

# BAZAAR

Harper's

January 2012

*Travel*  
HOT 100



# TRENDS

## 3 PRIVATE ISLANDS

NEW

When Kate and Wills needed to book their honeymoon, the only destination secure and impenetrable enough was the remote North Island in the Seychelles. This year sees the launch of a handful of other exclusive island retreats. The 27 stilted eco-villas at Song Saa, the first island resort in Cambodia, are located on the lovely Koh Rong archipelago, with pristine rainforest and reefs to explore. Ariara is a private-island resort in the Philippines and sleeps up to 18. In the Maldives, Coco Palm Kuda Hithi is an exclusive-use haven that sleeps 12 and costs just under £30,000 a night; you have exclusive use of dive and yacht staff, spa and butlers. In the Caribbean, the much-loved Petit Saint Vincent island resort, with two miles of white-sand beach, is under new management; new facilities include a kids' club, yoga hut and casual feet-in-the-sand restaurant. You can also rent the whole thing for up to 56 people. To book any of the above, contact Quintessentially ([www.quintessentially.com](http://www.quintessentially.com)).

The spa at private-island resort Song Saa, Cambodia

Petit Saint Vincent in the Caribbean

## 4 SHARE THE LOVE

The most memorable trips always happen when you make a personal connection to a new place and its people. ITC Classics is not the first to tap into this trend for more socially aware tourism, but it is the first to bring out a dedicated 'voluntourism' brochure offering working-holiday add-ons in a variety of teaching or community projects, from St Lucia to South Africa. So, for instance, you might spend half your week at the Kasbah Tamadot in the Atlas Mountains helping to teach disadvantaged Berber children in the local villages. It's a commitment, but your time and skills can really make a difference when the pleasures of the pool and hammam pall. ([www.itcclassics.co.uk/itcgriving](http://www.itcclassics.co.uk/itcgriving))

An ITC Giving school project in South Africa

£225,  
Mahout  
Lifestyle

£120,  
Ray-Ban  
at Style-  
passport

## 5 ONLINE INSPIRATION

**STYLE-PASSPORT** ([www.style-passport.com](http://www.style-passport.com); left), launched last year, stocks fabulous holiday fashion for slopes, city and seaside.

**CHIEN BLEU** ([www.chienbleu-dog-pet-friendly-hotels-accommodation.com](http://www.chienbleu-dog-pet-friendly-hotels-accommodation.com)) is a new operator for those travelling with dogs.

**BEACH TOMATO** ([www.beachtomato.com](http://www.beachtomato.com)) is a great source of inspiration for everything related to sea, sun and sand.

**MAHOUT LIFESTYLE** ([www.mahoutlifestyle.com](http://www.mahoutlifestyle.com)) is a great resource if you can't carry all those lovely handicrafts back from India.

## 6 SMOOTH TRAVEL TIPS

Our insider hints for an easy ride in 2012

**Join BA's Executive Club** Membership of the airline's frequent-flyer programme is free and increases your chances of an upgrade to business class. ([www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com))

**Fly on Virgin's top deck** - these seats on the Gatwick fleet are as good as those in business class, but being premium economy, are half the price. ([www.virgin-atlantic.com](http://www.virgin-atlantic.com))

**Go business with BMI** The airline's business class is one of the best, with a 30-minute check-in, transfers at both ends and dedicated lounges, including one with showers at Heathrow. ([www.flybmi.com](http://www.flybmi.com))

**Fly from the other airport** London City Airport's £7 million upgrade on security means no queues and super-fast check-in. ([www.londoncityairport.com](http://www.londoncityairport.com))

**Invest in a VIP service** Heathrow's VIP Suite service includes curbside drop-offs and pick-ups, an exclusive terminal entrance and private security area, luggage collection, limousine transfer to your plane and helicopter transfers on request, from £1,500 for up to six people. ([www.heathrowbyinvitation.com](http://www.heathrowbyinvitation.com))

**BEFORE YOU GO...** Check out *Bazaar's* relaunched online directory 'The travel A-list' ([www.harpersbazaar.co.uk/travel](http://www.harpersbazaar.co.uk/travel)) - it will direct even the most demanding hotel-o-philes to the very best beds, whatever their destination.



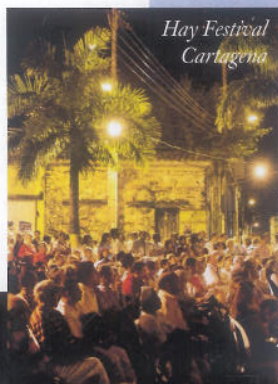
## 7 CITY FESTIVALS

Colourful, crazy, enriching and enlightening, a festival is a way of getting under the skin of a city. Here are our favourite four

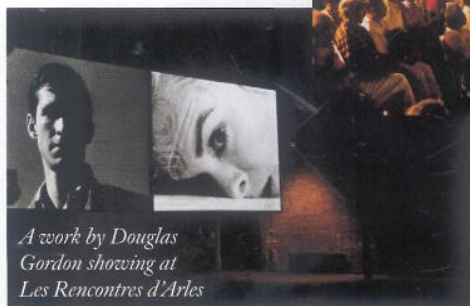
### Hay Festival Cartagena CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA

We love the parties and the sheer beauty of the place (see our January main issue for a feature about the city).

26–29 January ([www.hayfestival.com/cartagena](http://www.hayfestival.com/cartagena)).



Hay Festival  
Cartagena



A work by Douglas  
Gordon showing at  
Les Rencontres d'Arles

### Les Rencontres d'Arles ARLES, FRANCE

At this annual photographic festival you can meet the heroes behind the lenses, and enjoy live performances by stars including Patti Smith in Roman arenas under the stars.

7 July–16 September ([www.rencontres-arles.com](http://www.rencontres-arles.com)).

## 8

### LUXE EXTRAS

There's much to be said for a grand gesture – and offering a vintage car or motorboat with your booking is about as generous as it gets. Top-tier guests at the Grand Hotel Europe St Petersburg get to ride down the canals in a classic Riva speedboat. An Aston Martin Rapide awaits signature suite bookings at the Plaza Athénée in Paris; a Lamborghini Gallardo, at Hotel Manfredi in Rome; and an Agusta Westland helicopter, at Asia's YTL Hotels.

([www.grandhoteleurope.com](http://www.grandhoteleurope.com); [www.plaza-athenee-paris.com](http://www.plaza-athenee-paris.com); [www.hotelmanfredi.it](http://www.hotelmanfredi.it); [www.ytlhotels.com](http://www.ytlhotels.com)).

An installation by  
Marco Maggi on  
Miami Beach



### Art Basel Miami Beach MIAMI BEACH, USA

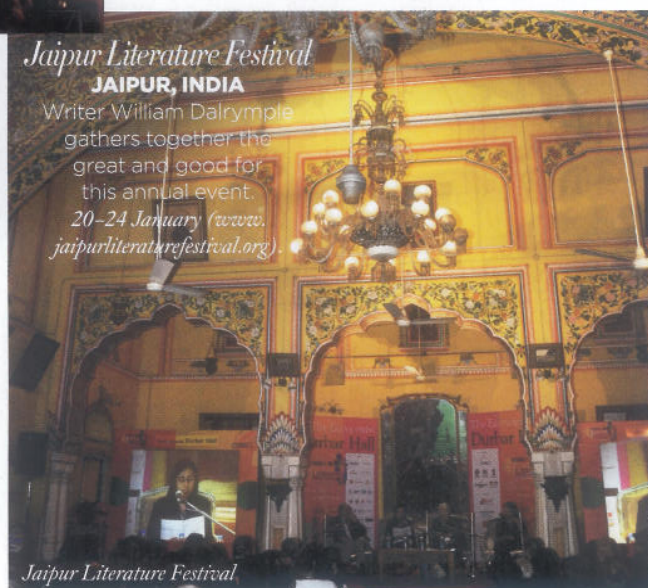
This art fair is great for people-watching and schmoozing with the platinum set.

6–9 December ([www.artbaselmiami.com](http://www.artbaselmiami.com)).

### Jaipur Literature Festival JAIPUR, INDIA

Writer William Dalrymple gathers together the great and good for this annual event.

20–24 January ([www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org](http://www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org)).



Jaipur Literature Festival

## 9 BIG-BRAND SPIN-OFFS

Become a customer of the more affordable, invariably hipper offshoots of the illustrious five-star 'status' brands. New brand So by Sofitel ([www.sofitel.com](http://www.sofitel.com)) sets the benchmark – trendy boutique versions of Sofitel's landmark hotels. Aloft by Starwood ([www.starwoodhotels.com/aloft](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/aloft)) offers mid-price destinations to appeal to the design-conscious iPad generation. Indigo by InterContinental ([www.ichotelsgroup.com](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com)) has 50 new properties worldwide; and in South America, by Inkatererra ([www.inkatererra.com](http://www.inkatererra.com)) is the relaxed version of the Inkatererra group. In India, Vivanta ([www.vivantabytaj.com](http://www.vivantabytaj.com)) is a smaller (but still grand) new offering from Taj Hotels, Resorts & Palaces.

Vivanta, India



## 10 TRAVEL GURUS

Consult the experts to help you get the most from your trip

### V Hip Hotels

Enjoy your escape to the full by booking a 'travel guru' with Virgin Holidays and Hip Hotels. They will come to your house or office and go through all your holiday needs, right down to the colours you'd prefer in your room. ([www.vhiphotels.co.uk](http://www.vhiphotels.co.uk))

### Red Savannah

This new travel company will sort out holiday bliss without gimmickry or glitz – be it a chalet with helipad or white-water rafting on the Rio Grande. ([www.redsavannah.com](http://www.redsavannah.com))

### Independent guides

These writers and adventurers make the most inspiring guides: Classicist

#### Rupert Smith

([www.theevia.school.com](http://www.theevia.school.com)) for tours around the Classical sites of the Mediterranean;

#### Sylvie and

#### Anthony Sattin

(07812 566089; [nile@sattin.co.uk](mailto:nile@sattin.co.uk)) for historic trips in Egypt and down the Nile; **Jonny**

**Bealby** (020 7736 3968; [jonny@wildfrontiers.co.uk](mailto:jonny@wildfrontiers.co.uk)) for thrilling adventures in Central Asia; and

**Bertie Dyer** ([www.indiabeat.co.uk](http://www.indiabeat.co.uk)), former assistant to Mario Testino, for epic and insightful journeys in India. □



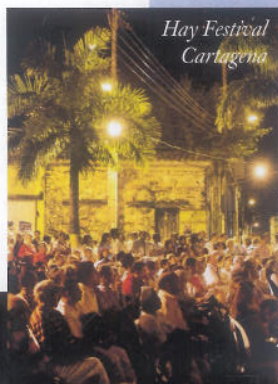
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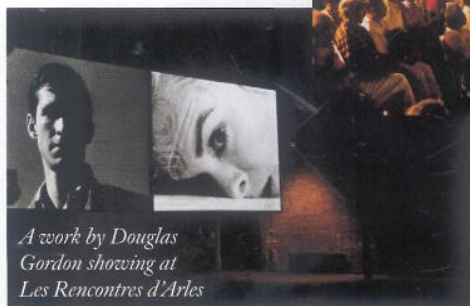
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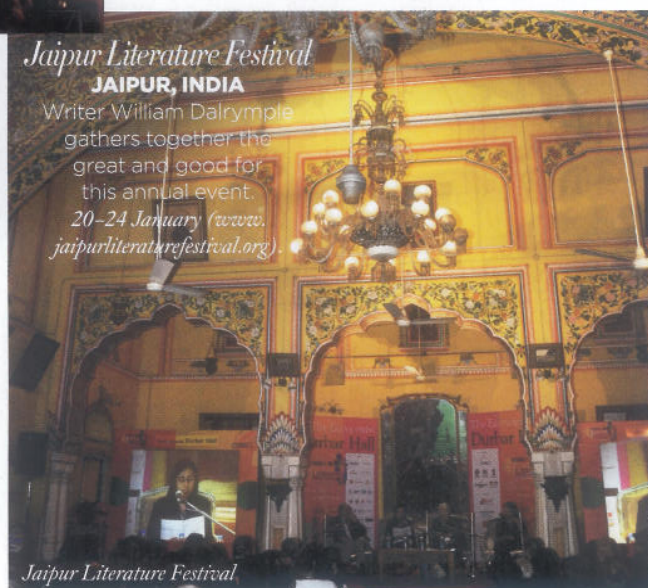
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