

# Picture perfect...

From luxury camping lodges to a palazzo that gazes across Venice's Grand Canal, Jessica Basi takes a look at four new scenic stays



ISLA PALENQUE

## New HOTEL OPENINGS

### PANAMA

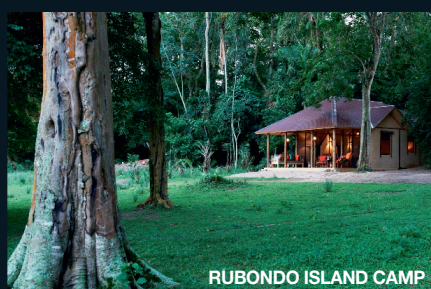
### SCOTLAND

### TANZANIA

### ITALY



FONAB CASTLE



RUBONDO ISLAND CAMP



ISLA PALENQUE



AMAN CANAL GRANDE VENICE

South of **Panama's** western coast, private resort **Isla Palenque** forms part of a jigsaw of volcanic islands swaddled by the Gulf of Chiriqui's shimmering waters. Hardwood floors and chaise longues meet canvas walls and cascading outdoor showers in the 'tented suites', which will delight both eco warriors and comfort seekers. With coconut groves and jungle canopy blanketing the land, you'll feel the thrill of exploration as you navigate the jumble of lime green. Find your way to Eden, the main restaurant, to discover delicious local specialities, such as cheese-stuffed yuca fritters and plantains caramelised in cinnamon ([amble.com](http://amble.com)).

Heading for the **Scottish highlands'** wild flower-clad slopes, **Fonab Castle** in Pitlochry is a country retreat that watches over Loch Faskally. This 26-room hideaway backs onto the River Tay, where guests can salmon fish in season. The interiors are true Scottish – a tartan-wrapped lounge is lit by a mahogany fireplace,

beside which whisky drinkers can sit while sampling some of the 120 single malts on offer ([fonabcastlehotel.com](http://fonabcastlehotel.com)).

In **Tanzania**, Asilia Africa has opened a luxury safari lodge, complete with Moroccan-style boudoirs and pretty lantern-lit terraces, on Rubondo Island National Park in the southwest corner of Lake Victoria. Trekking tours, yoga and boat trips to nearby Bird Island are all on offer, but it's for the wildlife that you'll visit **Rubondo Island Camp**: follow the tumult deep into the forest and you'll find wild chimpanzees and po-faced vervet monkeys cavorting, while hippos and crocs wade the papyrus swamp ([rubondoislandcampproject.com](http://rubondoislandcampproject.com)).

Finally to **Italy**, where **Aman Canal Grande Venice** channels the romance of the floating city in its elaborate Rococo-style palazzo and flamboyant botanical gardens. The hotel's theatrical gilded ballroom drips with old-world glamour, and the ten-course tasting menu is similarly indulgent. ([amanresorts.com](http://amanresorts.com)).

## Diary dates

### USA

Oenophiles converge on California's North Bay to sip and swirl with renowned vintners, tour vineyards and bid for bottles at Auction Napa Valley (pictured right) from 30 May-2 June. [auctionnapavalley.org](http://auctionnapavalley.org)

### UK

Dedicated horticulturalists perfect their displays while visitors explore the house and grounds at Holker Hall's Garden Festival in Cumbria from 31 May-2 June. [holkerfestival.co.uk](http://holkerfestival.co.uk)

### SPAIN

A man dressed as the Devil leaps over newborns in a bid to rid them of evil spirits at the El Colacho baby-jumping festival. It takes place in the tiny village of Castrillo de Murcia in northern Spain on 2 June. [turismoburgos.org](http://turismoburgos.org)

### COLOMBIA

From 15-18 June, Uribe looks back on its native Indian roots. The Wayúu Culture Festival combines craft exhibits and food tastings with traditional music and folklore. [colombia.travel](http://colombia.travel)

### INDIA

Ladakh in the Himalayas hosts the Hemis Festival, a two-day celebration of good overpowering evil. From 18-19 June, visitors watch masked dancers re-enact ancient Buddhist tales. [incredibleindia.org](http://incredibleindia.org)

