



THE VEV GRAND TO

"TRAVEL IS NOW more about the experiences that enrich our lives beyond just relaxation or sheer indulgence," says David Prior, a cofounder and the CEO of a new bespoke travel club, PRIOR, whose members already include many from the upper echelons of fashion. "Often it's about learning to improve oneself and to engage with another culture by way of acquiring a new skill or appreciation." The concept of travel as an educational endeavor is not a new one. The Grand Tour of yesteryear, once considered the apotheosis of a young gentleman or lady's education, looms in our collective imagination as a romantic, expansive voyage for the wellheeled to steep themselves in classicism and its monuments.

The wanderlust set has a contemporary answer to the Grand Tour: This new generation of travelers is seeking out embroidery classes with artisans in Oaxaca and workshops with shibori masters in Japan. This veneration of the handmade, the handcrafted, and the authentic parallels the slow movement across all consumer habits, including the way we design our living spaces. Homes now reflect this yen for, say, an Uzbek ikat or Provençal terre mêlée ceramics or a block-printed palampore from India. In our digital, overly consumptive age of knockoffs and fast fashion, "people want a true sense of a place," says Prior, "and that might be rugged or refined, rural or regal—just as long as it's real." Mieke ten Have



TUNISIA A ceramic plate by women potters. madebytinja.com.





## FASHION MAKE LOCAL, SELL GLOBAL

Rather than simply adopting or interpreting artisanal techniques, some designers are going straight to the source. Cesta Collective's sisal basket handbags are woven by Rwandan women; Caraluga's cotton jewelry is crafted in its Mexican workshop; and Ulla Johnson's frocks are hand-quilted in India, all with the aim of sustaining the chain from which the ideas came.