

Best Perfumes, Arnold Palmer on Golf, Food Halls, Baron Rothschild's Favorite Wines

 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

PASSPORT *to the* BEST

the BEST *of* EVERYTHING

An **ULTIMATE GUIDE** *for* TRAVELERS

Nathaniel Lande



Andrew Lande

Orient-Express, Best BBQ, Cruise Ships, Walking Tours, Sunday Afternoons in London

New Zealand: Glacier Paradise, Best Teas, Swimming Pools, The Romance of Cuba

National Parks, Aboard Queen Mary II, Historical Excursions & Literary Landmarks



10 最佳的一切：一个最佳指南为旅行者按照最好的

Nathaniel Lande & Andrew Lande

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 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
WASHINGTON, D.C.

10 最佳

*For Natalya, Just the Best
& For Michelle*



*f*or Edison Marshall, Jean deWitt Fitz, and Papa Hemingway, whose storytelling, heroic adventure, and friendship to one author as a child, enriched a life threefold, with wonderment, adventure, and discovery.



And for the courageous men and woman of the International Committee of the Red Cross, an organization whose humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. A portion of the authors' royalties are donated to its mission.

—FOREWORD—

“It’s what you discover after you know it all that counts”.

—John Wooden

Visit the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, a modern building that shimmers with light, whose stunning proportion and sense of space make the soul soar.

In St. Petersburg, promenade the wide boulevards of Peter the Great’s Venice of the North, the city that inspired Pushkin and Tolstoy. In early summer, beneath a dusty blue sky that never darkens, join revelers enjoying the fleeting magic of White Nights.

Through perpetual springtime lush with oleander, roses, lemons, and mangos, walk on top of the world along the island of Madeira’s mountain aqueducts, built five centuries ago by Moorish slaves. In the evenings sip Madeira wine to make you smile as you listen to Fado music that will make you weep.

Cruise the Svalbard and Spitsbergen Islands of northern Norway and experience the enchantment of a polar wilderness,

where the sky is impossibly clear and the midnight sun imperially bright.

Sail a felucca down the Nile by night, when the sky is sprinkled with stars and the banks with neon-lit minarets. In the day disembark to visit the pharaonic temples that lie between Luxor and Aswan.

Spend an evening in the Foreign Correspondents’ Club in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where, at the back—a splendid conversion of two three-story shop houses—you can look out onto the Royal Palace. Walk through the bar and dining room to an open fronted veranda overlooking the brilliant confluence of the Mekong and Tongle Sap Rivers, one of Asia’s best views. The next day, clamber through the temple courts of Angkor Wat, where giant Buddhas doze in a green gloom among the strangler figs. A silent place at the center of a spinning world.

Journey on.

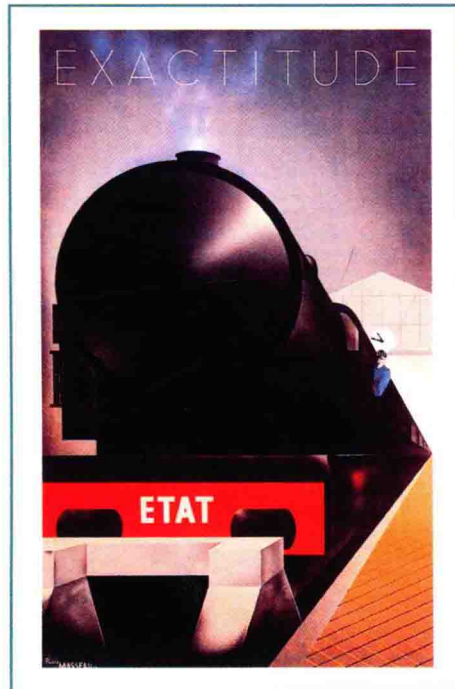


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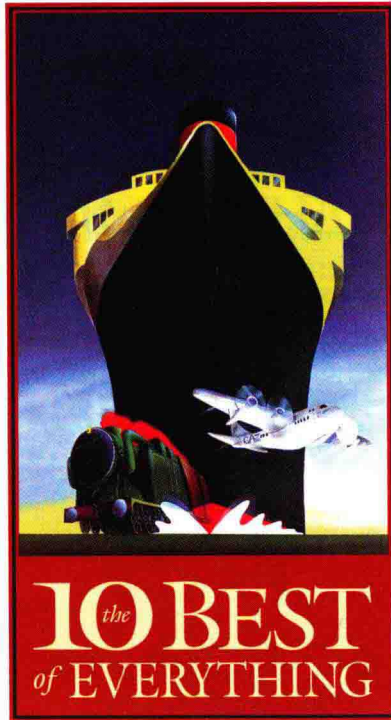
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PASSPORT *to the* BEST

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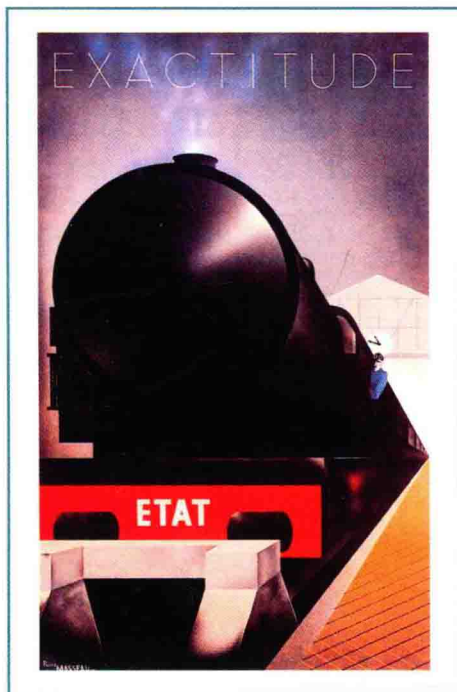


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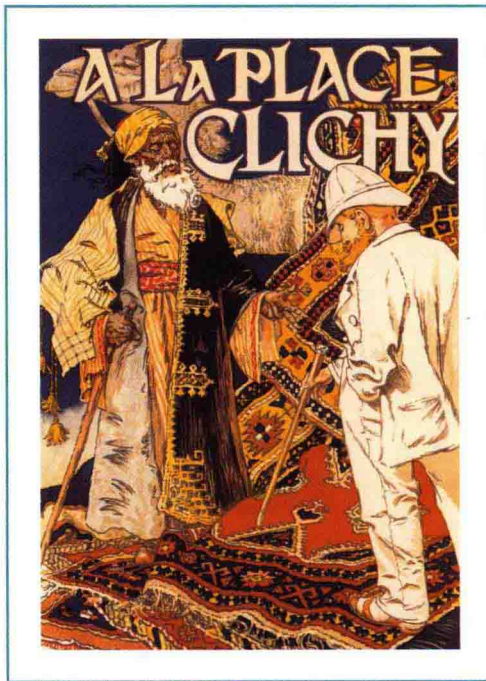


— INTRODUCTIONS —

I was a young boy when I discovered the other half of the world, with my father, an Oxford classicist, my guide through China and India. As we crossed the Khyber Pass into Burma, I began making copious notes—lists of what I had seen grouped into categories of man-made places and the natural world.

Years later, as director of TIME World News Service, my job took me all over the world, giving me an opportunity to expand my growing file of special places and exceptional experiences. This file became a resource for my colleagues, who were always asking me for places to shop, a good hotel, or a great restaurant. From this I developed a “passport to the best,” which you hold in your hands. It includes lists of favorites in many categories, a trove of extraordinary historical and literary excursions, and Lande’s List, a compendium of the best hotels and restaurants, compiled from fellow correspondents and first-hand experience.

Once, returning from an assignment in the Far East, I stopped at the Bristol Hotel in Paris, on the Faubourg St.-Honoré. After shedding my clothes, I took a shower and forgot them. Six months later, when I returned to Paris, I opened my armoire and there, starched crisp and fresh, was my correspondent’s kit, now lavender scented. My shoes gleamed like mirrors. For me, that experience embodies the governing philosophy of this book: Each selection, whether



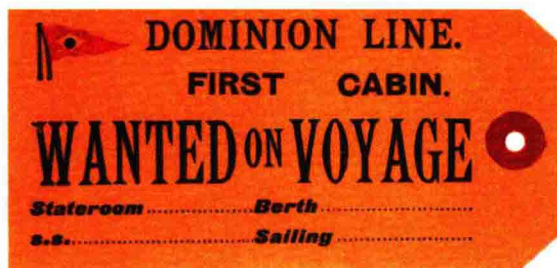
a hotel, restaurant, or expedition, exceeds expectations.

In the last century, wealthy European and American families traditionally sent their sons and daughters on a Grand Tour. Journeys often included London, Paris, Rome, Florence, and Athens, and these cities were first-hand introductions to the classical world they had long studied. They sought out literary landmarks, lingered over historical sights, and pursued extraordinary experiences. They went on to become sophisticated and worldly, and, indeed, to complete their education. Now, international travel is more widespread and accessible, but the impetus remains constant. Our curiosity and imagination are drawn to people and places vastly different from ourselves; we will always look

beyond our own borders to the unfamiliar.

Nobody needed Mozart’s concertos before he wrote them, or Monet’s studies before he painted them. But I cannot imagine the world without these riches. The same holds true for my travels. In this book, I invite readers to join me on the journeys that have expanded my vision, delighted my senses, and refreshed my spirit.

— Nathaniel Lande



My father instilled in me the joy of discovery and the difference between being a well-heeled tourist and a well-seasoned traveler. Like my grandfather, he had studied at Oxford, and when I was young, he introduced me to Europe.

As a director at TIME, my father was once invited to write a speech for a friend who was head of an international airline. He refused to accept a fee for his work, and so, in gratitude, a gift of two first-class tickets—to anywhere in the world—arrived at his office.

I had just returned home for Easter break, complaining of boarding school food and the term paper I had to write on French history. “*Billet de faveur*,” my father exclaimed, holding up the tickets. “Let’s go to Paris!”

A few hours later we were dining at the Bristol Hotel, an old favorite of his. The restaurant had just won its first Michelin star and was very proud. The waiters in their black tails and white ties introduced me to the best meal I had ever eaten, topped with chocolate soufflé, *tart tatin*, and *crème brûlée*. As the French have always known, and as I was beginning to learn, it is at the dining table that people are most civilized, conversation brightest, optimism strongest. Later, my father was amused when I announced

how much I liked Paris, as he was signing the \$300 bill for lunch without wine.

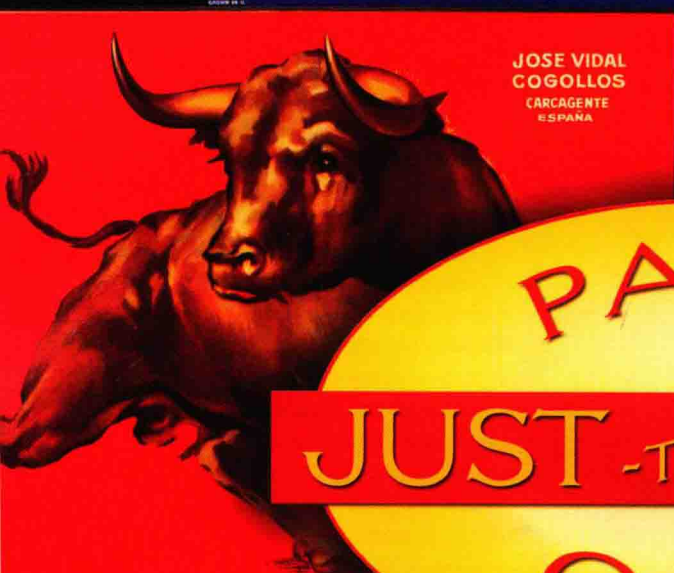
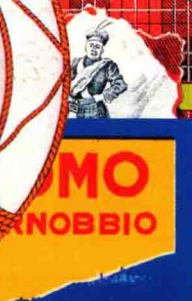
That afternoon I swam in the pool on top of the Bristol, fashioned in teak like a Spanish galleon, and for a few minutes I became Captain Kidd in search of a pirate’s booty. Then I discovered other treasure. We took an aimless stroll to the left bank, across boulevard St.-Germain, and down to rue de Buci. There I had my first plunge into that garden of delight, an open-air market. In the street everyone was part performer and part spectator. Nowhere in Paris was the show better.

Then as now, Paris taught me a few things; one of the most useful is that the best way to know a country’s people is through its markets. In Buenos Aires or Barcelona, go where the locals are buying their oranges and lettuces, and you’ll learn more about them than you would in all of the best libraries and museums.

Later, my worldview was enhanced when I studied at Trinity College, Dublin. I remember the dampness that winter and how early in the morning the steam heat clanked for just a few minutes before falling silent. I heard the heat but never felt it. But soon I warmed to my new home. I discovered the glories of Dublin and Ireland, with excursions to the west coast, and the beauty of the country.

In my travels, I have recorded mental snapshots: Paris, Dublin, and other great cities of the world; crossing continents and channels; sailing from Barcelona to Lisbon to the China Sea. Along the way, I assembled material for this album of special experiences and places, which I am very happy to share with you.

— Andrew Lande



PART
JUST -THE- BEST
ONE

PLATE



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DEL MAR



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In Part One, experts and bon vivants help us determine the Ten Best of Everything, from watches to alpine climbs, lake crossings to intimate hideaways, food halls to flea markets, before arriving in ten favorite cities to enjoy the ten best things to do on a Sunday afternoon.

While the definition of “the best” is necessarily subjective, the ten best lists assembled here are diverse, informative, and, best of all, full of surprises. Essentially, we have selected what we, based on our experiences, believe represent the best. We list our selections in no special order. In a few instances, a selection may be found in more than one category, and that is because it possesses specific characteristics that make it deserving of a double or triple listing.

Not long ago, we interviewed master chef Ferrán Adrià at his celebrated El Bulli restaurant north of Barcelona. El Bulli is noted for its cutting-edge culinary technology, preparation, and sophisticated food presentation. Each guest is presented with an overwhelming 35 courses at one sitting, with a menu created for each patron. Over dinner, Adrià confided to Andrew that when he travels, he longs for nothing so much as an old-fashioned, American-style burger. For all those who feel the same, we have included the world’s ten best burger joints.

I have always been keenly particular about getting a good night’s sleep. Standing six foot six with a problematic back, I have become a scholar of the mattress, and my supine studies have resulted in our list of the world’s ten best mattresses—including Beauty Rest, Serta’s Perfect Night, and London’s Savoy Hotel’s custom-made mattresses available for special order.

In this section, readers will discover Arnold Palmer’s favorite golf courses, Philippe de Rothschild’s advice on wines, techniques for preparing a proper English tea, and Fortnum and Mason’s ten best brews. You’ll learn the best places to cruise and to walk, the world’s best swimming pools (the most exotic may be La Mamounia’s in Marrakesh), and much, much more. In short, here is Just the Best.