

# travelista

**Wander woman** Maria Shollenbarger **divulges** personal finds and perennial favourites

➔ Of **SICILY**'s seven **AEOLIAN ISLANDS**, it's Panarea that tends to hog the spotlight. Salina, though, is a less commercial and – during July-August, decidedly less *look-at-me!* – affair. **Capofaro** ([www.capofaro.it](http://www.capofaro.it); from €350) is its most elegant address. Owned by the Tasca d'Almerita family, its 20 rooms and suites are distributed across a handful of beautifully upcycled field workers' cottages in the Malvasia vineyards, from which the Tascas produce their dry version of that wine. The decor is the quietly assertive kind at which *Sicilia bene* seems to excel: wicker and natural wood; hits of molten orange or saffron amid much clean whitewash; a cliff's-edge bar overlooking a stunning teak-decked pool. And the food is sublime – chef Ludovico De Vivo will confer with guests to determine their culinary proclivities. But the real joy of this place is the marriage of privacy and nature: oaks and gum trees frame views of Stromboli in the distance, and profusions of bougainvillea and cacti place you squarely in the Sicily people dream of.

➔ Corporate monolith JW Marriott and Studio 54 founder Ian Schrager: they've struck many as curious bedfellows since joining forces in 2010 to form the Edition Hotels brand. But it's hard to maintain scepticism in the face of the **Miami Beach Edition** ([www.editionhotels.com](http://www.editionhotels.com); from \$450) in **MIAMI BEACH**. Here's a hotel that gets it unassailably, brilliantly right for the place it's in. The pared-down interiors (walls wainscoted in washed pine; white linen on the big armchairs, sofas and beds) are set off by lush greenery inside and out – Jean-Georges Vongerichten's take on hi-lo Latin dining in the Matador Room spills out of the restaurant itself onto a terrace hung spectacularly with vines, a long alfresco bar and down to the palm-shaded pool (in fact, you will eat very,

very well at all three of the hotel's restaurants). The beach is flawlessly accoutred, with cabana boys who leaven their supreme competence with street cool; the boutique, Limited Edition, was curated by local style icon Steven Giles and merits a visit regardless of where you're staying.

➔ Kasaragod, in northern **KERALA**, is a blessed-feeling place, fringed by coco-palm fields and long beaches of fawn-coloured sand and lacking much of the tourist traffic that exists in the south, around Kochi. **Neeleshwar Hermitage** ([www.neeleshwarhermitage.com](http://www.neeleshwarhermitage.com); from \$210), a combined Ayurvedic wellness retreat and discreet beach resort, is a place I would stay again for a very long



Above: the pool at Capofaro on the island of Salina, Sicily  
Below: the main lobby at Miami Beach Edition



Above: ocean-view apartments at Miami Beach Edition

