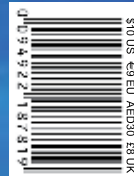


DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

July 2018



NAHM
Michelin-starred
dining in Bangkok

Summer in
SALALAH

**JAGUAR'S SUITE
PUR-FECTION**

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DUBAI
AL HABTOOR CITY

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A black and white portrait of Philip Ho, a man with glasses, smiling. The background is dark and slightly blurred. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

PHILIP HO

keeps the world moving

“The new emerging markets are in South East Asia and hence it makes sense for ILTM Asia Pacific to be in Singapore. With China being a large and still a fast growing market, it is a necessary development to have ILTM China as a dedicated show.”

**Philip Ho, Senior Vice President, EMEA & Asia Pacific
The Leading Hotels of the World**

www.iltm.com/china
Shanghai, Oct 31 - 2 Nov 2018

#keeptheworldmoving

The logo for ILTM CHINA, featuring the text 'ILTM' in a large, stylized font above 'CHINA' in a smaller font, all contained within a red, irregular shape.

ILTM
CHINA

NEWS

HOT EVENTS, NEW HOTELS AND GLOBAL JET SETTERS



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GREEK CHIC

The five-star Olea All Suite Hotel opens in Zante, Greece, with a bold design

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VINTAGE HOTEL REBORN IN CHAMPAGNE



THE SOUNDS OF CORKS POPPING WILL RESONATE through the air of northern France this summer, with the reopening of the Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa after a four-year top-to-toe renovation.

Overlooking the villages of Champillon and Hautvillers amid the vineyards of Epernay in the heart of the Champagne-producing region, the 49-room boutique retreat has been refreshed by Reims-based architect Giovanni Pace, who has combined the original 19th century post house with a new wing built in the style of an amphitheatre, its white walls standing out against the green of the landscape.

The spa element comes in the form of a 16,000 sq ft destination spa and wellness centre comprising nine treatment rooms, yoga studio, Turkish hamman, beauty studios and two swimming pools: indoor and out. Parisian beauty brand Biologique Recherche will provide signature treatments using its range of fragrance-free all natural products.

At 1,150 sq ft, Suite Josephine is the grande dame of all the guestrooms, with a separate living room and bedroom that each boast sublime views over the Champagne valley. All rooms feature Hermès amenities, and all hotel guests will benefit from exclusive perks

such as access to private Champagne houses and tastings with local producers. Book in at the right time of year and you can even help out with the harvest.

Executive chef Jean-Denis Rieubland promises a contemporary twist on classic French gastronomy in the gourmet dining room, Le Royal, and more casual fare at Bellevue, which, as the name suggests, has spectacular views over the vineyards. Needless to say, the wine cellar and Champagne selection will be nothing short remarkable when the hotel reopens this month. Rooms from EUR 485 (US \$563)

EXPERIENCE LIFE IN MEDIEVAL TUSCANY

WITH ITS MEDIEVAL ARCHITECTURE, Renaissance art and the incredible spectacle of Il Duomo, Florence is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful towns in Europe and the undisputed capital of Italy's Tuscany region. But for a true taste of Tuscan life, one must travel beyond the Florentine city limits and discover rural life among the vines and farmland.

Enter the newest member of the Belmond family, Castello di Casole: a 1,000-year-old castle that occupies its own picturesque, cypress-covered hillock in the countryside between Siena and San Gimignano – two of Tuscany's other must-visit towns.

Restored by the aristocratic Bargagli family before the turn of the millennium, the castle sits within its own medieval village, which is home to an ancient Etruscan wine cellar (now the Essere Spa), olive press and winemaking facilities. Original fireplaces can still be

found in the suites located in the 10th century medieval tower, and all 39 suites feature authentic historical elements such as original stone flooring and alabaster from the nearby region of Volterra.

More recent history abounds in Bar Visconti, named for Italian director and scriptwriter Luchino Visconti, who once entertained the likes of Sophia Loren and Helmut Berger at the castle. Venetian dishes come courtesy of an outpost of Cip's Cup from Belmond Hotel Cipriani, and traditional Tuscan fare is prepared using fresh ingredients grown in the hotel's gardens at Tosca.

Guests staying at the castle are invited to try their hand at truffle hunting or look out for wild boar and foxes during sunset safari walks. If the great outdoors proves too much and guests long for the big city, Castello di Casole's big sister, Villa San Michele, is just a short drive away in Florence. Rooms start from EUR 550 (US \$638).



Van Cleef & Arpels

HAUTE PARFUMERIE



COLLECTION EXTRAORDINAIRE

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS IN BOTSWANA



FRESH FROM A TOP-TO-TOE REDESIGN, BELMOND Savute Elephant Lodge will invite guests to take front row seats as the cycle of life plays out this summer, at a new eye-level viewing hide in front of the camp's watering hole. The lodge's location beside the Savute Channel in Chobe National Park makes it a popular transit point for local wildlife, with lions, elephants, cheetahs, hyenas and antelope gathering at the watering hole throughout the day.

If you prefer to view your wildlife from a slightly greater distance, pull up a pew or a rattan chair on the vast open deck and gaze out across the plains, while sipping something cold and delicious from the new contemporary lounge and bar.

Newly imagined interiors of the 12 tented rooms and all the public spaces come courtesy of Inga Moore of Muza Lab, whose design credentials include the Hotel Alfonso XII in Spain, Kanuhura in the Maldives and several other Belmond

properties, amongst others.

The suites retain a natural earthy feel, but bursts of colour add to the drama of the spectacular savannah setting. Grand four-poster beds, rattan easy chairs and chunky writing desks invite guests to channel their inner David Livingstone post-safari, and the lodge's firepit is the place to swap stories as the sun dips below the horizon. All-inclusive rates start from US \$970 per person per night.

CAMPBELL GRAY BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO OLD MANAMA

BOUTIQUE HOTELS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN IN THE GULF, which is why we're so excited about this upcoming September opening from Campbell Gray Hotels in Bahrain. With just 47 suites and a unique location in the heart of old Manama next to the Bab el-Bahrain Souk, The Merchant House, is truly a boutique property. Founder Gordon Campbell Gray has spent the last year curating a collection of Bahraini art for the hotel, with works from established local artists and more contemporary pieces from young artists from around the GCC. The lobby promises vibrant colours contrasting with white walls and floors, and pops of graffiti and bare concrete firmly establish this as a youthful, urban hotel.

A rooftop bar and restaurant has been designed in the style of a private garden, a haven of green in the heart of the city. There's casual indoor-outdoor dining and a rooftop pool to cool off in the warmer months. For diners who prefer to eat en privé, each of the 47 suites comes with an open plan kitchen and dining area, plus separate sitting rooms.





GUILT-FREE TRAVEL AT JUMEIRAH SAADIYAT ISLAND

GUESTS VISITING JUMEIRAH AT SAADIYAT

Island Resort can travel with a clear conscience when it opens on November 11, knowing that the hotel is completely free from single-use plastic straws and bottles. General manager Linda Griffin says guests will be given reusable plastic water bottles on arrival at the hotel, which can be filled at water stations serving local filtered water.

The initiative comes as part of the resort's commitment to sustainability and efforts to minimise impact on the natural environment of Saadiyat Island. Situated on 400-metres

of protected sand dunes which are home to indigenous Hawksbill turtles, the resort will boast 293 guestrooms when it opens, including 64 suites, eight villas with private pools and six panoramic suites with floor to ceiling glass walls that open up to spectacular beach views.

Outside, three infinity pools spill down from the all-white, contemporary style resort to the turquoise waters of the Arabian Gulf, and tranquillity abounds in the spa, where 14 treatment rooms and a grand Moroccan hammam invite guests to surrender to indulgent treatments. There's also a

traditional Arabic Rasul room, hydrotherapy pools, salt and steam rooms and a VIP couple's suite with private entrance.

When not dining at the resort's eight restaurants, bars and lounges, guests can enjoy sunrise yoga and long walks on the beach, which extends nine kilometres around the coast of Saadiyat Island. The cultural hub around Louvre Abu Dhabi, which will ultimately be home to the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, the Zayed National Museum, is a stone's throw from the resort, completing the trifecta of nature, beach and culture for which Saadiyat is known.



ONE&ONLY CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF SHEIKH ZAYED

DUBAI'S ONE&ONLY ROYAL MIRAGE has launched an archival photo exhibition celebrating the life and accomplishments of His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan the founder and ruler of the United Arab Emirates. Designed to commemorate 100 years since his birth, the series of 69 vintage images captures poignant moments such as the signing of the union that bound the heads of each of the seven emirates, as well as meetings between Sheikh Zayed and other world leaders including Elizabeth II. The exhibition is on show at the resort's Grand Gallery at the Arabian Court One&Only Royal Mirage, until the end of the year.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL
DID YOU HEAR? IS MOVING INTO THE OMANI CAPITAL, WITH A TRADITIONAL LOW-RISE HOTEL IN KEEPING WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OF THE CITY. SITUATED ON A PLOT OF PRIME BEACHFRONT IN THE CITY CENTRE, MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MUSCAT WILL FEATURE 150 ELEGANT ROOMS AND SUITES AND 155 RESIDENCES AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL RANGING FROM 75 TO 260 SQM. WHEN IT OPENS IN 2021, THE HOTEL WILL ADD FIVE NEW RESTAURANTS AND BARS TO MUSCAT'S CULINARY SCENE, PLUS A SPA AND OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL.

BOOM TIME IN BANGKOK



Langham



Rosewood



Waldorf Astoria

THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF ELEGANT HOTELS in the Thai capital, from independent downtown boutiques to the legendary grand dames that line the banks of the Chao Phraya River. But a fresh wave of openings from some of the world's top luxury players is ushering in a new era for Bangkok, which looks set to emerge as a seriously high profile destination for discerning travellers.

First to take the stage is Waldorf Astoria Bangkok, the brand's inaugural hotel in Southeast Asia, which is set to open in the Central Business District by the end of August. The company is pulling out all the stops to mark the regional debut, with a spectacular Magnolia-shaped building containing 171 rooms and suites designed by wunderkind Andre Fu, several floors of office space and three floors of destination dining created by New York design and concept firm, AvroKO. On the 55th floor, an outpost of Bull and Bear steakhouse celebrates Waldorf Astoria's New York heritage, and The Loft's industrial, studio-like design pays homage to the NYC's bohemian era. At the top, The Champagne Bar is a not-so-secret speakeasy, accessed via a hidden button on a sculpture, and on the ground floor, Thai chef Fae conjures up memories of her time in Scandinavia with Nordic inspired Thai fusion in Front Room.

Nearby, The Bangkok Edition is also preparing for its grand debut, joining The Ritz-Carlton Residences within the confines of the futuristic MahaNakhon building, a 314-metre high tower that appears to twist and pixelate as it rises from the ground. The Edition's 155 rooms and suites promise the signature Ian Schrager style for which

the Edition family is known, complementing the 209 freehold Ritz-Carlton penthouse residences, which feature interiors by David Collins Studio and unique 'skybox' covered balconies. From the 74-77th, floor MahaNakhon Observatory, visitors will have 360-degree views of Bangkok, including the magnificent Chao Phraya River.

On the banks of the river, the 14-acre Chao Phraya Estate is extending the luxury hotel enclave comprising The Peninsula, Mandarin Oriental and Shangri-La hotels to the southern side of the Taksin Bridge. At the northern end of the estate, Capella Hotel Bangkok promises 100 waterfront suites when it opens early next year; while the Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok sprawls over nine acres at the opposite end, with 312 rooms and suites. In between the two, the 73-storey Four Seasons Private Residences will be home to 355 of the most expensive apartments in the city. Downstream, around the bend in the river, The Langham Bangkok will boast its own private pier and marina when it opens in 2021, as well as 207 rooms, 43 one- to three-bedroom suites and a podium level with roof gardens and terraces.

Last but by no means least, Rosewood Bangkok will throw open the doors to its 33-storey twin-tower shard in the city's embassy area in early 2019, revealing 159 guestrooms that include a collection of 64 sqm Pool Sky Villas with private terraces and plunge pools. New York's Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF) and Thailand's Tandem Architects take credit for the jagged architecture of the two towers, which are connected by a soaring glass atrium and vertical garden.



Waldorf Astoria



Capella

DID YOU HEAR?

EUROPEAN LUXURY CONNOISSEUR KEMPINSKI IS ADDING A NEW ADDRESS TO ITS PORTFOLIO. THE CAPITOL KEMPINSKI HOTEL SINGAPORE: A 157-ROOM HERITAGE PROPERTY DESIGNED BY THE LATE, LEGENDARY INDONESIAN DESIGNER, JAYA IBRAHIM. THE HOTEL IS PART OF CAPITOL SINGAPORE; A LUXURY LIFESTYLE DESTINATION THAT ALSO INCLUDES THE CAPITOL THEATRE AND CAPITOL PIAZZA – A BOULEVARD OF 12 HIGH-END RESTAURANTS AND BARS.

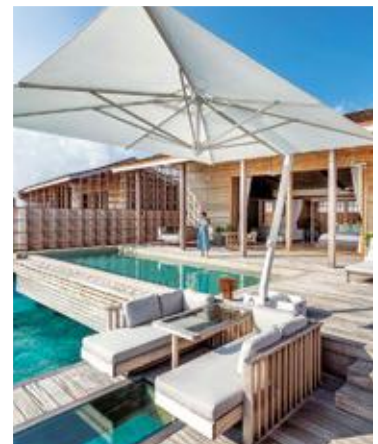
EMBRACE YOUR INNER GYPSY ON THE MEKONG

LIFE DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN WHEN you find yourself floating along a waterway, surrounded by wonderful people and not a care in the world. Add to that some extra perks like Champagne high tea, luxuriously appointed suites and an onboard chef and you have the ultimate river journey; one envisaged and offered by Mekong Kingdoms' new two-cabin river cruiser, Gypsy.

Two or three-night journeys from the Laotian capital of Luang Prabang to Thailand's Golden Triangle via the languid Mekong river can be as active or indolent as you like, with the option to remain aboard Gypsy and practice yoga, take Laotian language or cooking lessons, or simply enjoy the vessel's comfortable lounge and sun decks; or set off on more active pursuits. Explore the jungle on foot with a local guide; take a mountain bike to explore local villages; check out an elephant camp or the karst formations of the Pak Ou caves; or sample a little Laos whisky at a local tasting session. If it all sounds a little exhausting, the prospect of a couple of nights in a top-end hotel at either end of the journey ought to help you nod off to a good night's sleep accompanied by the gentle flow of the Mekong.



KUDADOO: A NEW ERA FOR MALDIVIAN LUXURY



THE KALEIDOSCOPIC WATERS OF THE Maldives archipelago are peppered with luxury resorts, but few sound quite as appealing as this soon-to-open offering from the creators of Hurawalhi. Kudadoo Maldives Private Island plans to redefine Indian Ocean luxury, with an exclusive 15-villa resort that blends pared back sustainable design with some of the most lavish service offerings in the Maldives.

Starting with the principle that all-inclusive should really mean all-inclusive, the resort's \$3,300 per night price tag includes everything during your stay: private excursions, anytime/anywhere dining, spa treatments and, wait for it, six different types of champagne. Louis Roederer, Veuve Clicquot and Ruinart have all been confirmed; the owners and general manager Brad Calder were still deliberating over the final three at time of press. Fine wines are also included – the only exception being the very rare bottles from the owner's private cellar. The island will be 100% solar powered when it opens on October, thanks to 300kw of solar panels on the roof of the main building, The Retreat. Other eco initiatives likely to ring bells among ethically-minded travellers include a

water bottling plant, food recycling programme and greenhouses growing fresh produce that's used by personal chefs to create bespoke meals at any time of day.

The 13 one-bedroom Ocean Residences and a pair of two-bedroom villas are made entirely from natural wood, creating a rustic island hideaway that's natural in palette and ambiance. Starting from 300 sqm, the overwater residences feature private plunge pools, swing loungers, outdoor showers and glass viewing decks, through which guests can look out for Lhaviyani Atoll's colourful marine life, including the largest manta ray population in the Maldives and schools of dolphins. Go and chat to the resident marine biologist to find out more, or set off on a private diving expedition whenever you feel like it.

The house speedboat (also included) is on hand to whisk guests away to Dream Island, a private sand bank that's available for picnic lunches, intimate dinners or even weddings, and airport transfers come courtesy of an exclusive Kudadoo-branded sea-plane (operated by Trans Maldivian Airways) or, for an additional \$5,500, a private air-conditioned eight-seat sea-plane.

ROUND THE WORLD WITH FOUR SEASONS PRIVATE JET

WHEN FOUR SEASONS LAUNCHED ITS PRIVATE jet division in 2015, there were sceptics: a luxury hotel company doing private aviation? Surely it will never catch on, said the disbelievers. Three and a half years later, the end-to-end Four Seasons travel experience is a soaring success, to the extent that the company has added an additional itinerary to its 2019 calendar.

Four Seasons World of Adventures is a 24-day round the world journey that sets off from Seattle and touches down in Kyoto, Bali, the Seychelles, Rwanda, Marrakech, Bogota and the Galapagos Islands, before returning to the States and flying into Miami. Guests will check in at Four Seasons hotels at each stop, where destination excursions, dining experiences and all ground transportation will be taken care of by Four Seasons experience managers.

In the case of Rwanda and the Galapagos, where Four Seasons has yet to raise a flag, guests will check into a luxury boutique hotel and a five-star cruise ship respectively, affording them the opportunity to visit the mountain gorillas of the spectacular Virunga Mountains and the bird and wildlife of the UNESCO-protected Galapagos Marine Reserve.

Itineraries in each destination are entirely customised depending on interests and fitness levels. In Kyoto, one might opt for a private sword combat lesson with a samurai, or if you prefer a more sedate activity, practice meditation with a Zen master. A Four Seasons chef will escort a guided tour of the Nishiki market, or you can watch the world go by during a rickshaw ride through the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove.

The World of Adventures journey is the last scheduled Four Seasons Private Jet departure of the year, jetting off from October 23 to November 15th. The trip follows three other exclusive private jet departures planned for 2019: Latin Escape, International Intrigue and Timeless Encounters. The 24-day trip starts from US \$143,000 per person based on two sharing.



RENZO PIANO AND LANGHAM SET TO MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC IN SAN FRANCISCO

HE MAY HAVE NARROWLY MISSED OUT ON THE commission for the Obama presidential library in Chicago, but Italian architect Renzo Piano has landed the job of designing a new hotel for Langham Hotels & Resorts in San Francisco. Part of the new Transbay Transit Center Project in downtown San Francisco, which promises to become 'the Grand Central Station of the West' when complete, the hotel will feature 225 luxurious guestrooms and suites when it opens in 2021. True to Langham's artistic roots, The Langham San Francisco will be home to a mixed-media art collection that reflects the history and evolution of the city by the bay, from a major immigration centre to its modern role as a technology and innovation hub.





ROSEWOOD BLOOMS IN THE BAHAMAS

BAHAMIAN BEACH LIFE JUST GOT A LITTLE BIT MORE spectacular with the opening of Rosewood Baha Mar, a gorgeous residential-style resort that represents the icing on the cake for the incredible US \$4.2 billion Baha Mar resort in Nassau.

The 237 light and breezy rooms, suites and villas are decorated in shades of blue and coral that complement the spectacular beachfront location, all featuring private balconies and outdoor living spaces. Bahamian artwork and woven rattan furniture provide an authentic island feel, and whitewashed wooden wall panels and balconies give the guestrooms a hint of Martha's Vineyard with a Caribbean twist.

The hotel is home to some of the largest suites in the Bahamas, ranging from 68 sqm studio suites to the 248 sqm three-bedroom Penthouse Suite, which comes with plunge pool, fire pit and plenty of outdoor living spaces. The Ocean Front six-bedroom villa is chief among the four luxurious villas, with a commanding position on Cable Beach plus outdoor grill, private infinity pool and 576 sqm of indoor/outdoor living.

Gourmet experiences are a highlight at the resort: farm-to-table dining and a private rum room await guests at Commonwealth restaurant; Costa serves Mexican influenced coastal cuisine; The Library specialises in afternoon tea and Champagne; and mixologists at Manor Bar can prepare the perfect beverage to accompany those long Caribbean sunsets. Add in the Sense spa and fitness centre, two pools and direct access to the white sands and tranquil waters of Cable Beach, and you have a resort that promises to set new standards of luxury in the Bahamas.

Rosewood rounds off the offerings at Baha Mar, which is also home to Jack Nicklaus' par-72 Royal Blue Golf Club, the Caribbean's first ESPA spa and two more luxury hotels from Grand Hyatt and SLS.



A LEGEND RETURNS IN PUERTO RICO

NESTLED BETWEEN A SEA OF PALM TREES AND the wild waters of the Caribbean, Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve is set for a grand reopening in October following an extensive refurbishment in the wake of last year's devastating Hurricane Maria.

Some 300,000 new plants and trees have been planted in the gardens of the resort, which sprawls along the coast of northern Puerto Rico. All 114 guestrooms and suites have been revitalised in a new palette of colours befitting the tropical destination, and the resort's signature five-bedroom villa, Su Casa, has also been refurbished and modernised.

It's not the first time Su Casa has sustained damage thanks to Puerto Rico's tempestuous weather: pilot Clara Livingston who inherited her father's property on Dorado Beach at the age of just 22, built Su Casa in 1928 to replace the original wooden house which was damaged in a storm. Since then, investors including Laurance

Rockefeller have helped turn the 1,400-acre Dorado Beach into a hot destination for America's affluent travellers. As well as the Ritz-Carlton Reserve, four Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed 18-hole golf courses lure golfers from around the world, and their associated clubhouses, bars and restaurants are popular among owners of Dorado Beach's luxury real estate and visitors alike.

Back at the Reserve, Spa Botánico has also had some tender loving care, with new products being created in the on-site apothecary, brand new equipment in the fitness centre and a new spa cuisine menu complementing the aesthetic improvements to the spa. Beachside restaurant Positivo Sandbar has taken the opportunity to add an Omasake & Ceviche Bar a stone's throw from the Caribbean; Encanto Beach Club Bar & Grill is introducing a new menu of coastal and Mediterranean cuisine; and a brand new signature restaurant will be unveiled in November.





JULY
6-8

LE MANS CLASSIC

Le Mans, France

The Le Mans 24-Hours race writes history and Le Mans Classic tells the story. In 2018, the Le Mans Classic will be staged for the ninth time as it is held on a biennial basis. The event created by the Automobile Club de l'Ouest and Peter Auto almost 20 years ago has become a red-letter date in the European motorsports calendar with several anniversaries celebrated at this outing; the 40th anniversary of Alpine's victory in the Le Mans 24 Hours as well as the 70th anniversary of the birth of the Porsche 356.

www.lemansclassic.com



JULY
2-15

2018 WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wimbledon, England

Arguably the grandest of all the iconic Grand Slam tournaments, all eyes will be on Centre Court again this month to see the giants of the game show down on grass. The lucky ticketholders will indulge in strawberries and cream while getting a neck work out from the blistering rallies. The only thing that's not guaranteed to shine is the sun. Let's hope rain doesn't stop play this year.

www.wimbledon.com



Diary ^{JULY}

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



**JUNE-JULY
29-14**



52ND MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Montreux Music & Convention Centre, Switzerland

It sounds like an event you might find on the streets of Louisiana but this soulful set of soirées is located on the shores of Lake Geneva. This year's rich lineup is drenched with rock, folk, new R&B, hip-hop and electronica – with its fair share of jazz, of course. Big names include Angus & Julia Stone, Massive Attack, Iggy Pop, Deep Purple, Billy Idol, Queens of the Stone Age, Nine Inch Nails, Tyler The Creator and New Orleans Jazz Train.

www.montreuxjazzfestival.com



**JULY
20-29**

FESTIVAL NAPA VALLEY

Napa Valley, California

Every July, Napa Valley is on stage. Breathtaking performances in iconic wine country settings are paired with Napa Valley's unparalleled food, wine and hospitality. Festival Napa Valley offers programs that uplift and inspire, and attract artists and audiences from the world over. Transforming California's wine country into a cultural destination, it's held over 10 days at some 100 wineries, with more than 60 events, and culminates with Arts for All Gala, a fundraising dinner and live auction benefitting the festival and its arts-education programmes, held this year at HALL Winery in St. Helena.

www.festivalnapavalley.org

2018 BRITISH GRAND PRIX

Silverstone Circuit, UK

When the Formula One World Championship was first conceived, Silverstone held the very first round, won by Giuseppe Farina in an Alfa Romeo. The 2018 edition marks the 70th anniversary of the event and Silverstone will be hosting special celebrations throughout the event, aided by the options of an Inner Track pass and FastTrack access to avoid queuing upon entry and getting up at ridiculous hours to secure your favourite view on the on-track action.

www.silverstone.co.uk



**JULY
8**



Madinat Jumeirah



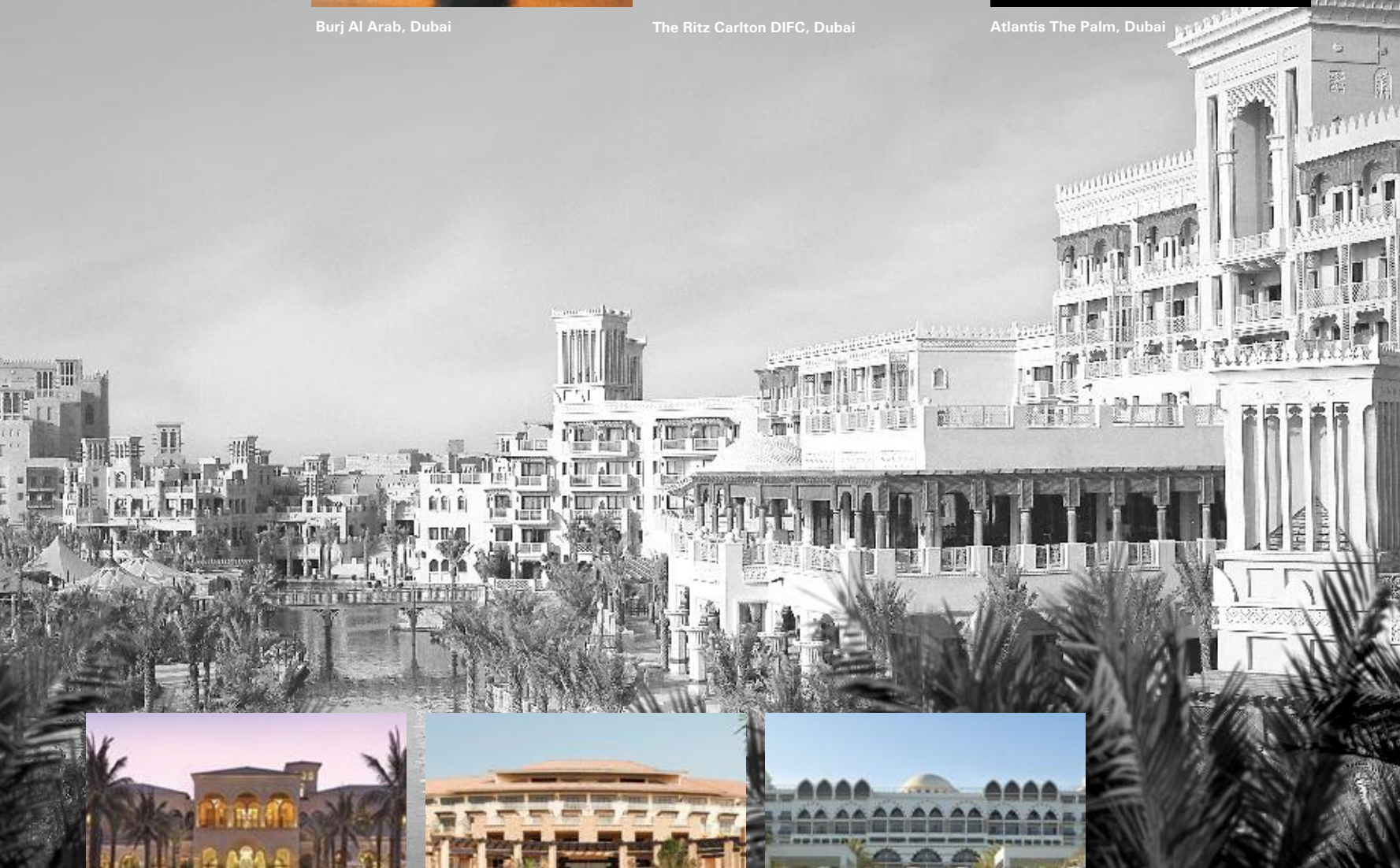
Burj Al Arab, Dubai



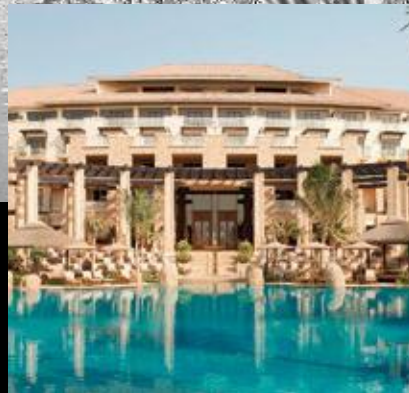
The Ritz Carlton DIFC, Dubai



Atlantis The Palm, Dubai



One&Only The Palm



Sofitel The Palm



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COASTAL CHARMS
An eight-page overview of
Oman's southern belle

- 42** Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara is one of Oman's finest hotels
- 50** There's food, revelry & fun in Singapore... but there's also art





COME RAIN OR SHINE

With roaring waterfalls, lush greenery and camels traipsing through meadows, **Steven Bond** discovers that a drizzly summer in Salalah is like no place else in the region – especially with a stay at Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara

Clockwise: the view from the courtyard area into the lobby; the opposing view out to sea; leisurely strolls on the beach; a romantic venue on the shore





THE CALM AFTER THE STORM

A visit to the Middle East during summer is not for the faint hearted. While many still opt to flop on the beach till they're sautéed in their swimsuits, me and my melanin insufficiency are more likely to flock to an air-conditioned mall or at least find a suitably chilled pool until the sun fades – at least then I can linger outdoors without melting like a pink sorbet on the hob. But there are other places to seek refuge. Oman, famed for its rolling mountain landscapes, offers several lofty hideouts where sweltering 40-degree temperatures (plus) are softened by 10-15 degrees Celsius, simply due to altitude. And when you venture further south, there's an entirely different microclimate that's like nowhere else in the Arabian Peninsula, complete with annual precipitation that makes Salalah bloom.

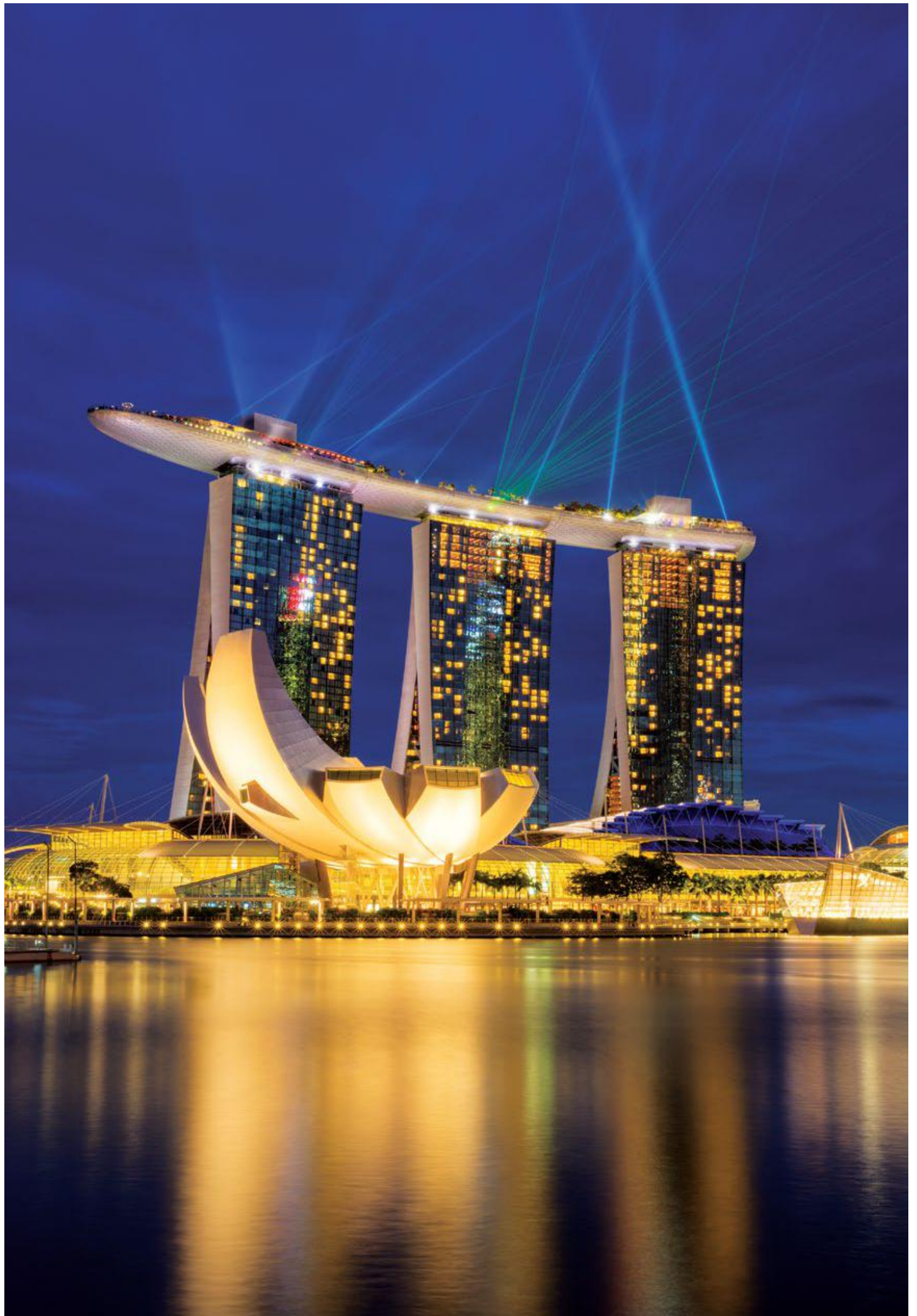
The summer 'khareef' season has kept the southern enclave fertile for centuries, with the coastal topography converting moist air into condensed water: relief rainfall. From July to September, the heavens open and the landscape transforms from arid earth-toned expanses into thirst-quenched, green hills and dales with irrigating streams and cascading falls. Recently, however, the rains came early – in the form of a cyclone. While Oman's south coast took quite the beating, stormy weather is far from unprecedented and Salalah quickly bounced back as a summer escape, with a five-star haven that rivals anything that any Gulf city has to offer. Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara arrived on the wild Omani shores just two years ago, offering a luxurious haven come rain or shine.

A BEACHFRONT ABODE

Arriving at the resort is a cinch. After alighting at Salalah International Airport, you'll barely have time to fold up out your complimentary cold towel as the Anantara driver whisks you through the front gates. Passing through humble towns and rugged palm-lined streets, the surrounding area feels like a mosaic of a fertile Sri Lankan town with some dusty Middle Eastern elements, as local merchants flog dates, bananas and other fresh produce from their stalls.

With a friendly Omani welcome at reception, the checking in procedure consists of a casual amble to my One Bedroom Garden View Pool Villa, accompanied by my on-call butler; the Thai attaché, working for a luxury Thai hotel chain, puts an East Asian twist on the experience, but the architecture and aesthetic are unmistakably Arabesque. Beyond the hefty wooden gate door, the spacious (176 sqm) villa is cushioned by an open-air reception area, which is where I found the most endearing welcome note written in sand – special thanks to my aforementioned butler, Toodtuu.

Outdoors, it's a balmy 30 degrees, which is a good 10 degrees cooler than where I set off in Dubai, but entering the refreshingly cool villa was a tonic to my weary body – and I had the choice of then plunging into the private pool and getting familiar



A SKETCHBOOK FROM SINGAPORE

Artists, architects and other dreamers have helped shape the modern landscape of Singapore, where art comes to life, says Joe Mortimer

From the rooftop of Singapore's National Gallery, looking out towards the towers of Marina Bay Sands, silhouetted by sullen, lowering skies, the cityscape looks like an eccentric architect's vision for a futuristic utopia. Over there's the Esplanade: the waterfront performing arts centre that's affectionately known locally as 'the durian' for its prickly domed shell. Beyond, at the foot of the Marina Bay towers is the ArtScience Museum, which mimics the form of a lotus flower, its petals splayed upwards towards the sky; and behind that, the jagged roof of The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, which resemble the back of a vast dragon.

To the left are the 'supertrees' of Gardens by the Bay – gigantic metal frames sprouting vegetation like some sort of Avatar-inspired alternate universe – and the glass roofs of the Flower Dome and Cloud Forest, the world's two largest greenhouses. On my right, a collection of magnificent white colonial buildings with terracotta tiled roofs comprising the Victoria Theatre, Singapore Cricket Club and the Fullerton Bay Hotel sit below the contemporary glass towers of modern Singapore. It's wild and eclectic, but it somehow fits together, everything in its right place.

A low rumble interrupts my reverie and the cricketers on the lawn below quickly drag a tarpaulin over the pitch as the rain begins to pummel the earth. Framed by the overhanging roof, the heavy rain begins to blur the scene, rendering it not quite real. Life becomes art.

It's hard to pinpoint exactly when it happened, but art in all its forms has permeated life in Singapore: rich artistic traditions dating back to 19th century colonial times and innovative architecture where form and function find perfect harmony. It's evident in the thoughtful way in which the city has grown up around its heritage buildings; leftovers from the colonial era when Singapore was under British rule, from 1819 to 1959. The National Gallery itself, which opened in November 2015 after a major overhaul of two existing heritage buildings – the former City Hall and the former Supreme Court – is a case in point.

Local design firm studioMilou has fused the two buildings by conjoining them with a metal and glass cloak, under which huge metal 'roots' trail down from the ceiling to the ground, creating an indoor plaza. It's an organic and fantastical transformation; a wonderfully creative architectural evolution that serves to blur the lines between indoors and out; old and new.

The gallery's remarkable collection of Singaporean and Southeast Asian art documents the social, political and artistic history of the region, with works from Singaporean artists such as Lim Hak Tai, Chua Mia Tee and Georgette Chen; and regional artists including Chuah Thean Teng (Malaysia), Raden Saleh (Indonesia) and Juan Luna (Philippines). Big issues like the disillusionment felt towards colonial rule in the 1950s and the blurring of traditional Peranakan (mainland Chinese immigrants to Southeast Asia) and Western cultures in the 1970s, tell an often untold tale of life in Singapore, which sets the scene nicely for a few days in the city.

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MELLOW YELLOW

Mercedes-AMG is extending its sports car portfolio with the new AMG GT S Roadster

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- 78** The BMW M4 coupe blends tech, performance and style
- 84** Two gleaming superyachts hit the water
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SWING AND SPA WITH CONSTANCE

Unlimited complimentary green fees, a golf car, three specialised golf massages and daily complimentary lunch – it’s a golfing paradise at **Constance Lemuria** in the Seychelles. The specialised treatments available with the five-day “Luxury Golf Offer” include a pre-game massage at the beginning of the stay, focussed on the back and shoulders to help with your swing. The performance massage is available to keep things flexible on day three, before the recovery massage at the end of the stay, aiding recovery after five consecutive days of play. Designed by Marc Antoine Ferry and Rodney Whright, the stunning course first saw the light in 2000 and features impeccable terraced greens and a “jaw dropping” 15th hole.

WHERE: Constance Lemuria, Praslin, Seychelles

PRICE: On request

AVAILABLE: Until November 30, 2018

www.constancehotels.com

ESCAPES

With golf, art, family fun and exploration, this month’s octuplet of summer escapes provide a range of exquisite options for families, loved up couples and those who just need a getaway.

Words: Steven Bond



BAD ‘RAGARTZ’ IMPRESSION

The Swiss Triennial Festival of Sculpture opened back in May, transforming Bad Ragaz into a honeypot for art-lovers, with 400 works created by 77 artists from 17 different countries being exhibited at the largest open-air sculpture show in Europe. Visitors can enjoy three days of art and wellness in a stunning outdoor setting, and pick up the exclusive Bad RagARTz catalogue featuring background stories on artists and their works. **Grand Resort Bad Ragaz** boasts a special offer that includes three nights’ stay with breakfast, access to the Thermal Spa and the legendary Helena pool throughout your stay, welcome drinks at the bar, daily four-course lunch and a farewell gift.

WHERE: Grand Resort Bad Ragaz, Switzerland

PRICE: From CHF 630 per night for a double room

AVAILABLE: Until November 4, 2018

www.resortragaz.ch



BONDING IN BERLIN

Sometimes you have to get away to get closer – and with **Hilton Berlin**’s “Family Fun” package, you can save while you explore Berlin. The hotel pledges to make sure you and your kids have a great stay – including breakfast for four and free WiFi – so pack your bags and make the most of a summer getaway in Germany’s most vibrant and artistic city – a melting pot for culture, music and fashion. The concierge team can also share tips on to help you plan a trip the whole family will love, including visits to Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, Museum Island and more. And if you’re travelling as a couple or alone, there’s also a 25% summer discount, available until October 7 for Hilton Honors members.

WHERE: Hilton Berlin
PRICE: Via website
AVAILABLE: Now
www.hilton.com



FAMILY GETAWAYS AT MARADIVA

Welcome to the only five-star luxury all-villa resort situated on the western coast of Mauritius where you can treat your family to a spacious and welcoming villa with its open private pool. The ‘Luxury Family Getaway’ at **Maradiva Villas Resort & Spa** includes either interconnected Luxury Suite Pool Villas or a two-bedroom Presidential Suite Pool Villa, ensuring a lavish experience whichever setup you prefer. There’s free accommodation and meals for one baby and one child under 13, as well as complimentary access to the Kids Club with exclusive activities and babysitting services

if required. With a prime location, famed for its dry and warm climate, the resort offers a long stretch of beach with views of the spectacular rock of Le Morne Mountain.
WHERE: Maradiva Villas Resort & Spa, Mauritius
PRICE: Via website
AVAILABLE: Now
www.maradiva.com

Arabian Journeys

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

BEAT THE HEAT AT ANANTARA THE PALM

WHERE: ANANTARA THE PALM DUBAI RESORT
WHEN: NOW

Ideally located for a secluded Dubai staycation, Anantara The Palm Dubai Resort features three chilled, giant lagoon pools that flow throughout the resort, as well as a large infinity pool and a pristine beachfront the length of an Olympic running track.

Guests have the pick of best-selling rooms or villas; lagoon access rooms that have direct access to lagoon pools or a beach pool villa that have private swimming pools and direct access to the beach.

And, when booking via the website you’ll receive benefits such as resort credit for up to \$82, which can be spent on food, drinks or perhaps some pampering at Anantara Spa, where expert therapists use the latest innovations in wellness and premium products to offer treatments tailored just for you.

www.anantara.com/en/palm-dubai





A VERY REGAL REST

WHERE: One&Only Royal Mirage, Dubai

WHEN: Until September 30

Gift yourself and loved ones a legendary staycation this summer from only \$244. With guaranteed late checkout, you can enjoy your private sanctuary until 6pm. Escape the city buzz and retreat to the tranquil spa or hammam where you can indulge in 25% off on treatments or unwind and restore with complimentary candlelight yoga. For something a little more adventurous, enjoy complimentary access to Aquaventure Waterpark where pure fun and excitement awaits. There's more, be in for a chance to receive a surprise gift of afternoon tea, sunset drinks, or upgrade to the next room category and exciting treats for the little ones.

www.oneandonlyresorts.com

NIKKI'S SPA SANCTUARY

WHERE: Nikki Beach Resort & Spa Dubai

WHEN: Until August 31

Prepare to look good and feel better this summer with the support of Nikki Beach Resort & Spa's range of cooling treatments, expertly crafted to help each visitor re-charge, re-energise and re-balance. Available until the end of August only, escape the heat and embark on a holistic journey with 50% off Nikki Spa's eight Signature and Exclusive two-hour long rituals. After you have indulged in the range of expertly crafted treatments, the sauna, steam room, ice fountain, mixed vitality pool, and indoor and outdoor relaxation lounges will allow you to relax even further, providing a serene haven to disconnect and get lost in.

www.nikkibeachhotels.com/dubai/



ALL ABOARD THE QE2

WHERE: Queen Elizabeth 2, Dubai

WHEN: Until August 31

Experience the legend of the QE2 during its summer soft-opening phase and take advantage of this exclusive offer for UAE residents – ahead of the October grand launch. The package includes 15% off the best flexible rate online, complimentary buffet breakfast for two, an upgrade to a higher room category and 25% off food and beverage throughout the stay. www.qe2.com/offers



NO ADULTS ALLOWED

Our pick of the best of the best travel treats for junior travellers this month, from kids' clubs that inspire and delight, to toys that will always remind them of that special family escape

THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKING (...AROUND LONDON)

Every time summer comes around, the British “welly” flies off the shelves. Between festivals, glamping and rainy backyard BBQs there are plenty of reasons to don a pair of waterproof boots – and Langham Hotels is now getting a piece of the action thanks to a special partnership with Hunter. The limited edition Hunter Original for Langham Pink Wellington Boots are now available in limited quantities at eight Langham Hotels in Australia, Hong Kong, North America and the UK.

“Worn by celebrities and royals, Hunter is a trusted brand that holds two Royal Warrants of Appointment to HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh as suppliers of waterproof footwear,” said Simon Manning, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Langham Hospitality Group. “The brand is known for its high-quality products, innovative design and a rich heritage, merits synonymous with the Langham hotels.”

A distinctive shade of pink, the boots are made exclusively for the luxury hotel group and are offered in both kids' and adult sizes, priced at \$80 and \$150 respectively.

www.langhamhotels.com/hunter-boots





FOR YOUR LITTLE FALCONS

School's out for summer! And parents who want their kids to have a more enriching experience than PS4 and Netflix can sign their little ones up to the Fairmont Falcons Kids' Club summer camp. Kicking off July 1, Fairmont The Palm's summer camp offers a nine-week programme where kids can enjoy a range of activities such as sports, crafts and other group games. Each week, 'busy bees'

will explore new educational and fun filled interactive themes such as "Island Paradise", "Jungle Safari", "Water World", "Around the World Adventures", and "Treasures Hunters". There are also art therapy sessions, fitness games and dance fitness classes conducted by certified experts twice a week.

www.fairmont.com/palm-dubai/



PING PONG, BUT OH-SO PLUSH

Trivial pursuit or respected Olympic sport? Table tennis is good clean fun and now an iconic French house is cashing in on the action, with the "Ping Pong Set James" by Louis Vuitton. Ideal for travel, the sporty set includes two professionally designed ping pong paddles, regulation balls in a custom holder, and an exclusive cover crafted of masculine Monogram Eclipse canvas, accented with an LV Circle medal. While a regulation set of paddle would set you back around \$22, this lavish gear will cost you \$2,210. www.louisvuitton.com

DAYCARE IN THE AIR?

Private jet travel isn't just for CEOs. VistaJet has decided to go beyond the champagne and caviar available to their adult passengers and launch an in-flight program geared just toward their youngest travelers. Their new children's program—Adventures in the Sky—launched last month, marking a potential shift in who is utilizing private aviation services.

www.vistajet.com





JULY Essentials

Nature finds a way this month, with reptilian, aquatic and horticultural themes – paired with some hints of summer. Here are our hot essentials for July

Compiled by: Anna Zhukov

RUBIES & REPTILES

Crowned with a magnificent sapphire and refined with shimmering rubies, the Serpenti necklace sparkles with desire and with the irresistible power of attraction of its hypnotic eyes. The white gold piece has one oval-shaped brilliant cut sapphire (13.55 ct), 10 round and pearl rubies, eight round sapphires and baguette and pavé diamonds.

www.bulgari.com

ALL THAT SLITHERS IS NOT GOLD

Modern, cosmopolitan and full of vibrancy, Bvlgari's Serpenti Forever backpack collection artfully captures the essence of sophistication. With vibrant colours (Flame Coral, Zephyr Quartz and Forest Emerald Green, to ethereal White and classic Black), a bold shape, jewel-like details and its seductive, serpentine inspiration, the new design is the must-have Bvlgari accessory of every fashionable city girl.

www.bulgari.com



SUMMER SWEETNESS

Brought to life in smooth mother of pearl, malachite and black onyx, each bracelet, brooch and ring features a Gelati lollipop. Though small in size, these Gelati are an evocative reminder of the Italian nation's contagious and exuberant love of life. A tempting ice cream must be bitten into, a philosophy that will appeal to women with a sense of fun, who are not afraid of seizing the moment and indulging in the most fleeting of pleasures, however simple or childlike.

www.bulgari.com



TICKLED PINK

The Sweet Charms Pavée timepiece is dazzling in pink gold with a bezel set with round and baguette-cut diamonds, baguette-cut pink sapphires. The unabashedly feminine timepiece features diamond selection & setting, 'serti-neige' setting style.

www.vancleefarpels.com



TWIST & SHINE

For over two decades, de GRISOGONO has unveiled an array of dazzling creations celebrating feminine and mineral beauty. This white gold beauty boasts two larger marquise-cut white diamonds (3.05 ct & 6.29 ct) and 315 smaller marquise-cut white diamonds and rubies.

www.degrisogono.com



LOBE NIBBLERS

Taking something menacing and creating something beautiful, these playful Melody of Colour earrings by Geneva jewellery house de Grisogono boast a bold and voracious sapphire, diamond and amethyst piranha fish chasing a shoal of helpless tiddlers.

www.degrisogono.com

TWISTED NATURE

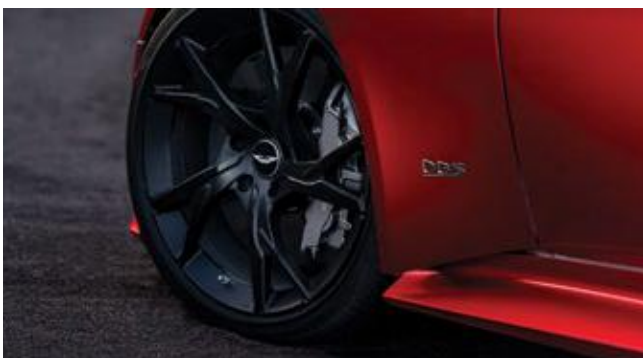
For these creations suffused with beauty, born perfectionist Fawaz Gruosi loves to delve into each supremely intricate detail. Each of his new ideas inspires artists to push existing limits, since the creativity of the Maison is also conveyed through the manner in which it reinvents gemsetting techniques and ancestral jewellery methods.

www.degrisogono.com





AN ICON
RETURNS TO
**ASTON
MARTIN**



ASTON MARTIN IS REVIVING THE SUPERLEGGERA, an iconic nameplate that first appeared in 1967. The DBS Superleggera replaces the esteemed Vanquish S, which is a tough act to follow but one it was born to do, aided by 900Nm of torque, a top speed of 211mph and blistering acceleration that dispatches 0-62mph in just 3.4 seconds and 0-100mph in 6.4 seconds.

“DBS Superleggera not only marks the return of a great Aston Martin name, but signals our return to the very pinnacle of the Super GT sector,” Dr Andy Palmer, Aston Martin’s president & chief executive officer. “Handsome beyond measure, its lightweight carbon composite and aluminium body is sculpted into a shape with tremendous presence and charisma.”

With the remarkable torque available from its twin-turbo V12, DBS Superleggera also packs a punch, and its dynamics have been honed to engage drivers of all ability levels, claims Aston. It’s certainly stylish – hello and welcome to the new Aston Martin flagship.

MERCEDES EXPAND THEIR AMG GT FAMILY

MERCEDES-AMG IS EXTENDING ITS SPORTS CAR PORTFOLIO, unveiling the new AMG GT S Roadster as an attractive open-air model. The basis for the high Driving Performance of the new AMG GT S Roadster is the combination of a lightweight aluminium spaceframe and a V8 biturbo engine – the AMG 4.0-litre V8 biturbo in the AMG GT S Roadster delivers an respectable output of 384 kW (522 hp). The eight-cylinder power unit delivers a sprint from standstill to 100 kph in 3.8 seconds and the dynamic power delivery continues right up to the top speed of 308 kph.



HAPPY 70TH TO PORSCHE FROM PORSCHE

PORSCHE WILL BE REWARDING ITSELF WITH AN EXCELLENT present for the 70th anniversary of the brand's sports cars: the 911 Speedster Concept. Developed at the Porsche Motorsport Centre – the birthplace of the 911 GT2 RS and the GT3 RS – the 911 Speedster Concept celebrated its world premiere as part of the official '70 years Porsche sports car' anniversary celebrations in Zuffenhausen. The concept study offers a glimpse of a potential series-production version, although this model may not be presented until 2019. A decision on whether to move ahead will be made in the coming months.

THE WORLDS LARGEST ROLLS-ROYCE GATHERING

ROLLS-ROYCE MOTOR CARS CELEBRATES THE LARGEST gathering of Rolls-Royces in the world this weekend at the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club Annual Rally and Concours d'Elegance. The spectacular setting of Burghley House, one of England's finest Elizabethan Houses, in Stamford, Lincolnshire, will provide the perfect backdrop for over 1,000 heritage and contemporary Rolls-Royces. "We are delighted to support our colleagues at the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club and to present our contemporary Rolls-Royce motor cars at this spectacular event," said Andrew Ball, the carmaker's head of corporate relations, heritage and philanthropy. "The Club is a vital custodian of our marque's remarkable history, and the Annual Rally and Concours d'Elegance provides unique access to some of the most important and rare motor cars in automotive history."



ANOTHER WIN FOR **GERMANY**

It's been a few years since we got some electric feels from BMW's i8 and this month we've been handed the keys to a new M4 convertible. Kris Karacinski finds out if this latest model is worthy of the iconic 'M' badge...

PHOTOGRAPHY: Steven Bond





Sail away

ANDY WAUGH ACIONNA

At 175m in length, Andy Waugh's stunning Acionna concept is a vision of the ultimate world-cruising megayacht. The eight-deck, 175-metre vessel is impressive enough just for its scale, but also boasts a bold, avant-garde design, with a full size squash court, helicopter hanger and a 20-metre indoor pool. Also included is a double-height main saloon with panoramic curved glass overlooking the main aft deck pool, with a central 'island' of communal areas completely surrounded by the pool and accessed via a tunnel aft and a bridge forward.

Slightly more space will be used for the propulsion system in comparison to conventional designs as she is planned to be powered with hydrogen using a similar system currently being trialled in cruise ships and ferries. If the power used to manufacture the hydrogen is purchased from renewable energy sources the yacht could be said to be zero impact. "The Acionna concept is for those who see themselves as trendsetters and game changers, those who appreciate the zenith of luxury but also want to have a positive impact," according to Andy Waugh's team. www.andywaugh.co.uk

Length overall: 175 metres

Pool: 20 metres

Decks: 8





ON THE WATER THIS MONTH

DARTMOUTH CLASSICS

July 7-8
Royal Dart Yacht Club, UK
www.dartmouthclassics.org.uk

WESTERN BOAT SHOW

July 20-22
Hannover Quay, Bristol Harbour
www.westernboatshow.co.uk

IX REGATA PUIG VELA CLASSICA

July 11-14
Barcelona, Spain
www.puigvelaclassica.com

CANDY STORE CUP 2018

July 26-28
Newport, Rhode Island
www.candystorecup.com



THE RITZ-CARLTON YACHT COLLECTION

Travellers across the globe can now book a ticket for their round-the-world adventure aboard The Ritz-Carlton's luxury yacht. Reservations are now open for the maiden season of The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection, which takes to the seas February 2020 along with a range of itineraries. Guests also have the option to book back-to-back voyages without repeating ports, allowing them to explore a greater range of destinations and delve deeper into local culture at each port.

Designed with a yachting lifestyle in mind, the first of three bespoke yachts in The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection will stop at both signature and iconic destinations. Its intimate size allows for the vessels to sail into coveted city harbors around the world, and the relaxed pace of the yachts offers both daytime and overnight ports of call, giving guests more flexibility for their time on land. The specially designed yacht will measure 190-metres, accommodate up to 298 passengers and feature 149 suites, each with its own private terrace. The yacht will also feature two 158 square-meter lavish Owner's suites, each with its own private whirlpool. Signature experiences available for an additional fee include a culinary experience at Aqua, the yacht's signature restaurant designed by Michelin-starred chef Sven Elverfeld, spa treatments, and immersive excursions offered through The Shore Collection. Voyage prices vary based upon the itinerary and season. www.ritzcarltonyachtcollection.com



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