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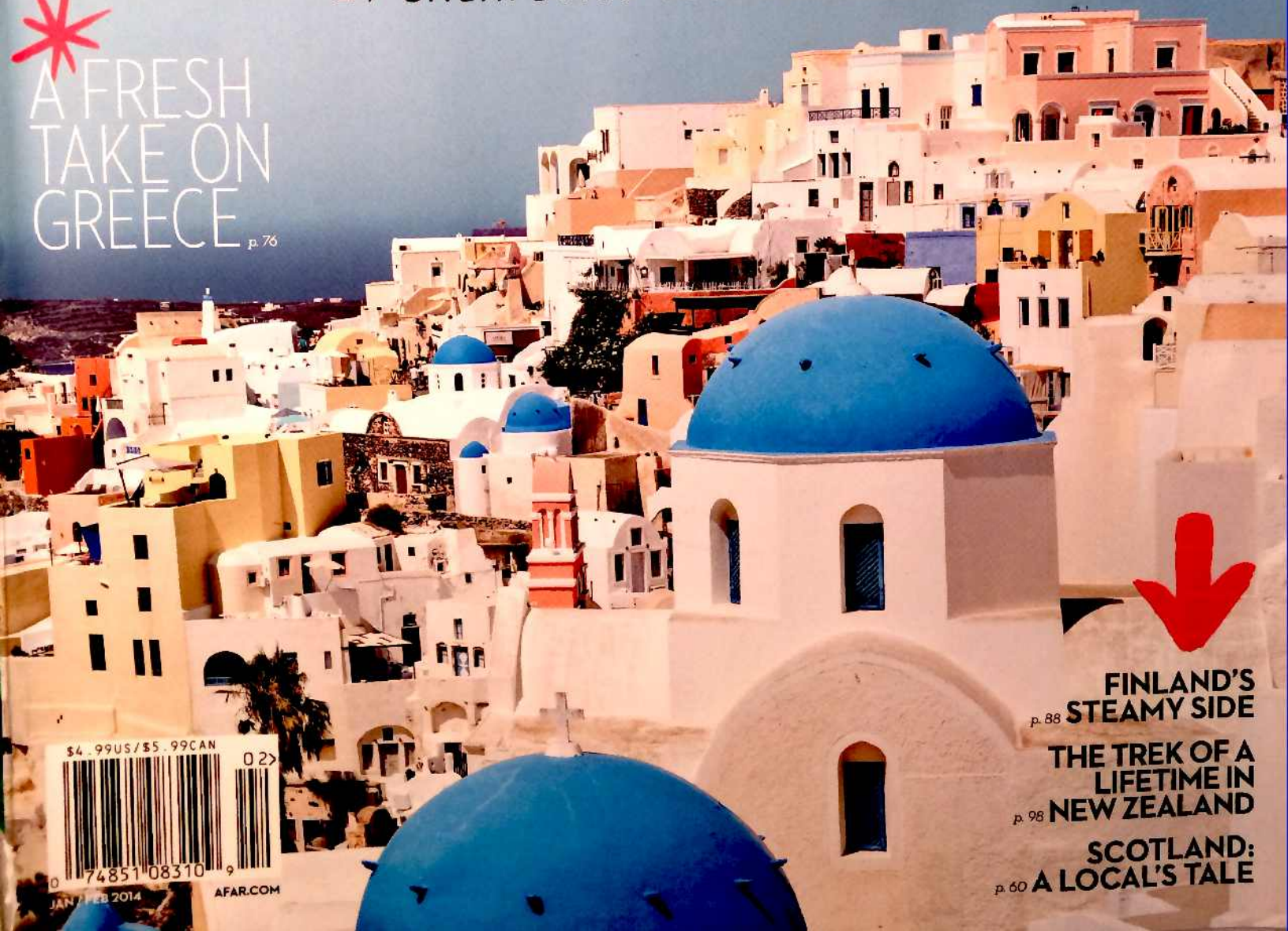
SANTA FE

the
WELLNESS
issue

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A LOCAL'S TALE

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JAN / FEB 2014



MEXICO'S SURFING SAFARI

BY MEGHAN MCEWEN

The dense jungle meets a string of pristine Pacific beaches at Sayulita, a laid-back Mexican surf town with dusty roads, stylish storefronts, and fresh oysters served with a dash of hot sauce. Fill your backpack at the organic farmers' market and head out to bask on a beach all your own.

TRAIL RIDE

With many trails unmarked, it's wise to explore the jungle and remote shoreline by guided horseback. One of the bilingual cowboys at **Mi Chaparrita** will help you find the best beaches and ocean vistas. Make the climb up Monkey Mountain for miles-long views of the Bahía de Banderas to the south and Riviera Nayarit to the north.
52/(01) 329-291-3112, michaparrita.com

CAFÉ

Along the busy stretch of Avenida Revolución, **Sayulita Café** is a sophisticated, unpretentious spot where chef-owner Miguel Muro turns out regional specialties such as *molcajete azteca* and mole. Nab a sidewalk table, start with a round of margaritas, and order what the locals eat: The chiles rellenos have a cult following.
Avenida Revolución 37, 52/(01) 329-291-3758

HOUSE RENTALS

1. Up the hill from town stands **Casa Dos Chicos** (above) a four-bedroom residence of two structures connected by a rooftop bridge. Upstairs, under a thatched roof, the outdoor kitchen, living room, and soaking pool offer endless panoramas.
From \$570, casadoschicos.com

2. **Casa Ninamu** is a cobalt-blue, open-air jungle villa, complete with infinity pool and rooftop sleeping lounge, that sits on a virtually private beach cove. The owners will happily hook you up with the best guides and plan private dinners.
From \$500, teitiare.com

SHOP

"*La vie est belle*" is a mantra for the Mignot sisters, who call themselves "*Les Gazelles*." At **Pacha Mama**, they sell their own gypsy-inspired designs of Tahitian black-pearl jewelry, soft leather bags, and brightly embroidered caftans. Stop by their adjoining gallery, too.
Calle Delfin 4B, 52/(01) 329-291-3468



HANGOUT

Iguana Gardens, once a sanctuary for the prehistoric-looking creatures, has been transformed into a space that's equal parts public garden, bar, and community center. The outdoor lounge, strewn with colorful wicker chairs, is the place for yoga, smoothies, movies, and fierce but friendly ping-pong matches. Heads up: Iguanas still lurk in the trees.
Calle Marlin 59, 52/(01) 329-291-3575

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: CEDRIC ANGELES/INTERSECTION PHOTOS, COURTESY OF CASA DOS CHICOS; IRINA OXILIKO DANILOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK