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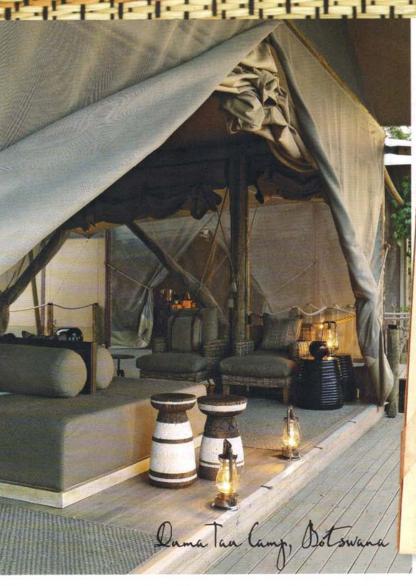
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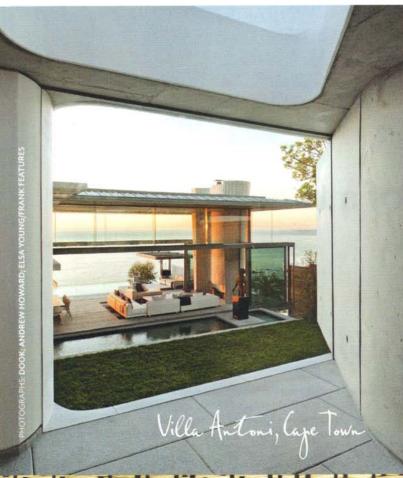
Word of mouth What's hot in Africa India Lima Nepal London Sweden Tuscany

EDITED BY RICK JORDAN









AWHOLE P NEWGAME

decade ago, most keen Africa explorers were happy to be put decade ago, most keep office of the Big Five were on offer. But increasingly, today's travellers are demanding private spaces to share with friends and family, hence the opening in May\of the ultrasecluded Boat House at Tongabezi (www.tongabezi.com) on the Zambezi River, and the super-slick, modernist interiors of Villa Antoni (www.perfecthideaways.co.za) in Cape Town. We want capacious rooms to loll about in, such as the new honeymoon suite at Babylonstoren (www.babylonstoren.com) in the Cape Winelands, the sumptuous new Singita Serengeti House (www.singita.com) in Tanzania's Grumeti Reserves and the high-ceilinged spaces of Villa Sands (www.villasands. com), a hotel in three former warehouses on Ilha de Moçambique. But more than anything, we want to be immersed in local culture. Fresh from rebuilding DumaTau Camp in Botswana, Wilderness Safaris this month unveils Segera Retreat (www.segera.com) in Kenya, where we can roam around the garden sculpture park and serious African-art collection of owner and Puma chairman Jochen Zeitz, then visit the community projects and herds of rare Grévy's zebra supported by his foundation. We will be able to visit two brand-new island camps, learning to drum in the moonlight with villagers at Bom Bom Island Resort (www.bombomprincipe.com) on Principe and trekking to see chimpanzees in the forests around Rubondo Island Camp (www. asiliaafrica.com) on Lake Victoria. If any continent has risen consistently LISA GRAINGER to match our expectations, it's Africa.