

CARRIER

MAGAZINE

INSPIRATION | KNOWLEDGE | STYLE



Knowledge |

Earth, Air & Water

THE MOST MEMORABLE WAYS IN WHICH TO SEE THE WORLD

Inspiration |

Nights in Nature

WE SET YOU RIGHT AT THE HEART OF NATURE AS THE SUN SETS

Plus | ULTIMATE INDULGENCE: SEYCHELLES

Welcome

Here at Carrier we make it our mission to share our expert knowledge, inspire your travels and ensure that our guests holiday in style.

Introducing the Carrier Magazine - Issue 02. Bursting with insight from the world of luxury travel, whether it is the most awe-inspiring experiences to enjoy as the sun sets; floating in a hot air balloon above ancient temples in Burma or taking to the skies on a private jet to a Seychellois sanctuary. The following pages are infused with ideas for adventures in the year ahead – we hope that this will be your go-to read to fuel your imagination.

Within each of the three chapters you will find cutting-edge news and a tantalizing mix of creative stories. ***Inspiration. Knowledge. Style.*** Three words that epitomise everything that we do here at Carrier. They are our ethos. We recognise that holidays are precious few and transformative. They matter. Enjoy the luxury of knowledge. Read on and discover the world as we know it.

In this issue

Inspiration, knowledge and style are the pillars we feel underpin the world of luxury travel. These key cornerstones span a spectrum of Carrier destinations – we share our highlights across the pages.



30 / Croatia

A European en vogue duo – Croatia and Montenegro feature as must-see destinations this year. An enticing mix of history, culture and dramatic coastlines awaits.

20 / USA

New York and Bermuda, Santa Monica and Mexico – we pull out the perfect pairings on offer when combining an American all-star with an ultimate retreat.



10 / Portugal

We go beyond the beaches of Portugal and nearby neighbour Spain. Discover why the short-haul sun-drenched Iberian Peninsula continues to be a favourite in 2016.



34 / South Africa

We grant you VIP access to some of the best experiences this fascinating country has to offer, including lunch with a celebrity chef.



52 / Bali

Step inside the beautifully refurbished accommodations at Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay – just one of the stories unveiled.

Contributors

Julie Barker is Carrier's Head of Reservations & Operations and our longest serving employee. With a remarkable 34 years' experience within the travel industry she has travelled the world – most recently to Finnish Lapland. *See page 45*

Steve Davey is a freelance writer and photographer. He was recently a judge for National Geographic Traveller's Photography Competition 2016 and is the author and principal photographer of Unforgettable Places to See Before You Die. *See page 46*

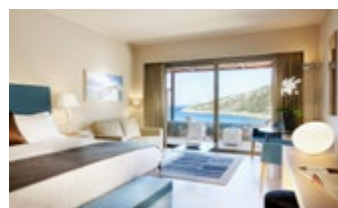
Nicky Fitzgerald is renowned for her involvement in some of the world's finest safari lodges. Alongside husband Steve, the couple built and operated over 60 luxury lodges for andBeyond, before Angama Mara drew them out of retirement. *See page 66*



Travel notes

A room with a view

Hand-carved out of the hillside rock on Vathi Beach in Crete, this one-of-a-kind, sophisticated property offers guests remarkable vistas of the glistening Cretan Sea. ***Daios Cove Luxury Resort & Villas*** have recently unveiled their exquisite new Premium Sea View Suites. Each beautifully styled with Maxalto Italian furnishings, the spacious accommodations feature a master bedroom with lounge area, an open-plan living space, two bathrooms and an expansive sea view veranda where you can sit back and soak up the sun whilst looking out onto the cove. Take a walk down onto the beach to the trendy Beach Bar and enjoy the new Daios Cove Signature Cocktail by Telis Papadopoulos, previously voted World Class Bartender of the Year.



A FLORIDIAN HOME-FROM-HOME

Encore Club, just minutes from Walt Disney World® is an exciting new development consisting of five to 13 bedroom homes with an array of exclusive amenities for all the family to enjoy within Reunion Resort, Orlando. Kids will love the on-site waterpark, pool, tennis and volleyball courts, whilst parents can relax in the clubhouse after a busy day in the theme parks or savour a cocktail in the private bar.



The desert playground

One of the most anticipated unveilings of the year is Dubai's extravagant £1.98 billion mega theme park. Set to open in October, an architectural model has been revealed showcasing 100 exhilarating attractions. A Taj Mahal-inspired theatre, Motiongate movie experience and an extensive hotel are just some of the fascinating features the park will offer. There are six entertainment zones for visitors to explore, including a Hunger Games area, a Bollywood park and the Middle East's first Legoland theme park and water park. Predicted to be 'the ultimate year-round international tourist destination', it looks set to be the greatest desert playground.



Virgin Delta

Our ranches in North America's National Parks are now even easier to get to thanks to a new direct flight to Salt Lake City from London Heathrow. This will be the only non-stop service between London and the Mountain West. With a connecting flight to Missoula, you can get a taste of the Wild West at *The Ranch at Rock Creek*. For an authentic outdoor adventure like no other try your hand at fly-fishing, horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking. Experience The American Safari™ at *The Resort at Paws Up*® in your private, sumptuous tent or indulge in rustic elegance in the Montana wilderness at *Triple Creek Ranch*.

Jamaica's rustic retreat

Dotted amidst the luscious vegetation surrounding *GoldenEye* are 26 brand new Beach Huts. Designed to promote indoor/outdoor living, these vibrant, free-standing huts have been styled with custom-designed Jamaican furniture, crisp white linens and African fabrics. Positioned facing Oracabessa Bay or Snorkeler's Cove, guests are minutes away from the fish sanctuary or steps away from encircling turquoise waters where they can explore GoldenEye's coral reef.



Watch this space...

Famed for their delicious pizza – more precisely Neapolitan pizza and the unique way it is made – it comes as no surprise that the Italians want UNESCO to recognise this renowned gastronomic symbol. With more than 850,000 signatures collected, it is currently being considered for the prestigious cultural heritage list 2016.



British Airways have announced they are to fly to two of Europe's most sought-after destinations – Kalamata, Greece and Palermo, Sicily – twice a week from London Heathrow. The additional flights to these picturesque regions are due to commence on 30 April 2016.

A new look

The acclaimed family resort, *Forte Village*, has elevated its offering with a full renovation. Elegant new bungalows are furnished in contemporary Mediterranean hues and have a private patio. Kids will love visiting the unique *Mario's Village*; a small town square with a fountain, overlooked by pretty miniature houses including a fire station, restaurant, grocery store and beauty salon in which to play. Three of the nine *Forte Village* academies – Boxing, Dance and Killerspin Table

Tennis – can be found in the new-fangled Indoor Sports Centre. This year, *Forte Village* has also introduced a Magic Academy; a one-of-a-kind experience, this is the first time the 'school of wizards' have come to a resort. Budding illusionists can watch as the great British magician Marvin Berglas reveals his top secrets. The hotel will also be hosting a tennis Academy led by former British Number 1 Annabel Croft and the extraordinary Tinkoff Cycling Team will return for an entire season.



Tropical Sanctuary

The acclaimed destination spa, *Chiva-Som*, has announced five new retreats designed to address specific health issues. Targeting conditions such as stress management, migraines and excess body weight, personalised programmes will be designed to support guests with diet and lifestyle. The resort is currently undergoing an extensive refurbishment designed by world-renowned US architect Ed Tuttle. Wooden floors and authentic materials of the newly designed Ocean Rooms reflect a focus on nature. The second phase of the redevelopment is due to start in spring.





CARRIER
www.carrier.co.uk



BRITISH AIRWAYS
Preferred Partner

@ESMagOfficial's @dee_acharya enjoys alfresco dining & sunrise yoga in Malaysia with Carrier <http://bit.ly/1KKHVeq>

Inspiration
#09/28

10 PORTUGAL & SPAIN
So much more than sunshine and beaches – we delve deeper into two exciting and enticing European favourites on our doorstep.

16 LONG VS SHORT HAUL
Our top hand-picked recommendations for family travel this year and next, whether you opt for close-to-home or further afield.

20 TAKE TWO
We go in search of stateside perfect duos, should you want to combine an iconic city break with a true escape.

23 NIGHTS IN NATURE
Bed down in some of Mother Nature's most wanderlust-worthy destinations, as we shed light on some exceptional evenings.



DESTINATION WEDDING
An idyllic wedding venue in the Maldives, where the bride is never short of something blue.

28

Left: Quinta Courtyard Suite dining room



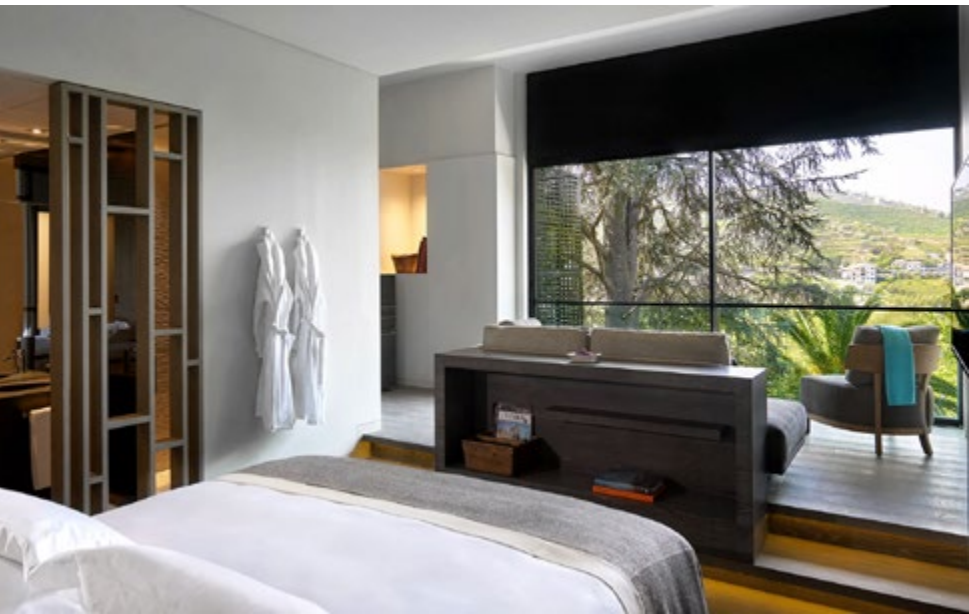
Inspiration

Begin a journey of exploration as we delve into daydream worthy destinations, key travel trends and expert insight – sure to spark the imagination.

Portugal & Spain

Long-time favourites for a short-haul dose of Vitamin D, Spain and Portugal need little introduction. Look beyond the beaches; from UNESCO World Heritage listed vineyards and forests to the snow-capped Spanish Pyrenees, cosmopolitan cities to sun-drenched islands, they are destinations that leave visitors hungry for more.

This is the Iberian Peninsula: true diversity on the doorstep.



Clockwise from left
Six Senses Douro Valley: Quinta Deluxe bedroom, Quinta Courtyard Suite dining room; Vila Vita Parc Resort & Spa: terrace and pool at Vila Praia



Vinho Verde: Green Wine

Unlike any other wine in the world, Portugal's vinho verde is unique. Translating literally as 'green wine', it can actually be red, white or rosé, the translation more accurately meaning 'young wine', recommended for consumption soon after bottling. The grapes are grown in nearly 21,000 hectares of fertile, granite soil found in the north of the country by around 19,000 small producers. The end result? Averaging around 10% alcohol content, whites are light and fruity thanks to their natural acidity, reds are deep and mildly peppery and the rosés are fresh.

Perennially popular

Portugal is known for its pleasant climate, swoon-worthy beaches and dramatic coastline. Its spicy peri peri cuisine and the warmth of its people. Portugal is paradise found.

Beginning in Lisbon, Latin charm, maritime magic and old-world streets are fuelling its renaissance as a top European city break destination. The maze of narrow lanes framed by Art Nouveau buildings are perfect for getting lost in – weary limbs will thank you if you hitch a ride on one of the century-old wooden trams that rumble across the city. The Belém waterfront proudly celebrates Portugal's imperial past and you can't help but marvel at the Moorish heritage, whilst meandering along the Alfama neighbourhood's dusty alleyways and gazing in awe at St George's Castle that looms majestically over the rooftops.

Perched on one of the city's seven hills is **Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon**. Spacious suites boast private terraces with sweeping views, gourmands flock in their droves to dine on cataplana and caldeirada at Varanda Restaurant and a superb rooftop spa with an indoor pool, treatment rooms, sauna and fitness centre facilitates restful relaxation. Venture back into

the heart of the town to enjoy an ever so moreish pastel de nata from one of the many cafés that line the cobbled streets. After dark, head for the bohemian Bairro Alto to listen to the hauntingly beautiful fado music in one of the quarter's many bars. This is Lisbon life personified.

Moving towards Portugal's northern border with Spain and just 90 minutes from its second largest city, Porto, you will find Six Senses' first European resort – **Six Senses Douro Valley**. Welcoming tourists who yearn for more than just sunshine, and taking advantage of the growth in oenotourism, the resort opened last summer to rapturous acclaim. The hotel invites wine lovers to 'intox, then detox'; exploring all that this wine region has to offer before regenerating in the inimitable Six Senses Spa. Dubbed the new Tuscany, the undulating hills of the Douro are designated a UNESCO World Heritage site thanks to its legacy as one of the oldest wine regions in the world.

Begin with a complimentary session in The Wine Library led by Francisca van Zeller, the hotel's co-director of wine and member of one of the region's most influential winemaking families. Put your new-found knowledge to the test at the Vale de Abraão Restaurant and try out some

pairings with local seasonal specialities. For an unforgettable pop-up experience, dine on the banks of the river before heading to the sanctuary of the spa for one of the revitalising signature treatments – try the hot stone and almond oil massage. For yogis, we recommend signing up for an outdoor aerial session – head into the woods to be suspended from the trees by ribbons.

It's true that the Douro is attracting new visitors to Portugal, yet the Algarve indisputably has an enduring charm, thanks in large part to its world-famous (and utterly beguiling) beaches – there are more than 150 of them. So how to choose? Heading to the only beach in the Algarve to be awarded Golden Flag status would be a smart first move. And, perched above it, you will find **Pine Cliffs, A Luxury Collection Resort**. Already boasting excellent accommodation including the recently refurbished Premium Deluxe Rooms and the popular two to four bedroom Pine Cliffs Terraces, 76 new Ocean Suites have further strengthened the offering at this family-friendly resort.

Due to open in July, these ultra-luxe apartments are located on the cliffside next to the property's renowned 9-hole golf course they really do have the wow factor. Floor-to-ceiling windows harness the power of natural light and open out onto private balconies with jaw-dropping ocean views. Marrying modernity with tradition, the interiors have been crafted by British designer Lynne Hunt, who successfully achieves a true sense of place with locally-sourced natural stone and bespoke furniture from Lisbon's renowned Carlos Carvalho. Further nods to Portuguese heritage include the

use of hand-painted blue and white ornamental tiles – known as azulejo – juxtaposed with contemporary photography of the iconic pines that give the resort its name.

If you can bear to tear yourself away from the cosseted confines of your Ocean Suite, you will soon realise why these accommodations feel like a hotel within a hotel – there's a fine dining Italian restaurant, luxury boutiques and a state-of-the-art spa. At the main resort you'll also find plenty to keep the whole family entertained. If you tire of the six swimming pools, take the lift down to the sands for waterskiing or wakeboarding lessons, kayaking amongst the limestone cliffs or just some high energy fun on a banana boat. If you would prefer your leisure activities to remain on terra firma, the Annabel Croft Tennis Academy and excellent Experience Wellness spa have you covered. Dining choices abound, enjoy the chargrilled meats Portugal is famous for at the Piri Piri Steak House, sumptuous seafood at O Pescador Restaurant and fine dining at Jardim Colonial.

The Algarve in its purest form is found at **Vila Vita Parc Resort & Spa**. Epitomising the essence of this area, the whitewashed abodes nod towards the region's Moorish history, whilst the pebbled walkways that meander around the resort give it a convivial, village-like ambience. Cool, tiled floors line the interiors that are adorned with traditional furnishings such as silk rugs and clay ceramics – head into the nearby town of Porches to visit the working pottery where this traditional art form is still thriving. The menus at the impressive restaurants are supplied with fresh organically grown produce



Above & right
Pine Cliffs, A Luxury Collection Resort: Beach Club restaurant, Premium Ocean Suite Studio



from the resort’s working farm and there’s no need to venture out of the hotel in search of fine wines – some of the best vintages can be found in the 1,200 label selection in Cave de Vinhos. Traditional fare can be sampled at Adega restaurant and if you’re feeling indulgent, we can heartily recommend Ocean’s superb tasting menu – a culinary work of art by chef Hans Neuner, complete with Portuguese wine pairing.

For the alternative Algarve, head west to unspoilt Sagres – known to Portugal’s early navigators as ‘the end of the world’ thanks to its 200 feet high cliffs and shelf-like peninsulas that tumble into the Atlantic. Situated on the powder-soft sands of the Praia do Martinhal, you’ll find **Martinhal Sagres Beach Family Resort Hotel**. Days by the sea are quieter and cooler here than at the sometimes crowded beaches elsewhere in the area, thanks to the refreshing Atlantic breeze. It’s this wind that also makes it a haven for watersports – water whizz kids can take to the waves at the Martinhal’s surf, windsurf and swim academies before channelling Sagres’ laid-back vibe by chilling out in the uber-cool turquoise VW camper van in the M Bar.

Just 350 miles off Morocco’s western coast lies the island of Madeira. The Portuguese archipelago is a year-round destination reached in under four hours by plane. And it is definitely deserving of the journey. Thanks to its diverse flora and fauna, the north of the island is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Known as the ‘floating garden’ of the Atlantic, its kaleidoscope of sub-tropical life is best explored from the levadas – a 1,250 mile network of path-lined waterways that criss-cross the island’s verdant interior.

Its capital, Funchal, houses bustling street

Buzzing Barcelona / Top pick for 2016

The bustling Las Ramblas, Gaudi, hip bars and boutique hotels – all synonymous with the city that constantly tops the wanderlust lists of discerning travellers. And 2016 is no exception.

When to go: Motorsports fans should head over from 13 - 15 May 2016 for the Formula 1 Grand Prix at the nearby Catalunya racetrack, whilst July is the month for music fans thanks to the month-long Grec Festival that celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.



Where to stay: W Barcelona

What you’ll love: The beachfront location, the views from the outdoor infinity-edge splash pool and sipping sangria 26 floors above the city at Eclipse cocktail bar.

markets, botanical gardens and – just one mile away – the grand dame of Madeira hotels, **Belmond Reid’s Palace**. Occupying a prime cliff-top spot for over a century; its ten acres of lush semi-tropical gardens are bursting with hanging vines, hibiscus and geraniums. Elegant and traditional, the hotel has hosted its fair share of historical figures – Winston Churchill wrote much of his memoirs whilst staying here and was reportedly a huge fan of taking Afternoon Tea on the terrace. Tip: reserve your table for this grand affair before you travel to avoid disappointment.

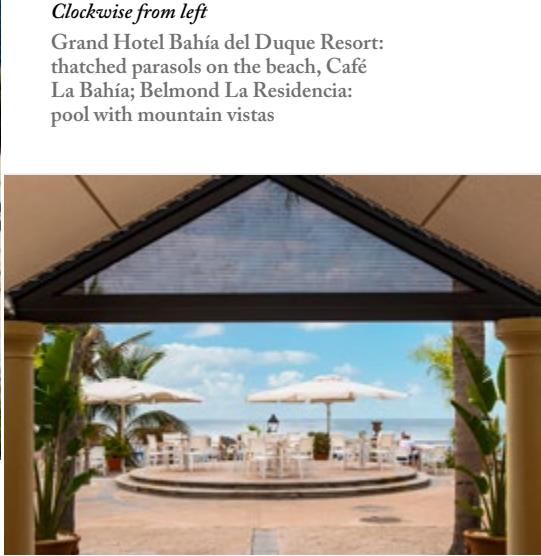
Spain sizzles

Whether it is because of the year-round sun or fiery flamenco, it is a unique, one-of-a-kind place just calling to be explored.

Spanish style is epitomised along Marbella’s Golden Mile – and in prime position is the legendary **Marbella Club Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa**. Formerly owned by socialite and business mogul Prince Alfonso de Hohenlohe-Langenburg, in its heyday it counted silver screen stars Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant and Sir Laurence Olivier amongst its loyal fans.

Today, the pace is slightly more laid-back, exuding a real sense of sophisticated elegance; Andalusian-style villas with private heated pools are dotted amongst the lush gardens. Journey past Marbella’s star-studded clubs, bars and restaurants and you’ll find a true hidden gem – the surprisingly quaint casco antiguo (old town). Well worth a visit.

For more rural R&R, head down the coast and further into Andalucia, where the glamour of the Costa del Sol is more understated, and where you’ll find the cool, calm and collected **Finca Cortesin** tucked into the foothills between



Clockwise from left
Grand Hotel Bahía del Duque Resort: thatched parasols on the beach, Café La Bahía; Belmond La Residencia: pool with mountain vistas



Estepona and Sotogrande. The service here is impeccable, and it is from this focus on the ever-changing needs of guests that the hotel’s latest offering was born – tailored private excursions. Only one mile from the beachfront, guests can head out onto the water for a Champagne superyacht supper and, an absolute must-do, is the whale watching trip. Pilot, killer and fin whales, as well as three different dolphin species can all be found here. One to watch: the hotel boasts one of the best golf courses in Spain that will soon be home to 15 new luxury villas, located just off the fairway between holes 9 and 10.

Another must is a trip through the mountain villages into the nearby town of Ronda. One of Spain’s oldest towns and arguably Malaga province’s most spectacular, its location encircled by the Serrania de Ronda is nothing short of dramatic. The views from the Puente Nuevo over the El Tajo gorge will quite literally take your breath away. Back at Finca, recover from the day’s sightseeing with a delicious cocktail whilst watching the sunset at the hotel’s superb beach club.

No exploration of Spain is complete without its islands and no discussion of its islands is whole without Tenerife. The largest Canary Island, its famous Pico del Teide is Spain’s tallest mountain and the climb to the top is on many visitors’ must-do lists. In Costa Adeje, lies **Gran Hotel Bahía del Duque Resort**, set out in the style of a Canarian village. A key draw is the beach; Playa del Duque is one of the quietest in the area, its golden rather than black

volcanic sand being a huge advantage. New for returning visitors is the recently re-opened Café Bahía that has been given a facelift. The beachside eatery, with views over to the island of La Gomera, now has Swiss chef Robert M. Keller at the helm, his international menu sure to delight the palate.

Mallorca’s beautiful coastline is renowned, yet venture further afield, and discover so much more. Take the capital Palma. Framed by mountains, the old quarter’s Gothic cathedral is a must-visit – eschew your afternoon siesta in favour of wandering the labyrinthine lanes. Looking across the Bay of Palma towards the city is a 19th Century fortress-turned-hotel, **Cap Rocat**. From its location on this headland you can survey the beauty of Palma from your private terrace or whilst enjoying traditional Mallorcan food at the open air Sea Club restaurant. Ayurvedic rituals are the order of the day in the spa and other popular activities include wine tasting and cookery classes.

For a true get-away-from-it-all stay, visit **Belmond La Residencia**. Mallorca’s magical mountain hideaway is located in the quaint village of Deià, former home of British poet and author Robert Graves and various other bohemians over the decades. The village has a plethora of outstanding eateries, with Michelin-starred Es Raco d’es Teix being a highlight. Back at the hotel, cocktails at Café Miró at Son Moragues are accompanied by live piano music. Effortlessly channel the artistic energy of Deià in painting, ceramics and sculpture classes; the breathtaking scenery can be your muse.



Spanish Skiing

Somewhat of a Spanish secret, Bacquiera-Beret could possibly be one of the best ski resorts in the world. Off the beaten track and largely undiscovered, the sophisticated slopes nestled within the impressive Val d’Aran are the perfect destination for ski virgins and aficionados alike. At the foot of the slopes is the only five star Grand Luxury hotel in the Spanish Pyrenees, **Hotel Val de Neu**. Recline by the Chill Out Area’s fire with a gin and tonic selected from one of the 21 types on offer, or go all-out with oysters and caviar in the Igloo Champagne Bar. The Sisley treatments and outdoor Jacuzzi make the spa a popular post-piste haunt.



Clockwise from left
Marbella Club: beach view; Finca Cortesin: manicured gardens, pool and golf greens





LONG vs SHORT HAUL

Puzzled parents are now more spoilt for choice than ever when it comes to choosing where to holiday en famille. Opt for long haul and learn about the Big 5 in the heart of the African bush, or spend afternoons on a climbing wall or engrossed in gaming marathons on a private island with families firmly at its core. Stay closer to home and be amazed by the experiences available on the doorstep – race to victory on an F1-inspired racetrack or brush up your football skills at an Arsenal-sponsored football academy. These are our top hand-picked recommendations for family travel this year and next.

Opposite page

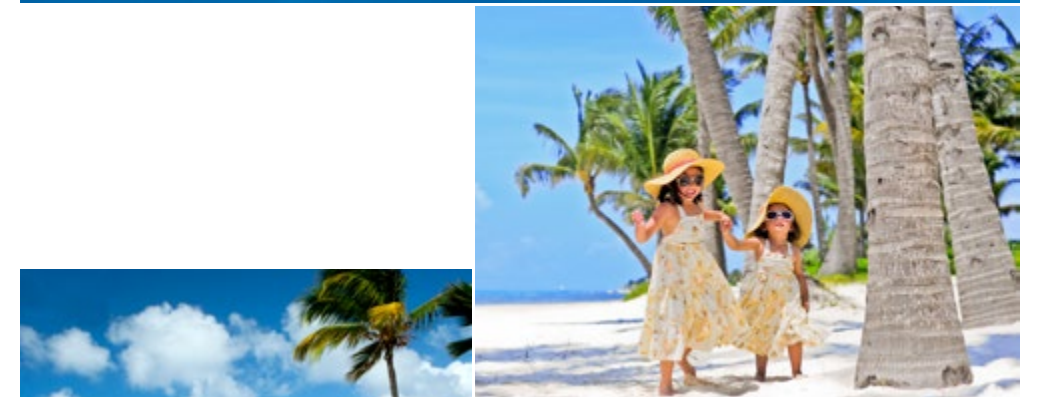
Bathroom with a view at Madikwe Hills; Diamond Residences pool view at Elounda Peninsula All Suite Hotel

Long Haul

Mexican magic

All-inclusive, all-suite and all-encompassing, introducing *Grand Velas Riviera Maya*. Able to guarantee interconnecting rooms at time of booking, two of the accommodation sections, known as ‘ambiences’, are ideal for families. Young explorers will love having the spacious Zen Grand Suites as their base – set in the Mayan rainforest, eagle-eyed observers can catch glimpses of raccoons, deer and monkeys amongst the trees. Water babies might prefer the Ambassador Suites by the main infinity pool, right in the heart of the action and next to the teenager’s centre and Grand Velas Kids Club. At the former, ping pong and pool tables take centre stage, whilst at the latter, films, kite making and storytelling await. That’s if you can get them away from the nearby crystalline waters, perfect for scuba-diving and snorkelling.

The resort’s eight restaurants are guaranteed to send even the tiniest of tastebuds surfing on a Mexican wave and Cocina de Autor – the first restaurant at an all-inclusive resort to receive Five Diamonds from the AAA – is definitely worth pre-booking. Make sure you head to the nearby ancient ruins of Tulum at sunrise to marvel at the intricate carvings and stone edifices.



Clockwise from left

Jumby Bay, A Rosewood Resort: beach view; Grand Velas Riviera Maya: pool view, young girls playing on the beach

Sophisticated safari

For the perfect family-friendly safari, look no further than *Madikwe Hills*. Set in one of South Africa’s finest malaria-free private game reserves, it is the perfect place to see the Big 5, wild dogs, giraffe and much more. Plus, there’s no suffering from jet lag thanks to it being in the same time zone. For an extra special safari experience, opt for suites ten and eleven that create private camp ‘Little Madikwe Hills’ and you’ll enjoy the benefits of your own child minder, butler and game ranger. You can even set your own meal and safari times to fit around your family’s schedule.

Aspiring David Attenboroughs are in their element here thanks to the Junior Rangers programme – kids can learn how to track elephants in the bush before being presented with a certificate confirming them as a qualified Madikwe ranger in an awards ceremony at the end of your stay.

Caribbean contender

Only 15 minutes from the airport, Antigua’s *Jumby Bay, A Rosewood Resort* is located on a private, car-free island. The Rose Buds® kids’ club keeps boredom at bay with kayaking trips, cooking

classes and nature tours – track down the island’s herd of black belly sheep, watch pelicans soaring across the sky before diving into the bluest of seas and participate in the Hawksbill Turtle Preservation Programme. Mother-daughter quality time can be spent at Sense, A Rosewood Spa where pampered princesses can choose their own treatments from the Rose Buds® Junior Spa Menu, whilst children’s menus at all three restaurants satisfy fussy eaters. For the ultimate in space and privacy, go for one of Jumby’s estate homes – with up to eight



Above & right: Beach Pavilion with Pool at PER AQUUM Niyama; kids' area at The Westin Resort Costa Navarino

bedrooms, each is unique and all come with pools, sea views, bicycles, golf carts and a dedicated housekeeper, chef and butler.

Private island playground

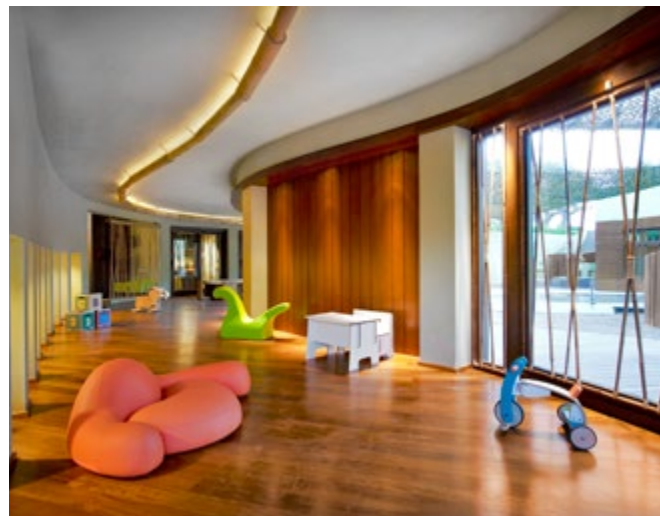
With a second island created with families firmly in mind, **PER AQUUM Niyama** has elevated the very definition of family-friendly accommodation in the Maldives. The aptly named 'Play' is just a hop, skip and a jump away from the original island 'Chill' and is home to the only children's club in the Maldives to accept children less than three years of age. Here, diversions include a mini waterpark, climbing

wall and learning about the surrounding coral reef in sessions with the resident marine biologist before heading out to explore in a superb snorkelling session. An Xbox, Wii and PS3 keep keen gamers entertained at Active, whilst parents will love chilling out at Subsix, the underwater restaurant and enjoying some well-deserved R&R at the acclaimed LIME Spa.

Short Haul

Grecian glory

Racing to the finish line to claim victory for short-haul escapes is **The Westin Resort**



Costa Navarino, Greece. Already a favourite, the new Navarino Speed Experience Park has certainly enhanced the offering at this premier resort. Aspiring racing drivers can learn how to drive safely under the guidance of experienced staff, try their

favourite Formula 1 tracks in the simulator or join mum or dad in the two-seater karts. The indoor climbing wall, Navarino Racquet Academy and Aqua Park are also popular attractions, whilst the two dedicated hubs for children – Sandcastle for

older children and Cocoon for babies and toddlers – are outstanding. Further activities include guided eco walks in the nearby dunes, junior archaeologist classes and baby yoga – all the necessary ingredients for a fun-filled family holiday in the warm Grecian sunshine.

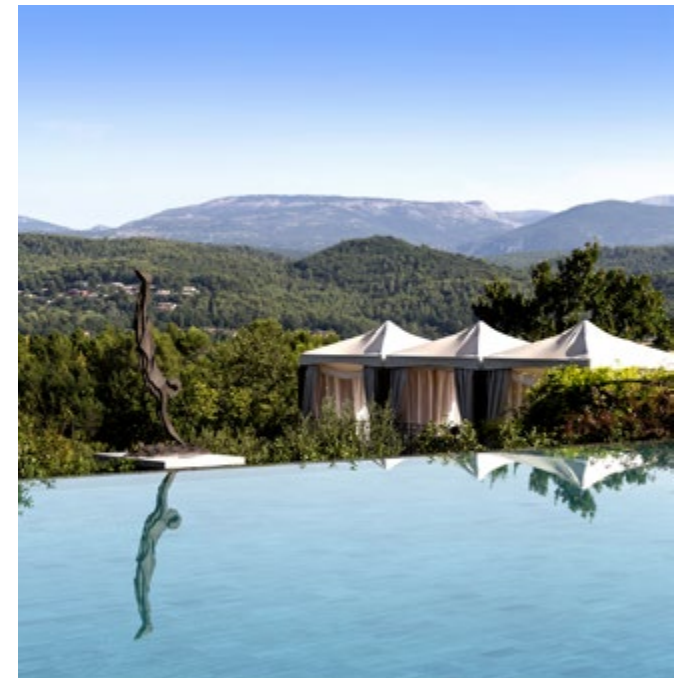
Island activities

An Arsenal-sponsored Soccer School Camp with Premiership coaches and the chance to win a VIP tour of the Emirates Stadium before meeting the players? Check. The first destination in the world to host kid-friendly athletics and nutritional workshops at a Six Senses Spa? Check. A PADI diving school? Of course. Enjoy an active holiday in the most serene of environments at **Elounda Peninsula All Suite Hotel**, Crete. There's waterskiing and wakeboarding for teens, tennis sessions for tots and family fishing trips into Crete's

Mirabello Bay – ask the chef to cook your catch when back at the hotel. Refuel at one of the seven restaurants – we recommend Koh for pan-Asian fare served on the waterfront. End busy days in the supreme comfort of your spacious accommodation – the double-storey Peninsula Collection suites boast private pools with incredible sea views whilst Presidential Suites have direct access to a jetty or the resort's private beach.

Picture-perfect Provence

Set in beautiful landscaped gardens bursting with rosemary and olive trees, **Terre Blanche Hotel Spa Golf Resort** occupies an incredible spot in a little-known corner of Provence. Activities at the kids' club are educational as well as fun. Highlights include pony trekking, visiting local farm animals and meeting a local bee keeper – little ones can



Clockwise from above Terre Blanche Hotel Spa Golf Resort: pool view, meeting farm animals; Forte Village: pool at Hotel Castello



Eco walks in the dunes, junior archaeologist classes and baby yoga – ingredients for a fun-filled holiday



learn what makes Provençal honey so special. Hint: it's thanks to the bees' diet of wild thyme and lavender found in abundance in the surrounding area. The two Dave Thomas-designed courses are popular with golf aficionados, the spa's regional-inspired treatments and VIP couples' suites are impressive and lazy days can be spent by the outdoor infinity pool as a family. No stranger to awards, the hotel's gourmet restaurant Le Faventia recently received a Michelin star.

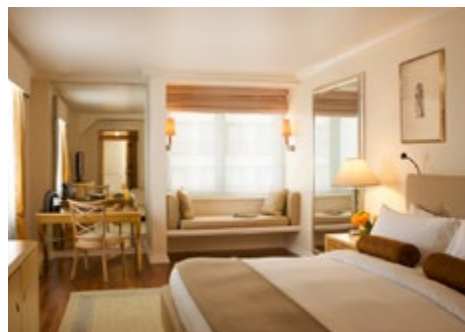
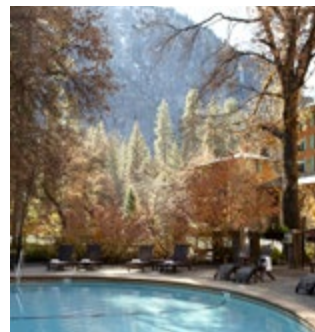
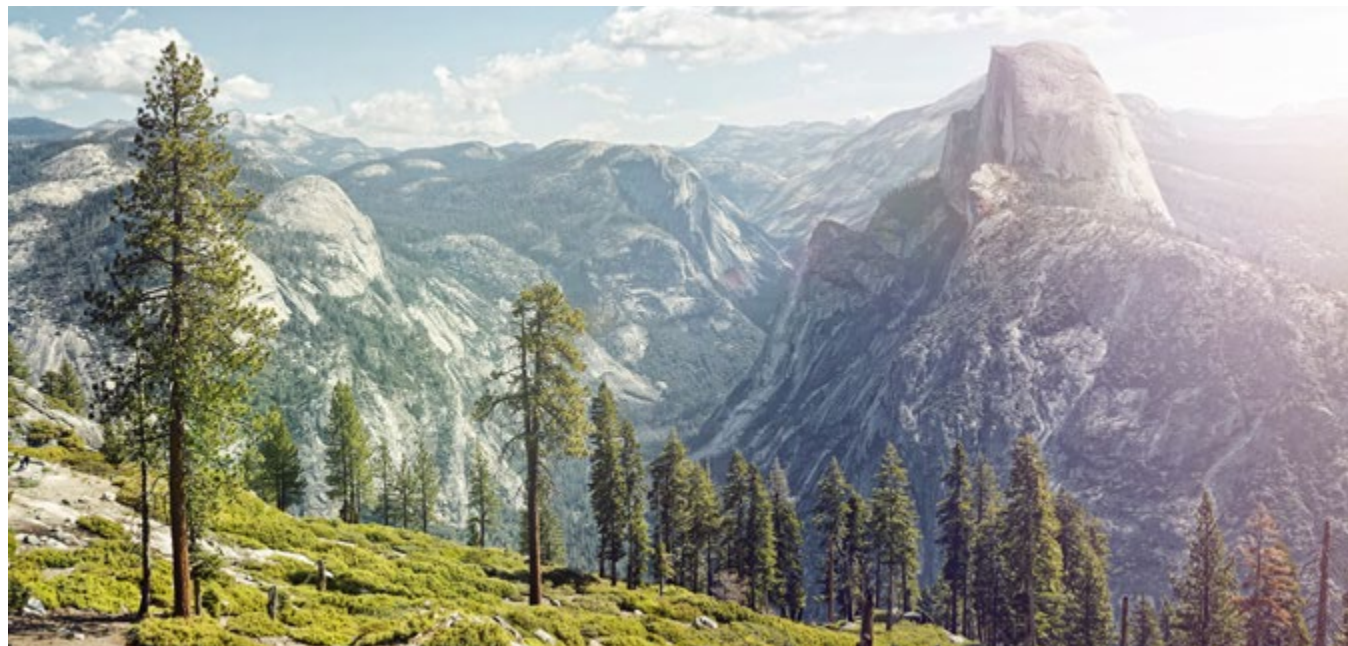
Family-friendly personified

Forte Village is the epitome of a family resort, perfect for a multi-generational holiday. Set on Sardinia's spectacular south coast, accommodation is situated over three sites. The

newest, Bouganville, hosts spacious bungalows tucked away in the verdant gardens with private patios and a choice of interconnecting rooms for family convenience. Le Dune's bungalows are by the beach with added extras such as whirlpool baths, whilst Il Castello's elevated position within the resort means suites here have panoramic views of the sparkling Mediterranean. There are activities for all ages – adults will fall in love with Thalasso del Forte Spa's Turkish bath and six seawater pools, teens will rave about the DJ Academy and adult-free U-Party zone, whilst creative types will be in their element creating works of art at Wonderlab. And for the youngest travellers? A beautiful nursery stocked to the brim with Fisher Price toys.

TAKE TWO

For the best of both worlds, America delivers. Twin an iconic American city with a get-away-from-it-all destination. Here we showcase our top US duo recommendations.



SAN FRANCISCO AND YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most photographed structures on earth, the gateway to San Francisco. Spread over 43 hills, the city has its head in the clouds and oozes character. Walk or cycle the bridge – over one and a half miles in length; ride a cable car for spectacular city views and head out to Alcatraz for a tour of one of the world's most notorious prisons. Feast

on seafood at Fisherman's Wharf, dim sum in Chinatown; shop the smart boutiques of Nob Hill and department stores of Union Square, before checking out the hippie haunts of Haight-Ashbury. And, when night falls, join the locals and party into the early hours. A brilliant antidote to this urban adventure can be found a four hour drive east of the city: Yosemite National Park. This jaw-dropping, head-turning natural playground is a total escape. Deep valleys, emerald

woods, misty waterfalls and giant sequoias define the landscape. Breathe in the fresh air, hike, bike, climb and raft through this breathtaking pocket of the earth.

WHERE TO STAY

A century-old San Franciscan classic, **Taj Campton Place** on Stockton Street is in the heart of it all. A city institution, smart rooms, an excellent restaurant and exemplary service make this place tick. Out in Yosemite is another

landmark hotel, **The Majestic Yosemite Hotel**. Within easy reach of Glacier Point, Yosemite Falls and Half Dome, it has characterful rooms, cottages in its expansive wooded grounds, an outdoor heated pool and the ubiquitous killer views.

Clockwise from top

Yosemite National Park; Deluxe King Room at Taj Campton Place; pool at The Majestic Yosemite Hotel; Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco

SANTA MONICA AND MEXICO

Often thought of as part of Los Angeles, Santa Monica is actually a city in its own right. Everything about this chic beach resort sizzles. Funky shops, contemporary bars, vibrant restaurants and more than three miles of white sand, it has an ultra-cool vibe. Ditch the car: Santa Monica is small and best explored on foot or bike (there's also a 22 mile cycle route running along the beach to Torrance). But

FUNKY SHOPS, CONTEMPORARY BARS, VIBRANT RESTAURANTS AND MORE THAN THREE MILES OF WHITE SAND

Clockwise from top right

Shutters on the Beach; Kate Spade-designed bicycles, beachside terrace; Las Ventanas al Paraíso: infinity pool



the limelight-grabber is the Santa Monica Pier. Dating back to 1908, its Ferris wheel has become a city landmark; there are arcades, carnival games, a vintage carousel, rollercoaster and aquarium. And then there's the view; stroll to the end and stare out over the blue-green Pacific Ocean. After Santa Monica, Los Cabos in Mexico provides the ultimate beach escape. The beautiful Baja California Peninsula is home to miles of golden sand, deserted coves and the perfectly azure Sea of Cortez. Surfers, divers, golfers, sun-seekers and celebrities, are all fans of Los Cabos.

WHERE TO STAY

Nothing stands between you and the sand at Santa Monica's **Shutters on the Beach**. All the rooms feel like the home you wish you had (just on the Pacific Ocean). Its One Spa does miracle treatments by



Ole Henriksen and we love the Kate Spade retro bicycles. For a grand finale, the Hollywood hideaway **Las Ventanas al Paraíso** re-opened last year and we can't think of a place we'd rather be. A magical location, huge suites come complete with telescopes for stargazing and villas all have their own pool. Meaning 'window to paradise' it more than lives up to its name.

LOS ANGELES AND HAWAII

Both Los Angeles and San Francisco make a great combo with Hawaii. Los Angeles is fast, fun and frivolous. This glitzy, sunny Californian city is an absolute must for the to-do list. Follow the footsteps of many a star at the Walk of Fame; see the iconic Hollywood sign in person before taking a tour of Universal, Warner Brothers or Paramount. Drive Beverly Hills, window-shop Rodeo Drive, people-watch at Venice Beach and then join the A-list for a cocktail at Bar Marmont. Sports fans can grab a hotdog and get some baseball action at Dodger Stadium or an LA Lakers game. And if you've got the time, throw in some culture with a visit to The Getty Center or stargazing at Griffith Observatory. For post-LA downtime, beautifully-

tropical Hawaii is just a five-hour flight away. This island-hopping paradise is home to cool surfing beaches, rugged cliffs, volcanoes, rainforests and waterfalls. From peaceful Maui and the pristine beaches of Kaua'i to sleepy Lana'i and popular Oahu (home of Waikiki beach), Hawaii is tonic for tired minds, bodies and souls.

WHERE TO STAY

Just off Sunset Strip, the **London West Hollywood** is a glamorous all-suite hotel. High points include Anthony Keene's restaurant Boxwood and the rooftop pool and restaurant, both with million-dollar citywide views. In Hawaii, a new property is luxuriating on the west coast: **Four Seasons Resort Oahu at Ko Olina**, a five-star beach resort with all the Four Seasons trimmings.

Right & below
Four Seasons Resort Oahu at Ko Olina exterior; poolside cabanas at London West Hollywood



NEW YORK CITY AND BERMUDA

Who needs a reason to visit the world's most exciting city? First-timers should 'do' the sights: Central Park, Empire State Building, MoMa and Fifth Avenue, but also be sure to head off the well-trodden path. Wander the streets of West Village; visit the Frick Collection, a mansion-come-museum on Upper East Side, and lose yourself in Greenwich Village's Strand Bookstore, a one-shop stand against the digital age. And these days it's not just about Manhattan. Walk over Brooklyn Bridge to DUMBO (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass), home to a creative community priced out of Manhattan; refuel on coffee before heading to trendy Williamsburg. New York is brilliantly twinned with Bermuda, an easy fly and flop option just two hours

away. This Atlantic island is utterly unique, mixing cricket with calypso, rum punch with plus fours. Beautiful pink-sand beaches, colourful reefs, hiking trails, a foodie heaven and a leisurely pace of life are just a few reasons to be Bermuda-bound.

WHERE TO STAY

Bed down in Times Square at **The Knickerbocker**. A contemporary revamp, the must-book Charlie Palmer restaurant and the rooftop bar St. Cloud have helped propel it onto New York's hotel scene. Afterwards, recuperate at **Rosewood Tucker's Point** hidden away above the rose-pink beaches of Castle Harbour. Four pools, an amazing spa, tennis, golf on a palm-dotted course and a private beach give it a totally tropical holiday vibe.



Clockwise from top right

The Knickerbocker: exterior, St. Cloud rooftop bar; Rosewood Tucker's Point: private beach, Sense Spa Reflection Pool

THIS ATLANTIC ISLAND IS UTTERLY UNIQUE WITH PINK-SAND BEACHES, COLOURFUL REEFS AND A LEISURELY PACE OF LIFE



NIGHTS IN NATURE

Luxurious resorts in areas of natural beauty abound. Itineraries that offer ways to reconnect with nature are plentiful. Yet, precious few offer the chance to see and sample the great outdoors at its most real, as the sun goes down. So, allow the world to be the stage and spend an evening with the leading lady, Mother Nature.

AN EVENING WITH THE ELEPHANTS

In the hills of Northern Thailand, **Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort** is renowned for its immersive appeal and authentic experiences. Respectful of native cultures, the wellbeing of their most important guests – the elephants and mahouts that reside here – is paramount. Accommodations boast a rustic elegance, taking inspiration from Thai architecture, and rooms have superb three-country views. The on-site elephant camp is designed as a

traditional mahout village, offering a rare insight into a life past. The scenic landscape (think green rolling hills and the meandering Mekong River) is ideally explored on a sunset elephant trek – saunter along forest trails at a relaxed pace atop your gentle giant, absorbing the vistas of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos. Wind up at a private hilltop, where you can enjoy evening drinks and canapés in a beautifully decorated sala, before heading back to the resort.

Above & below
Elephant and mahout by Ruak River; view from the infinity pool





UNDER-**THE-STARS**

SPIRITUALITY

Every full moon, or ‘purnama’, is a sacred day in Bali, when Balinese-Hindus honour ancestral gods with offerings and ceremonies across the island; believed to counter negative forces and replenish vital energy. At **Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan**, a new yoga programme has taken inspiration from these revered rituals. Perched on

the banks of the sacred Ayung River and surrounded by rice fields and lush forest, the new Dharma Shanti River Terrace (whose name means ‘path to peace’ in Sanskrit) provides a soul-stirring open-air setting for Full Moon Yoga. Complimentary to residents, the class encourages guests to channel their creative energy and enhance their wellbeing

under the glow of the moon and stars. After bidding one day farewell, welcome another in spectacular fashion with a sunrise hike up Mount Batur, a dormant volcano. The early alarm call is well worth the effort; in the darkness of a 2:30am departure, guests climb the mountain by torchlight. And, as the cloak of darkness slowly slides away,

the views from the summit, tinged with the enchanting hues of a Balinese sunrise are, quite simply, unforgettable. Carrier tip: ‘Bali Sunrise’ is the namesake given to a wonderfully uplifting massage at the resort’s spa – using lemon ylang ylang and bergamot oils – the perfect reward after the two hour break of day adventure.



SAFARI SLEEPOVER

A two-storey safari hide in the heart of Madikwe Game Reserve becomes the ultimate South African bush sleepover at **Morukuru Family**. Next to the waters’ edge, overlooking a popular waterhole, the hide has an open plan design with enough space to enjoy a wonderful evening meal (courtesy of your private chef) and sundowners, before settling down in a large, comfortable bed for a unique night in the wild. The vast African plains that surround you are home to the Big 5 in this malaria-free reserve, and the wildlife roam freely outside whilst

you sleep safely (the hide is protected and a ranger is nearby at all times). This unique slumber party is just one of the many highlights guests will experience when staying at the Farm House, available for exclusive use for families or groups of up to ten. As well as a chef, each home offers a private guide and tracker, butler, housekeeper and hostess; a nanny can also be arranged. Set in 100 hectares of fenced reserve, this perfectly maintained homestead allows children to play freely on tended lawns or in the large outdoor swimming pool.



**EXTRAORDINARY
DESERT
WILDERNESS**

Surrounded only by the sheer vastness of the Namib Desert, it’s unsurprising that the stargazing at **andBeyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge** is almost extra-terrestrial in proportion. The lodge perfectly caters to its astronomical appeal with a dedicated observatory and a resident astronomer, on hand to detail the midnight sky constellations. Guests can fall to sleep below the starry sky in the comfort of their room with a unique star-viewing window above the bed. Wake up just before the sun’s first rays break for a hot air balloon ride above the dunes.

MAGIC IN THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS

Sir Richard Branson's Moroccan retreat, **Kasbah Tamadot**, is set within a lush valley surrounded by the undulating landscape of the Atlas Mountains. Views extend up to Mount Toubkal, the highest peak in North Africa, and over traditional Berber villages. The property itself, a tapestry

of tiled courtyards, bright gardens, authentic décor and tasteful touches, is like an undiscovered secret – perfectly wrapped up in nature's arms. On a warm evening, make the most of this wonderful location and enjoy a memorable movie night out at the open-air cinema. Cosy up under blankets,

tuck into popcorn and watch Moroccan inspired films such as black-and-white classic Casablanca, with the stars providing a glittering backdrop. And, guests will find panoramic vistas are there to be discovered at every turn. The sublime landscape can be enjoyed in the simplest of ways; read a book by the

outdoor infinity pool or become acquainted with the resident mules, Peppermint, Peanut and Paprika, who are ever obliging to show you around. Make sure you also sample delicious dishes alfresco on the rooftop terrace at Kanoun Restaurant – we recommend the tasting menus and local wines.



STRAIGHT FROM A JUNGLE BOOK

Set on the edge of the Pench National Park, a location that inspired Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book, is **Baghvan Lodge**, named after India's iconic Bengal tigers (bagh = tiger) and the surrounding landscape (van = forest). Just a ten minute drive from the dense teak jungle, home to wildlife such as tigers, leopards and wolves, the lodge offers 12 charming stand-alone suites. These spacious accommodations – think stylish bungalows and 1950's luxe – have a particular jewel in their crown: a beautiful covered rooftop platform (a machan) that juts out into the jungle. Providing a cosy cocoon for unforgettable sleepouts, the machan

comes complete with sumptuous bed, mosquito net, overhead fan and hookah pipes, for an evening amidst the sights and sounds of the Indian wild. Watch birds flit through the trees, hear the chatter of nearby monkeys and breathe in the fragrant outdoors. In the morning, enjoy a masala-spiced iced coffee whilst looking out over the sandy dry nullah for a glimpse of the forest's animals. Following an early safari adventure, breakfast is served in the vegetable garden; a delectable platter is laden with homemade delights, best enjoyed under the warm rays of the morning sun.



NATURE'S NIGHT LIGHT

If you're in pursuit of one of the most phenomenal natural shows on earth – catching a glimpse of the Northern Lights – then the ultimate destination has to be Iceland. Just a short-haul stone's throw from the UK, yet this country seems like another world – an arctic wilderness

of epic proportions. And, **Luxury Camp** makes the most of the awe-inspiring landscapes. Offering the perfect opportunity to chase the stars (ideal if you are looking for the Aurora Borealis) your camp has no set location – where you lay your head is entirely up to

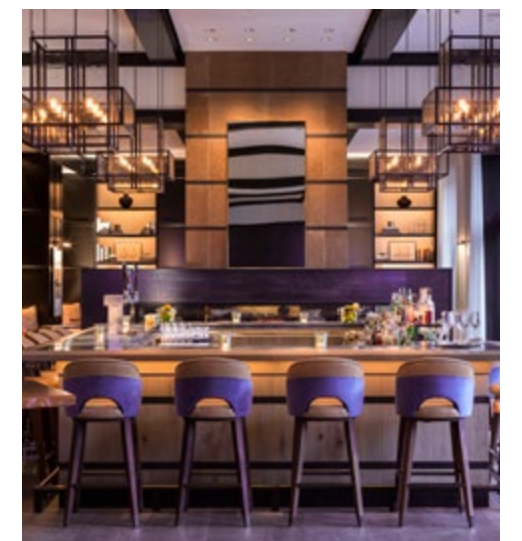
you. Luxury Camp will do all the preparation in advance, ready for your arrival, and the site can be as quirky or as imaginative as you wish. Previous settings have included a glacier, lava field, looking out over a black sand beach or next to a beautifully powerful waterfall. The camp

is uber-comfortable; your igloo-inspired tent takes the form of a heated bubble, with wooden floors, ambient lighting and sink-into beds with super soft pillows. And, of course, your resident chef is on hand to prepare a hearty breakfast each morning and gourmet evening meals.

MOUNTAIN TOP MARVELLING

Explore Vail's famous Colorado wilderness with an exclusive two-day adventure arranged by **Four Seasons Resort and Residences**. The region is home to many 'fourteeners' – mountain peaks over 14,000 feet, and led by the locally renowned experts at Paragon Guides, guests can overnight outdoors and make their way to the very top. Llamas are on hand to carry your bags and food, accompanying you some 11,000 feet to camp. Whilst ensconced within nature's playground, a restful night's sleep is assured courtesy of luxurious comfort à la Four Seasons, and a delicious gourmet meal is prepared by the resort's chefs.

The next morning, head for the summit of Mount of the Holy Cross (named for bearing a distinctive cross-shaped snowfield on its northeast face) where majestic views are the big reward. Back at the resort, après adventure drinks and canapés are served. Further relaxation comes in the form of long dips in the heated whirlpools and hot chocolate in front of an open fire. For deeper rejuvenation, we recommend the 'Peak Performance' treatment at the spa. Or possibly the most perfect post-mountain remedy – playful cocktail concoctions at The Remedy Bar (recently re-designed) where you can toast your achievement in style.



Destination Wedding

The enduring appeal of the Maldives is instantly recognisable in the vibrant blue lagoons and colourful reefs wrapped around picture-perfect atolls; paradise islands seemingly designed for romance. Unveiling their new Wedding Pavilion, *Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru* have used the natural beauty of their surroundings to create the ultimate venue. Accessible only by boat, the overwater pavilion is elevated over a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, popping with tropical fish and ancient sea turtles. Floor-to-ceiling glass doors give the impression of floating atop

the water and a glass aisle to the altar invites the marine world inside. Set above a turtle enclosure, the bride, groom and up to 16 guests can marvel at these magnificent creatures dancing below their feet. Located just off the northeast tip of the island, the pavilion is ideal for intimate ceremonies and a dedicated wedding co-ordinator can help couples personalise the space with flowers, candles and flowing fabrics. Of course, the resort caters for many differing tastes and the powder-soft sandy beach and renowned restaurants also provide spectacular settings for a tropical island wedding.



Knowledge #29/50

Below: Queen's Beach at Aman Sveti Stefan; penguins on Boulder's Beach

Another innovative first @BurjAlArab: a new private luxury deck is due to open this Spring <http://bit.ly/1OHXwNr>

CROATIA & MONTENEGRO
From the dazzling city of Dubrovnik to the Durmitor National Park, explore two fascinating countries that exude of-the-moment appeal.

34 PRIVILEGED ACCESS
Taking you behind some of the most desirable doors in South Africa, including private viewings at renowned art studios.

43 WINTER EXPERIENCES
The best ways to spend the season if you're seeking a powder-packed ski sojourn or the ultimate Finnish festive treat.

47 VISITING EXPERTS
Discover enlightening encounters with celebrated stars, at some of the world's leading hotels. Natural talent at its best.

30

37 EARTH, AIR & WATER
All aboard some of the most memorable ways to see the world – take to skies, explore on horseback or cruise the seas.

46 CAPTURE A STORY
Check out the winning image from the National Geographic Traveller Photography Competition 2016 and meet one of the judges, Steve Davey.



Knowledge

The ultimate insider's guide. Our download from the world of luxury travel, detailing essential experiences, reviews and recommendations.

CROATIA & MONTENEGRO

A firm fixture on the European travel map. This en vogue duo, who share a tiny border, are packed with beautiful walled cities brimming with culture and history and national parks cloaked in dense forests, punctuated by soaring peaks, deep canyons, vast lakes and turquoise rivers. The beauty on the inside is awe-inspiring, but it is the Adriatic coastline and thousand-plus islands that usually attract first-time travellers to this unsung slice of Europe.

A natural start-point is Dubrovnik, one of the world's most dazzling walled cities. Rivalling Venice in beauty, George Bernard Shaw famously wrote 'those who search for paradise on earth should come and see Dubrovnik'. Little has changed since he penned those words. A UNESCO World Heritage site, its ancient ramparts cocoon a treasure trove of medieval churches and monasteries, an intricately beautiful cathedral, a labyrinth of cobbled streets and vast squares alive with cafés, bars and restaurants. Take the cable car up Mount Srđ for a bird's eye view; walk the two kilometre ancient walls; get lost in the maze of alleyways, stopping off to refuel on delicious coffee and leisurely alfresco meals.

A host of accommodation options include the five star *Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik*, a Croatian icon since 1913 and member of Adriatic Luxury Hotels. With the Old Town on one side and the glinting Adriatic on the other, its sea-meets-city location is flat-out brilliant. Over the years it has hosted starlets from Francis Ford Coppola to Sophia Loren. Standout features include Prora beach restaurant with its delicious seafood and must-try signature steak dish, the private beach, wonderful spa, flawless service and Abakus Piano Bar (no stay in the city is complete without a coffee on its famous terrace). Newer to Adriatic Luxury Hotels' portfolio is *Hotel Bellevue*, carved into a cliff above Miramare Bay. Just ten minutes walk from town and with jaw-dropping views, the 91 sleek sea-inspired rooms and suites all feature original Croatian art. A brilliant spa comes complete with indoor infinity pool and there are two exceptional restaurants. Don't leave without sharing a platter of oysters at the hopelessly romantic Nevera beach restaurant. Peacefully secluded, this calm oasis has a small semi-private pebble beach, perfect for early morning dips when quite often, you'll have it all to yourself. Another refined and secluded option is the totally charming *Villa Orsula*, a welcome boutique addition to Dubrovnik. Five minutes from the Old Town and set in a once private

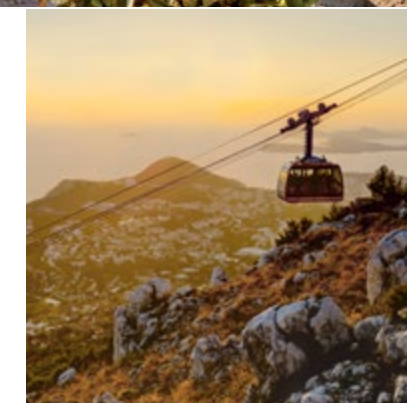
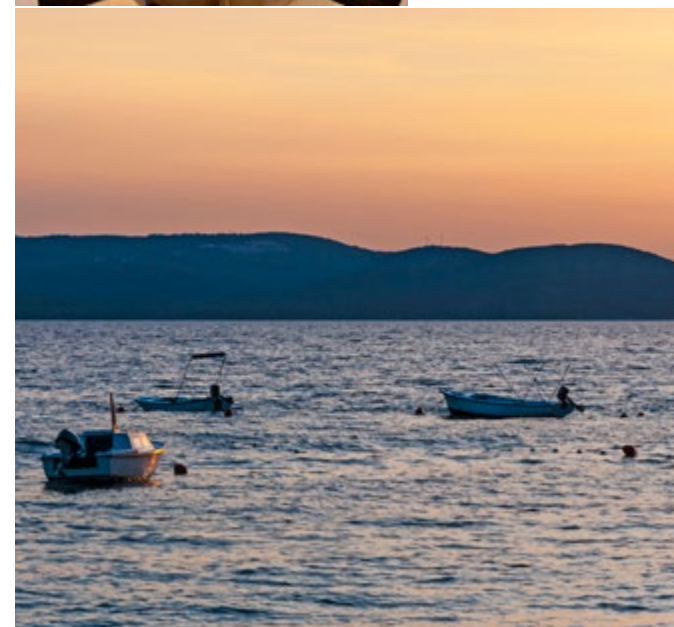
residence, it has just 13 rooms and a simple yet contemporary décor including surrealist artwork by Roberto Matta. Time drifts by with guests whiling away the hours in the pretty terraced gardens, reading amidst wild orange trees and lavender; keeping cool in the arched bar or following the little path to chill out on the beach. For foodies this is the place to bed down as it's home to the first Peruvian address in the Adriatic. Set on a vine-draped terrace, Victoria is a destination in itself, loved for its creative dishes.

From here, head out to sea to a host of gorgeous islands: the Elafiti Islands are doable in a day trip or head to the seductive forest-cloaked Mljet. Alternatively, sail further north to Korčula, home to olive groves, vineyards, sleepy villages, sandy beaches and the glorious Korčula Town. Like a mini Dubrovnik, this coastal citadel is captivatingly beautiful and there is nowhere better to stay than the unique *Lešić Dimitri Palace*. This super-central 18th Century bolthole is home to five exquisite one to three bedroom residences. Ultra-chic interiors retain many original features and are themed after Marco Polo's travels (he is rumoured to have been born on Korčula). The LD Restaurant celebrates traditional Croatian food and Dalmatian wine (Grk and Pošip come highly recommended). What's more, guests are in walking distance to several sandy beaches, but be sure to roll up the towel to hike the island's inland trails. Korčula can also be reached from Split, one of Croatia's most overlooked cities. Split is often used as a launch pad to glamorous Hvar,

George Bernard Shaw famously wrote 'those who search for paradise on earth should come and see Dubrovnik'



Clockwise from above
Sunset over Dubrovnik;
Villa Orsula exterior;
Mount Srđ cable car;
Adriatic sunset; Victoria
restaurant terrace



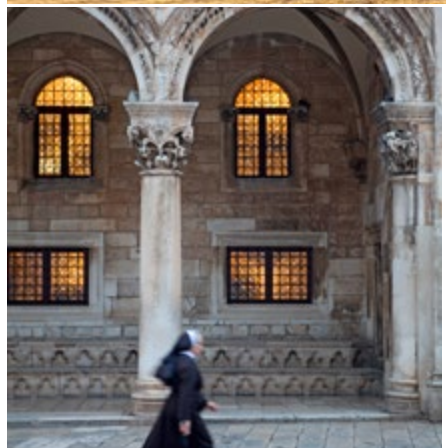


Above & right

Ruins from the historic city of Split;
The Library Bar at Regent
Porto Montenegro



Get lost in Diocletian Palace's stone chambers, people-watch on Bačvice Beach, join a game of picigin, drink in ancient squares and be swept along in the evening stroll down Riva promenade



Clockwise from left

The Rector's Palace, Dubrovnik;
the island of Sveti Stefan, Montenegro;
view from Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik

Opposite page

Boat in a quiet Croatian bay; Queen's Beach at Aman Sveti Stefan; old Medieval street in Rovinj



surf-dude Brač and far-flung Vis, but it is so much more than a transit point. Get lost in Diocletian Palace's stone chambers, people-watch on Bačvice Beach, join a game of picigin, drink in ancient squares and be swept along in the evening stroll down Riva promenade. The city has it all: sunshine, sand, culture, food and a general joie de vivre. If you're looking for resort-style accommodation, our recommendation would be **Le Méridien Lav**. Five miles away on the beach in Podstrana, it comes with a brilliant spa, tennis academy, watersports centre and kids' club.

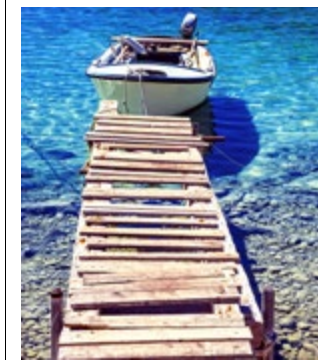
Travelling up the coast, island after idyllic island unfurls across the Adriatic until you reach the northern peninsula of Istria, home to unmissable Rovinj. Fall in love with its enchanting narrow streets; colourful houses; squares where locals come to drink and play cards; and when the heat of the day rises, hit one of the beautiful beaches. If you stay at **Hotel Monte Mulini** in Zlatni Rt Forest, be sure to hire their bikes, exploring Istria on two wheels is pure magic. Stop off at rural farmhouses for a traditional meal, go wine tasting or even truffle hunting. And if this sounds too much like hard work, sail away to de-stress on Cres, Rab or Krk.

But it is not only Croatia's coming of age, Montenegro is seeing a surge in popularity. It might be small, but what there is of it, is perfectly formed. Rugged mountains jut out of the sea, medieval villages cling to cliffs, fortified towns glint in the sunlight, beaches hem its coastline, whilst inland, national parks take your breath away. Durmitor National Park is home to 48 peaks that soar to over 2,000 metres. In summer it is cloaked in sweet smelling pine, alive with butterflies and birds and home to wolves and bears. The Tara River cuts through its northern region forming an incredible canyon that dips to 1,300 metres (just 200 metres short of the Grand Canyon). The best way to experience this incredible natural phenomenon is by rafting. Lake Skadar National Park is also a nature lover's eden. Vast and blissfully pretty, travellers can kayak through tranquil water lily meadows on the lookout for rare birds and mammals.

Like Croatia, it is impossible to ignore Montenegro's coastline, particularly the fjord-like Bay of Kotor and its fortified town. Kotor is wedged between mountains, its walls hugging a labyrinth of marbled streets lined with shops, bars and restaurants. The energetic can cycle the few kilometres to sleepy Perast in Boka Bay, a town rich in Venetian influence. A little pocket of paradise, hop on a boat to the manmade island, Our Lady of the Rocks, with its tiny church. Also in the Bay

DUBROVNIK MUST-DOS

- The Dubrovnik Summer Festival takes place during July and August and is Croatia's oldest cultural festival, showcasing opera, ballet, classical music, film and theatre.
- For fans of George R. R. Martin's *Game of Thrones*, Dubrovnik is the fictional capital of Westeros. Brilliant walking tours take in a load of filming locations.



of Kotor is the super-yacht haven of Porto Montenegro, dubbed the next St Tropez.

The marina is buzzing morning, noon and night and **Regent Porto Montenegro** is the address to note down. There are 57 plus rooms and 30 one to three bedroom residences, all with fabulous mountain or sea views. Interiors are elegant, there's a very good spa, the Library Bar provides a cosy spot with an open fire in winter and an array of cognac, whisky and Champagne, anyone with a sweet tooth will love the Gourmet Corner brimming with cakes, pastries and truffles. Whether or not Porto Montenegro does achieve St Tropez stardom, having received nearly 20 accolades, this 2014 opening is a super-stylish step in the right direction. Possibly the strongest sign that Montenegro has cemented itself on the travel map is the arrival of Aman Resorts. Along with the eight-bedroom Villa Milocer, **Aman Sveti Stefan** is a destination in itself. Just south of the old town of Budva, this little UNESCO-protected islet took four years to restore. Its higgledy-piggledy stone passageways, rustic chic fisherman cottages, shaded courtyards and pink-sand beaches are an escape in the truest sense of the word.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Croats love their coffee: try kava (a strong brew served in a tiny cup).
- Indulge at a pastry shop (slastičarnas). Found in every town, counters groan under the weight of creamy cakes, strudels and custard pies.
- Wherever you travel the food is fantastic. From the freshest seafood to melt-in-the-mouth pasta, from veal to Pag cheese, from asparagus to Istrian truffles, Croatia is a gourmet getaway.



Privileged ACCESS

Expect lunch in the home of a celebrity chef, exclusive entry into the best museums and private viewings at renowned art studios.



South Africa is a country of immense natural beauty, from wild beaches to vast game reserves, from rolling vineyards to craggy cliffs, from flower-cloaked hills to mountainscapes; there is wow factor in abundance. Throw in wildlife, history, culture, vibrant cities, wonderful wine and a cutting-edge food scene, it captures many a heart. But dig a little deeper and you find a host of hidden treasures which, thanks to our brilliant relationships with local experts, we can unearth for you. Whether you want to see Cape Town's arty side, tour little-known wineries, drive remote dunes or dine in a famous chef's house, we will take you behind the scenes and bring you the best of bespoke South Africa.

Above: Delaire Graff Estate surrounded by sweeping vineyards

Cape Town is a brilliant starting-point to any South African journey, a proudly multi-cultural city steeped in history but with a modern edge. Its cosmopolitan streets are packed with museums, galleries, boutiques, restaurants, cafés and bars. There are a host of gorgeous hotels including the iconic **Cape Grace** and tranquil **Belmond Mount Nelson**. Cape Grace is in the thick of it, a landmark in the heart of the harbour, a short stroll from the vibrant Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Table Mountain towers above and guests are cocooned in luxury. One hundred and twenty rooms and suites drip in antique character, while other standout features include the popular Bascule Bar, excellent spa, sublime outdoor swimming pool and 'Spirit of the Cape', the hotel's own yacht. In the foothills, **Belmond Mount Nelson** never

goes out of favour. An urban sanctuary with gorgeous grounds a stone's throw from the botanical gardens, it is also close to some of Cape Town's best beaches. Brilliant accommodation options suit everyone from couples to families; afternoon tea is a must-have feast and superb facilities include two pools (one massive and one tucked away for adults), the blissful Librisa Spa, tennis courts and a fun-filled kids' club.

Based at either, you are perfectly positioned to explore the Mother City. Browse the boutiques of Long Street and St George's Mall, breathe in the sweet smelling Trafalgar Place flower market, hop on a cable car up Table Mountain for truly captivating views; soak up the vibe and let the city's energy under your skin. And to give you real insight into this fascinating destination we can tap into our network of contacts and get you exclusive access to the best museums, private viewings at renowned art studios and tickets to current exhibitions. And then, of course, there's the food scene: we can point you in the direction of all the hottest tables in town: from quirky Woodlands Eatery on the

hills of Vredehoek with its wood-fired pizzas and craft beer, to The Pot Luck Club, Luke Dale-Roberts' super-cool hangout at the top of Woodstock's Old Biscuit Mill. We can also arrange for you to be delivered to Reuben Riffel's home for a private lunch or book you into Margot Janse's 'African Surprise' eight course tasting menu.

Visitors rarely tire of Cape Town's magnetic energy but do head out onto the open road and explore what Francis Drake described as "the stateliest thing and the fairest cape we saw in the whole circumference of the earth". We can organise an utterly unique Cape Peninsula tour. In one day you see two oceans, with a trip down the amazing coastal

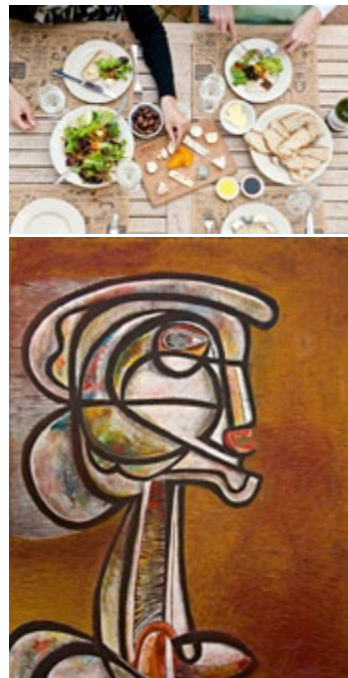


Clockwise from above: Chapman's Peak Pass; Cape Grace exterior against Table Mountain; mozzarella and tomato salad; penguins on Boulder's Beach; The Pot Luck Club restaurant



roads to Cape Point, the southwestern tip of Africa where it's fabled that the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. Drive the dramatic Chapman's Peak Pass with its breathtaking vantage points; stop off at Boulder's Beach Penguin Boardwalk to get up close and personal with hoards of animated African penguins.

For adrenaline junkies and those who like to get off the beaten track, we can send you on an exhilarating 4x4 adventure. Heading north of Blaauwberg strand you come to vast dunes and one of Cape Town's unsung treasures. Guests can get behind the wheel and drive the enormous dune fields before stopping off for sand-boarding and a gourmet picnic. The journey continues with a trip to the unique Paarl Spice Route. This boutique wine village has a gorgeous setting and is a lovely place to spend a chilled afternoon. There are a couple of exceptional restaurants, a feast of artisan food outlets offering coffee and chocolate tasting, cheese, cured meats, a deli with homemade jam and pickles and a craft beer brewery.



Clockwise from above:
The Rupert Art Museum;
carving by Cecil Skotnes;
Goatshed at Fairview restaurant;
4x4 dune adventure

Clockwise from below
Delaire Graff Estate: winemaker
Morné Very; views from the
restaurant terrace; wine lounge



What's more, there's a large trading company selling lots of locally made homeware, furniture, art and handblown glass.

For many, staying in the Cape Winelands is a highlight. We can't rave enough about ***Delaire Graff Estate***, tucked away between Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, at the foot of Botmaskop mountain. This unique estate combines wine, food, art and ultra-luxury accommodation. There are ten exceptional lodges with pools and views looking out over vineyards and down to Cape Point. Allure is everywhere, from Laurence Graff's private collection of contemporary art to the spa and two exquisite dining venues. We love both but at Indochine you can dine under a thousand swooping birds (the Swallows in Flight art installation) and the food is melt-in-the-mouth delicious. Again, thanks to our excellent relationships, we can send you on a behind the scenes tasting session and cellar tour with the estate's winemaker Morné Very and even get you a private tour of Franschhoek's motor museum.

This is a land of infinite beauty, allow Carrier to unveil the intricate and expansive experiences available to you on your South African getaway.



EARTH, AIR & WATER

For an adventure like no other, we bring you some of the world's most exhilarating experiences on land, air and water – these are memory-bank moments for intrepid travellers looking for something out of the ordinary. Inspiring, evocative, remote and adrenalin-fuelled, this is travel at its most original.



Eastern & Oriental Express travelling through Malaysia

Earth: There is one trip on land that feels utterly timeless: journeying through Southeast Asia aboard the *Eastern & Oriental Express*. The train was introduced in 1993; Asia's answer to Europe's Venice Simplon-Orient-Express (run by the same people), and it remains one of the world's most unique travel experiences. Inside there's a real sense of nostalgia and old-world opulence, with decadent private cabins transformed at night into cosy bedrooms. The tinkling Piano Bar is the perfect place for a pre-dinner drink and the two lavish restaurant cars feel super-indulgent. The food is flawless; four-course dinners using seasonal local produce are served with exquisite wine.

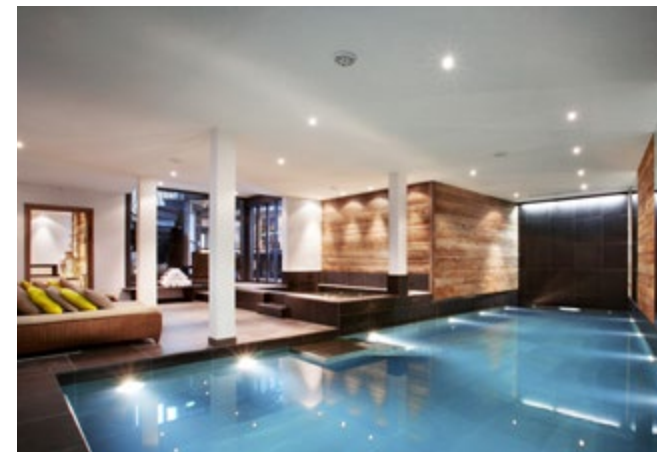
Eastern & Oriental Express runs various routes throughout the year, including the exclusive Fables of the Peninsula, travelling from Singapore to Bangkok. This year the seven-day trip leaves on 03 October and is limited to just 60 guests. After a night cocooned in the iconic *Raffles Singapore*, the 1,250 mile journey begins. Travel through rainforests, paddy fields, past golden temples and gleaming pagodas, through misty

mountains and rural villages. The journey takes you to Kuala Lumpur, an edgy city where old meets new, where mosques and temples stand alongside skyscrapers, shopping malls and cool nightspots. Then it's on to the tea plantations of the Cameron Highlands. This is Malaysia's hill station, an alpine escape of blue peaks, green hills, tumbling rivers and small towns. Enjoy the cool, fresh climate, and spend the day trekking and tea tasting. A night at the *Cameron Highlands Resort* is perfect; a 56 room boutique hideaway surrounded by peaceful plantations complete with a tea-inspired spa. The train then glides on to Penang, followed by the charming fishing town of Baan Huay Yang and a hop over to the island of Koh Chuan before heading out to Hat Wanakon Beach for a seafood barbecue. Back on the train for the last stretch to Bangkok, make the most of the observation car, the superlative service and one last gourmet feast. This will be one of the most memorable journeys you ever take.

For originality we've got to give it to Tanzania's *Roving Bushtops*, which in essence, is a safari lodge on wheels.

Clockwise from left

Eastern & Oriental Express: journey through paddy fields, restaurant car; Roving Bushtops: view from the tent; horseback safari in Botswana



Clockwise from above

The Lodge: indoor pool, exterior; heli-skiing in Verbier



Currently set in the Seronera Valley in the heart of the Serengeti, glamour camping doesn't get more unique than this. The six high-spec tents are semi-permanent, so if the wildlife patterns change and the best game moves, so will Roving Bushtops. At the moment they are steadfastly staying put, as they have immediate access to some of the world's greatest wildlife viewing. The tents, even though portable, are super-impressive with king-sized beds, en-suite bathrooms and lots of decking. This is wild luxury in its purest form.

Another one-off African adventure is *Macatoo*, in Botswana's Okavango Delta. Home to a kaleidoscope of wildlife, the delta is an intriguing phenomena with an ever-changing landscape created by seasonal flooding. And, arguably the best thing about Macatoo is that

you're on horseback (there are options for non-riders). Those who do saddle-up, experience the thrill of riding with big game, often spotting buffalo, antelope, elephant and lion before galloping beside herds of zebra and giraffe. The pace can be fast and the exhilaration sky-high. Guests have access to 450,000 acres of remote delta and the unfenced camp has eight tents and balances luxury with authenticity. The food is excellent, as is lazing by the pool after hot hours in the saddle. An experience of a lifetime, this safari should be on every rider's bucket list.

Air: Part of Richard Branson's Virgin Limited Edition collection, *The Lodge* in Verbier is one of the most exclusive chalets in the Swiss Alps. Playground for the rich and famous, Verbier has a host of luxury options,

and this property steps it up a gear. Nine beautiful bedrooms, plus a bunkroom big enough for six kids, are all gorgeous – some coming with open-plan bathrooms, others with warming fireplaces, whilst the attic room gets our vote for atmosphere. Outside each private cocoon, the rest of The Lodge is equally as indulgent. There’s an indoor pool, outdoor jacuzzi, a steam room, gym, a party room with fully-stocked bar, wine cellar and snooker table, and friendly staff including a spa therapist and highly trained chefs. In winter, Verbier is the ultimate alpine paradise for avid skiers and snowboarders with six resorts spread across four valleys; even better, they are all accessible through one lift pass. And, for the advanced skier, the heli-skiing trips are a sure way to get the adrenalin pumping. Your guide will meet you in the morning to discuss the plan and route. It could be a descent all the way from the top of Petit Combin to Fionnay or a couple of drops on the Glacier du Trient. However, Verbier is not just a winter wonderland – when the snow melts away, it takes on a whole new identity. From June to September this Swiss town is a gorgeous base from which to explore. Activities abound, from hiking to biking and horse riding. Follow the valley stopping off to refuel at restaurants or for a cooling dip in a mountain lake. During the summer season you can also fly high and see



the spectacular scenery whilst soaring above the peaks – take a tandem paragliding flight or jump on the heli-yoga bandwagon, a trip combining a scenic helicopter ride with remote mountain yoga.

In Las Vegas, take to the skies for the best view of the City of Lights. Vegas Nights is a superb helicopter tour operated by *Maverick Aviation*, that whisks you over



Previous page
Grand Canyon at sunset; hot air balloons over Bagan

Clockwise from right
Regent Seven Seas Explorer: lobby, Regent Suite in-room spa; Seven Seas Navigator



THE SEVEN SEAS EXPLORER® WILL SET SAIL ON HER INAUGURAL TRIP THIS YEAR, OFFERING UNPARALLELED LUXURY AT SEA

the renowned strip. After a glass of Champagne you’ll be airborne, spotting all the sights from their ‘limousine of the sky’. Maverick Aviation also runs some of the best tours over the Grand Canyon. All are once-in-a-lifetime trips, but we love ‘Wind Dancer’, landing 3,500 feet into the canyon itself. Champagne is served above the mighty Colorado River, before flying through the Grand Canyon. Helicopter tours are also a great way to explore Hawaii, and Maverick can be found flying over the islands of Maui and Molokai, soaring above waterfalls, rainforests and Maui’s famous volcano.

Possibly our favourite airborne experience is in Burma, a country steeped in Buddhist tradition. Mystical mountains, entrancing rivers, golden temples and gentle people, there are so many reasons to visit this wonderful country. And that’s before we even mention Bagan. This 26 acre plain in central Burma is a less touristy rival to Machu Picchu or Angkor Wat. The setting is divine and scattered throughout are more than 2,000 temples dating back to the 11th and 12th Centuries. To appreciate the true scale of this magnificent archaeological site is by hot air balloon at sunrise: floating over Bagan feels almost other-worldly.

Water: Adding to its portfolio of three exceptional ships, this year sees the launch of Regent Seven Seas Cruises latest addition, the largest of their fleet. The *Seven Seas Explorer*® will set sail on her inaugural trip on 20 July 2016. Dubbed the most luxurious ship ever built™, this all-suite, all-balcony breathtaking phenomenon houses 750 guests and a 542 strong crew.

Amongst its spacious suites, the ship features the new Regent Suite, measuring in at a staggering 3,875 square feet. Offering unparalleled luxury at sea, it comes with two bedrooms, a living area complete with bar and grand piano, a vast private balcony and an industry first: an in-suite spa with sauna, steam room and relaxation area where guests can enjoy complimentary, unlimited treatments. This opulence sets the tone for the rest of the ship. There are two new speciality restaurants: the lavish French Chartreuse and Asian-inspired Pacific Rim; these join Prime 7, La Veranda and Compass Rose. Seven Seas Explorer® will also unveil its Culinary Arts Kitchen, a floating cookery school with 18 individual stations. Throw in the gorgeous pool deck, card room, library and Canyon Ranch SpaClub®

and guests can truly do as much or as little as they please. The inaugural trip is a dreamy 14 day European itinerary. Setting sail from Monte Carlo it will stop off in St Tropez before heading across to the Balearics (Mallorca and Ibiza) and on to Barcelona before cruising the Mediterranean to Taormina and Valletta. Then, up the Adriatic to Montenegro's fjord-like bay of Kotor, lively Split in Croatia and Koper in Slovenia, before docking eventually in Venice.

Another watery journey on our wish list comes courtesy of Aqua Expeditions. Operating solely on the Amazon until 2014, it then launched *Aqua Mekong* with three, four and seven day cruises from Siem Reap, Phnom Penh and Hoh Chi Minh. The boat takes you deep into this remote region to Buddhist monasteries, emerald forests and bamboo-stilted villages. Witness local life on the river, visit Angkor Wat, soak up Sihanoukville's laidback beach vibe and explore the languid hills of Dalat. Many boats take similar routes but the Aqua Mekong does it in luxury. This contemporary floating hotel accommodates a maximum of 40 guests in 20 beautifully designed rooms (eight are interconnected). There's a gym, a large spa and the best restaurant on the Mekong by renowned Australian chef David Thompson with an exquisite Asian menu. The trip is topped off with bicycles for on-shore exploring and the most brilliant guides.

Long before Myanmar began to feature on hot travel lists, *Belmond Road to Mandalay* was cruising the Ayeyarwady River. This year it celebrates its 20th anniversary with a one-off cruise. Leaving on 01 October, the journey will follow the same route of the

inaugural cruise, travelling from Bagan to Mandalay. Relax and enjoy the hypnotic rhythms of the great river, dip into the pool, indulge in a Burmese massage and feast on local food at the new Bar & Grill. The trip will also include two nights at *Belmond Governor's Residence* in Yangon and a host of special celebrations along the way.

ON LAND, WATER OR IN THE AIR,
EXPERIENCE A LIFE LESS ORDINARY

Clockwise from below
Belmond Road to Mandalay: Governor's Suite;
Aqua Mekong: exterior, sun deck



Winter
Experiences

With snow-sure terrain and exhilarating adventures in abundance, North America is a destination par excellence for a snowy getaway; whilst Finnish Lapland offers a magical escape infused with festive cheer.

ROUTE 100: SKIER'S HIGHWAY

North America is famed for its epic road trips and Route 100 is a particular favourite of Vermonters. Unofficially known as 'Skier's Highway', there are gentle winding roads with breathtaking views of snowy mountains offering a slice of winter paradise for powder hounds.

Stowe Mountain Resort is one of the trailblazers of Vermont's impressive ski region; first popping up in 1934, this classic wintry wonderland is the initial stop on your New England adventure. Comprising two distinctive summits, beginners will take to Spruce Peak to glide down picturesque tree-lined easy greens, whilst thrill-seekers will hop on the Over Easy Gondola to Vermont's highest

peak, Mount Mansfield and face the challenging 'Front Four' double diamond blacks. At the base of these trails, the alpine-style retreat, **Stowe Mountain Lodge** is perfect for families and couples alike. Exquisitely designed guest rooms offer magnificent panoramas of the quintessential Vermont landscape, and each have roaring fireplaces to curl up in front of after a day on the slopes. Or, treat your family to the sumptuous four bedrooomed cabin located directly on the slopes.

Convenience is accessing Stowe's vast ski area from the hotel's ski-in, ski-out base; an on-site concierge will offer advice on the best powder runs and most daring terrain

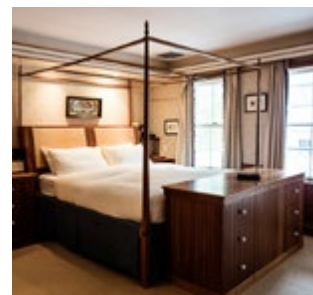


Above & right
Skiing in Vermont; Calvin
Coolidge room at The Pitcher Inn

parks. Beyond the skier's playground, guests can try anything from snowmobiling and dog sledding to moonlit snowshoe adventures and skating on the resort's brand new ice rink.

Leaving the quaint village of Stowe behind, head to charming Warren and **The Pitcher Inn**. Once a lodging house in the Civil War era, this balconied white-clapboard inn is bursting with history and character and, just three miles from Sugarbush Ski Resort, it is the perfect stop-off on your winter road trip. Eleven fantastically quirky guest rooms – some of which are spacious two-bedroom suites – are individually themed, the Ski room being amongst our favourites. Designed specifically for die-hard skiers, the rustically romantic room contains an array of ski memorabilia from vintage trail maps to an authentic lift ticket booth.

A day exploring Sugarbush's diverse peaks will be sure to work up a hearty appetite and there's no better place to dine than 275 Main. Specialising in farm-to-table dining; fresh,



seasonal produce is paired with vintage wines to create an unforgettable experience.

Continue on to Manchester and stop off to ski at Killington. Laid out across four peaks, this is the biggest ski area in Vermont. What's more, the young and lively ambience and select choice of bars and restaurants make it a great choice for après-ski. End your road trip on one of Stratton's 97 immaculately groomed trails. With a great choice of varied runs, there is something for all abilities.



INDULGENT ICES

Make sure you stop off at the Ben & Jerry's factory on the way to Warren. With a choice of traditional favourites or one-off specialities (hello, Vermonster) take your pick and indulge in delicious ice cream in the scoop shop.

ASPEN / VAIL

Colorado is renowned for its remarkable terrain and nowhere more so than the magnificent ski centres of Aspen and Vail. The saying goes: "Vail has the mountain; Aspen has the town". Whilst Aspen boasts four mountains, Vail has one and it's enormous. At 5,289 acres, it's one of the largest ski mountains in North America. **The Arrabelle at**



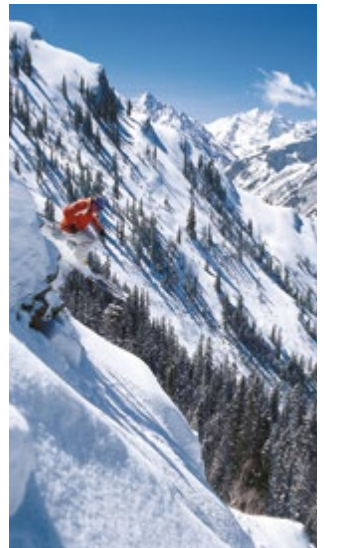
Vail Square is only steps away from the Eagle Bahn Gondola and the ski school meeting point, offering easy access to this magnificent peak, which makes the hotel a superb choice for families.

Vail Village is located only a few minutes away by shuttle and guests can wander the picturesque streets where trees and bridges are lit with fairy lights. In the heart of the village, **The Sebastian** is the perfect base for those who want a modern hotel with a lively vibe. Head to Frost Bar for Après Happy Hour and savour a signature craft cocktail served uniquely on draft.

Aspen offers a completely different experience. Originally an old silver mining town, the

resort is steeped in history and has a cosmopolitan feel with upscale bars, designer boutiques and a modern art gallery. Stay at the momentous **Hotel Jerome**; this elegant hotel was built by early Aspen supporter Jerome B. Wheeler and has been a landmark since 1889. The doormen dressed in cowboy hats and boots make you feel as if you are stepping back in time and the authentic refurbished interiors with old photographs of the mining days and newspaper prints provide a great insight into Aspen's past.

Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk and Snowmass are the four mountains that make up this vast ski region and there is something here for all abilities. Many guests flock to



Snowmass which is the largest area and a stay at **Viceroy Snowmass** is perfect for beginners and families alike. Ski-in, ski-out, it is located slope side on the Assay Hill green run.

FINNISH LAPLAND

"Driving through snow-laden forests and powdered plains revealed one spectacular vista after another, but nothing quite prepared me for the sight upon my arrival to **Villa Laavu**. Majestically stood atop Utsuvaara hill, a grand, traditional log cabin awaited. I opened the door and a crackling log fire filled the room with the smell of Christmas. The architecture is exceptional, built out of huge wooden timbers, and the walls are dressed in twinkling fairy lights. The seven bedrooms are split across three floors (one being a suite with a private sauna) and the space and design of the villa makes it an ideal hideaway for large families or groups.



JULIE BARKER

Head of Reservations & Operations at Carrier, Julie has enjoyed a snowy adventure of another kind with a traditional Finnish Lapland escape and a magical visit to meet Father Christmas.

Stepping into our snowsuits and boots, we found a snowmobile waiting outside to take us on an exhilarating trip into the wintry wilderness that included a husky safari, ice-fishing and igloo building. We enjoyed a delicious lunch served in an arctic tepee before our return to Villa Laavu, where we were greeted with delicious canapés, prepared by our personal chef, and Champagne. The next day we were up early for a fairy-tale walk through the forest where we were met by an elf on-board a reindeer sleigh, ready to take us to the Christmas Command Centre to meet Father Christmas himself. During an Elf Workshop the elves taught us how to make toys, bake cookies and build gingerbread houses. Utterly unique. Truly magical."

Capture a story

From Instagram addicts to visual art fanatics, National Geographic Traveller's annual photography competition attracts some of the best in emerging talent. Travel photographer, writer and a member of the esteemed judging panel, Steve Davey, explains why it's such a

captivating career: "There is always something that completely stands out about a great picture. Often it's a shot that is a little more complex, or manages to convey a mood or an emotion. The best part about travel photography (apart from the travel that is) is

the unpredictability. You never really know what you will encounter on an hourly, let alone daily basis. I love the variety – I can be photographing a landscape at sunrise in the morning, and a festival in the afternoon".

Read our full interview with Steve Davey online.

PICTURE PERFECT

The grand prize winner of the National Geographic Traveller Photography Competition 2016 was Jeremy Flint with this shot of a leg rowing fisherman demonstrating his technique on Inle Lake in Burma (Myanmar). Seen through a cone shaped fishing net, Flint has captured a unique view of the fisherman at work.



VISITING EXPERTS

Artists, authors, athletes and aficionados – increasingly some of the world's best hotels are teaming up with figureheads outside the realm of travel and inviting them to teach, talk, perform. The aim is to bring one-of-a-kind experiences that defy expectation to their guests and to further elevate the level of exclusivity for them. These are the not-to-be-missed collaborations for 2016/17.



Left & above
Pool at Makanyi Private Game Lodge; pastel drawing by Warren Cary



Local Star

WHO?

South African born and bred, **Warren Cary** is a celebrated artist who is dedicated to creating drawings and paintings of African wildlife. Living in Hoedspruit, an enviable position just a stone's throw away from Kruger National Park, he is perfectly placed to take inspiration from the nature and wildlife that surrounds him daily. His preferred mediums are pastel and graphite pencil.

WHAT?

Ideal for creative explorers, an **art safari** is a unique way to truly focus on the landscape and

hone in on the particulars of a beautiful setting. With your own game drive vehicle, personal guide, tracker and of course Cary by your side, discover the wildlife, flora and fauna of the bush. With a passion for the finer detail and all the small, often overlooked, elements that make up Africa, the artist guides guests on the role of light and perspective during game drives. Back at the lodge, aspiring artists can test out their skills and enhance their technique further with daily workshops covering everything from tone and texture to focal points and composition. Art materials by Faber-Castell are provided.

WHERE?

Opened last June, stylish **Makanyi Private Game Lodge** in South Africa features just seven suites and is set away from the crowds on the edge of the private Timbavati Game Reserve. One of very few commercialised lodges in the area, and neighbouring Kruger National Park and Sabi Sand Reserve, part of the thrill here is in watching the expertise of the guides, who have to work a little harder to track down the Big 5, as well as the elusive White Lions. Rico and Carmen are the energetic duo in charge and their love for the wildlife and the camp is contagious.



You may also like...

Capturing creative images on a photographic safari led by award-winning wildlife photographer, Hilton Kotze.

High Flyer



WHO?

One of the world's most accomplished big mountain skiers, **Chris Davenport**, is a two-time World Extreme Skiing Champion, and five years ago made it to the summit of Mount Everest and then skied back down the nearby Lhotse face. Having been the first person to ski all 54 of Colorado's peaks (in less than a year) and now living in Snowmass with his family, Davenport is the best placed guide on the slopes in this part of the world.

WHAT?

The 'Click-In with Chris Davenport' **ski and snowboard camp** will be taking place again in March 2017. Be the first one down the mountain with Davenport, benefit from exclusive access to The Little Nell Powder Cat for untracked runs on the back side of Aspen Mountain and race on the NASTAR course.

WHERE?

The only ski-in, ski-out hotel in Aspen, **The Little Nell** sits at the base of the mountain next to the Silver Queen Gondola and is just a moment from the hub of boutiques and restaurants.



Cool Rider

WHO?

Ex-professional cyclist and former Team GB captain at the World Championships and Olympics, **David Millar** is the only British cyclist to have won all Tour de France jerseys. Today, he is a mentor to young riders and designs professional cycle clothing inspired by classic tailoring.

WHAT?

A series of ultimate **pro-cycling weekends** with David Millar. Following the success of the inaugural experience in April, Millar will be back in Mallorca this October to offer cycling enthusiasts the chance to ride the iconic hill

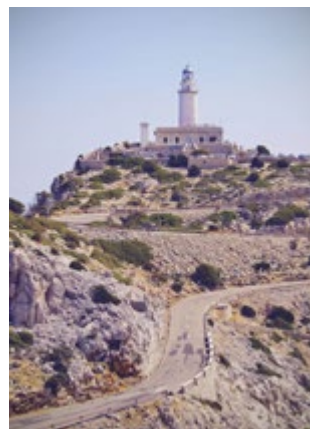
climbs of the region alongside him. To set them up before they arrive, a customised training plan will be provided to each rider and, upon arrival, they will be kitted out with their own personalised racing apparel from Millar's clothing collection Chpt. III made by Italian brand Castelli. Pre-ride morning briefings, Maserati support vehicles and on-site mechanics for technical assistance give participants a unique insight into the life of a pro-cyclist.

WHERE?

Surrounded by the UNESCO-protected Tramuntana mountain range, **Jumeirah**

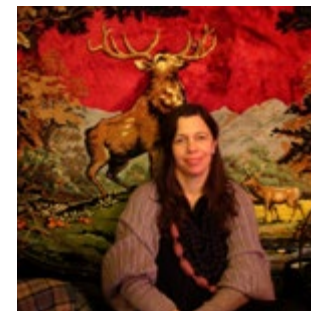


Port Soller Hotel & Spa is the ideal base for road cyclists of all abilities. Close by, there's traffic free roads and long mid-gradient routes for beginners, and for the experts, renowned climbs such as Puig Major (the island's highest peak) and the twists and turns of snake-like, Sa Calobra. Back at the retreat, soothe aching muscles with a revitalising treatment at Talise Spa, and settle down to dinner with Millar at the end of each day to savour the local Mediterranean delicacies.



Above: Sunset Sushi Lounge at Jumeirah Port Soller Hotel & Spa; Formentor Lighthouse in Mallorca

The Aesthete



WHO?

An art historian, critic and independent curator, **Iris Kritikou**.

WHAT?

Curated by Kritikou, 36 local artists will be participating at the second '**A Jewel made in Greece**' exhibition. With the aim of promoting the image of contemporary jewellery, the event will see the bringing together of creative dialogue between the culture of art and the history of Greek jewellery. A rare chance to find out the fascinating ways "line, movement and matter can be translated into volume, form and colour".

WHERE?

Set on a peninsula overlooking an old cosmopolitan fishing village, **St. Nicolas Bay Resort Hotel & Villas** will be

hosting this year's exhibition. Nods to modern culture can already be found at the hotel's gallery, Argonaftis – a space created by the owners who are keen patrons of the arts. Here, there's a permanent private exhibition of sculptures and paintings from well-known young Greek artists. Each summer, the hotel invites the specialists to the resort to showcase

their latest work to guests. This includes the likes of photographer Yannis Skoulas, a member of the Visual Arts Chamber of Greece; artist Antonis Kasrinakis, who also designs stage settings for performances; and painter Tania Dimitrakopoulou, whose work has been exhibited across the globe from Beijing to Florence, and Istanbul to Paris.



In other news...

- > A full refurbishment means all suites with private pool and the Thalassa Villas will have a fresh new look come summer. Expect the trademark contemporary-style with traditional references throughout.
- > A serious renovation has also taken place at Poseidon Spa: new treatment rooms and an updated menu of Elemis and Cinq Mondes therapies await.
- > Don't miss the chance to try out the new menu created by the chef at The Greek Kafenion. Just a few steps from the beach, the barbecue style kitchen serves up fresh Cretan dishes using seafood caught at Mirabello Bay, virgin olive oil and local produce.

Top right: St. Nicolas Bay; Argonaftis art space, Anemos House bedroom at Thalassa Villas





WHO?
The London based health company, **Bodyism**, is the brainchild of James Duigan, nutritionist and personal trainer to the A-list. Specialising in creating lean and athletic bodies, the elite performance specialists he has personally trained have been helping to transform individuals around the world for over ten years, and are a sought-after authority in fitness and nutrition.

Healing Hero

WHAT?
The first **‘Clean & Lean’ residency** in Europe, one-to-one tailored sessions focusing on total wellbeing with the Bodyism team are available until 14 September 2016. Customised shakes, smoothies and health drinks are available – and with delicious Clean & Lean menus created by Duigan and a team of expert chefs being offered at restaurants around the resort, full diet plans can easily be arranged throughout the duration of a stay.

WHERE?
Detoxing and exercising on holiday often needs a lot of encouragement, yet high up on Turkey’s Datça Peninsula,

D-Hotel Maris makes it surprisingly easy. The beauty of the isolated location for a start is truly inspiring. There are breathtaking views of pine forests, volcanic mountains and small islands in the glistening waters below where the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas meet. Indoor, outdoor and vitality swimming pools, five private beaches and a new outdoor exercise area make it all possible to focus on personal wellbeing whilst enjoying the naturally beautiful surroundings. For a little down time away from the gym, guests can charter one of the hotel’s private yachts, go waterskiing or diving.

Above & below
D-Hotel Maris: Villa pool and garden; Deluxe Sea View Room



You may also like...

The tennis school here is run by Wimbledon champion, Goran Ivanisevic’s trained coaches.

The most stylish and fashionable places to be around the world <http://bit.ly/21byFtt>

52 UNVEILED
A closer look at the most anticipated new openings and stylish refurbishments from the world of luxury travel.

58 ULTIMATE INDULGENCE
A secluded sanctuary in the heart of the Seychelles, best reached via private jet for those seeking a completely opulent experience.

60 ICONIC RETREAT
Welcome to private island paradise in Cambodia’s Koh Rong Archipelago, where sustainable design is evidently at the heart of this resort.

61 CARIBBEAN / A YEAR TO CELEBRATE
2016 is a year packed full of celebration across the Caribbean, be it a special Bajan anniversary or a myriad of festivals.



SET-JETTING
The enigmatic extras that featured in cinematic classics – these are the backdrops, settings and locations that truly stole the limelight.

64

Left: A zebra amidst the plains in Kenya



Style

Pairing luxury and style comes naturally – we draw on the places, spaces and sojourns with a real flair for design distinction.



Above: Morukuru Ocean House

Unveiled

Keeping you up-to-date with luxury travel news, we bring you the latest new openings and revamps from around the globe.

Four Seasons is not a company to rest on its laurels and this year, amongst its many projects, is a fabulous Balinese refurb. The Deluxe, Premier Ocean and Premier Family Villas at *Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay* are bigger, better and boast even more wow factor. This authentic all-villa resort, designed to emulate a Balinese village, has been at the

forefront of the luxury travel revolution since opening its doors in 1993. Always remaining true to its roots, General Manager Uday Rao loves the fact his “guests never wake up and wonder, ‘where am I?’ They know they’re in Bali and that’s the essence and soul of the resort.” It therefore came as no surprise that they didn’t look overseas, instead

commissioning top Indonesian design firm, Jaya International, to take on the renovation. The results are breathtaking. They’ve maxed out on space making the bedrooms 50 percent bigger, installed completely new indoor living rooms, and walled tropical gardens house even larger infinity pools. Total flop and drop territory, the bedrooms are serene sanctuaries with beds by Simmons, cloud-like duvets and antique-style bathtubs. The new look remains utterly authentic with lots of wood, thatched roofs, local art, rattan and Balinese textiles. The rest of the resort is as dreamy as ever, with the gardens descending down to the gorgeous bay below and a destination spa.

The newest member of the Morukuru Family is ***Ocean House***, joining this much-loved private African portfolio. The spectacular location in South Africa’s De Hoop Nature Reserve is as good as it gets. Three hours drive east from Cape Town, the house sits alone, surrounded by vast swathes of fynbos and fronted by 51 kilometres of pristine beach punctuated with limestone cliffs and towering white sand dunes. A natural playground for both adults and children alike, the house comes with its own jeep and guide, there are caves to explore, marine walks, bush hiking, sand-boarding, mountain biking, flower safaris, rock pooling at low tide and some of the continent’s best whale watching on the doorstep. From June to November, southern right whales migrate here to calve and nurse in the protected waters, and the spectacle is thrilling. The house itself feels like you’ve been set adrift in your own luxury cocoon. Utterly private, this unique gem has four bright, light en suite bedrooms with glass doors looking out towards the ocean; there’s an outdoor pool, a butler who seemingly apparates with drinks, and a kitchen complete with private chef. Like all of the Morukuru Family portfolio, this is an idyll with no schedules, a place to reconnect with friends and family, get back to nature and experience an escape in the truest sense of the word.

We didn’t think ***One&Only Ocean Club*** could get much better, but following last year’s multi-million dollar refurbishment, this Bahamian escape has even more trimmings. Once the private getaway of Huntington Hartford II,

Now there’s gorgeous terraces, lots of pools and custom-made furniture inspired by luggage chests of bygone explorers

Versailles-style gardens cocoon this beachfront estate. Upping the ante in the style stakes further, the original Hartford Wing has had a top-to-toe re-design. This is the core of the resort and the rooms and suites have all been expanded and decked out in natural wood, cool marble and splashes of varying shades of blues. The new bathrooms are super-sumptuous and roomy terraces and balconies have been added to make the most of the ocean views. There’s also a brand new infinity-edged beachfront pool, flanked by an excellent bar and grill. The Ocean Pool Grill, helmed by Executive Chef Gal Kozer, dishes up family-style sharing platters of delicious seafood and local specialties such as spiny lobster. The beachside barman can knock you up a mean cocktail, meaning all you need to do is fly, flop and feast. The miles of soft sand, the uber-spa, Jean-Georges Vongerichten’s Dune restaurant and Tom Weiskopf golf course, remain as alluring as ever.

Another Caribbean hideout to get a makeover is ***Le Guanahani*** in serene St Barths. This year marks its 30th anniversary and to celebrate, it has completed a phenomenal US\$40 million revamp. Spread out over 18 tropical acres on its own peninsula, we love the 67 cottages in bright hues of turquoise, yellow and lavender. Inside there’s a distinct West Indian style that blends seamlessly with the hotel’s exotic setting. The look is authentic and fresh, the vibe relaxed and happy. There are gorgeous terraces, lots of pools, custom-made furniture inspired by luggage chests of bygone explorers, the bathrooms are stuffed with Clarins products and the addition of two grand suites (Admiral and Serenity) ups the appeal even more, whilst the Clarins spa remains top-notch. No makeover ever changes the setting and



Clockwise from left
Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay: Premier Ocean Villa pool deck, Family Premier Villa bedroom; Morukuru Ocean House: bath with a view, dining room; One&Only Ocean Club: Ocean View Suite balcony



Le Guanahani is blessed with not one but two bright-white beaches, a psychedelic offshore underwater world – including shoals of tropical fish, turtles and early each year, passing humpback whales. There is a load to do from moonlight kayaking and open-top Mini Cooper island tours, to going in search of Oscar, the hotel's resident iguana (all five foot of him). Tweaked to perfection, this happy place whispers holiday.

Last year also saw the much-anticipated opening of **Baccarat Hotel & Residences, New York**. A dazzling addition to Manhattan's luxury hotel scene, it occupies the first 12 floors of the new 50-storey glass tower opposite MoMA. For its first foray into hotels, this French crystal company enlisted the expertise of Paris-based designers Gilles & Boissier. The result is pure, out-of-the-

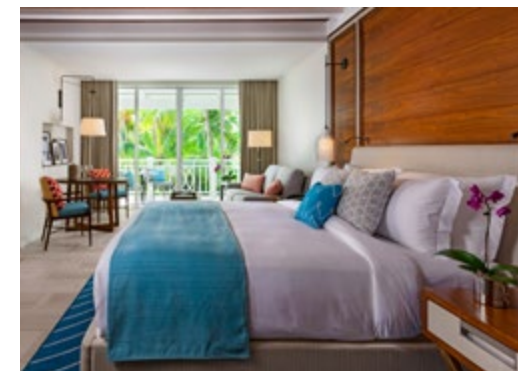
ordinary, genius; this 114 room new kid on the block is tastefully flamboyant. Rooms have vast four-poster beds, light pours in through the floor-to-ceiling windows and opulent details include hand painted panels, cashmere throws, mini bar treats from Maison Ladurée and heaven-sent bathrooms stocked with Baccarat-brand toiletries. The hotel is strewn with 15,000 pieces of glassware and every feature feels standout. The restaurant, named after one of Baccarat's beloved Creative Directors, Chevalier, showcases the talents of Michelin-

starred Executive Chef Shea Gallante who is a master at modern French cuisine. We love the red vintage Citroën hotel car, the pool surrounded by daybeds and Spa de la Mer hidden away under the entrance like a vaulted paradise. The bar is daring and dark; with merlot-coloured walls and hoards of glittering Baccarat chandeliers hanging along the 60 foot centerpiece, plus there's a ludicrously romantic terrace and the drinks are, of course, served in the finest Baccarat crystal glasses.

Architects Patrick Gilles and Dorothée Boissier have been a busy duo as they are also responsible for the look and feel of Mandarin Oriental's debut African resort.

Mandarin Oriental, Marrakech opened its doors last year to rave reviews. A 10-minute (complimentary) shuttle from the city, the peace, space and serenity feels good for the soul. Set amidst 50 acres of gorgeous gardens, filled with mirror-like pools, centuries-old olive trees, jasmine and the scent of 100,000 roses, it also has the magical backdrop of the distant snow-capped Atlas Mountains. The scene is perfectly set for a magical Mandarin-style, Marrakech break. Inspired by Arabic and Andalusian influences, the 54 villas and nine suites have a unique rustic-chic feel. The villas are enormous, designed in traditional riad style around their own central courtyard garden that houses a swimming pool, hot tub, external kitchen, shaded dining and lounging areas, all lit up by lanterns and an outdoor fireplace. The nine suites are, as one would expect, sizeable and come with rooftop plunge pools, huge marble bathrooms, sink-into tubs and products from local beauty brand Nectarome. We adore the local touches: the hand woven rugs from Rabat, colourful cushions, delicate latticework and then, in contrast, the super-cool modern gadgets like opening curtains with a flick of a switch. Everything about this stylish newcomer is spot on. The spa is the to-be-expected Mandarin Oriental success story – a vast 1,800 square metre ode to pampering with gardens designed for outdoor treatments, two hammams (one male, one female) a yoga studio and an expansive menu of signature treatments alongside new Moroccan-inspired blissful journeys. We'd fly four hours for the spa alone but the food is equally tantalizing. Sip fresh mint tea on the terrace, enjoy a delicious

breakfast at Le Salon Berbère, alfresco lunch at Pool Garden. But, if there's one thing you mustn't do, is leave without experiencing dinner at Mes'Lalla. Headed up by renowned chef Meryem Cherkaoui, who was born and raised in Rabat, she puts a modern twist on much-loved recipes from local fishermen and farmers. The Signature and Tradition menus offer a choice of delectable dishes including wonderful seafood and a melt-in-the-mouth beef tagine. After supper, wander back down meandering paths lit by flickering candles to your villa and spend a blissful night under a thousand stars. This is the ultimate Moroccan escape, a must for the 2016 travel wish list.



Opposite page
Mandarin Oriental Marrakech: Mandarin Pool Villa exterior, Oriental Pool Villa living room; Le Guanahani peninsula

Left & below
One&Only Ocean Club: Garden View Room; Petit Salon at Baccarat Hotel & Residences



Ultimate Indulgence

North Island epitomises the barefoot luxury phenomenon, a Seychellois paradise that lets a privileged few live an idealised Robinson Crusoe existence.

This small island, with its snow-white beaches and warm turquoise waters, is the perfect refuge from modern life. There is a sense of space, purity of air and breathtaking natural beauty that is perspective changing. With a total of just 11 villas, this tiny outpost feels like yours alone; quite possibly the reason why William and Kate chose to honeymoon here.

The open-plan villas are works of art, vast wooden beach houses built from local materials harvested during the island's rehabilitation

process. Scattered along East Beach, each is cocooned by tropical vegetation ensuring total privacy. North Island's luxury is in its simplicity. Villas exude a back-to-nature vibe with beds made out of driftwood, thatched roofs, doors created from fronds of shells and lots of billowing cotton. Bikes are propped up outside, giant tortoises lumber about and flip-flopped butlers are on hand to arrange whatever, whenever.

And that's North Island's other real luxury, its innate carefree attitude. There are

no schedules or rules, no dress code or mealtimes, because they understand that time is the ultimate luxury. Staff outnumber guests by a mile meaning personal touches are a way of life. Food is discussed on arrival with daily menus designed according to the latest island harvest. Picking a wine is a case of wandering into the cellar and choosing a bottle (there's a pretty comprehensive all-inclusive policy) and as there are so few residents at any one time, favourite dishes regularly appear. Guests can dine anywhere, from in-villa

to moonlit beach picnics, from cocktails and tapas at West Beach Bar to exquisite dishes at Piazza, the social hub. There's a leafy outdoor spa offering sunrise yoga and uber-natural treatments; a brilliant dive centre; sea kayaks and paddle boards; kite-surfing and pantone-coloured snorkelling. And all of this is done with a conscience. North Island is constantly re-introducing plants and in doing so is creating a sanctuary for endemic wildlife including turtles, giant tortoises and endangered birds to return to.

Jetlogic

There is no quicker or more exclusive way to reach your island paradise than by private jet, courtesy of the brilliant Jetlogic. With no queues or restricted travel and a vast choice of airports, flexibility is the key. And once on board, super-spacious cabins are kitted out with sofas, beds, the latest in entertainment, all topped off by gourmet bespoke catering. The ultimate in luxury, start as you mean to go on.

Jetlogic *Above:*

Phenom 100, the fastest jet in its class, highly versatile and can take off and land on short runways; sumptuous interiors offering comfort, complete privacy and considerable style

North Island *Opposite page:*

A secluded spot with fabulous views

Clockwise from right:

Loungers at the Piazza; in-villa dining at sunset; Presidential Villa bedroom; picnic lunch at West Beach; view from the pool at Villa North Island; loungers on the beach



Iconic Retreat

Located in Cambodia's untouched Koh Rong archipelago, Song Saa Private Island spans two islets, both glittering jewels amidst the sapphire blue Gulf of Thailand.

Twenty seven villas are nestled within a seemingly tourist-free landscape of remote rainforests, teeming tropical reefs and white shores. In keeping with their mantra 'luxury that treads lightly', Song Saa boasts a design with sustainability at its heart.

Inspiration is taken from the colours, textures and structures of traditional Cambodian fishing villages found nearby, and is most instantly recognised in the pitched and thatched villa roofs. The design pushes the concept of eco-chic.

Locally sourced timber, from recycled fishing boats and shacks (purchased at a fair price from villagers) is used

on every scale – from shaping exteriors to detailed photo frames. Driftwood from the coastline is transformed into unique pieces of furniture; a washed-up bamboo root proudly showcased as a sculpture; a chandelier courtesy of recycled oil drums. Even the lost art of Khmer pottery was revived to create all guest crockery, and local people were taught these skills as a way to encourage sustainable livelihoods.

Specially commissioned photography adorns the walls; canvas prints showcase hidden beauty, such as the grain of a longtail boat, and monochrome prints of local mangroves all add to the overwhelming sense of place.



Caribbean / A year to celebrate

A calendar packed with festivals, celebrations, sport, music and culture; with so much going on in the Caribbean, there has never been a better time to visit. Plan your diary with our rundown of the essential events this year – the only challenge will be choosing where to go first.

If you travel to just one island, make it **Barbados**. Marking the 50th anniversary of its independence, choose to holiday in November for the month-long events programme. Throughout the capital, buildings will be lit up in the country's national colours and the grand street parade is not to be missed on the last day of the month. Celebrating Bajan music, dance, fine art and photography, the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts also aims to unearth and nurture the talent of local artisans and performers.

And where to stay? In our minds, there is one place topping the list this year – **The Sandpiper** – much discussed thanks to its grand refurbishment, which has

strengthened the property's reputation as one of the finest on Barbados' west coast. Eagerly anticipated, the hotel re-opened to rapturous acclaim last November. At the heart of the renovations is the new 20 metre lap pool complete with contemporary copper-arched water feature, whilst the ever-popular Harold's Bar has also been extended – a favourite place for drinking in those sea views.

Accommodation-wise, the additional Tree Top Suite with plunge pool is ideal for a romantic retreat, whilst the two ground floor Beach House Suites are well-suited to families. Connect the latter with the top floor suite to create a three bedroom villa with a spacious terrace – perfect for big get-togethers with the whole tribe. Afternoons can be pleasantly whiled away with watersports on the coral sand beach, whilst relaxed evenings are best spent savouring intimate dinners in the award-winning alfresco restaurant.



Clockwise from top
Overwater Villa infinity pool and deck; lunch by the pool; beach picnic; View of Koh Bong from the pool at Villa 11; Overwater Villa with glass floor; Vista Bar at sunset; local monks; alfresco dining



Looking for an adults-only, home-from-home on the revered Platinum Coast? Head to *The House*, with a prime position between vibrant capital Bridgetown and charming Holetown. Radiating chic Bajan style, this all-suite boutique retreat goes all out to spoil its guests. A complimentary jet lag revival massage in a beach cabana on arrival sets the scene for what's to come. And the inclusive thoughtful touches don't just stop there. Days here start with an indulgent Champagne breakfast, afternoon tea appears just as it's needed and evening canapés delight. Undoubtedly one of the most anticipated events on the island, use The House as your base to experience the 12 week summer festival of Crop Over like a local – we can recommend the best street parties and concerts on the beach.



Previous page
The Sandpiper: new lap pool,
Beach House Suite

With its annual Sailing Week (May), Sport Fishing Tournament (June) and Carnival (July), *Antigua* is a serious challenger. A new airport terminal boasting a sleek new lounge with sweeping views of the ocean-framed runway also means a more comfortable improvement to your journey. At *Curtain Bluff*, the hotel's three resident tennis pros offer year-round tuition on the four championship courts, and the programme is supplemented by a host of dedicated tennis weeks (an ideal blend of on-court action and glittering social events) led by international tennis stars Tracy Austin, Johan Kriek, Fred Stolle, Owen Davidson and Ross Case. Calories burned off on the courts can be replenished at one of the hotel's two eateries. Overlooking the gardens, nibble on canapés at Sugar Mill Bar, where oenophiles can select from over 400 hand-picked bottles of wine. Or, for an unforgettable foodie experience, dine after dark at the Italian-inspired restaurant by the light of flickering tiki torches.

With already quite a celebrity following, the appointment of new Spa Manager, Amaya Ross, is likely to earn *Blue Waters* many more fans. An acupuncture professional, Ross brings over 25 years' of top-to-toe holistic healing to The Spa at Blue Waters and also specialises in vitamin, mineral and diet therapy, as well as Hatha yoga. With the batteries recharged, take the hotel's shuttle bus into Shirley Heights for an evening of harbour side reggae, rum and barbecued fish. For further island indulgence, return back to one of the luxuriously furnished Cove Suites and penthouses, each fronted by its own infinity pool.

2016 is the year of festivals in *Grenada*. Money raised during April's Pure Grenada Music Festival (headlined by British singer-songwriter Joss Stone) supports local



Clockwise from left
Joss Stone at a jazz festival;
The House: beach relaxation
at sunset, gated entrance;
Curtain Bluff: Cliff Suite
bedroom and terrace,
waterfront spa



Clockwise from left
Spice Island Beach Resort:
Seagrape Beach Suite; Belmond
Maroma Resort & Spa:
panoramic sea views from the
beach, private dining

musical talent. Chocoholics will welcome the return of the deliciously successful Chocolate Festival in May and those wanting a sugar fix from a healthier source will enjoy the month-long Mango Festival in July. Grand Anse Beach also remains a huge draw, where *Spice Island Beach Resort* occupies a prime position. The resort already boasts a royal seal of approval – the Princess Royal has stayed here twice. Be pampered like a queen in Janissa's Spa, eat like a king in Oliver's Restaurant, or if you can tear yourself away from the cosseted confines, Grenada's beguiling underwater sculpture park can be found nearby – make sure you check out the park's most recent addition, The Nutmeg Princess.

To experience the Caribbean with a Mayan twist, look no further than *Belmond Maroma Resort & Spa*, in *Mexico*. Idyllically situated in a coconut grove between the Rivera Maya's famous golden sands and lush jungle, learn all about tequila at La Cantina bar, make the most of authentic local healing techniques at the exceptional Kinan Spa (there's a mud bar with four different types of remedies) or simply soak in the superb Mexican sun underneath one of the thatched roof palapas. Head here at the end of May to observe the Sacred Mayan Journey in nearby Xcaret – watch traditionally-dressed locals honour their ancestors by making the pilgrimage over to Cozumel island by boat.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

JUNE – SEPTEMBER:

Swim alongside gentle giants during whale shark season in Riviera Maya.

JULY:

The Bahamas' Junkanoo Summer Carnival celebrates music, food and heritage.



NOVEMBER:

Barbados Food & Wine and Rum Festival invites top international chefs hosting cookery workshops.

SET-JETTING

In the words of William Shakespeare, “all the world’s a stage”. We go behind the scenes of some of the most iconic films and bring you breathtaking set locations. From historic European cities to dramatic far-flung lands, these destination doubles are sizzling for 2016.

CLASSIC | STAR WARS: EPISODE III – REVENGE OF THE SITH

The third and final instalment of the Star Wars prequel trilogy saw the crew head to Asia for the first time. Filming took place in **Thailand** and features the limestone peaks of Phang Nga Bay.

TRAVEL HOTSPOT: POINT YAMU BY COMO

On the tip of Cape Yamu overlooking those very same limestone karsts, this uber-cool hotel showcases dazzling design from Paola Navone. Features include floor-to-ceiling glass and splashes of aquamarine and burnt orange; a blissful spa, 100 metre infinity pool and brilliant street-style Thai food at Nahmyaa and Italian at La Sirena.



OUT NOW | STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

The cast of the latest epic flew to Abu Dhabi and the vast expanse of Rub’ al Khali Desert, a wilderness that measures in larger than France.

TRAVEL HOTSPOT: ANANTARA QASR AL SARAB DESERT RESORT

Immerse yourself in this remote, other-worldly Arabian-style fortress. Deep in an unforgettable landscape, it feels a million miles from everywhere. Taking three years and 5,000 workers to build, there’s a majesty fitting for the epic setting. Embrace the desert and go camel trekking, dune bashing, horse riding and feast on mezzeh around a campfire. There’s also guaranteed sun and a super-luxe spa.

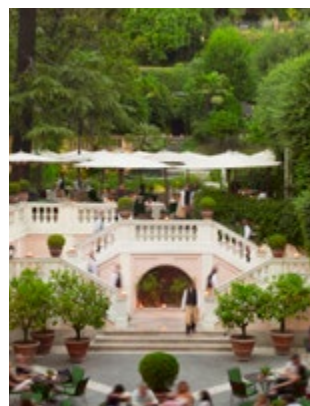


SPECTRE

The obligatory Bond car chase hurtles through the streets of Rome, through St. Peter’s Square and along the banks of the River Tiber.

TRAVEL HOTSPOT: HOTEL DE RUSSIE - A ROCCO FORTE HOTEL

Next to Piazza del Popolo, this masterpiece is worthy of its location. Highlights include terraced gardens filled with ancient trees and roses, Fulvio Pierangelini’s amazing Italian food, Mercedes-Benz smart ebikes, the Stravinskij Bar on its own piazza and private tours of the Vatican and Colosseum.

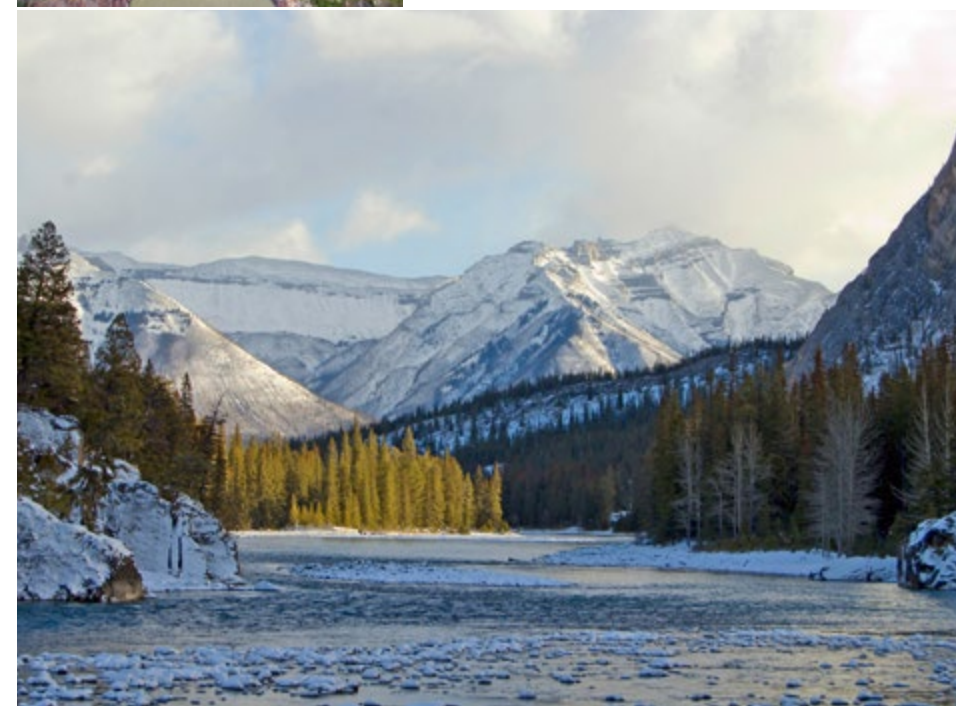


COMING SOON | STAR WARS: EPISODE VIII

The next Star Wars film is following Game of Thrones to the streets of **Dubrovnik**. Shooting took place in March, with all sorts of weird and wonderful creatures spotted within the city walls.

TRAVEL HOTSPOT: PUCIC PALACE

One of the only hotels located in the Old Town, Pucic Palace opens out on to Dubrovnik’s main square. This elegant 17th Century aristocrat’s home bursts with character and each of the 19 rooms is named after a Croatian artist, poet or musician. A real plus point is the private beach, just a five minute walk away.



THE REVENANT

This Oscar-winning movie spent weeks filming in the wilds of Bow Valley, **Alberta**. Temperatures dropped to -30°C leading DiCaprio and colleagues to describe it as the toughest shoot ever.

TRAVEL HOTSPOT: ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

Journey by rail and witness Canada’s immense natural landscape from warmth and luxury. One of the world’s greatest train journeys takes you to Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper and Calgary. Book the GoldLeaf Service – domed glass cars afford views from every angle, and enjoy food from one of Vancouver’s best chefs.

MAD MAX:
FURY ROAD

This high-octane blockbuster with six Oscars to its name was filmed on location in Namibia, the barren landscapes and crimson sand dunes representative of a post-apocalyptic Australia.

TRAVEL HOTSPOT:
ULTIMATE NAMIBIA
ITINERARY

This journey begins in the desert of Sossusvlei, home to some of the tallest sand dunes in the world. Then through the evocative plains of Damaraland and Kunene to the bleak and beautiful 500 mile Skeleton Coast, before finishing in Etosha, a hazy backdrop for zebra, giraffe, black rhino, elephant and lion.



NICKY
FITZGERALD

Surely one of the most recognised opening lines in any film must be Karen Blixen’s poignant words,

“I HAD A FARM
IN AFRICA AT
THE FOOT OF
THE NGONG
HILLS”.

When the location scouts for the movie of Out of Africa came searching for these lovely hills in the early 1980’s they found the perfect site on the property where Angama Mara was built. Some of the loveliest scenes were filmed just a few minutes’ walk from the lodge.

OUT OF AFRICA

Sydney Pollack’s 1985 hit celebrated its 30 year anniversary in December. The location: Kenya; the views: as iconic as the storyline.

TRAVEL HOTSPOT:
ANGAMA MARA

Safari veterans Steve and Nicky Fitzgerald came out of retirement to create Angama Mara. Sitting atop the Olololo escarpment, this is take-your-breath-away territory high above the floor of the Great Rift Valley. And it was here that much of Out of

Africa was filmed. A short walk from Angama Mara is that famous Streep/Redford picnic spot with views of the Mara unfurling below. The lodge is made up of two camps, each with 15 designer tents fronted by vast ten metre glass walls. Angama Mara honours its location with subtle touches: every room has an edition of Out of Africa and there is a little yellow bi-plane in the library. But guests ultimately come for the wildlife and direct access to the Mara Triangle with game drives, dawn walks and hot air balloon rides.



Our full portfolio of 2016/17 brochures:

Africa
Caribbean, Bermuda & Mexico
Indian Subcontinent, Far East & Australasia
USA, Canada & Mexico
Europe & North Africa
Indian Ocean & Arabia
Luxury Ski & Snow

www.carrier.co.uk

Follow us @carrierholidays



Terms & Conditions

All holidays are subject to availability.
Terms, conditions and date restrictions apply.
All information correct at time of going to print – Spring 2016.
Please speak to our specialists for up-to-date information,
prices and special offers for any of the properties or
itineraries featured in the Magazine.





 **ABTA**
ABTA No. V0391



BRITISH AIRWAYS
Preferred Partner



CARRIER
www.carrier.co.uk