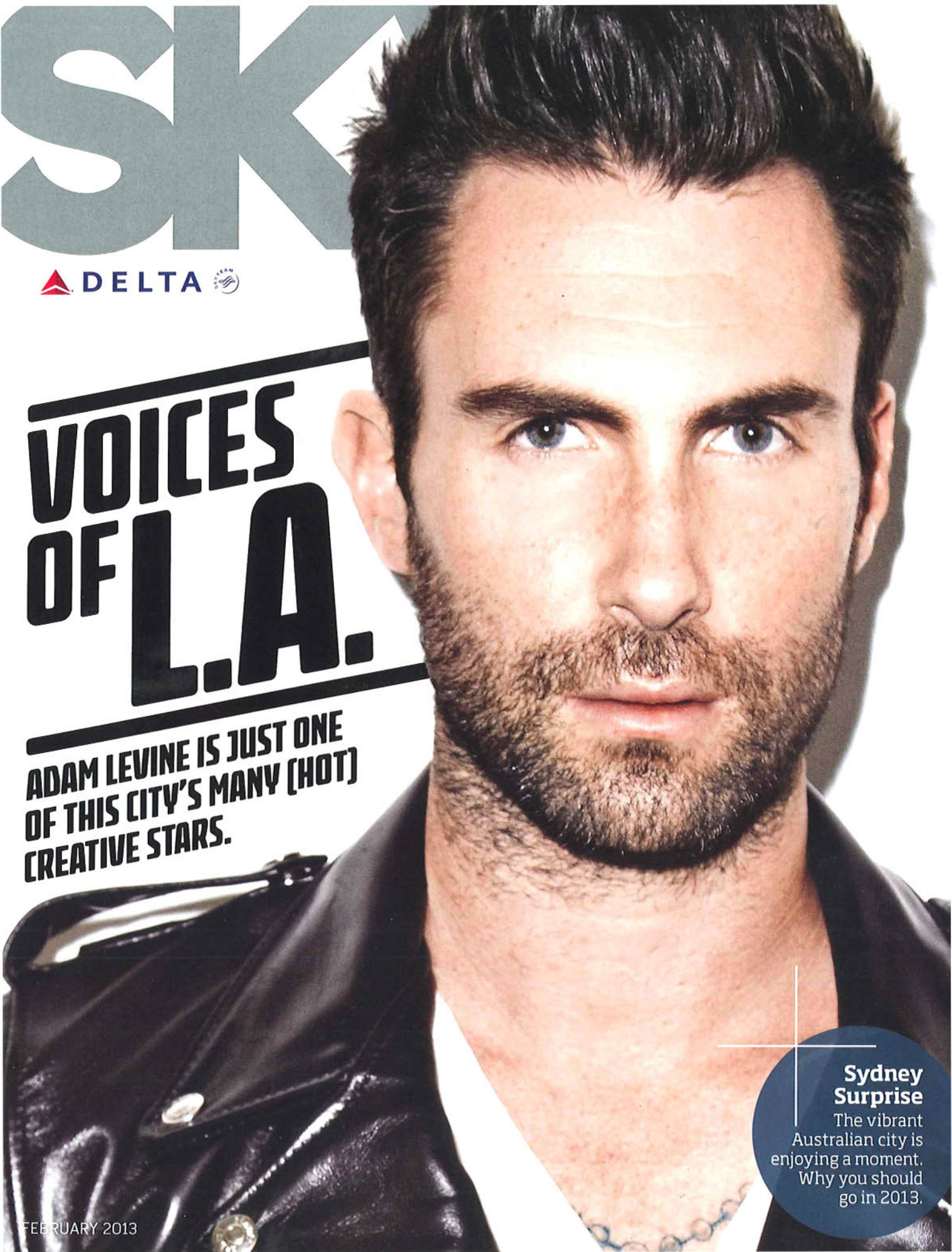


SK



VOICES OF L.A.

ADAM LEVINE IS JUST ONE
OF THIS CITY'S MANY (HOT)
CREATIVE STARS.



Sydney Surprise

The vibrant
Australian city is
enjoying a moment.
Why you should
go in 2013.



**HOT
List**
TRAVEL



Flightgeist //

Oakland California

WHY NOW: San Fran's younger brother is stepping into the spotlight thanks to a recent influx of restaurants, theaters and other small businesses.

Sometimes the most interesting travel destinations are the ones in transition. Enter Oakland, where a small business renaissance is good news for a city that's endured its share of crime and drugs over the years and bad news for residents being priced out of suddenly trendy areas such as Rockridge, Temescal and Grand Lake. For better or worse, the gentrification of the East Bay adds up to compelling tourism. Plan your trip around Oakland's restaurant scene, which is at turns high-minded and down-home. For the former, try Michelin-starred **Commis** on Piedmont Avenue and the newly opened Japanese-American joint **Hopscotch** in Uptown, or go casual with a burrito at **Cactus Taqueria** in Rockridge or an Asian rice bowl at **Hawker Fare** on Webster Street. Good cooking isn't the only change agent in town. **Manifesto** (scrappy bike shop), **Blue Bottle Coffee** (best cup in town), **Marisa Haskell** (gorgeous jewelry) and the **Fox Theater** (beautifully restored 1920s performance space) all believe in their city's revival, and you might, too, after a long weekend here. commisrestaurant.com, hopscotchoakland.com, cactustaqueria.com, hawkerfare.com, wearemanifesto.com, bluebottlecoffee.com, marisahaskell.bigcartel.com, thefoxoakland.com



Hawker Fare restaurant in Oakland

Mukul
Opening this month on Nicaragua's Emerald Coast, this luxury beach hotel offers four miles of white-sand beaches as well as plenty of nature trails. mukulresort.com



ibis Istanbul Esenyurt
Opening this month in Istanbul's business district, this inviting, 156-room hotel is perfect for far-flung work trips as well as your next adventure vacation. ibis.com



The Beach House at Pasikudah, Sri Lanka
This new hotel boasts an infinity pool, library, spa and water sports center, plus 34 suites, some with an ocean view, personal butler and private plunge pool. beachhousecollection.com

Quotable //

Bill Nye on

Green Innovation

Like any environmentalist, I'm a big fan of just having more by wasting less. That's akin to picking the low-hanging fruit. Great. But we can't just [waste] less. The key to our future is instead to find ways to do more with less.

—From Nye's commencement address to Harvey Mudd College's class of 2012.

If you do ride the surf here, you might want to invest in a wetsuit.

Miscellanea //

Tofino—a tiny hamlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia—is home to the world's unlikeliest surf scene. Sure, the water is cold, but it churns out big swells year-round, attracting experts and newbies alike. A slew of surf schools and an overall laid-back vibe round out the Northwest's answer to Oahu.

