

# Condé Nast Traveler

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## The Islands Issue

THE  
20  
HOT DESTINATIONS  
FOR 2020

**TAHITI'S BOLD NEW SCENE**  
THE RULE-BREAKING JAPANESE CITY  
**ROAD-TRIPPING IN BARBADOS**  
SANTORINI OUT OF SEASON  
**PUERTO RICO'S COOL CREATIVE WAVE**  
REMOTELY WILD AZORES



# WORD OF MOUTH

THE DESTINATION ISLANDS HAVING A MOMENT RIGHT NOW. EDITED BY ERIN FLORIO

## THREE HOMEGROWN HEROES

THE L.A. WEEKENDER CATALINA ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

*Los Angeles* and *gridlock* are virtually synonymous. But in **Avalon**, a hamlet of 4,000 people on Catalina, built a hundred years ago by chewing gum magnate William Wrigley Jr., you're more likely to find yourself riding in a golf cart (there's a 25-year wait list for a vehicle permit). Or take an ATV tour through the rugged interior with the hopes of spotting the island's herd of wild bison. Many Angelenos, who on a clear day can see the green- and yellow-grass-covered speck 30 miles off the coast, think of Catalina as little more than a place where Boy Scouts go camping and rich people dock their sailboats. But this year brings new reasons to catch the 60-minute ferry from Long Beach. In August the seaside **Hotel Atwater** reopened after a restoration that brought back much of the familial character Wrigley imbued it with in 1920, when he hoped to turn Catalina into a world-class holiday destination. Sweet rooms have beds in corals and teal and cozy comforters, while the lobby holds Wrigley family albums and heirlooms. Nearby, the **Catalina Island Museum** has an exhibition devoted to the tycoon's influence. You can also head around to the coast to dive with bat rays or zip-line through a lush canyon—though for all of Catalina's natural beauty, there are still reminders of Hollywood's proximity: Avalon is home to one of the first talkie theaters, where Cecil B. DeMille hosted lavish preview parties, and the Art Deco rotunda **Catalina Casino**, where Benny Goodman's big band played in the 1930s. Even those bison have silver-screen cachet; rumor has it that they're descended from a few menacing extras who broke free from the set of the 1925 Western *The Vanishing American*. MAXWELL WILLIAMS

THE FOODIE FIX

### DEER ISLE, MAINE

Culinary pilgrims have been trooping to sleepy little towns along Maine's mid coast for several decades now, and their latest destination is Deer Isle, about an hour south of Bar Harbor. With none of the tourist-crowded amenities of the latter, Deer Isle offers a more intimate and scenic coastal experience. The town is a charming mix of historic and modern architecture, and the surrounding landscape is a beautiful blend of rugged coastline and lush greenery.

AVALON BAY, AT CALIFORNIA'S CATALINA ISLAND