

# Your Own Private...

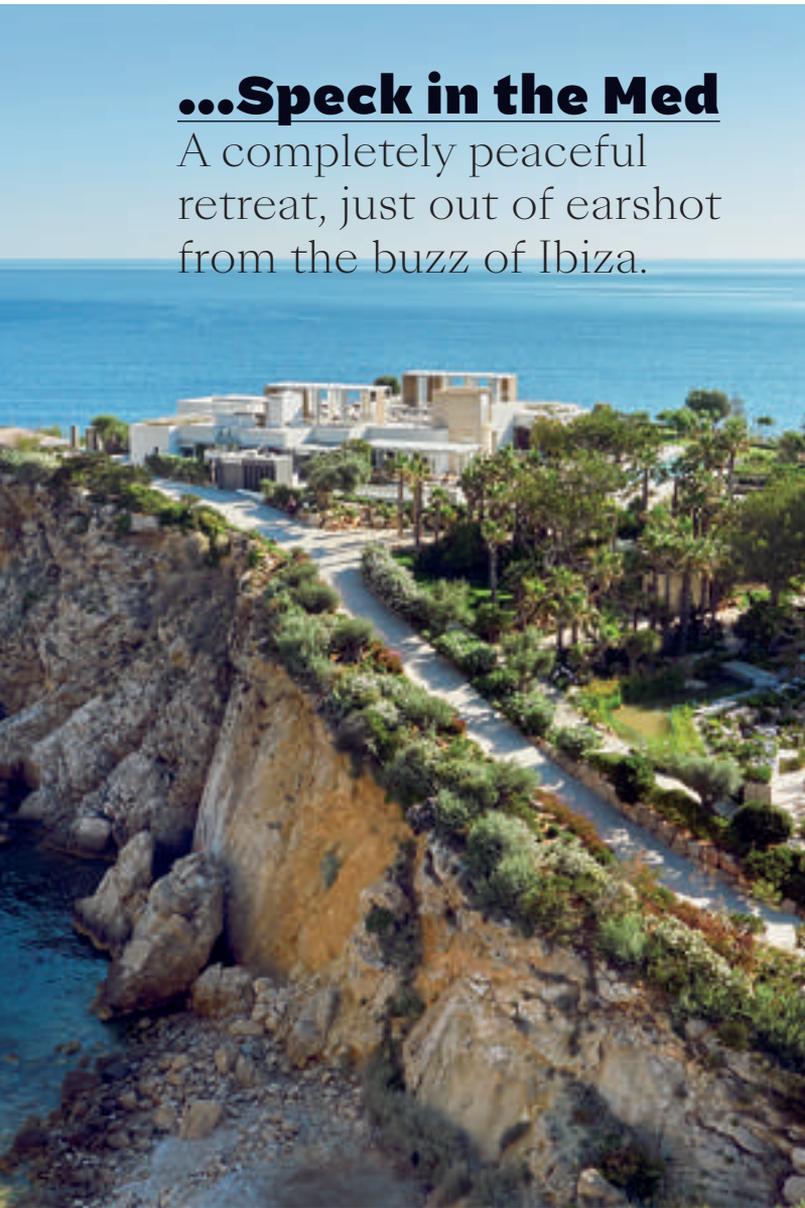
These days, getting away from it all becomes less and less easy. But there are still some extraordinary places to claim all for yourself. Here, 12 ways for you to be in your own little world.



The roof deck of the six-room hacienda at Isla Sa Ferradura, a private island off the northern coast of Ibiza, Spain.

## ...Speck in the Med

A completely peaceful retreat, just out of earshot from the buzz of Ibiza.



*Clockwise from left: Isla Sa Ferradura can be reached from the mainland by a narrow stretch of beach; the interiors mix natural textiles with local furnishings; the roof deck comes with two bars and shaded pergolas.*

**T**HOSE WHO frequent Ibiza will likely have heard of Tagomago, the 148-acre private island estate Cristiano Ronaldo once took over that now goes for a cool \$246,000 a week. But its mod interiors and neon lighting make it more an

extension of the epic party scene than a true escape. Now, with the debut of Isla Sa Ferradura, travelers can retreat to something a little more restrained, far from the foam-party crowds. A 35-minute drive from the airport through a bird sanctuary and along a narrow stretch of beach brings you to this nine-acre island off the northern coast. The hacienda's interiors, by Ibiza-based Roberta Jurado, are positively stylish—each of the six airy, marble-clad rooms opens up to the outside and reflects the destination with

light-wood furniture, Ibizan crafts, and limestone surfaces—but the real draw is the rest of the island. Its amenities include a lagoon pool, spa with Turkish bath, teahouse perched atop a hill, and boathouse fully equipped for water sports. A staff of 20 attends to your wants before you think of them: They might arrange a treasure hunt in the gardens for the kids, say, or have a feast waiting for you on the roof deck at 4 a.m. after a night out. **\$** *From \$271,000 per week for up to 12 people; [islaferadura.com](http://islaferadura.com).—Erin Riley*



From top: Built for music mogul Chris Blackwell, the Pantrepant retreat sits on a working farm in Jamaica; Cowdray House, in West Sussex, England, offers activities like fly-fishing and polo.

## ...Dream Home Away from Home

Heaven for a posse of Anglophiles just might be **Cowdray House** (from \$32,200 per night; [cowdray.co.uk](http://cowdray.co.uk)), the 19th-century English manor owned by the fourth Viscount Cowdray. The West Sussex mansion has 22 bedrooms and overlooks 16,500 acres of forests, polo fields, and an 18-hole golf course. Mustique, the Caribbean island playground made famous by Princess Margaret, is full of posh properties, including **Mandalay** (from \$90,000 per week; [mustique-island.com](http://mustique-island.com)), a Japanese-Scandinavian-Balinese confection built for David Bowie. The house, which can sleep 14, is cared for by a staff of eight—and, yes, you get to hang out in Bowie’s recording studio. In Jamaica, **Pantrepant** (from \$2,200 per night; [pantrepant.com](http://pantrepant.com)), in the hills of Trelawny Parish, is music mogul Chris Blackwell’s personal estate. But guests of Blackwell’s Island Outpost hotels can book the serene two-bedroom cottage, which is surrounded by an 800-acre working farm with its own swimming hole and horseback riding trails. Just as soothing are the shadows cast at the **House of Light** (from \$62 per person; [hikarinoiyakata.com](http://hikarinoiyakata.com)) by James Turrell, who was commissioned to build this “meditation house” of magnificent simplicity in Japan’s Niigata Prefecture. In each room, the play of light draws the occupants’ awareness to the sky and trees outside. Turrell intended the space to be shared by three families, but ask to book the entire house. As the price suggests, it isn’t fancy, but you can’t put a price on sleeping in an artist’s masterpiece. —*Michael Joseph Gross*

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## ...Yacht for a South American Adventure

The playground of giant tortoises, marine iguanas, and blue-footed boobies, the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands are ideal for a family trip. And while you and your multigenerational crew could sign up for a cruise, you could also book your own ship. The **M/Y Grace** (from \$127,000 per week; [quasarex.com](http://quasarex.com)), a yacht Aristotle Onassis gave to Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III as a wedding gift, is now owned by Quasar Expeditions and available for chartered Galápagos sailings. Completely redecorated, with *seike* wood interiors and a new Grace Kelly Suite, the ship sleeps up to 18 and is regularly used by CEOs and modern-day royals. If you’re feeling more adventurous, Cazenove+Lloyd offers charters along the Amazon River in Brazil. After spending the first night in the city of Manaus and the second in the Amazon jungle—where you’ll build your own fire and spearfish under the guidance of an ex-army officer—your group will board the luxurious 120-foot yacht **Zenith** (from \$110,000 for a five-night trip for five people; [cazloyd.com](http://cazloyd.com)). Over the next four days, you’ll cruise the Río Negro, the largest black-water river in the world, stopping to swim with pink dolphins, ride paddleboards among mangroves, and even fish for piranhas. —*Jacqueline Gifford*



The M/Y Grace, once owned by Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III, is now available for private charter.



Bartolomé Island, in the Galápagos, is one stop on the President's Journey Around the World expedition with TCS World Travel.

## **...757 Jet to Fly Around the World**

No lines, no delays, no lost luggage. This charter company makes an epic journey effortless. *by Tom Vanderbilt*

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**MOST OF US VIEW** air travel as a necessary hardship endured as a means to getting to fabulous places. But on a recent private jet journey with TCS World Travel, I quickly began to wonder whether I was simply enduring my time in fabulous

places so I could get back on the plane. I got my first sense of what an extraordinary trip I was about to embark upon when I arrived at Rwanda's Kigali International Airport. It was stone quiet—you could actually hear crickets. The reason? The airport was closed for runway maintenance, with all flights postponed. Well, not all flights. Suddenly there was the rush of Rolls-Royce engines, as the 757 operated by TCS came gliding into view, looking like a luxury stealth bomber in the midday African heat.

A private jet tour company in business for nearly three decades, TCS operates two planes and does 22 trips annually. I boarded the President's Journey Around the World midstream, joining about 50 others, many of them repeat guests, who were spending three weeks traversing the globe, with pit stops in places like Kyoto intermixed with longer sojourns—gorilla trekking in Rwanda, a four-day Galápagos cruise. My fellow passengers owned companies, vineyards, and even championship



## If you flew for nine hours on a TCS World Travel plane, it felt like six.

TCS World Travel operates two Boeing 757s for its globe-trotting itineraries.

Thoroughbreds, and they also had both the money and time to do things right. “Getting people to embark on multi-week group travel can be a challenge,” Shelley Cline, president of TCS, told me in the skies over Central America. “They’re unsure they’re going to like it. But once they come on board, they love how much they can see in a short period of time.”

Indeed, the beauty of traveling with TCS is the company’s ability to make travel feel effortless. Every time we landed in a chaotic airport (Casablanca’s Mohammed V International comes to mind) with snaking customs lines, we suddenly found ourselves being ushered by men in suits toward an agent who was miraculously free. The right forms had always been filled out in advance, the proper transport (helicopter, Zodiac) was always waiting.

We enjoyed this ultra-VIP service on our excursions as well. There was a private breakfast in Rio de Janeiro, at the base of the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue (a level of access normally reserved for world leaders like President Obama). Our evening on the verdant terrace at Heaven, a stylish new hotel in Kigali, Rwanda, started with a blazing performance by

singers Charly and Nina, one of the country’s hottest acts.

Choreographing this bureaucratic ballet was Richard Butler, a tall, unflappable Brit. He always seemed to be in motion—bounding up stairs, down gangplanks—and at the ready to attend to guests. Meanwhile, Jany Baccallao, a dashing Cuban American and former actor, had the Herculean task of ensuring that the group’s luggage made it around the world. He’s never lost a bag.

But the aircraft itself was the star of the show, with its cool white leather and handsome wood accents, warm lighting, and footrests that doubled as ottomans for seat-hopping passengers (only a quarter of the 200-person plane was occupied). It felt like we were in a chic hotel bar. Butler explained the “two-thirds rule” to me: If you flew for nine hours on one of their planes, it felt like six.

Because time flies when you are being indulged, I watched films (*Gorillas in the Mist*) with QC30 Bose headphones and wrapped myself in an Avoca woolen throw when I wanted to sack out for a few hours. Every time we reboarded the plane, the crew would be lined up, offering hot towels and cool drinks.

And then there was the food that made most first-class fare seem

institutional by comparison. Dishes such as chicken with lemon tartare relish and baby potatoes were de rigueur. As we left Morocco, we were served pan-fried perch with minted eggplant, white couscous, and green lentils. Somewhere between Casablanca and Rio, I did something I’d never done before: I asked for seconds of an airline meal.

But even the best travel tacticians have to wrestle with the occasional hiccup. Naturally, TCS comes with a doctor on board. Ours was a professor of emergency medicine at Harvard (as well as an attending physician at Massachusetts General Hospital), who took care of a passenger’s broken collarbone in Vietnam and put another suffering from severe dehydration on an airborne IV drip. And somewhere over the Atlas Mountains, Butler came on the PA system to announce that our itinerary to the Galápagos had to change. TCS had been given permission to fly directly to Baltra, Ecuador, bypassing the customary transfer at Guayaquil, but a sudden shift in policy by the Ecuadorean government had scuttled that plan.

“That’s why we call it an ‘expedition,’” Cline said with a resigned smile. Despite some major attempts at string pulling—with former diplomat Mark Johnson, a lecturer on the trip, making a call to the U.S. ambassador to Ecuador—we all had to decamp for a short economy-class flight. Undeterred, TCS managed to keep our group together and rustle up business-class catering. “All good fun,” Butler said as he scanned his spreadsheets, munched on a chicken sandwich, and planned our next out-of-this-world adventure. *From \$51,950, all-inclusive; tcsworldtravel.com.*

A Ferrari 488 Spider, operated by 100 All'ora, makes its way through Rome's Piazza della Repubblica.



## ...Italian Sports Car to Vroom Around the Countryside

Touring Italy by car can be one of Europe's great pleasures, but do you really want to drive the Via Chiantigiana in a Chevy Spark from Hertz Italia? Instead, you could be cruising in a Ferrari GTC4Lusso thanks to 100 All'ora, a two-year-old company that offers custom driving tours aboard super cars and vintage roadsters. The Rome-based outfitter lets you choose from Ferraris, Lamborghinis, and Maseratis as well as less testosterone-fueled classics like the Fiat 500. "We want people to experience Italy's roads the way they were meant to be experienced—in a great car, preferably one made by an Italian company," says cofounder Andrea Benedetti.

This does not mean hot-rodding the Grande Strada delle Dolomiti like Mario Andretti. The name 100 All'ora ("100 an hour") refers to kilometers, not miles, which equates to 60 miles per hour—the ideal speed, according to Benedetti, for road-tripping through Tuscany, the Lake District, or whichever part of the country you prefer. 100 All'ora will transport your luggage separately, provide on-the-go maintenance, and organize visits to castles and wineries. *From \$41,500 for a seven-day Tuscan road trip in a new-model Ferrari or Lamborghini, including accommodations, private transfers, and tours; 100allora.com.* —Ben Ryder Howe

## ...Powder-Perfect Mountaintop

Picture yourself and your ski companions gliding up Switzerland's Surlej-Murtèl aerial cableway as day turns to night. Above: the peak of the towering Piz Corvatsch; below: the snow-swathed Upper Engadine valley. For three glorious hours in the evening, the 2.6-mile-long illuminated Snow Night Slope run is yours alone, freshly groomed just

minutes before you board the cable car. You can make your way down at your own pace, then indulge in hors d'oeuvres and champagne on your next trip up. Or you can sit for cheese fondue beneath the marquee of the Hossa Bar, the legendary après-ski spot, all yours for the night. But why stop to eat? You'll be mesmerized by the slope's "tunnel effect"—the mind-bending thrill of skiing through a tube of light created by the lampposts reflecting off the

pure-white powder. Go up, go down, go up again until your thighs burn and your lungs beg for more oxygen, then retreat with your entourage to the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz, where you can recuperate over standout ceviche at the Sunny Bar or burgers and a bottle of Krug in your lake-view luxury suite. *From \$5,200 for three hours, \$1,575 for each additional hour until midnight; available early December through early April; corvatsch.ch. — Heidi Mitchell*



The restaurant Chesa al Parc, at the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz.

## ...Cultural Attaché in Paris

**FOR THOSE WHO THINK THEY'VE SEEN IT ALL IN PARIS**, Expert Journeys, the brainchild of Franco-American Philippe Hertzberg, an alum of the *New York Times*, will open doors in unexpected ways. Hertzberg taps his network of top-tier journalists and authors to take clients on private, behind-the-scenes tours of well- and little-known gems. Itineraries include a visit to Maison Legeron, the fourth-generation creator of flowers and feathered finery for couture fashion houses; an in-depth tour of Versailles with Alan Riding, the former Paris bureau chief for the *Times*; and a stroll through the city's Belle Epoque history with journalist and photographer Thierry Secretan. Appointments can be organized through concierges at luxury hotels like the Hôtel de Crillon and Hôtel Ritz Paris; personal requests accepted. *From \$4,900 for two guests; info@expert-journeys.com. — Tina Isaac-Goizé*



Expert Journeys offers behind-the-scenes tours of Paris, including a visit to Maison Legeron, which makes floral brooches.

The Paris Grand Suite on Belmond's Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. Below: The train crossing the Brenner Pass in Austria.



## ...Luxury Suite on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, Marble Bathroom Included

**IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE** that less than 100 years ago riding the rails was the height of luxury travel, as passengers moved across the Continent in Art Deco-styled cars and butlers served multicourse dinners on white tablecloths. Today you can get a taste of that old-school glamour aboard Belmond's Venice Simplon-Orient-Express—a set of

17 antique carriages, all faithfully restored and equipped with Lalique glass panels, crystal goblets, and hooks for pocket watches. The only problem with being so painstakingly authentic: none of the sleeping cabins, beautiful as they are, had private bathrooms (guests had to use facilities down the hall). Or showers, for that matter. Until now. This spring, three Grand Suites—named and themed Paris, Istanbul, and Venice, after cities the luxury train visits—will debut, featuring lavish details like hand-beaded embroidery and inlaid wood paneling, as well as en suite bathrooms—

yes, with showers. Because sometimes even those of us who love to wax nostalgic appreciate modern conveniences. *From \$7,275 per person for a one-night journey; belmond.com. —J.G.*

