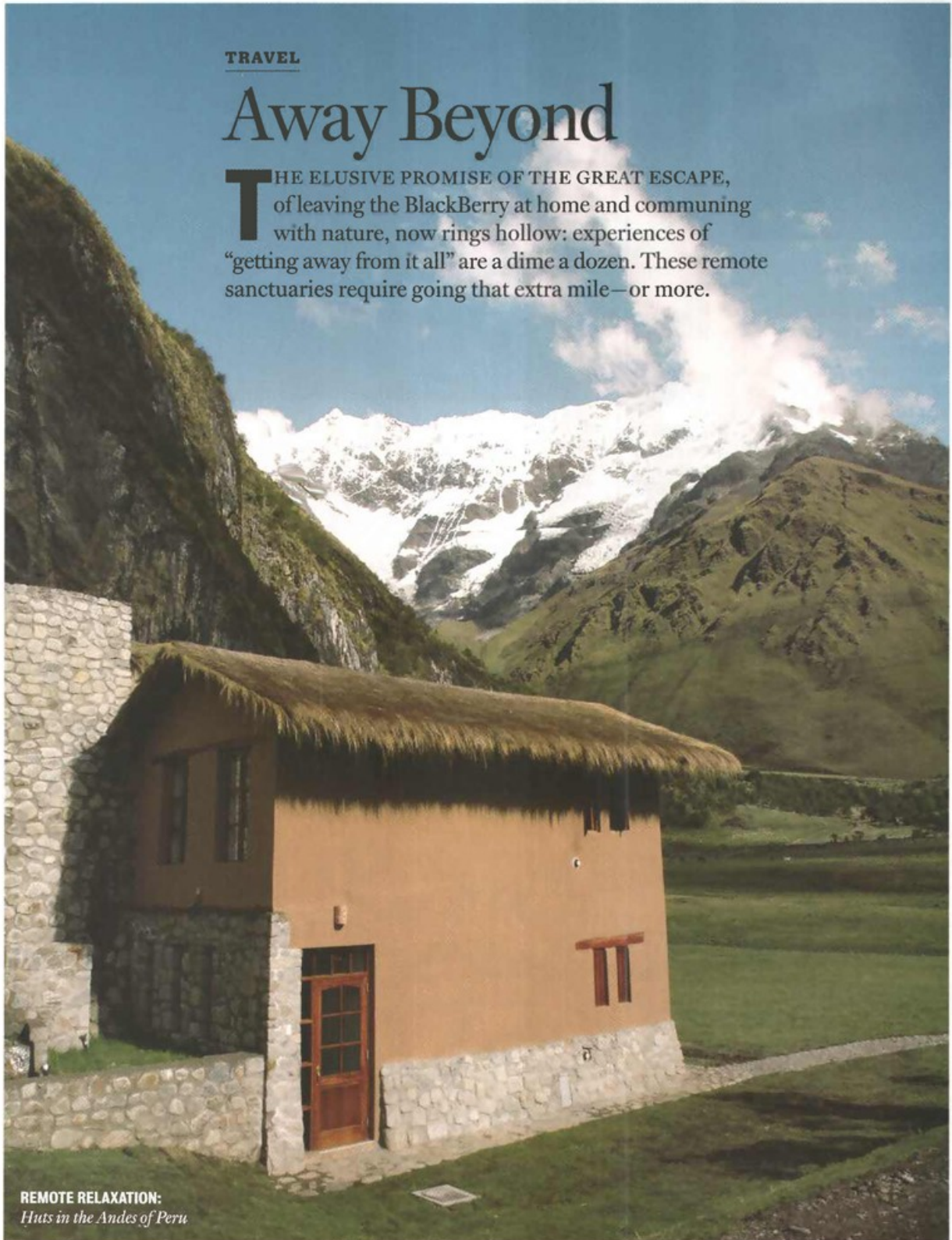


TRAVEL

## Away Beyond

**T**HE ELUSIVE PROMISE OF THE GREAT ESCAPE, of leaving the BlackBerry at home and communing with nature, now rings hollow: experiences of “getting away from it all” are a dime a dozen. These remote sanctuaries require going that extra mile—or more.



REMOTE RELAXATION:  
*Huts in the Andes of Peru*



## Hot Spot

### THE HÉLÈNE DARROZE AT THE CONNAUGHT LONDON

Part of the historic five-star hotel's £70 million restoration, the noted French chef's eponymous restaurant opened on Bastille Day to an eagerly waiting, exclusive clientele.

**Ambience** Designed by the hip Parisian architect India Mahdavi, the tasteful white-, brown- and mustard-themed dining room is peppered with artisanal twists, like a contemporary metal chandelier and handmade Traditional Arts silverware.

**Drinks** Start with a cocktail next door in the hotel's Coburg Bar, which features a drinks menu organized by date, including the pre-1800 Sour Family and the 1850s Blue Blazer. Upon arriving at the restaurant, diners are offered a glass of the champagne du jour, while the sommelier explains the 30,000-bottle wine cellar.

**Food** Darroze, who earned two Michelin stars for her Paris restaurant, presents signature dishes like foie gras prepared *au torchon*, served with apricot chutney, and a thick hake steak with chives and Idiazabal cheese crust, coco beans and chorizo. A special dessert menu pairs different coffees and teas with chocolates made by Pierre Hermé, Paris's celebrated "Picasso of pastry."

**Service** The expertly choreographed restaurant staff caters to every need. And before leaving, each diner receives a personalized miniature menu as a souvenir of the meal. —TIFFANIE WEN



Explorers have ascended the Peruvian Andes for centuries, but can now enjoy the down bedding and modern bathrooms of the Mountain Lodges of Peru. Guides pack guests' gear on mules, but hiking at nearly 5,000 meters still requires legwork (\$2,500 for four nights; [mountainlodgesofperu.com](http://mountainlodgesofperu.com)).

To get to Costa Rica's Lapa Rios resort, guests take a tiny

turboprop into the rain forest, and then a thrilling four-wheel-drive jungle journey. A plush bungalow and a pool await, as well as an observation tower for spying on monkeys and scarlet macaws (\$650 for two; [laparios.com](http://laparios.com)).

Australia offers understated but potent beauty, and Longitude 131° promises luxury in solitude. After a long flight to Ayers Rock and a jeep ride into

**QUIET LUXURY:** *Longitude 131° offers plush tents in the outback*

the Outback, guests find plush tents on stilts facing majestic Uluru. Guided ventures into the great beyond reveal the fabled redness of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Guests return to a three-course meal with hearty local wine (\$3,960 for two; [longitude131.com.au](http://longitude131.com.au)).

—TRAVIS WENTWORTH

## TRAVEL

### Space Odyssey

**B**EGINNING IN 2010, A NUMBER OF companies will offer rocket-powered space flights that will take astronaut wannabes just past the Karman Line—the official edge of space, 100km above Earth—where passengers can experience weightlessness and view the Earth's curvature. Space Adventures

sells trips that include up to five minutes of weightlessness (\$102,000; [spaceadventures.com](http://spaceadventures.com)). Virgin Galactic will provide three days of training and a chance to float in the rocket's cabin (\$200,000; [virgingalactic.com](http://virgingalactic.com)). And the Japanese company First Advantage has partnered with Rocketplane Kistler to offer space weddings (\$2.2 million; [spacewedding.jp](http://spacewedding.jp)). Now that's out of this world.

—AMADEA BRITTON

**HELLO, EARTHLINGS:**  
*The view from space*

