

# Dossier

be  
brave



R50



# hotlist

here is a plump bevy  
of all things beautiful,  
interesting, comely  
and irresistible -  
from here, there and  
just everywhere.

By Daniel Scheffler

avios

allocation  
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145  
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## bio performance super corrective serum

A time-fighting serum that delivers revolutionary solutions to counteract wrinkles, sagging, and dullness. Immediately, skin becomes smooth and radiant, and results are enhanced with daily use. Formulated with patent-pending Bio-Corrective Complex to promote the production of collagen, elastin, and hyaluronic acid. Results show after 2 weeks so while you holiday, you can renew your skin. —

Shiseido Super Corrective Serum R 1145.



## ghurka

With inspiration from luxurious colonial India and action packed elegant travel, the brand Ghurka brings their latest collection of fine goods. It's all about history, craft and leather for every whim.

— ghurka.com.

## johnston murphy

For timeless leather goods, there is always the brand Johnston & Murphy to look to. Their new collection, "Union Station," features large leather bags and smaller personal leather goods. Defined by the double center-stitch this collection is made for the business traveler.

— johnstonmurphy.com





## the alma hotel

Barcelona has never been this glamorous; the Alma Hotel brings modern minimalist glamour to an old city that roots itself in all things medieval. The freshened rooftop bar with views over Gaudi-ville alone is worth the journey.

— [almabarcelona.com](http://almabarcelona.com)

## the winslow

In true British tradition, The Winslow has opened in the East Village of Manhattan. Serving traditional Pommie food with a Yankee twist the tavern is keeping it real with the latest cocktail extravaganza that includes gin for the love of Good Mother England.

— [thewinslownyc.com](http://thewinslownyc.com)



## new britain

Inspired by the hardware capital of the world, New Britain in Connecticut the watch brand of the same name launches their latest laurel. The iconic styling hits a note at iconic speedometers found on the motorcycles of back in the day.

— [newbritaincorp.com](http://newbritaincorp.com)



## ecoalf

The Spanish brand, Ecoalf has launched their latest collection for men for winter. Usually their clothes are made from fishing nets or plastic bottles, so 100% recycled matter. But this time around it's made from recycled coffee grinds - 20 cups of coffee equals one yard of Ecoalf fabric. Oh and then they have weekender bags, perfect for any vamoose.

— [ecoalf.com](http://ecoalf.com)

## canon

Canon unveiled a new first-class addition to its entry-level consumer DSLR line-up - the EOS 100D. Complemented by the introduction of a new standard zoom lens, the EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM, this new model offers outstanding 18 Megapixel (MP) resolution with simple touch screen operation, making it easy to capture and relive every moment in stunning detail, whatever your skill level.

The smallest and lightest APS-C DSLR ever made, the EOS 100D offers a range of simple controls and a helpful in-camera feature guide, perfect for those looking to explore the world of DSLR photography for the first time. The new EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM is the ideal standard zoom lens for both new EOS cameras, combining Canon's leading Optical Image Stabilizer and Stepping Motor (STM) technologies to deliver minimal image blur and smooth, near-silent focus in movies.

Further information about Canon South Africa is available at: [www.canon.co.za](http://www.canon.co.za) <<http://www.canon.co.za>>



**849**  
avios

The EOS 100D with the 18-55mm lens (Starter kit bundle) is R8499.

# hasselblad

Iconic Sweden-based manufacturer Hasselblad, whose world famous cameras were taken to the moon by US astronauts back in the Sixties, and whose top quality products are prized by many of the world's greatest professional photographers, is all set for another major launch.

Stellar – a unique compact camera aimed at people who only want the best – has been exclusively fashioned at Hasselblad's design centre in Italy and is set to wow amateur enthusiasts and consumers who love to take outstanding photographs and shoot quality video without having to worry about F-Stops and focal lengths.

With its own unique expression of style and matchless quality – Stellar is set for take-off around the globe at top stores like Harrods in the UK, Lane Crawford's in Hong Kong and China and Willoughby's Camera in Fifth Avenue, New York, later this summer.

Dr. Larry Hansen, Hasselblad's Chairman and CEO explains: "The world has never seen a compact camera like this before. The Hasselblad brand has always been about highest quality and distinctive style and we've created Stellar as a work of art capture device that you can simply point and shoot to acquire stunning pictures. It is available in six exotic wooden handle options – including walnut, padouk and zebra – with every hand-grip meticulously carved from a raw block of wood and fashioned by our experts. And our sleek and moulding technique embraced by the aerospace industry." "It has always been my ambition to enable all fans of the iconic Hasselblad brand to have an opportunity to own one of our cameras. Now discerning enthusiasts of beautiful design, ergonomics and advanced camera technology have real choices."

For more information contact :

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M: +27-82- 6128 227

michael@sunshinecompany.co.za



20 000  
avios

# acne studios

Inspired by Pacman, Acne Studios from Stockholm brings their latest collection of clutch bags to the market. The Vanessa and Akoya clutches are the ultimate 80s nostalgia pieces for the season.

acnestudios.com



# lg curved oled tv

LG's groundbreaking CURVED OLED TV marks the beginning of a whole new era in home entertainment. Its IMAX-like curvature guarantees an amazingly immersive and comfortable viewing experience and thanks to LG's WRGB OLED technology, the 55EA9800 features infinite contrast ratio with deeper blacks and brighter whites than a conventional RGB display. Furthermore, the screen delivers incredible color accuracy regardless of ambient light or viewing angle.

LG CURVED OLED TV retailing at R200 000.



3000  
avios

# leonardo by montblanc

Leonardo da Vinci – a man of many talents, was not just a remarkable painter, sculptor and architect; he was a man of science and a brilliant inventor with a particular interest in the study of flying. Montblanc celebrates the genius of the great artist with its Great Characters Limited Edition Leonardo.

Fountain Pen R30 300.00

# the conservatorium hotel

The Conservatorium Hotel in Amsterdam not only has pushed the design boundaries in the hotel, but now their chef Chef Schilo van Coevorden is spearheading the renaissance of Dutch cuisine with his opus, Tunes.

conservatoriumhotel.com







2075  
avios

## burberry

Burberry military red Orchard bag. The distinctive bowling bag shape is inspired by vintage luggage. —

Burberry military bag in small R 20 750

Available from Burberry. +27 11 884 1425



399  
avios

## wrt w eyewear

Available from moscon Optics

Tel: +27 (0) 11 483 8034

R 3999 —



## issey miyake

Issey Miyake, with a new menswear designer Yusuke Takahashi, launches their Spring/Summer 2014 season. He explores handsome handmade techniques of remix dyeing and use travel as the ultimate inspiration. —

isseymiyake.com..



## yosca

As the designer Gerard Yosca celebrates 30 years in the industry, he presents "Goth and Roll" to commemorate. Swarovski crystals, jewel-toned gems and his vintage-inspired designs make for a real statement this season. —

yosca.com



## antikki eyewear

The Antikki Spring/Summer Eyewear collection showcases timeless styles from the 70s and 80s. Dug out of the Silhouette archives these eclectic frames are examples of the outstanding quality synonymous with the world's leading frame manufacturer. Retrofitted with top quality Carl Zeiss lenses and not previously worn, this stand out collection serves as a reminder that fashion comes around in a full circle. —



## alison berger glass

The LA based designer Alison Berger, with a host of celebrity clients, offers lighting, furniture and glass in the most exquisite way. Believing in handcraft and the integrity of her work she custom makes most of her work. Using her hands in every phase of the process from forming to etching. —

alisonbergerglassworks.com



## gc watches

The Swiss watch brand, GC, founded by Guess-fame Paul Marciano, brings their latest edition to their Sport Chic collection. GC Homme has that sportiness you want from a watch combined with modern design. Perfect timing. —

gcwatches.com

# frieze – new york and then london

By Daniel Scheffler

Art has this funny way of sneaking up on you. And this year, as the ferry docked on Randall's Island just a wink from Manhattan, it did exactly that. The critics, the pessimists and the other 45,000 people stepped off into the paints, the slashes, the colours and everything in between with high expectations - and since the economy is turning, fat wallets too.

Gatsby inspired them all perhaps to spend, drink champagne and question their lives. The fair, now second time around in New York, seemed full of promise and delivered something newer than last year. From mini radiators that maybe could whisper, to photographs of Buddhist prayer flags crowding in the wind, to a lot, A LOT of plants, to Blue Bottle coffee keeping the crowds buzzed, the fair brought together 180 of the world's best contemporary galleries. So how was this weekend of art, art and art you ask?

Where is art to go now that everything's been done, where is art to find itself now that mankind is feeling more lost than ever? Frieze attempted to answer these questions but inevitably could not. The fashionistas dropped their crotches as they ate at Mission Chinese and Fat Radish, the VIPs quietly in the German lounge bored out of their skulls with REM's lead singer Michael Stipe casually looked like he was buying up everything kind of art he could fill his home with this didn't give us an indication of where art is either.

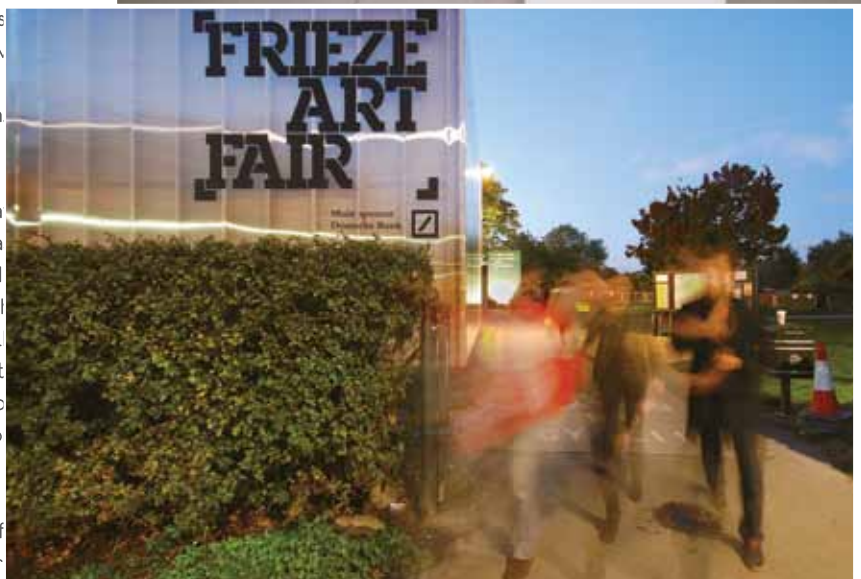
The enormous red doggie welcoming guests by LA provocateur Paul McCarthy, probably intended to mock Jeff Koons as he adorns the New York Magazine covers lying around, and knock twice hop once wink three times secret hands! speak easy for 'special invitees only' had the blogs talking. Oh and let's not forget the over cool gallery representatives all holding iPads and scrunching back their very large black rimmed glasses, that had me talking. But still no indication of what's happening with art.

Was it not the great Picasso that said, "The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." And Frieze thankfully did a lot of dusting off of daily life taking guests, cynic or not, out of their bubbles in life, across the proverbial and actual river, and depositing them in a tent far away. Forced to consider art and themselves in the process.

## and so london frieze descends.

Taking place in Regent's Park, the fair comes with some rather great expectations and the art world flies into Heathrow by the gallons. Last year the fair had a speed dating approach to it - a few seconds with one of the 152 representative galleries and then moving on swiftly to something better, or shinier.

London Frieze is promising, and never seems to disappoint. But then again the Frieze foundation presents a variety of new initiatives to keep everyone busy.



There are the Frieze Projects, a programme of artists' commissions realized at the fair, that is curated by Nicola Lees. Then Frieze Film with five commissions by Petra Cortright, Peter Gidal, Patricia Lennox Boyd, Oraib Toukan and Erika Vogt, produced in partnership with EMPAC and broadcast on Channel 4's 'Random Acts.'

Frieze Music features a performance by celebrated American composer Meredith Monk, in duet with Katie Geissinger. Frieze Talks is a programme of lectures, conversations and panel discussions, featuring artists, curators, writers and cultural critics. Speakers include John Akomfrah, Jerome Bel, Meredith Monk and Stephen Shore, while panels discuss topics ranging from alternative art schools; the intertwining of sexuality, politics and protest in recent art; to 'migrating modernisms.'

Let's see if the zeitgeist pops its head out this time in the Brit capital.



# town and country

By Daniel Scheffler

Forget the Downton Abbey bunch. Since Matthew Crawley was killed off the show just isn't the same. England, with a new baby prince, however is somewhat unchanged. London with all its pomp and glamour remains and the country with all its sighs of relief is unchanging. Writer Daniel Scheffler goes exploring what luxury town and country hold right now.

London is buzzing with all kinds of activity, if it's not Design Week then it's Frieze or Elmgreen and Dragset at the V&A museum. Or even an antique fair of some kind across the little river. The city does sleep, and quite early, but it's always tingling with all things fascinating. Sometimes all this modernity feels less London, but there are always pockets of the city that brings you right back to good old England where tradition and trad is mandate.

So therefore seeking something that's part of the establishment is part of the hunt that is darling London. The Draycott has that certain luxurious English charm and with Edwardian red brick it does feel oh-so-British - and some. Called a "home away from home" the five star hotel is an inner city sanctum that is perfect for high tea at 4pm on any given day.

The very traditional hotel has quirks to see: like every room is theatrically themed and named after an actor, playwright or producer of days gone by. Designer Nina Campbell is currently in the process of redoing the entire property, as she did with Ellenborough Park out of town. But stick around for a long lazy tea here at The Draycott: tit-bit sandwiches, naughty cakes and puffery puff pastries that only the English can do on silver trays and haute service.

But if the city becomes all too much for you, then head to the countryside. Choo-choo'ing out of town for an escape comes as the next delight. The train to the country brings with it fresh air and an almost regal gratification. Less than three hours away in turn brings a manor house and old English charisma.



Reveling in all the Brit-ness is easy at Ellenborough Park; they have housed earls, lords and even King George III in 1788. The country house is complete with a modernized spa and is known for their Namaste of India treatment. Taking inspiration from Indian head massage rituals, the treatment works from the top of the head to the tips of the toes - all with aromatherapy oils. This is the perfect way to balance mind and body as you arrive from London.

But besides for the beautiful country generous rooms, hunting, golfing, polo, archery and shooting is on offer. So put on the Hunter boots, head out for a hike in the countryside and then return for dinner by candlelight with bone china at the Beaufort Dining Room. Or their aphrodisiac menu that's also on offer...

After all this gallivanting from town to country, only sleep will do —

# designer christopher jenner: it's all a sense of wonder

By Daniel Scheffler

Born in South Africa, and now a through and through Brit, the designer with dazzling eyes has a way of seeing magic in all his work. A favourite quote of his as per Edwin Lutyens is, "there will never be great architects or great architecture without great patrons." And you see that through Christopher's eyes, always seeing things from both, or all, perspectives.

The head of a studio that celebrates knowledge and specialty from all angles, Christopher is the glue that somehow cements it all together - a calm in the storm. The designer lived on a few of the continents in cities like Tel Aviv, Paris and Hong Kong and worked for some of the most edifying brands and has settled in London (already in 2010) - a sort of center of the world if you will.

Now, his latest announcement is that he is the Creative Director of Eurostar. Known for its ease of travel, environmental credentials and of course fully flexible schedules and food delights by Raymond Blanc - it makes perfect sense to have Christopher on board. A man obsessed with details and an eye for perfection, similar to the Eurostar - enough is never enough, there seems to always be room for improvement.

This new position, a first for the rail industry for sure, is about being design-led and bringing in fresh blood and ideas to a brand that's a staple in Euro travels. Of course the investment of £700 million in a new fleet means that things can only look up.

"This partnership gives me the opportunity to bring my design skills to a wide range of customer touch points. Travel plays such an important part in our lives, and this collaboration with Eurostar will allow me to further elevate the customer experience", says Jenner.

Besides for Eurostar the designer also collaborated with the luxury British luggage brand Globe-Trotter to create a piece especially for the design industry - the "ArchiTube" that bridges the skill of drafting and free drawing with that of the high-tech present.

Varied and interesting, the man has worked on Diptyque stores, homes and products. What's next for Mr. Jenner - the sky is really the limit.

Read more about Christopher Jenner at <http://www.christopher-jenner.com/> —





# pleats s'il vous plait - issey miyake

By Daniel Scheffler

The ever-chameleon Issey Miyake brand has for decades been doing what it does best – high tech, high skill and high beauty all infused and all working together to kiss and thrill. Some of the results have taken away breaths of even the fashion front row mania – and everyone else.

But the brand is also never scared of change and so with a new designer in menswear, Yosuke Takahashi, the new collection was presented in Paris for Spring Summer 2014. The verdict? It was ever so Miyake fresh – taking inspiration from travels and giving it some well-deserved youthfulness.

Takahashi-san had previously studied under Issey Miyake as a member of the Reality Lab Design team, where he worked closely with Mr. Miyake on projects such as 132 5. The men's collection now fuses ancient Japanese techniques, such as washi paper, itajime dyeing, and other traditions, with modern technological advances, and the results are innovative fabrics and design that just dazzle the world. The recent Spring Summer 2014 collection explores handmade traditional techniques of dyeing remixed and combined these in new ways with more arresting results. The collection (inspired by travel) mixed colours and patterns as they are seen in different cultures to more interesting effect. A perfect moment for the new designer at the helm – and for the brand itself of course.

On the other hand of Issey Miyake lies the Pleats Please brand. It recently celebrated its 20-year anniversary as a brand standing firmly on its own two feet. They call the line “an embodiment that is fundamental to Issey Miyake – where the true value of design lies in its integration into the everyday life and comfort of the wearer.”

“HAPPY ANNIVERSARY” is a visual series for the 20th anniversary of Pleats Please Issey Miyake by Taku Satoh Design Office Inc., and has won a gold prize at the Art Director's Club annual awards.

The brand just keeps it coming – technical genius, artistic flair meets an outlandish out-of-this-world charm. Unlike any other fashion label, and it will remain that way seemingly forever.

For more on the magical brand that is Issey Miyake, visit [isseymiyake.com](http://isseymiyake.com).



PARFUMS

# PLEATS PLEASE

ISSEY MIYAKE



THE NEW FRAGRANCE BY ISSEY MIYAKE



# how to do mozambique

By Daniel Scheffler



Just an hour flight from Johannesburg, and an all year summery feel the old Portuguese stomping ground has historically been a paradise destination for seekers of sun, open skies and more seafood than can be consumed. But Mozambique has so much more than just the obvious, between the ocean and the highlands.

The country, fresh out of civil war, is comparable in size to Turkey but for the most is widely unpopulated with a worldwide ranking of 185th in density. The perky Indian Ocean air seems to run across the country like a muse and the people from humming Maputo to spirited Pemba lap it up.

## maputo what's happening?

The capital, with just over 1 million cheerful residents, is the biggest city in Mozambique and is recently attracting an influx of Portuguese from falling-down Europe. With new businesses opening across the city, mining and railroad booming up north, the city is developing as a haven for seekers of a quieter life with overarching wide heavens soothing the new lifestyle. Residents revel in a new capital as they develop a new voice for a city that had been ignored for decades.

If you happen to be in Maputo in December Mozambique Fashion Week, with a true anti-western design aesthetic, gets the residents gushing. With award-winning Taibo Bacar, last year's fashion hit coming from Mozambique, the African fashion focus has shifted southeast to Maputo. And so the brand new malls downtown with their fashion stores have certainly taken over as the big attractions from the colonial harbour and ancient central train station.

## where to sleep and eat

Polana Serena, 1380 Avenida Julius Nyerere

The best hotel in the city, hands down, is the aged-colonial Grande Dame of Mozambique: the Serena Polana Hotel. A landmark in the city, and revered to be a beacon of civility since 1922, the hotel has retained its excellence for almost a century. With simple values like great service the hotel has infused Colonial Portuguese charm with latter-day delights like a proper gym and modern hamam style spa.

What makes the hotel totally unique in a culinary-dry Maputo is the choice of restaurants. Delagoa is the hotel's fine dining restaurant that incorporates a distinct French art to food with Mozambican ingredients. That of course includes the finest, and freshest, lobster Mozambique can offer. There is also Varanda, an all day 'traditional kitchen' style restaurant that caters for the hungry with a large selection of seafood, international food and slinking Indian flavours. But the real boon is the Aquarius Bar commanding an almost forever view of the ocean from the lounge sofas. Of course being able to order sushi and cocktails just ups the breathtaking factor.

## where to hang out

Piri-Piri, 14 Avenida 24 de Julho

An institution in Maputo: drink the extra sweet Coca-Cola from a bottle and eat screaming hot chicken. You haven't been to Maputo if you haven't been to this little crazy establishment where the whole city somehow ends up every other night.

## how to get there

SAA ([www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)) has two flights daily from Johannesburg to Maputo and from Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and East London one daily flight.



## pemba

### what's happening?

With exquisite colonial Portuguese architecture and authentic markets, with art and craft that is notably different with an Arab flair, the port city is the glowing destination in Northern Mozambique. With that Pemba is possibly one of the most organized areas in the country for water sports and coral reef diving – of course Pemba Beach Hotel has a list of private and group instructors.

### where to sleep and eat

Pemba Beach Hotel and Spa, 5470 Avenida da Marginal

Simple luxury is what makes this Arab-African design hotel the most favoured in the Pemba area of Mozambique. The hotel has the modern goods like gym and spa that travelers are seeking but remains unassuming enough to focus on the setting more than anything else. The paradise fantasy of white beaches and sunsets comes from this corner of African and the hotel celebrates just that.

The Quirimbas Restaurant at the hotel is the best place to eat, unless you're grabbing fresh seafood at one of the beach bars during the day. The service there is usually terrible but the seafood will be fresh and worth the trouble. But the best option remains the international cuisine of Quirimbas, and they will happily supply fresh seafood dishes according to your requirements any night of the week.

### how to get there

SAA ([www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)) has five weekly flights directly from Johannesburg to Pemba and from Maputo there is a daily flight to Pemba with LAM





# hotels

## not just a place to rest your head

By Daniel Scheffler

Cary Grant, with some cheek said, "My formula for living is quite simple. I get up in the morning and I go to bed at night. In between, I occupy myself as best I can." And that is what notable hotels do best. They give you that rest you so desperately have been craving for how long in their finest linens and darkest rooms, and wakes you up with the least hassle you can imagine. In between, well that depends on the hotel. But most of the time, hotels are going out of their way to give guests more than they asked for, or even realized they could ask for.

And so there are hotels, and then there are hotels. Stars, whether Michelin or other, may mean nothing if a place where sleeping, dreaming and living is of the highest order. That is why there are some hotels that manage to just take what's needed and enhance those simple elements in intelligibly the most magnificent ways from that snooze to eventual rise.

### the mark

(Corner Madison Avenue and 77th Street, New York, [themarkhotel.com](http://themarkhotel.com))



Located on the rather lonely Upper East Side this hotel, and landmark 1927 building, keeps guests engrossed so that downtown and anything else becomes a rather forgotten mirage. A refuge for some, literally for Anna Wintour during Hurricane Sandy, and a celebration for others the hotel manages to take a sense of European ancient world manners and intermingle it with designer Jacques Grange's signature uncomplicated French aesthetic.

With an over the top lobby and a wild lounge area that spills out onto the street, the rooms are handsomely pared down in a very demure aesthetic (even though a timid photograph that Karl, yes that Karl, took hangs in one of the rooms). But come stocked and locked with all the latest technologies including iButler (technology support), mirrored televisions, Creston touch screen controls for shades, lights and entertainment and of course the latest Bang & Olufsen HD televisions.

What makes the hotel so red-letter is not the complimentary shoeshine by John Lobb, a state of the art gym, the use of Mark bicycles to explore the nearby Central Park armed with a laden picnic basket, the impeccable service, the Frederic Fekkai Salon downstairs but actually the Jean-Georges restaurant.

The Mark Restaurant, by the repeatedly awarded Jean-Georges Vongerichten, is known for its subtle Euro-style food but comes out to play with crispy sushi, truffle drizzled pizzas and a bourbon pecan pie. The seating area, filled with ladies who lunch and now also work, is ideal to sit in, as the upper east side of Manhattan clamor to get a seat dressed in Chanel and whoever is hot this season. But the food distracts from the gawking as Russ & Daughter's salmon is served and crab cakes with grapefruit become the center points.

But heading upstairs to a king sized bed with perfectly contoured linen with views over the city is where the hotel ceases to be a hotel and becomes a home complete with your own kitchen, washing machine and drier and bath big enough for two. Or maybe even three.

### mercero

(Calle dels Lledó 7, Barcelona, [mercerohotels.com](http://mercerohotels.com))



Situated in the dark and broody Gothic Quarter of the world's most architecturally important city is Mercero. Unattached to the glam set Mercero New York, the Mercero in Barcelona pares down with a humble and historic spirit. The architecture, that includes medieval walls, stone and tiles gives the hotel the feeling of the magnetic old world that Spain still holds precious. But the modernity in glass and steel and touches of modernist furniture gives ease to the whole hotel. All thanks to all-star architect Rafael Moneo, a veteran in the industry and who won the Pritzker Prize for architecture in 1996.

Creams and dark woods all over the 28 bedroomed place with restaurant and dreamy terrace break through the stony walls and allows for the pared down-ness of the place to sink even deeper. A perfect place to ease into the Gaudi afternoon is the courtyard, with ancient walls and orange trees all around. Make sure to order cakes and small coffees to your heart's delight.

The enormous rooms are chic, decorated in the Spanish milieu of eclectic and finds the space to add contemporary art and beautiful linen. Then there is the grand suite, all in moody purples and crimson carpeting. There are delicious berry like moments of flutter and sexiness all around in this hotel. Could anything be more perfect? Well yes, actually the terrace. Located on the fourth floor of the hotel, between the two watchtowers, it has views over the most ancient rooftops of Barcelona. Here you can dip, snack or drink cocktails. Away from the city's busy life.

The chef, Rubén Barrios, with Mercerino restaurant offers fare like Scallops with comfit shiitake, pork belly and black turnips or suckling pig eaten out of the bone with rosemary. And then there are the wines, everything you can imagine from Cataluña and Andalucía that tastes good.

It's luxury, in the best way. No screaming, no shouting and no pushing. Just an ease of elegance for purveyors of unpretentiousness.

## widder

(Rennweg 7, Zurich, widderhotel.ch)



Heading to quiet and boringly diplomatic Switzerland, with not much happening can be rather dull it is true. Zurich, the height of dullness, is not on anyone's radar, minus perhaps the ever Zurich loving Tyler Brule who awards the city every merit escapable by the rest of the world's truly cosmopolitan and exciting haunts. But the Widder Hotel brings some life into the city, even if only within its walls.

Refurnished townhouses, nine of them to be exact, have been used to create the greater hotel with guest rooms and suites for every need - en route to skiing in Austria or staying in town for business. Originally the buildings were owned by feudal Switzerland's Guild of Butchers and then privately purchased as a special preservation with architect Tilla Theus at the helm. With many floors, steel and glass inside old wooden structures connect levels and interesting nests.

The restaurant awarded with 15 Gault Millau points, features original and international fare with Dietmar Sawyere spearheading the operation. But not to forget the connoisseurs with the "Turmstübl" by master chef Alexander Kroll with cigars and wines

from across the globe. Exquisite selections of Cote De Beaune's "Corton Charlemagne Grande Cru" or Krug's "Clos du Mesnil Vintage" is exceptional to come by, but the Widder displays them proudly.

The hotel takes a classic old meets new approach to its design and has taken furniture from every designer available including Eileen Gray, Josef Hoffman, the infinite Mies van der Rohe, undisputed Ray Eames and of course the Le Corbusier. Oh and every artist too like Augusto Giacometti, Max Bill and Andy Warhol. But these things just add some drama to the hotel, what makes the hotel superb is its pragmatic nature.

There is a plug and cable and outlet for every need, a shower for every way you'd like to be wet and lamps, lights and lighting for every way. The only hotel where personalization of your room, and your entire experience, can be taken to a superior new level of customization with all the toys and trinkets.

## chatwal

(130 West 44th Street, New York, thechatwalny.com)



A New York darling, the Chatwal (although uptown) is one of those hotels where you may want to live as opposed to visit for a night or three. It is completely over glammed and hyper-sleek but that's where the charm cradles guests with big dreams and expectations. The Stanford-White designed building with Art Deco slashing and a ferocious 30s appeal is how the hotel has remained in its age-old luxurious New York incantation. Gotham's glamour pared with architect Thierry Despont's modernization with its latest restoration is where the hotel commemorates the golden age - pre Don Draper of course.

Part of the Starwood Group the hotel, with its network and connections within the Luxury Collection, spares no detail and thrills with its suites. Drawing design inspiration from the famous Malletier trunk makers nickel trims, suede covered walls and jewel-toned glass wink from every corner of the room. The Barrymore Suite, with exclusive penthouse floor use, with four extra large guestrooms, dining rooms, sitting rooms, kitchens, bathrooms and oversized Jacuzzi baths is the Grande lux of all hotel rooms. A life, a whole life, manages to fit inside this chic "home" overlooking the city. Of course the private outdoor space bombarding Manhattan's skyline onto you is one of the highlights as you move into your dream home.

The infamous, perhaps for wilder than we know nights, Lambs Club is now in the hands of chef Geoffrey Zakarian who has brought a modern American cuisine to the hotel. But the Club,



the first professional theatre club in America with Charlie Chaplin and Fred Astaire as regulars, manages to strongly hold on to the grandeur of previous times. Cocktails here are drunk like water and deep couches hold stories of Hollywood's finest.

Glamour is celebrated here and that is just the done thing at the Chatwal. Dressing up in perhaps a little couture is easy here and somehow cashmere and pearls drape a slightly happier note as the celebration of "The Great Gatsby" (apt with Baz Luhrmann's film launching this instance) is just part of another day in Avalon.



### **casacamper**

(Carrer d'Elisabets 11, Barcelona and Weinmeisterstrasse 1, Berlin, [casacamper.com](http://casacamper.com))

With two, very different, locations the Camper brand has managed to extend its aesthetic and design ethos to two of the world's most creatively energized cities. Barcelona (with all the Gaudi architecture) and Berlin (with its overly-sexy underground scene) have emerged again as capitals in Europe for avant-garde thinking and embracing leftfield artistry.

Although the Casa Camper in Barcelona has been open for nearly 10 years it is still relevant as a high of design center of the small-big city capital of Europe. Created as an oasis in the midst of a busy Raval district the hotel looks less like a hotel and more like a gallery or even fashion store. A deliberate perplexing chicane by designers Fernando Amat and Jordi Tio, like some of the other design curiosities like oversized elevator buttons, giving each guests two rooms one for working and one for living or portable lamps and foldable step ladders to reach stowage areas.

The hotel takes water recycling, through a natural system without chemical treatments, and water heating through a solar system, and green space with extraordinary vertical gardens very seriously. Natural is the word and bathrooms look down onto gardens with more than expected natural light. Barcelona Casa Camper has the ability to take guests and transform their expectations of a hotel into something more holistic and natural than before, simply through design.

The Berlin hotel situated in the ever-changing Mitte district of Berlin has managed to create a unique "home away from home" in its use of natural daylight, relaxed living spaces and informal attitude amidst a starker German neighborhood.

On the roof, a lounge called Tentempie is open 24 hours a day and even when Berlin had long gone to sleep the crown remains

alive and festive. Whilst down below, at some more reasonable hours, chef Albert Raurich from El Bulli fame designed a counter diverging menu of Asian food served in Spanish tapas style. The unique concept at the Dos Palillos restaurant is that the patrons become actors in the fantastical show happening in the kitchen – and must be experienced first hand.

### **uxua casa**

(Quadrado, Trancoso, Bahia, [uxua.com](http://uxua.com))



Owned and run by ex-creative director of Diesel is probably what you read every single time UXUA Casa is mentioned in the press. Not only is that the 25th most interesting thing about the place but also it's just an indication of tasteful as opposed to what the hotel truly brings – a sense of real homeliness. Wilbert Das, the guilty party, left Italy and moved his life to a tiny place on the east coast of Brazil and that is the birth of UXUA Casa hotel's splendour.

The product, a wonderland of greenery and copious amounts of white linens plus the perfect oversized furniture is what then occurs, splendour. Taking the concept of a tree house and turning it into a complete luxury experience, with giant beds and baths and couches for comfort is one of the most exceptional 'villas' in the hotel. And then the old fisherman's cottages complete with white washed walls and floors on the ancient quadrado (square) have been turned into small villas with outdoor baths, their own fully stocked kitchens and best of all views of the village life passing by in the grassy square.

The spa, and state of the art gym, are both a wonderful trigger for energizing after a sun soaked day at the pool or down at the quintessential white sand beach. But it is the masseurs (hand picked by UXUA) that can transform even a skeptic, from various bodywork techniques, to Reiki; to good old-fashioned deep tissue the hotel's consideration for fine fettle is remarkable.

The food, served in a relaxed restaurant in the main area of the hotel or in the rooms as a treat, consists of traditional Bahia fare and Brazilian dishes like seafood stews and grilled fish. Breakfasts over perform, as you want them to, with tropical fruits, customary cakes and yummy pies before you slow walk down the hill to the UXUA private beach club. Miles of white sand, perfect waves and warm water as you get off your chaise longue makes the beach club the idyllic spot to spend the day. Days and nights become long affairs of feasting, dancing to new rhythms and lazy sleeps, the way only Bahia can provide in this world. Maybe Mr. Cary Grant had a point after all. —

# rovos rail

By Daniel Scheffler



Whether the great Agatha Christie novel, “Murder on the Orient Express,” comes to mind immediately or at some point in the middle of the night as the train patters on – the ambience of Rovos Rail is much the same (minus the murder part of course). The golden age of cocktails, peacock dressing and the ceremony of a non-occasion are exalted. And as Gatsby jazzily takes over the world this year, thanks to director Baz Luhrmann, that epoch is truly revisited and splendidly so.

Full, and faster than ever, trains and planes have replaced true yesteryear-fashioned rail travel. The modern day nomad now comes equipped with an iPad, some fast talk and a whole lot of haste. Speed and efficiency now by far supersede the decadence of taking your time to get anywhere. But old school rail and good old faithful Rovos have come to remind us that an unhurried escapade can just prolong the enjoyment.

The Vos family launched the train on April 29, 1989 and their fleet includes lounge, dining, observation and sleeper cars all restored to the original 1930s’ aesthetic and eminence. Interestingly enough, the Rovos observation cars, originally A-28 dining cars, obtained special permission to run at the back of the train in 1988. This enabled a substantial enlargement of the windows and the construction of unique open-air balconies. And suddenly the Africa going by was now in perfect full view.

Currently some of the shorter Rovos routes are the iconic 48-hour Cape Town to Pretoria journey (and in reverse) and a 3-day Pretoria to Durban safari that includes stops to venture out on game drives. There are also longer odysseys such as the route from Pretoria to Dar es Salaam; a 15-day safari through Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia; and then of course the most majestic: a 28-day expedition that is Cape to Cairo that combines rail, boat and plane. And so the luxurious accommodations suddenly become more consequential as these journeys start to broaden.

And the Rovos fleet does everything it can to bring exactly the right collateral. Acclaimed for its generosity in space right across the train,



even the adjoining passages are much wider than expected. Sleeping cabins on board, like the Royal Suite, take up half a carriage and have space for a honeymooning couple to lounge around a silver high tea tray and then to wallow in the claw-footed Victoria bath.

The Edwardian design features on the train have a “Howard’s End” on wheels aesthetic. It truly feels like a celebration of the good life and in deep contrast with the puritanical values of the previous Victorian design of trains. Cushioned benches, extra shiny wood panelling and carpets that give way to bury your feet slightly, all unify the distinct savour of the swank old world.

Life on board is simple. TVs, WIFI and other connectivity are abolished and chess, bridge and inexhaustible conversation soar. Fine wines, South Africa’s best, are lined up for their delectation by on board sommeliers and the chef’s feasts revolve around local tang, where game meat is a specialty. Daytime dress is smart casual, a unique South African way of dressing, whereas in the evenings the ladies and the gentlemen on board trick out for the occasion. So whether you are the hardline train watcher type or not, a simple life rolled away from time is the perfect place for, if nothing else, reflection.

For more information on routes and special offers visit [Rovos.com](http://Rovos.com); journeys start at R14,600 per person sharing. —



# london gems

By Daniel Scheffler

There are gems and then there are gems. And these are something beyond just a little shiny, sparkly stone. Gemfields, the world's leading producer of ethical rare coloured gemstones, seems to know how valuable and magnificent the real McCoy truly is. And so with that in mind, Fabergé and Gemfields, in tandem with Coutts, is sponsoring 'The Cheapside Hoard: London's Lost Jewels' at the Museum of London - and it will be running until 27 April next year.

"The Cheapside Hoard" is a collection of priceless 16th and early 17th century Elizabethan and Early Stuart jewellery and gemstones. And in 1912 by pure chance, if there is such a thing, The Hoard was stumbled upon hidden away in a cellar Cheapside in the City of London. The Brits immediately saw this as historic and it became an important cairn for jewellery and its craft as very little sparkles of this quality and epoch survived.

So today, "The Cheapside Hoard" is seen as a valuable wellspring of Elizabethan and Jacobean jewels in England and provides "unparalleled insight into London's role in the international gem trade during an age of global conquest and exploration".

Highlights from the 500 piece exhibition include an exquisite cabochon emerald and yellow gold salamander brooch, a one-of-a-kind watch mounted in a single large emerald with a translucent green enamel dial, as well as superb examples of enamel and gem-set Elizabethan necklace chains decorated with floral motifs. The exhibition, which has been masterfully curated by the museum's senior curator of Medieval & Post-Medieval history (and world-expert on the Cheapside Hoard) Hazel Forsyth, marks the first time that the Hoard will be displayed in its entirety since its chance discovery more than 100 years ago. —

For more on Gemfields go to [www.gemfields.co.uk/](http://www.gemfields.co.uk/)

