

Evening Standard

HAMMERS MUST TEST LIVERPOOL'S NERVE

ALAN SMITH ON WEST HAM'S CLASH WITH LEADERS AT LONDON STADIUM TONIGHT » SPORT PAGE 60

GO THE DISTANCE THIS FEBRUARY

HOW TO MAKE YOUR RESOLUTIONS LAST ALL YEAR » LIFE & STYLE PAGE 31



KIDS BEHIND HALF OF ALL KNIFE CRIME

» 41% OF ARMED THUGS AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 19

» 8% OF OFFENDERS IN LONDON ARE 10 TO 14

Martin Bentham
Home Affairs Editor

HALF of all knife crime offenders in London are teenagers or even younger children, Metropolitan Police figures reveal.

The stark illustration of the scale of youth violence in the capital shows that 41 per cent of those being caught for knife crimes are aged between 15 and 19. Another eight per cent are younger still, ranging in age from 10 to 14 – a further sign of how carrying blades has become part of life for a minority of troubled youngsters.

The figures were published as a Scotland Yard chief warned that attacks in the capital were becoming “more ferocious” as increasingly younger offenders tried to kill or injure by “getting up close and stabbing someone several times”.

Chief Superintendent Ade Adelekan, head of the Met's Violent Crime Task Force, said police were “making some progress” by upping stop and search and using other tactics, such as the deployment of “embedded” undercover officers to the worst-hit communities, to intervene

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LET'S HEAR IT FOR DAD'S SUPER SIX!

Tom Brady of the New England Patriots celebrates his record sixth Super Bowl victory with wife Gisele Bündchen and daughter Vivian, six

FULL STORY
PAGES 2 & 3



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Travel

Edited by *Cathy Adams*

**HIKING IN THE
ATLAS MOUNTAINS**
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EVENING STANDARD**



HOW TO DO The Gold Coast like Holly Willoughby

What to do

While presenting *I'm a Celebrity*, Holly Willoughby, pictured, spent a few weeks in Springbrook National Park. Part of the Gondwana Rainforests, a Unesco World Heritage area, it's an hour's drive from the Gold Coast; head up there or join a day tour to see waterfalls and lush forest in a volcanic landscape (explorespringbrook.com). Willoughby was also spotted at nearby Cabarita Beach with her husband and children, and meeting kangaroos and koalas at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary (currumbinsanctuary.com.au).

Where to stay

The family based themselves at opulent Palazzo Versace Gold Coast (palazzoversace.com.au). Co-host Declan Donnelly and contestants John Barrowman and Harry Redknapp also stayed there. For a budget-friendly experience, camp in the national park at The Settlement — bring your own tent for the full *I'm a Celebrity* experience (parks.des.qld.gov.au).

Where to eat and drink

A regular at The Stunned Mullet (thestunnedmulletcaba.com) on Cabarita Beach, known for its fish and chips, Willoughby treated her parents at Balcony Bar & Oyster Co in Byron Bay (balcony.com.au), tucking into seasonal cocktails. **Valerie Teh**

Alpaca your suitcase



Spectacular
setting: the
Inkaterra Hacienda
Urubamba

THE Sacred Valley of the Incas doesn't — to the un-trained eye — have much in common with Milan Fashion Week. Purple and green mountains lurk above every hacienda, rivers wind their way past local settlements and the air is so thin your heart flutters as you walk up the gentlest hill.

And while the women's long, dark braids and brightly coloured A-line skirts are a dream to photograph, they don't immediately bring to mind the manicured Manhattanites and glossy Italian stylists who set global trends. Yet alpaca wool from the Sacred Valley, in the heart of Peru, was marched

PERU

In the Sacred Valley in the Andes, *Melissa Twigg* finds a treasure: the softest wool money can buy



down the winter catwalks at Giorgio Armani, Missoni and Balenciaga. On the high street, & Other Stories, Cos and John Lewis followed suit.

Peru is climatically challenging. Over the course of two weeks I poured

with sweat on Amazonian walks, burnt my face wandering Inca ruins and worried I would catch frostbite in Cusco city, 4,000 metres above sea level.

During those bouts of shuddering, I realised that most of the locals were cosily ensconced in thick patterned jumpers that are best described as feeling as soft as a baby's bottom.

"If you work with baby alpaca wool, you quickly realise it is the softest material ever," says Ilaria Niccolini, a Peruvian specialist at production firm FTL Moda. "I would choose it over cashmere every time — and it's half the price. It's

Continued on Pages 44 & 45

HOME TALENT FLIES THE FLAG FOR BA CENTENARY

BRITISH Airways has released a star-studded 100th anniversary campaign advert starring some top UK talent. Actors including Olivia Coleman, Gary Oldman and Riz Ahmed join sports stars Antony Joshua and Ellie Symonds, artist Grayson Perry and singer Paloma Faith. It is part of the airline's centenary celebrations this year.

EU 'NO DEAL' DRIVING PERMITS GO ON SALE

UK post offices have started to sell International Driving Permits (IDPs) in preparation for a possible no-deal Brexit. Motorists will need one or more of these if they plan on driving in the EU after March 29 and Britain has left the EU with no withdrawal agreement. They cost £5.50.

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BARBADOS



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Continued from Page 43

not allergenic, so you can wear it without itching, and it's easier to dye than any other fabric." I set off to find this miracle material in Cusco, a city so steeped in history that each building wears the battle scars of the past, with Inca stones covering the bottom half of buildings and Spanish bricks the top.

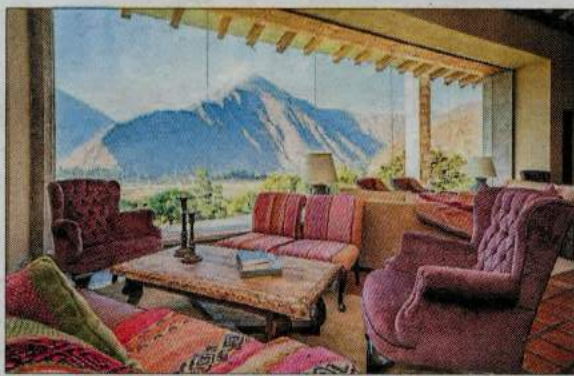
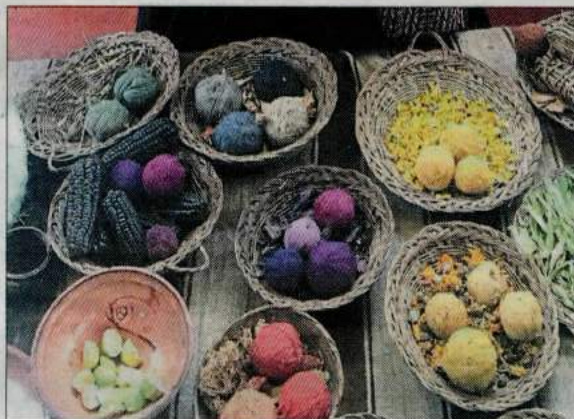
I wended my way past Catholic churches and ancient ruins to San Pedro market, where flower sellers jostle for attention with cheesemongers, salt traders and a few creepy stalls selling the mummified bodies of alpacas for good luck. In the clothing section, hundreds of brightly coloured jumpers, scarves and socks were on sale, each one cheaper than a flat white in London.

Fun as San Pedro was, I quickly learned that if I wanted to buy the wool in its purest form, I needed to leave the city and drive for an hour into the Sacred Valley — specifically to Chinchero, a once-forgotten town that has become the alpaca capital of the world.

After a cup of hot Colombian coffee, we set out on a crisp morning, the altitude sickness lifting like a weight from my shoulders as we descended into the valley. Amid the spectacular scenery, small villages appeared on the roadside, with walls emblazoned with chilling adverts for guinea pig restaurants.

In Cusco I had encountered people dressed entirely in traditional clothes. Cynically, I wondered if it was done for tourists, but as we left the city I quickly realised this is not the case. Far from the prying eyes of visitors, women still wore scarlet, emerald and fuchsia wool dresses, while men dressed in woven

Warm welcome: main picture and bottom left, Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba in the Sacred Valley. Top left, balls of alpaca wool — which production firm FTL Moda uses to produce supersoft designs, top right. Bottom right, alpacas on the farm



ponchos and felt hats.

I stayed at Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, a spectacular hotel deep in the Valley of the Incas. Instead of bedrooms, you stay in casitas — stone cottages dotted across the mountain slope. Each room has a roaring fire and thick alpaca rugs you can drag onto the veranda and sit under to watch sunsets.

The next morning we drove to the tiny mountaintop town of Chinchero, where

hundreds of alpacas dot the surrounding Andes, awaiting their spring shearing. "If the treatment of animals is important to you, then alpaca wool is a good option," says Niccolini. "There's no such thing as mass alpaca farming here in Peru — the animals all roam free and are treated well."

It is also a good choice if you care about female emancipation. The dyeing, weaving and selling of alpaca wool

is seen as women's work in Peru — a country that, outside of the capital, Lima, still adheres to old-fashioned gender roles. However, with the rise in global popularity of the material — 80 per cent is made in Peru — women are seeing their status change. "It's incredible to see the difference this trend has made," says Niccolini.

"Women are now making more money than men and this is transforming the

way whole communities function, as well as paying for schools and hospitals. These women already go to sourcing fairs with foreign buyers, but I want to get them to Florence and New York."

She took me to a house where, in the central courtyard, I found five women working and talking in a mix of Spanish and Quechua. They showed off jumpers, scarves and socks of the softest baby alpaca wool imaginable, and demon-

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Sandals Negril	Caribbean Deluxe	05 Sep - 24 Oct '19	£1,819pp
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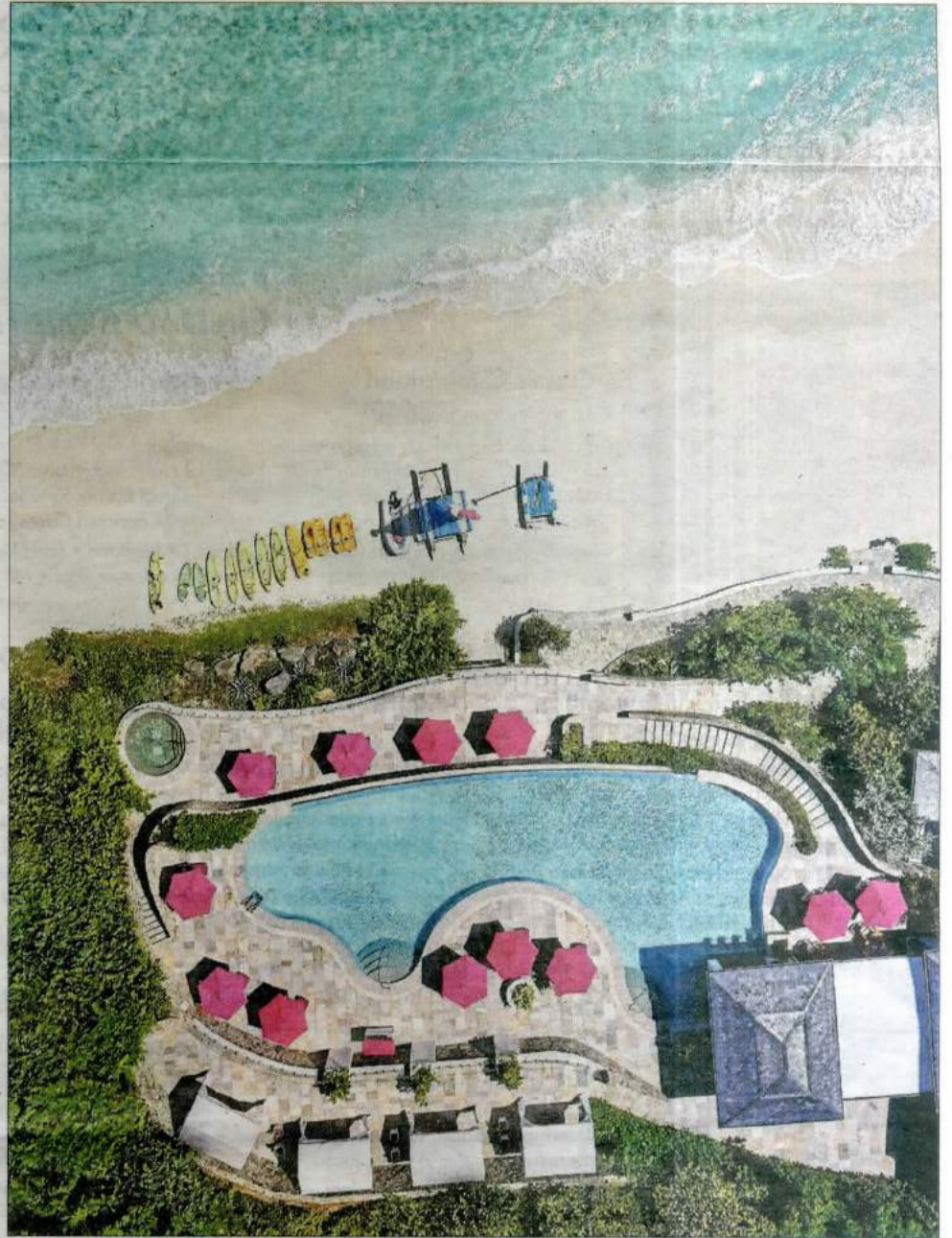


ALAMY

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE MANDARIN ORIENTAL CANOUAN

WHY do pink umbrellas always look deliciously tropical? That's the vibe at Mandarin Oriental Canouan, an upscale island resort on a private island in St Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean.

The Asian luxury hotel group took over the existing Pink Sands Club in 2016, and, well — the colour stuck. With just 26 suites and 13 villas, all with ocean views, this colourful hideaway has excellent restaurants, one of the Caribbean's finest spas and the island chain's largest living coral reef. ● mandarinoriental.com/canouan



strated how they dye it naturally using cochineal insects for scarlet, tree bark for orange and flowers for yellow. I bought enough to fill a small suitcase.

A week later I got back to London and had an interview scheduled with one of Britain's top fashion designers. In a fog of jetlag, I pulled on a £3 scarlet Chinchero cardigan with a pair of high-waisted jeans and set off for Dalston. As I walked into the studio, the designer

smiled. "Wow, I absolutely love your jumper," she said. "Who's it by?"

DETAILS PERU

- Abercrombie & Kent has luxury holidays to Cusco and the Sacred Valley of the Incas for nine nights from £2,500pp (abercrombiekent.co.uk).
- Fly to Cusco via Bogota on Avianca (avianca.com) from £800 return.



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