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The best recent online-only stories, from compact towels to expansive holiday rentals, on free-to-access [Howtospendit.com](http://Howtospendit.com)



## Adidas ski goggles, £125

Just one of 1,000+ ideas in our inspirational Gift Guide

## Bespoke bicycles with vintage verve

Despite its Scandinavian name, Sven Cycles is a thoroughly English concern based in Dorset, where Darron Coppin handcrafts entirely bespoke two-wheelers. Using top-quality, double-butted Reynolds tubing for the frames, Coppin works around designs inspired by the return to popularity of classically styled bikes (from £3,000). Be it a traditional sit-up-and-beg roadster, a drop-handlebar racer, a cross-town commuter or even a practical delivery bike, Sven Cycles can make it - as demonstrated by the so-called Forager Bike recently built for chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. [SIMON DE BURTON](#)  
For more two-wheeled adventures, click on [Bikes on Howtospendit.com](#)



## Terrific towels for travelling light

When I'm editing my suitcase, the cumbersome beach towel is almost always first to face the cull - something I later come to regret. But I have just discovered Dock & Bay, a company specialising in vibrant, satiny compact towels cut from a velvety microfibre that is quick-drying and approximately half the weight of a normal beach towel. I opted for the set of six striped Cabana towels (£79) in extra large (200cm x 90cm). Neatly packaged in individual aerated drawstring bags, they were the perfect welcome present for those family members brave enough to join us, and our two young children, on holiday. [RUTH CAVERN](#)  
[Click Personal Recommendations for more under-the-radar finds](#)



## Gizmos to add to the travel list

Standing out on our list of six of the best travel gadgets are the "smart" suitcase (£290) from New York startup Raden, with its proximity sensors to locate it in busy terminals and a built-in sensor to tell you when it is approaching weight limits, and the AMPware Power Generating iPhone Case (£70, pictured), a hand-cranked dynamo-powered device that could easily save a deal or, in extreme circumstances, a life with a couple of minutes of energetic turning. [JONATHAN MARGOLIS](#)  
For the rest of the tech list, visit [Howtospendit.com/technology](http://Howtospendit.com/technology)

## An elegant e-cache of holiday rentals

"We only work with destinations we love visiting ourselves," says Susie Marquis, founder of The Luxury Travel Book, a website dedicated to high-end city rentals providing very local experiences. The impressive line-up includes Saint-Germain Abbey (£14,000 per week, pictured right) in Paris, a spacious three-bedroom triplex built on the only remaining wall of the 13th-century Abbaye de Saint-Germain-des-Prés, and a spectacular four-bed duplex (£3,300 per week) located within the walls of Lisbon's São Jorge Castle, its garden terrace providing sweeping city views. [MARGARET KEMP](#)  
For more holiday escapes, head to [Travel on Howtospendit.com](#)



## Recommended restaurants in Milan

"U Barba serves only Ligurian food and has its own pétanque court. It's a lovely place for a game and a leisurely Sunday lunch - it's very private with wonderful seafood and pasta, all cooked on the spot," says Zegna artistic director Alessandro Sartori, one of the luxury luminaries - alongside Christian Louboutin, Marcel Wanders, Paula Cademartori, Rossana Orlandi and Alessandra Rich - highlighting their favourite dining spots in Italy's fashion capital. To read the full list, click [Personal Recommendations](#)

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After the second world war Louis Réard designed a two-piece in a newsprint fabric and named it after the US nuclear test site Bikini Atoll, because he knew it would create an explosion  
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*Richard Emanuel, chairman of recently relaunched swimwear label Réard, laughs at the audacity of his company's founder. For more style intel, visit [Howtospendit.com/womens-fashion](http://Howtospendit.com/womens-fashion)*

