

Run to THE SUN

With another big freeze predicted, escape the cold and have a sun-kissed adventure instead, says *Daisy Finer*

1 Vamizi Island, Quirimbas Archipelago, Mozambique

PARADISE HIDEAWAY

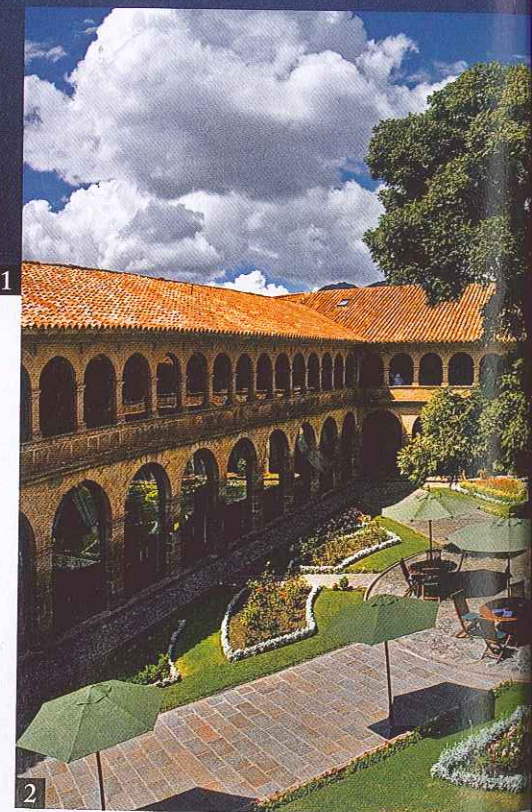
They say never believe what you read in the papers, so royals, VIPs and A-listers, take note. Vamizi Island off the northern coast of Mozambique was the honeymoon destination of choice for Prince Albert and Princess Charlene, despite the media being oh-so certain where they were. How do we know? Because we were there too – and by the looks of it they were having a fantastic time. So there. Ten out of ten for discretion goes to this tiny jewel of natural beauty (it's just 12km long and one wide) with some of the world's best diving, arrived at by a 13-seater twin prop Caravan (that's a plane, by the way). If you're safari-d out, Vamizi is the place to shake off your dusty shoes (in fact, pack them away for the duration), kick back in your secluded villa, complete with enormous deck, direct access to one of the most beautiful beaches ever, and no windows. That's right, you're open to the elements around you, which include magnificent bats, the odd group of chattering Samango monkeys and green turtles, if you're lucky. Hideaway picnics, boat trips to spot Humpback whales, a spot of snorkeling or an in-room massage are yours for the taking (and, actually, if you've got the cash,

they're building a handful of private houses on the island, too). In the evening, stroll along the beach, scattering the coconut crabs as you go, for a cocktail du jour, spankily fresh sashimi snacks and supper to the sounds of the sea. Bliss. **BOOKIT:** From \$590 pp per night for a luxury one bedroom sea-facing villa, including all meals, beer, wine, soft drinks and guided activities. 01285 762218; vamizi.com

2 Hotel Monasterio, Cusco, Peru

CULTURAL GEM

The jewel in the crown of the Orient Express hotels found in South America, and probably the most legendary hotel in all of Peru – located exactly where you want to start your trip – in Cuzco, the kick-off point to this region and right behind the main Plaza de Armas where you'll find the beautiful cathedral. Don't make the mistake of only staying for one night. Both the hotel and Cuzco itself deserve more. A working monastery for over 400 years, expect a chapel draped in gold, a vaulted ceiling dining hall, and wonderful stone floors throughout – with slabs of various shapes, sizes and hues clearly smoothed over the years by sweeping cassocks as the monks went about their day-to-day business. One central courtyard



is home to a gigantic Cedar, the other is the gateway to the incredibly comfortable bedrooms. Throw back the shutters in the morning to look across terracotta-tiled roofs up the hill towards San Blas, the Artisan district. Combine with a trip to Machu Picchu – staying at the exceptional Sanctuary Lodge which enables you to visit the ruins after the crowds have left – priceless. **BOOKIT:** Bailey Robinson offers 7-night visits to Peru and Machu Picchu from £3,650 per person including flights and transfers. 01488 689700; baileyrobinson.com