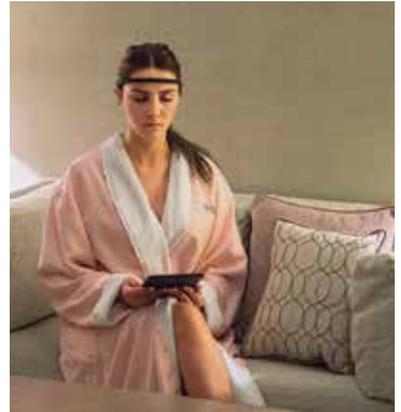


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PICK UP A NEW HOBBY.

At these hotels, vacation can also kick off the pursuit of a novel passion.



Clockwise from left: Getting the shot at Vermejo Park Ranch, artist Haena Chen Biton, an inner journey at The St. Regis Mexico City, and mise en place at Mimo San Sebastián.

A NEW MEXICO PHOTO WORKSHOP

In remote northeastern New Mexico, Ted Turner's 45-room, 585,000-acre **Vermejo Park Ranch** is a pristine setting for a four-day photography intensive, led by professional photographer Sean Fitzgerald. Students spend their time on the land **capturing images** of bellowing bison, newborn wolf pups, ghost towns, starry night skies, and summer wildflowers brought by seasonal rains. *Photography workshops held in June, August, and September; from \$2,400, including accommodations, meals, and guides.*

ART LESSONS IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Channel your inner Bob Ross and brush some happy little palm trees onto a canvas – peaceful Sunday-morning **painting classes** are held on the Great Lawn at Florida's **Acqualina Resort & Spa**, on Sunny Isles Beach. Local abstract artist Haena Chen Biton uses a brief sound meditation to quiet participants' inner critic so they can approach the experience with a positive attitude. The 98-room resort will even ship your masterpiece home. *Doubles from \$800; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 spa credit. Painting class, \$35.*

A COOKING COURSE IN SPAIN

San Sebastián, Spain, is a pretty great place to take a cooking class – the city has one of the highest concentrations of Michelin-starred restaurants in the world. At Mimo San Sebastián, a culinary school housed in the 139-room **Hotel Maria Cristina**, aspiring chefs roast vegetables, shave truffles, and sous-vide lamb during a five-hour **Michelin Star Secrets** course. Bring your A game: Alain Ducasse and other powerhouse chefs have been known to swing by the kitchen. *Doubles from \$292; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 dining credit. Michelin Star Secrets class, \$213.*

MEXICO CITY MEDITATION

Find serenity at **The St. Regis Mexico City**, where a new mindfulness series at the 189-room hotel's Remède Spa helps guests practice meditation. Wellness seekers learn breathing techniques while wearing a futuristic **Muse headband**, which increases focus by translating brain waves into soothing, nature-inspired sounds. Add the meditation session to a spa treatment or book a 90-minute in-room relaxation ritual that combines aromatherapy, shiatsu massage, and meditation. *Doubles from \$419; Virtuoso travelers receive breakfast daily and a \$100 hotel credit. In-room relaxation treatment, \$190.*

(PHOTO WORKSHOP) SEAN FITZGERALD