

# TRAVEL

By Mark Ellwood, Ann Abel, Christina Ohly Evans, Lauren Ho, David Kaufman, Jennifer Murphy, and Federica Musco



THE BIG IDEA

# Vacation 24/7

**Call it Traveling** for Life. In the wake of the pandemic, many of us have come to see travel very differently than we did before: It's no longer an escape from the routine but rather a respite within it, an element of our everyday.

One indication of this trend: Just ask any high-end agent about how much more frequent their communiqués with clients have become. Tanya Dalton, managing director of Greaves Travel Limited, says that around 30 percent of her clientele now contact her outside of regular office hours, a rarity pre-pandemic. The new ease of working from anywhere has helped put affluent travelers on the road more than ever. Indeed, elite specialist Cookson Adventures now often bundles in services such as Starlink for itineraries to hard-toreach sites. The retinues clients bring have grown, too, including the many employees who facilitate their day-to-day lives. On one recent Cookson booking: a chief of staff, a personal assistant, a social-media manager, a chef, two security specialists, and a pair of nannies. This type of traveler doesn't just charter planes to and from a destination but keeps aircraft on call—the plan for a six-week journey Cookson is designing around the Tropic of Cancer. This hunger for travel has given rise to the semi-nomad, an emerging customer niche for Christopher Wilmot-Sitwell. co-owner and director of Cazenove & Loyd. Multiyear plans are not uncommon,

he says, often allowing clients to live in a far-flung locale for one to six months. "They have negotiated specific terms with their employers to facilitate a trip where they can work from another country for a set number of months," he says, with South Africa and Morocco popular among American executives with European clients, as the time zones synchronize. Red Savannah chief operating officer Edward Granville has noticed the same, with many clients looking to sketch out their lives on the road for the next five years. "They don't necessarily book it all but put the plans in place," he says. "They're making travel integral to their lives, planning the next trips whilst clients are still on the current one."

Granville has seen a 225 percent increase in bookings of so-called supervillas-homes with 10 or more bedrooms and costing upwards of \$75,000 per week-versus four years ago. These properties have grown in popularity with the rise of travel as a tool to reunite or reconnect, convening friends or relatives from around the world. Michael Hewell, who runs the leading high-end Disneyfocused concierge, Michael's VIPs, says that, pre-pandemic, he rarely if ever worked with more than one family traveling together; today, at least 20 percent of his bookings are for two or more families, or for friends taking a trip in a large group.

Travel has become such a priority that it's now even a gift to give, a rare gesture just a few years ago. New York Citybased Fischer Travel's clients have started tasking its team with devising trips as gifting moments. One gave his longtime assistant a Capri getaway last summer, while another, as a holidays gift, opted for open-ended, all-expenses-paid vacations to the destinations of choice for close family members. His daughter and her husband are already planning a trip to Wimbledon, with the offer of a knockabout against a top-flight player the day before. Game, set, and match.

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MEDITERRANEAN RETREAT

## **GRAND HOTEL SON NET**

Mallorca, Spain

Mallorca's making way for a multitude of new luxury hotels in the next 18 months: Four Seasons and Mandarin Oriental are scheduled to arrive next year, while Richard Branson's restored Son Bunyola opens this summer. But the standout—and standardsetter—of the island's upgraded accommodations will be the 31-room Grand Hotel Son Net, a 17th-century finca high on a hill above the village of Puigpunyent in the center of the island.

The main building's 25 guest rooms have been lavishly decorated by Spanish interior designer and antiques dealer Lorenzo Castillo. His deft maximalism is evident in every detail, from the blue-andwhite floor tiling to the clashing patterns on the overstuffed sofas and four-poster beds. The rest of the rooms are dotted around the property-try to snag the twobedroom villa, which has its own pool, and be sure to book a meal at the alfresco private dining room, a tiny spot hidden behind a vinewreathed archway that looks out over the countryside.

When new operator Finca Cortesin took over this estate and resolved to transform the everyday hotel that was then on-site, there were many challenges, most notably the lack of a stand-alone spa. The solution was to carve out a semi-subterranean wellness center in the hillside just below the mansion, where there's now an indoor pool, a massive gym, and multiple treatment rooms. Doubles from about \$869

ADVENTURE BASE

# ELEVEN REVELSTOKE LODGE

British Columbia, Canada



A massive disco ball hangs in the boot room as guests suit up for a day of heli-skiing—a sign that this lodge in rural British Columbia isn't your typical rugged retreat. Eleven Experience, an adventure collective with a portfolio of skiing and fishing lodges, has reimagined this nine-room historic hotel in Revelstoke as an over-the-top base for mountain adventures.

There's a rooftop sauna and hot tub and a firepit ready for fondue; the original boiler room is perfect for a snifter or two of whiskey at an après-ski tasting, while the utility of the raw-brick-walled rooms is offset with sheepskin throws and other cozy touches. If you decide to leave the property, handily located in the heart of town, flag your plans to the staff first—they'll happily hold a place in line at the walk-in-only restaurants until you're ready.

Partner Kingfisher Heli, one of British Columbia's most respected operators, has access to 300,000 powder-rich acres. Bag up to 14 runs (averaging 2,400 vertical feet) in a day as a photographer trails. And if the choppers can't fly due to weather conditions, the slopes of Revelstoke Mountain are 10 minutes away—no down days here. *Private heli-skiing for groups of three guests starting at about \$3,720 per room per night based on single occupancy* 









BEACHFRONT RESORT

# CARLTON CANNES, A REGENT HOTEL

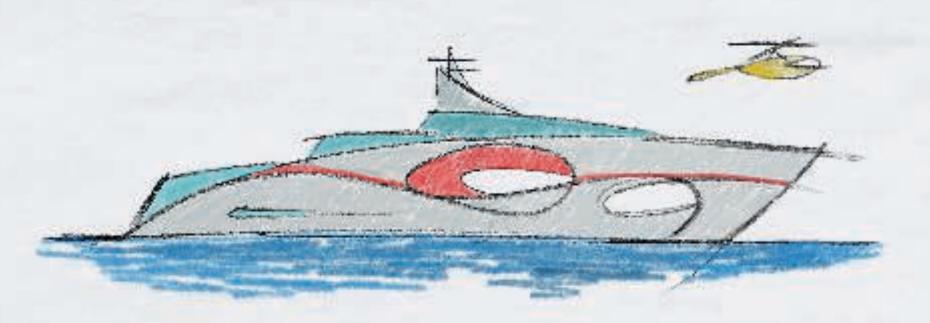
France



Thank glamour-loving interior designer Tristan Auer for the eyepopping rebirth of this La Croisette staple. He has conferred much of the same magic on this twindomed wedding cake of a building as he used when tasked with the Hôtel de Crillon in Paris. The twoyear-long process stripped back the patchwork upgrades of the interior to its original grandeur-check out details such as the once-concealed columns in the lobby-while adding new amenities. Notably, there's a much-needed infinity pool (the largest at any hotel in Cannes) anchoring the gardenlike reinvention at the Carlton's formerly shabby rear, now an oasis away from the frenzy of the beach in peak season. It's framed by two new wings, built to house branded residences.

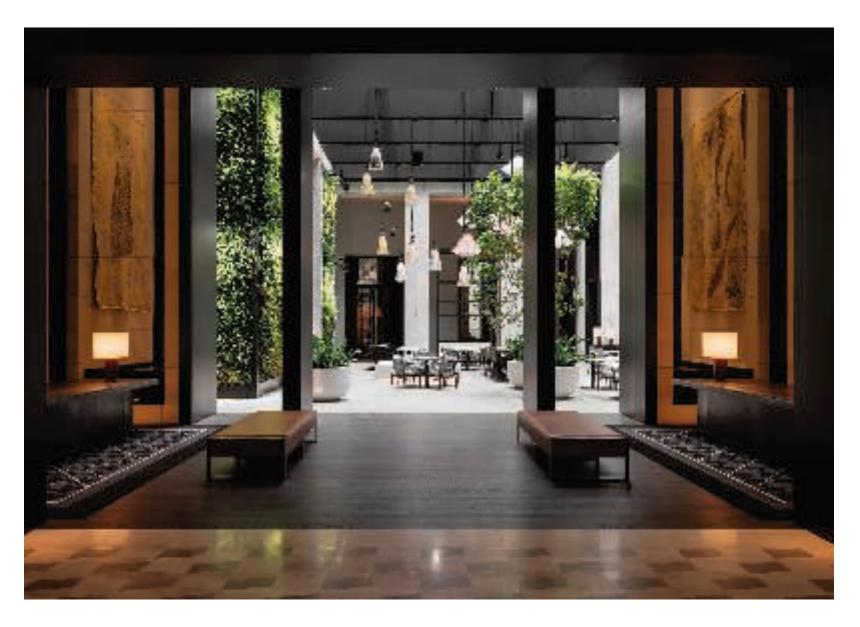
But don't think of staying here without opting for a sea view: 72 of the 332 rooms face the water and the hotel's much-photographed pontoon. Contemplate it from one of the small chaise lounges perched artfully in front of the bay window of your sea-view room, or just check out whether the crowd at the hotel's beach club, also an Auer project, looks lively enough to sidle down to. *Doubles from about \$550* 

# WE BUILD TOMORROW'S SUPERYACHTS TODAY



oceAnco

Our editors asked the magazine's well-heeled subscribers to choose their favorite airline (Delta), sneaker brand (Nike), weekend-getaway spot (New York City), and hotel. **The Regent in Hong Kong** took pride of place on the first page, with readers lauding its personalized service and breathtaking views across Victoria Harbor. It has since had various owners, but after a two-year renovation, the property will reopen this year as a Regent hotel once again.



CITY CHIC

## **CAPELLA**

Sydney, Australia

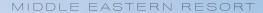
The Park Hyatt's stranglehold on true five-star luxury in Sydney was finally loosened this year when the Singapore-based Capella group opened its first Australian property. It's housed in a former government office, once home to the education and agriculture departments, in Sydney's central business district. The sandstone building, which is on Australia's National Heritage List, has been sensitively reimagined by

London-based Make Architects: A ground-floor series of restaurants and bars anchors the hotel, while upstairs there are 192 rooms, plus a sprawling wellness area with a grand 65-foot indoor pool.

The architects added upper stories to the site, which means the best rooms—or at least, the ones with floor-to-ceiling windows to maximize the views—are on the ninth floor. The two-level, 1,250-square-foot Liberty suite is the prime perch, kitted out in soothing neutrals like the rest of the charming guest rooms.

Every effort has been made to connect the luxury property to contemporary Australia. The interiors feature bold artworks (notably, large-scale pieces by local artist Judy Watson) while Brasserie 1930 celebrates the best of Australian produce. *Doubles from \$650* 





# ATLANTIS, THE ROYAL

Dubai, UAE

The new Atlantis, the Royal, dazzlingly picks up where its sister hotel (and next-door neighbor), Atlantis, the Palm, left off following its debut nearly 15 years ago. Located near the tip of man-made Palm Island, the latest outpost is a contemporary-design response to the original Atlantis's traditional Arabian aesthetic and is more squarely aimed at adults rather than families. It's also, intriguingly, set along the seafront far from the Dubai masses—a short limo ride from the city's attractions, but deliberately apart.

Rising above the sherbet-green Persian Gulf, the Royal has nearly 800 guest rooms and some 231 private homes, all housed in a series of angular boxes stacked one on top of another like a giant game of Jenga. The resort spans six separate but connecting towers, with the central pair joined by a gravity-defying design detail: a 90-foot infinity pool nearly 300 feet above sea level. The complex features the usual over-the-top water amenities that have become signatures of Atlantis, notably that on-site jellyfish aquarium with marine exhibits and tours, plus a roster of bold-faced chef names: Nobu's first beach club; Dinner, by the Michelin-starred answer to Willy Wonka, Heston Blumenthal; and Peruvian La Mar by Gastón Acurio. As for the rooms, opt for one of the 44 penthouses with indoor-outdoor lounges and their own glass-sided plunge pools high in the sky. *Doubles from \$750* 



HIDEAWAY

## **OLINTO**

Ouirgane, Morocco

**Olinto is a** nine-suite estate in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains that reflects the understated sensibility of its owner, the French-Italian aristocrat Fabrizio Ruspoli di Poggio Suasa: devastatingly handsome without trying too hard. His mountain hideaway is giving Richard Branson's nearby, glitzy, almost 20-year-old Kasbah Tamadot a firm rival for the first time.

The key difference between Ruspoli and Branson? The Italian prince maintains this spot as his primary residence, living right next door, which makes him the consummate (and constant) host. Expect him to greet guests in the dining room of Olinto and share stories that sum up his longtime love affair with Morocco. Music is a particular passion, so there's housing here specially built for musicians in residence, who perform recitals for Ruspoli and his visitors in his living room.

Each suite at Olinto feels like a separate home, housed in its own pavilion and decorated with vaulted ceilings, rich color palettes, and intricately carved and painted doors; three have private heated pools.

As appealing as the interiors are the private rooftop gardens, complete with sunbathing spots, and the wide-open patios, which overlook the olive trees, cypress pines, fragrant roses, and other lushness in the gardens. It's all set against the ideal backdrop: the purple-hued Atlas Mountains ranged along the horizon. *Doubles from about \$760* 



TA CIGITA MINA







CONTEMPORARY DESIGN

## **SOMMERRO**

Oslo, Norway

**If ever there** was a reason to spend a night in the elegant but quiet Frogner district in Oslo's West End, it's Sommerro from Nordic Hotels & Resorts, admired for its sometimes quirky take on luxury. The 231-room hotel occupies a prominent 1930s building, once the headquarters of the city's first electrical company, which has been renovated and expanded: The new top-floor extension is home to Oslo's first rooftop pool and sauna,

as well as Tak, where chef Frida Ronge sends out her signature Nordic-Japanese dishes, such as reindeer sukiyaki and udon noodles. There's also a sprawling subterranean wellness floor in the building's former public baths, where you'll find the original pool along with a restored mosaic wall by Norwegian artist Per Krohg, a pupil and pal of Matisse.

The location may be out of the way, but the amenities



make it a self-contained destination: The buzzing first floor is anchored by a cinema and theater, as well as seven restaurants and bars, including Ekspedisjonshallen, an all-day brasserie with live music. If you'd rather retreat entirely, buy out the new 11-room annex next door, Villa Inkognito (above), a onetime private home that operates independently of Sommerro while benefiting from all of its services and amenities. *Doubles from about \$295*; Villa from about \$11,360



SUSTAINABILITY TRAILBLAZER

#### Leo Ghitis,

Owner & Founder, Nayara Resorts

Sustainability is an essential pillar of high-end hospitality now, but no one embraces its potential with the wide-reaching vision of Leo Ghitis, founder and owner of Nayara Resorts, the rapidly expanding luxury hotel brand. He doesn't just insist on either banning single-use plastics or achieving operational carbon neutrality, as many rivals may-though Nayara has managed to do both. Instead, he views sustainability through a far broader lens, emphasizing its economic as well as environmental components.

Staffing, for example, draws almost exclusively from local communities: 98 percent of those working at his Costa Rican properties come from the surrounding areas. It's increasingly difficult, however, for those employees to live nearby, as home-share platforms such as Airbnb have been ruinous for rent levels in such locales. When Ghitis learned that an apartment costing \$100 to month for lease

five years ago was now offered at \$300, he resolved to provide an ingenious homegrown solution: Ghitis is about to break ground on a new development of affordable homes, sold solely to the most vulnerable of his staff-and without any proviso they remain in his employment. "This is not about making money or a retention tool-it's a social project," he says of the homes, which will run around \$250 per month to own via subsidized mortgages. "Once anyone signs on the dotted line, they can leave the following day."

Having expanded beyond Costa Rica to Chile and Panama, he's next planning to add an 18-room wellness-focused resort to Nayara's first site. Ghitis is also working on a new oceanfront property on the Pacific shore of Costa Rica, plus a pair of retreats in the Caribbean. They'll differ markedly in design but will share one quality: the same expansive approach to sustainable luxury hospitality in action.

ILLUSTRATION BY KAGAN McLEOD

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JUNE/JULY 2023

### THE NEW AMERICAN LUXE

The stateside hotel scene saw a burst of activity this past year. Here are our four favorites—two out west, two in the east. Each offers a distinctive new take on high-end domestic travel.

#### CITY LUXE

#### RITZ-CARLTON NEW YORK, NOMAD

**New York City** 

Doubles from \$895

#### HIPSTER LUXE

#### HABITAS-ON-HUDSON

Staatsburg, N.Y.

Doubles from \$250

#### CALI LUXE

#### INN AT MATTEI'S TAVERN

Los Olivos, Calif.

Doubles from \$950

#### LEI LUXE

#### **1 HOTELS HANALEI BAY**

Kauai, Hawaii

Doubles from \$1,500

# THE BACKSTORY

Yet another new arrival to the revived NoMad district, this soaring 50-story tower is the second Ritz-Carlton in Manhattan.



The property was a long-gestating project from Chateau Marmont's André Balazs, who contributed extensively to its aesthetic. When he exited, hipster-chic specialist Habitas-think five-star Tulum-came in and opened three months later, in December.



The much-delayed reboot of a 19th-century railroad tavern by Auberge Resorts Collection in the Santa Ynez Valley quickly became a weekending spot of choice after finally opening in February.



It took \$300 million and nearly five years to reimagine the ailing Princeville Resort as this new, 251-room property on its own 14-square-mile estate, a flagship for the eco-luxe brand 1 Hotels.



If the signature, 2,100-square-foot Ritz-Carlton suite is booked, opt for any alternative with a southern exposure for views out across Wall Street to Lady Liberty. Room 6 (of 20) isn't the most spacious on-site, but it's the most charming: a duplex in the main house with its own entryway, complete with desk and scarlet-hued enamel typewriter, overlooking the swimming pond.



The 67-room inventory is a combination of renovations and new builds that replicate the original's design. The best is the updated two-bedroom Oak Cottage.



The largest is the 2,400-squarefoot Makana penthouse, which has two king beds, a private kitchen, and a terrace.

HOUSE

While there's no house label, the Ritz-Carlton offers a menu of classics: Dom Pérignon, Veuve Clicquot, and Krug, among others.



There is no house Champagne, just an assortment of sparkling wines, mostly from domestic growers.



Nicolas Feuillatte

RO TIP

Nubeluz, the oddly named rooftop bar, is a reservations-only hideaway: Come after dark for a dazzling dose of old-school glamour, all twinkly lights and gleaming surfaces.



Ask the hotel to book a driver to ferry you around local sites, including Olana, the estate of painter Frederic Edwin Church.

Los Olivos was a backdrop to the wine-country movie Sideways—ask the

hotel to book tours at vineyards including Rancho Sisquoc.

The bay nearby was long a counterculture, surfmad hub and is said to have inspired *Puff the Magic Dragon*—come ready to embrace the chill-out (or drop-out) vibe.

>



# LAURENT FERRIER GENEVE



Wellness pioneer Six Senses made a name for itself with tranquil, mostly tropical destinations. Now, its first alpine hotel re-creates that signature mix of sustainable luxury and innovative spa therapeutics in a world-class ski setting.

The ski-in, ski-out location above the gondola of one of Switzerland's largest winter sports resorts allows guests to schuss from the top of the Plaine Morte glacier to the hotel's piste-side

lounge, where they can swap ski gear for slippers, then head straight to the spa's bio-hack recovery area to recharge with compression boots, binaural beats, and an herb-spiked mocktail. In summer, the region is a golf and hiking hub.

The vibe offers a contemporary take on chalet style. The 78 rooms and suites are decorated in local larch and oak, and all have terraces or balconies with alpine views over the likes of the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc. With four different saunas, a sensory flotation pod, two pools, and a whimsical relaxation area complete with 15,000 hanging "icicles" and views of a birch forest, the spa at Six Senses Crans-Montana makes après ski an afterthought. You can even sidestep the cheese-heavy cuisine of this region in favor of hot pots and sushi at the property's Japanese restaurant, Byakko. *Doubles from about \$785* 

BRAND EXTENSION

## **GLENEAGLES TOWNHOUSE**

Edinburgh, Scotland



It was worth the wait. Almost a century after its original golf-centric hotel opened in rural Scotland, Gleneagles debuted this city-center spot, housed in an old bank in the heart of Edinburgh. Various elements have been cleverly redeployed: The spa, gym, and wellness hub, for example, reside downstairs in the former vault. Meanwhile, upstairs, the soaring atrium (where tellers once toiled) now holds an all-day bistro, the Spence; pause to look up at the astonishingly ornate domed ceiling. With its palm trees, polished wood, and dessert trolley trundling between

tables, it has a distinctly Poirot-on-tour vibe.

Gleneagles Townhouse is both members' club and hotel, so nightly guests can stay in the 33 rooms, the best of which overlook St. Andrew Square. Preservation rules dictated that each room lavout be unique, but all have oversize bathrooms and thoughtful touches such as live plants throughout. Be sure to head to Lamplighters, the rooftop bar, and try An Inland Voyage, a dangerously drinkable lemony riff on the Martinez. In summer, the terrace is buzzy late into the evening. Doubles from about \$476



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HISTORIC CONVERSION

# **PASSALACQUA**

Moltrasio, Italy

Set high above the charming village of Moltrasio, on the shores of Lake Como, is Passalacqua, the latest project from Valentina de Santis, whose family has long run the Grand Hotel Tremezzo nearby—and, between us, this 18th-century gem might outclass that longtime luxury standby.

The 24 rooms in this seven-acre enclave are ranged around three buildings: the original Villa and Palazzo (with 12 and eight sumptuous, soaring rooms, respectively) and the four-room, lakeside Casa al Lago. Wherever you stay, prepare to feel transported back in time by the luxuriant surroundings. Rooms are filled with antiques; elsewhere you'll find custom Fortunysilk lanterns, tailor-made Beltrami bed linens, and a garden that's hard to leave in summer, with its terraces of roses, centuries-old cypress trees, and the scents of orange and jasmine in bloom.

And why leave the hotel anyway, when you can languish by the chicly simple pool on vibrant chaises beneath umbrellas by Milan's J. J. Martin or dine under colorful canvas tents by Guido Toschi that lend Morocco-meets-dolce far niente flair to the scene? Rooms from \$1,637







BOUTIQUE HOTEL

# GRAND HOTEL DES ÉTRANGERS

Syracuse, Italy

Sicily has seen a White Lotus—fueled surge in bookings for this summer—a pop-culture fillip to fill up its grandes dames hotels. Skip the gawping crowds at the headline-grabbers, though, and opt instead for an insider-ish alternative: the Grand Hotel des Étrangers, which reopened last summer after a gut renovation. It sits on the seafront on the tiny island of Ortigia in Syracuse, all cobbled streets and grand buildings, like a Baroque time capsule on Sicily's southeastern coast.

Survey the entire streetscape here from the all-day

rooftop bar-restaurant, Clou, where the fusion menu is a shorthand of Sicily's pan-Mediterranean history; try the spaghetti with bottarga and wild fennel or the sea bass crusted in anchovies. Idle on the terrace alfresco with a snifter of *avola*, the rum made nearby.

As for the rooms, they've been renovated with Art Deco-inflected interiors—think plenty of parquet and marble—but the main asset is their aspect: The best of them have private balconies and a palm tree–fringed view out over the Levant Sea. *Doubles from about \$435* 





# **Caribbean Travel**

# Best Getaways

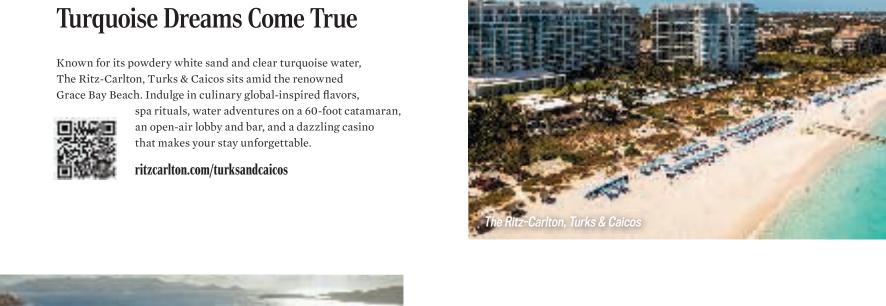
# **Chasing Endless Summer**

Let the soft white sands and azure waters of Palm Beach be the backdrop for your next Aruba escape. Luxuriate in reimagined oceanview guestrooms with private balconies at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba.



Enjoy remarkable dining, wellness, curated resort amenities, and a vibrant casino to create memorable experiences.

ritzcarlton.com/aruba





## The Island Charm of St. Thomas

Discover a new meaning for paradise. Nestled in the USVI, the gateway to the Caribbean awaits at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Thomas. Explore an alluring blend of sea-inspired luxury resort amenities



and poolside relaxation at Great Bay, or embark on *Lady Lynsey ll*, the exclusive sailing catamaran, to explore the Virgin Islands.

ritzcarlton.com/stthomas

# **AZIMUT SEADECK**

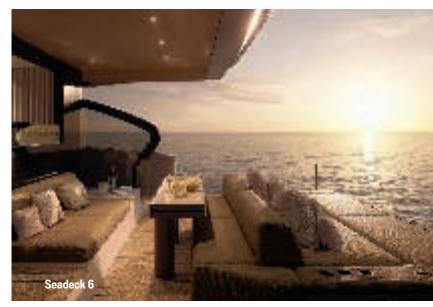
CHARTS A PATH TOWARDS
CONSCIOUS SEA EXPERIENCES











WITH ITS SEADECK SERIES, AZIMUT—a perennial contender for Best of the Best honors—unveils the state-of-the-art result of its 20-year journey to reduce CO2 emissions and onboard energy consumption. Embodying a new nature-immersive lifestyle, the new series represents the most efficient yachts ever designed by Azimut and will deliver the industry's first 40 percent reduction in emissions over an average year of use, compared to traditional flybridge vessels of similar size.

Yacht designer Alberto Mancini achieved a perfect harmony between interior and exterior, fostering a sense of uninterrupted contact with the ocean: The Fun Island, an unparalleled water-level aft terrace with no physical or visual barriers, is the true hallmark of the Seadeck. This expansive outdoor lounge enhances the connections among the guests, the onboard living areas, and the sea, encouraging a shared immersive experience of nature.

With their interior style and decor for the Seadeck Series, Matteo Thun and Antonio Rodriguez were inspired to create a boat that is both technically and emotionally durable. By its very nature, timeless design is sustainable, and the designers' concept of evergreen beauty was strengthened by the use of recycled and eco-friendly materials: For example, cork was selected to replace teak both for its natural regeneration and for its ancient Mediterranean connection to pleasant sensory experiences. The clean, uncomplicated shapes of the yacht reveal the "heart" of each space and, in the process, define a new concept of luxury based on well-being.





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