



• 16

Best Alpine getaway
Villa Flor, Switzerland

The Upper Engadine is famous for its stunning mountainscapes but picturesque views aren't exclusive to its windswept hilltops. In the village of S-chanf, Villa Flor is a 1904 art nouveau abode converted in 2009 into a cosy Alpine inn.

Owner Ladina Florineth (*pictured*) has accessorised classic Swiss pine interiors with mid 20th-century furnishings. Its seven guestrooms and public areas double as a gallery for Florineth's art collection and include pieces by Swiss photographer Albert Steiner and German artist Karin Sander. The visual feast continues at breakfast with colourful homemade mountain-berry preserves. — IC villafior.ch



• 17

Best sunglasses
Oliver Goldsmith

The sturdiness of Oliver Goldsmith's glasses are just one reason the family-owned firm has successfully plied its trade for coming up to 90 years. Although its components are sourced from Japan, Germany and Italy it's the brand's stand-out design that earned the good-looking specs a place in our travelling tote this year. — JAF olivergoldsmith.com



• 18

Best for a low-key arrival
Audi A8 L

The latest incarnation of Audi's slick A8 L saloon is the perfect way to make a discreet entrance or a shapely escape. The long wheelbase (which gave rise to the additional "L" on the model name) means more space for passengers in the back, while a host of advanced new features makes the drive more comfortable and safer. Passengers can surf the internet using the onboard wi-fi hotspot or enjoy rear-seat entertainment with a Bose surround-sound system.

Outside, the technology is just as impressive: smart high-beam LED headlights, on-board cameras and Audi's signature Quattro four-wheel drive make for a comfortable and refreshingly down-to-earth ride. — MAL audi.com



• 19

Most eagerly anticipated airport transfer
UP Express, Toronto

We've always had a soft spot for Toronto but our bugbear has long been the road trip between Pearson Airport and our cosy Monocle outpost on College Street. From April, however, the team at Metrolinx (with a few creative nudges from our sister design company Winkreative) will inaugurate a high-speed rail service between terminal one of the airport and Union Station – Canada's two busiest transport hubs. With stops in the Bloor-Dundas and Weston neighbourhoods, the 25-minute ride will run every quarter of an hour and reduce car journeys between the two by 1.2 million trips a year. — JAF upexpress.com

• 20

Best airport for a sense of departure
Hong Kong International

Good airports can be fine to linger in but the best-run terminals keep their passengers moving. Hong Kong International successfully dodges the pitfalls of its badly organised competitors by allowing passengers to check in their bags from the train station before they enter the easy-to-navigate Norman Foster-designed space. With plenty of eye-catching retailers and lip-smacking food options, we're always glad of a stopover in the city. — VL hongkongairport.com



• 21

Best premium economy
Air New Zealand

A rift between the economy and business-class experience in the past decade has seen the rise of premium-economy offerings, and Air New Zealand leads the field. A sizeable 106cm berth, 27cm HD screen, Clarins-heavy amenity kit and excellent wine are just a few reasons why. — MAL airnewzealand.co.nz



Air New Zealand's seat spacing really does mean room to stretch one's paws



PHOTOGRAPHERS: SPOT VERBURG, LIT MA, STILL LIFE: DAVID SYKES