VIRTUOSO II E



EUROPE CALLING

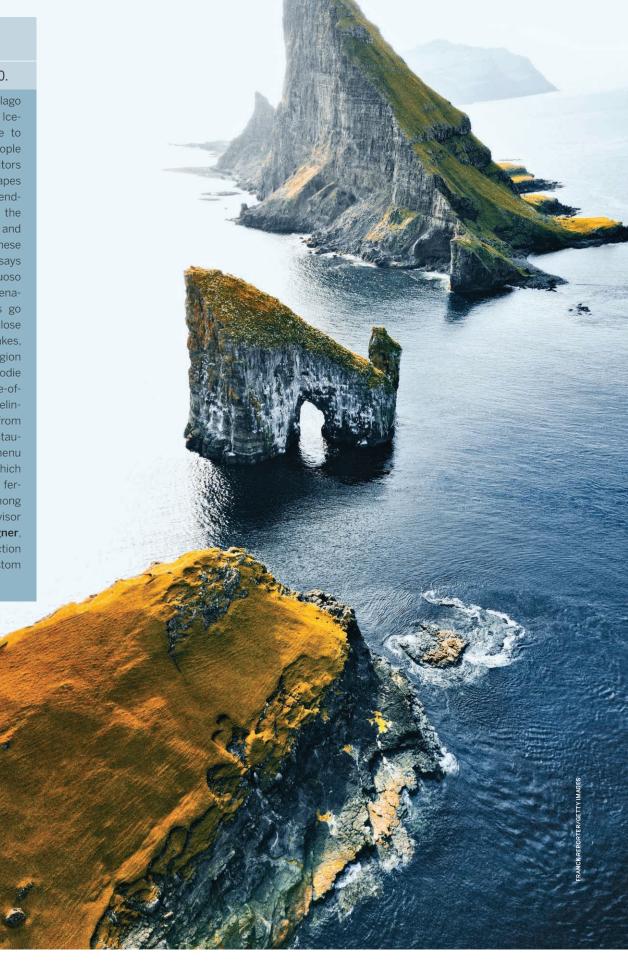
BY SARAH KHAN



FAROE ISLANDS

INTRODUCING ICELAND 2.0.

This rugged Danish archipelago in the North Atlantic between Iceland and Scandinavia is home to more sheep (70,000) than people (50,000), and it's drawing visitors seeking starkly ethereal landscapes away from the crowds descending on Reykjavík. "Coupled with the stunning beauty are the warm and friendly Faroese, which makes these islands a special place to visit," says Thornhill, Ontario-based Virtuoso travel advisor Zilla Parker. Adrenaline seekers and wildlife buffs go for the vast hiking trails and close encounters with puffins, kittiwakes, and gannets, but the remote region is also, surprisingly, a bit of a foodie haven: Travelers trek to this edge-ofthe-world outpost to eat at Michelinstarred Koks, a 30-minute drive from the capital of Tórshavn. The restaurant's 17- to 21-course tasting menu exemplifies Faroese cuisine, which features foraged sea urchins, fermented lamb, and salted cod, among other Nordic delicacies. Your advisor can work with The Travel Designer, a Virtuoso on-site tour connection in Scandinavia, to create a custom journey through the islands.



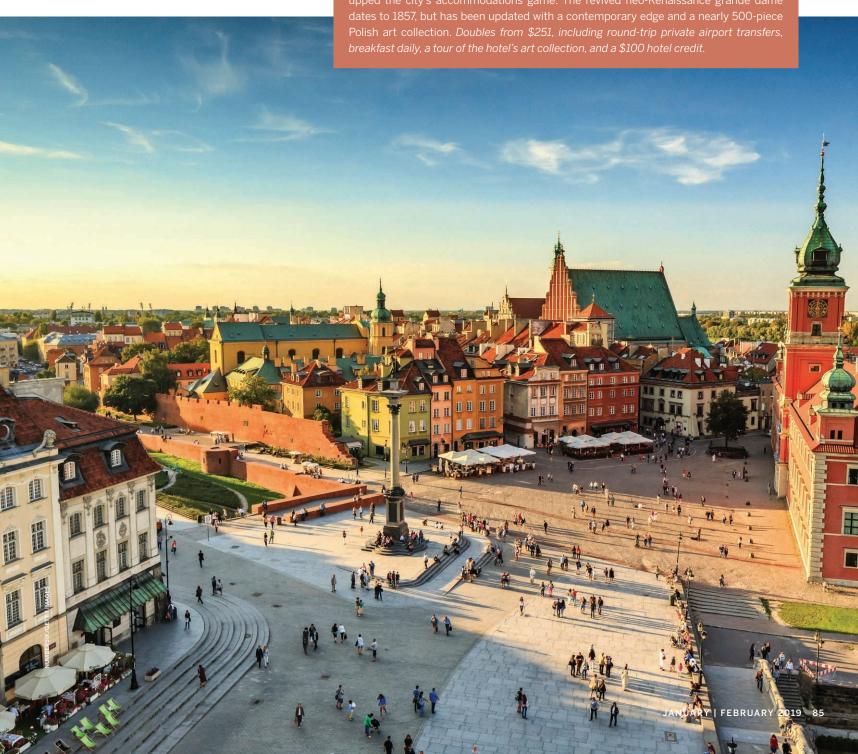
The Drangarnir sea stacks, off the coast of Vágar in the Faroe Islands.

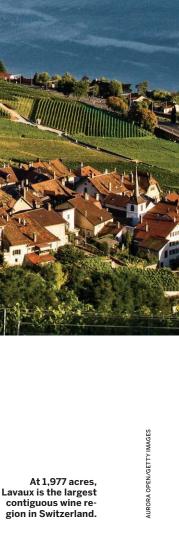
WARSAW, POLAND

AN URBAN ESCAPE READY TO SHINE.

The Polish capital is becoming one of Europe's hippest destinations for 2019. "The city has shed its dark past and transformed into a fun, cultural place with much to offer global travelers," says Chester, UK-based advisor Claire Parsons. Explore the easily walkable Old Town and its surrounding museums, including the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews; take in an alfresco summer concert featuring the music of Warsaw native Frédéric Chopin at Łazienki Park; and dive into the city's impressive dining scene. "You have to try a traditional *paczek* doughnut; the best are from the Zagoździński bakery in the Wola district," Parsons says. Last year's opening of the 106-room **Raffles Europejski Warsaw** upped the city's accommodations game: The revived neo-Renaissance grande dame dates to 1857, but has been updated with a contemporary edge and a nearly 500-piece Polish art collection. *Doubles from \$251*, *including round-trip private airport transfers*, broakfoot daily a tour of the hotel's est collection and a \$100 hotel estadit.

Golden hour in Old Town Warsaw's Castle Square.







also know how to navigate it. Doubles from \$586, including breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel

credit. Premium fête tickets from \$359. – Megan Padilla

VIRTUOSO LIFE

EUROPE CALLING

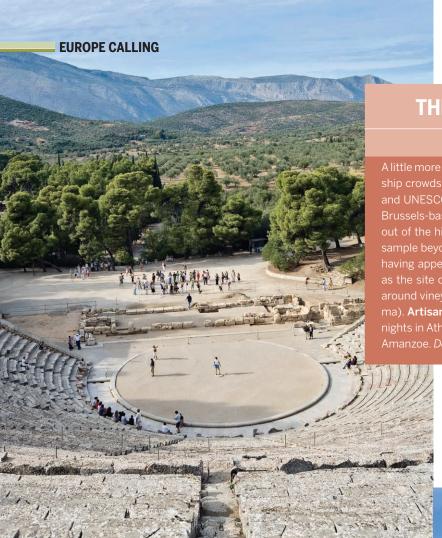


ISTANBUL, TURKEY

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE -AND A CELEBRATED COMEBACK.

It's been a rough few years for this continent-straddling Turkish city, but Istanbul tourism is back and embracing the future. "Istanbul is bristling with new buildings, and its vibrant and affluent center is full of beautiful people," says Peter Lloyd, an Atlantabased Virtuoso advisor. Istanbul's European side, west of the Bosphorus, showcases the city's past and present, from the seventeenthcentury Blue Mosque to a modernart installation inside the ancient Theodosius Cistern, and Bomontiada, a former beer factory turned art gallery and entertainment complex in Bomonti. It's easier to arrive here than ever before: the new Istanbul Airport, which opened its first section late last year, will become one of the world's busiest, and later this year an expanded cruise terminal is set to debut in Karaköy. Cruise ships are returning to the city after a threeyear hiatus, including Regent Seven Seas Cruises' 700-passenger Seven Seas Voyager, on an 11-day Athensto-Barcelona sailing. Departure: October 16; from \$9,799. – Lisa Morrow

> Istanbul's Sultan Ahmed Mosque, known as the Blue Mosque for the hue of its interior tiles.



THE PELOPONNESE, GREECE

A little more than an hour's drive west of Athens and a million light-years from the cruiseship crowds on Mykonos, the Peloponnese packs a dizzying mix of vineyards, beaches, Brussels-based travel advisor Marina Kiriazis likes to move the mountainous peninsula out of the history books and onto itineraries, offering travelers more of the country to sample beyond its famed isles. ("Greece is joining the likes of Italy, France, and Spain in having appeal for repeat visitors," Kiriazis says.) While the Peloponnese is best known around vineyards and olive groves, and take a cooking lesson with a local yiayia (grandma). Artisans of Leisure's private, ten-day tour provides a little bit of everything: a few

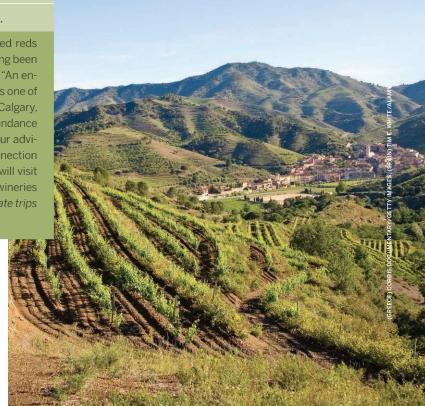
> The Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus, which still hosts performances today.

PRIORAT, SPAIN

SAY iSALUD! TO YOUR NEW FAVORITE SPANISH WINE.

While they're not as globally renowned as Rioja, the sultry, multifaceted reds from Priorat, a rocky swath of Catalonia southwest of Barcelona, have long been on connoisseurs' radars – and now the rest of the world is catching up. "An energetic group of young winemakers has earned the region a reputation as one of Spain's most innovative," says Andrew De Angelis, a travel advisor from Calgary, Alberta. "The area's pristine natural beauty, distinctive terroir, and abundance of sunshine make it a great place to visit on a winetasting excursion." Your advisor can work with **Valesa Cultural Services**, a Virtuoso on-site tour connection in Spain, to customize a just-launched jaunt through Priorat. Travelers will visit an olive grove, take cooking classes with local chefs, and tour top local wineries such as Scala Dei, which dates back to the twelfth century. Four-day private trips from \$5,700, including accommodations, tours, and some meals.

> Vineyards near the Costa Daurada in Priorat, Spain.





A retreat for sailboats in Zadar, Croatia.

COASTAL CROATIA

It's the No. 2 emerging global destination, according to this year's Virtuoso Luxe Report, a trends survey of more than 1,000 Virtuoso travel advisors. Leave the Game of Thrones ship. "Cruising the Dalmatian coast etation, and many charming small point: the breathtaking isle of Hvar, with its stately Venetian fortress, and Zadar, an uncrowded coastal city that Alfred Hitchcock once proclaimed to the world. Cruise lines have noticed ed by adding fresh itineraries and Venice sailing on Azamara Club Cruises' new 690-passenger Azamara Pursuit calls on all of the above, plus the picturesque port towns of Rijeka and Split. Departure: June 29;

ARLES, FRANCE

CREATIVITY IN THE COUNTRY.

air to this Provençal town. The cenroots were laid down more than a California-based advisor Howard way to experience the French lifestyle ket: "The aromas are overwhelming, at the play-by-play between sellers from the 39-room Domaine de Manville, a quintessential French country retreat in Les Baux-de-Provence, a 30-minute drive away. Doubles from \$371, including breakfast daily and a a \$100 dining credit.

Afternoon strolls in the heart of Arles.



A proper post-Ferrantetour wind-down: Ischia's Giardini Poseidon Terme. wellness-minded travelers. Doubles from \$283, including breakfast daily and one massage or dinner for two. Terme Manzi is open seasonally, April through October. Five-day Ferrante

experience from \$1,436, including accommodations and tours. VI.