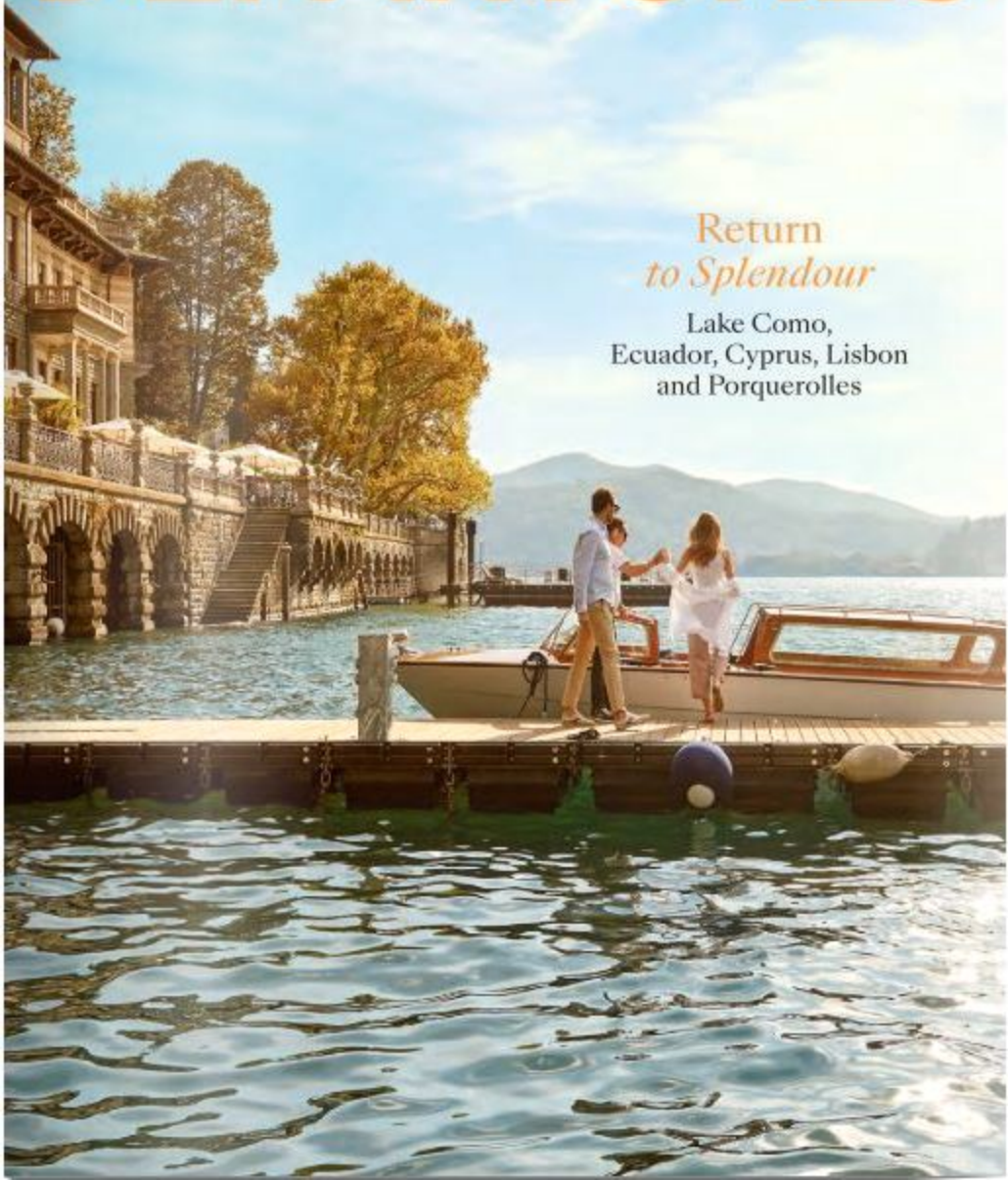


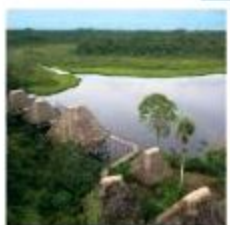
AUTUMN 2013

# DEPARTURES

Return  
*to Splendour*

Lake Como,  
Ecuador, Cyprus, Lisbon  
and Porquerolles





spending an afternoon trekking the muddy forest floor with one of the resort's scientists and swimming under a cascading waterfall. At day's end, guests are invited to share stories and spot birds from the resort's canopy-level restaurant and bar as they indulge in dishes inspired by the flavours of the jungle. [mashpilodge.com](http://mashpi lodge.com)

#### NAPO WILDLIFE CENTER, Yasuni National Park

Caimans and anacondas move among capuchin monkeys on the shores of a black-watered lake at this hidden jungle escape. Part sustainable resort, part protected biosphere, the palm-thatched 20-villa lakeside property – constructed in 500-year-old Añangu style – overlooks the calm, ink-tinted Añangu Lake in the heart of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador's Yasuni National Park, one of the most biodiverse places on Earth. Traditional stylings cater to the surrounding nature, and the hotel's canopy towers, with 360-degree views over the trees, are ideal for spotting fireflies and scarlet macaws. Perhaps more importantly, the hotel is owned and operated by the indigenous Kichwa Añangu community, and guests have the opportunity to experience ancestral Amazon traditions, including medicinal foraging, fishing along the tributaries in a dugout canoe, and inspecting local wildlife. The whole endeavour is centred on environmental sustainability: waste water is processed to keep the swamps clean; energy is generated by solar panels, industrial batteries and a silent generator; and all proceeds go to the local Añangu community. [napowildlifecenter.com](http://napowildlifecenter.com)



#### PIKAIKA LODGE, Santa Cruz

The archipelago's first world-class hotel was built on the rim of an extinct volcanic crater, surrounded by 31 unspoiled hectares through which giant tortoises roam. The cantilevered buildings and solar- and wind-powered systems are a conscious effort on the part of the Swiss owner to operate as green a project as possible – which is why, alongside the spa, pool, iPod docks and air-conditioning, Pikaika has bicycles so guests can explore the vibrant surrounds on their own steam. Food is Ecuador-inflected and delicious, and the all-inclusive activities range from walks in underground lava tunnels to a cruise. [pikaikalodgegalapagos.com](http://pikaikalodgegalapagos.com)



#### MV THEORY, Galapagos

You would be hard-pressed to find a more glamorous Galapagos cruiser than the *MV Theory*, Ecoventura's second indulgent vessel. Within the 43.5m hull are ten 13.5sq m cabins, each as comfortable as a hotel room, with portholes and showers and king-sized beds. The living space feels more terrestrial than oceanic, and the top deck features a jacuzzi and smart loungers perfect for sipping piña colada and nibbling ceviche. There are two itineraries: one to the central islands, the other to the remote west, each led by expert guides who help spot blue-footed boobies and accompany guests on dives with manta rays and hikes through volcanic landscapes. [ecoventura.com](http://ecoventura.com)

Clockwise from far left: Napo Wildlife Center, as seen from its canopy tower; Playa Corada on Isla Santiago; a baby sea lion on Isla Rabida – both islands are reachable via private yacht from Pikaika Lodge; the *MV Theory*