

# TATLER®

JUNE £4.20



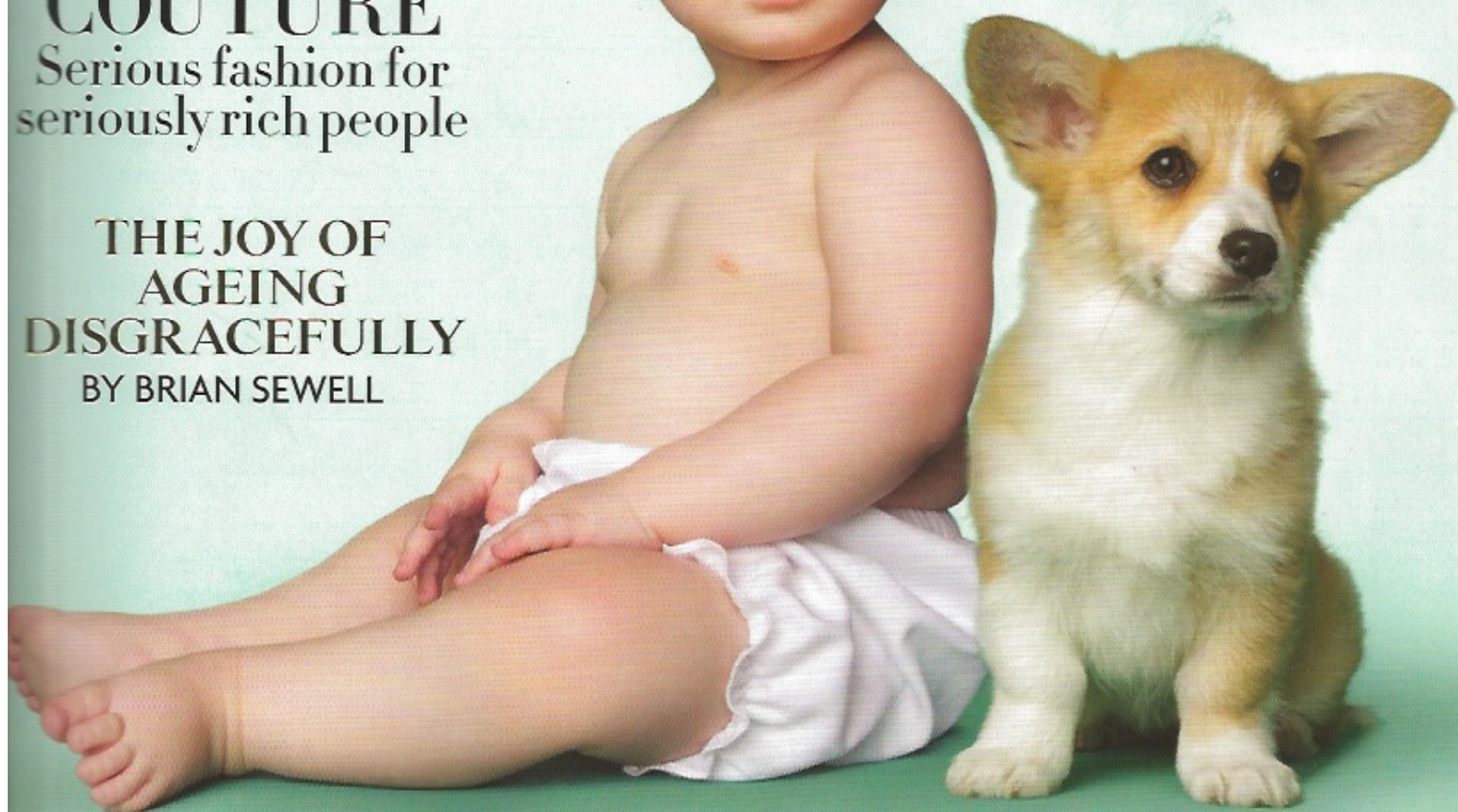
**TATLER'S INSIDER  
COUNTDOWN**  
TO WILLIAM AND  
KATE'S FIRST CHILD

**COUTURE**  
Serious fashion for  
seriously rich people

**THE JOY OF  
AGEING  
DISGRACEFULLY**  
BY BRIAN SEWELL

**CAROLE  
MIDDLETON**

THE POWER  
BEHIND  
THE THRONE



**ROYAL BABY**  
COLLECTOR'S EDITION



# Nautical but nice... HELLO SAILOR!

Yacht, houseboat, tallship, phinisi – the best vessels on the seas



**BOOK IT** Tselana Travel (tselana.com; 020 7193 7086) offers four nights from £2,435, including flights, a trip on the *Endeavour* and accommodation at Four Points by Sheraton Sydney. In other ports of call, stay at The Rocks in Albany or the Port Lincoln Hotel.

## ENDEAVOUR AUSTRALIA



*'Can I get down from the the crow's nest now please, Captain? Seriously.'*

Take the helm, climb the mast, swab the deck! Let free your inner salty seadog aboard *HMB Endeavour*, a faithful replica of 18th-century navigator James Cook's tallship. No sailing experience required, but you do need a sense of adventure and a stomach of steel. Be warned: this is not luxury, no siree. Days are spent handling the rigging, furling the sails and tying and untying endless knots; by night the captain teaches celestial navigation beneath skies cluttered with constellations. Quarters are cramped. Showers are limited to 60 seconds. Everyone takes turns to stand watch – day and night – which means broken sleep in swinging hammocks. See? Not luxury. But food is hearty, shipmate spirit is fierce and nothing beats striding beneath the billowing sails and staring out over a vast blue sea.

*Michelle Jana Chan*

## TIGER BLUE INDONESIA

The journey to Raja Ampat stretches the definition of long-haul travel. It takes a day and a half – A DAY AND A HALF – to get to this scattering of 1,500 islands in West Papua, part of Indonesia. Four airports, multiple passport stamps, endless baggage controls. Ouch. But unpeeling all those layers of travel takes no time after stepping aboard *Tiger Blue*.

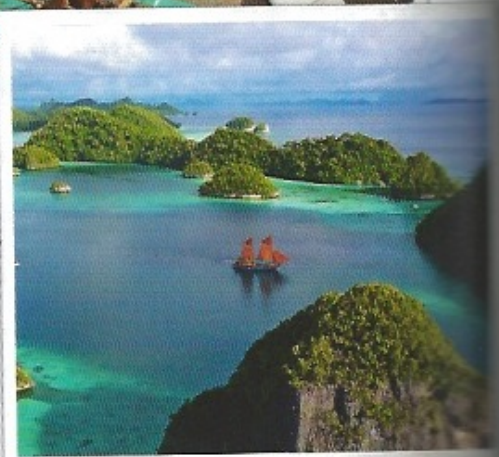
Creaking with romance, she's a 34-metre Indonesian phinisi schooner with bleached ochre-red sails billowing above mellow teak. She follows four separate 8–10 day routes, but the appeal of Raja Ampat is the sense of crossing into a little-known world, once ruled by headhunters (how's that for snapping you out of your jetlag?). We cruised through turquoise lagoons, stopping at tiny villages where we hiked through teak forests, trying to spot elusive birds of

paradise. We snorkelled among hawksbill sea turtles and above manta rays, the water glittering with thousands of colourful fish. We kayaked through mangroves, and drank cocktails by a bonfire on a white-sand beach strewn with cowrie shells, as the evening belly of blue sky became an orange dusk.

**BOOK IT** Ampersand Travel (ampersandtravel.com; 020 7289 6100) offers seven nights on *Tiger Blue* from £3,820 a person, including food and diving. It sleeps up to 10 adults (plus three beds for children) and sails Raja Ampat National Park from October to March, and the Komodo region from April to September.

There's every sort of maritime toy – waterskis, scuba gear, speedboats – and lines for pulling up groupers to barbecue. The cabins are comfortable, but the real joy was in sleeping on deck beneath an inky sky spiked with stars. On the last night the stillness of the evening was broken as a giant sperm whale gently lifted its head from the sea – a mythical, magical Leviathan farewell.

*Clover Stroud*



*'I've decided I prefer the headhunters in West Papua to those in the City.'*