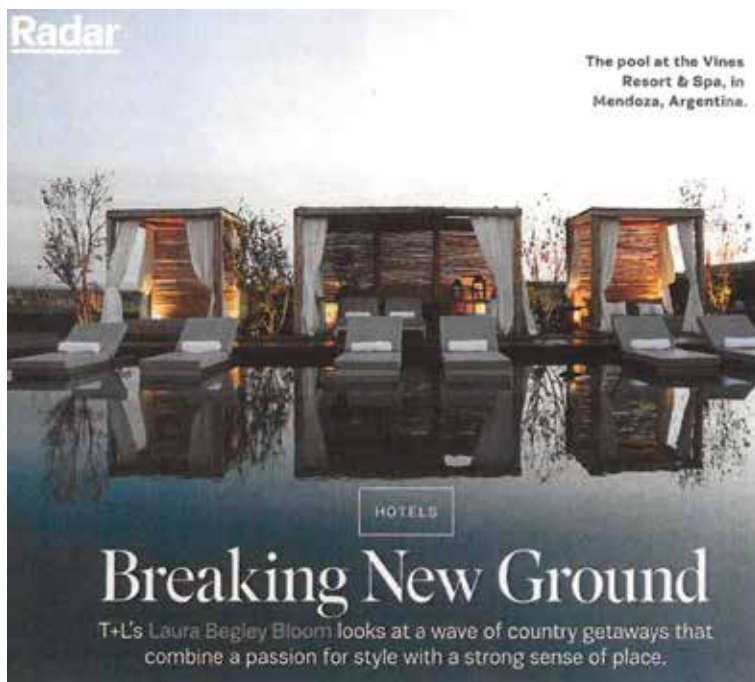




BREAKING NEW GROUND



A dozen years ago, I visited tastemaker Jocelyne Sibuet's La Bastide de Marie, a French farmhouse turned inn in Provence. I was taken with the rough-beamed rooms, the hand-selected antiques, the little *roulotte* (gypsy wagon) out back—simple elements that added up to an incredibly stylish whole. That's why I'm so excited about Sibuet's latest project, **Domaine de la Baume** (en.domaine-delabaume.com; **ssss**), an 18th-century Provençal villa with toile de Jouy headboards, exquisite gardens, and a stone pool framed by plane trees. It's yet another Sibuet creation that proves *rustic-chic* is not an oxymoron. • Similarly, in Italy, craftsmen are adding modern flair to an



Domaine de la Baume

800-year-old hamlet that is becoming **Toscano Resort Castelfalci** (castelfalci.co.uk; **s**). There are farmhouses for rent, a 31-room hotel in a former tobacco factory, and three restaurants serving local white truffles and olive oil. • At **Vines Resort & Spa** (vinesresortandspa.com; **ssss**), in

Mendoza, Argentina, minimalist architects Bormida & Yanzon designed guest rooms with walls of glass and an infinity pool that reminds me of one you'd see at an Aman. Upping the glamour quotient: a grill-centric restaurant by Argentine star chef Francis Mallmann. • Stateside, media entrepreneur Sheila Johnson's 168-room **Salamander Resort & Spa** (salamanderresort.com; **sss**) debuts this month in horse country in Middleburg, Virginia. "I want all of our guests to feel as if they're staying at the home of a dear friend," says Johnson, who added an equestrian center and is building tree-house treatment rooms in the spa. If only I had dear friends with places like this! ➔

✦ **UNUSUAL IN-BOOM FINDS** Boxing gloves at W Bangkok; ukuleles at the Modern Honolulu; gas masks at Shangri-La Hotel, Xian, in China; Twister games at Rancho Pescadero, in Baja California Sur, Mexico.

BOOKS

ROAD READS

Calcutta: Two Years in the City by Amit Chaudhuri (Knopf; Sept.) In this portrait of one of India's lesser-known cities, the celebrated novelist tackles the effects of rapid modernization.

The Greek House by Christian Brechneff with Tim Lovejoy (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) Brechneff, an artist, recounts his love affair with the Greek island of Sifnos, where the quality of light and the serenity are equally inspirational.

The Telling Room by Michael Paterniti (Dial) The author of *Driving Mr. Albert* visits a Spanish village to meet the maker of a cheese he'd tasted a decade earlier. Enthralled, he moves there, and finds there's more to the place than old-world charm.

On the Noodle Road by Jen Lin-Liu (Riverhead) Is pasta from China, Italy, or some place in between? Looking for answers, the Chengdu-based chef eats her way along the Silk Road. —KOLBY YARNELL

