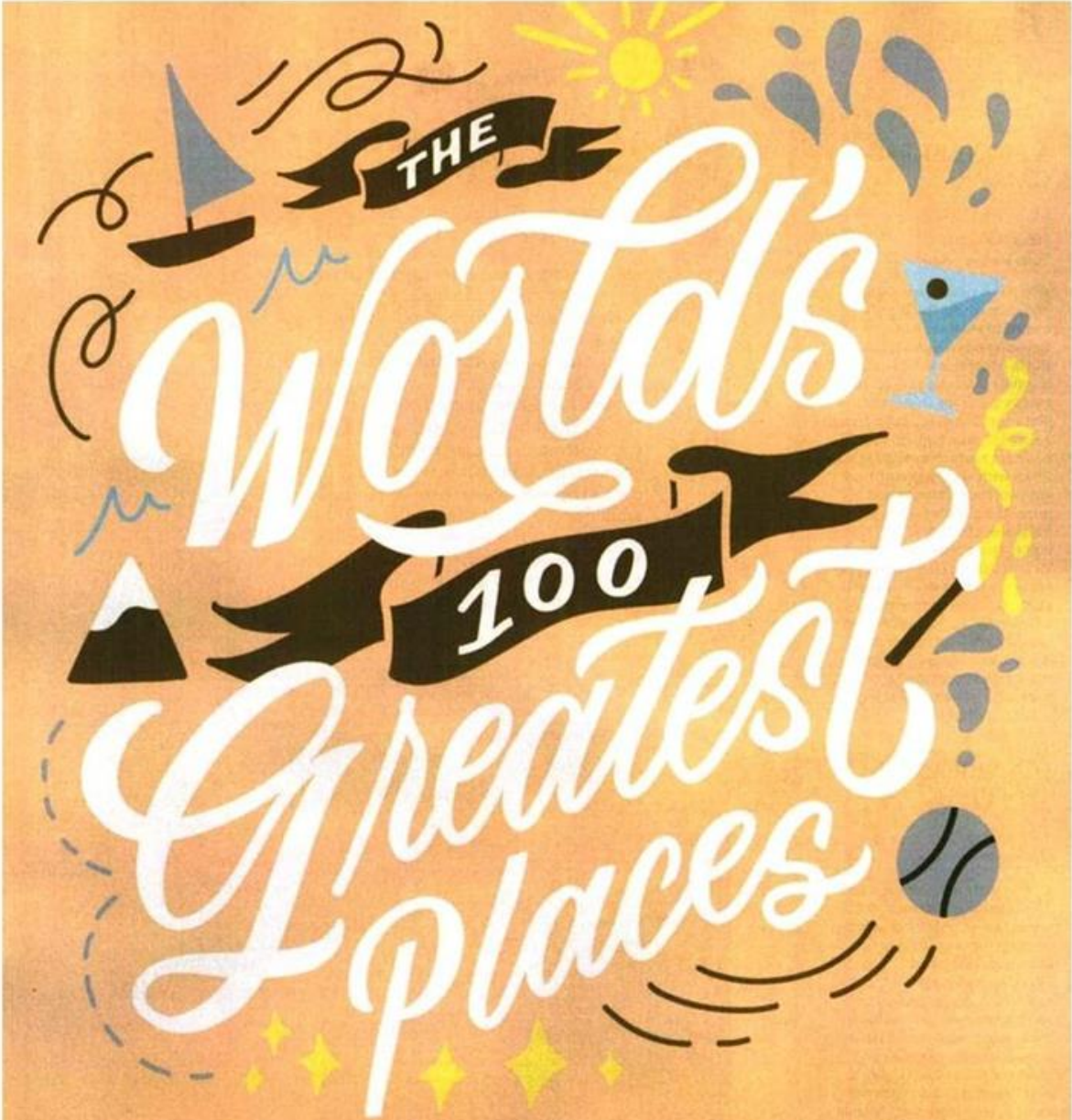


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To assemble our second annual list of the World's Greatest Places, TIME solicited nominations from our correspondents around the world as well as industry experts. Then we evaluated each one based on key factors, including quality, originality, innovation and influence. The result: 100 new and newly noteworthy destinations to experience right now, from America's hottest hometown pizzeria to a Tokyo museum bringing digital art to life.

 BARS + RESTAURANTS	 CRUISES	 HOTELS	 CULTURAL CENTERS	 PARKS	 THEME PARKS
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ILLUSTRATIONS BY MOLLY JACQUES FOR TIME



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A PIONEERING CAMP

LEOPARD HILL

Mara Naboisho
Conservancy, Kenya

The volume of wildlife crowning the locally owned Mara Naboisho Conservancy around Leopard Hill is exceptional—elephants playfully clashing tusks, sturdy zebras galloping, big-maned lions nuzzling cubs. But animals aren't the sole highlight at this eco camp, which opened in early 2018 with six tents outfitted with outdoor showers and retractable roofs for stargazing from bed, starting at \$375 a night. The all-Kenyan guide staff includes three trailblazing young Maasai women who attended guide school and learned to drive 4x4s. They pursued this career path with help from Basecamp Explorer, Leopard Hill's parent company, a staunch supporter of female guiding. —Kathryn Romeyn

DINNER AMONG THE FISH

UNDER

Lindesnes, Norway

From land, Europe's first underwater restaurant resembles a large slab of rock peeking out from the surf. But once guests descend to the dining room, located 5 m below sea level, they're treated to panoramic views of sea life—think spiny dogfish and vibrantly finned wrasses—while they feast on dishes from Under's ever changing tasting menu, curated by Danish chef Nicolai Ellitsgaard. (It's sourced mainly from local ingredients, such as brown crab and clams.) The whole experience, says co-founder Stig Ubostad, is designed to give patrons "a sense of awe." Assuming, of course, that they can get a reservation, which is typically made up to six months in advance. —Samantha Cooney

A LAGOON OF THEIR OWN

GEOSEA GEOTHERMAL SEA BATHS

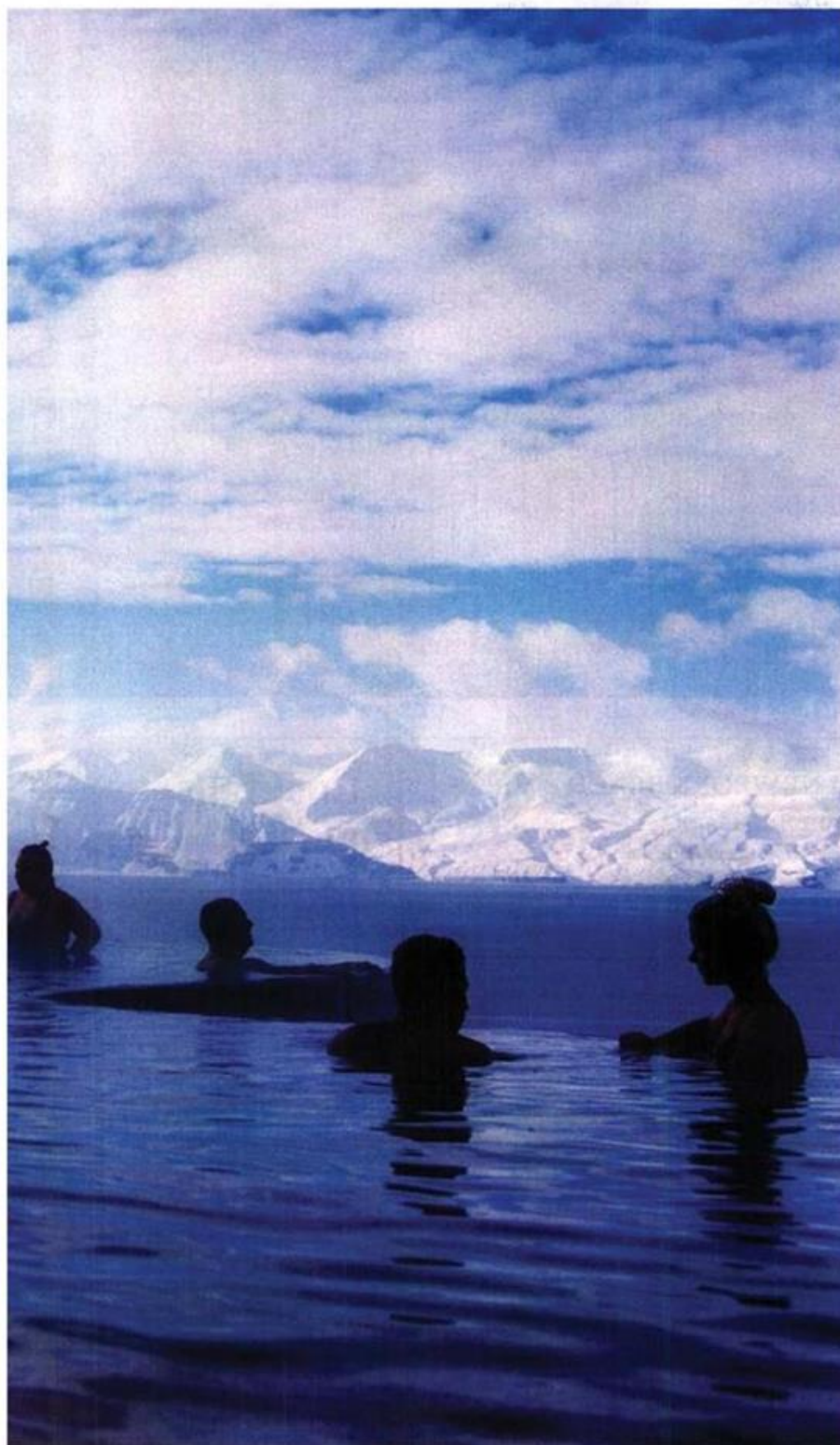
Husavik, Iceland

Overtourism is a tremendous problem for Iceland—its iconic Blue Lagoon packs in visitors by the busload. But roughly 300 miles north in Husavik, a port town along the country's Arctic Coast Way, a lesser-known geothermal spa gives its guests plenty of room to breathe. Opened in August 2018, Geosea draws its mineral-rich seawaters from two nearby drill holes. It has multiple infinity-edged pools and a built-in waterfall, swim-up bar and bathtub—warm water averaging around 100°F. The spa operates year-round, staying open till midnight in summer and 10 p.m. in winter—a spectacular way to catch the northern lights when swimming after dark. —Ashlea Halpern



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EUROPE'S NEW RIVER QUEEN

AMAMAGNA

 In May, one of the largest ships ever to cruise on a European waterway launched on the Danube, central Europe's longest river, which runs through lush countryside and capital cities including Budapest and Vienna. The *AmaMagna*, built exclusively for the Danube's wide expanse, provides cruisers with ample personal space—from cabins that look more like five-star hotel rooms to a pool on the roof. All excursions on shore are included in the offerings, which start at \$3,799 for a seven-day cruise. —Billy Perrigo

IN THE MOOD FOR MUJI

MUJI HOTEL GINZA

Tokyo

 The Japanese retail brand Muji has a cult following in Asia—and until recently, it's been known for its minimalist furniture and unbranded home items. But Muji is moving beyond lifestyle stores and into hotels. After opening two in China, the company debuted its first Japanese location in April. Rooms start at less than \$150 a night and are decked out with Muji furniture, bed linens and snacks. —Amy Gunia

CHILE'S CULINARY CROWN

BORAGÓ

Santiago, Chile

 Boragó has long been at gastronomy's forefront, thanks to practices such as inoculating vegetables with mold spores to make "cheese." In February, founder Rodolfo Guzmán surprised foodies worldwide when he revealed plans to move his 12-year-old restaurant to a new space with stunning views of the Andes—then opening it days later. —Nicholas Gill



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A POOL FOR THE AGES

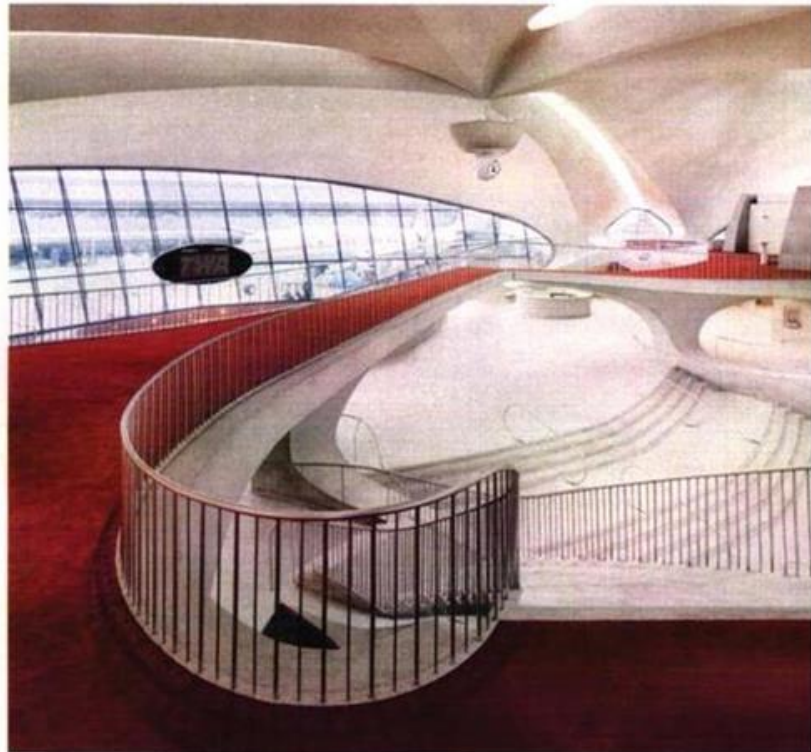
HEARST CASTLE
San Simeon, Calif.

Few places better capture the opulence of early-20th century California than Hearst Castle, the 165-room former personal estate of publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst. The property, which will celebrate its centennial next year, has its own theater, billiard room, beauty salon and pair of dazzling swimming pools. The Neptune Pool, in particular, is the stuff of legend, with a Vermont marble basin and alcove as well as vast colonnades flanked by a quartet of Italian relief sculptures. In 2014, the pool was drained because it was leaking up to 5,000 gallons of water a day. It took four years and \$10 million to repair the cracks, update the plumbing and restore the Art Deco sculptures. The pool was finally refilled in August 2018 and now even hosts the occasional pool party for members—with tickets at \$950 a pop. —Ashlea Halpern

SAILING IN STYLE

THEORY
Galápagos, Ecuador

It's the remoteness of the Galápagos Islands that makes them so special, but what's good for local wildlife like the blue-footed booby makes it tougher for visitors to get there in style. Enter Ecoventura's new yacht, the Theory, which transports just 20 passengers (and two naturalists) to the islands on weeklong itineraries year-round. The ship was just accepted into the prestigious Relais & Châteaux hospitality consortium—along with its sister boat, they're the only yachts to receive such a designation—which speaks to the luxurious accommodations on board. Guests enjoy gourmet Ecuadorian meals, tranquil gray interiors with oversize windows for ocean views and an open bar. —Kaitlin Menza



A NEWBORN BEACH

POHOIKI BEACH
Isaac Hale Beach Park, Hawaii

Locals refer to last year's eruptions at Kilauea in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park as "events"—a nod to the fact that while they were destructive, they weren't devastating. Hawaiian tradition attributes volcanic activity to Pele, a deity often called the goddess of volcanoes and fire. When Pele destroys, she also creates—and last year she increased the size of the island by more than 1 sq. mi., including a new black-sand beach at Isaac Hale Beach Park. The park reopened in December after a nearly six-month closure. While the tides may wash away the black sand within a few years, for now the new beach is a monument to nature. —Hannah Lott-Schwartz



Cocktail master

KUMIKO
Chicago

Kumiko is "an expression of my Japanese heritage in a formal cocktail-bar setting," says Julia Momose, the co-owner of the West Loop spot. Momose creates drinks seasonally with Japanese ingredients and techniques, like an old-fashioned with Japanese whiskey, shochu and bitters, which pair well with co-owner and executive chef Noah Sandoval's steamed buns with pork belly, or Japanese milk bread with fermented honey ice cream and truffle. Momose designed a companion menu of spirit-free drinks with equal care, in part because her parents don't drink alcohol. The beverages span the spectrum from bitter aperitifs to fresh, tropical flavors. In May, they moved the omakase tasting dinner and beverage pairing to an eight-seat space in the basement, and gave it its own name, Kikko. —Merrill Fabry



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AN ODE TO THE PAST

TWA HOTEL

New York City

In May, architect Eero Saarinen's TWA Flight Center reopened as the first hotel in New York's John F. Kennedy airport. The TWA Hotel's debut was a banner event for the city's travel industry, backed by a dedication to detail. Tyler Morse, the developer behind the project, spent years collecting jet-age memorabilia—from cocktail stirrers to branded toiletries—and boosting the profile of Saarinen, who died in 1961. As hotels increasingly rely on Instagram-friendly gimmicks or a thin association with past grandeur, the depth of the TWA Hotel's devotion to authenticity is notable. It's a fitting tribute to the original architect, who in 1956 told *TIME*, "[Architects] must have an emotional reason as well as a logical end for everything we do." —Daisy Alioto



ALL ABOUT THE VIEWS

SACROMONTE

Maldonado, Uruguay

Every cabin at Sacromonte is fronted, floor to ceiling, by sleek, mirrored panes of glass. The buildings, designed by the architecture firm MAPA, sit on locally sourced stone foundations, and the reflections allow them to blend in with the environment—while also providing panoramic views (and privacy) from inside. "We want nature to be the main character of Sacromonte," says Edmond Borit, founder and CEO of the hotel and vineyard, which opened last year. Guests can hike around the property on trails to find other gems including an A-frame chapel made of cross-laminated timber, giant kaleidoscopes that reflect the nature around them, and a 12-m table for meals or wine tastings. —M.F.



Maori moment

HIAKAI

Wellington, New Zealand

When chef Monique Fiso returned to New Zealand after seven years in New York City, she hosted a series of pop-ups that paid homage to her Maori roots. She soon found that sourcing ingredients for the pop-ups wasn't as easy as she'd hoped—local suppliers weren't used to short-notice requests for vegetables like taewa (Maori potatoes) or titi (a native bird). But Fiso's dedication paid off. The buzz her permanent restaurant Hiakai ("hungry" in Maori) created when it opened last year has not only spurred appreciation for native ingredients in New Zealand but also fostered new supply chains for those who want to cook with them.

—Joseph Hincks

LASTLOOK

NEWSEUM

Washington, D.C.

Some places you see because they're new, others you visit before they're gone. The Newseum is one of the latter. After 11 years and millions of visitors at its Pennsylvania Avenue location, the museum dedicated to celebrating the First Amendment announced in January that it was closing its doors by the end of the year. The Newseum will eventually relocate to a more financially sustainable location—one that seems likely to be less prominent than its current address. Until then, wander the hall of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs, see pieces of the Berlin Wall, and stand atop the Hank Greenspun terrace for panoramic views of the Capitol building and the capital city while you still can. —Abby Vesoulis

ART AMONG THE TREES

CHILLIDA LEKU

Hernani, Spain

A 27-acre outdoor museum filled with late abstract sculptor Eduardo Chillida's work is once again welcoming walk-ins. Chillida Leku's Basque farmhouse and art-filled fields were established as a sculpture park in 2000 by Chillida and his wife. Financial difficulties led to a partial closure a decade later, but the site formally reopened in April. Now art aficionados can wander the grounds to witness the more than 40 pieces on display. Featuring the sculptor's greatest works, Chillida Leku also has archival materials—public for the first time. "The museum itself is, without a doubt, my favorite piece," says Luis Chillida, one of the artist's sons. "It embodies his way of being and the way he worked." —Rachel E. Greenspan



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PROGRESSIVE BY DESIGN

EATON WORKSHOP DC
Washington, D.C.

J D.C.'s Eaton Workshop is a radical experiment in hospitality—it's a hotel in the nation's capital that doubles as a center for progressive causes. The enterprise is the brainchild of Katherine Lo, who sought a way to combine her family's hotel business with her passion for activism. Opened in September 2018, with an additional location in Hong Kong, Eaton Workshop includes a community radio station, a members' workspace, live-music venues, a cinema and artist studios. It also hosts activism-oriented events. "Much of what Eaton offers as a 'hotel' all exists to further one mission," says Lo. "To make the world better by supporting social and environmental justice."
—Alejandro de la Garza

FROM HOSPITAL TO HOTEL

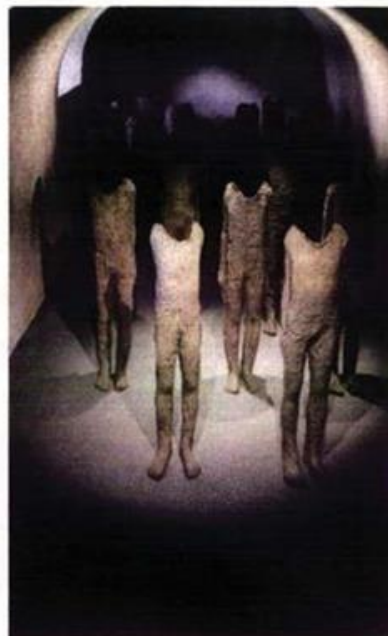
THE JAFFA
Tel Aviv

J Built in what used to be a convent hospital that served Christian visitors to Jerusalem in the 19th century, the Jaffa in Tel Aviv is today set up for pilgrims of a different kind. The 120-room hotel, part of Marriott's Luxury Collection portfolio, was one of several to open in Jaffa last year, capping the ancient port city's ascent as one of Tel Aviv's buzziest neighborhoods. World-renowned designer John Pawson teamed up with Israeli architect Ramy Gil on the renovation, which incorporates the arched colonnades, stone walls and stained-glass windows of the building's former incarnation. Modern touches come by way of Pawson's minimalist interiors and a new life for the old chapel, reborn as a cocktail bar. —Joseph Hincks

MOUNTAINS OF ART

MUZEUM SUSCH
Susch, Switzerland

E When Polish entrepreneur Grazyna Kulczyk established an international center for art, she forwent an up-and-coming cosmopolitan locale for a rural village in a Swiss alpine valley. Muzeum Susch inhabits a 12th century monastery and brewery, with gallery spaces burrowed into the mountains behind it. The museum's inaugural exhibition, "A Woman Looking at Men Looking at Women," opened in January with the aim of exploring "the notion of the feminine in its diverse facets." The museum will also host a think tank dedicated to analyzing the role of women in the arts and sciences. —Wilder Davies



SCOTTISH BY DESIGN

V&A DUNDEE
Dundee, Scotland

E The famed Victoria & Albert design museum has opened its first ever location outside of London in an unexpected place: Dundee, a quiet city on the coast of Scotland. It's the cornerstone of a more than \$1 billion plan to revitalize the city, a onetime industrial powerhouse now struggling with high unemployment. Renowned architect Kengo Kuma designed the modern building, which sits on the Dundee waterfront, to mimic Scotland's iconic cliffs. The free museum—the first in Scotland for design—opened in September 2018 and tells the story of the country's design history, with highlights including Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Oak Room. It welcomed its 500,000th visitor in March. —Samantha Cooney



Family jewel

ROSEWOOD
Hong Kong

J Since being named CEO of the Rosewood Hotel Group in 2011—when her family bought the Texan hotel brand—38-year-old Sonia Cheng has led an impressive expansion, with seven new hotels in Asia alone. But the brand's newest location, in Cheng's childhood home of Hong Kong, may be its best yet. The property (with rooms starting at about \$580 a night) bills itself as a "vertical private estate": while a traditional estate might be surrounded by landscaped gardens, outdoor space and greenery will be distributed throughout the Rosewood's 43 floors. Five of the hotel's planned eight bars and restaurants are open, and guests can enjoy local delicacies at the Legacy House restaurant, followed by a drink and live jazz at DarkSide. —Amy Gunia

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A restaurant taking on recidivism

ALL SQUARE
Minneapolis

 All Square makes a mean grilled cheese, but its ambitions are much greater. Opened in September 2018 by civil rights lawyer Emily Hunt Turner, the sandwich shop offers its formerly incarcerated employees a professional-development fellowship

in addition to a living wage. Fellows work at least 30 hours a week at the shop, training in everything from wellness to social media. They devote 10 to 15 more hours to learning critical skills like résumé writing and personal finance. The program, designed to develop real-world experience and sterling references, recently graduated 11 fellows in its first class. Turner hopes to replicate the business model and reduce recidivism in cities across the country. —Ashlea Halpern

CASTLE FOR THE NIGHT

CASTELLO DI SANTA SEVERA

Santa Marinella, Italy

 Want to stay in a medieval castle for less than \$50 per night? Look no further than this 14th century beachside citadel, which now functions as a hostel. The site—a short train ride from Rome—touts more than 2,000 years of fascinating history, with owners that ranged from the Catholic Church to Roman aristocracy. After four years of restoration, the castle and its adjacent buildings now function as a museum complex and hostel that sleeps 42. Despite the coastal grandeur, it is relatively low-frills: guests are responsible for seeing to their own breakfast in its communal kitchen. Visitors can explore the grounds, learn about ancient sea navigation or relax on the public beach beyond its walls. On Mondays, the castle is closed to the public—allowing hostel guests to roam free from crowds. —W.D.

URBAN DESERT ROSE

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF QATAR

Doha, Qatar

 In the Persian Gulf, a desert rose forms when sand adheres to the crystals created by the slow evaporation of salt basins. The resulting clusters look like interlocking discs and inspired Jean Nouvel's design of the National Museum of Qatar, which sprawls along the waterfront of the capital, Doha. The destination museum opened in March and uses immersive video screens and dioramas to take visitors on a mile-long journey through the peninsula's history, from geology to pearl diving to Bedouin life and finally back to geology—namely, to the discovery of the oil and gas that enriched the kingdom and paved the way for groundbreaking structures like this one. —Karl Vick



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GRECIAN GLAMOUR

FOUR SEASONS ASTIR PALACE HOTEL ATHENS

Athens

 In times gone by, the Astir Palace hotel hosted famous guests from Aristotle Onassis to Frank Sinatra. Now, after a \$280 million revamp by new proprietor Four Seasons, it's heralding a new era—and still in touch with its Aegean roots. Its spa was inspired in part by ancient Greek traditions, and includes an aroma steam grotto. Rooms start at around \$550 a night. —B.P.

INNOVATION AT SEA

CELEBRITY EDGE

 The newest billion-dollar vessel from Celebrity Cruises comes with its very own Magic Carpet. That's the name of the Celebrity Edge's standout feature—a floating platform that can be parked on several different levels of the ship. Depending on where it is, it can extend the ship's pool area, offer an open-air dining option or streamline disembarkation. The Edge takes design seriously throughout: Eden, a multilevel space in the ship's rear, combines creative cuisine and performance art with three stories of ocean views. —Alejandro de la Garza

A FRESH OASIS

HYATT REGENCY AQABA AYLA RESORT

Aqaba, Jordan

 On the banks of the Gulf of Aqaba sits one of Hyatt's newest properties; it's the debut hotel in the new mixed-use development Ayla Oasis, which includes a marina and Jordan's first 18-hole championship golf course. The stark white buildings and azure accents evoke Mediterranean serenity with Middle Eastern details—and the ancient city of Petra is less than two hours away. —Hannah Lott-Schwartz

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Treetop trek

CAMP ADVENTURE

Rønnede, Denmark

 Camp Adventure in Denmark opened its 45-m-tall, hourglass-shaped tower in March, with a spiraling walkway that allows people to climb above the forest canopy for panoramic views of the surroundings. Located about one hour south of Copenhagen in the Gissfeldt Klosters Skove forest, the camp offers visitors other activities as well, including zip lines and a tree-climbing course that covers 18.5 acres. The adventure park has an ecological conscience too. On Sept. 14, Camp Adventure plans to host a televised fundraising event, aiming to earn enough money to plant 1 million trees. —Billy Perrigo

WHERE CUBAN CREATIVES GATHER

FÁBRICA DE ARTE CUBANO

Havana

 While many visitors to Cuba's capital might gravitate to the candy-colored buildings and classic cars of Old Havana, it's worth a trip to the city's Vedado neighborhood to see Fábrica de Arte Cubano. Created by Cuban rocker X Alfonso in 2014, the cooking-oil factory turned community project has quickly become the city's buzzy creative hub. Within the cavernous warehouse's refurbished walls, you'll find galleries, performance-art spaces and a dance floor that's home to the capital's most captivating movers and shakers. As Havana prepares to celebrate its 500th anniversary this year, look to Fábrica to see its cultural future. —Cady Lang

ERASING CARBON FOOTPRINTS

CAMP GLENORCHY

Glenorchy, New Zealand

 Forty minutes from the adventure hot spot of Queenstown, New Zealand, is Camp Glenorchy: the country's first energy net-zero hotel and campground. Camp Glenorchy aims to use 50% less energy and water than similar accommodations by relying on a solar garden and smart lighting; there's also a smell-free composting toilet in each unit. The design channels the surrounding valley's natural beauty through the use of construction materials like recycled timber while still incorporating upscale features like an in-room tablet that enables guests to monitor their energy use. —All Wunderman



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THE HEART OF VIETNAM

AZERAI LA RESIDENCE HUE

Hue, Vietnam

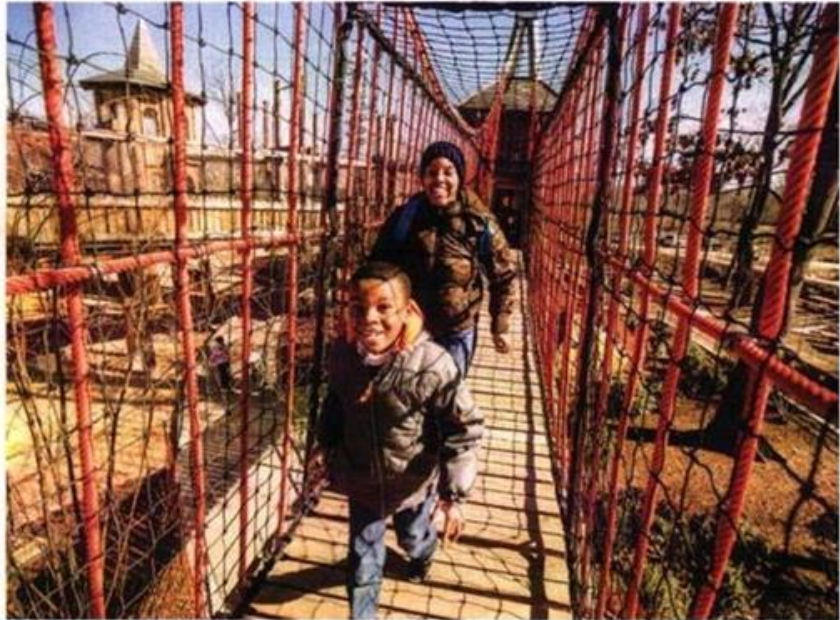
 Hue is a city steeped in history, and the Azerai La Residence Hue has one of the best views in town: it sits across from the famed 19th century citadel where Vietnam's last imperial family once ruled. The 122-room boutique hotel (rooms start at \$250 per night) was opened in a renovated French-colonial mansion by Adrian Zecha, the founder of Aman Resorts, who has a knack for finding extraordinary settings. Within the citadel, guests can visit emperors' tombs, ornate pagodas and other remnants of the Imperial City. Afterward, they can head to the hotel's saltwater swimming pool and lush lawn—both of which overlook the Perfume River, which gets its name from the scented flowers that fall into the water courtesy of nearby orchards. —Amy Gunia

AN EPIC SPACE

TROY MUSEUM

Tevfikliye, Turkey

 Dedicated to the place made famous by Homer's *Iliad*, the Troy Museum—situated amid the city's ruins—brings an ancient legend to life. Among the collections are 24 pieces of "Troy Gold" jewelry, dating back to 2400 B.C.E., that were returned in 2012 by the Penn Museum in the U.S. In a landmark agreement between the two countries, as well as pottery and marble works from the era of the Trojan War. The cubelike museum, which opened in October 2018, was designed by Istanbul-based architecture studio Yalin Mimarlik to look like an excavated artifact—not unlike those that might be found at the archeological site nearby, viewable from the terrace at the top of the building. The museum brings a new buzz to the location of the storied siege. —Suryin Haynes



A park for all

THE GATHERING PLACE

Tulsa, Okla.

 When the philanthropist George B. Kaiser spearheaded the creation of this \$465 million green space on Tulsa's waterfront, he hoped to help unite the city, which has struggled with inequality. The 66-acre park, which is open to the public for free, includes playgrounds, gardens,

a skate park, a BMX track, a concert venue and a number of restaurants. It also hosts a variety of public programming, from Zumba classes to family nature walks, furnished by a \$100 million endowment. Designers also prioritized accessibility: the park is built to be ADA-compliant, and there are desensitization areas for individuals on the autism spectrum. —Wilder Davies

MEXICO MEETS INDIA

MASALA Y MAÍZ

Mexico City

 Norma Listman and Saqib Keval dreamed of a restaurant that could tackle colonization and worker injustice through the food it served. "Then all of a sudden [the dream] took over in a beautiful way," says Listman. They found similarities among the food cultures of South Asia, East Africa and Mexico, and combined the Mexican and Indian cuisines of their families to create an exploration of *mestizaje*, the cultural blending that resulted from shared histories of trade, migration and colonization, through inventive foods like Indian *uttapam* made of fermented rice, chickpeas and blue-corn masa, served with a fried egg. In September they're moving to a new location in the city—"a beautiful and weird space," says Keval—designed by artist Pedro Reyes. The menu is "an opportunity to give voice to cultures that are usually hidden," Listman says. —Merrill Fabry



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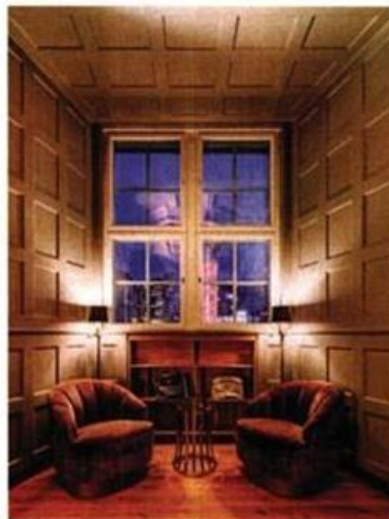
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Full steam ahead

AMERIKALINJEN

Oslo

 In the early 20th century, the now defunct Norwegian America cruise line carried thousands of Norwegians in search of new lives from Oslo to New York City. The company's old headquarters is now Amerikalinjen, a new boutique hotel (part of Preferred Hotels & Resorts) that pays homage to the historic link between the two cities. The basement club is inspired by New York's jazz scene, while the lobby's marble, brass and velvet decor evokes the glamour of crossing the Atlantic on a steamship. At the bar, guests can sip from glasses designed by the same company that supplied Norwegian America's cruise ships in the 1950s. —Ciara Nugent



PRESERVING NATURE

OMAANDA

Windhoek East, Namibia

 Plenty of resorts sell themselves as an escape, but few can offer the near total isolation of Omaanda, a clutch of 10 huts in a 22,000-acre nature reserve in Namibia. French hotelier Arnaud Zannier opened Omaanda in 2018, after philanthropist and TIME contributing editor Angelina Jolie persuaded him to join Namibia's still developing safari scene and work with the nearby Naankuse animal sanctuary—partly funded by the Jolie-Pitt Foundation—to protect local wildlife. Now, guests can spot zebras, giraffes, rhinos and more on daily excursions, or simply relax in the hotel's infinity pool. —C.N.

AIRSTREAM ADVENTURE

AUTOCAMP

Yosemite National Park, California

 If your ideal camping trip skews more Troop Beverly Hills than Into the Wild, the glamping experience of AutoCamp may be for you. With locations in sunny California—including Santa Barbara, the Russian River and, most recently, Yosemite—AutoCamp's campsites have boutique-hotel comforts, parceled into luxe Airstream trailers, cabins and tents. There are shuttle services and guided hikes for those who want to get in touch with nature, but those who don't want to hit the trails can enjoy the site's amenities like fire pits, heated pools, sundecks and live music. —Cady Lang

DREAM COME TRUE

RUBY CITY

San Antonio

 Before she died in 2007, Linda Pace, heiress to a salsa fortune, encountered a red building in a dream. She presented a sketch of the building to architect David Adjaye in hopes of creating a space that could showcase her art collection. Adjaye, now world renowned, has finally realized Pace's dream. In October, the glittering crimson museum, dubbed Ruby City, will open down the street from Pace's current gallery, offering the sites' visitors the chance to see works by artists such as Alejandro Diaz and Do Ho Suh completely free of charge. —W.D.



A NEW CITY CENTER

THE SHED

New York City

 The Shed's retractable outer shell has been likened to a "bubble-clad airplane hangar." But when the arts center opened in April, some New Yorkers saw it as something else entirely: an olive branch. The Shed is a nonprofit situated amid Hudson Yards, a \$25 billion development that has become a symbol of wealth inequality in a city where rising rents can price out low-income residents. In August, after Hudson Yards developer and Shed board member Stephen Ross hosted a Trump campaign fundraiser that provoked controversy, the nonprofit released a statement underscoring its independence, saying, "At the Shed, we believe that access to art is a right, not a privilege." Notably, while nearby apartments list for millions, tickets to the Shed's events start at \$10 and its Open Call exhibitions, of works by local artists, are free. —Cate Matthews

DISHES OF A DIASPORA

BENNE ON EAGLE

Asheville, N.C.

 This restaurant, which opened in December 2018, gives diners a taste of Appalachia's diversity. Informed by the West African spirit of *sankofa*, which encourages living with a deep respect for history, chef Ashleigh Shanti has developed dishes that recognize the influence of the African diaspora in the Appalachian South by weaving in nods to both cultures: benne seeds, a West African staple, season hummus made from black-eyed peas, while buttermilk britches, a twist on a mountain specialty, accompany *ogbono* pork ribs. There are personal touches from Shanti too, like a cornbread soup with pickled blueberries, made in homage to her grandmother. —Mahita Gajanan



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SOUL FOOD WITH A SIDE OF HISTORY

INDIGO

Houston

 At Indigo, history is on the menu. The restaurant serves "neo-soul food," dishes intended to provoke conversation about the history of black and Indigenous people in America. For example, a smoked-pastrami main comes with a primer on the different experiences of Italians and African Americans during the Great Migration. Indigo, which opened in July 2018, is the first permanent restaurant for chef Jonny Rhodes, who ran a series of pop-ups in Houston after refining his skills at New York City's Gramercy Tavern. Guests can finish their meals with a cup of okra-seed coffee—a popular drink in the South during the Civil War. —Amy Gunla

EYE-POPPING AESTHETICS

SALT OF PALMAR

Palmar, Mauritius

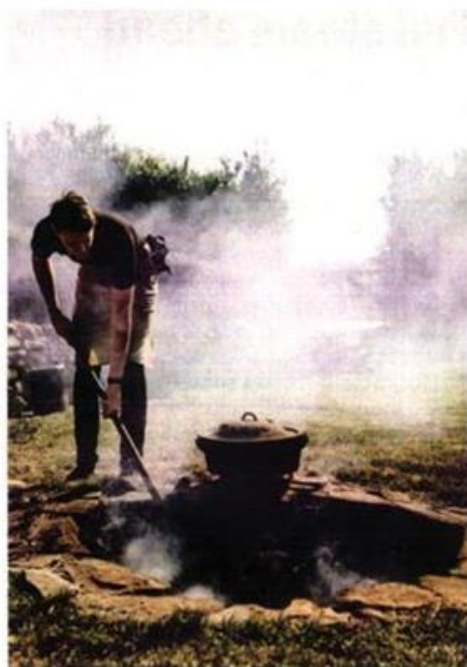
 For Camille Walala's first foray into hotel design, the London-based French artist teamed up with Mauritian architect Jean-François Adam to transform a *riad*-like building at the edge of Mauritius' Palmar Beach into eye-popping Instagram bait. The 59-room boutique Inn, which opened late last year, is done up with graphic Memphis Group-like geometry; black-and-white stripes à la French conceptual artist Daniel Buren; and punchy islander paints and fabrics in bold coral, pineapple and cerulean hues. It's a fabulous-looking space with many luxe amenities (organic bedding, rainfall showerheads, yoga mats), but the attraction is more than skin deep. Sustainability is a big priority for SALT, which touts zero food waste and no single-use plastics, as well as a new bio-farm supplying its locavore-minded on-site restaurant. —Ashlea Halpern

FROM THE FARM

BARN BY BIOTA

New South Wales, Australia

 Chef-on-the-rise James Viles put the 100-mile diet to shame this year with the opening of BARN by Biota in the New South Wales Southern Highlands. The hyperlocal kitchen concept builds menus solely from the fruits of the surrounding lands. But there's a catch: you'll have to book at least a month in advance to nab a spot at the roughly twice-a-month family-style meals, which might feature Angus beef cooked over the fallen-tree-coal fire or honey collected from the hives. Diners are also welcome to explore the property with BARN's chefs, forage for seasonal botanicals or fish for yabbies (a type of freshwater crayfish) to eat later. —Hannah Lott-Schwartz



MAKING WAVES

SEABOURN OVATION

 Some giant cruise ships cater to spring breakers, others to the retired set. But Seabourn's new ship, the *Ovation*, is in a class of its own. With space for just 600 passengers, the focus is squarely on luxury, above all else: guests can expect 24-hour room service, kayaking and sailing sojourns directly off the ship, as well as an onboard casino, plunge pool and nightclub. Members of the crew even went to a "gelato university" in northern Italy to perfect the flavors made and served onboard. Prices start at \$3,500 for a seven-day journey through the Mediterranean. —Billy Perrigo



Bollywood meets the beach

SOHO HOUSE MUMBAI

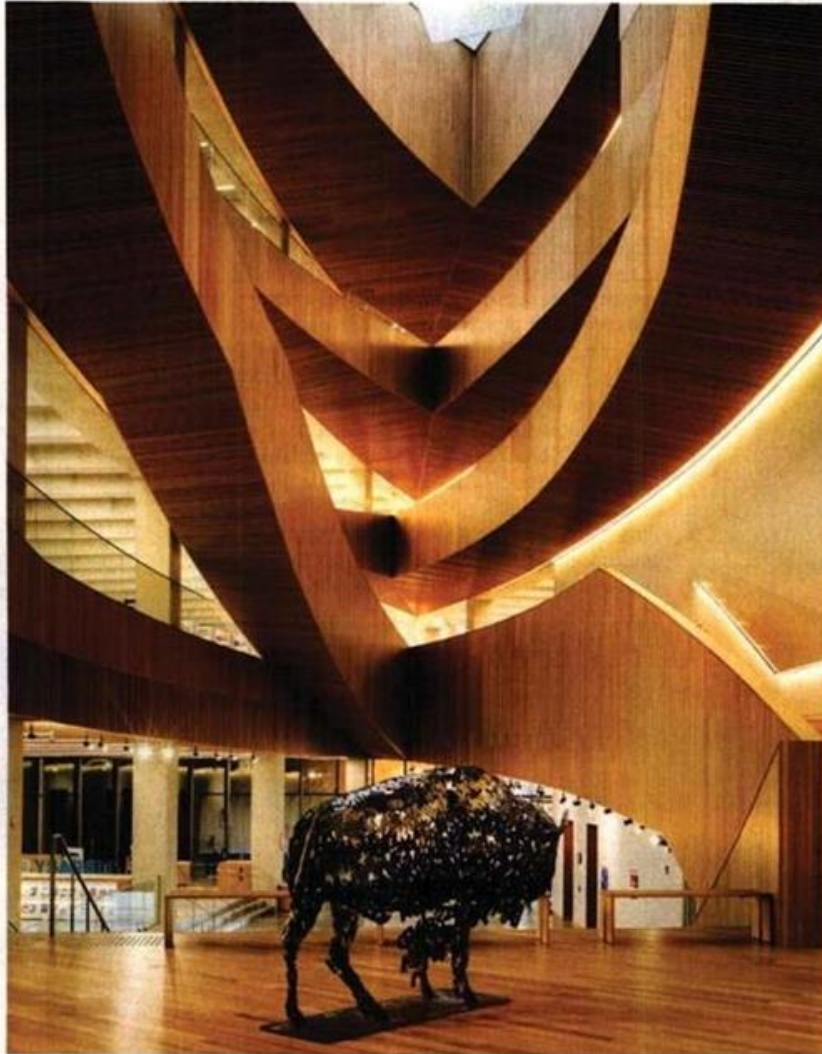
Mumbai

 Asia's first Soho House puts a local spin on the formula that has allowed Nick Jones' members-only clubs to blossom across the U.S. and Europe. Soho House Mumbai, located in a breezy 11-story building overlooking the Arabian Sea, offers a library, a cinema with 34 seats (each with its own footstool), and a rooftop bar and pool; its Cecconi's restaurant is open to nonmembers, as are most of the 38 hotel rooms. The unique feel comes in the shape of block-printed fabrics from Rajasthan; handwoven cane furniture; environmentally sustainable, sari-coated lampshades; and some 200 art pieces by mostly South Asian artists, including Bharti Kher and Subodh Gupta. —Joseph Hincks



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A library built to last

CENTRAL LIBRARY
Calgary, Alberta

Calgary is home to one of North America's largest library systems, and the city now boasts an architectural masterpiece as the system's central hub. The downtown complex, designed by the Norwegian firm Snohetta, is flooded with natural light and features several aesthetic

odes to its native land: walls made of cedar from nearby British Columbia, a curved facade meant to evoke cloud arches formed by the region's Chinook winds. Of course, the library also houses an extensive collection of books—over 450,000. But it's embracing its role as a broader educational center as well, offering learning labs, residency programs, and even a digital production studio built for podcasters and YouTubers. —Wilder Davies

SHOWCASING PORTLAND'S ROOTS

WOODLARK
Portland, Ore.

In a city known for being hip, it's hard to get noticed. But Woodlark, a new Portland hotel, stands out for its attention to style as well as the way it has embraced its roots. Opened in December 2018, the hotel (with rooms from \$150) joins two historic buildings, the Cornelius Hotel and the Woodard & Clarke building, and features a botanical theme that pays tribute to the flora of the Northwest. In the lobby, guests can visit an outpost of floral-design studio Colibri. But Woodlark's true center is Abigail Hall, a former ladies' reception hall turned bar named after Oregon suffragist Abigail Scott Duniway. Its comfort-food menu—think grilled cheese on Texas toast and buttermilk-fried chicken fingers—is generating outsize buzz. —Alejandro de la Garza

DIGITAL SAVVY

MORI BUILDING DIGITAL ART MUSEUM
Tokyo

The world's first museum solely dedicated to digital art has drawn huge crowds—it celebrated its 1 millionth visitor five months after opening in June 2018. Credit its Instagram-worthy immersive environment, which uses a combination of visual projections and physical installations to allow patrons to wade through virtual windblown fields of grass, explore a seemingly infinite crystal world and bounce between galaxies. The 107,000-sq.-ft. space was conceived by the Japanese art collective teamLab, which was founded in 2001 and includes animators, programmers and mathematicians. The group's mission, per its website, is to explore "a new relationship between humans and nature, and between oneself and the world through art." —W.D.



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A SANCTUARY FOR STARGAZERS

MATA KI TE RANGI

Pitcairn Islands

A Despite their lack of hotels, the Pitcairn Islands may intrigue tourists with their new International Dark Sky Sanctuary title, which recognizes the island group's sanctuary—named Mata Ki Te Rangi—as one of just 10 destinations worldwide that have the best conditions for galactic gazing. Travelers willing to book a homestay or private home and make the challenging trek to the remote islands will find government-protected dark skies. —Brandon Presser

STUDY BREAK

UNIVERSITY ARMS
CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge, England

U Don't be fooled by the name of the University Arms Cambridge—it's a Marriott hotel, not a student haunt. But if you love history, you'll feel at ease here. Rooms start at an affordable (as these things go) \$200 a night. In many ways, the hotel channels Cambridge University's library: suites are named after graduates like Newton and Darwin, and you'll find their portraits lining the walls. —Billy Perrigo

A REGAL RESPITE

FASANO SALVADOR

Salvador, Brazil

F Fasano Salvador is the first luxury hotel in Salvador, Brazil, a city founded in the 16th century. But while the hotel is new on the scene, its regal facade and elegant details are more than in keeping with styles of the past. Located inside the former Art Deco headquarters of newspaper *A Tarde*, the hotel adds glitz to the city's UNESCO-recognized historic center. The rooftop pool looks out over the Bay of All Saints, and the high-ceilinged restaurant features a nickel-plated bar, lit by vintage sugar-making equipment turned into chandeliers. —Nicholas Gill

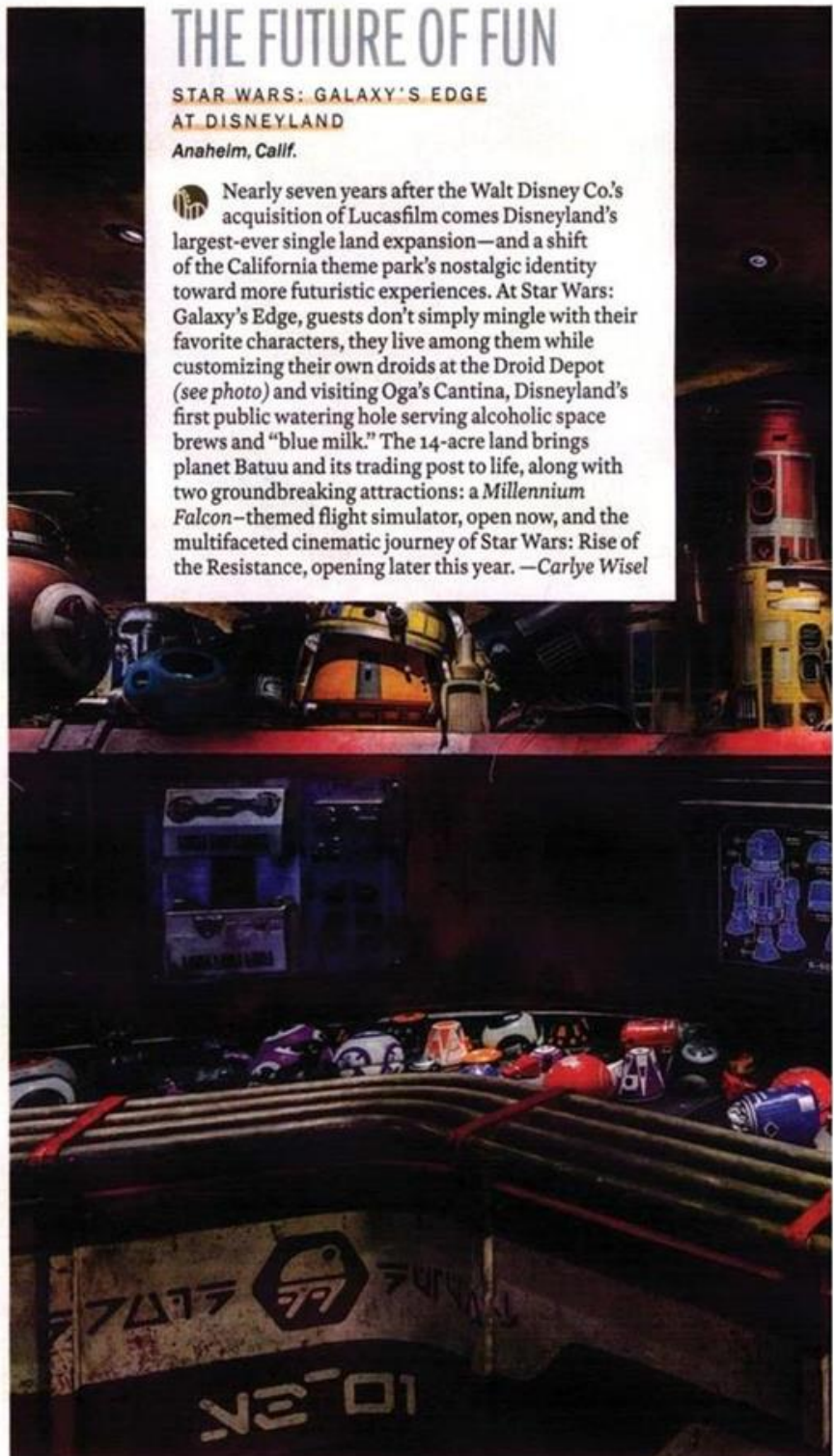
THE FUTURE OF FUN

STAR WARS: GALAXY'S EDGE

AT DISNEYLAND

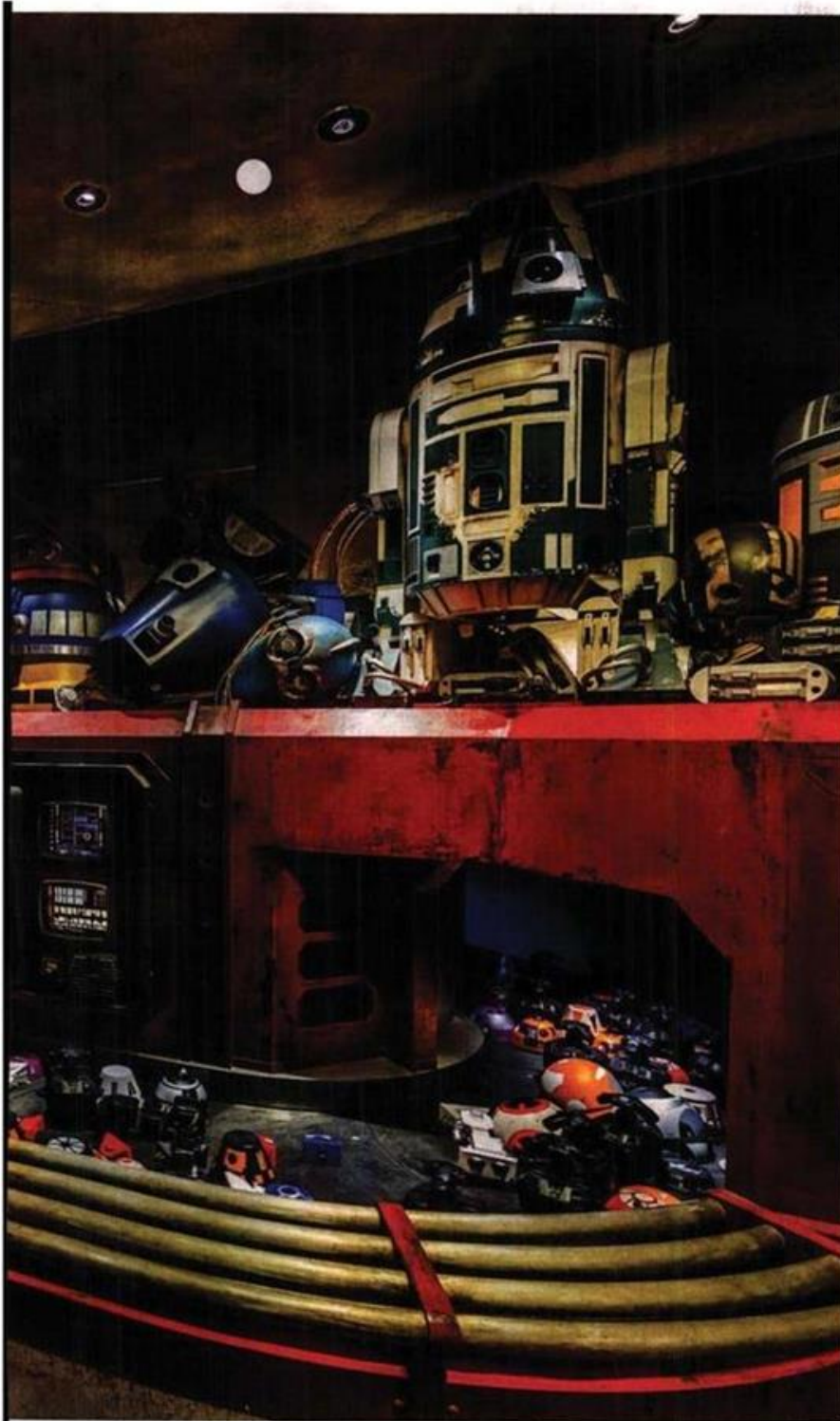
Anaheim, Calif.

D Nearly seven years after the Walt Disney Co.'s acquisition of Lucasfilm comes Disneyland's largest-ever single land expansion—and a shift of the California theme park's nostalgic identity toward more futuristic experiences. At Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, guests don't simply mingle with their favorite characters, they live among them while customizing their own droids at the Droid Depot (see photo) and visiting Oga's Cantina, Disneyland's first public watering hole serving alcoholic space brews and "blue milk." The 14-acre land brings planet Batuu and its trading post to life, along with two groundbreaking attractions: a *Millennium Falcon*-themed flight simulator, open now, and the multifaceted cinematic journey of *Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance*, opening later this year. —Carlye Wisel



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RETHINKING THE RIVER CRUISE

AMERICAN SONG

 Most cruise-centric riverboats in the U.S. evoke the style of the steam age, replete with paddle wheels and nostalgic furnishings. Not so with the *American Song*, which made its first voyage in October. Although its interior amenities are fairly standard for cruises—think glass atria, a putting green and an exercise room—its exterior is sleek and glassy, putting it more in line with the au courant vessels that have helped popularize riverboat cruising in Europe.
—Wilder Davies

AN IMPOSSIBLE SPACE

THE OTHER PLACE

Guilin, China

 Floating archways, staircases suspended over the floor and doors that open to nowhere—these are all features designed to help visitors get lost within the “Dream” and “Maze” rooms in the Other Place, a new boutique hotel in Guilin, China. Both of these two-bedroom suites were designed to pay homage to the work of the 20th century Dutch artist M.C. Escher, famous for his artistic explorations of infinity and “impossible spaces.”
—Hillary Leung

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

LIECHTENSTEIN TRAIL

 The tiny principality of Liechtenstein often goes overlooked by travelers with busy European itineraries, but this may be about to change. In May, in honor of its tricentennial, the country debuted the Liechtenstein Trail: a nearly 47-mile trek that winds its way through town squares and alpine hillsides, linking the country together and visiting many of its most iconic sights, including Vaduz Castle, the fabled 12th century fortress.
—Cate Matthews

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ARTIST'S LAIR

EMPATHY SUITE

Las Vegas

Dead sharks floating in formaldehyde. A pill cabinet filled with diamonds. For those who know Damien Hirst's work, these motifs are as familiar as they are bizarre. And for a cool \$200,000, guests can spend two nights in their presence at Hirst's 9,000-sq.-ft., two-story Empathy Suite at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas. But the art isn't the only reason to splurge (and splurge and splurge). The suite, which opened in March, also features a cantilevered pool overlooking the Vegas Strip, a Himalayan salt room and other luxurious amenities all tweaked with Hirst's signature touch. It also includes a 24-hour butler, car service and \$10,000 in resort credit, just in case guests want to try and win back some of their investment at the blackjack table. —Alejandro de la Garza

THEATRICAL GLORY

TEATRO GALLI

Rimini, Italy

In its earlier years, the Teatro Galli in Rimini on Italy's eastern coast lent its stage to extravagant opera performances. But during World War II, the theater was all but destroyed by Allied bombing. Patchy postwar restoration projects meant the theater never had a chance to regain its former glory—until October 2018, when it reopened after eight years of construction and long-awaited finishing touches to performances by choirs, ballets and orchestras. A bonus: in the restoration process, archaeologists discovered Roman lodgings, mosaics and floors. —Billy Perrigo

A WILD ADVENTURE

SHINTA MANI WILD

Cambodia

At Shinta Mani Wild, the adventure begins before hotel guests even step onto the property. To get there, they're whisked along a zip line over lush forests and waterfalls, after which they dismount for a drink at the reception's Landing Zone Bar. (Other transportation options are available to less intrepid travelers.) The hotel, which opened in December, invites guests into Cambodia's wilderness via activities like hiking and kayaking, just steps away from its 15 classic, safari-style tents, which line the Tmor Rung River. Nestled within a nature sanctuary, the hotel also partners with local conservation organizations to protect the area from poaching and logging. Room rates start at around \$2,300 a night. —Hillary Leung



Showcasing street food

NYUM BAI

Oakland, Calif.

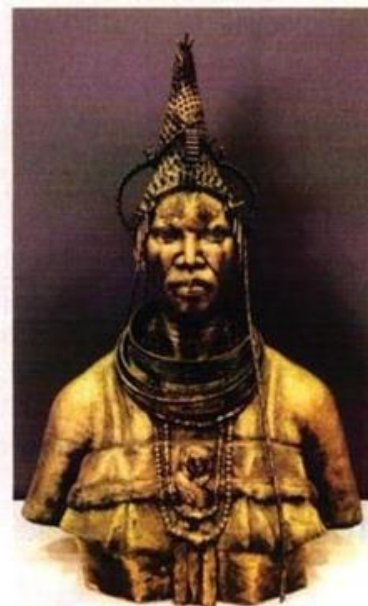
It's been just over 1½ years since Nyum Bai opened, and the Cambodian street-food spot keeps accruing accolades: in February, after being lauded by food media, the restaurant was named a James Beard Award semifinalist. Nyum Bai is a lifelong dream of chef and owner Nite Yun, who was born in a refugee camp in Thailand. She showcases her family's cuisine in noodle soups and stews that combine hearty ingredients like pork belly with the crunch of raw vegetables. Yun says her mission is to "share a culture that nobody really knew about"—as patrons enjoy a soundtrack of "golden era" Khmer music. —Rachel E. Greenspan

ART, RESTORED

MUSEUM OF BLACK CIVILIZATIONS

Dakar, Senegal

For decades, the most prominent homes for African art were within museums in Europe. That has changed, especially with the December opening of Senegal's Museum of Black Civilizations, a repository for African art, culture and history. The \$34 million project, some 50 years in the making, is designed to be a creative laboratory that will help shape the continent's future sense of identity, according to museum director Hamady Bocoum. It also hopes to reclaim some of the continent's lost past: the museum has room for some 18,000 artworks, but many of the galleries are not yet filled. Senegal has demanded the restitution of artworks stolen during colonial times, prompting some countries, like France, to lend pieces for the opening. —Aryn Baker



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Defying expectations

SFER IK

Tulum, Mexico

☞ SFER IK doesn't look like an ordinary exhibition space—and that's the point. The Tulum location's nestlike structure was conceived as a place where avant-garde artists could gather and envision new ways to create, inspired by

their unusual environs. Made of locally sourced wood and cement, the space's ceilings and walls are trimmed with plants sprouting along circular apertures to the world outside. Its current exhibition includes a diaphanous purple cloak suspended from the ceiling—an allusion, in part, to elevated states of consciousness by artist Bianca Bondi. Entry is free, so long as visitors agree to walk the floors barefoot. —Wilder Davies

AUSTRALIA'S ANCESTRAL HOME

ULURU-KATA TJUTA
NATIONAL PARK

Northern Territory, Australia

Ⓐ At the center of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is the physical and cultural heart of Australia, a red sandstone monolith called Uluru (or Ayers Rock, its colonial name) that towers over the outback's desert plains. The park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and sacred to the aboriginal Anangu, who've inhabited the land for tens of thousands of years. Despite these protections, the 1,142-ft.-tall rock has been marred for decades by poles and cables that allow visitors to climb the site. That changes in October, when the government will officially close Uluru to climbing, ensuring the monument sustains no further human damage.

—Hannah Lott-Schwartz

LIVING LIBRARY

VAC LIBRARY

Hanoi

☞ Part library, part urban farm, part playground, this Farming Architects project in Hanoi is geared toward teaching kids about ecosystems and agriculture. The VAC Library's climbable wooden structure contains both a small collection of books and a mini-ecosystem comprising a garden, a fish pond and a chicken coop—all connected through aquaponics. Waste from the kol pond is used as fertilizer to help vegetables grow, which cleanses the water and returns it to the pond. Chickens raised in cages within the structure provide eggs and waste that also help the plants flourish. Visitors can lounge and read the books stored in cubbies beneath the library's solar panel-fitted roof, and children are welcome to clamber up its beams. —Mahita Gajanan



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A TASTE OF TRADITION

80/20

Bangkok

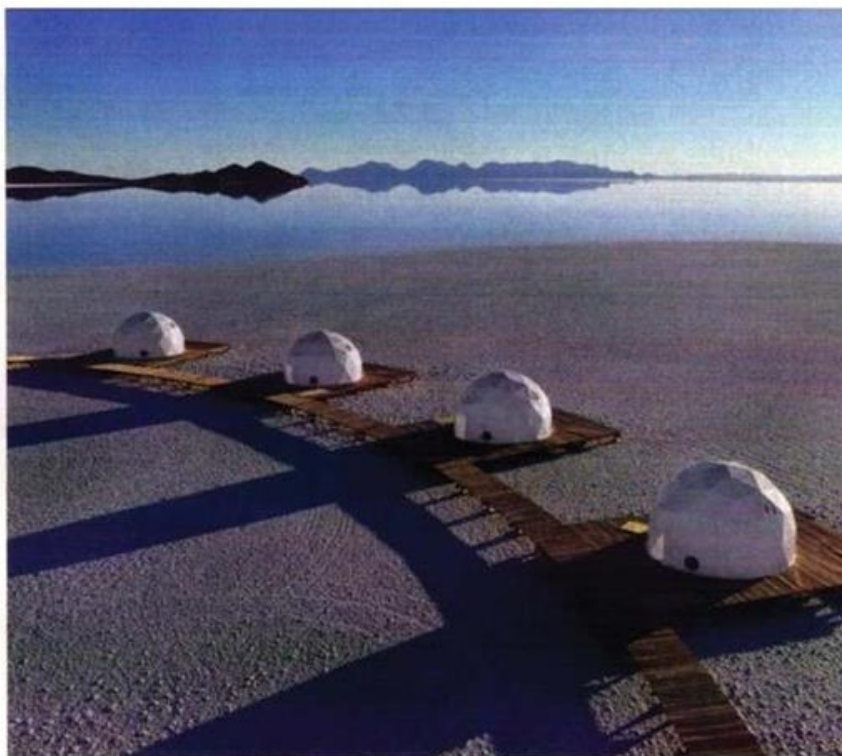
 When 80/20 reopened after a complete renovation at the tail end of 2018, chefs Napol Jantraget and Saki Hoshino didn't just show off its extra seating and open kitchen. The couple introduced their cult following to a new tasting menu (nine courses at last count) that put the three-year-old restaurant on a par with longtime fine-dining stars. As casual as it is cutting-edge, 80/20 upends the traditional notion of a fancy Thai meal with friendly, not fussy, service; progressive wine pairings; and strictly local ingredients from the kingdom's farmers and fishermen. Expect to pay around \$100 a person (\$150 if you want five glasses of wine) and regret nothing. —Andrew Parks

AN AVIAN HAVEN

ZEALANDIA

Wellington, New Zealand

 Before New Zealand was home to humans, chatty birds like the tui and kereru dominated the land's lush green hills and valleys. But the arrival of invasive mammalian predators drove many native species to extinction. In the early 1990s, sanctuary founder Jim Lynch envisioned a pest-proof environment in the heart of Wellington. The result is Zealandia, a 500-acre area encircled by a mesh barrier that keeps out stoats, weasels and more; it's the world's first fully fenced urban eco-sanctuary. Since the mesh was erected in 1999, more than 20 species of native wildlife have been reintroduced, including the *hihi*, one of the country's rarest birds. In February, Zealandia announced an important milestone: the birth of the sanctuary's 1,000th *hihi* chick. The species, which was nearly extinct before reintroduction efforts began, is one of Zealandia's success stories. —Ali Wunderman



UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT

INTERCONTINENTAL SHANGHAI WONDERLAND

Shanghai

 In a city known for towering skyscrapers, the InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland—the brand's 200th hotel—is a bit of an anomaly: it's underground. Opened in late 2018, the "earthscraper" descends 290 ft. into the side of an abandoned quarry in suburban Shanghai. Two of the structure's 18 floors are situated underwater, offering views of a 33-ft.-deep aquarium at the bottom of the quarry. The hotel is less than an hour's drive from the city center, perfect for holiday makers who would rather wake up to cascading waterfalls and rugged cliffs than to the busy downtown scene. —Hillary Leung



A soaring statue

STATUE OF UNITY

Gujarat, India

 The world's tallest statue, which was unveiled last fall, stands at 597 ft. on an island in the Narmada River. It towers over the Sardar Sarovar Dam in the western Indian state of Gujarat, offering visitors the chance to see views of nearby mountain ranges from its chest. The tourist attraction pays homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who became India's first Deputy Prime Minister in 1947. Although Patel is touted as a symbol of national unity, he has more recently been claimed as an icon of right-wing Hindu nationalists—meaning that to some critics, the record-breaking statue is a monument to the country's political divisions, as well as to Patel. —Abhishyant Kidangoor



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OUT OF THIS WORLD

KACHI LODGE

Uyuni Salt Flats, Bolivia

Until we start sending commercial flights to the moon, the Kachi Lodge on Bolivia's Uyuni Salt Flats might be the most otherworldly vacation you can take. Opened in May at the foot of a volcano, Kachi (a two-night stay starts at \$1,980 per person) is the first permanent accommodation of its kind on the world's largest salt flat, and its cluster of geodesic domes resembles an isolated space station. During the day, guests can take one giant leap on Uyuni's bright white expanse of salt—an estimated 10 billion metric tons of it—which was left behind as an ancient lake dried up. At night, they can stargaze through transparent cutouts in the domes' walls, uninterrupted by light pollution thanks to the remote, high-altitude location—Kachi Lodge is more than 35 miles from the nearest town and 11,800 ft. above sea level. —Ciara Nugent



BOOK SMART

HELSINKI CENTRAL LIBRARY OODI

Helsinki

Finland is one of the world's most literate countries, and in December it opened a 185,000-sq.-ft. landmark that speaks to this accomplishment: a library of the future. But what does the future entail? Robot librarians, it seems, and game rooms, recording studios, an immersive 3-D chamber with illuminated walls, a movie theater and multiple concert areas. And of course, it's a great place to read: the top floor (dubbed "book heaven") has floor-to-ceiling windows, set off by low, white aluminum bookshelves, and abundant seating. To emphasize the light and air, nine living trees stand tall over the shelves. —Kaitlin Menza



A night among barrels

HOUSE OF SANDEMAN

Porto, Portugal

Since its founding in 1790, the port and sherry maker Sandeman has prided itself on tradition, and its new hostel—on top of the company's historic wine cellars—allows visitors to discover over two centuries' worth of history and portmaking. Guests can tour the cellars, stay in private suites overlooking idyllic Porto or room with up to 14 others in spacious dorms for as little as \$18 per night—albeit in king-size bed frames inspired by the port-wine barrels. Those features have paid off: Hostelworld named House of Sandeman the best new small hostel of 2019. —Suyin Haynes

LINKING THE CAUCASUS

TRANSCAUCASIAN TRAIL

For decades, fraught geopolitics and poorly marked trails gave all but the most intrepid hikers pause about the Caucasus Mountains, an area known for its jaw-dropping geography. But the Transcaucasian Trail, a volunteer-based initiative aiming to link Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan via an 1,800-mile network of paths, is making the region more accessible. Its latest bushwhacked additions: a 50-mile stretch that runs through Dilijan National Park, the Armenian nature reserve prized for its crystalline lakes and 10th century monasteries, and a 77-mile track in Svaneti, a Georgian region known for its glaciated peaks and UNESCO-protected guard towers. —Benjamin Kemper

RECORD-BREAKING RIDE

CANADA'S WONDERLAND

Toronto

In the world of roller coasters, it's all about offering a thrill like no other. And that's exactly what Canada's Wonderland is doing with its new Yukon Striker ride. At 245 ft. tall (including underground portions) with a top speed of 80 m.p.h., the Yukon Striker has claimed the title as the world's tallest, fastest and longest dive coaster—a model that features a 90-degree drop. This coaster plunges into an underwater tunnel, does a 360-degree loop and has floorless cars that leave riders hanging in the open air as they career along its 3,625 ft. of track for 3½ minutes of unbridled thrills. —Alejandro de la Garza



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BRIDGING CULTURES

QURANIC PARK

Dubai



At the world's first Quran-inspired park, which opened in April, the gardens are based on stories from Islam's sacred text: they feature plants mentioned in the Quran and the sunna—such as pomegranate and olive trees—as well as a lake split by a stone pathway, symbolizing the parting of the Red Sea. The park's aim, per the city's municipal government, is to bridge cultures and promote tolerance by offering visitors exposure to Islam in a family-friendly space. —Hillary Leung

TAILOR-MADE FOR TEENS

NORWEGIAN JOY



A go-kart track at sea? The idea might sound a bit wild, but that didn't stop Norwegian Cruise Line from building one into the *Norwegian Joy* back in 2017. Now, after a \$50 million 2019 renovation, the ship has even more to keep passengers entertained. The *Joy* is built to delight the most discerning of cruise guests—teenagers. Look for the Galaxy Pavilion virtual-reality and gaming center, as well as an open-air laser-tag arena and a retro American diner. —Alejandro de la Garza

WHERE BEER LOVERS LIVE

DOGHOUSE HOTEL AND BREWERY

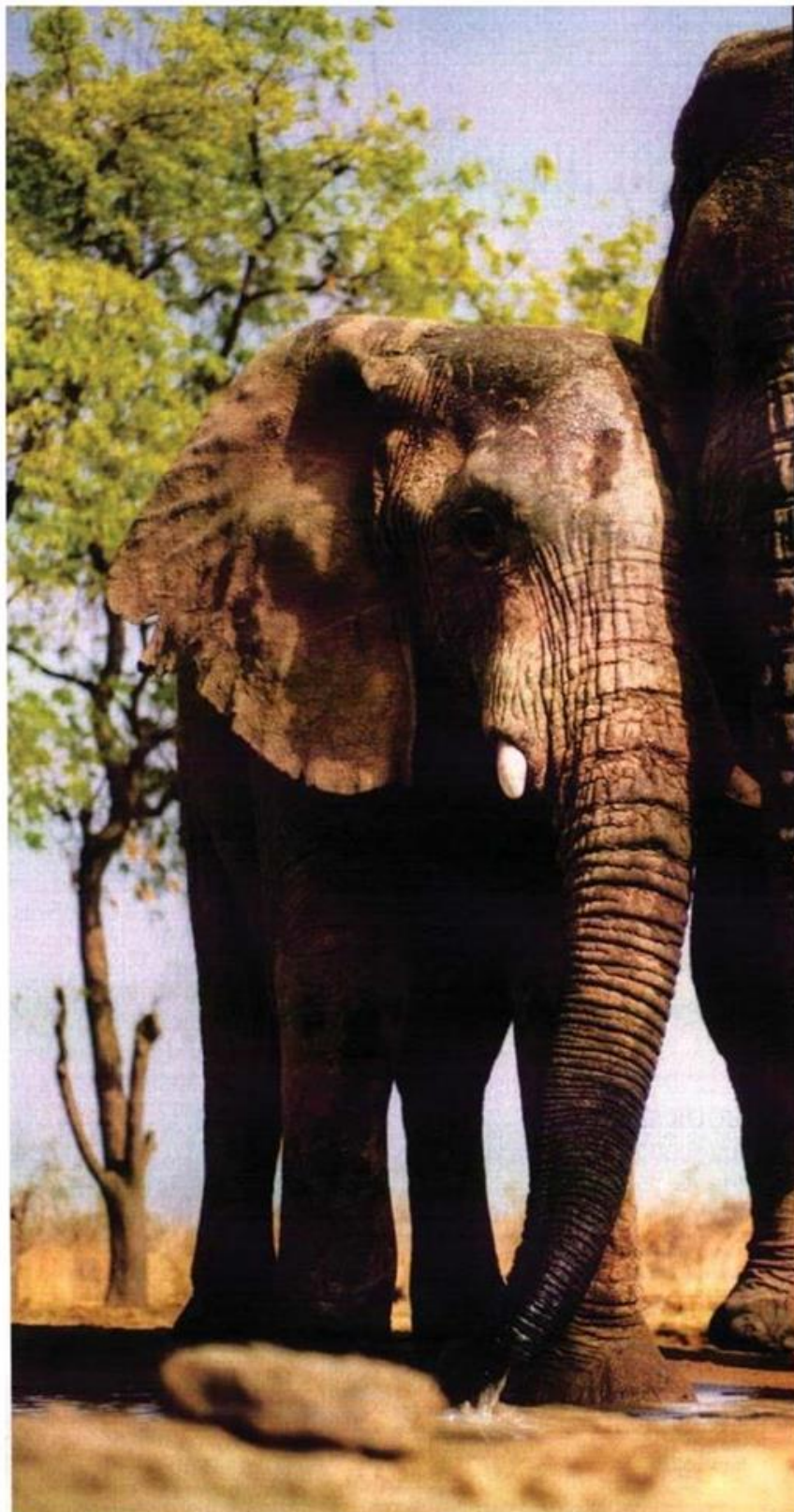
Columbus, Ohio



In 2017, Scottish beer brand BrewDog raised the funds on Indiegogo for what it dubbed the "world's first craft-beer hotel," rallying more than 2,000 people to the cause. Now, at DogHouse Hotel and Brewery (rooms start at \$172), guests can enjoy bathroom beer fridges, in-room draft taps and the luxury of not having to call an Uber after a night out. —Abby Vesoulis



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A major comeback

ZAKOUMA
NATIONAL PARK

Chad

 In southeastern Chad, Zakouma National Park offers the chance to witness a miracle. The national park's populations of wild elephants and rhinos had been all but wiped out before its management was taken over in 2010 by the public-private consortium African Parks. The elephant herd is now one of the largest in Africa, and the rhinos are also making a comeback. Last year, African Parks airlifted in a starter herd from South Africa, marking the long-awaited return of the rare black rhino. A U.S. advisory warns travelers against visiting Chad because of the risk of terrorism and other dangers, but the park's conservation achievement is still one for the books. —Aryn Baker

ARGENTINE APERITIVO

LA FUERZA

Buenos Aires

 Argentina's *aperitivo* tradition stretches back to the country's Italian- and Spanish-immigrant influences around the turn of the 20th century. Now, a new vermouth bar in Buenos Aires' Chacarita neighborhood has put a modern twist on the long-standing predinner drink. La Fuerza makes its vermouth—on tap in white and red—using exclusively local ingredients, including botanicals like elderberry, lemon verbena and creosote bush. Every part of the process takes place in Mendoza: from harvesting the grapes to distilling and bottling. The bar's focus on all things Argentine extends to its menu as well—in addition to classics like *tortilla de papa* (a Spanish omelette), there are creative dishes like *falnazzeta*, a combination of a *falná* (chickpea flatbread) and a *fugazzeta* (a sauceless pizza with onions and cheese). —Abigail Abrams

RED-HOT LODGING

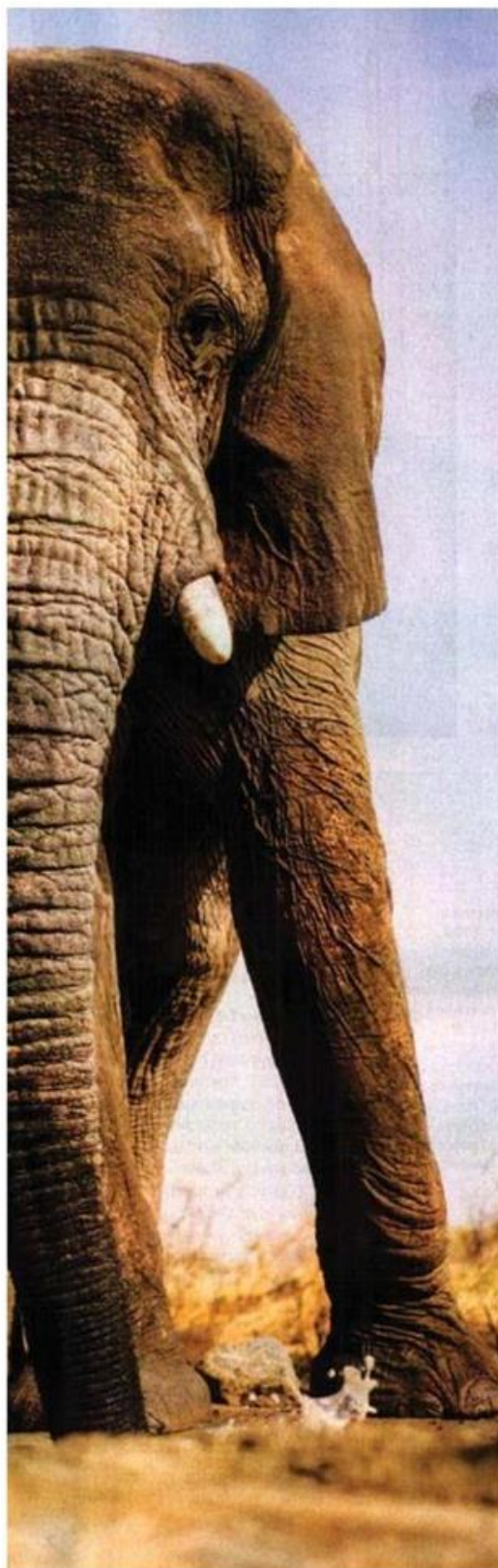
ARTS DISTRICT
FIREHOUSE HOTEL

Los Angeles

 Staying the night in a firehouse might appeal to many people's inner child, but spending time in one as stylish, quirky and thoughtful as Los Angeles' Arts District Firehouse Hotel should play to adult sensibilities as well. Opened in April, the hotel—converted from a 1927 firehouse—features a café serving coffee and desserts from an in-house pastry chef, as well as a New American restaurant headed by chef Ashley Abodeely, formerly of New York City's Eleven Madison Park and NoMad LA. But the real soul of the Firehouse Hotel is its playful design—unsurprising given its art-filled location—with each room's unique decor centered on a different color of the rainbow. —A.G.



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PILOT PREP

HANEDA EXCEL
HOTEL TOKYU

Tokyo

 Have you ever wished while flying that you could try a spell in the pilot's seat? If so, this hotel just outside Haneda International Airport has you covered. In July it opened the Superior Cockpit Room, a suite equipped with a Boeing 737-800 flight simulator. For around \$300, guests can book 90-minute sessions with an instructor, during which they follow a flight path to pilot a passenger jet from Tokyo to Osaka's Itami airport. A stay in the suite itself is not included—but true aviation geeks are welcome to book one anyway (starting at \$238 per night) to spend the night among the controls. —Alejandro de la Garza

NOLA'S NEW LOOK

HOTEL PETER & PAUL

New Orleans

 Hotel Peter & Paul, in New Orleans' Marigny neighborhood—a joint project of resident Nathalie Jordi and design firm ASH NYC—is unlike any other hotel in New Orleans. For starters, it's spread out over four historic buildings, including a Catholic church that dates back to 1861. Original features, like stained-glass windows and marble fireplaces, were meticulously restored. The bedrooms on each floor have a different gingham-patterned color scheme, as well as decor that combines history (religious paintings, antiques from European estate sales) and modern-day New Orleans (locally designed furniture). When they're not in their rooms, chances are guests are visiting the Rectory, a section of the hotel that's home to the coffee shop, open-air courtyard and bar—run by the team behind beloved wine bar Bacchanal, with a daily happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m. —S.W.

JUNGLE QUEEN

DATAI LANGKAWI

Langkawi, Malaysia

 This grande-dame hotel, which first opened in 1993, has always been sought after for its remote location, pristine beaches and rain-forest setting. After a major renovation, completed in December, it's clear the resort has held onto its crown—without losing any of its ultra-sustainable backbone. Bedrooms and villas (starting at \$595 a night) were completely redone using natural materials like local kawi stones, and a new nature center offers activities for all ages. But the buzziest update is an elevated walkway built through the surrounding 10 million-year-old rain forest, where on-site naturalists introduce guests to macaques and flying lizards. —Stephanie Wu



BREAKING BREAD

MASA

Bogotá

 There are plenty of bakeries in Bogotá, but none are as stylish as Masa. In late 2018, the brand opened a new location in the Colombian capital. Large triangular and circular windows cut into concrete walls reveal a warm glow when the sun sets. Studio Cadena, a New York-based firm known for its playful designs, created the 7,500-sq.-ft. space—comprising a restaurant, café, dining area, retail space and bakery—to blend the concepts of interior and exterior. So far, its strategy seems to be working. Customers have been flocking in for quick visits or to spend a whole day snacking on Masa's treats, which include homemade bread, sandwiches, croissants and—one of its most popular desserts—bread pudding. —Madeline Roache



Smoky Mountain getaway

BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN

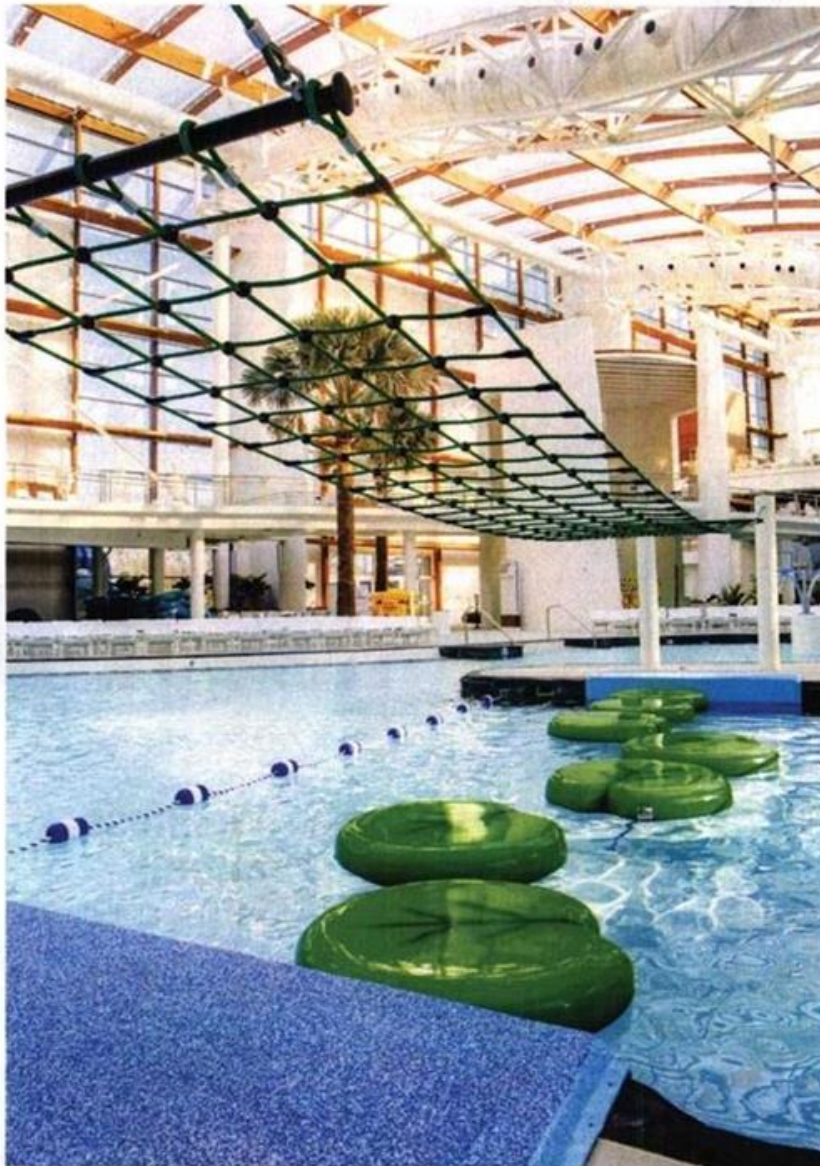
Walland, Tenn.

 Blackberry Mountain, a new outpost of the award-winning hotel Blackberry Farm, is Tennessee's fresh take on a spa resort. With an art studio, rock-climbing wall and backpacking excursions through the backcountry, this 5,200-acre property in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains offers plenty of distractions for those wishing to unplug. Cottages start at \$1,045 per night, and visitors can try treetop meditation or massages at the subterranean spa. Despite the luxuries, proprietor Mary Celeste Beall, who opened the property in February, says her true goal is to help guests immerse themselves in the rugged terrain. —Rachel E. Greenspan



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Making a splash

SOUNDWAVES

Nashville

 The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, located a short walk from the Grand Ole Opry, already boasted nearly 3,000 rooms and nine acres of indoor gardens, but in December it added what purports to be

the nation's first "upscale" water park. Aside from the thrills—indoor surfing, a tower with multiple water slides, a pool with a rock-climbing wall—there are plenty of places to relax too. Look for adults-only pools and lounging areas, private cabana rentals, living walls of plants and a glass roof atop the tall atrium, ensuring guests can sunbathe year-round. —Kaitlin Menza

SUMMER CAMP ON THE COAST

LEKKERWATER
BEACH LODGE

De Hoop Nature Reserve,
South Africa

 The De Hoop Nature Reserve, a few hours from Cape Town, is a haven for vulnerable species like the Cape vulture and the bontebok. Now, visitors can appreciate this rare nature up close with a two-night summer-camp experience, courtesy of the Lekkerwater Beach Lodge, which opened in April on a private white-sand beach. (Rates start at around \$193 per person per night.) Up to 16 guests arrive at the lodge at the same time, share family meals cooked with local ingredients, and take part in activities like exploring tidal pools, hiking and whale watching. While the lodge's communal atmosphere is reminiscent of summer camp, the sleeping quarters are anything but. The seven beachfront bedrooms feature floor-to-ceiling windows that open onto private verandas with views of the Indian Ocean. —Samantha Cooney

SLINGING ONCE AGAIN

LONG BAR AT THE
RAFFLES HOTEL

Singapore

 The Long Bar is usually at the top of any cocktail lover's must-see list in the Lion City. Now, thanks to a yearlong renovation effort, the Raffles' popular bar is better than ever. The tropical decor—inspired by Malayan life in the 1920s—has been updated to include contemporary rattan furniture. New visitors will be happy to hear that bartenders are still serving Singapore slings, which were first created at the bar in 1915, and returning ones know that the best thing to pair with the pink, gin-based cocktail is peanuts. Want to fit in? Throw your peanut shells on the floor when you're done—the bar encourages this quirky tradition. —Amy Gunia



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SINGULAR SINGLE MALT

MACALLAN DISTILLERY

Craigellachie, Scotland

If *The Lord of the Rings*' Hobbiton were colonized by aliens, it might look something like the new Macallan distillery and visitors' center, which opened in June and put the Scottish Highlands on the architectural map. The undulating grass rooftops and stone paths fringed with wildflowers evoke some distant Celtic past, while the 69-ft.-high ceilings, whirring machinery and a hovering UFO-like scotch bar (where you can pony up for the Macallan M or the Macallan '52, among some 950 other bottles) root you squarely in the 21st century. So do the barrel-nosing stations and a glass-wall display of an archive comprising 398 bottles, nine decanters and nine flasks. Avoid drinking on an empty stomach by grabbing a bite at the on-site restaurant. —Benjamin Kemper

QUOKKAS, UP CLOSE

DISCOVERY
ROTTNEST ISLAND

Rottneest Island, Australia

If The Dutch explorer who stumbled upon Rottneest in 1696 named it after what he believed was a community of rats living on the island. Actually, the furry creatures he saw were quokkas—rare and adorable marsupials that now draw hundreds of thousands of tourists each year. Discovery Rottneest Island, which in March became the island's first new accommodations in decades, caters to travelers who want to stay near what's been dubbed the world's happiest animal. Its 83 eco-tents are connected via raised boardwalks to minimize impact on the sand dunes—and on the quokkas, around 10,000 of which run free around the island. —Clara Nugent



BEAUTY ON A BUDGET

25HOURS HOTEL TERMINUS NORD

Paris

If you're trying to explore Paris on a budget without staying in a hostel? As of its January grand opening, 25hours Hotel Terminus Nord might be one of the few spots in the City of Lights where you can do just that. Medium rooms give guests access to queen or double beds, about 200 sq. ft. of space, wi-fi and Bluetooth speakers from \$150 a night. Steps from Gare du Nord—the busiest train station in Europe—25hours is a convenient jumping-off point for other destinations like Brussels, London and Amsterdam. The hotel embraces its international clientele with a popular restaurant that features Persian, Arabic, French and Russian influences. —Abby Vesoulis



Wellness circuit

SIX SENSES BHUTAN

Bhutan

If you're looking for a single hotel that offers five unique experiences. Spread across the west and central valleys of Bhutan, the five lodges that constitute the property offer guests the opportunity to take guided journeys through the mountains of the Himalayan kingdom. Interhotel itineraries include stays at the Palace in the Sky Lodge in Thimphu—the traffic-light-less capital city, where guests can museum-hop—and the more remote Stone Ruins Lodge in Paro, named for a small fortress on a nearby ridge. Rooms at the three open lodges start at \$1,500 per night; the final two are scheduled to debut by early 2020. —Suyin Haynes



WHERE ART MEETS ARCHITECTURE

NATIONAL KAOHSIUNG CENTER
FOR THE ARTS

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

A former Japanese military base is now home to the largest performing-arts center in the world under a single roof. Opened in October 2018, the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts spans 25 acres in the south of Taiwan. The compound, designed by the Dutch architecture firm Mecanoo, features a roof resembling a canopy inspired by the banyan trees commonly found in the region, which dips to the ground to form the base of an outdoor theater for up to 20,000. Inside, the four other performance venues have already seen world-class acts, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra. —Hillary Leung

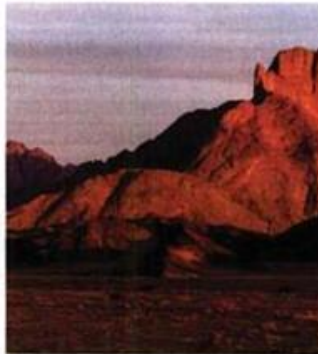


RAISING THE BAR

LIME OUT

Saint John Island

A To get to one of the buzziest taco spots in the U.S. Virgin Islands, you'll have to hop on a boat or go for a swim. Lime Out, an outpost of the island's popular Lime Inn, opened in March off the coast of Saint John. Staff deliver food to nearby boats or serve visitors who swim up to the solar-powered restaurant—said to be the first floating taco bar in the Caribbean. The tacos are filled with everything from surf and turf to ceviche, and relayed in biodegradable containers. "We're trying to do everything we can to keep the environmental integrity of the bay," co-owner Chelsea Baranowski says. —Samantha Cooney



Hiking with heritage

RED SEA MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Red Sea Mountains, Egypt

A Plunging gorges and craggy mountainsides are not all that separate mainland Egypt's first long-distance hiking trail from the beach resorts in the nearby vacation town of Hurghada. Inspired by the success of a sister trail on the Sinai Peninsula, which opened in 2015, the new route is a community tourism initiative managed by the local Maaza tribe and dedicated to preserving Bedouin heritage and empowering nearby communities. Over the 10 days or so it takes to walk the trail's 105 miles, hikers are accompanied by Bedouin camelers who provide traditional food and insight into their culture. An extension is already in the works. —Joseph Hincks

A PIZZA RENAISSANCE

PIZZERIA BEDDIA

Philadelphia

A There used to be a bare-bones pizzeria in Philadelphia with two employees, zero seats and a 40-pizza-per-night limit. In 2015, *Bon Appétit* named its pizzas the best in the U.S., citing their "always-crispy-chewy crust." Less than three years later, however, Pizzeria Beddia had to close: the hours-long lines made the two-man operation unsustainable. "I didn't want to get to a point where I hated it," says owner Joe Beddia, describing an atmosphere in which visitors would snap photos of him through the window while they waited in line. Now, Beddia is back with a full-service joint just a few blocks down the road from the original. It's stocked with 120 seats, dozens more employees and a cloud-shaped light installation that encourages you to linger. "Everything's changed," Beddia says, "except the pizza." —A.V.

PAYING IT FORWARD

GORONGOSA
NATIONAL PARK

Sofala, Mozambique

A In 2004, Gorongosa National Park was re-envisioned as a "human-rights park"—one that both protects wildlife and invests in nearby communities. The park's rebirth is the result of a recently extended collaboration between the Carr Foundation and Mozambique's government. Roughly one-third of the park's budget goes to community programs, from after-school clubs to aid for those affected by Cyclone Idai. Local fauna have also gotten a boost: there are more than 100,000 large mammals in the park, a 10-year increase of over 700%. "When we first started... I could drive all day and perhaps see one animal," says Carr Foundation founder Greg Carr. "Now we are a sea of wildlife." —Cate Matthews

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A TRADITION PRESERVED

XIQU CENTRE

Hong Kong

With the opening of Xiqu Centre in January, traditional Chinese theater has a new world-class architectural home. On the \$346 million structure's facade, woven-metal panels resemble stage curtains pulled back. Inside, the space's 1,073-seat theater hovers 90 ft. above a ground-floor plaza, which provides space for exhibitions and workshops to preserve the centuries-old form of theater art that some worry could become lost with time. Xiqu Centre is the first performance venue to open as part of Hong Kong's sprawling West Kowloon Cultural District, an international-grade arts hub the city is building on reclaimed land overlooking the iconic Victoria Harbor. —Hillary Leung

SECRET NO LONGER

WOLFGAT

Paternoster, South Africa

A meal at Wolfgat, which opened in 2016, has always been a dining experience for the truly dedicated. That's because the 20-seat venue is in the remote fishing village of Paternoster (pop. 2,000), a two-hour drive from Cape Town. There, owner Kobus van der Merwe serves *strandveld* cuisine (which roughly translates to "beach vegetation"), harvesting his ingredients from the beach in front of his restaurant and the wild bush behind it. Until recently, his customers mostly kept quiet about the experience, giving up bragging rights in order to secure tables at the best restaurant you had never heard of. Then, in February, the World Restaurant Awards dubbed Wolfgat the best restaurant in the world. Walk-ins are now impossible, but bookings can still be made up to 90 days in advance online. —Aryn Baker

JAPAN BY BOAT

GUNTU

Seto Inland Sea, Japan

A cross between a *ryokan* and a yacht, this floating hotel has 19 luxurious cabins and sets sail from Onomichi in Hiroshima prefecture before cruising around Japan's Seto Inland Sea. The boat's warm, wood-paneled interiors—designed by architect Yasushi Horibe—give the small hotel an inviting vibe, but the best benefit of setting sail on the *Guntu* is easy access to the sea's over 700 islands. Onshore activities range from a visit to Naoshima, an art-filled island that's home to Yayoi Kusama's famous dotted pumpkins, to sampling soy sauce at a local brewery to excursions with local fishermen. There are more than 10 sailing routes, from one to three nights, and cabins start at approximately \$3,300 per night, all-inclusive. —Amy Gunia

