

# word *of* mouth

**JULY 2009** Three new reasons to go wild in Zanzibar . . . A Greek party dress . . . Lodgings for lazy summer days on Long Island . . .



Chairman of the board: A surfer prepares to paddle out from Shek O Beach, on Hong Kong island.

Photograph by Nina Choi

*the*  
**BUZZ**  
(sport)

## HONG KONG China's New Wave

China is challenging Bali's long reign as the surf capital of Asia, as beginners and seasoned surfers discover sensational swells around the country and fishermen look on bewildered. In Hong Kong, where hang ten is entering the lexicon, breaks rivaling Mexico's are no longer merely the preserve of insiders, and the conditions are so sublime that California surf legend Robert "Wingnut" Weaver is scouting for another installment of *The Endless Summer*. Head for ▶

the tubes around Tai Long Wan in Sai Kung, where **Blue Sky Surfing Camp** just started (852-2792-4938; bluesky-sc.com; lessons, \$110 a day). Surfing is also stepping up in Hainan, long touted as the Hawaii of China, where the inaugural Surfing Hainan Open took place in Shimei Bay in January. The best breaks are on the southeast side of the island, and surf schools catering to locals, expats, and visitors are springing up, including **Surfing Hainan**, whose instructor, Dahai, is one of the first well-known Chinese surfers (86-135-1980-0103; surfinghainan.com; lessons, \$75). Meanwhile, big-wave surfers have started mastering the tidal bore of the Qiantang River in Hangzhou (a few hours from Shanghai), dubbed the Silver Dragon. Want to know where to get your sporty duds? Surf brand **Quiksilver** now has over 50 stores in China and plans to open another 30 by the end of the year (quiksilver.com).



Aung San Suu Kyi

## WORLDWIDE Iconography

**(Buzz) escape** Condé Nast Traveler contributing photographer Brigitte Lacombe reveals stolen moments of global celebrities—Hollywood actors, presidents, world heroes—in **LACOMBE ANIMA/PERSONA**. Lacombe's greatest talent is exposing both the soul of the person, from the Dalai Lama to Benazir Bhutto, and hidden aspects of a destination. Her portrait of Aung San Suu Kyi portrays a courageous dissident leader of a country of contradiction (Steidl, \$85).



Pleasure dome: Kilindi hotel, on Zanzibar's west coast.

## **(Buzz) hotels** ZANZIBAR Out of Africa

White-domed **KILINDI** hotel, opening this month on Zanzibar's west coast, pushes the eco-envelope with papier-mâché-style insulating walls and roof gutters to irrigate the hibiscus that lures butterflies to rooms' gardens (255-24-223-1954; kilindi.com; doubles, \$1,200). In nearby Stonetown, hotelier Emerson Skeens is restoring an ancient inn to its quirky grand glory, renaming it **EMERSON SPICE** and hiring molecular gastronomist Andreas Viestad to conjure Afro-Norwegian fare like gingered grouper with spring onions at the restaurant. Check-in starts this fall (255-774-483-483; emersonspice.net; prices unavailable at press time). And on the east's stunning Bwejuu Beach, find boutique opulence at **BARAZA RESORT & SPA** (46-8-81-11-20; baraza-zanzibar.com; doubles, \$1,135–\$1,155).

## LONG ISLAND So Long

**(Buzz) escape** Summering on Long Island? Check into the new-look **MON-**

**TAUK YACHT CLUB**, now with three restos, including pentagonal Barracuda Bar (631-668-3100; montaukyachtclub.com; doubles, \$230–\$390), and East Hampton's **C/O THE MAIDSTONE**, whose refurb has added new suites, cute cottages, and a Slow Food menu (631-324-5006; themaidstone.com; doubles, \$450–\$995). Closer to N.Y.C., try the sunny digs of Long Beach's surfer-friendly **ALLEGRIA HOTEL & SPA** (516-889-1300; allegriahotel.com; doubles, \$400–\$480).



Main Beach, East Hampton.

*Greek designer Sophia Kokosalaki fetes ten years in fashion with a capsule collection of frocks. This hand-tucked red number pays tribute to the Chinese lantern with its sculpted flossy-silk design.*

Chinese Lantern Dress (646-613-8457; price available upon request).



Still life by Jens Mørrensen. Left: Photograph by Brigitte Lacombe. Center: Photograph by Rick Lew

Literary mag **LAPHAM'S QUARTERLY** takes off with travel writing by the likes of Pico Iyer (laphamsquarterly.org, \$15).