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THE MAGAZINE



THE ARTS ISSUE



Playa Carmen, Costa Rica.



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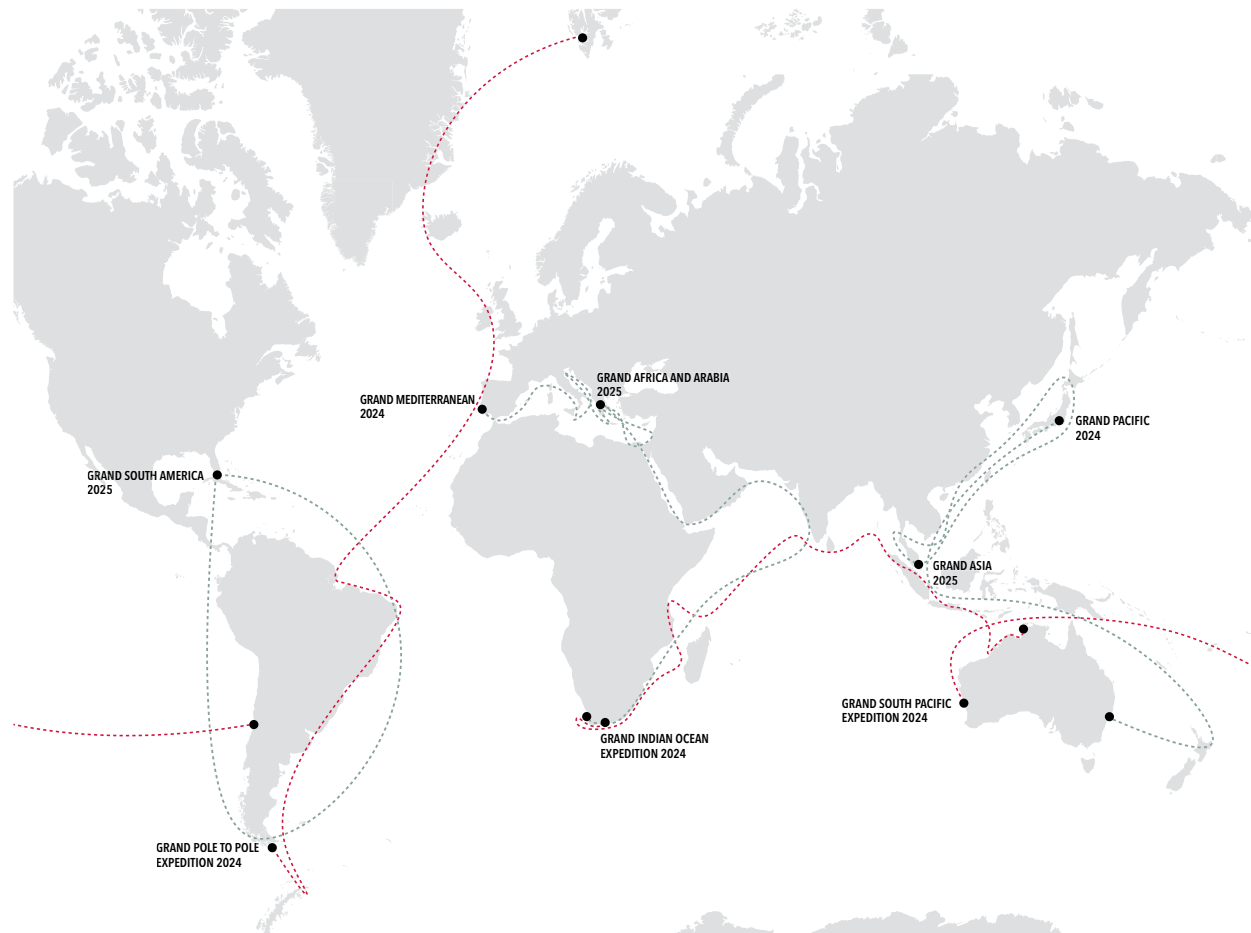
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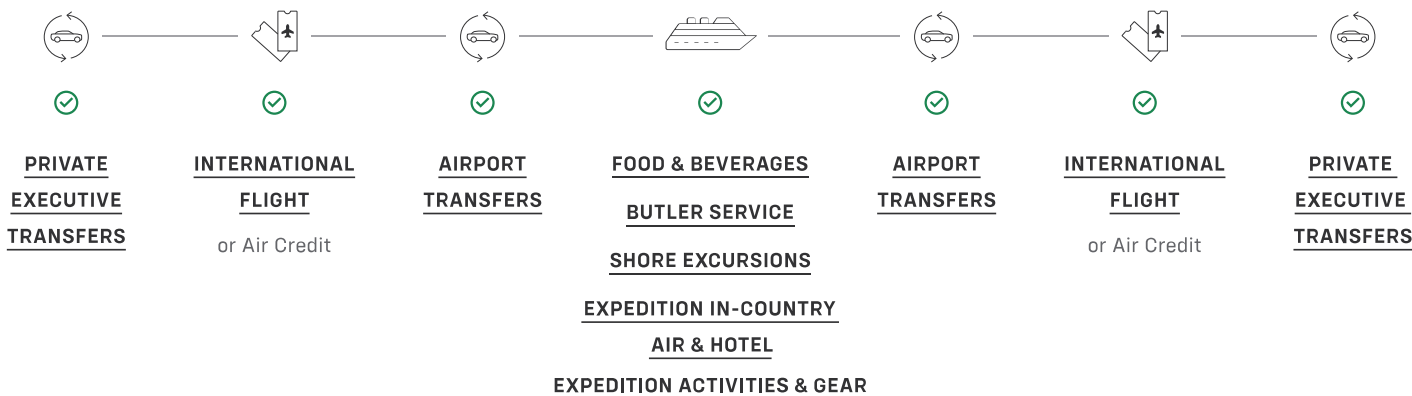
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The Garden Table



Installation View of Salvador Dalí, Colen, Katz, and Pistoletto from In Bloom, 2023, Courtesy of Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art. Photo Credit: Jenks Imaging

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## DINE IN THE HEART OF THE CONSERVATORY

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## A COLORFUL COLLECTION OF DIVERSE ARTWORKS HAS BLOSSOMED AT BELLAGIO GALLERY OF FINE ART

Curated uniquely for Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, *In Bloom* explores themes of rebirth, abstraction, humanity and forces that move us to collective change through a fresh introduction to spring.

Courtesy of Tia Collection (Santa Fe, NM), this exhibition features works by Regina Bogat, Nick Cave, Salvador Dalí, Robert Mapplethorpe, Alex Katz, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Ai Weiwei and more.

On display now through September 10, 2023.

*Inspired by the villages of Europe, AAA Five Diamond Bellagio Resort and Casino™ overlooks a Mediterranean-blue lake with fountains performing a magnificent ballet. Relax in luxurious suites, enjoy seasonal displays in the Conservatory and savor exquisite cuisine. At Bellagio, guests are invited to explore once-in-a-lifetime experiences.*

# Preflight

INSPIRATION FOR YOUR WANDERLIST



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**Kyoto**

Treat yourself to Japan's  
cultural capital.

(KYOTO) KOREIMA BOLDING







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Santa Fe  
Diné pride  
and handwork.



(COSTA RICA) BALL & ALBANESE, (SANTA FE) JEN JUDGE

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## Costa Rica

Cool off on the  
Nicoya Peninsula.

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[virtuoso.com/wanderlist](http://virtuoso.com/wanderlist).



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July August 2023



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### ON THE COVER

Portuguese tile composition by Luca Colapietro. Photography by Chris Plavidal.

12 July August 2023

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The Piazza

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# All-Access Art

**F**OR OUR FIRST-EVER ARTS ISSUE, we (mostly) skipped the museums in favor of ducking into the studios and ateliers of working artists. We met a lacquerware maker in Kyoto who combines an 11,000-year-old method and her Parisian training to create exquisite modern pieces. We caught up with a Santa Fe designer and Diné Tribe member who's using her platform to lift other Native artists. We stopped by a 200-year-old fine-jewelry workshop in Lisbon that's still turning out tiaras but also leaning on contemporary collabs to make edgier pieces.

These people and their creations represent forward momentum: In many cases, they've made a deliberate choice to save centuries-old traditions from blinking out by dedicating themselves to a practice. For travelers, this is great news. With the right connections – aka Virtuoso travel advisors' knowledge and special access – the studio doors swing open. We can step into the artists' worlds and watch them work, get to know more about their craft and inspiration, and, yes, walk away with some killer souvenirs. All the while, we're supporting the heritage that defines a destination.

As you page through this issue, we hope you find a feast for the eyes, a window into a world of creative feats, and a spark for future travels.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marika Cain".

MARIKA CAIN  
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR



## Frameworky

When writer Chadner Navarro introduced us to the work of Luca Colapietro, a Lisbon-area artist who puts a surreal twist on Portugal's beloved azulejo tiles, we knew we had a cover star. Colapietro created a travel-inspired, custom-tile mash-up of tradition and his own vision, and we held our breath as the piece winged its way from Portugal to the States for a photo shoot.

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the sun goes down



For centuries, Bedouins and pilgrims have relied on the night sky to light their path through the desert.

Yet around the world today, artificial light from cities has created a permanent skyglow at night, obscuring our view of the stars. The Milky Way is no longer fully visible to one-third of humanity.

At The Red Sea, we keep the night sky dark to ensure the health of the creatures that call our destination home, and to make night-time that bit more special for our guests.



### **Keeping dark skies dark**

We are seeking Dark Sky accreditation to protect our skies. This is part of our commitment to sustainable development and regenerative tourism.

We have developed an innovative lighting strategy with smart technology that will provide enough sustainable lighting for safe movement around the destination, while meeting the stringent International Dark Sky criteria.



### **Clear skies and clear minds**

Spending time in nature has been proven to offer a multitude of health benefits. Astrotourism allows you to reconnect with nature and in turn acts as a natural way to relieve anxiety.

This year we will welcome our first guests, who will enjoy the undulating sand dunes and water experiences by day, and by night they can look up and see the majesty of a night sky that is being actively protected.

Through its stunning combination of sea, desert and rock landscapes as well as the lack of light pollution, The Red Sea offers an amazing natural setting for stargazing and astrotourism.



# “Favorite museum?”

“The Guggenheim in New York. Visiting on a girls’ trip with my mom and sister remains a highlight of all our travels.”

# VIRTUOSO

THE MAGAZINE

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“Zagreb’s Museum of Broken Relationships and its quirky mementos of loss, revenge, and appreciation from couples around the world.”

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“Taking my daughters to the Apartheid Museum in South Africa was so powerful.”

“The haunting work of Egon Schiele at Vienna’s Leopold Museum is my favorite.”

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## Contributors

# “The best airport for a long layover?”



Writer  
**David Hochman**  
Los Angeles  
“Crafting the Future,” page 82

“Amsterdam’s Airport Schiphol has a branch of the famous Rijksmuseum with a rotating collection of works by Dutch masters.”  
**THE REPORT:** “People in Kyoto value humility, so many of the great artisans work away from the public eye. If you don’t get introductions, you miss a lot of wonder and beauty. Our Virtuoso connections were like having a key to the city’s hidden studios and ateliers.”  
@ heyhochman



Writer  
**Chadner Navarro**  
Jersey City, New Jersey  
“Maker’s Mark,” page 94

“Does the Turkish Airlines lounge in Istanbul count? As far as I’m concerned, they have the best lounge food in the world.”  
**THE REPORT:** “The breadth and depth of the design and maker scene in Portugal today truly impressed me. There were so many brands that couldn’t be included in the story due to space – but they were included in my suitcase. The line between whether this was a reporting trip or a shopping trip has been blurred by the amount of ceramics and knitwear I left with.”  
@ chadner



Art Director  
**Korena Bolding**  
Dallas  
“Crafting the Future,” page 82

“Heathrow, so I can make a quick pass through Boots and Smythson.”  
**THE REPORT:** “Japan is such a special place. Meeting 70-year-old paper-cutting artist Takeshi Nishimura felt like a once-in-a-lifetime experience. He’s a true master of the craft. His spirit was zen, but his personality was effervescent. As I left his studio, I turned around to wave goodbye, only to see him bowing a deep bow and waiting until he saw me turn the corner to ensure I was safely on my way.”  
@ korenabolding



Artist  
**Luca Colapietro**  
Lisbon  
Cover

“My favorite airport is the one in Bari, Italy – my native city. The shops sell typical Puglian products such as *taralli*, focaccia, and mozzarella. I always stock up so I can bring a piece of Bari to Lisbon.”  
**THE REPORT:** “For the cover, I started with a hot-air balloon, which to me represents a dream as well as travel – I’ve been fascinated with its mechanics since childhood. Inside, we find other elements of vacation and freedom: an airplane, a kiwi island, palm trees, butterflies, and seagulls. The idea was to show a journey within a journey.”  
@ surrealejoes



# Explora

JOURNEYS



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# Passport

PLACES  
TRENDS  
CULTURE  
STYLE

Hermes Arroyo's studio  
in San Miguel de Allende.

KORENA BOLING





## Person of Interest: Hermes Arroyo

Master craftsman and *mojiganga* artist

*Mojigangas*, supersize papier-mâché puppets, are a staple of almost every San Miguel de Allende wedding, fiesta, and *callejoneada* (parade). Third-generation artist Hermes Arroyo crafts the giant figures of brides, grooms, and revelers in his downtown studio. And at Belmond's 37-room **Casa de Sierra Nevada**, he leads workshops in mini-*mojiganga* making, helping guests fashion folksy avatars of themselves.

**Number of years making *mojigangas*:**  
Thirty-plus.

**What drew you to crafting *mojigangas* for a living?** I grew up in a family of artists and started making art at age 7. I like *mojigangas* because they impress and attract a lot of attention. In San Miguel, people traditionally used them at religious events, but over the years, they brought joy to parties, parades, and weddings too, which is how my work grew.

**How long do they take to make?** About three weeks for one that's over seven feet tall. It takes four people to paint, produce, and sew the piece.

**And you've made how many?** At least a thousand.

**Do you have a favorite?** "La Española," the first one I ever made.

**Do guests love making mini papier-mâché versions of themselves?** I create the guests' mini-*mojiganga* mold before they arrive, and then we paint it together. It's a two-hour workshop, but time flies and sometimes we're there for much longer. I love showing them a little of our magic.

**What makes a *mojiganga* the life of a San Miguel party?** They add giant joy – pops of color, majesty, and attention – to any festivity. When I was a kid, most *mojigangas* had serious expressions, but I like mine to be happier. I'm inspired by happiness.

**What kind of music do *mojigangas* prefer?**

In the streets, we use the music of the people, such as mariachi. However, at private parties, they can dance to anything. I've danced inside *mojigangas* since I was 10. Now, at 53, I still love to dance with them, just not for as long.

*Doubles from \$409, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit. Mojiganga experience, \$98. – Elaine Glusac*



## Take Flight

There's no accessory more versatile than a shawl, and this cashmere version from **Sabina Savage** takes the classic travel staple from utilitarian to utterly indulgent. The London-based designer's latest collection features illustrations of endangered animals around the globe that Savage hand-draws, an elaborate process that takes around six weeks – "I like to include lots of small details I hope the wearer will notice for years to come," she says. It's a carry-on essential, according to Savage: "I always fold mine in the canvas travel bag it comes in to prevent wrinkling and protect it from any snags or tears," she notes. "A beautiful scarf can be draped over your flight outfit, so you'll look effortlessly chic wherever you land." \$865, [sabinasavage.com](http://sabinasavage.com). – Amy Cassell

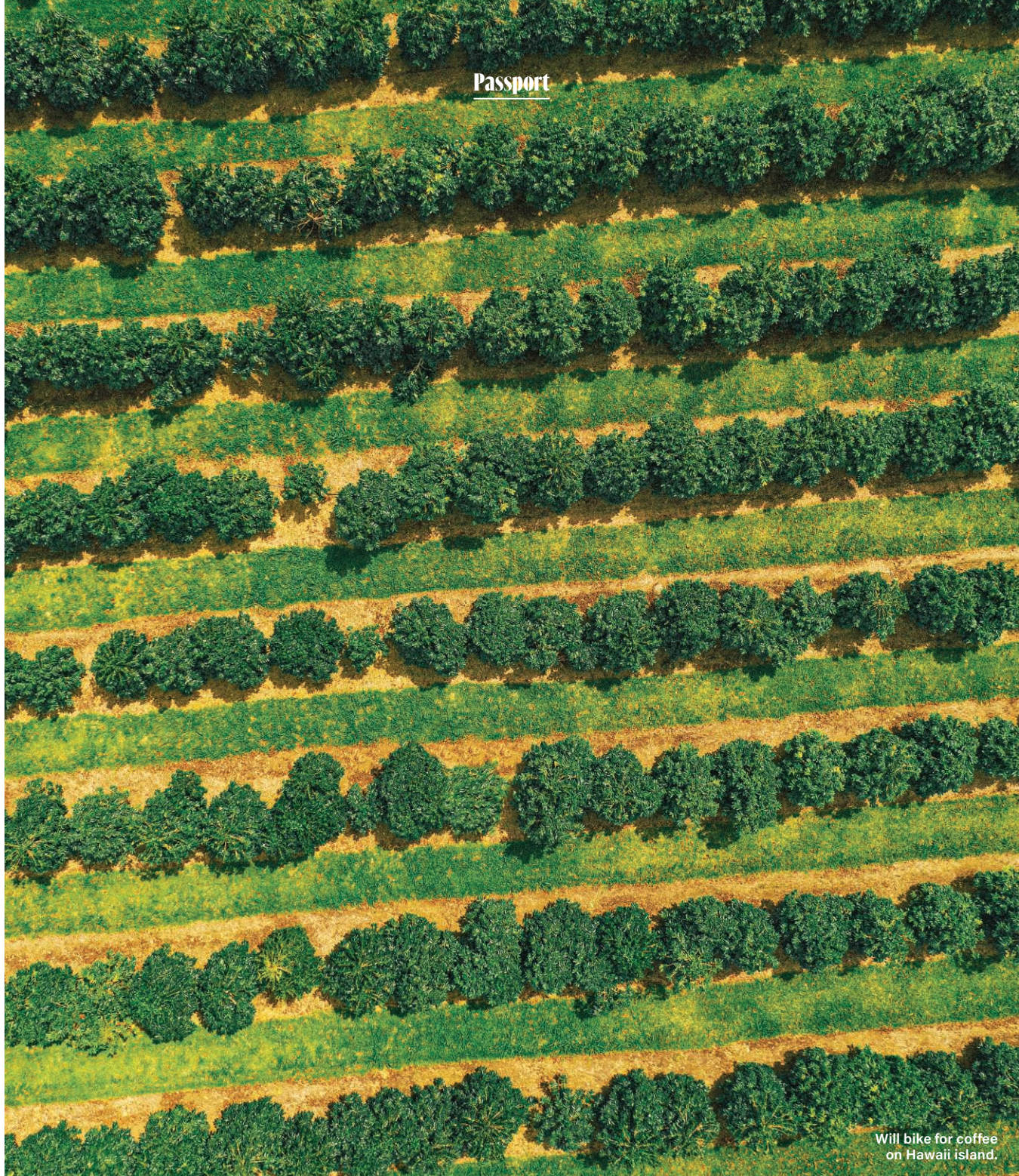
## A Moving Tribute

Nearly half of all enslaved Africans who came to the U.S. entered the country at Gadsden's Wharf in Charleston. Today, the **International African American Museum** sits on the land of the city's former slave-trading port. More than 20 years in the making, the nearly 150,000-square-foot cultural center debuts this summer with an extensive genealogy center and exhibits that examine slavery, showcase equality and racial justice campaigns, and celebrate centuries of economic, creative, and social contributions by members of the African diaspora. The building stands on several 13-foot pillars above a reflecting pool that signifies the edge of the wharf.

— E.G.



GREG NOIRE



Passport

Will bike for coffee  
on Hawaii island.

## America, the Bikeable

Austin Adventures' new six-day bike tours take the slow approach to exploring some of the country's most photogenic landscapes. In Oregon, for example, cyclists pedal through old-growth forest on the celebrated Aufderheide Scenic Byway before summiting the 5,325-foot McKenzie Pass and circling Crater Lake – the nation's deepest lake – in its eponymous national park. In the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho's northern panhandle, saddle up to bag some of the best rail trails in the U.S., including the 15-mile Route of the Hiawatha and its 11 tunnels and nine soaring trestles. And on the island of Hawaii, travelers cycle to coffee plantations, ancient temples, black-sand beaches, and waterfalls, before parking their rides to snorkel with manta rays, hike through Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and stargaze atop Mauna Kea. *Departures: Multiple dates, July 2 through December 10; from \$3,299. – E.G.*



Shades of Longyearbyen.

## Into the Midnight Sun

For more than a century, **Hurtigruten's** sailings along the Norwegian coast have pulled double duty, immersing travelers in the country's fairy-tale fjord-lined villages and delivering cargo to some of the world's most isolated fishing communities. New this summer, a nine-night Bergen-to-Longyearbyen journey on the 500-passenger *Trollfjord* continues that legacy, while adding a slate of new culture-driven excursions on land. Port calls include the dramatic Lofoten Islands and the Atlantic-meets-Arctic outpost of North Cape, and activities range from e-biking along fjords near Tromsø to puffin-watching at a North Cape nature reserve and meeting a local storyteller on an arts walk through Træna. The cruise ends in the Arctic at Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost city, where travelers disembark for two nights to explore the Svalbard Archipelago, searching for polar bears, sampling Sámi cuisine, and trolling the waters on a hybrid-electric catamaran to spy whales, seals, and walrus. *Departures: Multiple dates, July 1 through September 9; from \$3,281. – E.G.*

# CRYSTAL

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Rendering of new Junior Crystal Penthouse Suite Living Area



# CRYSTAL

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## A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

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Get closer to the unseen side of each destination with itineraries that cover almost every region of the globe. Our 7- to 18-night voyages travel throughout the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Canada and New England, Alaska, the Caribbean, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Our Grand Journeys range from 38-68 nights and have been designed by experts to ensure deep regional discovery. And for those who really want to experience the very best, our 2024 World Cruise offers an extraordinary journey, exploring 69 destinations in 29 countries over 125 nights.

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## Carry-On Companions

### TOM LAKE

BY ANN PATCHETT (*Harper*)

Patchett's latest novel exploring family, memory, and regret is set in a Michigan cherry orchard in 2020, where Lara and Joe Nelson's three daughters have gathered during the pandemic to help their parents and figure out their own lives. Before they begin, though, they want to know about their mother's history with the now-famous actor Peter Duke – which began with Lara's audition for a local production of *Our Town*. As Patchett weaves ideas about community, conformity, and the quintessentially American play with scenes of summer, agriculture, and

Hollywood, her characters reflect on love in all its phases.

### CROOK MANIFESTO

BY COLSON WHITEHEAD (*Doubleday*)

Ray Carney, the irrepressible protagonist of Whitehead's 2021 novel, *Harlem Shuffle*, is back and still in Harlem, a decade on from his 1960s hijinks. Carney remains entangled in various schemes and dreams, but still always with an eye toward his family, both nuclear and communal.

### THE SEA ELEPHANTS

BY SHASTRI AKELLA (*Flatiron Books*)

After Shagun flees his home in India to avoid the radical conversion therapy

his homophobic father demands, he joins a traveling Hindi theater troupe and finds purpose as an actor. When he falls for Marc, a photographer, he must decide if he'll defy his family.

### FAMILY LORE

BY ELIZABETH ACEVEDO (*Ecco*)

Acclaimed young-adult writer Acevedo (*Clap When You Land*) opens her first novel for adults a few days before a Dominican American "living wake" that family matriarch Flor Marte has planned for herself. But because Flor has the gift of predicting when others will die, her sisters wonder if she knows something they don't. – *Bethanne Patrick*



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Wave hunting in Trancoso.

## Break Time

Learn to ride on crowd-free waves at these oceanfront resorts.

- **Hotel del Coronado**, San Diego's 902-room grande dame, enjoys consistent south swells at its private beach, thanks to nearby Point Loma. During morning surf lessons, novices get their feet under them, and instructors film GoPro footage for trainees' future biopics. Post-lesson refuels come in the form of spicy shrimp tacos and a glass of Coronado Brewing Co.'s finest local witbier at The Del's famed beachside shack. *Doubles from \$793, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*

- At **Susurros del Corazón**, a 59-room newcomer to Mexico's Punta de Mita, surf safaris begin with board selections and a dose of reef-friendly sunscreen. On the water, speedboats zip surfers between La Lancha's beach break and reef breaks at Punta Burros and El Faro, seeking ideal conditions and uncrowded runs. Beginners start on gentle swells at the hotel's private beach, and a local CBD salve awaits aching muscles back inside airy guest rooms. *Doubles from \$899, including a \$35 daily breakfast credit and a \$100 resort credit.*

- Travelers who venture down the unpaved roads leading to the art enclave of Trancoso in Brazil's Bahia are rewarded with wild beaches and powerful waves. The 40-bungalow **Hotel Fasano Trancoso** partners with local surfing legend Romualdo to offer lessons at the popular Praia dos Nativos, frequented by Trancosans, and the often-deserted Praia de Patimir, each a short drive from the hotel. *Doubles from \$786, including breakfast daily and one 50-minute massage for two.*

- Although Instagram videos of horses galloping beside its turquoise waters frequently go viral, the real distinguishing feature of 27-villa Indonesian island resort **Nihi Sumba** is the reef break known as God's Left (or Occy's Left), which experienced surfers love for its nearly 1,000 feet of glassy walls and barrels. After a session, unwind in a private ocean-view plunge pool while native green pigeons sing from the island's palm trees. *Doubles from \$1,600, including all meals and nonalcoholic beverages and a \$100 resort credit.* – Emma Franke

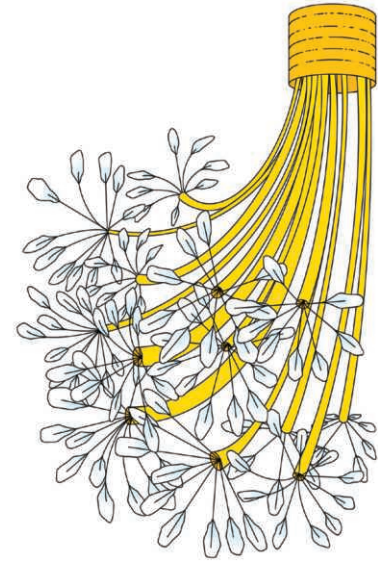


## **Cosmic Cool**

Encircled by a protected mangrove reserve along Mexico's Caribbean coast, **The St. Regis Kanai Resort, Riviera Maya** occupies a series of ring-shaped buildings, connected by elevated pathways leading to 12 bars and restaurants, seven pools, and a private stretch of white-sand beach. The new hotel's otherworldly architecture pays homage to the region's Indigenous history with a layout that channels the Mayan calendar and the star cluster Pleiades. In 124 sea-view rooms (including suites outfitted with private plunge pools and terraces), textile patterns reference ceremonial garments worn by the Maya. In the spa, therapists dispense traditional herbal cures in the form of scrubs and masks, obsidian hot-stone massages with scents coded to the phases of the moon, and botanical-filled, open-air baths. Come nightfall, bartenders serve up astronomy-inspired cocktails under the stars at the rooftop bar. *Doubles from \$899, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit. – E.G.*

# Trailblazers

These first-of-their-kind ships take to the water brimming with innovation.



## LIT FROM WITHIN

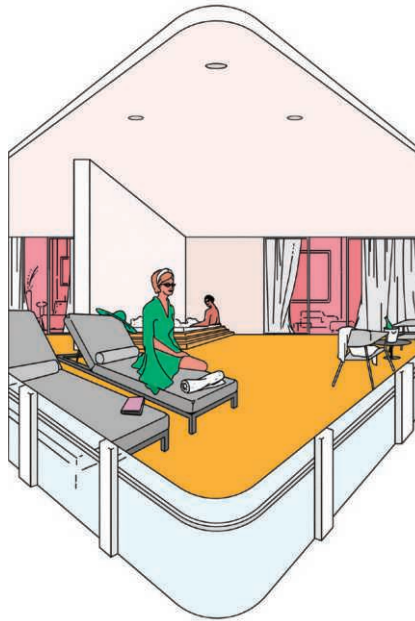
The first new vessel from **Oceania Cruises** in 11 years, *Vista* arrived in May trimmed in ivory and gold accents. An elegant atrium engages the ship's 1,200 passengers right as they board, with a crystal column suggesting schooling fish in a vortex of water that swirls with the central staircase. Artistic touches in the Grand Dining Room range from intricate, Czech-designed chandeliers resembling lacy hydrangeas to handpainted wall coverings anchoring seating clusters splashed with dappled light, as though placed beneath a willow tree. This fall, the all-balcony *Vista* will embark on a 15-night leaf-peeping cruise from Montréal to Miami, with well-timed stops at peak color locations. *Departure: September 29; from \$5,299.*

## Cruising



### MEGA-FUN

Never one to shy away from superlatives, **Royal Caribbean International** debuts its largest ship yet in January 2024: the 7,600-passenger *Icon of the Seas*, a vessel six percent larger than any cruise ship currently sailing. With an eye toward adventurous families, *Icon* premieres Thrill Island, a water park featuring six waterslides, including Frightening Bolt, with a 46-foot drop – making it the tallest drop-slide at sea. And, among 28 different cabin categories, you'll find the Ultimate Family Townhouse, a three-level suite that sleeps eight. In the aft location where the AquaTheater entertains travelers on the line's popular Oasis-class ships, the first suspended infinity pool at sea makes its home perched 135 feet above the waves. Up on the bow, high-dive shows will be held in the glass-enclosed AquaDome. The *Icon* sails seven-night eastern or western Caribbean itineraries out of Miami. *Departures: Multiple dates, January 24, 2024, through April 26, 2025; from \$1,724.*



### ROOM WITH A WIDE-ANGLE VIEW

Cruise-ship architecture is typically an exercise in symmetry – fore and aft, port to starboard, the layout can be one big mirror image. **Silversea's** 728-passenger *Silver Nova* will launch in August with an asymmetrical layout challenging conventional orthodoxy, including a starboard-facing pool on the top deck, which creates both a more generous pool deck and a swimming oasis. A few of the expansive new aft suites will have curved balconies delivering 270-degree views from sea to sky. Plus, thanks to a design that integrates the superstructure inside the ship, every suite has larger windows. The reimagining allows for enhancements to the venues that Silversea regulars already know, such as the popular S.A.L.T. hands-on cooking lab, kitchen, and bar – features to savor this winter on a six-night sailing through the southern Caribbean between Barbados and Cartagena, Colombia. *Departure: December 4; from \$4,150.*



### TOP-TIER STYLE

This summer, **Explora Journeys** will introduce the 922-passenger *Explora I*, the first ship in its new upscale fleet. Architecture conceived by British yacht designer Martin Francis and pieces from Italian furniture makers Molteni&C and Manutti lend the vessel modern, mega-yacht style. A retractable glass roof over the top-deck pool allows for all-weather swims, and onboard residences come equipped with private outdoor whirlpools. Shopping sprees at The Journey, *Explora I's* boutique, yield treasures from more than 30 artisanal brands – including prêt-à-porter fashions, Borsalino hats, and ethically sourced scarves and more from Pink Maharani. True to its name, *Explora I's* inaugural season will include visits to 138 ports in more than 40 countries. Dive into Québec and the Canadian Maritimes on a ten-night voyage from Québec City to Manhattan. *Departure: October 3; from \$6,350. – David Swanson*



 Centre-Ville, Montréal

# THREE CANADIAN CITIES, INFINITE CULTURAL JOURNEYS

Exploring Canada's biggest cities through their arts and culture scenes is a surprisingly intimate experience—one that offers a lasting connection to the different neighborhoods, people and perspectives that make the country unique.



When people seek to experience the openness of Canada, it's no surprise they generally look to its natural spaces first—exploring the country's vast wilderness and sweeping landscapes definitely delivers. But when you consider what inspires us to travel, "openness" can mean so much more. Many urban centers situated on the edge of nature, such as Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver, are bubbling over with lively arts and culinary scenes, world-renowned museums, vibrant neighborhoods, quirky shops and annual events that celebrate different perspectives and reflect the country's diverse cultural fabric.

### 📍 SCENE STEALERS: TORONTO'S FAMOUS FILMFESTS

Toronto's film festivals are famous for shining the spotlight on diverse stories and storytellers from around the globe. Check run dates and programs for the Hot Docs Festival, the Toronto Black Film Festival, the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival, the Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival, the imagineNATIVE Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival, and see what you can catch on the big screen.



High Park, Toronto



Flatiron Building, Toronto

## Toronto: A Dynamic and Diverse Downtown

Canada's largest metropolitan city (fourth largest in North America) is home to 158 distinct neighborhoods and 170 different languages, and is one of the most multicultural cities in the world.

It's easy to see why. Those who live to explore a city's downtown core on foot can shop the sprawling stalls of Chinatown, or take a walk through the heart of bohemian Kensington Market and browse vintage shops and indie art spaces. Foodies will love eating their way through St. Lawrence Market, a culinary hub that's connected local farmers and specialty food vendors since 1803.

Nearby is the Art Gallery of Ontario, an architectural wonder designed by Frank Gehry that houses an extensive contemporary art collection. The gallery also features work by celebrated Indigenous artists such as Métis artist, Christi Belcourt, and self-taught Ojibwe contemporary icon, Norval Morrisseau.

A day strolling through Midtown could include a stop at the Royal Ontario Museum to explore the connection between humans and the natural world, followed by a stop at the Bata Shoe Museum to explore a much different connection—one between humans and 4,500 years of footwear. Then, shop the high-end stores and galleries of Yorkville, before heading east to wander the family-owned shops of Greektown. End the day

with a dinner to remember at Sushi Masaki Saito, Canada's newly crowned two-star Michelin restaurant.

Or, plan an east-to-west culture crawl that starts in the historic Distillery District, an old industrial neighborhood beautifully restored and transformed into a premier arts and dining destination. Spend the day browsing its one-of-a-kind collection of shops, contemporary art galleries and restaurants, before heading across town to catch an outdoor show at the amphitheater in gorgeous High Park.

If this sounds like a lot of ground to cover, consider booking the Toronto Experience through Goway Travel, which includes a hop-on hop-off tour that visits many of the city's major sites, while still leaving plenty of time to experience Toronto's unique neighborhoods, and the people who make them special.

## Montréal: Arts and the Art of Living

For a country as sprawling as Canada, it can be surprisingly easy to experience the distinct cultural journeys offered by its different cities in a relatively short amount of time. The 10-day Canada's Capital Cities plus Niagara Falls Tour, hosted by Tauck, makes the most of the proximity of four major urban centers: Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal and Québec City.

Montréal is a true cultural jewel, with a thriving arts and festival scene that rivals other culture capitals of the world. Visit the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts for a unique perspective on Québécois and Canadian heritage, and follow this with a walk through the city's annual MURAL festival, an open-air international street art festival that celebrates the democratization of urban art. Music lovers flock to both its International Jazz Festival and Osheaga Music and Arts Festival. And there's never a dull moment at Parc des Amériques during the two-week St-Ambroise Montréal Fringe Festival—a cultural block party of sorts, where hundreds of dance, theater, music,

comedy and even circus performances by local and international artists come to life.

Summer also provides a chance to connect with the Indigenous cultures of the region's First Nations through the Montréal First Peoples' Festival, a 10-day celebration of Indigenous traditions and imagination told through poetry, dancing, music and film. And be sure to check out the eye-opening AURA at the Notre-Dame Basilica, a moving installation by the world-renowned immersive studio, Moment Factory, that invites you to consider the connection between technology, art and culture in a whole new way.

MURAL Festival 2022, Montréal



## SCENE STEALERS: MONTRÉAL'S CULINARY STARS

### Promenade Wellington *Rue Wellington*

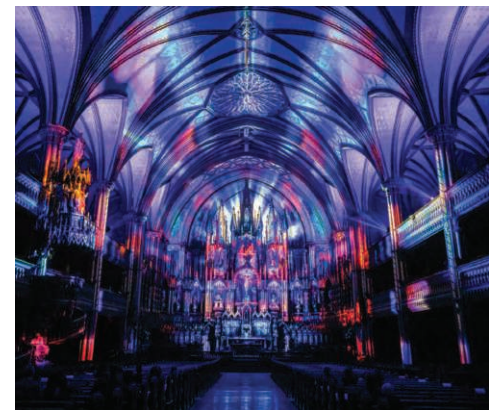
This 0.8 mile strip at the heart of Montréal's Verdun neighborhood is pedestrian-only in the summer months and home to countless eateries—and one secret beach. *Time Out* magazine recently ranked it the Coolest Street in the World for its unique blend of food, fun, culture and community.

### St-Viateur Bagel Shop *Rue Saint-Viateur*

The original St-Viateur shop, an institution since 1957, is the perfect place to enjoy a famous wood-fired Montréal bagel from the city's longest-operating bagel shop.

### Cabaret l'Enfer *Rue Saint-Denis*

Montréal-born, Noma-trained chef Massimo Piedimonte's new restaurant combines his passion for the Slow Food movement with local terroir, for wonderful results.



Moment Factory: AURA Experience, Montréal



## Vancouver: Coastal Connections

Vancouver is one of those truly special places that illuminates the intimate connections between nature, communities, culture and ourselves—which also makes it the perfect destination to explore while reconnecting with someone special.

Entrée Destinations' Suites of Vancouver Tour offers ways for couples to spoil themselves before setting out to enjoy everything the city has to offer. The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver is a luxurious, and luxuriously convenient home base. It's a central hub to the restaurants, theaters and art studios of Granville Island, the historic buildings and cobblestone streets of Gastown and the Stanley Park Seawall, a walking and cycling path that stretches 18 miles along the city's waterfront.

Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver



CANADA  
USA



Stanley Park Seawall, Vancouver

The day-long Northwest Coast Art Exploration Tour, also offered by Entrée Destinations, provides an opportunity to connect with the seven First Nations of the city's Lower Mainland. You'll learn about their history and traditions from a local anthropologist and member of the Xets'emits'a Band, while visiting museums, galleries and parks across the city.

The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art is one of those truly intimate experiences. It may be small, but it hosts an impressive collection of wood carvings, jewelry, sculptures and graphic art that celebrates the diverse Indigenous cultures of the region. It's the only public gallery in Canada dedicated to contemporary Northwest Coast Art—one that opens your eyes to the true uniqueness of the region.

### 📍 SCENE STEALERS: NATURE'S STORY

The Talaysay Talking Trees Tour of Stanley Park will leave you with a deep understanding of how everything is connected. Learn from a local Indigenous guide and storyteller about the connection between Coast Salish and Squamish Peoples and the land, and how we can learn to live in harmony with our environment.





## Setting Sail with Diane von Furstenberg

The well-traveled queen of the wrap dress on boat life and Brussels.

INTERVIEW BY SALLIE LEWIS

**D**IANE VON FURSTENBERG'S LIFE STORY is as bold and colorful as her New York City-based fashion line. The designer, who's celebrating the 50th anniversary of her iconic wrap dress next year, is also a devoted philanthropist, an activist, and an avid traveler. "I'm the world's lightest packer and always ready to go," she says, crediting her signature silk-printed clothing and lightweight knits. "My best design ideas

# “Traveling is everything. You learn, you learn, you learn.”

come when I pack my suitcase. I've traveled the entire world – I think the only place I've missed is Mongolia.” Bhutan remains one of her all-time favorite destinations. And, she says, nothing beats dining in Japan or the old-world luxury of hotels such as Claridge's in London and The Peninsula Shanghai. These days, she relishes the time she shares with her husband, Barry Diller, along with family and friends, aboard their sailing yacht. She swims in the sea every morning for two hours, before lacing up her hiking boots for an afternoon of exploration. “Boat life is true happiness – it's a floating home.” Year after year, the Mediterranean lures her back for sun-soaked days spent swimming, hiking, exploring, and learning. “Whether it's Italy, Turkey, or Greece,” she says, “the Mediterranean is a gem. You can never go wrong.”

## DIANE VON FURSTENBERG'S BRUSSELS

I was born in Brussels after the war. As a little girl, I'd go every weekend with my family to the **Atomium**, a landmark building created in 1958 for the World's Fair. The neighborhood where I lived was farther south, near the **Bois de la Cambre** park and the **Forêt de Soignes**, or Sonian Forest. I used to go with my best friend and walk the dogs in this forest. As adults, we both became princesses – she, the Princess of Hanover, and I, the Princess von Furstenberg – so that's fun.

My old school, the Lycée Dachsbeck, is in the city's Sablon neighborhood. There are many good restaurants there, such as **Au Vieux Saint Martin**, an old, very famous restaurant known for its filet américain. **Senza-nome** has the best Italian food. Belgian food in general is wonderful. Chocolate is big here, as are waffles and french fries (the best *frites* are made at Au Vieux Saint Martin).



The Grand-Place, Brussels.

Lace is another Belgian treasure. The **Grand-Place** is the most beautiful place in Brussels, and the **Fashion & Lace Museum** is located nearby. My show, *Woman Before Fashion*, is on display there through January 2024. It was very emotional when we went for the opening, and I realized how proud I am to be Belgian. Other favorites

include the **Musée Magritte** and the **Musée Oldmasters**, with all its beautiful Flemish paintings. Recently, I stayed at the **Hotel Amigo**, which is my favorite hotel in the city. The site that it's on was a prison a long, long time ago. Close by is the **Manneken-Pis**, which is this famous little statue that every head of state visits. 📍

# Style and Substance

Sydney is much more than just a pretty face.

BY ALEXANDRA CARLTON PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETRINA TINSLAY

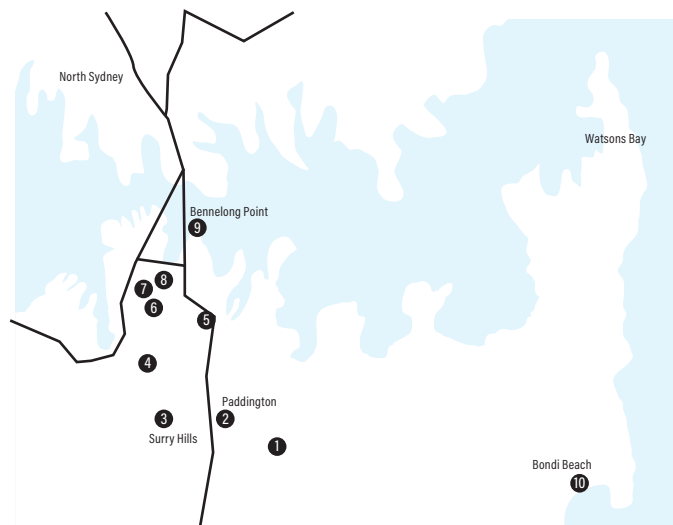




Favorite meals and photo ops at Long Chim and the Sydney Opera House. Opposite: A Maravilla (zero-proof Seedlip Grove 42, marigold, and lemon) at Gildas.

**GO FOR** Sydney knows it looks good on a postcard – that sparkling harbor, the endless beaches, the soaring Sydney Harbour Bridge. But travelers who look beneath its surface beauty will find it bristling with creativity, now more than ever, thanks to a rush of new arts projects injecting fresh life into the city center. Last December, the Art Gallery of New South Wales revealed its **Sydney Modern Project**, home to a collection of more than 900 works from around the world and the city’s most significant new public arts space since the Sydney Opera House. The tech-and-culture crowd will turn up in October for **SXSW Sydney**, the festival’s first installment outside the U.S., and at the stylish new **Capella Sydney**, “culturists” connect guests with Indigenous-led arts tours and experiences.

**EAT** Inside a restored 1930s glazed terracotta building, **Shell House’s** four venues take diners on a Sydney culinary tour. Start at the ground-floor Menzies Bar & Bistro before heading to the ninth-floor Dining Room & Terrace for modern Australian dishes such as grilled southern rock lobster or Tasmanian lamb with a sunflower,



1. Dinosaur Designs
2. Utopia Goods
3. Gildas
4. Kimpton Margot Sydney
5. Sydney Modern Project
6. Long Chim
7. Shell House
8. Capella Sydney
9. Bennelong
10. Promenade



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## City Guide



Dinosaur Designs.

smoked tomato, and basil dressing. Finish with a whiskey in the timber-clad Clocktower Bar or a spicy Sicilian margarita at the rooftop Sky Bar.

Thai food is so beloved by Sydneysiders, it's practically the city's official cuisine. Find some of its most creative expressions at **Long Chim**, which serves generous plates starring fresh Australian produce – the salad of spicy barramundi and green mango showcases everything that's great about the marriage of these two food-loving cultures.

No trip to Sydney is complete without a visit to Bondi Beach. Go where the locals go: **Promenade**, a breezy oceanfront restaurant that exudes laid-back, 1970s Bondi culture, with a sharp, seafood-centric menu that's entirely of the moment.

**DRINK** Chef Lennox Hastie's Firedoor is one of the city's hardest-to-book restaurants, but its Spanish-style sibling, **Gildas**, is walk-in friendly. Stop by for a Matilda – a spin on the classic Gilda *pintxo* made with seared red kangaroo instead of anchovies – and a glass of fino sherry.

There's nothing more "Sydney" than having a drink inside the Opera House. Elegant **Bennelong** – underneath the famous white sails – delivers special-occasion dining with superlative harbor views, but guests can grab a spot at the bar for Champagne and oysters, an ideal pre-performance snack.

**SHOP** The team at **Utopia Goods** in the upscale, arts-packed Paddington neighborhood prints the country's colorful botanicals onto textiles, furnishings, and housewares. Pop in to browse tablecloths and cushion covers decorated with the bright-red waratahs or golden wattles of the Australian bush.

Also in Paddington, **Dinosaur Designs** has been making resin housewares and jewelry since the 1980s. Its sculptural bowls, bangle bracelets, and other pieces evoke the Australian desert, oceans, and rain forests.

**STAY** The 192-room **Capella Sydney's** entryway and lounge feel more like a forest than a hotel, with a green wall and flower lanterns with petals that gently open and close, examples of some of the hotel's more than 1,400 artworks. Rooms have king-size beds, stand-alone tubs, and distinctive art and curios, while cultural highlights such as the Sydney Opera House are short walks away. *Doubles from \$566, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

The energetic **Kimpton Margot Sydney** blends contemporary Australian style, heritage modern architecture, and a dash of European art deco and Bauhaus flair across its 172 rooms. Art catches the eye everywhere here too, including the lobby's marquee sculpture, created by Sydney artist Tony Twigg. *Doubles from \$226, including breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.* 📍



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Dining



# EXIT THROUGH THE RESTAURANT

MUSEUM-HOPPING FOR OUR NEXT GREAT MEAL.

BY ELAINE GLUSAC

48 July August 2023



**G**REAT ART inspires us. It uplifts and transports us, and, after a couple of hours in its presence, it makes us hungry. Yes, hungry for more art, but also for our next meal. Luckily, top-notch art institutions are often also exceptional places to eat, applying the same level of taste and aesthetic standards to their restaurants as they do to their collections. Here's where to soak up culture and maybe a Michelin-starred meal too.

#### **AMSTERDAM**

After a morning in the **Rijksmuseum** considering the chiaroscuro of Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*, the domestic reverie of Vermeer's *The Milkmaid*, or the debauchery of Jan Steen's *The Merry Family*, lunch rises to the occasion at **Rijks**. Floor-to-ceiling windows welcome the famous Dutch light into the gray-walled room, a neutral gallery of sorts for executive chef Joris Bijden-dijk's refined Low Country cuisine. Just as the museum focuses on the history and traditions of the Netherlands, so the restaurant trains its attention on regional ingredients in ever-changing dishes, such as langoustine tartare or Dutch razor clams with potato terrine.

The Modern's dining room and Gariguetta strawberries with elderflower and meringue.

## Dining

### **BILBAO**

In the museum that forever changed art patrons' expectations of architecture, diners enter **Nerua**, the Michelin-starred restaurant at the **Guggenheim Museum Bilbao**, through the kitchen, erasing the boundaries between back and front of house. The canted walls and curving flourishes that distinguish the Frank Gehry-designed building continue within the white-tablecloth dining room. Here, chef Josean Alija plays with Basque fare to elicit contrasting textures and temperatures. In winter, that might mean artichokes candied with almond broth; in spring, sea bass with rhubarb and spinach jus; or in summer, grilled anchovies battered with salvia and roe cream. Like the museum itself, the meal is a landmark event.

### **MILAN**

Step into **Fondazione Prada's** ground-floor **Bar Luce** and you might expect to see a pensive F. Murray Abraham (as *The Grand Budapest Hotel's* Mr. Moustafa) nursing an espresso. Filled with retro flourishes, the space brings a Wes Anderson set to life. The filmmaker – who once aspired to be an architect – designed the all-day café as the kind of place where he imagined being a five-days-a-week regular, with a cotton-candy palette on Formica tables, trompe l'oeil painted columns, and vintage spritzer bottles. Listen to music drifting from the jukebox over panini and pastries or sweet treats from the candy and gelato counter. Anderson has described the café as a place to dine, mingle, and read – and “an even better place to write a movie.”

### **NEW YORK CITY**

Come for Monet's *Water Lilies*, stay for **The Modern**, restaurateur Danny Meyer's people-pleasing two-Michelin-starred establishment in the **Museum of Modern Art**. In sync with the seasons, chef Thomas Allan serves multicourse menus overlooking works by Pablo Picasso and Henry Moore in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture

Garden for a tranquil time-out from the Midtown bustle. But there's also an à la carte menu – studded with upscale comforts such as tarte flambée and ricotta gnudi – and bar seating for exhibit-inspired cocktails, including a martini with mineral and smoke notes that nod to Georgia O'Keeffe's New Mexico. Warm service and a 2,800-bottle global wine list fortify a wide spectrum of museumgoers.

### **PARIS**

Design is the complimentary amuse-bouche at the **Fondation Louis Vuitton's Le Frank**, named after Frank Gehry, the museum's architect. In the airy glass atrium housing the restaurant, Gehry's signature *Fish Lamp*, a suspended school of oversize white fish swimming above diners, changes from opaque by day to glowing at night. Likewise, Jean-Louis Nomicos' modern French menus morph throughout the day from prix fixe lunches to late-afternoon charcuterie plates and cakes, Champagne and canapés in the early evening, and à la carte dinners.

### **SINGAPORE**

Housed in the former City Hall and Supreme Court buildings, the **National Gallery Singapore** makes the case for the city-state as Southeast Asia's art capital. Similarly, its three-Michelin-starred restaurant **Odette**, helmed by French chef and co-owner Julien Royer, maintains a culinary conversation with the world. Royer feeds diners globally sourced treasures, including cheeses from Bernard Antony in Alsace, Provençal asparagus, and fish and seafood from Japan's Hokkaido prefecture. Such star ingredients pepper the restaurant's four-, six-, and eight-course menus, interludes underscored by Odette's dreamy pastel interiors. ♡

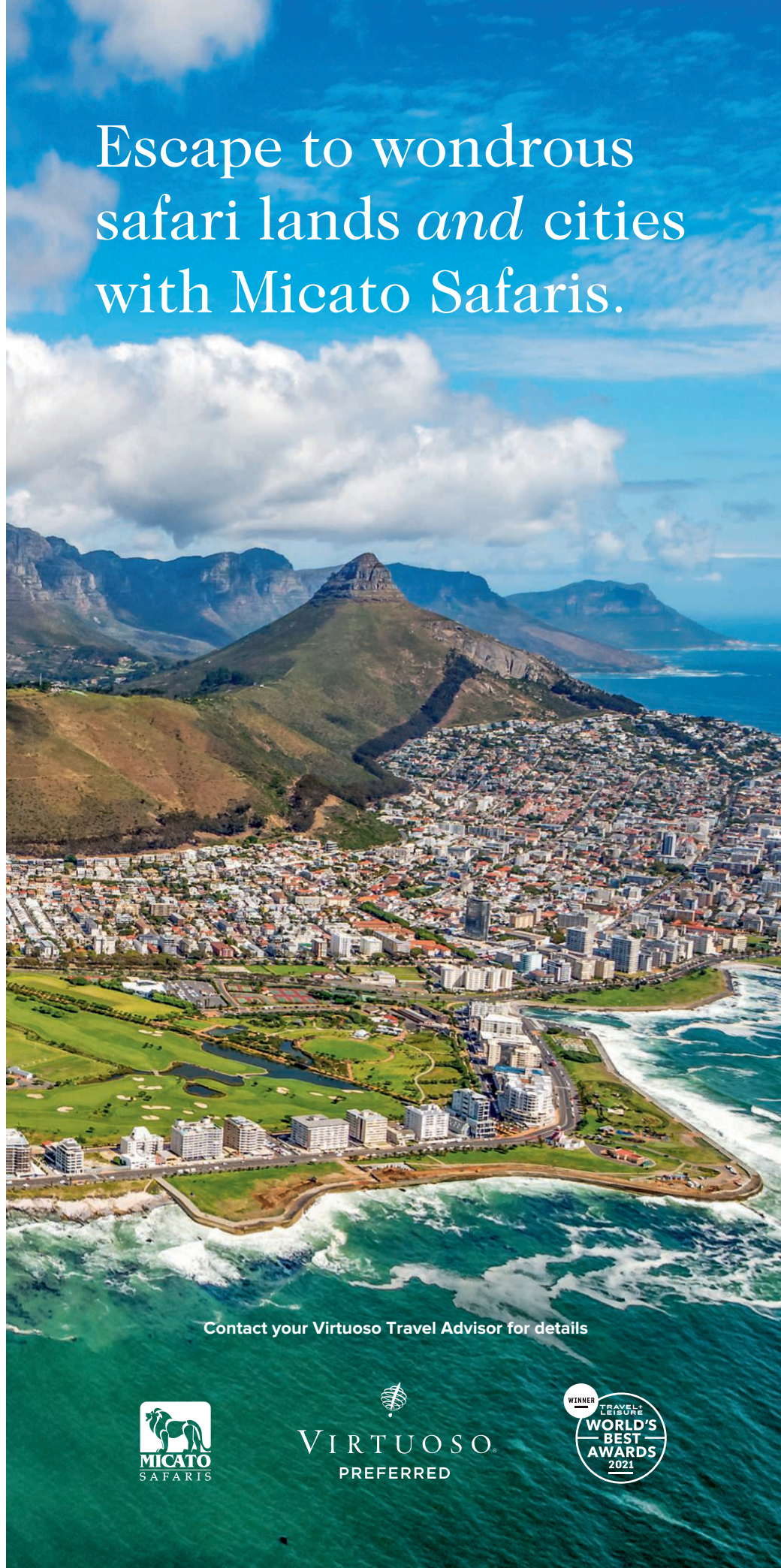




Langoustine at Odette and Bar Luce's scene.



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# VIRTUOSO BEST OF THE BEST

This extraordinary collection of Virtuoso Preferred Hotels & Resorts offers once-in-a-lifetime experiences and exclusive amenities you'll only receive through your Virtuoso travel advisor.

## CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

### Park Hyatt Chicago



Take in panoramas of glittering Lake Michigan at this pet-friendly urban retreat near the famous Michigan Avenue.

Savor refined culinary experiences and artisanal cocktails in three venues, and admire decor that embraces elements of the city. Swim a few laps in the pool and enjoy renewing spa treatments. Stay two nights or more by November 26, 2023, and receive an additional \$150 hotel credit.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 hotel credit per stay.

## PHANG NGA, THAILAND

### Anantara Koh Yao Yai Resort & Villas



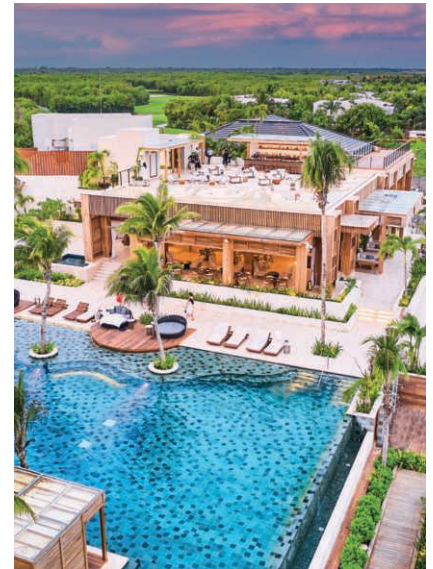
Immerse yourself in a world of unparalleled indulgence on a lush island in the middle of Phang Nga Bay.

Embark on a journey of sensory delight by surrendering to blissful spa therapies and savoring a captivating fusion of international and Thai flavors at several delectable restaurants. Save 20 percent for five-night stays or 25 percent for ten nights until December 31, 2023.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** 60-minute massage for two per stay.

## PLAYA DEL CARMEN, MEXICO

### Fairmont Heritage Place Mayakoba



This all-villa resort offers private plunge pools, sea-to-table cuisine, 24-hour concierge service, and more.

Enhance your well-being with the Cha Chac Rain Ritual in the spa and soak up unmatched views while golfing on the Greg Norman-designed course that winds through three distinct ecosystems. Enjoy a complimentary fifth night when you stay five nights by December 20, 2023.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$150 hotel credit per stay.

# GO LONG AND FAR

Travel the world on one of Silversea Cruises' new Grand Voyages.

**S**ERIOUS CRUISERS ALWAYS wish they had more time at sea, and Silversea Cruises is acting on that impulse with its new Grand Voyages, roughly ten-week itineraries that delve deep into specific regions of the world. Longer journeys allow for an extended time in thriving ports, and hopping from destination to destination on board one of Silversea's ships – complete with butler service, multiple fine-dining options, and elevated entertainment – makes the sailing even smoother.

## From Canal to Carnaval

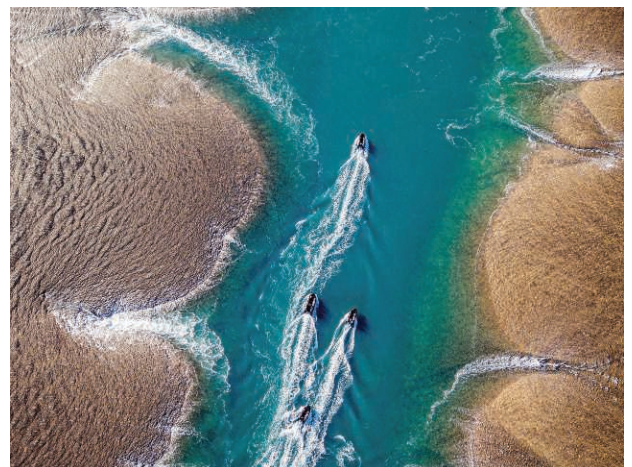
The 728-passenger *Silver Nova* is set to circumnavigate South America on a 71-night voyage round-trip from Fort Lauderdale. The continent-spanning deep dive ventures from the tropics to the sub-Antarctic and back again: The ship transits the Panama Canal, then skims the Pacific coast, calling at archaeology sites in Lima, the volcanoes of Chile's lake country, and **Patagonia's glaciers** before swinging north. With precision timing, the *Silver Nova* visits Rio de Janeiro during Carnaval, arguably the world's largest festival, for a three-night spree. Wind down on the Amazon River during a multiday jungle safari before trailing up the Caribbean and toward Florida. (In January 2025, Silversea's new 728-passenger *Silver Ray* will chart a similar course.) *Departure: January 4, 2024.*

## Call of the Wild

From South Africa's Port Elizabeth to the Aussie Outback port of Darwin, the 254-passenger *Silver Cloud* sails for 66 nights on an **expedition-centric voyage** across the Indian Ocean. Via 45 ports in 12 countries, cruisers witness remote natural wonders – from the Seychelles' pristine beaches to Maldives atolls and the canyons and waterfalls of Australia's rugged Kimberley region. Excursions include safaris in Sri Lanka, home to the highest density of leopards on earth; snorkeling off India's coral-rich Lakshadweep Islands; and coming face-to-face with Komodo dragons in Indonesia. *Departure: April 4, 2024.*

## Remote Pursuits

On a 75-night, Perth-to-Valparaíso, Chile, voyage, the *Silver Cloud* charts a pearl-collecting path that takes explorers to Fiji's teeming reefs, the *motu* (islets) and **lagoons of Bora Bora**, and lesser-known idylls in the Solomon, Cook, and Marquesas island chains. Travelers spend six days in Australia getting to know Aboriginal artists and musicians, and another six in Papua New Guinea experiencing Trobriand Islander dances, volcano hikes, and yellow-bellied-sunbird sightings. A legendary finale includes chasing legends on Pitcairn Island, the refuge of the original HMS *Bounty* crew, and reveling in history on Easter Island, home to mysterious and monumental *moai* sculptures. *Departure: August 25, 2024.*



Grand Voyage highlights, from top: Wild moments in Chile, a South African safari, and a Zodiac cruise off Australia's Kimberley coast.

# DESTINATION DESERT

Plan for a getaway in Scottsdale this fall.

**B**LUE SKIES, pleasantly warm weather, and saguaro-dotted surroundings – Scottsdale, Arizona, really finds its stride in the fall, welcoming travelers who want to sip, swing, or spa their way into a new season. With six Virtuoso hotels located in and around Old Town Scottsdale – the city’s walkable heart – it’s easy to settle in and start exploring.

## Visual Wonders

Scottsdale’s collection of arts and culture spaces – including more than 150 galleries and public art installations, the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, and Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West – showcase the works of emerging and established talent, cementing the city as an arts hub for collectors and casual appreciators. Travelers should also plan to visit the Native Art Market, a shop featuring 300 **Indigenous makers** from Arizona’s 22 tribes; Cattle Track, an

artists’ colony created in the 1930s to support local creatives; and Taliesin West, the former home of architect Frank Lloyd Wright and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Given that Scottsdale is known for its walkability, the best way to explore the city’s art corners is during the weekly Thursday evening ArtWalk – the oldest continuously operating one of its kind in the country.

## Prized Plates

From sophisticated Southwestern and Mexican-inflected New American cuisine to farm-to-table dishes and fine dining, Scottsdale’s culinary scene satisfies any traveler’s palate. A crop of ingenious chefs gives the city its distinct gastronomical identity: Take Charleen Badman of FnB, for example, whose creative use of **Sonoran ingredients** – think asparagus spiced with chiltepin peppers – earned her a James Beard Award for Best Chef: Southwest. At





The Mission, chef-owner Matt Carter's blend of Latin, Mexican, and Arizona flavors results in hearty entrees, including mesquite-smoked pork dusted with rosemary and pepita-laced guacamole prepared tableside. And at TheAmericano, Scott Conant serves traditional Italian dishes with decadent surprises, such as a side of caviar fries.

### Seeing Greens

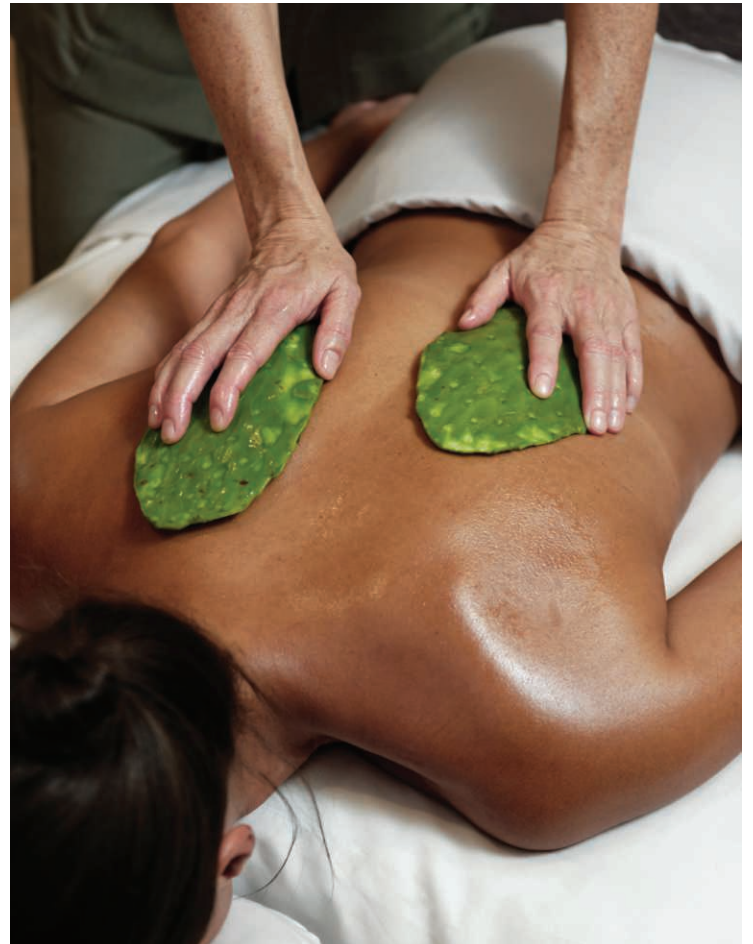
Scottsdale's **50-plus golf courses** attract golfers looking to tee off on stunning desert terrain – and with cool mornings that warm to sunny afternoons, fall is prime swing time. On the Talon Course at Grayhawk Golf Club, golfers hit the greens against a backdrop of mountains and city skyline, followed by a back-nine adventure through a mesquite-lined canyon. Every golfer's list includes Troon North's challenging Monument and Pinnacle courses, but the crown jewel might be TPC Scottsdale. The complex's Champions Course caters to golfers of all levels, and its Stadium Course earns acclaim as the home of the PGA's WM Phoenix Open.



### Desert Oases

Thanks to its portfolio of luxury resorts, Scottsdale has no shortage of spas. In a nod to the region's rich desert environs, therapists at the Palo Verde Spa at the Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Bungalows dip into native ingredients such as **prickly pear cactus** and locally grown citrus for their calming treatments. And wellness goes beyond spa walls – in addition to its body and facial treatments, the Spa at Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North offers a guided hike, interspersed with yoga. At the nearby 40-acre McDowell Sonoran Preserve, more than 200 miles of trails can be accessed at the Gateway or Brown's Ranch trailheads, including the easy 0.6-mile Jane Rau Trail or the 4.4-mile Gateway Loop Trail, ideal for savoring a classic Southwest sunset.

From far left: The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, an FnB spread, the Grayhawk Golf Club's Talon Course, and cacti-infused wellness at the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale.



# VIRTUOSO BEST OF THE BEST

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

## Waldorf Astoria Chicago



Newly renovated suites boast in-room fireplaces, bespoke furnishings, and stunning city views from private terraces.

This château-style escape is steps from the renowned Magnificent Mile. Take a refreshing dip in the pool, then try a Diamond Glow treatment in the spa. Sample the culinary talents of chef Nicholas Marino at Brass Tack or the expertly crafted drinks in Bernard's.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 hotel credit per stay.



SEDONA, ARIZONA

## Enchantment Resort



Connect with nature amidst acres of wilderness, among the red rocks, between groves of pinyon and ponderosa pines.

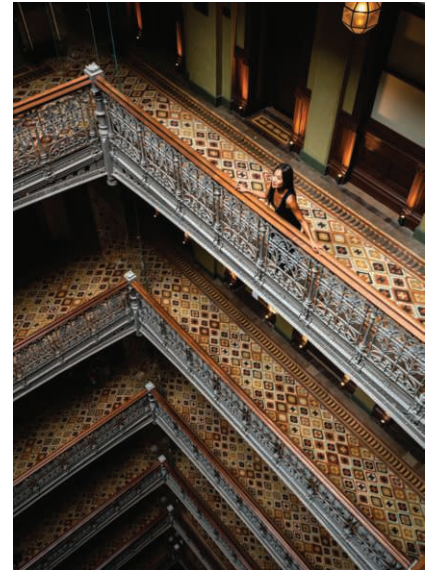
Seasonal, regionally inspired menus and innovative cocktails await at the three restaurants. Explore over 400 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails with an expert guide. Relax poolside surrounded by expansive views or with a treatment at the award-winning Mii amo spa.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 resort credit per stay.



NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

## The Beekman, a Thompson Hotel



Experience the perfect marriage of historic charm with modern comforts in the epicenter of Lower Manhattan.

This masterpiece reimaged is home to two renowned and celebrated restaurants by Tom Colicchio and Daniel Boulud. Guests are invited to tease their senses with decadent culinary creations and enjoy a complimentary third night for stays through September 30, 2023.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 food and beverage credit per stay.



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# TURN ON THE CHARM

It's always a beautiful day in these Montréal neighborhoods.

IN ALL ITS COBBLESTONED GLORY and European-infused elegance, Montréal can best be defined as a city of neighborhoods. Shaped by history and preserved by utility, this mosaic of urban villages transforms during fall when colorful foliage shrouds the city – including at Space for Life, Canada's largest natural sciences museum complex – and local oysters and squashes return in abundance to the Marché Jean-Talon. Each neighborhood – including the three favorites here – is well worth savoring.

## So Golden

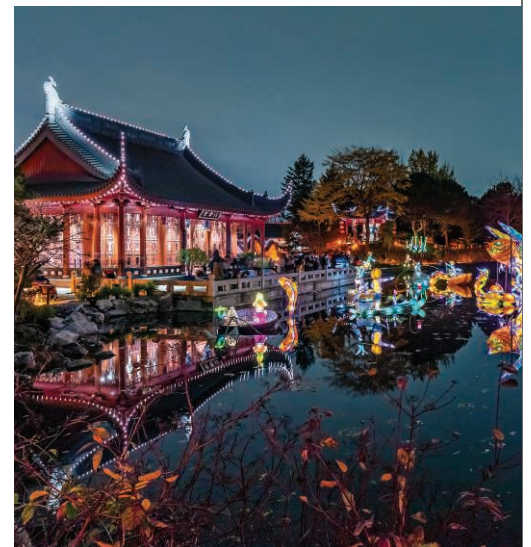
Victorian mansions and stately public buildings demonstrate the wealth of the **Golden Square Mile's** early inhabitants, bequeathing the modern neighborhood its artistic, architectural, and intellectual treasures. All four of Virtuoso's Montréal hotels sit within the quarter, as does Canada's oldest art museum, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts. Don't miss the McCord Stewart Museum, a 1.5-million-object collection that tells the stories of Montréal's people. A new permanent exhibit, guided by an Indigenous advisory committee, aims to decolonize the museum and better include the city's oldest communities.

## That's Amore

The culinary legacy of the Italian families who filled the tree-lined streets of Montréal's **Little Italy** neighborhood in the early twentieth century remains at places such as Café San Gennaro and Pizzeria Napoletana. Travelers will find the heart of the city's food culture at the massive open-air Marché Jean-Talon, home to local delicacies (the maple syrup pies from La Fournée des Sucreries de l'Érable are a must) and international favorites (including Syrian spreads from Les Filles Fattoush). The stalls teeming with fresh produce inspire home cooks and chefs from nearby standout restaurants, such as the feisty Marconi and natural wine bar Ratafia.

## The Gang's All Here

The Parc Olympique's sprawling Space for Life complex, home to four science museums, celebrates biodiversity and seeks to bring people even closer to nature. Come fall, the Laurentian Maple Forest – one of five immersive ecosystems inside the Biodôme – mimics the city's crisp colors and offers travelers a chance to see river otters, lynx, and other mammals native to the Americas. The 185-acre Montréal Botanical Garden's Chinese, Japanese, and First Nations displays are illuminated with millions of bulbs, silk lanterns, and light projections every September through October for the **Gardens of Light**. Kids love exploring the underground tunnels and crevasses at the newly renovated Insectarium.



Montréal magic, from left: The Marché Jean-Talon, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, and the illuminated Montréal Botanical Gardens.

# VIRTUOSO BEST OF THE BEST

SEVILLE, SPAIN

## Hotel Colón, a Gran Meliá Hotel



This domed neoclassical-style building is an integral part of the city's history, reflecting the culture and essence of Seville.

Prominent international figures have been drawn to the unparalleled contrast between modernity and tradition in this monument-classified hotel. Savor mouthwatering Andalusian cuisine, cool off in the terrace pool, and melt away stress in the Turkish baths.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** Lunch or dinner for two per stay.

HOTEL COLÓN  
— A GRAN MELIÁ HOTEL —  
SEVILLE

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

## Park Hyatt Saigon



Discover sophisticated design, handcrafted details, and modern-day comforts at this 245-room urban retreat.

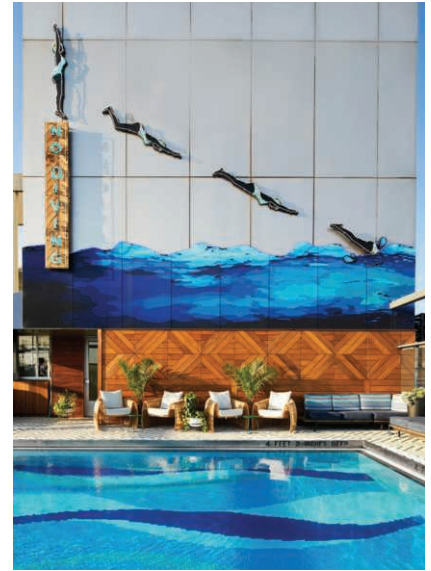
Dine on Vietnamese, French, and Italian dishes in two acclaimed restaurants. Take an invigorating swim in the outdoor pool and try a variety of locally inspired spa treatments at Xuan Spa. Receive a complimentary fifth night when you book four by September 30, 2023.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 hotel credit per stay.

PARK HYATT SAIGON™

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

## Gansevoort Meatpacking



This iconic property embodies the history and cultural energy of New York City's vibrant Meatpacking District.

This 186-room luxury lifestyle boutique hotel boasts a full renovation, with brand-new guest rooms, suites, and the exclusive Poliform Penthouse duplex. Dine at four lively venues, including an omakase sushi restaurant and a transformed rooftop bar with a 45-foot heated pool.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 food and beverage credit per stay.

GANSEVOORT

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# ISTRIA IS FOR (FOOD) LOVERS

The culinary scene on this heart-shaped Croatian peninsula shines.

**M**ICHELIN-STARRED dining, premium wine, and some of the world's best olive oils: The Croatian region of Istria, situated on the north Adriatic Sea, has become a true gastronomic destination. Settle down in the seaside city of Rovinj and dive into these culinary treasures.

## Memorable Meals

Rovinj's cobblestoned streets and photogenic harbor provide a prime backdrop for an after-dinner stroll – and there are plenty of incredible restaurants to choose from. Tucked away in the courtyard of chef Danijel Dekic's childhood home, Monte was Croatia's first Michelin-starred restaurant and has been forging a path for fine dining since 1985. Agli Amici Rovinj, inside the Grand Park Hotel Rovinj, has its own Michelin star, plus impressive sea views from its glass-walled terrace. Its **three tasting menus** – including one featuring Croatian cuisine – utilize the region's bounty in innovative ways.

## Fine Vines

Istria is one of Europe's oldest wine-growing regions, producing dry whites and bold reds that rival those of the world's top vintners. The family-owned Clai Winery – an hour's drive north of Rovinj – makes some of the peninsula's **finest natural wines**, thanks to limestone vineyards that benefit from the cool Adriatic breeze. Don't leave without sampling the Brombonero, made with 100 percent refosk grapes. Up the road at the Kozlovic Winery, fourth-generation winemakers guide tastings on a breezy terrace overlooking the vineyards.

## Organic Olives

An essential souvenir: a bottle (or two) of Istrian extra-virgin olive oil, widely known as some of the world's best. Start an **olive-oil tasting tour** in northwestern Istria at Ipsa – the family estate's Frantoio, a rich, piquant blend with strong herbal notes, is one of the top 20 olive oils in the world, according to the revered Flos Olei guide. Another award-winning producer, family-owned Chiavalon, uses traditional olive varieties that have been planted in Istria for centuries. Travelers can sample the estate's organic, Protected Designation of Origin blends during a tasting experience that includes a walk through the olive groves, a lesson on cultivation, and plenty of Croatian wine and snacks.



Terrace goals: The Kozlovic Winery.

# VIRTUOSO BEST OF THE BEST

TETIAROA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

## The Brando



Explore an island rich in wild-life and tropical vegetation at this former Tahitian royal retreat (and home of Marlon Brando).

Learn about Polynesian culture from local experts, and immerse yourself in ancient rituals at the spa. Get inspired at the scientific research center and enjoy a complimentary round-trip flight when you stay at least two nights in select accommodations by September 30, 2023.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 resort credit per stay.

  
THE BRANDO

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

## Park Hyatt New York



Experience luxury in the cultural heart of Midtown, directly across from Carnegie Hall and one block from Central Park.

Spacious accommodations offer floor-to-ceiling windows and breathtaking views. Find serenity at Spa Nalai, swim in the tranquil indoor pool, and enjoy specialty cocktails in The Living Room. Receive a third night free when you stay in select categories by September 2, 2023.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 hotel credit per stay.

PARK HYATT NEW YORK®

MAYNOOTH, IRELAND

## Carton House, A Fairmont Managed Hotel



Acres of ancient woodlands and the meandering River Rye are the ideal backdrop for this country mansion.

Old and new blend seamlessly in this glorious estate once owned by the first Duke and Duchess of Leinster. Golf on two championship courses, relax in the spa and wellness facilities, dine at one of the unique restaurants, and raise a toast to it all in the Whiskey Library.

**VIRTUOSO AMENITY:** \$100 hotel credit per stay.

  
CARTON HOUSE  
A FAIRMONT MANAGED HOTEL

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# BEST IN SHOW

The Cayman Islands' arts-and-culture experiences make a splash.

**V**IVID REEFS; AN ICONIC, NEARLY SEVEN-MILE-LONG BEACH; and pampering, palm-shaded resorts attract lovers of sand and sea to the Cayman Islands. But the culturally curious will find more depths to plumb on this trio of Caribbean isles that's home to more than 250 artists, seven commercial galleries, a National Gallery with an esteemed collection, and an annual art fair.

## Every Room's a Gallery

Caymanian art was a key component of **The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman's** recent \$50 million renovation: Local works fill the resort's contemporary public spaces and 365 guest rooms. Additionally, the resort's expansive art gallery, curated by local artist Chris Christian, exhibits quarterly shows with works representing the spectrum of the Cayman Islands' creativity, from dedicated professionals – including Christian, a sculptor who runs a foundation devoted to traditional arts and crafts – to emerging talents. Installed in a breezeway that connects the resort's two towers, the colorful collection is a can't-miss for art-loving guests.

## Creatives Welcome

The 52-room **Palm Heights** thinks big when it comes to cultural affairs. Its artist-in-residence program invites painters, writers, musicians, and even chefs from all over the world to stay in condos near the cossetting resort and pursue their passions while refreshing their spirits in the tropics for up to three months. Their presence, whether painting on-site, playing a set, or hosting a dance class, enriches the guest experience. Past residents have included Courtney Celeste Spears of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Akia Dorsainvil (aka DJ Pressure Point), and ceramist Dina Nur Satti, who created the hotel lounge's sculptural tables.

## An Islandwide Affair

Plan ahead for next summer: Each June, art lovers, curators, and artists gather on Grand Cayman to celebrate Cayman Art Week. Designed to showcase Caymanian art, the five-day event features gallery tours, parties, and opportunities to visit open studios for thoughtful lectures and discussions. Buses shuttle festivalgoers to some 30 exhibiting venues, including pop-up galleries in resorts, museums, and restaurants. Travelers can take a plein-air painting class, join a guided tour of the island's National Gallery, and shop for one-of-a-kind pieces to bring home. Check into the 264-room **Kimpton Seafire Resort + Spa** for prime access to the fete.



From left: The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman's art gallery; a Cayman Art Week event at The Ritz-Carlton's gallery; and artist Carlos V. Garcia.

# CULTURE CLUB

No matter when you visit, Croatia's capital of Zagreb has something to celebrate.



**Z**AGREB WINS OVER TRAVELERS with its laid-back vibe, stunning architecture, cherished café and coffee culture, and dynamic arts community. And thanks to a packed, year-round calendar of festivals – including the following marquee events – it feels like there's always a new reason to explore Croatia's capital city. Pro tip: When you go, check into the 208-room Esplanade Zagreb Hotel, a shining example of the city's timeless style.

## Fall: Art in the Streets

In October, contemporary-art exhibitions and performances take over Zagreb during **Artupunktura**, the city's bold new cultural platform. The event – which features pop-up installations, billboards turned into works of art, and other “art therapy” experiences – celebrates creativity, providing a welcoming space for a lively exchange of ideas among some of the city's most notable authors, gallery owners, and artists.

## Winter: Holiday Magic

Europe is known for its impressive array of Christmas markets, and Zagreb's installment, **Advent Zagreb** (December 2, 2023, through January 7, 2024), is a great example of their cheer. The annual event transforms the city center into a festive wonderland filled with twinkling lights, souvenir shops, and cozy food stalls – be sure to try *paprenjaci*, peppery Croatian gingerbread cookies. There's also an ice rink, theatrical performances, concerts, and a 1924 Christmas tram that delights young ones with sweets and a cameo from Santa and his elves.

## Spring: Bright Ideas

Zagreb celebrates the return of sunnier days during the annual **Festival of Lights Zagreb** (March 2024), a visual spectacle that uses the city's parks, squares, and historic buildings as canvases for light shows, projection-mapping displays, and other art installations. Artists from Zagreb and worldwide participate, bedecking sites such as the Croatian National Theatre and Old Upper Town in pops of color.

## Summer: Open-Air Affairs

The city's outdoor concert season reaches its peak during the **Zagreb Classic** (June 2024). Bring a blanket and a bottle of plavac mali wine to King Tomislav Square to watch performances from the Zagreb Philharmonic, the City Comedy Theatre Ensemble, the Croatian National Theatre, and other visiting acts from around the world.

Above, from left: Advent Zagreb cheer, an illuminating moment at the Festival of Lights Zagreb, and a Zagreb Classic performance in King Tomislav Square.



# THE WILD SIDE



FOLLOW THE SURFERS  
TO COSTA RICA'S REMOTE  
NICOYA PENINSULA.

BY KATE WICKERS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BALL & ALBANESE



Playing castaway  
on Isla Tortuga.

**WE BUMP ACROSS** unpaved road for the last five miles of the nearly five-hour journey from Monteverde's cloud forests to Santa Teresa, a hippie-chic Pacific Ocean surf town surrounded by dense rain forest on the southern end of Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula. "Why has the road run out?" I ask the driver.

"Because we don't want too many people coming here," he replies, grinning back at me in the rearview mirror. I suspect he might be telling the truth.

I roll down my window and inhale the brisk, salty breeze. A steady pilgrimage of international surfers, hungry to ride the relentless world-class breaks that crash here, first put Santa Teresa

on the map in the 1990s. Today, more travelers have caught on to the area's natural beauty and the charming, final-frontier vibe of the town's sole dusty strip of independent businesses, which include surf schools, yoga studios, and restaurants. It's gloriously low-key, but the nearby eco-luxe hideaway, Nantipa, means a comfortable stay is still in the cards. As we drive over a pothole and a lightning bolt zigzags across the sky, I decide I'm going to like it here.

I'd come to Costa Rica to unwind after two weeks on the road, but the primeval bellow of a howler monkey outside my bungalow serves as a wake-up call, so I strike out for a sunrise ramble. The Nicoya Peninsula is one of

the world's five Blue Zones, designated regions where it's believed people live longer, healthier lives. I pick my way over driftwood left smoothed by the sea from Playa Santa Teresa to Playa Hermosa and on to Playa Carmen, passing other early birds. Some sit in quiet contemplation gazing at the sea, others practice yoga, and a steady stream of surfers run, boards under their arms, to join those already out riding on the crest of a wave. Above them, great frigatebirds swirl, hunting for breakfast.

Tempting as it is to swing in a hammock all day, there's much to explore. Costa Rica is one of the world's most biodiverse countries – home to five percent of the earth's species – and the

## Outdoors

Cabo Blanco Reserve at the peninsula's southern tip showcases some of that range well. In 1963 Cabo Blanco became the first area in Costa Rica to be designated as protected, but it wasn't accessible to visitors until the 1980s. There's a ranger station and hiking trails that cut through nearly five square miles of evergreen forest, leading to Playa Cabo Blanco (with its nesting grounds for brown boobies) and a rugged headland with views over turquoise waters to small offshore islands.

There's also the privately owned Curú Wildlife Refuge, part of the Tempisque Conservation Area, on the peninsula's east coast, about an hour's drive from Santa Teresa. The park offers gentler hikes through five habitats, including tropical forest (where white-faced capuchin monkeys sit still and watchful) and mangrove forest. The park has nearly two miles of sheltered bays that are a popular nesting spot for hawksbill and olive ridley

turtles. At low tide, the mangroves' long, leggy roots sink into the sand, and crimson land crabs scurry into their burrows as hikers trek by. Ricketty wooden bridges span small streams where signs warn of crocodiles, and as temperature rise, gray and green iguanas soak up the sunlight.

BACK ON THE BEACH at Santa Teresa, I watch the surfers at Roca Mar, the area's best point break. This spot attracts the pros, but even novices can get in on the action with some help. Nantipa doesn't have its own surf school, but they point guests to Vacoqo Surf for group and private lessons. After a few days, I find my sunset ritual: a Guaro Sour (a sugarcane-based liquor with lime) from the beachfront Ranchos Itauna bar. I love watching the sky shift nightly, morphing from thundercloud steel gray to tangerine and violet.

The chance to be a castaway on the tiny nature reserve of Isla Tortuga, a

FYI

"It's no wonder royalty, Hollywood stars, and elite athletes retreat to Santa Teresa for a digital detox. Miles of surf and swimmable beaches, waterfalls, ancient caves, and coastal nature parks make a recipe for a hidden haven. Nantipa's beachfront restaurant, Manzú, is one of the best in town. For a special occasion, have your advisor arrange a private, fully catered dinner under the stars on the beach."

— John Clifford, Virtuoso travel advisor, San Diego

single square mile of deciduous forest rimmed with picture-perfect sands, is one I jump at. I reach the hammock-strung island by boat from Montezuma, a town just 12 miles from Santa

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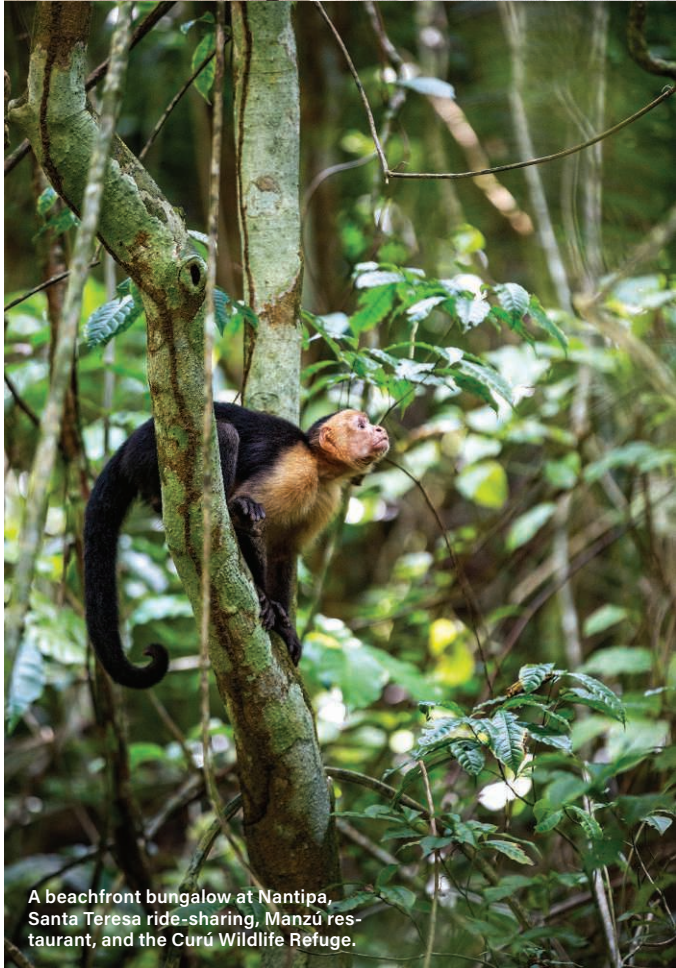
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A beachfront bungalow at Nantipa, Santa Teresa ride-sharing, Manzú restaurant, and the Curú Wildlife Refuge.

## Outdoors

Teresa that's famous for its eponymous waterfall, arriving with a resolve to do nothing. But for those with energy to burn, there's a water-sports kiosk with kayaks and paddleboards to rent, and a trek to a 570-foot-tall lookout with views over a canopy of rare indio desnudo hardwood trees. Shoals of needlefish, iridescent parrotfish, and shimmying angelfish keep me company as I snorkel in clear water, before the

ocean's gentle lap lulls me to nap in my hammock cocoon.

A day later, I head back toward Montezuma once more, this time by the light of a crescent moon, to visit the small town of Paquera and witness one of nature's most spectacular shows: bioluminescence. The production of light by dinoflagellates (single-celled plankton) is best viewed from the water, and while many visitors opt for boat tours,

the prime way to see the phenomenon is by kayak. I dip my paddle into moonlit waters and watch the plankton defend themselves by glowing in ethereal greens and electric blues, creating a glittering, starry underwater world in which startled fish appear to fly, leaving luminous streaks. Their wake – like everything else I've experienced on this wild, remote peninsula – makes beautiful marks on my memory.

## Surf's Up in Santa Teresa

**STAY** Tucked beneath rattan and palm trees steps from the beach, Nantipa's 11 bungalows, eight suites, and pair of three-bedroom villas infuse modern style into the heart of Santa Teresa. Nap in a hammock by your private plunge pool, sign up for yoga, or join hotel staff on a daily beach cleanup. *Doubles from \$480, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

**GO** Virtuoso advisors can work with **Swiss Travel**, an on-site tour connection in Costa Rica, to create custom and sustainable itineraries on the Nicoya Peninsula and beyond. Highlights of a five-day trip to Santa Teresa include a private surf lesson, a day trip to Montezuma, overnights at Nantipa, and plenty of downtime. *Departures: Any day through 2023; from \$1,708.*

A few of days zip-lining and hiking in Monteverde's cloud forests precede surf lessons, kayak excursions, and nature walks on the Nicoya Peninsula during **Avanti Destinations'** seven-day private tour of two of the country's more biodiverse, off-the-beaten-path destinations. *Departures: Any day through October 2023; from \$1,639.* 📍

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4Kinship boutique  
and Amy Denet Deal.

# NATIVE INSPIRATION

THE DESIGNER GIVING SANTA FE'S INDIGENOUS CREATIVES A PLACE TO SHINE.

BY LANE E LEE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEN JUDGE



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## Style



Diné designer Jeff  
DeMent's jewelry.





**B**ENEATH THE beamed ceiling inside 4Kinship's Santa Fe atelier, a rack brims with Amy Denet Deal's colorful, upcycled designs: cobalt-blue bubble skirts made from 1950s military parachutes, hand-dyed Victorian-era dresses, utilitarian jumpsuits, and vintage rodeo shirts retooled into flirty Bardot tops. The collection feels whimsical and dreamlike, but the ethos behind it is intentional: Denet Deal uses repurposed clothing and deadstock fabrics to create pieces inspired by her heritage.

After a global career in fashion with design roles at major brands such as Puma and Reebok, Denet Deal relocated from California to New Mexico to pursue art and reconnect to her roots – she's a member of the Southwest's Diné (Navajo) Tribe. She opened 4Kinship in Albuquerque in 2019 and moved the shop to Santa Fe last summer. While Santa Fe is a bastion of Native culture and art, Denet Deal's boutique is one of just a few Indigenous-owned storefronts in the city, and the only Native-owned business on tony Canyon Road. The *We Belong Here* that's painted on 4Kinship's exterior makes a statement as bold as the clothing inside. "We do belong in Santa Fe, in permanent spaces," she says.


Denet Deal is dedicated to helping foster and grow a new wave of creative Indigenous entrepreneurs in Santa Fe, whether it's by making space in her own shop for emerging Native artists or pointing travelers to the Santa Fe spots where authentic Indigenous culture shines. Beyond exhibiting young designers' work at 4Kinship, she's also teaching them the business of direct-to-consumer e-commerce. At the shop, travelers find turquoise-and-silver jewelry from Kewa artist Thomas Coriz and Diné designer Jeff DeMent, Josh Tafoya's modern textiles, eco-friendly soaps from Miranda Mullett's Kiyani line, and ceramic bud vases by Suni Upshaw, who creates pieces that reflect her Diné and Japanese heritage.

"It's my duty to offer this space to young Native creatives," Denet Deal

**"I've never met  
so many badass  
Native people  
as I have in  
Santa Fe."**

says. "I'm going to be a good auntie and then kick them out of the nest, literally, when they're ready to fly." They're in fine company in Santa Fe, which Denet Deal calls a melting pot for Native talent: "I've never met so many badass Native people as I have in Santa Fe."

One of those people is Stan Natchez, the proprietor of one of Santa Fe's few Native-owned art galleries. His Warhol-esque paintings, featuring Native American life with a pop art twist, line the walls of his Stanley Natchez Gallery near Santa Fe's historic plaza. A must-visit space on the plaza, according to Denet Deal, is FaraHNHeight Fine Art, a gallery that promotes young Indigenous artists, such as Nizhonniya Austin and George "Ofuskie" Alexander, who are pushing the boundaries of Native art with their contemporary paintings. Alexander, a member of the Muscogee Creek Tribe, keeps a studio around the corner from FaraHNHeight, where, by appointment, visitors can watch him work on one



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George "Ofuskie" Alexander's studio and (opposite) Bishop's Lodge.

## Style



of his otherworldly, astronaut-meets-Native pieces. Another spot Denet Deal loves is the museum of Austin and Alexander's alma mater: the Institute of American Indian Arts' Museum of Contemporary Native Arts.

Denet Deal's Santa Fe recommendations extend beyond the arts. When she's not creating her "artwear" (right now she's prepping for 4Kinship's first-ever fashion show, in August during the annual Santa Fe Indian Market – the world's largest Native American art festival), she favors drinking oat milk lattes at Dolina Cafe & Bakery, searching for Western collectibles at Santa Fe Vintage, or watching the sunset with friends at the patio bar at Bishop's Lodge resort, which overlooks the land of the Te Tsu Geh Oweenge Tribe (also known as the Pueblo of Tesuque). It's these sacred Southwest surroundings that inspired Denet Deal to settle down here.

"There are just so many things happening in Santa Fe, and being so close to the Diné reservation, I feel like I'm in the heart of community," she says. "It feels like my forever home."

## Southwest Muses

**STAY** Adobe exteriors give way to Silk Road influences inside **The Inn of the Five Graces**, an eight-minute walk from the Santa Fe Plaza. The 25 rooms – some with hand-carved wooden headboards, silk bedspreads, and ornate mosaic-tiled walls – surround romantic courtyards fit for alfresco meals. *Doubles from \$850, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

After a massive multiyear overhaul, the 100-room, century-old **Bishop's Lodge** reopened as an Auberge Resorts Collection property, immersing guests in a New Mexican village just outside Santa Fe. Learn how to weave baskets, sign up for a fly-fishing lesson, book a sound healing session with a local shaman, then watch the sunset with a Hatch chili margarita on the patio at SkyFire restaurant. *Doubles from \$899, including breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.* 📍

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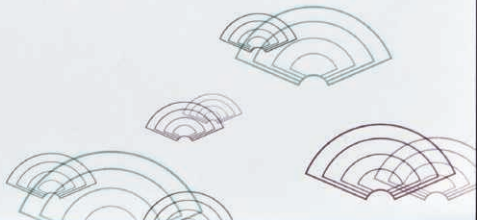
"It's not uncommon to walk around Miami neighborhoods like Coconut Grove and stumble upon wild peacocks. These birds inspired the color palette of the drawing. And it wouldn't be a true Miami moment without the simple joy of lounging on the beach."  
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## TOKYO GRACE LEE

"Kappabashi Street in eastern Tokyo – a treasure trove for knives, ceramics, and plastic display food – was one of the first places my host family took me when I arrived more than ten years ago. I drew this area for nostalgic reasons, and because after all these years, I still get a kick out of the huge chef's head at the street entrance."  
*Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo: Doubles from \$1,073, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*



**LONDON**  
**RODERICK MILLS**

"This drawing came from a sunny spring day of people-watching in the heart of London. Along with Westminster Palace and the London Eye, I included the silhouette of the wooden hut outside Embankment Station, one of 13 shelters used for breaks by black-cab drivers."  
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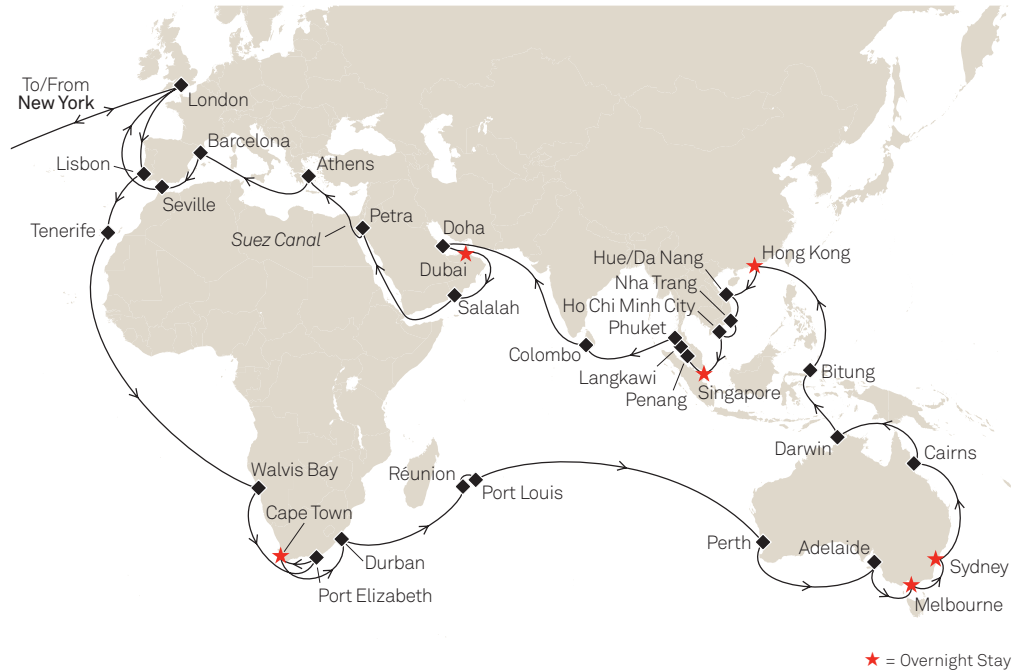
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Crafting  
the  
Future

Meet the masters keeping Kyoto's artisan traditions alive.

By David Hochman  
Photography by Korena Bolding



Paper-cutting master Takeshi Nishimura and a sunset view from the Park Hyatt Kyoto.

---

## In a quiet temple courtyard not far from Kyoto's Imperial Palace,

Kotaro Nishibori shares a technique that's been a family go-to for more than 160 years. Whenever the sun is shining, the fifth-generation umbrella maker pops open an assortment of colorful, hand-made bamboo-and-paper parasols – some as wide as a table for ten – as part of the 100-plus steps in their making and drying.

Once, umbrellas like these covered heads across Japan – the fashionable, all-weather canopy of choice for sovereigns, temple-goers, Kabuki dancers, and geisha. In the 1920s, when Nishibori's grandfather-in-law learned from his father-in-law to make *Kyo-wagasa*, as they're called, the Kyoto region alone was turning out millions of umbrellas a year. Today, the company Nishibori and his wife inherited 20 years ago is one of only two traditional umbrella studios left in the prefecture.

Across the street in his tidy two-story workshop, Nishibori opens a laptop and pulls up a magazine photo of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip seated under his family's magnificent red umbrellas at a tea ceremony during a 1975 state visit. "I remember seeing this picture and thinking, 'Wow, what an important legacy,'" he says. "But also: 'If we want to survive, we can't just make umbrellas for royalty.'"

The image inspired Nishibori to bring new dimensions to the handiwork he'd cultivated for seven years as an apprentice. Guided by a philosophy that tradition requires continuous innovation, he and another artist came up with a prototype that applied what he knew about paper and wood to a line of contemporary lighting products. Those creations – lampshades of bamboo and washi paper that open and close like umbrellas but are fit for modern hotels and living rooms – now win international design awards and adorn interiors from Tokyo to Milan. "We continue to make and repair *Kyo-wagasa* in the traditional way," Nishibori says, "but it's the other work that points us to the future."

IN KYOTO, craft is deeply embedded in nearly every experience. From the lacquerware canisters holding your morning matcha to the woodblock patterns inked onto sliding bedroom-door panels, art and beauty elevate the ordinary. At the Kyoto Museum of Crafts and Design, which received a welcome refresh in 2020, the city's crafts are divided into 74 categories. Paper lanterns, folding fans, ornamental hairpins, bamboo flutes, tasseled cords, wooden signs – each trade has its revered masters and arcane practices. Often these are generations-old businesses. Talk to a candlemaker or *yuzen* dyer or confectionary-mold maker in the historic Nishijin district, and you'll likely hear about a great-grandparent's great-grandparent who employed the same methods in the very same spot.

That may sound quaint, but quaint isn't always sustainable. With Japan's low birth rate, a rapidly aging society (almost 33 percent of the country's population is over 65, compared to around 17 percent in the U.S.), and younger generations smitten with technology, Kyoto's storied artisanship is giving way to laser cutting and robot assembly. Or worse, these trades are silently vanishing. "In 10 to 15 years, we could lose the traditions completely," Nishibori says.

This sense of urgency led Nishibori and some friends to launch the nonprofit Dento Foundation to support and reinvigorate Kyoto's artisan trades. Instead of watching traditional Japanese workshops fade away, the organization is collaborating with scores of craftspeople to update their skills, connect them with outside mentors and funding, and open their ateliers to select groups of visitors.

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Umbrella maker  
Kotaro Nishibori.







“By moving these techniques forward and introducing what were once hidden arts to a wider audience, we’re passing the light to a new generation,” says Avi Lugasi, a longtime Kyoto resident and a founding partner in the project. “When the world sees the work of these incredible craftspeople, it safeguards the knowledge and the culture.”

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Clockwise from top left:  
Bellmaker Kazuya Nanjo  
and one of his *orin*, and  
Yohko Toda and sets of her  
lacquered dinner plates.

FOR MY WEEKLONG TRIP TO KYOTO, Lugasi, who owns Virtuoso on-site tour connection Windows to Japan, worked with Nishibori and his team to organize intimate studio visits with craftspeople in and around the city. The Park Hyatt, in the heart of the historic Higashiyama neighborhood, provided an excellent base for exploring the old town and its storied workshops. Seeing Japan’s cultural capital through the eyes of its esteemed makers is a true insider experience. Visiting experts at their cutting tables and kilns is like a portal into Kyoto’s history, art, and community, and its spirit of *shokunin kishitsu* – the way of the artisan.

For seventh-generation bellmaker Kazuya Nanjo, that means using traditional techniques to create something new. His small factory on an industrial strip in southeast Kyoto is one of only two in Japan handmaking the *orin*, or standing bell, that’s placed on Buddhist altars. It’s a painstaking process. At the factory, Nanjo shows me how a sacred combination of copper and tin is carefully poured into clay molds before each small chime is polished and burnished, one by one. He pulls a cup-shaped bell from a crate and strikes it with a mallet, issuing a clear and penetrating tone that reverberates for 30 seconds. To the untrained ear the sound is enchanting, but it’s not quite right, Nanjo says, and he sends the bell back to be fired and shaped again.

“Living in Japan, you sometimes hear the *orin* at temples, but I wanted people to hear this beautiful sound in their homes or maybe in their offices,” Nanjo says. After consulting with Nishibori and taking design courses run by his team, he developed a line of bells and singing bowls with the same haunting tones but a more sophisticated look. His new showroom has a dedicated space for sound baths and shelves of decidedly contemporary products – like an electric turntable that plays multiple chimes with each revolution. “It’s a look and sound for the next generation,” Nanjo says.

Farther north, not far from the Kyoto Botanical Gardens, Yohko Toda demonstrates the wonders of another plant known as the lacquer tree. The stylish *urushi* tableware and sculptures she makes from sap and natural pigment reflect Japanese lacquering techniques that date back to 9000 BC. Sitting at a low table in a corner of her tiny home studio, Toda coats her creations up to 30 times with brushes traditionally made from the hair of women who free dive for shellfish off the Pacific coast. (Human hair bristles are firmer than those made from animal hair and are the best for applying sticky lacquer.) But Toda’s time studying art history in Paris lends her work a striking modern edge. Near the end of the visit, she stacks 12 finished dinner plates in a charcoal-to-gold color spectrum that subtly captures Kyoto’s changing seasons. Everyday objects suddenly look like high art.

Another afternoon, in the traditional wooden house in central Kyoto where he grew up, Takeshi Nishimura, at age 70, is buoyant as a teenager about the new applications he’s finding for his work. The paper-pattern-carving techniques he learned from his father are part of a behind-the-scenes process that goes into classical kimono making. But with demand for these pricey handmade garments dwindling, Nishimura worked with Dento to retool his skills and transfer his talents to the digital age.



Camellias in bloom and quiet moments at Kiyomizu-dera Temple.





Wearing the dark denim robe of his trade, Nishimura – a small man with a huge personality – deftly punches holes in the form of flowers and mandalas into thick washi paper soaked with persimmon juice. Some of these patterns will be silkscreened onto kimonos, but he’s also making pointillist-style sconces, decorative fans, and leather iPad covers for Takashimaya, one of Japan’s high-end department stores, and for orders as far away as Paris (Nishimura is big in France). “The work I do is so different than the work machines can do,” he says through a translator. “I’m happy that people are still happy with craft that’s done by hand.”

MEETING KYOTO’S ARTISTS is like peeling a layer off an onion that’s otherwise impossible to peel. Modesty and humility are prized attributes in Japanese culture, and much of what happens on an aesthetic level in Kyoto is inaccessible to casual outsiders. “In workshop after workshop, craftsmen and craftswomen are doing museum-quality work, but the magic of this experience is almost entirely hidden to people who don’t get the proper introductions,” Lugasi says.

For instance, a small wooden “Arts & Crafts” sign is the only tip-off to the century-old pottery business behind an unimposing storefront in the Higashiyama District. Yuko Hayashi’s inherited talent for handmade ceramics stretches back to her great-grandfather. For generations, Koson Kiln set standards for its orthodox approach to white and celadon porcelain vases, plates, and bowls. And while these traditional pieces are still popular with older buyers, Hayashi challenged herself to bring freshness and dash to the heritage brand. It took her more than a decade to figure out how. After the foundation helped her find training in Kyoto and Paris, she created a new method for cutting

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Takeshi Nishimura  
with a cut-paper pat-  
tern originally used  
for kimono textiles.



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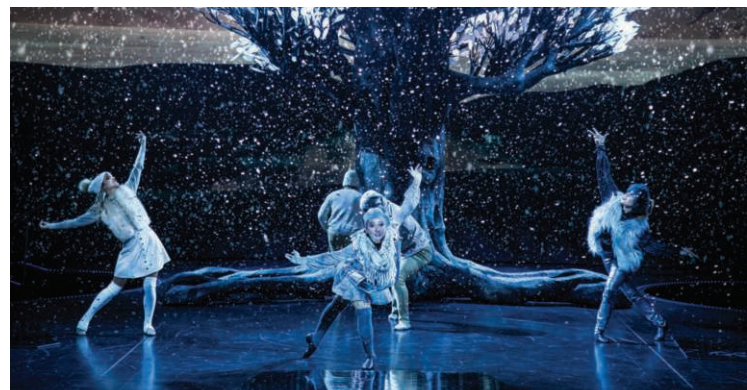
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clay – from an unexpected inspiration. “I had a breakthrough moment after watching a video of a confectioner cutting flower designs with scissors,” Hayashi says, as she shows off the trick in a sunny upstairs atelier. Pressing into soft clay with eyebrow scissors – “These are just right for making delicate petals and leaves,” she says – Hayashi gives a flat plate the look of a gorgeous chrysanthemum. Koson’s *tsubibasami*, or “scissoring clay,” now ships around the world.

Nishibori, the umbrella maker, has a global following too. With pandemic travel restrictions in Japan finally lifted, small groups of overseas guests are visiting his craft lab to learn about *Kyowagasa* and follow the steps of making parasols themselves. He shows his contemporary lighting designs at international exhibitions. He also recently helped open a three-floor Kyoto boutique, blocks from Nijo Castle, that celebrates the handiwork of Dento-affiliated artists. There’s a bamboo art installation, displays of lacquerware and Nanjo’s bells, and a wall of woven and dyed textiles that he calls a “fabric forest.”

Nishibori is increasingly optimistic about the future of these crafts. His daughter, an art student herself, is 19 and considering getting into the family business. “She’s not sure yet, but that’s OK,” he says. “I like to joke and say, ‘It’s your decision. Either way, I will continue to be an umbrella to these traditions.’”

Ceramist Yuko Hayashi demonstrates her clay-cutting technique in her studio.



## Kyoto Unveiled

**STAY** The Park Hyatt Kyoto feels like a secret haven in the bustling Higashiyama District. Steps away from Ninen-zaka's shops and small cafés, the hotel's 70 guest rooms embody Kyoto artistry and the zen serenity of the surrounding hills. Its on-property Kyoyamato restaurant serves *kaiseki* cuisine inside one of the historic teahouses and has been a family-run operation for seven generations, since 1877. *Doubles from \$1,400, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

Tucked within an 800-year-old koi pond garden in Kyoto's temple district, **Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto** features 123 tradition-inspired rooms and 57 residential suites. Follow the glass bridge to Shakusui-tei, a classic teahouse and sake room. *Doubles from \$1,300, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

With its commanding location on the Kamo River, **The Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto** is a modern retreat inspired by a traditional Japanese *ryokan*. Minimalist wood-toned interiors with floor-to-ceiling windows bring luminous calm to 134 guest rooms, including a few furnished with tatami mats and futons. *Doubles from \$1,050, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

**GO** **Windows to Japan** works with Virtuoso travel advisors to create custom itineraries throughout the country, which can include exclusive group and individual visits to Kyoto's traditional design and crafts studios and time with Dento-affiliated artisans across Japan. Through its partnership with the foundation, those visits (and crafts purchases) directly support local makers. *Departures: Any day through 2023; from \$1,000 per person per day.*

Explore gardens, historic districts, Kinkakuji and Nijo Castle, and other temples and shrines on **Artisans of Leisure's** private, customizable seven-day tour of Kyoto. Upon request, the company coordinates visits with local craftspeople, such as a master swordsmith or ceramist. *Departures: Any day through July 5, 2025; from \$13,590.*

Beginning in Tokyo, **Remote Lands'** 13-day tour goes deep on Japanese art and culture. Highlights include museum and garden tours in Kurashiki and Miyajima, followed by a bullet-train hop from Hiroshima to Kyoto for five days in the country's artistic capital. *Departures: Any day through 2025; from \$25,500.* 📍

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Across Portugal,  
contemporary creatives  
are upping the country's  
souvenir game.

**BY CHADNER NAVARRO**  
Photography by Clara Tuma

Ceramic art from  
Porto's Ater Objects.



## WHEN I STARTED VISITING LISBON

more than 15 years ago, I generally avoided shopping. For those who know me – a man so materialistic he once owned 120 pairs of shoes – this may come as a shock. But staring at a wall of bags made of cork, kitschy ceramic bowls, and T-shirts with roosters and the word “PORTUGAL!” screaming at me, I wasn’t exactly compelled to fill up a second suitcase. Back then, the best mementos from my many trips to Portugal were bottles of wine or boxes of pastries that were unlikely to survive the flight home. I yearned to find beautiful Portuguese things to take back with me.

A lot has changed since then. Over the last decade, a new generation of makers and designers has emerged as rightful heirs to Portugal’s rich art and craft traditions. They’re not only putting their innovative stamps on a legacy, but also making covetable products much more accessible to visitors like me. My luggage has never been heavier.

On my most recent trip to the country, I set out to experience this renaissance for myself. While travelers typically come to Lisbon’s riverfront Belém neighborhood to see some of the city’s most historic attractions – the Monument to the Discoveries, the fifteenth-century Jerónimos Monastery, the famous Pastéis de Belém bakery – I was here to visit Portugal Manual, a contemporary homage to Portuguese handiwork. Opened in 2020 inside the Belém Cultural Center, it’s the kind of shop I would have lost my mind in ten years ago. Perusing its 40 brands, I suddenly realize I’m touching *everything*: thick-gauge wool sweaters from Lobo, which works with textile factories across the country to make use of scrap materials; curvy-but-delicate glass vases by Catarina Pacheco; and whimsical felt hats by Cascais-based brand Avo. The variety is a testament to Portugal’s robust design scene, but

the common denominator is each brand's relevance – I could picture one of Lobo's chunky fisherman-style cardigans in my closet at home – and its focus on handmade techniques.

“My objective is to tell the stories of artisans who dare return to handmade production,” says Filipa Belo, Portugal Manual's founder. She credits this renewed interest in Portuguese craftsmanship to the marriage of ancient professions and young, talented creatives. Together, they're rejuvenating heritage techniques through products that resonate with new generations of buyers, who want to shop for things they can't find anywhere else – items with cultural heft, a sense of place, and no shouting roosters in sight. “Designers know how important it is to show who's backstage.”

**I WANT TO SEE** this old school-new school magic in action, so I ask Tours For You, a Virtuoso on-site tour connection in Portugal and Spain, to help me dig deeper. We start in Caldas da Rainha, a quiet, ancient city about an hour's drive north of Lisbon. Known historically for its healing thermal waters – Queen Dona Leonor built what's now the world's oldest thermal hospital here in the 1480s – Caldas' soil is bursting with clay, a resource that supports its thriving ceramics industry. (Ceramics are arguably the most visible of Portugal's creative achievements – the most obvious example being azulejos, the tin-glazed ceramic tiles that cloak entire buildings and are about as prevalent as *pastéis de nata*.) One of Portugal's most iconic brands, Bordallo Pinheiro, was founded here in the nineteenth century, and many other ceramic showrooms, shops, and factories have since followed suit.

Caldas may have started as a destination for ceramic making, but its design schools, lower rents, and easy proximity to Lisbon have seduced creatives of all types. “Some of Portugal's most famous makers have had a foothold in this town,” says my guide, Tiago Falcão. He takes me to Silos, an old brutalist grain silo that's been transformed into workspaces for many of the region's most promising talents, from ceramists and glass blowers to basket weavers and woodworkers.

In their shared ground-floor workshop, designers Eneida Tavares and Samuel Reis show me what they're working on. Reis, who's known for his otherworldly blown-glass creations,

Eneida Tavares' vases and Tavares with Samuel Reis at Silos in Caldas da Rainha. Opposite: Azulejo beauty in Porto.



“Design as a discipline is quite new in Portugal. It almost feels like each of us is creating by our own rules.”

hands me drinking glasses and bottles molded from petrified wood. Their textures are unusual, shaped by the curves and ridges of a tree branch. Then Tavares surprises me with vases that are half ceramic, half pine-needle basketry. Her parents are from Cape Verde and Angola, and after some research, she learned of an Angolan spiral coiling technique traditionally used for sieves and containers that can also be used to weave baskets. The resulting products are as dynamic as that global inspiration.

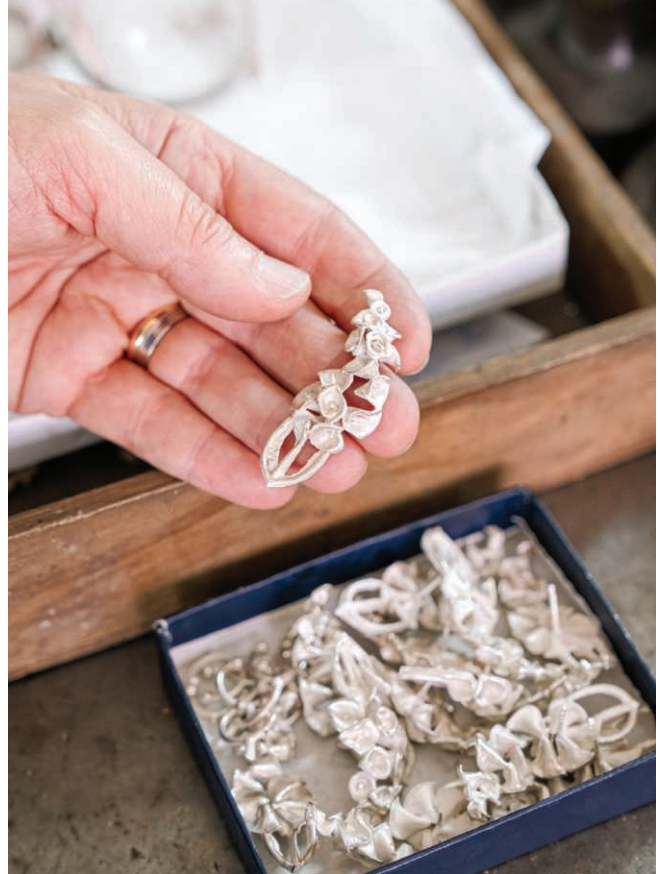
“Design as a discipline is quite new in Portugal,” Tavares says, noting that while there’s an incredibly rich history of craftsmanship, it isn’t a regulated practice or industry. “It almost feels like each of us is creating by our own rules.”

If anyone’s reinventing the rule book, it’s Italian transplant and Caldas resident Luca Colapietro, who’s turning azulejo tradition on its head with Surrealejos, a project that infuses Dalí- and Duchamp-inspired motifs with unexpected production techniques. Using ceramic decals created via digital and manual collage, his most striking works feature hot-air balloons, flamingos, and colorful, circuslike scenes. “My visuals are an instinctive mix of elements that recall my past and those typical of Portuguese culture,” he says.

Tiago and I head back to Lisbon in time for our appointment at the Bairro Alto production facility of Leitão & Irmão, a 200-year-old jeweler that used to make baubles for the Portuguese royal family. Classic pieces dominate the space – enormous silver shells that evoke Portugal’s seafaring history, dainty tiaras festooned with gemstones, and a lot of gilded religious paraphernalia – but thanks to the storied brand’s recent partnerships with contemporary talent, I spy trendier pieces as well.

Surrealejos' Lisbon showroom and Leitão & Irmão and Carolina Curado-designed ear cuffs.





“It’s very important for us to feed our curiosity and be willing to learn from and welcome youthfulness,” says general manager Jorge Leitão, a sixth-generation descendant of the jeweler’s founder, José Pinto Leitão. A recent, tightly edited ten-piece collection with Lisbon-based label Carolina Curado, known for its bold, feminine costume jewelry, wonderfully showcases the beauty of collaboration. Leitão & Irmão artisans lent their expertise on silver, gold, and precious gems such as diamonds – new materials for the Carolina Curado team – while Curado brought fresh ideas. I spot a pair of chunky ear cuffs resembling a bouquet of calla lilies. The master jeweler putting the finishing touches on one of the cuffs tells me that in her decades with the *casa*, she’s never worked on anything like this.

**LISBON’S DESIGN SCENE** can hold its own, but most Portuguese consider Porto – three hours by train from the capital – to be the country’s true creative center, thanks to its proximity to northern manufacturing towns. I’ve always loved scoping out the scene at Scar-ID in the Cedofeita district. When the boutique opened in 2013, owners Sílvia Pinto Costa and André Ramos stocked a lot of exclusive drops from independent Portuguese fashion designers, and over the years, they’ve expanded to include home goods to accommodate expats looking for local merch. In 2019





the couple launched their own line, Ater Objects, featuring ceramics designed by Costa herself. Some pieces are practical (plates and cups), but others are more abstract, including a two-pronged vessel I can't quite identify – a water jug, maybe, or a vase, or just an objet d'art to be used as a conversation piece.

Costa and Ramos were pioneers of championing local brands, but it wasn't always easy. "All of our clients were devoted to labels from France and Italy," Ramos says. "But now, everything has changed. Portugal is a brand."

Included in that brand is knitwear designer Susana Bettencourt, who started learning her craft at age 5 from her grandmother. "My Azorean heritage brought me to knitting," she says, adding that, growing up, her family in those Portuguese isles made most of their clothes at home. She learned foundational techniques – knitting, crochet, embroidery, and bobbin lace – from them before studying fashion at Central Saint Martins in London and returning to Portugal to create some of the most eye-catching knits coming out of the country. Scar-ID carries Bettencourt's more subdued creations, including a jacquard cotton-blend dress depicting Portugal's windows, but her full range of work is more avant-garde: skirts with peekaboo hems, for example, and hand-crocheted, boho-style ruffled pants you'd hardly expect to see someone wearing while prancing through the quiet villages of São Miguel Island. But Bettencourt's vision is all about looking toward the future. "My goal is to modernize knitwear, keep the heritage alive, and pass the knowledge on," she says.

Bolstered by an inspiring week, I finally decide to track down some cork worth bringing home. Portugal produces hundreds of thousands of tons of cork (some 50 percent of the world's supply), and I had yet to find a single cute cork creation. But if it exists, it must be in Porto, I thought. In their downtown studio, Gustavo Macedo and Filipa Mendes, the founders of furniture and lighting outfit Galula, are excited about how they're reimagining the possibilities around the country's greatest crop. "A lot of people don't think of it as a noble material," Macedo tells me as I palm a handsome shallow cork bowl that would look fabulous holding a bunch of bananas on my kitchen table. "And I understand, especially if you only see cork as a wine-bottle stopper, a fridge magnet at the souvenir shop, or an ugly purse."

**Susana Bettencourt**  
designs at Scar-ID and  
Galula's Gustavo Macedo  
and Filipa Mendes.



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Galula's most popular items are its ultramodern pendant and desk lamps, which feature exposed bulbs fixed to magnetized pieces of cork, and the duo's chairs and tables, which are fashioned out of different varieties of cork: some dark, some dense, some with a tighter grain. "Working with cork for furniture is completely different to producing bottle stoppers," Macedo says, before adding that convincing manufacturers to even take on their projects was a massive undertaking, requiring a mutual interest in learning from each other, something I've heard a lot of on this trip. "We teach them; they teach us," Mendes says. "And together we become ambassadors for Portuguese design."

As I consider which bowl to bring back with me to New Jersey, I remember those cork bags of souvenir shops past. It may seem like the country's local crafts have come a long way, but they've always been there. They just needed a generation of artists to see them anew.

## Portugal by Design

**GO** Virtuoso travel advisors can work with **Tours For You** to arrange custom deep-dive trips around Portugal, including exclusive visits to many of the ateliers and workshops mentioned in this story. A full-day tour, for example, can include a guided trip to Caldas da Rainha to meet with local designers (many of whom take custom orders), followed by an afternoon of shopping in Lisbon, with visits to historic design houses and up-and-coming brands. *Departures: Any day through 2023; full-day shopping tours from \$908.*

**STAY** A recent makeover transformed the **Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon's** 282 rooms into contemporary hideaways, complete with marble bathrooms and balconies overlooking the city and Eduardo VII Park. The art collection throughout the ten-story building spans site-specific sculptures, paintings, and locally made tapestries; and at the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, Cura, chef Pedro Pena Bastos puts fine art on the plate. *Doubles from \$1,290, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.*

In a restored eighteenth-century townhouse on Lisbon's Avenida da Liberdade, the 25-room **Valverde Hotel** welcomes travelers into residential-style guest rooms with vaulted ceilings, antique furniture, and Portuguese textiles; sexy common spaces lined in contemporary art; and a fern-ensconced pool area that feels like a secret respite in the middle of the bustling city. *Doubles from \$541, including breakfast daily and private round-trip airport transfers.*

**The Yeatman** – perched on a hill on the Vila Nova de Gaia side of the Douro River – takes its reputation as a culinary destination seriously. Surrounded by some of the country's most





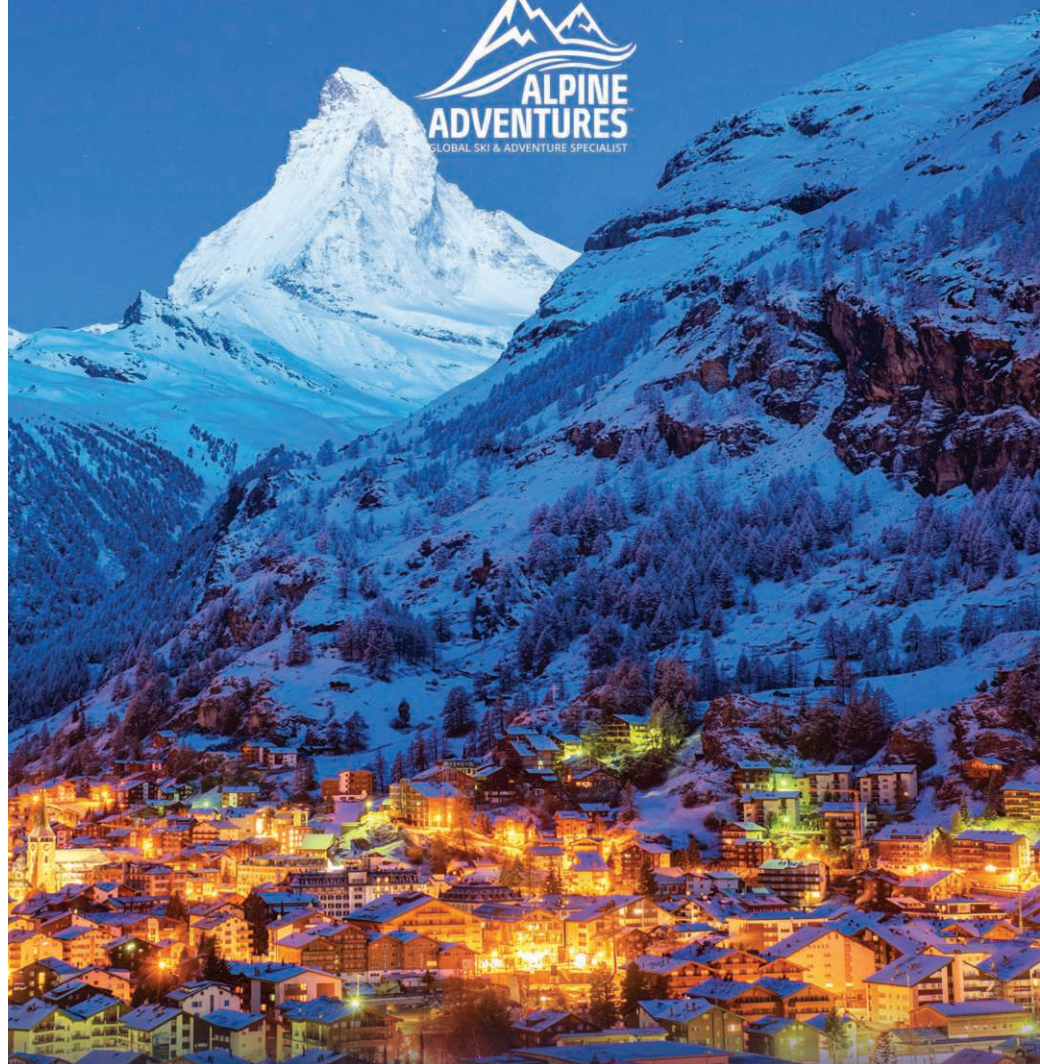


Cork gets a glow-up at Galula.

famous port houses, the 109-room property is also home to one of the world's largest Portuguese wine collections and chef Ricardo Costa's two-Michelin-starred restaurant. The wine obsession is real: The hotel's Porto-facing infinity pool is shaped like a decanter. *Doubles from \$424, including breakfast daily and a winetasting for two.*

Housed inside a 1920s neoclassical building, the 76-room **Maison Albar Le Monumental Palace** brings a touch of art deco glam to Porto's city center. Guest rooms feature sleek lacquered furniture and high crown-molded ceilings, there's a French brasserie downstairs, and the marble-clad indoor pool makes for a compelling post-sneeze afternoon at the spa. *Doubles from \$382, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit.* 📍

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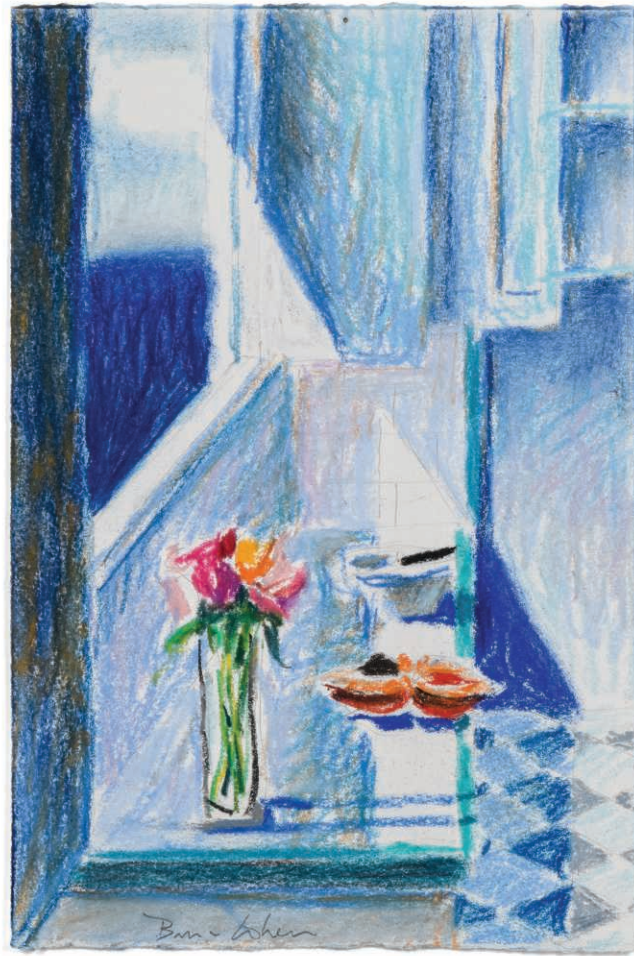
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# The View from Here

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*Untitled #12*  
Pastel on paper

Santa Monica-based artist Bruce Cohen is known for his still-life oil paintings – vivid, realistically lit scenes often filled with flowers, windows, and doorways. But before taking brush to canvas, he sketches with pastels, playing with color and geometry in what he calls his “observation collage process.” While Cohen shies away from citing specific inspiration for this piece, a lifetime spent on the California coast feels evident. For the viewer, that ambiguity opens the door for a range of travel memories, perhaps from the Pacific, the Greek Isles, or somewhere else entirely.

Original work available at [lesliesacks.com](http://lesliesacks.com). @brucecohenstudio

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