

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD news

Essential travel intelligence

May 2020

ONLY TIME WILL TELL

The novelties from
Watches & Wonders

VIRTUAL REALITY

Innovative ways to stay
connected and cultured

COME FLY WITH ME

The company taking
private aviation to
new heights

THE ART OF ISOLATION

SECLUDED ISLANDS, CARIBBEAN CASTAWAYS & QUIET CORNERS OF AFRICA

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*The dazzling
water is so mesmerizing
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Suspended in colour, brilliant sea life hide beneath a sheet of turquoise blue, schools of fish swim amongst swaying coral while turtles paddle along. In an age when we're ridden by stress, technology and a lack of contact with nature, casting off is ultimately wonderful.

Be submerged in the magical healing powers of the ocean and step into your own private bubble, the moment the water encloses you, you are gratefully alone with profound invigorating peace.

A flurry of color accompanied by the quiet sounds of the sea calm our restless souls and as moments intertwine we are one with the ocean.

Experience paradise on earth at Grand Park Kodhipparu, Maldives. Where barefoot luxury and the stunning beauty of Maldives awaits you.



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— KODHIPPARU —
MALDIVES

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MONT
BLANC



EXPLORER

THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR MEN



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INSPIRING TRAVEL NEWS

The global spread of Covid-19 has seen airlines grounded, hotels shuttered and borders closed. The impact on the travel industry has been enormous, with millions of jobs lost and the future of many small travel businesses in peril. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. While the world continues to impose measures designed to slow the spread of the virus, innovative hotels and travel companies have come up with ways to connect with their guests. From cookery masterclasses with Michelin-starred chefs and yoga sessions with in-house experts, to audio adventures that transport listeners to far-flung worlds, these are some of the best creative escapes in the age of isolation.

WORDS: Joe Mortimer

CULINARY CREATIVITY: UP YOUR GOURMET GAME

With extra discretionary time on our hands and a hunger for foreign flavours usually sated by travel, many armchair travellers are trying their hand at culinary creativity. Legions of chefs and bartenders whose skills are currently underused are taking to social media to share their tricks of the trade.

✂ At Waldorf Astoria Ras al Khaimah, chefs and mixologists have put together a series of masterclasses to help visitors find culinary inspiration. Chef Lendl Pereira from Lexington Grill is hosting sessions that reveal the secrets behind some of the restaurant's top dishes, while food and beverage director Miguel Duarte Silva is imparting his tips on how to make the after-dark aperitif. Tune into the resort's Facebook page for details of the next live session and a list of ingredients.

www.waldorfastoriarak.com

✂ The cellars beneath the Hotel de Paris in Monte-Carlo are some of the most tantalising in the world and head sommelier Patrice Frank knows their contents better than anyone. He and his colleagues share wine tasting and storage tips online, alongside other culinary and beverage advice from the experts at Monte-Carlo SBM. Readers can learn how to make bread with head baker Thomas Subrin, roast the perfect chicken with Michelin-starred chef Marcel Ravin, and pick up nutrition advice from nutritionist Veronique Liesse from Thermes Marins Monte-Carlo.

www.montecarlosbm.com

✂ Tourism board Visit Denmark has a wealth of online content designed to help visitors experience cosy Danish hygge from home. It's no surprise that the country that brought Noma to the world is also keen to share its culinary culture, with a series of recipes and video masterclasses that focus on traditional Danish dishes like rye bread, meatballs and sticky sweet desserts. Danish chef Adam Aamann has turned his garden into a pop-up restaurant where he holds video masterclasses on subjects including the perfect mayonnaise and classic Danish open-faced sandwiches.

www.visitdenmark.com



MARCEL RAVIN AT HOTEL DE PARIS



LENDL PEREIRA AT WALDORF ASTORIA RAS AL KHAIMAH



SET SAIL ON CULINARY BLISS
WITH AQUA EXPEDITIONS

✂ Aqua Expeditions launched its #CookingWithAqua Masterclass Series with a 20-minute session with Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, consulting chef for the Amazon. The Peruvian chef shared a step-by-step guide to making the perfect pisco sours and ceviche with a live Facebook audience. Benjamin Cross, consultant chef for Aqua Blu in the East Indonesian Archipelago, has also hosted a live guide to making a classic Indonesian dish of seared barramundi with sambal dabu-dabu with sweetcorn fritters, and next month, David Thompson from Aqua Mekong, will showcase seasonal dishes from Vietnam and

Cambodia. If you missed the live events, catch up and find a list of ingredients online.
www.aquaexpeditions.com

✂ India's ITC Hotels has launched #FoodForThought, a collection of mostly foodie activities that guests can try out while staying at home. The mini-site features recipes for an antioxidant-rich hydrating iced tea, an easy-to-make microwaveable 'mug cake', and tips for maintaining and clean and healthy kitchen while flexing the culinary creativity at home.
www.itchotels.in

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MEALS COOKED WITH
LOVE TO INNOVATIVE
IFTAR IDEAS, GET
CREATIVE WITH THESE
ON-ONLINE CULINARY
MASTERCLASSES AND
RECIPES. APRONS AT THE
READY...



BENJAMIN CROSS WITH
AQUA EXPEDITIONS



CHARCOAL GRILLED BLACK COD
DISHED UP BY AQUA EXPEDITIONS

PERFORMANCE: THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Sate your appetite for the arts at these iconic institutions

The curtains remain closed at most of the world's great opera houses, leaving many travellers thirsty for cultural entertainment. But in the spirit of the stage, many institutions have stood by that age-old adage of the performing arts: the show must go on. From live at-home performances from classical musicians to on-demand showings of headline shows, these are some of the innovative ways that opera houses are bringing joy to the world.

✂ The Metropolitan Opera in New York is streaming daily performances from its Live in HD series compiled over the last 14 years, making each show available to watch in full for 23 hours. In addition to the archive footage, April 25 saw the opera's first At-Home Gala, featuring 40 leading artists performing live from their homes.

www.metopera.org

✂ The glorious Opera de Monte-Carlo is also embracing the spirit of the times by offering serialised versions of last year's shows via its YouTube channels. The series debuted with the January 2019 performance of *Falstaff*, divided up into six episodes, and continued with Gaetano Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

www.opera.mc

✂ Dubai Opera has been live streaming a series of solo performances from regional musicians including violinist Mohamad Hamami and oud player Joseph Tawadros via Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. Last month, the opera launched the From Home to Stage competition, in which budding musicians were invited to submit 90-second videos of their musical performances. The winner will be invited to star as the opening act for a major production in the upcoming season.

www.dubaiopera.com

✂ London's Royal Opera House has been quick to fill the void, with a series of online opera, music, ballet and dance performances as part of its #OurHouseToYourHouse series. Throughout May, viewers can tune into Arthur Pita's adaptation of Kafka's novella *The Metamorphosis*

(until May 17); an operatic portrayal of the life of Elizabeth I in *Gloriana* (until May 24); and a ballet adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* (until June 1). www.roh.org.uk

✂ The Sydney Opera House has also risen to the challenge and launched From Our House to Yours: a digital season of theatre, concerts, talks and interviews. Highlights have included coverage of Australia's annual First Nations dance competition celebrating Aboriginal dance, Sydney Symphony Orchestra's 2018 performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and an exclusive broadcast for Piano Day 2020 (March 28) featuring pianist Jon Hopkins and at-home performances from Margaret Leng Tan, Andrea Lam and Simon Tedeschi.

www.sydneyoperahouse.com



DESTINATIONS: VIRTUALLY REAL

Travel the world from the comfort of home

The world grew smaller when our ancestors invented the wheel, then more so again when the Wright Brothers mastered the art of flight. Today, 360-degree photography, computer generated imagery and live-stream footage means we can explore far-flung corners of the world without leaving the comfort of home. Nothing beats the real thing, but while we're confined to quarters, these virtual tours offer a dose of much-needed travel inspiration.

✂ Walking between the towering rock walls of the Siq en route to the sandstone buildings of Petra is an atmospheric introduction to one of the world's greatest heritage experiences. Thanks to a partnership with Google Street View, would-be visitors can stroll down the Siq accompanied by an audio guide before exploring the entire UNESCO World Heritage site, learning about key buildings including The Treasury and The Monastery along the journey, while interactive pop-ups provide behind-the-scenes stories that reveal the history of this wondrous rose-red city.

www.google.com

✂ Africa travel specialist andBeyond has created WildWatch, inviting digital visitors to travel into the bush with expert guides on twice-daily game drives. During the three-hour live-streamed safaris, viewers are able to interact with guides as they travel through Ngala Private Game Reserve and Djuma Private Game Reserve in South Africa, looking out for wildlife and providing real-time commentary. The company's guides in Sabi Sand Game Reserve and andBeyond Phinda Private Game Reserve will also be posting regularly on Instagram Live.

www.andbeyond.com

✂ The United States' National Park Service has teamed up with Google to create The Hidden Worlds of the National Parks: an immersive micro-site that allows viewers to virtually visit five of the country's breath-taking National Parks: Bryce Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns, Hawai'i Volcanoes, Kenai Fjords and Dry Tortugas. The expert-led tours offer insights into these incredible destinations through the eyes of park rangers, plus 360-degree videos, archival footage, audio clips and other unique experiences.

www.artsandculture.withgoogle.com

✂ The Incan citadel of Machu Picchu is one of the world's great wonders; a sprawling complex of ancient stone walls buried high in the Andes in Peru's Sacred Valley. It's impossible to beat the feeling of laying eyes upon Machu Picchu after completing the four-day Inca Trail that winds through the mountains, but house-bound travellers can savour a taste of the experience via 360-degree photography, audio guide and supporting photography and videos in this immersive virtual tour.

www.youvisit.com/tour

✂ Amazing Thailand has launched a series of 3-D tours showcasing some of the Kingdom's most breath-taking destinations, allowing visitors to explore sites including Wat Si Chum Temple, Phi Mai Historical Park and Sdok Kok Thom Castle. Alternatively, viewers can explore the Thai landscape via a collection of 360-degree videos on YouTube. Virtual visitors can travel around the limestone karsts and mangrove forests around Krabi via longtail boat; parasail over Ao Nang island; fly over Mu Koh Thale Tai National Park at sunset; or feast their eyes on Wat Phra Mahathat temple from above.

www.tourismthailand.org



MACHU PICCHU

THE HIDDEN WORLDS OF THE NATIONAL PARKS US



PETRA, JORDAN



WILD WATCH WITH
ANDBEYOND



TOM'S

KITCHEN EDITION

A master at transforming simple food into something fabulous without unnecessary fanfare, British chef **Tom Aikens'** brilliance shines at The Abu Dhabi EDITION with his own unique twist

WORDS: Emily Baxter-Priest

DO YOU RECALL YOUR FIRST FORAY INTO FOOD?

My first true gastronomic experience was in a restaurant that my father had booked following the recommendation of one of his suppliers. We turned up at the hotel and two waiters came out to the car wearing white gloves and bow ties. We thought our father had made a mistake with the booking, as it was completely unlike him. I was 12 and had my first real explosion of tastes. My mother and father were eating nouvelle cuisine style frog's legs and snails, whilst my twin brother and I had the most delicious, simple tomato salad with really flavourful tomatoes, shallots, olive oil, sea salt and a little red wine vinegar. I then had a beef fillet larded with beef fat and hand cut chips cooked in beef dripping. It melted in the mouth. Then I had a very simple poached peach in vervain with vanilla ice-cream. I can still remember very distinctly those first tastes and flavours after all these years.

WHAT FIVE WORDS WOULD YOU SAY BEST DESCRIBE YOUR COOKING STYLE?

British cuisines with a twist. I use only seasonal and, as much as possible, locally-sourced ingredients. It's very tricky to pinpoint the exact style as I have cooked Michelin-style food for most of my career and this would be definitely in the mould of gastronomic French cooking. On the other hand, I have spent a lot of time creating casual all-day dining concepts that focus on great British classics and comfort food. With other restaurants in the Middle East, I have had to adapt my style of cooking to these locations as well.

YOU'RE RENOWNED AS BEING A GREAT BRITISH CHEF. WHAT MAKES YOU PROUDEST TO BE BRITISH?

To be working alongside some of the best British suppliers in the country who produce the best seasonal, high-quality produce. I'm also proud of how far the British culinary scene has evolved over the years.

TALKING CHEF HEROES, WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU?

The two chefs that really shaped my career and who inspired me were Pierre Koffman and Joel Robuchon, who were both very different chefs. They both used amazing produce but one

was all about flavours and tastes on the plate, while the other was really about precision, details and, of course, taste as well. My style is a mix of both of them, as I love the intricacy, but it has to have the good flavour as well.

WHAT PHILOSOPHY DO YOU COOK BY?

I always want to challenge myself and constantly push the boundaries and myself so that I am always accomplishing something.

SO, TAKE US THROUGH THE RESTAURANTS THAT YOU OVERSEE AT THE ABU DHABI EDITION...

Well, firstly I wanted to make sure that each of the three restaurants at The Edition stood out from what else was going on in the restaurant scene in Abu Dhabi, and that what we were doing was way above anything else in terms of quality, originality and value. So, the three outlets are all very different, allowing for a lot of choice. Alba Terrace is inspired by Mediterranean cuisine; then there's the informal yet informed British rock'n'roll steakhouse, Oak Room; and the all-day dining restaurant, Market at EDITION, that focuses on well-being and healthy eating.

TELL US ABOUT MARKET, WHICH REALLY EMBRACES VEGANISM AND A PLANT-BASED METHODOLOGY...

I wanted to give guests tasty, delicious healthy food, as most people think it is boring and unsatisfying. The style of cooking is focused on Asian style from Korea and Japan, with lots of delicious raw salads, such as Poke bowls, broths, vegan and vegetarian burgers, to a prawn or a sustainable tuna burger, that are all served in vegetable based brioche buns like spinach, kale and spirulina, beetroot and cardamom and an activated charcoal bun. There is even a healthy pizza made from activated chia seeds and grated cauliflower. There's also matcha teacake with green tea and yoghurt ice cream, chocolate and avocado mousse with yuzu ice cream.

THE OAK ROOM TURNS MEAT INTO AN ART FORM. WAS THAT THE IDEA?

Well, there is so much great, good quality choice out there now, so incorporating theatre into the room is what can make







FINDING MAGIC IN MONTENEGRO

A relatively undiscovered and unspoilt corner of Europe, **Montenegro** is an escapist's dream. With immaculate, fjord-like bays and history-filled UNESCO World Heritage Sites, it has something for every traveller, without the crowds of its European neighbours. A cultural experience for those seeking serenity

WORDS: Danae Mercer



A large, leafless baobab tree with a thick, gnarled trunk and a wide, spreading canopy of bare branches dominates the left side of the frame. The tree is set against a clear, pale blue sky. In the background, a savanna landscape unfolds with various green shrubs and smaller trees. The foreground is filled with dry, golden-brown grass.

ROAMING IN RUAHA

You can blend really wild experiences with lavish lodges in **Tanzania's Ruaha National Park**. Writer and photographer Graeme Green recalls exploring the nation's largest – yet most untouched – park, discovering a quarter of accommodations offering the perfect vantage point for more secluded animal spotting

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY: Graeme Green



URBAN LEGEND

Cultured cool is served up at Radisson Blu Hotel & Residence in Cape Town, a city bolt-hole for those seeking the finer things in life

WORDS: Emily Baxter-Priest



I was 18 when I first ventured to Cape Town. I left the safe but cold confines of London and flew into the unknown with a backpack stuffed with dreams and a heart filled with adventure. I had travelled many times before but never this far and not on my own. This trip was a 'round-the-world-before-university' seven-month holiday, kick-started in Cape Town, followed by Australia, New Zealand... You know the drill. Anyhow, it was everything I wanted it to be and so much more. The city was hot, urban, unrefined, up-and-coming and achingly cool all wrapped up as one deliciously undiscovered gift. Twenty-or-so years ago, Cape Town wasn't what it is today. There was tourism, of course, but not in the same way as there is now. The vineyards, the coastlines, the outdoor mother nature trails and safaris all appeal to a much wider demographic than before. It's accessible, affordable and it's firmly planted itself front and centre on the map for those seeking winter sun, culture and a destination with intrigue.

I can still vividly recall the bustling Greenstreet market that sold everything from sandals and bikinis to biltong, the bars where we met every kind of local under the sun, the bold and beautiful penguins at Boulders Bay, the stark reality of Robben Island, home to Nelson Mandela for 27 years, and the tattoo parlour where I indelibly inked the city on me one night. It honestly feels like yesterday, such is the power of the memories I have for the beautiful South African city.

Two decades on, and the city is thriving. Still the eclectic mix of urban cool-meets-contemporary expressionism that was just beginning to bloom way back when I visited, but the city has grown into its own skin. It feels more settled into what it always knew it wanted to become.

There is so much to see and do here, that the list is exhaustive. But before you break away to explore you need to put your bags down. There are myriad hotels to choose from in Cape Town, but one that feels centred around what I look for when travelling is Radisson Blu Hotel & Residence. It's the perfect mix of form and function and its location in Cape Town's business district affords you a quartet of stellar views: city skyline, harbour, Table Mountain and Atlantic Ocean. Not too shabby an offering, hey. Whilst many opt for beachside villas and hotels, Radisson Blu grants you easy access to a multitude of attractions, such as Artscape Theatre, Clifton Beaches, Camps Bay, Cape Town Castle of Good Hope, Bo-Kaap's kaleidoscopic houses, Kirstenbosch Gardens and Bree Street, arguably the city's hippest hangout.

The hotel stays true to its Art Deco style, combining elements of the original building, Safmarine House, with Cape Town accents of riotous shades of dark and light blues, the delicate ombré of the Cape mist and the nautical interior of ocean liners. It certainly has a New York City kinda feel to it – all urban chic and cool – while its 'escape from frenetic

ETERNAL SUNSHINE

Everyone deserves a little sunshine in their lives right now. This mood-enhancing edit of brilliant sun-burst pieces, with yellow diamonds and citrine hues, will brighten days no end



MAKE ME YOUR MUSE

House of Garrard's Muse collection, inspired by Queen Alexandra of Denmark, is filled with citrine shooting stars. This 18ct white gold necklace, with round white and yellow diamonds is a fitting Eid Al-Fitr gift set



1



2



3



4



5



6



1. Ring, Gucci High Jewellery
2. Vendôme Liseré ring, Boucheron
3. Ring, Dior
4. Earrings, Givenchy
5. Winston Gates necklace, Harry Winston
6. Roubachka earrings, Chanel
7. Les Ciel de Chaumet necklace, Chaumet
8. Golden Oasis Rising Star earrings, Piaget
9. Necklace, Tiffany & Co. High Jewellery
10. Earrings, Chopard High Jewellery



7



8



9



10

SPEND IT OUT OF THIS WORLD

CARIBBEAN COOL

An ultra-exclusive billionaire's castaway experience that money can buy – just

A **SHINING JEWEL** in the Caribbean is Mandarin Oriental, Canouan – a shimmering five-star beachside property nestled on a small island in the archipelago nation of St. Vincent and The Grenadines. Known as the island of tortoises, Canouan is a tropical treasure chest in its own right, where the rich go to hide away and revel in unbridled luxury. Privacy and exclusivity here reign supreme. Perched on a white powder stretch of the coconut-clad Godahl Beach, you can travel from St. Vincent directly or by chartering your own private jet or borrowing the hotel's plane. Attention to detail is second-to-none, while its colonial style, designed by a team of Milanese architects, blends contemporary chic with bucolic luxury. The island's 1,200 leafy acre allows for indulgence on many levels – golf at the Fazio-designed 18-hole course, diving through the Caribbean's largest living coral reef, experiencing a restaurant without walls with a private beach dinner or set sail on a catamaran to spot sea turtles. Book into a new four-bedroom Lagoon Villa with its prime hillside spot, or claim the entire island as your own from \$60,000 a night. Set to open again June 1, this is the head's up you need to be the early bird that catches the worm. www.mandarinoriental.com





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