

HARRODS

£3 MARCH 2010

MAGAZINE

International
Collections
Special

Amy Adams
Not just a
pretty face

New Nudes
The colour
everyone is
talking about

New Beauty
A fresh lick of
ice-cream shades

New Scents
Limited-edition
collectibles

Matthew
Williamson
*"They say pink is
my favourite
colour. Frankly,
it's a bit annoying"*

WHAT TO WEAR
SPRING

Harrods



Eurostar

Clockwise from left The dining room of Paris' Les Enfants Terribles, the first restaurant owned by hotelier Jocelyne Sibuet; The Ritz Hotel, Paris; Kate Moss, a regular patron of The Ritz; the Eiffel Tower; the Eurostar at St Pancras station; a massage room at Six Senses rue de Castiglione; DJs spinning at The Ritz

Below right Jimmy Choo 'Zest' shoes £595

The Best Travel Destinations for 2010

With the green shoots of spring starting to show, we round up the hottest list of destinations, properties and places that will define luxury travel in 2010

By Andy Friedlander

For the last couple of years, some of our favourite holiday hot spots have had a little less buzz about them. Economics, flight-security hassles and a scarcity of time have meant we've taken fewer trips abroad. So the usual crowd that gives the place a vibe has thinned slightly. With 2010 blossoming nicely, so too has our collective appetite for exploration and fun. A growing number of luxury travellers are rediscovering beloved local cities, increasing their trips to short-haul destinations, and being bolder with their long-haul jaunts. In this issue, we visit the best destinations for the year ahead and give you ideas for many more than a year's worth of travel adventures.

Given the more stringent security measures at British airports, it's no surprise well-heeled travellers are increasingly looking to Eurostar – and their 10-minute check-in – to deliver them to the continent. London's beautiful St Pancras station provides a delightfully romantic start to any short break, free from baggage carousels. And with new stretches of high-speed track opening up across Europe, now is a good time to revisit popular perennials.

Connoisseurs of jewellery or bubbly can reach Antwerp or Champagne in just under four hours; and if you long for canals and world-class galleries, Amsterdam takes only slightly longer. But Paris remains the most popular destination, and for good reason. New in the city this year, wellbeing experts Six Senses have opened their first urban spa in France, Six Senses rue de Castiglione. It features carved cocoon-like wooden treatment rooms, and the products they apply to tired bodies use honey made in hives on the rooftops of Paris. This year also sees the continued success of Les Enfants Terribles on the Champs Élysées, the first stand-alone restaurant from super-chic hotelier Jocelyne Sibuet. For night owls, 2010's hottest ticket will be the DJ-led weekend cocktail parties in the extensive manicured gardens at the iconic Ritz Hotel.

It's a great year to finally get to the more exotic European capitals you've always dreamed of. For centuries, Istanbul – the only city in the world to span two continents – has drawn cultural pioneers, artists and ambitious royals to its labyrinthine Grand Bazaar, awe-inspiring riverside Blue Mosque and steep, cobbled streets packed with fez-wearing carpet traders. This year, during its tenure as European City of Culture,

Istanbul

Clockwise from right The Blue Mosque; famously strong Turkish coffee; Grand Bazaar; one of two Marc Jacobs boutiques in Istanbul; the W Hotel



Beirut

Clockwise from left
The view from Indigo
on the Roof, one of five bars
and restaurants at Le Gray
hotel; the Four Seasons
Beirut; the terrace at the
Four Seasons; Le Gray

Left Pommery Rosé Apanage
Champagne 75cl, £42.50

contemporary Crusaders will be feasting on the many special art exhibitions, rooftop nightclubs and a growing design scene that is apparent in the many new furniture outlets, retail concept stores and boutique hotels.

Propped up by pillows in a private garden cabana at the recently opened W Hotel is one way to start and finish a busy day. At the mouth of Besiktas, a hip neighbourhood just uphill from the mighty Bosphorus, Europe's first W is part of the newly renovated Akaretler Row Houses, where Marc Jacobs and Lanvin boutiques share the streets with a bustling community of street traders and kebab stands.

Caffeine-fuelled nights – the Turks love coffee – start with dinner at Ulus 29, a stylish Turkish restaurant further north in Etiler, before dancing at nearby Reina, the city's coolest rooftop bar overlooking the river. Conveniently the best nightcap is at Al Jamal, a small bar just 30m from the W Hotel, where behind a phalanx of paparazzi, Turkish models and celebrities dance until dawn.

This year's other super-hot city is a vibrant, cool, coastal Mediterranean city with a rich history, an exciting art scene, a moneyed youth culture, large green spaces and cute shopping districts packed with galleries, clubs, funky hotels and a busy marina. Sounds good so far, right? Welcome to Beirut.

Having undergone extensive reconstruction following the Lebanese civil war, and given its famed arms-and-hearts-open attitude, Beirut is a magnet for hedonistic young globetrotters who – wearing Dolce & Gabbana, Hermès and Loro Piana – talk, eat and party. With fewer brash, showy hotels than Doha or Dubai, there's a new, modest white high-rise Four Seasons in the revamped central district; or, if you prefer the vibe at street level, try the low-rise Le Gray hotel. It boasts a rooftop pool and attracts an artsy crowd. Le Gray, sister of One Aldwych in Covent Garden, is also near Zaman Gallery, a scene-leader that shows emerging talent, and Gallery Janine Rubeiz, a Beirut art institution with links to the Saatchis.

Whatever your taste, you'll love the glorious pink sunsets – best viewed from Pigeon Rock – that kick off long, friendly nights at Al Falamanki, a cool café famed for Lebanese kibbeh, fattoush and colourful shisha pipes. Night owls flock to either the Champagne cork-popping Sky Bar or the infamous B-018, where a retractable mirrored roof opens at dawn to reveal the reflection of commuters heading to work on the city's coastal highway.

If excessive partying has taken its toll and you need some genuine downtime, head to Beijing, where famed tea emporium Green T House has just opened a day spa called the Bath House Residence. Nestled in Shunyi, a green-lawned, gated and gentrified neighbourhood 20 minutes outside the city, the spa is inspired by the mood, pace and traditions of ancient ceremonial jasmine tea-and-massage rituals. Dark, contemporary design floods the four-bedroom residence and glass-walled pool-cum-art-installation at its centre. Available for either private hire or four-hour pampering treats – tea scrubs, tea baths even regal 10-hand massages (that's five therapists simultaneously pummeling you) – it's the perfect antidote to Beijing's fast traffic and oppressive pollution. Go on, put the kettle on!

Closer to home, London will have a real culinary kick this year when, just a stone's throw from Harrods, the Mandarin Oriental will launch Bar Boulud, a high-end bistro and bar concept by Daniel Boulud, and Heston Blumenthal opens his first restaurant beyond Berkshire's famed Fat Duck. Overlooking Hyde Park's South Carriage Drive – where very British military horsemen in full regalia



Beijing

Above, from top
Wedgwood 'Dynasty' 15cm
plate £19, 23cm plate £30
and 30cm charger £40

Above centre The baths
at Green T House's Bath
House Residence

Above right Tumi 'Alpha'
carry-on £495 and
'Quintessential Tote' £190

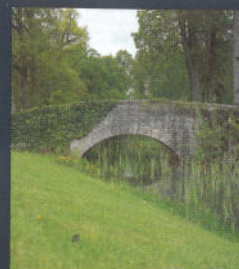
Right One of Bath House
Residence's therapy rooms



London

Clockwise from left
Chef Daniel Boulud,
whose Bar Boulud will
open in the Mandarin
Oriental Hyde Park this
spring; the Mandarin
Oriental; military
horsemen on Carriage
Drive in front of the
Mandarin Oriental





Coworth Park England

Coworth Park is located just 40 minutes from London and features an eco-spa as well as an equestrian centre with stabling for up to 40 horses, two polo fields and a practice field

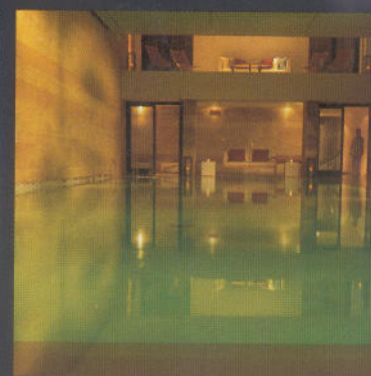
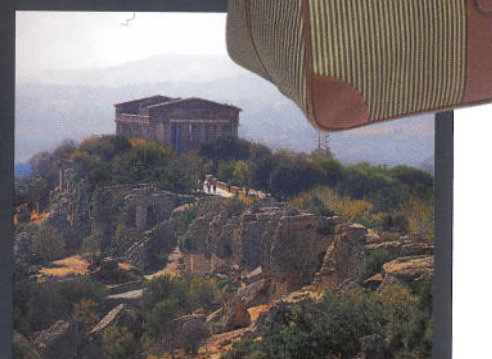
Right Polistas shirt £99.95 and trousers £99.95; Casablanca helmet £279 and boots £449; Polo Splice mallet £119



Verdura Golf & Spa Resort Sicily

Clockwise from above The Presidential Suite at Rocco Forte's Verdura Golf & Spa Resort; the rugged hills surrounding Verdura; the spa's lap pool; one of Verdura's treatment rooms

Above right Hartmann 'Wings Stripe' satchel £495



regularly practice – Boulud's signature terrines and pâtés will reign alongside his ever-popular sautéed skate wings, buttered chanterelles and classic steak frites. In November, food alchemist Blumenthal will take over the existing ground-floor diner. Those with the appetite for great shopping and innovative food will have further reason to visit this attractive neighbourhood.

If you get tired of the sight of concrete and traffic lights, just 40 minutes southwest of London – and regally positioned in the golden triangle of Ascot race track, Wentworth golf course and Windsor Castle – Coworth Park will reopen this summer after a gravel-to-gable overhaul by its new owners, the Dorchester Collection. Bringing the sense of tradition and discreet service from sister property The Dorchester to this grand country location, Coworth gives high-flying guests a chance to stretch their (and their horses') legs in the bosom of British comfort. Yes, horses. Coworth Park will remain an active equestrian centre, with a 40-horse stable facility serving the vast polo field only moments from the guest rooms inside the main house, converted stable block and detached cottages.

Rocco Forte has finally realised his personal dream of converting a piece of Sicilian coastline into his first five-star golf and spa resort. Opening in late March, the smooth green landscape of Verdura houses just over 200 slick, comfy rooms, all of which feature terraces with sea views. By picking this wild and rocky terrain in which to erect his traditional Sicilian stone buildings and create an oasis for families, Forte has also opened this rich historical region for further exploration. Beyond the two golf courses, swimming pools, tennis courts, 4,000sq m spa facility and olive groves that surround the resort, ancient monasteries, traditional pottery workshops and Sciacca, a cute fishing village, are all easy-to-reach day trips from this luxurious base. Despite the cultural and sporting distractions, you'll at some point find yourself horizontal and sun-baked on Verdura's private sandy beach, pondering, like many before, why it's taken so long, and a hotel of this magnitude, to discover Sicily's stunning coastline for yourself.

Travellers wishing to play more of an active part at a destination head 500 miles north to the Tuscan countryside where they can rent beautifully restored stone farmhouses, eat organic food and get their hands dirty at Fattoria La Vialla, a 3,000-acre farm and retreat in Chianti.

While this rustic hideaway in gentle bird-chattering peace works as a rural escape, if you're feeling energetic and want to ruin your manicure, you can help the owners – the dashing Lo Franco brothers, Gianni, Antonio and Bandino – pick olives, harvest grapes and make Pecorino cheese depending on the season. While the many large farmhouses scattered across the sun-soaked landscape feature high wood-beam and terracotta-tiled roofs, open fireplaces, Italian styling and large family kitchens, there are no TVs, telephones or fluffy bathrobes. Luxury here is measured in endless views, attachment to the rhythms of nature and the taste of locally grown vegetables and meat reared in the surrounding hills. But don't fret; it's no boot camp. The hired help do the back-breaking work while, if so inclined, you literally cherry-pick the farming that suits you.

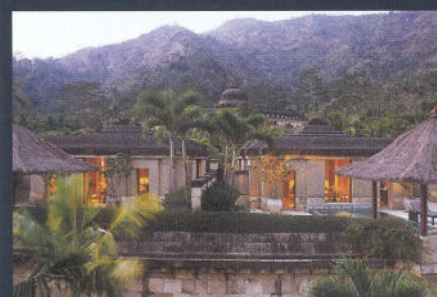
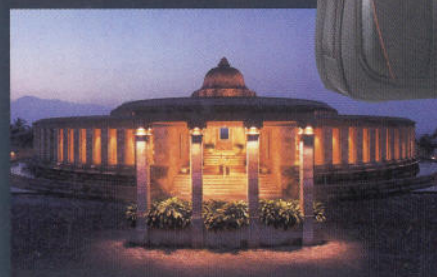
A hidden expanse of solar panels also means your stay leaves a very small carbon footprint. So instead of electrical motors, the buzz here is all social.



Fattoria la Vialla Italy

Clockwise from top
The bakery at Fattoria
La Vialla; olive oil
pressed at La Vialla's
mill; the grounds of the
farm; Chianti grapes;
guests work on the farm

Luggage, from left
Samsonite 'McLaren'
55cm case £245,
laptop briefcase
£195 and 75cm
suitcase £300



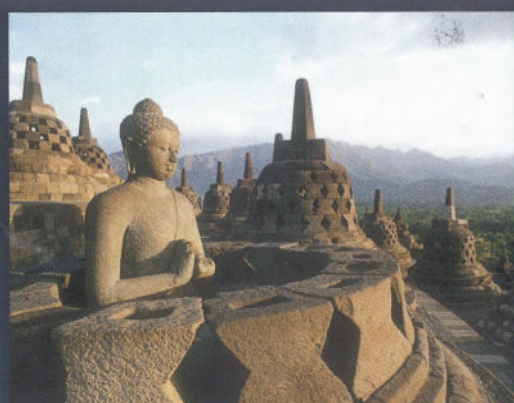
Centred around a cobbled piazza, the retreat is full of friendly British, German and Dutch guests who occasionally share tables in the small restaurant. While the farm shop and wine cellar are busy with workers pressing olive oil and blending pomodoro pasta sauces for you to take back to your own family kitchen to serve.

Despite the trend of keeping holidays relatively local, if you can squeeze in one exotic trip, Java – Bali's beautiful and bigger sister – is the island to drop by and name drop in 2010. Deeper into Indonesian jungle, and much less busy than Bali, Java is Indonesia's cultural and, some would say, spiritual centre. Sparsely populated volcanic, green and ruggedly beautiful coastal terrain stretches over 600 miles of southern Indian Ocean, giving any visitor the chance to completely escape. What makes the region more inviting, and increasingly hip, is Aman Resorts' newly opened Amanjiwo, a soulful 34-suite sanctuary overlooking a small, quiet volcano; and Borobudur, a 9th-century Buddhist retreat. Aman junkies will recognise the trademark design: carefully spaced, ornate stone buildings, ergonomically balanced with clean uncomplicated interiors, which here are nestled in lush, terraced rice fields. Based around a large, Romanesque rotunda with a bar, restaurant and small art gallery, the resort's spa and stone-walled pool are surrounded by peaceful, multi-level gardens. Fancy venturing further into tropical Javan surrounds? Then bicycle or elephant is the transport of choice. But the most magical experience in Java can be reached on foot, at Borobudur. In partnership with the Asian Elephant Art & Conservation Project, the celebrity Sumatran elephant, Sela, will make you a painting with her trunk.

While a painting elephant may make for the strangest dinner-party anecdote you have, it exemplifies the changing experiences and desires we all have for our travel this year. With our appetite back for adventures in 2010, we'll again be defined by our journeys and rediscover what it is about ourselves and places we visit that we love so much. We can hardly wait to buy a ticket. ■

**For more information, please call 020 7173 6440, visit
Abercrombie & Kent Private Travel on Harrods Lower Ground Floor,
or email ptharrod@abercrombiekent.co.uk**

Andy Friedlander is a luxury travel writer and consultant



Java

Clockwise from above right Amanjiwo at night; Sela, the
painting elephant, at the Asian Elephant Art & Conservation
Project; Java's Bromo and Semeru volcanoes; a private pool
at Amanjiwo; a statue of Buddha at Borobudur Temple

Right **Lancel** duffel bag £165



Olive, grapes, Buddha Getty Images;
Sela David Ferri, AEACP; volcanoes 4Corners