

signature luxury

TRAVEL & style

SIGNATURE SELECTS

50 MAGNIFICENT HOTELS:
OUR CRITICS' TOP PICKS

UNMISSABLE

50 UTTERLY UNIQUE
TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

HISTORIC 50th ISSUE

SUMPTUOUS 50-YEAR-OLD WHISKIES & WINES
50+ SUPERB NEW RESORTS, RESTAURANTS & SPAS

\$14.95 (Aust & NZ) GST inclusive





© Daniel Fisher/Cook Islands Tourism

42 Island paradise

Time slows to a dreamlike rhythm on Aitutaki, a secluded and breathtaking lagoon in the Cook Islands. Perhaps one of the most picturesque in the world. Just a short flight from Rarotonga, this exclusive escape offers sun-drenched tranquillity, 15 serene islets and crystalline waters to explore. Lounge beneath swaying palms, enjoy a soothing massage, drift along the coastline on a kayak, or cycle through quiet lanes – total bliss. LB cookislands.travel/islands/aitutaki



Courtesy of Ananda in the Himalayas

43 Restoring balance

Embark upon a transformative journey within the walls of a wondrous palace framed by verdant land. Ananda in the Himalayas offers bespoke wellness programs designed to restore balance and vitality. Delivering a unique blend of Ayurveda, yoga, meditation and holistic therapies administered by experts in the field, guests learn how to manage stress and health concerns while rejuvenating and detoxifying mind, body and soul. LB anandaspa.com



© Jamala Wildlife Lodge

44 Wild indulgence

Looking for an extraordinary nature stay not too far from the city? Jamala Wildlife Lodge offers visitors a unique blend of luxury and adventure. Hidden in Canberra's National Zoo & Aquarium, its plush African-inspired suites – Giraffe Treehouses, uShoka Lodge and the Jungle Bungalows – offer unforgettable animal experiences. And when night falls, attend a four-course feast in the Rainforest Cave, where premium wines and African dishes are enjoyed – along with the company of hyenas and lions. LB jamalawildlifelodge.com.au



© WorldView

46 Journey to the edge of the Earth

Where space tourism has so far failed to take off, this balloon adventure high above Earth's atmosphere is about to float. In the latest indulgence for the elite explorer, you can soar above the planet in a state-of-the-art Stratollite – a high-altitude space balloon – up to 100,000 feet. In 2027 WorldView Travel will launch its inaugural commercial flight at Spaceport Grand Canyon, lifting passengers above the Earth for a breathtaking five-to-eight-hour experience. From this vantage point, guests will have the time and comfort to fully absorb the marvel of it all – including viewing the awe-inspiring curvature of the planet. The journey begins with a pre-dawn liftoff, followed by a graceful two-hour ascent to 'float' altitude (100,000 feet), where passengers will drift at apogee for up to four hours before beginning a 90-minute descent via pilot-guided parafoil. And the price for this once-in-a-lifetime experience? A mere \$50,000 per seat. But don't reach for your wallet just yet – pre-launch has already sold out, with a backlog of eager explorers awaiting their turn to go stratospheric. LA worldview.space



45 Call of the ocean

Discover one of the world's most remote and biodiverse destinations aboard the first superyacht to sail the Galápagos Islands. With an 80-square-metre Owner's Suite, *Aqua Mare* redefines opulence in the archipelago with a jacuzzi, sun deck, alfresco dining and panoramic lounge, plus world-class menus curated by renowned chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino. Every day brings a new opportunity for exploration, with twice-daily excursions, snorkelling, hiking, skiff adventures, kayaking and plenty of time to soak up the Ecuadorian sun. LB aquaexpeditions.com