

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

February 2018



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SHUFFLE
CITY VS. BEACH
IN THAILAND

**CRADLE OF
CIVILISATION**

The Middle East's
cultural highlights

*TOO COOL
FOR SCHOOL*
W'S BRAND MAN
ANTHONY INGHAM

**DO THE
FANDANGO**

Five reasons to
visit Barcelona

ROOM WITH A
VIEW
THE SUITE LIFE AT
FAIRMONT DUBAI

**TO THE
MOON
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SKY-HIGH DINING IN BANGKOK

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Soak in spectacular views of the limestone karsts in Phang Nga Bay from COMO Point Yamu – a blissed-out beachfront retreat in Phuket



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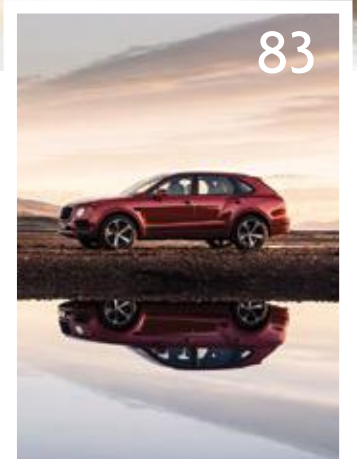
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DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD

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EXPERIENCE LA DOLCE VITA IN ROME

THE ETERNAL CITY'S LEGENDARY ROME CAVALIERI IS REWARDING guests booking stays in its suites with a series of unique luxury experiences. Ranging from a personal photo shoot to a sandal-making class with a local artisan, each of the destination activities draw on the hotel's long relationship with the city and its inhabitants. Anyone staying in the hotel's top suites (Napoleon, Petronius, Planetarium or the Penthouse Suite) can enjoy a taste of the city with a spring blossom tour and private visit to the Vatican Gardens or the Pope's summer residence, complete with champagne in the park and 80-minute couple's massage; or a personal photo shoot with a professional photographer, plus a day's use of a Mercedes and driver to ferry them around the city.

Guests staying in the hotel's Vista or Corner Suites can spend a day with a family-run shoemaker and learn how to craft a pair of traditional Italian sandals; or enjoy a luxurious picnic in the hotel's manicured garden, waited on by a private butler. Guests staying six nights or more also get a private yoga session and 80-minute couple's massage. Corner Suite guests and those booking Alcove Suites can also choose from a private culinary tour of the city with tastings at six top restaurants (including Rome's number one pizzeria), plus return transfers to the Mercato Trionfale. The experiences are subject to a minimum length of stay, but each can be booked separately (for an additional fee) by any Rome Cavalieri guest. La dolce vita indeed.

Take the plunge in Sweden

The brains behind Sweden's iconic Treehotel are lending their expertise to another mind-numbing Swedish hospitality venture: Arctic Bath. Situated in Harads in Swedish Lapland, the project is part hotel, part spa and wellness centre; but what makes it really unique is the fact that the entire facility will float on Lapland's Luleriver.

A circular main building made from local timber is inspired by the region's long history of timber floating; built to resemble a jumble of floating logs. At its core is an open air cold bath maintained at an eye-watering four degrees Celsius, surrounded by rooms that will house a hot bath, saunas, spa treatment room, lounge, bar and restaurant. Six separate 25 sqm modular hotel cabins will float alongside the bathhouse during the summer, but in winter the spa and hotel will be frozen into place within the ice.

Brave guests looking for the ultimate Swedish hot/cold experience can run from the saunas and plunge into the cold bath year-round, even when the surrounding water is frozen solid. If you can bear the cold for an Arctic night bath, you'll be rewarded with spectacular views of the Northern Lights overhead.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL DOUBLES DOWN IN LONDON

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group has revealed plans for a second UK property in London's affluent Mayfair neighbourhood; a boutique hotel with 50 rooms and suites plus 80 private residences. Earmarked for a 2021 opening, Mandarin Oriental Mayfair, London, will feature a fine dining restaurant, rooftop lounge, stylish bar and a lobby lounge, all designed by British architectural firm Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners. The boutique property will be situated in Hanover Square, an address shared by *British Vogue* and St. Georges Church.

Since its UK debut with Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London in 2000, the company has won legions of fans. Regular visitors were delighted last year when 95 new rooms and suites were unveiled in the property's Knightsbridge wing; the first part of a major overhaul that also saw the renovation of the lobby, reception lounge and entrance at the hands of designer Joyce Wang. Later this year, the final touches will be unveiled in the Hyde Park wing of the hotel, introducing two new penthouse suites with private terraces overlooking the park, and a new look for The Spa at Mandarin Oriental.

London



Bulgari Hotel, London



Hyatt Regency London - The Churchill



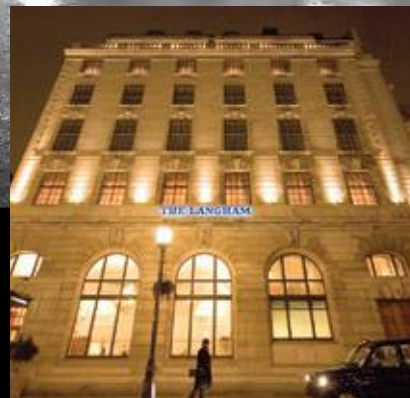
W London Leicester Square



The Ritz, London



Mandarin Oriental, Hyde Park



The Langham, London

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DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD



BAREFOOT BLISS

SUNRISE OR SUNSET? It's a question that should be asked more often, and it is at Hurawalhi Island Resort, an enchanting private island in the Maldives. This idyllic, adult-only island resort in the Lhaviyani Atoll promises to fulfil every concept of paradise you could conjure, and dazzle with beautiful Indian Ocean views from dawn to dusk.

For guests who desire only the best, the resort's Ocean Sunset Pool Villas are the island's finest accommodations. Set over the translucent water in the lagoon, and accessible via a short walk along your private jetty, these 132-sqm secluded hideaways are elegantly furnished with

contemporary design and include a bedroom with sitting area and a bathroom with rain shower. Offering guests the ultimate in privacy and indoor/outdoor living at its most atmospheric, the villas also have private sundeck areas – to view those jaw-dropping sunsets – a 27-sqm infinity pool and stairs that lead into the emerald-coloured sea.

There's little reason to leave your villa, with every whim and desire either delivered to your door or readily available within reach, however the island's many temptations may just entice you. The underwater world is the biggest draw to the Maldives and at this eco-conscious resort, which collaborates with Manta Trust, guests can take

part in workshops and trips run by Hurawalhi's resident marine biologist. You can also while away the time at Hurawalhi pampering yourself with sumptuous and therapeutic treatments at Duniye Spa, which uses chemical-free, pure organic compounds, or for a truly unforgettable experience – one you'll talk about for years to come – dine at the resort's 5.8 Undersea Restaurant. As the world's largest, all-glass undersea restaurant, it not only offers remarkable marine viewing, it's perfect for the ultimate romantic evening, with every table set for just two.

Whatever your idea of paradise is, you're certain to discover it – and more – at Hurawalhi.

Hurawalhi Island Resort ■ www.hurawalhi.com ■ +960 6622000 ■ reservations@hurawalhi.com



FOLLOW THE GREAT MIGRATION

UNLIKE MODERN HOTELIERS, THE HARDY explorers and intrepid travellers of the 19th century didn't have to worry about wildlife migration when it came to choosing a spot to make camp; they simply pitched their tents as close as they could to the wildlife, then packed up and followed when the animals moved on. Sanctuary Retreats has embraced this logic at Sanctuary Kichakani Serengeti in Tanzania, which will rove around the Serengeti alongside the wildlife during the Great Migration. Stopping off at three key spots throughout the year, the mobile camp guarantees that guests will be within easy reach of the best wildlife-spotting moments during the migration, without compromising on luxury.

The 10 private tents are fitted out in handcrafted luggage for storage, comfy easy chairs and lightweight furniture, all designed with mobility, functionality and style in mind. En-suite bathrooms have bucket showers for an authentic destination experience; personal attendants cater to every need; and in-tent gym and yoga kits allow guests to keep up healthy lifestyles even while on safari.

Wherever the camp moves, it will be accompanied by a culinary team that serves up a menu of fine bush cuisine in the open-sided dining tent; a perfect prelude to an evening around the fire pit, swapping stories under those vast African skies.

SMOOTH SAILING IN THE MALDIVES

GETTING ITCHY FEET DURING YOUR IDYLIC Maldives escape? Fear not: The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort has taken delivery of a 20-metre private yacht that's now available for overnight or daytime voyages. Named after St. Regis founder John Jacob Astor's 1910 yacht of the same name, *Norma* has four luxurious cabins catering to six guests, who can look forward to all the luxuries expected of a St. Regis stay, including private butler, full meal service and daily sunset champagne sabering ritual. The Azimut flybridge 66 yacht can be chartered for daytime diving excursions or sunset cruises, but for the full experience, book an overnight cruise and wake up to the gentle lapping of Indian Ocean waves at the bow, for a mere \$25,000 per night.



DID YOU HEAR?

SIX SENSES ZIGHY BAY IN OMAN HAS BOUGHT SEVEN NEW HYBRID 4X4S, TO MINIMISE EMISSIONS DURING RESORT TRANSFERS AND DAILY EXCURSIONS. GUESTS CAN HOP ABOARD ONE OF THE NEW ECO-FRIENDLY VEHICLES DURING A TRIP TO THE HAJJAR MOUNTAINS FOR A SUNRISE PICNIC, OR AN EXCURSION TO THE SIX SENSES FARM IN THE TOWN OF DIBBA, AMONG OTHER UNIQUE DESTINATION EXPERIENCES.

PARTY ON AT THE PENTHOUSE



MIAMI BEACH CHIC MEETS MIDDLE EAST STYLE AT FIVE PALM Jumeirah Dubai, the show-stopping resort that anchors The Palm Jumeirah to Dubai's breath-taking skyline. Spice up your weekend with a day at The Penthouse, the exclusive new rooftop pool club on the 16th floor of the resort, with jaw-dropping 360-degree views of the Dubai skyline and the shimmering waters of the Arabian Gulf. An adults-only haven of white design, modernist architecture and two angular glass-sided pools, The Penthouse is the new home

from home for the elite party set, who can while away the daylight hours as DJs spin chilled out tunes all day long, and slip into something more wow for glamorous evenings of five-star entertainment. When the sun goes down, The Penthouse transforms into a thumping nightspot, where Dubai's finest get together and dance the night away. Day passes for the pool club cost US \$109 per person, including US \$55 to spend on poolside delicacies from the Japan-inspired menu, plus an indulgent 45-minute massage.

THAILAND'S DESIGN GURU GETS A VILLA OF HIS OWN



WIDELY KNOWN AS ONE OF THAILAND'S LEADING AUTHORITIES on fine silks and striking design, Jim Thompson is something of a fabled brand in Southeast Asia. Since the designer's disappearance in 1967, his legend has continued to grow, with new lines in home furnishings and personal goods complementing his famous silk ties and menswear, and his former home is one of Bangkok's top attractions.

Now, an equally prestigious hotel brand has teamed up with local design firm Abacus Design to transform its opulent presidential suite into an ode to all things Jim Thompson. The Jim Thompson Suite is the icing on the cake at Anantara Mai Khao Phuket Villas, a tropical resort on the edge of Sirinath National Park and the shore of the Andaman Sea, that's also home to Bill Bensley-designed gardens and 91 private pool villas.

The two-bedroom Jim Thompson Suite is in fact a 389 sqm villa complete with private pool, Thai Makha wood flooring, Pikul fabric accents and local artwork. The high-ceilinged sitting room is decorated in stylish blues and whites, while the master bedroom is a riot of colour inspired by the Helaconia flowers that bloom in the gardens of Jim Thompson House in Bangkok.

The second bedroom, which has twin beds, is decorated in block print designs from the Jim Thompson archives, depicting blooming peonies and groups of birds and butterflies printed onto fabrics in bold colours. The private outdoor area continues the homage, with dark wood decking and dazzling mosaic tiling on the edge of the pool. As well as striking design, guests at this one of a kind villa are also treated to two 60-minute signature massages, an intro class to Muay Thai boxing, airport transfers and fast track immigration.

A SERENE CITY ESCAPE IN KUALA LUMPUR



BANYAN TREE KUALA LUMPUR PROMISES TO BRING THE BRAND'S unique blend of modern Asian luxury and traditional oriental wellness to the bustling Malaysian capital when it opens by mid-2018. Perched on the top seven floors of the Banyan Tree Signatures Pavilion Kuala Lumpur, the urban resort will feature 55 rooms and suites, most of which will look out over the Petronas Twin Towers and KL Tower. From well-appointed 51 sqm entry-level rooms to sprawling 200 sqm suites, all of the rooms feature signature aromatherapy essentials and chromotherapy showers, while the suites also feature private relaxation pools. The highlight of this sky-high urban escape is the 'high touch, low tech' Banyan Tree Spa, which has four couple's treatment rooms. For an authentic taste of the Malaysian rainforest, one of the rooms is fitted out with signature Rainmist therapy, which combines rain shower and steam bath to replicate the jungle experience and prepare for an indulgent massage or body treatment. Like the resort's sister property in Bangkok, Banyan Tree Kuala Lumpur will boast a to die for rooftop bar called Vertigo, which sits proudly on the 59th floor rooftop.



SIX SENSES GOES URBAN IN SINGAPORE

WHEN A BRAND LIKE SIX SENSES HOTELS Resorts Spas moves into the urban environment, people pay attention. Known for its commitment to sustainability, community and wellness, the firm's existing resorts are all found in unique natural settings, but the addition of an urban resort comprising two delicately restored heritage properties in downtown Singapore is set to change all that. Like Singapore's cosmopolitan population, the design of Six Senses Duxton and Six Senses Maxwell reflect a rich blend of regional and European influence, with Malay timber fretwork complementing Chinese porcelain-chip friezes, plus French style windows, Portuguese shutters and Corinthian pilasters.

Six Senses Duxton has employed the skills of designer Anoushka Hempel to breathe new life into the 49 rooms and suites of this Chinatown

gem; finished in shades of black gold and yellow, with Oriental screens and calligraphy wallpaper.

Nearby, Six Senses Maxwell Road comprises 138 rooms and suites spread across 14 three- and four-storey colonial style buildings on the site of an old nutmeg plantation. French architect and designer Jacques Garcia (of NoMad and La Mamounia fame) has honoured the style of the colonial era in which the buildings were originally built, adding a few modern embellishments along the way.

Guests staying at either will have access to all the facilities at both properties, which include a Six Senses Spa, Chinese doctor, outdoor lap pool, medicinal herb dispensary, Champagne bar and lounge, fine dining Cantonese restaurant and a library-themed lobby bar. Duxton is due to open in April; Maxwell Road will follow during the summer.

DID
YOU
HEAR

ST. REGIS
HOTELS &
RESORTS

HAS TEAMED
UP WITH ICONIC
DESIGNER
ANDRE FU TO
COLLABORATE ON
THE BRAND'S FIRST
PROPERTY IN HONG
KONG. SET TO OPEN
IN THE HISTORIC
WAN CHAI
NEIGHBOURHOOD
IN 2019, THE
25-STORY
PROPERTY WILL
BOAST 129 ROOMS
AND SUITES
OVERLOOKING
VICTORIA HARBOUR
AND KOWLOON BAY



CAPELLA UBUD TAKES TENTED LUXURY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

LUXURY HOTEL DESIGNER BILL BENSLEY'S creative genius strikes again, this time at the heart of Bali's verdant wilderness. Tucked away between Ubud's rice paddies, rainforest and the sacred Wos River and comprising 22 unique, individually designed tents and one two-bedroom lodge, this extraordinary camp is inspired by the adventurous spirit of early European settlers – but lands firmly in the here and now, thanks to complimentary smart phone (inclusive of data), refreshment trunk and Illy espresso machines. Each tent is kitted out with a private saltwater Jacuzzi pool and outdoor deck, allowing guests to completely (and privately) immerse themselves in the tropical setting – we're thinking outdoor candlelit dinner after bubbles by the pool. The luxe camp extends to include an outdoor rainforest pool, culinary tent, and spa; while a campfire setting offers the perfect spot for sharing the day's adventures (Hindu temples, an art museum, local artisan communities and traditional dances are all easily accessible) over hot chocolate and marshmallows. Grown-up adventure at its best.

TO THE MOON AND BACK

Sample the best MICHELIN-starred cuisine in Bangkok at Mezzaluna, the jewel in the crown of the Dome at lebua



The Dome at lebua, Bangkok



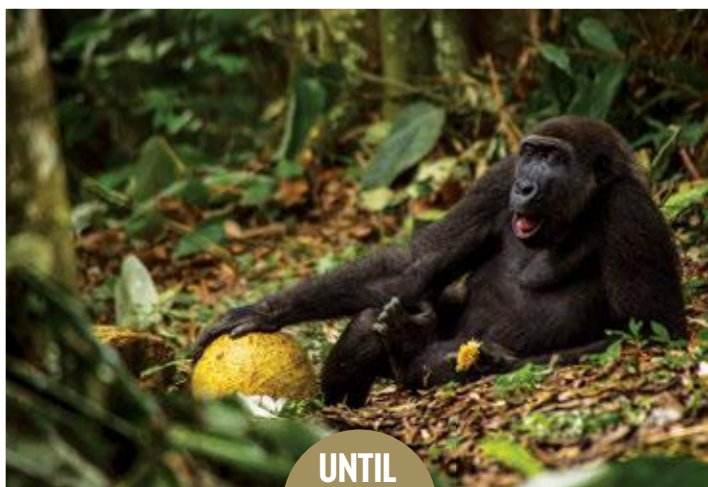
THE LEGENDARY MICHELIN GUIDE HAS ARRIVED in Bangkok for the first time, recognising the best culinary institutions the Thai capital has to offer. Hailed as the world's leading authority on fine dining, MICHELIN has dished out 20 stars to 17 restaurants in the city. Among them is Mezzaluna at lebua at State Tower, which has been awarded the two-star accolade. The publication of the guide makes Bangkok the seventh

city in Asia to be recognised by the gourmet handbook, joining the likes of Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo as world powers on the culinary stage. The Dome at lebua, the group's collection of restaurants and bars atop its Bangkok hotels, include Sirocco, Sky Bar, Flûte: A Perrier-Jouët Bar, the signature Breeze and Mezzaluna restaurants and the newly launched Alfresco 64 – A Chivas Bar, the highest whisky bar in the world.



**FEB
9-25**

LET THE GAMES BEGIN
PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics – Gangwon Province, South Korea
Athletes from all over the world unite this month for the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, marking the first time an Olympic event has taken place in the country for 30 years. The opening and closing ceremonies and most of the snow events will take place in PyeongChang Olympic Stadium, but some Alpine speed events and ice sports will be staged in neighbouring Gangneung and Jeongseon, providing a good excuse to explore lesser-known parts of South Korea; known for its forest hiking trails and Buddhist temples. Built at 700 metres above sea level, it is believed that PyeongChang is situated at the ideal altitude for human health and wellness; something that both participants and visitors will no doubt appreciate during this sporting extravaganza. www.pyeongchang2018.com



**UNTIL
MAY
28**



FEBRUARY Diary

Pulses are racing this month as athletes gather in South Korea, fashionistas descend on Milan and Europe's elite mingle in St. Moritz. Throw in some award-winning photography in London and you have the makings of a fabulous month

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE
Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Natural History Museum, London, UK

For the next few months, London-bound travellers can feast their eyes on some of the world's best photography at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at the Natural History Museum, London. This inspiring collection of 100 winning images celebrates the wonder and beauty of the natural world, as seen through the lenses of photographers on the ground, underwater and in the air. From close-up shots of the smallest insects to wide-angle images of animals in their natural environment, the collection captures the majesty and drama of the animal kingdom, and promises to provide plenty of inspiration for your next travel adventure. www.nhm.ac.uk

PHOTOS: Daniel Nelson / Tony Wu - Wildlife Photographer of the Year



FEB
4,11,18



FROSTY FURLONGS IN ST. MORITZ
White Turf 2018 – St. Moritz Switzerland

Sun, snow and horseracing come together at White Turf 2018, an annual spectacle held on the frozen surface of Lake St. Moritz. More than 35,000 visitors gather each year to watch the races, in which trainers, jockeys and horses from around the world compete in a series of competitions, from traditional horse races to skijöring, where a rider is pulled along by horses in a sled or on skis. It was the latter that inspired the first White Turf races back in 1907, and today the tradition lives on to the delight of visitors. In addition to the races, gourmet Swiss treats are available at a collection of hospitality tents, plus live musical performances and exhibitions for the whole family to enjoy. www.whiteturf.ch



FEB
20-26

ON THE CATWALK
Milan Fashion Week – Milan, Italy

Supermodels, designers, business moguls and other A-listers are flocking to Italy this month for Milan Fashion Week, where the most hotly anticipated launches in the international fashion calendar will be unveiled. The women's Fall-Winter 2018/19 event brings together a combination of new talent and the world's most respected luxury fashion houses for a week of catwalk shows, private viewings, exhibitions, presentations and star-studded parties, all set to the magnificent backdrop of Italy's fashion capital. www.milanomodadonna.it

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DESTINATIONS

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE LOCATIONS



58

MIDDLE EAST MARVELS

New cultural icons such as Jean Nouvel's awe-inspiring Louve Abu Dhabi are offering a fresh take on the region's architectural, musical and artistic riches.

- 48 Beach bliss meets city chic in Thailand
- 58 Get your cultural fix in the Middle East



MADE IN
THAILAND

Sarah Freeman seeks out serenity and cultural stimulation by combining a stylish Bangkok city break with Phuket's serene east coast





With more than 8-million inhabitants and traffic jams that rival Sao Paulo's, it's no wonder Bangkok can seem intimidating to a first time visitor. All too many tourists bypass this dynamic, exotic and cosmopolitan city, slip on their Havaianas, and make a beeline for one of Thailand's 8,000 islands or 2,000 miles of coastline. But who's to say you can't enjoy the best of both worlds, with a few days of cultural immersion in the capital, capped off with some R&R on one of the country's famed beaches? My destination of choice is Phuket's eastern shores, said to boast some of the last idyllic and unspoiled views on the rainforested, tourist-sullied island.

SANCTUARY AND THE CITY

Any bonafide traveller knows that the key to nailing the city-slash-beach holiday is doing it the right way around. So I dive straight in to the chaotic, bewitching city of Bangkok first, which doesn't take long to sweep me up in its relentless energy. There's no denying that the Thai capital is an assault on the senses. Thankfully, I'm quickly transported to another plane of relaxation

as I arrive at COMO Metropolitan Bangkok, an urban oasis near to Lumpini Park and the city's embassy district. As the entrance doors part, I'm engulfed in the scent of eucalyptus, peppermint and geranium (the COMO brand's signature scent) a welcome antidote to the traffic-choked air outside. An army of stylish staff, kitted out in black uniforms by Comme des Garçons, usher me through the light-flooded lobby, where I'm greeted with a chorus of 'sawàt dii!' (a common Thai greeting).

The discreet luxury hotel, a sister property to London's Metropolitan, is a far cry from its former use as a YMCA building. This is largely owing to design guru Kathryn King, a Singaporean interior architect, whose East-meets-West design concept is refreshingly non-bling by Bangkok standards. Staff wear Armani footwear and there are Giorgio Armani designed bathrobes in the guestrooms; cues to King's background, spent styling boutiques for fashion luminaries such as Miyake and Dior.

Some of the hotel's 169 rooms are amongst the most generously proportioned the city, with the smallest starting at 26 sqm. My suite is all clean lines, outfitted with teak furniture, a makha-wood parquet floor and a soothing palette of coconut and cream, with a handful of oriental antiques rendering an aesthetic of restrained, modern Thai elegance. The goose-down duvet and 500-thread count Egyptian cotton linen is all-too inviting for a jet-lagged travel writer, so I opt for the oversized limestone bathroom's walk-in rainforest shower, which promptly jolts me out of my soporific state.



(Clockwise from top left) The pool area at COMO Metropolitan Bangkok is an oasis in the middle of the urban jungle.

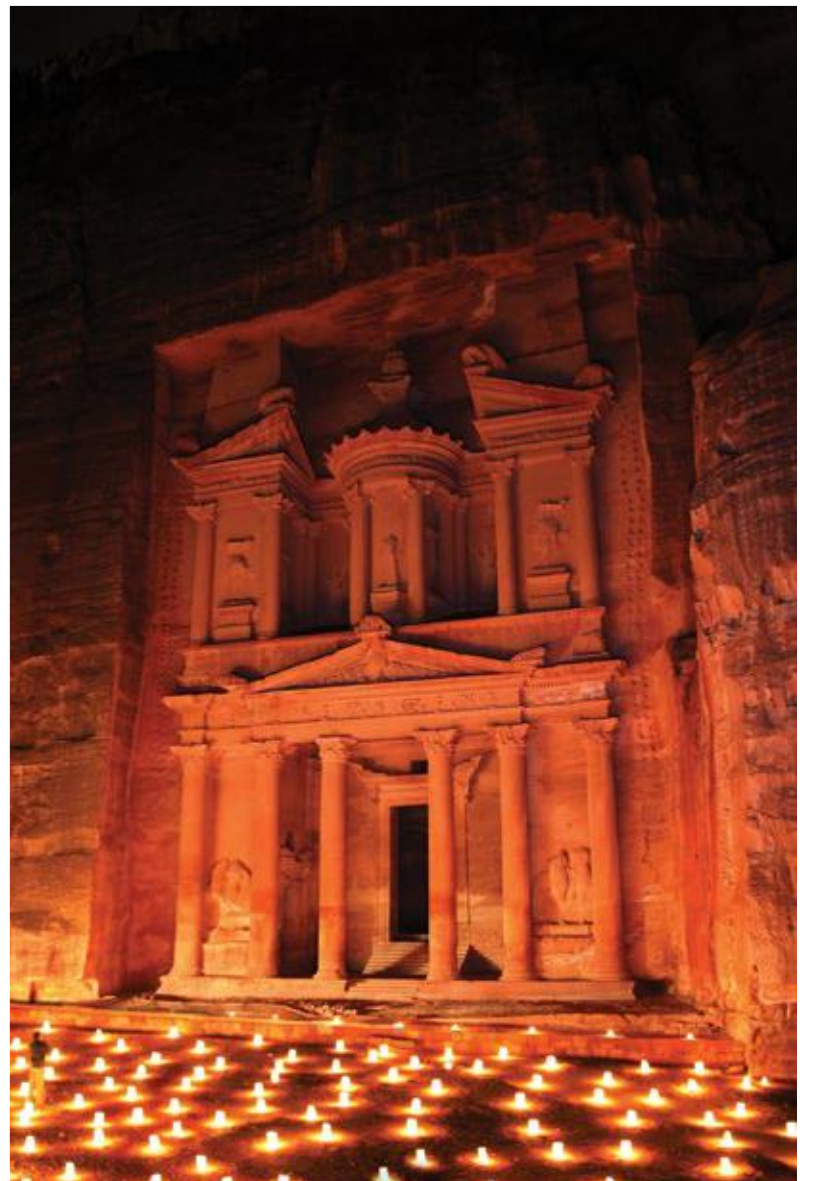
Longboats lined up along Sathorn Central Pier on Bangkok's main waterway, the Chao Phraya River.

Bangkok's enormous Grand Palace has been used by the Thai royal family for more than 150 years.

Pared-back design and bright, airy rooms and suites make COMO Metropolitan Bangkok a breath of fresh air in this bustling city.

Keen to exploit my newfound verve, I leave my COCO cocoon for the big city lights. A 10-minute taxi ride takes me to Sathorn Central Pier on the bustling Chao Phraya River, also known as The River of the Kings. Public ferries, cruise boats and heavily laden rice barges converge on Bangkok's main aorta, which meanders past the city's most noteworthy sites, while offering a glimpse into local life. My traditionally-adorned, private long-tail boat (which you can pick up at most floating docks), glides by elaborate temples, crooked houses and the occasional floating flower barge, before dropping me at Tha Chang Wang Luang Pier. From here you can take a leisurely walk to the city's most famous landmark; The Grand Palace. This vast, 200,000 sqm, Asian-European style palace complex is a vision of regal splendor.





MARVELS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Explore the Middle East's cultural melting pot in style at these
modern and ancient wonders of the world



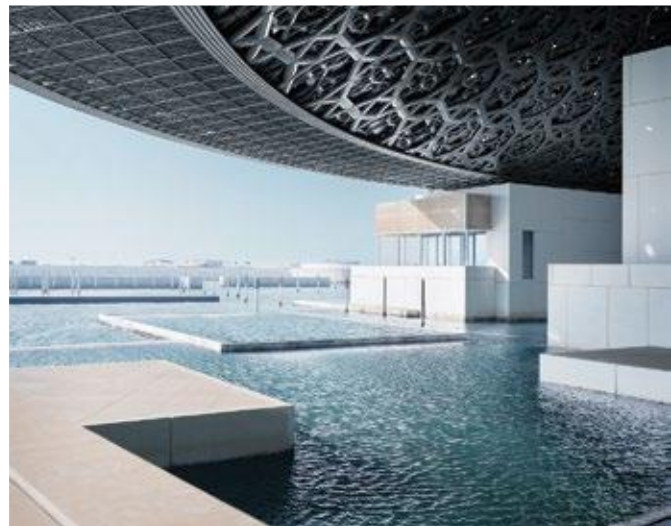
LOUVRE ABU DHABI

ABU DHABI, UAE

Abu Dhabi is the cultural lighthouse of the UAE, home to ancient forts, traditional villages and unique ‘falaj’ irrigation systems that have maintained life in the desert for thousands of years. The Al Ain Oasis, which became the UAE’s first UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016, is believed to be some 4,000 years old and was once an important agricultural centre for the entire Arabian Peninsula. Today, the emirate is looking outwards, celebrating the cultural and artistic history of the entire world with its ever-growing collection of museums. The current jewel in the cultural crown is Louvre Abu Dhabi on Saadiyat Island, the second outpost of France’s iconic museum. Designed by award-winning French architect Jean Nouvel, the museum has 23 permanent galleries as well as areas dedicated to temporary exhibitions celebrating local and regional artists. Vincent Van Gogh’s *Self-portrait* made an appearance when the museum opened in November, as well as Leonardo da Vinci’s *La Belle Ferronniere*. In the future, the Norman Foster-designed Zayed National Museum and Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim Abu Dhabi – both on Saadiyat Island – will add yet more strings to Abu Dhabi’s cultural bow.

WHY NOW: It’s going to be a big year for the luxury hotel scene on Saadiyat Island, as Jumeirah and Rotana prepare to open gleaming new resorts. In downtown Abu Dhabi, new hotels from EDITION, Fairmont and W are also in the making this year.

HOW TO VISIT: Stay at The St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort and enjoy access to Louvre Abu Dhabi and Fashion Afternoon Tea in addition to your stay. Starts from AED 950 (US \$25) per night.





DUBAI OPERA

DUBAI, UAE

Although it's known more for its shopping malls and beaches than history and culture, there's plenty of the latter out there for visitors who care to look. A stroll through the historical neighbourhood of Al Fahidi at the edge of Dubai Creek is a fantastic way to dive into the world of ancient Arabian life, before continuing on to the spice and gold souks or one of the area's traditional restaurants or galleries. But while one eye's on the past, the other is always looking to the future in Dubai, and nowhere represents its worldly view better than Dubai Opera – a multi-format performing arts centre that seats up to 2,000 guests at full capacity. Some of the world's greatest performers in the worlds of opera, ballet, music and theatre have taken to the stage since it opened in 2016, with an opening night spectacle by Plácido Domingo and subsequent performances including Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. The experience doesn't have to stop when the curtain falls; visitors can take a tour of the remarkable dhow-shaped building, designed by architect Janus Rostok, and check out the VIP hospitality suite – inspiration for your next night at the opera.

WHY NOW: This year sees a season brimming with big-name acts, including Monty Python's *Spamalot* and the Polish National Opera performing Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and Verdi's *Aida*, plus man of the moment Ludovico Einaudi in concert on February 8 and 9.

HOW TO VISIT: Check into a Deluxe Room at Renaissance Downtown Hotel, Dubai, from AED 1,350 (US \$368) per night and you'll be picked up from Dubai International Airport in a luxury sedan and given a luxurious gift on arrival.

**MONT
BLANC** 

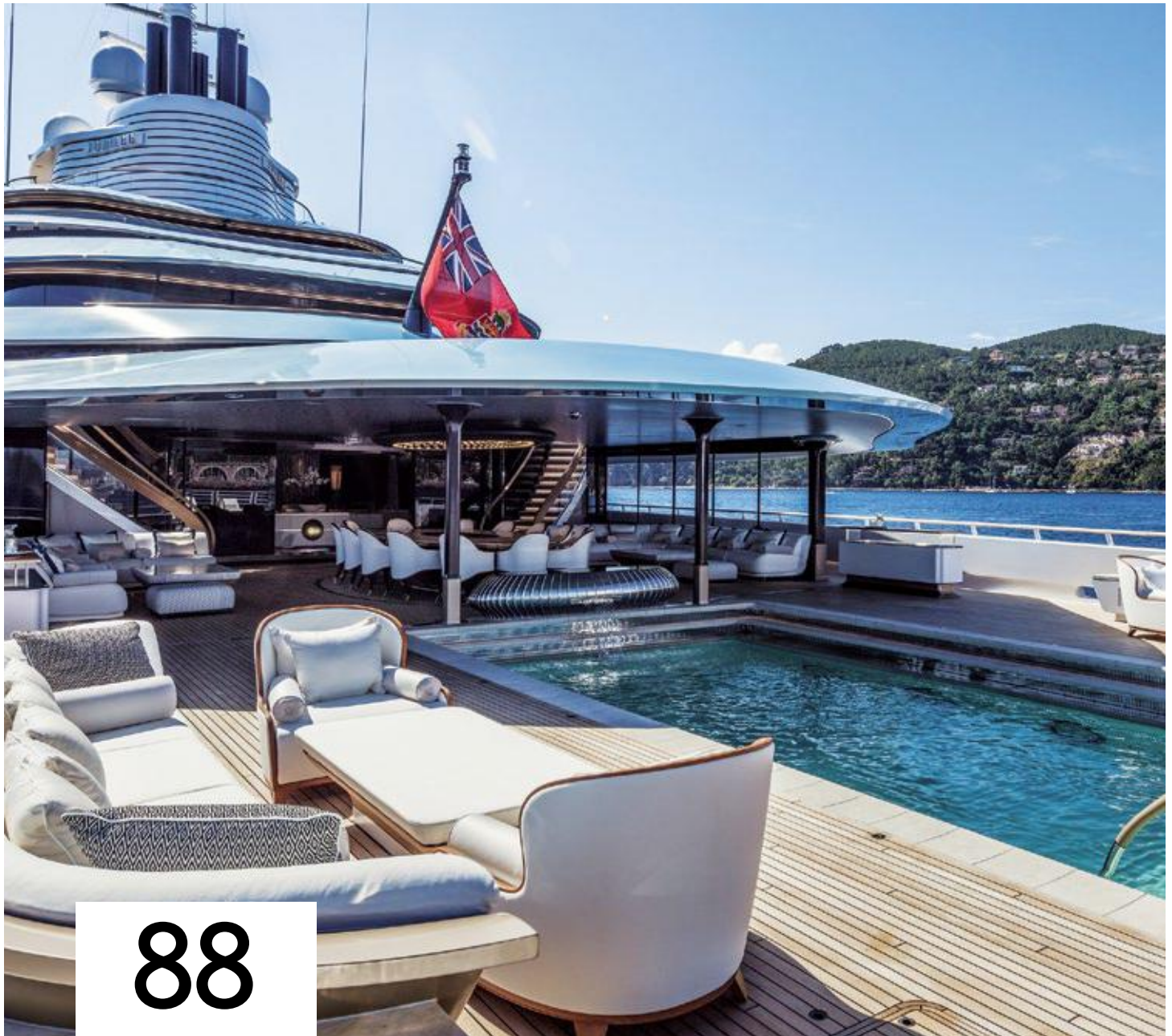
Lady EMBLEM
L'EAU



THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR WOMEN

SPEND IT

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES AND SOPHISTICATED ESSENTIALS



88

RACING LINES

The 3D-effect blue upper decks of OceanCo's Jubilee cut through sky and sea, making this award-winning yacht stand out in any marina.

- 72** Travel ideas to inspire your next adventure
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- 82** High performance cars to get your pulse racing
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- 90** Celebrating *l'art de vivre* in France with Clos 19



NO ADULTS ALLOWED

Today's travelling tots are the decision-makers of tomorrow – help their imaginations soar with these creative ideas that nurture their inner jetsetter



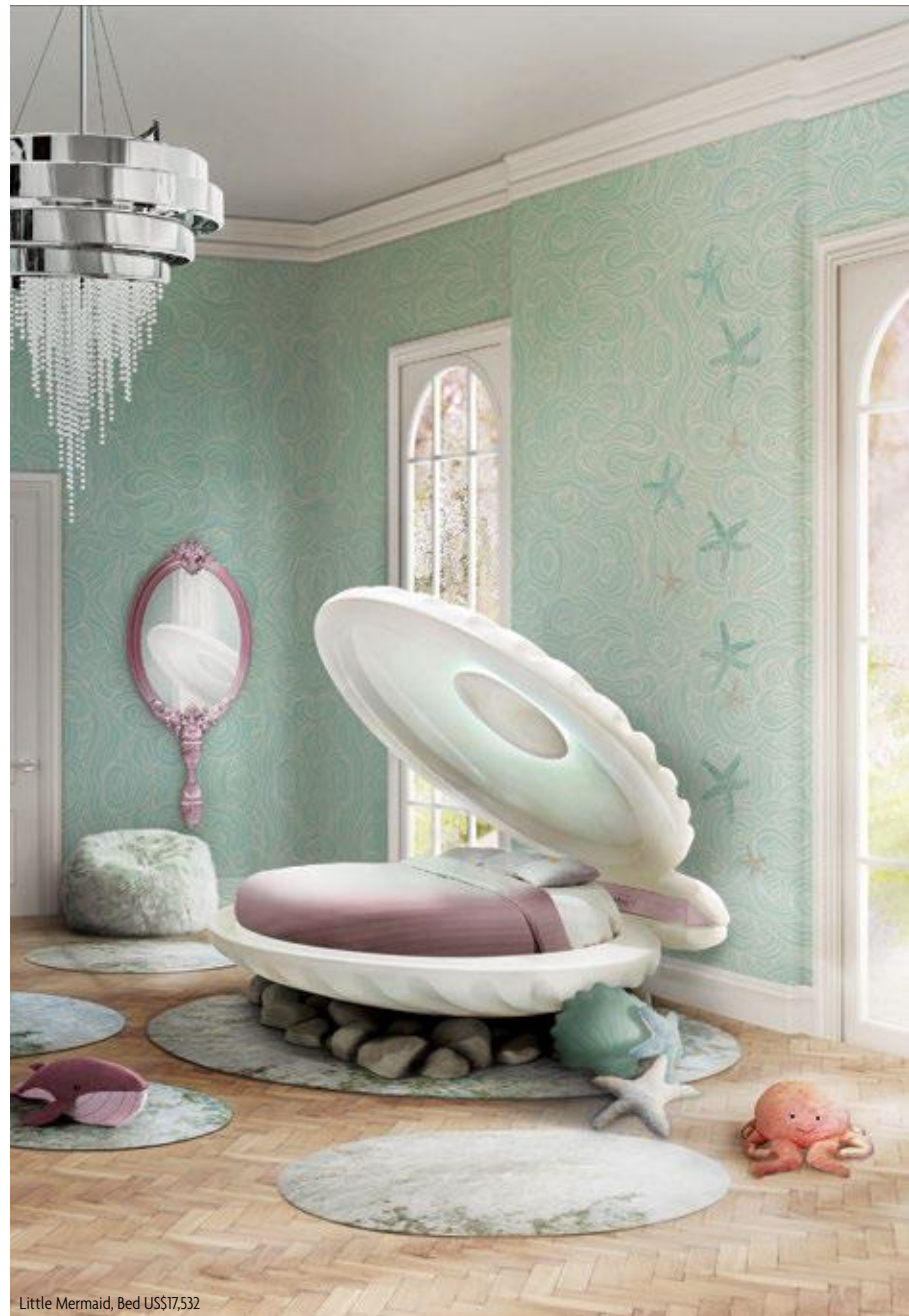
Fantasy air balloon, Bed and sofa US\$29,976

INSPIRING FURNITURE FOR JUNIOR TRAVELLERS

No one likes being sent to bed early, but that might not be the case for junior jetsetters lucky enough to sleep in one of these enchanting beds from Portuguese furniture maker Circu. Let the little ones' imaginations soar with this fantastical collection, which is guaranteed to fuel the fantasies of budding travellers and provide a good night's sleep in preparation for the day ahead.

Junior explorers will love the Bun Van, a gorgeous recreation of Volkswagen's iconic camper van containing a sumptuous bed, storage compartments in palisander wood veneer, a built-in TV, mini-fridge and a sofa, making it the ultimate den for independent tots.

Every young prince and princess dreams of exploring the world in a hot air balloon, and there's no better way to make that fantasy come true than the magical Fantasy Hot Air Balloon, a bed and sofa that will be the show-stopping centre piece of any bedroom. The snug interior can be reconfigured as little ones grow, transforming from a small bed for little dreamers to a day sofa for teens, and the wicker base has plenty of storage to hideaway their travel trinkets. There's a Little Mermaid bed in a giant seashell for water babies, featuring built in lighting and a playful circular mattress, and future astronauts will love the Rocky Rocket armchair, with light and sound system to help imaginations lift off to infinity and beyond. www.circu.net



Little Mermaid, Bed US\$17,532



Rocky Rocket, Armchair US\$27,972

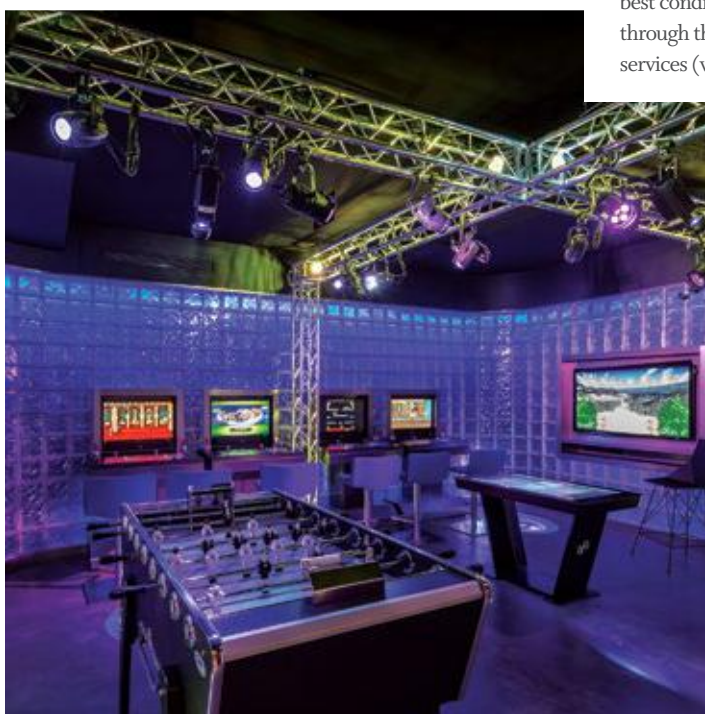


A HOTEL FOR ALL SEASONS IN MEGÈVE

The weather isn't always kind when you travel for a winter escape, but at Four Seasons Hotel Megève, kids are spoiled for choice whatever the conditions outside. With interiors by Pierre-Yves Rochon and Baroness Ariane de Rothschild, whose family put Megève on the map in the 1920s, the 55-room and suite hotel has invested heavily in making sure that junior visitors have plenty to keep them busy when the weather turns bad.

The highlight for us is the Teen Centre, a stylish space themed after a downtown nightclub, with industrial style concert lighting in funky hues mounted to rigging around the walls, plus a home theatre system, futsal table, a Playstation and other games consoles to keep older children busy. The Kids for all Seasons club is packed with activities for younger guests, where mini-adventures like trekking around the hotel and snow-scooter excursions are complemented by a range of educational activities celebrating life in the French Alps.

A dedicated ski concierge can recommend activities for the whole family to enjoy based on age and interests, but we're fairly sure everyone will enjoy an electric snowmobile ride through the woods, or a horse sledding excursion in the snowy landscape. For active families who like to make the most of their time on the slopes, Four Seasons' ski safari is just the thing. Every morning, the ski concierge will scan the slopes for the best snow at nearby resorts and make recommendations based on the best conditions. Families can then hop aboard the Four Seasons helicopter and swoop through the mountains to their chosen resort. The hotel can also arrange babysitting services (with 24 hour notice) if mums and dads want some alone time on the slopes.



HOLIDAY PAMPERING FOR LONDON'S LITTLEST VISITORS

Junior travellers deserved to be pampered just as much as their parents in the modern age of luxury travel, and one London hotel is making sure that travelling tots also enjoy the royal treatment. The Wellesley Knightsbridge, a Luxury Collection Hotel on Hyde Park is offering a treasure trove of amenities for younger visitors, including plush bathrobes and slippers to help relax after a long day of sightseeing, and a selection of Burt's Bees Baby bathroom amenities: a range of all-natural products including buttermilk soap and nourishing lotion, plus shampoo and body wash. The goodies are all part of the hotel's Little Explorer's package, which includes a 50 per cent discount on a second room when booking a two-bedroom family suite, and daily breakfast for the entire family. After an evening of pampering, little ones may want to request that the hotel's complimentary Rolls-Royce drop-off service shuttle them in style to one of the fabulous kid's attractions on the doorstep: the Toy Kingdom at Harrods, the Science Museum and Buckingham Palace are all just a short hop from the hotel. For any other needs, The Wellesley's 24-hour butler service can help arrange whatever you need to make your London experience unforgettable. The Little Explorers package is priced at £1,395 (US \$1,968) per night for two adults and two children.

FEBRUARY Essentials

Don't worry if you didn't make it to the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie in Geneva last month, we've rounded up some of the most eye-wateringly beautiful timepieces on display at the show



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

With a name like L'Astronomo, it's no wonder this muscular timepiece from Officine Panerai looks totally out of this world. Space age all-black design with gold embellishments could have been designed on another world, and the moon-phase indicator on the reverse side is useful for those long nights in deep space. Although it is dedicated to Italian scientific genius Galileo Galilei, L'Astronomo Luminor 1950 Tourbillon Moon Phases Equation of Time GMT (to give the watch its tongue-twisting full name) is made to order, and the skeleton movement is custom built to operate depending on the geographical location chose by the owner.

www.panerai.com



CELEBRATING A RACING LEGEND

When 68-year-old grandfather Burt Munro travelled around the world to break the under 1000cc motorcycle world speed record at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah in 1967, he might not have realised how much his legend would spread. More than 50 years later, Baume & Mercier has partnered with the Indian Motorcycle Company to honour the racing legend, with The Clifton Club, Burt Munro Tribute Limited Edition timepiece. The automatic chronograph watch has several instantly recognisable features, such as the iconic yellow number 35 from Munro's Scout motorcycle (his lucky number), and an Indian Red calfskin strap – the same colour as the streamlined outer casing of the motorcycle. It's a must for motorcycle fans, or anyone who wants to be reminded of the indomitable spirit of mankind and the world's fastest grandfather.

www.baume-et-mercier.ch

PAST MEETS PRESENT

Celebrating both the great history of Swiss watchmaking traditions and the latest evolutions of Vacheron Constantine's portfolio, the Traditionnelle collection comprises elegant and refined timepieces for discerning buyers. The Traditionnelle tourbillon features the first self-winding movement developed by the watchmaker; an ultra-thin Caliber 2160, housed in a 41mm case in 18-carat pink gold, with dark brown alligator strap. The open-worked carriage in the shape a Maltese cross reflects the brand's logo, providing a view into the intricate working of the movement and through the other side, thanks to a sapphire crystal caseback. The Traditionnelle is also available in Collection Excellent Platine, with contrasting dark blue strap.

www.vacheron-constantin.com





LOST IN A CAT'S EYES

It's virtually impossible to avoid being caught in the stare of the Cat's Eye Night and Day high jewellery edition, a mesmerising timepiece that forms the masterpiece of any ensemble for an evening on the prowl. Fifty-two brilliant-cut diamonds embellish the oval face of this show-stopping watch from Girard-Perregaux, and a further 149 diamonds of varying sizes cover the dial. At its heart, the aventurine night-sky face forms the inky depths of the feline's stare, and a white gold disc marks the passing of 24-hours with figurative sun and moon icons. The whole hypnotic watch is wrapped in a dark blue alligator strap, completing the beauty-meets-danger aesthetic of this unique piece.

www.girard-perregaux.com



COOL TO BE SQUARE

Celebrating the notion of time as object, Hermès made its SIHH debut with a collection of timepieces that blend form and functionality, including this playful Carre H. Originally created in 2010 by designer Marc Berthier, this new incarnation features an enlarged square design that's bursting with stylistic effects that play with the light: microbead-blasted brushed effect on the case, layered guilloché pattern on the dial and faceted hands and numerals that capture and reflect the light. These delightful touches accentuate the minimalist design, with its soft round corners and bold clear numerals, all of which belie the complexity of the Swiss-made Hermès H1912 movement within. www.hermes.com

KING OF THE SWINGERS

Designed to stand up to the rigours of the polo field and daily life, Richard Mille's RM 53-01, created in partnership with polo legend Pablo Mac Donough, is one of the toughest watches in the world. A cable-suspended tourbillon movement is visible through laminated sapphire glass, all of which is encased in the brand's custom-made Carbon TPT. The result is a watch that's virtually indestructible. To avoid the shocks expected on the polo pitch, the movement is suspended by a web of 0.27mm cables woven through 10 pulleys anchored at four tensioners, creating a floating carriage that looks as remarkable as it sounds. Only 30 will be made.

www.richardmille.com



WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE

A lot goes into the making of an Audemars Piguet timepiece, a fact that's plain to see for the wearer of this standout watch. An embellishment of the successful Royal Oak model, this 37mm Double Balance Wheel Openworked Royal Oak features the company's patented calibre 3132 system at its heart – a ground-breaking mechanism that can be seen from both sides of the watch face. Set in an 18-carat hammered white gold body, the precision-finished interior features a rhodium-plated movement and subtly contrasting golden regulating organ, so you can really see what makes this watch tick.

www.audemarspiguet.com





THE GOLD STANDARD

Dubai has five-star luxury aplenty, but Fairmont Dubai has the Midas touch. Steven Bond spends the weekend at a Fairmont Gold One Bedroom Suite and finds serenity in the city's fast-paced business district

Towering above an eight-lane superhighway in the emirate's bustling financial hub, Fairmont Dubai is a veteran property by local standards, and the first international property for Fairmont Hotels & Resorts when it opened in 2002. The 34-storey tower reaches the ripe old age of 16 this month, and has seen scores of new players enter the hospitality game during its tenure, but the old steed retains its pedigree as one of Dubai's foremost luxury properties.

In a city that's grown exceedingly rapidly, with new hotels arriving every month, it's challenging to stay at the top, but this property continues to live up to its renowned badge as a thorough and complete city hotel. Between the contemporary spa-esque lobby and the distinctive four-pronged rooftop, the property has a cool, refined air.

I have everything I need under that tiara-shaped roof, which is a reasonably unfair comparison since the building's aesthetic is in fact modelled after an Arabic wind tower, known as a *barajeel*. It's a subtle nod to the heritage of the UAE, and a fitting segue to announce that check-in is an absolute breeze – Fairmont Gold guests can check in from the main lobby, or glide up to the 33rd floor for the VIP check-in experience.

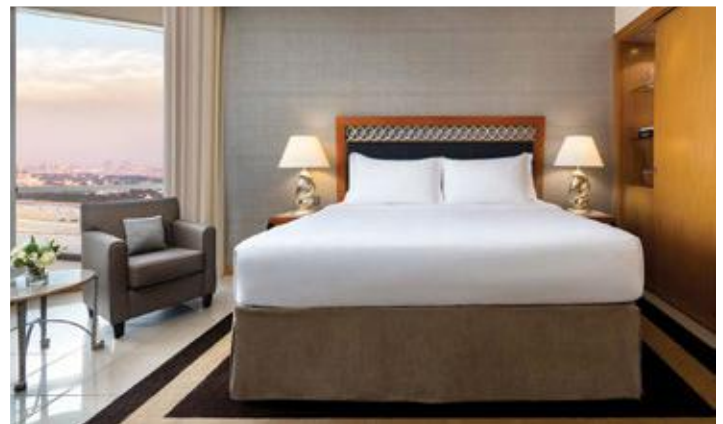
Rather than yo-yo back and forth, I get the deed done on the ground and shimmy straight to my Fairmont Gold One Bedroom Suite on the 17th. The 83sqm room is one of 146 suites and luxury penthouses, not to mention the building's scores of residential apartments, all of which offer a range of views, from the relentless city streets below, to the more serene suburban neighbourhoods between the hotel and the coastline.

The door opens up to a polished granite floor, which spans the business area of the suite and the lounge-dining room combo. The living area stretches out as a rectangle from the entrance to the floor-to-ceiling windows, which allow light to flood in from the south and give a commanding view of the distinctive Emirates Towers. On my right is the desk, which I didn't intend to use, and a little bar area with lots of complimentary Nespresso paraphernalia, which I did.

The entire room is a medley of soft, earthy tones; contrasting pine and mahogany woodwork, a plush brown rug, two cosy bucket chairs and a charcoal-coloured sofa where you can kick back in front the widescreen TV. It's an ideal venue for hosting colleagues or friends, with ample lounge seating and a four-seater dining table where you can feast on the in-room dining menu.

There's a guest bathroom nestled by the door, but the master of the suite may grant access to the en-suite bathroom, stocked with everything you'd expect from a five-star stay – as well as some surprising amenities. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but it took a lathery double take in the shower before I clocked that my bottles of Rose 31 body wash, shampoo and conditioner from New York brand Le Labo bore my full name on the packaging.

The King-size bed was comfy, with soft cotton sheets and a mattress you could lose a whole day in. The bedroom alone accounts for more than half the size of the suite, complete with a huge amount of wardrobe space, a luggage rack, dresser and yet another large TV. It's a haven from the outside world, perhaps only lacking in a balcony area, which would really put a bow on things. It was a relief then



”BETWEEN THE CONTEMPORARY SPA-ESQUE LOBBY AND THE DISTINCTIVE FOUR-PRONGED ROOFTOP, THE PROPERTY HAS A COOL AND REFINED AIR”

that there are plenty of opportunities for al fresco relaxation elsewhere at the hotel.

Fairmont Dubai has two pool terraces, marked Sunrise and Sunset to ensure you get your vitamin D fix throughout the day. The latter is more of a convivial afternoon suntrap with a range of loungers, a bar and a comprehensive menu. On the roadside, the Sunrise pool (don't let the name fool you) is more of a nightspot, for shisha, drinks and even some musical entertainment into the evening – if you're partial to a bit of electric violin.

The ninth floor outdoor area also serves as a reception for Noire, the hotel's 'dining in the dark' experience, which seems fitting for a proper blind date, where you're genuinely left in the dark about your dining partner as well as what's on the plate. The three-course meal is a novelty, but

well worth trying for an alternative night out with a friend or partner. The sensory deprivation really brings the flavours out of the food, as well as the discourse. Noire is one of 13 dining and entertainment venues; more than enough to keep you well-nourished during your stay.

Another eatery of note is the renowned Exchange Grill, a modern steakhouse with all of the rubs, cuts and fillets you can possibly imagine. The restaurant is located on the Exchange Floor alongside the Cin Cin wine bar, boasting over 400 labels, and another cigar bar with its own walk-in humidifier. Guided guests will also relish the exclusive Gold-member lounge on the 33rd floor, whether it's for breakfast, afternoon tea or happy hour cocktails.

What it lacks in comparison to nearby resort hotels – namely a beachfront – Fairmont Dubai more

than makes up for with its bustling location, adjacent to Dubai World Trade Centre and a host of other venues. While many of its guests will be in town for business, the hotel is a great venue to unwind, with the two pools, a great range of dining and The Spa at Fairmont Dubai; a 3,700 sqm facility with a Roman-esque Jacuzzi area and Turkish hammam-inspired steam rooms.

In a city dripping with gold, it seems like a sensible move to opt for a 'Fairmont Gold' room category, and the hotel-within-a hotel concept certainly delivers, even for the most discerning clientele, with exemplary service to boot. As a Dubai resident I will no doubt return, for blackout dining, poolside shisha and maybe even another Balinese massage. But the real question is, can I please get some more shampoo with my name on it?

The important bit

WHAT: Fairmont Dubai

WHERE: Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai

PRICE: From AED 1,100 (US \$299)

per night

TEL: + 971 4 332 5555

www.fairmont.com/dubai

FROM ENGLAND WITH
LOVE

The Aston Martin DB11 has finally arrived in the *Destinations of the World News* garage – Kris Karacinski finds out what makes this long awaited grand tourer one of the most exciting cars in the brand's 105-year history

PHOTOGRAPHY: Eliot Sleep



Sail away

OCEANCO JUBILEE

The striking exterior of this ultra-sleek 110-metre yacht from Dutch firm Oceanco earned it top honours at the 2018 Boat International Design & Innovation Awards last month; the first of what we anticipate to be a slew of accolades for one of the most innovative yacht designs of the decade. Created by Lobanov Design, the horizontal blue lines on the upper part of Jubilee stand in bold contrast to the rest of the white hull, creating a unique 3D effect that plays tricks on the eyes. Australian design firm Sorgiovanni Designs created all the interior spaces, most notably the 15 staterooms with space for up to 30 lucky guests, including a vast owner's deck complete with outdoor hot-tub. At 110-metres long, this is the largest vessel built by Oceanco and the largest boat ever constructed in the Netherlands. The enormous foredeck is equipped with a fully-certified helipad, while the rear features a spacious pool deck with built-in aquarium, plus indoor-outdoor dining space and plenty of room to lounge while enjoying the envious stares of other passing yacht owners.

Length: 110 m
Beam (max): 16.4 m
Maximum speed: 18.5 knots





ON THE WATER THIS MONTH

BATMASSAN GÖTEBORG BOAT SHOW

Feb 3-11, Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre, Gothenburg, Sweden
www.batmassan.se

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

Feb 15-19, Miami Marine Stadium Park & Basin, Miami, US
www.miamiboatshow.com

THAILAND YACHT SHOW

Feb 22-25, Ao Po Grand Marina, Phuket, Thailand
www.thailandyachtshow.com

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

Feb 27-March 3, Dubai Canal, Jumeirah, UAE
www.boatshowdubai.com



Length: 50 ft (15.2 m)
Beam (max): 30 ft (9.1 m)
Price: from EUR 1,050,000 (US \$1,297,000)



SUNREEF 50 AMBER LIMITED EDITION

If you're looking to add a little bling to your marine collection this year and have a cool million Euros to spare, the limited edition Sunreef 50 Amber sailing catamaran could be just the thing. This sleek and compact vessel is a smaller version of Sunreef's 60- and 80-foot catamarans, with a few luxury embellishments for the stylish sailor. Four smart layout options are available to the first 10 customers who place an order (only 10 will be built), with exclusive design packages featuring handcrafted amber elements and super-suave interiors. Don't let the size fool you: master suites feature walk-in wardrobes and a spacious private bathroom, and there's plenty of outside space, with sunbathing pods and sunken lounge on the bow terrace, and lounge seating to the aft and on the panoramic flybridge. A carbon mast and boom support a 75 sqm main sail, meaning this pocket-sized treasure is ready to tackle whatever the ocean can throw at her, but we envisage her taking it easy in the calm waters of the Aegean, with the sun glimmering off that glorious golden hull.



I THINK WE'VE MET BEFORE?

Was it in New York, Paris or maybe Bangkok? We're always happy to see a familiar face.

After you've made yourself comfortable in one of our stylish rooms, head over to one of the bars, where you'll enjoy flawless service and chic surroundings. Discover your new favorite destination with Renaissance Downtown Hotel, Dubai.

For more information visit renaissancedowntowndubai.com
or email rendxb.sales@renhotels.com



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