



T&C 50 FAMILIES OF THE YEAR
TOWN & COUNTRY

NOVEMBER 2016



AMERICAN
*DREAM
GIRL*

DAKOTA
FANNING
BLOWS THE
FANTASY
WIDE OPEN

*PUTIN'S
ROYAL
MURDER
MYSTERY*

A GUIDE
TO THE
PERFECT
INSULT

*SMARTER
THAN
POTUS?*
AN *ELECTION* 2016
VOCAB QUIZ

THE MOST
DIVINE
BEAUTY
POTION
ON EARTH

*WHO'S
ESCAPING TO
BILLIONAIRE
MOUNTAIN?*

IN DEEP
This month's expedition to Palau includes swimming amid millions of harmless *mastigias* jellyfish.

THE FINAL FRONTIER

GEOFFREY KENT'S NEW TRIPS TAKE YOU WHERE FEW HAVE GONE BEFORE.

By Klara Glowczewska

It seems fitting that when I finally catch up with Toby Fenwick-Wilson, of the luxury adventure company Abercrombie & Kent, he happens to be on vacation in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland's rugged westernmost isles. His day job—and I can think of none finer in his line of work—is being the advance scout and fixer for his boss's recently launched eponymous **Inspiring Expeditions with Geoffrey Kent**. "I curate and choreograph these extraordinary life experiences," is how he puts it, sounding relaxed on the phone. In other words, Fenwick-Wilson is the man who makes Kent's dreams—the cutting edge of high-end travel, and its future—happen.

Kent, who founded A&K in

1962, says this latest venture started because "I was running out of places I wanted to go. So why not take people to spots of immense beauty and interest—but where others aren't?" Kent leads each expedition, often to places with no hospitality infrastructure at all. "We bring in everything: beds, Michelin-starred chefs, specialist guides, espresso machines. It's a one-off modern caravan."

Fenwick-Wilson tells me he has just returned from Armenia, where he was preparing a stop on A&K's around-the-world private jet journey departing in October 2017. (Don't get your hopes up. It sold out—at \$145,000 per person—in four weeks.) "I was setting up incredible surprises, like what I told you about Samarkand."

Ah, Samarkand. In May, in the ancient capital of the empire of Tamerlane the Great, the brilliant and blood-thirsty 14th-century nomadic

conqueror of the Eurasian steppe, Fenwick-Wilson and team arranged nothing short of a modern conquest for A&K, renting all of Registan Square, the historic core of the city, framed by three cupola-adorned, blue-tiled madrasas, for a gala dinner. "Toby just closed it down for us," Kent recalls. "And then he had the Uzbek Academic Orchestra fly in from Tashkent. More than 100 musicians suddenly appeared, carrying their instruments. And they played for us for 90 minutes. There was a full moon—which I'm sure Toby also arranged."

"Yes, we knew there would be a full moon that night," says Fenwick-Wilson, who is thrilled equally by the cultural authenticity of what he creates and the theater of it. "We don't like being told things are impossible. They just require imagination—and a year of military-style preparation."

In the pipeline are 10-day journeys to Nagaland, India; western Mongolia; the Raja Ampat archipelago off West Papua; and Norwegian Lapland, where, Kent says, "I guarantee you'll see the Northern Lights." Further down the road? "Imagine taking a yacht around the island of Socotra, in Yemen." Where myrrh and frankincense grow... Kent insists that "this is not about checking things off your travel list; it's about going in deep."

Meanwhile, I ask Fenwick-Wilson if he can tell me what he has organized for November's sailing to Palau, the world's richest and most remote diving destination. "It would spoil the surprise. The answer is no. I don't even tell Geoff."

BOTH TYPES OF "INSPIRING EXPEDITIONS WITH GEOFFREY KENT"—THE 25-DAY AROUND-THE-WORLD PRIVATE-JET TRIPS AND THE 10-DAY EXCURSIONS TO EXTREMELY INACCESSIBLE PLACES—COST \$145,000 PER PERSON; ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM.