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passion for tulips

BETH CHATTO shares
her planting wisdom



CONTRIBUTORS

Rose Anne de Pampelonne

INTERIOR DESIGNER

When Rose Anne de Pampelonne says she went into interior design by accident, she means it literally: 'We were moving house when I fell and broke my coccyx. As I was immobile, a friend who was starting up an interior-design company came to help me, and through this experience she urged me to go into business with her.' Since then Rose Anne has gone from one luxurious project to the next, from a house in St-Tropez, a beach resort in the Philippines and a palace in Saudi Arabia to penthouse apartments in Paris, including the glamorous one on page 132. Next, she plans to launch a homeware range to complement her clothing line.



Fritz von der Schulenburg

PHOTOGRAPHER

'Photographing an interior is all about capturing the atmosphere of the space,' says Fritz von der Schulenburg, who for this issue has photographed his own London flat (page 144), which is 'flooded with light, even on the dullest of days'. Fritz started out in advertising, as an art director, and worked with some of the most iconic photographers of the Sixties and Seventies, before becoming an interiors photographer himself in the Eighties. He has just finished his most recent book, *Minimalism in the Grand Style*, which will be published by Thames & Hudson in the autumn, and is shortly to begin work on a retrospective.

Lisa Johnson

WRITER

For this issue, Lisa Johnson has written about Pädaste Manor (page 193) in Estonia, a hotel she loved for 'its novelistic quality - it feels like the setting for a story.' Having studied languages at Oxford, Lisa was well prepared for a career as a travel writer, which has taken her to many far-flung destinations, her favourites being the 'remote, haunting landscapes' of Lake Turkana in Kenya, Oman's Empty Quarter and the Arctic Circle, as well as the windswept beaches of Cornwall, where she is pictured. Lisa's ideal holiday would be to sail the Indian Ocean, 'following the trade winds and sleeping under the stars'.



Rory Carnegie

PHOTOGRAPHER

Since publishing his first photographic book, *Sons of the Moon*, based on his gap-year travels in the Andes, Rory Carnegie has exhibited in galleries around the world, notably the National Portrait Gallery in London and the Lowry in Salford. Alongside his editorial and commercial

work, Rory works with the Oxford charity Asylum Welcome, teaching photography to young asylum seekers, and some of his own portraits from this project appeared in the book *How the World Came to Oxford*. In this issue, Rory's photographs illustrate the 'Lifestyle' feature on page 102 □



QUIET TIME

Lisa Johnson absorbs the stillness of the Estonian isle of Muhu in the Baltic Sea and finds something magical about spa resort Pädaste Manor

Time seems to stand still at Pädaste Manor. In this idyllic setting, looking out over the Baltic Sea, everything happens in slow motion: the wind rustling in the trees; a dragonfly darting down the channel to the bay; water lapping against a rowing boat. It's eight in the evening but the sun is midday-bright.

The hotel is situated on the diminutive island of Muhu, just off the coast of western Estonia; surrounded by mossy, stone walls, it has a distinct *Sleeping Beauty* quality. When Imre Sooäär first showed the property to his German business partner, Martin Breuer, trees were growing through the windows. Since 2007, the two men have gradually brought it back to life, opening rooms in the Carriage House, the Private Farm House and the Manor House.

There is still a magical hush to the place, which is conspicuous after a stopover in Tallinn, Estonia's attractive and dynamic capital. The Merchant's House Hotel, with 37 state-of-the-art rooms in two medieval houses mere steps from the Germanic Town Hall Square, is an excellent base from which to explore the old town's narrow streets, thick stone walls, antique towers and tantalising views of the harbour and sea – and it's not that hard to imagine it all without the cruise groups, waitresses in medieval garb and shops selling model ships and amber jewellery.

Pädaste, two-and-a-half hours away by car and ferry, is non-touristy and a fascinating introduction to the history of the country as a whole. The last owner/occupant, Axel von Buxhoeveden, was a descendant of Bishop Albert, a Teutonic Knight who

conquered Muhu in 1227. Axel was hunting master to Tsar Nicholas II, and he and his wife, Charlotte von Siemens, regularly played host to musicians from St Petersburg. Then the political turmoil of the early twentieth century took over: Axel was murdered by Estonian communist Viktor Kingisepp, and Charlotte left for Brandenburg, where she committed suicide as the Russians advanced on Berlin in 1944.

Pädaste served as a German and Soviet army base during the war, and eventually became an old people's home. After a roof collapsed in 1982, however, it stood empty until 1996, when Imre, the son of a Muhu head teacher and a truck driver, returned to Estonia from Canada, where he had fled to escape conscription into the Soviet army. The estate now has 23 rooms and suites, and a

WAYS & MEANS Three nights at Pädaste Manor, Muhu, B&B, and two at the Merchant's House Hotel, Tallinn, B&B, costs from £690 per person, based on two people sharing, including flights and transfers, with Baltic Holidays (0845-070 5711; www.balticholidays.com). Muhu is two-and-a-half



hours by car and ferry from Tallinn. See also www.padaste.ee, www.merchantshousehotel.com and www.muhu.info. Pädaste Manor will be closed from October 30, 2011, to March 1, 2012.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT Pädaste Manor is set within acres of forested parkland. It overlooks a beautiful bay in the Baltic Sea. Tallinn is one of Europe's most completely preserved medieval cities

private house, all with wooden floors, leather chairs and cosy, embroidered throws. The most graceful rooms are in the Manor House, especially number 15, which has its own Poetry Loft up in the rafters. The Private Farm House, which accommodates six to eight people, is a mix of rustic chic and modern comfort; it has a free-standing bath with a view of the surrounding forest, and attracts the occasional inquisitive moose.

The Nordic cuisine by young Estonian chef Peeter Pihel is exceptional, combining ash-roasting and hay-baking with elegant updates of Estonian staples, such as braised veal cheek with red cabbage, juniper berries and apple-celery cream, using leaves and herbs from the garden and forest.

The spa adheres to a similar policy of local traditions, stylishly reinvented. The detoxifying mud wraps and hay baths, and the log-cabin sauna with its outdoor plunge tub, are the ideal antidote to a bike ride on one of the hotel's Electra Amsterdam bicycles. Muhu is a popular holiday spot due to its twelfth-century fortress, a thirteenth-century Gothic church, an ancient burial site, an authentic farmstead, and horse-drawn carriages and sledges worthy of *Doctor Zhivago*.

The highlight of my stay, though, was sitting in the wood-fired hot tub on the shore in broad daylight at 11 o'clock at night. One couple, I heard, had been toasting each other with a bottle of Ruinart Champagne when they suddenly found themselves surrounded by geese. But as I watched a rowing boat cross silently over to the nearby 'island of love', I was happy to absorb the peace □