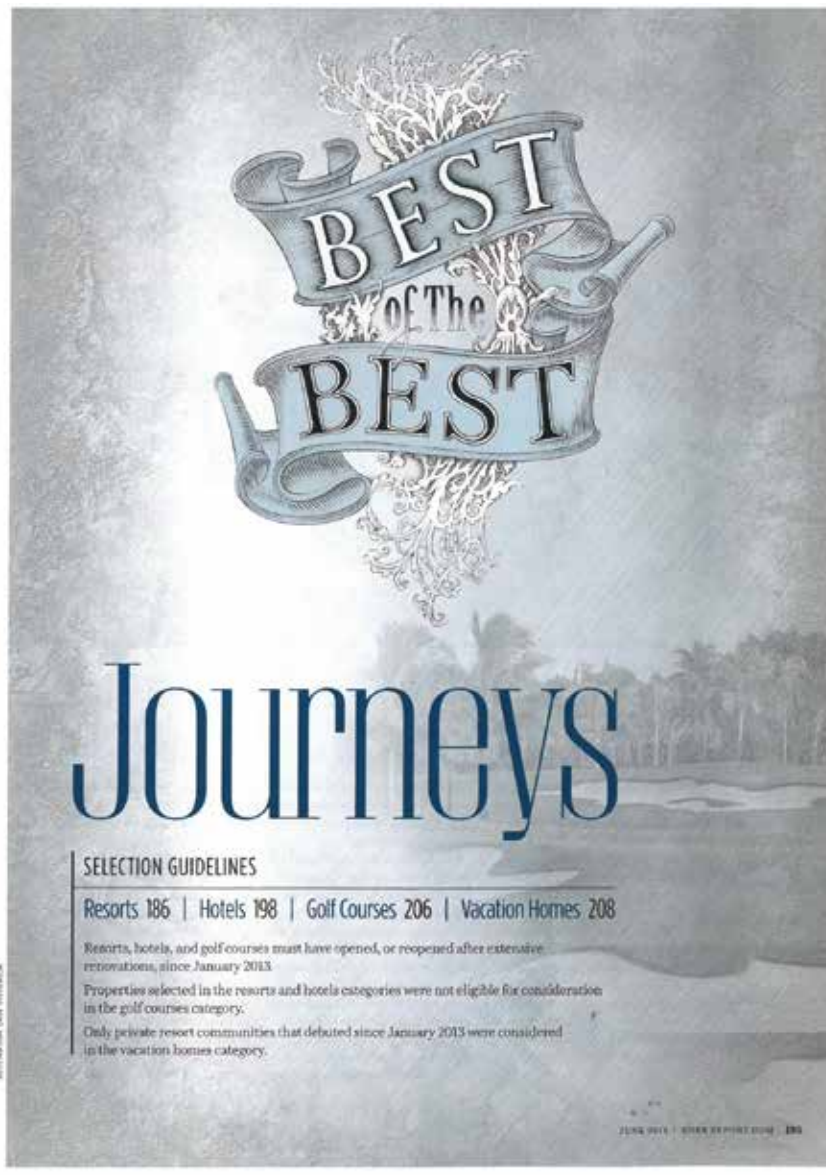




BEST OF THE BEST

June, 2014

Debuted in January in Argentina's celebrated Mendoza wine region, the 22 villa retreat echoes and embraces its surroundings with rough-hewn stone walls, porches with fire pits, and floor to ceiling windows that frame the vineyard vistas.





other safari destinations. The debut of Norman Carr Safaris' **Chinzombo Camp** (+260.216.246025, www.normancarsafaris.com)—a six-villa retreat on the Luangwa River—is a welcome exception. Opened last June, the camp brings such creature comforts as private plunge pools, expansive decks, and custom campaign furniture to the country's remote South Luangwa region. Villas sprawl beneath giant mahogany trees filled with blue-billed fire finches and chattering baboons, and afford wide-open vistas that regularly include elephants bathing along the riverbanks. Breakfast is served around a riverside fire pit

before guests embark on game drives and walking safaris through the 3,500-square-mile South Luangwa National Park, where leopards, lions, giraffes, and buffaloes are common sights. (\$535–\$950 per person, all inclusive) —JOE YOGERST

THE 180-DEGREE views from the Uco Valley's new **Vines Resort & Spa** (+54.261.461.3900, www.vinesresortandspa.com) extend over thousands of acres of vineyards to the Andes Mountains. Debuted in January in Argentina's celebrated Mendoza wine region, the 22-villa retreat echoes and embraces its surroundings with rough-hewn stone walls, porches with

fire pits, and floor-to-ceiling windows that frame the vineyard vistas. Guests can plant seeds and tend the harvest with the resort's team of agronomists or attend private classes that teach the intricacies of making and blending wines. The grape-themed offerings extend to the resort's spa, which offers vinotherapy treatments, and to excursions that include horseback rides and hikes through the vineyards. For dinner, Siete Fuegos restaurant pairs regional vintages with such *asado*-style gaucho specialties as slow-grilled rib eye and salt-encrusted salmon. (\$510–\$1,955)

—DAVID LYON



OPENED IN DECEMBER, **L'Apogée Courchevel** (+33.4.79.04.01.04, www.lapogeecourchevel.com) represents a new high point in the Oetker Collection. The ski-in/ski-out chalet in the tony French village of Courchevel 1850 sits at the top, or apogee, of a former Olympic ski jump, affording some of the region's most breathtaking Alpine views. But the 56-room retreat, which joins such elite Oetker properties as Le Bristol in Paris and Frégate Island Private in the Seychelles, impresses for more than its altitude. Inside, warm interiors blend such traditional Alpine