The more unpredictable our natural and political landscapes become, the more we feel the urge to visit places untouched by the news cycle. So, as we continue to support and keep a close watch on those areas hit hardest by a rash of hurricanes, fires, and foreign-policy blunders, we’re craving the kind of life- and perspective-changing travel that’s made all the more magical when planned by the pros—no matter how fearless and self-sufficient we sometimes feel. Because surviving in, say, the Bolivian jungle one day and meeting with the hottest artists in Lima the next requires both grit and access—to say nothing of a network of on-the-ground know-how that you quite literally can’t live without in some places. Here are the experts, fixers, and experience makers you’ll want in your foxhole.

Jordan Harvey, a South America specialist, plans treks in the Andes passing alpaca- and llama-filled pastures.
AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

CENTRAL, EASTERN, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
Cherri Briggs
Explore, Inc.
Briggs has spent more than two decades planning trips to Africa, and her latest focus is lesser-known but awe-inspiring places like Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Zambia.

Michael Lorentz
Passage to Africa
Lorentz shines at back-of-beyond trips to Ethiopia and mobile safaris in Botswana, where you’ll spot meerkat, hyena, and other wildlife.

Henrietta Loyd
Cazenove + Loyd
She’ll arrange art tours in places like the rarely visited Mabuasehube Game Reserve, Nolting is our guy.

Nina Wennersten and Daniel Saperstein
Hippoc Creek Safaris
This duo pulls off spectacular trips in Kenya (to the Segera Retreat, for example), South Africa (where they’ll arrange private wine tastings), and Tanzania (where they recommend Roving Bushtops).

EASTERN AFRICA
Linda Friedman
Custom Safaris
She’s planned lots of multigenerational family safaris, and she’s also expert at gorilla tracking in Rwanda.

WIL Smith and Karen Zulauf
Deeper Africa
They take walking safaris seriously, pairing you up with leading researchers, game wardens, antipoaching teams, and guides for itineraries in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and beyond.

EGYPT
Rami Girgis
Abercrombie & Kent
Girgis can get you private access to the entire Giza Plateau, including the three major pyramids and the Sphinx.

ETHIOPIA
Will Jones
Journeys by Design
A native of Africa, Jones has been working in safaris since 1994, managing camps, guiding trips, and planning way-out-there expeditions into tribal villages and stretches of untouched wilderness.

IRAN AND TUNISIA
Jerry Sorkin
Iconic Journeys
He’s got decades of experience in North Africa and the Middle East, and has fixers who can speak to everything from ancient ruins to contemporary politics.

ISRAEL
Susan Weissberg
Wyllys Professional Travel
She knows the contemporary art scene in Jaffa and the right guides for a deep dive into Jewish history.

Joe Yudin
Touring Israel
Yudin can connect you with Israel Defense Forces officers, archaeologists, chefs, and other insiders.

MOROCCO
Michael Diamond
Cobblestone Private Travel
His travelers meet with women’s rights NGOs in the Ourika Valley, get the best rooms at in-demand riads in Marrakech, and do tast- ing tours through Fès.

Mike Korn
Heritage Tours
If you want to try dune boarding in the Sahara or see the blue-walled city of Chefchaouen, go with Korn. He’s also got great guides in Fès and Marrakech.

OMAN
Sean Nelson
Oman Expeditions
He knows the best climbing and canyon-eering routes; the most exhilarating dune-bashing and quad-biking spots; and the perfect stretches of coast for surfing, diving, and sailing.

SOUTHERN AFRICA
Dan Achber
Truffelpig
Achber knows Botswana particularly well—he’s organized multiday paddles on the Selinda Spillway and game counts with zebra researchers working in the Makgadikgadi Pans.

Deborah Galmeyer
Roar Africa
With her far-reaching network that includes some of the region’s savviest guides, she can get you into private homes, gardens, and art collections you can’t otherwise see.

Julian Harrison
Premier Tours
He’s arranged trips with wildlife filmmakers Dereck and Beverly Joubert, as well as with lion and rhino researchers.

Ryan Hilton
AuthentEscapes
He’s planned photography workshops in the bush, connected travelers with antipoaching teams, and coordinated a 10-day, 62-mile walking safari through raw wilderness.

Teresa Sullivan
Mango African Safaris
Sullivan knows which routes, camps, and game reserves are best suited to families, and she’s coordinated multiday walks in the Kenyan bush.

Phoebe Weinberg
Greatways Travel
Weinberg can get you the best rooms (like No. 6 at Singita Lebombo Lodge or No.1 at Vumbura Plains), plus over-the-top extras like helicopter flights above the Okavango Delta.

ASIA

BHUTAN
Brent Olson
GeoEx
Olson knows where to stay (Amankora, Zhiwa Ling Heritage) and how to duck crowds, and can arrange meditation retreats with Buddhist monks.

BHUTAN, INDIA, AND NEPAL
Antonia "Toni" Neubauer
Myths and Mountains
Her trips go way off the beaten track into villages for homestays that give you an unvarnished look at real life in the countryside.

CAMBODIA
Andy Booth
AboutAsia
Booth is particularly handy around Tonlé Sap Lake, where his

Photograph by Paola + Murray
guests can watch wild-
life and navigate floating
villages aboard a pri-
ivate wooden boat. He’s
also figured out the
best times to visit
ancient complexes like
Angkor Thom to avoid
jostling with crowds.

C E N T R A L  A S I A

Zulya Rajabova
Silk Road Treasure Tours
Rajabova knows the top
guides at the incredi-
bly Gur-e-Amir complex
in Samarkand (a sort
of Silk Road Taj Mahal)
and the best hotels
across the region.

C H I N A

Gerald Hatherly
Abercrombie & Kent
Thanks to decades
spent on the ground
here (and his perfect
Mandarin), Hatherly
can pull off seemingly
impossible access
to the Forbidden City
and Xi’an’s Terracotta
Army site.

M e i  Z h a n g
WildChina
She’s a Chinese-food
expert, plotting
quests for prosciutto-
like ham in Yunnan
and fiery
delicacies, like mapo
tofu in
Chengdu. She’s
and fiery

I N D O N E S I A

Diane Embree
Bali Barong Tours
Think Bali is overtour-
isted? She’ll guide
you to spots that don’t
even appear on
maps and set you up
at luxury hotels
almost nobody’s heard
about.

J A P A N

Nancy Craft
Esprit Travel & Tours
She helps open
doors to artists, chefs,
craftsmen, musicians,
Shinto priests,
and Buddhist abbots.

T H E  H I M A L A Y A S

Sanjay Saxena
Nomadic Expeditions
He’ll handle all that
byzantine paperwork
to secure trekking
permits, arrange flight-
seeing over the
Himalayas, and set up
one-on-ones with
scholars, philan-
thropists, climbers,
and craftspeople.

I N D I A

Lucy Davison
Banjan Tours & Travels
Davison works
across the country,
planning treks in
mountainous Ladakh,
apache tours in
Jaipur, and visits to
festivals in Tamil Nadu.

M Y A N M A R

Bertie and Victoria Dyer
India Beat
The Jaipur-based
couple has organized
elephant-tracking
trips, visits to polo
matches, and
village tours led by
curators at spots like
Delhi’s National
Handicrafts and
Handloom Museum.

T H E  M I C R O S P A C E S

Tyler Dillon
Truffeltrip
He’s constructed pop-
up hotels along
remote hiking routes
and planned street-
food tours. Dillon
can also set up meet-
ings with activists
and officials for time-
ly briefings on the
country’s political
landscape.

M Y A N M A R

Maximilian Horsley
Arapan Travel
He takes travelers
deep into the country-
side for market tours,
monastery visits,
and encounters with
hill tribes and with
insiders who can con-
textualize the
country’s ongoing internal
conflicts.

S O U T H  E A S T  A S I A

April Cole and
Andrea Ross
Journeys Within Tour
Company
This pair is well-
connected across the
region: In Cambodia,
they can make your
Angkor Wat excursion
pop; in Thailand, they
arrange street-food
tours; in Vietnam, they
introduce travelers
to veterans of the war
for a local perspective
on the conflict.

A U S T R A L I A  A N D  T H E  S O U T H  P A C I F I C

Andrew Whyte
Great Barrier Reef
A watersports
expert, Whyte can
coordinate trips to
remote villages in
Australia and
organize helicopter
flights over the
Great Barrier Reef.

B E L G I U M

Pedro O’Connor
Epic Private Journeys
O’Connor is a
record-breaking
athlete with the
best guide in
Journeys Within Tour
Company.

C E N T R A L  A S I A

Nathan Lane
Butterfield & Robinson
Lane is a pro at pulling
together cycling
trips through villages
in the Red River
Delta, Vespa tours in
Saigon, and sails
off the coast of Hoi An.

C O N D É  N A S T  T R A V E L E R / 1 2 . 1 7 4 9

Tim Soper, expedition ships specialist

“THIS SEASON WE’RE DOING
THE FIRST-EVER YACHT-
BASED HELI-SKIING TO
ANTARCTICA’S INNER PEAKS.
WE ACTUALLY CHARTERED
TWO VESSELS, SO TWO
HELICOPTERS CAN TRAVEL
WITH THE MOTHERSHIP.”

M O N G O L I A

Jalsa Urushurov
Nomadic Expeditions
He’ll get you riding
horses, watching tra-
ditional wrestling
and archery, shooting
incredible photos
in the Gobi Desert,
and touring the
wilds of Mongolia’s
rapidly modernizing
capital.

F I J I  A N D  P A P U A

Kleon Howe
The Art of Travel
Howe knows every inch
of the islands: which
resorts are worth book-
ing (Vahine Island and
the Hotel Kia Ora),
which markets are worth a
detour in Tahiti,
and which windsurfing spots
have the best breeze (he
likes the Aitutaki lagoon).

C E N T R A L  A N D
S O U T H  A M E R I C A

ARGENTINA

Maita Barrenechea
Mai 10
She was among the
first to offer fly-fishing
trips to Patagonia
and to open estancias
to guests for horse-
back riding. She’s still
our go-to for both.
I HAD A CLIENT, A PRO CRICKET UMPIRE, WHO WANTED TO CALL A GAME AT THE FAMOUS NEWLANDS STADIUM IN CAPE TOWN. I ARRANGED IT—AND DINNER WITH SOUTH AFRICA’S NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM.”

Deborah Calmeyer, Southern Africa specialist

ARGENTINA, CHILE, AND COLOMBIA

Harry Hastings

Plan South America

Hastings has intel on top-notch estancias and can connect you with all sorts of interesting locals, from emerald miners to rock-star chefs.

ARGENTINA, CHILE, AND PERU

Jordan Harvey

Knownad Adventures

He scoured the whole of Chile, scambled all over Machu Picchu, and searched the cities and pampas of Argentina to find the top hikes and best hotels.

BOLIVIA AND PERU

Marisol Mosquera

Arcas

She taps insiders like museum curators, chefs (like Pedro Miguel Schiaffino of Lima’s Malabar), and even jungle-survival experts for her trips.

BRAZIL

Martin Frankenberg

Matuté

Frankenberg is dialed in with incredible villas, Amazon River charter yachts, and expeditions to the dunes of Lençois Maranhenses National Park.

Paul Irvine

Dehouche

He’s planned exclusive workshops with a local fashion designer, cooking classes with chef Felipe Bronze of Oro, art tours, jaguar tracking, and samba dancing lessons.

Jill Siegel

South American Escapes

If you want the best seats at the Carnaval parade, a trip up the Amazon in search of pink dolphins, or a yacht charter off the coast of Paraty, Siegel can hook you up.

CHILE

Brian Pearson

Upscape

He knows the top boutique hotels (like Casa Bouchon), the Sno-Cat guides who’ll have you skiing chutes, and the cycling routes for riders of all fitness levels.

Ecuador

Tom Damon

Southwind Adventures

His focus is active travel with guides like the grandson of one of the Peruvians who took Hiram Bingham to Machu Picchu.

EUROPE

CENTRAL EUROPE

Gwen Kozlowski

Exeter International

Kozlowski can score tours of the Spanish Riding School, open doors to crafts workshops in the Czech Republic, or plan multi-day tasting trips to family-owned wineries in the Wachau Valley.

Travel:2Greece by Travelive

Her on-the-ground ops team can handle complex multi-island itineraries with private boat and helicopter transfers to spots like Ios and Kefalonia.

France

Anthony Bay

Anthony Bay is Europe

He has extraordinary historical and regional knowledge and an extensive network of personal contacts who open their homes to his guests.

Pascale Bernasse

French Wine Explorers

She’s got the connections and clout to get the most exclusive tours of legendary estates, often from family members whose names are on the bottles.

Poe Travel

Ellison Poe

She’ll arrange for the best tables at under-the-radar restaurants in Vienna and private tours of legendary Habsburg palaces.

Greece

Mina Agnos

Travel:Greece by Travelive

Her on-the-ground ops team can handle complex multi-island itineraries with private boat and helicopter transfers to spots like Ios and Kefalonia.

Geraldine Murtagh

Elegant Ireland

She has an insane Rolodex—dukes and duchesses, historians, politicians, mountain climbers, artists—all of whom look after her travelers. She also has a can’t-find-it-anywhere-else roster of amazing castles and estates for rent.

Italian

Brian Dore and Maria Gabriella Landers

CIU Travel

They’ve arranged a prime viewing spot for the iconic Palio race, the best rooms at small-but-lovely Sicilian inns, and tours of privately owned Palladian villas that aren’t normally open to visitors.

Andrew Grisdale

IC Bellagio

She has behind-the-scenes access at fashion houses (like Gucci and Zegna) and iconic sites like the Vatican and the Uffizi, where she’ll make sure you never wait in line.

Adamarie King

Connoisseur’s Travel

She’ll have you baking alongside locals in Sicily, touring private art collections, visiting ceramicists and furniture makers, or sailing the Venetian Lagoon.

GARY PORTUESI

Authentic Italy

He’s our go-to for tootling through Parma and Modena to sample Parmigiano-Reggiano, balsamic vinegar, and prosciutto; flying from Rome to Capri for lunch (back in time for dinner); or having a private picnic on the Sicilian island of Mozia.

Rudston Steward

Trufflepig

He’s sussed out amazing food (and places to stay) in lesser-known corners of Italy, like the Aeolian Islands, Tuscany’s Monte Amiata, and towns like Matera in Basilicata.
THE NETHERLANDS
Harmina Mulder
The Travel Society
She’s got major pull at all the top hotels, and she’ll score tables at the country’s best restaurants, like De Kas and Librije’s Zusje.

PORTUGAL
Gonçalo Correia
Tours for You
He’s arranged dinner with a former president of Portugal, a private concert with one of the country’s top fado singers, and cocktails at the studio of artist João Figueiredo.

PORTUGAL AND SPAIN
Virginia Irurita
Made for Spain & Portugal
Irurita has thrilled clients with coastal hikes along the cliffs near Sagres, access to members-only clubs in Porto, and private flamenco shows and wine tastings.

RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE
Greg Tepper
Exeter International
Whether you want to tour the Kremlin or get behind the curtain at St. Petersburg’s Vaganova Ballet Academy, where both Balanchine and Baryshnikov danced, he’s got you covered.

SCANDINAVIA
Jan Sortland
Norwegian Adventures
Sortland plans climbing expeditions, glacier treks, sea kayaking, and even dogsledding adventures.

SCOTLAND
Camilla Davidson
NoteWorthy
She’s plugged in to Scotland’s sizzling food scene and has contacts at the best distilleries, world-famous golf links, and even private hunting estates.

David Tobin
Dream Escape
Tobin’s an ace at getting inside private castles and estates, and he’s well connected with all the top guides in the Highlands.

Spain
Sebastian Lapostol
Trufflepig
He’s got friends in the right places: mycologists who lead truffle hunts near Barcelona, flamenco musicians in Jerez de la Frontera, and field biologists who know all the great birding spots.

Ally Lewing
Heritage Tours
With Lewing, you’ll see some of Spain’s most popular sights, including the Mezquita in Córdoba and Seville’s Alcázar, after hours on private tours.

Switzerland
Jack Shaw
Epic Europe
Shaw knows the top ski instructors and heli guides, plans high-altitude hikes with stays at mountain refugios, and has contacts at luxury watchmakers (in case you need a new piece).

Turkey
Karen Fedorko Sefer
Sea Song Tours
Fedorko Sefer will get you into historical sites before they open to the public, book the very best hotel rooms, and get you aboard some of Turkey’s top charter yachts.

Earl Starkey
Protravel International
Starkey can pull off a private visit to the Hagia Sophia, organize dinner at the Ephesus archaeological site, and introduce you to tasters like Riza Yenice, the kind of person you’re happy spending a week with.

The United Kingdom
Nicola Butler
NoteWorthy
She’s one of the most connected people in the country, whether you want to meet CBEs, score courtside Wimbledon seats, or get into otherwise closed museums.

Jonathan Epstein
Celebrated Experiences
Epstein knows which of The Torridon’s rooms have the best lake views, and how to score upgrades at Gleneagles, and can sneak you into the top hotels in Edinburgh and London, even at peak times.

Jane McCreun
In Any Event Tours
McCrum can book you a stay at castles and palatial country homes, so you can live like an aristocrat, if only for your trip.

Nicola Butler
NoteWorthy
She’s plugged in to the country’s best restaurants, like De Kas and Librije’s Zusje, and has contacts at luxe estates.

HVT
Tobin’s an ace at getting inside private castles and estates, and he’s well connected with all the top guides in the Highlands.

Yorkshire
Jonty Pickering
Yorkshire Experiences
He’s arranged dinner with a former president of the United Kingdom, whether you want to meet CBEs, score courtside Wimbledon seats, or get into otherwise closed museums.

Scottish Highlands
Jack Shaw
Epic Europe
Shaw knows the top ski instructors and heli guides, plans high-altitude hikes with stays at mountain refugios, and has contacts at luxury watchmakers (in case you need a new piece).

American National Parks
Marty Behr
National Parks Revealed
Behr has arranged Monument Valley hikes, flight-seeing over San Francisco Bay, and hikes to untrammeled corners of classics like the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Yosemite.

American West
Caroline Bach Wood
Caroline Travel
Whether you want to shoot photos in Utah’s slot canyons, ride horses with legit cowboys, or just shack up in a Pacific-side hotel, she’ll plan it all.

Cuba
Alison Coelho
InsightCuba
Coelho has long-established contacts at Cuba’s government ministries, and she can hook you up with rooms at the most desirable hotels—a necessity in a country with limited options.

Michael Sykes
Cuba Cultural Travel
Sykes connects travelers with fascinating locals, like Cristina Escobar Dominguez, a journalist and

Linda Friedman, an Eastern Africa specialist, can take you gorilla trekking in Rwanda.
**TRAVEL SPECIALISTS**

**MEXICO**

Zachary Rabinor  
Journey Mexico  
He’ll coordinate tours with celebrated chefs, devise a multiday hike through the Copper Canyon area (with luxe camps along the way), or get you surfing on beaches you’ll have all to yourself.

**Stephanie Schneiderman**  
**Tia Stephanie Tours**  
Many of her itineraries focus on traditional handmade crafts, textile design, and folk art. She can also hook you up with cooking classes and visits to mezcal distilleries.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

Sheri Doyle  
Pacific Northwest Journeys  
The go-to for wildlife expeditions, boat charters, impossible-to-get hotel and restaurant reservations, and road-trip advice in the U.S. as well as British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies.

**CRUISES**

**EUROPEAN BARGE CRUISES**

**Jill Jergel**  
Frontiers International  
She can get you cabins on intimate vessels, as well as the top ships that bigger river cruise lines operate throughout Europe.

**Ellen Sack**  
The Barge Lady  
Sack will pair you with the right charter, and her bespoke excursions are second to none: truffle hunts in Burgundy, visits to private gardens, wine tastings, and biking tours.

**EXPEDITION SHIPS**

**Sharon Keating**  
**Polar Cruises**  
She’s booked travelers on ships sailing Russia’s far east; around Spitsbergen, Norway; and to the Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica.

**Thomas Lennartz**  
**Quark Expeditions**  
He’s got access to nuclear-powered icebreakers in Russia (for real) and luxury yachts that do private charters to Antarctica, and he’s pulled off hot-air ballooning over icebergs, spectacular wildlife watching, and trips led by world-class photographers.

**Ashton Palmer**  
**Expedition Trips**  
A former expedition leader, Palmer specializes in small-ship cruises aboard some of the world’s top vessels to the polar regions, as well as the Galápagos.

**Todd Smith**  
**AdventureSmith Explorations**  
His trips to Alaska and the Galápagos are aboard small ships and charter yachts like the National Geographic Orion or the Sea Wolf, a historic wooden minesweeper.

**Tim Soper**  
**EYOS Expeditions**  
He’s taken travelers to climate research stations in Antarctica, through the Northwest Passage, and on cultural immersion trips to places like Papua New Guinea.

**LARGE SHIPS**

**Linda Allen**  
**Cruises by Linda**  
Allen has major clout with lines including Celebrity, Norwegian, Seabourn, and Viking. She knows which staterooms have the best views (and the least noise), and she can often secure free upgrades and other extra perks.

**RIVER CRUISES**

**Richard Bruce Turen**  
**Churchill & Turen**  
Turen is a master at crafting in-depth tours of ports like Prague, calling on a network of journalists, expats, and other insiders who offer greater context beyond rote historical facts. He also knows oceangoing lines, like Crystal and Regent Seven Seas.

**SMALL SHIPS**

**Leslie Fambri**  
**Personalized Travel Consultants**  
Fambri has major pull with luxury lines, including Crystal, Paul Gauguin, Silversea, and Windstar.

**“CHINA’S EXPANDING NETWORK OF BULLET TRAINS IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT CHANGE. IT OPENS UP SO MANY AREAS, AND I THINK THE BUSINESS CLASS IS THE MOST COMFORTABLE WAY TO TRAVEL THE COUNTRY.”**  
Gerald Hatherly, China specialist

**CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY**

**Liza Graves**  
**BeautifulPlaces**  
She’s based in Sonoma, which means she’s got on-the-ground intel about what’s open and what’s not after this fall. She also has first dibs on the region’s top homes, not to mention impossible reservations and private wine tastings.

**THE CARIBBEAN**

**Tim Roney**  
**LaCure**  
Roney leans on 35 years of experience when he recommends homes (and entire private islands) across the region, in places like Barbados, Jamaica, and the many countries that are back up and running after this year’s hurricanes.

**FRANCE**

**Erica Berman**  
**Haven In**  
Berman is best known for fully serviced Paris rentals that come with stocked fridges, fresh flowers, and a driver on call. Her firm has recently added homes in Versailles and Provence, too.

**Gail Boisclair**  
**Perfectly Paris**  
She has nearly 20 years of experience renting gorgeous flats in Montmartre and its surrounding arrondissements.

**Nick Westwood**  
**Red Savannah**  
He’s the one to call for homes along the Côte d’Azur, as well as in France’s unsung corners, like Cap Ferret, the coastal retreat near Bordeaux.

**FRANCE, ITALY, AND SPAIN**

**Gédric Reversade**  
**Paul-Maxime Koskas Unique Properties & Events**  
They’ve recently added new properties in Formentera and Pantelleria, as well as yoga retreats to homes in Mallorca and Umbria; they can also charter yachts.

**Adam Coats**  
**Red Savannah**  
Coats personally inspects every one of his villas, including that 300-acre estate on Menorca with its own private cove and those stately Cotswolds manors where the only neighbors are sheep.

**GREECE**

**Ileana von Hirsch**  
**Five Star Greece**  
She knows Mykonos and Santorini, of course, but von Hirsch is more keen on less-visited Corfu, where some homes have spectacular pools, and the Ionian islands.

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**CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER / 12.17**  
**53**
ST. BARTS
Peg Walsh
St. Barth Properties
Walsh has the latest on what’s available in St. Barts right now—homes ranging from surprisingly reasonable to completely over-the-top—and those that will be restored in the coming months.

ST. MARTIN AND ST. MAARTEN
Sonja van der Drift
BlueOcean Villas
She’s got properties on both sides of the island, and she’s able to help you navigate a post-Hurricane Irma trip this winter.

SOUTH AMERICA
Luisa Ladron de Guevara
Oasis Collections
Her properties in cities including Buenos Aires, Cartagena, Mexico City, and Rio de Janeiro have all the amenities you’d expect and also come with passes to nearby gyms, private clubs, and a local concierge who can help plan tours or snag restaurant reservations.

SOUTHEAST ASIA
Melissa Matthews
Red Savannah
If you’ve already done every Bali resort, tap Matthews for private homes (plus local staff). She knows properties in Cambodia and Vietnam, too.

SPAIN
Mary Vaira
El Sol Villas
She’s got access to the chicest villas and apartments, plus hyperlocal tours, like an up-close look at the production of jamón Ibérico.

THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND
Andrew Loyd
Loyd & Townsend Rose
A one-time butler, he organizes not just rental estates but also activities like sporting-clay shooting, croquet, garden tours, falconry, Scottish folk dancing, and private tours of distilleries.

WORLDWIDE
Marina Gratsos
Carpe Diem
Luxury Travel
Ezen has tight relationships with hotels—meaning he can often snag upgraded rooms or other perks—and he’s planned parties on Necker Island and even a 350-person wedding at Versailles.

DESTINATION WEDDINGS
Harlan deBell and Kara Bebell
The Travel Siblings
They’ve organized weddings and receptions at incredible venues, like a private palace in Jaipur, a castle in Northern Ireland, and some of Italy’s most stunning luxury hotels.

FLY-FISHING
Mollie Fitzgerald
Frontiers
International Travel
She’s got exclusive access to some of the world’s finest fishing, in places like Bhutan and Russia, and knows all the best spots to cast in New Zealand, Scotland, the U.S., and pretty much everywhere else.

GAY TRIPS
David Rubin
DavidTravel
For when you absolutely have to have that 12th-century castle or a private island of your own, the well-connected Gratsos is the person to call.

IN TUSCANY’S VAL D’OCCIA, WHERE EVERYONE VISITS THE SAME PECORINO MAKER IN PIENZA, I INSTEAD SEND CLIENTS TO THE VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN CASTELLO DI POTENTINO TO SEE MY CHEESE-MAKING FRIENDS FRANCESCA AND LORENZO.”

Rudston Steward, Italy specialist