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HOLIDAY GO LIGHTLY

Eight great green getaways that don't skimp on style. TEXT: JAMES GRAINGER

Eco travel used to mean sharing a leaky tent with a dozen campers and a cloud of insects. Now, it's the biggest trend in tourism, sparking a massive range of eco-friendly options for everyone from the hard-core hiker to the luxury traveller looking to minimize her Christian Louboutin-shod carbon footprint. Here are some amazing green travel spots that allow chic travellers to sightsee in style while helping local communities and the earth.

No country is more synonymous with the word "green" than Ireland.

Paris' Bois de Vincennes is on Lac Daumesnil.



1
EUROPE

FRANCE

Who says you can't enjoy Paris' decadent delights while appeasing your inner eco warrior? Stay at **Hôtel de la Porte Dorée**, a boutique hotel near the Bois de Vincennes, where guests can jog in the woods, canoe on the sparkling lake or walk to Château de Vincennes, a medieval castle complete with turrets and a moat.

On rue Saint-Germain, stop in for an organic Pinot Noir at **Phyto Bar**, then drop by Alter Mundi, which offers chic and colourful Bluebretzel T-shirts spun from organic Malian cotton. And don't forget to hit the couture houses—after all, the exquisite creations at Balenciaga and Chanel are made by hand right in the city. For dinner, head to **Macéo**. Health-conscious food lovers have been raving about its Menu au Verte, which offers tasty vegetarian fare. Or, opt for the delicious Dublin Bay Prawns and Tartare of Crab and—for the ambitious—a dessert of Breton Shortbread with Decadent Chocolate Ganache.

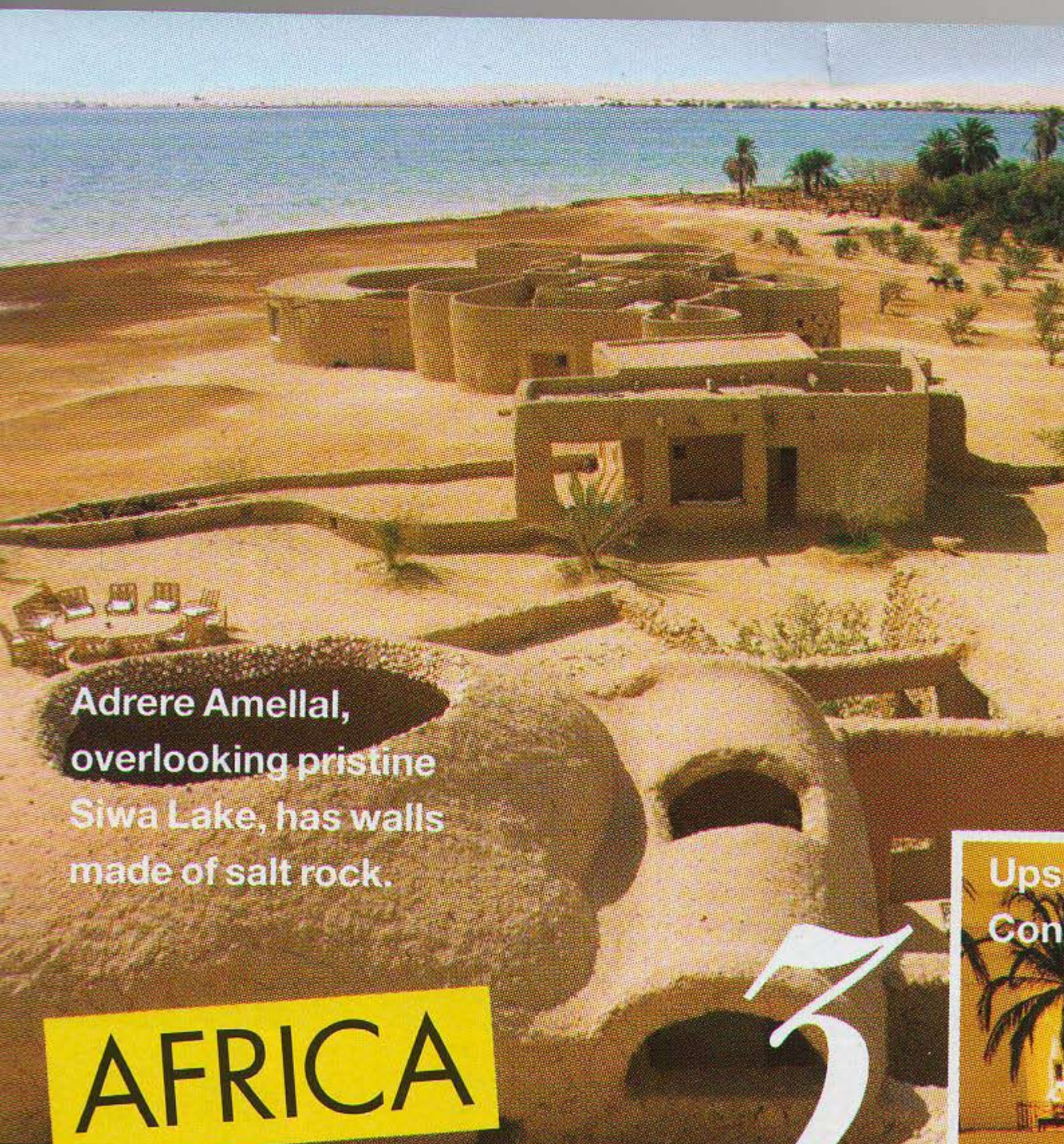


Indulge in organic haute cuisine at Macéo.

The Benwiskin Centre in North County Sligo

IRELAND

2
The country's green hills are dotted with eco destinations of every variety, but it's best to pick one region and explore the countryside by foot or bike. Start in the North County Sligo region and stay at the **Benwiskin Centre**, which has an organic garden and solar panels. It also has on-site bike rentals, so you can wheel around beaches, mountains, Ireland's largest bird sanctuary and the final resting place of W. B. Yeats. Take a day trip to **Voya Seaweed Baths & Spa** for an invigorating dunk in a bath of seaweed, hand-harvested from Ireland's Atlantic coast, followed by a hot stone massage.



Adrere Amellal,
overlooking pristine
Siwa Lake, has walls
made of salt rock.

AFRICA

EGYPT

Ups
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