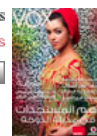


The global [fashion](#) magazine **September 15, 2011**
[Home](#) [Fashion](#) [Beauty](#) [Volante](#) [Living](#) [Insider/News](#) [Webwatch](#) [Print subscriptions](#)
[Shop](#) [Community](#) [Forum](#) [Advertise](#) [Contact us](#)


## volante

feature



**Tel Aviv** The beach in Israel's most fashionable city.



Lucire  
on  
Facebook

Like

You  
like

Digg it |

0

Add to Facebook

Like

26

Sponsored by Lacoste LIVE

## Back to Israel-ity

Between its timeless history and innovative food, fashion and technology, what makes a trip to Israel epic goes beyond traditional expectations

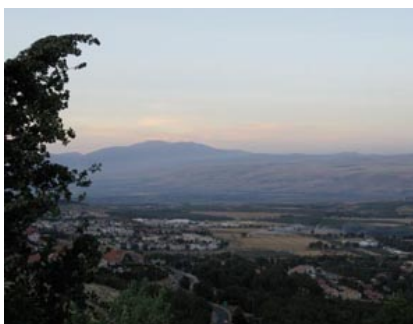
by **Elyse Glickman**

PHOTOGRAPHED BY THE AUTHOR

THOUGH SOME PEOPLE TRAVEL to Israel to discover their religious and familial roots, savvy 21st travellers looking for the “trip of a lifetime” spiritual experience blending innovative luxury, eco-tourism, food and shopping offerings will discover what Israelis and long-time expats have known for years: everything that's old is not only new again, but the uniquely Israeli lifestyle is constantly being rethought by and for future generations.

Though one cannot ignore the gloriously displayed reminders of civilization-defining moments from the ancient world, many Israelis under 50 cheerfully expound on how the food, fashion, spa and beauty findings makes Israel one of the most modern and progressive travel experiences anywhere.

While Israel's world history paradox is [striking](#) (as enduring as human recorded history yet just over six decades old), its state of being in world affairs is just as complex. While Israel's daily soap opera of political turmoil plays out on a global, melodramatic scale in international newsmidia, the close-up picture tells a different story. Small-town and rural Israel is warmly idyllic. Neighbourhoods in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv display the colour and *joie de vivre* associated with



Mitzpe Hayon view

sexy, sophisticated destinations like Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona, Miami and Sydney rather than a police state often depicted in news footage.

### The golden Golan and glittering Galilee

Northern Israel presents itself as a Garden of Eden, albeit with everyday sociopolitical realities that prevent it from turning into Disneyland. The Galilee is recognized as religious tourism-and-pilgrimage hub, with attractions that include Tiberias, Capernaum and the Mount of Beatitudes. The Golan Heights carries a little bit of baggage of political turmoil and border skirmishes. However, get past that and you will discover Israel's north is a region with much to offer foodies, as well as wine drinkers, art and architecture buffs, outdoors-y types and even shoppers.

Though Pausa recently counted National Public Radio and top international news services as guests during the most recent Golan Heights conflict five years ago (with one reporter deftly commenting that it was the best place to stay in wartime), it is best known locally as a bastion of sanity, creativity and intellectual conversation that starts at owners Avigdor and Einat Rotherm's dinner table. To give the guests an idea of the home-grown pleasures that await them, the Rotherms present them on arrival with a glass of their very own lemons made from lemons grown on their property. Breakfasts are flawless and abundant, and are often followed by a walk through Avigdor's gardens, where he will point out what plants and fruits made it into the previous night's dinner.

Just like a visit to the Rotherm house, when you visit **Roberg restaurant** in the village of Livnim, you are literally-part of Ilan Roberg's family. Besides the fact that this restaurant will have you talking about Roberg's artsy-but-approachable approach to kosher food months after the meal, they will send you home able to recreate those memories in your own kitchen. Although there are glorious views of the Sea of Galilee and nearby mountain ranges, you will be just as impressed with the ongoing footage on several flat screen TVs that show the different courses of your meal coming together in a way that picks up where the Food Network leads off.

Mitzpe Hayonym, founded in 1923, is a forerunner to the modern spa resort experience. The Rosh Pina resort today balances the timeless (1,000 m of organic hotel garden and fields with livestock, and views of Mt Hermon and Galilee) with the new (age) via art gallery shops, classes, soap making, bakery, spa and wine- driven Muscat restaurant. Guests will also be enchanted by personalities like resident artist Sara Shoval, a 65-year-old former dancer who lives her passion through the artwork, art class instruction, garden walks and body work (spa) services she provides for hotel guests.

'With every guest, I try to pass on a bit of wisdom my original dance teachers taught me years ago,' explains Shoval about the multi-faceted career and lifestyle she built for herself at the resort. 'If you can dance, you can sculpt. If you can sculpt, you can draw. If you can draw, you can write and move on to new things throughout your life.'

Ambitious travellers will discover not all treasures and great discoveries are buried within, and the ancient city of Safed (Tzfat), the highest community in Israel, reflects this. The compact founding city of Kabbalah is packed with charming narrow streets, landmarks, synagogues, jewellery salons and art galleries, such as the Gallery of Mystical Art and Safed Candles. The 360-degree views from the nearby



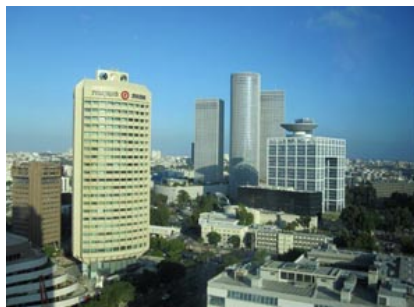
Neve Tzedek



Roberg food



Villa Galilee



Tel Aviv skyline

more *lucire* volante headlines

### A romantic break in snow-capped Hanmer Springs: just magic

11.09.01

Courtesy Vanessa Nelmes/Hurunui Tourism Shut your eyes. Imagine lazing in a steamy hot tub with someone special. The sun is setting over the picture-postcard snow-capped mountains. Not a sound can be heard save the occasional bellbird call...

### Auckland Home Show serves up everything from cooking to sustainability

11.08.31

The Auckland Home Show, which began August 31 and runs to September 4 at the ASB Showgrounds in Auckland, comprises over 500 exhibitors featuring renovation ideas and solutions, home decoration and design, green urban living and sustainability.

### Unscripted shows creative minds behind Wellington's film industry

11.08.28

Top Locket by Sophie Lewis-Smith. Above Jewellery by Steph Lusted. Below left Textile designs at Unscripted. Bottom Locket by Sophie Lewis-Smith. Starting on Saturday, September 3 and running until the following Friday, the Unscripted exhib..

### Brit Mary Wing To takes home World of Wearable Art Supreme Award—our full report

11.08.26

Top Hylonome by Mary Wing To (United Kingdom), the Supreme Winner at the Brancott Estate World of Wearable Art 2011 show. Above Runner-up, Hide in My Bone Shadow, by Marjolein van der Wal (Netherlands). Walking into the TSB Arena in Wellington..

### Yohji Yamamoto among designers in this year's Westfield Style Pasifika

11.08.18

The International Designer Collection at this year's Westfield Style Pasifika: Best of Pasifika will include one-off garments from top international fashion designers such as Yohji Yamamoto from Japan and John Rocha from I..

Villa Galilee Boutique Hotel are epic. However, pair them with Victorian manor house appointments, an expansive gourmet breakfast spread, vibrant floral landscaping and a nicely situated pool. What you end up with is a literal piece of heaven.

#### Hail Casarea!

It is hard to imagine that just a few decades back, Casarea (midway between Tel Aviv and Haifa) was best known as a beach with a few interesting scattered ruins. In its new incarnation—UNESCO World Heritage site—visitors can appreciate Biblical, Roman and mediaeval antiquities alongside a frozen mint-lemonade or cappuccino at one of the relatively new cafes and via the high-tech Time Tower that brings history alive, and in 3D. The Roman Theatre still operates as a performance venue for international and Israeli pop and rock acts. Diving enthusiasts can enjoy viewing the underwater ruins in the archaeological park beside the port.

The Art Nova Gallery, just outside the Time Tower, showcases statement-making art canvases made from felt-like synthetic fibres that do not collect dust. Top Israeli jewellery and home accessories designer Ester Shahaf has her flagship store on site as well. The modern side of Casarea offers a host of activities venues, from golf courses to day spas, boutique hotels, the respected Ralli Art Museum and a historic site that houses the remains of a magnificent palace with a mosaic floor of amazing birds and a rare and unique table top inlaid with glass and gold.

#### Jerusalem and Tel Aviv: the global villages

Though “eternal city” Jerusalem and youth-driven Tel Aviv couldn’t be more different, both offer exceptional shopping, cultural and dining opportunities. While Tel Aviv is undisputedly Israel’s fashion centre, Jerusalem is no slouch when it comes to travelling in [style](#).

The business-chic David Citadel Hotel and edgy Mamilla Hotel have location in their favour, with proximity to each other, [trendy](#) modern neighbourhoods and Old Jerusalem. They also have the advantage of sprawling terraces that make you feel as if you could touch the peaks, and spires of history. In addition to chic Israeli labels (Daniella Lehavi, Cassidi and Michal Negrin on the high end; Fox and Castro representing his-and-hers street wear) and international names (H. Stern, Mango, Topshop), Mamilla Mall’s narrow corridor is also a thought-provoking outdoor art gallery as well as a literal bridge between the modern and the ancient. New York-based Simon Hatcher, who co-owns the eco-friendly Israeli-American line [Mango Tree Fitted Bangles](#) refers me to his Israel-based partners David Aviv and wife Helen Dukat, who aren’t afraid to find and recommend mind-blowing food and fashion outside obviously trendy areas.

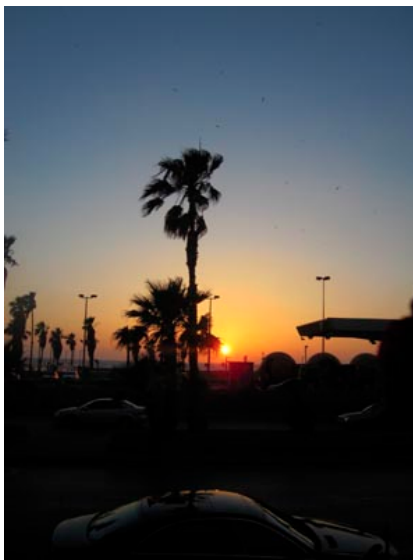
Though Jerusalem has more than its abundance of museums, the couple points out that city parks, underrepresented in tour guides (perhaps for the better) are as alive with culture as they are with flora and fauna. ‘Sacher Park is our version of Central Park—a large, meandering green park in the city,’ Dukat says. ‘Monster Park is cool because of the Nikki de Saint Phalle sculptures that dominate the playground. Further afield, Park Denya is a nice quiet place to take kids, while teens will like Park Gilo with its skateboarding—scooter ramp and proximity to Bethlehem and a view of the notorious security fence, if you’re so inclined.’



Jerusalem skyline



Safed



Beach sunset

Powered by Feed Informer

#### Local Guides

All Local Guides

[Alabama](#)

[Alaska](#)

[Arizona](#)

[Arkansas](#)

[California](#)





Given the couple's connection to fashion, a discussion about shops is inevitable. 'I always tell people to stop by a shop called Ethnic's, at 34 Jaffa Road. 'It's a cooperative of several well-known Israeli artists (Ayala Bar, Lali, Talma, Yoram Aviram) started by my friend David Yom Tov, who now lives in New York,' says Aviv. 'For the best prices on traditional Judaica, however, I recommend Meah Shearim and Geula. These are Orthodox Jewish neighbourhoods, however, so be sure to dress appropriately.'

*continued*



David Citade Hotel



## Related articles

### A Tuscan sanctuary

Toscana, the place everyone wants to visit and buy a villa. It is not easy renovating anything in Toscana—it is far better to stay at Borgo Santo Pietro. It is home away from home but with a lot more pampering, reports **Anita Talbert**

### South Africa: game on!

A year after the World Cup, the "new" South Africa is more alive and kicking than ever—an enduring testament to Nelson Mandela and other courageous souls who made it possible, observes

**Elyse Glickman**

*photographed by the author and Paul J. Coffin*



Copyright ©1997–2011 by JY&A Media, a division of Jack Yan & Associates. All rights reserved. JY&A terms and conditions and privacy policy apply to viewing this site. All prices in US dollars except where indicated. Contact us here.

#### Departments

Fashion  
Beauty  
Living  
Volante  
Insider  
News  
Forum  
Community  
Shopping

#### Insider

Environment  
New Zealand  
New York  
London  
Paris  
Los Angeles  
Modelling  
Random page

#### Lucire TV

Lucire Facebook group  
Lucire Facebook fan page  
Lucire on Twitter  
Lucire for mobile devices  
Lucire on V Kontakte

#### Contact us

Subscribe  
Email updates  
Advertise  
RSS feed for Lucire 'Insider'

#### Selected team RSS feeds

Jack Yan | Summer Rayne Oakes | Stanley Moss | Jennifer Lawson | Pameladevi Govinda | Ali Sabbagh