

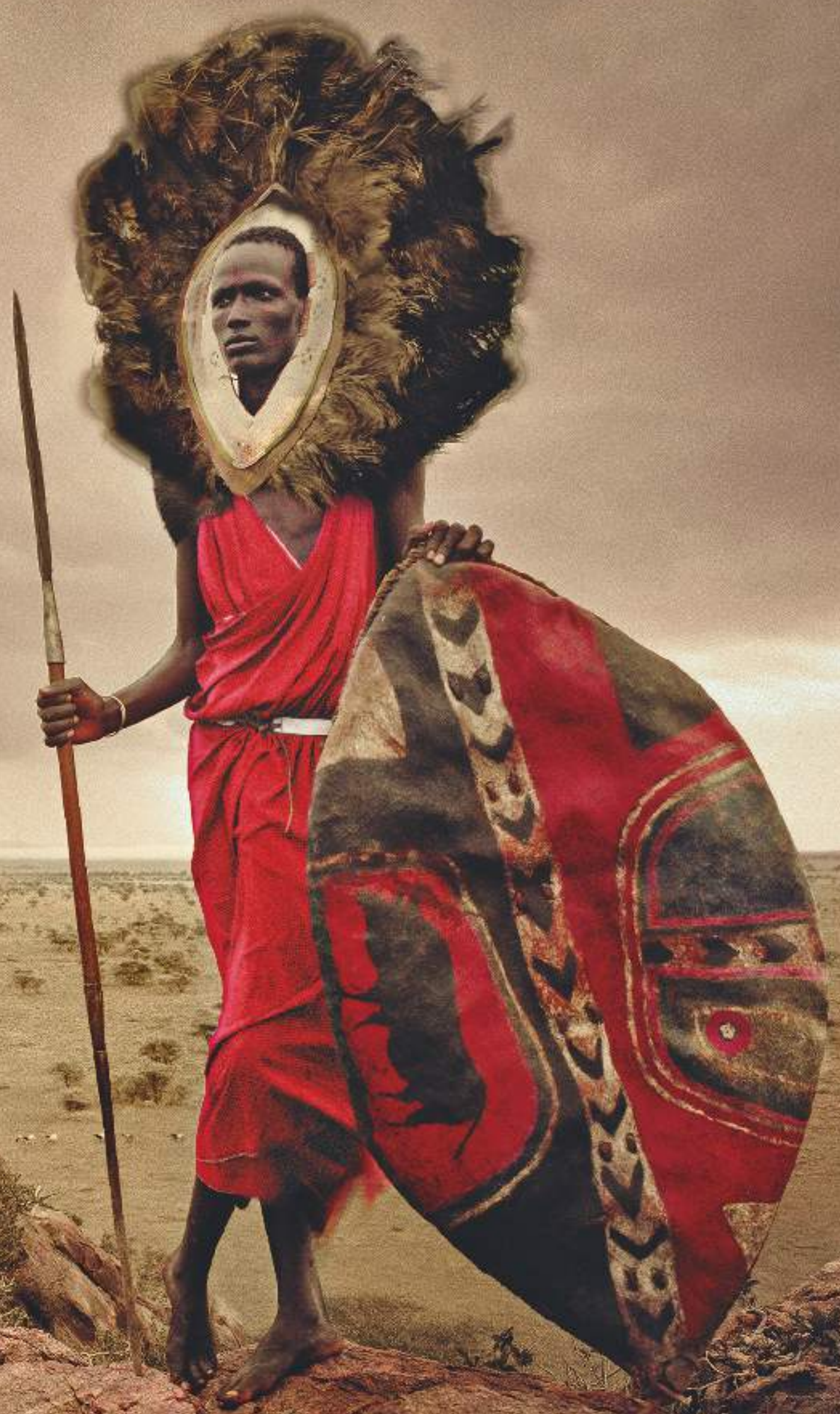
SPECIAL  
DOUBLE  
ISSUE

# Condé Nast Traveller

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

## THE GOLD LIST 2018

THE WORLD'S  
MOST EXTRAORDINARY  
EXPERIENCES



PLUS OUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE PLACES TO STAY





THE  
GOLD LIST  
2018

## AREIAS DO SEIXO COSTA DA PRATA, PORTUGAL

Mix rope and slate, shards of mirror and log fires, fragments of poetry, driftwood and candles, sea views and wild flowers, and you have the bare, beautiful bones of this eco-friendly retreat. But there is an extra, impossible-to-imitate ingredient which brings people back time and time again, and that's the all-embracing warmth and soul that permeates the copper and glass walls – from the brilliantly soothing hands of the therapist in the darkened spa to the evening fire circle around which owners Gonçalo Alves and Marta Fonseca play the guitar and sing. Each of the 14 bedrooms has bare wooden floorboards chalked with a quote or verse and cosy beds with patchwork quilts; doors open wide onto decks with views of the white-capped Atlantic ocean beyond the sand dunes. The handful of new family villas have similar interiors, as well as private pools in varying sizes. The restaurant draws on the kitchen garden for its menu: figs for breakfast; sweet potato, garlic and coriander with octopus for lunch; herbal infusions of lemongrass, fennel and mint at teatime. Or take a bike and fly down to Noah, the owners' right-on-the-beach restaurant for the catch of the day and a glass of perfectly crisp Quinta da Chocapalha white wine under an impeccable, cloudless sky. +351 261 936340; [areiasdoseixo.com](http://areiasdoseixo.com). Doubles from about £235

PHOTOGRAPHS: MANUEL GOMES DA COSTA

