

Date	January 2011	
Publication	BA Highlife	
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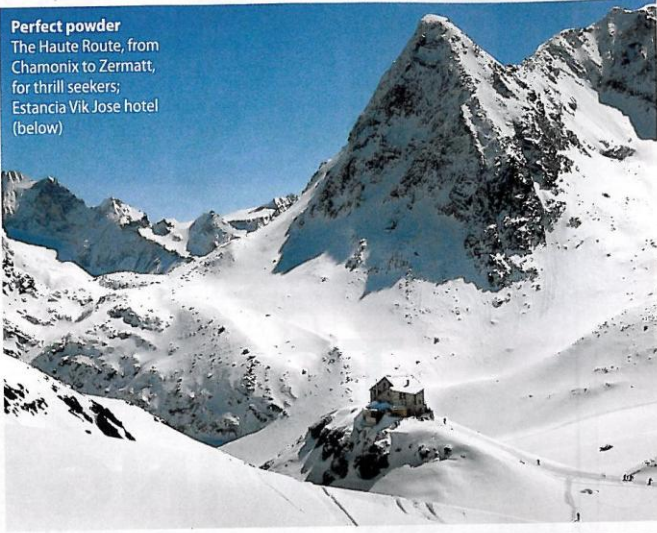


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## Navigator

### News

**Perfect powder**  
The Haute Route, from Chamonix to Zermatt, for thrill seekers; Estancia Vik Jose hotel (below)



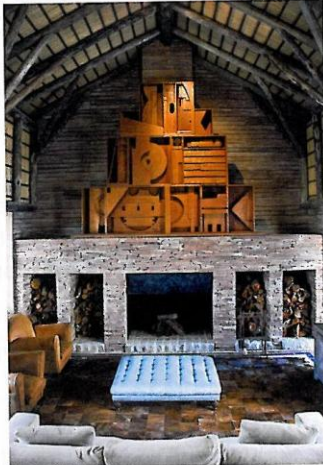
**N**IS FOR NEVIS  
Nevis is a winner for those seeking Caribbean luxury. After a two-year refurb, the Four Seasons (fourseasons.com) will open with a de-luxe spa, and a new Aman Nevis Resort is slated for this year.

**O**IS FOR ORDER AHEAD  
Packing light is the order of the day for 2011. In the UK, hqhair.com offers its holiday service, where you can choose from hundreds of big brands and cult products to be delivered in advance to your hotel anywhere in the world. In the US, suitearrival.com delivers special travel-sized, custom-made grooming kits to your destination.

**P**IS FOR PUERTO RICO  
As well as BA's new twice-weekly service to San Juan from 28 March (ba.com), Puerto Rico sees its first five-star hotel, St Regis Bahia Beach Resort (stregis.com), with a Jean-Georges restaurant, vast spa and Trent Jones Jr golf course. Known for its beaches, historic capital and duty-free shopping, Puerto Rico is up there in the luxury travel stakes.

**Q**IS FOR QUILALEA ISLAND  
Quilalea Island is a private island off the coast of Mozambique with a marine sanctuary teeming with wildlife and deserted beaches. The luxurious Azura Aquile lodge opens this month.

**R**IS FOR RETREAT AT SEA  
Some of the latest cruise liners offer the best spas around. The just-launched Norwegian Epic (epic.ncl.com/the-experience/spa) sold out for its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York last June. It boasts the biggest spa at sea and has teamed up with Bliss Spas for cool treatments.



**S**IS FOR SAN DIEGO  
Brand-new for June 2011 is BA's nonstop route to San Diego (ba.com), a gem of a city. Stay in the waterfront Marriott Hotel and Marina (marriott.com), which is finalising its £121m renovation, and explore the surrounding beaches and wineries, such as the Bernardo (bernardowinery.com).

**T**IS FOR TALLINN  
Tallinn in Estonia has been chosen as a European Capital of Culture for 2011 (tallinn2011.ee/events). Expect innovative art and music events, such as the Birgitta Festival, held in the ruins of a Gothic convent overlooking Tallin Bay.

**U**IS FOR URUGUAY  
Uruguay is sealing its reputation as one of the coolest destinations in the world with the arrival of cutting-edge Fasano Hotel in Punta del Este (laspiedrasfasano.com), a favourite holiday haunt of the world's glitterati. It follows on from hip hotels Estancia Vik Jose and Playa Vik in nearby Jose Ignacio.

**V**IS FOR VANCOUVER  
Check out the new Rosewood Hotel Georgia (rosewoodhotels.com), due to reopen in Vancouver in March. The historic hotel, first opened in 1927, has been revamped by interior designers Munge Leung, recalling its heyday of the 30s and 40s. Wildlife lovers can take a trip to King Pacific Lodge (kingpacificlodge.com), an eco bolt-hole in British Columbia. Visit in September and there's a chance you'll see the native Kermode bear.

**W**IS FOR WILDERNESS  
Get-away-from-it-all breaks are increasingly in demand. Pan Parks (panparks.org) is a network of areas untouched by human intervention across Europe. The 11 parks, such as the Central Balkan National Park in Bulgaria and the Majella National Park in Italy, offer a variety of wilderness experiences – from walking on high-elevation trails to seeing the Northern Lights near the Arctic Circle.

**X**IS FOR X-FACTOR  
Thrill seekers will love the new kinds of trip on offer this year designed to get the heart racing, whether it's heli-skiing in Sweden's Arctic Odyssey (whiteblancmange.com), taking on the Haute Route ski mountaineering challenge, or experiencing the Juniper Trail through Bhutan (both at wildernessjourneys.com).

**Y**IS FOR YURTS  
A new take on glamping, yurts are big this year. The Hoopoe Yurt Hotel in Andalusia, Spain (yurthotel.com), has sumptuous yurts with private bathrooms overlooking the Grazalema mountains, while visitors to arty Marfa, Texas, should stay at El Cosmico (elcosmico.com), where the yurts are stylishly decorated with bamboo floors, lantern lighting and queen-sized futons.

**Z**IS FOR ZZZZZS  
Sleep is big business like never before. Spanish hotel chain Hospes started the obsession when it launched its Learn to Sleep programmes in 2009 (being updated this spring). The Benjamin Hotel in New York has its own sleep concierge (thebenjamin.com), while at Crowne Plazas (crownplaza.co.uk), the Sleep Advantage programme features upgraded bedding, relaxation zones and low-glycaemic index menus. Ritz Carlton (ritzcarltonshops.com) offers Drift to Sleep spa treatments, and the brand reports its beds and duvets are top sellers at its hotel shops.

Words: Angelina Villa-Clarke. Photograph: Wilderness Journeys

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