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# vera

NOVEMBER 2023

## Pop idol

Worshipping at the altar  
of CARLY RAE JEPSEN

► Backing up  
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GETS A  
REBOOT

► Stewed  
HOT ON  
TEXAS'  
CHILLI  
TRAIL

+

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of what's  
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A man and a woman are dancing in a vibrant, colorful setting. The man is in the foreground, wearing a dark jacket, and the woman is behind him, wearing a yellow top. The background is filled with vertical stripes of various colors, creating a lively and festive atmosphere.

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vera

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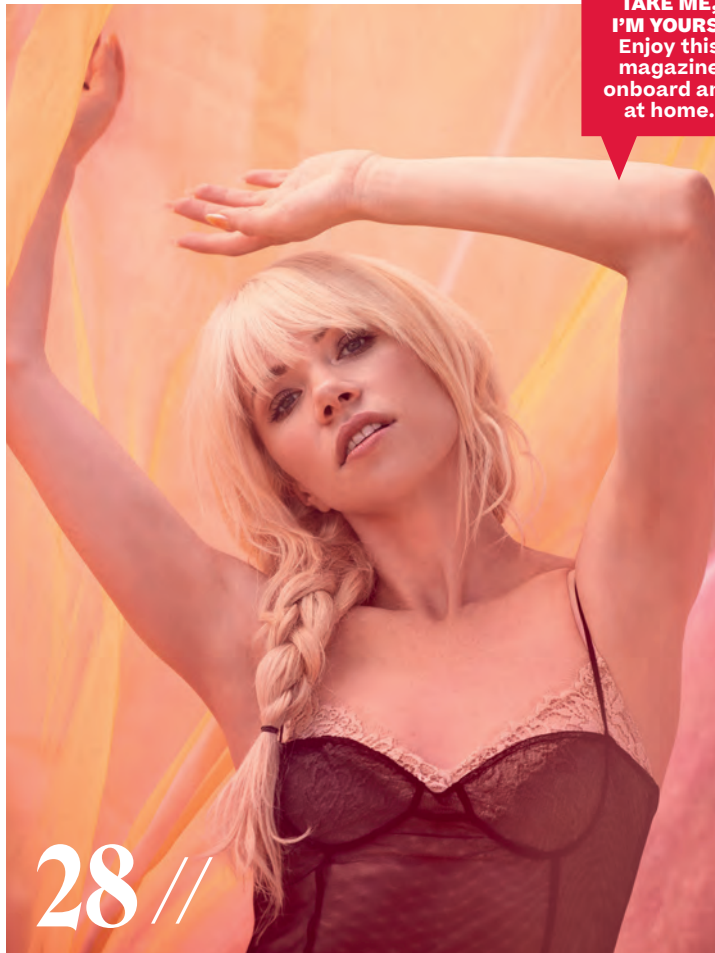
A new performing arts centre lights up downtown Manhattan, assassin movies are hitting it large, AR-enhanced gigs are the new frontier in live music and we search for ancient sharks in the deep sea.

## 60-82 // What's On

Give a standing ovation to the hilarious one-liners in *Theater Camp*, a psychologist offers her take on reality hit *The Traitors* and we remember our favourite artists' first times.

## 87-90 // Credits

A sustainability special: why our SAF flight will change the skies, plus how Virgin Atlantic is reducing its impact onboard.



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

**FEATURES** Why Carly Rae Jepsen is the high priestess of pop, winding back the clock on modern-day tech and meeting San Antonio's keepers of chilli con carne.

## CAMEOS



**Ramona Rosales**  
Photographer  
Ramona mixes analogue and digital tools to take candid celebrity portraits for The New York Times Magazine, Rolling Stone, Marie Claire and more. She shot our cover star on location in Topanga Canyon. See p28



**Erica Campbell**  
This NYC-based entertainment journalist and host has done on-camera interviews with Grammy- and Academy Award-winners, and written for the NME, Architectural Digest and Glamour. She tells us what the future of gig-ging looks like. See p16



**Mike MacEacheran**  
This Edinburgh-based travel journalist writes for National Geographic, The Times, The Telegraph, Financial Times, BBC and The Guardian. He tucked into the chilli con carne trail in San Antonio for us this month. See p45



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Vera is published on behalf of Virgin Atlantic by Ink. All correspondence should be addressed to: Vera, Ink, Blackburn House, Blackburn Road, London, NW6 1RZ. ink-global.com

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The paper in Vera magazine contains a biocide based on Silver Chloride that has been tested and shown to be effective on viruses including feline coronavirus.

Printed on Revive  
Silk 100% recycled  
certified paper

PHOTOGRAPHER: RAMONA ROSALES; STYLIST: HAYLEY ATKIN; STYLIST ASSISTANT: JENNA RERY; MAKE-UP: GREGORY ARL; HAIR: JON LIECKFELT; MANICURIST: QUEENIE NGUYEN; LOCATION: @TOPANGA\_CREATIVEFRAMES; CLOTHES: COVER; TOP: SODI ETUZ; TROUSERS: LA ROX; THIS PAGE: DRESS: VINTAGE CHRISTIANDIOR

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# RED HOT



WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS PHOTO: GEORGE ETHEREDGE / NEW YORK TIMES / REDUX / EYEVINE

Coming soon //

## Nice cube in NYC

► **TWO DECADES IN THE MAKING, THE \$500 MILLION** Perelman Performing Arts Center has finally opened to the public – a shimmering jewel box standing on what was once the site of Manhattan’s World Trade Center. Designed by visionary architects REX, it promises cutting-edge dance, music and theatre. Its three modular stages – which can each transform into 10 distinct proportions – are concealed by a façade made up of thousands of marbled panels that erupt in an amber glow at night. It’s a bright spot in the area.

📍 FLY TO NEW YORK

First take //

# ASSASSIN FILMS CAN'T BE BEAT

No matter how many we get, movies about dangerous hitmen will always kill it at the box office, says Al Horner

ILLUSTRATION: BARRY FALLS

► **SOME PROFESSIONS JUST MAKE** for great cinema. Others, kinda less so. You see plenty of movies, for example, about private detectives, bank robbers and fighter pilots because those jobs are all inherently exciting – characters with those roles on their LinkedIn pages are always getting pulled into weird and wild predicaments. You don't see many films about columnists for airline in-flight magazines, on the other hand, because viewers have better things to do than watch a guy sit in his boxers for 90 minutes, writing while eating dry cereal because he forgot to add oat milk to his Tesco delivery again. Ahem.

No job has proved more compelling to audiences since the inception of cinema, however, than that of the contract killer. From 1942's *This Gun for Hire* (one of the first hitmen movies) to the John Wick and Bourne franchises, viewers keep coming back for more when it comes to assassins who lurk in the shadows, showing no mercy as they take out their targets. Just recently, there's been a lot more on offer: there's Ron Perlman action-adventure *The Baker* (showing on today's in-flight entertainment), David Fincher's hotly tipped *The Killer* – landing on Netflix this month – and Richard Linklater's new film, *Hit Man*, about a professor who takes up a part-time gig as an assassin. And that's before we get to Donald Glover's eagerly awaited assassin romcom reboot, *Mr and Mrs Smith*, arriving in 2024.

So what gives? What makes hitmen such an enduring hit, man? Some theorise it's the ethical code these assassins must live by that makes them so fascinating. What happens when guilt begins to gnaw at them? When they fall in love with the victim they're due to dispatch? When they realise that their bosses are cruel and heartless, then use their efficient, murderous talents to take down the organisation that employs them? These ethical struggles have been getting more air in assassin projects of late – like in the philosophical TV smash *Barry*, which explores the double life its protagonist needs to protect.

Hitmen (and women) are by their very nature lone wolves – superhero-like in their ability to dodge bullets, but much more fascinating to watch than goody two-shoes caped crusaders because of the moral tightropes they constantly walk. No wonder we're addicted, and no wonder such movies keep coming. If only Hollywood would make a hitman movie about an assassin-by-night and an oat-milk-forgetting columnist by day, right? Now there's a killer idea if ever this writer has heard one.

**“ HITMEN (AND WOMEN) ARE BY THEIR VERY NATURE LONE WOLVES CONSTANTLY WALKING MORAL TIGHTROPES ”**

© WATCH THE BAKER &amp; JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4



Ron Perlman made his movie debut in 1981 in Jean-Jacques Annaud's caveman epic *Quest for Fire*.



WORDS: ANDY HILL PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

■ TIDY ■

## Celebrities are really cleaning up



1 //

**COURTENEY COX** – actual Monica from *Friends!* – has dropped a line of aromatic home-cleaning products called Homecourt, including surface sprays and dish soap.

**VERDICT: ROLE MODEL**



2 //

When he's not busy grinding all over TikTok, R&B smoothie **JASON DERULO** earns passive income as the part owner of a chain of American car washes. He calls it his "most unsexy" business investment.

**VERDICT: SCRUBS UP NICELY**



3 //

Kardashian matriarch **KRIS JENNER** has her own brand of household cleaning products, called Safely, using all-natural ingredients and scents that, apparently, make cleaning your home a "joy".

**VERDICT: REALITY CHECK**

BESOS, BEATS AND BEAUTIES



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Risingstar //

**“Beck is gonna think I’m a weirdo”**

Philly native **JAWNY** is making waves for the slacker-pop sound of his debut album – even indie god Beck is a fan

PORTRAIT: MICHAEL TYRONE DELANEY

➤ **JAWNY DIDN’T EXPECT** to make it this far. The LA-based singer-songwriter, born Jacob Lee-Nicholas Sullenger, spent his early twenties in Philadelphia serving up pizza and fried chicken while dreaming of making music for a living. “I had a conversation with myself at 21 where I looked in the mirror and said, ‘If someone had a crystal ball that showed you were never going to be a commercially successful artist, would you still make music every day?’” he remembers. “My answer to myself was: ‘Yes!’ It’s funny, the moment I accepted that reality is when life gave me an abundance of gifts.”

His breakthrough came with 2019 single *Honeypie*, an infectious slice of indie pop which racked up millions of streams and earned its creator a deal with Interscope Records. Now the 27-year-old is celebrating the release of his debut album, *It’s Never Fair, Always True*, a raucous collection of off-kilter pop songs about love and heartbreak. He tells *Vera* about taking a spin around Los

Angeles with a *Fast & Furious* stunt driver, collaborating with Beck, and taking inspiration from Keanu Reeves.

**What are your earliest musical memories?**

I was born and raised outside of Oakland and learned guitar as soon as I wasn’t a drooling toddler. When I could move my fingers, my dad put a guitar in my hand. He played, very casually, around the house all the time, so it made sense that when I came of age I would play too. Pink Floyd’s *Wish You Were Here* was the first song I learned to play on guitar – and my father taught me to play it.



Above: Jawny performs in Edinburgh, supporting Beck in 2022

**Before you signed a record deal you worked in fast food in Philadelphia. Where's the best place to eat?**

The last place I worked is called Hatch & Coop. It's on 12th and Sansom, downtown in Philadelphia, right in the heart of the City of Brotherly Love. They're still slingin' fried chicken sandwiches there to this day and I'm still friends with half the staff. If you're in Philadelphia, go buy yourself a sandwich there. It's really good.

**You used to release music under the name Johnny Utah. What is it about Keanu Reeves's character in *Point Break* that you related to?**

By that point I'd accepted my fate and decided I'd never be the producer I'd dreamed of being. I watched *Point Break* and decided, just for fun, to give my solo project the silly, dumb name Johnny Utah. That was when I didn't think I'd make a dollar from any of this. After I got signed by Interscope we tried to trademark Johnny Utah and the guy who owns it wanted \$70,000, so I decided to just change my name to Jawny and spell it like a toddler with crayons would.

**Your album is called *It's Never Fair, Always True*. What does that title mean to you?**

I'll keep that open to interpretation, but the significance it has is that I wanted to start and end the record with the same exact phrase

but convey polar opposite emotions. The album starts very happy, hopeful and optimistic. "It's never fair, always true" is repeated like a mantra. Forty-two minutes later, the same line is said again as the last line of the last song, and it has a whole different meaning. It's disturbingly sad, hearing that same exact line in a different context.

**Indie rock icon Beck appears on your song *Take It Back*. How did you convince him to come aboard?**

It was the beginning of 2022 and I was performing at the French Grammys. When I got off stage I was feeling really good and confident. My girlfriend was

asleep but I was wired. At 3am I pulled out my phone and thought: "I'm going to ask Beck if he wants to make a song with me!" I shot this message off with my endorphins running high, then went to bed. The next morning I woke up and insecurity set in. Why did I do this? Beck is gonna think I'm a weirdo. I swiped my phone open and saw he'd replied, "Yeah, let's do it!" I was nervous, but he's so chill.

**Your *Adios* music video is a single shot featuring drone footage of some spectacular stunt driving. How tough was that to pull off?**

A video like that requires so much more stuff behind the scenes than I was prepared for. Not just the crew and gear, but insurance policies upon insurance policies. We had to hire a police force to come and shut down 10 blocks of LA. Then I got in the car with Sammy Maloof, who did the driving in some of the *Fast & Furious* movies. It probably only took five or six takes in the end, because we'd planned it all out. We nailed it pretty quickly.

**What's next for Jawny?**

My dreams and ambitions already came true, which was to be a songwriter in any capacity. Outside of that, I want to become an indie professional wrestling promoter, or a writer for WWE. I want to write a movie. I want to do a million things.

**66**  
I DECIDED TO CHANGE MY NAME TO JAWNY AND SPELL IT LIKE A TODDLER WITH CRAYONS

🎧 LISTEN TO IT'S NEVER FAIR, ALWAYS TRUE

# CHARLES TYRWHITT

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*Keeping an eye on the new Sphere entertainment venue: Dancing Queen at ABBA Voyage in London*



PHOTOS: SPHERE ENTERTAINMENT/RICH FURY/ROSS STEWART, JOHAN PERSSON, GETTY IMAGES

**The short //**

# AR IS LOOKING GOOD

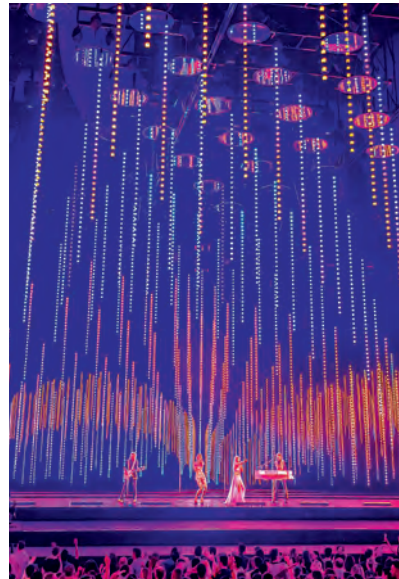
Las Vegas' Sphere signals a new age in AR-enhanced gigs. Erica Campbell takes a crystal ball to the future of live music

► I STAND IN A SEA OF SCREAMING FANS AS BONO strums the opening bars to U2's *Zoo Station*. Behind him, a 118m-long screen flashes with scenes from an industrial park as the distorted guitar riffs echo through the stadium. It's the opening season for the Sphere, and the Irish mega-group are christening Las Vegas' latest attraction with 25 back-to-back gigs, playing for a total audience of nearly half a million.

Set among the iconic neons of the Las Vegas Strip, the Sphere – an orb-shaped arena attached to The Venetian Resort – stands out. Its external walls are covered in 54,000m<sup>2</sup> of LED displays that change with the season, making the massive structure look like a giant eye or snow globe. Inside, the 18,600-seat auditorium features a 16K resolution wraparound interior screen that provides a truly immersive experience for fans. Opened in September, the Sphere not only ups the ante for AR-enhanced gigs, it also signals a new era in live music.



U2 opened the Sphere showcasing artwork on the venue's record-breaking LED screen.



Since the post-pandemic return to live events, fans have been eager for in-person concerts that allow them to experience their favourite music in innovative ways, which is why the desire for AR-enhanced performances is trending upward. AR can be loosely defined, but it broadly refers to overlaying visual, auditory or other computer-based media onto real life to create a more immersive experience. Last year, *ABBA Voyage* opened in London – a first-of-its-kind concert residency that sees the Swedish pop group taking the stage as virtual avatars, utilising motion-capture technology, visual effects, 160 cameras and a purpose-built venue to bring the band and their music to life. It signals a cresting trend that also sees festivals across the globe, such as Coachella and Austin City Limits,

incorporate augmented reality experiences, and pop stars including Drake, Kygo and Duran Duran adding custom AR tools to their performances – and that’s all just the beginning, with more immersive gigs on the horizon for 2024.

“The technology is evolving so fast that people can’t even

conceive it, so when you see it [in person] it’s mind-blowing,” says Harvey Cohen, president of Vibe, the company behind *Zoo Station – A U2:UV Experience*, a fan portal at The Venetian running alongside U2’s Sphere residency. The exhibit pays homage to the band’s 1991 album *Achtung Baby* by allowing fans to play instruments on a camera-captured stage and virtually spray-paint a vintage Trabant – the signature stage prop from U2’s *Zoo TV* tour. “Being able to experience something that’s a deeper connection with the artist with fans that are like-minded, that’s really the goal,” Cohen says.

At the end of their inaugural night at the globe-shaped arena, U2 serenade the crowd with *Beautiful Day* as a panoramic mosaic featuring whimsical creatures and beams of light decorates the auditorium, and 164,000 speakers engulf the audience in a wall of crisp audio. We may not know where this evolving technology will take us, but the future of gigging sounds loud and clear.

⊗ FLY TO LAS VEGAS

## Immerse yourself

### Three more AR experiences



#### MSG SPHERE LONDON

MSG Entertainment is currently proposing a replica of the state-of-the-art Sphere in the heart of Stratford, east London. The MSG Sphere London will contain the same immersive technology as the Vegas edition and, according to MSG, will be a “long-term investment in the future of London”.

#### SNAPCHAT AND LIVE NATION

Snapchat’s partnership with entertainment behemoth Live Nation uses custom-built immersive AR to enhance the live music experience. AR custom lenses and 3D maps bring users music festivals and live shows via their phones.



#### COACHELLA IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

Coachella, the US’s most popular music festival, has brought immersive AR experiences to fans every year. Festivalgoers can engage with art installations by scanning QR codes, or fans at home can watch AR-enhanced live streams.

“**DRAKE, KYGO AND DURAN DURAN HAVE ALL ADDED AR TOOLS TO THEIR PERFORMANCES**”





➤ **WHEN BIRCH, THE SO-CALLED** “lifestyle hotel” popular with weekend Londoners, announced it was opening a new site on the fringes of Croydon in a town called Selsdon, it caused a lot of head-scratching. The unloved London suburb seemed an odd choice for a hotel whose IP is reconnecting weary city folk with the wonders of nature. But then they went ahead and rewilded a former golf course, transformed the 19th-century estate on its grounds into a pastel-hued millennial paradise, and proved the naysayers wrong.

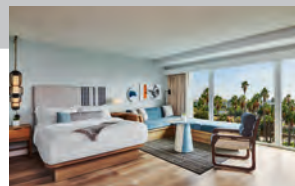
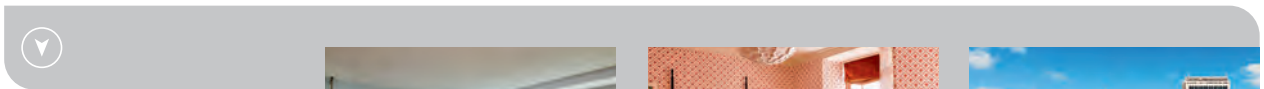
Like the original, Birch Selsdon is member’s club and hotel, as well as dining destination, courtesy of restaurants Elodie and Vervain, both serving produce grown on the hotel grounds. Also within its handsome Gothic walls: a co-working space, a fitness suite, yoga rooms, a café and a bar. A roster of activities – from hatha yoga to foraging courses and nature walks – will keep you busy, and a kids’ club ensures the little ones are engaged, too. All just the tap of your Oyster card away.

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Sleeper hit //

# HOME AWAY FROM HOME IN SELSDON

The new **BIRCH HOTEL** offers a country escape without abandoning your urban comforts (or straying far from London)



**THE PIERSIDE HOTEL, SANTA MONICA**

Just a stone’s throw from central LA, this boutique hotel is all about hanging ten. Rent a board from their on-site shop to catch some waves or join a sunrise yoga class on the sands at Santa Monica Beach.



**THE MITRE HOTEL, SURREY**

Once a “hostel” for guests at neighbouring Hampton Court Palace on the Thames, this riverside hotel is almost rudely lovely. Though technically in a London travel zone, the cosy pubs of the surrounding area feel worlds away.



**THE TAJ MAHAL PALACE, MUMBAI**

This hotel is a world unto itself, with a grand garden pool, several haute dining options and a museum-worthy art collection – you wouldn’t be blamed for spending all your time in the city here.

**3 more escapes near the city**

WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS PHOTOS: INNA KOSTUKOVSKY, ADAM LYNK, THE PIERSIDE HOTEL







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Octopus carpaccio with piquant romesco at Stuart Ralston's New Town opening **TIPO** is already making a big splash

► **IF YOU'VE DINED OUT**

in Auld Reekie these past few years, you'll have heard of Stuart Ralston. The garlanded chef behind swish "neo-bistro" Aizle on Charlotte Square and Asian-leaning Noto, on Thistle Street, has done it again at Tipo. Set on the first floor of a Georgian tenement on Hanover Street and named after Italy's finest grade of flour, Tipo's main draws are posh pasta – think glistening ribbons of pappardelle mingling with tender sweet crab – and knockout small plates. Like this octopus carpaccio, with noisy blobs of romesco, sweet pickled cucumber, racy roundels of radish and a tasteful sprinkle of herbs. A colourful foil to the trendy beige and blondewood space, with soft lighting and generous sash windows, you'd be a sucker to miss it.

Snacks //

# AN OCTOPUS'S GARDEN IN EDINBURGH

⊗ FLY TO EDINBURGH

DRINKS

## Irish coffee is so hot right now



Unusually for cocktails, we know exactly where Irish coffee hails from. In 1943, a chef near Limerick named Joe Sheridan whipped up coffee, whiskey, cream and sugar for folk fresh off a chilly seaplane. These days they're a bit plusher. Dear John's in Culver City, California, mixes Morris single malt with

espresso, crème de menthe and whipped cream. The Proper Hopper at Balan's No 60, Soho, London, opts for Tullamore Dew Irish whiskey, Lazzaroni amaretto, cacao blanc liqueur and menthe verte. The Dead Rabbit (*right*), NYC, has an entire Irish coffee menu. All of which come with a free creamy 'tache.

⊗ FLY TO LONDON, LOS ANGELES & NEW YORK



WORDS: ANDY HILL PHOTOS: CLAIRE IRWIN, NICHOLAS LEE RUIZ



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Location scout //

# SÃO PAULO'S URBAN JUNGLE

In honour of Virgin Atlantic's new destination (flights begin 13 May), local Catherine Balston explains why the Amazon is much closer to the teeming Brazilian city than you'd think



► **THE AMAZON BRINGS TO MIND ENDLESS** expanses of green; it is, after all, the largest rain-forest in the world and the so-called “lungs of the Earth”. São Paulo, on the other hand – for those who know it, at least – brings to mind endless expanses of concrete, a jungle of the urban kind, packed with cars and graffiti, where high-rises stretch as far as the horizon. Despite a thousand miles or more separating the two, the Amazon is making a mark on São Paulo thanks to the artists, artisans and chefs bringing Amazonian culture to the city – and flying the flag of conservation as this important ecosystem struggles for survival.

São Paulo was built and populated by migrants from across Europe, the Middle East, Japan and especially by Brazilians from other regions, including the Amazon, who came in their millions in search of work. While we often think of the Amazon as a natural wonder, its cultural diversity is just as jaw-dropping as its biodiversity; it is home to 30 million people who between them speak hundreds of languages.

It’s no surprise, then, to find that rich cultural mix reflected in the museums, restaurants and shops of São Paulo. A great place to start is at **MUSEU A CASA DO OBJETO BRASILEIRO**, a museum tracing Brazilian identity through objects. Its collection is an immersion in the architecture, design and music of the Amazon’s many communities.

At the **SÃO PAULO ART BIENNIAL**, the country’s largest art happening (usually on from September to December), artworks by more than 100 artists fill the vast concrete and glass atriums of architect Oscar Niemeyer’s Biennial Pavilion in Ibirapuera Park. This year’s edition (on until 10 December) features more than half a dozen artists from the Amazon – the result of a recent movement of indigenous artists who are taking control of their own narratives and finding space in mainstream art institutions to do so. Expect this trend to continue at the next edition.

**MUSEU XINGU** houses an important collection of artefacts from the Villas Boas brothers, who were part of the fight in the 1950s to designate Xingu Park in the Amazon a protected indigenous reserve. The park is still home to 14 ethnic groups – a small but important part of the more than 150 different indigenous cultures living across the Amazon. Adjacent to the museum, **PONTO SOLIDÁRIO** is a delightful store selling arts and crafts from Xingu Park and beyond, from beaded necklaces to woven baskets and wood-carved animal benches.

Left: The city beyond its green spaces

“**ARTISTS, ARTISANS AND CHEFS ARE BRINGING AMAZONIAN CULTURE TO THE CITY – AND FLYING THE FLAG OF CONSERVATION**”



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São Paulo is a shopper's paradise and there exists a handful of stores that are known for their knowledge of – and respect for – local artisans from across Brazil. **ARTIZ** is one – a beautifully curated store, tucked away inside the JK Shopping Mall, with a focus on traditional artisans such as the Tikuna potters from the Amazon's Upper Rio Negro region. Elsewhere, **AMOÁ KONOYA** is a long-standing treasure trove of indigenous arts and crafts, sourced from all over Brazil and especially the Amazon. For a slicker experience, **OBJEKTI** is a must for unique homeware from indigenous designers.

Home to 10% of the world's known species of flora and fauna, the Amazon is a treasure trove of little-known ingredients. One of the first chefs to use them in fine dining was Alex Atala, sourcing uncommon chilli peppers from the Baniwa people in the Upper Rio Negro region of the Amazon, rare mushrooms from the Yanomami and more. He rocked São Paulo's dining scene when he opened **D.O.M.** in 1999 and is still wowing diners today.

Amazonian ingredients are also the star on the menu at chef Felipe Schaedler's restaurant **BANZEIRO**, from delicate sáuva ants to whole freshwater matrinxã fish roasted in banana leaves. For home cooking, **CASA TUCUPI** and **QUINTAL PARAENSE** serve traditional Amazonian dishes like *tacacá* – a broth with tongue-numbing jambú leaves, tapioca starch and salted shrimp. **DASELVA**, which opened this year, is the latest restaurant to draw from Amazonian culture – a trend that's happily taken root in São Paulo.

© FLY TO SÃO PAULO



Clockwise from left: Artist Denilson Baniwa exhibits as part of the 35th Bienal de São Paulo and a dish from D.O.M.



Architect-designers Estela and Mauro were inspired by their experience of living in Finland to set up Objekti.




SÃO PAULO IN YOUR POCKET


Urbaniser is a new app for organising and sharing the places you love in any city in the world. All the venues featured in this story have been collected for you to download, just scan the QR code.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES; DENILSON BANIIWA; EXHIBITION VIEWS OF THE 35TH BIENAL DE SÃO PAULO – CHOREOGRAPHIES OF THE IMPOSSIBLE © LEVI PANANI / FUNDAÇÃO BIENAL DE SÃO PAULO; RICARDO D'ANGELO; WESLEY DIEGO ERLES; BRUNO GERALDI; MANUEL SA; ADOBE STOCK


**3 more unmissable São Paulo spots**



**BAR SUBASTOR**  
A cocktail bar inside the bank vaults of the former São Paulo state bank headquarters, this is as much about the experience as the libations – original brass safety deposit boxes still line the cavernous walls.



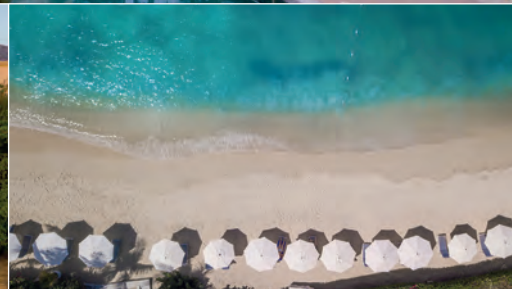
**PINACOTECA**  
One of the largest museums in Latin America and the city's oldest art museum, the Pinacoteca is splayed across a remodelled turn-of-the-century Neoclassical art college, a train station and an old school.



**IBIRAPUERA PARK**  
Inaugurated in 1954 for the city's fourth centenary celebrations, this park is dotted with Modernist buildings and tropical flora. Joggers, dog walkers and skateboarders head here en masse at the weekend.



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Screen test //

# Are there megasharks hiding in the deep sea?

In *Meg 2*, Jason Statham needs to fend off a bunch of ancient sharks that have surfaced from 10,000m below. Do we need to watch out? asks Ralph Jones

ILLUSTRATIONS: RUBY FRESSON



► **WE LOVE BIG SHARKS AND WE CANNOT** lie. Something about a sizeable fish excites us. The mystery. The savagery. Their black eyes and alien nature. *Jaws*, *Deep Blue Sea* and, more recently, *The Meg* and its sequel have proved that we like to watch films about what might be out there under the water's surface, waiting to bite our soft bits.

Having discovered in his first outing that at least one supposedly extinct meg – scientific name *Otodus megalodon* – is lurking in the murky deep, in *Meg 2: The Trench*, Jason Statham has to deal with even more of the massive blighters. But how plausible is this kind of revival? Will we ever discover that megalodons are indeed playing hide and seek with us in the Mariana Trench?

First of all, let's take a closer look at how the meg of the film matches up with real life. Because the only evidence that biologists have of the meg's existence are its fossilised teeth, no one is exactly sure how big this species of mackerel shark was.

Dr Gary Caldwell, senior lecturer in applied marine biology at Newcastle University, thinks that it was between 10m and 16m long – not the size depicted in films, but still “a heck of a big animal”.

Caldwell thinks you could bet your mortgage on this apex predator being extinct today. Before it died out around 3.5 million years, the meg lived in temperate coastal waters, where access to food was plentiful. A shark like that needs to eat a colossal amount to stay warm; if they were currently in the deep sea where temperatures

tend to be between one and four degrees Celsius, they would need to eat even more – difficult to do when there are fewer prey around at that depth.

So discovering that megs inhabit the depths of the ocean is enormously unlikely but “you can never rule anything out entirely,” says Caldwell. “There's always a chance of something appearing.” As recently as 1976, marine biologists discovered the ridiculous megamouth shark completely by accident. Only 99 have been found since. Perhaps there are one or two megalodons out there, skulking around in semi-deep water.

Unlike in *Meg 2*, the most extreme depths of the ocean (the Mariana Trench is far deeper than Mount Everest is tall) are unlikely to play host to enormous predators. But Caldwell thinks we've barely even scratched the surface of the bottom of the ocean, as it were. We may still find, for example, a new giant squid, a species uniquely capable of living at great depths. “And we will find other new shark species down there,” he says. “But they tend to be fairly small.”

One of the problems is that any moving life-forms see us long before we see them. Even if the meg were lurking down there, perhaps it wouldn't want to be found, says Caldwell. “There must be plenty of secrets in the deep sea,” he says.

**THE VERDICT: Probably no megs but lots of secrets.**

© WATCH MEG 2: THE TRENCH



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# POP IS SUCH A

After *Call Me Maybe* blew up, many wrote **CARLYRAE JEPSEN** off as a one-hit wonder. In the years since, she's proven she's one

# DANGEROUS AND

of the most enigmatic, evocative songwriters in pop. Kevin EG Perry finds out why music is Jepsen's calling

# EXCITING GAME



PHOTOGRAPHS:  
**RAMONA ROSALES**

CARLY RAE JEPSEN



# IN A CENTURY- OLD SPANISH HACIENDA NESTLED IN THE HILLS ABOVE LOS ANGELES, A GRAND PIANO STANDS OPEN AND IN WAIT.

*Opening pages: Dress:  
Silvia Tcherassi. Right:  
Dress: Saint Laurent*

Dappled sunlight falls through tall French windows, illuminating precarious towers of well-thumbed books and old music magazines. Through a doorway appears Carly Rae Jepsen, dressed in a loose two-piece of gauzy white linen, the high priestess of this shrine to the art of songwriting. The 37-year-old is an easygoing host, making coffee and slicing up watermelon as she explains how she first fell in love with the idyllic home that has become her creative sanctuary. "I liked that it felt

CARLY RAE JEPSEN



CARLY RAE JEPSEN





like a little oasis,” she says, guiding me outside to a shaded back patio beneath a hillside of tumbling palms. “This part is what won me over, right here,” she adds dreamily. “I feel very tucked[-in]. Night-time fires, hammocks in the back, little fountains – it felt like my vibe.”

At home with her instruments and her fountains of inspiration, Jepsen comes across less like a pop princess and more like a modern-day reboot of the sort of divine and ethereal musical emissaries who called this city home in the 1970s: Joni Mitchell remade for the age of Instagram. She has the tunes to back it up. In the years since her gigantic breakout hit, *Call Me Maybe*, Jepsen has released six albums that have established her both as one of pop music’s most prolific innovators, and as a sharp-witted lyricist unafraid to write earnestly and unflinchingly about love, longing and other trials of her sleeve-worn heart.

The truth is, Jepsen never set out to be a pop star. As a child growing up in Mission, British Columbia, she would wander through the forest between her parents’ separate houses dreaming of becoming a folk singer. With her mum she’d stay up listening to Leonard Cohen, sipping grape juice pretending it was wine, talking late into the night about the layers of meaning hidden in songs like *Famous Blue Raincoat*. Her dad would

## “I’d had this whole James Taylor-Joni Mitchell idea, from my parents, so *Call Me Maybe* was taking me a little outside of my comfort zone”

play songs on the guitar to lull her to sleep, a mixture of Joni, Van Morrison and a handful he’d composed himself. “They really were my bedtime stories, because I would feel like the characters in the songs,” Jepsen reminisces fondly. “I would try on all these emotions and I can remember, even at that young age, feeling like I was crying in a good way.”

It wasn’t until the writing of *Call Me Maybe* that Jepsen found herself being pulled inexorably into the world of pop. By that time she had already spent several years in Vancouver trying to make it as a singer-songwriter, playing tiny shows in the same coffee shops where she worked as a barista. Then came a third place finish on *Canadian Idol* in 2007 and her debut album, 2008’s *Tug of War*, a heartfelt, diaristic collection of songs backed up with banjo and folk guitar. During a writing session for the follow-up record, Jepsen tried out a hook that would soon be burrowing its way into ears the world over: “Hey, I just met you, and this is crazy...” Her producer, Josh Ramsay, suggested the nascent tune might benefit from a new approach. “I was trying to do this folk-pop thing, between Feist and Madonna,” recalls Jepsen. “Josh was just like, ‘This song is not supposed to be that. Let’s just go with it!’”

Ramsay added strings and gave the song a glossy pop production – and suddenly Jepsen found herself in uncharted territory. “I’d had this whole James Taylor-Joni Mitchell idea, from my parents, so it was taking me a little outside of my comfort zone,” she says. “But I felt very guided, and I really trusted the people who were guiding me. People

Left: Dress: Akira  
Shoes: Kurt Geiger

### COOKING UP A HIT

CARLY RAE JEPSEN'S RECIPE FOR POP PERFECTION

# 1 //

TAKE TWO PARTS LONGING TO ONE PART HEARTBREAK (BUT NOT TOO RAW)

“If I’m too sad, I don’t want to write,” says Jepsen. “I want to sit on the couch and eat Cheetos.”

# 2 //

REMOVE ANY TRACE OF EGO, WHICH MAKES THINGS TURN SOUR

“You can’t be afraid to say stupid things out loud.”

# 3 //

MARINATE OVER TIME

“When you come back to something, you have a fresh perspective.”

# 4 //

TASTE-TEST WITH SOMEONE YOU TRUST

“You need great collaborators to know what parts are missing.”

# 5 //

SERVE, AND ENJOY

“If you’ve made the right pop song, it’s one of two dishes: bright cotton candy to take you away to Neverland, or warm, cosy rice pudding.”

always ask us, 'Did you know...?' I mean, no! How could any of us know? That day was just as good as any other songwriting day, to be really real with you."

After *Call Me Maybe* hit the airwaves in Canada at the tail end of 2011, it was helped on its way to world domination when Justin Bieber described it online as "possibly the catchiest song I've ever heard". Millions agreed. It topped the charts in nearly 50 countries, picked up two Grammy nominations and became the biggest-selling single worldwide of 2012. "When that song took off the way it did, it was just the most sensational, like, trip to the Moon," says Jepsen, a note of disbelief still in her voice. "It was, like, VROOOM!"

The song's runaway success was made yet more head-spinning by the fact that Jepsen now had to figure out how to follow it. "Before it had even finished its course in the charts people were calling it a one-hit wonder," she remembers. "I was like, 'I'm not done yet!'" Her label pushed her to act fast. "They were like, 'Can you make a pop album in four months?' 'Yes, yes I can!'" The result was her second album, *Kiss*. "I am proud of that album," Jepsen says, hesitantly. "But in fairness I don't think I'd fully discovered what type of pop artist I wanted to be yet."

To figure that out, Jepsen first had to come to terms with her own relationship to the power – and pitfalls – of pop. "I think it's a love-hate genre for all people," she argues. "It's

## "To me, happiness is about balance, having a fulfilled life in all areas and having creative control over the art you're making"

the most terrifying genre because if I hear a pop song I'm never like, 'Meh!' I'm either, 'That's great!' or, 'I hate that so much!' I don't feel that way about other genres. I can take or leave a jazz song or an R&B song, but with pop it's such a dangerous and exciting game to play because it's either beloved or hated on – sometimes both at the same time!"

Having a bewildering taste of truly stratospheric success also made Jepsen reassess her career ambitions. She found herself purposely turning away from the mainstream to seek out a niche where she could actually be herself. "It really makes you question what your definition of success is," she says. "Success could be being number one, or having the most likes or whatever, and for me it took a hot minute to realise that doesn't mean happiness. To me, happiness is about balance, having a fulfilled life in all areas and having creative control over the art you're making."

Even now, she adds, she gets wary if one of her songs looks like it's about to explode on a *Call Me Maybe* trajectory. "Sometimes, when I see one of my songs start to take off, I'm like, that's good!" she laughs, making a slow down gesture with her hands. "Just chill there!"

For the follow-up to *Kiss*, Jepsen sought out collaborators by scanning the credits of songs she truly loved and emailing them directly. This led to her working with some of the indie-pop world's favourite writers and producers

## DEFINITELY MAYBE

CARLY RAE JEPSEN'S CV



### BORN

Carly Rae Jepsen was born in Mission, British Columbia, on 21 November 1985.

### EDUCATION

At Heritage Park Secondary School she developed a love of musical theatre with lead roles in *Annie*, *Grease* and *The Wiz*. Later she studied stage-fighting – and other essentials – at the Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria, BC.

### FUN FACT

In early 2012, Jepsen spent 12 weeks on Broadway playing the lead role in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* musical.

### KEY WORK

#### Call Me Maybe (2012)

Jepsen's massive breakout single spent nine weeks at number one in the US and became culturally ubiquitous.

#### Emotion (2015)

Many critics argued this 80s-influenced slice of escapist pop perfection should have made Jepsen the biggest pop star in the world. In the event, she settled for a rejuvenated fanbase.

#### The Loneliest Time (2022)

Jepsen's most introspective album to date, inspired both by her life on the road as a touring artist and the surreal isolation of pandemic lockdown.

#### The Loveliest Time (2023)

An upbeat companion album to *The Loneliest Time*, capturing Jepsen's more extrovert side.



Above: Jepsen performing at this year's Glastonbury Festival. Right: With Tom Hanks in the video for I Really Like You. Far right: Dress: Stello

CARLY RAE JEPSEN



## CARLY RAE JEPSEN

– including Sia, Dev Hynes and Vampire Weekend’s Rostam Batmanglij – but she insists that it was always about making the best songs possible, not searching for supposed credibility. “I think the coolest people in the world are the people who don’t care about what’s cool,” she says. “If you’re chasing that, you’re just limiting yourself so much.”

Jepsen wrote 200 potential songs for her third album – a prodigious, almost otherworldly output that she’s become famous for. “I don’t remember setting out to write 200 songs,” she says. “I think the truth is it was probably a rebellious, terrified reaction to feeling like what do I do next?” She whittled that mountain of music down to 12 tracks for her third album, *Emotion*, a sublime, rapturous record about hope, heartache and the joy of sax. Released in 2015 to widespread critical praise, it never threatened to hit *Call Me Maybe*’s commercial heights, but instead became an instant favourite among a passionate and dedicated fanbase with a large LGBTQ+ contingent. “It felt like a real accomplishment,” says Jepsen with pride, “Because I didn’t know how I was going to live that one song down!”

Having carved out a measure of creative freedom for herself, Jepsen hasn’t slowed her supernatural work rate. She wrote so many songs for 2019’s *Dedicated* that she put out *Dedicated Side B* the following year. Then she followed 2022’s pandemic-inspired *The Loneliest Time* by revisiting its more hopeful and experimental off-cuts for this year’s follow-up, *The Loveliest Time*. It’s only been a few months since that came out, but she’s already stockpiling more songs. “I’ve been home from tour for about a month and I have 26 songs written for the next album,” she reveals with a laugh. “At a certain point I was just like, this is my process. Songwriting is the best thing I’ve ever discovered. I’m a little obsessed!”

For Jepsen, songwriting is an obsession, a calling, a religion. Before I leave, I notice an empty painter’s easel sitting in the corner of the patio, looking slightly forlorn. Jepsen explains that it’s a relic of lockdown and her ill-fated attempts to find a hobby outside of music. The songs kept



calling her back. “The idea that you and I could be here, and you’d grab a guitar and we’d bring something into the world that wasn’t here before, and is not even a tangible thing, but we could both be evoked in some way. And then later on you can show other people and they’d feel it too, and you’d all feel like strangers connected...” she says breathlessly, her eyes twinkling. “It’s just magic.”

Above: Dress: Aknvas  
Jacket: LaPointe

🎧 LISTEN TO THE LOVELIEST TIME

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# Yestergear

Wish you could go back to a simpler time when your phone wasn't spying on you and your most pressing tech decision was which iMac colourway to buy? These places will take you there



MODERN CIVILISATION, FOR ALL ITS countless wonders, suffers an unbecoming fetish for newness. A borderline pathological urge to embrace the latest fad or buy the shiniest gadget. Not having the latest tech can actually make us stressed, particularly around the feeding frenzy of Black Friday this month. Or having it, but not really grasping the implications – like the looming spectre of AI – can be equally stressful. So, we thought, why not throw it back to a simpler time, when technology was more a harmless curiosity than the invisible autocracy that runs all our lives? When printers printed, the Walkman ruled, and you couldn't use the internet and your phone at the same time. These institutions keep it thoroughly old school by celebrating and preserving those pieces of obsolete tech we're all missing. Ready? Let's go back in time...





**THE TECH:**

## Nintendo Power Glove (1989)

**THE PLACE:** Museum of Failure, Washington DC

Superficially, the Museum of Failure is a place you visit and laugh heartily at the folly of famous brands and their short-lived, botched products. And sure, Bic for Her, a slightly smaller biro marketed exclusively at women, and Trump Steaks are always good for a giggle. But there's a wider lesson here. Failure is good for learning. At least, so says founding curator Dr Samuel West, who has a PhD in organisational psychology. The Nintendo Power Glove is a case in point. What kid in the 1980s wouldn't want a badass gauntlet with buttons on it, that could control video games over the air as if by magic? Sadly, it was rushed to market before the tech was properly figured out. It didn't work very well, but it sold in excess of a million units and helped Nintendo become the gaming colossus it is today. A failure, to be sure. But an epic one.

**FUN FACT**  
Although branded Nintendo, Power Glove was actually manufactured by Mattel.

⊗ FLY TO WASHINGTON DC

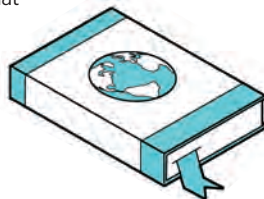


## MISS YOU!

OBSOLETE TECH WE'D GLADLY REVIVE

⊙ **ENCYCLOPAEDIAS**

Looking up facts on your phone, where's the fun in that? Give us a hefty leather-bound tome that doesn't ask if you'll "accept cookies" every five seconds.



⊙ **TURNSPIT**

A luckless dog bred to run on a large hamster wheel in well-to-do Victorian kitchens. Why? To rotate a spit for evenly roasting meat. Cute! And now tragically extinct.



⊙ **TELETEXT**

A clunky text-based TV gimmick that was essentially the internet, in that you could check the weather and football scores, but without social media toxicity or weekend work emails.

**FUN FACT**  
Cassettes were invented for taking voice dictation. Music was just an afterthought.



**THE TECH:**

## Cassette tapes (1962)

**THE PLACE:** Wall of Sound, Seattle

According to industry figures, more audio cassettes were sold last year - nearly 200,000 - than any other year in the previous decade. Why's that? You might reasonably ask. Well, there's something indisputably cool about poking around in a record shop. Especially a proper crate-digging haven like Wall of Sound on Seattle's Pike Street. Folks there know their stuff, whether your particular poison is meat-and-potatoes indie or avant-garde Japanese noise pop. Besides, physical media are more collectible. They're good for artists, too - they cost about a buck to produce and most punters wouldn't flinch at paying 10 times that to support an artist they care about. But now everybody and their dad has a vinyl player, hipsters need something niche to make themselves feel special. That's probably what the cassette buzz is all about. Or maybe you just left yours by a radiator.

⊗ FLY TO SEATTLE





**THE TECH:**  
**IBM PC (1981)**

**THE PLACE: Computer History Museum, California**

Literally no other development in all of human history has upended the average person's life as swiftly as the rise of the personal computer, for better or worse. The excellent Computer History Museum in Silicon

Valley, California, collects and displays priceless artefacts from across computing's chequered past. Like this original IBM PC from 1981. Sure, early PCs were clunky and outshone in the looks department, then as now, by sexier Apple products. But the power of the IBM brand-name encouraged big corporations to invest at scale. That normalised personal computing in a way Apple products failed to. PCs also inspired a new market for

software, including the tools you use at work today. Early PC applications were slow and frustrating, but on the plus side, nobody ever had to sit through a Friday afternoon Teams call.

⊗ FLY TO LOS ANGELES

**FUN FACT**  
The IBM PC came with 16kb of RAM, half a million times less memory than an average modern smartphone.

## THE TECH:

### Compact discs (1982)

**THE PLACE:** sound\_in the PARK, Shanghai

Ever open Spotify – or any one of those flashy modern music streaming sites – only to find you literally can't decide what to put on? This decidedly first-world problem is being tackled, at least in part, at a rather hip Chinese record store called sound\_in the Park, in Shanghai. Local podcaster, journalist and all-round music guru Jiancui has donated his vast CD collection, amassed over two decades, as the basis of a free lending library and exchange aimed at students. The idea being the bright young things of Shanghai can now discover music the way we used to in the good old days, free from the malign influence of those pesky algorithms. Jiancui hopes his collection – comprising dance, funk, soul, disco, indie and more – will inspire fresh discoveries and serve as a hub for conversation. If nothing else, it sounds like a great way to pick up hot singles.

**FUN FACT**  
Almost 2.5 billion CDs were sold in the year 2000 alone.



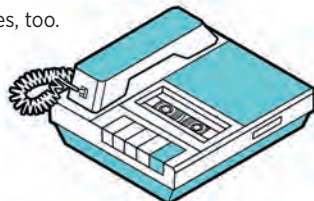
© FLY TO SHANGHAI

## MISS ME!

OBSOLETE  
TECH WE'LL  
CHEERFULLY  
DITCH

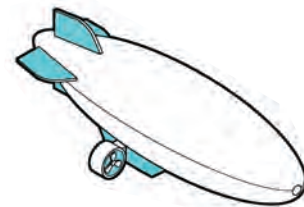
### ANSWERPHONES

Imagine if those rambling voicemail messages from family required a separate, ugly machine! Folks used to love recording “funny” fake messages, too. Ugh.



### CHAMBER POTS

The best thing about living in the future is we're liberated from the need to wee in a ceramic jug stashed under the bed like our ancestors had to before the toilet. Truly, this is a golden age.



### AIRSHIPS

Airships should bob benignly over major sporting fixtures – and that's it. Imagine, flying from London to LA took an entire week, weather permitting! Oh, the humanity.

**THE TECH:****Rotary telephone (1892)****THE PLACE: This Museum is (Not) Obsolete, Kent, UK**

Don't let the (admittedly confusing) name fox you – this museum has interactive exhibits starring obsolete tech, including the Strowger step-by-step telephone exchange. Strowger was an undertaker in the 1880s. Back then, punters who needed his services would pick up the phone and ask for an undertaker. But the operator in Strowger's small town was married to a rival undertaker. Three guesses who she put her mourners through to. So Strowger took matters into his own hands and oversaw the invention of the rotary phone. Good call.

**FUN FACT:**  
The word "hello" wasn't a greeting until Thomas Edison suggested it as a friendly icebreaker for early adopters of the cutting-edge telephone.

✕ FLY TO LONDON

**THE TECH:****Game Boy Color (1998)****THE PLACE: J&L Game, NYC**

Nothing gives your average millennial a bracing Proustian slap of nostalgia like an encounter with an OG video-gaming console. The clacky buttons! The plasticky smell! The box art for the games! Awesome retro stores like J&L Game in NYC keep the spirit of consoles including Nintendo's Game Boy Color alive. The Game Boy Color is legendary for lots of reasons, not least because it has generous full-backwards compatibility with all your old Game Boy classics like *Tetris*, as well as kick-ass Color-only titles like the bestselling *Pokémon Gold and Silver*. J&L has endless heaving racks of the stuff, each box and carton a portal to a simpler, happier time. Turns out physical media have more emotional resonance than a download code or confirmation email. Colour us surprised.

✕ FLY TO NEW YORK

**FUN FACT**  
Game Boy Color featured a game-changing infrared port for playing against your mates.



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# Good beans

A vibrant photograph of a bowl of chili con carne. The bowl is made of terracotta and sits on a blue and white striped cloth. The chili is a rich, dark brown color with visible chunks of meat and beans. A silver spoon is tucked into the chili. Surrounding the bowl are various types of peppers: bright red and green bell peppers, and a large pile of dried, wrinkled red chilies. The background is a solid magenta color.

For San Antonians, chili con carne is more than a dish – it's a symbol of Texas' melting-pot population. As a younger generation of chefs inherits this long-preserved recipe, Mike MacEacheran finds out how the tongue-searing stew is evolving to reflect the city that birthed it

PHOTOGRAPHS:

**MATTHEW JOHNSON**



# S

ome restaurants whisper. Others shout. In San Antonio's Los Barrios, chef Diana Barrios Treviño has dressed up for the lunchtime rush in a floral print dress of spiralling colours. She's a blur of activity as she buzzes around the tables, her gold bangles jangling as she sets down platters of rainbow tacos, spicy salsas and quesadillas oozing with cheese. But the centrepiece is always a hefty porcelain bowl of steaming, blood-red chilli con carne, the restaurant's speciality. On the yellow walls, there are two paintings: one of Diana's ancestral village, Bustamante in Mexico's Nuevo León region; the other an extravagant portrait of the chef's mother, Mama Viola – once one of San Antonio's most famous chilli con carne cooks, who started Los Barrios in 1979. "This place was a mess when it first opened, there was nothing pretty about it," Diana says. "But if the food is good, there is forgiveness. Three weeks later, it was standing room only."

Diana and the extended Barrios clan – of which there are dozens of members working in similarly bright-coloured Los Barrios restaurants across the city – aren't the only ones making chilli con carne in San Antonio. The dish, a

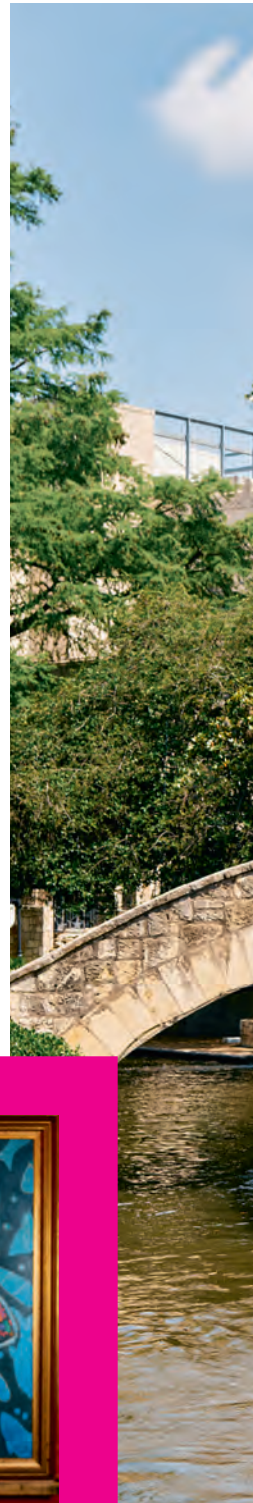
beef-based stew that's known for its hot-to-the-tongue flavour, pimento-red colour and boldly flavoured gravy, was invented on the streets of this former garrison town by a group of female street cooks known as the Chilli Queens. And for the city's people, the dish is still a focal point for all of life's small gatherings and big milestones – providing sustenance through birth, marriage and death.

At a time when food culture in San Antonio is quickly evolving – thanks to its status as the fastest growing city in North America – chilli con carne represents both the past and the future. The newfound appreciation from a younger generation is giving the simple bowl of

chilli a deeper cultural cachet, while the dish's preservation is being discussed more frequently in restaurants and at the city's cultural institutions. Ask a historian like Bruce Shackelford, Texas history curator at the Witte Museum, and he says the historic, handed-down process of making chilli now makes it a veritable "cultural artefact". People in San Antonio don't talk this way about the all-American cheeseburger or hot dog. And chilli con carne isn't about trends or a fad. At its core, it's about family.

Indeed, on the day of my visit, Diana tells me, a group of 75 is gathering for a family memorial, a communion of chatter and chilli. Besides all this, the dish has become an official symbol of San Antonio, and even of Texas itself, after chilli was adopted as the Texas state dish in 1977. How the chilli bowl intersects with immigration patterns and local foodways today is something for any visitor to revel in. "It's hard to duplicate something like this elsewhere," Diana says. "Every plate is a study of San Antonio's culture. Of food, family and home."

Received wisdom has it that the genesis of chilli con carne came to San Antonio as early as the 1700s. During my five days on the chilli trail, sampling the dish at restaurants all around the city, I discover that it has a murky, convoluted story that reflects Texas' past. I learn the recipe might have originated from Canary Islanders, but also that *vaqueros* (Mexican cattle herders) arrived in southern Texas with the dish's staple seasonings of chilli ancho, garlic and oregano in their saddlebags. And that it was the Spanish who brought about the biggest change, raising





Above: San Antonio's La Villita historic arts village.  
Left: Los Barrios' Diana Barrios Treviño

**“Every plate of chilli con carne is a study of San Antonio’s culture. Of food, family and home”**

**SPICY SAN ANTONIO**

livestock en masse at the area's religious missions as a way to feed more converts to Catholicism along the Mexican frontier.

For more background, I get another story from Bruce Shackelford, back at the Witte Museum in Brackenridge Park. "With the population explosion in San Antonio after the Mexican-American war ended in 1848, people from across Europe and the US arrived here, taking the town from a frontier outpost to what was then the largest city in Texas," Shackelford says. "But travellers needed food and didn't want to cook it. That's when the Chilli Queens entered the scene."

Primarily from the Latin American diaspora, these materfamilias fired up inexpensive stews of tough longhorn beef in a dry spice gravy over mesquite home fires, then sold it alongside smoking hot



Above: Mission Espada, the oldest Spanish mission in Texas; service at Botika

tortillas from ramshackle outdoor kitchens. It was around the early 1860s and it didn't take long for the love of chilli as a cheap, ad hoc meal to grow. The concept became so popular that, in 1893, an official San Antonio Chilli Stand was presented at the Chicago World's Fair, giving many Americans their first taste of chilli and popularising the Tex-Mex dish nationwide. Unlike the recipe known today, though, the Texan original lacked any kind of common bean or tomato, and was made primarily with dried pepper paste and chuck steak.

**SPICE UP YOUR LIFE**

FIVE MORE PLACES TO TRY SAN ANTONIAN CHILLI CON CARNE



**CHESTER'S BURGERS**

This institution dabbles in napkin-worthy chilli cheeseburgers.

● [chestershamburgers.com](http://chestershamburgers.com)



**ROSARIO'S**

The cheese and chicken enchiladas at this Tex-Mex's two locations arrive drowned in chilli con carne.

● [rosariosa.com](http://rosariosa.com)



**FOUR BROTHERS**

American Wagyu worship is part of the package at this ace River Walk restaurant.

● [omnihotels.com](http://omnihotels.com)



**PICO DE GALLO**

Funked-up sister to the Cortez family's Mi Tierra, but with equally swaggering ambition and killer margaritas.

● [picodegallo.com](http://picodegallo.com)



**THE CHILLI QUEENS' CHILLI COOK-OFF**

An annual Mardi Gras gone Mexican, held every April.

● [fiestasantonio.org](http://fiestasantonio.org)



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## “When I first came here I fell in love with the chilli traditions very fast”

Today, San Antonio dazzles with around 1,000 Tex-Mex cantinas and, as one of only two UNESCO Cities of Gastronomy in the United States, it remains indebted to chilli con carne – and the ghosts and glories of the original Queens. Old-school institutions – like Four Brothers, where Chilli Queens’ Chilli is an essential menu item – compete with newer restaurants in the resurgent Pearl neighbourhood that are reappraising Tex-Mex classics and offering their own takes on the city’s most beloved dishes. As the historic area explodes in popularity, in part thanks to the Stan Antonian campus of the Culinary Institute of America and chef-owners like Geronimo Lopez at Botika, the chefs working here remain resolutely dedicated to a future built on the foundation of yesterday. “The joke is one new restaurant opens every week here, but the cuisine is changing,” Lopez says. “It’s not one big paint brush of Tex-Mex.”

Lopez, who arrived in San Antonio from Venezuela via an invitation to shake things up at New York’s Culinary Institute of America, is arguably the new face of the culinary scene, representing what one might call its modern soul. “When I first came here I fell in love with the chilli traditions very fast,” he tells me. “The secret of Texas is seen as the smoke and fire of barbecue, but then you realise there is this largely untold chilli con carne story. Tex-Mex, like chilli itself, is fragmenting because of the desire from the migrant cultures here, and an evolutionary pathway is opening up.”

*From above:  
Chef-owner Geronimo  
Lopez at Botika; chilli  
con carne at Los Barrios*

Down the road, no restaurant is more perfectly realised with associated piñatas, paper picado bunting, colourful altars, decorative murals and an in-house Mariachi band, than Mi Tierra Café y Panadería on Market Square – a large plaza where Mexican and Tex-Mex restaurants abound. Here, diners queue for far more than a bowl of heart-glowing Chilli Queen gravy, or a gourmet take using beef tenderloin, reflecting an evolution in the dish from second- and third-generation migrant chefs. They’re here just as much for Hispanic history mixed with newfound Texan tradition.

As co-owner of Mi Tierra, Pete Cortez – oldest grandchild of original landlords Pedro and “Chilli Queen” Cruz Cortez – says, “This is the magic kingdom for Tex-Mex cuisine; it’s really the northern capital of Mexico. We refer to Mi Tierra as a ministry, feeding minds, body and spirits. We have brothers, sisters and cousins working here – 250 staff in all – and, crucially, we have guests





From left: Mi Tierra's general manager, Mayra Hinojosa, and food at the old haunt



that eat seven times a week. And more than once, believe me.”

The weight of history here really hits me when chef Raúl Salazar, the gatekeeper of Cruz Cortez’s recipes for 53 years, and general manager Mayra Hinojosa take me into the belly of their spice lab for a peek behind the magic curtain. For the gravy, the base is heaped piles of ancho, jalapeño, poblano and pasilla chillies, which have been sun-dried to hold their flavour better before being ground into a sticky paste. “The real secret is our lineage of tradition,” Hinojosa tells me. “Come here when you’re a child, then return 30 or 40 years later and the tastes are the same. We gut-punch on nostalgia.”

It strikes me that the real love for chilli con carne comes less from what it once was than what it can do. Here,

the idea that cuisine can be imaginative without losing its foundation is a prevailing belief. “San Antonio has always opened its arms to newcomers, and though it takes time for them to settle in they always find their way and carry with them what they know,” adds Cortez. “Just like the original Chilli Queens did.”

I think of Diana Barrios Treviño earlier that day. “I guess I’m still a Chilli Queen and always will be,” she told me, waltzing around Los Barrios, one eye scrutinising every bowl of crimson chilli con carne served to her loyal patrons. What awaits them all is not just a bowl of chilli, but a dish that evokes dreams of family, community and home. “And that’s something,” she said with a flourish, “you won’t find anywhere else.”

✕ FLY TO AUSTIN



## CLASSIC CHILLI CON CARNE

ADAPTED FROM THE WITTE MUSEUM ARCHIVES

### Ingredients

- 2 lbs (907g) beef shoulder, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 lb (454g) pork shoulder, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- All-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup (54g) suet
- 1/4 cup (54g) pork fat
- 3 medium-sized onions, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 quart (946 ml) water
- 4 ancho chillies
- 1 serrano chilli
- 6 dried red chillies
- 1 tablespoon comino (cumin) seeds, freshly ground
- 2 tablespoons Mexican oregano
- Salt to taste

### 1 //

Place lightly floured beef and pork cubes in with suet and pork fat in a heavy chilli pot and cook quickly, stirring often.

### 2 //

Add onions and garlic, and cook until they are tender.

### 3 //

Add water to the mixture and simmer slowly while preparing the chillies.

### 4 //

Remove stems and seeds from the chillies and chop them very finely.

### 5 //

Grind chillies in a *molcajete* (a special mortar and pestle) and add oregano with salt to the mixture. Simmer for 2 hours.

### 6 //

Remove the suet casing and skim off some fat. Serve.

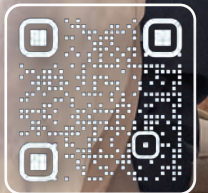
NB: Traditional Texas recipes do not include beans. Serve as a separate dish.



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The Winter Sun

# HOTEL GUIDE



## ROUND HILL HOTEL & VILLAS

THE ONE FOR CARIBBEAN DREAMING

**This elegant and sublimely Jamaican retreat has been a beloved** bolthole for sophisticated sun-seekers since the 1960s. Overlooking its own secluded cove, with chic waterfront rooms styled by Ralph Lauren and splash-out villas graced with local art and plush mahogany four-poster beds, Round Hill also boasts an 18th-century-stone infinity pool. Where else are you hanging out this winter?

“You only have to ask” is the tagline – and credo – of this exquisite villa on the north-west coast of Barbados. Nothing is too much trouble for the talented, upbeat team, who pride themselves on knowing your wishes almost before you do. To be sure, the Great House is ultra high end – there’s a home cinema, US Open-standard floodlit tennis court and two boats at guests’ disposal. Yet somehow it retains a friendly, welcoming and familiar aura – an idyllic spot to gather your extended family or group of very special chums cosily close in a dozen suites spread across the coral-stone main

## Great House Barbados

THE ONE FOR  
RELAXED GLAMOUR

house. Gingerbread trim gazebos and pavilions tastefully remodelled by Bajan architect Michael Gomes are connected by pretty flagstone paths that meander through frangipani and rare calabash trees beside 100m of pristine Caribbean sand. What more could you wish for?



## MALIBU BEACH INN

The one for **dreamy sunsets**



To give you an idea how exclusive this wildly fancy West Coast spot is, the lovely sandy stretch you’re exactly 34 steps away from is nicknamed Billionaire’s Beach. Even the staff are kitted out in couture Johnnie-O garb. Every last room at the Malibu Beach Inn, just off California’s Pacific Coast Highway, has an ocean-facing balcony, so you can breathe in the salty rarefied air and drink in the poshest sunsets on Earth. If you really fancy splashing out, the master suites have Sleep Number smart beds that individually tailor softness, temperature and mattress orientation to your needs, with nightly biorhythm feedback if that’s your thing, with futuristic heart rate-lowering Therabody smart goggles loved by affluent local tech bros. Plus special Bamford toiletries and Vosges chocolate truffles laid on at turndown. Sweet dreams.





## BLUE WATERS RESORT & SPA, ANTIGUA

The one for **feeling like a family**



Small wonder guests keep returning to this island gem, perched prettily between two palm-fringed coves amid acres of foliage, year after year, decade after decade. The friendly, enthusiastic staff have a genuine love for the place, which lends to the unique boutique-resort feel. Looks-wise, Blue Waters tends towards quiet elegance – subdued stone textures, punctuated with refreshing pops of turquoise in the soft furnishings. Dine on lobster in season, or mahi-mahi salad, with a generous rum punch – everything is all-inclusive, so no need to fret. The Ila-branded spa, with in-room Elemis toiletries, is very honeymoon-worthy. But in school holidays the place comes alive with families, who love the kids' club. Little ones can even enjoy spa access with non-toxic nail varnishes, for a proper digital detox.



**On the north coast of** Jamaica, you'll discover the newly reopened Sandals Dunn's River resort. Named after the sparkling nearby waterfalls, surrounded by lush forests and gently meandering rivers, this is a perfect spot for guests who love exploring nature. This iconic adults-only resort offers no fewer than five captivating swimming pools and a dozen restaurants, from freshly rolled sushi at Hanami to colourful Latin fusion at Zuka. There's also Sandals' first-ever rum

bar, serving locally sourced spirits and jerk bites until late. The room choice is unmatched, with SkyPool suites boasting your own infinity pool overlooking the beach and an intimate Tranquillity Soaking Tub™. Some come with your own personal butler, others have a telescope for late-night stargazing on your private rooftop terrace. Just right for the perfect winter escape.



**Sandals  
Dunn's River**  
THE ONE FOR  
STARRY-EYED LOVERS

**For nearly a century** the proudly independent, family-run Londolozi camp has set the standard for sensitive, sustainable safari experiences. From its generous philanthropic programmes to its world-leading conservation initiatives, Londolozi - which boasts almost unparalleled access to the "big five" animals, most notably leopards - famously has a transcendental effect on guests. Choose from one of five tasteful yet



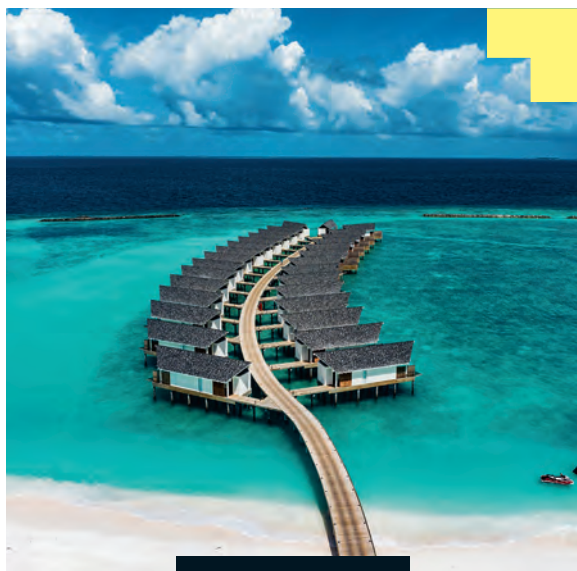
unashamedly swish luxury camps, including the showstopping Tree Camp, 20m up a giant leadwood. Or the exclusive Granite suites, with private heated swimming pools and chichi cocktail lounges overlooking the local elephants as they meander magnificently along the Sand River just beneath you.



**Londolozi, South Africa**  
THE ONE FOR  
STYLISH CATS

## AMARI RAYA MALDIVES

The one for **castaway fantasies**



Who hasn't, at one time or another, dreamed of being cast adrift on a pristine private island, bathed in sunlight and accompanied by natural wonders? Amari Raaya leans hard into the castaway fantasy - but with superlative luxury and next-level service. Settle into a range of accommodation, all rocking hi-spec contemporary Maldivian styling, from cosy beach villas to stilted overwater digs where you can watch stingrays and nurse sharks at play in the psychedelically blue Raa Atoll. For dinner sample casual waterfront finger food from Seb's Shack, chic Italian at Pregolino or suave date-night plates at Ampers&nd. There's a roving ice cream van and a dedicated kids' club to keep the little mites happy, plus a lavish spa offering Jade Reflexology Foot Massage and Comb Head Massage inspired by silkworms. Truly, an island of dreamweavers.





**Sometimes, when** travelling, all you crave is space to take it easy. And that's exactly what InterContinental Ras Al Khaimah Mina Al Arab Resort, on the shores of the Arabian Gulf, is all about. Generously proportioned, light-filled rooms. A soft white beach with cabanas. Fabulous Turkish cuisine at Levant & Nar, live DJ entertainment at ShaSha Pool Bar, and New York vibes at NoHo Bar & Grill, just to name a few. Planet Trekkers and Teens Club keep the youngsters happy. An elevated stay awaits in Club InterContinental or the exclusive beach or pool villas.

You're surrounded by terracotta desert, flamingo-populated mangroves and beguiling mountain scenery. Jebel Jais mountain is a particular high point, if you can tear yourself away from the beach. And if you feel the urge to explore, the bright lights of Dubai are just 45 minutes away by car.

**InterContinental  
Ras Al Khaimah  
Mina Al Arab  
Resort**  
THE ONE FOR  
PEAK RELAXATION

## 02 BEACH CLUB & SPA, BARBADOS

The one for **all-inclusive pampering**



Paradise is a strong word, but a fair description of the entire vibe at the 02 Beach Club & Spa, Barbados. Gazing serenely over cerulean seas,



this chic retreat has all the trappings of luxury – the eighth-floor Acqua spa with floor-to-ceiling ocean views, seven bars and lounges, three pools including a swim-up bar – with a generous side of upscale Bajan flair. From the vibrant local artworks, to the playful colour-popping sun loungers fitted along 300m of powder-perfect beach, everything is engineered to inspire joy. Indulge at four restaurants serving up sublime tapas, fine dining with 260° coastal vistas, or grilled fish on the beach. Learn steel-pan drumming, local cooking, or proper domino etiquette, before retiring to luxurious rooms with free-standing tubs or rainfall showers, watching turtles swim in the glistening Caribbean Sea from your luxury balcony.





## Reels on fire

Pixar has a rep for tackling emotions head-on in movies like *Inside Out* and *Turning Red*. Hearts are worn on sleeves once more in *Elemental*, director Peter Sohn's tale of love across the divide as Ember (fire) and Wade (water) meet and kindle a relationship in Element City. The spark for the story came from Sohn's own experience as the son of Korean immigrants in 1970s New York City.

📺 WATCH ELEMENTAL

### 65-71// Movies

School's out for *Theater Camp*, Jason Statham takes on more giant sharks in *Meg 2: The Trench*, Ben Kingsley welcomes an alien in *Jules*, and more.

### 73-77// Television

*The Traitors*, *Gangs of London* and *Cassius X* are among those fighting to get on top, while César Millán shows us how best to care for our canine chums.



**79-82 // Audio**

Turn on to our all-time favourite debut singles, tune in to new sounds across the genres – from hip hop to country – and drop off to our sleep selection.



**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.

A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

# WINTER'S ON

NOVEMBER

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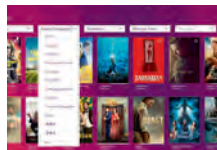
- Select an album from Music, a TV show from TV or a movie from Movies.
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- Depending on which aircraft you are on, you'll see a tab or star at the top of your screen.
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\* Except on our A330-300s



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## Viewing guide

-  Not suitable for nervous flyers
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# Ingenieur.



Gerald Genta's 1972 'luxury stainless steel' concept was not an instant success. Brands, like IWC, took a few years to catch on. But the Ingenieur he eventually designed for them remains in their range. And includes a refreshed version launched last April. That same month we introduced our own integrated bracelet watch: **'The Twelve'**. It too sports a 40mm case (with a polished, brushed and sandblasted bezel.) It too will resist water to 100 meters. But ours is less than 10mm thick. And £9450 less to buy. Unsurprisingly it was an instant success. Now available in **36mm** with new dial colours, it's also even more accessible. Genius, eh?

**Do your research.**

 Christopher  
Ward

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WHAT'S ON

# MOVIES

NOVEMBER

GREAT ACTORS DOING THEIR DARNEDEST

**AMOS** Aspiring (failed) actor turned youth coach  
“We’re theatre people – we know how to turn cardboard into gold.”

**REBECCA-DIANE** Drama teacher and wannabe actress  
“I just wanna say – your energy is so chaotic.”

**GIGI** Flamboyant costumer  
“She looked me in the eyes and said, ‘You’re untalented, you can’t dance. You can’t sing. But you look amazing.’ And she was right.”

**CLIVE** Washed-up dance instructor  
“Only 3% of people make it. The rest end up in a mental facility. Or on a gogo box in *Hell’s Kitchen*.”

**JANET** Lied on her resumé to work at the camp  
“It’s not fun! It’s art. Grow up.”

**TROY** Reluctant millennial owner of the camp  
“I feel naked without my ring light.”

## SCENE KIDS

Shining a spotlight on the best one-liners from instant cult-favourite *Theater Camp*

▶ ANYONE WITH A PASSING FONDNESS for musical theatre or am-dram will lap up hilarious new mockumentary *Theater Camp*. Set in a crumbling upstate New York summer camp, a melodramatic band of misfits must work together to deliver the performance of a lifetime and save their sanctuary when its beloved founder falls into a coma. Because, as they say, “You can’t spell community without coma.”

© WATCH THEATER CAMP

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK

HOT RIGHT NOW

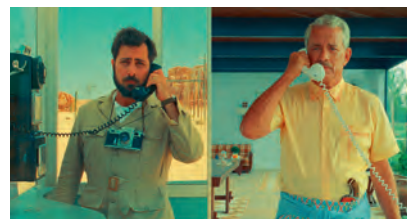


Scrapper ♥

12

Harris Dickinson, Lola Campbell	84 mins
------------------------------------	---------

► **GEORGIE IS A STREETWISE 12-YEAR-OLD KID WHO LIVES ALONE IN** a flat in London. How does a 12-year-old kid get away with living alone in a flat in London? The clue is in the word “streetwise”. All is going grand for Georgie until a stranger turns up on her doorstep. It’s her estranged dad and not only does he want to stay, but he hopes to forge a bond with the daughter he barely knows. At first Georgie’s not interested but – well, you can probably guess. What really impresses is the humour, heart and verve with which the story is told, with just enough grit in the comfort blanket to stop things getting syrupy. Oh, and the central performance of young Lola Campbell as Georgie is a marvel.

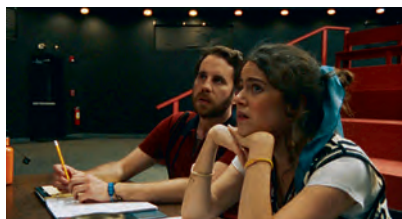


ASTEROID CITY ♥

12

Tom Hanks, Sophia Lillis	105 mins
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You’ve got a mouth-watering cast (Tom Hanks, Steve Carell, Tilda Swinton), you’ve got a retro-futuristic 1950s world and you’ve got the quirky tale of a family who travel to compete in a junior stargazing competition. It can only be the latest awesome Wes Anderson movie.



THEATER CAMP ♥

12

Teyana Taylor, Aven Courtney	94 mins
---------------------------------	---------

The pupils of the AdirondACTS camp have just three weeks to create a masterpiece in this brilliantly funny mockumentary. A tall order for any theatre group, but especially for this lot who, as well as being somewhat rundown and ramshackle, are facing financial ruin.



MEG 2: THE TRENCH

12

Jason Statham, Wu Jing	115 mins
---------------------------	----------

Cult director Ben Wheatley was the surprise choice for this sequel in which Statham once again goes toe-to-toe (or should that be toe-to-fin?) with a big prehistoric shark. Spoiler! This time it’s not just one megalodon.



BROTHER ♥

15

Lamar Johnson, Aaron Pierre	119 mins
--------------------------------	----------

This award-winning Canadian drama centres on two brothers who are involved in the early hip hop scene in Toronto. As the heat of the summer intensifies, the brothers find their lives are changing, and what emerges is riveting, vital drama.



HAUNTED MANSION

12

Lakeith Stanfield, Tiffany Haddish	120 mins
---------------------------------------	----------

Based on a theme-park ride, this spooky family comedy centres on single mum Gabbie who hires a tour guide, a psychic, a priest and a historian in order to exorcise her new home after discovering it’s haunted. Thing is, those spooks aren’t going to go easily.

## Moviebluff Who is Mitchell LaFortune?



**Sounds quite the swashbuckling adventurer.** Yeah, kinda. A Maine-born English major, Mitchell LaFortune always wanted to be a writer, but also felt a burning passion to use his gift in service of his country. So in 2006 he joined the US Army.

**Pretty drastic.** Service is in his blood – his grandfather served in World War II, after lying about his age to get in. Also, Mitchell grew up during the era of the war on terror, which did a lot to shape his worldview.

**So is new film *Kandahar* based on reality?** Yep. Gerard Butler (*above*) plays an undercover CIA agent in Afghanistan. The story, written by LaFortune, concerns American reliance on local translators, something he experienced firsthand on multiple tours.

**Is it worth watching?** If you're interested in the kaleidoscopic diversity and profound nuances on all sides of this tragic, wasteful conflict then yes. You'll empathise hard and cherish your own good fortune for not being there.

WATCH KANDAHAR

VERA LISTINGS: ANDREW HOLMES WORDS: ANDY HILL

## SMILEY SCI-FI



### Jules

12

Ben Kingsley,  
Zoe Winters

90 mins

▶ **WHEN A UFO CRASH LANDS IN HIS BACK YARD, MILTON (BEN Kingsley)** is more concerned that it destroyed his azaleas and ruined his birdbath. Almost by way of passing he mentions this to the town council, but of course they dismiss it as the ramblings of a mad old bloke. However, Milton's not mad. He really does have a knackered birdbath thanks to an alien who's since taken up residence in his home – an alien he takes to calling Jules. Gradually, others in the community become aware of Jules and grow fond of him. But, as anyone who's seen *ET* knows, it won't be long before the guys in suits who carry guns show an interest... Funny, warm and leftfield, this is a little gem.



### THE FLASH

12

Ezra Miller,  
Sasha Calle

144 mins

A long time in development, this latest instalment in the DC universe stars Miller as the Flash, Barry Allen, whose super speed allows him to time-travel. However, when he accidentally alters the timeline to remove superheroes, he must race to save the future of the world.



### SPACE ODDITY

!

Kyle Allen,  
Alexandra Shipp

94 mins

Directed by Kyra Sedgwick – and starring her hubby, Kevin Bacon – this mix of romcom and sci-fi focuses on Alex McAllister (Kyle Allen), who embarks on a plan to launch a one-way trip to Mars. Even stranger than that, he aims to raise the money via an insurance company.

ASIAN AMERICAN STORIES



Shortcomings ♥

15

Justin H Min, Sherry Cola	92 mins
------------------------------	---------

► **EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE READING THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE INTO FILMS,** we must all reluctantly admit that there is in fact more to life than movies. This is the conclusion that our hero, Ben, reaches when a life of cinematic appreciation is interrupted by the departure of his girlfriend, Miko, who has taken up an internship in New York. It's a seismic event that causes Ben to re-evaluate almost every aspect of his life: his relationships, his interests, even his race. And having worked his way through a series of unsatisfying romantic encounters, he persuades his friend Kim to accompany him to New York and try to win back Miko. Coming from actor-comedian Randall Parks, *Shortcomings* is warm, witty and well-observed.



PAST LIVES ♥

12

Greta Lee, Teo Yoo	106 mins
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Acclaimed romance following Nora and Hae Sung, whose childhood friendship is torn asunder when Nora's family emigrates from South Korea to Toronto. Twenty years later, the two meet again in New York.



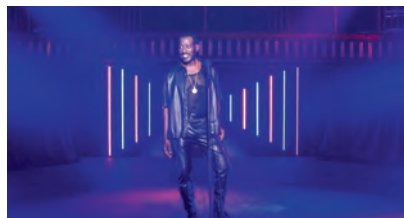
AMERICANISH ♥

!

Aizzah Fatima, Salena Qureshi	91 mins
----------------------------------	---------

*Americanish* is a very funny culture-clash comedy about three Pakistani-American women navigating life in New York, and attempting to find love, happiness and plenty in between.

SAUCY JAPES



BACK ON THE STRIP

!

Kevin Hart, Wesley Snipes	117 mins
------------------------------	----------

Comedy about magician Merlin, who moves to Las Vegas and finds himself mixed up with Luther (Snipes) and Black male stripper group The Chocolate Chips. Can Merlin work his magic and save them?



NO HARD FEELINGS

15

Jennifer Lawrence, Natalie Morales	103 mins
---------------------------------------	----------

A near-the-knuckle comedy here, with Lawrence as Maddie, who takes up a wealthy couple's offer of dating their 19-year-old son to bring him out of his shell but is herself something of a handful.



IT ONLY TAKES A NIGHT

!

Eliza Taylor, Arielle Carver-O'Neill	79 mins
---	---------

Imagine you're expecting a proposal but your boyfriend breaks up with you. Ruby doesn't need to imagine because that's exactly what happens in this riotous romcom. So then her gal pals take over.

ROUGH AND READY



THE WRATH OF BECKY

18

Lulu Wilson, Seann William Scott | 83 mins

This funny, gory sequel to *Becky* stands on its own, as the eponymous hero (played by Wilson) once again goes up against a group of blokes who want her dead. They have the brawn, but Becky has the brains.



KANDAHAR

15

Gerard Butler, Navid Negahban | 119 mins

This thriller starring Butler as a CIA man pursued by mercenaries, is a proper thrill-ride from start to finish. It's directed by ex-stuntman Ric Roman Waugh, who turns the adrenaline levels up to 11.



The Baker

!

Ron Perlman, Elias Koteas | 104 mins

► **“WHO IS THIS BAKER?” SPITS ONE OF THE BAD GUYS IN THIS VIOLENT vigilante action thriller.** The answer is Ron Perlman, the bloke who used to play Hellboy, and he's going where the likes of Liam Neeson (*Taken*), Denzel Washington (*The Equaliser*) and Bruce Willis (everything) have gone before, by playing An Old Guy Who Kicks Ass. No prizes for guessing Pappi's occupation. But thanks to a spell in the army, Pappi has skills, and so when the bad guys mess with his son – but, more crucially, his granddaughter Delphi – he goes into full-on vengeful mode. Thanks to a skilfully drawn bond between Pappi and Delphi, it all makes for a rousing, action-packed and brilliantly blood-soaked spectacle.

On song  
Celine Song  
is calling  
the tune

**On life**  
*Past Lives*, Song's film debut, premiered this year at Sundance. With growing feeling and confidence, she explores immigration, assorted grades of love, and the complexity of straddling cultures, the old world and the new.

**On stage**  
The South Korean-Canadian auteur began her career as a playwright. *Endlings*, her mesmerising play about *haenyeos* – traditional female Korean free divers who collect shellfish into their eighties – was forced to close by Covid in March 2020.



**Online**  
Undeterred by lockdowns, Song staged a clever and hilarious production of Chekhov's 1895 play *The Seagull* in a multiplayer online role-play game. *The Seagull on The Sims 4* was broadcast to a rapt audience on live-streaming gaming platform Twitch.

**On fate**  
Song's work often returns to the theme of *inyeon*, a Korean slant on destiny or fate, something she explores in *Past Lives*. The sheer number of tears shed at screenings of the film suggests Song's future probably has an Oscar in it.

WATCH PAST LIVES

ANIMATION



## Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem ♥



Ayo Edebiri,  
Seth Rogen

103 mins

► **THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES ARE AWESOME - EVERYONE** knows that, right? But there's definitely a case for saying that the green, pizza-munching heroes have been badly served by the movie experience. That changes now with *Mutant Mayhem*. Its plot involves the turtles' struggle for acceptance; sick of their outsider status, they attempt to curry favour by taking down a crime syndicate – only to end up way over their heads. The result is a movie where eye-popping, outrageously creative animation meets a great script, superb characterisation and voicework from a starry cast (Seth Rogen, Jackie Chan, Ice Cube...). In short, a film that everyone is calling the best *Turtles* movie yet.

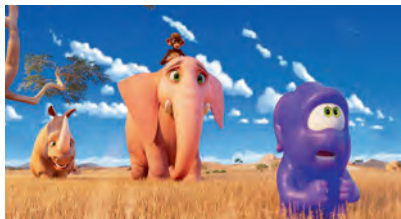


### SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE ⚠

Eliza Taylor,  
Arielle Carver-O'Neill

140 mins

In this animated sequel, Miles Morales is catapulted across the Multiverse, where he must team up with other Spider-Folk to face a new threat. If you thought the first *Spider-Verse* movie was pure, unadulterated joy, wait till you see this one. It's superb.



### JUNGLE BEAT: THE MOVIE ⚠

David Menkin,  
David Rintoul

88 mins

World Airline Premiere. This spin-off from the animated TV show tells of cosmic traveller Fneep who, after crashing in the jungle, uses alien tech to allow the animals to speak for the first time. Using their newfound speech, the creatures band together to help Fneep make his way home.

## Movie quiz

### Take on our featured films

1 //

Smalltown sci-fi flick *Jules* features Jude Quon as the loveable, eponymous alien. Quon has more than 100 films and TV credits to her name but has never featured so high up before, how come?

2 //

The plot for sex comedy *No Hard Feelings* was inspired by a real ad posted on which community website?

3 //

Kevin Hart and Wesley Snipes, who star together in Vegas stripper movie *Back on the Strip*, recently headlined which crime mini-series for Netflix?

4 //

Disney reboot *Haunted Mansion*, starring LaKeith Stanfield, was originally slated as a passion project for which horror auteur, who last year released his own take on *Pinocchio*?

5 //

Kyra Sedgwick, director of sci-fi romcom *Space Oddity*, previously starred alongside JK Simmons as an LAPD chief in which long-running TV series?

● *Answers on the right*



# OUR COMPLETE MOVIE LISTINGS

Make your choice from the A–Z of our pick of the BEST FILMS around right now

## A

- About My Father
- Ae Dil Hai Mushkil
- Allelujah
- All or Nothing
- Americanish
- The Angry Black Girl and Her Monster
- Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania
- Asteroid City
- Avatar: The Way of Water

## B

- Babylon
- Back on the Strip
- The Baker
- Bang Bang!
- Beau Is Afraid
- Big George Foreman
- Blackberry
- Blue Jean
- The Boogeyman
- Brother
- Buddy Games: Spring Awakening

## C

- Carmen (2023)
- Champions
- Chevalier
- A Christmas Story Christmas
- Close
- Cocaine Bear

## D

- Daddy
- Driving Madeleine (Une Belle Course)
- Dungeons & Dragons: Honour Among Thieves

## E

- Elemental

## F

- The Fabelmans
- Fast X
- The Flash
- Full Time (À Plein Temps)

## G

- Goodbye
- Greatest Days
- Gringa



## ● Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 3

- Guy Ritchie's The Covenant

## H

- Hachiko
- Haunted Mansion
- Hidden Blade
- HIT: The First Case
- Honor Society
- Hotel Transylvania: Transformania

## I

- Ijakumo (Born Again Stripper)



## ● Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny

- Insidious: The Red Door

- The Inspection
- The Invitation
- It Only Takes a Night

## J

- Jerry & Marge Go Large
- Jersey
- Jesus Revolution
- John Wick: Chapter 4
- Jolly Lib
- Joy Ride
- Jules
- Jungle Beat: The Movie

## K

- Kandahar
- Knights of the Zodiac
- Knock at the Cabin

## L



## ● The Little Mermaid

- Living
- Lost In The Stars
- The Lost King
- Love Again
- Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile

## M

- The Machine
- Mafia Mamma
- Maggie Moore(s)
- Magic Mike's Last Dance

- A Man Called Otto
- Maybe I Do
- Meg 2: The Trench
- Mending the Line
- Missing
- Moving On
- MS Dhoni: The Untold Story
- Mummies
- My Animal

## N

- No Hard Feelings

## O

- Orisa

## P

- Past Lives
- Polite Society
- The Pope's Exorcist
- The Portable Door
- Pretty Evil

## R

- Raksha Bandhan
- Renfield
- Resident Evil: Death Island
- Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical

## S

- Scooby-Doo! And the Curse of the 13th Ghost
- Scrapper



## ● Scream VI

- See You On Venus

- Shaandaar
- Shamsheera



## ● Shazam! Fury of the Gods

- Shortcomings
- Shotgun Wedding
- Sisu
- The Sitting Duck (La Syndicaliste)
- Somewhere in Queens
- Space Oddity
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse
- Spinning Gold
- The Stand Up
- Student of the Year



## ● The Super Mario Bros Movie

- The Swan Princess: A Fairytale is Born
- The Swan Princess: Far Longer Than Forever

## T

- TAZ: Quest for Burger
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem
- Teen Titans Go! & DC Super Hero Girls: Mayhem in the Multiverse
- Tell It Like a Woman

- Theater Camp
- A Thousand and One
- The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan (Les Trois Mousquetaires: D'Artagnan)
- To Catch a Killer
- Tom and Jerry: Cowboy Up!
- Transformers: Rise of the Beasts
- The Tutor
- The Two Aishas

## U

- The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

## V

- Vadh

## W

- The Wandering Earth II
- The Whale
- What's Love Got to Do with It?
- Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody



## ● The Woman King

- The Wrath of Becky

## Y

- You Hurt My Feelings
- You're Killing Me



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WHAT'S ON

# TELEVISION

NOVEMBER

CAPTIVATING PEOPLE, FASCINATING WILDLIFE AND BEAUTIFUL SCENERY



**“ALL TOO OFTEN LIARS END UP ON TOP”**

Psychologist Dr Louise Goddard-Crawley weighs in on hit reality show **THE TRAITORS** – warning: some light spoilers ahead!

► **I'M A PSYCHOLOGIST AND I'M HOOKED ON** *The Traitors*. In the show, Claudia Winkleman hosts 22 strangers who compete to win £120,000, unaware that among them hide “traitors” who meet in secret to vote out the other “faithful” contestants. What’s so fascinating? Well, while honesty is a virtue we all claim to revere, all too often liars wind up on top. I’m intrigued by the unfolding complex interplay of human psychology and behaviour in this show.

*The Traitors* underlines the theory that in high-stakes situations, deception is a legitimate adaptive survival strategy. Having good instincts for what to say – or withhold – to protect oneself is a valuable survival skill.

Effective contestants exhibit Machiavellian traits. They are adaptable and adjust their personas to suit the changing dynamics of a situation. They’re skilled at reading emotions and easily identify vulnerabilities in others. They anticipate consequences several steps ahead and have a high tolerance for risk.

Those who struggle wear their emotions on their sleeve, making them easier to read. They stick to a single strategy, making them predictable, and are risk-averse. One contestant doesn’t tell anybody they’re an actor. Being so keen to prove themselves “faithful” proves their undoing. They can’t hack the tension.

In my clinical work, I’ve seen that lying might sometimes serve short-term strategic objectives. But deception eventually takes its toll.

Lying might get you ahead. But it can spell the death of sustainable healthy relationships. Part of the show’s genius is making us, at times, empathise with liars. Watching others deceiving, or being deceived, is a safe, vicarious form of catharsis. And remember, whatever the reward, it’s really no fun getting tangled in a web of deceit.

**“PART OF THE SHOW’S GENIUS IS MAKING US, AT TIMES, EMPATHISE WITH LIARS”**

© WATCH THE TRAITORS

MUST WATCH



**The Gold** ♥

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

▶ **THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVED THROUGH THE 1980S AND SURVIVED TO** tell the tale will remember the Brink's Mat Robbery in 1983. Gold, diamond and cash worth £26m was nabbed from a warehouse near Heathrow Airport, making it the biggest heist ever. Yet the drama of the crime itself was almost outmatched by the drama of what happened afterwards. And what was that? With a cast led by Hugh Bonneville and Dominic Cooper, this acclaimed series tells the whole story – from the heist itself to the seismic falling-out of the crooks involved. It's a brilliantly mounted series with a classic feel and eminently bingeable, so consider yourself very lucky that we have the whole thing – all six episodes – onboard.



**THE LAST GLACIERS** ♥



Our world	90 mins
-----------	---------

Feature-length documentary following award-winning filmmaker Craig Leeson in his 12-year odyssey to examine glacial loss across the globe, speaking to those who lost their homes to climate change and even joining NASA on an airborne mission over the largest ice sheet.



**THE FAMILY STALLONE** ♥



Reality	30 mins
---------	---------

Question: how often do you get the chance to gawp at the private life of a true movie legend? Answer: practically never – until the advent of this gobsmacking reality show taking us into the home of Sylvester Stallone, wife Jennifer Flavin and their three daughters. See *right*



**AMAZING HOTELS: LIFE BEYOND THE LOBBY** ♥



Travel	60 mins
--------	---------

This documentary series follows hosts Rob Rinder and Monica Galetti as they pack their suitcases and go behind the scenes at luxury hotels in order to find out how they tick. Want to know about life in the Joali Maldives? Then check in here.



**BEND IT LIKE BOLLYWOOD** ♥



Factual	45 mins
---------	---------

As Vinay, an East Asian gender-non-conforming person and the founder of Bollyqueer – a non-gendered Bollywood dance class – returns to his hometown of Leicester in order to stage a show, he knows he has a big challenge on his hands.



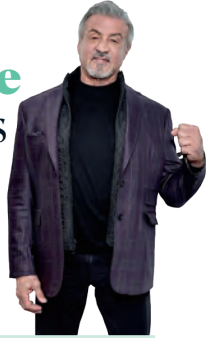
**MRS DAVIS** ♥



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

Science fiction done the funny – and very quirky – way here, as nun Sister Simone (Betty Gilpin) travels the globe on her motorbike determined to take up the fight against Mrs Davis, a powerful, evil artificial intelligence with plans for the Holy Grail. We have the whole of series one onboard.

## Top five Wild facts about Sylvester Stallone



1 //

**He's mucked out lion cages**  
Before finding fame with *Rocky* (1976), Stallone did all sorts of odd jobs, including ticket scalp, soft-porn star and zoo lackey.

2 //

**Momma was a rump reader**  
Jackie Stallone invented "rumpology", which interprets the "lines, crevices, dimples and folds of the buttocks".

3 //

**He's a decent singer**  
Stallone starred opposite Dolly Parton in glittering musical *Rhinestone* (1984), though it misfired at the box office.



4 //

**Facial paralysis set him up**  
Complications at birth gave Sly facial nerve damage, and by extension his trademark droopy lip and slurred voice.

5 //

**He's made a reality show**  
"Growing up, I would love to have seen stars like Brando at home making eggs," Sly says.

WATCH THE FAMILY STALLONE

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

## LIFE ON EARTH



### Great Bear Rainforest

Our world

60 mins

► **IT MAY WELL BE NARRATED BY RYAN REYNOLDS AND HOSTED BY James Cromwell**, but the real reason to see this documentary about British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest – one of the wildest places on Earth – is the jaw-dropping wildlife photography. The cinematography here is as breathtaking as the scenery itself and, given that the rainforest is a pristine wilderness, that's very stunning indeed. All the better, then, to illustrate the film's central point, which is to highlight the efforts of indigenous communities, scientists and conservationists to protect this ecological wonder. In short, what you have here is eye candy that's as good for the brain as it is for the heart and, indeed, the soul.



#### THE LAST STAND ♥

Our world

54 mins

Eye-opening documentary following protestors, forest defenders and experts – among them, the activist actor Peter Coyote – in their fight to prevent the damage being inflicted on ancient forests in British Columbia, North America, the Amazon and elsewhere.



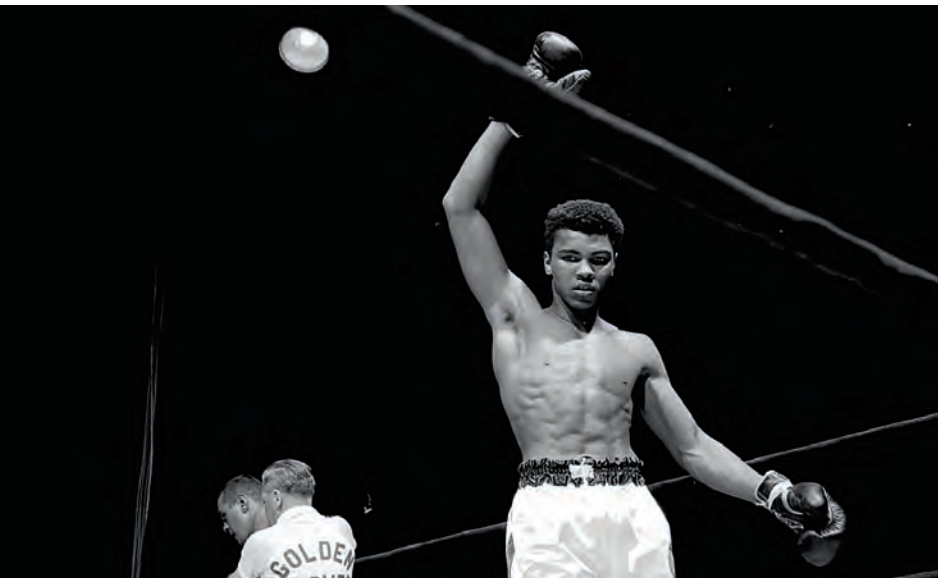
#### WILDLIFE CONCERTS! !

Our world

25 mins

Explore the culture and wildlife of Africa with these 24-minute segments featuring performances from top artists originating in Africa, such as KP Illest, Shekhinah and Anita Jaxson. Wildlife footage, as well as facts and figures about the region, complete an intoxicating mix.

REAL STORIES



**Cassius X: Becoming Ali** !

Sports corner	90 mins
---------------	---------

► **BORN AND RAISED IN KENTUCKY, CASSIUS CLAY STARTED BOXING** at 12 years old. By 18 he was an Olympic champion. The year that he defeated Sonny Liston in order to win the World Heavyweight Championship, 1964, he denounced his given “slave name” and changed it to Muhammad Ali. This documentary takes a microscope to Ali’s early years, detailing his introduction to boxing, his conversion to Islam and that epochal decision to change his name. Featuring interviews with key figures in his life, the film examines Ali’s physical and spiritual awakenings with regard to owning his own identity, as well as the beliefs he adopted from then on. Think of it as a superhero origin story, if you will.



**BILLION DOLLAR HEIST** ♥

Documentary	84 mins
-------------	---------

In 2016, hackers attacking the Bangladeshi Central Bank got away with millions (and almost made it billions). This documentary uses that incredible heist to take a look at other high-profile cyberattacks.



**SQUARING THE CIRCLE** ♥

Documentary	101 mins
-------------	----------

For anyone who’s ever pored over album covers – or who appreciates great design – this doc is a must. It tells of 1960s design studio Hipgnosis, who designed album covers for Peter Gabriel and Pink Floyd.

BEST ENDEAVOURS



**THE WALL: CLIMB FOR GOLD** ♥

Documentary	95 mins
-------------	---------

Inspiring, thrilling and heart-wrenching (quite a trick if you can pull it off), this documentary follows four female athletes preparing for the first-ever climbing competition at the 2020 Olympics.



**HELP! WE BOUGHT A VILLAGE** ♥

Reality	60 mins
---------	---------

Series in which we meet the Brits whose dream it is to renovate and restore some of the hundreds of remote, abandoned villages in places such as Spain and Italy. Can they breathe life into these old places?



**RACE ACROSS THE WORLD** ♥

Reality	60 mins
---------	---------

Fun series in which five pairs of contestants race across Canada. Armed only with the essentials, they must rely on their wits, guile and – when it comes to charming locals – powers of persuasion.

BIG LAUGHS



SISTERS

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

Two women discover that they're long-lost sisters in this dark comedy-drama series. Although the pair live continents apart, that doesn't stop them embarking on a road trip to find their absent, boozy father.



LIFE & BETH

Comedy	30 mins
--------	---------

Brilliant US comedy starring Amy Schumer as Beth, who's returning to her home turf of Long Island, where she jumps back into the dating game. Does hilarity result? This is Amy Schumer, so what do you think?



Atlanta

Drama	30 mins
-------	---------

► **THE BRAINCHILD OF ACTOR, COMEDIAN AND RAPPER (HE'S Childish Gambino) Donald Glover, *Atlanta* is an offbeat comedy set in the Southern US rap scene. Glover stars as manager Earnest "Earn" Marks, who's attempting to get his cousin's rap career off the ground, while also juggling various personal and familial challenges. That's all good, but what really sets *Atlanta* apart is its sheer style. On the one hand, it explores themes of race, poverty and social inequality with an unflinching realistic gaze; on the other, it often displays a determinedly surreal and hilarious bent. Add to that the superb character work involved and you have one of the best, most revered shows in recent memory.**

Leader of the pack

Meet César Millán



**I'll bite, who is he?**  
César Millán has been a famous dog trainer for over 20 years, with multiple TV shows, three *New York Times* bestselling books and his own product lines in major US chain stores.

**Where's he from?**  
Sinaloa, Mexico. A solitary kid, Millán befriended street dogs and earned a reputation for easily gaining their trust. He illegally crossed the border into the US with \$100 aged 21, unable to speak English. He worked his way up from LA dog walker to celebrity dog trainer.

**What's he up to now?**  
New series *Better Human, Better Dog* is a response to the pandemic trend for new dog owners who maybe don't exercise their pups enough, or know how to set boundaries. He's a great believer in the power of being a calm, assertive leader of the pack.

**What can we learn?**  
How our moods and energy levels directly affect our doggies, how simple noises (he loves "Tshh!") are more effective than speech. Also cats bewilder him. "Those are beyond me," he says.

© WATCH CÉSAR MILLÁN: BETTER HUMAN, BETTER DOG



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# WHAT'S ON AUDIO

NOVEMBER

## SONGS TO REMEMBER

### Jimi Hendrix

#### HEY JOE

*Hey Joe* dialled down the pyrotechnics of those fabled Hendrix live shows, but it remains a thrilling listen – from the tricky intro to the gospel backing vocals.

### Britney Spears

#### ...BABY ONE MORE TIME

Opening with the most famous three-note siren call in all of pop, *...Baby One More Time* is a juggernaut of barely restrained teenage lust and remains a nigh-on perfect pop song.

### Lorde

#### ROYALS

Ever think that pop is all artifice over substance? All shiny studio trickery but no innate depth? Well, Lorde will put you straight. This literate meditation on pop culture's fractures yearns for something else. Lorde saw through it all and wanted "a different kind of buzz".

### The Strokes

#### HARD TO EXPLAIN

Charismatic wastrels The Strokes tapped into something deeper than just music. An attitude that harkened back to 70s bohemia, they represented an ideal of New York after-hours. *Hard to Explain* started it all – a song of deviant behaviour masquerading as an indie rock party anthem.

Clockwise  
from top:  
Britney Spears,  
Lorde,  
The Strokes,  
Bloc Party  
and Jimi  
Hendrix



“**BLOC PARTY'S DEBUT SINGLE MADE BEING IN A BAND SEEM COOL AGAIN**”

### Bloc Party

#### SHE'S HEARING VOICES

It could be the crystalline guitars, or the physicality of the drums. It could be the chest-tightening bass, or the sheer paranoia of the vocal. Bloc Party's debut single made being in a band seem cool again.

### Oasis

#### SUPERSONIC

The debauched rise of the Gallagher bros was propelled by arrogance, undaunted ambition and incredible songwriting, something *Supersonic* embodies from first to last.

### MGMT

#### TIME TO PRETEND

Glitter-drenched synth pop that's both lively and absurd, *Time to Pretend* simultaneously subverts and embodies the deranged fantasies of youth. The lyrics may speak of model wives and endless wealth, but there's also a sense that – someday – the dream ends.

## DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME?

Music writer Robin Murray salutes  
rock and pop's ultimate debuts

🎧 LISTEN TO VARIOUS:  
ULTIMATE DEBUTS



FRESH SOUNDS



**Hozier** ♥

Unreal Earth  
ALTERNATIVE

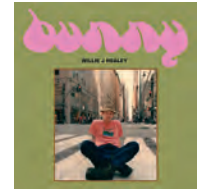
► **BORN AND RAISED IN COUNTY WICKLOW IN IRELAND, ANDREW** John Hozier-Byrne – aka Hozier – was no big fan of school, although he did join the choir. His spare time was spent on the guitar, and by 15 he was an accomplished tunesmith and had taken to writing his own songs. Talent led to recognition and in 2014 he released an acclaimed, bestselling folk-inspired debut, *Hozier*. Album number two landed during Covid, which is when he sat down and used a surfeit of spare time to write this third one, an album that's not only inspired by Dante's *Inferno* but also, he says, his way of making sense of the last two years.



**AMA LOU** !

*I Came Home Late*  
R&B & SOUL

Drake loved Ama Lou's banger *TBC*. Now comes Ama's debut LP, and anyone with a working pair of lugs and a taste for the very best in R&B can confirm that Drake was bang on.



**WILLIE J HEALEY** ♥ !

*Bunny*  
ALTERNATIVE

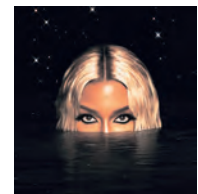
Imagine Elvis Costello meets The Beatles. Now imagine Florence Welch, Alex Turner, Joe from Idles and Jamie T all queuing up to sing the praises of this musical entity.



**JUNGLE** ♥ !

*Volcano*  
DANCE & ELECTRONIC

Producers Josh Lloyd-Watson and Tom McFarland, aka Jungle, are back with a fourth album, which leans into the band's love of soul and sees the music getting more off the cuff.



**VICTORIA MONÉT** !

*Jaguar II*  
R&B & SOUL

First making waves as songwriter for the likes of Ariana Grande, Brandy and Selena Gomez, Monét's debut long-player features collabs with Buju Banton and many others.

**The hard stuff**  
What is *musique concrète*?

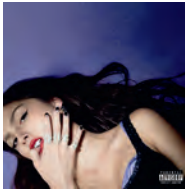


Emerging in the 1940s as recording technology matured, *musique concrète* has no notes, or beats. It's found sound, manipulated and arranged as audio collage. The Beatles' *Revolution 9* is a famous example. The new *Colours of Air* album by Loscil and Lawrence English samples an antique pipe organ, sculpting the result into "flickering infinities... of wind, brass, stone and dust".

🎧 LISTEN TO COLOURS OF AIR



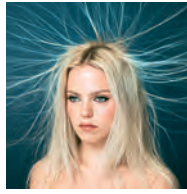
POPPING OFF



**OLIVIA RODRIGO** ♥ !

Guts  
POP

Having taken the pop world by storm with her stunning debut, it seemed unlikely that Olivia could catch lightning in a bottle a second time. Well, guess what? She has. From the uproarious *Bad Idea Right?* to the excoriating *Vampire*, this is an essential follow-up.



**RENÉE RAPP** !

Snow Angel  
POP

Messy-haired North Carolina native Reneé first turned heads when she bagged a role in the *Mean Girls* musical on Broadway. Now she's showcasing a knack for earwormy pop-rock and heart-on-sleeve lyrics with this debut album.

**Kesha** ♥ !

Gag Order  
POP

➤ **DESPITE A STINT IN REHAB, A** lawsuit against former producer Dr Luke – since settled – and the cancellation of a tour during Covid, pop-rapper Kesha has been continuing to perform and release albums. This, in fact, is number five. But while her previous release, 2020's rather brilliant *High Road*, found her mashing together styles with her usual abandon, combining hip hop with electro, synth-pop and classic rock, *Gag Order* is an even braver confection of musical styles, while lyrically it is that bit darker, dealing with issues of death, depression, control, hope and a quest for truth.



PUNK IN THE TRUNK

**The Xcerts** !

Learning How to Live and Let Go  
ROCK

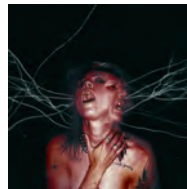
➤ **ONE THING WE ALL KNOW ABOUT** Aberdeen's The Xcerts is that ever since scorching 2009 debut *In the Cold Wind We Smile*, and across all their subsequent albums, they have ploughed a pop-punk furrow that has established them as the go-to group for fans of Biffy Clyro, Jimmy Eat World and Get Cape. Fly. This is album five and finds them in fine, fiery form – in fact, the best of their lives. As *Clash* magazine put it, "It's further proof, as if we needed it, that The Xcerts are among the greatest masters at the art of writing soulful songs and power anthems."



**YONAKA** !

Welcome to My House  
ROCK

Pop, punk and hip hop all go into the mixer for this EP from the UK trio. "Each song represents a memory or emotion," says frontwoman Theresa Jarvis. "I want listeners to be able to open a door, come into my world and see what each song meant to me."



**HOT MILK** ♥ !

A Call to the Void  
ROCK

Everyone knows you need to be careful when you heat milk. The same is true when it comes to pressing a label on Hot Milk. Are they emo? Are they pop-rock? Are they part of the Manchester music explosion? Who cares when the tunes are this good?

**Big country**  
Discover some new names and revisit an old fave

1 //



**MORGAN WADE** ♥  
Psychopath

With the plaudits to match her tattoos, Morgan's 2021 debut album, *Reckless*, snagged a place on *Rolling Stone's* best-of-year list. Could album number two possibly top it? The answer is a button-click away.

2 //



**ALANA SPRINGSTEEN** !  
Twenty Something

She shares the same surname, but Nashville-based Alana is no relation to Bruce – the only connection being that they're both fantastically talented musicians. Proof? This opening salvo.

3 //

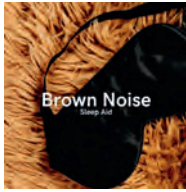


**SHANIA TWAIN**  
Icons – Shania Twain

From the big hits to some lesser-known deep cuts, we've got something from the Twain back catalogue sure to scratch your Shania itch.



**SLEEPY TIME**



**VERA SLEEP**

*Brown, Pink and White Noise*  
SLEEP & WELLNESS

Listening to a certain type of sound can help you sleep. Napalm Death? Probably a bad idea. But brown, pink or white noise are all proven to be effective. Which is best? It's up to the individual. Give them all a try and find out which one suits you.



**LOSCIL & LAWRENCE ENGLISH**

*Colours of Air*  
SLEEP & WELLNESS

Since 2020, ambient composer Lawrence English has used the century-old pipe organ housed at the Old Museum in Brisbane in his work. Here he joins composer Loscil to use the pipe organ for the album's flickering and shimmering meditations.



**MINISTRY OF SOUND**

*Chillout Sessions*  
SLEEP & WELLNESS

The UK institution that is Ministry of Sound has teamed up with the sleep and meditation app Calm for these bespoke relaxation mixes. Themed along the lines of Ibiza, Energy and Clarity, they're ideal for turning on, tuning in and chilling out.



**Max Richter**

*From Sleep*  
SLEEP & WELLNESS

➤ **THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN** jumping into the feathers after a hard evening of sitting on the sofa watching *Strictly*. "Sleeping is one of the most important things we all do," agrees ambient composer Max Richter. "We spend a third of our lives asleep and it's always been one of my favourite things, ever since I was a child." Matter of fact, Max likes his shut-eye so much that, having researched sleep patterns, he composed *Sleep*, an eight-hour ambient soundscape intended to gently cradle listeners through the hours of darkness. Given the obvious drawbacks of listening to an eight-hour piece, kindly Max has condensed the work into a more manageable album length, *From Sleep*, which is what he have here: an immersive, meditative soundscape. Put it on, relax and float away – but don't operate heavy machinery.

**Top three**  
Hip hop heavy-hitters



**2Pac ft Dr Dre**  
**CALIFORNIA LOVE**

Dre's glossy, full-fat production – get a load of OG funk king Roger Troutman on vocoder! – set the tone for the nascent sub-genre of gangsta rap. It was 2Pac's first song after getting out of jail, bailed to the tune of \$1.4 million by Death Row records boss Suge Knight. Even the video, a mental *Mad Max*-themed skit conceived by Tupac's old schoolfriend, Jada Pinkett-Smith, goes hard.

**Rob Base & DJ EZ Rock**  
**IT TAKES TWO**

The vivacious Harlem duo released their only major hit in 1988 but to this day *It Takes Two* remains a reliable worldwide floor-filler. If all classic hip hop can be said to be built upon sampled breaks, this tune takes it to another level, repeating the oft-sampled "Woo, yeah!" bit from Lyn Collins' 1972 cut *Think (About It)* – written and produced by James Brown – throughout the record's entire nigh-on five-minute run time, like some kind of irrepressible party mantra.

**Queen Latifah & Monie Love**  
**LADIES FIRST**

The contribution of women to hip hop is often underplayed, but Queen Latifah's early hit, a collab with London-born rapper Monie Love, was a landmark. Why? Because it's a banger, for one thing, with that irresistible skittish beat, vituperative spitting and carousing sax. Moreover, it's a song of empowerment – and a rallying cry against a genre and an industry.

LISTEN TO 50 YEARS OF HIP HOP





*A picture perfect day in Saint Lucia*

**D**iscover the best kept secret in Saint Lucia and immerse yourself in true Caribbean luxury. East Winds is a breath-taking tropical garden by the sea, planted on a sandy, secluded storybook beach. Our Caribbean hideaway is the island's original boutique resort, featuring 30 cottage style suites tucked away amongst lush

plants, trees, and a kaleidoscope of colourful bird life. East Winds is home to what many consider the island's finest beach shared only by a small number of like-minded travellers. Guests at East Winds can expect personalized care, exclusive adventures, and an all-inclusive service, as well as the most authentic of Caribbean experiences.



**SOUTH PLACE HOTEL**

Give the gift of an unforgettable night up town at London's South Place Hotel. Its Michelin Stay experience offers the lucky couple a night in the stylish Square Mile digs – slap bang on the

Elizabeth Line – known for its sharp contemporary styling, a bottle of champagne on the house and, best of all, an opportunity to savour the six-course tasting menu at the Michelin-starred restaurant Angler, headed up by executive chef Gary Foulkes. Over the festive period South Place is also running an indulgent Michelin winter hot chocolate pop-up with Valrhona chocolate and Woodford Reserve. All in good taste.



● [southplacehotel.com](https://southplacehotel.com)



**ETO**

Raise a glass to eto, the beautiful wine decanter with an award-winning preservation system that allows you to enjoy an open bottle for longer. Choose from seven finishes and engrave for the ideal gift. *Buy now, add FLY10 for 10% off and fast worldwide shipping.*

● [etowine.com](https://etowine.com)

# THE CHRISTMAS



**AURA SKYPOOL MERCH**

Take home the sky-high glamour of Dubai's AURA SKYPOOL with the record-breaking luxury retreat's range of choice merchandise. From soothing suntan lotion and revivifying face mists to the signature bathrobe and AURA's own aromatic bespoke tea blend, it's all about sensory indulgence.

● [auraskypool.com/merchandise](https://auraskypool.com/merchandise)

**EVERLASTING CANDLE CO**

The Everlasting Candle is a luxurious steel candle that never melts down. Whether you appreciate tasteful decor, or are looking for a unique gift, we promise they'll leave you with a glowing impression. *Shop online now with code GIFT15 for 15% off.*

● [everlastingcandleco.com](https://everlastingcandleco.com)



**VIRGIN ATLANTIC**

You've flown the plane, now get the sweatshirt. From 22 November, Virgin Atlantic launches a carefully curated range of consciously crafted travel essentials, like this snug organic cotton sweatshirt emblazoned with gorgeous artwork from our aircraft. Talk about the height of fashion.

● [shop.virginatlantic.com](https://shop.virginatlantic.com)



**CHARLES TYRWHITT**

Prestige London menswear brand Charles Tyrwhitt has something special to warm everybody's cockles this incoming festive season. Its luxurious pure cashmere sweater - light and warm, garment-washed for extra softness, and with stylish ribbed hems and cuffs to keep the chill out - is so plush you might well regret gifting it.

● [charlestyrwhitt.com](http://charlestyrwhitt.com)



**FIGRELLI**

Sharp looks and popping colours aren't the only thing setting this coveted handbag brand apart. Fiorelli is proud to never use animal products and the brand's non-leather styles consistently set a new standard in environmentally conscious chic. Get a load of the Nova Pink (pictured), from an all-female, London-based design team who are meticulous in their pursuit of functionality,

● [fiorelli.com](http://fiorelli.com)

# GIFT GUIDE

BLOW THE MINDS OF LOVED ONES ON THE BIG DAY WITH OUR PICK OF THE COOLEST KITCHENWARE, NIGHTS OUT AND NATTY KNITWEAR



**BLENDET 2**

Gifts don't get more fun or practical than the BlendJet 2 portable blender. Powerful enough to make silky-smooth shakes and top-shelf mixed drinks, it's also self-cleaning and USB-C rechargeable - so you can blend anything at home, at the gym, at work or on the beach. With over 50 colours and patterns, you certainly won't blend in.

● [blendjet.com](http://blendjet.com)



**WISHMAS**

This festive season book your family into Wishmas, an immersive festive frolic combining theatre, crafting and interactive characters. Start in the Old Bauble Factory where you can board the Wishmas train with your little ones and help to make sure no Christmas wish gets forgotten. You might even meet a certain jolly gift-giver.

● [wishmas.co.uk](http://wishmas.co.uk)

# MY BRIGHTON

# ESCAPE TO THE SEASIDE

Brighton, our seaside town with a retro-vibe that never goes out of style. From its vintage cafes to its golden sunsets, you're sure to have the most memorable trip down South.

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# CREDITS

VIRGIN ATLANTIC NEWS AND VIEWS



## JET READY

A new era in sustainable transatlantic flight is ready for take-off

Testing SAF-ready engines at Rolls-Royce earlier this summer

► ON 28 NOVEMBER, Virgin Atlantic is planning to fly the world's first-ever 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) transatlantic flight. SAF has a vital role in aviation's pathway to net zero, but is currently limited to a 50% blend with jet fuel.

### What's SAF?

SAF is biomass-based, unlike traditional fossil-based jet fuels. It can be made from many things – used cooking oil, wood or industrial by-products. Crucially, while CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted during combustion, it essentially recycles the same CO<sub>2</sub> that was produced earlier in its life cycle.

### Emission control

In this way, SAF typically reduces CO<sub>2</sub> life-cycle emissions by over 70% compared to traditional fossil fuels. Residual emissions from the flight, including support activities such as ground operations, are being mitigated through buying innovative carbon removal credits which, unlike typical carbon offsets, actually remove carbon from the atmosphere and lock it away.

“  
**WE'VE SET AMBITIOUS TARGETS TO KEEP US ON TRACK TO REACH NET ZERO TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS BY 2050**



Main: The Virgin Atlantic Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Right: A crew member shows off a sample of our Sustainable Aviation Fuel

**Radical collaboration**

Working with a host of collaborating partners – including Rolls-Royce, Boeing, Imperial College London, University of Sheffield, RMI and ICF – our Boeing 787 will take off from Heathrow and land at JFK Airport on 28 November, demonstrating the commercial viability of SAF – a technology we’ve backed for 15 years. It will help drive the technical feasibility and scale-up of SAF, which is currently in scarce supply.

**Zero compromise**

We’ve set ambitious targets to keep us on track to net zero total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050. We’ve already retired all our four-engine aircraft and now operate one of the youngest, most fuel-efficient fleets crossing the Atlantic with an average age of six and half years. As ever, we’re in it for the long haul.



**BLUE SKY THINKING**

HOW WE’RE REDUCING OUR IMPACT ONBOARD



■ **We’re reducing single-use plastic** through innovations like wrapping headsets in Passport to Change envelopes.

■ **We repurpose headsets** – fixing them up to be used again onboard, or turning sponges into safe surfaces for riding centres.

■ **Our Thoughtful Food** programme ensures that our caterers consider people and planet in all of our meals.

■ **We’ve removed or replaced 60m** plastic items by replacing more water and wine bottles with cans, and with pressed board cutlery and bagasse meal containers.



**Meet Virgin Atlantic Sustainability Manager, Customer Journey**

**MEGAN WELCH**



**The role**

There are lots of touch points where our customers experience

and engage with our sustainability story. Are they printing a boarding card or checking in online? What food is available onboard? How much plastic is involved and what are we doing about it afterwards? These are the issues I grapple with day to day.

**The lowdown**

On the ground, sustainability is a challenge. In the air – balancing international regulations, complex supply chains, even issues as seemingly simple as where you stash waste onboard – it’s a hundred times harder.

**The buzz**

Working with so many passionate people across the business – one day talking about carbon credits, on another thinking about food standards – is a great privilege. And knowing that lots of small changes, of the sort I help initiate, can make a difference not only to our customers’ experience but to the wider world – that’s incredibly fulfilling.



# We are the face of seamless travel.



BETC

No matter where you're heading in the world, SkyTeam member airlines offer you more convenient connections, more fast-track services than any other alliance thanks to SkyPriority, the broadest set of loyalty benefits at 970+ airports around the globe.

To learn more about how SkyTeam can make your travel smoother visit [skyteam.com](http://skyteam.com)



# PRETTY FLY FOR A WIFI

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

## HOW TO CONNECT

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

If you're onboard...

- A 787-9 or an A350-1000, open your browser and navigate to [virgin-atlantic-wifi.com](http://virgin-atlantic-wifi.com)
- An A330-300, open your browser and navigate to [airborne.gogoinflight.com](http://airborne.gogoinflight.com)

- 3 //** Just follow the onscreen instructions to buy a session and then get browsing!

## SHOUT ABOUT IT

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

## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR DATA

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

# FIORELLI

THE CHRISTMAS SHOP

For Gifts That  
Are Keepers

*20% Off Full Price Styles*

Use code: **VERA20**

\*Not valid on sale styles and cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount.

FIORELLI.COM



IFURU ISLAND  
MALDIVES



*Every moment we choose magic...  
Use code "VERA MAGIC" for a surprise discount!*