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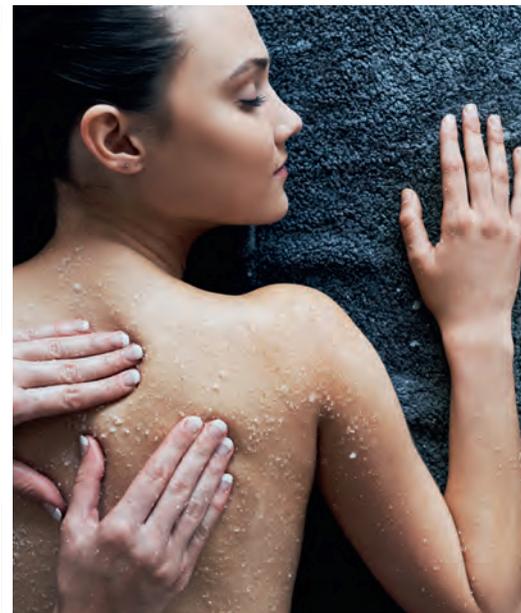


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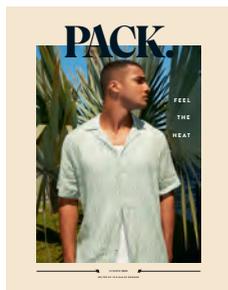
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## Join the PACK.

Ah, *la plage* – you really can't beat it. So the summer edition of *PACK* – our quarterly fashion and lifestyle section – is headed to the beach, as we highlight four luxury brands that'll make your next trip to the seaside that much more special. Plus, discover stylish hot weather picks, from 70s-inspired sunglasses to swish sun hats, and interiors star Ryan Belli shares his favourite LA hang-outs.

See pages 53–59



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**TAKE ME, I'M YOURS**  
Enjoy this magazine onboard and at home

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Discover the family members who work together at Virgin Atlantic, our new A350 aircraft dedicated to Emmeline Pankhurst and English rosé Folc.

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THINGS TO GET OBSESSED  
WITH RIGHT NOW

# Red Hot



NOW SHOWING

## PRIDE IN NEW YORK CITY

June in NYC means one thing: Pride month. After scaled-back celebrations in 2021, things are finally back in full swing this year, with a packed programme of festivals, parades and parties. Don't miss the return of Pride Island from 24–26 June, headlined by hyper-pop queen Kim Petras. The German singer will be the festival's first trans headliner, bringing her booty-shaking anthems to its new home on Governors Island for a sun-soaked celebration (sometimes you don't need rain for there to be a rainbow).

 Fly to New York

FIRST TAKE

# BIG-SCREEN POINT SCORING

Your favourite console games are making a play for Hollywood, says **Al Horner**

**I**t's no secret: when it comes to adapting video games into movies, Hollywood has struggled to find the correct cheat code. Over the last 30 years, we've had more video-game adaptations than Pac-Man has had... whatever those little yellow dots he loves to eat are. And yet, most of these films are bad (we're looking at you, *Super Mario Bros* and *Street Fighter*). So bad, in fact, that you'd be forgiven for devolving into a Donkey Kong-esque rage after viewing them.

The good news is that video-game adaptations may be starting to level up. On today's in-flight entertainment you'll find action romp *Uncharted*, starring *Spider-Man's* Tom Holland and based on the popular PlayStation series. That big-budget adventure-comedy is just the beginning of a new wave of console-to-screen offerings that suggest things aren't "game over" for the mini-genre yet.

Next year, an HBO series based on zombie survival game *The Last of Us* will air, from the makers of prestige drama



The trailblazing movie version of *Resident Evil* starred Milla Jovovich and spawned five gory sequels.

*Chernobyl* and starring *The Mandalorian's* Pedro Pascal. Elsewhere, a movie based on the Sega beat-'em-up classic *Streets of Rage* was recently announced from the writer responsible for *John Wick*. And then there's the small matter of *Ghost of Tsushima*, an incoming big-screen samurai epic based on the hit PS5 game of the same name, with action impresario Chad Stahelski (another *John Wick* alum) in the director's chair.

The problem with most video-game adaptations is that the games they're based on are themselves based on movies. For example, 2008's *Max Payne* is based on a game that itself channels silver-screen noir thrillers. Have you ever tried translating an English sentence into another language in Google, then back into English? It's kinda the cinematic equivalent of that. Another issue is that video games are typically fun because you're involved, bashing the buttons. Watching the same characters roam about, while you don't get to zap any bad guys, exposes the games' narrative shortcomings.

The talent attached to the above titles, however, suggests that studios are learning to avoid those failings. So don't be surprised if video-game movies start earning high scores very soon. It's game on.

Watch Uncharted



## CHANGE A FOOT

### Celebs are selling vegan shoes



**Jason Momoa** has crafted a range of shoes free from animal products called iLL x On The Room, with insoles made from, er, algae.

Verdict: Very aqua, man



**Catherine Zeta-Jones** has collaborated with shoe store Butterfly Twists on a range of cruelty-free flats and sneakers inspired by Wales. Yes, Wales the country.

Verdict: Perfect for valley girls



Celebrity tattooist **Kat Von D** has gone extra green with her range of vegan lace-up platforms and cobweb heels – the leather is made from compressed apples.

Verdict: Good core concept

ILLUSTRATION: GUY SHIELD PHOTOS: ALAMY

RISING STAR

# Action woman Sophia Ali

THE FORMER CHILD STAR THREW HERSELF INTO *UNCHARTED* AND HAS THE BRUISES TO SHOW FOR IT, SHE TELLS **KATE LLOYD**

**SOPHIA ALI HAS** always been a daredevil. The 26-year-old, who moved from Dubai to Texas aged five, spent her childhood biking and skateboarding. "Because I wanted to flirt with skater dudes," she jokes. It's no surprise, then, that when Ali was approached to play treasure hunter Chloe Frazer in the stunt-filled movie version of PlayStation game *Uncharted*, she leapt at the opportunity. (Literally: she had to jump off buildings while filming it.) The role is a big one for the erstwhile child actor, who's previously appeared in TV shows like medical drama *Grey's Anatomy* and currently stars in Amazon drama *The Wilds*. Ali features alongside

Hollywood legends Mark Wahlberg and Antonio Banderas in *Uncharted*, and it's just the start for her. The actor has plenty more adventures to come.



**Let's talk about the stunts in *Uncharted*. Were ever you scared while doing them?**

When we were filming, I kept being like, "Yeah, I can do that!" "Yeah, I can do that!" and that's how I found myself scaling a fountain, four storeys up, saying, "No, I actually can't do this!" I had to jump off the fountain and slide on to a car and I fell on my hip, bruising it pretty badly. I decided in that moment that I need to tell myself that I'm not invincible and could die more often [laughs].

**"PRODUCTION COMPANIES ARE NOW DOING MORE WOMAN- AND DIVERSE-CENTRIC THINGS... WE'VE HEARD EVERY STORY ABOUT MEN"**

**Are you an action sports person?**

It's hard because I travel so much for work. But I have a Ford Bronco. It's like a jeep with 36-inch rim tyres. I go off-roading with it in the desert outside LA. I love it there - it's vast, endless and full of mystery.

**One of your earliest roles was as a kid on *Barney & Friends*. Was Barney the dinosaur a diva?**

You know what? He was! He was played by different actors and I remember they were quite abrasive. Barney's voice was pre-recorded and played over their movements. You could hear their real voices behind the mask and they'd be saying, "Oh my God, I need some f\*\*\*ing water." I'd be standing there thinking, "But we just told each other we love each other?!"

**Was it nerve-racking joining the cast of *Grey's Anatomy*? It's such a long-running show.**

What was nice is that because the cast were such TV veterans, they all saw it as just a job. They didn't take it too seriously. That was good for me to learn early on. And it was such a fun experience. I remember going to a cast party at Debbie Allen's insanely massive house in Santa Monica and being

like, this is the biggest house I've ever seen! She has a tennis court, a basketball court - all the courts.

**Did any of the fake gore make you squeamish?**

There was one time when my character had to clean out an abscess on a foot, filled with yellow oozing pus. It was disgusting, I was gagging.

***The Wilds* follows a group of teenage girls stranded on a desert island. Is it cool being part of such a female-centric TV show?**

Yes. Production companies are now doing more woman-centric and diverse-centric things just to be politically correct. But actually these shows end up more interesting than what was getting made before because they're new and different. We've heard every story about men!

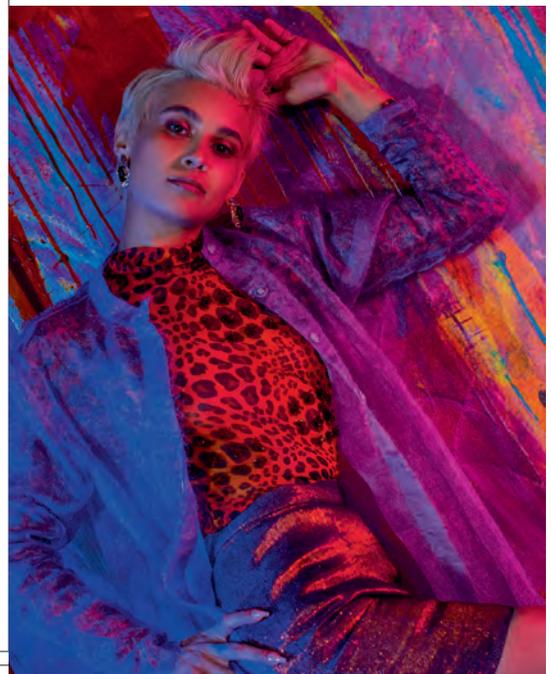
**You wrote and directed your own short recently, didn't you?**

I had three days until I left for Australia [to shoot *The Wilds*], and my friend and I had nothing to do. We wrote it that night and filmed it the next day. I was awake for 70 hours making it, but it was so fun.

**Is that your future?**

Absolutely! Although right now it's nice to do my thing and leave the storytelling to the storytellers. That way, if no one likes a show or movie I'm in, it isn't my fault.

Watch Uncharted



Above: Sophia Ali stars opposite Tom Holland in *Uncharted*

PHOTOGRAPHERS: GIANDOMENICO & JACLYN ROBYN STYLING: SKY NAVAL HAIR: TESSA MAYBARD MAKE-UP: VIOLETTE CASTELLANOS



## SNACKS

## THE TOAST OF SAN FRANCISCO

Rising brunch spot Hilda and Jesse is off to a deliriously tasty start with its three-course breakfasts

**DO YOU EVER** skip breakfast? For shame. It's the most important meal of the day, people. Crack female chef duo Kristina Liedags Compton and Rachel Sillcocks think so too, which is why they've launched Hilda and Jesse, a colourful, retro spot in San Fran's North Beach 'hood doling out imaginative morning treats until mid-afternoon Friday to Sunday (and Monday nights). Take their Grade School Breakfast, a nostalgic one-two punch of French toast and Rice Krispies ice cream (above). Making a mockery of the

idea that "proper" chefs only go to work after dark, the three-course tasting breakfast (US\$45) is a fun take on fine dining – make room for pancakes with truffles, or rebooted avocado toast with tempura sweet potato, dill and onion horseradish (right). Pick your poison (sparkling wine or coffee) and settle into what's bound to be a very good day.

✂ Fly to San Francisco

From above: Grade School Breakfast French toast slathered in cardamom caramel, Rice Krispies ice cream and a dusting of cinnamon sugar; avocado "toast" of tempura-fried sweet potato



## DRINKS



## Londoners are rubbish drinkers

Heard of drinks made from trash? Well, London is currently littered with tipples salvaged from waste products. At Cahoots in Soho, the Off The Rails is mixed with discarded vermouth made from waste cascara reclaimed from Guatemalan coffee growers. Coupette in Bethnal Green serves Greensand Ridge's Raspberry Ghost gin, which is distilled from berries rejected by fussy supermarkets. And if spirits are too much for you, raise a Toast ale, made from unwanted bread and available at all good bottle shops. Here's to garbage mouths everywhere.

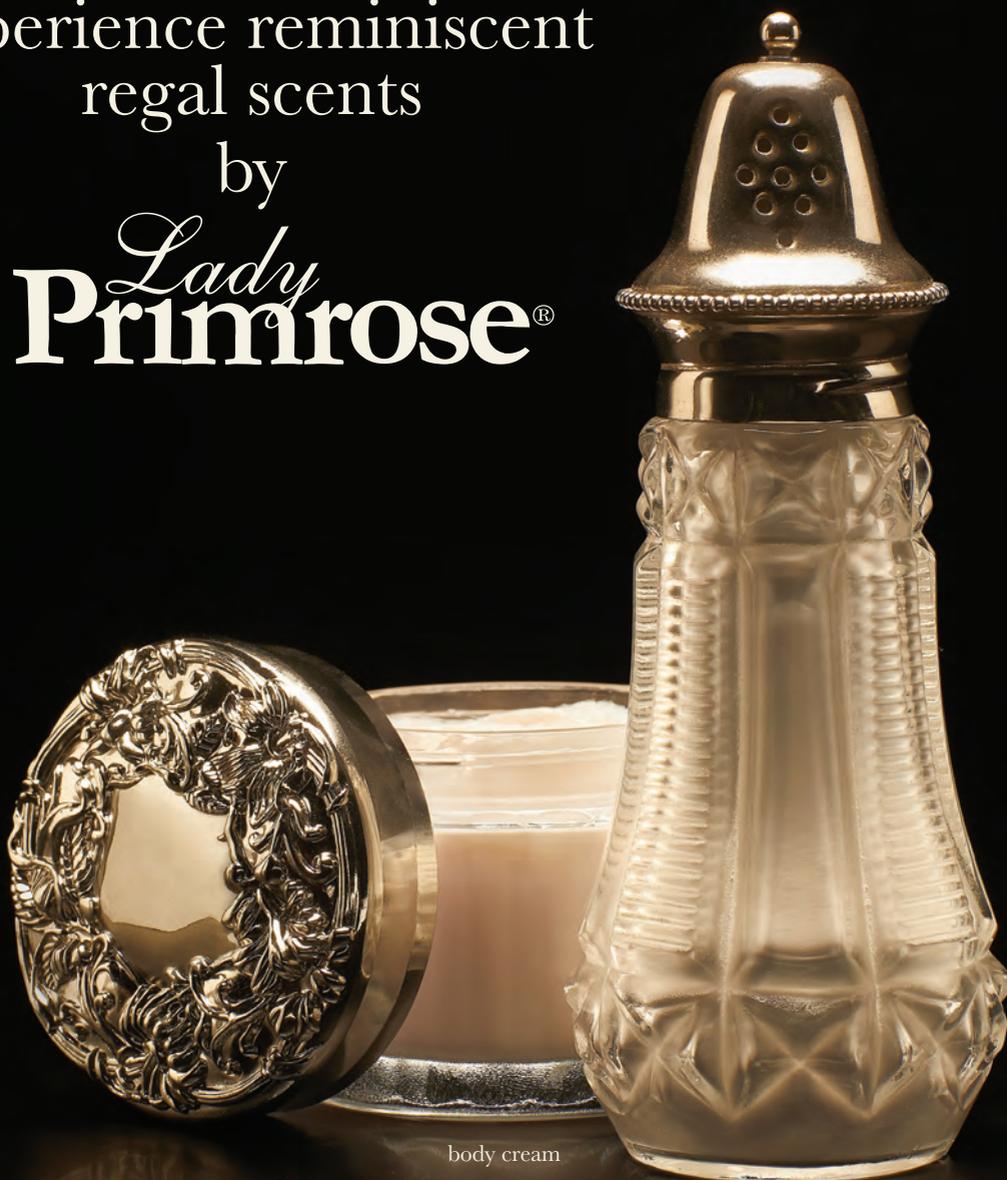
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## LOCATION SCOUT

# HANGING OUT WITH FAMILY IN ORLANDO

With a spate of new rides opening, the Florida city cements its status as the best choice for a great family holiday, says local reporter **Katie Rice**

O

Orlando is often called the “theme park capital of the world”, and with its vast and constantly expanding set of attractions that title is probably deserved. Development has been

especially swift in recent months as the top theme parks – including Walt Disney World and Legoland – have added new rides to their rosters to meet the rush of post-pandemic tourists. Visitors returning to the Sunshine State for the first time in a few years will discover that the trademark features of theme park fun – parades, fireworks, character meet-and-greets and roller coasters to make you almost wet yourself with excitement – are back in full swing. That elusive but magical spark of childish glee has returned, too.

Let’s start by talking about the big one: **Walt Disney World** (1) put Orlando on the map as a



1



renowned vacation destination; the original theme park, **Magic Kingdom**, turned 50 in 2021. Several opening-day attractions geared

toward the young and young at heart still operate alongside newer rides like **Seven Dwarfs Mine Train**, a gentle ride through scenes from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* that gives younger visitors a smooth introduction to roller coasters.

Jurassic World VelociCoaster is themed to the film franchise, naturally, and launched at Universal’s Islands of Adventure last summer



**“Those trademark features of theme park fun are back in full swing. That elusive but magical spark of childish glee has returned, too”**

Disney's second-oldest park, **Epcot**, hosts some of the newest rides across the resort. **Remy's Ratatouille Adventure**, which opened in October, combines elements of old-fashioned ghost train rides with sizzling smells to give passengers of all ages a rat's-eye view of a Parisian kitchen. Since May, the **Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind** roller coaster has been taking older kids and adults on adventures with Marvel's ragtag heroes.

The resort's two other impressive parks, **Hollywood Studios** and

**Animal Kingdom**, host state-of-the-art attractions set in the worlds of *Star Wars* and *Avatar* respectively, with plenty of other rides and shows suitable for everyone.

A theme park day wouldn't be complete without sugary treats. Try cookies from the Victorian-themed **Gideon's Bakehouse (2)** at Disney Springs for dessert – or an appetiser, it's vacation after all. A local tip: lines are often shorter at the store's original location in Orlando's Audubon Park neighbourhood. ▶



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3

Orlando's theme park landscape will get larger still when **Universal Orlando Resort** opens its newest theme park, **Epic Universe**, in summer 2025. For now, visitors can enjoy its original theme park, **Universal Studios**, and sister park **Islands of Adventure**.

Universal Studios focuses on movie magic. Simulator rides welcome guests of all ages into scenes from family-friendly flicks, while indoor and outdoor roller coasters range from kid-friendly to pulse-pounding. Somewhere in the middle lies **Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts**, an atmospheric roller coaster set in the Wizarding World's central bank.

With two-park tickets, visitors can hop on the **Hogwarts Express** attraction or walk over to Islands of Adventure, where magic and mischief await on **Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure (3)**, a roller coaster offering two different experiences depending on which seat the rider chooses. **Jurassic World VelociCoaster**, new from last year, provides an intense experience at high speeds for adventurous riders, culminating in a barrel roll over the park's central lagoon.

A theme park day works up an appetite, and the carb-heavy, Brazilian-fusion dishes at **Mrs Potato Restaurant (4)**, a short drive from Universal, are perfect for fuelling a busy trip.

But theme park fun isn't just contained to Orlando: a short drive away in Winter Haven, **Legoland Florida** and its new **Peppa Pig**



5



4

Above: Mrs Potato Restaurant, now near Universal Studios, has become something of an institution since it first launched in a kiosk on International Drive

**Theme Park** (ticketed separately) are geared toward preschool and school-aged children with low-intensity attractions and activities.

Beyond theme parks, Orlando is a multicultural community with a restaurant scene that reflects its diversity. A local Venezuelan favourite, **Q'Kenan Restaurant's** empanadas and arepas are easily portable meals for the thrillseeker on the go. For a sit-down meal, **Selam Ethiopian & Eritrean Cuisine** specialises in East African dishes served in a traditionally hands-on manner, with diners encouraged to use injera bread instead of utensils.

Make time to stop at **Pollo Tropical**. This fast-food chain currently only operates within the state and its numerous locations serve a wide variety of Puerto Rican-inspired food, including customisable dishes even the pickiest eaters can enjoy.

Finally, **Gatorland (5)** is somewhere between an amusement park and a nature reserve, offering a glimpse of prehistoric Florida, and recalls the state's heyday of mid-century roadside attractions as guests come face-to-snout with Florida's unofficial mascots. Because before we had theme parks, we had swamps.

✂ Fly to Orlando

## 3 MORE NEW RIDES IN ORLANDO



### IRON GWAZI

Located a day-trip away at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, this family thrill roller coaster debuted in March with a hybrid structure made of wood and steel.



### REVENGE OF THE MUMMY

Technically back from the undead, this fan-favourite indoor roller coaster at Universal Studios Florida reopens later this summer following a significant (secret) refurbishment.



### TRON LIGHTCYCLE RUN

Though a date is yet to be announced, when this opens it will be the first new roller coaster at Disney's Magic Kingdom since Seven Dwarfs Mine Train in 2014.

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SLEEPER HIT

# Bold living in downtown LA

THE NEW CITIZENM DOWNTOWN IS AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION



**THINGS WILL BE** great when you're downtown, they say. And these days, downtown LA – the city's once-neglected core – is great once again, thanks to revitalisation efforts that have breathed life back into the district's iconic Art Deco digs. Dutch hotel brand CitizenM just opened its first LA property smack-dab in the city centre and they're making the most of their buzzy new postcode. The swish lobby beckons punters in with its all-night canteen-slash-bar and madcap "living room", featuring trippy knick-knacks like wall-mounted typewriters, rotary phones and a crocodile stalking the conference table.

You could scarcely dream up a better place for mingling – but if you're not socially spent, a three-minute walk will take you to the dining Mecca that is Grand Central Market, and uber-cool galleries like the Museum of Contemporary Art and The Broad are just around the corner. Looks like DTLA has an especially bright future.



✈ Fly to Los Angeles

## 3 MORE DOWNTOWN DIGS



### MODERNAUS, NYC

Suffused with the artsy, creative vibe of surrounding SoHo, this is a slick base for exploring Manhattan. Feel part of the skyline itself at Jimmy, the stylish 18th-floor bar and terrace.



### KIMPTON CLOCKTOWER HOTEL, MANCHESTER

This timeless hotel set in a Grade II-listed building in central Manchester boasts original period features like stained glass skylights and carved wooden staircases.



### BROWN BEACH HOUSE, TEL AVIV

A downtown hotel that's also on the beach, with touches of Miami Art Deco and graceful French Riviera styling. Breakfast is laid on by bigwig local chef Meir Adoni. A bit special, this one.

**K**

aleidoscopic costumes. All-night festivities. High-octane energy. The Caribbean's carnival celebrations – which happen mostly between June and August – are some of the world's most electrifying parties. But there's a deep history behind these rum-fuelled shindigs that have special meaning for each island. Rooted in colonial rebellion and emancipation from slavery, carnival is a call to celebrate freedom, commemorated with competitions, parties (called fetes) and a parade of bands (groups) that gather on roads to wine and wukkup (dance) to the sweet sounds of soca music.

Each island has its own traditions and history to consider before joining the bacchanalia. Here's a primer on some of the festivities that are back this summer.

**TRENDING**

# CARNIVAL FEVER

The Caribbean's most popular celebration is back. Travel expert **Kristin Braswell** tells us what to expect at these island parties



## ST LUCIA

14–21 July

St Lucia's week-long celebration continues to gain popularity each year, but it's a good introduction to carnival for first-timers to navigate fete hopping with relative ease. The celebrations take place primarily in the west coast capital of Castries, as well as Gros Islet on the lush northern tip of the

country. St Lucia has its own soca sound of stripped-down percussive beats, called Dennerly segment, which you're pretty much guaranteed to hear at every event.

**Tip:** Don't miss the Colour Me Red event, a public street party where everyone wears – you guessed it – red and dances to the drum-heavy sounds of both St Lucian and global artists.



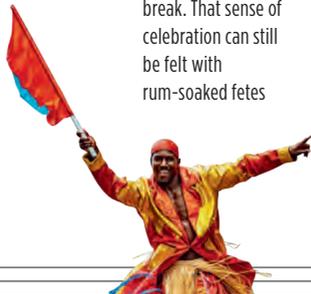
## BARBADOS

27 July – 1 August

Get ready to wukkup in Barbados for Crop Over. The name of this celebration dates back to the 17th century, when the sugar cane harvest ended for the season and enslaved Africans took to the fields to celebrate a brief break. That sense of celebration can still be felt with rum-soaked fetes

– it's the spirit's birthplace, after all – from the city streets to the countryside. Festivities end with Monday's Grand Kadooment parade, where revellers draped in feathers and beads head to the National Stadium to join their bands and dance through the streets into the late afternoon.

**Tip:** Be sure to enjoy such island dishes as macaroni pie, flying fish sandwiches and pone, a dessert made from cassava.





## ANGUILLA

28 July – 7 August

Though travellers visit Anguilla for its dreamy beaches, summer gets a little more lively with the arrival of carnival. Most of the island bunks off work for the festivities, even the government. For Monday's parades, bands compete on colourful floats for the

title of "Road March Champion". When you've danced up an appetite, enjoy an Anguillian staple: the pillowy Johnny cake. This biscuit is served alone or alongside meaty sides, like lobster or chicken. **Tip:** On Carnival Monday, head to Sandy Ground for the island's best beach (and boat) parties.



## GRENADA

3–10 August

Named Spicemas after the island's abundant spice plants, Grenada's carnival celebration hops from verdant hillsides to the harbour in capital St George's. For J'ouvert, people gather in the early hours to meet the sun and dance through the island, trailed by trucks with live music.

**Tip:** Be sure to try the island's hangover fix and national dish, oildown – a hearty salted meat and vegetable stew.



## SET VISIT

### Pond life in the Cotswolds

Disney's *Death on the Nile* – based on the Agatha Christie book of the same name – transports viewers on an intrigue-filled river cruise along the Egyptian Nile. Filming, however, took the cast and crew not to that ancient, storied river – but 24km north of Swindon, in the UK, where the Cotswold Water Park Nature Reserve was transformed into a bustling riverside spice market. It may not have the same exotic allure of the Middle East, but this pretty park still makes for a wonderful day out, with plenty of wildlife, swimmable lakes – and, best of all, zero murders.

✂ Fly to London

WORDS: JESSICA PROPPAS PHOTOS: ALAMY, JOSHUA YEAMAN, JASON AUDAIN PHOTOGRAPHY, REERO LYNCH, ADOBE STOCK

## SCREEN TEST

# Are there other lost cities out there?

IN *THE LOST CITY* SANDRA BULLOCK AND CO ARE ON THE TRAIL OF ANCIENT RUINS. WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF FINDING REAL-LIFE TREASURE? ASKS **RALPH JONES**

**T**here are few things more appealing than the idea of stumbling into the middle of a clearing in the jungle, pulling back a few vines, and discovering the portal to a lost city. Shivers. Up. The. Spine.

But how likely is that scenario? For yourself, probably not very, given that you're (as far as I'm aware) not an archaeologist. But what about the professionals? Have they found everything there is to be found? Or are there ancient ruins out there, with treasures that may one day be uncovered?

*The Lost City* would have us believe that kind of thing still goes on. In the brand-new action comedy, Sandra Bullock's novelist character, Channing Tatum's model and a strange billionaire played by Daniel Radcliffe find a lost jungle city on a remote island in the Atlantic. It's a story that obviously makes for great big-screen fun. But is it more than just a fantasy?

At the beginning of the 20th century, intrepid exploration was all the rage, says Dr Jim Leary, a lecturer in field archaeology at the University of York. For a wealthy white man, travelling abroad in a white suit and a panama hat did often yield miraculous discoveries of secrets and treasure. In 1922, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon found the tomb of Tutankhamun, in a moment that must have looked a lot like a scene from *Indiana Jones*.

The discipline is different now, with fewer eccentric Caucasian men kicking doors open, and a more sensitive approach involving technology and good old-fashioned research. With satellite photography "you have the world at your fingertips," says Dr Leary. And, using these techniques, are we still finding lost cities? Yes, says Dr Leary – all the time,



in fact. "In a sense, it is a treasure hunt. You're on the case and you know there's something there."

Unsurprisingly, the work of a real archaeologist isn't quite as sexy as *The Lost City* would have us believe. "You don't have great big tumbling stone balls chasing after you," says Dr Leary. But he is able to reel off various recent discoveries of settlements and villages that, historically speaking, are still very sexy indeed. In 2003, more than 2.4 hectares of land in Orkney, Scotland, was uncovered, containing painted stones and a temple, among other things. "That's what keeps me motivated," Dr Leary says.

And, as we speak, there are people looking for the lost 13th-century town of Ravenser Odd, just north of Grimsby in England. Once a flourishing town with a market, a port and a court, it is now underwater thanks to storms and shifting sandbanks. When archaeologists excavate it, they may not find a chest full of gold. What they do find will be wet and messy. But it will be real.

 Watch *The Lost City*

## THE VERDICT

There are whole worlds out there. Like finding buried treasure, you just need to know where to dig.



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Self Esteem is the world's most honest pop star, and her big, brazen songs are set to soundtrack a magnificent summer of festivals. But how did the indie veteran arrive at empowered pop perfection? **Anna Cafolla** finds out

PHOTOGRAPHS: JULIA KENNEDY

# THE SUMMER OF SELFESTEEM





# THE REASON POP MUSIC IS, WELL, POPULAR

is that it can be whatever you want it to be, wherever you are in life. It can fill arenas, feed your wildest fantasies, inspire revolution and flaunt enough glamour to create new fashions. Or it can twang your heartstrings, soothe you to sleep and help you through every break-up you've ever had.

Until now, it was rare to hear pop that did all those things, but enter Self Esteem. As Britain gears up for a summer of celebration (flag-waving and picnic sandwiches for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, mud-and-sun collective euphoria of the returning festival season), she's handily provided the soundtrack. Her thing is emotionally intense pop that tackles topics from body image to bad dating and the patriarchy, but is also deliciously dramatic, with dancefloor beats, diva vocals and anthemic choruses made for screaming at the top of your voice in a crowded field with a plastic cup of warm cider.

It's a sound that Self Esteem – real name Rebecca Lucy Taylor – has arrived at age 35, in the second phase of her musical career (she spent a much quieter decade as one half of highbrow indie band Slow Club), and perfected on her second solo LP, *Prioritise Pleasure*. *The Guardian's* album of the year in 2021, it's a tour de force that you can listen to onboard today: power pop that revels in its no-holds-barred honesty.

"Melodic complaining" is how she describes her new sound, with a trademark twinkle of humour and self-deprecation. "I found my twenties miserable," she says, "and I've dedicated myself to being emotional. I want to bring people into that. Does that sound cult-like?" Maybe, but where do we sign up?

We meet for *Vera's* cover shoot in an east London rooftop bar on a typically British early-summer afternoon that sees four seasons in one day. She seems very much at home in her diaphanous dress, green coat and dramatic opera gloves as she sips slowly on a pint of beer in-between shots, while digging her silver-painted toenails into the Astroturf. "I've had a long career of being like," – she pitches her voice up several notes – "Hellooo, look at me!" And now people do. It's biting me in the arse in the very best way. I'm burnt out in the purest form!"





Opening pages:  
Suit: Marni  
Earrings: Miu Miu C/O  
4element  
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# BENEDICT RAVEN

ENGLAND

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As a proudly bisexual woman who loves a dancefloor banger, she felt frustrated about the confines imposed by her years on the indie scene. Once, she says, while supporting Mumford & Sons as part of Slow Club she saw Haim perform; the sister trio made her want to “drop dead” with jealousy. After 10 years of that, she broke free to dive headfirst into the pop world.

“When I was in an indie band, there were so many rules. I couldn’t be all the things I wanted to be. So I doubled down – I wanted to do bubblegum sugar, in your face, primary colours pop. I love all that. Now, I think I’m more subversive. I’ve realised the goal, though, is that I want to do what I want, not tick boxes. I want to be David Byrne.”

With her debut, *Compliments Please*, Taylor poetically articulated modern life anxieties in a way that emboldened herself and her growing audience. *Prioritise Pleasure* took it to the next level, with songs that mix the relatable with the theatrical. It’s light with deadpan humour and plain-spoken, intimate detail. And mainly, it’s about prioritising and loving yourself. “Don’t be intimidated by all the babies they have/don’t be embarrassed that all you’ve had is fun/prioritise pleasure...”

“*Prioritise Pleasure* still feels very much like me, but I’m still getting to know myself even more,” she says. “It gives me the pleasure I used to get from getting off with people. I used to think that everybody knew something I didn’t. That there was some secret formula.”

Early on, Taylor sat down with her manager and outlined her ambition: to be the biggest pop star in the world. She’s not doing too badly. In 2021, ▶

**“I love the daft campness of British pop. British festivals – I want to live in that world! I made Self Esteem to stand out”**



Right: Self Esteem performing at the O2 Forum Kentish Town, London, in March  
Below:  
Sunglasses: Thierry Lasry  
Shirt: Stylist’s own  
Necklace: Yves Saint Laurent C/O 4element  
Trousers: & Other Stories



## ESTEEMED CAREER

### SELF ESTEEM’S CV

#### Born

Rebecca Lucy Taylor was born in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, on 15 October 1986.

#### Education

She attended Wales Comprehensive school where she was a very respectable cricket player – to the point she could have pursued a career – and a dab hand on the drums.

#### Fun fact

As Self Esteem, Taylor performed at Glastonbury 2019 in a frock made of Boots pharmacy loyalty cards.

#### Key works

##### Your Wife (2017)

Self Esteem’s debut single, produced by Django Django’s Dave Mclean, set out her gender-fluid electropop stall, with a memorable self-directed video rocking the incongruous image of Taylor in prim

Stepford Wife garb munching on a massive joint of fried chicken.

##### Compliments Please (2019)

In a tongue-in-cheek video promoting her debut album, Taylor described her sound as “melodic complaining”, “poor-me periodcore”, and “menstrual madness set to music”. Suffused with wit and irresistible hip-hop hooks, her debut was widely, well, complimented.

##### Prioritise Pleasure (2021)

Taylor’s inspired sophomore LP spawned the immortal lead single *I Do This All The Time*, a spoken-word anthem for anxious millennial/Gen-Z types who agonise over cancelling plans while still trying to appear somewhat normal. Sound familiar?

she won BBC Introducing Artist of the Year and was nominated for Best New Artist at the BRITs. Prior to the awards, she tweeted: “Whatever happens, being a 35-year-old woman nominated for a BRIT is a really proud moment for me.” Being over 30 in an ageist industry is radical in itself, but now she’s part of a new era of pop heralded by female artists like Taylor Swift, Adele and Florence and the Machine. “At my shows, women in their mid-thirties are just so glad that someone’s saying what I’m saying,” she says. “We need a feedback loop that says we’re not weird. That’s got an emotional weight.” *I Do This All The Time* became her biggest hit last spring, but she had to really push her label to release it as a single. They warned her it was too long, the spoken word too intense. It didn’t hit the pop touch points. “It changed everything!” she says with a grin. “Nothing you think would do well was in there. It was all me.”

Taylor’s readying herself for a full-on few months, and it feels like she’s tapping into the shared national feeling: grass, Portalooos and melting ice cream are finally on the cards again, so we’re going to make the most of every minute of it. “Literally. Every festival. All summer long,” she says. Latitude, Glasgow’s TRNSMT, Down the Rabbit Hole in the Netherlands and Switzerland’s Montreux Jazz Festival are all on the schedule, and her solo tour is already mapped out for next year – Bristol, Belfast, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Brighton and more. “I love the daft campness of British pop culture. British



Denim co-ord:  
Ottolinger  
Trainers: Adidas

## FIELD REPORT

**ROCKING ALL OVER THE VIRGIN ATLANTIC NETWORK THIS SUMMER**

### THE GOVERNORS BALL (10-12 JUNE)

Citi Field in Queens, New York City, will be ruled by prestigious ballers like Kid Cudi, J Cole and Halsey. Expect art installations, and an inspiring drinks offering of craft, cocktails and more.



### GLASTONBURY (22-26 JUNE)

The legendary city-sized Somerset mudbath is back in the company of legends Sir Paul McCartney and Diana Ross, with Kendrick Lamar and Billie Eilish also topping the bill.





festivals – I want it to live in that world! I made Self Esteem to stand out. I feel so punk onstage.”

And then there’s the big one: after two fallow years, the most famous festival of all is back with a roar. Glastonbury’s headliners this July include Billie Eilish and Paul McCartney; Taylor played the BBC Introducing stage in 2019 – wearing a dress made from plastic store cards, a comment on “true British wealth and abundance,” she says – and she’ll be on the larger John Peel Stage this year. “Baby me is pretty chuffed and very not chill about it.”

If you make it to a Self Esteem show – and really, there’s no excuse not to – expect to get all of her. Her tracks are made to be performed live, full-bodied and physical. She matches Grace Jones’s stage presence with bolshie Yorkshire attitude (Taylor was brought up in the decidedly down-to-earth town of Rotherham). “For so many years people were paying money and I was just standing there playing four chords,” she says. “Maybe now I give too much! But I’m having a right laugh.” There’s lots of sobbing and screaming at shows. “Queer people and women are front and centre. Men are also getting into it. I want to Trojan horse everyone with pop.”

The Self Esteem dream now is to go from project to project. Albums, soundtracks, exhibitions, acting. “The boundaries of me are really open,” she says. “There’s some trust in me now and I feel so validated by the work. It feels great to just keep liberating myself.” She’s credited as Rebecca Lucy Taylor for

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: @JUSILVA, ANNA BARCLAY, ROLLING LOUD, @SNAP-LI, ALAMY

### ROLLING LOUD (22-24 JULY)

Ye, Future and Kendrick Lamar (again) are heavyweight stars leading the rap-leaning line-up of this Miami festival that also puts on editions as far afield as Portugal.



her recent work as composer on *Prima Facie*, the West End theatre production starring *Killing Eve*'s Jodie Comer. "It's pronounced 'prima fack-ee!'" she says, rolling the "r" with a hoity-toity accent and a dirty laugh. "I was a theatre girl growing up, so that was a pinch-me moment. But then... even doing a shoot today where someone cares if I've had lunch? Pinch me!"

It's sweet that the mere offer of lunch is enough to warrant gratitude, but despite her very obvious glamour, Taylor is no diva. "Wealth to me is exercising what I wanna do artistically," she says. "I want my shows to be drama." And her victories to date have only spurred her on. She's "gagging" to get back in the studio, she says. "I'm ready to get on with it. I've never made an album totally believing loads of people will listen. Being an artist and feeling listened to, seeing your ideas actually come to life... it's actually quite good for your mental health," she says with a big hint of sardonic understatement.

"Songs are safe places for me to say what I mean, because in my real life, I'm constantly



**"Self Esteem isn't an alter ego, but it's the safest and most sacred version of me"**

Cropped blazer: NUÉ  
Trousers: Nasty Gal  
Sunglasses: MEH. Studios  
Shoes: Stylist's own

might just be the key to the Self Esteem success story. "I find 'live, laugh, love' stuff really icky – but this is important. I scratched at the surface of accepting myself and found that's where happiness is. I want it to feel fantastical, but also like your mate down the pub. Most of the time, I just wanna spend every second enjoying myself. Making a big artistic point comes second." With an elbow in the rib of pop, an arsenal of bangers and a view of the rolling fields of Glastonbury, Self Esteem is British pop's saviour sloganeer.

🎧 Listen to Prioritise Pleasure

dodging the truth. I'm a Libra. Pleasing people is the MO. I was raised to be no trouble – even though all I've been is trouble! In songs, I don't have to be any of those things. I'm bold and mad, but I'm also weirdly introverted and meditative. Self Esteem isn't an alter ego, but it's the safest and most sacred version of me."

Pop, she says, is best when you see yourself and those you love in it, and this

**OUTSIDE LANDS (5-7 AUGUST)**

Green Day, Post Malone and Disclosure are set to rock the idiosyncratic San Francisco fest that's famous for gourmet grub, a "bicycle valet" and a whole zone dedicated to wine.



**ALL POINTS EAST (19-28 AUGUST)**

Gorillaz, Chemical Brothers, Idles and The National head an all-star line-up set to tear London's Victoria Park asunder at one of Europe's most unmissable urban festivals.



**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (16-18 SEPTEMBER)**

Downtown Las Vegas will be popping off to a trio of British headliners this year, with incendiary sets from Arctic Monkeys, Gorillaz and mild-mannered Scottish DJ Calvin Harris.



STYLIST: MORGAN HALL MAKE-UP: ECO MAKE-UP BY POPPY FRANCE USING NIKA & KAJER WEIS HAIR: LAURA CHADWICK NAIL TECH: STACEY BUSHAY SHOT ON LOCATION AT: SKYLIGHT TOBACCO DOCK



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# Slice



# of life

Baker and writer **Peter Reinhart** has been travelling the world in search of the perfect pizza. After 15 years, he finally found it – as well as a few secrets to life. Here, he shares what pizza can teach us about living to the fullest. Warning: things may get a bit cheesy

PHOTOGRAPHS: JULIA KENNEDY FOOD STYLIST: IAIN GRAHAM



**For the past 50 years,** I have sought meaning and purpose through food. Before I became a baking instructor, I owned a bakery and restaurant in Sonoma County, California, with my wife, Susan, where we practised the patience of monks to tweak and fine-tune our recipes until we were satisfied with them. Before that, I was an actual monk – or at least, a vowed member of a semi-monastic Christian community in San Francisco, where I learned to integrate my theological studies with the daily practice of preparing nourishing meals for the seminarians. And before that, I was a spiritually curious member of a vegetarian restaurant collective in Boston called Root One Cafe, where I first learned how to cook by sautéing lots of vegetables and making soy casseroles. Before all that, however, I grew up in the food-obsessed city of Philadelphia, where I fell in love with cheesesteaks, hoagies and, most of all, pizza.

Though my life has taken me in many directions, pizza has always been at the front of my mind. Through it all, I always return to my first love: that wonderful layer cake of molten cheese, marinara and charred crust. I have come to believe that pizza has a unique ability to reveal certain universal truths about humanity. That's why, 15 years ago, I launched my quest to find those depths of meaning hidden between pepperoni slices.

My subsequent “pizza quest” led me to hundreds of pizzerias and pizza makers (pizzaiolos) around the world. I wanted to find out what separated a good pizza from a great pizza. After all, pizza is just flour, water, salt, yeast and toppings. So how does a slice of a pizza become transcendent, and what can a delicious slice teach us about achieving greatness?

The resulting book – *Pizza Quest: My Never-Ending Search for the Perfect Pizza* – is based on interviews I conducted with 30 of the greatest pizza makers in America and beyond. From these interviews, I was able to glean some universal rules for making the perfect pizza – and, by extension, making the most of life. Here's what I learnt.

Above: Writer Peter Reinhart; savoury, spicy pepperoni is an ideal flavour contrast to cheese  
Right: Slice into this pizza to watch the egg yolk run deliciously



### LESSON #1

#### A great meal sticks in your memory forever

There are only two kinds of pizza: good and very good. And by very good I mean great, and by great, I mean memorable. A memorable pizza is an obsession: you can't stop thinking about it, can't wait to eat it again, can't wait to bring your friends. Some pizzas are made memorable by the skill of the maker, and others are memorable because of the company we eat them with. When those two factors come together – perfect execution coupled with a shared experience with those we love – we have a template for an unforgettable moment. During my twenties, when I was the resident houseparent at a group home for juvenile offenders in Raleigh, North Carolina, I used to take the kids to the now-closed Brothers Pizza



whenever we were having a rough day. There we'd talk, work things out, heal and bond over Brothers' crispy, crackly, toffee-like crust. Even now, 45 years later, I can still hear the oohs and ahs we all let out as we bit into that crust, still hear the laughs around the table. That kind of great encounter with food can be seared into your memory forever.



#### **LESSON #2**

##### **More is not always better; better is better**

The fear of missing out can be a major obstacle to living a meaningful life. For example, the so-called "kitchen-sink pizza" loaded with lots of toppings – as found at many pizzerias across America – is the worst contribution to the pizza lexicon. What makes pizza the world's most popular food is that the simple formula (ie "dough with something on ▶

it”) is the perfect flavour delivery system. But getting distracted by all the toppings you could be having and piling your pie with extras can cause a muddle of flavours rather than showcasing the full potential of each ingredient. Similarly, the fear of missing out on more money, possessions or friends can derail us from appreciating and savouring the full potential of the things we already have, and appreciating those precious few in our lives who love us.



**LESSON #3**

**Greatness is always built upon a solid foundation**

An average crust with great toppings can never be more than an interesting pizza – while a great crust, even with minimal toppings, can become a great pizza. The crust is the pizza’s most important component, and it needs to be properly fermented to bring out the complex flavour trapped in the flour. Add in a caramelised under-crust, plus a creamy, custard-like “crumb” around the rim (what the Italians call the *cornicione*), and the toppings become merely a bonus. You can extend this principle to anything we do in life – eventually, things will come toppling over if we don’t root them in a solid foundation. Anything built in haste can become a recipe for disaster – and half-baked crust is a great reminder of that.



**LESSON #4**

**Don’t be afraid to break the rules**

The great pizza makers have long been attempting to code the rules of pizza into law. The Neapolitan pizzaiolos banded together to form the Vera Pizza Napoletana (VPN) – an official organisation that defines rules for making Neapolitan pizza, doling out



**PETER REINHART’S FAVOURITE PIZZERIAS**

**FIVE PLACES TO FIND MEMORABLE PIZZA OUTSIDE OF ITALY**



**PIZZA PILGRIMS, LONDON**

Brothers Thom and James Elliot went on their own pizza quest a few years ago, driving their three-wheeled Piaggio Ape van – complete with built-in pizza oven – across Europe and the USA before returning to London and opening their pizzeria.



**PIZZERIA MOZZA, LOS ANGELES**

LA’s pizza scene has exploded in the past few years. I attribute much of this activity to one of my favorite restaurants – Pizzeria Mozza, from chef Nancy Silverton. Nancy’s pizzeria is where great crust meets farm-fresh toppings.

**TONY’S PIZZA NAPOLETANA, SAN FRANCISCO**

Pizza master Tony Gemignani was the first American pizzaiolo to win the Margherita Pizza World Championship in Naples. The Italians were stunned that an American took the prize, but Tony is a pizza powerhouse.

**METRO PIZZA, LAS VEGAS**

Metro Pizza is helmed by one of the most beloved of all American pizzaiolos, John Arena, who learned the craft as a child from his father who, at 90-plus, still works shifts here. The pizzeria showcases many of the styles associated with US metropolitan cities.

**VIA 313, AUSTIN**

One of the most exciting food cities in America, Austin has great barbecue, a strong food-truck culture and, now, destination pizza. Detroit-style square pizza, with its super crackly, cheesy crust, is all the rage and VIA 313 serves some of the best in the USA.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: PETER TAYLOR, ADOBE STOCK

## “THE COMMUNITY OF PIZZA FREAKS SHARES A LOVE FOR SOMETHING THAT IS CONSISTENTLY JUST OUT OF REACH: THAT PERFECT SLICE”

stamps of authenticity to pizzerias that adhere to their checklist. But the great pizza makers defer to only one rule: “the flavour rule”. That is, flavour rules above all else. Take VPN’s dictum for cooking pizza: they say a pie should only be baked for 60 to 90 seconds at 800°F (426°C), but some of the most memorable pizzas I’ve eaten used a lower temperature and a longer bake time to create a delightful crispness and snap not found in the pizzas of Naples. To achieve greatness in any of our pursuits – whether that be making a pizza, taking up a hobby, or starting a business – we need to master the rules, and then have the confidence to break them.



### LESSON #5

**Tradition should be treated as a verb, not a noun**

One thing I learned while living in a Christian community is that respecting tradition is essential. But I also learnt that tradition isn’t just a static set of dogmas and doctrines – it’s a fluid concept that changes and evolves. We can see culinary tradition

Left: The iconic “cheese pull” image can incite a craving like no other

being honoured and expressed in many great pizzerias around the world; but this tradition is also being recreated, reinvented, and reimagined before our very eyes. So, tradition isn’t just a simple noun – it’s a verb. To build a better future, we need to respect the wisdom tradition can teach us, and then try to express it anew.

**Let me leave you** with a bonus lesson – one that, I think, connects all the dots: it is more about the quest than it is about the pizza, and the quest never ends. My quest for the perfect pizza has brought me into fellowship with thousands of like-minded pizza freaks. This community shares a love for something that is consistently just out of reach: that perfect slice. They live in hope that the next slice will be the Platonic ideal of pizza, the one to end their lifelong pilgrimage. But really, they know, as I do, that perfection isn’t truly possible – it’s in the quest for perfection that we learn the most about ourselves, and find those moments of joy we hold forever. I hope your own road to perfection is paved with cheese and dough.



■ **Pizza Quest is published this month by Andrews McMeel Publishing**







**It's the jolly good guide to the most iconic things to see and do in the British Isles – from quaint villages to custard cream biscuits – in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Hurrah!**

WORDS: ANDY HILL  
DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION: PETER CROWTHER  
ILLUSTRATIONS: ALICE PATTULLO

## THE PALACE

**Buckingham Palace**, the Queen's roomy West End pad, has long been a locus of national celebration. It's from here senior members of the Royal Family – or “The Firm” as Her Maj apparently refers to her brood – pose on the balcony and do that funny posh wave. In summertime you can visit and marvel at her giant art collection and stately rooms laid out by Georgian architectural bigwigs like John Nash.



## THE DRINK

The British, experts reckon, down 100 million cups of tea daily. Our infatuation with this drink – said to have been made fashionable by Catherine of Braganza, Portuguese wife of Charles II – is complex, and tied up with Empire. Today, “making a cuppa” is a displacement activity that keeps our hands busy for a minute. The best place to sup our national tippie is at **Bettys** across Yorkshire, quaint tea rooms which have been caffeinating bleary Brits since 1919.



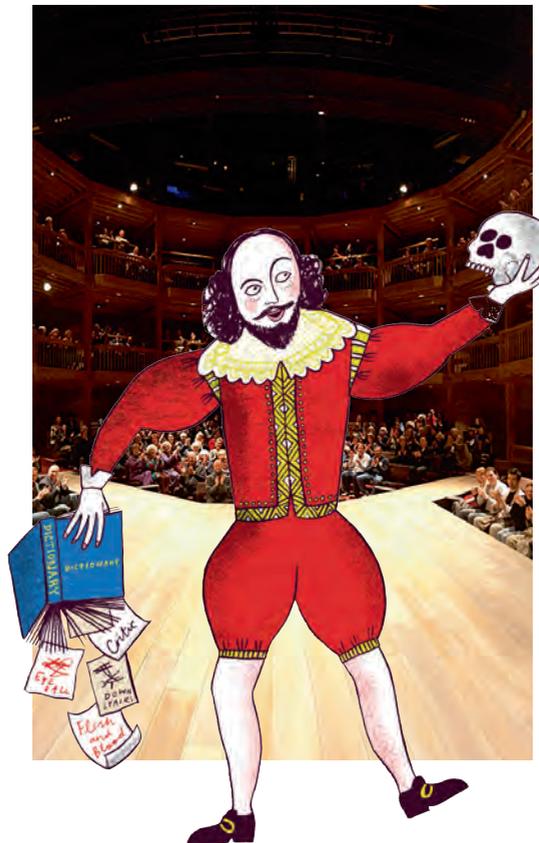
## The village

The idea all Brits grew up in quaint thatched villages with archaic names is wildly off-beam. Nevertheless, we do have some absolute doozies. **Chipping Campden** in the Cotswolds not only looks dreamy, it's also quirky. Since 1612, the village has hosted the “Olympick Games”, featuring such wholesome pursuits as dwile flonking – a boozy variant on dodgeball.

## The Bard

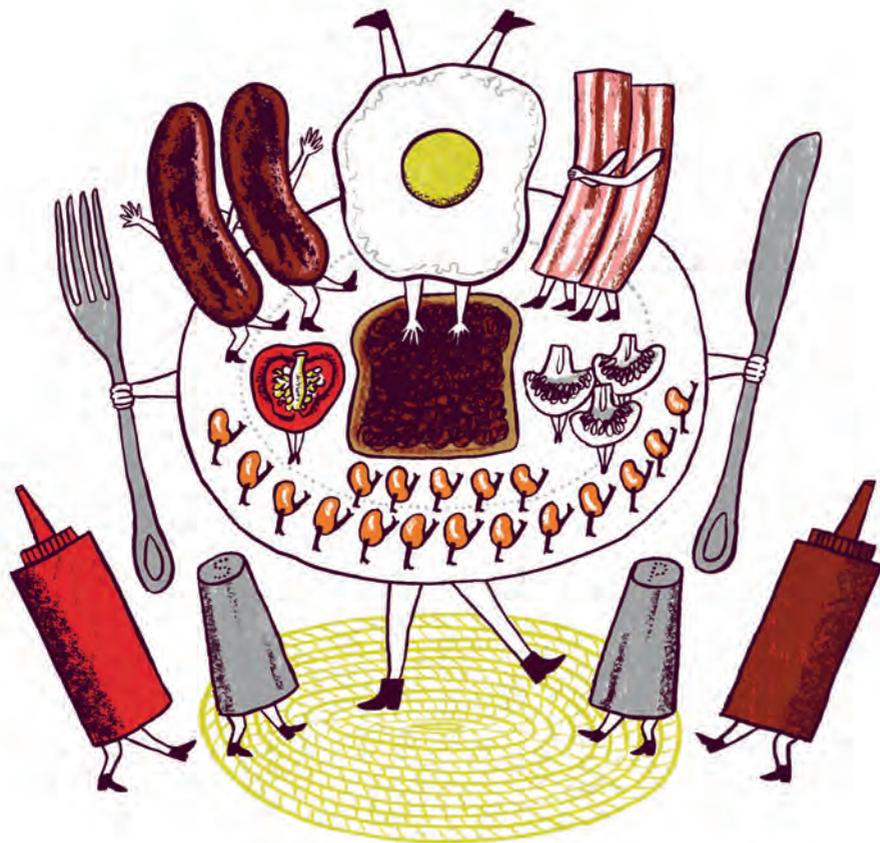
### William Shakespeare

singlehandedly coined vast tracts of the English language, from single words (“majestic”, “downstairs”, “critic”) to everyday phrases: “break the ice”, “flesh and blood”, “heart of gold”. That means habits of mind deeply embedded in all English-speaking peoples come straight from a jobbing Warwickshire scribe with terrible hair. Pay homage to the OG wordsmith on a visit to his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon, where you can catch his greatest hits at the Royal Shakespeare Company's three theatres.



## THE TRENCH COAT

This high-fashion staple first made a splash in the First World War keeping our brave soldiers dry in the dismal mud bath of the Western Front. Trench coats aren't, mercifully, a military thing anymore. Contemporary **Burberry** trench coats even revel in stylish London names like Chelsea, Kensington and Islington.



## The breakfast

Brits' bloated affection for the fry-up, that cholesterol bomb of beans, eggs, meats and a few ornamental veggies, can be gauged by its other common handle, the **Full English**. Dubiously claimed as a hangover remedy – in that it somehow manages to make you feel awful, but in a slightly different way – fry-ups are best enjoyed as God intended in an unfussy high-street cafe, aka “greasy spoon”. E Pellicci in London's East End is the gold standard, with a welcome as bright as egg yolk.

## THE GARDEN

Brits have a bit of a thing about gardening. Look, it even has a verb. And another – “pottering”, which roughly translates as “to poke about listlessly with a spade until the kettle boils”. Why do we love it so much? Our rainy, but almost never properly frozen, climate is probably part of the answer. Stuff likes to grow here. Even if the more exotic, interesting flora need a little help from a greenhouse. The ultimate greenhouse? Cornwall's **Eden Project** – not only the world's largest indoor rainforest, but home to a collection of all manner of fragrant British specimens. Worth the trip, you'll really dig it.



## WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH JAFFA CAKES?

### CONFECTIONARY CONFLICT AT THE TAX COURT

It's a question that's kept the nation in knots since forever – are Jaffa Cakes biscuits or cakes? In 1991, Her Majesty's Government – it presumably had nothing

more pressing to attend to – classified Jaffa Cake as a biscuit, forcing baker McVitie's to go to tribunal. Why? To argue that its popular orangey chocolatey confections are

not a biscuit, but in fact a cake, and thus exempt from taxation under UK snack law. Yes, they're sold in the biscuit



aisle and are of dunkable dimensions. But, your honour, they're literally named “cakes”, and roughly half made of sponge. In the end, the court ruled in favour

of McVitie's. If this shakes you to your very core, just wait till you learn McVitie's recently suggested, deadpan, you're supposed to eat Jaffa Cakes with the chocolate side facing down.

## The pantomime

Despite our inexplicable global reputation as a nation of chin-stroking sophisticates, most Brits only ever enter a theatre during **panto season**. That is, the spell around Christmas when the local theatre puts on a campy, slapstick fairy-tale parody, loaded with ribald gags and groan-worthy topical references. The first-ever panto took place in 1721 and was reportedly riddled with jokes mocking punters who'd lost money in the South Sea Bubble. You probably had to be there. One of the nation's best pantos takes place yearly at the Lyric Hammersmith, in London; its glorious festive plays always elicit Santa-style belly laughs.



## WHY DO WE WALK SO MUCH?

### PUTTING THE BOOT INTO CLASS WARS

Brits of a romantic bent tend to attribute our national fondness for lengthy strolls to the Kinder Scout Trespass of 1932, when hundreds of brave northern rabble-rousers reclaimed our fair countryside from the nasty old landowners with an unauthorised mass ramble. Modern public footpaths owe their existence to that rare episode of British civil disobedience. In a way, every time you take a walk you're part of a vibrant anti-establishment tradition. Truthfully, though, we like walking because it's a low-effort way of getting out in nature – and there's usually a pub on the way.

## THE TRAIN

Our greatest contribution to modernity, apart from the internet and jet engines (you're welcome), is probably railways. To relive their heyday, dozens of preserved steam trains toot up and down leafy branch lines all around the country. The **Ffestiniog Railway**, an adorable two-foot gauge former slate train in hilly north Wales, offers a chuffing good day out. Yes, you should wave at children from the coaches, it's basically the law.



## The restaurant

There's more to UK cuisine than spotted dick. And not all our groundbreaking chefs are the swearsome ones you see on TV. Heston Blumenthal continues to lead the pack at **The Fat Duck** in Bray, an hour or so out of London. He is both deadly serious – liquid nitrogen is a thing in kitchens because of him – but also, in a very British way, ever-so-slightly taking the mick.

# The Langham, London Celebrate The Everyday



In 1865, The Langham, London first opened its doors. Recognised as Europe's first 'Grand Hotel', it sought to revolutionise the luxury hotel experience.

157 years later, many things have changed, but the hotel remains one of the world's most iconic hotels — famed for its legendary hospitality. Along with an innovative spirit and playful heritage, The Langham, London continues to captivate and delight its guests with personalised, attentive service.



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[langhamhotels.com/london](http://langhamhotels.com/london)

THE LANGHAM  
LONDON



## The beach

The **Jurassic Coast** is not, alas, a futuristic theme park where dinosaurs growl and frolic for your amusement. But it is where some of the first and most important 19th-century paleontological finds were made. To this day, fossils are so easy to find – along the bit between Charmouth and the resort of Lyme Regis in Dorset – you can just bend down and pick them up when the tide is out. A little further along, Britain’s answer to the Algarve emerges from the salty spray in the elegant arch of Durdle Door. Don’t steal any specimens from the cliffs – just be a patient beachcomber and life will, uh, find a way.

## THE SHOP

You never know what might turn up on a good rummage in a second-hand bookshop. Case in point – when Stuart and Mary Manley, owners of **Barter Books** in Alnwick, Northumberland, happened upon a Second World War propaganda poster bearing the slogan “Keep Calm and Carry On” in a box they bought at auction, they decided to display it by the till. Patrons of their cosy store – set in a disused railway station – were so taken with it that the Manleys decided to print and sell copies, and a bestselling icon celebrating British modesty and stoicism was born. You can still visit Barter Books today – it’s every bit the cosy, rambling hang-out it ever was.



## WHY ARE WE OBSESSED WITH LOSING?

THE MELANCHOLIC ATTACHMENT TO 11 PLAYERS AND THEIR BALL

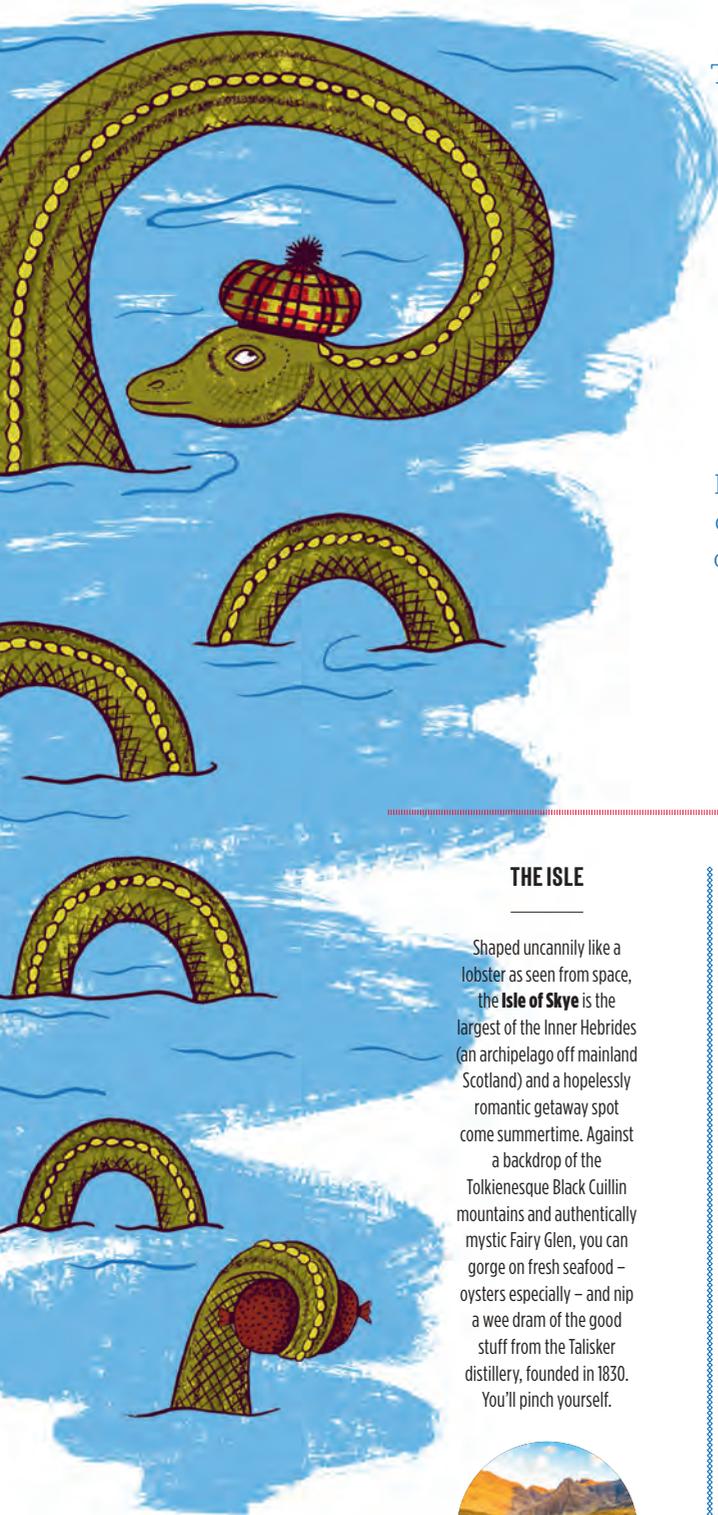
Our favourite sport isn’t cricket, sorry to burst your bubble. It’s football. In particular, international football. Every few years England’s brave “Three Lions” take on

the world and miserably fail to win so much as a silver teaspoon. Failure suits us, truth be told. Disappointment is our national dish. But why do we always fall for it? It’s maybe helpful

if you understand that song – “It’s coming home!” – as a classic English joke, so riven with irony the rest of the world simply doesn’t get it. Watching the team



inflate our collective ego only to ruthlessly pinprick it, yet again, is the only time basically everyone is in the same room, watching the same screen. #goals



## The monster

The pervasive attraction of the **Loch Ness monster** – Scotland’s mythical aquatic beast – reveals much about the Brits: our romanticism, our love of wild places, and our never-waning optimism. (That last one is a joke.) For your best chance at spotting this beloved long-necked creature, hop on a guided cruise as part of Rabbits’ Complete Loch Ness Experience one-day tour, where the gorgeous lake views will suffice if Nessie doesn’t come out to play.



## THE CHURCH

While not an especially pious bunch, we Brits are suckers for a lovely church. Our green and pleasant land is studded with 40,000 of them – more than pubs! – and most are riddled with stories. Not least London’s **Westminster Abbey**, just opposite Big Ben. The 13th-century edifice has witnessed every coronation since then, dozens of weddings and countless high-profile funerals, including those of Darwin, Newton, Dickens and Austen.

## THE ISLE

Shaped uncannily like a lobster as seen from space, the **Isle of Skye** is the largest of the Inner Hebrides (an archipelago off mainland Scotland) and a hopelessly romantic getaway spot come summertime. Against a backdrop of the Tolkienesque Black Cuillin mountains and authentically mystic Fairy Glen, you can gorge on fresh seafood – oysters especially – and nip a wee dram of the good stuff from the Talisker distillery, founded in 1830. You’ll pinch yourself.



## The biscuit

Our fondness for these sweet morsels is a maritime tradition, kinda – baking flour and water was an ingenious way of preserving carbs on long voyages. Every British person has their preferred “biccie”, but the **custard cream**, from around 1908, is a firm favourite. Two sturdy biscuit layers, embossed with a fancy fern motif, sandwich a faintly vanilla splotch of soft icing. It’s enough of a treat to perk up your afternoon cuppa, but not so indulgent you feel bad after scoffing half a pack in one go.



### THE BIRD

Crude, quarrelsome and indecently fond of chips, the **seagull** is clearly our national bird.

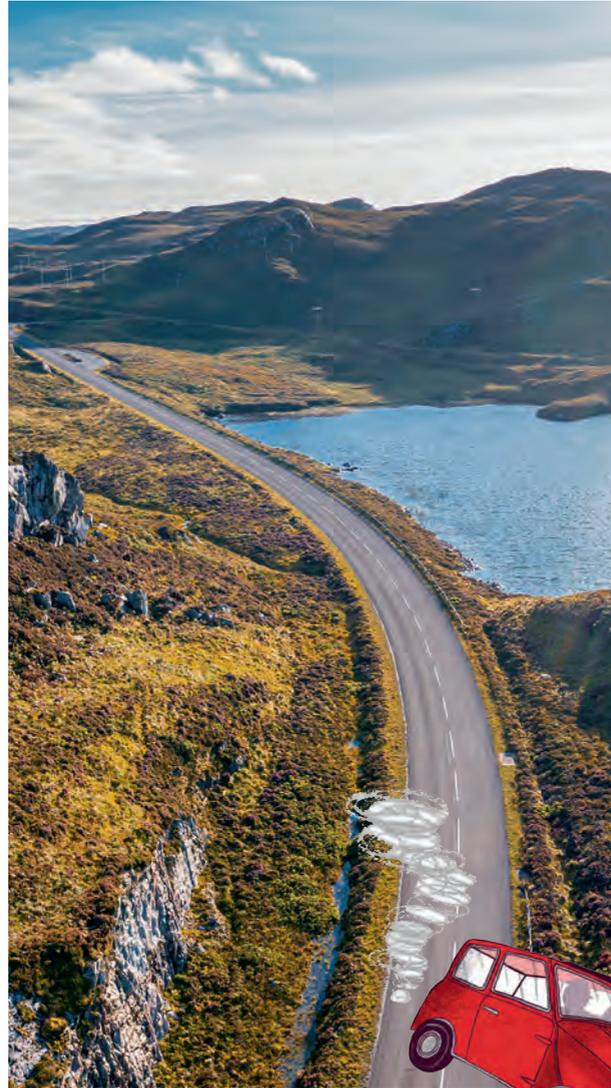


### THE SWEET

Though he may seem like a perfectly innocuous chocolate frog, **Freddo bars** are a crucial economic bellwether for Brits, in that their price – currently 25p – reliably tracks inflation.

### THE BAR

**The Langham** hotel, London, is as British as you get. Opposite Broadcasting House, it once served as a James Bond location. And its Artesian bar is consistently ranked among the best bars in the world. Settle down with a signature cocktail.



## The drive

Most Brits would grudgingly concede that Americans have the edge when it comes to road trips. With a handful of notable exceptions. **The North Coast 500** is a 500-ish mile (830km) trip around the northernmost area of mainland Scotland, starting and ending in Inverness, and taking in the ravishing unspoiled beaches of Sutherland, countless picturesque hairpin bends, ruined castles and mysterious lochs. It might not be Kerouac, but it's a darn fine spin – give it a week and camp en route for the best results.



## WHY DOES THE WEATHER HATE US?

IT'S A GOOD TALKING POINT AT LEAST

The British climate is famously moody due to our island sitting at the intersection of six distinct air masses. As such it's unpredictable and, basically, soggy – which we're used to by now. For example, we describe storms adorably as "raining cats and dogs". Plus, it's a reliable topic for small talk. For example, when another promising June morning degenerates into howling gales it's a custom to quip "Well, there goes summer!" Classic bants.

✈ Fly to London, Manchester, Edinburgh or Belfast



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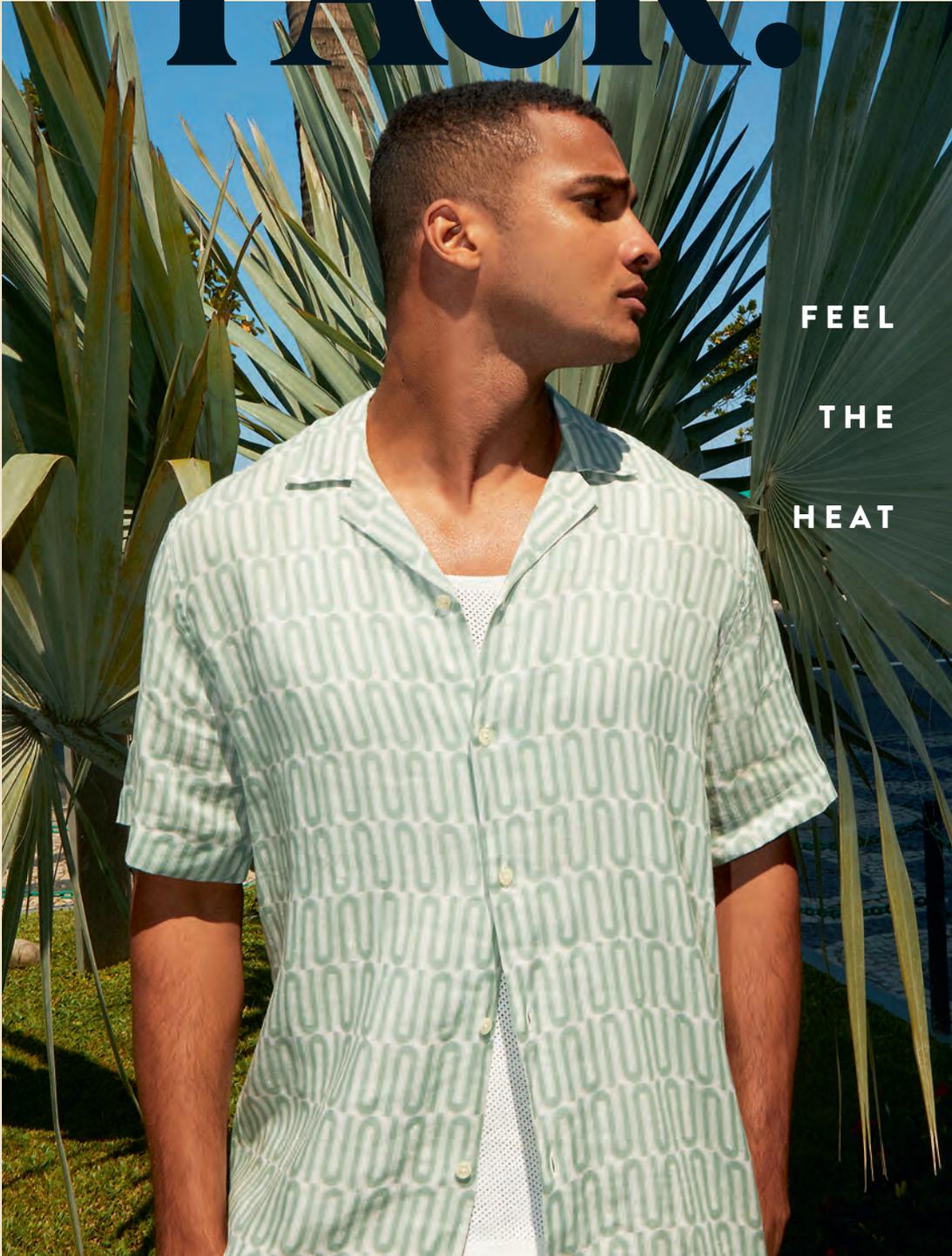
[www.denmanbrush.com](http://www.denmanbrush.com)

A woman with her arms raised behind her head, wearing a black one-piece swimsuit with a square neckline and a small V-cut at the bust. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a clear blue sky above a dark blue ocean horizon.

BONDI BORN<sup>®</sup>

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# PACK.



FEEL  
THE  
HEAT

\\

SUMMER 2022

//

EDITED BY FLO WALES BONNER

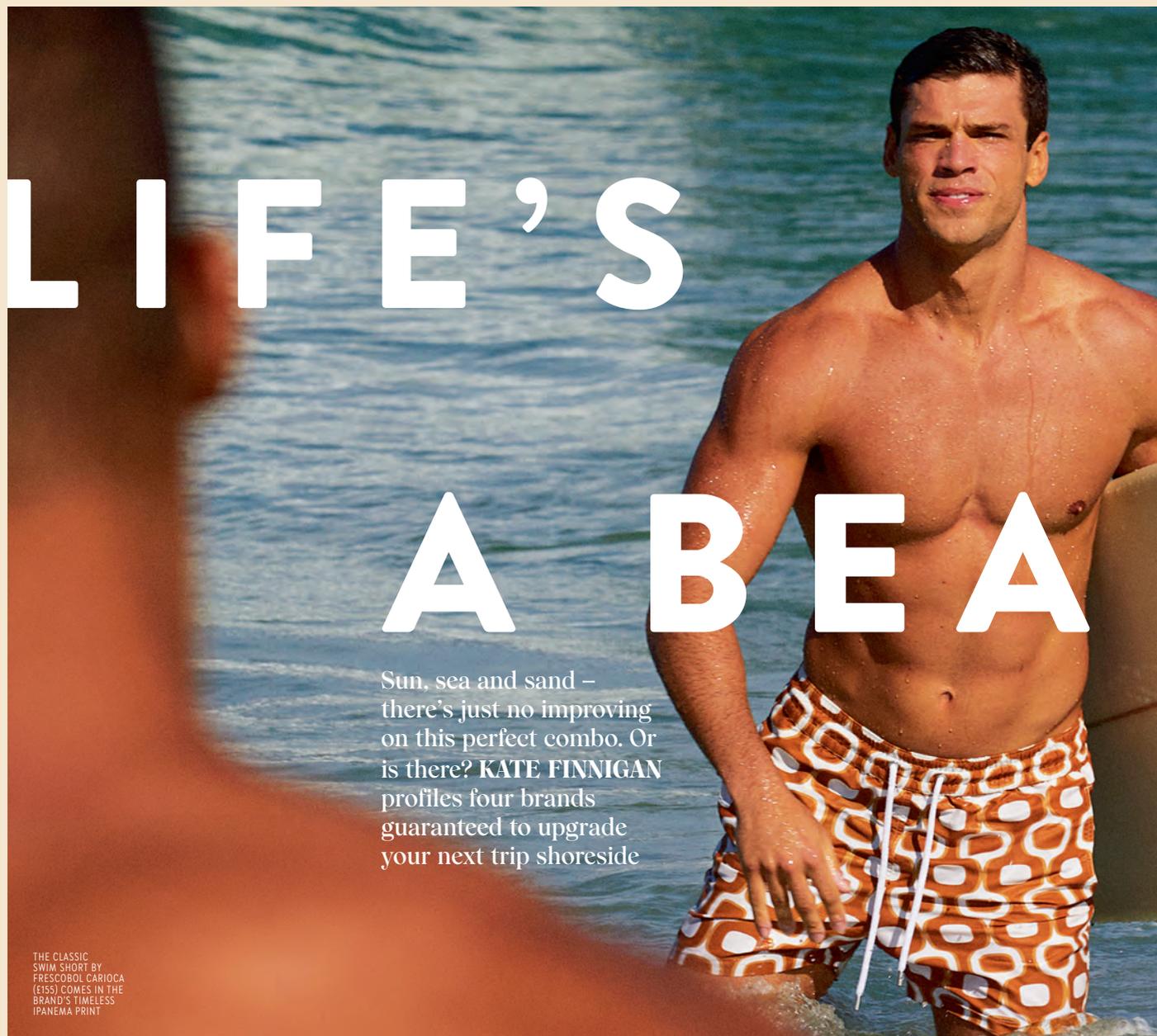
## For tailored trunks: Frescobol Carioca

► Carioca is the word for a native of Rio de Janeiro, the epicentre of Brazilian beach culture – and the city's laid-back, sun-soaked way of life is the inspiration behind this cool British menswear resort brand.

Frescobol Carioca's signature is impeccably made swim trunks in vibrant graphic prints, which are a homage to the pavement mosaics near Rio's famous Ipanema Beach. This year's collection

of swimwear is made from Eco Luna, a fabric created from 100% recycled plastic collected within Europe. Beyond the trunks, you'll find clothing with a cool mid-century vibe (if *Mad Men* had ever gone to Rio de Janeiro, this is what Don Draper would have been wearing) – terry cloth and linen polo shirts, relaxed chinos. Complete your look and live the lifestyle with a set of their chic wooden beach bats.

[frescobolcarioca.com](http://frescobolcarioca.com)



Sun, sea and sand – there's just no improving on this perfect combo. Or is there? **KATE FINNIGAN** profiles four brands guaranteed to upgrade your next trip shoreside

THE CLASSIC SWIM SHORT BY FRESCOBOL CARIOCA (£155) COMES IN THE BRAND'S TIMELESS IPANEMA PRINT



## For fashion-forward beachwear: Loewe Paula's Ibiza

THE TRADITIONAL ANAGRAM BASKET BAG IN IRACA PALM AND CALFSKIN (E675) IS MADE IN COLOMBIA UNDER FAIR TRADE PRINCIPLES



► For the ultimate in haute hippie holiday-wear, seek out this cleverly joyful micro-brand from Spanish luxury house Loewe, which summons up the nostalgic vintage vibes of Paula's, a real-life Ibiza boutique that was founded in the early 1970s. Loewe's creative director Jonathan Anderson remembered the store from childhood holidays, and in 2016 relaunched and updated Paula's signature flower power look. This season, look out for pieces like loud cropped tees with peace and palm prints, pink flower sunglasses, printed denim over-shirts and silk shell print baggy shorts, plus dip-dyed basket bags – a brand signature – featuring Loewe's crafted leather details. And if you want to not only look but smell like a summer of love, you can try one of the two Paula's Ibiza fragrances.

loewe.com

# For smart sun protection: Supergoop!

► This US brand was founded on the idea that protection from the sun can be built into your daily beauty and grooming routine. Perfect for the beach and made to be used year-round, it offers a fun range of lightweight products that feels good on the skin, doesn't include parabens or synthetic fragrances, and is vegan and reef-safe. Go-tos include the Unseen Sunscreen – an invisible, scentless SPF 30 that leaves a velvety finish on skin – and Glow Stick, a beach-bag-friendly dry oil SPF 50 in a handy stick formulation that adds an illuminating sheen to face, chest and shoulders. Those who love a good multitasker should seek out cult favourite Glowscreen, an SPF 40 primer that lights up the complexion with a boost of hyaluronic acid and vitamin B5.

[supergoop.com](http://supergoop.com)



SUPERGOOP!  
UNSEEN SUNSCREEN  
SPF 30 (50ML, E32)  
IS DESIGNED TO  
IMPROVE SKIN HEALTH

COVER PHOTO: FRESCOBOL CARIOCA PHOTOS: COURTESY LOEWE / GRAY SORRENTI, SUPERGOOP!, BAINA, FRESCOBOL CARIOCA



## For top-notch towels: Baina

► Forget the bright, brash and cartoonish – your beach towel doesn't have to be that way. Instead, exude a sense of sophisticated cool as you stretch out on a towel by Baina. The young Antipodean brand brings understated style to the sands with its luxe textural GOTS-certified organic cotton in unexpected earth tones like tabac and moss. Launched in 2019 by New Zealand friends with a background in fashion, Baina swiftly caught the eye of lifestyle connoisseurs and secured high-end stockists including Goop, Liberty London and Moda Operandi. Its masterfully minimalist designs are inspired by art, design and architecture from around the globe – most recently, the Underwood Pool in Massachusetts, said to be America's oldest swimming complex. Should you wish to bring the holiday feeling home with you, Baina will bring a sense of luxurious escapism to your bathroom, too.

[shopbaina.com](http://shopbaina.com)

THE CHECKERED  
ROMAN POOL TOWEL  
IN PALOMA SUN  
AND ECRU (E88) IS  
SYNONYMOUS WITH  
THE BAINA BRAND





## RYAN BELLI'S LUXURY LA

For rising Los Angeles furniture designer **RYAN BELLI**, luxury can be anything that lifts your mood and makes you feel good, like his playful, meticulously crafted creations. Here's his pick of LA haunts that meet the mark

WORDS: ERIKA HOULE  
PHOTOGRAPH: TIM HANS

### THE BREAKFAST STOP

➔ **Proof Bakery** in Atwater Village has my favourite baked goods in the entire city: financiers. I don't know how they make them and I'm glad I can't bake them myself because I would do nothing but eat them all day. You're not going to have a bad day if you start your morning here. [proofbakery.com](http://proofbakery.com)

### THE MUSEUM

➔ Visiting **Norton Simon** almost feels like going back in time. It has a collection of really impressive works spanning 2,000 years, from all across the world. The building's architecture is super light and airy, and there is a miniature lake with geese. [nortonsimon.org](http://nortonsimon.org)

### THE GROCERY

➔ If you need to go to a dinner party and you don't know what to bring, go to **Wine + Eggs**. It's a one-stop shop – anything from here that you throw on a cheeseboard will be a hit. Plus it has the most delicious olives. [wineandeggs.com](http://wineandeggs.com)

### THE INTERIORS HOTSPOT

➔ **The Gamble House** is one of the best examples of American Craftsman style architecture, which is prevalent throughout Pasadena and a lot of LA. It hasn't been touched, has a lot of the original furniture and feels really precious. [gamblehouse.org](http://gamblehouse.org)

### THE MARKET

➔ While the Hollywood Farmers' Market is a fun thing to do, you can't beat **The Original Los Angeles Flower Market**. It's the bottom line for all the flowers coming through the city, and is the most beautiful thing ever. [originallaflowermarket.com](http://originallaflowermarket.com)

### THE ART GALLERY

➔ **Marta** is run by two lovely people, Heidi and Benjamin, and has perfect programming. For its last show, artist Roula Partheniou made wooden stationery items, things you'd have lying around a workshop studio: stacks of tape rolls, Post-it notes. It was perfectly done. [marta.la](http://marta.la)

### THE SNACK SPOT

➔ The sandwiches at **Jeff's Table** are absolutely delicious. The Hot Kim Cheezy with pork shoulder, kimchi, smoky cheese and salted plum mustard is a must. [jeffstablela.com](http://jeffstablela.com)

### THE OUTDOOR OASIS

➔ Going to **The Huntington Botanical Gardens** gives you a whole new perspective on things. If the timing is right, you can see a corpse flower bloom, which happens only once every seven years. It's special to see a moment that's so rare. [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)

Follow Ryan on Instagram @r.belli and view his work at [bellibellibelli.com](http://bellibellibelli.com)

# MERCURY RISING



## Boodles ring

Add a flash of colour with this unusual sparkler inspired by Leonardo da Vinci.  
From £5,200, [boodles.com](http://boodles.com)



## Janessa Leoné hat

This chic bucket is carefully designed to offer maximum protection from the sun's rays.  
£205.60, [janssaleone.com](http://janssaleone.com)



## Bottega Veneta sandals

These bold rubber slip-ons will be equally at ease on street and beach.  
£310, [mrporter.com](http://mrporter.com)



## April Glow Service

Score your best summer skin with this vegan, collagen-supporting supplement.  
£15.95, [itsapril.com](http://itsapril.com)



## Benedict Raven polo shirt

Stay dapper in the heat in the 100% Egyptian cotton Monaco polo.  
£70, [benedictraven.co.uk](http://benedictraven.co.uk)



## Courrèges eau de parfum

This combination of iris, jasmine, heliotrope and zesty CristalFizz molecule is summer, bottled.  
£115 (€100), [courreges.com](http://courreges.com)



## Louisa Ballou dress

Part of an exclusive vacation capsule, this botanical beauty can be dressed up or down.  
£420, [matchefashion.com](http://matchefashion.com)

From sublime summer scents to statement sandals and skin-soothing beauty treats, meet our pick of hot weather heroes that'll see you through the warmer months in style

WORDS: FLO WALES BONNER



### Les Monts sunglasses

*It'll all look sweeter through these 70s-inspired rose-tinted Acadia sunnies.*

£400 (E327), [lesmonts.com](http://lesmonts.com)



### Bode tote

*Roomy, stylish, and doubles as a chess set (really!) for summer road-trips with more.*

£1,505, [mrporter.com](http://mrporter.com)



### Codex toning mist

*Soothe, tone and reinvigorate hot and bothered skin with this cooling, antioxidant-rich spritz.*

£47, [uk.codexbeauty.com](http://uk.codexbeauty.com)



### Denman brush

*Keep curls in tip-top condition with this smoothing, detangling Denman styler.*

£12.50, [denmanbrush.com](http://denmanbrush.com)



### Ganni swimsuit

*Brighten up the poolside in this cheery one-piece with offset twisted strap detailing.*

£135, [endclothing.com](http://endclothing.com)



### ERL pants

*Go full bloom in these playful unisex trousers by California-cool brand ERL.*

£150, [shop.doverstreetmarket.com](http://shop.doverstreetmarket.com)



### Something & Nothing seltzer

*Light, refreshing and spiked with yuzu - soft drinks have never been so sophisticated.*

£19.75 for 12, [somethingandnothing.co](http://somethingandnothing.co)



### Feners sandals

*Get strap happy with these handcrafted sandals in satin and sustainable vegan leather.*

£129 (E110), [feners.com](http://feners.com)



## Lab Tonica POW balm

*Rich in zingy essential oils, this balm is the perfect pick-me-up when on the go.*

£15, [labtonica.co.uk](http://labtonica.co.uk)

A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT  
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

# What's On

## OFF THE CHART

Based on the video game of the same name, *Uncharted* is an adaptation with all the tricks, twists and glorious visuals of its source material – but you won't get sore thumbs after 90 minutes of it. Tom Holland and Sophia Ali (pictured, and interviewed on page 12) star as adventurers on the trail of the mythical treasure of Ferdinand Magellan. A rollicking, action-packed treat.

 Watch *Uncharted*



## THE BEST OF WHAT'S ONBOARD

63-68

### Movies

From *Death on the Nile* to *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, there's a feast of films onboard.

70-73

### TV

Chuckle at *Live at the Apollo* or dry your eyes at *Scenes from a Marriage* - all the telly you need.

75-77

### Audio

Rock, soul or good 'ol country: whatever you're into, here are the tunes to make your flight fly by.

## VERA LOVES

We're one of the few airlines that selects their own movies and TV, with lots of new content onboard each month. Look out for anything labelled with a heart - that means we think it's the best of the best. We champion big blockbusters, quirky shorts, binge-worthy box sets and ace docs. Read on for our top picks for June.

# THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Tune into **Vera**, our award-winning world of entertainment

## SCREEN TIME

Onboard this month we have

**146**

Movies

**490<sup>+</sup>**

Albums, podcasts & playlists

**339<sup>+</sup>**

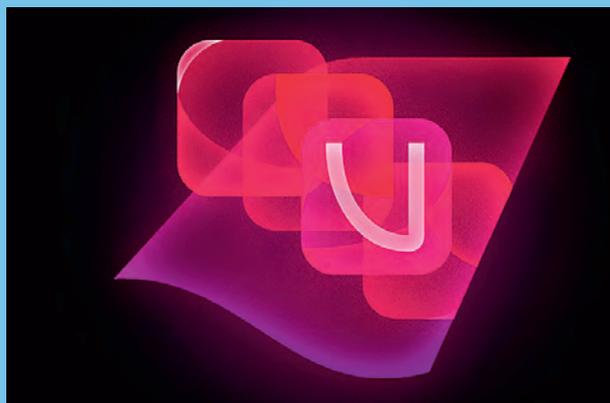
Hours of TV shows

**28**

Destination guides

**52<sup>+</sup>**

Hours of kids' content



**ARE YOU A** fan of grime, rock, pop or classical music? Do you like dark movie thrillers or light-hearted comedies? Whatever you're into, we have it onboard. But what if you've got eclectic taste and you like all these things – and more?

Well, on our aircraft you can create your own bespoke playlists for music and watchlists for TV and movies. Here's how:

- Select an album from Music, a TV show from TV or a movie from Movies.
- For Music, click on the star symbol next to your chosen track or album.
- For Movies and TV click Save Show/Movie for Later.
- Depending on which aircraft you are on, you'll see a tab or star at the top of your screen.
- Click on it and you'll see the items you've selected.
- Select Music, Movies or TV. Now you can work through your personally curated list of top entertainment at 30,000ft.

**SEATBACK CHAT**  
If you receive a message from a seat or name you don't recognise, you have the option to accept or decline it

**Parental blocking**  
If you want to block by rating or specific content, please talk to a member of the cabin crew.

**Headphones**  
Using your headphones? Our PAs are recorded at levels that work with the headphones we provide onboard, so be prepared if you use your own.

### Viewing guide

 Not suitable for nervous flyers

 Unsuitable for children

 Vera Loves

### Languages

Most movies have several language options available. To find them, pick a movie, select the dropdown language box, choose your language and enjoy! We also have a selection of Hindi and Chinese movies onboard.

### Subtitled

Subtitles and audio descriptive titles (AD) are available on a selection of movies onboard.



## Pair your device

The entertainment screens on our sleek new A350 aircraft are all touchscreen, but you

can also choose to navigate our awesome selection of movies, TV and music with your own device too. All you need to do is pair your phone or tablet and, hey presto, it turns into a remote control. Here's how:

- On your entertainment screen, select the pairing button (see left) to get your four-digit code.
- On your personal device, select the "Virgin-Atlantic" WiFi network.
- Your device will

automatically take you to our WiFi page.

- Select Control Your Screen.
- Select the pairing button and enter your four-digit code when it asks you.
- Ta-da! You can now use your device as a remote.

CHECK OUT OUR SUPER VERSATILE SELECTION

# Movies

## LOVE HIM OR TATUM...

...but you can't ignore him. How did Channing go from lovable lunk to Hollywood man of the moment?

**CHANNING TATUM CAN** do it all. Whether flexing his dramatic muscles in tear-jerkers like *Dog* (screening onboard) or his literal muscles in action adventures like *White House Down*, the Alabama-born beefcake has something for every type of movie-goer. Stoner laughs? Try *21 Jump Street* and its sequel. Indie escapades from the likes of Quentin Tarantino and the Coens? He's got you covered there, too, with *The Hateful Eight* and *Hail, Caesar!* But there's more to Tatum's rise from real-life stripper through cinematic stripper (*Magic Mike*) to Hollywood A-lister than his ability to jump between genres. Why are we all stanning Channing? Let us explain...

**He laughs at his macho image**  
Yes, Channing Tatum has approximately 10 trillion abs and the appearance of a frat house bro. But in movies like the *Jump Street* films, the actor plays that sex appeal for jokes. Comedy often comes from the gap between his archetypal good looks and his decidedly un-macho behaviour. Take his breakout role in 2006's *She's the Man*, for example. Sure, his character is captain of the high school soccer team. That doesn't stop him squealing outrageously at the sight of a pet tarantula, though.

### Underneath is a quiet sensitivity

From 2009 sport drama *Fighting to Dog*, in which he plays a US army ranger suffering from PTSD, Tatum often takes on characters with macho pastimes or occupations. These meathead characters can't always express themselves because their worlds have taught them to be the strong, silent types. Tatum always exposes the heartbreak beneath their brawn.

### He's also a children's book author. Yes, really

That sensitive side isn't just a big-screen act. In 2021, Tatum released his debut picture book, *The One and Only Sparkella*, about a little girl called Ella who's bullied on her first day at school. Her dad, however, teaches her the importance of being yourself. What did we tell you? Channing Tatum truly can do it all.

📺 Watch Dog

From top: Channing Tatum in *Dog*, *She's the Man*, *Hail, Caesar!*, *The Hateful Eight*, *21 Jump Street* and *Magic Mike*

NEW ONBOARD



## Death on the Nile

12

Kenneth Branagh,  
Armie Hammer

133  
mins

**ORIGINALLY SLATED FOR** a 2019 release, *Death on the Nile* was delayed for various reasons, not least Covid-19. Was it worth the wait? Yes, of course. If you've seen Branagh's previous Agatha Christie adaptation, *Murder on the Orient Express*, you'll know what to expect: a star-studded cast (how does Annette Bening, Gal Gadot, Rose Leslie and Russell Brand grab you? And that's just for starters), Branagh himself as a slightly odd Hercule Poirot and, of course, a devilishly difficult murder-mystery for the great detective to solve as a voyage on a river steamer becomes a hunt for a killer. It all hangs together beautifully in a sumptuous, beautifully staged production that's as much a treat for the senses as it is for the synapses.



## The Outfit

15

Mark Rylance,  
Zoey Deutch

105  
mins

Superb, cerebral thriller in which Rylance – brilliant as ever – plays an expert tailor who fashions exquisite clothes for a family of local hoodlums. One night, however, the mobsters make a demand that he can't refuse. What follows is a deadly game of cat and mouse.



## Uncharted

12

Mark Wahlberg,  
Tom Holland

116  
mins

Taken from a video game, this action-packed adventure might not be original but, thanks to the chemistry of stars Holland and Wahlberg, not to mention some gobsmacking action sequences, is pure joy from soup to nuts. *See p10*



## Umma

15

Sandra Oh,  
Dermot Mulroney

84  
mins

Fresh from *Killing Eve*, the brilliant Sandra Oh takes the lead in this spooky thriller about a woman who, when her mother's remains turn up at her secluded farm, becomes gripped by a strange terror.



## Kimi

15

Zoë Kravitz,  
Byron Bowers

89  
mins

Trust director Steven Soderbergh to fashion a thriller for our times. It stars Kravitz as an agoraphobic IT whizz who discovers evidence of a serious crime. To see justice done she must face her biggest fear – and venture outside.



## 7 Days

!

Geraldine Viswanathan,  
Gita Redy

86  
mins

This romantic comedy finds Ravi and Rita going on what seems to be a terrible blind date. They're all set to part forever when Covid forces them to isolate together, and if you can't guess what happens next then you need to go back to rom-com school.

PASS THE TISSUES



## Whodunnit in Death on the Nile?

### Was it Louise?

Rose Leslie plays the scheming maidservant of murdered Linnet Doyle (Gal Gadot). Does her penchant for blackmail hide a deadly secret?



### Or Andrew?

Ali Fazal plays a suave yet shady lawyer, who seems hellbent on defrauding Linnet to pay his mounting debts.



### Or Windlesham?

The doctor (Russell Brand) is eager to marry Linnet and is seriously miffed when she weds Simon (Armie Hammer).



### Perchance Euphemia?

Annette Bening plays a painter who can't help herself from meddling in the life of her son (Tom Bateman).



### Maybe Salome?

Jazz chanteuse Salome (Sophie Okonedo) is trying to relax with her niece Rosalie (Letitia Wright), who also takes a dim view of the others' shenanigans.



📺 Watch Death on the Nile



## Dog ❤️

12

Channing Tatum,  
Q'orianka Kilcher

90  
mins

**CHANNING TATUM NOT** only stars but also directs this winning and very heart-warming comedy about the unexpected bond that forms between an army ranger and his new four-legged pal. Tatum plays the ranger, Jackson Briggs, struggling to cope with a bad case of PTSD and currently working at a deli. When a former army buddy is killed in action, Briggs is asked to escort the man's dog, Lulu, to his funeral, a journey that involves driving to Arizona. Along the way, man and dog drive each other nuts, get into trouble with the law and cheat death. Ultimately, however, they learn they have something in common and can help each other find happiness. You're filling up already, aren't you? *See opener*



## I Carry You With Me

Armando Espitia,  
Christian Vazquez

112  
mins

Based on a true story, this acclaimed Spanish-language film spans the decades to tell of chef (Espitia) and teacher (Vázquez), whose romance begins in Mexico before they embark on a treacherous journey to New York in search of a new beginning.



## The Last Bus

12

Anne Kidd,  
Timothy Spall

87  
mins

Only an actor of Spall's calibre can pull off a film that largely involves sitting on public transport. He plays Tom, who decides to cross the UK using only local buses. Meeting various folk along the way, he soon finds himself a reluctant social media celebrity.

ALL-ACTION



## The Lost City

Sandra Bullock,  
Channing Tatum

112  
mins

12

**IF YOU REMEMBER** *Romancing the Stone* then it's highly likely that the plot of *The Lost City* will sound familiar. Bullock plays reclusive author Loretta Sage, whose romance novels feature a cover model, Alan Caprison (Tatum). Alan is popular with Loretta's fans – so popular, in fact, that her publishers insist the pair of them go on tour together. In short order, Loretta is kidnapped by a mad billionaire (Daniel Radcliffe) and the intrepid (not to mention smitten) Alan embarks on a rescue mission to save her from his clutches. What follows is a rollicking, action-packed story which is exactly as much fun as it sounds, on top of which, like a nice cherry on top of an already tasty cake, you get a superb, scene-stealing cameo from Brad Pitt.



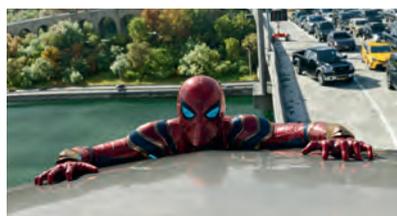
## The King's Man

Gemma Arterton,  
Rhys Ifans

131  
mins

15

This new prequel to the riotous *Kingsman* action franchise tells the origin story of the fabled Kingsman outfit and adds Arterton in the mix. As usual, the near-the-knuckle jokes come thick and fast, and the action is wild.



## Spider-Man: No Way Home

Tom Holland,  
Zendaya

148  
mins

12

Woah. To say that events in the latest *Spider-Man* movie are huge is a gross understatement. No spoilers here, but if you've seen it before you'll want to see it again. And if you haven't seen it yet then, boy, you're in for a treat.

SHORTS



## The Wind Phone

Hitoshi Masaki,  
Megumi Kabe

17  
mins

The Wind Phone is an unconnected telephone booth on a remote cliffside in Ōtsuchi, Japan, where visitors hold one-way conversations with their deceased loved ones. Here seven strangers are drawn to the booth.



## Man-Spider

Liz Kingsman,  
Harry Michell

8  
mins

We all know that Peter Parker became Spider-Man when he was bitten by a radioactive spider. But what happened to the arachnid that bit him? Find out in this award-winning and utterly charming animated comedy.



## Goldfish

Rajai Mitchell,  
Sapphire Payne

19  
mins

Heartbreaking, beautifully wrought short describing how, in the aftermath of her older brother's death, 11-year-old Viola struggles to come to terms with what seems like truly insurmountable grief.

SCARES



Heatwave

15

Kat Graham, Merritt Patterson	100 mins
----------------------------------	-------------

Sizzling thriller in which an ambitious young real estate agent starts work at a new office and in short order begins an affair with the wife of her boss. This, it turns out, is only the beginning of her troubles.

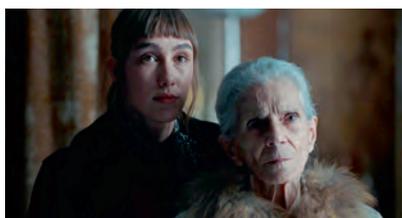


Studio 666 ♥

18

Dave Grohl, Whitney Cummings	107 mins
---------------------------------	-------------

**THE HORROR-COMEDY** starring a hugely famous rock band is not exactly a crowded genre, possibly because it's a project rich with the potential for all involved to make huge fools of themselves. Happily, that's not the case for the Foo Fighters. In this tale of the band moving into a spooky house in order to record their new album, they acquit themselves admirably, sticking tongue firmly in collective cheek and pulling the whole thing off with considerable verve. There's a lot of blood and swearing (so consider yourself warned) but there are also lots of laughs (of the "with" rather than the "at" variety). The fact that the band's drummer, Taylor Hawkins, died just a month after release strikes a bittersweet note.



La Abuela !

Almudena Amor, Vera Valdez	100 mins
-------------------------------	-------------

Spanish-language chiller that plays inventively with the usual grammar of horror films to tell of a model who must return to care for her grandmother in the wake of a stroke. What greets her is an unsettling atmosphere.

ANSWERS: 1. ST. TRINIAN'S 2. JON FAVREAU, IRON MAN 3. CONTAGION 4. A ROAST DISH OF A BONED CHICKEN INSIDE A BONED DUCK INSIDE A BONED TURKEY 5. A NEW APOCALYPSE PHOTO: ALAMY



MOVIE QUIZ

TAKE ON OUR  
FEATURED FILMS

1

Gemma Arterton (*left*) is the latest big name to join the *Kingsman* franchise, but in which scholastic series of very British film adaptations did she make her film debut in 2007?

2

*Spider-Man: No Way Home* is part of phase four of the Marvel Cinematic Universe of movies and TV series released from 2021–23, but it stars one actor who appeared in the first film

of phase one back in 2008 – who is he and what was the movie?

3

Steven Soderbergh's *Kimi* references Covid-19 onscreen. The director has tackled a pandemic directly before, in which 2011 film?

4

Kenneth Branagh's previous outing as Poirot, *Murder on the Orient Express*, was described in

*Entertainment Weekly* as "a lushly old-fashioned adaptation wrapped in a veritable turducken of pearls, monocles, and international movie stars". What is a turducken?

5

Oscar Isaac and Tye Sheridan star in *The Card Counter*, but it's not the first time they've appeared onscreen together – what superhero flick did they both grace in 2016?

Answers on the left



## MOVIE BLUFF

WHO WAS  
KEMPTON  
BUNTON?

Meet the unlikely thief  
at the heart of *The Duke*

Surely some sort of loopy  
Brit eccentric with a name  
like that, eh?

Bingo. Kempton Bunton  
(above) was responsible for  
one of the most notorious  
art heists in British  
criminal history.

So a gentleman thief?

Not exactly. A disabled  
61-year-old ex-bus driver with  
five kids from Newcastle, he'd  
been living on £8 a week and  
was frustrated that hard-up  
pensioners still had to pay the  
BBC TV licence fee.

What pushed him over  
the edge?

After Francisco Goya's  
*Portrait of the Duke of  
Wellington* was bought by an  
American oil baron in 1961,  
the British government  
stumped up a fortune to keep  
the painting in the country.  
Poor Bunton felt this was  
beyond the pale, so he stole  
the canvas from the National  
Gallery in London in protest  
and held it as ransom.

Did he get his way?

He served a short prison  
sentence but public opinion  
took Bunton's side, and the  
licence fee was, decades later,  
scrapped for poor old folks.

📺 Watch The Duke

## The Duke ♥

Jim Broadbent,  
Helen Mirren

96  
mins

12

**BASED ON THE** true story of the 1961 theft of the *Portrait of the Duke of Wellington*, this comedy from recently departed director Roger Michell is an absolute treat. Broadbent plays the somewhat hapless thief, Kempton Bunton, who believes passionately that pensioners should not have to pay the TV licence and also harbours an ambition to write scripts for the BBC. When his case goes to trial, Bunton finds himself becoming an unlikely folk hero and his quest for free TV licences turns into something of a cause célèbre. With Mirren as his long-suffering wife and both on cracking form, this is one of those quintessentially British comedies that really will warm the cockles of your heart. *See right*



## The Card Counter

Oscar Isaac,  
Tiffany Haddish

111  
mins

15

Having penned several Scorsese films and directed 19 movies of his own, Paul Schrader is a movie legend. Here he tells the tale of ex-army interrogator Will (Isaac) who makes a living as a pro gambler. But as Will finds out, the past has a nasty habit of rearing its head.



## Gunpowder Milkshake

Karen Gillan,  
Lena Headey

114  
mins

15

Action served with an extra helping of style here, as Gillan plays kickass assassin Sam, who teams up with former colleagues and her mum (Headey) to take revenge on the men who wronged them. Think *Kill Bill* meets *John Wick* and you're in the right place.



**VULCAIN**

MANUFACTURE DEPUIS 1858

SHAKING UP WHAT WE EXPECT TO SEE ON OUR SCREENS

# Television

## THE DRAMA OF THE MOMENT – PERIOD

Reckon you'll scream if you see another show about the trials and tribulations of historical posh people? Hold on! **Stuart Heritage** explains why *The Pursuit of Love* is way ahead of the pack

**YOU COULD BE** forgiven for experiencing a little period drama fatigue from time to time. After all, there isn't a lot to separate many of them. Posh people. Big houses. Impractical clothes. An intangible sense of low-stakes smugness. It is wearying.

However, Emily Mortimer's adaptation of Nancy Mitford's 1945 novel *The Pursuit of Love* cuts through these tropes like a hot knife. It isn't just the best British costume drama of the last decade, but it might just restore your faith in a flagging genre.

In its most simple terms, the series – as with the book – is a brisk gambol through the life and loves of Linda Radlett, an upper-class girl from a family of rich interwar ninnies. Impatient to start living her life, she pinballs moonily between a series of romances, convinced that each new dalliance will fulfil her every desire.

Feel like you've heard this set-up before? *The Pursuit of Love* is about much more than just that. The story is flecked with tragedy and allusions to Mitford's real-life family, who were by all accounts insanely problematic. But above all else, it is incredibly funny where other costume dramas tend towards buttoned-up seriousness: a seam that Mortimer's sparkling script mines to perfection.

The incredible thing about this adaptation is how contemporary it feels. That's partly down to the soundtrack, which eschews period-appropriate music (Glenn Miller? Vera Lynn?) for songs by T Rex, New Order and Sleater-Kinney. But it's also in the pacing and direction. Strip off the outfits (spoiler alert: this happens), and de-posh some of the pointier accents and you could be watching something set today. It is – and I mean this as nothing but a complete compliment – like eavesdropping on a pair of best friends.

Best of all, though, the series never shies away from its inherent horniness. This is a story about a beautiful woman and several beautiful men struggling to contain their attraction to one another, and Mortimer knows it. As such, Lily James is perfectly cast as Linda, while her love interests – who number Andrew Scott, Freddie Fox and *Call My Agent's* Assaad Bouab – appear to have been chosen for their ability to inspire internet-breaking levels of lust in viewers. If you have avoided *The Pursuit of Love* because you worried it'd be another *Downton Abbey*, think again. You should certainly grasp this opportunity to watch all three episodes onboard.

 Watch *The Pursuit of Love*



Clockwise from far left: Dominic West, Andrew Scott, Emily Beecham, Lily James, and Freddie Fox with James



**The Gilded Age** ♡

Box set	60 mins
---------	---------

From the pen of the redoubtable Julian Fellowes comes this new series precision-tooled to appeal to fans of his biggest hit, *Downton Abbey*. This time the conflict is between new and old money in 1880's New York.



**Young Rock** !

Box set	30 mins
---------	---------

It had to happen. Dwayne Johnson gets his own spin-off show. This series takes a look at the formative years of its subject as he grows from being a little kid with big dreams to, well, being The Rock that we all know and love.



**Live at the Apollo** ⚠ !

2 episodes	45 mins
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Now over a decade old and in its 16th series, *Live at the Apollo* continues to host the world's best comedians in an environment that never fails to bring out the best in them. Tune in to have your funny bone properly tickled.



**Ahead of the Curve** !

Documentary	98 mins
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Documentary about Franco Stevens, who after a lucky run on the horses (yes, really) used her winnings to launch *Curve*, a ground-breaking lesbian magazine. Years later, she reaches out to understand what queer women need today.



**Set!** ♡

Documentary	105 mins
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Did you know table-setting is a sport, complete with its own hotly contested competitions, personalities and rivalries to match? *Set!* takes us behind the scenes as contestants compete for the Best in Show ribbon at the Orange County Fair. *See overleaf*



**Listening to Kenny G** ♡ !

Documentary	96 mins
-------------	---------

Anything that's popular attracts its fair share of snobbery and Kenny G is no different: on the one hand he's despised by musical cognoscenti; on the other, he's the world's bestselling instrumentalist. This documentary examines the reasons behind this strange contradiction.



DRAMA



**Kin** ❤️

Box set	50 mins
---------	---------

*Kin* tells the story of a fictional Dublin gangland war, and speaks to the enduring unbreakable bonds of blood and family. It comes from the creator of drama *Hidden Assets*, while Aiden Gillen and Ciarán Hinds are the rival leaders.



**The Pursuit of Love** ❤️

Box set	60 mins
---------	---------

Directed by Emily Mortimer, the BBC's three-part *The Pursuit of Love* is a sumptuous adaptation of Nancy Mitford's classic novel about two cousins, who must negotiate love and life in 1920s England. *See opener*

**Scenes from a Marriage** ❤️

Box set	50 mins
---------	---------

**IN 1973, OVER** the course of six hour-long episodes of excoriating television, legendary director Ingmar Bergman captured the disintegration of a marriage. The autobiographical script drew on his experiences with the show's star, Liv Ullmann, and it is said that as well as influencing directors such as Woody Allen and Richard Linklater, the series was also responsible for rising divorce rates in Europe. Lawyers beware: it's been remade, this time with Jessica Chastain and Oscar Isaac in the lead roles, and equally unsparing in its depiction of love, hatred, desire, monogamy, marriage and divorce through the lens of a contemporary couple.

AMAZING PLANET



**The Green Planet** ❤️

1 episode	60 mins
-----------	---------

In this major series from the BBC, the redoubtable David Attenborough turns his attention to the dramatic, beautiful plant life of Planet Earth. He discovers worlds in which two out of five wild plants are threatened with extinction.



**Mediterranean: Life Under Siege** ❤️

1 episode	50 mins
-----------	---------

Shot over two years in 12 different countries, and drawing on the knowledge of dozens of global experts, this documentary series shines a spotlight on an endangered paradise on the brink of destruction.



**A World of Calm**

Box set	Up to 30 mins
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Featuring narration from some A-list actors (Kate Winslet, Idris Elba, Nicole Kidman, Keanu Reeves), *A World of Calm* is a "slow TV" experience with breathtaking visuals of the natural world aimed at promoting rest and relaxation.

READY,  
GET SET, SET!

## The rigid rules of competitive table-setting

### Mind the etiquette

The Orange County Fair table-setting competition is a big deal. New documentary *Set!* details the lengths the entrants will go for the best-in-show ribbon. First rule: be careful where you put the tableware. A single misplaced soup spoon could cost big time.

### Stick to the theme

Whether it's "Flowers" or "Burlap", "I Made This Myself" or "Carnival", the table's theme is very important. Want some guidance? "Crystal Clear" could involve optical illusions, say, or try flexing some steampunk for "Metallic". Use your imagination.



### No real food

While these tables might be good enough to eat off, all food must be of the artificial sort. Competitive table-setting might leave you hungry.

📺 Watch Set!

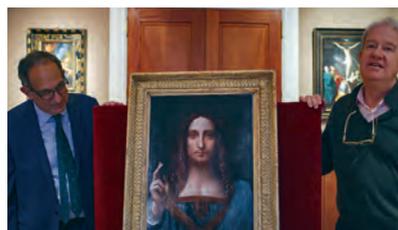


## The Metropolitan Opera – La Bohème

Culture

124 mins

**NEW YORK'S LEGENDARY** Metropolitan Opera is celebrating the 40th anniversary of one of its most famous productions, Franco Zeffirelli's staging of Puccini's *La Bohème* – and with this broadcast you can be assured of a front-row seat. First performed in 1896, Puccini's opera is a tale of love among the young, bohemian artists of Paris – youths who feel themselves at odds with mainstream society. As generations of opera-goers have since discovered, it's a piece that not only has an extraordinary impact on first-time audiences, but also rewards repeat viewing as what were previously insignificant details take on a greater importance.



### The Lost Leonardo

15

Documentary

96 mins

Feature-length documentary looking at the bewildering case of *Salvator Mundi*, the first work by Leonardo da Vinci to be discovered for more than a century. However, it's since gone missing... A hugely watchable insight into the clash of the worlds of art, politics and finance.



### The Metropolitan Opera – Carmen

12

Culture

166 mins

Opera buff? Then don't miss Richard Eyre's stunning production of Bizet's classic – direct from the Big Apple's legendary venue. When it had its Met premiere in 2009, it starred Roberto Alagna as wayward officer Don José and he reprises the role here.

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# MILITARE CHRONO

MORE THINGS TO GET OBSESSED WITH RIGHT NOW

# Audio

## VERA ON VERA

To celebrate the launch of The *Vera* Magazine Podcast, we (*Vera* the magazine) interviewed ourselves to find out what's in store

**Vera (magazine):** Hello, *Vera*.

**Vera (podcast):** Hi. I must say, you're looking great.

**VM:** Well, thank you.

**VP:** You seem to pack a lot into such a svelte frame.

**VM:** I am stuffed with inspiration, it's true. But anyway, this isn't about me, it's about you. June sees your debut on Virgin Atlantic planes. What have you got for us?

**VP:** Think of me as *Vera* magazine in podcast form (available now onboard). But so much more. No offence. I'm made by the same team behind the publication and I'll tell you everything you need to get obsessed with this month.

**VM:** None taken. Give me some more.

**VP:** *Vera's* in-the-know experts discuss the new trends emerging in places round the network, get some destination tips from a local expert, and chat with celebs and other interesting characters. Plus, we dissect the best films, TV shows and music onboard. How does that sound?

**VM:** Pretty exciting. Got any specifics?

**VP:** Sure. Florida-based theme park expert Katie Rice tells us about the latest developments in the Orlando roller coaster

scene. Our deputy editor, Jessica Prupas, has the lowdown on why the breakfast-for-dinner trend is massive right now, plus why we should all be ordering "trash drinks" – zero-waste cocktails made from leftovers.

**VM:** I'm just impressed that being a theme park expert is a job.

**VP:** It has its ups and downs.

**VM:** Quite. What else can we get excited about?

**VP:** Food writer and pizza nerd Peter Reinhart tells us why he's spent a lifetime searching out the world's best pies. And TV and film critic Stuart Heritage tells us about Channing Tatum's new movie, *Dog*. We won't spoil it by telling you what that one's about.

**VM:** Well, I was upset there were no dogs in *The Power of the Dog*, so I hope there's at least one in this.

**VP:** You won't be disappointed, but I won't give any more away. Anyway, I am 41 minutes of pure audio entertainment. Start listening, now.

**VM:** Thanks for the intro, *Vera*. See you again next month.

 Listen to The Vera Magazine Podcast



**BENEÉ** ❤️ !

Lychee

Pop

**KNOWN ON HER** birth certificate as Stella Rose Bennett, Kiwi alt-pop auteur BENEÉ (the capital letters are, apparently, very important) first came to attention with her TikTok hit *Supalonely*, a decidedly leftfield take on disco that served notice of even stranger yet somehow eminently earwormy things to come. Sure enough, her debut album, *Hey U X*, as well as featuring guest appearances from the likes of Grimes and Lily Allen, received plaudits for its quirky take on pop. Now comes this EP, which sees the 22-year-old stretching her already well-stretched wings, essaying a take on pop that combines easy-going melodies with heartworn lyrics and a sense of the weird never far from hand. The seven tracks here kick off with stand-out single *Beach Boy*, before drifting into the more laid-back *Soft Side*, showing she can slow down, too.



**Gracie Abrams** ❤️ !

*This Is What It Feels Like*

Alternative

LA-born popster Gracie is the daughter of director JJ Abrams and thus has creativity and an ability to think outside the box written into her DNA. Both attributes inform this second EP of inventive indie-pop.



**Holly Humberstone** !

*The Walls Are Way Too Thin*

Pop

“There was no music scene growing up in rural Lincolnshire,” says singer-songwriter Humberstone, “so I just did my own thing.” Her own thing, as this second EP proves, is a very good thing indeed. *See below*



**Lily Moore** !

*More Moore Mixtape*

Alternative

Boasting the kind of smoky vocals that saw the world take Adele to its heart – with a little bit of Lizzo’s attitude to boot – Moore looks poised for world domination. This latest mixtape proves the perfect calling card for her.



**Barns Courtney** !

404

Pop

Although he’s currently something of an overlooked gem, singer-songwriter Courtney is surely bound for the big time, with this set of epic, life-affirming indie-rock bangers apparently recorded in one take.

NEED TO KNOW

Who the  
“Holl” is Holly  
Humberstone?



**As a teenager** this British singer-songwriter played violin for the Lincolnshire Youth Symphony Orchestra. **At the tender age of 16** Holly uploaded demos recorded on GarageBand on her dad’s laptop to the BBC Music Introducing website, which led to radio time, a Glastonbury appearance and a support slot on tour with Lewis Capaldi. **Holly is one of** four sisters. Both parents are NHS doctors – Mum plays cello and Dad’s a poetry buff. **Check out her covers** on YouTube of Radiohead’s *Fake Plastic Trees*, *I Would Die 4 U* by Prince and *Sorry* by Justin Bieber. **This summer** she’s supporting Olivia Rodrigo on tour.

🔊 Listen to *The Walls Are Way Too Thin*

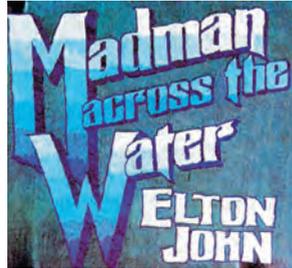
CLASSIC ALBUMS



**Carole King**

Tapestry	All Time Greats
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Regularly named among the best of all time, King's 1971 album is lauded for its consummate songwriting and unadorned performances of classics such as *It's Too Late*.



**Elton John**

Madman Across the Water	All Time Greats
-------------------------	-----------------

There are many who consider this fourth album to be the best to bear the Elton John name. The fact that it begins with *Tiny Dancer* is surely enough to bolster that claim.

**Stevie Wonder**

Talking Book	All Time Greats
--------------	-----------------

**STEVLAND HARDAWAY MORRIS**, otherwise known as Stevie Wonder, had been around for a while, making at least 12 albums before he embarked upon what most critics consider to be his classic period. And if 1972's *Music of My Mind* was a strong release, it was on *Talking Book* that he truly graduated into the realm of the greats, blowing people's minds with a set that - just for starters - includes *Superstition* and *You Are the Sunshine of My Life*.



GOOD OL' GALS



**Kacey Musgraves**

Golden Hour	Country
-------------	---------

East Texas singer-songwriter Musgraves makes country music with a modern twist, as deceptively barbed lyrics and a touch of sonic invention join the mix.



**Dolly Parton**

Blue Smoke - The Best Of	Country
--------------------------	---------

Dolly's latest treasure chest includes her new album *Blue Smoke*, which features a new duet with Kenny Rogers and even a Bon Jovi cover, as well as a greatest hits set.

**Future: Country** !



**THERE'S NO SHORTAGE** of cowboy hats, trucker caps or songs about loneliness, drinking and lonely drinking in this country music playlist. That, after all, is what country music is all about and the genre could never be accused of losing touch with its roots. What you will also find here is Mickey Guyton, who became the first Black woman ever to be nominated for a country Grammy. You'll find too, exuberant Coachella stars Jamestown Revival among (relatively) old hands such as Taylor Swift. In other words, if you have any prejudices about country music then please deposit them at the door and enjoy a new dawn in an often-derided field.



SUMMER LOVING

**Various Artists**

Ibiza Chill	Playlist
-------------	----------

The White Isle is rightly famed for its banging nightlife but no less significant is its contribution to the realm of ambient and downtempo music, which at some point in the early 1990s became known as chill-out. Step this way to indulge in the best.



**Various Artists**

Glastonbury	Playlist
-------------	----------

Whether you've got a ticket to Worthy Farm this year or you just want to feel the vibes without the mud, this playlist of classic performances, including Diana Ross, Supergrass and Metronomy, will have you putting your arms in the air.



**Various Artists** ❤️

Summer Feelin' Playlist	Playlist
-------------------------	----------

Check into *Club Tropicana* to enjoy *Mr Blue Sky* and some *Good Vibrations* before experiencing a bit of *Summertime Sadness* thanks to Lana Del Rey vs Cedric Gervais on this seasonal playlist to get you in the holiday mood.



# *Experience*



# *timeless*

# *elegance*



## *Martin James*

LONDON

For Martin James, creating sophisticated fashion jewellery that's both glamorous and fun is essential. The British designer has stayed loyal to these principles to craft high-quality, innovative pieces that are always on trend and boast plenty of sparkle.

# CREDITS

Virgin Atlantic news and views



**Anna and Laura, 27**  
“Everybody knows us as the twins,” say Anna and Laura, who’ve flown together for six years. “We’re even on a married roster, which makes it easier for us to be on the same flights.”

## WE ARE FAMILY

The Virgin Atlantic crewmates who go way, way back



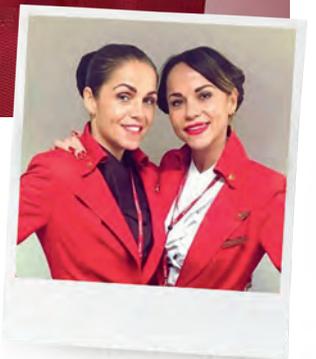
### Jan, 56, and Tyler, 26

Jan started flying with Virgin in 1999, when daughter Tyler was just four. “Ty was brought up seeing the world. Now all these years later she gets to join me in the skies,” Jan says.



### Ian, 56, and Hannah, 26

Ian was a police officer for 30 years before retiring from the force. “My daughter Hannah had an ambition to fly. So, looking for adventure and a new career, we applied together,” he says. “She was my inspiration.”



### Kelly, 46, and Shelley, 43

Manchester-based siblings Kelly and Shelley have built up something of a fanbase. “Lots of frequent flyers ask for us by name.” Why? “When we’re onboard it’s the best day ever.”

**S**ome organisations I know have a policy where family members aren’t allowed to work together,” says Cabin Service Supervisor Jan Broddle (right). “The fact Virgin Atlantic encourages it is quite special.” Let’s meet some of the company’s kinfolk and ask if working with their family members makes them love the job more, relatively speaking.



## THE FUTURE IS, LOOKING ROSÉ

Raise a glass to English Wine Week with our corking new drop...

**WE'RE SO GIDDY** with excitement for Folc, our new still English rosé, we're kicking off English Wine Week (18–26 June) a little early and serving it from 8 June. Jeroboams, Virgin Atlantic's new Upper Class wine merchant, champions sustainable, smaller wineries, and Folc – served on selected routes this month only – is a glorious discovery. Crafted in the Kent countryside by delightful couple Elisha and Tom

**Ever more producers are expected to forego French terroirs in favour of the British climate**

(pictured), who both quit City jobs to pursue their winemaking dream, Folc is as English as it gets, with evocative country garden aromas of jasmine and elderflower. The future for English wine is looking rosy too, as ever more producers are expected to forego increasingly arid French terroirs in favour of the more forgiving British climate. We'll drink to that.



Founded by Elisha Rai and Tom Cannon (top), in 2021 Folc scooped Gold at the Independent English Wine Awards

## Ask an engineer



WE ASK SENIOR DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER **SHAUN SANDERSON** ALL THE BURNING QUESTIONS ABOUT AVIATION

**Q: Do planes get an MOT?**

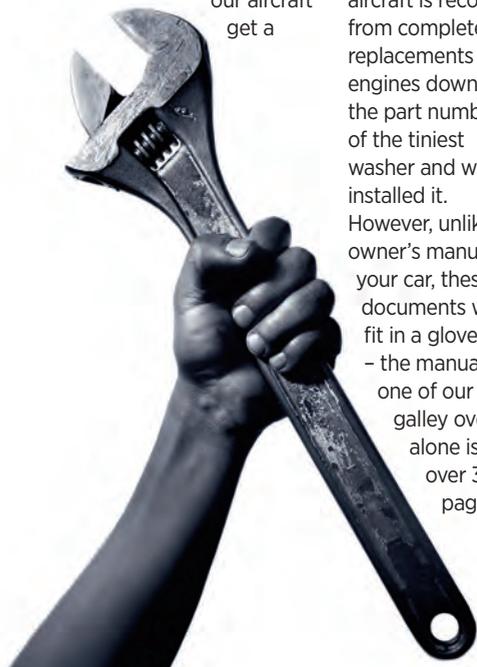
**A:** Unlike cars, planes can't pull over at the side of the road if something goes wrong. So, while most cars, in the UK anyway, have an annual MOT inspection, our aircraft are inspected by engineers between every single flight.

Just as cars need routine servicing, our aircraft visit the hangar roughly every 800–1,000 flying hours for a thorough check.

Every few years, our aircraft get a

complete overhaul, known in the industry as a "C check". Over several weeks, the aircraft is partially disassembled, inspected, serviced and repaired. Advanced non-destructive testing techniques are used to look for any invisible damage or structural fatigue. We also take the opportunity to refresh our cabins and replace any worn parts.

Like the MOT certificates in your drawer, every bit of work done over the lifetime of our aircraft is recorded, from complete replacements of engines down to the part number of the tiniest washer and who installed it. However, unlike the owner's manual for your car, these documents won't fit in a glovebox – the manual for one of our galley ovens alone is over 300 pages!



**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW AD?**

We think you'll love it. Dedicated to those who see the world differently, watch it now on VTV.



## JOIN THE CREW IN... LONDON

Flight Service Manager **Simon Cowley** offers his top tips for a great day out in old London Town...



If it's your first time in London, stroll over **Waterloo Bridge**. It's the perfect spot for photos of St Paul's, the Shard, the London Eye and Big Ben. Very hashtag friendly!



I meet my partner for lunch at **Kingly Court** dining destination off Carnaby Street. The Good Egg is our favourite, for Tel Aviv-style small plates and the best hummus in town.



I love the peaceful stretch of river between Hammersmith and Chiswick. **The Dove** pub is from the early 1700s and holds a Guinness World Record for the smallest bar room!



Through the pandemic, **Kew Gardens** was our sanctuary. It has the most beautiful collection of flowers and it's on Heathrow's flight path – ideal for a bit of cheeky plane-spotting!



# LADY BIRD

OUR NEWEST AIRCRAFT PAYS TRIBUTE TO A FEMINIST ICON

**OFF TO ORLANDO**, Antigua or Barbados today? You might be flying with a major celeb. One of our new A350s has been christened in homage to iconic woman's rights campaigner Emmeline Pankhurst, who was instrumental in securing British women the vote. All charity donations aboard *Lady Emmeline* will go to women's causes, and help us to put the "jet" into "suffragette".



## This way to even more rewards

**Saving up your Virgin Points for your next rewards flight?** Well with Virgin Red, Virgin's rewards club you can get there even faster. If you're a Virgin Red member with a Flying Club account, you can link them together to create one massive Virgin Points balance. This means you get access to even more rewards plus more ways to spend and earn points. What are you waiting for?

Join for free at [virgin.com/virgin-red](https://www.virgin.com/virgin-red)



## WHY I LOVE MY JOB

**Inflight Services Supply Chain & Product Manager Louise Taw** is passionate about reducing single-use plastic aboard.

"I've worked with Virgin for over seven years, doing a variety of roles within inflight

Services. Currently my job includes product development/initiatives, supplier management, and making sure that all products and equipment are in the right place with the right quantity at the right time – and suitable for

flight. This means rigorous testing. For instance, a new type of plastic beverage cup that works fine at Heathrow could melt taxiing on the hot tarmac in Vegas. I'm in the final stages of rolling out a new oven glove for

cabin crew to use, which covers the forearm and is ambidextrous. "A big highlight of my role this year is working towards our target of removing 90% of single-use plastic by the end of 2022. So far we're about 60% there, having

tackled the 'big five' of wine bottles, water bottles, main meal containers, cups and cutlery. By the time you read this we'll be even closer. My job involves careful planning, but the good news is I love planning."

# PRETTY FLY FOR A WIFI

Now you can post selfies, binge-read your favourite e-book, brag about your hols to your mates, or even catch up on some work while flying above 10,000ft with Virgin Atlantic

## HOW TO CONNECT

- 1 Turn on your WiFi-enabled device and connect to the "Virgin-Atlantic" WiFi network.
- 2 If you don't automatically connect to the WiFi portal, don't worry. Just take a look at the safety card in your seat pocket to see what type of aircraft you're on.

If you're onboard...

- A 787-9 or an A350-1000, open your browser and navigate to [virgin-atlantic-wifi.com](http://virgin-atlantic-wifi.com)
  - An A330-300, open your browser and navigate to [airborne.gogoinflight.com](http://airborne.gogoinflight.com)
- 3 Just follow the onscreen instructions to buy a session and then get browsing!

## SHOUT ABOUT IT

Tweet or take a pic with #LiveFromVirgin and let the world know you're connected above the clouds.

## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR DATA

Remember to switch off your device's automatic app updates and synchronisations. That way you can avoid using up your data on the boring background stuff while you're busy browsing, tweeting and sharing.

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It's small and lightweight, but it packs a punch; with a clinical-grade ECG, powerful processing that collects up to 1,000 data points per second and long battery life.

### CLOTHING THAT READS YOUR BODY IN REAL-TIME

SmartWear® is no ordinary training gear. It's crafted with a discreet pocket which the Sensor disappears into and knitted electrodes to capture data close to your heart for an accurate dose of real-time data. No straps. No watches.

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The Preveal App makes understanding your performance and progress easy. As well as a full picture of your health and fitness, it edits down your data into simple training advice: train, rest or progress. There's no subscription fees either, you're automatically a lifetime Preveal member.

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please enjoy responsibly