

HEALTH & WELLNESS
BONUS SECTION

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THE TRAVEL ISSUE

21 LUXURY HOT SPOTS

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JANUARY 2016



WINNER REVEALED

Introducing America's New Culinary Master

No. 17

Fiji.



FIJI DOES NOT leave much room for improvement. But even a paradise of turquoise lagoons, lush rain forests, and private-island retreats needs periodic refreshing, and this year the South Pacific nation is in peak form thanks to a recent wave of activity. In 2014, Auberge Resorts added **Nanuku** (aubergeresorts.com), an 18-villa hideaway on the country's main island of Viti Levu, to its portfolio of boutique properties. Northwest of Viti Levu, in the Mamanuca Islands, **Vomo Island Resort** (vomofiji.com) reemerged last March with renovated villas and a revamped restaurant. Off the coast of sizable Taveuni, the exclusive **Laucala Island** (laucala.com) recently added a DeepFlight Super Falcon submersible for resort guests to explore their underwater surroundings. But perhaps the most eye-opening news out of the archipelago comes from the volcanic northern Lau Islands, where James Jannard, founder of Oakley, has debuted **Vatuvara Private Islands** (vatuvara.com.fj), a retreat with just three expansive villas and two restaurants spread over 800 pristine acres of jungle and beach. —JILL K. ROBINSON

No. 18

Oman.



THE RUGGED EASTERN neighbor of the glitzy United Arab Emirates, Oman has typically been a place to escape luxury, not find it. Elite new retreats are helping push the peaceful (and politically stable) country to the forefront in the region, though never at the expense of its natural appeal. In the southern province of Dhofar, the recently opened Salalah International Airport eases access to the forthcoming **Al Baleed Salalah Resort by Anantara** (anantara.com),

a lagoon-lapped property that will debut in August with spacious pool villas and a private beach. Farther north, in the windswept Jebel Akhdar (Green Mountain) region, another Anantara outpost is in the offing. **Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort**—which comes on the heels of the 2014 debut of **Alila Jabal Akhdar** (alilahotels.com), the area's first luxury property—will open atop a sky-high perch in the Saiq Plateau in April.

—ADAM H. GRAHAM

Top: Nanuku, an Auberge Resort.
Above: Alila Jabal Akhdar.