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IT'S A LIFE OF LUXURY ON THE SURF CIRCUIT

SURFING is a lifelong passion, not just a passing youthful enthusiasm. But when you're pulling in a good wage, drive a prestige car and your favourite drink is a single malt Scotch, the traditional clichés of a surfing holiday - campervans, fatty burgers and lumpy mattresses - are as appealing as a warm beer. CEOs and millionaires now demand luxury resorts or boats to get tubed and a new breed of specialist properties has emerged combining style and comfort with world-famous breaks.

the hip bar, massage therapist, jacuzzi and pool. As befits a surf town, Peniche has an incredible night-time scene from beach bars such as Bar do Bruno to a clutch of seriously trendy restaurants serving food as upmarket as their decor - The Base, Mirandum Marisquira and Pro Fresco. For those who want to combine a trip to Douro, the port-making centre of Portugal is just under 500km away on the A23.

Essaouira hogs the limelight as Morocco's major surf town but the former fishing village of Taghazout runs a close second.

spots are accessible only by boat.

If you're brave enough that's where you'll also find the iconic Cloudbreak, but experienced surfers can also tackle Namotu Lefts and Restaurants. Tadrai has a couples-only policy and boasts only five, 100sqm beachfront villas circled by four white sand beaches. Apart from being a luxury surf and romance base, the resort's other aquatic activities include hard-line fishing, snorkelling, hobycat sailing and deciding what to select from the upscale wine list.

Exclusivity is the pull at Adaaran Select Hudhuranfushi in The Maldives, one of the most famous dedicated surf resorts in the world.

Chicama is the world's longest left, stretching out for 4km. But there are 30 other major waves in northern Peru as the big lows travel up from the south. Named after the coastline's most famous surfing attraction, Chicama Boutique Hotel & Spa offers rates as low as \$700 for seven days. General manager Miguel Vegas is a former Peruvian surfing champion so all bases are covered - tow back services, wetsuit and board hire, lessons and daily tours to pre-Colombian pyramids and cities and major surf spots. The gourmet restaurant has spectacular ocean views. Enjoy sunset cocktails made with the best Peruvian Pisco brandy and select from an international wine list that includes Peruvian bottlings from Tarbernero sparkling to Tacama whites and reds.

You'll book a flight to Lisbon the minute after watching the video on Surfers Lodge Peniche's website featuring former Swedish surf champ/owner John Malmqvist spelling out his life's dream. The small town of Peniche offers 17 major Atlantic Ocean swells, including Supertubos - a.k.a. the European Pipeline. Laid-back luxury is the keynote from the organic restaurant through

Paradis Plage Surf Yoga & Spa Resort is located 26km north of Agadir - equi-distant from Killers and Boilers - and in-house Rip Curl instructors keep a weather eye on major waves. A 3ha oasis fronting a 5km-long beach, the resort's surf school offers packages for beginners and experienced sliders, an outdoor movie theatre and fitness centre. Non-surfers can take part in a yoga retreat and or enjoy Moroccan-inspired treatments in the spa or on the beach. Be careful in the bar - drinks are expensive - because alcohol isn't sold in the village. For a vibrant restaurant and bar scene, you have to drive to Agadir, nicknamed the "Miami of Morocco", where the main promenade is lined with beach bars, clubs, casinos and hotels.

Forget the fly-and-flop image of Fiji. The island chain also offers more than 25 major surf spots, including Lighthouse, Cloudbreak and Vinakaland where only pros or those just shy of making surfing their daytime job should test their wave skills. The Tadrai Island Resort is the most talked-about five-star resort on the Mamanucas - a group of 20 islets west of the main island of Viti Levu - where many of the major surf

Exclusivity is the pull at Adaaran Select Hudhuranfushi in The Maldives, one of the most famous dedicated surf resorts in the world. There's a perfect left - Lohis - just metres from each beach and ocean villa and the resort offers daily excursions by dhoni (the traditional local boat) to other major breaks in North Male. A top choice for intermediate and advanced surfers who congregate in the Lohis Bar at day's end, voted one of the best hotel bars in the Maldives. Equally popular is the Hyala Bar near the main pool. Love buffets? You'll find one of the best in the Banyan Restaurant, which specialises in top-flight seafood and an equally impressive wine list with strong French connections.

Shaloha Guesthouse on Supertubes in South Africa includes the world famous right-hand point break in its name. There's no need to bring a thing, surfboard, wet suit and boogie board rental and ample storage for long and short boards are all at hand. The patio is only 50m from the beach at Jeffreys Bay, known to fans as JBay, and the views are spectacular. The rates - from \$142 for a large suite with floor-to-ceiling windows - are a giveaway for a five-star atmosphere and service. Amazing breakfasts and you can also organise horse riding on the beach or a visit to Bloukraans for the world's highest bungee jump. More than 30 restaurants offer plenty of enticement from gourmet to pub grub.