

TATLER[®]

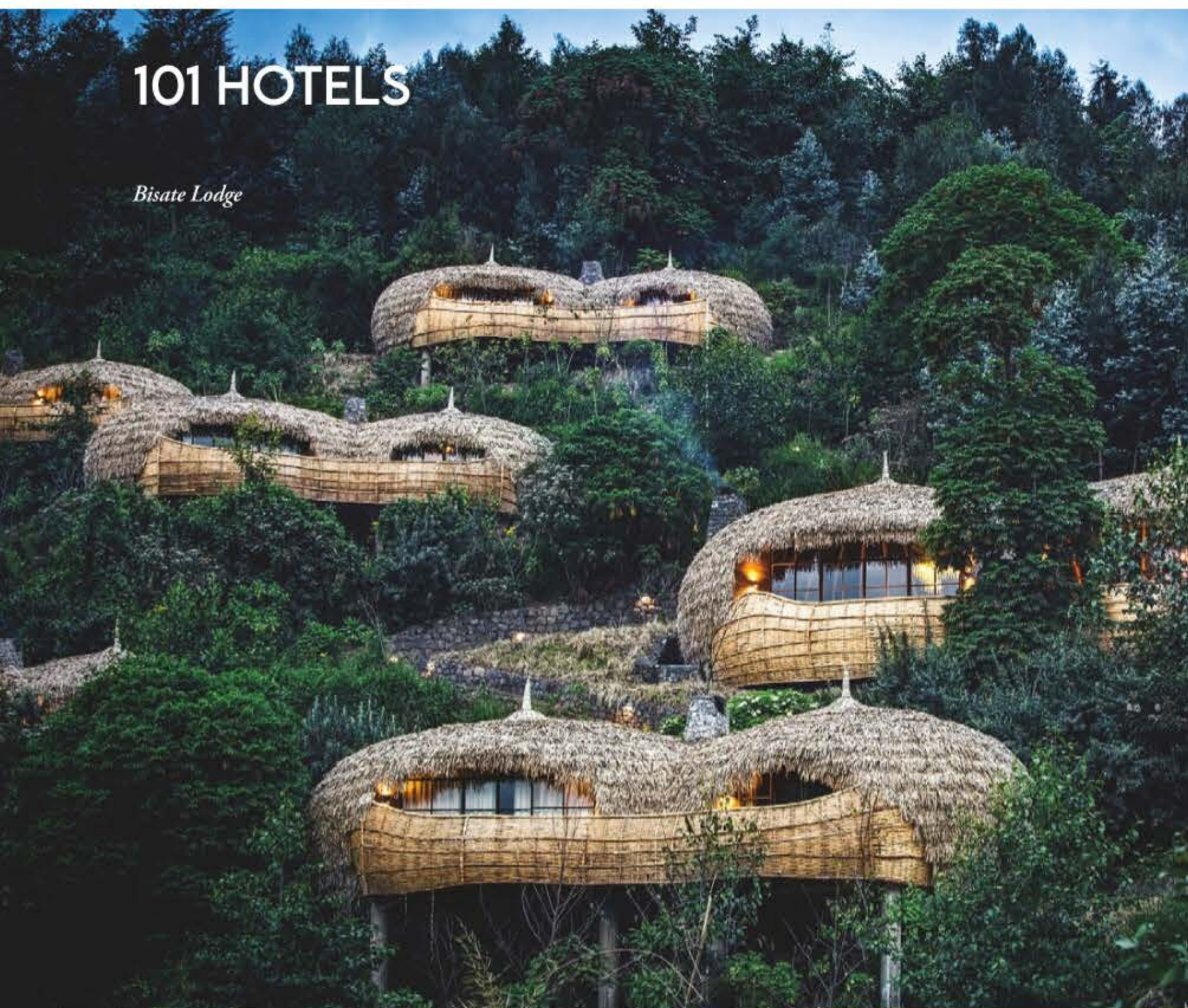
Travel Guide 2021

The 101 best hotels in the world



101 HOTELS

Bisate Lodge



BISATE LODGE

Virunga Mountains, Rwanda

Like giant birds' nests built around a natural amphitheatre of eroded volcanic cone, the six pods that make up Bisate Lodge are breathtaking – literally. The air up here is rarefied (suite six is perched at a puff-inducing 2,650m) and, once inside, one gasps at the swooping ceiling and dried-grass walls of the thatched villas, which are inspired by the former royal palace of Nyanza. Floor-to-ceiling windows frame views of Bisoke and Karisimbi volcanoes, where Dian Fossey studied the gorillas 'so high up that you shiver more than sweat'. There's no need to shiver in the cosy interior, where an open fire separates the spacious bedroom from the bathroom with its oval black resin tub. Dine à deux here, or walk down to the main lodge for exceptional farm-to-table food. And when the time comes to check out those magnificent mountain gorillas, there's a kit room to ensure everyone is properly equipped. Double, from £2,670 (wilderness-safaris.com).



One of six suites at Bisate Lodge

SUPER NATURAL

EMIRATES ONE&ONLY WOLGAN VALLEY

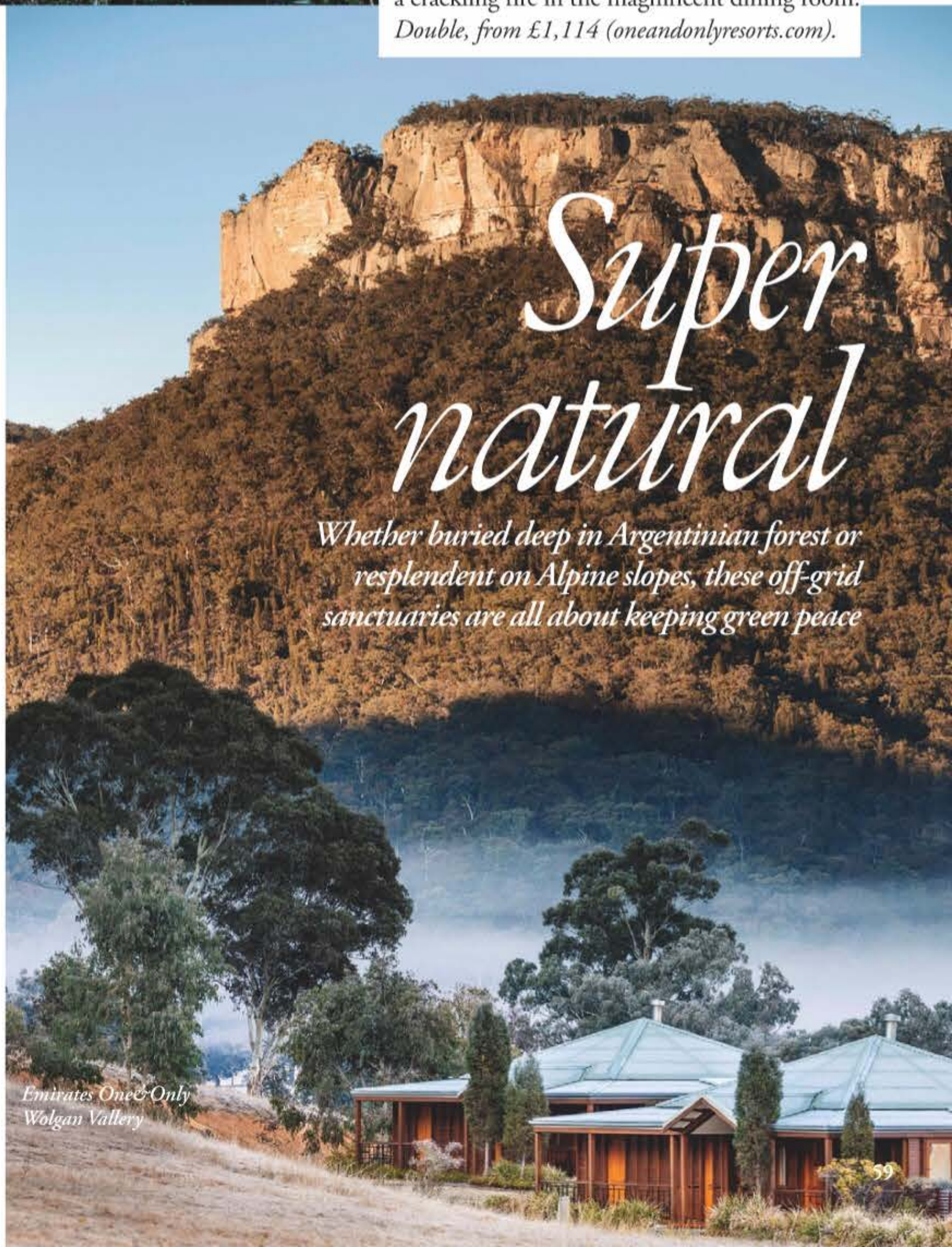
Blue Mountains, Australia

In 1836, Charles Darwin was wowed by the epic escarpments and sheer beauty of this valley, tucked into the Blue Mountains' ravines and ridges; and little has changed since. Strung out at the base of tree-clad slopes, the 40 rustic lodges, with their framework of wood, stone and traditional steel roofing, belie the dollops of opulence within: an enormous four-poster bed, a double-sided fireplace and a 2.5m by 7m pool surrounded by bifold doors. And everywhere, those panoramic views: from a rocking chair on the veranda, from the pool at the spa, or from the deck of the main lodge. Follow one of the hiking trails through the kangaroo-rich valley, stopping for a picnic en route, before heading through the Wollemi pine grove. Nighttime safaris yield wombats and possums, followed by hot chocolate beneath the Southern Cross constellation. Back at base, a five-course tasting menu awaits, eaten beside a crackling fire in the magnificent dining room. Double, from £1,114 (oneandonlyresorts.com).

Super natural

Whether buried deep in Argentinian forest or resplendent on Alpine slopes, these off-grid sanctuaries are all about keeping green peace

*Emirates One&Only
Wolgan Valley*



101 HOTELS

SUPER NATURAL

*The forest
surrounding
Lefay Dolomiti*

LEFAY RESORT & SPA DOLOMITI

Dolomites, Italy

A high temple of design, beaming crystal mountain light into cathedral-height spaces, Lefay Dolomiti, which opened last summer, is the ultimate sanctuary in which to retreat from the world. Supermodels, racing drivers and CEOs descend on the hotel's cocooning wooden interiors to reboot in the biggest spa in the Dolomites, where fabulous indoor and outdoor pools are purified by electrolysis. Raised by its environmentally sustainable, high-minded ethos, Lefay is simultaneously grounded by the warmth and approachability of its staff and service. A spirit of generosity sets the tone: from the super-sized signature cosmetics lined up in the vast bathrooms to the complimentary e-bikes for exploring the most beautiful valley in the region. Val di Genova, with its multiple waterfall trails, hermitage and stone refuges ideal for lunchtime pit stops, offers adventure on the hotel's doorstep, while a roster of daily activities includes yoga, meditation and food tastings at the best grocers in the unpretentious local town of Pinzolo. There's skiing in the winter at the postcard-pretty resort of Madonna di Campiglio, just 15 minutes away, and endless hiking and biking in summer. Not forgetting the spa menu of around 100 beautifying and de-stressing treatments that are billed, rightly, as holistic experiences. *Double, from £260 (lefayresorts.com).* □

Awasi Iguazú

AWASI IGUAZÚ

Misiones, Argentina

There might not be views of the famous falls from this rainforest hideaway – it's a 20-minute drive from Iguazú National Park – but Awasi grants guests early access, allowing ample time to enjoy the cascades free from crowds. Guests also have their own private guide and four-wheel drive; the overnight price covers excursions, which includes kayaking through the pristine rainforest. Exploring done, unwind in one of the rustic-chic timber lodges decorated in calming white and beige. Each lodge has been designed to bring the outside in, with large windows and a plunge pool on a deck surrounded by trees – watch the myriad butterflies flutter to a backing track of humming cicadas and calling birds. There's more nature on tap in the open-plan, canopy-level restaurant, where delicious meals (that might include Latin American specialities such as empanadas or local fish, as well as vegetarian dishes) are eaten against a leafy background. And if an unfamiliar bird or butterfly appears, there's always a resident expert on hand to identify it. *Double, from £1,600 per person for an all-inclusive programme (awasiguazu.com).*



Lefay Dolomiti