

FINANCIAL TIMES

# HOW TO SPEND IT

4 DECEMBER  
2021



# INSTANT CHIC

ANJA RUBIK *in the* 9 LOOKS  
*that will* TRANSFORM  
*your* WINTER WARDROBE

PLUS \_\_\_\_\_ THELMA GOLDEN – SILVIA VENTURINI FENDI – AKRAM KHAN – SHEIKHA AL MAYASSA AL THANI – TAKASHI MURAKAMI



TRAVEL NEWS

## Diary destinations for 2022

Make a date with Florence, Anguilla, Mexico City or the Galápagos

WORDS BY MARIA SHOLLENBARGER

As locations go, Via Tornabuoni is as mint as it gets in Florence. Pedestrianised years ago, it puts you within about five minutes' walking distance of everything, from the Marino Marini and Palazzo Strozzi museums to Procacci (mid-afternoon *brioche al tartufo*, check) to the ravishingly pretty Ginori 1735 boutique – not to mention every other major luxury brand. Now it has its own buzzy hotel: Il Tornabuoni, whose 62 rooms and suites fill the 12th- to 13th-century Palazzo Minerbetti, sitting prettily just across the street from the Palazzo Spini Feroni, aka Ferragamo HQ. The design is full Renaissance maximalist (truly, full; the colour-averse should think twice): jewel tones – stripes, solids, chevrons – cover walls and ceilings, velvet and passementerie are everywhere, and exotic equatorial prints hang throughout. But there's a certain joy to the whole. And Procacci brioches (it bears saying twice). [iltornabuonihotel.it](http://iltornabuonihotel.it); from €400

### FIND YOUR ANGUILLA

Anguilla may not be as picture-perfect as nearby St Barths, or as easy to access as Antigua, but its beaches, water and corals stack up against anywhere on Earth. This month, the old Resorts & Residences by CuisinArt (an unlovely name, but long one of the finest sites on the island, at Rendezvous Bay) reopens after a complete reimagination by its new owners as Aurora Anguilla. The upgrade is thick with wow factor, starting with the resort's private air charter service, offered from key markets in the continental

US (this means you, NY/Boston/DC/Miami; commercial flights, meanwhile, land in St Martin, a 30-minute ferry ride away). Then there is the Aurora International Golf Club, which sees the championship course – the island's only one – redesigned by Greg Norman, who is installing a new nine-hole short course on premises as well. Finally, the food: all of it is overseen by Abram Bissell, who led the kitchens at The Modern and

### AURORA ANGUILLA'S UPGRADE IS THICK WITH WOW FACTOR

Eleven Madison Park in New York (which makes him a five-star Michelin man), and who has created a hydroponic farm and orchard on resort grounds to furnish his five restaurants here. The decor is fresh and modern – white, wood, rattan, scads of daylight. And that beach? Thankfully, it's entirely unchanged. [auroraanguilla.com](http://auroraanguilla.com), from \$999

### MADE IN MEXICO

Feeling rather like a chic friend's home – the aspiration of so many hotels with variations on that description – Casa Polanco soft-opens this month in Mexico City, in an early-20th-century neocolonial mansion previously home to a string of prominent Mexican families. Architect Claudio Gantuz has designed a contemporary response adjacent to it, connected by an elegant wood and glass corridor, bringing the guest rooms to a total of 19. All of them face greenery: some the property's interior garden, others the Parque Lincoln. The four-year restoration maintained enough original architectural design to keep things feeling Old Mexico – tiles; antiques and maps; some seriously ornate plaster and stonework – while the low-slung Italian art and furnishings are all 21st-century CDMX. From \$380

### YOUR OWN PRIVATE GALAPAGOS

There will be a compelling new reason to move the Galápagos to the top of the

2022 wishlist next spring with the launch of Aqua Mare, a 50m, seven-cabin private yacht from Aqua Expeditions, the outfit that cruises the Peruvian Amazon, the Mekong and Indonesia's "coral triangle." It might be a new destination for them, but this archipelago is familiar territory to the company's founder, Francesco Galli Zugaro, who used to work for a private expeditions company in the Galápagos. That expertise combines with a product offering on the Italian-built ship that is hard to beat: state-of-the-art stabilisation technology, a top speed of 17 knots and a cruising range of 4,800 nautical miles, which outperforms any other yacht in the region. Four decks, huge suites, indoor-outdoor lounges and menus created by Peruvian super-chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino will bring the cossetting; the military-grade tenders, exceptional access; and Aqua's two onboard naturalists will be there to put land, sea, history and wildlife all into context. ■HTSI [aquapexpeditions.com](http://aquapexpeditions.com), from \$9,450 pp for a seven-night cruise

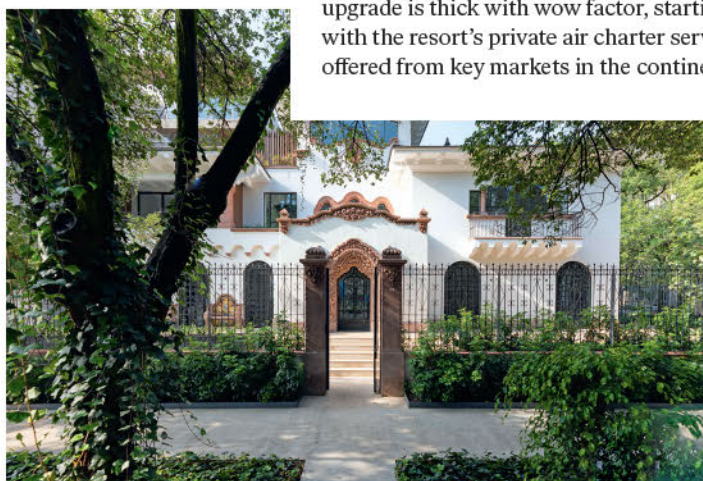
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Above: the view across the rooftops from Il Tornabuoni. Below: snorkelling in the Galápagos Islands

Above: restored frescoes in the Beatrice suite at Il Tornabuoni in Florence. Bottom: Casa Polanco in Mexico City



AURORA ANGUILLA



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