

Vacations & Travel

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of adventure

VOLUME 127, 2025/26

Wander + wonder

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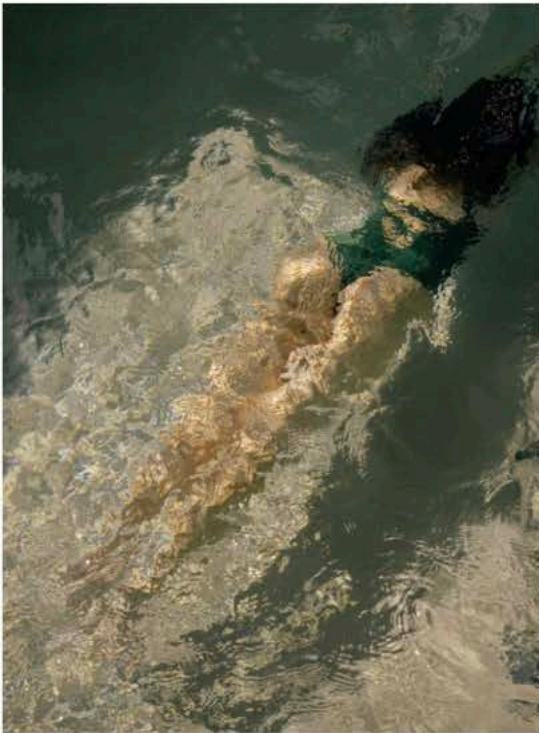


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Soak society

Across civilisations, from the ancient Greeks and Romans to the Japanese and Turks, public bathing has long been revered for its restorative and purifying powers. But the age-old practice has reached new levels of obsession. Recent years have seen new communal bathing facilities sprouting up left, right and centre – and the movement shows no signs of winding down. On home soil, Soak Bathhouse is expanding its watery empire with plans to open its second Sydney location in Bondi later this year after the success of its Gold Coast, Melbourne and Alexandria outposts – the latter of which was rolled out in May 2025. Meanwhile, SOL Elements in the Gold Coast hinterland recently launched as Australia's first floating bathhouse. Its sculptural centre offers mineral-rich communal bathing, floatation

caves, spa treatments and secluded suites. Abroad, Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise has debuted its new BASIN Glacial Waters spa, which is available exclusively for overnight guests. The indoor-outdoor thermal basin experience boasts a screensaver-worthy backdrop of the Canadian Rockies, complementing its series of varying-temperature pools, resting spaces and saunas. But there's more in the pipeline. Just outside of Rome, a sprawling 26,000sqm thermal park designed by Studio Apostoli for the Sensi family and Terme dei Papi S.p.A is set to open in Civitavecchia. While exact opening dates are yet to be revealed, we do know the park will feature 14 natural spring pools arranged across multiple themed terraces, promising a sensory journey rooted in both tradition and innovation. soakbathhouse.com.au solelements.com.au thebasin.com

