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## CORINTHIA, CRANKED TO 11

LONDON MAY BE SWELLING AT THE SEAMS this summer with well-heeled travellers packing into countless five-star hotels, but one property is loosening its proverbial belt and making a little extra room. Corinthia Hotel London has launched 11 new 'Garden' and 'London' suites offering guests a wider range of luxurious suites to choose from when staying at the flagship property – the first enhancement of the Westminster hotel since it opened seven years ago.

Inspired by a day in the UK capital, the London Suite is an homage to modern city life, with art in the spotlight. The ear of cubism is celebrated in the 105sqm dual aspect suite, designed for privacy and entertainment with the option of two further adjoining bedrooms, ideal for large families and groups.

The Garden Suite is more of a nod to the quintessential British garden, overlooking a beautifully landscaped courtyard. With accents of verdant green, soft furnishings and live planting, the 67sqm suite provides an even more tranquil setting. A botanical colour scheme and texture runs throughout the abode, encouraging guests to relax as the doors open directly into a living area with a feature fireplace

Designed by GA Design, the new suites complement the seven penthouses existing suites, all evoking an elegant residential style with expansive outside terraces complete with exceptional and previously unseen views across the capital. The London-based architecture firm created the accommodations to be homely, refined, understated and elegant, with all furniture manufactured in the UK and lighting fixtures direct from Wales.

To top it off, a personal butler service will assure all needs at tended to, while you command the separate living room, oversized bedroom and marble bathroom with underfloor heating. The built-in TV over the bathtub and a tropical rain shower are additional of the features that travellers can expect, with Garden Suites available from £1,140 and London Suites from £2,160 inclusive of VAT.

Sit down and spa at St. James' Court

Yet more modifications are taking place in Westminster, with St. James' Court, A Taj Hotel launching newly renovated rooms as part of a multi-million pound revamp. The new rooms are designed by award-winning architects and interior designers, Dexter Moren Associates, in partnership with interior design consultant Sue Freeman. The renovation also includes the opening of a new spa this month. "Hosting over a 100,000 travellers every year, the renovation marks an exciting new era for the hotel to serve the ever evolving needs of the modern traveller," said Taj's UK Area Director and General Manager, Digvijay Singh, who claims that the 116-year-old hotel is symbolic of the union between the hotel group's Indian heritage and timeless British pedigree.



#### TO THE EDGE OF EUROPE WITH CELEBRITY CRUISES

PEOPLE OFTEN DISCUSS ROAD TRIPS around the British Isles, but why crawl up the M1 when you can journey via cruise ship? Celebrity Cruises is offering summer cruise lovers the chance to stop some of the UK and Ireland's most dazzling cities, immersing themselves in ancient architecture, scenic streets steeped in history and the chance to splash some pounds (and euros) on as many shopping sprees as your credit card can handle.

Departing from the culturally compelling Amsterdam, guests embark on a journey to the British Isles, taking in Inverness and Edinburgh before traversing the North Sea toward Liverpool, Belfast, Dublin and Cork, taking in UNESCO World Heritage sites, award-winning museums, historic landmarks and, of course, world-class cuisine. Highlights include seeing Trinity College, St. Stephen's Green Park, Newgrange and Dublin Castle in the Irish capital, as well as exploring Edinburgh (the "Athens of the North") with its own legendary hilltop castle, beautiful Georgian architecture and the enchanting narrow lanes of Old Town.

#### LIVE LONG AND PROSPER WITH SHA'S NEW RESIDENCES

ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP HEALTH and wellness facilities has expanded its offering beyond luxurious, leadingedge treatments, opening a range of new residences that care for the environment as well as guests. SHA Wellness Clinic has launched "SHA Residences", coinciding with the Spanish retreat's 10th anniversary. Natural light is paramount, along with the traditional principles of feng shui, the adaption of technology and home automation for wellbeing, chromotherapy, systems for measuring and purifying the quality of air. The three types of Residences (Garden, Premier and Penthouse) range from 300sqm to 500sqm and, depending on the category, offer a fitness room, treatment cabin, Turkish bath or sauna, as well as a private cinema room. Each Residence includes private gardens and terraces with infinity pools made from glass, amounting to a total of 82 linear metres of glass pool.

#### THE ROYAL MONCEAU INVITES YOU TO LIVE THE MEDITERRANEAN LIFE IN THE HEART OF PARIS ON ITS ST. TROPEZ-ESQUE POP-UP TERRACE. 'ROYAL DES LICES' REMAINS OPEN TILL MID-SEPTEMBER, WHERE YOU CAN PLAY PETANQUE AND IMBIBE A GLASS OF LAURENT-PERRIER CUVÉE ROSÉ CHAMPAGNE OR A GLASS OF MINUTY ROSÉ, ACCOMPANIED BY DELECTABLE TAPAS.

## WILD WELLNESS IN GSTAAD



GSTAAD'S CHICEST BOUTIQUE BOLTHOLE, Le Grand Bellevue, has introduced an exclusive new "wild wellness" experience. The four-night programme kicked off in June, allowing guests to push further than their fitness as they swim, cycle and run through a series of mountain pursuits, before indulging in balancing wellness experiences, including mountainside massages and a spectacular heli-yoga trip. The new programme builds on Le Grand Bellevue's recently revamped wellness offering, incorporating the 3,000sqm Le Grand Sp, one of the largest in the region. There are now 17 unique wellness experiences on offer, including a new Hay Sauna, Ice Fountain and Infrared Sauna, plus Himalayan Salt Grotto, Finnish Sauna and Laconium. The Wild Wellness Experience starts from £2,422 for two people, including four nights' accommodation, daily breakfast and dinner and all scheduled activities. www.bellevue-gstaad.ch

## CARIBBEAN CHIC AT BELMOND LA SAMANNA

ALMOST A YEAR AFTER HURRICANE IRMA left a trail of devastation across the Caribbean, many of the region's top hotels are emerging from extensive refurbishments to welcome in a new era. One of the first to reopen is Belmond La Samanna in St. Martin, which is set to welcome guests from December 10, following a top-to-to refresh that has seen all 83 guestrooms, the spa and all restaurants, bars and public spaces brought back to life by London-based interior design firm Muza Lab. The Caribbean itself has been the inspiration for the new-look interior colour palette, with pastel hues in blue, green, pink and peach contrasting with the whitewashed exterior and terracotta tiled roof of the resort. Natural elements such as corals, shells and botanical prints have been incorporated throughout the redesigned spaces, including the beachfront Baie Longue Bar, which is named after the mile-long stretch of beach it overlooks.

Happily, Le Cave Wine Cellar has been fully

### HAWAII SAYS ALOHA TO AUBERGE



HAWAII'S BIG ISLAND IS HOME TO SOME OF the most spectacular landscapes in the Pacific, with towering peaks, moonlike lava plains and glorious white-sand beaches ringing the island. It's no wonder then that Auberge Resorts has chosen one of the island's most iconic properties to join its ever-growing collection of unique spa resorts.

Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows will close in October for a yearlong US \$100 million refurbishment, after which it will reopen as Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection, joining other Auberge properties including Auberge du Soleil and Calistoga Ranch in California's Napa Valley.

Based around the Hawaiian concept of 'aloha aina', or love of the land, the resort's transformation will be rooted in respect for its surroundings: 32 acres of tropical gardens that are home to ancient 'royal fishing ponds' – built more than 2,000 years ago to supplement the indigenous Hawaiians' diet when the haul from ocean fishing outings was scarce.

New York-based architectural firm Hart Howerton will breathe new life into the resort's extensive grounds and iconic architecture, while the guest rooms and public spaces will be given a completely new look by interior design firm Meyer Davis. New oceanfront and ocean-view suites will be added, and the resort's premium accommodation options, the Mauna Lani Bungalows, will feature private pools and personal butlers in their own resort-within-a-resort setting.

For grown-ups, an infinity pool with private cabanas will overlook the wild Pacific Ocean and the royal ponds, and a new Family Pool will offer daily entertainment for kids, supplementing the new Auberge Adventures programme which brings together some of the island's top attractions in family friendly packages. restocked and resumes its place as the largest private wine cellar in the Caribbean, and French restaurant Trelis returns to remind diners of the island's French heritage and status as one of the region's culinary capitals.

Hilltop spa treatments at La Samanna Spa using products from French brands Sisley and Pure Altitude are conducted by candlelight, bringing a dash of romance to this gorgeous Caribbean hideaway.

> THE RECENTLY DID **OPENED PERRY** YOU HEAR? LANE HOTEL, A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL, PAYS TRIBUTE TO SAVANNAH. **GEORGIA'S RICH** HISTORY, WITH A **DESIGN BASED ON A TRADITIONAL GEORGIAN MANOR HOUSE – A THEME** REFLECTED **THROUGHOUT ITS 167 ROOMS & 12 SUITES.** A WHIMSICAL ART **COLLECTION & A FINE SELECTION OF MAPS. TRAVEL TRINKETS & ANTIOUE DÉCOR** MAKE EVERY ROOM UNIQUE.

# ALL ABOARD THE RITZ-CARLTON



### What's the premise behind The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection?

We've designed something that looks like a superyacht in order to imitate the yachting lifestyle, taking guests down to the Caribbean or the Mediterranean or Northern Europe as you would on your own superyacht. We are going to smaller places and doing less of them in a voyage, really focusing on each destination.

## What sets The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection apart?

Firstly, The Ritz-Carlton: the brand's reputation for quality and service is what brings people to us and that's what will keep people coming. Besides that, the yacht itself is a differentiator in terms of the size (149 suites) and the superyacht styling: the yachting lifestyle is at the heart of what sets us apart, but also, where we go and probably even more than that, how we go.

### How does the experience differ from a typical cruise?

You don't find a large concentration of cruise ships in the southern part of the Caribbean, because they are mostly smaller ports, so you see lots of superyachts there. You can't take a cruise ship to Mustique, but when we are moored in Bequia (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), we have air-conditioned 20-knot limousine tenders that can run 25 guests at a time to Mustique. Just being able to stay overnight in Bequia itself and stroll the streets in the evening and sit in one of the old hotels on the seafront is more in keeping with the way you would travel if you were on your own yacht. PART SUPERYACHT FLEET, PART LUXURY HOTEL COLLECTION, THE RITZ-CARLTON YACHT COLLECTION IS CHARTING NEW WATERS WITH ITS COMPENDIUM OF ITINERARIES THAT TAKE GUESTS TO PLACES OTHER COMPANIES CAN'T REACH. CEO DOUGLAS PROTHERO PLOTS A COURSE TO PARADISE



#### Those tenders sound swish?

We have the exact same units that are on Roman Abramovich's Eclipse: same builders, same design, but a slightly different colour configuration to go with our yachts. We also have a beach club at the back of the yacht that we call the Superyacht Marina. There's a garage with kayaks, paddle boards and sail boats and people can get a lunch or dinner down there and literally walk into the sea via a set of hydraulic stairs, as you would on a superyacht. Bringing people this close to the sea is all part of the superyacht experience.

### How will you work with The Ritz-Carlton resorts during the cruises?

We don't necessarily pull out the map and look at where all hotels are and say 'how do we include those in the itinerary?' It's the other way around. We build a great itinerary first. Lets say we're calling in at Barcelona; we could have guests from the Hotel Arts coming aboard for lunch and our guests going to the spa or the pool at the hotel. Or, for the Cayman Islands property, for example, we're planning to do a 10-day land and sea tour, where guests would spend five days at sea and five days at the resort.

### The yachts are spectacular: can you tell us about the design?

The yachts are a hybrid between a luxury cruise vessel and a superyacht, obviously inspired by superyacht design. The designer is Tillbert Design of Sweden and the project is led by one of the principals there, Fredrik Johansson. They have experience in hotels, yachts and also cruise vessels, so they're a perfect team.



Palazzo del Cinema di Venezia, Lido, Italy The 75th Venice International Film Festival returns to Lido di Venezia, with the continued aim of raising awareness and promoting international cinema in all its forms as art, entertainment and as an industry, "in a spirit of freedom and dialogue". A set of familiar faces will help kick off proceedings at the world's oldest film fest, with First Man by Damien Chazelle officially opening the festival, starring Ryan Gosling, Jason Clarke and Claire Foy, following up the colourful smash hit La La Land with a biopic retelling the riveting story of Neil Armstrong and NASA's mission to land a man on the moon. An earlier pre-opening event, however, will celebrate the recent 4K restoration of The Golem - How He Came Into The World (1920) by Paul Wegener, shown in the Sala Darsena on the Lido. www.labiennale.org





# Diary

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AUG-SEPT 29-8

Fast cars, smooth jazz and some delicious tipples – this month's essential diary dates cover a wide gamete of interests and locales, from quaffing grapes in Napa to high-speed thrills at the British Grand Prix

#### 2018 US OPEN New York City, USA

It's easy to jest about the US not having a deep history, but its modern sporting traditions are as stacked as any nation in the world. Just consider the fact that the US Open dates back to 1887, only four years after the first ever Wimbledon event took place – and by the time the 2018 edition plays out, there will have been six more editions of the New York tennis tournament. VIP fans can watch all the action at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center with the option of renting one of the stadium's luxury suites. The Luxury Suite packages allow you to "escape the crowds and indulge your clients, family or friends to the suite life", according to the event organisers with prime in-stadium viewing, curated menus, in-lounge flat screens, en suite restrooms, and full service from a suite attendant. And just to make things simpler, suite rental grants you 20 tickets to the event, as well as two host passes to ensure early access (so someone can get in ahead of the party and chill the bubbles). *www.usopen.org* 







#### DUBROVNIK SUMMER FESTIVAL 2018 Dubrovnik, Croatia

No one is partying harder than the Croatians right now. Just a few short weeks ago, a quarter of the nation's population showed up in Dubrovnik to welcome the footballing heroes that reached the final of the 2018 World Cup – but the party was already underway. The capital city's summer festival has been an annual highlight since the early '50s and this 69th edition continues the theme of combining tradition and modernity, connecting local, national and international expressions of creativity. A bevy of classical performers from Central Europe and beyond will light up the honey pot city, now even more popular due to recent fame as "King's Landing" on HBO's Game of Thrones adaption. *www.dubrovnik-festival.hr* 



#### PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE 2018 Pebble Beach, California

It's not a contest of speed but of elegance. This illustrious Pebble Beach event isn't about high octane thrills, nor razor thin lap time improvements, it's where competitors' immaculate motors are judged for their style and technical merit, as well as their history, their originality and the accuracy of their preservation or restoration. Dating back to 1950, this concours event is the top-ranking collector car competition in the world – a Crufts for cars, if you will – and the 2018 edition will feature several marques, including Motor Cars of the Raj and Vintage-Era Sporting Cars. And, in tandem with the battle between beautiful cars, the event also plays host to some of the world's most anticipated concept and new car debuts each year. *www.pebblebeachconcours.net* 

## 2 EXQUISITE HIDEAWAYS ON THE EAST COAST



Delve into the untouched wilderness of the east coast of the island at Radisson Blu Resorts & Spa Mauritius. The best of both worlds for those seeking to experience the cozy sophistication of a design beach hotel, only one step away from our outlandish landscapes and sceneries. **Radisson Blu Azuri Resort & Spa** delivers a distinctive Mauritius holiday experience for families and honeymooners whilst **Radisson Blu Poste Lafayette Resort & Spa** offers the perfect island escape, exclusively for adults.





www.radissonblu.com/en/hotels/mauritius

## DESTINATIONS THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE LOCATIONS



#### SO SVERIGE

An eight-page retelling of a mad midsummer in Stockholm

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An artsy traipse jaunt through the zesty city of Zurich Swede enough already? We explore Stockholm in summer

56 The Big Four: an overview of the Indian Ocean's top resorts

# A SANGE

Fine dining with masterpieces, gallery hopping in Zürich-West, and hotels with museum-worthy collections are all on Sarah Freeman's art-fuelled agenda in Switzerland's largest metropolis

Words: Sarah Freeman





'm sipping on an artisanal coffee overlooking a graffiti-walled urban herb garden, and there isn't a chocolate shop, stuffy banker or Disney spire in sight. Welcome to Zürich-West, a reclaimed industrial wasteland with a Brooklynmeets-Berlin vibe, that's turning Zurich's buttoneddown-and-boring image on its head.

With its galleries breathing new life into urban industrial edifices like turbine halls and soap factories, this Westside district is taking the city's contemporary art scene to the next level. Basel may be synonymous with art buyers (and its namesake fair) but Zurich's claim to some of Europe's best private art collections and the continent's first digital art museum, MuDA (*www.muda.co/zurich*), are cementing its artistic credentials. And with a creative economy that represents a whopping 7.7 per cent of the city's GDP, the capital of capitalism could be on course to be Switzerland's new "art capital".

Zurich is no stranger to creativity. During both World Wars the city became a refuge for painters (and paintings), and the adopted home of artists and intellectuals like Einstein and James Joyce. And on a cobbled street in Old Town, a club named Cabaret Voltaire changed the course of modern art. This is where the Dada movement was founded back in 1916, influencing the artistic landscape of Berlin, Paris and across the Atlantic to New York.

#### **WEST SIDE STORIES**

The spirit of Dadaism lives on in the reclaimed

warehouses of Zürich-West, also known as Kreis 5. One place that's challenging the status quo with its social-issue-focused art is the Migros Museum, housed in the 1897-built, red-bricked Löwenbräu. The former brewery-turned-artistic-incubator is also home to a number of galleries like Galerie Francesca Pia and contemporary art bookshop, Kunstgriff – the perfect venue to get your artistic footing before graduating to the Museum of Design (more of that later).

#### TRAINSPOTTING

On this unseasonably hot spring day, I seek shade under Zürich-West's 19th century-viaduct, now home to designer ateliers, studio galleries and concept stores. Walking the length of the 550-yard arches, with the occasional S-Bahn train trundling overhead, I eventually succumb to the window charms of Cabinet. Nina and Jeroen van Rooijen's pop-up-turned-bricks-and-mortar store is a treasure trove par-excellance, peddling everything from hand blown Parisian glass and Arno Wolf Merino wool blankets, to Gurkee rope sandals.

Another homegrown retail success story is Freitag – located just around the corner across four levels of disused freight containers. The industrial-chic bag brand was founded in 1993 before sustainability was even a buzzword. Swiss-brothers Markus and Daniel Freitag DIY'd their own bicycle courier bags as students, and so the cult, recycled truck tauplin bags were born. The original "messenger bag" is exhibited in New York's Museum of Modern Art; such is its iconic design status.

The store's rooftop observation deck is a great spot to make sense of Kreis 5's post-industrial landscape, that's peppered with green pockets like Frau Gerolds Garten. Sandwiched between the rails, Prime Tower and the Viaduct, this former-urban waste ground is more than just another hipster beer garden. Its 60 on-site raised garden beds have given the city's thriving urban gardening scene a cool cachet. Most of the bounty ends up on the plates of its Locavore restaurant, which boasts a popular terrace overlooking the railways tracks.

#### **DINING ON CLOUD NINE**

I trade trainspotting for more elevated city views at fine dining stalwart, CLOUDS (*www.clouds.ch*), located on the 35th floor of Zurich's tallest building, the Prime Tower. The only distraction from their classic business lunch is the city's iconic lake, which shimmers through the floor-to-ceiling windows. I indulge in a starter of burrata and pink grapefruit, followed by corn-fed organic chicken, washed down with a Merlot Bianco from the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino. This is one of 200 vintages from its exhaustive wine list. It's their home-infused, award-winning CLOUDS Gin, that really makes the elevator wait worthwhile, though.

#### **MOVEMENT AND JAZZ**

Hunger sated, it's time to re-fuel my cultural appetite with a visit to two of Zürich-West's most lionized museums: Musuem of Design and MuDA. I





Previous opener & left page: The Limmat is the aquatic heart of Zurich. Clockwise from top: A refreshing home-made tipple at Clouds; a buzzing mealtime at the aforementioned eatery; plating up the goods; your choice of tipple; and a rather exquisite desert to help beat the summer heat.









## **ETRACE** SUNSHINE OF A STOCKHOLM MIND

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Swede disposition? The Northern European nation has a rich cultural history, with some fascinating seasonal traditions. Joe Lipscombe dodges downpours and experiences a summer solstice in Stockholm, providing a lens into the endearingly quirky Scandinavian kingdom



ain is ricocheting off my face like a jazz drummer going to town on a hi-hat. The heavy wind is preventing me from opening my umbrella. My white tennis shoes, new, are turning a mundane grey, and the water is beginning to flood the gaps between my toes. I'm making the 1,000-metre walk between the central train station and my hotel, and I look and feel about as miserable as a cat in a bath. This is Stockholm, Sweden, on June 26. It's Midsummer, the longest day of the year. And this is perfectly normal.

Midsummer to Swedes is what Thanksgiving is to the Americans. The single biggest holiday of the year, causing a complete and utter shut down of cities and towns up and down the country. Families pack their bags and head away for the weekend, either to a summerhouse or, more commonly, their boats. Swedes love boating. The country boasts more than 95,000 navigable lakes, and is home to the most leisure boats per capita anywhere in the world.

Fortunately, this all but clears out its beautiful capital, leaving its luscious parks, quaint and quirky coffee shops, and wide waterways largely untouched. This is splendid, because I have 24 hours to soak up the city before heading further south for a traditional Swedish midsummer, and I don't really like people. Funnily enough, that makes Sweden a fairly safe country for me. "Sverige" is the 55th largest nation in the world, and fifth largest in Europe, yet is home to a population of just ten million, not much larger than Greater London but smeared over an immense, phallic landmass, 1,000 miles long.

That came as quite a shock to me, given Sweden's modest dent on modern culture, other than the fact its heralded as an exemplary vision of a utopian society. In fact, it's only in the last few years that Sweden has become somewhat fashionable with the rest of the world, perhaps owing to its delightful little quirks and veil of mystery. The Nordic nation is a trifle of complexity and cliché.

Yes, they are obsessed with saunas as a social past time, they do love meatballs, they are patriotically passionate about IKEA, they actually drive Volvos (and love to tell you about their safety aspects), and they absolutely, unequivocally, un-ironically adore ABBA. On the other hand there's a steady stream of oddness that rises from the land of the moose. They also invented the spanner, and commemorate the tool with a tasteful, tree-sized tribute, lumped in the middle of a roundabout in a town named Enköping just 40 minutes outside the capital (probably not worth the journey).

#### A SWEDE STAY IN STOCKHOLM

As for Stockholm, the day before Midsummer, it's all fika – the Swedish tradition of stopping for coffee and pastries seemingly every five minutes – and frivolities. Swedes are piling into supermarkets and System Bolaget's (dedicated alcohol stores) and stockpiling foods and boxed wines for their festival











Previous opener: the enigmatic Swedish capital as dusk sets in. Clockwise from left: despite being connected to mainland Europe, Sweden has an incredible martime history – and an obsession with boats; blue hues in the Royal Palace; the historic Riddarholmen in Gamla Stan old town; an ode to ABBA; more palatial views; a military man stands guard at midsummer















## THE BEST INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND RESORTS ACROSS FOUR

Seventy one per cent of the world's surface is water, and twenty per cent of that aquatic expanse is the Indian Ocean. Framed by East Africa, Southeast Asia, the subcontinent and Antarctica to the south, the vast area is sprinkled with some of the most exquisite island experiences on the entire globe. From rugged colonial coastlines to desert island dreams, we bring you the best of the Big Four – the top resorts in Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Seychelles and the Maldives.

## MAURITIUS

#### BEST FOR: PRESIDENTIAL SUITE

#### HILTON MAURITIUS RESORT & SPA

Renowned for its luxurious spin on Mauritian hospitality, Hilton Mauritius Resort & Spa is a picturesque oceanfront location with unrivalled sunset views. The location makes island exploration a cinch, and with a complimentary dolphin trip, water activities and eight spa cabins, there's no shorten of variety - in between some essential bouts of tanning at the beach or pool. The three dining destinations and three bars provide an array of culinary influences, with exotic flavors and locally sourced ingredients, and the hotel's gorgeous outdoor meeting space has everything you need for an unforgettable event. When it comes to accommodation, the resort has a range of luxurious suites, decked out with attractive decor and offering more space to relax. The suites also offer great views of the ocean or the resort's lush gardens and pools, either from a spacious balcony or terrace, and options range from the 105sqm Beachfront Family Suite all the way up to the vast 208sqm Presidential Suite, with two bedrooms, a small kitchen, separate living/dining areas and a whirlpool to soak away your stress.

FLIC EN FLAC, MAURITIUS +230 403 1000 www.hilton.com



#### RADISSON BLU AZURI RESORT & SPA

Set on a preserved beach of the northeastern coast that frames the Azuri village, Radisson Blu Azuri Resort & Spa delivers guests a distinctive getaway experience. It is an ideal retreat for couples and an enjoyable holiday for families. The island has the world's third largest coral reef and is renowned for its white sand beaches and clear lagoons. You can experience the untamed wilderness of the island's east coast like never before with an array of unique outdoor activities for trekkers, bikers, divers and adventurers. The incredibly preserved beach, mangroves and untouched area awaits.

ROCHES NOIRES, MAURITIUS +230 402 3700 www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-mauritius-azuri

#### RADISSON BLU POSTE LAFAYETTE RESORT & SPA

Beautifully situated on a gorgeous island in the Indian Ocean, the Radisson Blu Poste Lafayette Resort & Spa, Mauritius offers a serene tropical getaway. This remarkable adult-only resort on the eastern shores of Mauritius features breathtaking vistas, while the sand and clear aquamarine waters lie just outside the door. Guests enjoy numerous beach activities as well as proximity to local attractions such as the Grand Bay tourist hub and Flacq market. Each of the resort's 100 rooms welcome guests with a minimalist design and enticing blue hues reminiscent of the adjacent ocean.

POSTE LAFAYETTE, MAURITIUS +230 402 6200 www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-mauritius-postelafayette



#### THE BIG FOUR: MAURITIUS

#### THE ST. REGIS MAURITIUS RESORT

On the south-western side of the island, the soft white sands of Le Morne Beach and its warm turquoise lagoon create a magical setting where lavishly appointed accommodation and pampering converge amid the many charms of Mauritius. The St. Regis Mauritius Resort is a five-star luxury resort with 172 guest suites boasting endless views over the Indian Ocean waters and hotel service excellence. Explore Epicurean Invitations at one of the many gastronomic destinations offering French-inspired influences, Southeast Asian exotic dishes, fine Japanese selections as well as Traditional Mauritian Cuisine. Discover the world-class water sports facilities including Kitesurfing, Surfing and Premier Diving.

LE MORNE, MAURITIUS +230 403 9000 www.stregismauritius.com





#### **ONE&ONLY LE SAINT GÉRAN**

Bejewelled with swaying palms, carpeted in white sand, One&Only Le Saint Géran is back after a huge refresh and renovation and is not afraid to make a splash. The iconic resort is nestled on a pristine private peninsula, is the ultimate tropical playground for romantics and adventurers alike, inviting guests to experience her total transformation. From beach-inspired interiors to state-of-the-art sports facilities and rustic feet-in-sand dining, the diversity of flavours, activities, and spaces to explore have transformed her into a thrilling yet mindful retreat couples and families will adore.

POSTE DE FLACQ 41518, MAURITIUS +230 401 1688 www.oneandonlyresorts.com



#### SHANTI MAURICE RESORT & SPA

Each of the generously sized suites and luxurious villas at Shanti Maurice boast uninterrupted views across the calm waters of the Indian Ocean. Surrounded by fragrant private gardens, spacious terraces, and offering their own refreshing private pools, the contemporary styled villas offer everything you need for a luxurious Mauritius getaway. Each and every room features simple, timeless décor, and are tastefully furnished with large and comfortable beds, panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows, and free in-room entertainment systems. Many of the suites and villas lead straight onto the private white-sand beach.

CHEMIN GRENIER, MAURITIUS +230 603 7200

## BOUCHERON







SOUNDS GOOD? Audiophiles will adore the new Range Rover Velar's 1,600W Meridian Signature Sound System

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## Arabian Journeys

Summertime... and the weather is scorching – but there's plenty of fun to be had with family, friends and loved ones within these local five-star havens







#### A LEGENDARY STAY WHERE: ONE&ONLY ROYAL MIRAGE, DUBAI WHEN: UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30

It takes some self-confidence to offer 'A Legendary Staycation' but Dubai's One&Only Royal Mirage is vaunting a joyous summer experience, available for GCC residents with rates from AED 895 and guaranteed late check-outs until 6pm for extra time on the beach. Guests can also retreat to the tranquil One&Only spa or oriental hammam with 25% off treatments, or can unwind with a candlelit yoga session. One&Only Royal Mirage is set on a kilometre of private beachfront overlooking Palm Island Bay. Honouring Arabian architecture and hospitality on a truly regal scale, it rests on a 65-acre oasis of lavishly landscaped gardens, just minutes away from Dubai Marina. www.oneandonlyresorts.com





A city lifestyle resort in Downtown Dubai, just a stroll away from the cultural Opera District and The Dubai Mall, Address Boulevard gives unrivalled views of the iconic Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. A stay at the hotel not only provides sweeping views across the heart of the city, but is a chance to experience exclusively designed suites, imbued with calm neutral tones and hues that reflect the luxurious ambience of the vibrant city. This summer, a one-night stay in a Boulevard Suite is priced at AED 2, 794 including taxes, with club access. The summer stay offer includes complimentary dinner and tickets to At The Top, Burj Khalifa, and "U By Emaar" members can also notch 10% off the best available rate.



MIDSUMMER AT LE MÉRIDIEN WHERE: LE MÉRIDIEN

AL AQAH BEACH RESORT WHEN: UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30

How about some Gulf views with a difference? Sandwiched between the Gulf of Oman and the craggy Hajjar mountains, Le Méridien Al Aqah Beach Resort combines the dual offering of silver service and a family-friendly resort vibe. One of Fujairah's top destinations, Le Méridien has launched a summer staycation opportunity that offers pool and private beach access, along with 50% discount for kids up to 12 years of age. There's also a decadent Eid Al Adha Dayout Package available exclusively for the UAE's three-day Eid holiday, with further discounts for kids and curated culinary experiences. www.lemeridien-alaqah.com





Guests looking for added luxury this summer can book the 'Suite Escapes' package when staying in one of Rixos Premium Dubai's stylish one- and twobedroom suites. Valid year-round, guests can enjoy premium facilities which include breath-taking views of the Arabian Gulf, a spacious living area with espresso machine and Apple TV, en-suite bathroom with luxurious Chopard bathroom amenities; plus a range of inclusions, including airport transfers, waterpark tickets for two, food and drink credits, a complimentary laundry service and a one-hour training session at RixGym. *premiumdubai.rixos.com* 

## Essentials

This month's latest luxury products have a hint of summer, evoking island vibes, carefree pastimes and –as always –lashings of vibrant colour

Compiled by: Anna Zhukov

#### THE ROAR OF THE '80S

In the 1980s women began to tower high in stilettos, and walked boldy with shoulder pads and ruffles. This 'Precious Ruffles' necklace is unapologetically inspired by the game-changing trend, swaying with emerald drops and styled with rose gold -set with ametysts, turqoises and pavé diamonds. The earrings, below, are also Wild Pop High Jewellery 18-kt rose gold and more than ready to roar. www.bulgari.com

SECRET SERPENT

Taking further inspiration from the '80s, Bulgari's Serpenti Misteriosi Pallini collection boasts the seductive charms of the serpent with powerful designs and mesmerising craftsmanship. The 18-kt rose gold bracelet slithers around the wrist, with an elegant timepiece sheathed inside the white gold headset with brilliant-cut diamonds and emerald eyes. www.bulgari.com



#### PETAL TO THE METAL

The Nature Triomphante collection is a tribute, to the beauty of nature first, whose diversity, ideal aesthetic and symbolic abundance offer endless sources of inspiration to Boucheron. These particular Nuage de Fleurs necklace and earrings are set with a 42,96-ct cushion pink tourmaline and mother-of-pearl, paved with diamonds, on pink gold. www.boucheron.com



#### COME FLEUR WITH ME

Continuing the Nature Triomphante collection, these "Fleur Eternelle" rings boast jonquil diamonds, Madagascan purple sapphires, and imperial topaz, respectively. www.boucheron.com

#### **GRAPHIQUE NOVEL**

Blending emerald hues with bold, highcontrast petals, this Fleur Graphique brooch is set with a 5.65-ct Colombian cushion emerald, malachite, diamonds and emeralds, with black lacquer, on white gold. www.boucheron.com

#### **NECKLACE TRIOMPHANTE**

Paying tribute to Frédéric Boucheron, this Cigale Des Neiges necklace is set with chalcedony and paved with diamonds, on white gold –with a detachable rock crystal motif. www.boucheron.com



# STYLE

Instead of revving around town in a hot hatchback, we keep things cool this month with the latest Range Rover Velar. Kris Karacinski takes to Dubai's endless desert highways to find out if this this luxe SUV has the Goldilocks effect, or if it's simply "middle of the road"

PHOTOGRAPHY: Eliot Sleep & Steven Bond

'll confess, I'm not exactly a member of any SUV fan clubs. Bigger isn't always better, they're slower than a normal car and they definitely don't have the grit and determination of a true 4x4 can do. But could the new Range Rover Velar change my mind?

The luxury SUV was born in 1970 when Land Rover launched the original Range Rover, and almost half a century later that spirit of innovation continues with the introduction of the fourth member of the Range Rover family. If you feel the Evoque is a tad small and the Range Rover Sport it a bit too big then the Velar is for you. Even I can't deny the Velar is a fantastic looking car. The large grill, flush door handles, sleek lights and large wheels come together to create an incredibly well designed car. In fact, the Velar was deemed to be so aesthetically pleasing it was actually revealed at the Design Museum in London.

The sleek exterior ticks all the smile boxes and the inside does follows suit. The dash and infotainment system is incredibly comprehensive, with multiple digital displays; immediately in front of you there's a customisable digital display, where you can cycle through looking at one dial, or two, the whole sat nav map, vehicle information, and so on. To your right there are two 10-inch HD Touch Duo Pro screens that do look very pretty indeed and are a joy to use. Easy to navigate, they really are 'touch' screens. Some infotainment screens require more of an aggressive and prolonged finger press, but in the velar the lightest touch is all you need. That said, these beautiful displays do come at a cost.

When you've been using for phone for a while and look at it covered in finger dots and smudged swipes you'll find yourself trying to buff it with your sleeve more often than you'd prefer. The screens have the same downfall. When clean, they look dazzling but after a few adjustments of the AC, altering the car's performance (dynamic, comfort, off-road, etc.), turning the seat massage feature on and off, you'll find yourself looking for a bit of cloth.

There's plenty of headroom inside, even though the cabin does feel a bit small for a car of this heft. The relatively small door windows made me feel like I was driving a far smaller car than the Velar, which can be remedied. If you tap the button to open the fabric roof, revealing the panoramic glass roof, it really opens up the cabin and let's the light stream in, but it might be a little hot with the midday sun beating down. The rear also has sufficient space











## Van Cleef & Arpels

HAUTE PARFUMERIE



