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# traveller

THE INDEPENDENT

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## Get your kicks

The traveller's guide  
to New Zealand

**INSIDE**  
Special 8-page  
Southern Belgium  
supplement

Stephen Bayley in Skopelos • Rock star retreats • Mali • Gran Canaria • South India • 48 hours in Doha

## The big six

### Rock star retreats

BY LAURA HOLT

#### Ushuaia Beach Hotel Ibiza

This new Playa d'en Bossa address is a hedonist's haven. David Guetta and Calvin Harris have already taken to the decks by the neon-lit pool, while the beach lounge throngs with beautiful people. Inside, the louche décor includes chairs moulded like derrières and leopard-print sofas. The Pioneer Suite is the choice for those who want to stay and play, complete with turntables, an amp, mixer and eight speakers. Ushuaia Beach Hotel, Playa d'en Bossa 10, Sant Jordi de ses Salines, Ibiza, Spain (00 34 902 424 252; ushuaiahotel.com). Doubles start at €150, including breakfast.



#### nhow Berlin

This Berlin newcomer cuts a fine figure on the banks of the River Spree. A stack of cubist blocks shields an interior in constant flux, with art installations and graffiti murals changing through the seasons. New York designer Karim Rashid has been allowed to unleash his imagination with a space-age reception desk, circular sofas and fluorescent flashes of colour throughout. The eighth floor holds two mixing suites, recording booths, a collection of Gibson guitars and an adjoining lounge, complete with a Fittes juke box.

nhow Hotel, Stralauer Allee 3, Berlin, Germany (00 49 30 290 2990; nhow-hotels.com). Doubles start at €150, room only.



#### Geejam Jamaica

Aside from featuring a hi-tech recording studio and an illustrious guestlist including Björk and Grace Jones, Geejam also boasts five cabins and suites that follow a musical theme. Stay in "Drum & Bass" to enjoy a private Jacuzzi, sweeping veranda and Philippe Starck-designed bathroom; or "Rocksteady" for a steam room and Banksy artwork. By night, feast on ackee and saltfish at the Bushbar, washed down with rum cocktails and a laidback reggae soundtrack.

Geejam, Skippers Boulevard, San San, Port Antonio, Portland, Jamaica (001 876 622 9009; islandoutpost.com). Doubles with breakfast from £300.



#### Eden Rock St Barts

This idyllic retreat in the French Caribbean sits on a chiselled promontory by the same name, with 40 decadent bedrooms and two luxury beach houses. Stay in Villa Rockstar to enjoy a private pool, butler service, cinema, gym and a fully-equipped recording studio. Dine out on lobster tails and sweet chilli crab after a hard day at the office at one of the hotel's two restaurants.

Eden Rock - St Barts, St Jean Bay, St Barthélemy, French Caribbean (00 590 590 29 79 99; eden-rockhotel.com). Double rooms start at €530, including breakfast.



#### Setai South Beach Miami Beach

Everyone from Jay Z to Wyclef Jean has laid down tracks at the Setai's Lenny Kravitz-designed penthouse recording studio. Elsewhere, rooms are split between a historic Art Deco building and a modern tower overlooking South Beach. Designer Jaya Ibrahim has chosen to strike an Asian note inside, by way of chocolate and gold hues. Outside, main pool is sectioned into three, shaded by palms, and ringed with loungers, and leads down to a restaurant serving seafood and champagne.

The Setai Resort & Residences, 2001 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida, US (001 305 520 6000; setai.com). Doubles start at \$550 (£367), room only.



#### Sunset Marquis Los Angeles

This Sunset Strip institution has been a sanctum for rockers since 1963, hosting everyone from The Rolling Stones to Joan Jett. Signed photographs of the artists hang on the walls; vintage guitars and music memorabilia stand on display. Completing the credentials, the basement is home to NightBird Studios where clients include Aretha Franklin, Aerosmith and Eminem. Sunset Marquis, 200 Alta Loma Road, Hollywood, California, US (001 310 657 1333; sunsetmarquis.com). Doubles start at \$245 (£163), room only.

