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20 Dream Escapes

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experiences that will put you in the mood.



A view of Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge. Opposite: The Oak Bar at the Plaza Hotel, in New York City. Dress by Lanvin; shoes, Dolce & Gabbana. See Buyer's Guide, page 122.

DESERT GETAWAYS

FEZ, MOROCCO Though often overshadowed by Marrakesh, its fashionable neighbor to the south, this medieval city is the real soul of Morocco. And with new boutique hotels opening in restored *riads* and *dars*, Fez is quietly coming into its own. Housed in a 17th-century palace, **Riad Laaroussa** (3 *Derb Bechara*; 212-74/187-639; riad-laaroussa.com; doubles from \$194, including breakfast) has seven suites with mosaic floors and antique Fassi furniture, all looking out on an orange-tree-shaded courtyard. At **Dar Roumana** (30 *Derb el Amer*, *Zkak Roumane*; 212-35/741-637; darroumana.com; doubles from \$109), a century-old manse on a hillside, you can take Moroccan cooking lessons. The restaurant at **Riad Ibn Battouta** (9 *Derb Lalla Mina, Ave. Allal el Fassi*; 212-35/637-191; riadibnbattouta.com; dinner for two \$88) serves traditional dishes, such as lamb *tagine*, on a glass-roofed marble patio. Within the city's crumbling walls, 30,000 artisans fill the streets, brandishing everything from exquisite tiles to handworked leather goods. For a traditional Berber rug, head to **Coin Berbère** (67 *Talaa Kebira, corner of Derb el Horra*; 212-35/636-946). At the newly opened **Arganza** (9 *Rue de la Poste*; no phone), you'll find shelves of argan oil—derived from a native tree—which is known as “Moroccan liquid gold” for its ability to diminish dry skin and wrinkles.

SAN CAMP, BOTSWANA The middle of nowhere, recast as one of the sexiest places on earth? Only in Africa—the stark Makgadikgadi Pans in northeastern Botswana, to be precise. The Uncharted Africa Safari Company's legendary **San Camp** (27-11/447-1605; unchartedafrica.co.za; doubles from \$1,960), which opened in 1994 and is a favorite of safari enthusiasts such as photographer Peter Beard, has been completely updated. The tented main lodge is now far more roomy and luxurious, without sacrificing a shred of the original San's sensual charms: extra-long chaise longues in buttery leather; swing beds big enough for two. On the

perimeter, six very private white-canvas tents are appointed with tall four-poster beds and handwoven textiles; the enormous glass showers open to the deep-blue skies above. If you want to see more of Botswana, Uncharted Africa arranges multiday safaris through the Okavango Delta, where zebra and cheetah roam along dried floodplains, and the Western Kalahari lands of the Bushmen.

PALM SPRINGS Two hours east of Los Angeles, Palm Springs has long attracted Hollywood power couples, from Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner in the 50's to Brad and Angelina. The newest draw for A-listers? The eight casitas at the year-old, Moroccan-inspired **Colony Palms Hotel** (572 *N. Indian Canyon Dr.*; 800/557-2187; colonypalmsotel.com; doubles from \$339; casitas from \$419), with private patios, outdoor bathtubs, and quick access to the **Purple Palm** restaurant, for a poolside meal of Mediterranean-inspired dishes. There's more to do in Palm Springs than lounge by the pool: in a single afternoon you can hike through canyons and, after an eight-minute tram ride up **Mount San Jacinto** (1 *Tramway Rd.*; 888/515-8726; pstramway.com), toss snowballs in a fairy-tale alpine forest. Head downtown to browse the Midcentury Modern furniture shops along North Palm Canyon Drive. One of the best is the new **Trina Turk Residential** (895 *N. Palm Canyon Dr.*; 760/416-2856), stocked with vintage pieces and pillows upholstered in Turk's signature graphic prints.

MOUNTAINSIDE HIDEAWAYS

TELLURIDE, COLORADO Snowcapped mountains surround this mining village turned ski resort, where the scent of pine fills the air. Its streets are lined with 19th-century gingerbread houses and family-run shops such as the **Between the Covers Bookstore** (224 *W. Colorado Ave.*; 970/728-4504), a cozy bookshop with a café; and at **Coffee Cowboy** (123 *E. Colorado Ave.*; 970/369-4946) locals fuel up on fair-trade espresso before taking on the slopes. At **Honga's Lotus Petal** (133 *E. Colorado St.*; 970/728-5134), home to the town's best après-ski scene, bartender Sean Garatt mixes potent mojitos. For an

intimate dinner, reserve a table at **La Marmotte** (150 *W. San Juan Ave.*; 970/728-6232; dinner for two \$85), a 125-year-old former icehouse. Book one of the new hotels in nearby Mountain Village; the easiest way to get there is by gondola, especially atmospheric at dusk, when the valley lights up from the glow of streetlights. At **Lumière** (118 *Lost Creek Lane*; 866/530-9466; lumierehotels.com; doubles from \$319), all residences and penthouses come with a fireplace and oversize soaking tub. Or consider the 100-room **Capella Telluride** (568 *Mountain Village Blvd.*; 877/247-6688; capellatelluride.com; doubles from \$295), set to debut this month. With a butler catering to your every need, you'll be more than ready to hit the trails in the morning.

WOODSTOCK, VERMONT The town of Woodstock is a slice of classic Americana: a tableau of steepled churches, white picket fences, and covered bridges, all in the shadow of Vermont's expansive Green Mountains. At the **Woodstock Inn & Resort** (14 *The Green*; 800/448-7900; woodstockinn.com; doubles from \$175)—recently updated by designer Alexandra Champalimaud—the 142 rooms have red wool throws on the maple four-poster beds, perfect to curl up in while sipping the hot chocolate delivered at turndown. **F.H. Gillingham & Sons Country Store** (16 *Elm St.*; 802/457-2100; gillinghams.com) stocks snowshoes and mittens—just what you need for an afternoon trek in the woods. Down the road in a former woolen mill, **Shackleton Thomas** (Rte. 4, *Bridgewater*; 802/672-5175; shackletonthomas.com) sells handmade wooden bowls and ceramics. Before heading to the slopes of **Suicide Six** (Pomfret; 802/457-6661; lift tickets from \$36)—Vermont's oldest ski area—warm up with scrambled eggs and a house-made English muffin at the **Farmer's Diner** (Rte. 4, *Quechee*; 802/295-4600; breakfast for two \$20). +

Reported by Bree Sposato, with Tom Austin, Anya von Bremzen, Aric Chen, Jaime Gross, Darrell Hartman, David Kaufman, Stirling Kelso, Peter Jon Lindberg, Connie McCabe, Julie Mehta, Shane Mitchell, Christopher Petkanas, Josh Sens, Maria Shollenbarger, Hannah Wallace, and Valerie Waterhouse.