

T+L'S AIRPORT REPORT: THE BEST + THE WORST

TRAVEL + LEISURE

ROME
GARDEN
TOUR

NEW
FOODIE
HAVEN:
BAJA

INSIDER'S
MARRAKESH

30 SECRET ISLAND ESCAPES

FLORIDA KEYS GREECE BAHAMAS FRANCE BELIZE MAINE GALÁPAGOS

30 SECRET ISLANDS

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ISLAND HOPPING
Clockwise from top left: A traditional wooden fishing boat in Favignana, Italy; cruising the Pacific Ocean around Japan's Ogasawara Islands; Town Dock, on Maine's Little Cranberry Island, three miles from Acadia National Park; the cliffs of Belle Anse, in Quebec's Îles de la Madeleine; a deluxe villa at Culebra's Club Seabourne.



ISLES DE LA MADELEINE QUEBEC

Were it not for the gusty winds that sweep along the beaches of Îles de la Madeleine, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 130 miles by plane from mainland Quebec, the dozen-island atoll may have remained isolated forever. But now a growing sailing and windsurfing community books far in advance for one of the 10 renovated rooms at the convent-turned hotel *Domaine du Vieux Couvent* (*Havre-aux-Maisons*; 418/969-2233; domaineduvieuxcouvent.com; doubles from \$190, including breakfast). For an experience that's even farther off the beaten path, take a 50-minute ferry ride to L'Île-d'Entrée, a favorite fishing spot. **T+L TIP** Adventure seekers should arrange an afternoon of windsurfing through *Aerosport* (866/986-6677; aerosport.ca), the most experienced local outfitter.

EUROPE

ISLE D'Ouessant FRANCE

Also known as "L'Île des Femmes" after the women who lived here while their fishermen husbands were at sea, this island is Europe's westernmost outpost and one of the Continent's most overlooked hideaways. Rent a bike or hop a shuttle to the town of Lampaul, where you'll find crafts shops and crêpes, a specialty in Brittany. *Ti Jan Ar C'hafé* guesthouse (33-2/98-48-82-64; doubles from \$107), half a mile inland, has eight spare rooms. Open the windows to hear the sounds of the Siberian birds that nest nearby each spring. **T+L TIP** Tour two of the island's five lighthouses, all located near the port of Stiff, then return to France's mainland on a ferry to Brest or Le Conquet.

FAVIGNANA ITALY

On this butterfly-shaped island five miles off Sicily's western coast, the breeze is scented with jasmine, and locals still catch bluefin tuna with large nets and spears. The 46-room *Hotel Tempo di Mare* (6 Via Frascia; 39-0923/922-474; hoteltempodimare.it; doubles from \$312), a tidy property with private balconies, overlooks nearby *Levanzo Island*. *Trattoria Due Colonne* (76 Piazza Madrice; 39-0923/922-291; dinner for two \$60) doubles as the town hall and serves caponata, a Sicilian staple of eggplant, olives, capers, and

tomatoes. **T+L TIP** Stock up on picnic supplies including cured tuna *bresaola* at *La Casa del Tonno* (12 Via Roma; 39-0923/922-227), then head out to *Cala Rossa*, a secluded cove framed by white, craggy cliffs.

ALÓNNISSOS GREECE

Fourteen-mile-long Alónnisos, in Greece's Northern Sporades, is the setting of one of the country's two marine parks (established to protect the area's biodiversity), which is home to the endangered Mediterranean monk seal. The island is awash with color: fields of ruby-red flowers, pale yellow cliffs, and green olive groves. There are also ancient villages, pebble beaches, and walking trails to explore. Five minutes by car from the harbor, the *Atrium Hotel* (30-242/406-5750; atriumalonnissos.gr; doubles from \$205) has 29 rooms recently updated with mosaic tiling and cheery curtains, chairs, and bedspreads. Dine at *Tassia Taverna* (*Fiskardo Harbor*; 30-267/404-1205; dinner for two \$123), in *Steni-Vala*, for chef-owner *Tassia Dendrinou's* lobster spaghetti. **T+L TIP** Alónnisos is home to more than 25 churches, some dating back to the 16th century. Take a tour, available through the Alónnisos Walking Club (alonnissoswalks.co.uk).

OAXEN SWEDEN

Not only is this isle south of Stockholm impossibly picturesque (imagine bright cottages planted among birch and elm trees); it's also an up-and-coming culinary destination, thanks to chef *Magnus Elk*. At his minimalist restaurant *Oaxen Krog* (46-855/153-105; four-course prix fixe dinner for two \$538), Elk prepares regionally sourced dishes like wild salmon and cockle tartare. Spend the night at *Prince van Orangiën* (46-855/153-105; princen.se; doubles from \$239), the restaurant's seven-cabin 1930's Dutch riverboat-hotel docked steps from the restaurant. **T+L TIP** In nearby *Södertälje*, check out the Swedish royal family's *Tullgarn palace* (46-855/572-011; royalcourt.se), famous for its Rococo interiors and English gardens.

BOZCAADA ISLAND TURKEY

With its Ottoman-Greek whitewashed houses clustered around the harbor and its lack of tourism, *Bozcaada*, one of Turkey's

two Aegean islands, is an insider's secret. The other attraction? Its 2,000-year-old wine-making tradition, currently experiencing a renaissance. At the *Corvus winery* (90-286/697-8181; corvus.com.tr), former architect *Resit Soley* is producing the country's most sought-after bottles. Where to stay? Try *Kaikias* (*Kale Arkasi Mevkii*; 90-286/697-0250; kaikias.com; doubles from \$156), with 22 rustic-chic rooms in the shadow of a Byzantine fortress. Don't miss the red mullet and smoked octopus at the 110-year-old *Lodos* (*Çınar Çarı Cad.*; 90-286/697-0545; dinner for two \$30). **T+L TIP** Bring home a jar of house-made poppy jam, sold at *Salto* (90-286/697-8465), the town market.

MEXICO & CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

ESPIRITU SANTO MEXICO

It's not easy to find an undiscovered Mexican beach getaway, but a collection of *islotos* off Baja California Sur's eastern shore remain pristine desert-island paradises. Instead of miles of resorts, you'll find white-sand coasts and crimson peaks filled with UNESCO-protected wildlife. The most inviting is *Espíritu Santo*, a volcanic speck with shallow inlets that lies 15 miles from *La Paz*. To get there, sign up for a one- to five-day cruise with the eco-minded *Baja Expeditions* (800/843-6967; bajaex.com; from \$260 per person per night). There are no hotels, but travelers can sleep in the small vessel's eight tents or opt for a night back in *La Paz* at *Posada de las Flores* (44 *Álvaro Obregón*; 52-612/125-5871; posadadelasflores.com; doubles from \$180). **T+L TIP** Round out the *Baja Expeditions* trip with a Mexican cooking class on the beach. Chef *Antonio Orozco* teaches you to make *carne asada* on a charcoal grill.

SOUTH WATER CAYE BELIZE

Unlike the busy beach scene on *Ambergris*, *South Water Caye* is still an unknown escape. The island—just 14 miles east of the town of *Dangriga*—is the ideal place to explore the Western (Continued on page 157)