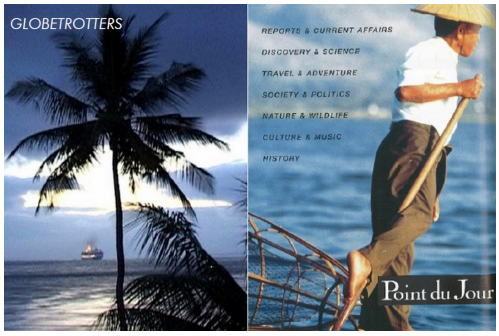


IRAN: ROSE WATER

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Every May in the village of Niasar in the heart of the Iran, roses are picked just like fruit. The petals are then delivered to the local distillery to become "golab", rose water, which is exported to the rest of the Muslim world. In Iran, rose water is also used in patisseries, for cosmetic purposes or for religious ceremonies. This year, the rose picking season coincides with the Shiite celebration of mourning, the Moaram.

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