

CAMOGLI

MALDIVES

SAN FRANCISCO

MOZAMBIQUE

Condé Nast Traveller

WIN
A SUITE
ESCAPE IN
THAILAND

THE LAST WORD IN TRAVEL

MIDDLE EAST

Barefoot in *Mykonos*

**LONDON
TO ROME**
The quest for
Michelin stars

Inside the world's
largest cruise ship

**Brazil's greatest
beach secret**

Lounging beachside
in Mykonos



JULY 2016 / AED 25 / BHD 2.5
KWD 2 / OMR 2.5 / QAR 2.5

CONTRIBUTORS



Gray Malin

A celebration of the interesting places he has visited, Malin's photographs blend a sense of wanderlust and adventure. He has collaborated with global brands including Veuve Clicquot and Le Méridien Hotels & Resorts, and is the author of new aerial photography book *Beaches*.

BASED IN: Los Angeles

PHOTOGRAPHED: *Life's a beach*, p 100

TELL US ABOUT YOUR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

"From above, a simple beach becomes a blank canvas. People and objects become patterns creating repetition, shape and form. These photographs are a visual celebration of colour, light, shape and summer bliss. Having the opportunity to collect all of these images in my book *Beaches* is a dream come true."

WHO WOULD YOU HAPPILY BE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND WITH?

"My family and my dog, Stella. We would lounge during the day, drink fresh coconut water and work on our tans. I know it doesn't count as a desert island but I'd gladly go back to St Barts for a moment of escape. We went there last December – the island is pure luxury and absolutely breathtaking."



Winne Yang

Managing editor of the website Culinary Backstreets (culinarybackstreets.com), Yang has also written for *The Art Of Eating*, *La Cucina Italiana*, *Saveur* and *Time Out New York*, among others.

BASED IN: New York

WROTE: *Hidden riviera*, p 26

WHAT DID YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT WRITING ABOUT CAMOGLI?

"I lived and worked in northern Italy for a few years and have travelled all over the country, but Camogli is undoubtedly one of my favourite towns. I love grabbing a slice of *focaccia col formaggio* fresh out of the bakery's oven and enjoying it while staring out into the turquoise expanse of the Ligurian Sea."

WHO WOULD YOU HAPPILY BE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND WITH?

"I can think of no better person than my husband, who is not only resourceful with excellent survival skills but can also make me laugh like no one else can. We've survived cohabitation in tiny Manhattan apartments, so a desert island wouldn't be so bad."



Sanjay Surana

A former editor and columnist at American *Condé Nast Traveler*, Surana now writes about consumer affairs, design, the environment, food and travel for international publications including *DestinAsian*, *The National*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

BASED IN: Singapore

WROTE: *Private property*, p 52

THE MOST INTERESTING PART OF WRITING ABOUT VILLA RETREATS WAS...

"Working on the story reminded me of why island getaways are so seductive. They really can make you feel like you're the only people in the world. With the getaways included in my story, I wouldn't mind that being the case – as long as the staff don't desert me."

WHO WOULD YOU HAPPILY BE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND WITH?

"Since this is hypothetical, I'll choose Bill Hicks, the late American comedian. Being stranded, it would be good to have somebody who can make me laugh. Hicks' gift of making comedy out of the most dark situations or topics would be invaluable. I remember seeing him perform in London in the Nineties and the theatre was literally shaking because every single member of the audience was rocking with laughter."



Jenny Zarins

Swedish photographer Zarins shoots travel, food and fashion and has worked with clients including Raffles Hotels and Krug. She is currently working on a personal project, with an exhibition planned for the end of 2017.

BASED IN: Chilterns, UK

PHOTOGRAPHED: *White hot*, p 80

WHAT WERE YOUR TOP DISCOVERIES WHEN SHOOTING MYKONOS?

"We were there pre-season so an unusually quiet Mykonos was lovely. The traditional Mykonian fish soup at Nikolas Taverna in Paraga Beach, eaten barefoot in the sand, was heavenly. The people were incredibly friendly and warm, and the nature around the island was wonderful and unspoilt."

WHO WOULD YOU HAPPILY BE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND WITH?

"Mark Rashid or Klaus Ferdinand Hempfling, as long as I can add a horse. They would teach me about natural horsemanship, horse communication and problem solving – both with their own approaches, which I'm totally fascinated by. Time and patience are of the essence, of which we would have plenty. Mark could also give us a few sessions of aikido if we get bored."

WHERE TO STAY

NEW MALDIVES OPENINGS ■ CYNTHIA ROWLEY ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Moskito Island is Richard Branson's second Caribbean property

Private PROPERTY

Five new villa resorts, each on an idyllic isle, kick things up a notch with sleek design, chefs on call and incredible coastal views you won't believe

MOSKITO ISLAND, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Caribbean

Inspired by Necker Island, just a few kilometres to the north-east, Moskito Island is the second Caribbean property in Richard Branson's capsule brand Virgin Limited Edition. It opened to guests earlier this year and, since it can only be booked in its entirety, plan to hole up with 21 of your closest family and friends. The speck of an island is split into two sections. The three villas of the Branson Estate have 11 bedrooms between them – the Great Room of one features a dining table that can accommodate 40 people and a full-sized snooker table. At the eastern end of the island is the Recreation Area, or as we loosely refer to it, the fun part. Here guests will encounter the Beach House, dining pavilions, a pool bar, tennis courts, a gym and the watersports centre. In addition to sublime beaches, various infinity pools and a consummate sense of plush isolation, visitors can enjoy full-moon sailing trips, dinners on the sand, aerial performers, a DJ and movie nights with outdoor projectors and fresh popcorn.

Branson Estate from AED 173,730 per night; 0044-208-600 0430, virginlimitededition.com ▶



WORDS: SANJAY SURANA

EROSANTORINI, SANTORINI Greece

Opening this month atop a cliff south of Fira, EROSantorini is a multi-level, four-villa estate with two acres of gardens, flora and olive, pistachio and lemon trees. Views from the property take in nearby whitewashed villages, the island's sharp, jagged cliffs and sunsets over the caldera (like the ones for which tourists flock to the village of Oia in the north of the island, but sans the crowds). The architecture is classic Cycladic cubist, and villas in palettes of white, dark grey, blue and sage have private outdoor areas and plunge pools, heated polished cement floors, abundant blooms of red and fuchsia bougainvillea, and fireplaces suspended from the ceiling that appear to hover in mid-air. The virtue of *philotimo*, roughly translated as generosity or love with honour, informs every aspect of the stay, from yoga and Pilates with private trainers to the fine Greek food that can be enjoyed at outdoor patios, on the communal table in front of the kitchen or at a cliff-top table with the caldera and the Aegean sea unfurling below.

erosantorini.com



SAMUJANA, KOH SAMUI

Thailand

Opened in 2012 on a serene hilltop a few minutes' drive from the international airport, and a quick shuttle ride away from Choeng Mon and Chaweng beaches, Samujana quickly emerged as the most polished villa resort on an island with no shortage of them. Its crowning glory, however, debuted earlier this year. Built

on two plots, Villa 24 is a colossal 19,500sqft dwelling designed, like the estate's other villas, by Bali-based GFAB Architects. It presents two full kitchens, a private cinema, a gym, a dining sala, Jacuzzi, games room, eight bedrooms and clean, uncluttered design achieved through plenty of wood and glass. Music systems deliver

custom sounds curated by Music Eye View, while the mansion's dual-sided vantages over the Gulf of Thailand afford residents sunrise and sunset views – reason enough for drinks at dawn and dusk.

Doubles from AED 10,980; 0066-077-42 3465, samujana.com



KOKOMO ISLAND

Fiji

Built by the Australian diversified property developer Walker Corporation, this luxe, all-inclusive island resort will welcome its first guests later this year. The property's location, a 45-minute seaplane flight from Nadi in the Kadavu island cluster, places it a 10-minute boat ride from the Great Astrolabe Reef, promising exceptional boating and fishing, and snorkelling and diving with manta rays in the fourth largest barrier reef worldwide. Other sweeteners include a spa, a cultural village, mini-golf, guest chefs visiting throughout the year, restaurants, walking trails, a kids' club and a classic beach-shack bar. Accommodations reveal a strong sense of place – in the five multi-bedroom villas or the 21 individual, beachside Fijian *bures* (wood and straw huts). Their traditional look comes courtesy of thatched roofs, woven matting and exposed timber-pole beams in an open plan, with decks that lead on to the beach or lagoon. Yet creature comforts such as a private pool, tropical garden, outdoor shower, smart television and Wi-Fi promise to elevate the experience.

kokomoislandfiji.com 📍

ISLAND VILLAS

THANDA ISLAND

Tanzania

The beachfront home of Swedish entrepreneur and philanthropist couple Christin and Dan Olofsson, situated 30km east of the mainland in the ShungiMbili Island Marine Reserve, became available on a sole-use basis in April this year. The sister property of their Thanda Safari in South Africa, it's off the grid and solar-powered, providing an environmentally sensitive, refreshingly secluded island escape. The five-bedroom villa, with a glass-rim flow swimming pool and a large indoor aquarium, comes in shades of white and was decorated by the couple. Expect fabulous snorkelling – the eight-hectare island is ringed by its own private coral reef, with a one-kilometre exclusive use zone – and water toys on hand that include sailing boats, stand-up paddleboards and kayaks (seasonal highlights include nesting turtles, and whale sharks and dugongs that congregate nearby). *Doubles from AED 36,730; 0027-71-611 5348, thanda island.com*

