

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS WITH US

JULY | AUGUST 2020

# VIRTUOSO LIFE

## LOOKING AHEAD

DESTINATIONS NEAR AND FAR,  
VILLA VACATIONS,  
AND TRIPS TO TAKE  
NOW AND LATER





# NOW & LATER

DREAM DESTINATIONS TO PLAN FOR – AND  
STAND-INS THAT WILL GET YOU TRAVELING NOW.

We asked Virtuoso travelers where you most want to go, and one thing was clear: You're thinking big. Far-flung beaches, safaris, and the White Continent are on your minds. And while jetting off to Greece or East Africa might not be a *tomorrow* possibility, now is a great time to plan big trips for 2021 and beyond. In the meantime, scratch the travel itch with local – or local-ish – destinations that bring some of the same vibes. Here are five of the places you're dreaming of now, paired with closer-to-home counterparts.

BY MARIKA CAIN AND JUSTIN PAUL

Sun-drenched tranquility at  
Conrad Maldives Rangali Island.





Lake Kora, a former Vanderbilt family retreat, and (right) Villa d'Este.

# NOW

## The Adirondacks

**Lake Kora**, a historic Great Camp on a 500-acre private lake in upstate New York, is available for exclusive use only. That means groups can live like the Gilded Age vacationers who arrived with their entourages at the turn of the last century, commandeering the entire 12-room camp and its spa, dining room, flotilla of canoes and kayaks, and more. Rooms are spread among seven log lodges, complete with stone fireplaces and handcarved furniture straight out of a posh “Goldilocks and the Three Bears.” *Virtuoso* guests receive a \$100 beverage or spa credit per person.

# LATER Italy

The pull of la dolce vita remains undimmed: As ever, Italy tops your dream-destination picks. We’re partial to northerly Lake Como for its sophisticated summer living, charming towns, and views of the Swiss and Italian Alps. The hotels here are as legendary as the Clooneys and Madonnas who turn up for holidays: 90-room **Grand Hotel Tremezzo**, with its adjacent belle epoque private villa and a swimming pool that floats on the lake, and 152-room **Villa d’Este**, surrounded by 25 acres of park and gardens, for example. *Virtuoso* guests of *Grand Hotel Tremezzo* receive breakfast daily, a \$70 spa credit, an Italian winetasting, and entrance to Villa Carlotta and its gardens. *Virtuoso* guests of *Villa d’Este* receive breakfast daily and a complimentary minibar.





# NOW

## Mexico's Riviera Maya

Channel Maldivian serenity a quick hop south of the border at **Rosewood Mayakoba**. Just north of Playa del Carmen on Mexico's Riviera Maya, the resort's 129 butler-serviced bungalows and villas sit tucked among mangroves or fronting a mile of pristine beach. Among them: newly renovated, adults-only overwater suites (which guests arrive at via electric boats) with plunge pools, hanging chairs for lounging, and an outdoor garden shower. Sunbathe on the private deck and dip your toes in the lagoon below, or head to the beach to snorkel, paddleboard, and sail Hobie Cats on the world's second-largest barrier reef. *Virtuoso guests receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit.*

TRAVEL  
FOR  
GOOD

Rosewood provides electric golf carts and bicycles for guests to move around the 620-acre Mayakoba development (which is also home to Banyan Tree and Andaz resorts). Guides lead daily eco-tours where guests spot wildlife and learn about conservation programs.



Conrad Maldives Rangali Island and (below) an overwater suite at Rosewood Mayakoba.



# LATER

## The Maldives

Snorkeling off the deck of a private overwater bungalow sounds like the ideal 2020 reset to us, and, apparently, we're not alone: The Maldives lands right up there with Italy for our poll's leading destination. (We might even yield it the top spot, given how many of you simply replied, "A beach.") Long a honeymoon and diving favorite, the Indian Ocean archipelago consists of 1,200 sand-fringed coral islets – none more than eight feet above sea level. Make a splash at the 151-room **Conrad Maldives Rangali Island**, one of 14 Virtuoso properties spread across the atolls and home to 71 overwater villas. Live out mermaid fantasies from The Muraka, a first-of-its-kind, bilevel residence with a master bedroom 18 feet under the sea beneath a clear domed ceiling. *Virtuoso guests receive breakfast daily, a \$100 resort credit, and a sunset fishing excursion for two.*

(MALDIVES) JUSTIN NICHOLAS



Poolside privacy at Sugar Beach and (right) Santorini.



## NOW Saint Lucia

The Caribbean hideaway of Saint Lucia delivers vertiginous backdrops reminiscent of the Greek Isles just a three-and-a-half-hour flight from Miami. Its two most iconic peaks are the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Gros Piton and Petit Piton volcanic plugs. Check into the 96-room **Sugar Beach, a Viceroy Resort**, set on 100 acres of rain forest in the Piton Valley, with plunge pools at every room, villa, and white-sand-beach-fronting bungalow. *Virtuoso guests receive breakfast daily and a \$100 resort credit.*

## LATER Greece

The Greek Isles look like something out of a dream, with their jutting hills and whitewashed towns cascading down to the sea – blue-green water where, if you squinted, you might spot Poseidon himself. A cruise is the classic way to fit several islands into a visit (**Windstar** and **Oceania Cruises**, among others, are planning 2021 Greek odysseys), but it's also inviting to settle in at a mythic hotel with stop-in-your-tracks views and postcard architecture – 18-room **Canaves Oia Hotel** on Santorini, for instance. *Virtuoso guests of Canaves Oia receive breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit.*



(SUGAR BEACH) ANDREW HENDRY



# NOW

## Churchill, Canada

This former Hudson Bay trading post in Manitoba is a gathering point for Arctic wildlife. Beluga whales return by the thousands in summer to congregate near the mouth of the Churchill River, Arctic fox and caribou roam the tundra, and the kings of the Arctic, polar bears, migrate here by the hundreds from midsummer through fall to kick off their seal hunts on the ice. World Wildlife Fund partner **Natural Habitat Adventures** offers travelers the chance to sea-kayak with belugas, view bears and marine life by helicopter and Zodiac, visit a polar bear den, and, new this year, stay in a “train” of eco-friendly, linked tundra vehicles (lounge car, dining car, sleeping quarters) that cruise the landscape for close encounters with the bears.



TRAVEL  
FOR  
GOOD

*Ultramarine's* micro auto-gasification system helps Quark eliminate waste by converting it to energy on board – reducing the company's environmental footprint ashore as well.

Kayaking off the Antarctic Peninsula and (left) reasons to make plans for Churchill.

(POLAR BEARS) GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO.  
(ANTARCTICA) ANDREW PEACOCK/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

# LATER

## Antarctica

Penguin colonies, leopard seals, and whales – and let's face it, bragging rights – ensure Antarctica's white-hot appeal with globe-trotters. Exploring the world's most unforgiving continent is about to get a lot more luxe with two new ships: **Crystal Cruises'** 200-passenger *Crystal Endeavor* and **Quark Expeditions'** 199-passenger *Ultramarine*, which up the adventure quotient with two helicopters for flightseeing on each ship – an industry first. On top of that, cruisers on the *Endeavor* can get whale's-eye views of icebergs and marine life from its seven-person submersible, while *Ultramarine* will introduce activities such as heli-hiking on previously inaccessible terrain, sea-kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding, and overnight camping on the ice.





Worldwide wanderlands: Yellowstone in the winter and (right) ballooning in the Maasai Mara with Micato.

# NOW Yellowstone National Park

Winter is *the* time to catch Yellowstone’s geysers, paint pots, and lodgepole pine forests – not to mention its wildlife – without the crowds. From November through late April, the park closes most roads to cars. Guests of **Austin Adventures’** adults-only and family trips explore the snowscape of the world’s first national park in search of bison, elk, and moose by snow-coach and **cross-country skis**, and get up close to North America’s top apex predators at West Yellowstone’s Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center.

(YELLOWSTONE) GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO. (SAFARI) GIULIANA PROVENZANO

# LATER East Africa

Migratory wildebeests and zebras aren’t the only ones plotting journeys around East Africa’s vast savannas. Days that dawn with the call of the wild, wide-open skies, and the “big five” ranging across the grasslands speak to nature lovers now more strongly than ever – and many of you are already planning safaris for 2021 and beyond. **Big Five Tours & Expeditions, Micato Safaris, and African Travel, Inc.** help travelers explore Kenya’s Maasai Mara, Tanzania’s Ngorongoro Crater, and other top game-viewing areas by Land Rover and hot-air balloon. And these companies are deeply invested in conservation and giving back to communities.



TRAVEL FOR GOOD

Micato’s AmericaShare program sponsors a child’s education through high school for every safari sold. Its charity partner Huru International has produced more than 70,000 complimentary masks for residents of Nairobi’s Mukuru slum. VI.