

ALASKA AHOY: THE SCALES OF POWER IN THE 49TH STATE (OR HOW A FISH CAN BECOME AN AMBASSADOR)

MONOCLE

A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

PORTUGAL
TRAVEL GUIDE
DOUBLE ISSUE
OVER 270 PAGES

2014/2015
TRAVEL AWARDS

From soft power to firm beds: top nations, hotels and design

Monocle gets out its clipboard and sharpens its pencil to rank the key players in everything from diplomacy to aviation — a **MONOCLE SPECIAL**



PORTUGAL:

A 36-page travel guide to the nation's best cities, beaches, vineyards and winning retreats



SOFT POWER:

Who's up and who's down in our 16-page annual ranking of the world's softest super-powers



"Can I interest you in taking home the pick of the bunch? You'll be pleased you did!"

ANTWERP:

Enjoy diamonds, Dries and Domestosester in beautiful Belgium as we name our top spots for having your Christmas stocking stuffed with fine threads, fancy treats and a night-fie mit

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- A AFFAIRS** Is that a rocket in your pocket? Why it's Mars or bust for the ESA
- B BUSINESS** Made in France: a walk through the country's top shoe-making ateliers
- C CULTURE** A preview of Art Basel's sultry Miami set-up
- D DESIGN** Karl Lagerfeld on Berlin, lesbians, provenance and why it's good to spend
- E EDITS** Photographer Gregory Crewdson's 'last meal'

BIG BUMPER HOLIDAY THUMPER

Best-in-class airlines and top hotels in our annual travel awards, plus a sit-down with Finland's PM, Tokyo's governor and a Spanish contender in our interview series

TRAVEL TOP 50

Komichitsu, welcome aboard

CHRISTMAS GINZA-STYLE

13-page fashion portfolio

Put a ribbon on it!

FRANCE CALLING

(Do you Radiooooo?)

Je t'aime 1-81-Hubs

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

5 political profiles

Hola! I can fix this nation

TOOLS FOR LIFE

A practical gift guide

Christmas hit benzua



23

Best new business-class concept

The Qantas A330

We have no idea why it took airlines so long but the Qantas A330 fleet flies into our top 50 as the first carrier to implement fully reclining seats before take-off and during landing. Designed by Qantas in co-operation with Marc Newson and Thompson Aero Seating, the seat doubles as a full flatbed with extra width and direct aisle access plus a built-in do-not-disturb lighting system.

Premium lounges across the Qantas network allow customers to dine well before boarding so skipping your on-board meal for a longer kip is now an appetising option. — MEXA qantas.com.au



25

Comfiest carry-on

Oyuna

We've always been partial to Mongolian-born Oyuna Tserendorj's cashmere wonders and the London-based designer's travel throw makes for a versatile travelling companion. Comfortably worn as a shawl, the throw doubles as a blanket and triples as a robe. Plus when folded it's easily stowed. — JAS oyuna.com



This shawl means I can keep warm and look cool... at the same time



24

Most ambitious catering concept

Turkish Airlines x Do&Co

Optimism abounds for Turkey's flag carrier and Turkish Airlines is still pushing the envelope with its culinary offerings. Its latest collaboration is with Austrian caterer Do&Co to produce an on-board menu that includes herbed lamb chops with green beans and pickles plus tea from the Black Sea region served in a *samovar* (traditional kettle). — ADG turkishairlines.com; doco.com



26

Best health insurance

Global Rescue

Boston-based Global Rescue takes the top spot for comprehensive cover for under-the-weather travellers. Looking after everyone from aid workers to elite athletes, membership can get you out of a tricky situation with limited fuss.

From its command centre the Global Rescue team keeps a close eye on weather, seismic activity, war and the development of dicey political situations. A partner network of aircraft operators around the world also stands ready for improbable rescue missions. The organisation prides itself on providing security, support and transport from anywhere to anywhere with a team of LearJets on hand. — FMA globalrescue.com

