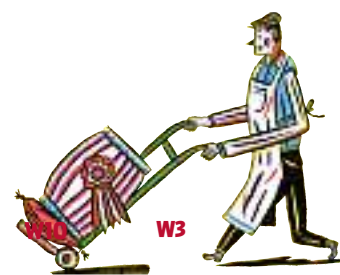




OFF DUTY



STYLE | TRAVEL | FOOD | DRINK | DESIGN | GEAR | PROPERTY | CULTURE | SPORTS

Friday - Sunday, July 31 - August 2, 2015

WSJ.com/life

LAKE SUMMIT, NORTH CAROLINA



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: MIKE BELLEME (2), ACKERMAN + GRUBER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

LAKE BURTON, GEORGIA



On the Waterfront

A new wave of designer boathouses features plenty of room for play **W4**

NISSWA LAKE, MINNESOTA



[INSIDE]



PAST PERFECT An architectural labor of love **W6**



SO MATCHA
A summer favorite
reinvented **W3**



PARADISE FOUND Exploring the Azores **W8**

STYLE & FASHION



TROPICAL WOOL
Atlanta-based retailer Sid Mashburn sells a tropical wool suit in blue that breaks from the standard seersucker. \$1,150

WEAR RECYCLED PAPER
Berluti created fabric for summer garments blending cotton, silk and paper to achieve a 'featherweight' feel.



COOL AND CRISP
Ermenegildo Zegna Couture's double-breasted jacket. The design house kept summer jackets structured but light by lining them with cotton voile or poplin.



AN AIRY OXFORD
J.Crew's summer oxford weighs 25% to 30% less than its traditional oxford shirt. €77.46



IS THAT TWEED?
Manhattan-based Miller's Oath makes lightweight garments in linen, silk and wool blends that resemble tweed. \$1,295



PHOTOS, FROM LEFT: SID MASHBURN; CATWALKING/GETTY IMAGES; J. CREW (2); ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA; MILLER'S OATH

Summer Suits Without the Sweat

Innovative light suit fabrics mean you don't have to boil or brave seersucker in the heat

BY RAY A. SMITH

YOU SEE MEN on the way to the office, their dark-colored suit jacket held by a finger over the shoulder, blotches of sweat blooming on their dress shirts. But every once in a while, you spot one impeccably dressed man in a dark suit who isn't a steaming, miserable mess. What's his secret?

As it turns out, a number of stealth tricks can help men stay cooler while dressed up without having to wear a look-at-me seersucker suit.

Menswear manufacturers have raced to develop ever-lighter fabrics to help reduce the dread men feel when they have to get dressed for work when it's 30°C. The results are clothing options in fabrics blended from silk to linen, tropical wool to fine cotton—and in at least one case, paper.

New suits and jackets from Berluti, a luxury menswear fashion house owned by LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, are made with recycled paper mixed with silk or cotton. "Recycled paper is very light and very breathable," says artistic director Alessandro Sartori, who included the looks in Berluti's Spring 2016 men's runway show in Paris last month. The garments retain "a good body" rather than come across as resort wear, he says.

J.Crew this spring launched a line of lightweight oxford shirts for summer that are 25% to 30% lighter than J.Crew's standard oxford shirts. These have a better air flow because the yarns are finer and more spaced out, with

a more open weave, says Frank Muytjens, J.Crew's head of men's design.

Grooming and diet can also play a role in how hot men feel in their clothes. Taking a hot shower will increase your body temperature. Give yourself 10 minutes to cool down before putting on your clothes, says Cameron Rokhsar, a New York dermatologist.

While it will cool you momentarily, eating or drinking anything that is really cold can cause blood vessels to tighten, "which makes you feel hotter rather than cooler," says Alissa Rumsey, a spokeswoman for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. High-fat foods are harder to digest and will increase your body temperature "because your body is working harder to digest it," says Ms. Rumsey, a registered dietitian. So limit or avoid fried foods and ice cream. Foods with a high water concentration, though, such as cucumbers, tomatoes and watermelon can help you cool down, she says.

Many men balk at suits that are traditionally marketed as summer options, such as seersucker, linen or cotton, even if they are in darker colors and even though those fabrics will keep men cooler. Suits in those fabrics aren't as polished-looking and wrinkle easily.

"I wear linen and I flaunt the wrinkles but it's not a corporate look," says G. Bruce Boyer, a men's style specialist whose latest book "True Style: The History & Principles of Clas-

sic Menswear," comes out in September. "If you want a regulation uniform dark gray or navy blue business suit, you're going to wear a tropical worsted wool suit."

Tropical wool is lighter than the wool used in everyday suits and suit tags will sometimes identify that the garment is made with it. Shoppers should ask if it isn't clearly labeled.

"In the South [of the U.S.], it's almost standard issue to have seersucker," says Sid Mashburn, who owns specialty men's shops bearing his name in Atlanta and Houston. Suits made in pincord, linen and poplin also endure as go-to suit options in the South.

Sid Mashburn sells suits made with tropical wool and suits and sport coats made of a type of wool known as fresco as well. The fresco fabric is woven and its yarn twisted to make the garment more airy and wrinkle-resistant. Fresco takes some getting used to as it feels "a little crunchy," but it "breathes beautifully," Mr. Mashburn says. The retailer also carries shirts made with a light Italian fabric called cellulare, where the weave looks open like groups of cells and "breathes better than oxford cloth," he says.

Men should also consider whether or not to wear an undershirt, and which type to wear. "The basic old-school cotton undershirt is an added layer that will only make you hotter," says Julie Rath, a men's style consultant and founder of Next Level Style, an online

men's style course. "Sure, it absorbs sweat and protects your dress shirt, but it's a catch-22 because you'll sweat more in it," she says. "A more streamlined, lightweight undershirt is the best choice because it absorbs sweat without making you hotter." Ms. Rath recommends undershirts with cooling technology from Tommy John to her clients.

Uniqlo's AIRism Mesh innerwear is made with micro fibers that wick away moisture caused by perspiration and mesh to increase breathability. "It's an ultrathin layer that is light and soft," and cools the skin, says Justin Kerr, chief merchandising officer and director of brand marketing at Uniqlo USA.

Fashion brands have been experimenting with fabric hybrids that try to balance relaxed comfort with traditional tailoring. Miller's Oath, an upscale menswear label founded in 2010, known for bespoke tweed suits, makes sport coats and suits made in blends of linen, silk and wool that resemble tweed.

"Your linen and your silk are fairly airy properties, giving you the lightness. And bringing in that wool makes it substantial enough to hold its shape," says Kirk Miller, the label's co-founder.

Suit jackets and sport coats with partial or no lining can make the garment feel cooler but look less crisp. Jackets featured in Ermenegildo Zegna Couture's Spring 2016 runway show in Milan in June were lined with cotton voile or poplin to keep them lightweight yet give them structure, says head of design Stefano Pilati. He didn't want to sacrifice the traditional shapes of menswear, he says.

A number of stealth tricks can help men stay cooler while dressed up



Give yourself a **10 minute cool-down** period after a shower before putting on clothes.



Wool is fine, but **choose tropical wool** or a lightweight fresco, for suits, sport coats and slacks.



Avoid high-fat foods. The body's temperature rises as it works harder to digest them.



Look for clothes that blend linen with cotton or wool. Linen alone is cool, but wrinkles.



In body moisturizer, **use non-oily moisturizing agents**, such as aloe gel, which evaporate quickly.



If you wear an undershirt, look for a lightweight style or **one with cooling technology.**



Eating raises your body temperature slightly. **Consider taking off your jacket.**

MIKE SUDAL/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

EATING & DRINKING

ON WINE: WILL LYONS



Why Piedmont Is the New Burgundy

CORKS POPPED AND wine flowed earlier this month, as the “hill-sides, houses and cellars” of Champagne and the vineyards of the Côte de Nuits and Côte de Beaune in Burgundy were granted Unesco world heritage status, joining an illustrious list that includes the Great Wall of China, Machu Picchu and Stonehenge.

But while the French president heaped plaudits on his country’s wine industry, my mind turned back to a year ago, when the vineyards of the northwestern Italian region of Piedmont—including Barbaresco DOCG, the Langhe and the villages of Barolo and Monforte d’Alba—were also deemed to have the special cultural or physical significance worthy of this honor.

“In terms of pure thrill factor, Piedmont is difficult to beat,” says David Berry Green, Italian wine importer for DBGitalia, who is now based in Barolo full time. “It’s not just that it is jaw-droppingly beautiful. The grape varieties possess attributes which can make fine wine: a balance between sugar, acidity, tannins and aromas, as well as an ability to age gracefully over many years. In that sense there is a real parallel with the wines of Bordeaux.”

If the ability to age gracefully draws a comparison with Bordeaux, the landscape, style of wine and culture of the growers owes more to Burgundy. “Italy is just like one big Burgundy, with lots of tiny growers and lots of regional differences,” adds Mr. Berry Green.

Piedmont, often seen as Italy’s second best wine region (after Tuscany), feels like it is on the cusp of achieving something special. Last November in Beaune I spoke with Burgundian négociant Roy Richards who said, over a glass of red Burgundy, that, in terms of potential, no region in the world excites him as much as Piedmont.

He pointed to what happened in Burgundy in the late 1970s, when a new generation decided not to sell their wine to the local cooperative but to bottle it themselves. This resulted in wines with more individual character and definition and, he says, almost exactly the same thing is happening in Piedmont today: the quality has risen but the wines also have their own signature.

The key to understanding this region is the Nebbiolo grape variety, which is grown in Barolo and Barbaresco, in the foothills of the Alps. Although it makes up only a small part of Piedmont’s overall output, it is these wines that I believe are of most interest to the fine-wine sector.

At its best, the Nebbiolo grape produces a medium-bodied wine that has the ethereal appeal of good Pinot Noir, and can smell of anything from rose petals to cherries. One of its main attributes is that the tannins, the astringent, bitter flavors that leave your mouth feeling dry, come from the fruit and not wood, as they do in oak-aged, heavier wines.

These grapes also have a real sense of provenance, thanks to the rare ability to communicate the character of the location where they are planted. You get a village expression just as you do in Burgundy, where Santenay is different from Pommard. In Piedmont, Barolo from Verduno is soft and accessible, whereas from Monforte d’Alba it is more powerful.

Mr. Berry Green recommends producers such as Giovanni Rosso, Trediberri, Casina Bric 460, Cascina Fontana, Fratelli Alessandria, Cascina Luisin, Punset, Roccalini, Manuel Marinacci and G.B. Burlotto. For my own part, I find these wines as thrilling as any I have tasted.

► Email Will at william.lyons@wsj.com or follow him on Twitter: @Will_Lyons



ILLUSTRATION BY JAKOB HINRICHS

DRINKING NOW: THREE PIEDMONT WINES WORTH SEEKING OUT



2012 Nebbiolo, Antoniotti, Sostegno
\$25 or €25

Father-and-son team Mattia and Odilio Antoniotti make this wine in their small property in the village of Sostegno. The first thing that hits you is the wine’s strong aromatics. Very floral, it has a wonderful juicy character and impressive structure. *Alcohol: 13%*



2010 Barbaresco, Manuel Marinacci, San Rocco Seno d’Elvio
\$42 or €38

What an astonishingly attractive wine—I could sit and sniff this all day. It has a lovely, pure raspberry scent with a little dark-fruit undertone. There is a generous red-fruit flavor, with a tartness and fine acidity. A fine creation from young winemaker Manuel Marinacci. *Alcohol: 14%*



2010 Barbaresco, Punset Basarin, Neive
\$40 or €35

Barbaresco is always just a little easier on the palate than its cousin Barolo, made with the same grape variety. This example has that wonderful almost sour cherry character and attractive, tart fruit. Generous in style, it has a juicy mouth feel. *Alcohol: 14%*

A LITTLE SOMETHING SWEET



BERRY TASTY A light and refreshing combination

Matcha Eton Mess With Berries

THERE IS NOTHING more redolent of lazy summer days in the garden than Eton mess, the classic English dessert of meringue jumbled with whipped cream and strawberries.

This easy-peasy sweet concoction has become an English summer favorite because, at its simplest, it involves just a handful of ingredients and can be thrown together in a matter of minutes. It makes great use of the ripe berries that are so plentiful at the height of summer and is a boon for novice pastry chefs: as the meringues are broken up it doesn’t matter if they don’t turn out picture-perfect.

Although you can use store-bought meringues, homemade ones always taste better and are a cinch to make if you follow a couple of basic rules.

The equipment should be spot-

lessly clean and completely free of grease, otherwise the egg whites won’t whip up.

Oven temperature is critical for billowy yet crisp meringues. The lower the better, since they don’t bake so much as dry out until all that is left is the egg-and-sugar structure, with air bubbles in between. As meringues keep well for up to two weeks in an airtight container, they can be prepared in advance.

This version of Eton mess uses ripe raspberries and blueberries oozing red-and-purple juices through a Chantilly cream flavored with matcha tea, a fusion twist that several Asian pastry chefs—notably Japan-born but Paris-based Sadaharu Aoki—have successfully infused into Western desserts.

The fine green-tea powder used in the traditional Japanese ceremony has an elegant chartreuse hue, and a grassy aroma that blends well with sweet ingredients, especially the butterfat found in whipped cream. The result is a flavor that is rich and intense but refreshing and feather-light.

—Elena Berton

TOTAL TIME: 4 hours 20 minutes
ACTIVE TIME: 20 minutes SERVES: 4

2 large egg whites at room temperature
8 tbsp superfine (caster) sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
300g blueberries

300g raspberries
350 mL heavy cream, chilled
2 tsp matcha green tea powder
2 tsp confectioner’s sugar
Mint leaves, to garnish

1. Preheat the oven to 100°C. Cover a baking sheet with parchment.
2. Beat the egg whites until foamy, then add 6 tbsp of the superfine sugar, a spoonful at a time, beating well between each addition. Add the vanilla and the remaining sugar until the mixture is thick and glossy.
3. Spoon six equal blobs on the baking sheet and bake for three hours. Turn off the oven and let it cool for about an hour without opening the door.
4. Rinse the fruit and dry with kitchen paper. Reserve a few berries for decorating and gently press the rest with a fork to release some of the juice.
5. Whip the cream with the matcha powder and the confectioner’s sugar until thick but still soft. Break the meringues into bite-sized pieces, place them in a large mixing bowl, add the matcha whipped cream and fold in the berries with their juice to give a marbled effect.
6. Spoon the mixture into sundae glasses, top with the remaining berries and garnish with mint leaves. Serve as soon as possible.



MANSION

Lakeside Luxury



MIKE BELLEME FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (5)

BY AMY GAMERMAN

LEE ANDERSON, an antique-boat collector, has long admired the extravagant Adirondack boathouses built by Gilded Age tycoons and their descendants. So in 2002, he converted an old marina on Minnesota's Nisswa Lake into a boathouse fit for a robber baron, with twig-work windows and columns of towering old-growth cedars. Along with a pub made of tree trunks and an octagonal great room, the 1,161-square-meter boathouse has indoor slips for five boats, which glide into the lake through French doors on an automated cable track system.

"We like to go out in the afternoons for a little cocktail cruise," says Mr. Anderson, the 76-year-old owner and chairman of API Group, a New Brighton, Minn.-based construction conglomerate. "The bar is always open, and people like to look at the boats." Another 12 classic wooden boats are docked outside. The rest of Mr. Anderson's collection—he has 38 boats in all—is housed in a museum that he built on the lake property, where he and his wife, Penny, summer in a 1,858-square-meter French chateau-style mansion.

Owners of lakeside properties are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars—and sometimes much more—on tricked-out boathouses that are part status symbol, part floating rec room and entertainment space. Although most lakes prohibit new construction of boathouses as actual dwellings, the designer boathouse may have a fireplace, pocket-size kitchen, nap nook or porch—as well as hydraulic winches, automatic

doors and other boater-friendly technology.

"At the high end, a client may spend more than \$1 million on a boathouse," says Dan Nardiello, owner of Redwing Construction in Lake Placid in New York's Adirondacks, where the tradition of expensively rustic boathouses continues. Mr. Nardiello says demand for boathouses has increased, making up between 15% and 20% of his business. A big part of the cost is underwater; building a boathouse foundation can involve lake-bottom drilling and welding by construction workers in scuba gear, he says.

Most lake regions have adopted regulations that restrict the size, design and location of new boathouses to minimize their intrusiveness on shorelines. However, grandfather provisions often allow owners to extensively remodel existing structures—which makes properties with

big, old boathouses especially desirable. On Nisswa Lake, in central Minnesota's Brainerd Lakes area, new boathouses must be set back 23 meters from the shore. But Mr. Anderson's boathouse, originally built in the 1920s, has kept its spot right at the water's edge.

"Only the footprint exists," says Mr. Anderson, of the former metal shed. His builder, Nor-Son, sent deputies to upstate New York and British Columbia to handpick statuesque eastern white and western red cedar trees for the walls, ceilings and floors. Twisted branches, burls and bark were sculpted into a dramatic banister on the log staircase in the great room, opposite a massive fireplace of Montana glacier stone, covered in live lichen. "We spray the stones with water twice a year, to



SUMMER FUN
The Elliotts spent \$213,000 building this cedar boathouse, above and main picture, in Lake Summit, N.C. It includes a rope swing, a loft area and an outdoor shower; left, Lark and Tom Elliott with their children

keep it alive," says Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson, who resides primarily in Naples, Fla. with another home in Duluth and a winery in Croatia, declined to say what it cost to create the boathouse. To build a similar structure today, "you could spend anywhere from \$350 a square foot to \$750 a square foot [around €3,400 to €7,300 a square meter]," says Paul Maki, a Nor-Son senior project architect.

Dean and Andrea McWilliams,

lobbyists who own a consulting firm in Austin, Texas, have yet to build a home on the 2-hectare waterfront property they bought on Lake Austin, about 20 minutes from their home in the city, for \$1.641 million (around €1.5 million) in 2008. Instead, they spent more than \$500,000 to build a striking boathouse, where Mr. McWilliams docks his 7-meter MasterCraft.

Local regulations bar the construction of boathouses as residen-

tial structures, and tightly restrict their size. The McWilliams's 158-square-meter boathouse, which has a marine toilet as well as a sleek kitchenette, has been designed as a comfortable base camp for the couple and their three children for days on the lake.

"The immediate goal was to make the best use of the property—a boat dock was the quickest, easiest way to get our family onto the lake," says Ms. McWilliams, 42, adding that plans for a house on the property are now on the drawing board.

Reached by a walkway of basalt boulders, the two-story boathouse, designed by architect Thomas Bercy in steel, copper, glass and Brazilian hardwood, hovers just above the surface of the water. Copper screens shade a lounge on the upper level that has the feeling of a yacht stateroom, with built-in banquettes upholstered in white and blue leather, powder-coated steel cabinets and a plasma television concealed in a console. A wraparound glass balustrade on the deck outside allows unimpeded views of the lake and a national wildlife refuge across the water.

The boathouse's star feature: a waterfall cascading off the upper deck into the lake, irresistible to children and passing kayakers. The waterfall serves a practical function as well, drowning out the noise of passing boat traffic.

"The whole structure is open to the lake, no hard edges—you can jump in anywhere you want," says Ms. McWilliams, who can see her kids as they kayak and paddleboard from any spot in the boathouse, including while relaxing on the couch with a book.

Boathouse culture dominates Lake Burton, a 1,123-hectare reservoir less than two hours outside Atlanta, where many city dwellers own weekend homes and boats. "People

MANSION



ACKERMAN • GRUBER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (3)



INTO THE WOODS
Lee and Penny Anderson's Adirondack-style boathouse, above, in Minnesota. Far left, the great room; left, the Andersons. The boathouse also features a pub, a guest bedroom and a dining room.



WATER FEATURE
Hilton H. Howell, Jr. rebuilt his boathouse on Lake Burton, Ga. in 2013 after it was leveled by a tornado. 'Really, your front door is the lakeside,' he says.

hang out on their boathouses probably as much as they do in their houses—and they're putting more and more money in them," says Leigh Barnett, an agent who takes clients by pontoon boat to tour multimillion-dollar listings along the lake's 100-kilometer shoreline. "It's an architectural piece that goes with the house."

Hilton H. Howell, Jr. had just completed an Adirondack-style remodel of his boathouse on Lake Burton when it was leveled by a tornado in 2011—along with his house. Undaunted, he rebuilt both, opting this time for a contemporary timber-framed boathouse that would complement the design of his new lake house. The boathouse, made from Douglas fir and Tennessee fieldstone with a cedar-shake roof, was completed in 2013 at an estimated cost of \$750,000. Mr. Howell keeps his prized 1930 wooden Chris-Craft on an electric lift in one of the two slips, and a pontoon boat in the other; two more boats are docked in a smaller boathouse on the shore.

"It's all about the boats," says

Mr. Howell, the 53-year-old CEO of Gray Television, and president and CEO of Atlantic American, an insurance conglomerate. "Really, your front door is the lakeside."

His boathouse, which sits 15 meters out on the water at the end of an ipe wood walkway, is the family's porch on the lake. A 62-square-meter open-air pavilion atop the boat slips is designed for entertaining and for comfort, with a giant ceiling fan, a stone fireplace, a beverage refrigerator and a grill.

Every element is lake-friendly, from the waterproof sofa and teak dining table for 12, to the V-shaped railings—designed to prevent guests from putting down cocktail glasses or beer cans that might get knocked into the water. So far, no tipsy guests have tumbled into the lake, although there are two gated pirate walks for those who want to jump in.

"We'll do dinner parties and lunches there," says Mr. Howell. "In August, you get a breeze off the water, and you can sit on the sofa and read and have a coffee. The

evenings are cool, and having the fireplace is a touch of magic."

Lark Elliott, a portrait photographer, spends summers with her family at a waterfront property with a four-bedroom cabin on Lake Summit, N.C., two hours from their home in Charlotte. Ms. Elliott and her husband Tom, who works in finance, considered remodeling the cabin, but decided instead to build a boathouse atop an existing dock, with their two children in mind.

"I wanted the best rope swing—that was my number-one thing," says Ms. Elliott, 53, who spent \$213,000 on the cedar boathouse, designed by architect Scott Bartholomew. "I wanted to have all the fun things at our boathouse, so the kids would come to us."

She got the rope swing—it's suspended from a beam designed especially for that purpose—along with a kitchenette with granite countertops and custom locust-wood bar stools impervious to wet bathing suit bottoms.

A ladder leads to a snug loft area, where the kids can nap or play cards; there's also an enclosed outdoor shower. But most of the boathouse's 222 square meters is made up of outdoor space, including several decks and a spacious elevated veranda set atop the boat slips, with paddle fans and built-in speakers throughout.

"We really love being on the water. It makes us closer to the lake community, versus being in the house back up on the hill," says Ms. Elliott. She often invites her neighbors to dinner parties at the boathouse, with nice table linens, china and flowers. Guests invariably arrive by boat.

"You've got to make sure you have a designated boat driver," says Ms. Elliott. "You never know when the wildlife officer is going to be out on the lake."



LANA PANICH-LINSMAN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (3)



HANGING AROUND
Top and above, Dean and Andrea McWilliams's boathouse on Lake Austin, Texas. Left, Mr. McWilliams with his sons

MANSION



An 18th-Century Hangout

A New York couple restore a historic Connecticut home, combining authentic features with modern living conveniences

BY CANDACE TAYLOR

AS AN INTERIOR DESIGNER in New York, Alexandra Champalimaud has worked on the ornate art deco lobby at the Waldorf Astoria, and designed chandeliers for the Pierre hotel.

Her own home, in contrast, is simple: a white clapboard house in Litchfield, Conn., built in the 18th century by one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Oliver Wolcott.

"It's got such a big soul. And we're just carrying that with us," says Ms. Champalimaud.

The seven-bedroom Georgian Colonial on 9 hectares is steps from the center of picturesque Litchfield, a New England town about 160 kilometers from New York City. Ms. Champalimaud's husband, financier Bruce Schnitzer, bought the home in 1978 for \$116,000 and began restoring it, a seemingly never-ending project that Ms. Champalimaud has enthusiastically embraced since the two were married in the garden 20 years ago.

Ms. Champalimaud says the biggest challenge has been creating a comfortable home while maintaining the authenticity of the structure, a National Historic Landmark. Wherever possible, they've used period techniques and materials. But in the décor, Ms. Champalimaud has mixed antique and contemporary pieces, including fabrics, rugs and bedspreads she designed.

"We're not a museum," says Ms. Champalimaud. "There's a slightly more contemporary feel layered over all the things, because we have to live here."

The house was built in the 1750s by Gov. Wolcott, an early governor of Connecticut who hosted the likes of George Washington at the home, according to the Litchfield Historical Society.

Its original exterior clapboards, oak floorboards and hardware are largely intact. But when Mr. Schnitzer bought the property "it was in desperate, desperate need of restoration," says Ms. Champalimaud.

Mr. Schnitzer conducted an analysis of the many layers of paint on the walls, found the original colors and used the same type of paint to recreate those hues, such as a brilliant

'We're not a museum. There's a slightly more contemporary feel layered over all the things'

blue in an upstairs bedroom.

Ms. Champalimaud says it is difficult to estimate the amount of money they've spent restoring and maintaining the home, calling it "a labor of love," but also "an enormous expense that just needs to be done and forgotten about."

According to Ms. Champalimaud, Gov. Wolcott traveled extensively, bringing back items he found on his voyages. It is in that spirit that she's filled the home not just with early American furniture, but also pieces from different countries and time periods.

In the dining room, an early American mirror mingles with candlesticks from England, Italian sconces and silver from Ms. Champalimaud's native Portugal. In the library, an over-size portrait of Gov. Wolcott is offset by a geometrically patterned carpet of Ms. Champalimaud's design and an Oriental rug.

The restoration wasn't limited to the house. When Mr. Schnitzer bought the property, a thicket of poison ivy and weeds surrounded it.

As he cleared it away, he found apple, lilac and quince trees. Using early photographs of the house, he recreated long-lost herbaceous borders.

The lawn was sloped at an angle; the couple flattened it to create various sitting and dining areas.

Ms. Champalimaud designed a swimming pool, creating a mosaic using porcelain and ceramic shards found on the property. They renovated a 19th-century carriage house, turning it into Ms. Champalimaud's office. They added a chicken coop, whose inhabitants now supply eggs for their meals.

Ms. Champalimaud spends less time at the house in the winter, when the challenges to living in an old home are more evident. It is difficult to heat; large roaring fires are a must. The house requires continuous maintenance and repair, and the kitchen, added in the mid-1800s, is "a nightmare to cook in," Ms. Champalimaud says. Most of the bathrooms in the home have claw foot tubs rather than modern-style showers. But for Ms. Champalimaud, that is part of the charm.

"Nothing here is supposed to be glamorous," she said. "It's just smart, practical ways of trying to function."



GOING GREEN 1. Bruce Schnitzer cleared away the poison ivy and weeds and found apple, lilac and quince trees. 2. Boots hanging in the mudroom. 3. The dining room, where an early American mirror mingles with candlesticks from England and Italian sconces. 4. Alexandra Champalimaud with dog Oscar. 5. The kitchen sink. 6. The bathroom. 7. A guest room. 8. Ms. Champalimaud designed the swimming pool, creating a mosaic using porcelain and ceramic shards found on the property.



JULIE BIDWELL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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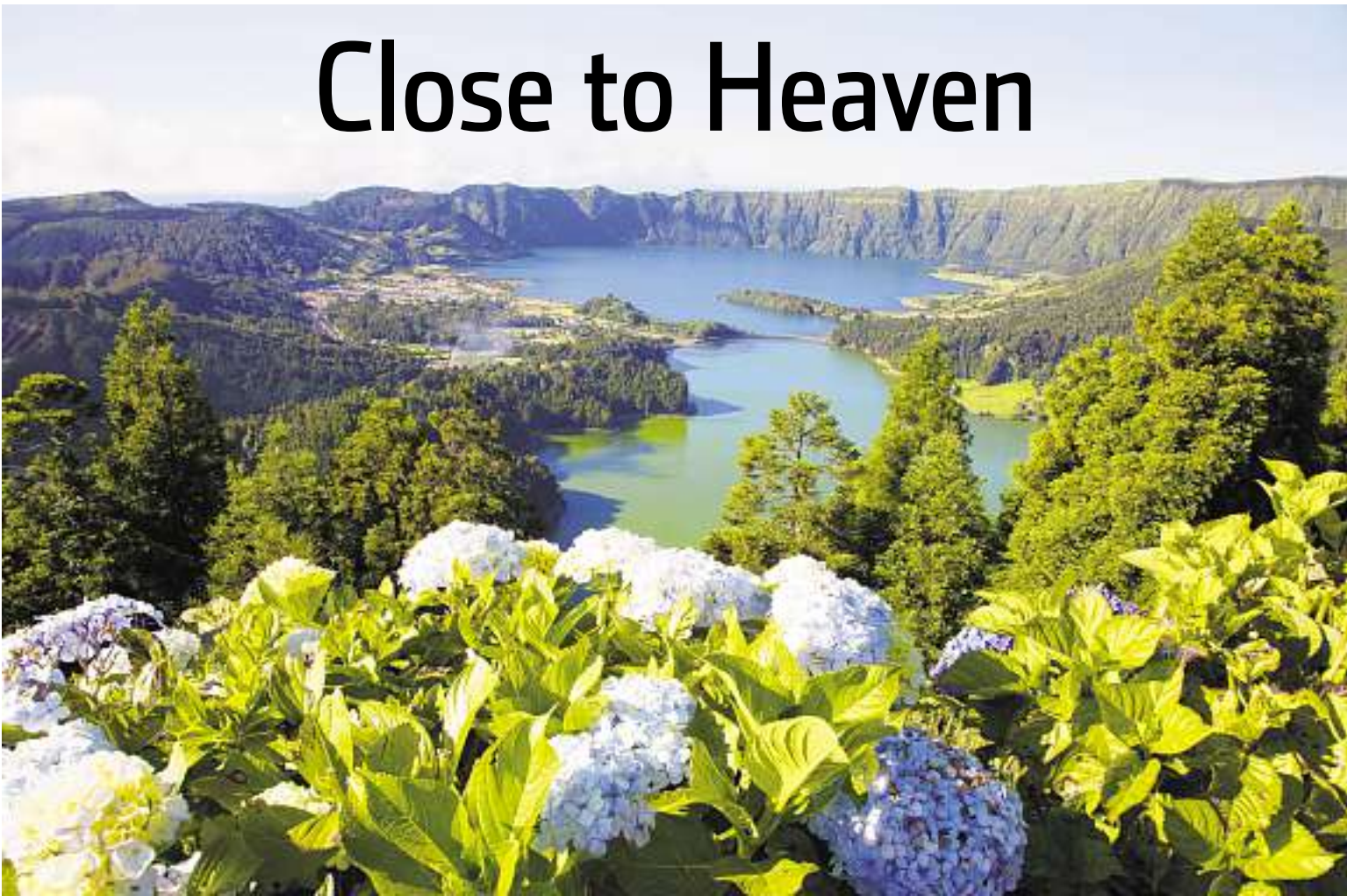
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ADVENTURE & TRAVEL



Close to Heaven

Hiking, biking, surfing, whale-watching in a ‘Jurassic Park’ landscape—the Azores have it all

BY JEN MURPHY

I ALWAYS THOUGHT that if I wanted an adrenaline-fueled getaway with a Lord of the Rings-worthy backdrop I’d have to fly halfway around to New Zealand. Then I discovered the Azores. This archipelago of nine volcanic islands rises from the Atlantic Ocean just 1,600 kilometers west of Lisbon. In less time than it would take me to fly from Boston to L.A. I could be hiking, biking, surfing, diving, soaking in natural hot springs and spotting blue whales in a place still untouched by tourist crowds.

São Miguel, the largest of the islands, is the gateway for most travelers. I arrive in the capital, Ponta Delgada, and am whisked off to the harbor, where a catamaran awaits.

The catamaran’s owner, Futurismo (futurismo.pt), has been running whale-watching trips since 1996 as a more sustainable alternative to the traditional Azorean whaling industry, which shut down in 1986. Today the islands are one of the world’s top whale-watching destinations, attracting around 25 species of whales and dolphins year round. I settle into a beanbag chair near the rail of the top deck and dart my eyes across the water in hopes of spotting a fin.

I’ve gone whale-watching before in Baja, Mexico and Cape Cod and know that there are never any guarantees when it comes to Mother Nature. But, within minutes I’m watching three fin whales—the world’s second-largest mammal—break the surface of the water. They’re so close I catch a blast of their spray in my face. “Think of it as having a whale breathe on you,” says one of the guides.

Part of the charm of the Azores is the people, and no place better embodies island hospitality than Furnas Lake Villas, where the owners, husband and wife Manuel and Helena Gago da Camara, take care of

me as if I were an adopted daughter.

This eco-paradise, shrouded by mountains and trees, consists of 10 rectangular wood bungalows, with floor-to-ceiling windows to drink in the surrounding landscape. The spacious interiors are done up in a minimalist Scandi aesthetic, complete with a wood-burning fire. There isn’t a restaurant onsite, but each morning a breakfast basket—garnished with a freshly cut rose—arrives at my door.

The resort’s 103 hectares are lined with trails and Helena suggests a two-hour trek up to a lookout tower that affords panoramic views of the lake. Later that afternoon I borrow a mountain bike and ride down to find Terra Nostra Garden, near the village of Furnas.

One of Europe’s largest botanical gardens, Parque Terra Nostra (parqueterranostra.com) is a 12.5-hectare wonderland of gardens, grottoes, serpentine trails and carp-filled ponds. The diversity of plantlife is astounding—yet most visitors seem to be more interested in the large geothermal pool, which is full of locals splashing and soaking in the iron-tinged, muddy brown mineral-rich waters.

I hesitantly make my way in, immediately regretting the choice of a white bikini. Local lore says these steamy waters will restore my youth and energize my body. After a 15-minute soak I feel more sleepy than energized and my bathing suit has taken on a copper hue. My skin, however, feels baby soft. Maybe there is some magic to these waters after all.

The thermal pool isn’t the park’s only draw. Tucked away at the entrance is Terra Nostra Garden Hotel (bensaude.pt). It’s here that I sample the unique Azorean dish, cozido das Furnas—a stew of meat, yams, potatoes, and vegetables—slow-cooked by burying the pot underground in the hot volcanic earth for six hours (€24).

THE GREEN ISLAND From top, Sete Cidades on São Miguel; sperm whales diving; geothermal pools in Furnas; the breakfast basket at Furnas Lake Villas, with local cheeses, fruit, yogurt and honey from the property’s bees



While São Miguel has many scenic hikes, the one leading to Lagoa do Fogo—the Lake of Fire—is the most rewarding, and underscores why São Miguel is known as the Green Island. A trail nearly 13 kilometers long winds through Jurassic Park scenery to the crater lake within the Agua de Pau volcano.

As we near the lake, my guide, Alberto, warns me to watch for dive-bombing gulls, protecting their nests. “This is my favorite lake on the island because it’s so remote,” Alberto tells me. “Many people argue the lake of Sete Cidades, the parish on the western tip of the island, is more beautiful. But you share that beauty with many more people.”

The next day, I drive west to the west side of the island see for myself. Unlike Lagoa do Fogo, whose waters resemble a kaleidoscope of blues and greens, the large crater lake of Sete Cidades is divided into distinct blue and green sections.

Legend has it that the two lagoons were created when a blue-eyed princess and her green-eyed lover, a young shepherd, were forced to part. The tears they shed became the two lakes, with water colored like their eyes. More prosaically, researchers say algae causes the color differentiation.

Sete Cidades is the most popular park on São Miguel, making it the



perfect base for Futurismo’s lake-side activity center. With the help of my guide, Paulo, I am fixed up with a mountain bike, and we spend two hours circling the lake.

We swap our bikes for stand-up paddle boards and kayaks, and take to the lake, but a nasty headwind tires me out after just an hour of paddling. Windswept and exhausted, Paulo and I retreat to a taverna and for €1 a pop we each get a beer and toast our day of adventure, as well as my future return—after all, I still have eight islands left to explore.

THE LOWDOWN: AZORES

HOW TO GET THERE

Ryanair flies from Lisbon, Porto and London Stansted to São Miguel; easyJet flies from Lisbon. SATA offers routes from Europe and North America.

GETTING AROUND

Renting a car is highly recommended as public transportation on São Miguel is very limited.

WHERE TO STAY

Solar Glória ao Carmo Hotel

The hotel sits just 300 meters from two of the island’s most popular sandy beaches. *From €90 a night; gloriaaocarmo.com*

Furnas Lake Villas 10 modern villas inspired by traditional Azorean granaries. *From €90 a night; €12 for a breakfast basket; furnaslakevillas.pt*



WHERE TO EAT

Cais 20 An excellent Ponta Delgada seafood restaurant overlooking the ocean. *Catch of the day from around €15; restaurantecais20.pt*

Alcides Restaurante This Ponta Delgada favorite offers Azorean cheeses, and steak topped with a fried egg, garlic and peppers (€19). *alcides.pt*

MUST VISIT

Cerâmica Vieira Visit the studio—family-owned since 1862—and watch artisans create its signature Portuguese tiles. *10-12 Rua das Alm-inhas, Lagoa; +351 292 912 116*

Poça da Dona Beija Relax in the natural hot-spring pools. *Entry €3; pocadadonabeija.com*



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CARLOS DUARTE/ALAMY; SHAWN NOLLEN; LUIS DAVILA/GETTY IMAGES; GERARD SORRY/GETTY IMAGES