

# Letter from the Editor



◀ Jacqui at Taliesin West, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Below: Beach life at Hotel Esencia, on Mexico's Riviera Maya.

## FROM MY TRAVELS

A recent trip to Arizona held a few surprises: sweeping Sonoran Desert views from the **Adero Scottsdale** ([aderoscottsdale.com](http://aderoscottsdale.com); doubles from \$499), a resort set in a certified Dark Sky Community. Aerial stretch and Savasana at **Civana** ([civanacarefree.com](http://civanacarefree.com); doubles from \$475), a destination spa with intensive classes and a wonderful aquatherapy circuit. And a private tour of **Taliesin West** ([franklloydwright.org](http://franklloydwright.org)), Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece of a winter home and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Go this season to see the special outdoor exhibition of glass sculptures by Dale Chihuly.

Over the holidays in New York, my family and I had a huge celebratory meal at **Sona** ([sona-nyc.com](http://sona-nyc.com); entrées \$22–\$42), which serves some of the best modern Indian food in town. We also stood in line to see the light show at Saks Fifth Avenue, grabbing a festive lunch at **L'Avenue at Saks** ([saksfifthavenue.com](http://saksfifthavenue.com); entrées \$28–\$59) after a little shopping.

We then escaped to **Hotel Esencia** ([hotel-esencia.com](http://hotel-esencia.com); doubles from \$700), a 45-suite property along Mexico's Riviera Maya, close to Tulum. I loved the simple palette of white, blue, and yellow on the resort grounds; our suite had a magnificent view of the water. A New Year's Day *omakase* at Taiyo, the hotel's new six-seat Japanese restaurant, was another standout—and a nourishing start to our 2022.

**T**HE OTHER DAY, as I rushed to get my son off to school, I found a beautiful tailored coat at the back of my closet. The color stopped me: a cool blue-gray, like a winter sky just before a good snowstorm. I suddenly remembered the moment I bought that coat, in the fall of 2020. I was with my mother, who was taking her first trip up from Philadelphia to New York City since the world shut down. At the time, no one was going to see me in that coat except my immediate family. Yet, spurred on by the buzz of being out shopping again, I made a spontaneous purchase and took it home.

So much has been said about the minutiae of pandemic dressing, the elastic waistbands and the drab footwear. Now, in early 2022, anything really, truly does go. With more uncertainty swirling in the news comes the certainty that now is the time to be who you want to be, and dress how you want to dress. Let others see you for who you are.

Now is also the time to go where you want to go. Fly someplace you've never been before, or return to a beloved classic, knowing that there will always be something new to discover. Our March issue focuses on destinations that are alive with culture and the arts, places with just-opened hotels to check in to and dynamic neighborhoods to get lost in. Many of you are turning to travel advisors right now to help with the logistics of planning your dream trip. Starting on page 29, you'll find a group of specialists who are the best in the business—and who will help you visit every spot mentioned in these pages.

Half the battle right now is saying yes to things and simply showing up. A small birthday dinner with friends. High tea at New York City's Plaza hotel. A concert at Carnegie Hall. All events I said yes to in the last few weeks. I knew the risk, but I also knew the reward. And with my new favorite coat on, I was ready to show up.



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