

THE POSTE

CURATED INSPIRATION BY THE PELICAN CLUB

VOLUME 02



Cover image: Infinity pool overlooking the Indian Ocean at Joali Being, Bodufushi, Maldives



THE PELICAN CLUB



Dear friends,

The time has finally come to dust off the suitcases and get back out there. Although we have all felt like the world has been turned upside down, we are delighted to have seen all of our members, suppliers and partners embrace change with an inspirational attitude. Travel is not the same, it is definitely not easy and will continue to pose new challenges and obstacles. We are here to help!

In the past year we have sent members all across the planet: from the typical sunny hangouts of Ibiza, Miami, Mykonos and St. Barts to off-the-beaten-path adventures in Iceland and Norway, a journey through North Africa and luxury yacht voyages in the Mediterranean and Caribbean. Whether it's gourmet trips for foodies to New York or a treehouse lodge in the deep jungle of Costa Rica we have enjoyed growing and travelling with you and look forward to many more adventures ahead.

To us here at The Pelican Club, travel is a way of life. Our team has been growing and we have been on the go, exploring new destinations, meeting and connecting with new contacts and discovering some hidden gems along the way. In this edition of 'The Poste', we take you for a theatrical gin martini like no other, on a visit to the historical sites of Egypt while cruising along the Nile and get you exploring Patagonia on horseback with Pudu Puda, one of our partners in Chile. This year we sent some members to visit the beautiful and newly opened, Hotel Castello di Reschio, in the Umbrian countryside in Italy, and we also share an exclusive sneak peek into a few favourite French Castles; we all need a little royal treatment from time to time.

Jennica connected with an old friend who has founded an NGO that helps women out of poverty in Central America, highlighting some of the inequalities of the world and offering solutions. While being mindful of the changes we have all experienced in the past year we wanted to showcase two destinations that really make you catch your breath: Joali Being in the Maldivian atolls and the Aman hotel in stunning Turks & Caicos in the Caribbean, where rejuvenation and relaxation tailored just for you or for the entire family takes centre stage.

As we take the time to reconnect with the world and revise our bucket lists, we are excited to see so much enthusiasm and energy to travel. One of the great take-aways from the time just passed is an appreciation of how we look after and maintain our planet and the incredible destinations within. With sustainability and climate on all our minds, we have renewed our commitment to be Climate Neutral and as of 2022 are encouraging our clients to purchase carbon credits to fully offset the impact their adventures have on our delicate environment.

We hope you enjoy the inspiration in our Lookbook and we look forward to hearing from you when you're ready to book your next trip.

As always, we are here to help, discuss and plan for you anytime.

All the very best,

Jennica & Jamsheed

FOUNDERS, THE PELICAN CLUB



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BODUFUSHI ISLAND, MALDIVES

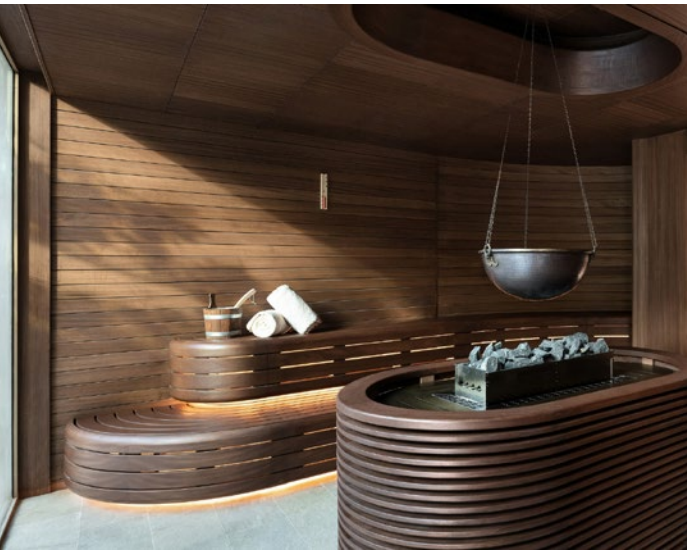
BACK TO LIFE

A RESTORATIVE HIDEAWAY IN PARADISE

Over a year of hibernation and introspection has passed; debating whether leaving the house was worth the risk, cleaning our groceries and much of life taking place over zoom. We went for short, masked walks, got a peloton, tried an online cooking class... but for many of us, things aren't quite the same and our physical and psychological health has suffered. Even though we are told it is back to normal, do we really feel the same?

Our friends at Joali Being have the answer. Their heavenly wellbeing retreat, the only one of its kind in the Maldives, is about to open this winter: a sanctuary aimed at nurturing and rebooting the mind, body and soul located in this picture perfect paradise. Their team of specialists design transformative journeys tailored to areas of strength, mental clarity, hormonal balance, women's health, digestive and weight rebalance, restorative sleep as well as movement and alignment for good health and immunity.





But fear not, this isn't a strict, portion-controlled, 6am gym, lab-coat wearing clinic. Quite the contrary; think glorious over-water bungalows, Pina coladas, lie-ins and room service. This is after all a holiday, but with a focus on you. The results driven programmes will be tailored and outlined by four principles; designed in partnership with professor Gerry Bodeker of Oxford University, a Harvard-trained expert on traditional and integrative medicine and wellness and Chair of the Mental Wellness Initiative of the Global Wellness Institute.

One of the signature restaurants, Flow, features an open-plan interactive dining space with three signature kitchens, one serving vegetarian and vegan fare, one pescatarian and the other a farm-to-table menu.



The Aufguss Sauna. During an Aufguss session, the Saunameister uses a large towel to circulate the hot air through the sauna, intensifying sweating and the perception of heat.



MIND

Responsible for thinking, processing feelings and making choices as well as directing our emotional, psychological and social wellbeing. Our mind is the gravitational field that determines how we express ourselves, handle stress and relate to others.

MICROBIOME

Referred to as the second brain, it plays a key role in human health by breaking down and absorbing nutrients and strengthening the immune system. When the gut is healthy the other pillars thrive.

SKIN

The largest body organ with its own microbiome. By focusing on skin health we nurture the body, restore natural beauty and reverse aging, impacting many areas of life including self confidence.

ENERGY

A journey of the spirit, expanding through conscious movement. This pillar reflects how we sustain and renew physical energy in order to have the capacity to keep thriving. Regular intervals of self care, restoration and recovery help to re-energize ourselves even during high-paced periods.



The aim is to create a path towards wellness and set foundations for better practices and routines that can later be integrated into everyday life. Sometimes a rebalance is exactly what we all need.

Did we mention that you get your own ‘magician’? Each one of the 68 beach and water villas will have a *jadugar*, meaning ‘skilled magician’ in Dhivehi. They will be on-hand to ensure you don’t lift a finger and solely focus on rest and relaxation: organizing wellness treatments, unique Maldivian experiences, dinner reservations, are just a few of their magical powers.

The 68 villas come in various categories, beach, over-water, family and ocean ranging from one to four bedrooms. Enormous and with a minimalist soothing aesthetic, and equipped with meditative balancing musical instruments and wellbeing games. Four-bedroom overwater family villas will even have dedicated wellbeing and movement rooms, so there’s no need to ever leave.

The epic spa stretches across the island and is dotted with various *Areka* and transformational spaces including a Hydrotherapy Hall with sensory deprivation room, Russian Banya, water therapies, salt inhalation room and Turkish Hammam. There is a separate Pilates studio, overwater meditation deck and intelligent ‘Movement Analysis’ tool, as well as a Sound Therapy Hall and Discovery Sound Path created in collaboration with the sound healing consultant Aurelio C. Hammer.

Master herbology and cooking techniques from the onsite nutritionists, herbalist, tea sommelier and specialty chefs that tailor ingredients and methods to suit you and your body. An enticing calendar of interactive workshops lets guests discover the surprising benefits of herbs, teas, certain foods and cooking techniques, and you can even make your own natural body creams, face masks and body oils.

Ultimately, the resort aims to leave guests feeling renewed, uplifted and inspired, ensuring an achieved sense of weightlessness. Something to bring us back to life in the ‘new normal’.

Sunset views at the
Ocean pool villas.



Tub views of the Grand
Ocean sunset pool villa.





LONDON, UK

A SPIRIT OF LOVE

THE CONNAUGHT BAR

“Remember to put the right spirit in whatever you do. In cocktails and in life.”

AGOSTINO PERRONE, THE CONNAUGHT BAR – *#1 bar in the world 2020, The World's 50 Best*

We were sat side-by-side on a luxurious green leather banquette with a small round table perched in front – this place exudes style and sophistication. A dapper barman in a double-breasted suit appears by our table with a tempting amuse-bouche-cocktail; we hadn't even thought about drinks until now. A mix of gin with bergamot sorbet, sparkling apple juice and orange leaf essential oil, to 'awaken your palate and senses'. We are both thirsty for more.

I ordered my regular: a dry gin martini with a lemon twist. What happened next, I can only describe as a work of art. Agostino Perrone, also known as, Dr. Ago, the Director of Mixology and master of the martini appears with his curated cart and carefully positions his 'stage' directly in front of me. He begins blotting five different scented oils onto a crisp white card. Lavender, smoked cardamom, coriander seed, marzipan, and my choice, 'The Dr. Ago'; an energizing combination of bergamot and ginseng. Each scent is accompanied by a passionate description of the feeling and impact the subtle flavour would have on the pallet of the final martini. For the gin, I chose the signature spirit created by the team for The Connaught Bar's 10th anniversary. He then proceeded to mix all the ingredients, all while being very sympathetic to my taste for vermouth and balance. Then, with the martini glass at the centre, he dramatically pours gin from the sky, whilst effortlessly and gracefully infusing it with Amalfi lemon in the other hand. It was the perfect dry martini.

Tucked away behind the grand staircase of the iconic Connaught Hotel in London is the world's best bar, The Connaught Bar. At its helm are three industry icons, Dr. Ago, Giorgio Bargiani – Head Mixologist, and Maura Milia – Deputy Bar Manager. The trio have created an indescribable vibe, and their passion is felt in every sip and every movement of service. I was lucky enough to sit down with Dr. Ago, whilst sipping my perfect Martini, and learn more about him and my favourite bar. He was also kind enough to share with us a recipe for a cocktail from his upcoming new menu, Eclipse. Although something we encourage you to try at home, it will most definitely taste better at the Connaught Bar.

Q: Tell me about your roots and background.

A: I'm Italian, from Lago di Como, but I spent my summers in Puglia – it was here I had my first experiences with ingredients like figs, tomato, and watermelon. I worked with my uncle here and loved getting my hands dirty and having that direct contact with the freshest produce and the earth, it's a knowledge that has stuck with me.

As I was growing up, I took a job bartending at a friend's bar in Como to help pay for my education and pursue my dream to be a photographer. I met so many interesting and well-travelled people who gave me an excitement and thirst for travel. I was very curious at that time about spirits and where or why they were made. This was the start of my creative journey. I worked at a few bars in Milan, Monza over the next 5 years in Italy before I moved to London.



Dr. Argo centre stage,
pouring a perfect martini.



The Connaught Hotel
at Carlos Place,
Mayfair, London.



Magnetum cocktail,
with its custom
designed ice lift.



Q: What led you to the Connaught Bar and where you are today?

A: In 2008, I was 30 and approached by the team at the Connaught who were creating this new secret bar. I was intrigued and inspired to create a place that focuses on how the customer feels, a romantic interior with empathy, combined with a theatrical space to showcase the art of the cocktail. For me, it's not just about what you do but how you do it.

Q: How does it feel to be named the World's best bar? What led you to this achievement?

A: Honestly, we have been winning awards since the bar opened in 2008 for everything from lifestyle, decor to the drinks of course! For me the important achievement is that we have been on the top 10 of World's 50 Best Bars for all those years and that shows our consistency.

Of course, winning this award is amazing and is a testament to our team. I believe that Giorgio, Mita and I try our best to spread the mentality of a team spirit and to empower each other. Overall, if you ask me – regardless of all the awards – for me the biggest prize is our customers, who trust us and come back to us because of what we try to do.

Q: What's next for the Connaught Bar?

A: The bar is evolving organically. We are working on our new menu now with some experimental techniques and we also love to keep to traditions. Sometimes being classic is the best type of innovation as it allows our guest to feel at home and know what they can expect from us.

Q: When you're in a bar and not working, what do you order?

A: I think of myself as a bit more of a classic guy. I love martinis, margaritas, and negronis but am also open to try and experience new things. It also very much depends on my mood. Similar to our guests, I feel there is a moment and a place for many different things – sometimes a glass of red wine is just perfect.

Q: Are there any cocktails that stand out to you and what's their story?

A: We have many but here I will tell you about Magnetum. In this cocktail, we play with the idea of two parallels that do not normally meet, like two opposites that attract. We make two very unique cocktails poured over each other and use an ice lift that delicately combines them. One cocktail evokes the feeling before you enter the bar, a blend of elegant classic flavours, and the other, the mood inside where we innovate. The bespoke strainer, or ice lift, is actually designed like the bar doors which perfectly carries the experience through.

Ingredients: Macallan 12 Double Cask, Una Palma Fino Sherry, Galliano L'Autentico, milk, fresh pineapple, Noe Pedro Ximenez Sherry, lavender bitters.



RECIPE

Eclipse

BY AGO PERRONE AND GIORGIO BARGIANI, THE CONNAUGHT BAR

Eclipse is a cocktail that reveals the impression of our reality through contrasts of lights, shades, and textures, like its namesake captured in a black & white photograph. Usually, with colour you have a perception of what to expect, a red drink and you may think it has berries or something light with citrus. We took inspiration from the B&W photography of Alan Schaller to make something without a specific place in time. A mix of flavours and aromas are brought to life through our personal lenses, served in a bespoke painted black and white glass (specially designed by Richard Brendon, for this cocktail), symbolizing a camera that captures the impression of an image. When we pour this cocktail, it is black and evokes a sense of wonder or curiosity.

Like in photography, the creative process in mixology follows the inspiration of the moment. We develop the flavours, the images and feelings that mark our mind and serve them to the world through our eyes, taste, and story. Eclipse encapsulates the essence of our bar. A teaser of our upcoming new menu *Impressions*, it delivers an impression of one of our iconic cocktails in a deceptive form so that guests can develop their own understanding and memory of it for themselves.

INGREDIENTS

20ml Connaught
Bar Gin
5ml Cinzano Amaro
di Sovaia
45ml Cocoa Milk
Punch*
10ml New Make
Wine **

TECHNIQUE

Stir all the ingredients over ice and strain into the bespoke black and white glass over an ice chunk.

* Italian bitter and sweet vermouth infused with cocoa husk and bergamot oils, it is then filtered through milk to obtain silky texture.

** First fermentation of a sparkling wine from Hundred Hills Winery at Henley-on-Thames.



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FRANCE

LIVE LIKE ROYALTY

OUR HANDPICKED SELECTION
OF FRENCH CHÂTEAUX

Nestled in the romantic rolling hills of Provence, Paris and Bordeaux are some of our favourite, handpicked French châteaux.

We give you a sneak peek and access to some of the most exclusive properties that have opened their doors to us and our members.

LA CHARTREUSE DE COS D'ESTOURNEL

La Chartreuse de Cos d'Estournel's owner is the visionary behind the meticulous La Réserve group, Michel Reybier. He originally bought the extraordinary oriental-inspired château as a private residence, before deciding to open up the eight-bedroom property on the estate to rent. Reybier appointed interiors maximalist Jacques Garcia for the re-design; elaborate doorways were shipped in from Rajasthan, and bedrooms are decked in heavy silk, velvets, and floral flourishes. Guests who are lucky enough to stay get to experience the warmth and elegance of a family retreat whilst also being immersed into life on the estate that comes with full use of Reybier's private chef and sommelier. The château conveniently sits on the hillside of one of Bordeaux's leading wine estates.

(Top) The dark and dramatic interior of La Chartreuse de Cos d'Estournel.



(Bottom) Explore the countryside of Provence with the complimentary bikes at Hotel Crillon le Brave.



CRILLON LE BRAVE

Occupying almost an entire 17th-century hilltop hamlet, Crillon le Brave is a quintessentially French hideaway that fuses old world, medieval charm with contemporary luxury. The hotel's nine stone houses are interlinked with a winding cobblestone path that will transport you back in time. The interior is distinctly modern with traditional Provençal roots: think terracotta tiles, colourful throws, and handpicked antique furniture. Once you've settled in, make your way to the outdoor pool for a relaxing swim or to the spa for a restorative massage. And while the sun sets over the slopes of Mont Ventoux in the distance, dine on Mediterranean-inspired cuisine at their signature restaurant.

AIRELLES CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES - LE GRAND CONTRÔLE

Fulfill every princess fantasy by staying at this recently-opened Château at Versailles. Handcrafted, gilded 18th-century decor is paired with modern luxury in 14 regal rooms and suites, spread throughout three elaborate buildings dating back to 1681. Guests are given private access and exclusive tours of the main Palace allowing you unlimited opportunities to prance around the maze and immaculate gardens all by yourself. Marie Antoinette would most certainly have approved. The château also has an indoor pool, spa, and an exquisite restaurant hosted by acclaimed French chef, Alain Ducasse.





The Madame de Fouquet bedroom at Château de Versailles, Le Grand Contrôle.



(This page) Wine tasting at Château de Berne.



(Opposite page) The stunning gardens and medieval facade of the Domaine des Etangs.



CHÂTEAU DE BERNE

Deep amidst the hills and pristine wilderness of Provence, about a 90 minute drive from Nice, a remote winding road leads you to the unspoilt wine estate of Château de Berne. Specialists in organic wines, the Château cultivates roughly 432 acres of plots that produce the world famous Rosé. The property also offers their own olive oil, jam from their orchards, and honey from their hives. The 30,000 sq ft organic vegetable garden is harvested daily for the restaurant which was recently awarded a Green Michelin star, only awarded to establishments pioneering sustainable gastronomy.

DOMAINE DES ETANGS

Set in the heart of Charente, the Cognac countryside just outside Bordeaux, Domaine des Etangs resembles a real fairytale castle. The 13th century Château reigns over forests, spiralled gardens, and bucolic farmland, complete with grazing cows. There are 29 suites sprinkled around the estate, amongst the turrets and towers of the main castle. Family portraits hang alongside Picassos and other artwork from the owner's personal collection. Bike to your favourite Cognac house for a private tasting, pick out a china pattern at the esteemed Royal Limoges, and why not stop for a picnic in an enchanting spot like the Lilly-pad pond.





NICARAGUA

XTRAORDINARY WOMEN

BREAKING THE POVERTY CYCLE

XtraOrdinary Women is a phenomenal NGO that empowers Nicaraguan women at risk through skill training, psycho-social support and job placement programs. We sat down for a chat with super-hero founder and childhood friend, Andrea Paltzer, as she told us her inspirational story.

“I was working as a teacher’s assistant for Schoolbox in Costa Rica, which is a Canadian organisation that helps thousands of underprivileged children go to school. It is here where I realized my love and passion for helping people. And it is here I understood that change begins with education.

In 2009 I was travelling around Nicaragua and met some incredible women living in La Chureca, Central America’s largest landfill. This rubbish dump is home to thousands of Nicaragua’s poorest. The women living here have endured so much hardship that we couldn’t even imagine. They were victims of violence, had no education and no opportunity. It made me think of the inequalities in the world. With many of them being so young, all the odds were stacked against them, and so many older women had just given up hope.

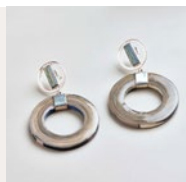
I felt the need to help and give them that hope.

I thought about what I could do and founded Chureca Chic, a jewellery company that creates fashionable pieces from upcycled materials from the very rubbish heap the women were living on. We worked with and trained the women from La Chureca. They had so much passion and also taught me to see the beauty in what others may just deem to be ‘rubbish’. Local artisans and designers volunteered, teaching the women new skills, exploring their creativity and also harnessing traditional techniques.

Just offering these women an opportunity and educating them made me realise there was more that I could do.

The incredible spirit of these women inspired me to create ‘Xtraordinary’. A programme that would teach women the skills they needed to get a job and also support them afterwards.

We focus on empowering disadvantaged women in Nicaragua to gain financial independence. We provide job skills training, job placements with local businesses, and most importantly, psycho-social support throughout. We provide the women with the tools they need to break the circle of poverty and domestic violence in their lives and bring positive sustainable change to them, their families, and eventually their communities.



ANITA'S STORY

Anita’s dream is to have her own architecture firm. We hired Anita for her first-ever job aged 20. She had been forced to leave school at 12 as her boyfriend did not want her going, and she was pregnant. She was controlled and felt trapped, unable to leave without financial security. With a job from Chureca Chic, Anita did not have to depend on her abusive partner for her and her children’s economic stability. She decided to move away from the violence in her life and not look back. Today, Anita sends her 2 children to school, and on the weekends, she studies too.



A few extraordinary women, including Andrea Paltzer (left). *Photo by Otto Mejia.*



Earrings from the Mein Amor collection. Designed in collaboration with local silversmith, Manuel Fedebrecht. Made from recycled silver using a German technique called 'silberflambieren' strips of silver are placed in the shape of the earring design and torched. The silver melts and flows, like molten caramel around the form of the earring, making each piece totally unique. Available to buy online at Churecachic.com. *Photo by Carlos Zúñiga.*





We teach them about home finances, partner with universities to offer them courses and tools to study in their free time, child care assistance and support for their schooling. We always stay in touch, as so many of these women are scarred from all the mental, physical and economic abuse they have suffered in their past. The psychosocial support is the most important aspect in ensuring we set these women up for sustainable success that lasts in the long term.

We can all help and contribute towards change. You can sponsor us; gift a woman an education for Christmas or buy some of our beautiful jewellery from Chureca Chic. Travel and tourism is slowly growing in the country that has so often been overlooked in favour of our neighbour, Costa Rica. What makes a difference is when you stay at local family-run beachside haciendas like on Playa Maderas and cliff-top lodges like Rancho Santana; locally run businesses that support, hire, and educate local communities.

We are excited to be expanding and replicating our model elsewhere. We are now working with cooperatives from marginalized communities in Honduras, Belize, and El Salvador so we can help more women. Since the pandemic, more women than ever are out of work and we need to work together to undo the damage.”

For ways to contribute, visit:

WWW.XTRAORDINARY.ORG

Andrea has inspired us to explore Nicaragua. This tropical playground boasts Lake Nicaragua – the largest freshwater lake in Central America – as well as colonial towns such as the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Granada and a lush volcanic island with UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status called Ometepe. There are also some of the best surf breaks in the world. However, the country still remains relatively undiscovered – allowing for so many opportunities for exploration and adventure.

La Chureca, Managua is Central America's largest open-air landfill. It was formed in the 1970's after a catastrophic earthquake destroyed about 75% of the city. With most of the population left injured, homeless and unemployed people started scavenging for food, materials and metals left in the rubble. Today about 1000 people still live there, 50% under the age of 18. *Photo by Otto Mejia.*



We believe that one woman at a time we can create brighter, happier, self-sustainable futures for her and her family. *Photo by Otto Mejia.*



We believe in a world of balance, full of opportunities, and in art as a strong tool for social change. *Photo by Otto Mejia.*





CHILE

PATAGÓNIA ON HORSEBACK

A TALE BY XIN XIN LOH

We asked our friend and on-the-ground partner to recount one of her many epic adventures.

Xin Xin Loh, Founder of Pudu Puda, shares her experience horseback riding through the breathtaking landscape of Chilean Patagonia. Xin Xin and her team help us curate exceptional adventures in unique destinations like Peru, Ecuador, Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan and many more.

At a latitude of 51 degrees south, summer mornings in our sleepy fishing town of Puerto Natales are frigid. I stood at the water's edge with my best friend who was visiting, waiting for the boat to be loaded with supplies before making the crossing to the other side of the fjord. We were heading to Estancia La Peninsula, one of the oldest working farms in Chilean Patagonia, where we embarked on a two-day horse trek. Visitors to Chile travel this far south to visit the world famous Torres del Paine National Park, but where we were heading to is a hidden gem.

What is someone who was born and raised in a city like Singapore doing at the edge of the world? This was not what I had planned when I visited Patagonia twice in the last decade, but I fell in love and moved here. Life could not be more different. A morning on this farm starts off slow with homemade *sopaipillas*, a breakfast fritter made from pumpkin flour, served with a freshly brewed cup of coffee as we observe the gauchos saddle up our horses from the comfort of the main house. Outside, the summer wind was blowing strong.

Stopping for a water break along the Last Hope Sound.

Photo by Xin Xin Loh.





View of the mainland from a cave once used as an indigenous burial site.
Photo by Xin Xin Loh.



Riding along Misery Bay with our guide Cristian.
Photo by Xin Xin Loh.



We rode up the slopes of Cerro Ballena, named after its whale-like shape when seen from across the waters. The trail descends into one of the hidden valleys and its magical forest of *lenga* and *coihue*, indigenous evergreen trees. Our riding guide Cristian is an atypical gaucho. He is chatty and engaging, and has ditched the traditional slacks and flannel for a leather jacket and pants. He pointed out native plants and flowering fire bushes before we stopped for our picnic lunch next to a stream. Our destination was an old shepherd's outpost on the edge of the sound called La Barrosa, and the ride there would take us to the hidden bay of Bahia Miseria. The melodramatic name is an homage to the shipwrecks which were common when explorers navigated these waters in search of connecting the Pacific to the Atlantic. The ever-changing weather and trees which grow horizontally add to the intense landscape and history of this place. I find riding in Patagonia very meditative. The vastness adds to the sense of freedom while the sounds of nature heighten my senses, yet calm me.

After a full day on horseback, nothing feels better than arriving at a warm and cozy shelter for the night. The traditional Patagonian stove has been lit with firewood and there was a steaming hot pot of *porotos granados*. My travel companion decided to go skinny dipping in the icy cold waters of the fjord before dinner because, *carpe diem*. Patagonia has worked its magic.

We woke up to an unusually calm morning. The reflection of the mountains was crystal clear in the waters as we saddled up for the ride back to the main house, this time taking the coastal trail and a detour to an indigenous burial site in the caves high up in the hills. The view from here of the surrounding mountains, glaciers and the Last Hope Sound is indescribable. This is Patagonia – beautiful, secluded, and untouched.



Torres del Paine National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere located an hour and a half away by car. *Photo by Xin Xin Loh.*



A Chilean fire bush contorted by the strong winds of Patagonia. *Photo by Xin Xin Loh.*



An aerial photograph of a large, winding reservoir or lake nestled within a mountainous region. The water is a deep, clear green, reflecting the surrounding landscape. The mountains are covered in dense, vibrant green forest, with some rocky outcrops visible. The terrain is rugged, with steep slopes and deep valleys. In the background, more mountain ranges are visible, fading into a hazy blue distance. The sky is filled with large, white and grey clouds, suggesting a bright but slightly overcast day. The overall scene conveys a sense of natural beauty and tranquility.

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EGYPT

A VOYAGE ON THE NILE

SMOOTH SAILING, SOUKS AND SUNSETS



There may be no river more steeped in ancient history and religious fable than the Nile – it was vital to the wealth and success of the Ancient Egyptian civilization. A journey into the mystical history of Egypt is undoubtedly best experienced cruising down this majestic river from the deck of a traditional *dahabiya*, a timeless and elegant class of vessel whose story began in Pharaonic times. Preferably sitting next to your trusty Egyptologist, as he explains and gestures every fascinating detail of how great Egyptian cities grew and prospered on the banks of this fertile river, while you sip on tea and marvel at the lush green shoreline and the peaceful desert expanse that stretches beyond the horizon.

It's hard to go to Egypt and not become a history buff, or feel like a 1920's archeologist like Indiana Jones; history and intrigue is around every corner. This particular adventure begins in Luxor. After a night sleeping in an ancient palace hotel, it's time to explore the royalty of Egypt in the Valley of the Kings, the burial place of the legendary Tutankhamun and 62 other great Egyptian Kings. The Valley of the Queens is equally mesmerizing, as you step inside Nefertari's intricately decorated Tomb, seldom visited by others. Indulge in a private tour of the Karnak Temple, the largest religious structure ever built in the world. Add in a sunset bike tour and a rooftop dinner at a local restaurant overlooking the glowing temple domes of the city to complete your day in Luxor.

Reflect on your ancient discoveries as you embark upon your voyage down the Nile. The scenes as you float past could almost be the same as in Biblical times. With near-identical *dahabiya* portrayed in Hieroglyphics on tombs and temples, it makes your imagination wonder how life has changed, and how it hasn't. A farmer serenading his water buffalo as he milks her, a man in a small, patched-up boat beating the water with his oar to scare fish into his net; all peacefully observed from the slouchy, striped sofa-beds aboard the traditional boats of Nour-el-Nil.

These authentic, shallow-bottomed wooden barges that are almost as old as Egypt were expertly recreated using salvaged materials and original techniques by Memdouh, the passionate sailor and co-founder of Nour-el-Nil. Many of the larger cruise ships dwarf the quaint towns and villages as they swoosh past like space ships. On these smaller vessels you get access to treasured towns like Esme, with the Greco-Roman Temple of Khnum, a partially excavated structure sitting almost 9 meters below ground and dedicated to the ram-headed god Khnum, believed to have created man from his potter's wheel. There are no other tourists here, and you won't see any others for the next few days.

Memdouh and the team behind Nour-el Nil have mastered the art of the relaxed unprogrammed schedule. Life simply slows down. The four-hour journey by cruise ship takes us six days, for example. They give guests what they didn't realize they wanted; the gift of doing nothing.



The burial chamber of Ramesses VI is one of the best preserved areas of the Valley of the Kings.

Afternoon tea and local sweets.





Morning swims followed by rolling breakfasts of crepes and scrambled eggs become routine. Onboard, nothing is ever hurried; days are spent lounging in a hammock, reading, playing scrabble or backgammon whilst being waited on hand and foot by the charming staff. Next stop is the Temple of Horus at Edfu. Here you must take a 19th century horse-drawn carriage to reach the top of the hill and temple. Your inner child takes precedence, and you realize the rickety ride is definitely the most fun you have ever had climbing a hill!

After five blissful nights of intimate candlelit dinners and peaceful river life, you approach the busy town of Aswan. Set dramatically on the banks of the Nile, wind through the mysterious, maze-y bazaars (souks) where you will encounter master craftsmen braiding baskets, baking bread,

or crafting bespoke jewellery. Head out to the famed Abu Simbel Temples and witness the scale and enormity of the rock-cut monument commemorating King Ramesses II. Check in to the Old Cataract Hotel, the sultry setting for Agatha Christie's 'Death on the Nile' novel and host to Winston Churchill and many other famous guests in its 110 year reign as the grand-dame hotel in Aswan. Built by Thomas Cook in 1899 to house European Travellers, who also famously brought steam boats to cruise the Nile, claiming that the *dahabiya* were too small and slow.

Dahabiya have now made a resurgence, thanks to Nour el Nil, as an authentic yet luxurious way to truly experience the sights, sounds and smells of Egypt. As with many other parts of life, slowing down and looking to the past is sometimes the best way forward.

Corner suite onboard
Dahabiya, Assouan.



Enjoy a game of chess
in the communal salon.





UMBRIA, ITALY

CENTURIES IN THE MAKING

THE RESTORATION OF RESCHIO

One of the most exciting hotel openings of 2021



The serene pool and grounds of Hotel Castello di Reschio.



Years in the making and centuries in the shaping. Reschio, a sprawling estate and castle on the rolling Tuscan/Umbrian border, has undergone decades of careful restoration and now emerges as one of the most extravagant and highly anticipated luxury hotels in Italy.

Built in the Etruscan period a millennia ago, Reschio was a working farm and estate until the post-war era, which forced the abandonment of the entire property and surrounding farming community. The castle and 50 farmhouses became dilapidated and the land succumbed to the wild until 1984, when Count Antonio Bolza and his wife Countess Angelika discovered the property and fell in love with it. In 1999, Antonio's son, Benedikt, a talented architect, began the daunting task of designing, building, and restoring the original farmhouses and landscape.



Encouraged by his artist- wife, Nencia Corsini and their 5 children, they lived at the castle whilst it was being renovated. They home-schooled and invited fun guests to teach the children, focusing on life and the arts. They had the time of their lives, putting on theatrical performances with families in the neighbourhood while bringing this fairytale to life.

The family transformed the 26 farmhouses into luxury villas, going into the finest details, carefully curating and designing every light fixture, fitting, and piece of furniture individually, which have now become an exceptional brand in itself called BB for Reschio.



The Old Kitchen is now a cosy place for pre-dinner drinks and stunning views.



The Bolza family, who have reimagined and brought Reschio to its current glory.







Their masterpiece is the luxurious castle hotel, opened in 2021 and boasting 36 suites, each organically designed and filled with comfort and wit, whilst subtly referencing the fascinating characters who once lived here. Surrounded by olive groves, vineyards, organic gardens and lakes is also The Chapel and Equestrian centre with training rings for the Andalusian horses. At the hotel, there is a boutique stocked with luxury Italian homewares, The Enoteca, two restaurants, pools, and a Spa that is interwoven into the old underground wine caves.

Sunset views and dinner awaits at Ristorante Al Castello.



A suite in the ancient Castello, part of the original building that was built in 900AD.



It is easy to see the love and dedication that has gone into this passion project. Villa owners and renters clearly share the owner's ethos to preserve the tranquility of this rejuvenated corner of Umbria. For the Bolzo-Corsini family, it's not so much about showing off as it is sharing their grand castle and good taste with those lucky enough to get a room or villa.

“Our curated journey through Italy by The Pelican Club was an incredible experience we will never forget. Reschio was definitely a highlight. As design nuts they got us perfectly right. We have even purchased some gorgeous light fittings and furniture for our home!

– PELICAN CLUB MEMBER



TURKS AND CAICOS

SEEKING ALL FUTURE EXPLORERS

Don't let the immaculate grounds, Asian-inspired minimalist pavilions on open-plan ponds and lagoons distract you; this is one of the most heavenly, family-friendly places to go.

Aman hotels may be most known for their sleek resorts that evoke luxury, tranquility and peace. The hotels are tailored to urbanites and those looking for a break and a moment of calm in an incredibly beautiful environment. The Amanaya is located on the main island of Providenciales in Turks and Caicos, a tropical paradise in the Northern Caribbean only four hours from New York and eight hours from London. The luscious surroundings, gourmet cuisine served in three restaurants and oriental pagoda-styled accommodations are a delight. These have between one and four bedrooms, and are incredibly private open-plan havens that spill out onto your own pond, pool or private beach. The island-centric spa treatments are some of the most soothing experiences imaginable.

How can this be a place for children you ask?

Amanaya have revolutionized the 'kids club'. They have created a program called SEEK (Science Explorers and Environmental Keepers): a thoughtful and engaging program to entertain and educate their younger guests whilst on holiday at this exclusive paradise. The hotel sets the perfect scene on their 18,000 acre natural reserve that is populated with indigenous wildlife, jungle and of course, the pristine white sandy beaches that the islands of Turks and Caicos are so famous for.

These innovative programs have been created in partnership with professors and scientists at the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science in Miami. The experiences are hands-on, science focused and all based outside in the natural environment. Programs are designed around three themes and aimed at 5-10 and 11-14 year-olds.

One theme is coastal conservation, where young explorers kayak deep into the mangroves to study the fragile ecosystem and visit the on-site mangrove nurseries. They investigate sand under a microscope, learn about the problem with micro-plastics, and are then challenged to build their own coastline; reflecting a real-world engineering issue to protect coastlines worldwide.

Another, the reef rescue program, highlights the fragility and importance of coral and other marine life located along the pristine reefs of Northwest Point Marina National Park near the resort. The kids will learn all about predator-prey relationships on the reef in a life-size coral reef food web. They will also investigate coral bleaching with a hands-on experiment simulating how corals are impacted by climate change, snorkel and kayak, and build a Save the Reef campaign.



Spend your afternoon by the pool, while the children are exploring and learning.



Surf, swim and paddle lessons on the shores of Turks & Caicos.





The Sun, Moon and Stars program includes nighttime stargazing, constellation mapping, spectroscopy, moon model creation and understanding how to map the galaxy. Kids will love getting little keepsakes and souvenirs from their experiences as well as complimentary tickets to visit Frost Science in Miami. The idea was to offer children a fun, active, and educational experience that will remain with them long after returning home.

The hotel also offers yoga, pilates and fitness classes for younger guests, including instruction in breathing techniques and meditation, to help relieve stress and foster a sense of calm. Coupled with the existing soccer and tennis camps, beach volleyball and basketball, water sports and art activities there is an abundance to do for all the younger guests and most importantly allows for mum and dad to also enjoy their leisure time!

Enjoy sunset views from the main pool or from the privacy of your 6-bedroom villa.



Kids out sailing, exploring the reefs and learning about sea life.





THE PELICAN CLUB

We know that ideal place to stay, where you can leave the world behind

The lasting relationships we have built will take you places and give you unique experiences enjoyed only by the lucky few.

We whisk you away to exquisite island hideaways, privately owned estates, top chef's tables and incredible encounters with locals.

We create exceptional experiences to suit your tastes and desires at a pace that's just right for you.

You won't know it but we are with you through every effortless moment, taking care of all the details.

Come travel with us.





Ready to travel better?

We are expert luxury travel planners that design personalized experiences, with exceptional service.

MEMBERSHIP

— HOW TO JOIN —

If you would like to register your interest in membership to The Pelican Club, please apply online or alternatively email membership@thepelicanclub.com.

We understand how valuable your time off is.
Let us handle all the details.

