

VOGUE

ARABIA

SEPTEMBER

BELLA

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY
karl lagerfeld

CRUISE CONTROL

The 2018 Resort collections didn't just make us want to buy everything on the runway, they made us long to pack our bags and head off in search of adventure overseas

Words ALEXANDRIA GOUVEIA



TRADITIONALLY, RESORT COLLECTIONS

are all about filling your *vacation wardrobe* with fantastic mid-season must-haves; *beautiful creations* that beg to be taken to a suitably stunning location. But as the setting for these collections becomes *increasingly extravagant*, you'll not only find covetable items on the runway, but some *serious travel inspiration* in the backdrop.



to America's West, the collection itself offered up another travel option: the Lascaux Caves in southwest France, which feature 17 000-year-old paintings that were something of an inspiration to Christian Dior himself. Much of his 1951 *Ovale* collection was based on the paintings and Chiuri dug it out of the archives to influence her collection of prints, silky dresses and embroidered accessories.

If you are really looking to truly experience the American outback, head to the stunning beauty of the Utah desert.

Amangiri (top left) at Canyon Point is a beautiful minimalist hotel set against sand dunes and mountain ridges. Try the Navajo treatments at the spa to

achieve full-on desert bliss. Aman.com

If you'd rather head somewhere with a little more hustle, then the Waldorf Astoria Park City is the perfect stop, whether you're skiing or hitting the mountain trails. Waldorfastoriaparkcity.com

There's also the small matter of the Sundance Film Festival in January, so book early to be in town with Robert Redford. Not that celebrity sightings are a once-a-year thing in Utah. Italian Valter Nassi is one of Salt Lake City's favorite sons, and his modern take on a Tuscan granary is the most sought-after table in town. Valtersosteria.com

DIOR *Destination: Utah, US*

Dior's creative director, Maria Grazia Chiuri, admitted that May's excursion into the beautiful Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve in California wasn't actually her idea – it had been planned before her arrival at the house – but does it matter when the show can look as good as this?

Only half an hour from LA, the mountaintop setting offered the perfect contrast of stark backdrop and dirt runway, versus the tents set up for the show and the airy, light silhouettes of the collection. And as the sun sank behind the Calabasas Hills in the background, the warm red glow was punctuated by hot air balloons that swayed gently in the early evening breeze – all neatly branded Dior Sauvage, of course.

Not content with making a case for a trip



What to pack



NARS X CHARLOTTE GAINSBORG MULTIPLE TINT IN JEANETTE

BALMAIN CHELSEA BOOTS

ALANUI CARDIGAN AT BLOOMINGDALE'S DUBAI

TOD'S BAG

SONIA RYKIEL EARRING

GO WEST DIOR'S 2018 CRUISE COLLECTION ON SHOW IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NEAR LOS ANGELES



RENAISSANCE MAN
 GUCCI'S CRUISE 2018
 COLLECTION WAS SHOWN AT
 THE PALATINA GALLERY AT
 PALAZZO PITTI IN FLORENCE

GUCCI
Destination: Florence, Italy

Gucci's Alessandro Michele had pinpointed Greece – and the Parthenon in particular – as the dream location to showcase his Resort 2018 collection. However, he swiftly swapped the Athenian cradle of democracy for the home of the Renaissance, Florence, when permission was refused by Greek authorities.

Thankfully, when your plan B is found in the Palatine gallery of the Palazzo Pitti – formerly home to the Medici family, Napoleon, and King Victor Emmanuel II – things aren't so bad. Certainly, as the audience made their way from the Uffizi Gallery – passing the Botticellis and Caravaggios – and across the Arno River via the secret passage built above the Ponte Vecchio bridge by the Medicis for royal traffic, Greece was ancient history.

As befitting the surroundings and the very ethos of Gucci, the collection was typically unrestrained, with delightful headwear, sequined capes, bold palazzo pants, and a fascinating take on fake versus genuine fashion. The streetwear was, as ever, a notable success and the logo shirts – including the fabulous men's sweater emblazoned with the word Gucy – were simply made for making an impression on the cobbled streets of Florence.

If you're looking for an elegant yet modern take on the city, then your bed for the night should be at J.K. Place Firenze. It's so close to the center of town that you can feel its heartbeat. The penthouse is split over two levels and offers 360-degree views of one

of the most beautiful locations on earth – including its prized possession, the Piazza del Duomo. *Jkplace.com*

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footwear brand Aquazzura's first ever boutique. Peruse Edgardo Osorio's beautiful European-Latin creations among the 17th century frescos of its home in the Palazzo Corsini.

Finally, no day in Italy is complete without good food, and it doesn't come any better than at Enoteca Pinchiorri. French-born co-owner Annie Féolde is the first woman outside of France to be awarded three Michelin stars and, while she's no longer involved in the day-to-day operations, the stars remain. Any meal here will guarantee you become a regular at its sister restaurant in Dubai, The Artisan by Enoteca. It should be enough to keep your wanderlust at bay. *Theartisan.ae*

What to pack

MARC JACOBS BEAUTY OMEGA LASH VOLUMIZING MASCARA IN BLACQUER

GUCCI GG MARIMONT SHOULDER BAG

BOTTEGA VENETA HEELS

BLUMARINE VELVET SUIT

CHARLOTTE TILBURY HOT LIPS LIPSTICK IN GARINA'S LOVE



ASIAN PERSUASION LOUIS VUITTON'S CRUISE 2018 SHOW TOOK OVER THE MIHO MUSEUM IN KYOTO



and enjoy a part of the country that has inspired poets. Once a retreat for the aristocracy, you'll find beautiful Karakami paper furnishings befitting a building that's more than a century old. Its tranquil gardens are also the perfect setting to enjoy the cherry blossoms. While difficult to predict, the once-a-year flowering of the Japanese cherry tree is a major happening, so aim to be in Kyoto around the first week in April to catch it. Hoshinoyakoto.jp

This is a nation that takes its food seriously – Tokyo restaurants have more Michelin stars between them than any city on earth. Kyoto has a few of them, too, and you'll find one of the finest examples of *kaiseki-ryōri* – multi-course

Japanese haute cuisine – in the country. A visit to the 200-year-old Kyo-ryori Nakamura is an experience in itself, with four private *tatami* rooms, quaint Japanese garden views and, more importantly, three very well-deserved Michelin stars. Kyoryori-nakamura.com

While Tokyo might only be a three-and-a-half-hour journey on the bullet train, get a more immediate shopping fix by heading to Downtown Kyoto. It's small, so you can easily explore it in one afternoon, but make a new base in Kyomachiya Suite Rikyu – a traditional Japanese *machiya* townhouse that you can privately rent. Once out in the city, grab some sustenance at the fantastic Nishiki food market before heading out onto Shijo-Dori Street and, perhaps, a visit to its Louis Vuitton store. Kyomachiya-suite-rikyu.com

If you're still looking for that hit of Japanese culture back in the UAE, then a sweet shot can be found at Yoku Moku. The famed Japanese confectioner now has stores in both The Dubai Mall and on City Walk, and their classic "cigar" cookie is a must. Yokumokugulf.com

LOUIS VUITTON Destination: Kyoto, Japan

While Louis Vuitton creative director Nicolas Ghesquière's fandom for Japanese culture was already firmly on record, his Resort collection was essentially a love letter to the nation. But when you set a show to the backdrop of the I.M. Pei designed Miho Museum in Kyoto, you can forgive the indulgence. Pei, the man behind the Louvre's iconic glass pyramids, designed the Miho as a representation of Shangri-la, and there it lies, like some futuristic temple just waiting to be discovered among the foliage.

The collection itself offered touches of samurai armor, traditional Japanese prints and Kabuki makeup, all coming together in one of the most out-there Louis Vuitton collections for some time. It's that kind of bold spirit that should serve to intensify a desire to explore your surroundings further.

Being a former imperial capital city, Kyoto is the traditional Japan you might miss while in Tokyo. Stay at Hoshinoya Kyoto (top right)

What to pack





SET IN STONE FOR CHANEL'S RESORT 2018 SHOW, KARL LAGERFELD BROUGHT THE SPIRIT OF GREECE TO PARIS



CHANEL Destination: Mykonos, Greece

Only Karl Lagerfeld can transport us from a Fall line beamed out of a Chanel space station to a Resort collection found among the ruins of ancient Greece, all in the space of just a few months, and both in the same venue.

While Chanel has taken us to Dubai, Seoul, and Havana in recent years, the La Modernité de l'Antiquité collection brought Greece direct to the Grand Palais in Paris. A ruin based on the Parthenon as well as the Temple of Poseidon on Cape Sounio, it featured crumbling columns and olive trees set into a rocky outcrop, all to the (fake) backdrop of the sparkling Aegean. The collection itself turned myth and legend into reality, with tunic silhouettes, delicate headbands, and gladiator heels.

The reality of the location mattered little. Yes, it was all under the gray skies of Paris, but by borrowing from the philosophy of Lagerfeld himself ("Reality is of no interest to me. I use what I like. My Greece is an idea"), the urge to explore Hellas was undoubtedly planted in more than a few in the front row.

A well-kept secret until the celebrity yachts arrived in the 1960s, the island of Mykonos offers the reality of Chanel's Grecian dream. Once a regular summer stop for the likes of Grace Kelly and Marlon Brando, Jackie Onassis even lauded Josef Salachas – the town's tailor –

as "le roi du pantalon," the king of pants.

The Myconian Ambassador Relais & Chateaux (top and bottom right) is a fine place to be based while on the island. Renovated in 2015 by Lebanese designer Galal Mahmoud – himself a regular to the hotel throughout his childhood – the building marries the white spaces you would expect from a property in this part of the world with traditional Cycladic elements. Myconianambassador.gr

Or head to the Myconian Imperial Resort on the foothills of Ella bay. Quirky design meets classic Grecian white in a luxury resort that also features the world-class Thalasso Spa Center. Myconianimperial.gr

If you ever tire of island life and make moves towards Athens, two restaurants should be locked in your schedule. Spondi could well be the finest restaurant in all of Greece. Apostolos Trastelis' French fine-dining spot has had awards thrown at it since opening in 1996, including the small matter of two Michelin stars. Spondi.gr If you'd rather eat Greek but still retain the sense of Michelin importance, then head to Psiri, one of Athens' oldest districts and home to the two-starred Hytra. A modern take on Greek heritage food, it'll only reaffirm your love for the Hellenic region. Hytra.gr Thankfully, you can maintain the passion when back in Dubai by making a trip to Elia in the Majestic Hotel Tower. This Greek fine-dining restaurant has been a firm favorite for years. Dubaimajestic.com □

What to pack

FIGURE DRESS AT MATCHESFASHION



SISLEY AGE MINIMIZING AFTER-SUN CARE



CULT GAIA BAG



ORBE GOLD LUST NOURISHING HAIR OIL

ORBE Gold Lust Nourishing Hair Oil huile capillaire nourrissante



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