

VIRTUOSO  
ultraluxe  
TRAVEL

# DREAM TRIPS

The world's most over-the-top experiences.

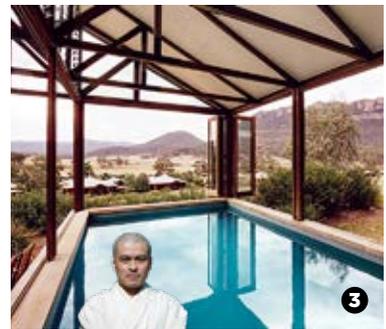
**A Santorini excursion  
with Regent Seven  
Seas Cruises.**



The Virtuoso hotels, tour operators, and cruise lines that specialize in ultraluxe travel know how to deliver high-quality wow moments. Their private-jet journeys, VIP experiences, and out-of-this-world accommodations are what travel dreams are made of. Honestly, if you've got a vacation wish, your Virtuoso travel advisor can probably make it happen with their help.

To fuel your wanderlust, we've gathered 29 incredible experiences worth adding to your list. Check with your advisor for pricing – some of the experiences here range from reasonable to “OMG!”, while others are available upon request. Just remember: Travel is one of the only things you can buy that makes you richer.

– Brooke Porter Katz



1. The view from a villa at Layan Residences by Anantara. 2. The Retreat on board *Seabourn Encore*. 3. Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley. 4. Enlightenment in Japan courtesy of Windows to Japan.

◆ **Live out your James Bond fantasies in Thailand.**

Fans of 007 will love the four-day itinerary inspired by *The Man with the Golden Gun* at Phuket's 15-villa **Layan Residences by Anantara**. A private jet whisks travelers from Bangkok for a stay at the resort's Villa Similan, which has a butler, private chef, and spa therapist – plus a clubby “man cave,” where the gun from the 1974 film is on display. The theme continues with a Champagne-fueled yacht cruise to Phang Nga Bay (where the movie was filmed), a muay Thai boxing lesson, and a cocktail night featuring – you guessed it – martinis. *James Bond experience from \$34,600 for two, including accommodations and all activities mentioned above.*

◆ **Get a poolside massage as you sail the South China Sea.**

Sometimes it can seem a daunting challenge to get a moment alone on a cruise: Enter The Retreat on **Seabourn's** 600-passenger *Seabourn Encore* and *Seabourn Ovation* ships. The adults-only escapes are tucked away on Deck 12 and feature 15 private cabanas that look more like living rooms that belong in *Architectural Digest*. They come with perks such as fresh fruit baskets, mist spray, and a dedicated concierge, and there are even cabanas set aside for spa treatments, should you want to indulge. Save time for the pool on a 14-day, Hong Kong-to-Singapore cruise on the *Ovation*. *Departure: February 1, 2020; from \$6,499. Cabanas from \$149 per day.*

◆ **Walk with a monk in Japan.**

Those visiting Otsu, the capital of Shiga Prefecture, on a custom Japanese journey with **Windows to Japan** – a Virtuoso on-site tour connection in the country – will have the rare chance to spend time with a monk who has completed the rite of *kaihogyo*. (In brief, it requires walking almost 25,000 miles on Japan's Mount Hiei while stopping to pray over the course of seven years.) The monk takes travelers on a much shorter stroll before joining them for a lunch of Buddhist cuisine and leading chants of empowerment. *Guided tours from \$750 per person per day.*



◆ **Escape to the mountains of Australia.**

If a standard room at a One&Only resort won't do, guests can opt for **One&Only Villas** instead – and receive exclusive perks in the process. The Wolgan Villa at the 40-villa Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley – a retreat located within a 7,000-acre wildlife preserve in Australia's Greater Blue Mountains and often recognized for its sustainability efforts – is especially breathtaking. Set apart from the rest of the resort, the three-bedroom residence has a private pool, expansive garden, and gourmet kitchen. *Wolgan Villa from \$7,695, including all meals, some beverages, and two complimentary daily on-site activities per person; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a Signature Wildlife and Sundowners Tour for two.*

◆ **Cook with a celebrity chef in Sydney.**

Reservations at Peter Gilmore's lauded Sydney restaurants can be difficult to swing, but on-site tour connection **Southern Crossings** can do guests one better: arrange a private cooking demonstration with the chef himself, who is a regular on *MasterChef Australia*. During the class at Bennelong at the Sydney Opera House, chef Gilmore will explain where his ingredients come from and personally prepare a few signature dishes that will be paired with fine wines – all within view of beautiful Sydney Harbour. *Chef experience from \$12,250.*

◆ **Indulge in a romantic treetop spa treatment in Tahiti.**

Relaxation comes easy at **The Brando**, a 35-room, sustainable private-island resort on the French Polynesian island of Tetiaroa. To help alleviate any lingering stress, book the made-for-couples Fare Manu Experience at the Varua Te Ora Polynesian Spa, most of which takes place in the *fare manu*, or bird's house, up in a tree canopy. The three-hour treatment includes a Polynesian massage; a black-sand-and-coconut body scrub; a facial using coconut oil, sugar crystals, and honey; and a bath. *Villas from \$3,317, including all meals and some excursions and spa treatments; Virtuoso travelers receive a \$100 resort credit. Fare Manu Experience from \$1,341 per couple.*

◆ **Move into your own private villa in Queenstown, New Zealand.**

If you're looking for somewhere glamorous to crash while vacationing in the South Pacific, **Touch of Spice** more than likely has a villa for you; the company's extensive collection covers everything from urban penthouses to private oceanfront estates with full-time staff. Settle in outside Queenstown at Panorama, a five-bedroom villa with a hot tub, outdoor fireplace, and Instagram-worthy views of Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables from every room. A private chef can handle dinner, or Queenstown's restaurants are a quick drive away. *Villa from \$2,340; Virtuoso travelers receive complimentary concierge service for a pre-arrival stocked pantry, welcome Champagne, or a gourmet New Zealand cheese platter.*

◆ **Explore Ethiopia before everyone else does.**

Intrepid travelers are heading to Ethiopia, a less-trodden corner of Africa known for its epic landscapes and rich history. On **Abercrombie & Kent's** new ten-day adventure through the country – part of its Inspiring Expeditions by Geoffrey Kent collection (the tour operator also offers an ultra-luxe collection of Private Jet Journeys) – guests will travel by private helicopter to the Erta Ale volcano, a tribal village on the remote Omo Delta, the ancient churches of Gheralta Massif, and other sites. Don't worry about missing a photo opp: A professional photographer will be on hand the entire time. *Departure: October 4; from \$185,000.*



1. Touch of Spice's Panorama villa. 2. A treatment room at The Brando's Varua Te Ora Polynesian Spa. 3. Australian chef Peter Gilmore, who performs cooking demonstrations for Southern Crossings' guests. 4. Ethiopia's active Erta Ale volcano, which can be reached via private helicopter with Abercrombie & Kent.



1. Cape Town views from The Silo Hotel's pool, courtesy of Micato Safaris. 2. Spend time with an elephant calf near Wilderness Safaris' Abu Camp. 3. Explore Cannes while staying at the Alang Alang villa with Luxury Retreats. 4. Chianti daydreams at Cuvée's Tuscan Farmhouse.

### ◆ See Southern Africa in style.

Family-owned outfitter **Micato Safaris** has been organizing bespoke getaways to Africa for more than 50 years; one of its newest was curated with design lovers in mind. The 18-day, Cape Town-to-Windhoek, Namibia, journey includes overnights in some of the most stylish new properties in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia – including Cape Town's stunning 28-room Silo Hotel – plus game drives, helicopter tours, winetastings, museum visits, and more. *Departures: Any day through 2020; from \$46,950 per person, based on four guests.*

### ◆ Marvel at ancient rock paintings in Botswana.

While watching animals in the wild never gets old, some safari-goers may want to change up the daily game-drive routine. Travelers staying at Botswana's Abu Camp or Mombo Camp during an adventure with **Wilderness Safaris** can add a jaunt to the nearby Tsodilo Hills. A 35-minute helicopter ride takes guests to the seldom-visited site, which is made up of rock formations and caves covered in ancient tribespeople's paintings – some of which date back more than 1,500 years. *Wilderness Safaris trips at Abu Camp and Mombo Camp from \$2,335 per person per day. Tsodilo Hills excursion from \$965 per person with a minimum of two guests.*

### ◆ Sip reserve wine in Tuscany.

Luxury villa company **Cuvée** not only owns a collection of vacation rentals around the world, but it can also arrange one-of-a-kind experiences, whether guests are staying in an Aspen chalet or a beachfront villa in the Bahamas. Those traveling to Tuscany (may we recommend the five-bedroom Tuscan Farmhouse in Chianti?) can helicopter over wine country before landing at the Tenuta Torciano Winery for a tasting of private reserves and a four-course lunch – expect lots of truffles. *Villa from \$3,500; Virtuoso travelers receive a continental breakfast on arrival morning; a stocked bar, pantry, hors d'oeuvres, and cocktails on arrival; and a dedicated Cuvée Destination Concierge. Winetasting experience from \$3,380 for five people.*

### ◆ Act like an A-list movie star on the French Riviera.

**Luxury Retreats** has more than 5,000 villas in 300-plus destinations. For a large group – or a couple looking to spread out – the Alang Alang villa in Cannes provides a true French Riviera jet-set experience. The nine-room residence comes with an infinity-edge pool, a wood-burning pizza oven, a wine cellar, and a private chef. For stays during the Cannes Film Festival (held every May), the company can arrange red-carpet appearances, movie premieres, and VIP parties. *Villa from \$13,463; Virtuoso travelers receive a \$200 concierge services credit.*

◆ **Get married in an Italian palazzo.**

**Villa Pliniana by Sereno Hotels** – a sixteenth-century palazzo on the banks of Italy’s iconic Lake Como – is a dreamy setting for a destination wedding. Recently revamped by designer Patricia Urquiola, the exclusive-use villa has room for as many as 39 people, housed in four separate apartments within the main mansion. The newlyweds get first dibs on Casa Belgiojoso, which has secret access to the lake so they can arrive and depart by boat without being seen. *Price upon request.*



◆ **Helicopter to remote ruins in the Guatemalan jungle.**

Reaching the Mayan ruins of El Mirador in Guatemala typically requires a challenging five-day hike through lush vegetation. Tour operator **Blue Parallel**, however, transports travelers there via helicopter. Upon landing, guests will have the chance to explore the largest pyramid in the Americas with the site’s head archaeologist, who is still working to excavate the ruins. The excursion is available as an add-on to one of Blue Parallel’s custom Guatemala and Belize trips. *El Mirador experience from \$4,760 per person for two people.*



◆ **Unpack on a private island in Belize.**

With seven oceanfront villas and a staff-to-guest ratio of two to one, every getaway to **Cayo Espanto** – a private-island resort off the coast of San Pedro, Belize – is memorable. For travelers looking to take luxury to the next level, the resort recently created an eight-day itinerary that includes a stay in Casa Olita (a favorite of honeymooners), a full spa day, a private snorkeling or scuba tour of the Belize Barrier Reef, and a day at sea on a yacht. *From \$33,995 per couple, including accommodations and the activities mentioned above; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*



◆ **Ride four-wheel-drive ATVs to a secret waterfall in Costa Rica.**

Situated on the tip of Costa Rica’s Peninsula Papagayo, the sprawling, exclusive-use **Villa Manzu** has everything as many as 22 guests might need: a game room, two bars, a home theater, a private chef, and a concierge to plan activities such as hiking, surfing, and fishing. More adventurous types can book a tour that begins with a helicopter transfer to pick up four-wheel-drive all-terrain vehicles; from there, an off-road ride leads to a private waterfall surrounded by four natural hot springs. *Villa from \$18,500, including all meals and drinks, use of the villa’s boat, some spa treatments, and transportation; Virtuoso travelers receive a \$500 spa credit.*



1. An event at Villa Pliniana by Sereno Hotels. 2. Blue Parallel takes guests to visit the Mayan ruins of El Mirador. 3. Cayo Espanto’s Casa Olita. 4. Villa Manzu’s wine room.

◆ **Book the Caribbean's largest hotel suite.**

It may be all Caribbean beach bars and laid-back dining downstairs, but on the top floor of the Ocean Tower, the 20,000-square-foot **Seven South at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman** deals in Italian marble bathrooms, alfresco fireplaces, and private theaters. The 11-bedroom complex at the 375-room hotel also features furnished wraparound terraces and access to a private cabana on the beach, and its VIP guests receive expedited customs processing at Owen Roberts International Airport so they can start vacationing quickly. *From \$25,750, including a welcome bottle of Champagne, a \$1,000 resort credit, and a couple's spa treatment at La Prairie Spa.*

◆ **Island-hop through the Caribbean on a five-star yacht.**

Hotel lovers set their sights on the high seas when The Ritz-Carlton announced its foray into luxury cruising: **The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection**. (It's the first hotel brand to make the leap from land to water.) The new collection – a fleet of three 298-passenger yachts that debut in 2020 – impress with five dining outlets, a Ritz-Carlton spa, all-suite accommodations with private terraces, and the same personalized service guests expect from the Ritz. Call on some of the Caribbean's smaller ports (including Charlestown on Nevis and Little Bay on Montserrat) on an eight-day, Bridgetown, Barbados-to-Philipsburg, Sint Maarten sailing. *Departure: February 29, 2020; from \$6,100.*

◆ **Channel your inner vocalist in New Orleans.**

With its brass bands and storied jazz clubs, the Big Easy has a rich musical culture, and **Royal Insider**, a Virtuoso on-site connection in New Orleans, can help travelers experience the city like a Grammy Award winner. Offered as an add-on to the company's custom and authentic itineraries, a visit to a recording studio used by artists such as Solange Knowles, John Legend, and Willie Nelson gives VIPs the opportunity to take part in a live recording session – by playing an instrument or recording background vocals. (Two past vocal sessions made it onto the artists' finished products.) *Itineraries from \$1,000 per person per day.*

◆ **Take a VIP family vacation to The Most Magical Place on Earth.**

The kids are already most likely thrilled about a vacation at Walt Disney World, but here's how to get the adults excited too: Work with your travel advisor to book a five-day Orlando itinerary with on-site tour connection **American Excursionist**. Travelers will skip the lines at Disney, get entrance to Universal Studios before it opens, tour the Kennedy Space Center with an astronaut, and sit courtside for an Orlando Magic game. (For trips to the Great White North, American Excursionist's sister company, Canadian Excursionist, has travelers covered.) *From \$250,000.*

1. Seven South at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman. 2. Royal Insider guests participate in a live recording session in New Orleans. 3. A Walt Disney World visit with American Excursionist. 4. A rendering of one of The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection's vessels. 5. Flying right via the Private Suite at LAX. 6. Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten. 7. The Owner's Suite on board Silversea's *Silver Muse*. 8. A rendering of Crystal Cruises' *Crystal Endeavor*. 9. The Culinary Arts Kitchen on board Regent's *Seven Seas Explorer*.



DISNEY, SIMON CRUMPTON/ALAMY, STOCK PHOTO, (C) CALISTO KRUPPA/ORKS



### ◆ Skip the lines at LAX.

Craving a Double-Double from In-N-Out Burger or sushi from Nobu before your flight out of L.A.? Members of the exclusive terminal **Private Suite at LAX** receive expedited TSA screening, preflight lounge access, and on-the-tarmac boarding. Another perk: They can request anything they'd like from a local restaurant before departing. That goes for drinks too: If you're heading on wine trip to France, do as a former traveler did and ask for a bottle of Bordeaux to be waiting preflight. *Price upon request.*

### ◆ Hang out with chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten in NYC.

Visitors to New York City have their pick of amazing restaurants, but sometimes, after a long day of exploring, it's nice to have dinner come to you. Guests staying in The Penthouse at 152-room **The Mark** (Meghan Markle just had her royal baby shower in the suite) can make that happen with the help of chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten. He'll cook for you and your friends, lead a caviar tasting, or teach you how to make his signature dishes – whatever the palate desires. *Penthouse from \$75,000; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily, and a complimentary round of cocktails at The Mark Bar or a stocked picnic basket for two. Chef experience, price upon request.*



### ◆ Sleep like royalty at sea.

In 2017, **Silversea Cruises** introduced the 596-passenger, all-suite *Silver Muse*, which is home to one of the swankiest accommodations on the water: the Owner's Suite. As if having a large teak veranda and marble bathroom with a separate bath and shower weren't enough, the apartment-size space comes with a dedicated butler, a pillow menu, unlimited premium Wi-Fi, complimentary laundry service, and a fridge stocked with your favorites. Enjoy it next summer on a seven-day, Vancouver-to-Seward adventure through Alaska. *Departures: Multiple dates, May 28 to September 3, 2020; Owner's Suite from \$11,790.*



### ◆ Check Antarctica off the bucket list.

When **Crystal Cruises'** 200-passenger *Crystal Endeavor* debuts in 2020, it will be the world's largest luxury expedition ship, purposely built to navigate remote polar regions. On a 22-day adventure through Antarctica, the ship will head south from Tasmania and cross the Antarctic Circle and Ross Sea before ending its voyage in Christchurch, New Zealand. Highlights include seeing Adélie penguin colonies, visiting a scientific research station, and taking a helicopter ride over a massive ice shelf. *Departure: January 6, 2021; from \$32,149.*

### ◆ Sail around the world.

Four continents, 77 days, 18 countries, 43 ports – it's safe to say that **Regent Seven Seas Cruises'** Barcelona-to-Auckland journey on the 750-passenger *Seven Seas Explorer* is a trip of a lifetime. Complimentary shore excursions are on offer in Greece, Egypt (where you could spot a camel like the one on our cover), Thailand, and more, and during at-sea days, passengers can take classes in the Culinary Arts Kitchen or do nothing at all in the Canyon Ranch SpaClub. *Departure: November 6, 2020; from \$46,499.*



◆ **Attend a famous horse race in the presence of the queen.**

Summer in London is especially festive, with events literally fit for royalty. Select Virtuoso travelers whose advisors work with **NoteWorthy** – an on-site tour connection in the UK – can get exclusive access. At the Royal Ascot horse race in June, for example, guests will sit in the invitation-only Royal Enclosure – where they can watch Queen Elizabeth II herself pass by during the procession – visit the jockey’s weighing room, and head to a private trackside area for an unforgettable view of the finish line. *Royal Ascot experience from \$3,276.*

◆ **Charter a jet for a family affair.**

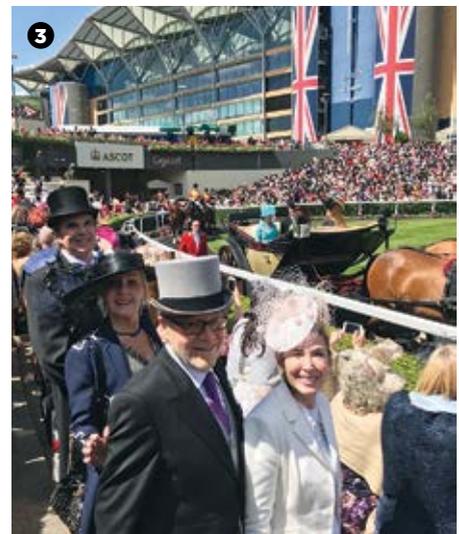
Passengers of the jet charter service **PrivateFly** can request pretty much anything to personalize their get-aways, and a themed flight is an especially fun way for families to celebrate a milestone event. The company once pulled off a Scottish-inspired trip for a traveler’s 100th birthday, complete with bespoke tartan seat covers, a menu with traditional Scottish dishes, and a bagpiper performing as passengers boarded the aircraft. *Price upon request.*

◆ **Don’t worry about logistics on a private yacht in the Mediterranean.**

Tuscany’s 20-room **Relais Borgo Santo Pietro** encompasses a five-star hotel, a farm estate, a cooking school, and a vineyard – but the resort’s latest jewel is its **Satori yacht**, a ten-passenger, handcrafted wooden schooner available for charter. It’s hard to imagine wanting to leave the vessel, but if a day trip to Santorini strikes your fancy, you can also charter the company’s private jet. *Yacht charters from \$110,939. Private jet charters from \$27,000 for up to 12. Relais Borgo Santo Pietro doubles from \$633; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*

◆ **Have a Roman monument to yourself.**

Rome’s Villa Borghese – the city’s largest public park – is magical even during regular hours when crowded with people. Seeing it on a private, nighttime visit arranged by your travel advisor and **I.D.I. Travel**, a Virtuoso on-site tour connection in Italy, will exceed all expectations. Guests begin with a tour of the Borghese Gallery, which is filled with works by Titian, Bernini, and Caravaggio, and end with a candlelit dinner on the terrace of the Egyptian Room. *Price upon request.*



1. Visiting Rome’s Borghese Gallery with I.D.I. Travel.  
2. A PrivateFly jet. 3. Virtuoso travelers attending the Royal Ascot with NoteWorthy.  
4. Relais Borgo Santo Pietro’s Satori yacht.