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# 2016 Top Travel Specialists We Trust

by Paul Brady and Melanie Wynne • December 6, 2016

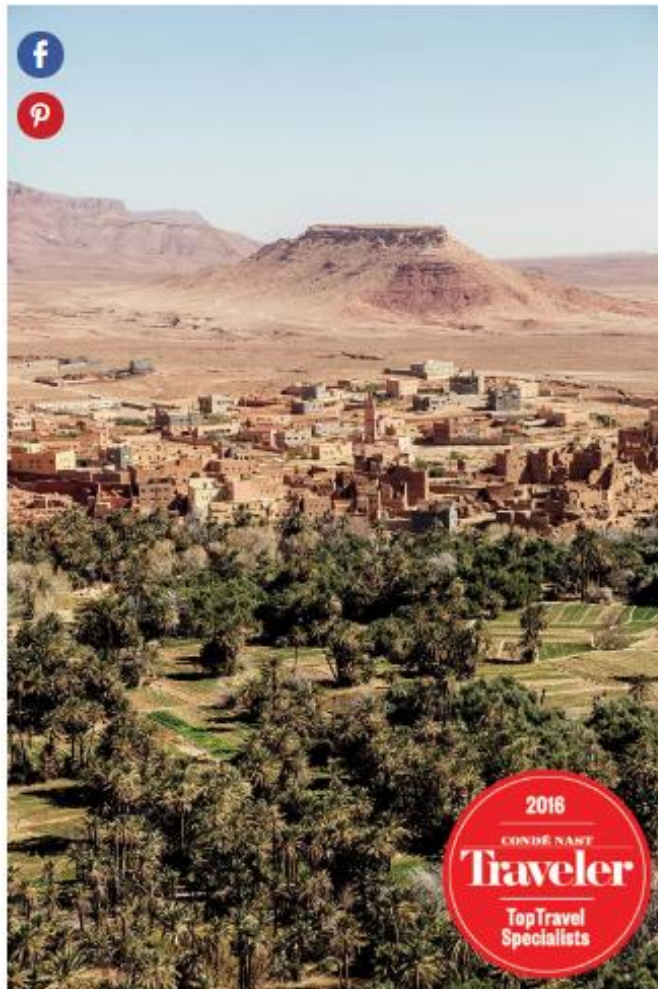


Photo by Carol Sachs

Michael Diamond can help you navigate southern Morocco.

Whether it's getting you into rarely seen pockets of Ethiopia with an anthropologist or onto out-of-bounds runs in Chile via Sno-Cat, the right "experience maker" will intuit your desires before you even know what they are—then they'll make them happen. These 164 travel specialists can do exactly that, no matter what your interests are.

If you read *Condé Nast Traveler*, chances are you want to go somewhere and do something most people haven't. And to turn a vacation into an I'll-tell-my-grandkids-about-this lifetime high point, you need an "experience maker," as we refer to them here at *Traveler*.

These on-the-ground fixers don't dole out canned itineraries. They can get you a meeting with the Dalai Lama in

a Buddhist temple, rustle up a private 737 for your wedding party when the scheduled flight is canceled, and make it snow in Bethlehem. (Just kidding about that last one—or are we?)

For more on the trips these travel specialists can plan, plus details on how to contact them, visit <http://www.cntraveler.com/travel-specialists>.



Courtesy LaCure

Tour Dubrovnik and then head back to home base: a historic cliffside villa, offered by LaCure. For Caribbean properties of this caliber, chat with LaCure's Timothy Roney.

## Villas

### *California Wine Country*

#### **Liza Graves**

*BeautifulPlaces*

Has rental homes in Napa and Sonoma that are big enough for the extended family.

### *Caribbean*

#### **Timothy Roney**

*LaCure*

He's got villas in Turks and Caicos and beachfront homes on Anguilla.

### *France*

#### **Erica Berman**

*Haven In*

Knows every detail about her dozens of vacation rentals in [Paris](#).

**Gail Boisclair**

*Perfectly Paris*

Her apartments, mostly around Montmartre, are perfect for couples or small families.

**Annie Flogaus**

*Just France*

She can book you an apartment in [Paris](#), a château in Bordeaux, or a villa on the Côte d'Azur.

**Nick Westwood**

*Red Savannab*

He cornered the market on lovely villas and family-size farmhouses across the country.

***France and Italy*****Carolyn Grote**

*Ville et Village*

Has a portfolio including a 17th-century Dordogne castle and an olive oil estate just nine miles from Florence.

***France, Italy, and Spain*****Cédric Reversade and Paul-Maxime Koskas**

*Unique Properties & Events*

They have one-of-a-kind rental properties on the Amalfi Coast and in Andalusia, the Balearics, and Provence.

***France and Spain*****Adam Coats**

*Red Savannab*

Specializes in French wine regions and the Balearic Islands.

***Greece*****Ileana von Hirsch**

*Five Star Greece*

Helps clients make sense of the many islands, and narrows down whitewashed villa picks on Mykonos and in the Ionians.

## *Hawaii*

### **Anne Pawsat-Dressler**

*Hawaii Hideaways*

Her luxury rentals span the Big Island, Kauai, Maui, and Oahu.

## *Italy*

### **Countess Simonetta Brandolini d'Adda**

*The Best in Italy*

She'll arrange home and villa stays as well as insider access to art galleries and restoration studios.

### **Lisa Byrne and Pat Byrne**

*Italy Perfect*

The Byrne sisters have more than 100 properties in Italy, mostly in [Florence](#) and [Rome](#).

### **Patrice M. Salezze**

*Papavero Villa Rentals*

Salezze's properties include historic vineyard estates and stand-alone villas in Rome.

### **Mara Solomon**

*Homebase Abroad*

Has opulent homes on Lake Como and the Amalfi Coast that are perfect for big groups.

## *St. Barts*

### **Peg Walsh**

*St. Barth Properties*

Walsh has keys to an eye-popping 227 rentals, ranging from one to 12 bedrooms.

## *St. Martin and Sint Maarten*

### **Sonja van der Drift**

*Blue Ocean Villas*

She works on both sides of the island, with beachy villas for any size group.

“

**We send clients to the top floor of the Milan airport, where there's an Autogrill like the ones you'd find roadside. It's a white-tablecloth restaurant with jacketed waiters serving pasta and wine. —Patrice M. Salezze, villa specialist**



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## *South America*

### **Luisa Ladron de Guevara**

*Oasis Collections*

Manages contemporary vacation apartments in cities like Buenos Aires, José Ignacio, and Rio.

## *Spain*

### **Mary Vaira**

*El Sol Villas*

She's got a network of helpful guides as well as villas across Spain.

## *United Kingdom*

### **Warren de Long**

*Blandings*

Has a network of private country homes that aren't listed with any other specialist.

### **Madelyn Byrne Willems**

*London Perfect*

Her flats are in posh [London](#) neighborhoods like Chelsea, Kensington, and Notting Hill.

## *United Kingdom and Ireland*

### **Andrew Loyd**

*Loyd & Townsend Rose*

Dialed in to the countries' epic estates, like Birkhill Castle in the Cotswolds.

## *Worldwide*

### **Marina Gratsos**

*Carpe Diem Luxury Travel*

Her highly exclusive roster of homes, castles, and estates can't be booked elsewhere.

### **Sylvia Delvaille Jones**

*Villas and Apartments Abroad*

If she doesn't already know the perfect home for you, she'll find it.