

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



IT TAKES



A VILLA

An aerial photograph of a private villa complex built on a rocky coastline. The villa features several buildings with traditional thatched roofs and two rectangular swimming pools. The property is surrounded by lush greenery and palm trees, with a sandy beach and turquoise ocean water visible in the background. The word "AVILLA" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the top of the image.

**Close to home
or far-flung:
There's a private
stay for every
type of travel.**

BY LISA WOGAN

AS WE DUST OFF OUR SUITCASES AND venture back into the world, there's a certain peace of mind to be found from settling into a private villa. Villas have always rocked the perks with 24/7 butlers, pantries stocked with local goodies, and concierges who know how to pull the right strings for a meaningful experience. But seen through the lens of present-day reality, they're also private sanctuaries, a holiday in a secure bubble. "A private villa rental is a great way to have your next vacation with minimal social interaction, but still have an enjoyable getaway and much-needed escape," says Ontario-based Virtuoso travel advisor Carl Henderson. "Work with your travel advisor to have the villa concierge prestock your favorite food and drinks so you're ready to settle in and enjoy as soon as you arrive."

Virtuoso advisor Leanne Sheard of Melbourne, Australia, notes that they're a great option for families: "Escaping to a villa or private residence allows travelers to experience destinations while providing space and seclusion for the whole family to reconnect and recharge." Here, picks for villa life near and far.

Dominican Republic
distancing at Eden
Roc Cap Cana.

HOME ON THE RANGE

TRUE WEST **New Mexico**

Bison, elk, mule deer, mountain lions, and bears are at home in the grasslands and pine forests around **Ladder, a Ted Turner Reserve**, on 245 square miles of New Mexico wilderness. Four Rio Grande tributaries burble through the ranch, which includes a four-bedroom house Turner built for his family. Guests choose from activities such as horse-back riding, photography tours, and wildlife safaris that focus on ranch conservation efforts, such as bringing back the endangered Bolson tortoise. A private chef creates bespoke menus with ingredients from local farms, served in unparalleled settings – the big house among them, with a blaze roaring in its stone fireplace. *Two-night minimum stay includes a private chef, a private guide, and all meals, beverages, and activities.*



UNDER THE BIG SKY **Montana**

Unleash your inner cowpoke at **The Resort at Paws Up**, a 37,000-acre working cattle ranch in Montana's Blackfoot Valley. Fly-fish with an expert guide, float over Glacier National Park in a hot-air balloon, or watch a horse whisperer calm a rescued mustang before settling into one of 28 lodge-style homes. *One- to four-bedroom home rentals include private round-trip airport transfers, a bottle of wine on arrival, all meals, select beverages, use of a Lexus SUV on the property, and a \$300 activity credit.*



Annandale's Seascape villa and (above) ranch living at Ladder Ranch House.

DESIGN WITHIN REACH **New Zealand**

Situated on a working sheep and cattle farm on the Banks Peninsula, an hour-plus drive from Christchurch, New Zealand, **Annandale** has five villas (two with pools) ranging in style from a lovingly restored five-bedroom homestead to a jaw-dropping glass-and-stone one-bedroom, built into a hillside on a secluded inlet. *Two-night-minimum villa rentals include in-villa breakfast and dinner provisions, and a \$100 dining credit.*

WELLNESS RETREATS

RELAX, RENEW, REPEAT **Mexico**

Healthy living is always in full bloom in the gardens of **Rancho La Puerta** in Tecate, Mexico, an hour's drive southeast of San Diego at the foot of Mount Kuchumaa. Mountain hikes, salsa classes, aerial yoga, and organic farm-to-table meals are just a few of the reasons so many first-timers return. This year, the property unveiled two new spa tents offering a 90-minute treatment that draws from ancient Mexican ceremonies. The 86-casita, 4,000-acre property includes three private villas with wood-beamed ceilings and hand-painted tile work, saltwater plunge pools, hammocks, and outdoor showers. *Seven-night-minimum villa rentals include breakfast daily, one 50-minute massage, and one 30-minute herbal wrap.*



Super soaker: An alfresco bath at Gaia Retreat & Spa. Right: Canyon Ranch mindfulness.

EARTHY SERENITY **Australia**

Not far from the mainland's eastern-most point, the 18-room **Gaia Retreat & Spa**, set in the verdant hills of the Byron Bay hinterland, exudes tranquility. Three one-bedroom villas (and one two-bedroom villa, new last year) with private decks, daybed cabanas, and saltwater plunge pools offer a touch more seclusion and extra space for private spa treatments. *Two-night-minimum villa rentals include all meals, spa treatments, and daily retreat activities.*

DESERT CURE **Arizona**

Hit reset among the Sonoran Desert's saguaro and mesquite at the 174-room **Canyon Ranch Wellness Resort**, a Tucson institution that has been setting the spa-vacation bar for four decades. New this year: The Reserve, which includes four one-bedroom suites set among waterfalls and a stream, a communal firepit, and views of the Santa Catalina Mountains. *One-bedroom suites include all meals and a \$160 spa credit per night.*

