

PORTER

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Into the blue

Anja Rubik
by Mario Sorrenti

Pure Shores

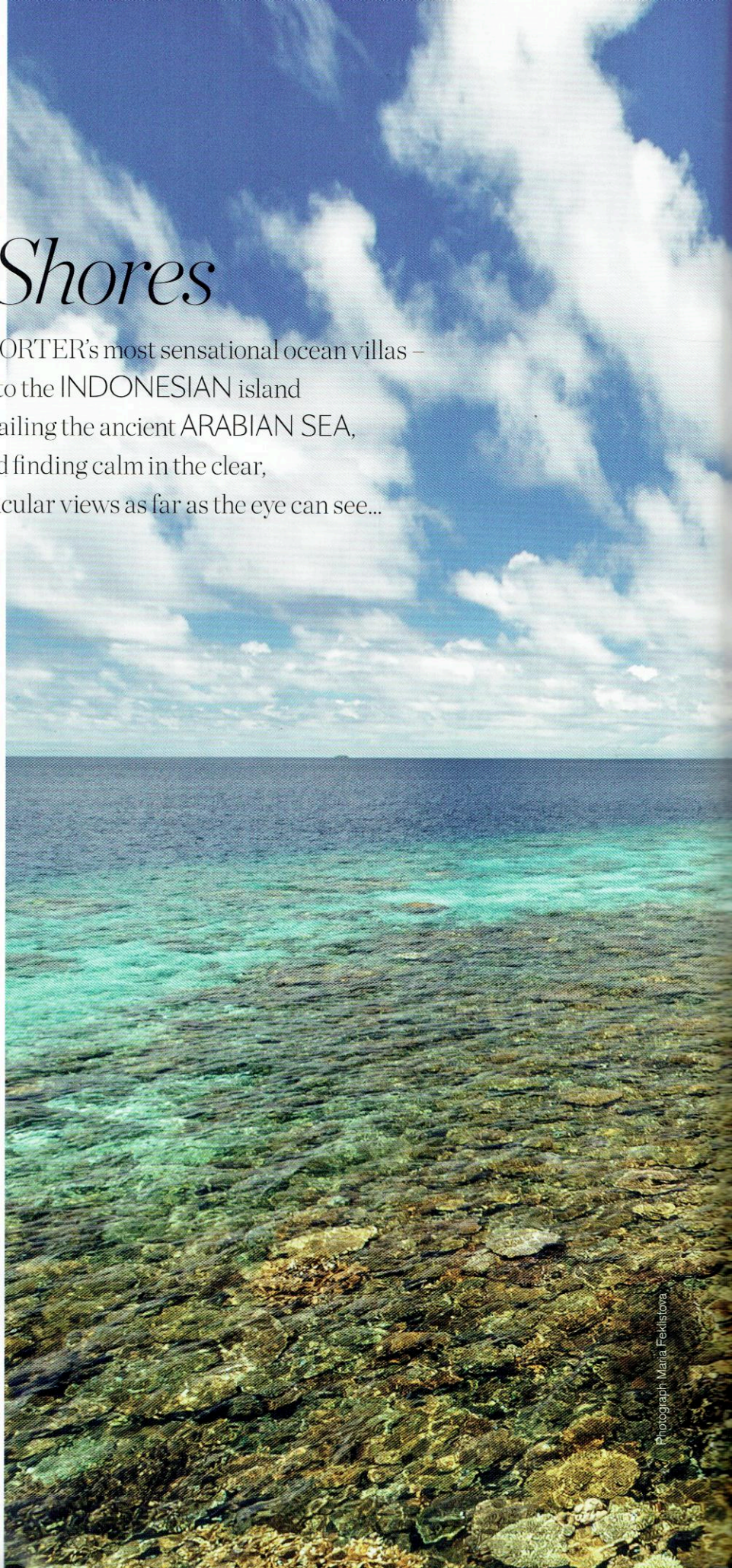
Set sail on a voyage of discovery to PORTER's most sensational ocean villas – from beachside luxury in the MALDIVES to the INDONESIAN island where the surf's always up, sailing the ancient ARABIAN SEA, diving off rocky SICILIAN shores and finding calm in the clear, still waters of JAPAN, with spectacular views as far as the eye can see...

PARK HYATT,
MALDIVES HADAHAA

Oceanic Oasis

Arriving at Hadahaa by night is one of those truly magical experiences you never forget – a speed boat slices silently through shimmering waves of sea plankton, while warm salty air whips through your hair. Twenty minutes later, your mind is clear and calm. The hotel is the only property on the tiny, idyllic island, which sits in the remote southern reaches of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. It is a small sandy jewel where guests wander barefoot and it takes just 10 minutes to jog gently around the whole island. My beach villa, along a sandy path marked out by the glow of lanterns, is hidden behind a wall of lush greenery and reveals a small pool and outdoor bathroom. I spend the nights soaking in the large stone bath while gazing at the extraordinary canopy of stars above. During the day, a water villa on stilts (pictured here) is a prime vantage point to observe the myriad ocean wildlife. I watch rays and reef sharks darting among the coral for what feels like hours. But that is nothing compared to scuba diving along the reef and nearby deserted islands. Then it's off to unwind with a treatment in one of the spa's private cabanas, set in serene tropical gardens. For dinner, a pop-up restaurant appears on the beach, where traditional seafood curries and barbecues are served by candlelight. It's the sort of place where a day feels like a lifetime and you think up ways to return before you've even left. *Danielle Radojevic*

NEED TO KNOW *Villas start from £490 per night, based on two people sharing; parkhyattmaldives.com*



Photograph: Maria Feklistova

out of this world





MAMOLE TREE HOUSE, NIHI SUMBA ISLAND, INDONESIA

Surfer's Paradise

Once upon a time, there was a New Jersey adventurer called Claude Graves, who, in the way of the free-spirited, washed up on the wild shores of Sumba Island in the late 1980s. There, along with his wife Petra, they founded and built Nihiwatu, an 11-shack surfer's paradise that gained a cult following. Claude is still a part of Nihi, now Nihi Sumba Island; indeed, you can even rent their cottage, part of the 28-villa enclave that has been re-imagined to take it out of hippy surf-shack mode. Happily, the original ethos and natural beauty remain. Here, you can surf, of course, ride the fabled Sumba horses bareback down the beach, take 'floating yoga' classes at dusk, relax with alfresco NihiOka Spa treatments and indulge at the sandside barbeques. Guests are encouraged to engage with the culture and conservation of the island; and the knowledgeable staff are mainly from neighboring tribes. It also helps that, despite Nihi's vast 567 acres, only 15 percent is ever allowed to be developed. Mamole Tree House, which sleeps six, is designed around the huge trunk of an ironwood tree and conceived in the Nihi spirit of sustainable, rustic luxury –

it's the perfect spot for extraordinary views of the Indian Ocean surf. *Catherine Fairweather*
NEED TO KNOW *From £22,150 per person for seven nights, including flights; ampersandtravel.com*



Photograph: Geotag Aeroview

AI FARAGLIONI, SCOPELLO, SICILY

Coastal Casa

The Oscar-worthy view is without doubt the star of the show at Ai Faraglioni: from its whitewashed wraparound terrace, a rocky limestone promontory frames the sea, crowned by the silhouette of an ancient Saracen tower and gleaming Madonna shrine atop cactus-studded cliffs. Just 45 minutes from Palermo, this sensational modernist villa from The Thinking Traveller is a bit of a find. Complete with five en-suite bedrooms, double-height ceilings inviting the breeze in, indoor and outdoor feasting areas, and an infinity pool; perhaps the most significant selling point is its direct access to the sea – a rarity in most Italian coastal villas. Steps lead down through the garden to the rocky shoreline, from where you can swim to neighboring Tonnara di Scopello, a disused tuna fishery where tanned locals lay like packed sardines. The family-friendly village of Scopello itself is also fun for an evening *passeggiata*, or explore the secret coves of Lo Zingaro Nature Reserve just outside the villa, visit the local salt flats of Mozia and the white sands of San Vito Lo Capo, one of the cleanest beaches in Italy.

All the allure of a glamorous Italian summer can be found right here. *Catherine Fairweather*

NEED TO KNOW From £5,695 for seven nights; thethinkingtraveller.com