

# TRAVELITE

TRAVEL FOR THE ELITE

## COUNTRYSIDE SOJOURNS

*Three Undulating and Alluring Rural Landscapes*

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*On Top of the World*

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*South American Splendour*

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### Cycling Tours

*The Season's Best Bike Trails*

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## *Travelite's Picks* **HOTELS and RESORTS**

### **naked Stables Private Reserve** *Moganshan*

It has been a favourite hotspot for decades. Whenever 20s Shanghai became sweltering and unbearable, its chic elite repaired to the mountains of Moganshan to cool off. Though it has been decades since its heyday – much in fact has happened since the elites came, fortunately this patch of heaven recently had a revival with the naked Retreats, more specifically with its naked Stables Private Reserve. Asia's first LEED platinum-certified resort, the property, in its own subtle way, allows visitors to view and experience Moganshan in a fresh light. The cabins, situated unobtrusively, above the resort and within the bamboo forest enable vacationers to sumptuously imbibe the calming spirit of the mountain. Of course, apart from the readily available activities such as hiking, golf, and spa treatments, the cuisine is also notable with Michelin-star chef Stefan Stiller helming the kitchen. With the recent developments, Moganshan's tranquil appeal quite obviously has not waned even a bit.

[www.nakedretreats.cn](http://www.nakedretreats.cn)





## The Farm at Cape Kidnappers *Hawke's Bay*

There are plenty of good reasons to be surrounded with a large body of water. The calming effect of watching blue waves undulate from a distance, the great smell of the sea below, and the infinite expanse of the sky above can all lift the spirit. But if the place also has a legendary golf course, five-star luxury lodge accommodations and a gourmet restaurant, then so much the better.

Such is what The Farm at Cape Kidnappers in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand offers. Naturally, the cape's rolling acres are perfect for hiking and biking and there's

even an opportunity to do a bit of trout fishing on the side. The lodge itself also has some beauty to show off including rooms with a fireplace and private balcony, a heated infinity pool, a spa and a restaurant, which prides itself with New Zealand lamb and beef cuisine. And then there is the par 71 golf course designed by no less than esteemed golf architect Tom Doak. Touted as one of the great modern marvels in golf and 41st in the ranking of best courses in the world, it is definitely a golfer's idea of heaven. Of course, add to this the sea, the sky, and the amazing beauty of New Zealand and you definitely have a winning combination.

[www.capekidnappers.com](http://www.capekidnappers.com)





## Alila Jabal Akhdar Nizwa

The Alila Jabal Akhdar in Oman may be small, but the views are literally big. Just a few strides from the hotel's foyer lies the great Jabal Akhdar or 'The Green Mountain' as it is also called. It's a magnificent verdant slice of the country's spectacular range, the Al Hajar. It is, without any doubt, the hotel's best feature. How can it not be when it affords visitors the chance to be overwhelmed with sloping desert mountains and ridges of earth that change moods as the day wears on? First, the Green Mountain both exhilarates and frightens with its seeming infiniteness, but by dusk, as the crepuscular rays crawl through the skies, the landscape turns soft and supple as watercolour.

But then, Alila Jabal Akhdar is also quite an experience. Complementing the breathtaking nature, the property is constructed according to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) principles. There is a hint of traditional Oman in everything – the construction technique, interior design and the irrigation channels – but this Alila property also features modern amenities even at 2,000 m above sea level. There is a restaurant with varied cuisine, exquisitely designed rooms, and, yes, even wireless Internet connection.

[www.alilahotels.com](http://www.alilahotels.com)



## The Vines Resort and Spa Mendoza

To the uninitiated, it may suspiciously sound like a vacation tailor-fit for fans of *Sideways* without of course the road trip and the drama. Though there is indeed plenty of wine tasting, comparing this exquisite destination to a Hollywood movie is selling it short. After all, there is much to appreciate at The Vines Resort and Spa, one of Argentina's hottest luxury spots.

First off, the resort, which sits on Uco Valley is tranquility defined. A flat expanse of land lush with wine vineyards and vegetable gardens, it has in the horizon the Andes Mountains serving as a spectacular backdrop. The spa also gets a special nod for its bespoke scents, while the restaurant serves a delicious nine-hour slow-grilled rib eye and cast-iron baked, salt-encrusted salmon that go magnificently well with the resort's boutique wines.

But yes, the wines, of course, are the real star of the show. The resort not only has an extensive wine menu, but also encourages visitors to be involved in all phases of winemaking. No need to hesitate though, world-renowned winemaker Santiago Achaval is around to answer your queries. Indeed, a trip to The Vines is as much a vacation as a celebration of life. Salud!

[www.vinesresortandspa.com](http://www.vinesresortandspa.com)