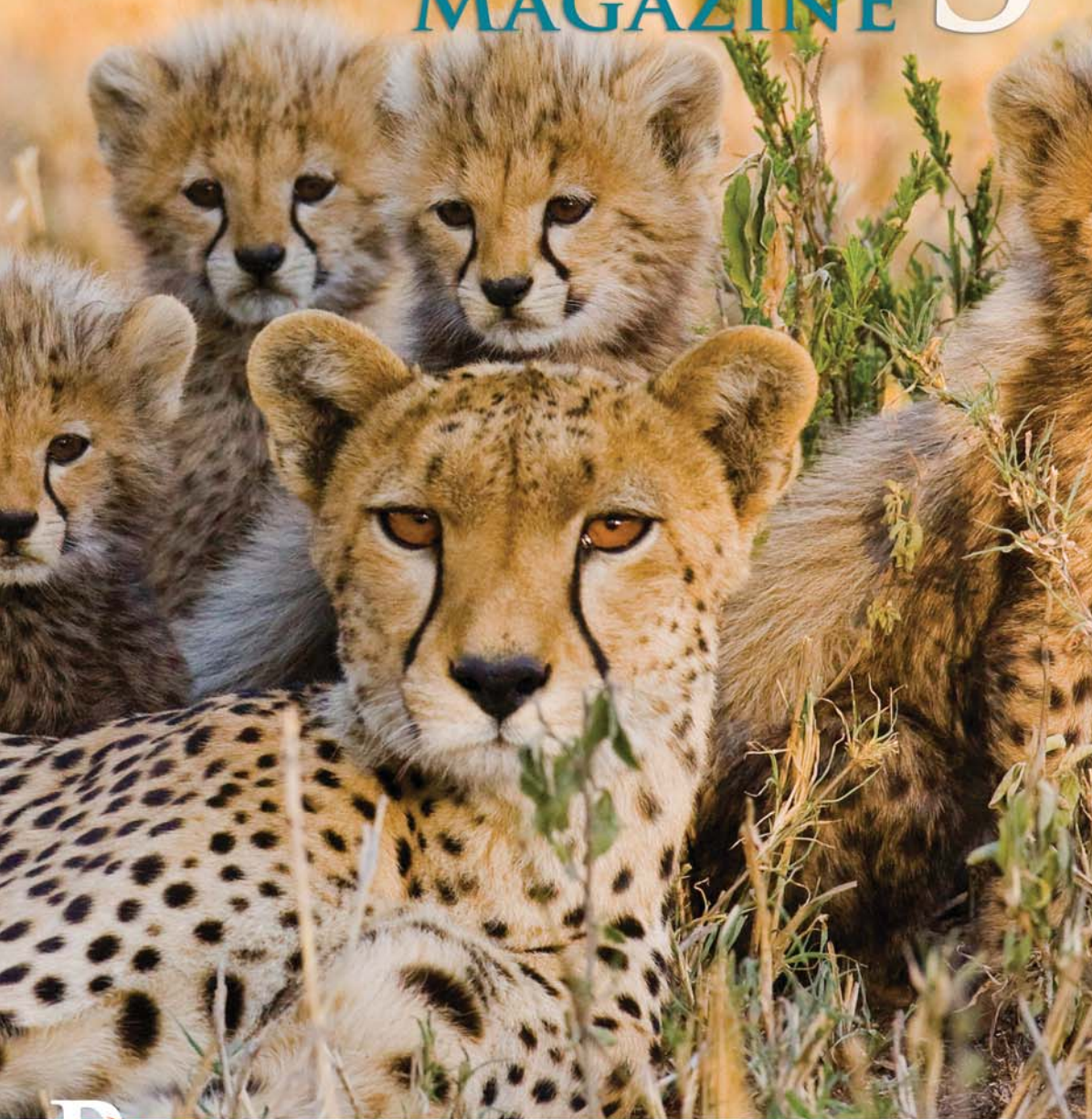


SUMMER 2018

# TRAVELLERS MAGAZINE



**PONDERS**  
The truly independent cruise & travel company  
01954 232 802 | sales@ponderstravel.co.uk

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Welcome to the latest issue of our regular travel magazine where we hope to entice you with a varied selection of worldwide holiday ideas and destinations. So, why not treat yourself, partner, family or a group of friends to a well-earned break.

We are delighted to showcase the super sandy Caribbean island of Antigua in a special 5-page feature. With a beach for every day of the year it is no wonder that it is so popular, but the island offers even more to those that have the inclination to explore, perhaps along the famous Beach Bar Trail or in the company of the friendly locals on a Saturday morning hike into the hills and beyond past old forts and banana plantations.

Summer is almost upon us, and if you have not already made arrangements then perhaps our opening features on The Luxury Collection, The St. Regis Mardavall Mallorca and Columbia Beach Resort in Cyprus will offer some great suggestions for the perfect break with family and friends.

Specialist small ship cruising does not get better than aboard one of Ponant's new class of superyacht, and we are delighted to feature a very special new cruise tour on The Great Lakes between Toronto in Canada and Chicago in the USA with Tauck.

We cannot escape the attention given to the world's environmental concerns and it is certain that many readers are starting to consider if there are cleaner and more sympathetic options when deciding on their holiday destinations so we hope that our piece on sustainable tourism will offer a useful insight into this important new trend in travel.

Whether you are looking for a beach getaway, a city break, an adventure or just news on some of the world's finest hotels and resorts we are sure this issue will inspire you. So sit back, have a read, then give us a call to discuss your travel plans.

**Clare Dudley**  
Managing Director

## Contents



### Sprawling havens of exclusivity in the hills overlooking the Andaman Sea



Anantara have taken private villa rental to new heights in the hills above Anantara Layan Resort in a quiet corner of the beautiful island of Phuket in Thailand.

Guests to any of the fifteen sumptuous villas varying in size from 2-7 bedrooms will live in grand style with spacious private pools in accommodation that was specifically designed to melt into the forested hillside above the main resort, and lying within a protected National Park, this natural setting is unlikely to see further development. Everything is geared to maximum convenience including a live-in butler, a private chef and maid service, VIP airport transfers as well as full access to the facilities of the main, 5 star resort in the tranquil bay below including the Anantara Spa and the Chang Club for children.

### Premium family friendly resort to rival competitors on the south coast of Sardinia



The recently refurbished Falkensteiner Resort Capo Boi lies in one of the most stunning locations on Sardinia's south coast in the middle of the marine protected area of Capo Carbonara. Nestled between lush gardens and granite rocks, the resort has its own sandy private bay with crystal-clear waters.

The 144 rooms and suites at the Falkensteiner Capo Boi Resort are spread between the main building, the "Garden" Pavilion and Villas, many of which are ideal for families. And when it comes to recreation and indulgences the resort delivers in buckets with excellent childrens facilities and activities, a choice of generous buffet meals at La Terrazza or a la carte dining on the beachfront at Restaurant Del Pescatore, and relaxing treatments at The Acquapura Spa.

### Discover a bit of Branson magic this summer and early autumn at Son Bunyola



Situated on Mallorca's northwest coast, the secluded, 680-acre estate of Son Bunyola, owned by Sir Richard Branson, boasts three stunning villas: Sa Punta de S'Aguila, Sa Terra Rotja and Son Balagueret. With five, four and four bedrooms respectively, these three villas are ideal for a summer or early autumn break with family and friends.

Each all-inclusive villa provides a 5 star hotel-style service with a heated outdoor pool and your own dedicated host and chef. Whether exploring the locality or just admiring the stunning views over the sea and the surrounding mountains, Son Bunyola offers a tantalising, exclusive-use hideaway. Don't forget... during September and October shorter stays are available too!

### The Canny Traveller

#### Travel trends in 2018

##### Land and ocean combination holidays

As cruising expands to ever more distant shores it is natural that many will view this as an opportunity to mix time on land as well ocean to create that extra special long holiday especially if it incorporates "once in a lifetime experiences" like extended sightseeing in China together with a cruise around South East Asia.

##### A return to form for Turkey for squeezed budgets

With the fall in the value of Sterling, Turkey is the most attractively priced country around the Mediterranean. Within the Euro zone Portugal and Greece offer best value.



##### River cruising goes global

With good exposure on television, river cruising gets ever more popular each year. Travellers have an amazing choice and for the more intrepid, "off the beaten track" destinations like Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Amazon in Peru all offer a special opportunity to experience a higher level of immersion in local cultures which the slow travel of river cruises allows.

##### Sustainable & Responsible Tourism

Following the impact of David Attenborough's "Blue Planet II" and subsequent media coverage, there is an overwhelming desire from many travellers to explore holiday options that lessen environmental impact and benefit local communities.



## Island Sanctuary

The Four Seasons Resort Seychelles at Desroches Island, Indian Ocean

Escape to Four Season's new five-star Seychelles resort in the Amirante Islands – remote and secluded, but just a 35-minute flight from the main island of Mahé. Feel like a true castaway as you explore this pristine tropical sanctuary edged by 14 kilometres (9 miles) of soft white beaches.

With most of Seychelles' islands uninhabited, and with nearly 50% of the total land under natural conservation, this island archipelago is a leader in sustainable tourism. On Desroches Island, Four Seasons have embraced the needs of the island's 100-strong local population, some of whom work at the resort itself whilst others are craftspeople with their own workshops, welcoming visitors from the resort to visit their village by cycling across the island.

In addition the resort runs an interactive Discovery Centre where children in particular can explore three dedicated learning areas to enhance their knowledge of the island habitat. They can also visit the island's special sanctuary to learn about the Aldabra giant Tortoise, a species in danger of extinction. Thatched shelters provide shade for the tortoises, creating a safe, comfortable space for them to breed and grow. Watch them feed on fruit and vegetation.



## Serengeti Heritage

Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti, Tanzania

When it comes to sustainable tourism, perhaps the continent that has needed to work hardest to protect its fragile natural habitat is Africa. It is home to the world's most abundant wildlife reserves but equally an environment under constant attack from population growth, and its need for resources, which once removed are hard to replenish, so wildlife conservation works closely with educating communities of the value of their heritage as well as ensuring a flow of income from safari tourism.

The world's best-known wildlife sanctuary and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tanzania's Serengeti National Park measures close to 14,763 square kilometres (5,700 square miles). And Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti, Tanzania, is nestled in the heart of it all.

In addition to the magnificent surrounding wildlife, Four Seasons delivers memorable ways to experience the Serengeti, with unique activities that include hot-air balloon rides across the plains, picnics in the bush, and safari photography classes. The Discovery Centre is a great place to learn about African culture and history. Guests can get to know the local Maasai people and become involved in socially responsible programmes, such as those that help local schools and support wildlife conservation.



## The Shape of Things to Come

Svart Hotel, Northern Norway

In collaboration with Arctic Adventures of Norway, Asplan Viak and Skanska, Snøhetta have designed "Svart" the world's first Powerhouse hotel, at the foot of the Svartisen glacier that runs through Meløy municipality in northern Norway. The hotel is situated just above the Arctic Circle.

"Svart" is the first building to be built after the energy positive Powerhouse standard in a Northern climate. Not only does this new hotel reduce its yearly energy consumption by approximately 85% compared to a modern hotel, but it also produces its own energy - an absolute "must" in this precious arctic environment. The hotel will also become the world's northernmost Powerhouse building.

Building an energy positive and low-impact hotel is an essential factor to create a sustainable tourist destination respecting the unique features of the plot; the rare plant species, the clean waters and the blue ice of the Svartisen glacier. Opening in 2021.



Artist Impressions courtesy of Snøhetta/Plomprozes



## Urban Gardening

A greener experience at 1 Hotels in Miami and New York with more to follow...

As a luxury lifestyle hotel brand inspired by nature, 1 Hotels cultivates the best of eco-conscious design and sustainable architecture, together with extraordinary comfort and an unrivalled level of service. 1 Hotels, launched in 2015 with the opening of exclusive properties in Miami's South Beach and Manhattan's Central Park, followed by their Brooklyn launch in late 2016, developed with the simple idea that those that travel the world also care about it. 1 Hotels upholds this vision by channelling nature through design, culinary partnerships, connecting with the local community and taking small steps to make a big difference.

At the core of the hotel's sustainable strategies is a fundamental pursuit of mindful conservation which is impressive in the detail from simple avoidance of plastics in preference of natural organic materials be it recycled wooden room key fobs, recycled cardboard water cartons in the meeting room, driftwood designed furnishings or the use energy efficient heating and cooling systems as well as L.E.D illumination to reduce electrical demands and heat build-up from lighting. The eco-conscious activities are endless, and guests will be inspired by the constant greenery that literally brings nature into every corner of the hotels from vertical lobby gardens to plant pots on tables.



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