

Islands

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CUSTOMS
LINE
P. 18

Dream Trips

Bora Bora // Australia
Fiji // Puerto Rico
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P. 62

SLEEP IN THIS
Clifftop Villa

SUNBATHE ON A
Private Beach

SWIM WITH
*Turtles and
Angelfish*

WHERE TO GO IN

March DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A trio of hotels debut on
the north coast.
P. 58

June GALAPAGOS

Blue-footed boobies and
giant tortoises are calling.
P. 24

July JAMAICA

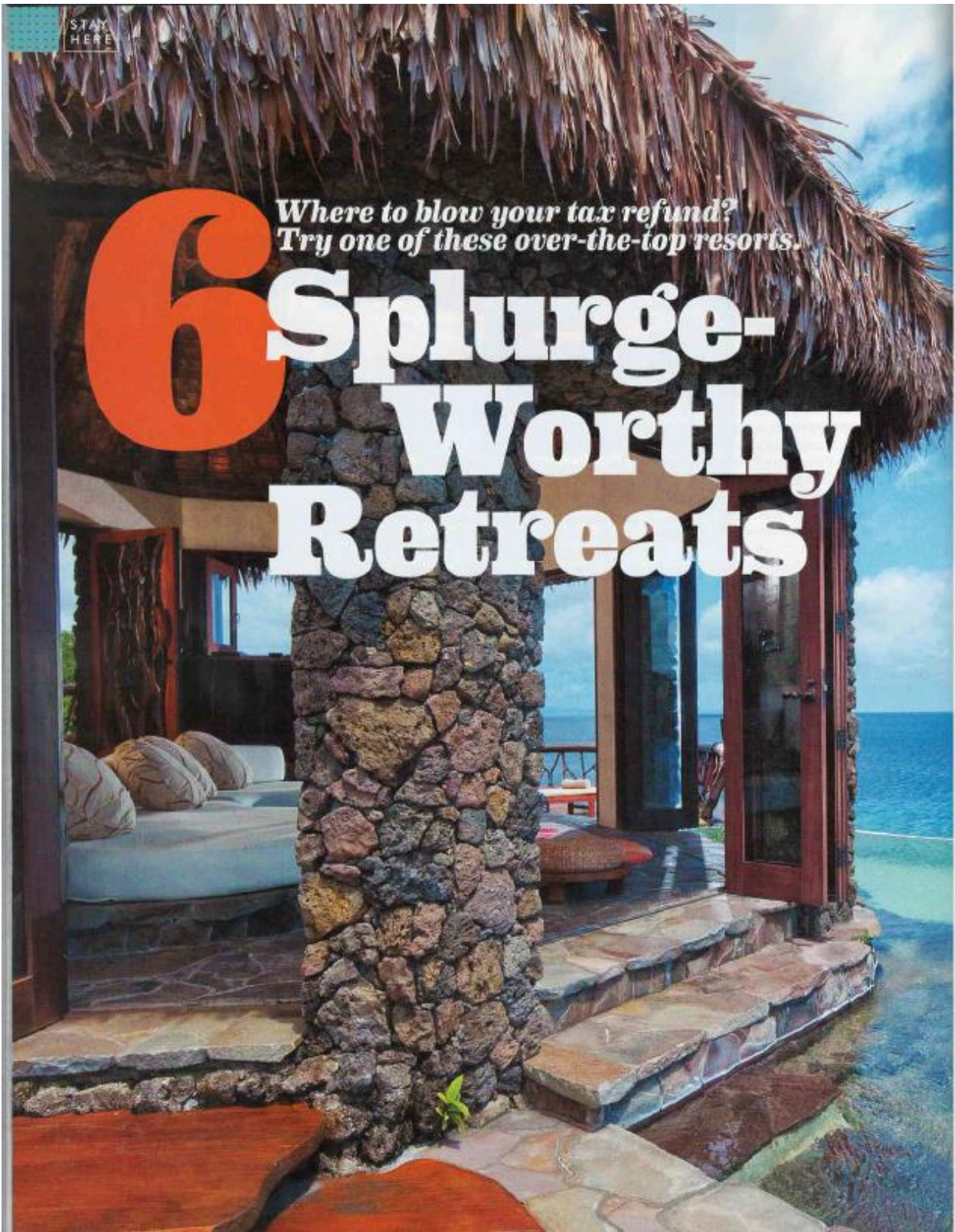
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P. 20

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*Where to blow your tax refund?
Try one of these over-the-top resorts.*

6 Splurge- Worthy Retreats





2. CAPE KIDNAPPERS

HAWKE'S BAY,
NEW ZEALAND

Stone facades, distressed wood and liberal use of metal: The Farm at Cape Kidnappers has an unusual, yet vaguely familiar design — sort of Colorado mountain-meets-modern style. But I'm definitely not in Colorado: I'm perched 1,000 feet above the Pacific, on New Zealand's North Island.

Twenty-two accommodations on 6,000 acres affords a lot of elbow room — people are significantly outnumbered by sheep. I make eye contact with scores of them while on a long horseback ride — and on an even longer bike ride that takes me through the twisting trails of the 18-hole championship golf course designed by Tom Doak. I watch the sheep walk

nonchalantly along cliff edges that look as if they might break off and tumble into the sea at any moment. New Zealand is worth the travel distance mainly because it delivers an immediate connection to the ends of a precarious and vividly hued Earth.

The property carries the rarefied Relais & Châteaux designation, which might seem incongruous given that Cape Kidnappers is a working sheep and cattle farm. But one meal is enough to dispel that: New Zealand has some of the freshest, most flavorful food on the planet. The onsite garden produces zucchini, strawberries, 37 different kinds of tomatoes and lettuce that I still rhapsodize over.

As for my favorite space, it's the converted silo that's now a cozy lounge. I stare out the louver windows at the technicolored green hills and the big blue ocean and fantasize about staying a little longer. *From \$1,055 per night; capekidnappers.com — Drew Limsky*

New Zealand's rugged coast (top) is the setting for the luxe Cape Kidnappers (below).

