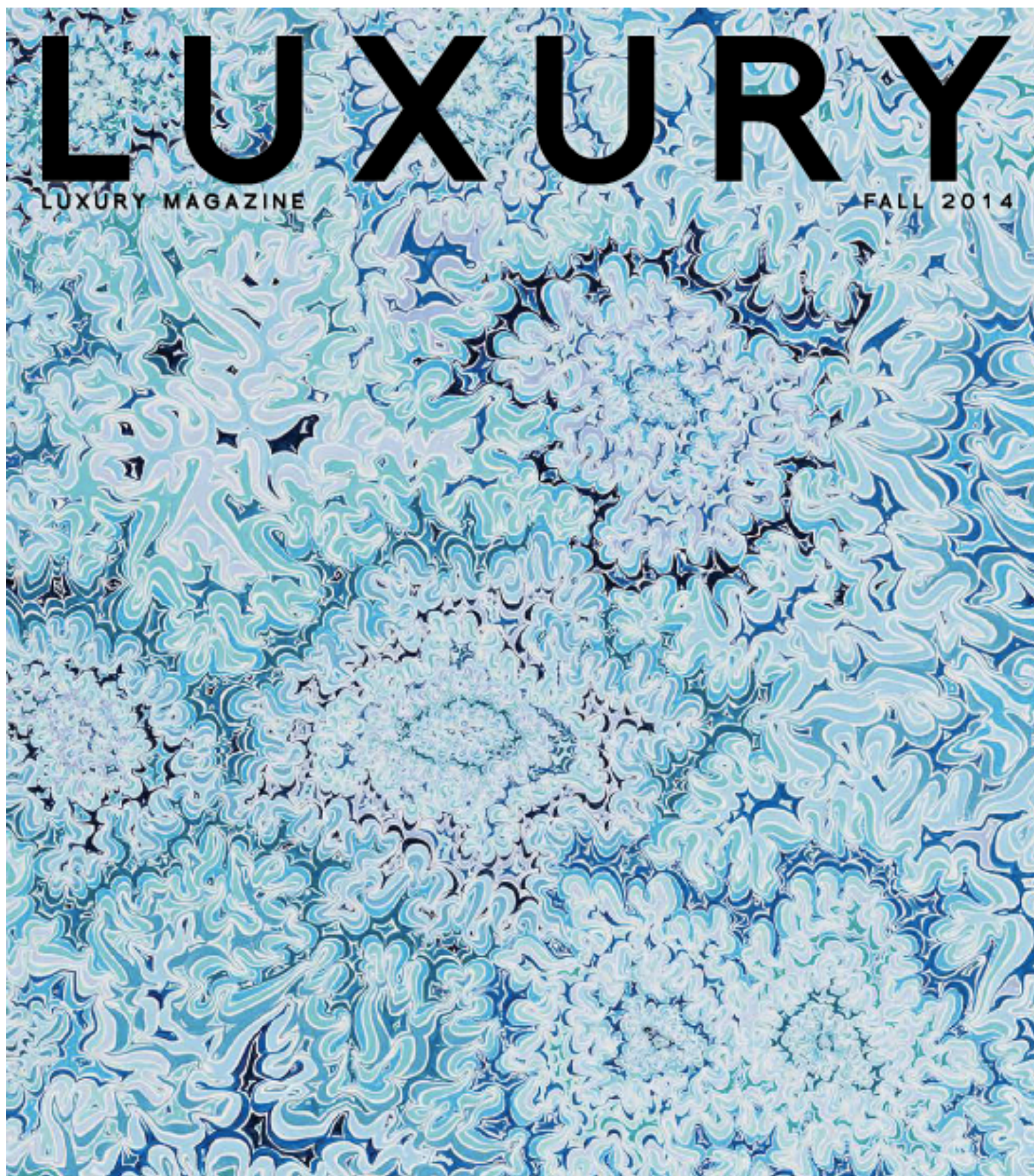


# LUXURY

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# Trading Summer Vacations for FALL ESCAPES

Pack your bags for one last retreat  
before winter sets in.

by MARGIE GOLDSMITH

Autumn is your last chance to extend summer while the weather is still warm, the crowds are fewer and the prices are lower. It is also the ideal time for a romantic getaway or a family vacation, an escape to a quaint seaside artists' colony over the Golden Gate Bridge in Sausalito or to the rolling hills of Texas Hill Country. Take the children back through time by wandering the thatched-roof villages in England's quaint Cotswolds or try some family activities in the bustling city of Boston. Relax and savor lobster from a harborside town overlooking Penobscot Bay in Maine or wake up to the sound of howler monkeys in a Guatemalan rainforest. Following are some of our favorite destinations that offer comfortable accommodations, gourmet meals and top-notch service. ▶



The outdoor deck of the Alexandrite Suite at Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa.

## Sausalito California

Just a short ferryboat ride from San Francisco at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge is Sausalito, the seaside artists' colony where Otis Redding wrote "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay." In autumn, there's less fog, which makes it a perfect time for a family adventure or romantic tryst. Children love The Bay Area Discovery Museum, sailing and taking the ferryboat to Angel Island State Park for a Segway tour, bike ride or picnic. Sausalito has more than 60 dining options and is a great starting point for a day trip to wine country. [sausalito.org](http://sausalito.org)

Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa, a former Victorian mansion, is a newly renovated 11-room luxe spot. Drop your bags at the 5,000-square-foot Alexandrite Suite with panoramic bay views, a nine-panel state-of-the-art media wall and an enormous

1,500-square-foot outdoor deck where you can sit and "watch the tide roll away." [casamadrona.com](http://casamadrona.com)

Also in Sausalito is the Cavallo Point Lodge, formerly an officer's residence at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, with the Marin Headlands as a background. The accommodations are part of historic Fort Baker, a 24-building former Army outpost with a 10-acre parade ground, originally built between 1901 and 1915. [cavallopoint.com](http://cavallopoint.com)

If the city proper beckons, stay in San Francisco at the historic Inn at the Presidio, located in the famous park and near the Golden Gate Bridge. This elegant Georgian Revival-style building has spacious, plush suites offering beautiful bay views. [innatthepresidio.com](http://innatthepresidio.com)

Photos: Courtesy Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa; Sherry Day; Courtesy for Carolyn LaFollette