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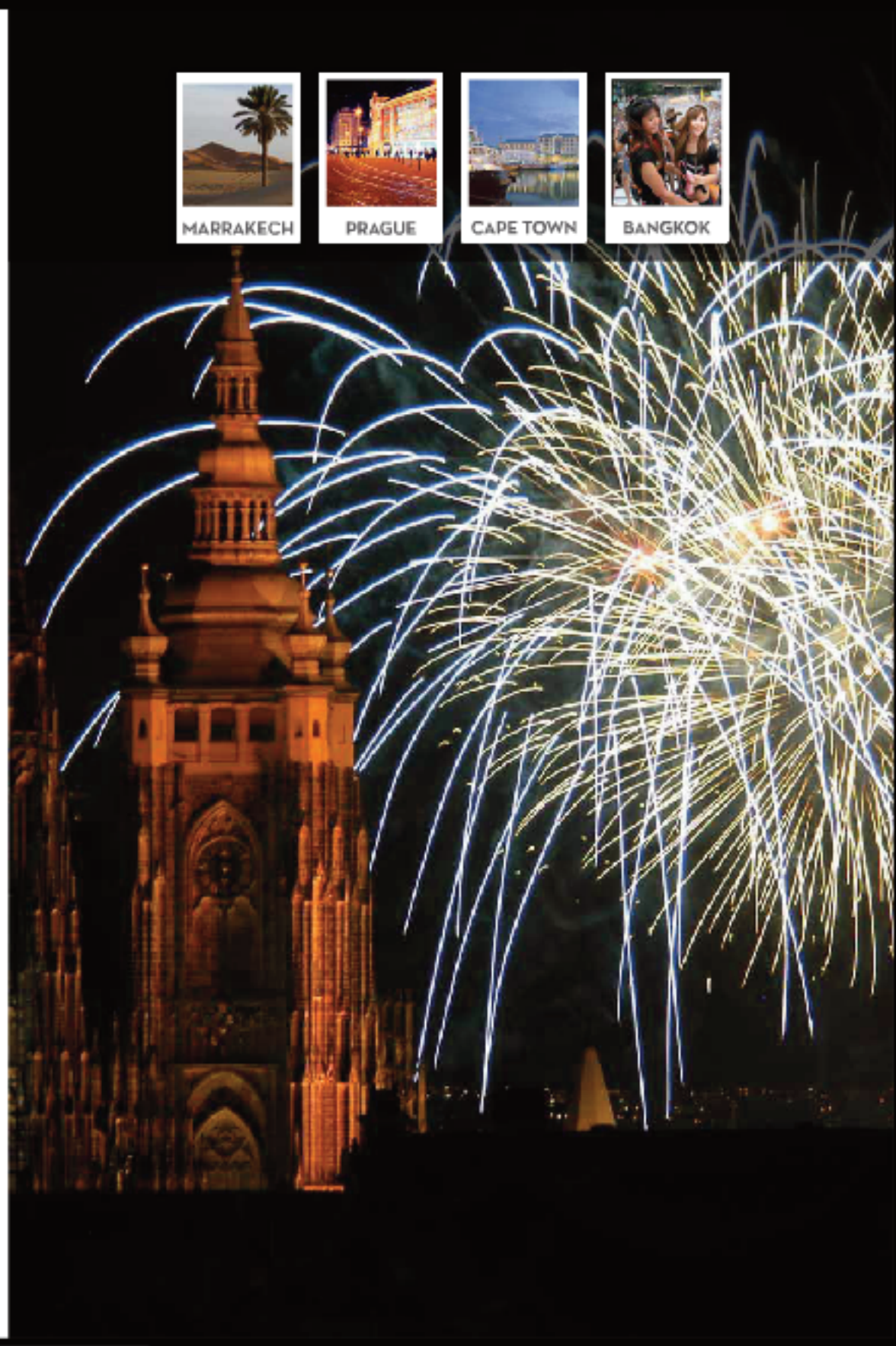
# BEST SPOTS FOR NEW YEAR'S 2011

*Whether you're looking for an all-night roving dinner party or an adventure in the desert, one of these international hot spots will provide the unique holiday you seek. Let the festivities begin!*

BY SUZAN CRANE

**ON DEC. 31**, the world unites in anticipation — making it the perfect time to enjoy New Year's Eve festivities at an exotic locale. Whether you're joining the revelers on a posh riverboat in Prague or under a firestorm of stars in the Sahara Desert, ringing in 2011 in a unique destination will inspire you for months to come.

Following are four hot spots for welcoming 2011 in



locale. Whether you're joining the revelers on a posh riverboat in Prague or under a firestorm of stars in the Sahara Desert, ringing in 2011 in a unique destination will inspire you for months to come.

Following are four hot spots for welcoming 2011 in adventurous style. Scroll down for details on each city!

**HOT SPOT NO. 1**

**MARRAKECH,  
MOROCCO**  
FÊTE FACT

**FRENETIC AND EXOTIC**, Marrakech is awash in color as djellaba-cloaked hawkers and turbaned snake charmers clamor around the Medina and Djemaa El Fna square. Home to Morocco's largest souk (open-air market), Marrakech also boasts palaces and mosques that are architectural gems. But the real New Year's Eve action is deep in the Sahara Desert, the final destination of a multiple-day Land Cruiser/camel trek through the High Atlas Mountains that traverses villages



This city boasts a large traditional market. STEVE CASIMIRO

Marrakech is sunny all year and winter weather is mild. STEVE CASIMIRO

**MARRAKECH**



**SLOW GOING**  
Camel treks and desert tours are available.

BOOK (OPEN AIR THEATRE), MARRAKECH ALSO BOASTS palaces and mosques that are architectural gems. But the real New Year's Eve action is deep in the Sahara Desert, the final destination of a multiple-day Land Cruiser/camel trek through the High Atlas Mountains that traverses villages, World Heritage sites, casbahs, oases and gorges.

On Dec. 31, savor a customary Moroccan feast of lamb and couscous under a star-glazed sky as you listen to the primal rhythms of Berber drummers.

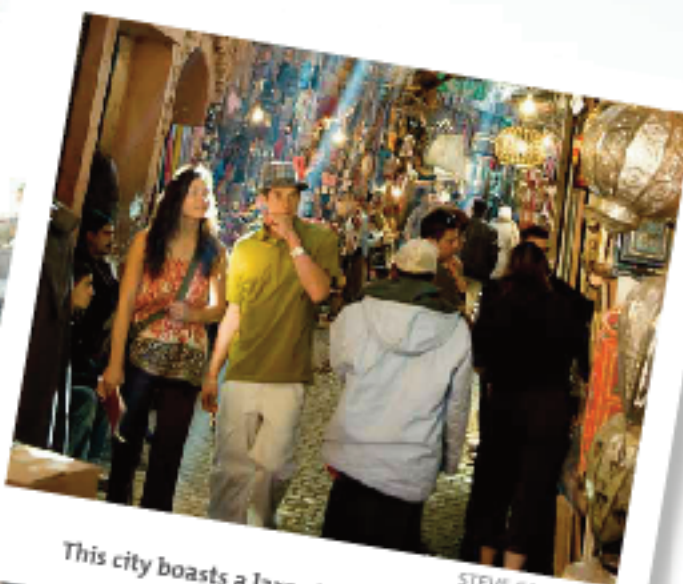
**WHERE TO BOOK** Your Morocco Tour (from \$450) or Morocco Explored (from \$521)

**HOT SPOT NO. 2**

**PRAGUE,  
CZECH  
REPUBLIC**  
FÊTE FACT



Marrakech is sunny all year and winter weather is mild.



This city boasts a large traditional market.

**MARRAKECH**



**SLOW GOING**  
Camel treks and desert tours are available.

# REPUBLIC

## FÊTE FACT

**SITUATED OVER** the Vltava River, the “city of 100 spires” is heralded as one of the world’s most beautiful and exciting urban destinations. On New Year’s Eve, Prague revels under a canopy of its renowned fireworks, with throngs lining the riverbanks and flocking to the famed Astronomical Clock (Prague Orlog).

Riverboats host opulent New Year’s dinner parties, as they cruise past such attractions as Charles Bridge, Malá Strana, National Theater Opera, Parliament, Prague Castle and Vysehrad Fortress. Afterward, check out one of the city’s fabulous clubs in the Staré Mesto (Old Town) district to usher in the new year.

**WHERE TO STAY** [Aria Hotel](#) (from \$250) or [Red & Blue Design Hotel Prague](#) (from \$78)

### HOT SPOT NO. 3



MARRAKECH



PRAGUE



CAPE TOWN



BANGKOK



It's easy to get around Prague on one of the many trolleys.

EVGENY IVANOV

Prague's famous Wenceslas Square is a lively spot, day and night.

EVGENY IVANOV

PRAGUE

**DAZZLING**  
At midnight, fireworks go off in several locations throughout Prague.

## HOT SPOT NO. 3

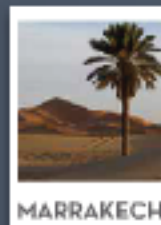
# CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

## FÊTE FACT

**RIBBONS OF WHITE SAND** frame the Atlantic Ocean here, while iconic Table Mountain and Signal Hill rise dramatically above South Africa's most scenic and multicultural city. This animated destination ignites on Dec. 31, when Cape Town's waterfront teems with activity, including fireworks and costumed dancers, face-painted partiers and musicians.

For a hit of nonaddictive psychotropic entertainment, head to the [Rezonance Festival](#), a three-day outdoor electronic music event in nearby Franschhoek Valley that begins on New Year's Eve.

**WHERE TO STAY** The [Table Bay Hotel](#) (from \$503) or [2Inn Kensington](#) (from \$237)



MARRAKECH



PRAGUE



CAPE TOWN



BANGKOK

**JOYFUL NOISE**  
The Cape Minstrel Carnival signals the beginning of the new year.



Table Bay Hotel offers views of Table Mountain.



Cape Town's popular Clifton beaches comprise four coves.

CAPE TOWN

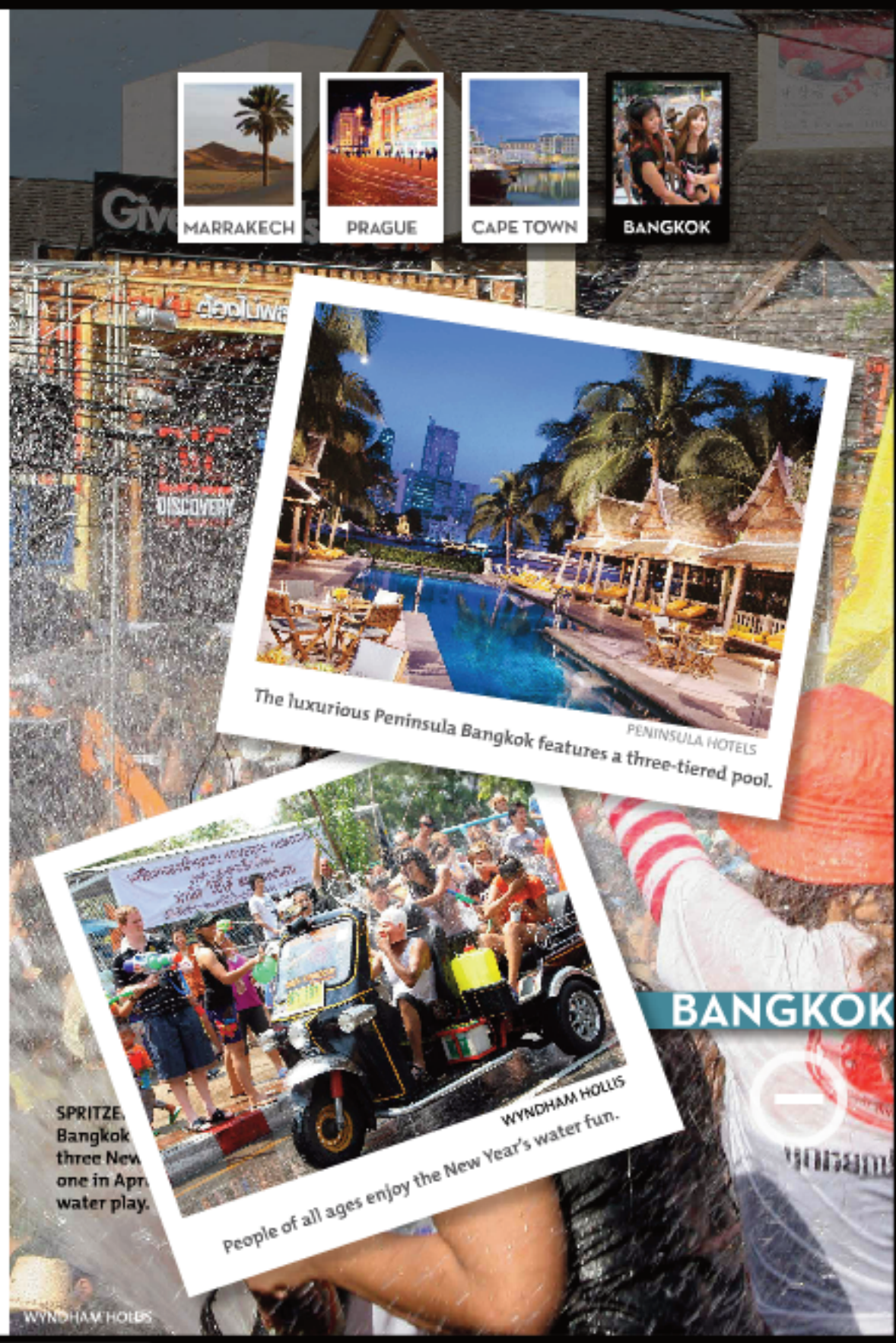
nearby Franschhoek Valley that begins on New Year's Eve.

**WHERE TO STAY** The Table Bay Hotel (from \$503) or 2Inn Kensington (from \$237)

**HOT SPOT NO. 4**

**BANGKOK,  
THAILAND**  
FÊTE FACT

**BANGKOK PRESENTS** a cultural cacophony. Here, you'll find chic nightspots offsetting gilded temples, taxis chugging alongside tuk-tuk three-wheelers and lady boys walking among saffron-robed monks. Adding to this twisted glory, the city observes not one, but three New Year's celebrations beginning with a raucous party on Dec. 31, when hordes converge on CentralWorld Square for live music under a pyrotechnics display that's also visible from riverside hotels and Sanam Luang square.



# BANGKOK, THAILAND

## FÊTE FACT

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Chinese New Year follows on Feb. 3, with extravagant parades and fireworks, while April 13 kicks off the Thai New Year, when the Songkran water festival drenches the "land of smiles."

**WHERE TO STAY** The Peninsula Bangkok (from \$422) or SilQ Bangkok (from \$87)



MARRAKECH



PRAGUE



CAPE TOWN



BANGKOK



The luxurious Peninsula Bangkok features a three-tiered pool.

PENINSULA HOTELS



SPRITZER  
Bangkok  
three New  
one in Apr  
water play.

WYNDHAM HOLLIS

People of all ages enjoy the New Year's water fun.

BANGKOK