THE POSTE

CURATED INSPIRATION BY THE PELICAN CLUB



VOLUME 05



THE PELICAN CLUB



Dear friends,

It has been a while since our last letter, and we have missed writing to you. Volume 5 has been a long time coming, which feels fitting for an issue about taking your time.

Much has happened since we last wrote. Our team has grown to nine, and we have settled into our new office on Yonge Street, in Summerhill. Two new Travel Designers, Karina and Christina, join Shauna, Brenna and Leigh. Behind the scenes, two additional colleagues keep every itinerary up to date and ensure each hotel knows you are one of our VIPs long before you arrive. Our family has grown, too, with the arrival of our second child, Roman, and with him a newfound appreciation for slowing down.

That spirit runs through this issue, where we celebrate slow luxury: savouring the journey as much as the destination, and seeing the world through the eyes of someone who has been there. Shauna, who grew up in Bangkok, skips the trending spots for the noodle shops and night markets she has loved for decades. Brenna takes you through Rajasthan with Aman, from tiger sightings in Ranthambore to candlelit evenings in the gardens of Amanbagh. Jamsheed returns from Colombia, a country whose rhythm, flavour and warmth linger long after you leave. You will also cross the Andes with Awasi, winter in the Alps' grandest hotels, step inside a century-old cliff top villa in Portofino reimagined by Belmond, and explore New York City with the whole family.

Beyond these pages, the team has been busy exploring: Brenna in Peru, Leigh in the Azores and Madeira, Shauna in Costa Rica, and Jamsheed in Rwanda, where he trekked to see gorillas and kept a daily diary you can read on our website. Throughout the year, we met with hotels and partners from around the world at select trade shows, discovering new places worth sharing so every recommendation we make comes first-hand.

We spent a few unforgettable days at Sterrekopje Farm in South Africa's Western Cape, a truly magical place. We had the best spa treatments of our lives, braved a bracingly cold pond, and, above all, reconnected with each other and with nature.

Looking ahead, 2027 promises to be a special year. In April, we set off on our first Hosted Journey, the first of many to come. 18 couples will be joining us aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express from Venice to Paris, in partnership with our friends at the CB Wine Program. We are also refreshing our look and lauching an easy-to-use hotel booking platform for our members, making planning your next stay simpler and faster than ever.

As always, thank you for travelling with us. Wherever the year takes you, we hope you make room to slow down and savour the journey.

All the very best,

Jennica & Jamsheed

FOUNDERS, THE PELICAN CLUB



The art of al fresco living at Villa Beatrice, enjoyed from the privacy of your own terrace.

IN THIS ISSUE

9
FOOD + DRINK
Thailand

16
NATURE + ANIMALS
India

23
REGENERATIVE
South America

31
HISTORY + CULTURE
Colombia

39
HANDPICKED
France + Switzerland

47
WELLNESS + SELF CARE
South Africa

53
LUXURY + LIFESTYLE
Italy

61
FAMILY FUN
United States

68
THE PELICAN CLUB
Membership


6ลูก
20บาท
ขนมจีบ
6ลูก 20
ไทเฮา
สะอาด ถูกหลักอนามัย
ความอร่อยที่พิสูจน์ได้ พร้อมน้ำจิ้มสูตรไม่ธรรมดา
ร้านตั้งอยู่ หมู่บ้านเทพารักษ์ 4 บางบ่อ สมุทรปราการ

GIN KHAO RUE YANG?

(HAVE YOU EATEN YET?)

In Thailand, instead of asking “how are you doing?” we say: “gin khao rue yang” — “have you eaten yet?”.

Growing up in Bangkok, food wasn't just about eating; it was about connecting and spending time with loved ones, from family meals or late-night bites with friends, to conversations that continued long after the plates are cleared. Even now, when I travel home to Bangkok, whether visiting my mom’s best friend’s home or my aunt’s place, the first question is always “Gin khao rue yang?”

It's that same spirit that makes Bangkok’s street food so special. It’s where culture, flavour, and community come together, bringing our cuisine truly to life, with home-style cooking at its roots. Bangkok may have earned global recognition for its gastronomy, but way before our cuisine was internationalized and before Michelin stars or fine dining restaurants, it was the street vendors and market cooks who shaped the country’s food culture.

For Thais, street food isn’t just about convenience or affordability — it’s about comfort and preserving culture. Recipes are handed down through generations, techniques are protected like family secrets, and the same locals return to their favourite vendors daily, showing loyalty through eating rather than words.

Whenever I travel back home to Bangkok, I don’t head straight to the newest trending spot; instead, I go to a tiny noodle shop hidden in an alley off Sukhumvit Soi 49 called Zeaw. Plastic stools, no frills, just pure comfort. It’s the first place my mom went when she moved to Bangkok in her 20s, and I’ve been coming here for over 20 years. It's still my favourite bowl of noodle soup in the city — humble, soothing, and exactly what I crave.

To truly taste Thailand, you have to step into the chaos, sitting on a stool by a tiny table on the sidewalk, surrounded by the sizzling of woks, motorbikes whizzing past, and the smell of garlic, chili, and smoke in the air. You might sweat. You might get splashed. But it will be absolutely worth it.

The following pages share some of the spots we locals love to visit.

Pu Nim Tod Kra Tiam Prik Thai, a seafood favourite of crispy soft-shell crab tossed with fragrant garlic and black pepper.

Freshly picked Thai herbs and edible flowers, gathered from Capella Bangkok’s riverside greenhouse.





Yaowarat (Chinatown)

Jam-packed with more street food stalls than you can count, it's a sensory overload — but in the best way possible. At night, neon signs light up the streets, creating a completely different atmosphere. The street transforms into one long stretch of carts, grills, woks, and queues. Some of my favorite spots here include:

'Nai Ek Roll Noodle' — Soft, springy rolled rice noodles submerged in an aromatic broth full of spices, topped with perfectly cooked crispy pork belly.

'Khao Moo Deang Si Morokot' — Juicy red pork with thick, tender pieces of crispy pork belly, served over rice with a velvety umami-rich sauce. This spot has been in the heart of Yaowarat locals for over 70 years and remains a local favourite!

'Yaowarat Toasted Buns' — Just as the name suggests: warm toasted buns with a variety of sweet fillings, such as Pandan custard, egg custard, or Thai tea custard — simple yet delicious.

'Patong Go Savoey' — Hot crispy Thai-style fried dough (similar to a donut), topped with your choice of pandan custard, condensed milk, or chocolate — simple, nostalgic, and incredibly satisfying!

Sidewalk dining at its finest. Savouring authentic local dishes on the bustling streets of Bangkok.





Banthat Thong

A popular go-to for locals in the evening to late night, perhaps less busy than Chinatown, but still with so many options to choose from:

Jeh o chula — Famous for tom yum mama noodles (yes, instant noodles but upgraded!) Served with fresh seafood and herbs, and a broth that is so flavourful, tangy, and rich.

Heng HoiTod Chawlee — Golden, crispy oyster omelette, with a soft chewy center, cooked on a hot wok for that smoky finish. One of my absolute favourites!

Lek Yai Traditional Tom Yum Noodles — Bold, tangy tom yum soup, served with springy noodles and tender pork, topped with crushed peanuts for that perfect finish.

Beyond the main streets, Bangkok is full of hidden gems scattered around tiny sois (small alleys):

- **Wattana Panich** — Famed for its deeply rich beef soup that has been simmering for over 50 years, resulting in an intensely deep and aromatic flavour with melt-in-your-mouth meat.
- **Baan Kuay Tiew Ruathong** — Known for its boat noodles with a dark, flavourful broth, served in small portions so you can try a variety of toppings and noodle styles — perfect if you want to taste everything on the menu like me!
- **Polo Fried Chicken** — Crispy golden fried chicken (Hat Yai style), topped with a generous throw of fried garlic…simply addictive and flavourful!

Of course, there's more to Bangkok than just street food, so here's my quick guide on where to shop, sip, and stay!



Shop

ICONSIAM
High-end shopping, boutique stores, electronics, cafe, range of restaurants with riverside views, this is a destination in itself!

Siam Square & Siam Center
Chic Thai designer boutiques, perfect for stylish shopping and people watching.

Pratunam Market
An indoor market spread across two buildings, selling textiles, clothing, and lots of bargain deals.

Chatuchak Market
A weekend market selling all you can think of, from local crafts to vintage pieces and street snacks.



Sip

Crimson Room
Roaring twenties-inspired bar with daily live jazz, with bold cocktails.

Bar Kaguya
Hidden Japanese-inspired spot with artful, playful drinks.

Vesper
A sleek riverside lounge with craft cocktails.

Bar Us
Relaxed speakeasy-style bar with creative drinks, with a modern apothecary-style space.



Stay

Capella Bangkok
A riverside gem with sweeping views of the river, sleek and serene.

The Siam
A boutique retreat with a private riverfront vibe, exquisite architecture, and filled with Thai antiques, where every corner feels like a museum.

Aman Nai Lert
Tucked in a peaceful park, this serene sanctuary combines lush tropical gardens with contemporary Thai designs in the heart of Bangkok.

Mandarin Oriental Bangkok
Timeless elegance along the Chao Phraya River with some of the city's best scenic riverside dining.



Traditional Thai-inspired latticework and serene design create the ultimate sanctuary at Capella Bangkok



WILDERNESS & WONDER

A FIRSTHAND JOURNEY THROUGH RAJASTHAN WITH AMAN


MARUTI
RJ26TA1566

Last October, I had the rare pleasure of visiting two of India's most surreal Aman retreats: Aman-i-Khás and Amanbagh. Each offers a different kind of magic — one set amidst the roar of wildlife, the other in the hush of timeless gardens— but both share the same quiet, effortless luxury that makes every Aman stay unforgettable.

My journey to Aman-i-Khás began with a sense of anticipation. The camp lies in the Aravalli Hills on the fringes of Ranthambore National Park, in rural Rajasthan — a wilderness location steeped in history and culture. Guests can travel by car or by train with Aman Butler service to Sawai Madhopur, followed by a scenic 20-minute drive through the scrub and rocky terrain. From the moment we approached, it felt like stepping into another world: as we reached the camp, orange and yellow marigolds — traditional Indian flowers — were tossed from the entrance towers in a joyful, ceremonial welcome. Our personal batman (valet) then escorted us through the camp, attending to every whim along the way.

Aman-i-Khás feels like a modern revival of the lavish hunting camps once used by Mughal royalty. Thirteen soaring tents, each with king-size beds, six-metre-high canopies, sunken marble baths, and custom teak furniture, are scattered across the grounds. Creamy cotton curtains divide sleeping, living, and dressing areas, while private verandas invite morning tea or coffee in quiet solitude.

Outside the camp, open-top jeep safaris are, of course, the heart of the experience. Ranthambore has been a sanctuary since 1955 and is one of the best places in the world to spot tigers. On one unforgettable morning, sunlight streamed through the trees just as a tiger padded past, a moment so thrilling it felt almost cinematic. Sambar deer, leopards, sloth bears, wild boar, and hundreds of bird species — raptors, kingfishers, and waders — share the park with the elusive Bengal tiger, and every drive felt intimate and raw. Between jeep safaris, there's time for a refreshing dip in the stepwell pool or a rejuvenating spa treatment.





A tent in name only: inside the extraordinary suites at Aman-i-Khás.

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The Bengal tiger, one of Ranthambore National Park's most iconic residents.

◀



For those who want to stretch their legs without leaving camp, guided walks through the low hills, or a birding trip to Surwal Lake and the Banas riverbed, reveal the same richness of flora and fauna. A leisurely cruise along the Chambal River, one of the few perennial rivers in the region, brings you face-to-face with water turtles, migratory birds, and even the rare gharial — a thin-snouted crocodile on the Critically Endangered list.

Evenings were equally memorable. We enjoyed cocktails at sunset in a wildfire observatory treehouse with Mr. Daulat Singh Shaktawat, Aman-i-Khás's resident wildlife conservationist. Having spent nearly 40 years with the Rajasthan Forest Department tracking tigers, leopards, and other threatened species — including surviving a tiger attack in 2010 — his stories of the park and its creatures were captivating, and his knowledge brought the park to life in a way no guidebook ever could. Dinner was served beneath a canopy of stars, either in the flickering candlelight of the dining tent or outdoors around the communal fire. The menu featured traditional Rajasthani cuisine inspired by Mughal kitchens, with most ingredients sourced from the camp's own organic garden.

After Aman-i-Khás, we headed south on a three-hour drive to Amanbagh, which felt like entering a dream! Its name, meaning "peaceful garden," says it all. Located on the outskirts of Jaipur, the hotel lies in an oasis framed by the ancient Aravalli Hills, lined by palms, eucalyptus, and fruit trees. We were welcomed with a highly personalized, traditional Rajasthani ceremony designed to signify peace and prosperity — a moment of quiet reverence before the days of exploration began. Rose-tinted walls, domed cupolas, and shaded courtyards evoke the Mughal era, and each suite is a little palace: king-size beds, vaulted ceilings, private terraces, and bathtubs carved from single slabs of Udaipur green marble. Filling the bath takes almost half an hour, but lying back under the sunlight streaming through the arches makes it worth every second.

A modern-day Mughal palace, Amanbagh's rose-hued architecture makes quite the impression from the pool.

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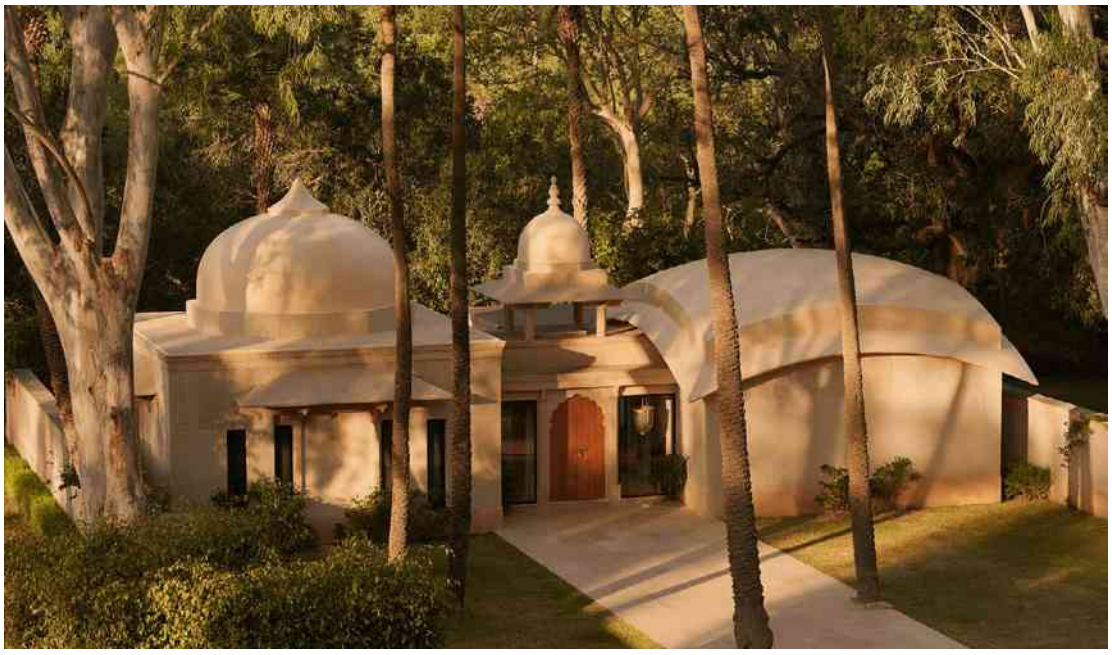
Relaxation is effortless here. The 33-metre sea-green marble pool, surrounded by eucalypt-shaded loungers invites long swims. The spa and Ayurvedic doctor on property provide tailored treatments for complete rejuvenation, whether you're after an invigorating massage, a wellness consultation, or a holistic therapy.

Outside the hotel, the "Sunset Cow Dust" jeep ride brings you up close to village life. Children chase after the jeep and farmers herd cows, goats and buffaloes, as the golden glow of Godhuli light settles over the village streets. Hotel bicycles invite a slower pace of exploration, while a trip to Sariska National Park — once the hunting grounds of the Maharaja of Alwar — reveals tigers, leopards, antelope, sambar deer, wild boar, langur and macaque monkeys, and hundreds of birds, all expertly tracked by Amanbagh naturalists. After a day of discovery and relaxation, we were whisked away to an ancient chhatri just five minutes from the hotel. With one hundred diyas, a musician, a private chef, and a clear night sky filled with stars, the experience felt like a dreamscape.

From tiger sightings at Aman-i-Khás to golden evenings at Amanbagh, both stays leave you with a sense of having stepped out of time. One is thrilling, wild, and untamed; the other serene, sculpted, and meditative. But together, they capture the essence of India in a way that's rare: intimate and completely unforgettable.

A look at Amanbagh's palatial suites, some with room to rival a private residence.

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ANDEAN CROSSING

From the otherworldly landscapes of the Atacama Desert to the wild peaks of Patagonia and the vineyards of Mendoza, few journeys reveal the extraordinary diversity of South America quite like this. Yet what connects these dramatically different places is a singular approach to travel: one that places the destination, and the freedom to experience it on your own terms, at the centre.

This is the philosophy behind Awasi, a collection of intimate luxury lodges set in some of the continent's most remarkable landscapes. Rather than simply providing a place to stay, each property is designed as a gateway to its surroundings, with a strong connection to the landscape, culture and character of the region, along with a commitment to preserving what makes each place unique.

What distinguishes Awasi is the freedom to explore each destination. Every stay includes a private guide and dedicated 4x4 vehicle, allowing days to unfold around individual interests, pace and curiosity rather than a set itinerary. The result is an approach to luxury travel that feels immersive without ever feeling prescribed.

For those looking to experience three very different sides of the Awasi collection together, Awasi Atacama, Awasi Patagonia and Awasi Mendoza can be combined into the eight-night Andean Crossing. Moving from desert to wilderness to wine country, the journey brings together three distinct expressions of South America.





The journey begins in the oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama, where Awasi Atacama is surrounded by one of the world's most surreal landscapes. The small adobe lodge draws inspiration from traditional Atacameño architecture, with earthy materials and understated interiors that reflect the desert beyond.

The surrounding region is remarkably diverse. Guests can explore high-altitude lagoons, ancient salt flats, steaming geysers and the dramatic formations of Valle de la Luna. The desert also offers extraordinary opportunities for stargazing, with exceptionally clear skies revealing an almost limitless canopy of stars after dark.

Beyond the scenery, the experience offers a glimpse into the ancient cultures and communities that have called this seemingly inhospitable landscape home for generations, while Awasi's approach to local sourcing and responsible resource management reflects the delicate nature of the desert environment.

At the edge of the world, Awasi Patagonia's standalone villas offer front-row seats to the raw, untamed beauty of Patagonia.

◀

Exploring the surreal, wind-sculpted formations of the Salt Mountain Range on horseback with Awasi Atacama.

▲



From the stark stillness of the desert, the journey continues south to an entirely different world. Awasi Patagonia sits on a private reserve overlooking Torres del Paine National Park. Here, the landscape is defined by towering granite peaks, glaciers, turquoise lakes and wide-open plains.

The property's freestanding villas are designed to make the most of the setting, with sweeping views of the Paine Massif and a sense of complete privacy. The surrounding private reserve also plays an important role in protecting the landscape and wildlife that define the region, providing a refuge for species such as pumas, guanacos and Andean condors.

Days can be spent hiking through Torres del Paine, horseback riding with local gauchos, photographing the landscape or searching for Patagonia's elusive pumas. The experience is deliberately unhurried, with the freedom to spend a full day exploring or simply remain immersed in the scenery surrounding the lodge.

Warm lenga wood interiors wrap the private cabins at Awasi Patagonia, offering a cozy sanctuary from the elements.

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Inspired by traditional Spanish-colonial design, the distinctive white architecture of Awasi Mendoza emerges from the surrounding vineyard rows.

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From Patagonia, the landscape shifts from wilderness to wine country, as the journey reaches Awasi Mendoza. Vineyards and olive groves stretch across the foothills of the Andes, creating a softer but equally striking setting.

Awasi Mendoza offers an intimate base for discovering the region's renowned wine and culinary culture. Days can be spent visiting wineries and meeting local producers across Luján de Cuyo and the Uco Valley, lingering over long lunches or exploring the region's olive oil, cuisine and mountain landscapes.

Here, the pace naturally slows. After the desert and wilderness of the first two destinations, Mendoza provides a relaxed finale centered around great food, exceptional wine and the dramatic presence of the Andes.

Ultimately, Awasi is about more than discovering extraordinary places — it is about creating a deeper connection to them, while helping to protect the landscapes, wildlife, traditions and communities that make them worth discovering.




Take your time.
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TASTING THE RHYTHM OF COLOMBIA

WITH OUR PARTNERS ON THE GROUND, GALAVANTA

There's a certain energy in Colombia that catches travelers off guard, a warmth that feels both familiar and entirely new.

Long defined by stories of its turbulent past, Colombia has transformed into a captivating travel destination, with an inspiring blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and heartfelt hospitality.

With the signing of the 2016 Peace Agreement, Colombia marked more than just a political milestone; it signaled a cultural renaissance. Cities that were once overlooked now pulse with creativity and remote regions are opening to discerning travelers eager to experience Colombia.

Renowned for its fine coffee, fresh flowers, and exquisite emeralds, Colombia's allure goes beyond its famous exports. The country's natural and cultural riches that now take center stage include world-class gastronomy rooted in local flavors, a thriving arts and design scene, and a wealth of natural wonders.





As the second-most biodiverse nation on Earth, Colombia is a country of astonishing contrasts, stretching from the Caribbean to the Amazon: on the Caribbean coast, tropical forests and deserts meet turquoise waters and colonial towns. On the Pacific side, jungles and remote beaches are a sanctuary for whale watchers and eco-adventurers. In the Andes, coffee farms dot emerald-green valleys that give way to cities surrounded by snowcapped peaks. While golden savannas of Los Llanos glow at sunset, the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest bursts with vibrancy and life.

Each region tells its own story through its gastronomy, craftsmanship, architecture, and over a thousand musical rhythms that pulse through daily life.

An aerial view of the historic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception rising over the terracotta rooftops of Barichara.

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Golden hour over the historic San Pedro Claver Church in the heart of Cartagena's Walled City.

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The Land of 1,000 Rhythms

Like its culture, Colombia's music is a fusion of Indigenous, African, and Spanish influences that have given rise to cumbia, the country's most emblematic rhythm.

While salsa may have originated with its Caribbean neighbors, Colombians have made it their own with unmistakable flair. In the city of Cali, known as the World Capital of Salsa, locals of all ages glide across dance floors with skillful footwork and contagious joy.

Music is more than entertainment; it's the country's heartbeat, and it can be heard spilling out of open doorways and car windows, mixing with the sound of street vendors and earning Colombia the title of the "Land of a Thousand Rhythms."

In Cartagena, it's not odd to find oneself in an impromptu street party in the historic Old Town, dancing to the beat of ancestral drums. In the colorful and traditional neighborhood of Getsemaní, visitors can learn the quick-footed moves of champeta, a genre born from the city's Afro-Caribbean roots and now synonymous with its infectious, celebratory spirit.

In Medellín, a new generation of artists and music collectives are remixing tradition with innovation. Here, urban beats, reggaetón, and electronic sounds are contributing to Colombia's recognition on the global music scene.



Feeling the heartbeat of Cartagena at Tertulia de Getsemaní, one of the city's most famous bars.

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A grand welcome: The striking, restored historic entrance of the newly opened Four Seasons Hotel Cartagena.

▶





A Taste of Colombia

If music is one window into Colombian identity, food is another. As the country evolves, its gastronomy is also earning international recognition. In Colombia, food is identity, and culinary expressions vary hugely by region, from indigenous and Afro Colombian cooking to local influences.

What chefs are doing can't be categorized as just fine dining; they are reviving, preserving and reinterpreting regional culinary traditions using exotic fruits, Andean tubers, Amazonian superfoods, and freshly caught Pacific fish.

From Bogotá, to Medellín, and even countryside escapes like Barichara, food is fresh, contemporary, and where international techniques meet local flair and color.

A prime example is Celele, led by Jaime Rodriguez. Ranked #48 on The World's 50 Best Restaurants in 2025, the intimate Getsemaní spot draws inspiration from travels across the Colombian Caribbean, uncovering forgotten ingredients and ancestral flavors in remote coastal communities.

In Bogotá, chefs reinterpret traditional recipes with bold, modern twists. While in Medellín, sleek rooftop tapas bars offer panoramic views and signature cocktails infused with native botanicals. And experiences aren't limited to visiting top foodie spots: join a private cooking class and learn to prepare ceviche or coconut rice or, for those with a taste for indulgence, private cacao and rum — or aguardiente — tastings reveal Colombia's sweeter side.

Traveling through Colombia is like exploring many countries in one and, for the traveler who believes discovery is the ultimate luxury, Colombia isn't just a destination — it's the next great story waiting to be told.

Elvia Cocina Local in Barichara turns a classic hummus into a stunning canvas of local flavors.

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Vibrant Caribbean spirit meets contemporary gastronomy inside Celele, one of Latin America's most celebrated dining rooms.

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ALPINE GRANDEUR

A JOURNEY THROUGH WINTER'S MOST CAPTIVATING ESCAPES

There are ski trips and then there is the Alps. Winter here isn't just about snow; it's a ritual. Fur-lined mornings and church bells echoing through quiet valleys. Champagne poured at altitude. Candlelight flickering against centuries-old wood beams. Each corner of the Alps moves to its own rhythm. Some pulse with glamour, others whisper in stillness and the hotels are not simply places to sleep, but part of the story itself.

The journey might begin in Megève, where cobblestone streets and horse-drawn sleighs set an unhurried tone. Life here feels intimate, deeply French, and quietly elegant. Tucked above the village, **Zannier Le Chalet** captures that spirit beautifully. Wood, stone, and soft linens shape rooms that feel more like a private alpine home than a hotel. Afternoons stretch easily from the slopes to the spa, and evenings end by the fire with a glass of local wine. Megève invites you to settle in rather than rush through.

From there, the pace shifts. In Courchevel 1850, winter becomes theatre. Designer boutiques line the pistes, helicopters hum overhead, and champagne corks pop before noon. It is high altitude with high energy. Yet just above the village, **L'Apogée Courchevel** offers a different vantage point. Cocooned from the scene below, the hotel balances plush interiors with intuitive, discreet service. Ski-in, ski-out access makes mornings effortless - click into your skis and glide straight into Les Trois Vallées — while afternoons belong to terrace sunsets and restorative spa rituals. Courchevel dazzles; L'Apogée restores.

Cozying up in a custom alcove at L'Apogée Club. A perfect blend of chalet intimacy and glamorous Brutalist spirit, by renowned designer Kelly Wearstler.

▼



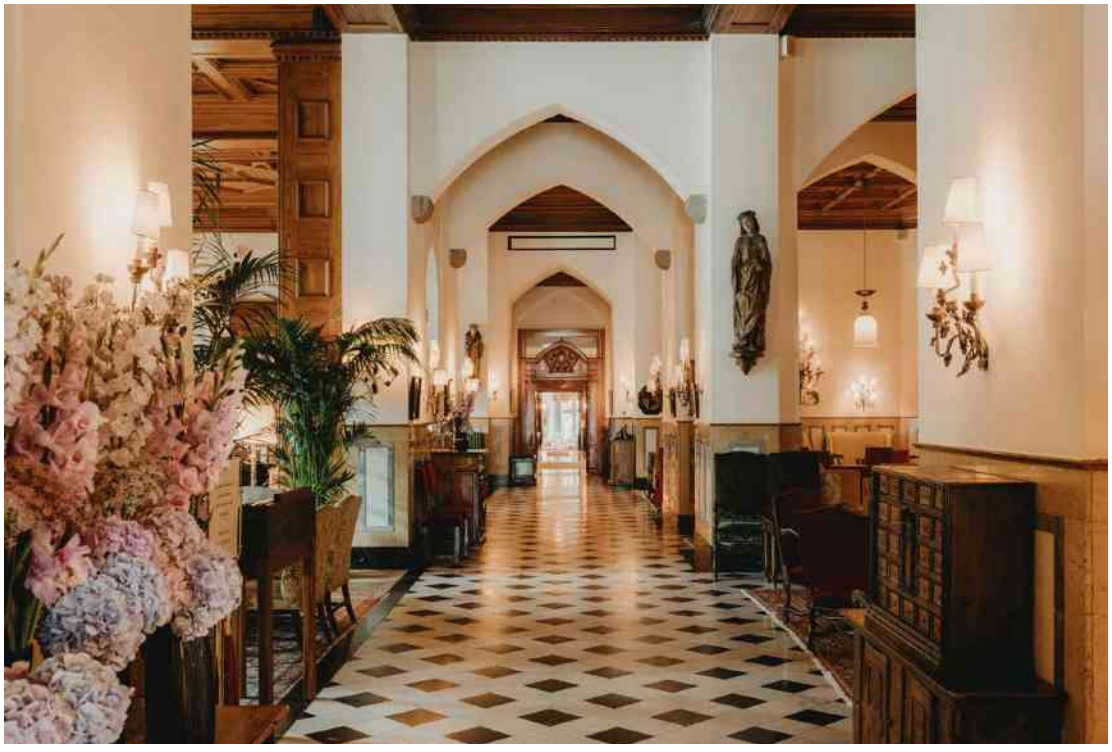


Zannier Le Chalet sits effortlessly on the hills of Megève, balancing the dramatic, sprawling peaks of the French Alps with an enveloping sense of quiet, rustic intimacy inside.

◀

Inside Le Grand Hall at Badrutt's Palace. Centuries of high-society history wrapped in Neo-Gothic arches, hand-carved timber, and signature Italian checkerboard marble.

▼





If Courchevel carries glamour, Val d'Isere feels rooted in the mountain itself. Once a 17th-century farming village, its stone church still anchors the town, wooden chalets gathered beneath dramatic peaks. Long favoured by serious skiers, it links with Tignes to form one of Europe's most reliable high-altitude domains. At **Airelles Val d'Isère**, that heritage is elevated. Designed as a grand Savoyard manor, it pairs carved timber and rich textiles with ski-in, ski-out ease, a Guerlain spa, and expansive suites that feel residential in scale. Here, the skiing comes first and the comfort waiting at day's end feels just as intentional.

Perfectly balanced on the Val d'Isère snow front, Airelles delivers a textbook ski-in, ski-out retreat complete with custom ski-room service and panoramic French Alps views.

▲

Crossing into Switzerland, Gstaad unfolds like a storybook — once a sleepy village of cattle farmers it has since become one of Switzerland's most fashionable ski resorts. Cow sheds gave way to turreted hotels, chic boutiques, chocolatiers, and watchmakers. Yet for all its jet-set allure, the true draw remains the mountains: reliable snowfall, long ski seasons, and a glacier that stays open almost year-round. The village retains genuine alpine charm, with chalet-style buildings that resemble iced gingerbread houses under a blanket of snow. **The Alpina Gstaad** blends heritage and modern elegance — warm wood beams, cozy fireplaces, and sleek design create a refined yet welcoming retreat. Ski-in, ski-out mornings give way to spa afternoons or quiet walks, while evenings are spent by the fire, letting the mountains speak for themselves.

Gstaad fiercely protects its alpine heritage, and The Alpina honours it through thoughtful design and regional craftsmanship, from salvaged chalet wood and Saanenland goat hair rugs to custom cowbell bedside lamps.

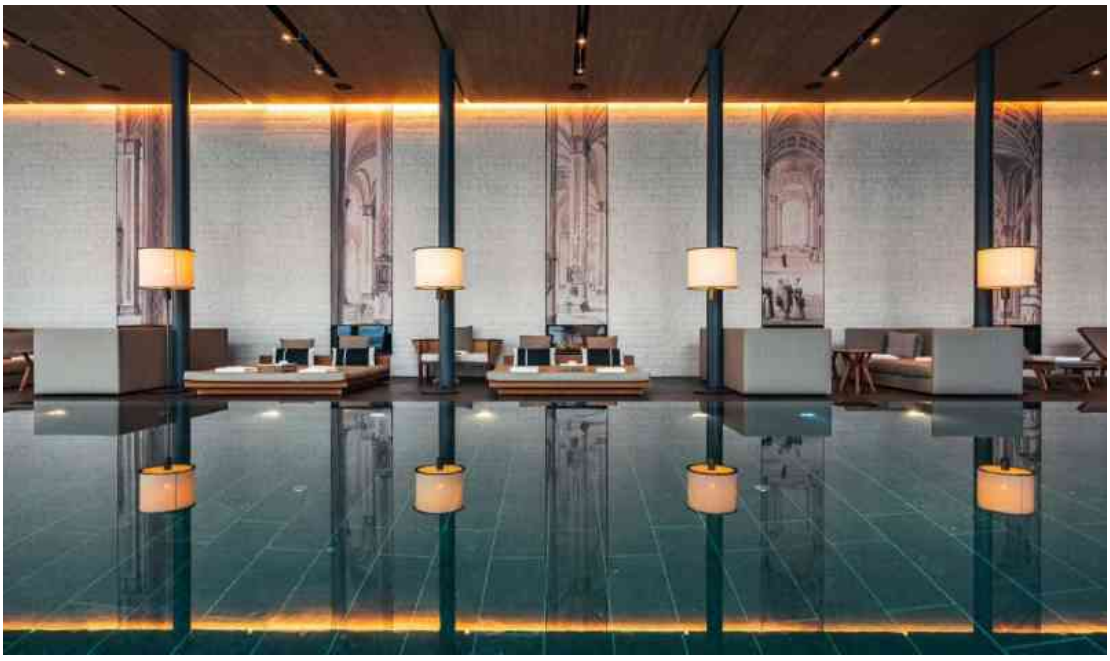
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The journey brings us to Andermatt, tucked deep in the Urseren Valley, where **The Chedi Andermatt** combines Alpine opulence with Asian serenity. Dark timber, natural stone, and flickering fireplaces blend effortlessly with clean-lined symmetry, creating a striking retreat. The surrounding landscape has even drawn the James Bond franchise, serving as a filming location for Goldfinger; a fitting stage for its high-altitude drama. Days are spent swooshing across 180km of snow-sure slopes and open passes, with ski butlers awaiting your return, or indulging in unique experiences such as pressing your own wheel of Alpine cheese to be aged and mailed home months later. Evenings drift toward the adults-only spa — a hushed sanctuary with a Tibetan relaxation lounge or into the comfort of the hotel's loft-style suites, where panoramic views of the Gemsstock peak are complemented by your own private sauna or steam bath. Refined yet unpretentious, The Chedi Andermatt is a distinctive address in Switzerland's high Alps.

Further east, St. Moritz balances sophistication and tradition. The Engadin valley glows in crisp sunlight and the frozen lake transforms into a stage for skijoring, polo, white-turf horse racing — and even classic vintage car racing on ice during The Ice St. Moritz. There's an intellectual elegance here; art galleries, historic villas, cashmere boutiques. At the heart of it all stands **Badrutt's Palace Hotel** — less hotel, more institution. Since 1896, it has defined alpine grandeur. Turrets rise above the lake like a storybook castle. Inside, there is an old-world ceremony: uniformed staff, grand staircases, and a lobby that hums with history. It feels less like checking in, and more like stepping into legacy.

Across the Alps, the scenery shifts and the tempo changes, but a common thread remains. These are not simply winter resorts; they are institutions — places that have shaped how the season is experienced. And somewhere between the first run of the morning and the final firelit evening, the Alps become less about where you are skiing, and more about how winter is meant to be lived.

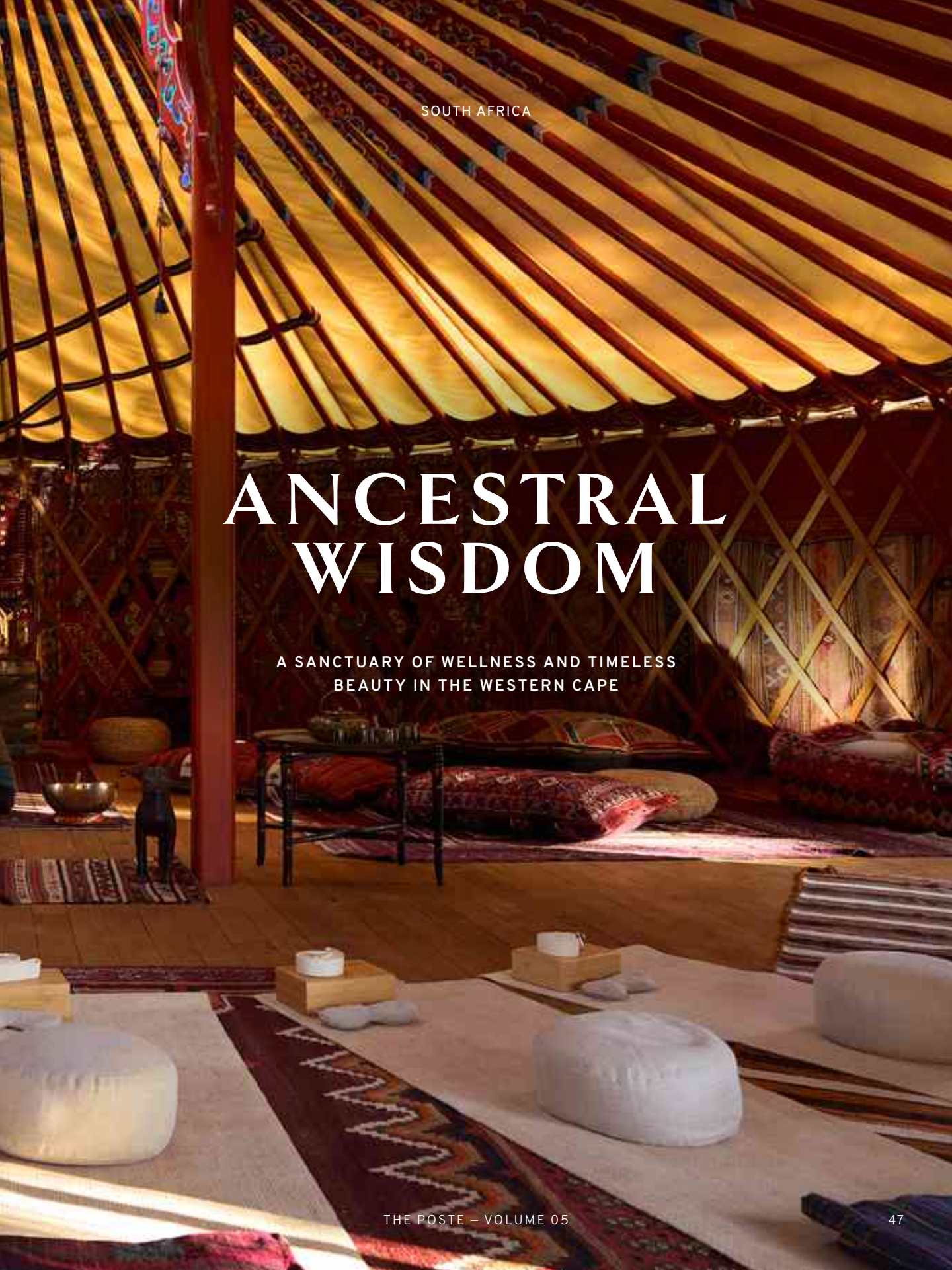




An alpine sanctuary in its own right, The Chedi Andermatt's expansive spa invites guests to linger and unwind after a day in the mountains.

An intimate in-suite dinner at Badrutt's Palace, where old-world hospitality meets classic duck-egg blue panelling, fine art and silver-cloche service overlooking St. Moritz.





ANCESTRAL WISDOM

A SANCTUARY OF WELLNESS AND TIMELESS BEAUTY IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Nestled in the heart of South Africa's awe-inspiring Piekenierskloof mountains, Sterrekopje Farm is a sanctuary where nature and luxury converge. Spanning 1,000 hectares of lush vineyards, rolling hills, and olive groves, it's a retreat designed for those seeking peace, rejuvenation, and a deep connection with the land. From its panoramic views of rugged peaks to the endless skies above, every corner of Sterrekopje invites you to leave behind the world's noise and step into the quiet embrace of nature.

At Sterrekopje, the focus isn't just on wellness — it's about well-being. The farm's philosophy, rooted in the old English word "hale," meaning "whole," guides guests on a journey of reconnection. It's a chance to free your mind from the clutter of daily life and rediscover the peaceful harmony of body and spirit. Here, it's not about fleeting indulgences, but about embracing a sense of completeness, finding balance, and nurturing inner peace.





The heart of this tranquil experience lies in the design of the retreat itself. Spacious suites offer floor-to-ceiling windows that frame breathtaking mountain views, inviting the outdoors in. The interiors blend contemporary luxury with local craftsmanship, every detail thoughtfully curated to create an organic connection to the surrounding landscape.

A standout feature of Sterrekopje is its Bath House, housed in a beautifully restored 17th-century manor. Once a grand colonial residence, this historic building has been transformed into a peaceful wellness center. The Bath House includes a Hammam, soothing massage rooms, and a herbal Apothecary where guests can experience treatments tailored to their individual needs with fresh herbs and oils grown in the farm's lush gardens.

Inside the soulful Main House, Gregory Mellor layers exposed timber beams, patterned textiles and founder curated art and antiques into a warm, worldly retreat.

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Gregory Mellor Design perfectly balances rich terracotta walls with delicate canopy sheers.

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Nature itself is a key part of the Sterrekopje experience. Guests often find themselves in awe of the wildlife that calls the farm home. From the graceful owls gliding across the grounds to the hidden porcupine quills discovered on hikes, each encounter deepens the connection to the land. The playful mini donkeys, Alberto and Rosa Maria, add their own charm to the atmosphere. These friendly creatures, with their endearing antics, bring smiles to all who meet them, embodying the farm's spirit of joy and warmth.

For those seeking a touch of adventure, the charming town of Franschhoek, a short drive away, offers an escape into South Africa's world-class wine region. Explore exquisite vineyards, local boutiques, and rich cultural history, or embark on a guided hike through the nearby mountains.

Sterrekopje Farm offers more than just a place to stay—it's an invitation to slow down, embrace the tranquility of the Western Cape, and restore a sense of balance. Whether you're looking to unwind amidst awe-inspiring landscapes or simply reconnect with nature's rhythms, this retreat promises an unforgettable experience where the pace is slower, the air is fresher, and the beauty of the surroundings is beyond compare.

Guests dine among fragrant herb gardens while the peaks of Franschoek loom over.

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A rustic wooden soaking tub anchors an earthy, sun-drenched bathroom sanctuary, designed to encourage slow, meditative morning rituals.

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LA DOLCE VITA

INTRODUCING A CENTURY-OLD CLIFFTOP VILLA
IN PORTOFINO, REIMAGINED BY BELMOND

Last summer a grand private villa, built more than a century ago as a gracious summer home, began a new chapter.

Reimagined by Martin Brudnizki Design Studio and only a short stroll from Splendido, A Belmond Hotel, Portofino, it now stands as the bay's rarest gem. Following a sensitive restoration, Villa Beatrice offers guests the opportunity to experience the refined yet relaxed spirit of an enchanted private hideaway. Spanning three floors with five beautiful suites, the villa blends architectural excellence, creative vision, and a deep connection to nature. Lush gardens cascade to the Mediterranean shore, preserving the ethereal beauty crafted by its earliest inhabitants for today's guests to enjoy.

Taking its cue from Art Nouveau and Gothic Revival architecture, the villa, built in 1913, is a clifftop landmark, beloved by Portofinesi for its distinctive silhouette, beguiling location and breathtaking panoramic views of the bay. Conceived by much-coveted Tuscan architect Gino Coppedè, the villa was built for Ligurian entrepreneur Attilio Odero, with the intention of providing a cherished retreat for summering friends and family.

Rising high above the Ligurian cliffs, the striking tower of Villa Beatrice has defined Portofino's dramatic coastal skyline since maritime tycoon Attilio Odero commissioned the estate in 1912.









Today, the five-suite villa comes complete with a 24-hour butler, private chef, yoga instructor, and personal trainer. A theatrical main terrace accommodates up to 30 guests, making Villa Beatrice both a treasured hideaway and an alluring symbol of Italian glamour.

The villa, named after Beatrice, wife of one of its 20th-century owners, has been revitalised by Martin Brudnizki Design Studio. The reimagined interiors are infused with the relaxed yet refined European sensibility the designer is known for, where collected treasures sit easily with the work of local artisans and architectural features are reframed by a well-travelled design eye. The villa's original internal frescoes and external geometric and floral murals have been restored, while terracotta and Graniglia alla Genovese grit marble flooring honours Italian heritage. 'We wanted guests to feel that they had been welcomed into a cherished family villa, lovingly enriched by successive generations,' says Martin. 'Each element tells the story of the house itself.'

Villa Beatrice features five generous suites and living areas across three floors, with a showpiece curved main terrace, an ornamented bar, a furnished turret rooftop, a private plunge pool and private sea access. In addition, hidden within the Villa's main garden, La Casetta is a Ligurian stone guest house featuring another bedroom, a second outdoor plunge pool, a vine-covered pergola and sun terrace. Nestled within a verdant estate, the Villa offers exclusive use and complete privacy while being just a short stroll from Hotel Splendido and its many offerings, from restaurants and bars to the Dior spa — the first permanent one in Italy.

The bespoke soaking tub in Villa Beatrice's Mimosa Suite is crowned in rich Giallo Siena marble, echoing the warm Italian sunlight.

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Soft pastel tones meet antiquarian charm in the sun-drenched living room of Villa Beatrice.

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Guests can pass those precious hours just as they wish at Villa Beatrice, whether seeking peaceful seclusion, enjoying memorable family time, gathering their nearest and dearest for a special occasion, or marking a unique celebration. Tailored, inclusive experiences encompass in-villa cooking classes, gelato tasting, mixology and art lessons, plus a two-hour sunset cruise and round-trip airport transfers. Additional options — such as sailing with a marine biologist or stargazing with an astronomer — are available by separate arrangement.

Time plays out differently at Villa Beatrice, where guests find the freedom to reconnect with the natural world and with the rhythms of the season. Those slow-paced, sun-drenched days are perfectly captured by this special home, whose doors are open once more as its latest chapter begins.



Hand-restored 1913 Gino Coppedè frescoes frame the light-filled interiors of Villa Beatrice.

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Portofino's sparkling waters, framed by wild coastal blooms and the timeless charm of Italian summer.

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THE BIG APPLE

FAMILY TIME IN NEW YORK CITY

Horns blaring, bus brakes squealing, sirens wailing down avenues, and cars whizzing by, this is New York City in all its glorious chaos.

Sensory overload and crowds of people may not seem like the obvious choice for a family trip, but at The Pelican Club we ensure you get the best of New York without the overwhelm. With the right base and a thoughtful family-friendly itinerary, New York can be less confusing and more like a living storybook, delivering unforgettable experiences for people of all ages.

Like any trip, the secret is location, and The Crosby Hotel in Soho is just the place. Tucked into a cobblestoned pocket of downtown, it's the perfect blend of historic charm and modern sophistication, a peaceful respite in the middle of the city when you and the family need a moment to unwind. But don't worry, playful interiors by Kit Kemp bring that sense of New York whimsy to the inside, with bold colours, patterned textiles and light-filled spaces. Spacious interconnecting rooms and suites make it an ideal place for the whole family to feel at home, and the sunlit Orangery and Sculpture Garden provide a peaceful open-air setting for families to enjoy contemporary art and greenery in between unforgettable adventures.

Speaking of adventures, what does the city that never sleeps have to offer families? The answer, anything and everything you want! It's the best place to really indulge and let your wildest dreams become reality. If your family loved Ben Stiller in Night at the Museum, why not take them after hours to the Natural History Museum with a private scientist guide who can reveal its secrets, dinosaur bones not included! Or maybe take some time in Central Park with a live theater experience and interact with actors who bring the secrets of the park to life with bespoke puzzles and games for your family.

Entertainment follows the same anything-is-possible logic. Step inside a working television studio and feel the electricity of a live taping, where cue cards, countdowns and audience laughter pull back the curtain on how your favourite shows are made. When night falls, Broadway takes centre stage. From *Wicked!* to *Aladdin*, there's something for all ages. Sit front row and later meet the actors backstage for an evening the entire family will be talking about for years to come.



A little climbing, plenty of exploring. Central Park is a playground for the whole family.

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From dinosaur discoveries to curious creatures, a visit to the American Museum of Natural History is a New York family favourite.

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Then learn the city's secret language, from bodegas to bakeries and behind swinging kitchen doors, and embrace the New York food scene. Every cuisine in the world is represented here, but with its own New York spin. You thought pizza was exclusive to Italy, think again! Take a private New York style pizza making class or grab your bicycle and ride through Brooklyn's tree-lined streets on a food tour that will have you trying everything from bagels to cheesecake and everything in between.

After a day of exploring when it's time to return to your hotel, sit back and relax in The Crosby Bar, where afternoon tea is served daily. A dedicated Children's Afternoon Tea, thoughtfully designed with younger guests in mind, makes it a fun and relaxing experience for all ages. Reminisce on the day's events over delicate pastries and warm scones as Soho hums just beyond the windows, and your perfect New York family day comes to an end.



The Meadow Suite at The Crosby blends vibrant, family-friendly living spaces with a secluded backyard oasis.

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Sweet treats, delicate finger sandwiches, and Petrossian caviar served with warm blinis make afternoon tea at The Crosby Bar an art form.

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THE PELICAN CLUB

~~Confirming tonight's table.~~ Lingering at it.

~~Refreshing the booking page.~~ Reading in the shade.

~~The group chat about tomorrow.~~ The conversation at dinner.

~~Researching the town.~~ Getting lost in it.

~~Planning tomorrow.~~ Writing about today.

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