

elite traveler

THE PRIVATE JET LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018



Top 50 Watches

THE HOROLOGICAL
MASTERPIECES THAT ARE
MAKING THEIR MARK IN 2018

EXPLORE



Photo: Compass Helicopter Tours

Scott Dunn's Seriously Special Collection

This new collection from Scott Dunn includes a plethora of bucket-list-worthy trips and experiences, including kayaking through melted glaciers and exploring ice caves *Page 128*

Top Suites These Parisian delights give a new meaning to the word *luxury* with impeccable service and sophisticated, elegant design. **Destination Guides** Get to know the cultural meccas of Vienna, Basel, Mexico City and Montreal. **Hot List** A Venetian food extravaganza, stargazing from the Indian Ocean and how to organize one-of-a-kind experiences in a hurry. **Flight of Fancy: a Celestial Excursion** A hotel experience that is out of this world.

EXPLORE
THE HOT LIST

The HOT List

THIS ISSUE'S HOT LIST IS ALL ABOUT KEEPING YOUR COOL: GLACIER ADVENTURES, IMPULSE TRIPS WITHOUT THE PANIC AND WHIPPING UP A STORM IN THE KITCHEN WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT

Seriously special

by **Samantha Coles**

"It looks like Gatorade, right?" remarks Nick Drader, pilot and guide of Compass Heli Tours as we soar through snowcapped mountains by helicopter. He's referring to the melted glaciers that form bright teal lakes and streams during the summer, and the spot of our morning kayak. We take off from Abbotsford in British Columbia and after a 45-minute ride over the provincial parks, where scenes are so startlingly sublime I find myself shaking my head in disbelief, Drader lands the helicopter next to a picnic bench (more head shaking as it seems implausible to have a picnic bench in such a remote place; Drader flew the bench out previously).

The untouched, undulating landscape is so peaceful, the blanketed silence is interrupted only by the creaking and cracking of the melting glaciers — and probably shrieks of delight as we glide through the impossibly blue melt water.

Drader knows the area exceptionally well and takes us on a gentle hike up to a secluded spot with the most astounding (and extremely Instagrammable) views of where the snow melts away to reveal lush, verdant forests, huge mountain ranges and lakes.

This incredible tour is just one part of Scott Dunn's new Seriously Special collection, a plethora of bucket-list-worthy trips and experiences. This trip combines the raw beauty of British Columbia and the cosmopolitan delights of Vancouver for an unforgettable experience. We begin in uber-trendy Vancouver where we e-bike around the picturesque city, visit Grouse Mountain (including a trip to the top of a 215-ft-high wind turbine, Eye of The Wind, for a glass of crisp Canadian wine) and fly via seaplane for dinner and Caesar cocktails on the charming Bowen Island.

Take a shot on top of a glacier in British Columbia



**EXPLORE
THE HOT LIST**

Heavens above

by Emelia Hamilton-Russell

Never let it be said that there is nothing to do in the Maldives. While you're vacationing on a remote, one-square-mile desert island, you're also suspended between two of the most fascinating natural elements: the sea and the sky.

Designed by Maldivian architects Group X Design Associates and situated on the western Baa Atoll Archipelago in a Unesco Biosphere Reserve, Anantara Kihavah is set amongst some of the world's most awe-inspiring and untainted natural surroundings. It's through the eight-seater plane windows that you get a birds-eye view of the almond-shaped pontoon, which houses the 30 or so oversea villas. From this vantage, the villas are no more than dark squares against the turquoise sea, but soon the resort comes into view.

The eye is immediately drawn to the Sky Bar, a new circular lounge perched over the lagoon. Illuminated by flame torches at night, the structure looks like a spaceship that's accidentally, yet elegantly, touched down on the Indian Ocean. Its interior is contemporary yet warm, with raw timber and soft lighting throughout — the ideal place to take in spectacular ocean sunsets or gaze at the stars.

It's here where the Anantara Kihavah distinguishes itself from the rest of the Maldivian island resorts. Its in-house astronomer — who doubles as a wedding priest — was recruited in early 2017, lured by the promise of a specially designed observatory and state-of-the-art telescope. The promise was fulfilled, and last October the first and only overwater observatory in the Maldives, a custom-built ash-dome that sits on the roof deck of the Sky Bar, was opened. It houses a research-grade Meade LX200 telescope mounted on a field tripod, remote controlled with 360-degree movement and a swiveling roof that makes you feel like you're entering *Doctor Who's* Tardis. "The goal is to bridge the gap between normal people and astronomers," they tell us. "We are so close to the equator, so it's an ideal place to see both hemispheres." And it is. The first star we see is Atrus, over 32 light-years away. Then, we swivel the telescope round to look at the second brightest star in the sky, which, it turns out, isn't actually a star, but the planet Venus.

Sipping champagne in a spaceship structure that rises on stilts from the lapping ocean, looking through a telescope at far-away planets, it's easy to believe that you are as removed from reality as it is possible to get without actually leaving the Earth's atmosphere.

Four-bedroom Beach Pool Residence from \$7,260 per night. Contact Giles Selves, general manager, gselves@anantara.com, +960 664 4111, anantara.com



Anantara Kihavah's new Sky Bar houses the first and only overwater observatory in the Maldives

