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MARCH 2021

sustainability

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TOWARDS A DREAM



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THE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE

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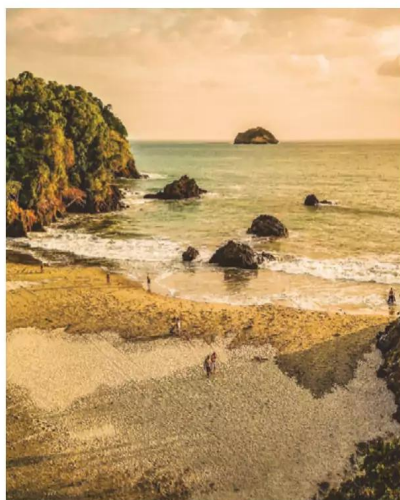
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EDITOR'S LETTER



A WHILE AGO, WHEN MY MIDDLE DAUGHTER was about to undergo interviews for big school, we were practising questions on her around the kitchen table. She wasn't having any of it and remained quiet and downcast. At a certain point, I asked what her favourite way to spend her time was, and her little sister, unable to contain herself any longer, leapt up and shouted, 'Exploring! And colouring in!'

I think of exploring and colouring in a lot now that our world has physically shrunk around us, this inexorable pulling in of parameters. And yet I don't mind being at home, I don't mind it at all. My eyes have been retrained, my hunger for experience perfectly taken up by, on any given day, looking out of my window at the slow rotting of the dahlia, the fox's hunched stare, the improbable delicacy of the snowdrop's neck, the unbelievable

velocity shift of the sky's grey on grey on grey.

I dress for my own amusement – today in heavy beads and hippie rings like Mrs Trelawney from *Harry Potter* – sometimes drinking beer out of the bottle while wearing boxer shorts, my hair knotted under a beanie like a member of the trailer-park family from *Ozark*; often it is my father's cords and falling-apart silk shirts, a kind of Mumsnet Artful Dodger. I stare at the full moons when they come shiny as bright buttons. I worry about poisoning the children with reheated chicken and Google facts around salmonella more than I do the weather forecast for London, new Covid rules or the world's best facelifts put together.

And I wander. I used to be so lazy as a child that I would hide under a holly bush rather than opt for a stroll, but now, when the news is relentless, or something goes wrong and pushes everything else out of joint, I walk. And I feel, by placing one foot in front of the other, something like a return to self.

More importantly when I look out, at a dad ambling down the street holding his children's podgy hands, or a mum sitting on a bench toing and froing the sleeping baby in its buggy, or a skateboarding teenager and his friend in the lamp-lit dark, flipping their boards on the pavement and laughing, I think humans actually aren't bad; that in fact, humans are rather remarkable, the way they love with such rigour, the way they slot in with each other's awesome moving emotional parts. It's just as a group, as a heaving mass, as a barbaric swarm that we cause damage, and are as ignorant and foolhardy as dice.

And then I re-examine all those times when I claimed to be optimistic about our future, because if I'm being truly honest, I very often don't feel so. Sometimes it can sound like a line I give. Because in the end, when you put all our greed together it seems so difficult to unlearn. And yet probably the most debated subject in our office is this: sustainability, the power of a travel magazine to change the course of environmental destruction, and our implicit role in it, the hypocrisy thereof, the possibility of truly believing in green shoots. So after many months and many discussions, here is our edition focused on exactly the most important matter at hand.

This is the new issue of *Condé Nast Traveller*. Because we mustn't get downhearted now. This is when the true commitment begins, for our planet and for the people who live on it. Do as my most lovely Yorkshire-born creative director does in the mornings when times are tough. He looks at me, holds up his fist, gives a smile and says, 'Come on, let's go again.'

MELINDA STEVENS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



MelindaLP

ON THE COVER



THE BADLANDS OF UTAH, USA.
PHOTOGRAPHED BY DYLAN FOX

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INVERLONA BOTHIES, SCOTLAND

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THE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE CONTRIBUTORS

THIS MONTH WE ASKED OUR HAPPY WANDERERS WHAT ONE THING WE CAN DO TO MAKE OUR TRAVEL COUNT



DARA MCNULTY

The Green List (p75)

'If we think about how we can counterbalance the weight of our footfall, that would be a great start. Take care, be compassionate and notice the beauty around you. Knowledge is infinite and makes our world so much wider.' Northern Irish naturalist, writer and environmental campaigner Dara won the 2020 Wainwright Prize at 16 for his first book



ELIZABETH TOLU OJO

The Green List (p75)

'As travellers, we use our money to vote for different actions. We can use these votes to promote the best possible practices. Don't stick to the easy route – go off the beaten track, promote community businesses and give sincere, constructive feedback with every opportunity you get.' Elizabeth is the director of operations at Rwanda's ALU School of Wildlife Conservation

ADRIAN GRENIER

The Green List (p75)

'Reduce plastic consumption where possible: take a reusable water bottle out with you every day and avoid single-use bags.' 'Entourage' star Adrian co-founded the ocean-safeguarding Lonely Whale organisation in 2015



FRANNY ARMSTRONG

The Green List (p75)

'We don't need to take flights to distant parts of the world; there are adventures to discover in every corner.' British director Franny's live investigative documentary 'Rivercide' is set to be broadcast in May



ANGELA LINDVALL

The Culture Hopper (p54)

'Take your own soaps and shampoos – and your own towel if you can – but the biggest thing for me is food containers. I always travel with a big bag full of them, which I then use for takeaways from restaurants. I would love it if it was just a normal thing. It would save so much waste.' Oklahoma-born Angela has modelled for Chanel and Gucci and designed green fashion and jewellery collections



LEAH THOMAS

The Green List (p75)

'There's a fine line between cultural appreciation and appropriation; you can take in what you see without trying it on as a costume.' California-based Leah advocates for the protection of people and the planet through her Intersectional Environmentalist platform



JULIET KINSMAN

Writer, The Action Figures (p36)

'Think global when it comes to impact, but spend local. At every decision-making junction, follow the road sign that steers you to positive socio-economic or environmental effects – and swerve the paths that don't lead to either destination.' Juliet is our sustainability editor and the founder of eco-hotel expert Bouteco



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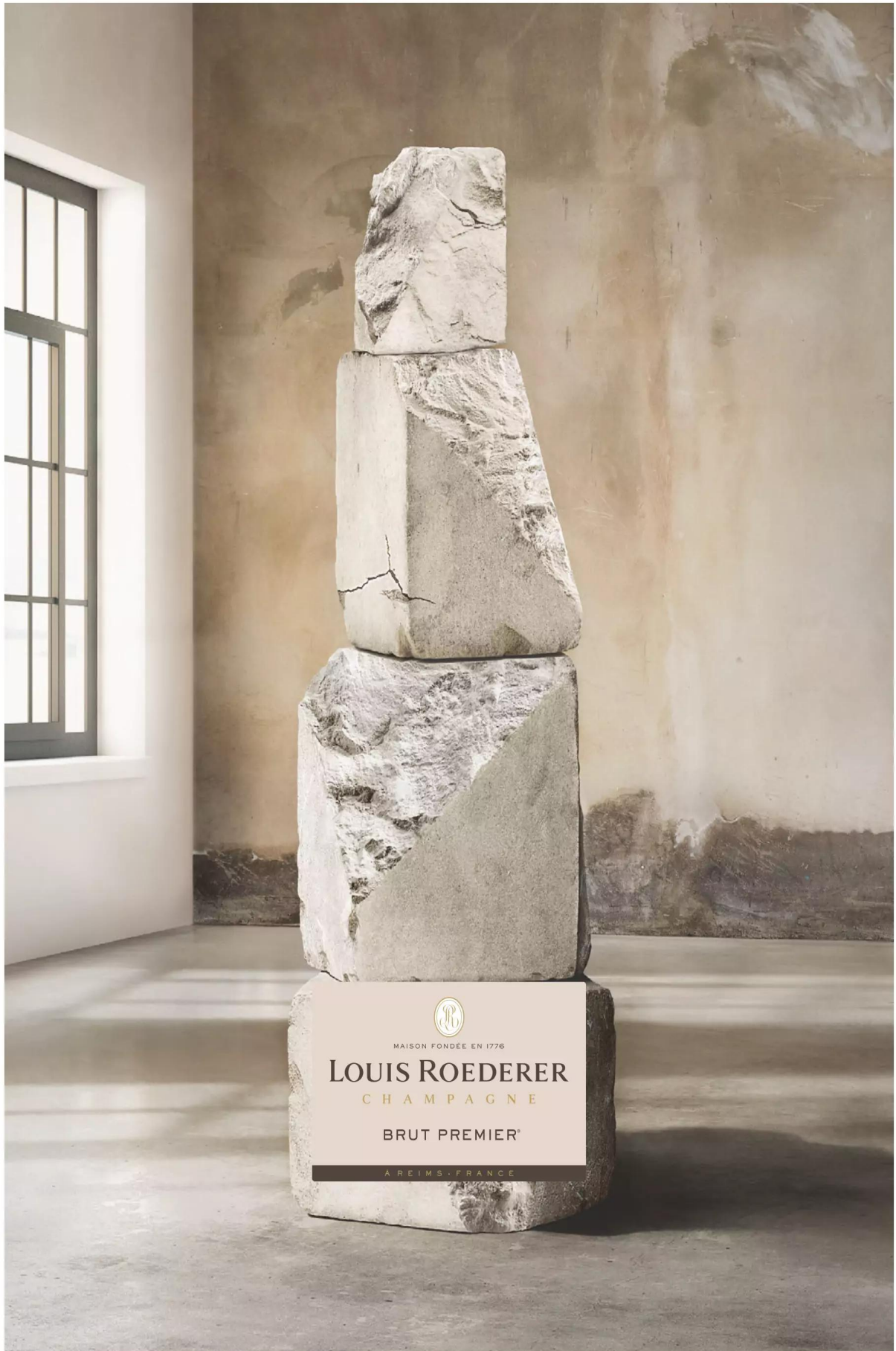
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HAND IN HAND WITH NATURE

THE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE

THE PEOPLE AND PLACES USHERING IN CHANGE

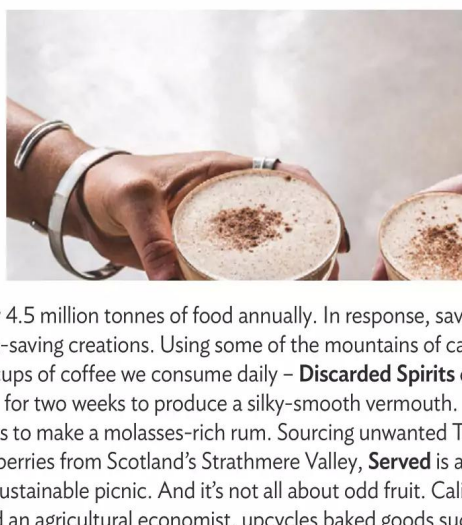
Nothing has transformed the world of travel more dramatically than the past year. And while it has been devastating for all of us, it has also, through the enforced pause, given us time to reassess our place on the planet. Amid the noise of what is 'after', there is a constant refrain of green shoots. At *Condé Nast Traveller* we have been deeply conscious of the environmental paradox of sustainable trips – can the carbon produced to get there ever really be justified? We believe the answer can be yes, through supporting all that is regenerative, championing those already making great strides in considering their impact and challenging those who need to get up to speed. That's why we dedicate this issue to travelling better: for the earth, for people, for the destinations we visit. When we head back out again, we want it to be a glorious horizon-widening yet responsible adventure.

PHOTOGRAPHS: MAT BEETSON/@VIEWMYPXELS;
ARIANA DREHSLER/EYEVINE; JULIA GUNTHER; DAVID RINELLA

Clockwise from top left: South African Black Mamba anti-poaching guard Nkateko Mzimba; mudflats in Kimberley, north-western Australia; Hawaiian Cliff Kapono of the Surfer Biome Project; butterfly wing

THE VIRTUOUS TIPPLE NO-WASTE BOOZE

WE'RE NO STRANGERS TO WONKY-VEGETABLE BOXES AND USE-EVERY-PART MENUS. NOW INSPIRED BREWERS ARE APPLYING THIS SALVAGING MINDSET TO DRINKS WITH CURIOUS CONCOCTIONS INFUSED WITH LEFTOVERS



In the UK alone we throw away 4.5 million tonnes of food annually. In response, savvy spirit makers and distillers are melding this excess into planet-saving creations. Using some of the mountains of cascara – the remaining fruit from the beans of the 95 million cups of coffee we consume daily – **Discarded Spirits** dries and ferments the berries before steeping them in alcohol for two weeks to produce a silky-smooth vermouth. For the sweeter-toothed, it takes destined-for-the-bin banana skins to make a molasses-rich rum. Sourcing unwanted Tahiti limes grown in the Catanduba region of Brazil and bruised raspberries from Scotland's Strathmere Valley, **Served** is a new brand offering a low-alcohol sparkling drink to pack for a sustainable picnic. And it's not all about odd fruit. California's **Misadventure Vodka**, the brainchild of a bartender and an agricultural economist, upcycles baked goods such as doughnuts into glacier-fresh vodka. In Dorset, whey from West Country Cheddar is distilled and triple-filtered through coconut-shell charcoal, resulting in the creamy **Black Cow Vodka**. Brewers are also turning into zero-waste apothecaries. From rejected cereals (overcooked, uncoated, the wrong size or discoloured), **Seven Bro7hers** in Salford makes a Kellogg's Rice Krispies pale ale, cornflake-imbued IPA and a Coco Pops stout, while in South London, the **Toast Ale** founders craft beers with surplus bread, often from the sandwich industry. If only the hangover was as guilt-free. JEMIMA SISSONS

Clockwise from top left: Cheddar used for Black Cow vodka; Discarded Spirits vermouth; cascara, doughnuts and raspberries, which can all be distilled; egg nog made with Black Cow vodka; leftover bread; Discarded Spirits Banana Colada; banana skins



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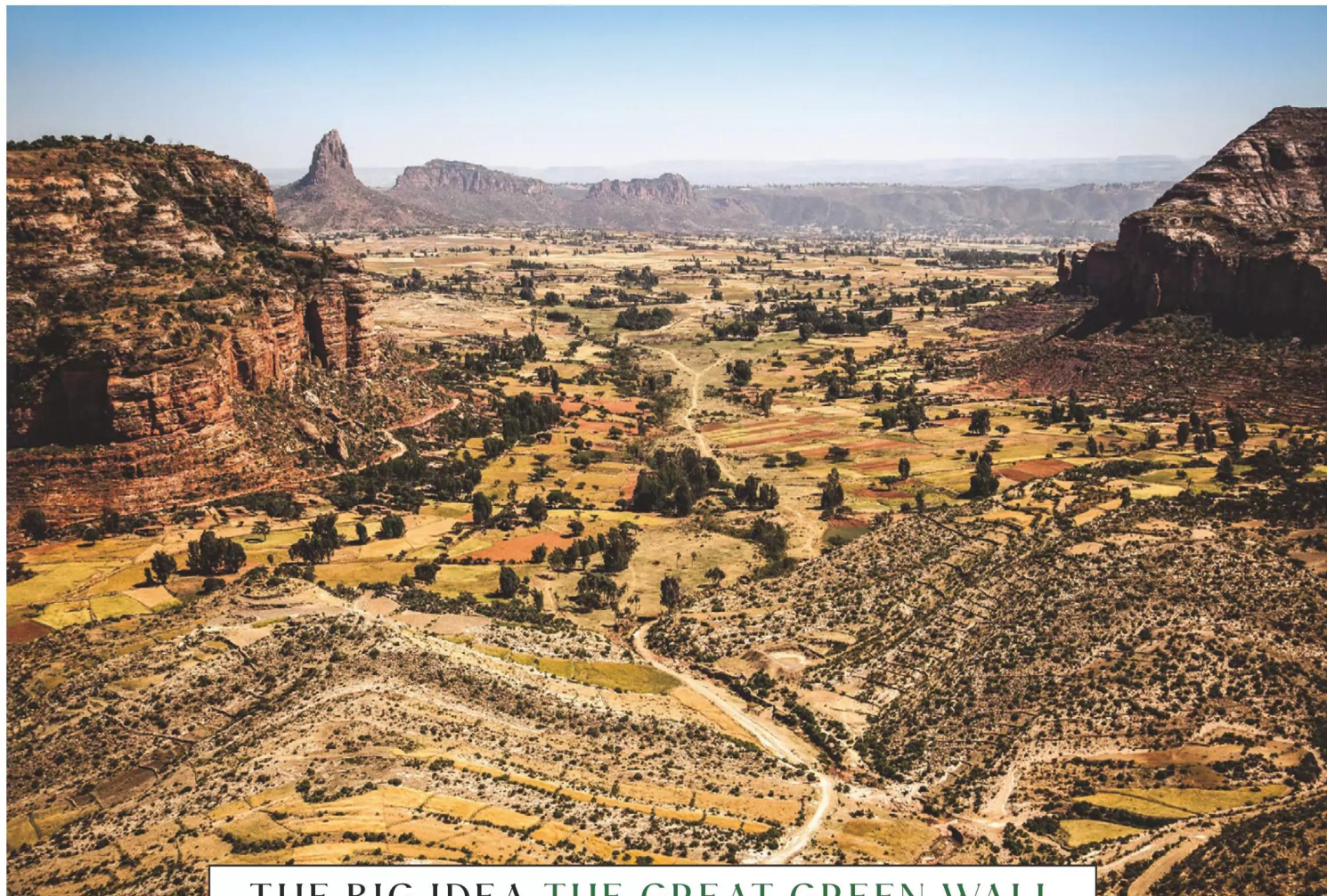
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THE BIG IDEA THE GREAT GREEN WALL

A FAR-REACHING PROJECT AIMS TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT IN AFRICA'S WORST-HIT AREAS



From top: the Gheralta escarpment near Hawzen in Ethiopia's Tigray region; musician Inna Modja on Gorée island in Dakar, Senegal; *The Great Green Wall* film poster



'The Sahel is one of the regions that suffers the most from the changing climate,' says Malian musician Inna Modja at the start of *The Great Green Wall* documentary. 'Restoring the land is a matter of survival.' The semi-arid area runs the width of Africa south of the Sahara Desert. It faces droughts and desertification, and is a stark example of how the climate crisis and land degradation cause conflict and migration. The Great Green Wall (GGW) was launched by the African Union in 2007 with the plan to plant a band of trees stretching 5,000 miles across the Sahel, from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east. While the living wall was billed as a new world wonder, the idea turned out to be too simplistic for the issues at hand. So the GGW evolved into a patchwork of environmental projects, with a goal of restoring 100 million hectares of land and sequestering 250 million tonnes of carbon by 2030. So far, only four per cent of the restoration target has been met – and about £27-32 billion of investment is needed for the next decade of challenging work. With critical fundraising one of its aims, the documentary, from *City of God* co-director Fernando Meirelles and the UN, premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2019, with a wider release slated for later this year. It follows Modja through the Sahel, meeting those directly affected by land degradation and using music to raise global awareness of this ground-breaking initiative. She starts in Senegal, where 12 million drought-resistant saplings have been planted, before travelling to Mali, where around half a million people have been displaced, in part due to climate change; with Nigerian pop star Waje, she speaks to young victims of the Boko Haram terrorist group. 'Thirty million people survive on Lake Chad's ecosystem. But in the past 50 years, the lake has shrunk by 90 per cent,' says Modja. 'Boko Haram has taken advantage of this.' The journey ends on a more positive environmental note in Ethiopia's Tigray, once parched but since transformed by the community into a lush valley with a reservoir – though, at the time of writing, the region is embroiled in a conflict against the government that threatens to destabilise the Horn of Africa. 'We are now in a race against time,' Modja says in a speech at the UN in New York. 'But there is massive human potential to rise to the challenge.' HEATHER RICHARDSON greatgreenwall.org

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARCO CONTI SIKIC; CROOKES & JACKSON




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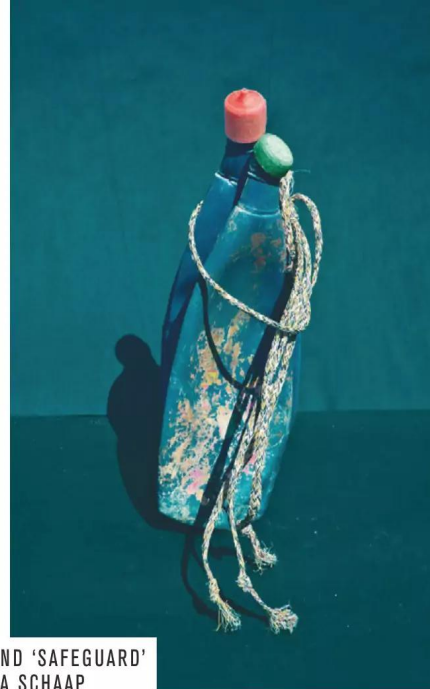
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'CANDY SHOP' AND 'SAFEGUARD'
BY THIRZA SCHAAP



'EARTH PERSPECTIVES' BY OLAFUR ELIASSON



THE ARTISTS' MANIFESTO A CALL TO ARMS

ADDRESSING THE PERILOUS STATE OF THE EARTH WITH ATTENTION-GRABBING MULTIMEDIA WORKS

Art has long tackled major issues, from civil rights to gender equality. Today, it's increasingly sounding the alarm on the climate emergency, from the slippery topic of oil-industry sponsorship of cultural organisations to individual artists fuelling the dialogue on green issues. Among them is former YBA Gavin Turk, whose fascination with waste – he once created cufflinks from discarded chewing gum – has evolved with a new urgency. Meanwhile, Cape Town-based photographer Thirza Schaap explores plastic pollution in her deceptively pretty *Plastic Ocean* compositions of rubbish collected from beaches. And in London, the Serpentine

Galleries recently became the first contemporary-art institution to appoint an ecology curator. As part of the multi-platform Back to Earth initiative, which launched last April, it has invited thinkers to respond to the crisis. Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson, known for *Ice Watch*, which brought melting icebergs from Greenland to Paris and Copenhagen, is one of those involved. His *Earth Perspectives* is a series of views that are flipped, turned and recoloured, zoning in on sites including the Great Barrier Reef and the Ganges River. If you stare hard at the dot then look away to a blank surface, you can literally project a new world view. Other participants range from architect David Adjaye and musician Brian Eno to activist Jane Fonda and environmental-art pioneer Agnes Denes. The Serpentine has also compiled an accompanying book, an urgent but entertaining guide that covers Es Devlin's exercise for understanding the similarities between trees and lungs and Marina Abramović's *Spirit Cooking* – a toolkit to think more creatively about what a sustainable future might look like. FIONA KERR

'136 Artists' Ideas for Planet Earth' is published on 6 May (£7; Penguin)



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THE CHAIN REACTION RESPONSIBLE HOTEL GIANTS

BETWEEN THEM, THESE GROUPS HAVE MILLIONS OF ROOMS, SO EVERY SMALL STEP DELIVERS MASSIVE RESULTS



Coco-Mat Eco Residences Serifos in Greece is part of Design Hotels, acquired by Marriott in 2020 and one of its most sustainable properties

When it comes to making agile, reactive decisions on anything, the big-hitting hotel behemoths can be interminably slow.

While some of the environmentally aware measures they put in place can perhaps seem tokenistic, it's worth keeping an eye on their output. Given that these chains encompass hundreds of thousands of keys, the potential for impact is huge. Of course, initiatives such as reusing towels have helped to push a greener collective conscience into the mainstream but goodness, the numbers...

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), which owns Holiday Inn, Kimpton and Six Senses, has already removed single-use plastic straws from its near-6,000 properties – at an annual rate of 50 million, laid end to end they would stretch from Tokyo to New York. It now plans to ditch all mini toiletries in favour of bulk dispensers by the end of the year – rolled out across 889,582 rooms, this approach will eliminate 200 million containers per year. Six Senses, which got rid of more than five million plastic items in 2018 and 1.8 million water bottles through on-site filtration in 2019, is aiming to be totally plastic-free by 2022.

Using AI-led technology to tackle food waste is another IHG strategy with great capacity for scalability. A clever combination of camera, scales and smart meters assesses what's left over in the kitchen and on plates, and then adjusts subsequent ingredient orders. It's currently being piloted in 20 locations; during 2019, the InterContinental Dubai Festival City cut waste by 70 per cent. For **Accor**, whose 750,000-plus rooms span Raffles, Fairmont and now Ennismore (The Hoxton hotels and Gleneagles), food is also key. Its restaurants are adopting menus informed by environmental considerations, so there's much less meat; 75 per cent of fruit and vegetables are seasonal; and local, animal-welfare-friendly suppliers are prioritised. At **Marriott**, the single largest hotel operator in the world with almost 1.4 million guests every night, disposable bottles and plastic straws have been removed, and limiting breakfast buffets will in the long term make extraordinary savings. Electricity is the next focus. At the Riyadh Marriott, solar power is reducing annual CO₂ emissions to the equivalent of planting 35,700 trees.

One of the longest-running 'small tweak, big impact' initiatives is **Hilton's** commitment to send zero soap bars to landfill by the end of 2030.

Already the industry's most comprehensive recycling programme of its kind, it has been going since 2009 and now operates at 5,300 hotels. Sanitised bars have been turned into 13 million new ones and distributed to communities in need. Such projects could well pave the way for making zero-waste bathrooms and climate-friendly menus the new normal. Great oaks from little acorns grow, as the saying goes. IANTHE BUTT

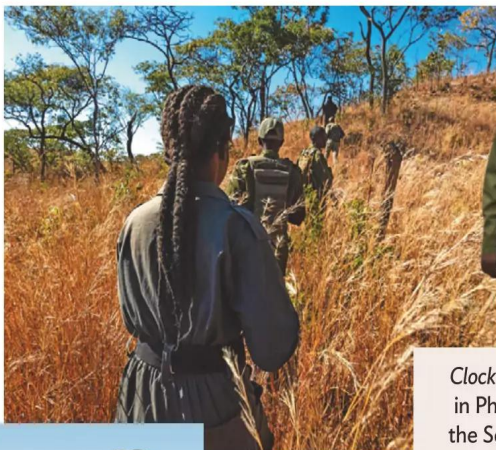
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

FLY TO ISTANBUL

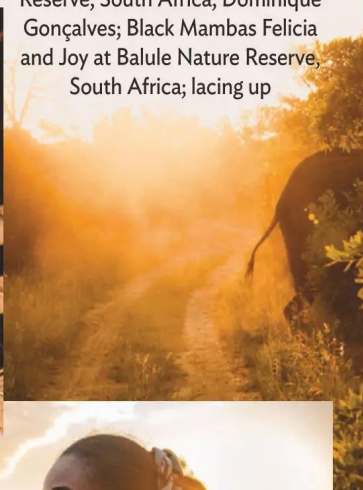
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TURKISH AIRLINES



Clockwise from top left: Akashinga rangers in Phundundu Wildlife Park, Zimbabwe; the Segera unit, Kenya; Timbavati Game Reserve, South Africa; Dominique Gonçalves; Black Mambas Felicia and Joy at Balule Nature Reserve, South Africa; lacing up



THE FUTURE-FACING SHIFT WOMEN IN THE FIELD

ALL-FEMALE ANTI-POACHING CREWS FROM KENYA TO ZIMBABWE SIGNAL AN OVERDUE SWITCH-UP IN PARK RANGING

Of all the inequalities in African conservation, perhaps the most stark is its lack of African women. Racist and sexist biases mean that they are often overlooked for leadership positions, and must defy gender roles to take certain jobs. There is also the challenge of balancing childcare with research field trips. But the presence of women is essential. They play a major part in community engagement, without which conservation fails. In wildlife security, however, they are busting stereotypes. South Africa's Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit was the world's first all-female team when it formed in 2013. In 2017, the Akashinga rangers in Zimbabwe founded the original armed all-women anti-poaching unit, inspiring the female group at Segera, followed by Team Lioness, in 2019, both in Kenya. Elsewhere, women in positions of authority are proving powerful role models in their communities. Mozambique's Dominique Gonçalves runs the Elephant Ecology Project at Gorongosa National Park, and is a mentor for its Girls' Club. In 2016, Mirriam Namushi became Zambia's first female area warden, managing 300 staff at Kafue National Park. 'As a woman leading men, you need to be strong,' the African Ranger Award winner told me. 'Let them not fear that it's a tough job... What is needed is passion.' HEATHER RICHARDSON

WHAT'S TOUCHING DOWN AND WHAT'S PACKING UP

✦ ARRIVALS

MAKING TRACKS

With the tagline 'Discover the world by travelling through it, not flying over it', new no-flight trip designer Byway creates slow, train-based itineraries such as rolling through France before hopping on the overnight ferry to Corsica and wildlife-rich solo adventures in the Scottish Highlands.

BIO FABRICS

A jumper knitted from brewed protein or kelp yarn, a delicate dress using material grown in a lab from algae extract and leather goods made out of waste seafood shells – the eco-minded future of fashion is funky.

INTELLIGENT OFFSETS

The business of buying carbon trade-offs is increasingly opaque, which is why Roar Africa's partnership with Proof of Impact is refreshing. Through an interactive app, globetrotters can see in real time the projects their travel bucks are going towards, from installing solar panels in Rwanda to funding the protection of a rhino calf in Botswana.

✦ DEPARTURES

GOOGLE

Next time you're stuck on a cryptic crossword clue, switch to search engine Ecosia and plant a tree. The Berlin-based firm invests advertising revenue from user searches in reforestation projects where they are needed most – more than 115 million saplings have been planted so far.

GOLD STARS

For the first time, Michelin went green in 2020, awarding a new clover emblem to its rated restaurants that are sustainability role models in the food industry, such as Loam in Galway and San Francisco's Quince.

POCKET PARKS

Moving on from kerbside patches of vegetation, Tiny Forests – ultra-dense, fast-growing plots in tennis-court-sized spots – are the latest idea being touted as wellbeing boosting and climate cooling. Charity Earthwatch aims to establish 150 across the UK by 2023. FIONA KERR



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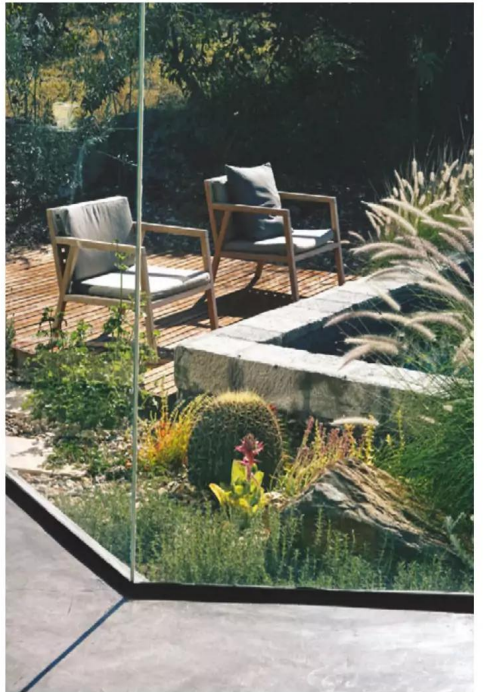
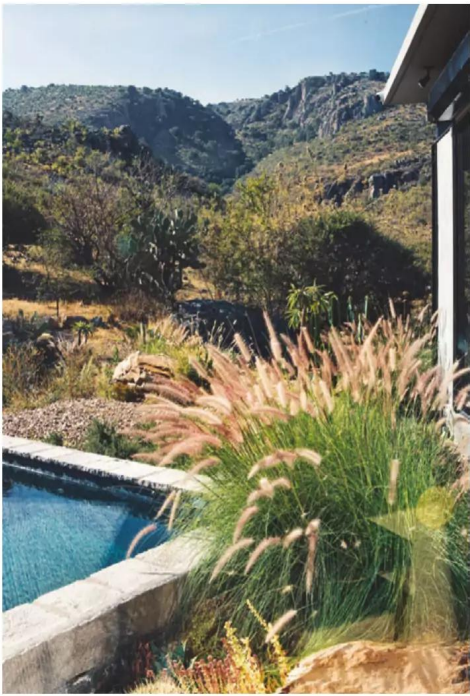




THE SELF-SUFFICIENT SPACE MEXICO'S MIRROR HOUSE

THIS STAR-GAZING, OFF-GRID HIDEAWAY IN THE DESERT OUTSIDE SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE TREADS LIGHTLY ON ITS INCREDIBLE SURROUNDINGS

BY MICHAELA TRIMBLE. PHOTOGRAPHS BY PIA RIVEROLA



TO WAKE UP AT CASA ETEREA is to be utterly alone in the landscape save for the crowing of roosters and the lazy morning howls of dogs further down the hill. Light appears to engulf the entire space, pouring in through shaded glass to fragment on the concrete floor. Outside is a pebbled garden and dipping pool planted with olive, pomegranate, orange and lime trees. Sitting here in the morning with a coffee, I feel as if there's all the time in the world to follow the shifting light: first, to the right side of the mountain, where it barely shadows the peaks, then creeping down the slope until it sweeps across the hundreds of cacti that surround the house.

South-east of the rainbow-coloured town of San Miguel de Allende, on a ridge within the greater Los Picachos range, the casa is a meditative, off-grid space best reached by four-wheel-drive. From the small village of Alcocer, it takes about 30 minutes, up a rocky, steep path. Initially the scene is provincial: farms and ranches, most with modest family homes, before the mirrored façade appears in glimpses, shimmering between the trees.

Its owner, Prashant Ashoka, a freelance writer and photographer, conceived the idea of the house when he moved from Singapore to San Miguel de Allende in the summer of 2017. 'I chanced upon this plot on a hike with my then friend, now husband, Jorge,' he tells me. 'We both fell in love with the sheer sense of solitude on the mountain. Even though the site had no electricity, water or

was bought from La Lagunilla market in Mexico City, the black candles from Casa Armida in San Miguel (anyone shopping in town should also stop by Cava Garambullo, a natural winery on the outskirts). But the highlight is the oversized bathtub, set by the building's only wall and framed by a dried acacia branch. 'My husband and I took a six-hour trip to Santa Clara del Cobre to meet its copper artisans,' Ashoka says. Over an afternoon, they sat down and drew the tub, refining its bespoke weathered tint until they were happy.

It's a very unusual house for Mexico, where green architecture is just beginning to sprout up – many eco-friendly private homes are appearing in the lake town of Valle de Bravo, two hours from Mexico City, and on the coast of Oaxaca, in particular. I've stayed in houses there that act as gateways to the beach, and are so neutral they feel like mirages; yet this mirrored creation reflects the nature around it while appearing as a singular, poignant beacon in the wilderness. It also gives a different perspective on San Miguel de Allende, long a favourite for its art and design hits, but which tends to be a self-contained destination. It's a chance to step outside the town and be immersed in the rugged terrain.

Later in the morning, I watch hawks circle over the extinct Palo Huérfano volcano, a natural amphitheatre opposite, and listen to the casa's playlist, with tracks by Seventies Argentinian band Pescado Rabioso and The Durutti Column. Those staying here need to pack

'IT'S A SPECIAL SPOT. RECENTLY, ON AN EVENING WHEN THE MOON WAS BRIGHT, I WAS TAKING A MIDNIGHT DIP IN THE POOL WHEN A FAMILY OF GREY FOXES WANDERED PAST'

road access, we both saw the raw potential.' And it was on the hike that Ashoka first spotted the peak's most prominent feature, a V-shaped ravine that can be seen from the property. He decided to sketch the design of Casa Etérea in a similar shape. Without hiring an architectural firm and only consulting local carpenters and engineers, he built the foundations using volcanic rock collected from the hillside, the intention being to leave the landscape itself untouched. By positioning the structure at a certain angle, with efficient ventilation and insulated glass, the house naturally regulates temperature in the semi-arid climate. The entire place runs on solar energy and collected rainwater. He clad the front exterior in patterned UV-coated mirror – visible to birds so they don't crash into it – to create a deeper resonance. 'It's meant to be a visually abstract experience,' he says. 'Capturing the transitional nature of the landscape as the day unfolds.'

Ashoka was inspired by the tiny house movement, whose opposition to the 'bigger is better' mantra has been pushing sustainable living since the 1970s by reducing the carbon footprint and generally encouraging less consumption. But he also sees the small casa as a living art installation, an homage to the work of Mexico's most famous modernist architect, Luis Barragán. 'My brother Hemant, who is a designer in Singapore, introduced me to his buildings. I was taken by his emphasis on light and shadow, those intangible aspects of design that lend emotion to spaces.'

For the interiors, he collaborated with San Miguel de Allende-based studio Namuh, adding objects from Mexico's maker culture to Asian finds such as a jute rug from Jaipur, Balinese lamps and woven baskets from China's Shaanxi province. The brass telescope

their own provisions, or hitch a ride with Israel, the house manager, to the nearest outpost, though I had brought grilled *poblano* peppers and Oaxacan cheese, with blue-corn tortillas and mushrooms. As the sky darkens, I sit on the pool deck and star-gaze – when I arrived, Ashoka had tipped me off that Mars, Jupiter and Saturn would all be visible. 'There's such a strong connection to nature here,' he says. 'It's the little moments that make this place special. Recently, on an evening when the moon was bright, I was taking a midnight dip in the pool when a family of grey foxes wandered past.'

On my last afternoon, there's a knock at the door and I find 70-year-old Concho Sierra Mendoza outside, ready to lead me on a horse-ride to the peak. Clad in a blue leather jacket with buttons that look like cow bone, he presents me with Centenario, a 16-year-old *rubia* who comes from a line bred for racing. Mendoza's white cowboy hat shades his face but I can see his toothy grin as he tells me about his horse: a brown-and-white two-year-old named Apache.

We set off up the mountain, joined by his dogs, a German Shepherd called Golondrino, after the swallows of the hills, and Sparky, a blond, shaggy mutt. The ride is steep but rewarding. 'Horses are made for this land,' he reassures me when he senses my hesitation. '*No pasa nada*.' We ride through fields of cacti with ripe *tunas* growing on their rims. On a few of the spiky pads, I see drips of ruby juice. Mendoza tells me to eat one if I want, that they are ready for picking. We keep climbing until we reach the highest peak, and looking down, the star of Venus bright overhead, the house appears like a phosphorescent box in a field of nothingness. 📍

Casa Etérea is available to rent from about £270 per night (sleeps two). Book through Instagram @casa_eterea



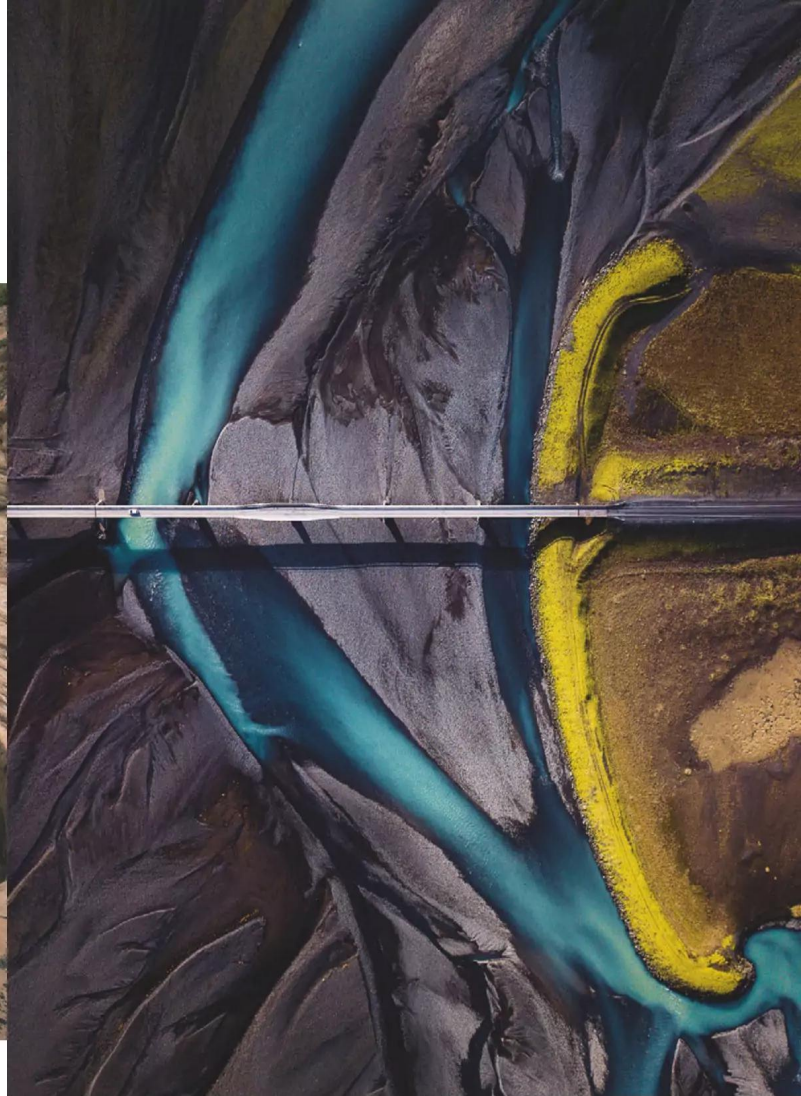
THE TIPPING POINT FREAKY PHENOMENA

THE DIVERSE BEAUTY of the planet is heart-stopping. And seeing it in all its glory is one of the prime reasons we travel. But, as we know, the earth is under threat, climate change diminishing it bit by bit. In a deceptive twist, it is as the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere and the fragility of the planet increase that some of the most extraordinary marvels evolve, with melting glaciers and warming temperatures producing unexpected fireworks of colour and form. But these should be taken as nature's warning signs. It has never been more important to nourish and protect our surroundings.



Clockwise from left: the eroded, clay-soil landscape of the Badlands region in **Utah** is arrestingly red and rippled. A rainbow forms in the mist of **Wyoming's** Lower Falls, the largest-volume waterfall in the Rocky Mountains. Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre is **Australia's** biggest salt lake, where layers of sediment and algal bloom are revealed during droughts. In **Iceland**, silvery sand patterns bubble on the banks of the Bláfellsá stream, where glacial muddy water mixes with clay. Opposite, clockwise from top left: the sandstone mountains at Paria Canyon around the **Utah-Arizona** border are striped with iron oxides, cobalt and manganese. Birds fly over waves of glacial meltwater in the river deltas of southern **Iceland**. On Vaadhoo island in the **Maldives**, bioluminescent plankton light the shores with a blue glow.



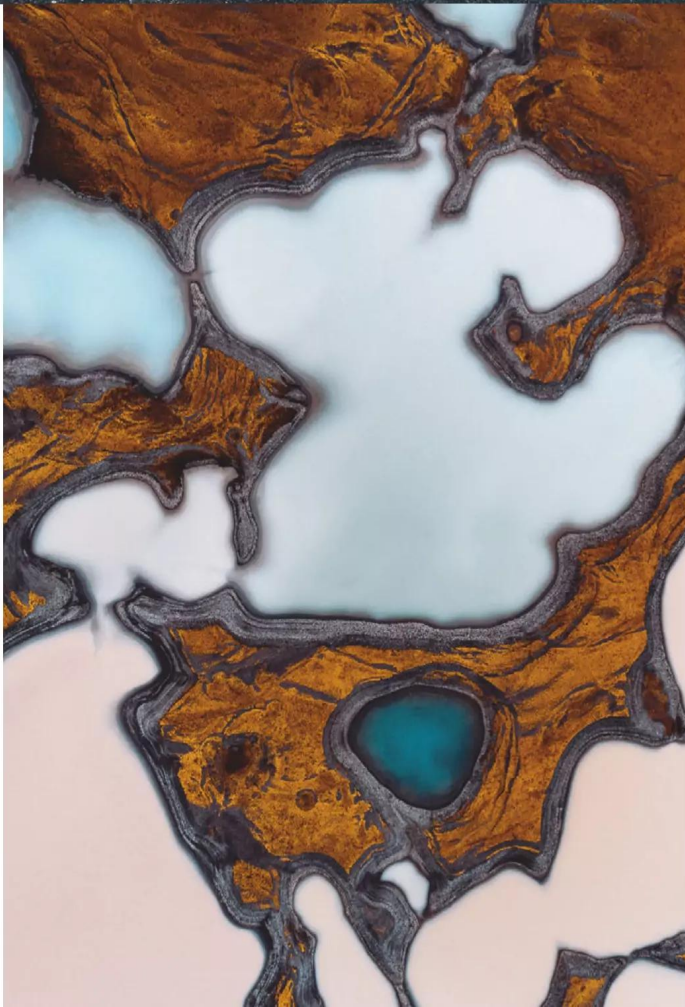


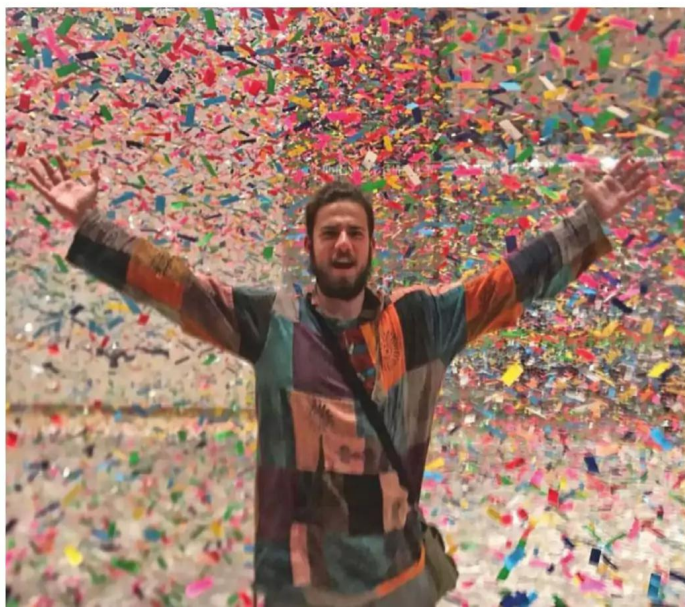
Clockwise from top left:
metallic pools at Heaps
Canyon in Zion National
Park, **Utah**, shine copper-
orange due to a high
concentration of iron oxides.
Primary colours pop through
a glacial river near southern
Iceland's Lómagnúpur
mountain, where the
turquoise water contrasts
with the black volcanic
sands and yellow moss. On
the bed of Abraham Lake in
Canada's Alberta, methane
bubbles produced by
decaying plants become
trapped like pancakes
in the ice during winter.
A single iceberg floats in
front of a fjord at Northeast
Greenland National Park.





Clockwise from left: a yareta plant growing on a rockface at an elevation of 9,350ft in **Bolivia's** Tupiza is estimated to be more than 3,000 years old. At the lowest natural point in **Australia**, Lake Eyre's water turns a rosy pink as a result of a pigment found within an algae species specific to high-salinity sites. At **Arizona's** Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, erosion has created ripples and patterns in the colourful, clay-rich soil over time. Meanwhile, pools produced by retreating glaciers lie in the outwash plains of **Iceland**, their varying shades denoting the amount of sediment and depth in each one; the deeper and more clear the water, the bluer it is. KATHARINE SOHN







THE ACTION FIGURES NEXT-GEN CAMPAIGNERS

YOUNG ADVOCATES ACROSS THE CONTINENTS HAVE BECOME A COLLECTIVE FORCE IN THE FIGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. JULIET KINSMAN MEETS THE ENTERPRISING NAMES MAKING A STAND

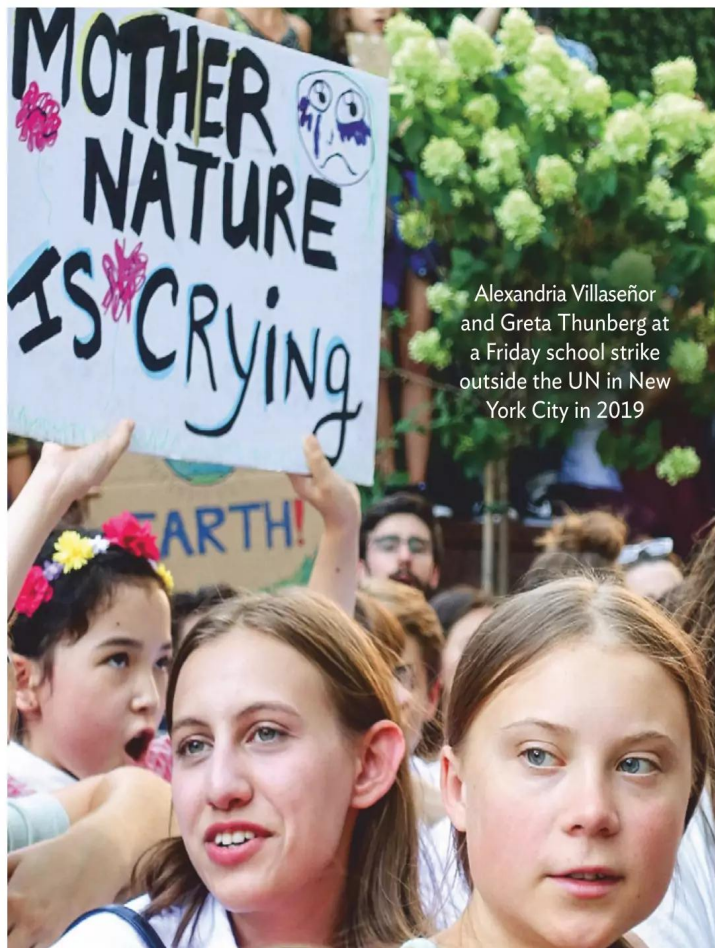
'MY NAME IS GRETA THUNBERG. I WANT YOU TO PANIC.' When the world's most famous activist said words to this effect to leaders at the United Nations and the European Parliament in 2019, she was 16. Climate justice has increasingly grabbed headlines since, and many of those driving positive action to protect the environment are still at school. Just as with the topic of sustainability as a whole, the cause of climate change is complex. Should we as individuals be encouraging behaviour shifts among friends and family? Or demanding that from major industry? Or lobbying governments to better legislate for the preservation of nature? All of the above. Fridays For Future, the school-strike movement founded by Thunberg, now counts close to 14 million strikers in 7,500 cities and 212 countries. And there are plenty of other organisations – including the Sunrise Movement, Earth Guardians and Zero Hour – that are about much more than young people taking a stand. Some advocate studying the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, others proselytise by sharing information on social media. Enthusiasm, determination and respect run through their impassioned messages, which are translating into real results. And what these communities of change-makers have in common is that they are crucibles for big ideas and global solutions.

In Honolulu, Bill 40 was passed in 2019 to phase out disposable plastics on the island of O'ahu. It's largely down to pester power from under-voting-age citizens such as Dyson Chee, now 18, founder of Project OCEAN Hawaii. Chee and his friends started by circulating a petition to get signatures. 'As a kid, I would spear fish with my family, as well as bodyboard and snorkel. And as my love for the ocean grew I began to notice problems. When we looked for coral, fish or turtles, we'd find microplastics, straws, potato-chip bags... At first, it didn't seem a big deal, but soon I realised the conditions for aquatic life were degrading. Aged 14, I was thinking, "If I'm seeing this now, how much worse is it going to get?"' Chee makes older people care about wider issues by discussing the things that affect them – such as where their taxes are going. He might ask if they knew their money had subsidised the construction of a petrochemical plant in their neighbourhood, say, and prompt them to question who profits from that. 'The light bulb turns on and the pieces start connecting. That's been the



PHOTOGRAPHS: PUTO ARVANTO; SARAH BLESENER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES; DANIELLA ZALCMAN

Clockwise from top left: Sunrise Movement, San Francisco; Fridays For Future activist Alexandria Villaseñor in front of New York City's UN HQ; Global Climate Strike 2020; Mya-Rose Craig in the Arctic; Sunrise Movement street art; Oluwaseyi Moejoh; Eyal Weintraub; Siobhan Faith Bownes; Sunrise campaigners; Dyson Chee; Mitzi Jonelle Tan protesting the current Common Agricultural Policy



Alexandria Villaseñor and Greta Thunberg at a Friday school strike outside the UN in New York City in 2019

best way for me to get people to relate, regardless of age, political ideology or where they come from.'

Chee is an example of the force of positive communication. 'In order to engage, the most critical part of advocacy is to make it fun,' he says. As someone who lives in a tourist hotspot – where the population of one million swells with 10 million travellers a year – his advice is to think of where we visit as being someone else's home, and to treat it as such: 'Go with respect and kindness.'

From her hometown of Manila, Mitzi Jonelle Tan is amplifying the voices of indigenous groups in the Philippines. 'Defending the environment is what they have done for generations,' says the 23-year-old, who organises meetings for Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines. She had been engaged with global issues from a young age but when she was 19, she was able to meet the Lumad people, which brought home the need to cultivate the same feeling of gratitude and connectedness with nature that they have. 'They know that land is life, because their culture, their spirituality, their identities are tied to it – and, really, why aren't we all like that? We are so dependent on the environment. There are no humans without the earth.'

What these next-gen activists share is the belief that climate change is fuelled mainly by wealthy corporations in the west, yet it's predominantly the most vulnerable in the Global South who are at the highest risk of the consequences. Even so, a different tack is needed to mobilise teenagers in various parts of the world. Oluwaseyi Moejoh is the founder of U-Recycle Initiative, a youth-led social enterprise focused on advancing a circular economy in Sub-Saharan Africa. The 19-year-old law student at the University of Lagos hosted a two-day Litterathon in October 2020. This challenge saw more than 95 young Africans from 18 cities in

TO SOLVE THE CRISIS WE NEED GLOBAL CITIZENS. GRETA THUNBERG WAS THE SPARK THAT

UNDERSTANDING THE CARBON CYCLE

All living things – people, plants, animals, trees, soil – contain carbon, which is made up of molecules that are constantly shape-shifting, transferring from solid to air. Because organisms and the environment trade particles, carbon is emitted or retained in the earth. Vilified in its polluting gaseous form – known as greenhouse gases – it exists perfectly fine in wood and fossil fuels, but it's burning these to create energy, and therefore release excess carbon as CO₂ into the atmosphere, that contributes to the climate emergency. Our personal carbon footprints, measured in tonnes, refer to the total amount of greenhouse gases generated as the result of our activity. The way to reduce these emissions is by increasing what is known as drawdown. This is when the gases are literally 'sucked' down towards the earth by trees and plants absorbing CO₂ during photosynthesis in a so-called robust feedback loop – a circuit instead of a one-way system of the element being converted into gas. By restoring the natural processes, vegetation thrives, absorbing much of what's been released back into solid form. That is why deforestation is such a damaging factor in global warming and why we need to preserve tropical forests and coastal habitats such as mangroves, marshes and seagrass beds.

Learn more about the carbon cycle and its relation to travel in Juliet Kinsman's book 'The Green Edit: Travel', published by Ebury

seven countries – Nigeria, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Gambia, Kenya and Cameroon – pick as much rubbish as possible via the Litterati app, which makes such efforts interactive and lets you be a citizen scientist by contributing to its data bank. With the knowledge and resources Moejoh received from the Ocean Heroes Network and Bootcamp, which trains emerging leaders to launch their own movements, she was able to design and implement this continental project. 'In Africa many people have other priorities, so talking to someone about environmental issues is hard, because it might be the least of their worries,' she says. However, in places where a number of socio-economic problems exist, Moejoh believes that creative advocacy, effective storytelling and incentivisation are powerful tools in drawing the attention of the young to the need for mass meaningful action in promoting sustainability.

British-Bangladeshi ornithologist Mya-Rose Craig, 18, is best known for the Birdgirl blog she started aged 11. As the founder of Black2Nature, she's been campaigning for five years to address the statistic that only 0.6 per cent of environmental professionals are from minority groups. Her main grassroots thrust is engaging visible minority ethnic people and getting them out into nature, hosting camps where inner-city children can experience the countryside, often for the first time. Craig's advice to those who want to help is simply to do it: 'Be the change you want to create, whether that's spreading information, signing petitions or going to protests.'

'Young people are playing such a significant role,' says Sayo Ayodele from the United Nations' Race to Zero organisation,



Mitzi Jonelle Tan, far right, during the Global Climate Strike in the Philippines

which is leading worldwide initiatives with businesses, investors and universities to decarbonise the economy ahead of COP26 – the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Glasgow this November. ‘They are out on the streets demanding change and also ushering that change in their homes, schools and friendship groups. They’re stepping into positions of leadership and, as they build their careers, they’re influencing industry and policy – which are where the most important shifts need to happen.’

Another such advocate is 20-year-old Eyal Weintraub, co-founder of Jóvenes Por El Clima Argentina. Ask the University of Buenos Aires political science student what he thinks the biggest causes of climate change are and you won’t hear clichés. A regular talking head on TV and in congress in his country’s capital, he’s pushing for a recalibration of our reliance on the

IGNITED A BONFIRE THAT WAS ALREADY BUILT

energy grid and a move from individualism in society to collectivism. For example, he asks that next time we buy leather boots we consider how their materials may have contributed to deforestation through the clearing of land for cattle. ‘To solve the crisis, we need global citizens. Greta Thunberg was the spark that ignited a bonfire that was already built,’ he says.

But not everyone working hard for a better tomorrow is in the spotlight. In 2019, I co-hosted a sustainability conference in Turks and Caicos, where eco efforts had not been a prominent tourism topic. When I spoke to secondary-school attendees I realised it was young people who are most switched on to the environmental challenges that face us. As Siobhan Faith Bowens, a 15-year-old member of her school’s climate-change group, told me: ‘I care about the wonders of this planet with all its mystery and beauty.’ The way she expressed her concerns around pollution, global warming and deforestation touched me more than any scientist or official ever had. She represents the many children out there who care passionately but who don’t have a platform or the tools to act on a large scale.

Bowens said she was puzzled about how there is so much talk of climate change yet so few adults seem to be focused on the actual effect it is having on the earth. That same day, one of the most eminent local business owners attending the event told me: ‘In all honesty, I had never even thought about sustainability or what it means before you used the word today.’ With so many people playing catch up, thank goodness this new generation is leading the charge. 📍

EDUCATIONAL FAMILY ESCAPES

IMMERSIVE LEARNING IN WALES

A day spent at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Powys provides hands-on expertise in the hike-worthy UNESCO Dyfi Biosphere. Interactive installations explain all about renewable energy, biodiversity and environmentally friendly building methods, and guests can sleep over in the on-site dorms. The centre also runs short courses on woodland management and organic gardening. cat.org.uk

BIODIVERSITY-BOOSTING ADVENTURES IN THE CROATIAN WILDERNESS

Visitors here can camp in a teepee, book a rondavel hut or stay in the lodge at Linden Tree Retreat. Activities include horse-riding, canoeing, caving and four-wheel-drive safaris in Velebit National Park, set on a protected UNESCO Biosphere Reserve between Zagreb and Split, where brown bears, lynxes and wolves roam. earth-changers.com

CONSERVATION MENTORING IN MALAYSIA’S ANCIENT RAINFOREST

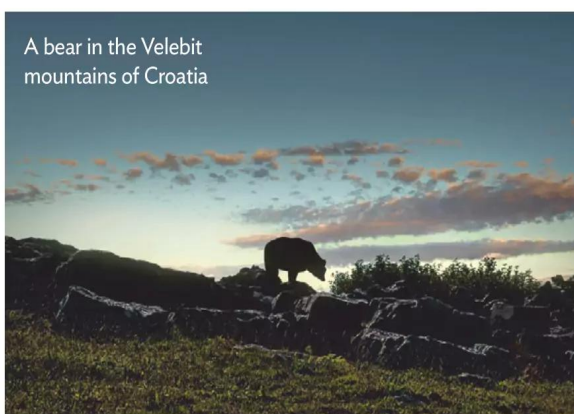
The Datai Langkawi might be best known as a legendary beach hit but, set amid the 10-million-year-old jungle, it has wildlife at its core. The hotel’s refurbishment in 2018 added a nature centre, helmed by Malaysia’s leading naturalist Irshad Mobarak. He implemented The Datai Pledge programme, covering everything from marine conservation to going zero-waste, to make a positive impact on the surrounding environment. In a week, guests can learn about the working of worm farms while grasping the principles of permaculture gardening, participate in tree reforestation on the island, join a great-hornbill excursion, rehabilitate a coral reef in Datai Bay and adopt their own dolphin. thedatai.com

LIFETIME SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS IN BALI

Five days at Green Camp in the renowned bamboo wonderland of Bali’s Green School tunes the whole family into an alternative way of living. Stay in the Yurt Village, eat organic plant-based dishes sourced straight from the garden and get stuck into the camp’s 4 Pillars of Learning with educational sessions underpinned by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. greencampbali.com

TURTLE PROTECTION ON THE TURKISH COAST

A getaway to Fethiye involves a day at the Sea Turtle Research, Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Dalyan town. The reserve was set up to teach people about conservation in a country where half of the world’s green sea turtles come to nest. It also nurtures marine stewards – a donation from each trip will go towards supporting their work. intrepidtravel.com



A bear in the Velebit mountains of Croatia

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THE LOW-IMPACT ROAD TRIP EXPLORING WEST SWEDEN

ZIPPING UP THE COAST FROM ROCKY OYSTER-RICH SHORES TO WIND-WEATHERED FISHING VILLAGES
IN AN ELECTRIC CAR DESIGNED IN GOTHENBURG, THE MOST SUSTAINABLE CITY IN THE WORLD

PHOTOGRAPHS AND WORDS BY JONAS JACOBSSON

Out on the edge of the Weather Islands, there's no one to talk with about the weather. On this bout of cartographic measles north-west of Gothenburg, the wind is all-powerful. It rushes and snarls over hundreds of barren slabs of greyish granite, which provide safe harbour to yawning seals, turbo-clawed lobsters and one of the country's two living coral reefs. The meteorological station appears on the Swedish shipping forecast, and the gusts from the Skagerrak strait almost always whip faster than anywhere else. Looking west from the wood-fired hot tub of the Väderöarnas Vårdshus, the Weather Islands Guesthouse, the autumnal sun slowly reddens the rocks, casting lengthening shadows over the cabins, the only signs of civilisation but for an old sea pilot's lookout tower. Like me, these 360 or so islands are alone – 40 minutes by catamaran from Fjällbacka, a little town of jetties and stilted huts where the crime writer Camilla Läckberg sends her beautifully drawn characters to die. I'm here on a journey along the coast of Bohuslän, which runs from Gothenburg up to the

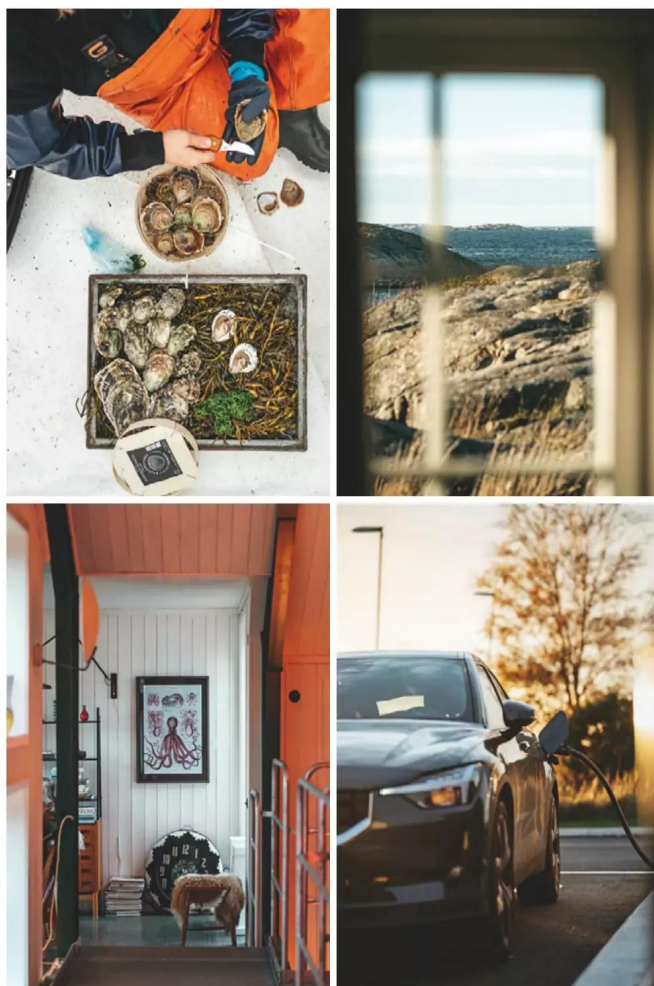




Top row, clockwise from far left: restaurant at the Weather Islands Guesthouse; Lådfabriken owner Johan Buskvist with his dog Lucas; Väderöarna Vårdshus cabins; fishing hut at Lådfabriken; the Polestar 2. Below, clockwise from top left: shucking oysters in Havstenssund; view from Väderöarna Vårdshus; charging the car; guestroom at Lådfabriken. Previous page, Lådfabriken exterior



Norwegian border, driving an electric Polestar 2, a smoothly cool machine designed in Gothenburg. The nearby shores can be reached within an hour, and I'm always struck by the clapboard-and-driftwood civility of the villages, but also the unrelenting wildness. The stark seas and frigid atolls are a long way from the model-railway green of the Stockholm archipelago. This nature-power, as well as the proximity to Gothenburg, may go some way to explaining why Bohuslän has become a quiet poster child of community-driven eco awareness. Before heading to the islands, my first stop was Lådfabriken in Edshultshall, a whimsically bright B&B in a former fish-crate factory. I was greeted like an old friend by Johan Buskvist and Marcel van der Eng, a well-travelled couple who settled in Johan's home area with two adorable stray mongrels from Barcelona, set for a life of mushroom foraging and windy beach clean-ups. They took me to the town of Mollösund to meet Jan-Erik Larsson, who fishes with his brother Curt from a pretty wood-hulled vessel and often cooks langoustines right there on the jetty. Later, Marcel whipped up a seafood supper with newly in-season lobster and the very Swedish dish of flaky cod with horseradish and brown butter. The worship of produce continues in Grebbestad, to the north, which supplies most of the country's oysters and much of its seaweed, used in smart restaurants all the way to Gothenburg. On their putt-putt boat, Mathias Svensson and Ulrika Lorensen showed me long lines of net bags holding native flat oysters – faintly nutty, wonderful things that also filter the water, allowing small fish to return to the bay. To the south, Ingela and Marcus Holgersson, founders of the Skärgårdsidyllen kayak school, often involve locals in coastal cleaning days. This respect for the natural order is also evident back at the Weather Islands Guesthouse, which is heated by solar panels and has a desalination plant for drinking water. While stacks and underwater gullies provide safe havens for seals and lobsters, this is a harsh place to be a human. But, sitting in the hot tub, I am hit with an overwhelming sense of wellbeing and clarity. Everything is in its right place – and I am a guest here. 📍 As told to Toby Skinner. To find out more about the Polestar 2, go to polestar.com. Visit westsweden.com and gothenburg.com for road-trip inspiration.





Top row, clockwise from far left: collected wood and kayaks at Skärgårdsidyllen in Grebbestad; bedroom at Lådfabriken; hand-crafted driftwood pieces and fika coffee break at Skärgårdsidyllen. Bottom row, clockwise from left: Palmhuset greenhouse in Gothenburg; Väderöarna Vårdshus sauna; Frihamnen sauna in Gothenburg, built from recycled materials; Garveriet café in Floda; tram in Gothenburg





THE CLEVER RETROFIT AN IRISH BUNGALOW TURNED B&B

WHY STAY? Because Breac House is a wild-west Donegal escape that feels like a secret. This remote county has a coast ravaged by the constant smash of Atlantic waves.

WHEN? In spring the scenery is ablaze with wildflowers, while in high summer days seem endless and the sky remains streaked with the fading light well past 11pm.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE? One of a new breed of boltholes popping up in unexpected corners of Ireland, this is the B&B elevated, reimagined. Breac House is set on a slope of the dramatic Horn Head peninsula and has far-reaching views of the wind-combed landscape, Dunfanaghy village, Sheephaven Bay and cloud-snagged Muckish mountain.

BEHIND THE SCENES Niall Campbell and Cathrine Burke oversaw the transformation of a hum-drum Eighties bungalow into a

larch-clad design haven, which opened in 2017. They enlisted a roll-call of Irish makers and artisans to help realise their rural refuge. There is beautiful oak joinery, and natural materials including local Ardara quartzite and Fanad granite create a rich sense of place.

SLEEP The trio of bedrooms is restrained, with white walls, wooden floors and private terraces. Beds are decked out with wool duvets and pillows, handwoven Eddie Doherty tweed blankets, cushions in heathery hues and framed seaweed prints from Superfolk. Lying on your bed while gazing out at the weather rolling in counts as a worthwhile activity.

EAT There is no restaurant, but fresh juice, tea or coffee arrive silently in the morning via custom-built hatches in each room. This is swiftly followed by a tray of sweet and

savoury treats such as turf-smoked salmon, boiled eggs, granola, yogurt and compotes. Picnic backpacks with flasks of homemade soup and crusty bread are handed out to those heading off to explore. At cocktail o'clock, G&Ts made with Sliabh Liag gin are served beside the dancing fire.

ECO EFFORT The owners were mindful that Horn Head is a Special Area of Conservation, so the building has been retrofitted with a rainwater-harvesting system, heavy insulation and an air-source heat pump. Guests can recycle rubbish easily in bedrooms and organic waste is composted. There are soap, shampoo and lotion bars made from foraged nettle and kelp by the Donegal Natural Soap Company, plus a filtration set-up for still and sparkling water and an EV charging point.

WHO COMES HERE? Clued-up nature lovers and couples seeking a complete break. This is a tranquil, child-free zone, a place to take a breath and catch up with your soul.

WE LIKE The mineral-charged seaweed bath, which has a supremely soporific effect. After a swim, warm up in the wood-fired garden sauna, inspired by traditional Irish sweat houses. Then pack hot chocolate to spy the Northern Lights, often visible from the peninsula in September and October.


WE DON'T LIKE Venturing out for supper every night, but there are some one-off gourmet weekends with visiting chefs.

CONTACT +353 74 913 6940; breac.house. Doubles from about £265 per night (two nights minimum). AOIFE O'RIORDAIN



OUT AND ABOUT

Take out one of the Sona bikes or walk the quiet trails to deserted silver-sand beach Trá Mór nearby for a life-affirming dip in the ocean and views of far-off Tory Island. Horn Head is also on the scenic, 1,553-mile Wild Atlantic Way. Learn to surf or walk up the vertigo-inducing Sliabh Liag, *above* – the highest accessible sea cliffs in Europe.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's legs walking on a sandy beach. The person is wearing a white bikini bottom. The legs are tanned and have a shimmering, sun-kissed glow. The background shows a clear blue sky, a few palm trees on the left, and the turquoise ocean meeting the shore. The overall mood is serene and tropical.

—< Constance,
stepping gently
through the Indian Ocean >—

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THE HOT TOPIC: VOLUNTOURISM

AS OUR TRAVEL AXIS CONTINUES TO ADJUST, THE NOTION OF UNDERTAKING TRIPS TO HELP OTHERS IS COMING UNDER SCRUTINY. THE ISSUE IS A THORNY ONE. FRANCISCA KELLETT INVESTIGATES

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY HOWE



FROM A SUSTAINABILITY POINT OF VIEW, the idea of voluntourism – the combination of volunteering and tourism – sounds so admirable. Here's a travel narrative that swaps frivolous consumption for working on projects that benefit people. And, on paper at least, it fulfils the growing demand for authentic and experiential travel. The voluntourists return home feeling they've achieved something useful; the voluntouristed receive some improvements to their daily lives. A connection is made. Everyone's happy.

But if only it were that simple. Some projects do, of course, have a real impact, but the voluntourism model is more convoluted than it seems. A couple of decades ago, voluntourism was a marginal pursuit; over the past few years, as click-and-go technology has developed, it has become a booming business worth around £1.4 billion a year, and one of the fastest growing areas of travel. A badge of honour; a useful paragraph on the CV. And it's not just channelling youthful enthusiasm but attracting families keen to expand their children's horizons, and middle-aged empty-nesters looking for more meaningful experiences – the latter make up well over 50 per cent of volunteers, according to some figures. As such trips become more accessible, ruthless businesses are cashing in and dropping ill-equipped helpers into situations where they might not be helping at all.

The biggest problem, says Nicola Shepherd, founder of The Explorations Company, is when a client with no relevant skills

example, encouraging long-term volunteers to join and transfer their skills – its latest two-year recruit is Mzamo Masito, the chief marketing officer at Google Africa.

'I'm torn about the subject because people want to give back... but it needs to be meaningful,' says Bruce Poon Tip, founder of Canadian-based G Adventures, which has partnered with Friends International's ChildSafe Movement to implement a set of protection guidelines. 'And travellers should never work in schools or orphanages.' Non-profit organisation ReThink Orphanages estimates that 80 per cent of the eight million children living in such institutions have a family who could care for them. There's a reason they don't exist in the UK any more. G Adventures no longer offers voluntourism trips, instead integrating community tourism experiences into its itineraries and fundraising to support local projects such as female-only taxi drivers in Delhi and grassroots restaurants in Peru. In the developing world, money tends to go a long way – the amount that one westerner can spend on a two-week holiday could instead pay several local salaries for months.

The other major criticism of voluntourism is that it encourages the 'white saviour' mentality. Social media has been a good weather-vane, with accounts springing up to ridicule privileged westerners in 'poverty tourism' situations. One called @BarbieSavior shows the doll's imaginary volunteering adventures, posing with a small black doll and saying 'I sacrificed my daily beauty regimen to visit

THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS WHEN SOMEONE WANTS TO CONTRIBUTE BUT THEY'VE NO RELEVANT SKILLS AND NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE EFFECT OF DROPPING IN AND OUT

'wants to teach at a "third world" school when they have no experience, no idea about the local curriculum, and no understanding of the long-term effect of dropping in and out again'. 'But,' she explains 'when the skill set is that of a doctor, then their involvement can have a real long-term benefit to a community.'

Anecdotally, there are countless voluntourism examples that read like fairy-tale parables. The London family who went to Peru to help build a school and spent five days making bricks in a dusty Andean village, while the local brick-makers stood around bemused, before wandering off to watch TV in the backpackers' lodge to fill their unexpected week off. Of wells being constructed so badly that the volunteers' work had to be redone every night by builders; the travellers in Swaziland who spent a fortnight painting the walls of a lavatory block at a campsite that had obviously just been painted by the last shipment of overseas visitors.

Voluntourists are not, generally, trained medical staff heading out to heal. Those people are in the refugee camps, or working for the UN. And with plenty of underemployed unskilled labour in the developing world, why fly across the world to dig a well? 'Most people volunteer with the best of intentions,' explains Philip Goodwin, the CEO of Voluntary Service Overseas, which has been placing people abroad since the late 1950s. 'But there is a risk that volunteers can end up doing more harm than good if they are working on projects which don't serve the needs of the communities they've come to help.' As a case in point, VSO only advertises for professionals, and for a minimum of 12-month placements, to make sure they have a lasting impact, while The African Leadership University, based in Rwanda and Mauritius, is another good

the local "hospital." Comic Relief recently announced it is doing away with celebrity trips to developing countries and instead using local filmmakers and photographers. As No White Saviors, an anti-racist Ugandan-based advocacy group which challenges how aid and development functions in Africa, puts it: 'We never said "no white people", we just said you shouldn't be the hero of the story.'

In some instances, though, projects simply wouldn't exist without volunteers. Responsible Travel organises trips to a conservation project in Zimbabwe, where visitors can help the local team to observe and record rhino and elephant behaviour, and repair enclosures. And while it might not describe them as voluntourism, AndBeyond's Impact Journeys allow guests to take part in rhino dehorning, bird tagging and lion tracking.

Perhaps it's time we broadened our definition of the phrase into something more all-encompassing. Citizen-science projects thrive on more people taking part, even something as simple as sharing photos of whales spotted on a cruise. Swoop Antarctica works with the Happywhale platform to upload pictures and help scientific research, while Biosphere Expeditions takes travellers into the Armenian mountains to survey lynx, bears and wolves, and many of the other projects supported by the UK's activist-inspired Responsible Travel involve wildlife. Aiding conservation rather than people-based experiences may be the most rewarding way of channelling that desire to make a change, while raising money for NGOs that hire local labour might be the most pragmatic. Of course, another alternative would be to go on holiday, relax, then volunteer in the nearest food bank when you return home. ⑦



VOGUE
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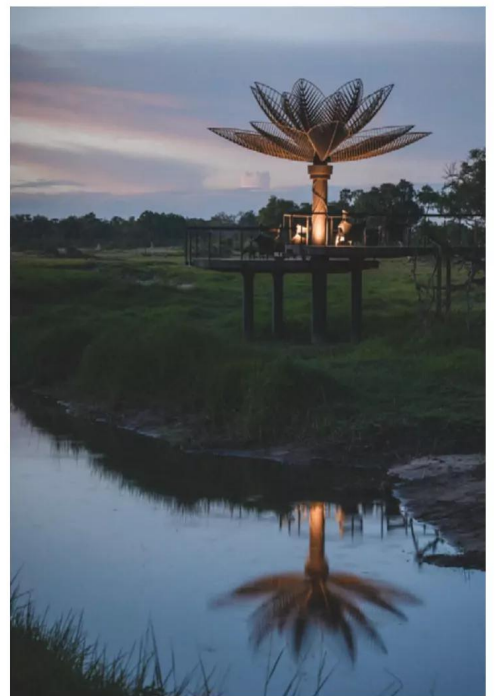
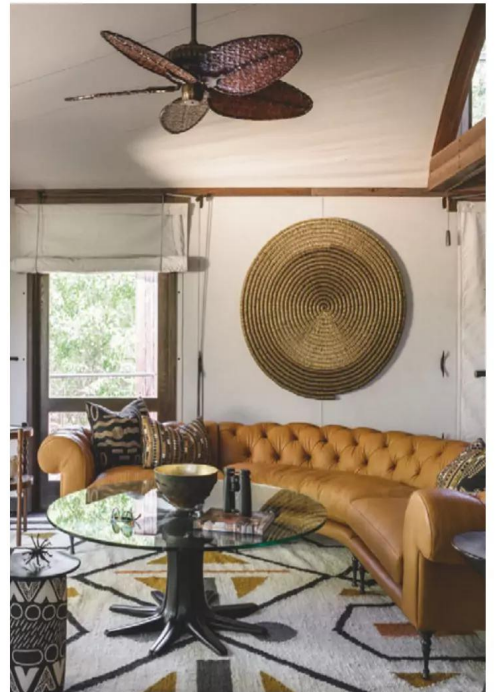
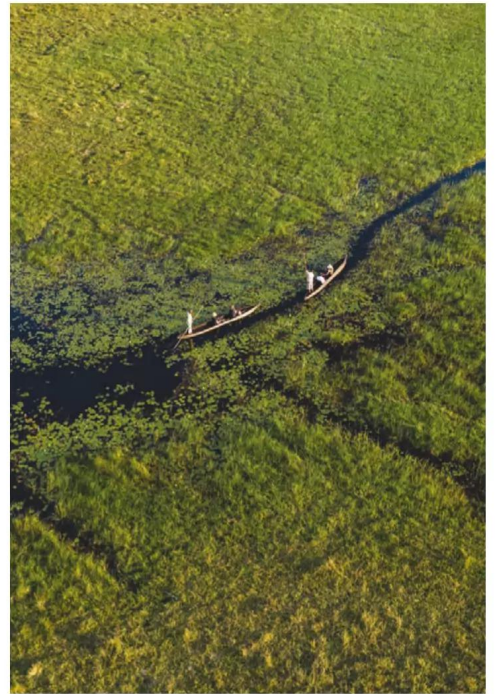
ISTANBUL | KIEV | KUALA LUMPUR | MOSCOW | PORTO | RIYADH

THE SAFARI SHAKE-UP XIGERA, BOTSWANA

IN A COUNTRY RENOWNED FOR ITS CONSIDERED ATTITUDE TO WILDLIFE PROTECTION, THIS REINVENTED CAMP IS MOVING THINGS TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH A MINIMAL CARBON FOOTPRINT AND A SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL CRAFT

BY JANE BROUGHTON. PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADRIAAN LOUW





THE OKAVANGO DELTA SMELLS OF WILD SAGE and damp earth. Cotton-wool clouds hang low in the sky and thunder rumbles softly, like elephants communicating. From the air, the blue-green tapestry of water channels and islands fans out like a giant hand. Three years in the making, the Tollman family's love letter to Botswana is located at the very centre of this alluvial fan on the western edge of the Moremi Game Reserve. Even during the last gasp of a sultry summer, before the flood waters have surged from Angola, 600 miles away, it is still possible to take a *mokoro* canoe trip through the lilyed shallows. The flood disappears beneath the sands of the Kalahari where it slows down and infiltrates hundreds of seasonal pans and lagoons, creating an inland paradise for birds. Predators and prey become concentrated on islands, providing some of the greatest wildlife encounters in all of Africa.

Xigera is arguably the most anticipated recent opening on the continent, the latest addition to Red Carnation, the boutique-hotel collection that accounts for a fraction of the Tollmans' travel empire. The fourth-generation business began a century ago when Stanley Tollman's father Solomon established a modest hideout in Paternoster on South Africa's west coast. Ashford Castle in Ireland, The Milestone in London and a trio of properties in South Africa, including Durban's The Oyster Box, have now been joined by a lodge that is as much about disrupting the high-end safari scene as it is about honouring the past and building a green-collar future.

Botswana's sustainable-travel roots run long and deep. Bouncing back with a smaller, lighter footprint has become part of the challenge of remaining relevant, especially for safari frontrunners such as Wilderness, Great Plains Conservation, AndBeyond and

ends. Tata Harper's farm-to-face products inform the spa menu, there's a state-of-the-art gym, a pavilion for sunrise yoga, a baobab-shaped treehouse for nights sleeping beneath the stars, a wine cellar stocked by the family's Bouchard Finlayson estate in South Africa and top-notch suppers of spicy Durban curry prepared with local bream.

But for all its luxury, the beating heart of Xigera is its energy centre which runs the latest Tesla solar-hybrid system, supplying 95 per cent of the required power. Using renewable energy will save an estimated 16,060 gallons of diesel and prevent the release of about 190 metric tonnes of carbon emissions annually. Future plans include harnessing solar energy for the game-view vehicles. The charging points are already there – they're just waiting for the electric-engine technology to catch up.

The commitment to human sustainability runs alongside these efforts, with a focus on preserving cultural heritage and supporting community-owned artisan businesses. Stanley's daughter Toni Tollman, who curates the interiors for the 20 Red Carnation hotels, was browsing the Southern Guild gallery in Cape Town when she saw a picture of a Conrad Hicks copper chaise. It became the first piece for Xigera and ignited a powerful collaboration between herself, Southern Guild's co-founder Trevyn McGowan and a creative team known for their nature-inspired, visceral and narrative-driven output. Working remotely in studios across Africa, 80 talented makers – including woodcarvers, blacksmiths, sculptors, basket weavers, ceramicists and glass blowers – pulled together an extraordinary, ambitiously scaled living gallery of functional and decorative African art. Under lockdown restrictions in 2020, some

THIS LODGE IS AS MUCH ABOUT DISRUPTING THE HIGH-END SCENE HERE AS IT IS ABOUT HONOURING THE PAST AND BUILDING A GREEN-COLLAR FUTURE

Natural Selection. Private concessions in the Okavango Delta are leased under strict environmental guidelines. Anything that may potentially contaminate the waterways is a no-go, including the use of concrete, cement and brickwork for construction. The number of guests is extremely limited. Although the area covers 2,000 square miles, there are only about 1,000 beds. This level of privacy is almost impossible to find anywhere else in Africa today, especially when it comes with animal sightings straight out of a *National Geographic* documentary. The country's low-impact, high-revenue approach to tourism has kept its wild expanses exclusive and pristine, and justified the high price tags.

The original Xigera was the very first camp opened by Wilderness in 1985. For more than 20 years, Stanley brought friends and family here. When the Tollmans parted ways with Wilderness (in which they held a sizable share) in 2018, they managed to keep their favourite lodge. Its revival is an exemplary illustration of how to operate sustainably in the middle of nowhere. Architect Anton de Kock, who also restored The Oyster Box, was challenged to create something unprecedented. Before him was the huge responsibility of being accountable for the energy efficiency and durability of absolutely everything used in the camp, including the staff village, to keep the carbon footprint minimal.

The 12 new elevated suites, most of them facing the floodplains, still blend into the hardwood forest, despite being much bigger and more spread out, but that's where any similarity to the original

artists were given special permission to fly in and work on site for long stretches. Among them was sculptor Adam Birch, who produced benches and chairs from fallen timber found on location. An emphasis on skills transfer saw several young Botswanan apprentices working alongside him.

Many items were made from reused materials. Hicks fashioned the giant, sculptural centrepiece of the *boma* enclosure out of repurposed steel and furniture designer Jesse Ede used recycled aluminium for the outdoor dining tables, while Xandre Kriel's armchairs incorporate an old conveyor belt. Eye-catching circular works by Chris Soal, made from recycled beer-bottle tops, appear in each room. Almost everything you touch or see here was crafted by hand; many objects are one-offs. Age-old traditions have been preserved and elaborate production elevated to its rightful place. The Tollmans' investment in limited-edition, collectible art, each piece grounded firmly in Africa, has resulted in a timeless heirloom collection. In an industry guilty of regularly refurbishing interiors in an effort to enchant the next generation of travellers, Xigera puts an intelligent new spin on what it means to be truly sustainable. 📍

Mavros Safaris offers three nights at Xigera Safari Lodge from £6,600 per person, full board, including flights, game drives, excursions and yoga. mavrossafaris.com, xigera.com

Opposite, clockwise from top left: local guide Salani Gambule in the floodplains; sunken Lily Lounge; waterway; Mangosteen Suite; the Water Lily viewing deck; hand-carved table; bedroom with painted Kassena furniture; gazebo; salad dish. *Previous page,* artwork inspired by an aerial view of the Okavango Delta

A full-page photograph of Angela Lindvall sitting on a concrete ledge next to a swimming pool. She is wearing a wide-brimmed brown hat, a red long-sleeved top with a decorative necklace, and red shorts. She is looking directly at the camera. The background shows lush greenery and a clear blue sky.

THE CULTURE HOPPER ANGELA LINDVALL

THE AMERICAN MODEL AND
CLEAN-LIVING CHAMPION SHARES
HER FAVOURITE SUSTAINABLE FINDS

LITHIA PARK, ASHLAND OREGON

'I've become more interested in conservation land recently, and I'm thinking about where to invest, so I went up to Ashland. My dad had a poster of Lithia Park when I was growing up, depicting trees, ferns and streams, and I thought it was the most beautiful place in the world. Ashland is surrounded by protected forests and turquoise waterfalls. People there craft their own beers, wines and coffees, forage for ingredients and hold weekly markets that celebrate all the things the area's artisans are making.'

ashland.or.us

AMANDARI BALI

'Bali is a conscious place – both in terms of sustainability and getting in touch with ourselves. There is a wonderful symbiosis between inner health and outer environment. The island has many incredible experiences, but the Aman hotels are particularly special, and also work with the community. I stayed at Amandari and Amankila while working back-to-back modelling jobs when I was 19. I still remember the locally crafted woodwork – it's so important that architecture takes the setting into account.'

aman.com

CAFE GRATITUDE LOS ANGELES

'I'm lucky that when it comes to restaurants in LA, where I'm based, eco-mindedness is pretty prevalent – but my go-to is Café Gratitude. It has found a way to make unprocessed foods taste amazing. Try as many of the tonics and tinctures as you can. I live in Topanga Canyon, and Inn of the Seventh Ray is another favourite. It has a lovely outdoor space next to a stream. The canyon is a little vortex of a community, full of artists, musicians and healers, but with serious nature all around.'

cafegratitude.com,
innoftheseventhray.com

COPA DE ARBOL COSTA RICA

'As a family, we always try to make thoughtful travel choices and are drawn to Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, one of the most biodiverse spots on earth. Copa de Arbol is an eco beach retreat in the jungle – you can only get there by boat, so it's an adventure from the start. There is a whale breeding ground in the ocean nearby and you see tons of dolphins. Connecting with nature is one of the best ways to heal the planet. I don't think the solution is that no one travels – it's about finding ways to make less of an impact and using travel to learn.'

copadearboll.com

VOZ NEW YORK

'Believe it or not, I don't actually like shopping – we already have enough clothes on the planet to last everyone's lifetime. But I love thrift stores, and have also found this brand called Voz that works with female Mapuche weavers in Temuco, Chile. You can feel the energy in each piece. Don't get me wrong, I have invested in clothing throughout my career, but I've learned that owning something of higher quality that you love means you'll keep it for much longer.'

madebyvoz.com

Angela Lindvall organises mindfulness and yoga workshops through her platform *Peace Begins in Me* (peacebeginsinme.com). She was speaking to Francesca Babb



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EDITED BY ISSY VON SIMSON

FORESTIS DOLOMITES ITALY

People have sought out the apple-cheeked, health-boosting benefits of South Tyrol's mountains for centuries. But this new spa hotel on the southern slope of Plose mountain, where the air feels particularly

Alpine-crisp, the natural spring water is among the cleanest on earth and the sun shines for 300 days a year, went back even further to tap into the region's earliest wellness traditions. 'I was always so impressed when travelling in Japan and India that the people there had held onto ancient practices. But here in Europe we had lost that connection with ours,' says Teresa Unterthiner, who along with her ►

partner Stefan Hinteregger, has developed the impressively eco-driven property from the moss-covered bones of a 100-year-old wooden sanatorium. Forestis does not base its offering on Eastern teachings – instead it has adapted the healing knowledge of the Celts who lived and thrived amid these peaks thousands of years ago. So yoga is replaced by *wyda*, a series of movements and meditation carried out beside rushing streams and in the cool, quiet forest. Hot-stone *tuina* is eschewed for energy-aligning tree-ceremony massages using evergreen wood. It's all part of a vision for rooted authenticity and respect for the incredible surroundings. The entire place is powered by renewable energy and kitted out with natural materials painstakingly tracked down from South Tyrol suppliers: furniture was constructed from local timber, including trees knocked down in previous years' storms; organically curved walls and floors are made of Dolomite stone, some of it collected from a river further down the valley. When a tree had to be felled for three new trunk-shaped towers housing the suites, two others were planted, and visitors are given the option to contribute to that tally by forgoing housekeeping – for every day they do, the hotel will add a sapling. Meanwhile, the zero-waste kitchen turns out delicately plated ingredients that are foraged (forest spinach; pickled pine sprouts) or sourced from the hotel garden or nearby producers. Teresa smiles at how an early guest grumbled that there were no mangoes or bananas at breakfast – here you make do with mountain berries and bircher topped with honey from a golden slab of honeycomb. This is a mountain-fresh example of how green shoots can be grown. GRAINNE McBRIDE

BOOK IT Healing Holidays offers a three-night Peace Of Mind programme from £1,199 per person, half board, including flights and transfers. +44 20 3031 3838; healingholidays.com

THE SCARLET HOTEL CORNWALL

The Atlantic Ocean – be it brooding grey torrent or sun-flecked aquamarine calm – is the real star at this Cornish beachside hideout. Everything here, from the floor-to-ceiling bedroom windows to the portholed cedar sauna, centres on the views of Mawgan Porth's cliff-flanked sands. However, this knockout setting is about more than just therapeutic horizon-gazing. The hotel's coastal orientation regulates light and temperature in an energy-efficient way; rays flood in at every opportunity, illuminating the terraced restaurant and glassy indoor pool, while the sea breeze – not air-con – cools rooms in the summer months. When it opened 12 years ago, The Scarlet was built with solar panels, a biomass boiler and an insulating roof of sea thrift to allow butterflies to thrive. Day to day it's just as green, with a passionate dedication to sustainability that doesn't neglect comfort.

The restaurant serves local crab and megrim sole; transfers from the train station come, on request, via a Tesla. Rooms are understated, with blond-wood flooring and recycled extras such as slippers fashioned from plastic bottles and pencils made from old newspaper. Afternoon tea is relaxed and unbuttoned – perfect for stumbling in fresh and ruddy-faced from a Bedruthan Steps walk to refuel with cream-smothered scones. But the real indulgence is the peace, space and room for reflection – with gentle morning yoga classes, bracing dips in the reed-filtered natural pool and soaks in the wood-fired outdoor hot tubs at dusk as the stars rise and waves crash beyond. Leave the children at home – it's grown-ups only – and book at least one expert Ayurveda-inspired spa treatment using hand-harvested Cornish seaweed. A feel-good British wellness destination that also does good. ALICIA MILLER

BOOK IT Doubles from £245. scarlethotel.co.uk

QUINTA DA COMPORTA PORTUGAL

A protected nature reserve with deserted sand dunes, rustic fish restaurants and rice paddies, Comporta still embodies a slow-living lifestyle despite its long-held status as one of Portugal's hippest coastal hangouts. This is precisely what architect-owner Miguel Cândia Martins wanted to preserve at Quinta da Comporta –



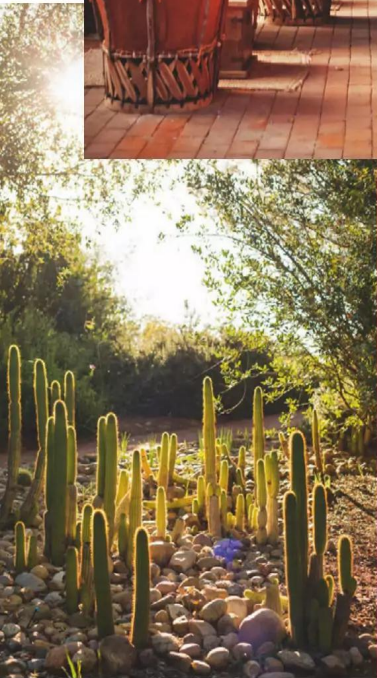
PHOTOGRAPHS: PATRICIA PARINEJAD; MANOLO YLLERA



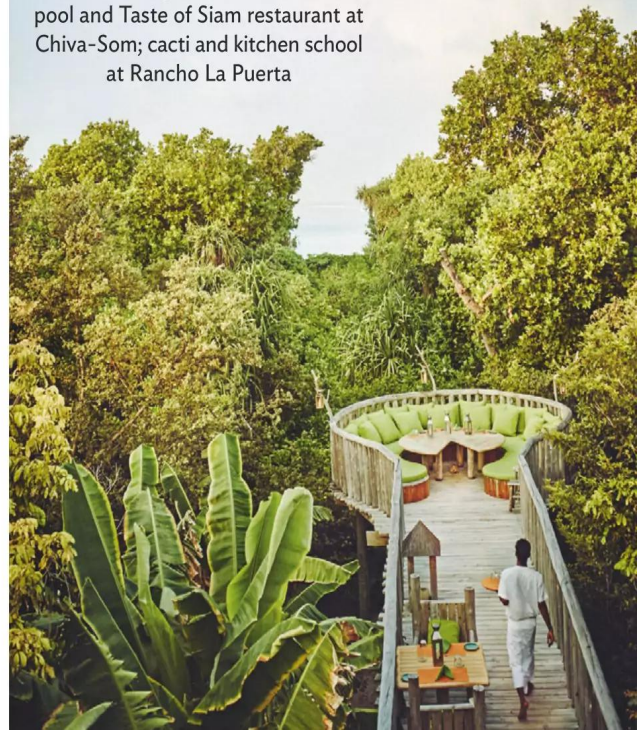
Clockwise from above: penthouse at Forestis Dolomites; gate house, field and spa reception, all at Quinta da Comporta; fossil-inspired spiral staircase in the spa, cake display and pear gin, all at Forestis; the cedar barrel sauna at the Scarlet Hotel.

Previous page, view of the Dolomites from the original building at Forestis





Clockwise from top left: outdoor seating and fountain at Rancho La Puerta; beach, sunken daybed and treetop dining, all at Soneva Fushi; pool and Taste of Siam restaurant at Chiva-Som; cacti and kitchen school at Rancho La Puerta



minimising the environmental footprint was key to the design. During the build, rubble was reused and solar panels installed on the roof of the low-rise rooms, while the palette of natural materials encompasses sisal, wicker, cork and colourful recycled plastic woven into PET lights. Wood and thatch villas are reminiscent of traditional fishermen's houses; a grey-watering system is in place for the local grasses, pines and olive trees that flank the winding pathways. Two double-height, barn-like buildings made from 150-year-old reclaimed timber, housing the restaurant and spa, are raised off the ground to maintain irrigation channels to the neighbouring fields. In the former, Atlantic-caught fish and vegetables from the garden are the stars of the menu. The latter has an indoor-outdoor pool, a first-floor gallery for yoga (there's also a dedicated shala), and treatments that range from cupping therapy and a Chinese medicine-inspired abdominal massage to facials using the hotel's new own-brand, rice-based Oryza Lab products. Weekly workshops cover subjects such as detoxing and healthy joints, while regular retreats hosted by visiting practitioners include mindfulness and meditation. And there's the 130ft glass-sided main pool for swimming lengths and bicycles for pedalling along waterways to the beach, where just the sight of the glinting ocean makes spirits lift and shoulders drop. EMMA LOVE

BOOK IT Doubles from about £250.

quintadacomporta.com

RANCHO LA PUERTA MEXICO

This hideaway in the wilds of north-western Mexico has been embracing an applaudable green philosophy since it first opened to the public 81 years ago. Founders Edmond and Deborah Szekely, who met in Tahiti, were ahead of their time when they created it as a spot to jump off the hamster wheel, reconnect with nature and offer afternoon prayers to the planet. Back in 1940 it cost just \$17.50 to pitch your own tent, do a week of hiking and eat vegetarian meals under the starry Baja California skies. Edmond, known as The Professor, developed an ethos based on ancient wisdom, simple living and fresh foods grown on site. Later, Deborah went on to also spearhead California's stellar destination spa, Golden Door. While the rooms have been intelligently modernised since the days when Sophia Loren came to stay, the genius of 'The Ranch' is that it keeps evolving with its values still intact. A new village community of private residences, built with sustainable materials and powered by solar energy, has been scattered among the 4,000-acre grounds where recycled water irrigates the biodiverse landscape. Indeed, water conservation is taken seriously and, among the many measures adopted here, mulch is used extensively in the gorgeous gardens where vegetables grow in abundance. There are 50 daily activities offering everything from sound healing to yoga, dance and hula-hooping – but the great outdoors remains the focus: the views of ancient Mount Kuchumaa are stunning and spectacular dawn mountain treks pass by carefully conserved wildflower fields. Even the La Puerta Core Essentials skincare range used in the spa is created from wild herbs, plants and fungi.

Modern eco practices include composting loos, natural cleaning products and water-oxygenating technology in the pools and hot tubs. But despite these advances, the oldest destination spa in the world remains family-run and led from the heart, with Deborah Szekely still active in her late 90s.

Healthy living in action. DAISY FINER

BOOK IT Healing Holidays offers a seven-night Fitness Programme from £4,449 per person, full board, including flights and transfers. +44 20 3031 3838; healingholidays.com

SONEVA FUSHI MALDIVES

In the early 1990s, while many were making their first orders on Amazon and drinking newly invented Frappuccinos, Eva and Sonu Shivdasani were busy building the original Maldivian eco-luxe resort. Over the next quarter of a century the trailblazing couple planted organic gardens, turned the property carbon neutral and launched a holistic brand that would take flight to every corner of the globe. Six Senses is now a separate entity – the hotel and spa group were bought by InterContinental in 2019 – but the original retreat remains, set among jungle and waterfall walls. Also intact is the soul-soothing Soneva philosophy, merging sunrise yoga with bespoke massages, Indian and Thai therapies, and can't-get-enough-of-it healthy food.

There are Ayurvedic tinctures available at breakfast, alongside a new addition – tea made with *andropogon paniculata*, sometimes called Indian echinacea, a plant that has been clinically used as a potential inhibitor of SARS. Practitioners can help with spinal realignment, dream interpretation and chakra balancing, but the new treatment everyone should book is Body Balance. Designed to reset the mind after the trials of Covid-19, it combines sage burning with guided meditation and a head massage that will make you forget the outside world. At the villas – vast, woody, wrapped in greenery – guests find yoga mats, aromatherapy sleep kits and bicycles. And then there are the restorative properties of the landscape itself. Here, surrounded by nature in one of its most beautiful forms, it's impossible not to imagine that good intentions can become a reality. LEE COBAJ

BOOK IT Turquoise Holidays offers seven nights from £4,850 per person, including breakfast, flights and transfers. +44 1494 678 400; turquoiseholidays.co.uk

CHIVA – SOM THAILAND

It may be a wellness grande dame but this classic has always had a thoroughly modern attitude to sustainability. Significantly in a world full of greenwash, this isn't a new stance but a long-held principle that stems from the intuitive belief of its owners, the Rojanastien family, that personal wellbeing is inextricably linked to the health of the planet. In 2004, Chiva-Som founded an action group in its home town of Hua Hin to encourage carbon neutrality and reforestation. And, a good 10 years before Sir David Attenborough made single-use plastic a global concern, it had quietly installed an onsite water-bottling facility, practically wiping out its annual consumption of 130,000 plastic bottles. Cynics may argue that government incentives often influence companies' decisions to adopt environmentally friendly policies but there's no reason why shrewd financial planning cannot go hand in hand with sincerity. Likewise, fostering good relationships with workers is a win-win. One of Chiva-Som's strengths has always been staff retention. Guests appreciate that, unlike at other spas, they meet the same super-gifted therapists year after year, allowing them to build trust and rapport. Undoubtedly, perks such as student scholarships for employees' children help to cultivate this loyalty but given the scheme is mutually beneficial, it is surely a sensible as well as an ethical strategy. And it's fair to say the place does also look beyond the immediate bottom line. Most people probably never experience its most ambitious initiative: the preservation of Hua Hin's last mangrove forest, which plays a vital role as a wildlife breeding ground and in carbon capture, with 5,000 trees planted and £180,000 ploughed into the Krailart Niwate boardwalk through the forest to build a recreation area for the townsfolk. Of course, Chiva-Som publicises these efforts but it wears its worthiness lightly, and as with the spa programme, you'll find yourself seduced by its compassion as well as its capability. SUSAN D'ARCY

BOOK IT Healing Holidays offers seven nights from £4,499 per person, full board, including flights, transfers, one daily treatment and daily fitness activities. +44 20 3031 3838; healingholidays.com

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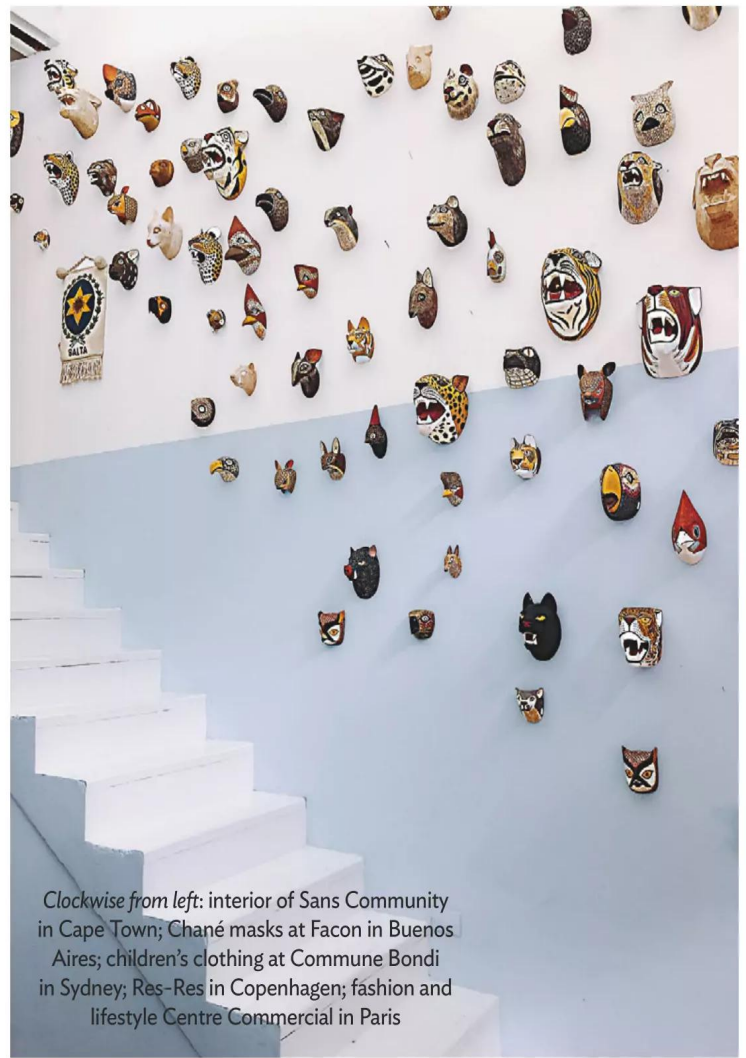
THE FASHION-FORWARD TWIST **UPCYCLING**

REVAMPED FABRICS ARE ON EVERYONE'S AGENDA. EDITED BY CHARLOTTE DAVEY

Life would surely be easier if we all wore leaves. The very first style accessory, after all, was a fig leaf, worn just so; and our distant ancestors covered up by stitching together vegetation, bark and grass. Totally biodegradable, a Lincoln-green riposte to fast fashion – textiles make up an estimated five per cent of landfill – and the practice of logging ancient forests to make viscose. But a more pragmatic alternative, perhaps, is to upcycle. Make do and mend. This rucksack has been repurposed from a patchwork of camouflage military-surplus fabric, stitched with recycled fibres that would otherwise be binned, and can be converted into all sorts of configurations – making it as practical and useful as a Swiss Army knife. It's part of an outdoors-inspired capsule collection called Eye/Loewe/Nature, with the Spanish house donating a percentage to environmental NGO Ambiente Europeo. As everyone knows, there's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes. RICK JORDAN *Printed-textile convertible backpack, £1,100, Eye/Loewe/Nature (loewe.com)*



PHOTOGRAPH: LUIS TENZA/ADDICTIVE CREATIVE/OFFSET



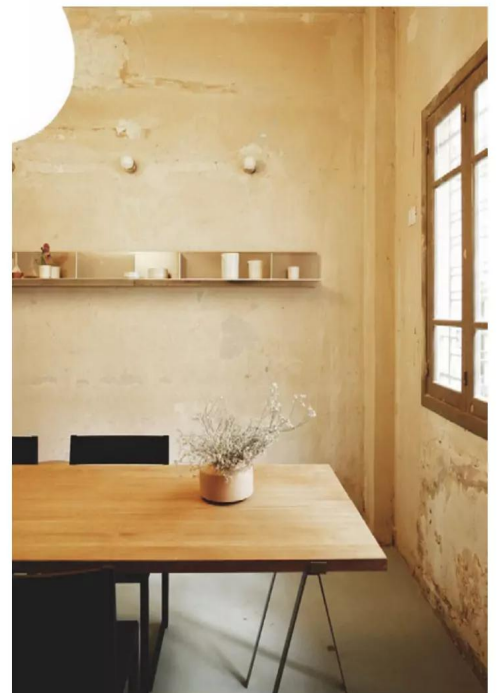
Clockwise from left: interior of Sans Community in Cape Town; Chané masks at Facon in Buenos Aires; children's clothing at Commune Bondi in Sydney; Res-Res in Copenhagen; fashion and lifestyle Centre Commercial in Paris





THE SHOPPING SCENE ECO-CONSCIOUS CONCEPT STORES

THE BEST ETHICAL AND ARTISANAL RETAILERS FROM
BEIRUT TO BUENOS AIRES. BY EMMA LOVE



CRAFTED SOCIETY, AMSTERDAM

Cashmere scarves woven by family-run Lanificio Arca; hats from fourth-generation milliner Sorbatti; heritage shoe factory Mirage Calzature's low-top sneakers. While many high-end fashion houses keep their manufacturing partners a closely guarded secret, Crafted Society's Luxury for Good approach to its Italian-produced accessories has a shout-it-from-the-rooftops level of transparency. Husband-and-wife duo Lise Bonnet and Martin Johnston not only co-brand each piece with the maker's name, they also list every label online and donate one per cent of annual turnover to non-profit organisations that educate disadvantaged children. craftedociety.com

BOTTLETOP, LONDON

This flagship is a world first: a no-waste boutique built with 3D printers and recycled plastic. It started with a foundation supporting grass-roots health projects in 2002, launched by Cameron Saul, along with a bestselling bag made from upcycled bottle tops sourced in Kenya and lined with Mulberry's leather off-cuts (Saul's father is the luxury house's founder, Roger). A decade later, the accessories company followed, co-founded with Oliver Wayman. Produced in Brazil, the collection uses zero-deforestation-guaranteed leather and signature hand-crafted chainmail stitched out of metal ring pulls. bottletop.org

CENTRE COMMERCIAL, PARIS

Sneaker label Veja is known for its transparent production process, agreeing the price of organic materials in advance and performing on-the-ground supplier-workplace checks. So it was no surprise that when founders François-Ghislain Morillion and Sébastien Kopp opened their first Centre Commercial boutique – there are now three – in Paris in 2010, the focus was on brands that shared the same ethos. Today, this includes New Zealand's Kowtow (Fairtrade wrap cardigans and jumpsuits); Seattle-based Girlfriend Collective (recycled-polyester sports tops, leggings made from plastic bottles); and French artist G Kero (parrot-print silk bomber jackets and kimonos). All shops also use Enercoop green electricity. centrecommercial.cc

GALERIE LA, LOS ANGELES

Celebrity stylist Dechel Mckillian started Galerie LA as a blog six years ago to show that choosing fashion with integrity needn't

mean sacrificing design. Now there's a bricks-and-mortar space in Downtown hotspot Row DTLA. The sustainable-values badges identify if a piece is vegan, recycled, eco-friendly, ethical, artisan-made or local. The system is the result of Mckillian's relationships with emerging names, such as Gracemade, Back Beat Co and MisterMrs, that offer visibility to garment workers and clear traceability of materials. galerie.la

THE SLOW, BEIRUT

Set in hip district Mar Mikhael, rebuilding after last year's explosion, this is an organic café, gallery, workspace and concept store rolled into one. It's the vision of Lebanese architect Sari Kassouf, who was so inspired by the thoughtful-living philosophy he discovered on a trip to Bali that he decided to replicate it in his home city. The interiors by Copenhagen-based, multi-disciplinary studio Frama – lime-washed walls, wooden rails – reflect the earthy shades of the items for sale: felted wool slippers sewn in Nepal by Betterfelt; bamboo toothbrushes; beaded wood-and-stone bracelets from Enbois; and chemical-free cotton sweatshirts by Swedish streetwear line Dedicated. theslow-lb.com

SANS COMMUNITY, CAPE TOWN

Opened in 2018, this stripped-back green-grocer in the Sea Point suburb sells organic produce from small-scale farmers who use regenerative agricultural practices, as well as functional lifestyle objects built to last. There are brooms with plant-fibre bristles, minimalist bags using discarded fabrics and natural Perfumer H fragrances. Inside, husband and wife Jon-Paul and Nicol Bolus have paired a muted palette with upcycled wooden units. Customers are also encouraged to 'support the milk man' by returning glass jars. sanscommunity.com

COMMUNE BONDI, SYDNEY

When Loren Morton was renovating her Bondi Beach pad seven years ago, she found it hard to source ethical, handmade homeware. So she approached her friend Kristie Keith with the idea of setting up a store where Australian artisans and conscious shoppers could come together. It's kitted out with rattan lighting, wonky eucalyptus-branch clothing rails suspended from the ceiling with twine and reclaimed-timber tables. Products range from clay bowls by local ceramicist Catherine Field

to pyjamas in stonewashed, sustainably sourced linen by Sydney-based In Bed. communebondi.com

HOST, ANTWERP

Owned by sisters Laura and Eva Broeckx, HOST – House of Sweets and Things – stocks clothes and accessories by small, mostly European creators. What unites them is that they all follow a responsible manufacturing process – both environmentally, through the fabrics used, and socially, with clear-cut production and fair wages. As well as fashion by Jan 'n June, Armedangels and Brava, there's jewellery, childrenswear and beauty products. The pair occasionally hold talks and run initiatives, such as a discount on Mud Jeans when customers bring in an old pair to be recycled. At the back, the garden-facing café is a lovely spot for a cappuccino. host-concept.be

FACON, BUENOS AIRES

Art director Martin Bustamante launched this brilliantly curated store in the city's up-and-coming Chacarita district to support remote Argentinian communities. As well as working with NGOs, he deals directly with indigenous people such as the Chané and Wichí from the Gran Chaco region (the former create wooden animal masks traditionally used for carnivals; the latter transform the *chaguar* plant into bags and artwork). Other highlights include a *yaguareté* children's board game made by the Guaraní people in Misiones, modern sheep's-wool rugs designed by Bustamante and produced by hand in Salta, and steel gaucho knives. facon.com.ar

RES-RES, COPENHAGEN

In the creative Nørrebro district, Res-Res, which stands for Respect Resources, has been fitted out with scrap materials. A Yrolí skincare selection sits on a second-hand, mint-green chest of drawers, organic Woron underwear and natural Soeder soap are displayed in crates, and repurposed wood panelling from roofs and fences is used as stands and backdrops. Owners Søren Alling Sørensen and Lars Toft, who are working towards getting the shop B-Corp certified – to business what Fairtrade is to coffee – have split the space: womenswear on one side and menswear on the other. There is also a Nudie jeans free-repair station and a policy of sending out online orders in old shoe boxes. res-res.com



THE GLOBAL STYLE COMPASS STELLA McCARTNEY

A TRAILBLAZER WHO WAS USING VEGAN LEATHER LONG BEFORE IT WENT MAINSTREAM, THE DESIGNER CONTINUES TO SPUR INDUSTRY CHANGE IN HER WORK WITH INDIAN COTTON COLLECTIVES AND CHINESE BIO-FUR CREATORS

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY TO YOU?

'I've tried to be sustainable pretty much my whole life and now all of a sudden it's become such an overused word that no one even knows what it means any more. For me, the most important thing is to draw on the natural resources we have in a way that doesn't deplete them. From a business viewpoint, I try to think about everything in terms of circularity. We work years in advance. I am always saying to my team: "Waste not, want not – do unto the planet as you would have it do unto you."'

HOW CAN LABELS AROUND THE WORLD AID A SYSTEMIC SHAKE-UP?

'The fashion industry relies on people – those who make our clothes, the farmers who grow the crops for the materials. If a company wants to have a serious positive impact, it has to start with the suppliers. We predominantly use small ateliers that specialise in particular processes: the average number of artisans we have in a

workspace in Italy, Hungary and Portugal is 37. I've also collaborated with individual communities on specific projects: together with Indian collective Oshadi I created a look for The Commonwealth Fashion Exchange with cruelty-free Peace Silk, which is made using ancient techniques and naturally dyed by craftsmen in Tamil Nadu. It takes a weaver one day to create five yards on a hand loom, compared to hundreds that can be produced by machine. Understanding the complexities of these skills drives the progress to guarantee fair working conditions.'

HOW DO YOU APPLY YOUR ETHOS TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE BRAND?

'I have a dedicated sustainability team – they are the ones on the ground, speaking to people, visiting farms, analysing traceability, looking at human rights and meeting exciting start-ups that we've heard about. We're always evaluating, reassessing and pushing towards zero waste.'

WHERE DO YOU GET INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR YOUR ECO APPROACH?

'I can't do this alone – we have to come together and make some big changes before we totally ruin the earth. Textile supply chains are inherently complex systems and we are living in a time of global unrest, which has led to increased levels of vulnerability, but I believe in the power that joining forces can bring. I've always championed eco-friendly fabrics such as Econyl (regenerated nylon) and we're now working with like-minded companies around the world: Seattle's Evrnu for regenerated cotton; Italian plant-based stretch-denim specialist Candiani; Californian Bolt Threads, which makes vegan leather from mycelium; and Ecopel who we teamed up with to create our plant-based Koba fur.'

HAS YOUR PHILOSOPHY BEEN AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC?

'I think it's fascinating that this has been the first time in history that we have all been



connected by one thing. I've found it very emotional. Early in lockdown, when I was in the countryside with my family, I had time to pause and reflect on what really matters. Terms such as zero waste and timeless were running through my mind, and they became The A to Z of Stella McCartney, a new initiative and guide to our values: A stands for accountable, B for British, C for conscious, and so on. It reflects our environmental awareness, everything we have learned, the changes we have implemented and everything we keep aiming for.'

SOME EXAMPLES OF WHERE YOU SOURCE RAW MATERIALS?

'Each of our suppliers, just like our employees, is unique. We select materials and products through a carefully vetted network of partners around the world – many have been with us since Stella McCartney was founded. We have a cooperative approach to maintaining our code of conduct: if a place is unable to comply with our standards, we can provide support for making improvements. Farming, specifically our wool farms in New Zealand and Australia, and our organic-cotton suppliers in Egypt and Turkey, is a big priority – land use

makes up 38 per cent of our total environmental impact, the largest of our categories. We partnered with Canadian NGO Canopy in 2014 and changed our viscose-sourcing policy to use a sustainable company in Sweden, and redesigned our packaging, ensuring it comes from responsibly managed forests and is high in recycled content where possible.'

ARE THERE CHALLENGES WHEN IT COMES TO ECO-CONSCIOUS VERSUS ETHICAL DECISIONS?

'There are certainly environmental implications where faux fur is concerned, and I am the first to admit that, but it is now so well made that there is no reason to wear the real thing. We have been working very hard to find innovative solutions, which is why we use Koba, the first faux fur from bio-based ingredients only, consuming about 30 per cent less energy and emitting up to 63 per cent less greenhouse gases than conventional synthetics. We have never used fur or leather because we believe that animals should not die for the sake of fashion. In my opinion, these materials have no place in a compassionate society and their use is

unnecessary today. I have great respect for the history and craft of what I do, but the way things are run, the fabrics that are commonly used – they haven't changed in a century, there's a resistance to innovation. To me, it's making shifts like these that is revolutionary.'

DO YOU THINK THE FUTURE OF FASHION IS GREEN?

'I want to jump for joy that everyone is finally starting to wake up and do something about the fact that fashion is one of the biggest polluters. It's funny to think that when I first started out I was considered the eco weirdo and was told I couldn't have a successful luxury label if I didn't use leather or fur. Now I see more and more brands thinking sustainably, and I absolutely love it. I hear in the news that department stores, even cities are going fur free. There are a lot of houses talking about it just because they want to be part of the conversation, and they're not necessarily taking a deeper look. But change is coming – this is not a trend. What I would really love is to become a zero-impact operation, which we are working on. As a whole we still have a long way to go, but I want to lead by example.'

CHARLOTTE DAVEY

From far left: growing vegan leather; Stella McCartney; sheep in New Zealand, where her brand has farms for the ethical supply of wool; a member of the Oshadi collective weeding on a regenerative cotton farm in Tamil Nadu, India

Right, Clean Ocean Limited Edition in stainless steel, £1,800, **Oris** (oris.ch). Below, Patravi ScubaTec Black in DLC-coated titanium case on a rubber strap with recycled PET textile layer, £5,500, **Carl F Bucherer** (carl-f-bucherer.com)



Right, C60 BLUE in stainless steel on a strap of reclaimed and recycled ocean plastic sourced by TIDE, from £895, **Christopher Ward** (christopherward.com)



THE WATCHMAKER MISSION SAVING THE OCEANS

BIG NAMES TEAM UP WITH PROACTIVE INNOVATORS TO REDUCE WASTE AND LOOK AFTER MARINE LIFE

Walking down a long stretch of beach in Bali last year, I couldn't understand why certain sections were covered in plastic but others were pristine. Then I got it – the patches directly in front of smart hotels were cleaned every morning, while those areas that didn't belong to any luxury establishment were left untouched.

It was a shocking reality check of what was being washed up every day. Official figures on the state of our oceans make for desperate reading: the United Nations Environment Programme calculates that more than eight million tonnes of plastic are leaked into the sea every year – the equivalent of one rubbish truck every minute. So a handful of watchmakers have taken definitive action, working with organisations that are making a difference. Oris has joined forces with Pacific Garbage Screening, a pioneering project that is developing a prototype floating platform positioned in rivers and estuaries to retrieve plastic litter before it enters the sea and convert it into energy and bio-based products. The brand's Clean Ocean Limited Edition watch highlights this partnership with a medallion made from recycled PET plastic set into its case-back and a box crafted from (of all things) algae. Carl F Bucherer's Patravi ScubaTec Black celebrates its ongoing support of the Manta Trust, whose goal is to protect the Maldivian manta ray and its marine habitat through research and education. Recent contributions have sponsored two satellite tags to track the movements of rays in the tropical eastern Pacific, while the watch includes a textile strap insert made from ocean-recovered bottles. And Christopher Ward has launched the C60 BLUE, also with a strap made from salvaged ocean plastic, with all profits donated to the BLUE Marine Foundation, which is dedicated to addressing the issue of overfishing. With a punchy mission statement that aims to 'see at least 30 per cent of the world's seas under effective protection by 2030' (and the rest managed responsibly), it has to date secured commitments to safeguard more than 1.5 million square miles of ocean. Buying a timepiece may seem inconsequential, but with collaborations that connect watch-lovers with dynamic changemakers, small steps may help to turn the tide. JESSICA DIAMOND

Bird and Cloud earring in gold-plated silver, peridot, cameo, goldstone, mother-of-pearl, opal, topaz, turquoise, pearl and moonstone, £1,195 (one of a pair), **Grainne Morton** (grainnemorton.co.uk)



Easy Living 22 earrings in gold, citrine, prasiolite and vintage wooden chips, £2,000, **Francesca Villa** (objetde motion.com)

Her Stand Up 2 ring in pink gold, 19th-century Venetian glass bead and diamonds, £2,960, **Francesca Villa** (as before)



THE JEWELLERY REMIX SALVAGED TREASURES

FOUND OBJECTS AND VINTAGE STONES ARE TURNED INTO PIECES THAT CELEBRATE RENEWAL AND LONGEVITY

Jewellery is so often about perfection – the flawless gem, the symmetry, the precision setting. But what if things go wrong? Many of the processes involved are prone to human error, most often in the cutting of stones, which can crack, break or shatter even in the most skilled of hands, leading to waste as facets are recut and mistakes polished away. But Milanese brand Pomellato is embracing such odd remnants, specifically in nuggets of jet and volcanic kogolong that would otherwise be cast aside. Inspired by the Japanese art of *kintsugi*, where broken pottery is mended with lacquer and gold, the seams in damaged stones are glued and gilded in a sustainable act of reconfiguring rather than discarding. Scottish-based jeweller and self-confessed magpie Grainne Morton also gives objects a second chance; her obsession with all things miniature originates from helping out in her parents' antiques business. She assembles knick-knacks that might ordinarily get overlooked – old buttons, fragments of coral, vintage glass eyes, cameos and rhinestones from the 1950s – in magical combinations that tell their own narrative. Mixed in carefully balanced compositions according to style, palette or theme, they come to life again. Francesca Villa follows a similar path, honing in on the flotsam and jetsam of life and reviving it in whimsical creations. Specific moments in time are frozen, caught in her precious-metal settings – a Nixon election-campaign pin, a piece of Essex crystal or an antique red lacquer Chinese button; in a trio of bracelets, ivory chips from an American casino are given new value. Both Morton and Villa add fresh meaning to old things through reverent preservation; for them it is all about context. And as with Pomellato, the philosophy is simple – work with what's there already and reuse it, rather than consuming more. JD

Wire Charm drop necklace in gold-plated silver, pink chalcedony, chrysoprase, shell, pearl, antique button, cameo, vintage glass and labradorite, £1,375, **Grainne Morton** (as before)



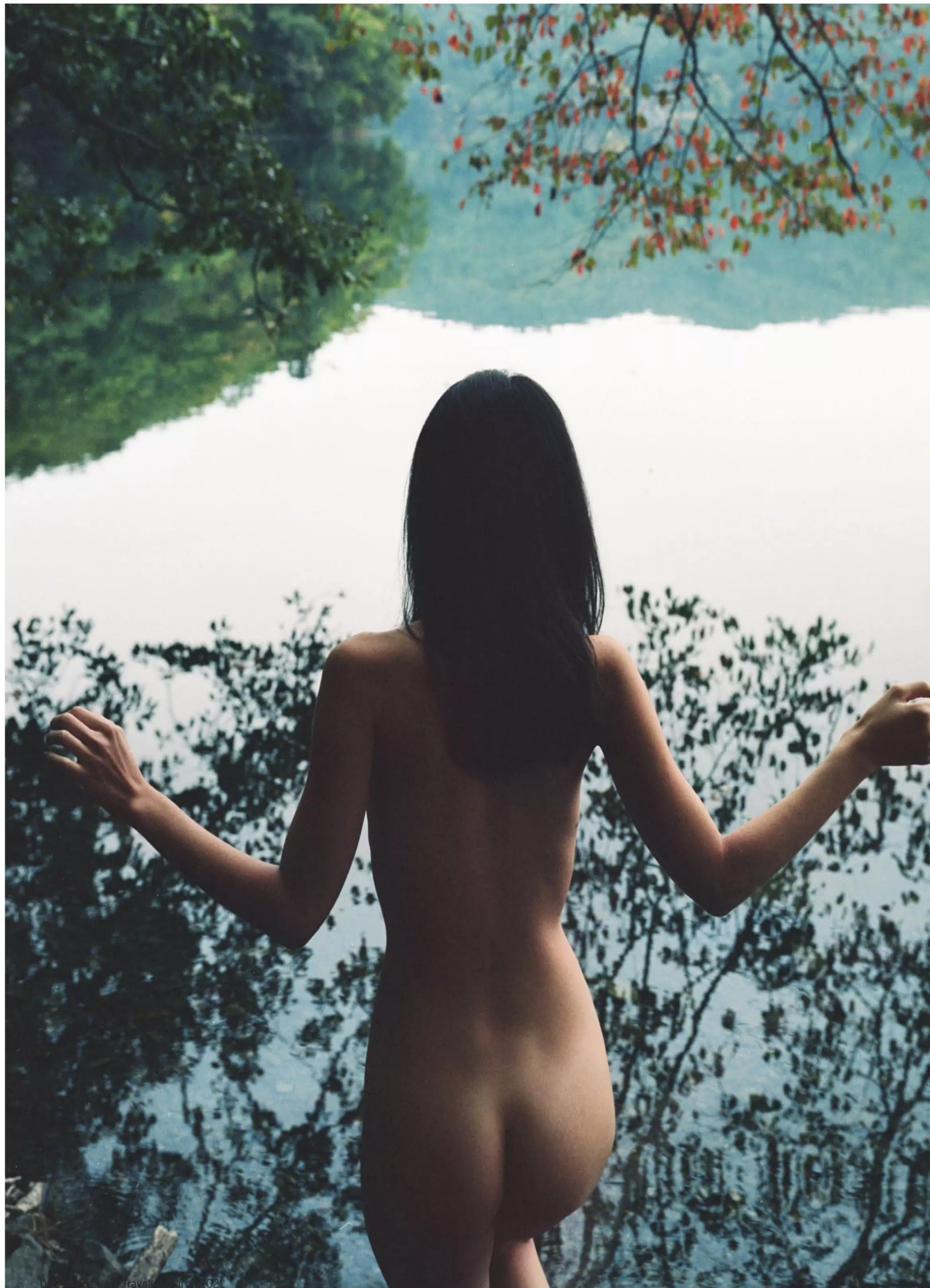
Opal Cloud earrings in gold-plated silver, sterling opal, peridot, rhodochrosite, carnelian, moonstone, opal, vintage glass, tourmaline, aquamarine, prehnite, coral, dyed abalone and amber, £975, **Grainne Morton** (as before)



Kintsugi ring in fair-mined rose gold, jet and black diamonds, £12,300, **Pomellato** (pomellato.com)



Kintsugi earrings in fair-mined rose gold, jet and black diamonds, £14,550, **Pomellato** (as before)



THE WASHBAG OVERHAUL PLANET-FRIENDLY FIXES

IT TAKES A CENTURY FOR A MAKE-UP WIPE TO DEGRADE. SWERVE DISPOSABLES AND TOXIN-FILLED PRODUCTS BY UPDATING YOUR TRAVEL ROUTINE WITH ALTERNATIVES. BY CATHERINE ROBINSON



TOOTHPASTE WITHOUT HARMFUL CHEMICALS

Most of us have become savvy about deciphering the small print on skincare but when it comes to toothpaste, who checks? We should, because triclosan (an antibacterial substance and pesticide) and propylene glycol (a synthetic food additive) are common ingredients. Spotlight Oral Care was created by two Irish dentists in 2016 and combines the latest advances in research with safe formulas that are vegan, cruelty free and ocean safe. It has also made one of the world's first fully recyclable toothpaste tubes, which is a big deal. Everyone wants a brighter smile, so I'm hooked on its **Toothpaste for Whitening Teeth** containing hydrogen peroxide to lift stains. Minty fresh but without the chalkiness we have become used to. £9.50 (spotlightoralcare.com)



ALL-ORGANIC FACE CREAM

Motivated by her son's childhood allergies, scientist Barbara Paldus launched Codex Beauty, an exceptionally effective, sustainable range derived from wild organic plants so herbaceous I can practically smell the field they came from. This is for those who only want goodness: packaging is made from no-waste sugarcane and synthetic preservatives have been replaced with a natural agent. **Skin Superfood** was just what I needed after a peel left my face screaming with sensitivity. I love the feeling of hydration, glowing with health. £48 (uk.codexbeauty.com)

PLANT-BASED PAIN RELIEF

Wellness websites instantly revive me, as if I have ingested their vitamin-rich tinctures through scrolling alone. Lady-high.com is a favourite, home to CBD products by women-run and minority-owned companies.

Cannabidiol is extracted from hemp and contains less than 0.2 per cent of psychoactive chemical THC, so it doesn't cause a high and is legal in the UK. Its transdermal absorption acts as a miraculous anti-inflammatory and Huna's **Broad Spectrum CBD Derma Patch** is not only heavy-metal-free and ethically sourced, it has healed my knee, which was rickety from a past injury. It's been a while since I've felt stiffness in my neck after taking the red eye from New York, but this is what I'll reach for when I do. £59 for 30 (lady-high.com)



A PLASTIC-FREE DEEP CLEAN

Disposable wipes are to blame for 93 per cent of blockages in Britain's sewers. It's a fact that's hard to unknow, even if you only buy them once in a while. London-based Seoulista sources innovative skincare from South Korea for an affordable, at-home routine and **Magic Cleanse** – plump discs that clean only with water – is the quick make-up-removal fix everyone needs. The textured side loosens make-up and dirt, while the fluffy side, with its antibacterial fibres, lifts it all away. The pads are blissful to touch and seemed almost too good to be true, so I tested them by applying micellar water afterwards to see if any traces had been left behind. They hadn't. Great for a weekend away – just rinse and reuse. Genius. £14.99 (seoulisatabeauty.com)



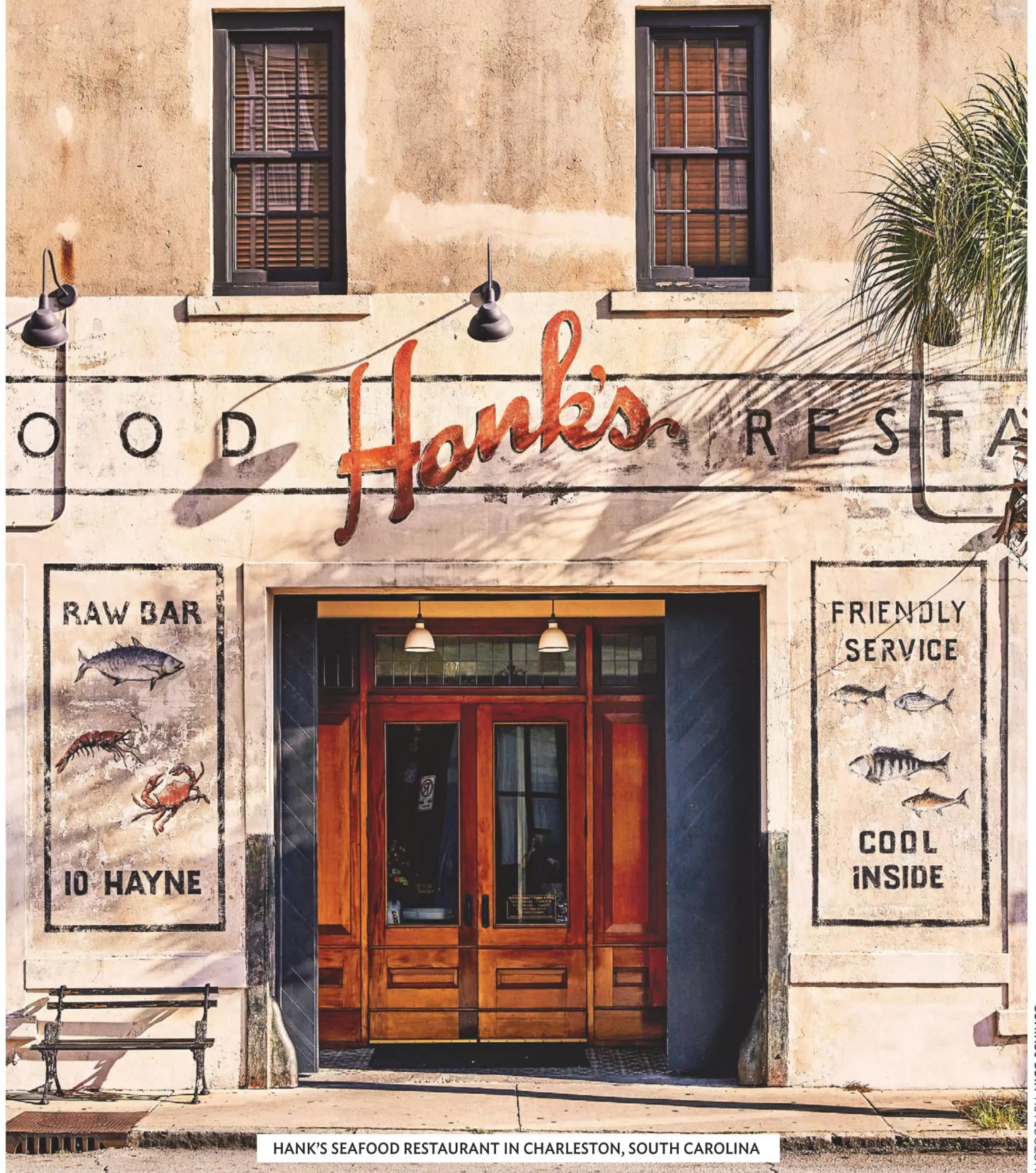
A BRAND THAT GOES FURTHER ON RECYCLING

The cosmetics industry produces 120 billion units of packaging every year. We all want to do better when it comes to recycling and ESPA has just made things a lot easier. Its RecycleMe scheme allows you to return empty containers from any beauty brand and it will do the rest. When the company was founded in 1993, I was such a fan of its bath oils that I applied for a job there. I didn't make the cut but continued to be a customer. The **Restful Bath & Body Oil** has now replaced my army of products to ensure a good night's sleep. Soothing clary sage, lavender and bergamot make for an intoxicating blend – my tip is to massage a few drops into the soles of your feet before bed. £34 (espaskincare.com)

WHERE TO GO IN 2021

CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER'S 21 FAVOURITE PLACES TO VISIT THIS YEAR,
FROM CHARLESTON TO COSTA RICA VIA THE SHETLAND ISLANDS AND VIETNAM

SEE THE FULL LIST AT [CNTRAVELLER.COM/GALLERY/2021](https://cntraveller.com/gallery/2021)



HANK'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

A man with long, curly brown hair and a beard stands barefoot on a dark, weathered concrete pier. He is holding a large, light-colored wooden surfboard vertically against his chest. The pier is situated in a body of water, with a dense, lush tropical forest of palm trees and other greenery in the background. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft, natural lighting.

THE GREEN LIST

MAVERICK AGENTS FOR CHANGE ARE REDEFINING
THE FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT THE EARTH

EDITED BY FIONA KERR

A large, powerful ocean wave with a surfer riding it. The surfer is a person in a dark wetsuit, positioned on the face of the wave, which is curling over. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the sky is a pale blue.

THE SURFER SCIENTIST

CLIFF KAPONO

Few are as connected to the ocean as surfers, yet even this most conscious of communities has environmental soul-searching to do. In recent years, heightened awareness of the sport's negative ecological impact – from the toxic materials used to produce landfill-clogging surfboards and wetsuits to the run-off from surf wax and sun cream – has created a new wave of break-seeking activists. Among the A-listers putting their voices to good use, Rob Machado, Kelly Slater and Greg Long have, respectively, championed the reduction of ocean plastics, advocated against overfishing and spoken at the UN General Assembly. Another pioneer can be found in Hilo, Hawaii. Pro rider and chemist Cliff Kapon's expertise in molecular bioscience makes him an authority on surfing's effect on the environment. When not experimenting with sustainably made boards – the subject of his 2016 documentary *Surf Wasted* – or studying the health of Honoli'i's coral reefs, he's hitting the swell armed with swab tests for his Surfer Biome Project, a bacteria assessment of ocean users that casts a forensic eye on how we interact with marine ecosystems: 'To me it means spending as much time learning about a place as I do playing in it.' cliffkapon.com



THE ECO-TOURISM HERO

MARIT MINERS

'Seeing the abandoned shark-finning camp was the catalyst for action,' recalls Swedish-born Marit Miners of her wake-up moment on Batbitim Island in Indonesia's Raja Ampat 16 years ago. 'I realised then that there were no sharks left underwater, and what I'd thought was an amazing diving experience was completely skewed.'

In a bid to protect this epicentre of marine biodiversity, she and her now-husband Andrew asked the local clans' permission to build a conservation centre on the isle, securing a 164-square-mile stretch of ocean for a no-take zone that banned fishing (now the patrolled reserve is nearly twice the size of Singapore and the biomass has increased by 250 per cent over six years).

Funding the efforts of the foundation is Misool, a barefoot hotel made from reclaimed wood that runs on 60 per cent renewable energy and employs locals. 'Private enterprise and conservation can work together,' says Miners, whose retreat paved the way for eco-tourism leaders Song Saa in Cambodia and Wa Ale, Myanmar. 'Imagine how different the world would be if everyone protected their patch.'

misool.info

THE AMAZON SPOKESPERSON

TICA MINAMI

Indigenous communities are stewards of an estimated 65 per cent of the earth's land, hosting 80 per cent of all biodiversity. 'They hold the fate of humanity,' says Tica Minami. In her role as campaign director at Greenpeace Brazil, she works with indigenous people on the frontline in the fight against deforestation. 'The Amazon is referred to as the lungs of the world, but I think of it as the beating heart that drives global weather systems,' she says. 'If we consider the climate emergency as the biggest threat, the health of our forests is imperative.' Minami has been actively investigating illegal logging, agribusiness expansion and the violation of human rights since 2000. Climate-change solutions often focus on the energy sector and the use of oil versus renewables, but in Brazil, most carbon released into the atmosphere comes from the cutting of hardwood trees. 'Indigenous people live in balance with nature; they don't see themselves as separate from it.' Minami urges everyone, no matter where they live, to learn from Amazonians; they've been confronted with the destruction of their homeland for 500 years.

It is crucial to diminish this pressure, down to questioning if the food we are eating is connected with the clearing of the rainforest. What happens in the Amazon impacts the whole planet.




THE ZERO-EMISSION AVIATION EXPERT

OLAV MOSVOLD LARSEN

To say that 2020 was a bad year for the airline industry would be an understatement. But as the dialogue around a more conscious travel sector post-pandemic grows, addressing the jumbo jet in the room must be at the forefront. Progress towards greener aircraft has been slow. So far only small electric ones have got off the ground, while elsewhere the focus has switched to hydrogen power to cut emissions. Norway is a leader in transport electrification. Steering that change in its skies is Olav Mosvold Larsen, who manages carbon reduction at state airport group Avinor. 'Our vision is that all domestic air traffic in Norway will be electrified by 2040. Aviation will then be part of the solution, not part of the problem.' Avinor has set the example in its pledge to go fossil fuel-free, with Iceland and Sweden since committing to their own drives. 'We are putting together an in-house project to oversee the need for new infrastructure at our airports, whether that is charging from the grid, stationary batteries or variants of hydrogen supply.' The future of flying is clean.





THE BIG-IDEA ARCHITECT

BJARKE INGELS

With buildings responsible for nearly 40 per cent of worldwide energy consumption, there's no doubt that a change in the construction mindset is needed. There are glimmers of progress: new EU rules to ensure better-performing spaces; the UK's Architects Climate Action Network campaigning for retrofitting existing stock; Singapore's on-track target of greening 80 per cent of its properties by 2030. But what if environmental concerns were tackled holistically, together? That's the joined-up thinking behind Danish architect Bjarke Ingels's grand-scale Masterplanet concept, which argues that a sustainable human presence on earth is achievable, even with a predicted population of nearly 10 billion by 2050. Ideas include a global electrical grid to help solve the intermittent production of renewable energy and floating cities to house people displaced by rising sea levels. Of course, while billed as a blueprint for redesigning the entire planet to cut greenhouse emissions, protect resources and adapt to climate change, it's meant to be seen as a guide, to get innovation whirring. But Ingels, who founded his practice BIG 16 years ago, is known for turning out-of-the-box ideas into reality, as evidenced by projects such as his waste-to-energy power plant topped with a dry ski slope in Copenhagen and in-progress BiodiverCity, three artificial eco islands off the shore of Malaysia's Penang. *big.dk*



PHOTOGRAPHS: ANTON CORBIJN/GETTY IMAGES; KATE PETERS



THE NEW NATURE WRITER

DARA McANULTY

When he scooped last year's Wainwright Prize for UK nature writing, 16-year-old Dara McAnulty not only joined the ranks of acclaimed authors such as Robert Macfarlane and Helen Macdonald but also became the youngest-ever winner of a major British literary award. *Diary of a Young Naturalist* begins in the spring, in Northern Ireland where he lives, on the cusp of his 14th birthday, and reveals a connection to wildlife through the seasons. His enthusiasm for swifts and seals, for saving injured bats and watching pied wagtails, is absorbing. For McAnulty, who is autistic, the outdoors is a refuge. 'Nature is everything!' he says, citing the curlew as his current favourite bird. 'Its call just ripples your insides.' He is an active campaigner, on issues ranging from stopping whaling to biodiversity loss, with a role at the British Trust for Ornithology, and has a children's book, *Wild Child*, coming out in July. 'Writers are the wonder sharers, the thought provokers and the instigators of change. Stories are important to humans. It's how we create pathways to understanding and leave a legacy.'



THE RENEGADE ECONOMIST

KATE RAWORTH

Mainstream economics is obsessed with growth: to expand the economy and thus, it is argued, raise living standards. But what happens when social inequality is increasing and consumption has pushed the planet to breaking point? Kate Raworth's doughnut-shaped vision – first published as an Oxfam discussion paper nine years ago, and later a 2017 bestselling book – urges us to forget growth and instead think about survival. Raworth radically redraws the system, putting people's needs at its heart – an inner ring of 'social foundation', where people aren't falling into the doughnut's hole due to a shortage of the essentials such as food, water and housing – with growth bound by an ecological ceiling, the outer edge of the circle, beyond which there is climate change, freshwater stress and biodiversity loss. The doughnut is the safe space where there can be sustainable development. 'It shows us that we need to create circular economies; an ecosystem of enterprise that invests in the health and education of us all,' Raworth explains of the theory, said to have shaped the big-picture goals set at the 2012 Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. Going one giant step further, she recently launched the Doughnut Economics Action Lab, a platform aimed at encouraging communities to join the likes of Cornwall Council, which uses the framework as a social and ecological compass for decision-making, and Costa Rica, which is aiming to become regenerative on a national scale, in actioning transformative change. doughnuteconomics.org

THE VEGAN HOTELIER

JACK McLAREN-STEWART

Veganism has never been so high on the ethical agenda – around 15 per cent of global greenhouse gases are reportedly produced by animal agriculture – but the concept of 'vegging out' became more literal in 2019, when 28-year-old Jack McLaren-Stewart launched 11-bedroom hotel Saorsa 1875 in Scotland's Perthshire. Frustrated that luxury travel was slower to adopt environmentally and socially conscious methods than its fashion and restaurant counterparts, he created a space for the plant-curious, where everything – from the styling to the kitchen ingredients – is free from animal by-products. Suppliers' human-rights records are vetted; electricity is 100 per cent renewable via Ecotricity, and staff are protected through living wages and rolling contracts. The risk of opening deep in the hunting-rich Highlands wasn't lost on McLaren-Stewart, though. 'Some cattle farmers turned up for dinner,' he says. 'It was great; they were curious about veganism and we love conversation.' With plans to launch an on-site cookery school, he is philosophical about the future: 'Being free of animal products shouldn't have to be a selling point – the goal is for all hotels to be vegan.' saorsahotel.com



PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES BRANAMAN



THE INTERSECTIONAL ENVIRONMENTALIST

LEAH THOMAS

If anyone knows how to turn social media into a movement it's Leah Thomas. Otherwise known as Green Girl Leah, the environmental-science-major-turned-eco-activist has been propelled into the spotlight by her viral posts exposing the racism in the majority-white professional spaces she occupied. During the 2020 resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, she outlined how social justice and intersectionality – recognising the variables of racial, religious, economic and gender equality – were key to the success of ecological efforts. 'A lot of environmentalists pride themselves on helping the climate crisis,' says Thomas, who is based in Southern California. 'But when the question comes up about humans in danger, or the Black, brown and low-income people who bear the brunt of environmental injustice in the west – proximity to toxic waste sites, lead in their water – it's like, "Whoa, why do we have to talk about race?"' Her website provides resources on topics such as queer ecology and urban farming in low-income communities for people to better understand how environmental issues correlate to racial and socio-economic oppression. intersectionalenvironmentalist.com



THE REFORESTER

CLARE DUBOIS

From the numerous carbon-offset companies to Tiny Forest projects, organisations are planting trees around the world like never before. As they should: a study by Swiss university ETH Zürich, published in the *Science* journal in 2019, suggested global tree restoration 'as one of the most effective carbon drawdown solutions to date.' It's also the cheapest, at about 40p per seedling. In 2009, Clare Dubois's life was saved by a trunk when

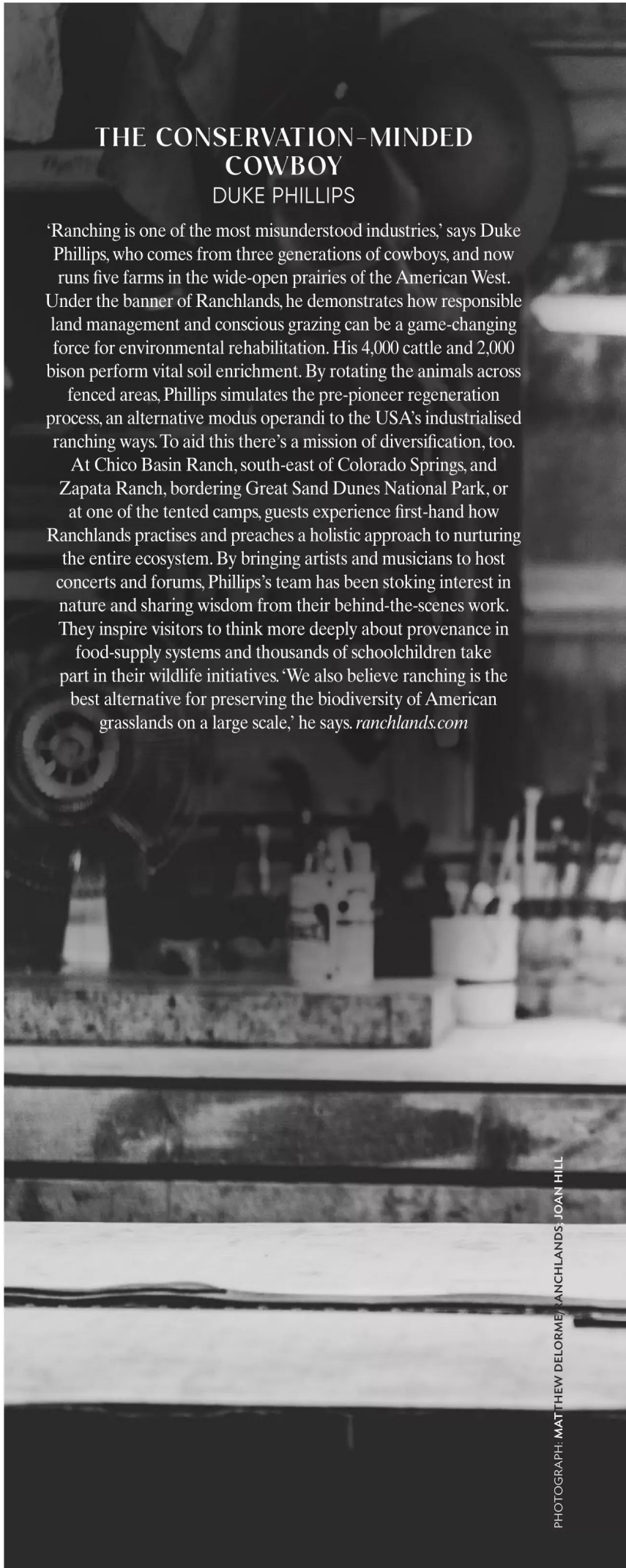
her car skidded on an icy road near her home in Gloucestershire and almost rolled into a ravine. She took it as a sign, later founding the TreeSisters charity with her friend Bernadette Ryder. While emission-reducing schemes have come under scrutiny in recent years for being a quick fix for consumer guilt and planting the wrong saplings in the wrong place at the wrong time, TreeSisters is different. It's something far more holistic: ethical, community-based reforestation with native trees that provides long-term benefits to ecosystems as well as the people around them. It wants to shift mindsets from consumers to restorers, reigniting our respect and love for nature, while putting women at the centre of this social change. At the end of 2020 it surpassed 15 million trees funded in 10 tropical environments, from Madagascar to India. 'It's tangible, it's simple, it's future-proof, it's life-giving,' says Dubois. treesisters.org

THE CONSERVATION-MINDED COWBOY

DUKE PHILLIPS

'Ranching is one of the most misunderstood industries,' says Duke Phillips, who comes from three generations of cowboys, and now runs five farms in the wide-open prairies of the American West. Under the banner of Ranchlands, he demonstrates how responsible land management and conscious grazing can be a game-changing force for environmental rehabilitation. His 4,000 cattle and 2,000 bison perform vital soil enrichment. By rotating the animals across fenced areas, Phillips simulates the pre-pioneer regeneration process, an alternative *modus operandi* to the USA's industrialised ranching ways. To aid this there's a mission of diversification, too.

At Chico Basin Ranch, south-east of Colorado Springs, and Zapata Ranch, bordering Great Sand Dunes National Park, or at one of the tented camps, guests experience first-hand how Ranchlands practises and preaches a holistic approach to nurturing the entire ecosystem. By bringing artists and musicians to host concerts and forums, Phillips's team has been stoking interest in nature and sharing wisdom from their behind-the-scenes work. They inspire visitors to think more deeply about provenance in food-supply systems and thousands of schoolchildren take part in their wildlife initiatives. 'We also believe ranching is the best alternative for preserving the biodiversity of American grasslands on a large scale,' he says. ranchlands.com



PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW DELORME / RANGLANDS JOAN HILL



THE FOOD-WASTE PIONEER

JOOST BAKKER

Nine years ago – when the term was still a truly radical prospect – Joost Bakker opened the world's first zero-waste restaurant, Silo by Joost in Melbourne. It inspired a legion of sustainably minded chefs including Doug McMaster, who worked with Dutch-born Bakker in Australia before bringing Silo to Brighton and now London.

His commitment to closing the loop has evolved into the Future Food System, a self-sustaining house that provides produce and energy. 'Nothing is going to change unless we revolutionise our method for growing food,' says Bakker, who has collaborated with husband-and-wife chefs Matt Stone and Jo Barrett on the project (they are in residence until April; then it will become his mother's home). 'This is my life's work in one building.' The dwelling – partly made from wheat and straw fibres – follows on from Greenhouse,

his serial pop-up that was a testing ground for ideas such as in-vessel worm farms and bulk-making soy milk. The system has, he hopes, the capacity to produce about 4,409lb of food per year. His vision includes oyster mushrooms cultivated in old jeans, an aquaponics set-up for breeding barramundi and a biogas digester that transforms organic waste into fuel. A bold example to learn from for future ways of living and eating. futurefoodsystem.com



THE VISIONARY ENTREPRENEUR

JOHN PRITCHARD

The fashion industry is cottoning onto giving back – from Toms pioneering the one-for-one business model, donating a pair of shoes for each sold, to ethical label Gandys funding children's educational campuses. It was the former initiative, plus an article on the 1.2 billion people worldwide with poor vision who don't have access to glasses, that sowed the seed for John Pritchard's Pala. Launched in 2016, the brand has a simple concept: for every pair of sunglasses bought, he contributes to Vision Aid Overseas projects in Africa (calculated as four per cent of annual turnover now Pala is B Corp certified). So far, nearly £40,000 in grants has been provided to develop an eye-care centre in Zambia serving more than 750,000 people. All glasses have Italian plant-based bio-acetate frames and a recycled-plastic case made by weavers in Ghana, paid double the minimum wage. According to Pritchard, 'We're not here for sticking-plaster solutions; it's important to create long-term impact by empowering people to help themselves.' palaeyewear.com



A woman with long brown hair is sitting on a dark windowsill, looking out a window with a decorative metal railing. She is wearing a white long-sleeved dress with a floral pattern, a long green beaded necklace, and grey sneakers. The room has warm lighting and a wooden floor.

THE HOSPITALITY HUMANITARIAN

HARSHA L'ACQUA

Growing up, Harsha L'Acqua observed philanthropy first-hand – her father helped to build homes for Mother Teresa – but it wasn't until she stumbled across the Sala Bai Hotel School in Siem Reap that she realised how to combine it with her passion: hospitality. She quit her marketing and operations role at The Fullerton Hotel in Singapore, enrolled on a master's at Cornell University and, six years ago, founded trailblazing non-profit Saira Hospitality. Since then it has created pop-up training outfits for soon-to-open properties around the world including Bunkhouse Todos Santos, Four Seasons Costa Palmas and Habitas Namibia, plus a new permanent school at The Monastery hotel in West Virginia, upskilling locals for employment in the industry. 'To have a positive impact, hotels need to give before they take and not overlook the talent around them,' she says. 'Travellers are looking for stays that connect with the community: no one wants to see a general manager from New York in the Maldives if they've just left Manhattan.' sairahospitality.com

THE ACTIVIST ADVENTURER

LIZZIE CARR

Harnessing the power of adventure to highlight environmental issues is a growing movement. Lewis Pugh's long-distance swims – across the 87-mile width of the Maldives archipelago and 328 miles of English Channel from Land's End to Dover – put the focus on warming oceans. Meanwhile, Kate Rawles cycled across South America on a self-built bamboo bicycle to raise awareness about biodiversity loss. 'It's a way of storytelling, of getting people talking,' says Lizzie Carr, founder of non-profit Planet Patrol, whose own exploits over the past five years include paddleboarding the length of England's waterways and along the Hudson River in New York state as a catalyst for conversation around plastic pollution and our throwaway culture. From the beginning, she realised the importance of collecting data as well as organising clean-ups, and so created an interactive map that anyone can add to (so far, more than 300,000 pieces of litter have been logged across 82 countries).

Carr is also producing a series of impact reports where the most recent findings – 83 per cent of overall rubbish is plastic; Coca-Cola and Cadbury are among the top-polluting brands – are designed to feed into the long-term environmental commitments of the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. She's reframing epic expeditions from a feat of personal endurance to a contribution to collective eco action. planetpatrol.co



THE GRASSROOTS LEADER

ELIZABETH TOLU OJO

Typically dominated by westerners and charities, African conservation is long overdue a shake-up.

Leading the charge is 35-year-old Nigerian Elizabeth Tolu Ojo – director of operations at the ALU School of Wildlife Conservation (SOWC) in Kigali, Rwanda. Ojo's mission is to foster an African-led conservation sector that is 'equitable, financially sustainable and creates value for Africa's economic development'.

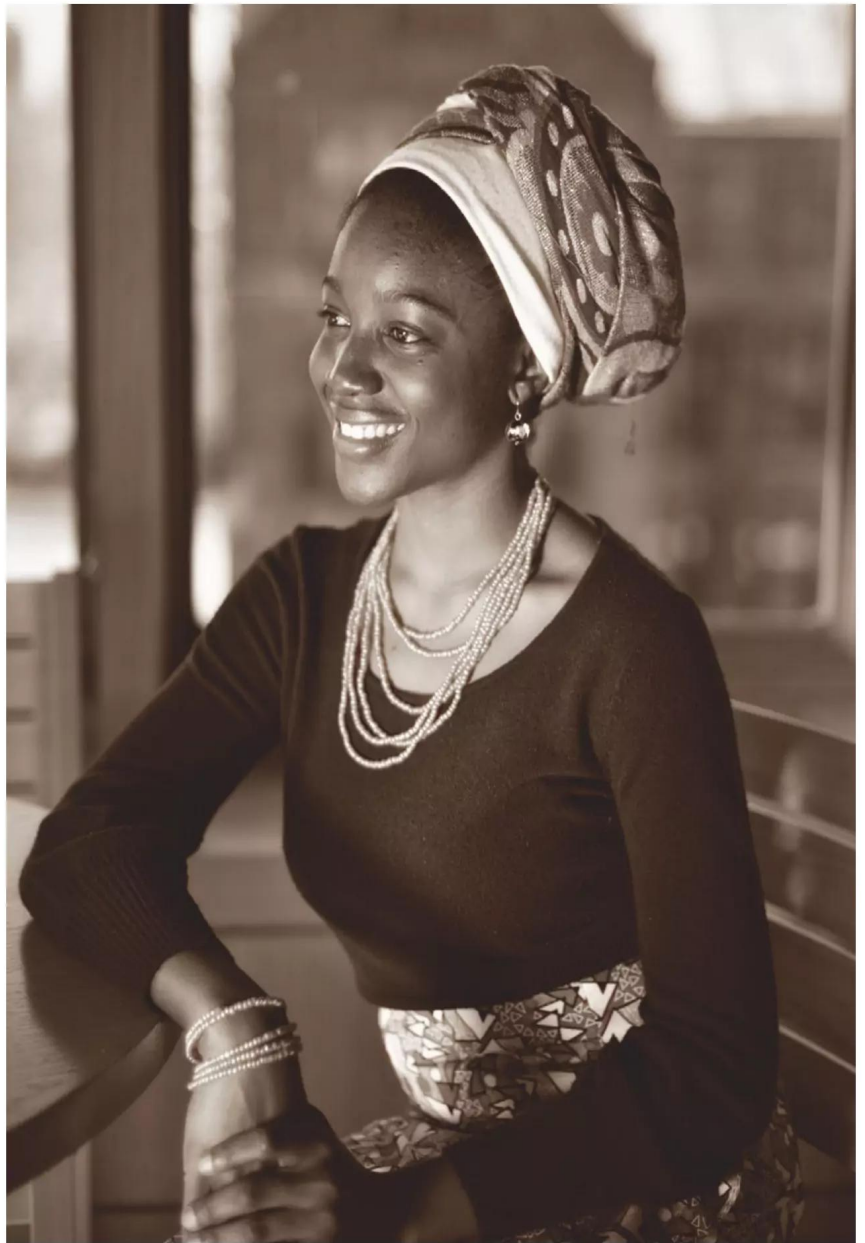
Boosting more local women into top jobs is part of that; in 2019, the school offered eight full

MBA scholarships specifically for female conservationists. SOWC students solve problems and develop businesses – from plantain-trunk paper to smart beehives – to transform environmental preservation into an exciting, profitable industry. There are undergraduate

courses and an MBA providing 'business education that is contextualised for the African continent', says Ojo. The school is part of the

African Leadership Group, and aims to advance three million ethical, solutions-driven leaders in business and politics by 2035 –

a network that can build healthy economies for Sub-Saharan Africa's booming workforce. sowc.alueducation.com



THE AGENDA-SETTING FILM-MAKER

FRANNY ARMSTRONG

'The David-and-Goliath McLibel case, in which a postman and a gardener stood up to McDonald's in court, encompassed not just freedom of speech but healthy eating, environmental destruction and workers' rights,' says Franny Armstrong. Her first film, 1997's *McLibel*, following the longest defamation trial in British history, was seen by more than 25 million people. While her other works – 2009's *The Age of Stupid*, starring the late Pete Postlethwaite as a man living in a devastated 2055, and last year's *Pie Net Zero*, a comedy short about climate change that trended globally on YouTube – have put her alongside Al Gore (*An Inconvenient Truth*) and director Andrew Morgan (*The True Cost*), whose impactful documentaries have shifted the environmental conversation. 'To me, films are the most powerful tools for social change,' she says. Next up, in May, is *Riverside*, a live investigative piece streamed online about the state of the UK's rivers. spannerfilms.net



THE GOOD-TIMES GAME-CHANGER

RONALD AKILI

Pioneering hotel brands such as Soneva and Singita set the benchmark for responsible tourism with now much-emulated low-impact design and industry-leading community and conservation initiatives.

Today, Indonesian entrepreneur Ronald Akili, co-founder of Bali's Desa Potato Head, is following in their light footsteps but on a fresh path with his next-gen Good Times Do Good mantra. 'I've always lived life to the full, but I now do it in a better, more responsible way; I wanted to bring that to Potato Head,' he says. His sustainable efforts so far include using an environmentally friendly practice to process seawater as drinking water; the rattan-like ceiling in the communal areas, woven from 1.7 tonnes of old plastic bottles, and the Sustainism Lab where bedroom provisions are produced using recycled materials. The project, which opened its latest stages early last year, evolves the concept of hotel as community hub, reimagining it instead as an exciting ideas incubator. 'There's no need to compromise on comfort or beauty; we try to inspire through creativity with great experiences that happen to be sustainable,' says Akili. A studio space for his new clothing line, The Wasted Collective, is in the pipeline as well as Sustainism Kids, playful art workshops with a planet-friendly twist. potatohead.co



THE GREEN MAYOR

ANNE HIDALGO

At the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit, more than 100 cities committed to aim for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 – including Oslo, the electric-car capital of the world; Amsterdam, with its circular-economy programme; and Paris, where socialist Anne Hidalgo has led the green charge since becoming mayor seven years ago (until 2019, she was also chair of C40 Cities, a network driving efforts on climate change). In a bid to improve urban living, she has banned cars from the centre one Sunday a month and turned two miles of the Right Bank into a pedestrian zone. These measures are just the start. Her re-election campaign last year outlined ambitious plans: transforming Paris into a 15-minute city, a series of self-sufficient hubs with all essentials within walking distance, making every street cycle-friendly by 2024 and planting 170,000 trees. 'Given the accelerating pace of climate change, we are left with no choice but to adapt the way we live in cities – they have a leading role to play,' she says.

REPORTING BY Shivani Ashoka, Fiona Kerr, Juliet Kinsman,
Emma Love, Ben Olsen, Heather Richardson



THE OCEAN-DEFENDING ACTOR

ADRIAN GRENIER

Eco-conscious celebrities' commitments to the planet range from launching clean-beauty brands (Jessica Alba's Honest; Miranda Kerr's Kora Organics) and championing sustainable fashion (Pharrell Williams's Bionic Yarn) to serious campaigning – Jane Fonda was arrested five times in 2019 for her Fire Drill Friday climate-change protests in Washington DC. Firmly at the latter end of the spectrum is actor-activist Adrian Grenier, star of *Entourage*, UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador and co-founder of non-profit Lonely Whale. His passion is the sea – and curbing the single-use plastic that pollutes it. 'We are at a tipping point; by 2050, the ocean is expected to contain more plastic than fish,' he says. Through Lonely Whale, Grenier has led culture-changing initiatives including NextWave Plastics, with global consumer giants such as Hewlett-Packard and Ikea, among others, who have pledged to integrate 25,000 tonnes of ocean-bound waste plastic into their supply chains by 2025; advocating against the use of plastic straws with a viral #stopsucking challenge, and setting up 52HZ, a new business-advisory service which kicks off with the Tom Ford Plastic Innovation Prize – up to \$1 million will be awarded to whoever develops the best alternative to thin-film plastic. A lesson in the real power of pivoting your platform to change-making. lonelywhale.org





A full-page photograph of a rural landscape in Northern Thailand. In the foreground, a dirt road leads into the distance, flanked by lush green fields and trees. A person is riding a motorcycle with a sidecar down the road. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a bright, hazy sky with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden light. The title 'IN THE LOOP' is centered in large, white, sans-serif capital letters.

IN THE LOOP

RESPECT FOR THE LAND IS AN INHERENT PART OF THE TRIBAL TRADITIONS
OF NORTHERN THAILAND. TODAY THAT LINK IS BEING INCREASINGLY CHERISHED
ACROSS THE REGION AS PEOPLE SEEK OUT AN EARTHIER WAY OF LIFE

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS SCHALKX



THERE'S MAGIC IN THESE MOUNTAINS. AND IT'S NOT JUST that of shamans and forest spirits, but an ethereal force drawing city dwellers and silence-seekers to rural Chiang Dao in the Himalayan foothills of northern Thailand. Wanderers for whom café-filled Nimmanhaemin, Chiang Mai's digital-nomad hub, has become too bustling, or hippie hideout Pai, two-and-a-half hours west, too commercial. Artists who find Bangkok's concrete jungle too uninspiring, too hurried, too confined. They come here to escape. Some stay for a few weeks, others never leave.

This valley town one hour north of Chiang Mai, surrounded by tree-clad limestone mountains, has long been whispered about in bird-watching and caving circles, but is starting to pop up on the travel consciousness for new reasons. My creatively inclined friends in Bangkok, my adopted home for the past seven years, all have trips lined up. And so, one bone-chilling November morning, I'm in the sidecar of a souped-up Royal Enfield, racing down a hilly country road lined with corn fields and banana groves. The air slapping my face is smoky – farm-crop burning is still practised in these parts.

Driving the bike is charismatic William Le Masurier, Chiang Dao's man-about-town. 'I've lived in Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo, but I see the most potential here,' he says, his golden smile glistening in the sun (he lost two front teeth landing face-first on a marble floor in a Chinese karaoke joint). Born to a Thai mother and a British father 29 years ago, he spent his childhood moving around the globe following his father's work assignments. But summers were spent hanging out on the banks of the Ping river, near the

CITY RETURNEES, FULL OF FRESH IDEAS, HAVE COME BACK TO THEIR PARENTS' FARMS, GROWING AVOCADOS TO SELL ON FACEBOOK

family holiday home in Chiang Dao. It's this same house he turned into an Airbnb, after leaving behind a career as a brand manager in Shanghai. Now, four years later, he manages a dozen artfully decorated villas and cottages, as well as a fledgling tour business.

Our first stop, on the sloping outskirts of town, was Chiangdao Blue, an indigo-dyeing studio run by Siripohn Sansirikul, who spent 17 years in Hokkaido before moving here five years ago with her Japanese husband. She now grows the plants in her garden and hosts tie-dye classes. 'I feel so empowered by the greenery here,' she says. Similarly, ceramicist Juthamas Thanusan settled in this place because it had 'good energy', turning a ramshackle house down a lone dirt track into an atelier, with three cats for company. Up a serpentine road leading further into the mountains, the wood-carving workshop of Thamarat Phokai is pitched next to a babbling stream. We end the day at Hoklhong Cafe, run by Teerayut Chantachot who moved here from southern Thailand to grow coffee beans and roast them in clay pots over a wood fire.

Chiang Dao is the land of plenty. 'Throw a mango and it will grow,' Le Masurier says. Wherever you look, something is being cultivated. There are fields of chives and garlic, starfruit and peaches, trees with branches so heavy with longan fruit they are propped up with bamboo stakes. Big-town returnees, full of fresh ideas about the future, have come back to their parents' farms and grow organic avocados to sell to city folk on Facebook.

Like much of Thailand's rural north, the peaks around Chiang Dao are criss-crossed with a patchwork of tribal villages; the Lahu, Lisu, Karen and Akha all have their own rituals, clothing and dwelling styles. Their ancestral ties blur modern geopolitical borders, with communities reaching all the way to south-west China and north-east India. But the Thai state hasn't made life easy for them – many are undocumented, disconnected and shunned by urban society. On Tuesdays, they come down from the hills to trade gold for currency and sell their handicrafts. Stuffey townsfolk call such youths *dek doi* – mountain kid, wild child. Le Masurier sees the term as a badge of honour (he

Opposite, clockwise from top left: Dek Doi villa; accessories in a room at Raya Heritage hotel in Chiang Mai; Lisu guide in Chiang Rai; flowering shrub and pool, both at Pa Sak Tong; artwork at Araksa Tea Garden in Mae Taeng; Alio Slow Bar and Farm in Chiang Rai; Araksa Tea Garden; resident water buffalo at Pa Sak Tong; Lisu Lodge exterior. Previous pages, from left: Juthamas Thanusan at Hand in Hand, her ceramic studio in Chiang Dao; William Le Masurier on the road on his Royal Enfield bike

baptised his business with the same name). ‘They have so much knowledge of the land, things Google can’t tell you,’ he says. They know what happens when ants move their eggs (it’s going to rain). Or when mango trees grow extra blossom (it’s going to rain even harder). They lived sustainably long before eco became came into vogue. ‘Now everyone is trying to live like that. People want to get closer to the food they eat, they’re increasingly looking for real things,’ he adds. ‘Here they can find the truth.’

The next day, I’m knee-deep in a crystalline stream cutting through thick bamboo forest. With every step, sediment billows around my feet. We follow overgrown dirt tracks through honey-hued rice fields and past abandoned shanties. There’s a turbaned old woman smoking a pipe in the shade of a tree. She’s nursing a hangover from last night’s rice-harvesting celebrations. If we continue down this trail, we’d end up in Burmese jungles, no border check required.

This is just a taste of the trips Le Masurier takes other curious travellers on. Equipped with, in his words, ‘shitty motorbikes’ (not his Royal Enfield, which he plans to trade for a horse one day) and guided by a Polish-French expedition log from the 1970s, he goes hunting for hidden caves and hot springs with them. They trek up to the abandoned hilltop fortress of Chinese anti-communist militia who roamed these mountains in the 1960s and 70s. They swim in waterfalls, camp on mountains, cook over fire. It’s like a modern-day *Jungle Book*, aided by Le Masurier’s knack for storytelling.

At a Karen village on the way back to town, we stop in on Cha, a friend introduced as ‘the original *dek doi*’ and co-organiser of Le Masurier’s yearly jungle jamborees.

THE HILL PEOPLE KNOW WHAT IT MEANS WHEN ANTS MOVE THEIR EGGS (RAIN) OR WHEN MANGO TREES GROW EXTRA BLOSSOM (EVEN HARDER RAIN)

He rolls cigarettes from banana leaf and tamarind shell and tobacco grown in the rice fields behind his stilted house. We swig Chinese teacups of throat-scorching *lao khao*, a potent rice whiskey brewed by his mother, who also makes us lunch of vegetable curry and forest-mushroom tempura.

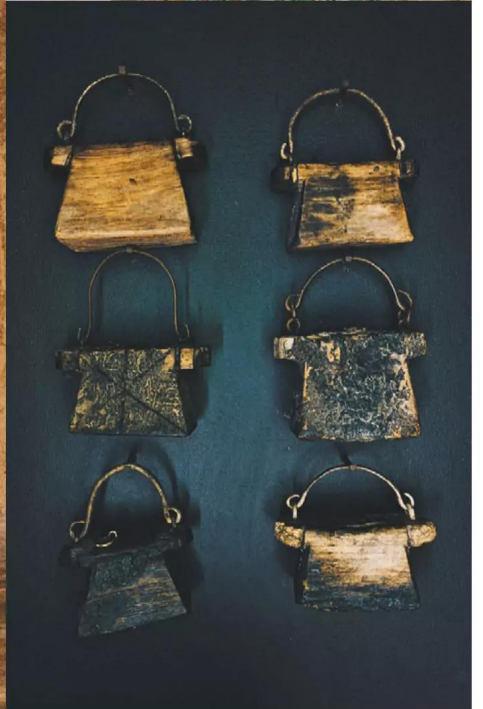
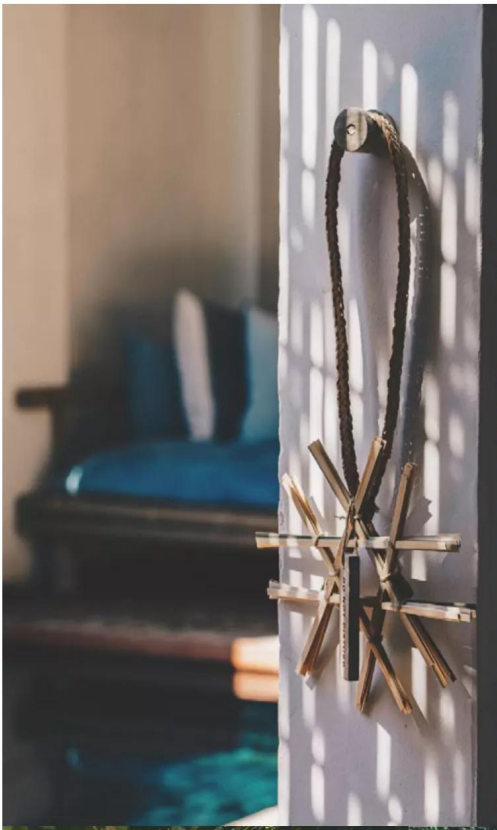
On my last night in Chiang Dao, Chantachot invites us to his house. Two bare-bone teakwood huts down a dirt road in a longan orchard, far away from the nearest street-light. Lukewarm cans of Chang beer are passed around a campfire while The Velvet Underground rattles from an iPhone speaker. Above me, the silhouettes of towering trees punctuate the night sky – Chiang Dao translates as ‘City of Stars’ – with the white noise of crickets in the distance.

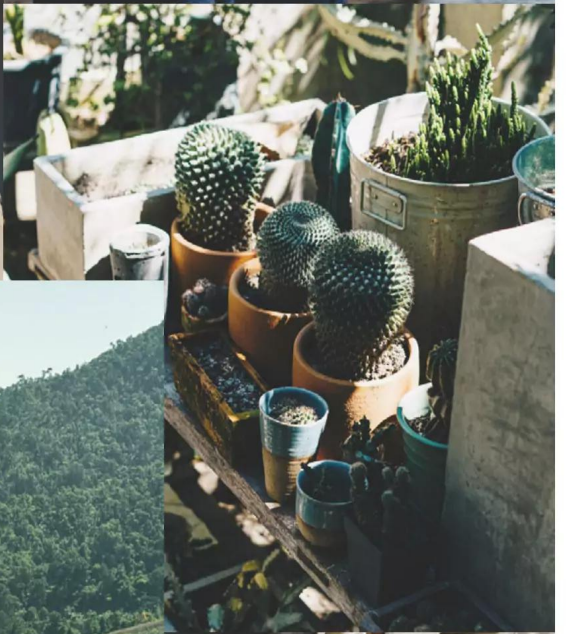
Thankfully it will take a while before turmeric lattes and açai bowls make an appearance here, but Le Masurier’s bar serving *ya dong* (a herbal moonshine) and organic wine is opening soon. Bangkok’s chefs are snooping around planning seasonal-dining pop-ups. A big magazine editor has apparently snapped up a plot of land between the rice fields, and we bumped into a bar owner from Soi Nana, Bangkok’s coolest nightlife haunt, earlier that day. ‘People don’t come here to make lots of money,’ Le Masurier says. ‘Just enough to live, back to the original Thai way of life.’

A FEW DAYS LATER, I’M SNAKING THROUGH DIFFERENT RICE FIELDS further south in a beat-up Mazda pick-up with Saksaran Duang-in, a Shan textile artist, who is showing me around his hometown of Doi Tao. I’d noticed his work at one of my favourite hotels in nearby Chiang Mai, the craft-packed Raya Heritage, and at markets around Bangkok: tactile shirts and baggy shorts in natural hues and indigo, clearly made by hand on an old loom.

Under a stilted teakwood house in one of the rural communities he works with, a woman in colourful Karen garb of vibrantly embroidered vest and matching skirt spins cotton on a wooden wheel. White fluff blows over the earthen ground, skinny chickens chasing after it. Next door, vats of tree bark and fermented berries bubble deep red and midnight blue, the just-dyed yarn drying in the sun. Across the way, another woman

Opposite, clockwise from top left: indigo furniture and pool suite, both at Raya Heritage; freshly glazed mugs at Studio In Clay in Chiang Mai; washing line in a Karen tribal village; vintage oil containers in the Raya Heritage tea lounge; Locus Native Food Lab; Raya Heritage pool steps







is working a backstrap loom, her lips red from betel nut like smudged lipstick, her leathery hands zigzagging over the cotton strands at speed. It's a one-stop cottage operation, Duang-in explains. The husbands harvest the cotton from their land, the wives work it into *pha sin* wrap-around skirts, V-neck tunics and other garments. He often collaborates with them for his clothing brand Satu, and he's here to discuss his new designs: hooded vests with kimono sleeves, drop-crotch trousers that double as T-shirts. My Thai is too rudimentary to understand what his collaborators are saying, but their scornful looks say enough: 'Who's going to wear that?'

'Some people still think that preserving these crafts means sticking to the traditional designs and ways of working, but I believe that by adapting them for a modern context, we can keep this art alive,' Duang-in explains. 'It sometimes takes effort to convince them, but they're always the first to call me when they see a celebrity on TV wearing the clothes they made.' I ask him if this is his way of helping his community, but he's adamant it's the other way around. 'Without them, I'm nothing. My business wouldn't exist.'

Back in Chiang Mai, I catch up with Jirawong Wongtrangan, another artisan whose work I've spotted all around Bangkok; ceramic coffee cups speckled like quail's eggs in fashionable cafés; rustic bowls and plates gracing some of the city's top tables. He opened Studio In Clay in the sun-dappled back garden of his family home near Chiang Mai's historic centre after cutting his teeth at a local ceramics factory. Specialising in ash-glazing, a centuries-old technique brought over from China and adopted by craftsmen all around Thailand, he now hosts workshops and mentoring sessions.

SOME THINK THAT PRESERVING THESE CRAFTS MEANS STICKING TO OLD METHODS BUT BY ADAPTING THEM TO A MODERN CONTEXT WE KEEP THIS ART ALIVE

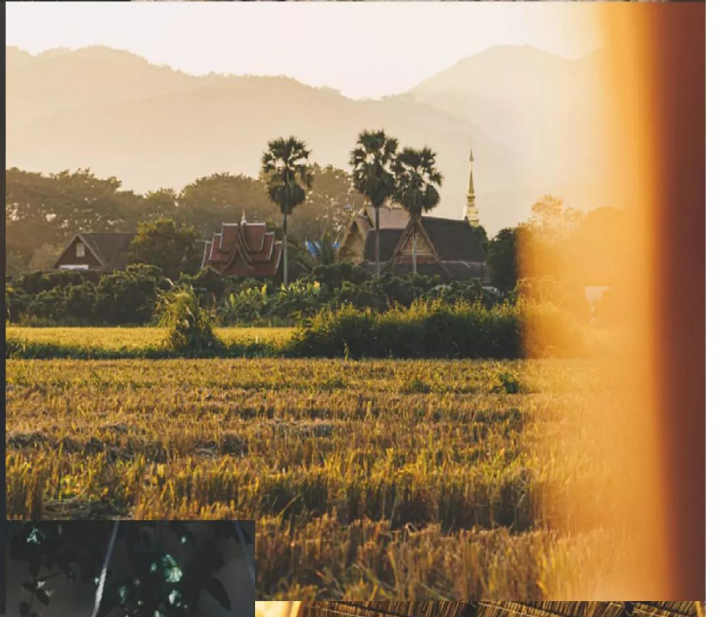
While I watch him shave off long worms of clay for a new teapot design, we talk about the importance of keeping these techniques alive. 'Compared to industrial-scale production, Thai craft is accessible and sustainable,' he says. 'We don't damage the environment, and our natural resources continue to grow.' A week before, he went up to a small village in the Nan province where only three women still make traditional pottery, selling their wares for as little as five baht (12p) a piece. 'They have the skill,' he says. 'I just teach them to approach it in new ways, maybe as jewellery, to increase the value of their work. It's a knowledge exchange. I draw on their ancient methods and provide new inspiration.'

AT AN AFTERNOON MARKET ON THE OUTSKIRTS of Chiang Rai, chef Kongwuth Chaiwongkachon is rummaging through mounds of fresh herbs and dried fish. The long tables heave with produce brought in from the hills. Gnarly roots of ginger and galangal, palm-sized water bugs and violent-red chillies piled on small plates under fluorescent light bulbs, sold for 10 baht a pop. To me, it's just another Thai market. For Chaiwongkachon, it's a goldmine. 'Within a week or two, it's going to get much colder up here,' he says, pointing at a basket of thumb-sized pea pods with fuzzy pale-green skins. 'You can predict so much based on what's available at the markets.' A few tables down, he stops at a neatly stacked pyramid of *makham pom*, a kind of gooseberry. 'It's nature telling you to prepare for winter, these things are crazy high in vitamin C. So sour they make you cry.'

He's here to scout ingredients for his new menu at Locus Native Food Lab, northern Thailand's most sought-after chef's table, which books up months in advance. His cooking draws on the region's unique bounty, ancient recipes and tribal techniques, infused with skills picked up working in Japanese and French kitchens around Thailand. 'People don't really understand northern food,' he says. 'It's healthy, it's salty, it's bitter – they aren't used to that. It hasn't changed over the past 100 years, I'm trying to move it into the present, to preserve it and let people know it actually exists.'

Opposite, clockwise from top left: tasting at Araksa Tea Garden; William Le Masurier; koi pond at Pa Sak Tong; 'spirit house' in rice fields; bedroom at Lisu Lodge; steps at a market in Chiang Mai; Hand in Hand atelier; swatches at Studio In Clay; Locus Native Food Lab. Previous pages, clockwise from top left: Chiang Dao; wooden vases at Raya Heritage; Lahu tribal dance; tie-dye garments in Chiang Mai; Studio In Clay pottery; handmade broom; clothing patterns at Satu; Saksaran Duang-in; restaurant in Chiang Dao; Duang-in sorting cotton thread; Chiang Dao café; wooden frames at Raya Heritage; baskets for tea leaves; chef Kongwuth Chaiwongkachon; temple north of Chiang Mai; Chiang Dao mountains; cacti at Chiang Mai market; tofu noodles at Locus; Araksa Tea Garden dining room





That night, 12 of us are sitting around the chef's table at his restaurant, which recently moved into a thatched-roof hut with adobe walls overlooking the rice fields of Pa Sak Tong, a lush estate south of Chiang Rai's city centre. Some guests have flown up from Bangkok for one night just to eat here. The monthly-changing menu is a history lesson, cultural awakening and northern food chronicle wrapped into an eight-course feast. There are tacos filled with a purée of those wintry green peas, tiny croquettes of *nam prik ong*, a local chilli relish, and pork *mousseline* with rice-water jelly and curry cream, a riff on *kaeng kradang*, a traditional curry of jellied pork leg. For another course, one of the chefs splits open a bamboo cane that has been roasting in a charcoal fire, a cooking method I witnessed at lunch in a hill-tribe village earlier that week. But instead of the pork I was expecting it revealed *tsukune*, bony Japanese chicken meatballs.

'For this dish, we don't really focus on the flavour,' Chaiwongkachon tells his audience, taking a brick of clay from the fire. 'It's more about the philosophy of northern Thai cooking. Whatever nature provides that day, we combine it.' Tonight, the clay brick contains local rice with catfish and *perilla* (shiso) herb, smelling like November rain. Tomorrow it will be something different. 'Since opening here three months ago, I've made three customers cry,' Chaiwongkachon tells me. 'These flavours reminded them of someone, something – that's how powerful food can be.'

When it's time to return to the high-energy reality of Bangkok, I feel a tinge of reluctance. I think of the riches hidden in the mountains, the communities where 'enough' not 'more' is the aim, and remember something Le Masurier told one of his hill-tribe friends: 'Be proud of what you've got here, because you have so much.' 📍

WHERE TO STAY

RAYA HERITAGE, CHIANG MAI

No hotel encapsulates northern Thailand's craft movement better than Raya Heritage, with rooms decked out in hand-dyed indigo fabrics, mulberry-paper screens, wickerwork and ceramics – many for sale at the on-site boutique. The Khu Khao restaurant draws on the region's diverse influences, including Shan cooking, while the spa follows a similar formula for its wellness menu with Burmese massage techniques. *Doubles from about £230; rayaheritage.com*

LISU LODGE, MAE TAENG

Worth a detour off the road from Chiang Mai to Chiang Dao, this all-bamboo eco lodge is simple, but the traditional design, kaleidoscopic textiles and views across the surrounding fields of lemongrass more than make up for the lack of air-con. The staff of Lisu tribespeople prepare meals with ingredients from the organic gardens and guide visitors through the adjoining village. Other rooted diversions include a meeting with a local shaman and a tasting at Araksa, a tea garden belonging to the same owner. *Doubles from about £125; asian-oasis.com*

PA SAK TONG, CHIANG RAI

Everything you see from your balcony at this lush private estate is there just for you – 29 acres of rice fields, lotus ponds and even a water-buffalo farm backdropped by mountains – because the two villas (of five and six bedrooms) are rented to only one party at a time. Each comes with a small army of chefs, butlers and therapists who aren't bound to menus or brochures; just tell them what you're in the mood for. You also get a guaranteed seat at Locus Native Food Lab, tucked away in one of the estate's jungle-fringed corners. *From about £1,380 per night (exclusive use); pasaktong.com*

HOW TO DO IT

Smiling Albino (smilingalbino.com) offers individual packages from £195 per person per day.

Dek Doi (dek-doi.com) can arrange trips in Chiang Dao from about £50 per person for a two-night group weekend. For more information about the region, visit fanclubthailand.co.uk

POSITIVE CHARGE

ON NORWAY'S ICY WESTERN EDGES, A FAMILY-LED TRAVEL

ENTERPRISE IS TUNING INTO A GROUNDED, NATURE-IMMERSED PHILOSOPHY

WHILE DRIVING A TRANSFORMATION TO CLEAN ENERGY

BY RICK JORDAN. PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE INGALLS









O

N A SMALL ISLAND off the crinkle-cut north-west coast of Norway, with no land between there and Iceland, lives an artist whose brooding oil paintings draw together soil and sky and make an abstract of nature. His name is Ørnulf Opdahl, the isle is called Godøy, and sometimes he walks the few yards to the beach and scoops up a handful of sand to give his paint texture. This is Norway's landscape in miniature. There is a lake and a mountain, and a red-striped lighthouse that seems to act as a lightning rod for the northern lights. All around is ocean.

It would be almost madness for an artist not to have their head turned by the elements. The Sunnmøre region is one of the world's great, insurmountably raw places, etched by glaciers, shaded by intense greenery. An archipelago that ripples out into the Norwegian Sea, some parts threaded together by tunnels burrowed beneath the water, though there are far more routes for boats than for cars. The dark Sunnmøre Alps, which possess a sublime, magnetic beauty, have drawn climbers since the 19th century. There are many

places of solitude, with names that could have blown in with the wind. Storhornet. Aksla. Skårasalen. Life has long been measured by the rhythm of the seasons, tangled with sheep's wool and scattered with fish scales. The one and only small city, Ålesund, is really an overgrown fishing village, albeit one crafted in fabulous, gelato-coloured Art Nouveau, the stone chiselled into turrets and spires, a pocket of watercolour politeness in the face of so much vast wilderness.

'It's quite different to anywhere else in Norway, which can often be so much more of the same,' says Vebjørn Andresen, who was born further north, in Tromsø, and arrived here from the wide open polar expanses of Svalbard. 'But the landscape is so compact; scenery can change by the minute. The first time I drove through the valley of Norangsdaalen I was so startled by the view I had to pull over and sit on the grass.' Last summer he took a boat out by himself and spent the summer weekends sculling through the fjords, often the only figure in the landscape, dwarfed by the peaks and wondering how the tiny red-roofed farms clinging to the sides had ever been built. In his little vessel, the rockface plunging at almost sheer angles, rowing into the water can feel like Jonah entering the belly of the Leviathan.

Andresen's reason for coming to these western shores was to join the team at 62° Nord, an experiential hotel and travel group founded by locally born Knut Flakk and his family. The story of how Flakk came to create it unravels back to Norway's oldest knitted-garment manufacturer, which his father had bought in the 1980s. Devold is something of a



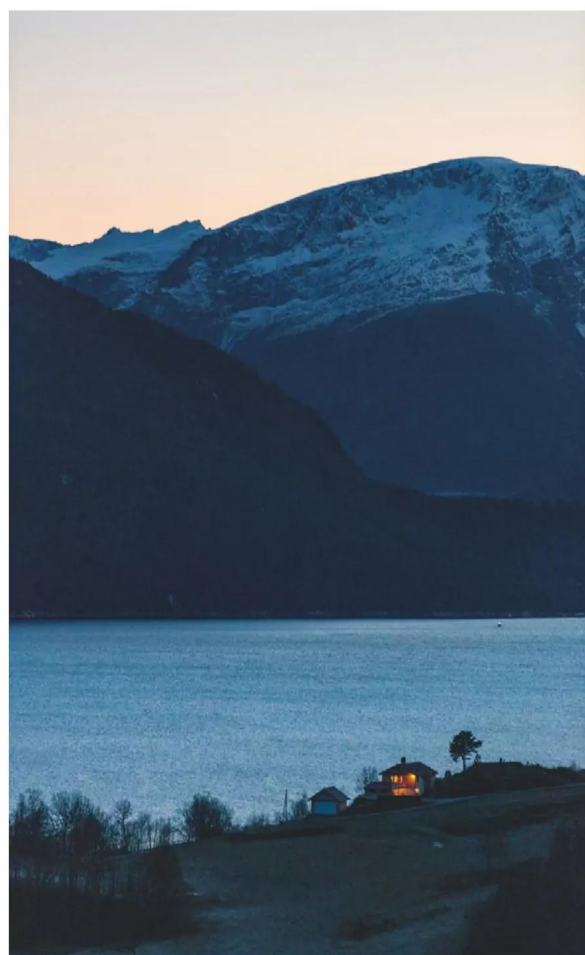
‘IT’S BEEN A SLOW PROCESS. WE DECIDED 15 YEARS AGO THERE WASN’T
ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN PROFIT, SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT’



household name, founded in 1853 by a progressive entrepreneur who installed electric lights in his factory just four years after their invention. Wool from the nearby farms was woven into warm long johns and thermals. When Victorian explorer Fridtjof Nansen traversed Greenland by cross-country ski, he was wearing Devold undergarments; so was Amundsen when he reached the North Pole. And russet-bearded actor Kristofer Hivju, better known as *Game of Thrones*' Tormund Giantsbane and a regular visitor to Ålesund, insisted the whole cast wear them on set in minus-zero Iceland. So when Flakk was forced to move manufacturing to Lithuania in 2003 to survive in the global market, he was presented with a challenge as well as an opportunity: how to make sure the region wasn't diminished as a result. After all, by building his business here, the original founder had helped save local communities at a time when many were buying one-way tickets to the USA. 'I was looking at a way of creating jobs and realised that there was no high-end travel experience here,' Flakk says. 'It was peculiar, considering the country's wealth. And there's so much natural beauty around Ålesund.'

THE 62° NORD GROUP, WHICH FLAKK founded with his wife Line, takes a considered, sustainable approach that's entwined with the close-knit communities. They opened the first hotel, Brosundet, in the centre of town – so close to the water that some guests have been known to leap into the waves from the windows. The former fishing warehouse was reimagined by Snøhetta, the progressive architectural outfit that designed the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and the energy-positive hotel Svart (set to launch next year), although Room 47 of the hotel is actually set in a dinky lighthouse that sits on the quayside a short walk away. The group also took over the imposing, chalet-style Hotel Union Øye, an hour's boat ride away at the end of a fjord. It brings to mind those Canadian Rockies grandes dames from where 19th-century mountaineers would stride out with stout boots and hearts. Flakk describes a recently rediscovered guest book that records their exploits; and half the royal families of northern Europe seemed to have stayed here at some point. In the 1890s, so did Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who came on holiday with Jerome K Jerome – sadly, their trip didn't spark a literary collaboration, but it did inspire Conan Doyle to take Norwegian skis to the Swiss Alps and spread the word about downhill skiing. There's also a forest-set hotel named after the glacial water of Storfjord that lies just below, which the pair bought from an Anglo-Norwegian couple and upgraded. The three-bedroom Owner's Cabin is a secluded weather-watching space on Giske, an islet visited by wading birds, seals and the occasional Scandi band alighting at the small recording studio. And the original Devold factory isn't empty; it's still a place where things are made. The family invited artists and artisans to occupy the space – blacksmith Peter Sarring in a Twenties-era forge, a ceramicist, glassblower and illustrator – forming a communal creative hub for the region.

Knut's approach is inspired by the idea of geotourism, an ethos championed by *National Geographic*, a yellow-spined



Clockwise from top left: Knut Flakk's *National Geographic* collection, new Storfjord guesthouse, fireplace, wooden scoop and plate, and exterior, all at the hotel. Previous pages, a dip in Glomset Bay; view from Storfjord





collection of which lines a shelf at Storfjord. It's an approach that aims to preserve the integrity of a destination by actively involving the community while protecting natural habitats – rather than just parachuting in and out with no sense of a place, travellers are able to really get under its skin. With 62° Nord, that could mean a food safari to an organic farm, picking berries, herbs and mushrooms with its owners, or swishing off in a RIB to Runde where puffins arrive on the same day every year, flying in such numbers that the air seems a maelstrom of feathers and orange webbed feet, and kayaking into fjords past waterfalls and glaciers. 'It's been a slow process, but we decided back in 2005 there wasn't any conflict between profit, society and the environment,' Flakk says.

The subject of Norway and sustainability can be a contradictory one. Nearly half of new cars are electric, and Oslo reduced pedestrian and cyclist deaths to zero in 2019, closing off much of the city to cars so residents cycle, walk or take the tram instead, also proving it was good for business – reduced traffic led to increased footfall. The big white elephant (or whale) in the room, of course, is the country's status as a leading oil nation. The huge reserves discovered in the late 1960s were a game-changer for the largely rustic economy. While the power network almost entirely runs on clean hydro-electricity, Norway still exports gas and oil and seeks out fresh deposits, although its mammoth £750-billion sovereign wealth fund now focuses on seeding ethical investments including the Green Climate Fund, which helps developing countries. 'We were really lucky in being able to create that wealth,' says Flakk, 'but it's only natural that we take the front seat in developing sustainable energy. Wind energy is the next step; we're a little behind in that. As for exporting oil – well, it affects the planet no matter who uses it.'

FLAKK IS ALSO INVESTING IN BUSINESSES that contribute to the green shift, much of it centred on a hydrogen hub. 'Many people are focused on reducing their footprint and the use of plastics, being energy efficient, but I'm more interested in being climate positive, with renewable sources – hydrogen is a zero-emission energy carrier that can be used for boats, trains, planes.' His current motivation is making sure the ferries that criss-cross the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Geirangerfjord are supplied with hydrogen fuel cells by 2023. And also the provision of refuelling points for new-generation buses, trucks and trains.

People in the region have started to see the advantages of slow tourism, Flakk says, opening up their farms for small numbers of visitors to stay. Life in the village of Norangs fjord was in danger of becoming untenable until the hotel group took over Union Øye, improving access and securing jobs. Characters in the 62° Nord group include Tom Tøsse, from Ålesund, who captains a small fleet and tells the best fireside stories in town, and Finn Kringstad from Langevåg, who was caretaker at the Devold factory for half a century and still turns up to tidy the flowerpots. 'A lot of people my age are returning from big cities to Ålesund, bringing new ideas,' says Flakk's eldest daughter, 29-year-old Maria, who helps run 62° Nord. 'When it comes to travel there will always be box-tickers and Instagrammers, but I think more of my generation

are now interested in staying in a place longer, and people are seeing the value in traditional ways of life.'

This is the land of expressions such as *friluftsliv*, or respect for outdoor living, and *dugnad*, communal volunteering; of the Mountain Code – 'don't be ashamed to turn around' – and the right to roam through any private land as long as it's undeveloped. As a child Flakk would spend weekends in the cabin his parents built in the Sunnmøre Alps, and when he was in the boy scouts they would go on overnight ski trips, sleeping in snow caves they had dug themselves. 'When I was growing up, we had to go for a family hike or cross-country ski tour every single Sunday, no matter what the weather was like,' says Maria. 'I used to hate it sometimes but it instilled a really strong connection with the outdoors. There's a Norwegian saying, *du angret aldri på en tur* – "You will never regret a hike". I love going to the island of Staurneset, about a 15-minute drive from Ålesund; the wind is always blowing. I head out there with friends when the winter storms are coming, sitting in the car with a hot coffee and watching the weather. The white sand looks warm but it can be harsh. The surf spot of Alnes is right around the corner.'

Another family favourite is the hotel at Storfjord, with a jetty to jump off for cold-water swimming all year round, and hiking trails leading upwards and all around. Hand-built with logs from the forest, it has a roof covered in turf topping layers of birch bark to keep it waterproof. (In older houses, moss was packed between the wood that made up the walls, to keep out drafts.) Inside are woollen rugs, throws and curtains alongside antique wooden farm tools gathered from the surrounding countryside, whittled during long winter days and nights – trays and beer scoops, an intricate plate used to make patterns on butter and brown cheese. The menu gathers a topographic selection from forest and mountain, sourcing meat from local farms and beer from microbreweries; the chefs forage seaweed, wild garlic, birch sap, rowanberry shoots and make kombucha from raspberries and beetroot.

Hiking in spring here is exhilarating, alongside waterfalls that foam and crash down as snow and ice melt, forming big and small falls all over the rockface. 'You get a certain peace of mind,' says Maria. She talks of the weather – 'everyone always talks about the weather' – of how in winter people cross their fingers for the *Nordvesten*, the north-west winds, which swirl snow up to the mountains, and of rimfrost, when your breath sparkles with crystals in the freezing air. But most evocative of all is *blåtiden*, the blue hour, that special time after the sun sets but before the complete nocturnal darkness creeps in, a time for watching the water on the fjord and the peaks fade from view, a time of calm at the day's end. 📍

GETTING HERE

62° Nord offers a five-night itinerary from about £8,945, full board, including two nights each at Storfjord Hotel and Hotel Union Øye and one night at Hotel Brosundet, plus private kayaking, skiing, a one-hour helicopter tour and half-day boat-trip. 62.no. Individual hotel rates start from £130, staying at the Brosundet. [brosundet.no](https://www.brosundet.no)

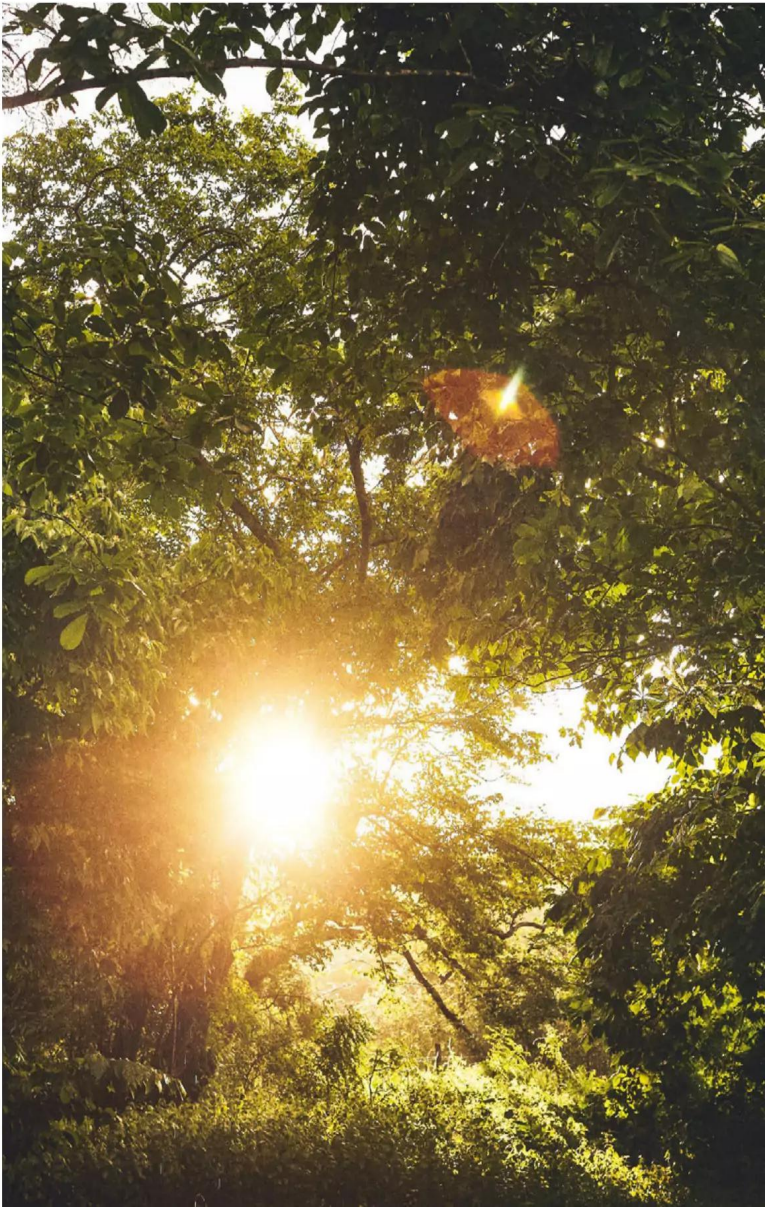
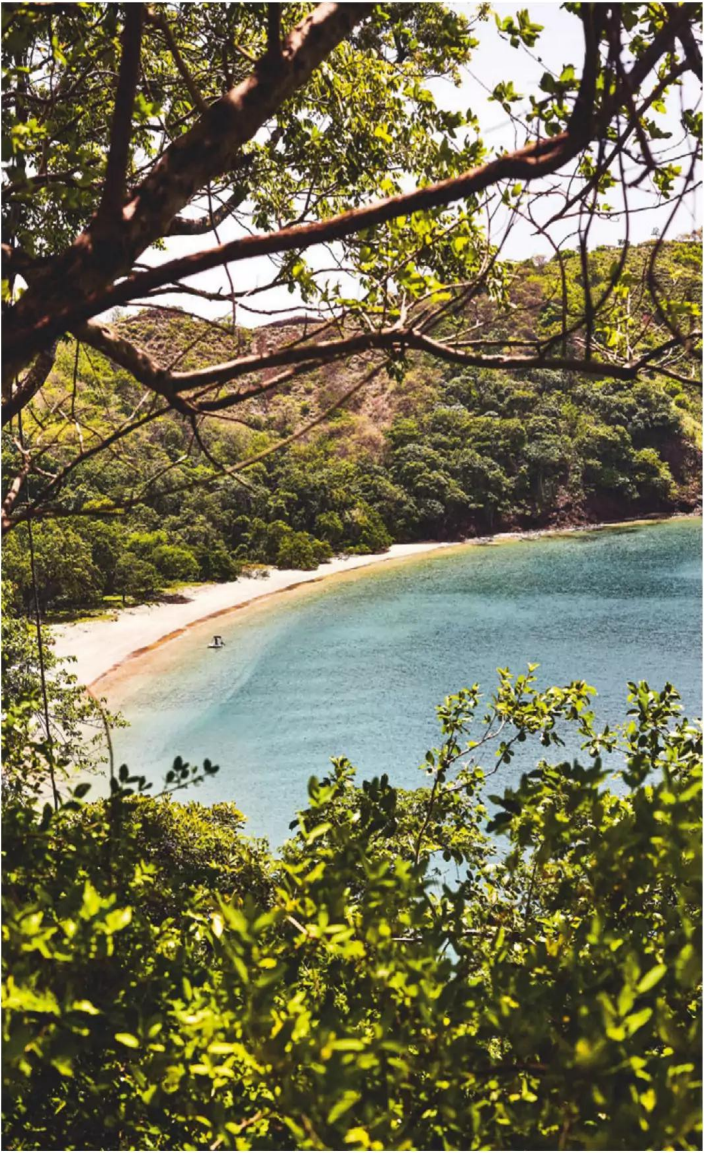




LOW AND SLOW

COSTA RICA HAS LONG LED THE PACK IN CHAMPIONING ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.
ON ITS EASTERLY NICOYA PENINSULA, A COMMUNITY-MINDED SET OF ENTREPRENEURS
IS CHANNELLING THIS COMMITMENT IN EVER-EVOLVING CREATIVE WAYS

BY CHRIS MOSS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY OLIVER PILCHER





From left: Playa Negra; palmera leaves; garden of artist Gabriela Valenzuela-Hirsch in Playa Langosta. Opposite, clockwise from top left: beach at Kasiya Papagayo hotel in Papagayo; ixora flower; Guanacaste woodland; guarumo leaf. Previous pages, from left: shower at Hermosa Treehouse, and waves, both in Santa Teresa



IN AUGUST 2020, IN THE MIDDLE OF LOCKDOWN, Costa Rica announced its 30th national park. The former prison island of San Lucas, off Puntarenas on the Pacific coast, is a haven for howler monkeys, bats, spiders, snakes, deer, pheasants, hammerhead sharks, manta rays and sea turtles, and now will also be one for hikers and history buffs eager to learn about the Alcatraz of Central America.

This news was a powerful reminder that the planet remains a chief priority, above and beyond the pandemic, and of the country's single-minded pledge to protect its environment – for its own sake and to mitigate climate change. Ecotourism has played a lead role, helping to fund the preservation of the ethereal cloud forests of Monteverde and the remote jungles of the Osa Peninsula, as well as popular destinations such as the Tortuguero and Manuel Antonio national parks. And while nations around the world have taken an approach similar to that of Costa Rica, perhaps nowhere else do citizens play as important a part as authorities. Conservation, here, is a national cause.

Just 140 miles from the capital San José, and a motorboat hop from San Lucas, is the Nicoya Peninsula, where, over the past two

GABRIELA VALENZUELA-HIRSCH IS AN ARTIST AND DESIGNER. HER WORK HAS BEEN SHOWCASED IN LONDON'S DESIGN MUSEUM AND THE SMITHSONIAN COOPER-HEWITT MUSEUM IN NEW YORK

'I'm a Tica (Costa Rican), born in San José to a family of creators. I came back here in 1996 as part of a kind of prenup. Before we married, my husband Jerry made me commit to a plan that would allow him to retire young so we could escape to a special place to surf for the rest of our lives. His fashion business in New York, Go Silk, was booming. He had dressed Mick Jagger, Michael Jackson, Glenn Close. But when he turned 40, we sold everything and went to seek the perfect surf break. We bought a piece of land right on the beach, steps from the water.

'Tamarindo was pretty raw – dusty roads, with no phone lines and barely any infrastructure. It was challenging, especially as my daughter was still a baby. We quickly established the basics with other expats: a grocery store, school and pharmacy. We were living in the core of a Blue Zone, with fresh fish and authentic

'AT THE HEART OF THE BLUE ZONE, PEOPLE ARE ACHIEVING A SENSE OF WELLBEING THAT THOSE IN THE RAT RACE CAN ONLY DREAM OF'


decades, locals and an international nomadic crowd have created a community of earth-loving forward thinkers. Their home, a verdant limb in the north-west, has a string of beautiful beaches and handful of townships where *pura vida* – the mantra for living a simple life – is second nature. From Tamarindo, or Tama, down to Santa Teresa and Malpais are villas and small hotels, surf shacks and schools, artist and craft studios, restaurants championing regional food and beachside bars where DJs mix salsa, soca and calypso.

All this is also only ever a step away from full-blown wilderness, and that informs the way everything is done. Here are five of the movers, shakers, thinkers and makers on the scene...

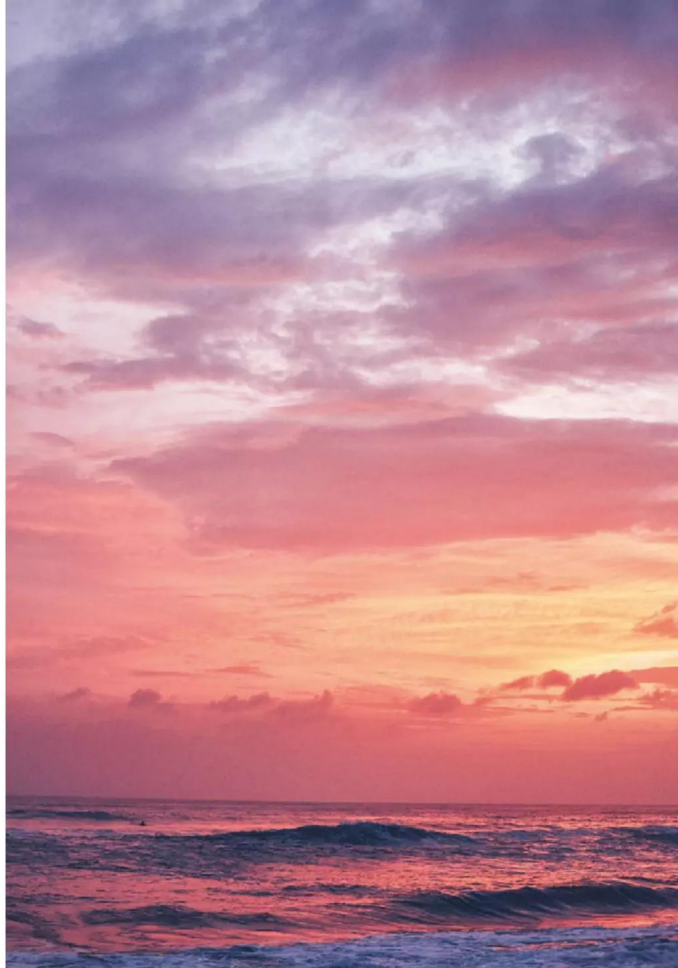
non-GMO blue corn, where the drinking water from the tap is pure, with a pH of more than seven. When we went back to the Hamptons during summer holidays, I realised we were achieving a sense of wellbeing in Costa Rica that people in the urban rat race could only dream of.

'I founded Heartwood Design – a cooperative of artisans to assist men and women with limited resources to turn their traditional folk art into high-end products. These are sold around the world, providing a source of income and pride for the craftspeople. I love the creative process, too, carving intricate, three-dimensional sculptures. Wood is one of my favourite mediums. I play with tones, where the grains unfold like a tale, inspiring curves and





**'IN THE DEEP TROPICAL FJORD THE BIODIVERSITY
IS INCREDIBLE. SPECIES FROM THE AMAZON AND EVEN
MADAGASCAR CAN BE SEEN HERE'**



projections. I'm humbled every day to wake up in paradise. I do my chanting and sun salutations, then go to my studio and work there all day long. I consider myself an eco-modernist artist, as I only use uprooted and fallen trees in my pieces, and I've been involved in reforestation programmes here since the mid-1990s. Nature is paramount for all of us. My work is to protect and defend it.

'Other countries and cities talk about embracing doughnut economics (pinpointing the sufficiency of resources we need to lead a good, sustainable life). Well, we're already doing that; Tamarindo is the first community in Latin America to be fully regenerative. This is transformative for the planet.'

ESTEBAN OREAMUNO, FROM SAN JOSÉ, HAS BEEN HEADING UP HOTELS ON THE NICOYA PENINSULA FOR TWO DECADES – HE WAS MOST RECENTLY THE GENERAL MANAGER AT KASIIYA PAPAGAYO

'When I moved to Santa Teresa, in 2001, nobody in San José knew what it was like or even where it was. Access was difficult, and it was a seven- to eight-hour drive from the capital. There were three little hotels at that time: Frank's Place, Trópico Latino and Milarepa. A few Ticos came to hang out on the six miles of deserted white sand. Then Nicoya pioneer Susan Money opened Florblanca, and it put the town on the map.

'In 2017, I heard about this new eco beach retreat, Kasiya Papagayo, that was being planned, and I was blown away. The setting was extremely wild, with lots of birds and animals including monkeys, coatis, anteaters and sometimes a puma; two private beaches; a rare and very special dry tropical forest; the best snorkelling in Costa Rica – you see whales, turtles and sting-rays up close – and a sublime sunset. You can scuba dive, hike on the Pacific View Trail, take off on drives up the winding roads.

'The owner Mehdi Rheljari's idea was to leave the land 100 per cent untouched. The architects, AW2 from France, did an amazing job avoiding any impact on the scenery and keeping the

infrastructure low scale. There's no concrete, the majority of the materials used for construction being recycled wood and fallen trees, and there are just seven tented suites, camouflaged in 136 acres of wilderness. They're cooled by coastal breezes. I love the upscale tent concept and the fact that it is totally off grid. All the bath products are locally made and 100-per-cent organic. Most of the food is sourced from the province of Guanacaste. There's a naturalist guide who is a brilliant teacher on the dry forest's flora and fauna and the marine life of Punta Gorda. And there's a resident healer, Yamuna, who trained in India and is an expert in chakra cleansing. He practices at the spa, which is hidden in the jungle and reached by a hanging bridge.

'When Covid-19 hit, the property was only two years old. With no guests, we focused on our neighbours. People had little work and a lot of time on their hands. So we made a deal with them: we gave them materials, and they gave their time to help improve the town. They did really wonderful work, painting the school and bus stops with murals and fixing up the church roof. They felt useful again, and so did we. We donated masks and food, too, and it connected us even more to nearby Nuevo Colón, where many of the staff have their homes.'

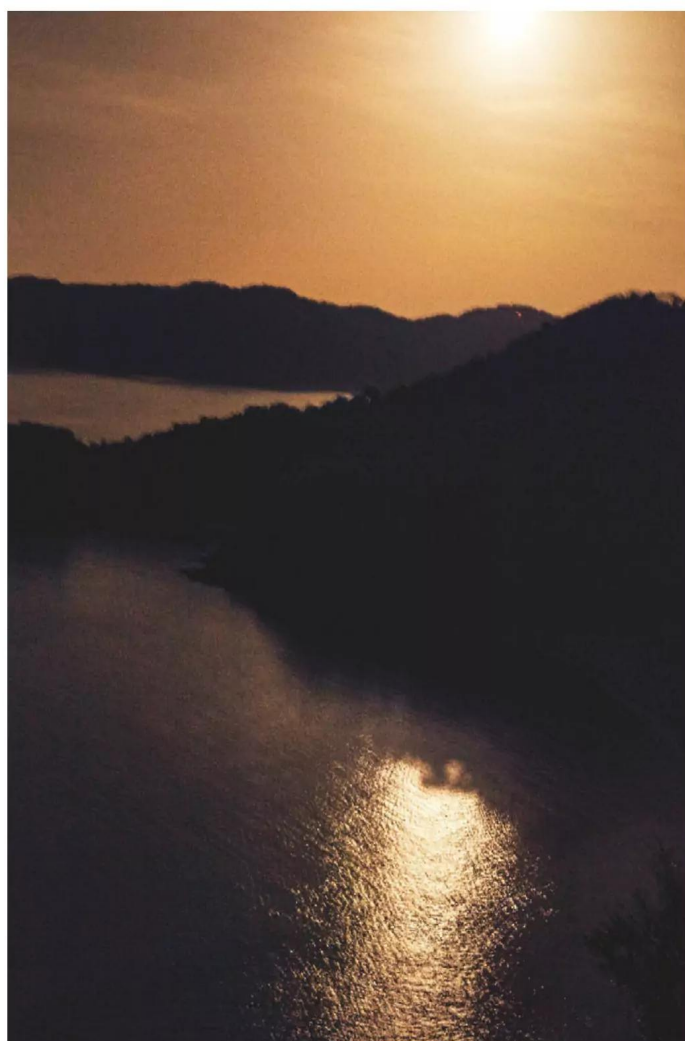
GRIET DEPYPERE, ORIGINALLY FROM BELGIUM, CO-OWNS CALA LUNA HOTEL IN TAMARINDO WITH HER SISTER, ELS DEPYPERE, AND FORMER BROTHER-IN-LAW, ANTONIO PILURZU

'I came to Tamarindo in 1992 with Els and Antonio. We fell in love with this quiet, nature-rich, peace-loving country, with no army, and good medical and educational systems. We started to build Cala Luna two years later.

'I'm from a family with culinary passions, and 15 years of living in Italy and lots of travel has made me a foodie for life. Working with the young Costa Rican agroecologist Carlos Piñeda Soto and our chefs, we've come up with tasting menus that make local produce the star of the show. We mostly use what can be grown

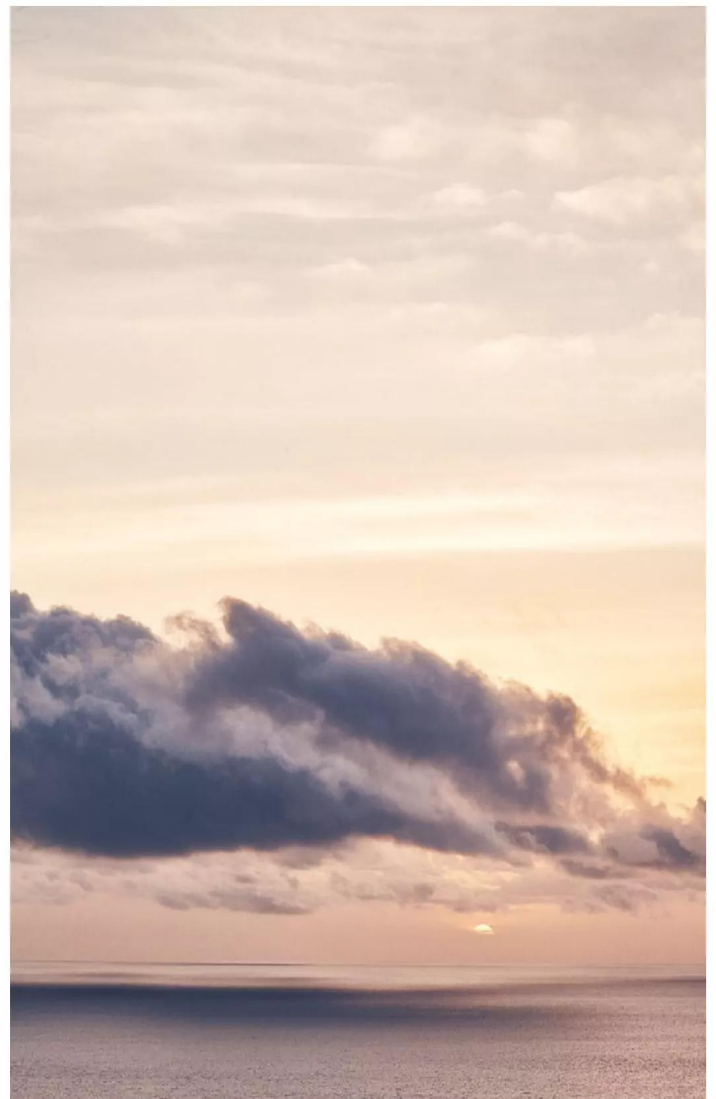


Clockwise from above: unwinding in a shaded palapa at Casa Capitan villa in Santa Teresa; interior details at Gabriela's house; horse riding on Santa Teresa beach; Papagayo peninsula; Hotel Playa Negra. Opposite from left: smoked chicken at rental Casa Corazón in Playa Negra; sunset in Santa Teresa. Previous pages, from left: Hermosa Treehouse; Witch's Rock in Santa Rosa National Park





Clockwise from above: minimalist seating at Mint Santa Teresa hotel; Ezzo the cat at Casa Corazón; palm tree against concrete at La Senda wellness centre in Tamarindo; sunset view from the clifftop restaurant at Kasiya Papagayo; *palapa* at Casa Capitan's Casa Dewa villa



here. To the classic base of all Costa Rican feasts – peppers, coriander, onion and garlic – we’ve added *culantro*, *chay*, wild anise, *uvita*, *caroa*, tamarind leaves, *madero negro* flowers and beach asparagus. And we’ve been inspired by traditional goods: sorghum, root vegetables, pigeon peas and blue and purple corn. There’s also a seven-acre organic vegetable garden, beehives and medicinal herb garden. All this helps to keep our carbon footprint small. We’ve massively reduced waste, too, with no plastics, and try to use every part of our ingredients, fermenting pineapple peel to create our own vinegar, and making a vegetarian version of a regional dish called *carne mechada* from plantain peel.

‘To get away from the heavily commercialised species, we work closely with local fishermen – so you won’t find tuna or lobster on our menu. Instead we choose meaty *congriso*, buttery Pacific mackerel and zingy spotted grouper. We source mussels and other shellfish from Palito on Chira Island, through a women-led collective supported by the University of Costa Rica. Believe it or not, none of those fish can be found on the commercial market.

‘Carlos, who’s from Santa Cruz, is one of a new generation of organic agronomists emerging in the country. He came on board three years ago, in the month before he graduated from his training. He’s amazing, fully responsible for the success of our kitchen garden. Through him we’ve become actively involved in community groups. It’s been vitally important during the Covid-19 crisis.’

JUAN DIEGO EVANGELISTA IS A SURFER AND SURFBOARD SHAPER FROM ARGENTINA; AT CHEBOARDS, HIS STUDIO IN TAMARINDO, HE HAS PIONEERED BUILDING TOXIC-FREE Balsa-WOOD BOARDS

‘I was born in Mar del Plata. It’s a beautiful city on the ocean with a small scene of its own. I surfed every summer, but during the winters the South Atlantic gets cold, and I soon learned to head to other places to find waves. When I was 25, I came to Costa Rica for the first time and met my wife Mareike. After more travelling, we settled in Tamarindo in 2012.

‘It’s almost always sunny here, and the sea is warm. I thought, this is a cool place to live. There are as many kinds of breaks as there are hotels or restaurants. We have two boys, aged four and

BERNAL DIAZ, A COSTA RICAN BIOLOGIST AND FARMER, HAS WORKED AS A NATURALIST AND EXPEDITION LEADER FOR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS AND THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND FOR 20 YEARS

‘People often wonder why this country has become a global biodiversity hotspot. It has something to do with us being isolated from the colonial administration for centuries. We became self-sufficient and never had much time for military leaders or the landed nobility living in their haciendas. Education, democracy and consideration for others were always more important to Ticos.

‘Costa Rica was not always this model nation. Deforestation was a serious threat until the national parks were established in the 1950s. We learned, thanks to pioneers such as biologist Mario A Boza, the first director of the national-park service here, that we could sell a tree a hundred times to visitors instead of only once to the lumber yards.

‘I was born on a farm near the town of Grecia, north-west of San José, surrounded by birds, plants and water you could drink wherever you stopped to rest. My father was my inspiration. He had the idea to leave parts of our land unchanged so sloths, snakes and monkeys could live alongside us. I learned to identify species as a boy and aimed binoculars far more often than any gun, except when I helped my brother on a scientific project that involved taxidermy. It was natural for me to become a guide and show everyone else this world.

‘I spent a lot of time in the cloud forests of Monteverde, and it was botanists and naturalists going there that led us to develop ecotourism hand in hand with science. We didn’t let travellers come first and spoil everything, as has happened in many parts of the world. As ecotourism grew and became a major income source, people became aware that the environment and ecology were essential to development.

‘Nicoya is definitely Costa Rica’s beach hub and has the best weather, but the southern Osa Peninsula takes the prize for wildlife. It’s awesome, partly because of the Golfo Dulce, a tropical fjord that’s very deep at the centre. The landmass was carved out when Pangaea separated, and the biodiversity is incredible – species from the Amazon and even Madagascar can be seen

‘DEFORESTATION WAS A THREAT UNTIL THE 1950S. WE LEARNED WE COULD SELL A TREE 100 TIMES TO VISITORS INSTEAD OF ONCE TO LUMBER YARDS’

six, and all of us surf. It’s a paradise for families. We are right in the middle of nature, and the little ones learn to enjoy the simple things of life. And if you’re a serious surfer, you can hit the Caribbean and the Pacific on the same day.

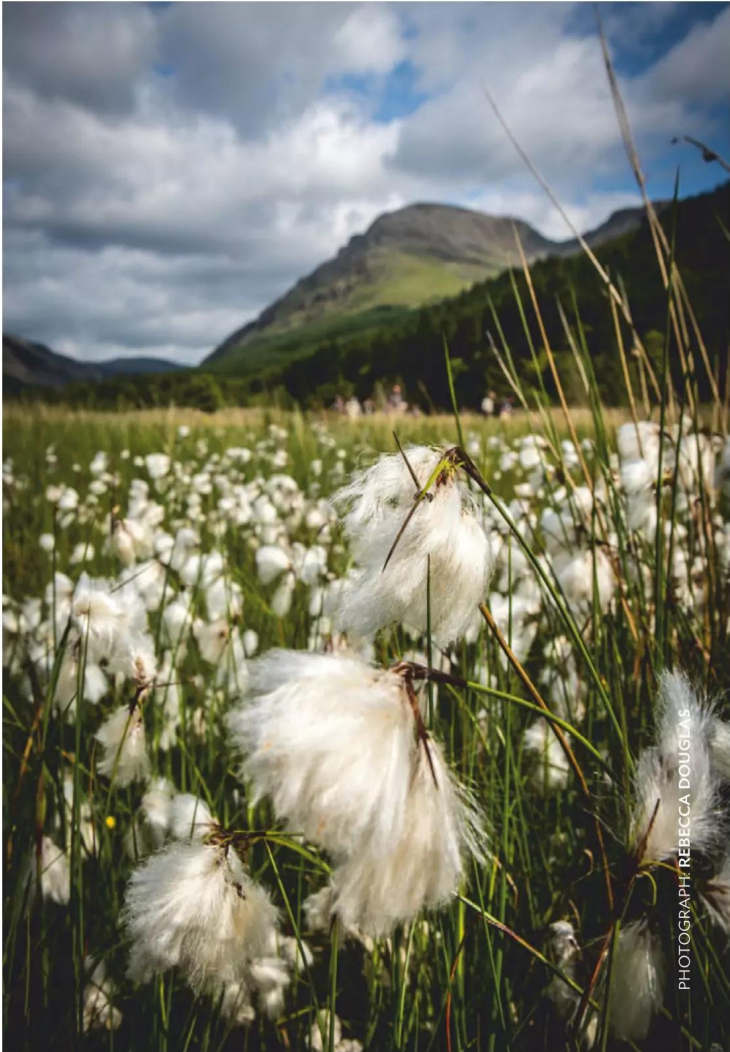
‘I’ve always loved to work with my hands. As a kid I played with Lego and made the figures little wooden boards so they could surf. This grew into my passion and craft, and today I make surfboards to spread the fun to others. I use 90-per-cent organic materials and specialise in Costa Rican balsa. It’s a light wood with unique qualities: it floats easily and is flexible, both things wave riders like. It grows locally, so we save money and carbon emissions.

‘The surf here is for everyone. Our circle is very diverse. There are people of all ages, toddlers to 80 year olds, from all nationalities and backgrounds. You see paddleboards, foils, longboards and shortboards in the water. We organise competitions; the big summer event is the Tamarindo International Surf Film Festival. Off the town’s coast, the clear sea and good barrels are irresistible. Getting barrelled is the ultimate goal of every surfer. It’s like getting lost in time. When the weather’s sunny and the water’s clean, it’s heaven.’

here. It’s where our remaining jaguars and tapirs find shelter, beneath a canopy full of hummingbirds, trogons and toucans.

‘There are spots in Costa Rica that are still pretty much undiscovered: very few people have been to Cocos Island; it’s in the history books because of stories of treasure and pirates, but it’s also the site of an immense web of marine life as well as birds endemic to the isle. But I encourage tourists to spend time with the human species, too. Go to small towns such as Zarcero, Grecia and Atenas and you’ll experience the real culture. I’m not sure why – perhaps because we were never invaded, never were slaves to anyone else – but we are an open, supremely hospitable country. A place where people routinely live beyond a century. I put it down to the way we are with visitors and our neighbours – always ready to learn from others, and teach them, too.’ 📍

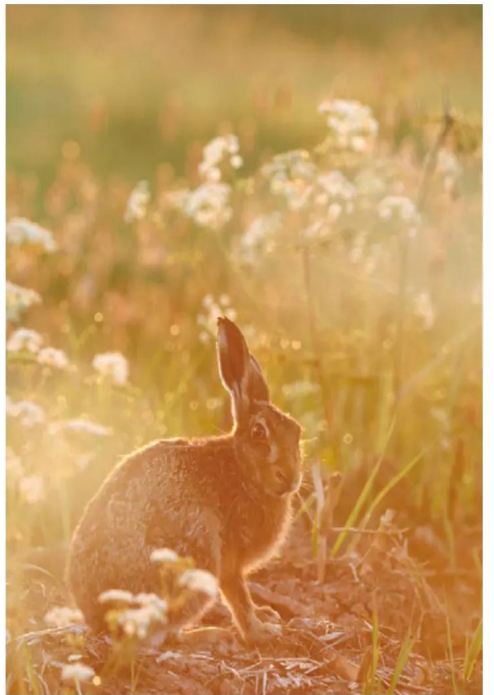
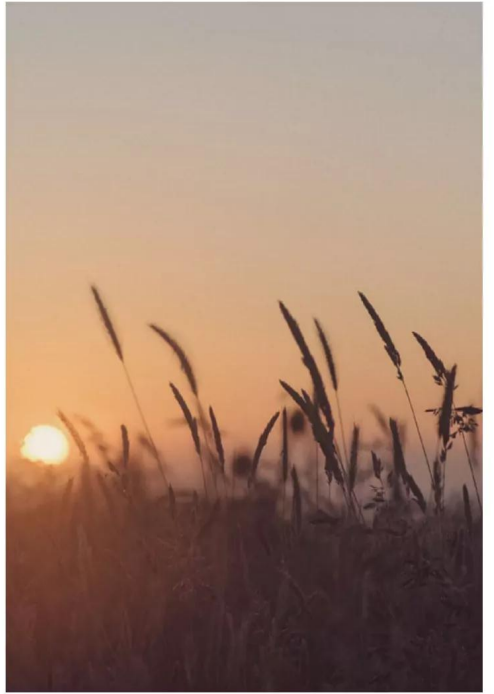
GETTING HERE For information about booking a trip to Costa Rica, visit Last Frontiers (lastfrontiers.com) and Journey Latin America (journeylatinamerica.co.uk)





THE MOVEMENT REWILDING

WITH THE COLLAPSE OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE UK, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIONISTS ARE NOW REGENERATING ENTIRE LANDSCAPES RATHER THAN SINGLE SPECIES. FOR A RECONNECTING RURAL BREAK, HERE ARE OUR NATIVE-HABITAT HEROES. BY HOLLY TUPPEN



IN THE PARKLAND SURROUNDING Somerleyton Hall in Suffolk, Scots pines and modest oaks fringe a sea of golden grass, disturbed only by rusty-brown survivors of summer's thistle and the dark shadows of Welsh black cattle. In autumn, the gentle landscape seems settled in the season's orange glow – even the Italianate towers of the Jacobean country house echo the colour scheme. Walking around the estate's 5,000 acres with its hereditary resident, Hugh Somerleyton, I'm reminded that UK conservation efforts often follow an over-familiar narrative of wealth, ego and exclusivity – landowners set on well-meaning yet unattainable missions – but I soon realise this one is different. The most recent of the country's regeneration projects, Wild East was set up in 2020 by Somerleyton, Ollie Birbeck and Argus Hardy. It aims for 20 per cent of East Anglia to be returned to nature. 'Having earnest rich people talk about it is not motivating for most people, especially farmers,' says Somerleyton as we scramble down a forgotten patch of woodland towards the silvery, marshy edge of the River Waveney. Upstream, it carves a border between Suffolk and Norfolk; a few miles below, it trickles out to sea at Great Yarmouth. His two terriers, Archilles and Judas, lead the way, eager to reach a tangle of reeds and rushes criss-crossing towards a lonely mill. 'If we want to bring nature back, we need to make the conversation relevant to a broader group of people,' he adds.

Wild East gathers together a patchwork of initiatives across a 1,500-square-mile

landscape that stretches from The Wash to the Thames Estuary. Anyone can pledge a portion of their land, so the commitments range from a plot of un-mown garden to 500 acres of the Massingham Estate. Although influenced by rewilding pioneers such as Charlie Burrell and Isabella Tree at Knepp Castle Estate in Sussex, and Paul Lister's often controversial campaigns to bring back wolves at Alladale in Scotland, the mission here has a sense of pragmatism. But debate is still welcome, which is why a lynx – a potential reintroduction to East Anglia – sits defiantly on the Wild East logo.

As we cross rutted fields and water-logged tracks, a fallow deer darts into a thicket and a flock of buntings swirl above the mud like a swarm of bees. 'We're just going back to how my father's farm manager did it 50 years ago – before big machinery and efficiency took over.' Somerleyton jumps enthusiastically from one scheme to the next. Rotating crops, restoring heathland, introducing bison (something of a heavyweight rewilding pin-up, despite not being native to England). Commercially, it relies on optimism and the hope that in 20 years or so the demand for low-cost meat will dramatically reduce. It's clearly a work in progress. In the woods by Fritton Lake, choking rhododendrons from the Victorian era have already been cleared to create a new ecosystem for waders at the water's edge. Ten or so large black pigs break up the soil and bracken, their snouts playing an essential role in the regeneration process.

The estate can be visited for the day but it's far better to stay the night at the 16th-century Fritton Arms – with roaring fires and a menu packed with local blackberries and venison sausages – or one of the woodland cabins and cottages. From here, you can dip into wild swimming, take boat safaris around the two-mile lake or drift around the pool, a log fire warming the towels. During a jog along the shore, I come face to face with muntjac, and am startled when several pikes send sprats shooting out of the water like silver bullets. Later, I join Fritton Lake's forager, Matthew Stevenson, to dive into the woods to find chanterelles, bracket fungi, bonnets and stinkhorn. 'You must never forage the lot; leave some for nature and keep the mycelium intact,' he says. 'Be mutualistic rather than parasitic.' By the end of the walk I'm hugging a ginkgo tree and being told to feel the energy in its veins.

The whole place manages to appear cared for but not at all polished – Somerleyton views complaints about the 'messy' long grass as a success. 'You never know what you're going to get with him,' Stevenson tells me. 'The other day he asked me to make sure lizards can still get in and out of the covered-up footgolf holes.' It will take time for the estate to thrive under this passionate custodianship, and for wider ambitions to ripple out around East Anglia. What does seem sure is that, while many rewilding projects feel out of reach, everyone will be welcome to join the Wild East mission; an approach that's long overdue. wildeast.co.uk

MORE INITIATIVES BRINGING LIFE BACK TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

WILDLAND, SCOTLAND

In 1959, nature writer Calum Maclean described Sutherland on Scotland's north coast as 'the most desolate if not the most beautiful of all the counties'. In the heart of such wilderness is the Kyle of Tongue, an inland sea surrounded by the last craggy outposts of the mountains as they cascade from Ben Hope and Ben Loyal.

Here, the Wildland Kinloch Estate is in the midst of transformation. Lichen-laden larch trees dangle over ice-cold streams, heather plummets into inky-blue lochans and golden eagles soar overhead. It is thanks to Danish billionaires Anders and Anne Holch Povlsen. In 2007, they set up Wildland, a 200-year vision to protect more than 200,000 acres of Scottish countryside across 12 estates (in Sutherland, the Cairngorms and the west). The plan to undo years of land mismanagement is the most

extensive conservation project in the UK. With

Scandi touches and locally commissioned art and interiors, Wildland also has some of the movement's most elegantly designed estates, lodges and cottages. 'It's incredible what nature will do when herbivores are reduced in numbers; seedlings that have lain dormant for years are springing back to life. By reducing deer numbers our Caledonian pine forest has doubled in 15 years,' says Wildland's conservation director Thomas MacDonell. Despite concerns over such extensive private land ownership, the vision is compelling – there's the potential here to revive complete ecosystems. wildland.scot

ELMLEY, KENT

Past a swirl of concrete bridges and power stations, Elmley's mile-long drive, lapped by a sea of green, feels all the more impressive. It's

set on the southern side of the Isle of Sheppey, beyond watercourses that undulate like slow worms through a bronze throng of reeds.

The sheer expanse feels foreign, somehow, and I half expect a tornado to come crashing through, tearing up the charcoal-coloured barns and bird hides. This 3,200 acres of marshland is the UK's only family-owned and run national nature reserve. Back in the 1980s, long before rewilding was part of the vocabulary, Philip Merricks was determined to prove that farming and wildlife could sit side by side. Since then, arable has been banished and cattle and sheep numbers have been reduced. It's worked. Birdlife has thrived; 14 short-eared owls visited in 2019 and more than 400 lapwings fledged from the marsh. Since inheriting the farm from her father, Georgina Fulton and her husband Gareth have been keen to

Opposite, clockwise from top left: shepherd hut at Elmley; The Shed on Fritton Lake estate; sunset at Elmley; fireside at the Fritton Arms; European brown hare, Elmley; Kyle House, part of Scotland's Wildland; by the barn at Drover's Rest; Glen Affric at Trees for Life; Highland cow at Kyle House. Previous pages, clockwise from top left: lichen at Wild Ennerdale; Saltbox at Elmley; Fritton Lake; cottongrass at Wild Ennerdale; dog at Drover's Rest



appeal to a broader audience. 'We're using farming to achieve a wildlife outcome and a food outcome,' says Gareth, 'and it's good to share that with people.' The restored farmhouse B&B (with far-reaching views, rolltop tubs), shepherd huts and events bring in quite a different crowd from the twitchers. elmleynaturereserve.co.uk

WILD ENNERDALE, LAKE DISTRICT

We often think of the Lakes as untamed enough, those great expanses of water and fell, the Romantic wanderings; but from a diversity point of view, they are surprisingly barren, over-grazed by sharp-footed sheep and over-planted with conifer. Cradled by the peaks of Great Gable and fed by one of England's wildest rivers, Ennerdale is the Lake District's prized back-to-nature project. Galloway cattle churn and chomp their way through an increasingly dense and textured forest while the Liza's unfettered waters surge the floodplains one season and shrink to a debris-strewn trickle the next. Once bereft of life, the uplands now have plants such as mountain eyebright and the impossibly delicate starry saxifrage. Sightings of red squirrel, merlin and green woodpecker are more common; there's hope that beavers and pine martens will be too. 'It's a place to be connected to the kind of nature you don't find in the busier parts of the Lake District,' says Ennerdale's Rachel Oakley, 'and it's a spark of hope in the face of our biodiversity crisis.' That hope hangs on the rare partnership between three hefty landowners, which include the National Trust. Neither landowner nor community is restricted by boundaries: farming integrates with forestry, rivers connect to floodplains, woodland merges with scrub and wildlife moves freely. Understandably, there's caution when it comes to ecotourism. While there are 30 miles of car-free trails to explore by foot, bike or horseback,

Wild Ennerdale is not out to attract large numbers of visitors (especially as in 2020 the Lakes suffered one of the worst-ever assaults of overtourism), but instead create a holistic balance where, as Oakley says, 'nature is abundant, the landscape is resilient and people can thrive within it'. wildennerdale.co.uk

TREES FOR LIFE, SCOTLAND

Halfway between Loch Ness and Loch Cluanie on a road that eventually reaches Skye, the terrain of the Dundreggan Estate – Dragon's Valley in Gaelic – is typical of the Highlands. Pinewoods rise from a carpet of blaeberry and patches of dwarf birch scrub and juniper cling to the hillsides. The River Moriston rips through rocky outcrops, the surface erupting occasionally as an osprey swoops to catch fish. On higher ground, what would have once been the Caledonian Forest is now mostly bare. We are so acclimatised to these big, open views that we have come to see them as beautiful, but Trees for Life thinks otherwise. In 2008, the charity bought the former hunting estate's 10,000 acres to restore what was left of its natural habitats, although scientists soon discovered more biodiversity than hoped for amid the woodland and hazy wildflower meadows, recording rare creatures such as sawfly and the strawberry spider, and, most recently, nesting golden eagles – the phoenix of the glens. And after finding thousands of native seeds, Trees for Life established a nursery specialising in hard-to-grow species including rowan, oak, aspen and birch. Wildlife reintroductions are also part of the plan, with wild boar and pine marten spotted from the many hides. Years of destruction make tree-planting necessary, drawing volunteers here for weeks or months – some as part of its Rewild and Recover mental-health programme, and many staying in Glen Affric's Athnamulloch bothy, moments from the River Affric's wild-swimming spots. The

UK's first rewilding centre is set to launch here in 2022. Restorative and all-embracing, this makes for a more hands-on experience than other conservation-minded estates. treesforlife.org.uk

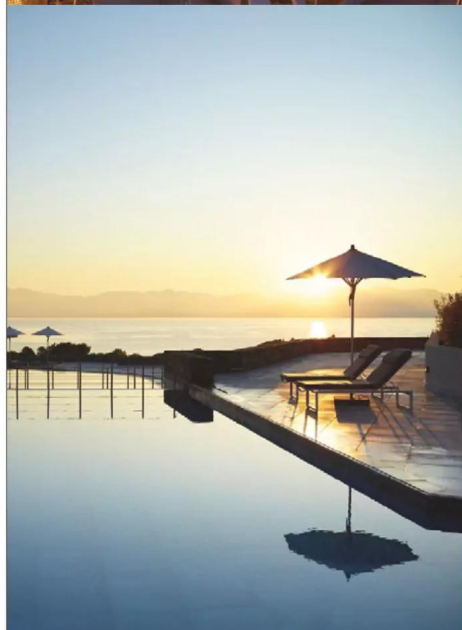
DROVER'S REST, HEREFORDSHIRE

This is a county defined by its overgrown lanes, forgotten farms and wistful sense of rural nostalgia, and it doesn't get much more remote than the bottom of Watery Lane. The Black Mountains loom a few miles away and fields roll alongside a common thick with bracken. 'We knew we would move here by the time we'd reached the end of the lane,' says Kesri Smolas, recalling the day she and her husband Paul first came to the 40-acre farm. The South African couple spent 12 years in London before heading to Herefordshire for a lifestyle shift; having created a glamping and events outfit that exudes easy-going hospitality every step of the way, rewilding plans are now afoot. 'What excites me most is that when nature is left to its own devices, the landscape can look quite African – take Knepp's scrubby savannahs and grassy plains,' says Kesri. 'There's an obsession with neatness in this country that I've never understood.' Her thoughts echo those of other conservationists keen to shift our perception of beauty. Thanks to the income from their other projects, the pair can afford to set aside land for rewilding, but also recognise that collaboration is critical. This year, fences between Drover's and a neighbouring farm will come down to allow for linked-up conservation efforts. Hares, hedgehogs, horses, cattle, pigs, deer and many other species are part of the plan. 'When I can hear a cacophony of insects, I'll know we're getting somewhere,' says Kesri. Through such collaboration, the aim is to create 230 rewilded acres that will prove anyone can do their bit. droversrest.co.uk. For more on rewilding, visit rewildingbritain.org.uk and healrewilding.org.uk

Above from left: Somerleyton Hall, the home of Wild East founder Lord Somerleyton; wildflowers at Elmley; free-roving chicken at Drover's Rest

SERENITY IN THE CYCLADES

Let Summer Senses Luxury Resort lull you into a state of bliss on the Greek island of Paros, where the air is scented with the aroma of wild herbs and the Aegean Sea is just steps away



From its hilltop vantage point on the south-eastern coast of Paros, Summer Senses Luxury Resort treats you to captivating views of the Aegean Sea. You'll also spot its Cyclades neighbours Naxos and Ios as you lounge in one of the resort's three swimming pools.

Inhale sweet-smelling herbs as you relax in discreet five-star luxury and take in the sea views from your terrace or balcony. Traditional meets modern in pretty Greek sugar-cube houses decorated in smart contemporary style, with local natural wood and Paros marble and stone adding touches of cool elegance. Splash out on a Summer Suite and luxuriate in your own private swimming pool with yet more of those incomparable Aegean views.

With this visual feast comes a veritable gastronomic one at the Galazia Hytra restaurant. Working in collaboration with the Michelin-starred Hytra restaurant in Athens, the chefs in Paros do exquisite, creative things to top-notch local ingredients. Try a slow-roasted lamb shoulder, or dive into the sea bream with rock samphire.

There's more Greek and Cycladic food on offer at Gaia restaurant, where you start the day with breakfast and a refreshing Aegean vista. You'll be tempted by the Greek and Mediterranean meze on the all-day menu, as well as beautifully grilled fish and meat dishes. Kick off the evening with a cocktail at the Hydor Pool Bar, or discover the dizzying range of drinks at the Irida Lounge Bar.

When you're not at nearby Punda Beach or in one of the lagoon-like outdoor pools – one of which is just for children – indulge in a bit of pampering in the Anassa Spa. Book a blissful treatment before enjoying the warmth of the sauna. If you enjoy a good workout, check out the state-of-the-art Anassa Gym.

You'll leave with all your senses fully revitalised – if you can tear yourself away.

Further Information
Visit summersenses.gr



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THE NEW RESTAURANT ARCHETYPE INNOVATIVE KITCHENS

OUR PICK OF THE RESOURCEFUL CHEFS REDIRECTING THE SUPPLY CHAIN. EDITED BY TABITHA JOYCE



SUNGOLD TOMATOES WITH RASPBERRIES, FENNEL FLOWERS AND LOBSTER OIL AT AMASS, COPENHAGEN

PHOTOGRAPH: CORY SMITH

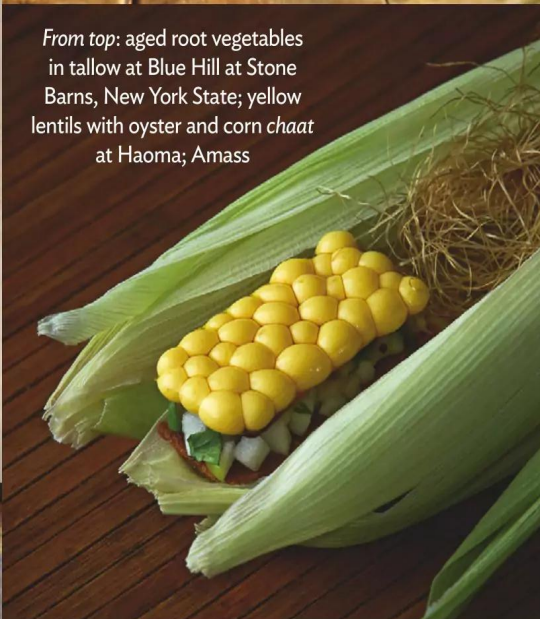


Clockwise from below: seafood madras, fermented mushrooms, dining room, and chyawanprash pudding, all at Haoma, Bangkok; Silo, London; fava beans in green-plum broth with petals, and garden, both at Amass; Silo's Douglas McMaster





From top: aged root vegetables in tallow at Blue Hill at Stone Barns, New York State; yellow lentils with oyster and corn chaat at Haoma; Amass



THE UK'S ONLY TRULY ZERO-WASTE RESTAURANT

SILO LONDON

Douglas McMaster isn't just on a mission to reduce waste in his kitchen – he wants to get rid of it entirely. Originally founded in Brighton in 2014, Silo is his so-called 'restaurant without a bin'. The project, which has since relocated to London's Hackney Wick, is a complete ecosystem: McMaster buys goods package-free from local farmers and uses the on-site aerobic digester to compost any leftovers (it can create up to 132lbs in just 24 hours). The set menu changes daily and, despite the impressive eco credentials, the plates are lavish and creative – never puritanical. Supper starts with the signature Siloaf, using flour milled on site, and a slab of raw butter. That isn't the last you'll see of the bread: the sourdough may be reincarnated, for example, as a rich miso sauce paired with sweet golden beetroot and salty ricotta. Other delicious pairings include Jerusalem artichokes with Stichelton blue-cheese sauce and treacle made from vegetable peelings; pink-fir potatoes with caramelised whey (an umami taste revelation); and tart sea-buckthorn snow with crème fraîche. It's not only the food that's sustainable, of course. The biodynamic wine list leans into producers that do refills; any bottles that can't be reused are turned into ceramic glass for light fittings in the restaurant. Even the plates are recycled – you'd never know you were eating off old plastic bags. McMaster was ahead of his time in 2014 but is still the only chef in the UK cooking with no waste at all. SONYA BARBER silolondon.com

CLOSED-LOOP DINING IN THE THAI CAPITAL

HAOMA BANGKOK

After stints in hotel kitchens and a roving food truck, Indian-born chef Deepanker Khosla turned his home on a leafy Bangkok backstreet into a restaurant that's a modern ode to the flavours of his motherland. Feasts start with a tasting tour of the back garden, which is filled with large, spacious seafood tanks – home to main courses in the making – that feed nutrient-rich freshwater into reclaimed-wood planters and vertical hydroponic farms growing herbs, edible flowers and vegetables. Kitchen scraps return here, too, either as fish food or fertiliser, while rainwater is collected for later use. What doesn't come from these grounds Khosla sources from his organic farm in Chiang Mai and carefully vetted suppliers around Thailand – but not without having personally inspected and tested their soil first. The

signature nine- and 13-course menus cover a pan-Indian potpourri of curries, dahls and chutneys – deconstructed, infused, compressed or jellied, and served on seashells, coral or tree trunks. Keep an eye out for the aptly named Haoma in a Bite, a fishy roll-up of which every single component, from the Nile tilapia to the *dashi* and herbs, has come from the garden. With South-east Asia's growing waste problem, it's brazen chefs such as Khosla who are taking action and ushering in serious change in a city that needs it. CHRIS SCHALKX haoma.dk

NOMA'S FORMER HEAD CHEF IS LEADING THE LOCAVORE CHARGE

AMASS COPENHAGEN

For California-born Matt Orlando, the main appeal of the site for his restaurant, founded in 2013 in a bleak industrial zone on the outskirts of Copenhagen, was that there was space out front for him to grow his own produce. Refshaleøen has since become one of the city's coolest and most interesting quarters, and Orlando's inventive, outward-looking take on the New Nordic tenets of local, seasonal and sustainable is at the heart of this shift. A true pioneer, he was reducing food miles to zero from the off, has worked hard to minimise water usage and turns any organic waste into mulch. He also really understands hospitality; how to welcome guests and make them feel relaxed and happy. But, above all, he knows about deliciousness, blending Nordic game, seafood and plants with an iconoclastic American approach to token further-flung ingredients. Orlando is a whizz with herb-infused oils and potato peels, and has a drinks list to spin the head of the nerdiest natural-wine freak. Who else would think to weave together duck, smoked almonds and *shishito* peppers? Or come up with *habanero dulce*, a mild chilli with a tang of mango and caramel, and then pair it with brill and preserved-cucumber juice? The fish is always excellent here, certified sustainable, and every part of it is used. And, as diners learned during the restaurant's post-lockdown pivot, the man can make very good fried chicken, too. MICHAEL BOOTH amassrestaurant.com

THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL FOOD-WASTE ADVOCATE KEEPS ON CAMPAIGNING

BLUE HILL AT STONE BARNs NEW YORK STATE

Part of President Obama's plan to improve American nutrition and known for his ground-breaking work with seed breeders, Dan Barber has arguably done more for food



Clockwise from this picture: Moray archaeological centre, dining room, and corn dishes, all at Mil, Peru; cured fish with watercress and orange, seating, and floating-island pudding, all at Corrutela, Brazil



and agriculture than any chef in recent times. In 2015, after reports that a whopping third of the planet's fare goes uneaten, he launched

WastED to show consumers how to turn leftovers into delicious dishes and teach people about protein alternatives. At his pop-ups in New York and London, he made juicy hamburgers out of beetroot pulp and veal nuggets from male bull calves that otherwise would have been shot at birth because they can't produce milk. But even for Barber, 2020 was a wake-up call, highlighting inequities in food and social justice. Small farmers were in danger of bankruptcy; Covid-19 disproportionately affected the underprivileged and communities of colour.

He quickly created ResourceED, selling grocery boxes to support independent producers, and the Kitchen Farming Project, a now-global initiative to educate and help out-of-work chefs. Next up he is transforming Blue Hill at Stone Barns, his flagship restaurant set on a sprawling organic farm in upstate New York. Throughout 2021, it will host events, including a residency for a diverse mix of chefs adversely impacted by the pandemic, such as Philadelphia-based Shola Olunloyo, who specialises in Nigerian plates, and Omar Tate, whose flavours are influenced by Black playwrights, authors and artists. The guest cooks will have free rein to showcase their own cultures, provided they use ingredients from Blue Hill's grounds, as well as 100 per cent wholegrain wheat and every part of the animal. Expect plenty of surprises.

LAURA PRICE bluehillfarm.com

A MOUNTAIN RESTAURANT PRESERVING THE COUNTRY'S NATIVE INGREDIENTS

MIL SACRED VALLEY, PERU

Virgilio Martínez's Lima restaurant Central is consistently ranked in the world's top 10. But it's his Sacred Valley outpost that really proves he's on a mission. Sustainability permeates every aspect of Mil, from the Andean architecture to the research centre – which explores the diversity of produce from the extraordinarily varied landscape. It sits on the edge of the circular, terraced Moray archaeological complex, an area fittingly once used by the Incas for agricultural study, at an elevation of more than 11,483ft. With the help of Peruvian craftspeople, Lima-based Estudio Rafael Freyre revamped what was previously a breeding centre for *vicuña* (the wild ancestor of alpacas) into a modern space with earthen walls and an *ichu* grass roof to blend in with its culturally significant surroundings. Four wings around a central courtyard house the Mater Iniciativa research hub and the restaurant where botanical art hangs on the walls. The menu is made up of eight courses representing the ecosystems at different elevations including the plateau, Andean forest and Central Andes.

The Frozen Cordillera course of wild *muña* (Andean mint), *tumbo* (banana passion fruit) and *kjolle* (a flowering Peruvian tree) is served as a granita, while duck comes with black quinoa, blue-green algae and wheat from extreme altitudes. The Mil Immersion experience takes this gastronomic story beyond the plate with a pre-dinner visit to

meet the farmers cultivating colourful potatoes and tour the plant-rich hills and on-site distillery lab where experiments with roots and herbs take place. The ultimate destination dining. LAUREN HILL milcentro.pe

WINNING OVER MEAT-LOVING DINERS WITH A SOLAR-FUELLED, VEGETABLE-CENTRIC MENU

CORRUTELA SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

In a country where the recycling rate is nowhere near that of many European nations, 29-year-old chef César Costa is blazing a trail with his no-waste, low-carbon-footprint São Paulo restaurant. Having trained under sustainability champions Alice Waters and Christian Puglisi in his early 20s, the Brazilian returned home determined to change the local food scene with the opening of Corrutela. Set on a quiet street in bohemian Vila Madalena, the industrial-style room feels a little like a factory, with exposed overhead pipes, concrete floors and an obtrusive silver composting machine near the entrance. But this is Costa's plan – by showing patrons his transparent open kitchen and eco-conscious toolkit, he is educating them about planet-friendly dining. Named after the tiny hamlets found beside motorways leading to big Brazilian towns, Corrutela broadly translates as 'between the city and the countryside'. Everything here is seasonal and organic, with a locavore approach and



Clockwise from this picture: foraged mushrooms, chocolates, and Selassie Atadika, all at Midunu, Ghana; marlin 'nduja on toast, seating, and fried Newcastle bugs at Saint Peter, Sydney

ingredients mainly sourced from the south of São Paulo state. Costa cuts out plastic by buying raw produce in bulk, including cocoa beans that arrive in sacks before being turned into chocolate and corn that is transformed in his mill. Forty per cent of the restaurant's energy comes from solar panels, while any waste is composted and donated to nearby public gardens. The menu here is simple with dishes such as assorted courgettes and risotto-style rice with romanesco broccoli and cashew nuts. But the star of the show is Costa's spin on *île flottantes*, a French-inspired floating-island pudding of whipped, light-as-air meringues in a soup made with *jenipapo*, a Brazilian fruit that turns food a striking blue. LP corrutela.com.br

INDIGENOUS GOODS AND SELL-OUT SUPPER CLUBS IN WEST AFRICA

MIDUNU ACCRA, GHANA

While imported rice has long been the first choice for affluent Ghanaians, Selassie Atadika is bringing more eco-friendly food to the fore while fighting climate change. At Midunu, she champions local grains including sorghum and millet, which are better suited to the arid weather and cope well with erratic rainfall, requiring less water and no fertiliser. Having returned to her home country after many years studying and working in the USA, Atadika dedicated herself to testing out such ingredients and tackling the stigma around traditionally low-status crops. Taking her

exploration of African produce a step further, she set up the Midunu Institute, a not-for-profit aimed at investigating, documenting and preserving community recipes, food and knowledge. Diners can experience her colourful creations at quarterly communal, multi-course pop-ups held at secret locations across Accra, or in weekly tasting-menu suppers served at Midunu House. At the beautiful, leafy villa, she whips up 12 courses using low-maintenance proteins such as goat, slow-cooked for four hours and served with spices. Responding to the issue of lactose intolerance in some parts of Africa, the chef often uses coconut or cashew milk to create creaminess in her dishes. She also favours plantain, breadfruit and jackfruit, which are beneficial for the environment as their trees don't require irrigation, but all of which are currently underused in Ghanaian cooking. Look out for the *domo*, a foraged fungus that Atadika says is so unique and rare it deserves to be as prized as the truffle. LP midunu.com

A SEAFOOD BUTCHERY LEADING AUSTRALIA'S GILL-TO-FIN MOVEMENT

SAINT PETER SYDNEY

When it comes to fish restaurants in this city, it's hard to make a splash, but Saint Peter and its scale-to-tail ethos is different. Headed up by sustainable-seafood advocate Josh Niland, whose book *The Whole Fish* has become something of a bible for like-minded cooks, the sleek marble-bar restaurant, currently seating

14 people, feels like a performative masterclass with chefs on show shucking, filling, scaling, grilling and wasting very little. Here, lesser-known Australian species are celebrated, often wild-caught, and 90 per cent of the fish – eyeballs! guts! blood! – are put to use, in comparison to an average of less than 50 per cent in most seafood restaurants. Niland, who has worked with leading names in culinary innovation including Heston Blumenthal, has taken the blueprint of meaty techniques, such as nose-to-tail cooking and dry-ageing, and applied it to fruits of the sea in a number of new-to-the-industry, waste-saving ways. Delicate kingfish stomach is served in a saucy fish-heart and offal XO sauce; tartare-style yellowfin tuna is topped with a yolk; 'nduja-like mackerel is plated up on toast; and cured fat-belly swordfish comes as bacon. Niland's philosophy is to minimise waste and maximise taste, meaning bones could be ground into a powder and sauced, leftover cod fat used in chocolate slices and fish eyes dehydrated, fried and turned into crisps. A few doors down at the

Fish Butchery, a high-spec, gallery-like fishmonger, he shows off his true moxie with a takeaway menu of sea-urchin crumpets, swordfish katsu and buttermilk-fried sandos. But it's his transformation of classic surf staples, such as the firm-fleshed pink-ling fish and chips – a new take on his old boss Blumenthal's recipe – battered in a holy trinity of vodka, honey and beer with a side of tangy yogurt tartar, that makes him truly the best seafood chef in Australia. CHLOE SACHDEV saintpeter.com.au



THE DRINKS EXPERIMENTALISTS **GROUND-BREAKING BARS**

SAVVY LATE-NIGHT HANGOUTS STIRRING UP A PLANET-CONSCIOUS ETHOS. BY CHLOE SACHDEV

PENICILLIN HONG KONG

From the crew behind heavy-hitting The Old Man – Asia's most-talked about bar of 2019 – comes Penicillin. Everything in this oversized space has been designed with low-impact principles in mind: closed-loop cocktails, locally sourced produce, on-site fermentation and scraps turned into soap and sanitisers. Located on the always-bustling Hollywood Road, it is an ode to the supercharged city, with neon interiors created by one of Hong Kong's few remaining lighting makers and tables fashioned from trees felled by typhoons. penicillinbar.com

NATIVE SINGAPORE

Having shaken and stirred with some of the world's most sustainable supremos, including London's Ryan Chetiyawardana, bartender Vijay Mudaliar opened this unassuming old shophouse in Singapore's Chinatown with the goal of celebrating South-east Asian flavours with zero waste. Using only regional spirits and throwing away nothing means leftover curd may end up in a pandan jelly, old pineapple

skins become garnishes for the Sri Lankan arrack and rums are infused with *laksa* leaves. Plucking scavenged ingredients such as ants gives the drinks a crunchy twist. tribenative.com

HIMKOK OSLO

Norwegian for moonshine, this hidden bar in an old brick building may seem like a throwback to Prohibition with an in-house distillery turning out roughly 80 per cent of all its spirits, but the madcap mixologists in lab coats are a far cry from the raggedy barkeeps of old. Anything not grown in the greenhouse or garden, such as seaweed and native brown cheese, is harvested or foraged nearby, and the same goes for the beer, wine, mead and kefir. A sum of many moving parts, it also has an outdoor cider area and draft-cocktail station. A place that's deeply rooted in doing good. himkok.no

RHODORA BROOKLYN

There was initially scepticism among Fort Greene residents when local restaurant Mettā reopened as a natural-wine bar. It

quickly became apparent, however, that the team was serious, even radical, in its commitment to the environment. Everything is composted, wine corks are made into shoe soles and the dishwasher converts salt into soap. Even the snacks – tinned fish, cheese, charcuterie, bread, pickled vegetables – have been thought up with producers who can adhere to Rhodora's strict standards, while oyster shells are tossed to the Billion Oyster Project, an initiative restoring oyster reefs to New York harbour. rhodorabk.com

BAR TRIGONA KUALA LUMPUR

Named after a stingless bee, this see-and-be-seen-in-hotel hotspot has an unexpected DNA. A skin-to-seed bar, it champions Malaysian farmers. The menu cleverly uses the entire life cycle of native fruits, ensuring minimal waste and only farm-fresh components, such as wild turmeric and figs from suppliers off the beaten track. The sweet-and-sour honey from the namesake bees lifts the tipples, and behind the scenes there's a programme to help the community of farmers adopt hives for a year. fourseasons.com/kualalumpur

From top: where
the city meets the
sea in Haikou

NEW YEAR, NEW DISCOVERY

Haikou city, on China's tropical island of Hainan, is a beach paradise that offers everything from surfing to shopping, plus an exciting new festival of arts and entertainment



With its rainforests, volcanic landscapes, pristine beaches and plethora of surf spots, the tropical island of Hainan is China's very own Hawaii. Easy to access from the mainland, and with numerous international connections, Hainan draws visitors for its scenery and the sunshine, not to mention some of China's finest hotels, which are set along its miles of palm-fringed sand beaches and in its waterside capital, Haikou, fondly known as the Coconut City.

Not only is Haikou the gateway to Hainan, it also has its own charm, with many pretty historic neighbourhoods, known as *qilou*, characterised by pedestrianised streets and porticoed arcades of cafés, shops and handicraft markets. Haikou's *qilou* are the places to take a morning tea and spicy rice soup as you watch daily life go by against the backdrop of centuries-old South-east Asian architecture.

These lovely areas are also where you can enjoy an ambitious city-wide festival, which takes place from November to February, as Haikou seeks to establish itself as the 'City of New Year's Eve'. Encompassing more than 200 cultural and entertainment events during the season, the 'Cross the Sea' festival sees Haikou's streets, parks and beaches transformed with music, theatre, art and sports. An incredible '5D' light-and-shadow show illuminates the whitewashed façades of the *qilou*, with another light-art showcase taking place in Sun Moon Square. The hip Haikou Bay Bund is the setting for street-art performances, while duty-free shops offer discounts for the duration of the festival – a nod to newly unveiled plans to transform the island into Hainan Free Trade Port, China's largest free-trade zone.

Beyond the festival, a clutch of new travel itineraries has been launched to introduce

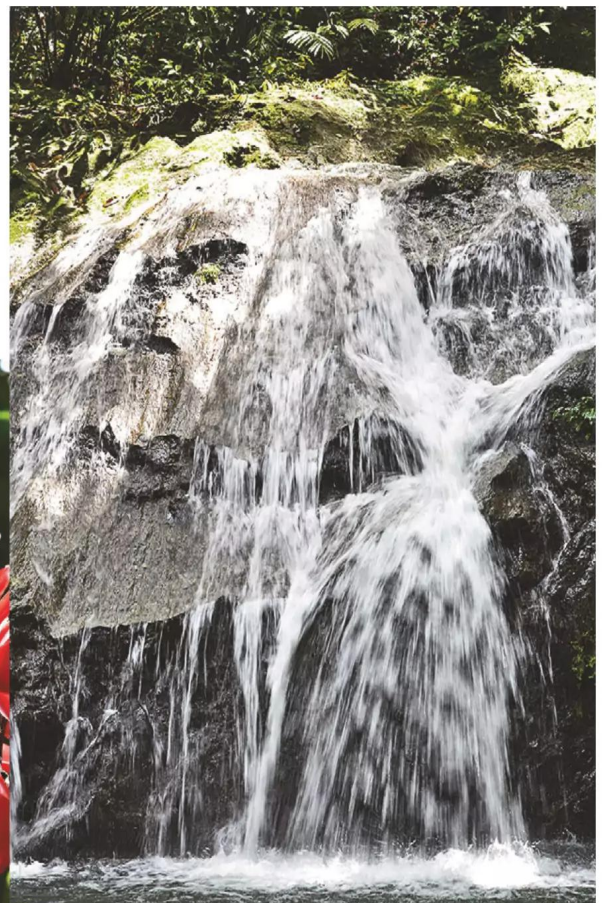
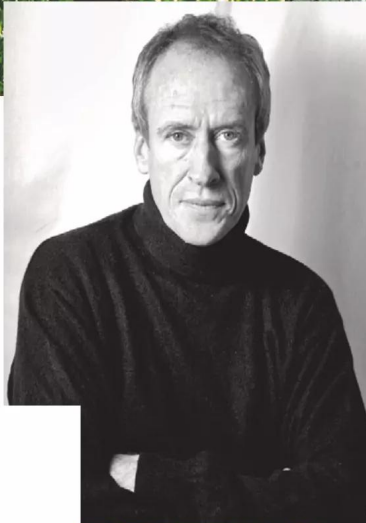
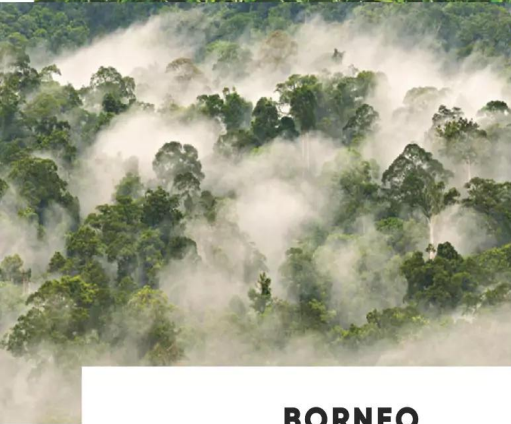


visitors to the abundance of other highlights – including mineral hot springs, wildlife parks, lush mangroves, ancient villages and a volcanic park – that make Haikou a year-round destination to discover in 2021 and beyond.

THE ESCAPE ROUTES PODCAST

IN ASSOCIATION WITH MALAYSIA AIRLINES

INTRODUCING THIS MONTH'S DESTINATIONS WITH THE TRANSPORTIVE STORYTELLING OF CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER'S EDITORS AND WRITERS AS PART OF OUR NEW SERIES



BORNEO

WITH CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
TIMOTHY O'GRADY

'Mysterious, wild... A place from an unreachable time, a garden of Eden,' says award-winning author O'Grady of the intriguing, far-flung isle – the third largest in the world – divided between the nations of Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. In this wildlife-filled episode he explores Sabah in Borneo's north-east where 'there are the warm emerald and turquoise seas, the freezing peaks of Mount Kinabalu, the strange shapes and startling colours of the coral reefs and, above all, the million-year-old rainforest. This is nature for the vigorous, the sybaritic and those in search of solemn awe.'

Malaysia Airlines connects travellers to Malaysian Borneo, Langkawi, Penang and beyond – find out more at malaysiaairlines.com

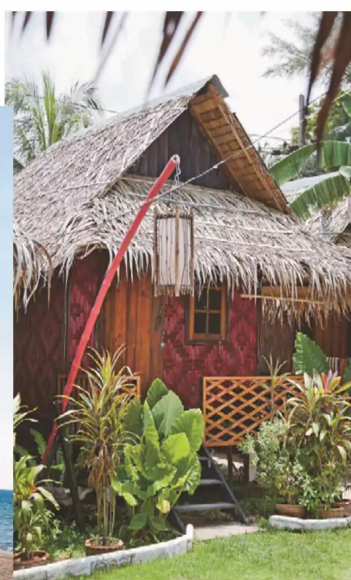
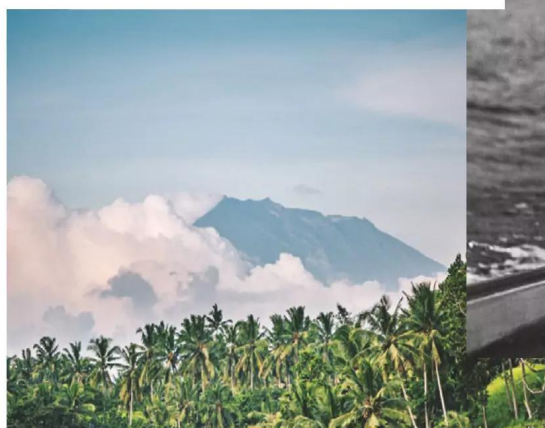
UBUD

WITH CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
ANTONIA QUIRKE

Join the Zen seekers, digital nomads and self-improvement gurus in Bali's green heart as author and BBC Radio 4 presenter Quirke unravels its unwavering magnetic pull. 'Ubud is always vivid,' she says. 'And in the valleys of the Bangli regency south of Mount Batur, you can still find things that seem profoundly removed from any documented present.'

Weave through rice paddies and full-moon processions, take cleansing rituals in dells and discover floating temples on this hypnotic journey.

Malaysia Airlines operates flights to Bali via Kuala Lumpur – find out more at malaysiaairlines.com

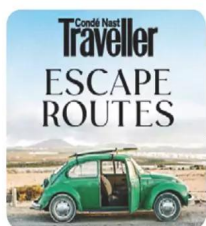


KOH LANTA

WITH UK EDITOR ISSY VON SIMSON

The search for the perfect Thai isle, the one to match *The Beach*-fuelled fantasies, is a well-trodden path. 'It's not as if Koh Lanta is some hidden paradise, an untouched spot where no one but the most intrepid backpacker has ever set foot,' says von Simson. 'But it is, in the grand scheme of Thai islands, deliciously unspoilt... It has a mellow, softly tuned vibe; a low-rise, go-slow kind of place.' Settle into its groove and chart its laidback corners during this tale of blissed-out scenes.

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HOW TO DOWNLOAD OUR PODCAST

'ESCAPE ROUTES' is available to download now at cntraveller.com/podcast.

This podcast is sponsored by **Malaysia Airlines**, the national carrier of Malaysia, which is the best way to fly to, from and around the country, jetting from London Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur on board the state-of-the-art Airbus A350. The company is a member of Oneworld, so travellers can also collect and redeem Avios, as well as earn Tier Points, when booking flights to South-east Asia and Australasia. For more information, visit malaysiaairlines.com

OUR NEW VIDEO INITIATIVE

TAKING THE LONG VIEW

FOLLOW THE LATEST ENDEAVOURS OF
SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE ECO WARRIORS WITH
THESE INSPIRING SHORT FILMS

FREEDIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE UNSTOPPABLE HANLI PRINSLOO

The Cape Town-based diver can hold her breath for more than six minutes. But her incredible sea-based feats aren't just limited to smashing records. In 2010 she launched I Am Water, a conservation charity teaching underprivileged children in coastal communities to swim, snorkel and freedive, aiming to inspire the next generation of environment protectors. In our video, directed by Tori Plummer, Prinsloo glides through the marine kelp forests near where she lives. 'The ocean is what I feel unites us,' she says. 'But it also brings us closer to ourselves.'

REVIVING COSTA RICA'S CORAL REEFS A SPOTLIGHT ON MARINE LIFE IN THE GULF OF PAPAGAYO

This Central American country is a global leader in its environmental outlook (see page 112), with 98 per cent of electricity produced from renewable sources and more than a quarter of the land protected in conservation areas. Our film, shot by Oliver Pilcher on the Papagayo peninsula, follows Dr Juan José Alvarado from the University of Costa Rica and some of his team, along with José Andrés Marín Moraga of the NGO Raising Coral Costa Rica, as they work to revitalise the ecosystem. To achieve this, they take healthy coral clippings and care for them in man-made nurseries for six to 10 months before replanting them to restore the technicolour beauty of the reefs.

LESSONS IN SUSTAINABILITY FROM OUR 'HOW TO BE A BETTER TRAVELLER' EXPERTS

Discover more about all aspects of planet-friendly living and travelling, from economic nutrition to eco architecture, through our programme of interviews with pioneers and big thinkers. These include chef Douglas McMaster talking zero-waste food, Bali's Potato Head founder Ronald Akili explaining how good times can still do good, architect Bill Bensley discussing the impact of green design and Zita Cobb of Canada's Fogo Island Inn tracing the transformative power of community-enriching hotels. Upcoming videos delve into issues with visionaries from our inaugural Green List and show the role of individual change within a collective big shift.

TO WATCH THE FILMS, VISIT
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OUR NEW-SEASON EDIT OF THE
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WORDS: KENDRA LEAVER-RYLAH

PEAK OF PERFECTION

From lively après-ski scenes and thrilling pistes to family-friendly hotels and chalets with raclette, **THE SWISS MOUNTAINS** have it all. To fully immerse yourself in the spine-tingling views of the peaks and valleys, book a stay at Whitepod Eco-Luxury Hotel this winter. The hotel's dreamy domes are the latest step in glamping's global domination with cosy interiors and a sun-trap terrace. With two of its own private ski slopes and forward-thinking green business credentials, this design hotel gives your snowy Swiss getaway an edge. If you want to explore further afield, get from A to B using the brilliantly efficient public transport system and a Swiss Travel Pass. myswitzerland.com



Maria ski
suit in safran,
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fusalp.com



Perrier-Jouët Blason
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ocado.com



Spektrum Ostra
Bio Premium ski
goggles, £164,
spektrumsports.com



Chanel tweed
arm coin
purse, £525,
chanel.com



Mittens in encre,
£130, fusalp.com



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Skyline, £4,760,
seikowatches.com

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Saks Potts Foxy coat in shortbread shearling, £995, anniesibiza.com



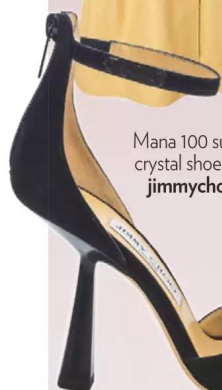
Neverfull MM Louis Vuitton x Urs Fischer tote in tufted monogram canvas, £1,730, louisvuitton.com



Tanqueray No. Ten, 70cl, £32.50, amazon.co.uk



LOEWE Sphere bracelet, £725, loewe.com



Mana 100 suede and crystal shoes, £1,850, jimmychoo.com



Antler Clifton cabin suitcase in mint, £164, antler.co.uk



CITY SLICKER

If you're looking for an off-beat urban break, make for **WALDORF ASTORIA** in Berlin. This imposing 118m-high tower has floor-to-ceiling windows in every room and the best views of the Berlin Zoological Garden. While it has a historically refined setting in the upmarket City West district, there's nothing stuffy about this hotel. The interiors seamlessly blend classic Art Deco with contemporary touches, while the staff are cool and friendly. The hotel is also aiming to cut its environmental footprint in half by 2030, making this a good choice for eco-conscious weekenders. Prices from €230 per night, waldorfasteriaberlin.de



FLY & FLOP

Ringed by powder-soft white-sand beaches that look onto an endless expanse of sea and sky, **CONSTANCE HALAVELI** in the Maldives is as wildly popular with families as it is with honeymooners, which says something about the enduring allure of this leafy island. The mood is both incredibly spoiling and completely laid-back – there are slick restaurants serving top-level food, as well as a fun and engaging kids' club. So while the little ones play happily, you can head out to experience some of the best diving in the Indian Ocean, or kick back and watch eagle rays from the pool of your overwater villa. Rooms are designed to complement the surrounding environment, with lots of natural materials. What's more, this hideaway is firmly dedicated to the preservation of its surroundings, with coral-planting programmes and dive clean-ups. A deeply smart escape. Prices from \$630 per night, constancehotels.com

{HOLIDAY} essentials



18ct yellow-gold, diamond and sapphire ring stack, £5,600, annoushka.com



Skin & Tonic Daily Detox Face Oil, £18, skinandtoniclondon.com

Rémy Martin XO Luxury Goldleaf Giftbox, £175, selfridges.com



Harlequin Rose ruffle mini dress, £295, needleandthread.com



Jo Loves Pomelo parfum, £115 for 100ml, joloves.com

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NOBU HOTEL LONDON PORTMAN SQUARE

Nobu's second London hotel is already one of the capital's hottest new hangouts. Naturally, its restaurant takes centre stage, with head chef Joao Alegria leading the kitchen and everyone's favourite miso black cod making an appearance. Enter into a theatrically high-ceilinged room where an enormous sculpture suspended from pale timber lends a funky London-meets-Tokyo vibe. Perfect for people watching on Portman Square, but also just a hop, skip and a jump to the West End. Room rates from £345. london-portman.nobuhotels.com



THE MAYFAIR TOWNHOUSE

This stately city spin-off from the team behind Cliveden House and Chewton Glen is English eccentricity at its best. Curated by Minda Dowling, the 15 connected Georgian buildings on Half Moon Street come with views overlooking Green Park. Inside, it is packed with personality, wit and curious surprise details – one of a new wave of hotels delivering the unexpected in the heart of Mayfair. Room rates from £350. themayfairtownhouse.com



HENRY'S TOWNHOUSE

There's a particularly lovely old-world glow to Henry's Townhouse, a new seven-bedroom property in Marylebone that was once the home of Jane Austen's brother, Henry. The scene here is city bolthole meets quaint country cottage and every aspect of the Grade II-listed building has been painstakingly restored and dressed up with rich fabrics and splendid antiques – from the Pantry kitchen and a cocktail 'snug' to the reading room. Room rates from £450. henrystownhouse.co.uk



HIGH-FLYER

JAMES RILEY

CEO of Mandarin Oriental
Hotel Group

What makes Mandarin Oriental hotels so special?

I have to say our people. They are dedicated to delivering moments of joy to our fans across the globe. Every MO hotel has its own distinctive personality and style, and guests constantly praise our people for providing exceptional, personalised service, and trade the best secrets of each location.

Your favourite bar for a drink?

Depending on the mood (and in no particular order), it would be a pint of Boddingtons at the Captain's Bar in Hong Kong, a Negroni in The Bamboo Bar at MO Bangkok, or an Aperol Spritz on the terrace of Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como.

Most memorable moment?

Seeing Mount Fuji rise above the city's high-rise buildings from my bedroom at MO Tokyo, and watching the Household Cavalry pass by with the beauty of Hyde Park in the background, while having breakfast at our London hotel.

Best beach?

The white sandy beaches, sheltered bays and coral reefs of Canouan.

And, finally, what is next for 2021?

This spring will see the unveiling of Mandarin Oriental Ritz, Madrid after the most extensive and meticulous restoration in our 110-year history. We will also open a hotel in Istanbul, on the shores of the Bosphorus, which will complement our existing resort in Bodrum. As the Group grows, its responsibilities to support local communities and drive sustainability also increase. Responsible procurement and waste management are critical issues, and in the first half of 2021 we have committed to eliminating single-use plastic in all of our properties.

mandarinoriental.com

HOMeward BOUND



1. LAUREN FORCELLA's paintings captivate the beauty and magic found in nature. Whether you seek a breathtaking original with her signature rich colours and textured brushwork, or a bold giclee print on canvas, you will find her artwork at laurenforcella.com and IG @laurenforcellaartist.

2. Elevate your home with **MARIGOLD INTERIORS**. Designed and handmade in Toronto by fellow world traveller Heidi Malley. Fill your space with beautiful globally inspired textiles and prints. Shop the curated collection of quality pillow covers at shopmarigoldinteriors.com and IG @shopmarigoldinteriors Featured: Casablanca Pillow Cover.

3. BUICK HOUSE CANDLES creates luxury fragranced candles inspired by their home and surroundings in Ireland from the rich, heady fragrance of The Library to the elegant warmth of The Meadow. Featuring a beautiful design and amazing fragrances, each candle comes in a clear glass jar which works perfectly with every room in your home. Shop the collection at buickhousecandles.com and @buickhousecandles on IG.

4. Experience the world through the power of scent with **TM CANDLE CO.** Their hand-poured, soy wax, wooden wick candles are inspired by travel destinations, such as Seville, Marrakech, Rome and more. Plus, a portion of each candle sale supports sustainable tourism. View the collection at tmcandleco.com or IG @tm_candleco

5. Soothe your soul with the stunning Sea Glass Collection from **SEATTLE CANDLE GIRL** - 100% soy candles available in Sea Salt Linen, Coastal Citrus and Coconut Vanilla. Kaylie Gran established her company at age 13 and saves a portion of sales towards her college fund. Visit seattlecandlegirl.com

6. ROSE ENGLAND is a North London based illustrator and print designer. Featured here is the 'Columbia Road' fine art print, part of the London series where each print is inspired by one of her favourite spots. Each print has been created on beautiful environmentally friendly bamboo paper using fully archival inks for long life, delivering the highest quality and detail. View the beautiful collection at roseenglandlondon.com and use code 'ROSE10' to get 10% off (ends 31/03/2021). Also, follow her on IG @roseenglandlondon

7. ONE ELEVEN CANDLES is a hand-poured soy crystal candle company. All candles are made with crystals, oils and positive intentions. Moonlight and Rainstorms features moonstone crystals.

Moonstone is the stone of new beginnings and is known to increase creativity and psychic abilities. Visit oneelevencandles.com and follow on IG @oneelevencandles

8. JENNY CHANDLER is an American artist who lives in Los Angeles, California. Her studio is at Santa Monica Airport in an old hangar they converted into 40 artist studios. It doubles as a gallery where, when the world is on track, they host numerous art shows a year. She is a self taught artist that finds inspiration through life and travel. Her artistic style uses many layers that create texture and detail for her one of a kind pieces. Pictured here is "Criss Cross" 24" x 48". Check her art out at jennychandlerart.com and @jennychandlerart on IG.

9. KATHY STANLEY is a Jamaican-born artist living on the US West Coast. An intuitive artist and ecopsychology educator, her acrylic paintings reflect meditative inner journeys of exploring the ecological self. She gravitates towards images that celebrate the earth, the rising feminine spirit and invoke wholeness, joy and aliveness. Connect with her at SacredArtJourneys.com and on IG @kstanleyart

10. NÉOS CANDLESTUDIO is a female owned and operated candle studio based in California. The boldly coloured and eclectic candles are a physical and visual representation of the brand's soul. NÉOS candles are designed and individually handcrafted in their studio, every step of the creative process from the design, mold making and hand pouring is done in house, ensuring a one-of-a-kind artisanal product. Visit neoscandlestudio.com and follow on IG @neoscandles

11. CALMA ORGANICS ESSENTIALS is a simple living and wellbeing candle shop. They create beautiful and healthy candles which are sure to look perfect in everyone's favourite spot! Every candle is made with luxurious and sustainable coconut wax, wood wicks, stunning essential oils and packed in burlap bags. Made with natural ingredients every candle container is reusable. Check out calmaorganicsessentials.com and follow @calmaorganics on IG.

12. The D8 CANDLE CO was founded in the heart of Dublin 8, Ireland. In keeping with the neighbourhood's urban and creative culture, founder Lydia crafts the distinctive and intensely aromatic candles inspired by her love of unique fragrances, industrial homeware design and sustainability. Visit d8candleco.com and follow @d8candleco on IG for more.

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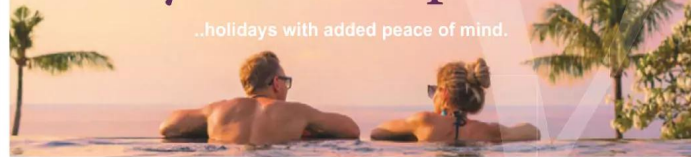


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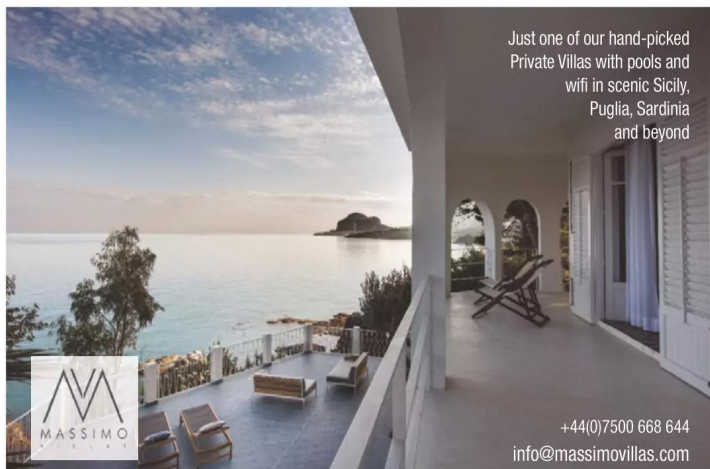
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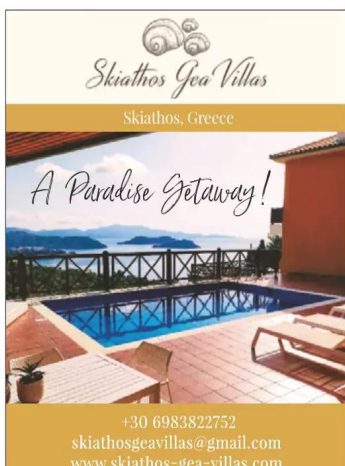


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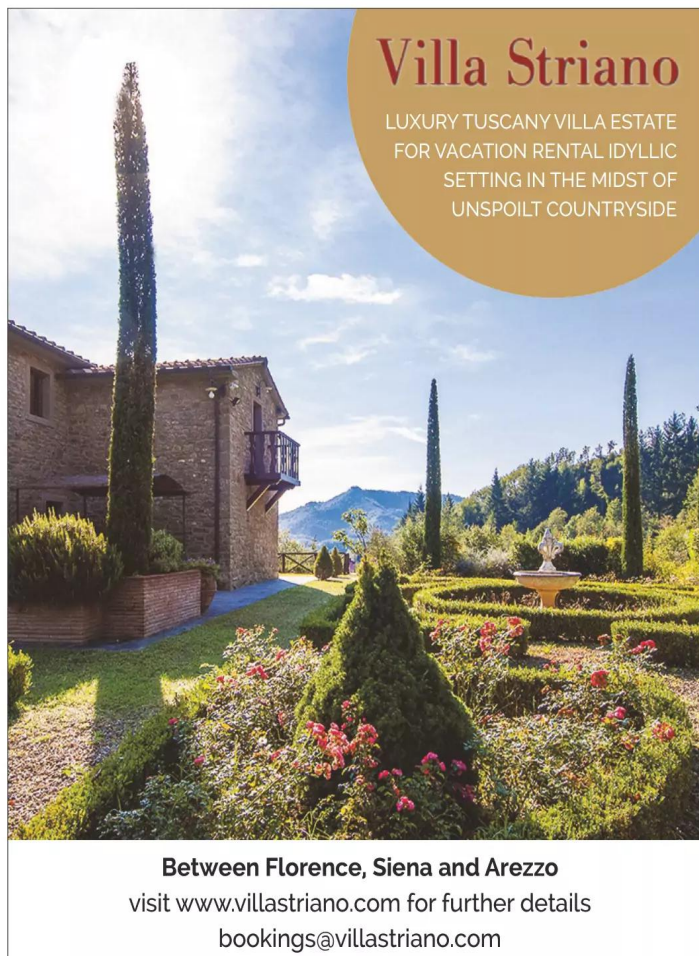

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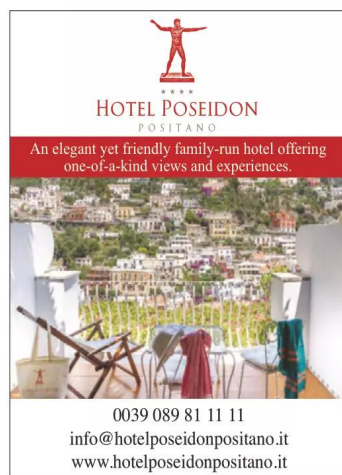
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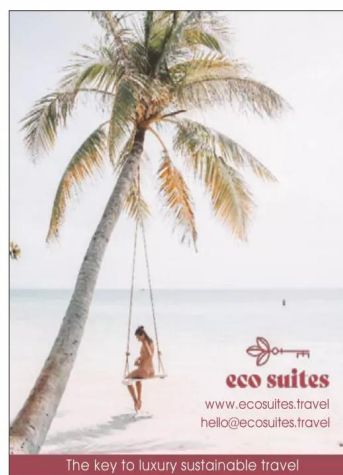

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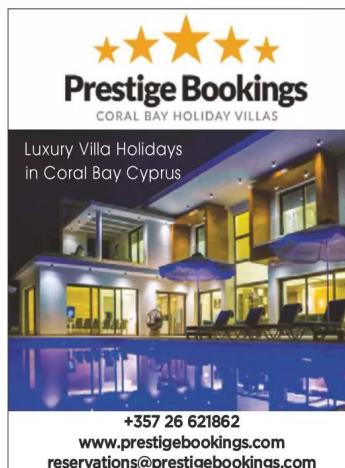
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1. LUCILLE LONDON handcrafts versatile jewellery designed to be stacked and layered using recycled and Fairtrade metals, and ethically sourced diamonds. Lucille also works with clients internationally to redesign or repair precious family heirlooms. Other services include stone sourcing, jewellery restyling, and jewellery recycling. Shop: lucille.london - Email: info@lucille.london - Follow: [@lucillelondonjewellery](https://www.instagram.com/lucillelondonjewellery) on IG.

2. AURELIA & PIERRE creates fine jewellery for the modern woman who appreciates classic luxury. Pictured are earrings from the Rana Collection; crafted in citrine quartz, diamonds and 18K yellow gold. Shop via aureliaandpierre.com and follow [@aureliaandpierre](https://www.instagram.com/aureliaandpierre) on IG.

3. Forging your vision through a variety of recycled precious metals with unexpected finishes and ethically mined gemstones and conflict-free diamonds. **MADE** makes modern elegance for the everyday a reality. Unearth your next sustainable statement piece at [@madejewelry](https://www.instagram.com/madejewelry) on IG and madejewelryboutique.com

4. GEM BAZAAR offers contemporary gemstone rings and earrings, handcrafted in .925 sterling silver with gold vermeil. Style and value is at its heart. Fall in love with their pieces and indulge yourself! Create some magic at gembazaar.co.uk and gembazaarak.com on IG.

5. CHLOE ...WITH LOVE is a luxury jewellery line created for the woman who needs to show herself more gratitude and love. The brand is inspired through empowering women to put themselves first without guilt. Each handcrafted piece combines precious metals with natural healing stones for beauty and wellness. Visit them at chloewithlovejewellery.com and follow [@chloewithlovejewellery](https://www.instagram.com/chloewithlovejewellery) on IG.

6. JEAN BASSE FINE JEWELRY represents effortless everyday luxury jewellery. The brand believes that jewellery can transform an outfit, a mood and bring a level of depth and edge to your personal style. Visit jeanbasse.com and follow [@jbassefinejewelry](https://www.instagram.com/jbassefinejewelry)

7. Singapore brand **SALALO AMOT**'s new Palemoro collection is a refreshingly modern take on the ancient craft of palm leaf weaving. Produced in Bali by master craftsmen, immense time and skill is required to weave gold and silver to produce this wearable art. Palemoro is an exquisite example of slow, small-batch hand production. Visit salaloamot.com and follow on IG [@salaloamot](https://www.instagram.com/salaloamot)

8. IVAR by Ritika Ravi's collection is inspired by the sand, sea, and the laidback lifestyle of the Maldives. With gemstones set in gold, the jewellery speaks of elegance that is wearable for any occasion. Available at ivarjewelry.com and follow [@ivarbyritikaravi](https://www.instagram.com/ivarbyritikaravi) on IG.

9. Inspired by the natural beauty of Sydney mixed with the refined elegance of Europe, **ALIA JEWELLERY, SYDNEY** is designed for women who embrace every moment. 14K and 18K gold, timeless design, exquisite craftsmanship and premium materials including Australian Argyle pink diamonds make this designer jewellery an everyday luxury. Visit aliasydney.com and follow [@alia_jewellery_sydney](https://www.instagram.com/alia_jewellery_sydney) on IG.

10. SILVER NUTSHELL JEWELLERY by Anna Szabó Davenport, is an ethically responsible brand. Anna casts from nature to create stunning, sterling silver jewellery. 2% sales from Signature Collection go to Whale and Dolphin Conservation. Use code CNTPM10 for 10% off (expires 04/05/2021) Visit silvernutshell.com/shop IG: [@silvernutshell](https://www.instagram.com/silvernutshell)

11. Each piece of the brand **MUSSELS AND MUSCLES** is handmade using recycled materials. Their sophisticated creations find themselves in a floating state between playfulness and tempting coolness while maintaining a hint of naivety. Visit musselsandmuscles.com or IG [@musselsandmuscles](https://www.instagram.com/musselsandmuscles)

12. Jewellery designer **LISA BLACK** weaves found treasures into original creations of adornment. Using fine quality materials and high attention to detail, she expertly crafts precious and unique pieces designed for the spirited woman. Visit lisablackjewellery.com and follow on IG [@lisablackjewellery](https://www.instagram.com/lisablackjewellery)

13. IN CAUDA VENENUM's latest collection features brand new delicate items alongside statement pieces to match your mood and your outfit. Each piece is crafted in France and handmade to order. Their jewellery is easy to wear and layer, and offer personality and charm. Visit incaudavenenum.fr and follow [@incaudavenenum_bijoux](https://www.instagram.com/incaudavenenum_bijoux) on IG.

14. NOMIS is created for those who like to experiment, who expect novelty from jewellery and are disappointed by predictability. This is jewellery outside of gender, to accept both the masculine and feminine within ourselves. In the modern world, gender norms are a thing of the past. Visit [nomis.jewelry](https://www.instagram.com/nomis_jewelry) and follow on IG [@nomis_jewelry](https://www.instagram.com/nomis_jewelry)

15. TUOHI JEWELRY is about the beauty of simplicity and timeless Scandinavian design. A carefully curated and sustainably produced collection that offers clean lines, sophisticated silhouettes, and interesting nuances. Equally ideal for everyday life and festive occasions. Designed and handcrafted in Finland. Visit tuohijewelry.com and follow on IG [@tuohijewelry](https://www.instagram.com/tuohijewelry)

16. BAZI JEWELS makes collectible items of jewellery and are produced in limited runs only. The jewels are handcrafted in silver and made from traditional techniques by master craftspeople in India. Each jewel tells a story and is inspired by vintage and tribal design ideas and looks to bridge the past into the present. Visit bazijewels.com for more and follow [@bazijewels](https://www.instagram.com/bazijewels) on IG.



17. WASHED ASHORE's jewellery boasts Mother Nature's beauty, providing a token for one to revel in her presence, igniting the need to protect her. The company's every aspect is built on sustainability. These rings are made from 100% recycled metal, along with post-consumer upcycled diamonds and abalone. Visit washedashore.co and follow on IG @getwashedashore

18. SAMIRA JAFARI is a designer-maker specialising in unique statement pieces, and one-off commissioned designs. All work is handmade in her workshop in London. These starburst earrings are made from ethically sourced unheated, untreated sapphire crystals, and 18k gold. Viewing by appointment only. Visit samirajafari.com and follow on IG @samirajafari.jewellery

19. KENSU JEWELRY designs and creates bold fashion jewellery in Hawai'i. They use semi-precious and precious gems handpicked on their world travels. Combining sterling silver, gold plated silver and 14ct gold to make their handmade, one of a kind beautiful pieces. Visit kensujewelry.com and follow @kensujewelry

20. AITA JEWELLERY. Designed and handcrafted by Tiffany Aita in solid eco sterling silver 925. The 100% recycled precious metal, an ethical and eco friendly choice for jewellery lovers! All orders come packaged in luxury gold foil boxes, ready for gifting and fully recyclable! Visit aitajewellery.co.uk to find out more and follow @aitajewellery on IG.

21. HANNAH CARNAGIE. Hannah is a sixth-generation Carnegie descendant from Cumberland Island, a magical untamed wilderness off the coast of Georgia, USA. She instinctively channels the perfection of nature's designs, uncovering hidden worlds, through exquisite jewellery. Limited collections and bespoke designs are hand-made from ethically sourced precious metals and stones in Valencia, Spain. Visit hannahcarnegie.com and follow @hannahcarnegiejewellery on IG.

22. REVERIE FABRICATIONS by Jaime Foley is handcrafted from recycled Argentium Silver, creating jewellery that entices the soul. Bringing together the power of old world magic and design with nature's raw infinite beauty, Reverie's pieces are sure to evoke a sense of history and enchantment. Visit reveriefabrications.com and follow on IG @reveriefabrications

23. Effortlessly easy chic jewellery made for everyday wear. **VIVA VIDA** jewellery is handcrafted from 18k gold, flawless gemstones and textiles from around the world. The Everyday and Celebration collection is a depiction of their founder's background, hailed from Greece, Australia and Brazil, every piece brings a touch of culture, freedom and design. Featured here is the 'Circle of Life' bracelet. 10% of sale proceeds will support a blood cancer research program when using code VVConde21 (expires 01/06/2021) Visit shopvivavida.com and follow on IG @shopvivavida

24. NOMAD JEWELS present the Rainbow bracelet. A bold yet feminine piece to be worn everyday, as a talisman, providing one with good fortune and positive vibes. Behind every creation there is a story to tell, a colour, a shape, a symbol that is evocative of a special place or memory. Visit nomadjewels.ch and follow on IG @nomadjewels

25. Experience joie de vivre as you travel with SABINA FURST DESIGNS handcrafted gemstone jewellery. Her timeless, coastal-inspired designs are fresh, light twists on bohemian-chic that are

fun and colourful, yet sophisticated and elegant. Featured here are the Monaco Ocean Blue Diamond Hoop Earrings. Visit SabinaFurstDesigns.com and follow on IG at @sabinafurstdesigns

26. BEAUDOIN JEWELRY present handcrafted, colourful, statement pieces made with dynamic, luminous glass. The shopping experience is enhanced by inspiring "short stories in three sentences" which personifies each design. Wear them when you're ready to stand out, whether you're going for amazing or awe-inspiring. You. Accessory goddess. Visit beaudoinjewelry.com and follow @beaudoinjewelry on IG.

27. ERIN EILEEN FINE JEWELRY. Commemorate your favorite place with The Coordinate Cuff™ Hand engraved coordinates on a solid 14k gold cuff, accented with diamonds. From your hometown, to your engagement in Paris, honeymoon in Italy, or the location of your forever home, wear your best memories everyday! Find this and more at erineileenfinejewelry.com and follow @erineileenfinejewelry on IG.

28. ADMK JEWELRY, created by Meagan Kurtz from her studio in South Carolina, present handcrafted, hand-designed and hand-selected distinctive jewellery using the highest quality materials. Their pieces combine the natural beauty of the gemstones with a bit of sparkle, offering a stylish and sophisticated compliment to any outfit. Whether it's a day at the office or a night out, ADMK Jewelry is the perfect "finishing touch.". Discover more at admkjewelry.com and follow @admkjewelry on IG.

29. DJE&CIKA is an elegant jewellery brand of the highest fashion created using traditional African recycled glass beads. Jewellery for them goes beyond aesthetic, design and glam and instead tells a story. Stories from the African continent serve as a source of inspiration to women globally. Discover their work on bijouxdjecika.com and follow @dje.cika on IG.

30. Designer, gemologist and owner of JEANNE LAUMIER, Giulia Rastello, presents her stunning bespoke and unique high-end jewellery pieces. She prides herself on her attention to detail shown in her beautiful designs - using a variety of materials such as gold, titanium and platinum alongside diamonds, coloured gemstones and pearls. All of her jewellery pieces are made in Italy. To view this piece and more visit www.jeannelaumier.com and follow @jeanne_laumier on IG.

31. ALICE & JULIA is the passion project of its creative director and designer Lauren Kirkham. They believe jewellery is the tangible link to your memories and they are happy to be a part of those moments with you. Their jewellery is not only beautiful but is also made by hand, using responsibly sourced materials. Visit aliceandjulia.com and follow @aliceandjulia on IG.

32. SEVEN WORLDS present handmade minimalist jewellery inspired by different cultures and ethnic groups. The name of the brand relates to seven continents: Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania, and Contemporary World. Featured here are the Tave Earrings, inspired by the ornaments of the 9th-century Tave Monastery in Armenia. Visit theseventh.world and follow on IG @seven.worlds

TRAVELLER'S TREASURES



33. Function is aesthetic. **JI HWANG's** stunning work is inspired by her desire to reflect the dynamic movement of urbanism, using industrial elements such as pulleys, hooks and wheels - these functions give the wearer a chance to individualise and playfully interact with her pieces. Visit jihwangjewelry.com and follow @jihwangjewelry on IG.

34. **ANASTASIA KESSARIS** treasures vivid colours and geometric designs. This combination results in unique and fashion-forward jewellery that every woman adores. Colour the 18K gold with nano-ceramic painting of your preference, choose your favourite gemstones, cuts and shapes and create your remarkable pair of earrings. Visit anastasiakessaris.com and follow on IG @anastasiakessaris_jewels.

35. **LA MOOD** features minimalist jewellery with timeless designs, handcrafted to every detail. Besides their exceptional collections, all products are made of ethically-sourced, skin-friendly material (gold/rodium vermeil, surgical steel). They provide express-shipping worldwide at competitive rates. Visit lamood.com.au and follow them on IG @_lamood

36. **HANNAH ALLENE** bring lasting beauty through jewellery designed for you to explore and express your identity, connection to others, and search for life's meaning. They create fine jewellery rooted in strength and refined elegance which allow you to express yourself through colour. Use your jewellery to celebrate gemstones that have existed long before us and will long outlive us - true enduring beauty. Find out more on hannahallene.com and follow @hannahallenejewelry on IG.

37. **MARIA CLARA VILLAMAR** Sustainable Jewelry is a fine handmade brand based in Ecuador with sustainable practices. Using recycled precious metals, recycled and lab-grown gemstones, up-cycled plastics and folkloric elements, her designs are inspired by nature evoking subtlety and elegance. The Tatyana ring's main feature is a beautiful stone made with microplastics and pigments. Visit mariaclaravillamar.com and follow on IG @mariaclaravillamar.sj

38. Goldsmith **CONI MILITZER** presents eye-catching one-of-a-kind jewellery which embodies her love of tradition and history. Having been creating stunning pieces since 2010 Coni, who studied in Chile and Ravenna, uses the art of esmalte veneciano (pulling glass), which is cut into small pieces and hand-placed individually to produce her designs. Visit conimilitzer.cl to discover more and follow @conimilitzer_joyas on IG.

39. **FREYA** is a Swiss jewellery brand who use recycled gold and silver to create treasures that last a lifetime. Cherishing women, Fanny designs and brings to life golden armours for contemporary goddesses. Strong and fearless, the geometrical shaped designs are the reflection of the modern woman. Visit freyageneva.com and follow @freyageneva on IG.

40. **AVA&SU** present a stunning jewellery collection à la Scandinavian chic: minimalistic, timeless, elegant. Playful Boho details, made from high-quality materials, create a touch of extravagance and ensure a sophisticated look. Keep it simple, keep it elegant. Get inspired and visit ava-su.com and follow @ava_su_jewelry on IG.

41. **A G J | ANCIENT GREEK JEWELLERY** presents the LAVIRINTHOS RING, inspired by the ancient labyrinth on the island of Crete. Handmade in Athens using the lost wax technique, this silver maze ring represents the modern labyrinths of our lives. Inspired from the Greek heritage, built for eternity. Sterling silver 925. Visit ancientgreekjewellery.com and follow @ancientgreekjewellery on IG.

42. Luxury handcrafted jewellery from Canada; **KATT** creates bold, standout jewellery that is bound to turn heads. From thick statement chains to delicate everyday pieces, Katt has something for every occasion. Shop their designs at shopkatt.ca and follow them on IG @kattjewelry

43. **TOTEMKITTEN** is a highly curated collection of unique vintage and antique jewellery that benefits animals; ten percent of the profit is donated to animal welfare and conservation organisations. Kindness looks good on you! Visit TotemKitten.com and follow on IG @TotemKitten

44. Woven of reclaimed 18 karat golds and an antique old mine cut diamond, the Menagerie ring by **THE NORTH WAY STUDIO** features unfurling hand-carved leaves in 18 karat green gold and a milgrain halo of white gold with shimmering, petite diamonds encrusted within. Visit thenorthwaystudio.com and follow on IG @thenorthwaystudio

45. **NIKI LEIST** creates fine jewellery that empowers the wearer to express their truest selves. Each one of a kind piece is handcrafted in Philadelphia, PA, with high quality, natural materials and ethically sourced gemstones. Visit nikileist.com or @nikileistjewelry on IG.

46. **EMBELLISH | LONDON** is a curated collection of elegant and chic yet affordable jewellery, inspired by modern women. Shown here is the 'Look Deeper' Medallion, all-seeing eye, cast in 18KT gold-plated sterling silver. Their stunning jewellery is the perfect gift idea, available in an Embellish gift box. Shipping internationally. Visit embellish.london and follow @embellish.ldn on IG.

47. **BIJ FIOR** is a digital portal to a unique, curated collection of fine jewellery, housing pieces which are all one-of-a-kind or exclusive to Bij Fior. Bij Fior hand-selects each piece for its beauty, character and craftsmanship. Visit bijfior.com or follow @bijfior on IG.

48. **SPIRITUS STONES** mindfully handcrafts gemstone jewellery from their Australian workshop, with each piece representing extraordinary healing qualities. Sourcing exotic gemstones from around the globe and pairing them with 14K gold-filled and sterling silver hardware, their beautiful creations hope to inspire the world to live with authenticity, love and joy. Visit spiritusstones.com and follow on IG @spiritusstones

49. **HEARTH CREATIVE CO.** create stunning natural jewellery using materials from the earth such as crystals and shells. These materials allow increased vibrancy in the jewellery to create a connection between you and nature. Every unique crystalline structure incorporated in the pieces has the possibility to transfer energy in a particular and distinguished way. Visit hearthcreativeco.com and follow @hearthcreativeco on IG.



50. BED OF ROSES is a bohemian jewellery brand full of magical handcrafted pieces that perfectly captures the essence of the feminine goddess. The Waning Crescent Moon bracelet made with black onyx symbolises our yin energy and reminds us of our deep connection to our divine feminine that lives within us. This bracelet will help shield off negative energy while also keeping you fully protected at all times. Visit bedofroses.ie and follow @bedofroses.ie

51. "A seed gives life. A seed gave life to a collection". The jewellery collection "Seeds" was created in Portugal by **CELINA SOUSA**. Through her creativity, she transforms elements of nature into contemporary jewels. If you would like to discover this and other works, visit celinasousa.pt and follow @celina.sousa.jewelry on IG.

52. Anna launched **SHAPES** to bring sunshine to London's skies. Lovingly handmade using clay and porcelain, their jewellery is bespoke and truly unique, designed to reclaim our own playful personality and aesthetic expression. Each piece is made to brighten up your day, just like a day well spent in a secret Mediterranean cove. Visit shapes.boutique and follow on IG @shapes.ldn

53. VIVIEN FRANK is a sustainable fine jewellery collection that is inspired by travel and made for your adventurous soul. The jewellery she designs is intended to be worn and enjoyed every day. The diamond and Ruby Hamsa bracelet is a symbol of protection and luck. Visit vivienfrank.com and follow on IG @vivienfrankjewelry

54. KAT SEALE is a sculptor and accessory designer with a background in architecture. Her namesake jewellery line acts as a platform where she experiments with bronze, silver and other fine metals. Architecturally inspired, her work is strikingly bold with a modern look. Each piece is made individually by hand, making them all one of a kind. Visit katseale.com and follow on IG @katseale

55. Archaeologist Mandy Mottram creates exquisite beaded gemstone jewellery inspired by the souqs and bazaars of the Middle East and mid-20th Century design. Timelessly elegant, clean-lined and contemporary, each piece of **SERAGLIO DESIGNS** jewellery is as unique as its wearer. Visit seraglio-design.com and @seragliodesigns on IG.

56. IDAHLIA is a British/Mexican jewellery brand that celebrates both cultures, combining the classics with a fun and modern twist. They create stunning unique and easily wearable pieces that can be styled for any occasion. Each piece is made by hand in London using freshwater pearls. Visit idahlia.co.uk and follow @idahlia on IG.

57. EARTH BELOW SKY CREATIONS. Any jeweller can sell you jewellery; few can completely hand create, from conception to completion, a unique and personal talisman. Artist Elisabeth Soscia specialises in distilling private clients' needs to create stunning handmade jewellery that becomes a reflection of their souls. Find out more at earthbelowskycreations.com and follow @earthbelowskycreations on IG.

58. AETHER DIAMONDS creates the world's first carbon-negative diamonds made from air by removing pollution from the atmosphere and transforming it into breathtaking gemstones. The

world's rarest diamonds and 100% fair-mined gold position Aether's breakthrough collection as the future of fine jewellery. Now you can look dazzling while doing good for the planet. Follow IG @aetherdiamonds and join their waitlist at aetherdiamonds.com.

59. MELISSA LUOMA presents the Royalty Ring. This piece demands attention. Small pineapples are carved on either side of the band. A Feng Shui symbol of wealth, fortune and prosperity. An easy everyday piece you can wear with anything. Find this and explore the collection at serenityjewels.com

60. EMILY SARAH SMITHERAM jewellery is inspired by movement and light. The limited collections are hand crafted from recycled silver by Emily at her studio in Cornwall. The brands signature abstract surface design brings the jewellery pieces to life as you move, reflecting light in all directions. Visit emilysarahsmitheram.com/shop and follow @ess_jewellery on IG.

61. ABDESIGN presents the Astrolabe, a handmade and custom-designed unique pink gold ring. Embellished with diamonds, emerald and rubies. These breath-taking gems symbolize the guidance of stars to find your own path in the firmament of life. Visit abdesign.biz and follow @abdesigngioielli on IG.

62. London based **CRYSTAL FLUX** introduce their collection of elegant jewellery crafted with high quality sterling silver. Featuring geometric, minimalist shapes, their jewellery is inspired by and reflects the harmony of nature, such as in their animal themed collection. Their jewellery is delicate yet bold in design. Visit thecrystalflux.com and follow @thecrystalflux on IG.

63. For exquisite coastal inspired creations look no further than **SEAFOAM JEWELLERY**. Using Cornish sea glass and unique 24ct gold leaf designs, these necklaces allow you to carry a piece of the ocean with you everyday. Follow on IG @seafoam_jewellery or shop the latest collection at seafoamjewellery.co.uk

64. The award-winning jewellery designer **GERRY SUMMERS** blends pure geometry with inspiration from the art of ancient cultures. His handcrafted pieces are often strikingly colourful, celebrating a passion for Aquamarines, Tanzanites, Tourmalines, and other precious stones. Many of his creations are bespoke commissions and Gerry works with his clients to inspire an aesthetic design tailored to their ideas, resulting in an exquisite heirloom piece. Consultations take place in his workshop, at the back of his beautiful shop in Barnes Village. Find them at 67, Barnes High Street, Barnes, London SW13 9LD or call 020 8878 6600. Visit gerrysummersjewellery.com and follow @gerrysummersjewelleryshop on IG.

65. VICTORIA WOLFE FINE JEWELLERY is a luxury Irish brand specialising in custom-designed engagement rings and wedding bands. Make a statement this spring with the stunning Serena ring (pictured), set in 18k white and rose gold, with round and calibre cut sapphires and white diamonds. For bespoke jewellery enquiries, visit victoriawolfejewellery.ie and follow on IG @victoriawolfejewellery

TRAVELLER'S TREASURES



66. FOX & GINGER statement acrylic jewellery is retro, bold and bright. The unique, laser cut pieces are hand assembled by Emily in Sydney, Australia. The vintage inspired wearable art pieces are to be treasured for years to come. Life is too short for boring jewellery! Visit foxandginger.com and follow @foxx.and.ginger on IG.

67. AGE OF AQUARIUS is an exclusive collection of handcrafted accessories created to inspire and empower. Their jewellery seeks to embody their message of faith, hope, love and courage. Pieces look to encompass the tradition throughout the ages whereby the healing properties of gemstones and crystals have been recognised and used in many cultures. All pieces are smudged and cleansed with sage. Visit aoajewels.com and follow @aoajewelry on IG.

68. VIRGINIA KNIGHT JEWELRY. 14KT gold studded Tahitian pearls handmade in North Carolina. Virginia's unique designs, inspired by artifacts found at significant historical sites around the world, elicit a curiosity about the former lives these relics once lived. Find these pieces and more at virginiaknightjewelry.com or IG @VirginiaKnightJewelry

69. ANTORSE JEWELLERY are unique and handmade pieces of art. Julie works with everyday materials and uses her expertise to engage with the process of upcycling and diversion. To deconstruct and reconstruct, giving a sense of travel through materials, changing our vision by re-enchanting the world, that is Antorse's proposal. More on antorse-bijoux-paris.com and @Antorse__ on IG.

70. AMELIA COATES. From bespoke commissions, to breathing new life into old treasures and creating unique ready-to-wear pieces the entire Amelia Coates collection is imbued with a love of British heritage; of luxury, elegance and grandeur. Visit amelia.coates.com email Amelia on info@amelia.coates.com and follow @ameliaejcoates on IG.

71. HELLO ZEPHYR is a young jewellery brand which embodies a contemporary and minimalist aesthetic. Luxury handcrafted, the collections are an ode to travels, cultures and citizens of the world. The brand is built on the principles of sustainability. Visit hellozephyr.com and follow @hellozephyr on IG.

72. Using ancient techniques and recycled metals, **MAGDALENE THEODOROU** creates unique rings, equating not to one in a pile - but one of a kind - incorporating your old precious metals for the better of our planet, as the better for earth equates to the better for us. Visit magdalenetheodorou.com and follow on IG @magdalenetheodorou

73. DCD THE CROWN JEWELS is a lifestyle brand of artistic, personal pieces with a romantic edge. Designer Deanna Cashen creates jewellery inspired by travel, art, and fashion. For women who adore standing out from the crowd. View at dcdthecrownjewels.com and IG @DCDTheCrownJewels

74. JAIPUR ATELIER sources the most beautiful, unusual and unique experiences for you from the Pink City of Jaipur and the Land of Kings... Rajasthan. Los Angeles based designer Catherine Prince Castillo has an eye for the extraordinary, curating a collection of precious jewels, luxury accessories and bespoke travel retreats. Visit jaipuratelier.com and follow @jaipuratelier on IG.

75. PASTELLUNA DESIGN is a jewellery line owned and created by designer, Carolyn McDonald. Her passion is designing and hand fabricating Wearable Art. Carolyn loves rocks and minerals of all kinds, polished or raw. She is inspired by the fact that millions of years are compressed into a small sparkly or layered gem. Her work can be found at pastellunadesign.com and on IG @pastellunadesign

76. Sisters Sayra and Michelle are the creative co-founders of **BRACHA** who combined their different styles to create a coveted natural stones jewellery brand. They are known for their top-quality designs that don't break the bank. With a passion to help end human trafficking, Sayra and Michelle donate a portion of the proceeds to help the cause. Their commitment is to make jewellery accessible by creating styles that can be worn no matter the current trend. Life and seasons always change, Bracha keeps up. Visit wearbracha.com and follow @wearbracha on IG.

77. BLUE SMOKE FINE JEWELRY was founded by US-based artist Betty B. Elrod from a need to blend passion with purpose. Inspired by a love of travel, the collection celebrates strength, femininity, and independence. Natural materials and a minimalist aesthetic create an earthy, rugged elegance for everyday glamour. Use code CNTRAVELLER2020 for 10% off (ends 31/03/2021). Visit bluesmokejewelry.com and follow @bluesmokejewelry on IG.

78. LELUX JEWELRY. Featuring fine and fashion jewellery designed and handcrafted in Cleveland, OH. Sold exclusively online at leluxjewelry.com Find the most coveted collection of gemstone jewellery, designed to stack and layer, while staying on trend with charms and pendants that compliment your style and make a statement.

79. WHATNOTZ is an island-inspired jewellery brand that carries a sense of nostalgia and belonging, creating an impermanent sense of home in each piece. Introducing their Bim Ring which features a dainty Barbados shaped outline available both in Sterling Silver and 18k Gold vermeil. Visit whatnotz.com and follow on IG @whatnotz

80. LINDSEY FONTIJN believes that jewellery is an extension of yourself and of your wardrobe; the pieces are individually designed and made by Lindsey. In a world where mass-overproduction controls our wardrobes and our sense of style, she is aiming to create collections that adapt to the wearer itself. Jewellery should be about telling a story. Read more about her collections; lindseyfontijn.com and IG @lindseyfontijn

81. INDY & NOA, brings style, femininity, empowerment and heritage together in beautiful handmade designs. Every piece is unique, just as every woman is. A passion for gemstones, combined with high-quality materials, result in unique pieces made with love that suit women's strength and personalities. Find out more at indyandnoa.com or follow @indyandnoa on IG.

82. Inspired by the elusive beauty of nature and the magic in everything around us, **THE PRETTY ECLECTIC** aims to create jewellery that is unique, playful, thoughtful and encapsulates a fun and free-spirited nature. Handcrafted in California with love and light. Visit theprettyeclectic.com and follow IG @theprettyeclectic

FIRST CLASS BEAUTY



1. **THE SHADY SUN TANNING CO.** is an affordable luxury collection of vegan and naturally-derived sunless tanning products that put skincare first. Their entire collection is paraben-free and cruelty-free. All products are designed to work on all skin tones and types- because everyone looks good Shady! Visit theshadysun.com and follow @the_shady_sun on IG.

2. Buttery, smooth and indulgent. London-based **JACQUELINE ORGANIC** is on a mission to provide clean lip care without compromising on luxury. Formulated with fair trade cocoa butter and heavy-duty moisturisers, these lip balms will leave your lips feeling hydrated and protected all year round. A staple item in everyone's beauty regime. Visit jacquelineorganic.com and follow @jacqueline.organic on IG.

3. Perfume Done Differently. Inspired by some of the top fragrances in the world, **SOLID PERFUME CO.**'s products are the solid, natural and more beautiful version of traditional perfumes. Designed for those always on the go, the sleek compact ensures you smell amazing wherever life takes you. Visit solidscentsco.com and follow @solidperfumeco on IG.

4. **PERFECT BLUE ALCHEMY** is handcrafted organic, vegan and natural perfumes, body products and home items made from organic essential oils and organic plant oils. Their beautiful smelling, non-alcohol based perfumes and body spray last all day enabling you to feel confident whilst smelling divine! Visit perfectbluealchemy.com and follow @perfectbluealchemy on IG.

5. The **PIXIE CUP** is a reusable, silicone cup that collects menstrual flow. Lasting up to 10 years, it'll basically be your new BFF! Say goodbye to tampons and running to the corner shop for supplies when it's that time of the month! Visit pixiecup.com and follow @mypixiecup on IG.

6. **AYÉ** pronounced ai-ya, is Canada's newest zero-waste beauty and wellness brand based in Toronto. Connecting nature, art and mindfulness, Ayé celebrates life through handcrafted artisanal bath and body products with creative spirits and travellers in mind. Visit thewayofaye.ca and follow @thewayofaye on IG.

7. Simplify your beauty routine with all-natural, handcrafted skincare by **COMMON PROVIDENCE**. Formulated with plant and mineral based ingredients and low-waste product packaging, this multi-use collection is a conscious step towards mindful beauty and a better planet. Shop with code CONDE15 for 15% off your entire order (valid until 03/03/2021) at commonprovidence.com and follow @common_providence on IG.

8. Founded on vegan principles, **RILEY JADE 1960** formulates whole-plant, nutrient-rich, plant-based skincare, such as their I De-Clear Concentrated Illuminating Brightening Serum, with 20% Vitamin C, Ferulic Acid and Sugar Apple Extract. This gorgeous serum aims to help reduce the appearance of dark spots, whilst encouraging an even looking skin tone and skin that feels firm. Visit rileyjade1960.com and follow @rileyjade1960 on IG.

9. **NEREUS LONDON** create perfect travel companions - luxury shampoos, conditioners, and body washes inspired by natural scents, such as walking through Italian citrus groves, or the fresh invigoration of the mighty Zambezi. They're committed to sustainability, using only plastic-free packaging and natural formulations. Visit nereus.uk and follow @nereuslondon on IG.

10. Indulge in organic goodness with **ETHEREAL**'s nourishing blend of organic oils. Its 100% natural, vegan and cruelty free making it the perfect all in one product for your hair and skincare. Enriched with rose-hip, sea buckthorn, borag and tamanu oils. Visit ethereall.co.uk and follow @ethereallhairandskincare on IG.

11. Yasmina Harrison, a beauty industry veteran with twenty-seven years' experience, founded **TZOLSKIN** for skincare savvy women looking for affordable, simple and effective products. Feeling good in your skin is key at any age, and their Turn Down and Recover Creme helps restore the appearance of glowing and soothed skin. This luxurious cream is enriched with lavender, peonia flower extract and squalane, to help promote restful sleep. Visit tzolskin.com and follow @tzolskin on IG.

12. **WHOLYME** offers completely natural products for everyday stresses, aches and pains. After two years of research and development their Relief Balm is now available! Free from anything unnecessary, it contains Cannabis Sativa oil and 11 other potent organic botanicals. It can be used to help reduce the feeling of muscle and joint pains. Visit their website wholyme.com to find out more or follow @Wholyme_official on IG.

13. **ACARRE™ BEAUTY EDIT**, multi-use bio-active dry oil, uses plant biodiversity to help create smooth feeling, youthful looking skin, while ethical sourcing improves livelihoods of communities. The all-natural oil is rich in fatty acids and vitamins that can help to re-balance the microbiome and nourish with moisture for a healthy scalp and skin. Visit accarre.co and follow @accarrebeauty.

THE LUXURY GIFT GUIDE



1. JUNG utilizes surplus material and natural fibres from agricultural byproducts such as pineapple, galangal and lemongrass to deliver innovative pieces designed to be useful well beyond the fashion season. Pieces are designed with features such as adjustable waistband, and nursing function for those who desire both function and style. Visit jungethos.com and follow @jungethos on IG.

2. Time to be kind to your skin, self-care starts now with independent accessories brand GOLDEN HOUR's skin friendly, natural and elegant reusable silk masks. Whether you are looking for your everyday essential or a luxe fashion statement, their luxury masks come in an array of ultra-flattering, effortlessly elegant shades. Visit goldenxhour.com and follow @gxlden_hour on IG.

3. LALA RAFIQ creates ethically-made boho chic resort wear for the fashionable jet-setter. Each piece is handcrafted by local artisans in Pakistan, using natural fabrics, delicate embellishments and intricate detailing. Their dresses exude style while being comfortable and durable at the same time... the perfect holiday staples! Visit lalarafiq.com and follow @lalarafiq_resortwear on IG.

4. QUERIDA COSTA, brings Pearl & Caviar's holiday lifestyle collection speaking to those in quest of something outstanding. Inspired by Grecian-chic culture their 100% cotton unique pieces will make anyone the queen of their getaway. Explore the whole collection and much more online at queridacosta.com and follow them @queridacostashop and @pearlandcaviar.usmex on IG.

5. A+C is a contemporary Australian swimwear label conceived with a distinct aesthetic that fuses elegance with simplicity. Crafted for the modern woman, with a focus on form and function, A+C pieces offer a timeless sustainable luxury. Visit shopaandc.com and follow @shopaandc on IG.

6. NATIVO SOUL unites global design with quality to provide the ultimate experience of culture and healing through each uniquely crafted piece. They work directly with artisans worldwide to ensure that each handmade purchase generates meaningful and sustainable income while empowering women and indigenous communities to continue passing down their ancestral traditions and sharing their unique stories. Visit nativosoul.co and follow @nativosoul.co on IG.

7. MENOMIEUX is a beautiful collection of sustainable brands created to empower women to build wardrobes of fewer, better pieces. Their community values fair trade, sustainable materials and beautiful craftsmanship. Photography: ARIELLE. Visit menomieux.com and follow @menomieux on IG.

8. A hand-woven winter scarf made from cashmere, wool and silk. COTONO ATELIER achieve a smooth texture by using carefully selected materials. Their bespoke scarves can be made in original patterns, from your favourite materials and colours. Made in Kyoto, Japan. Visit cotonatelier.art, contact cotonatelier@gmail.com and follow @cotonatelier on IG.

9. From swim shorts to resort accessories, Swiss Independent luxury brand PATER ET FILIUS stands for premium quality beach gear for the travelling male. Best of all, it's luxury with a conscience. Fishnets and other industrial plastics, recovered from oceans and landfills, undergo a journey from waste to wear, offering sustainability without sacrificing luxury. Visit paterfilius.com and follow @paterfilius on IG.

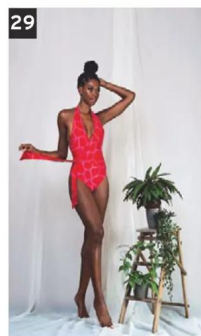
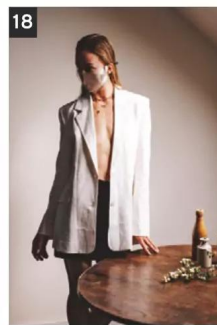
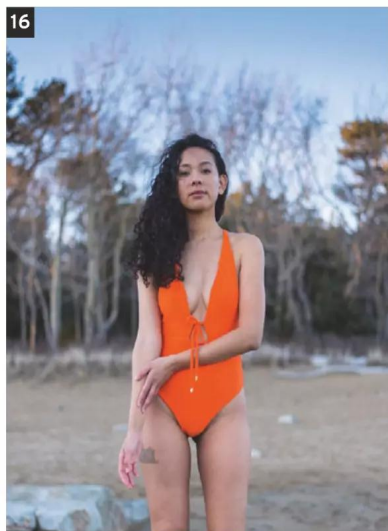
10. ELLE'S SWIM is owned by a 19 year old girl with a dream to protect our oceans. Eco-friendly swimwear, consciously crafted by women, who truly understand how to support the female form through every dive and adventure. Shop online at ellesswim.com and follow @ellesswim on IG.

11. TERRA ACTIVE, a sustainable, female-founded active brand from the Netherlands provides you with high-quality, eco-friendly yoga mats and sustainable clothing. Taking care of your health and the health of our planet. Use code CONDE15 for 15% off (valid until 03/03/21). Visit terra-active.com and follow @terra.active on IG.

12. BLISS BOHEME's is an eco-friendly, ethical swimsuit brand whose goal is to slow down the fast-fashion trend by encouraging people to be conscious consumers. Their swimsuits are crafted on the beautiful island of Bali and include handmade details such as embroidery and crochet finishes, transforming each swimsuit into a one of a kind piece. Visit blissboheme.com and follow @blissboheme on IG.

13. ZAGS® UV Protecting Sunwraps are created for women and families with active outdoor lifestyles. They believe that life should be spent enjoying outside as much as possible. Their goal is to keep you and your loved ones protected from the harsh sun, all while looking put-together and stylish. Visit zagslife.com and follow @zagslife on IG.

14. TERRA OAK is a one-woman company that creates bespoke homeware and accessories using textiles and techniques inspired and sourced from the maker's travels around the world. Consciously created and meticulously handcrafted with earth friendly materials. Custom work available for a truly unique gift. Visit terraoak.com and follow @terraoak on IG.



15. Each **SUKAZ** jacket, created by Designer Susan Hollingsworth, is the product of 20 years living in international locales. A labour of love between designer, textile artisan, and seamstress, the wearable art pieces serve as tangible reminders of cultural craft passed down through generations. Telling a unique story, threads of ancient traditions are interwoven with flashes of contemporary elegance. Visit sukazjackets.com and follow @sukazjackets_ on IG.

16. **STELA ONDA**'s earth-friendly swimwear is made to be irresistibly comfortable and easy to wear. Their collection of bikinis and one-pieces are crafted in the U.S. from premium, surplus swimwear fabric and Italian regenerated nylon; soft and sustainable, and made-to-last. Visit stelaonda.com and follow @swimstelaonda on IG.

17. **PAUSANIA** is a summer brand entirely designed and made in France by Dorothée Rag, a real Parisian globe trotter. They offer a timeless, effortless chic wardrobe by the choice of quality, durable and natural materials such as cotton, linen and silk. Visit pausania.fr and follow @pausaniaofficial on IG.

18. Travel in style with **THE LAID CLUB**. This dreamy face covering is the answer to your 'maskne' and dry skin prayers. Infused with dream skincare ingredient, Hyaluronic Acid, to keep you feeling hydrated on the go all whilst looking incredibly chic. Sign us up! Visit thelaidclub.com and follow @thelaidclub on IG.

19. At **FOS**, they believe in the power of aromas to create delightful sensory experiences and connections to physical spaces. Therein was born a line of premium products that are clean burning, plant-based, and infused with high quality oils. Their entire collection of products is vegan and non-toxic, with their candles being hand poured and crafted from essential and fragrance oils that are phthalate and paraben-free. Visit shopfos.com and follow @shop_fos on IG.

20. **IELM**'s Swedish-based creators believe that kids should play outside in any weather. Their pieces come in cute, gender-neutral prints and are an excellent outer layer for the entire cold season. iELM manufactures its clothes in the EU and is committed to offering fair and humane working conditions in their factories. Visit ielm.co.uk and follow @ielm.co.uk on IG.

21. **COVA** Scent Library strives to encapsulate the core components of the fragrance wheel, ensuring that there is something for everyone. They invite you to become part of the creative process in choosing the perfect home fragrance for you. If you are interested in their bespoke service please call them on 020 3441 7161 or email sales@cova.london Visit cova.london and follow @cova.london on IG.

22. **PHOENIX** - a collective of creatives and visionaries, expressing a passion for design and dedication to our planet. They design sustainable travel fashion by integrating consciously sourced materials into an everlasting circle. TELA, their carry-on built from recycled and recyclable materials, is designed by travellers for travellers. Visit phoenix.co and follow @phoenixvoyage on IG.

23. The Kaleido Collection by **VASSIA KOSTARA** is a tribute to dynamic women everywhere, inspired by their strength and femininity. Her stunning designs encapsulate the power and passions

of women who want to stand out in today's modern world. #STANDOUT. Visit vassiakostara.com and follow @vassia_kostara on IG.

24. Australian born designer **LARA FANULI** launched her namesake sustainable swimwear brand, made entirely from recycled ocean waste into buttery soft premium Italian fabrics. Inspired by her Italian heritage with a vibrant Australian spirit, her minimalist silhouettes echo that of the swimwear of the 80s and 90s, to enhance and accentuate a woman's body. Her seamless pieces are cut to perfection as she endeavours to promote body positivity. Experience the Lara Fanuli Swim difference. Visit larafanuli.com and follow @larafanuliswim on IG.

25. **ASALI** offer unique gifts for the discerning traveller and aviation enthusiast wanting to make a stylish landing at every destination. Discover their MOD licensed wash bags, weekender bags and accessories made from exquisite Italian leather combined with fine details for the long haul or a stylish staycation. Selected styles can be personalised to make a gift even more memorable. Enter code Conde for 15% off this month (valid until 03/03/21). Visit asalidesigns.co.uk and follow them @asalidesign on IG.

26. **SAYWOOD** is a contemporary London based womenswear label, born out of a love for colour and unique designs that last. Their collections are small and exclusive, crafted through the lens of longevity and circularity. Uniquely designed, thoughtfully made pieces you'll want in your life, always. Visit saywoodstudio.co.uk and follow @saywood.studio on IG.

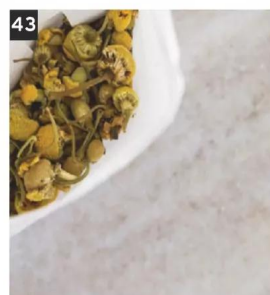
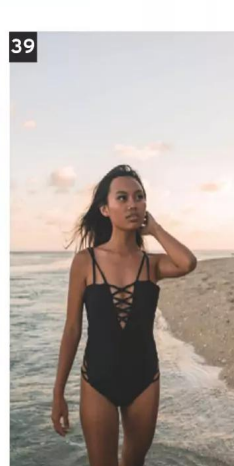
27. **RALUFINART** offers a collection of unique luxury scarves' designs, all limited editions. The founder and designer Malina Catoiu replicates her scarves designs from her original photos by translating the essence of nature and urban impressions into the delightful, bright and memorable fashion accessory gifts. She believes in the timeless beauty of nature that puts her own designs in a different perspective. Model: @valentinaoprea94 Visit ralufineart.com and follow @ralufineart on IG.

28. **JAIPUR JAMMIES** are the home of blockprinted nightwear. Made with pure cotton in vibrant patterns, the pyjama sets are timeless, stylish and comfortable. Shop the full range at jaipurjammies.com and follow for updates @jaipurjammies.

29. Designed and handcrafted in London, **F & WILD LONDON** is a sustainable swimwear brand strongly focused on sustainable practises without compromising on style. The beautifully designed pieces are ethically made in London using regenerated plastics and consumer waste including fishnets cleaned from the oceans. Shop their collection at fandwild.com and follow @fandwild_london on IG.

30. **CURATE** is an online boutique offering sustainably and ethically made women's clothing. With their carefully curated collection of socially and environmentally conscious brands, you can shop responsibly without sacrificing style. Featured is the Ananda set by Indigo Luna. Visit shopthecurate.com and follow @shopthecurate to see more.

THE LUXURY GIFT GUIDE



31. The Turkish towels of **OTTOMANIA** are woven with a woolly kind of cotton which absorbs moisture very well. The subtly woven flower patterns and hand knotted fringe give the towels a beautiful look. An elegant and strong towel that will look beautiful in your bathroom. Available in various colours. Call +31237370426 or visit ottomania.nl for more information. Also available wholesale.

32. **PULLMAN EDITIONS** designs striking original limited-edition posters that capture the enduring appeal of Art Deco. Their posters feature winter sports, glamorous resorts around the world, and historic automobiles. Over 100 designs available at £420 each. Call 020 7730 0547 or view and buy online at pullmaneditions.com

33. **CUEROPAPEL&TIJERA** create beautiful artisanal leather goods which harness Costa Rica at the soul of the brand. They offer a variety of leather colours that blend in harmony with their simple designs and the functionality of their products. Their designs find inspiration in the natural landscapes of Costa Rica, alongside the most ordinary moments of our daily lives and the beauty of leather itself. Visit cueropapelytijera.com and follow @cueropapelytijera on IG.

34. **BOTANICAL BEACH BABES** Miami presents the Supermodel Swimwear Collection featuring designer and entrepreneur Erika Hauser. Shop their all new, limited-edition, upcycle project exclusively designed in Paris, France with luxurious premium Italian nylon swimwear fabrics. Free express shipping available worldwide. Visit botanicalbeachbabes.com and follow @BotanicalBeachBabes on IG.

35. Designed in London and handcrafted in Portugal, **SAGE&KOKOA** creates cork yoga mats that are vegan, sustainable and 100% biodegradable. In a plastic filled world, look no further for the yoga mat that enhances your daily practice and helps protect the planet. Visit sageandkokoa.com and follow @sageandkokoa on IG.

36. **MARIA MARTINEZ** beachwear is a high-end luxury brand that, despite respecting our bodies, innovates in cuts, following fashion trends and bringing new ideas and swimwear pieces where few brands have ventured. A swimwear line that brings novelty and identity to all of us. Visit mariamartinezbeachwear.com and follow @mariamartinezbeachwear on IG.

37. **BANANA LILY**. Inspired by the beauty of colour, Jamaican-born designer JAG, debuts her handbag collection series, DAK[TARI]. Swahili for "doctor", DAK[TARI] embodies the spirit of the classic doctor bag reimagined with fresh, new vibrant hues and textures. Each bag is unique, hand-finished and made to order. Visit shopbananalily.com and follow @shopbananalily on IG.

38. **OCEAN PARK SWIMWEAR** inspires women to stop holding back by designing swimwear they can trust to help reach their potential on the water. Each surf suit is handmade with recycled fabric in Puerto Rico, USA. Shop at oceanparkswimwear.com and follow @oceanparkswimwear on IG.

39. **SANTOS SWIM** is a globally-conscious swimwear brand creating destination-inspired designs using luxury, eco-friendly fabrics. The bestselling Seminyak One Piece can be worn both as swimwear or beyond the beach as a bodysuit. By focusing on sustainable practices, this women-owned company inspires its community to live consciously. Visit santossuim.com and follow @santos_swim on IG.

40. **GNOME & BOW** designs premium leather goods inspired by storybook classics. Like reading a great book that lures you to uncover its secrets, interacting with their products reveals clever storytelling elements. Plot twists, mysterious characters and evocative quotes are reimagined throughout their collections - The Hare & Tortoise, The Three Musketeers and the iconic Jekyll & Hyde reversible bags. Wallets are packaged in a book box and can be personalised with your name or favourite quote to create that perfect gift. Visit gnomenbow.com and follow @gnomenbow on IG.

41. **MOVEMENT** encourages a healthier, happier, and more eco-friendly lifestyle by crafting beautiful swimsuits with high-quality sustainable materials that enhance women's bodies. Creating, empowering, and advocating for a healthier lifestyle, they want to be a part of your adventures and your cause. Visit mvmtofficial.com and follow @mvmt_official on IG.

42. The German brand **BOTTA** once again lives up to its reputation as pioneer of watch design. Their UNO 24 Automatic combines a 24-hour dial with the popular one-hand principle. Powered by a Swiss Made automatic movement, the UNO 24 Automatic is an exclusive time piece for individualists with a conscious approach to time. Designed and handmade in Germany. Visit botta-design.de and follow @bottadesign on IG.

43. **TEA-MOI** is an independent and ethically sourced loose leaf tea company created with the mind and body at its core. An eco-friendly brand with a range of creatively combined flavours of caffeinated and non-caffeinated blends. Tea lovers can enjoy the warmest (or coolest) 'hugs in mugs' on the go with their biodegradable tea bags. #1 topselling blend-G&Tea. Follow the love @tea_moi_ and tea-moi.com

44. The **MOONCHILD** Sleep Mask will be your ultimate snooze companion for deeper rests at night and undisturbed travels. Aesthetics meet function with a comfy memory effect and sensual silk that leaves our sensitive eye area feeling protected. Ethically made of cruelty-free Peace Silk and sustainably dyed. Get yours at moonchildsleep.com and follow @moonchildsleep

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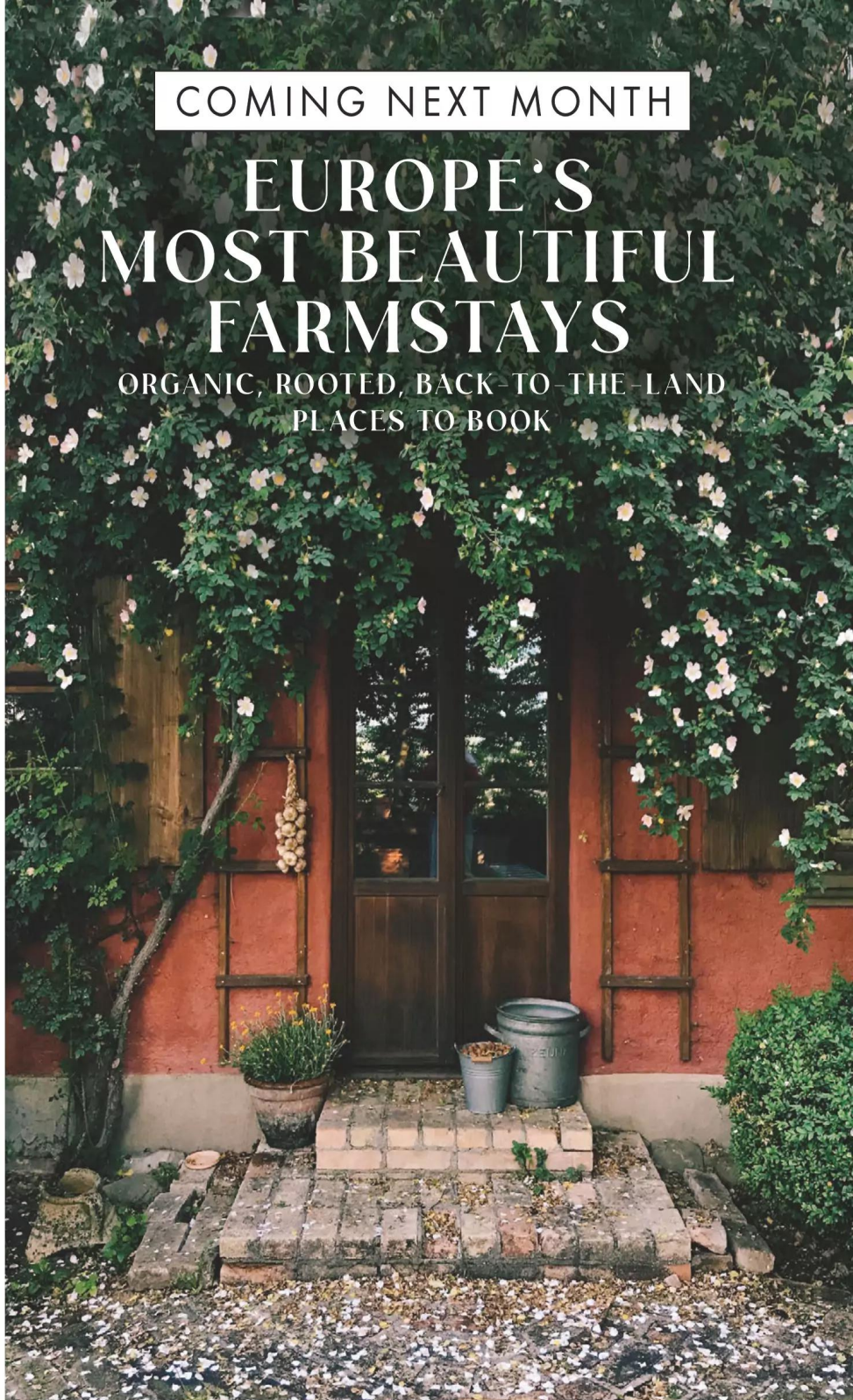
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THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE INDIGENOUS ADVENTURES

ANCIENT COMMUNITIES TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR HERITAGE AND SAFEGUARD THEIR SURVIVAL

This wooden hut, *pictured*, may be fresh and new, but the landscape around it has been trodden for millennia. It's part of the Wukalina Walk in north-east Tasmania, a three-night experience that heads across woodland, heath and seashell-scattered sands at the heart of the Palawa, or Tasmanian Aboriginal, homeland. Guests stay in architect-designed cabins, and along the way learn about medicinal plants, cooking muttonbird, the Palawa's creation story and how they were nearly wiped from the face of the earth after British colonisation in the early 19th century. It's a rare expedition, made even more so by the fact that this is one of the few travel outfits in Australasia owned and run by Aborigines. Indigenous tourism is a subject fraught with ethical questions – fears that ways of life are eroded by a dependency on tourist income, that villages become human zoos. But done sensitively, on a small scale, it can help communities to survive and create a dialogue with respect on both sides. In northern California,

the Yurok tribe invites visitors to its redwood-covered territory to float down the river in a hand-dug canoe, considered a living spirit; in Norway, Nils Sara, a Sami reindeer herder who partners with Scandj-based Visit Natives, arranges Arctic homestays for travellers to join in everyday life – ice-fishing, throwing a lasso, feeding the herd. 'My community has always been seen as the product,' says Suzanne Thompson, who was raised in Barcaldine, Queensland, and has helped to launch 'guesting on-country' trips on Aboriginal land belonging to the Kunjgeri, Iningai and Bidjera peoples. 'But we want to flip the narrative. If we take on the responsibility of being the host, it changes the way we're perceived. We'll take people out, make spear tips and emu callers, collect ochre for painting, even fix the water pump. For a long time it's felt as if we haven't been seen or heard – just the didgeridoo busker in the shopping centre – but it's time that Australia celebrates our culture and lets us lead.' RICK JORDAN



PHOTOGRAPH: ADAM GIBSON



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