

TRAVEL

Hotel news, the hottest destinations, and how to get there in style



Leisure

JOIN THE JET SET

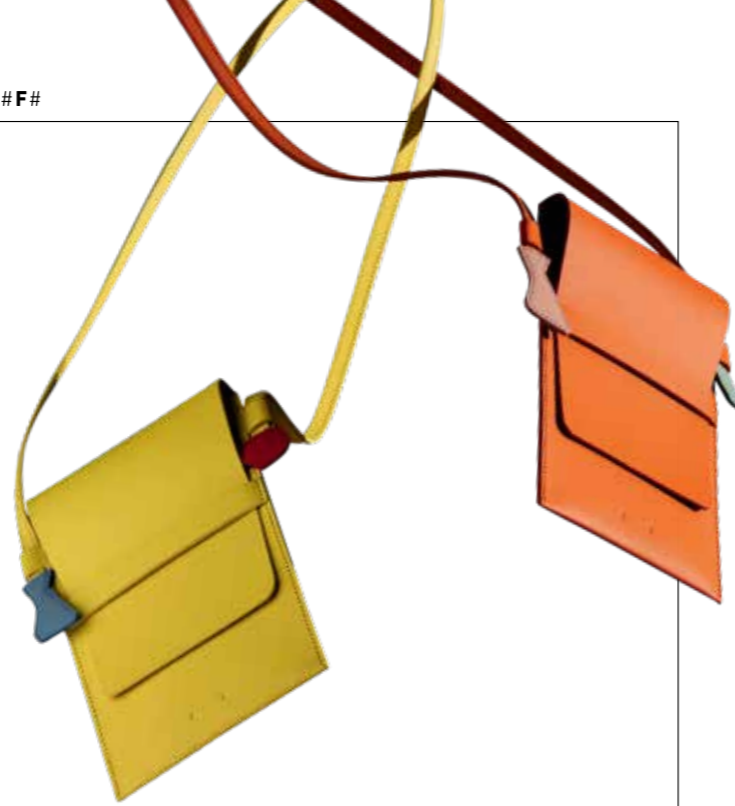
Pair the excitement of a speedboat with the comfort of a petite yacht and you may well come up with the new **Royal Version 001 Jet Capsule**. The cute craft's interior features 194 square feet (18 sq m) of teak-trimmed deck space encompassing nine plush leather seats and a bar. An air-conditioning system ensures controlled temperatures within the boat, whatever the weather conditions outside. Other upgrades include an automatic rear door and automated front windshield. Fully customizable, the Jet Capsule can be equipped with Yanmar diesel engines offering a range of power from 370hp up to 1040hp. And with the latest Hamilton or Rolls-Royce jet drives, this zippy watercraft can reach speeds from 32 to 62 knots.

jetcapsule.com

Accessories

Trip ready

Every adventure or escape requires clever packing. The AB 88 from German brand **Philipp Bree** is the perfect size for your passport, cell phone or tablet, and reading matter of choice. Designed by Ayzit Bostan, the over-shoulder pouch in cowhide comes in black, natural, citron, light violet, jade, and orange, each with coordinating tassel details on the straps. Smart. pb0110.com



Sauternes, France

MIGHTY VINE

Situated in the heart of the Sauternes region, the **Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey** wine estate has celebrated its 400th anniversary by transforming into a new hotel and restaurant. Silvio Denz, CEO and chairman of **Lalique**, who bought the estate in 2014, has painstakingly updated the château, bringing in designers Tina Green and Pietro Mingarelli to create a country-chic interior, complete with elements of Lalique crystal. Manager Christophe Noulibos describes the hotel, which has 10 bedrooms and three suites, as “where four worlds—wine, crystal, gastronomy, and hospitality—come together.” The restaurant is overseen by Jérôme Schilling, latterly of Villa René Lalique, who recently bagged himself a Michelin star, making it the first and only Michelin-starred restaurant in the Sauternes region. Dining options include the seven-course Premier Cru menu that guests can curate themselves, an entirely vegetarian menu, and à la carte options. And as you’d expect, the château has an ambitious wine list of some 350,000 bottles, among them a rich selection of Sauternes and Bordeaux Crus. chateau-lafaurie-peyraguey.com



LUDWIG SCHÖPFER; AGISMOES; RETOGUNTU

Algarve, Portugal

PARC LIFE

If you can, plan to arrive at **Vila Vita Parc** after dark. Then open your curtains in the morning to a view of one of the Algarve’s prettiest beaches. A few steps down a winding path takes you to a private cove—the kind of beach on which one makes life-changing decisions as the sun rises or sets. Whereas on resort, your only choices are which indulgent treatment to have at the new state-of-the-art Sisley spa, and which of the 11 bars and restaurants to try.

Spread over 54 acres (21.85 ha) of subtropical gardens are chic, sea-inspired suites and rooms with terraces, alongside spacious whitewashed villas that have private pools. The Sisley spa was inspired by the nearby cave of Benagil and its stone “skylight.” Try the full-body Golden Quartz Treatment, a massage with heated crystal pindas to the sound of singing bowls. Or opt for private personal training, Pilates, or TRX sessions. And if you’ve ever wondered what it feels like to be suspended upside down or cocooned within a silk sheet, aerial yoga is just the thing.

Much of the produce served comes from the resort’s own farm, where it also makes olive oil and wines. Feast on traditional *petiscos* (Portuguese tapas) on the terrace at Adega restaurant, or Michelin-starred cuisine at Ocean restaurant.

There is an intimate feel at this family-friendly place: service is there when you need it and all but invisible when you’re happy to be left alone. That repeat visitors account for around 60 percent of business is a sure sign that things are just right. vilavitaparc.com



Big blue: Decor at Vila Vita Parc is inspired by the colors of the sea; the state-of-the-art Sisley spa (above center), pays homage to world-famous Benagil beach and its cave.

WORDS: STEVEN SHORT; TOMMY PICONE; SHAUN FISHER



Morocco

TWO FACES OF FEZ

Morocco's magnetism is strong—from the glamour of Marrakech to the charms of Casablanca. But it's the country's most ancient city, Fez, that is drawing a new generation of visitors, with its alluring mix of old, new, traditional, and modern escapes and adventures

Words **KITTY FINSTAD**



OLD-WORLD OPULENCE

Riad Fès, Fez el-Bali (Medina of Fez)

Arriving at the famous Blue Gate of the Medina of Fez—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—you'd be forgiven for wondering if you're at the right place for a five-star hotel stay. Taxis jostle for parking spaces, donkeys laden with goods come and go, street cats lounge in the sun. But a stroll beyond the gate and through a pretty private garden takes you to the carved entrance door of **Riad Fès** and its old-world opulence.

Hospitality of the highest standard is the backbone of this elegant former noble house, but it's the riot of color and decoration that seduces at first sight. Intricate tiles, stained-glass windows, sumptuous silks and velvets, and delicious aromas of rose and mint all signal you could be nowhere but Morocco. From the wonderfully over-the-top lobby to the fragrant courtyard garden (riad is a simple description for "house with a garden"), there's delightful detail everywhere.

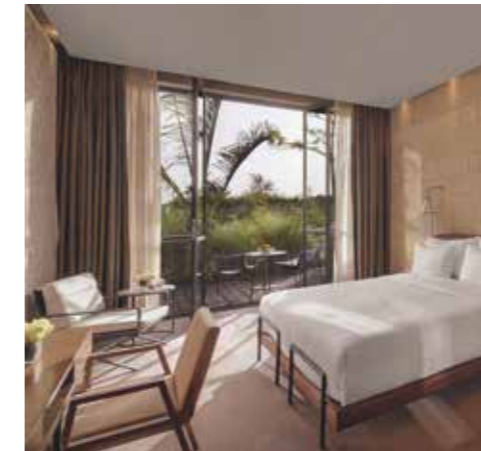
Rooms and suites have luxurious volumes and decadently plush furnishings. And when you're ready for a view to match your room, head to the rooftop terrace, which overlooks the maze of more than 9,000 streets and alleyways that make up the ancient medina below.

Oenophiles should add Moroccan wines to their tasting repertoire: ask the sommelier to pour some of the region's excellent Syrahs or a pale-pink rosé, known as *gris*—the perfect apéritif for a balmy evening. riadfes.com



Riad riches: Stunning views to the Atlas mountains from the rooftop bar (top); L'Alcazar courtyard bar (left); one of the riad's opulent rooms and suites (far left); the grand, triple-height tiled lobby (top left).

Modern magic: Hotel Sahrai has 50 generously sized rooms and suites (right); the rooftop Jungle Bar (below); the Arcades Bar (bottom left); and the hotel's panoramic infinity pool, overlooking the Medina of Fez.



CHIC AND BOUTIQUE

Hotel Sahrai, Ville Nouvelle, Fez

From its hilltop position—the site of a military general's summer palace during French colonial times—sits **Hotel Sahrai**. Along with a few well-preserved porticos, the view is the only thing that hasn't changed since then: Sahrai—derived from the Moroccan word for magic—is thoroughly of these times.

The vibe here is cosmopolitan and boutique: floor-to-ceiling windows, carved plaster walls, cool lighting, bespoke furnishings, and Moroccan motifs. The rooftop Jungle Bar serves innovative cocktails to a coterie of stylish young locals. And the hotel's three restaurants offer fine Moroccan dining, French classics, and Fez's buzziest Sunday brunch.

Hotel Sahrai is also home to Africa's only **Givenchy Spa**, offering a range of signature treatments, including a hammam experience, from its marble steam rooms and terrace-side pool. With design by spa supremo Patrick Ribes (who also had a hand in the Cheval Blanc property on Saint Barths), expect exquisite materials, considered lighting, calming acoustics, and deftly integrated local elements.

It would be easy to never leave either of these hotels, but the magic of Fez and its surrounds is magnetic. Get lost in the medina's swirl of food, leather, and craft. Explore the Roman ruins of Volubilis. Indulge in a gourmet tour of Moulay Idriss. And promise to return. hotelsahrai.com



KLAUS, JIA WELLENTHIN; SALAH GHRISSI





Islay, Scotland, UK

Dram fine par

Scotland's reputation as a proud, inventive nation began in the darkness of the 15th century, when this miniature country gave birth to two of the world's greatest pleasures: whisky and golf. Both combine on the Inner Hebridean island of Islay.

Long-known for populating the whisky cabinet with serious representatives—Ardbeg, Bowmore, Laphroaig, Lagavulin—Islay recently added to its charms with the reopening of its famous golf links course, **The Machrie**, after a four-year upgrade.

A word about links courses: this is golfer against untamed nature. Wild winds haul the golf ball any which way, with only a mashie niblick or some carbon fiber for control. Laid in 1891 by hickory-master Willie Campbell—who went on to develop The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts—its 6,782 yards (6,201 m) provide the challenge of the true links game by white sea-loch dunes. A six-hole par-3 Wee Course, driving range, and putting green offer gentler options.

At the center of this backdrop sits a freshly and beautifully renovated hotel. Part of the Campbell Gray group, The Machrie's 47 airy rooms, suites, and lodges all overlook trim fairways and the waves of the seven-mile (11-km) Laggan Bay sands. Spritely tartan touches punctuate a palette of cool grays. Aromatherapy themes the spa. Antlers spike the hallways. Art is modern, Scottish, bold.

Did we also mention whisky? Nine distilleries await on Islay, each with a different narrative. The guided tour at Lagavulin goes beyond misty fables to the actual techniques of the bins, washback, tuns, and copper stills that make its deep-layered roundness distinctively different from Laphroaig's ocean nose just three minutes away.
campbellgrayhotels.com

