‘Courage calls to courage everywhere, and its voice cannot be denied’
Millicent Fawcett

1918-2018
A century of women’s right to vote

fashion feminism & FREEDOM

Michelle Williams speaks up
"I WANT MY FELLOW HUMANS TO KNOW ALL ABOUT LIFE IN THE SEA, TO INSPIRE THEM TO GO SEE FOR THEMSELVES."

Sylvia Earle
MARINE BIOLOGIST AND EXPLORER

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Michelle Williams explores a magical fairground scene in this evocative film from our cover-story.

THE ART OF THE DEAL
Natalie Reynolds shares her five-step guide to becoming a better negotiator in this address from the Bazaar At Work Summit.

LEADING THE WAY
From Annie Lennox to Alison Loehnis, the Bazaar 150 Visionary Women list celebrates the UK’s most inspiring female trailblazers.

A LIFE LESS ORDINARY
Stephanie Shirley reveals her journey from child refugee to pioneering tech entrepreneur and Dame of the British Empire.

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For details of our regular events, featuring expert professional guidance, exclusive panel discussions and working-fashion advice, visit [www.hearstlive.co.uk](http://www.hearstlive.co.uk).

**CALL THE SHOTS**

Following her brilliant talk on ‘Leadersmithing’ at the inaugural *Bazaar At Work* Summit, the author and leadership expert Eve Poole (below) will present a Professional Power Refresh workshop, to enable you to project greater authenticity, feel more confident in daunting career situations and maximise your impact at work through your posture, gaze and appearance.

*Bazaar At Work* with Eve Poole will be held at the Bulgari Hotel, 171 Knightsbridge, London SW7, on Tuesday 27 February, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets cost £35, which includes a glass of Laurent-Perrier Champagne. For more information, visit [www.hearstlive.co.uk](http://www.hearstlive.co.uk).
EDITOR’S LETTER

ECHOES IN TIME

There are many reasons to be delighted by the news that Gillian Wearing has created a bronze statue of the suffragist Millicent Fawcett, which will be unveiled in Parliament Square this month to coincide with the centenary of women winning the right to vote. Not only is this the first statue of a woman to stand in the square, it is also the first by a female artist – and a timely reminder of Fawcett’s eloquent campaigning. 'Courage calls to courage everywhere, and its voice cannot be denied,' she declared in a speech after the death of Emily Davison, the suffragette who was killed beneath the hooves of the King’s horse at the Epsom Derby in 1913. Fawcett’s words will appear on her statue, but they have also been on my mind for some time – in part because of the brave chorus that has spoken out in the wake of the allegations of sexual assault by Harvey Weinstein, and others. Several of those courageous voices can be heard in this edition of Bazaar (including Jane Fonda’s, and a number of women who have faced abuse in Hollywood); one of them is our cover star, Michelle Williams, who has talked about Kevin Spacey, Donald Trump and Harvey Weinstein, and her hopes for a more positive future. I share her hopefulness, as do all of us at Bazaar, for an open discussion is the first step to change.

But there is something else, too, at play in this issue – a touch of magic, perhaps, when we photographed Michelle Williams in a museum of fairground attractions, the hooves of a wooden horse rearing up behind her. I had not mentioned the story of Emily Davison to anyone on the shoot; yet for me, at least, the universe seemed to chime for a split second. The past is behind us – haunting, unforgettable, cherished – yet how we choose to shape the present is in our own hands.

PS: Don’t miss the chance to subscribe to Harper’s Bazaar – turn to page 35 for this month’s offer.

Michelle Williams wears Louis Vuitton (page 90). Below: Dolce & Gabbana looks in ‘The starry night’ (page 102)

Michelle Williams

Editor’s choices

This is a month of fashion shows – which sounds glamorous, but in reality involves very long days, a great deal of travelling, and no time off at weekends. As for packing: I rely on silk blouses, elegant jackets and jeans; plus kitten heels for comfort, a chic bag to carry daily necessities, and diamonds to lift the spirits.

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£140
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£200
William & Son

PHOTOGRAPHS: AGATA POSPIEZYNSKA, ERIC MADIGAN HECK, OLIVER HOLMS, HEARST STUDIOS. SEE STOCKISTS FOR DETAILS
After completing an MA in magazine journalism at City University, our Flash! editor and features co-ordinator joined *Bazaar* as assistant to the editor-in-chief. Before that, she contributed to a daily column for *The Spectator* and was a political researcher for Mark Garnier MP. She details her experience of sex toys and other scandals in Westminster on page 78.

**Power is...** ‘the ability to make people laugh.’

**I feel empowered when...** ‘I’ve made decisions that I knew meant forgoing economic wealth, status or artistic opportunity because the cost to my soul would be too high.’

**Favourite Hollywood film** ‘*Bringing Up Baby*’ with Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. It never fails to make me laugh.

---

Our cover star has received four Academy Award nominations and a Golden Globe over the course of her glittering career, with critically acclaimed performances in *Brokeback Mountain* and *Manchester by the Sea*, among others. Her latest starring roles are in the musical *The Greatest Showman* (dubbed the next *La La Land*) and Ridley Scott’s epic *All the Money in the World*, which has just been re-shot to feature Christopher Plummer in the place of Kevin Spacey. She talks about feminism, film and bringing up her daughter in Trump’s America on page 90.

**Power is...** ‘being able to take a nap in the afternoon.’

**I feel empowered when...** ‘my ideas are genuinely considered.’

**Favourite Hollywood film** ‘*His Girl Friday*’.

**An actress you admire** ‘Many: Isabelle Huppert, Liv Ullman, Fiona Shaw, Linda Emond and Denise Gough.’
This spring celebrates fashion legends—past, present and future—with heartfelt tributes at Versace and Saint Laurent, new creative directors unveiling their first collections, and the catwalk debut of a supermodel’s daughter.

1
Rain supreme.
How to stay chic despite spring showers? Leave it to Karl Lagerfeld to solve that most pressing of British dilemmas.

A look from Chanel’s S/S 18 show.
The elaborately embellished brocade frock-coat said Louis XVI; the athletic shorts and trainers said now.

For Nicolas Ghesquière, whose Louis Vuitton show was held in the depths of the Louvre, watched over by the Great Sphinx of Tanis, S/S 18 is a mixed-up, muddled-up world.

Timely fashions

The elaborately embellished brocade frock-coat said Louis XVI; the athletic shorts and trainers said now.

For Nicolas Ghesquière, whose Louis Vuitton show was held in the depths of the Louvre, watched over by the Great Sphinx of Tanis, S/S 18 is a mixed-up, muddled-up world.

Little gems

Luxe meets leisure in Miu Miu’s pearl-decorated sportswear clutch, inspired, says Mrs Prada, by ‘the idea of making beauty and luxury possible in real life’.

The next generation

She walked for Calvin Klein in the week of her 16th birthday and then Kaia Gerber – that’s Cindy Crawford’s daughter, in case you hadn’t spotted the glorious likeness – just kept on walking, modelling in S/S 18 shows for everyone from Chanel to Valentino.
Red and yellow and pink and green… and lemon, lime, lavender and lilac. If you can’t decide, opt for Dolce & Gabbana’s multi-stripe gown.

5 Rainbow dressing
Fashion moment of the season? Let’s make it the decade. Donatella Versace celebrated not just her late brother Gianni with this 20th-anniversary archival homage – but also the strength, beauty and power of grown-up women.

From left: Carla Bruni, Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell and Cindy Crawford in Versace’s S/S 18 show.

6

The return of the supers

Fashion moment of the season? Let’s make it the decade. Donatella Versace celebrated not just her late brother Gianni with this 20th-anniversary archival homage – but also the strength, beauty and power of grown-up women.
Introducing debut collections by Paul Surridge at Roberto Cavalli, Clare Waight Keller at Givenchy and Natacha Ramsay-Levi at Chloé.

Reflected glory
Metallcics, sequins, sparkle and over-the-top embellishments: this season, our favourite colour is shiny.

New beginnings
Introducing debut collections by Paul Surridge at Roberto Cavalli, Clare Waight Keller at Givenchy and Natacha Ramsay-Levi at Chloé.
Exactly on cue, as the first model stepped onto an epic open-air catwalk that ran the length of the Trocadéro, the Eiffel Tower began to shimmer. For Anthony Vaccarello, his S/S 18 show was a tribute to Pierre Bergé, the business partner of Yves Saint Laurent who died in September, and also a journey from that glittering past to a bright future.

For Anthony Vaccarello, his S/S 18 show was a tribute to Pierre Bergé, the business partner of Yves Saint Laurent who died in September, and also a journey from that glittering past to a bright future.
Laurent-Perrier
chosen by The Ritz London.

CUVÉE ROSÉ
CHOSN BY THE BEST

CHAMPAGNE
Laurent-Perrier
MAISON FONNÉE
1812
MY LIFE, MY STYLE

In her wardrobe and London home, Belstaff’s creative director Delphine Ninous favours a chic look with a bohemian edge

By LUCY HALFHEAD
Photographs by KASIA BOBULA
Styled by CHARLOTTE DAVEY

‘I love this part of town,’ says Delphine Ninous when we meet at her house in Canonbury. ‘I can take my son to the park just around the corner but there are also cool bars and restaurants nearby, so I have the best of both worlds.’ The French designer moved to London after joining Belstaff four years ago, and since taking over as creative director in 2016, she has reinvented the British luxury brand, once synonymous with men’s waxed-cotton and leather motorcycle

Delphine Ninous in her living-room, wearing cotton jumper, £450, Belstaff. Leather trousers, her own

From left: a Charles Anastase work above her bed. Vintage cameras on the sideboard. A Globe skateboard
gear, into a label that is just as relevant for female customers today.

Growing up in Paris as an only child, Ninous would join her mother on trips to the city’s museums and galleries. ‘One of my first memories is of an exhibition at the Palais Galliera celebrating the couturier Paul Poiret,’ she says. ‘It was full of beautiful materials and striking shapes that left a lasting impression on me.’ She knew she wanted to be a designer when she was six years old, and was able to jump ahead a year at school thanks to her artistic talents. ‘I’ve always loved drawing clothes, although at that age it was mostly princess dresses,’ she says, laughing.

After secondary school, she enrolled at the prestigious fashion-design college, Atelier Chardon Savard, before a challenging first job at Christian Lacroix. ‘It wasn’t easy,’ she says, ‘because the mentality in Paris fashion houses is tough – no one explains anything to you. Basically, if you survive it means you’re good.’

Not only did Ninous survive, but she went on to thrive: at Isabel Marant, Diane von Furstenberg, Comptoir des Cotonniers and Paul & Joe, before joining Belstaff as head of womenswear. After spending time in the archives delving into the brand’s 94-year history, she set about feminising the women’s line, softening the fabrics and the silhouettes, while also staying true to its DNA. ‘One of the first things was to identify the Belstaff woman and to give her a voice,’ she says. ‘Of course, she can ride a motorbike, but it’s not just about motorbikes; it’s more about the adventurous spirit that bikers have, and the pursuit of freedom.’

Accepting the job also meant moving to London for the first time, where she now lives with her boyfriend and their 18-month-old son Victor. ‘I lived in New York when I was working for DVF, but London is great because it has the same energy but also a sense of culture that I felt was missing there.’

The house is a treasure-trove of vintage 1950s and 1960s pieces, some from her old apartment in Paris, including an ornate mirror that she spotted at Clignancourt fleamarket, and several eBay finds. ‘I love this house because it’s easy to invite lots of friends over for dinner, and the living-room
is a cosy spot to read a book or have an aperitif.

In the upstairs hallway is an intriguing display of memorabilia, including a Serge Gainsbourg vinyl album, *Aux Armes et cœtera*. I’ve listened to Serge, Charlotte – the whole family really – since I was a child, and they have definitely influenced my style, along with other musicians like Patti Smith. I also love Romy Schneider; do you know her movie *La Piscine*? That’s my all-time favourite.’

Ninou’s wardrobe holds an archive of labels she has previously worked for, mixed in with newer purchases – plain Acne shirts, bohemian dresses by Chloé, APC jeans, dainty gold jewellery from Monsieur Paris and smart Céline trousers. She describes her own aesthetic as masculine/feminine: ‘I’m not girly but I still like to be elegant. On a typical day, I’ll wear our Marving-T leather biker jacket over a silk shirt, or I’ll mix tailored pieces with something delicate and soft.’ But to everyone else she is the embodiment of effortless French style – the coveted *je ne sais quoi*.
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Empowerment, empathy and expert advice were at the heart of the inaugural Bazaar At Work Summit

From left: Alison Loehnis, Susie Lau and Roksanda Ilincic

ALL TOGETHER NOW

Empowerment, empathy and expert advice were at the heart of the inaugural Bazaar At Work Summit

Portraits by PHILIP SINDEN
In the 1915 utopian novel *Herland*, the feminist Charlotte Perkins Gilman imagines a perfect world composed of and run entirely by women. As Sotheby's filled up for the inaugural *Bazaar At Work* Summit, I felt transported to a modern Herland: it was thronged with intelligent, successful women, both on stage and off, listening to each other with admiration and respect. Each talk offered its own insights, from the model and designer Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, in conversation with *Bazaar*'s editor-in-chief Justine Picardie, admitting her struggles to balance her internationally successful career with being a new mother – 'Your life changes, your priorities change and, at the same time, you're desperate to go back to work' – to Professor Mary Beard on the psychological significance of Theresa May's shoes. There was much laughter and a few tears, as well as a spontaneous standing ovation given to the tech entrepreneur Stephanie Shirley after her intensely moving speech.

As our editor observed: ‘Having a conversation is at the heart of everything we do at *Bazaar*. Here are just a few of the ways in which that conversation – sometimes provocative, always inspiring – played out over the course of an unforgettable day.’

LYDIA SLATER

The *Bazaar At Work* Summit at Sotheby’s was sponsored by Georg Jensen and *She’s Mercedes*. To register for the 2018 event, visit www.harpersbazaar.co.uk/summit.
THE INSPIRATIONAL PIONEER

Stephanie Shirley reflects on her life and career

‘All that I am, stems from the time I came to England in 1939 as an unaccompanied child refugee from Nazi Europe. I was aged five, clutching the hand of my nine-year-old sister on a Kindertransport train from Vienna. I am only alive because, so long ago, I was helped by generous strangers. But I’ve done more in the seven decades since that miserable day when my mother put me on that train, than I would ever have believed possible.

‘Let me take you back to the early 1960s. To get past the gender issues of the day I set up my own hi-tech software company, one of the UK’s first such start-ups. I recruited professionally qualified women who had left the computer industry to marry or have children, and structured them into a home-working organisation. I challenged the conventions of the time – even to the extent of changing my name from Stephanie to Steve in my business-development letters, so as to get through the door before anyone realised that “he” was a “she”.

‘We disguised the domestic and part-time nature of the workforce by offering fixed prices. Who would have guessed that the programming of the black-box flight recorder for the supersonic Concorde was done by a bunch of women working in their homes? All we used was a trust-the-staff approach and the telephone.

‘When I started my company of women, the men said, “How interesting, but of course it only works because it’s small.” As the company grew, the same men commented: “Yes, it’s sizeable now, but of no strategic interest.” Later still, when the company was valued at over $3 billion and I’d made 70 of the staff into millionaires, they had the nerve to comment, “Well done Steve.” You can always tell ambitious women by the shape of our heads: flat on top from being patted patronisingly.

‘Allow me to share two secrets of success: always surround yourself with first-rate people: people who you like, not people like you. And choose your partner very carefully.

‘If success were easy, we’d all be millionaires. For me, it came in the midst of family pressures and crisis; my son Giles was severely autistic.

‘Giles was the first resident in the first home of the first charity I founded to pioneer services for autism. Then there was the groundbreaking Prior’s Court School for pupils with autism that teaches 98 students aged five to 25 and has 600 staff (plus a teaching robot). Later came a research charity, Autistica. People think philanthropy is just for wealthy people. But the more I give away, the richer I become.’

THE ART OF LEADERSHIP

Eve Poole, the author of ‘Leadersmithing’, shares her golden rules for rising to the top – and staying there

1 ‘There are many things more important than the fear of failure. You just have to figure out how to get through the pain barrier.’

2 ‘Ask yourself: is there anything I am avoiding because I’m terrified? Work out what you’re panicking about, then practise doing it in manageable situations.’

3 ‘You don’t need to be a great leader straight away, but you can become a better one by thinking about every task as an apprentice piece that’s part of a training programme. It’s all about learning on the job.’

Eve Poole will be speaking at the next Bazaar At Work event on 27 February. See page 43 for details.

Stephanie Shirley

Eve Poole
Authenticity was the theme that dominated a lively panel, with Bazaar’s fashion director Avril Mair naming Dior as a brand whose feminist ethos is at the heart of what it does. Its creative director Maria Grazia Chiuri is part of a growing stable of female designers who, in the words of the style blogger Susie Lau, make pieces for all facets of a woman, her softness and her hardness. Explaining that she tries on every one of her creations personally, Roksanda Ilincic said: ‘When I design, I think of an empowered woman, but I want to shelter her too.’ The panellists agreed that even the most successful women have a vulnerable side. But as Alison Loehnis, the president of Net-A-Porter and Mr Porter, advised: ‘You have to be clear about your priorities and what comes first: once you do that, you stop worrying about what everyone else thinks.’

Female-led technology companies secure 35 per cent higher returns on investment, yet only 21 per cent of all capital raised in the sector last year went to women – this was the startling revelation from Debbie Wosskow, who co-founded the entrepreneurship network AllBright. For Nina Bhatia, the managing director of Centrica Connected Home, role models are vital in encouraging more women to apply for funding: ‘It’s about bringing up young girls to think: that could be me.’ Salesforce’s Daljit Bamford agreed that raising aspirations starts at school age, which means nurturing those with a natural flair or hunger for business, but added that change should come from the inside: ‘Companies must create an inclusive culture in which they make women feel welcome.’ Ultimately, said Mumsnet’s Justine Roberts, ‘the world of technology is not addressing female concerns, and it’s time for a rebrand’.

IS THE FUTURE FEMALE?
WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY
Why digital businesses need to work harder to encourage diversity
THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING RESILIENCE

The classicist Mary Beard on how to reshape this vital relationship

GINA MILLER: ‘I had my daughter in the 1980s when the NHS was on its knees. There was no one to deliver her and she was starved of oxygen at birth. I was advised that she should be institutionalised but I didn’t want that and took my local authority to court. Lucy-Ann is everything she is now – warm, empathetic, an angel – because I fought for her. The experience made me realise that I should always listen to my inner voice. Resilience is about using your head and heart.’

TOR GARNETT: ‘I was on my second shift as a duty officer in east London when there was a hospital bomb threat. I had two choices: to evacuate, risking the lives of everyone on life support, or to hold my nerve and treat it as a hoax. In those situations, you can’t burst into tears. You have to get a grip so that you are confident in your decisions. In the end, we searched postboxes and deployed sniffer dogs to keep the hospital running, but I had a horrendous few hours wondering if I’d put 5,000 people in danger. Resilience is a muscle you have to build up, but it’s important to process your emotions afterwards, even if that means having a weep in the bath at the end of the day.’

EMILY MAITLIS: ‘When I started at Newsnight I was constantly worried about what people thought of me – “Am I trying to be Jeremy Paxman? Am I not Jeremy Paxman enough?” – but it was an unwinnable war in my head. In my first week, I tripped up the stairs at an awards ceremony and the pictures were all over the tabloids. I was mortified. But people’s opinions are only as damaging as you let them be. I don’t read the trolls on Twitter and I am comfortable in my own skin. Now my stance is: “You don’t have to like me but it would be nice if you respected me.”’
AT WORK

‘I realised that if I wanted to change the world, I had to get involved with fashion.’

LIVIA FIRTH: ‘The Eco-Age story began when I went inside a garment factory in Bangladesh in 2008: it was like a prison with an armed guard at the door, with thousands of women working like slaves. I couldn’t ignore that. I realised that if I wanted to change the world, I had to get involved with fashion.’

RUTH CHAPMAN: ‘It’s been empowering working with you to highlight brands that have great sustainability credentials. As a business, we want to invest in special pieces whose stories we can tell.’

LF: ‘Many businesses think the only way to grow is to sell, sell, sell, but it’s possible to maintain the profit curve without compromising the culture. That means selling better, not selling more.’

RC: ‘We’ve never been about numbers, we’re more about gut instinct – so if something is meaningful, we’ll go with it even if the data doesn’t make sense. Heart and intuition are so important, and they’re part of what make women successful in business.’

IN CONVERSATION: RUTH CHAPMAN & LIVIA FIRTH

The co-founder of Matchesfashion.com and the founder of Eco-Age discuss their partnership.

From left: Ruth Chapman and Livia Firth
Find a space to relax. Employers have to take responsibility – staff can’t always be ‘on’. It’s essential to have time to switch off.

Spending long hours at your desk doesn’t mean you’re doing any more work – an environment that fosters presenteeism is toxic.

Control your email. Limit your responses and avoid engaging with it out of hours. The same applies to social media.

What are the keys to building a successful brand?
‘You need to think about three things: how are you different? What will your reputation be? And what is your hero product? Every successful brand is known for one, incredible product.’

Your best career advice? ‘Stay humble and work really hard. However senior you are, you can’t forget the basics.’

What does success look like to you? ‘That I have made a cultural difference in the workplace for women, run a business that has a positive impact on the world and that the Communications Store can carry on without me.’

Advice from Estée Lauder’s Anna Bartle, the Beauty Pie founder Marcia Kilgore and Grace Belgravia’s Kate Percival

1. Find a space to relax. Employers have to take responsibility – staff can’t always be ‘on’. It’s essential to have time to switch off.
2. Spending long hours at your desk doesn’t mean you’re doing any more work – an environment that fosters presenteeism is toxic.
3. Control your email. Limit your responses and avoid engaging with it out of hours. The same applies to social media.

WHAT I’VE LEARNT...

Life lessons from three women at the top

Helena Morrissey, the head of personal investing at Legal and General Investment Management: ‘The difference between having a good career and a great one is being able to stop consciously trying to fit in and have the confidence to be yourself.’

Hilary Spencer, the director of the Government Equalities Office: ‘At this stage in my career, I feel like I’ve worked out the codes and know how to play the game. But I also want to change the game.’

Deborah Sayagh, Investec private banker and leader of the Investec Female Entrepreneurs Group: ‘As long as we believe in stereotypes – such as that banking and finance are full of men – then we will uphold them.’
The evening before Bazaar’s inaugural summit, there was an unmistakable buzz at Sotheby’s. The exultant mood wasn’t just thanks to the dazzling British modern art on the walls, the sparkling Taittinger Champagne or the delicious canapés that were served. It was also because the party – the launch of Bazaar’s list of 150 visionary women – was filled with extraordinary leaders in their fields. ‘Everyone here tonight deserves to be celebrated,’ declared Justine Picardie, who hosted the event with Sotheby’s head of modern British art Frances Christie, as Rosie Huntington-Whiteley discussed business with Emilia Wickstead, and Roksanda Ilincic stood arm-in-arm with Joely Richardson. Meanwhile the Turner Prize-winning Gillian Wearing and her gallerist Maureen Paley were deep in conversation, possibly to discuss the artist’s forthcoming statue of the equally visionary Millicent Fawcett…

To see the Bazaar 150 Visionary Women list, visit www.harpersbazaar.co.uk.
Everyone here tonight deserves to be celebrated.

SHINING BRIGHT

Bold art to stir the senses; the rebirth of a magnificent Roman treasure house; fashion’s golden age reimagined on the silver screen; and celebrating a century since women won the fight for the right to vote.
For Minjung Kim, the making of a canvas involves both physical exertion and careful mental preparation. Kim, who studied under Park Seo-Bo, a master of the Dansaekhwa minimalist movement, before moving from her native South Korea to Europe, describes her calligraphic technique as ‘very meditative – best done when you need to accumulate good energy’. The use of hanji, a traditional paper made from the inner bark of the mulberry-tree, reflects her Korean cultural roots, yet the influence of Western contemporary artists such as Bridget Riley is also evident in her dynamic compositions.

FRANCES HEDGES

'Minjung Kim' is at White Cube Mason’s Yard (www.whitecube.com) from 26 January to 10 March.
Balenciaga, Balmain, Dior – so many of fashion’s most iconic designers had their heyday in the 1950s, fabricating a lasting image of glamour and style. The enduring legends of these couturiers inspired Phantom Thread, a new film written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson and set in this golden age of couture. It charts the stormy relationship between a fictional fashion designer Reynolds Woodcock (played by Daniel Day-Lewis) and his new muse, Alma (Vicky Krieps).

‘I’ve always loved fashion magazines, but I didn’t quite know why,’ says Anderson, who had little knowledge of the industry’s history before embarking upon the script. ‘I liked the combination of pretty girls and elegant photographs, but what only struck me recently was just how beautiful the clothes can be. When I began doing research, I studied old copies of Harper’s Bazaar and they really drew me into that world. It was quite easy to make the film because everything was so well-preserved and documented.’

Phantom Thread’s protagonist is a composite of designers past and present; his perfectly groomed appearance somewhat evokes Karl Lagerfeld, while his habit of stitching messages into garments was borrowed from Alexander McQueen. Based in Mayfair, Woodcock dresses the cream of high society, much like Norman Hartnell or Hardy Amies, his creative genius balanced by the presence of his sister, who oversees the day-to-day running of the business.

It’s quite a common theme for very successful male designers to have a family member at their side to assist them with practicalities,’ says Lesley Manville, who plays Woodcock’s sister, the oddly named Cyril. One of the main inspirations for the film, Cristóbal Balenciaga, relied heavily upon his female relations, and the supporting sisterly role (less visible, but still vital for commercial success) is something that occurs again and again in the industry, from Gianni and Donatella Versace to Christopher and Tammy Kane.

Through the character of Alma, who undergoes a Cinderella-like transformation from clumsy waitress to couture model after meeting Woodcock in a café, the viewers are introduced to the intricate work of an atelier. Professional seamstresses were hired to give the film an authentic touch; among them are Joan Emily Brown and Sue Clark, two volunteers for the V&A who advised on the finer points of couture techniques. This meticulous approach meant that the production was frequently in danger of overrunning.

‘Finishing the costumes was always down to the wire. Often we would film on a Wednesday morning and on Tuesday night the costume department were still sewing away. It was a case of life imitating art,’ says Anderson, referring to a scene in which the studio toils around the clock to complete a wedding dress. ‘We created our own little atelier, filled with pattern-cutters and seamstresses. It’s certainly made me much more aware of clothes. Now, when my wife gets dressed every morning, she’ll catch me looking at what she’s wearing, and say, “You’ve changed.” And it’s true. I have a new appreciation for it all.’

‘Phantom Thread’ is released nationwide on 2 February.
When I was 19, I lived for a year in Rome, working for Christie’s in Piazza Navona and surrounded by the most extraordinary beauty. Every day, I would stroll along the curves of this ancient Roman stadium past Gian Lorenzo Bernini’s Fountain of the Four Rivers. I explored everywhere I could go, but there was one place I was never able to visit: the Villa Borghese. A majestic Baroque palace built by the Cardinal Scipione Borghese, it is now a public museum, the Galleria Borghese, filled with gems from the Cardinal’s collection.

At the time of my residence, however, the Galleria was undergoing what its director Anna Coliva calls ‘an apparently interminable restoration’, its Raphael Deposition and Caravaggio self-portrait as a sick Bacchus all hidden from view. So, too, was its astonishing Bernini sculpture of Apollo and Daphne – the nymph’s plump form turning to bark and her hands to the branches of a laurel-tree just as the lovesick god reaches out to grasp her.

So famous and so familiar is this piece that I can’t believe I only saw it in the flesh, so to speak, recently, when I was invited to the Galleria Borghese by Fendi, the quintessentially Roman fashion house, which is to fund the museum for the next three years, as well as supporting its new Caravaggio institute.

This is not the first time Fendi has come to the rescue of some essential and fragile Roman treasure. The Trevi Fountain – made so memorable in La Dolce Vita – was restored with Fendi’s support, as were the Four Fountains on the intersection between Via del Quirinale and Via delle Quattro Fontane. Now, the archetypal Roman painter, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, takes centre-stage.

‘In the end, a luxury brand has to show a love for beauty, and a love for culture in every form. It’s not about going into a store, buying something and going home. What we do has to have a beautiful story. We have to know who we are and what we stand for,’ says Pietro Beccari, Fendi’s outgoing CEO, whose friendship with Coliva was the starting point for the Galleria Borghese project. ‘I decided we should adopt a museum and this is my favourite one. We didn’t want to just sponsor an exhibition, have a nice dinner and go away until next year. This is a long-term partnership.’ It will enable the Galleria to finance research into Caravaggio, not least identifying the numerous extant fakes; for if the tempestuous artist was hard-up, which he usually was, he was happy to put his name to someone else’s work.

Violent, passionate, theatrical and dark: ‘Caravaggio is the right artist for Rome today,’ says Coliva. ‘Forty years ago, no one cared about him or appreciated him, but his work is all about emotion and excitement. It’s of our time, we feel what he feels.’ For me, the emotion was joy that I had finally crossed that marble threshold and entered those glorious painted halls.

For more information, visit www.fendi.com.

**ART**

**ROMAN REVIVAL**

After restoring the Trevi Fountain, Fendi continues to give back to its native city by supporting the Galleria Borghese

*By SASHA SLATER*
It was a mid-century rose globe - a glass sphere filled with water, magnifying a freshly cut flower suspended inside – that inspired Melissa Richardson and Amy Ireland to set up JamJar Edit, their online offering of modern floral curiosities. 'Melissa had spotted one as a child, and its magic stayed with her,' says Ireland. Their obsession with ephemera compelled them to start selling perfectly preserved framed botanicals, cigar-mould vases and bespoke pressed-floral wallpaper. 'After seeing Christian Louboutin’s bedroom panels of dried blooms, we came up with the idea,' says Ireland of their latest project. 'We’re interested in beautiful things that have the human touch.'

HELENA LEE
www.jamjaredit.co.uk.
It was December 2010 and I was six months into my first job as a political researcher in the House of Commons. A life-size cardboard cut-out of David Cameron stood behind me in the windowless basement that I shared with a motley crew of other MPs’ staff. The then-Prime Minister was draped in tinsel and sporting a jaunty festive hat; Beryl Goldsmith, Norman Tebbit’s formidable 83-year-old secretary, was bellowing at someone down the phone; a mouse scurried up the mottled wallpaper by the bins. And then my boss walked in. ‘Look what I asked Caroline to buy for me,’ he said, gleefully pulling a pair of pink diamanté vibrators from his shopping bag. This was Mark Garnier, Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest, Caroline was his PA and one of the presents was for a woman working in his constituency office; my first thought – as the sex toy sparkled under the desk lamp – was that it would make a sensational splash in the Daily Mail. It therefore came as no surprise when I woke up one Sunday last autumn to find the story emblazoned across the paper’s front page.

Mark’s dildo debacle was a silly in-joke that backfired when he later fell out with Caroline, who went on to leak the story. Nevertheless, the scoop kick-started a wave of disturbing sexual-harassment revelations from Westminster. Yet many in politics will tell you that this was a scandal waiting to happen. It certainly seemed that way to me.

When I arrived in Parliament, I was 22 years old and thrilled at the prospect of working in the corridors of power; corridors that I believed to be buzzing with the country’s greatest minds. The Gothic building was alive with the ghosts of brilliant politicians past. Miles of wood-panelled passageways were stacked from floor to ceiling with bound volumes of Hansard, the official record of every word spoken in Parliament since 1803. I once leafed through the 1987 edition to read Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock’s clash at the dispatch box on the day that I was born. Bronze statues of Churchill and Lloyd George loomed over the entrance to the Commons chamber, their toes rubbed shiny from decades of MPs fingering them for good luck. Men in buckled shoes and tights guarded doorways with swords. The scarf worn by Emily Davison, the suffragette who fatally threw herself under the King’s horse, hung in a glass case on the wall. Its faded green and purple message, ‘Votes for Women’, is a poignant reminder that this year marks 100 years since the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918, giving women the right to vote.

One thing that I shared with a motley crew of other MPs’ staff. The Speaker. I once sat in the private gallery where there was no glass and it reminded me of a boys’ boarding-school, where the smell of wood polish and canteen food lingered in the carpets and girls were considered both mildly exotic and something of a joke. Heads always turned as your heels clicked conspicuously on the mosaic tiles of Central Lobby. Prime Minister’s Questions was like morning assembly, where cliques of MPs would gather to be scolded by the Speaker. I once sat in the private gallery where there was no glass separating me from the bragging mob below. The women’s jackets offered the only splashes of colour amid the sea of suits, yet their softer voices were comparatively inaudible. I often heard grumbles when female colleagues were promoted. One male MP asked me: ‘Would you rather a woman did the job or someone qualified?’ I cringe when I hear that Tories refer to Theresa May as ‘mummy’, as if that is the only way they can perceive a female authority figure. The Prime Minister prefers to avoid the Westminster watering-holes where much of the boozing and schmoozing takes place. I think that’s a wise decision. It’s only with hindsight that I realise how vulnerable I was. Crude gifts aside, I was lucky that Mark treated me to champagne on the Terrace overlooking the Commons chamber, their toes rubbed shiny from decades of MPs fingering them for good luck. Men in buckled shoes and tights guarded doorways with swords. The scarf worn by Emily Davison, the suffragette who fatally threw herself under the King’s horse, hung in a glass case on the wall. Its faded green and purple message, ‘Votes for Women’, is a poignant reminder that this year is the centenary of when her request was finally granted. The place was exhilarating and daunting in equal measure.

But I hadn’t worked there long before disappointment began to creep in. Despite the unique traditions, the inspiring architecture and some fascinating people, at times I found the Palace of Westminster to be a petty, gossiping, sleazy place riddled with casual sexism.

I would come home every day with a fresh anecdote: one MP referred to me as ‘Big Tits’ behind my back; another introduced their new, male researcher as ‘good, but his breasts aren’t as nice as the last one’s’. A young woman was advised by her boss to take the stairs to his ministerial office because he thought that she was overweight. Hot-headed MPs would break things in anger and torment their staff. I knew a girl who was losing her hair from stress and another who came to me in tears because her boss had thrown his briefcase at her.

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FEAST DAYS

Helena Lee on the pleasures of Chinese New Year

When I was a child, the joy of Chinese New Year came from the excuse to banquet. My mother would invite our many relatives and prepare a ‘steamboat’ – a hot stock, in which we cooked our own fresh seafood, slices of beef, tofu and noodles, accompanied by a piquant ginger and spring onion sauce. We were not traditional in our celebrations, but good food and conviviality were at their heart. Those looking to herald the Year of the Dog in similar vein are spoilt for choice: Sandia Chang and James Knappett will be serving a one-off feast (including Taiwanese spiced rabbit) at Bubbledogs on Charlotte Street on 20 February; Xu is launching an afternoon tea presented in a porcelain box; and Soho’s Bun House will serve traditional cakes in its Tea Room, and hosts a themed New Year party on 16 February.

INTO THE LIGHT

‘Let me not have only months to live… I accept the cancer and will deal with it with as much grace and fortitude as I can muster,’ writes Genevieve Fox in Milkshakes and Morphine: A Memoir of Love and Loss (£14.99, Square Peg; out on 25 January). Thus we embark with the author on an emotional journey, as she chases childhood memories of losing her mother to the disease following her own diagnosis 40 years later. The resulting account is an unexpectedly optimistic and at times funny story of hope, warmth, and the vitality of love. HL

ROOM UPGRADE

Matilda Goad’s magpie eye for interiors has attracted many a fashion figure, including Penelope Chilvers, who commissioned the creative consultant to design her boutique windows. Now, Goad has launched an online emporium, from which she sells her own line of Murano glassware, pastel-hued beeswax candles and cult scalloped raffia lampshades. (www.matildagoad.com) HL
My earliest appreciation of Charles II came when I was four or five. Our Sunday-morning ritual, on monthly visits to my mother in London, involved trips to St James’s Park. She told me that the thunderously jawed pelicans watching, while I lobbed stale bread to the ducks, were the descendants of the ones that had been introduced there by King Charles three centuries earlier. That seemed a fun thing to have done.

Over the years I absorbed more facts about this King with a curious range of interests, vestiges of which remain with us today. These included the spaniels that carry his name, the horse-racing at Newmarket and the buildings, particularly the architectural masterpieces of Christopher Wren, such as the Royal Observatory in Greenwich (this country’s first state-funded scientific institution), St Paul’s Cathedral and the Royal Hospital Chelsea established for ‘the relief and succour’ of military veterans.

Charles also formed the Hudson’s Bay Company, which opened up colonial Canada and, on a slightly less ambitious level, set about cultivating the first pineapple to be grown in England. This last quest was a typical venture for a man whose general fascination for science led to his forming the Royal Society, and who was so titillated by the intricacy of mechanics that he had seven clocks ticking and whirring away in his bedroom.

But, alas for him and his Portuguese wife, Catherine of Braganza, his rich legacy included no legitimate children. Indeed, when the Duke of Cambridge in time ascends the throne he will be – thanks to his mother’s side containing the blood of Charles II from three different, illegitimate, sources – the first King of England to be a direct descendant of the ‘Merry Monarch’.

Leaving that fact to one side, I believe it’s very good news for us as a nation that Charles is coming back into focus, through the ‘Charles II: Art & Power’ exhibition that runs in the Queen’s Gallery at Buckingham Palace until mid-May. It has all the hallmarks of a stirring show, reconnecting us with the quarter century that followed the Stuart Restoration, and doing so with pomp, flair and an occasional dash of wry humour.

These were the elements of life that Oliver Cromwell’s republic had stifled for more than a decade (it even banned the celebration of Christmas), and which, following the Lord Protector’s death with no viable successor, the English realised they had missed rather a lot.
Charles II's reign represents a startling redressing of the balance, with priggish Puritanism kicked into touch by an era of louché excess that was enjoyed and spearheaded by the King. John Dryden, the poet, called it a 'laughing, quaffing and unthinking time'. Having spent 14 years in exile on the Continent, often with very little money indeed, Charles returned to the land of his birth with something of the Euro Lottery winner about him: he was keen to enjoy his highly unexpected bounty with gusto.

As a one-time guest in Louis XIV's France, Charles had absorbed a love of fashion that led to extraordinary sums being spent on his wardrobe: he ordered a new suit, on average, every 10 days. Also, apart from his many architectural initiatives, he championed an explosion in art; from the raucous comedy of Restoration plays (which brought with them the first generation of professional actresses) to the paintings of foreign masters. The most elevated of these was the Dutch-born court artist Peter Lely, whose portraits of Charles' mistresses adorn the walls of Hampton Court Palace and Althorp, in collections known as 'the Windsor Beauties'. I have been lucky enough to get to know these ringleted ladies on the walls of Althorp well over the years, as it is my family's historic home. They all have a certain something that Lely brings to life, and which explains why they caught the King's eye. Lely's image of Charles' most powerful mistress, Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland, has a different provenance. Barbara was a striking woman of prodigious sexual appetites (her many lovers included an acrobat whose bedroom potential she spotted in a London street fair), and her portrait is one of the standouts of the Queen's Gallery exhibition. Samuel Pepys found her so intoxicatingly beautiful that even the sight of her 'finest smocks and linen petticoats' being aired gave him a spring in his step.

The 'Art & Power' theme of this show looks at his closest confidants, while also tapping into Charles' need, on his return to England, to establish that his claim to the throne was unique, since it was God-given. This leads us to the propaganda quality of the fabulous portrait (my favourite royal likeness, anywhere) of Charles by John Michael Wright. In it, he looks regal and secure on the throne, wearing the Crown of State, holding the orb and sceptre made for his Coronation. It demands of the viewer that they forget the sitter's humiliating years in exile, and see him only for what he now is: God's anointed.

There is also a twinkle in the eyes, which underlines another key point about the man, not the ruler: Charles was the one monarch in the Stuarts' 111 years in power to possess unquestionable charm. When he entered London on his 30th birthday to bring about the Restoration, the capital was dizzy with excited celebration, the likes of which have probably not been seen before or since. But it couldn't last. Hamstrung by a Parliament that refused to grant the Crown sufficient money, Charles fell into the sort of questionable practices of hand-to-mouth monarchy that had helped to alienate many from his late father in the run-up to civil war. In 1662, Charles II secretly sold off the recently British port of Dunkirk. During the next five years he was in charge of the nation during a hat trick of calamities: the Plague, the Fire of London and the humbling of the Navy by a Dutch fleet that caught it off guard in the River Medway.

And Charles was certainly not a diligent king. Pepys noted in his diary of 1 May 1666, when England was at war with the Dutch, how the royal mind was not engaged in the matters of the day, at a council meeting: 'All I observed there was the silliness of the king, playing with his dog all the while and not minding his business.' At other times the distraction of his many lovers was the despair of his more conservative advisers.

The King felt he had shown all his best qualities as a young man. The period of his life that he was most proud of were the six weeks after the Royalists were finally extinguished as a fighting force, at the Battle of Worcester, on 3 September 1651. He had been 21 then, starting the day as King of Scotland, with hopes of soon retrieving his father's lost crown. By the evening, with his men massacred, captured or fleeing the battlefield, he was on the run for his life, declared guilty of high treason, the most wanted man in the land.
peaceful persuasion to advance the cause – unlike Emmeline Pankhurst’s suffragettes, who espoused a strategy of civil disobedience. Fawcett therefore remains a comparatively shadowy figure. Yet it was she who led the delegation to Lloyd George that secured women’s first, limited, voting rights in 1918, and she who continued to campaign until the vote was extended to all adult women in 1928. A hundred years later, with a self-confessed groper in the White House, abuse scandals rocking Parliament and the film and fashion industries, not to mention the enduring gender pay gap, it is clear that true sexual equality is still a long way off.

Indeed, the Turner Prize-winning artist Gillian Wearing, who has created the bronze of Fawcett, will be the first female sculptor to have her work in the square. ‘It takes courage and stoicism to see something through,’ she says. ‘I am so honoured to have been able to create a statue of Millicent, and to have her message be an encouragement to anyone who needs to stand up to injustice.’ Fawcett once declared that her movement was ‘like a glacier: slow-moving but unstoppable’; and if she can teach us anything today, it is the power of persistence.

www.fawcettsociety.org.uk
Fiction has always been the lifeblood of *Bazaar*. Thomas Hardy, Henry James, Virginia Woolf, Margaret Atwood and Ali Smith are just a handful of names on our glittering roster of past and present contributors. For the chance to follow in their footsteps, enter our annual short-story competition by submitting 2,500 words on the subject of ‘The Looking Glass’. The winner will receive a two-night stay in Amberley Castle, an inspiring 900-year-old retreat in rural Sussex; a selection of gifts from Smythson; and the chance to see their work published in *Harper’s Bazaar*. For details on how to enter, visit www.harpersbazaar.com/uk/shortstory2018.
TALKING POINTS

EXHIBITIONS

A SKETCH OF THE PAST

Alexandra Harris explores how St Ives captured the young Virginia Woolf’s imagination

When she started to write her memoirs in 1939, Virginia Woolf found that her childhood summers in St Ives were so close that she could hear the caw-caw of the rooks falling through ‘an elastic, gummy air’. She seemed to be ‘watching things happen’, as if she were there in the garden at Talland House, or lying ‘half asleep, half awake’ in the nursery upstairs, hearing the waves breaking ‘one, two, one, two, and sending a splash of water over the beach’.

This was not a past folded away, but a continuous present, which had been going on just under the surface all through her adult life. It contained her first and deepest feelings about loss, injustice, anger and fear. But the memory of certain moments in that garden could still, in her fifties, give her a physical sensation of warmth and repletion, ‘as if everything were ripe; humming; sunny’.

Her father Leslie Stephen had rented Talland House in 1881 as a holiday home for his growing family. They first went down when Virginia was six months old, and they returned for a good two months each summer for the next 12 years. Every corner acquired associations: there were the escallonia hedges through which a peering child could glimpse boats at sea, and a ‘look-out point’ between clumps of pampas grass from which she could watch the railway signals and give warning of a train coming in. There was the smell of fish in the narrow streets and the lights of the mackerel fleet in the evening, dancing on the water in the bay.

Recalling all this, Woolf wondered about the workings of memory itself. She could haul in images by the thousand, like pilchards tumbling and glistening in a net. But why do some experiences remain for life while others escape? ‘Why remember the hum of bees … and forget completely being thrown naked by father into the sea?’

The paths over the cliffs in all directions were etched on her mind by daily walking. Leslie Stephen favoured ambitious expeditions (he wrote a book about mountaineering in the Alps) and Virginia inherited his love of striding out in rain or sun for mile after mile. Tren Crom, Halestown Bog, Zennor, Gurnard’s Head – the very names gave her pleasure. She loved the wild-seeming remoteness of West Penwith, and its intricate marks of ancient habitation. She knew by heart the coffen stiles and stone drinking troughs: the markers by which to find her way home.

The last summer at Talland House was in 1894 – though the Stephens didn’t know it at the time. They pulled down the blinds and shut the big glass doors to the garden, expecting that they would be back as usual, playing cricket on the lawn again and running down the steep granite steps to the beach. But Virginia’s mother Julia died the following May, and Leslie would not take the children back to Cornwall without her.

In her novel To the Lighthouse, Woolf imagined the house standing empty as the seasons turned. Sea breezes nose their way into the rooms and move like ghosts over creaking floorboards. ‘What people had shed and left – a pair of shoes, a shooting cap, some faded skirts and coats in wardrobes – those alone kept the human shape and in the emptiness indicated how once they were filled and animated.’ Who narrates this? There is no one there.

Woolf wrote in fiction what did not happen in fact: she sent the father and his children back to the house after 10 years away. They open the doors and go into the garden. She gave them a boat trip across the bay that is the fulfilment of a plan deferred in the vanished summer before death and war broke in. They are quiet in the boat, tense and wary of each other; they eat their hard-boiled eggs and follow their own thoughts. Still, with just a nod and a few words, they reach a kind of resolution, a hard-won answer to a question asked long ago.

Virginia Woolf: an exhibition inspired by her writings is at Tate St Ives (www.tate.org.uk) from 10 February until 29 April.
INTERIORS

Compiled by SOPHIE BLOOMFIELD and MARISSA BOURKE

Rug, from a selection Luke Irwin
About £105

Antoinette Poisson at the Garnered

Cups, from a selection Romy Northover at the Garnered

Paint in Lilac Pink, £45
for 2.5l Edward Bulmer

Plate, £155
The Shop Floor Project

Vase, about £210
Leah Reena Goren

Wooden book, about £315
Leanne Shapton at John Derian Company

The Shop Floor Project

Serving plate, £195
The Shop Floor Project

Porcelain flower displays, about £4.485 each Vladimir Kanevsky

£215
The Shop Floor Project

£1,295
The Shop Floor Project

£1,100
Molly Mahon

Table, £587
Bazar Therapy at Made in Design

Painting, £345
Arabella Shand

£89/m
Lindsay Alker

Background fabric

£150
Claudia Rankin at Wilson Stephens and Jones

£150
Claudia Rankin at Wilson Stephens and Jones

Paint in Lilac Pink, £45
for 2.5l Edward Bulmer

Table, £125
Sophie MacCarthy at the Charleston Shop

£215
The Shop Floor Project

£70; base, £50, both Bloomsbury Interiors

£150
Claudia Rankin at Wilson Stephens and Jones

£215
The Shop Floor Project

£4,485 each
Vladimir Kanevsky

£1,295
Graham and Green

£150
Claudia Rankin at Wilson Stephens and Jones

£1,100
Molly Mahon

£150
Claudia Rankin at Wilson Stephens and Jones

£215
The Shop Floor Project

Painting, £345
Arabella Shand

£89/m
Lindsay Alker

Background fabric
The future revealed: your essential guide to FEBRUARY  By PETER WATSON

AQUARIUS
21 January – 19 February
An ambition close to your heart has been eclipsed by commitments you cannot ignore. And that’s fine. But perhaps you now need to revisit your original idea to see whether it can be revived. These days you’re in a much better position to make it work to your advantage and enjoy every minute of it.
LUCKY DAY 13th – all eyes are on you, in the best possible way.

PISCES
20 February – 20 March
People will question your belief in a topic that you find intriguing. And with Jupiter confronting three other planets, you may wonder whether your critics are right. Dig deep and find the conviction you need to persist with thoughts that promise to give new meaning to at least one area of your life. Never surrender.
LUCKY DAY 21st – by championing others you’ll win new fans.

ARIES
21 March – 20 April
Have faith in the fact that you and a partner or team of like-minded individuals can make a success of an innovative and somewhat daring idea. True, there will be times when you worry that you’re being overambitious. You must persevere though, if only to prove to yourself and others that you’re not a quitter.
LUCKY DAY 17th – a chance encounter opens up new avenues for you.

TAURUS
21 April – 21 May
Frustrating though it may be, you should rethink your career path or an obligation that’s losing its appeal. In mid-February a Solar Eclipse will illuminate territory in which you can make a valuable contribution and you’re not to be discouraged by doom merchants or those who have always been rather jealous of you.
LUCKY DAY 4th – you’ll assert yourself over a rival in love.

GEMINI
22 May – 21 June
Much as you might like to think long and hard about an idea you intend to pursue, you’ll soon be under pressure to make a start. You do in fact have the time and the resources required to make a good job of it. But if you procrastinate any longer, you’ll jeopardise the entire plan.
LUCKY DAY 27th – your sixth sense leads you to a generous windfall.

CANCER
22 June – 23 July
Sharing responsibilities and rewards with others often works well as far as you’re concerned. But when one person takes the lead, expecting everyone else to go along with it, don’t be afraid to object – pretty loudly. You’re being given a chance to show what you’re made of when threatened with being taken for granted.
LUCKY DAY 10th – indulging yourself will reap huge rewards.

LEO
24 July – 23 August
You’ve hoped that a difficult aspect of a close relationship would solve itself – you’re about to accept that this isn’t going to happen.
You’ve nothing to lose and everything to gain by voicing your concerns to the other person involved and initiating a candid discussion, no matter how painful or dangerous it might seem.
LUCKY DAY 25th – a boost to your wellbeing brightens your world.

VIRGO
24 August – 23 September
Facing up to partnership issues may not be easy, but it must be done. The best time to speak up, politely and intelligently, is between 10 and 18 February, when Venus, Mercury and the Sun all enter the relationships section of your chart. Your chances of achieving what you want will be greatly improved.
LUCKY DAY 3rd – your curiosity about someone new: pays off.

LIBRA
24 September – 23 October
Some areas of responsibility may seem overwhelming. But tell yourself you can manage them and achieve good outcomes rather than being afraid to take them on. Many of the people around you rely on you and respect you for all that you do. It’s a lot to live up to but it won’t defeat you.
LUCKY DAY 14th – someone springs an unforgettable surprise on you.

SCORPIO
24 October – 22 November
A means of treating yourself and someone special will appeal enormously – you must resist a tendency to spend far more than you can afford, in the process. By 17 February, when Mars tackles Neptune, planet of fantasy, you’ll be given a stern reminder that money doesn’t grow on trees. Avoid excess at all costs.
LUCKY DAY 15th – changes within the family bring a smile to your face.

SAGITTARIUS
23 November – 21 December
Having neglected facets of your home and personal life, you’ll want to make amends. It’s important not to promise yourself and others that everything will be put right overnight. Take a long view and plan carefully for a slow, effective return to normal. Your new-found commitment mustn’t be seen as a flash in the pan.
LUCKY DAY 7th – loved ones pamper you as rarely before.

CAPRICORN
22 December – 20 January
It’s tempting to ignore an instinct warning you that a financial or work-related arrangement isn’t totally secure. Unless you act soon, you’ll receive a sharp wake-up call from those losing patience with you for refusing to face facts. It won’t take much to put the situation right, but any further delay could be catastrophic.
LUCKY DAY 18th – an unexpected move offers long-awaited opportunities.
Look the picture of refined simplicity in PURE ELEGANCE

Sometimes the strongest way to make a style statement is to keep your look classic. What could offset a crisp white shirt more beautifully than a delicate necklace of pearls and diamonds, a pair of perfectly crafted drop earrings or an eternity ring evoking the power of enduring love?

That spirit of simple sophistication is at the heart of Bucherer Fine Jewellery, a Swiss house that has been creating exquisite treasures since its foundation in 1888.

Now, at last, the heritage brand has brought its collection to the UK with the launch of a long-awaited pop-up boutique in Selfridges offering unique jewellery made using the rarest of gemstones. Designed for creative, cosmopolitan women, each piece marries timeless opulence with contemporary chic – perfect for introducing a truly special touch to your everyday style.

As Coco Chanel declared, ‘The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud’ – and a century after the suffragettes first won the right to vote, we hear the voices of women who continue to speak out against injustice, while facing the persistent iniquities of the Hollywood carnival. Yet for all the inequalities that remain, change is coming, led by inspiring figures such as our cover star, Michelle Williams, who reveals her hopes for a better world. And, as always, we continue to be sustained by a belief in creativity – and welcome in the new season with a glorious fashion story, celebrating the spring collections.
THE SHOW MUST GO ON...

After four Oscar nominations, Michelle Williams is reaching new heights with her latest films: the musical *The Greatest Showman* and the dark story of the Getty kidnapping, *All the Money in the World*, for which she has been nominated for a Golden Globe. Here, she talks about Kevin Spacey, Harvey Weinstein and Donald Trump — and why she is fighting to create a better world for her daughter.

*By ERICA WAGNER*
THIS PAGE: Michelle Williams wears embellished cotton and feather dress, from a selection; velvet heels, £750, both Louis Vuitton. White gold, beryl, chalcedony and diamond bracelet, from a selection, Louis Vuitton Fine Jewellery. OPPOSITE: cotton and metal jacket, from a selection; matching top, £7,600, both Louis Vuitton.
Embroidered silk dress, from a selection, Louis Vuitton.
Pink gold and mother-of-pearl earrings, £1,030, Louis Vuitton Fine Jewellery
The last time Michelle Williams and I met, we were sitting in the incandescent light of a Broadway dressing-room...

...It was the spring of 2014, and she had just begun what would be a long run in Sam Mendes’ stunning production of Kander and Ebb’s classic musical *Cabaret*; with Alan Cumming reprising his mesmeric turn as the Berlin nightclub’s MC, Williams went out on a limb with her brittle, vulnerable interpretation of Sally Bowles, a role she made completely her own. ‘I’ve never worked so hard in my life,’ she says, recalling that time with some astonishment. ‘I did that for a year, it was insane! After that I really needed a change of pace, or I’d have collapsed. I yearned for something a little simpler.’

Two and a half years later, we’re meeting in New York again; this time for breakfast (avocado on toast and poached eggs, if you’re wondering) in a homely café in Brooklyn Heights. She’s in jeans, a neat striped shirt and a faux-fur jacket when she appears, having finished the school run: her daughter, Matilda, is 12 now, and over the course of our conversation it’s clear that family life is of paramount importance to her. Not that I’m surprised: I had already been struck by her practicality, her down-to-earth nature, her ability to combine startlingly emotional performance with a sense of groundedness. So when I ask her what drew her to *The Greatest Showman* – a musical life of PT Barnum, played by Hugh Jackman, that’s being touted as this year’s *La La Land* – her answer is delightfully straightforward. ‘I really like making things for
THIS PAGE: silk blouse with necktie, £2,500; cotton and metal waistcoat, from a selection; velvet heels, £750, all Louis Vuitton.

OPPOSITE: embellished cotton and feather dress, from a selection, Louis Vuitton

AGATA POSPIESZYNSKA
“That’s the real pity of abuse: it doesn’t stop with the event, the abuser becomes the centre of things.”

Everyone gets a day off. Everyone except Williams and the cast and crew of All the Money in the World. ‘But you know, OK – I’m still there.’

When the news broke about Spacey, she says, ‘every day seemed like such a long time. I’m checking my phone: what else is going on? It felt like the sky kept falling. Listen, it’s nothing compared to what people are going through who are the true victims of this situation, but it did put our world into constant flux.’ And then she learnt that Scott had taken the decision to put Plummer into the film – and everything changed. ‘I’ve gone from feeling so dejected, and so sad that this piece of work was going to be categorised under “do not touch, radioactive material” – to being so elated to be able to tell my daughter that… Captain von Trapp is going to save the day!’ How perfect. For while Plummer is rightly honoured for his many theatrical and film roles, to a 12-year-old, certainly, one in particular would stand out. ‘We watched The Sound of Music again last night,’ Williams says delightedly, ‘because she was like, “I want to see him, again, our hero.” Oh, it’s sublime. Julie Andrews is sublime.’ Of the whole situation she says: ‘Well, it’s exactly what you want to have happen. You want someone to stand up. You want to be rescued. You want someone to come in and say, “I’m going to help you with this. I see what’s happening and I want to be part of the solution.” And that’s what Ridley did and that’s what Christopher is doing.’

Scott’s swift decision to put Plummer into the film, to reshoot a whole sequence of scenes – work that will cost ‘north of $10 million’, according to Variety – is a reflection of the driving energy that animates the director, and that was clear to me when I interviewed him some years ago. Williams loved working with him. It was exhausting, she said, but in the best possible way. ‘You were on your feet all day, every day,’ she says. ‘You have a walking lunch, and there was no trailer to relax in, there was no moment when you weren’t out there, working. It’s such a tragic subject matter – but I had the time of my life. With Ridley – well, we just played,’ she says. Her eyes light up. ‘He said to me, “I hear that you like doing stage, so what I’m going to do is just set some cameras up. Just go out there and show me what you want to do, and let’s rehearse on film.” So it really was like being on stage. You were going to do something for the first time, live and in front of people, and you didn’t know what was going to happen. And I was so happy. He gave me absolute freedom, total trust. He’d throw me an idea, I’d take the ball and run with it – and then we’d move onto the next thing.’

When Michelle Williams agreed to meet me, there was a bit of

my kid!’ she says, laughing. ‘I love it, I love it. “I got a present for you, baby! I made a movie for you!” It’s what she and all of her friends can go see, and it gives me such delight,’ she says. ‘I also like staying relevant in her eyes, doing things that she has a connection to, so that I stay cool to her.’

Still only 37, Williams is an experienced performer. She cut her teeth over six seasons of the TV series Dawson’s Creek, back in the late 1990s and early 2000s; but her breakout role came in 2005, in Ang Lee’s film of Annie Proulx’s short story Brokeback Mountain – in which she appeared opposite her former partner, the late Heath Ledger, Matilda’s father. Her choices since have been adventurous, fascinating: from Charlie Kaufman’s Synecdoche, New York, to the three films she made with Kelly Reichardt: Wendy and Lucy, Meek’s Cutoff and Certain Women. In 2017 she was nominated for an Oscar for her performance in Kenneth Lonergan’s remarkable Manchester by the Sea; her portrayal of Randi Chandler – estranged wife of Casey Affleck’s Lee – was heartrending. She chooses her parts, she tells me, ‘by gut instinct. I read a script, I don’t have a lot of back and forth about it; I know instinctively whether it’s something I can imagine myself doing. I think, that’s the exact sort of challenge I want right now. If you don’t want to do something, there’s no talking yourself into it.’

This instinct has led her, for the most part, to projects that, while finding acclaim, have been on a smaller scale. So her choice to appear in Ridley Scott’s All the Money in the World was a change of gear. The film is based on the true story of the kidnapping of the billionaire J Paul Getty’s grandson in Italy in 1973 and the efforts to recover him. John Paul Getty III was stolen away by Italian gangsters at the age of 16; his grandfather, believed at the time to be the richest man in the world, refused to pay the ransom demanded. Williams plays Gail, the boy’s mother, who fought for his freedom. So far, so Hollywood – except that the oil baron was originally going to be played by Kevin Spacey, whose stellar career vanished overnight following allegations of sexual harassment last autumn.

Scott took the extraordinary decision to reshoot the scenes that had included Spacey while vowing not to delay the winter opening; the 88-year-old Christopher Plummer stepped into the role. When Williams and I meet she’s about to head to Atlanta to film the necessary scenes. ‘They just came and asked me to do it,’ she says, ‘and I said, “I’m there”. I asked when the reshoot would be happening; and they said, “Thanksgiving...”’ She smiles a little ruefully, as we both acknowledge the intrusion into family holiday time. After all, the whole country shuts down for Thanksgiving.
Silk blouse with necktie, £1,950; cotton dress, £5,000; velvet heels, £750, all Louis Vuitton.
THIS PAGE: embroidered feather dress, from a selection; leather heels, £685, both Louis Vuitton. Pink gold and mother-of-pearl ring (top), £2,550; white gold and diamond ring, £4,300, both Louis Vuitton Fine Jewellery. OPPOSITE: embroidered cotton and metal jacket, £13,500; silk dress, £5,300, both Louis Vuitton. White gold, pink spinel and diamond ring, from a selection, Louis Vuitton Fine Jewellery.
Embroidered cotton, metal and feather dress, from a selection, Louis Vuitton.

AGATA POSPIESZYNsKA
back and forth over just how much we should discuss what's going on in Hollywood – not only Kevin Spacey, of course, but the fall of Harvey Weinstein, the behaviour of Louis CK. But as Michelle says to me: 'In some ways it's the only conversation worth having.' On the other hand, 'it's like being revictimised, because once again they're the centre of attention. It's still about them. Because at the heart of every predator is a narcissist. That's the real pity of abuse: it doesn't stop with the event, the abuser becomes the centre of things for a very long time. So here we are now. But I think this has been a very moving time. I've had so many emotions. But,' she says forcefully, 'I draw it all back to Trump.' She goes on to make the connection with Trump's election absolutely clear: 'It's what precipitated all these women coming forward. Because this is no longer something we are able to work with, to manage. This is unmanageable, and we can't take it any more. So I think that's why all this is happening now. And so, if that's what it took, then I'll be grateful for it. For it feels like something big is happening.'

Williams is a very private person. Her relationship with Heath Ledger, and Ledger's death a decade ago, mean that she knows what it's like to be stalked by the tabloids; she has no interest, she says – and I believe her – in putting her life out in public; but the world is a different place now. I'm realising little by little that by being an actress you have a platform. I never wanted it. I would rather not say anything, ever, at any time. But there's this strange opportunity I have, and so I struggle with these two polarities. The desire for a very private, quiet, life, and the fact that I have the opportunity to say something that more than one person might hear.

The night that Donald Trump was elected, she says, she – like so many people – put her little girl to bed with a smile on her face, both of them confident that they'd wake to the first female President of the United States. When morning came, and she broke the news to Matilda, her daughter wept – and was then very angry with her mother. 'I think in the moment she realised that everything I've told her, everything I led her to believe, was not true. We are not equal, we cannot do or be anything we want to be. She and I have been in a quiet rage ever since, and I think the same is true for every woman I know personally.' Yet she realises she is in a privileged position. 'I do think it's carrying much further than the entertainment industry. People are looking at this and saying, “Maybe I can advocate for some change in my industry.” That was one of the reasons I worried it was becoming a little bit a “Hollywood” problem, and not framed as something wider. That's the conversation I'm most interested in having.'

Our toast and eggs have by now been polished off. She's got a doctor's appointment in an hour, she tells me; then she'll be preparing to start filming her scenes with Christopher Plummer – whom she's yet to meet. 'How long after I meet him do I have to wait before I can ask him if we can sing together and record on my iPhone for my daughter…?' she asks me. Her voice has gone all fan-girl. 'As soon as I told Matilda it was happening, her first question was, “Can you make a video on your iPhone for me?” I've been shameless in the past – I have sat next to Selena Gomez, and I'm like, “Come here, come here, you have to talk into the phone!” When I met Lin-Manuel Miranda, again, totally shameless. “Here's my list of requests for you.” They're just heroes in our household. So, I'm hoping that Christopher Plummer is open to a duet with me. I mean – I'm well aware of his other work, and I value him in many, many ways… and yet! I have to ask!' We're both laughing now. She seems like someone at home in her own skin. I ask her whether she's seeing anyone at the moment; she gives me a mockingly stern look. 'I'm happy,' she grins. 'What else can I say? I'm happy. Everyone's happy.' I poke at her a little harder. Is there someone…? ‘Hey, let's not define this story by a man again! … I'm happy – and happy to live without defining myself by a relationship.'

When I ask what advice she might give to young women coming up behind her in Hollywood, her reply is brilliantly practical – and applies, to my mind, to any woman in any industry. It's nothing to do with what you wear or how you behave. 'Save your money,' she says, bluntly. 'Really. Save your money so that you have the ability to live an independent life. I've always tried to live a small life, so I can do the things I love to do. The things you love – they don't pay you. And you have to face the fact that money is an undeniable part of life. I recognised that I'm going to get older; and I want to take care of myself no matter what, and I want to take care of my child. I feel proud to be able to provide for my family. So keep your life as small as possible and do what you want. My best friend once gave me a bracelet with an Emily Brontë quote – I'll walk where my own nature would be leading’ – the only thing you have to offer to the world that's original is yourself. So do your own thing. Write your own song, play your own piece of music, sing your own weird little tune. That's what's most valuable.'

She's absolutely right. Listen to Michelle Williams. She knows a thing or two about singing her own tune.

All the Money in the World’ is released on 5 January. ‘The Greatest Showman’ is out now.
Escape with us into the reverie of a fashion fairy tale, wherein our three heroines slip into the most beautiful looks from the spring/summer 2018 collections.
MIU MIU, FENDI & LANVIN

Clockwise from right: Clara wears lace shirt, £860; cotton vest, £145; macramé top, £860; headband, £85, all Miu Miu. Maria wears metal-embellished crepe dress, £3,715, Lanvin. Estelle wears sequined dress, £6,890, Fendi.
Clockwise from bottom left: Clara wears lamé pyjama top, £3,000; matching bottoms, £890; metal, crystal and ribbon choker, £280. Maria wears embroidered sequined dress, from a selection. Estelle wears embroidered tulle playsuit, £5,600; pleated tulle skirt, £3,600; leather boots, £1,250; leather and glass choker, £380; matching bracelets, from £340.
From left: Clara wears polyamide top, £895; wool jumper, £985. Maria wears silk scarf, £515; silk dress, £2,200; tights boots, £2,020; metal earring (sold singly), £410.

Estelle wears jersey dress, £1,930; tights boots, £1,570.
From left: Maria wears knitted cotton dress, £2,060; short-sleeve top, £1,690; glass necklace, £920. Clara wears knitted cotton dress, £2,620; embroidered crepe shirt, £2,530; glass and calf-skin earrings, £660.
From left: Estelle wears polyamide dress, about £5,780. Clara wears polyamide cardigan, about £3,910; matching skirt, from a selection; kid-skin boots, £1,260. Maria wears polyamide jumper, about £1,275; matching skirt, about £1,415; calf-leather boots, £1,310.
From left: Maria wears cotton shirt, £510; silk dress, £1,720; leather flats, from a selection. Estelle wears brocade top, £695; jersey dress, £1,380; socks, £140; leather shoes, from a selection.

PRADA
ERIK MADIGAN HECK
From left: Clara wears georgette dress, £4,000; leather belt, £200; leather boots, £750. Maria wears satin and lace dress, £3,890. Boots, as before.
From left: Maria wears silk tunic, £740. Estelle wears cotton jumpsuit, £1,700

RALPH LAUREN COLLECTION

ERIK MADIGAN HECK
MULBERRY

From left: Clara wears organza dress, £870. Leather heels, £475.

Estelle wears jacquard coat, £2,290; leather heels, £435
From left: Maria wears embroidered suede dress, £10,800.
Estelle wears embroidered suede dress, £7,515

BOTTEGA VENETA

ERIK MADIGAN HECK
From left: Clara wears sequined crepe dress, £6,000.

Estelle wears silk chiffon shirt, £845; matching skirt, £1,000; leather sandals, from a selection. Maria wears cotton shirt, £600; sequined silk georgette trousers, £4,550; leather belt, £300
From left: Clara wears wool crepe dress, about £1,950.
Estelle wears georgette dress, about £3,200; brass ring, about £195. Maria wears crepe and satin dress, about £7,035.
From top: Clara wears silk dress, £3,185, Valentino.

Maria wears lamé top, £1,060; vinyl jacket, £3,095; cotton trousers, £875, all Valentino.

Leather heels, Valentino Garavani
From left: Clara wears embroidered cotton jacket, £13,500; silk shirt, £1,700; silk shorts, £300. Estelle wears embroidered cotton coat, £13,500; silk shirt, £2,000; silk shorts, £300.
GUCCI

Sequined silk satin dress, £10,800; jersey T-shirt, £345
Jersey dress (worn on top), about £555; jersey dress with organza tassels, about £4,380; brass and pearl earrings, about £965

CÉLINE

Jersey dress (worn on top), about £555; jersey dress with organza tassels, about £4,380; brass and pearl earrings, about £965
From left: Maria wears taffeta shirt, £720; matching trousers, £620; faux-leather sandals, £675. Clara wears taffeta dress, £2,160; silk pumps, £540.

Estelle wears cotton shirt, £565; matching skirt, £530; faux-leather sandals, as before.

STELLA McCARTNEY
SAINT LAURENT BY ANTHONY VACCARELLO

From left: Clara wears chiffon shirt, £1,620; lamé shorts, £1,280.

Maria wears lamé playsuit, £2,220; leather belt, £325
Knitted wool dress, £4,675

CALVIN KLEIN 205W39NYC
ALEXANDER McQUEEN

Gold-studded knit dress, £6,540; gold and crystal earrings, £1,195;
gold and crystal cuffs, from £1,195; embellished leather boots, from £1,290
From left: Maria wears embroidered metallic lace dress, £6,230.
Estelle wears embroidered metallic lace dress, to order

CHLOÉ

From left: Maria wears embroidered metallic lace dress, £6,230.
Estelle wears embroidered metallic lace dress, to order
From left: Maria wears velvet beret, £360; sequined embroidered jumper, £4,450; embroidered silk organza skirt, £1,400; Plexiglas earrings, £480; metal and Plexiglas ring, £660. Clara wears gauze and tulle jacket, £1,900; embroidered sequin and patent top, £5,000; embroidered metal and crystal earrings, £460

GIORGIO ARMANI

ERIK MADIGAN HECK
From left: Maria wears silk organza jacket, £1,015; matching skirt, £560; jersey top, £310; jersey skirt (worn underneath), £225. Clara wears organza silk mix jacket, £1,535; matching skirt, £560. Estelle wears silk organza jumpsuit, £1,085; jersey top, £225; leather heels, £445.
CHANEL

From left: Maria wears jersey swimsuit, £735; muslin sarong, £1,160; metal and glass choker (just seen), from a selection. Estelle wears muslin dress, £10,655; metal and resin earrings, £830; metal and glass necklace, £1,720. Clara wears embroidered satin shirt, £7,885; cotton jacket, £4,965; matching skirt, £3,055; earrings, as before

ERIK MADIGAN HECK
VERSACE

Silk shirt, £875; matching skirt, £1,075; leggings, £555; silk scarf; leather heels, both from a selection
From left: Clara wears chiffon shirt, about £1,205; Lycra leggings, about £530; raffia and leather heels, about £845; wood, resin and crystal earrings, £745; crystal bracelet, £895. Maria wears chiffon dress, about £3,355; silk belt, about £175; patent heels, about £710; crystal earrings, from a selection; crystal necklace, £1,500; crystal crown (in hand), £1,900; crystal bracelet, £1,300
RALPH & RUSSO

Embellished chiffon dress, from a selection;
patent leather heels, £825
Clockwise from below: Clara wears embellished silk dress, from £850; embellished tulle T-shirt, £225; metal bracelet, £75; leather and glitter heels, £275. Maria wears embellished tulle dress, £2,000; leather boots, £450, both Coach x Keith Haring. Metal bracelet, £75; metal ring, from £115. Estelle wears embellished dress, £650; boots, as before, both Coach x Keith Haring. Metal bracelet, £75.

COACH

See Stockists for details. Hair by Seb Basche At Calliste Agency.
Make-up by Florrie White at Bryant Artists, using Marc Jacobs Beauty.
Film director Joshua Logan and Jane Fonda before a Warner Bros cocktail party in 1959.
Coco’s ‘big break’ audition is in the talent scout’s flat. Through the grainy blue sepia of the camera lens, the girl’s face changes from eagerness to incredulity after the man insists she prove she’s a serious artist by removing her blouse. Silently crying in humiliation when she realises the con, she complies, as the pseudo-pornographer coos her on.

Irene Cara’s performance as Coco Hernandez in the 1980 film *Fame* was seared into the psyche of every Hollywood hopeful, but few women survive showbiz without their own ‘Coco experience’. Mine came courtesy of the middle-aged man who’d just shown me around the Disney lot where he was producing a wholesome family comedy. We had met in provincial Washington State, during his brief location shoot there, which I covered for my school newspaper. When I travelled to Los Angeles for college auditions – I wanted to continue my classical-theatre studies – my mother was relieved I’d have a local contact. Now he was grabbing me, forcing his tongue into my mouth. I was 15.

Fortunately, I had two advantages on my side: he wasn’t big enough to overpower me, and more importantly, I harboured no fantasies of Hollywood stardom, so my repulsion was unequivocal.

My story is unremarkable; so par-for-the-course for women globally as to lie forgotten for 15 years. But when Hollywood’s dam of silence cracked last autumn with the Weinstein revelations, it flooded so many of us with memories, spiked cortisol levels and long-swallowed anger. Tippi Hedren was one of those who spoke out, comparing Weinstein’s behaviour with the aggression, intimidation and sexual harassment she suffered at the hands of Alfred Hitchcock during the filming of *The Birds* and *Marnie*. ‘Everyone talks about this like it’s something new,’ she said. ‘It isn’t…’

And it may be that the deeply troubling link between control and desire, menace and beauty, and the abuse of innocence has always been inherent in the Hollywood system. Silver-screen starlets entered the homes and dreams of little girls long before televisions; coloured, printed and distributed as paper dolls in booklets of cut-out costumes, with fold-over tabs to keep them in place.
Inexpensive to produce, these marketing toys were easy to dress and undress; to drop into myriad scenarios until they bent, tore or fell apart; then cheap to replace with the new starlet-of-the-moment. Hollywood’s studio system treated living, breathing ingenues much the same, controlling not only their artistic opportunities, but dictating their social lives.

“They told me who to go out with, what to wear; they had somebody do my hair, they arranged parties for me to go to,’ Jane Fonda tells me, when I call to ask her about working under the studio system. ‘I was 21, and I just thought, well, this was the way it was done; it’s normal.’ It’s strange we’ve not yet met in person despite having many acquaintances in common. Friends had started calling me ‘Hanoi Jane’ after I went to Vietnam in 2006 to conduct research for my play about war veterans. I considered this a compliment, for vicious public criticism did not silence Fonda’s voice then. Nor does it today; she calls it as she sees it.

To begin with, Fonda was under contract with the director-producer Joshua Logan, who had ‘loaned her out’ to Warner Bros for her first film, Tall Story (1960). ‘Then Josh tried to sell my contract to [the producer and agent] Ray Stark. I felt like chattel.’ Instead, Fonda decided to purchase her own $250,000 contract over a period of years. ‘I never wanted to make another movie, but I had to, to make money to buy my freedom.’

When Jack Warner saw her first wardrobe test, he insisted she be issued with ‘falsies’. Subsequently, Logan criticised her ‘cute’ nose as unsuitable for dramatic roles, and helpfully suggested she have her back teeth extracted, jaw broken and reset, to bring angularity to what he regarded as her unfortunately round face. ‘Young girls are told, “You’re going to have to lose 30 lbs or we’re not going to hire you.” Or “You should get a nose job” – it goes on still, now, today!’ Fonda’s anger is palpable. “And get fake boobs” – they’re told to get breast implants!

Shirley Knight, who received her first Oscar nomination aged 24 for The Dark at the Top of the Stairs (1960), was similarly under contract with Warner Bros when it staged a ‘picnic at the beach’ date for her with the actor Sai Mineo. The studio was eager to counter rumours of Mineo’s homosexuality. Knight, a wholesome, Midwestern beauty, provided the perfect photo opportunity. ‘I now realise I was lucky,’ she tells me over coffee and biscuits in her home in northwestern Los Angeles. Such staged encounters between actors didn’t always end benignly. Many professional introductions required meals or evenings out, and the motives for each participant could contrast dangerously. Though the public is dumfounded by recent accounts of isolated meetings set up in homes or hotel rooms, in Hollywood it has always been thus. When I spoke to the star of The Bounty Hunter, Dolores Dorn, she told me that when she was 19, after a director had introduced her to an important movie executive, he expected a quid pro quo, and forced his way into her home. ‘He said, “I’ll break your pretty nose if you’re not quiet,” and God help me, I didn’t want to be disfigured so I gave up and stopped fighting.’ ‘You owed me,’ the director declared, as he walked out of the door. ‘I don’t recommend getting raped,’ says Dorn, still beautiful at 83, shaking her head at the memory.

The attack made Dorn resolve to leave Los Angeles, and she ended up in New York, studying acting under the renowned Stanislavsky Method teacher Lee Strasberg. Shirley Knight was her classmate, and Marilyn Monroe sat watching from the back row, bare-faced, hair hidden in a scarf.

The young Jane Fonda also observed Monroe there. ‘You can only understand Marilyn if you understand childhood sexual abuse,’ she says bluntly, contrasting Monroe’s ‘existential fragility’ with the strength of Katharine Hepburn (Fonda’s co-star in the film On Golden Pond). ‘So Marilyn was vulnerable to being objectified. I mean, Marilyn said… she spent a lot of time on her knees, making it happen. Hepburn would never have had to do that.’

Nor was Fonda easy to exploit. By the late 1970s, she says, ‘I was fed up with the kind of jobs I was being offered.’ She started developing and producing projects that reflected her passions. ‘When I think of the movies I made… like Coming Home and 9 to 5 and The China Syndrome – it’s unthinkable today that these movies would be made by studios.’ This despite the fact that the workplace sexual harassment so wittily mocked in 9 to 5 remains more relevant than ever.

Partly, Hollywood’s problem is the gender imbalance in the industry at all levels, from the lowest-rung technical assistant up to studio heads, that contributes to the abuse of women working off-screen. A film-editor friend let me see a secret Facebook group on which female crew forewarn each other of harassers. One post, titled ‘Name Your Weinstein’, goes on for page after page; some accusations are just a name, others go into detail about the assaults they suffered.

Depressingly, almost unbelievably, it would seem that equal opportunities for women working in film have not merely stalled, but actually regressed. A century ago, in the silent-film era, Carl Laemmle’s Independent Moving Pictures Company, later to become Universal, employed a significant percentage of women directors, producers and screenwriters, and encouraged actresses to create content, including the star and future mogul Mary Pickford, who co-founded United Artists. However, the shift to more expensive ‘talkies’ added economic risk that required corporate investors, marginalising female artists.

Another brief surge towards better representation came during World War II. ‘All the women were starring in the movies, and
Tippi Hedren and Alfred Hitchcock at the Cannes Film Festival in 1963
Gender slurs in children’s films are more than twice as likely to be directed at female characters

The reason is not hard to find: female portrayal on screen is usually determined by men. According to Davis’ analysis, in 2016 men took 68 per cent of writing credits, 84 per cent of producing jobs and 92 per cent of directing positions. ‘In our quest to undo all of this gender bias,’ says Davis, ‘it helps to realise the powerful impact that popular culture had on creating it. Right now, it’s showing us virtually as second-class citizens.

This dominant male narrative was one of the main reasons I left acting for writing: I had tired of playing the supporting accessory to some guy’s role. (As my friend Tess Harper, who was Oscar-nominated for Crimes of the Heart, peremptorily joked: ‘The only reason women were in movies was to prove that the bromance – between the leading man and the sidekick – wasn’t gay.’)

I also took the decision to work professionally under my initials, rather than my first name: the reluctance to employ female writers on the American stage and screen meant I had to de-sex myself to get my scripts through the door. (Why couldn’t my mother have named me Alex?) My playwriting has been described as ‘masculine’ and ‘masculine’, which, although intended as compliments, is a not-so-subtle professional cue that stories are more powerful and commercial when seemingly male.

Yet Geena Davis’ view is ultimately optimistic. ‘Media can be the cure for the problem that it’s creating,’ she says. ‘We can create the future, through what people see. And then life will imitate art.’

Certainly, the tide appears to be turning at last. In response to the Weinstein scandal, the producer Kathleen Kennedy (who is spearheading the Star Wars franchise) has demanded the immediate formation of a commission to address harassment and exploitation in the industry. ‘The misogyny that is the context for this inhumanity will continue unless there is a decisive, industry-wide, institutional response that legislates change rather than hopes for it to happen,’ she says. ‘We should have acted long ago.’

Reese Witherspoon, Oprah Winfrey and Jane Fonda are among the women to whom Kennedy has turned for advice. Fonda, and later Winfrey, paved the way: forming production companies to develop and champion female-driven content for film and television. ‘There are cracks and fissures in the patriarchal structure of Hollywood that we have to step into now,’ Fonda says. ‘But we should be working at every level, including the independent media where more subtle, intricate, interesting, penetrating stories can be woven. That’s not where the power is, but that’s where the narrative is. And if you leave women’s voices out of the narrative, then everyone loses.’
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Pollution advances the aging process. Our breakthrough Anti-Pollution formulas use revolutionary botanical ingredients to form an instant barrier against the damaging effects of urban pollutants*.

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The demand for conventional plastic surgery is falling, as more of us opt for non-invasive procedures to achieve natural-looking results.

BY AVRIL MAIR
Sitting front row at the Paris couture shows is an extraordinary spectacle. Firstly, the clothes: a fantasy of femininity crafted with an almost otherworldly precision, beyond price or reason. Then, of course, the clients: again, a fantasy of femininity crafted… You get the picture. Nothing displays the changing face of beauty quite so literally as a room full of the world’s richest women.

Cosmetic surgery used to mean taking a scalpel to sagging skin, cutting and hauling to make the face smaller, tighter. You see those women here, the so-called ‘social X-rays’ first identified by Tom Wolfe in the 1980s, for whom a facelift from the right surgeon is still an important signifier of status. But then, in the mid-2000s, doctors started to understand that what makes us look older is a loss of volume, and the way to reverse that is to actually make the face fatter. This is where fillers came in: the fullness of a youthful face, liberally injected into an ageing one. Those women who have enthusiastically embraced what the beauty industry calls ‘volumising’ are also on the front row, with their peachy, plumped-up cheeks and plush lips (not to mention pneumatic breasts) on otherwise slender frames. There’s a clear aesthetic shift visible between the different generations.

The couture shows are an extreme example, but what you see there closely correlates with what’s happening in the industry at large. ‘Surgery is ageing badly!’ says Dr Jean-Louis Sebagh, perhaps Europe’s best-known cosmetic doctor. ‘When I started my career as a facial plastic surgeon three decades ago, dealing with the ageing process was essentially limited to facelifts – as in using the knife – and mainly concerned patients over the age of 50. Advances since then have been amazing.’

Developments in science have resulted in a whole new arsenal of aesthetic weaponry: Botox, collagen injections, hyaluronic-acid fillers, fat-transfer treatments, plasma and growth-factor injections, plus laser for pigmentation, radio frequency for tightening, red light for brightening and ultrasound therapy to shorten facial muscles, all delaying any need for invasive work. Statistics back this up: the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons recently reported a 40 per cent drop in cosmetic surgeries during 2016, the lowest level in almost a decade. According to Dr Michael Prager, widely regarded as one of the best in the business when it comes to non-surgical treatments, the reason for this ‘could really be the fact that a lot of patients started 15 to 20 years ago, possibly with Botox and fillers, and they have not progressed to surgery because these things prevent ageing more than assumed. Before, it was about rather crude and bulky injections, but now the products are
more refined and our understanding of facial ageing is much more advanced.’

The rise of ‘no-knife surgery’ is a definite trend, says Dr Paul Charlson, the president of the British College of Aesthetic Medicine. ‘There’s a greater interest among plastic surgeons nowadays in non-surgical techniques – they don’t want to have to chop someone up. There are some things that you can’t achieve with aesthetic medicine – lifting jowls, for example, and fixing those lines around the side of the mouth – but it’s extraordinary what you can do for everything else.’

‘Volume replacement is what has really changed in the last few years,’ says Dr Frances Prenna Jones, whose discreet Mayfair clinic is in the black book of most beauty editors. ‘People used to say, ‘I am not having filler, there’s no way.’ Now they understand what it really means – that you don’t have to have puffed-up lips or puffed-up cheekbones.’ As new products are released to the market, the best cosmetic doctors have developed a kind of bespoke facelift that uses injections of hyaluronic acid to restore symmetry and proportion, reshaping the jawline and raising the cheekbones. This is usually combined with a little Botox, plus a cocktail of laser treatment to improve tone, texture and elasticity.

You have to trust the doctor here, obviously: the most skilled will do the kind of subtle refinements that don’t make you look younger, exactly – the pursuit of youth is always doomed to dissatisfaction when it comes to beauty – but more like the version of yourself you see in the mirror after two weeks’ holiday and about 12 hours of sleep.

Of course, if you embrace these cosmetic procedures, it takes commitment. It takes time, money and energy. It takes what medical practitioners call ‘proactive maintenance’, which means regular upkeep, sometimes every few months. It also takes self-awareness to know when to stop. That can be the trouble with this stuff: it comes down to judgement and taste. We’ve all seen the overfilled celebrity face – not younger, just ‘done’. What looks flawless on Instagram doesn’t always translate to real life. Who can point the reason where enough is enough, when what constitutes ‘too much’ is an entirely subjective matter? ‘A lot of patients are paranoid that people will think they have had work,’ says Charlson. ‘Part of what I do now is avoiding that. The truth is that most women want to look fresher, rather than different; probably over 90 per cent don’t actually want to appear altered. We can make you look better, not odd.’ As Prenna Jones says, ‘The biggest compliment for me is when patients say that their friends comment on how well they look – and yet they have no idea that they’ve had any treatments.’

There is still something that stops us being honest about the things we do to ourselves in the name of self-improvement – even though more of us are doing it than ever. Actresses and models like to keep it secret, to look an interviewer right in the eye and demur at the suggestion, confessing to having tried something or other once, but never again. Maybe when the time is right, they mutter, talking of their love for a certain cosmetic doctor’s skin cream but nothing else, oh no. For the sake of sisterhood, I’ll be more upfront: as a former beauty columnist, I’ve tried countless procedures, from the weird to the wonderful via the undignified and excruciating; from the truly life-changing to things that defy both common sense and medical credibility. Botox, Restylane, Perlane, Juvéderm, Sculptra, mesotherapy, platelet-replacement therapy, intense-pulsed-light treatment, chemical peels, laser liposuction, breast injections, lip implants… you name it, I tried it. And what I learnt is this: perspective is everything. Going into any kind of aesthetic or cosmetic surgery thinking you will turn into someone else – someone younger – will only lead to disappointment. Yes, you can find improvement. But at the end of the day, you’re only ever a new version of the old you.

We’ve all seen the overfilled celebrity face – not younger, just ‘done’.
...what really works?

The most effective skincare solutions for a firming and plumping effect

- **LiftDynamic Eye Treatment**, £60
  - Shiseido

- **Drench**, £12
  - Esho

- **Advanced Filler Derma-Restructuring Anti-Wrinkle Cream**, £60
  - Teoxane

- **Capture Youth Age-Delay Advanced Creme**, £72
  - Dior

- **Capture Youth Plump Filler**, £75
  - Dior

- **Le Lift Firming Anti-Wrinkle Massage Accessory**, £35
  - Chanel

- **Inhibit High Definition Patches**, £350 for four
  - Natura Bissé

- **G20 Radiance Peel**, £54
  - DCL

- **Alpha Beta Medi-Spa Peel**, £35.50 for four
  - Dr Dennis Gross

- **Perfectionist Pro Rapid Firm + Lift Treatment**, £85
  - Estée Lauder

- **Double Tenseur Instant & Long-term**, £115
  - Sisley

- **Wrinkle Repair Essence**, £145
  - Sensai
Caudalie Premier Cru products, clockwise from right: The Eye Cream, £49 for 15ml. The Serum, £90 for 30ml. The Cream, £90 for 50ml
Seeking to improve a well-loved product is a brave and often risky move in the beauty industry. When Caudalie’s founder Mathilde Thomas looked to relaunch and extend the French brand’s bestselling Premier Cru collection however, she knew she had an ace up her sleeve.

The expanded range is the product of a five-year collaboration with Dr David Sinclair, professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School. The newly improved cream is joined by an accompanying serum, both of which are designed to help smooth wrinkles, firm and enhance the texture of the skin, and even out skin tone.

“Our research focused on mitochondria,” explains Thomas. “This “energy centre” at the heart of each cell produces energy molecules necessary for the production of youth compounds. However, between the ages of 20 and 65, our mitochondrial mass declines in size and quantity by 50 per cent.”

Put simply, as we age our cells contain less and less energy, meaning that their capacity to benefit from the active ingredients in skincare products is reduced.

“The Caudalie and Harvard Medical School teams succeeded, for the first time, in combining Vine Resveratrol – which offers a firming, anti-wrinkle action – with natural betaine, which hydrates the skin,” says Thomas.

After treatment with this patented complex, Vinergy, mitochondrial mass increased by 98 per cent in terms of size and quantity.

“Since the skin has access to more energy, it produces more collagen and more easily absorbs anti-ageing skincare-treatment molecules,” says Thomas.

The new water-like serum contains 95 per cent natural-origin ingredients and, when used in conjunction with the Premier Cru cream, proved to be up to seven times more effective in reducing wrinkles. A scientific breakthrough nurtured by the minds of Harvard University and born in the vineyards of Bordeaux – now that’s how to improve a classic.

For more information on Premier Cru, visit www.caudalie.com.

Rolling back the years

Beauty’s new weapon against skin ageing originated in the vineyards of Bordeaux – and is backed by Harvard Medical School

Since the skin has access to more energy, it produces more collagen

MORE STARS OF THE PREMIER CRU RANGE

THE RICH CREAM
This velvety cream has been reformulated to give an instant softening effect to even the driest of skins.

THE EYE CREAM
Enriched with hyaluronic acid and peptides to combat puffiness and dark circles, the Eye Cream contains pearlescent micro-pigments to immediately illuminate the area.

THE PRECIOUS OIL
Formerly known as The Elixir, this can be used with or without other products, and can be utilised to boost the efficacy of your day or night cream when skin is affected by a particularly dry or cold climate.
PEACE AT LAST

Sleep is still key for a glowing complexion, but a new generation of skincare can mimic the effects of a restful night. By SIÂN RANSCOMBE

If you toss and turn in bed, wake up at the slightest sound, or struggle to drop off at all; if you have tried – and failed – with everything from warm baths and lavender sprays to special pillows and soothing soundtracks, it may be some small consolation to know that you are not alone. On average, British adults sleep for 6.8 hours a night – nearly an hour short of the 7.7 hours we tend to feel we need, according to a recent survey by the Royal Society for Public Health.

This epidemic has far-reaching effects. A 2016 study suggested that tired workers are costing the UK economy £40 billion a year. ‘When you’re sleep-deprived, you’re working with the equivalent of an IQ loss of between five and eight points,’ explains the neuroscientist Dr Tara Swart. ‘The brain’s cleansing process takes between seven and eight hours, and you ideally need to be in bed for nine. This system cleans out the toxins built up during the day and also gradually throughout your life.’

But it is not only the brain that is affected by a lack of rest. ‘The harder your brain has to work due to lack of sleep, the fewer resources your body has to help other organs like the skin,’ says Swart. ‘It’s little wonder, then, that a restless night is often visible on the face: the term ‘beauty sleep’ is founded in scientific fact.

‘Changes brought about by sleep deprivation are similar to those observed during ageing,’ says the dermatologist Dr Stefanie Williams. ‘Sufficient sleep is important for the nightly peak of the anti-ageing growth hormone. The effects of a suboptimal GH level are similar to chronic stress, with an increase of micro-inflammation in the body and skin, which can contribute to collagen degradation.’

According to Williams, no cream can replace sleep – but select ingredients will certainly help. ‘I recommend using vitamin A derivatives (retinoids), peptides and growth factors at night,’ she says. ‘Retinoids are among the best-investigated skincare ingredients and, ideally, everyone over 30 should be using one to support collagen production and a healthy dermal matrix.’

Meanwhile, there could be good news for insomniacs. As more research into sleeping patterns is carried out – last October, three American scientists won a Nobel Prize for their work on circadian rhythms – we can expect smarter night-time skincare.

‘Research has shown that animals without normal circadian rhythms in skin stem cells age prematurely, which suggests that human skin stem cells have cyclical patterns in order to protect against cellular damage,’ says the dermatologist Dr Ronald Moy. ‘The recent Nobel Prize win is especially relevant as we dig deeper into our understanding of DNA repair and damage.’ While such new skincare may not be able to bestow a refreshing nine-hour slumber, it should certainly offset the visible damage of a disturbed night; which means we can all rest easier.

1 Advanced Night Repair Eye Concentrate Matrix, £49, Estée Lauder. 2 Anew Reversalist Infinite Effects Night Treatment Cream, £28, Avon. 3 DNA Night Renewal, £82, DNA Renewal. 4 Peptide4 Night Recovery Cream-Oil, £49, Elemis. 5 Retinol 1 TR Vitamin A Renewal Cream, £29, Medik8. 6 Beauty Sleep Power Peel, £54, Alpha-H. 7 Le Lift Anti-Wrinkle Skin Recovery Sleep Mask, £80, Chanel. 8 Night Switch Retinol 1%, £28, Lixir. 9 C Scape High Potency Night Booster 3G, £108, DCL. 10 Supreme Night Secret Face & Neck Cream, £195, Dr Sebagh
Faithful clients of Dr Michael Prager have been putting their trust in the German-born, internationally educated cosmetic doctor for nearly 20 years. At his Wimpole Street clinic, Prager has become known as the man to see for a rejuvenated face and body; using a signature lightness of touch in his treatments, he stays true to his belief that aesthetic cosmetics should make a person look better, but not different.

This spring, Dr Prager will open his long-awaited new clinic, this time located in the heart of Knightsbridge. The new site will be a state-of-the-art one-stop shop for clients, offering gentle aesthetic treatments for face and body.

‘Our new clinic isn’t about glitz and bling, or blinding clients with science,’ says Dr Prager. ‘For us, treatments have to be organic in nature, as well as effective. The design of the building reflects our core beliefs in quality, precision and aesthetics, albeit combined with a rebellious streak.’

A team of expert therapists will work with Dr Prager, offering some of the most effective treatments modern aesthetics has to offer. The team has been carrying out gentle aesthetic facial treatments for years, but body treatments are a more recent addition. Along with these body-contouring and -tightening therapies, Dr Prager will also be carrying out his range of signature facials at the new location.

Meanwhile, Dr Prager will be launching his own skincare range in the summer, for the first time enabling clients to complement his in-clinic treatments with an at-home regime.

‘This range has been in the making for quite some time, and is a focused selection of products aimed at protecting the user from the perils of living in a high-UV environment,’ says Dr Prager. ‘The products are based on natural ingredients, enhanced and tweaked for optimum efficacy, yet gentle and free from plastics, silicones and chemicals. Products must be efficient and protective, without compromising on health and luxury.’

Dr Michael Prager Face + Body will open this spring at 52 Beauchamp Place, London SW3. For more information, ring 020 7323 3660, or visit www.drmichaelprager.com. Follow Dr Prager on Instagram: @dr_michael_prager.
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Odysseys through Nordic snowscapes, from the silvered frost-clad forests and Northern Lights of Sweden to Iceland’s volcanic mountains and thermal lagoons, plus an Aman in the Alps.
The most magical of treehouses are to be found in the depths of Swedish woodland, where guests are rocked to sleep by the wind’s lullaby

By AVRIL MAIR

THE FOREST OF DREAMS

The most magical of treehouses are to be found in the depths of Swedish woodland, where guests are rocked to sleep by the wind’s lullaby

By AVRIL MAIR
This trip is for the adventurous; those prepared to travel deep into the forests of northern Sweden, just south of the Arctic Circle, where the sun falls beneath the frozen horizon early in the afternoon, casting the world in an eerie half-light. Here, where reindeer wander wild and wolves still roam, you can find Treehotel, perhaps the world’s most idiosyncratic resort. Not so much a hotel as a collection of seven eco-friendly cabins hidden (or, in some cases, hanging) on a densely wooded hill, reached by a half-mile hike through snow and ice, it’s a destination seemingly designed with Instagram in mind.

Those looking for the accepted definition of five-star luxury – room service, say, and a late-night turndown, a flatscreen TV, slippers and thick towelling robes – should look elsewhere. Even Wi-Fi is missing here. Instead, incinerating toilets (please, don’t ask), communal showers in the sauna block and a set menu of unfussy local fare is on offer. But if you want to see the aurora borealis shimmer overhead, or ride along a frozen river on a sled pulled by Alaskan huskies, then this part of the world – remote and rustic, entirely removed from light pollution and indeed from most aspects of modernity – might just be the best place to do it. That Treehotel is ridiculously photogenic is only part of the allure.

It’s not so difficult to find: a short flight from Stockholm to Lulea, then an hour’s drive north, along a highway lined with signs warning of moose, brings you to the tiny village of Harads, site of Britta’s Pensionat. Kent Lindvall and Britta Jonsson-Lindvall converted a former old folks’ home into a charming, though modest, guest-house in 2004; it still has a handful of bedrooms, but most visitors merely stop off here to collect their keys and a hand-drawn map before heading out to their treehouse.

Each is individually designed by a different architect: a large glass mirror cube that seems to disappear into the pine forest; a metal ‘UFO’ that hovers above a clearing; an organically shaped wooden cabin perched precariously among the treetops. The first six opened in 2010, and the most recent, called the 7th Room, launched in 2017, raised on stilts some 10 metres high.

Our first night is spent in the Bird’s Nest, best described as a giant ball of interwoven twigs covered by a drop-down metal ladder. All you can take inside is whatever can be carried in a rucksack. It’s unexpectedly charming, though ruthlessly functional: there’s a double bed and micro-bathroom (albeit with no running water), a table and chairs plus – thrillingly – mini bottles of a good Merlot. Tiny port-hole windows look out through the trees. Sleep comes quickly here, the structure rocking and sighing gently in the wind.

Our second night is altogether different. We climb up to the 7th Room (designed by the Norwegian architectural practice Snohetta, which also built the National September 11 Memorial Museum & Pavilion at the World Trade Center in New York) to find a wood-pellet stove, a fully functioning shower and a 360-degree expanse of insulated floor-to-ceiling glass. The space feels vast and the view is breathtaking, a frozen panorama stretching untouched before us. At night, we lie awake for hours and watch the sky glitter with an astonishing array of stars before the Northern Lights finally begin to play, rippling in unearthly, glorious waves of green.

Such is the beauty and tranquility of this part of Sweden that just a weekend here feels like a total escape. The next day, fortified by a hearty breakfast of potato cakes and smoked herring, we travel across the Lule River, deeper into Boreal forest that’s blanketed with pristine, crystalline snow, to Logger’s Lodge for our final night. This is an impossibly picturesque red and white cabin that was once a bunkhouse but has now been turned into a chic one-room retreat by Eric Borg and his business partner, Jorgen Drugge, who run the Pure Lapland guiding company, which takes Treehotel guests on outdoor adventures. It’s hard to overstate how wonderful this is: from the sheep-skin chairs by the designer Yngve Ekstrom and carefully curated soundtrack of Swedish indie-pop to the little wooden sauna hut surrounded by candles and the outdoor hot tub in a clearing where you can watch the aurora, it’s a paradise for anyone who likes opulence with their seclusion. That’s before you get to the delicious organic food, which is cooked by Drugge at his house nearby and brought straight to the door: we eat Kalix caviar, traditionally served at Nobel Prize dinners, then reindeer steaks in red wine and blueberry jus, and decide that heaven really is a place on Earth.

Two nights full-board at Logger’s Lodge and two nights half-board at Treehotel, including return flights and transfers, from £3,680 a person, with Scandinavia Only (01274 875199; www.scandinaviaonly.co.uk).
OUT OF THIS WORLD

Chris Caldicott explores the prehistoric caverns, thunderous waterfalls and glacial lakes of Iceland

Droplets of water, glittering like falling diamonds, rain down and land with an amplified echoing splash far below us as we descend into the cathedral-size subterranean chamber. The last shafts of splintered sunlight squeezing through the volcano’s narrow opening fade from view by the time our open-sided hydraulic lift reaches the end of its journey. Here, floodlights reveal a vast cavern of vivid colourations, from black basalt to yellow magma, created during an eruption 4,000 years ago. It’s large enough to accommodate the Statue of Liberty, with room to spare. ‘You are free to explore the lava tunnels on your own, just be careful not to startle any unicorns,’ warns our guide Eva. Already awestruck by the surreal experience of this ‘journey towards the centre of the Earth’ inside the Thrihnukagigur volcano, I felt that anything was possible.

Iceland specialises in otherworldly experiences – as well as unpronounceable words. In just four days I rode on horseback to the Red Lake of Raudavatn at Solhestar, floated weightless in warm water on a glacial river-bank at Hveragerdi, and sampled exquisite bee-pollinated tomato ice-cream at Friðheimar in a greenhouse powered by a hot spring. I stood among thundering waterfalls and exploding geysers in Thingvellir Park with one foot on the North American continental plate and the other on the Eurasian, gliding past each other at a speed of two centimetres a year.

My base, the Ion Adventure Hotel, resembled a giant prehistoric creature striding out across the tundra; inside, its contemporary, chic rooms featured floor-to-ceiling windows and huge photographs of Icelandic horses. In the superb Silfra restaurant I dined on fresh seafood and innovative vegetarian dishes, and in the glass-cube Northern Lights Bar I sipped cocktails suspended above the stark landscape with glorious views over Iceland’s largest lake towards the clouds of snow-white steam swirling around the mountains in the distance.

Short-legged, long-haired Icelandic horses are unique. One of the oldest and purest breeds in the world, undiluted since they were imported by the Vikings more than a thousand years ago, they are renowned for their sweet nature and have an unusual gait known as *tolt* that allows even those of limited equestrian ability – such as myself – to ride at invigorating speed without fear. The landscape we travelled through, the lava-crater lakes and Red Hills of Raudavatn, was a rugged volcanic wilderness of...
shingle causeways and granite outcrops softened by a thick carpet of moss and lichen.

My next stop was the ultra-hip Alda Hotel in Reykjavik, Iceland’s tiny, laid-back capital. Using the interactive map and multitude of useful apps loaded onto the complimentary smartphone given to me at check-in, I found exploring the city on foot a breeze. With its colourful painted houses, health-food shops, juice bars, funky galleries, street art, live-music venues and cool café society, Reykjavik has a flavour of San Francisco about it, and from the bell tower of the impressive Hallgrimskirkja Lutheran church you can see the whole city. Even the sleekly modernist Alda had embraced this bohemian atmosphere, inviting guests to choose from a stack of old-school jazz and blues on vinyl to listen to on a retro record player in the restaurant.

There was one more treat in store for me on the way to the airport – sipping a glass of chilled prosecco while wallowing in the mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon. This giant, organically heated swimming pool is an ancient lava field flooded with aquamarine water of 40 degrees Celsius. Once you are immersed, it’s easy to feel like you are on a film set, as you drift between the swim-up bars and booths offering bowls of silica-and-algae mud-masks, while great plumes of thick steam rise into the chilly Arctic air. It’s the perfect way to bid farewell to Iceland’s geothermal wonderland.

Iceland Beyond (+354 666 4444; www.icelandbeyond.com) offers a four-day/three-night itinerary, from £1,990 a person B&B based on two sharing a double room at the Ion Adventure Hotel and Alda Hotel, including transport, yoga, a volcano visit, tours, horse-riding and a ‘comfort experience’ at the Blue Lagoon. Wow Air (www.wowair.co.uk) flies from London Gatwick to Reykjavik, from £34.99 a person return.
Skiing isn’t a signature activity for the Aman hotel collection, which is all about Eastern tranquillity and Zen at any price, not hurtling down pistes at lightning speed in a resort most beloved of the ex-Soviet super-rich, Courchevel (or ‘Courchevelski’). But somehow, the sublimely professional Aman Le Mélézin pulls it off.

The recently refurbished hotel is an oasis of calm in an Alpine town so twinkly and costly it looks and feels like an improved version of Narnia: always winter but also always Christmas. There are just 31 rooms, and nearly as many roaring log fires; a snug cigar bar; chefs flown in from Venice; snow boys in the ski-room who gently insert your socked foot into a warmed ski boot at the beginning of the day, and somehow glide it out at teatime; and Middle Eastern royal families kettled on the top floor in the opulent suites, with their nannies and children.

All of this is right next to the Bellecôte piste, in the quiet hush of a landscape coated and muffled in snow, yet mere yards from the famous hub of Courchevel 1850, the Croisette, where fur-booted Russians glide about in limos with darkened windows, shopping at Chanel before their other half, a medium-size oligarch, arrives by helicopter at the altiport.

At my age, après-ski doesn’t mean partying in a bikini and snowboard shorts to some edgy DJ at one of those trance clubs – La Folie Douce for example – halfway up a mountain. It means falling into a stupor after eating a wedge of coffee and walnut cake, followed rapidly thereafter by some sort of relaxing, rejuvenating spa treatment to remove the lactic acid from my legs and the wrinkles from my face.

Because, you see, after zipping around the largest interconnected ski area in the world, one is tired. Courchevel spends millions grooming pistes overnight, and on lift speed and capacity, so that you don’t have to wait more than seconds before you find yourself on the top of another mountain, wondering at the immensity of the view and why you’re hungry again only half an hour after your last hot chocolate topped with whipped cream at the Chalet de Pierres. It also means that you ski more in a few short hours than we used to in a day, when half the daylight hours were devoted to losing people, queuing and waiting for them to turn up again.

So this is why, next time, you must go to Aman Le Mélézin with its delectable and restorative food and a spacious sun terrace to stretch out on. There are also the welcome touches of luxury, such as a man coming to refresh your fruit and ice daily; a hot loo seat with oscillating front and back functions (the first time my posterior had its own bespoke Jacuzzi); wild Ski-Doo races up to huts where you gargoyle champagne round a flaming brazier; and the certain knowledge that after a long day on the slopes there will always be cakes for tea.

Aman Le Mélézin, from about £940 a room a night half-board, which includes dinner at the hotel and selected restaurants in Courchevel (www.amanlemelezin.com).
Our annual awards ceremony celebrated Bazaar's 150th anniversary, as well as the inspiring winners who gathered together for the dazzling evening at Claridge's.

Edited by TERESA FITZHERBERT

Adwoa Aboah and Georgia May Jagger
The Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year Awards is always a momentous occasion, but this year’s celebration, which marked exactly a century and a half since the first issue was published, was even more poignant. ‘I am in this room, in the arms of a magazine that for 150 years, has always been for women,’ said Jodie Foster as she received her award for Inspiration.

Needless to say, the ceremony at Claridge’s, in partnership with Ralph & Russo, Audemars Piguet, Laurent-Perrier and Mercedes-Benz, with flowers by All For Love, was inspiring all round. The glittering array of guests were brimming with appreciation for one another: the director Stephen Daldry told Kate Winslet that he loved her as he gave her the award for British Actress; Carey Mulligan admitted she was nervous accepting her Philanthropy prize in front of her idols (‘Kate, Jodie: these are the women who made me want to be an actress’); while Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the winner of the Writer of the Year accolade, declared that she was going to remember the evening for a very long time ‘not only because of all the people touched by genius in this room, but because of the wonderful champagne’.

For once, it was Victoria Beckham’s turn to be star-struck as Suranne Jones presented her with Brand of the Year. ‘I so want
'I so want to be friends with Doctor Foster' – Victoria Beckham
Ruth Negga, Adwoah Aboah, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Michelle Kane
Arizona Muse

Daniel Compton, Franco Ziviani and Justine Picardie

Jacqueline Eauze, Pierre de Maigret and Pierre Denis

Jo Allison, Yana Peel and Olivier Nicolay

Charlotte Rampling

PHOTOGRAPHS: OLIVER HOLMS, STEPHANIE SIAN SMITH, NATALIE MARTINEZ
to be friends with Doctor Foster,' she confessed, before apologising for using the actress’ character name: ‘That must be annoying. It’s like when people call me Posh.’ Meanwhile, Maggi Hambling suggested that Bazaar create a comedy category just for her after she accidentally smashed the trophy she was presenting to Yana Peel.

Once the chocolate fondants had been cleared away (and everyone had scoured the floor for Jodie Foster’s missing earring), Adwoa Aboah, Maria Grazia Chiuri, Ashley Graham and the other guests moved through to the French Salon to continue the festivities. There, Maggi Hambling challenged Richard Phibbs to a dance-off, Jenna Coleman sipped vintage Laurent-Perrier with Edie Campbell, and Ruth Negga and Molly Goddard could be seen listening in rapture at Chimamanda’s feet.

Mary Louise Booth, Bazaar’s first editor in 1867, was certainly a visionary woman; but even she could not have foreseen how her legacy would endure and develop. As her successor Justine Picardie concluded, raising a glass: ‘Here’s to another 150 years…’
Maria Grazia Chiuri
and Rachele Regini

PHOTOGRAPHERS: OLIVER HOLMS, STEPHANIE SIAN SMITH, NATALIE MARTINEZ

PHOTOGRAPH
FLASH!

STEPHANIE SIAN SMITH
Ruth Negga and Molly Goddard listened in rapture to Chimamanda
How he evaded the tens of thousands of Parliamentary troops looking for him comprises the greatest tale of royal escape ever known. He committed his safety first to Roman Catholic households, which, he appreciated, were used to hiding hunted men in priest-holes. He was then handed from one Royalist officer to another, travelling in disguise across 10 counties, before finally slipping across the Channel to France, six weeks after his crushing defeat.

It was an achievement of great luck and grit, that he was ever keen to celebrate. ‘Oak Apple Day’ became a national holiday in Britain for 200 years, to mark the most lyrical part of his adventure – his hiding in an oak-tree while the enemy criss-crossed the woodland around him, seeking his blood. On the ship that carried him back from mainland Europe to England in 1660, he regaled his audience with the terrible sufferings he had endured while giving his enemies the slip. Today, Charles II’s odyssey is remembered more prosaically: the Royal Oak is the name of more than 400 English pubs.

But a lot of his character was revealed during these days of desperate escape. He treated even the humblest peasants with great ease and kindness, at one point dandling a forester’s young daughter on his knee; and he was quick-witted and surefooted in situations when his life hung by a thread. Once, dressed as a servant, and forced to help in the kitchen of a big house, his inability to work the spit was greeted with dark suspicion by the cook. He defused the moment by explaining that he came from a household defused the moment by explaining that he came from a household...

Like wise, when he walked into the quarters of his mistress Barbara Villiers, to find her in bed with John Churchill, a courtier known for his need for money, Charles let the young man slink away with the magnanimous dismissal: ‘Go. You are a bovine, but thoroughly decent husband, Prince George of Denmark. Charles’ judgement of the man seems waspish, but was probably meant affectionately: ‘I’ve tried ‘im drunk, and I’ve tried ‘im sober, and there’s nothing in ‘im.’ This epithet remains the only thing anyone really remembers about Prince George of Denmark.

Likewise, when he went on to become one of Britain’s military heroes, rewarded with the dukedom of Marlborough.

Charles II was not our greatest king, but he was one of this nation’s great gentlemen. Falling seriously ill in February 1685, he was subjected to ordeal by ignorant physicians, the royal doctors setting about their work with gusto. Pumped full of enemas and laxatives, his shaved scalp burnt and blistered by hot glass, his nasal membranes rubbed with acids and his medicines containing ground-up human skull, while a poultice of pigeon droppings was placed on his feet, Charles’ condition inevitably worsened. Yet, as dawn rose on his final day on Earth, he apologised to those attending him for taking quite so long to die.

When he eventually let go, and despite the ups and downs of his reign, it was noted that ‘almost every living soul cried before and at his decease, as for the loss of the best Friend in the World’.

Charles II’s Art & Power’ is at the Queen’s Gallery, Buckingham Palace (www.royalcollectiontrust.org.uk), until 13 May. ‘To Catch A King: Charles II’s Great Escape’ by Charles Spencer (£20, William Collins) is out now.
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THE 100 GREATEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD

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We’ve travelled. Been there. Shared rum with the locals and people-watched from tiny little cafés. That mountain was near-impossible to climb, but we got to the top for the sunrise. We’ve looked over the edge of the infinity pool into the valley below; and floated above herds of elephants in a hot-air balloon. We can tell you about it, because we’ve travelled it. From the Maldives to Mexico; South Africa to Sri Lanka – you can talk to someone who has actually been there.

The Kuoni Sale is now on. We’re here to share our ideas, so pop into one of our beautiful stores for a down-to-earth chat.

Let’s create a holiday together, because at Kuoni our experience makes yours.
Welcome to our 2018 Travel Guide, featuring 100 of the greatest hotels and villas in the world, from idyllic island havens to glorious grandes dames. It’s always a pleasure for the Bazaar team to create this magazine; though on drizzly winter days in the office, our delight is tempered by a longing to escape to at least one of these beguiling places. So we know full well that now is the perfect time to start planning a holiday – while also allowing your mind to wander freely. Our curated guide is filled with suggestions and ideas, but it is you, the traveller, who will shape your own journey – and in doing so, discover as much about your heart’s desire as your destination.

Justine Picardie
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PHOTOGRAPH: CROOKES & JACKSON

Bisate Lodge in Rwanda
2

The Whitby Hotel
| NEW YORK, USA |
Firmdale Hotels’ second New York property the Whitby sits in the heart of the action, amid the shops and galleries of Upper Midtown. The owner and design director Kit Kemp shows off her flamboyant style in 86 individually decorated guest-rooms, all with floor-to-ceiling windows. A spectacular two-bedroom suite occupies the entire top floor and boasts both uptown and downtown vistas from its furnished terrace. Downstairs, there are facilities galore, among them a 130-seat cinema, orangery and courtyard, and the Whitby Bar serves the most potent martinis in Manhattan.

From about £530 a room a night (www.firmdalehotels.com).

1

Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar
| AL HAJAR MOUNTAINS, OMAN |
On a promontory of Oman’s Jabal Akhdar reserve, once visited by Prince Charles and Princess Diana, this Anantara outpost brings a new level of luxury to the region. The best rooms are the Cliff Pool Villas, strung along the edge of the canyon, each with views over a private plunge pool out to the rocky, green-tinged expanse. The retreat, which is set 2,000 metres above sea level, can already lay claim to being the highest five-star hotel in the Middle East – adventurous guests can abseil along the via ferrata drilled into the cliff-face.
Original Travel (www.originaltravel.co.uk) can arrange bespoke itineraries to Oman, including stays at the Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar.
3 Wild Coast Tented Lodge
[SOUTHERN PROVINCE, SRI LANKA]

On the fringes of Sri Lanka’s Yala National Park, the Wild Coast Tented Lodge completes the trio of Resplendent Ceylon hotels on the island. Animal enthusiasts will love the back-to-nature excitement of this luxurious safari camp whose tented ‘cocoons’ offer panoramic jungle views. There are four secluded suites that face the white-sand beach, while a further 16 rooms overlook waterholes and act as front-row seats to watch the visiting wildlife. In the restaurant, a daily-changing menu showcases the best of Sri Lankan cuisine. 

From about £290 a room a night (www.resplendentceylon.com).

4 Palacio Tangara
[SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL]

Palacio Tangara, in all its grand splendour, makes a striking first impression. Within the modernist Burle Marx Park, the hotel is an oasis of calm, heightened by the backdrop of pulsating São Paulo in the distance. Wander around the marvellous grounds of the Maria Luisa and Oscar Americano Foundation, and see the famed Glass House of the revolutionary architect Lina Bo Bardi. The hotel certainly lives up to its namesake, the elegant tangara bird, which you might spot perched high up in the ferns. 


5 Nobu Hotel Ibiza Bay
[IBIZA, SPAIN]

After launching in London’s Shoreditch, Nobu has opened the doors to a peaceful Ibiza haven whose swimming pool looks like a Slim Aarons photo. Walking through the lobby, with its sumptuous furnishings, will fill you with a profound sense of tranquility. Lunch doesn’t come much tastier than at Peyotito, the hotel’s first-class Mexican eatery, and of course Nobu’s masterful Japanese fare is available in the sleek main restaurant. There is also a brilliant spa and John Frieda salon. 

From about £290 a room a night (www.nobuhotelibizabay.com).
The Dewberry | CHARLESTON, USA
Launched last autumn, the Dewberry occupies the former L Mendel Rivers Federal Building and takes its name from the hotel's founder John Dewberry, who has meticulously brought the property back to life. Interiors are a handsome blend of old and new, mixing local materials with mid-century-modern design in the 155 bedrooms and suites that overlook the picturesque Marion Square. To complement the native Southern charm, Henrietta's dishes up brasserie classics such as Maine blue mussels and roasted beets with ginger. From about £250 a room a night (www.thedewberrycharleston.com).

The Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort & Spa | CHANDIGARH, INDIA
Located in the foothills of the Himalayas, the Oberoi Group's palatial new hotel has five different accommodation options including the Royal tents with private pools, hand-painted frescoes and carved wooden furniture. Relaxation is the order of the day at the 12,000-square-foot spa whose hydrotherapy pools, infrared sauna and Turkish hammam will help you fully relax. Evenings are enlightened by live music at the multi-cuisine restaurant and bar. From £302 a room a night (www.oberoihotels.com).

Amanyangyun | SHANGHAI, CHINA
Aman's most ambitious project to date, Amanyangyun, has finally been unveiled outside Shanghai after a decade-long conservation programme. The resort is made up of an entire village of Ming and Qing dynasty houses that have been painstakingly relocated from the Jiangxi province more than 400 miles away after a modern reservoir threatened to destroy them. A rescue team of botanists also moved 10,000 sacred camphor-trees via a fleet of flat-bed trucks so today's guests can explore the ancient forest before unwinding in the hotel spa. There are six places to eat including a Chinese restaurant serving traditional delicacies from the Jiangxi region. From £684 a room a night (www.aman.com).
Bisate Lodge
| RUHENGERI, RWANDA |
The six private villas at Wilderness Safaris’ new Rwandan camp Bisate Lodge may look like alien dwellings from the outside, but inside sophisticated interiors are warmed by a central fireplace beside which you’ll enjoy your complimentary welcome massage. Situated within the cone of an extinct volcano, the magnificent pods are surrounded by lush forest with sweeping views of the awe-inspiring landscape. Guests are given the chance to join morning treks in search of mountain gorillas, golden monkeys and a diverse range of bird-life, and to give back to the environment with tree planting at a nearby nursery.

From about £1,665 a room a night (www.wilderness-safaris.com).
THE BEST SWIMMING POOLS

Grand Hotel Tremezzo in Italy
Perched on the banks of one of Italy’s most beautiful lakes, the Grand Hotel Tremezzo has hosted glamorous guests from Greta Garbo to Natalie Portman since it opened in 1910. Its primrose-yellow, art nouveau exterior, highlighted by Hermès-orange awnings, is reminiscent of Wes Anderson’s Grand Budapest Hotel, yet inside it boasts all mod cons and there is a shiny spa where you are pampered with Espa products. Don’t miss a swim in the hotel’s floating pool, which sits on the lake and is close to both the beach and T Beach Champagne bar, or a stroll around its pretty gardens.

From about £415 a room a night (www.grandhoteltremezzo.com).
**12 Soho Beach House**

MIAMI, USA

Soho Beach House is Miami Beach’s most exclusive hotel, located in an art deco building updated by Martin Brudnizki. Fifty individually designed rooms draw inspiration from 1940s Cuban elegance. Relax poolside on the rooftop with incredible views of the setting sun, or under palm-trees down by the beach, where you can sip cocktails from the Tiki Bar. You’ll also find a Cowshed spa and Cecconi’s restaurant on site.

*From about £240 a room a night (www.sohobeachhouse.com).*

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**13 Hôtel Crillon le Brave**

PROVENCE, FRANCE

In a quiet Provençal village, the Crillon le Brave has converted seven ancient stone houses into serene accommodation, with whitewashed walls and pale-blue shutters. There are bikes for energetic guests, but most prefer to lie on a sunlounger by the picturesque swimming pool, lulled by the scent of lavender. There are also restorative massages and facials available in the little spa; and delicious food at the hotel’s restaurant and bistro, made using local produce and served with the best of the region’s wine.

*From £300 a room a night (www.crillonlebrave.com).*

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**14 Playa Vik José Ignacio**

Maldonado Department, Uruguay

The ultra-modern Playa Vik is part of the Vik Retreats collection and is located on the most coveted stretch of the Uruguayan coastline in the fishing village of José Ignacio. The hotel showcases a range of leading contemporary artists and designers including James Turrell and Zaha Hadid, and its two- to three-bedroom casas encircle a dramatic central Sculpture Building. But it’s the cantilevered swimming pool that commands the most attention, jutting out towards the Atlantic and perfectly positioned to watch the spectacular sunsets over the water. A sister property, Estancia Vik, is nearby, for guests who want to try horse-riding.

*From about £455 a room a night (www.playavik.com).*

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**15 Ulagalla by Uga Escapes**

ANURADHAPURA, SRI LANKA

At the heart of Ulagalla is a graceful century-old mansion, situated within expansive grounds that are also inhabited by wild monkeys, peacocks and the occasional elephant. The vast swimming pool is one of the loveliest in all of Sri Lanka, and the ideal spot for birdwatching (dozens of different species alight in the garden). In between gliding through the crystal-clear waters, or luxuriating in the exceptionally comfortable rooms, guests can venture out on bicycles – a good way to discover the surrounding area, which includes the ancient temples and Buddhist monasteries of Anuradhapura.

*From about £205 a room a night (www.ugaescapes.com).*
Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo
TAORMINA, SICILY

When Truman Capote checked into the Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo he ended up staying for two years. Who could blame him? Set into the rugged cliffs over the mediaeval town of Taormina, the hotel’s 71 guest-rooms have double-height ceilings and elegant shuttered windows, and the inviting pool is bordered by white parasols and lush, bloom-filled gardens. After a day touring the region’s volcanic vineyards, return to the hotel’s terrace where DH Lawrence wrote *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*, and marvel as the sun slips behind Mount Etna, turning her slopes from vivid green to the deepest purple.

From £420 a room a night (www.belmond.com).

Alila Villas Uluwatu
BALI

If you want to feel like you’re floating above the Earth during your morning swim, then dive into the 50-metre infinity pool at Alila Villas Uluwatu, which hangs dramatically off a cliff edge at the resort. With panoramic views over the Indian Ocean and the Bukit Peninsula’s lapping waves, it’s a glorious place to spend the day sunbathing before dining on authentic Indonesian cuisine at the poolside restaurant, Warung. The rest of the eco-friendly resort is equally impressive and has been designed using only locally sourced, sustainable materials such as flat lava rock for the roofs and bamboo ceilings.

From about £575 a room a night (www.alilahotels.com).
In Oman’s bustling capital, sophisticated travellers head to the calming Chedi Muscat, a beachfront retreat combining mystique with modernity. The hotel fuses Omani architecture with Japanese and European design to create a stunning landscape of shimmering pools, including the 103-metre Long Pool, the longest in the Middle East. The huge Club Suites have peaceful terraces – the perfect location to watch the sun drop into the Gulf of Oman. The Chedi also houses a vast spa with indulgent and therapeutic Balinese treatments.

From about £395 a room a night (www.ghmhotels.com).

Each of the nine guest-rooms at Sasaab is a majestic blend of Moroccan and Swahili design, with large open-air bathrooms and private plunge pools. From these, you can gaze out across the Buffalo Springs National Reserves, home to an astonishing array of wildlife including elephants, giraffes, leopards and zebras. You can also enjoy guided walks, birdwatching, stargazing, beauty treatments at SpaSaab, or a yoga class by the main swimming pool, overlooking the Ewaso Nyiro river.

From £659 a room a night (www.thesafaricollection.com).

With unparalleled views of the Manhattan skyline and the Brooklyn Bridge, the plunge pool at 1Hotel is an unlikely urban oasis. Its rooftop setting has a fantastic restaurant too, run by the chef Michael Oliver, which serves delicious dishes such as whipped ricotta with market tomatoes, pesto and focaccia, handcrafted cocktails and fine wines. On Saturdays and Sundays during the summer, the hotel hosts chic pool parties, after which you can recover with a soothing massage in the Bamford Haybarn Spa or a film in the screening-room.

From £260 a room a night (www.1hotels.com).
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The gardens at Gravetye Manor in West Sussex.
The graceful beauty of Gravetye Manor – an Elizabethan country house – is matched by the idyllic romance of its gardens, designed by William Robinson (a remarkable horticulturist who owned the property in the late 19th century). Today, his naturalistic planting scheme has matured into the prettiest of English arcadias, with walled rose gardens, wild glades of azaleas and sylvan woodlands. Inside, the bedrooms are traditional yet marvellously comfortable, some with views over the lake; while the wood-panelled Michelin-starred restaurant is stocked with fresh ingredients from Gravetye’s kitchen gardens.

From £260 a room a night (www.gravetyemanor.co.uk).
The Royal Crescent Hotel

There is much to admire at the Royal Crescent Hotel, beginning with its perfectly proportioned Georgian architecture. You’ll find serenely decorated bedrooms, with views of the sloping parkland at the front or the hotel’s walled gardens, bordered by aromatic lavender. Tucked away at the end of the lawn is an award-winning spa, with a 12-metre heated pool, and expert therapists providing Espa facials and massages. Active guests can use the hi-tech gym; but don’t miss the indulgent afternoon teas and dinner in the Dower House restaurant.

From £330 a room a night (www.royalcrescent.co.uk).

The Connaught

The careful restoration of one of London’s loveliest hotels means the Connaught has retained all the class and elegance it exuded when it first opened in Mayfair in 1815. Nowadays, the hotel also features an Aman spa, impeccable service (over three staff a room), a David Collins Studio-designed penthouse and a two-Michelin-starred restaurant, Hélène Darroze at the Connaught. The most recent development is a restaurant from the French chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, which pays homage to classic British fare and, for the first time in the hotel’s history, offers takeaway food, including pizzas topped with black truffle or tuna and wasabi.

From £570 a room a night (www.the-connaught.co.uk).

Beaverbrook

Beaverbrook is a glorious new addition to the British tradition of country-house hotels, with wonderfully comfortable bedrooms overlooking the Surrey Hills. A Victorian neoclassical mansion originally known as Cherkley Court, the hotel now takes its name from its famous former owner, Lord Beaverbrook, the legendary press baron whose guests included Elizabeth Taylor, Rudyard Kipling and Winston Churchill. These days, you can feast on Japanese food, and there is an art deco cinema where Churchill himself used to catch up on the latest newsreels and films.

From £330 a room a night (www.beaverbrook.co.uk).
The Painswick

Food is at the heart of the Painswick, a Palladian masterpiece with views of the Slad Valley. Start your day with a bountiful breakfast buffet of organic yoghurts, fruit compotes and fresh croissants, which can be topped up with eggs any way you like. The sweet or savoury afternoon tea is an equally exceptional indulgence. There are just 16 rooms in the house, cozy sanctuaries of four-poster beds, log burners, roll-top baths and sumptuously soft yarns. Two dreamy treatment-rooms by Calcot Spa offer soothing menus with Elemis products.

From £129 a room a night (www.thepainswick.co.uk).

Chewton Glen

On the edge of the New Forest but within minutes of the beach, Chewton Glen is a luxurious yet relaxed retreat for foodies, spa-lovers and families alike. Accommodation options range from floral garden-rooms to secluded treehouses popular with Chewton’s celebrity clientele, but all come with thoughtful touches such as ready-stamped postcards, hair straighteners and a Samsung tablet for ordering room service. Despite these flourishes, you still won’t linger behind closed doors: guests can try their hand at everything from archery to croquet on-site or book into the hotel’s brilliant new cookery school masterminded by James Martin.

From £325 a room a night (www.chewtonglen.com).
**27 Shore Cottage**
(CARSKIEY ESTATE, KINTYRE)

Amid 7,500 acres on the west coast of Scotland, which include the Mull of Kintyre, you’ll find Shore Cottage, boasting magnificent views of the Carskiey Estate from every window. Recently renovated, the cottage, which sleeps up to four people, has interiors that mix old and new, from the servants’ dining-room dresser found in the main house, to rich Fermoie fabrics. The owner is Tom Helme, once the decoration consultant to the National Trust and former co-owner of the paint and wallpaper company Farrow & Ball: no wonder this get-away-from-it-all sanctuary is so opulently appointed. From £595 a room a night, minimum of three nights (www.carskiey.com).

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**28 The Pig at Combe**
(DEVON)

The new Pig at Combe is an Elizabethan manor set within rolling fields grazed by Arabian horses. Following in the footsteps of this group’s other properties across southern England, the hotel uses as many local suppliers as possible, including fishermen based just down the road (where the Jurassic Coast awaits) and an Axe Valley winery. The chefs create dishes made from ingredients foraged within a 25-mile radius, while they also benefit from an extensive kitchen garden, which grows 12 varieties of mint. From £145 a room a night (www.thepighotel.com).

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**29 The Wild Rabbit**
(THE COTSWOLDS)

This Michelin-starred restaurant with rooms in the village of Kingham sits at the heart of the Daylesford estate. After a dinner that might include local organic lamb, roasted scallops with English teardrop peas, and mackerel with Wye Valley rhubarb, retire to snug, stylish rooms with exposed beams, Cotswold stone walls and high-thread-count sheets. In the morning, turn left out of the village and you’ll reach the Bamford Haybarn day spa, where experienced therapists administer massages using signature oils. From £175 a room a night (www.thewildrabbit.co.uk).

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**30 Foxhill Manor**
(THE COTSWOLDS)

Built over a century ago, Foxhill Manor is now a heavenly eight-bedroom hotel, with a sweeping staircase and an orangery-style ballroom that is licensed for weddings. It sits within the pretty Farncombe Estate – 400 acres of forest trails and gardens that are home to wildlife including deer, rabbits and owls. In keeping with the ‘whatever, whenever’ policy, the house chef will cook bespoke meals with your favourite foods, and there’s a help-yourself pantry with cakes and champagne. State-of-the-art spa facilities are available at the sister property Dormy House. From £299 a room a night (www.foxhillmanor.com).
While some may argue that the beauty of a location is the main draw for travellers, even the most standout destinations are enhanced by a hotel that lives up to the view. Hotels such as the three breathtaking properties featured here, offered by the world’s largest independent hotel group, Preferred Hotels & Resorts. Currently celebrating 50 years of travel and hospitality expertise, it has a roster of 650 luxury hotels and resorts across 85 countries and is distinguished by the kind of superb, characterful accommodation that is more than a match for the breadth of stunning settings in which they are found. Preferred Hotels & Resorts doesn’t simply offer a singular, luxury experience to discerning travellers from its vast but carefully curated collection of properties. With its dedicated rewards programme, iPrefer, it also brings instant benefits to members – including a generous points programme, exclusive member rates, complimentary room upgrades and more – and is sure to make your stay extra special.

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**Rooms with a view**

**Boasting five decades of luxury travel expertise, Preferred Hotels & Resorts will find you a stay that is out of this world**

**MYCONIAN VILLA COLLECTION** Its beautiful hillside location near Elia Beach means this sought-after resort (above and below, left) provides the perfect balance between the buzz of nearby Mykonos Town and tranquil relaxation. The luxurious villas and suites feature private terraces, pools, Jacuzzis and more (which makes them ideal for both couples and families), alongside three first-class dining options and a spa. Or settle in beside the infinity pool and lose yourself in the sweeping views across the Aegean Sea.

**THE ALPINA GSTAAD** From the serenity of its Six Senses Spa to the gastronomic treasures served up by the Michelin-starred executive chef Martin Göschel, the Alpina Gstaad (below) offers an unrivalled, opulent experience in the heart of Switzerland’s most exclusive resort town. Whether you’re there to make the most of the mountains or just take in the fresh Alpine air, this unique establishment is like no other.

**GRAND HOTEL Tremezzo** Formerly an art nouveau palace, this landmark hotel (left) offers a refined yet relaxed five-star setting on the shores of Italy’s picturesque Lake Como. Take in the views from the heated floating pool (located handily close to the T Beach champagne bar) and indulge in specialist anti-stress and rebalancing treatments – custom-designed with Espa – in the on-site spa. You may well find you never want to leave.
THE BEST FOR...

SPAS & WELLNESS

Lefay Resort & Spa in Italy
Quite often at Lefay, you will feel like you are floating on air – in particular while taking a morning dip in the huge infinity pool, which seems to be suspended from the sky over Lake Garda. Tear yourself away from the far-reaching views of the water, smooth and still as glass, and you will find four steam-rooms, a gym, a giant outdoor whirlpool and treatments that marry Chinese teachings with Western techniques. Even a short stroll around the pretty gardens in your bathrobe, past olive-, lemon- and cyprus-trees, is a revitalising enterprise.

From about £255 a room a night (www.lefayresorts.com).
Six Senses Douro Valley
DOURO VALLEY, PORTUGAL

Escape from reality at this 19th-century manor house in the heart of Portugal’s Douro Valley, which is now run by Six Senses. The hotel prides itself on a wellness offering including signature treatments such as a hot-stone and almond-oil massage, and an orange and lemon wrap with fruit from the garden. In the evening, dine in style at the excellent restaurant, whose open kitchen allows you to watch the chefs at work, or join one of the wine tastings in the cosy library.

From about £240 a room a night (www.sixsenses.com).

One&Only Le Saint Géran
BELLE MARSE, MAURITIUS

Following a multi-million-pound refurbishment, the iconic One&Only Le Saint Géran has reopened its doors with a chic spa that covers more than 1,000 square metres overlooking the Indian Ocean. Guests can enjoy Espa products in the 13 treatment-rooms surrounding the palm-fringed infinity pool, or opt to undertake a ‘wellness journey’ such as ‘Chakra Balancing’, which releases tension using local mint, citronella essence and volcanic hot stones. There’s also the option to explore the coast onboard a vintage boat complete with private skipper, butler and spa therapist.

From £382 a room a night (www.oneandonlyresorts.com).

Como Uma Ubud
BALI, INDONESIA

At Como’s Uma Ubud you’ll find the group’s most impressive Shambhala Retreat, which sits amid paddy fields along with 46 guest-rooms. Yoga is an integral feature, as well as a range of Asian-inspired body treatments, facials and massages that you can sample before heading back to your luxurious accommodation. The resort has just opened 10 Garden Pool Villas that are enveloped by dense jungle and look over their own gardens and plunge pool. Elegant interiors combine traditional Indonesian design with mod cons including a 42-inch television and Bose soundbar.

From £220 a room a night (www.comohotels.com).
Wellness meets high design at La Réserve Ramatuelle, which is located on a hillside just outside Saint-Tropez. The hotel has bright, modern bedrooms and 12 beautifully appointed villas that play host to the most glamorous detoxers on the Riviera. The spectacular spa focuses on anti-ageing with La Réserve treatments and La Mer therapies. Delicious, healthy lunches are served on the canopied terrace facing the Mediterranean and might include grilled sea-bass and local roast lamb. From about £445 a room a night (www.lareserve-ramatuelle.com).

Aman's meditative Vietnam outpost, Amanoi, is the only hotel actually situated in Nui Chua National Park, looking out over Vinh Hy Bay. In a first for the brand, this year the hotel has unveiled two Spa Houses, personal-wellbeing suites that comprise a Jacuzzi, steam-room, ice fountain, cold plunge pool and a spacious double-treatment area so you can enjoy a massage without leaving your room. In addition, three new Individual Wellness programmes, which last from three to 10 days, tackle weight, stress and ageing concerns. From about £565 a room a night (www.amanoi.com).
37

**The Original FX Mayr**

*Carinthia, Austria*

Based around the teachings of Doctor Franz Xaver Mayr, who developed ‘the Mayr Cure’ in the early 20th century, this clinic offers a simple but effective route to detox. By focusing on gut health, it treats a range of issues including insomnia and hormonal imbalance. The interiors are reminiscent of a cosy alpine lodge, and are the perfect backdrop to treatments such as shiatsu and vitamin IV drips, but should you feel like heading outdoors, you can borrow one of the hotel’s bikes to explore the shore of Lake Worthersee.

*From about £135 a room a night (www.original-mayr.com).*

38

**Rosewood Mayakoba**

*Playa del Carmen, Mexico*

Of the 128 guest-rooms at Rosewood Mayakoba, opt for a Deluxe Overwater Lagoon Suite, reached by boat via a series of idyllic waterways, and visited by passing turtles, fish, ducks and the odd crocodile. The exceptional spa and fitness centre is located on its own island, with a sauna, hot and cold plunge pools and sensory showers. Venture along the mile of sandy beach and you’ll receive complimentary head massages, homemade fruit popsicles and a sunglass-cleaning service from the attentive staff.

*From £470 a room a night (www.rosewood.com).*

39

**The Lanesborough**

*London, UK*

The majestic 18,000-square-foot Club & Spa at the Lanesborough was the final area to be unveiled after the hotel’s extensive renovation, but it was certainly worth the wait. The marbled, mirrored interiors are the most opulent in the capital, and there are also collaborations with the hairdresser Daniel Galvin Jr and the personal trainer James Duigan, whose Bodyism team provide tailored gym work-outs and a virtuous but tasty spa menu. The expert treatments incorporate exquisite Ila and La Prairie products to leave your skin feeling better than ever.

*From £710 a room a night (www.oetkercollection.com).*

40

**Silversea**

*Silver Muse*

*The Mediterranean*

Launched last year, Silversea’s new flagship, Silver Muse, is packed with brilliant facilities, including the Zàgara Spa, named after the citrus blossoms that scent the Amalfi coastline. More natural inspiration is found in the Mood Room, where you can help yourself to dried fruit and herbal infusions. This floating sanctuary has floor-to-ceiling sea views and a fully equipped gym with personal trainers.

*From £3,250 a person for a seven-day Mediterranean cruise aboard ‘Silver Muse’ (www.silversea.com).*
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Dubrovnik. Dream until the dream comes true.
ART & DESIGN

THE BEST FOR...

| PICASSO IN PROVENCE | TIEPOLO IN VENICE | WARHOL IN OSLO | HOCKNEY IN CALIFORNIA |

PHOTOGRAPH: @AUDREYPARISPHOTO

The Grand Canal, Venice
Hotel Esencia

On a pristine white-sand beach and ringed by Mayan jungle, Hotel Esencia is an art-lover’s paradise. Originally the private home of an Italian duchess, the property now boasts impressive artworks from the private collection of its new owner, including paintings by Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol and Eduardo Santier, while outside in the gardens, peacocks roam freely among designs by Pierre Jeanneret, Charlotte Perriand, Serge Mouille and Pierre Guariche. Just 20 minutes down the road from the hotel is the bohemian town of Tulum, where today’s creative spirits gather.

Seven nights at Hotel Esencia, from £2,497 a person based on two sharing, including return flights with British Airways, with Red Savannah (www.redsavannah.com).

Aman Venice

If Venice is the most magical city of all – a fantastical place, floating in the lagoon and wreathed in mist and legends – then the Aman adds yet another element of fairy-tale romance. For it was here that George and Amal Clooney celebrated their marriage in 2014, although the hotel itself – formerly the Palazzo Papadopoli – has been a Venetian treasure ever since it was built in 1580. The grandest of the 24 bedrooms is the Alcova Tiepolo Suite, where the Clooneys spent their wedding night, which has an original fresco by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo on the ceiling and 18th-century painted chinoiserie on the walls.

From about £850 a room a night (www.aman.com).
La Colombe d’Or  
|ST-PAUL-DE-VENCE, FRANCE|
A family-run hotel on the French Riviera, La Colombe d’Or has been drawing Europe’s aesthetes to the mediaeval hilltop village of St-Paul-de-Vence since the 1940s. This rustic retreat, with fewer than 30 rooms, was Picasso’s favourite watering-hole, which explains why one of his works now hangs nonchalantly in the dining-room – a payment for past hospitality. Other chefs-d’oeuvre are dotted around: a Matisse nests in one corner, a giant mobile by Alexander Calder stands next to the pool and a flick though the guestbook reveals surreal drawings by Joan Miró alongside a caricature by Charlie Chaplin.  
From about £320 a room a night (www.la-colombe-dor.com).

Shutters on the Beach  
|SANTA MONICA, USA|
Laid out on the sparkling sands, the relaxed Californian elegance of Shutters on the Beach is the perfect backdrop for an eclectic art collection, which includes work by David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein and Robert Motherwell. The hotel’s island-chic interiors have been reinvented by Michael S Smith, the man responsible for the Obama’s White House design, and the 186 guest-rooms and 12 suites now feature hardwood floors, four-poster beds, cashmere throws and shelves stocked with thoughtfully chosen books. Most have full-length shutters leading out to balconies facing the ocean or the swimming pool, while others have fireplaces or Jacuzzis.  
From £380 a room a night (www.shuttersonthebeach.com).

The Beaumont  
|LONDON, UK|
The first hotel venture from the restaurateurs Chris Corbin and Jeremy King is a study in understated sophistication and luxury. The duo have imaginatively converted a 1920s car garage in a quiet Mayfair enclave, and from the moment you spin through the revolving doors into the lobby, you are surrounded by dark cherry wood and handsome chequerboard floors, while upstairs the 50 bedrooms pair art deco details with modern opulence. A glorious 1,700-strong selection of period paintings, photographs and prints has been carefully selected and you can even sleep in a sculpture, Antony Gormley’s Room, which forms a unique bedroom to a suite.  
From £395 a room a night (www.thebeaumont.com).
The Silo
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Located in a former grain silo that towers over Cape Town’s famous V&A Waterfront, the Silo has 28 splendid rooms with huge handmade chandeliers, vibrantly coloured silks and velvet, and unique artwork by young South African artists. There are roll-top tubs in the bathrooms from which you can admire the panoramic view across to Table Mountain through enormous curved windows designed by the architect Thomas Heatherwick. The building also houses the new Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, tipped as the nation’s equivalent of Tate Modern, which hotel guests can tour for free.

From about £675 a room a night (www.theroyalportfolio.com).

Hotel Arts
BARCELONA, SPAIN

On arrival at this 445-room Ritz-Carlton hotel, guests are greeted by a 56-metre-long curving, fish-like sculpture, Peix, built for the 1992 Olympics by Frank Gehry. It’s a magnificent prelude to what you can expect from the beachside property, which is home to many hundreds of lithographs and paintings celebrating Spanish and Catalan artists, and a fragrant botanical garden filled with sculptures. For the ultimate luxury, book a penthouse curated by the world-famous Catalonian designer Jaime Tresserra and you’ll receive indulgent Bulgari amenities, daily bespoke breakfasts and personal use of a Mini Cooper to explore the city in style.

From about £215 a room a night (www.hotelartsbarcelona.com).
Rosewood Beijing | CHINA

Each piece of art in Rosewood Beijing’s collection was picked to echo the brand’s philosophy of ‘A Sense of Place’. Paintings inspired by traditional shan shui inked landscapes sit alongside bronze sculptures and canvases of intricate pen drawings that pay tribute to the city’s rich artistic past. Bedrooms feature original cloisonné and fine-art prints bearing Chinese symbols: a coral garden, the auspicious dragon and yin and yang constellations. The hotel also offers inspiring immersive activities, including a private painting masterclass with the celebrated Chinese artist Zhang Zhaohui.

From £239 a room a night (www.rosewoodhotels.com).

Ballyfin | COUNTY LAOIS, IRELAND

At Ballyfin, a Georgian country house with just 20 peaceful guest-rooms, the heather-clad Slieve Bloom Mountains that provide such a scenic backdrop to the grounds are captured in the Victorian landscape paintings that line the walls, along with portraits of the grand old manor itself, which were discovered by the current owners. Keep an eye out for modern masterpieces too: there are 20th-century works by Louis Le Brocquy, Mainie Jellett and Michael Farrell, beside contemporary pieces by Niamh McCann and Blaise Drummond – the art, like the hotel itself, is a harmonious marriage of the old and new.

From about £520 a room a night (www.ballyfin.com).

The Thief | OSLO, NORWAY

The Thief boasts Nordic-chic design, views of the fjords and a remarkable assembly of art which, despite the hotel’s name, has been legitimately acquired by Sune Nordgren, once the director of the Norwegian National Museum of Art. Video footage by Julian Opie plays in the lift; there are Peter Blake pieces in the suites; a Tom Ford light installation illuminates the hotel’s art deco bar; and a series of Warhols hang in the fine-dining restaurant Fru K. The room keys also grant free access to the nearby Astrup Fearnley Museum, which has works by Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons.

From about £280 a room a night (www.thethief.com).
La dolce vita

See the wonders of the Mediterranean and beyond in a new light when you set sail with Seabourn

When there are as many types of holiday as there are places to visit, how do you define the perfect one? Destination is, of course, crucial, but it’s far from the only element that counts. Beautifully appointed accommodation; exquisite food; service that is second to none: every one of these is important in and of itself. But it is the collective experience – the seamless execution of a considered, truly first-class offering – that turns a memorable holiday into more than the sum of its parts. The kind, in fact, that you can look forward to with Seabourn.

The moment you step on a Seabourn ship, you are entering an immersive world with you at its heart. From the first welcome glass of champagne to the gracious, intuitive attention of its staff throughout, Seabourn prides itself on offering guests the ultimate boutique-hotel experience at sea. But such attention to detail is just the start. Whether you’re setting sail on a seven-night tour...
around the Greek Islands and wider Mediterranean or embarking on a trip of a lifetime considerably further afield, to journey with Seabourn is to experience travel in a new light.

Its intimate five-ship fleet offers superbly equipped accommodation: all passengers enjoy ocean-view suites (most of which feature private verandahs), with a Personal Suite Steward or Stewardess at your service. Offering the finest bedding, fully connected flat-screen TVs, a complimentary bar (stocked at all times with your favourite drinks), an on-call menu of indulgent, pampering in-room treats and more, your suite will serve as the perfect luxury retreat from which to literally watch the world go by.

Personal and discreet, a journey with Seabourn is the very definition of travelling well. Take its Mediterranean offerings. Ranging from seven- to 22-night stays, there is no better way to explore the wonders of Italy, Malta, Spain, Greece and more, while taking full advantage of the Seabourn experience.

Bespoke excursions are assembled with trademark care, be that a shopping trip to a bustling Sicilian marketplace with the ship’s executive chef or one of many insightful tours. Informed by Seabourn’s ongoing partnership with Unesco, the tours take in some of the world’s most iconic landmarks, from ancient Greek temples to the Moorish delights of Spain’s bewitching Alhambra palace.

However adventurous, pleasure-seeking or indulgent you wish to be, with Seabourn you can be sure of a journey that is tailor-made to suit. No detail – be it the bartender who remembers exactly how you like your favourite cocktail or the pool attendant who knows when to bring fresh towels without being asked – is too small to count. Put all this together and you might well discover that it adds up to your perfect holiday.

To find out more about Seabourn’s journeys around the Mediterranean and further afield, ring 0344 338 8615 or visit www.seabourn.com.
THE BEST
ISLANDS

Four Seasons Private Island Voavah
The world’s first exclusive-use Unesco site, Four Seasons Voavah is a pristine paradise that takes luxury to new heights. Accommodating up to 22 residents in seven bedrooms, the resort has an open-air living-room, gym, library and loft lounge in the central Beach House, and an over-water spa where you can book a massage, yoga lesson or blow-dry. Guests have the chance to roam five acres completely undisturbed, but should they wish to explore further afield there is a 62-foot yacht at their disposal and a dive centre that can arrange a morning snorkelling with manta rays.

From about £28,775 a night (sleeps 22) (www.fourseasons.com).
An hour from Ibiza by boat, Formentera is the rising star of the Balearics. Its laid-back, hippie vibe is the much-needed antidote to Ibiza’s neon lights and nightclubs, while strict planning regulations mean you won’t find any high-rises on the island. Instead, stay at the celebrity favourite Gecko Beach Club, which was given a lick of paint last year and has emerged A-list-ready. It’s the perfect spot for a lunch of fresh seafood and local wine, served to you alfresco as you sink your toes into the sparkling white sand, before an afternoon siesta in the serene sea-facing garden.
From about £210 a room a night (www.geckobeachclub.com).

Amanpulo, a secluded retreat in the Cuyo Archipelago, an hour’s flight south-west of Manila, is surrounded by water that is as calm and warm as a bath. This off-grid resort makes excellent use of the island’s natural treasures, from the coconut-shell table tops in the villas to the banana leaves incorporated into the spa treatments. In the restaurant, delicious seafood comes with vegetables from the hotel’s organic garden.
From £837 a room a night (www.aman.com).

After leaving the White House for the final time, Barack Obama booked in for a month-long stay at the Brando. And no wonder – the magical landscape of the idyllic atoll, which takes its name from the Hollywood actor who bought it in the 1960s, is teeming with rainbow-hued wildlife, and the 35 villas provide the ultimate castaway experience. The resort’s eco-credentials are impressive: it is powered by solar energy, cooled by sea-water air-conditioning and home to an innovative mosquito-eradication project run by scientists from Oxford University.
From about £2,675 a room a night (www.thebrando.com).
Milaidhoo

Built upon the archetypal white sands and turquoise waters of the Maldives, Milaidhoo offers its guests the chance to delve deeper into the archipelago’s traditions with cooking classes and dhoni boat-building workshops. Despite the property’s cosy boutique air, the 50 open-sided villas are huge and have their own freshwater infinity pools, guaranteeing total privacy and mesmerising views across the Indian Ocean. Throughout, the design concept is also rooted in indigenous culture, including the characterful main restaurant Ba’theli (which takes its name from a traditional form of wooden boat) where it feels like you are dining at sea.

From about £1,230 a room a night (www.milaidhoo.com).

Kokomo Private Island

As enticing for newlyweds as it is for large families, Kokomo Private Island is reached via a scenic 45-minute flight on the resort’s seaplane. Children will be happily occupied at the kids’ club and there’s a complimentary baby-sitting service, leaving you free to float undisturbed in your infinity pool or in the warm waters of the South Pacific Ocean. Here, diving opportunities are superlative thanks to the Great Astrolabe Reef that circles the island, where countless vibrant fish and the odd turtle reside, and above the waves there’s plenty to keep you occupied, including kayaking, sailing, water-skiing or paddle-boarding.

From £1,900 a night (www.kokomoislandfiji.com).
**&Beyond Mnemba Island**

Lured by the promise of remote luxury, guests including Bill Gates, Naomi Campbell and Tom Cruise have journeyed to &Beyond Mnemba Island, just off the coast of Zanzibar. There are no televisions in the 10 open-plan beach lodges, which have been exquisitely crafted with wood, rattan and reed, but traditional entertainment is available in the library in the form of board games, books and magazines. After a romantic dinner on the beach, at certain times of year you may be lucky enough to witness turtles laying their eggs in the sand before disappearing into the inky ocean. From about £960 a room a night (www.andbeyond.com).

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**Park Hyatt St Kitts Christophe Harbour**

Opened in November last year, Park Hyatt’s debut resort in the Caribbean spans the sheltered beach of Banana Bay, with St Kitts’ rolling hills as a suitably dramatic backdrop. This tropical playground houses two pools, powdery pale-gold sands and a Miraval Life Spa – another first for the region – where relaxing treatments are finished with a cup of lemon-grass, basil and thyme tea. The minimalist bedrooms are supremely tranquil thanks to a soothing palette of white, cream and grey, and bathrooms have deep soaking tubs and rain showers. From £508 a room a night (www.park.hyatt.com).

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**Bequia Beach Hotel**

From swimming with eagle rays to dining on freshly caught lobster, you will discover the joys of island life at Bequia Beach Hotel. Built on seven square miles of lush greenery in St Vincent & the Grenadines, the resort has its own nine-seater plane to fly guests over from Barbados’ airport, and a charter yacht. The colourful interiors reflect the island’s past as an exporter of coffee, rum and indigo, with art deco travel posters and vintage luggage dotted around. Seven nights at Bequia Beach Hotel, from £1,599 a person with the Private Travel Company (www.theprivatetravelcompany.co.uk).
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Angkor Wat in Cambodia

PHOTOGRAPH: ALAMY
There is no better way to survey Sydney’s harbour – the dramatic sails of the Opera House, the Harbor Bridge – than from one of Seabourn’s sophisticated ships. From a 16-day Australia and New Zealand adventure to a five-week Indian Ocean odyssey, Seabourn offers travellers a unique perspective. Immerse yourself further in each destination with the Ventures by Seabourn initiative; in the Amazon, for example, a biologist will guide you through flooded forests by kayak, in search of sloths and howler monkeys. Seven nights, from £2,499 (www.seabourn.co.uk).

The Peninsula stands in the heart of Beijing next to the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, a monument in itself. Upon arrival, guests are greeted by a spectacular central marble staircase, once a catwalk for Dolce & Gabbana’s Alta Moda show, that leads to Jing, the hotel’s farm-to-table restaurant, where highlights include chicken with vanilla coconut cauliflower purée and crunchy banana. For a real insight into the personality of the capital, book onto the Peninsula Academy, which organises bespoke cultural tours of anything from the art districts and hutongs (alleyways), to tea houses and national landmarks. From about £250 a room a night (www.peninsula.com).

The Plaza Athénée, on Paris’ fashionable Avenue Montaigne, has been a style leader for over a century, ever since its trademark red awnings first went up in 1913. The 24-hour concierge is on speed dial to orchestrate chauffeur-driven limousines around the city; or stay in for treatments at the exceptional Dior spa, gym sessions with personal trainers and three-Michelin-star dinners from Alain Ducasse, consumed beneath the crystal ceiling of the hotel’s wonderful restaurant. The best rooms allow you to soak up views of the Eiffel Tower from your bath tub. From £860 a room a night (www.dorchestercollection.com).
Jade Mountain (St Lucia)

St Lucia’s famed natural beauty is best enjoyed from one of the vast suites at Jade Mountain – each one is built around its own infinity pool and has a wall entirely open to the breathtaking panorama of the Pitons. The jagged peaks rise up before you; far below, the azure-blue Caribbean Sea curves along the white sand of the bay, while all around are tropical forests alive with the sound of birdsong. There are over 2,000 cocoa-trees on the resort estate, and chocoholics will love the chance to make their very own treats in the hotel’s chocolate laboratory. From about £840 a room a night (www.jademountain.com).

Mashpi Lodge (Mashpi, Ecuador)

Three hours’ drive from Quito in the heart of the South American cloud forest lies Mashpi Lodge. This eco hotel allows unrivalled access to 8,000 species of animals, insects, birds and plant life via a team of world-class botanists, who kit you out with wellingtons and walking-sticks to explore the ancient forest with local guides. Having swung from vines hanging from 100-foot-high trees and been pummelled under the power of a waterfall, return to the minimalist interiors (complete with glass-walled bedrooms) to sip blackberry daiquiris while attending an evening talk on the nocturnal habits of the transparent frog. From about £515 a room a night (www.mashpilodge.com).
The Ned
|London, UK|

As with most things the Soho House Group touches, the Ned became an instant classic when it opened in London last spring. The hotel and members’ club features 252 bedrooms, several restaurants and a subterranean spa, which includes a Trish McEvoy make-up parlour, a blow-dry bar by Miguel Perez (the man responsible for Amal Clooney’s lustrous locks) and a Cheeky nail bar. There’s also a rooftop pool where you can swim in the shadow of St Paul’s and a private bar in a bank vault – the listed building was once the Midland Bank’s HQ.

From £250 a room a night (www.thened.com).

Belmond La Residencia
|Deià, Mallorca|

Honey-coloured Deià in the north-west of Mallorca has long attracted artists, musicians and literati, including the poet Robert Graves, who is buried here beneath a cypress-tree in the village churchyard. He found comfort in this hilltop village where ‘perfect tranquillity reigns’, and the serenity is evident at Belmond’s hotel La Residencia. A traditional finca in the shadow of the Serra de Tramuntana mountains, it offers faultless, friendly service, sea-facing tennis courts, rooms with original beamed ceilings, classical-music concerts and an on-site art gallery. The knowledgeable, local staff can also loan out Vespas and arrange boat trips along the coast.

From £325 a room a night (www.belmond.com).

Sun Gardens
|Dubrovnik, Croatia|

Nothing is too much to ask at this idyllic seafront property on the Dalmatian coast, whose 200 stylish guest-rooms have either a balcony or terrace with spellbinding sunset views over the Elaphiti islands. By day, unwind in the spa’s 18-metre lagoon pool with its waterfall and underwater vitality jet loungers, and then commandeer a sunlounger beside one of three pools. By night, sample the delicious cannelloni at La Pasta and then hop on the sea taxi directly from the resort into Dubrovnik’s old town to explore the historic sites that Game of Thrones fans will recognise from the small screen.

From £119 a room a night (www.dubrovniksungardens.com).
Amansara  
|SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA|
No longer the preserve of backpackers, Cambodia now caters to those seeking the heights of luxury. Amansara, nestled behind the garden walls of King Norodom Sihanouk’s ancient palace, is a tranquil retreat where you can relax in your plunge pool or with a massage at the spa. It is just 15 minutes away from Angkor Wat, so visitors are able to explore the spectacular temples aboard one of the Aman’s fleet of remorks (motored rickshaws) before returning to the hotel restaurant, which celebrates the best of Cambodia’s delicacies. Before bed, enjoy a cultural talk in the library or help yourself from the delectable cheese-and-wine cellar. 
*From £966 a room a night* (www.aman.com).

Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle  
|CHIANG RAI, THAILAND|
Reached by a boat ride through the jungles of northern Thailand, this Four Seasons outpost is no ordinary campsite. As there are just 15 tents (each with its own deck and copper bath tub), the resident elephants outnumber guests. Treks atop willing pachyderms, massages and food and drinks are all included in the room rate. For something really special, book the Private Paradise Package, which will get you the entire resort and a customised itinerary, whether you want to learn to cook Thai classics, have breakfast on a mountain top or indulge in treatments at the open-air spa. 
*From £1,800 a room a night* (www.fourseasons.com).
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La Mamounia in Marrakesh

PHOTOGRAPH: ANA LUI PHOTOGRAPHY

HERITAGE

THE BEST FOR...
Casa Gangotena
| QUITO, ECUADOR |
Quito’s idyllic Casa Gangotena still retains the luxuriant atmosphere of a Belle Epoque family house, with a light-flooded drawing-room verdant with lilies, orchids and pots of luscious ferns. You are greeted and treated as a treasured member of the Gangotena clan. Nothing is too much trouble: wet clothes are dried in a jiffy, ginger tea produced unprompted in a twinkling for the travel-worn. From the private roof terrace of an enchanting bedroom, a panorama of spires, bell towers and domes pokes up behind a riot of purple and scarlet bougainvillea.

From about £305 a room a night (www.casagangotena.com).

Hôtel de Crillon, A Rosewood Hotel
| PARIS, FRANCE |
The illustrious Hôtel de Crillon reopened last summer after a several-hundred-million-pound refurbishment that took four years to complete. Originally built at the request of Louis XV in 1758, the stately edifice on Place de la Concorde played host to Marie Antoinette’s piano lessons. It has been a hotel since 1909: the young Princess Elizabeth stayed here with her father in 1938, and celebrated figures from Diaghilev to Madonna have checked in over the years. Karl Lagerfeld has decorated two suites, each featuring baldachin beds, parquet marble floors and photographs taken by the designer himself.

From about £700 a room a night (www.rosewoodhotels.com).

Château Marmont
| LOS ANGELES, USA |
In the city of stars, you are likely to find several relaxing within the bungalows, bars and garden terrace of the Chateau Marmont in West Hollywood. This André Balazs property, modelled on a Loire Valley castle, has an air of old-fashioned glamour, along with an edge of hedonism (the hotel has seen its fair share of scandal as well as glitter). The ensemble cast of frequent visitors is as long as the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the hotel even made an appearance in La La Land, affirming its place on the A list.

From about £400 a room a night (www.chateaumarmont.com).
Guests of the Ritz can rest assured that the hotel is fit for a queen. A favourite of the current monarch (and the chosen venue for her 80th-birthday celebrations), this icon of Piccadilly is beloved by rock stars and royalty alike. Eat beneath chains of bronze garlands in the magnificent dining-room where Evelyn Waugh, Nancy Mitford and Diana Cooper would laugh and lunch together. If you stay on a Friday evening, be sure to join the dinner-dance, a sparkling night worthy of the Bright Young Things.
From £370 a room a night (www.theritzlondon.com).

Since Winston Churchill declared it ‘the most lovely spot in the world’, La Mamounia has entertained a constant stream of famous visitors, including Charlie Chaplin and Marlene Dietrich. The former Prime Minister has since been honoured with a namesake cigar-room at his haunt of choice: Churchill’s Bar is the finest place in Marrakesh for a nightcap accompanied by live jazz. The hotel is also renowned as a superb party venue – David Beckham held his 40th birthday here and Poppy Delevingne and her wedding guests stayed as part of the festivities when she married James Cook.
Seven nights, from £2,400 a room including flights, with Quintessentially Travel (www.quintessentiallytravel.com).
Unlike most of northern India's romantic heritage hotels, Bishangarh began life as an 18th-century hilltop fortress rather than an opulent palace. The secret of its successful transition was the construction of new wings to house 59 lavish guest suites, two restaurants, a cocktail bar and a spa that all combine traditional style with contemporary comforts. Visitors can experience treks to rural villages, safaris in search of leopards, and sundowners in antique pavilions out in the desert. A five-night itinerary, from £1,350 a person, with Greaves Travel (www.greavesindia.co.uk).

The Copa, as this art deco hotel is known, is where showbusiness stars flock when they come to Brazil. Royalty – of the real and Hollywood kind – has visited, from Princess Diana to Brigitte Bardot, as well as the music legends Nat King Cole and Ella Fitzgerald, and the hotel appeared in the 1933 Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers film *Flying Down to Rio*. With its liveried staff, a glamorous piano bar and all the marble and chandeliers you could hope for, not to mention its prime position on one of the world's most famous beaches, it's a glorious tribute to the golden age of travel. From £260 a room a night (www.belmond.com).
Il San Pietro di Positano

POSITANO, ITALY

Bazaar once dispatched John Steinbeck to pen a paean to this former fishing village: ‘Nearly always when you find a place as beautiful as Positano, your impulse is to conceal it,’ he wrote in the May 1953 issue. But this family-owned hotel, whose previous patrons include Gregory Peck, the King of Jordan and Peter O’Toole, demands to be known. Its excellent spa sits in landscaped gardens of rosebushes and lemon groves; there is a sea-facing terrace that is the perfect spot for an aperitif with a view of the surrounding hills; and the restaurant has a Michelin star.

From about £455 a room a night (www.ilsanpietro.it).

The Balmoral

EDINBURGH, UK

One of Britain’s great railway hotels, the Balmoral opened on Princes Street in 1902, ready to revive weary travellers. Back then, hotel porters dressed in smart red jackets would greet guests off the train, swiftly transporting them via a lift from the station hall up to reception. Sophia Loren, Elizabeth Taylor and Paul McCartney are notable former visitors, and the Queen Mother was once a regular during lunch service; she favoured the plain roast lamb, but would surely have been tempted by the new 10-course tasting menus at the Michelin-starred Number One restaurant.

From £205 a room a night (www.roccofortehotels.com).

The Phoenicia

VALLETTA, MALTA

Built by Lord and Lady Strickland in 1939, the Phoenicia was where the Queen stayed when she arrived in Malta as a newlywed in the late Forties. The hotel sits on the edge of the 16th-century city gates, with expansive gardens leading to the bastion walls and a pool overlooking the harbour. Take afternoon tea in the bright, circular Palm Court, or head to the Club Bar with its wooden shutters and red-leather seats to admire old photographs of Malta’s colonial past.

From about £220 a room a night (www.phoeniciamalta.com).
Celebrity Cruises has been redefining luxury cruising for years – and the launch of a new ship will set onboard standards even higher.

To step aboard a cruise ship is to embark on an experience quite unlike any other. Not simply because it is one of the few forms of travel that exemplify that well-known phrase about the journey being more important than the destination, but also because – as anyone who has experienced one can attest – the very best cruises serve to honour both equally.

Celebrity Cruises understands this. It sails to more than 300 destinations across seven continents, and its commitment to opening up every corner of the world is matched only by its dedication to offering an unrivalled experience to its guests. From the moment you step onboard one of its 12 luxury ships, you can look forward to being immersed in Celebrity Cruises’ unique brand of modern luxury where – from the stylishly appointed accommodation to the innovative cuisine and intuitive service – every last detail is designed for your enjoyment and delight.

The launch of its newest ship will take this to yet another level. Setting sail from Rome or Barcelona in summer 2019 on a choice of seven- to 11-night itineraries, Celebrity Edge features accommodation designed by Kelly Hoppen, one of the highlights.
Every detail is designed for your enjoyment and delight

of which are the Edge Staterooms. Equipped with ‘infinite balconies’ that open your entire living space up to the outdoors at the touch of a button, they are just one of the ways in which the company is redefining modern cruising.

Celebrity Edge is also home to two new categories of suite: Iconic, the most spacious and opulent in the entire fleet; and the six exclusive Edge Villas, which encompass 950 square feet of split-level, indoor-outdoor splendour that you may never want to leave.

That would be a mistake, because Hoppen has also designed the Retreat, a luxurious indoor-outdoor space exclusive to Suite Class guests. Elsewhere, the 23-metre main pool is the largest in the cruise line’s fleet to date, with features including in-pool loungers and a pair of two-storey hot tubs in the shape of martini glasses.

There are also spacious private cabanas with plush seating, stunning views and dedicated service; the adults-only solarium, which features a 3-D art wall; a rooftop garden that is home to interactive movie nights, music and dancing, and on-deck dining; and the Magic Carpet. A world first, this cantilevered, floating platform rises 13 storeys above sea level, offering a spectacular space upon which guests will be invited to relax and play.

But if there’s one place that encapsulates the spirit of Celebrity Cruises – and the spirit of Celebrity Edge in particular – it’s Eden. A knowing play on the Garden of Paradise (and all that implies – good and deliciously bad), the space transitions from a chilled-out morning escape, complete with yoga sessions and break-out breakfast areas, to become the focus of the ship’s programme of seminars, tastings and tutorials later in the day, before evolving into an extravagant – some might say decadent – space by night, for dancing, music, performance and more. Like every other aspect of your Celebrity Cruise experience it is, quite simply, superb.
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Kensho Boutique Hotel & Suites

Overlooking the beautiful Ornos Bay in the south of the island, Kensho is an exquisite new hotel. Dreamy interior design incorporates muted tones to create a soothing oasis, where you can indulge in sublime cuisine that fuses traditional Greek flavours and modern cooking techniques, as well as fantastic cocktails and world-class spa treatments.

The 35 bedrooms have Hermès products, a sleek iPad control and most have plunge pools or Jacuzzis, but if you want to leave, there is an on-demand private transfer to Mykonos Old Town.

From £339 a room a night (www.kenshomykonos.com).

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Owl and the Pussycat

This small, tranquil hotel sits at the water’s edge in Galle, and many of the 17 suites have unspoilt vistas across the Indian Ocean. The unique interiors blend bright silks, patterned floor tiles and local artworks, and the vibrant decor continues in the hotel restaurant, the Runcible Spoon (of course), which serves up Sri Lankan specialities including prawn curry with lemon ginger rice. Elsewhere, you can relax with a seaside massage while listening to the sounds of the waves, sip a spicy cocktail in the beach shack under the coconut-trees, or head to the yoga platform for early sun salutations.

From £235 a night (www.otphotel.com).
Le Chalet Zannier
|MEGÈVE, FRANCE|
Tucked away in the French Alps, in the lovely winter-sports village of Megève, Le Chalet Zannier is a collection of three opulent chalets. Minimalist and cosy, the property possesses an attention to detail that is a trademark of the Zannier Hotels experience, from an efficient driver service to the delicious buffet of freshly baked cakes that appears every day at 4pm. Each of the 12 rooms and suites is tastefully decorated in a sophisticated neutral palette of natural materials, and most have an open fireplace, the perfect place to curl up with a book after a long day on the slopes. From about £490 a room a night (www.zannierhotels.com).

G-Rough
|ROME, ITALY|
Ten spacious suites in G-Rough, a 17th-century townhouse near Piazza Navona, are yours to call home at this hipster-luxe den, whose name nods to the bold decision to leave the walls stripped back inside. Unearthed fragments of decoration and pencil sketches from years gone by are complemented by stylish reclaimed pieces from the Sicilian design firm Leftover. There’s no restaurant, but plates of local cheeses and charcuterie can be sampled at G-Bar, or ask the hotel’s ‘lifestyle manager’ to arrange dinner prepared by a Cordon Bleu-trained chef in a privately owned palazzo just moments away. From about £335 a room a night (www.g-rough.com).

Akelarre
|SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN|
San Sebastián’s first five-star boutique hotel, perched on a hilltop a few minutes from the city centre, is certainly worth the wait. Next-door to the restaurant of the same name that has held three Michelin stars under the chef Pedro Subijana since 2007, Akelarre joins an impressive Spanish hotel portfolio that includes Cap Rocat in Mallorca and Totem in Madrid. Bedrooms capitalise on the enchanting sea views with floor-to-ceiling windows and individual terraces; large mirrors in the marble and oak bathrooms add to the airy feel. There’s also a peaceful spa with a swimming pool, hydrotherapy circuit and hammam. From £275 a room a night (www.akelarre.net).
Chablé Spa & Resort
| YUCATÁN, MEXICO |
Journey to the centre of the Yucatán jungle to find Chablé – a luxurious shamanic retreat, influenced by the legacy and healing practices of its Mayan ancestors. Awake to an exotic dawn chorus and take a refreshing swim in your casita's pool before dodging the butterflies on your cycle ride to the resort's spa. Here, you can enjoy fresh juices and yoga lessons on a deck looking over a cenote, a beautiful natural cave pool. At night, try the region's most delectable cuisine cooked by the illustrious Mexican chef Jorge Vallejo, and sample a tequila collection of over 3,000 bottles.

Seven nights at Chablé, from £5,127 a person based on two sharing, including return Aero Mexico flights, with Red Savannah (www.redsavannah.com).

Hotel Casa San Agustín
| CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA |
In the heart of Cartagena's Old Town sits Hotel Casa San Agustín, a characterful refuge with 300-year-old frescoes and hand-painted bathroom tiles. Premium rooms with secluded patios and plunge pools are ideal for couples. You can also while away the hours on a rattan sunlounger by the pool, enclosed within a picturesque courtyard. The hotel restaurant Alma is a destination in its own right and focuses on serving the local speciality: seafood.

From about £325 a room a night (www.hotelcasasanagustin.com).
Masseria Trapana

Puglia, Italy

The lovingly restored 16th-century Masseria Trapana is a cool, calm haven with just nine suites set in 60 hectares of ancient olive groves. In summertime, breakfast might include pomegranates, freshly picked from the masseria’s gardens, overflowing with scent and colour from every kind of fruit- and nut-tree imaginable. As evening arrives, you can savour homemade mandarin liqueur while swinging in a hammock in the shade of the orange-trees, or wallow in an alfresco bath, eating a fig plucked from the branches above your head. Cooking lessons are also available, so you can recreate a taste of Puglia at home.

From £215 a room a night (www.trapana.com).

Henrietta Hotel

London, UK

You may know the Experimental Group for its excellent Cocktail Clubs in London, Paris and New York, but its debut hotel, on one of Covent Garden’s prettiest streets, also deserves praise. The 18-room property features brushed-aluminium armchairs, sumptuous carpets and bathrooms with pastel-pink walls and monochrome floor tiles. There are beauty products by John Masters Organics, Malin+Goetz and Ren, and more treats in the minibar, including selections from the Scotch Malt Whisky Society and Sipsmith. This playful ambience continues in the hotel’s two-storey restaurant, where dishes are artfully composed by the Michelin-starred chef Ollie Dabbous.

From £250 a room a night (www.henriettahotel.com).

Hôtel Les Roches Rouges

Saint-Tropez, France

From the same team behind Paris’ Le Pigalle comes Hôtel Les Roches Rouges, a charming coastal escape midway between Saint-Tropez and Cannes. The 50 whitewashed guest-rooms have wicker furniture, Provençal ceramics and soft Maison de Vacances throws, and you’ll find Le Labo products in the bathroom. Swimmers will love the saltwater pool carved out of the shorefront rock, and the grounds also have an open-air cinema, three Esthederm spa rooms and a pétanque court.

From about £315 a room a night (www.hotellesrochesrouges.com).
THE BEST

VILLAS

Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco’s Villa Biondi in Tuscany. Opposite: a selection of the hotel’s other villas.
Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco (TUSCANY, ITALY)

With 11 villas dotted around a Unesco World Heritage Site, Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco is the quintessential Tuscan retreat. Owned by the Ferragamo family, it stands amid acres of vineyards and has access to a golf course that has played host to Barack Obama. At the newly unveiled Villa Agresto, a live-in housekeeper and chef will fulfil your every whim, organising picnics and in-villa spa treatments, and devising cocktail recipes for your private bar. Foodies will love the on-site cookery school and wine cellars, and guests can even go truffle-hunting or take part in the annual olive harvest.

From about £3,920 a night for Villa Agresto (sleeps 10) (www.rosewoodhotels.com).
Sri Panwa
PHUKET, THAILAND
On the very tip of Phuket, Sri Panwa’s restful pool villas are scattered through 40 acres of tropical rainforest for the ultimate romantic escape. Each villa looks out to the vast sea beyond, so you can take in the view from every angle in your very own wraparound infinity pool (or from inside the large living-room and fully stocked kitchen).

Or jump into one of the hotel’s colourful tuk tuks to visit the floating yoga deck, Thai boxing ring, spa and four excellent restaurants. Don’t miss sunset at the super-exclusive Baba Nest, possibly the most photogenic bar on the planet.

From £495 a night for a Garden View Pool Villa (sleeps two) (www.sripanwa.com).

Calistoga Ranch
CALIFORNIA, USA
In the heart of Napa’s rolling countryside lies Calistoga Ranch, an Auberge Resorts hotel comprising a series of self-contained timber villas that are tucked away in a wooded valley. Room service is delivered direct to your door, and golf buggies whisk you up the winding track to the lakeside restaurant, where the delicious, locally sourced food vies for attention with the spectacular scenery. The individual lodges are designed for privacy – it’s unsurprising that Calistoga is a celebrity favourite – and the living area is partly open to the elements, allowing you to reconnect with nature while still feeling utterly spoilt.

From about £570 a room a night for a deluxe lodge (sleeps two) (www.calistogaranch.com).
Hidden in the north of Ibiza, away from the island’s late-night revelry but a short drive from some of its prettiest beaches, is Finca 15. One of Scott Williams’ exceptional European properties, this tranquil retreat has been recently revamped by an eco-architect and boasts stylish accommodation for up to 10 guests. Inside you’ll find huge wooden beds, sunken stone baths and quirky artwork from around the globe. Younger guests will enjoy exploring the flower-filled gardens where they’ll find a six-foot tepee, a giant trampoline and a midnight-blue infinity pool.

From £450 a person, based on 10 sharing for a seven-night stay (www.scottwilliams.co.uk).

Cheval Blanc Randheli
| THE MALDIVES |
There are 45 villas at Cheval Blanc Randheli – some on stilts above the water, others on the beach – designed by Jean-Michel Gathy. These magnificent structures have cathedral-like ceilings made from bamboo and seven-metre-high glass doors, which add to the feeling of limitless space. LVMH’s signature yellow features here (it owns the hotel): on the ceramic pots that border your infinity pool and in the ‘Island Chic’ candles specially created by Christian Dior’s perfumer.

From about £1,325 a villa a night (sleeps two) (www.chevalblanc.com).

Haus Alpina
| KLOSTERS, SWITZERLAND |
The Penthouse at Haus Alpina in the unspoilt Swiss village of Klosters is everything you could wish for in an alpine destination. An Edge Retreats property, it features spacious, White Company-furnished bedrooms, and has many areas to relax in: two impressive double-height living-rooms with open fireplaces, a traditional Swiss stübi (dining-room), a library, cosy television-rooms and a massage-room. The sumptuous interiors are combined with impeccable service from a chef and host, including thoughtful touches such as fresh flowers and delightful afternoon tea and canapés daily, as well as a driver on call 24/seven.

From about £3,050 a night (sleeps 12) (www.edgeretreats.com).
Roaming the cobbled pathways of the Four Seasons Langkawi, as leaf monkeys shake the trees and lotus flowers open up in the morning sun, it’s easy to feel as if you have stumbled into paradise. Ninety-one villas and pavilions are dotted along a mile of peaceful beach, each with full-height sliding doors that flood the rooms with natural light and elegantly decorated with local arts and crafts. Beach villas have private decks with day-beds, hammocks and plunge pools, and there’s a palatial 15,000-square-foot Royal Villa for those seeking total seclusion.

From about £1,805 a villa a night (sleeps three) (www.fourseasons.com).

A 600-acre residential community with a 71-slip marina, Albany has everything from pastel beachfront villas to luxury apartments. There’s an 18-hole golf course and fitness centre with state-of-the-art facilities for boxing, Pilates, CrossFit and tennis. The beautiful Spa and MedSpa provide relaxing treatments and non-surgical anti-ageing and body-contouring therapies, which might be necessary after indulging at Vespa, a cocktail and sushi restaurant, or Wave, a pop-up that invites different international chefs to introduce new culinary concepts seasonally.

Price on request (hotel@albanybahamas.com; www.albanybahamas.com).

Set in 420 acres on Mexico’s west coast, overlooking the turquoise waters of Chamela Bay, Las Rosadas Private is an exclusive haven for groups. The glamorous villa is made up of a series of pavilions that encircle the main living area with both indoor and outdoor dining spaces and an infinity pool. Hard as it is to leave this haute hideaway, outside there are miles of trails to explore, and down on the expansive beach you’ll find palapas (thatched beach huts) and spa cabanas so you don’t have to venture far for a massage.

From about £3,400 a night (sleeps 14) (www.lasrosadas.com).

Hidden away down a tiny lane that winds alongside centuries-old olive groves, the Trullo Pinnacolo is an oasis of contemporary chic. The bedrooms are fitted with walnut furniture and pristine bathrooms, and several have floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the black mosaic swimming pool. Should you tire of alfresco barbecues and ping-pong on the terrace, Puglia’s glorious beaches and heritage towns are within easy reach, and the Thinking Traveller can organise an in-villa cook, a yoga teacher and trips to local attractions.

Seven nights, from about £6,710 a person (sleeps 12) (www.thethinkingtraveller.com).
The Bulgari Hotel London is located in Knightsbridge, the heart of central London's most prestigious area and just steps away from Harrods, Sloane Street and Hyde Park. The 85 rooms and suites complement exceptional facilities, including the Bulgari Spa with a full gymnasium and physical training centre with on-site Workshop personal training team; 25m long swimming pool; renowned Cigar Shop and sampling room and the refined Rivea London restaurant; to deliver a city hotel experience that is unique in the world.

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bulgarihotels.com/london
‘There’s much to be said for having a little holiday in your home city – and for me, the greatest treat of all is a night at CLARIDGE’S.’
Justine Picardie, editor-in-chief

‘My cherished Brunello Cucinelli cashmere tracksuit makes me feel as though I’m flying FIRST CLASS, even on EasyJet.’
Lydia Slater, deputy editor

‘Rent a BICYCLE and explore like a local, and take a POLAROID camera instead of wasting your holiday time on Instagram.’
Charlotte Davey, junior fashion and jewellery editor

‘Recapture the ROMANCE by revisiting your honeymoon destination for a SPECIAL anniversary, as we did at Baros in the Maldives.’
Connie Osborne, managing editor

‘I travel in STYLE with a monogrammed Horizon carry-on case, designed by Marc Newson for Louis Vuitton.’
Avril Mair, fashion director

‘I buy new PERFUME in the airport so that beautifully scented holiday memories are brought back to me each time I wear it at home.’
Siân Ranscombe, beauty editor

‘I love de Mamiel’s Altitude Oil, a multi-tasking elixir that blends LAVENDER, lemon and peppermint, which helps combat jet-lag.’
Lucy Halfhead, travel editor

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Lucy Halfhead, travel editor

‘A professional self-tan before a holiday gives me CONFIDENCE – Sienna X and Tan-Luxe treatments are my favourites.’
Katy Young, beauty director

Our personal recommendations and favourite products for heavenly holidays

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Bazaar x
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