

SPECIAL
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ISSUE



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LAZY HAZY SUMMER

THE INSIDE TRACK ON THE BEST SPOTS FOR FEASTING, FROLICKING AND LOLLING ABOUT

PORTUGAL'S COOL NEW PLACES TO STAY

THE FRENCH RIVIERA REFRESH

GREECE'S HUSH-HUSH ISLAND FIND

THE GREAT FEMALE FESTIVAL TAKEOVER

MALLORCA'S MODERN MAKERS

POOL FLOATS, SHAVED ICE AND FISH-NET FASHION

**+
AFRICA'S WAVE-MAKING
SURF CITY**



WHERE TO STAY

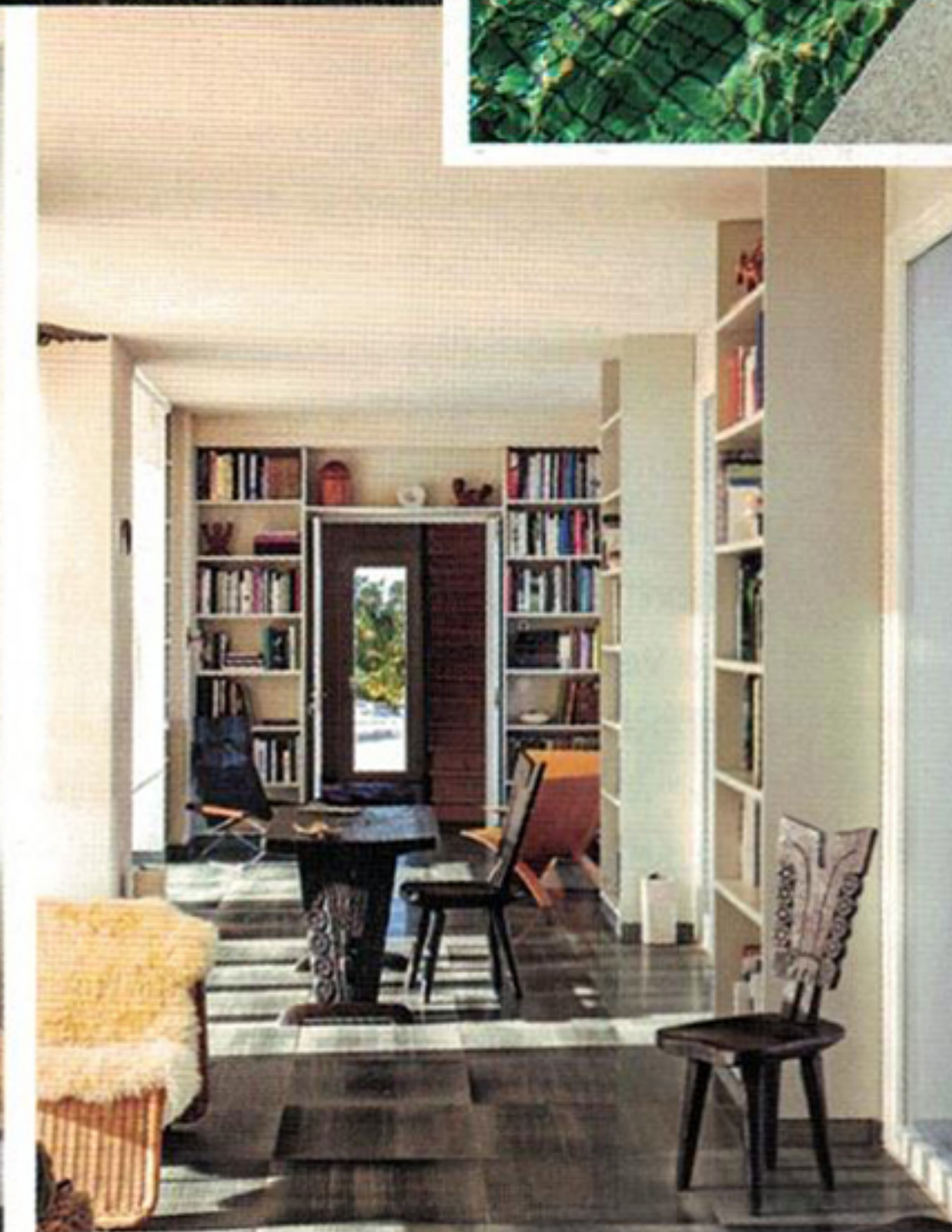
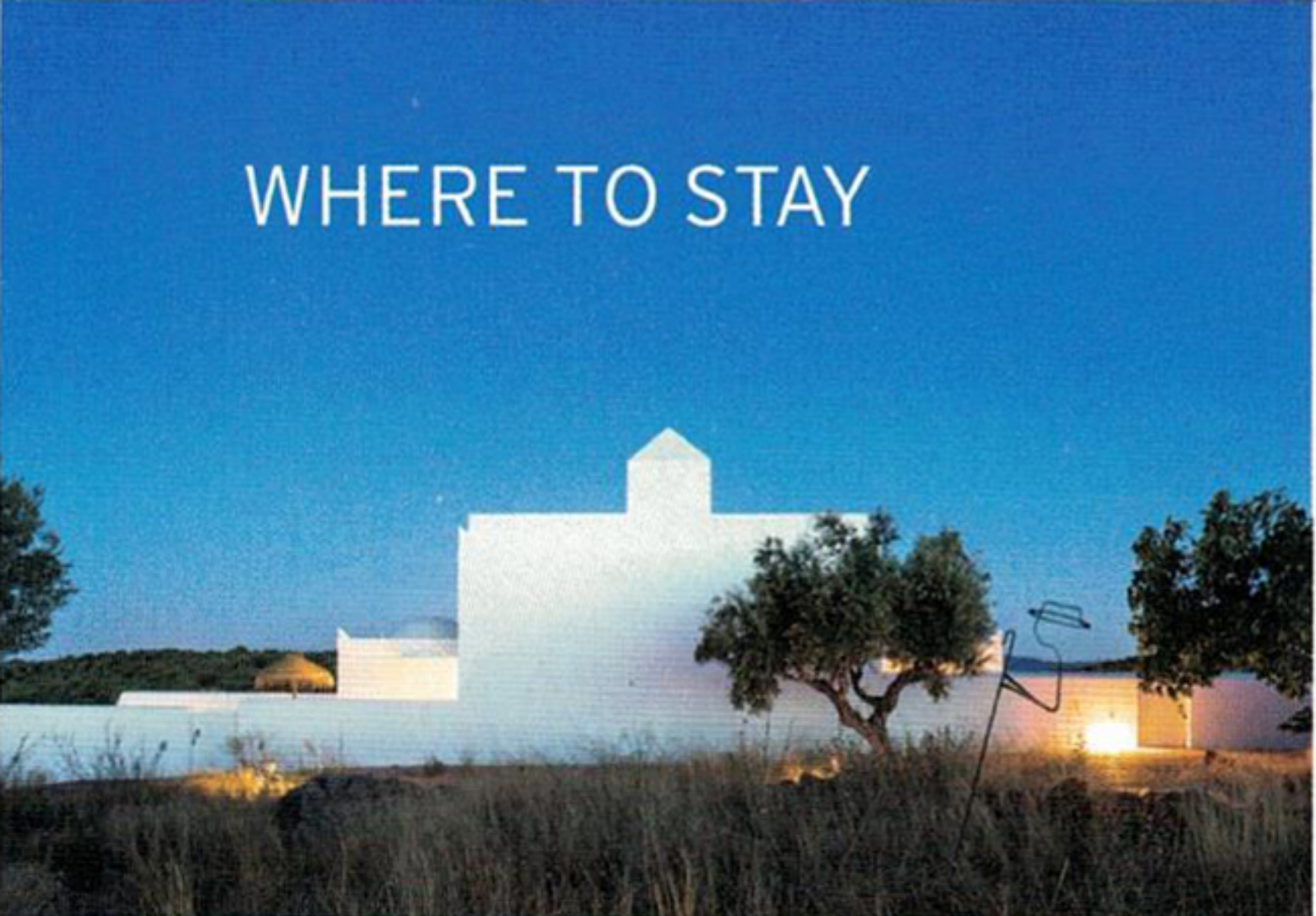
INSIDER REPORTS ON THE TOP PLACES TO BED DOWN. EDITED BY RICK JORDAN



THE ROUND-UP:
PORTUGAL

WE PICK THE BEST SLEEK NEW SPACES
FOR A LOWKEY ESCAPE

WHERE TO STAY



THE RURAL REINVENTION

DA LICENCA, ALENTEJO

Here is an arthouse film of a hotel. The narrative concerns a Portuguese fashion insider who meets a Parisian actor turned gallerist, escaping to the countryside before they both hit 50 and transforming a run-down farm into a sprawling estate of sail-white villas. *Jean de Florette* meets *Jules et Jim*. Owners Vitor Borges and Franck Laigneau spent weeks here, sleeping in an unheated hut, observing how the light fell, before breaking ground on the project. There are flashes of Ibiza and Santorini in the architecture, of Africa in the red earth. Boardwalks zig-zag around; portholes are punched into walls, framing disks of farmland and wisps of cirrus. The pool mimics a James Turrell installation – a true reflective circle surrounded by stone. In the rooms are echoes of Forties Mitteleuropa, staged by Laigneau's singular collection of Jugendstil and Rudolf Steiner designs. There are lions formed with twists of rope; ceramics protruding like octopus tentacles; Arts and Crafts dressers with tortoiseshell edges. The small marble tables were designed by Borges, who wanted to prove just how flexible the stone can be and recruited a local craftsman to chisel it into a bath, a project that took two months. Outside, sparrows bounce between olive trees; glockenspiel sheep bells clang. Time shimmers. One woman came with no car but armfuls of books and read them all, staying three nights then another three. The isolation is a little deceptive, though. The city of Estremoz is just down the lane, its winery producing bottles that land on the table here. Not far is hilltop town Evoramonte for teetering views, and Evora's Roman ruins. *Dá Licença* is an auteurs' project that gives a real sense of perspective amid the Alentejo plains. RJ BOOK IT *Doubles* from about £235. dalicenca.pt