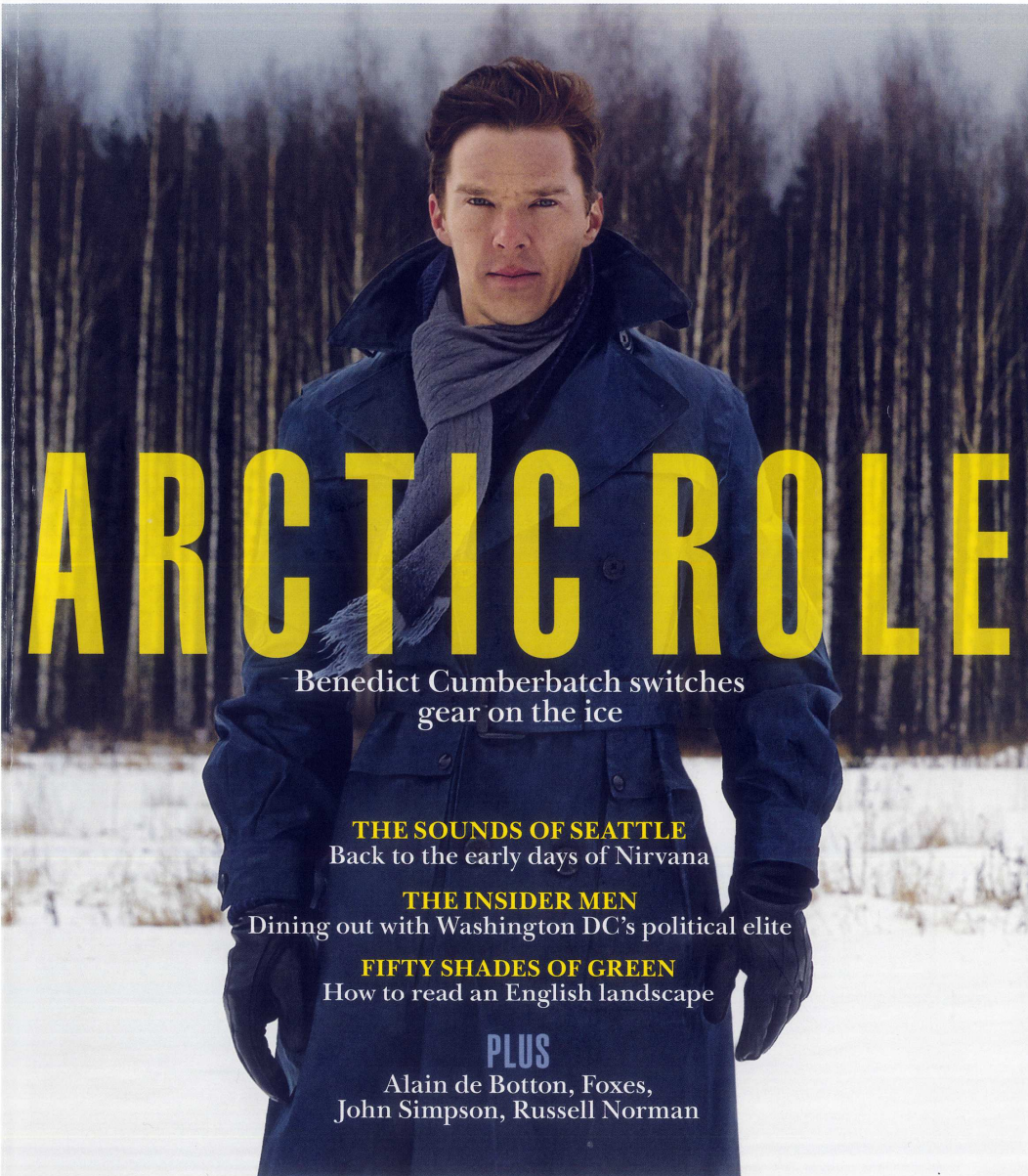


# high life

CHANGE YOUR VIEW / APRIL 2014



# ARCTIC ROLE

Benedict Cumberbatch switches gear on the ice

**THE SOUNDS OF SEATTLE**  
Back to the early days of Nirvana

**THE INSIDER MEN**  
Dining out with Washington DC's political elite

**FIFTY SHADES OF GREEN**  
How to read an English landscape

PLUS

Alain de Botton, Foxes, John Simpson, Russell Norman

## ◆ Detours

Art / Music / Food / Books / Sport

### THE HEEL'S HAD A REBOOT

With few tourists and a wealth of charming attractions, Puglia is a hot destination for 2014. And the best places to stay are the *masserias*, or converted farmhouses. Isabelle D'Arcy Clark chooses one for every occasion

#### BEST FOR THE BODY ■ MASSERIA TORRE COCCARO

Little has been overlooked in this stunning conversion. Wander through its lush garden gathering fruit and vegetables, then put them to good use in a lesson on traditional cuisine. Later, in the underground spa, you can relax in a hot tub or luxuriate in a eucalyptus-scented Turkish bath. From £235 a night for a double including breakfast. [masseriatorrecoccaro.com](http://masseriatorrecoccaro.com)

#### BEST FOR AN ITALIAN WEDDING ■ BARSENTO MASSERIA FORTIFICATA

Perfect for Mediterranean-style nuptials, with a small hilltop abbey and guests staying in *trulli*, the cone-roofed buildings found in Puglia. The outdoor dining area is set under a canopy of ivy and fairy lights against the stone arches of the 12th-century farmhouse. £123 a night. [barsentum.it](http://barsentum.it)

**BEST ESCAPE ■  
MASSERIA VAGONE**  
Guests have their own *trullo* at this rural retreat, which has a citrus orchard for contemplative strolls. The more active can venture further afield, while music lovers will enjoy the concert hall, which hosts regular live music. From £45 a night. [masseriavagone.it](http://masseriavagone.it)

GO ON THEN...  
DESTINATION: PUGLIA

#### FIND IT AT BA.COM

British Airways flies to Bari from London Gatwick. Join the Executive Club and earn Avios every time you fly.

#### BEST FOR FAMILIES ■ MASSERIA TORRICELLA

For families with young children this getaway is ideal, as under-threes stay for just £8 a night, while for every month except August, the seventh night of a weekly stay is free. From £29 a night for a double including breakfast. [masseriatoricella.it](http://masseriatoricella.it)

#### ■ BEST LOCATION ■ MASSERIA SALINOLA

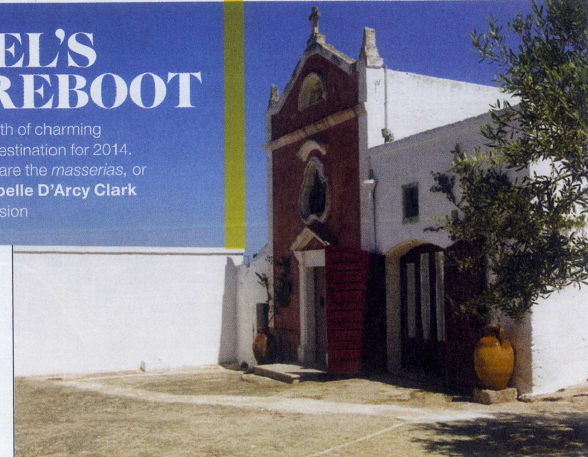
With old stone staircases across the exterior, this converted 18th-century salt warehouse holds many surprises. Nestled in the Salento hills, it's just steps from the beach, but with its pool, hot tub and solarium, you might never leave. From £935 a week for two. [masseriasalinola.it](http://masseriasalinola.it)

#### ■ BEST FOR VISTAS ■ MASSERIA CISTERNA ROSSA

Panoramic views over ancient olive groves from its rooftop terrace set this place apart, as does its organic vegetable garden, orchard, pool, alfresco dining area and wood-burning pizza oven. £5,350 a week (sleeps eight). [thethinkingtraveller.com](http://thethinkingtraveller.com)

#### ■ BEST FOR LUXURY ■ MASSERIA LAMACOPPA

High ceilings and decor mix traditional with modern twists and all is designed to indulge – gym, pool, pizza oven, 12-person hot tub and hammam. The two buildings sleep 17, but can be booked separately for groups of six or 11. From £12,220 a week full-board. [thethinkingtraveller.com](http://thethinkingtraveller.com)



#### BEST FOR AN EVENT ■

**MASSERIA BONELLI**  
Built specifically as a location for functions, this *masseria's* various indoor spaces can seat up to 250 guests beneath their impressive domed ceilings, while up to 400 people can be accommodated under starry skies in the outdoor area. From £80pp for events. [masseriabonelli.it](http://masseriabonelli.it)

#### BEST FOR THE SOUL ■ MASSERIA CURTI VECCHI

The original stonework here has been restored to provide the perfect backdrop to modern luxuries such as a pool, an outdoor cinema, a well-stocked wine cellar and bikes for exploring the countryside and nearby town, Lecce. £5,350 a week (sleeps eight). [thethinkingtraveller.com](http://thethinkingtraveller.com)