

OUR JOURNEY BEGINS WITH CLASSIC TRAVEL SERVICE

VIRTUOSO LIFE

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2015

Southern Sampler

20
RESTAURANTS
TO TRY, Y'ALL

CHARLESTON
NEW ORLEANS
NASHVILLE
ATLANTA

Plus: CELEBRITY CHEFS AT SEA * NAPA'S NEW WINEMAKERS * BERLIN DINING



Y5 TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

Chef Melissa O'Donnell travels for immersion and relaxation. PORTRAIT BY JESSICA ANTOLA

BUSY NEW YORK CITY CHEF and restaurant owner Melissa O'Donnell travels to unwind and get inspiration for her 32-seat Lower East Side spot, Thelma on Clinton, a Michelin Bib Gourmand selection (the institution's recognition for more moderately priced operations). Her abiding love of Mexico began years ago with a trip to San Miguel de Allende, where she studied Spanish and ceramics. Other favorite destinations include Dublin, Barcelona, and Montauk. O'Donnell often travels solo: "It's a great way to meet people while also getting the space that I need to clear my head," she says. She seeks out small neighborhood restaurants, street food, and great scuba diving. Her style: Get some help with the planning, then pack a bag and go. "Having someone in the know is very handy in allowing me to figure out which destinations will work for me, and which won't," she says of her NYC-based Virtuoso travel advisor, Charles Schmitt. "It saves me a lot of guessing and legwork."

I DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT:

1. My utilitarian **black tote**.

2. A solid-color **J.Crew bikini** and my PADI diving card – I have to be by the water at some point!

3. **Music:** Right now, old-school Stevie Wonder and the Velvet Underground, plus the Black

Keys and Belle and Sebastian.

4. **Afghan brass beads** that I wear as a bracelet or necklace.

5. **Warby Parker** reading glasses.



SET S

Extrao
Norw
the world
offering se
inspired ta
A Michael
5 O'Clock
start savori

Bo



NCL N
CRU

Offer is based on
Fares are cruise-c
non-transferable
responsible for t

MIAMI S