

The hottest holiday news and insider info on destinations to thrill

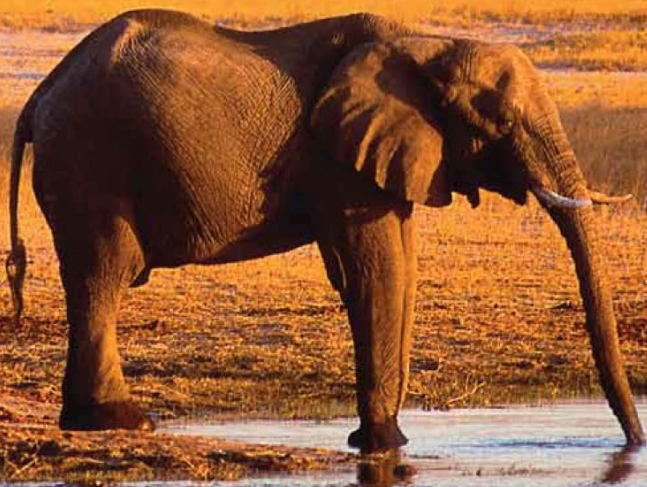
EDITED BY OLIVER SMITH

NEW
THIS SEASON

ZIMBABWE RETURNS

Long synonymous with political turmoil, it's easy to forget that Zimbabwe is a challenger for the title of Africa's most beautiful country. It has a diversity of landscapes that spans colossal waterfalls, craggy mountains and dense bush where big mammals still reign supreme. A period of relative stability has seen one of the UK's foremost tour operators, Cox & Kings, return to the country for the first time in 10 years, with safari adventures top of the to-do list on itineraries. Sites of cultural significance also figure, notably the ruins of Great Zimbabwe – the Iron Age city from which the country takes its name.

- Cox & Kings' 10-day Highlights of Zimbabwe tour costs from £3,795 per person including flights; coxandkings.co.uk
- Emirates flies from London to Harare via Dubai. From £840 return; emirates.com



FAZENDA NOVA PHOTO: ED REEVE; SIDI BOU SAÏD PHOTO: ISTOCK



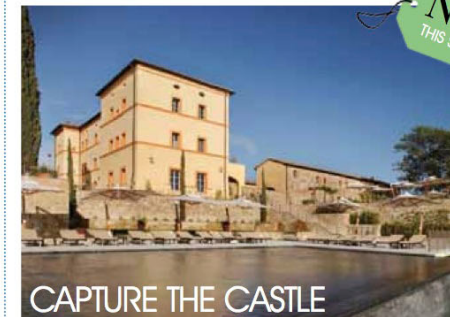
NEW
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PARADISE FOUND

Two years after the Arab spring, Tunisia has dusted itself off and tourism has emerged stronger than ever. Make the most of the autumn sunshine by heading for Sidi Bou Saïd, where whitewashed houses command excellent views out to sea. With shady orange trees and serene courtyards, the palatial hilltop hotel of Dar Saïd is a good place to reflect and relax.

- From £115 per double room; darsaid.com.tn
- BA flies from London Gatwick to Tunis. From £140; ba.com

NEW
THIS SEASON



CAPTURE THE CASTLE

A truly superlative country pile, the Castello di Casole has served as a place of refuge for political exiles in the Middle Ages, and more recently as a bachelor pad for Italian film director Luchino Visconti. After a thorough renovation, it's trying its luck as a luxury hotel, with rustic suites, wonky stonework and exposed beams, as well as superb views of the Tuscan countryside. Should the prospect of an on-site spa, accomplished restaurants and meticulously groomed gardens not be enough, guests can muck in with the autumn harvest at the estate's vineyards and olive groves.

- Villas and farmhouses on the castle estate are also available to rent. Hotel from £280 per double room; castellodicasole.com
- British Airways flies to Pisa from London Gatwick. From £96; ba.com

ALSO NEW IN TRAVEL THIS AUTUMN...

INDIA

Close to Jodhpur, Lakshman Sagar is a 19th-century hunting lodge set to be reborn as a luxury hotel this season. Smouldering shisha pipes, antique writing desks and Indian clay beds all help to conjure up the spirit of sub-continental sumptuousness. From £205 per double room; sewara.com

PORTUGAL

Bringing cutting-edge interior aesthetics to a former farmhouse in the Algarve, Fazenda Nova is a new 10-suite hotel close to the town of Tavira. Sustenance might

arrive straight from the kitchen garden, the farm's orchards or its two-century-old bread oven. From £120 per double room; fazendanova.eu

HOLLAND

Matching the boho credentials of Amsterdam's Jordaan neighbourhood, the Dutch capital's Andaz Hotel is set to open this October in a former library beside the Prinsengracht canal. Offbeat interiors mix Bauhaus-style furniture with kitsch chandeliers and boldly coloured fabrics. From £200 per double room; andaz.hyatt.com

