

TRAVEL 2018

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

# style

## ADVISOR

# HIDDEN MEXICO

Uncovering the farm-to-bar scene luring  
epicureans to the land of mezcal

#### FASHION

A diary of Chanel's Hamburg homecoming

#### DESIGN

Saltbox hopping across Newfoundland

#### TRAVEL

Airport hotels reimagined as chic retreats



A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a black spaghetti-strap top, black boxing gloves with the TAG Heuer logo, and a silver TAG Heuer Link Lady watch with a diamond-set bezel. She is smiling and looking towards the camera.

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BY MARYAM SIDDIQI

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MANDY KEEPING

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BY ANDREW SARDONE

PHOTO BY HUDSON HAYDEN





# EDITOR'S LETTER



At Acre in San José del Cabo, the scenery is a lush backdrop for locavore dining and drinking.

**T**ravellers usually fall into two types. One is the over-prepared vacationer who has studied every online hotel review, airplane-interior YouTube video and local restaurant guide before booking a room, seat and reservation. The other is the spontaneous tourist who can effortlessly pounce on a deeply discounted last-minute fare and figure everything out on the fly. I definitely am the former, but it's not because I'm afraid of the serendipity that comes with being the latter. Roughly planning out your trip allows you multiple jumping-off points for spontaneity – as long as you're prepared to throw all your research out the window and explore off course.

Our annual travel issue of The Globe and Mail Style Advisor includes more than a few worthy detours. If you're into chasing the sun in Cabo San Lucas, Julie Van Rosendaal's cover story on the farm-to-bar scene in San José del Cabo ("Down Mexico way," page 30) offers tips for discovering a more down-to-earth experience on the Baja peninsula. In her diary from Chanel's Métiers d'Arts show in Germany ("Postcards from Hamburg," page 20), musician Charlotte Cardin connects her

off-the-runway discoveries around town to the collection's nautical influence. And as she hops across Newfoundland ("On the rock," page 42), Maryam Siddiqi comes to understand how saltbox design captures a unique aspect of the province's history.

Speaking of design, this issue has a refreshed look. Its three sections (Omnibus, where you'll find a roundup of the season's news and notes, Essentials, where we mix fashion, design, travel, food and drink acquisitions with insight into buzz-worthy trends, and our lineup of features) have been updated to reflect the redesign of the newspaper and provide an elevated frame for words and images meant to inspire you. I hope you enjoy it, and that you discover some unique starting points for your own adventures this year.

ANDREW  
SARDONE

Andrew Sardone  
Editorial Director

## THE GLOBE AND MAIL style ADVISOR

### TRAVEL 2018

#### EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

ANDREW SARDONE

#### ART DIRECTOR

BENJAMIN MACDONALD

Designer SARAH PAUL  
Photo Editor RACHEL WINE  
Copy Editor ALEX LAWS

#### CONTRIBUTORS

CAITLIN AGNEW, NOLAN BRYANT, CHARLOTTE CARDIN, JEREMY FREED, ANYA GEORGIEVIC, GEORGIA GROOM, MATTHEW HAGUE, GRANT HARDER, HUDSON HAYDEN, VIRGINIA JOHNSON, MANDY KEEPING, KRISTINE LJUBANOVIC, ODESSA PALOMA PARKER, KAREN PINCHIN, CARLYLE ROUTH, MARYAM SIDDIQI, SHERI STROH, JULIE VAN ROSENDAAL, SOPHIE TOUCHET, JANNA ZITTRER APPELEY

#### ADVERTISING

Chief Revenue Officer  
ANDREW SAUNDERS  
Lifestyle Advertising Product Manager  
EMMA BLACKBURN

#### PRODUCTION

Director, Production  
SALLY PIRRI

#### PUBLISHER

PHILLIP CRAWLEY

#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE GLOBE AND MAIL

DAVID WALMSLEY

#### MANAGING EDITOR, LONGFORM, FEATURES & OPINION

KEVIN SIU

#### LIFESTYLE EDITOR

MARYAM SIDDIQI

#### HEAD OF VISUAL JOURNALISM

MATT FREHNER

#### GET IN TOUCH

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#### ON THE COVER

The landscape at Acre is luring travellers to Mexico's Baja peninsula. Photo by Grant Harder.



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## CONTRIBUTORS

The magazine's writers, photographers and illustrators share their top summer travel spots



A singer-songwriter based in Montreal, **CHARLOTTE CARDIN** released her second album, *Main Girl*, in 2017. Cardin documented her experience attending the Chanel Métiers d'Arts show in Germany ("Postcards from Hamburg," **PAGE 20**).

“I love Prince Edward Island with my family. The landscapes are absolutely breathtaking and the weather is mild. It's the perfect place to relax, eat delicious seafood and write music.”

“I love going to the South of France in either May or September as a way to extend the summer. It's not crowded then, and the temperature is perfect. Being so close to history and the artists who lived there always makes me feel inspired.”



Vancouver's **GRANT HARDER** is a photographer whose work has been printed in publications including Dwell and enRoute. He travelled south to shoot a feature on the growing locavore food and drink scene in San José del Cabo ("Down Mexico Way," **PAGE 30**).

“The family cabin on Canim Lake in central B.C. has no Wi-Fi, no cell service and less distractions. It allows for more reading, thinking and time with family.”

“Lately, my summer spot has been Croatia's Dalmatian coast, which seems to have an almost cloud-free summer and water so clear and blue it's hard to believe it's real. The vibe there is really relaxed, and even though it's getting busier with tourists, it's still pretty easy to find a quiet patch of beach for yourself.”



Born in England and based in Toronto, **GEORGIA GROOM** has been working as a stylist for 18 years. Groom styled this issue's feature on fashionable flight attire ("Come fly away," **PAGE 34**).

“Our friend's family island in the middle of Lake Temagami is about as far off the beaten track as you can get. I can be in England in less time than it takes to get there. It's a place full of magic for me, with the deepest most ancient water, no Internet and no distractions except well-read old paperbacks and looking at the stars.”



**VIRGINIA JOHNSON** is a textile designer and illustrator based in Toronto whose new book, *Travels Through the French Riviera*, will be published by Artisan Books in May. She wrote and illustrated a story about her last summer getaway on the shores of Lake Erie ("Lake-house living," **PAGE 15**).



The Globe and Mail's new lifestyle editor, **MARYAM SIDDIQI** brings her love of travel to the weekend Pursuits section, having written about the world's top destinations for the past 10 years. Siddiqi visited Newfoundland to profile a couple reimagining saltbox houses as stylish retreats ("On the rock," **PAGE 42**).



Frivole collection  
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Fashion designer Henrik Vibskov's Surprise Mistakes workshop at Domaine de Boisbuchet saw participants experimenting with shapes, textures and materials, culminating in a performance piece.



TRAVEL

# Creative camp

An estate in France has become a destination for design lovers craving an artistic escape

**E**very summer in south-western France, along the edge of the river Vienne near Poitiers, an eclectic group of creative professionals and students gather to flex their artistic muscles. Since 1996 they have crafted dishes using South African mopane worms, built structures held aloft by colourful, helium-filled balloons and experimented with materials and forms to stage otherworldly performance pieces.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOMAINE DE BOISBUCHET/INGEBORG KÄNSTAD



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8 »

This is the dreamy world of Domaine de Boisbuchet, an architectural park and playground created by Alexander von Vegesack and Mathias Schwartz-Clauss, the former founding director and senior curator at the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, Germany. Every year from June to September, Boisbuchet hosts workshops run by a rotating cast of internationally renowned and emerging designers. Last year Botswanan craftsman and entrepreneur Peter Mabeko and ETH Zurich's Block Research Group hosted workshops and Danish fashion designer Henrik Vibskov was a 2016 tutor.

It all comes to pass in a pastoral setting encompassing 150 hectares of hills, valleys, forests, lakes and a 19<sup>th</sup>-century manor house that's "actually a chateau-lette," says Schwartz-Clauss. "Which is architecturally completely uninteresting, but situated in a remarkable way in the landscape." Participants stay in a mix of private and shared dormitory rooms. Other structures, by the likes of Shigeru

“For outside people, it sounds almost like a design cult”

Ban and Brückner & Brückner Architekten, join the chateau to comprise the architectural park and provide venues for theatrics and exhibitions showcasing the outcomes of the workshops.

"It was kind of mystical," says Montrealer Marine Lastere, who spent four months at Boisbuchet in

2017 with her partner, industrial designer Benoit Lachapelle, first volunteering then participating in several workshops. "For outside people, it sounds almost like a design cult," says Lachapelle, though he's quick to point out Boisbuchet's practical value and not just for professionals. Workshops touch on product design, interiors, architecture, engineering, fashion and food. "And then some rather unusual – at times, even crazy – stuff like hairdressing or choreography," says Schwartz-Clauss.

Each year has an organizing theme and 2018 promises a focus on the fake and real. "It is a bit inspired, I must confess, by Donald Trump and fake news," says Schwartz-Clauss. This year's roster of workshop leaders includes Achim Menges, a researcher in computational design, Stephanie Chaltiel, who creates robotic clay architecture, and Canadian product designer Philippe Malouin. "Boisbuchet has no neighbours," says Clauss-Schwartz. "You have a full view of the Milky Way. You hear all the forest animals at night. We are in the middle of nature, which is a fantastic environment for getting inspired, but also for connecting with participants and tutors, who are living closely together for a full week of shared life and work."

— KRISTINA LJUBANOVIC

For more information on 2018 workshops and rates, visit boisbuchet.org.



To celebrate Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Glasgow is shining a spotlight on examples of his work including Mackintosh House (pictured above).

DESIGN

# Great Scot

When the Glasgow School of Art went up in flames in 2014, many thought that the art nouveau masterpiece by Charles Rennie Mackintosh was lost forever. But the building, constructed between 1896 and 1909, is now undergoing a meticulous restoration for a reopening in early 2019. The architect left his mark all over Glasgow so it's not surprising that the city is keen to keep his work in good repair, especially this year as it marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

Mackintosh's prolific oeuvre is permanently on display at Scotland's National Centre for Design and Architecture. The building's water tower was designed by Mackintosh while he was still a draftsman at the firm Honeyman & Keppie. The angular and menacing structure reveals the young architect's passion for modernity at a time when neoclassicism ruled Britain.

Along Glasgow's bustling Sauchiehall Street is Miss Cranston's New Tea and Lunch Rooms, which were initially commissioned in 1903 by the city's most illustrious art patron, Kate Cranston, and will reopen in June following refurbishment. It was for her tea rooms that Mackintosh designed some of his most famous furniture pieces including the iconic Ingram chair.

The architect's obsession over fine details is also evident in Mackintosh House, a reimagining of the now-demolished family home he shared with his painter wife Margaret MacDonald. The elegant space demonstrates the architect's imaginative use of natural light but also provides a voyeuristic view into the private life of the creative couple.

But their collaboration and Mackintosh's novel ideas about modernity and its connection to nature come alive at the House for an Art Lover, a space constructed in the 1990s based on detailed drawings from 1901. Situated within the idyllic landscape of Bellahouston Park, the home makes it clear that Mackintosh's relationship with architecture excelled when it embraced romance. — ANYA GEORGIJEVIC

For more information, visit glasgowmackintosh.com.

MUSEUMS

# Rich history

If the sprawling collection of couture on display at the Musée Yves Saint Laurent in Marrakech isn't enough to inspire a trip to the North African city, consider the museum's showcase of Moroccan fashion designer Nouredine Amir. As part of the institution's mandate to promote the local creative community, the exhibition features a selection of dresses by the Marrakech-based designer, which both typify and subvert the Moroccan aesthetic.

"We, of course, have a tradition of great costumes, but there are also people like Nouredine who are questioning Moroccan heritage, materials and also contemporary fashion," says museum director Björn Dahlström. As Amir's sculpted dresses take form, he adds, "it is the material itself that eventually defines the shape of the garment, which is something quite unexpected from a Moroccan designer." The collection, crafted from raw materials such as raffia, wool and silk, is reminiscent of Berber architecture in its intricate and organic style.

The exhibition is fitting for a museum that is as much about celebrating the country's heritage as the legendary French designer behind its name. Alongside the permanent Saint Laurent collection is a temporary exhibition space as well as an auditorium for concerts, film screenings and symposiums, plus a library with more than 5,000 books covering fashion, literature and poetry to local history, Berber culture and botany.

"It is first and foremost a museum of YSL and fashion," says Dahlström. "But I would say that the goal of the museum is to be rooted in Morocco through Saint Laurent's spirit and universe, which is, really, quite vast." — JANNA ZITTRER APPLEBY

Nouredine Amir's Sculpted Dresses runs until April 22. For more information, visit museeyslmarakech.com.



The Musée Yves Saint Laurent in Marrakech exhibits the oeuvre of the late designer, but also makes space for Moroccan work.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICOLAS MATHÉUS/CFONDAZION JARDIN MAJORELLE (YSL MARRAKECH), © THE HUNTEMAN UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW (MACKINTOSH HOUSE).

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Hotel Henry's revamp features 88 dapper rooms.

HOTELS

# Buffalo built

On a snowy February evening in Buffalo, N.Y., the last thing everyone cozily holed up at Hotel Henry wants to do is wander out into the cold to explore nearby Elmwood Village or the sculptures around the Albright-Knox gallery across the street. So instead, they grab a cocktail at the bar (perhaps the Perfect Mistake with its piquant mix of tequila, gin, lime, Ancho Reyes liqueur and Chartreuse) and begin an epic trek through the 160,000-square-foot structure.

The property, a National Historic Monument built in 1870 to house an asylum and reimaged over the last decade with a mix of public and private investment totalling over US\$100-million, bills itself as an “urban resort” and houses a surprisingly small number of guest rooms and suites, just 88. Its endless hallways, hidden stairwells and art gallery annexes expand the space allotted to guests even further, as they become impromptu gathering spots.

What brings Hotel Henry to life this Saturday night, however, is 100 Acres, the restaurant that sprawls across its second level. Featuring a casual but clever menu – devilled eggs garnished with crabmeat; bour-bon spiked milkshakes – its staff are keen to confirm that the hotel's debut has elevated brand Buffalo among visitors and locals alike.

That evolution will be emphasized even further when the Lipsey Buffalo Architecture Center opens on Hotel Henry's ground floor – and when the snow finally lets up and travellers realize more of the best style Buffalo has to offer (tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House or antique hunting at mid-century warehouse COOCOOU27) is all nearby. – **ANDREW SARDONE**

Room rates start at US\$145/night. For more information, visit hotelhenry.com.



SPAS

# Life's a beach

The words “all inclusive” have gotten a bad rap over the years, conjuring up images of neon wristbands and uninspired buffets. When applied to spa treatments at a luxe resort, however, they suddenly take on a much more appealing connotation.

That's the wellness-first approach at all Fusion Resort hotels, including the new location in Phu Quoc, Vietnam, where spa treatments are included in the price. Located in the private bay of Vung Bau, the 50-acre resort opened last June with 97 villas, each with their own pool.

Sitting at 120,000 square feet, the Maia Spa is set in a pepper garden and incorporates the spice into its signature treatments: The Natural Living Pepper massage, which uses Swedish relaxation techniques and a custom-blended black pepper oil, and the Freshly Ground Body Scrub, which polishes and revives skin with a mix of fresh black pepper, mung beans, turmeric and rice.

If being well fed is as equal a priority as feeling pampered, the resort has adopted a “breakfast anytime, anywhere” policy. Whether you choose to refuel before or after your oceanside yoga practice, it's available day or night at one of the resort's two restaurants, your villa, by the pool or even on the beach. Dining and relaxation aside, the most restorative aspect of the resort may be the nature that surrounds it, with the aroma of lemon grass floating through dense bamboo groves as coconut palms sway in the breeze. In other words, paradise found. – **CAITLIN AGNEW**

Rooms start at US\$299 per night. For more information, visit fusionresortphuquoc.com.



Fusion Resort's new Vietnam property offers all-inclusive spa services.

YACHTS

# Ocean drive

Design cues from Porsche cars are incorporated into Dymaniq's 35-metre yacht.

It can be hard to stand out at the Monaco Yacht Show, where several billion dollars' worth of boats bob in the placid Mediterranean. The ultimate statement of wealth, the yachts here have grown in opulence alongside the fortunes of the super-rich. In addition to *de rigueur* features like helipads and hot tubs, this year's new vessels feature pools with swim-up bars and personal submarines.

With competition for the fortunes of oligarchs and kleptocrats so fierce, one company is distinguishing itself by offering something no toy-loving billionaire can resist: a limited-edition Porsche. A collaboration between Dynamiq, a Monaco-based ship-builder, and Studio F.A. Porsche, the new GTT 115 is a superyacht designed for supercar collectors. A subsidiary of the Stuttgart-based automaker, Studio F.A. Porsche is a design consultancy that lends the brand's signature Bauhaus-luxury aesthetic to everything from laptops to ski gondolas. The GTT 115 is the studio's first foray into shipbuilding.

“It's not a conventional-looking yacht, either inside or out,” says Dynamiq CEO Sergei Dobroserdov of the streamlined 35-metre hull. Perhaps most noteworthy is the Pepita houndstooth fabric throughout, a signature textile found in 1970s Porsche 911 coupes. The GTT 115 is also no slouch in the engine room, with an ultra-efficient propulsion system good for a top speed of 21 knots and a range of 3,400 nautical miles.

Limited to seven units, the ship is priced starting at €12,500,000. Hardly a bargain, but if cost is an issue, you clearly have no business at the Monaco Yacht Show. – **JEREMY FREED**

For more information, visit bedynamiq.com.



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Livia Firth, Christopher Bevens and women's Woolmark Prize winner Ruchika Sachdeva.

Woolmark CEO Stuart McCullough and model Liya Kebede.



Tom Guinness, Julia Sarr-Jamois and Matthew Miller.

#### A WOOLMARK PRIZE PARTY IN ITALY

The 19<sup>th</sup>-century Palazzo Giuntini, now the St. Regis Florence, was the opulent location for a dinner held to celebrate the winners of the International Woolmark Prize on Jan. 9. Since 1953, the award has recognized young fashion talents for their imaginative use of Australian wool. Men's winner Matthew Miller and women's winner Ruchika Sachdeva were at the centre of the festivities held in the Florentine Renaissance style Salone delle Feste, considered the city's most beautiful entertaining space.



Royal Academy artistic director Tim Marlow.

Cheryl McEwen, Rudyard Griffiths, Eric Margolis, Velerie Pringle and Nancy Lockhart.

#### IN VERO BEACH, LAUNCHING ART

To launch London-based artist Grayson Perry's exhibition at the Gallery at Windsor, a weekend-long celebration was hosted by Galen and Hilary Weston, founders of the Vero Beach, Florida, enclave known as Windsor. The opening on Jan. 14 marked the start of a three-year curatorial partnership between the gallery and London's Royal Academy of Arts. The academy's Tim Marlow led a conversation with Perry, who was dressed as his alter ego, Claire, before a private dinner at the Weston's oceanfront home.



Hilary Weston and Grayson Perry.

#### PARTIES

## Away soirees

For his winter social chronicles, **NOLAN BRYANT** documents happenings in Florence, Florida, New York and Paris



Barbara Cirkva-Schumacher and Drew Barrymore.

#### AN ANNUAL BIG APPLE ANTIQUE DO

Every January for nearly 65 years, fascinating and magnificent objects hailing from around the globe have filled Manhattan's Park Avenue Armory for the 10-day Winter Antiques Show. New York society, interior designers and antique aficionados came en masse for the annual must-attend opening-night party on Jan. 18, which once again acted as the annual benefit for East Side House, a community organization based in the South Bronx.



Martha Stewart with students from the East Side House Settlement.



Patricia Fox and Cindy Wheat.

#### DIOR TOASTS COUTURE CONFECTIONS IN PARIS

Hours after Maria Grazia Chiuri's spring haute couture collection for Christian Dior was presented on a tented runway in the magnificent gardens of the Musée Rodin in Paris on Jan. 22, an extravagant masked ball celebrating the surreal spirit of the collection was given in the very same space. Willow Smith performed for the glittering crowd, made up of international patrons of Dior and familiar faces from the world of fashion, many hidden behind fanciful masks.



Willow Smith.



Maria Grazia Chiuri and Sasha Pivovarov.



Monica Bellucci.

PHOTOS BY SMITH-PETERSEN (WOOLMARK), SCOTT RUDD (GRAYSON PERRY), ANNE WATT AND MAX LANKNER (ANTIQUES SHOW).

## Essentials

INSIGHT/ACQUISITIONS



## LAKE HOUSE LIVING

Many of us dream of discovering a summer community that offers charm and respite before it's declared the next great getaway. On the shores of Lake Erie last August, designer and illustrator **VIRGINIA JOHNSON** captured a spot with the perfect mix of nostalgia and natural beauty

#### THE INVITATION

My mother called me early last summer to ask if I'd like to go on a writing holiday with her. She was working on her new book and I was finishing a travel guide, so I couldn't think of a more relaxing way to spend a week. A close friend offered us the use of a family cottage that was built at the turn of the last century on the northern shore of Lake Erie for use by families from nearby Chatham, and for Americans travelling from Cleveland and Detroit. It sits in a graceful row of summer homes all facing the lake, linked by a waterfront path.





#### SMALL WONDER

The cottage is diminutive and full of heart. It was purchased by the current owner's grandfather in 1929 and has since welcomed three generations to read, swim and spend time together. In 1,300 square feet, it packs in a dining room, five bedrooms, a summer porch, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom. The furnishings are glamorous yet informal – a sideboard is stocked with heirloom dinner plates and a corner cabinet displays crystal wine glasses. But there is no dishwasher, bathtub, washing machine or places to hang up your clothes. The cottage insists you live in a bygone era.



#### COLLECTORS' ITEMS

Exuberant pieces of porcelain and unique textiles reflect the family's eye for beauty; there are linen tea cozies, hand-stitched with animal and flower motifs, little poppy-shaped dishes scattered here and there on tables, a large, scalloped shell found in Florida and zigzag-patterned seat cushions sewn to fit each chair. The kitchen cupboard is crowded with jade-green platters and flower-festooned pitchers. Behind the broom-closet door, various custodians have recorded in pencil every update during the past 100 years: "Living room and bathroom painted 1973 (Oatmeal)."



#### ROOM WITH A VIEW

The wraparound screened-in porch is the cottage's most divine feature. It's about eight feet deep and L-shaped, so that when my mother and I sat down in the mornings to write, we didn't see each other for hours. We counted 15 mismatched chairs, some of which have been there for over 100 years, made of wicker or wood, all painted white, arranged in clusters as if in conversation. Outside the door, beyond the lakefront path, Lake Erie's waves lap the shore just a few feet away. After the sun had set, we sat in the dark and watched the shadows of people strolling by.



#### MASTER RETREAT

There are three bedrooms on the main floor and two in the attic – each barely large enough for a double bed. Everything has been sewn by a local seamstress, from chenille bedspreads dotted with pompoms to matching curtains hemmed at windowsill length. The parents' bedroom has windows on three sides and its bead-board walls are painted a pale celery hue to reflect the light. A leafy matelassé quilt with scallop-trimmed pillows covers the bed, and framed photos of family adventures hang above a tiny corner sink.



#### LOCAL FLAVOUR

In the afternoons, we ventured farther afield. Some days we swam at the glass-roofed Blenheim Community Centre, a gift to the town from a local doctor, or drove to Chatham to visit the clothing shops on King Street and the second-hand bookstore, Book Brothers. The lakeside town of Erieau has an arts and crafts festival, and there we picked up jewellery, a hand-carved walking stick and crocheted dish towels. For dinner out, everyone raved about the fresh yellow perch served fish-and-chips style at the Sandbar Pub. You'll likely spot a few other tourists there in the summer, enjoying the undiscovered, unpretentious charm of an area on the cusp of revival. ■





Wide-cuff canvas jacket, US\$1,380 through marni.com.



Balenciaga Opera oversized printed-shell raincoat, US\$2,350 through net-a-porter.com.



Pringle of Scotland shower-proof parka, US\$2,215 through farfetch.com.



Woolrich over cotton parka, €455 through mytheresa.com.



The Upside Dos Fridas cotton-blend jacket, \$315 through matchesfashion.com.



Raf Simons plays up utilitarian details in this bold coat for Calvin Klein 205W39NYC.

## FULL COVERAGE

Packing is an art to some and a source of irritation for others. Those who aren't turned off by the sight of an empty suitcase perched at the end of the bed likely embrace the philosophy that when it comes to a travel wardrobe, versatility is key. Take the parka for example. In rain-repellent fabrics with drawstring details and hidden hoods, they are equally practical and chic. For spring 2018, Calvin Klein's Raf Simons wasn't the only designer who toyed with materials and proportions, sending voluminous nylon coats with a slick sheen down the runway. Functional? Yes. Fabulous? But, of course. — **ODESSA PALOMA PARKER**

## BEAUTY IN THE BAG



Hotels are constantly upping their in-room toiletries, but these Dopp Kits guarantee your skincare regimen is on point no matter where you stay

**HEAD TO TOE**  
Aesop's unisex Boston kit has all of the travel-sized essentials for full-body care away from home. The Aussie brand's flawlessly gentle formulas and soothing scents feature in miniature shampoo and conditioner to mouthwash and facial cream. Aesop Boston, \$99 at Aesop and through aesop.com.



**RED-CARPET READY**  
A jet-set life is equal parts glamour and exhaustion. Focus on the former with Charlotte Tilbury's products in TSA-approved sizes. This kit features everything the makeup artist uses on her A-list clients, including jet-lag-nixing Goddess Skin Clay Mask. Charlotte Tilbury The Gift of Red Carpet Skin Travel Kit, \$70 through charlottetilbury.com.



**FRESH HAIR**  
When flight delays have you short on time, fake a convincing freshly washed shine with Ouai's Dry Shampoo Foam, or use the Volume and Texturizing sprays for an effortlessly rumpled bed-head that says, "I fell asleep in first class." Ouai All the Ouai Up Kit, \$31 through sephora.ca. — **CAITLIN AGNEW**



## FASHION HOUSE

Situated on the banks of Florence's Arno River, the Hotel Lungarno — owned by the Ferragamo family of fashion renown — was recently revamped, adding additional rooms including 10 swish family-friendly spaces. Upon arrival, guests are struck by understated interiors by designer Michele Bonan, which frame a panoramic view of the Ponte Vecchio. But it's not just the decor and architectural wonders that impress — the Lungarno's art collection boasts names such as Picasso and Cocteau. Further stimulation can be found at Borgo San Jacopo, the restaurant helmed by Michelin-starred executive chef Peter Brunel. Open solely for dinner, it stores over 1,000 bottles in its new wine cellar. With several museums nearby and the Giardino di Boboli across the river, the Lungarno is perfectly located for sightseeing. Florence's Salvatore Ferragamo boutique is also a quick four-minute walk across the Ponte Santa Trinita. — **O.P.P.**

Room rates start at US\$320/night. For more information, visit lungarnocollection.com.

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# POSTCARDS FROM HAMBURG

Visiting Germany's second city for Chanel's annual Métiers d'Arts fashion show, Canadian chanteuse **CHARLOTTE CARDIN** explores the historic charm and contemporary culture that inspired designer Karl Lagerfeld's first presentation in his hometown

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HUDSON HAYDEN



**H**amburg in December abounds with Christmas markets, holiday comfort food, warm sweaters, warm people and warm wine. The locals are very kind and open-minded. Tourists are welcomed as friends and people are eager to show you how wonderful and unique their city is.

PHOTO BY OLIVIER SAILLANT (MODELS); MAKEUP AND HAIR COURTESY OF CHANEL

First stop on our tour of the city was the Steinway piano factory, where learning about the company's philosophy and really grasping the complexity of its craftsmanship added an extra layer of affection to my favourite instrument. I had played a Steinway piano before, but in a totally different mindset. I was unaware of all the elaborate work involved and the fine tuning required. Three years of meticulous handcraft bring about these true works of art.

I had the pleasure of seeing the city from the land and from the water, and I must admit it is beautiful from both. The outside of the Elbphilharmonie, as seen from the river, is intricate and quite impressive. Its external surface is just a tease to its almost alien interior.



Café Paris is the typical French bistro – delicious food served in a beautiful setting.

Krameramtsstuben is the most adorable alleyway and a Hamburg landmark. The narrow brick courtyard separates some of the oldest townhouses in the city, with their dollhouse shutters and a truly charming vibe. The mulled wine also takes it up a notch!

Bomber jacket (left), \$5,100, tweed jacket (right), \$5,575 at Chanel (chanel.com).

## ON LOCATION

### BARKASSEN-MEYER BOAT CRUISES

Hamburg's Speicherstadt warehouse district and shipping terminals are best seen by boat. One-hour harbour tours start at €18/person. barkassen-meyer.de

### CAFÉ PARIS

A dramatic tiled ceiling makes this space one of the most glamorous rooms in the city. Across the street, reservations are essential for its neighbouring cocktail bar, Le Lion. cafe-paris.net

### ELBPHILHARMONIE

Designed by Herzog & de Meuron, this concert hall also includes a Westin hotel, condos and an observation deck accessed by an 80-metre curving escalator. elbphilharmonie.de

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

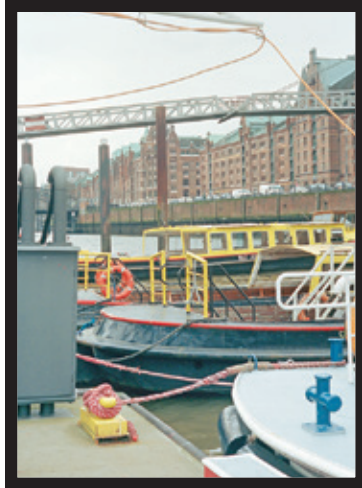




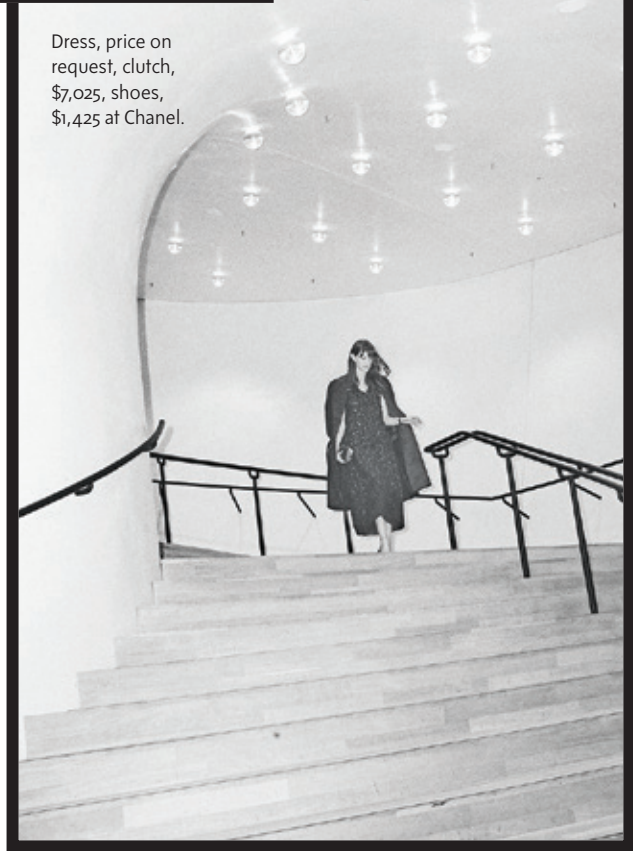
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When I think of Hamburg, I see the buildings encircling the lake. I was lucky enough to stay in a lakefront hotel, the Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten, with an enchanting view of the green copper roofs across the water.

Tweed jacket with belt, \$7,800 at Chanel.



Attending the Chanel show in designer Karl Lagerfeld's hometown was an artistic revelation for me. I had never seen a high-fashion show as a member of the audience and, frankly, didn't expect such stunning complexity and spark in all parts of the exhibition. I was sitting in one of the most beautiful venues I had ever seen, the Elbphilharmonie concert hall, watching elegant boys and girls walk down five storeys of balconies in exquisite garments.



Dress, price on request, clutch, \$7,025, shoes, \$1,425 at Chanel.



I was so captivated by the breathtaking music from the Rezonanz orchestra, led by Oliver Coates (who, by the way, is the brain behind the orchestral spine on Radiohead's most recent album, *A Moon Shaped Pool*). As cliché as it may sound, I left the 20-minute show with an urge to write music, which I hadn't had in a really long time.

The nautical influences in the collection were a perfect wink to the city, which is known for its busy port. Thick wool turtlenecks and knee socks, a predominance of navy and neutral colours, black tobacco pipes and fishermen hats, were the first looks to come out and set the mood for the show.

The after-party was a mix of Tilda Swinton dancing, and beautifully dressed guests mingling over Perrier-Jouët champagne. Meanwhile, I was having a dead-serious conversation with my manager about career strategy and vision. We had been so stimulated by everything we had seen, and by the crazy-talented people we had just spent the last few days with, that we came up with a bunch of new ideas for our upcoming shows and music. — AS TOLD TO ANDREW SARDONE

**FAIRMONT HOTEL VIER JAHRESZEITEN**

On the shores of the Inner Alster Lake, this hotel offers views of the *Rathaus* (city hall) and Hamburg's famous steeples across the water. Room rates start at €295/night. [fairmont.com](http://fairmont.com)

**HOTEL ATLANTIC KEMPINSKI**

Perhaps best known for playing a supporting role in the Bond film *Tomorrow Never Dies*, this hotel is within walking distance of many of Hamburg's top galleries and museums. Room rates start at €147.21/night. [kempinski.com](http://kempinski.com)

**KRAMERAMTSSTUBEN**

The oldest buildings in central Hamburg once housed the widows of local merchants and are now home to souvenir shops and a charming restaurant serving traditional German fare. [krameramtsstuben.de](http://krameramtsstuben.de)

**KUNSTHALLE**

A trio of buildings host this art museum's mix of Old Masters' works, 19th-century pieces, contemporary art and modern masterpieces. Adult admission is €14. [hamburger-kunsthalle.de](http://hamburger-kunsthalle.de)



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## ALL ABOARD

Luxury train travel is back in vogue and one Canadian railway is leading the way with a lineup of adventurous voyages

We were just sitting down to lunch when a couple of fellow travellers started shouting, "Bear! Bear!" From the safety of our train car we all rose out of our seats to catch a glimpse of a young black bear, who seemed entirely nonplussed as our Rocky Mountaineer train rolled past it and continued on through British Columbia's interior.

The Rocky Mountaineer has perfected the art of slow travel; while on a journey, the only real requirement for a guest is to show up. Luggage transport, meals, transfers and activities are all taken care of so that travellers can focus on sitting back and enjoying the scenery.

Since 1990, the company has shuttled passengers through western Canada, from Vancouver to points north and east, on nature-filled and historically important routes. My journey, First Passage to the West, took me from Vancouver to Lake Louise in Alberta, tracing part of the Canadian Pacific Railway line. This year, the company launches a culinary exploration that includes food-focused walking tours in Vancouver and Calgary, and an adventure-immersive itinerary with cycling in Vancouver, hiking in Jasper and canoeing on Lake Louise.

It's not the only outfit seizing a renewed interest in train travel. In October, rail operator Golden Eagle Luxury Trains launches a 14-day Best of Britain Steam Tour, taking passengers through Scotland, Wales and England including private whisky distillery tours and black-tie dinners in historic castles. In Peru, this May, on the Belmond Andean Explorer's Picaflor sleeper train, the company is launching a spa car that will feature Peruvian-inspired treatments.

When leisure is the priority, slow is the best way to go. — MARYAM SIDDIQI

Rocky Mountaineer itineraries start at \$1,499/person based on double occupancy. For more information, visit [rockymountaineer.com](http://rockymountaineer.com).

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Whether it's a quick jaunt to the lake or an epic cross-country odyssey, hit the road in style with this year's most adventure-ready vehicles



### PAS DE DEUX

In its S560, Mercedes has extended perks to co-pilots. Both front seats respond to turns by cradling passengers in a hug-like gesture and feature settings inspired by hot stone massage to relieve any lingering back and shoulder tension as you make your escape. Mercedes-Benz S 560 4Matic Long Wheelbase Sedan, from \$124,400 through [mercedes-benz.ca](http://mercedes-benz.ca).



### FAMILY TIRES

Cadillac's lightweight crossover, the XT5, was designed to be as roomy as possible without adding bulk, allowing for better fuel efficiency on long journeys. For 2018, find even better connectivity including WiFi so your precious backseat cargo can watch Netflix peacefully until they fall asleep. Cadillac XT5, from \$44,125, through [cadillaccanada.ca](http://cadillaccanada.ca).



### CALI CRUISER

Don't let their retro looks fool you. Happier Camper's modular trailers are entirely *au courant*. Fully customizable with features like a heated outdoor shower, rooftop solar panel and enough room to sleep five, they're sure to make life on the road a lot more liveable. Happier Camper HC-1 Travel-Trailer, from US\$18,950 through [happiercamper.com](http://happiercamper.com). — C.A.

## COME FLY AWAY

When Justin Crabbe first conceived of Jettly, an app-based service for chartering private planes, he was thinking beyond the business traveller. "Passengers can easily charter a state-of-the-art \$50-million private jet for multinational travel or a safe and highly regulated single-engine propeller aircraft to visit relatives in a town that has a small airport nearby," says Crabbe, who is based

in Richmond Hill, Ont., but oversees a network of operators in over 190 countries. Jettly's search system is simple: Enter your departure and arrival airports, date and time of travel and the size of your group and the company sources a range of plane sizes and rates from its pool of aircraft. "When comparing the costs, time and hassle associated with scheduled air carriers to that of a charter flight for a group, the math really starts to make sense," he says. — M.S.

For more information, visit [jettly.com](http://jettly.com).



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TERMINAL  
VELOCITY

The reinvention of Eero Saarinen’s TWA Terminal in New York as a chic hotel signals a move towards more stylish airport accommodations. **Matthew Hague** offers a guide to booking in style en route

When the TWA Terminal at New York’s JFK Airport opened in 1962, it embodied the optimism of the jet age. The structure was made of heavy concrete but soared as effortlessly as a bird caught in the breeze. The use of materials was daring, suggesting that, much like transatlantic flight, what was once impossible was now anything but. It was all incredibly glamorous. The building was financed by playboy business magnate Howard Hughes and conceived by the greatest designers of the day, including architect Eero Saarinen and industrial pioneers Charles Eames, who did much of the furniture, and Isamu Noguchi, who created a signature fountain.

Sadly, by the time TWA had gone out of business and the terminal closed in 1992, air travel had become something decidedly less chic. Instead of being associated with glamour, adjectives such as “sweaty” and “soul crushing” had become more apt. And instead of world class architecture, airports started to look more like strip malls, surrounded by equally bland hotels where weary passengers bed down for an unremarkable night’s sleep en route to their final destination.

Now, airport accommodation options are starting to change. In early 2019, the TWA Terminal will re-open with the original terminal restored and encircled by a new, high-design, 504-room hotel. “We want to put you back in 1962,” explains Tyler Morse, CEO of MCR Development, which is redeveloping the property. “It was a time of great hope. The first Bond movie had just come out. It was when the Beatles first came to America. John Glenn had just circled the earth.”

The trim red uniforms once worn by terminal staff will make a comeback, Saarinen’s signature Womb chairs will outfit the guest rooms and lounge, and the Noguchi fountain will flow again. Luckily for anyone with a long connection, the TWA property isn’t the only overnight spot bringing elegance back to air travel. Hotel operators around the world are reimagining their airport locations, and the five below stand out for their ability to give layovers a touch of luxury.



Eero Saarinen’s TWA Terminal (opposite page and left) embodied the optimism of the jet age when it opened in 1962. A by-appointment-only showroom on the 86th floor of One World Trade Center in Manhattan (top and above) hints at its hotel revamp.



**MOXY, MUNICH**  
The Moxy at Munich Airport has a name that is vaguely reminiscent of a 1990s dance club, and a location, just five minutes from the terminal, that is typically reserved for sterile chain hotels. Interiors are fresh, energetic and geared toward its typical customer: young, design-savvy globetrotters who typically avoid anything that feels too corporate. The centre of the space is known as the “living room” and feels more Williamsburg than Bavaria. Room rates start at \$70/night. For more information, visit [marriott.com](http://marriott.com).



**WESTIN, DENVER**  
The Westin Denver International Airport embodies flight. The shape of the building, created by the firm Gensler, mimics a giant set of wings rendered in a swooping mass of glass and steel. Many of the 519 rooms overlook the airport, so the steady stream of arrivals and departures becomes live theatre for guests. The Sky Lobby, with its futuristic, spaceship aesthetic and view over the Rocky Mountains, on the other hand, looks ready for lift off. Room rates start at \$295/night. For more information, visit [westindenverairport.com](http://westindenverairport.com).



**CITIZENM, PARIS**  
After Dutch businessman Rattan Chadha sold his casual clothing company Mexx in 2001, he decided to tackle a problem his well-travelled staff had been complaining about for years: finding affordable, non-fugly places to stay on business trips abroad. Chadha’s hospitality brand, CitizenM, addresses the issue. The property near Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris exemplifies Chadha’s idea with playful decor, such as hanging model Zeplins interspersed with high-end Vitra furniture. Room rates start at \$105/night. For more information, visit [citizenm.com](http://citizenm.com).



**HILTON, AMSTERDAM**  
The Hilton Amsterdam Airport Schiphol balances international contemporary cool and local Dutch style. The soaring exterior – all angular criss-crossing lines – would look equally sharp in Miami or Marrakesh. The Escher-inspired floor and headboards that evoke local landscapes could only be from Holland. Throughout, a careful balance has been created between expansive and intimate spaces – necessary to accommodate both business conventions and lone travellers who want to unwind. Room rates start at \$195/night. For more information, visit [hilton.com](http://hilton.com).



**RENAISSANCE, ATLANTA**  
With 750 rooms, the Renaissance Atlanta Airport Gateway Hotel is a bustling place, which is fitting as it’s right beside America’s busiest airport. Despite the size, it’s a surprisingly creative and quirky space. Art is key to the overall concept. The lobby is accented with a world map made from paint splashes, and Banksy-inspired graffiti marks many of the meeting rooms. A communal lounge even offers art supplies, so that guests can unwind by colouring or painting before their flights. Room rates start at \$210/night. For more information, visit [marriott.com](http://marriott.com).





SIPPING PRETTY

An heir to one of France’s big wine families has crossed the English Channel to operate an oenophile clubhouse in London’s Marylebone

When Bordeaux royalty opens a wine bar in central London, you might not imagine that making the space cozy is the top priority. But that’s exactly what Alexandra Petit, youngest scion of the Château Margaux dynasty, wanted when planning her wine bar, Clarette.

Welcoming guests wearing everything from evening gowns to trainers, the three-storey Tudor townhouse, a former Marylebone pub, is a collaboration with Alain Ducasse alum and Petit’s business partner Natsuko Perromat du Marais. With low-slung slipper chairs and deep banquettes upholstered in lush navy velvets and warm rose tweeds, Clarette aims to provide the service, food and wine of a high-end restaurant but in “a very relaxed atmosphere,” says Petit. “The feeling of it being a bit homey, but still being very chic, was very important for us.”

The menu, overseen by chef Aaron Ashmore, is a French take on tapas, leaning heavily toward snacks and small sharing plates, including foie gras mousse on brioche, comté and truffle doughnuts, and beef tartare. For hungrier tipplers, five hearty mains are on the menu; a few recent dishes include maple duck breast with celeriac and pickled blackberries, and roasted halibut with artichoke and chestnuts.

While Grand Cru wines like Margaux sell well (French wines make up half Clarette’s list of 150 wines), Petit says sommelier Caroline Fridolfsson makes an effort to keep offerings approachable, including price-conscious bottles like Sancerre. In fact, the bar’s cheapest glass is £5, a steal for central London.

– KAREN PINCHIN

For more information, visit clarettelondon.com.

BAR-HOPPING

The most iconic cocktails often trace their origins to legendary hotels. Here’s how to create a boozy getaway at home



WHITE LADY  
The Savoy, London

In 1930, Harry Craddock published the *Savoy Cocktail Book*, an industry bible that effectively launched cocktail culture to Europeans. It included his recipe for the White Lady, a gin classic created during his tenure as head bartender at the five star destination’s American Bar.

1 part Lemon juice  
1 part Cointreau  
2 parts Dry Gin

Shake well with ice and strain into cocktail glass.



SIDECAR  
The Ritz, Paris

Created by enigmatic bartender and Nazi resistor Frank Meier in 1923, the Ritz Sidecar was the first cocktail to bill itself as the most expensive in the world (at €1,500, it may still hold that title today). Bar Hemingway uses 19th century pre-pheloxera Ritz Grande Champagne Cognac in its recipe.

6 parts Cognac  
3 parts Cointreau  
1 parts Lemon juice

Shake well with ice and strain into a cocktail glass.



PIÑA COLADA  
Caribe Hilton, San Juan

To capture the true flavours of Puerto Rico, bartender Ramón “Monchito” Marrero spent three months experimenting on the Piña Colada before settling on this mix in 1954. In 1978, it became the island’s national drink, immortalized a year later in a song by Rupert Holmes.

2 ounces rum  
1 ounce coconut cream  
1 ounce heavy cream  
6 ounces fresh pineapple juice  
½ cup crushed ice

Mix rum, coconut cream, heavy cream and pineapple juice in a blender. Add ice and blend for 15 seconds. Serve in a 12-ounce glass garnished with fresh pineapple and a cherry. – C.A.

LAKE TO TABLE

Sonora Resort, a Relais & Châteaux property up the coast from Vancouver, is only reachable via water taxi, helicopter or seaplane, guaranteeing guests have

uninterrupted access to the best B.C. has to offer. That includes hopping in a boat primed for chinook salmon fishing. Back at the lodge, your catch is quickly cleaned and portioned before either being smoked and canned by Nanaimo-based St. Jean’s Cannery, vacuum-sealed and frozen, or prepared fresh by executive chef Lukas Gurtner (think salmon three ways – filets, sashimi and tartar – served with local veggies and wine). “It’s special to have guests catch their own salmon, a local fish, and have it prepared,” Gurtner says. “Most of the time, we will keep the whole fillet so the salmon’s natural beauty shines.” – M.S.



Salmon fishing experience from \$740 for a minimum of four hours. Rooms from \$915/night. For more information, visit sonoraresort.com.



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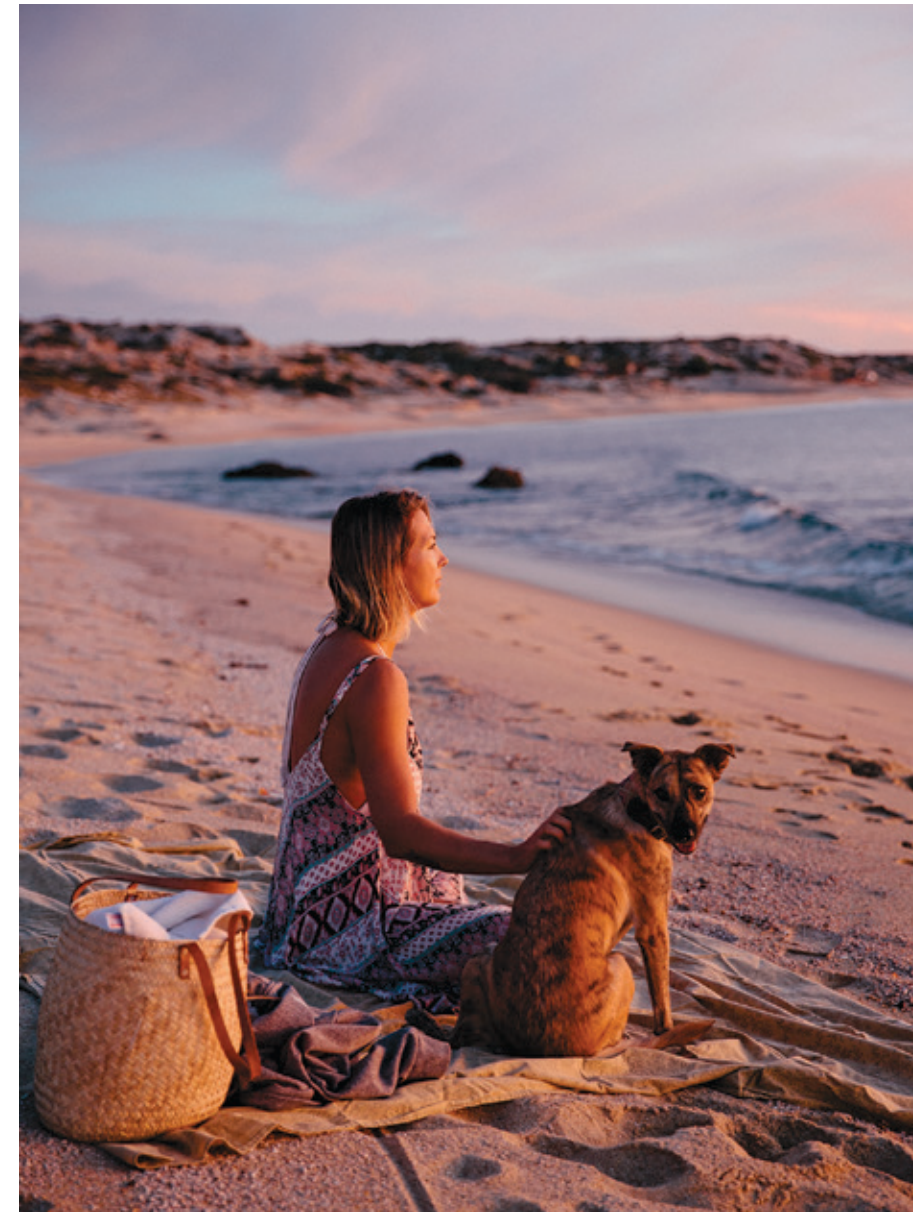




# DOWN MEXICO WAY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
**GRANT HARDER**

Once known mostly as a party destination, the area around Cabo San Lucas is becoming a serious foodie escape. **JULIE VAN ROSENDAAL** meets the Canadians contributing to the rise of its locavore restaurant and cocktail culture



Nestled below a group of tree-house hotel rooms, the edible garden at Acre (opposite page) is one example of the growing farm-to-table movement in San José del Cabo. Dani Tatarin (above left) moved to the area from Vancouver to develop Acre's cocktail program. Its restaurant uses local produce (top) including queso fresco (middle) to create its dishes (bottom).

On a Tuesday night in the arts district of San José del Cabo, the open courtyard of La Lupita is packed with a convivial crowd. Half of them are laughing over tacos and mezcal sipped out of *jicaras*, small bowls made from the fruit of the calabash tree. The other half are dancing to the live band on a rooftop stage under the stars. Beside me, mixologist Danielle Tatarin, who is known as Dani, sways to a song she recognizes. It's Britney Spears, I think. Or maybe Taylor Swift?

Tatarin is a transplanted Vancouverite who relocated to Mexico two and a half years ago. She brought me to La Lupita because it's her scene and because it has an impressive mezcal list, served with orange wedges dipped in worm salt to cleanse your palate in between tastes. Although everyone is thoroughly enjoying themselves, the place still has a distinctly chilled vibe.

"Cabo San Lucas is more of a party city," says Tatarin, sprinkling *chapulines* (tiny, crispy fried grasshoppers) onto guacamole scooped up with a corn tortilla. "But San José is more laid-back. There are more surfers, artists and creative types here."

I've been trying to get my bearings from the time my flight touched down and the woman beside me turned and asked, "Where are we?" She knew we were on the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula, of course, but the municipality of Los Cabos can be confusing if you're unfamiliar with the area. North Americans often use the blanket term "Cabo," but in fact the region encompasses three main areas, including the East Cape and the small cities of San José del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas, as well as the resort corridor,

a sliver of luxury all-inclusives that stretches between the two. Visitors to the area are beginning to want a more authentic experience, heading out of Cabo San Lucas to absorb more of the local culture and cuisine.

Two cobblestoned blocks away from La Lupita, Drift San José, also owned by a B.C. transplant, is more DIY than all-inclusive; all eight units in the hip, contemporary boutique hotel open up with sliding industrial windows to a courtyard strung with lights and furnished with rustic wooden seats and a tiny mezcal tasting bar.

"If you want to hang out with cool, young people in San José, they're at Drift on Thursday nights," says Tatarin. "There are a lot of artists and architects from B.C., Portland, New York, L.A." On Thursdays they fire up the smoker and open a food cart at the back of the courtyard to serve bar snacks like Cuban-style beef brisket burritos, smoked marlin baked macaroni and cilantro sea bass sausages with roasted tomato chipotle chutney. "There's this Canadian underbelly," she says of the influx of B.C. entrepreneurs in San José (nearby, Baja Beans coffee roasters was founded by Vancouverites Alec and April Tidey).

Tatarin is well known on Canada's West Coast as the mixologist who





opened the Keefer Bar in Vancouver's Chinatown. When Keefer's Cam Watt formed a partnership to open Acre, a farm-to-table restaurant and luxurious event space just outside San José on a 25-acre piece of farmland with a mango orchard, it was an easy sell to convince Tatarin to join them and set up the bar program. "It has that West Coast vibe," she says. "You can hop in the car and be on a deserted beach in 20 minutes. Cabo is one of the most expensive places to live in Mexico, but compared to Vancouver it's cheap. I rent a pretty cool apartment for about \$800 a month Canadian."

We hop in the car to head back to Acre. "U2 played there," she says, nodding to a small, unassuming building across the street. We take our usual shortcut down a wide, dusty riverbed that earlier in the year was engorged with enough water to overflow its banks. The earth seems to be made of sand and dust, but more than one farmer has told me all it needs is a bit of rain to become fertile soil. Most of the water comes from underground springs, and drinking water comes from the mountains. Things grow well here, they say.

Back at Acre, its owners enlisted local horticulturalists to cultivate and maintain the edible gardens, and brought in chefs Kevin Luzande and Oscar Torres to create a farm-to-table menu using the organic produce grown on-site supplemented with seafood caught by local fishermen and corn tortillas made by a lady in Veracruz. Acre feels a little like a movie set. A boardwalk flanked with palm trees, cacti and dusty blue agave plants leads to the open-air restaurant and bar, built using rammed-earth walls constructed with soil, rocks and clay. "The climate here is similar to Vancouver," says Watt. "And the rainy season here coincides with the nice time of year back home."

If you want to stay overnight, there are now a dozen tree houses on the property, nestled into the palm forest on sturdy stilts with walls made of pau d'arco branches designed to allow the breeze to waft through. Each has a king-sized bed, a small bathroom and closet area and a heated outdoor shower. Living spaces are incorporated into the landscape rather than making room for them in the tree houses, which is typical of the area. "I think we knocked down one tree," Watt says of a construc-

tion plan created to minimally alter the landscape. "What kid doesn't want to sleep in a tree house?" he asks.

The Acre concept is not only farm-to-table, but farm-to-bar, a trend that's still rare in Cabo, but beginning to catch on. "It was kind of a blank slate," says Tatarin. She draws inspiration from her new surroundings. They planted 20 varieties of citrus, from kaffir and finger limes to kumquats, as well as mangos and melons. "It's amazing to have these ingredients at your fingertips," she says. Fresh citrus juices are squeezed every morning. Her cocktails are mostly made with mezcal and flavoured with pineapple, chilies, tamarind, passion-fruit, hibiscus, epazote and lime. Sage was one of the first herbs to grow in the garden, and the sage margarita is still by far the most popular. "People who come to Mexico want a margarita," she says. "I wanted them to come to Acre and get a great one."

Beside the bar, there's a tasting room dedicated to mezcal, the artisanal spirit distilled from the heart of the agave plant. It is the grandfather of tequila, handcrafted in smaller batches, often by families who have been producing it for generations. Protected by a geographic indication that identifies its origin, it can only be called mezcal if it has been made in one of nine states.

Although visitors tend to be more familiar with cheaper and industrially produced tequila, mezcal is gaining popularity along with a fledgling cocktail culture. One of Tatarin's side projects is a custom mezcal distilled and bottled for Acre; she also makes her own bitters and non-alcoholic distillates that are already being used by other local bartenders.

More farms concentrated around San José means more locally sourced ingredients and farmers' markets. At one of Acre's supplier farms, the chefs and I watch farmers milk a dairy cow for *queso fresco*, fresh cheese they make daily by separating milk into curds with a smelly slurry of rennet made from dried cow stomach and pressing out excess whey with the weight of a rock. It's hot, hovering just under 30 degrees as owner Joshua Esteves motions to the nearby mountains, under an hour's drive away. "At our farm up there, the terroir is completely different," he says. "The pools of water might be frozen. There's oak, pine, acorns. The pigs run around all day eating good stuff."

Next door to Acre, the beautifully manicured Flora Farms has been a visitor destination since 1996, with a small brewery and extensive gardens. Ninety-five per cent of the ingredients on the restaurant menu are raised or grown on-site and everything from bread to burrata is made from scratch. They host cooking classes in an open-air kitchen, and operate a spa and juice bar for visitors staying in the culinary cottages.

Back at the airport, the duty-free shops are dominated by brash displays of tequila. I have to look hard to find the mezcal and find less than half a dozen bottles on a low shelf in the back. With Cabo's culinary and cocktail culture continuing to grow, they'd be smart to make space for more stock. ■



## ON LOCATION

### ACRE

The tree-house rooms at this mini-resort feature outdoor showers, and vacations include poolside morning yoga sessions, by the mango orchard. Rates start at \$275/night with breakfast. [acrebaja.com](http://acrebaja.com)

### BAJA BEANS

Located in Pescadero, this café focuses on freshly roasted local beans and hosts a weekly farmers' market. [bajabeanscoffee.com](http://bajabeanscoffee.com)

### DRIFT SAN JOSÉ

This hotel and mezcal bar offers self-serve amenities like a coffee and snack bar to keep costs low for its three sizes of rooms. Rates start at \$125/night. [driftsanjose.com](http://driftsanjose.com)

### FLORA FARMS

An early and ever-growing adopter of the farm-to-table movement, this property now includes an open-air market, spa and events space. [flora-farms.com](http://flora-farms.com)

### LA LUPITA

A taco spot with a lively social scene, La Lupita also offers a long list of mezcals to sample. +52 624 688 3926





**HANGAR APPEAL** Max Mara elevates the details of a classic trench in its silk overcoat and double-breasted skirt. Trench coat, \$2,590, top, \$475, skirt, \$770 at Max Mara (maxmara.com). Fendi sandals, \$1,155 at Saks Fifth Avenue (saks.com). Tights, \$20 at Simons (simons.ca). Leather cap, stylist's own.

A relaxed take on tailored pieces and trench coats takes a getaway wardrobe to new heights

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **CARLYLE ROUTH**

STYLING BY **GEORGIA GROOM**

Makeup and hair by Sheri Stroh for Nudestix/Oribe/Plutino Group. Model: Sophie Touchet at Sutherland Models. Photographed at Brantford Municipal Airport in Brantford, Ont. (brantfordairport.ca).





**STRAPPING IN** Designer Kathryn Bowen reimagines the flight suit for everyday wear. Kathryn Bowen jacket and pants, price on request, through [kathrynbowen.com](http://kathrynbowen.com). Dries van Noten shirt, \$895, at Saks Fifth Avenue ([saks.com](http://saks.com)). Melody Ehsani earrings, \$75 at Nordstrom ([nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com)). Sunglasses, \$570 at Cutler and Gross ([cutlerandgross.com](http://cutlerandgross.com)).



**TAIL SPIN** A slouchy Brunello Cucinelli suit guarantees a polished yet comfortable look on board. Brunello Cucinelli blazer, \$4,225, trousers, \$1,175 at Saks Fifth Avenue ([saks.com](http://saks.com)). Victoria Victoria Beckham blouse, \$568 at Nordstrom ([nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com)). Scarf, \$485 at Hermès ([hermes.com](http://hermes.com)).





**FLY GIRL** A cracked finish gives this leather topper a well-travelled look that grounds a mix of graphic separates. The Row coat, \$5,350, Opening Ceremony shirt, \$445, Peter Pilotto trousers, \$1,375 at The Room at Hudson's Bay (thebay.com). Marni sweater, \$1,045 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com). Tierre Taylor for David Dunkley turban, \$125 at David Dunkley (daviddunkley.me). Sunglasses, \$595 at Cutler and Gross (cutlerandgross.com). Biko earrings, \$70 through ilovebiko.com. See by Chloé loafers, \$460 at Gravity Pope (gravitypope.com).



**AIR PLAY** This glossy Phillip Lim jacket in rich bordeaux plays up a breezy beauty palette of reds, pinks and oranges. 3.1 Phillip Lim jacket, \$655 at Hudson's Bay (thebay.com). Leather cap, stylist's own.







# ON THE ROCK

For a quintessential Newfoundland experience, nothing beats shacking up in an authentic saltbox. **MARYAM SIDDIQI** profiles one couple translating the uniquely East Coast architecture into a growing stable of vacation homes

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MANDY KEEPING**



**J**anet Denstedt and Richard Wharton acquired their first saltbox home in the community of Fogo in 2009. The couple, who were Ontario-based at the time, were on the island, off Newfoundland's northern coast, looking to purchase a vacation property.

During a lunch visit to a local restaurant, Wharton started speaking to one of the eatery's employees who mentioned that her family might have a home for sale.

"They were living in this saltbox house, and they decided to build a new house," says Wharton. "They built a traditional bungalow right next door and got to a certain point that they couldn't really afford to do anymore until they got rid of the house they were in. So she said to us, 'Well, I'll sell you my house, but you have to take it away.' And we said, 'That's great, we could do that. But we have no land.' And so she said, 'Oh, well, I'll sell you this piece of land.'"

While they were renovating their first saltbox, a neighbour down the street mentioned that she, too, had a house she wanted to divest herself of. "So we actually picked hers up and moved it over onto the same piece of property," Wharton says. Shortly after that, they acquired a third saltbox property and then decided to formally create a chain of holiday rentals dotting Newfoundland's coast under the name the Old Saltbox Co. They now have three on Fogo Island, three in the Twillingate area, one in the remote community of Greenspond and one in Musgrave Harbour. In the fall of 2017, they opened their ninth and 10th houses on the south coast in the communities of Burgeo and Francois. The properties are open all year round and some are already fully booked for the coming summer.

When you come from away – that is anywhere outside of Newfoundland and Labrador – saltbox homes are striking in their simplicity, perched atop craggy rocks on the ocean's edge. For locals, the homes are steeped in tradition and tell a part of the province's settlement history. The saltbox design developed over generations on the island, spanning from 1835 to 1960. Constructed primarily of wood because there was a ready supply of it, and typically one or one and half storeys tall, their dramatic sloping roof gives the impression that the house is bigger than it actually is and allows for lean-tos to be added to the initial structure. The name "saltbox" was adopted because the homes echoed the shape of the wooden lidded boxes that salt was stored in at the time.

Over the decades, "modern building materials started to change the structure [of these homes], but the basic form and pattern were maintained – a central hall and rooms on both sides," says Jerry Dick, executive director for Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador, which promotes the province's built and intangible cultural history.



Janet Denstedt and Richard Wharton (below) have built a vacation-rental business around Newfoundland saltbox houses they've renovated, including Daisy's Place in Merritt's Harbour, pictured here and opposite.





Colour and panoramic picture windows both play a big part in the design of each home. At Aunt Christi's in Greenspond, the signature hue is a soft yellow that complements the view.



‘Whatever we can keep that’s worthwhile and that looks old, we do’

Denstedt and Wharton have further adapted the design by adding a dramatic picture window facing the water to most of their properties. Each home is bought with the view from the picture window in mind, a front seat for the wildest moods of Mother Nature as she has her way with the Atlantic Ocean. If a visit is timed right, some offer the opportunity to see icebergs from the living-room couch.

The Old Saltbox Co.’s remodelling and renovation process varies depending on the state of the original structure. “Whatever we can keep that’s worthwhile and that looks old, we do. But we completely rewire, re-insulate, and add new windows, new roof,” Wharton says. In some cases, a two-storey home with low ceilings has become a spacious one-floor structure with a vaulted ceiling.

The interior design of each house was inspired by that first home on Fogo, which operates under the name Grandma Lilly’s. (The houses, with names like Aunt Donna’s, Mary’s Place and Aunt Gladys’s, are each named after important women in Denstedt’s and Wharton’s lives: grandmothers, mothers, aunts.)

Wharton, who oversees the architectural design and construction, tries to preserve as much as the original structure as possible. When he can’t, the couple tracks down local craftspeople who create heritage-inspired pieces. “Richard has a guy that will just mill us the wood in the shapes we want,” says Denstedt. “You’ll notice, this wall, all the boards are different widths, because that’s what they did years ago. So we’ll still keep up that same look – replace a wall with all different wood so that it’s like the authentic wood.”

Though the small single-pane windows are new, they are designed as they would have been in saltbox homes from the last century. “They’re handmade by a local guy on Fogo, but they’re made like the old windows,” says Denstedt. Lest one think air coming through the frames is an architectural flaw, Chris



Woodford, a principal at the St. John’s-based architecture firm Woodford Sheppard, says the breeze can be beneficial. “One of the reasons why wood-framed buildings from over a hundred years ago still stand is because they were allowed to breathe,” he says.

In the event of a draft and to keep guests warm at night, Denstedt commissions original quilts from the Fogo Island Anglican Church Women’s Group. “Everybody here on Fogo Island tends to enjoy advertising ourselves – we like to let people know that this is who we are and we’re proud of it,” says Daphne Payne, the group’s leader. “Every one of the quilts is hand embroidered and machine sewn. It’s a wonderful tradition and we love to do it. A lot of foreigners come and stay in those houses because they are traditional Newfoundland houses. And they get to know us through those quilts.”

For the rest of the decor, each home follows a colour theme, with walls, furniture and accents in yellows, greens, purples and teals. Denstedt also incorporates pieces that have connections to the local community, such as hanging a fishing net as art, or framing old newspaper clippings found pre-renovation, as she has done at Aunt Christi’s in Greenspond.

The majority of guests booking stays with the Old Saltbox Co. are locals and travellers from Ontario, with an increasing number from western Canada and the United States. Denstedt says she’s received more bookings from European visitors, too.

“The traditional saltbox home is such an iconic image on the island, which has become synonymous with living here,” says Woodford. “One of the greatest strengths of the traditional housing form is its simplicity and its adaptability.”

“If done correctly you get architecture that is not only rooted in the history of our island, but also helps us transition into the future,” he adds. “The real challenge is finding this balance.” ■



## ON LOCATION

**THE OLD SALT BOX CO.** Accommodations range from single-bedroom homes to three-bedroom options that can be rented by the night or week. Off-season rates are available from mid-October until May 1. In-season rates start at \$175/night. [theoldsaltboxco.com](http://theoldsaltboxco.com).



Colourful interiors are as inviting as the landscape: Quilts created by the Fogo Island Anglican Church Women’s Group (above) top most beds and many guests seek out their own to take home as a souvenir.





# Roman holiday

**T**he first place I travelled to alone was Rome. It was the summer of university graduation and after visiting a friend in Amsterdam, I boarded a flight to the Eternal City, ready to spend four days exploring and indulging. My suitcase full of meticulously planned outfits didn't make the trip, however, so I spent my first 24 hours in a tiny hotel room off the Piazza di Spagna waiting for luggage.

In retrospect, I used the belated bags as an excuse to put off exploring on my own. Rome is like a film set and I wanted to come across as a leading man. But with my minimal Italian, guidebook knowledge of the city and non-existent supporting cast, I quickly realized I was just another extra passing through the scene. That worry of not wanting to be perceived as an outsider is something

many of us experience when we travel, and it can be particularly overwhelming in Italy where dining solo in a trattoria full of boisterous, multigenerational families blatantly reinforces your sense of isolation.

I only started to appreciate what Rome has to offer its visitors when I accepted that anonymity. "Rome is the city where past and present, spectacle and the everyday, grandeur and sensuality, collude around every corner," writes Giovanni Fanelli in Taschen's robust new book, *Rome: Portrait of a City*. Its pages, which include cinematic images from the mid-1800s through the decadent *dolce vita* and into contemporary life, emphasize how the city's monumental scale and charming normalcy combine to make it, in fact, the perfect destination to visit alone. You just have to be prepared to sit back and enjoy the show. — **ANDREW SARDONE**

*Rome: Portrait of a City* by Giovanni Fanelli, US\$70 through [taschen.com](http://taschen.com).

PHOTO COURTESY OF TASCHEN.

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