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South Africa

World Schooling



From left: The Janssen family takes a leap in Santorini; riding in Kenya

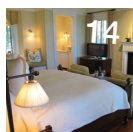
Recently at a conference someone asked me if I preferred being a travel editor to running a travel company. Not at all, I quickly replied. I still get to do all of the things that I loved about being an editor—researching, scouting, writing, sharing my finds—but now I also get to be a part of so many other people’s travels as well. I compared my old job to giving a speech, announcing my own discoveries in print, but now I get to have an ongoing conversation. Members come to us with their travel dreams, we share our expertise and our resources. We connect them with our favorite places and favorite guides and then we hear back about what they learned, loved, didn’t love, and, in the process, our pooled wisdom is enriched.

One new phenomenon that our members have introduced us to recently is what we call Road Schooling, or as a member calls it World Schooling. This year a number of our members have come to us to help plan family sabbaticals for the better part of a year. The Janssen family, who began their journey a year ago last June, started with a month in Kenya, then spent the fall in Europe, followed that with a trip to Egypt and then moved on to Asia and South America. In total, they spent 382 days abroad in 29 countries and took 85 flights. They met incredible people, learned indelible lessons (one of the

father’s favorites was teaching his kids about BC, AD dating with a stick on the ground in front of the Acropolis in Athens) and bonded in such a deep way that the dad compared the year to a “condensed version of the entire parenting cycle.” To read about the family’s year of world schooling, check out the Janssen’s blog: www.janssenfamilyrtw.blogspot.com.

We have a number of families embarking on these adventures this year. Some with teenagers and others with kids as young as nine. Their itineraries vary with some including everywhere from Greece and Turkey to Peru and Brazil and others focusing on Asia and Africa. All have included time in India and China. Some stay on the move; while others settle in an apartment or house for a month or more. What they all have in common is the parents’ desire to use the experience to instill in their children an appreciation for the world’s diversity and to nurture them into being truly global citizens with a concern and compassion for others. That goal and their enthusiasm for it is exactly why I feel so privileged to be part of the travel conversation. So often it is through our travels that we define our best selves and explore our biggest dreams.

Melissa Bagg Bradley



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South Africa

The World of Indagare



About Indagare

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NYC: Restaurant Debuts

This season, some of the Big Apple's most acclaimed chefs are opening not just one but two restaurants at a time. **Amelia Osborne** profiles where to eat this fall.



Clockwise, from top left: A dish at Comodo; Brooklyn's Wythe Hotel; Perla; Reynard's at the Wythe.

This summer, while many New Yorkers escaped to the Hamptons, Europe and beyond, Gotham's star chefs were toiling away, prepping to expand their foodie empires with a bevy of new restaurants to open this fall. We compiled a list of the most promising new spots, from TriBeCa and Williamsburg to the Upper East Side, and interviewed some of our favorite chefs about their news.

Cómodo

Started as a supper club in the owners' apartment, *Cómodo* (Spanish for "comfortable") opened its doors in July. Chef Felipe Donnelly stays true to his Central and South American influences and serves a pan-Latin cuisine. (The lamb sliders on Brazilian *pão de queijo* cheesy bread with chipotle dipping sauce have garnered a cult following.) The sleek, relaxed dining room

looks into an open kitchen. Considering every night at *Comodo* feels like a big dinner party, it has been successful in its pursuit of comfort. *58 Macdougall Street; 646-580-3866.*

Carbone & The Lobster Club

Rich Torrisi and Mario Carbone are at it again, reinventing the New York Italian restaurant in a nostalgic but innovative way. *Carbone (181 Thompson St.)* will be the

old-school, white-tablecloth Italian restaurant of decades past. Their Lobster Club (169 Thompson St.), down the street, pays homage to that illustrious New York lunch-time specialty: the sandwich.

Hanjan

Chef Hooni Kim's restaurant Danjin was the first Korean restaurant in the U.S. to be awarded a *Michelin* star; now the chef is about to open Hanjan (Korean for "cup" or "glass"), featuring Korean street food and dishes predominantly seen in his native

country's street markets. 36 West 26th Street; no phone yet.

L'Apicio

The masterminds behind dell'anima, L'Artusi and Anfora are bringing their tasty Italian cuisine to the East Village this fall. Husband-and-wife team Gabe and Katherine Thompson provide the bites and wunderkind Joe Campanale mixes perfect cocktails. 3 East 1st Street; 212-533-7500

The Marrow

Perilla's Harold Dieterle (of *Top Chef* fame) pairs up with

Kin Shop's Alicia Nosenzo for this carnivore's heaven. Expect rich and delicious dishes with influences from Italy and Germany. Originally slated for a Brooklyn location, the restaurant is slated to open this fall in the old Paris Commune space. 99 Bank Street; no phone yet.

Perla

From Gabe Stulman, the restaurateur behind such West Village gems as Joseph Leonard and Jeffrey's, comes this cozy Minetta Lane eatery, which is already garnering

Gourmet Files

Four of the city's most talked-about chefs, all with new restaurants, share culinary gossip and tips.



Michael White *The Butterfly* *Ristorante Morini*

"To me, fall means the weather is cooler, so heartier flavors and more substantial food are in order. Put the watermelon away. I think about polenta with *ragùs*, short ribs with bone marrow sugo and root vegetables. I hope to have many signatures at *Ristorante Morini* but definitely something simple like *gnocchi* with tomato sauce or a *paccheri* with wild boar *ragù* and *talegio fonduta*."



Felipe Donnelly *Comodo*

"Fall is harvest time, which means that we have some of the most delicious ingredients available to us just before winter. I love all kinds of squash, especially spaghetti squash. Also stuffed and baked pumpkins. Writing this is getting me hungry for fall in terms of food fads, the evolution of "farm-to-table" will stick around. Consumers are getting smart about what they eat, and chefs are embracing the green market as never before."



Harold Dieterle *The Marrow*

"When our Perilla staff needs a drink, we head to *Four Faced Liar* (165 West 4th St.); I like the stiff gin and tonics there. As for chefs who inspire me: in New York, Jimmy Bradley at *The Harrison*, and my friend John Fraser at *Dovetail* is also really amazing. At *The Marrow*, I'm looking forward to the wood-fired grill we're trying to get installed in the kitchen. The wine list is also going to be amazing, thanks to Alicia Nosenzo."



Hooni Kim *Hanjan*

"One of the food fads I foresee sticking around are small plates. I think New Yorkers would always rather try more flavors in a meal rather than decide on a single big portion. The trend I wish would retire are savory cocktails. After all, that's what food is for. In the fall, I love to cook with mushrooms; grilled matsutakes are my favorites. At *Hanjan*, one of my signature dishes will be braised pig's feet with fermented shrimp sauce."



The Metropolitan Opera; Pina Bausch dancers

Dinner and a Show

The fall 2012 season brings some of the world's brightest stars onto the stages of New York City and Brooklyn. Here are the tickets to get:

DANCE

Head to Brooklyn to see the final piece created by legendary choreographer **Pina Bausch** before her untimely death in 2009; her talented troupe comes to the Brooklyn Academy of Music in October. Contemporary ballet troupe **Morphoses** returns to the Joyce, presenting *WITHIN (Labyrinth Within)*, a film-cum-live performance conceived by Swedish choreographer Pontus Lidberg. **American Ballet Theater's** program at City Center includes a new ballet by Alexei Ratmanský; catch the company's newest principal ballerina, the charming Hee Seo.

THEATER

Hollywood is heading to Broadway this fall. Al Pacino tackles a revival of **Glegary Glen Ross** at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre; Katie Holmes stars in Theresa Rebeck's newest play, **Dead Accountants**, at the Music Box Theatre; and Jake Gyllenhaal makes his New York stage debut in **If There Is I haven't Found It Yet** at Laura Pels Theatre.

OPERA/MUSIC

Anna Netrebko headlines another new production at the Metropolitan Opera, Donizetti's **L'Elisir d'Amore**, while fantastic director Robert Lepage (mastermind behind last year's Ring cycle) takes on Adès' **The Tempest**, with Simon Keenlyside. The Brooklyn Academy of Music is reviving **Einstein on the Beach**, a brilliant collaboration between avant-garde director Robert Wilson and composer Philip Glass. The third edition of Lincoln Center's **White Light Festival** kicks off on October 18; a highlight is a performance by Emanuel Ax.

praise for its refined comfort food. Many dishes are for two, making this a great date spot when the weather starts to turn cooler. *24 Minetta Lane; 212-933-1824.*

Ristorante Morini & The Butterfly

Chef Michael White, of Marea fame, has new Ristorante Morini (*1167 Madison Ave.*) in the works. Located in the old Centolire space on the Upper East Side, it will serve classic and Italian fare. The Butterfly (*225 West Broadway*), meanwhile, will have a supper club-like feel, serving Wisconsin-native favorites and featuring cocktails by Eben Freeman.

Reynard's at the Wythe

The rooftop bar of this new Williamsburg hotel boasts one of the most beautiful views of the Manhattan skyline. Hipsters from both sides of the East River have been flocking to the outdoor terrace since its opening in May and then heading down to Reynard's, the restaurant on the ground floor. The menu emphasizes comfort food, like radishes with toast and bone marrow butter. *80 Wythe Avenue, Brooklyn; 718-460-8000. ■*

[Read fall previews for Paris and London at Indagare.](#)

Capri Getaway

London-based contributor **Elena Bowes** recently spent time with her daughters on the Italian island. Here are her finds and recommendations.



Capri boasts a natural beauty on par with the most stunning Mediterranean resorts. Bougainvillea-clad houses dot the island's green hills; flower-covered trellises line paths; decorative iron gates guard grand villas; vendors chop colorful fruit while singing to themselves; sunset views include a foreground of craggy rocks jutting into azure waters. We found the primary pastime is people watching; my daughter Kate swears she has never seen as fascinating an array as she did at **Fontelina Restaurant and Beach Club**. One thing to note is that most of Capri's beach clubs have no sand; flat rocks along the coast drop directly into the sea.

We really liked the peaceful and lovely **J.K. Place**, an ideal option for people who want larger rooms. Its pool is also the best we saw on the island, though it does have the downside of being a bit remote. The trendy **Tiberio Palace** is in a more central location, and its rooms are contemporary and cool. We loved dining at **Da Tonino**, although it was a long walk from the hotel. **Da Paolino**, on the other hand, was a big disappointment. The restaurant is huge and

over-crowded, with abysmally slow service. Fontelina's lunch was delicious, and we heard that **Torre Saracena** is also wonderful. On our last night we went to **Villa Verde**, which was a lot of fun and filled with celebrity photos and snazzy people. My daughter Julia sampled gelato every day and confirmed that **Buonocore** is indeed the best.

In terms of shopping, **Vincenzo Faeilla**, the owner of the Calzoleria sandal shop, could retire now that we have paid him a visit. The 95-year old boutique on Via Le Botteghe features Vincenzo's array of handmade leather sandals in a variety of colors and styles. Shoes weren't the only category in which my daughters and I helped boost the flagging euro. We loved the beach bags and bikinis at **Noemi**, the summer hats at **Fiore Capri** and the bikinis at **Fisico**. Capri and shopping are like vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce: you can have the first without the second, but it seems a shame. ■

[Read the complete Capri postcard and many more member dispatches at Indagare.](#)

just back from

Return to Bali

The Indonesian island is considered a honeymoon paradise (despite the noticeable absence of a truly great sand beach). **Barkley Hickox** plots the ultimate trip there.



Renowned psycho-anthropologist and explorer Dr. Lawrence Blair came to Indonesia to “try to capture a way of life that was to forever vanish.” Blair, a handsome and refined Englishman, traveled to the region in the 1970s and devoted decades to documenting its tribal peoples and remote communities. Earlier this year, I was lucky enough to sail through the Nusa Tenggara Isles with Dr. Blair and experience Indonesia at its most authentic. With nothing but miles of blue sea and sky ahead, Blair, who wears an eye patch and often totes a pet lorikeet, recounted tales of uncharted islands, cannibals and previously unknown species. This was the Indonesia I had always dreamed about: a wild, far-flung paradise, seemingly light years away from civilization.

My expectations of Bali had been idealistic, but after twenty-four hours of travel, I hazily exited the Ngurah Rai International Airport to the startling aroma of fast food. I was surrounded by the holy trinity of American consumerism: KFC, McDonalds and Starbucks. Disappointed and with 100 new emails, thanks to the island’s perfect cell reception, I began to question Bali’s idyllic reputation.

Three hours later, however, I arrived in Ubud, and it all became clear: Bali *is* paradise—but it depends on where and how you visit, and both typically generate the same answer: Aman Resorts. Deeply rooted in the region for almost twenty years, Aman has become synonymous with Indonesia, particularly among sophisticated travelers. Offering more than just impeccable accommodations and flawless service, each of

Aman's five Indonesian properties has preserved the authenticity and soul of its immediate environment. Whether snorkeling the coral reef off Amanwana, biking through the rice terraces surrounding Amankila or watching the sun set on Borobodur at Amanjiwo, guests are transported to an unspoiled and romanticized place.

As for me, somewhere between jumping off a waterfall in the jungle and dining on a deserted beach, I fell in love with Indonesia. One of the highlights was a visit to Amanwana, on the remote island of Moyo, which delivered a luxe version of *Castaway* on the edge of a nature reserve. The journey back to Bali aboard a stunning seven-cabin sailboat took me across the Flores Sea, the expanse occasionally interrupted by unfamiliar island masses. Listening to Dr. Blair, a modern-day Crusoe, lecture about these remote landscapes as we drifted past them, I felt a calming sense of escape and a renewed thirst for discovery. My dream of Bali exists—and it's even better than I imagined.

WHERE TO STAY

Romantic Retreat: Amankila

Amankila, which translates to “peaceful hill,” is perched high above the Sea of Bali in the island's remote and picturesque eastern corridor (the view is slightly marred by oil tankers that park offshore). Located just over an hour's drive from the crowded and touristy capital of Denpasar, it offers a glimpse into Bali's history, with its landscape of mountains and rice terraces dotted with ramshackle villages and fishing communities. A labyrinth of stepped walkways connects Amankila's thirty-four freestanding pavilions, which are designed to reflect their surroundings (notably the royal water palace outside Amlapura in East Bali). Below the resort sits a private black-sand beach, where guests can enjoy the calm surf and embark on one of the many boating excursions Amankila has to offer. The best spot to unwind, however, is on a chaise longue by the 135-foot lap pool at the adjacent Beach Club. *Read Indagare's review.*



Wellness Escape: Como Shambhala Estate

No matter how you picture this property before you arrive, Como Shambhala Estate, in the village of Begawan near Ubud, will leave you speechless. Designed by architect Cheong Yew Kuan, the villas that make up this twenty-three-acre property are built of local stone, wood and traditional *alang-alang* roofing. All are freestanding and boast sumptuous outdoor living spaces and semi-private pools. Famed hotelier Christina Ong (of Parrot Cay) took over the property in 2004 and transformed it, most notably by creating one of the world's most desirable destination spas. She kept the original open-air jungle spa but made the welcome addition of a more easily accessible spa center, with its pools near the resort's two restaurants. *Read Indagare's review.*



Island Adventure: Amanwana

Getting to Indonesia's Amanwana is half the adventure: during the one-hour flight via an eight-passenger seaplane from Bali, guests travel high over the Nusa Tenggara archipelago, then touch down on the turquoise blue water of Amanwana Bay, so clear that it shows the marine life below. The resort's twenty luxurious tented camps are located within the Moyo nature reserve (there's a minimum age requirement). Avid snorkelers and novice scuba divers can access a sublime coral reef, just steps from the shore, as well as partake in a variety of other water-based activities. Amanwana is a worthwhile hop from Bali and should be incorporated into any itinerary. *Read Indagare's review.*

Spiritual Sojourn: Amanjiwo

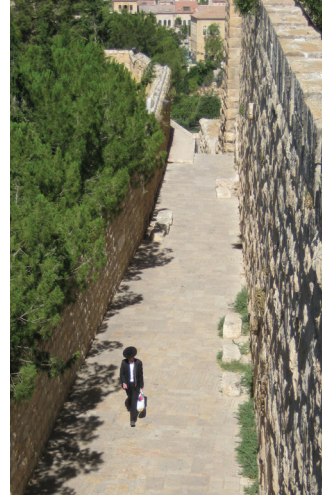
Travelers looking for a transformative escape should travel to Amanjiwo, Aman's peaceful enclave in Central Java, a one-hour flight west of Bali. While many associate Java with frenetic capital, Jakarta, much of the island is rural, scenic and full of culture (including Borobudur,

the world's largest Buddhist monument). Central Java's mountainous, tropical landscape and community of craftsmen and artisans provide the setting for Amanjiwo, one of Aman's most striking properties. The lobby sits in a domed rotunda, and thirty suites radiate from the center in two crescents. Accommodations differ mostly in view, and fifteen of them boast private pools. With an almost temple-like ambiance, suites offer a spiritual sensibility, and the calls to prayer of neighboring mosques echo across the hotel grounds. Couples or families in search of an off-the-beaten path, cultural Indonesian experience should not miss this exquisite property. *Read Indagare's review.* ■

Planning a Trip: Even before Liz Gilbert found romance here in *Eat, Pray, Love*, Bali was known as one of the world's great honeymoon destinations. But, says Indagare's Barkley Hickox, you have to know how to map out an itinerary. For example, those seeking a white sand beach won't find it anywhere on Bali and will have to combine their itinerary with another stop. Contact Indagare's Bookings Team for help crafting the perfect itinerary, whether you are going on a romantic escape or going solo: 212-988-2611.

Israel Dispatch

John Cantrell travels to the Holy Land and finds it can be a vacation, history lesson, religious pilgrimage and cultural experience—one at a time or all in one.



One minute you're looking at a sign swinging high over a Nazareth Street, its tall electric letters spelling out "M-E-R-R-Y X-M-A-S." A half-second later you notice an Israeli flag hanging almost next to it, across the front of a building just twenty feet away. One morning you're driving through the Judean Desert, scanning a universe of rock and sand touched only by the wind since time began. Two hours later you count seventy highrises—and twelve construction cranes—from the roof of your hotel. One day you're contemplating the tiny village of Capernaum, where Jesus healed the sick and toward which he walked across the Sea of Galilee. The next? You're in a sea of shirtless men

and barely bikined women flooding its way through café-lined streets. Don't be shy, girlfriend—it's Gay Pride day in Tel Aviv.

Inch for inch, Israel surely delivers more cultural pileups and now-versus-then collisions than any country on earth. It's the size of New Jersey, I kept reading before I went. Yeah, maybe, but after a visit this summer as a guest of the tourist board, I came away thinking that no matter how different the worlds of Springsteen, the Sopranos and Snooki, Israel has enough diversity, from Bedouins to Bible followers to big-muscled beach boys, to be its own continent. And half of it is desert.

Here are ruins of ancient cities so developed you can

study the layouts of not just their main streets and amphitheaters but also their bathrooms and brothels. Here are gleaming glass-box office-park developments straight out of Palo Alto and Austin—brand-new homes for the latest tech-stock bets from *Start-Up Nation*. Smooth highways ribbon past outlet stores, power stations, palm-tree plantations, and low-slung villages that unexpectedly erupt from the tops of mountains in the distance. Teenage boys wear Mets-insignia yarmulkes. Teenage soldiers, some of them girls, carry an iPhone in one hand and a machine gun in the other. Images of the Virgin Mary adorn the church where the Annunciation took place and the tomb where she

was buried. Meanwhile the Madonna who was only “like a virgin” kicked off her world tour here in summer 2012. The upside for travelers: this is an amazing, compelling, sometimes amusing and sometimes confounding country that can multitask for a visitor.

Lay of the Land

Unless you’ve been before or you’re combining your trip with a visit to Jordan, you’ll most likely see only Israel’s northern half. All international flights land in Tel Aviv, halfway along the country’s 170-mile coast. Jerusalem is one hour inland to the southeast. The city of Haifa is one hour plus to the north. The Galilee area is two hours northeast, with the Golan Heights just beyond. On your first trip you probably won’t get to the southernmost city, Eilat, located on the Red Sea, a four-hour drive from Jerusalem through some of the vast desert that makes up the country’s southern half.

Smart Itinerary

After landing in Tel Aviv, the itinerary often goes in a (relatively) counterclockwise loop: Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, the Galilee and gone. If that’s all you can manage, it’s still worth going, but try to take at least six days for it; otherwise these



basics will go by in a blur.

For a smarter itinerary, reverse and expand the loop. Kick the itinerary off in Tel Aviv for a long weekend in the beach city filled with good restaurants, a few museums and a little shopping on the menu. From Tel Aviv, head north and spend a couple of days visiting the cities of Haifa and Akko and their surroundings. Then head inland to the Galilee, visiting Nazareth, Zefat and Rosh Pina. Loop through the Golan, too, to see its high, open hills (albeit some still fortified with land mines) before heading

south to spend two more days along the shores of the Sea of Galilee (which, despite the name, is only a lake).

Now that you’ve got your bearings, geographically and historically, go south to Jerusalem, for three days there. Walk through the Old City several times. Get to the top of the Mount of Olives early one day, so you can walk down and visit the tiny Garden of Gethsemane at the bottom in peace. You’ll spend the better part of a day at Yad Vashem, the holocaust memorial. And from Jerusalem do a half-day

King David, in Jerusalem



Stay: King David

There aren't too many world capitals left where a single hotel is still the only game in town when it comes to top-rank lodgings. But the King David will always remain the, well, king of Jerusalem hotels, and most anyone who can stay here should stay here.

The history, the views, the lobby, the pool, the other guests all combine to make for a hotel that has a palpable sense of place, even if some of the rooms, though plush, are slightly generic. In just ten minutes you might see a minister's advance team milling about the lobby, a movie producer introducing her creative team to potential backers, and tight-faced ladies who would look perfectly at home in Palm Beach (probably they're even from Palm Beach).

You'll be at the undisputed VIP center of Jerusalem. Make sure you have a room on the back, with views of the Old City's walls, and settle in to a hotel that continues to play its own role in the city's history. *23 King David St. Read Indagare's review.*

excursion to Masada (or make it a full day, if you want to stop and do the proverbial, if over-rated, float in the Dead Sea). End with another few days in Tel Aviv for some beach, sun and fun.

Before You Go

Check the U.S. State Department's Web site (www.travel.state.gov) for updates on travel warnings about Israel. U.S. citizens do not require a visa to enter Israel, though your passport has to have at least six months validity left. If you are combining the trip with one to

Jordan, visas are required and can be obtained at most entry points. If you are planning on seeing the country (not just Tel Aviv), do try to bone up on the Bible and on Israel's history, from way (way) back to right now. Your tour guides will speak of Elijah and Abraham, King David and King Herod as if they'd seen them at dinner last night. Discussion of the modern wars—including Arab-Israeli (1948), Six Day (1967), Yom Kippur (1973)—and border moves and partitioning (as when Jordan controlled East Jerusalem from 1948 to 1967)

is going to come up daily, if not hourly, when you are talking about the country. To begin to grasp the complexities, if not the subtleties, being communicated, you need to know the basic outline of who lived where and when, and who controlled what and for how long. The stories of those who lived here in the past and those who want to live here today—in these complexities, too, Israel is unmatched. ■

Indagare's Bookings Team can help members plan detailed Israel itineraries. Call 212-988-2611 or email bookings@indagare.com.

The Lazy Weekend

When her workaholic fiancé can't take more than a day off, Indagare's **Brooke Pearson** rises to the challenge of finding the ultimate three-day getaway.



Inn at Palmetto Bluff



Having travel perks isn't quite as much fun when your fiancé refuses to take time off from work. But recently, mine gave in and reluctantly agreed to one day. One day. I set out to find a destination to which there was a direct flight short enough to maximize our three-day sojourn. The long weekend challenge was on.

It led to a sublime three days and four nights in Savannah, Georgia, and at the Inn at Palmetto Bluff, just across the border in South Carolina. We landed in Savannah late Thursday evening, tired and delirious, and were immediately romanced by the sprawling oak trees cloaked with Spanish moss swaying in the wind. It was nearly midnight, but we took a long stroll through streets that looked quiet but buzzed with life and with art students from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

In the morning, the city was even more beautiful, because concealed by the evening's trees were gorgeous historic buildings thoughtfully planted along wide streets and town squares. Our excellent guide of Architectural Savannah, leads tours almost every morning. He is

everything you want in a guide: profound in his knowledge, organized in his method and elegant in his delivery. His lectures wove together esoteric architectural and historic details, extending down to the stones—early 19th-century architect William Jay (of the Owens Thomas House) sourced his from a quarry outside Boston. After our two-hour tour, we walked some more and had lunch at the Soho South Café, an adorable carriage house turned art gallery that was teeming with boisterous locals.

After lunch we hopped in the car and cruised north over the bridge into South Carolina. In less than 40 minutes, we had arrived at Palmetto Bluff, tucked into the May River delta, which opens to the Atlantic Ocean. The majority of the expansive property remains as it was in the early 1900s when it was the site of a grand estate belonging to the family of New York's Richard T. Wilson. Now there are more than 200 privately owned homes, a main street with shops and a market, a natural spa nestled in the forest, an excellent tennis pro presiding over the courts, a world-class golf course, picturesque stables and an elaborate system of waterways and trails for

exploring. The inn is managed by Auberge Resorts (the renowned company behind the Napa Valley's dreamy Auberge du Soleil and Calistoga Ranch) and consists of 50 cottages along the water and lagoon. We spent our weekend riding bikes through the woods, playing tennis, lounging at the pool, kayaking through the inland waterways, and watching from two rocking chairs at the end of the dock as dolphins leapt from the river.

There are a few restaurants on the property and frequent special dining events, like the candle-lit winemaker dinner party we attended, hosted by two Sonoma winemakers. Every night after dinner, guests gathered for s'mores and nightcaps around huge bonfires ringed by Adirondack chairs. The birdsong and scent of honeysuckle lingered like a halo over our experi-

ence, and it felt good to slow down and revel in the simplicity of the days here.

Late Sunday afternoon we pried ourselves from the Inn at Palmetto Bluff and returned to Savannah. A long afternoon stroll ended with the best meal of the trip—dinner at the chic and modern Local Eleven 10, which boasts a lively rooftop bar and dishes from a well-traveled Southern chef. It was the perfect ending to our Southern long weekend. Just after dawn Monday morning, we returned to the easy Savannah airport for our flight back to New York. Arriving at the offices from which we departed Thursday evening, we felt as if we'd indulged in a week-long retreat—mission accomplished. ■

Contact Indagare's Bookings Team for help planning a special weekend getaway: 212-988-2611.

More Great Getaways

Four other resorts, from Tennessee to Vermont, offer the perfect backdrop for a long weekend.



Foodies

Inn at Blackberry Farm

Southern hospitality and award-winning cuisine take centerstage at this retreat in Tennessee's Great Smokey Mountains. One Indagare member raved after a stay: "My takeaway from Blackberry Farm is that it is a unique and special place that caters to a guest's every whim." Blackberry Farm is family owned, and the staff takes great care to cater to couples as well as families. The kids' club is excellent. [Read a member review.](#)



Design Mavens

Winvian

Tucked away in cute Litchfield County, whimsical yet cozy Winvian is ideal for a long weekend of great food (the chef trained under Alain Ducasse), spa treatments and hikes in the countryside. Guests stay in sumptuous, individually designed cottages; favorites include Library, featuring wraparound bookshelves, Woodland, facing a lake, and Artist, with etched stained-glass windows. [Read Indagare's review.](#)



Romantics

Twin Farms

Travelers who love a sense of history in their hotel properties will appreciate the bucolic setting of Twin Farms, in Vermont, which was the estate of Nobel Prize-winning author Sinclair Lewis and his wife, journalist Dorothy Thompson, who lived there in the 1920s. The all-inclusive resort exemplifies laid-back luxury at its finest. Book a trip in October, when the fall leaves are at their peak. [Read Indagare's review.](#)



Traditionalists

Blantyre

The long drive that snakes up to the handsome 1902 Tudor mansion of Blantyre sets the scene for a stay at this cozy Relais & Châteaux. The main house has a stunning lobby filled with antiques and boasting a massive fireplace, as well as eight individually designed suites. Details throughout are exquisite, as is the food, served in a wood-paneled dining room seemingly straight out of *Downton Abbey*. www.blantyre.com.

just back from

Loving Lake Como

Plugged-in travelers basked in the northern Italian region's beauty years before George Clooney brought Hollywood. **Eliza Harris** reports.

Lake Como's Villa Balbianello



In some ways, I was glad it was drizzled when I arrived at Lake Como. It was still beautiful, certainly—the mountains bathed in pearl gray, the fog hovering on the lake surface, the silence. But after spending a full day longing for the fabled view, dreaming of it, pining for it, I felt an almost electric charge when I awoke the next morning, pulled open the black-out curtain of my bedroom at the Grand Hotel Tremezzo and found myself assaulted by the full force of the landscape. Massive mountains, silhouetted in soft blue, melted into an endless silver lake that shimmered and sparkled in the morning light. Quite literally

dazzled, I realized I had found my idea of heaven: the grand Alpine scenery of Switzerland coupled with the cuisine and glamour of Italy.

Lake Como embraces many dichotomies with grace: it's somehow both natural and civilized, decadent and low-key, enormous and intimate. The lake, the third biggest in Italy, is surrounded by the pre-Alps, which plunge from five thousand feet into the water. The lake is so deep (1,300 feet), it has an air of the unknowable; locals murmur rumors of mysterious, giant creatures that reside in its depths. The cliffs are so steep that the vast majority of development is in the form

of small towns that wind along the foothills close to the shore. Above, the mountains are wild, unspoiled and forested. When exploring the lake by boat, every once in a while you will spot a lone house or church on a hillside perch so precarious that it appears that the only way to reach the front door is by parachute. Footpaths connect the towns, including a long stretch called the Greenway, which runs from Colonno to Cadenabbia.

While you are out on the lake, civilization seems to be a footnote on the scenery. But pull close to the shore and you find magnificent villas with fanciful interiors—a legacy,

no doubt, of the lavish silks the area has been producing for 500 years. At the Grand Hotel Tremezzo, colors pop: apple green armchairs, salmon couches, ocher walls and gilt mirrors. There's an exuberance to it all, a flair for living that is quintessentially Italian.

On my recent trip, I spent four days on Lake Como, and it was the perfect long weekend—just enough time for lake excursions and fantastic meals. I particularly loved the breakfast at Tremezzo's La Terrazza, which has a wall of windows overlooking the lake; lunch at Croto Dei Platani of trout caught that morning and homemade pasta with a generous heaping of shaved truffles; and dinner at hot spot Il Gatto Nero, set on a hilltop. A highlight of any trip is

touring historic Villa Balbianello, reachable only by boat. Built in 1797 for a cardinal, it was bought in the 1970s by Guido Monzino, an explorer, mountain climber and bon vivant, and everything has been wonderfully preserved. The library is still stocked with his book collection; the study centers on the sledge he used on his North Pole trip, and his kitchen has a handmade knife rack with a dozen specialty knives, each with a precise label and function. Balbianello is a place of secret passageways, terraces spilling over with geraniums and landscaped gardens—the work of an unfettered imagination, just like so much else of Lake Como. ■

[Read more about Lake Como and how to map out a trip to the region on Indagare.](#)

Where to Eat

Il Gatto Nero

George Clooney's favorite restaurant is located on a hilltop in Cernobbio. Reservations a must, as far in advance as possible. 39-031-514-042

Croto dei Platani

This casual restaurant on the water serves fantastic food. The fish is caught that day; the presentations are lovely. Ask to eat outside on the terrace for either lunch or dinner. 39-031-814-038.

Locanda dell'Isola Comacina

This is the only restaurant on the lake's sole island. There's a set multicourse menu that has been served since 1947, and each dish has a symbolic meaning, explained along with the history of the island. 39-034-455-083.

Al Veluu

In a lovely bucolic setting on a hillside in Tremezzo, Al Veluu is a lovely spot for alfresco dining. 39-0344-40510.

Pane e Tulipani

This is a casual, rustic and charming restaurant in the town of Como that is a nice place to stop for an afternoon break after shopping or for cocktails. 39-031-264-242.

What to See

Villa Balbianello

This historic villa is a must see. Be sure to take a guided tour.

Town of Como

There is actually some decent shopping in Como, and it's not all big chain brands. You can walk around the mostly pedestrian area, see the Duomo, then have a cocktail at Pane e Tulipani.

What to Skip

Bellagio

A lot of people ask to go to Bellagio for the day, but this is one you can skip. There are cute cobblestoned streets, but the shops are pretty touristy and not worth a detour.





Under the Sea

As the grandson of Palm Beach doyenne Lilly Pulitzer, photographer **Chris Leidy** (www.leidyimages.com) is no stranger to seaside beauty and colorful scenes. His underwater photographs enable collectors to experience the mystery and magic residing under the world's oceans

Fire Fan: "The crystal blue ocean, pink sea fans, white sands and turquoise shallows are a portal into another world," says Chris Leidy. Pictured here: Fire Fan, 100 feet below surface, Papua New Guinea 2012.



Clockwise from top: a clown fish cozy in an anemone, Papua New Guinea 2012; a black pearl farm in Tuamotu Atolls, French Polynesia 2011; sea fans in shallow waters, Bahamas 2010; Leidy diving with a buddy in Papua New Guinea 2012.



The Thoughtful Traveler

Spending travel dollars wisely is key in Myanmar, still recovering from years of a brutal dictatorship. **Simone Girner** reports on how to visit with a good conscience.



From left: weaving at a village near Bagan; Myinkaba Temple; a woman in a local village



Hardly a travel-news day goes by without some coverage of Myanmar (Burma). After decades of isolation, the Southeast Asian country is all the rage and plugged-in travelers are hankering for visas, hotel reservations and bragging rights. But even as the country is transforming—the most positive change has been the election of dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyui to parliament in April—anyone considering a trip there still has to be aware of what goes on behind the scenes.

Myanmar remains a place where travelers can make a lasting impact by choosing where they spend their tourist dollars. For example, there's

no way around the fact that all upscale hotels have to pay a percentage of their earnings to the government (unavoidable, unless you decide to stay in a family-run guesthouse, not advisable for most). However, if you are aware of this, you can make a point of supporting local shops and restaurants as much as possible during the rest of your stay. Don't buy the token mementos on sale in the hotel boutiques; rather, buy wares in markets and independent boutiques. Don't eat all your meals at the hotel but venture out and leave a good tip for your waiters.

Since Myanmar is still a mostly cash-only society, spreading the money you

bring (there are no ATMs, so travelers have to bring enough cash) is easy. During my trip in March, my group visited a small orphanage, and once the head monk in charge had talked about the kids and given us a tour, we presented him with a donation. It made for a somewhat awkward handoff (how do you offer wads of cash to a religious man?), but it was infinitely more practical and convenient to give right then and there—an experience I had all across Myanmar.

And need there is. The country is greatly rural, and the majority of the population is poor and living hand to mouth. You don't see a lot of destitution, because, as



Buddhists, the Myanmar people do not beg (the monasteries absorb the most desperate cases). But you can rest assured that buying, dining and touring locally as much as possible makes a difference. The locals selling trinkets at the temples of Bagan, for instance, are not the organized clans of vendors found in European capitals. They are families whose permits allow them to sell at specific temples, and buying sarongs, cards or lacquerware directly from them gives them a real source of income.

At no point during my trip to Myanmar did I experience the Western guilt that so often creeps up in Third World

countries; my encounters there were among the loveliest I've had traveling in Southeast Asia. But I felt obligated to read and know as much as I could about the country before my trip in order to make informed decisions once there and not to take everything at face value. Traveling in Myanmar is a transformative experience. It's the kind of place that makes you feel inspired, excited and moved—and by extension, fiercely protective of it. At Indagare, we believe that authentic experiences are endangered but that we can preserve them by traveling intelligently and responsibly. This is certainly true—and then some—of Myanmar. ■

Visiting Myanmar

Here are some tips on how to travel responsibly as the country finds its voice and stance on the world map.

Join Indagare's **Insider Trip to Myanmar** in early 2013, with visits to Yangon, Bagan Mandalay and Inle Lake, as well as a cruise along the Irrawaddy River.

Read everything you can before a trip, including such books as *Finding George Orwell in Burma* and *No Bad News for the King* (both by Emma Larkin), and *Letters from Burma* and *Freedom from Fear*, by Aung San Suu Kyi:

Research the hotels you're booking and/or your tour operators.

Change enough cash (small bills) into the local currency, which is preferred at smaller shops and markets.

If you know that you will visit social initiatives, bring English-language books for children (more coveted than pens and paper).

Buy mementos at local markets throughout the country (not just in Yangon), especially if you visit more rural areas.

When in Yangon, visit the Helping Hands Loft (85-87 Thinbyu Rd.), a wonderful fair-trade shop that carries a variety of accessories, gifts and fashion and whose proceeds directly benefit Myanmar artisans.

Contact Indagare's Bookings Team for help with a trip: 212-988-2611 or bookings@indagare.com.



Interview with a Travel Expert

Indagare's communications director, **Monique Brendel Thoite**, talks about destination weddings, where to go in the fall and Indagare Souk favorites.



What was your first really meaningful trip that you remember?

My mother is from Haiti, and even though I do not have many memories of traveling there as a child, the ones I've retained are clear in my mind: riding white horses on powder-sand beaches through crystal-clear water; drinking fresh-squeezed watermelon and cherry juice; marveling at the intricate costumes during carnival; the distinct smell of burning sugar in the air. When I returned in 2003, after my college graduation, I expected to encounter a different place. You see the political coverage and you can't help but expect the worst. There was a lot of hardship and struggle, but it remained a place untouched by the modern world, full of passion, color and many smiling faces. It taught me always to keep an open mind and that travel will always be a personal and unique experience.

You planned your amazing wedding in Tulum, Mexico. What were the highlights and what advice would you have for someone planning a destination wedding like this?

My husband and I were looking for a destination that offered culture and adventure, plenty of activities for all ages and enough of an exotic feel to draw family and friends from all over the world for a week. I had been to the Riviera Maya before, and Tulum seemed like the perfect spot. It offers a combination of jungle and pristine beach; the vibe is low-key, and from New York you can get there in less than four hours. Tulum will always have a special place in my heart.

For anyone planning a destination wedding, my first advice would be to set the right expectations about the location and the type of wedding you are planning. In our case, it was important to properly inform our guests about the laid-

back and rustic nature of the destination. Also, anticipating potential problems will ensure that your guests (and you) are stress-free during what will be one of the best times of your life.

“A memorable journey can come in many forms. Whether it is a girls’ getaway in New York City or a multi-generational Turkey trip, the thrill of discovery can be equally exciting.”

What was one of your favorite finds on recent trips?

In Stockholm I discovered a truly unique restaurant called Djuret (pronounced “yurr-ette”), which means “the animal.” The menu changes constantly since the restaurant only serves food made from different cuts of one single animal at a time, but offers dishes with all sorts of preparations: terrine, tartare, sausage, fillet. When we arrived, the owner was behind the bar making cocktails; he greeted us and casually explained the concept and the menu as if he were having us over for dinner at home.

You have been involved in the concept of the Indagare Souk since inception. What are some of your favorites?

Shompole Collection’s Liz Gilbert designs jewelry crafted by artisans in Kenya using 18-karat gold, bone and precious stones. My favorite piece is a pendant I wear almost daily from her Elephant Collection. A portion of the sales of these pieces is donated to the David Sheldrick Foundation, which supports orphaned elephants. Her collection is beautifully designed and it has a wonderful story. I am also a huge fan of Haremlique, from Istanbul, and of Filip + Inna, from the Philippines.

What are destinations to which you like to plan trips for members?

A memorable journey can come in many forms. Whether it’s a girls’ getaway in New York City or a multigenerational trip through Turkey, the thrill of discovery can be equally exciting.

What’s a slam-dunk destination to you?

Stockholm in the summer, Rome in the spring, St. Barth’s in the winter, the south of France in September and New York City anytime.

Where are you dying to go next?

A return to Brazil is at the top of my list. I’ve also been dreaming of going to Castiglion del Bosco, in Tuscany, and am looking forward to my visit this fall. ■



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South Africa

Simone Girner, Eliza Harris, Douglas Rogers and **Roslyn Sulcas** map out South Africa, from Cape Town and the Winelands to romantic safari camps.

Roughly three times the size of California, South Africa looms, in many ways, larger than life. Its landscapes, from rugged coastline to dense bush, are breathtaking, with ten percent of Earth's known plant species found here; its culture is made up of multiple ethnicities (eleven official languages are recognized by the constitution); its recent history is devastating, with the effects of apartheid still looming large; and its present remains a complex balancing act (as anyone having read the news about the repercussions of the recent miners' strike knows).

But anyone who has spent time in South Africa—who has been enchanted and transformed by a visit—knows that while the stories and statistics reported in the news are true, it's the nuances of this big picture that make the country so magnificent. It's the country's extraordinary people you meet along the way: adventurous, knowledgeable and totally engaged with life, with a marvelous sense of mischief and fun. (Where else could you find an estate making serious wines with cheeky names

like Bored Doe or Goats Do Roam?). It's the conservationists committed to protecting the endangered animals and recording the skills of safari tracking for future generations. It's the visionaries spearheading community programs, like Singita's Cooking School and Le Quartier Français' daycare program.

South Africa tops many travel lists, in part because of the luxury lodges and incredible variety one trip can entail (from vibrant Cape Town and the romantic Winelands to wilderness safaris and Indian Ocean adventures). But there's something deeper that takes hold of a traveler to this place. Perhaps photojournalist John Reade captured the sentiment best when he wrote: "We all belong to Africa. It is the birthplace of humanity, the nursery where we learned to walk, to talk, to play, to love. The thread that joins us to our African ancestors stretches across thousands of generations but still tugs at the heartstrings as we marvel at Africa's landscapes, wildlife and people."

Contact Indagare's Bookings Team (bookings@indagare.com) for help planning your trip.

INDAGARE CHEAT SHEET

Spend...the night in Cape Town's most stylish hotels (p. 30)

Stay...in the bush at these camps while on safari (p.46)

Eat...at the hot spots in the Cape Winelands (p. 42)

Shop...for artisan goods at these top shops (p. 41)

See...the Garden Route based at two chic resorts (p. 48)

Read...an interview with a stylish shop owner (p. 52)

Explore...the historic sights of Cape Town (p. 38)

Get...the lay of the land of Johannesburg (p. 50)

Know...what to read and which films to watch (p.39)

Learn...how plan an itinerary beyond South Africa (p. 51)

WHEN TO GO

The best time to visit Cape Town is in its summer (November through March). December and January are peak season, and many travelers prefer to visit in the less crowded months of February and March. This also avoids the blustery winds that arise in December and January. By late March or early April, an autumnal chill is in the air at night, but days remain balmy. Cape Town has a temperate climate, so even at the height of summer, temperatures rarely climb above 75 degrees, and winters, while wet, are not really cold. The favorite time to go on safari is during the dry winter season the savanna enjoys, from May through September.

LAY OF THE LAND

As the tip of the African continent, South Africa acts also as a metaphorical catchall, with myriad cultures and climates. Predominantly located on a plateau (the *highveld*), the land includes dramatic cliffs falling into the sea as well as verdant interiors, home to myriad wildlife. The country also boasts some very modern cities, which have served for more than 400 years as gateways to Africa. Most international flights come into Johannesburg, the country's largest city, located

to the northeast. This former gold-mining town is known for its Apartheid Museum, Old Fort Prison and expansive townships, but also for a vibrant contemporary-art scene and innovative culinary stars (see page 50).

Southwestern Cape Town is the country's seaside darling, offering colonial architecture, a cool vibe and a vibrant cultural scene. A forty-five minute drive to the east lie the Winelands; grapes flourish in this climate. Extending east of Cape Town along the coast is the Garden Route, beloved for its wide variety of wildflowers, coastal views and famously mild climate.

The majority of South African safaris take place in the east of the country, specifically in Kruger National Park, in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. The 7,500-square-mile savanna abuts Zimbabwe (to the north) and Mozambique (to the east), bordered by the Limpopo and Crocodile Rivers. It is here that visitors hope to spot the Big Five, especially during the dry winter season, when temperatures are much lower than the summer season's 100-plus degrees Fahrenheit. The land provides plenty of grasses, ideal for grazing animals. Within the national park lie some exquisite private lodges, including Sabi Sand, Manyeleti and Timbavati.



BASICS:

Languages: Afrikaans, Xhosa and English

Getting There: South African Airways has nonstop service from New York JFK to Johannesburg (about a fifteen-hour flight); its business-class seats recline to be totally flat.

Visa: A visa is not required for U.S. citizens visiting for fewer than 90 days with a valid passport.

Currency: Rand

Time Zone: Six hours ahead of EST (meaning 9 A.M. in New York is 3 P.M. in Cape Town)



destination report: cape town where to stay



From left: The bar at the Pod; Ellerman House, and a room at the One & Only Cape Town



WHERE TO STAY

Gearing up for the 2010 World Cup, Cape Town saw the opening of numerous hotels, but despite the surge, the city still only has a limited number of true high-end options. Where you choose to be based depends on whether you plan to do a lot of sightseeing in the city center or prefer to be a bit more tucked away on the hillside or on the beach. *Here are reviews of Indagare's favorites; more options can be found at Indagare.com.*

LUXURY

Ellerman House

The city's best hotel, with just eleven rooms and a private villa, perches above the Atlantic between Sea Point and Clifton, with sweeping views. The vibe is sophisticated,

the details exquisite, from the world-class art collection to the lush gardens and impeccable service. A spa offers a range of treatments, and the restaurant, open to hotel guests only, has a beautiful patio. In 2013, a second private villa is slated to open, as well as a Champagne cellar in partnership with Dom Perignon. *180 Kloof Rd., Bantry Bay; 27 (0) 21-430-3200. Read Indagare's review.*

 **Mount Nelson** This peach-colored hotel, which is run by Orient-Express, sits on nine acres of beautiful grounds on the edge of the city center. Opened in 1899, it remains the city's grande dame, which translates to plush, elegant and a little stuffy. A nice touch for traditionalists is the

INDAGARE TIP:

Walking alone in unfamiliar neighborhoods, especially at night, is discouraged in Cape Town. The public transportation system is not easy to navigate, so visitors should either opt to hire a driver or rent a car (you drive on the left side) or use one of the metered taxi services, which are expensive but reliable. Arrange for airport transfer in advance.



classic afternoon tea. *76 Orange St., Gardens; 27 (0) 21- 483-1000. Read Indagare's review.*

+ **One & Only Cape Town** Located in the V&A Waterfront district, the One & Only Cape Town has a man-made lake and small island, restaurants conceived by Nobu Matsuhisa and local star chef Reuben Riffel and some of the largest—and most expensive—suites in the city. The majority of the rooms and suites are housed in the main building; all are spacious and done in a sleek, modern design scheme with dark-wood furniture, bright fabrics adding touches of color to the muted color scheme and large bathrooms with rain showers. The suites are located on the man-made island behind the main building, where the excellent spa, complete with twelve treatment rooms, is also situated. These are a good option for families who require space and can see past the somewhat characterless interiors. *Dock Road Waterfront; 27 (0) 21-431-5800. Read Indagare's review.*

BOUTIQUE

+ **Cape Grace** Intimate and with lots of soul, Cape Grace underwent an extensive renovation in 2009. Its new design scheme was inspired by Cape Town history, and details include sumptuous silk curtains painted with names of old Dutch ships and collections of antique porcelain on display throughout. The 121 rooms showcase a mix of antique and reproduction furniture, hand-painted fabrics and a whimsical decor. Harbor-side bar *Bascule* is a fabulous spot for a cocktail, and fine dining restaurant *Signal*, run by one of Cape Town's few female executive chefs, is

+ **Indagare Plus** *Members who book through Indagare receive preferential rates and/or special amenities at the properties with the Indagare Plus symbol. Indagare is also a Preferred Partner of Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts, which means that members booking through Indagare receive preferred rates, special amenities and VIP treatment at the brand's properties worldwide. The hotels in this report are rated as \$\$\$\$ (expensive), \$\$\$ (moderately expensive) or \$ (reasonable).*

destination report: cape town where to stay



A villa at Ellerman House

an excellent place to try Cape Malay-inspired cuisine. Overall, Cape Grace is a good choice for travelers looking for a boutique property with character in a central location. *West Quay Rd.; 27 (0) 21-410-7100. Read Indagare's review.*

HIP

The Pod

The chicest hotel option in Cape Town is undeniably the Pod, with a cool location on the beach in the affluent suburb of Camps Bay. Sexy, ultramodern rooms are minimalist in style, with natural color schemes and breathtaking views of land and sea through picture windows. With fifteen guest rooms, this laid-back property is ideal for couples, who will enjoy the hip indoor-outdoor bar lounge and easy beach access. **Indagare Tip:** bartenders will deliver cocktails to you on the beach during sundown-

ers. *3 Argyle Rd., Camps Bay; 27 (0) 21-438-8550. Read Indagare's review.*

VALUE

More Quarters

The More Quarters apartments come with kitchenettes, but the Kloof Street location also puts guests within walking distance of cafés and restaurants. Interiors feature a chic design scheme with dark-wood floors and cozy furniture. The emphasis is on making guests feel at home. More Quarters is the sister property of Sabi Sand's Lion Sands Camp (see p. 47). *2 Nicol St.; 27 (0) 21-487-5660; Read Indagare's review.*

More hotel reviews and options for staying in Cape Town can be found on Indagare. Members should contact our Bookings Team to talk to a travel expert about what property is right for their next trip: 212-988-2611.

WHERE TO EAT

Unlike some other foodie cities, where culinary competition is cutthroat, Cape Town boasts a close-knit community of chefs and restaurateurs. Movers and shakers include Luke Dale-Roberts, the chef of uber-cool Test Kitchen (see page 34); Reuben Riffel, the young chef who replaced international star Gordon Ramsey to infuse the One & Only hotel with some local spirit; and Giorgio Nava, whose Italian neighborhood spots, Carne and Kerroom 95, continue to draw a crowd. *Here is a selection of Indagare favorites; many more reviews can be found at Indagare.*

BIG NIGHT OUT

La Colombe

This is a special place for a meal located on one of the area's oldest wine estates, Constantia Uitsig. There are three restaurants on the estate,

as well as a working farm, a hotel and a spa, but the one to book is La Colombe. Menus change often and are written on a chalkboard that is brought over to the table (during the summer, ask to be seated on the romantic outdoor terrace). After lunch, take a walk down to the large rugby field, which has sweeping views of Table Mountain. *Spaanschemat River Rd., Constantia; 27 (0) 21-794-2390.*

Signal

For travelers who want to try Cape Malay cuisine but with the option of European dishes on the menu, Signal is great choice. It's run by one of Cape Town's few female executive chefs, the talented Malika van Reenen, and while the dining room may be a touch too formal, van Reenen big bold flavors act as icebreakers (you're seriously tempted to mop up the leftover sauces and chutneys with bread). Be sure to have a



Harbour House

destination report: cape town where to eat

drink at Bascule, the Cape Grace's lovely harbor-side bar, before or after dinner. *West Quay Rd.*; 27 (0) 21-410-7100; www.capegrace.com.

The Harbor House in Kalk Bay

Dashing entrepreneur Michael Townsend's Portuguese-influenced seafood restaurant sits right on the harbor in Kalk Bay. The dining room is a modish, all-white, glass-walled space where the ocean waves crash against the windows inches from your table. Apart from prawns imported from Mozambique and cooked spicy Piri-Piri style, all the fish is sourced directly from the boats in the harbor below. 27 (0) 21-788-4133.

The Test Kitchen

Cape culinary genius Luke Dale-Roberts's intimate wood-floor, brick-wall space in the reclaimed Old Biscuit Mill became an instant hit on opening in 2010. Dale-Roberts, who made his name at La Colombe, offers innovative twists on Cape, French and Asian cuisine using all-local seasonal ingredients. Try the tomato and mozzarella with gooseberry and the lamb rack with dark beer. *The Old Biscuit Mill, 375 Albert Rd.; Woodstock*, 27 (0) 21-447-2337.

GLOBAL CUISINE

Haiku

Offering that rare combination of a cool scene and an unpretentious ambiance, Haiku serves inspired Asian fusion cuisine, from steamed dumplings to avocado-topped sushi rice. *33 Church St.*; 27 (0) 21-424-7000.

Il Leone Mastrantonio

This Italian trattoria in Green Point serves au-

thentic pasta dishes in a congenial ambiance. It also has an impressive wine cellar, stocked with South African and Italian wines. Be sure to save room for the crème brûlée. *Prestwich St.*; (27) 21-421-0071.

La Perla

There's nothing new or trendy about this long-time classic which opened in 1959 and emphasizes Italian seafood. Says dance and travel writer Roslyn Sulcas, who has been going to La Perla since she was a child: "One of the ways it keeps its regular customers is to make whatever they want, so this is where to indulge your inner diva and make special requests." *Beach Rd., Sea Point*; 27 (0) 21-434-2471.





HOT SPOTS

Grand Café & Beach

The Grand Café franchise (an African version of the Nikki Beach scene) reaches its apogee at this glam restaurant-bar on a reclaimed beach in Granger Bay. The café—a converted warehouse decorated with vintage chandeliers, Parisian wicker chairs and retro ceiling fans—opens onto a sand beach shaded with umbrellas. Style trumps substance: the pizzas, salads and steak béarnaise are merely decent; the strong drinks, music and seaside setting are what you come for. *Granger Bay Rd., 27 (0) 21-425-0551.*

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTS

& Union

This cozy beer bar and Spanish-style charcuterie on lower Bree Street's booming restaurant row has marble counters, low-slung benches and legs of home-cured hams hanging from the ceiling. It serves charcuterie plates, pulled-pork

sandwiches, grilled Portuguese *prego* (steak) rolls and excellent craft ales from an on-site brewery. *110 Bree St., 27 (0) 21-422-2770.*

Carne

Spearheaded by Giorgio Nava (the chef and owner of 95 Keerom), Carne is an ode to all-things meat, much of it organic and raised on the chef's Karoo farm. The menu, which is printed on butcher's paper, also offers a wide variety of classic Italian dishes. *70 Keerom St.; 27 (0) 21-424-3460.*

The Pot Luck Club & Gallery

Adjacent to the Test Kitchen in the Old Biscuit Mill (see page 40), Luke Dale-Roberts's latest venture is a small-plates restaurant and gallery that has a minimalist, almost Nordic look. Each month the black-tiled walls are hung with the work of a local artist, although the real art is on your plate: immaculately presented dishes,



Coffee & Teatime

Cape Town's great cafés, bakeries and pastry shops are filled with people from early morning to late-night.

You can't escape the lively Portuguese-themed chain of cafés **Vida e Caffé**, which has locations all over the center, as well as in Camp's Bay and Stellenbosch. **Haas**, in the Bo-Kaap area (see page 38), specializes in exotic coffee blends, while guests of **Jason Bakery**, in the center, can enjoy great coffee and even better fresh-baked pastries. Greenpoint's **Giovanni's Deliworld** is a classic, as is Kalk Bay's **Olympia Café**. Tea drinkers appreciate the traditional scones and clotted cream at the **Mount Nelson Hotel**, while the harbor views make the lounge at the **Cape Grace** a very pleasant spot to enjoy tea with cake. Even more scenic is the setting at the **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**, whose café is a time-honored tea-and-scones destination.

such as foie gras with a flourish of nectarine, or fried prawns with *tom ka gai* butter sprinkled with peanuts. *375 Albert Rd.; Woodstock, 27 (0) 21-447-0804*

Bistro Sixteen82

This modish glass, steel and slate-stone restaurant is the centerpiece of Steenberg, the oldest wine farm in the Cape, established 1682. Chef Brad Ball, an alum of London's River Café, presents seasonal local produce in a tapas menu—lots of oysters, sashimi, tartars and terrines—and heartier bistro fare, such as Karoo lamb chops and braised pork belly, à la carte. Grab a table on the sunlit terrace next to the reflective pool and sip a local wine—it's *the* place to be. *27 (0) 21-713-2211.*

RELAXED BUT REFINED

Bizerca Bistro

French chef Laurent Deslandes and his South African wife, Cyrillia, run this bustling bistro with aplomb (their previous culinary venture was in Sydney). The setting is minimalist but cozy, and the chalkboard menu comprises daily seasonal dishes. *Jetty St.; 27 (0) 21-418-0001.*

SETTING

Salt

The location is spectacular: perched above the sea in Bantry Bay, on a top floor of the Ambassador Hotel. The menu emphasizes seafood prepared with Cape Malay influences. Reserve a table by the floor-to-ceiling windows, which are usually flung open so that diners can practically hear the waves crashing beneath. *34 Victoria Rd., Bantry Bay; 27 (0) 21-439-7258.*

Many more recommendations and tips on where to eat and drink, including top cocktail bars with a view, can be found on Indagare.

A Separation

“Photography, like memory, is a medium in which one encounters the past,” writes Darren Newbury in *People Apart: 1950s Cape Town Revisited* (Black Dog Publishing; \$30).

This photo book celebrates the work of Bryan Heseltine, a white South African who captured the townships of the post-WWII era. Knowledge of the horrors of apartheid to come during the 1960s and '70s adds to the haunting power of this captivating collection.



Beneath Table Mountain: Some of the townships (above, Windermere) captured by Heseltine were later destroyed for being too close to white neighborhoods. Table Mountain can be seen in the distance.



Letter Box: Maybe...the image [is] a way of asserting that he intends to show his white Capetonian viewers what they have only known before in outline, to lead them outside the [...] cave of the apartheid imagination.



The Dissident: When teachers were expelled from the townships in the 1950s, some devoted instructors slipped back to continue teaching the kids.



Nu-American Dry Cleaners: This photograph shows one of the numerous small traders that operated in the Windermere area.



WHAT TO SEE & DO

English explorer Sir Francis Drake, in 1577, called the city “the fairest cape we saw in the circumference of the earth.” Centuries later, Cape Town is still a city of heart-stopping beauty, dominated by the 3,563-foot Table Mountain. The central (and aptly named) City Bowl is a relatively compact area teeming with restaurants, shops and city life. Running southwest from the V&A Waterfront are the beachfront areas of Green Point, Sea Point, Clifton, Camps Bay and Hout Bay. After the southern suburbs comes the False Bay coast, with a string of charming seaside towns, the naval port of Simonstown and Boulders Beach, known for its penguin colony. Northeast of Cape Town are the Winelands, centered on the historic towns of Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl. *Here are some of Indagare’s favorite must-sees; more can be found on Indagare.*

Get Your Bearings

Visitors can best get the lay of the land from **Table Mountain**. It contains numerous hiking paths and a cable-car from which visitors can see across the peninsula. This area is covered in the Western Cape’s famous *fynbos* (a unique shrubland). You can also take a quick walking tour of the **Bo-Kap**, the historic Muslim neighborhood, known for its colorful houses.

Understand the History

Be sure to visit **Robben Island**, the notorious prison that held such political figures as Nelson Mandela and current president Jacob Zuma in the 1960s and ’70s. The ferries to the island (a thirty-minute ride) depart from the **V&A Waterfront** four times a day. Tours are conducted by former inmates, making it a particularly powerful experience. The dark times of Cape Town’s apartheid era are also powerfully on

display at **District Six Museum**, located in the area from which 60,000 people were forcibly moved to the inhospitable Cape Flats township in the 1960s. The museum bears witness to these events through a collection of photographs, maps and personal accounts.

Go Green

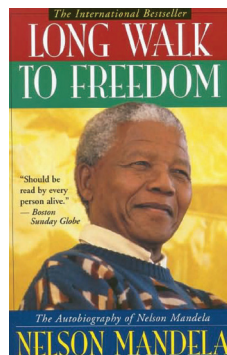
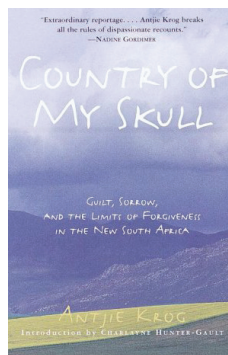
Nature lovers should not miss the **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**, founded in 1913, whose many acres seamlessly merge with the eastern slopes of Table Mountain (several hiking trails begin here). Another beautiful afternoon spot is the **Company's Gardens**, the site of van Riebeeck's original vegetable garden planted in 1652. It's now a small and pretty botanical garden, with a lovely rose section.

Lounge at the Beach

One of the world's great beach cities, Cape Town is blessed with incredible white-sand expanses. Two famous ones are located along the Atlantic seaboard, in the exclusive neighborhoods of **Clifton** and **Camps Bay**. Clifton's four beaches are reached by sets of stairs cut into the cliffside. Camps Bay Beach, the area's largest white-sand beach, is a lovely spot for an early-morning walk. There are several smaller, less-frequented beaches, but unless you stay many days in Cape Town, you will want to stick with these easily accessible ones.

Visit a Cool Neighborhood

The suburb of **Woodstock** was a drive-by zone for years but it's been transformed into a groovy neighborhood in recent years, thanks mostly to the **Old Biscuit Mill**. That project, spearheaded by two gallery owners, started as a modest green market but quickly transformed the area into a



Books & Films

NONFICTION

Long Walk to Freedom, Nelson Mandela, 1994

From political activist to prisoner, president and Nobel Prize-winner, Mandela's journey is a story of modern Africa. Here it is in his own words.

Tomorrow Is Another Country, Alistair Sparks, 1995

As a journalist at South Africa's preeminent newspaper, Sparks bore witness to the end of apartheid and wrote this fascinating account of the government's dealings with Nelson Mandela.

Country of My Skull, Antjie Krog, 1998

Krog's riveting book describes the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was tasked with hearing the wrenching testimony of the victims of apartheid, as well as of the perpetrators.

FICTION

Cry the Beloved Country, Alan Paton, 1948

This classic novel about racial injustice in South Africa is as moving today as it was when it was first published, becoming an instant best-seller.

Blood Kin, Ceridwen Dovey, 2008

South African-born Dovey's fable examines a post-coup, nameless African country whose new leader is holding hostage the ex-president's chef, barber and portraitist.

Disgrace, J.M. Coetzee, 1999

This novel, which won the 1999 Booker Prize, is a subtle but powerful exploration of South Africa post-apartheid and all its novel complexities.

FILM

Skin, 2008

Based on the fascinating true story of Sandra Laing (who was born to white parents but classified "coloured" during the apartheid era), this film features the breakout performance of Sophie Okonedo.

Invictus, 2009

This bio-pic about the 1995 Rugby World Cup was directed by Clint Eastwood, and starred Matt Damon and Morgan Freeman (as Nelson Mandela).

destination report: cape town what to see



city hot spot, with great food, art and shopping. It is now home to the well-known **Goodman** and **Michael Stevenson** galleries, both pioneers in showcasing South African artists. Acclaimed chef Luke Dale-Robertson's **Test Kitchen** and **Pot Luck Club & Gallery** (see pages 34 and 35) cemented the area's status as new "it" place. If your itinerary allows, visit on a Saturday to browse the **Neighbourhood Goods Market**, a gathering of farmers, merchants, bakers and artisans, and to experience contemporary Cape Town life at its most vibrant.

Take a Drive

The scenic, five-and-a-half-mile **Chapman's Peak Drive**, carved into cliffs 1,900 feet above the sea, runs between Hout Bay and Noordhoek and has sweeping views of the coastline and beyond. Go just before sunset and stop at one of the lookout points, or hire a driver, bring a bottle of South African wine and survey the endless sea and sky.

Take a Day Trip (or Two)

The drive along scenic **False Bay Coast**, fronting the Indian Ocean, towards Cape Point is lovely. You pass numerous small villages, including beautiful **Kalk Bay**, which has become increasingly trendy and boasts several good restaurants (dine at the **Harbour House**, see p. 34), art galleries and antiques shops. South of Kalk Bay lies **Boulder's Beach**, home to a colony of penguins, who especially delight young visitors. It takes about an hour to drive to **Cape Point**, nestled in a stunning nature preserve that holds more than 250 species of birds. It has excellent hiking trails.

Another easy day trip from Cape Town is to the **Winelands** (see p. 42), about a one-hour drive from the city. But considering all the fantastic hotels and the dynamic culinary scene, most travelers wisely spend at least one or two nights in this region.

Our [Bookings Team](#) can help members plan detailed South Africa itineraries, from simple day trips to multi-day additional touring. Contact our team at 212-988-2611.



WHERE TO SHOP

Cape Town's center is ruled by Long Street, a thoroughfare lined with restaurants, cafés and boutiques (mostly of the hippie-chic fashion variety). Here are four shops not to miss.

Merchants on Long

Set in a 1896 Victorian building, this gorgeous store from taste maven Hanneli Rupert (see p. 52) sells crafts, clothing, jewelry and housewares produced by artisans and small business people across Africa. The carefully edited collection is displayed in a winning space decorated with tusks, taxidermy and other quirky touches. *34 Long St.; 34; 27 (0) 21-422-2828.*

Frazer Parfum

Make an appointment to stop by this bespoke perfumery. Tammy Frazer uses organic African sources, traveling as far as Mali and Madagascar, to create ready-to-wear scents from coffee and orange blossom, nutmeg and jasmine. *108 Bree St.; 27 (0) 82-463-5104.*

210 on Long

A fashion cooperative with a green angle that opened in 2009, this collection of small

boutiques is run by young designers. The stores carry eco-friendly fashion and accessories, as well as gifts, from hemp-based clothing to green beauty products and contemporary South African crafts. *210 Long St.; 27 (0) 21-481-1820.*

O. Live Chemistry of Living

This much-loved vintage houseware store sells everything from ceramic tea sets and jewel-encrusted glassware to gold-lamé sofas that would do Liberace proud. A second outlet recently opened in ever-popular Woodstock (see p. 39). *8 Kloof St., Gardens; 27 (0) 21-426-5773.*

Where to Refuel: Melissa's

This superb deli offers a buffet for breakfast and lunch, plus a few à la carte dishes. There are always scrumptious cakes and home-baked biscuits, and the store is fun to visit just to see its inordinately tempting array of beautifully packaged products, from chocolate-chili fudge to preserved lemons. *94 Kloof St.; 27 (0) 21-424-5540. ~DOUGLAS ROGERS*





From left: Delaire;
Babel restaurant;
Babylonstoren;
Bread & Wine



Cape Winelands

Douglas Rogers revisits the Winelands, where the wineries, restaurants and hotels have never looked better, and picks the places not to miss on a visit.

The Cape Winelands have always had remarkable wines; now the region is the center of a dynamic new culinary movement, with a slate of superb farm-to-table restaurants, and innovative wineries that are experimenting with innovative tasting methods.

Leading the locavore trend is **Overture** (Annandale Rd., Stellenbosch; 27 (0)-21-880-2721), a rustic-chic wood, stone and glass eatery perched on the slopes of Hidden Valley wine farm overlooking Stellenbosch. (Golfer Ernie Els's winery is next door.) Chef Bertus Basson,

33, changes his menu daily and decides what to cook based on whatever local ingredients—crawfish, springbok, quail, wild mountain rosemary—have been delivered that morning. Try the chilled zucchini soup with olive ice cream.

Across the mountains in scenic Franschhoek, chef Chris Erasmus helms **Pierneef à la Motte** (R45, Franschhoek; 27 (0)-21-876-8000), the sublime new restaurant of opera singer Hanneli Rupert's wine estate, La Motte (Rupert is the aunt of Merchants on Long's founder; see p. 52). Erasmus uses old techniques, such as cooking

with bone marrow instead of butter, to re-create snout-to-tail fare that was popular among early Boers. The pomegranate glazed smoked pork belly is to die for. Down the road at **Bread & Wine** (*Happy Valley Rd., Franschhoek; 27 (0)-21-876-3055*), Brit-born chef Neil Jewell makes delicious home-cured salamis, prosciutto and *biltong* (dried beef), which he pairs with the estate's red and white vintages. It sounds wrong, but tastes just right.

Equally unusual pairings are underway at Tuscan-style estate **Waterford** (*Blaauwklippen Rd., Stellenbosch; 27 (0)-21-880-0496*). Master winemaker Kevin Arnold couples his velvety Shirazs, Pinots and sweet whites with home-made dark and milk chocolate. The many cars

lining the oak-shaded drive say it all.

It's not all food and drink in the Winelands. **Solms-Delta Wine Estate** (*Delta Rd., off R45; 27 (0)-21-874-3937*), outside Franschhoek, plays on the region's remarkable past. Attached to restaurant *Fyndraai*—whose glass floor is built over an archaeological site, the estate's original cellar, from 1740—is a museum recounting the history of the indigenous Khoisan people, the rugged Dutch and French settlers of the 1600s, and the East Indies slaves from the 1700s. You'll learn more about South African history here in an hour than you will in a year of news reports.

[Read more about Cape Town and the Winelands at Indagare.](#) For help planning a trip, contact our team at 212-988-2611 or bookings@indagare.com.

Staying in Style

The Cape Winelands are small enough that most restaurants and wineries are within a half-hour drive of distance to these incredible hotels, including a newcomer that has South Africans buzzing.



Hip Newcomer **Babylonstoren**

This destination hotel-cum-rural utopia put the spotlight back on the Winelands when it opened in 2010. The massive property, with a working farm and acres of gardens, embodies the new generation of eco-travel. Guests stay in stylish, white-washed cottages and are immersed in the natural setting. Babel restaurant draws tons of diners, but those in the know make this their special place their base for exploring the Winelands. *Read Indagare's review.*



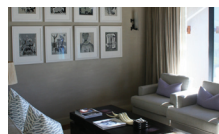
Decadent **La Residence**

Franschhoek's La Residence is full of color, life and imagination. The place centers on a pretty courtyard that looks quite Provençal, with ochre stucco walls and a pool surrounded by wildflowers. There are just eleven guest rooms, each unique and fabulous. The owner was once a fashion designer, and her passion and panache are evident in every detail. People who like a property with a wow factor will be very happy here; the service is superb. *Read Indagare's review.*



The Classic **Le Quartier Français**

This gracious and charming guesthouse, a member of Relais & Chateaux, opened as a fourteen-room lodge in 1991 and remains one of the top places for foodies. Acclaimed chef Margot Janse oversees the formal Tasting Room and more casual bistro. A tasting menu paired with select wines is the way to fully experience Janse's creativity; the food can be a little over-the-top, but the ideas, and tastes, are consistently interesting. *Read Indagare's review.*



Beauty (with a Caveat) **Delaire Graff Estate**

This gorgeous Stellenbosch property has world-class everything—from spacious guest rooms with plunge pools to a serious, extensive art collection—but Indagare members have complained about the lackluster service which has been a big drawback. One of the loveliest things to do is to stroll along the paved pathway that runs through the vineyard overlooking a cavernous valley with breathtaking views over the countryside. *Read Indagare's review.*



Seven Safari Camps We Love

With options running from small, private game reserves to bountiful of Kruger National Park, a safari is a must in South Africa. **Indagare** picks its favorite lodges.

South Africa is unique in that visitors can combine exploration of cities like Cape Town and Johannesburg and top-notch culinary and wine touring in the Cape Winelands with time in the bush on safari. For the most part, the landscapes are not the wide-open savannah of *Out of Africa* fame (for these, you need to go to Kenya or Tanzania), but there are several stunning private game reserves, many great successes of eco-preservation and diverse and plentiful wildlife. Here are some of Indagare's favorite camps and lodges.

Stylish Retreat: Royal Malewane

Why We Love It: This truly beautiful, privately owned bush camp, composed of a nine-suite main lodge and a six-bedroom villa, was designed by the überstylish Liz Biden who also created the Cape Wineland's La Residence (see page 43) and the Garden Route's Birkenhead

House (see page 49). The service is amazing.

Particularly Known For: Seeing the Big Five in the more intimate setting of a private game reserve where off-roading is allowed.

Insider Trivia: Tracker Wilson Masiya is the only Master Tracker in the entire world (mention his name at other safari camps and you will hear universal raves).

Where: Thornybush Game Reserve; Greater Kruger Area.

Classic Luxury: Singita Boulders

Why We Love It: Part of the luxurious Singita portfolio, Boulders has just twelve chic suites, all with decks boasting incredible views of the Sand River. Wrote an Indagare member after a stay: "Great food, attentive staff, gorgeous setting, terrific wine cellar. Also, if the Big Five is your thing, this is an excellent place to visit—we saw all of them almost every time we went out."

Particularly Known For: Big cats, including leopards, lion and cheetah.

Insider Trivia: The 12,000-bottle wine cellar was built around a massive boulder, inspiring the lodge's name.

Where: Sabi Sand, on the border of Kruger National Park.

Contemporary Cool: Singita Lebombo

Why We Love It: The lodge's design, built to resemble an eagle's nest and virtually suspended from Lebombo Mountain, raised the bar on chic, sustainable architecture. Guests feel immediately one with nature, thanks to massive window walls and outdoor decks with stupendous views across the park.

Particularly Known For: Singita Lebombo is the most luxurious place to stay in Kruger National Park, one of the largest game reserves in all of Africa. The Lebombo region is also known for its large prides of lions.

Insider Trivia: Launched in 2007, the Singita

School of Cooking, developed in connection with Jamie Oliver's Fifteen in London, has made a great impact on the lives of local youths. Selected to attend an eighteen-month training program, many find work as chefs in the kitchens of Singita properties or other Kruger lodges.

Good to Know: Children over the age of ten are welcome.

Where: Kruger National Park.

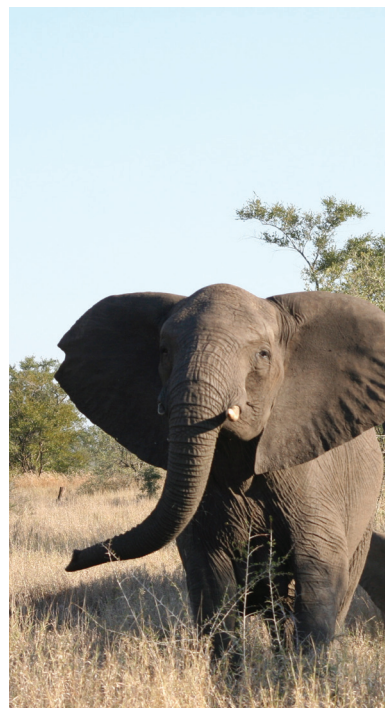
Family Friendly: Phinda Private Game Reserve

Why We Love It: This is one of South Africa's most amazing conservation success stories, Phinda spans nearly 57,000 acres. Its proximity to the Indian Ocean means you can see rhino and dolphins in one day.

Particularly Known For: Black rhino, cheetah and 400-plus bird species.

Insider Trivia: When CC Africa (now & Beyond) purchased 18,500 acres of derelict farmland in 1990, there was hardly any game on the





property. Large species, including lion, elephant, rhino and giraffe all had to be reintroduced. Today all thrive on the reserve.

Good to Know: Children of all ages are welcome.

Where: KwaZulu-Natal.

Ultimate Privacy: Tswalu Kalahari

Why We Love It: Owned by the Oppenheimer family, Tswalu is an incredibly personal, sumptuous interpretation of the safari dream. It's one of South Africa's most exclusive hideaways: 250,000 acres of a wilderness estate with an eight-suite lodge and a private villa.

Particularly Known For: The grasslands and open savannah of the Kalahari Desert make a unique habitat for such animals as meerkat, spotted and brown hyaenas, as well as cheetah and Kalahari lions. (Note that this is not a Big Five destination.)

Insider Trivia: Providing the ultimate glamping experience, the estate's Malori is a raised deck

that is transformed into a luxe safari sleep out in the middle of the vast Kalahari plains.

Good to Know: Tswalu is located in a malaria-free zone (rare in South Africa's game areas).

Where: Kalahari Desert, Northern Cape.

Safari Pioneer: Londolozi

Why We Love It: This Relais & Chateaux property has been run by the Vartys for four generations, and the family's dedication to preservation and community building is exemplary.

Particularly Known For: The dynasty of Londolozi leopards has been chronicled by guides over the past three decades.

Insider Trivia: Londolozi's five camps truly offer something for every types of traveler. Founders Camp, on the river's edge, is great for kids (they are allowed age four and up), while the sleek Granite Suites, each with a private plunge pool, are perfect for a romantic getaway.

Where: Sabi Sand, on the border of Kruger National Park.



From left: Singita; elephants on safari; a lodge at Phinda

Sabi Romance: Lion Sands Private Game Reserve

Why We Love It: Located on 10,000 acres, Lion Sands has been in the More family for four generations, and its three lodges (Ivory, River, 1933) are among South Africa's best.

Particularly Known For: This is the only private reserve right on the Sabie River, the border of Kruger National Park, offering opportunities to see game even when not on a safari drive.

Insider Trivia: The remote Tree House, a secluded platform tricked out to host a candle-

lit dinner for two (and a bed if glamping is desired), is especially popular with honeymooners and couples. It was featured on an episode of last year's *The Bachelorette*.

Good to Know: Ivory and River lodges accept children ten years and older, while 1933 can accommodate kids of all ages.

Where: Sabi Sand, on the border of Kruger National Park.

[Indagare's Bookings Team](#) can help members plan detailed African itineraries. Contact our team at 212-988-2611 or bookings@indagare.com.

The Great Takeover

For the ultimate indulgence, families and groups of friends traveling together can opt to take over a private lodge within a wildlife reserve. Many of these used to be the owners' own camps. The advantage of a camp takeover is that guests have their own staff, including a chef and butlers, as well as the use of private vehicles during the daily game drives.

*Top options include **Africa House** (read Indagare's review), the former home of Royal Malewane owner Liz Biden; **1933 Camp**, at Lion Sands, a private game reserve run by the fourth-generation of the More family; and the three beautifully decorated private suites that make up **Pioneer Camp**, at Londolozi. Read about safari camps on Indagare. Contact Indagare's Bookings Team for help planning a trip to any of these safari lodges: 212-988-2611.*



Along the Garden Route

Eliza Harris visits Grootbos, run by two brothers who are passionate about pioneering a whole new experience for nature lovers.

How far is it possible for the human eye to see before the curvature of the earth begins to interfere? This is the question I pondered as I sat on the peak of God's Window, the highest point of Grootbos, a nature preserve and five-star lodge about two hours' drive east of Cape Town. The property comprises about 5,000 acres of pristine wilderness, and from God's Window you can see virtually all of it, as well as all the way to Cape Point (sixty miles to the west) and De Hoop Nature Reserve (sixty miles to the east): a magnificent sweep of mountains, foothills, valleys, rivers, ocean and dunes. The local landscape, known as the coastal *fynbos*, looks low and scrubby from above, like the moors. But up close it's a beautiful tapestry of heather, grasses and shrubs in celadon, lemony green, red, rust, rose and taupe. Part of the Cape Floral Kingdom, the *fynbos* is extraordinarily diverse, comprising more plant

species than there are in the entire Northern hemisphere. And the preserve at Grootbos is particularly rich, including five species that are found nowhere else on earth.

Happily for the world, this incredible landscape is in exactly the right hands. Grootbos (pronounced HROOT-boss), which means "Big Bush" in Afrikaans, is owned by the Lutzeyer family. Brothers Michael and Teritius are passionately involved with every aspect of the place, especially preserving the indigenous flora. Michael bought the property in 1991 as a simple farm, then gradually began adding lodging and taking guests. Today there are twenty-seven suites, spread between the Forest and Garden Lodges, and a series of cottages strung along the hillside. There is also a private six-bedroom villa. The architecture is modern and stunning, making the most of the views, which are so open and vast, it's hard to capture them in pictures.

Grootbos was one of the highlights of my South Africa trip, in large part because it has so much soul. You just feel good being there and being part of it.

The resort is in a gorgeous setting, but it does not have game, which some people see as a drawback. I think it's actually an advantage; going on safari is unforgettable, but you are sitting in a car for six hours a day, which can get uncomfortable. At Grootbos, you have an opportunity to be outdoors all day long—swimming, boating, hiking, horseback riding—without having to worry that a leopard might pounce on you. If you have kids, it will be the part of your trip where you can let them run free and not have to be watching them like a hawk.

Before I went to Grootbos, I confess I didn't quite get it. Why travel two hours from Cape Town to visit a nature preserve? But I must admit that Grootbos was one of the highlights of my trip, in large part because it has so much soul. The lodge has a wide range of philanthropic projects, including a soccer field the brothers built for the local community and an organic farm where locals are taught sustainable farming techniques and life skills, while also supplying the Grootbos chef with a steady stream of fresh produce. At lunch at Forest Lodge, the buffet had seven different salads, each one delicious and incredibly fresh. In subtle ways like this, everything works beautifully together, and you just feel good being there and being part of it. *Read Indagare's review.*

[Read more about nature getaways outside Cape Town at Indagare.](#) For help selecting the one that's right for you, contact our Bookings Team: 212-988-2611.



On the Coast: Birkenhead House

Grootbos lies inland, so visitors wanting to stay on the stunning coast that faces the Indian Ocean should check into **Birkenhead House** (*read Indagare's review*). Part of the Royal Collection, which also includes La Residence, in the Cape Winelands, and safari reserve Royal Malewane, the property sits on a cliffside in fishing town Hermanus. There are just eleven luxuriously appointed rooms, decorated by the stylish Liz Biden, who has a knack for throwing together artwork and furniture from different cultures and somehow making everything work perfectly. While Grootbos is a good choice for travelers looking for an long menu of outdoorsy activities, beautiful Birkenhead is the best place for romantics looking for a chic place to relax by the pool, indulge in a spa treatment (or two), have some great food and take in the stupendous views, which may include whale sightings between June and November. From Cape Town, it's an easy two-hour drive to Hermanus.

The Layover

South Africa's largest and most historically significant city has thriving culinary and art scenes. **Amelia Osborne** highlights what not to miss in a few days.



The Saxon

As a former gold-mining town, which has had its share of hardships (and townships), Johannesburg is often overlooked in a Cape Town and safari itinerary. But South Africa's largest city has seen a revival, thanks in part to an influx of funds for the 2010 soccer World Cup, and many insiders consider it the more exciting city in terms of art and culinary scenes. Most international flights land at the modern Johannesburg airport (it makes New York's JFK look like it's in a third-world country). Here's a short cheat sheet to Jo-burg.

STAY

Located in the suburb area of Sandhurst, **The Saxon** is the best lodging option in Johannesburg. The serene setting is a comforting respite after a busy day of sightseeing, and guest rooms feature state-of-the-art amenities. The restaurants are excellent, even offering a chef's table

with expert wine pairings. Another recommended property is the **Westcliff**, which used to be a residential apartment complex and whose pool and terraces look out over zoological gardens.

EAT

The Financial Times called the **Cube Tasting Kitchen**, Johannesburg's top table in March 2012. It's renowned for innovative cuisine and elaborate tasting menus. For something more classic, head to the **Grillhouse**, a steakhouse. For lunch **Moemas**, a fabulous bakery, is popular, as is **Tashas**, whose many locations serve breakfast, brunch and lunch.

SEE

The Apartheid Museum is a must. Upon entering, visitors are randomly given tokens identifying them as either "black" or "white," dictating the path they take and the experience they have

in the museum. Any first-time city tour should include **Constitution Hill**, the location of one of South Africa's most brutal prisons and home to the Old Fort Museum. The **Brenthurst Library**, containing a collection of African history, was compiled by Harry Oppenheimer and opened to the public by his daughter. A new addition to the city's art scene is the Wits Art Museum, housed in renovated industrial buildings, including a gas station and car dealership.

SHOP

The entrepreneurial owner of **African Queen Arts** sources decorative items from across the African continent. Highlights include drums from the Ivory Coast and carved wooden doors from Cameroon. Those craving modern design should head to **Objekt**, a showroom for ceramics, furniture and jewelry. The former industrial park at **44 Stanley Avenue** boasts restaurants and shops like Lucky Fish (vintage home wares). And the **Neighbourgoods Market** is a top place to sample food and shop for artisanal crafts.

ART

Johannesburg's contemporary-art scene is thriving. Start at the **Goodman Gallery**, which represents some of South Africa's top artists. Another established spot is **Everard Read Gallery**, which opened in 1913. Smaller, more cutting-edge galleries include nearby **David Krut**, across the street from Goodman, and multimedia **Circa on Jellicoe**, located in a cool building inspired by Zulu architecture. A final one not to miss is **Stevenson Gallery**, known for showing works by South African artists.

Read more about South Africa on Indagare. For help making your next travel itinerary special, call 212-988-2611 or email bookings@indagare.com.



Beyond South Africa

Bordered by Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe to the north, and Mozambique and Swaziland to the east, South Africa offers easy access for trip extensions. Here are four experiences that can be added to a South Africa itinerary.

Ultimate Game Viewing: Botswana

Amazing wildlife and sensational safari camps are keys to why Botswana is an African success story. Virtually the same size as France, the country boasts incredible animal encounters. The lush Okavango Delta and sparse Kalahari Desert are its most famous areas; the northeast Chobe National Park is known for its elephant herds.

Beach Getaways: Mozambique & Seychelles

Blessed with beaches and great Indian Ocean scuba diving, Mozambique is an easy getaway. Flights from Kruger International Airport (served by such safari camps as Singita) take under two hours. Indagare members have stayed at—and loved—Benguerra Lodge. More far-flung are the Seychelles, an archipelago worth the extra travel time for some of the world's most spectacular beach resorts, including Frégate Island, the Four Seasons, and honeymoon favorite North Island.

Off-Radar: Namibia

Travelers eager to get away from the crowds are seeking out Namibia, in particular its Namib Desert and Skelton Coast. Trips here are less about animal viewing (though black rhinos, desert elephants and plains game abound) and more about cultural immersion and experiencing the unique nature via privately guided safaris, which often involve helicopters and mobile camps.

Adventure/Sporty: Zambia

Famous for unrivaled walking safaris, canoe trips and fishing, Zambia is a good choice for adventure-seeking travelers. South Luangwa National Park is the most renowned for wildlife, including lots of hippos and crocodiles. Zambia itineraries should also include the massive Victoria Falls, which border Zimbabwe.

For help planning a trip, contact our **Bookings Team** at 212-988-2611 or bookings@indagare.com.

Q&A with Hanneli Rupert

The stylish designer of Okapi handbags and founder of chic Merchants on Long boutique shares her insider tips in Cape Town and beyond.



How would you define the philosophy behind Merchants on Long?

I believe in the emotive power of objects and stepping away from excess; that if you want to own something, it should mean something. All of the brands we represent create employment, because I believe in giving people a chance, not charity. It is also a step back to what I think is true luxury—bespoke and handmade items. [See Rupert's Okapi line here: www.okapi.com.]

You often look to the past for inspiration. Which historical periods do you love?

I think history is integral to understanding who we are and where we are. I tried to incorporate all of the building's eras and cultural influences when we redesigned the shop, in particular its Art Nouveau style, imagining how it looked when the façade was imported from Edinburgh at the turn of the last century. I am also quite taken with the more esoteric and ritualistic African ideologies, some of which are seen in the American South, like voodoo.

What about Cape Town has changed the most in the past decade?

Cape Town has many inspiring fronts; its nature is primordial, and living here sometimes feels like existing in an artwork. Its evolution is incredible. The city has redeveloped its café

culture and is attracting so many creative, ambitious entrepreneurs starting small businesses. We have a lot of expats, so a relatively small city feels very international.

What are your must-know addresses?

For daytime relaxation, having a picnic in Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden, swimming at Bakoven Beach and checking out the hippy vibe at the Hout Bay Market. For a chic lunch, I like the **Grand Beach** (*Granger Bay Rd.*), **Bungalow** (*3 Victoria Rd.*) and for a slightly more grown-up experience, **The River Café** (*Constantia Uitsig*). For a big night out, Camps Bay's **Café Caprice** (*37 Victoria Rd.*) is a great place to start, and Upper Long Street is filled with fun places.

What should no first-time visitor miss?

Climbing Lions Head (especially at night during a full moon) or taking some wine and snacks up Signal Hill for sundowners; taking a swim in the freezing sea at Bakoven or Beta Beach; visiting the vineyards in Franschoek.

What are your favorite spots outside the city?

I love Paternoster, a fishing village on the Western Cape, and Bikini Beach in Gordon's Bay.

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“For Africa to me... is more than a glamorous fact. It is a historical truth. No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place.” ~*Maya Angelou*

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