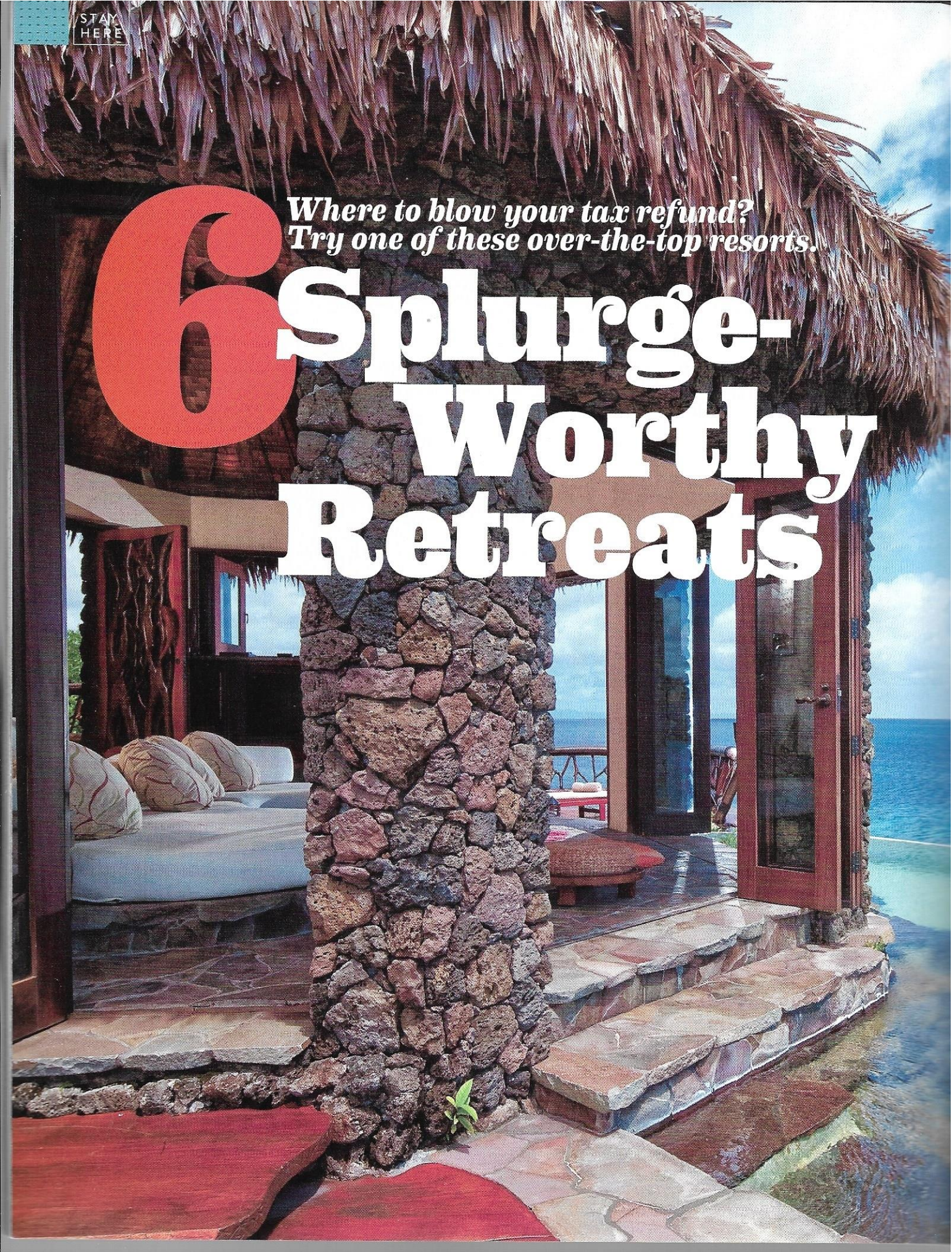


STAY
HERE

*Where to blow your tax refund?
Try one of these over-the-top resorts.*

6 Splurge- Worthy Retreats

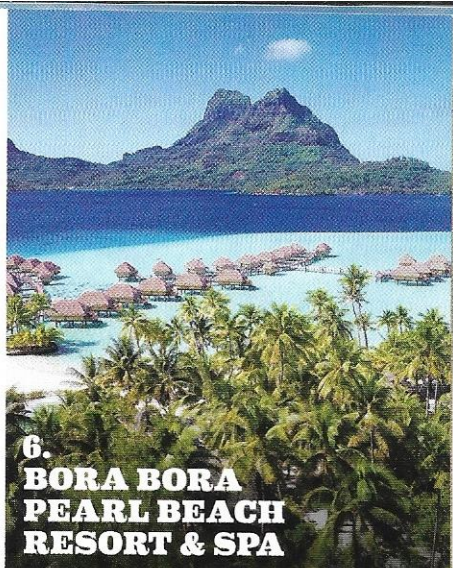


5. **STEAMBOAT BAY FISHING CLUB**

NOYES ISLAND, ALASKA

Reaching this anglers' paradise isn't for the faint of heart. The only resort — in fact, the only building — on remote Noyes Island, Steamboat Bay is accessible solely by seaplane, on a hair-raising flight over the glacier-filled Inside Passage. So why come all this way? Quite simply, it's where you'll find some of the world's best fishing. Halibut, yelloweye rockfish, king salmon — some weighing in excess of 50 pounds — this is where they feed. So expect to catch plenty of fish, but don't expect a typical rough-and-tumble Alaskan fishing-lodge experience. Steamboat Bay is luxury all the way, from the boats (custom-built, heated cabin cruisers) to the food (gourmet three-course dinners) to the amenities (open bar, bayfront hot tub, onsite massage). And then there are the accommodations: The Lodge and newly built Residence — all honeyed native spruce, wood-burning fireplaces and plush bathrobes — are limited to just 24 guests. So after a long day of hauling in your catch, relax in an Adirondack chair and soak up the pristine Alaska scenery — humpback whales included.

From \$5,390, all-inclusive, for three nights; steamboatbay.com — Jennifer Ceaser



6. **BORA BORA PEARL BEACH RESORT & SPA**

MOTU TEVAIROA,
FRENCH POLYNESIA

I jump off the deck of my overwater bungalow — one of 50 at this French Polynesian resort — and find myself floating in a school of vibrantly colored parrotfish. The lagoon is less than 5 feet deep, a light shade of green. The bungalows frame the view of Bora Bora's central, mountainous island — and adventure beckons. I swim farther out, to the distinct line where the water turns from green to deep blue as it drops hundreds of feet at once. As I tread water, an outrigger canoe approaches me from the main island. The oarsman stops before me, then motions that I should try out his canoe. He gets out and I get in; I try to paddle, but I repeatedly flip over, much to his delight. Eventually he paddles off, laughing, and I take my sweet time swimming back, along with a great story waiting to be shared. *From \$404 per night; spmhotels.com — DL*

