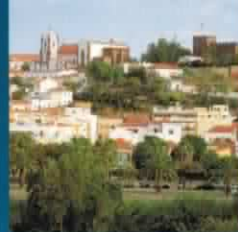


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ARTFUL
TODOS
SANTOS



40
PORTUGAL'S
SECRET
VILLAGES

ENDLESS VACATION

WINTER 2012

PLAY | EAT | SHOP | RELAX | EXPLORE

A large photograph of two skiers on a snowy slope. The skier in the foreground is wearing a white jacket with colorful horizontal stripes and bright green pants. The skier behind is wearing a bright blue jacket and grey pants. They are both smiling and holding ski poles.

VERMONT SKI TOWNS

FULL OF DIVERSIONS, ON AND OFF THE SLOPES

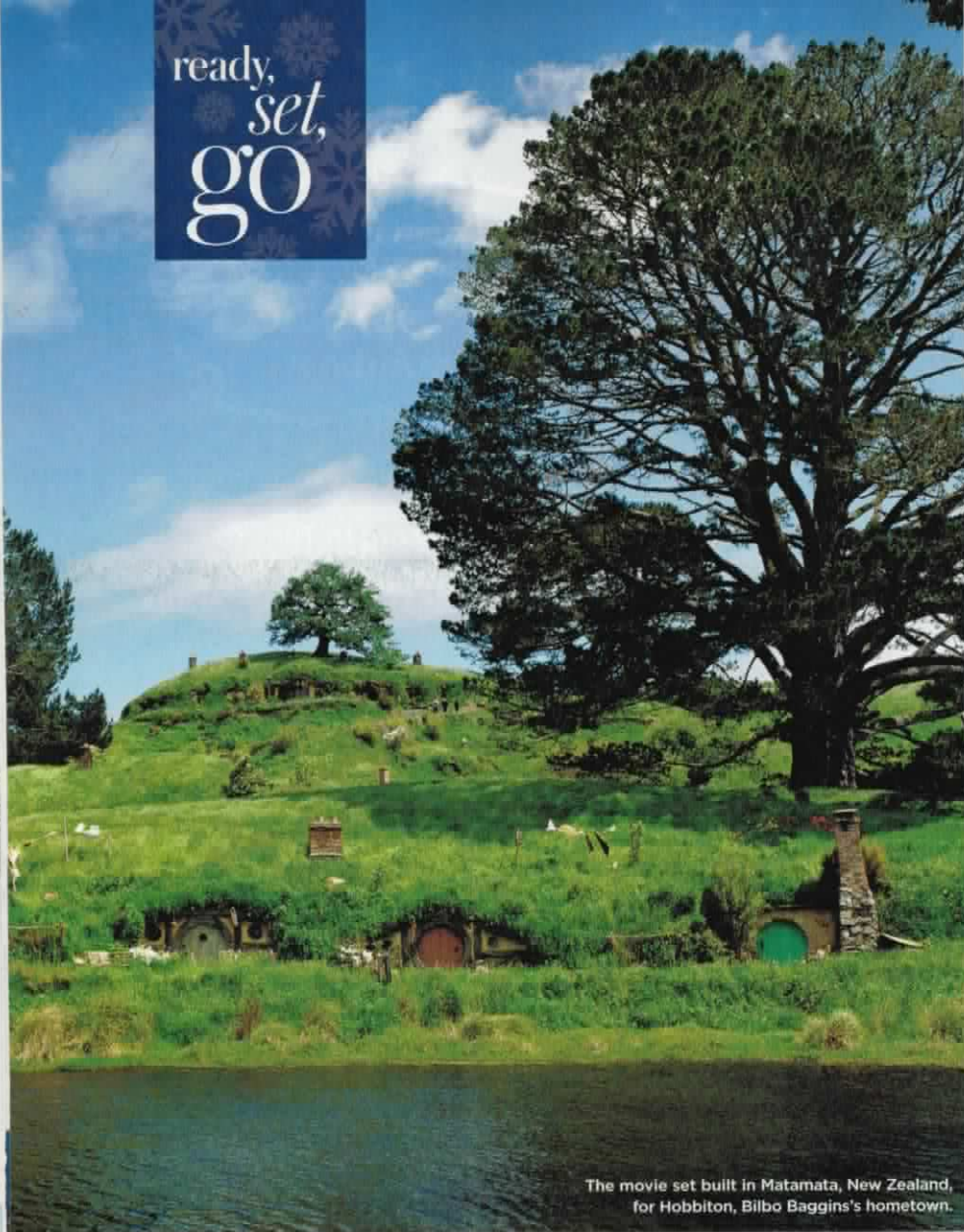
GREAT DEALS IN
NEW ORLEANS

SYDNEY'S HISTORIC PUBS

NAPA VALLEY NOW

OFF-SEASON **OUTER BANKS**

ready,
set,
go



The movie set built in Matamata, New Zealand, for *Hobbiton*, Bilbo Baggins's hometown.

NEW ZEALAND

Hobbit Hot Spots

Fans of the new movie can get a glimpse of Middle Earth (aka New Zealand) by visiting the places where scenes were filmed

The first prequel to the Lord of the Rings movie trilogy, *The Hobbit*, has its U.S. premiere on December 14. Set in fictional Middle Earth, the film was shot in New Zealand. Here's how you can trace Bilbo Baggins's footsteps: **Matamata**, a village on the North Island, is the site of Bilbo's hometown, Hobbiton. Visit the set with Hobbiton Tours (hobbitontours.com; from \$66). On the North Island's **Central Plateau**, get a view of Mounts Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu—to fans, Mount Doom and Mordor—with Mountain Air (mountainair.co.nz; flights from \$53). In **Marlborough**, on the South Island, stop at the Pelorus Bridge for a view of the Pelorus River, which Bilbo and a group of dwarves navigate in barrels. —JESSICA PASSANANTI

GIVING BACK

Vacations That Matter

"I want people to have a meaningful, impactful vacation," says the founder of **Meaningful Trip**, Joe Staiano. This new, small-group tour operator offers itineraries that support major causes—poverty, education, health—through carefully chosen partnerships with local nonprofits. You may hike the Himalayas with a guide trained by Empowering Women of Nepal, or visit folk artists in the Indian state of Kerala. 360-269-8747; meaningfultrip.com; 11-day tours from \$1,895

—CATHARINE FLEURY



Joe Staiano of Meaningful Trip lends a helping hand.

TRAVEL GEAR

Convertible Carry-ons

Dror for Tumi is a capsule collection by globetrotting designer Dror Benshetrit. His first foray into luggage is nothing short of brilliant—totes, cases and carry-ons that are reversible, expandable, adaptable or otherwise multi-functional. "I essentially design for myself," Benshetrit says. "I'm constantly switching modes—from workday to night out; between business and vacation; in and out of airports." Hence the backpack that morphs into a shoulder bag, and the hard-sided roll-aboard



(left, \$895) that expands to nearly twice its original size—without zippers. If only every aspect of travel could be that seamless. tumi.com; from \$195

—CHRISTINE AJUDUA