



A culinary adventure

There's no better time to discover one of India's best kept secrets and most remote states, Nagaland, than now, as the Aoling spring festival celebrated by the local tribes commences. Enjoy the simple villagers' hospitality as they invite you to join in the celebrations to enjoy the exotic, ethnic food washed down with local rice beer, colourful costumes, and traditional dances and rituals at the festival, while you explore the unspoilt natural beauty of the region, and learn about the local culture with home-stays – it will be an offbeat adventure like none other. Sustainable tourism company Greener Pastures offer organised trips to the region, prices start from US\$1,100 (around Dhs4,000) for nine day packages. Log on to thegreenerpastures.com for more info.

A blessing in Switzerland

Renowned New York Japanese restaurant Megu (which means 'blessing' in Japanese) has recently opened an outpost at the luxe Alpina Gstaad hotel in Switzerland. A talented team including ex-Nobu chefs will serve up an avant-garde menu reflecting Megu's philosophy of organic dining, incorporating local specialties such as Oscietra Caviar and Belperknolle cheese, in a sophisticated setting combining design influences from both cultures. Visit www.thealpinagstaad.ch for more.



TASTE OF THE world

All the foodie news from around the globe.

Discover Devon

Touted as the 'new Tuscany', Devon is emerging as an epicurean destination with its growing foodie culture and beautiful vineyards. For a quintessentially English country escape, book in at self-catering luxury cottage Hembury court, set in a tranquil rural area. Whether you want to visit quaint tea rooms in local villages, go on winery tours, or simply soak up nature, it's the perfect pre-summer getaway! Prices start from £270 (around Dhs1,500) per week, hemburycourt.co.uk.

When in Venice...

Don't miss out on a meal at PG's Club, Restaurant & Bar at the luxe, Phillipe Starck-designed PalazzinaG hotel. Located right on the Grand Canal, the exclusive restaurant – which is open only to hotel guests – offers authentic Italian in an elegant, historic setting. You can either opt for a gourmet meal watching the chef in action in the show kitchen, or you can take it a step further with joining the chef on a visit to the local market, cooking with him, and then enjoying a four-course tasting menu. Room rates start from €319 (around Dhs1,500) per night, log on to designhotels.com/gourmet_adventures for details.

