



**Trench Style**  
How classic military details are shaping dresses, corsets and more **D3**

# OFF DUTY

**Unidentical Twin**

Why the Volvo C40 Recharge beats the non-electric XC40 **D11**



FASHION | FOOD | DESIGN | TRAVEL | GEAR

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Saturday/Sunday, April 23 - 24, 2022 | **D1**

## Fleur to Ceiling

After decades as *pattern non grata*, floral motifs are budding again in interior design—letting the Covid-weary and technology-fatigued bring ‘nature’ indoors

By YELENA MOROZ ALPERT

**W**HILE house hunting to relocate for a new job, Kristine

and Lars Niki toured a home in Durham, Conn. The owners had left behind carpets, drapes and wallpaper exuberant with color and pattern, specifically florals. Ms. Niki loved the spacious house but her knee-jerk instinct was to “rip up the rugs and paint everything white.” By closing, however, the English-rose carpets and garden-party curtains had grown on the couple. “Every HGTV-show bathroom—here’s your subway tile and gray wood and white walls,” said the insurance-claims director, 38, who decided not to change the décor. “This was just so freaking different.”

Ms. Niki’s abrupt taste for botanicals surprised her, but she is part of a growing market. This month, J.Crew released home accessories in posy-packed Liberty fabric. Twelve-year-old stationery brand Rifle Paper Co. in March introduced a collection of furniture in its signature hand-painted florals (see box on D4). York Wallcoverings, in York, Pa., reported a 215% growth in floral wallcoverings sales over the last two years.

Among the factors driving the resurgence of interest in petals: Covid-weary Americans’ desire to usher nature into their technology-clogged, WFH homes and the maturing of a generation for whom florals are a fresh, not fusty, idea. “I do think millennials are a big push. Wallpaper is new for them, and they are excited by pattern and color,” said Gina Shaw, vice president of product development at York. Zak Profera, founder and creative director of textile firm Zak+Fox, in New York City, noted that novelty similarly drives the success of his Sycomorus design, inspired by historical tapestries most people don’t come across today. “When they do, it’s an exciting discovery,” he said.

Florals have been *pattern non grata* for decades—in the late 1990s they were buried by beige; in the aughts by minimalist white; in the teens by the color blocking of mid-century modern or by our love affair with gray—a room’s flora limited to a lone fiddle-leaf fig.

Kathleen Walsh, a New York City designer, noticed that clients’ hesitation with florals runs deep. Some may recall fussy calicoes in a great aunt’s cluttered living room or may still be recovering from the late-’80s shabby-chic style.

Please turn to page D4



Over the last two years, Pennsylvania company York Wallcoverings has experienced a 215% growth in sales of floral wallcoverings. Birds cost extra.

In March, millennial-favorite stationery Rifle Paper Co. launched a collection of furniture in the sort of floral pattern that is ‘growing’ up this sofa.

SPEROS/SHARIS

### Inside

## A Trip That Runs Like Clockwork

For a sampling of Switzerland’s prime assets, follow our foolproof itinerary. All you need is a rail ticket and a willingness to make tracks.



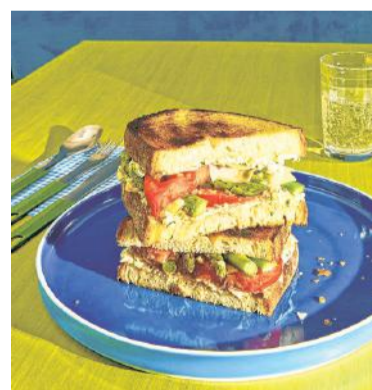
**OFF THE RAILS** Lugano, in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland, is the final stop on the Gotthard Panorama Express, a half-day boat and train trip.

By RYAN HAASE

**E**VERY SEASON in Switzerland is a good season, but this three-day itinerary, focusing on dynamic cities and the rail routes between them, is optimal for long spring and summer days. You can align with Art Basel, one of the country’s most famous cultural exports happening June 16-19, or you can dodge that weekend’s surcharges and still get hefty doses of innovative art and rich cuisine. An upfront investment in a three-day Swiss Travel Pass, from about \$245 a person, covers unlimited intercity travel by train, most public transit networks, water taxis and admission to more than 500 museums.

**DAY 1**

**Zurich to Bern to Basel**  
Zurich’s airport greets you with concrete International Style terminals linked by a peppy *Please turn to page D8*



**THE RIGHT BITE**

Asparagus, tomatoes, chimichurri cream cheese. Result: a grand sandwich **D6**



**PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND...OMG! YOUR SHIRT!**

Button up a fashion statement **D2**



**SUMMER VACATIONS: SOME OVERARCHING CONCERNS**

How to plan a trip in a season of rising prices and big crowds **D9**

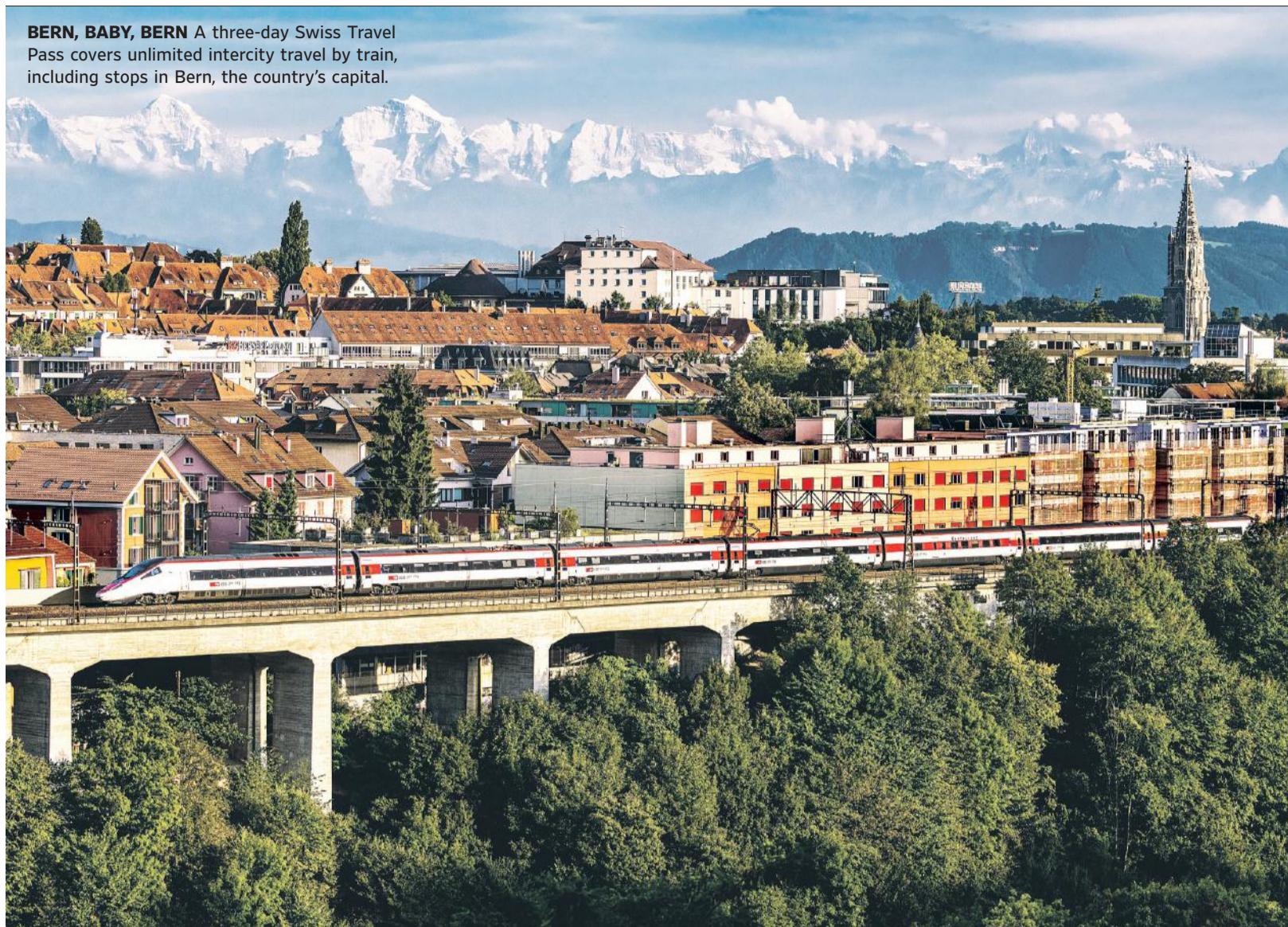


**TIME TRAVELER**

How musician-actor Janelle Monáe trawls the past (and future) for inspiration **D10**



# ADVENTURE & TRAVEL



**BERN, BABY, BERN** A three-day Swiss Travel Pass covers unlimited intercity travel by train, including stops in Bern, the country's capital.



**DELISH** Pastries at St. Jakob Beck, one of the purveyors in Zurich's Im Viadukt food hall.

## A 3-Day Tour of Switzerland by Train

Continued from page D1  
tram playing the sounds of yodelers yodeling and cows mooing. From there it's a little over an hour to Bern, Switzerland's capital, aboard the SBB intercity express train. Once you arrive in Bern, stow your bag in one of the station's lockers and saunter over to the medieval center (about 10 minutes away), built on a hill overlooking a crook of the Aare river. Wide pedestrianized streets framed by sandstone arcades lead to the gold-flecked face of the Zytglogge clock tower, where mechanical puppets animate every hour, as they have for centuries. Down the street, descend into the cavernous Kornhauskeller for early lunch. Frescoed, vaulted ceilings rise above plates of Bernese pork and cheese.

Basel, wedged between France and Germany an hour north of Bern, also features an old town with a Gothic cathedral overlooking a river, but our focus here is more contemporary. Take the #8 tram from the station to Hotel Krafft Basel, the sleekly furnished occupant of an 1800s building (*from about \$260 a night*).

Drop your bag then hop back on the #8 train for the 20-minute ride over the German border to the terminus at Weil am Rhein. There, you'll find a sidewalk dotted with revolving display cases of miniature furniture, leading you like breadcrumbs to the sprawling campus of the Vitra Design Museum. With buildings by star architects like Zaha Hadid and Tadao Ando, this working factory also offers guided tours. The highlight is the minimalist red brick Schaudepot. Designed by local heroes Herzog & de Meuron, it warehouses and displays a collection of furniture masterworks from more than a century of design. The Schaudepot's gift shop, as well as the showroom on the north side of campus, will claw at your wallet. Leaving the grounds, follow artist Tobias Rehberger's 24 sculptures through undulating meadows on a 45-minute walk (get the map at 24Stops.info). The walk leads to the Fondation Beyeler, a contemporary art center set inside a Renzo Piano-designed building and surrounded by fields and ponds. Back in central Basel (via the #6 tram), walk about 10 minutes to Bundesbahn, a train-themed restaurant behind the central station, for some traditional spaetzli or schnitzel. Then have a nightcap a couple blocks away at Werk 8, a bar in a former machine factory



Veal cutlets at the venerable Kronenhalle in Zurich. Below: The Schaudepot on the grounds of the Vitra Design Museum, near Basel.



Clockwise from above: The Neruda cocktail at Werk 8, a bar housed in a former factory in Basel; Kornhauskeller, in Bern; Le Corbusier's modernist pavilion in Zurich; Lugano's Hotel Splendide Royal;



that's part of a burgeoning creative neighborhood.

### DAY 2

#### Basel to Zurich

Back on the intercity train, an hourlong morning ride returns you to Zurich. Take a taxi to the Dolder Grand, a

luxury hilltop chalet that originally opened in 1899 and acquired sinuous modern wings during a 2008 renovation. Check in and leave your bag but resist the urge to park yourself on the terrace, overlooking the city and Lake Zurich—there will be time for

that later (*from about \$800 a night*). For now, take another taxi back down the hill for lunch at the bustling food hall built beneath the refurbished railway arches at Im Viadukt. A couple blocks away, the Löwenbräukunst is a former brewery-turned-cutting-edge

arts center, including exhibition spaces from homegrown powerhouse Hauser & Wirth. Take the tram 20 minutes southeast to the next stop on the itinerary, the Kunsthaus Zürich, now the largest art museum in Switzerland following the October 2021



opening of a new wing by David Chipperfield. Very expensive-looking rooms of concrete, wood and brass showcase impressionist masterpieces and explore their controversial history: Emil Bührle assembled the collection with the wealth he earned as a Nazi arms dealer. The water lilies in the Kunsthaus' 20-foot-long Monets aren't the only ones going for a painterly float. Walk 10 minutes down the road to Zurich's waterfront, where in warm weather, residents dive right in from public bathing pavilions like those at Seebad Utoquai and Strandbad Tiefenbrunnen. The water is typically as clear and placid as a swimming pool, but few swimming pools can boast these views, with Zurich's spires to the north and crystalline alps to the south.

Stroll the lakefront park Zürichhorn, passing Le Corbusier's modernist pavilion, on the way to catch the #2 or #4 tram that glides from the leafy streets of the upmarket Seefeld neighborhood toward the tangled lanes of the old city center. Aim to reach the Lindenhof hilltop park at the top of the hour to have your panoramic view set to the clanging of dozens of church bells. After stopping back at the Dolder Grand to freshen up and have an aperitif al fresco, head to Kronenhalle, about 2 miles away. A nearly century-old institution, the dining room heaves with dark wood paneled walls, white tablecloths, white-jacketed servers and hearty, meaty dishes.

### DAY 3

#### Zurich to Lucerne to Lugano

In the morning, on the way to the train station, dip into Confiiserie Sprüngli's flagship chocolate shop before boarding a 50-minute train to Lucerne. Once you arrive, you'll embark on the Gotthard Panorama Express, a half-day journey from central Swiss-German territory down to the Italian-speaking south. The first leg is aboard a graceful steamboat and the second by glass-domed train (the rail company handles the transfer of your luggage from start to finish). Before you set out, give yourself the morning to amble along Lucerne's mirror-like lake, crisscrossing the 14th-century wooden bridge before peeking into the white-washed and gloriously gilded Jesuit Church—rare religious flair in a country primarily of Reformation austerity. In the harbor you begin your boat trip, passing gentle mountains and the towns that clamber up them from the shoreline. Eat lunch onboard at the full-service restaurant. The train leg winds through verdant valleys and mountainside villages until you arrive late afternoon in Lugano. Check into the Hotel Splendide Royal, set along the tree-lined lakefront promenade (*from about \$480 per night*). Then stroll 10 minutes south to board the funicular to the top of Mount San Salvatore around sunset to watch the whole place bask in the golden hour.

This region has a history of serving homestyle dinners in rustic "grotto" restaurants, and tonight you'll go to Grotto della Salute, but instead of sitting in a cave you'll be on its breezy terrace. Back at the hotel, fall asleep amid belle époque grandeur. At midnight, the travel pass for your chariot expires, which is just as well. Lugano is too lovely to just roll through. Odds are, you'll want to linger.