelers at any given time. Champagne, cocktails and caviar are available, as are chef-prepared meals. There is even a spa with beauty treatments and massages. The best part, however, is skipping the public TSA lines, being chauffeured to the plane in comfy sedans and boarding directly from the tarmac. Members arriving at ATL or LAX are also greeted by chauffeurs immediately upon deplaning and enjoy private customs clearance.

Although the brand got off to a slow start, more PS terminals are finally on the horizon. The next one opens at Dallas-Fort Worth this spring, and a fourth, in Miami in 2025. Membership starts at \$1,250, with additional fees per visit, starting at \$750.

AND IN OTHER AIR NEWS...

Six first-class "suites" with 48-inch-wide seats that convert into 80-inch-long double beds are among the cabin upgrades on **Japan Airlines'** new Airbus A350-1000. Other attractive features include privacy doors, 43-inch TVs and wardrobe and storage spaces in lieu of overhead bins for each seat. The plane (only one so far) also has 52 business-class seats, 22 inches wide, converting into 78-inch-long beds. These, too, have privacy doors and wardrobes. JAL flies the A350 between New York (JFK) and Tokyo (Haneda).

Capital One jumped into the lounge business at DFW in 2021, followed by a second location at Washington's Dulles International in September. And newly open: Denver. Amenities at the 8,500-square-foot facility include sit-down dining (buffet), a full cocktail bar, an espresso bar, luggage lockers, workspace rooms and a parents' room. More Capital One lounges are underway in Las Vegas, New York (LaGuardia) and Washington (Reagan National).

Aero, a semi-private airline servicing the West Coast, has teamed with the **Waldorf Astoria Los Cabos Pedregal** for a package featuring 10-percent discounts on both nonstop (round-trip) flights to the resort from Dallas (Love Field) and Los Angeles (Van Nuys Airport), and on rooms with private plunge pools at the resort. The partnership includes private terminal access in both directions, expedited passport control, round-trip transfers to and from the Los Cabos airport and a complimentary bottle of Clase Azul tequila.

WRITING: DON NICHOLS

Abercrombie & Kent
PRIVATE JET

©2023 Abercrombie & Kent, USA, LLC CST #2007274-20



Experience the World's Greatest Natural Wonders

Circle the globe in consummate style to experience distinctive and seldom-seen wildlife both on land and in the water, from the Sri Lankan leopard to the amazingly diverse species along the Amazon River. Your small group travels on a customized jet equipped with fully lie-flat seats, staying in luxurious accommodations and experiencing the unique insider access and authentic cultural encounters that make A&K's Private Jet journeys the ultimate in small-group travel.

Wildlife & Nature: Around the World by Private Jet

September 2-27, 2024

Hawaii | Fiji | Tasmania | Indonesia | Sri Lanka | Mauritius
Zambia | Salvador, Brazil | The Amazon

COMING SOON!

Africa: Across a Continent by Private Jet
February 2025



To learn more or book your A&K Private Jet journey, contact your travel advisor.



Down Under: (From left) Snorkeling with Seabourn and a panorama suite on *Seabourn Pursuit*.

50

THE ADVENTURE ZONE

**FRESH ROUTES, BIG THRILLS:
A PROLIFERATION OF LUXURY
EXPEDITION SHIPS HAS OPENED
A NEW FRONTIER IN CRUISING.**

Seabourn launched its second purpose-built expedition ship, *Seabourn Pursuit*, in August and spent most of its inaugural season in Antarctica. The ship's next focus, starting in March, will be Australia's Kimberley Region and the South Pacific — the line's first expedition cruises in that part of the world.

Ten-day sailings in the Kimberley will explore the rugged coast of northernmost Western Australia, where adventures will include Zodiac tours through rivers and sandstone gorges packed with geological formations and opportunities to visit the Montgomery Reef, a biologically rich ecosystem nearly 2 billion years old. After that comes a series of 15-day voyages to Papua New Guinea and West Papua, plus 14- and 20-day expeditions between Chile and Melanesia that will include Easter Island.

The ship's nearly 30,000 square feet of open deck space ensures a feeling of exclusivity on board, while two six-passenger submarines take the thrills underwater. *Rates from \$9,899.*

MORE NEW EXPEDITION ITINERARIES

In July, **Abercrombie & Kent** embarks upon an 18-day North Pole expedition aboard Ponant's luxury icebreaker *Le Commandant Charcot*, which includes an overnight at 90th Parallel North and a requisite polar plunge the next day. Other activities include hiking, kayaking and wildlife sightings (possibly whales and polar bears). *Rates from \$47,995.*

September ushers in an 11-day Greenland cruise on *Ultramarine*, **Quark Expeditions**. Guests can take flight in one of the ship's two helicopters for stunning bird's-eye tours. The chances of seeing the Northern Lights are high. *Rates from \$7,600.*

In March 2025, **Aurora Expeditions** will debut a 13-day cruise aboard the *Sylvia Earle* that sails through the Chilean fjords, a jaw-dropping maze of waterways flanked by snowcapped mountains. Expect to see seabirds, dolphins, sea lions and whales preparing to head north to escape the impending winter. *Rates from \$12,800.*

And in November 2025, **Aqua Expeditions'** 15-cabin super-yacht *Aqua Blu* will head to the islands of Eastern Indonesia for a seven-night scuba-diving exploration of the colorful coral reefs of Namatota. *Rates from \$12,290.*

WRITING: DON NICHOLS

PUSH YOURSELF TO THE EDGE.

From the Arctic to Antarctica, go beyond your comfort zone. Follow your curiosities, free your spirit and expand your mind with new experiences you've never known; polar kayaking, ice fishing, polar diving and so much more.



THE WORLD'S ONLY LUXURY ICEBREAKER



LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

 **PONANT**
EXPLORE TO INSPIRE

SOUND/BAR

WE ASKED LEGENDARY MUSIC PRODUCER CHRIS BLACKWELL TO CHANNEL THE VIBES OF BIZOT BAR AND BAMBOO BAR, THE COZY WATERING HOLES AT HIS GOLDENEYE RESORT. HE GAVE US A PLAYLIST FOR THE AGES.

Oracabessa, Jamaica



Bamboo Bar

01. "One Step Forward" by Max Romeo
02. "Who Knows" by Protoje ft. Chronixx
03. "Natty Dread" by Bob Marley & The Wailers
04. "Sun Is Shining" by Bob Marley & The Wailers
05. "Tenement Yard" by Jacob Miller
06. "Here Comes Trouble" by Chronixx
07. "My Jamaican Guy" by Grace Jones
08. "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" by Black Uhuru
09. "Pressure Drop" by Toots & The Maytals
10. "So Much Trouble in the World" by Bob Marley & The Wailers
11. "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley & The Wailers
12. "You Can Get It if You Really Want" by Jimmy Cliff
13. "Natural Mystic" by Bob Marley & The Wailers
14. "Police & Thieves" by Junior Murvin
15. "Rock Stone" by Stephen Marley ft. Capleton and Sizzla
16. "Pull Up to the Bumper" by Grace Jones
17. "Private Life" by Grace Jones
18. "Switch It Up" by Protoje ft. Koffee
19. "They Don't Know" by Chronixx
20. "Hey Baby" by Stephen Marley
21. "Shine Eye Gal" by Black Uhuru
22. "Waiting in Vain" by Bob Marley & The Wailers
23. "Now that We Found Love" by Third World
24. "Slave to the Rhythm" by Grace Jones
25. "Redemption Song" by Bob Marley & The Wailers

GoldenEye

The 52-acre GoldenEye resort comprises 45 private villas, cottages and beach huts, ranging from one to five bedrooms. Your travel advisor can secure Select perks, including a \$200 resort credit. \$\$ - \$\$\$

British-Jamaican Chris Blackwell, founder of Island Records, introduced Bob Marley — and reggae at large — to an audience far beyond Jamaica. He catapulted Grace Jones and Jimmy Cliff to stardom. (Island Records launched U2, Roxy Music, Robert Palmer and countless others, but that's a different playlist entirely). After purchasing the GoldenEye estate from Bob Marley in the '70s, he turned the former Ian Fleming home into a luxury compound of private villas. At the resort's poolside Bizot Bar and beachfront Bamboo Bar, these are the sounds that often play on repeat.

WRITING: BRAD A. JOHNSON
PHOTOGRAPHY: BRIANNE WILLIAMS



Scan to open our playlist in Spotify.



Feel more on a stopover, discover Qatar

Embark on a memorable journey to Qatar with one of our amazing stopover packages, including fabulous four or five-star hotels, memorable experiences, airport services and transfers.



GOING PLACES TOGETHER

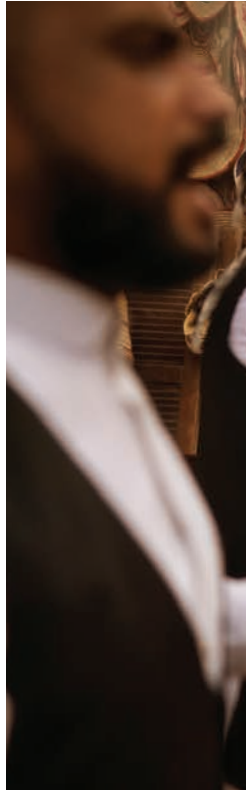
Saudi

Welcome
to Arabia

A JOURNEY YOU'VE NEVER IMAGINED

Sitting at the intersection of past, present and future, Saudi Arabia is a destination that beckons with ancient history, captivating cuisine, a rich culture and spectacular natural wonders. With attractions ranging from six UNESCO heritage sites to world-class resorts along the pristine Red Sea, visiting Saudi Arabia is easier than ever.

Your travel advisor can help you discover an adventure thousands of years in the making.





1.

Al Balad, Historic Jeddah



Maraya Hall AlUla



At-Turaif

SCANDI COATED



36

HOW DENMARK'S CAPITAL CITY HAS RESET THE FASHION WORLD'S ECO STANDARDS.

Copenhagen, Denmark

Copenhagen may have risen to fame as a design hub for functional furniture and streamlined eco-consciousness, but in recent years, it's also become a fashion city to watch. What sets the scene apart isn't only the constant addition of fresh flair and snappy street style, but also its commitment to being more responsible. The movement, pioneered by the designers themselves, got a boost with Copenhagen Fashion Week, which launched its first action plan with sustainability targets in 2020. "This was a turning point," explains Cecilie Thorsmark, CEO of Copenhagen Fashion Week (CPHFW). "We see ourselves as a platform to shape people's mindset around what sustainability is and can be," she says. It's the first fashion week in the world to stipulate that each participating brand meet strict requirements, such as that 50 percent of a collection must be made from new-generation sustainable materials or upcycled, recycled or deadstock (leftover) materials.

WRITING: MARY HOLLAND

PHOTOGRAPHY: ARMIN TEHRANI

ART DIRECTION: DEVIN DUCKWORTH

STYLING: ANNE LAURITZEN

BEAUTY: LULU HOA BOKKENHEUSER

MODELING: ANGELINA @ ÉTOILE MODELS



CPHFW also launched the NEWTALENT platform, an initiative to inspire eco solutions and promote emerging Nordic brands. One such label is ISO.POETISM, a Zalando Sustainability Award winner that produces made-to-order, futuristic gear from upcycled materials. But established brands are becoming front-runners too, using their prominent names and influence to entice local and international consumers to shop more responsibly. Here are three to watch.

#GANNIGIRLS

One of the city's fastest-growing brands with stores rolling out across the globe, **Ganni** has committed to using more circular fabrics (100 percent of its ready-to-wear fabrics being certified organic, recycled or lower-impact), as well as a 50-percent carbon-reduction target by 2027. The cutting-edge company has also been experimenting with innovative fabrics such as Mylo, a leather alternative made from mushroom roots, and bacteria-grown leather, which Ganni used to create a pilot bag and jacket. Pieces never shy away from bold prints, cuts or colors — proof that responsibility doesn't have to be boring. ganni.com



FRESH DANISH: (From top) At Copenhagen's Thorvaldsens Museum, Angelina wears a **Ganni** dress with **Vagabond** loafers and **Prawn Family** necklace; the Denmark Planetarium. (Opposite) Dress and coat by **Gestuz** with **Vagabond** boots and **Prawn Family** earrings.

“Copenhagen’s fashion week was the first in the world with sustainability stipulations for participating brands.”



58

#SUSTAINABLYSTYLISH

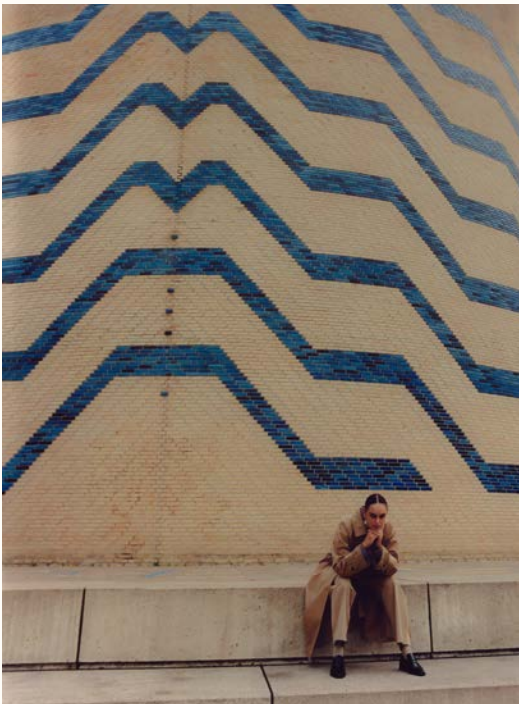
Owned by two sisters and known for timeless pieces in muted tones, Skall ensures its classic items, crafted with natural materials and mono fibers, are made to last. Buttons are fashioned from nutshells and outerwear is made from 100-percent-recycled MWool from the pioneering Italian brand Manteco. Collaborating with craftspeople and small family businesses is another priority, especially if they're on home soil. For Skall's knitwear collection, for example, the brand works with one of Denmark's last spinning-mill knitting factories. skallstudio.com

#DOPAMINEDRESSING

Launched in 2006, **Stine Goya** has become a trailblazer with playful pieces: satin baby-doll dresses splashed with pink and green and glitzy silver matching sets. While her collections are the antithesis of Danish minimalism, they still align with such Nordic sensibilities as simple cuts using quality fabrics. By 2025, the brand aims to use 90 percent recycled or sustainable materials across its collections. It also opened the Goya Gallery in Copenhagen, which offers clients access to upcycled samples, studio prototypes and one-of-a-kind pieces. stinegoya.com 📌



COPENHAGEN À LA MODE: (Above) At the Circle Bridge, Angelina wears a **Stine Goya** top and trousers with **Vagabond** shoes and **Prawn Family** earrings.



DESIGN WITHIN REACH: (Above) At the Denmark Planetarium in a **Skall Studio** coat and pants with **Vagabond** loafers and **Prawn Family** earrings. (Opposite) Strolling at the Denmark Planetarium.

Stay:

*The chic, 38-room **Nimb** marries East and West design in a dramatic, Moorish-styled compound overlooking the Tivoli Gardens. Or, for more traditional European-styled accommodations, consider the 98-room **d'Angleterre**, whose hospitality dates to 1755. \$\$*

Your travel advisor can secure Select perks, including a \$100 resort credit and daily breakfast for two.

Fairy Dust

AN AFRICAN ADVENTURE WITH MICATO SAFARIS
TAKES US HIGH AND LOW IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

Tsavo Conservation Area, Kenya



WRITING: TEDDY MINFORD
PHOTOGRAPHY: MAGANGA MWAGOGO
ART DIRECTION: DEVIN DUCKWORTH
STYLING: OLIVE DURAN
MODELING: NYETHIEL LUL
CASTING: JAMIE KIMANI



TWILIGHT ZONE: (From top) Tented accommodations at Finch Hattons in early-morning light in Kenya's Tsavo West National Park. Nyethiel wears a **Sevaria** weaved okafi dress at the Mess Tent bar at Cottar's 1920s Safari Camp. (Opposite) On a drive with a Maasai guide from Cottar's 1920s, Nyethiel wears a **Sevaria** tiered okafi dress.



Nairobi shrinks behind me as our tiny plane roars through the air. Just a few minutes after takeoff, the landscape below turns wild and desolate, devoid of civilization. I spy Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance, a perfect black triangle against the sky. Below us is dusty, scrubby earth dotted with charred-looking volcanic rocks, a far more barren landscape than what I'd imagined for a safari — and this is my fourth in Africa, my second in Kenya. I wasn't expecting to see so much desert. It's a different kind of beauty.

I'm traveling with Micato Safaris, a high-end operator that works with travel advisors to plan trips that go deeper and explore more than just the Big Five. We'll swap stories with the Maasai at Cottar's 1920s Camp, take an aerial tour of Mount Kenya from the Mount Kenya Safari Club, and tag along with rhino trackers at Ol Jogi Conservancy.

It's all spectacular, but the most memorable stopover is the camp called Finch Hattons. I'm met at the airstrip with sparkling wine and a four-wheel-drive vehicle to transfer me to the property — a collection of 17 tents scattered throughout an unexpected oasis in Tsavo West National Park. On the drive to the lodge, I spot more dead trees than animals, but the lushly planted camp itself is a resort-like setting, with a palm-encircled infinity pool and an open-air spa. A short walk from the main lodge, my tent has a bohemian feel, with an antique rug, a hide-covered minibar and a king-size bed under a crystal chandelier. My favorite feature is the deep copper soaking tub, filled up for me each night with bubble bath and flower petals.



CREATURE COMFORTS: (This page) Nyethiel browses through the displays at The Explorer's Tent at Cottar's 1920s; zebras at Tsavo West National Park. (Opposite) At a Cottar's honeymoon tent, wearing a **Sevaria** Omo shirtdress.



They say it's about the journey, not the destination, but after 30 hours of travel that included two consecutive red-eye flights, I've never been happier to be shown to my room. My first night's sleep is interrupted by a 3 a.m. wake-up call; minutes later, I'm crawling into the back of an open-air vehicle for our first scheduled night drive. The vehicle weaves and bumps along dusty roads toward a nearby mountain. It's still pitch-black outside when I feel an imperceptible shift in the air. We begin to gain elevation, and the predawn breeze grows denser and cooler, the chill mocking my thin fleece jacket. Vegetation grows thickly along the road, and branches whip the sides of our vehicle as we careen along the trail, leaving in our path an intoxicating wake of the wild mint, or chyulu, for which this forest is named.

As soon as our eyes have adjusted enough to see our feet — or maybe it's actually gotten lighter — we set off on a hike along the ridge. Thick curtains of fog make it hard to see beyond the hiking path, but what we discover right in front of us fascinates. First, a spider's web covered in mist, dew drops sparkling like diamonds. Then, intriguing plants, the medicinal properties of which our guide explains to us. We move onward, upward. It's eerily quiet until we get close to a tree, where the condensation dripping through the leaves sounds like rain.

When we crest the summit, we glimpse the sunrise beneath layers of fog, a beacon of light shining briefly before we're back inside a cloud. Halfway through the trek, we happen upon a tea-party picnic that Finch Hattons has set for us, complete with floral china cups.

Insider Insight:

"If you can, invest in a high-quality camera, and make sure to have backup batteries. And, most importantly, learn how to use it before you travel."

—Linda Seygeant, travel advisor





SUNSET STRIP: (From top) Relaxing inside a honeymoon tent at Cottar's 1920s Safari Camp, and a view from the deck of Finch Hattons, overlooking the springs.

Pampered with tea, we climb into the cloud forest, a thick canopy of green that shoots hundreds of feet into the air on either side of us. It feels like standing in a grand cathedral, leaves and vines filtering the light like stained glass.

We watch the ground for any dangers, scurrying over slippery logs and twisting vines, coming across an army of swarming safari ants. Our guide, Isaac, leads us to one of the oldest trees in the forest. Using a vine to hoist himself into the tree, he gleefully poses for a photo.

When we emerge, the mist has burned off, and it's already hot as we walk back to our vehicle. And by the time we reach camp, I've dried out like a raisin. It's impossible to reconcile the desperate conditions here with that lush forest atop the nearby mountain. Even the animals seem to be hiding from the sun. The resident hippos stay submerged in water up to their eyeballs.

That evening, after a multicourse gourmet feast under the stars, we set out for another drive. The darkness feels thick and oppressive, like you can almost taste it. Our headlights zoom along dusty road as we sip highballs from crystal glasses, trying not to spill. It's shaping up to be an uneventful evening — that is, until I grab the spotlight and shine it into the trees as we drive. Everywhere, eyes of all shapes and sizes glare back at us. We're surrounded by beasts large and small, striving and surviving in this harsh landscape. Improbably, a lone crocodile marches unhurriedly across our path, in search of a midnight snack. It seems farcical that he's survived here, but it's another reminder that the world is full of life in unexpected places — and that not every safari needs a leopard sighting in order to be spectacular. ■

SAFARI BASICS

Rhinos, leopards, giraffes, gorillas or the great migration?

Africa offers so much diversity in terrain and wildlife, and different times of the year bring completely opposite experiences. Your advisor can help you find a safari to suit your desires. But no matter the agenda, some universal advice:

Bring a duffel, not a spinner. Spinners won't roll through most camps. Consider wrapping the duffel at the airport prior to checking it in.

Pack light. Small planes have lower weight limits, and most lodges offer daily laundry. But don't forget a swimsuit. Also: Some countries in Africa have banned single-use plastics, so pack mindfully.

See a travel doctor. Malaria pills are often recommended, and some countries require vaccines, such as for yellow fever, for entry. A good travel doctor can make sure you are up-to-date with all requirements.

Be ready for anything. Pack a kit that includes first-aid basics, including a good bug repellent and something for upset stomachs.

Buy good insurance. Consider a travel policy that includes emergency medical transportation.

—*Elaina Graham, Linda Sergeant and Stephanie Serino, travel advisors*





Solarium Suite — *Utopia of the Seas*SM



Royal Genie



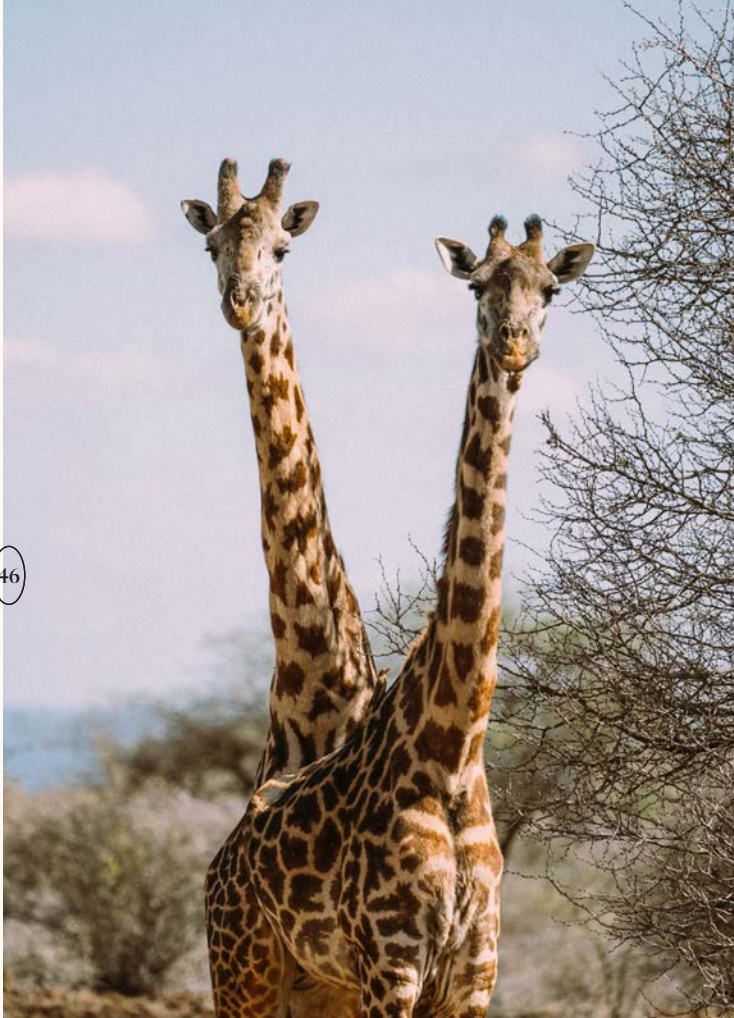
Coastal Kitchen — *Harmony of the Seas*®

HOME SUITE HOME

Experience luxury that's anything but boring onboard the world's boldest ships. Royal Suite Class delivers three tiers of incredible experiences. Like gourmet cuisine in the exclusive Coastal Kitchen. Reserved choice seats at mind-blowing entertainment across ice, air, water and stage. And Royal Genies go above and beyond to craft special moments that surprise and delight all cruise long, plus grant VIP access shipwide. Experience all this and more while staying in the most expansive suites at sea — from two-story Loft Suites to Two Bedroom AquaTheater Suites and many more. Only on Royal Caribbean®.

[Contact your travel advisor to book or learn more.](#)





46

BEAST MODE: Giraffes in Tsavo West National Park, and Nyethiel by the pool at Cottar's 1920s Safari Camp.

Perfect Pairings: Bush to Beach

Because of connections and logistics, African safaris pair well with Indian Ocean beaches or even the Middle East. For example: Kenya and Tanzania match well with Seychelles, Zanzibar or even Dubai, while South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe pair perfectly with Mozambique or Mauritius.



Details:

Micato's African safaris start at \$17,000 per person and can be customized to include anything from hiking in the cloud forest to jogging with Maasai warriors. There are so many outfitters from which to choose — and safaris have so many logistics, with multiple lodges and transfers — that your travel advisor can help determine what's right for you and your budget.

Also Consider:

"Active safaris with biking or biking, like those offered by BackRoads, are dynamic alternatives to the more static safari experience."

— Selma Weisbein, travel advisor



ARIZONA BILTMORE™

A WALDORF ASTORIA™ RESORT

Stay at the reimagined Arizona Biltmore and experience modern luxuries through our historic halls. Take a relaxing dip in our seven resort pools or five hot tubs, rejuvenate at the Forbes 4-Star Tierra Luna Spa, and delight in exceptional, personalized service at the exclusive Citrus Club; available with select room types.

YEAR OF THE DRAGON

WRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY: SIMON URWIN





TRIBAL CULTURES, DESERTED WHITE-SAND BEACHES AND A WEALTH OF WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS CONVERGE ON A LUXURY EXPEDITION CRUISE THROUGH SOUTHEAST ASIA AND OCEANIA.

Sunda Islands and Papua New Guinea

“Komodo dragons are ruthless killers,” says my guide, Gusti Radung, as we begin our trek into a vast swath of tropical forest. “But don’t worry — they haven’t killed any humans for decades,” he teases.

It’s 6 a.m. and already skillet-hot on remote Komodo Island, home to the largest lizard on earth. “This is the best time to find them, after sunrise, when they go hunting,” he explains. “You might even see one knock their prey senseless with a flick of the tail; they are incredibly powerful.”

We venture into a thicket of tamarind trees, combing the vegetation for any sign of the apex predator. Every leaf rustle, every twig snap sets the heart racing. Suddenly, a wild boar darts past us, its flank bloodied, followed by a lumbering adult male Komodo, tracking the victim’s scent with its forked tongue. “Their bite is lethal because Komodo saliva is full of toxic bacteria,” says Gusti. “The boar is doomed; the dragon will bide its time and feed as soon as it’s dead.”

To witness nature so red in tooth and claw is a visceral, heart-pounding experience, and back on board our stylish expedition vessel, my fellow guests and I excitedly compare dragon sightings over an alfresco lunch of ocean-fresh tuna with coconut, lemongrass and pawpaw salad, plus a sommelier-selected white Bordeaux.



The Masked Singer: (Above) Dining alfresco on *Le Lapérouse*, the ship anchored in the Banda Sea. (Opposite) Asmat man in the village of Per.



Many tell me it's been a lifelong ambition to witness these prehistoric beasts in the wild, and reason alone for booking Abercrombie & Kent's 15-day cruise through the world's largest archipelago. Although we're sailing on Ponant's 92-suite, all-balcony *Le Lapérouse* — butler service, pillow menus, an indulgent spa, room for only 148 guests — the expedition is staffed by A&K's expert guides, naturalists and Zodiac drivers, offering an intoxicating itinerary full of natural wonders, vivid indigenous cultures and fascinating historical monuments.

Indonesia's rich past is evidenced particularly clearly at our next stop: the Banda archipelago, where a small flotilla of kora-kora canoes escorts the ship to its mooring off Banda Neira, the largest of the fabled Spice Islands. Once the planet's only source of nutmeg, the islands became the world's most sought-after real estate in the 16th century after the fragrant spice was hailed as a wonder drug, an aphrodisiac and even a cure for the bubonic plague.

European empires fought voraciously to monopolize the prized commodity: First came the Portuguese; then, the Dutch; and, finally, the British, who tried to undercut their rivals by plundering nutmeg from Run Island. The Dutch-built Belgica Fort on Banda Neira is a stark reminder of the protracted battle to win the spice race — a conflict only resolved in 1667, when the British swapped Run with the Dutch for the island of Manhattan, a transfer of territories that would change the course of history.



Monster Jam: (Above) Komodo dragon in the wild and the spa onboard *Le Lapérouse*. (Opposite) Limestone karst towers in the Banda Sea.

Insider Insight:

"There are lots of lovely cruise lines, but A&K has years of experience in the more remote parts of the world. Their guides and lecturers are exceptional, and the partnership with Ponant is great. The comfortable ships offer every amenity and, being French, great food and service too."

—Tricia Townsend-Mitchell, travel advisor





High Contrast: (From top) A guest cabin on *Le Lapérouse*, chartered by A&K; an Asmat villager; temple carvings.



While the Banda Islands now lie largely isolated from the outside world, A&K's exclusive charter of *Le Lapérouse* allows us easy access to such far-flung treasures. The ship's shallow draft also ensures close-by anchorages at all destinations, meaning faster Zodiac transfers and extra time for exploring.

The flexible schedule is particularly welcome at Triton Bay, 350 nautical miles farther east, where we're able to spend a morning drifting around the scattered karst islets that appear to float magically above the emerald and turquoise waters. We have the bay's startling beauty to ourselves, the haunting silence broken only by the chatter of parrots and passionate observations by A&K's naturalist guides, who call out the sea snakes, stingrays, crabs and jellyfish that dive, scuttle and glide all around us.

This 14-strong guiding team also includes an anthropologist, Dr. Shirley Campbell, a regional specialist who brings the tribal traditions of the villages we visit to vivid life, including the ikat-textile-weaving, Lego-Lego-dancing Abui of the Alor Islands, and the wood-carving, ancestor-worshipping Asmat who inhabit West Papua — Indonesia's final frontier.

"The Asmat have long had a fearsome reputation as warriors and headhunters," she explains as our Zodiac zips towards Per, an Asmat village constructed on stilts in the heart of estuarine mangrove forest. As we approach, a fleet of 20 canoes encircles us, the oarsmen — dressed in full regalia and war paint — chanting and drumming as they guide us to Per's wooden dock in a profoundly moving greeting ritual. "They are welcoming us, but also reminding us of their power," Campbell says.

Time ashore is spent watching the inauguration of new canoes, a ceremony to assuage the ancestors, and concludes with the ultimate honor: being invited into the sacred Men's House to share a puff of sweet tobacco. Still reeling from the experience, I retire to the ship's IMAX-wide viewing deck and, over a frosty margarita, reflect on this extraordinary island-hopping adventure: one that began in search of real-life dragons, then traversed the historic epicenter of global trade before culminating in a great wilderness area that was once a place to fear for one's life, but now extends the most memorable of welcomes. ■

Details:

Abercrombie & Kent's small-ship expedition charters explore the South Pacific, Antarctica, North Pole, Indian Ocean and beyond, with itineraries ranging from eight to 19 days, \$11,495 to \$47,995.

Also Consider:

National Geographic partners with Lindblad Expeditions for itineraries in Alaska, California, Belize, Costa Rica, Japan, Northwest Passage and more, from five to 35 days, \$3,276 to \$56,700.

Paul Gauguin Cruises specializes in all areas of the South Pacific, with itineraries ranging from seven to 20 nights, \$3,530 to \$9,930.



IT'S
MORE
THAN A *feeling*



The sense of warmth and camaraderie from dedicated staff.
The thrill of becoming awestruck as you arrive at a fabled destination for the first time.
The joy of celebrating life, with indulgent cuisine.

It's the personal experiences that will last a lifetime.

CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

EXQUISITELY CRAFTED CUISINE.
CURATED TRAVEL EXPERIENCES.
SMALL SHIP LUXURY.

OCEANIA
CRUISES®
YOUR WORLD. YOUR WAY.®



SUPER NATURAL

HOTEL ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS ARE TAPPING INTO THE BIOPHILIC PRINCIPLES OF NATURE THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY ROOT AND ELEVATE THE VERY NOTION OF HOSPITALITY.

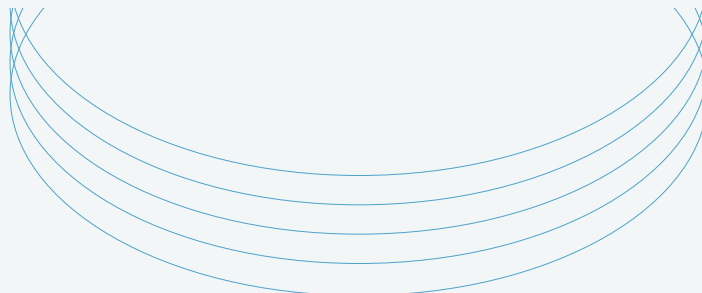
WRITING: KATHRYN ROMEYN

Towers enveloped in trees, roofs that curl like waves, tents echoing monarch-butterfly silhouettes and walls finished with mortar of seawater and sand: These might sound like parts of a surreal fantasy, but they are actual elements of the latest trend in sustainable design favored by some of the world's newest and most luxurious hotels and resorts. It's called "biophilic design," a term we'll be hearing more often in years to come.

Our attraction to spaces and places that bear Mother Nature's influence is innate; humans — hypothetically, at least — want to interact with other forms of life. This concept is described as biophilia, which, broken down to its Greek roots, means a love of living things. In a physical context, biophilic principles — rapidly on the rise in the hospitality world — translate to design that increases human connection to an environment via both literal and, often, whimsical uses of nature's motifs, materials, shapes, forms and conditions.

Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the first to create what he called "organic architecture" when, in the early 1900s, he seamlessly integrated Taliesin into the contours of Wisconsin's rolling hills. As Wright explained it, "we are all here to develop a life more beautiful, more concordant, more fully expressive of our own sense of pride and joy than ever before in the world." That ethos lives on and is gaining ever more traction as not only remote properties but also city hotels embrace the ultimate source of inspiration in order to intangibly enhance guests' experiences.

Here are five hotels — standard-bearers of biophilic design — where you can fully immerse yourself in nature, even when in the heart of a city.





Vineyard Romance: Villa Nai 3.3

INTO THE GROVE

Žman, Croatia

Villa Nai 3.3 rests amid a centuries-old olive grove on Dugi Otok island in Dalmatia, bordering the Adriatic Sea. Croatian architect Nikola Bašić designed this eight-unit resort from excavated stone for a drastically reduced CO₂ footprint. Bašić (the same designer responsible for the famed architectural sound art Sea Organ in nearby Zadar) sculpted the rugged yet elegant building to nestle into the rocky hillside. The architecture's unpredictable geometries exist without hard corners. As for the name, 3.3 refers to the average days of snowfall the island receives annually, which christens the fruit in such a way to create polyphenol-rich, award-winning extra virgin olive oil — naturally, a part of every stay. \$\$



The Shape of Water: Joali Being

A ROGUE WAVE

Bodufushi, Maldives

For Istanbul-based firm Atölye4n Architects, the goal for **Joali Being** was to create harmony by collaborating — sans force — with the wellness resort’s remote natural surroundings for a new vocabulary of forms. And with Autoban handling the interiors, the awe-inspiring array of 68 beach and overwater villas, plus grand shared structures, takes on flowing, curvaceous silhouettes and undulations. Seashell and wave shapes, shoreline contours and soft pinks and greens drawn from the island itself show up on walls, roofs and furniture. The signature restaurant, FLOW, features textures from driftwood and coral, while the spa offers grooved rock walls. Soaring ceilings are lovely on their own, but the ingrained sense of calm is an intentional byproduct of the contoured design. \$\$\$\$



Heritage Weaver, Kisawa Sanctuary

SAND CASTLES

Benguerra, Mozambique

The roofs of the 11 bungalow residences at Kisawa Sanctuary — wiggling, draping and drooping across textured, sand-colored residences — are poster children for biophilic design. The intricate thatching is woven by local Mozambican artisans. Striking as it is, this resort — built on 740 forested beachfront acres of remote Benguerra Island — aims to blend in rather than make a splash. The resort includes a wellness center and restaurants, dreamed up by NJF Design to incorporate earth-friendly, non-cement solutions such as floating foundations, ground stabilizers and 3D mortar made from a mixture of local sand and seawater. For the property's sister ocean observatory, Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies, they even 3D-printed mock reefs to help protect and propagate the delicate subtropical ecosystem. \$\$\$



Glamp-o-rama: Four Seasons Naviva

PACIFIC HEIGHTS

Nayarit, Mexico

An offshoot of the Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita, set on its own 48-acre peninsula of tropical forest jutting into the Pacific, Naviva is an opulent, adults-only nature retreat that comprises of only 15 tents. African safari-camp specialists Luxury Frontiers considered key principles of biophilic design alongside biomimicry (using technology to put nature's lessons into practice) inspired by Riviera Nayarit's natural beauty. The resulting structures and interiors ensure every element is fully tied to the environment. See natural light diffusing through woven bamboo lattices to mimic ever-shifting shadows, spa pods influenced by flowers and indigenous ceiba trees, and a rammed-concrete show kitchen where the counter reflects the striations of beach sand — and actually incorporates it, too. \$\$\$\$

Now we're living
Our Best Lives

Set sail on exclusively adult vacations with luxurious extras in our RockStar Quarters. Stunning marble bathrooms, spacious stargazing terraces, and exclusive access (including to Richard's Rooftop) are only the start of what's in store.

Follow the sun in style on the lady ships earning a wave of awards — including Condé Nast Traveler's #1 Large Ship Cruise Line and Travel + Leisure's Best Cruise Line.

Now we're
Voyaging

CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR TO LEARN MORE.





Hanging Garden: 1 Hotel Mayfair

URBAN JUNGLE

London, UK

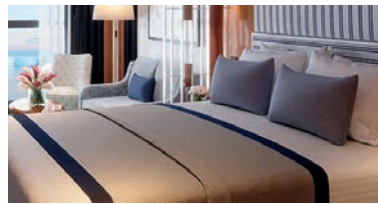
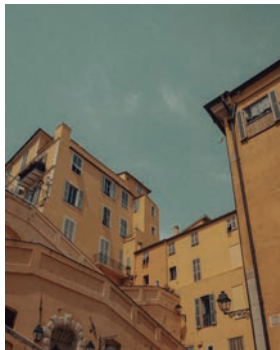
It's hard to imagine a hotel lobby that honors the wilderness more than that of 1 Hotel Mayfair, a Green Park-adjacent bolthole that was purpose-built (within 80 percent of an existing structure) to honor — and positively impact — nature. The monumental air-plant chandelier and colossal reception desk (made from a single, naturally felled tree from Sussex) set a certain tone for everyone entering. Some 1,300 plants and trees comprising 200-plus local and regional species — some in bedroom-based planting beds — turn the 181 guest rooms and public spaces into explosions of green tempered by Welsh slate vanities and fallen British oak timber flooring. Thoughtfully sustainable at every touchpoint, this hotel's vibe is glamorous granola. \$\$

Details:

Your travel advisor can secure Select perks, including a \$100 resort credit and daily breakfast for two, at any of these hotels.



RACE TO THE RIVIERA



For the discerning traveler, an **exclusive Formula 1 adventure** in Monaco awaits. Embark on a luxurious 8-day voyage on Atlas Ocean Voyages' *World Traveller* yacht, setting sail from Nice and visiting Antibes, St. Tropez, Portofino and the Italian Riviera before heading to Menton for the F1 Grand Prix on race day. This unique experience offers a rare opportunity to witness one of the world's most sought-after F1 events, combined with an exquisite voyage along the Italian coast.

CONNECT WITH YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR TODAY TO SECURE YOUR VOYAGE.

Night Moves

IT'S BEEN CALLED THE CULINARY CAPITAL OF SOUTH AMERICA, AND THAT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE CITY'S RENOWNED FOOD SCENE. DRINKING IN LIMA COMES BEFORE ALL ELSE.

Lima, Peru



WRITING: JEN MURPHY
ILLUSTRATIONS: DANIELA CARVALHO



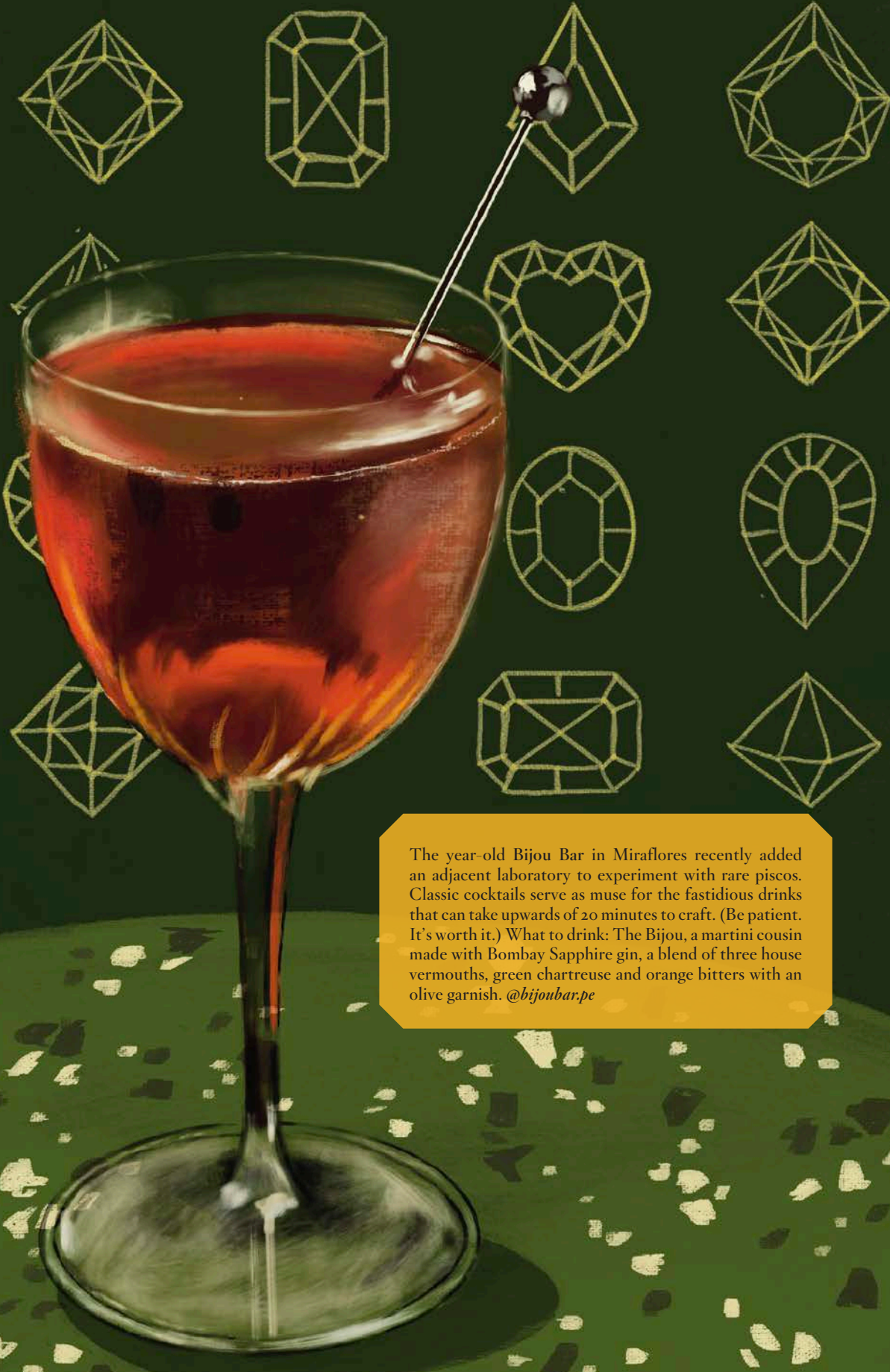
Peru's capital justifiably ranks among the world's most dynamic food scenes. But long before the arrival of the Michelin Guide or World's 50 Best, Lima had a reputation as a great place to drink. Ernest Hemingway famously drank here. And in the 1951 tome, *The South American Gentleman's Companion*, cocktail critic and international man of leisure Charles H. Baker Jr. proclaimed the Champagne Padre from one of the city's then-poshest bars to be "a truly stately drink that rates attention in any society."

That tradition still thrives. And in the last three years, at least a dozen new bars have fueled an exciting cocktail renaissance. Attention to detail goes beyond meticulously sourced local ingredients (think Amazonian palm fruits and tubers) and extends to bespoke ice and custom glassware to match each creation. Pisco remains a staple spirit but is often upstaged by rare rums and Andean potato vodka. Some cocktail menus riff on classics, while others are highly experimental, and drinks are often thoughtfully paired with small bites crafted with just as much care as the beverages. Of all the newcomers elevating the city's white-hot scene, these four drinking dens rise to the top. Here's a cocktail from each for your next Lima bar crawl.

BIJOU BAR

64

Bijou



The year-old Bijou Bar in Miraflores recently added an adjacent laboratory to experiment with rare piscos. Classic cocktails serve as muse for the fastidious drinks that can take upwards of 20 minutes to craft. (Be patient. It's worth it.) What to drink: The Bijou, a martini cousin made with Bombay Sapphire gin, a blend of three house vermouths, green chartreuse and orange bitters with an olive garnish. [@bijoubar.pe](https://www.bijoubar.pe)

The experimental Carnaval in San Isidro gets a bulk of the credit for kick-starting Lima's cocktail renaissance. In its ice room, a dedicated team masterfully carves 15 styles of ice. Owner Aaron Diaz spends six months devising each theatrical cocktail before it's ready for the menu. What to drink: the Black Truffle, made with Havana Selección de Maestros rum, Alipús mezcal vida, Campari, a blend of vermouths and a garnish of black truffle and truffled cheese. [@carnavalbar](#)



Black Truffle

LADY BEE

Miraflores



At the 20-seat Lady Bee in Miraflores, mixologist Alonso Palomino and his partner, chef Gabriela León, work with an agroforestry engineer and marine biologist to ensure the cocktails and small plates showcase only sustainable Peruvian ingredients, such as honey from stingless melipona bees and Amazonian salt sourced from the mines of Pilluana. What to drink: Miraflores, made with pisco, lime and raw honey, with a salted rim and honeycomb wafer. [@ladybee.lima](#)

THE PARROT SHADOW

The owner of The Parrot Shadow, a Polynesian-themed rum bar in San Isidro, sources more than 225 rums from 26 countries to reimagine Mai Tais and Jungle Birds, but also to tweak popular rum-based drinks with pisco to add a Peruvian flair. What to drink: Pua Pele (volcano flower), a tiki cocktail made with three kinds of rum (light, dark, aged), Oleo Falernum syrup, pimento dram, lemon and grapefruit, Pernod and Peychaud's bitters. @theparrotshadow



Pua Pele

Stay:

The 89-room *Miraflores Park*, a Belmond Hotel, is the best place to stay in Lima. Your travel advisor can secure Select perks, including a \$100 resort credit and daily breakfast for two. \$\$

Call of the Wild

BALI IS BACK — AND THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE EXCITING TIME TO DISCOVER THIS ISLAND'S VAST WEALTH OF BEACHES, MOUNTAINS, WATERFALLS, ROMANTIC RETREATS, FAMILY ADVENTURES AND MORE.

Bali, Indonesia

WRITING: KATHRYN ROMEYN

PHOTOGRAPHY: LILY ROSE AND CHRIS SCHALKX

The Indonesian island alternately referred to as “the Island of Demons” or “the Island of Gods” embodies a potent blend of mysticism, superstition, Hinduism, ancestor worship and ritual.

Gilded and ornamented temples are as abundant as sparkling, sunbaked swimming pools and resorts. The island is ringed with beaches caressed by immaculate turquoise waves that are perfect for surfing. Mountainsides undulate with rice terraces so electric-green, they shock the senses. Day clubs and traditional markets, cocktail bars and thundering waterfalls, spas and still-steaming volcanoes... There is but one Bali.

Hospitality here is generous, warm-hearted and outrageously attentive. Early-arrival resorts such as the pair of Four Seasons and a trio of Amans — all originally opened by the end of the '90s — set an almost impossibly high bar. But Bali apparently emits a siren call to five-star flags and, in more recent years, has lured the likes of Raffles, Six Senses, Bulgari, Capella, COMO, Jumeirah and more, delivering not only supreme service and plush accommodations, but also thoughtful cultural immersions. Meanwhile, spectacular smaller hotels are pursuing radical sustainability agendas (as seen in Potato Head Suites, with its guest-facing R&D lab — testing and creating furniture and homewares from plastic and other prolific rubbish — and Buahian, a Banyan Tree Escape, with its zero-waste kitchen and bar).

Unsurprisingly, within dynamic Bali (roughly the size of Delaware but with four times the population) there are distinctive neighborhoods to note when plotting your pilgrimage. On the East Coast, Sanur and Nusa Dua — despite being among the earliest areas developed for tourism — have stayed blissfully quiet, even as the latter has grown into a haven of sprawling resorts. Further up the coast, Manggis is where Amankila's iconic tiered pools practically spill into the black sand below.

On the opposite side, Seminyak is the buzzy, busy home of happening oceanfront resorts, beach clubs and endless shops, bars and restaurants. In the last decade, it began spilling north into what is now the even hipper community of Canggu, which again has spread further into up-and-coming neighborhood Pererenan. In the far south, along the Bukit Peninsula, are resort-heavy Jimbaran and cliff-top Uluwatu. Finally, there's Bali's cultural home and spiritual wellbeing mecca of Ubud, where the most appealing escapes sit just outside “town” in neighboring Sayan, along the singular Ayung River gorge.

Our advice: Ask your advisor to devise the perfect itinerary, whether that involves romance, a family adventure or an indulgent spa retreat. And make sure to wander off the path as much as possible.



Fantasy Island: Exploring the interior of Bali, near Ubud.



The Bronze Age: (Clockwise from top left) In a private villa at Capella Ubud overlooking the river; architecture at Potato Head Suites in Seminyak; the Ayung River near Ubud; villa bedroom, decorative statue and family time at Capella Ubud; exploring the jungle near Ubud in a vintage Land Rover.

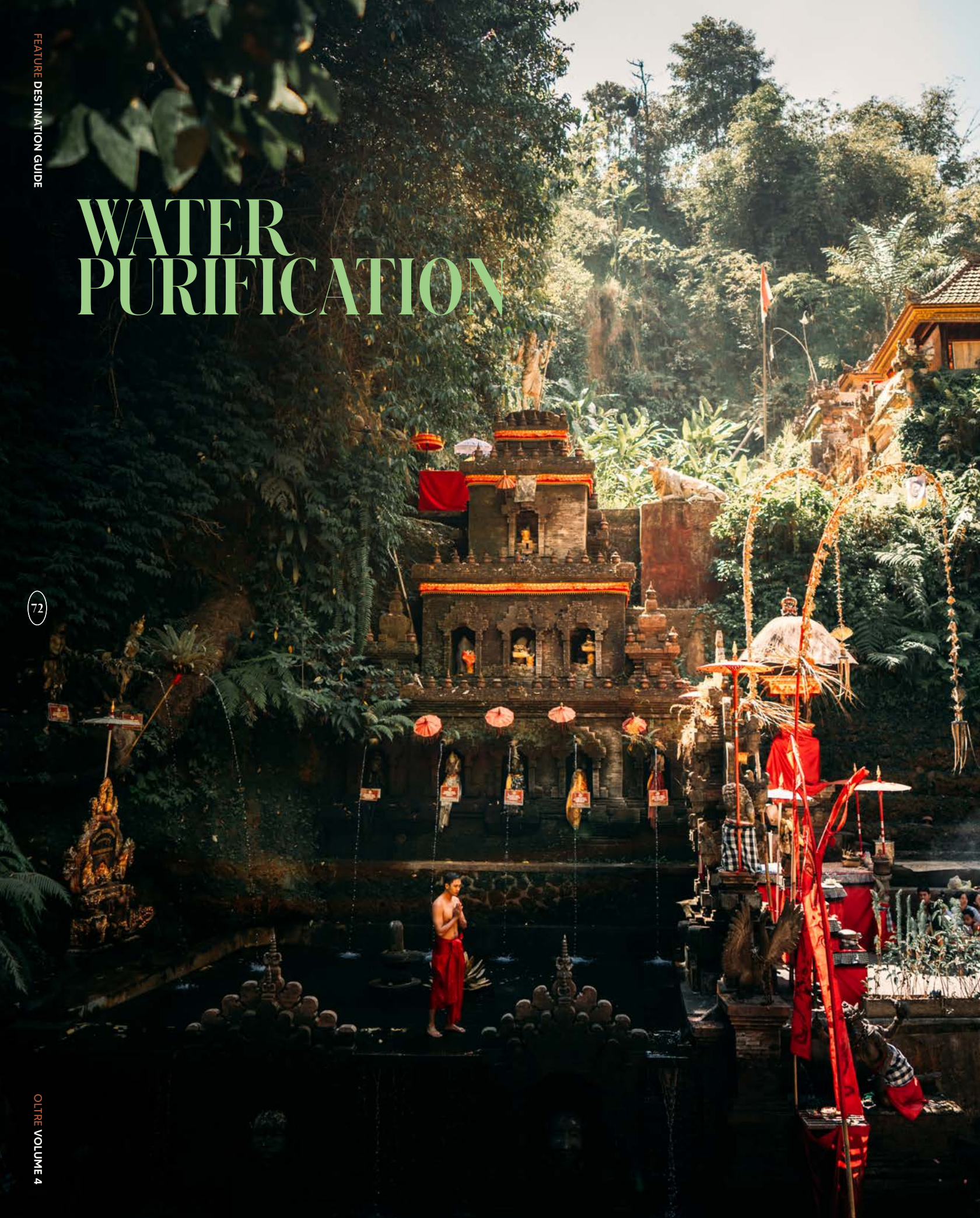




Forest Bathing: (Clockwise from top left) Exploring the island's interior; stone paving in an outdoor seating area at Potato Head Suites; Seminyak Beach at sunset; Balinese design at Potato Head Suites; entrance to a private villa at Capella Ubud; young dancers at Amandari; playing in the Ayung River.

Honeybee
CSP-950

WATER PURIFICATION



**CHASING WATERFALLS IS THE QUINTESSENTIAL BALINESE ADVENTURE,
BUT DOING IT RIGHT INVOLVES MORE THAN SIMPLY TREKKING.**

WRITING: KATHRYN ROMEYN
PHOTOGRAPHY: HARIVAL ZAYUKA



Wise Guy: (Above) Balinese healer at Pura Taman Pecampuhan Sala, outside of Ubud. (Opposite) The sacred water at temple Pura Taman Pecampuhan Sala.

They have me in a white-knuckle grip, one Balinese man on each side, as we wade through shin-high water in a slippery riverbed in the remote mountain village of Sala. A fine mist glitters in the morning sun that floods between the high, jagged rock faces of the waterfalls. Wayan Darmadi, on my left, is the village's local guide. In his other hand balances a tray of blossom-laden canang sari offerings and sticks of incense, lit, their smoke floating lightly upward like the curled fingers of Balinese dancers. On my right is Made Subrata, my private guide from Remote Lands — the same group that manages Aman's private-jet adventures and specializes in extraordinary experiences in Asia — who created this adventure for me.

Before the protective hand-holding (because I'm pregnant), Subrata and I had spent two hours driving north from my home in Uluwatu, and already he'd proven a font of knowledge. I soaked up fascinating history, new Bahasa Indonesia phrases and inspiration for further Bali explorations. Our conversation flowed from spear hunting, karma and the island's caste-centric naming system to ceremonial food traditions and witch doctors. He went off-script with an impromptu stop at the Hindu- and Buddhist-influenced, ninth-century Goa Gajah (Elephant Cave), where an ancient ficus tree wearing a black-and-white-checked "skirt" shaded our entry into the frangipani-scented temple. We walked inside to where monks once meditated and, outside, Subrata pointed out a large wooden bell called kul kul that a holy man strikes to call the community to worship. "But now they have a WhatsApp group," he added, laughing.

Then it was on to our ultimate waterfall adventure, which began at temple Pura Taman Pecampuhan Sala, where the Jero Mangku (Balinese priest and healer), gray hair peeking out from his white head wrap and a wide smile on his face, began ringing his golden bell and chanting. Wearing a requisite red sarong to match the decor, I tucked flowers between my middle fingers, as instructed, in prayer to a handful of gods, and set a wish-like intention before descending into the holy place where two rivers meet.

Butterflies flitted about, cicadas sang, water rushed and two stone dragons emerged from the hillside, denoting prosperity. We walked past an archway featuring screaming stone monkeys, past a high mossy temple of pounding water spouts (in which we'd later drench ourselves), and into the placid river, where ornamented shrine number one — of many, each dedicated to a different god or angels — waited. I've been fortunate to experience enough melukat cleansing ceremonies in my adopted home (particularly beautiful and authentic at the Raffles and Jumeirah resorts) to remain unsurprised when Darmadi first began splashing water on his face.



Fountain Valley: (Above) Water spout at temple Pura Taman Pecampuhan Sala. (Opposite) Trail to the hidden waterfall at Sala village.

The motions typically happen in threes: washing one's face, head and body with holy water (sometimes flower-infused or from a young coconut), then drinking it. But due to the life in my belly, I was instructed to perform each of these rituals 11 times, at each shrine and spout, after first meditating and praying with the blossoms, which we'd flick and let fall into the river. The atmosphere hummed with positivity. "Like a mobile phone, we have to recharge our energy," Subrata said as we were sprayed by a waterfall, explaining that the Balinese perform this kind of ceremony every six months.

The waterfall ceremony proved more moving and powerful than I ever imagined it could. And I was still high on its pure, mystical energy when Subrata and I arrived at the home of Sang Nyoman Sudiasa, who invited me in for a Balinese cooking lesson that felt like cooking with the Buddha himself.

While we sat around a circular wooden table chopping lemongrass, chiles, shallots and garlic and hand-squeezing coconut milk from fresh shavings, the cook spoke quietly about his Siwa-Buddha religion's ancient, self-sustaining style of living and deep, respectful connection to nature. They're a culture equipped for survival, growing and raising literally everything they need — from food to building materials — and living by

INSIDER INSIGHT: DOS & DON'TS

Bali is a predominantly Hindu island in mostly Muslim Indonesia, and its culture and customs are unique. Showing respect for the local ways is essential:

- Remove shoes when entering someone's home or a temple.
- Bring a sarong or sash to cover up when visiting homes or temples.
- Don't climb on sacred structures, and keep a safe distance from ceremonies if you're not part of them.
- Be mindful of offerings. Step around and do not disturb or touch them.
- Avoid PDA. While generally tolerated in tourist areas, it's impolite in more traditional or rural areas.
- Try to learn some Balinese phrases:
Hello: "Om swastiastu" or even "halo"
Thank you: "Terima kasih"

—Justin Keeperman, travel advisor

the philosophical agreement: "What we take from this land, we don't forget to give back. Life for us is all about the process, not the end."

Sudiasa told me they only sacrifice and eat a chicken every 35 days, and a pig every 210 days. Otherwise, they consume basic vegetables and herbs — 40 to 60 percent "medicine," as he called it. For my pleasure, we cooked a feast that may have been medicine but tasted like heaven. As I luxuriated between crispy little corn fritters and bites of tender, zesty tum (chicken with bumbu spices steamed in banana leaf) and spoonfuls of sweet, savory and addictively crunchy tempe manis, my mouth warmed slowly to an enjoyable heat. I pondered the beautifully simple process by which we'd produced these and other wildly diverse dishes. A mortar and pestle — a staple in every Balinese compound — plus knife, spoon, wok, fire and salt were all we used that this family hadn't grown or made themselves.

When I could hold no more, I rode home, physically sated and emotionally enriched. These 10 hours had led me to see Bali in an entirely new way. And that, perhaps, is one of the most significant treasures of this island and its singular culture: that after nearly a decade spent visiting and then living here, there is still so much left to discover.



Details:

Your travel advisor can customize a Bali itinerary for any occasion, working with tour companies such as Remote Lands, which specializes in bespoke Southeast Asia adventures (and also manages the logistics for Aman Private Jet Expeditions).



76



Well Fed: (Above and left) Chef Made Dhanu, seated right, and his team at FED in Seminyak, and the chef's signature coral trout with finger lime and gooseberry ice.



EAT, SLAY, LOVE

THESE THREE HOMEGROWN CHEFS ARE REDEFINING WHAT'S POSSIBLE WITH BALINESE COOKING — AND THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY SLAYING IT.

WRITING: KATHRYN ROMEYN

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS SCHALKX AND TOMMASO RIVA

FED, SEMINYAK

Cool, silken mango, kemangi-coriander oil, crunchy dried coconut, savory brown butter “soil.” As Lenny Kravitz’s “It Ain’t Over ‘til It’s Over” pulses through the air, I greedily scoop up the last few morsels before my husband beats me to it. Rising-star chef Made Dhanu recently opened FED, a 24-seat boîte next door to the home where he grew up. Although he got his first taste of the business in his dad’s restaurant, Mama San, it was Anthony Bourdain who sparked Dhanu’s teenage interest in cooking professionally. Now back in Bali after a foodie education in Melbourne, he plays with humble, overlooked Balinese ingredients. He steams and smokes jicama into a creamy almost-risotto, which he wraps in collard greens. “We want people to be like, ‘What’s this?’,” he says. And the fish course is always a revelation, such as when he hides thin slices of fresh coral trout and specks of finger lime beneath a spicy, frigid blanket of snowy ice made of fermented local cermai, or gooseberry. The fruit of Dhanu’s idiosyncratic intuition feels like witchcraft in the mouth.

@fed.bymade



Nature Calls: (Above) Chef Eka Sunarya on the dining terrace at Kubu in Ubud and (opposite) his appetizer of tuna and caviar.

KUBU, UBUD

Eka Sunarya is smiling wide, his gorgeous grin permanently imprinted upon me, in his hometown of Buahan, just outside of Ubud, where he's taken me foraging for a tiny purple berry called trijata and rare coconut-stem mushrooms. His enthusiasm for the tiniest of nature's treats is utterly contagious. Sunarya is the newly minted executive sous chef of Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, where he oversees the riverside Balinese restaurant Kubu. His passion for cooking is matched only by his aversion to waste. He works to change the mindset of local farmers by showing them that their overripe fruit can be put to good use — liquor, bread, jam — leading them to value their product and rethink their practices. He's a whiz at maximizing ingredients (calling it "pampering") to create vinegar from pineapple and coffee grounds or garum from seafood and poultry scraps. The chef, who has cooked globally from the Maldives to Mayakoba, tells me, "It was my dream, so long ago, to showcase local ingredients. It's an opportunity for us to work with the local farmers to elevate their economy and [ensure] the plant or ingredient won't be lost or forgotten." His 11-course degustation menus do just that. @kubuatmandapa



Street Cred: (Above) Chef Wayan Kresna Yasa at Home in Pererenan and (below) his Ledok Nusa.



HOME, PERERENAN

One spoonful into the Ledok Nusa, and I'm addicted. This Indonesian "chowder" of potato, corn and spinach, cooked in zero-waste fish broth with crispy octopus head and topped with fresh kemangi (lemon basil), envelops me like a warm hug. I know this pleases chef Wayan Kresna Yasa, who grew up eating his grandmother's version — which she peddled on the street on Nusa Penida, an island southeast of "mainland" Bali — almost daily. Each heart-warming dish at this open-air, glorified warung is modestly priced yet richly elevated by the chef, who previously worked at Blue Hill at Stone Barns in the U.S. and also coauthored *Paon: Real Balinese Cooking*. I squeeze a lime over srosop ayam (roasted chicken leg), its deep yellow coconut broth so beautifully spiced, I want to drink it. Kresna Yasa says the chicken is traditionally fire-grilled and strung up "like this" — hands up — during ceremonies, then boiled with coconut milk. Here, he sears the skin, then slides it in the oven to seal in the juice. "My cooking always follows my own path," says Kresna Yasa, who encourages other young cooks to introduce their family recipes. At HOME, heritage matters. "When my mom comes, she says her food is still better than mine. I say, 'Yes, Mom.'" @home.by.chefwayan

RISING UP

ON BALI'S SOUTHERNMOST TIP, A NEIGHBORHOOD MATURES AND BECKONS WITH ELEVATED FOOD AND DRINK, SHOPPING AND WELLNESS SCENES.

Barrel-hungry surfers sought out Uluwatu long before Bali became a luxury haven. They tipped flip-flopped locals to sherpa their boards across undeveloped hills and craggy limestone cliffs in pursuit of the perfect wave. For decades, the area's restaurants were modest warungs (local Indonesian eateries) and unremarkable open-air joints offering coconuts and bottles of Bintang beer alongside basic sustenance. Time flies.

In the aughts, **Bulgari** snatched up prime cliff-top real estate and built a stunning tropical resort — the first in this region to go head-to-head with **Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay**. Luxury slowly seeped into the neighborhood, which, until then, was otherwise best known for housing one of Bali's most important and sacred temples: the circa-11th-century Pura Luhur Uluwatu, to which thousands flock nightly for pink sunsets.

Joining Bulgari more recently were the all-pool-villa **Alila Villas Uluwatu**, a sprawling **Six Senses** and Southeast Asia's first LXR resort. The toned and beautiful now hang at **Fondue Recovery**, where jet-lagged arrivals spill \$140 on high-fashion Nagnata sports bras and use Bali's only Normatec compression lounge at the adjoining **Studio Fondue** to reduce leg swelling after long flights. At **Santai Recovery Spa**, travelers cycle through contrast-therapy sessions in the glass-fronted sauna, hot pool and ice bath.

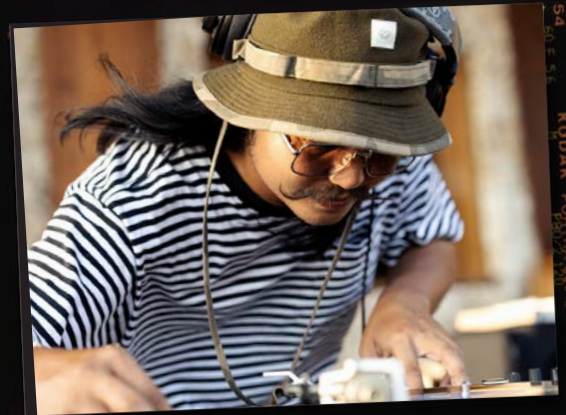
And shopping? Uluwatu teems with tasteful, homegrown boutiques from the likes of **Magali Pascal** (intricate, Bali-designed-and-made dresses that sell at Rodeo Drive prices), **Kevala** (drool-worthy ceramics) and **Saya** (Indonesian art, antiques and jewelry).

It's also become a destination for great food and drink. **Mana Uluwatu**, which boasts one of Bali's most mesmerizing ocean views, offers a menu of locally sourced ceviche, oysters and spaghetti with clams. **Gooseberry**, another pioneer, is a venue with a split personality: part French-inflected, wood-fired restaurant and part lingerie/swimwear shop with a swimming pool for customers. Another wood-fired restaurant, **Mason**, is one of several post-pandemic arrivals imported from Canggu, while year-old **Ulu Artisan** continues the incandescent trend of clever cocktails, served alongside flame-kissed tiger prawns and charcoal-roasted chicken. The owners of the latter have also opened **Disco Pizza Palace**, a pizzeria that would feel at home in Italy.

Also fantastically delicious is **Bartolo**, a destination for refined small plates in a bistro setting that could have been plucked from a Parisian street — were it not for the bikini-clad motorbikers zooming by. And the newest to the scene is **Yuki**, where Balinese-Australian-Italian founder Rai Utama serves a mouthwatering take on Japanese izakaya fare.

If the Uluwatu of yesteryear was a place one might leave craving a good meal and island-chic ensemble, it's now somewhere travelers depart fully and deeply sated.

WRITING: KATHRYN ROMEYN



Uluwatu Vibes: (From top) Rooftops of the villas at Bulgari Resort Bali, local designer dresses at Magali Pascal, a DJ at Mana Bar and the open-air dining room at Yuki izakaya.

TAHITI | FRENCH POLYNESIA | FIJI | SOUTH PACIFIC

REVEALING POLYNESIA

Artfully authentic discovery. All-inclusive luxury.
Fall in love with the carefree elegance and genuine hospitality
of the South Pacific's most cherished small-ship experience.



Contact Your Travel Professional Today

Paul Gauguin
CRUISES

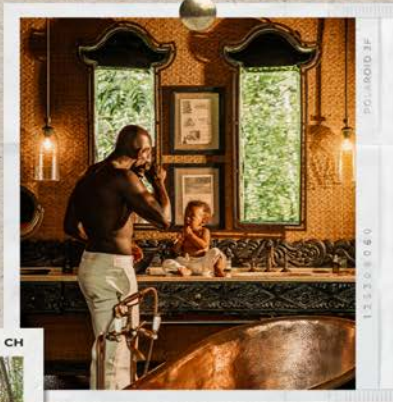
HOTEL DIRECTORY

Insider Insight:

"I've been to Bali 18 times, and Capella Ubud is my favorite property. The trees come through the tents, and you can see the care taken to preserve the natural surroundings. I recommend the three-hour journey in the spa tent."

—Glen DeLaine, travel advisor

Bali,
Indonesia



Savannah Green
2150-30

Tent City: (From top) Photographer Lily Rose and her family at Capella Ubud, in a tented pool villa overlooking the Ayung River gorge.

UBUD

★ **Amandari**

Balinese minimalism resonates across 31 secluded accommodations clinging to the Ayung River gorge in Kedewatan. Spiritual journeys abound. Legendary service. \$\$

★ **Buahan, a Banyan Tree Escape**

Zero walls, zero doors but abundant privacy in 16 adults-only villas, where copper tubs and swimming pools open to jurassic jungle north of Ubud. Mouthwatering zero-waste menus. Standout spa treatment: Buahan Bliss. \$\$\$\$

★ **Capella Ubud**

Glamping, with an emphasis on *glam*, where each of 23 "tents" has a swimming pool and singular theme. Plus, can't-miss Asian barbecue 10-course feasts. Standout spa treatment: New Moon Ritual. \$\$\$

★ **Como Shambhala Ubud**

Deep wellness immersion with yoga, meditation, hiking, Qi Gong, biking, Ayurveda, hydrotherapy, Pilates and more. Only 30 suites, with magical pools hidden among greenery. Standout spa treatment: Abhyanga with Shirodhara. \$\$

★ **Como Uma Ubud**

Shambhala's boutique sibling, minutes from Ubud center, overlooking rice paddies that are perfect for morning walks. Airy elegance across 46 rooms and villas. \$

★ **Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan**

Arresting architecture and sumptuous local artisanship in 18 suites and 42 pool villas on a hillside adjacent to the rushing Ayung River. Find the bamboo yoga shala for sacred naps. Memorable dining and Balinese cooking school. Standout spa treatment: Muladhara chakra ceremony. \$\$\$

★ Pictured

* **Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve**

Vibrant, hand-painted murals in each of the 60 suites and villas. Delicious degustation menus of local flavors. Butler service. An all-bamboo kids club. Indonesian Sunday brunch. Offbeat tours in a vintage Volkswagen 181. Standout spa treatment: Intuitive Blind Healer session. \$\$\$

Viceroy Bali

Instagram-famous for its 40 pool villas with palatial bathrooms in verdant foothills north of Ubud, with a popular speakeasy-ish bar and fine-dining restaurant. \$

SEMINYAK + CANGGU**Alila Seminyak**

Contemporary design with views of Seminyak beach. Large enough for groups — 175 rooms and suites — plus a rockstar penthouse villa, festive beach bar and five infinity pools. \$

Como Uma Canggu

For the wave- and scene-obsessed: 119 rooms and suites and a dozen two-story penthouses with rooftop pools mere feet from the sand, plus the Tropic Surf headquarters and Beach Club. \$

The Legian Seminyak, Bali

Opulent and private with 67 ocean-view suites and 13 pool villas in the heart of bustling Seminyak Beach. Live jazz, cigar lounge, two-tiered pool. Standout spa treatment: The Legian four-hand massage. \$\$

Lost Lindenberg

The new darling of Design Hotels with only eight teak studios surrounded by palm trees, 40 miles north of Canggu. Black sand and surf. Plant-based fare from the permaculture garden. Beach bonfires. \$

* **Potato Head Suites**

Coolly covetable artisanship oozes from the luxury enclave of Desa Potato Head, where some of the 58 suites are crowned with rooftop terraces. Half a dozen restaurants, design library and oceanfront pool. Aiming for zero-waste — and nearly there. Be ready to Shazam the music at the resort's vibe-y Akademi cocktail bar. \$

W Seminyak

Wishbone-shaped contemporary beachfront hotel with 229 rooms, including dozens of one-, two- and three-bedroom villas with frangipani-lined pools. Four restaurants and bars. One of the island's biggest gyms. Kids love the cantilevered main pool inspired by rice terraces. \$

BUKIT PENINSULA**Alila Villas Uluwatu**

The original Alila, with 65 pool villas, famed for its EarthCheck-certified sustainable architecture high above the crashing surf. Gargantuan infinity pool for stand-up-paddle yoga. Ingenious cocktails in seashells and bird glasses. \$\$\$

Andaz Bali

New-build architecture that feels romantically historic, with 149 rooms, including 22 pool villas. The entire complex is engulfed in overgrown jungle alongside the beach. Get around on cute blue bikes. Surf lessons. Kid friendly. \$

Insider Insight:

"Potato Head is a great choice for young honeymooners. It's the ideal location in Seminyak with modern Balinese design and access to the beach club. It's trendy and fun."

—Danielle Tomassetti, travel advisor



Yak It Up: (From top) Tanaman restaurant and a rooftop suite at Potato Head Suites in Seminyak.

WITNESS THE WONDERS OF A
Grand Voyage

Experience a richer connection to world capitals, iconic landmarks and secluded gems. Travel further, linger longer and enjoy personalized service from the comfort of your spacious suite. Begin your unforgettable journey with a Holland America Line Grand Voyage.

Contact your travel advisor to learn more.



* **Bulgari Resort Bali**

As if the 59 ocean-view pool villas weren't fab enough, you'll also find five divine Mansions set 525 feet above the Indian Ocean at this Uluwatu hideaway. Hyper-attentive butlers. Flexible check-in/out times. Exclusive funicular to a serene private beach club. Plus one of Bali's best Italian restaurants. Standout spa treatment: Bulgari Royal Lulur for Two. \$\$\$\$

Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay

A luxury legend with 156 thatched-roof villas with plunge pools, walkable to Bali's famed stretch of fish barbecues. Radiant hospitality. Plus, a beach club, Balinese restaurant and upcycled bar for zero-waste libations. Standout spa treatment: Celestial Light Ritual in the Illume Room. \$\$

Jimbaran Puri, A Belmond Hotel

Old-school and charming, with 38 Balinese cottages, plus 26 pool villas. Delicious sand-side seafood. Beach spa. Local market visits. \$

Jumeirah Bali

An exceedingly elegant take on Indonesian aesthetics situated above Dreamland Beach, with 123 pool villas inspired by the ancient Majapahit Empire's water palaces. Highly bespoke wellness therapies and Bali's only hammam. Standout spa treatment: Damar Wulan. \$\$\$

LXR Hotels & Resorts, Bali

Bali's newest arrival offers 72 pool villas atop the rugged southern cliffs of the Bukit. The spa delves into ancient healing techniques. Spotlight on heritage craft. \$\$

Raffles Bali

A pastoral retreat of 32 modern pool villas on 57 virginal acres, including a virtually private sandy beach for morning Qi Gong or full moon meditation. Wellbeing butlers. Progressive Balinese-Southeast Asian feasts at Rumari. Melukat soul blessing ceremonies. Standout spa treatment: Raffles Bali Signature Massage. \$\$\$

Six Senses Uluwatu, Bali

Sustainable and sumptuous enclave with 103 chic accommodations — sky suites, penthouses and pool villas among them. Stunning cliff-top wedding chapel. Healthful cuisine. Extensive wellbeing services. Standout spa treatment: Crystal Healing Face Therapy. \$\$

EAST COAST + NUSA DUA

Aman Villas at Nusa Dua

It's like a small village for Balinese royalty with 27 grandiose villas of two to six bedrooms, each with a generous pool, at least two dedicated butlers, a personal chef and on-call chauffeur. \$\$\$\$

Amankila

Thirty-four exquisite villas offer sunrise views over the Lombok Strait. Iconic tiered pools. Exceptional destination dining. Remote excursions. Standout spa treatment: Aman Massage in a Beach Bale. \$\$

The St. Regis Bali Resort

Perched behind Nusa Dua's golden beach, 124 huge suites and villas come with the brand's signature butler service. Sundown fire dance displays. Plus, the island's most decadent breakfast buffet. \$\$

Your travel advisor can secure Select or Curated perks, such as a \$100 resort credit and daily breakfast for two, plus additional amenities, at these hotels. 📍



Om Equity: (From top) The Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan, the Wanakasa Terrace Suite at Como Shambhala and a pool villa at Amandari.

STILL MORE TO COME

Opening imminently, the Regent Canggu promises 150 lavish rooms and suites playing off traditional Balinese motifs and crafts, plus the world's first Regent Spa. Also coming soon: Anantara Ubud, 35 minutes from Ubud center, with 85 rooms and pool villas, 15 residences and an emphasis on sustainable, locally sourced cuisine alongside holistic Balinese wellness modalities.

 BACKROADS.

CRUISING THROUGH CROATIA

Biking • Walking & Hiking • Kayaking

Island-hop the cities and archipelagos of the Adriatic Sea. Traverse this utterly dynamic region via a stylish sea vessel boasting master chefs, an open-air bar and multiple lounges. Experience Korčula's stone palaces and the bustling city of Split. Cruise azure waters from medieval Dubrovnik to the quaint villages of the Istrian Peninsula. Each port holds a new surprise.

CROATIA OCEAN CRUISE MULTI-ADVENTURE TOUR

8 days • 7 nights

Small Luxury Ship



WE ARE YOUR ACTIVE TRAVEL EXPERTS | Contact your Travel Advisor today for details & reservations.

Vive Le Mutiné!

WRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY: BRAD A. JOHNSON



THE BRANDO RESORT RECENTLY RELAUNCHED ITS SIGNATURE RESTAURANT WITH A NEW FRENCH CHEF AT THE HELM. *LIBERTÉ! FRATERNITÉ! GASTRONOMIE!*

Tetiaroa, French Polynesia

“I’ve been thinking about this restaurant, about this menu, for eight years,” says Jean Imbert, his arms crossed, his wavy hair disheveled and dangling over his sunburned face, as he surveys the bustling dining room. It’s (re)opening night of Les Mutinés, and the chef is anxious. The restaurant is packed with regular guests, an army of French journalists and a TV crew from Paris (plus one writer from the United States: me).

Imbert oversees a string of impressive kitchens at properties around the world, including Plaza Athénée and Dior Maison in Paris and Cheval Blanc in the Caribbean. But this restaurant in French Polynesia is the one that has haunted him the longest, he says.

The 36-villa Brando sits on a lush, tropical atoll called Tetiaroa, 20 minutes by air from Tahiti. (The resort operates its own fleet of twin-engine prop planes, which shuttle guests to and from Papeete.) There is nothing else on Tetiaroa but the staff-only village and research center on the other side of the island. A solar farm adjacent to the short landing strip generates just enough electricity to keep the backup diesel generator turned off most days. Air-conditioning is cooled

by deep sea water. Glass gets crushed and upcycled into sand, which paves the island’s narrow roads, on which the only vehicles are bicycles and electric buggies.

The resort is named after Marlon Brando, who discovered this atoll in the 1960s while filming *Mutiny on the Bounty*, a fictionalized account of the ill-fated merchant ship *HMS Bounty*. He later purchased the island and built a simple retreat here. He dreamed of opening a luxury eco-resort — for which he planned extensively — that finally came to fruition 10 years after his death.

When Imbert visited the newly opened resort eight years ago, another (more widely known) Parisian chef, Guy Martin, was writing the menus. But when he saw the wooden, moated structure that houses Les Mutinés (“the mutineers,” an ode to that film), Imbert knew he would helm that kitchen someday.

Imbert idolized Marlon Brando, he explains, and *Mutiny on the Bounty* is one of his all-time favorite movies. Years passed before he would dare approach the company that developed and manages The Brando — Tahiti-based Pacific Beachcomber — to ask if he could come take over.



Action Hero: (From top) Chef Jean Imbert and the interior of Les Mutinés.

“We were perfectly happy with our chef,” says CEO Yann Bailey. Still, the executive listened to the unsolicited plea. After all, Imbert had recently set Paris abuzz after supplanting Alain Ducasse as the marquee chef at Plaza Athénée. “The more he talked, the more it sounded like he might be onto something,” Bailey says. The chef wiggled into Bailey’s head. “We decided maybe it was time for a change.”

The Brando announced Imbert’s appointment in early 2023, and nine months later, following a gutting and redesign of the restaurant — which looks vaguely like the capsized hull of the wooden *Bounty* — Imbert was finally able to cook the recipes that had been tormenting his dreams for years.

It’s a set menu, six courses, prepared for no more than 20 guests per night. A chandelier in the shape of a masted ship (the size of a Volkswagen) now glitters overhead. Vintage MGM movie posters gleam beneath spotlights in the entry. Almost everything on the menu is sourced from local fishermen, the resort’s organic gardens or ranches on neighboring islands.

The menu, printed on parchment, is a treasure map that plots the journey of the movie’s mutineers — a crew of villains and heroes who set sail from Britain for Tahiti on a months-long mission that’s doomed from the start. The first course is inspired by their home port. It’s called “fish & chips,” except it’s not quite that. It’s an array of diminutive hors d’oeuvre: line-caught tuna encased in a crisp potato shell, die-sized potato mille feuille and a few sips of soup. The adventure begins.

While attempting to sail west around Cape Horn, the ship veers off course and is forced to turn back, an episode that inspires Imbert’s second course: spicy, chili-laced ceviche. (Chile, get it?) When the fish arrives — hidden beneath a jet-black tile — my eyes immediately focus on the bowl, a fascinating piece of pottery that glimmers like snow. I grab the vessel to pull it closer — yikes! It’s not pottery. It’s ice. The entire bowl is made of ice. I lift the tile to reveal lumps of fish cloaked in a fragrant, curry-like cream. I’m suddenly famished, and the fish disappears in seconds. Embarrassed by my haste, I glance up to see if anyone was watching, and I’m relieved to discover that I’m not the fastest eater in the crowd. Far from it.

Sniff, sniff. I sense smoldering charcoal. And here comes my server with a personal hibachi. Smoke swirls from the grill placed in front of me, perfuming a miniature lobster tail, which, I learn, was chopped from a tiny creature caught earlier in the day in knee-deep water just offshore. My server gracefully transfers the crustacean (three, four bites at most) onto a mosaic of shaved pineapple, melon, citrus and banana — a beautiful contrast of savory and sweet, hot and cold. It’s the sort of dish that makes an old curmudgeon (not me; some dude across the room) groan thunderously with delight. If I’m reading the map correctly, “lobster on the coals” represents the *HMS Bounty*’s perilous drift through Antarctica. I think? I’ve always been lousy at reading maps.



Tour de France: Local lobster over charcoal and honey-vanilla soufflé at Les Mutinés.



The Brando, Tetiaroa, French Polynesia
Your travel advisor can secure Select perks, including a \$100 credit toward dining and activities, and daily breakfast for two. \$\$\$\$

The next course — fish steamed in banana leaves — doesn't leave a lasting impression, mostly because I'm still high from the lobster, but also because the next destination thrills even more. We arrive in Polynesia to discover a bounty of desserts, including a perfect soufflé infused with homegrown vanilla and honey from the bees that pollinated those vanilla flowers. "Hear, hear!" We all toast with rum.

Tomorrow, I'll be eating more casually once again — with my toes buried in the sand — at Bob's Bar or the Beachcomber Cafe, two of the resort's other venues (also revamped by Imbert). Les Mutinés is not meant for everyday dining. I can't say with certainty that I'll still be thinking about this mutiny eight years from now. That's a long time. But I'm pretty sure I will look back on my week at The Brando and smile. ■

Napoli Afragola High Speed Train Station
Naples, Italy



FEEL FREE TO EXPERIENCE FEARLESS ENGINEERING

*Elevate your architectural knowledge with Norwegian's
Beyond Blueprints shore excursions*

Explore some of the most jaw-dropping buildings, bridges and lifts all over the world with Norwegian's exclusive Beyond Blueprints shore excursions. These uniquely curated excursions take you directly from the ship, off the beaten path and through some of the 21st century's greatest architectural achievements. From world-famous skyscrapers to physics-defying designs, find out how these mind-bending masterpieces came to be, their engineering secrets and more. Once onboard, relax at The Haven by Norwegian®, an exclusive enclave accessible by private keycard with our most luxurious and well-appointed accommodations. Indulge in the unparalleled personal service of a certified butler and concierge, who will make all your arrangements on board and on shore.



CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR TO BOOK YOUR NCL VACATION TODAY

Penrose Atrium,
Norwegian Prima



MASTER OF CEREMONY



Grand Central: (Above) Scenes from The Gritti Palace in Venice. (Opposite) Venetian fabric wallpaper and fresh-cut roses in a Landmark Grand Canal View room.

VENICE'S ALWAYS-WILD CARNIVAL PARTIES BEGIN IN LATE JANUARY, FOLLOWED BY THE BIENNALE IN APRIL — AND IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A MORE PICTURESQUE FRONT-ROW SEAT THAN THE GRITTI PALACE.

Venice, Italy

WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY: MARINA SPIRONETTI

It starts with a hazy, early-morning transfer down the Grand Canal in the hotel's yacht, summer's heat and stifling crowds long gone. A cool mist rolls in from the sea, and Venice feels more *Venice* than ever, dreamlike and magically suspended in time.

A bellman, clad in all white, greets us at the dock and escorts me through the waterfront entrance of the legendary Gritti Palace. Inside, an exquisite world of marble, tapestries, velvets and Murano-glass chandeliers emerges from the chiaroscuro of the lobby.

On the way to the elevator, a gorgeously appointed library catches my eye. Right in the middle, among coffee-table books and vintage astrolabes, a painting of an austere man in a Robe of State gazes down with a magisterial expression. "That's our doge looking after us," the concierge remarks proudly. The doge in question is Andrea Gritti. He became the head of state of the Republic of Venice in 1523. Two years later, he chose this gothic palace as his personal abode, long before it was converted into the luxury hotel bearing his name.

Thoroughly renovated in the '00s and meticulously refreshed in recent years, the Gritti features 61 rooms and 21 individually decorated suites named after Venetian locations or illustrious guests — from Ernest Hemingway to Somerset Maugham.

The concept of *camera con vista* (room with a view) must have been conceived here. Draw back the curtains, and a magnificent panorama of the Grand Canal and the basilica of Santa Maria della Salute is unveiled. It's one of those moments one never forgets, punctuated by the scent of fresh-cut pink roses just delivered to my writing desk.

It gets even more luxurious. The Redentore suite's terrace offers an uninterrupted view of rooftops, bell towers and, in the distance, the dome of Il Redentore, Palladio's best church.

The abundance of black-and-white images lining the hallways documents the glamorous past of this place — there's Princess Grace in an evening gown, photographed on the dock, and Humphrey Bogart playing tourist on a gondola, and Marcello Mastroianni captivantly pictured in front of the Grand Canal, plus many others — artists, politicians, writers. All those who have left a legacy have stayed at the Gritti at some point. I try to imagine them dining at Club del Doge, enthralled by the water reflections dancing on the beamed ceiling, or at the eternal Bar Longhi next door, cocktail in hand, surrounded by exquisitely etched Venetian mirrors.

It's not just about faded memories of the Dolce Vita, though. Today's guests have a wealth of options to keep themselves entertained — from private boat tours that uncover the lagoon's hidden gems to culinary classes at the Gritti Epicurean School. Music and cinema lovers will appreciate the facilities of the Heritage suites, where the state-of-the-art Bang & Olufsen entertainment system comes with a selection of opera films that have been awarded the Coppa Volpi at the Venice Film festival — just the thing before heading out to watch a performance at La Fenice Opera House. There's also a spa in partnership with Sisley Paris, for anyone in need of further pampering.

The Gritti's devotion to the art world also involves giving back to the city. Together with Save Venice, the American nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of art and architecture in the city, the Gritti has sponsored a conservation campaign for the Room of the Four Doors, one of the most magnificent spaces in the Doge's Palace, the former seat of Venetian power. And that's something of which Doge Andrea Gritti would certainly approve. ■



Italian Dressing: (From top) Water-taxi landing at The Gritti Palace in Venice and the library, featuring a painting of Andrea Gritti. (Opposite) Bedroom of the Pisani Palazzo Canal Suite.

The Gritti Palace, Venice, Italy

Your travel advisor can secure Select perks, including a \$100 dining credit and daily breakfast for two. \$\$\$





Alaska, by Cunard®

There's no better way to experience the magnificence of Alaska than on Queen Elizabeth.® Guests may choose from 7- to 12-night roundtrip voyages from Vancouver that include a wealth of ports and memorable experiences.



The perfect ship for Alaska

Queen Elizabeth is large enough to offer all the activities, amenities and experiences, while carrying fewer guests than other ships her size.



Signature Cunard experiences

Guests are invited to experience everything from Alaska-themed Afternoon Tea, enhanced with champagne, to the spectacular Ice White Ball.

White Star Service™

Service and attention to detail which goes above and beyond expectations – with one crew member for every two guests.



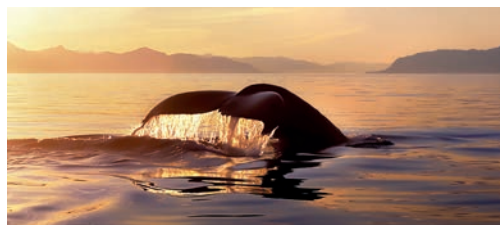
Plenty of time in port

With full days in several ports of call, guests have more time to indulge in their personal passions and only-in-Alaska experiences.



Insights from the experts

Guests can hear personal narratives from award-winning writers, explorers and adventurers, including Bear Grylls, Mensun Bound and Ann Daniels.



Relaxed days at sea

Guests can enjoy at least two luxurious sea days on every Alaska itinerary, including scenic cruising through Glacier Bay National Park, Hubbard Glacier and Tracy Arm Fjord.

© 2024 Carnival plc. Ships' Registry: Bermuda. The Cunard logo and logotype, Queen Elizabeth, and White Star Service are registered trademarks of Carnival plc, an English company trading as Cunard. All rights reserved in the United States and other countries.

Contact your Travel Advisor today

QUEEN ELIZABETH®



Parting Shot: Latika Nath in her element in India.

THE OLTRE Q&A

WITH LATIKA NATH

WRITING: TANVI CHHEDA

96

GROWING UP AN ANIMAL LOVER IN DELHI, AND later equipped with degrees in environmental science and forestry, Latika Nath had intended to study snow leopards in Kashmir. Political instability in the region, however, meant coming up with an alternate plan. This new course would involve another big cat. Nath went on to pursue a doctorate in tigers at Oxford under famed Scottish conservationist and zoologist David Macdonald.

Now a conservationist herself, as well as a wildlife ecologist, author and big-game photographer, Nath is known these days as India's Tiger Princess, an unofficial title she considers both a privilege and a huge responsibility. "The tiger and its habitat form some of the most amazing biodiversity spaces on the planet," she says. "The very survival of humankind depends on the survival of these places."

Nath's knowledge of tiger biology and behavior has led to major changes at national parks in India, including Bandhavgarh and Kanha. She has also contributed to the conservation of wetlands in Nepal, directly impacting species including the tiger, rhino and Gangetic dolphin.

As a woman in the male-dominated field of conservation, Nath has often struggled to be taken seriously but, in proving herself, has also paved the way for the next generation. "When I started out as an ecologist working on the tiger, I was one of a handful of women scientists working in the field of wildlife in India," she says. Today, she's a role model for a new generation, who draw inspiration from her work in wildlife conservation.

Next up for Nath: She's planning and building an intimate, carbon-negative lodge (think solar-powered water heaters) on the edge of Kanha National Park, comprising three safari-style tents, each with a private plunge pool.

How many pairs of shoes do you bring on a two-week trip?

At least three, if not more.

What is your most common request of hotel room service?

A bowl of hot soup!

What is your greatest extravagance when traveling?

Having someone meet me to help with transfers, logistics and check-ins.

The best souvenir you've ever taken from a hotel?

Slippers from a hotel in London. I loved those slippers and wore them until they disintegrated.

When and where were you happiest?

In wilderness spaces around big cats.

What destination scares you, if any?

Any place with extremist anti-women sentiments.

Any destinations on your bucket list?

Siberia for the Amur Leopard and Siberian Tiger. South Africa for the King Cheetah. The Amazon for the Jaguarundi and Maned Wolf. And so many others.

Where was your last road trip?

A few months ago, we drove to Rantbambore to try out the new highway.

What is your greatest vacation regret?

When we were in New Zealand years ago, the earthquakes in the South Island meant we could not visit. Sadly, I haven't had the chance to return.

Most embarrassing travel moment?

Traveling from Harar to Addis Ababa with hyena drool on my hair, looking like something the cat had dragged in. 🐾

ROADTRIPS

The Ultimate in Sports Travel



LUXURY TRAVEL PACKAGES
TO THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED

— 2024 —

SUMMER GAMES

COMBINE YOUR LOVE OF TRAVEL AND PASSION FOR SPORTS TO CREATE AN
UNMATCHED EXPERIENCE (AND MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME).

CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR

A man in red shorts is sitting on a rock in the middle of a waterfall. The water is cascading over him and the rock, creating a misty spray. The background is dark, making the white water stand out.

OLTRE

VOLUME 4: THE WILD ISSUE

DESTINATION GUIDE: THE BEST OF BALI

ON SAFARI: BEYOND THE BIG FIVE

DINING: TAHITI'S HOT NEW TABLE

DESIGN: AU NATUREL HOTELS

COCKTAILS: MIXING IT UP IN LIMA

FASHION: SUSTAINABLE STYLE IN COPENHAGEN

SOUNDTRACK: CHRIS BLACKWELL'S GOLDENEYE PLAYLIST

PLUS: EXPEDITION CRUISING, HOTEL REVIEWS AND MORE