

SEASON SIZZLER:
SUMMER'S
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HOTTEST
ESCAPES

They say life's a beach. And for beachcombers craving for endless lounging and relaxation under the sun, these destinations are solid proof of just how beautiful living can get. **WORDS BY SJ ROXAS**

When the temperature rises, there's really no better way to embrace the heat than by setting off to a seaside retreat and giving in to the glorious rays of the summer sun. Imagine that moment of bliss when you dig your toes into the sand, looking out to an endless scene of sea and sky, a freshly concocted champagne mojito in hand – pure paradise, don't you think? It's a good thing about three quarters of the earth is made up of water, providing plenty of options for beach devotees of all persuasions. From castaway chic to contemporary flair, the world is brimming with island destinations that are nothing short of heavenly. Explore each with this selection of exceptional escapades serving as your guide to the best spots under the sun.



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MOZAMBIQUE

There's an endearing beach culture unique to the enchanting crescent land mass belonging to the Quirimbas Archipelago in Africa that anyone fortunate enough to experience will never forget. With a native community whose way of life is grounded on traditions, miles of white sand beaches and a surrounding underwater ecosystem that's one of the most abundant in the world, **Vamizi Island** is a secluded utopia carefully crafted by nature and further enriched by the warmth of its residents. The villas, especially the collection of new accommodations designed by award-winning South African architects, are certainly exquisite. However, staying at Vamizi feels more like visiting your family vacation home rather than checking in at a resort, thanks to the welcoming nature of the locals.



Top to bottom:
Main lodge view from the sea;
Pool and deck on a sunny day. Photos Courtesy
of © Vamizi Island, Mozambique.

More than a regular holiday, Vamizi offers a more meaningful interlude. It's a place you are bound to revisit to catch fish, which the chef later turns into the freshest sashimi, to check on the Vamizi turtles that the World Wildlife Fund has been conserving, to immerse the kids in a different culture and let them run freely on the shore and to simply kick your shoes off and let your toes dig deep into the sand.

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TANZANIA

There's that quintessential impression of Africa that conjures up images of a sprawling savannah and a watering hole satisfying a herd of wildebeests. But the lesser-known side of it is just as bewildering – a small, remote wonderland in the middle of a crisp blue ocean. Situated off the coast of northern Zanzibar, **Mnemba Island Lodge** proves that the marine community of Africa is just as rich as its safaris. Experience it for yourself through a personalised diving trip. Beginners need not worry as the resort has its own PADI dive school with knowledgeable instructors. Take the plunge and interact with dolphins as well as most of the 430 fish species in this part of the Indian Ocean.



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MAURITIUS

Some people like to spend days lounging under the sun, savouring every moment of sweet idle hours while others prefer action-packed holidays filled with exciting activities. **Le Touessrok**, a magnificent resort standing by Trou d'Eau Douce Bay, caters to both types of vacationers. However, with the countless leisure options yours for the taking, you'll find it impossible to resist the call of five-star fun. Warm up with aqua aerobics, golf and tennis and get more adrenalin rush with windsurfing and water-skiing. The whole family can join in on the fun as Le Touessrok has special clubs for kids and teens. At the end of an eventful day, ask your personal butler to book an appointment at the resort's Givenchy Spa. **T**

