

TRAVEL PASSPORT

Edited by HARRY ROBERTS



Follow the sun

Bask in the glow of these sublime stays.

MIAMI NICE

Freehand is a fittingly loose interpretation of a hostel, a 1930s Miami Beach getaway reinvented by red-hot interiors firm Roman & Williams. Awash with a tropical glow, the art-filled hipster paradise (right) offers a mix of communal and private rooms, with a fabulous cocktail bar, Broken Shaker, as its social epicentre. Scenester destinations such as South Beach are just a few blocks away. thefreehand.com



COSTA PLENTY Set on Costa Rica's south coast, Kurà Design Villas make a stylish splash. The boutique resort (left), with six luxury residences, features a spectacular 19-metre saltwater pool perched between the rainforest-covered mountains and the sea below. Indoors the mood is chic minimalism. kuracostarica.com

ROGER THE LODGER

Mad men and women of style will savour the cosmopolitan surrounds of the newly refurbished Roger Hotel on New York's Madison Avenue. Fusing the grandeur and impeccable service of a bygone era with a waggish modernity, this intimate stay (right) boasts an elegant restaurant, The ParLOUR, designed by Anna Busta. therogernewyork.com



ON SAFARI Singita Mara River Camp offers the supreme safari experience. Located on the edge of the Serengeti National Park, its six lavishly appointed tents overlook the spectacular, wildlife-abundant Mara River. The views inside do not disappoint either as architects Cécile & Boyds have adorned the interiors with the work of local artisans. singita.com

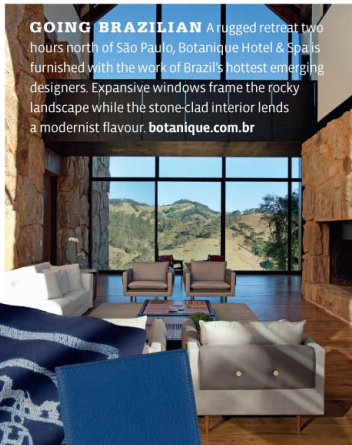


A SHORT STAY WITH THOMAS HAMEL

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Favourite travel experience A colonial Christmas lunch at The River Club, Zambia, Africa. New Year's Eve on the roof terrace of the Lake Palace, Udaipur, India. **Top holiday tippie** Margaritas – on the rocks, no salt. **Hottest hotel** 45 Park Lane in London, and The Blue Bar at The Berkeley Hotel. **Stalwart stay** The Four Seasons Bosphorus, Istanbul, is brilliant – and in my favourite shopping city. **Essential accessories** A Pickett London tote and one from M&M Sydney for the flight home, so I can carry as much as possible. **Next adventure** A tour of the Amsterdam design haunts with my friend Kate Hume. thomashamel.com

GOING BRAZILIAN A rugged retreat two hours north of São Paulo, Botanique Hotel & Spas is furnished with the work of Brazil's hottest emerging designers. Expansive windows frame the rocky landscape while the stone-clad interior lends a modernist flavour. botanique.com.br



BEACH BLISS

Upping the glamour for Vietnam's central coast, Banyan Tree's opulent Laguna Lang Co features 48 private pool villas (above) bedecked with finery and relishing blissful Canh Duong beach vistas. The destination du jour also hosts a sumptuous spa, and a championship golf course designed by legendary player Sir Nick Faldo. lagunalangco.com

PS... **WHEELY GOOD** Sydney's BLUE Hotel now offers complimentary bicycle hire, so guests can enjoy the sights from an elegant vintage ride.

Cycle in style with azure accessories such as a limited-edition Hermès denim scarf (hermes.com) and Smythson journal (net-a-porter.com).