

# GOOD VIBRATIONS

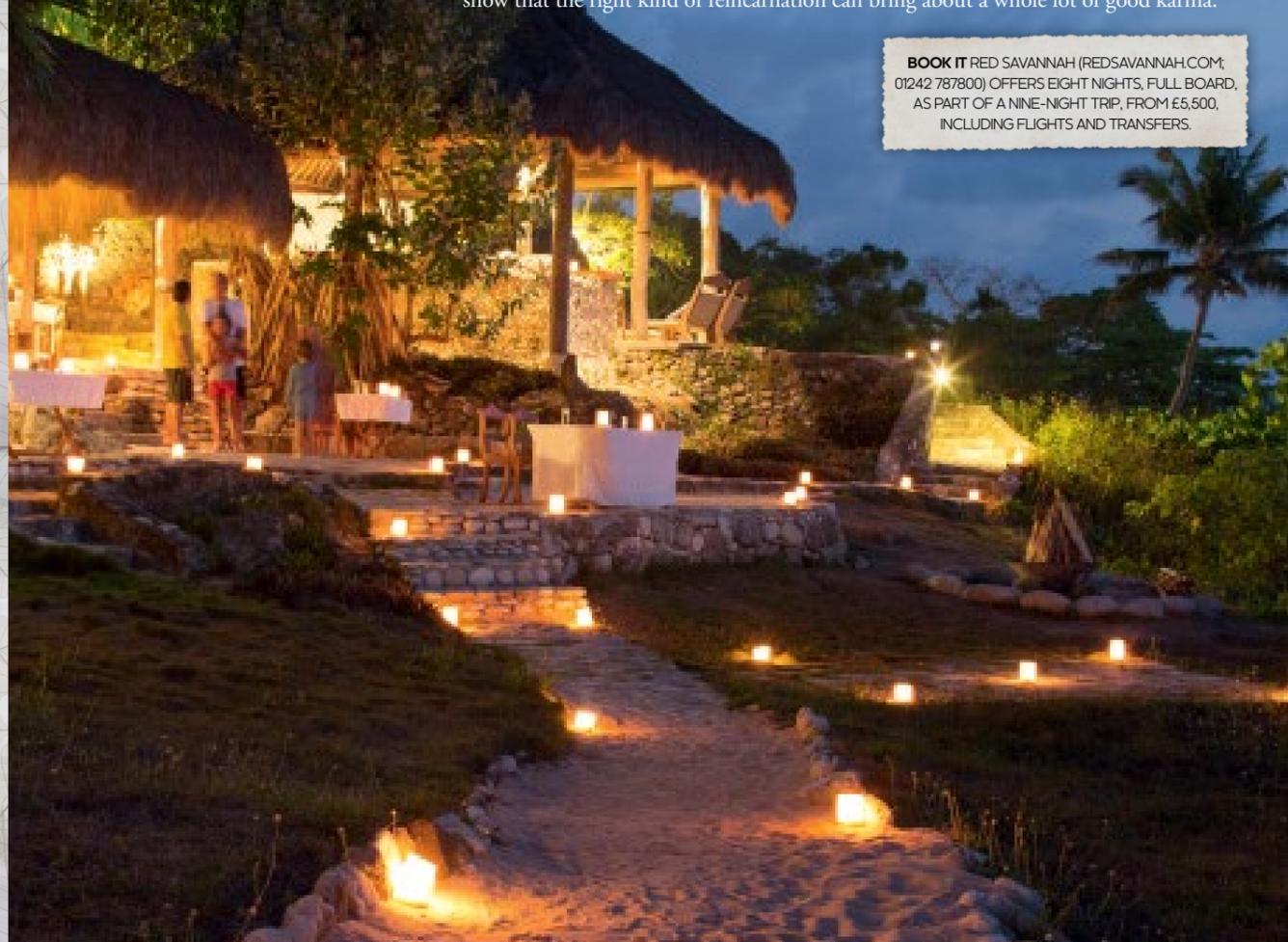
Ethical, sustainable... and irresistible



## NIHIWATU SUMBA, INDONESIA

It's had a few incarnations, this place. Nihiwatu came into the world as a humble surf lodge, which evolved into something of a rite of passage for Europe's smartest clans (the Hermès family and Sisley's d'Ormanos). They were drawn by one of the world's best breaks and the wild landscape – on Sumba, an hour's flight from already-a-schlep Bali – as well as the alluring, devil-may-care character of Nihiwatu's original surf-dude owner, Claude Graves. Word spread, and soon moviemakers and CEOs rocked up in search of a new sense of stylish simplicity. Then, two years ago, it changed hands – entrepreneur Chris Burch (ex-husband of Tory) spent handsomely spiffing up the villas (giant four-posters, private pools, outdoor 'bedrooms' where you can sleep under the stars above the 1.5-mile-long beach). And he added polished extras too: fancier food, thanks to the ex-Aman chef, and beauty treatments. Old hands held their collective breath, but the result has been nothing short of sensational. The resort's untamed character has not changed a smidgen; nor has its laudable attitude to its less privileged neighbours. Guests are encouraged to give generously (they do) to the Sumba Foundation, jollied along by the weekly screening of a hard-hitting video at the bar, explaining the harsh facts of the area's rates of disease and illiteracy. Or they can head out on day trips to help with the foundation's fieldwork. But the best testimony to Nihiwatu's commitment to Sumbanese life is its direct employment of so many locals. It's an extraordinary place with extraordinary heart, and just goes to show that the right kind of reincarnation can bring about a whole lot of good karma.

**BOOK IT** RED SAVANNAH (REDSAVANNAH.COM; 01242 787800) OFFERS EIGHT NIGHTS, FULL BOARD, AS PART OF A NINE-NIGHT TRIP, FROM £5,500, INCLUDING FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS.



**BOOK IT** VOLCANOES SAFARIS (VOLCANOES SAFARIS.COM; 0870 870 8480) OFFERS THREE NIGHTS, FULL BOARD, FROM £2,205, INCLUDING A GORILLA PERMIT. KENYA AIRWAYS FLIES DAILY FROM HEATHROW TO NAIROBI FROM £795.



## VIRUNGA LODGE

MUSANZE, RWANDA

If you go all dreamy at the very thought of mountain gorillas, put this at the top of your bucket list. Virunga Lodge has been here for 10 years, and to celebrate has created two new suites, overlooking Lake Bulera and the very volcanic foothills where Dian Fossey had her big gorilla love-in. It's all terrifically *Out of Africa*: shared candlelit suppers, wraparound verandas, four-poster beds, open fires and private terraces for misty mountain gazing and sun-drowsy snoozes. You'll need those naps, as you're here for one thing: the gorillas, which you'll be tracking from before dawn, scrambling up through slippery forest (often in mud and pouring rain, for hours and hours and hours). But it's all worth it when you find them, hanging out, having a natter, chomping away, giving you the once-over every now and again. Magical.

## SONG SAA

KOH RONG ARCHIPELAGO, CAMBODIA

When the moon hits your eye... it's likely you'll have an oyster in one hand and champagne beading a glass in the other, while that old charmer in the sky turns it on full whack as you sit back and sigh. Because *amore* is exactly what you'll feel for these two tiny islands off the Cambodian coast. You'll be in love with your villa, its polished-wood floor smooth underfoot, the sun-soaked deck flirting with the indecently close waves. You'll be wooed by boat trips to deserted beaches, tiffin-tin picnics beneath giant paper parasols and diving among electric-blue anemones. And you'll probably have a bit of a crush on your hosts too – Rory and Melita Hunter have not only built an utterly soul-soothing place to stay, they've also established a marine reserve, set up local sustainability projects and repurposed a fishing boat to distribute medical supplies to nearby islands. It's a labour of love that's created something pretty special – we dare you not to fall for it, big time.



SAVE UP TO £1730 PER COUPLE. SEVEN NIGHTS FOR THE PRICE OF FIVE. ALL INCLUSIVE, FROM £3,455, INCLUDING FLIGHTS FROM LONDON HEATHROW AND TRANSFERS. EXCLUSIVE TO CARRIER (CARRIER.CO.UK/TATLER; 0161 826 2866).\*



THE GORGEOUS **SONEVA** RESORTS ARE CLEVER TOO. THEIR 'WHOLE WORLD WATER' CAMPAIGN ELIMINATES PLASTIC BOTTLES AND PLOUGHS MONEY INTO PROVIDING SAFE DRINKING WATER AROUND THE WORLD. HOW REFRESHING. (SONEVA.COM)

**BOOK IT** DOUBLE, FROM £75. (RESPONSIBLETRAVEL.COM; 01273 823700)



## BUTTERFLY HOUSE BAHIA, BRAZIL

The Maraú Peninsula is remote. We're talking off the radar – a far-flung sliver of land, with nothing but powder-soft beaches, a handful of fishing villages and steamy, luscious jungle. So remote, in fact, that Chloe Gibbs, the delightfully dotty young English owner, ended up here by throwing a peanut at a map and deciding to move to wherever the nut landed. See? Properly bonkers. Sandwiched between the Atlantic surf and a freshwater lake, Butterfly House is all about ethical, with eight bungalows and suites built from sustainably grown bamboo and salvaged Brazil-nut wood, solar-powered showers and waste recycling. But ethical does not mean dowdy, not at all. Chloe has muddled together Brazilian farmhouse, Provençal vintage and Moroccan riad – brilliantly stylish but entirely laidback. So it's perfectly fine to be unashamedly idle, flitting from daybed to hammock to poolside, for a caipirinha, lobster salad and acai ice cream. Or you can start the day with yoga, then paddleboard and finish with a surf lesson. Anything goes.