

EXPECT THE WORLD

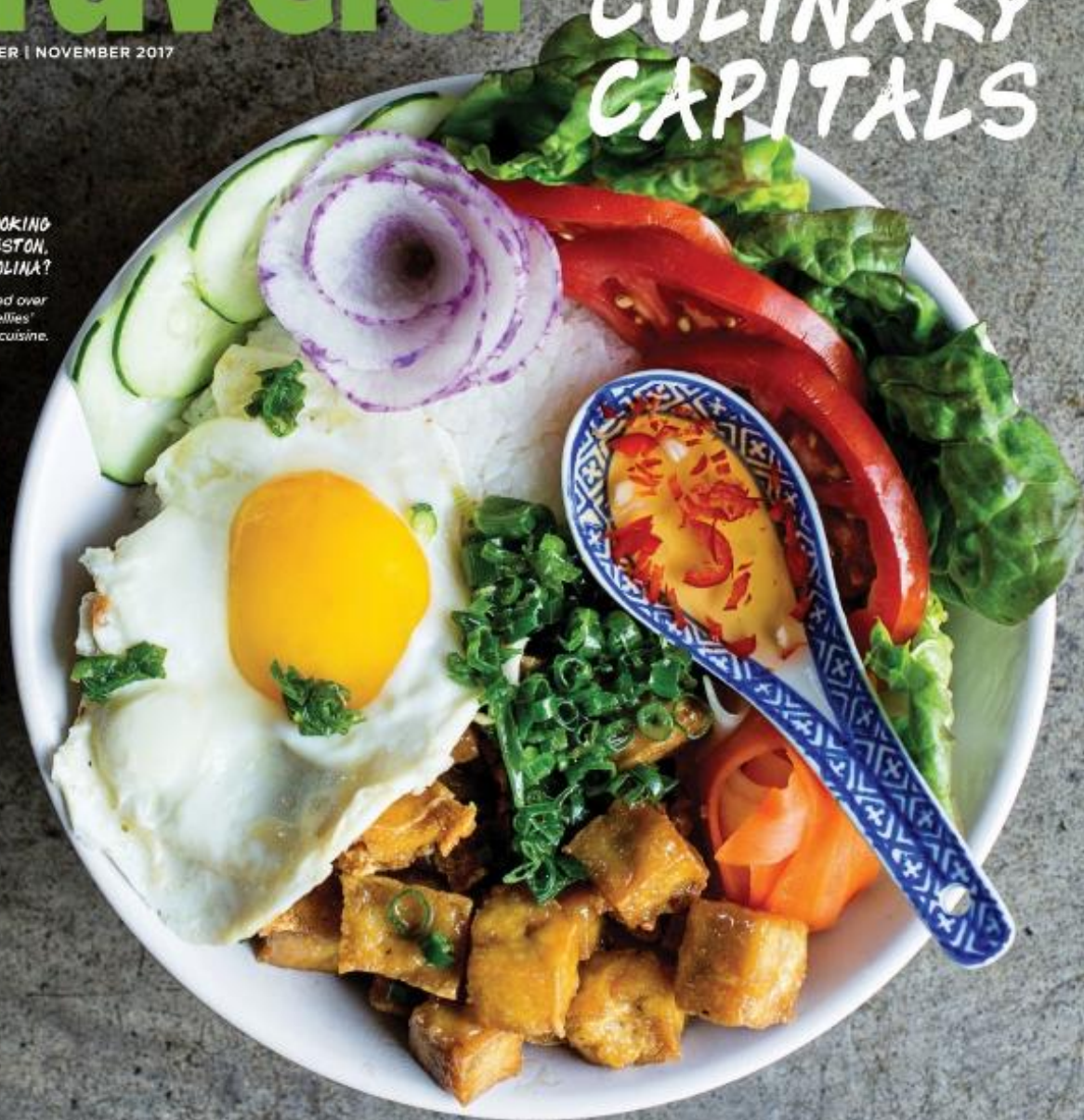
Virtuoso Traveler

OCTOBER | NOVEMBER 2017

NEW CULINARY CAPITALS

✿
WHAT'S COOKING
IN CHARLESTON,
SOUTH CAROLINA?

We're bowled over
by Pink Bellies'
Vietnamese cuisine.



CHARLESTON / AUCKLAND / JOSÉ IGNACIO, URUGUAY
TEL AVIV / PORTLAND, MAINE / TORONTO

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OUR WINE & DINE ISSUE



From top: Sri Lanka's Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort; Central Provisions in Portland, Maine; and Lozere lamb from The Peninsula Paris' L'Oiseau Blanc.



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40 NEW CULINARY CAPITALS

Our dish on great meals in unexpected cities, from Toronto to Tel Aviv.

ON THE COVER A lemongrass tofu rice bowl from Pink Bellies, a Vietnamese restaurant stall at Charleston's Workshop food emporium.

COVER PHOTO BY ANDREW CEBULKA

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Jean-Michel Cousteau

EXPLORER, CONSERVATIONIST

Jean-Michel Cousteau first saw the Amazon in 1982, entering its Brazilian delta on *Calypso* with his famous father and family, and cruising to Iquitos, Peru, where they left the ship and traced the river to its source on the slopes of Mount Mismi. Next year, Cousteau will return to join select four-, five-, and eight-day **Aqua Expeditions** sailings from Iquitos to

lead talks and excursions, offer videography tips, and screen documentaries on some of the same stretches he filmed with his own children in *Return to the Amazon*, decades after his first trip.

THE BIGGEST IMPRESSION FROM YOUR INITIAL AMAZON EXPEDITION: I'm an ocean guy, and I was

amazed to see dolphins and turtles all the way to Iquitos. I scuba dived when the water was clear enough, and of course there were all kinds of freshwater fish and some very, very big snakes. These creatures could see me, but they never had any intention of touching me. I felt much more comfortable than when above water or walking in the jungle.

VERY, VERY BIG SNAKES, PSHH. WHAT ABOUT PIRANHAS? Those little fish just swim away. Being underwater was a great privilege. I hope we will be able to snorkel in a few places.

WHY SHOULD TRAVELERS CRUISE THE AMAZON?

To connect with the environment and understand what's going on. The Amazon represents 20 percent of the planet's fresh water flowing into the ocean – we need to protect this water system to protect ourselves.

THOUGHTS ON RETURNING: It's great to visit a place I have been many times and share with passengers the information that we were able to collect and see how things have changed – to share what's different, what we are learning, and how we can behave to make sure that from cultural and environmental points of view, we preserve diversity, which is synonymous with stability.

RIVER WILDLIFE THAT MOST FILLS YOU WITH JOY:

I love the pink river dolphin – it's unique to the Amazon. They have the ability to swim in rain forests during and after the rains. Other dolphins would get trapped, but pink dolphins can disconnect their bone structures to swim around a tree. It takes a bit of luck to see them – they're not waiting for you to show up – but I know they're there.

Cousteau joins sailings on the 32-passenger Aria Amazon February 9 through 16 and October 5 through 12, 2018; from \$3,645. He'll cruise the Mekong River with Aqua on select 2018 departures as well.