

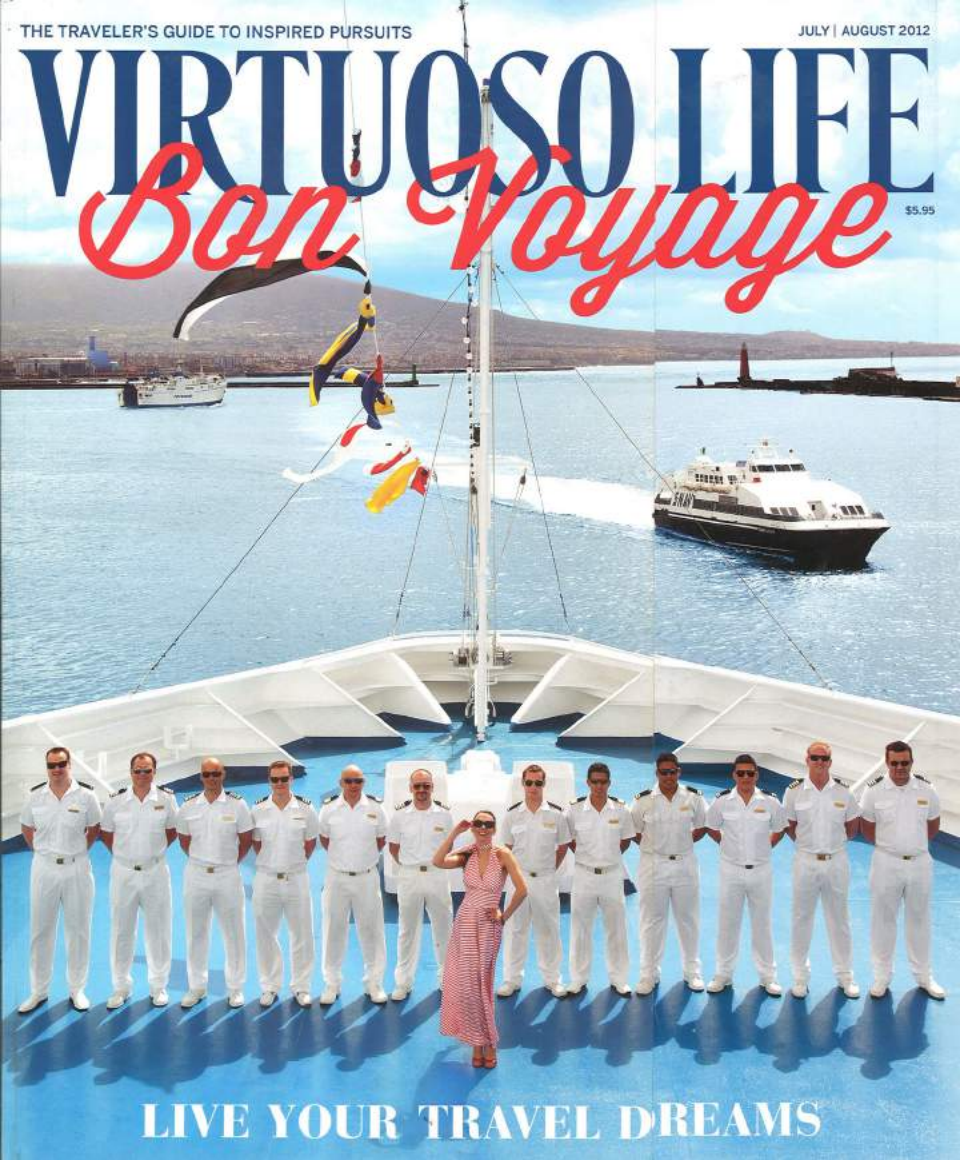
THE TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO INSPIRED PURSUITS

JULY | AUGUST 2012

VIRTUOSO LIFE

Bon Voyage

\$5.99



LIVE YOUR TRAVEL DREAMS

GO GREEN

Making the world a better place, one trip at a time.

➔ Eco-friendly flying gets a major lift with **Japan Airlines'** launch of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner on its new Boston-to-Tokyo nonstop. In addition to perks such as larger windows, higher ceilings, and better cabin pressure and humidity controls, the airplane's improved aerodynamics, lighter composite construction, and more-fuel-efficient engines greatly shrink its carbon footprint. Consider it a faster, sexier hybrid at 31,000 feet.

➔ Hydrating in the Grand Canyon's heat is now easier, more affordable, and healthier for the environment. After identifying disposable plastic water bottles as its single largest source of litter, the National Park Service banned their sale inside the park as part of the **Climate Friendly Parks Program**. Forget your reusable bottle? Pick up a souvenir bottle and fill it at the numerous water stations installed on both the North and South rims.

➔ A new day-in-the-life program at the 60-room **Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan** immerses guests in island tradition. Participants plant rice, walk the verdant Ayung River valley, and learn about Balinese cuisine during breakfast and lunch with the farmers. *Doubles from \$460, including breakfast daily and one afternoon tea for two. Farm excursion, \$245.*



The Grand Canyon, now on tap.

➔ Step into the light: British company **Pavegen's** new **energy sidewalk**—a stretch of recycled rubber tiles between London's Olympic Stadium and nearby Westfield Stratford Shopping Centre—converts footfalls into electricity for streetlights. Looks like everyone at the Summer Games is a power-walking contender.

➔ **Nomadic Expeditions'** founder and president Jalsa Urubshurov leads the company's 20th-anniversary trip to Mongolia. Highlights of the 12-day adventure include visits to Buddhist Gandan Monastery as well as to the Golden Eagle Festival, where travelers will meet with Kazakh eagle hunters and their families and join in traditional music and dance festivities. Also along for the ride: guest speaker Peter Matthiessen, whose National Book Award-winning *The Snow Leopard* brought world attention to the rare cat that still thrives in Mongolia; avian expert Victor Emanuel for birding outings; and *Virtuoso Life's* Costas Christ, who leads presentations on protecting natural and cultural heritage. Departure: October 3, from \$13,800.

➔ Once a decade the world-horticultural expo **Floriade** takes root in Venlo, in southern Holland, with 160-plus acres of sustainable urban gardens, green garage roofs, landscaping for beekeepers, outdoor kitchens, and gardens representing Spain, Tunisia, and Indonesia—even one through which visitors are encouraged to tiptoe barefoot. With the expo roughly midway between them, Amsterdam's 111-room **De L'Europe** and Cologne's 142-room **Excelsior Hotel Ernst** have teamed up for a trip that begins with three nights in Amsterdam and concludes with two in Cologne, booking a day at Floriade, which runs through October 7. *Doubles from \$552 at De L'Europe and \$380 at Excelsior Hotel Ernst per night, including breakfast daily, lunch for two at De L'Europe, a bottle of Champagne in room at the Excelsior, and VIP entry and a guided tour of Floriade.*

PLANE TALK

CLASS ACT

Transatlantic travelers don't have to leave British customs in the motherland: **Virgin Atlantic** recently introduced afternoon tea service—complete with tiered stands for finger sandwiches, cakes, and scones—in its first class on daytime flights. The airline is also staking out new ground in beauty, becoming the first to launch its own lipcolor, Upper Class Red by bareMinerals (\$16).



PARK IT HERE

Air France recently unveiled its largest business-class lounge at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport's new international departure wing. Inspired by a park, the 33,000-square-foot space features oversized tree-like lamps and mood lighting that varies across the lounge.



Eco-sharp Floriade.