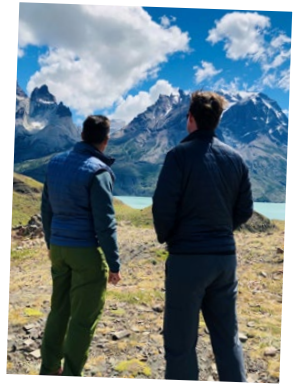




“Travel: It leaves you speechless,  
then turns you into a storyteller.” –Anonymous

What a year it's been! Looking back at 2018, I am astonished by the trips we have planned with you all: be it a lovely couples retreat to nearby Blackberry Farm or a month-long adventure exploring New Zealand and Australia. Believe me when I say that nothing brings us more joy than helping you create these unforgettable memories, and we are so grateful to you for letting us be a part of them.

2018 was an exciting year for our team. **We moved:** we renovated new offices in Chicago and are soon to do the same in Dayton while our presence on the coasts also expanded and improved! **We grew:** we welcomed four talented Luxury Travel Advisors to our team, who all bring valuable experience and skills. Together, we represent a team of 20 who have lived in over 12 countries, from Taiwan to Australia to Denmark. **We traveled:** Our team of Luxury Travel Advisors took over 150 trips this year alone! It seems we love France: we visited France over 50 times in the past five years! The firsthand knowledge these trips give us is key to refining our art, and it is always with passion and pride that we share our own travel stories with you.



2019 will be all about tailored luxury, remote experiences, and personal growth through travel. Creating this issue's cover and reading our Travel Advisors' bucket lists makes me realize how many places and experiences there are to add to my own bucket list, and I hope you'll find this issue inspiring too!

On behalf of our team, I would like to extend our warmest and most sincere wishes to you and your family for a wonderful New Year. I am confident 2019 will be colorful, rich, and thrilling. So where to next?

#TraveltoLive

by Shawna Huffman Owen

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## ISLAND HOPPING IN TAHITI



There are few places on Earth as beautifully natural as the islands of French Polynesia. Despite being the most famous destination, Tahiti shouldn't be your only Polynesian experience: there is much to be discovered on the more than 100 surrounding islands.

My wife and I recently flew into Papeete non-stop from Los Angeles on Air France (direct flights are also available from San Francisco) and split our time between a luxurious seven-day cruise and the paradisiac private island of Tetiaroa. Visiting French Polynesia during our summer is my preference; however, late spring is gorgeous too.

Being a first-time visit, we loved hopping from island to island aboard the all-inclusive Paul Gauguin cruise ship. With capacity for only 332 guests, the





“The activities, both on land and in the water, were limitless.”



*continued from page 4*

ship feels intimate and allowed us to reach lagoons and islands that bigger ships could not. The Paul Gauguin also boasts outstanding service and accommodations. The activities, both on land and in the water, were limitless.

Upon disembarking the ship back in Papeete, we immediately boarded a private plane for the short 20-minute flight to Tetiaroa Island – once a private retreat of the Royal Family, then of Marlon Brando. The exclusive, tranquil resort, The Brando, opened in 2014 to immediate acclaim and has maintained its status as one of the top resorts in the world ever since.

In addition to Tetiaroa, the island of Bora Bora is another one not to miss where you can experience the incredible Four Seasons and St Regis resorts. The activities at these resorts are endless.

Do not delay! Experience every shade of ocean-blue, soaring mountain peaks, and the luxury of doing nothing at all in French Polynesia. 🌴

by  
**Tony  
Huffman**



**Founder & Chairman**  
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# WATCH LIST: HOTELS TO OPEN IN 2019



## ■ **Belmond Cadogan Hotel**, London

*February 2019*

The iconic Chelsea hotel, fully reconceptualized under new ownership by Belmond, will reopen this winter. The hotel has been sensitively restored to reflect its rich history while incorporating a distinctly contemporary British style. The Belmond Cadogan Hotel offers just 54 guestrooms, mostly suites, and is located in one of the world's most luxurious shopping enclaves.



## ■ **Hotel de la Ville**, Rome

*May 2019*

The landmark Hotel de la Ville, magnificently positioned atop the Spanish Steps, is soon to reopen under the Rocco Forte name. Guests can experience the stylish new 104-room luxury hotel, designed by renowned architect Tommaso Ziffer and Rocco Forte Hotels' Director of Design, Olga Polizzi. The 15 suites, including two presidential suites, will boast lovely terraces overlooking Rome.



## ■ **Cheval Blanc St. Tropez**, France

*May 2019*

Cheval Blanc is set to open its newest property in glamorous St. Tropez, as the brand takes over the former La Residence de la Pinède. With just 36 rooms and suites, the property is sure to be an exclusive hideaway on the French Riviera – and the only hotel in St. Tropez to sit on its private beach.



## ■ **Raffles**, Singapore

*Mid 2019*

Expect to experience Raffles' charming ambiance and legendary service in a modernized, all-suite configuration. Dining experiences will include Michelin-starred chef Alain Ducasse's first Mediterranean sharing and grill concept, as well as Anne-Sophie Pic's (3 Michelin stars) debut in Asia. The infamous Long Bar will, of course, reopen brighter than ever.



## ■ **Sonop**, Namibia

*Spring 2019*

Sonop is the brainchild of stylish French hotelier Arnaud Zannier, who has worked alongside local conservationists to protect 9,000 hectares of pristine Namibian wilderness since 2016. The exclusive, 10-tent camp is expected to follow its acclaimed sister property – Omaanda Lodge – in her approach to authentic, barefoot luxury with a 1920s "Out of Africa" style and magnificent views of the Namib desert.



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■ **Rosewood Miramar Beach**, Santa Barbara

*Spring 2019*

Situated on one of the most beautiful and exclusive beaches in Southern California, Rosewood Miramar Beach is designed with style, grace, and glamour. Overlooking the Pacific, the guestrooms and suites will include beachfront accommodations, a collection of signature suites, and multi-bedroom bungalows.



■ **Six Senses**, Bhutan

*Spring 2019*

Luxury adventurers can embark on a circuit around the Himalayan Kingdom, visiting 5 lodges in Bhutan's western and central valleys. One of the most anticipated openings in Asia, Six Senses Bhutan lodges will range in size and facilities – and all will have a focus on spa, wellness, healthy eating, comfort, and self-discovery.



■ **Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos at Costa Palmas**, Mexico

*Mid 2019*

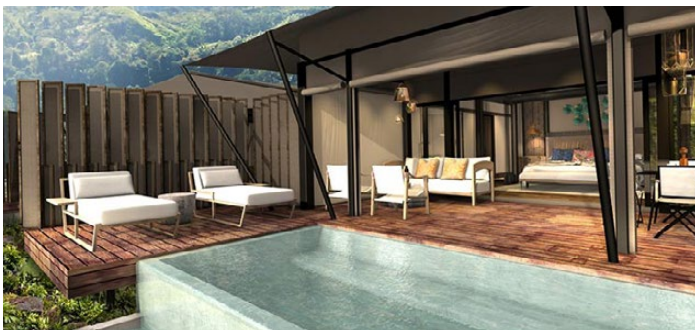
Nestled on 2 miles of untouched private beachfront on Mexico's Baja California Peninsula, the first Four Seasons marina resort will offer clean and contemporary design with expansive views of the Sea of Cortez.



■ **Singita Kwitonda Lodge**, Rwanda

*August 2019*

World-renowned Singita is extending its conservation footprint to Rwanda, where it plans to open Kwitonda Lodge at the edge of Volcanoes National Park. Kwitonda will offer 8 luxurious suites and a villa with breathtaking views. Singita plans to plant 60,000 tree saplings to help protect the hundreds of mountain gorillas who find sanctuary there.



■ **Nayara Tented Camp**, Costa Rica

*Fall 2019*

A sister property to Nayara Resort, Spa & Gardens and Nayara Springs, Nayara Tented Camp will consist of 18 luxury tents, each made up of a master suite and ensuite bathroom. Each tent will sit on its own platform furnished with an outdoor living area and a plunge pool filled from nearby hot springs. 🌿



# RAISING GLOBAL CITIZENS

by  
**Elizabeth  
O'Connor Cole**

**Mom of Four  
Founder of Salveo Lifestyle**



We believe that a great way to raise our children to be global citizens is to travel together as a family and teach them about culture and wellness along the way.

We recently embarked on a comprehensive tour of Peru with our four children – who range from mid-teens to 10 years old. The kids knew virtually nothing about Peru, so we all did some age-appropriate reading before the trip to get a better perspective on what we would see and learn from our guide, a local historian.

Lima, a very large and charming coastal city with incredible restaurants, is the main entry point into Peru. After a couple days biking around town, we made our way to the Andes.

Cuzco, the portal to the Sacred Valley and to Machu Picchu, is an incredible place for all ages. Even the youngest in our family truly enjoyed our city walks and the vast nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman, and our ritual yoga practices. Our kids were also surprisingly willing to try delightful Peruvian specialties such as ceviche, lomo saltado, and plachamanca.

The highlight for all was our full-day, nine-mile hike from the rushing waters of the Vilcabamba River through the Sacred Valley and the Sun Gate to Machu Picchu. Despite a reasonably challenging, often uphill hike, we enthusiastically believed that the astonishing natural splendor and peacefulness of our surroundings made the day extremely worthwhile.

We remained at Machu Picchu the next day to climb Huayana Picchu, the “small” but steep mountain seen in the background on most pictures. From up there, we could see three separate Andean peaks towering over 19,000 feet! The views and sense of spiritual well-being that permeates Machu Picchu must be experienced to be believed.

We had many other adventures on our trip – including horseback riding on trails amidst Andean splendor followed by a lunch that had been just plucked from the chef’s garden, and time spent with a shaman visiting spiritual sites. The memories we and the kids took back from Peru will last a lifetime! 🌍



# Our Advisors

## WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?



Get to know the Huffman Travel Advisors a bit better by learning what places they want to visit most...



### ANDRÉ

#### ● New Zealand

New Zealand is on my bucket list because it encompasses so many things I look for in a trip – fantastic properties, a great food and wine scene, beautiful scenery to photograph, and tons to do. Queenstown is called the Adventure Capital of the World because of all the activities on offer: bungee jumping, zip lining, and jet boating, just to name a few.

#### ● Namibia

I have loved my travels to East and Southern Africa but am excited to visit Namibia to experience an off-the-beaten track Africa. You can see amazing wildlife there, and it feels undiscovered by travelers. I especially want to see the dramatic, stark scenery of the Skeleton Coast.

#### ● Antarctica

I love photography, wildlife, and visiting places off the beaten path. Antarctica checks all of those boxes. Glaciers, icebergs, polar bears, penguins, seals, the list goes on. It is vast and largely uncharted and undiscovered. Good bragging rights!



### LAUREN

#### ● COMO Shambhala Estate (Bali)

Perched above Ubud's lush Ayung Valley, this wellness retreat has long been on my personal bucket-list. After a morning walk around the rice fields, guests can cool off with a dip in their private infinity pool while taking in views of the misty Balinese jungle.

#### ● Scotland

Scotland is more than tartan plaid and clay pigeon shoots. Recently, Scotland has seen major investment in the form of fresh and updated luxury accommodation, Michelin-starred cuisine that goes beyond Scotch eggs and haggis, and a renewed conservation effort showcasing the land in all its raw beauty. I'll take my whiskey by the fire!

#### ● Joshua Tree National Park

Who wouldn't want to step into a Dr. Seuss book? Joshua Tree National Park takes its name after the twisted and spiny Lorax Tree look-a-like that dots the landscape where the Mojave and Colorado deserts meet. I would pair a day of hiking here with a long weekend in the colorful, desert oasis of Palm Springs.



### MEGAN

#### ● Provence

Provence in lavender season is all about sipping a glass of rosé surrounded by the sights and smells of a sea of lavender. Simply magical!

#### ● Cinque Terre

I adore Italy and want to explore every region and taste its cuisine. I love the idea of hiking along the trails in Cinque Terre and being surprised by the spectacular vistas of its rugged coastline and its colorful buildings. I would love to experience the coast by boat too!

#### ● Maldives

I'll never forget the first time I saw a photo of overwater bungalows in the Maldives... pristine beauty, relaxation, and isolation. The perfect place to turn off the world!





### THE GRAND TOUR: ITALY, SPAIN, AND PORTUGAL - THE BELMOND-WAY

It is no secret we love planning trips to the Mediterranean and to the beautiful Portuguese island of Madeira. Jaw-dropping stops include Venice, Portofino, Mallorca, and many more. You can now create your dream itinerary and combine any of the splendid Belmond properties in the region for a flat, guaranteed rate. Fancy a couple of nights in the old town of Taormina, between Greek ruins and Mount Etna? Want to explore Tuscany's wine country from Florence? Or maybe spend a few nights in Madeira to try the legendary afternoon tea at Belmond Reid's Palace? We particularly appreciate the flexibility we have in designing these itineraries with you and the hotels, perfectly tailoring them to your interests. And the list of upgrades and customizations to make your experience extra special goes on and on...

### ESCAPE INTO WILD INDULGENCE

We believe few places on earth can rival the unspoiled, wild beauty of Botswana. Each of Belmond's three luxury tented safari lodges boasts a setting of unsurpassed beauty, teeming with wildlife, yet a completely different ecosystem and safari experience. Recently re-opened, Eagle Island lodge is perched on a private island in the lush Okavango Delta and features deluxe accommodations with breathtaking views, expansive outdoor decks, and private plunge pools. At Belmond Khwai River Lodge, large and luxurious rooms sit on raised platforms above the floodplains, where animals move freely and dinner is enjoyed in complete privacy. Finally, guests can take in panoramic views of elephants in their natural habitat from their own balconies at Savute Elephant Lodge, a Savannah-chic outpost in Chobe National Park that was recently reopened. Head out to the unique viewing hide at dusk or dawn, overlooking the watering hole, and see elephants, hyenas, and cheetahs in their element. Looking for an experience even more unique? We recommend trying a helicopter safari over the Okavango Delta for unbelievable viewing opportunities.



### EXPLORE SCOTLAND FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR LUXURY TRAIN

Discover a land of soaring peaks and deep valleys, glassy lochs, and looming castles. Enjoy a tasting in a famed distillery, then enter the forest for a clay pigeon shoot. As night falls, retreat to the onboard Bamford Haybarn Spa before mingling with fellow guests over candlelit dinners and live ceilidhs. These are some of the treats we are fans of aboard the Belmond Royal Scotsman train. Running since 1985, Belmond Royal Scotsman ranks among the world's most iconic trains. Coupling Edwardian elegance with the comforts of a stately country manor house, we consider it a palace on wheels. We particularly love that fine dining and beverages are included in your fare and that the train stables each night to guarantee a restful sleep. Itineraries run from April to October, for 2 to 7 nights.