

WHERE NEXT?

50

*travel experiences on our
birthday wish list*

EDITED BY HELEN ANDERSON WORDS MAX ANDERSON, LYDIA BELL,
GUY DIMOND, MICHAEL HARDEN, KENDALL HILL, SHANE MITCHELL,
JENI PORTER & EMMA SLOLEY



DEPLAR FARM, ICELAND

SNOW AND SURF

Ever dreamt of heli-skiing atop a dormant volcano in the Arctic Circle? Deplar Farm's team of Icelandic and American guides specialise in extreme adventure in the wild peaks and remote valleys of Iceland's northern Tröll Peninsula. Double-black-diamond and backcountry runs from peaks of 1,500 metres are generally accessible from March to May. In summer, thrillseekers use Deplar Farm as a base to kayak along the Arctic Ocean coastline, ride horses to geothermal pools, and detour to a satellite cabin on the Holkna River to cast for Atlantic salmon. Built on a former sheep farm and opened this year, this modern Nordic lodge by luxe retreat group Eleven Experience has its own helipad, theatre, steam room, saltwater pools, and 12 guestrooms with mountain views. After thrilling days, guests recharge in Deplar's outdoor sauna, dine on local cod, lamb and wild goose, and snuggle under Icelandic woollen throws as the Aurora Borealis shimmers overhead.

2

BEST IN TRAIN

Pack your bags, trainspotters. The pick of next year's train journeys includes the much-anticipated debut of Belmond's **Andean Explorer**, South America's first luxury sleeper train, which will ply the high altitudes between Cusco and Lake Titicaca in Peru. The stylish locomotive **Al Andalus** travels the length of Spain, from Seville to Santiago de Compostela, on a nine-day journey in September. And for obvious reasons we're keen to board Belmond's **Royal Scotsman** when it teams with the Scotch Malt Whisky Society in April, June and October on four-night tours taking in landmark distilleries.



Copenhagen calling

Admiralgade 26 is the hospitality equivalent of the difficult second album. Christian Nedergaard and Sebastian Rind Nellemann relied on gut instinct seven years ago when they opened their wonderfully personal wine bar, Ved Stranden 10, on a canal opposite Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen. They're serious about wine but otherwise so relaxed the bar feels like home, albeit a super-stylish one with Zalto glasses, collectible modernist furniture and a full house of passionate imbibers from all over the globe. But for their first restaurant, Nedergaard and Nellemann went soul-searching. "We sat down and thought on a more existential level about who we are and what we want to do," says Nedergaard, adding the "brutal" 18-month-long exercise had nothing to do with other restaurants. "It's one long conversation with the room and the period and ourselves."

The result is a magic space in an old theatre on the same street as their wine bar, celebrating the aesthetics and craftsmanship of the early 1900s, when the double-height room was created in the 1796 building. The co-owners mixed pieces by Kaare Klint, Jean Prouvé and Giò Ponti with futuristic light fittings and ikebana. "All these details are like totems and reminders about craft and hopefully they create a certain ambience," says Nedergaard.

The restaurant, which opened in June, is beyond convivial, or hyggelig, as they say in Denmark. Breakfast segues to lunch, lunch to dinner, and even after the kitchen closes at 10pm, obliging cooks will rustle up a snack. The well-crafted menu is "eclectic in a good way" says Nedergaard, including a Japanese-inspired breakfast and what he calls "advanced staff meals" such as hash with fried egg and pickled beetroot. *Admiralgade 26, 1066 Copenhagen K, +45 3333 7973, admiralgade26.dk*

3

MORNINGTON MAGIC *Jackalope – it's a mythical hybrid jackrabbit-antelope, and the name of a 46-room hotel opening early next year at Willow Creek Vineyard on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, with former Hotel Hotel GM Tracy Atherton in charge.*

AEOLIAN HOPPING

Drift from breakfast at Lipari to lunch at Filicudi to cocktails at Panarea – or divert to any of the other film-set Aeolian islands off Sicily – in the smart 16-metre *Barca Jost* with charismatic captain and cook Pierre Zucchi. Guests hike to volcanoes, dive for sea urchins and forage for wild capers, which garnish meals served while moored in deserted coves or near the volcanic fireworks on Stromboli. Italian specialist Bellini Travel arranges carefree days at sea and nights in new suites at Hotel Signum on the bucolic island of Salina.

4



Meerkat manners

The Kalahari Desert in Botswana – so harsh, so superficially lifeless – is perversely teeming with creatures in the presence of Ralph Bousfield, dream guide, master tracker, fourth-generation African explorer and co-owner of elite safari outfit Uncharted Africa. Among the world's most extraordinary wildlife encounters is a dawn walk with meerkats. Several troops living near Bousfield's four chic desert camps have been slowly habituated to humans to allow scientific research and strolls with camp guests. Guests watch the meerkats group-hug to warm up and follow them as they forage for insects. So non-threatening is human presence that when someone sits nearby, the sentry scampers atop human shoulders, then head, for a superior vantage. Unforgettable.

PHOTOGRAPHY JAN SØNDERGAARD (COPENHAGEN); GETTY (MEERKATS)

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: GENZO MIYATA, A CHEF AT ADMIRALGADE 26; SOMMELIER ERIKA LINDSTRÖM AND CO-OWNER SEBASTIAN RIND NELLEMANN; JAPANESE-STYLE BREAKFAST OF LIGHTLY PICKLED FISH, KIMCHI, DASHI, GREENS AND RICE.

