

“Need a reason to return to India... amid the hypnotic sand dunes of the Thar Desert, outside Jaisalmer, is The Serai Camp and Spa, with 21 tented suites on 100 acres of scrub.”

AUSTRALIA'S EDGE • DUBAI'S ART WORLD • PERU'S BIG ADVENTURE

# Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL MARCH 2009

## EUROPE'S NEW RIVIERA

FABULOUS COASTS, BIG BARGAINS

**ITALY**  
VILLA MAGIC

**NEW ENGLAND'S**  
COUNTRY CHIC



**MORE SUN FOR THE MONEY**  
**28** LOW-COST ESCAPES  
Mexico, Coribbean, Central America

## mouth

The collective work, says Michael Schindler, a director of the new Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, will surprise visitors who think the city is merely an Arab Las Vegas. "Culture no longer has borders—the twenty-first-century avant-garde is not a purely Western phenomenon anymore." The highlights of the arts calendar are the annual **Art Dubai Festival** (March 18–21), where exhibits will include sculpture by Suty González, left, and **Creek Art Fair** (March 15–31). But the volume of shows year-round justifies making gallery-hopping part of any visit. Head to Al Quoz, a gritty warehouse district now home to cutting-edge galleries. International curators hit the **Third Line**, whose multinational founders travel extensively in the region (971-4-341-1367; [thethirdline.com](http://thethirdline.com)). Middle East specialist **Art Sawas** (971-4-340-8660; [art-sawas.com](http://art-sawas.com)) is next door to 1x1 Contemporary, focusing on modern Indian art (971-4-348-1873; [1x1artgallery.com](http://1x1artgallery.com)). For home-grown talent, visit the **Flying House**, founded by topical artist Abdul Raheem Sharif (971-4-265-1365; [the-flying-house.com](http://the-flying-house.com)). The Dubai International Financial Centre is the hot venue for international and regional visiting collections. Sheikh Majed Al-Sabah's eponymous **Art & Design Collection** mounts collaborations between locals and stars like Marcel Wanders (971-4-323-0277; [alshabahcollection.com](http://alshabahcollection.com)). **Artspace** (971-4-323-0820; [art-space-dubai.com](http://art-space-dubai.com)) and 13,000-square-foot **1x1 Contemporary Art** (971-4-425-0400; [1x1contemporary.com](http://1x1contemporary.com)) are also must-gos.



Ride 'em, cowboy. Members of Texas's Elm Grove Junior Rodeo, photographed by Eric McMan.

### UNITED STATES

## Everyman America

Punky prima ballerinas from Brooklyn, a buckaroo in Fallon, Nevada, a duo of halibut fishermen in Homer, Alaska—the miscellany of subjects in **AMERICAN CHARACTER: A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY** makes one thing clear: There's no such thing as an atypical American. Eleven illustrious photographers, including humanist master Mary Ellen Mark and Glaswegian David Lauff, journeyed to the far reaches of the United States and brought back intensely personal portraits. Celebrity photographer Eric McMan turned his focus to residents of the small town of Brownwood in his native Texas. "With every new face I photographed, I had a mental image of my grandfather smiling and dancing the two-step," he said. "I wanted to hold the experience forever in my pocket" (Chronicle Books, \$40).



Samsamite Black Label bag, \$2,000 ([samsamite.com](http://samsamite.com))

### BAJASTHAN

## Desert Digs

Need a reason to return to India after the Mumbai attacks? How about two. Amid the hypnotic sand dunes of the Thar Desert, outside Jaisalmer, is **THE SERAI** camp and spa, with 21 tented suites on 100 acres of scrub (91-11-2374-3194; [theserai.com](http://theserai.com); suits, \$490-\$815). Near Jodhpur, a cooler option is **WINTER SAHIL** ("Sun Fort"), which has new rooms built of local mud and stone, with plunge pools and superb riding on stately Marwari horses ([winter-sahil.com](http://winter-sahil.com); doubles, \$750, all inclusive).



A room at Winter Sahil

Travelers who have a habit of returning with more than they left with will love Samsamite's rainbow-hued bag. It unfolds like an accordion—so it's big enough for every spectacular souvenir.

Feeling Florentine? Italy's evening light inspired **DANA REBECCA**'s dusky red ring ([danarebeccadesigns.com](http://danarebeccadesigns.com)).