

THE FABULOUS 50

It's been a busy year, and it's time to take stock. Here are the finest, freshest hotels, websites, gadgets, bars, luggage and... in-flight pyjamas in the world

even bankers can afford it. The Santorini Grace (00 30 21096 81852, www.santorinigrace.com) has the same virginal-white architecture as the island's six-star hotels, and the same sunset views over the caldera, but peak-season rates start at £270 — about £150 cheaper a night than its rivals.

9 Cheap but tasty
Another bold boast: Robert Thompson is the UK's best young chef. He won his first Michelin star at 23, headed the kitchen at Cliveden at 25 and, still only 26, has taken over the Hambrough hotel, in Ventnor, on the Isle of Wight (01983 856333, www.thehambrough.com; doubles from £130, B&B). You pay £45, you

get three outstanding courses that wouldn't be out of place in swanky London. Deal.

10 A cinema with wings
This is genius. Air New Zealand (www.airnewzealand.co.uk) now starts its in-flight entertainment from the moment you sit down and doesn't turn it off until the wheels touch the ground again. It's a godsend during those oh-so-predictable two-hour delays on the tarmac at Heathrow. Full marks: when are other airlines going to catch up?

11 Need a lift?
We're loving the Peak 2 Peak gondola, in Whistler — the extraordinary new lift that links

two separate ski resorts. It's the flagship of the resort, and it's the only lift in the world without a valley floor. It's a climate-changer, and it's wonderful.

12 Give a hand
When you're in a school or communities that need stuff, if only you'd brought what they lack, you could help. Well, you can. On www.stuffyourrucksack.com, organisations post what they're short of — chalk, clothes, guitar strings, hearing aids — so you can

14 Thrifty rail
Last year, rail travel was cool because it's cheap. This year, it's cool because it's eco-friendly. Tickets start at £99, and from London to Grenada, resorts such as Alpe d'Huez, so bring your mates. (This bar were a man, I would date you.) www.rail.com has an approving online review.

15 It's not exactly subtle
Under the futuristic glass-domed atrium of the Ritz-Carlton (00 7 495 225 88, www.ritzcarlton.com), Moscow's

17 Very this season
When Calvin Klein and Donna Karan safari, they get the Carr-Hartleys to do the organising. So when the Kenyan old-timers got frustrated with the lack of a decent lodge in the pristine Samburu National Park, they built Sasaab (00 254 2089 2234, www.sasaab.com). Dripping with the Moroccan flourishes that typify the region, it's also superbly eco-friendly.

demure billionaires impress their supermodel consorts by slicing open champagne bottles with a hussar's sabre. Out of your depth? Summon the vodka sommelier to advise on a vast array of brands, then sip and soak up the staggering rooftop views of the Kremlin, Red Square and Stalin's skyscrapers.

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18 Gloriously foodie
Nobody enthuses about food more infectiously than Rosie Sykes, maitre d' and menu deviser at the stylish Olde Bell gastropub (01628 825881, www.theoldebells.co.uk), in Hurley, Berkshire. Author of the excellent *The Kitchen Revolution*, she keeps dishes inventively British, and discusses the cooking method of her pig's-head starter as if she's reciting a Shakespeare sonnet.

19 One for the ladies: part 1
We had to use force to get our sources to reveal this one, because Woodbury Common Premium Outlets (www.premiumoutlets.com) is a well-kept secret. Why? It has what's claimed to be the world's only Chloé factory-discount store, with reductions

of up to 75% on this season's stock. It might be a bore to get to, but your bus ride from Manhattan is a bargain. But time flies when you're through your bargains.

20 One for the ladies: part 2
Hand luggage is the bane of your existence, but you need to make it easy on yourself. Mister Mascara's bag is a five-piece set of EU-compliant 100ml bottles and pots that fit in a funnel and spatula to make your posh unguents and perfume travel Blue Peter-efficient. It costs £100, but it's worth it. www.beautique.com.

21 Mwah
There's something of a building around the Borg

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