



The 46 Places To Go In 2013



My Travel Wish List.

BY PAUL THEROUX 6

Nine Tricks to Help Save On Travel This Year.

BY SETH KUGEL 2

The Places We Dream About.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN REA 6



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Dedon Island Resort in Siargao, the Philippines; Basque style in Getaria, Spain; Goddess of Mercy Temple, Koh Phangan, Thailand; Red Mountain Ski Resort, British Columbia; Groot Constantia, near Cape Town, South Africa; Mihrimah Sultan Mosque in Istanbul (left); gorilla in Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Republic of Congo; the village of Stari Grad on Hvar, Croatia; Ipanema Beach, Rio de Janeiro; Indian Accent restaurant in New Delhi.

From Preceding Page

23. CONSTANTIA, SOUTH AFRICA**A vineyard-heavy suburb gets a makeover.**

Some 20 minutes from the heart of Cape Town and set against the slopes of Table Mountain, Constantia's 10 wine-making farms dating back to 1685 lure visitors for tastings, dining, vineyard tours and spa treatments. Constantia's crown jewel — the Steenberg Luxury Hotel, with the region's only golf course, oldest farm and buildings that are national monuments — has had a makeover. Its lavish heritage suites have been renovated, and Bistro Sixteen82, with a Provençal menu and raw bar, has opened, as has Gorgeous, a bar serving canapés paired with Graham Beck sparkling wines. Other new routes to R & R in this serene suburb, where food-and-wine festivals and art shows dot the calendar, include the glamorous Alphen Boutique Hotel, a new spa in the Constantia Uitsig hotel and a tasting dinner at the Greenhouse overseen by the chef Peter Tempelhoff. **BAZ DREISINGER**

24. LITHUANIA**An overlooked beer destination in the Baltics.**

The Old World is webbed with well-traveled beer trails in places like Belgium, Germany and the Czech Republic. But in the past few years, rumors have swirled about an overlooked historic beer trail in Lithuania. Centered around the town of Birzai, a town in the country's north, some 50 to 70 farmhouse breweries are producing earthy, unusual ales, often employing techniques not seen elsewhere, and fermented with types of brewing yeast that — as the Canadian beer writer Martin Thibault has discovered — appear to have different DNA from all other known strains. To get a taste of what the Lithuanian beer trail offers, sample the wares at specialty beer bars like Bambalyne, Alaus Namai and Snektis in the capital, Vilnius. After that, the truly intrepid can seek out countryside breweries.

EVAN RAIL**25. BURGOS, SPAIN****An ancient city with a fresh face and culinary buzz.**

Burgos, in Castile-León, is home to a spired Gothic cathedral that is a Unesco World Heritage site. That striking building used to be the town's only compelling attraction, but in recent years Burgos has become a well-rounded destination with contemporary cultural centers (the Museum of Human Evolution) and boutique hotels (Via Gótica). At the same time a new group of talented chefs has given it a dynamic dining scene that is finally allowing the city, recently chosen as Spain's gastronomic capital for 2013, a chance to showcase its home-grown delicacies. Some of them, blood sausages with roasted peppers and grilled lechazo, or baby lamb, are on offer at Casa Ojeda, a 100-year-old restaurant now run by the young Pablo Cofreces. Recent openings like Fábula and La Galería focus on innovative versions of these classics, which pair wonderfully with the powerful reds of nearby Ribera del Duero. **PAOLA SINGER**

26. LENS, FRANCE**Is the next Bilbao in northern France?**

Lens, an industrial town in the Pas-de-Calais region of northern France, is aiming to become the next Bilbao. The first step in such a transformation happened last month, when a branch of the Louvre opened on what had been a for-



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GUILLERMO CERVERA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



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YOAN VALAT/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

TOP Interest in Burgos, Spain, has gone beyond its cathedral. ABOVE A branch of the Louvre has opened in Lens, France.

try had fewer than 10,000 skiers and only nine small resorts. That number has now risen to more than 200, one of the most ambitious of which is Changbaishan, which opened this winter in a pine-studded nature reserve in Jilin province near the North Korean border. The \$3.2 billion resort is one of the largest in Asia, with 43 trails totaling nearly 20 miles, and has a partner in Starwood, which opened a Westin and Sheraton resort with more than 500 combined rooms there in July. There's even talk of starting up a Davos-style global entrepreneurs forum. **JUSTIN BERGMAN**

28. PORTO, PORTUGAL**Finally, places worthy of Porto's vintages — at table wine prices.**

Portugal's economic pain is your gain in Porto, one of Western Europe's great bargains. New boutique hotels and res-

that was owned by a Rockefeller. Another resort that evokes the spirit of an earlier era is the 426-acre golf club Royal Isabela, which just opened 20 one-bedroom casitas, each with a private pool, offering nonmembers access to its restaurant and cliff-top golf.

ELAINE GLUSAC**30. KOH PHANGAN, THAILAND****A party island goes upscale and family-friendly.**

For years, the island of Koh Phangan, in the Gulf of Thailand off Koh Samui, has been the site of Thailand's most notorious party, when thousands of hedonists let loose under a full moon, with its first airport and direct flight from Bangkok slated for 2013, along with an increasing number of luxury- and family-friendly accommodations popping up, Koh Phangan's extended hangover is finally relenting. New hotels like the simple, stylish beachfront Buri Rasa; the all-villa tropical-chic hideaway Kupu Kupu; and the mod-Asian Anantara Rasananda are introducing more subdued travelers to Phangan's emerald-green rolling hills and aquamarine waters, which are teeming with marine life. There are Buddhist temples and hidden waterfalls to check out, along with feel-good options like the Canadian-run Yoga Studio and its vegan cafe. Try a seafood curry with your toes in the sand at the family-run Beachlounge, and have some homemade coconut ice cream. **NAOMI LINDT**

31. KALPITIYA, SRI LANKA**An Indian Ocean hideaway to visit before development descends.**

Kalpitiya, a spit of land two hours

north of Colombo that boasts one of Sri Lanka's least developed stretches of coastline, is flanked by the Indian Ocean on the west and the emerald green Puttalam Lagoon on the east. Now, before large resort developments at the peninsula's tip come to fruition, is the time to visit. Base yourself at Alan-kuda Beach, which from November through April is the launching point for dolphin and sperm whale watching expeditions; May brings wind and kite surfing. Dry land diversions include a 17th-century Dutch fort and the Shrine of St. Anne, Sri Lanka's oldest, as well as leopard, sloth bear and elephant spotting at nearby Wilpattu National Park. **ROBYN ECKHARDT**

32. JACKSON HOLE, WYO.**Faster flights and lifts where the buffalo roam.**

You no longer have to endure a stop-over in Salt Lake City or Denver to get to the resort of Jackson Hole. United has introduced direct winter flights from Newark, San Francisco and Houston, and Delta is offering flights from Minneapolis. While the famed powder skiing beneath the Grand Tetons is now even more reachable after the completion of a five-year overhaul of its lift system, Jackson Hole has become an all-season destination, both for its pioneer Western setting and for its emergence as an international center for music and cultural festivals. There's also the new three-quarter-mile nature trail at the National Museum of Wildlife Art to compete with the real wildlife grazing in the surrounding plains of both Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. **FINN-OLAF JONES**

Continued on Following Page

mer hilltop mine yard. The 50-acre site, which was abandoned in the 1960s, now has gardens; and hangar-like exhibition spaces designed by the Japanese architectural firm Sanaa. The Lens Louvre will not have a permanent collection; it will instead host a rotating selection of 200 works from Paris spanning millenniums. Biannual exhibitions will complement shows at the Louvre in Paris. It is conceivable to take in both Louvres as part of a weekend: Lens is about an hour and 10 minutes from Paris on the TGV rail line.

KATIE PARLA

taurants, like the Yeatman, dramatically perched above the Douro River featuring Porto's first Michelin-starred restaurant, have brought a fresh burnish to this Unesco-protected city where labyrinthine narrow streets, ancient buildings and black-cloaked students inspired a young English tutor who lived here in the early 1990s named J. K. Rowling. The financial downturn doesn't detract from the town's most prominent industry — port wine — which can be sampled in the cellars of Sandeman, Graham's or Taylor-Fladgate with a terraced restaurant, on the Douro's south bank.

FINN-OLAF JONES

Porto, Portugal, is known for port wine, but all the charms, including the port itself is a bargain these days.

27. CHIANGBAISHAN, CHINA

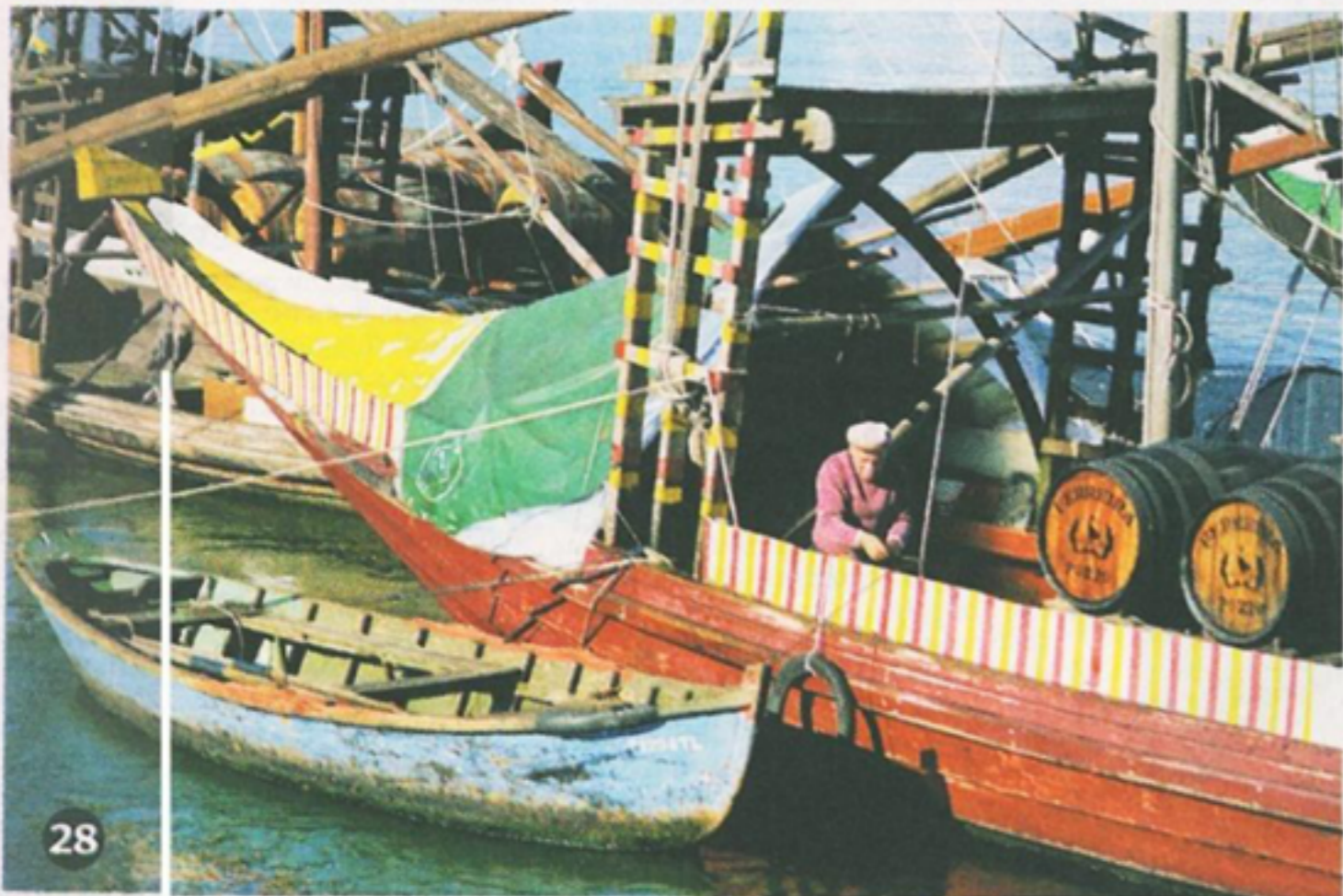
An Asian skiing spot gets supersized.

China's ski industry has come a long way since the mid-1990s, when the coun-

29. PUERTO RICO

A spate of new hotels and restaurants animates the island.

The ease of traveling to Puerto Rico



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