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Future Proof

Our design-minded robo squad administer the ultimate taste test



ON THE ROAD Doug Aitken's 23-page journey into Americana
RETAIL REBOOT Saint Laurent's Rive Droite reinvention
WORK FLOW Kinder contract furniture and better-natured offices
OUTER LIMITS Pioneering houses from Patagonia to Pasadena



Greek hero

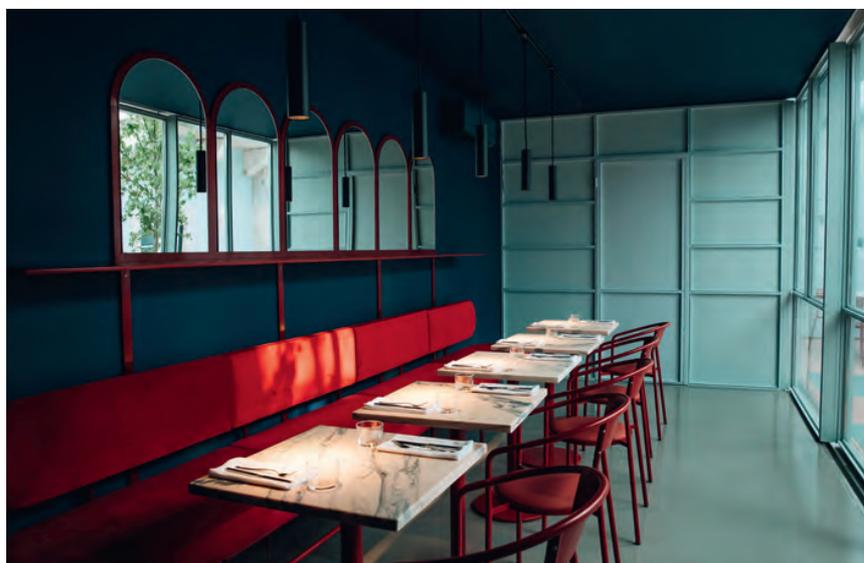
ANDRONIS ARCADIA, SANTORINI ←

In Santorini, luxury hotels are expected to secure a dramatic perch on the caldera's edge, but the 52-suite Andronis Arcadia instead sits downhill from the pretty-but-crammed Oia village. The pay-offs are unobstructed sunset views and masses of space, which local architect firm Kapsimalis has put to good use creating the island's largest spa, a rooftop restaurant, and the six-room Eden Villa, where a private fitness centre and two pools are spread over three storeys. The rest of the suites are not lacking either. With their cooling forged-cement walls, neutral colour palette and custom-made low-slung furniture, they make for a calming, shady retreat from the Greek island heat. **John O'Ceallaigh** Oia, Santorini, Greece, tel: 30.22860 27392, andronisarcadia.com. Rates: from €660

Art and soul

ESQINA COSMOPOLITAN LODGE, LISBON →

This 35-room, five-storey hideout, located between the more touristy Baixo-Chiado and the historic Alfama quarter, is the work of Inês Moura, who has carved the interiors of the 100-year-old building into a series of richly textured spaces. The Gastro & Cocktail Bar is a particular draw for young Argentine chef Nicolas López's modern menu, the local seasonal produce treated lightly and with imagination, with dishes such as fresh oysters with lemon, chilli and leek oil, and brunoised onion, and tiger prawns sautéed with kimchi and white garlic. The hotel will also host curated art events, concerts and cooking classes. **DW** Rua da Madalena 195, Lisbon, Portugal, tel: 351.210 522 735, esqinacosmopolitanlodge.com. Rates: from €120



Heaven and earth

LOST VILLA, ZHONGWEI ←

Ningxia may not loom large on most people's itineraries, but the region features some of China's most spectacular countryside, and the Lost Villa hotel is a convenient base from which to explore it. On a patch of land flanked by river bank and forest, Shanghai-based studio DAS Lab has fashioned a series of villas, their pleasingly symmetrical cement profiles treated to resemble the rammed earth of local architecture. Oversized vitrine windows are oriented to catch the winter sun, the light warming the minimalist interiors. Diversions are mostly off-property (sand skiing is de rigueur), but it pays to be back in time for sunset cocktails and grilled local lamb with sautéed wild Mongolian onions. **DW** Shapotou, Zhongwei, Ningxia, China, tel: 86.158 5721 0919. Rates: from CNY1,480 (\$208)