

FEBRUARY 2026

# LUXE BEAT

Nobu Hotel Los Cabos  
Winter Escape

Oh! Darling  
The Potlach Club

Colorado Classic:  
The Lodge at Vail

*Cappadocia*



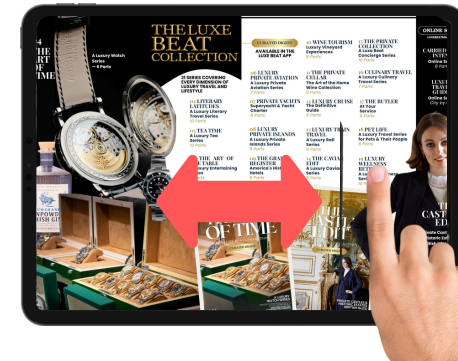






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screen.



WITH MY GOOGLES fixed and my leg flailing, I struggled to stay afloat in a shimmering blue lagoon. The postcard-perfect scene was a stark contrast to the reality of the situation. I was in a lagoon, surrounded by coral and water, but I was not alone. I was with a team of researchers, and we were all working together to protect the coral. The lagoon was a beautiful sight, but it was also a place of great importance. The coral was a vital part of the ecosystem, and we were all working to ensure its survival. The lagoon was a beautiful sight, but it was also a place of great importance. The coral was a vital part of the ecosystem, and we were all working to ensure its survival.



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

February beckons us to seek warmth—whether nestled in Vail's powder-dusted peaks, basking in Los Cabos sunshine, or discovering the otherworldly landscapes of Cappadocia. This issue celebrates the art of winter escape and the intimate pleasures that make cold-weather travel irresistible.

We're exploring historic gems like Hotel Bethlehem and Little Rock's Capital Hotel, where stories linger in every hallway. You'll discover cutting-edge hospitality at Tempo by Hilton Times Square and uncover emerging travel trends shaping where discerning travelers will venture in 2026.

For February's romantic spirit, we've curated chocolate destinations to satisfy your sweetest cravings, Valentine's cocktails to toast the season, and wine journeys from London's urban cellars to Valpolicella's family vineyards. Bourbon Steak New York and tributes to Julia Child remind us that great dining is always worth celebrating.

Whether you're planning a Pacific Northwest retreat at The Potlatch Club or a Central Coast escape to Paso Robles, this issue offers inspiration for wherever wanderlust leads you.

Here's to discovering your next unforgettable journey.

Cheers!

  
**Sherrie Wilkolaski**  
Publisher & Editor in Chief



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## MARCH 2026 ISSUE

As winter fades and spring arrives, this month's issue celebrates the beautiful diversity of luxury travel in all its forms.



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FEBRUARY

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# TEMPO BY HILTON TIMES SQUARE BRINGS RHYTHM, REST & INTENTION TO MIDTOWN NYC

by Merilee Kern



Times Square is engineered to overwhelm you. Light. Sound. Movement. Urgency. Most hotels in the district respond in predictable ways. Some amplify the energy and lean into spectacle. Others retreat behind thick glass and heavy curtains, attempting to shut the city out entirely. Tempo by Hilton New York Times Square takes a more deliberate path. It assumes you chose to be here and then gives you the ability to navigate the city on your terms. Embedded within the TSX Broadway development and rising above the crowds, the hotel re-frames what it means to stay grounded in one of the most kinetic neighborhoods in the world.

**This property does not ask you to slow down. It gives you control. That distinction matters in a place that rewards stamina and punishes imbalance.**

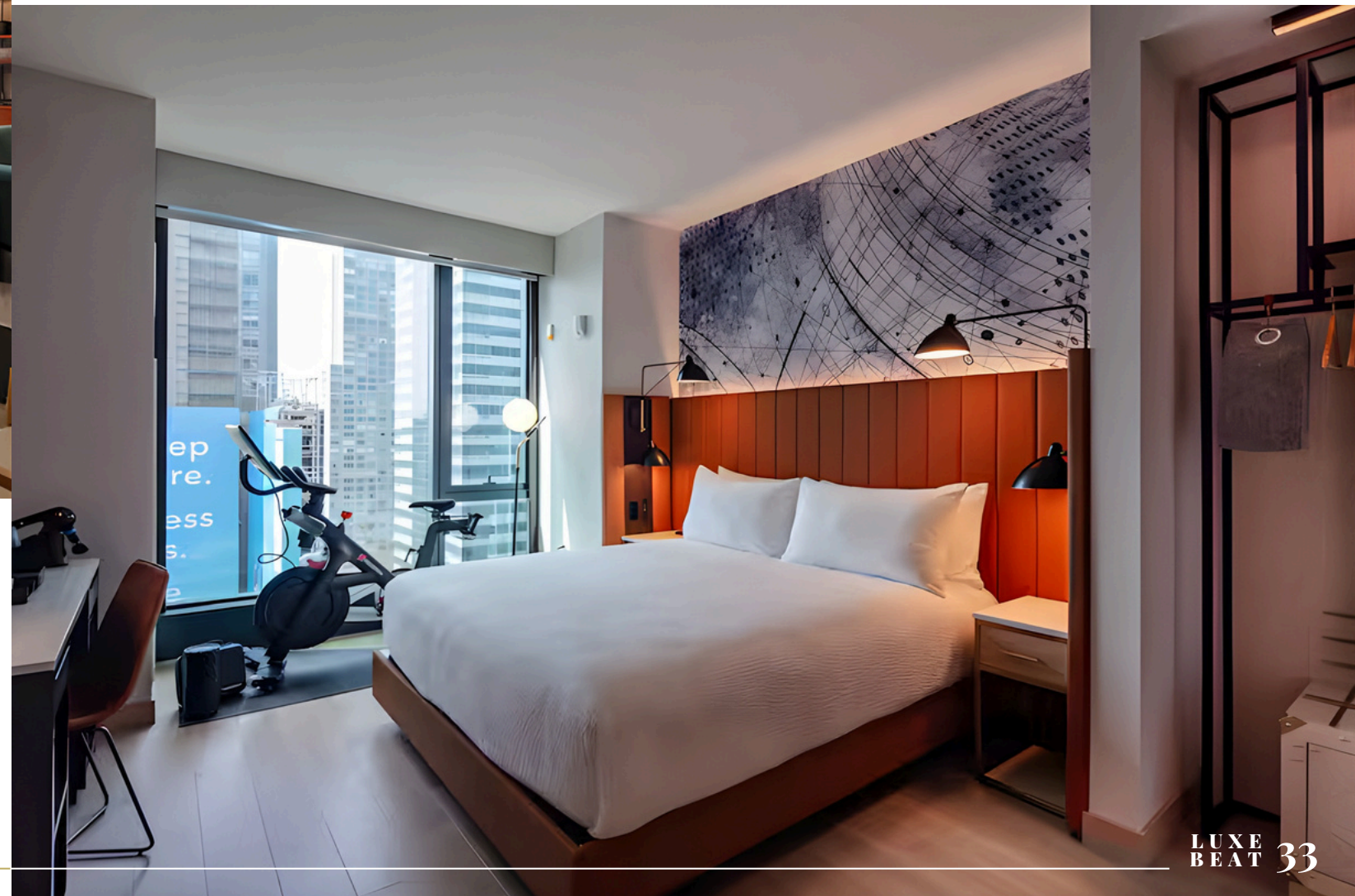
Times Square moves fast and rarely pauses. Tempo responds by offering choice rather than escape. It sits above the street-level intensity and allows you to decide how much of the city you want to engage at any given moment. You can lean in. You can pull back. The hotel supports both without forcing either.

As the debut property for Hilton's wellness-focused lifestyle brand, the location choice was intentional.

**Times Square is not a test market. It is a proving ground.**

Tempo occupies floors eleven and above within the TSX Broadway tower, one of the most ambitious mixed-use redevelopments in New York City. The arrival experience begins with an elevated sky lobby that creates a subtle but meaningful shift in perspective. You leave the sidewalk behind and enter a space that recalibrates your pace before you ever reach your room. That transition changes how the entire stay unfolds.

Launching into a landscape crowded with luxury flags, boutique concepts, and legacy brands, Tempo distinguishes itself by prioritizing rhythm. Your rhythm. How you wake. How you prepare. How you work. How you recover. How you sleep. The design does not chase novelty or excess. It focuses on function, flow, and repeatability. Every decision traces back to how people actually move through their days while traveling in a high-energy city.





Below, Tempo by Hilton New York Times Square Director of Marketing Matt Belsito helps us understand how that vision comes to life in practice.

**MK:** Tempo by Hilton launched its flagship property right in the center of Times Square.

What makes this location the ideal debut of Hilton's new wellness-focused lifestyle brand?

It's no secret that New York City, especially Times Square, is a global hospitality powerhouse. As such, it was the perfect location to debut the brand to guests and owners alike a little over two years ago.

Today, the brand has grown significantly with new locations in cities like Nashville, Louisville and Raleigh and 70 other properties in various stages of development.

“

— Matt Belsito

The confidence behind that answer reflects the strategy. Hilton did not test Tempo quietly. It launched it where expectations run high and patience runs thin. That choice signals intent.

**MK:** How does Tempo by Hilton Times Square approach guest wellbeing beyond location and views, and what considerations guided the hotel's design and programming choices in such a high-energy environment?

Tempo by Hilton Times Square is often talked about for its views and location, but less attention is given to how intentionally the hotel is designed to support balance, flow, and wellbeing in the middle of one of the busiest cities in the world.

Our team recently partnered with Calm, the leading mental wellness brand, to introduce “The World's Sleepiest Room,” which provides respite seekers with immersive Calm soundscapes and Sleep Stories told through Ozlo Sleepbuds, blackout shades, , an upgraded mattress with cooling pillows, and a one-year subscription to Calm Sleep and Calm for one guest. Additionally, wellness enthusiasts can book specialized wellness rooms equipped with Peloton bikes, yoga mats, resistance bands, and a digital library of fitness content to continue their routines on the road and maintain their rhythm no matter how energetic their surroundings are. What also sets Tempo apart is its signature cocktail restaurant and bar, Highball, known for its spirited and free-spirited beverage program, where each mocktail is re-imagined to resemble its cocktail counterpart through the use of Lyre's Non-Alcoholic Liqueurs.

“

— Matt Belsito

The emphasis on sleep is not decorative. In a district that never powers down, Tempo treats rest as infrastructure. The Calm partnership feels practical, not performative. Guests who travel often know how rare true sleep is on the road. This hotel addresses that problem directly.

**MK:** What key things that set the property apart from other options in the area?

In 2025, our team prioritized creating one-of-a-kind guest experiences, from our Calm Wellness Rooms that allow guests to enjoy Calm's science-backed sleep solutions in an unexpected urban sanctuary where every detail is curated to work in harmony to support the body's natural rhythms, to our Peloton Rooms with the brand's signature bikes, resistance bands, and a digital library of fitness content, and our limited-run Beetlejuice Suite that immersed guests in the offbeat world of the cult-classic musical through walls and ceilings wrapped in the character's signature black-and-white stripes along with a mural of the hilltop Maitland Residence above the bed and gallery-style portraits of key characters lining the living area, offering stays you can't find anywhere else in Times Square.

Tempo by Hilton Times Square has intentionally crafted design in every detail, from zoned Power Up and Power Down room layouts with a dedicated Get Ready Zone, spacious bathrooms with an oversized shower and an enveloping sleep environment, to thoughtful textures, lighting, and rituals that support balance in the middle of the city's most energetic neighborhood.

The hotel offers elevated perspectives of Times Square, including our 11th-floor sky lobby boasting sweeping views of the quintessential billboards, and the highly sought-after Ball Drop Suites featuring views of the famous Times Square Ball, giving guests a rare vantage point above the action while still staying immersed in it.

Experiential rooms can feel gimmicky. Here, they feel contained and intentional. The zoning concept carries more weight day to day. You notice it at night. You notice it early in the morning. The rooms work with your body clock instead of fighting it.

“

— Matt Belsito

**MK:** Your Ball Drop Rooms are some of the most coveted hotel views in New York City. What makes the New Year's Eve experience at Tempo different from any other hotel vantage point in Times Square?

Our Ball Drop Rooms offer an immersive experience. Guests are close enough to feel the energy of the celebration, yet can enjoy it from a quiet, private space. The combination of floor-to-ceiling windows and elevated rooms create a New Year's Eve that feels personal, memorable, and unmistakably Tempo.

These rooms change the equation. You remain inside the event without surrendering comfort or control. That matters on a night when most experiences demand endurance.

“

— Matt Belsito



*live life with no excuses, travel with no regret*



MK: With the sky lobby perched on the 11th floor, guests are removed from the street-level rush yet still immersed in the energy of the neighborhood. What was the intention behind elevating the arrival experience?

The elevated lobby allows guests to transition into the Tempo mindset the moment they arrive. It creates a sense of calm and perspective while still celebrating the vibrancy below. The intent behind the design was to give guests a breath. Not an escape from Times Square, but a space to take it in from a more inspiring, uplifting vantage point.

That pause sets the tone. You feel it immediately.

“

— Matt Belsito

MK: How integral is Highball to the overall guest experience?

Highball acts as both a social anchor and a sensory retreat. It gives guests a place to gather, dine, or pause between the day's adventures. Whether it's lunch before a Broadway matinee, cocktails with views of the city, or an evening unwind, Highball helps shape the Tempo lifestyle from morning to night.

Highball succeeds because it respects choice. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic programs receive equal attention. The terrace adds dimension. The space works at different energy levels throughout the day.

“

— Matt Belsito

MK: Tempo rooms are intentionally zoned for different parts of a traveler's day. How does this zoning help maintain balance for guests on the move in such a high-energy urban setting?

The zoning helps guests control their environment. Power Up areas are bright, organized, and functional, supporting productivity and energizing routines. Power Down zones use softer lighting, enveloping headboards, and calming amenities to prioritize restoration. The intentional division helps guests create structure and maintain a rhythm that feels steady and balanced.

This design language feels lived-in rather than theoretical. Travelers recognize it immediately.

“

— Matt Belsito

MK: From Bluetooth speaker mirrors to 65-inch streaming TVs and Digital Key access, tech-forward features seem to be a defining part of the Tempo brand. How do you balance cutting-edge convenience with a sense of warmth and hospitality?

Features like Digital Key, Bluetooth speaker mirrors, and 65-inch streaming TVs simplify the stay without compromising comfort or convenience. Warm materials, layered lighting, and curated rituals ensure the technology supports hospitality rather than overshadowing it.

“

— Matt Belsito





MK: For travelers who want to maintain momentum, fitness, productivity, healthy routines, what amenities or design choices have proven most impactful?

Our fitness center is thoughtfully supplied with modern equipment, and our in-room Power Up zones offer organized, functional spaces for getting ready or working on the go. Highball's grab-and-go concept and energizing atmosphere support guests looking to stay aligned with their routines while exploring the city.

**Momentum requires fewer obstacles. Tempo removes many of them.**

— Matt Belsito

MK: As Times Square continues to evolve into a more experience-driven district, what role do you see Tempo playing in the future of luxury lifestyle hospitality in New York City?

Tempo brings a fresh, lifestyle-forward perspective to the area that is rooted in balance, design, and intention. As Times Square becomes more dynamic and experiential, Tempo acts as both a launchpad and a retreat, offering guests access to the city's energy while providing a centered, stylish space to recharge.

— Matt Belsito

MK: Anything in particular people might not know about the property but should?

Many don't realize that our sky lobby is one of the only elevated arrival experiences in Times Square, offering a uniquely serene perspective of the neighborhood. We also have specialty rooms like our Calm and Beetlejuice experiences that give guests immersive, one-of-a-kind stays you won't find anywhere else.

— Matt Belsito

MK: Any interesting or little-known factoids about the property or location?

One little-known fact about the property is that it shares its building with the historic Palace Theatre, a Broadway landmark that has hosted generations of iconic productions. Guests are literally staying above one of New York City's most historic stages.

Tempo by Hilton Times Square works because it understands the assignment.

**It does not attempt to soften Times Square or rebrand it into something quieter than it is.**

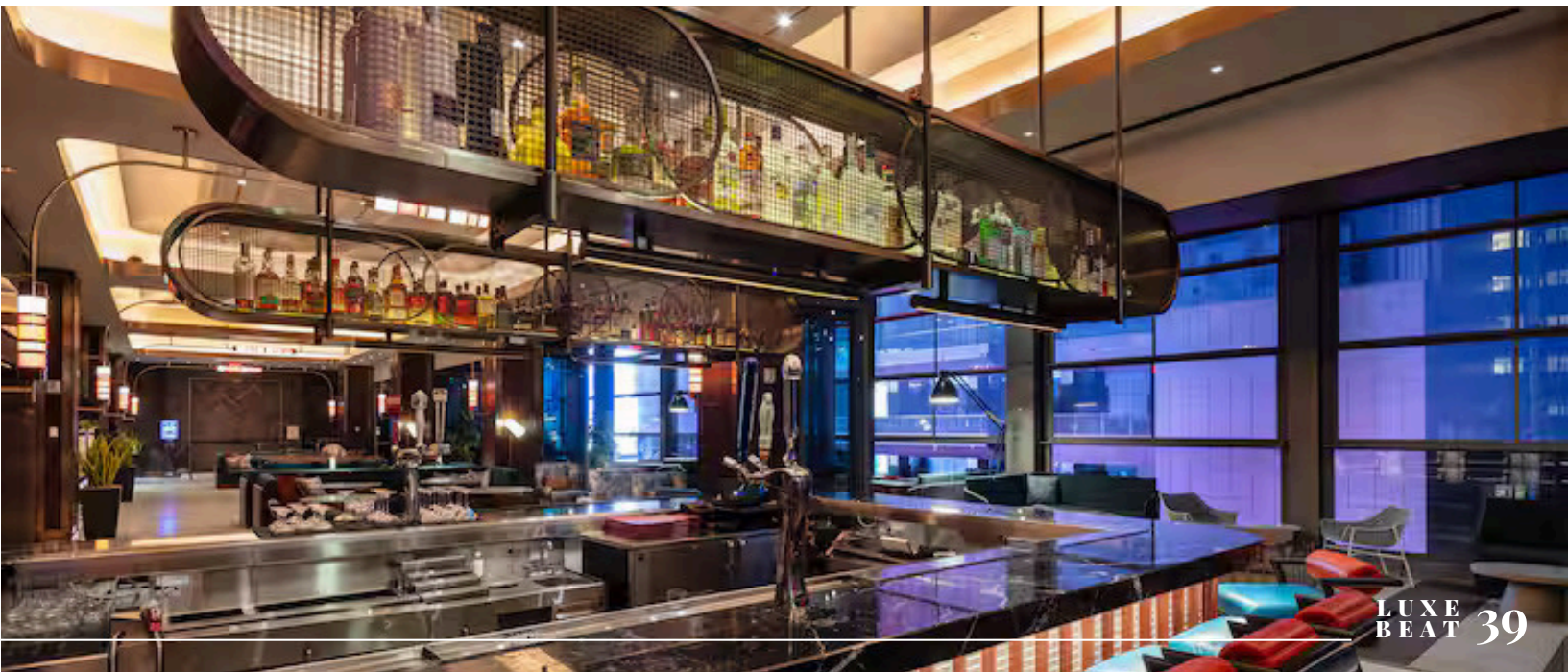
— Matt Belsito

It respects the scale, the history, and the velocity of the neighborhood while giving you practical ways to stay grounded inside it. Sharing a building with the historic Palace Theatre is more than a trivia point. It is a reminder that this part of the city has always balanced spectacle with craft, ambition with discipline, performance with preparation.

What lingers after a stay is not a single feature or view. It is the feeling of having moved through one of the most demanding environments in the world without feeling depleted by it.

The zoning of the rooms, the elevated arrival, the attention to sleep, and the option to engage or retreat all work together in ways that feel intentional rather than ornamental. Nothing competes for your attention. Everything earns its place.

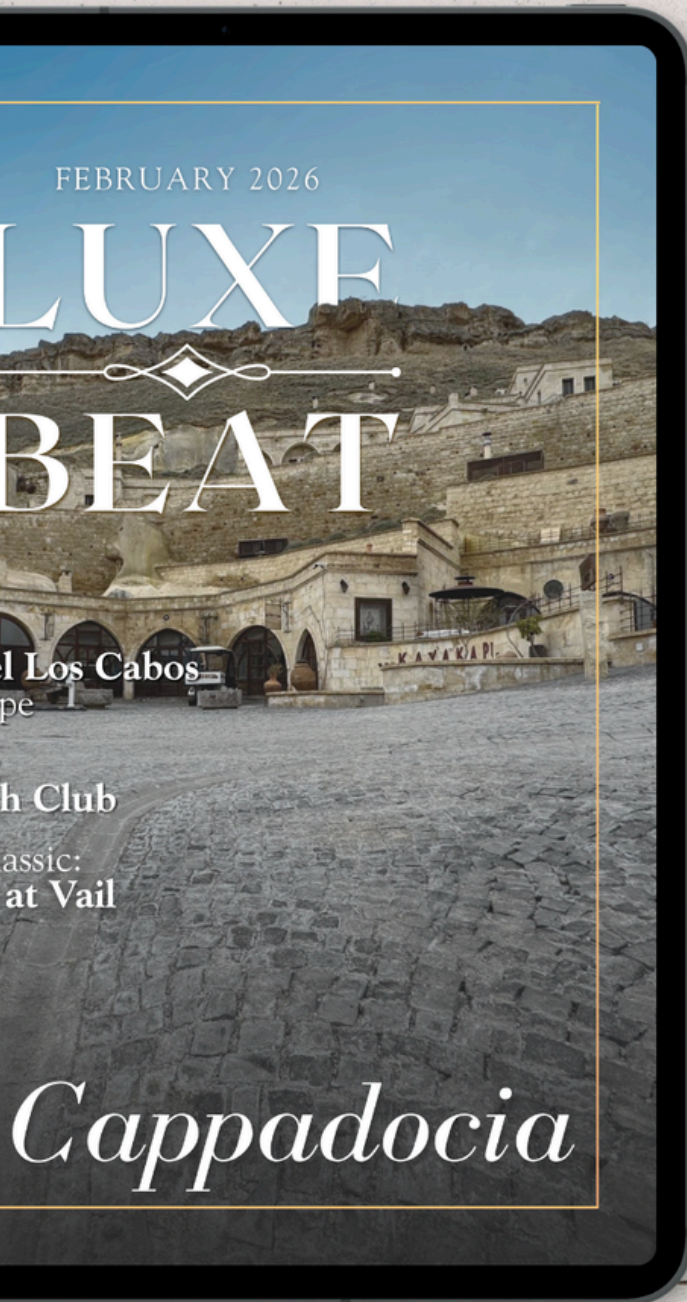
— Matt Belsito







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