GIFT GUIDANCE: Build a library of style books, equip that Champagne bar and invest in artful quilts
In instances where a company provides support to The Globe and Mail Style Advisor, that company does not review or approve a story prior to publication. For this issue, those stories include “Investment pieces” (page /one.pnum/two.pnum), “Destination Naoshima” (page /one.pnum/three.pnum), “Lab test” (page /one.pnum/three.pnum), “A tale of two cities” (page /three.pnum/six.pnum), “Oh Solomeo” (page /three.pnum/eight.pnum). The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, transparencies or other material. Printed in Canada by Transcontinental Printing Inc.
Hermès, cavalier jewellery
Editor's Letter

On books and baubles

his past summer, while working through some renovations, my library of style and art books was packed up and moved to storage. While I also stashed away other collections – my husband’s vintage green bottles, stacks of wool blankets – it was the books I missed the most. Not because I have much of a habit of taking one off the shelf and flipping through it but because, like a wall of sentimental photos, they represent places, exhibitions and creative people that have, at one point, captured my imagination.

Thankfully, the books are back but their absence prompted me to ask the editors who work on Style Advisor’s Essentials pages (starting on PAGE 18) to pick a coffee table read that would make an inspiring gift this season. Those features are just a few of the present ideas we’ve sprinkled through these pages. The Essentials section leads off with a survey of spectacular fine jewellery (“Nothing but the best,” PAGE 15) that captures artisanship at the world’s best houses (you can enquire about the carnelian Rose de Noël earrings above at Van Cleef & Arpels’ new boutique on Toronto’s Bloor Street). There are also groupings of classic timepieces, Champagne accessories and art multiples throughout the section.

For her fashion page, contributing editor Nadia Pizzimenti compiled giftable scarves and runway finds in holiday party-ready red. At the /one.pnum/zero.pnumth edition of the Canadian Arts & Fashion Awards on Oct. /one.pnum/four.pnum, Nadia was awarded the Stylist of the Year prize. She has been this magazine’s contributing editor since our March /two.pnum/zero.pnum/zero.pnum issue, which, you can imagine, was a tricky time between New York and Toronto, says that working in the fashion industry gives him a leg up. “We get to see the newest trends, so it makes gift giving so much easier because we can see items for the holidays months in advance,” he says. For this issue, that meant looking ahead to the season’s top winter coats for “Windblown” (PAGE 28), a fashion editorial on the latest trends in outerwear. “The biggest highlight from this experience was working with such an amazing team that really brought the story to life.”

When it comes to choosing great gifts, photographer NELSON HUANG, who splits his time between New York and Toronto, says that visiting ancient monuments was a highlight. Living near the Atlantic is essential for Célio, who turns to the sea when looking for creative inspiration. “It’s where I keep finding this idea of infinity that contrasts with our constant presence of mortality. The sea brings us so much and takes away so much,” he says. When that doesn’t work, a few hours at the Prado museum in Madrid never fail to revive his spirit.
Winter wonder

Just as you begin to think about hunkering down for the season, a calendar of provocative exhibitions, fairs and other happenings pops up. The Interior Design Show in Toronto, a textile art must-see at London’s Barbican and a celebration of Canadian artists at the National Gallery are all inspired reasons to delay hibernation and other happenings.

DECEMBER

5 New to the catalogue of fashionable tomes found at Indigo (indigo.ca) is STEPPING OUT: THE UNAPOLOGETIC STYLE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS OVER FIFTY. Written by bestselling author Connie Briscoe, it charts the exuberant ensembles of subjects immortalized in photos by street style photographer, Milton Washington.

8 The work of the eight artists of Fastwürms, artist Germaine Koh and conceptual multidisciplinary duo Asser Levy Public Bathhouse, are emblematic of this category.

18 Now in its 25th year, the Toronto edition of the INTERIOR DESIGN SHOW (interiordesignshow.com) features an immersive installation called The Future Neighbourhood. Six contributors such as Safoura Zahidi — known for her pleasingly geometrical architectural concepts — participate in crafting design-based solutions for issues ranging from aging in place to the housing crisis. Additional programming includes an accessible design-focused seminar with David Demers, managing director of CNIB Access Labs.

17 OTHERWORLDLY: DEBORAH TURBEVILLE PHOTOGRAPHS at the Image Centre (theimagecentre.ca) in Toronto examine the American photographer and fashion editor’s immense contributions to the fashion editorial genre, as well as offering a glimpse of later-in-life projects with more personal resonance.

14 Assembling the work of visionaries including Faith Ringgold, Sheila Hicks and Jeffrey Gibson (pictured left), UNRAVEL: THE POWER AND POLITICS OF TEXTILES IN ART at London’s Barbican (barbican.org.uk) assembles 100-plus pieces that speak to the aesthetics and narratives that are emblematic of this category of artistic expression.

16 Toronto’s POWER PLANT (thepowerplant.org) opens its winter exhibition season with two separate retrospectives on the works of Canadian art icons June Clark (shown left) and Terence Gower.

FEBRUARY

17 In the first survey of its kind, NANCY ELIZABETH PROPHET: I WILL NOT BEND AN INCH at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum (risdmuseum.org) illuminates the work of the modernist sculptor, whose work is associated with the fertile, early-20th-century cultural period in American art known as the Harlem Renaissance.

23 Co-produced by the Art Gallery of Ontario (ago.ca) and the Rencontres D’Arles, CASA SUSANNA is an exhibition that explores the lives of a group of crossdressing living in the Catskills during the 1950s and ’60s. Co-curated by the AGO’s Sophie Hackett, and the photo historian Isabella Bonnet, the show boasts 250 images and includes copies of the local magazine in circulation at the time, Transvesta.

26 A collaborative exhibition by Vancouver’s Fazakas Gallery and Calgary’s NORBERG HALL (norberghall.com) celebrates the work of artists including Cole Speck (shown here). “It’s a way to share space and stories by Indigenous artists from the West Coast, here in the Prairies,” says gallery co-founder Shannon Norberg. Program highlights of the show, which centres around reciprocity and what gallery founder LaTiesha Fazakas describes as “potlatch culture,” include a curatorial discussion on Jan. 27.

29 Until March 3, take in the offerings at the 31st edition of New York’s OUTSIDER ART FAIR (outsiderartfair.com) at the Metropolitan Pavilion in Manhattan. Featuring over 60 international exhibitors, it’s the only event of its kind dedicated to self-taught art, outsider and outsider art practices.
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ACCUSTRON

RAFFI JEWELLERS
Photographed at the Art Gallery of Guelph, Justin Ming Yong is part of The Third Scenario, a show that captures “making through hyphenated conditions.”

**Creative comfort**

Artist Justin Ming Yong pieces together vibrant cloth canvases

Like many creatives passing time during pandemic lockdowns, Justin Ming Yong yearned to expand his artistic repertoire beyond the landscape and commercial photography he was known for. “I was looking for something new,” Yong says, noting that there was a liberating lack of pressure in such exploration at the time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
His mother had found such an outlet in quilting throughout her life and while Yong says he didn’t initially have the same appreciation for it, he began to read more about the practice and soon became smitten. “I found a book, a retrospective of American quilting, and after seeing the many different styles of quilts, something clicked for me,” he says.

Since then, Yong’s cloth “canvas” have come to incorporate myriad influences including the vibrant angularity of the oeuvre of the Gee’s Bend quilters, an early 20th-century group of Black women from Alabama, and modernist art movement icons such as Cy Twombly, Mark Rothko and Joan Mitchell. There’s a similar feeling of freneticism in Yong’s quilts, which are fashioned from materials including deadstock denim and scraps from old store window displays.

“When you compile a certain amount of fabric, it’s sort of like piecing together a puzzle, as opposed to painting, where you’re mixing colours—and the possibilities are endless,” he says. Within these material confines, Yong finds a sense of liberation to tell personal stories. One piece, a bright red abstract lobster shape on a white background, represents the multiplicitous nature of his ancestry. “My father’s family is from mainland China, and my mother’s family is from Newfoundland,” he says about its inspiration. In an Instagram post about the piece, Yong noted: “One side of my family enjoys [lobster] with black bean sauce on special occasions. The other side eats it freshly caught that day with butter for a few months of the year. Either way, this one is a delicacy for me.”

Yong’s exploration of identity made him a perfect candidate for inclusion in the exhibition. The Third Scenario, on until Dec. 17 at the Art Gallery of Guelph in Ontario. Curated by 2023 Middlebrook Prize winner Holly Chang, it “examines the act of art making through hyphenated conditions – states and environments in flux that challenge the idea of art and identity as fixed entities,” according to an introductory text about the show.

“I remember coming across [Justin’s] work on Instagram and I related to his process because I learned how to quilt around the same time,” Chang says. “I was really moved by the simplicity but also the level of detail in his work. I felt that his quilts had strong ties to history but with a distinctive and renewed perspective.”

Yong’s knack for needlework aligns with a growing interest in quilting on fashion’s runways – brands from indie darling Bode to the established French house, Chanel, offer takes on quilt-like pieces this season – as well as an art-world push to break down dated boundaries in the distinction between visual art and craft. Yong doesn’t see them as separate entities at all. “When I started quilting, I saw it as an art form,” he says. – ODESSA PALOMA PARKER

For more, visit justinymong.com.

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For more, visit justinymong.com.
Raw elements

The 2024 DesignTO festival will spotlight how materials influence meaning in art and design.

FROM JAN. 19 TO MARCH 31, Harbourfront Centre in Toronto hosts Future Matters, a group exhibition that's the centrepiece of the city's annual DesignTO Festival. The show brings together an array of multidisciplinary pieces that capture nuanced narratives around sustainability, racism and innovation through their materiality.

There will be melted sugar "machetes" crafted by Yassine Ben Abdallah for the installation The Bittersweet Memory of the Plantation, which reflects on colonialism and cultural preservation. Artist Cole Swanson's investigation of ecological precarity and urbanization is revealed through documenting groves of staghorn sumac found along the West Toronto Railpath trail.

Julia Rose Sutherland will present work that contributes to a series she started in 2021. Called Wisppig (fire ash), it’s comprised of a collection of books that Sutherland accumulated while on a three-month residency at The BEMIS Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, Neb. The volumes have been dipped in porcelain slip and then ceremonially burned in a kiln to create the delicate sculptures, pictured below.

Sutherland, a Mi’kmaq (Metepenagiag Nation) settler artist, says she would come across what she describes as "colonial smut" — titles including Dan Cushman's The Half-Caste and My Life as an Indian by J.W. Schultz — while at second-hand stores in Omaha, and found them disturbing yet motivating.

"Western expansion and its relation to Indigenous people was there in my face, written from a colonial perspective," she says. "And I just couldn't help but think, we should just burn this." Sutherland says it’s a particularly potent gesture as an act of reclamation and rebirth.

"We’re craftpeople, so whether we’re touching things, or in our relationship to objects, materiality is really important," she says. "Some people find material inspiration first; I start from a core idea, and then find what is going to bolster that in the most impactful and authentic way." — O.P.P.

For more, visit designto.org.

TRAVEL

Destination Naoshima

On Japan’s art island, one inn stands out for helping guests bring its creative spirit home.

THE TRIP THROUGH JAPAN to arrive on Naoshima Island can often include multiple buses, a train or two and one Yayoi Kusama-spotted ferry. That last leg of the journey through the Seto Inland Sea makes it clear that you’re headed for one of the world’s top art destinations, which is also home to some of Japan’s more striking hotels.

Roka is one of Naoshima’s newest stays and the island’s first, full-scale luxury ryokan. Immersed in a green landscape and rock garden, the inn’s design ethos is plain to see: a hamlet-style campus of minimalist accommodations wing separated by a wall of charred cedar boards and inspired by the Nagaya style of communal housing. Guests catch glimpses of their neighbours (spotting a shoe propped up on a window-sill, hearing an outdoor shower or some quiet chatter; being wowed by their kaiseki spread in the restaurant), which serves as a reminder that the hotel is full of travelers experiencing the island together. For more private moments, each room is equipped with its own onsen.

Art at Roka reveals itself incrementally and inconspicuously. The back garden features a bamboo installation that winds around the trees and is meant to evoke a breeze blowing through a lush environment. Pieces from emerging Japanese artists are found throughout the inn and are available to purchase as a way to immerse guests in contemporary art by having it become part of the fabric of their stay — and departure. — NADIA PIZZIMENTI

Stays from $460/night including kaiseki dinner and breakfast. For more, visit roka voyage.

JEWELLERY

Lab test

Pandora’s grown diamonds will gauge how far interest in manufactured stones can go

PANDORA, THE WORLD’S LARGEST jewellery company, has entered the world of lab-created diamonds. Three new collections are meant to explore the sustainable potential of manufactured stones and open the growing bauble category up to a wider audience. Pandora Nova is a design-forward line with asymmetric stone settings. Pandora Talisman is a new take on the charms that are the brand’s bread and butter. And Pandora Era is a reimagining of two classic stone settings: bezel and prong.

"With the new designs we wanted to capture a fragment of light, suspended in the air, protected yet free," says Francesco Terzo, who serves as Pandora’s creative director alongside A. Filippo Ficarelli. "It’s like we’re harnessing light from the sky, in our own way."

In U.S. labs, each diamond is grown, cut and polished using 100-per-cent renewable energy and crafted with 100-per-cent recycled silver and gold. According to the brand, this makes a stone’s carbon footprint around 95 per cent less than a mined diamond of the same size.

Despite consumer skepticism about what makes a “real” diamond and whether lab options qualify, the brand is optimistic about changing shoppers’ minds. "Some would say, ‘this isn’t the same because of the traditions.’ Others will say, ‘Wow this is great because it’s new, it’s innovation, it’s sustainability. I want the newness.’ And so it’s just reflecting that this generation of consumers has different preferences." says Mads Twomey-Madsen, Pandora’s senior vice-president of communications and sustainability. "We’re democratizing a product that has had a set way of being viewed and being purchased, hopefully reaching more consumers overall and hopefully also changing the way we will wear them." — N.P.

For more, visit pandora.net.
UNWRAP NEW TRADITIONS

Shop online or in person and find unique gifts for everyone on your list. Visit shop.agakhanmuseum.org
NOTHING BUT THE BEST

This holiday season, the world's top jewellery and watch houses put their best baubles forward

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK BINKS

FLORAL NOTES
After making its debut at the Cannes Film Festival, Chopard’s decadent array of 76 haute joailliere pieces will transcend the red carpet to find a special place in personal collections. Inspired by creativity in all its expressions, artistic director Caroline Scheufele has added a glamorous spin to each piece, including a watch characterized by its luxe flower-bedecked face fashioned from 9.78 carats worth of rubies and 6.96 carats of diamonds.

Watch, price on request at Chopard (chopard.com).

Styling by Nadia Pizzimenti. Sets and prop styling by Kristen Lim-Tung. Text by Odessa Paloma Parker.
ON THE FRINGE
With its union of yellow gold and platinum and impressive punctuation of 115 round brilliant diamonds, an opulent necklace from Tiffany & Co. (top left) highlights one of its most renowned collaborators, Jean Schlumberger. Schlumberger Fringe necklace, price on request at Tiffany & Co. (tiffany.ca).

HELLO KITTY
The panther is a beloved symbol of the house of Cartier, and its mysterious aura is extolled in the form of a beautiful bangle (top right) crafted from yellow gold, tsavorite garnets and onyx. Panthère de Cartier bracelet, $30,900 at Cartier (cartier.com).

TRUE COLOURS
Conceived as an homage to Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier’s 63-shade palette, Rado’s playful timepieces boast distinctively-hued ceramic elements authorized by the Fondation Le Corbusier. Each watch is numbered in a limited series of 999 pieces. True Square Thinline Les Couleurs Le Corbusier watch, $3,000 at Rado (rado.com).

SHOOTING STAR
Conjuring a certain cosmic captivation first emphasized in Gabrielle Chanel’s Bijoux de Diamants collection in 1932, this necklace (bottom left) is an exquisite update featuring a staggering 253 brilliant cut diamonds. Fil de Comète necklace, $231,000 at Chanel (chanel.com).
ICONS ONLY
Possessing a striking fan-shaped silhouette inspired by the mosaics found in the Roman Baths of Caracalla, Bulgari’s palatial earrings (top left) are well-suited to the larger-than-life divas that share their name. Divas Dream earrings, price on request at Bulgari (bvlgari.com).

GARDEN VARIETY
Hand-carved gold petals on individual blooms lend a singular quality to Laurie Fleming’s botanically inspired Asrai Garden collection (top right). Every piece’s design is enhanced by the wearer’s curation of flowers represented in a unique “bouquet.” Asrai Garden ring, starting at $374 at Laurie Fleming Jewellery (laurieflemingjewellery.com).

POINTS OF INTEREST
Drawing from a motif introduced by Van Cleef & Arpels in the 1930s called Paillette, the house offers a beguiling design resplendent in uncommon geometry. Yellow gold, diamond, onyx and chrysoprase exude a palpable joie de vivre. Bouton d’or necklace, $143,000 at Van Cleef & Arpels (vancleefarpels.com).

ANCHORS AWAY
Fashioned in an articulated sterling silver structure, Hermès reinterprets a 1938 piece (bottom left). The original bracelet came to be after Robert Dumas, former CEO of the house, caught a glimpse of moored boats along the coast of Normandy. Chaine d’Ancre Enchaînée bracelet, $4,400 at Hermès (hermes.com).
FASHION

What better time for rouge to make a bold comeback than in the middle of fashion’s quiet luxury era. One of the hue’s bellwether moments was an exquisite red wool midi-length coat at The Row. Styled with matching gloves, it was the only vibrant pop in the label’s sea of beiges, browns and blacks. Make an equally heart palpitating entrance with Alaïa’s chic scarlet sheath or go the romantic route wearing Kika Vargas’s red ruffled apron dress. Commit to colour by pairing crimson separates such as the streamlined blazer seen at Veronica Beard with A.W.A.K.E Mode’s dazzling cut-out circle skirt. Red shouldn’t be reserved for festive party looks. Even a loose-fitting knit such as Loulou Studio’s wool and cashmere pullover balances sultry and cozy in the colour of the season.

– NADIA PIZZIMENTI

RED EYE

Since the 19th century, Cartier’s jewellery has become as famous as its clientele. Assouline’s latest Ultimate Collection release, Cartier: The Impossible Collection, dives into decades of neoclassical Garland styles, famed art deco pieces, creations by iconic creative director Jeanne Toussaint and the evolution of its Panther and Tutti Frutti motifs. The book’s collection of imagery includes a 1930s citrine tiara, a model holding the Hope diamond necklace, archival drawings from the house and fashion illustrations commissioned by Louis Cartier. The stories behind the stones are the most intriguing element and pages often include illuminating text by journalist Hervé Dewintre, who reveals the tales behind the creation of Cartier’s most notable objets.


ALL WRAPPED UP

This winter, go maximal with your muffler

IN CHECK
Classic tartan looks best when it’s draped dramatically over tailored suiting, though Saint Laurent’s fringed, oversize shawls are substantial enough that you might want to skip the coat altogether.
Scarves, $1,355 at Saint Laurent (saintlaurent.com).

FUZZ FACTOR
Acne Studios is no stranger to a big scarf/big print moment. Its latest iteration is made of a soft alpaca blend and knitted into a graphically oversized houndstooth print.
Acne Studios scarf, $450 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com).

PATTERN TEST
Etro’s knack for pairing prints makes it easy to imagine styling this multihued blanket with a textured wool coat, draped over a dress or layered on top of your finest pair of PJs.
Etro scarf, $850 through matchesfashion.com.
LET’S GET PERSONAL

The big beauty trend to watch for 2024: products that offer endless customization.

In the skincare world, custom products are readily available at medi-spas and through brands such as SkinCeuticals and Universkin, which add doses of active ingredients to creams and serums tailored to their user. These formulas target issues such as redness, texture and acne. But an increased understanding of the potential of customization in healthcare and medicine has created consumer interest in translating more specific regimens across the beauty board.

“Potential developments from beauty brands could come from the emergence of genetic sequencing and advances in diagnostics and wearable devices,” says Sarah Jindal, senior director of beauty, personal care and household research for the Americas at market research agency Mintel. Forward-thinking companies are developing methods for shoppers to personalize everything from shampoo and foundation.

At Function of Beauty, customization for hair care has been the New York company’s MO since day one. The brand was founded by MIT grads who developed a proprietary algorithm to develop personalized haircare. Recently, it has elevated its offerings with the launch of Function of Beauty Pro, a series of formulations available exclusively at Sephora. With an emphasis on tending to the health of hair, each shampoo and mask features a base for a specific hair type (straight, wavy, curly or coiled) that can be combined with up to three of nine different concentrates selected for hair’s needs at that point in time.

“It’s the same underlying idea that you give your hair only what it needs, rather than applying a one-size-fits-all solution,” Function of Beauty CEO Alexandra Papazian says. “Your hair’s needs change over the summer, they change in wintertime, your scalp changes. So Function of Beauty Pro is highly adaptable to suit your personal needs.” – CAITLIN AGNEW

For more information, visit functionofbeauty.com.

SYMBOLIC GESTURE

With its Les Symboles de Chanel collection, Chanel has transformed its house signatures into ethereal highlighters. Available in warm gold, precious coral and pearly white shimmers, powder is embossed with a strand of pearls, celestial comet, camellia flower, chain or a lion. Les Symboles de Chanel La Comète in Warm Gold, $115 at Chanel (chanel.com).

MARINE WORLD

It has been 25 years since La Prairie introduced its Skin Caviar Luxe Cream. To fête the milestone, the Swiss brand is reimagining it with a focus on supporting skin’s metabolism as a means of restoring its youthful structure.

The cream combines its namesake ingredient with a proprietary formula that tends to aging skin cells. – C.A.

La Prairie Skin Caviar Luxe Cream, $795 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenew.com).

ON THE SCENT

Deep dive into Indian-Canadian Ben Gorham’s fragrance empire

When Byredo came on the scene in 2006, it reinvigorated modern fragrance making with its sense of irreverence. Since launching with candles and branching off into perfume, cosmetics, body care and, more recently, a collection of handbags, eyewear, footwear and leather goods, Byredo has established itself as a leader in the luxury lifestyle category. A handsome new tome from Rizzoli chronicles the rise of the Stockholm-based brand, which was founded by Indian Canadian former basketball player and self-taught perfumer Ben Gorham. Structured in a dictionary format, with entries such as “Art,” “Eyes,” “Paris” and “Water,” Byredo showcases highlights from the brand, including collaborations with like-minded creatives including Virgil Abloh and imagery by renowned photographers such as Inez & Vinoodh. – C.A.

Byredo by Ben Gorham and Grace Johnston, $90 at bookstores and online (rizzoliusa.com).
VOLUME UP

Canada’s Vieren looks to the 1970s for its latest exuberant piece

With a dial that glitters like a gilded dance floor and a set of hands radiating from a recessed circle evoking a record turntable, Vieren’s Stereo watch is an accessory seemingly made to fit in with the sequined jumpsuits and velvet tuxes one might have worn to Studio 54 in its heyday. According to Jess Chow, the Canadian brand’s CEO, that’s exactly the vibe she was aiming for. “People are looking for more fun and celebration in their lives, and we’re seeing a resurgence in things that are nostalgic, tactile and whimsical,” says Chow, who co-founded Vieren in 2020 with Canadian fashion designer Sunny Fong. “When we think about a special time in history that reflects these sentiments, it would be the 1970s. There was a freedom evolved during that decade that is special, and we’re looking to celebrate that golden era.”

Behind the whimsy of the Stereo Collection, however, is a serious timepiece. Like all of Vieren’s watches, each of the pieces in this limited-edition collection is built by hand at a watchmaking studio in La-Chaux-de-Fonds, the Swiss valley where many of the world’s best watchmaking shops are based. This studio and its artisans allows Vieren to consider every design detail so that your Vieren timepiece is a talisman that brings good fortune,” Chow says. In addition to the name, which means “celebrate” in Dutch, the Vieren logo resembles a bat, a symbol of longevity and happiness in Chinese culture. “Beyond Swiss craftsmanship, the modern collector cares about thoughtful design elements that make a watch more than a timekeeping instrument,” she says. “We are obsessed with the idea of celebrating life’s most meaningful moments and we hope that our timepieces help you to make the most of every second of your life.” – JEREMY FREED

“Sunny Fong and I carefully consider every design detail so that your Vieren timepiece is a talisman that brings good fortune,” Chow says. In addition to the name, which means “celebrate” in Dutch, the Vieren logo resembles a bat, a symbol of longevity and happiness in Chinese culture. “Beyond Swiss craftsmanship, the modern collector cares about thoughtful design elements that make a watch more than a timekeeping instrument,” she says. “We are obsessed with the idea of celebrating life’s most meaningful moments and we hope that our timepieces help you to make the most of every second of your life.” – JEREMY FREED

Vieren Gold Stereo Sunray watch, $7,500 through vieren.co.

TALE AS OLD AS TIME

Traditional mechanical watches ought to have gone the way of the rotary-dial telephone long ago, but their enduring popularity suggests that they are worth more to us than the sum of their tiny parts. In Hands of Time, a new book by British watchmaker Rebecca Struthers, the author explores our enduring fascination with watches and clocks over the centuries and the miraculous technology that makes them tick. An antique watch restorer with a PhD in horology, Struthers is an ideal guide for this journey. From the water clocks of ancient Rome to the wristwatches used in the Second World War, each stop on Struthers’ grand tour reveals as much about the timepieces as the eras in which they were created. Imbued with personal anecdotes about the life and craft of a modern-day watchmaker, it’s essential reading for enthusiasts, history buffs and anyone else who’s ever pondered the nature of time. – J.F.

Hands of Time: A Watchmaker’s History by Rebecca Struthers, $43.50 at bookstores and online (harpercollins.ca).

ALL ANGLES

A rectangular timepiece can be both a classic and distinctive choice

STRONG STATEMENT

Designed in 1917, the Tank (shown in on-the-moment green) remains the epitome of good taste in 2023. Tank Louis Cartier watch, $17,400 at Cartier (parter.com).

TURNTED OUT

A swivelling case with a back that’s ideal for engraving gives the Reverso its unique look. Reverso Tribute Monoface Small Seconds watch, $14,300 at Jaeger-LeCoultre (jaeger-lecoultre.com).

BOXY FRESH

This option represents refined Swiss watchmaking at a price that’s perfect for budding aficionados. Longines Dolce Vita watch, $2,350 through longines.com.

THAT’S A WRAP

An ergonomic curved case and a set of funky numerals make the Banana perennially surprising. – J.F.

Tissot Heritage Banana Centenary Edition watch, $725 at stores and resellers across Canada (tissotwatches.com).
CAPTAIN COOK HIGH-TECH CERAMIC SKELETON

Feel it!
FANTASY FARE

A primer on Surrealism highlights how it captures the imagination.

PHILIPS GORDON

For more information, visit dior.com.

RAINBOW CONNECTION

Korean-Canadian Zadie Xa reimagines a Dior signature

For its eighth edition of Dior Lady Art bags, the French house has tapped a new roster of creative collaborators to craft versions of its sculptural handbag. Contributors include Jeffrey Gibson (the first Indigenous artist with a U.S. solo show at the next Venice Biennale), English icons Gilbert & George, and Korean-Canadian multidisciplinary artist Zadie Xa, whose work has been shown at London’s Whitechapel Gallery, Glasgow Tramway and during the Shanghai Biennale in 2021.

“Working with Dior has been incredible,” Xa writes in an e-mail exchange. “There were no design restrictions or corporate remit that was expected of me; instead, I was given carte blanche to do whatever I was inspired to create.”

Out of this boundless opportunity comes a cadre of decadent, prismatic pieces — explosive colour use is one of Xa’s signatures — that range from dizzying abstract motifs to delightful scenes featuring animals. On one bag, two tiger heads poke out playfully from either side. The bags are described as a “window into [Xa’s] universe”, where she says you’ll find elements of “supernatural knowledge and reinterpreted folktales and mythology.”

Xa uses a technique called najeonchilgi to lend a lush iridescence to Dior’s keyring-style logo charms and the bag’s handles. “Najeonchilgi is a traditional Korean handicraft whereby pieces of mother of pearl are inlaid into various objects like jewellery boxes or wardrobes,” she writes. “This use of shell inlay originated in ancient China and over time became popular across Asia. I wanted to highlight an element that is distinctly Korean while honoring the nostalgia I have for these objects, which fascinated me as a child.”

As with all of the artists participating in the Dior program, Xa’s bags can be considered a part of her practice rather than a purely commercial exercise. To illustrate this, she highlights the silk flowers incorporated into her bags: “The flowers are a nod to the story of Korean shamanic deity Princess Bari, who is often depicted holding flowers,” she notes. “This bag is a reference to an artwork I exhibited in London and Seoul, which is dedicated to Princess Bari. The silk flowers are an element of that original artwork.”

– ODESSA PALOMA PARKER

New Surrealism by Robert Zeller, $59.95 from Dec. 13 at bookstores and online (phaidon.com).

MULTIPLE CHOICE

The gift of editioned art is a more accessible way to encourage new collectors. The term “edition,” which applies to artwork created as an original set, either by the artist themselves or under their supervision, crosses disciplines from lithography to photography to ceramics. Perhaps most appealingly, editioned works can possess unique attributes since they are made individually. Whether part of an “open edition” — works that are made in an unlimited number — or limited in quantity, they provide a feasible foray into acquisition and can help introduce enthusiasts to new names.

Phyllis Gordon, Xanthoria elegans, 2022, woodcut on Mihumata iron oxide paper, edition of five, 11.5 by 16 inches, $400 (unframed) at Open Studio (openstudioshop.ca).

Elizabeth McIntosh, Moon_Live_Sun, 2017, screen print, edition of 30, 55.8 by 50.8 cm, $600 (unframed) at Vancouver Art Gallery (vanartgallery.bc.ca).

Isabel Okoro, White Night, 2020, archival print on Hahnemühle bamboo 290 gsm paper, limited edition of five and two artist’s proofs, 24 x 30 inches. $1,250 (unframed) through ninetheditions.com. – O.P.P.
TEATIME, TWEAKED

Once a fussy, midday affair, afternoon tea is being rethought for an after-work crowd

A afternoon tea at Victoria’s Fairmont Empress is one of the city’s top attractions. The 115-year-old tradition is so popular that the hotel operates a shop dedicated to selling teas and related teatime accoutrements. So you might assume its team wouldn’t want to mess with a good thing. But that’s exactly what they did this summer, creating an entirely new take on the tea experience, Sunset Sips, for an evening crowd.

The cocktail-based tea includes a drink menu that marries traditional cocktails with teas – the Daisy Ricky, for example, is a blend of citrus punch tea-infused Bacardi, coconut Cîroc, Grand Marnier, lime, mint and simple syrup – paired with a tray of snacks including cheddar and chive biscuits and local sockeye tartan. “We wanted to ensure that people didn’t have the expectation that they would experience the traditional afternoon tea offering,” says Victoria Dyson, the hotel’s director of sales and marketing. “We designed the food menu that was geared toward small sweet and savoury bites, tapas style, which would be paired well with the clever cocktails in tea pots.”

The Empress is just one property in the Fairmont portfolio that is reimagining what the tea tradition looks like. At the Royal York in Toronto, the Champagne and cocktails team at Clockwork, the hotel’s lobby bar, is certified through the company’s tea sommelier program to incorporate teas into the drink menu. It’s serving up loose-leaf tea varieties including Ontario Icewine, which has Riesling and berry notes, and Niagara peach, a green tea with peach notes. In Boston, the Copley Plaza is leaning into the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party with a tea-focused room package that includes tea-themed cocktails and dessert (think a white chocolate semifreddo with earl grey sugar and a hazelnut praline, served in a vintage teacup).

The company also has plans to bring back its tea-themed gala, Tea Noir, which debuted last year as part of a collaboration between the Empress and Seattle’s Fairmont Olympic. The chic evening affair includes a tea-themed multicourse menu as well as live music and performances. – MARYAM SIDDIQI

For more information, visit fairmont.com.

CHECKED PLEASE

If you’re going to be asked to surrender your carry-on at the gate, why pack light?

FOR A FORTNIGHT

Rimowa’s original Trunk Plus is designed for holidays longer than two weeks. Each side has a divider to keep items securely in place. Constructed in the brand’s durable aluminum, the trunk comes in one of its latest colours: Arctic blue. Rimowa Trunk Plus suitcase, $3,025 through rimowa.com.

TRUNK SHOW

Canadian luggage brand Monos created its Hybrid Trunk to be taller and deeper than its other checked suitcase. Its water-resistant polycarbonate shell is lightweight and the interior is designed for maximum storage with dividers and zipped pockets. Monos Hybrid Trunk, $555 through ca.monos.com.

THINK BIG

Paravel’s Aviator Grand checked suitcase is made using recycled polycarbonate, aluminum and vegan leather. Intended for trips eight to 10 days in length, it’s equipped with interior pockets, a compression divider and a removable laundry bag. – M.S.

Paravel Aviator Grand suitcase, $840 through tourparavel.com.

GREAT HEIGHTS

Get into the winter travel spirit with a guide to Europe’s best alpine accommodations

Whether it’s for trip planning or journeying vicariously from your couch, The Alps: Hotels, Destinations, Culture offers up 270 colourful pages that take readers through the mountains of France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and Germany. Sebastian Schoellgen, the hotel expert behind accommodations website 84 Rooms, highlights small country chalets and chic boutique hotels that celebrate the rich history and traditions of each country. Felder Alpin in Villandro in South Tyrol, Italy, for instance, is a 105-room property inspired by traditional alpine lodges. Aside from its location – you can ski, hike or bike directly from the hotel’s front door – the draw is the property’s 60,000-square-foot spa that includes lake swimming, saunas and steam baths. The book’s selections blend Schoellgen’s design eye with an appreciation of the landscape and knowledge of the practical needs of someone building an itinerary. – M.S.

The Alps: Hotels, Destinations, Culture by Sebastian Schoellgen, $74.95 at bookstores and online (phaidon.com).

STYLISH ROGUES

Meet the footwear that would do its checks... and stripes with pride.

POLO RALPH LAUREN

Polo is known as the go-to for the good life and the classic looks to go with it. Reimagining the classic gingham print, this take on the classic Oxford shoe will stand out as a statement piece. Polo signature gingham print Oxford shoe, $325 through polo.com.

ALPARGATAS BY RODAL

The traditional flat, canvas shoe originally designed for farm workers has come full circle. Think of this as the alternative to the chukka boot. Alpargatas by Rodal Rasta Up, $88 through alpargatasbyrodal.com.

STEVEN ALAN

Steven Alan’s mix of casual and refined shoes is always a hit. The striped lace-up features a slight wedge, which never dates. Steven Alan lace-up, $345 through stevenalan.com.

THE GLOBE AND MAIL STYLE ADVISOR 23
Van Cleef & Arpels
Haute Joaillerie, place Vendôme since 1906
**SPIRITED CELEBRATION**

Suntory marks 100 years of whisky-making by investing big in its future in Japan

As chief blender for Suntory Whisky, Shinji Fukuyo aspires to make spirits that appeal to your senses. Using different production processes, including the various copper pot stills and oak casks at the brand’s Yamazaki, Hakushu and Chita distilleries in Japan, he tailor-makes a range of diverse single-malt whiskies.

Tasked with blending a special release to commemorate Suntory’s 100th anniversary, Fukuyo focused his attention on spirits aged in Mizunara oak barrels at the Yamazaki distillery, Japan’s first and oldest malt whisky distillery established in 1923. Mizunara is a native Japanese oak from Hokkaido, which contributes sandalwood and coconut notes into whisky that are distinctly different from the vanilla and caramel flavours derived from aging in American oak. “The use of Mizunara casks was an accidental discovery, but as we used them, we came to see their unique character,” Fukuyo says.

The limited release Yamazaki Mizunara Japanese Oak Cask 18 Year Old Single Malt Whisky conveys the elegant nature of Japanese whisky, with fragrant spice and incense notes. Suntory’s centenary is also being celebrated with a commemorative label design for the Yamazaki distillery’s flagship whisky, the 12 Year Old Single Malt, aged in Mizunara as well as other barrels.

The anniversary celebrations also prompted Suntory to invest almost $100-million in renovations at its Yamazaki and Hakushu Distilleries to enhance production quality and visitor experiences. The renovations include the creation of a small-scale distilling facility that allows Fukuyo and his team to focus on research and development projects. “The 100th anniversary is a milestone on the way to our dream to create a Japanese whisky beloved around the world, and we will keep on our dedicated effort to produce the highest quality spirits,” he says. – **CHRISTOPHER WATERS**

Yamazaki 12 Year Old, $373.60 in Ontario (house.suntory.com).

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**SPARKLE AND SHINE**

At the height of bubbly season, these accessories enhance how you drink, store and show off your favourite bottles

**OPEN SESAME**
Attributed to Napoleon’s army celebrating victory and passed on to wine lovers opening bottles with panache, the art of sabrage adds dramatic flair to serving sparkling wine. You could use a chef’s knife but this stylish sabre makes more of an impression. Pulltex Champagne sabre, $239.99 through roshiiwinecellars.com.

**HOLD STEADY**
This specially designed Coravin preservation system keeps the flavour and effervescence in open bottles of sparkling wine for up to four weeks. It’s a great way for Champagne connoisseurs to open a favourite vintage without having to drink it all in one sitting. Coravin Sparkling, $529 through coravin.ca.

**CHANGING TASTE**
When it comes to serving sparkling wine with style, sommeliers and other experts have ditched the flute. Instead, they reach for glasses with a wider bowl. This diamond-shaped sparkling glass, to show off the complex flavours of well-made bubbly. Riedel Veloce Champagne glasses, $95/set of two through riedel.com.

**ICE BATH**
We’re spoiled for choice when it comes to chillers and buckets that can hold a single bottle. This large format bowl, which is made from a single sheet of stainless steel, is a terrific option for larger gatherings when you want to show off all of the stars of your cellar. – **C.W.**

Single wall beverage bin, $114.95 through alwaysfinaltouch.com.

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**STYLE BOOK GIFT GUIDE**

**FRENCH LESSONS**
One expert digs deep into the success of one of the world’s top wine nations

Jon Bonné spent nine years researching the wine scene in France for his two-volume book, *The New French Wine: Redefining the World’s Greatest Wine Culture*. The former wine editor of the San Francisco Chronicle compiled his thoughtful and, at times, refreshingly contrarian commentary after countless hours visiting regions, documenting each area village by village, sometimes vineyard by vineyard, to dispense with the romantic allure and find the beating heart behind the scenes. “France is the most exciting place on Earth to drink wine,” notes Bonné, who proceeds to deliver his warts-and-all assessment of wine’s place in France today. Over 800-plus pages are broken into two volumes, *The Narrative* and *The Producers*. “French wine is in the midst of a simmering revolution – really revolutions, plural,” he writes. – **C.W.**

*The New French Wine: Redefining the World’s Greatest Wine Culture* by Jon Bonné, $115 at bookstores and online (penguinrandomhouse.ca).
MOËT & CHANDON
PILLOW TALK
A quilt-like cropped coat with a coordinating midi-skirt? Who else but Miuccia Prada and Raf Simons could be responsible for such an alluringly artful look that evokes a snow angel.
Coat, $3,000, skirt, $1,850 at Prada (prada.com).

WINDBLOWN
Form follows function in winter outerwear that breathes new life into practical details.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NELSON HUANG
STYLING BY NADIA PIZZIMENTI
CUSHY CUES
Ferragamo creative director
Maximilian Davis is tasked with
injecting the venerable house with a
shot of modernity while remaining
faithful to its grand codes. A crimson
full-length shearling sans visible
buttons is the ideal way put a fresh
face on old-school opulence.
Coat, US$9,800, shoes, US$800,
handbag, US$4,700 at Ferragamo
(ferragamo.com).
SHEAR BEAUTY
There may be no more luxurious wardrobe statement than a shearling coat, a staple that’s seen its fair share of iterations. The graphic contrasting seams on HSO’s sumptuous style gives it a retro mood that also feels very of-the-moment.
HSO coat $2,595 through hiso.ca
Rick Owens jacket, $2,500 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com). Lemaire sweater, $655, pants $1,395, Rick Owens arm warmers, $350 at Ssense (ssense.com).
BOUCLÉ UP
As a designer long lauded for lending whimsy to the poshest of pieces, Thom Browne made a case for tactile delights by interpreting plush textiles in stately outerwear and separates.
ZIP CODE
While utilitarian elements such as cargo pockets and oversized zippers are often relegated to casual wear, designers are taking such functional fare in daring directions. Here, Gucci’s prim trench coat with detachable cargo sleeves is anything but expected. Coat $12,610, shoes, $1,300 at Gucci (gucci.com). Socks, stylist’s own.
LAYERED TAKE

The dramatic quilting of a Rick Owens vest begs to be shown under a piece of smart tailoring. Japanese label Sulvam’s lengthy coat is a perfect foil to such an edgy insulator, particularly when you consider the distressed finish of its visible lining.

Sulvam coat, $1,995, Issey Miyake pants, $1,590, Coperni shoes, $1,150 at WDLT (wdlt.com); Rick Owens vest, $1,245 at Ssense (ssense.com); Balaclava, $350 at Canada Goose (canadagoose.com).
SPOT ON

By splashing natty knitwear with energetic spots reminiscent of an Appaloosa horse’s coat, Stella McCartney infuses it with an indomitable spirit. It’s just the right vibe to channel on winter’s darkest days. Stella McCartney coat, scarf, price on request through stellamccartney.com.
BIG IN BEIGE
A sunnier state of mind is never a bad thing. While temperatures may say otherwise, outerwear in warm weather-evoking neutrals – such as Canada Goose’s tempting trench-puffer hybrid and bomber coat – are an uplifting contrast to basic black.

Trench puffer coat, $1,895, bomber coat, $1,495 at Canada Goose (canadagoose.com). The Row turtleneck, $900, Coperni shirt, $800, Sacai skirt, $1,135 at Holt Renfrew (holtrenfrew.com). Socks, $7.90 at Uniqlo (uniqlo.com). Ottolinger glasses, $465 at Ssense (ssense.com).

A tale of two cities

From the right bank of the Seine to Paris’s 19th arrondissement, Chanel creates an haute couture collection that captures the spirit of the city’s past, present and future.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROYAL GILBERT
STYLING BY NADIA PIZZIMENTI

SHOW NOTES
Chanel’s catwalk catalogue is filled with elaborate stages, but all it took to set the scene for the fall/winter haute couture presentation on the banks of the Seine in July was a bit of sidewalk chalk. With the Eiffel Tower standing tall across the river, cobblestones shaded in sweet pinks and purples placed full focus on the models and how they embody the experience of moving through Paris, their tailored tweeds and floral dresses complementing and clashing with the cityscape. As a nod to the French capital’s romanticism, some models carried wicker baskets of flowers that were echoed in the clothing’s vibrant embroidery.
PAIRED UP

“Playing with opposites and contrasts, with nonchalance and elegance, is like standing on a line between strength and delicacy, which, at Chanel, is what we call allure,” noted creative director Virginie Viard in the collection’s show brief. To capture that dichotomy, Viard looked to French singer and actor Vanessa Paradis as her muse and created a wardrobe of classic suits, eveningwear with abbreviated hemlines and a dress that married a sheer, corseted top with a full skirt. In a fashion moment that often focuses on ephemeral notions of celebrity and trends, it highlighted how the Chanel team often rethinks inspiration from the brand’s own history to signal how it’s moving into the future.
STUDIO SESSIONS

While the show and Chanel’s couture ateliers are located in the heart of Paris, many of the artisan workshops that the house relies on to execute its most intricate details are concentrated at le19M in the Aubervilliers suburb north of the city. The industrial campus, where the images for this story were captured, represents new notions for the city – and the future of haute couture. The contemporary building, cloaked in a screen of concrete that evokes the weaves of textiles, houses 11 studios populated by established craftspeople and emerging hands that safeguard the know-how behind Chanel’s fashion fantasies.
DETAIL ORIENTED
For the fall collection, ateliers Desrues, Lesage, Montex and Massaro each contributed their unique expertise. A green tweed set and a sheer black blouse with suspenders both capture the exuberant embroidery of Lesage. Montex created the three-dimensional florals and fruits that were the show’s standout detail. Massaro was responsible for the classic flats and gold-accented heels that stood out on the pastel-flecked river walk.

Oh Solomeo

In Umbria, Brunello Cucinelli partners with Holt Renfrew on a collection that captures the values of a new generation

BY ANDREW SARDONE

f there’s an Oz in the fashion world, it’s Solomeo. The tiny Umbrian hamlet, just outside of Perugia, is an almost mythical destination for anyone who values designer clothing because of how it preserves and innovates craftsmanship. Its cachet is thanks to the wizardry of a single brand, Brunello Cucinelli, the Italian label known for draping the world in greige cashmere.

Solomeo is home to Cucinelli’s headquarters, a contemporary campus where you’ll rarely see a stray piece of yarn littering the immaculate factory floor and where employees, somewhatlegendarily, gather in the canteen over family-style pasta lunches for 90 minutes each afternoon. The brand’s influence on the company town extends to the village theatre (with its seats upholstered in Cucinelli tan), to its tailoring academy (where a new generation of makers hone their craft), to every cobblestone and pizza oven in the town square.

Likening Solomeo to Oz might imply there is a camel curtain down an alleyway that you’ll pull back to reveal that it’s all just a stage set created to conjure up some brand theatrics. But as a recent visit with a team from Holt Renfrew revealed, Brunello Cucinelli’s mission to approach fashion in a more human-centric, sustainable and culture-boosting way comes across as entirely real.

The Holts team arrived in late June to put the finishing touches on a holiday-season collaboration
with Carolina Cucinelli, the co-president and co-creative director of the company her father founded in 1978. “We went back and forth on what are the 10-ish pieces that you have to have in your wardrobe,” says Joseph Tang, Holt Renfrew’s fashion director, about the sartorial impetus for the line. “It felt like a dialogue between the two of us.”

“The collection reflects my taste,” adds Carolina. “The neutral palette is key because I usually wear very neutral colours. It’s always very easy to mix and match. I get up in the morning and I try to mix and match everything in a very easy way.”

The resulting lineup is inspired by what Tang calls Carolina’s “voice within the family.” There is a slouchy shearling aviator jacket, which feels like the kind of piece you’ll buy right now because the style is trending but then wear every chilly day for the rest of your life. Sweater pieces such as a ribbed dress and a cropped, cabled crewneck reference Brunello Cucinelli’s knitwear origins. Wide-legged denim reflects where Carolina and her sister Camilla, who heads up women’s design, see the brand moving in the future.

“I joined the company 13 years ago,” says Carolina, who moved through Cucinelli’s production and marketing departments as she developed her career. “Now, I work behind my father. I work in the design team but also, I try to add a bit of my point of view to the evolution of the company.” That shift includes identifying collaborators such as Tang and Holt Renfrew who can help see the collection from a new perspective. “From the point of view of two young people,” she says. “Brunello finds the Canadian market very special,” says Sebastian Picardo, Holt Renfrew’s president and CEO. “It’s very clear that they’re not just selling a beautiful product. They’re here for much more than that.”

“For us, we always want to work with partners that have shared values and missions,” Tang says, citing Carolina’s buy-less-but-better philosophy. That ethos unquestionably enriches the dolce vita lifestyle that’s channeled into the Cucinelli collections and campaigns (the Holts photoshoot took place in Carolina’s villa atop the family’s private winery; that aforementioned pizza oven gets fired up often in the summer to host intimate dinners for famous fans passing through town). But it also demands hard work and reinvesting in the community. After spending millions to turn Solomeo into the Oz it is, the company recently announced it will be making a similar investment in reconstructing Castelluccio, an Umbrian village destroyed by earthquakes in 2016 and 2017.

“This is our own way. We have a family business and we try to make everything like a family,” Carolina says. “The people who work with us are part of the family. It’s important that they feel part of a big dream together and we work together for the same vision.”

Carolina Cucinelli and Holt Renfrew fashion director Joseph Tang (above) collaborated on a holiday capsule collection of staple outerwear, knits and denim.
2024
Travel preview

In Turkey, Antigua and Greece, these spots top our getaway list for the New Year

TURKISH DELIGHT
An ancient wellness stop on the Aegean, Bodrum is once again helping visitors recharge by the sea

On the sparkling Aegean in Turkey’s southwestern province of Mugla, Bodrum is a wellness traveler’s paradise that combines natural beauty with Riviera-like amenities (and sans any Côte d’Azur attitude). The restorative reputation of the area dates back centuries and is best experienced through visits to a traditional hammam, a brisk splash in the sea or simply taking in the sunset.

A spirit of wellness is deeply ingrained in local culture. The legendary Turkish bath is not only a marble shrine to relaxation and self-care, but also a place where families and friends have long gathered to connect. In Bodrum, just a 75-minute flight from Istanbul, this unique heritage meets striking vistas in a climate of laid-back elegance, ideal for resting, resetting and reinvigorating.

HEALING POWER
Taking a catamaran cruise booked via Aren Yachting through nearby islands including Orak and Kos of Greece is the best way to experience the region’s storied history, all while basking in the blazing sun and fresh sea air. The Black Island – or Kara Ada in Turkish – is home to a hot spring that’s said to have been enjoyed by Cleopatra when she spent three years on the island hiding from Roman general Antonius.

One of the earliest examples of wellness tourism, the Black Island’s reputation as a source for healing saw ships ferrying lumber and grapes to Egypt making a stop to drop off passengers suffering from eye problems, rheumatism and skin diseases. Today, you can’t find much of its legendary healing mud inside its caves, so make sure to pick up a small jar on your way in to experience the full Cleopatra treatment.

REST EASY
A gem on the coast, Susona Bodrum is part of Hilton’s LXR hotels and resorts, a group of properties that combine a local feel with an emphasis on luxury. Rooms boast sea-facing balconies with views of a lush landscape that’s perfumed with jasmine. Susona has two swimming pools overlooking the ocean from breathtaking vantage points. Plunging into the Aegean is made even more invigorating when it’s followed by a midday nap in one of the hotel’s private seaside cabanas. Restaurants Frankie Beach Club, Malva and Ezi all specialize in light dishes made with local ingredients.

At the subterranean spa, the traditional Turkish hammam treatment is complemented by a menu of Western massages and facials.

ON THE MENU
Sunsets are a nightly event on the west facing Bodrum peninsula and timing your dinner reservations with their appearance makes for some spectacular tableside entertainment. In a small cove on Bodrum’s coast, Melengec restaurant has an atmosphere that’s nothing short of magic. This open-air space is accessed by a short walk along an unpaved road, where you’ll pass by quaint villas and impromptu live music before dining surrounded by white ahlat trees twinkling with mosaic lanterns and bright pink blooms. A table placed daringly next to Bodrum’s monumental ancient amphitheatre (top right) is now a hub for arts and culture happenings. Its region mixes wellness adventures such as a visit to Kara Ada’s caves (above) with local delicacies and Aegean vistas.
the water rewards you with views of a sunset that only gets more stunning as the light dims. Alternatively, Memedof Balik in Yalıkavak offers seaside dining on a patio suspended over the water with an equally impressive vantage point and a mouth-watering selection of fresh shrimp and octopus.

RETAIL THERAPY
Whether you’re arriving in Bodrum by water or still finding your sea legs, docking at the Yalıkavak Marina or strolling down its sun trap boardwalk gives you easy access to the city (the site is also equipped with a helipad, concierge services and facilities for superyachts). The extensive open-air shopping destination is filled with a who’s-who of luxury European designer labels, including Loro Piana, Prada, Louis Vuitton and Dior (the latter boasts its own rooftop Champagne bar). For a more local take on Aegean resort style, Turkish fashion retailers Vakko and Beymen are both present here, as is the budget friendlier Yargici, which specializes in eclectic women's wear and housewares. For an amuse-bouche, the marina recently welcomed the French restaurant Bagatelle, which brings a more Mediterranean vibe to the area.

HISTORY LESSON
Bodrum’s ancient elements still weave themselves into daily life in the contemporary city. Dominating the landscape is the famous Bodrum Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site built in the 15th-century that’s now home to peafowl, historic artifacts and some of the most photogenic views in town. A visit is best followed by a stroll through the town, a maze of narrow pedestrian streets filled with shops carrying regional specialties such as colourful kaftans, silver jewellery and souvenirs including vibrant blue evil eye charms and backgammon boards. The Bodrum Antique Amphitheatre is a classical Greek theatre that dates to the 4th century BC. Originally used for gladiator battles, today it regularly hosts live performances, including concerts by Turkish musicians such as Sıla, Karsu and Kenan Dogulu, many of whom vacation in the area. – CAITLIN AGNEW

Susona Bodrum stays from €600/night through hilton.com. Aren Yachting catamaran day trips from €800 through arenyachting.com. Turkish Airlines operates direct flights to Istanbul from Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, as well as connections to Bodrum. For more information, visit turkishairlines.com.
JUST OFF ANTIGUA

A quick jaunt to Jumby Bay highlights the luxury of feeling close to nature

There’s something about arriving by water. Whether it’s a mahogany water taxi pulling up to a historic palazzo on Venice’s Grand Canal or a car-ferry ride to a far-offshore cabin in the woods, the time spent cruising towards your destination has a way of easing you into the getaway mindset like no airplane, train or tour bus can.

Case in point: the catamaran that shuttles guests between the Antigua mainland and Jumby Bay Island, a private retreat two miles off the Caribbean destination’s northern coast. Even though you know you’re headed to one of the world’s most buzzed about beach resorts (part of the Oetker collection of hotels that includes the legendary Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc in the south of France and the opulent Bristol in Paris), a quick few minutes at sea crossfades your stress level and sense of anticipation so you disembark more than ready to relax.

True to its recent history as a car-free enclave of oceanfront villas that evolved into the resort it is today, Jumby Bay Island has the feeling of a private estate. Despite ample rolling green lawns, there’s no golf course. Instead, a cruiser bike loop of the zero-acre property reveals tennis courts, an organic farm and secluded beaches. Oetker took on managing the property in one/seven and its most recent addition are its ocean view suites with their contemporary take on Caribbean architecture, aqua hues and expansive windows that bring the sea into your living space. For larger groups, Oetker also manages a pool of 21 of the island’s private residences. With between four and nine bedrooms and names such as Lazy Lizard and Turtle Crossing, they can be booked and staffed for group getaways.

Hotel guests, however, get to take full advantage of Jumby Bay’s all-inclusive format. Whether at the bar or the main beach, Drappier Brut champagne flows freely. Dining options include the Estate House, a refined spot with curved banquettes, palm murals and a crowd of hotel guests and villa residents that dress up for dinner. Other perks include rum tastings at the beach bar and island circumnavigating tours when you can ogle the local real estate.

All spa visits, gratis wine and other vacation treats aside, what makes Jumby Bay feel most special is its ever-present flora and fauna. In the morning, don’t be surprised if the island’s flock of black headed Persian sheep are grazing on the lawn in front of your suite. Cruising back from a snorkelling trip often includes a stop to spot Hawksbill turtles bobbing in the sea (since 1987, the Jumby Bay Hawksbill Turtle Project has ensured its beaches remain a viable nesting ground for the endangered species). While you reluctantly board the catamaran home, it’s these encounters that will be playing in your mind as you plan your return. – ANDREW SARDONE

Ocean view suite stays from US$/night all-inclusive through oetkercollection.com.
MYKONOS REIMAGINED

Kalesma’s villas are a low-key oasis of Greek hospitality

If you’re looking for a timely reason to return to the white-washed brilliance of Mykonos in 2024, consider the spa and cryotherapy plunge pools opening soon at Kalesma. The 27-villa resort is a hidden gem of traditional Cycladic architecture in a quiet corner of the Greek island. The new spa menu is a collaboration with celebrity-approved skincare line Dr. Barbara Sturm and marries the brand’s signature facials with locally inspired ingredients. Its line of serums and creams will be used in the spa’s two treatment rooms and hammam.

Perched over Ornos Bay, each of Kalesma’s marshmallow-like suites are fronted by a showstopping and secluded saltwater plunge pool. The resort was created by fourth-generation Mykonians and each hillside suite has commanding views of the bay and ocean framed by vivid bougainvillaea, succulents and herb gardens. Each villa includes an outdoor shower, an ensuite that feels like its own private apartment and layouts that invite you to move seamlessly between indoors and out.

The resort attracts many bona fide celebrities who you might spot at the bar enjoying a quiet drink but every guest is treated like an A-lister and a member of the family. Co-owner Aby Saltiel often makes a point of spending time with guests during dinner, asking about plans for the day and suggesting something better. He also makes sure your try the grilled saganaki, drizzled with local honey and thyme from the garden.

This kind of insider knowledge is essential for navigating often overrun Mykonos and its cruise ship crowds. Hotel staff craft guided tours of Delos, where ruins and the ongoing restoration of the temples of Apollo and Artemis await, create chef’s table cooking classes or book yacht charters to lesser-known beaches including one on the uninhabited island, Rhenia.

Kalesma opened just as the pandemic began. It was unfortunate timing but allowed the resort to fine tune its attention to detail as the world slowly reopened. Built on family land (a stone ring once used as a horse-driven mill is now a fire pit and the chapel is named Saint Dimitrios in a grandfather’s honour), Kalesma is a vision of what its owners always wanted to find in a holiday home. “We will always be independent because that means we don’t have to follow another company’s rules about luxury,” Saltiel says about the hotel operating outside of the corporate parameters of a luxury management group.

Instead, Kalesma embodies the warmth and hospitality that has been Mykonos’ calling card since it was discovered by international vacationers in the 1960s. If you happen to take a hotel shuttle the 10-minute drive to Chora or Mykonos Town and their legendary party scenes, you’ll be guaranteed a soft landing spot when you return to the resort. Sleep off the night on wide lounge beds soothed by the gentle patter of your infinity pool. Breakfast is oh-so-considerately served until 1 p.m. — CATHERINE DAWSON MARCH

Villas from $1,600/night in low season through kalesmamykonos.com.
As my grandmother and other family members of her generation died, items that fell to me were often from their kitchens. There is a set of dented tin measuring cups, the handle of the half-cup measure soldered back on by my grandad, as well as a well-used wire pastry blender with a red painted handle and a flour sifter used for endless batches of the best butter tarts (made with currants, natch). There is also my great-aunt Maud’s trifle bowl, a plain, straight-sided thick glass vessel that keeps falling off (and being glued back on) its stand. Maud wasn’t really our great-aunt, we learned long after her death, but the second wife of our great-grandfather. She was the only one in the family who actually grew up in the U.K., and, as a result, had a British accent and made oatmeal scones, dense Scottish-style shortbread and trifle.

I make trifle in her bowl every winter, without a recipe to follow. This is the nature of a trifle: there should be no ingredient list. Making one focuses more on the assembly of ingredients that fall loosely into these categories: something cakey, something boozy, something fruity, some custard and some cream. You can even stray from those if you like. Whether or not you use jelly, I learned, depends on what part of the U.K. you or your descendants are from. Aunt Maud did not. From what I can remember, her trifle was a practical mix of cubes of pound cake, jammy fruit, custard and cream. She left the booze out when the grandkids were visiting.

Years ago, my friend, chef and cookbook author Anna Olson, told me about a holiday party she and her husband Michael hosted – a trifle buffet. I’d never heard of anything so wonderful. When her guest list unexpectedly grew at the last minute, she rummaged through the freezer for compatible ingredients, and crumbled a baked apple pie into the base of one bowl, a batch of mini-doughnuts into another. I have made trifle out of gingerbread (layered with poached pears, custard and cream) and a dark fruitcake that broke into pieces when I tried to tip it out of its ornate Bundt pan. Fortunately, friends thought it was intentional and brilliant. The fact that a trifle is served by the spoonful relieves the cook of any responsibility to adhere to a combination of ingredients that will result in a clean slice. Stiff or saucy is always right. Like so many dishes, trifle originated as a means of upcycling stale baked goods such as days-old cake, crumbled and revived with brandy and dolled up with fruit, custard and cream. This resourceful approach was a necessity generations ago and should become habit again in an era of outrageous food costs and awareness of the environmental consequences of food waste.

Each time I assemble a trifle, I think of Aunt Maud and Anna and my friend Jessica who makes her trifle with sliced store-bought jelly rolls, tinned fruit cocktail and cherry Jell-O like her nanny did, topped with custard and a shower of silver nonpareils. Sometimes, I think I should stick to one combination of ingredients for tradition’s sake, to establish a sense of nostalgia for those eating it. But then I consider that even the word “trifle” is used to mean something frivolous, something not to be taken seriously. And so I don’t. I use what I have, which might include a chunk of my dad’s favourite lemon cake from the freezer, some stewed rhubarb because I always have too much, custard from scratch if I feel like it, or some made with Bird’s custard powder if I don’t. Layered in Aunt Maud’s bowl (or on a platter if I’m feeling modern, or in jars if sharing is a concern and I’m bringing them somewhere; or with dollops of whipped vegan-friendly coconut cream; or tweaked to be gluten-free), every variation feels correct. Nostalgia does not require sameness, after all, and often it’s the frivolous things that hold the most space in our hearts.
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