

# CARRIER

THE PAPER

09

CARRIER.CO.UK

YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO MEANINGFUL LUXURY EXPERIENCES

## IN THEIR SHOES

*See the world differently*

Connect with people who are passionate to show you how they live

## NOBODY GETS LEFT BEHIND

*Embrace the joys of ohana*

On the humble archipelago of Hawaii where everyone is welcome

## A NEW DIMENSION

*Gaze up and learn*

Savour the stars and space from remote locations here on Earth

## LOOKING UP, LOOKING OUT

*On mountains and volcanoes*

Challenge your understanding of the world from great heights







## *Be curious*

For some of us, it's not enough to go somewhere new and merely soak it up. We're in pursuit of embracing a way of life outside of our own; we want to do something of genuine substance and to truly get under the skin of a destination.

Trust Carrier to deliver unprecedented adventure and reap the rewards of venturing outside of your comfort zone.

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CARRIER



# Welcome to CARRIER, *The Paper*

Dreams are exciting, thought-provoking and surreal. They push boundaries and the imagination. When life at home has lost its colour, you can step into a rainbow of poetry, art and culture. When you want to see the world from a different angle, you can switch your gaze to a different perspective.


Disappear into a new dimension with an astronomer leading the way; where stargazing in Dark Sky Reserves around the globe becomes more like soul-searching (p.22). Following in the footsteps of passionate people like this broadens the mind in unbelievable ways (p.12). Like in Hawaii, where magic becomes the only currency when you're let in on secret spaces where whales dip beneath the surface or lava glows and grumbles beneath your feet (p.18). While in Singapore, old and new come together in this revolutionary island city, which is both a Peranakan melting pot and a pulsing metropolis (p.16).


Handmade dreamlands can be found on the shores of St Lucia, the Seychelles and Lake Como, each one meticulously created by talented designers to introduce the unfamiliar, while simultaneously bringing you closer to the comforts of home (p.10). Nature has its own dreamlands, too, on a remote peak in the Himalayas or a mountain in the Swiss Alps. Here, people feel drawn to these colossal natural landmarks where the gaze is drawn outward and upward, to something bigger and more important (p.24).


It turns out that these dreams are not dreams at all. They are a reality.

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## CONTENTS

04

### LUXURY SELECTION

What to love and where to be right now

09

### LIFE LESSONS

Richard Wan talks about his family legacy

10

### DESIGNERS AND DREAMSCAPES

Meet the artisans who transform how you relax

12

### IN THEIR SHOES

Connect with people and their passions

16

### WHERE CULTURES AND CENTURIES COLLIDE

The Peranakan melting pot of Singapore

18

### NOBODY GETS LEFT BEHIND

Everyone is welcome on the archipelago of Hawaii

22

### A NEW DIMENSION

Savour the stars and space from remote locations

24

### LOOKING UP, LOOKING OUT

Climb great heights to change your outlook

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# Luxury selection

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WHAT TO LOVE AND WHERE TO BE RIGHT NOW

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## *The jewellery*

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### A SPLASH OF SPARKLE

Diamonds glisten like water on the skin, which is why the Graffabulous: Chapter V collection takes inspiration from waterfalls. Each piece is handcrafted by Graff so that the rare emeralds flow over your décolletage and sapphires ripple outwards from a centre motif. Dip one finger in, and you'll be entranced.

*POA, Graffabulous: Chapter V, Graff  
Graff.com*





## The interiors

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

The joy of being with friends is artfully reimagined in this second collaboration between interiors emporium L'Objet and design duo Haas Brothers. Happy-go-lucky characters that take the form of salt and pepper pots, plates and serving bowls make everyday gestures of hugging and playing games seem extraordinary. Glimmers of gold and helpings of humour honour the simple but exceptional experience of being with the ones you love.

From £35, L'Objet and Haas Brothers  
[l-objet.com](http://l-objet.com)

## The play

# THE ENCHANTED WOODS

"I have had a most rare vision." Echo the words of the loveable donkey-headed Bottom in William Shakespeare's popular comedy of confusion, jealousy and love. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* sees four rebellious young lovers, a band of ambitious artisan players, and a feuding Fairy King and Queen cross paths in a riotously enchanted forest, set on the wooden boards of Shakespeare's Globe. Watching in the open air, where it was performed more than 400 years ago, it's up to you to decipher what is dream and what is reality.

27 April - 12 August, from £5,  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*,  
 The Globe, 21 New Globe Walk, SE1 9DT,  
[shakespearesglobe.com](http://shakespearesglobe.com)



## The watch

### MISSION TO THE MOON

The Skyline collection was launched a little over 12 months ago but it has become one of Zenith's most in-demand lines. And the new Defy Skyline Boutique Edition adds to the glamour. The dial has been engraved with hundreds of tiny, four-pointed stars, and is a mark of neat craftsmanship that continues to shoot for the stars.

### The Boutique Edition in Numbers

Diameter: 41mm  
 Height: 11.6mm  
 Case: 12-sided bezel  
 Water-resistance: up to 100 metres  
 Power reserve: approx. 60 hours

[zenith-watches.com](http://zenith-watches.com)





## The art

# AT SECOND GLANCE

You may have seen the worlds of classical masters like Caravaggio, Bronzino, Jan van de Venne or Johann Zoffany, but have you seen them through the eyes of Nalini Malani, The National Gallery's first contemporary fellow? She has reimagined their old masterpieces with hand-drawn animations using an iPad, revealing and concealing different aspects of the paintings. In her exhibition *My Reality is Different*, nine large video projections, played in a continuous loop, invite you to add your own meanings to these remarkable pieces of history.

Until 11 June, free  
The National Gallery,  
Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN  
[nationalgallery.org.uk](http://nationalgallery.org.uk)

Nalini Malani in front of Caravaggio's  
The Supper at Emmaus at the National Gallery,  
©Photo: The National Gallery, London



My Reality is Different, 2022, video projection, ©Nalini Malani

## The insider

# DREAMS TO REALITY

Can you imagine your wildest wishes coming true? Now you don't have to, we've already worked our magic on these special moments.



## The wish...

### A SUPERCAR ROAD TRIP THROUGH ITALY WITH SURPRISE PIT STOPS ALONG THE WAY

*Brought to life:* A Ferrari 488 Spider drives you through breath-taking experiences one after another: after-hours access to the Sistine Chapel to appreciate its silence; wine tasting in the member's cellar at Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco; and a hot air balloon ride over Chianti.

### TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO A FAMILY MEMBER DURING WORLD WAR II IN GREECE

*Brought to life:* Trace the footsteps of a brave soldier with a specialist historian across the memorable landscapes of Athens and Thessaloniki. Bringing battlefields, secret missions and untold stories to life through an epic journey of remembrance.

### AN AUTHENTIC, EYE-OPENING WILDLIFE ADVENTURE FOR A FAMILY CELEBRATION

*Brought to life:* Crouch in the jungle together to witness the spectacular endangered mountain gorilla, the world's largest primate. Watch as the young play alongside their mothers, while the silverback stands guard. An intimate and rare experience to share.



TRAVEL UPDATES

# The News Flash

Keep hot on the pulse of new openings from around the globe

## 1 ARABIAN NIGHTS

Dancers, musicians and falconers weave around you, with the smells of spiced lamb, apricots and dates filtering through the air. You'd be forgiven for thinking that you've travelled back in time to old Arabia, but, in fact, it's dinner at the Al Hadheerah restaurant in the new **Bab Al Shams, A Rare Finds Desert Resort**, which opened in February. The treasures of the Arabian desert, the secrets of the souk and authentic Middle Eastern cuisine, which is cooked right in front of your eyes, brings together the soul of Arabian heritage in modern Dubai.

## 2 GRECIAN GETAWAY

Combine ancient mythology with modern luxury on your next voyage to Greece. The soon-to-be-opened **One&Only Aesthesis** is carved out of native stone on the glamorous Athenian Riviera (just a stone's throw from Athens' legendary landmarks) as an emblem of the abundance of nature. Pair it with a visit to new all-villa **One&Only Kéa Island**, which is perched on the end of a self-sustaining island in the Cyclades. Inspired by the surrounding azure blue waters, the villas all feature private pools and capture the serenity of island life with secluded spaces, indigenous materials and modern design elements.

## 3 DREAM TEAM

Two brothers, Dimitrios and Tasos Kafetzis, are co-captaining the new **Celebrity Ascent**, the fourth ship in the highly-acclaimed, award-winning Celebrity Edge series, as a world first. Share in their love of the ocean on the inaugural trip in November 2023, sailing to the Caribbean, from the cobbled streets of Puerto Rico to the lush mountain views of St. Kitts. The ever-changing vistas and balmy tropical breezes add to the glamour on board, with 32 restaurants, bars, and lounges and the widest range of staterooms and suites in the fleet for much-needed downtime.

## 4 GLAMOUR AND GRANDEUR

Bursting with the extravagance of the Gilded Age, **The Fifth Avenue Hotel** will open this year with secrets of a storied past and a grand welcome for an enticing future. Eat up a slice of history from the smaller, intimate space of the old mansion building, or be tempted by the new tower with coveted views of New York below – both celebrating the superlative design of Martin Brudnizki. It's a place crying out for elaborate parties with wine straight from a cellar in what was once a gold vault bank, and cocktails on the open outdoor terraces that overlook the city skyline.

## 5 SECLUDED IN THE SAVANNAH

Loapi means 'the space below the clouds' in Setswana, but this secluded space in the heart of the savannah seems almost as if it's floating above them. The eco-friendly **Tswalu Loapi Tented Camp** opens in July 2023 in the Kalahari Reserve South Africa, where you can disappear into the nomadic life in a one- or two-bedroom home surrounded by open grassland, with only a personal butler and private chef to disturb you. Sleep in cocoon-like sanctuaries under canvas, relax on the shaded decks next to the eco-friendly plunge pool, and sip on an early morning coffee by the fire pit, while the sights and sounds of nature engulf you.





# FLIGHTS of FANCY

Creature comforts abound on the new *Virgin Atlantic* flights to the Maldives and Turks and Caicos with curated menus and private spaces for the ultimate me-time. But the personal pampering starts before you're even on board.

Words: *Hannah Lemon*

Falling asleep in a fully flat bed with crisp sheets and a fluffy duvet, it's hard to believe that you could be on board a Virgin Atlantic Boeing 787-9. The airline is launching new routes to the Maldives and Turks and Caicos this autumn with all the luxuries you could wish for. Flights to the Maldives will be running in the winter, three times a week, while flights to Turks and Caicos will take off twice a week all year round, both from London Heathrow.

Upper Class seats on board are cleverly designed like a home away from home. A glass of bubbly on arrival and a four-course menu rounded off with a cheese and port course make this like a hotel in the sky. Meals are even matched with a specially curated wine list courtesy of fine wine merchant Jeroboams.

This elevated experience starts in the Clubhouse at London Heathrow before you've even taken off. New relaxation areas have been designed for meditation or quiet time, providing space to recharge before the flight ahead. Or if powering up instead of down is on the agenda, you can work out on a Peloton bike before taking a shower to refresh.

Before you know it, runway views will be swapped with the beat of a boduberu drum or a cooling glass of rum punch. The only choice to be made is the destination. The Indian Ocean? How about feeling the crystal white sands beneath your feet in a sheltered lagoon in the Maldives with 1,000 coral islands at your fingertips? Or passing the time in the Caribbean Sea, swimming along with dolphins, turtles and stingrays off the shores of Turks and Caicos? Decision, decisions.



## When to go

*Maldives* flights commence from 22 October 2023 from London Heathrow.

*Turks and Caicos* flights commence from 04 November 2023 from London Heathrow.

## Where to unpack

### *The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort*

A shell-shaped library, a spa designed like a crustacean and a bar in the arched shape of a whale shark – this architectural masterpiece brings new meaning to seaside living.

### *The Nautilus, Maldives*

Bohemian beach time is the order of the day here with unscripted dining so you can eat when you want and wellness rituals designed to meet your personal goals.

### *Amanyara, Turks and Caicos*

Quiet, restorative and peaceful. Find yourself daydreaming by the dramatic volcanic rock pool or listening to the wind in the mahogany trees of this exceptionally private utopia.







LIFE LESSONS WITH

# Richard Wan

On the pristine white shores of French Polynesia, Robert Wan founded his eponymous company in 1973, now renowned as the world's foremost producer of Tahitian pearls. The dark green, yellow almond and cherry-hued pearls are supplied to leading luxury brands like Mikimoto, as well as incorporated into the brand's own unique designs. Robert's eldest grandson Richard, the commercial director, is one of many family members who are helping his legacy live on.

## What did you dream of doing when you were younger?

I had a passion for science and engineering. I loved to understand how things work and how the world turns. I wanted to analyse things, find conclusions and source solutions.

However, the reality is that there's a lot of pressure when you grow up in a successful family business, particularly on a small island. People expect things from you. I didn't realise that when I was younger, but certainly it's much clearer as an adult, and even more so, now that I have children.

After graduating during the financial crash of 2008, nobody was hiring, so I started helping the family business instead. I've been able to find all the things I love within the business, helping improve it, develop it and find solutions. I'm so passionate about our pearls. After all, they're what I grew up with. They're beautiful.

## What do you think is so unique about being part of a family business?

Like all family businesses, it's not easy but there are lots of good things too. Lots of my family work here and we all want to put a stone in this big wall of the company, so we have to learn to respect everyone's opinion.

It's an honour to support my grandfather's mission. That's one of the greatest things about being in a family business – to be part of what your relative built. After so many years it's still here. And as you work, you always keep them in your mind.

## What does the Tahitian pearl mean to you?

It is perfection within imperfection. It teaches you patience. You put five years of work into one pearl, and you might not even get one. The pearl comes from a living oyster and you have to adapt to it, not the other way round. It's not like a diamond or ruby where you can shape them and cut them to fit a ring or pendant. The pearl is born with its own colour, shape and quality and all of our designs need to be tailored to that.

The Tahitian pearl really echoes how we are as a company – doing things slowly but surely. Time is a luxury and when everything is going so fast around us all the time, the Tahitian pearl reminds us to take our time.

## What is so unique about the way you farm pearls?

We raise our own baby oysters in a natural nursery. It takes three years to raise them. After that time, we nurture them, clean them and put them back in the water for another two years. Then at harvest time, we sort the pearls with help from our expert graders. Every single pearl is graded and then taken to design.

We train our designers to put the pearl first. This philosophy has an impact on the way we do everything. If we don't look after the pearl and its environment properly, we'll go out of business. It's really important for us to take care of both. You need to come here and see it for yourself.

## How do you think travel enriches people's lives?

This question really touches my heart. I travelled a lot in my 20s and 30s to Asia, the Philippines, Africa and Europe. It brought to life how lucky I am and it taught me respect and empathy. Travel shaped the way I manage my company and how I manage my responsibilities. It also showed me the possibilities that exist around the world – to see what humans can build but also what they can destroy. Ultimately, travel is about learning respect, tolerance and empathy.

## What is your greatest piece of advice?

I'm not very good at advising people! But I would say that you should always respect people's choices and try to understand how they ended up the way they are. When you understand people more deeply you can work together in a much better way. And one more piece of advice: always be grateful.

[robertwan.com](http://robertwan.com)



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# The designers behind the dreamscapes

A room without walls, a palace that makes you feel like a local, and clever design that's as simple as nature. We get to know the designers that transform how you think, feel and behave without you even knowing it.

Words: Marianne Françoise Dick



In *The Architecture of Happiness*, author and philosopher Alain de Botton writes, “Beauty is a likely outcome whenever architects skilfully mediate between any number of oppositions, including the old and the new, the natural and the man-made, the luxurious and the modest, and the masculine and the feminine.”

It is this elusive magic of extraordinary contrasts that talented designers cleverly set about to distil in rare and incomparable luxury hotels. Between the unfamiliar and what feels like home, between worlds we might have daydreamed about in a spellbinding novel, and those that offer all the comforts we desire at hand – it’s these surprising elements that makes such places so exceptional.

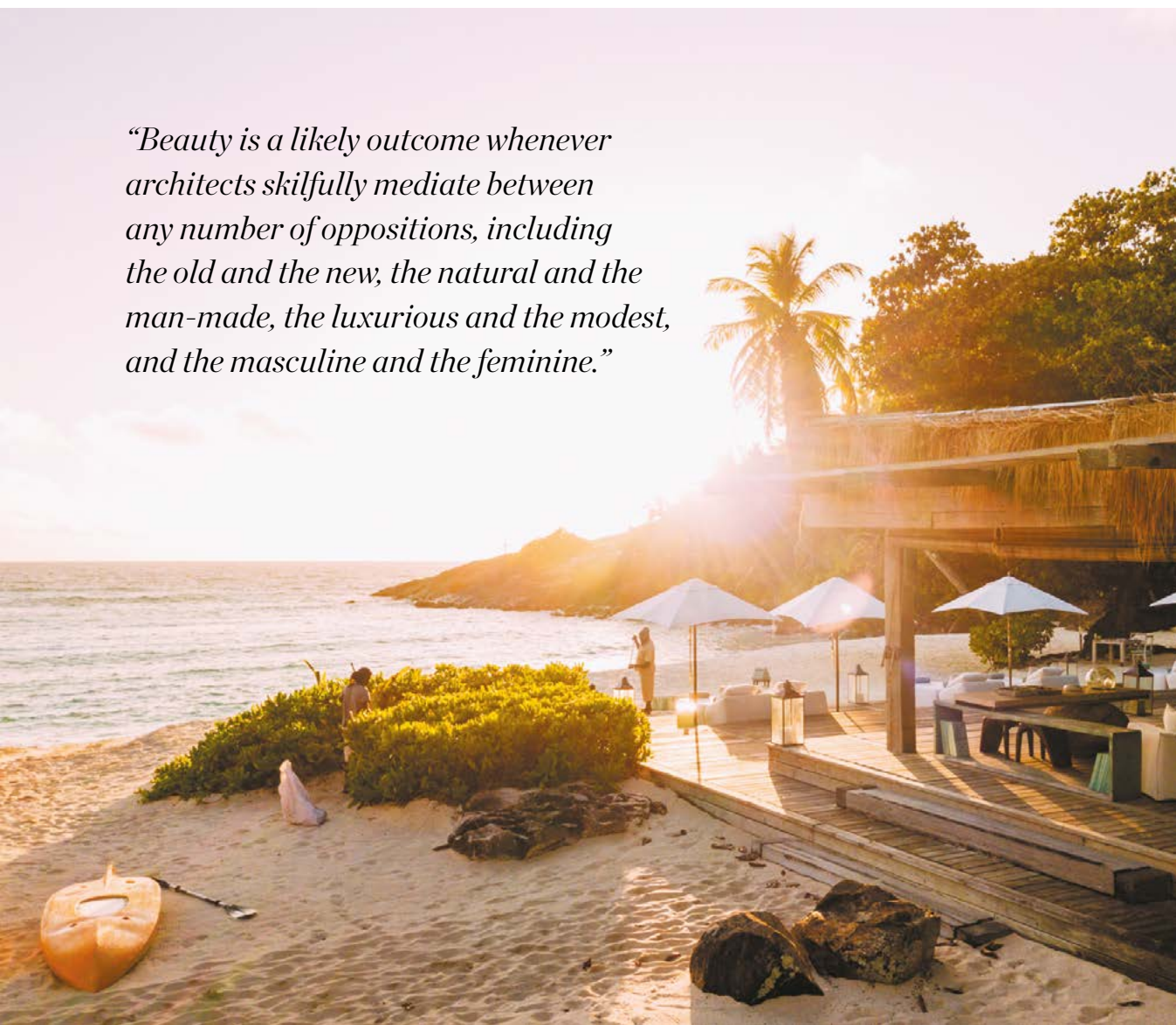
On an atmospheric waterfront of Lake Como, the setting of Hollywood films and the home of its stars, the 18th-century *Passalacqua* proudly protrudes from dainty palm trees. If you’re not wowed by this impressive structure at first glance, the interiors are sure to sway you. They have been carefully renovated by design visionary and Como-born Valentina De Santis of the De Santis family. Her legendary fame is already whispered about on these shores, after she transformed the fortunes of the family’s sister hotel the *Grand Hotel Tremezzo* with her artistic attention to detail.

At Passalacqua, she has fused modernity and heritage together with a warm familiarity that can be felt in every room. Antiquities, many of which have been sourced from local markets by the family, decorate the walls, while the country’s inimitable artisanal treasures are used in abundance, from Como silk curtains, to Murano candelabras reminiscent of confectionary, and over 20 different kinds of marble. The learned traditions of a glassblower’s steady hand and the delicate turn of a wood carver’s chisel are brought up to date with contemporary relevance.

Valentina’s vision encourages the spirit of ‘meraviglia’ and slow living. This can be as simple as wandering into the open country-style kitchen and learning to make ice cream with Laura, who owns a local gelateria named after her grandmother. Afternoons are spent being enticed to rest under lily-petal parasols or exploring further afield with Beppe the boatman, who grew up by the water. A Gatsby-esque whimsy make



*“Beauty is a likely outcome whenever architects skilfully mediate between any number of oppositions, including the old and the new, the natural and the man-made, the luxurious and the modest, and the masculine and the feminine.”*



these discoveries – from the intimate nook of a bar to a well-stocked library – almost like a fairy tale. Striped parasols glow beside the twinkling lake; aromas of orange, lemon and jasmine float through the air; and new friendships are formed over jewel-toned aperitifs. A stay here is like retreating to your own Lake Como palace, but with the understanding of someone who loves the area dearly.

Meanwhile, in St Lucia, the Sulphur Springs aren't the only thing to erupt from the ground; a Brutalist architectural feat appears to grow gracefully from a thick jungle that clads the steep hillside: **Jade Mountain Resort**. The architect and owner, Nick Troubetzkoy, chose this spot over two decades ago because of the exact vista it offers. Revolutionary and innovative even today, it was controversial when it was first built, with many doubting it would succeed. But Troubetzkoy proved them wrong.

The suites at Jade Mountain don't feature a fourth wall, so each private infinity pool overlooks the emerald Pitons that rise sensationally out of the sapphire ocean. The main decor here is simply the uninterrupted scenery and the inimitable spectacle of nature.

The wonder of this paradise is felt throughout the resort too: every surface is made up of local materials that were melded by the hands of 500 local tradesmen. “The adventurous journey to your sanctuary is via a long, suspended sky bridge to infinity which is yours and yours alone,” says Troubetzkoy. “Your entry door is a massive rough, hewn slab of exotic tropical hardwood. Your first step inside creates an instant spiritual uplift. The infinity pool in front of you is a

luminescent Persian carpet floating you out into space, to hover over the Caribbean Sea, hypnotised by St Lucia's magnificent Piton mountains.” The sublime beauty of this ethereal island is celebrated through the very stone, wood, flora and fauna that make up the hotel, inviting anyone who visits to become a warden of the regeneration and protection of the island and its people.

The natural world can often find its way into vibrant designs, starting as a seed of inspiration and growing into the biggest spectacle of a project. Interior designer Cate Simpson and founder of studio Reflecting Africa is remarkably perceptive of the wonders of nature. She has continued to create thoughtful, sensitive spaces ever since her first project on the private **North Island** resort in the Seychelles. “It must feel like you have arrived in such a special destination that everywhere you look, there is a new detail and a new reflection of where you are in this moment,” she says. “One cannot compete with natural beauty, so we must rather try and allow the design to complement and further enhance the unique aspects that nature is boasting in the particular situation.”

Akin to Jade Mountain, much of North Island's appeal is its openness, vast spaces and seamless integration with nature. The roots of this destination can be felt in the hand-carved beds and weathered wood features, while the fine silverware and sumptuous linen make a stay simultaneously decadent. The palette changes with the sun – day is reflected coolly by teal-toned finishes, while island evenings are represented by fiery hues.

These innovative designers cleverly reflect the beauty of contrasts. Each space so intricate and precise that it simultaneously uplifts and soothes, exhilarates and calms. There isn't much more that we can ask for from the places we stay.

Left to right: Passalacqua, North Island, Jade Mountain Resort



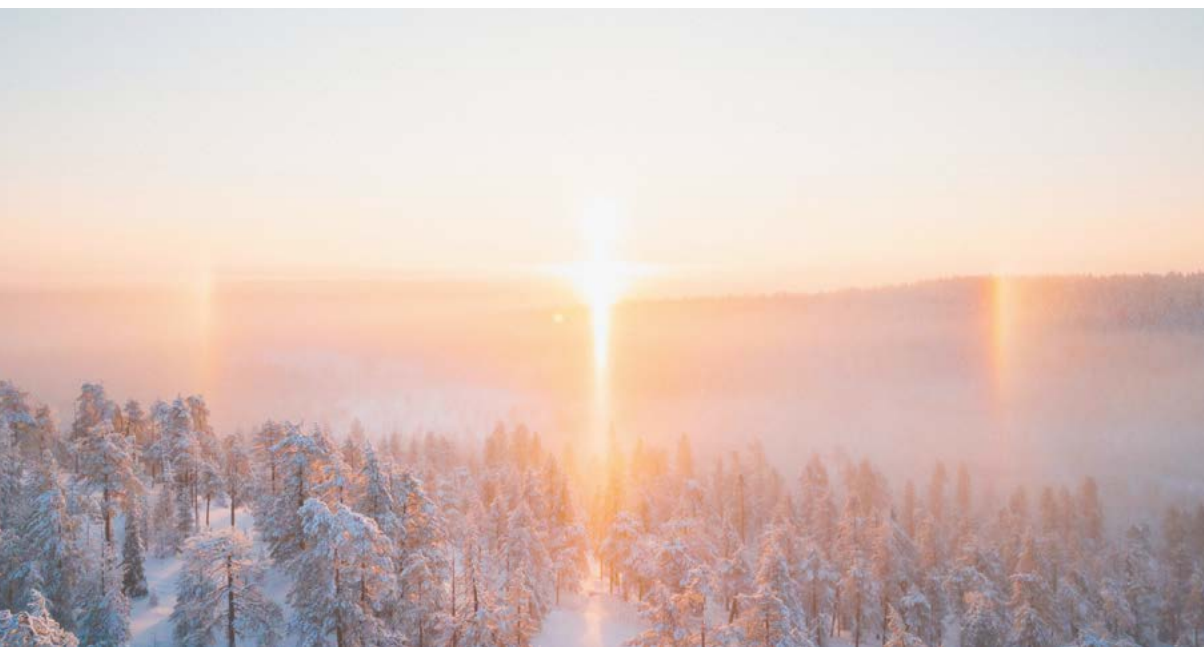


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# IN THEIR *SHOES*

Broadening your mind is about more than reading and learning. It's about connecting with people who are passionate to show you how they live, what they do and who they are. To see the world through their eyes is to see the world differently.

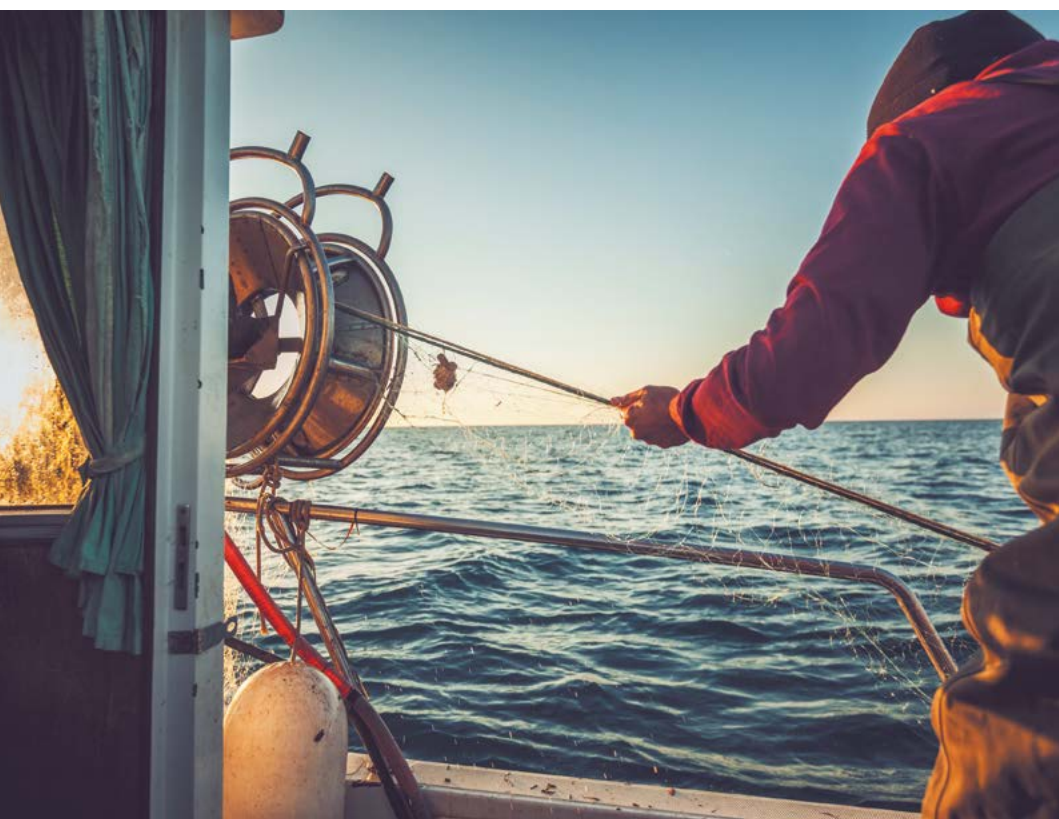
*Words: Abi Prowse*



## HIDDEN FOLKLORE GEMS

Rovaniemi's landscape has otherworldly splendour, from winters with the iridescent Aurora Borealis to summer and its honeycomb yellows. A visit to this corner of Finland is made even more surreal with a stay in the sculpture-like rooms at *Arctic TreeHouse Hotel*. To ground yourself in the reality of Lappish life, however, you need only visit a cherry-red cabin at the edge of the woods. It's home to Irene Kangasniemi and her husband, who, for years, have offered up their hospitality and age-old crafting traditions from foraged objects. Delighted to share this natural and simple way of life, they'll show you around every room of their house before inviting you to take part in the crafts yourself. Irene has all the airs of a Lappish grandmother, making homemade cake and blueberry juice and telling tales of Rudolph, Santa and the Sámi culture.





#### FISHERMEN AND FAMILY

There are more ways than one to step back in time at the *Grand Hotel Timeo, A Belmond Hotel*. You can relax into the old-world glamour by the panoramic pool, surrounded by lush terraced gardens or take a short drive along the emerald coastline to the fishing village of Ganzirri. Here, the saltwater lakes are famed for their clams and the best way to witness the time-honoured harvesting techniques is by joining a local fisherman at work. You'll feel the full energy of this family business, watching skills that have been passed from generation to generation, and even more so when you're welcomed into their home for a delicious lunch – heavenly spaghetti alle vongole (clam spaghetti), overlooking the stunning Strait of Messina.



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### MOVING TOGETHER AS ONE

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You'd be hard-pressed to imagine a more apt representation of freedom than the wild beaches at *NIHI Sumba*. The powerful hooves of the island's horses thunder across the sand, before slicing elegantly through the waves until both horse and rider are floating, suspended. Experienced local guides at Sandalwood Stables take you across stunning Indonesian beach scenes bathed in the fiery hues of sunset or through nearby villages on a beach-to-bush trail. You can also explore a deeper connection with the inner self through reiki and meditation on horseback. Horse whisperer Carol Sharpe shows how to become fully present in the horse's movement and your own, bringing stillness and calm to you both.

### VOYAGE TO THE END OF THE WORLD

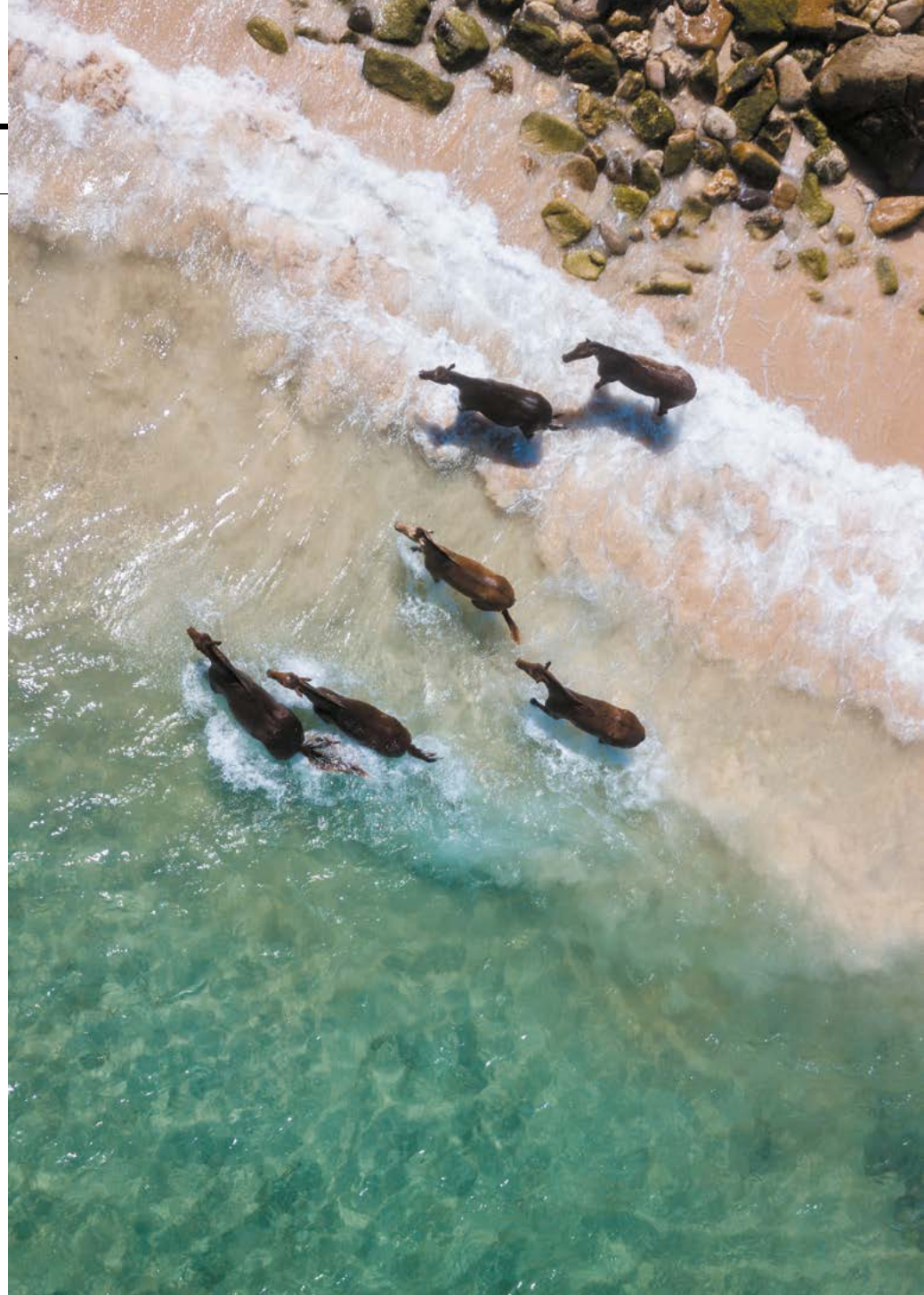
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Endless stretches of ocean punctuated by stark whiteness are what meet you on board Le Commandant Charcot for a *Ponant* expedition. The hypnotic landscapes of Greenland give way to peaks dusted with snow and icy fjords, normally inaccessible to traditional ships. This is nature at its most raw and unforgiving, and at touching distance thanks to the small Zodiac® boats that make hard-to-access areas a privilege to explore. The expedition leaders are award-winning photographers, journalists, naturalist guides, conservationists and doctors of biology, each equipped with specialist knowledge. Their nautical wisdom of flora and fauna and adventure stories will make you feel like the centuries-old explorers who have gone before.

### THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

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Long tendrils of leaves snake across powdered white sand, while the shadows of tall palms break up the sunlight. A gentle breeze acts as respite from the sun's glare, which glitters on the surface of the electric blue ocean. The scene is set for the Shutterfish photography studio at *The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands*, where you have the chance to capture the essence of these unspoilt moments on camera. Weekly classes with high-tech equipment can ignite a passion from photographers of all skill levels, whether you want to perfect natural light, digital or drone photography. A framed snapshot will be your keepsake to be immortalised on the walls of your home for years to come, and no longer will you utter the phrase "my pictures don't do it justice".



### THE KEY TO THE ISLAND

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At *Verdura Resort, A Rocco Forte Hotel*, Pierfilippo Spoto can unlock the heart of the enchanting island of Sicily by revealing its pastoral ways of life to those who wish to see. As a passionate native, he is a revered personal "canuscituri" or connoisseur, who knows local secrets like a sommelier knows fine wine. Delight in the slow simplicity of life here as you trek with a shepherd and taste the cheese made by hand from the milk of his flock. Or sip on the rich wine from a family's picturesque vineyard, and clink glasses with them at the table for lunch. The most powerful ingredient though? The tall tales of the island shared by each person you meet.

### UP IN THE CLOUDS

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Lush greenery and rushing water characterise the urban sanctuary of Bangkok's *The Siam Hotel*, which is nestled in the gardens along the river. But it's not the only haven of tranquillity in the city. Rise early to reach the striking dome of Wat Saket (the Golden Mount Temple) for a private blessing ceremony with the monks. Sink into the meditative atmosphere before anyone else arrives, drinking in the surrounding panoramic views. It's here that everyday Thailand life and Buddhist cosmology and architecture come together. And being immersed in long-standing Buddhist practices, with a sprinkling of holy water and soothing chanting for safe passage, you'll leave prepared for any challenge ahead.





This page, clockwise from top left: wild horses at NIHI Sumba, The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands, local insider Pierfilippo Spoto at Verdura Resort, A Rocco Forte Hotel, The Siam Hotel, the striking dome of Wat Saket, on board Ponant's Le Commandant Charcot





# WHERE *CULTURES* & *CENTURIES* COLLIDE

It might be on your radar as a stopover destination but pigeonhole Singapore as only that and you'll barely scratch the surface. This island country has a deep-rooted love to protect and preserve the rich heritage of ancestors who travelled here, but also looks to the future for a new generation.

*Words: Lauren Romano*





Singapore is a country of disorientating contrasts. For every gleaming glass high-rise, you'll find a traditional shopfront emblazoned with ornate tiles. Residential enclaves teeming with Jenga-stacked, pastel-toned apartment blocks sit in the shadows of towering skyscrapers. More than 50 Michelin-starred restaurants are rivalled by a world-renowned street food scene. And among the relentless march of newness, botanical gardens more than a century old continue to thrive.

Hanging off the Malaysian peninsula, Singapore's 275 square mile-expanse spans not just one island, but 64 – and is home to five million people of Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian descent. This mixture of cultures is a Peranakan melting pot, a pulsing metropolis, that offers a glimpse of the future without losing sight of its fascinating history.

There are many ways to chronicle the past. Some do so in writing, others through word of mouth, with stories passed on from generation to generation. With such a rich heritage, Singapore's diverse neighbourhoods are home to countless tales, which locals like poet and photographer Marc Nair know by heart. Walking through neighbourhoods with Marc is one unforgettable way to engage with this narrative and immerse yourself in the unfamiliar surroundings.

Wandering through the hubbub of Kampong Gelam and Tiong Bahru together, there are many countries and centuries to take in, all from a new perspective. The precincts are the perfect example of the juxtaposition of old and new, with landmarks such as the Sultan Mosque and traditional shophouses sitting beside hip cafés and bars. Marc teaches photography to help people capture these moments. And so too with poetry, starting from a single frame, and evolving it into tangible characters and emotions. This is a new, intimate way to stir the imagination and bring these secret enclaves to life long after you have left.

Singapore's cuisine shares this power too. Few places have a culinary reputation that's simultaneously built on fine dining and street food quite like here. Hawkers – or street food sellers – are engrained in the fabric of life. But these centres are about so much more than the dishes they serve: they are a legacy that unites all Singaporeans.

Dating back as far as the 1800s, hawker culture originated within the early Malay, Chinese and Indian migrant communities, who sold the meals they had grown up with on street pavements. Carrying their mobile kitchens around balanced on bamboo poles or carts, they plied sizzling satay sticks and lemongrass-laced curries to hungry passers-by who were looking for a comforting meal that reminded them of home.

Over the centuries that followed the government sought to bring these traders under one roof, into purpose-built hawker centres. Today, there are more than 100 to choose from, where the rituals of the hawkers of old live on. It's not uncommon for family-run businesses to offer just one dish, learnt at the stove of their ancestors and refined by the intervening generations.

Speak to any Singaporean and they'll have fond memories of visiting specific stalls with their families – ones that they still remain loyal to today, standing in line with their children. By pulling up a plastic chair with the locals, you'll be kickstarting your own traditions. Try a table at Keng Eng Kee Seafood, where you can meet the third-generation family running the restaurant – they are pioneers in zi char cuisine (or 'cook and fry' in Southern Chinese dialect). Roll up your sleeves, crack open crab shells and tear off chunks of fluffy mantou buns to mop up their signature sauce.

Such is the significance of these communal dining rooms that hawker culture has been added to the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, an accolade that is helping to breathe new life into old ways. In a bid to find the next cohort of chefs and cultural guardians, the government has launched an apprenticeship programme that invites veteran hawkers to teach newcomers the craft.

Eating your way around the epicurean odyssey that is Singapore certainly requires an appetite, and you can work one up exploring the urban jungle – jungle being the operative word here. Alongside the cityscape, expansive parks and nature reserves act as the country's lungs – spaces to offset the frenetic buzz.

These vast swaths of greenery serve as a reminder that biodiversity has shaped the very fabric of Singapore since it declared independence in 1965. Its quest to be a Garden City has grown into a pledge to become a City in Nature. True to that mission, today all new developments must include vegetation of some description. Cast your eyes skywards and you'll spot green roofs and vertical hanging gardens carpeting the side of buildings.

While Singapore has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to the environment, it speaks volumes that the most defining feature within the sprawling Gardens by the Bay complex isn't a plant at all, but a series of futuristic Supertrees soaring 50-metres above ground. You might say it's an apt symbol of Singapore's love of technology – and you'd be right – but rather than suppress nature, such feats of architecture actually embrace and elevate it. Bulbous glass conservatories are home to flora from five continents (marvel at 1,000-year-old olive trees), while outside, a 22-metre-high aerial walkway connects the tree-like sculptures, so you can survey the surrounding greenery of Marina Bay from a surreal and lofty vantage point.

You can also press pause in Singapore Botanic Gardens. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it's more than 150 years old and home to over 60,000 orchids, meaning you can lose yourself among the riot of colour and fragrance. Wandering within its green expanse, the razzmatazz of luxury boutiques and financial headquarters might seem a million metaphorical miles away, but ultimately it is contrasts like these that define Singapore.

The master of reinvention, it's a place that is constantly evolving. Once a small trading post, now a banking powerhouse and a slick temple of modernity and meticulous urban planning, the past coexists with a future-forward outlook. Much like the pioneering immigrants that built the society from the ground up, its diverse inhabitants continue to shape Singapore, and show how new and old can live side-by-side. Their voices, rituals and stories keep Singapore grounded in its legacy but ready to embrace the next chapter.

*The master  
of reinvention,  
it's a place which is  
constantly evolving*







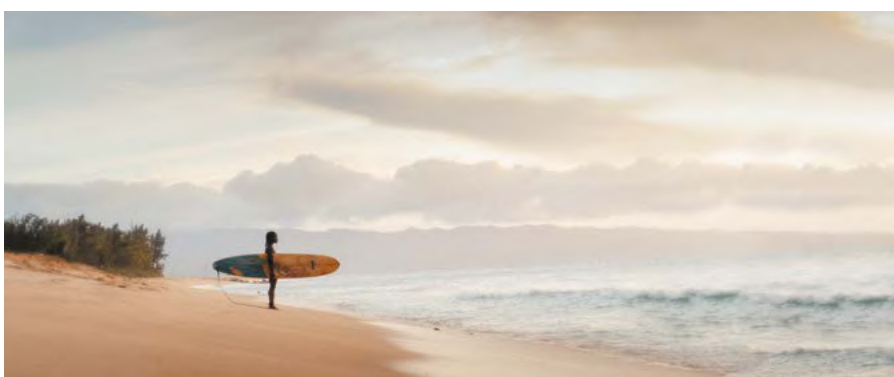
# NOBODY GETS LEFT BEHIND

Secluded in the sprawling mass of the Pacific Ocean, Hawaii and its humble archipelago seems like a small group of islands. But Hawaii's hospitality feels larger than its perimeter. It is centred around 'ohana' or family, and family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten. Everyone is welcome, from thrill-seekers and adventurers to whale watchers and art enthusiasts.

*Words: Anna Prendergast*







After just a few days in Hawaii, you start to understand the true meaning of *Lōkahi*, the sense of oneness embedded in this state's collective spirit and culture. Here, communities don't just tolerate nature, they co-exist in harmony with it, even when that nature includes Earth's most active volcano, Mauna Loa.

Likewise, visitors are encouraged to 'Travel Pono' or to travel consciously, helping to preserve Hawaii's indigenous resources, cultures and communities. Going beyond the archipelago's cinematic scenery, world-class surf breaks and bewitching beaches, a deep sense of connection brings everyone together as one.

#### RECONNECTING WITH OPTIMISM

Instead of arriving in Hawaii jet-lagged and jaded, take the time to rest and restore your flight-weary body in Los Angeles. It's not surprising that this celebrity hangout is frequently voted one of the healthiest cities in the world. West Hollywood's wellness scene guides you towards personal goals, with everything from holistic massages and cryotherapy to acupuncture and endermologie. Some will have their moods instantly lifted when saluting California's sunshine with a Playlist Yoga class, while others get their step count (and heart rate) up at Rise Nation. With an emphasis on incredible farmers' markets for fresh produce, it's easy to stay healthy here. Particularly with places like Gracias Madre, where the plant-based Mexican menu gives you a reenergising boost just in time to hit the ground running in Hawaii.

#### NATURAL HIGHS IN HAWAII (BIG ISLAND)

Lava glows and grumbles beneath the surface, snaking its way down the jagged surface of Hawaii's volcanoes. Forget the altitude, this is a natural high – adrenalin is pumping as the doors-off helicopter hovers 500 feet above the Earth's surface to take in the sheer power of these awe-inspiring landmarks. Kids will squeal in delight as they get front row seats in the cockpit with the pilot, who personalises the playlist for the perfect soundtrack to the sky-high experience. The wide-screen experience is extraordinary, but back on land, you're invited to a close-up that connects you to a central belief in Hawaiian culture. Here, *Mālama ka 'āina* – or caring for the land – encourages people to help the National Park's seasoned experts manage invasive plant species such as Himalayan ginger and preserve the park's ecosystem. Meanwhile a short hike reveals the sacred site of the Pu'uloa Petroglyphs, Hawaii's largest concentration of volcanic carvings, connecting those who pass through to a forgotten community.



MOVIE MOMENTS ON MAUI

From *The White Lotus* to *Moana*, the island of Maui is a muse that inspires wayfinding and wanderlust in all that visit. Locals love to repeat the singsong phrase Maui Nō Ka ‘Oī, which means ‘Maui is the best’. And with 30 miles of beaches so big you have to turn your phone on its side, its verdant, volcanic landscape and its cool waterfall-fed pools, we’re inclined to agree. What’s more, day trips to the White Lotus-worthy private island of Lanai and helicopter tours of Molokai feel like getting a glimpse of a film set where you’re the main character. Live out that dream on the return to Maui, and swim side by side with graceful green sea turtles and tropical fish at the coral reef in Turtle Town. Watching such elegant creatures instils an unforgettable reverence for the Pacific Ocean.

SAY ALOHA TO OAHU

Most visitors to Oahu don’t make it much further than Honolulu’s high-end neighbourhood Waikiki. But beyond the capital’s main hub, you’ll be surprised and delighted by the quirky, colourful neighbourhoods that playfully balance ancient Hawaiian culture with contemporary art, music and design. Follow the island’s westerly breeze towards Kaimuki, where nostalgic notes seep out of vintage shops playing vinyl, or head to Pearl City, where an immersive film at the USS Arizona Memorial is a heart-breaking reminder of Pearl Harbour’s history. Most surfers wait for winter and search for the best swell in North Shore’s cluster of friendly beach towns (longboarders live for Chun’s Reef and Puaena). The hit of adrenalin catching a wave is certainly a different pace to whale watching, which you can also do here at Haleiwa Harbour. As the sun sets, and you see the midnight blue of a large tail flipper disappear into the abyss below, it feels like pure magic.

HIGH-OCTANE ADVENTURE IN KAUAI

Because of the distinctive shape of its mouth, the manta ray is known as ‘hahalua’ here, or ‘two breaths’, and swimming with these majestic, curious creatures on a sunset cruise off the coast of Na Pali will certainly take yours away. Getting under the skin of Kauai’s scenery is easy, whether you want to feel the wind in your hair as you zipline over 17,000 acres of dense canopy, go offroad in an ATV or kayak beneath the island’s rugged cliffs. Adventure is around every corner. Alongside this fast-paced excitement, the historic towns like Hanapēpē offer a cinematic slice of Hawaii via Hollywood (it’s the place that inspired *Lilo & Stitch*). Plantation-style buildings are home to charming shops, local eateries and more art galleries than any other spot on the island. On Fridays, celebrate creativity with personal introductions to local painters, sculptors and craftspeople who open the doors of their studios to show off their wares.



WHERE TO STAY



LOS ANGELES

Few things enhance wellbeing like the wagging tail of two pups named Winston and Churchill at **The London West Hollywood**. Such a friendly greeting, alongside the plush serenity of the A-List rooftop pool and a 24/7 gym, will leave you raring to go.



HAWAII (BIG ISLAND)

Let the little ones roam **Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection** with Holoholo Kids Crew while the adults indulge in some spectacular snorkelling in Makaiwa Bay. Skills are tested at the underwater photography workshop, where you can capture the yellow tang and butterflyfish spotted along the way.



MAUI

Listen to charming stories about Hawaii’s Polynesian ancestors at an ohana-style meal at **Andaz Maui At Wailea Resort**. With water lapping on the beach, the ambience is matched perfectly with 15 locally-inspired dishes.



OAHU

There’s never a quiet moment at **Halekulani Hotel**, which is set apart from the cosmopolitan chaos of Waikiki. One of the first hotels in Hawaii, this resort has been welcoming guests for more than a century, accompanied by the sounds of traditional music and the energy of the hula.



KAUAI

From locally-sourced alaea scrubs and crystal healing to sunrise yoga and physical therapy, **1 Hotel Hanalei Bay’s** biophilic beachfront wellness centre will soothe and realign body and mind after a day of hiking and biking.



A person stands on a sandy beach at night, looking out at the ocean under a starry sky. The person is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark shorts, and is standing next to a bicycle. The beach is framed by dark foliage on the left and right sides. The sky is filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy is visible. The ocean is calm and reflects the light from the stars.

# A NEW DIMENSION

*Billionaires may be racing into space, but  
savouring the stars from remote locations  
right here on Earth can be just  
as enlightening. It's simply a case  
of looking up and learning.*

*Words: Estella Shardlow*



Night falls over the Baa Atoll. That iconic Maldivian palette – turquoise water, pearly sand – disappears and an entirely different, equally mesmerising view unfurls: a diamond-studded black velvet canopy that stretches overhead. One of the more superior lookouts is aboard *Soneva Fushi's* yacht, which drifts on calm waters through the balmy evening. The soft sound of the in-house astronomer's voice gently explains that the isolated Indian Ocean islands are blessedly free from light pollution. The stars shine brighter here, so it's easier to navigate the sea by the different sparkling clusters, like so many explorers have done before.

What's more, the resort's location close to the equator means you can observe both the northern and southern constellations. This brings with it a deep connection between stargazing and soul-searching, and in the autumn, *Soneva Fushi* is hosting a wellness-centric SOUL Festival on the moonlit sands, to allow you to contemplate your path in this world and beyond.

To look at the stars, to chart their movements, to retell ancient stories about them is to become part of a galactic network that has inspired and guided civilisations for millennia. Early records of the constellations date as far back as 3,000 BC, when they were carved into ancient Mesopotamian clay writing tablets.

Today, designated Dark Sky Reserves can be found in remote corners of the globe – if you know where to look. These otherworldly ethers support our desire to escape stressful, digitally connected lifestyles by quite literally turning attention to higher things. Thinking in light years rather than minutes and seconds, deep time instead of deadlines, feels like a rare luxury. Some of history's greatest thinkers and creative minds have celebrated the concept of solitude and its benefits, but in our everyday, ever connected world, it's become much harder to truly achieve.

In such places, cosmic curiosities are also sated with immersive stargazing, brought to your eyes with clever room design, high-tech equipment and in-house experts. The Namibian wilderness retreat *Little Kulala* is embedded in the ethereal sand dunes of NamibRand Nature Reserve – one of the world's darkest locations, over 60 miles from the nearest settlement. A roll-out bed on each room's private deck beckons anyone who's ever



Opposite page: Soneva Fushi.  
From the top: Little Kulala,  
& Beyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge,  
The Lindis

longed to drift to sleep beneath Ursa Major, letting inky skies and silence envelope the senses.

Another smart choice in Namibia is *&Beyond Sossusvlei Desert Lodge*. Peering through a state-of-the-art Celestron computerised telescope at the in-house observatory reveals distant planets in dazzling detail, from Jupiter's moons to the rings of Saturn. A resident astronomer unravels the mysteries of the southern constellations – like how the evocatively named Jewel Box cluster got its name from the 18th century English polymath John Herschel, who described it as a “casket of variously coloured precious stones”. Back in your suite, retractable skylights allow stargazing to continue from the comfort of bed.

Astronomy gives us not only the chance to see planets up close, but indigenous cultures, too. They have interpreted the night skies into their own origin stories and folklore. At *The Lindis*, a luxury lodge in New Zealand's remote, glacier-carved Ahuriri Conservation Park, Māori beliefs are brought to life on a private stargazing expedition into the valley. The glittering nocturnal panorama becomes even more magnetic as tales of warring gods and celestial navigation fill the crisp, clear night air. Take the silvery banner of the Milky Way: a shark, so legend goes, placed there by demi-god Māui, to swim eternally through the vast black ocean of the sky.

Space exploration is often chalked up as an exercise of ego or nationalistic pride, from the Space Race of the 60s to Elon Musk's latest endeavours. But standing beneath the stars on a tropical island, African desert or remote mountaintop, such worldly matters – jostling for prestige or politics – seem to shrink away entirely and one instead feels absorbed in something bigger, borderless, beyond.





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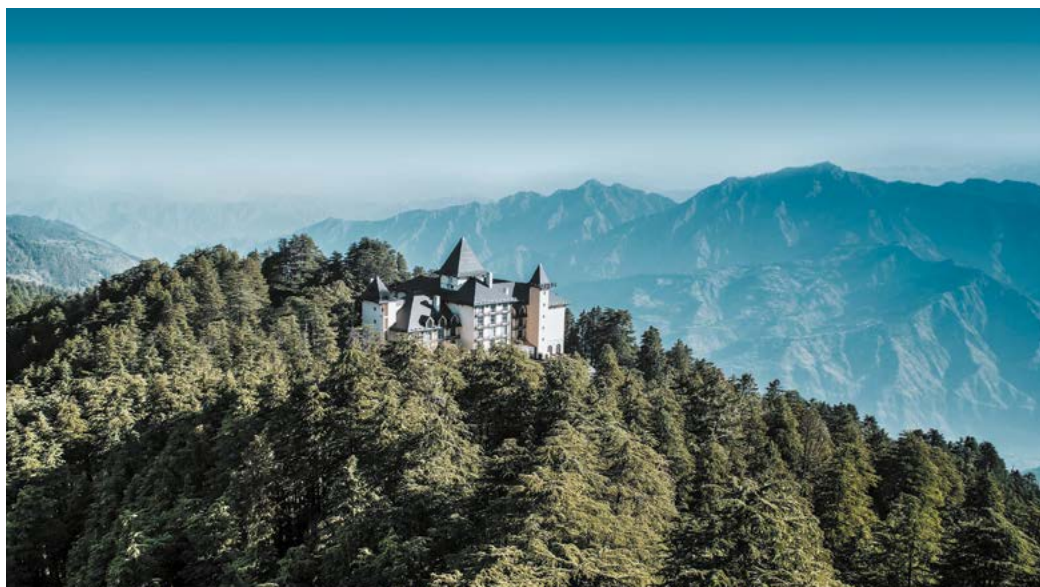
# LOOKING UP, *LOOKING OUT*

Standing at the foot of a colossal mountain or volcanic island can inspire awe and challenge our understanding of the world. We find the places that turn the gaze outward and upward, removing the focus from you to something bigger, something transformative.

*Words: Lauren Romano*







Left to right: Grace Hotel, Auberge Resorts Collection, Wildflower Hall, An Oberoi Resort

There's no 'right' way to explore a destination; meaningful travel involves finding a path that speaks to you. It isn't about getting from A to B, but about the detours, the discoveries – the C, D, E and F – you uncover along the way. How people tend the land and live alongside it has been a building block of cultures and civilisations since time began.

Often, this sense of history is innately life affirming. Awe-inspiring landscapes have the power to ground us, both in the present and within the natural order of things. Formidable glaciers that can be traced back millions of years; vast, sweeping canyons carved by the ebb and flow of rivers long since dried up, their sides worn smooth over the millennia. Gazing on the same scenes as our ancestors reminds us that while some things are fleeting, some remain reassuringly the same. These epic panoramas are proven to be a salve for a turbulent mind. It slows the heart rate and deepens breathing, leaving a feeling of calm and relaxation long after footsteps lead you away.

#### FEELING ON TOP OF THE WORLD

The Himalayas mean many things to many people. Running like a spine between the Indian subcontinent and the Tibetan plateau, it's a place of saw-toothed peaks and wildflower carpeted valleys; high-altitude villages and sweeping plains that leave you humbled by their magnificence. It's a landscape that might appear hostile to the uninitiated, but you'll soon realise that being here is like a secret you don't want to share.

It's not just the landscapes that make this part of the world so special though, but the people. The Himalayas might be largely untouched by human hands, but the region has been shaped by their voices – the myths and legends that have been shared by, or passed on to, those venturing through.

At *Wildflower Hall, An Oberoi Resort*, perched 2,515 metres above sea level, in Shimla, the capital of the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, these endless panoramas follow you around. Survey the thick blanket of cedar forest from the outdoor jacuzzi – the combination of steaming water and the cool lick of wind

against your face is truly invigorating. Greenery this lush does wonders for the soul too; lie back as a renewed sense of clarity washes over you.

At this height, all your senses will be sharpened. With the sunset, watch the horizon become stained a dusty pink from the hillside gazebo, while savouring a specially prepared four-course menu by candlelight. When the sun finally retires for the evening, you'll be plunged into an inky darkness so intense the stars will shine all the brighter.

#### GOING BACK TO THE LAND

Some landscapes are instantly familiar. Known as the supermodel of the Greek islands, Santorini's cobalt-domed churches and sapphire Aegean seas are the stuff of countless Instagram posts. Beyond its glossy, honeymooning reputation however, there's another more rugged side waiting to be explored.

A cataclysmic volcanic eruption thousands of years ago caused the centre of the island to sink, leaving a caldera in its wake. Spilling down the cliff sides, strings of villages and sugar-cube-like dwellings cling to the steep banks. These communities are threaded together via a winding path along the caldera edge, from the capital of Fira to the village of Oia, dipping into Firostefani and Imerovigli along the way.

At 10.5km long, the route is a chance to get the blood pumping – the awe-inspiring views will serve as a welcome distraction from the heat and your muscles hard at work. It's also one of the few places on the island where you can feel truly alone. Far removed from the tourist throng, carve out a few hours for yourself, to pause and reflect.

For a less strenuous introduction to the landscape, soak up the vistas at *Grace Hotel, Auberge Resorts Collection*. Floating in the largest infinity pool in Imerovigli at the highest point of the caldera is breathtaking. Multicoloured cliffs rise skyward, like a frame to the picture, and it's hard to tell where the pool ends and the sea begins. In the afternoon, get even closer to the volcanic formations and hidden swimming holes with a private yacht tour, where you can charter your own path across the sea.











## PROTECTING THE SLOPES

With its formidable mountains, forests and remarkably fresh air, you can breathe deeply in the Swiss Alps. This isn't just one of the most exhilaratingly beautiful corners of the world, it's one of the most sustainable ones too. Having a greater awareness of our footprint when travelling gives us an even deeper understanding and appreciation of the terrain, and the chance to experience local culture in a more authentic way.

In Switzerland, train lines snake their way through rock, around hair-pin bends and up steep valleys, to connect even the most remote villages. These run on mostly green energy – 90% of the electricity used to power the trains of the country's biggest transport company comes from hydropower.

Certain routes are bucket-list worthy, take The Glacier Express for example. Meandering alongside the mountains, this is the most panoramic way to witness the peaks and valleys unfurl as the train glides from St Moritz to Zermatt via Andermatt. If you're stopping off at the latter, continue to be immersed in the landscape at *The Chedi Andermatt*. At 1,447 metres above sea level, it provides front row seats to nature's splendour, including the imposing face of the Gemsstock mountain. Rest your weary feet by the hotel's roaring fires – there are some 200 dotted around.

Undeniably, slaloming down the slopes has an almost magnetic appeal in Switzerland. Near-vertical runs aren't the only thing to get your heart racing though – for a different outlook on the snowy landscape, step inside one of Europe's last remaining glaciers at Saas-Fee or Zermatt. From the outside, these densely packed hulks of ice have a mirror-sheen, rays bouncing off every edge and rivet as they constantly shift under their own weight. Within, however, milky, translucent waves swirl and curl, tipped with icicles that seem to glow with an effervescent light. Hypnotic and mesmerising, it's a sight to rival even the most magnificent of mountain passes.



Images clockwise: The Glacier Express, The Chedi Andermatt, Rocky Mountaineer train, Amangiri pool and dining area

## A DIFFERENT ROUTE

Glacier-fed lakes so still they resemble panes of glass, jagged-edged cliffs and tranquil meadows: the landscape of the Canadian Rockies unravels like a patchwork quilt. Lacing up your hiking boots to explore its national parks is just one way to forge a connection with nature here – the opulent GoldLeaf carriage of the Rocky Mountaineer train is another.

Cruising through the mountains in a panoramic glass-domed carriage, this is a voyage that is designed to be savoured. Linking Vancouver and Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff or Calgary, the Rocky Mountaineer traces the peaks and troughs of the region's varied terrain – a luxury in itself. But combining this with locally-sourced food and wine, and overnight stays in boutique hotels, elevates the experience to another level. Slow travel of this kind allows you to relish the journey, taking smaller steps with greater interest. And watching the surreal scenery flash before your eyes is made even more of a thrill from the outdoor viewing platform, with fresh air whistling past in great chorus.

Another unforgettable, but completely contrasting, window into the landscape awaits at *Amangiri* in Canyon Point, Utah. Framing dunes, plateaus and ridges, the hotel echoes the rugged, raw characteristics of its desert setting. Dusty sand and pink veined rock formations jut out over 600 acres of majestic Colorado Plateau. The silence is refreshingly deafening – your voice will ricochet off the cliffside – making it the place to restore and rebalance surrounded by nature in all its unfiltered glory.

For an unbeatable perspective though, take to the skies in a hot air balloon. Exposed to the elements in a wicker basket, gliding above Mother Nature's playground will make you feel utterly alive. Imagine the wind in your hair, hands gripping the sides and eyes darting over prehistoric-looking rocky outcrops stretched out far into the distance. At *Amangiri*, flights set off at sunrise, stirring feelings of serenity from first light.

The very name of the resort means 'peaceful mountain' and if you want another way to soak up the calming surrounds there's the Tower Butte Yoga expedition, which combines a scenic helicopter flight with a tailor-made movement and meditation session. Soar over Lake Powell and Glen Canyon before landing at Tower Butte, a sandstone summit that soars over 5,000 feet above sea level, like a sentry point for the surrounding landscape. Transformative and meditative in equal measure, it's about looking upwards and outwards to something bigger and comfortingly unchanging.





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