

THE GLOBE AND MAIL*

style

MARCH 2023

ADVISOR

FASHION
Upgrade the look
of your cabin bag

DESIGN
A crash course on
good taste in Sweden

WINE & SPIRITS
Christopher Waters
picks souvenir bottles



A YEAR OF TRAVEL

Water worlds

Coastal escapes to Providenciales,
Todos Santos and the Scottish Highlands

PLUS: Watch studio visits in Switzerland, in-flight beauty must-haves and gallery hopping around the globe



Creating infinity

Yayoi Kusama LOUIS VUITTON

MARCH 2023

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 "Packing list" (page 17), "Swedish grace" (page 22), "Sun trap" (page 30),
 "Space to breathe" (page 40) and "Spirit world" (page 42).*

ON THE COVER

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 For additional credits, see page 38.

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Todos Santos's creative scene feels a world away from Mexico's party destination reputation.

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Scotland's northeast is home to Glenmorangie House, a manor that captures whisky's new wave through decor.

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The man behind Angeline's Inn in Bloomfield, Ont., shares how his own travels elevate the experiences of his guests.

BY ALEX FIDA

PHOTOS BY CARLYLE ROUTH (MODEL ON BALCONY AT THE WYMARARA RESORT AND VILLAS); CHRISTOPHER KANE DRESS; PRICE ON REQUEST THROUGH CHRISTOPHERKANE.COM; CHRISTIE VUONG (BAGS AT EVANGELINE AT THE ACE HOTEL, TORONTO); FROM TOP: DUFFLE BAG, \$3,330 AT DIOR; NIETIER WEEKENDER BAG, \$2,880 AT NORDSTROM; RACHELLE SIMONEAU (GLENMORANGIE HOUSE GATE); ILLUSTRATION BY RAYMOND BIESINGER (STOCKHOLM).



CELINE



Editor's Letter



A walk on the Glenmorangie House grounds takes visitors by a dovecote, once used to house pigeons.

New sense of place

Of all the destinations we travelled to for this issue of Style Advisor, the one that resonated with me most was Scotland's Easter Ross Peninsula. There, I visited the Glenmorangie distillery with photographer Rachelle Simoneau for "Spirit World" (PAGE 42). While the country house-turned-hotel we stayed at was the height of style and the Scotch tastings endless, what really created such a strong impression was a walk by the sea.

During the early days of the pandemic, I began walking like I had never walked before, discovering parks and ravines and beaches that had always been close to home but never fit into the rhythm of a busy day. Finding myself in Scotland craving a hike along the rocky shore above anything else illustrated how my priorities had shifted over the past three years, and how what we all crave from travel has likely changed, too.

If renewing a sense of social connection tops your wanderlust wish list for 2023, Caleigh Alleyne writes about the Fairmont Mayakoba's buzzy new beach hub in Mexico ("Living lush," PAGE 10). If it's mapping out a strategy to collect some of the best bottles you can only find abroad, Christopher Waters has put together a guide to wine, spirits and hard cider best purchased at the source ("Bottle stops," PAGE 28). Or if it's developing a better understanding of how an escape can fuel the work you do when you return home, hotelier Alex Fida writes about how his own trips influence the experience he creates for his guests ("Rooms with a view," PAGE 46).

Travel tips are rarely a one size fits all solution, but hopefully this issue includes more than a few ideas that connect with where the new you wants to go next.

Andrew Sardone
Editorial Director

Contributors

The faces behind this issue share how they get their creative juices flowing – on the go



Cover model **NORA VAI** says the best part of visiting Turks and Caicos to shoot "Sun trap" (PAGE 30) was spending time on location with the team, including some memorable dinners on the beach. "I am really lucky to meet such talented stylists, designers, art directors and makeup and hair artists on set. I admire their vision and learn something new every time." Based in New York, Vai has struck a pose for the likes of Gucci, Marc Jacobs and Schiaparelli. With plans to travel to Asia later this year, she says her favourite place to visit for inspiration is Italy, where she likes to take in the beautiful architecture and indulge in some people watching. "I love the Italian appreciation of dressing up, good food, wine and, most importantly, free time," she says. "It makes me want to slow down and just enjoy the day without rushing somewhere or checking social media."



"When you're moving through a new place, you're naturally more aware of everything," says Vancouver-based writer **ADRIENNE MATEI**. "You're processing unfamiliar surroundings and how you feel in them like a fresh little baby. It's inherently stimulating." In every issue, Matei compiles style-focused technology news for the Essentials section. For March, that includes reporting on Marriott's cutting-edge design lab as well as compiling a guide to getaway-ready gadgets ("Travel tools," PAGE 26). "I think the Polaroid Hi-Print would be the most fun," she says about which find she might add to her own carry-on. "But the Sony sound-canceling headphones seem hyper-luxurious and like they would be an excellent way to carve out a personal serving of serenity when needed."



For this issue's luggage feature ("Packing list," PAGE 17), Toronto-based stylist and contributing fashion editor **NADIA PIZZIMENTI** assembled carry-on gear that can elevate anyone's in-transit look. While she says that creative inspiration can come from anywhere – music, art, literature, film, even her everyday surroundings – Pizzimenti gravitates toward the energy of a big, bustling city and observing the people living there. "It's what inspires narratives for photo shoots and how I spot fashion and beauty trends," she says. For her, inspiration is the match that lights the fire. "It creates excitement but also gives me a focal point and direction to work toward."

PHOTO BY RACHELLE SIMONEAU (GLENMORANGIE)

Astonishing orange



HERMÈS
PARIS

Spring forward

Mark your calendars for a floral-festooned collaboration between a Canadian painter and a French beauty brand; an exhibition that explores attire's connection to hair; and the MET's blockbuster show on late style icon Karl Lagerfeld



2 Female-focused e-commerce and art consultancy Tacit (facitcollective.com) teams up with hip Toronto venue Cry Baby Gallery for a show called **BODY OF WORK** in honour of International Women's Month. Until March 19, take in works by Marcia Bianchi, Alyssa Goodman, Emily Pope and Maxine McCrann (pictured left).



7 Herschel Supply Company (herschel.ca) introduces its product partnership with Malaysian-born, Vancouver-based creative Arty Guava as part of the accessory company's **NOVA ART PROJECT: A CANVAS TO CELEBRATE WOMEN IN THE ARTS**.

17 To commemorate its 70th anniversary, the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo (momat.go.jp) presents **SECRETS OF IMPORTANT CULTURAL PROPERTIES**, a unique retrospective of paintings and objects crafted during and after the Meiji period from 1868 to 1912.



31 Guerlain Paris's (guerlain.com) Denim Floral collection collaboration with Canadian painter **LAURA GULSHANI** blooms today. Best known for her sumptuous depictions of flowers and fashion show scenes, Gulshani finds her florals embroidered on denim patches that accent the cases of a luxe lipstick and eyeshadow palette.



APRIL

1 For its Spring 2023 collection, Berlin-based **GmbH** (gmbhgmbh.eu) partners with the Indonesian artist Muhammad "Rofi" Fatchurofi on a selection of groovy illustrations that you can find on the brand's casualwear.

5 A new "mane" attraction opens at Paris's Musée des Arts Décoratifs (madparis.fr): **DES CHEVEUX ET DES POILS**, a show dedicated to the art of hairstyles and body hair grooming.



30 Vintage-centric e-tailer **BERRIEZ** (shopberriez.com) brings us a line created with fellow Brooklyn-based business Urbn Rewrk. The union sees sustainably minded materials – which have been pleasingly hand-dyed using non-toxic sources – crafted into a selection of sultry, size-inclusive garments.



MAY



3 Phaidon's **INTERNET ART: FROM THE BIRTH OF THE WEB TO THE RISE OF NFTS** (phaidon.com) written by Dr. Omar Kholeif (a curator, author and broadcaster who is better known in the metaverse as "Dr. O") charts the history of digitized creative output since 1989.

5 And just like that, it's the first Monday in May – time to watch the style set fête the arrival of **KARL LAGERFELD: A LINE OF BEAUTY**, the latest Costume Institute exhibition at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (metmuseum.org). The show traces the late designer's efforts while at the helm of some of fashion's best-known labels, from Chloe and Fendi to Chanel and his eponymous line. Many of the garments and accessories on display will be shown alongside Lagerfeld's sketches, adding a hint of intimacy to the notoriously private creative's career.



13 **O'KEEFE AND MOORE** opens at the San Diego Museum of Art (sdmart.org), exploring the oeuvres of icons Henry Moore and Georgia O'Keeffe. It's the first time such a dual exploration has been mounted, and you'll find studio recreations along with over 100 paintings and sculptures. A highlight of the show's programming is the Bones & Stones benefit dinner on May 18, featuring cocktails, a viewing of the exhibition and dinner al fresco at the museum's May. S. Marcy Sculpture Court & Garden.





MaxMara

Ommibus

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Fairmont's Maykana Beach Club on Mexico's Riviera Maya used natural elements and Mayan design to inspire its landscape of pools, restaurants and cabanas.

| HOTELS |

Living lush

South of Cancun, the Fairmont Mayakoba creates a nature-inspired hub for a group of neighbouring resorts

Even though Mayakoba is only 10 kilometres from Playa Del Carmen, the community feels a world away from the Mexican party destination. Mayakoba's visitors prefer the secluded luxury of its four resorts and private residences, which is anchored by the Fairmont Mayakoba.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

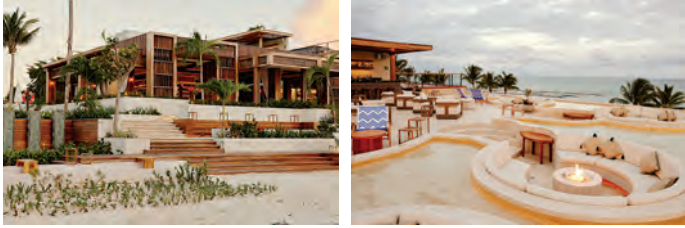
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 (1) Conditions apply, contact store for details. (2) Quick Ship Program available on select products in stock, subject to availability. Images are for reference only and models, sizes, colors and finishes may vary. Contact store for more details.



Bubble 2, Curved 3-4 seat-sofa, designed by Sacha Ladic.

***\$9,990 instead of \$12,935 until 30/04/23** for sofa as shown, L. 248 x H. 80 x D. 132 cm. Price includes one curved 3-4 seat sofa, upholstered in Orsetto Flex fabric. Fully tufted, and excludes optional toss cushions. Other dimensions available. Astréa armchair, designed by Sacha Ladic. Triolet cocktail table, end tables and occasional table, designed by Julie Figueroa Zafiro. Up floor lamp and table lamps, designed by Marcel Wanders. **Made in Europe.** Mer rug, designed by Antoine Fritsch & Vivien Durisotti.

In-store interior design & 3D modeling services. (1) Quick Ship program available. (2)



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10 »

Surrounded by almost 600 acres of pristine lagoons, jungles and beaches, Mayakoba, which translates to “village of water,” has always put nature first. But even travellers looking to reconnect with each other and the landscape crave a little social interaction on their getaway, so the property has just undergone a multimillion-dollar renovation culminating in the unveiling of the Maykana Beach Club.

Overlooking the Caribbean, the club is a short trolley or bike ride from the hotel. As the first of the resorts to expand its seaside amenities, Fairmont’s Maykana has also become a destination for guests staying at the neighbouring Bayan Tree Mayakoba, Rosewood Mayakoba and Andaz Mayakoba Resort Riviera Maya, who all convene at the artfully designed space.

“The concept for the beach club was inspired by the Mayan pyramids,” says Luis Yunta, director and architect at Room 1804, which led this redevelopment. “The design incorporates a similarly terraced approach, with multiple staggered platforms that start in the sand at the beach leading up to the roof, culminating in a unique water feature.”

Blending traditional elements and artisan craftsmanship, Maykana was constructed out of materials reflected in nature and using Mayan

stones, shapes and colours inspired by the crystal-clear turquoise water, soft sand and swaying palms. “Connection to nature was paramount for this redesign – being able to section the space into terraces that each offered their own experience made this possible,” Yunta says. “Ensuring that each space connected directly to the beach – whether poolside, at a fire pit, in an intimate cabana, or under a palapa – forges this inimitable connection with nature.”

Within the club, there are five restaurants named after natural elements. Choose between dining from the all-day menu in the open air at Brisas, sitting directly on the sand to enjoy a menu cooked on the wood fire grill at Fuego or making a reservation for dinner at the Greek-inspired Gaia Seafood Restaurant. If you are dining poolside or in one of the cabanas, guests can order from Aqua’s expansive menu of Latin-influenced cocktails and dishes. “A personal favourite is Cielo, where earth and air meet the sea,” says Yunta, who describes it as the perfect spot to catch a golden sunset.

“The redesigned space offers a completely transformative experience to all travellers, allowing guests to enjoy a drink or a meal but still feel like they are part of a cohesive property,” Yunta says. Back at the Fairmont, the revamp also enhanced rooms and communal spaces including the Willow Stream Spa, while reimaging restaurants including La Laguna and Tauro. For the ultimate seaside escape, request a beach front casita room with direct beach access via a private stairway that leads down to the sand. There are also guesthouses set within lush mangrove trees overlooking the canals that snake through the property. – **CALEIGH ALLELYNE**

Rooms from \$475/night. For more information, visit fairmont.com.



| SKINCARE |

Holistic approach

Korea’s Sulwhasoo distills one of its bestselling products in a sculptural vessel

Taking aesthetic inspiration from the porcelain, or *baekja*, of the Joseon Dynasty is a clever move for Korean skincare company Sulwhasoo. For the limited-edition release of its First Care Activating Serum, the bestselling product is housed in a vessel that borrows from the quiet beauty of a traditional moon jar. Instead of the serum’s signature amber cap and bold black text, this alabaster version turns the skincare product into an art object. “The flowing curves and borderless design represent the beauty of elegance and simplicity of Korean aesthetics,” Judy So, the brand’s assistant marketing manager in Canada, says, adding that the *baekja* inspired bottle “transcends the boundaries of language and space.”

Founded in 1966, Sulwhasoo is based on principles of a holistic beauty that lives in harmony and balance. Informed by Korean herbal medicine, founder Suh Sung-Whan developed a line of skincare products that tapped into the power of ginseng. The herbaceous approach took off and, in 2004, the first Sulwhasoo boutique opened its doors in Hong Kong. Six years later, Sulwhasoo crossed the Pacific, making its North American debut at Bergdorf Goodman in New York. It helped to usher in the current obsession with K Beauty, a skincare approach that’s broadly defined by its multiple steps and layering of lightweight products including serums and essences.

Sulwhasoo’s First Care Activating Serum is applied post-cleanse to brighten skin while helping it to better absorb the products that follow. “You can feel the traditional aesthetics and deep beauty in the light touch transmitted to your fingertips,” So says.

– **CAITLIN AGNEW**
Sulwhasoo First Care Activating Serum Limited Edition, \$144 at Nordstrom (nordstrom.ca) and Sephora (sephora.ca).



| DESIGN |

All together now

In southeastern Ontario, the Black Bear Ridge golf course offers expansive space for a group escape

FINDING A GETAWAY SPOT that fits a substantially sized group can be tricky. Booking one that provides ample accommodations while prioritizing boutique hotel-level design is near impossible. But at Black Bear Ridge, a championship golf course and burgeoning resort community north of Belleville, Ont., extended families, wedding parties and corporate retreaters can all rest stylishly in short-term luxury rentals that each fit up to 40 guests.

“While our core customer base is the golf community, we are starting to attract groups from across the province who are drawn to our premium, large-group accommodations and proximity to Prince Edward County,” says president and managing partner Alex Sharpe. Those homes – called Wallace and Carter – were designed by Carlo Colacci, whose signature mix of bold colour and vintage curiosities helped define Toronto’s Drake Hotel and all of its offshoots. In the Carter house, Colacci’s scheme includes walls hung with work by emerging artists, playful lighting, groupings of retro furniture and bedrooms outfitted with bunk-style beds.

For guests who don’t golf, Black Bear Ridge can organize private yoga classes, in-house cocktail mixing tutorials and hikes through hundreds of acres of wooded trails that extend to the Moira River. For those that do, there are 27 holes plus a golf academy and driving range. For everyone in between, this season will see the debut of a nine-hole “bocce golf” course that marries mini putt and lawn bowling.

Also debuting for 2023 is the Jones House, which Sharpe calls Black Bear Ridge’s version of a luxury hotel suite. It will sleep up to four in a more intimate space outfitted with Candice Kaye Design wallpaper. In the longer term, the property will expand to include amenities for tennis and swimming as well as Black Bear Ridge Village, a campus of homes, a new club house and spa. – **ANDREW SARDONE**

Full house rentals from \$399/night. For more information, visit blackbearridge.ca.



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| FASHION |

Across cultures

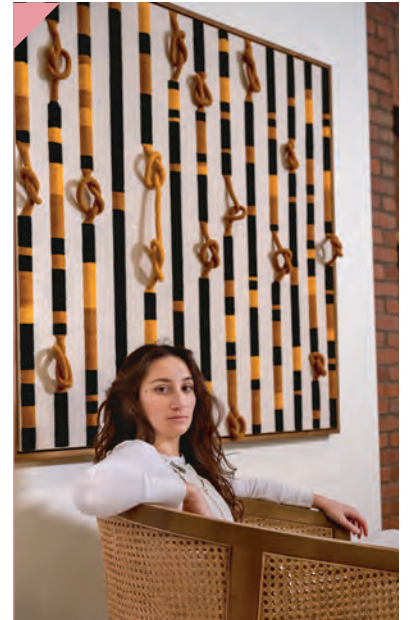
Bangladeshi know-how and Canadian style come together in upstart label Ahiri

“WE’RE ALL ABOUT PUSHING the envelope,” says Michael Jafine, the head designer of Canadian fashion startup Ahiri. “And giving [our customer] something that helps them grow into a fashion enthusiast.” Ahiri goes about this mission with staple pieces that are both directional in style and more accessible in price. Scrolling through the brand’s digital shop, you’ll find simple crew neck T-shirts, bias-cut maxi skirts and op art print knit dresses, all for less than \$300 a pop.

Ahiri was co-founded by Ahnaf Ali and Sheetu Latif in 2021 as a locally designed, more sustainable alternative to fast fashion brands such as Zara and Shein. With Jafine at the helm, its first collection for fall 2022 was what he calls a “broad stroke” approach. “From mild to wild, we have to think of who our customer is, and build something with our scalability,” says Jafine, who studied at Parsons School of Design and is a former apprentice of the Row and Proenza Schouler.

Its growth is possible in part because Ahiri’s pieces are made in factories owned by Ali and Latif’s third partner, a Bangladesh manufacturer specializing in ethical garment production. The facilities are LEED gold certified, ensuring lower carbon emissions and environmental quality. Its women employees are supported through on-site childcare, free sanitary products and legal aid. “We’ve been able to push the narrative on what it means to be manufacturing in Bangladesh,” Jafine says.

Now in its sophomore season, Ahiri is nudging its customer’s sense of sartorial adventure further with an explosion of retro styled pink pieces that oscillate between hard-edged and Barbie inspired. Jafine describes it as Valley of the Dolls meets Y2K. — RANDI BERGMAN
For more information, visit ahiri.ca.



| ART |

Thread work

Claudia Gutierrez’s textile pieces weave creative storytelling into hotel spaces

This will be big year for Ottawa-based multidisciplinary artist Claudia Gutierrez. As the recipient of the SAW Prize for New Works in 2020, the Juror’s Choice Award at DesignTO in 2021, and an award from the Ontario Craft Council in 2022, her sensuous textile work has garnered attention from industry insiders. Now, she’s poised to provoke a wider audience through work for Toronto’s Gladstone House hotel and the AC Hotel by Marriott in downtown Los Angeles.

Through artist residencies in Canada and Mexico, Gutierrez has honed her inherently supple practice, which sees lengths of wool (all of which she purchases from an Oaxaca-based, artisan-focused non-profit, the Cosa Buena Foundation), cotton and linen embroidered into pieces that manifest unique narratives. “My father is from Acapulco,” she says. “He always told me if you’re going to study anything artistic, you have to go to Oaxaca; it’s the epicentre of culture.” Her signature use of knots further punctuates these storylines, creating an element of sculptural corporeality.

Highlighting that she’s drawn to the dichotomies of creative output – feminine and masculine statements; the hypocrisy in what’s deemed craft versus art – Gutierrez is also taken with the power of embroidery to convey value via discernable passages of time. “When you see each stitch, you feel the time it took,” she says, adding that her next series will include documenting her technique as a kind of performance art.

In addition to her public space projects, Gutierrez also takes private commissions and sells work at exhibitions and online. She often finds “patrons putting my pieces in their bedrooms,” she says. “I’m always seeing them in intimate spaces.”

— ODESSA PALOMA PARKER

For more information, visit claudiagutierrezart.com.

PHOTO BY PAT BOLDUC (GUTIERREZ).

| FOOD AND DRINK |

New brew

With its first Canadian location, %Arabica brings Kyoto coffee culture to Toronto

DESPITE IT BEING A QUIET midweek afternoon in early January, there is a 20-minute lineup to get into %Arabica, a new café at Toronto’s Yorkdale Shopping Centre. Clearly word has gotten out about the Japanese import, which opened the doors of its first Canadian location in December.

The Kyoto-based brand, which has 140 locations around the world, is growing quickly. Two more Canadian stores are in the works: Union Station in Toronto, opening in April, and Whistler, B.C., opening this summer. Founder Kenneth Shoji spent the first weeks of 2023 in Egypt scouting for more new outposts. The brand’s sleek, minimalist design ethos means each of these locations is beautifully photogenic. Thanks to an almost exclusive use of white walls and furniture and a glass storefront, Yorkdale’s concession looks like a coffee laboratory. Other locations have trademark design touches nodding to the local aesthetic. A café in New York’s Nolita neighbourhood features exposed brick walls, while a recently opened spot in Marrakech includes zellige and bejmat tiles made in Morocco.

While the beans %Arabica brews are from various points around the world including Colombia, Ethiopia and Indonesia, the focus is on those grown in Hawaii, where Shoji owns a coffee farm. The menu is purposefully concise, consisting of only eight coffee-based options – from espresso to dark latte – and three non-coffee drinks including matcha latte, chocolate and a lemonade made using a recipe from Kyoto. The point, as is the case with many Japanese gourmet specialties, is mastery. All beans are roasted in house at each café, and a customized Slayer espresso machine gives baristas greater control during the brewing process. — MARYAM SIDDIQI
For more information, visit arabicacanada.coffee.



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INSIGHT & ACQUISITIONS

PACKING LIST

At Evangeline, the Ace Hotel Toronto's buzzy rooftop bar, we assemble a well-travelled mix of colourful, shapely and perfectly patterned baggage

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
CHRISTIE VUONG

STYLING BY
NADIA PIZZIMENTI



CABIN FEVER

A Rimowa case in a new hue called Pine or a Hermès option in cognac leather perched on contrasting rubber wheels will both look sharp rolling through the airport. R.M.S. bag, \$12,300 at Hermès ([hermes.com](https://www.hermes.com)). Sunnei Labauletto bag, \$1,327 through [sunnei.it](https://www.sunnei.it). Essentials cabin suitcase, \$1,050 at Rimowa ([rimowa.com](https://www.rimowa.com)).

Styling assistant: Shae Holt for PIM.ca. Photo assistant: Britney Townsend.



SHAPE SHIFT

Prada's Symbole pattern distills a logo motif into an embroidered array of triangles that covers a travel-friendly tote and cross-body combo.

Symbole tote, \$5,000, crossbody bag, \$3,350 at Prada (prada.com).



OVERSIZED LOOK

For its spring collection, Louis Vuitton played with the scale of the tags that adorn its luggage to create exaggerated versions as surrealist carryalls.

Purse, \$3,350 at Louis Vuitton (louisvuitton.com).



SMALL WONDERS

Passport cases and accessory carriers can be packed with personality. Go classic with Paravel's graphic stripes or more abstract with Hermès' surf print.

(Clockwise from top left) White passport holder, \$295, Sea Surf and Fun passport holder, \$800 at Hermès (hermes.com). Paravel carrying case, \$100, zip-top pouch, \$90 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com).



SOFT TOUCH

For less structured travellers, a trio of nylon options offer a contemporary look and generous room for a weekend's worth of sundries.

(Clockwise from top left) Loewe convertible backpack, \$3,410 through loewe.com. Alexander McQueen duffel bag, \$1,740 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com). The Row weekender bag, \$2,590 at Ssense (ssense.com).

ON LOCATION

ACE IS THE PLACE

The Toronto boutique hotel has quickly become a destination for creative connecting

Situated in a striking new example of contemporary Brutalism, the Ace Hotel in Toronto doesn't rest on its good looks when it comes to drawing a crowd. The 123-room property designed by Shim-Sutcliffe Architects also boasts a lively Lobby bar, a Patrick Kriss-helmed restaurant named Alder and a cozy rooftop space called Evangeline. While you can find the Ace Martini – a combo of London Dry gin, blended vermouths, yellow chartreuse and sage brine – in all three of these venues, Evangeline is the spot to snag a fireside sofa or bask above the city's hubbub during patio season.

A retro vibe punctuates the decor, but the programming at Evangeline is decidedly of the moment. "Like other Ace Hotel locations, we look to build a curious, eclectic atmosphere with a fun kind of weird," says Michael Nyarkoh, the hotel's community and marketing manager. "The spirit of the rooftop bar is freeing, exploratory and connective, and we hope guests reciprocate by joining us with open minds and moving bodies."

To keep the crowd grooving, Evangeline features regular DJ sets. Its New Hope event takes place on the last Sunday of every month and is a performance-focused happening that, come May, will host the electro-punk duo Slash Need. For those seeking something more intimate, the final instalment of author Marlowe Granados's Salon 51 cinq-a-sept gathering is on March 19 when she'll be joined by author, screenwriter and essayist Monica Heisey.

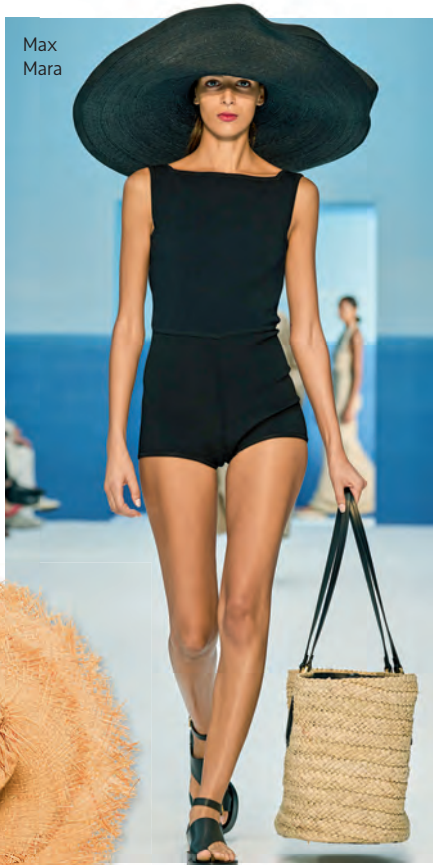
Whenever you visit, expect to find a selection of original art courtesy of gallery partner Cooper Cole. Pieces on display will change every few months and highlight talent from across Canada and beyond. – **ODESSA PALOMA PARKER**

For more information, visit acehotel.com/toronto.

SHADY CHARACTER

Protecting yourself from vacation sun is a serious business that calls for a seriously large hat. Luckily, this season offers no shortage of dramatic headwear. Max Mara's sweeping straw hats had its spring catwalk cast looking mysteriously chic. Cult Gaia's fringed visor lets the top of your head breathe while Etro's frayed topper keeps you completely covered under a kaleidoscope of colour. The Clara wide-brimmed hat from U.K.-based Toast has a vintage silhouette and Pardo Hat's option is accented with a surrealist raffia embroidered face. Greenpacha's striped Morea hat shows off the handiwork of craftswomen from Cuenca, Ecuador, and is meant to promote cultural expression along with its sartorial SPF.

— NADIA PIZZIMENTI



Pardo Hats hat, €550 through pardohats.com.



Etro hat, \$620 through etro.com.



Toast hat, \$145 through ca.toa.st.



Greenpacha hat, US\$182 through greenpacha.com.



Cult Gaia visor, \$420 through modaoperandi.com.



VISUAL CUES

On Paris's left bank, Chanel celebrates Karl Lagerfeld's love of books

What would it have looked like to live inside the creative mind of late Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld? Based on a visit to 7L, a Paris bookshop in the 7th arrondissement founded by Lagerfeld in 1999 and recently acquired by the house, it likely resembled the chicest of libraries. Lagerfeld loved surrounding himself with books, especially those touching on any form of beauty. The store's shelves and tables display such a worldly collection of titles on photography, textiles, interior design, architecture, jewellery, gardens and landscapes. Chanel's influence fills it with a collection of tomes shared by both founder Gabrielle Chanel and Lagerfeld himself. For equally creative bookworms looking to assemble an inspiring collection of your own, 7L's staff can curate a home library based on favourite volumes or themes. — N.P.

For more information, visit librairie7l.com.

CROSS CHECK

The best on-the-go bag is handsomely hands-free



ORANGE CRUSH

Handmade in Montreal by Madeleine Beaulieu, this style combines functional and timeless characteristics for someone off to see the sights. The compact size, adjustable strap and discrete hardware are practical elements of its minimalist design.

Partoem Tome 2 bag, \$595 through partoem.ca.



CARRIED AWAY

The Andiamo is Bottega Veneta's latest style and its name means "let's go" in Italian. With a spacious body and adjustable braided leather strap, this woven wonder is a traveller's dream, no matter how long the journey. It's available in small, medium and large.

The Andiamo bag, price on request at Bottega Veneta (bottegabeneta.com).



STRAP IN

Ferragamo offers a beige leather crossbody that's easy on the eyes and perfectly compact in size. The Gancini features a double front flap and a concealed patch pocket. It's designed to hold all your essentials and look sharp in any environment.

Salvatore Ferragamo Gancini bag, \$1,890 at [Ssense](http://ssense.com) (ssense.com).

LOCAL FLAVOUR

Two Canadian spas in Vancouver and Toronto are focusing on treatments inspired by nearby terroir

Culturally specific wellness treatments – think healing *lomilomi* massages from Hawaii or the invigorating Turkish bath – have been exported to spas around the world. But as travellers look for ways to enhance their self-care routines while on the road, spas are increasingly creating treatments inspired by their own unique locales.

Take the Canadian Wilderness Retreat, a 90-minute body session at the Willow Stream Spa at Vancouver's Fairmont Pacific Rim hotel that distills the landscape of western British Columbia in a treatment. Exclusive to the location, it incorporates products from the locally made line Beauty through Balance, including a scrub and body oil infused with scents of cedar, pine and fir. It also incorporates seaweed fronds sustainably harvested from the shores of the Pacific Ocean, which is so close it can be admired from the spa's rooftop terrace.

The grand finale is a mud-like glacial clay foot mask that evokes a walk in the woods. "It was inspired by earthing, the art of walking along the forest floor in your bare feet," spa operations manager Anna McAlary says. "All of these elements create a grounding experience."

Glacial clay is also the star ingredient in the CÉla Mineral Facial, a new treatment at Toronto's Hammam Spa by CÉla. When owner Celine Tadrissi launched her in-house skincare line CÉla by Celine Tadrissi a few years ago, she looked to the botanicals in our home and native land to enhance her treatments, which are informed by ancient wellness rituals in places such as Morocco and Korea. Some of those key northern botanical extracts include blueberry, elderberry, evening primrose, juniper berry, rosemary and lavender, many of which were selected to help protect skin in a harsh winter climate. "I'm a 12th-generation Canadian, so I'm also a little biased in wanting to celebrate these local ingredients with people everywhere," Tadrissi says. – **CAITLIN AGNEW**

For more information, visit fairmont.com and hammamspa.ca.



Both the Willow Stream Spa at Vancouver's Fairmont Pacific Rim hotel (left) and Toronto's Hammam Spa (below) use glacial clay in treatments and products.



CARRY-ON COSMETICS

Packing light is made easy with products that multitask



DO IT ALL
François Nars pioneered the concept of multipurpose makeup when he introduced the Multiple, a cream-to-powder stick that can be used on eyes, lips, cheeks and body to highlight, contour or blush. Now, it's being rereleased in a limited collection dedicated to the brand's iconic Orgasm hue, a flattering peachy-pink. Nars the Orgasm Collection the Multiple, \$52 at Sephora and through narscosmetics.ca.



RED ALERT
Chanel's Le Baume Essentiel packs skincare benefits and radiant colour into one sleek stick, hydrating skin while imparting a fresh glow – a boon for anyone feeling dull after a long flight. This spring's limited-edition hue Rouge Frais brings a flush of red that's sure to enliven any complexion, no matter how many time zones were crossed. Chanel Baume Essentiel in 67 Rouge Frais, \$60 at Chanel beauty counters (chanel.com).



SOLID FOUNDATION
Los Angeles-based Merit Beauty launched in 2021 on a foundation of makeup minimalism and a simplified five-minute application routine. Last year, when it learned its customers were using the bestselling the Minimalist not just as a spot concealer, but also as a foundation, they rereleased its 20 shades in new packaging that's double the original size. Merit The Minimalist Perfecting Complexion Stick, \$49 through meritbeauty.com.



DEFINING MOMENTS
Canadian cosmetics company 19/99's new Cream Contour Stick defines facial contours through a lightweight formula that blends easily for gentle, natural-looking results. Available in two shades, Tea for fair to medium skin tones and Kave for medium-deep to deep skin tones, it creates the contouring impression of soft shadows without settling into fine lines. – **C.A.**
19/99 Cream Contour Stick, \$34 at The Detox Market and through 1999beauty.ca.



SOAK IT UP

Quench skin with a new range of hydrating products

Addressing the inevitable moisture loss that comes with aging is Clarins' new Hydra-Essentiel [HA²], a range of skincare devoted to keeping all skin types hydrated. Along with botanical ingredients selected for their skin-beautifying properties, including edelweiss and damask rose, each of the seven products in the collection taps the skin-plumping benefits of hyaluronic acid, known as a powerful hydrating ingredient. Anchoring the range are the day creams, which were designed to both rehydrate skin at the time of day when moisture levels are at their lowest and to protect it from aggressors such as pollution and indoor heating. A night cream helps to minimize overnight water loss. – **C.A.**

Clarins Hydra-Essentiel night cream, \$53, at Shoppers Drug Mart, The Bay, Sephora, London Drugs, Jean Coutu, Uniprix and through clarins.ca.

TICK TOCK TOURS

Behind-the-scenes watchmaking experiences bring Swiss knowhow to life

The Vallée de Joux, a short train ride from Geneva in the Swiss canton of Vaud, is known for its picturesque mountain scenery, ski resorts and fragrant alpine cheeses. For visitors to the Musée Atelier Audemars Piguet in Le Brassus, however, gondola rides and Gruyère are merely the backdrop to a far more exclusive experience. Here, inside a spiralling glass building designed by Bjarke Ingels Group, luxury watch brand Audemars Piguet has begun offering visitors the chance to immerse themselves in the art, craft and lore of watchmaking at a series of exclusive masterclasses.

Limited to four participants and available by reservation only, the program combines a guided tour of the Audemars Piguet museum with a hands-on watchmaking lesson from one of the maison's expert craftspeople. "Since its creation in 1875, our Manufacture has been committed to enhancing the craftsmanship specific to the Vallée de Joux and perpetuating it generation after generation," says Jasmine Audemars, the chairwoman of the brand's board of directors. "This masterclass helps perpetuate an art that makes the heart of our region beat."

As interest in luxury watches continues to grow worldwide, a handful of elite brands have begun hosting similar programs at their Swiss headquarters. Equal parts history lesson and craft workshop, they delve into the centuries-old culture of Swiss watchmaking and provide insights into the historic designs for which each house is known. Near the German border in Schaffhausen, IWC offers both virtual and in-person tours of its ultra-modern Manufakturzentrum, where visitors can observe craftspeople transforming bars of gold, steel and bronze into famed timepieces such as the Big Pilot's Watch. "When you first set foot in the new Manufakturzentrum, you immediately get a sense of what IWC is all

about, as well as a sense of the pride that our employees take in their work," says CEO Christoph Grainger Herr, who assisted with the building's design. "Not only will visitors gain exciting insights into our history and the complex engineering behind our timepieces, but they will also be immersed into the world of IWC in a completely new way."

In Le Sentier, the home of Jaeger-LeCoultre since 1833, the brand launched a series of educational programs dubbed "Atelier d'Antoine," after the maison's founder, Antoine LeCoultre. These include discovery workshops dedicated to watchmaking history and master classes in engraving and enameling. "The discovery workshops are designed to take students on a journey," says Catherine Rénier, Jaeger-LeCoultre's CEO. "Whether you are a watch lover or a neophyte, you can take this class and learn something new, and be surprised."

Equally surprising is one thing all these experiences lack: the opportunity to purchase a watch. In addition to prices that can soar well over six figures, many top-tier watch brands have years-long waiting lists for their most in-demand pieces. Considering that fact, these experiences are designed to create something far more valuable for a brand that sells something as esoteric as a handmade mechanical timepiece: a feeling. "These experiences allow us to carry the public further into the world of watchmaking," Rénier says. "We want them to come with curiosity and a desire to learn, and to leave with memories and emotions."

— JEREMY FREED

For bookings, visit museeatelier-audemarspiguet.com, online-booking.jaeger-lecoultre.com, iwc.com/gb/en/company/manufakturzentrum.html.



The atelier at Audemars Piguet in Le Brassus (above) offers a limited number of behind-the-scenes reservations. At Jaeger-LeCoultre (left) and IWC (below), visitors are immersed in processes such as enameling and turning precious metals into watch components.



TIME TRAVEL

Whether you're sunning on the Med, shopping in Ginza or sampling an Insta-famous tasting menu in Copenhagen, there's a watch for wherever your travels take you. Protect them in transit with one of these cases



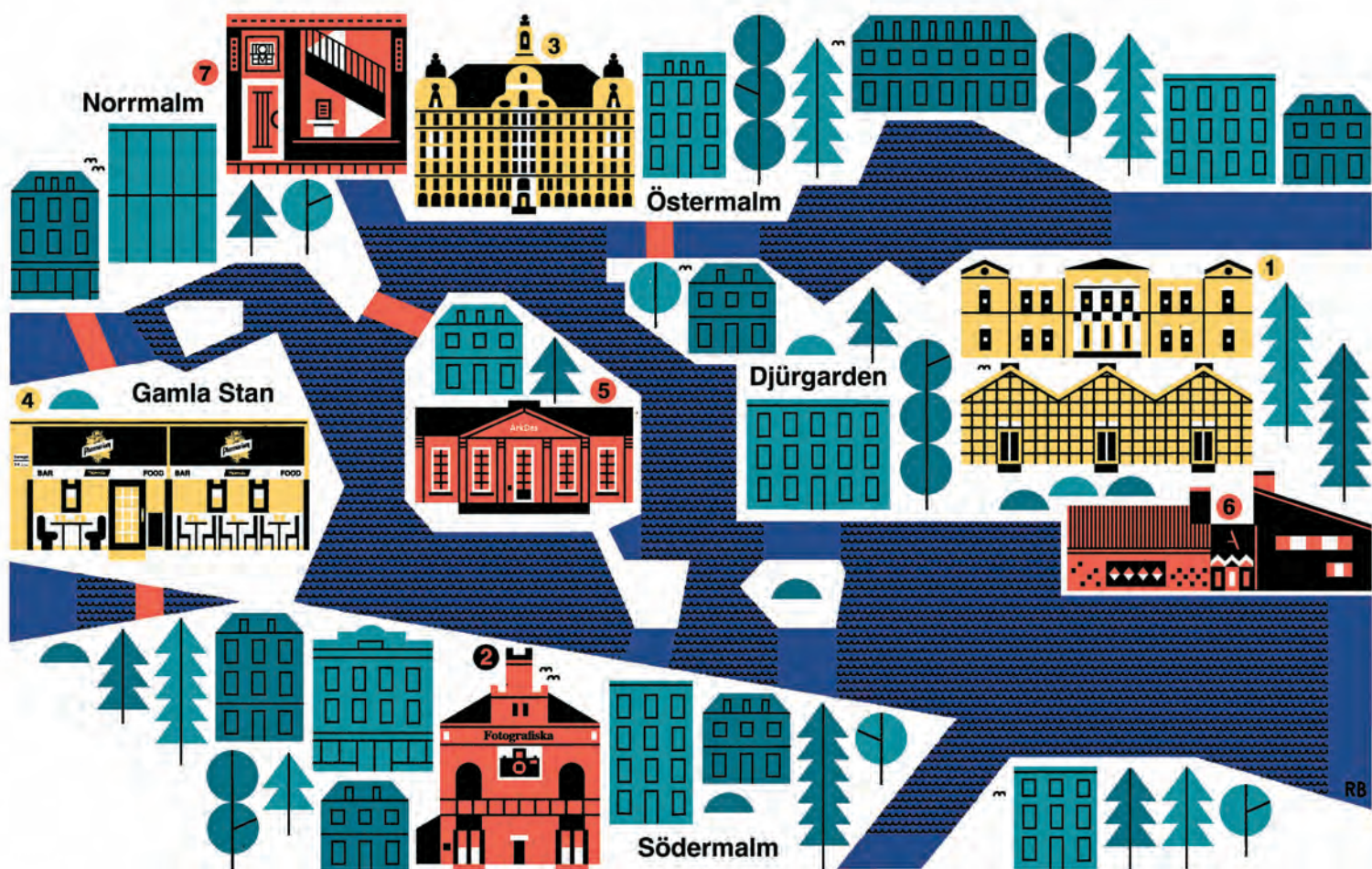
ROMAN HOLIDAY
Brunello Cucinelli may be famous for his signature buttery knits, but this supple Italian leather watch roll proves the King of Cashmere has fine taste in cowhide, too. Brunello Cucinelli grain leather watch roll, \$1,095 at Harry Rosen (harryrosen.com).



CASE STUDY
Founded by a pair of design-loving engineers in Montreal, Charles Simon specializes in industrial-chic luggage, including Canadian-made watch cases crafted from French leather, aluminum and Alcantara suede. Eaton three-watch case, \$1,290 at Charles Simon (charles-simon.com).



TRUNK SHOW
A specialist in durable hard-sided luggage since the steamship era, Globe-Trotter has adapted its Victorian aesthetic to modern designs like this handsome suede-lined travel box. — J.F. Globe-Trotter Centenary six-piece watch box, US\$1,640 through mrporter.com.



SWEDISH GRACE

Can a car's design distill a country's sense of style? At Volvo's launch of its EX90 electric SUV in Stockholm in November, the Swedish automaker aimed to do just that, pairing the vehicle's debut with a crash course on Scandinavian aesthetics. "Things are getting more and more alike," said senior design manager Cecilia Stark, who helped guide a group of visitors in town for the unveiling through the city's design studios and striking spaces. "It's not just that [Swedish design] is clean. We have some sort of human touch and a little bit of kindness." If you find yourself in Stockholm and want to experience that unique beauty yourself, these spots capture the reverence for nature, resourcefulness and combination of form and function that helps Swedish design stand out

1. ROSENDALS TRÄDGÅRD

Located on the island Kungliga Djurgården, just west of the city centre, this biodynamic garden and greenhouse complex feels like a world away. It's bucolic setting includes a café serving up seasonal veggies grown on site and bread

baked in its own ovens. A rustic shed is filled with garden decor as well as seeds to inspire you to start your own plot back home.

For more information, visit rosendalstradgard.se.

2. FOTOGRAFISKA

Part of a network of museums that includes locations in Berlin, Miami and Shanghai, Stockholm's Fotografiska is housed in a warehouse along the Stadsgården waterfront. Its spring exhibitions include *In Bloom*, a group show exploring nature in photography, and *Light Play*, which dives into the photographic portfolio of Hungarian painter Laszlo Moholy-Nagy.

Adult tickets from 150 SEK. For more information, visit fotografiska.com.

3. SVENSKT TENN

Since 1924, this landmark store has collaborated on furniture, housewares and textiles with historic tastemakers such as Josef Frank and contemporary designers including Luke Edward Hall. Its exuberant style – best experienced in its colourful new café with its all-organic menu – will reset your expectations that Scandi interiors are all minimal and blonde.

For more information, visit svensktenn.com.

4. PHARMARIUM

Gamla Stan is Stockholm's old town and the site of its royal palace. On its main square, across from the Nobel Prize Museum, this cocktail bar is known for its brooding interiors and dapperly dressed bartenders. Its menu starts with a single of-the-moment cocktail per page followed by lists of

classic drinks, non-alcoholic options, wine, beer and snacks.

For more information, visit pharmarium.se.

5. ARKDES

The Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design is in the same complex as the city's modern art gallery. It's Architecture in Sweden show traces a thousand years of the country's design history via an exhibition hall full of blueprints and maquettes, while an installation spotlighting Tham & Videgard encases the Stockholm firm's work in a 432 square metre glass floor.

Adult tickets from 100 SEK. For more information, visit arkdes.se.

6. AIRA

Tommy Myllymaki is one of Stockholm's top chefs and his Michelin-starred Aira overlooking the Biskopsuddens Marina

is appreciated as much for its tasting menus spotlighting seasonal, Nordic ingredients as its design. The spine of the dining room is a service corridor lined with wood credenzas and brass shelving that gives its back-of-house functions pride of place.

For more information, visit aira.se.

7. TOTEME

Sweden's biggest designer fashion export is Acne, but those in the country's fashion industry predict nine-year-old Toteme might become an even more influential global brand. It's Biblioteksgatan store looks like a teensy boutique from the street but a sculptural staircase circles up to a lofty upper level stocked with its luxe take on women's-wear staples.

– ANDREW SARDONE

For more information, visit toteme-studio.com.

NEUTRAL TERRITORY

"Luxury before was really to show off," says Volvo's Stark. "And now maybe luxury is more how you live. Luxury is being out in nature and breathing clean air." That eco-focused ethos is behind the EX90's sustainable credentials – including an expected 480-kilometre range and a body that incorporates recycled metals and plastics – but it's perhaps best expressed through its passenger cabin. While high-end car interiors were once a louche mix of leather and glossy surfaces, Volvo is moving toward a very Scandi palette of what Stark calls "honest materials." In the EX90, that means wools and matte woods in neutral colour schemes that prioritize a sense of calm over showy pizzazz.

Canadian deliveries of the EX90 are expected to begin in early 2024. For more information visit volvocars.com.



ILLUSTRATION BY RAYMOND BIESINGER



UPSTATE UPDATE

A short drive from the Canadian border, a destination gallery prepares to reopen

The Buffalo AKG Art Museum (formerly the Albright-Knox Art Gallery) in Buffalo, N.Y., finds itself at a unique moment in its history. After celebrating its 160th anniversary last year, the team at one of the oldest art institutions in the United States is facing the future with the promise of a boldly updated campus and an optimistic attitude.

“Art museums are springs of hope and they are keepers of stories” says Janne Sirén, the director of the BAKG. “We keep stories and become a platform on which new stories are created; not one art history, but many art histories.”

Sirén can barely contain his enthusiasm for the in-progress renovation, refurbishment and new build by Shohei Shigematsu, the principal of New York-based architecture firm OMA, in collaboration with another Big Apple-based office, Cooper Robertson. The undertaking has been informed by numerous

town hall meetings and consultations with residents of western New York, because, as Sirén notes, “you don’t build museums for curators or directors of boards – you build them for the community of which you are a part.”

Set to open this spring, the BAKG will feature several new points of entry, over 50,000 square feet of exhibition space, art studios that will host everything from ceramics to 3-D printing classes and more than half an acre of newly created green space. As for the art? Aside from the awe-factor afforded by the new work *Common Sky* by Olafur Eliasson and Sebastian Behmann of Studio Other Spaces, the inaugural exhibitions at the BAKG include a survey of its modern and contemporary collection featuring works from Frida Kahlo to Mickalene Thomas. – **ODESSA PALOMA PARKER**

For more information, visit buffaloakg.org.

TAKING FLIGHT

Sculptor Nick Cave’s new airport installation encapsulates the energy of movement

This spring, passengers moving through the new Single Terminal at the Kansas City International Airport in Missouri will have more than departure to look forward to. The hub’s atmosphere taps into the notion that travellers in transit crave something stimulating

to experience between check in and take-off and it has been turned into a veritable contemporary gallery with new works by Nick Cave, Soo Sunny Park, Nassia Inglessis and Willie Cole.

The project is particularly significant to Cave, who was born in Missouri and studied at the Kansas City Art Institute. “I’ve been rooted in [local] arts advocacy and patronage, and it’s really quite amazing to deliver a project of this scale,” he says of the outsized kinetic sculpture called *The Air Up There* that’s installed on the ceiling of the check-in hall. “It’s a big ask, it’s a big responsibility and it’s a big delivery.”

The spectacle of wind spinners that Cave created (pictured below during construction) captures the ideal mood for an airport: that of wonder and movement. It even plays off the acceleration and deceleration of time – feelings that are often amplified in a terminal – and the value of taking a moment to pause mid-journey. “At one point, they’re sort of monochrome and romantic,” Cave says of his whimsical array. “And then, when the light hits differently, it’s just electrifying.” – **O.P.P.**

For more information, visit flykci.com.



LOCAL FABRIC

With so many of our travels documented in posted pixels, it’s easy to lose track of some of the beautiful places you’ve been. But Toronto-based Adrienna Matzeg’s embroideries offer the opportunity to have far-flung moments memorialized. “My practice is greatly focused around nostalgia and our ability to recall memory,” says Matzeg, who has a degree in photography from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. For her Destination punch needle series, Matzeg focused on capturing icons both grand (the Bixby Bridge found along California’s Big Sur coast) and gaudy (the neon signage for famed Los Angeles restaurant El Coyote). “I like to represent a broader aspect of a place,” she notes. “It’s like zooming into different parts of the experience.” Via a private commission, Matzeg can go big or small rendering your favourite souvenir photos in colourful thread. – **O.P.P.**

For more information, visit studiolittlered.com.

Van Cleef & Arpels

Haute Joaillerie, place Vendôme since 1906



Lucky Spring collection
Between the Finger™ ring
and pendant, rose gold, carnelian,
onyx and white mother-of-pearl.

 <p>PIC ME Edit and print high-quality photos the size of a business card directly from your mobile device with Polaroid's wireless printer. Polaroid Hi-Print wireless printer, \$140 through amazon.ca.</p>	 <p>IN TOUCH Hikers, sailors or anyone wandering out of WiFi range can rely on Garmin's satellite communicator for two-way text messaging and 24/7 search and rescue monitoring. Garmin In-Reach Mini, \$45 through garmin.com.</p>	 <p>TAG TEAM Your luggage might still get lost but at least you'll know where it is. Get that little piece of mind by tossing Apple's tracking tags into your checked bag. Apple Air Tag, \$129/pack of four through apple.com.</p>
 <p>SUPER CHARGE This EPICKA charger boasts more faster-charging USB plugs than its competitors and fits four types of outlets. EPICKA all-in-one international wall charger, \$24 through epikatech.com.</p>	<h1>TRAVEL TOOLS</h1> <p>Leave room in your bag for these trip-enhancing gadgets</p>	 <p>GOOD FAT The Fat Map app offers trustworthy, offline 3-D mountain maps for skiers, hikers and mountain bikers navigating unfamiliar terrain. Fat Map app, free through apps.apple.com.</p>
 <p>SMOOTH OVER Lightweight with a compact Scandinavian design, Steamery's portable steamer banishes suitcase wrinkles and musty smells. Steamery grey Cirrus 3 iron steamer, \$250 at Ssense (ssense.com).</p>	 <p>COOL HEADED Sony's wireless, noise-cancelling headphones were designed specifically for air travel; a smart voice pickup feature means your music will pause if you pipe up to order that tomato juice. Sony WH-1000XM4 headphones, \$400 through sony.ca.</p>	 <p>SAFE SIPS You don't have to rely on tepid plastic bottles with the USB-rechargeable SteriPen purifier, which uses ultraviolet light to quickly decontaminate clear water. — A.M. SteriPen Ultra water purifier, \$160 at MEC (mec.ca).</p>

ROOM SERVICE

At Marriott's Maryland headquarters, a new space is experimenting with the future of hotel rooms

Travellers booking into luxurious hotel rooms expect to find comfy beds, upmarket shampoos, fluffy towels and, increasingly, tech that feels intuitive, from the prosaic (abundant USB ports) to the semi-magical (smart room keys that start opening your curtains as you walk in the door).

To stay on the cusp of hospitality innovation, Marriott Hotels recently opened its Design Lab, an 8,400 square foot maker space in its Bethesda, Md., headquarters. At its adjoining hotel, there's also a prototype floor where designers iterate and experiment with innovations that will inform the hotel rooms of the future.

"The Lab is really designed to push the boundaries of design and innovation to help transform the entire hospitality industry," says Jeff Voris, Marriott's senior vice-president of global design strategies. Some of the projects Marriott is working on, such as quieter and more efficient cooling units for hotel rooms and universally standardized room controls, are intended to be shared industry wide. The Lab is also working on robotically automated rooms which can transform to suit the needs of guests who are blending family vacations with work trips. With the click of a button, these spaces can do things such as fold beds away into the walls, deploy desks and reveal televisions from the ceiling.

A collaboration with LG has seen the Design Lab rethink pools, conceptualizing them with screened bottoms that can make you feel like you're swimming with manta rays. The goal is not just novelty. "We believe that there's so much opportunity to improve our experience for our guests," Voris says. — **ADRIENNE MATEI**

For more information, visit marriott.com.



The Kameha Grand Zurich (above) is one of Marriott's most tech savy properties and captures the hotel brand's push to be more innovative.



White Desert Antarctica experiences in Queen Maud Land tread lightly on the landscape.

FLY ME TO THE MOON

In the Antarctic, a once-in-a-lifetime experience captures the breathtaking solitude of the southern continent

Tour company White Desert Antarctica has taken the continent's lunar-like landscape to heart, using it as the inspiration for its latest base camp, Echo. The site, opened in late 2022, is limited to just 12 guests in six pods that are orb-like in design, created with futuristic curved composite fibreglass and floor-to-ceiling windows. The view is one of desolation – a location in the mountains of Queen Maud Land chosen specifically for its solitude. “Echo is as close as you can get to feeling like you’re off the planet without leaving Earth,” says Mindy Roberts, the company’s chief marketing officer.

Echo is White Desert’s third Antarctic camp, all based in the same region of the continent, south of Africa. The company’s trips, which run

November through February, start and end in Cape Town. It’s a five-hour flight from there to Wolf’s Fang, an abandoned runway built into the tundra that the company restored to create its private airstrip.

Itineraries at Echo are built around visits to a remote Emperor Penguin colony that is a two-hour flight away from the camp. It’s where more than 14,000 of the birds live and breed. The South Pole and Emperors package also includes a journey to the geographic South Pole, and other activities include fat biking, skiing and mountaineering. All, however, are weather dependent. “Despite taking the hardship out of exploration, we are still at the mercy of mother nature and Antarctica is the ruler,” Roberts says.

Sustainability guides much of how the camps are run and they leave nothing behind when they are packed up at season’s end each year. “Our camps provide an ability to submerge in a timeless landscape where the land reminds us of how small we humans are, and what a great privilege it is to be here,” Roberts says.

– MARYAM SIDDIQI

White Desert Antarctica experiences, from US\$65,000 per person through white-desert.com.



CUSTOM CRUISE

A Four Seasons super yacht sets sail in 2025 with expeditions tailored for its guests

If cruise ships are known as floating hotels, it makes sense that a hotel company would command its own ship. That’s exactly what Four Seasons plans to do when it launches its first yacht in 2025. The hotel company’s super yacht offering is inspired by its private jet program – a round-the-world trip that makes stops in cities with some of the brand’s iconic properties – and customization is the priority. Staff to guest ratio will be one-to-one, and itineraries will be designed to the specific interests of those on board. There will be 95 suites on the ship, ranging from 580 to 9,600 square feet, 11 restaurants, a spa and pool. The first departures will sail the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, and while pricing is still being set, Four Seasons plans to start taking reservations in the second half of this year. – M.S.

For more information, visit fourseasons.com.

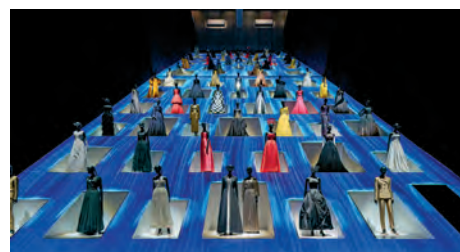
SPRING GETAWAYS

Make a spontaneous escape to these stylish spots



EDINBURGH

The stately Scottish city is home to two notable new hotels, rich with history. Storied country estate Gleneagles opened an urban outpost in Edinburgh’s St. Andrew Square, pictured above, last year. And this spring will see the opening of 100 Princes Street. The historic building has been renewed by Red Carnation Hotels, which runs Ashford Castle. For more information, visit gleneagles.com and redcarnationhotels.com.



TOKYO

While most head to Japan in the spring for the cherry blossoms, there is another delight awaiting fashion fans this year. Until May 28, the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo is hosting Christian Dior Creator of Dreams. The retrospective highlights the designer’s ties to Japan, from his love of gardens to his appreciation of the culture, with 350 haute couture pieces. For more information, visit mot-art-museum.jp.



LOS ANGELES

It’s a particularly delicious time to head to the City of Angels. DineLA, the continent’s largest restaurant week with 400 eateries participating, takes place in May, and the city is replete with newly awarded Michelin stars. Seek out n/naka, pictured above, the female-led Japanese two-Michelin-star restaurant that specializes in multicourse kaiseki. For more information, visit discoverlosangeles.com/dinela.



VICTORIA

Pack your swimsuit for a visit to Australia’s southern state, which has seen several new thermal hot springs open: Alba in the Mornington Peninsula; Metung, pictured above, which overlooks Gippsland Lakes; and Phillip Island Hot Spring, due to open this spring. To stay closest to the pools, Metung offers lagoon and hillside glamping options. – M.S.

For more information, visit albathermalsprings.com.au, metunghotsprings.com and phillipislandhotsprings.com.

BOTTLE STOPS

Any airport duty free shop can help you max out your alcoholic beverage allowance with the most popular Champagne, wines and spirits available, but those ubiquitous labels are unlikely to remind you of a specific getaway. Instead, **CHRISTOPHER WATERS** has compiled a guide to hyper-local gems and hard-to-come-by limited releases that deserve a spot in your (checked) baggage

THAT'S AMARO

Despite its popularity, Aperol isn't the only Italian amaro that fuels *la dolce vita*. Amaro San Simone's distinctive black and gold bottle has pride of place on the counters and backbars of bars and cafés throughout its native Turin.

Originally produced for pharmacies, San Simone's recipe of 39 selected herbs and plants from the surrounding area shifted from a medicinal elixir to a social libation.

Amaro San Simone 70 cl single premium pack, €18 through amarosansimone.com.



GRAIN TO GLASS

This is a delicious reminder that bourbon can be made anywhere in the United States, including Columbus, Ohio, where Midwest started commercial production in 2010. Michelone Reserve is crafted from locally grown grains including yellow corn, winter wheat and rye. This spicy and warm whisky is aged a minimum of four years in American oak barrels before it's bottled at cask strength.

Middle West Spirits
Michelone Reserve Straight Bourbon, US\$46.99 through middlewestspirits.com.



WHITE KNIGHT

One of the founding wineries in Margaret River, Vasse Felix made its name with succulent and balanced cabernet sauvignons. Not to be overlooked, this beautiful white wine ranks as one of Australia's greatest chardonnays. The flavours are ripe and intense, with remarkable tension between the tropical and lime zest notes. It's a wine to cellar and savour in five to 10 years.

Heytesbury Chardonnay 2021, AUD\$110 through vassefelix.com.au.



DRAMATIC DRAM

Pronounced "a-nock," this fragrant and flavourful single malt is produced by the Knockdhu Distillery, which was founded in 1894 in the remote village of Knock in Scotland's Aberdeenshire. The current operation has been running since 1989 and produces a memorable portfolio that includes this complex and aromatic spirit that was aged in old sherry casks and American bourbon barrels.

Ancnoc 18-year-old highland single malt Scotch whisky, price on request through ancnoc.com.



ROADSIDE ATTRACTION

The Dominican Republic's largest rum producer has been in operation since 1888. Part of its strong influence on Dominican culture is attributed to the fact that the country's road signs are made by the distillery's workshops in Puerto Plata. Made to sip or as the base for a rum negroni or elevated old fashioned, this rich dark rum is a milestone of its own.

Brugal 1888 Doblemente Añejo, price on request through brugal-rum.com.



RED ALERT

Winemakers Chris and Andrea Mullineux helped elevate the reputation of South African wine with regal syrahs and chenin blancs made in Swartland. With business partner Analjit Leeu, they added an operation in Franschoek, which produces exceptional chardonnays and cabernet-based blends including this one made with grapes from some of South Africa's oldest vineyards.

Leeu Passant Dry Red 2019, R1,120 through mlfwines.com.



HARD CORE

Interest in cider continues to grow, especially in limited-release products from artisanal producers such as Oliver's, a leading independent U.K. producer located in Herefordshire. This cloudy, lightly sparkling cider is made primarily of Yarlington Mill apples, a flavourful bittersweet variety, with a small per cent of Foxwhelp apples to round out the spicy and floral beverage.

Oliver's Yarlington Mill Cider 2021, £8 through oliversciderandperry.co.uk.



TRUE GRIT

There wasn't much glitz and glamour in California's wine scene when Ridge started producing in 1963. Even as Napa's star ascended, changing the landscape from purpose-built wineries into cathedrals of cabernet, Ridge never lost its original character and knack for producing compelling wines including this remarkable zinfandel blend from its estate in Sonoma County.

Lytton Springs 2020, US\$103/1.5-litres through ridgewine.com.



ANCIENT VINES

The Argyros family is the leading producer of *assyritiko* on Santorini, one of the Cyclades islands in the Aegean Sea. The average age of the family's vines is 70, but this vintage is made from grapes grown on the island's oldest vines, which are over 200 years of age. That results in a remarkably vibrant and juicy white wine that's a taste of history.

Estate Argyros Cuvée Monsignorini Santorini 2019, price on request through estateargyros.com.





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Sun

trap

Turks and Caicos and its Wymara resort are dazzling backdrops for spring's holiday-ready fashion

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
CARLYLE ROUTH
STYLING BY
NADIA PIZZIMENTI

ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Just east of Providenciales, Half Moon Bay is one secluded spot to discover among Turks and Caicos's 40 coral islands. Simone Rocha Dress, overlay, socks, shoes, all price on request through simonerocha.com. Private charter courtesy of Red Hospitality and Leisure (ladygracecatamaran.com).

TO THE BEACH

On Grace Bay's cool, soft sand, a Chloé dress mimics the open weave of a fishing net.

Chloé dress, \$7,285, sandals, \$1,760 through chloe.com.





POOL CUES

With a lobby-side pool, private cabanas and a walkway to the sand as the focus of its design, Wymara puts you in a vacation state of mind as soon as you step off the airport shuttle.

Proenza Schouler top, \$1,290, trousers, \$1,290, platforms, \$1,625 through proenzaschouler.com.

Clean getaway

On Providenciales, a Canadian-born hotelier puts a modern spin on an island escape

GRACE BAY BEACH ON Turks and Caicos's Providenciales is consistently ranked one of the best in the world. But that hasn't stopped Bruce Maclaren from attempting to create another world-class stretch of sand on the island. The Ottawa-born developer owns the Wymara Resort, which overlooks Grace Bay's ultra-turquoise waters. Its recent expansion is focused on a growing campus of modern villas that are a quick hotel shuttle drive away from the main property on the opposite coast. There, next to a Slim Aarons photograph-worthy sports club, Maclaren is creating a new coastline punctuated by an in-ocean pool that will overlook some of the archipelago's best sunsets.

"We have one of the world's best beaches at the hotel," says Maclaren. "And obviously, I never felt I could contend with that. But I'm really excited about how well [the villa] beach has turned out." When completed by the end of 2023, the villas' amenities will also include a restaurant and bar that will be open to all. Over the next two years, phase two of the villa development should also wrap up construction and double the number of accommodations available to its mix of owners and guests.

The hotel's expansion was kickstarted by a US\$10-million renovation of its main property, which was unveiled in late 2020. In the spring of 2022, Maclaren, who had moved to Turks and Caicos from Australia in 2008 and was first involved in the construction of the hotel property, bought out his partner to fully take the reins. "Over the years, learning about the hotel and what the guests needed and how to make the hotel better, I became a student of hotels and hospitality," he says. One of the things he learned was the design preferences of his guests. "Whether they live in a traditional style home or a modern home, they really liked holidaying in our modern rooms," he says. "The room, when you come in, it's a clean canvas, the focal point being the blue, turquoise water. As soon as they're there, people feel like it's their space, it's their holiday."

At the resort, that minimal aesthetic is expressed through 91 rooms and suites with white-upholstered furniture, rustic wood elements and ample-sized terraces that look out past palm trees toward the ocean. At the villas, the aesthetic is most striking in four one-bedroom guesthouses with sharp silhouettes that are carved into a hill.

The design of the larger homes was influenced by Maclaren's own travels, incorporating courtyard spaces he noticed while visiting Central and South America. "For us, [the courtyard] was to give a different climate, a different feel to the villa," he says. "The second pool in the courtyard is where you can be on a windy day and look through the villa to the ocean." Down by the surf, sunbeds reference overwater bungalows in the Maldives. A waterslide that curls down the cliffside, however, is simply inspired by a sense of adventure and the need to escape.

— ANDREW SARDONE

MODERN PATCHWORK

The hotel's architecture eschews traditional island flourishes in favour of sharp lines. Gorm's pieced-together sheath has a similar angular geometry. Gorm dress, \$650 through gormofficial.com.



STONE SET

Against a backdrop of the islands' monumental sandstone, a Loewe piece takes on a softer sculptural quality.

Loewe dress, price on request, heels, US\$1,850 through loewe.com. Misma earrings, \$35 through misma.ca.





IN THE FOLD

Issey Miyake's oversized shirt and pleated skirt channel the island's sun-washed palette. Issey Miyake shirt, \$1,421, skirt, \$1,254 through [isseymiyake.com](https://www.isseymiyake.com). Misma earrings, \$95 through [misma.ca](https://www.misma.ca).



TAKE FLIGHT

An Acne dress catches the dramatic wind that keeps sun worshippers cool on the hottest of days in Turks. Dress, price on request at Acne (acnestudios.com). Misma earrings, \$70, shell earrings, \$95 through misma.ca.

SUPER STYLISH

With an almost Brutalist aesthetic emphasized by walls of fossil-flecked stone, a group of one-bedroom villas are the resort's most design-forward options. Cape, body suit, both price on request at Chanel (chanel.com). Local Woman cap, \$85 through thelocalwoman.com.





SCALE UP

A sea of paillettes goes for a dip in one of the villa pools.
Top, price on request at Louis Vuitton (louisvuitton.com).

ON LOCATION

WYMARA RESORT AND VILLAS

At the resort, which is part of Leading Hotels of the World, Wymara's dining options include higher-end Indigo, surfside Zest and weekly beach barbecues and fish fries, all overseen by Aussie chef Andrew Mirosch. On-site amenities also include a 650-square metre pool that is the centrepiece of the property, a spa and fitness facility and a beach stocked with kayaks, paddle boards and snorkelling equipment.

Hotel rooms from US\$1,195/night, one-bedroom pool villas from US\$2,550/night through wymararesortandvillas.com.

LADY GRACE

Based out of the nearby Ritz Carlton and operated by Red Hospitality and Leisure, this boat tour option includes sunset cruises aboard a stylish catamaran or private, island-hopping charters in a 37-foot Axopar craft. Private charters from US\$995 through ladygracecatamaran.com.

Makeup and hair by Julie Cusson for Chanel Beauty using Chanel Stylo Yeux Waterproof eye liner and kohl pencil in 72 Or Rose and Baume Essentiel highlighting balm in 67 Rouge Frais (chanel.com). Videographer and photo assistant: Scott Leder. Styling assistant: Cenk Papila. Model: Nora Vai at APM New York.

SUNSET COVE

Below Wymara's villas, a man-made beach will become a hub for those searching out pastel sunsets.

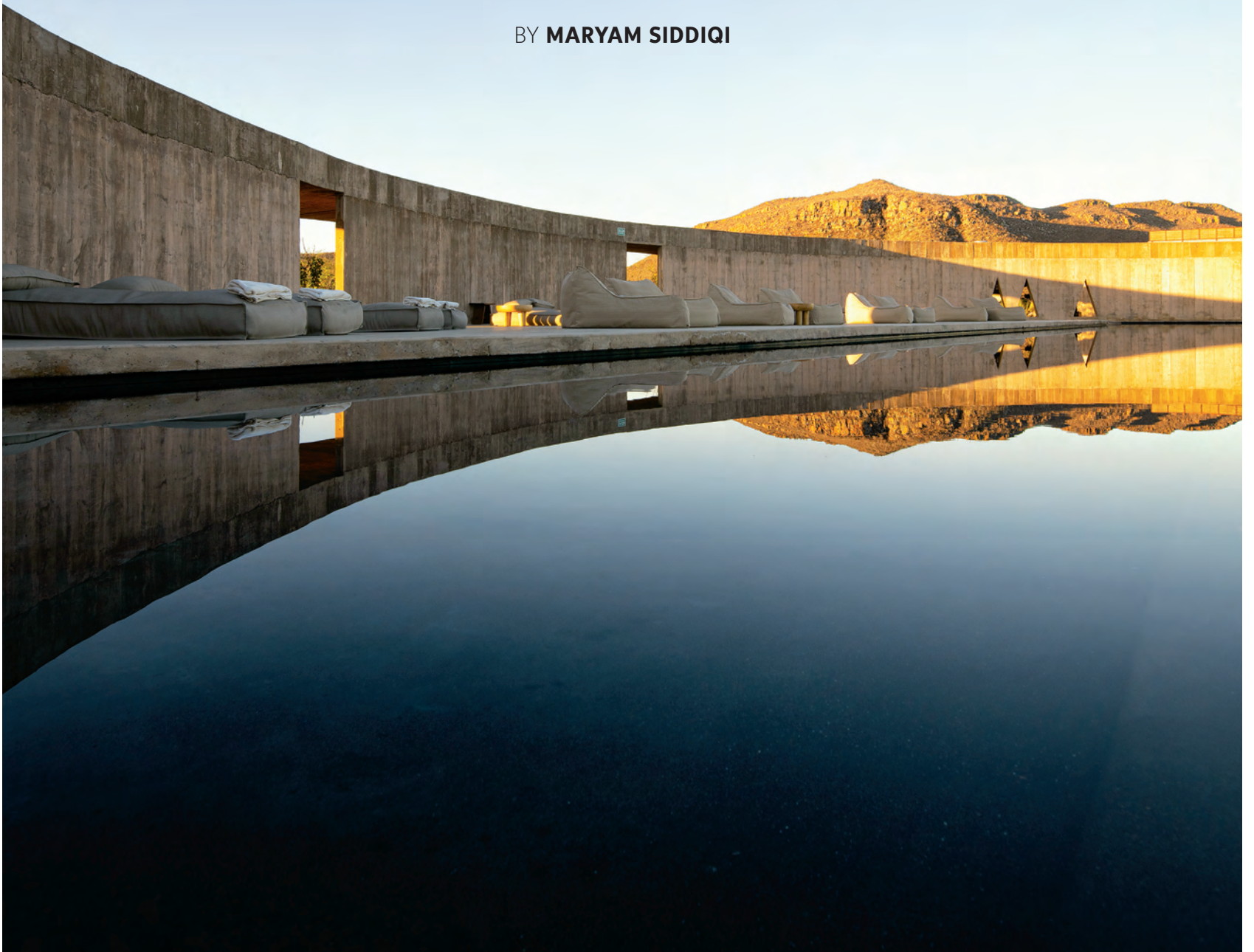
Sportmax dress, \$1,950 at Max Mara (maxmara.com).



Space to breathe

North of the bustle of
Cabo San Lucas, the Paradero
hotel builds on the sense of
independence in Todos Santos

BY **MARYAM SIDDIQI**





Rising out of its arid site, the Paradero Hotel's designers disguised its rooms behind an undulating wall of concrete.

A

s I board an airplane headed in the direction of Todos Santos, I am mildly concerned when three women on the same flight try to walk on to the aircraft sipping their mixed drinks. The gate agent quickly lets them know that their carry-on cocktails are a no go, so they sheepishly step aside to finish them.

These women are ready to party, as many tourists are when they arrive in Cabo San Lucas on Mexico's Baja California peninsula. My priorities, however, are not focused on Solo cups and paper umbrellas and that's why, when we land, I drive an hour north up the coast to the smaller and much more laid-back Todos Santos.

For many visitors, the point of coming here is that it's not Cabo. It's quiet, centred around nature instead of night clubs and has an active art and design scene. Any mention of Mexico for many tourists implies all-inclusive resorts and lounge-lined beaches. But dig a bit deeper and the options are much more nuanced. From the delicious food scene in Mexico City to Oaxaca's wealth of pottery, weaving and embroidery, the opportunities to connect with culture are endless. Todos Santos, with its unique geography and artistic bent, offers a particularly special feeling.

One of the newest additions to the area embraces that raw landscape and creative ethos. The Paradero rises out of the desert like a contemporary art installation. In fact, the hotel's arid environment is not a desert at all. I learn during a nature walk around the property and through neighbouring farmland to the Pacific that it is, in fact, a dry jungle. Fans of Brutalist architecture will be wowed by how concrete ebbs and flows across the surface of its buildings, which house two levels of guest rooms. The design by Yektajo Valdez Architects and the landscape architecture firm POLEN divides accommodations between rooms with private patios overlooking the cacti and others, on the upper level, with mesh nets and plush cushions for lounging under the stars.

Paradero was built away from the beach and around existing foliage so it minimizes disturbing the existing environment. Preserving the landscape was important for its owners, Pablo Carmona and Joshua Kremer, both entrepreneurs based in Mexico City. They designed the property as a resort that you shouldn't need to leave if you don't want to. To keep that approach fresh, its restaurant welcomes visiting chefs who create limited-time menus. There's also a sculptural infinity pool and a traditional mud and clay hut for *temazcal* experiences, a traditional Mayan interpretation of a sauna that combines a steam bath and music.

In its own way, Paradero signals where this part of Mexico is headed, a direction that's rooted in the land and sparks local connections. A trip into town is essential to understanding where the region has been. Founded in 1723 as a mission and then as a hub for sugar production, today's Todos Santos is a destination

for artists of all sorts, drawn to the area for its temperate climate and access to uncrowded beaches against the backdrop of the Sierra de la Laguna mountains. In 2006, the Mexican government designated it a *Puebla Mágico*, recognition given to small towns that prioritize historical preservation and a thriving cultural scene.

It takes at least half a day to visit the galleries in Todos Santos's historic centre, longer if the artists are on site and at work. One afternoon, I roll out of my garden suite's hammock and go gallery hopping. I first encounter Mexico City-born sculptor Benito Ortega while he is working on a new piece. He uses bronze, stone and wood he's recovered from local beaches as his media for work that tells the stories of the ocean. Many pieces evoke water imagery, figures – whether animal or human – emerging from the sea. Arturo Mendoza Elfeo runs AR Galeria, a studio and small shop. His minimalist paintings create an impression of tiny people that find themselves in abstract voids. La Sonrisa de la Muerte, a workshop, features pieces from local and international graphic artists including Mexico City-born illustrator Carlos Bautistab, whose work explores the relationship between humans and nature, and Jainite Silvestre of Guanajuato, Mexico, who works with lithography, creating images inspired by Mexican mythology and the relationship between gods and nature.

When it comes to such creative ambitions, Todos Santos's population of 6,500 punches well above its weight. The annual music and arts festival Tropic of Cancer, based out of the Hotel California, runs for a week each January. It's a gathering of more than 50 artists and musicians that share new visual art and musical performances in intimate venues around town.

This creative entrepreneurship applies to the culinary scene as well. In the midday sun, Neveria Rocco's paletas, made with fresh fruit, and the craft beer menu from Todos Santos Brewing are welcome reprieves. My only regret about a dinner at Jazamango, a restaurant helmed by chef Javier Plascencia that specializes in dishes featuring Baja ingredients, is that I didn't know about it soon enough to schedule a second visit before I have to head home. Fortunately, there's a bakery on site, so I grab a cinnamon roll to go.

Paradero's opening has brought more attention to this part of the Baja peninsula. New hotels and restaurants are set to open in town – Cienpalmas, which rents casitas and glamping tents, is working on a café and shop, joining the recently opened café at Palmar, which is known for its breakfast – and more Canadians are seeking it out as a relaxed alternative to raging Cabo. It is peace that people are after here, not parties. Even with its recent growth, there is an intentional balance of work and life, of time spent in town and time spent on the land or in the surf.

My week here is a reminder that creation and collaboration don't have to adhere to a timeline or come at the cost of well-being. As I head back to the airport, I realize I haven't seen a single tiny paper umbrella during my entire visit. ■

ON LOCATION

PARADERO TODOS SANTOS

The hotel refers to itself as “a high design landscaping project with luxurious suites” and accommodations reflect that duality. Choose between views of the garden, cacti, sky or mountains. There's also a three-floor casita with lookouts to every vista.

Rooms from \$695/night through paradero.com.

For more information about Todos Santos, visit pueblosmagicos.mexico-desconocido.com.mx.



Spirit world

A Scottish Highlands distillery has taken inspiration from whisky creation to outfit its own boutique hotel

BY ANDREW SARDONE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RACHELLE SIMONEAU



A tour along Scotland's Easter Ross Peninsula includes stops in Hilton (top), Portmahomack (middle right) and Tarbat Ness (right).

The schmoozy vibe of a private member's club in London's Soho is about as distinct from the cozy Scottish Highlands as you can get. But, on a balmy evening in early November, the team behind Glenmorangie whisky hosted an event at the Century Club that aimed to bridge that aesthetic, spiritual, sonic and atmospheric gap.

On the top floor of the building, just off of Piccadilly Circus, a moody woodland scene appeared, created with walls of edible plants. The occasion was the debut of a campaign shot by British pop art photographer Miles Aldridge and a tease of Glenmorangie's latest bottling, A Tale of the Forest. It was also an opportunity to signal to cocktail enthusiasts that Glenmorangie sees itself as a distillery that's on its own playful, more approachable path.

To really experience this evolution, however, you need to get out of Soho, fly to Inverness in Scotland and make the hour-long drive up to the Easter Ross Peninsula where Glenmorangie has been creating its single malts since 1843. There, a few kilometres from the distillery's headquarters near Tain, is Glenmorangie House. The inn's recent renovation by maximalist London firm Russell Sage Studio, aims to capture the brand's new direction in its reception rooms and accommodations through vivid colours, hardy textiles and unexpected details (for example, the four-metre-tall statue of a giraffe that watches over the front door). The 28-hectare estate surrounded by barley fields provides a stylish home base for exploring Scotland's rugged northeast and a comfy bed to come home to after a day of hikes and tastings.



A giraffe sculpture welcomes guests to Glenmorangie House (above). Its guest accommodations and reception spaces including the Sunset room (right) and morning room (far right) explode with colour, pattern and gilt surfaces.





“The scenery in Scotland is quite varied and fabulous wherever you go, but once you go up there, there’s all these beautiful natural resources,” says Dr. Bill Lumsden, who has been Glenmorangie’s director of whisky creation for the past 27 years. “The distilleries were all established there because barley grew in the fertile land and there was a plentiful source of water. If you go north, you’re spoilt for choice of all these different distilleries. But you want to go north and east to Glenmorangie. That’s where it’s at. Of course, I would say that.”

Lumsden’s domain is a campus of sandstone, pagoda roof-topped production buildings and handsome warehouses overlooking Dornoch Firth. It sits at a lower elevation than Glenmorangie’s nearby water source, Tarlogie Springs, which allows gravity to bring in the freshwater needed for distillation. That process happens in five-metre-tall copper pot stills with long necks that are the inspiration for the brand’s love of giraffes. In the distillery gift shop, you’ll find examples of the six core expressions it bottles and limited-edition releases including the Lighthouse, a 12-year-old single malt aged in bourbon and sherry casks that’s only available on site.

The Lighthouse is an example of Glenmorangie’s evolution as a distiller and not just because its packaging eschews the classic look of most whisky bottles in favour of a label wrapped with a rainbow of stripes. The expression was released to mark the opening of the Lighthouse, a 20-metre-tall glass tower looking out toward the North Sea that could be a Bond villain’s lair and is equally as secretive. It operates as a distiller’s science lab and contains two experimental stills that are being used to push the limits of whisky making.

That openness to being innovative in an industry that’s reverential about its history is the biggest takeaway of experiencing Glenmorangie at its source. “The drinks industry should be about fun and pleasure and enjoyment. The Scotch whisky industry, and particularly single malt Scotch, was so not about

that,” Lumsden says. “I want people to love it and find it delicious.”

On the Glenmorangie House estate, that mix of the past and the future comes together even more clearly. The manor is grand but comfortable and decorated in an exuberant style that pays homage to elements of whisky making. In the morning room, a gilded ceiling and floral wallpaper reference fields of barley. The dining room includes an eight-metre-long table inset with panels of hammered copper that hint at those towering stills (curiously for a Canadian visitor, it also displays a historic photo of founder William Matheson captured in Woodstock, Ont.). Each of the six guest rooms (there are also three cottages across a courtyard scattered with lawn games), draw their colour schemes from Glenmorangie’s whiskies. The Sunset room’s palette, pulled from the colours, flavours and textures of the distillery’s Lasanta expression, fades from red to tangerine to violet.

On the property, the hotel can organize archery lessons or foraging for cocktail ingredients but the best way to experience the landscape is a hike down to the water and the reconstruction of the Hilton of Cadboll stone. The replica monument of a stone that is now displayed in the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh (with a Pictish motif that features prominently on Glenmorangie’s labels) sits in a clearing near the village of Hilton. The walk there allows you to stretch your legs, fill your lungs with fresh sea air and cross paths with the locals.

“One of the things I love about going north is, I think you travel in distance and time,” says Caspar MacRae, Glenmorangie’s marketing and business development director. “I find the sense of community, which is pretty anachronistic in modern day life – the way people know each other, the way people support each other, the way they think about each other – is something I find really refreshing. The scenery is beautiful but the hospitality and the people are probably even more compelling. ■

ON LOCATION

GLENMORANGIE DISTILLERY

Running daily June through August and Monday through Friday the rest of the year, hour-long tours of the distillery include two tastings of Glenmorangie’s core bottles. Distillery tour, £20 per person through glenmorangie.com.

GLENMORANGIE HOUSE

Aside from its richly decorated bedrooms and cottages, the boutique hotel offers dining experiences spotlighting local ingredients, mixology classes and falconry displays. Double rooms from £290/night including breakfast through glenmorangie.com/glenmorangie-house.

PORTMAHOMACK

This seaside village is home to local dining favourites including the Oystercatcher (the-oystercatcher.co.uk) and the summer seafood pop up Surf and Turf (@surfandturfhq on Instagram).

TAIN POTTERY

Near the distillery, this studio welcomes in guests to browse pieces glazed in traditional tartans and more abstract florals. tainpottery.co.uk.

TARBAT NESS LIGHTHOUSE

At the northern point of the fault that divides the Scottish Highlands sits its third tallest lighthouse. nlb.org.uk.

URQUART CASTLE

This ruin overlooks Loch Ness and is an easy detour when travelling near Inverness. Grab lunch nearby at the Clansman Hotel. historicensevironment.scot.



Glenmorangie's stills are fed by fresh water from Tarlogie springs (middle left). Behind its stone warehouses, a modern tower called the Lighthouse is home to its new research lab (top).



Rooms with a view

Prince Edward County hotelier **ALEX FIDA**'s off-season escape to Europe reminds him to embrace the weird and wonderful in the spaces he creates for his guests

ILLUSTRATION BY **LAUREN TAMAKI**

I've been fortunate to call Prince Edward County home for nearly 35 years. When my Swiss mom and Austrian dad immigrated to Canada in the late 1980s, they discovered the magic of the County and chose Bloomfield to set up their restaurant and motel, Angeline's.

Being a queer European immigrant child in the Catholic school system in rural Ontario wasn't always easy so I created a world of objects and spaces to escape any sense of judgment or fear. As a teenager, I would get dropped off at auctions and return home with a collection of vintage items that I would repair and resell in a little vintage shop I called Orange Alex. Being able to find discarded items and make them into desirable objects felt like my superpower.

When I was in my 20s, a move to Europe was calling me but my father's sudden death led me back to the family business. Now, in my late 30s, I've had 16 springs, summers, falls and winters running the inn. Angeline's is an unusual combination of structures: an Italianate house from the 1870s, 1950s motel and 1860s log cabin. Completely contrasting styles are what makes them magical and I attempt to let each structure tell its own story. When designing, I ultimately try to create spaces that I would enjoy. Since the interiors are such personal expressions of my inner self, they tend to evolve and change as I move and grow.

Hosting thousands of clients a year with a small team is incredibly rewarding but there is an intensity that challenges even the most seasoned in the hospitality industry. The division of personal and private spaces at the inn and my other property, House of Falconer – an Ontario cottage cum gothic structure in the heart of Picton – are very blurry for me. All of the objects, art and furnishings are part of my personal collection and are constantly flowing through spaces, never fully belonging to me.

I've found that stepping away completely from the business allows me to recharge my creative, mental and physical batteries so I've begun returning to Europe in the off-season and spending my late fall and winters seeking inspiration and personal connections.

Strong ancestral roots pull me back to Berlin. Its creative communities are experimental and progressive. It is a unique place where neighbourhoods show the scars of war and economic

depressions yet rejuvenation is around every corner. The "alt bau" buildings wear graffiti like fresh tattoos.

Two hours north on the Autobahn is the hamlet of Mecklenburg and Gutshaus Rensow. Owners Kristina and Knut have stripped back centuries of alterations to reveal the original 17th-century manor house. Collections of stones, feathers, leaves and bones are treated with as much care as fine European furniture, linens and objects. It's a maximalist space that feels rich and considered yet unstuffy, embracing decay, dust and cobwebs that add to its beauty.

A chance encounter in Picton, Ont., led me to new friends who had recently moved to Hastings, East Sussex in the U.K. There, I was introduced to the magical houseware shop A.G. Hendy and Co. Alister Hendy is an accomplished chef, photographer, shopkeeper, stylist and collector. The exterior looks as though you have walked into the early 20th century and the interior is filled to the brim with vintage enamelware, handmade brooms and brushes. Its chaos is well organized and beautiful.

Nearby in Firtle is the magical Charleston Farmhouse, an enchanted rural meeting place for the Bloomsbury Group. One of its stand-out features is hand-painted decoration by queer artist and resident Duncan Grant. Stunningly simple geometric patterns on the trim, walls and floors are softly lit by wavy-glass windows overlooking an expansive walled garden. Collections of primitive furniture, porcelain and freshly cut flowers adorn the spaces harmoniously.

Returning home from these places, I often feel inspired to explore bolder patterns, colours and textures. Objects and textiles from Berlin flea markets will travel in my carry-on and live among my other found treasures. I'm reminded to continue to embrace worn and softened elements and allow the weird and wonderful to come forward.

It is these extraordinary experiences that give me the courage to push the boundaries of my aesthetic and continue to collect and create the layered environments I share with my guests. But their effects are also more personal. I have come to realize that this exploration of things and spaces is an exploration of my own internal "home," and it helps me understand the collection of quirks that make me who I am. ■



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