

# COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

March 2011



P56  
Beach  
fashion



P104  
New travel  
hotspots



P74  
Hugh F-W

P40  
Coloured  
diamonds



P66  
Indie Hicks in  
the Bahamas



P93  
Restaurant reviews

## AT THE START

- 20 THE GOOD LIFE *Alice B-B* on the joys of entertaining
- 22 THE URBAN RURALIST Culinary goddess *Thomasina Miles*

## UP FRONT

- 26 STYLE NEWS
- 40 MAN'S WORLD
- 30 LUXE LIST
- 32 SIX OF THE BEST Suitcases
- 34 BEAUTY *Nathalie Eleni's* beauty round-up
- 36 TALKING POINT *Alice* in Wonderland
- 40 JEWELLERY *Sarah Carpin* on the beauty of coloured diamonds
- 44 RIDING THE WAVE *Richard Hopton* talks to *Adam Brown* of *Orlebar Brown*

## THE GUIDE

- 47 COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE DIARY Musical deals at The Whitechapel Gallery, scallops in Sussex and an action-packed season at the National Theatre
- 52 ON THE PAGE Food and travel special
- 54 DIARY OF A CAR GIRL *Vicki Butler-Henderson* on winter driving and the best eco cars on the market

## FEATURES

- 56 CRUISE CONTROL Beach chic. Styling by *Marisa Montgomery*
- 66 ISLAND LIFE *India Hicks* on an adrenalin-fuelled diving adventure in the Bahamas
- 70 CARIBBEAN COOL How the Caribbean is getting back its groove. Plus *CUTH* rounds-up the island's hottest hotels
- 74 PLANET ORGANIC A previously cynical *Alice Rose* falls for the charms of *Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall*
- 79 FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD *Georgina Fyfe's* foodie highlights of 2011

## THE INSIDER

- 83 SPLASHING OUT Bathe in splendour in *Catchpole & Rye's* fabulous French antique bath
- 84 BETWEEN THE SHEETS... with the *doyenne* of print and A-list favourite, *Orla Kiely*
- 85 WISH LIST Go exotic with a taste of the Orient
- 86 DESIGN NOTES News and views from the world of interiors



ON THE COVER  
*Sapphire Green* with *Suzanne's* belt, £1,555.  
*Ports 1961 Silver* Geometric Ring, £128. *Kara* Ross Gemstone Collection

# On the HORIZON

City hotels, country inns and eco lodges – *Juliet Kinsman* earmarks the most lust-worthy new stays on our hotel hit list



## 1 Song Saa, Cambodia

Fans of Six Senses-style resorts will love these 25 luxury over-water, rainforest and beach villas opening in November off the coast of Cambodia. A south-east Asia island resort as geared to sybarites as adrenalin seekers – snorkel a private pristine reef with Song Saa's in-house marine biologist or take a hike through the rainforest then relax on deserted beaches and maybe in the soothing wellness centre. [songsaa.com](http://songsaa.com)

## 2 Aloft Brooklyn, USA

Move over Manhattan, NYC's biggest borough deserves a little of the hip hotel limelight. Hot on the heels of launching in Harlem comes another cheap-chic Aloft outpost from Starwood with affordable accommodation, a help-yourself pantry and a Bliss Spa. [starwoodhotels.com/aloft/brooklyn](http://starwoodhotels.com/aloft/brooklyn)

## 3 Alila Bangalore, India

Heralded as the first 'business lifestyle' hotel, this sleek luxury lakeside stay in the Karnataka city's suburbs comes with all the hi-tech bells and whistles and a gamut of designer eating and drinking rendezvous. (If you're planning to tack on a trip to Goa, earmark a visit to the Alila Diwa hotel too in the south: it's opening the first Spa Alila in November.) [alilahotels.com/bangalore](http://alilahotels.com/bangalore)

## 4 The St Pancras Renaissance, London, UK

After almost a decade of painstaking restoration, this Victorian train station behemoth from architect Sir George Gilbert Scott has almost reached fruition. Original 19th-century features have been lovingly revived with wood-panelled and gilded reception areas as extraordinary as the fairytale-like red-brick facade. All visitors are guaranteed a first-class experience with Marcus Wareing in the kitchen – and the Booking Office bar is sure to be one of the hottest tables in town. [stpancrasrenaissance.com](http://stpancrasrenaissance.com)

## 5 Puma Lodge, Chile

Heli-skiers take note, South America's first property dedicated to the sport opens imminently, in time for their winter ski season. This eco lodge is in a remote patch of the central Andes, only a 90-minute drive south of Santiago International Airport. Its 24 guests will have wine tastings, spa, gym and medical services on tap. [chilozanbeliski.com](http://chilozanbeliski.com)

## 6 The Bell, East Sussex, UK

This 16th-century coaching inn in the quaint village of Ticehurst will be reborn as a bakery-boasting restaurant with rooms. When the guesthouse and gastropub opens in the summer only an hour and half from London, expect weekendling foodies to be salivating over this stylish country village stay. [thebellinticehurst.com](http://thebellinticehurst.com)

## 7 Alpina Dolomites Gardena Health Lodge and Spa, Italy

This 56-room, five-star South Tyrolean retreat on Europe's largest high-altitude plateau is salubrious in the true sense. Think herbal bio-saunas, aromatic steam baths, mountain-view swimming pools, bespoke wellness programmes and slopes you can ski straight onto. [alpinadolomites.com](http://alpinadolomites.com)

## 8 The House Hotel Bosphorus, Turkey

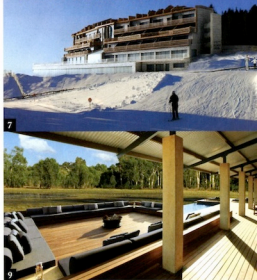
The third cheap-chic hotel from the super-stylish café group that has buzzing spaces sprinkled all over the city. With white-hot design agency Autoban in charge of the decor, expect cunning retro light fittings, iconic modern furniture and sleek marble ensuite bathrooms. [thehousehotel.com](http://thehousehotel.com)

## 9 Wildman Wilderness Lodge, Northern Territories, Australia

When it comes to upcycling, this eco lodge in Australia's Outback excels – its 10 cool cabins were transported to the Kakadu National Park from Queensland. Along with 15 luxury tents, the lodges open in April – the start of the dry season – promising chic African safari-style adventures in the nature-rich Top End region. [wildmanwildernesslodge.com.au](http://wildmanwildernesslodge.com.au)

## 10 The Bull and Swan at Burghley, Lincolnshire

After local ales and a Lincolnshire Rib-eye steak or a sharing platter of ham, chipolatas and homemade piccalilli, roll into one of the boutiquey boudoirs at this just-opened historic inn in Stamford. [thebullandswan.co.uk](http://thebullandswan.co.uk)



## 11 Villa Clarisse, Ile de Ré, France

Hôtel de Toiras in postcard-perfect port Saint Martin de Ré will have a little sis from this summer. An elegantly renovated 17th-century home with nine spacious rooms, it's more classic Relais & Châteaux five-star luxury thanks to a heated pool, pretty gardens and a hammam-boasting spa. [hotel-de-toiras.com](http://hotel-de-toiras.com)

## 12 The Chapel, Somerset, UK

As well as just-baked bread, cherry-picked vintages from small producers and wood-fired pizzas, this café and wine store in Bruton will be adding big beds to its appeal at the end of the summer. Initially started as a weekend escape for London restaurateur Catherine Butler, it's evolved into this West Country village's hip and homely hub. [thechapel.co.uk](http://thechapel.co.uk)

## 13 Viceroy, Maldives

Take a generous dose of Californian glamour, have it finessed by the Yabu Pushelberg design team, and transport to a far-flung Indian Ocean island and what do you have? There are 61 honeymoon-fit villas with va-va-voom, right on a sparkling lagoon plus a mandatory spa, sexy bars and restaurants heaven sent for vacationing VIPs. [viceroyhotelsandresorts.com](http://viceroyhotelsandresorts.com)

## 14 Rosewood San Miguel De Allende, Mexico

Colonial villas and charming churches on cobbled lanes draw you to this UNESCO-endorsed artists' village just north of Mexico City. It's the grown-up hacienda-style interiors and five-star sophistication that lure you to this resort. Check into one of the 67 rooms or suites and you have this town's colourful culture at your feet but with every pampering service at your fingertips. [rosewoodsanmiguel.com](http://rosewoodsanmiguel.com)

## 15 W Paris-Opéra, France

It's not just London getting a new W this year – steps from the Garnier Opera House comes this 90-room hotel opening at the end of the year. Nineteenth-century Haussmann splendour a stroll from the French capital's sights. (Like your W hotels more exotic? Cast your eyes to Balinese W Retreat & Spa in Seminyak opening in 2011 too). [wparisopera.com](http://wparisopera.com)

