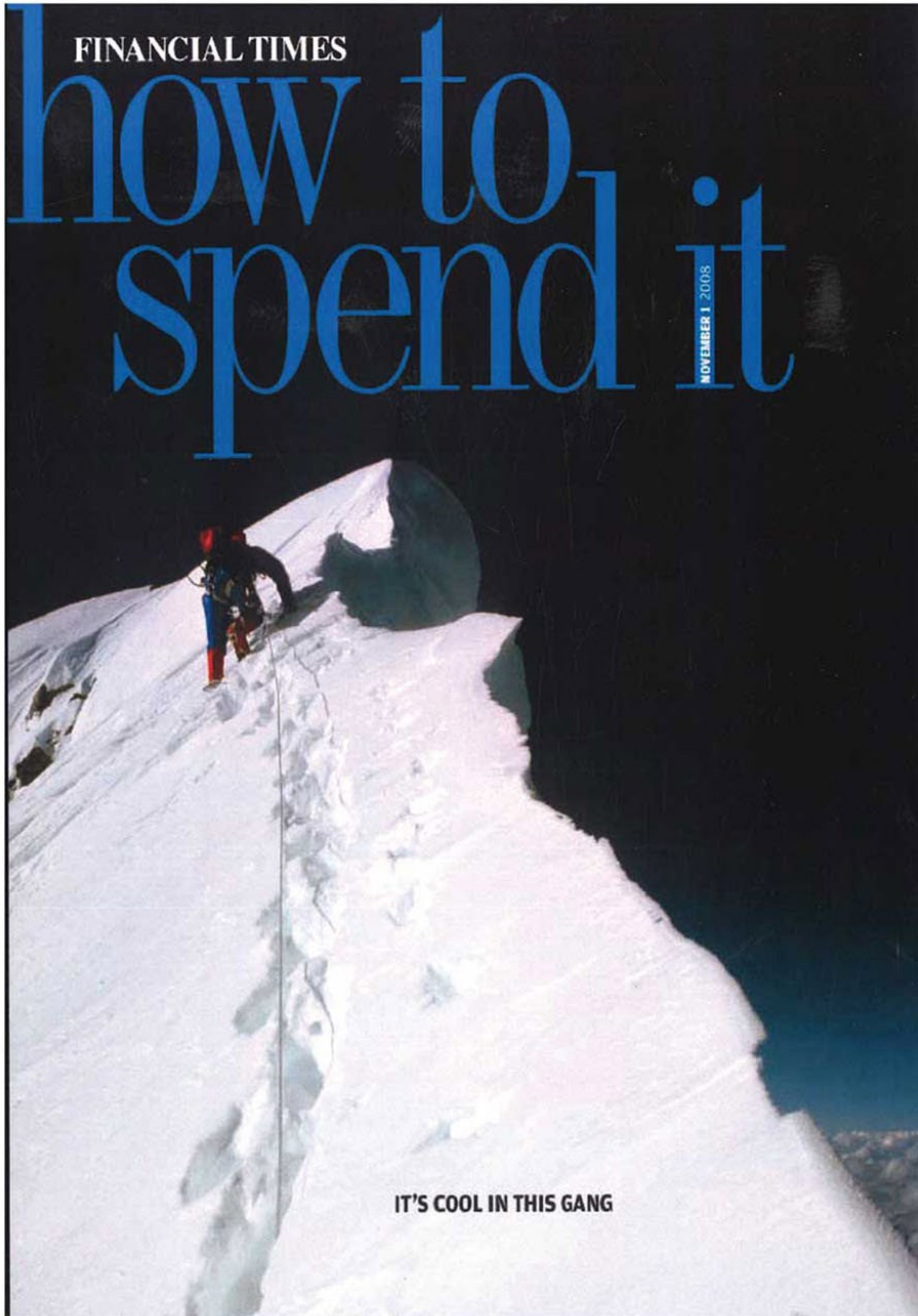


HOW TO SPEND IT

UK, December 2008

“The Serai outside Jaisalmer, the latest addition to one of travel’s chicest trends: luxury camping. Here, 20 stylish tents come with huge comfortable beds, plus heating and aircon...”



travelista

Frequent flyer Ondine Cohane fast-tracks international intelligence on where to be and what to see.



Above: Jama Masjid Mosque in Delhi. Below: guests of the Mihar Gahr, Rajasthan, taking part in a riding safari on Marwari horses.

Keep **INDIA** firmly on your radar this winter: the country has a spate of new hotels suited to both urbanites and those looking for quieter getaways. One of the most anticipated openings is in **DELHI** next month, when the Aman group (www.amanresorts.com; doubles with breakfast from £560) brings its chilled-out vibe to one of the world’s most chaotic but exciting cities. Sightseeing should include the Red



Above: a bathroom with plunge pool at the Aman New Delhi. Below: a 1928 Mercedes Type K Sports Tourer, on show at the Cartier International event at the Turf Club, Bombay.

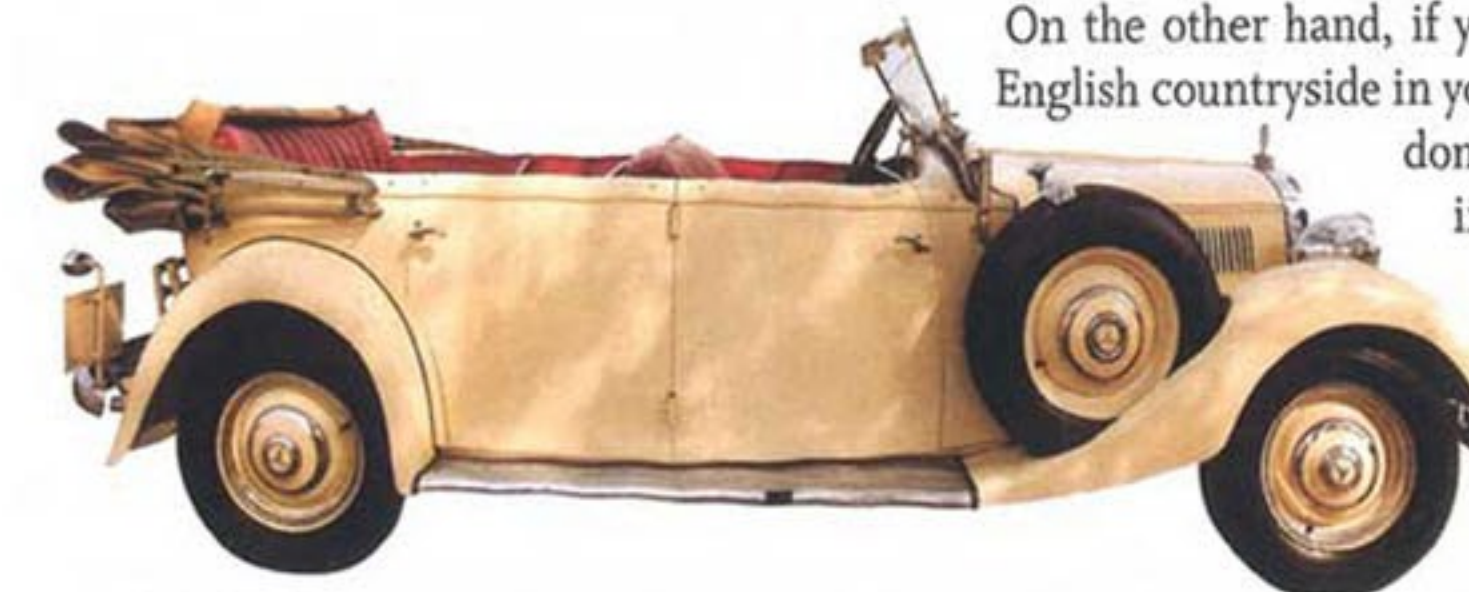
Fort, Jama Masjid (the largest mosque in India) and the Lodhi Tombs with their tranquil gardens. On-site, the best feature is the 15m plunge pool in each room. And in February the Mihar Gahr (www.cazloyd.com; doubles with breakfast from £250) debuts outside **JODHPUR**. Owned by a family of famous Rajasthan horsemen, the luxurious nine-bedroom retreat will give guests access to their outstanding equines as well as expert guides for excursions through some of India’s most atmospheric countryside, with dune-side picnics along the way. Another arrival in Rajasthan in early 2009 is the Surya Serai outside **JAISALMER**, the latest addition to one of travel’s chicest trends: luxury camping. Here 20 stylish tents come with huge, comfortable beds, plus heating and aircon – all conveniences especially enjoyed after long camel treks through the desert. More importantly,

there will be a real emphasis on conservation in the region. Real Holiday’s India Portfolio (www.indiaportfolio.co.uk) offers trips to the Surya Serai from £225 a night.

Meanwhile, beach types will want to book a room at the latest **KERELA** hangout, Neeleshwar Hermitage (www.neeleshwarhermitage.com; doubles with breakfast from £165) for its thatched cottages by the sea and daily yoga. And finally, car aficionados who find themselves in India this weekend should check out the new Cartier event at **BOMBAY**’s Turf Club (www.cartier.com), which will assemble vintage cars owned by maharajahs over the past century. With models such as a 1937 Bentley Arrow Coupé, a 1935 Rolls-Royce Phantom and a 1928 Mercedes,



it is clear where at least part of their pocket money went. On the other hand, if you want to drive around the English countryside in your own modern supercar but don’t necessarily want to invest in buying one, Dreamcarhire



(www.dreamcarhire.com; rates from £118) has an impressive fleet including the hard-to-get-hold-of Aston Martin >>>