

elite traveler

THE PRIVATE JET LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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The Suites Issue

THE MOST
OPULENT,
FANTASTICAL
AND DOWNRIGHT
DECADENT TOP
100 SUITES IN THE
WORLD



Top hotels: Exclusively yours

Given the stress and upheaval of this year, an escape to a luxury hotel or island retreat has never been more appealing. Safety is, of course, paramount across the world's great escapes, where social distancing, designer face masks and hand sanitizer will be on the agenda for months — perhaps years — to come. And while many countries across continental Europe have reopened their borders, the US has remained locked down for what seems like an eternity. The question on everyone's lips is: Where can I travel safely? The simplest answer is a buyout. The concept is nothing new — hotels and resorts typically give free rein over their estates for lavish weddings, glitzy Hollywood-style events or corporate retreats. As the demand for such soirées has plummeted, smaller and more exclusive hotels have begun to see a trend in requests from guests looking to vacation without other travelers. Thankfully for us all, there's no shortage of these super private, luxe and under the radar buyouts. *Elite Traveler* has rounded up the best hotels and resorts, from the South African bush to the shores of the Caribbean, that allow you and your family and close friends to enjoy the perks of buyout life *à la prive*.

by Luke Abrahams

Twin Farms

VERMONT, USA

Twin Farms is the romantic and exquisitely intimate country hideaway of your buyout dreams. Set amid 300 acres of sprawling meadows, the Relais Châteaux gem is the only five-star resort in the state of Vermont boasting 10 charmingly rustic and whimsically named cottages that sleep a total of 120. Think rooms inspired by writer Sinclair Lewis and a grand four-suite mega-barn overlooking the water, kitted out with cozy wood-burning fireplaces, vintage flags, eclectic lush fabrics, mammoth rugs and super-snug king-size leather beds. Gorgeous hand-painted murals, rich maple furnishings and tons of American and gallery-worthy contemporary art pieces adorn the interiors. The food here is excellent too. Guests dine under the watchful eye of executive chef Nathan Rich and his team of culinary whizzes who curate anti-faux-pasteur menu breakfasts, lunches and dinners inspired by the changing seasons. Expect hearty but elegant North American fare sourced from Twin Farms' own estate, including herbs, fruits and vegetables. Adrenaline comes courtesy of the epic hiking trails and tennis courts, plus there's pond swimming, fly fishing and, in the warmer months, canoeing and putt on two of the golf course. In the winter months, private downhill slopes are the major sell, along with cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating and sledding. When the adventure ends, head for the furo, the Japanese-style hot tub and the bridge house spa for treatments using Vermont-centric potions and wines from houses like Harper and Lunaroma.

If you do one thing...

Aspen who? Twin Farms has six ski slopes, and they are all private use only. The chalet, the largest cottage, has its very own slope so you can ski-in, ski-out totally on your own beat. Take advantage of the retreat's 'skisherpa' butler experience, where the ski sherpa will take you to the top of the mountain for an icy picnic, culinary treats and endless mugs of cocoa.

From \$56,000 per night with a minimum two-night stay. Contact Randi Bartles, reservations manager, randi@twinfarms.com, +1 802 234 9999, twinfarms.com

