

Capturing Summer

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026

*"To photograph is to hold one's breath,
when all faculties converge to capture fleeting reality.
It's at that precise moment that mastering an image
becomes a great physical and intellectual joy."*

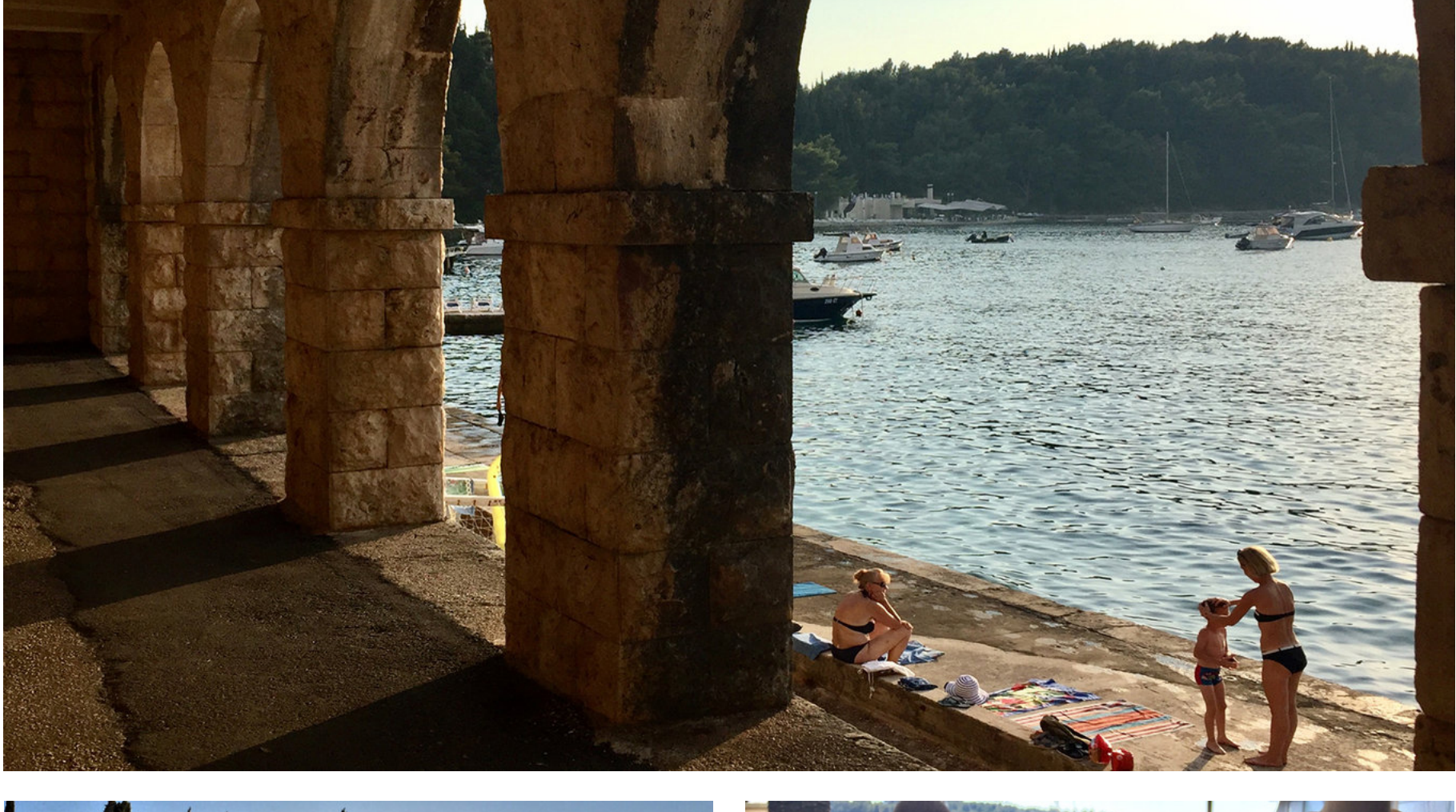
—Henri Cartier-Bresson



Just about every image you see on Hither & Wander was shot on my iPhone. It's always along for the ride, tucked into my front pocket. I used to lug around a conventional camera, which, I'll admit, still has superior optics, but the ease of the iPhone allows for the spontaneity I aim for in my photos.

Summer brings waves of spontaneous moments: flying leaps and giant splashes, sudden rainbows over still lakes, Impressionist picnics in dappled parks, the elusive last seconds of a sunset. Photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, the master of the candid photograph, called these "decisive moments"—fleeting instants captured in mid-act.

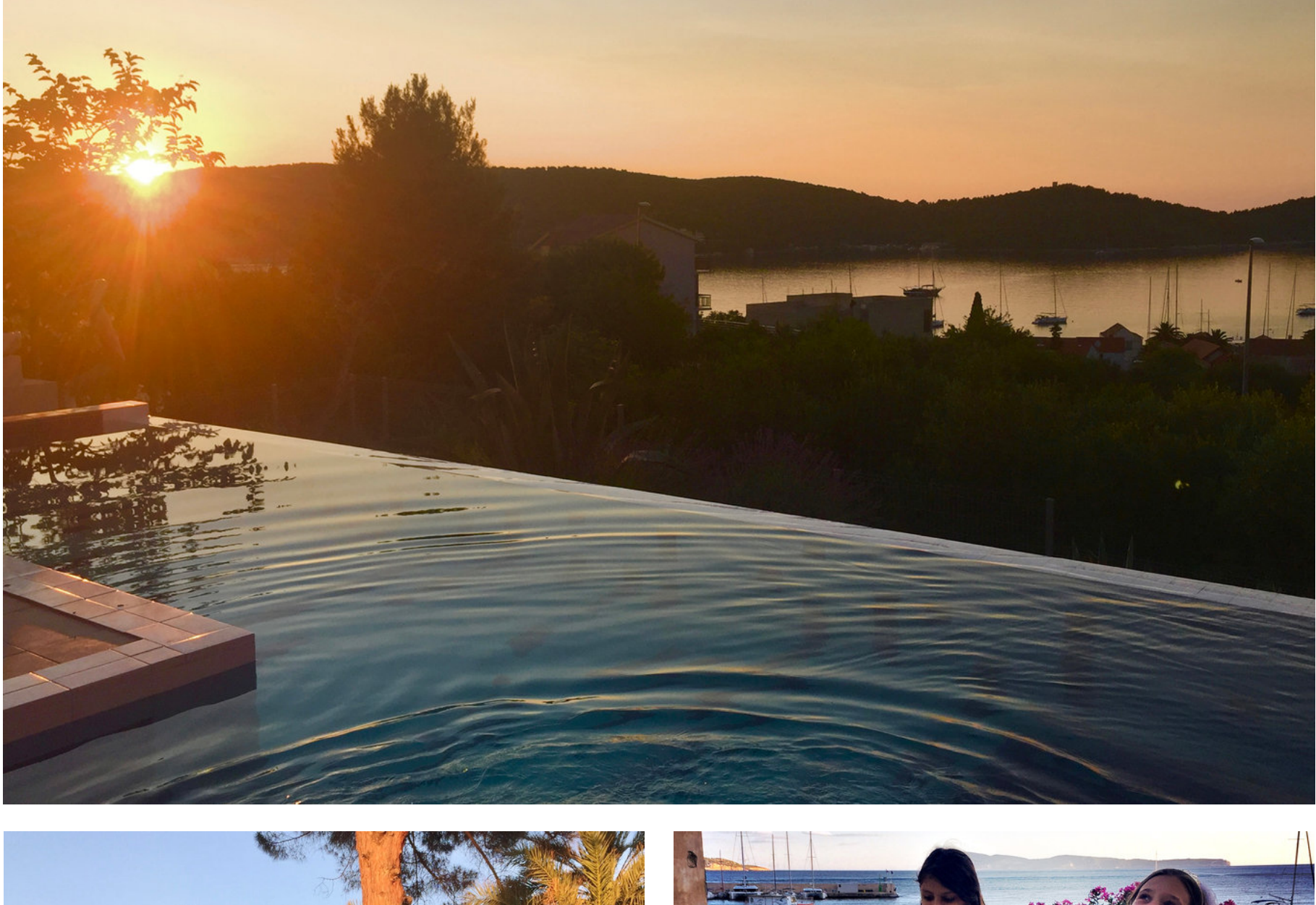
In this newsletter, I humbly offer some summer scenes that came into frame while exploring the shores of the Adriatic Sea, hastily reaching for my iPhone before the moment slipped away...



CAVIAT, CROATIA

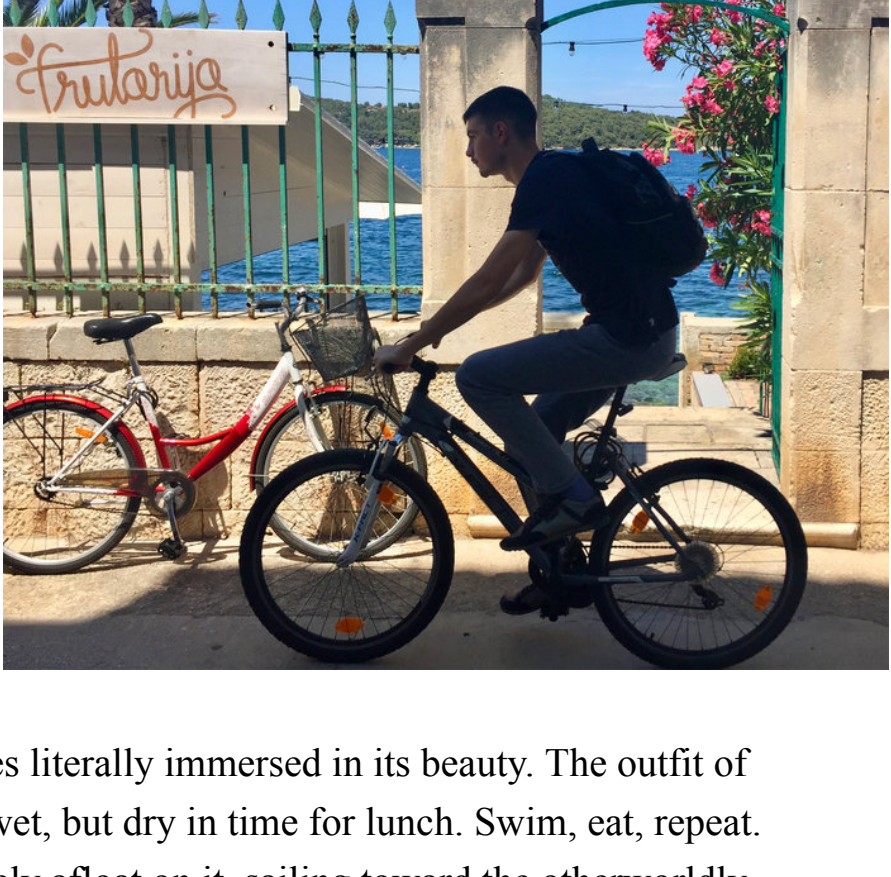
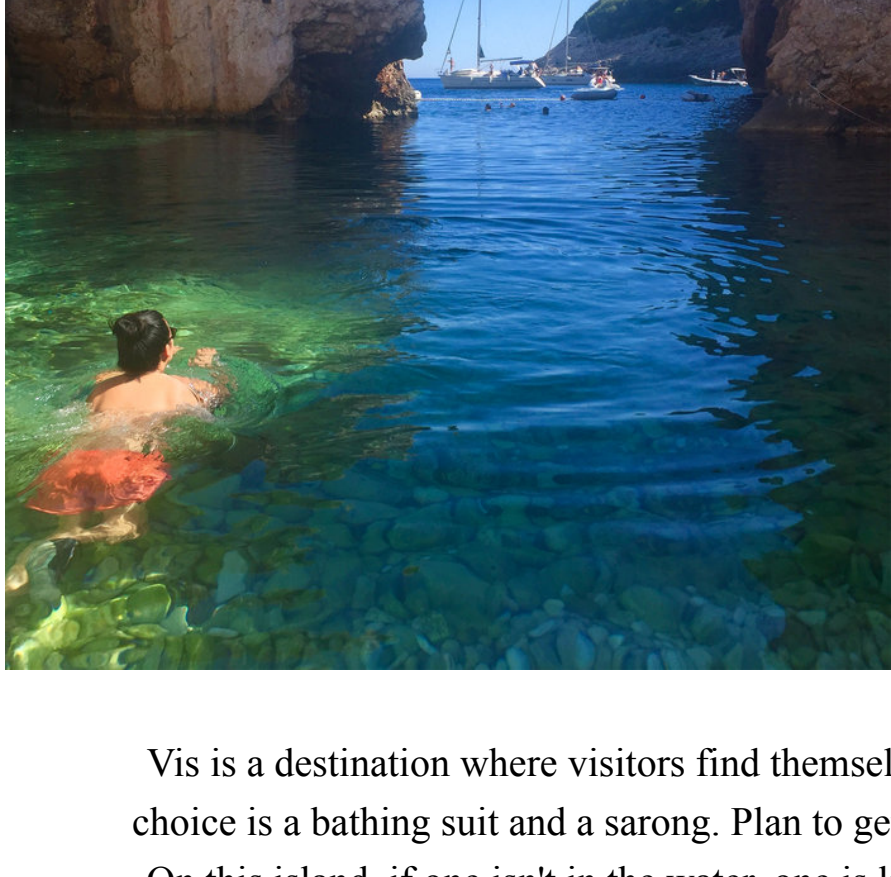
In my travel journal for Hither & Wander, I wrote "It's all too easy to miss this small seaport village, just south of its more famous neighbor, Dubrovnik, but once we stumbled onto it, we fell straight into its charms. So began a memorable afternoon romance with a tall and handsome Aperol Spritz—or was it two?"

My partner and I loved Caviat so much we cancelled our room at Game of Thrones' most storied location, "King's Landing" (aka Dubrovnik) and just let ourselves follow the lazy sunlight as it poured over the bay, warming ancient archways while illuminating aperitivo hour! The iPhone was rarely in my pocket, because, with every turn along this oceanfront promenade, another stunning image emerged.



ISLAND OF VIS, CROATIA

Treasured since the 4th century BC, when Dionysus settled a Greek colony here, Vis is rich in turquoise coves—and matching pools cantilevered from cliffside homes. Life here revolves around the sea, especially the food. Even the sky defers to it, blushing with shades of coral in the cooling light. As the sun dips into the water, a gaggle of swimmers joins it down at the docks. My camera and I rise, hoping to catch the moment like a fabled fisherman casting a net.



Vis is a destination where visitors find themselves literally immersed in its beauty. The outfit of choice is a bathing suit and a sarong. Plan to get wet, but dry in time for lunch. Swim, eat, repeat. On this island, if one isn't in the water, one is likely afloat on it, sailing toward the otherworldly Blue Cave or the wondrously secluded Stiniva Cove. In town, a bicycle is the way to seize the day. Much better suited to Vis' narrow passageways, which were designed for horses and people, not cars. Whatever the conveyance, everything is easy to reach—be it a day trip or daydreams.



KOTOR, MONTENEGRO

A medieval jewel set in a silvery fjord, this tiny village seems nearly hidden from time and the outside world. Its cobblestone paths form a crosshatched rendering of life in an ancient century. One path in particular leads straight up, as if we're expected at a meeting with God. Known as the Ladder of Kotor, the trail delivers a view rivaled only by Heaven itself. Far below, the Old Town's tile rooftops cluster along the shoreline, seen from the Castle of St. John at an almost incomprehensible perspective. A feast for the eye—and the camera.

Back at sea level, we hire a small boat piloted by two gregarious middle-aged Montenegrins clad only in Speedos. Their mature midrifts crest over their minimalist uniforms. They serve us fresh mussels with crusty bread and bubbly, as pirate smiles, festooned with gold, glint in the sun. As we head back, our wake spools toward the harbor lights, where the towering mountain slopes plunge straight down to the water's edge.

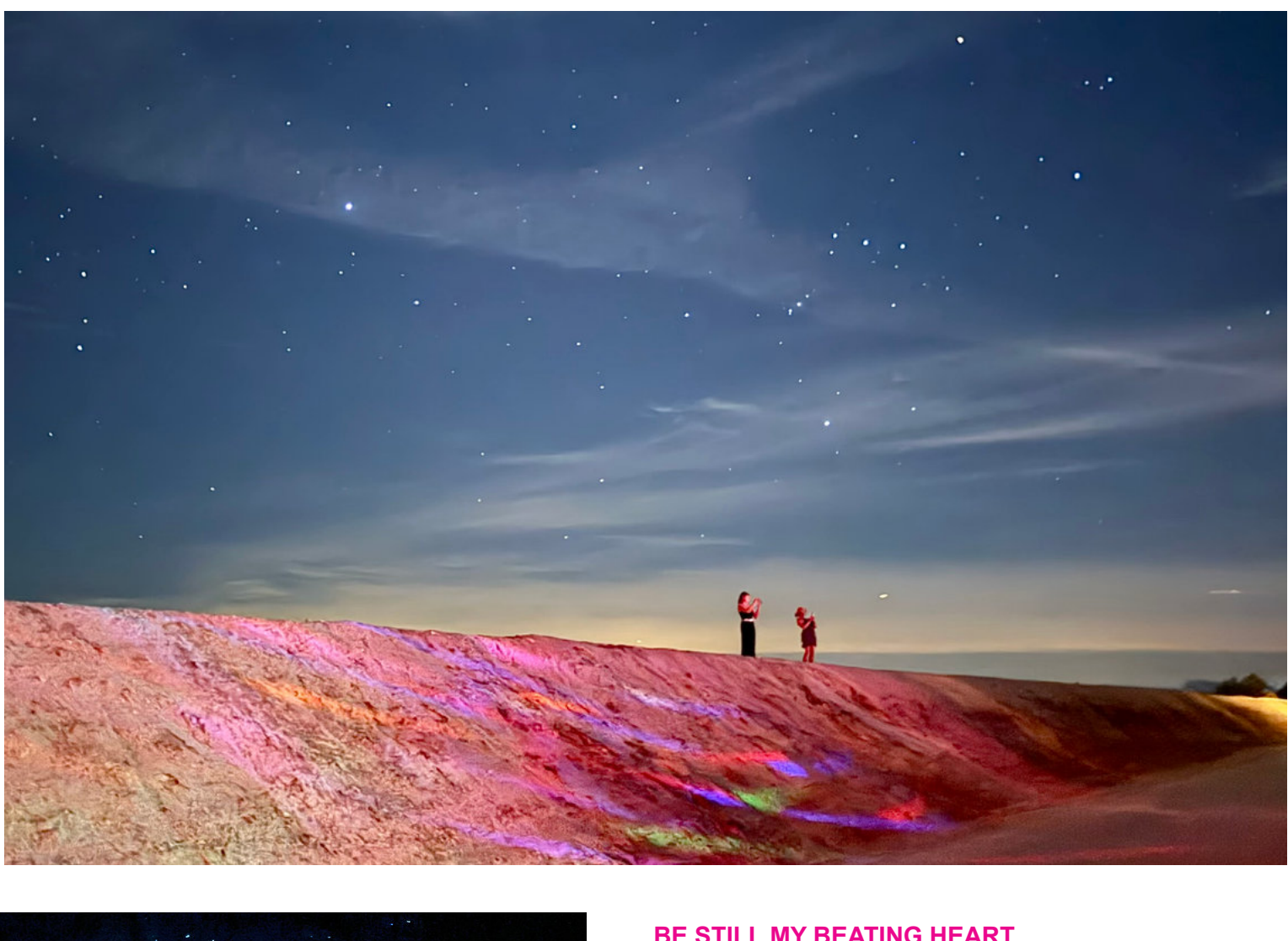
—Haines Wilkerson
Founder

HITHER & WANDER CAMERA HACKS



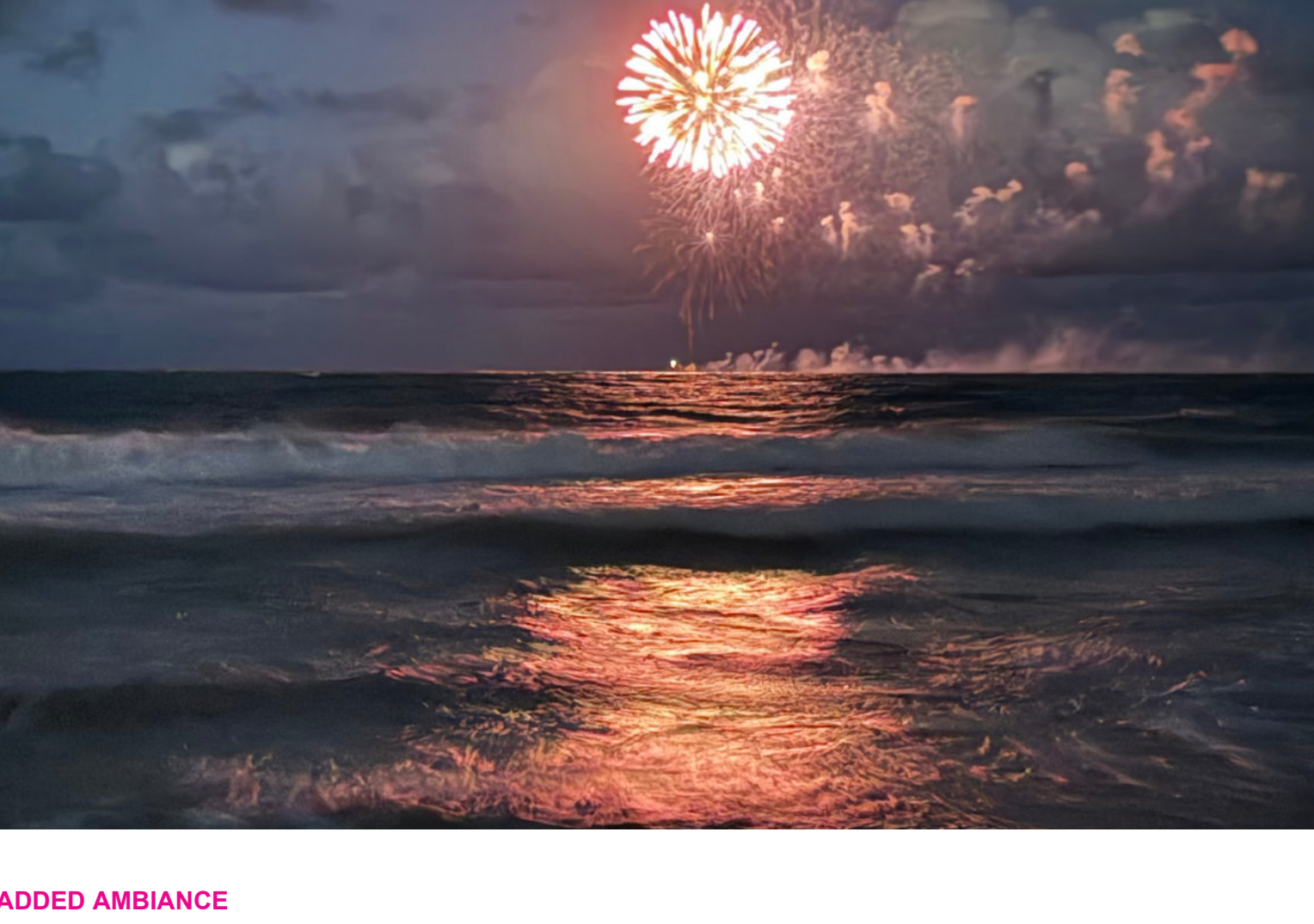
Photo Tip: iPhones see in the dark

A nighttime image captured on an iPhone is perhaps the most fabulous gift of our modern age. A film camera needs tons of light, to include the dreaded flash, but, like a sly cat, the iPhone is at it's best in the dark—And it doesn't require a tripod!



BE STILL, MY BEATING HEART

A night shot is a long exposure so you must hold the phone absolutely still. Gently exhaling as you press the shutter button helps reduce shaking. Your subject must also stand stock still. Tell them "Find a pose where you're comfortable not moving at *all*."



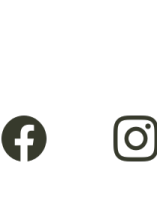
ADDED AMBIANCE

While the iPhone can see in the dark, it still appreciates whatever additional light is available to help illuminate the moment. It doesn't take much—a distant porch light or the flicker of a tiki torch adds just enough illumination to separate your subject from the night. If you're out in the wilderness, a friend's iPhone makes a nice surreal light source. Just don't hold it too close or shine it directly at your subject, or the image will get blown out.

Enjoy these summer evenings... and bring home some amazing memories.

DESTINATIONS

* All photos shot on iPhone by Haines Wilkerson
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