

travelista

Wander woman **Sophy Roberts** fast-tracks international intelligence on where to be and what to see.

➔ Privacy has gone hand in hand with the Thai island of **PHUKET** ever since the original Amanresort, Amanpuri. But the private island theme itself is only just developing in these parts (Cambodia's Song Saa Private Island is due any day now). This is what makes **Naka Island** (www.luxurycollection.com/nakaisland), formerly a Six Senses resort, stand apart as it opens this month off Phuket's east coast. Classic Thai style informs the interiors of all 67 pool villas, which until March are a relative bargain at £184 per night.

➔ From private islands to private jets. For anyone who thought such toys were on the way out, **Victor** (www.flyvictor.com) – the first online quote comparison, book and buy marketplace

for private-jet charter – has bucked the trend. Following its launch in August, it has access to over 170 aircraft flying a network of 940 destinations. This carbon profligacy is a long way from the natural approach of the new spa at **The Twelve Apostles** (www.12apostleshotel.com; from £366) near **CAPE TOWN**. With seven treatment rooms in stone, granite and glass, and a mountainous position overlooking the Atlantic, the relaunch makes a spa destination out of this old Cape favourite, especially as it uses the new Africa-made products from B|Africa, whose ingredients are drawn from native plants.

➔ In colder climes, attention focuses on the Northern Lights, as the display is expected to be the best in 11 years; we're at the so-called "solar maximum", when sunspot activity (which causes this phenomenon) is at its height. **Discover The World** (www.discover-the-world.co.uk; from £307 per person) is among the best outfitters, with

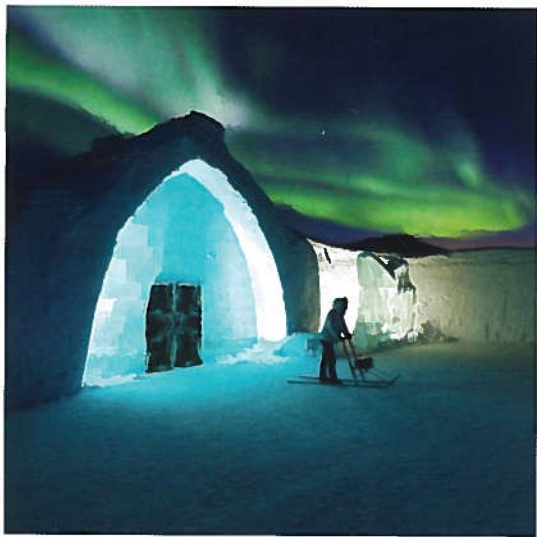
trips to **SWEDEN, ICELAND, FINLAND** and **NORWAY**.

➔ At the other end of the world, a less restrained mode of travel débuts, with the charter and yacht-management company **YCO** (www.ycoyacht.com) claiming the anti-skid granite deck of *Big Fish*, a new long-range motor yacht, will open up expedition cruising to women in high heels (albeit at a risk of puncturing the Zodiacs). Available for \$195,000 a week (excluding fuel) and for sale at €26.5m, *Big Fish* has a look suitable for St Tropez but is designed for more challenging waters, including **ANTARCTICA, THE GALAPAGOS** and **THE AMAZON**.

➔ If these aren't so much new frontiers as new ways of travelling to edgier destinations, then **MOZAMBIQUE** belongs to the same trend, with safari parks developing to rival the country's now



Above: *Big Fish* motor yacht at anchor in French Polynesia. Below: looking out over the Andaman Sea from one of the private villas at Naka Island.



Above: IceHotel in Sweden is among the locations available through Discover The World.

