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November 2022

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GOT
THE
LOOK

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dominates the screen

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Winslow Homer, 'The Gulf Stream', 1899 (reworked by 1906). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Collection, Wolfe Fund, 1906 © The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

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Lucian Freud, 'Reflection with Two Children (Self-portrait)' (detail), 1965. Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid.
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Get gifting with PACK.

The festive season is calling – yep, it’s that time – so *PACK* is here to help you make good on that resolution not to leave your Christmas shopping to the last minute this year. Delve into our dedicated gift guide to thrill your loved ones with prime pressies aplenty, from beauty must-haves for the pampered preener through stately homewares to statement knitwear for the fashionista in your life. It’s a wrap!

See pages 51–57

28–35



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

IN THIS ISSUE

9-26

Red Hot

Be immersed in art in London, change up the chicken for clams and dumplings in Austin, tap into Tampa’s winning ways and check into this beauty on St Barth.

28-48

Features

Charlotte Rampling is still bossing it. Plus, how New York’s dining scene is more welcoming than ever and winter-warmer spa treats around the network.

58-77

What’s On

An icon is burning in *Notre-Dame on Fire*, it’s hammer time in *Thor: Love and Thunder*, meet the maestro of movie soundtracks, and discover the best sounds to help you sleep.

79-80

Credits

Virgin Atlantic Football Club is set to take on some high-flying rivals this month, plus how Passport to Change is making a difference and cracking the case of Nice Wine.



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CARNABY CELEBRATES

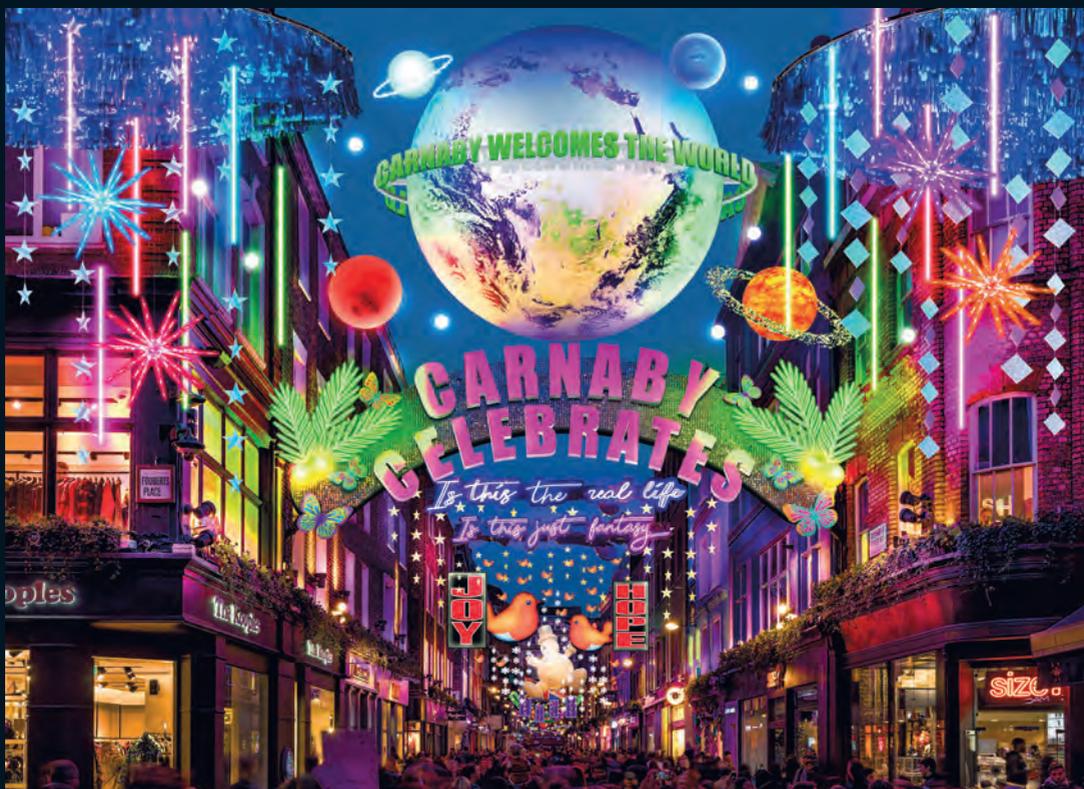
Carnaby is London's most iconic shopping and dining destination with over 100 independent and international brands alongside 60 restaurants and bars across 14 streets including world famous Carnaby Street. Be immersed in this year's vibrant Christmas installation and celebrate iconic moments from the past 25 years.

The installation includes an underwater seascape, colourful rainbows, oversized fairy lights, giant snowmen, 60s inflatables, a kaleidoscope of butterflies and collaborations with two of the world's most famous bands; the Rolling Stones and Queen.



Scan to find out what's happening in Carnaby this Christmas

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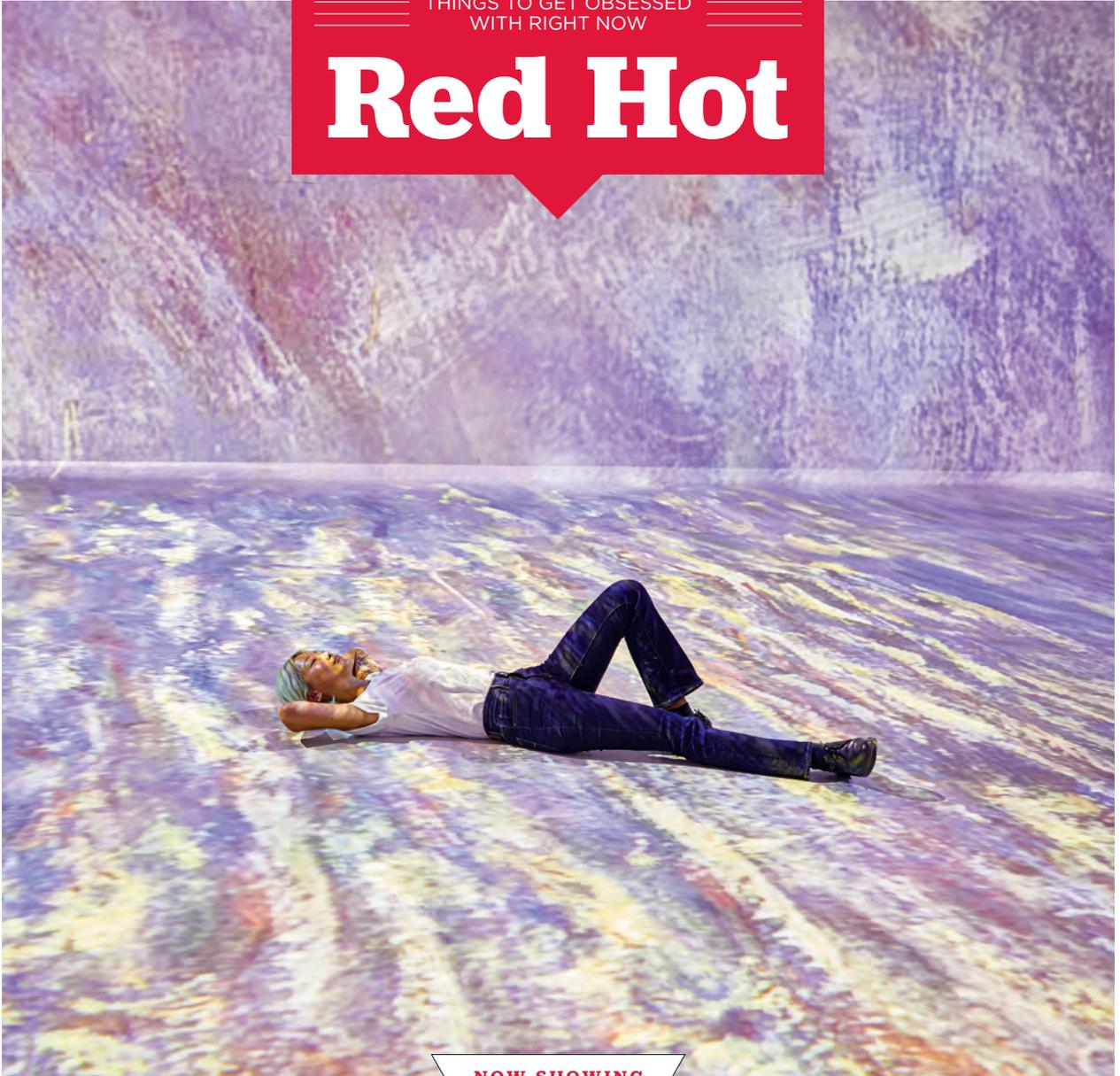


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THINGS TO GET OBSESSED
WITH RIGHT NOW

Red Hot



NOW SHOWING

LONDONERS GETTING (IN) THE PICTURE

These days, everyone and their grandmas are getting into immersive experiences - and now galleries are hopping on the bandwagon. *Frameless*, in London's West End, is billed as the UK's first "permanent digital immersive art experience". Essentially, it takes masterworks from Monet, Cézanne, Kandinsky et al, digitises them and uses high-tech 4K projection to blow the images up to giant scale, allowing visitors to get inside their favourite paintings. Pretty state-of-the-art stuff.

✂ Fly to London

FIRST TAKE

SCARY-SMART CHILLERS

No more cheap thrills – horror films are getting all intellectual, says **Al Horner**

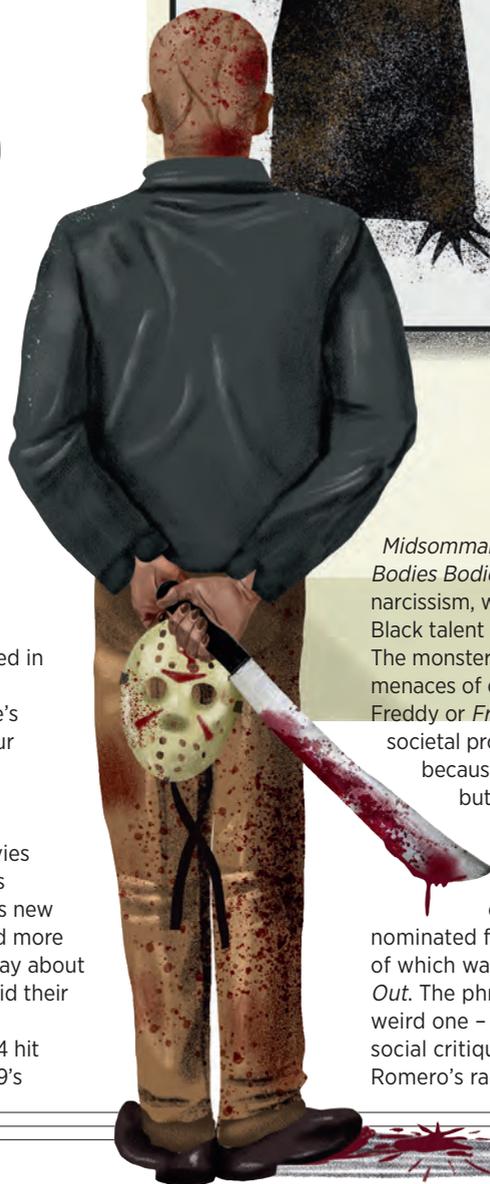
R

eaders, beware – there's a hot new trend in Tinseltown terror and it's scarier than anything cinema

has previously fathomed. No, not *Minions: The Rise of Gru*, though those little yellow dudes are indeed pretty chilling. We're talking about "elevated horror" – a term you may have seen used in reviews of recent spooky smashes like *Bodies Bodies Bodies* and Jordan Peele's *Nope*, both of which are available on our in-flight entertainment this month.

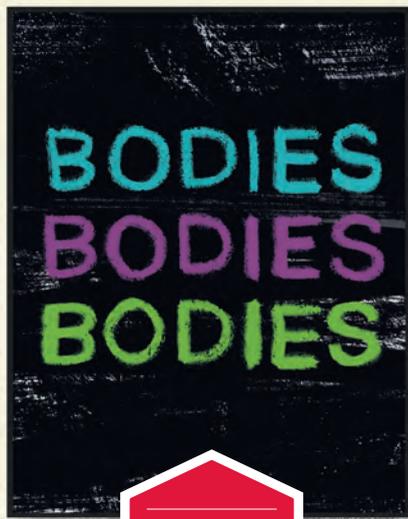
While the phrase may sound a bit highfalutin, it essentially means "sophisticated spookiness". Horror movies may have historically been perceived as low-brow, jolt-scare japes by some. This new breed of horror, however, is brainier and more artful, advocates insist, with plenty to say about our world and the human condition amid their generous servings of gore and guts.

Need examples? We've got you: 2014 hit *The Babadook* is about depression; 2019's



Midsommar, meanwhile, is about break-ups. *Bodies Bodies Bodies* ruminates on social media narcissism, while *Nope* tackles the exploitation of Black talent in Hollywood, and so on and so forth. The monsters in these movies – unlike slasher movie menaces of old, like *A Nightmare on Elm Street's* Freddy or *Friday the 13th's* Jason – represent urgent societal problems, and send shivers up spines because they're not fantastical fabrications, but rooted in real life.

The trend has inched the horror genre closer to long-overdue awards recognition over the past few years; only six horrors have ever been nominated for Best Picture in Oscars' history, one of which was Peele's superb 2017 race satire *Get Out*. The phrase "elevated horror" itself is kind of a weird one – horror has always had depth and social critiques to make, as movies like George Romero's racially charged 1968 zombie classic



Slasher *Bodies Bodies Bodies* is the English-language debut of Dutch director Halina Reijn.



ILLUSTRATION: BARRY FALLS PHOTOS: ALAMY

Night of the Living Dead prove. What is undeniable, though, is that the genre has arguably never been bolder or more ambitious than it is right now, with studios more likely to take chances on the ideas of a brave new wave of fright-inducing auteurs, all of whom have exciting new films on the horizon.

In 2023, *Hereditary* director Ari Aster will release *Disappointment Blvd*, his hotly anticipated new epic. There's also *Apartment 7A* to look forward to, from highly rated New Zealand horror filmmaker Natalie Erika James of *Relic* fame, as well as a new TV adaptation of *Let the Right One In* – a Swedish vampire tale regularly cited as one of the first examples of the genre. Elevated horror, in other words, seems here to stay. As long as these incoming films are as mesmerising as *Nope*, this development gets a gigantic “yep” from us.

Watch *Bodies Bodies Bodies* and *Nope*

STAR PUPILS

Celebs are being given degrees



British rap god **Stormzy** received an honorary degree from the University of Exeter, bestowed for his “remarkable contribution to society”. And merky flows.

VERDICT:



Former Spice Girl **Geri Halliwell-Horner** was awarded an honorary doctorate from Sheffield Hallam University for her feminist work and being famously well red.

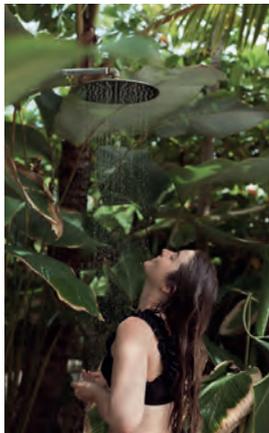
VERDICT:



Legendary muso **Joni Mitchell** was recently awarded an honorary doctorate from Berklee College of Music for her fearless activism and divine pipes.

VERDICT:

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SEEN SOMETHING GOOD LATELY? CHANCES ARE THE VERSATILE STAR OF *BULLET TRAIN* IS IN IT, FINDS **LEONIE COOPER**

BRIAN TYREE HENRY has had a busy decade. Over the past 10 years this versatile actor has mastered stage and screen, starting out with a plumb role in the original Broadway cast of *The Book of Mormon*. He then conquered telly in Donald Glover's game-changing comedy *Atlanta* – for which he scored an Emmy nom – and made history by portraying the first-ever openly gay superhero in 2021's *Eternals*. You've also seen him in *Joker* and *If Beale Street Could Talk*, as well as the high-octane *Bullet Train*, alongside Brad Pitt, which screens onboard. We called him in Australia, where he's currently filming the sequel to *Godzilla vs Kong*, to ask him about his epic hot streak – and how he plans to top it.

Whereabouts are you right now?

A great little town in the mountains called Mullumbimby. It's really cool. It reminds me a lot of Joshua Tree – it's a place with a lot of white people with dreadlocks. We're filming on the Gold Coast, which is an hour away.

What can you tell us about the sequel?

We've added Dan Stevens to this mix and it'll be even bigger and louder and brighter and crazier.

Do you get to do any wild stunts?

I do – but my favourite is just walking into a blank room and craning my neck up as high as possible, pretending to see *Godzilla* and being shocked. ▶





The last time we saw you on the big screen was in *Bullet Train*. Tell us about your first meeting with Brad Pitt.

Me and Aaron [Taylor-Johnson] were invited to Brad's property. I was like, "OK, do I have to send a blood sample and urine sample?" But he was just so laid-back and chill. He had a go-kart track as a driveway. I thought, "God, I want to be your child." He's so damn happy and it was such a great experience to do a movie where I got to punch him in the face for two hours or so.

The pair of you share a mutual love for TV show *The Great Pottery Throw Down*...

During lockdown I watched anything that made me feel like the world wasn't so dark and grey. In *The Great Pottery Throw Down* you watch people having fun making toilets! And Keith [Brymer Jones, the presenter] is just the most damn delightful person I have ever seen in my life. Any man who truly cries at the joy of pottery is somebody I want to know and want to hug.

You play a cockney in *Bullet Train*. Have you tried out your accent on the streets of east London yet?

God, no! But I've always wanted to play an English character and it's very rare for a Black American actor to ever get the chance.

The final season of *Atlanta* has just aired. What does that show mean to you?

It will always mean a great deal, because I don't think we knew what we were standing in when we first started it. The chemistry between Donald

From above:
Opposite
Brad Pitt in
Bullet Train;
and with
Jennifer
Lawrence at
the *Causeway*
premiere
in Toronto

There's already Oscars buzz around your psychological drama *Causeway*, with Jennifer Lawrence. How do you feel when you hear that?

I think the one word that usually comes to mind is "guffaw", but you're also filled with a huge wealth of gratitude when something like that is said. Being able to work with Jennifer Lawrence was hands down one of the brightest and greatest experiences I've ever had. Jen and I would talk

"I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY AN ENGLISH CHARACTER AND IT'S VERY RARE FOR A BLACK AMERICAN ACTOR TO EVER GET THE CHANCE"

about how we've never seen a relationship between two characters like this, where people actually talk about trauma and disability and looking for home.

It was filmed in New Orleans – did you and Jen have any wild nights out on Bourbon Street?

Man, we tried not to! But New Orleans is such a vibrant city with so much heritage and history that you would be doing it a disservice if you weren't in the streets and didn't partake in a beignet or a yakamein. Most of the time we were bonding over the fact that every house she stayed in was haunted, which I always made fun of her for. I was like, "You keep moving houses because there's always a ghost, but that means that it's you – something's following you!"



 Watch *Bullet Train*

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TABLE READ

RECYCLED BUILDINGS

A beautiful new book showcases the creative spin architects are putting on disused sites, finds **Jessica Prupas**

A

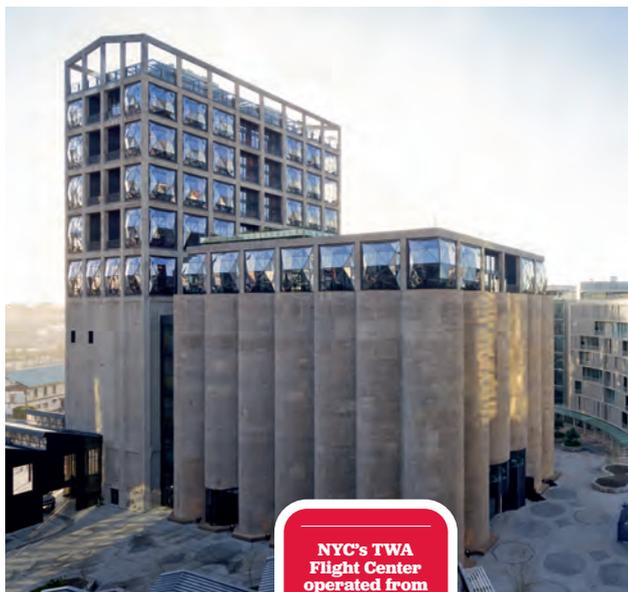
steel mill is transformed into a verdant park. A grocery store becomes a theatre and drama school. A power station gets a new life as an arts centre. This is “creative reuse”

– a new architectural movement that takes a second look at disused spaces, transforming them into something practical, sustainable and beautiful.

You can see the fruits of this movement in a new book from Gestalten, *Building for Change: The Architecture of Creative Reuse*, which – in 250 stunningly photographed pages – chronicles some of the most effective upcycling projects around the world. Consider the Masquerade building in Beijing, China – once an industrial brick factory, it’s been totally remade into a futuristic, salmon-coloured photography studio by architecture firm



Clockwise from far left: The Alila Yangshuo luxury hotel in Guangxi, China, sprang out of a former sugar mill; new photo studios in an old Beijing factory; a disused grain silo has been transformed into Cape Town's Zeitz MOCAA gallery



NYC's TWA Flight Center operated from 1962-2001 and was redeveloped five years ago.



123 Architects. Ex airport terminals are also ripe for reuse – like the former Trans World Airlines wing of JFK Airport in New York City, which now holds 512 rooms and a slick, 60s-style cocktail bar as the TWA Hotel and Connie Cocktail Lounge.

With looming climate challenges and waning space in our cities, it makes sense that architects would seek to upcycle existing structures, rather than producing new buildings with wasteful materials. And when our collective future is at stake, we're more than happy to bed down in an airport – so long as it looks this good.



■ **Building for Change: The Architecture of Creative Reuse** is published by Gestalten

PHOTOS: ALILA YANGSHUO HOTEL / VECTOR ARCHITECTS / SU SHENGJIANG, CHEN WAO, MASQUEBARD, DZ ARCHITECTS - JIN WEIOL, ZEITZ MOCAA, HEATHERWICK STUDIO - IWAN BAHK, TWA HOTEL AND CONNIE COCKTAIL LOUNGE, SIDNEYLL TAXIDR - DAVID MITCHELL, ALL BUILDING FOR CHANGE, GESTALTEN 2022



SET VISIT

A comedy of manors in East Devon

In the recent British horror-comedy *All My Friends Hate Me* – available to watch on board – a man's mounting social anxiety on a weekend trip with pals is played for laughs (and a few scares). All the action takes place in Sidbury Manor, a 19th-century mansion in East Devon, England, whose labyrinthine hallways and low-lit corners provide a perfectly eerie backdrop for this tense class satire. When it's not the site of an awkward friend getaway, the location is a charming Grade II-listed country pile near the historic town of Sidmouth and can be visited by appointment.

✂ Fly to London



SNACKS

CLAMS AND DUMPLINGS IN AUSTIN

A reimagined Southern classic at the Downtown **Diner Bar** is well worth shelling out for

AUSTIN HAS ALWAYS been comfortable breaking with tradition. And so it's the perfect host for superstar chef Mashama Bailey's newfangled take on that iconic Southern meal, chicken and dumplings. The award-winning chef and New Yorker spent much of her childhood in Savannah, Georgia, later honing her craft at the haute culinary academy École de Cuisine La Varenne in Burgundy. At Diner Bar - her latest venture in Downtown Austin - she's daringly substituting gulf clams for chicken, and marinating them not

in a traditional hearty broth but a la-di-dah French "pisto" (essentially posh pesto) alongside her signature fat golden dumplings. Not highfalutin enough? Devour Bailey's "foie and grits" next time you're in town, or maybe "chicken-fried quail". Creative, eclectic and fun, just like Austin.

✂ Fly to Austin



From top: Clams and dumplings at James Beard award-winner Mashama Bailey's new Diner Bar

DRINKS



Mezcal is dead trendy

Mezcal (tequila's lively little sister) is the toast of cool drinking dens everywhere - just in time for Día de Muertos, the Mexican celebration of the dead marked at the start of this month. Succumb to its smoky agave embrace in a Gracias Jesus cocktail at boxfresh nachos spot Vamos Vamos in Santa Monica, or at the recently opened Serena Rooftop, Miami, with organic CBD hibiscus tea, among a plethora of mezcal-based temptations. Across the pond, tip your sombrero to the Mexican spirit at Satan's Whiskers in London - like the joint's signature mezcal margarita, it's rather poky.

✂ Fly to Miami

NEW LOOK!

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SLEEPER HIT

A tastemaker in St Barth

ROSEWOOD LE GUANAHANI
IS A STAY TO SAVOUR

THIS MONTH THE heavenly Caribbean Island of St Barth hosts its annual Gourmet Festival, luring refined gourmands from all over the world to this idyllic hotspot a short hop from Antigua. Where are the cognoscenti sleeping? If they've any sense, Le Guanahani. Occupying a seven hectare peninsula on the serene north coast, this lavish hideaway comprises jauntily coloured cottages along winding pathways punctuated by pink bougainvillea and the odd strolling turtle. Hotel restaurants don't get any finer than Beach House St Barth, where French chef Gérald Passadat of the three-Michelin-starred Le Petit Nice in Marseille, France, will present



Enjoy the view of the lagoon from Bar Méléangé, above

a multi-course tasting menu in honour of the festival (from 8-13 November). Bar Méléangé is for proper cocktails – barrel-

aged rum, artisanal mezcal, the works. Or if you're a wellness type, the Sense spa offers yoga, Tibetan singing bowls, sunrise hikes and botanical massages with a cup of cold kombucha. Quite simply, Le Guanahani hits the spot.

✈ Fly to Antigua

3 MORE CARIBBEAN BEAUTIES



O2 BEACH CLUB, BARBADOS

Caribbean designer Michelle Leotaud oversaw the recent refresh of this 130-room five-star all-inclusive resort, with no fewer than six restaurants and access to a very surfable beach.



WINDJAMMER, ST LUCIA

A gorgeous jumble of villas and smaller rooms sprayed up a hillside overlooking a bay, with waterfront dining, and a renowned kids club for lively pyjama parties and coconut bowling.



SPICE ISLAND, GRENADA

On the more sedate southern end of gorgeous Grand Anse beach, this smart spot from local hospitality legend Sir Royston Hopkin is properly luxurious and just the right side of formal.



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LOCATION SCOUT

WINNING IN TAMPA

Known as “Champa Bay” for its sporting prowess, this is the ideal city to channel your inner athlete, says **Terry Ward**

I

f you’ve paid attention to professional US sports in recent years – football, ice hockey and baseball in particular – then you know Tampa is having a major moment. The National Football

League’s Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the Super Bowl in 2021 and even coaxed superstar quarterback Tom Brady out of retirement for the current season. After snagging two championship titles in 2020 and 2021, the Tampa Bay Lightning made it to the National Hockey League finals this year and, in Major League Baseball, the Tampa Bay Rays have been killing it since playing the World Series in 2020. Year round, the city plays host to a staggering number of sports teams – there are six MLB training camps in the Tampa region. Wherever you go around Tampa Bay, you’ll find a team flag flying. And, as you’d expect, the city offers plenty of athletic pursuits for the sports-inclined.

But before you change into your Lycra, check into the spectacular new **Tampa EDITION**, at the heart of downtown’s slick new Water Street



Above: The multipurpose Raymond James Stadium is home to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers



Year round, the city plays host to a staggering number of sports teams – you'll find team flags flying everywhere

Tampa development. The hotel's central location means it's a dream for keen walkers who want to see Tampa on foot – then recuperate later with a facial or massage in the hotel's sublime spa.

Amalie Arena, where the Tampa Bay Lightning plays, is right across the street from the hotel. And a five-minute stroll east of there brings you to **Sparkman Wharf**, with its canal-facing beer garden where punters sip craft cocktails and slurp down

plump Gulf Coast oysters. A big screen goes up any time the hometown teams play.

For a spirited sports bar setting nearby with cornhole and bucket pong tournaments (think beer pong but with rubbish bins instead of cups), **Park & Rec** is a favourite among University of Tampa students. You can follow the Hillsborough River north to **Urban Kai (1)** to rent stand-up paddleboards and glide along Tampa's scenic river. ▶



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Baseball fans make the pilgrimage to the historic downtown Ybor City district and the **Tampa Baseball Museum (2)**, where more than a century of local baseball lore is housed in the former home of Al Lopez, the city's first Baseball Hall of Famer.

But to see the Tampa Bay Rays take to the field, you'll need to cross the bay (by bridge or ferry) to neighbouring St Petersburg, 35km south-west of downtown Tampa. The team plays at **Tropicana Field**, right across the street from legendary **Ferg's Sports Bar**, where you'll find more than 90 TV screens broadcasting whichever big game is on that day. For scaling some heights in otherwise-flat Florida, **Vertical Ventures**, a rock-climbing gym with more than 150 routes and nine auto belays, is within stumbling distance of Ferg's (just take care not to drink and climb).

For major swingers, the **Innisbrook Golf Resort (3)** has the best green in Tampa – open to both resort guests and club members here, the private Copperhead Course is legendary for hosting an annual PGA Tour championship every March. Or, to try your hand at a very different type of golf, head to the **Picnic Island Disc Golf Course**, a lush bayfront park at the tip of South Tampa's peninsula, where you can throw discs to your heart's content (BYO discs or make friends on arrival).



2

Below: The Innisbrook Golf Resort is owned by Sheila Johnson, the USA's first Black female billionaire, and has four courses



3

St Petersburg's shallow waters are a great place to take up kiteboarding.



4

Tampa residents enjoy the water that surrounds their city every chance they can. Consider a stroll or inline skating session along **Bayshore Boulevard** – the city's 7km-long bayfront sidewalk flanked by multimillion-dollar mansions – or a bike ride (unlock one of **Coast Bike Share's** omnipresent rentals) along the downtown **Tampa Riverwalk**, which stretches over 3km past museums, restaurants and parks along the Hillsborough River.

Tampa's bays link up with the Gulf of Mexico – and the most thrilling way to get there is with **Kiteboarding St Petersburg (4)**, which runs individual or group kiteboarding lessons. They have several launch spots on the edge of Tampa Bay, but we recommend starting from one of the powdery. Caribbean-like beaches of **Fort De Soto Park** for an action-packed beach day that's a total home run.

✈ Fly to Orlando

3 MORE HOT SPOTS IN TAMPA



COLUMBIA RESTAURANT

Florida's oldest continually operating restaurant, this Ybor City landmark has been serving up Spanish-Cuban cuisine since 1905, and does a mean paella and sangria.



ST PETE PIER

Recently opened on St Petersburg's bayfront, this fabulous urban park and beach sprawls over 10 hectares, and features art installations, a massive marine-themed playground and a rooftop tiki bar.



THE DALÍ

The best gallery in the Tampa area is home to the largest collection of works by Salvador Dalí outside his native Spain. Don't miss the on-site Cafe Gala for tasty Spanish food.



Tampa, in your pocket

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SCREEN TEST

Can I take a photo of a UFO?

RALPH JONES WON'T SAY "NOPE" TO TRYING TO CAPTURE IMAGES OF FLYING SAUCERS. INSTEAD, HE GETS HIS BEST CAMERA GEAR OUT

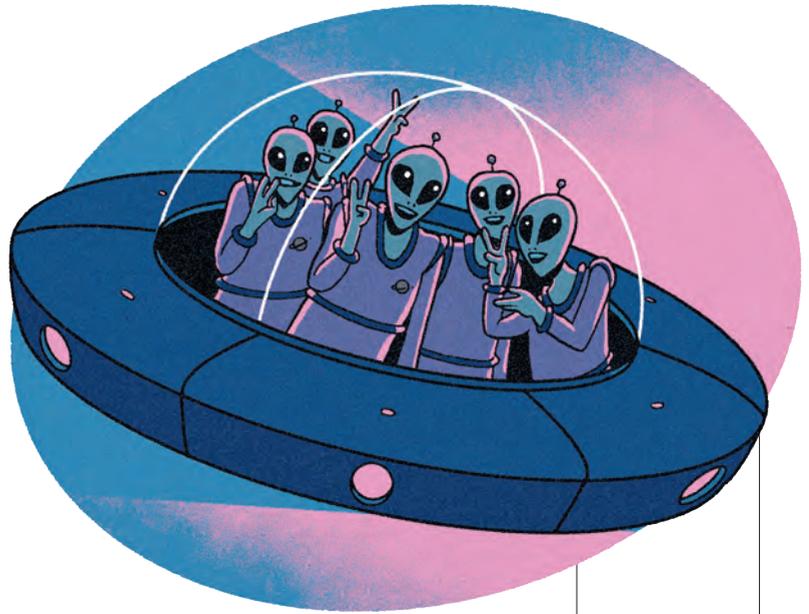
Hang up your scepticism hat for a moment. Take off your cynicism trousers. Assume that UFOs are genuine, that there really are things out there for which we have no explanation and that they may – yes, may – be the vessels of extraterrestrial beings. How could we take photos of these paranormal perpetrators?

The characters in *Nope*, director Jordan Peele's latest, attempt to capture footage of a mysterious airborne object that seems to be devouring horses on their ranch. They struggle – aliens are notoriously publicity-shy – but that doesn't mean that, with a camera in your hands, you couldn't do better.

If we're going by anecdotal evidence, it should be possible to capture an image of a UFO on camera. Plenty of people have allegedly done so: Paul and Evelyn Trent in Oregon in 1950; Rex Heflin in California in 1965; two hikers in the Scottish Highlands in 1990...

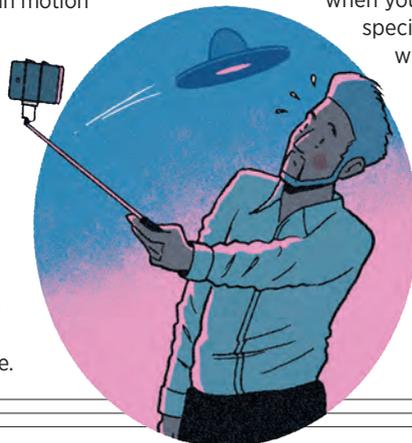
To this day, the best advice comes from none other than the CIA. Taking the plausibility of UFOs extremely seriously, in 1960 the CIA dished out some technical advice, most of which would fall under the heading: "Buy a really good camera." They recommended having your device set at infinity (a setting that allows the camera to take in as much detail as physically possible), and using a high-ISO setting and high shutter speed because the image you're capturing will be in motion (otherwise it would be a UO, not a UFO). They also advised taking as many photos as possible, including of the ground in relation to the object, and making sure (obviously) that there are multiple copies of your photos.

If you're in the UK, Cornwall happens to be one of the best places to spot UFOs, according to UK government-employed UFO-spotting expert, Nick Pope.



If you're in the US, it's Maine and Arizona. The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) advises filming the event – more detail, harder to debunk – and photographing any evidence the vessel might have left behind before touching it. If an alien emerges, MUFON also recommends getting somewhere safe and trying to take a photo of the lifeform. The other advice online includes ensuring that your camera's metadata is correct; this will mean that when you claim to have seen a UFO at a specific time and place, your camera will back you up.

There's no official advice about what to do if the aliens immediately fry all the skin off your body for daring to capture their soul in photographic form, but that's the kind of thing the phrase "we'll cross that bridge when we get to it" was invented for.



 Watch *Nope*

THE VERDICT

Yep. If UFOs exist, you have every chance of snapping them for the 'Gram.



mpb.com



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CHARLOTTE
RAMBLING
WILL
SEE
YOU
NOW



PAIN, PLEASURE, SCANDAL... THE BRITISH-BORN, PARIS-BASED STAR HAS EITHER LIVED IT OR PLAYED SOMEONE WHO HAS. IN HER LATEST, *JUNIPER*, SHE TACKLES THE LAST TABOO: AGEING. **CATH CLARKE** SPEAKS TO THE WOMAN KNOWN IN FRANCE SIMPLY AS "LA LEGENDE"

PHOTOGRAPHS: NELSON SIMONEAU

Charlotte
Rampling

“



ellooooooh” a woman chirps down the phone. This can’t be right. Have I got through to the wrong number? Ermm, I’m calling for Charlotte. Another voice comes on the line. “Yes, speaking.” Ah, there it is: the cut-glass, intimidating, unmistakable tones of Charlotte Rampling, speaking over the answer machine at home in her apartment in Paris.

The arrangement is that we talk on the phone rather than a video call. So, I get Rampling’s voice but not “The Look” – a phrase coined in the 1960s to describe her enigmatic beauty. At 76, she’s still got it: the hooded blue-green eyes, those fabulous, formidable cheekbones.

The camera loves her, always has. Rampling has appeared in more than 100 films – around half of them this century. She picked up her first Oscar nomination in 2016 aged 69 for *45 Years*, adding to her collection of honours and gongs: an OBE in Britain; a César film award; the French Legion of Honour. She is universally worshipped and in France known simply as La Légende. “I don’t know who said it first. But I’m quite happy with it. It makes me feel eternal.” She laughs, relaxed and intimate, not a trace of the famous froideur.

For decades she has lived in France – dedicating herself to independent, mostly European art-house films, blazing her own trail. In roles that tend toward the dark and dangerous, Rampling is refreshingly un-English in her approach to sex and nudity. In *’Tis Pity She’s a Whore* her character had an incestuous affair with her brother; in *Max Mon Amour*, she took a chimpanzee as a lover.

Most controversially, in 1974’s *The Night Porter*, Rampling played a concentration camp survivor enmeshed in a sadomasochistic affair with her Nazi guard. Does she ever pause before taking on scandal-worthy roles? “No,” Rampling answers evenly. “You never think about it. Until you’re in it and then there’s no way you can run away. If the initial feeling is strong enough, it’s going to keep you there. It’s like when you fall in love. You’ll go to the end of the world with that person.”

Sex and scandal – that’s not the life anyone would have predicted for her. Rampling was born in Essex, the daughter of an army colonel and a painter mother. All very proper. She went to posh private schools in France and England, but there wasn’t a lot of money knocking around. So, she was packed off to secretarial college in London at 16. A year later, an ad executive plucked her from behind a typewriter to appear in a Cadbury advert. Her breakthrough film part came in 1966, playing fierce Meredith in *Georgy Girl*.

From the beginning, she’s had a reputation for being frosty. The trouble was that people instantly assumed she was like her characters. “That started with *Georgy Girl*.” Her agent would tell her she’d been turned down for roles. “I’d get a call: ‘They ▶

don't want you because they say you're difficult to work with. They want someone else." She laughs, gravelly and warm. "That's the way it goes."

London in the 60s was swinging. For Rampling and a generation of young women like her, the era was a "blank page, full of opportunity" – having fun, living life. Then, in 1966, everything changed for Rampling when her adored sister Sarah committed suicide. Three years older than Rampling, Sarah lived in Argentina, married to a cattle rancher; she had recently given birth to a premature baby. After her sister's death, Rampling threw herself into work to cope: "I needed work to keep me sane. I wanted to go deeper into roles," she says quietly. The idea of appearing in frivolous, frothy films suddenly felt wrong: "I said to myself: I can't be in the entertainment business. I must find another way."

In the early 70s, Rampling went to Hollywood, briefly. "I decided I couldn't work there. It wasn't my place; I needed to be in Europe. I came back quite quickly." People told her she was crazy; that she could be a big star in America. But Rampling was unshakeable. "I didn't want stardom. I didn't want fame. I knew that I wouldn't be happy there, and I didn't want to waste my time."

"THE ENGLISH LIKE TABLOIDS. IT'S BIG BUSINESS.

IT'S NOT THE REASON I LEFT ENGLAND, BUT I'M RELIEVED NOT TO HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS"

It's always been the way. "I'm seriously independent. Even as a kid, I used to drive my parents mad. I always had to do it my way." In her private life too, she's done her own thing. For a time, she shared a home with her agent Bryan Southcombe and the model Randall Laurence (in recent years Rampling has more or less confirmed rumours they were in a ménage à trois). In the end, she married Southcombe and they had a son, Barnaby (who directed her in the 2012 thriller *I, Anna*). She also has a son, David, from her second marriage to the French composer Jean-Michel Jarre.

Rampling is a fan of the French laissez-faire attitude to the love lives of celebrities. The country has strict privacy laws, which have allowed her to come and go as she pleased, unbothered by gossip. "The English like tabloids. It's big business. It's not the reason I left England, but I'm quite relieved not to have to live with this."

When she became a mother, family became her number one priority. So she started turning down major roles. Again there came advice from concerned friends, telling her not to stop working, that she'd disappear, the industry would forget

LIVING LÉGENDE

CHARLOTTE RAMPLING'S CV



Born

Charlotte Rampling was born in Essex in 1946. Her father was an army officer, and growing up she lived in Gibraltar, France and Spain.

Education

She attended prestigious private girls' schools in England and France: the Académie Jeanne d'Arc in Versailles and St Hilda's boarding school in Bushey, Hertfordshire.

Fun fact

Early-90s pop group Kinky Machine wrote a saucy song about her, entitled *Charlotte Rampling*, that includes the line "I always wanted to be your trampoline."

Key works

Georgy Girl (1966)
Rampling landed her big acting break playing pregnant mean girl Meredith in this classic British comedy (*below*).

45 Years (2015)

In 2016, aged 69, Rampling received her first Oscar nomination for this quietly moving drama. She plays Kate, a woman approaching 45 years of marriage who must re-examine her relationship as she prepares for the anniversary party.

Dune (2021)

In the first instalment of Denis Villeneuve's mega-budget sci-fi epic, Rampling is the prophetess Reverend Mother Mohiam (*above*) and will return for the sequel next year. Incidentally, she chose the Frank Herbert book on which the film is based when she appeared on *Desert Island Discs* back in 1976.





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about her. "But I had to be true to where my needs were and the people I loved, because you can't play with those. They're not play-acting. They are the reality of life. And thank goodness I did. I've had really good relationships with all the people that I've loved, husbands and friends. I've turned down a lot of stuff because of it."

In her forties, depression paused her work in films (though Rampling continued to work on television in France). She'd divorced from Jarre, her kids were growing up. "It was a watershed moment. I think it happens in the forties with people." It opened a Pandora's box for Rampling, containing unprocessed grief, among other things. "I hadn't mourned my sister enough. It knocked me sideways."

Nothing much scares Rampling about getting older. Famously she refuses to consider plastic surgery. "I'm more frightened of having something done, waking up and..." her voice trails off at the other end of the line. Does she object in principle to getting work done? "No. I've just chosen not to." Part of it is luck of the genetic draw. "I have a face that didn't really need it, doesn't really need it." She corrects herself: "I mean, everybody's face could do with a little bit of a nip and a tuck, but I'm not going to have it done." Besides she has always seen acting as means of self-examination. "Changing my face would be a disaster, because I wouldn't be able to keep following myself."

She continues to work with the film world's great provocateurs, last year appearing in Paul Verhoeven's *Benedetta*, a 17th-century tale with lesbian nuns, nudity and demonic possession. In her latest film, *Juniper*, she plays Ruth, a veteran war photographer famous for her bravery and hard drinking – now raging against the dying of the light. After badly breaking her leg, Ruth flies from

England to New Zealand to stay with her son. Her rudeness is a pleasure; at one point she tells a vicar off. "We actually had her hit the minister, but we left it out. They thought it was too much," Rampling laughs with a roar. "I thought that was a pity."

But are there signs of her stance on Hollywood mellowing? In 2020, Rampling made her first blockbuster, Denis Villeneuve's *Dune*, playing the icily imperious Reverend Mother Mohiam. Her

face, shrouded in black lace, popped up briefly to torture Timothée Chalamet. The Mother Superior is a leader in a cult of sorceresses with Jedi-like mind-controlling powers, the Bene Gesserit. I get my only taste of Rampling's famous *froideur* when I suggest that the character is a bit of a departure from her usual roles. "Not really," she says, bristling.

"No. She's one of the most deeply philosophical people that actually ever existed," she says sternly. "For centuries these women have been trying to find a way to improve the human species without violence. It's a very philosophical story. If you know the book, you'll understand. People who know the book would understand. Others would say, 'Oh why is she in a big Hollywood picture?'" That tickles her and she softens, letting out a warm laugh.

Her character has more to do in the sequel, scheduled for release

in a year's time. The experience of filming on a mega-million budget movie must have been a change, I suggest. But Rampling is not having any of it. "No. it's all the same, just on a bigger scale. Your caravan's bigger. The set's bigger. But we're all still little people." With that she lets loose with a guffaw of laughter that might do serious harm to her reputation.



**"EVERYBODY'S FACE COULD DO WITH A LITTLE BIT OF A
NIP AND A TUCK,
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE IT DONE"**

Watch *Juniper*





IN
NEW YORK,
STUFFY, PRETENTIOUS
RESTAURANTS ARE
A THING OF THE PAST.
A GROUP OF QUEER
CHEFS IS MAKING
EATING OUT MORE
INCLUSIVE AND
RETHINKING THE
VERY IDEA OF WHAT A
RESTAURANT CAN BE, SAYS
SARA BARON-GOODMAN

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALEX LAU

BREAK THE RESTAURANT

It's a crisp, sunny September day

in Hudson – a small, sleepy town two hours north of New York City. Colonial-style townhouses line the main street in two neat rows of small art galleries, antique shops and cafes. It's so quiet you can hear the leaves rustling. Turn a corner, however, and the stillness is broken by 70s disco pop piping out of a bubblegum-pink bungalow. Inside, it's a maximalist wonderland: the jungle-themed decor – a riot of purple, fuschia and yellow – glitters under a spinning disco ball. A 1980s-era TV monitor flashes vintage erotica and close-up portraits of drag queens. The sizzle of dinner prep mingles with the pumping club soundtrack.

This is Lil' Deb's Oasis. They may call themselves a “queer restaurant”, but – though their aesthetic and ownership are both proudly queer – it was never meant to be exclusively for gay people. Lil' Deb's is a sanctuary for people of all stripes – a place where anyone can come, be fed and feel completely themselves. They're part of a new wave of queer-owned dining spaces in and around New York City that is remaking traditional restaurants, transforming them into inclusive spaces for gathering rather than just places to eat.

“Our area needed a space where people like me could come – that doesn't just include queer people,” says Halo Perez-Gallardo, co-owner and chef of Lil' Deb's. “People come and feel alive here, they feel nurtured here. The space became what it needed to be.”

Just looking around the restaurant, you can see what they mean. It's still early for dinner service, but there are two tables seated – one, a booth reserved for one staff member's family, who have come to celebrate a birthday. The other seats two straight couples in their late sixties or early seventies, having an early bird dinner date. It's clear that it's none of these patrons' first time here: they look relaxed and happy, and Perez-Gallardo greets them all with warm familiarity.

Lil' Deb's shares this welcoming ethos with such other restaurants in New York City as Ursula, a New Mexican takeaway in Brooklyn (and James Beard Award nominee this year for Best New Restaurant); HAGS, a queer dining concept in the East Village; and Agi's Counter, an all-day Eastern European cafe and restaurant also in Brooklyn. All are run by queer people, who opened their businesses in the months during or following the pandemic when the need for welcoming, community-oriented spaces reached a critical point. All of these restaurants share certain operating principles: they pay staff living wages, they don't work overtime, they close the pay gap between front and back of house, they don't wear uniforms and they value personal self-expression.

“I think one of the things that was so central to the process at the beginning was me being like, we're absolutely not wearing uniforms,” says Perez-Gallardo. “There was a dialogue in that moment for sure that continued for years – what it means to be in an environment where you are given a uniform, where you're told to perform a personality that's different to how you are at home. Let's rupture that thing that might feel so small.”

Equally important to making their staff feel valued, these restaurants ensure every kind of diner can confidently walk through their doors. They offer menus with vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options that feel just as exciting as the carnivorous ones. The bathrooms are gender neutral, as well as the language when greeting customers. They give back to their community

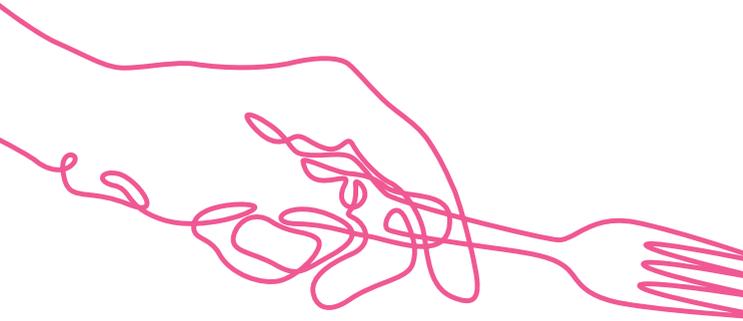
where they can – for HAGS, that's with operating a pay what you can model on Sundays; for chef and owner Eric See at Ursula, that means being involved in restaurant lobby groups to fight for more equity in tipping culture. They all have a come-as-you-are mentality towards patrons as well as staff, and welcome conversation, consent and communication.

“At the time we opened, it was at the beginning of the pandemic and a lot of queer spaces were closing,” says See. “We were not actually able to interact in person and so we were losing that sense of ourselves as a community.” In opening Ursula, he felt compelled to try to bring back that sense of community, and create ▶

Opening page: Halo Perez-Gallardo, chef and co-owner of Lil' Deb's Oasis, with manager Julia Johnson







a space that was equitable, fair, and safe for his staff as well as for his customers.

See and his peers are working to rectify a long history of toxicity in the restaurant industry – a reality that’s been well-documented in the media, from Anthony Bourdain’s book-turned-TV-series *Kitchen Confidential* to this year’s streaming hit *The Bear*. Industry awards and vaunted “best of” lists have long tipped towards white, male, classically trained chefs who serve Eurocentric food and employ militaristic standards in their kitchens. This has had a trickle-down effect, so that the industry as a whole is one where long hours, dismal pay and a certain amount of verbal abuse are simply par for the course. This kind of environment would feel difficult for anybody to work in, but for marginalised folks – whether that be queer people, people of colour or women – it can be categorically unsafe.



“I THINK IN NEW YORK THERE’S AN INTENTIONALITY ABOUT EXPRESSING YOUR IDENTITY, SO YOU KNOW THAT WHEN YOU COME IN HERE, YOUR SERVERS AREN’T GOING TO HARASS YOU”

“For centuries, oppressed and marginalised communities have been told to be quiet. Don’t say gay, water down your Mexican food or your Taiwanese food, don’t put your identity in our face,” says See. “And now, a lot of these marginalised communities are here and they’re like, no I’m going to be loud and proud.”

See looks toward a long lineage of queer chefs that have pushed for equity, diversity, and visibility in the hospitality world since before the AIDS pandemic of the 80s and 90s. New York was the epicentre of this movement – not surprising, considering the city has always been a Mecca for the LGBTQIA+ community. Historically, though, queer chefs had to choose between leaving their identity at the door or pigeonholing their restaurants into spaces that exclusively serve their community. In recent years, however, mainstream conversations about identity have meant that queer chefs have become freer to be themselves more publicly. The stage was set for the birth of a new, progressive food movement.

“I think in New York there’s an intentionality about expressing your identity, so you know that

when you come in here, your servers aren’t going to harass you or make you feel uncomfortable as a gay person, as a trans person, as a woman, as a person of colour. Or even as a person with dietary restrictions,” says See. “You can come here and there’s people that are like you that work here, so you know you’re safe.”

This focus on accommodating all identities translates to an environment that’s warm and welcoming. When you walk through the doors at both Lil’ Deb’s and Ursula, there’s a friendliness in the air – you’re greeted like an old pal, not a total stranger. The spaces are bright and laid-back, staff bop along to

Above, left to right: Sous chef Hender Gonzales, Grant Rossi and chef Eric See at New Mexican cafe Ursula, in Brooklyn



PHOTO: JESSICA BETWAY FROM PLEASANT WAYS TO BE FASSED. ILLUSTRATIONS: ADOBE STOCK



music as they work. You can taste this cheerful spirit in the food, too: Ursula is famous for their green chilli-studded breakfast burritos, but it's really the colourful pastries – a flaky hot pink concha and doughnuts lacquered with hibiscus glaze – that shine. In Lil' Deb's, their loud, eclectic menu leans toward the experimental – scallop crudo swims in coconut milk and chilli oil, a whole fried fish is served on a bed of tender herbs and sticky-sweet fried plantains are drenched in green goddess dressing. These bold dishes are born out of the restaurants' values – when people feel safe, heard and welcome, there's room for creativity to thrive and more care put into each meal.

"My wish is that every job just allows people to be their best selves and present in the way they want to present. Especially in queerness, people are always interrogating, how do I best express myself?" says Perez-Gallardo. "There's something very vibrant and full of life about that."



■ Special thanks to Jeremy Salamon of Agi's Counter and Camille Lindsey of HAGS for contributing their thoughts
✂ Fly to New York

EAT LIKE YOU'RE AT LIL' DEB'S

SCALLOP CRUDO WITH GREEN BANANA, COCONUT AND DILL (SERVES 2-4)

INGREDIENTS

AGUA

- 1 x 12oz can of unsweetened, full fat coconut milk
- Zest and juice of two limes
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- Kosher salt

CRUDO

- 1/2lb dry packed sea scallops
- 1 green banana
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice, plus more as needed
- 1 tbsp plus 1 tsp extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
- 1 Fresno or other fresh red chilli, minced
- 2 sprigs dill

METHOD

TO MAKE THE AGUA

In a small bowl, combine the coconut milk, lime zest and juice, and the fish sauce. Use an immersion blender or whisk to blend until homogenous and creamy. Cover and refrigerate until cool to the touch.

TO MAKE THE CRUDO

Pat dry the scallops with a paper towel. Remove and discard the "foot". Cut

each scallop horizontally and then vertically to make 1/2 inch cubes. Peel the green bananas then cut to match the size and shape of the scallop pieces. In a medium bowl, combine cubed scallop and banana with 1 tbsp of lime juice and gently toss to combine. Cover and refrigerate for at least 20 minutes.



TO SERVE

Add the agua to the crudo and gently toss to coat. Add the lime juice and olive oil, and season with salt. Taste it to make sure it's tangy and salty, add

more lime juice, olive oil or salt as needed. To plate, pile the banana-scallop mixture in the center of a serving dish. Sprinkle with the minced chilli and drizzle with the remaining 1 tsp of olive oil. Pull the smallest sprigs of dill to garnish the crudo. Enjoy right away.

■ Taken from the book
Please Wait to Be Tasted

TURN

UP

For millennia, humans have been reaping the health benefits of heat. Steamy saunas, wild geothermal pools, buzzy public bathhouses – they’ve all long been community stalwarts and essential well-being spaces.

THE

A new book, *Thermal*, traces this long history of heat as a health elixir and rounds up – in stunningly photographed pages – the best places for a shvitz around the world. Grab a towel and don’t forget to hydrate – it’s going to be a hot winter.

WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS

HEAT



AMANGIRI

What? A desert spa that communes with nature.

Where? At the edge of a steep valley in Canyon Point, Utah.

SURROUNDED BY UTAH'S famously red, undulating cliffs, Amangiri is a 360-hectare oasis in the middle of the vast, still Colorado Plateau. The spa sits in the heart of Diné land and takes inspiration from the tribe's restorative tradition of *hózhó* – a state of alignment and harmony with self and nature. One look at the resort's architecture and you can see this philosophy has been rigorously applied – the low, flat buildings are mostly chiselled from sandstone so that they disappear quietly into the landscape.

Amangiri's wellness offering revolves around the four elements. Water gets a major showing here, with a dedicated Water Pavilion featuring steam rooms, a sauna and even sensory deprivation pools, where spa-goers can float in total darkness, buoyed by the brine-heavy water. Outside, gently curving pools allow swimmers to get right up close to towering escarpments and well-placed hot tubs offer unrivalled views of the dramatic desert landscape. Talk about a lucky dip.

✈ Fly to Las Vegas

HOT TIP



To take bathing from activity to ritual, consider adding a few elements: Epsom or pink Himalayan salt, which draws out toxins; oils (like lavender or eucalyptus), which nourish the skin; botanicals, which add a fresh element to a ritual bath; and crystals, which can help align intentions – put in the bath or set on the edge of the tub.

THE ROMAN BATHS

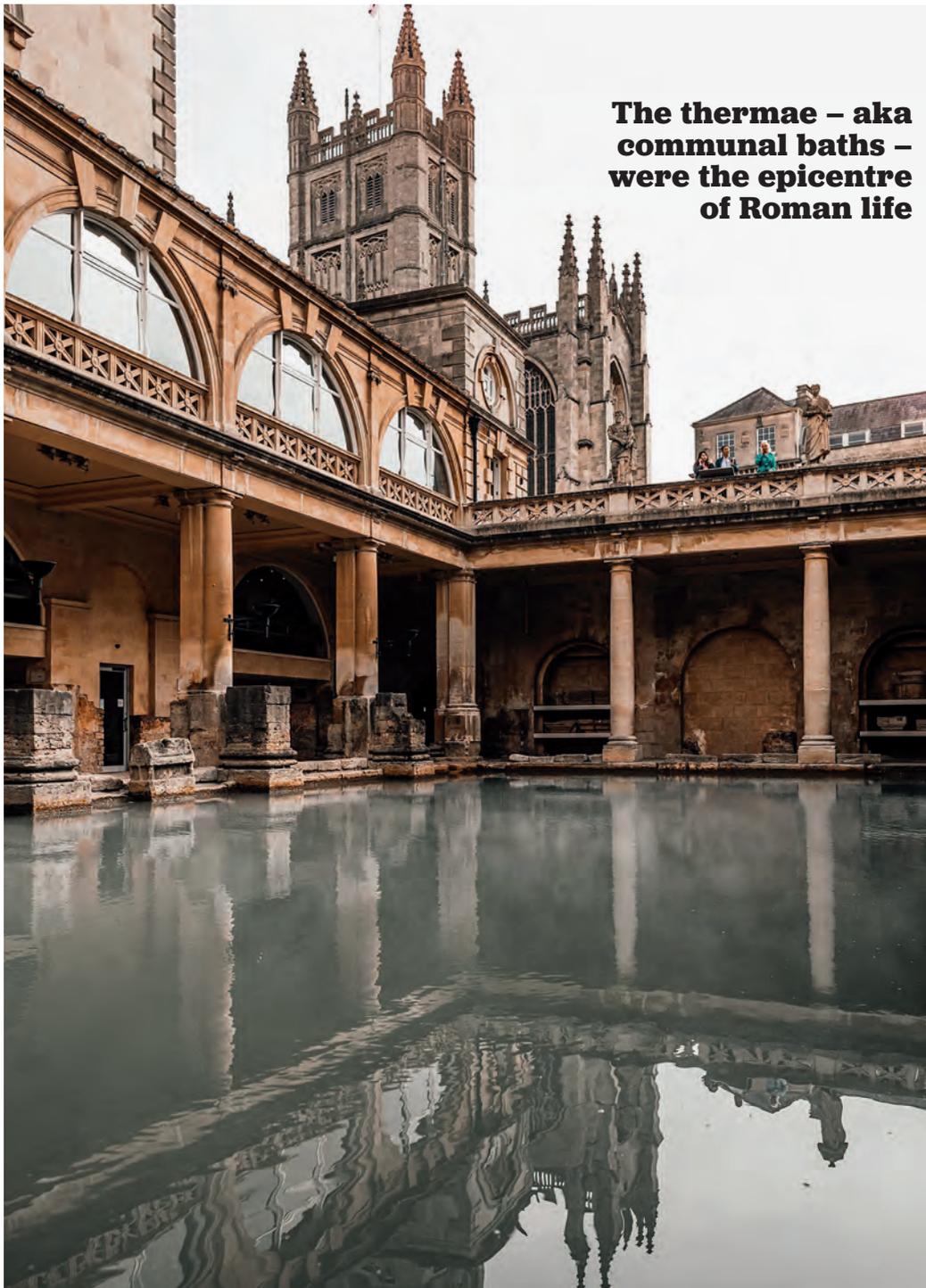
What? Astonishingly well-preserved ancient thermae.

Where? The aptly named city of Bath, in south-west England.

THE ROMANS BASICALLY invented – and then perfected – the widely adopted practice of stewing in a body of water. Learn from the best at the 2,000-year-old Roman Baths. Originally built as both a religious temple and a site for public bathing, you can see where ancient peoples worshipped Celtic-Roman goddess Sulis Minerva in the Roman Temple, or stripped to their skivvies in the changing rooms that line the geothermally heated Great Bath.

The thermae – aka communal baths – were the epicentre of Roman life. This is reflected in the epic scale of the architecture: for many Romans, these baths would have been the largest building they'd ever enter. Though you can't actually get into the water here (it's untreated), the nearby Thermae Bath Spa – with its mineral-rich, naturally heated pools – offers that same primordial experience. You know, when in Rome – ish – and all that.

✈ Fly to London



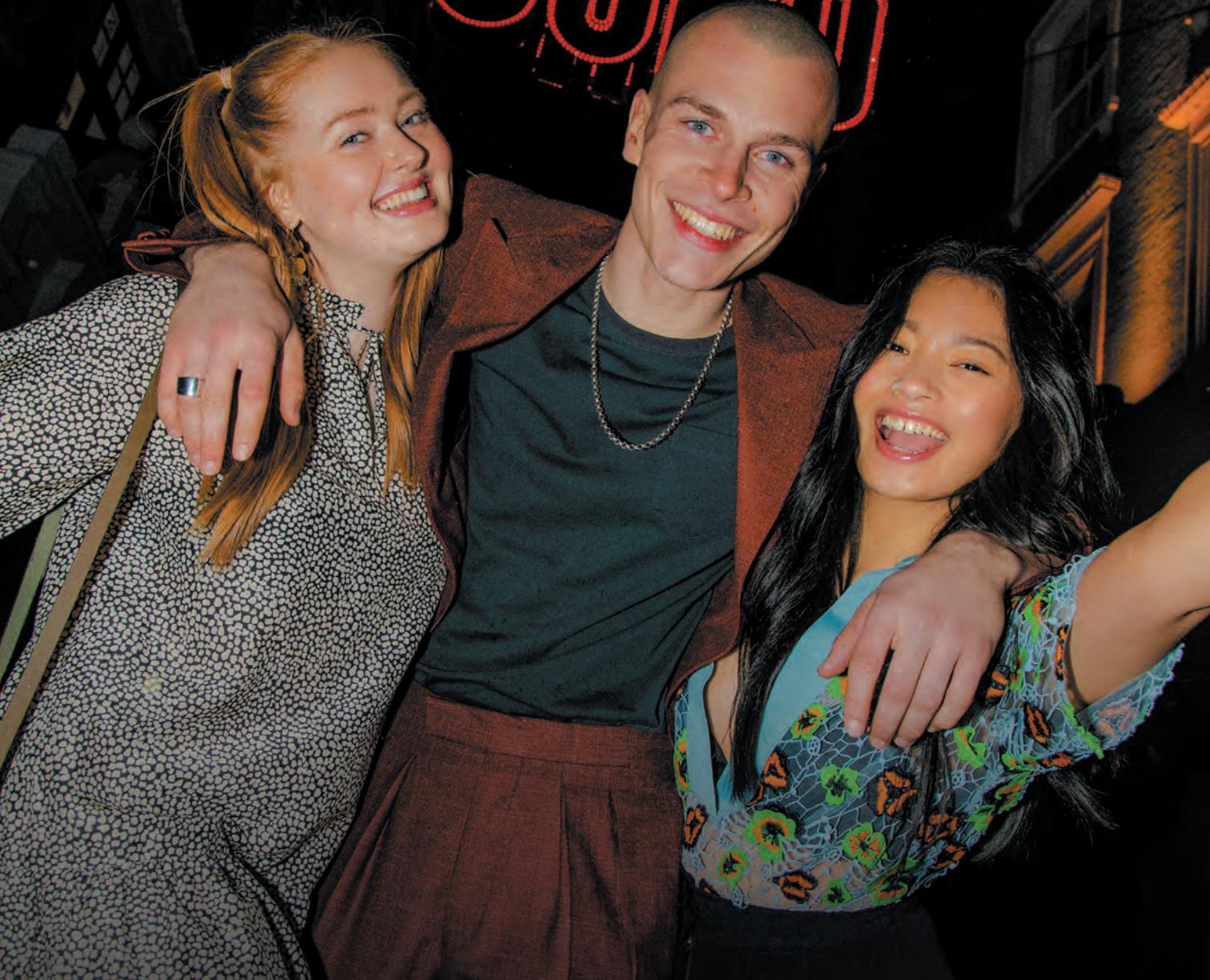
The thermae – aka communal baths – were the epicentre of Roman life

HOT TIP



Saunas make us healthier and more resilient by continually exposing us to small stresses. According to Dr Rhonda Patrick, a researcher and expert in the field of longevity, saunas have the greatest benefit when they're used at least four times per week, with a duration of more than 19 minutes – but even an occasional shvitz will do you good. ▶

SOHO



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DRIFTWOOD SAUNA CLUB

What? An itinerant sauna hand-built by two friends.

Where? The mountains of Northern California.

WE'VE ALL HAD OUTLANDISH business ideas that we've quickly abandoned. But when pals Ali Hartwig and Whitney Bulterman had a wild brainwave – to build a mobile sauna that could follow them along California's mountainous coast – they went for it. The result is this sweatbox-on-wheels made from reclaimed metal and cedar wood, with a crisp, softly lit interior warmed

by a propane heater, plus an outdoor shower for rinsing off. Brave guests can also opt for the “cold plunge” – a full bucket of icy water dumped over your head.

But why a roving sauna? “For us, sauna is about cultivating connection and bliss,” say Hartwig and Bulterman. Driftwood's portability means the friends can take it wherever it's needed – encountering lots of lovely new people and places along the way. If you want to catch up with them, check out Driftwood's Instagram page (@driftwoodsaua) to find out where they're trundling to next.

✂ Fly to Los Angeles

The horsebox sauna takes an old equine trailer and turns it into a thing of beauty: a wood stove-heated sauna next to a burbling stream

HORSEBOX SAUNA AT INSHRIACH HOUSE

What? A back-to-nature sauna in a recycled horsebox.

Where? A secluded estate in the Scottish Highlands.

AS ITS NAME SUGGESTS, the horsebox sauna takes an old equine trailer and turns it into a thing of beauty: a bare-bones, wood stove-heated sauna parked next to a burbling stream and hidden among fragrant pines. It's located on 80-hectare private estate Inshriach House – 1.6km from the property's main house, an Edwardian pile and former shooting lodge where guests can

stay. The estate also has several glamping setups (including a fire truck that's been converted into a two-person dwelling), plus a small gin distillery, saloon, log house, shepherd's hut and bothy – a basic stone house that was once used as shelter by travelling Scots.

Anyone can access the estate's sauna and neighbouring hot tub – so long as you book a slot. There's a good chance you'll have the spa to yourself, but you're never truly alone at Inshriach – it's home to a wealth of wildlife, including a herd of about 130 black sheep and reams of busy red squirrels. Aww.

✂ Fly to Edinburgh



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MILITARE CHRONO

HOT TIP



To get the most out of the Esalen Institute experience, Douglas Drummond, director for the Healing Arts & Somatics, advises guests to arrive without expectations: “We think it’s important to have a healthy relationship with the unknown,” he says. “Let water be your teacher – all the forms of it.” Clear your mind and try not to force anything.



ESALEN INSTITUTE

What? An iconic wellness centre with natural sulphur baths.

Where? On a cliff overlooking the Pacific in Big Sur, California.

CONSIDERED THE BIRTHPLACE of the Human Potential Movement – an influential philosophy born from 60s counterculture – the Esalen Institute is where California wellness culture (the hippy kind rather than the Goop kind) finds its apex. The non-profit institute is spread over 50 hectares of redwood-studded land between the Pacific Ocean and the Coast Ranges, and welcomes thousands of guests yearly to its retreat centre.

But both guests and the public can access the Institute’s sulphur baths, which are dug into the side of a cliff and heated by the tectonic activity. The baths are divided into a silent and non-silent side, and both are clothing optional, since Esalen believes in the power of nudity to harness vulnerability – so be ready to bare all.

✖ **Fly to San Francisco**

■ **Thermal: Saunas, Hot Springs & Baths by Lindsey Bro (Chronicle Books, £21.99).**

Out 24 November



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WINTER 2022

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EDITED BY FLO WALES BONNER

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skincare to hero
homewares,
prepare to earn
serious brownie
points this festive
season with
our guide to the
year's ultimate
Christmas gifts





1

3

2

10

4

5

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For a superior lather.
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The perfect fruit bowl.
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£60, verden.world

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For the home barista.
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6: BULY 1803 TOOTHPASTE
For enhanced morning rituals.
£17, buly1803.com

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For a well-dressed desk.
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Party PJs in a chic shade.
£328, the-sleeper.com

9: MEZCAL ROSALUNA
A subtly smoky sip.
£37, mezcalrosaluna.com

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Makes an arty wall hanging.
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For the discerning homebody

Words: Flo Wales Bonner

Elegant objects and tasteful treats to make their everyday less everyday

9

8

7

6





For the perfectly preened

Words: Isabel Dexter

Pampering favourites to upgrade any bathroom shelf



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Fiery, aphrodisiac scent.
£82, harveynichols.com
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For skincare aficionados.
£380, susannekaufmann.com
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Light-directing technology.
£75, cledepeau-beaute.com
- 4: VOTARY BODY OIL
A skin-perfecting miracle.
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For a fresh start.
£55, facegym.com
- 6: WHIND MARRAKECH RICH CREAM
An amber-scented glow-giver.
£60, uk.whind.com
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- 10: SUMMER FRIDAYS EYE CREAM
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£40, uk.manscaped.com
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For the style savant

Words: Flo Wales Bonner

Fashion and accessories for
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4



9



10

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For stylish snapping.
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£395, simonerocha.com

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Sumptuously slinky.
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7: JACQUIE AICHE ROLEX
An icon, boldly reimagined.
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Because plastic is so passé.
£18, supersparrow.com

9: IINDACO MULES
Hot to trot.
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A classic for the minimalist.
£60, selfridges.com

11: ALEXIS BITTAR EARRINGS
Eye catching sparklers.
£275, harveynichols.com

12: KINGDOM OF WOW SLIPPERS
Comfy slip-ons crafted from wool and bamboo.
\$99, kingdomofwow.com

13: CASABLANCA X GLOBE-TROTTER VANITY CASE
Function meets fashion.
£1,985, brownfashion.com

14: TOM FORD SWEATPANTS
In velvet for luxe lounging.
£890, mporter.com



5

6



7

8

A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

What's On



HAMMER TIME

Good god, what's this? It's Thor, of course – everyone's favourite Scandi-style Avenger, back in another instalment of his Marvel Cinematic Universe series beside Natalie Portman. *Thor: Love and Thunder* has the always dependable Taika Waititi at the helm and sees the blond berserker battling the scary-sounding Gorr the God Butcher (Christian Bale).

📺 Watch *Thor: Love and Thunder*



THE BEST OF WHAT'S ONBOARD

63-69

Movies

Catch two Vera Exclusives this month: *Notre-Dame on Fire* and *Juniper*. You're welcome.

71-74

TV

A documentary about master composer Ennio Morricone, plus a whole series of *The Sinner*.

75-77

Audio

An expert tells us why white noise, pink noise and brown noise are indispensable sleep aidzzzz...

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 November.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

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

SCREEN TIME

Onboard this month we have

154

Movies

580+

Albums, podcasts & playlists

246+

Hours of TV shows

25+

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:

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- 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.



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 A350 and A330-900 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.



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*COMING SOON

SCENES THAT WILL BE SEARED ON YOUR MEMORY

Movies

1163

Maurice de Sully, bishop of Paris, founds a new cathedral in Paris, on the site of a Roman temple to Jupiter on the Île de la Cité. Pope Alexander III lays the cornerstone – this house of worship will be a big deal.

1239

King Louis IX buys several holy relics, including Jesus's Crown of Thorns, which are housed in Notre-Dame along with hundreds of other priceless Christian artefacts.

1831

The cathedral is, as Victor Hugo writes in *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, “still no doubt, a majestic and sublime edifice”, but has fallen into disrepair. The popularity of his book, among other things, sparks a resurgence of pride in the building, which undergoes extensive repair.

1991

Notre-Dame becomes a UNESCO World Heritage site.



15 APRIL 2019

6.20PM

An alarm is heard during mass and the cathedral is evacuated. Smoke rises from the roof and flames are seen. Before long, hundreds of firefighters battle a blaze that threatens to engulf the whole building. Veteran French director Jean-Jacques Annaud uses actual footage and actors to recreate this fateful evening when this symbol of France herself burned.

7.50PM

The medieval cathedral's spire collapses and not long after the whole wooden frame is ablaze. Firefighters work in terrible conditions amid the smoke, falling timber and molten lead.

16 APRIL 2019

The blaze is contained. Two-thirds of the roof has been damaged beyond repair, but the structure is largely intact. “It's the cathedral of every French person, even those who have never visited it,” President Macron says. *Notre-Dame on Fire* will have you shouting “*Vive la France!*” by the end.

 Watch *Notre-Dame on Fire*

PARIS IS BURNING

Vera Exclusive movie
Notre-Dame on Fire
remembers the events of 2019 when the famous cathedral went up in flames. Here's the life of the French icon, from construction to conflagration





Breaking ❤️

John Boyega, Michael Kenneth Williams	103 mins
--	-------------

JOHN “STAR WARS” Boyega is outstanding in this wrenching true-life drama about a traumatised war vet facing mental and emotional challenges when he tries to reintegrate into civilian life. How does he cope? Well, he doesn’t, is the answer, and the movie throws us right into a high-tension situation that will be familiar to anybody who’s seen *Dog Day Afternoon* (a classic movie to which this has been compared). As to what happens next, well, you won’t get any spoilers from us. All we’ll say is that it’s high stakes, tightly wound stuff with both Boyega and Michael Kenneth Williams (in his final film role) giving acting masterclasses. What’s more, its message about the way we treat our war veterans hits hard.



Notre-Dame on Fire 12

Samuel Labarthe, Jean-Paul Bordes	110 mins
--------------------------------------	-------------

Firstly, this movie is exclusive to us, so you won’t see it on any other airline. Secondly, in dramatising the story of the 2019 fire that destroyed much of the titular cathedral, it’s a thrilling experience – made all the more so by the fact that it’s all true. *See opener*



DC League of Super-Pets ❤️

Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart	105 mins
-------------------------------	-------------

A star-studded voice cast including Dwayne Johnson, Keanu Reeves and Kevin Hart features in this animated DC spin-off in which Superman’s dog, Krypto, must embark on a rescue mission when his master is kidnapped. Barrels of fun.



Benediction 12

Jack Lowden, Peter Capaldi	137 mins
-------------------------------	-------------

From writer-director Terence Davies, and with a top performance from Jack Lowden, this biopic tells of Siegfried Sassoon, the British wartime poet who was sectioned for his anti-war stance and censured for his colourful love life.



Confess, Fletch !

John Hamm, Marcia Gay Harden	136 mins
---------------------------------	-------------

The comic creation made famous by Chevy Chase is back, now played by Jon Hamm in a plot that involves him searching for his fiancée’s stolen art collection. There’s also the matter of him being the prime suspect in a murder.



Secret Headquarters ⚠️

Owen Wilson, Michael Peña	89 mins
------------------------------	------------

A superhero movie with a much more family-orientated turn than usual. Wilson stars as Jack Kincaid, aka The Guard, a superhero whose crime-busting duties have led him to neglect his son, Charlie – until Charlie discovers Jack’s secret identity.

MOVIE BLUFF



Meet the tragic real-life hero of new movie *Benediction*

So who was he?

Siegfried Sassoon (played by Jack Lowden and Peter Capaldi) was a British poet famed for his excoriating critiques of the First World War. His haunting stanzas made him the darling of literary London and an icon for pacifists everywhere.

Did he fight in the war?

Oh yes, so bravely and selflessly Sassoon's comrades nicknamed him "Mad Jack". He was even awarded a Military Cross for outstanding gallantry.

Did his words have an impact?

His *Soldier's Declaration*, written in 1917, was read aloud in Parliament, imploring leaders to contemplate "agonies which they do not share, and which they have not sufficient imagination to realise".

Yikes.

A normal soldier would have been court-martialled for insubordination, but he was from a well-to-do background and so was quietly institutionalised, therein meeting fellow war poet Wilfred Owen.

Watch *Benediction*



Bullet Train ♥

15

Brad Pitt,
Joey King

126
mins

TAKE YOUR SEATS and have your tickets at the ready, the *Bullet Train* is here, and it has a simple and rather endearing aim: simply to be the best, most exciting action movie of the year. It finds Brad Pitt starring as Ladybug, a hitman who is hoping to buck a recent run of bad luck. Just one successful job will set him straight, he thinks. Stuck on the eponymous train, it soon turns out this is not that job as he finds himself on a collision course with five other hitmen (or hitpeople) from all over the world – each of whom wants to get their respective jobs done. Cue excitement, Pitt having what looks like enormous fun chewing the scenery and, of course, action. Lots and lots of action.



Top Gun: Maverick ♥

12

Tom Cruise,
Jennifer Connelly

131
mins

Strap in and buckle up, because after what feels like years in gestation, the *Top Gun* sequel is finally upon us and from its iconic opening (you'll see) to its gobsmackingly action-packed finale – not to mention Tom Cruise doing peak Tom Cruise – it's absolutely magnificent.



Thor: Love and Thunder

12

Chris Hemsworth,
Natalie Portman

125
mins

Taika Waititi's last Thor (*Thor: Ragnarok*) movie was rapturously received, so it was a no-brainer that he'd be enlisted for this sequel. The good news? With all the principals returning and Natalie Portman superb in a beefed-up role, it's just as good as its predecessor.

SCARES



Bodies Bodies Bodies

15

Amandla Stenberg,
Myha'la Herrold

95
mins

BODIES BODIES BODIES (or B times three, as absolutely nobody else is calling it) is many things. It's a murder-mystery. It's a post-modern slasher film. It's a meditation on friendship and a millennial (or is that "Gen Z"?) satire. The plot concerns Bee, who attends a party hosted by a group of wealthy and suitably photogenic twentysomethings at a remote mansion. When they get tired of larking around in the swimming pool and looking gorgeous they turn to a party game called Bodies Bodies Bodies. What happens next? Murder happens next. Murder, backstabbing, friends turning against each other and a lot more besides. All of which adds up to a movie that's topical, edgy and plenty of fun. There's life in the teen-remote-house-horror genre yet...



Nope ❤️

15

Daniel Kaluuya,
Keke Palmer

130
mins

Jordan Peele's last two movies were the modern horror classics *Get Out* and *Us*, so to say this one was eagerly awaited is an understatement. Brother and sister OJ and Em investigate a series of what might be extra-terrestrial happenings.



The Black Phone ❤️

15

Mason Thames,
Madeleine McGraw

103
mins

Taken from a story by Joe Hill, *The Black Phone* is a creepy slow-burner about a boy imprisoned by a child killer. Things take an (even more) disturbing turn when the kid starts receiving calls from the killer's previous victims.

DRAMA



Juniper ❤️

15

Charlotte Rampling,
Marton Csokas

110
mins

Rampling is at her acid best in this tale of a troubled teen who must care for his feisty and boozy grandmother. As her past emerges, the two realise they have more in common than they first thought. Superb stuff. *See right*



Where the Crawdads Sing ❤️

15

Daisy Edgar-Jones,
Taylor John Smith

125
mins

Based on the best-selling novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing* stars Edgar-Jones as Kya, an outcast abandoned by those closest to her. Kya's life turns even worse when her involvement with a man she loves leads to a harrowing accusation.



A Love Song !

Dale Dickey,
West Studi

81
mins

Beautifully wrought and acted, *A Love Song* stars Dickey as Faye, who lives on a camp in the US rural West. She waits alone for an old flame from her past to arrive, uncertain of his intentions while bashful about her own.

TRUE STORIES



18 1/2

15

Willa Fitzgerald, John Magaro	88 mins
----------------------------------	------------

Zippy satire set during the 1970s Watergate scandal. A White House stenographer (Fitzgerald) obtains the only copy of the infamous 18½ minute gap in Nixon's tapes – there are a lot of people who want to know what's on it...



The Survivor

!

Ben Foster, Peter Sarsgaard	129 mins
--------------------------------	-------------

No doubt about it, *The Survivor* is not an easy watch, as it focuses on the real-life tale of Jewish boxer Harry Haft, who fought fellow inmates while imprisoned in Auschwitz. After the war, Harry goes in search of redemption.



Elvis

12

Austin Butler, Tom Hanks	159 mins
-----------------------------	-------------

YOU'VE GOT A great story – that, simply, of Elvis and how he conquered the world only to be royally ripped off and betrayed by those he trusted. You've got a visionary director in Baz Luhrman, whose CV includes *Moulin Rouge!* and *The Great Gatsby* among many other flamboyant and musical gems. You've even got Tom Hanks playing (against type) manager Tom Parker. What you need now is a great central performance and, boy, do you get it, because what elevates this biopic is the gotta-see-it-to-believe-it turn of Austin Butler, who is not just serious eye candy but completely inhabits the role. Put it this way, Butler better be preparing his speeches come awards time, because he's going to need a whole bunch of them.

VERA
EXCLUSIVE



The

performances

In particular that of our cover star, Charlotte Rampling. Following show-stopping turns in the likes of *Dune* and *Benedetta*, here she plays ill, alcoholic, retired war photographer Ruth with feisty aplomb; George Ferrier stars as her adolescent grandson Sam,

sent to look after her as a punishment for being expelled from school.

The chemistry

Rampling's Ruth is spiky and difficult; 17-year-old Sam wants to be doing anything

else but helping his angry granny. They're an odd couple for sure and while you won't get a prize for guessing where their relationship goes, you won't fail to be moved by it.

The setting

Director Matthew J Saville makes the most of the skies and nature of the rural New Zealand backdrop and subtly brings the 1990s to life. These days, Sam would spend the whole film glued to his phone – but the era allows an organic intensity to build between the leads.

Watch Juniper



FEMALE LEADS



Good Luck to You, Leo Grande ❤️

15

Emma Thompson,
Daryl McCormack

97
mins

TRUST EMMA THOMPSON to push the envelope. In a brilliant, bravura performance, she plays Nancy, a retired teacher who fancies a bit of adventure. Not mountain climbing. Not canoeing. Not even skydiving. No, the adventure that Nancy seeks is almost entirely based between the sheets. To facilitate this she has called upon the talents of sex worker Leo Grande (Daryl McCormack) and through him embarks on a journey of post-marital sexual awakening. There's full frontal nudity. There are frank sexual discussions (consider yourself warned). But there is also something much rarer, which is an intimate and honest look at middle-aged female sexuality. Little wonder the critics loved this one – and we're pretty sure you will too.



Mrs Harris Goes to Paris ❤️

Lesley Manville,
Alba Baptista

115
mins

With its simple, uplifting story of a widow (Manville) who travels to France in order to buy her own Dior dress, *Mrs Harris...* showcases a clutch of wonderful performances, as well as a warm heart and an abundance of charm.



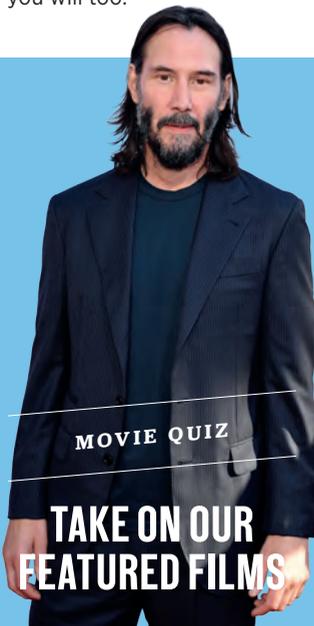
The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson

15

Leah Purcell,
Sam Reid

95
mins

Written and directed by Leah Purcell, who also takes the lead role, *The Drover's Wife* is a feminist western about Molly, who in 1893 must fend for herself and her children in the Outback.



MOVIE QUIZ

TAKE ON OUR
FEATURED FILMS

1

Keanu Reeves (pictured left) makes his third appearance in an animated film in *DC League of Super-Pets* – can you name the two previous recent hit cartoon franchises he has joined?

2

Thor: Love and Thunder is a family affair for star Chris Hemsworth, whose wife Elsa Pataky, brother Luke, and kids India Rose,

Sasha and Tristan all feature in the movie. Spanish star Pataky previously joined Chris at the end of *Thor: The Dark World* – doing what?

3

In *Elvis*, Tom Hanks plays the rock 'n' roll icon's formidable manager Colonel Tom Parker. Hanks appeared as a band's manager before, in 1996, in his own, self-penned directorial movie debut – what is it called?

4

The director of *Bullet Train*, David Leitch, has a long working relationship with star Brad Pitt – how come?

5

Confess, Fletch co-stars Jon Hamm and John Slattery worked together on *Mad Men* from 2007–15 – can you name their characters in that famous TV series?

Answers on the right

ANSWERS: 1. TOY STORY 4 AND THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE; SPONGE ON THE RUN 2. SHE STOOD IN FOR MAJIE PERMAN FOR A POST-CREDITS KISSING SCENE 3. TRAITING YOU TOO! 4. LETCH WAS PITT'S STUNT DOUBLE IN SUCH FILMS AS FIGHT CLUB AND OCEAN'S ELEVEN 5. DON DRAPER AND ROGER STERLING PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

OUR COMPLETE MOVIE LISTINGS

MAKE YOUR CHOICE FROM THE A-Z OF OUR PICK OF THE BEST FILMS AROUND RIGHT NOW

A

- A Love Song
- A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas
- La Abuela
- The Accountant
- After Yang
- Aik Hai Nigar
- Aki and Pawpaw



- **All My Friends Hate Me**
- Ambulance
- American Underdog
- Aquaman

B

- The Bad Guys
- The Batman
- Belfast
- Benediction
- The Black Phone



- **The Bob's Burgers Movie**
- Bodies Bodies Bodies
- The Bodyguard
- Boycott
- Breaking
- Bullet Train

C

- Cake
- Chhalaang
- Cinderella (2021)
- Clean
- The Client
- Confess, Fletch
- The Contractor
- Crawlspace
- Crazy Rich Asians
- Cyrano

D

- DC League of Super-Pets
- Death of a Telemarketer
- Death on the Nile
- Déjà Vu
- The Departed
- The Desperate Hour
- Dil Chahta Hai
- Dinner at My Place
- Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness
- Don vs Lightning
- Don't Breathe 2
- Double Trouble



- **Downton Abbey: A New Era**
- The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson
- Dual
- The Duke
- Dunkirk

E

- Edge of Tomorrow
- Elf
- Elvis
- Escape Room: Tournament of Champions



- **Everything Everywhere All At Once**
- The Exchange

F

- Faactory
- Family Squares
- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore
- Father of the Bride
- Father Stu
- Fatherhood

G

- Game Night



- **Ghostbusters: Afterlife**
- A Glimpse
- Good Luck to You, Leo Grande
- The Great Gatsby
- The Green Knight
- Gremlins
- G-Storm
- Gunpowder Milkshake

H

- The Hangover
- The Hating Game
- Head Over Bills
- Heatwave
- The Humans

I

- I Am Legend
- The Ice Road

J

- Jab We Met
- Joe Bell
- Joey
- A Journal For Jordan
- Juniper



- **Jurassic World Dominion**

K

- Kaagaz
- Khauff
- Kimi

L

- The Last Mermaid



- **Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League vs Bizarro League**
- Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League: Gotham City Breakout
- Long Story Short
- The Lost Boys

M

- Mack & Rita
- Mad God
- Mama's Big Stick
- Memory
- Mera Fauji Calling
- **Minions: The Rise of Gru**



- The Mitchells vs Machines
- Monstrous
- Montana Story



- **Moonshot**
- Morbius
- Mothering Sunday
- A Mouthful of Air
- Mr Malcolm's List
- Mrs Harris Goes to Paris
- Mujh Ko Pata Hai
- Mumbai Saga

N

- National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
- Nice View

- Nine Days
- Nope
- The Northman
- Notre-Dame on Fire
- The Novice

O



- **Orphan: First Kill**
- The Outfit
- Over Her Dead Body

P

- PAW Patrol: The Movie
- Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank
- The Perfect Storm
- The Phantom of the Open
- Practical Magic

Q

- The Quiet Girl

R



- **The Railway Children Return**
- Ready Player One
- Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City
- Rising Sun
- Roy

S

- Saina
- San Andreas
- Secret Headquarters
- Shiddat
- Sing 2
- The Sky Is Pink
- Sonic the Hedgehog 2
- Soóíe

- Spider-Man: No Way Home



- **Studio 666**
- Super 30
- Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari
- The Survivor

T

- Thor: Love and Thunder
- The Time Traveler's Wife
- Top Gun Maverick
- Troy
- Turning Red

U

- Umma



- **The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent**
- Uncharted

V

- Venom: Let There Be Carnage
- Vivo

W

- Where the Crawdads Sing
- Wishlist
- Wolfwalkers

And more...

- 7 Days
- 8-Bit Christmas
- 18 1/2
- 99 Songs



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SHOWS THAT HIT THE RIGHT NOTE

Television



NOBODY MADE A greater impact on the art of writing film scores than Ennio Morricone. The Italian composed music for more than 500 movies, yet refused to move to Hollywood, despite the offer of a free house. Living in Rome until he died in 2020, Morricone crafted a peerless body of work. Here are a few of the genres he helped sing...

Westerns

He collaborated with legendary director Sergio Leone on what are known as “spaghetti westerns” – cowboy films made on the cheap in Europe. “Maestro”, as Morricone liked to be called, wrote the famous two-note coyote howl motif in *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* as a whistle because the studio was too tight to hire an orchestra. In 2016, he won an Oscar for Quentin Tarantino’s *The Hateful Eight*.

Gangster

His final score with Leone, mobster epic *Once Upon a Time in America*, mingled whimsical jazz bops with wistful laments. He composed for Italian Mafia TV drama *La Piovra*, but claims he struggled with Al Capone movie *The Untouchables* because triumphal music wasn’t his bag. Capish?

Horror

He wasn’t especially choosy, with lurid mid-career flicks like *Autopsy* or *Nightmare Castle*. His moody score for John Boorman’s *Exorcist II: The Heretic* couldn’t save the film from critical scorn. But director and fellow composer John Carpenter paid

ITALY'S TOP SCORER

Andy Hill delves into the eclectic output of soundtrack maestro Ennio Morricone

Below:
Morricone finally bags an Oscar in 2016



Morricone a compliment by commissioning him for *The Thing* – a work of haunting, synthetic menace.

Drama

He could go highbrow, etching tragic cello lines all over Franco Zeffirelli’s *Hamlet*. Or score sweet sentimentality in Giuseppe Tornatore’s *Cinema Paradiso*. His masterpiece, arguably, was drama *The Mission*, evoking 18th-century South America with tribal beats, Spanish guitar and heavenly choir.

Pop

Morricone’s earliest gigs as a musician in the 1950s were arranging and recording pop tunes for Italian radio. Later in life he’d co-write a song with the Pet Shop Boys and have his work sampled by Coolio. He’s been cited as an inspiration to everyone from Arctic Monkeys to Radiohead, Gnarlz Barkley to Metallica. Well played.

Watch Ennio

MUST-WATCH



Killing Eve ❤️ !

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

THIS FOURTH SEASON of *Killing Eve* is stylish, funny and brilliant – even when Villanelle tries to give up a life of killing, join a church and go straight (don't worry, it doesn't last). In other words, it's business as usual for this last-in-the-story series. Following in the footsteps of Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Emerald Fennell and Suzanne Heathcote, this one's written by Laura Neal, who has Eve on a revenge mission against the shadowy Dozen Incorporated organisation and Carolyn kicking her heels in an embassy role (needless to say, this doesn't suit her). The fabulous costumes, as ever, are a whole attraction in themselves. We have the whole season onboard.



The Sinner ❤️

15

Box set	Up to 56 mins
---------	---------------

The latest season of the ongoing thriller series presents a new case involving the daughter of a prominent family for Bill Pullman's dogged detective Harry Ambrose (ie it doesn't matter if you've never seen it before). This has been a big hit in the US – find out why.



Val ❤️

12

Documentary	109 mins
-------------	----------

No doubt about it, actor Val Kilmer has suffered from rumours of a bad reputation throughout his career. This documentary spanning 40 years lays some of that scuttlebutt to rest and will leave you with a fresh appreciation of the man and his struggles.



Ennio ❤️

15

Documentary	167 mins
-------------	----------

This documentary about the genius composer Ennio Morricone takes us into the heart of his work, and features contributions from the likes of Clint Eastwood and perhaps his biggest fan, Quentin Tarantino. See *opener*



The Thing About Pam ❤️ !

Box set	43 mins
---------	---------

Renée Zellweger is back – and back to her very best – in this superb comedy-drama series based on the true story of Pam Hupp, the last person to see her friend Betsy Faria before Betsy's murder. Proof that life is stranger than fiction.



Video Killed the Radio Star ❤️ !

Culture	30 mins
---------	---------

Each episode of *Video Killed the Radio Star* looks at an iconic musical act through the prism of their innovative and ground-breaking musical videos. We've got season eight on board, which turns a spotlight on Kylie, *above*, as well as Kate Bush and Talking Heads.

HO HO HO

AFTERLIFE
LESSONS

A guide to
Ghosts'
kookiest
spooks

Lady Fanny Button

The folks in *Ghosts* are mostly dead, but offer more laughs than scares. They all occupy Button House, including Fanny, an Edwardian apparition who daily recreates her death.



Thomas

This romantic phantom died in a duel in Regency times; he's now in love with Alison, the (living) owner of Button House, who inherited it from her great aunt.



Robin the Caveman

As the oldest ghost in the mansion – yes, he died in the Stone Age – Robin is also the cleverest, with a love of chess and crosswords. Still dresses in prehistoric furs, though.



Pat

Patrick "Pat" Butcher is immediately recognisable from the arrow sticking out of his neck – this kindly Scout master died in a tragic archery accident in the 1980s.



Ghosts ♥

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

BELIEVING IN GHOSTS is one thing. Believing in a comedy that is both genuinely funny and family friendly – that's quite another. Surely such a thing cannot possibly exist? Well, thanks to the team behind *Horrible Histories*, it does. The plot involves Alison and Mike, who inherit a mansion that's crawling with spooks. For reasons too involved to go into here, only Alison can see the ghosts, who are of course all overjoyed that they finally have a portal back into the corporeal world. That's the recipe and the good news is that it's been cooking up a treat for three seasons now, getting funnier by the episode. We have the whole of the brilliant season three onboard. *See left*



Awkwafina is Nora from Queens !

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

The awesome Awkwafina does just what it says on tin here, helming this very funny sitcom as Nora, a twentysomething woman who lives in Queens, New York City, where she plays video games and tries to work out what she wants from life.



Somebody Somewhere ♥ !

Box set	29 mins
---------	---------

From HBO comes this dark, observational comedy series starring Bridget Everett as Sam, an unconventional sort who struggles to fit the mould in her Kansas hometown when she moves back from New York – until she finds like-minded souls.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II



Elizabeth: The Unseen Queen ❤️

Documentary

75 mins

SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL here, with a documentary narrated by the Queen herself, looking back over her life and reign with insight and honesty. The project was completed shortly before her Platinum Jubilee, when Her Majesty allowed the Beeb access to an archive of previously unseen home videos dating back to the 1920s, and the result is a portrait of a life that is at once remarkably normal and yet truly unique. As she quite rightly says in her commentary, the images “often show the fun behind the formality”. Put it this way, when it comes to a look behind the scenes of the royal family, this documentary knocks spots off *The Crown*.



A Tribute to Her Majesty The Queen ❤️

Documentary

90 mins

From the BBC and featuring interviews with all of her children, as well as other public figures, this comprehensive look at the life and work of the Queen is a fitting tribute to Britain's longest-serving monarch.



Picturing Elizabeth: Her Life In Pictures ❤️

Documentary

60 mins

From stamps and coins to formal portraits, press photos and snapshots, her image became an integral part of our everyday lives. This documentary explores the stories behind some of the most famous and era-defining pictures.

NEW DRAMA



Sherwood ❤️

Box set

Up to 59 mins

Lesley Manville and David Morrissey are at their best in this drama set in a Nottinghamshire village that bears the scars of the 1980s miners' strike. It's apparent that long-running divisions are responsible for an unusual murder.



The Staircase ❤️

Box set

60 mins

HBO's eight-parter employs two of our finest thespis, Colin Firth and Toni Collette (not to mention an excellent supporting cast, all of whom are integral) to tell the staggering tale of a crime novelist accused of killing his wife.



The Control Room

Box set

60 mins

Ambulance call-handler Gabe answers a desperate cry for help, but the caller appears to know who he is. Under pressure, he makes a fateful decision. As to what happens next, well, you'll have to watch. The whole series is onboard.

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF SOUND

Audio



SOUND ASLEEP

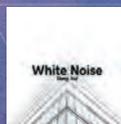
Some noise can help you drift off. Sleep coach Tracy Hannigan explains why silence isn't always golden



WE CAN'T ALWAYS control the noise in our environment. People talking, trays clattering and babies crying can all break the smooth slide into sleep – or even just some relaxation – we might crave.

People can learn to sleep with lots of noise as long as it's consistent, expected and similar in its pattern. But the most disruptive noises affecting sleep are unusual noises that don't always happen – a dog barking or glass shattering. Unique sounds we can't control and new environments can switch on our alert system and cause problems with sleeping.

Luckily, some types of sound can help us sleep better in challenging environments. Working as a sleep therapist (tracythesleepcoach.co.uk), I've found people easily awoken by certain kinds of sounds can benefit from an overlay of specific types of sounds. Try the three key "noise colours" here.



White noise is "full spectrum" and can drown out a variety of sounds. It is the most readily available but may have to be played at higher volumes to be effective.



Pink noise is more natural sounding and is often what companies use for their "white noise". It's great for filtering out higher-pitched sounds and might help us form stronger memories.



Brown (or red) noise is even deeper than pink or white noise. It sounds deeper and rounder and is excellent for filtering out voices. It may also improve sleep quality.



Also, cafe sounds, kitchen sounds and **ASMR** (autonomous sensory meridian response) can be helpful if you need an emotionally neutral distraction from your inner world. These sounds can be helpful for people who are anxious (including about not sleeping), upset or worried. Listening to these kinds of sounds can help them fly into sleep more easily. Sweet dreams!

🔊 Listen to the Wellness & Sleep categories



Kasabian ❤️ !

The Alchemist's Euphoria

Rock

LIKE THEIR HOMETOWN, Leicester, Kasabian have had more than their fair share of triumph and disaster. Perhaps the biggest blow, however, has been the loss of their talismanic lead singer, Tom Meighan. Fortunately, they still have Sergio Pizzorno who, as the main musical force in the band, has now moved up to take the frontman role. This is the first album to reflect that new line-up and, happily, it's a cracker. Kasabian have always had a knack for the kind of anthemic singalongs that fill up stadiums to the rafters and, as if to make up for the loss of Meighan, Pizzorno has packed this album full of them. The result is perhaps their best and most assured long-player since 2009's *West Ryder Pauper Lunatic Asylum*. You'll be singing along before the end, guaranteed.



**Vera Presents ...
New Music November 22** ❤️ !

If you need to know what's tickling the nation's musical tastebuds – or what's about to do so – step this way for a zeitgeist-surfing bag of the month's best new music.



**Various Artists –
Chilled Cinema** ❤️

Soundtrack classics from Howard Shore, Ennio Morricone and Hans Zimmer appear here, the thread being that they all lean towards the relaxing.



Various Artists – Fluid ❤️ !

Superb music through and through. But what else connects the artists on this playlist is that they all identify as either non-binary or gender fluid. Give it a listen, expand your horizons.



Icons – Dire Straits ❤️

If your knowledge of the Straits is restricted to *Brothers in Arms*, step this way. Mark Knopfler's crew have an immense and peerless back catalogue: this playlist is a great taster.



Fluid artists' tracks

Spotlighting pioneering acts who refuse to be pigeonholed

1 Mo'Ju, Sweet Tsunami Symphony

This queer Filipino member of the aboriginal Wiradjuri community serves up a sassy sax-laden stomp.

2 Godford, Non Binary Place

The elusive French artist flips between deep male and high feminine tones on this banger.

3 King Princess, Change the Locks

Breathy future pop from the NYC multi-instrumentalist who was first offered a record deal aged 11.



4 Leith Ross, Tommy

The experience of being a queer, non-binary person informs their plaintive pop.

5 Sam Smith, Money on My Mind

In 2019, the mega-voiced star said he was gender non-binary: "I'm not male or female."

🔊 Listen to Fluid

PODCASTS



Celebrity Catch Up: Life After that Thing I Did ♥

Entertainment journo Genevieve Hassan hooks up with the stars of much-loved films, TV shows and music of the 1980s to the 2000s.



The Vera Magazine Podcast ♥

All the quirky stories and widescreen entertainment of the mag in your hands, including restaurateur and chef Eric See talking NYC's queer dining scene.

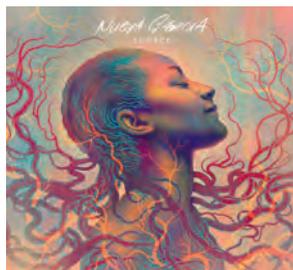


Jessie Ware: Table Manners ♥

POP STAR JESSIE WARE and her mum Lennie host this podcast about food, family and the beautiful art of having a chat, which comes direct from Jessie's own dinner table. We have six episodes, including chats with Dua Lipa and Stanley Tucci.



SHE PLAYS JAZZ



Nubya Garcia

Source	Jazz
--------	------

Tenor saxophonist Garcia, a key member of the resurgent London jazz scene, essays a deeply heartfelt and emotive take on modern jazz on this debut. Don't sleep, jazz fans, this is not an album to miss.



Esperanza Spalding !

12 Little Spells	Jazz
------------------	------

The latest from jazz bassist and vocalist Spalding has a unique concept – each song corresponds to an individual body part. This approach produces a strange and beautiful work.

Icons – Billie Holiday ♥

THE LEGENDARY MUSIC journalist David Cavanagh told of how he was once rejected for a job at a record shop for insisting Billie Holiday was a jazz singer. “No,” he was told, “Billie Holiday was a blues singer. Haven’t you seen *Lady Sings the Blues*?” Cavanagh was right, of course. However, this superb playlist is compelling evidence for the fact that not only was she very far ahead of her time and not only was she also the first lady of jazz, lending her pipes to some of the most iconic jazz songs of the times, but her reputation was founded on being able to take those songs and turn them into truly emotionally profound pieces.



WE SALUTE YOU

1980 – Metal’s Mightiest Year

The debate will run and run, but here’s a playlist that makes a case for 1980 being Metal’s Mightiest Year. Ozzy Osbourne, Gillan, Diamond Head, Rush head up a hard-driving package.



Unprocessed ♥

Gold	Rock
------	------

Formed in 2013 in Germany, Unprocessed went through stylistic changes before they settled on their sound – a technically sophisticated take on progressive metal.



Icons – AC/DC !

They don’t get more iconic than rockers AC/DC, whose knack for a riff remains undiminished after decades in the biz. Whether you’re an AC amateur or a DC devotee, this playlist is for you.





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CREDITS.

Virgin Atlantic news and views



PHOTO: TERRY FAX

I

t's the most important fixture on Earth this month," says Kyle

Reynolds, a Virgin crew member and mental-health first aider who founded Virgin Atlantic Football Club (VAFC) to foster community spirit after Covid. The match? Our game on 18 November

against high-flying rivals British Airways. Results so far have been mixed – we beat Stonewall 4-1, but lost to easyJet on penalties (just part of our wider commitment to net zero). "We'll certainly win this one," insists striker Kyle, who personally roped in New Balance as kit sponsor and has so far raised £30,000 for

charities like Mind, Beder and the Virgin

Atlantic Foundation. Next year his team – including star winger Annie Aylward – is off to India to play refugees.

"But our focus now is beating BA at Horsham FC." It's all going to kick off...

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YES, WE CAN

HOW A LEG UP FROM VIRGIN STARTUP HELPED NICE WINE ACHIEVE LIFT-OFF

"IT'S BEEN A game-changer for us," says Nice Drinks co-founder Jeremy May. The hip young canned wine company he started with Lucy Busk (*both below*) received a government-backed startup loan distributed by Virgin StartUp just before the Covid lockdowns, which helped them thrive under tough circumstances. "It wasn't just about having affordable capital," explains May. "Virgin has an incredible support system in terms of PR. And there's real brand synergy between us as fellow disruptors." Now available onboard, Nice is on track to serve

three million cans this year. "Virgin passengers – and crew – seem to love it," says May. "It's amazing to be involved with probably the most revered airline on Earth." Cheers!



Heathrow People and Performance manager Chris Short loves to see colleagues thrive

"I lead our Heathrow ground staff. That's everybody from frontline customer service agents to turnaround

officers, whose primary role is the safety and security of our people and customers onboard, while ensuring the aircraft is clean, prepped, and loaded with baggage, fuel, food and happy customers.

I started my career as a dispatcher 11 years ago. That was a great job, especially on a sunny day. The most rewarding thing for me these days is seeing our people develop and grow. Virgin is great for that, offering a helping

hand to customer service agents who may have aspirations to work in finance, say. We genuinely can help them into their dream career. A lot of my own senior team started out in that way. Every day is different, with constant

curveballs, from ESTA queries to erupting volcanoes. Our superb team – about 450 people – positively impact the lives of literally thousands of people on a daily basis. That's a great honour."

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