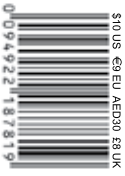


DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD

news

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December 2018



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TOYFUL ESCAPES
FOR DECEMBER

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RESIDENCE**
DUBAI'S HABTOOR PALACE

**EXCLUSIVE:
TAMARA
ECCLESTONE
INTERVIEW**

GOURMET VALAIS
*Fine dining in the
Swiss Alps*

THE FULL MONTY

ADDRESS MONTGOMERIE, DUBAI

HOT HOTELS



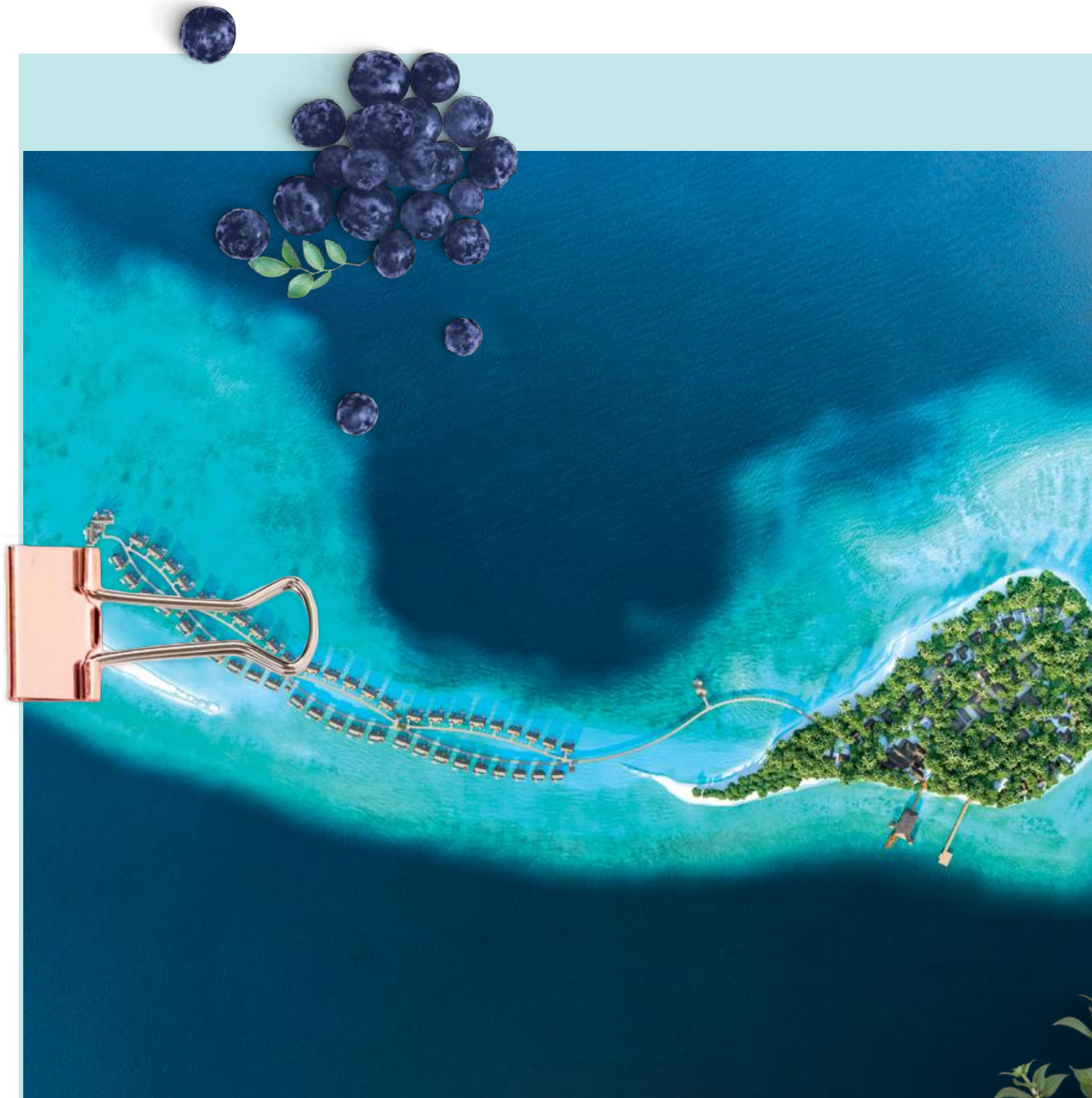
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ST PETERSBURG

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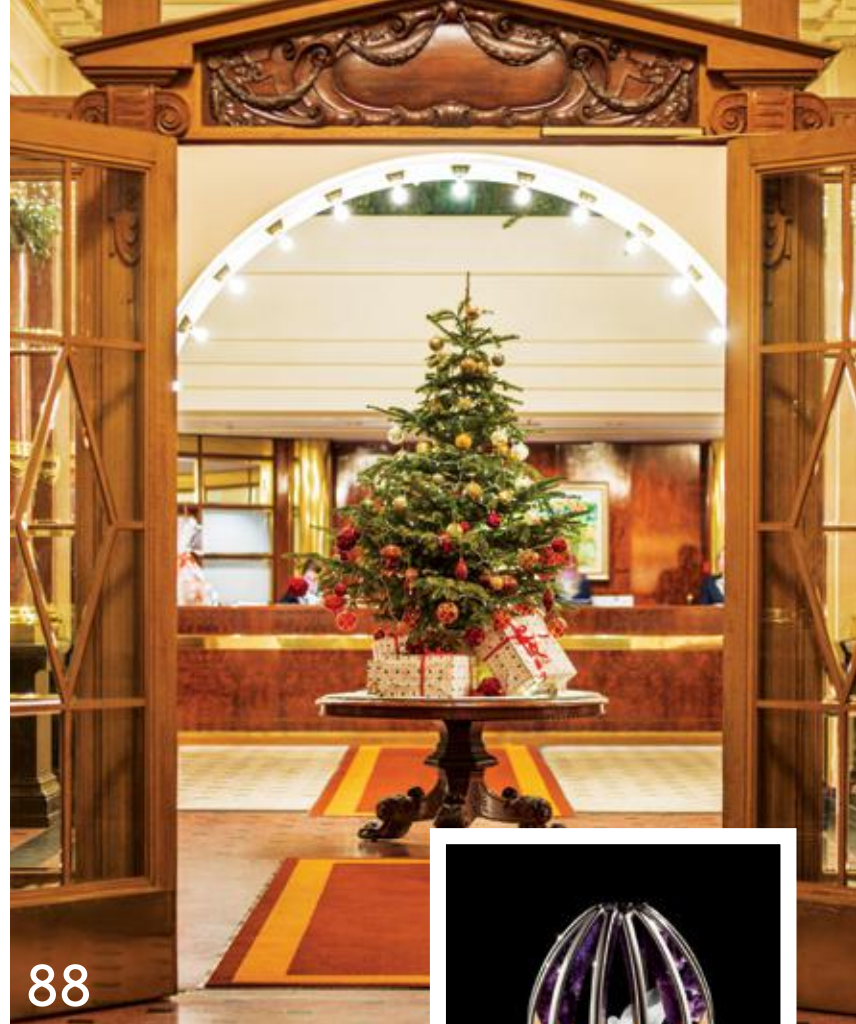
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Azerbaijan is ready to double its tourism numbers by 2023

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BAKU TO THE FUTURE

Interview: Azerbaijan looks to double tourism numbers by 2023, according to Florian Sengstschmid, CEO of the Azerbaijan Tourism Board



When it comes to striving for increased visitor numbers, Dubai may have met its match. Azerbaijan is eyeing a 100% increase in inbound travellers by 2023 with a diverse strategy that encapsulates food, sports, culture and more across nine key regions. While Baku already has a number of world-class hotels – including a Four Seasons, JW Marriott, Kempinski and the iconic Fairmont “Flame Towers” – it is expected the new strategy will coax greater numbers to neighbouring cities and rural areas. In fact, it’s already in effect, with visas on arrival granted to UAE residents.

FORMULA 1 MUST HAVE HELPED SIGNIFICANTLY WITH THE COUNTRY’S PROFILE – ALONG WITH THE UPCOMING EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL?

F1 is coming up in April again and it’s an amazing event. Baku becomes super exciting over that weekend. With the cars passing, you can see medieval city walls and then the seaside boulevard. It’s really extraordinary. It’s a weekend you will remember. And then at the end of 2019 we will host the UEFA final in Baku –so let’s see who makes it! And then in 2020 you have the UEFA Euro. The tournament takes place in around 10 countries and Baku has both the quarter and the semi-final as well as two-three matches within Euro 2020 as well. So football is going to be key for Azerbaijan over the next few year.

YOU’VE ALREADY SEEN A LOT MORE GCC TRAVELLERS COMING TO BAKU AND AZERBAIJAN THANKS TO YOUR VISA ON ARRIVAL POLICY. WHAT IN PARTICULAR ARE THEY DRAWN TO?

What we see is that they are coming because it’s so easy to reach. Accessibility is really easy. It’s culturally close – close enough to feel safe and to for people to maintain their cultural habits. For example, food is halal, which is an important factor. And, at the same time, the destination takes people through the five thousand years of history, from medieval cities to modern art. Obviously nature also plays an important element, beyond from the cityscape. There is a year-round service from Emirates. It’s year round because of the expats who are

increasingly drawn here. And when we speak about the Saudi Arabia market, for example, mainly it starts after Ramadan and goes till October. We get a lot of long stays as well over summer, especially in the regions of Azerbaijan where there are nature experiences for extended stays. And so I would say the majority come from April, May to October – before skiing is on the hit list.

WITH MORE PEOPLE TRAVELLING FOR FOOD, LOCAL CUISINE MUST BE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF YOUR NEW TOURISM CAMPAIGN?

Food in Azerbaijan is a religion. It is actually the only valid religion because the country is quite secular and varied. There are even Jewish communities in the mountain areas, while 95 percent of the country is Muslim. So, food is the number one religion and I think it is also very close to GCC cultures. You would expect to see a feast of meat, rice and vegetables on the table. So basically [alluding to the tourism campaign] we “take another look” to see exactly where there is a need, and we are now showing people how diverse Azerbaijan is and how many of these many untold stories we can bring to life through the campaign. We’ll also be using local “heroes” – Azeri icons that represent specific aspects of the country; music, food, culture and art. And, at the same time, we’ll also be using more local influencers.

AS AN AUSTRIAN NATIVE, HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE MOVING TO AZERBAIJAN AS AN EXPAT?

It is an easy city to live in. You have markets to go to where everything is organic, because everything comes from the countryside. You have a lot of fruits and vegetables. People are genuine and hospitable. They are a bit like the Austrians – they might seem grumpy at first but in reality, it only takes a moment to see that they’re a nice. You would go to a market for example, and people would give you things for free. They would be like, “No, I’m not going to charge you for that.” But of course no one would actually take anything for free.

www.azerbaijan.travel



DON'T
MISS

CAMPBELL GRAY HOTELS HAS ANNOUNCED THE LATE-SPRING 2019 DEBUT OF ITS LATEST CONTEMPORARY BOUTIQUE, ALEX ON LAKE ZÜRICH. SET ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF THE SWISS LAKE, THE PROPERTY BOASTS 44 ROOMS AND SUITES, WITH A VIBRANT ALL-DAY RESTAURANT AND BAR AT ITS HEART. IF YOU'RE PLANNING A TRIP TO ZÜRICH, IT'S NOT ONE TO MISS.

RITZ-CARLTON'S ISTANBUL FACELIFT

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST, Istanbul is a capital city renowned for its warm people and frantic energy; rich in culture, diverse in architecture and varied in cuisine, the city showcases the very best of multi-culturalism.

It's not an easy thing to capture – especially when it comes to hotel design – but that's exactly what The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul vowed to do when announcing its US \$8.5 million renovation; a renovation that the hotel has recently completed.

“Our mission for this important project was to embrace the heritage of the city,” said Nicolas Kipper, General Manager,

The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul. “[We wanted to] marry it with a contemporary spirit to create a beautiful combination of the East and West influences that are found in Istanbul.” As part of the renovation, the hotel's 243 guestrooms and 43 suites have been transformed to adhere to a design concept built around the luxurious trappings of the Ottoman Empire. Gold and copper hues are combined with layered colours, while wall panels feature intricate works of cobalt blue Anatolian ceramic and are adorned with works by contemporary Turkish artists.

The renovated property is taking bookings now.

ADLER THERMAE'S THERMAL WATER MASSAGE



THERE SEEMS TO BE NO LIMIT WHEN IT COMES TO INNOVATION in the wonderful world of wellness. From trendy cleansing teas to the sub-zero temperatures of cryotherapy, there's a multitude of ways to reach our peak physical and mental condition – and it appears Adler Thermae Resort and Spa has just added another.

Fed by the thermal waters of Italy's Bagno Vignoni, the luxury property has unveiled its latest treatment: Water Sensation Massage Therapy. Conducted in the hotel's natural 35°C pool, guests are submerged in warm water and gently manipulated by a qualified therapist with special attention given to the shoulders, head, hips, neck and spine.

“This is a brand-new, exclusive treatment that uses Asian massage techniques in

thermal water, based on Ayurvedic knowledge and relaxation techniques, focusing on the whole body,” said Minnie Romano, Spa Director, Adler Thermae Resort and Spa.

Classified as hyper thermal, the resort states that its waters provide a variety of health benefits, improving circulation, boosting metabolism, reducing inflammation and allowing the muscles of the body to relax more fully.

Set in the quiet vineyards of Tuscany, Adler Thermae Resort and Spa offers more than 120 wellness treatments and is serviced by a staff of more than 40 therapists, including consulting physicians.

The 45-minute Water Sensation Massage Therapy treatment costs US \$99 and is also available as a couples session.

THE PENINSULA YACHT BRINGS HOSPITALITY TO THE HIGH SEAS



ASK ANYONE IN THE KNOW, and they'll tell you that beyond world-class hospitality and luxurious trappings, The Peninsula Hong Kong is best known for its iconic fleet of top-spec Rolls-Royces.

A signature offering of the property since the 70s, the high-end cars have been bringing the hotel's unique brand of stellar service to the busy roads of the Asian metropolis for decades. And now, with the introduction of a custom-made cruising yacht, it seems The Peninsula is turning its gaze to the open ocean.

Recently added to the hotel's fleet of luxury

vehicles, the Sunseeker Manhattan 60 is a 19-metre cruiser that will welcome aboard up to 15 passengers every evening to enjoy a two-hour cruise on Hong Kong's captivating Victoria Harbour.

The Harbour Sunset Cruise departs each evening at 6.30pm and will allow discerning guests to see the city-state's 'Symphony of Lights' in style, while including gourmet canapés and an unlimited selection of house bubbles and mocktails.

If you'd rather explore the waterways in privacy, the yacht is also available for private charter

for AED 7,000 per hour (with a minimum engagement of four hours).

Suitable for everything from private business functions to cocktail receptions and photoshoots, itineraries can be tailored to your specific needs – whether that involves getting an on-board masseuse or hiring a private chef.

There's even the option to combine your high seas adventure with The Peninsula's full range of signature experiences. Get in touch with The Peninsula Hong Kong's dedicated Events team via the concierge to find out more.

FOUR SEASONS KEEP IT SUITE IN SINGAPORE

WITH A RICH CULTURAL HISTORY, bustling business district and increasingly progressive outlook, Singapore undoubtedly ranks as one of the most dynamic cities in the world – as exciting to visit as it is to conduct business in. In order to celebrate all that makes this diverse locale so unique, Four Seasons Hotel Singapore has recently completed its year-long room renewal programme, culminating in the unveiling of its much-anticipated Suite Collection.

Comprising four residences, the suites tell the story of the Oriental nation through the use of deliberate design, key motifs, textures and colour palettes, while remaining true to Four Seasons' exacting standards.

The largest of the collection is the Presidential Suite. Spread across 2,130 square feet, its design

has been inspired by the city's grand colonial houses, accented with sleek contemporary furniture and a complementary black and white colour scheme.

Located on the 19th floor, with stunning views across the city skyline, The Ambassador suite is an ode to cross-cultural appreciation, reflected in the accommodation's kamchen pottery and juxtaposed East-West interiors.

The Governor Suite boasts hand-picked, book-lined walls to represent simpler times when agreements were oft sealed with a gentleman's handshake over a glass of brandy, while the Royal Suite adopts animal and fruit motifs and artworks to honour the nearby Singapore Botanic Gardens, a verdant UNESCO World Heritage Site.



NEW LUXURY YACHT FOR CHARTER IN THE MALDIVES

FROM VISITING THE SWEEPING SHORES of uninhabited islands to discovering unexplored coral reefs and dive spots, there's no better way to experience the sheer, pristine beauty of the Maldives than by chartering your very own yacht. Luckily, now you can do it in stylish comfort aboard the 23-metre SONEVA IN AQUA, a state-of-the-art vessel that has recently been made available for charter.

Accommodating four adults and two children across two spacious staterooms, the yacht's outdoor living area is perhaps its most impressive feature – showcasing numerous sunpads for sunbathing and socialising, with a foredeck Jacuzzi that makes late-night stargazing a must.

For some private time, the master stateroom boasts a glass-bottom spa tub, while alfresco dining on board can be customised to your personal preference by the vessel's on-board sous chef.

The SONEVA IN AQUA is available year-round in the Maldives; charters start at \$36,750 per week, plus expenses.



BOUTIQUE BANGKOK: KIMPTON SET TO DEBUT IN CAPITAL

WITH SOME OF THE BIGGEST NAMES in hospitality occupying its impressive array of skyscrapers and colonial palaces, there's no shortage of big-brand hotel offerings in Bangkok. For discerning travellers who seek something a little more boutique, we've got some good news.

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) has announced that it will be debuting its leading boutique hotel brand, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, in the Thai capital. This marks the brand's first foray into the Thai market and its second property in South East Asia. "We want to address the rising needs of travellers in the region for a sophisticated yet personalised lifestyle travel experience,"

said Clarence Tan, Managing Director South East Asia and Korea (SEAK), IHG.

"The brand is iconic for its heartfelt and unconventional approach to boutique hospitality, and we're confident that Kimpton Bangkok will be no exception."

Slated for a 2020 opening, the new-build hotel will feature 249 artfully designed guest rooms, including 124 serviced residences, in the heart of Bangkok's trendy Luangsuan area.

Kimpton Bangkok will be part of Singhorn Village, an expansive mixed-use leisure and business district with a wide array of bespoke dining, retail and event options available on guests' doorstep.

ESCAPE AND REJUVENATE WITH AMILLA FUSHI



SET AMIDST THE CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATERS of the Maldives, Amilla Fushi boasts some of the most breath-taking surrounds for a secluded wellness retreat. Sound tracked by lapping waves and dotted with tropical palm trees, it's the perfect locale to relax and escape – and the resort has just added three more rejuvenating experiences to help you do just that.

The first comes with a stay at the resort's exclusive Wellness Treehouse. With designated island yogis on hand to guide you through your morning and evening yoga practices, meditation or Pranayama

– led on the spa jetty over the lagoon – this one-bedroom "nest" in the treetops comes complete with a private deck and infinity pool.

For those looking to keep up (or get started on) their fitness routine, Amilla Fushi is also now offering personalised bodyism workouts, incorporating elements of HIIT workouts, pilates and yoga. Every session is tailored and conducted one-on-one, focusing on four key lifestyle elements: movement, mind-set, nutrition and sleep.

Offering the ultimate in relaxation, the resort's

award-winning Javvu Spa specialises in highly-effective, injury-free therapies, inspired by the Pure Massage Spa Training Method.

The spa's recently added Ila Body Treatments and QMS Medicosmetics are proving increasingly popular, while its pristine, natural setting is encouraging guests to return time and time again. The wellness trio on offer from Amilla Fushi is available today and can be booked as a one-off treatment, or in combination for the ultimate rejuvenating results.

www.amilla.mv

Debut | December

HOT HOTELS, CHIC BOUTIQUES AND EXCLUSIVE NEW RESORTS
HERE'S OUR PICK OF THE WORLD'S MOST LUXURIOUS NEW LAUNCHES



WESTIN MALDIVES MIRIANDHOO RESORT Baa Atoll, Maldives

As its first property amidst the white sands and turquoise waters of the Maldives, The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort is now open for business. Nestled on a beautiful coral island in the Baa Atoll – a UNESCO biosphere reserve – guests are invited to explore local landmarks such as Hanifaru Bay, famed for the largest gathering of manta rays in the world, and make full use of the property's extensive wellness offerings in the Heavenly Spa by Westin.

Featuring 70 villas and suites, 41 on-island and 29 overwater, each luxurious accommodation has spared no expense on its eco-friendly design and makes full use of natural materials where possible. As the resort's signature restaurant, The Pearl serves up world-class Japanese cuisine, while the Sunset Bar makes romantic sundowners a no-brainer.

www.westin.com/maldivesmiriandhoo

THE LANGHAM, HEFEI Hefei, China

Sitting at the centre of Hefei's business, shopping and entertainment districts, The Langham, Hefei has been designed to exude contemporary luxury while acting as a preferred hub to host city events – from high-end weddings to corporate gatherings. Indeed, its 1,380-square-metre Grand Ballroom is up to the task, while its unique dining concepts all-but guarantee a memorable experience.

The hotel itself is spread across 339 guestrooms and suites, with guest access to state-of-the-art fitness facilities and holistic treatments available through the award-winning Chuan Spa. Of course, no Langham is complete without afternoon tea. Here, it's served in the speciality lobby-lounge, Palm Court, overlooking the preened courtyard garden.

www.langhamhotels.com/en/the-langham/hefei



SIX SENSES KRABEY ISLAND Krabey Island, Cambodia

The latest addition to Six Senses' portfolio of ultra-luxe properties is now taking reservations. Open this month, Six Senses Krabey Island is set on a 30-acre private tropical island five kilometres from Ream National Park in southern Cambodia. With 40 private pool villas, each with green living roofs, expansive sun decks and open rainforest showers, the purpose-built resort promises something special.

Beyond its impressive accommodations, Six Senses boasts two restaurants – both with a focus on local, seasonal produce – as well as a sunset bar and on-site ice cream parlour. For your wellness fix, there's a host of holistic rejuvenating treatments available, ranging from full-body massage to rooftop yoga, and guest activities include everything from jet skiing to organic farm visits.

www.sixsenses.com/resorts/krabey-island

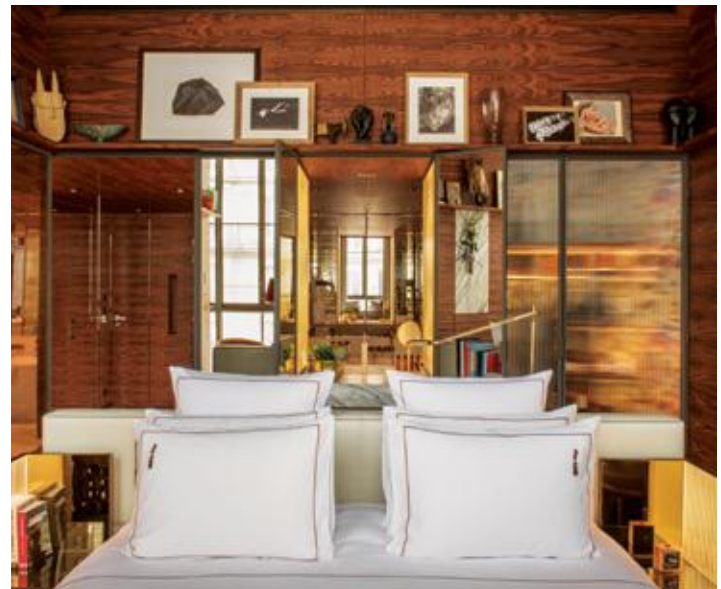


HÔTEL BRACH PARIS Paris, France

If there's one name in hotel design synonymous with style, it's Philippe Starck. In partnership with Evok Hotels Collection, the designer has recently unveiled his latest project: Hôtel Brach Paris. Located in a former postal sorting centre, the hotel combines elements of the contemporary with 1930s architecture, a splash of modernism... and a touch of the surreal.

The eclectic property houses 52 bright and breezy guestrooms with a further seven suites, each with views across the French capital's impressive skyline. For dining, a trendy restaurant accommodates 160 covers, while dessert on-the-go can be nabbed from the hotel's in-house patisserie. Don't miss a romantic evening in the outdoor hot tub, overlooking the bright lights of the Eiffel Tower.

www.evokhotels.com/property/brach



WALDORF ASTORIA LAS VEGAS HOTEL & RESIDENCES Las Vegas, USA

The famous Las Vegas strip has welcomed a new addition to its glittering skyline with the recent opening of the Waldorf Astoria Las Vegas Hotel & Residences. Formerly Mandarin Oriental, the rebranded Sin City property boasts 389 guestrooms and 255 residences, alongside 55 suites – all of which will undergo an extensive redesign in 2019, in-keeping with the Waldorf brand.

Located a mere stone's throw from the action, the property neighbours some of the world's leading shopping and entertainment districts, while the hotel itself offers unrivalled views across the city strip. When it comes to relaxation, the signature spa spans two entire floors – acting as a holistic sanctuary for weary travellers – while award-winning cuisine can be sampled at contemporary French restaurant, Twist.

www.waldorfastoria3.hilton.com



MUM ON A MISSION

An exclusive interview with **Tamara Ecclestone**

A woman who grew up around the business of Formula 1, Tamara Ecclestone experienced the ultimate gear change when life led her to the dual identity of mother and entrepreneur. The 34-year-old model, socialite, and TV presenter has gone from success to success with Fifi & Friends, her kind baby care range, and somehow manages to balance fame and fortune with her myriad other responsibilities. She tells us more about daily life, her travel tips and aspirations, and even gives us a glimpse into her perfect family Christmas.



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DESTINATIONS

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE LOCATIONS



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THE SWISS DON'T MISS
Get a taste of Crans-Montana when you hit the slopes this ski season

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A FLAVOUR FOR THE FINEST

The latest addition to Hilton's LXR line of luxury destinations is a step into another age. Robby Berry spends the night at **Dubai's Habtoor Palace, LXR Hotels & Resorts** and gets a taste of the regal life





LAVISH LONDON

We share an insight into the Chelsea experience, courtesy of Cadogan, a 300-year-old family developer, and present a “Goddess Guide” to unlock London for luxe ladies, including seven bella boutiques to encounter while in the city

ON PAR WITH THE BEST

With refreshed rooms, new suite categories and fantastic dining options, Address Montgomerie is truly a five-star hotel that's on par with its adjoining championship golf course. Steven Bond booked a staycation at the Emaar and discovered it really is the "full monty"





TEEING OFF YOUR STAY

Closing your eyes and picturing Dubai typically conjures one of two scenes. The emirate’s marketing overdrive has etched our minds with visions of glistening cloud piercing towers, along with impossibly serene desert vistas, dotted with Instagram-worthy camel rides. Hidden in plain sight, however, is a blanket of lush, landscaped greenery, tucked inland from Dubai Marina, where hobbyists and pros alike have been golfing since the late ‘80s. Back then, the Marina neighbourhood wasn’t even a proverbial twinkle in the eye and the original golf complex was essentially a man-made oasis, surrounded by a sea of sand.

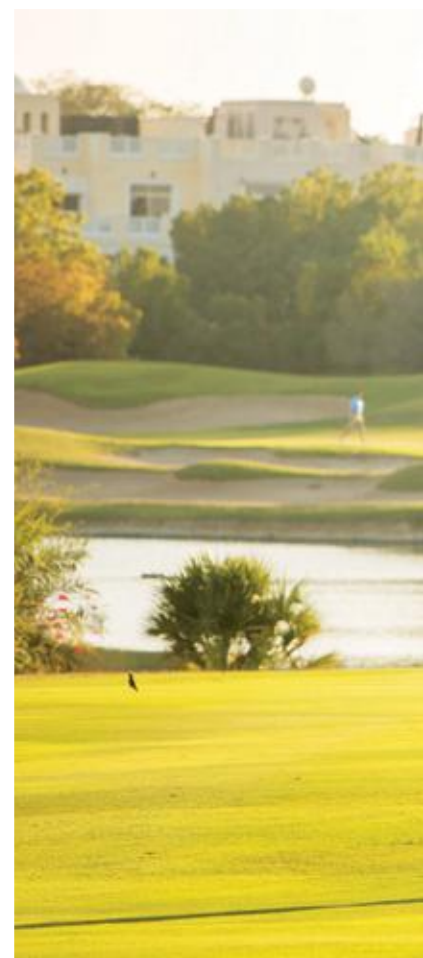
A dozen or so years ago, in January 2006, the Address Montgomerie Clubhouse was unveiled to the public, evolving Dubai’s golfing oasis into a world-class resort. The namesake himself, six-time PGA Tour Championship winner Colin Montgomerie, was on hand to launch the venture, and the course that he designed in collaboration with Desmond Muirhead. To this day, “Monty” still frequents the hotel and the course – encompassing over 200 acres and featuring 14 lakes and 81 bunkers which challenge and intrigue all levels of players. Apart from myself... but we’ll get to that.

The history of golf in Dubai is both unique and fascinating, with courses carved out of the desert by Dubai’s ambitious and creative rulers; it’s a scene that has never been better – and neither has the hotel. The Emaar property is a only a few nine iron swings away from its sister hotel at Dubai Marina Mall, yet the two destinations look and feel nothing alike. The Montgomerie is a true boutique, boasting a beautifully minimal 22 rooms that make the city’s mega-hotels seem impersonal and daunting by comparison. The arrival experience alone sets this hotel apart, with a leisurely drive through a tree-lined suburbia that’s somewhat reminiscent of a coastal Californian experience.

DRIVING FOR PERFECTION

The game of golf seems to have a divisive effect. Millions are obsessed and equal numbers are utterly baffled at the appeal, but even absolute golfing amateurs, such as myself, can get a taste for why the sport is so gripping. The driving range is probably your best starting point for a simple swing, and the options for improving your game are numerous, with professional coaching opportunities, kid’s camps, long-term development plans and The Academy by Troon Golf, which helps you make the most of the indoor and outdoor practice facilities; including a state-of-the-art swing studio, nine-hole par 3 Academy course, short game area, practice putting greens and practice fairway – all of which are fully floodlit.

That said, you could be simply ambivalent to the game of golf and still have a remarkable hotel experience at Address Montgomerie. The hidden gem somehow manages to maintain a peaceful





VALAIS

A GOURMET PARADISE

Valais may be renowned for its world-class ski resorts and magical glaciers, but its true character lies in its local cuisine. Rowena Marella-Daw reports on a captivating region, where the cholera pie is just as precious as the native caviar





GRAND DESIGNS

Welcome to **Grand Park Kodhipparu, Maldives** – a family-friendly corner of the tropical archipelago, with breath-taking designs and moments you'll treasure forever

Grand Park Kodhipparu, Maldives is the first luxury resort by Park Hotel Group, one of Asia Pacific's leading hospitality companies. Located just 20 minutes from the airport by speedboat, the one-island one-resort destination features a collection of 120 idyllic beachfront pool villas, overwater villas and spacious two-bedroom villas, designed by the renowned Hirsch Bedner Associates.

The North Male Atoll resort offers a sophisticated range of facilities, including three outstanding destination-dining offerings. The Edge is an all-day dining destination, with a wide selection of international culinary creations; Breeze Poolside Dining & Bar provides a light menu with contemporary interpretations of Asian and Mediterranean classics; and fireDOOR is the resort's signature restaurant, offering a fine-dining experience with modern European cuisine and an extensive wine collection. The menu focuses on succulent specialties from the Jospier Grill, using the finest ingredients from the locally sourced produce and high-quality imported products.

To relax and unwind, the award-winning on-site spa – The

Spa at Grand Park Kodhipparu, Maldives – offers a unique wellness experience with a selection of signature body and skin care treatments paired with the finest natural-origin products. A signature service from Grand Park Kodhipparu, Maldives, the Lifestyle Host, is a personalised service created from Park Hotel Group's service philosophy, of providing 'Loving Hospitality' to all guests. The Lifestyle Host is assigned to anticipate every need, from making dining reservations to planning excursions, and ensuring that every guest gets the VIP treatment – and leaves with memories to treasure. Grand Park Kodhipparu, Maldives is your piece of paradise.

Stay

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www.parkhotelgroup.com/en/maldives





WELCOME WINTER IN SICILY

Embrace a seemingly endless summer on the beautiful Italian island of Sicily as an iconic property weathers the winter season for the first time. Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo was the first to open in the quaint city of Taormina, and boasts an authenticity and charm to match its heritage. Set in the island's rocky hills, with panoramic views of Mount Etna, the hotel is offering intrepid travellers the opportunity to explore the impressive volcano and its neighbouring craters as part of its winter wellness offering. Follow up a day of hiking with one of Belmond's seasonal spa therapies.

The 'Sicilian Sensations' treatment is a favourite, using local soaps infused with Sicilian oranges and fragrant flowers to deliver a truly holistic experience. For food lovers, the winter season offers an array of festive fine-dining options, including Afternoon Tea, served in the Otto Geleng Living Room, with a choice of 12 teas and sweet pastries. Other options include cooking lessons with locals, where you'll learn how to perfect your pasta. The 'Wintertime' package at Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo starts at US \$415 + VAT in a Superior Double Room, including breakfast and \$100 in resort credit.

WHERE: Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo

WHAT: The 'Wintertime' package

WHEN: Until January 3, 2019

www.belmond.com/grandhoteltimeo

ESCAPES

This month's lavish escapes range from sublime spa experiences to adrenaline-inducing spills in the heart of East Africa. So just how do you want to end the year?

Words: Steven Bond



HOLIDAY HIGH-TIMES WITH HILTON BERLIN

There's nothing more festive than a German Christmas market and Hilton Berlin could be the perfect place to embrace a holiday shopping experience. Guests staying in a Dome View Room can enjoy prime views over the "Gendarmenmarkt" with special room rates from €199 over winter weekends.

WHERE: Hilton Berlin

WHAT: Dome View Rooms with festive views

WHEN: During the holiday period

www.hilton.com



WINTER EMOTIONS IN CRANS-MONTANA

Ski season is upon us and Guarda Golf Hotel & Residences is braced to open its doors on December 14, promising a winter wonderland experience and an idyllic launchpad for snowy hijinks. Whether you're travelling to Switzerland for skiing, snowboarding or just keen on the après-ski culture, make sure you make it truly unforgettable with the resort's Winter Emotions package.

Spending a night in the room of your choice, guests are entitled to breakfast in the restaurant or in-room, dinner in Mizuki by Kakinuma or in the Lounge, a daily ski pass for the ski slopes of Crans-Montana, complimentary transfers to lifts, Wi-Fi access and unlimited access to the Guarda Golf Spa to sooth your muscles before you return to the slopes.

WHERE: Guarda Golf Hotel & Residences

WHAT: The "Winter Emotions" package

WHEN: From December to March, on availability

www.guardagolf.com





LUXE CHRISTMAS

Have yourself a very opulent Christmas, and may your dreams be luxe... You're guaranteed to experience yuletide bliss with these festive family moments around the globe







ON THE A-LIST

London is the backdrop to a thousand films but none are as memorable as the Cinema Suite at Taj 51 Buckingham Gate, where Matthew McQueen discovers a hotel hideaway that's perfect for a starring role

Having stayed at Taj 51 Buckingham Gate on a number of occasions the property has never ceased to amaze with its unique décor, affable service and first-class welcome. This particular visit, however, was even more exciting as I knew I was getting a glimpse of something special – an ode to the silver screen and one of London's most remarkable suites. As soon as I arrived, it was lights, camera and action.

The Cinema Suite was conceptualised in 2012 by acclaimed Indian designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee who made it his mission to create a journey through global cinema, taking inspiration from motion pictures across the globe. The theme is present on every wall and available surface. The suite tells a thousand stories with pictures of different cinematic influencers in every room, giving a sense of cinematic legacy and setting the scene for what to expect from the main cinema room.

Flowing through from the main entrance is a beautiful study with a striking, traditional desk, donned with a brass telescope and capped with a picture of Don Vito Corleone himself, no doubt overseeing your work and ready to make you an offer you can't refuse. Adjacent, the inviting living area comes equipped with a huge TV, spanning more than 6 feet, with all chairs and sofas facing this main focal point of the room – perfect for a movie night with family or friends. This is without doubt the biggest suite television I have seen and what a fantastic way to spend an evening re-watching classics or brushing up on the latest releases.

With a wide selection of movies provided in the room and movie channels available I found much of my time spent engrossed in a movie marathon. With the added benefit of remote-controlled blackout shutters this really felt like a cinematic experience and all that was missing was the popcorn.

The suite is packed with incredible details and immaculate furnishings, such as the sumptuous silk drapery, magnificent oak flooring, priceless antique furniture and ornaments such as rare Chinese porcelain items, Bhutanese frames and 1920s embroidered Indian lamps. It all comes together to make for an incredibly special feel to the room blending traditional British with a twist of the Indian heritage that is synonymous with the Taj brand.

The living room adjoins the dining area with a beautiful polished oak dining table seating up to eight people, a bar space for making drinks and a fully equipped kitchen. This would be the perfect entertaining space for hosting a dinner party or relaxing before the main flick begins. With a full butler service available, you have an ideal space for spending time with friends and family or alternatively host a business dinner in style.

Wandering down a lengthy, elegant corridor to the bedrooms I had my

choice of the two accommodations. Both are designed quite distinctly with one of the rooms having a beautiful four-poster bed and the other a traditional sleigh style bed. I naturally elected for the former, which was exceptionally comfortable. As with the hotel's iconic Jaguar Suite, which I also had the pleasure of experiencing, both bathrooms are well laid out with beautiful marble fixtures, walk-in showers, deep soaking tubs and lavish amenities.

The Cinema Suite is the perfect way to complete your blockbuster London experience. And in tribute to one of Hollywood's finest: I'll be back.

The important bit

WHAT: Cinema Suite
WHERE: Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites and Residences
TEL: +44 20 7769 7766
www.taj51buckinghamgate.co.uk



“THE CINEMA SUITE IS THE PERFECT WAY TO COMPLETE YOUR BLOCKBUSTER LONDON EXPERIENCE”



DECEMBER Essentials

How about some stocking fillers? This month's latest luxury products have the green hues of the festive season, paired with stunning gold and white gold must-haves

Compiled by: Anna Zhukov

DIAMOND SERPENT

Slink into 2019 while making a statement with Bulgari's Serpenti Misteriosi Pallini High Jewellery secret watch. The coiled 18kt white gold curved case and bracelet set with brilliant-cut diamonds and brilliant-cut emeralds supports a dial with 82 diamonds.

www.bulgari.com



LINK TO THE FUTURE

Bulgari's 'Monete' is a pendant and watch inside, with a 52mm case in 18kt pink gold with diamonds and an antique silver coin – a Tetradrachm of Kyme in Aeolis from the 2nd Century BC. The malachite dial recalls the theme that returns in the 90cm chain, also in pink gold with malachite, diamonds and emeralds insets.

www.bulgari.com





WEAR IT LOUD

The soundtrack of the 1980s resounds through this Wild Pop bracelet, with distinctive microphones of aquamarines, amethysts, green tourmalines, pavé diamonds and more.
www.bulgari.com



HEART AFLUTTER

A voluptuous, intensely blue heart seals the integral bond between Bvlgari and Andy Warhol with this Wild Pop piece. The heart-cut cabochon tanzanite sits under an emerald with wings of pavé diamonds.
www.bulgari.com



A TRIUMPH OF NATURE

Boucheron's Nature Triomphante collection is a tribute to the beauty of the natural world. It's also a tribute to the innovative and free spirit of the Maison, which has never ceased transcending the jewellery codes to craft unique pieces of stunning audacity.
www.boucheron.com



ASTON MARTIN AND THE **MOUNTAIN**

To cap off 2018 Kris Karacinski spends a day with the Aston Martin family



SPEND IT OUT OF THIS WORLD



THE SUITE LIFE AT SEA

Cruising with the family will never be the same as Symphony of the Seas debuts The Ultimate Family Suite

WE ALL HOLD ONTO POPULAR misconceptions... but Buddha wasn't overweight; fortune cookies aren't Chinese; and cruises aren't strictly for senior citizens. Over the course of several years, Royal Caribbean has been readying one of the most spectacular family-friendly suites to ever hit the water.

The Ultimate Family Suite, however, isn't that close to the water, considering it sits a lofty 17 decks up on the world's largest cruise ship. Symphony of the Seas brings to life every family's wildest vacation dreams with the perfect balance of thrills and chills, togetherness and alone time. With only one suite like this on board, bragging rights are at stake for the most exclusive family experience at sea.

The duplex suite spans 1,346 square feet and is replete with toys, gaming consoles and an incredible slide to descend from the kids' bedroom to the lounge. There's also a "Royal Genie" on hand to deliver an incredible bespoke experience, setting up parties, entertainment or simply available to spend quality time with the little ones while parents unwind.

When they're not soaking up the

212-square-foot balcony views over the derriere of the ship, families can ready the popcorn and enjoy a private cinema experience with an 85-inch 4K Ultra HD TV screen. There's access to an expansive family movie library (streaming services included) and 27 engaging games for the world's top game consoles: Xbox One X, Nintendo Switch and PS4 Pro.

For the even littler ones, there's a floor-to-ceiling LEGO wall, a huge chalkboard and a "Magic Door" crawl space to ensure toddlers can explore. For mealtimes, there's a kitchenette and a multipurpose dining table where families can share a gourmet meal, or start an air hockey game – depending on the mood. Guests can also dine al fresco on the balcony, with cuisine available from any of the ship's restaurants, before bubbling away in the outdoor hot tub.

Prices vary depending on the season but the suite is typically available for \$60,000 for a seven-day sailing around the Caribbean. But book soon! The Ultimate Family Suite has already been snapped up for the next six months – and it's not hard to see why.

www.royalcaribbean.com/cruise-ships/symphony-of-the-seas





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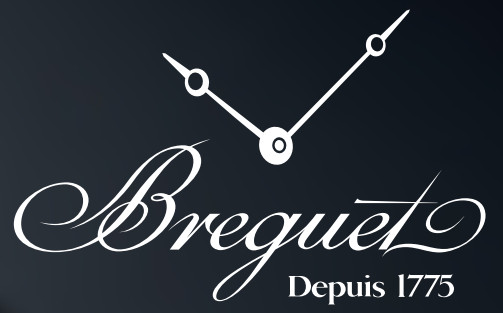
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