FINANCIAL TIMES

how to spend it

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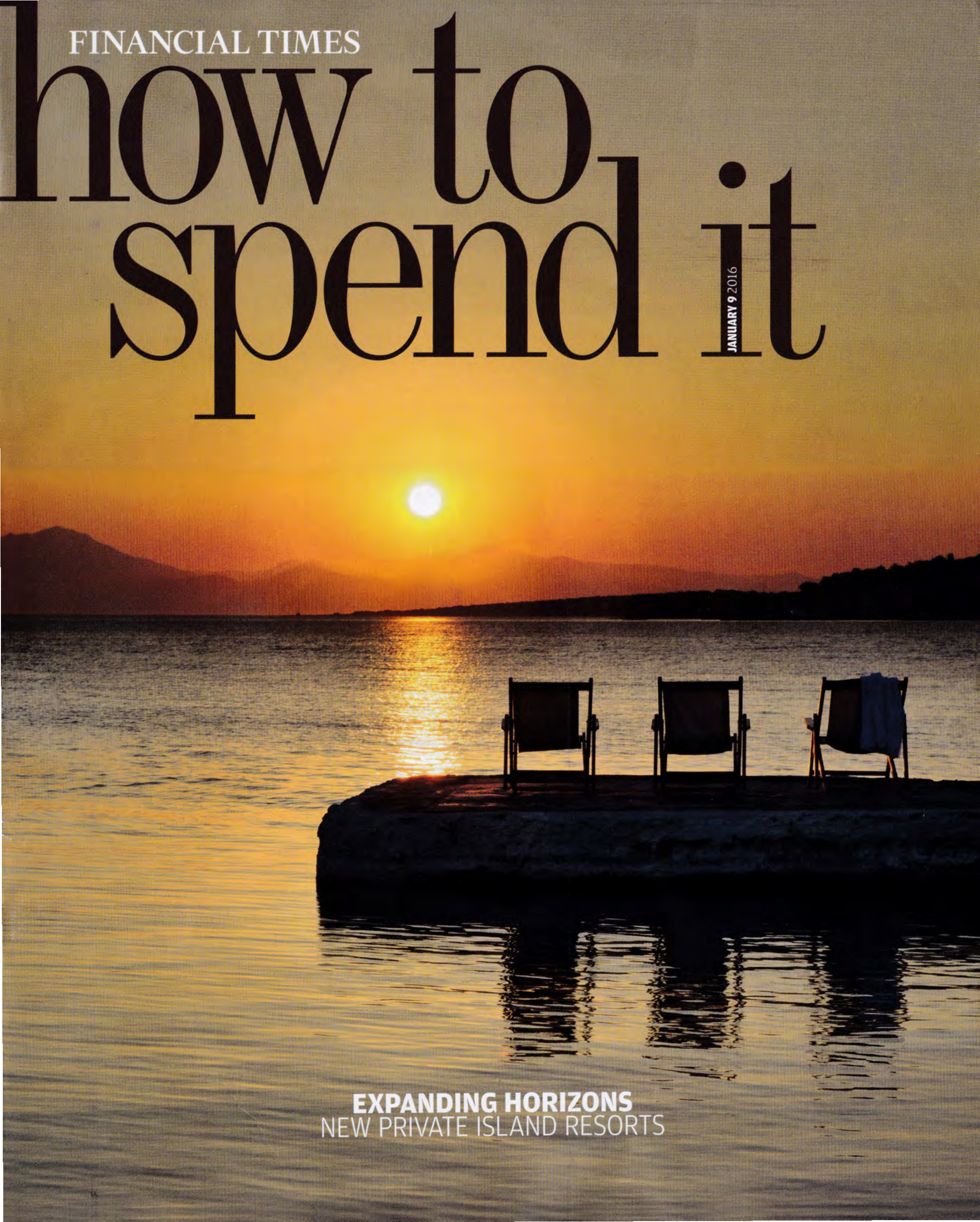

EXPANDING HORIZONS

NEW PRIVATE ISLAND RESORTS

the @-dit

The best of the week's online-only stories, from vintage jewellery to haute honey, on free-to-access Howtospendit.com and our magazine app

Stephen Webster Lady Stardust earrings, £7,400

Just one of 900-plus ideas in our inspirational Gift Guide

Alexandre Stern

Honey blends beloved by Michelin-starred chefs – and Margaret Kemp

Life's too short to be in a boring job, Alexandre Stern thought four years ago as he rode the Metro to his office at McKinsey & Co. After brainstorming with chefs, perfume noses and chocolate makers, he sensed a niche for haute honey. "Like a perfume maker who assembles his scents, I sought out exclusive global honey blends and established my own brand," he says. From his eponymous Paris boutique he now sells jars (look out for Le Miel des Merveilles, €35) and creates signature honeys for private clients.

For more customisation cues, click Bespokesperson

> **One of the things I am most asked is to recommend the ultimate British spa break. So, for an escape sans detox, this ranks among the best: a sophisticated getaway, where the pampering and activities are top notch.**

To discover where, click Chronicles of a Spa Junkie

A day in the life of… Tony Conigliaro

The cocktail maestro on tattoos, Negronis and flavour factories

A cab is taking me to meet my old friend and business partner Mo [Coppoletta], who owns the tattoo parlour Family Business and is one of the directors of Bar Termini. I've found that the best work comes from creative collaboration, particularly with those outside your own discipline and I love working with Mo; he designed the labels [pictured] for the bottles of Negroni we have just started selling at Termini. We're now meeting to discuss the labels for a new limoncello from Drink Factory, my research and development space for liquid flavour. I couldn't be more in love with its flavour profile: the orris is amplified, the lemons taste fresh and creamy rather than spiky and the effect is a full-bodied multilayered dreamboat.

For more daily posts from the luxury luminati, click Diary of a Somebody

Achille Salvagni

Roman architect and interior designer Achille Salvagni is brilliant at taking fabulous, often noble materials – such as 24ct gold leaf, brass, solid oak, bronze and onyx – and then adding a touch of alchemy. The Silk Gold cabinet (€135,000, pictured right), for example, from the new winter collection, to be unveiled at his Mayfair atelier on January 21, is wrought from oak and gold, but takes its inspiration from draped fabric, while onyx Pillow sconces (€17,000) embellished with brass orbs, reference the ancient Roman tradition of presenting gems on pillows – but in more practical terms.

For details and more catch-it-while-you-can news, click Need To Now

TrueFacet

Christina Ohly Evans spotlights a secondhand marketplace for chic collectables

High-end online marketplaces for vintage collectables are strengthening in number, and one with a growing reputation among a discerning clientele is TrueFacet. Launched in 2014, the site buys and sells pre-owned luxury watches and jewellery, and currently carries some 30,000 pieces by brands including Bulgari, Cartier, Chanel and Patek Philippe (watch pictured).

A library of e-boutiques can be found by clicking E-cquisitions

Après-Ski boots

Nick Foulkes finds Alpine shoes to wear after not skiing

Even though I do not ski, I do occasionally après-ski, and there is a Ludwig Reiter shoe called exactly that. It is a zip-fronted, fleece-lined ankle boot that recalls the glamour of St Moritz in the 1950s and 1960s. It is exactly the sort of thing I can imagine wearing to lunch at the Corviglia Club after a morning spent not skiing, before not doing the Cresta later in the afternoon and then drifting down to the Palace hotel for dinner at Gildo's and a nightcap at the GreenGo. The Après-Ski is black, so I could even wear these miraculous shoes with a dinner jacket if circumstances required.

Click Swellboy for more droll deliberations on the luxe life