

FINANCIAL TIMES HOW TO SPEND IT

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“A reboot in Rajasthan”



TRAVEL NEWS
Capri and easy
Escape the main strip –
or the beaten track

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Top: Casa Mare on Capri. Above: Marakele National Park in South Africa. Below: A leopard and her cub in the Sujan conservation project.

Avilla on Capri: in itself, not a difficult sell. It's one of the Mediterranean's most beautiful islands when it's not mortally oversubscribed with day-trippers. The key is in finding the right villa – private, with access to beach clubs and trails but at a remove from the fray. Cédric Reversade is the man with the jewel in the Capri crown: Casa Mare, a five-bedroom quiet stunner set all on its own just below Via Krupp. Low-slung, spilling down several levels directly to the sea, it has a vibe that's more Pantellerian damous than Villa Lysis; the owner, who deals in design art, has filled it with an extraordinary mix of contemporary pictures and sculpture and collectable 20th-century furnishings.

The low-fi charms (and excellent food) of Torre Saracena beach club are a 100m stroll to the west; La Fontelina is an easy boat ride in the other direction. But Casa Mare's secret weapon – besides its eminent privacy – is its chef. Maria has worked for the villa's owner since time out of mind, tends its private vegetable gardens and has the best fishmongers on speed dial; her handmade ravioli capresi are the stuff of international obsession. *Price on request; uniquepropertiesandevents.com*

CONSERVATIONIST'S CHOICE
Immersive conservation is a phenomenon on the rise, from Brazil's Pantanal to Tanzania's sprawling private reserves. September saw the debut in South Africa of a safari concept created entirely around the idea. Marataba Conservation Camps, in

the privately managed park of the same name within Marakele National Park, flips the conventional bush-experience model on its head in more than one way – starting with the booking process. Instead of being accommodation-led, it matches guests with the right conservation guide, who is the architect of their Marataba experience. Founders' Camp, with four suites, can be booked for exclusive use; Explorer's Camp, with six tents and two teams of guides, allows for semi-exclusive bookings. Here, the standard drive-and-sundowners agenda gives way to tracking and tagging wildlife; assembling camera traps and monitoring the footage they capture; compiling ID kits of the charismatic megafauna; and, if your stay corresponds with a full moon, the thrill of shadowing rhino as part of Marataba's regular nocturnal census. Not that it's all a grind – far from it: waterfalls swim, a night of fly-camping and comfortable tented lodgings are par for the course. *From \$1,500 per night; classicportfolio.com*

PALM BEACH WITH A NANTUCKET TWIST
The Bradley Park Hotel was one of the first to open on Palm Beach's Main Street in the 1920s (known back in the day as the Palm Beach Plaza Hotel). The four-storey Spanish-colonial building on Sunset Avenue evinced all the charms of this gilded beach town, but the interiors were in need of a reboot. Next month, the property – fresh from the ministrations of its new New England-based owners, who also own Nantucket's glorious White Elephant Hotel – will reopen with a fresh and extremely chic new face, as the White Elephant Palm Beach.

Courtesy of Boston-based Elkus Manfredi Architects, the new look takes the listed building back to its elegant bones and reorders it in the shades and textures of the seaside – seagrass rope, rattan, mother-of-pearl – with bold hits of tropical

candy colours. There are 32 rooms, a small but chic pool, an interesting art collection favouring big American names (Robert Rauschenberg, Joel Shapiro), and a courtyard bar bowered in palms to round out the appealing picture. *From \$650, whiteelephantpalmbeach.com*

A REBOOT IN RAJASTHAN
The 20th anniversary of Sujan, whose sigh-worthy properties across Rajasthan have helped define both luxury and conservation in India, wasn't quite what its founders, Jaishal and Anjali Singh, were expecting. Instead of welcoming guests to their camps in Ranthambore, Jawai and Jaipur, and inducting them into the joys of communing with tigers and leopards in their natural habitats, lockdown saw the Singhs working overtime to bring healthcare to the communities whose participation in Sujan's wilderness-and-wildlife-protection schemes is crucial to their success.

Now Sujan is revamping all of the suites and tents, and introducing new wilderness and wildlife experiences, including a pioneering one at Jawai built around the rapport between humans and horses – a passion of the Singhs', and long part of the fabric of Rajasthani culture. Expect an early 2021 Sujan reboot, and watch this space for more. *thesujanlife.com* **HTSI** @marishsholenbarger

TRAVELISTA

Above: the pool and terrace at Casa Mare, Capri. Below: outside the White Elephant Palm Beach. Bottom: the Gallery at the White Elephant, with paintings by Bernhard Buhmann.

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