AUGUST 2018

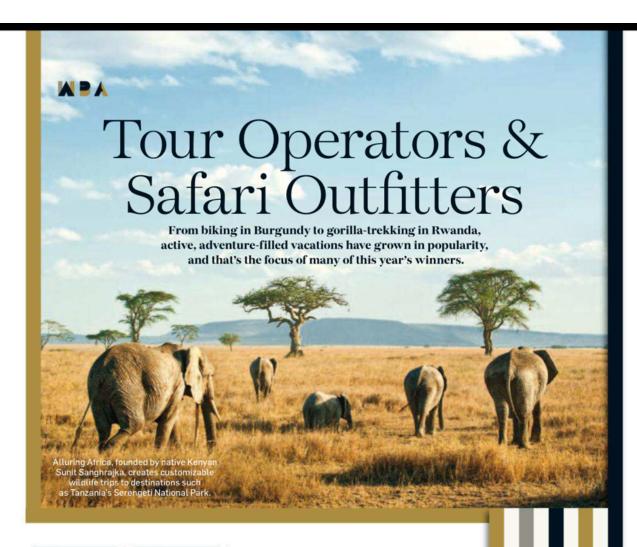
## TRAVEL:

THE WORLD'S STAWARDS 2018

HOTELS / CITIES / ISLANDS / CRUISES / AIRLINES + MOR

in the World. Turn to page 25 to find out what it is.

TRAVELANDLEISURE.COM



## **TOP 10** TOUR **OPERATORS**

- Artisans of Leisure
- ATJ (formerly Asia Transpacific Journeys) 97.32
- 3 Classic Journeys 96.58
- Adventure Unbound, a ROW Company 96.11
- DuVine Cycling & Adventure Co. 95.70
- Trek Travel 95.65
- TCS World Travel 95.41
- Journeys Within, a Wild Frontiers Company 95.33
- VBT Bicycling & Walking Vacations 95.12
- 10 Tauck

## SAFARI OUTFITTERS

- Alluring Africa
- Roar Africa 98.60
- Africa Adventure Consultants
- Rothschild Safaris 97.33
- Micato Safaris 97.24 0
- Extraordinary Journeys
- 96.67 Travel Beyond
- Lion World Travel
- Deeper Africa 96.46
- 10 Wilderness Safaris

## WINNER SPOTLIGHT ARTISANS OF LEISURE



Claiming the No. 1 tour-operator spot for the first time is New York Citybased Artisans of Leisure (artisansofleisure.com), founded by Ashley Ganz. The company offers private touring in more than 70 countries across six continents, with a focus on cultural experiences. Tastes, Ganz says, have changed quite a bit since she started her business in 2003. "Hyper-customization is the new normal. People have more information, which means they have more inspiration-and our specialty is combining different interests into one itinerary. Clients will say, 'I want to hike, but also do a cooking class and go to this boutique I was reading about.' Now, more than ever, we try to customize every minute."

Ganz adds that the Middle East is back on her clients' radar. "Nobody asked about Beirut for so long-and now it's unbelievable to see the amount of demand for that city." Turkey is also trending again, and

North African destinations, too, like Egypt and Morocco. Other big interests? The arts. "We get frequent requests for ceramics tours in Japan. In Portugal, it's about traditional decorative arts like tile making." Heritage travel continues to be popular, with new regions opening up in that category. "We've always planned Jewish-focused itineraries in Central and Eastern Europe, but are now expanding into Belgium, the Baltics, and Scandinavia."