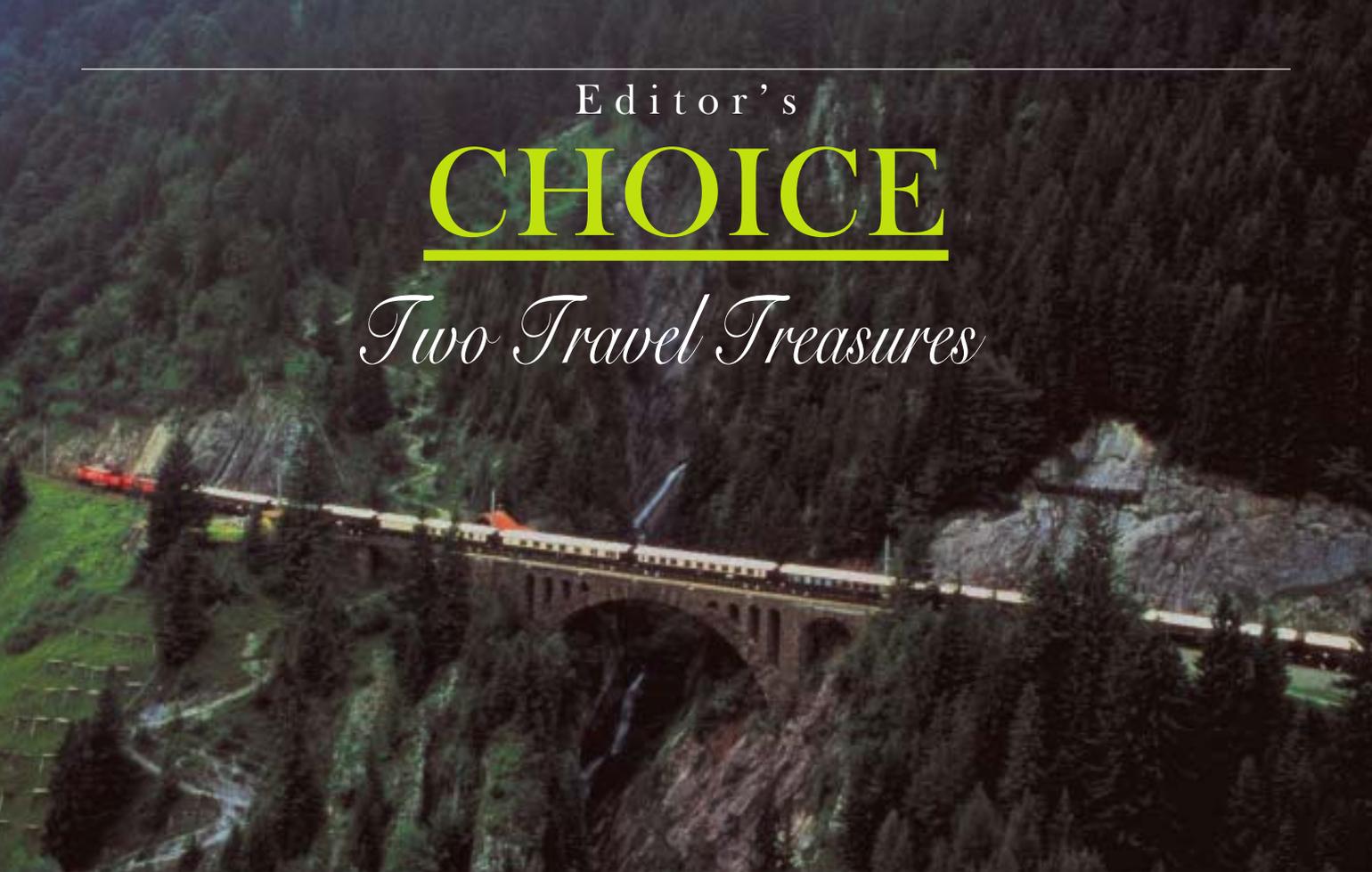

Editor's
CHOICE

Two Travel Treasures



Life is short and it's a shame to wait until you're older to experience some of the last great experiences of life. Here are two of them.

THE VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

This is the antique, vintage train that Jim Sherwood, the founder of Orient Express Trains, put together years ago and it's still up to the finest standards. The train goes from London, stopping briefly in Paris, and then onto Venice. It is every bit as glamorous, mysterious, thrilling, joyous, and well worth the affordable price to experience.

The food is gourmet quality and the compartments are just as they were when Agatha Christie wrote her novel. You might even see Sean Connery and other world figures since this is one of the last truly glamorous experiences left after the Concorde stopped flying.

Don't deprive yourself of the romance of traveling like a king. If you think there might be anything better, there is and it's...

Venice Simplon-Orient-Express in the Alps en route to Venice (top); Chinese dining carriage (left); sleeping compartment



THE EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS

The Eastern & Oriental Express is also operated by Jim Sherwood's company. He deserves a medal for being a genius and putting together the idea. The Eastern & Oriental Express goes from Bangkok to Singapore and it's a two-day-and-night trip, as opposed to the Paris-Venice trip, which is one day. Ulf Buchert is the director of passenger services on the Eastern & Oriental Express. He is a caring person who is most concerned for the travelers' joyous experience.

How they can serve gourmet meals from a small galley on a train is miraculous. But in both cases, Nicholas Varian, chief executive of Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, has gathered the best chefs and the best personnel.

Traveling from Bangkok through the exotic landscape of



Thailand, Malaysia, and finally ending in Singapore is very different from the Paris-Venice trip. It's more exotic. And you even have private bathrooms and showers in each compartment. Book a state compartment, which is a little larger and well worth the money. This is an experience that will add years to your life. It's complete relaxation and it's absolute pampering. The quality has been kept up in the 10 years since its inception to remain the best.

You'll find on both trains other VIPs, but mostly people of excellent taste, who really enjoy living and who cherish the experience of a lifetime. ●

*Eastern & Oriental Express – presidential day compartment (top);
Singapore restaurant car (left); crossing the Tha Chomphu bridge*

