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word of mouth

highlights are a ground-floor bar overlooking the canal, and an attic suite with views of La Serenissima (39-041-528-4644; palazzinagrassi.it; doubles, \$280–\$590). The **Palazzo Grassi**, next door, is one of Venice's most important museums and was recently revived by architect Tadao Ando. His airy interiors provide a flattering backdrop for current exhibitions as well as antiquities—"Rome and the Barbarians" is now on—without clashing with the ornate eighteenth-century ceiling frescoes (palazzograssi.it). In a city famous for glass, the stunning pieces at **Galleria Marina Barovier** stand out (3216 San Marco; barovier.it). Nearby, interiors



boutique **Gaggio** offers plush hand-painted velvets of Venice past, plus vintage lamps—Uma Thurman is a fan (3441-3451 San Marco; gaggio.it). **L'Arcobaleno** is a one-stop shop for Venetian painters and wannabes (4615 Calle delle Rasse), while the two outposts of **Gallery Holly Snapp** show a diverse collection of art, from moody watercolors to contemporary abstracts. Snapp is the neighborhood's unofficial ambassador, giving counsel on out-of-the-way wine bars (Calle delle Botteghe; galleryhollysnapp.com). The unpretentious **Dai do Cancari**, with rare bottles from Friuli, flasks of the store's house wine, and wicked grappa, is a must for oenophiles (1234 San Marco; daidocancari.it). Hungry? Everyone on lawyers to gondoliers eats at **Osteria al Bacareto**. To make like a Venetian, stand at the bar and order the *bigoli in salsa*—anchovy pasta (3447 San Marco; 39-041-528-9336; entrées, \$22–\$27; closed Saturday night and Sunday).



Sail away: Seaweed farming off Sabah, in north Borneo.

MALAYSIA Borneo

(Buzz)
island

Done Ball? Try Borneo. With its swaths of forest and pristine coast, the Malayan

part of the island is one of the best wildernesses, and now it has the infrastructure to match. **KUDAT RIVIERA** features a series of stylishly converted rice barns abutting a private beach, open this spring in Sabah (60-88-246200; kudatriviera.com). **REMOTE LANDS** has custom tours from Kuala Lumpur; activities include trips to local villages and sea turtle reserves (646-4100; remotelands.com; from \$500 per person per day). **CRYSTAL CRUISES** is launching a new itinerary to the region, with visits to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, where once-captive primates are taught skills like climbing before being released into the wild (crystalcruises.com; three-day sailing, \$2,950 per person).

Young jeweler Lisa Salzer, of Lulu Frost, has teamed up with designer Chris Benz to string together vibrant one-off bracelets incorporating beads made by Rwandan refugees from recycled magazine paper. Proceeds go to relief organization Women for Women.

Bracelets by Lulu Frost for Chris Benz (212-826-8950; from \$115).



Chef Jamie Oliver

UNITED KINGDOM Cheap Eats

(Buzz)
food

You no longer need to re-mortgage to eat well in the U.K. Top British chefs are

opening "diffusion line" restaurants and serving high-quality grub at palatable prices. Gordon Ramsay has just unveiled his third London gastro-pub, **THE NORTHWOODS**, in Maida Vale (93 Northwood Crescent; 44-20-7552-7100; entrées, \$20–\$28), while Tom Kerridge has **TOM'S PLACE**, an eco-friendly fish-and-chippie near his Michelin-starred joint (11 Cale St.; 44-20-7552-1806; entrées, \$20–\$29). Next on the High Street chain **JAMIE'S ITALY** from Jamie Oliver: Pasta entrées at the first branch, in Bath, will start at \$10 (Milsom Pl.; milsomplace.com).

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