

GoodLife
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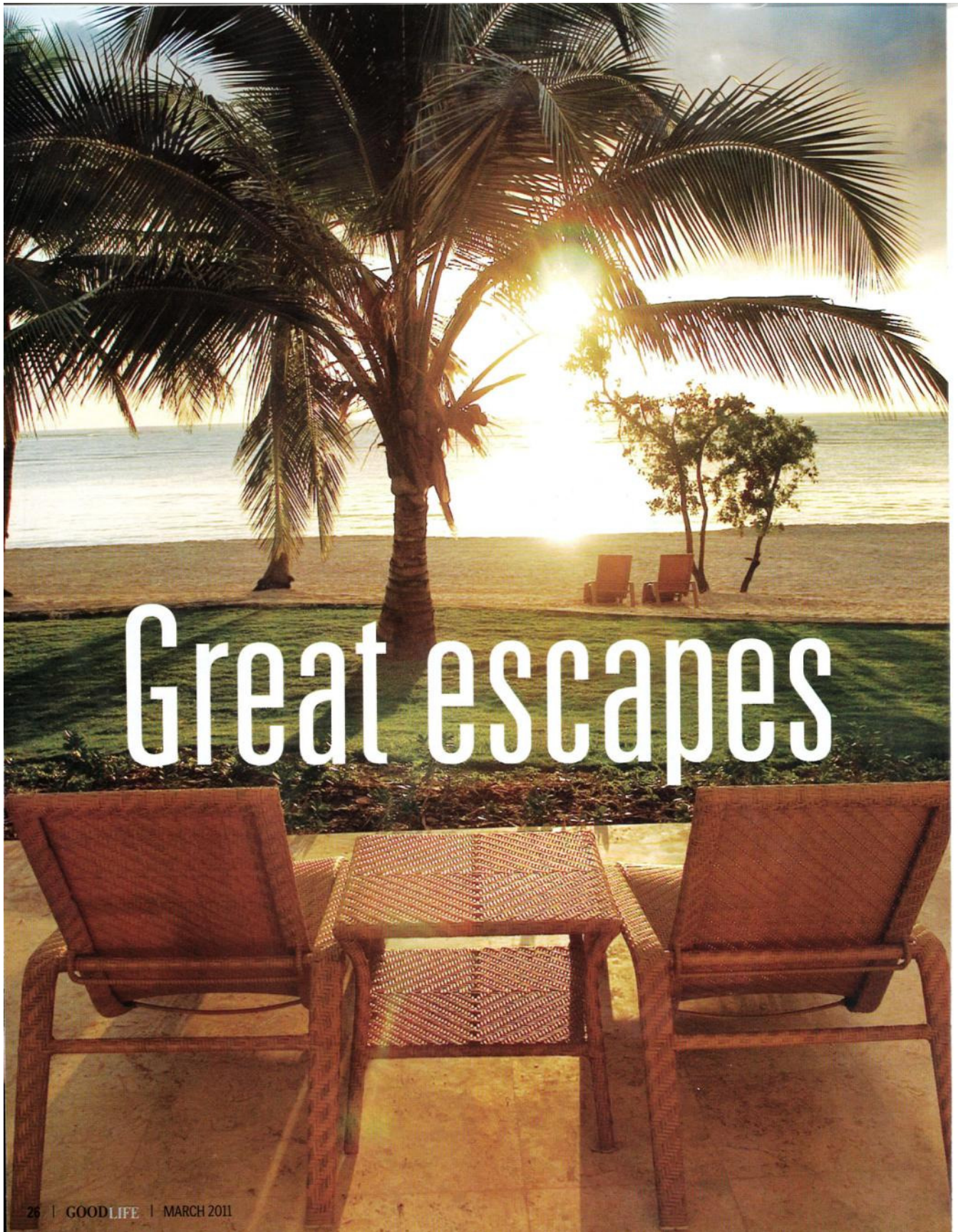
GOODLIFE

MARCH 2011

GRAND ENTRANCE

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Great escapes



Norway offers breathtaking views and abundant outdoor pursuits.

Norway for nature lovers

For those who love the exhilaration of outdoor pursuits, this year's destination of choice is Norway, which was recently named the best travel destination in the world by National Geographic Traveler magazine. Cruise ships traveling up the Atlantic Coast from Bergen to the Arctic Circle toward the northern lights and the midnight sun offer spectacular views of the country's magnificent fjords. Do-it-yourselfers can rent a boat to explore the

fjords at leisure, stopping at charming hotels and guest houses unreachable by roads.

But Norway has more to offer than magnificent scenery — the richest fishing in the world, for one thing, plus sailing, hiking and mountain climbing. For the truly adventurous, there are pursuits such as heli-skiing, paragliding and bungee jumping. The best way to enjoy all this is to rent a place, perhaps one of the handsome Hansnes Fjordside Cabins, and stay awhile. (www.visitnorway.com, www.holidaynorway.com for cabin details)



The V&A Waterfront in Capetown is South Africa's most visited destination — a combination of shops, restaurants, nightspots, tourist attractions and museums in the city's historic harbor.

Exotic luxury

Travel in Southern Africa may have been daunting in the past, but "roughing it" is no longer required. Abercrombie & Kent's "Southern Africa in Style" introduces travelers to a surprising variety of the continent's stunning attractions with many unexpected amenities.

Your journey begins with a stay at an exclusive waterfront hotel in the historic seaport of Capetown, a cable car ride to view the sea and city and a funicular railway ascent to the Cape of Good Hope pinnacle. This is followed by a

traditional Cape Malay tea and welcome dinner in a private home. Next is a gourmet tour of the Cape Winelands with tastings of wine, cheese and chocolate.

A flight to Zimbabwe takes travelers to spectacular Victoria Falls. Chobe National Park, home to elephants, antelopes and buffaloes, is next, then on to Moremi Game Reserve, the "predator capital" of Botswana, to glimpse lions, cheetahs, hyena and sand leopards. The trip concludes in the cosmopolitan capital, Johannesburg. (www.abercrombiekent.com)



Book a stay at boutique hotel Tortuga Bay (also shown on Page 26) in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

'The new Cancun'

Among this year's most popular cruising destinations is Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, a destination referred to as "the new Cancun," says Janice Tucker, manager of of the Travelcenter at Boscov's Department Store in Binghamton. Her agency specializes in European river cruises and charter flights for Disney World.

Punta Cana is more than just a popular port of call — it also offers a range of resorts and hotels. One of them, the luxury boutique hotel Tortuga Bay, was designed by Oscar de la Renta and received a AAA Five Diamond Award for 2011. It's the first hotel in the Dominican Republic and one of only four in the Caribbean to receive the award.

Guests at Tortuga Bay, part of the PUNTACANA Resort & Club, have access to private beaches, tropical gardens, an ecological reserve and foundation, the Six Senses Spa and multiple restaurants. Guests also can enjoy two championship golf courses designed by Tom Fazio and P.B. Dye. A third is set to open this year. (www.puntacana.com)