



GOLFING WORLD

Destination courses,
plus the latest gear

JEWELLERY WITH SOUL

Caroline Scheufele is
transforming an industry

YOUNG GALLERISTS

Old Masters and antiques
in this new decade

THE GEMS OF YQUEM

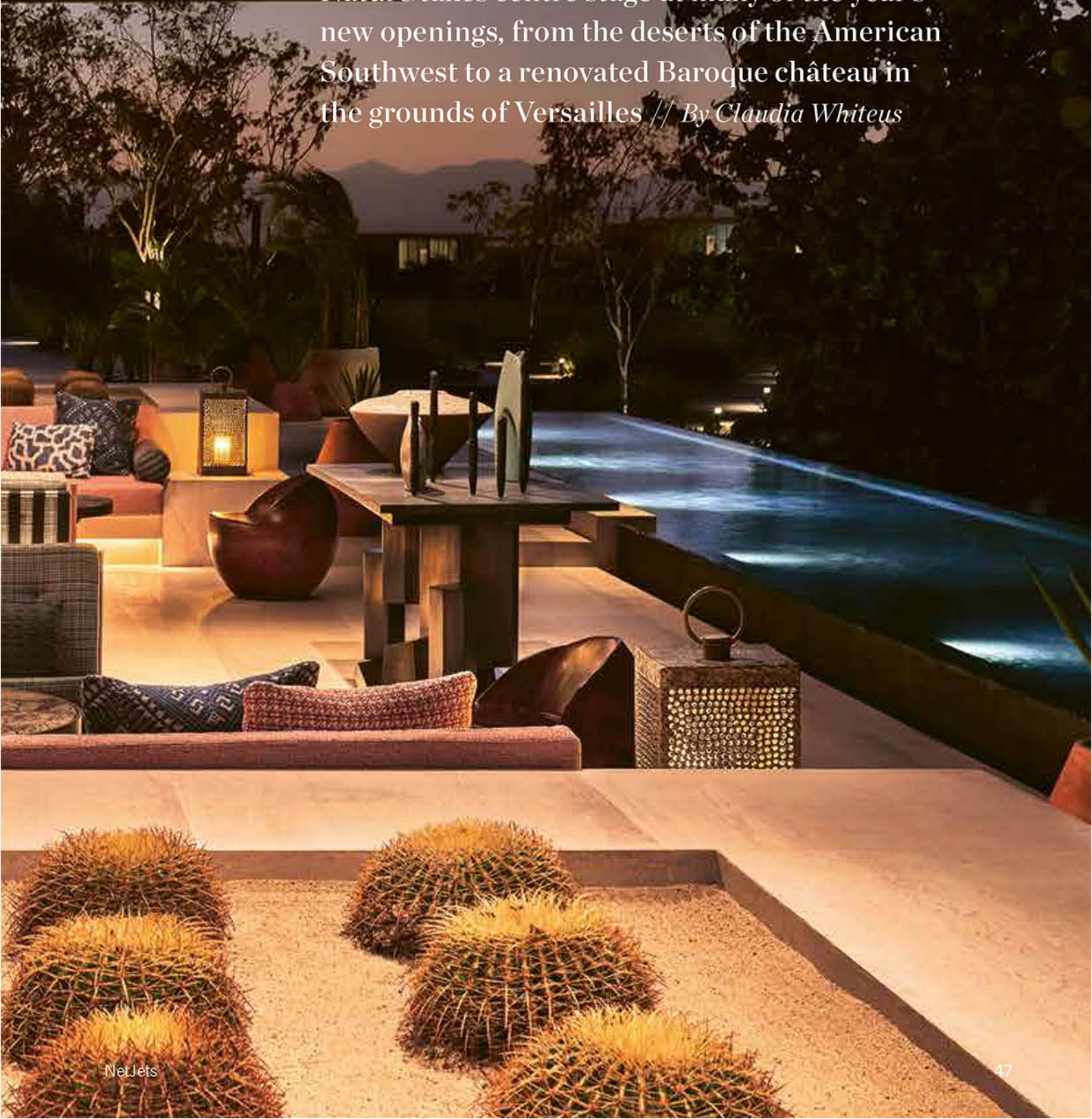
A visit to the star
of Sauternes

NECESSARY SUPPORT

The Spinal Injuries
Association in profile

HOSPITALITY WITH A *DIFFERENCE*

Nature takes centre stage at many of the year's new openings, from the deserts of the American Southwest to a renovated Baroque château in the grounds of Versailles // *By Claudia Whiteus*



EUROPE & THE MIDDLE EAST

The Old Continent is brimming with energetic openings, but the **Torfhús Retreat** (*torfhus.is*), slated for an autumn launch, is easily the year's most laidback newcomer. Set in Iceland's Golden Circle within easy reach of ecological attractions from the Great Geysir to the Gullfoss waterfall, each of the resort's grass-covered domiciles boast Hygge-inducing interiors (think lambskin rugs, reclaimed oak walls and oversized corner sofas) as well as a private basalt hot tub, heated to a balmy 42°C and perfect for an après-adventure nightcap under the kaleidoscopic glow of the Northern Lights. The 40-room **La Réserve Eden au Lac Zurich** (*lareserve-zurich.com*) delivers an equally indulgent *mise en scène*. Under the auspices of designer Philippe Starck, the heritage-imbued hostelry has been reconceived as an "imaginary yacht club" with highlights that include La Muña, where inventive Japanese-Peruvian fusion is served in a curio-stuffed, wood-framework dining room fashioned after an old harbour master's office. The 172-room **Mayfair Townhouse** (*themayfairtownhouse.com*) is another urban oasis, debuting this autumn across seven Georgian-listed buildings in its namesake swish London neighbourhood with a suitably sumptuous set of USPs, including a Dandy Bar and a well-appointed gym.

The City of Light, meanwhile, has a smattering of long-heralded debuts (such as JK Place, on the Left Bank, and the forthcoming Antonio Citterio-designed Bulgari hotel), but the 72-key **Cheval Blanc Paris** (*chevalblanc.com*) stands out for its stellar location just steps from the Louvre. Housed in a restored Art Deco edifice, there's also a much-hyped restaurant by Michelin-minted chef Arnaud Donckele and a lavish Dior spa. Still, whatever palatial fittings that Paris's newfangled hostelrys may pull out of their back pockets, the **Airelles Château de Versailles**, **Le Grand Contrôle** (*airelles.com*), set in a renovated château within the grounds of the Sun King's complex, remains the year's—and perhaps the decade's—*nonpareil* of Baroque hospitality. Its 14 rooms are adorned with period antiques, bespoke upholstery and dripping chandeliers, a time-capsule allure

PICTURE PERFECT

Clockwise from top left: Montenegro's One&Only Portonovi; Camp Sarika by Amangiri in the austere American Southwest; The Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos at Costa Palmas

only furthered at an in-house eatery by Alain Ducasse, whose haute French menu is informed by recipes from a bygone era.

Also drawing from the grandeur of the past is a pair of Italian hideaways set on centuries-old estates. Bolzano's **Castel Hörtenberg** (*castel-hoertenberg.com*) is a 24-room, family-owned hotel in a 500-year-old Renaissance castle. Savoured under the vaulted stone ceilings of the dungeons, culinary and oenophilic delicacies come courtesy of the family's own farm in Tuscany, and its spa comes complete with a Turkish bath and Himalayan salt cave. **Castello di Reschio** (*reschio.com*)—which can trace its roots back to AD1050—reveals in its pastoral location on 1,500 hectares in the verdant Umbrian hills. In the main castle, the look of its 36 guest rooms is unique, blending contemporary boho-eclecticism with the rustic framework of the building; garden-fresh veggies and truffles foraged from the surrounding forest inform the cuisine at the Ristorante Alle Scuderie; and a subterranean spa, in a heated, cave-like wine cellar, is a tranquil, otherworldly space for invigorating treatments and sky-lit swims.

In Mallorca, **Can Ferrereta** (*hotelcanferrereta.com*), too, makes the most of its historic setting in a 17th-century mansion in the bijoux village of Santanyi, just ten-minutes' drive from the island's southeastern coastline. Dreamed up by the makers of the Sant Francesc hotel in nearby Palma, the garden-encircled property comprises 32 whitewashed rooms embellished with local artwork, a bucolic pool area and an inviting terrace for seasonal mod-Med cookery. Along the sparkling Bay of Kotor, the **One&Only Portonovi** (*oneandonlyresorts.com*)—the prolific marque's first foray in Europe—is another rarefied summer sanctuary, bringing La Dolce Vita-style savoir faire to the Montenegro coast via its Venetian-style architecture, spacious rooms and suites with sprawling Adriatic views, Michelin-starred gastronomy by Giorgio Locatelli, a Chenot Espace spa and the slick Tapasake club for poolside sake, Asian-fusion tapas and tunes by top-tier international DJs. Waterfront luxe is also the calling card of **The Royal Atlantis Resorts & Residences, Dubai** (*atlantis.com*). A towering colossus in the crescent of The Palm, the 693-key megahotel's supersized offerings include what must be a record-breaking 90 pools (among them, a rooftop eyrie for striking urban vistas and cabana-side service) and intriguing gastro concepts by Gastón Acurio and Heston Blumenthal.

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