

LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Great weekends
First in a two-part guide
to Britain's best boutique hotels

Condé Nast Traveller

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JUNE 2002 £3.20

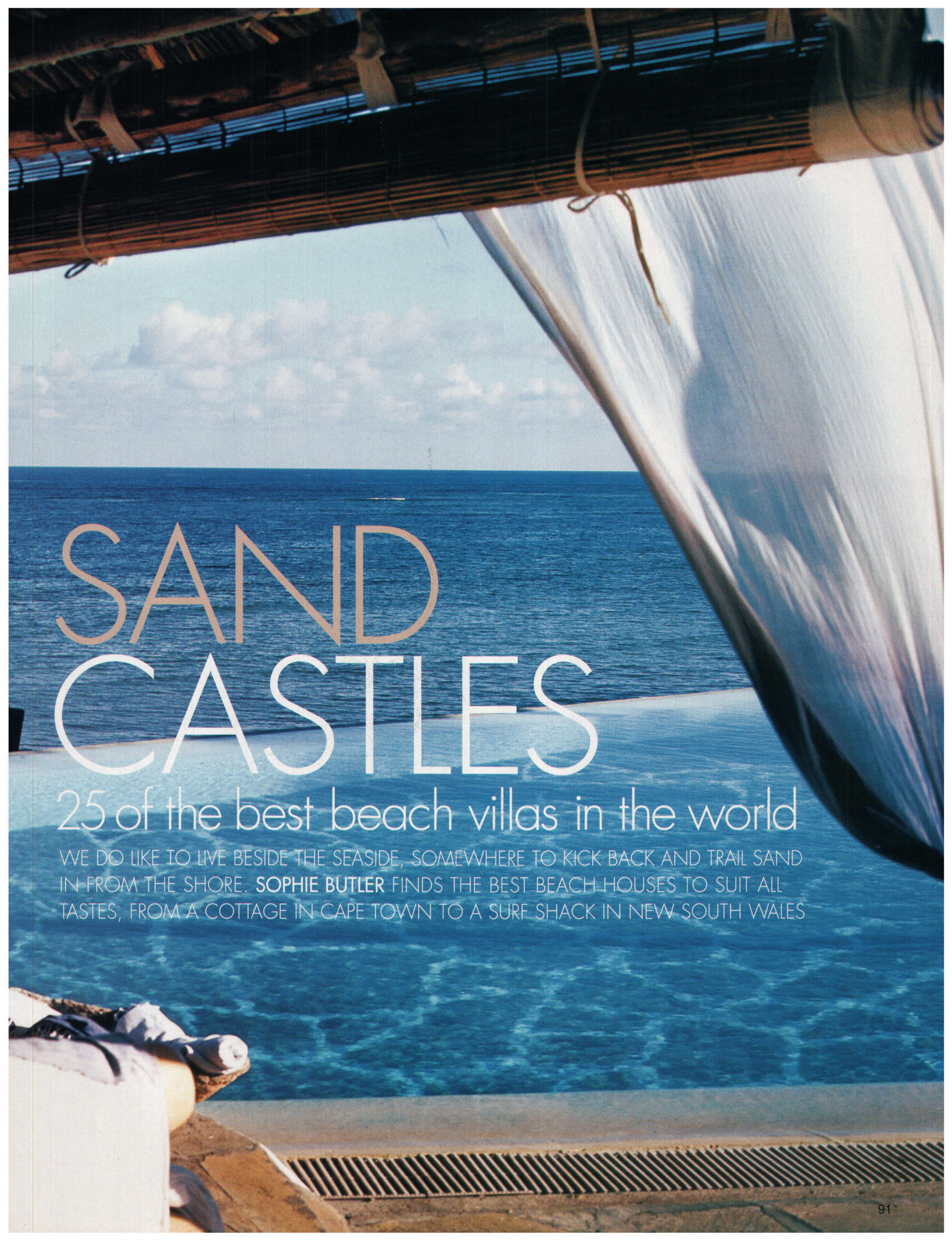
25 of the world's best beach houses



Plus Réunion • St Petersburg • Mali • Sri Lanka
Tunisia • Portugal • French gourmet retreats







SAND CASTLES

25 of the best beach villas in the world

WE DO LIKE TO LIVE BESIDE THE SEASIDE, SOMEWHERE TO KICK BACK AND TRAIL SAND IN FROM THE SHORE. **SOPHIE BUTLER** FINDS THE BEST BEACH HOUSES TO SUIT ALL TASTES, FROM A COTTAGE IN CAPE TOWN TO A SURF SHACK IN NEW SOUTH WALES



Beside the pool at The Alfajiri

AFRICA & INDIAN OCEAN

The Alfajiri

DIANI BEACH, KENYA

Alfajiri is built on a coral wall, rising three or four metres above the sand, with wonderful views over the northern stretch of Diani beach (the best on Kenya's Indian Ocean coast). At high tide, the sea laps at the edge of an infinity swimming pool, which is sunk into the wall; at low tide, a crystal-white sand beach is formed.

The best views are from the open-air Jacuzzi on the roof of an octagonal pagoda, with a stunning master bedroom (glass windows on three sides and a bed with white drapes). There is another double bedroom and two twins, plus a playroom and massage room, and much of the furniture is fashioned from the wood of old dhows. The staff includes two waiters, a masseuse, three child-minders and

a couple of cooks, who will prepare delicious dinners of lobster, jumbo prawns, crab, squid, octopus, tuna, shark and *bonito* (a local tuna-like fish). This is one of the world's best coasts for deep-sea fishing, and leisurely sailing trips on a converted dhow are available, as well as both tennis and golf. It is a superb place for families who want to combine a week on the beach with a

two- or three-day safari in the Tsavo East National Park.

Sleeps Eight

Cost £1,750 per person per week full board, including drinks, transfers, water sports, massage treatments and car hire. £1,015 per child (under 12) per week

Contact Journeys by Design (01273 623790; www.journeysbydesign.co.uk)