

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

FEBRUARY 2016

Traveler

THE
ROMANCE
OF TRAVEL

COSTA RICA
PARIS
VENICE
BAJA
MONGOLIA



Phoebe and Annette Stephens at home in NYC's Gramercy Park.

FOUND ONLY HERE

Bespoke Geta Sandals from Kyoto

The sister duo behind the accessories line *Anndra Neen* on where they scored their favorite souvenir in Japan.



"Gion *Makou* has been making the most beautiful, traditional *geta* sandals since 1897," says Phoebe Stephens, who, along with her sister, Annette, designs mixed-metal jewelry and handbags in Mexico City. "At the Kyoto store, in the Gion district, they measure every angle of your foot, even taking into account its density. The sandals are elevated, and your heel sticks out slightly, so you balance while you walk. We got ones made of wood with a red-white-and-black velvet chong." If you don't speak Japanese, have Google Translate handy—or do as the Stephenses did and get creative. "The sandalmakers didn't speak any English," Annette says, "so we had to draw a little envelope with a date written on it to find out how long it would take to receive the sandals."

MAKE IT YOURS: Sandals take roughly two months to produce and are shipped in a custom box; from \$700. —NICOLE BERRIE

JUST OPENED

L.A.'s Luxury Mega-Mall

There used to be two good reasons to hit Culver City when in Los Angeles: to squeeze in a gallery crawl on Washington Boulevard and to check out the revitalization of the industrial

Hayden Tract section by visionary architect Eric Owen Moss. Now, there's *Platform*, a high-concept market that stretches across four acres of a converted 1980s car dealership. It sounds gimmicky, consider what's moved in: the long-awaited U.S. outpost of furniture and lighting designer Tom Dixon; British luxury menswear label *Lands End*'s first U.S. store; plus *Asaqui* ski-in-cas-

brand *Asaqui*'s only American day spa. It's also the site of *Soal Cycle*'s new West Coast headquarters. Developers David Fishbein and Joseph Miller fell for the spot—just ten minutes from Venice and Beverly Hills—in part because it's on the new Expo light rail line, which Miller swears "is changing how people get around L.A." —ALEXANDRA ROUSSLET-CHAVANNE

LABEL TO KNOW

Positano Style Lands Stateside

Le Sirenuse's Carla Sersale brings her *la dolce vita*-inspired collection to New York and London.

For 25 years Emporio Sirenuse, the tiny shop across from Positano's *Le Sirenuse* hotel, has been as much a destination as the family-owned refuge itself. That travelers go out of their way to buy the hand-embroidered silk dresses and bright cotton caftans is due entirely to the stylish Carla Sersale, who, along with husband Antonio, owns the hotel. In 2012, she enlisted her niece in Mumbai to help design the shop's debut collection of luxury Italian resort-wear. "When I work on a collection, I picture the beautiful women I see at the

hotel," Sersale says. Starting next month, however, a trip to the Amalfi Coast is no longer required: The line will be sold at Bergdorf Goodman in New York and Matches Fashion in London (unless can be shipped to the U.S. via matchefashion.com). And Sersale's got even bigger ideas. This year she'll open a men's shop next to Emporio Sirenuse, with its own collection of chinos, shirts, and swim trunks. "After that," she says, laughing, "I may take a break... but probably not." —HEATHER SUMMERSVILLE

Le Sirenuse's beach cover-up from the Spring collection.



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PHOEBE AND ANNETTE STEPHENS; YIORGOS KORDAKIS/COURTESY LE SIRENUSE; CHRIS GORMAN