

Cape Verde chanteuse
Mayra Andrade



Caped crusader

The small islands of Cape Verde have a big new voice

Travel tracks

If your knowledge of Cape Verde's music starts with 'Cesaria' and ends with 'Evora' – the singer known as the 'barefoot diva' who won international acclaim in the 1990s – you should learn the name of Mayra Andrade, whose debut album *Navega* was one of last year's highlights. Backed by her Brazilian band, the 23-year-old's languid yet gutsy voice has the power to move packed concert halls, and has just won her 'Best Newcomer' in the BBC's World Music awards. After living all over the world, she has now settled in Paris (head to Le Satellit Café, a small music venue in the Marais, and you may spot her in the audience or on stage), although her lyrics and rhythms are rooted in the islands of her home. 'If you ever visit Cape Verde,' she says, 'you need to go to Boa Vista for the beaches, and Mindelo on São Vicente for the nightlife and music. There are other singers there who deserve to be better known, such as Tito Paris, Tcheka and Sara Tavares.' Three more names to add to your playlist, then. RICK JORDAN
Mayra Andrade will appear at London's Royal Albert Hall on 30 July. Visit www.mayraandrade.com for more details

ASTRO TURF

Where to make star-gazing a five-star experience

As New Zealand celebrates the Maori New Year on 5 June with Matariki – named after the star cluster that appears in the sky on that date – upmarket resorts are training their telescopes on the Southern Cross constellation. Explora's **Hotel de Larache** in Chile has installed a high-spec telescope in the Atacama Desert, and at **Azura**, on Bengueria Island in Mozambique, the resident marine biologist dazzles guests with lectures on deep-sky objects, while butler Greg is a good source of local lore – according to one legend, the Milky Way was formed when a village girl threw some embers into the sky. Back in New Zealand, a campaign is gathering pace to have the skies of Aoraki Mount Cook National Park designated a Starlight Reserve by 2009, UNESCO's International Year of Astronomy. LISA JOHNSON
Doubles at Hotel de Larache (www.explora.com) from US\$3,284 for three nights; *doubles at Azura* (www.azura-retreats.com) from US\$450



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