

ultratravel

YOUR GUIDE TO HEAVEN ON EARTH

PATAGONIA!

New Luxury Lodges are
Putting Chile on the Map

*The Seychelles' Most
Expensive Villa*

MARIO BATALI'S

Perfect Day in Europe

**BRAZIL'S
HOT NEW
HIDEAWAY**

DORADO BEACH

GOLDEN AGE
GRANDEUR

U.S. EDITION



PRISAGROUP®

18



A view of Marina Bay and one of its highlights, the Marina Bay Sands Singapore.

CONTENTS

FALL 2012

28

A beachside bungalow in Todos Santos, Mexico

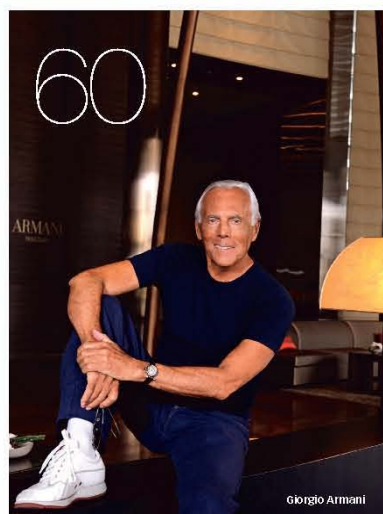


56



Opium villa, one of the Mustique company's properties for rent on the island.

60



Giorgio Armani

48

A view from the new Singular Patagonia, located in Puerto Bories near Puerto Natales.



DEPARTMENTS

- 14 Ultratravel Calendar** Fall's most travel-worthy festivals, events and hotel openings.
- 16 Ultratravel Fashion** This season's must-have travel companions, from scents to slippers.
- 18 City Scene** Singapore's new scene from hotels to restaurants to striking new architecture.
- 20 Ultra Intelligence** What's new and now this fall.
- 26 Hot Property** Botanique is Brazil's new natural wonder tucked into the foothills of Campos do Jordão.
- 28 Travel Diary** Julia Chaplin takes us under the radar with *Gypset Travel*.
- 30 Artistic Pursuits** Designer Kelly Wearstler is always on the go—and we caught up with her for travel inspiration.
- 32 Grand Dame** If you thought the views from Lake Como's Grand Hotel Tremezzo couldn't get any better, just wait till you see them from its new all-suite rooftop floor.
- 64 Q&A** Mario Batali opens up about packing light, lingering in hotels and which young chefs are on his radar.

FEATURES

- 34 Natural Splendor** Dorado Beach is given the Ritz-Carlton Reserve treatment and brought back to its original grandeur.
- 42 Riad Redux** When it comes to Marrakech's latest haute hotels, all that glitters...is gold.
- 48 Luxury to the Extreme** Chile has emerged as the new destination for high-end adventure travel.
- 56 Magical Mustique** This tiny island is a beacon for those looking to disconnect in the most luxurious fashion.
- 60 Expanding the Empire** From Europe to the Middle East, Giorgio Armani has taken his hotel concept global.

ultratrans 9



PRISAGROUP®

EDITOR'S LETTER

I recently read that we should already be planning (if not have planned) our summer 2013 travel. But, if you are like me, you're probably still catching your breath from last summer's travels and perhaps starting to think about the holidays. However, after learning a valuable lesson in travel planning (don't wait till August to plan Christmas in the Caribbean for a family of five!), I realized that planning ahead is indeed an important part of the process. Plus, it gives you lots of time to research and discover the many options available—and isn't that half the fun? With that in mind, we aim to ensure that *Ultratravel* is your partner in finding the best experience for you, whether it be a few weeks, months or even a year from now.

For our second issue of *Ultratravel*, we've collected a galvanizing mix of travel experiences including just-opened properties and under-the-radar destinations—these days it seems the more exotic and extreme the location, the better. In the “where to go now” category, Chile—particularly Patagonia—is definitely having a moment in the limelight. In the last few years this South American destination has seen a boom in new properties, offering unparalleled accommodations to those who prefer their adventure and luxury in equal doses. This is one trip definitely on my list—though my list is looking more like a journal these days.

Another property that has completely seduced me is the just-opened Botanique Hotel & Spa, the modern structure nestled in the green hills of Campos do Jordão, the tony area known as the “Hamptons of Brazil.” With the World Cup on the horizon, this novel property is sure to be a hot reservation to secure—in advance. Ritz-Carlton Reserve, a new concept from the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, which is catering to the growing demand for nuanced travel experiences, is slated to open its newest property, Dorado Beach, in Puerto Rico this December. *Ultratravel* was given an exclusive sneak peek, and, as you can see from our cover story, this is a must-visit property.

Whether you plan your trips months and months in advance—or book a journey just days ahead (as I tend to do)—we hope you find inspiration on our pages. And to make sure that inspiration is as targeted as possible, we have included a survey in this issue to better understand our readers' travel habits and preferences. As your feedback is invaluable to us, we hope you can find a few minutes to send in your responses.

Last but not least, we are thrilled to be going quarterly next year—all the better to help you fulfill your year-round travel dreams. Now all you need to do is start packing!

Sarah
Sarah Harrelson
Editor in Chief

ultratravel.

Publishers Mike Batt, Nick Perry

Editor in Chief Sarah G. Harrelson

Creative Director Carlos A. Suarez

Executive Editor Tali Jaffe

Fashion Editor Stella Lee

Editorial Assistant Noelle Lacombe

Contributing Editors Brian Antoni, Marcella Echavarría,
Victoria Pesce Elliott, Paul Rubio

Contributing Photographer Ken Kochey

Contributing Writers Hunter Braithwaite, Julia Chaplin, Ondine Cohane,
Mark Ellwood, Rebecca Kleinman, Alexandra Peers, Zoe Settle, Rima Suqi,
Henley Vazquez, Jane Woodlridge

Copy Editor Gregg Lasky, Mia Logan

Digital Imaging Specialist Matt Stevens

National Luxury Account Managers Valerie Graves (U.S.) valerie@ultratravelus.com,
Vanessa Gartell (International) vanessa.gartell@ultra.travel

Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand Account Manager
Kim Kenchington (kim@mediaworksasia.com) at Mediaworks Asia

Watches and Luxury Goods Account Manager Nick Edgley
(medgley@nemediaworld.com) at NE Mediaworld

Account Services Joe Brennan

Interns Margarita Boulton, Lina Chaparro, Rasheia Harris

Ultratravel is a registered trademark licensed to Ultratravel America LLC
by PGP Media Limited.

Ultratravel U.S. is published by Ultratravel America LLC in partnership
with Whitehaus Media Group 1480 Michigan Avenue, Suite 1013, Miami Beach, Florida
33139 786-342-7656, whitehausmediagroup.com

whitehaus
a creative press



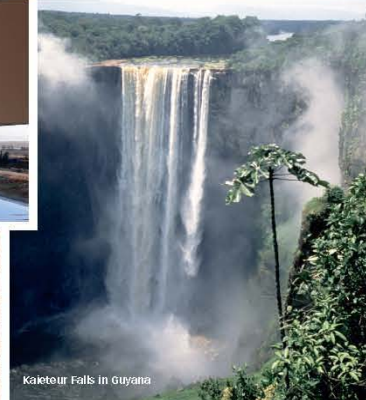
Sarah and Austin Harrelson
at Le Club 55 in St. Tropez



Hotel Fasano Las Piedras in Uruguay



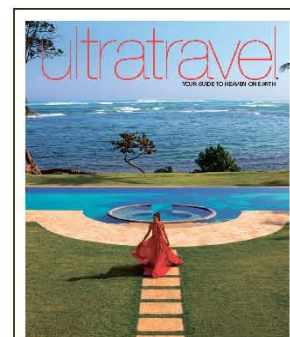
Casas na Areia in Portugal



Kaketeur Falls in Guyana

MY TRAVEL TO-DO LIST

How sexy is the new **Hotel Fasano Las Piedras**? The property is designed by Iray Weinfeld whose tropical Modernism style of architecture I love. My son is an amateur rainforest buff and I'd love to take him to **Kaketeur Falls** in Guyana to see a tropical rainforest wilderness on Epic Travel's new adventure there. I have never been to Portugal, but those sand floors at **Casas na Areia** look like the perfect invitation.



The private pool at Su Casa overlooks the ocean at the new **Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve** property in Puerto Rico that is slated to open this December.
Photography by Ken Kochey/Sarah Laird & Good Company
Styling by Stella Lee Model Alejandra Ramos (Element Models) wears a Bill Bliss gown.

A full-page photograph of a tropical beach. In the foreground, a white boat with a red interior is filled with grey stones and sits on a sandy patch. To the left, a large palm tree trunk leans into the frame. In the background, a hammock is strung between two palm trees, and the ocean with white waves is visible under a clear blue sky.

NATURAL SPLENDOR

THE STORIED **DORADO BEACH**
IS GIVEN THE RITZ-CARLTON
RESERVE TREATMENT AND
BROUGHT BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL
GRANDEUR. MARK ELLWOOD IS
GIVEN A PRIVATE TOUR OF A NEW
ICON IN THE MAKING.

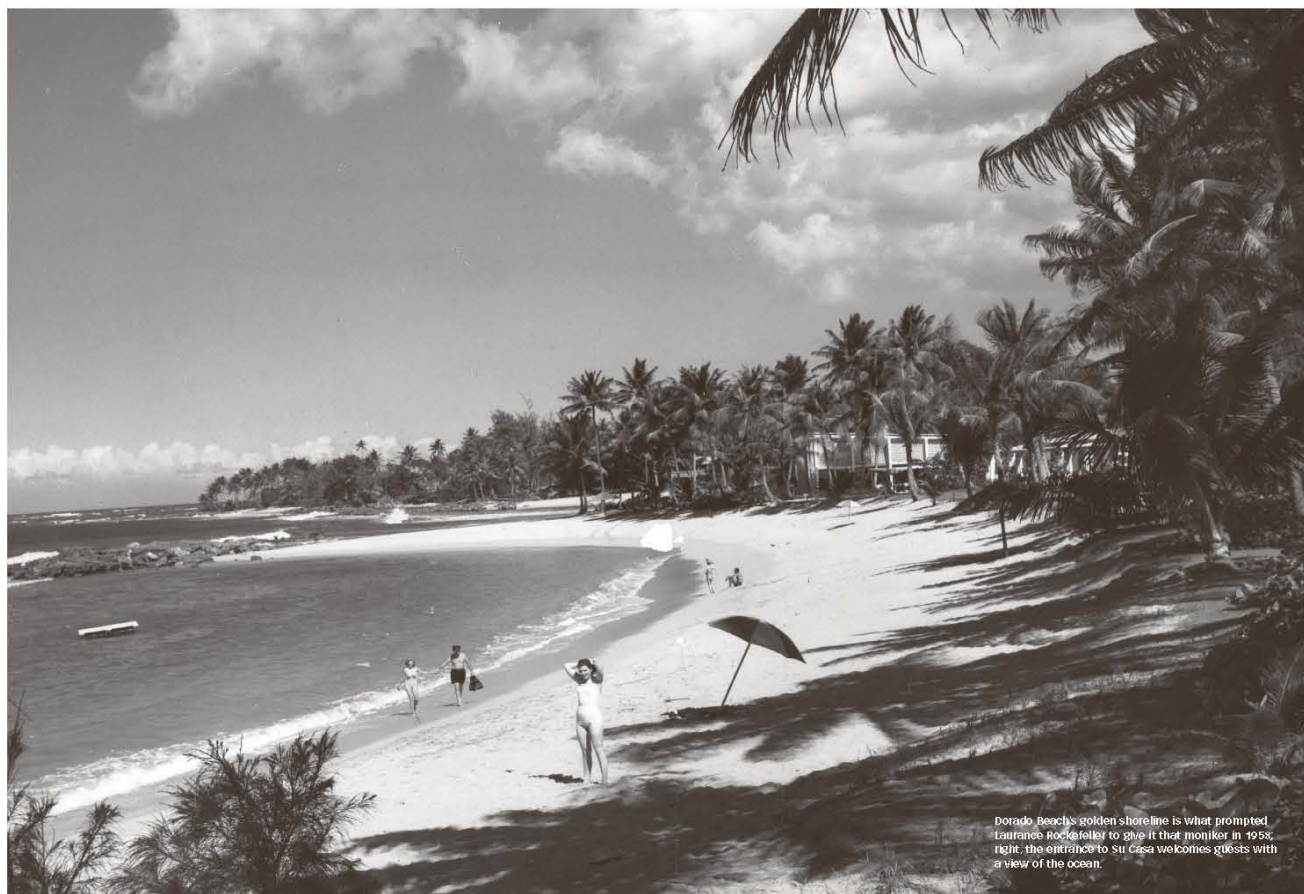
Photography by Ken Kochev

Dorado Beach is shaded by the property's original palm trees, a nod to its former life as a coconut plantation; opposite, the centerpiece of the Su Casa renovation is this private, oceanfront dipping pool.





ultraviolet 35



Dorado Beach's golden shoreline is what prompted Laurance Rockefeller to give it that moniker in 1958; right, the entrance to Su Casa welcomes guests with a view of the ocean.

ARCHIVAL IMAGE COURTESY OF DORADO BEACH

It was 1958 when Laurance S. Rockefeller—the New York billionaire—had co-opted a pineapple and coconut plantation on a secluded bluff on Puerto Rico's northern coast. He dubbed it Dorado Beach in honor of the more than two miles of golden sands that rim the reserve. It was his second eco-retreat and a spectacular achievement at the time.

The years following its heyday weren't as kind to the expansive property after ownership changed hands and the property was sold off. But, now, more than 50 years after welcoming its first jet setters, the storied property is about to reclaim its place (thanks to a \$350-million makeover) as one of the Caribbean's most exclusive hideouts—and at the same time usher in a new era of ultra-exclusive, discrete luxury for the Ritz-Carlton brand—with the opening of Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve.

It takes area vice president Mark Ferland just one sentence to sum up the ethos of Reserve. "It's an experience everyone can't have," he says. "It's for that special anniversary or very special event in your lifetime." Marriott International (Ritz-Carlton's parent company), long known for its tight control of hotel development, has broken with such tradition here, laying out few corporate requirements for its discrete new Ritz-Carlton Reserve brand. Such a freewheeling approach makes those that do exist all the more telling. To qualify for this hard-to-earn name, a property must feature low-rise and low-density buildings with a maximum of 120 rooms. The structures must be virtually devoid of any indication that they are affiliated with Marriott or Ritz-Carlton—there are no gold lions and crowns on the plush bathrobes and no Ritz-Carlton-branded pens at check-in. Staff-to-guest ratios must hover at two to one, with all employees undergoing extra schooling to raise the bar on service. "We're putting them through a very unique and focused training," Ferland says. "A guest goes out for the day and took five Diet Cokes out of the refrigerator? Well, they'll all be replaced by 5 p.m." And the Reserve collection's prices—Dorado Beach will start at \$1,600 for a double room per night—are the clearest tip off to its target clientele: that discerning and free-spending regular at Aman Resorts or One&Only curious to experience a fresh riff on ultra-exclusive hospitality.

The Marriott/Ritz-Carlton team has broken with corporate traditions across the

resort, including with the décor. In place of the iconic, country-house-style interiors typical of Ritz-Carlton hotels around the world, each Reserve property will reflect and absorb local materials, cultures and traditions, according to Ferland. Almost the antithesis of its sibling brand, the sanctuary-like Reserve hotels will act as hideouts that reflect their locales so guests can experience a destination without even having to venture beyond its boundaries. This artisanal, one-of-a-kind approach is underscored by the slow rollout of hotels, with no more than eight worldwide set to open in the next five years. In fact, it's been three years since the prototype Reserve launched in Thailand: the brand's signature details were quietly workshopped and honed at this spot, a 54-villa and pavilion hotel on Phulay Bay in Krabi.

The development of the property was the handiwork of local developer Federico "Friedel" Stubbe, a twinkly eyed 60-something who oozes an affable charm rare in high-powered real estate moguls. Stubbe's enthusiasm for the Reserve concept is boundless. "The Ritz-Carlton people are really changing—we don't have the blue roofs and traditional English living areas of a Ritz-Carlton, but we do have the great service in a boutique way," Stubbe says. This new kind of hotel, he believes, has emerged from a wider shift in culture. "It exemplifies the change we're seeing in everything, away from same-same, so big and square, to a more unique, personalized setup."

Indeed, though Dorado Beach is set on a vast 1,400-acre lot, the hotel is surprisingly intimate and small-scale, designed to blend into the local landscape. Unlike most Caribbean properties, it's surrounded by thousands of tall, century-old palm trees, a legacy from its stint as a coconut plantation, which provide natural shade and cover. That signature Reserve emphasis on the locale is evident everywhere. For example, superstar chef José Andrés, after signing on as the brand-name chef at its restaurant Mi Casa, began scouring local roadside stands to sample pork cooked there as inspiration. The five-acre Spa Botánico will use only local herbs in its treatments, many of them grown in its manicured gardens; spa staff will be trained as *manos santos*, or folk healers, the village elders who long offered plant-based treatments to ailing Puerto Ricans. Rooms are minimalist and monochrome, all with ocean views and more than half with their own private plunge pools. But for the effortless efficiency of the staff, it would be



ultra reveal 37



easy to forget Dorado Beach were even a Ritz-Carlton.

Once the Puerto Rican Reserve opens, the rollout will continue with four more exclusive retreats, including Muscat in Oman, Thailand's Similan Beach, San Jose del Cabo in Mexico and a Moroccan property at Tamuda Bay. Before that quarter debuts, though, Dorado Beach will celebrate with an official opening party on December 12, 2012—12/12-12—and draw a cadre of boldfacers from across the island and abroad (the helipad onsite means transfer from San Juan airport takes just five minutes). It's a nod to the 1958 opening, when Rockefeller invited 150 of his close friends to fete his new property—all of whom, it is said, were millionaires. But at least one thing has changed since its first A-list heyday: the dress code. Reserve's focus on barefoot luxury has relaxed some of the more stringent requirements from Rockefeller's era, so no woman need worry about suffering the same fate as onetime regular Ava Gardner, who turned up to dinner in slacks, and despite her seismic fame, was promptly turned away at the door.

[To book your stay at Dorado Beach,
contact your travel agent today.]

38 ultratravel

Dorado Beach is set on a vast 1,400-acre lot, the hotel is surprisingly intimate and small-scale, designed to blend into the local landscape.



PRISAGROUP®



Each of the rooms at Dorado Beach's spa is a self-contained villa, complete with private outdoor shower, opposite details from the town and the property.

WHERE TO STAY

Undoubtedly the centerpiece of the new Dorado Beach is the four-bedroom private villa known as Su Casa, the resort's \$30,000-per-night answer to a penthouse suite. This oceanfront hacienda was built in 1928 for the redoubtable Clara Livingston, an heiress who inherited her father's plantation at just 22 after his early death. This flapper-era bluestocking divided her time between twin passions: running the farm solo (often riding around, shotgun in hand, on a white stallion) and practicing her flying skills—then-unreachable by road, the farm boasted its own airstrip. Only the 11th woman certified as a helicopter pilot in America, Livingston was so plane-mad that she became a close friend of Amelia Earhart, who stayed at Su Casa just four weeks before she vanished over the Pacific Ocean. It was also flying that brought her and Laurence Rockefeller together. In the 1950s, the latter was the owner of Eastern Airlines, and the pair's shared passion for planes and the environment is the reason Livingston sold all but 18 acres of her family's holdings to the billionaire for his new resort.

Su Casa spreads over 8,000 square feet and has been painstakingly restored. Festooned with photos of the heiress, it even features a clutch of her own antiques, such as an ornate Peruvian writing desk in one bedroom and a set of carved wooden dining chairs. During Dorado Beach's renovation, the team painstakingly tracked down any original items it could find, even trekking up to Long Island when word came that some of Clara's trinkets might be there. It was a fortuitous trip, as Livingston, who in her final years had moved north, had deeded many of her most cherished possessions to best friend Eileen Hersh. The Puerto Rico team met Hersh mere weeks before she planned to sell off Clara's bequest piecemeal at flea markets and promptly snapped up the entire trove. Rescued and reinstalled here, they form about 20 percent of the furniture; the rest of the fixtures are brand new, custom-designed and deco-inspired to emulate the house's interiors when it was built. Don't worry about overly retro bathrooms, though: Those are cutting-edge marble wet rooms with freestanding tubs, one of which even sits outdoors on the second floor balcony overlooking the ocean. It's easy to imagine Clara, binoculars in hand, lounging here and waiting for the putt-putt sound of Earhart's imminent arrival.