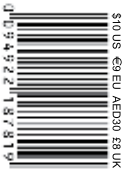


DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

January 2018



WOW FACTOR

ROOM WITH A VIEW IN BANGKOK

ONE&ONLY

THE FUTURE OF ULTRA-LUXURY

HOT HOTELS

NEW ARRIVALS FOR 2018

ON THE ROAD

A MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE WITH FERRARI

ALPINE INDULGENCE

EIGHT UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES IN THE ALPS

JUNIOR TRAVEL



WINTER WONDERS



SUPERYACHTS



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Find your private hideaway at Shanti Maurice, a legendary Mauritian resort spread over 36 acres of pristine beachfront on the edge of the Indian Ocean



DISCOVER A NEW LEVEL OF LUXURY IN SOUTHERN OMAN.

Nestled between a beach and freshwater lagoon, Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara is the first and only luxury resort in Southern Oman with private pool villas. Offering a new level of luxury, this stunning resort sits on a pristine 250-metre beach and features a sparkling infinity pool along with three exquisite dining options and a world-famous Anantara Spa. Located just 15 km from Salalah International Airport and directly adjacent to Al Baleed Archeological Park, Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara is the perfect place for relaxation and adventure in Salalah.

LIFE IS A JOURNEY. Visit anantara.com



CAMBODIA ■ CHINA ■ INDONESIA ■ MALDIVES ■ MOZAMBIQUE ■ OMAN ■ QATAR ■ SRI LANKA ■ THAILAND ■ UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
■ VIETNAM ■ ZAMBIA

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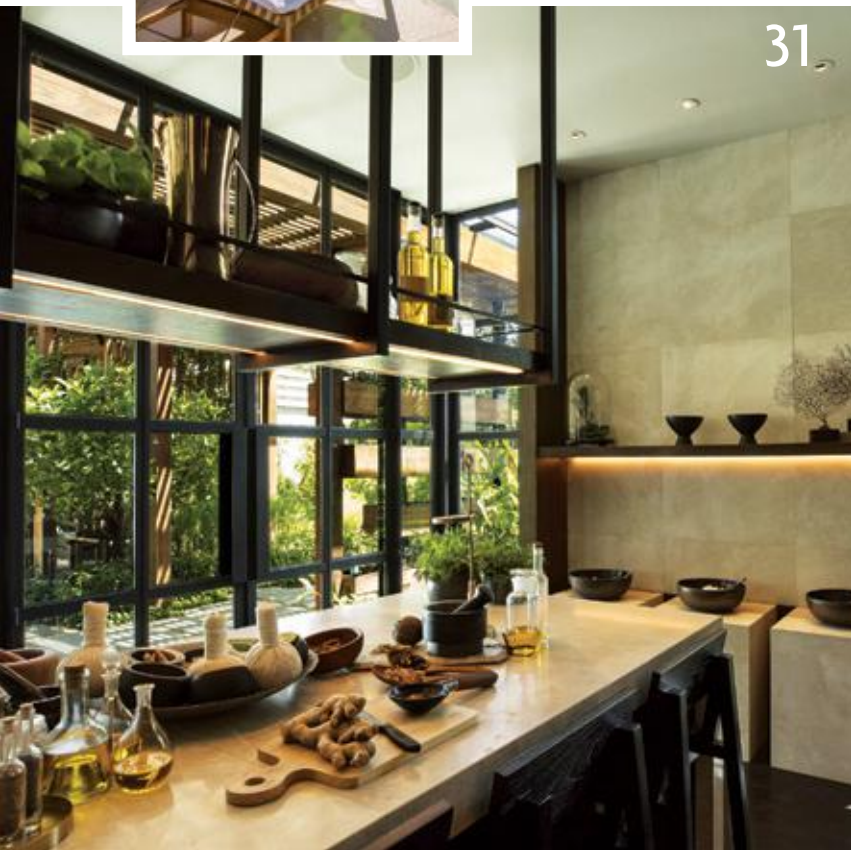
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NEWS

HOT EVENTS, NEW HOTELS AND GLOBAL JET SETTERS



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BORGO SANTO PIETRO

Gorgeous new garden villas with outdoor fireplaces and chic rustic design make this Italian beauty a year-round destination for Tuscany fans

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A BREATH OF TUSCAN TRANQUILLITY

SET WITHIN THE ELEGANT RURAL SETTING OF Borgo Santo Pietro, four new garden villas add an additional dash of exclusivity at the multi award-winning Relais & Chateaux estate in central Italy.

New this season, La Casa dei Fiori is home to two Ultimate Seclusion Pool House Suites, each of which has its own private pool and spacious terrace with outdoor fireplace, so the exterior space can be used even when the weather cools. Inside, the suites are adorned with Travertine flagstone floors and plush textiles in a silver-bronze palette, with marble bathtub.

Multi-gen families or groups of friends can book the entire house, connecting the two 84 sqm suites via an internal courtyard, making this a highly desirable two-bed villa to rival anything in Tuscany.

Two further Ultimate Seclusion Garden Suites play tribute to important woman who have contributed to life at the estate: local 'shepherdess poet' Dina Ferri and Etruscan fertility goddess Dea Feronia. The poems of the former have helped inform the sense of place at Borgo Santo Pietro, while Dea Feronia is the patron saint of the Borgo Santo Pietro farm and its 300 sheep.

Owners Jeanette and Claus Thottrup haven't rested since opening the boutique resort in 2008, adding a cooking school, skincare lab and a luxurious sailing yacht *Satori* to its offering over the past decade.

As well as providing top-notch hospitality, Borgo Santo Pietro is also a working farm, with livestock, cheese dairy, fruit orchards, bee hives and vineyards on site; all contributing ingredients and inspiration to the creative kitchens of Borgo Santo Pietro's restaurants: Michelin-starred Meo Modo and laid-back Trattoria Sull'Albero.

THE LUXURY COLLECTION TAKES RESIDENCE IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

THE LANGLEY, A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL, is set to open its doors this summer, revealing 41 gleaming new rooms and suites and a 17,000 square foot spa within 500-acres of Buckinghamshire countryside. Formed of two buildings – an 18th century Grade II listed building and a historic mansion that once belonged to the Duke of Marlborough – the property has been the subject of a four year renovation under the guidance of Dennis Irvine Studio, and will become the fourth Luxury Collection property in England when it opens in June.



Experience the world of Shangri-La

Located in London's most historic area, Shangri-La Hotel, At The Shard, London is the city's first high-rise luxury hotel. Offering 202 guestrooms and suites all with unparalleled views and floor to ceiling windows.

The hotel features three dining venues, river-facing event spaces and a spectacular infinity sky pool on level 52 of the iconic Shard.



Shangri-La hotel

AT THE SHARD

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MAURITIUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



A 50TH BIRTHDAY IS ALWAYS CAUSE FOR celebration, and if you happen to be one of the most beautiful islands on earth, well – even more reason to crack a bottle of your finest, right? As Mauritius prepares to toast 50 years since gaining independence in 1968, the island nation is also riding a wave of momentum, with some seriously luxurious new openings playing testament to its increasing desirability amongst tropical jetsetters.

Last month saw the highly anticipated re-opening of One&Only Le Saint Géran after a nine-month facelift and multimillion dollar investment for the resort, which originally opened in 1975. The grand dame retains her prime position on the north-eastern coast, on a private peninsula boasting its own calm lagoon and spectacular stretch of beachfront.

But the resort itself has been reimagined as a modern icon of ultra-luxury in true One&Only style – with a sense of playful adventure that never veers from the elegant and the extraordinary. Rooms have emerged as modern tropical havens; spacious and airy, each with generous outdoor area. Dining will take on a new dynamism, with overwater dining pavilions and theatre-style cooking; while new swimming pools and cabanas, a spectacular new spa and revamped public spaces combine to breathe new life into this iconic property.

The Kelly Hoppen-designed LUX* Grand Gaube also flung open its doors after an extensive renovation last month, revealing a playful – can we say flirtatious? – and eclectically elegant new design, rich in retro-chic references and decadent

touches. We're talking 85 sqm family suites with walk-in wardrobe and deep-soaking tubs; and three LUX* Villas set on their own private peninsula, with private pool, gazebo, indoor/outdoor bathroom and 24-hour butler. This place has modern beachy indulgence stamped all over it, from the G&T 100 Club to the French Kiss bar, which operates out of a classic Citroen van under an ancient banyan tree. Then, of course, there's the spa – think cutting-edge treatments with a tropical touch. A dedicated Wellness Concierge will guide you to your peak self, while an essential oils guru will guide you to a state of bliss.

Meanwhile, Avani Resorts & hotels announced plans for a new south coast resort set to open in 2021, hinting at more laidback luxury to come for this vibrant island destination.

A TASTE OF LONDON AT FOUR SEASONS AMMAN

FINE DINING, MEET YOUR NEW PARTNER – FINE DRINKING. Jordan has welcomed a sleek new speakeasy bar at the Four Seasons Hotel Amman, heralding a new way to imbibe cocktails in the style of London's finest. The plush hideaway bar invites guests to pull up a reassuringly heavy stool at the glamorous countertop and order the cocktail of their choosing, to be meticulously prepared by an expert barman and presented in a manner that would make James Bond proud. The drinks menu proffers high-quality homemade ingredients to complement your beverage – from classic cocktails to contemporary creations – and there's also a deliciously whimsical food menu to soak it up in style.



Bangkok



Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok



Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok



Conrad Bangkok



Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort



Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok



W Bangkok

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DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE ROSES



ROSEWOOD HAS BEEN BUSY OF LATE, AND NOT JUST IN TERMS of new openings (Rosewood Phuket opened its doors in November). The iconic brand has unveiled a raft of innovations aimed at cementing its position as an expert in inspirational luxury with – as its core philosophy goes – a true ‘sense of place’.

Rosewood Phuket is home to the inaugural iteration of the Asaya wellness concept, which is set to roll out to other Rosewood resorts and city locales around the world; Rosewood Hong Kong will unveil its own Asaya when it opens later this year. Grounded in the idea of self-acceptance and self-discovery, the spa concept will tap into the local wisdom, experts and indigenous botanicals of each locale, while sharing key features such as unique ‘social’ suites or villas catering to small groups of friends.

Back on the business side of things, Rosewood has also launched a new luxe business/lifestyle hotel brand, KHOS. Taken from the Mongolian word

meaning ‘pair’, the new offering – set to commence roll-out this year – aims to deliver a new take on the increasingly intertwined realms of business and leisure travel, blending practical solutions and facilities for the discerning (and busy) business traveller with a fresh, innovative style of hospitality. Meeting facilities will be re-imagined for increased inspiration, functionality and sociability, and guests can also take some essential time-out (think artisanal, communal dining and innovative spa facilities) to ensure their stay is both productive and fulfilling.

Elsewhere, in-demand designer Zac Posen has become the latest Rosewood Curator, dishing up his insider tips for getting the most out of your time in “bold, elegant, and vibrant” Dallas (Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek was the site of his first trunk show, 15 years ago). It’s just a small taste of the beautifully curated content on yet another development for the brand – its new digital travel platform, Rosewood Conversations.

ALL’S WELL AND GOOD AT ANANTARA TANGALLE



NEW YEAR GOT YOU DETERMINED TO MAKE SOME LONG-LASTING, meaningful, healthy changes to your lifestyle? Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort, on Sri Lanka’s lush south coast, has introduced four new, weeklong wellness journeys, all rooted in Ayurvedic traditions and tailored to your personal doshas and vikriti (current imbalances).

It’s a soundly holistic approach, and no superficial quick fix – instead encouraging you to take personal responsibility for leading your best life while gently, expertly guiding you along the way. After an initial consultation with the Resident Doctor of Ayurveda, Dr. Sampath Perawattha, you’ll be given a tailored program to zone in on your needs.

Choose from ‘Inner Harmony’ (energy healing, Ayurvedic nutrition, spa treatments and a tech blackout); ‘Deep Sleep’ (in-room slumber guru rituals, energy healing, spa treatments, painting and yoga sessions); ‘Natural Weight’ (daily exercise including personal training and surfing, tailored nutritional plan, ‘eating for balance’ coaching and daily spa treatments) or ‘Rebuilding Detox’ (two spa treatments per day, detox treatments for body and mind, and daily journaling).

Meanwhile, at Anantara Tangalle’s Surf Centre by Tropicsurf, both novices and pros can hit the increasingly sought-after Sri Lankan waves – let a seasoned surf guru take you under their wing, or head on a guided surf trip to the southern coast’s biggest swells.



Aaron Kaupp keeps the world moving

“From my first ILTM show in 2003 it has ever since been on my yearly calendar to attend as it is the epitome of shows in the travel industry. It enables us to meet with the best in the industry and is vital to our business.”

Aaron Kaupp, Directeur Général,
Le Royal Monceau - Raffles Paris

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BAHA MAR GATHERS PACE FOR GRAND OPENING



THE RECENT OPENING OF SLS BAHAMAR IS THE LATEST CHAPTER in the ongoing development of the ambitious Baha Mar project in Nassau, Bahamas, and is set to be followed in Spring this year by the launch of Rosewood Baha Mar. The integrated resort destination is being developed at a cost of US \$4.2 billion and will bring together three global hotel brands – Grand Hyatt, SLS and Rosewood – plus 40 restaurants and lounges, a 200,000 sq ft convention center, 18-hole Championship Jack Nicklaus Golf Course and Golf Club, the first ESPA flagship spa in the Caribbean, and more than 30 luxury retail outlets.

The newly opened SLS Baha Mar lives and breathes the brand's dedication to striking design, beginning the moment guests arrive at the SLS Circle – a grand courtyard entrance with the aim of transporting guests from the world of everyday reality to the altogether more fun and fanciful universe of SLS. The hotel boasts a sexy, central sun-lounger-and-palm-tree-lined pool, plus another,

both with butler service; 299 rooms (including 109 suites) with floor-to-ceiling windows to let in the dependably beautiful Caribbean sunshine. There's also an array of drinking and dining options, a nightlife venue, and extensive indoor and outdoor space for conferences and social events.

This entire Caribbean wonderland of Baha Mar is set to offer visitors the best of Bahamian beach life, filtered through its various resorts and amenities to create a kind of kaleidoscopic, choose-your-own-adventure holiday. Golfers will delight in the Royal Blue Golf Course, designed to lead players through elevation changes, a dense jungle environment and rolling fairways (golf caddies will determine optimal tee locations each morning, ensuring a new experience each time you play). Families will delight in adventure activities, children's club and beach fun; while those seeking romance, fine dining and total 'me-time' will no doubt also find their happy place in the sun. Stay posted for the grand opening later this year.

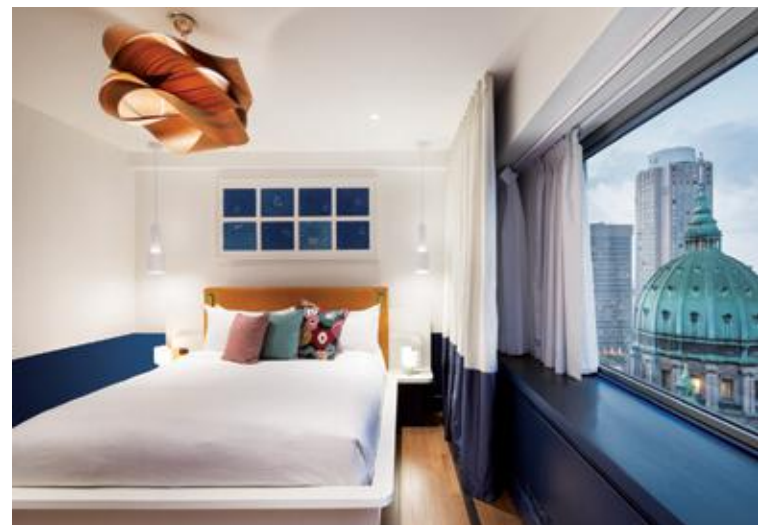
THE ART OF LUXURY TAKES ON NEW MEANING AT FAIRMONT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH

FOLLOWING A MAJOR RENOVATION under owner Ivanhoe Cambridge, Montreal's Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth has unveiled a new incarnation of its famous Suite 1742 – the site of John Lennon and Yoko Ono's famous 1969 'bed-in' – as well as a dynamic new art collection aimed at showcasing the collective talent of artists from Quebec and Canada.

Suite 1742 has been sensitively reimagined to allow guests a completely immersive stay in the iconic room. The bed has been positioned as it was for the historic moment, and reproductions of the famous handwritten 'hair peace' and 'bed 'peace' cutouts once again feature on the windows; but rather than trying to entirely recreate

the setting with original furniture and artwork, a collection of artworks, artefacts and multimedia installations representing various places the couple visited (think London, New York, Tokyo and New Delhi) transports guests into John and Yoko's world – if only for a night.

The artful innovation continues throughout the hotel, with the introduction of 123 works by 37 contemporary artists as a permanent collection set to position the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth as a champion of Canadian art. Large scale sculptures, photography, paintings and drawings from the likes of Michel de Broin, Patrick Coutu, Nicolas Grenier and Geneviève Cadieux all feature.



SHANTI MAURICE

RESORT & SPA



EXPERIENCE A SWEET ESCAPE FOR YOUR HONEYMOON AT SHANTI MAURICE RESORT & SPA

Located around a pristine horseshoe coral sand cove, surrounded by turquoise waters and sugar cane fields, Shanti Maurice provides the perfect setting for a romantic honeymoon.

Whilst enjoying a romantic getaway, the staff at Shanti Maurice are on hand to ensure a seamless experience; from organising champagne cocktails on the beach, to an ocean-side honeymoon dinner, or butler-drawn aromatherapy bubble bath to greet them on their honeymoon night.

Couples are entitled to the following added values:

- One bottle of sparkling wine in Suite | Villa upon arrival
- One (1) romantic candlelight dinner once per stay excluding drinks
- One (1) couple massage for a duration of 45 minutes once per stay in our Shanti Spa
- Free upgrade to next higher room category (subject to availability at time of check-in)

DESTINATIONS

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE LOCATIONS



65

ROMANTIC ESCAPES

The over-water terrace of The Lighthouse Restaurant is just one of the places you and your loved one can enjoy a private sunrise yoga session at Baros Maldives.

- 48 Eight unforgettable ultra-luxe Alpine experiences
- 60 Indian Ocean escapes for hopeless romantics

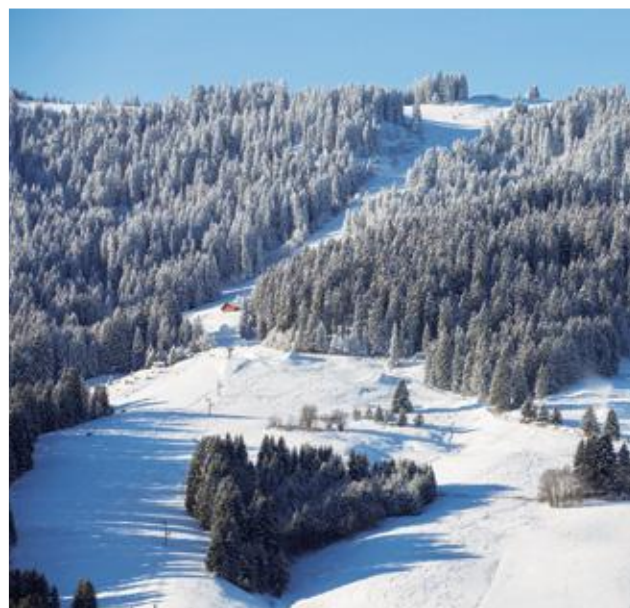


EIGHT UNFORGETTABLE
— ALPINE —
EXPERIENCES

As buckets of snow fall on the Alps, this year's ski season is shaping up to be the best of the decade. Factor in these ultra-luxury experiences – designed for skiers, adventurers, photographers, spa lovers and gourmands – and it might just be the best ever



GREAT FOR SKI BUNNIES



HELICOPTER SKI SAFARI AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL MEGÈVE Megève, France

The paint is barely dry on Europe's first Four Seasons mountain resort; a charming collection of traditional alpine lodges on the outskirts of Megève. 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 Four Seasons Hotel Megève adds a splash of contemporary luxury to the Mont d'Arbois ski region. For eager snow bunnies who don't like to be constrained to just one resort, Four Seasons' 'Helicopter Ski Safari' is just the thing. Every morning, the hotel's ski concierge will scan the slopes for the best snow at other nearby resorts and make suggestions based on your preferences. You will then hop aboard the awaiting helicopter and swoop through the mountains, travelling south to the resorts of Val d'Isère, Courchevel, Méribel or Val Thorens; or north to Chamonix, Flaine or Courmayeur. Available in three- to seven-night packages, the helicopter ski safari not only guarantees you'll find the best snow in eastern France, but promises some of the most spectacular mountain views in the world. Back at the resort there's plenty more to enjoy. Chef Julien Gatillon has relocated his celebrated two Michelin-starred restaurant Le 1920 to the hotel, with indoor-outdoor dining that makes the most of both winter and summer seasons. Bar Edmond celebrates the legacy of Edmond de Rothschild, the man responsible for creating the town's Mont d'Arbois Golf Course in 1964. www.fourseasons.com





FLYING CHEFS DINNER WITH SCOTT DUNN Val d'Isère, Courchevel and St. Anton

When you find yourself in a luxuriously appointed Alpine chalet, surrounded by friends and loved ones, with some of the world's greatest skiing on your doorstep, it's hard to imagine what could possibly improve the experience. And then luxury travel specialist Scott Dunn steps in with its new Flying Chefs private dining experiences, and nothing will ever be the same again. New for this season, guests staying in any of Scott Dunn's 21 chalets in Val d'Isere, Courchevel or St. Anton can arrange to have a top European chef fly to their chalet to prepare a once-in-a-lifetime lunch or dinner: culinary heavyweights including Monica Galetti, Pierre Koffmann, Alyn Williams, Andrew Wong, Sat Bains and Mauro Colagreco. Each meal will be entirely bespoke, inspired of course by the culinary style of the chosen chef and the requirements of your group. If you get on well, who knows – they might just share a few cooking tips or help you perfect your soufflé skills. The experiences start from \$19,000 for one lunch or dinner for a group of eight to 12 guests. www.scottdunn.com



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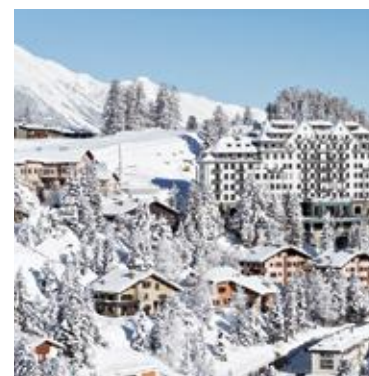


GROUNDING MASSAGE RITUAL AT AMAN LE MÉLÉZIN Courchevel, France

Feeling like you've had your head in the clouds for too long? Then its time to plant your feet firmly back on terra firma with this 'Grounding Massage Ritual' at the gorgeous new spa at Aman Le Mélézin. Your journey begins with a singing bowl ceremony, in which the resonant vibrations of a Tibetan bowl help bring on a sense of inner peace, followed by a soothing foot soak. The healing continues with a Ku Nye massage that uses a combination of acupressure, deep-tissue massage, cupping and kneading to stimulate the muscular and meridian systems, while warmed rose quartz crystals and Himalayan salt poultices help to ground the body and mind. Finish off with a Tibetan head massage and you will have achieved complete relaxation; a state of mind best enjoyed in one of Aman Spa's elegant relaxation areas or beside the 14-metre lap pool. Maintain the positive vibes for the rest of your stay with daily yoga sessions designed specifically for skiers. www.aman.com



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CATCHING THE LIGHT AT THE CARLTON ST. MORITZ St. Moritz, Switzerland

Known as the place where winter sports began, St. Moritz has continued to innovate ever since. Annual events such as the Snow Polo World Cup and the White Turf horse race have cemented its status as a winter sports hub, and these days, fine dining restaurants almost outnumber the luxury shopping boutiques.

New for this season, legendary hotel The Carlton has teamed up with photographer Roland Hemmi to help guests make the most of their camera while holidaying in St. Moritz. The classes are aimed at both photography enthusiasts and complete beginners, and can cover everything from basic camera operation and the fundamentals of photography, to more advanced

lessons on composition and light. For a more bespoke session, private classes are available from US \$154 per hour, affording guests one-on-one time with one of Switzerland's most renowned nature and landscape photographers.

Guests who prefer a more adrenaline-fuelled experience can hop aboard a bobsleigh at the Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz-Calerina, hurtling down the oldest bobsleigh route in the world with a professional at the wheel. Back at the hotel, The Carlton's new Outdoor Butler – a seasoned veteran of the Engadine Valley – is on hand to provide advice on the best ways to experience the region's natural environment, or accompany guests on outdoor adventures. www.carlton-stmoritz.ch



ROMANTIC — ESCAPES —

Looking for inspiration for your honeymoon, destination wedding or anniversary celebration? Or simply in need of an unforgettable couple's escape? We've got you covered. From beachfront bliss in Mauritius to overwater indulgence in the Maldives, these Indian Ocean hideaways make the perfect destination for your next romantic break



SHANTI MAURICE

There are those who claim that the journey is the destination, but when it comes to Mauritius, we're inclined to disagree. There's something about that combination of powder-soft sand, crashing waves and verdant jungle that whispers, "you've arrived", and that's certainly the case at Shanti Maurice; a picturesque resort on the southern coast of Mauritius.

Spread across 36 hectares of pristine beachfront and fragrant tropical gardens, the resort is a couple's delight, with 61 suites and villas nestled among the vegetation; all offering privacy and seclusion that's requisite to a romantic getaway.

Honeymooners love Shanti Maurice, drawn perhaps by the Luxury Pool Villas, whose private gardens, outdoor dining pavilions and private pools with built-in Jacuzzis mean you don't have to leave the 250 sqm villa unless you really want to. But few can resist the allure of the Shanti Spa, where treatments, couple's massages and wellbeing classes focus on body, mind and soul, and fully-immersive wellness retreats can provide the perfect opportunity for couples to reconnect. Culinary experiences abound at Shanti Maurice, from in-villa dining to a secluded picnic overlooking the mountains and ocean in a remote corner of the resort.

If you've chosen Shanti Maurice for your special day, there's a choice of settings in which you can exchange or renew vows: perhaps a pavilion perched over the turquoise waters at the end of the jetty, or in a beachside cabana with the waves lapping at your feet? Whatever you choose, when you settle down to watch the sun dip below the horizon at the end of the day, you'll know that you've found unadulterated beachfront bliss. www.shantimaurice.com





THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT COMBINATION OF POWDER-SOFT SAND, CRASHING WAVES AND VERDANT JUNGLE THAT WHISPERS, 'YOU'VE ARRIVED'



TO THE MOON AND BACK IN THE MALDIVES

Just picture it: you, your favourite person in the world, a full moon softly illuminating the Maldivian night sky, and an indulgent five-course menu. Oh, sorry – we missed the kicker: an indulgent five-course *lobster* menu, specially designed by Jordanian executive chef Ayyoub Salameh of the St Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort. That's right, throughout 2018, for each full moon, the resort will be putting on a spectacularly indulgent lobster and champagne dining experience, encouraging guests to immerse themselves in luxurious beachside, barefoot bliss on the white sands of Vommuli Island. Your menu will include an amuse-bouche and palate-cleanser, plus the de rigueur bottle of bubbly. The St Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort will round out your tropical escape with all the necessary indulgences – choose from garden, beach or overwater villa; hit the spa, or continue the decadence at one of the six stunning dining options on offer.

PRICE: dining experience from US \$265.

AVAILABLE: every full moon during 2018.

www.stregismaldives.com

ESCAPES

Forget the gym membership and superfood cookbook – January is the time to reconnect with your loved one after the frantic festive season, with one of these indulgent breaks

Words: Nikki Wallman



BLISS BECKONS AT KANUHURA

Need more than a weekend to decompress, but don't have a full week to spare? We may just have found the perfect short getaway. Kanuhura Maldives is offering four nights in paradise, with enough inclusions to make a short getaway more than sufficient to hit that 'recharge' button and have you returning home tropically tanned and feeling terrific. Located in the Lhaviyani Atoll, just a 40-minute scenic seaplane flight from Male, Kanuhura's luxe villas and suites are spread across both sunset and sunrise sides of its beach, offering sigh-inducing turquoise water views from their private decks. Your four-night stay includes a beautiful floral bed decoration, private cinema experience under the vast starlit sky, and gorgeous candle-lit dinner. And of course, there's plenty of sun-soaked relaxation and/or activity on offer, from languid laps in the freshwater swimming pool (followed by cocktails at the infinity pool bar, of course) or picnics for a day's exploring; to island hopping, snorkeling, spa treatments and sunset cruises.

PRICE: Water Villa from US \$4,355; Beach Pool Villa from US \$4,489.

AVAILABLE: from January 9 until March 24, 2018. Book by March 20.

www.kanuhura.com



JANUARY IS FOR LOVERS AT SHANGRI-LA THE SHARD

Baby, it's cold outside... which makes it the perfect time for a cosily romantic London getaway, non? The magic of the festive season lingers into January, with icy temperatures shepherding visitors into the bustling boutique shops, grand department stores and welcoming warmth of London's iconic pubs. Shangri-La The Shard have put together the perfect package to send romance levels soaring with their 'Romance in the clouds' offer. Spend the day wandering nearby Borough Market or the Tate Modern hand-in-hand, before heading to the hotel, located in Renzo Piano's iconic building and boasting stunning views over London. A bunch of beautiful blooms will greet you on arrival, setting the scene for what's to come. You'll want to pack your finest, of course – not because you'll be leaving your room, but to impress your significant other over your in-room, set three-course meal (complete with complimentary bottle of Duval Leroy Rose Champagne). Whatever happens next is up to you, but rest assured – a hearty in-room breakfast for two awaits come morning.

PRICE: from US \$975 per night.

AVAILABLE: year-round. Must be booked at least three days prior to stay.

www.shangri-la.com



THE ULTIMATE SUITE ESCAPE IN MONACO

There are many things to love about a Northern Hemisphere Winter. But we're not here to talk about that. We're here because you, dear reader, are dreaming of a sunny escape to a place where the mild, Mediterranean sunshine will coax you back to the more relaxed version of yourself. So how does a 'suite' escape to the glorious French Riviera sound? The Hotel Hermitage Monte Carlo is inviting guests to take advantage of the very best rates until 31 March 2018. Check in to the Belle Epoque masterpiece, handily located within easy walking distance of the main square and its accompanying temptations, and get ready to be pampered. One of the key highlights is the award-

winning spa – the Thermes Marins Monte-Carlo – which, with its enormous glass-fronted visage and high-tech yet highly-personalised treatments, will have you emerging refreshed and ready to tackle the new year with your best game face on. Culinary delights also vie for your attention, with beautifully light, local, seasonal cuisine at Michelin-starred Vistamar and elegant indulgence at Limun Bar.

PRICE: from US \$1,089 per night.

AVAILABLE: until 31 March 2018.

www.hotelhermitagemontecarlo.com

JANUARY Essentials

Stylish cruisewear from Longchamp, beautiful bicycles from Dior and Aston Martin and a tempting timepiece from Bovet – spoil yourself with something delightful this month

Words by: Joe Mortimer



TRÈS CHIC TRAVEL

Designed for the sophisticated urbanite who loves to travel but also appreciates the finer things in life, Longchamp's new Cruise Collection is a gorgeous ensemble of clothing, bags, shoes and accessories in shades of blue, red and beige. Colourful totes, hobos and bucket bags are adorned with patterns inspired by the Maasai, embellished with fringes and tassels made from handcrafted fabrics, plus beaded decorations inspired by African jewellery. Stylish espadrilles with braided rope soles are adorned with leather clasps or fabric ties; a perfect addition to the travel bag, whether it's a week in the Mara or a weekend in Saint-Germain. www.longchamp.com

TELLING TIME

Master watchmaker Pascal Raffy makes a clear distinction between his Bovet 1822 timepieces that showcase the latest innovations in development and technology, and those that celebrate traditional artisanal watchmaking. This gorgeous Virtuoso VIII is very much the latter; a 10-day flying tourbillon big date showstopper that features some of the most precise engraving we have ever seen. With architecture derived from typical 19th century watches, this piece also boasts up to 10 days of autonomy, meaning it'll keep on ticking even if you forget to put it in the watch winder during your week away. www.bovet.com



YOUR BICYCLE, MR BOND

We all know James Bond loves to get around town in a DB5, but if he had to choose pedal power over petrol, he'd probably be thrilled with the Storck Fascenario.3 Aston Martin Edition; the result of a partnership between the legendary marque and Germany's most celebrated bicycle maker. Weighing in at just 770g, the 'Nanocarbon Technology' frame promises sleek aerodynamics, and the high-tech SRAM's wireless gear shifting technology has levers modelled after the gear change paddles on Aston Martin cars. Finished in Argentum Nero paint, only 107 models are being made. Price: US\$20,800; www.astonmartin.com or www.sorckworld.com



NO MORE PACKING LIGHT

Remember the good old days of luxury travel, when you bought everything including the kitchen sink on your African safari? Well, neither do we, but we're pretty sure that even F. Scott Fitzgerald would have been chuffed with this travelling treasure chest from T.T. Trunks: a cowhide leather trunk that has all you need for an intercontinental adventure. With separate compartments for your cufflinks and watches (including two secret and one visible SwissKubic watchwinders) plus inbuilt USB charging unit, interior light and built-in Sonos speaker, this is the ultimate piece of travel luggage. Made in partnership with the Oetker Collection's Eden Being boutique, the Hotel du Cap Eden Roc Dandy trunk is lined with sea blue interior as a nod to the hotel's spectacular Mediterranean views, plus a hotel logo. Price: US \$46,350; www.edenbeing.com

STREET SMARTS

For the ultimate urban showman, Dior Homme's limited edition BMX combines retro 80s style with French haute couture. Created by Kris Van Assche, creative director of Dior Homme, in partnership with French BMX specialist Bogarde, the bike features a chrome frame with touches of Dior Homme red and black, and an engraved bee at the end of the handlebars. Just 70 pieces will go on sale, the first of a series of three exclusive bicycles. Price: from US \$3,200; www.dior.com





A G R A N D R A K
TOUR

What better way to enjoy the winding mountain roads of Ras al Khamiah than from behind the wheel of a Ferrari? Kris Karacinski dons his driving gloves and sets off on a mountain adventure in the new Ferrari Lusso T, and experiences first hand how a Ferrari should be driven





We all have good and bad days at work. When an email appears in the inbox inviting you to spend a couple of days driving a Ferrari up a mountain, that definitely counts as a good day. The Ferrari in question is the new Lusso T; a rear-wheel drive V8 grand tourer that I'm told has 601 prancing horses under the bonnet. Needless to say, it's doesn't take me long to reply to that email.

I'm up early to go and meet the Lusso T at Jumeirah Zabeel Saray, the fabulous Ottoman palace resort at the end of The Palm Jumeirah; a fitting place to kick off an Arabian driving adventure. To my surprise, Ferrari has sent a couple of their own drivers along for the trip; obviously there to school us less seasoned racers in how a Ferrari ought to be driven.

On arrival, the Lusso T doesn't have the wow factor of the 488 GTB which is accompanying us on this journey to the mountains. For a Ferrari, I found the body styling sleek yet a bit muted. Compared to other members of the family, the Lusso T won't be turning many heads. The exterior may not be that flashy, but open the door and you're greeted by one of the best Ferrari interiors I've encountered, complementing the car's shape with long sweeping curves and a vibrant red finish that gives you the wow punch that a Ferrari should.

The cockpit is very similar to the GTB, with its combination of old school analogue dials and digital outputs. The infotainment system on the centre column looks exquisite and it's very user friendly. I also noticed the passenger gets a touchscreen display.

Settling down behind the wheel, the Lusso T is very comfortable: there's good visibility and the glass roof really adds to the grand tour feel of hitting the open road. Cruising on the highway, the car purrs along quietly, as you'd expect from a GT; endless engine grunts and exhaust trumpets aren't ideal if you're heading off on a long drive. But if those tunes are music to your ears, the Lusso has a great set list; the V8 has a pleasing grunt as you raise the revs, and those quad exhausts compliment it with a chorus of growls and crackles when the foot goes down.

The start of the journey involves some uneventful highway driving, so I set the cruise control, sit back and enjoy the drive. But it's not long before I realise that the Lusso T is almost too comfortable and quiet.



“PRESENTED WITH LONG STRAIGHT ASCENTS COMBINED WITH TIGHT LEFT AND RIGHT-HAND CORNERS, THE ROAD FEELS LIKE IT’S MADE FOR THIS CAR. THE FERRARI’S GRIP IS REMARKABLE AND THE POWER DELIVERY, EVEN ON A STEEP ASCENT, WOULD BRING A SMILE TO ANY DRIVER’S FACE”



Sail away

ZEELANDER Z55

Nothing epitomises the essence of carefree Riviera cruising like the Zeelander Z55; a gorgeous 55-foot yacht designed from stern to bow to make life easy for its owners. It's size makes it big enough for couple's or family cruising, with a generous master cabin (plus two smaller cabins) and ample outside space to have friends over for bubbles. But it's also small enough that you won't have trouble finding a berth. Joystick control and 360-views from the wheelhouse make the Z55 easy to handle, even for casual boaters, and the ultra-low noise levels mean this is the perfect boat for a quiet cruise through the Peloponnese or along the Cote d'Azur. A side-accessible tender garage makes it easy to deploy the jetski even in shallow water, and a spacious swimming platform provides plenty of outside deck space for lounging. But the main allure for us is the design: gentle curves, high-quality materials and painstakingly beautiful finishes make the Z55 one of the most attractive boats on the water.

Length: 17m

Beam (max): 5m

Draft: 1.4m

Maximum speed: 32-43 knots
(depending on model variant)

Price: from US \$3,066,000





ON THE WATER THIS MONTH

LONDON BOAT SHOW

January 10-14, ExCel,
London, UK
www.londonboatshow.com

60TH TORONTO INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

January 12-21, Enercare
Centre, Exhibition Place,
Toronto, Canada
www.torontoboatshow.com

NZ MILLENNIUM CUP 2018

January 23-26,
Bay of Islands, New Zealand
www.millenniumcup.com

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

January 17-21, BC Place
& Granville Island,
Vancouver, Canada
www.vancouverboatshow.ca

BOOT DUSSELDORF

January 20-28, Düsseldorf
Exhibition Centre, Germany
www.boat-duesseldorf.com

NEW YORK BOAT SHOW

January 24-28, Javits Centre,
New York, USA
www.nyboatshow.com



Length: 38m
Beam (max): 8m
Draft: 2m
Maximum speed: 17 knots
Price: POA

BAGLIETTO 38M V-LINE BY HOT LAB

Taking its design cues from the worlds of architecture and automotive design, the new 38m V-Line by Italian shipyard Baglietto is a stunner. Created in partnership with Hot Lab, the 38m model – the smallest in the range – makes clever use of space, incorporating vertical lines into the interior architecture wherever possible to maximise indoor space. Wide glass windows bring in plenty of natural light so as not to obstruct the connection with the sea, and dining area opens up on three sides to create an indoor/outdoor space for al fresco dining. The full-beam owner's suite has windows on either side, as well as dressing room, office and private terrace. A vast rear sun deck offers generous space for lounging, sunbathing or socialising, and the flush forward deck is a dynamic space that could be used for sunbathing or a cocktail gathering when at anchor. Visually, the V-Line is a feast, with aggressive vertical bow and stylish architectural elements that give the yacht a sleek modern-industrial feel.



"For a real holiday, try this tiny tranquil tropical island far removed from tiresome reality."

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