

## Man of mystery

Can Mick Brown crack the Cumberbatch code?

### **BAHRAIN STORM**

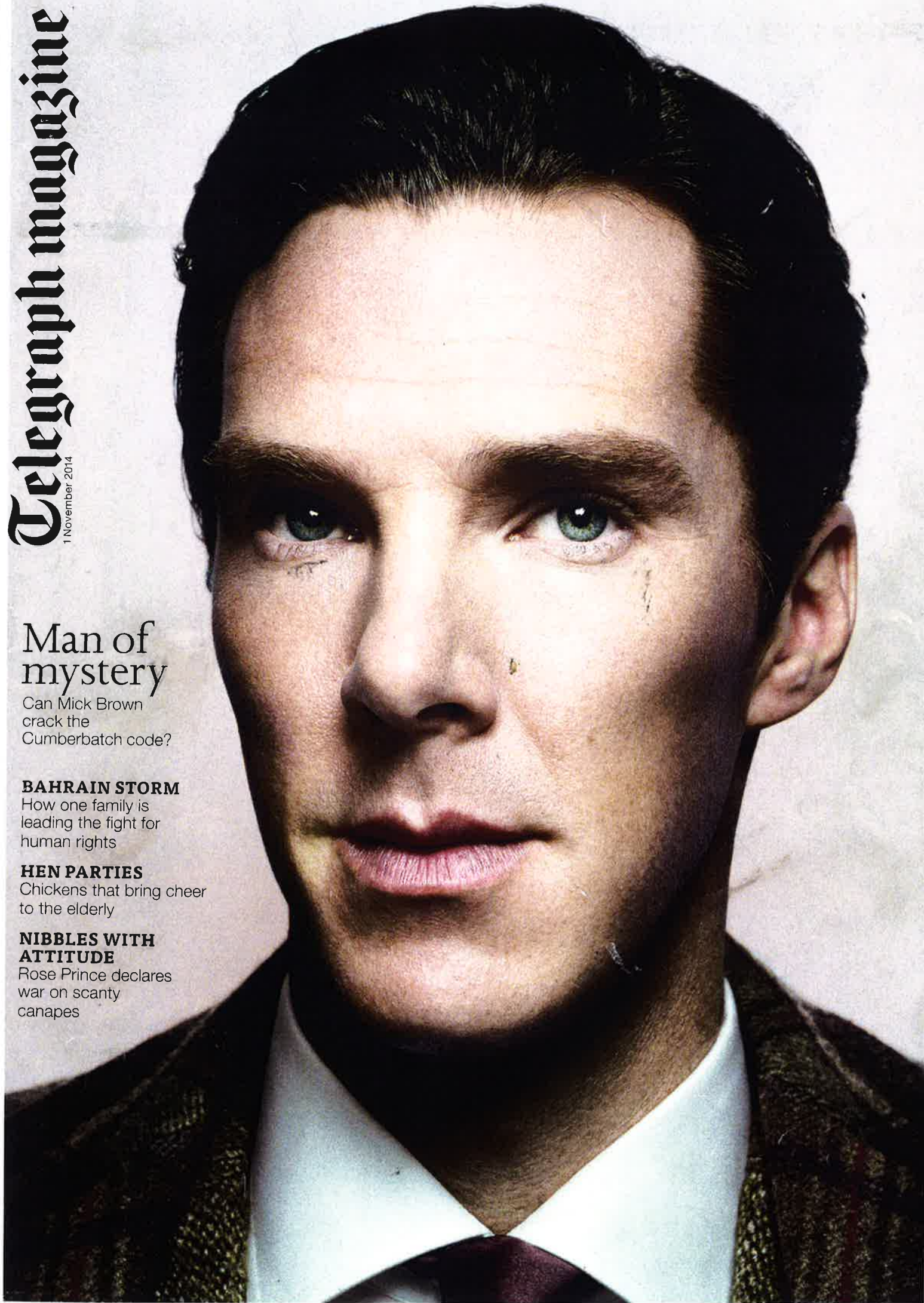
How one family is leading the fight for human rights

### **HEN PARTIES**

Chickens that bring cheer to the elderly

### **NIBBLES WITH ATTITUDE**

Rose Prince declares war on scanty canapes



## Four of the best Hotels for November sun, by Francesca Syz

email [travel.magazine@telegraph.co.uk](mailto:travel.magazine@telegraph.co.uk)

**Quinta Casa Velha do Palheiro Madeira** The Palheiro estate was built in 1801 by the first Count of Carvalhal as a hunting lodge and summer residence. When John Burden Blandy bought it in 1885, his friends branded it a white elephant. Since then, the estate has been through many incarnations, and today is run by Blandy's great-great-grandson, Sam, with his wife, Christina. The couple added a golf course in 1993 and converted the old Casa Velha into a small boutique hotel in 1997. Two years later they extended the restaurant and added a new wing with 10 more bedrooms; a decade later came a spa. On a hillside a 20-minute drive from Funchal, the 37-room hotel feels like a British country-house hotel, but bathed in Madeira's subtropical sunshine. It has an excellent restaurant offering Portuguese dishes with Mediterranean and oriental influences, plus in- and outdoor pools and a spa. It is all set within 200-year-old gardens, and next door is the even more heavenly Palheiro Gardens. **The details** Doubles from £130 (00 351 291 790 350; [casa-velha.com](http://casa-velha.com)). Tap ([flytap.com](http://flytap.com)) flies from Heathrow to Funchal from £142 return.



**Hotel Les Cinq Djellabas Marrakesh** In some ways it seems silly not to stay in the heart of the action when visiting Marrakesh, but basing yourself in the palm-lined Palmeraie neighbourhood a 15-minute taxi-ride away, from which you can dip in and out of the medina, is actually brilliant. We love the Hotel Les Cinq Djellabas, designed by Thierry Isnardon and owned and run by Frédéric Vélissariou, the restaurateur behind Le Foundouk, one of the best places to eat in the medina. With 10 spacious, comfortable, circular, safari-style thatched 'lodges'; a large heated swimming pool that is open year round; and five acres of lawns, terraces, olive groves and banana plants, it's the perfect place to enjoy November T-shirt weather. Breakfast is a selection of pastries, fruit and yogurt, with cooked dishes on request. The hotel also serves as an outpost of Le Foundouk for guests, so at other times of the day, with two hours' notice, you can sample its delicious tagines and other dishes. **The details** Lodges in November from £182, including breakfast (020-3397 0085; [chicretreats.com](http://chicretreats.com)). EasyJet ([easyjet.com](http://easyjet.com)) flies from Gatwick to Marrakesh from £113 return.

**La Hacienda del Buen Suceso Gran Canaria** The oldest hacienda estate in the Canary Islands, La Hacienda del Buen Suceso in north-eastern Gran Canaria started life in 1572 as a sugarcane plantation, before passing into the family of the Marquesado de Arucas in 1851. They have harvested bananas there ever since. In 1997 the family turned the hacienda into an atmospheric hotel, with 18 rooms and suites featuring original wooden beams and four-poster beds; a pretty pool; numerous shady terraces with comfy armchairs to curl up in; and a restaurant housed in converted stables, serving buffet breakfasts, three-course dinners and lighter meals on request. An easy minute drive from the sandy beaches of the south, it is also only 15 minutes from Las Palmas, with its handsome colonial centre and beaches. Better still, there are world-class botanical gardens next door, and the whitewashed town of Arucas, with its neo-Gothic church and rum distillery, is a short walk away. **The details** Doubles from £115 in November ([haciendabuensuceso.com](http://haciendabuensuceso.com)). British Airways ([ba.com](http://ba.com)) flies from Heathrow to Gran Canaria from £153 return.



**Spinguera Eco Lodge Cape Verde** At about six hours' flying time, the island of Boa Vista in Cape Verde, an arrow-shaped archipelago 350 miles off the coast of west Africa, is my farthest-flung suggestion, but with an average daily temperature of 26C, it is a great option for guaranteed beach time. The archipelago's easternmost island, Boa Vista is ringed by powder-white sandy beaches and home to Spinguera Eco Lodge. A long-abandoned fishing village, the site was bought by Armando Lazzari, in 2003, and his daughter, Larissa, and her husband, Alessandro, transformed it into a sustainable eco-lodge, which opened in 2007. Bedrooms are housed in stone cottages, and a simple restaurant serves Cape Verdean-Italian meals. A 10-minute stroll across the dunes you'll find the beach, where there are shady cabanas with hammocks and floor cushions waiting for you. **The details** The Cape Verde Experience offers seven-night breaks in November from £1,159pp, based on two sharing a standard double on a B&B basis, including flights from Gatwick, transfers and visas (0845-330 2047; [capeverde.co.uk](http://capeverde.co.uk)). Next: Central American eco lodges