



ACROSS THE POND, BUT A WORLD AWAY

THE OYSTER INN, WAIHEKE ISLAND, VIA AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Organising wow-factor bashes for the likes of Calvin Klein, Mr Armani and Mrs Prada was all in a day's work for Jonathan Rutherford Best's London-based Urban Production company. And style was second nature for his partner, Andrew Glenn, a former fashion PR for both Louis Vuitton and Topshop.

So it's little surprise to find that the pair's first collaboration, a new inn on New Zealand's lovely Waiheke Island, is a chic triumph that combines the best of their respective experience with its own easygoing charm.

There are just three minimalist rooms, all featuring simple whitewashed rafters, polished boards and kilim rugs; an in-house store (Tom Binns jewellery, the inn's own limited-edition yellow-and-white Havaianas, Orlebar Brown togs for him); and a vintage yellow Kombi van to collect guests from the ferry that shuttles guests from Auckland to the island. We're charmed. theoysterinn.co.nz; newzealand.com ►



SNOW BUNNIES, START YOUR ENGINES

THE ALPINA GSTAAD, SWITZERLAND

Unlike our own tragically truncated skiing season, Europe's climate means snow aficionados can easily spend their Easter holidays on the slopes. And where better than Gstaad, Switzerland, where the rollcall of visiting glitterati and luxury designer stores are as important as black-diamond runs and perfect powder? New to the Gstaad scene is the Alpina, the first luxury hotel to be built in the swish Swiss mountain village for more than a century.

The hotel's lofty position overlooking the ritzy Oberbort neighbourhood gives it an almost regal air. And you can forget heavy-handed Alpine accents. The Alpina is a thoughtful place, modern in spirit and design, with lashings of glass, local stone, reclaimed 100-year-old fir wood, and leatherwork by local craftspeople. There's also a Six Senses Spa, an outpost of hip New York Japanese restaurant Megu (the perfect counterbalance to the fondue on offer in the Swiss Stübli) and generously proportioned suites that will please even the most anti après-ski type. thealpinagstaad.ch

