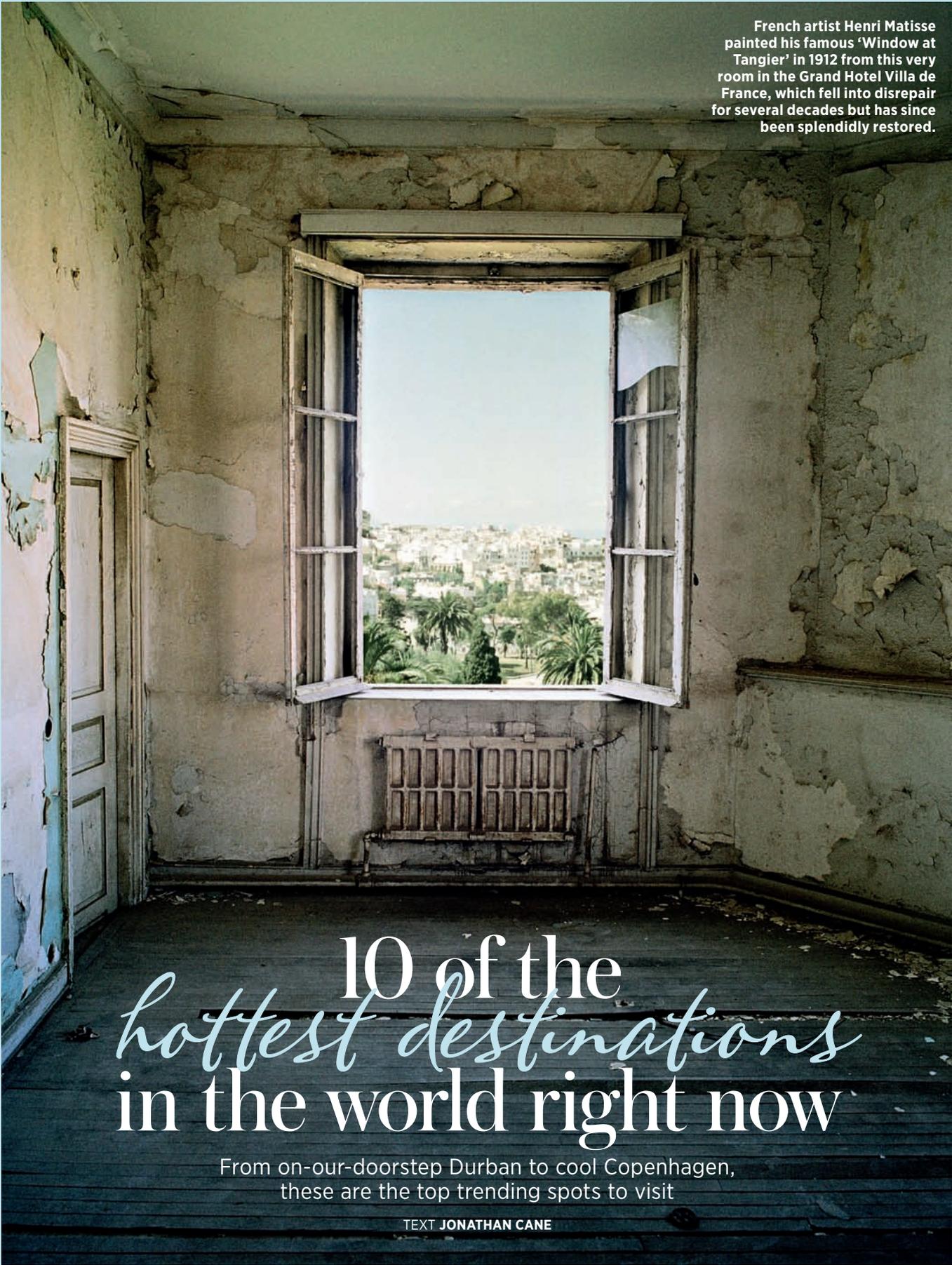


French artist Henri Matisse painted his famous 'Window at Tangier' in 1912 from this very room in the Grand Hotel Villa de France, which fell into disrepair for several decades but has since been splendidly restored.

A photograph of a room with peeling walls and a large window overlooking a cityscape. The room is in a state of disrepair, with the walls showing significant peeling and cracking. The window is open, revealing a view of a city with palm trees and buildings. The floor is dark and appears to be made of wood or stone. The overall atmosphere is one of historical significance and artistic inspiration.

10 of the *hottest destinations* in the world right now

From on-our-doorstep Durban to cool Copenhagen, these are the top trending spots to visit

TEXT JONATHAN CANE

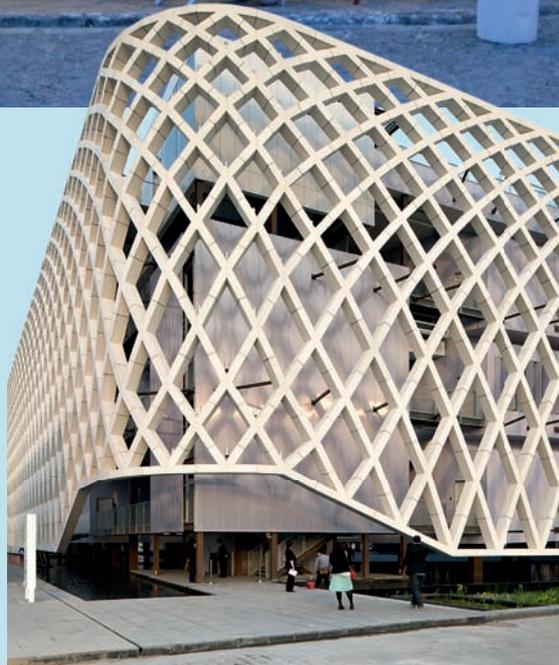
COMEDIES MUSICALES
EGYPTIENNES
ROCK THE CASBAH

The Cinémathèque de Tanger in Tangier promotes film culture and world cinema in Morocco.



1. TANGIER, KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

Truman Capote wrote in 1950 that if you were someone escaping the police, or merely someone escaping, then you should go to Tangier. Hemmed in by the hills and confronted by the sea, as Capote put it, Tangier, on the edge of Africa, once hosted celebrities such as Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Gore Vidal, Errol Flynn, Matisse, Degas, Yves Saint Laurent, Tennessee Williams and any number of heiresses, princesses, eccentrics, and weirdos. Once infamous for its seedy and sexy social life, contemporary Tangier, a touch more tame, still carries the patina of its dirty past like expensive perfume on the bedsheets the next morning. Recapture some of that glamour at the elegant El Minzah Hotel, opened in 1930 and owned by the fourth marquis of Bute, or the 19th-century ostensibly unrenovated Continental Hotel, or the cliff-hanging Hotel Nord Pinus. Read William S Burroughs' *Naked Lunch* or Paul Bowles' *The Sheltering Sky*, both written about Tangier, as you drink peppermint tea in the street cafés. Watch men walk arm in arm, visit an ornately decorated and steamy hammam, or catch a film at the recently renovated Cinémathèque de Tanger.



2. SHANGHAI, CHINA

Artnews claims that China is building around 100 museums a year. That's a lot of museums, a lot of art, a lot of curators. Shanghai is at the forefront of this cultural revolution, ambitiously positioning itself as China's global artistic centre. Three new contemporary art spaces are worth seeing: the audacious Yuz Museum, a 9 000m² converted aeroplane hangar, has been favourably received during its first year, showing work of impressive scale. M21 (21st Century Minsheng Art Museum) is a reinvention of the French Pavilion of the 2010 World Expo, enveloped in a dramatic netted facade. The Long Museum has wowed critics with its architectural boldness: concrete 'vaulted umbrellas' articulate a building that is at once ancient, industrial and whimsical. ▷



British artist Tracey Emin's plea to Shanghai 'You Should Have Loved Me' is in the lobby of The Waterhouse hotel there. ABOVE The netted facade of M21.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Freedom Cafe; Craft Trattoria; the Golden Mile; The Morning Trade market.



3. DURBAN

Durban's getting more than a fresh coat of paint, it's getting a double take. Right near the top of the *New York Times* 52 Places to Go list for 2015, our 'third city' is the latest South African metropolis to capture global attention; sometimes it takes outsiders to give us fresh perspective on a city we thought we knew, to see it anew. BESETurban is a bunch of passionate, architecture-loving guides who've curated walking tours designed to bring our attention to the underappreciated historic aspects of the urban environment such as the Point, Victoria Embankment, Florida Road and Essenwood. The old-school glamour of Umhlanga's The Oyster Box hotel has been of late the place to lounge by the Indian Ocean. It was the rejuvenation of the Golden Mile promenade — intelligently reimagined to connect the beaches, encourage public use, promote healthy lifestyles and re-establish the dune ecosystem — that first drew our attention. Lately, it's Rivertown, one block behind the beachfront. The Rivertown Beerhall on Prince Alfred Street is buzzing, as is the 8 Morrison Street complex. Get your organic veggies and a flat white at The Morning Trade, the Sunday market, and check out the newly opened Rivertown Canal.

4. COSTA RICA

Leading the way in eco luxury, this Central American country offers travellers the kind of sophistication available nowhere else in the forests and beaches of the tropics. Learn to surf — in the Caribbean or the Pacific — zip-line through the cloud forests, search out secluded waterfalls, feed sloths hibiscus flowers, ride horses on the beach, river-raft through the jungle, mountain bike, hike, swim on a private beach and then return to refined comfort. Lodges offering high-end environmentalism with impeccable style and tropical attitude dot the beaches and hide inside the jungle. Lounge by the freshwater pool of El Mangroove hotel, lose yourself in the forest at El Silencio Lodge & Spa, or live on the beach at ecofriendly Florblanca Resort.



The luxurious El Silencio Lodge & Spa is in the lush highlands of Costa Rica's central volcanic range.

5. COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Noma is number one this year again. Reservations for the Copenhagen restaurant open on the sixth of every month, booking 90 days ahead, and Noma receives 20 000 requests for tables each reservation day. René Redzepi, the 37-year-old Danish head chef, is world famous for cooking food that reflects local context, seasons and geography. You may not practically get a table but you can buy the book set *René Redzepi: A Work in Progress* and eat at the underrated but brilliant Nordic restaurants Geranium, Relae, Meyers Bageri and Radio. If you're still down about your lack of a Noma booking, you'll find Scandinavia's best shopping will cheer you up: for unique modern menswear visit Wardrobe 19, for curated interiors go to HAY (especially buy an All the Way to Paris quilt). Buy a not-available-anywhere-else hat from Susanne Juul, diaphanous Nordic pottery from Keramiker Inge Vincents, and return home with an iconic Vipp bin. If you're still feeling blue, then your bed at the utterly chic Bertrams Guldsmeden or Hotel Alexandra will lift your spirits.



Shop at HAY for a paper fan or bribe your way to a table at Noma, which holds top spot in *The World's 50 Best Restaurants Guide*.

6. ADELAIDE AND THE BAROSSA VALLEY, AUSTRALIA

It's hard to compete with both Sydney and Melbourne but Adelaide is doing just that. With its proximity to the scenic Barossa Valley vineyards and the city's food focus, this lesser-known destination is finally climbing up the international trend list. Explore the culinary scene with lunch at stylish La Moka Café or hip(star) Street ADL, a glass of wine (or two) at deco-inspired Maybe Mae on happening Peel Street or Cantina Sociale, and dinner at the refined and healthy Sean's Kitchen or sought-after Hill of Grace. Search out the latest location of Fork on the Road, the moving feast of food trucks, vans, pop-ups, carts and bikes, and grab coffee at Lucia's at Adelaide Central Market. Every Thursday after 5pm the West End precinct comes alive with Art After Dark — live music, happenings and performances, and exhibitions at Samstag Museum, the JamFactory and Art Gallery of South Australia. Blockbuster festivals, WOMADelaide, SALA, the Adelaide Festival and the Adelaide Film Festival draw culture mavens. Squeeze in a wine tour and sleep at the boutique art hotel The Watson. ▷



CLOCKWISE Sean's Kitchen; Adelaide shines by night; vineyards in the Barossa Valley.



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Ultra-hip The Surf Lodge in Montauk in the Hamptons is all about enjoying the sun and the sea, and the decor reflects this.

7. SAG HARBOR, NEW YORK

Just a jitney away, a jaunt to the Hamptons is the perfect vacation from a New York vacation. Less famous than South- and Bridge-, and East Hampton, the circa 1700s whaling village of Sag Harbor is by far the most charming of the Hampton hamlets. This tasteful little town sports grey, white and charcoal wooden-shingle homes with immaculate lawns that edge the beaches and deer who graze beside boathouses. The main road has excellent coffee made by surly local youths at Sagtown Coffee (including antlers and backgammon), and a hip modern 'general store', Sylvester & Co, where you can buy Turkish towels, blood-orange soap, olive wellies, sea-salt candles and other understated accoutrements. Nonchalance is the name of the game in this village. The cultivated casualness is exemplified in The Dock House, the tiny wooden shack on the pier where you can nosh on clam chowder and soft-shell crabs in insouciant cardboard boxes. Borrow a bicycle, brunch in Amagansett, explore Sagaponack, and sleep a night at ultra-hip The Surf Lodge in Montauk.



On the terrace at Memmo Alfama in Lisbon. ABOVE Bright and airy Mercado da Ribeira.



8. PORTUGAL

Portugal's economic bank balance may be in the red but its cultural capital is going through the roof. From the terrace of Memmo Alfama watch the sun set over old Lisbon, once the seat of powerful royal and world explorers, now drawing world attention as a home to designers, architects and chefs. While in Lisbon visit the Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea do Chiado, built in the 13th-century São Francisco da Cidade monastery, eat real Portuguese food at the redesigned bright and airy Mercado da Ribeira and patronise award-winning contemporary Restaurante Belcanto. Escape the capital to Parque Pedras Salgadas where architect Luis Rebelo de Andrade has designed world-famous modular eco-cabins and tree houses for tree-hugging aesthetes. End off in Porto, the romantic little red-roofed city on the edge of the western world. Stay at Pensão Favorita and catch a symphony in the rhomboid Rem Koolhaas-designed Casa da Música Porto. Then, of course, drink a little drink called port from around these parts.

9. CAMINO DE SANTIAGO, SPAIN

In *Wheel of Time* filmmaker Werner Herzog captures the remarkable journey of Buddhist devotees who travel across the Himalayas to the Kalachakra initiations one prostration at a time for three years. The Camino de Santiago, an 800km walk across northwestern Spain to the shrine of the apostle St James, is not quite as gruelling, although it depends on how you do it. During the Dark Ages the journey was for ritual penance. Today pilgrims from every religion and region make the plus-minus 30-day walk (or bike ride) for God, for the wine, for exercise, for fun, for charity. What they all find, in the beautiful scenery, is that when you walk you always leave something behind.



10. DISTRITO FEDERAL, MEXICO CITY

If modern architecture in the north had a palette of white, grey and beige, Mexican modernism by contrast was a riot of pink, yellow, orange and blue, intense light hitting hard surfaces, concrete drama. The master of Mexican modernism was the engineer Luis Barragán, his home in Distrito Federal, now a museum, is a shrine for architecture pilgrims. The bold colours and silent spaces are also mirrored across other sites – the remarkable luminous convent Capilla de las Capuchinas and the dramatic horse farm Cuadra San Cristobál. No trip to DF (as the locals call it) would be complete without a visit to painter Frida Kahlo's brilliant blue home, to the marvellous mural facades of the Central Library of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and an afternoon at the National Museum of Anthropology, with its truly astounding collection of antiquities. Mexico City is one of the hip capitals of the world and this is true also of its hotels, especially the Habita Group. Stay in Condesa DF for a quiet but fashionable address or deep in the old city at Downtown (or Downtown Beds, the uber-chic budget hostel). ☐



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
The National Museum of Anthropology in Distrito Federal; Downtown Beds; Mezcal Marca Negra is crafted in Oaxaca; Luis Barragán's home Calle Ramírez is now a museum.

