

Best Dining for Two

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YOU TO MOVE?** p. 28

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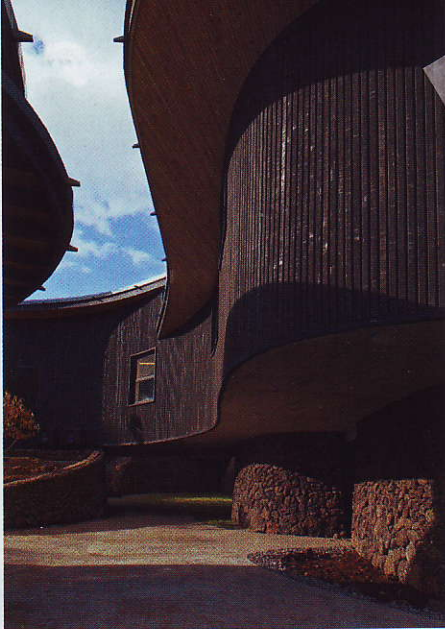
THE URGE TO TREK TO THE MIDDLE of nowhere has inspired polar

STAY
Easter Island

expeditions, mountain ascents and mid-ocean atoll explorations. But staying there? That's an opportunity to bask in the wonder of journey's end.

Awaken to wild horses grazing just outside your picture window at Posada de Mike Rapu on Easter Island. Owned by the Chilean company Explora, it's the first luxury resort on this 63-square-mile speck in the Pacific Ocean midway between Chile and Tahiti. Get a massage in an open-air hut modeled on local dwellings, with shutters framing a volcanic peak. Come nightfall, watch the sky fill with stars uninterrupted by light pollution. By day, set out like explorers past and present to discover the mysteries of Easter Island step by step with Explora's local guides. Littered with ancient stone busts felled like fallen soldiers, the hike to Rano Raraku quarry introduces the enigmatic *moai* statues. The remains of an ancestor-worshipping culture that dates back to 700 A.D. are what bring most visitors to this far-flung island. Spelunk into a cave that opens to the ocean, summit an extinct volcano and witness the solemn dignity of some 1,000 *moai* around the island. Once you come this far, you'll never want to leave. explora.com — ELAINE GLUSAC

MORE REMOTE RESORTS • Enjoy unspoiled views of deserted bays, mountains and oceans from your bungalow at **Hanakee Hiva Oa Pearl Lodge**, on Hiva Oa in the Marquesas Islands. pearlresorts.com/hivaoahanakeepearllodge • Find North Atlantic solitude swathed in contemporary luxury at the northernmost hotel in the Faroe Islands, **Hotel Norð** on Viðoy in the Norðoyggjar region. hotelnord.fo



Rooted Weaving

What's the oldest living thing east of the Mississippi? The Angel Oak Tree, which stands

watch over Evá Wright's sweetgrass basket stand on Johns Island, South Carolina. Just south

of Charleston, discover the backcountry road where this 1,400-year-old oak towers. Find Wright beneath it, entwining clutches of wild sweetgrass, bull rushes and palm fibers into coiled creations. Her keepsakes are Gullah — made the way of ancestors who stayed on the Sea Islands after emancipation, nurturing African-influenced traditions; they provide a glimpse of two magnificent root systems (sweetgrassbaskets.net)

— SARAH STAPLES



FROM TOP: COURTESY POSADA DE MIKE RAPU (2); JON WHITTLE; COURTESY ANANTARA DHIGU RESORT & SPA MALDIVES

PASS THE SALT Seated for dinner on the Anantara Dhigu Resort & Spa's over-water deck above the transparent Indian Ocean in the Maldives, you're about to meet a different kind of sommelier. Sure, the Fuddan Fusion Grill has plenty of great wine, but the affable

man named Nasrulla Thoha wants to introduce you to a spicier selection. As the resort's "salt sommelier," the Maldivian native with the 100-watt smile consults with you tableside, enhancing your dining experience with up to 11 salts and a sampling of chutneys and mustards. Order the tuna, and Thoha is quick to suggest Bali coconut-and-lime smoked sea salt. He also divines the resort's homemade chutneys — from rum relish to sweet mango — and recommends the perfect mustard for every meal: red wine mustard to accompany meat; olive mustard to liven up chicken. Savor your newfound knowledge of culinary salt as you dine in refreshing salt air above the mesmerizing, salty sea. dhigu-maldives.anantara.com — FLETCHER NEWBERN

FOOD

Maldives

