

SIX STAR

THE MAGAZINE FOR
CANADIAN SUBARU OWNERS
2023 EDITION



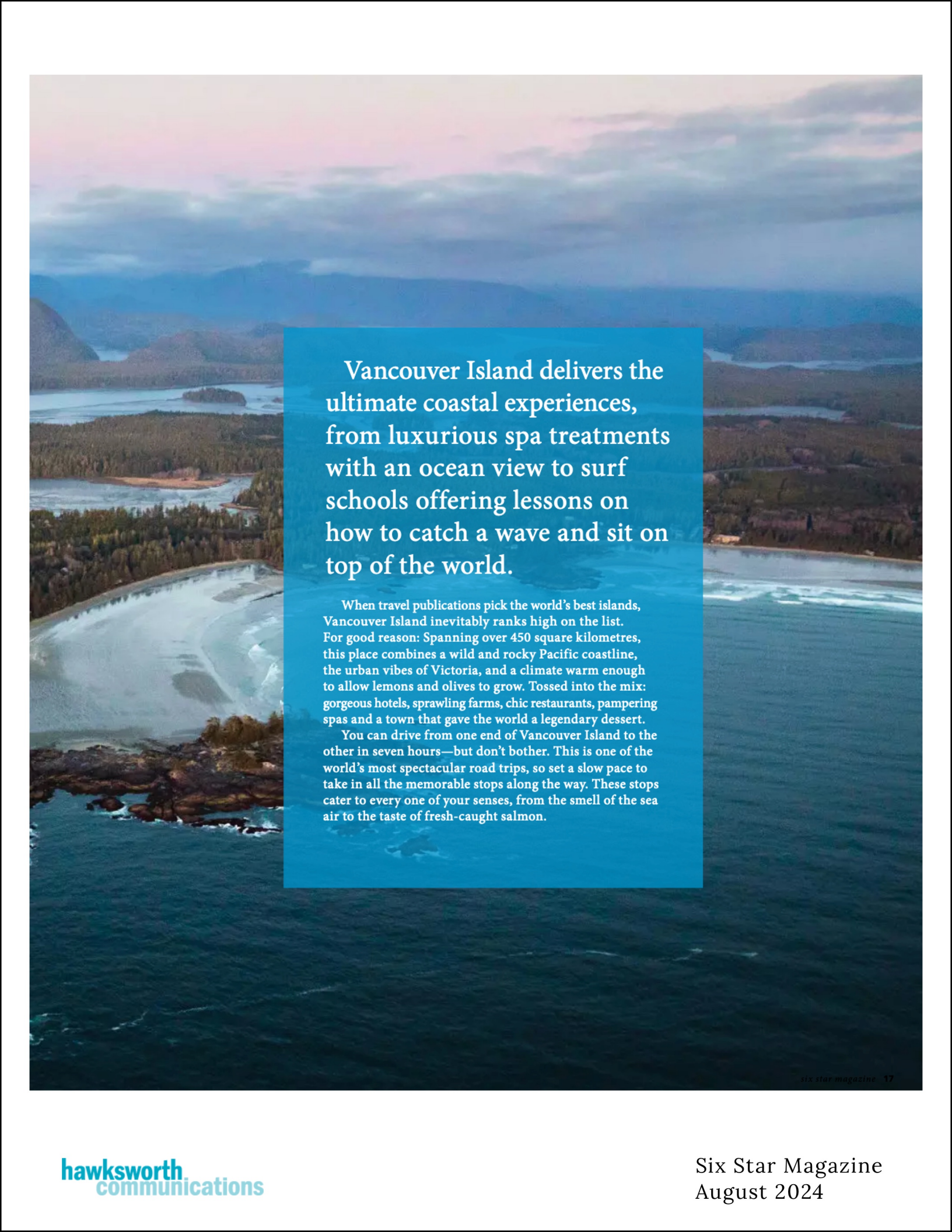
EXPERIENCE AN ALL-ELECTRIC ADVENTURE
ON THE **WILD WEST COAST OF CANADA** IN THE
ALL-NEW **2023 SUBARU SOLTERRA**

+ PLAN YOUR WEEKEND ESCAPE WITH THE SUBARU OVERLANDING PREPAREDNESS GUIDE + TAKE A QUICK
SPIN IN THE NEW 2024 SUBARU CROSSTREK + REST, RELAX AND RECHARGE ALONG THE VANCOUVER
ISLAND CULINARY TRAIL + GET BEHIND THE WHEEL OF THE NEW 2024 SUBARU IMPREZA + AND MUCH MORE!

THE BEST OF THE WEST

Writer: Michele Sponagle





Vancouver Island delivers the ultimate coastal experiences, from luxurious spa treatments with an ocean view to surf schools offering lessons on how to catch a wave and sit on top of the world.

When travel publications pick the world's best islands, Vancouver Island inevitably ranks high on the list. For good reason: Spanning over 450 square kilometres, this place combines a wild and rocky Pacific coastline, the urban vibes of Victoria, and a climate warm enough to allow lemons and olives to grow. Tossed into the mix: gorgeous hotels, sprawling farms, chic restaurants, pampering spas and a town that gave the world a legendary dessert.

You can drive from one end of Vancouver Island to the other in seven hours—but don't bother. This is one of the world's most spectacular road trips, so set a slow pace to take in all the memorable stops along the way. These stops cater to every one of your senses, from the smell of the sea air to the taste of fresh-caught salmon.

To get to the island, you can either fly directly to Victoria, take a puddle-jumper from Vancouver or take the ferry from Vancouver. From our perspective, the ferry is the ideal starting point—it’s a pleasant, 90-minute journey with opportunities to spot whales, sea lions and dolphins along the way. (Be sure to book your passage well ahead of time during the summer and busy holiday weekends.)

In Victoria, catch your breath for a day or two before starting your road trip. Bed down for the night in a stylish boutique property, like the award-winning Magnolia Hotel, known for its exceptional service, modern rooms and proximity to top attractions.

Indigenous artefacts and photography highlighting the evolution of British Columbia.

Once your Subaru is packed for the trip north, it’s a simple matter of pointing directly towards the legendary Trans-Canada Highway. When you arrive in the Cowichan Valley, about a half-hour north of Victoria, make the Malahat SkyWalk your first stop. Opened in July 2021, the attraction delivers a natural high, immersing visitors in nature along a 600-metre-long elevated walkway, leading to a 10-storey-high tower lookout. In the midst of the forest, the 360-degree views of Saanich Inlet, the Gulf Islands, Mt. Baker and the Coast Mountain range are awe-inspiring. To head back



Photo: Leila Kwok

Set the tone for your trip with stress-busting spa treatments available on-site, such as the Spa Magnolia Signature body treatment. This is a greatest hits package that includes a facial, massage, body scrub and a leisurely soak in a hydrotherapy tub.

While you’re in the provincial capital, book an elegant afternoon tea at the Fairmont Empress (an enduring nod to the city’s British roots), take a drive to the stunningly gorgeous Butchart Gardens and tour the oldest Chinatown in the country. You can also roam through the Royal BC Museum to see ancient fossils,

to Earth, whiz down the spiral slide or wind your way down the walkway.

As thirst hits, it’s time to explore the craft brewers, wineries, distillers and cideries along the route. On a sunny day, grab a seat on the patio at Marital Cidery & Distillery for light bites, perhaps a charcuterie board or a pulled pork sandwich, and sips of ciders made from apples produced on its 20-acre orchard. (Pro tip: Grab a bottle of the new violet-hued Aura gin to sample at your hotel later on).