



The Reading List.

Books to bring to the villa, and home again.



A working library.

Becoming Alpha is, at heart, a reading club that occasionally travels.

These are the books that shape the way we host, the way we speak and the way we build. Take what serves you. Leave the rest for another season.

ONE Business & Leadership

Books we return to when we are building: for the founder, the operator, the woman who wants a wider view of power and how to hold it well.

The Ride of a Lifetime

Robert Iger

On taste, restraint, and leading with a long horizon.

Working Backwards

Bryar & Carr

The Amazon method, told without the mythology.

Poor Charlie's Almanack

Charles T. Munger

Mental models for clear thinking.

The Hard Thing About Hard Things

Ben Horowitz

Founder truths, told plainly.

Shoe Dog

Phil Knight

A memoir of belief, endurance and beautiful obsession.

Trillion Dollar Coach

Schmidt, Rosenberg, Eagle

On coaching as the quiet architecture of great teams.

TWO Personal Growth

Not self-help. Slow, considered books on attention, patience and the private work of becoming: the ones we recommend most to the women who ask.

Letters to a Young Poet

Rainer Maria Rilke

The classic on living the questions.

Bird by Bird

Anne Lamott

On making a life of any kind, one honest piece at a time.

The Artist's Way

Julia Cameron

A twelve-week practice for recovering creative confidence.

Big Magic

Elizabeth Gilbert

Permission, in book form.

Tiny Beautiful Things

Cheryl Strayed

A companion for the harder seasons.

Man's Search for Meaning

Viktor Frankl

A reminder of what a life is for.

THREE Creativity & Style

For personal taste, for the way you dress a table, a room, a sentence. The reference shelf for our conversations on considered self-expression.

The Creative Act

Rick Rubin

A meditation on being an artist in every discipline.

On Photography

Susan Sontag

How images shape the way we see.

The Elements of Style

Strunk & White

Because clarity is a style.

Steal Like an Artist

Austin Kleon

Short, generous, alive.

The World of Interiors

Condé Nast, any archive issue

For weekend browsing and secondhand references.

Cereal, Volumes I to XV

Rosa Park & Rich Stapleton

A masterclass in restraint.

FOUR Fiction & Lifestyle

For long flights, long baths and afternoons at the villa when nothing needs doing. Novels and slow reads that stay with you well past the last page.

A Room with a View

E. M. Forster

A novel about weather, windows and permission.

The Enchanted April

Elizabeth von Arnim

Four women, one Italian villa, and the case for rest.

Bonjour Tristesse

Françoise Sagan

Cool, French, seventeen, and unforgettable.

The Summer Book

Tove Jansson

Grandmother, granddaughter, an island. Quiet perfection.

Normal People

Sally Rooney

For the flight home.

Where the Wild Ladies Are

Aoko Matsuda

Modern Japanese folktales, retold with wit.