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IVERLOCHY CASTLE

Scotland, \$600+

■ **WHY IT'S AWE-INSPIRING:**

"There's no door." I'm in the great hall of this imposing retreat in the Scottish Highlands, trying to figure out how to get into the library for dinner. The hostess feels around near an oil painting. *Click.* The wall opens to the glow of a roaring fire and a table set with whisky and venison. The



castle that Queen Elizabeth called "the most romantic spot in the world" is still full of secrets. ■ **HOW I LANDED HERE:** It's a pretty three-hour drive from Edinburgh. *iverlochycastlehotel.com* — *Jad Davenport*

the voice of an older woman, explaining how she makes the local paratha bread in the herb gardens of the exquisitely remote Shanti Maurice. She flattens the unleavened dough with a coriander fairy dust, and my synapses backflip. Her voice is from a happier life, a crackling accent, muffled in waves and salt wind. I open my eyes and I'm fully conscious on the resort property, making bread in grandma's kitchen.

■ **HOW I LANDED HERE:** The bread served on the 27-hour plane ride from Los Angeles was the worst. Along the coastal road to the resort, I stop for a sandwich that costs \$35. This is when I decide to make my own bread. *shantimaurice.com* — *Nathan Myers*



ROSEWOOD LITTLE DIX BAY

BVI, \$650+

■ **WHY IT'S AWE-INSPIRING:**

Ms. Venita, a longtime server, gives me a hug. We've just met and, somehow, the hug feels genuine. I'm told it's because the resort's guests are so loyal — some have visited through three generations — that the staff is regarded as extended family, and the feelings are mutual. Here, it's impossible not to feel a part of it. ■ **HOW I LANDED HERE:** A 45-minute flight from San Juan to Tortola, then a two-minute van ride to a dock. There, the resort's catamaran sailed me across the Sir Francis Drake Channel. *rosewoodhotels.com* — *Zach Stovall*

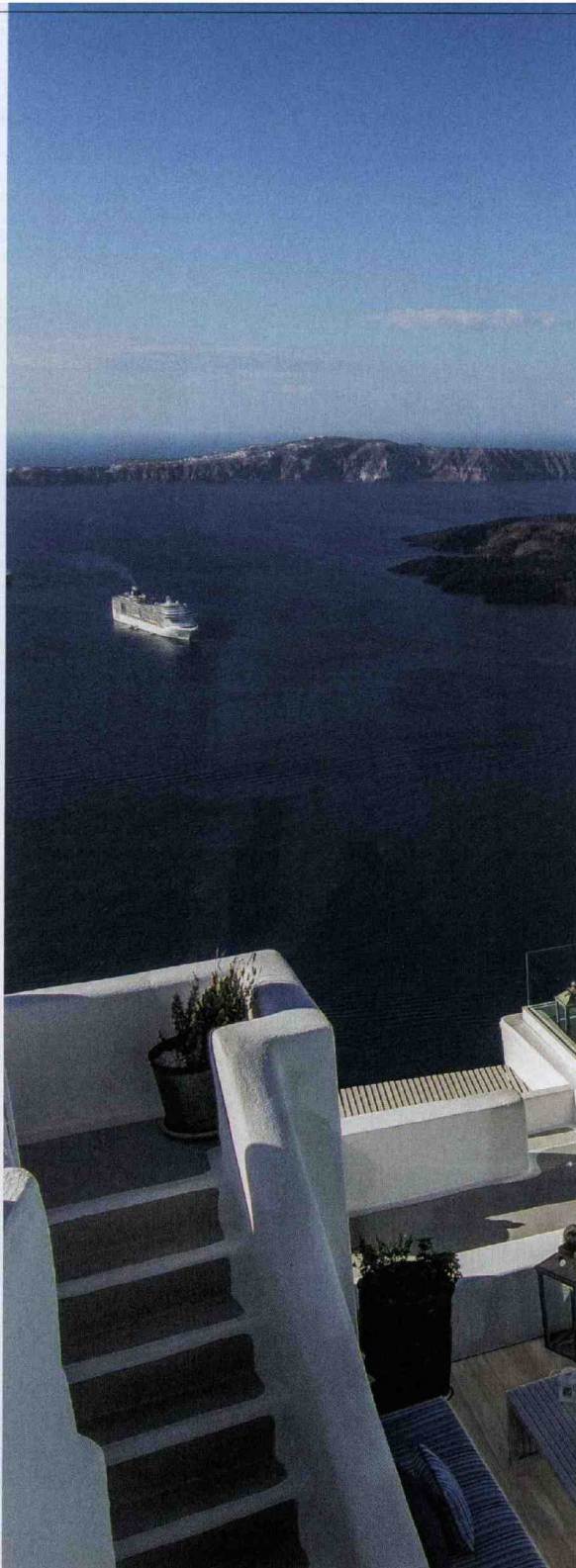
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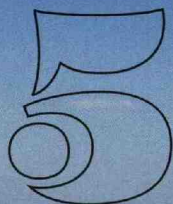
SHANTI MAURICE

Mauritius, \$500+

■ **WHY IT'S AWE-INSPIRING:**

I close my eyes, inhale and I'm gone. Scents of spiced rum, ginger and tamarind. Salt air and fresh dough. I'm definitely not sitting at an open window in my office. The air here is ripe with living scent — and





ICONIC SANTORINI Greece, \$617+

■ **WHY IT'S AWE-INSPIRING:** Breakfast is sitting on the private terrace outside my cave: strong Greek coffee, freshly baked croissants and the chef's jam made from the roses in his garden. Wait, cave? Yes, it's a cave. Views of distant islands and neighboring cliffs are reminders that the hotel wasn't just built, it was sculpted into the side of a caldera wall. I draw my gauzy robe around me and pad over the cool tile to a seat above the rooftops and the Aegean Sea. My eyes are wide open, and not just because of the coffee. ■ **HOW I LANDED HERE:** The 45-minute flights from Athens run about every two hours. Late-afternoon flights can be delayed — go earlier. Taxis are scarce, so arrange a transfer through Iconic Santorini. (Note: The resort closes from November to late April.) iconicsantorini.com — Michelle M. Winner

