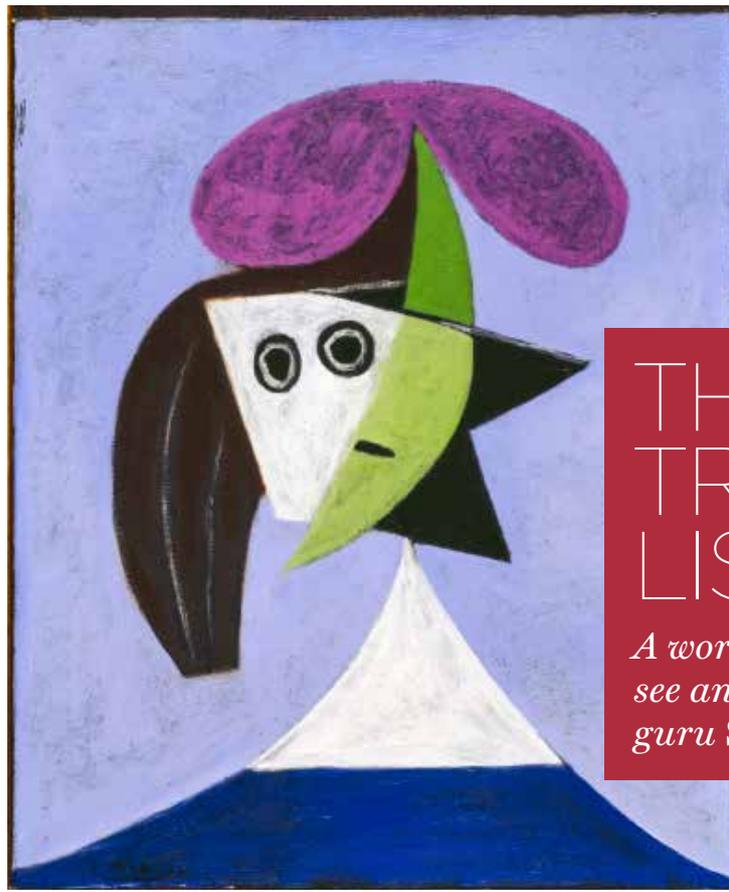




DESIGN DOYENNE IN NYC

Legendary designer Kit Kemp is working her magic on the latest in the Firddale portfolio, the 86-room Whitby Hotel. Set to open on New York's West 56th at 5th Avenue this November, the luxurious hotel will have an orangery, courtyard and a spacious cinema, and feature Kit's distinctive, stylish way with bold prints and colours. *Room prices on request; firmdalehotels.com*

ARTWORK © COLLECTION CENTRE POMPIDOU



THE TRAVEL LIST

A world of things to eat, see and do from travel guru Sara D'Souza

A BRUSH WITH PICASSO

Picasso Portraits opens at London's National Portrait Gallery on 6 October and is the first major exhibition since 1996 devoted to this aspect of the Spanish artist's career. It will include more than 80 works from self-portraits to paintings of his friends, lovers and famous faces, including Jean Cocteau and Lee Miller. Entry £19; npg.org.uk



PARK LIFE

In the gardens of Philip Johnson's iconic Glass House in Connecticut, artist Yayoi Kusama has filled a pond with 1,300 free-floating steel spheres. First made for the 1966 Venice Biennale, the Narcissus Garden marks the 110th anniversary of the architect's birth. *Until 30 November; theglasshouse.org*



THE NEW NOMA

The latest addition to Copenhagen's stable of world-class restaurants is 108, from René Redzepi (the culinary mastermind behind two-Michelin-starred Noma) and chef Kristian Baumann. Kristian will lead the team at this casual neighbourhood restaurant, located at 108 Strandgade in the city's picturesque Christianshavn area. He'll be creating fermented and foraged dishes such as lightly cured mackerel served with gooseberries, seaweed and spruce oil. 108.dk/en »

MUSCAT MUST-SEE

Jet off for some winter sun on British Airways' new direct route from Heathrow to Oman's capital, Muscat, from 30 October. Take a two-hour drive to the new Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort; on the rim of a canyon, it's surrounded by mountains.

Doubles from £340 b&b; anantara.com/al-jabal-al-akhdar



CAPITAL CUISINE

The popular Soho bistro Blanchette gains a sibling across town in Brick Lane: Blanchette East. Brothers (from left to right) Maxime, Malik and Yannis Alary named the 70-cover restaurant after their mother, while the decor is a nod to the Belle Epoque. Executive chef Tam Storrar will present a Southern French- and North African-influenced menu, including a wild strawberry and black pepper vacherin, and roast poussin with tarragon. blanchettelondon.co.uk



ROOMS WITH A VIEW The Pig hotel, known for its earthy luxury, reclaimed wood and starched linen, has added to its litter. The 27-room Pig at Combe, an Elizabethan hideaway in Devon's lush Otter Valley, uses produce from its herb, vegetable and infusion gardens, and offers a 'below stairs experience' featuring Mrs Beeton's recipes in its original Georgian kitchen. *Doubles from £145 b&b; thepighotel.com*

TICKET TO RIDE

All aboard Ireland's first luxury touring train, the Belmond Grand Hibernian, which embarked on its inaugural journey in August. Book one of the sumptuous en-suite cabins for a September or October journey and enjoy excellent dining with regional ingredients. Soak up the picture-postcard Irish countryside from Dublin, via Cork, Killarney and Galway, making stops at the Jameson whiskey distillery and Blarney Castle along the way. *Four-night package including all meals, drinks, entertainment and excursions, but not flights, from £4,220 pp; belmond.com; 0845 077 2222*