

VOGUE

SEPT

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**FEARLESS
FASHION**

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MILLER**

Fashion's
Feistiest Icon

**A MARRIAGE
OF EQUALS**

Michelle Obama,
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THE MOST POWERFUL WOMAN IN BEAUTY



PEOPLE
ARE
TALKING
ABOUT

TRAVEL

SAIL TO GLORY
SILOLONA,
ANCHORED OFF
THE ISLAND
OF KOMODO.

return to paradise

From eastern Brazil to southern India,
Richard Alleman scouts out the
world's best-kept-secret hideaways.

Kali high
One of the most exciting new ways to explore Southeast Asia is aboard the **Silolona**. Based in Bali, this sleek twenty-first-century version of a traditional Indonesian *phinisi* flies elegant cinnamon-colored sails and boasts five chic cabins, a private chef, and a fully equipped onboard dive operation. Itineraries range from exotic Indonesian isles east of Bali, including Komodo, famous for its resident dragon population, to little-known coves off Malaysia and Thailand. Don't miss the rare Asian rhino in the Mergui islands or diving the famed Burma Banks. The most coveted voyage, however, is the ten-day sail through the Mergui Archipelago in Myanmar. Encompassing some 800 islands, this amazing world of virgin beaches and rare wildlife is all the more seductive as it's been off-limits to Western travelers for the past 50 years. The charter rate starts at \$10,000 a day for up

to ten passengers, including meals and a staff of seventeen. Private Label Worldwide at 011-44-1628-771171; info@privatelabelww.com.

indian summer

While Goa is no longer a countercultural paradise, there are still pockets of complete tranquillity in this former Portuguese colony along the southwest coast of India. One of these, called **Elsewhere**, is a vast palmy estate with a beach, a river, and a cluster of colorful Portuguese colonial buildings that have been restored by Indian fashion pho-

tographer Denzil Sequeira, whose family has owned the property since 1886. Guests (who recently included the Jolie-Pitts) have a choice of accommodations—from the three-bedroom main house to a trio of smart tents to three newly restored cottages, all furnished with rich Indian fabrics and rustic Goan antiques. Recover from a day of surfing with a private lesson from the in-house yoga master. Winter high-season rates range from \$2,400 for a seven-night minimum stay in a two-bedroom villa to \$1,200 for a week under canvas; aseascape.com.

INSIDER TRADING

Looking to buy vintage Pucci in Florence or rent a private villa facing Mount Kilimanjaro? **Indagare.com**, is an exclusive new Web site that offers its members the chance to discover best-kept secrets from a host of well-traveled style arbiters. Alexis Swanson Traina offers up her private San Francisco; Patrick Robinson writes about a Turks & Caicos hideaway; and Allegra Hicks reveals her favorite indulgences, from flea-market finds in Turin to Legge & Braine's Murano glass rings, which she now imports from London for her New York store. As contributor David Netto explains, "Indagare is like having a conversation. It's the personalities that give it a strong and selective point of view."—S.L.C.



BOW SPIRIT
A VIEW OF
THE TEAK
DECK'S CHAISE
LONGUES.

blame it on trancoso

On the remote southern coast of eastern Brazil's state of Bahia, the fishing village of Trancoso was discovered in the seventies by Brazilian *biribandos* (hippies). Several decades later, Trancoso has become a prized hideout for Brazilian fashionistas and American movie stars. Some stay in Trancoso's new crop of private villas; others opt for one of the eight bungalows at **Pousada Etnia**. Created by Italian interior designers André Zanonato and Corrado Tini, each bungalow reflects a different ethnic style—from Mediterranean minimalist to ornate Moroccan. The *pousada's* kitchen—mainly serving seafood—has a similar global outlook. Active guests can surf, sea-kayak, or ride horseback on Praia do Espelho beach, while visitors who'd rather relax can try Watsu, an in-water shiatsu massage. Rates begin at \$176, double, including a bountiful Brazilian breakfast; \$227 in July, and December through February; 011-55-73-3668-1137; etnia.brasil.com.br. *travel* >624

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

TRAVEL

private isle

Set on a palm-forested private island in the Maldives, the brand-new **Naladhu** has nineteen spacious (2,500 square feet) thatch-roofed villas sporting handsome interiors—by Bangkok-based designer Julian Coombs—that mix contemporary and antique furnishings, fabrics, and artifacts from the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and India. Each villa also has a private garden, a teak sundeck, and a plunge pool. Fill your days with swimming, scuba diving, and deep-sea fishing in the famously pristine waters. The ultimate luxury at Naladhu, however, is the House Master, a personal butler assigned to each villa to ensure every aspect of your adventure goes smoothly. Rates start at \$2,000 a night, double; 011-960-664-4140; info@naladhu.com.

southeast splendor

Costa Lanta introduces futuristic architecture to the jungly island of Lanta Yai in the Andaman Sea off southern Thailand. Built of polished concrete and recycled timber (from former colonial houses), each of Costa Lanta's 20 open-box bungalows is designed to let the outdoors in with floor-to-ceiling panels that open on two sides and indoor-outdoor showers. An infinity pool, perfectly positioned on stunning Klong Dao beach, completes the picture. Enjoy beachcombing, kayaking the mangrove coast, and receiving Thai massages on the beachfront lawn. Best of all, you'll have no guilt indulging in southern Thailand's prized gemstones, as doubles start at just \$100; (800) 337-4685; designhotels.com/costalanta. □ *pata* >631



FRONT AND CENTER THE FACADE OF THE NEW HOTEL.

HOTEL

house proud

Tucked away in labyrinthine Montmartre, a chic new hotel offers the latest in design in a romantic nineteenth-century setting.

at number 23, Avenue Junot, a quiet, leafy strip of 1930s mansions in the heart of Montmartre, stand the gates to a mysterious passageway nicknamed Passage de la Sorcière, where adventurous visitors will find the new **HÔTEL PARTICULIER MONTMARTRE**. A white Directoire-style building, it has the look of a traditional French country house, with a lush garden designed by renowned landscape architect Louis Benech. The interior, however, is hardly traditional. A large, spare living room is filled with cowhide carpets and

edgy flea-market finds (from a Le Corbusier chaise to Arne Jacobsen chairs), which guests are free to buy, as well as a library of books donated by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs.

The three suites and two rooms—designed, respectively, by a graphic designer, a Musée de la Mode et du Textile curator, and three artists—have their own distinct personalities. Fashion devotees will elect curator Olivier Saillard's sprawling suite with fanciful hat lamps, felt curtains, and surreal valet chair, while those in a more rococo mood might choose

Pierre Fichoux's rooms, with bird wallpaper and windows giving onto a private pétanque playing ground. For a longer stay, owner Morgane Rousseau recommends the top-floor miniloft, with its beamed ceiling and magical Paris views. Services include appointments with a trainer and private dinners prepared by a local chef and served in the baroque dining room. The idea, Rousseau says, is that "guests should make the place theirs and stay awhile." (Prices from €390; hotel-particulier-montmartre.com.)—ELISABETH FRANCK-DUMAS

OPERA

CRAZY FOR YOU

Peter Gelb continues to bring fresh life to grand opera by turning to its more raffish cousin—the theater. Under the baton of maestro James Levine, the Met's season opener is the inspired theater director Mary Zimmerman's staging of Donizetti's four-hankie bel canto crowd pleaser **Lucia di Lammermoor**, starring the glorious Natalie Dessay as the doomed bride driven to madness and death by a broken heart. (The tenor Marcello Giordani is her steadfast, if befuddled, lover.) Zimmerman, who won a 2002 Tony Award for her moving take on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, is known for haunting, poetic stage images. With set designer Daniel Ostling, she has imagined a *Lucia* of Scottish moors and crags, glowing moons, and off-kilter castles. "I like fantastical stories in the first place, but this one also has a very human dimension," she says. "And once you're talking about singing with a 50-piece orchestra, why are you even talking about naturalism anyway?"—A.G.



PAINTED VEIL A SKETCH OF LUCIA BY COSTUME DESIGNER MARA BLUMENFELD.

Lucia di Lammermoor THE METROPOLITAN OPERA