

VANITY FAIR

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On Travel

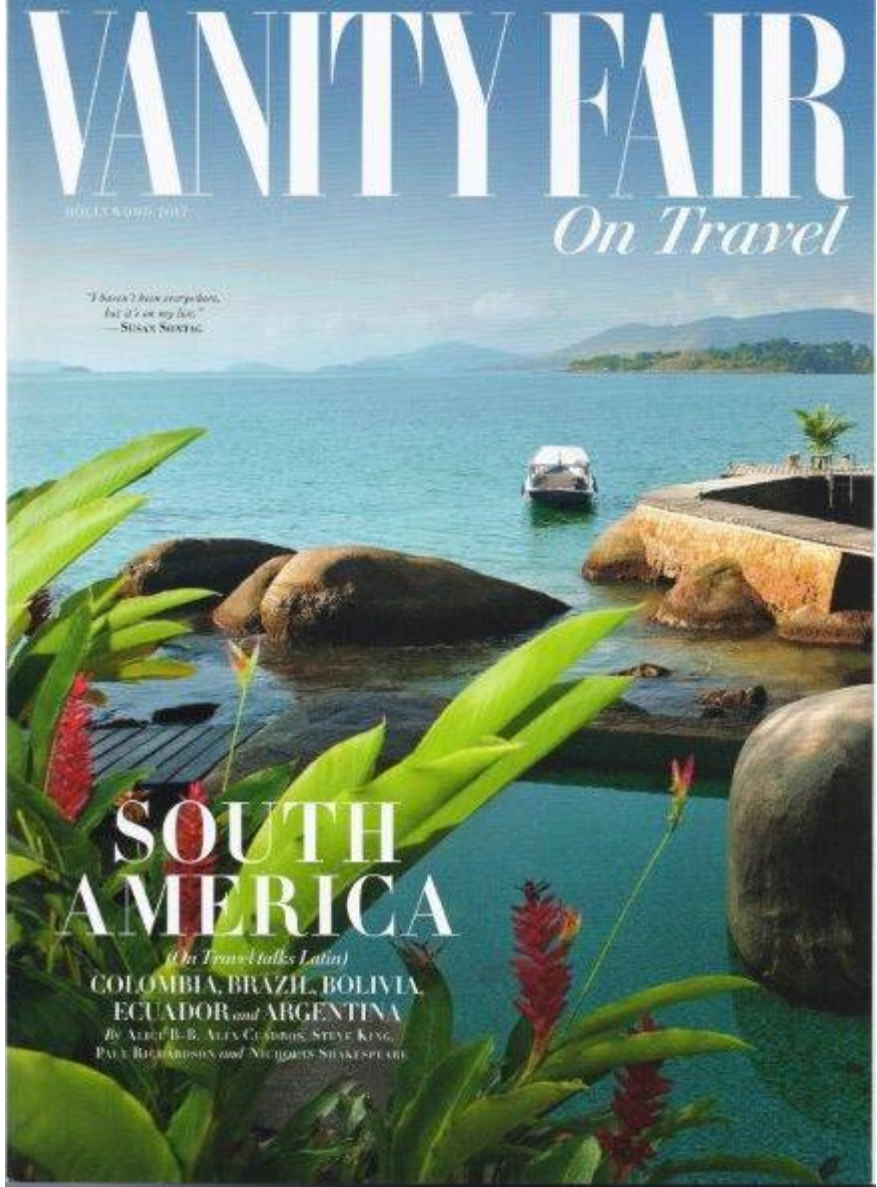
*"I haven't been everywhere,
but it's on my list."
— SUSAN SARTRE*

SOUTH AMERICA

(Our Travel talks Latin)

COLOMBIA, BRAZIL, BOLIVIA
ECUADOR and ARGENTINA

By ALICE H. B., ALY C. ANDERSON, STEVE KING,
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THE BRAND TOUR

You can't see an entire continent from a single hotel room. But a single hotel brand? Maybe. Choose a local specialist, says AOIFE O'RIBDAIN, and your itinerary practically writes itself

—Africa—

Responsible tourism that empowers local communities and sustains local wildlife was one of the founding principles of &Beyond. Under the guidance of its CEO, Jose Roca, it has also been managing the safari experience across its 35 lodges in Africa for a style-savvy, earth-conscious crowd. Visit distances have always been a factor in Africa, but this is not such an issue on its new private jet safari, launched to celebrate the company's 25th anniversary.

But this is no low-flying, whistle-stop tour. On its 19-day trip, just 12 guests get a very privileged view of wild Africa in all its majesty, and not just from above. In the company of two of &Beyond's most experienced guides, David Dell and Grant Tetter, this traverses a swathe of East and Southern Africa, taking in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa, all the while meeting some of the continent's most pivotal conservationists. Guests check in to classic camps, such as its Ngongoro Chama Lodge in Tanzania and Zimbabwe's newly rebuilt Manse River Lodge near Victoria Falls, a study in updated safari chic. andbeyond.com



Manse River Lodge, Zimbabwe



—Italy—

Plot a modern-day Italian grand tour to Florence, Rome and Cape. JK Place always features on our list of Italian stops—an impressive feat in a country with an abundance of beautiful places to bed down. All three locations share off the flair of Florentine architect Michele De Lucchi, with beautifully juxtaposed interiors that blur the lines between house and hotel.

Start at the JK Place Florence, a 20-room palazzo on the edge of the 15th-century Piazza Santa Maria Novella. "Discreetly deluxe" probably best sums up the next stop, the 30-room JK Place Roma, which despite its relative proximity, already feels like a modern classic, tucked down a quiet street close to the heart of the Spanish Steps. Then, follow the trail south to the right-on impossible-to-book JK Place Capri. Perched above the marina and gazing out over the straits blue of the Tyrrhenian

in Uttarakhand, Ladakh and the curvily province of Sikkim.

As well as the more obvious overflows such as a guide and a private chef, the luxury on offer here is that profound sense of discreet everyone now seems to crave. The latest Ladakhi addition, Shakti River House, overlooks the banks of the Indus river valley. Rescued from ruin, it has been transformed into a five-bedroom villa, decorated in a tasteful and utterly comfortable take on the local Ladakhi style. By day, guests hit the trails with their guide, immersing themselves in a landscape of hidden monasteries and silent valleys, returning for home-cooked meals and nights spent by the blazing fire. Daily yoga and meditation classes with local monks can also be added to elevate that feeling of checking out from the frenetic pace of the modern world—a journey for the body and soul. andbeyond.com

—India—



Shakti has quietly pioneered its lifestyle retreats in the most spectacular spots on local but luxurious journeys among the head-spinning heights of the Indian Himalayas. There's the short-stopping, purpose-built, Shakti 360° Leri, dangling on a plateau 8,000 ft up in the mountains, and a string of meticulously renovated local village houses.



HOLLYWOOD BRIP