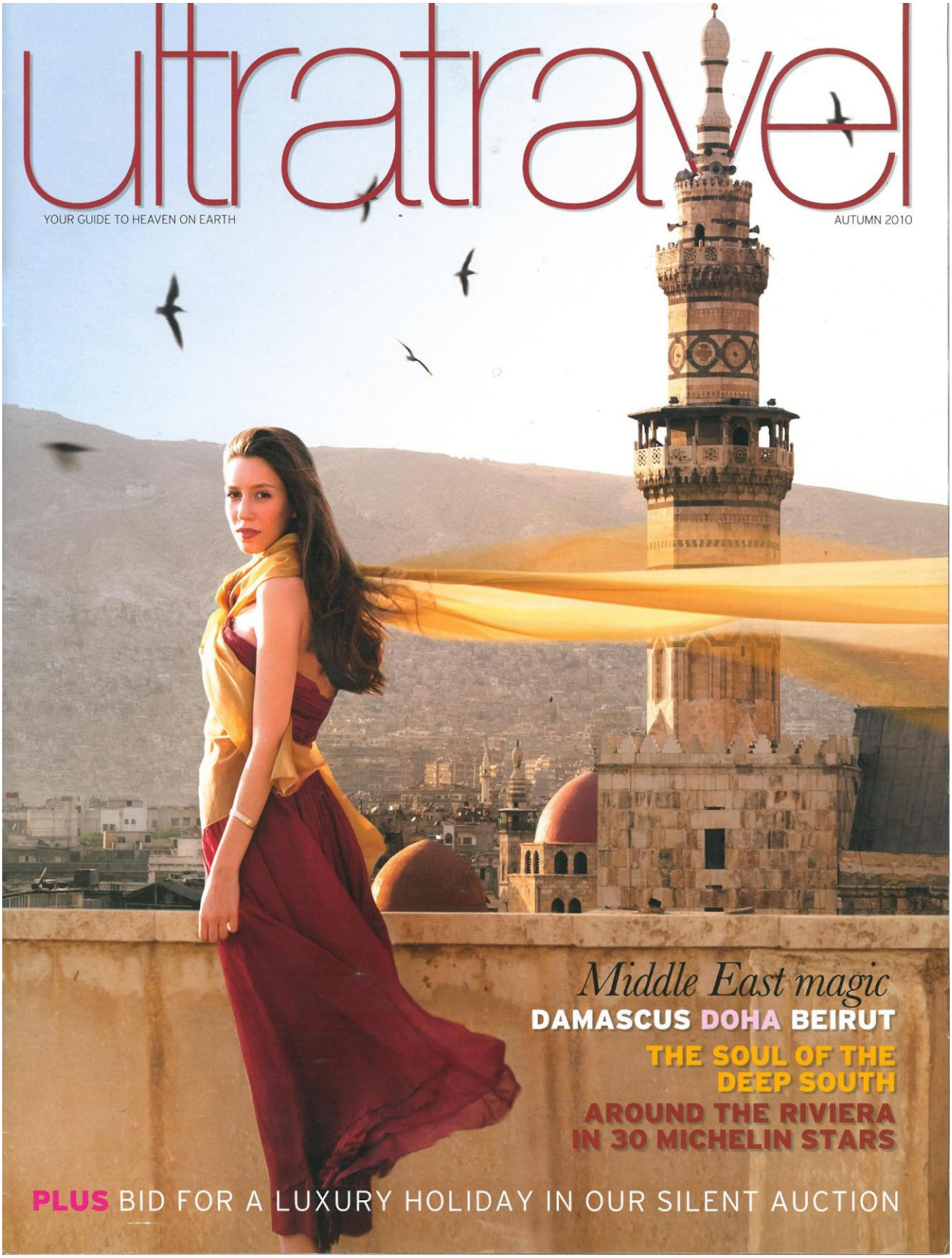
MANGO PR

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WHERE TO BE
WHAT TO SEE
HOW TO BOOK IT

September



Aparte Campero gaucho festival

September 16-26 Neuquèn province, Argentina

Dust flies, hooves pound and that irresistible horsey smell fills the air as thousands of gauchos in chaps and covetable boots meet at the 15,000-acre Estancia Huechahue, 1,000 miles south of Buenos Aires. With the Andes as a backdrop, visitors can simply watch cattle being separated with thrilling skill, or try their hand at lassoing. Hours of fun guaranteed. *Last Frontiers (01296 653000, www.lastfrontiers.com) offers eight nights in Argentina from £3,383, full board. The price includes seven nights at Estancia Huechahue, one night in Buenos Aires and flights from London.*



Das Rheingold at The Met

September 27-April 2 Lincoln Center, Manhattan

With a vast stage and sophisticated technology, New York's Met can tackle the biggest of operas – and none come bigger than Wagner's epic *Ring of the Nibelungs*, comprising four operas of which *Das Rheingold* is the first. Visionary director Robert Lepage joins forces with conductor James Levine while Bryn Terfel plays the role of the god Wotan, battling for mastery of the world.

Tickets, £16-£895 (001 212 362 6000, www.metoperafamily.org). Stay at the Andaz 5th Avenue; £282 (0845 8881234, www.hyatt.com).

Gauguin, Maker of Myth

September 30-January 16 Tate Modern, London

Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) left France, depressed, to find inspiration in Tahiti – resulting in many of the 100 luminous works on show here. The exhibition comes hot on the heels of the V&A's *Diaghilev and the Golden Age of the Ballets Russes* (from September 25) and may attract even more visitors than the 420,000 who flocked to the Royal Academy's van Gogh show. *Bridge & Wickers (020 7483 6555, www.bridgeandwickers.co.uk) is offering a 17-night trip to French Polynesia for £4,727. The price includes four days in Tahiti, a 14-day cruise to the Marquesas Islands where Gauguin died, and flights from London.*



October



Qatar Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe

October 4 Longchamp, Paris

Autumn is racing season, and of the many events to set the heart fluttering, L'Arc is the most glamorous. Star thoroughbreds tackle the challenging slopes of the Bois de Boulogne course in the world's richest turf race. Other fixtures are the Velka Pardubicka Steeplechase in the Czech Republic (October 10), the Emirates Melbourne Cup (November 2), the Breeders' Cup in Kentucky (November 6), The Open at Cheltenham (November 12-14) and the Hennessey Winter Festival at Newbury (November 25-27).

Two nights at the Four Seasons, admission to the race and travel on Eurostar; £1,099 (01244 355580, www.horseracingabroad.com).

White truffle festival

October 9-31 Alba, Piedmont, Italy

The world's finest white truffles are snuffled out each autumn around Alba, to appear on local market stalls and menus. A leisurely gourmet drive could include a stay at the hilltop Relais San Maurizio, a converted monastery with the promising motto "We don't remember days. We remember moments" and a Michelin-starred restaurant serving truffles the best way – in shards over pasta, served with just butter and Parmigiano. *Doubles, £246 (00 39 0141 841900, www.relaissanmaurizio.it).*

