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THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

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THE ART ISSUE

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Farther afield, on the Indonesian island of Sumba, is the sprawling **Nihiwatu** resort (villas from \$950/night; nihiwatu.com), defined by its spectacular sea views. Previously a simple surf lodge, the property was acquired three years ago by retail entrepreneur Christopher Burch and a business partner, who spent \$35 million transforming it into a 33-villa compound committed to sustainability and understated luxe. The centerpiece is Burch's own residence, **Raja Mendaka**, a five-suite thatched-roof fiefdom (\$12,000/night) stunningly perched above Occy's Left, a break surfed by adventurous souls from pop star Pink to members of the family behind the Hermès brand. "I can sit here for hours and listen to the waves hit," Burch says. "The blue water, the long beach, a massage in the open air—it puts the rest of my life on hold."

It's also easy to lose track of time in the meditative environment of East Africa. Savvy globe-trotters are complementing their safaris with a stay on the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar, a 20-minute flight from Dar es Salaam. New this season is a private beach rental called **Qambani** (from \$5,820/night, minimum of three nights; qambani.com),



with six cottages that together accommodate up to 16 people. Here, Indian Ocean breezes, marlin sashimi, and soporific afternoons in hammocks are the order of the day. Contact insider travel specialist Will Jones at **Journeys by Design** (journeysbydesign.com) to ensure a soft landing.

In Africa, renting private houses, as opposed to booking lodges, is a relatively new phenomenon. Leading the way is **Mkombe's House Lamai** (from \$655 per person/night, minimum of four people; nomad-tanzania.com), a spacious villa in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. Its unbeatable location on the Kogakuria Kopje outcrop affords endless vistas of the remote Lamai Wedge area, home to cheetahs, lions, and antelope.

Another safari standout is **Richard's River Camp** (from \$715 per person/night; richardscamp.com), in Kenya's Masai

Clockwise from top left: A tent at Richard's River Camp in Kenya's Masai Mara game reserve. The cliff-top Amanera, an Aman property in the Dominican Republic. Raja Mendaka, entrepreneur Christopher Burch's villa at the Nihiwatu resort in Indonesia.

Mara game reserve. Run by third-generation safari guide Richard Roberts, it's an effortlessly chic outpost of tents furnished with Moroccan rugs and Indian block-print linens. In February and March the camp has a close-range view of the Loita wildebeest migration, and this season Roberts has begun involving guests in his Mara Elephant Project. In return for a donation, visitors can tour the park's headquarters and, if timing works, join an expedition to collar local herds with satellite tracking systems. "We expose some of the most privileged travelers to a world beyond the infinity pool," Roberts says. "The experience is life-changing." —SOPHY ROBERTS