

THE



TIMES



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Fashion

Anna Murphy on the New York collections

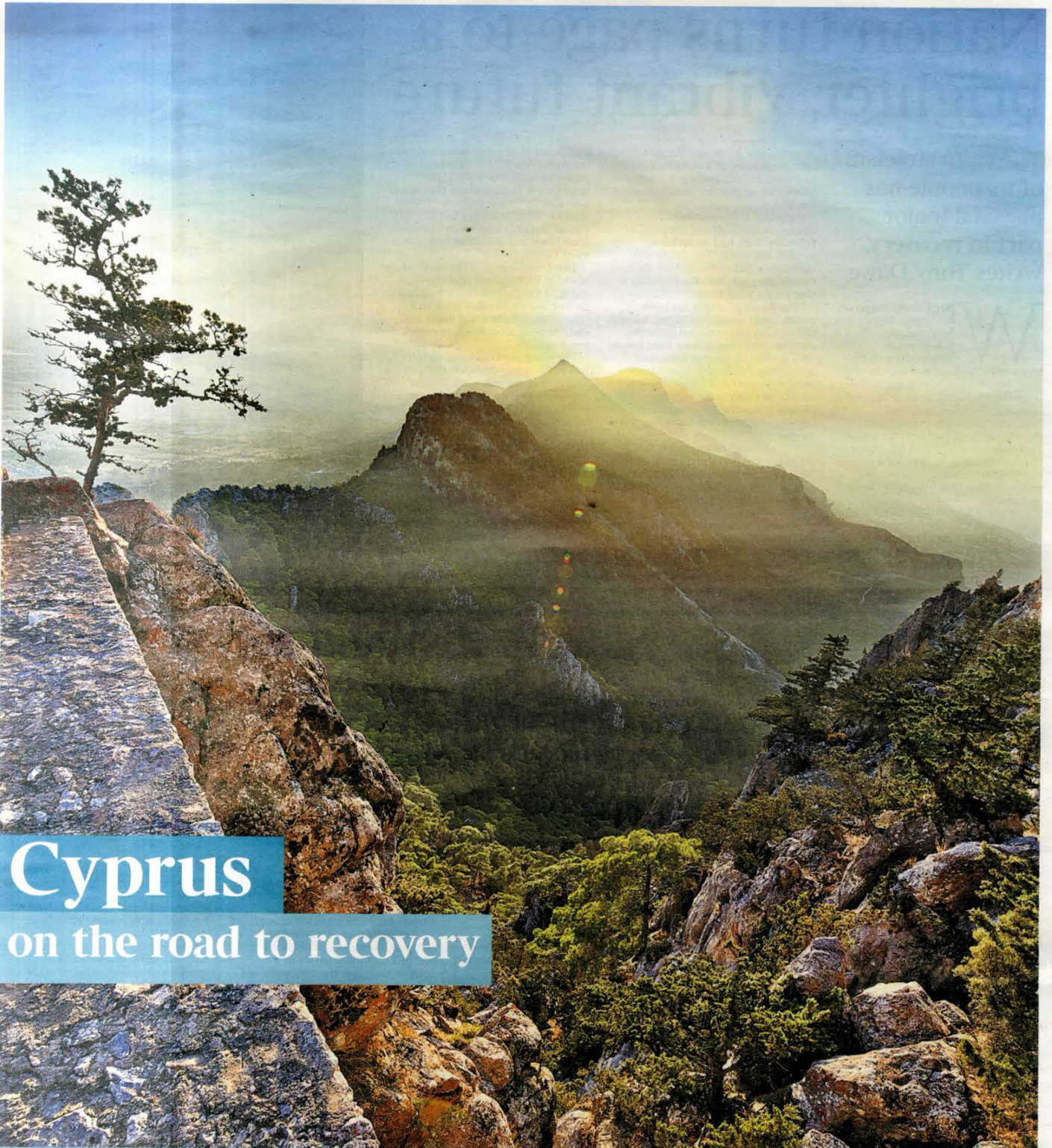
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Isabel Hardman Stop these tawdry political stunts

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THE TIMES



Cyprus

on the road to recovery

A resilient nation 4 Saving the banks 6-7 A place in the sun 10 Wednesday February 18 2015

Cyprus: road to recovery



GETTY IMAGES

Top-notch spas trigger rise in health tourism

There are a number of reasons why Cyprus always punches above its weight in the spa categories of global travel awards.

Choice, sunshine without the jet lag and affordability are all important factors. The island has a range of top-notch spas, from the award-winning Hebe Spa at the five-star Columbia Beach Resort in Pissouri Bay, to holistic eco-retreats such as Zening, tucked away on the hillside above Latchi.

According to the latest visitor figures from the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, health and medical tourism is a growing sector for the island. Driving this growth

is the appeal of thalassotherapy — the use of the mineral-rich seawater to treat a range of conditions from cellulite to rheumatism.

The magnesium and saline pools at Le Meridien Limassol Spa and Resort, and the natural sulphur springs at the boutique Ayii Anargyri Natural Healing Resort, add an extra dimension to the average spa experience. There are also thalassotherapy centres at the luxurious Roman-style spa at the Anassa hotel and at the Four Seasons, Limassol, which has the only Japanese-based Shiseido spa in the Mediterranean region.

For those who prefer

to just gaze at the sea rather than be pampered in it and slathered in algae, seaweed and mud, the views from the infinity pools at the Almyra Spa in Paphos and Aphrodite Hills Resort are breathtaking. The latter offers plenty to do for sporty partners, too, from golf to tennis.

Look out for treatments that use local, natural products such as citrus fruits, honey, pomegranates, pepper and olives. And, if you're travelling en famille, for family-friendly resort spas such as the Anassa, that offer well-organised crèche and kids' clubs and activities while you relax and unwind. NICK WYKE

... we have had with solar water
... ters, which you can see now in
... ry home.
... We have launched a very
... ovative programme where we allow
... sheolds to install up to three kVA

... of photovoltaic panels and that has
... created a lot of interest and new jobs.
... We will certainly continue with that
... intensity on the household front, but
... we will continue on larger-scale
... projects as well."



ALAMY

The research company, *vesselsvalue.com* estimates that over \$10.5 billion (£6.8 billion) worth of shipping operates under the Cyprus flag.

While the country's economy underwent a massive shock during the banking crisis, the profitability of its shipping businesses meant that international bailout teams were disposed to ensuring its liquidity during the initial, critical period. That left it in particularly good shape as the country recovers.

Its case as an international hub for shipping could receive a substantial shot in the arm later this year if Chrysostomou succeeds in becoming the next secretary-general of the International Maritime Organization, the UN body that develops global shipping regulations and co-ordinates the industry's position on anything from shipping emissions to piracy. Voting is due to take place in June.

Additionally, the recent discovery of offshore natural gas deposits in Cypriot waters will increase the demand for different types of shipping, such as offshore support vessels, to be owned and managed through the country.

Speaking in August last year, Thomas Kazakos, director-general of the Cyprus Shipping Chamber, said: "We say that shipping is the first cousin of the energy industry. The latter will find oil and gas and bring it to the surface, but who is going to carry it to the international energy market? We are."

... re often described as "flags of
... convenience".
... his is important because shipping
... npanies have been experiencing a
... vturn for most of the past seven
... rs, caught between stagnant cargo
... umes and growing vessel
... rcapacity, and have had to cut costs
... tay in business. Shipowners have
... grated to Cyprus from more
... ensive regimes.
... The difference between Cyprus and
... other open registries is that we
... o provide a fully fledged maritime
... tre," says Andreas Chrysostomou,
... ing director at the department of
... rchant shipping.

“Shipping is the first cousin of the energy industry”

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