



1
Morgan Ommer

PHOTOGRAPHER
Capital Improvements
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“Hanoi recently turned 1,000. I don’t feel the city changes much. It modernizes, gets mobile phones, more cars, Wi-Fi, but it doesn’t actually change. The autumn is still wonderful, Hanoians still make the most delicious pho on Earth, and it remains the place to meet the country’s most interesting artists. For instance, Mat Ca (“Fish Eye”) is a collective of young happening photographers, behind @everydayvietnam on Instagram. They are talented, prolific and have a very good sense of humor. In other words they are the perfect representation of the new Hanoi.” *Instagram: @morganommer.*



2
Connla Stokes

WRITER
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“I moved to Hanoi at the turn of the century and remember the Old Quarter at night. There was no one on the streets and nothing much open. Socializing revolved around hard-drinking, and the arts were very limited by censorship. Now it’s a city of young people—they’re very fortunate compared to previous generations. But: I once read that Vietnam had survived numerous foreign invasions by ‘bending with the wind,’ and I can see that in the capital today. It’s not being Westernized; it is absorbing influences but the city still has a very strong sense of itself.” *Instagram: @connla_stokes_saigon.*



3
Stephanie Zubiri

WRITER
The Place: Manila
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“As Manila’s cosmopolitan tastes grow, entrepreneurs are getting more creative and gutsy. Take the guys behind Oto, who with their past successes could have opened in glitzier ‘hoods, but chose gritty Poblacion. On the weekend, sunset cocktails on the deck of Mireio are followed nicely by dinner at Blackbird or Txanton. Have drinks at 20/20, or if you’re feeling adventurous, wander about the Williamsburgos area. For art and culture, combined with cocktails, The Alley at Karrivin has good concentration of nice things to see, or cross over to BGC to visit Provenance gallery.” *Instagram: @stephaniezubiri.*

4
Francisco Guerrero

PHOTOGRAPHER
The Place: Manila
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“Over the past few years there has been a concerted effort to create more open spaces. The trend is moving away from malls, so small independent restaurants are finding their spots. A Saturday morning with an out-of-towner starts at the Salcedo weekend market, then the Poblacion area; it’s a great place to have a morning coffee or brunch. Or, to leave town, Anilao is a 2½-hour drive south of Manila. This is diver’s paradise. Marine protection has been very active so the reefs are quite a sight. There are some great resorts. It’s the perfect combo of beach, food and diving.” *Instagram: @studioguerrero.*



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