

TATLER[®]

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CARRIER



Travel
Guide
2015

VA-VA-VIEWS

What an eyeful: blistering vistas and eye-popping panoramas

AWASI PATAGONIA

TORRES DEL PAINE, CHILE

Part of the prep for a Patagonia trip is getting your head around the fact that you're about to be outnumbered by sheep. And guanacos (skinny llamas). But where there are sheep, there are gauchos – and these windswept pampas churn out the very highest calibre of dashing, beret-wearing horsemen. For mindblowing views over Chile's fabulous Torres del Paine National Park (and sheep and guanacos and gauchos), Awasi is the place to be. You'll have your very own lodge – there are 12, all modern masterpieces fashioned from local lenga wood, with whacking great vistas over the wilderness on your doorstep – plus your very own guide and your very own 4WD. Everything is tailor-made. Fancy rolling out of bed at 11am, going for a gentle bike ride and having a boozy picnic lunch? No problemo. Want to rise before the sun for some hardcore hiking to the Paine Massif, followed by a feast of guanaco steak? A-OK. You simply decide when you want glaciers and when you want gauchos.

BOOK IT JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA (JOURNEYLATINAMERICA.CO.UK; 020 8747 8315) OFFERS FIVE NIGHTS AS PART OF A SEVEN-NIGHT TRIP, FROM £4,380, INCLUDING FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS.

TOP SPOT
SOAK UP THE VIEWS DURING A RELAXING WALLOW IN YOUR OWN PRIVATE HOT TUB, WITH A CALAFATE SOUR CLOSE TO HAND.



CAPE VIEW CLIFTON

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Every now and then you find a hotel that is so perfect, that does the whole 'hotel' thing so bloody well, that it sort of spoils all the others. Cape View is one of those. It's the consummate boutique hotel. It can do no wrong. From its views – high up above the white sands of Clifton Beach, with soul-stirring panoramas of the Twelve Apostles and the glittering Atlantic – to its rooms: bright, airy, white and grey and dove-wing silver and GORGEOUS, with cloud-like beds and massive bathrooms and balconies and more of those views. And its wide, wide terrace with pool, loungers and an honesty bar that has a dozen varieties of wine and the best darn lemon yogurt cake you've ever tasted. And its delightful GM, Tessa Ellis-Brown, who insists you treat the place as your own (and everyone does), and the delightful cook, who whips up a cheese and ham omelette to end all omelettes. It is charming, it is breathtaking and we wish we lived there, all the time. Other hotels: take note.

BOOK IT AFRICA TRAVEL (AFRICATRAVEL.COM; 020 7843 3580) OFFERS SEVEN NIGHTS FROM £1,920, INCLUDING BREAKFAST AND FLIGHTS.

TOP SPOT
THE LEFT-HAND LOUNGER ON THE TERRACE AT SUNDOWN, ENJOYING A CHEEKY LITTLE CEDERBERG CHENIN BLANC.



PERCHED AT THE EDGE OF A PRETTY PROVENCAL VILLAGE, LA BASTIDE DE GORDES IS GETTING A MAKEOVER. WORD IS THAT THEY'RE BUYING 4,000 PAINTINGS FOR THE ROOMS, AND PIERRE GAGNAIRE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE KITCHENS. NOUS SOMMES EXCITED! (BASTIDE-DE-GORDES.COM)

LONGITUDE 131

YULARA, AUSTRALIA

Uluru is like a giant magical brain, hypnotising you with its red-hued sandstone gorgeousness into taking far, far too many photos *Instagram bore alert*. As visitors fell under its spell, so too did the clever chaps behind Baillie Lodges (owners of Kangaroo Island's Southern Ocean Lodge), who have now taken the reins of Longitude. The result is tickety-boo – an outback jewel that offers the very best camping experience (by which we mean it's not really camping at all). The futuristic tents on stilts have sharp, chic new interiors and jazzed-up menus (kingfish and a glass of chilled white wine under the stars gets a big tick from us). There are 15 tents, fanning out on either side of the Dune House restaurant and open bar, all with money shots across the ghostly desert oaks to Uluru.

BOOK IT BLACK TOMATO (BLACKTOMATO.COM; 020 7426 9888) OFFERS THREE NIGHTS, ALL INCLUSIVE, FROM £2,450, INCLUDING FLIGHTS, TRANSFERS AND EXTRA ACTIVITIES.

TOP SPOT
KATE AND WILLS BAGSIED THE LAST TENT IN THE ROW, WHICH HAS UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS OF THE SUNSET OVER ULURU, LAST APRIL. IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM...

PHOTOGRAPHS: SHUTTERSTOCK



SIXTY SOHO

NEW YORK, USA

From its black street door to the check-in girl's black cocktail dress, to the black key card embossed 'Drifter's Escape', the newly renovated SIXTY SoHo is heavily monochrome. But take the elevator to the hotel's 12th-floor Above Sixty rooftop bar and you enter a different world – a world of colour! From here, high above Thompson Street and against a clear blue New York sky, you have an uninterrupted view of Manhattan's East Side, glinting in the near distance. And there's the added air of exclusivity: the bar is open only to hotel guests and private members. As for the rest of the hotel, it's hip, sure, but never at the expense of comfort – vast marble bathrooms, ice buckets always full, brownies left at turndown and more in-room snacks than a full-blown grocery store. A very cool SoHo address. ▷

BOOK IT DOUBLE, FROM £340 (SIXTYHOTELS.COM; 001 877 431 0400).

TOP SPOT
TABLE EIGHT – FRAMED BY ITS OWN GREEN ARBOUR – IS THE ONE TO GRAB. THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, DIRECTLY OPPOSITE, HITS YOU SMACK BETWEEN THE EYES.



OK, they're smug, but we're still fans of a good selfie. So we love the £200 Nikon CoolPix S6900 camera (nikon.co.uk), with its flip-out screen and Glamour mode. Shame there's no smugness filter.



NIKKI BEACH

PORTO HELI, GREECE

Done Corfu? Bored of Mykonos? Porto Heli – weekend getaway of Greece’s famous and fabulous – is where shipowners and It girls are getting their groove on now. How handy, then, to have this shiny new Nikki Beach number to bed down in. Sitting in a natural harbour in the eastern Peloponnese, this glittering revamp of a Seventies hotel has 66 hi-tech, spacious and, crucially, soundproofed rooms. Top party pads: the Ultra Suites, with their own rooftop jacuzzi. The all-white beach club has the usual sexy Nikki vibe, with a curvaceous sunken bar, leather pool beds and ESPA cabanas for tongue-in-cheek treatments such as the Hangover Remedy. The morning after the night before can be spent doing downward dog in the sand (with a yoga teacher) or escaping the glitz with a boat trip to a secluded cove – the rest of the Peloponnese is still as peaceful as ever.

BOOK IT DOUBLE, FROM £235
(NIKKIBEACHHOTELS.COM;
00 30 27540 98 500).

TOP SPOT

THE PEARL
ROOFTOP LOUNGE
HAS ACE SUNSET VIEWS,
SERIOUSLY GOOD SUSHI
AND AMUSINGLY NAMED
COCKTAILS – A HELI
BERRY, ANYONE?



REGENT PORTO MONTENEGRO

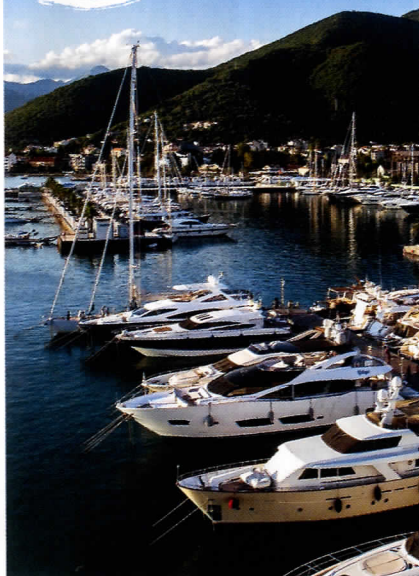
PORTO MONTENEGRO VILLAGE, MONTENEGRO

Your balcony at the shiny new Regent doubles up as a ringside seat to the shiny new Porto Montenegro – you could just about reach out and tickle/punch those superyacht owners. The view is all yachts, the sparkly Adriatic and more yachts, and that nautical theme continues inside, with teak panelling and ropes slung around mirrors. Downstairs is boaty too: the bar has a gentleman’s club vibe, and the terrace is the place to spend the day watching and scoffing. Breakfast includes the best scrambled eggs known to man (with truffle and parmesan). You might as well stay put for lunch, for lobster and zucchini millefeuille with feta and preserved lemon. And tea: out-of-this-world pastries. Then waddle to the spa or the infinity pool – or let the concierge summon a speedboat to whisk you to a private beach.

BOOK IT DOUBLE, FROM £195
(REGENTMONTENEGRO.COM;
00 382 32 660 660).

TOP SPOT

THE ITALIAN
GARDEN – ALL
SUNKEN SEATING,
WATER FEATURES
AND TREES, JUST 10
PACES FROM THE
SUPERYACHTS.



VENTANA INN & SPA

CALIFORNIA, USA

Big Sur, the blissfully rugged coastline between San Francisco and Los Angeles, is early to bed and early to rise. Which works out well with jetlag, especially if you’re staying at the Ventana. You can drink coffee in your balcony’s hammock, be taught yoga in front of a crackling fire by a girl straight out of a Beach Boys song, eat freshly baked cinnamon buns on the terrace overlooking nothing but the ocean, then explore the hotel’s vast parkland with avuncular guide Greg (who’ll have you searching for mountain-lion tracks and picking wild bay leaves to take home) – all before 11am. Which leaves the rest of the day to hike coastal trails and look out for humpback and blue whales blustering and breaching their way past. Or you could just slump by the pool with your nose in a Jack Kerouac. It was an early start, after all.

BOOK IT ELEGANT RESORTS (ELEGANT
RESORTS.CO.UK; 01244 897517) OFFERS
FIVE NIGHTS FROM £2,045, INCLUDING
BREAKFAST, FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS.

TOP SPOT

STROLL TO THE
RESTAURANT THROUGH
WOODLAND SO
POPULATED BY DEER,
BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS.
IT’S PRACTICALLY
ENCHANTED.

