

VANTAGE POINT

SEPTEMBER 2016

ON ROUTE

HUNTSMAN *pimped my* ASTON

by PIERRE LAGRANGE

When Yachts Go GIGA *(Mega's Over)*

by ALAN HARPER

ERNESTO GUEVARA *(yes, that Guevara)* *on* TWO WHEELS

"RACING IS A GREAT
MANIA TO WHICH ONE MUST
SACRIFICE EVERYTHING."

—ENZO FERRARI

PLUS

PRIVATE JETS: THE BILLIONAIRE'S DILEMMA *by* RORY ROSS; SLOW and FAST TRAINS (hint: both are good) *by* STEVE KING and STEPHEN BAYLEY; a GUIDE TO DEEP HARBOURS for those with deep pockets *by* VICTORIA MATHER; THE HEART-RACING ALLURE OF THE FERRARI 250 GTO *by* SIMON KIDSTON; plus our gruelling ROAD, RAIL, AIR and WATER TESTS—and much more, too



ON WATER

By Victoria Mather



SY Alexa

INDONESIAN ODYSSEY

SY Alexa is a one-cabin sailing vessel that tours the Indonesian archipelago. The interior design is ravishing: teak, ironwood, stainless steel and tempered glass, fabrics from Italy, India and Thailand, lighting and furniture custom-made in Bali and Java. There is an open-air cinema and seven staff, including a captain, chef and holistic therapist, to spoil just two guests. The dining space has an open kitchen, and picnics can be arranged on pristine beaches. It costs from £2,665 per day with everything

(even beauty treatments) included, except alcohol. alexaprivatecruises.com

BURMESE DAYS

The new boat on the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar is *The Strand*. She is the sassy riverine sister of the eponymous hotel in Rangoon, which is undergoing a major facelift. The charmingly small boat is English colonial meets the Hamptons: white wicker furniture, Paris-grey linen, panelled library, mahogany bar, small swimming pool and a spa. Everything is gracious to the power of 100,

although the food errs on the side of bland. It is best to travel from Bagan (the myriad pagodas; it's essential to book the balloon trip) to Mandalay, a four-night journey via temples and stupas. Best of all is the river-watching: boats trawling for gold, the burble of children, the slap-slap as laundry is washed and the chatter as geese and pigs are herded home at sundown. ampersandtravel.com

PURE INDULGENCE

Seabourn, Silversea, Aqua and Hebridean are the gold-standard small cruise lines for



SY Asia

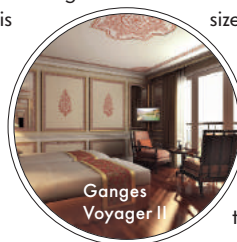
those who don't wish to travel on a floating monster with an on-deck dodgem track. Swan Hellenic originally set the pace for excellent on-board lecturers. Aqua is the way to go on the Amazon. Seabourn has an icebreaker ship for venturing to the Antarctic. Less well known are Uniworld's boats, which offer artwork (Picasso,

Chagall, Paul Maze) and butlers "trained to Buckingham Palace standards". Marie Antoinette could have designed the cabins; the *River Queen* has the only working fireplace on any boat in the world. Its *Ganges Voyager II* is in its first year sailing from Delhi to Calcutta. uniworld.com

INDIAN IDYLL

The Andaman Islands are off-radar India: no posh hotels, no glam. This is barefoot simplicity and the promise of an extraordinary

sea otters are wonders for which they left their former lives as, respectively, a project manager and a chartered accountant. There's space for eight people to read or laze in privacy. The four cabins are equal in size (cabin envy is the curse of many a voyage); don't book for 10, as the small remaining cabin has bunks. boat-yacht-charters.com



Ganges Voyager II

CANNES IT

The *Princess 49* is the cool baby in which to flash about the Côte d'Azur. She packs a lot into her 50ft, including a flybridge big enough to accommodate all guests, a roomy cockpit with U-shaped seating around a folding teak table, an owner's stateroom and two further cabins. The aft gallery can be fitted with a full-size fridge-freezer and optional ice-cream maker, wet bar and BBQ. How else to store industrial quantities of rosé? Plymouth-based Princess Yachts are expert craftsmen with investment from LVMH and Groupe Arnault—a serious vote of confidence. princessyachts.com



Bagan, Myanmar

NIKOLA KOSTIC (SY ALEXA); ROBERT HARDING, ALAMY (BURMA); PAUL JOHNSON/BOAT YACHT CHARTERS (SY ASIA); STEFATOU/REZO.CH (SOLAR FLIGHT); VCG/GETTY (CHIANI); ZUMA PRESS, INC./ALAMY (BONDI)