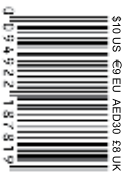


DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD

news

Essential travel intelligence

May 2018



INTERVIEW
starchitect insights
from Jean-Michel
Gathy

On the road
**THE MCLAREN
570S SPIDER**

**FAMILY
ESCAPES**

LUXE HOLIDAYS FOR THE
WHOLE TRIBE

A TASTE OF HAWAII

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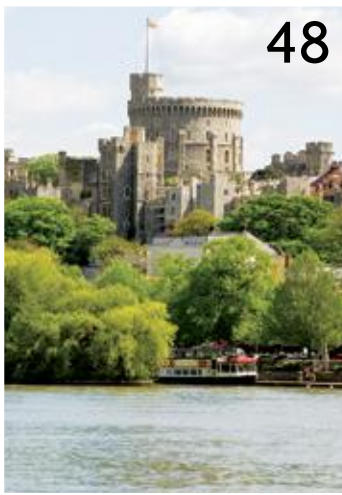
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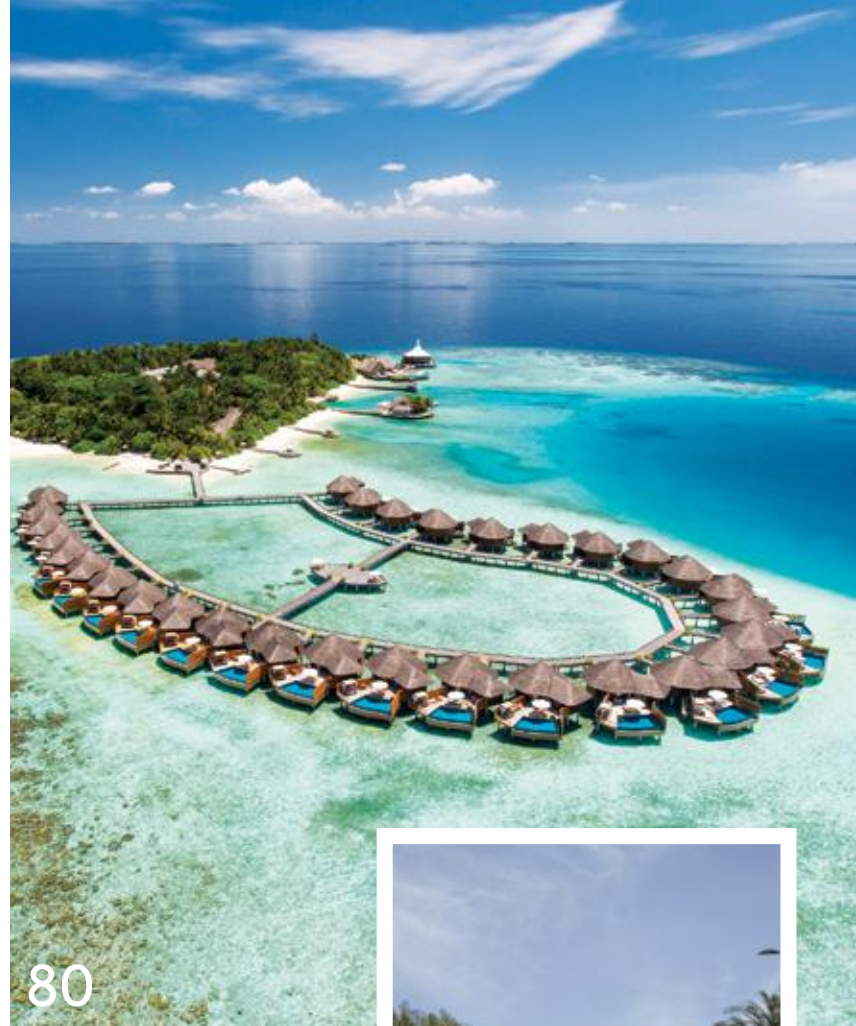
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Nora Tobin is competing with Netflix and the mini bar with her series of JW Marriott in-room fitness videos

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FLORENCE'S LEGENDARY HOTEL SAVOY REOPENS WITH ELEGANT NEW LOOK

ROCCO FORTE HOTELS' DESIGN DOYEN OLGA Polizzi has teamed up with Italian fashion house Emilio Pucci on the refurbishment of the iconic Hotel Savoy in Florence, which reopened last month following a major makeover.

The 125-year-old hotel on the Piazza della Repubblica has reduced the number of guestrooms from 102 to 80, creating more space and a blank canvas for the new interiors. All the rooms have been given a fresh, contemporary look created by Polizzi and Laudomia Pucci, image director of the

fashion house. Décor from renowned local artisans including Il Bronzetto and Chelini Firenze, and fabrics from C&C Milano give all of the rooms a decidedly luxurious Italian finish.

The refined two-bedroom Duomo Presidential Suite occupies its own wing and enjoys superb views of the Duomo, while the two-level Panoramic Suite on the 5th floor boasts 180-degree views of Florence.

Pucci has created a pair of exclusive scarf prints in pink and turquoise, which pay tribute to atmosphere and architecture of the Tuscan capital.

The scarves can be seen throughout the hotel, and form a unique base for the glass tabletops at the signature Tuscan restaurant, Irene.

The hotel's entrance has been restored to its former grandeur and now welcomes guests into a five-metre high space that flows into an all-white lobby, which pops with striking Pucci accents: floral velvet armchairs, sofas in black and fuchsia, and paintings by Luca Pignatelli. Underfoot, Pucci's iconic Lamborghini print has been recreated on a hand-tufted rug in shades of pink grey, white and black.



A FRESH TAKE ON CONTEMPORARY TURKISH STYLE

ISTANBUL KNOWS THE VALUE OF A GOOD REBRAND – IT HAS, AFTER ALL, BEEN known successively as Byzantium, Constantinople and various other names over the past two and a half thousands years. Hotels in the sprawling Turkish city also seem to be fond of the occasional renaissance; The Ritz-Carlton, Istanbul has revealed a completely new look following a 12-month renovation, which has seen the redesign of its 243 guestrooms and suites, as well as the ballroom and event spaces.

Reflecting a contemporary Turkish aesthetic that blends elegantly with its waterside setting, the rooms and suites present a blank canvas of natural white and grey shades, on which gold and copper materials radiate. Bright cobalt blues burst from decorative features – bright headboards and colourful cushions – harking back to the signature style of the bygone Ottoman Empire; an accent that's particularly effective in the rooms that look out over the expansive blue of the Bosphorus Strait.

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME IN ISTANBUL

THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF LUXURY HOTELS in Istanbul, but few can boast a flavor of traditional life in the ancient city as authentically as Ajwa Hotel Sultanahmet and its newly launched Ajwa Houses. Last month, the Old Istanbul hotel introduced the first of 10 new 'Houses' – exclusive four-bedroom villas that provide a unique abode for families and groups of friends visiting the city.

The first of the houses, The White Mansion, is modeled after a traditional Turkish home, with living space spread over three floors: an upper living area with two king-sized bedrooms and a spacious living room decorated with art by acclaimed Azerbaijani artist Sattar Bahlulzade; a ground floor with two further bedrooms and a fully-equipped kitchen; and a basement level spa complete with Turkish hammam, sauna, shock shower, ice fountain and relaxation room. Luxury Turkish living indeed.

Nine additional villas will follow in the coming months; all fitted out in traditional furniture and décor that reflect different eras of the city's long history. Residents of the Houses will also have access to the other facilities of the 61-room Ottoman-style boutique hotel, including the magnificent Zeferan Restaurant and Afiya Spa.

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W

DUBAI

AL HABTOOR CITY



ALL BETS ARE OFF: CAESARS PALACE WILL OPEN TWO DUBAI HOTELS

DUBAI HAS PALACES APLENTY BUT THE NEXT TWO WILL BELONG TO CAESAR. Meraas and Caesars Entertainment will bring two luxury hotels, a conference centre and a beach club to Bluewaters at Jumeirah Beach Residence in Q4 of this year, marking the first time the Las Vegas legend has opened non-gaming hotels. Caesars Palace Bluewaters Dubai is set to be the world's second Caesars Palace hotel, with 178 rooms, one indoor and two outdoor swimming pools, a 630 square-metre spa, a health centre and six restaurants. The second property, Caesars Bluewaters Dubai, will have a greater number of keys, offering 301 rooms, as well as two outdoor swimming pools and three restaurants.

The island will also feature 10 apartment buildings with a total of 700 units looking back across to JBR. Residential amenities include state-of-the-art gymnasiums, swimming pools, landscaped gardens, basketball courts and children's play areas. The will of course be a huge shopping and dining element to Bluewaters, with a total of 200 retail units located on first-floor levels at the boulevard and under residential buildings. These units will host a combination of retail, restaurants, cafes and entertainment experiences, with more than 4,500 parking spaces available and a dedicated bridge from the city's main highway.

“WE LOOKED AT A MAP AND ASKED WHERE COULD WE GO... AND WHERE ELSE TO GO BUT ONE OF THE TOP 10 FINANCIAL CENTRES IN THE WORLD. OH AND BY THE WAY, IT HAS A BEACH!”

– BOB MORSE, PRESIDENT OF HOSPITALITY AT CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT



SLEEP WITH THE FISHES ON RANGALI ISLAND

ITHAA, THE UNDERWATER RESTAURANT AT Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, has earned the resort plenty of kudos since it opened 13 years ago, enabling guests to dine below the surface of the Indian Ocean surrounded by colourful marine life. Now the resort is taking the underwater experience to the next level, with the Maldives' first undersea residence.

Designed by the architectural firm that created Ithaa, The Muraka is a two-storey abode, with the master bedroom, living room and bathroom situated below the surface of the ocean, with domed glass walls offering 180-degree views of the marine life. The upper level features another king-size en-suite bedroom with an ocean-facing bathtub, plus a twin-sized bedroom,

living area, gym, butler's quarters, kitchen, bar and dining room. Outside, The Muraka ("coral" in the local Dhivehi language) is also home to a private infinity pool and two separate terraces designed for optimal views of sunrise and sunset. The residence is currently being developed to the tune of US \$15 million, and will be available to book from the end of the year.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT AT ANANTARA KIHAVAH MALDIVES VILLAS



THE SKY FEELS DIFFERENT WHEN you're on a tropical island: immense and deep; somehow more present than when you are at home. Guests staying at Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas can now get one step closer to understanding the mysteries of the universe, following the opening of SKY, an observatory, cocktail bar and storytelling theatre rolled into one unique space. Central to the SKY offering is a remote controlled Meade LX200, a powerful research-grade telescope capable of bringing distant astral bodies such as Omega Centauri or Messier 13 into sharp

focus. Resident astrologer and lifelong stargazer Ali Shameen is on hand to point out some of the features of the night sky and tell stories that unravel the secrets of the universe.

Below, the SKY lounge surrounds a central bar serving up signature island drinks such as Kihavah Iced Tea, plus sharing tapas-style plates. The absence of light pollution in the Maldives makes it one of the best places in the world to stargaze, and SKY's location, perched on timber stilts over the lagoon, affords uninterrupted wide-angle views of the ocean and the sky above.

BANGKOK COMES OUT ON TOP OF ASIA'S 50 BEST RESTAURANTS 2018

CHEF GAGGAG ANAND HAS CAUSE TO CELEBRATE after his eponymous Bangkok restaurant Gaggan was voted number one in the Asia's 50 Best Restaurants for the fourth year running. Consistently commended for its unique take on progressive Indian cuisine, Gaggan is known for its 25-course tasting menu that showcases the "fertile imagination and culinary wit" of the India-born chef. Each of the 25 dishes are represented on the menu by an emoji and the name of a single ingredient; after the cannonade of courses – which include Indian sushi, charcoal prawn Amritsari and uni ice cream in a miniature cone – diners are presented with a full menu that provides the names of each dish.

Bangkok's reputation as a centre of culinary excellence continues to grow from strength to strength, with a total of nine restaurants appearing in the top 50 list. Last year saw the launch of the first Michelin guide to Bangkok, in which three restaurants were awarded the coveted two-star accolade: Gaggan, Le Normandie and Mezzaluna.



JW MARRIOTT REVEALS SUPER-SIZED VILLAS IN NEW MALDIVES RESORT



WITH ONLY ONE RESORT PERMITTED PER ISLAND IN THE Maldives, developers are rarely short of space when designing new properties. But JW Marriott's upcoming resort on the island of Vagaru has taken the idea of personal space to the next level, with 61 generously proportioned villas starting from an enormous 234 sqm, each with its own private swimming pool. A 55-minute seaplane flight to the north of Male, the JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa promises a strong emphasis on privacy, with private decks and pools designed so they can't be seen from outside the villas, and in-villa and destination dining options on offer for intimate couple's or family meals. Five

dining venues specialise in world cuisines including Japanese teppenyaki, refined Thai street food, and a fine dining grill house; while three bars, separate cigar and shisha lounges and an interactive wine room mean there's an incredible amount of choice for a resort of just 61 villas. The island's Spa by JW will focus on four themes: calm, indulge, invigorate and renew, and a resident yogi and fitness instructor will offer group and private classes. Junior visitors will also be catered to, with a Kid's Club by JW offering professional child care services and a line up of daily activities, and Lounge 18 will offer a dedicated space for visitors over the age of 18, when the resort opens in late 2018.

HONE YOUR CAMERA SKILLS WITH A BLUE PLANET VIDEOGRAPHER

BLUE PLANET 2 VIDEOGRAPHER and photographer Patrick Dykstra begins a weeklong residency at Coco Collection's two Maldives properties this month, as part of the company's commitment to raising awareness of marine conservation. Budding photographers and videographers can join Patrick at Coco Bodu Hithi and Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu for insights on the techniques that enabled him and the BBC team behind Blue Planet 2 to capture some of the most remarkable underwater footage ever seen. Following three master-classes

and a chance to tinker with professional filming gear, guests will embark on a guided dive with Patrick and put some of his underwater filming skills into practice. The courses aren't just aimed at the pros: anyone who likes to snap images or video of the Maldives' incredible marine life with their waterproof camera or GoPro will benefit from the skills learned in the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from a master of his craft. Sessions take place on May 11 and 14 at Coco Bodu Hithi and May 18 and 21 at Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu.



5-STAR FITNESS WITH JW MARRIOTT

DON'T WANT TO GET SWEATY IN PUBLIC? No problem. No time to get to the gym? No excuses! We're all out of reasons not to train when we travel, and it's all thanks to JW Marriott's new in-room Fitness On Demand videos. The workout companion guides come courtesy of the brand's new Wellness Ambassador, Nora Tobin, who is also pioneering wellness retreats across the US, beginning with a launch event in Camelback, Arizona. We spoke to the wellness wizard who "weighed in" on the new initiatives.

What can we expect from the new FitnessOnDemand videos?

JW Marriott's new Fitness On Demand in-room videos deliver efficient and effective workouts. The program offers a range of activities that appeal to everyone and enhance productivity, boost weight loss, increase energy, reduce stress and rev the metabolism for up to 24 hours. JW Marriott makes it super easy for guests to stay active on the road by providing effective workouts from the comfort of their hotel room!

Who are the videos designed for? And does it matter what your fitness level is?

The FitnessOnDemand videos are designed for health-conscious guests who want to stay active while traveling. JW Marriott's FitnessOnDemand videos allow guests to participate in a variety of activities ranging from Yoga to mindfulness to HIIT tailored to all fitness levels. These videos range from three to 30 minutes in length, and fit into even the busiest traveller's schedules.

What are the benefits of a well-being retreat with JW Marriott?

The JW Marriott wellbeing retreats centre on the philosophy of fulfilment and bring it to life through exceptional culinary creations, exciting fitness & yoga sessions, remarkable outdoor experiences, indulgent spa treatments and personalized one-on-one sessions. Guests who take part in one of JW Marriott's

retreats will receive tailored strategies and actionable steps that they can follow even after the retreat ends. JW Marriott currently has retreats scheduled at their hotel locations in Austin and Los Cabos, and dates for the Marco Island Florida retreat will be announced soon!

Eating healthy is incredibly hard when you're staying in a hotel – how is JW Marriott helping us stay on track?

It is definitely challenging to make healthy choices while traveling, but JW Marriott has made it easy for its guests. Healthy and delicious in-room dining menus are easily accessible at all JW Marriott properties. These menus offer satisfying smoothies and revitalizing juices that are artfully blended and brimming with healthy benefits and essential nutrients to nourish overall well-being. Not only are they good for you, but they taste great too!

What are your top tips for quick workouts on the go?

Planks are one of my favourite exercises! In addition to being one of the best workouts for a flat, toned stomach, they work all of the muscles in the core and can be performed anywhere. It is important to also incorporate meditation and breathing into workout routines. My 1-minute meditation trains the mind to stay calm, centred, and focused without spending a lot of time on it. A 1-minute increment of deep breathing helps us centre ourselves and reconnects the mind to the body. Such 1-minute increments increase creativity, reduce stress, and help you approach tough situations with ease. No matter your location or the time of day, you can incorporate this mindful practice.

Do you have any other "health hacks" for people on the road?

One of my favourite "health hacks" is the 8-hour eating window in which you eat all meals within an 8-hour time period. This enhances the body's natural ability to speed weight loss and improves cellular turnover and also allows for delightful indulgences without the negative effects. In addition to sticking to the 8-hour eating window, it is also important to keep your body fueled with natural foods and not to deprive yourself. If a sweet craving kicks in, dark chocolate (70% and above) is a great solution as it is made up of powerful antioxidants that help prevent premature aging. Dark chocolate also boosts the immune system, brightens skin, strengthens hair and delivers sustained energy. I always have some on hand when I am traveling!





HALF MOON GETS A WHOLE TRANSFORMATION

A LEGENDARY JAMAICAN RESORT IS REBORN. Half Moon has plunged \$75 million to renew its legacy as the Caribbean’s most iconic resort – celebrating its upcoming 65th anniversary. The entire 400-acre beachfront oasis is being enhanced ahead of the November relaunch, with new additions including an elegant entrance and Great House signature suite, 57 refreshed accommodations, an expanded beachfront with a natural swimming cove, an adults-only swimming pool, two restaurants, a market café, a vegan café located at the Fern Tree Spa and three new bars. The interior and exterior design of the buildings and rooms also complement the art on display throughout the property, which is created by local Jamaican painters and artisans, and depict intricate Jamaican landscapes, villages and portraits.

www.halfmoon.com

PERU ON TRACK: BELMOND’S ROLLING SPA

MANY OF US WHO’VE TRAVELLED TO SOUTH AMERICA WILL HAVE ENDURED CROWDED BUSES and other “rustic” forms of transport, but there’s a better way to traverse Peru in comfort and style. Belmond has enhanced its Peruvian portfolio with a new spa carriage aboard Belmond Andean Explorer, South America’s first luxury sleeper train, which launched a year ago.

The lux locomotive departed for its inaugural journey last May from Cusco to Arequipa on a two-night journey, setting a new level of luxury for rail travel. This month, the train adds “Picaflor”, a new spa carriage to its luxury offering. The carriage, offering guests a way to unwind while simultaneously indulging in Peruvian-inspired spa treatments and the passing Andean landscape.

The Belmond Andean Explorer two-night ‘Andean Plains and Islands of Discovery’ journey from Arequipa to Cusco costs from \$1,470 per person based on two adults sharing a cabin. www.belmond.com/trains



DID YOU HEAR?

ASTON MARTIN RECENTLY BROKE GROUND ON ITS FIRST EVER REAL ESTATE PROJECT – THE ASTON MARTIN RESIDENCES AT 300 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD WAY IN MIAMI ARE A 66-STORY LUXURY CONDOMINIUM TOWER, DUE TO OPEN IN 2021.

PLUNGE INTO NICARAGUA

THINGS ARE GETTING VERY eco-chic at Yemaya Island Hideaway & Spa Hotel on Nicaragua’s Little Corn Island. The luxury resort has debuted a series of new generously sized sustainable suites complete with plunge pools, perched on the white sand beach and facing the daily sunrise across the inner and outer reefs. The new Oceanfront Plunge Pool Suites will fetch from \$585 per night.

www.yemayalittlecorn.com





MAY
19

WHEN HARRY MET MEGHAN

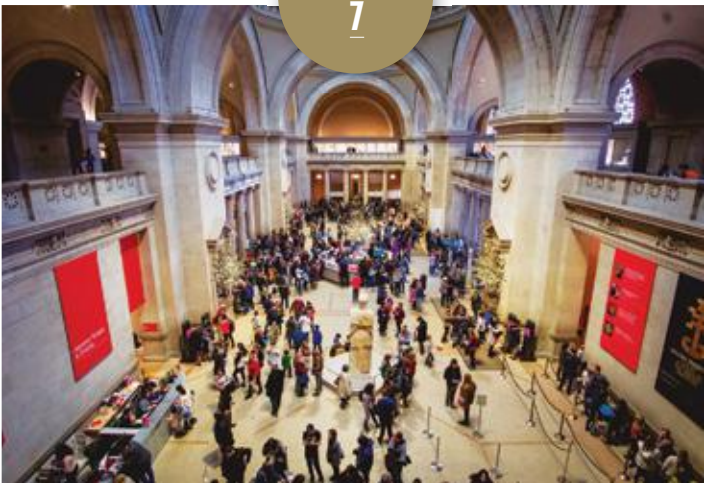
Windsor Castle, England

Kensington Palace confirmed (via Twitter) back in December that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle will wed on a Saturday, breaking the very regal tradition of weekday weddings. The chosen date falls on the same day as the FA Cup final at Wembley, a match that the Duke of Cambridge, as President of the Football Association, usually attends to present the trophy. The May date may also have been selected in order to give the Duchess of Cambridge time to recover after the birth of her third child, Prince Louis. The couple is also forgoing traditional wedding presents in favour of donations to various good causes, including CHIVA (Children's HIV Association) and the Myna Mahila Foundation, a charity that supports women in Mumbai's urban slums.

www.royal.uk



MAY
7



Diary ^{MAY}

This month brings a roster of cultural calendar highlights, from the must-be-seen Met Gala to the global spectacle of the most millennial royal wedding on earth.

DRESSED TO THE NINES

Met Gala – The Metropolitan Museum of Art – New York City, USA
May 7

The most prestigious fashion event of the year is set to steal headlines once again as A-listers roll out in their dandiest attire. It's the annual invite-only fundraising event for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York City run by Vogue chieftain Anna Wintour who controls the extremely exclusive guest list – only 600 were invited to last year's event and were all asked to part with \$30,000 each. This year's theme is "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination", which will explore fashion's relationship with the Catholic church, featuring designs from Coco Chanel, John Galliano, and Cristóbal Balenciaga, alongside 40 pieces on loan from the Vatican.

www.metmuseum.org



UNTIL
AUGUST
27



A COLOURFUL FOUNDATION

Fondation Louis Vuitton – Paris, France

The Louis Vuitton Foundation has kicked off the new exhibition “In Tune with the World” (Au Diapason Du Monde), with a new selection of artists from the Gallery’s Collection comprised of several different mediums. The exhibition unites modern and contemporary works that, for the most part, never been exhibited in the Frank Gehry building – or even in Paris. Notable artworks include Takashi Murakami’s monumental fresco ‘The octopus eats its own leg’, displayed in the French capital for the first time, and Pierre Huyghe’s ‘Untitled (Human Mask)’, never before exhibited in the whole of France.

www.fondationlouisvuitton.fr



MAY
8-19



REEL BIG DEAL

Cannes International Film Festival – Cannes, France

The 71st edition of the world’s most iconic film festival will once again provide its usual dose of red-carpet glamour, world premières and exclusive soirées as the crème de la crème of Hollywood converge on the French Riviera. This year’s Cannes Jury is helmed by Aussie starlet Cate Blanchett and will also feature Ava DuVernay, Kristen Stewart and Denis Villeneuve. According to festival director Thierry Frémaux, all diversity records were smashed in 2017 with over 100 nations represented. “It’s a virtuous circle: as long as the festival remains out in front, everybody wants to be at Cannes!”

www.festival-cannes.fr

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FAMILY TIME

Where are you taking your loved ones this summer?

- 54** Munch your way through Maui & many more Hawaiian islands
- 62** These family getaways are guaranteed bonding experiences
- 72** Celebrate summer at Dubai Palm as the UAE resort turns 10





GOURMET HAWAII

The USA's premier vacation destination has stepped up its culinary game in recent years. **Eric Grossman** had his fill of beach life and decided to feast away on the islands' incredible fare



Above: The beautifully rugged Hawaii coastline.
Previous opener: Merriman's Hawaii Restaurant is an iconic Maui dining destination.

Hawaii has always been synonymous with fun in the sun; the name connotes postcard-worthy beaches, tropical rainforests, and active volcanoes. Visitors come from all over the world to experience an endless variety of natural wonders, and a growing number of culinary enthusiasts are lured to the middle of the Pacific in search of world-class cuisine prepared by some of America's most talented chefs. Whether you're seeking pricey tasting menus or humble, native Hawaiian treats, the Aloha State offers a dizzying array of options. Hawaii's dining scene is commonly compared to the state's signature lunchtime offering, the plate

lunch. Similar to Japanese bento, a typical plate lunch combines an assortment of cuisine types – a portion of garlic shrimp here, a scoop of macaroni salad there, with some kimchi or 'chow' fun thrown in for good measure. Most plate lunches reflect the islands' kaleidoscope of culinary influences; thanks to its central Pacific location and 19th-century labour migration, Hawaii's food culture has always been strongly influenced by North American and Asian cultures. But any examination of the food here (that is to say, any reason to take your eyes off of some of the world's most stunning natural scenery) should begin with a look at the indigenous Hawaiian culture and iconic Hawaiian dishes that continue to thrive in modern times.

Ask any of Hawaii's 1.4 million residents about their favourite foods and it's likely you'll hear about poke (raw chopped fish), loco moco (a hamburger patty topped with a fried egg and gravy), and poi (pounded taro root), to name a few. Traditional luau favourites such as kalua pork (traditionally cooked in an imu, an underground oven), and lomi salmon (raw salmon and tomato salad), remain popular as well.

Immigrants have shaped and continue to contribute to the culinary scene; a scan of any classic Hawaiian menu will often include American, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, Polynesian and Portuguese options. Compared to the original versions, these dishes often benefit from the simple fact that most chefs



Top: The incredibly verdant Four Seasons Resort Lanai. Above: Chef Mavro's 9-course tasting menu is a tour de force of Hawaiian cuisine.

incorporate locally-sourced ingredients – prime beef from Hawaii Island (aka the Big Island), sweet Kauai prawns, flavourful Maui onions – whenever possible. In this regard, by combining international influences with native techniques and ingredients, Hawaiian food is sometimes billed as the original fusion cuisine.

HAWAII'S REGIONAL CUISINE

Hawaii's contemporary dining scene can be traced back to 1991, when 12 chefs joined forces to establish the Hawaii Regional Cuisine (HRC) movement. Drawing from their roots in France, Japan and beyond, the chefs reflected the state's "mixed plate" mentality and were well-equipped to take the fusion approach to another level, all

while placing a focus on the islands' incredible ingredients such as world-class seafood and produce grown in rich, volcanic soil. Among the movement's founding chefs, several have seen their culinary empires expand to the mainland U.S. and far beyond, with most remaining active across the islands. Given their longstanding relationships with Hawaii, these chefs are uniquely positioned to explain what makes the destination such a captivating place to dine.

"The food scene in Hawaii is alive and well, mostly due the increasing amount of talented chefs developing in our local culinary school system," explains one of the original HRC chefs, Bev Gannon. "A new energy and exciting approach to cooking creatively, while using

HRC's melting pot of ingredients, has the menus in Hawaii reaching unprecedented levels of complexity and prominence." Gannon currently oversees a pair of Maui restaurants: Gannon's (www.gannonsrestaurant.com) boasts amazing views of the Pacific, while Hali'imaile General Store (www.hgsmaui.com) is perched near the island's famed pineapple fields. A general store in name only, the restaurant is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

"Hawaiian cuisine is unique because we have produce year-round and the ability to grow our own food," notes another founding HRC chef, Peter Merriman. "The quality of the products is stellar and, as a result, we don't have to do as much prep, yet the food tastes amazing. The tastes and influences from Hawaii are different and unlike any other in the world." The original Merriman's (www.merrimanhawaii.com) opened in 1998 on the Big Island, and the chef's portfolio has grown to include two more namesake restaurants in Kauai and Maui, the latter of which hosts numerous private events and weddings due to its breath-taking perch on the Kapalua Coast. The restaurants aim to use more than 90% local ingredients, with menus that change daily and reflect the season. Signature offerings include "snout-to-tail" lamb from the Big Island's Kahua Ranch and wok-charred ahi tuna.

Even after 30 years of living in Hawaii, George Mavrothalassitis hasn't lost the accent from his native Marseille. The HRC founding member maintains one of Honolulu's most decorated fine dining destinations at Chef Mavro (www.chefmavro.com), which offers gourmet tasting menus, an elegant wine list, and a sophisticated, art-filled dining room that wouldn't be out of place in New York or Paris. Mavrothalassitis and his culinary team have been elevating local ingredients since 1998, often by incorporating influences from his native Provence. "Of course it's rewarding for me to think back to when I was one of the 12 chefs who created Hawaii Regional Cuisine," recalls the highly decorated chef. "When we got together we realised we were all frustrated at how difficult it was to find and source local ingredients... the result is that now, nearly 30 years later, you can enjoy HRC in hundreds of restaurants." When asked about his approach, the chef notes how new small farmers and ranchers are popping up all the time, often on small plots of land that used to be part of the pineapple and sugarcane industries. "I visit them personally to see for myself. Our promise of top-quality ingredients depends on knowing my sources."

CLASSIC RESORT OPTIONS

Discerning jet setters loyal to the renowned Four Seasons brand flock to four of Hawaii's highest-rated resorts, where a common culinary thread is a strong emphasis on local ingredients. Four Seasons Resort Lanai offers exceptionally stunning views – Bill Gates got married on the golf course in 1994 – along with a strong dining programme that supports more than 100 local farmers and fishermen. On the Big Island, Four Seasons Resort Hualalai serves as one of the best places to enjoy the island's famous coffee. Guests



F A B U L O U S
FAMILY
G E T A W A Y S

Family holidays are stereotyped as complicated, stressful and not always as relaxing as advertised – but hotels and airlines are making it easier and more fulfilling than ever to vacate the grind with the entire tribe in tow. Here are seven fabulous family getaways to inspire, and some airline gems to enhance your travel experience, from home to hotel and back again.



“I CONGRATULATE THE ENTIRE TEAM FOR INTRODUCING A WORLD-FIRST TO THE MALDIVES. THIS ECO-FRIENDLY ICE SKATING RINK ON A TROPICAL ISLAND IS A TRUE EXPRESSION OF OUR AIM TO ‘WOW’ OUR GUESTS” - AMIT MAJUMDER, GENERAL MANAGER, JUMEIRAH VITTAVELI

GET YOUR SKATES ON IN THE MALDIVES

Competition to grab the attention of well-heeled visitors is fierce in the Maldives, but one resort is never short of innovative ideas to keep guests coming back for more. Jumeirah Vittaveli is already famous for being home to the archipelago’s first fully submersible submarine and one of the largest kids clubs in the Maldives, but the resort has now unveiled the Maldives’ first ice rink; a 87 square-metre space where guests can lace up their skates and perform their finest pirouettes to the backdrop of the Indian Ocean.

The eco-friendly rink – called ‘Ice Ice Maybe’ – was created by Swiss company Glice, which makes artificial ice plates that require zero water or energy, so skaters can enjoy the space all year-round, come rain or shine, with a clear conscience. The rink was opened in March by Russian Olympic gold medallist Evgeni Plushenko, and costs \$75 for a two-hour session complete with skates and protective gear, plus the sweet reward of an ice-cream sundae for post skating refreshment.

www.jumeirah.com

A ZOOTOPIA IN PRAGUE

The streets of Prague get a little packed during summer, so it might be best to journey by steam boat. Mandarin Oriental, Prague has launched an exciting room package with Prague Zoo, renowned for its animal preservation programme and on-site educational facilities for kids.

On arrival younger guests are welcomed with a zoo quiz, zoo entry card and map; so families can get started on planning their visit. The steam boat takes the family on an enjoyable cruise along the Vltava River, where they can admire historic palaces and parks from the river’s perspective. When returning to the hotel, families will find a keepsake waiting for them in the comfort of their room.

The Prague Zoo Adventure package is available until October and includes a daily buffet breakfast, sweet welcome treats, the zoo quiz, a one-way traditional steam boat trip, a keepsake for the whole family and 50% off second room bookings. Packages start from EUR 473 for a minimum of two nights’ stay.

www.mandarinoriental.com





BRUNCH FUN FOR ALL AT AL HABTOOR CITY

Whether or not you're taking to the skies this for a far-flung summer holiday, you'll still want to make the most of a well-earned weekend. The City Brunch at The Westin - Al Habtoor City is a Friday fiesta for families, with more than 17 different food stations, 40 different types of dessert and dozens of vegan options. Crucially, kids will also be kept entertained for hours on end at the large supervised kids' area, packed with activities for all ages; a giant play pen, face-painting, drawing desks, a movie corner and PlayStation games.

Complete with their very own buffet filled with healthy snacks and desserts, there's even a cooking class for your budding Jamie or Nigella. Then, if you choose to stay at the hotel, why not opt for a reviving sanctuary for your whole family? The 102-metre Family Suites are elegantly designed, with an en-suite master bedroom, playroom, beanbags and entertainments, as well as a large living area with dining table to bring everyone together.

www.westindubaialhabtoorcite.com



CHECK IN AND TURN UP WITH EMIRATES

Dubai-based families can rejoice that Emirates has made flying a cinch, thanks to the new Home Check-in option, allowing customers to get ready for flights anywhere in the city. The service is available for customers across all classes, enabling them to complete the security check and check-in from the comfort of their home, hotel or office and have their luggage transported to the airport prior to their flight. The whole family can use the Home Check-in service for AED 350 per trip for up to seven pieces of luggage, with AED 35 charged for each additional item.

You simply need to book the service on emirates.com up to 12 hours before your flight departure time. For passengers arriving in Dubai, there's a luggage storage facility if you want to leave your bags and explore the city. The Dubai airline also offers a Home Delivery service where luggage is retrieved, cleared at customs and delivered to the customers for a hassle free travel experience.

www.emirates.com





PEACE AMONG THE PALMS

An urban retreat that recalibrates our understanding of a desert oasis, Desert Palm Resort and Hotel has remained one of the UAE's premier resorts for an entire decade. We explored the expansive, equine-focused facility and discovered a truly verdant polo paradise – close enough for convenience and distant enough for serene immersion.

THE FEELING OF DISTANCE AND SECLUSION RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP... it seems too good to be true, or completely impossible – but that's until you visit Desert Palm Dubai. This avant-garde Arabian destination is a mere 15-minute drive from Downtown Dubai, but has the effect of transporting you far beyond the emirate, to a place that feels a continent away.

Perhaps that's because the resort's famed polo grounds are reminiscent of a Latin American ranch, where Argentinian polo players strut on ponies and swing their mallets on finely manicured fields. Those pristine, sporting paddocks make up a significant portion of the 160-acre polo estate, along with the riding school, private residences and countless stables that surround the 38-key urban oasis on the outskirts of the city.

The resort's open design extends from the main building, where the Al Fresco Terrace peers out onto the primary polo field, to the avenues of spacious one and two-bed villas that offers complete comfort and privacy. The luxuriously furnished abodes are decked out in rich woods, with lux amenities, plush bedspreads and – most notably – private pools, lined with sundecks and sunbeds, as well as an outdoor dining area and rainfall shower.

The sequestered villas are the ideal choice for family holidays, intimate retreats, and even tranquil time away with friends. Guests even enjoy memorable mealtimes away from the hotel's exquisite dining venues and request an outdoor villa barbeque, hosted by a dedicated chef. The accommodation options also include the choice of pool villas, polo pool villas, or full-fledged pool residences.

BOUCHERON

PARIS





FAMILY AFFAIR IN THE MALDIVES

The Maldives isn't just honeymoons and romantic getaways, there's a whole lot of fun for families. Not only does Velaa Private Island have one of the largest kids club in the Maldives, families will receive a special offer for when they travel with kids aged 11 or younger – who can stay for free. One of two kids up to 11 years can stay and eat for free from the children's menu when any villa category is booked, except a Beach Pool Villa or Sunrise Water Pool Villa. The complimentary cuisine is however only applicable in restaurants and doesn't include beverages.

WHERE: Velaa Private Island, Maldives

PRICE: On request

AVAILABLE: Until December 10, 2018

www.velaaprivateisland.com

INTERNATIONAL

ESCAPES

Unearth history in Rome, extend your stay in New York and celebrate royal matrimony in the heart of London. These eclectic escapes should inspire the most earnest travellers.

Words: Steven Bond





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THE SECRETS OF THE VATICAN

As spring becomes summer in Rome, the city is lush with wisteria, azaleas and bright red poppies emerging from ancient ruins – but nowhere is more verdant than the 15-acre private parkland of Rome Cavalieri, A Waldorf Astoria Resort. The hillside retreat is now offering private tours of the Vatican Gardens or the Pope's summer Residence – the gardens of Castel Gandolfo. You can visit key areas of the vast Vatican galleries culminating in a private tour of the Sistine Chapel, where history of art and Church come together in a completely overwhelming 90-minute experience.

WHERE: Rome Cavalieri, A Waldorf Astoria Resort

PRICE: Via website

AVAILABLE: Now

www.romecavalieri.com/vatican



A BIGGER BITE OF THE BIG APPLE

Guests looking for a distinguished Manhattan vantage point need look no further than The Pierre, A Taj Hotel, which offers private residential stays with the added luxuries of an iconic New York City hotel. Long-stay visitors who reserve 30 consecutive days or more are entitled to special rates and amenities and have their pick from a range of accommodations, from single guest rooms to lavish six-bedroom suites. All options

feature warm and inviting residential-style furnishings, carefully curated artwork and dedicated care from well-trained staff to ensure that every guest feels right at home.

WHERE: The Pierre, A Taj Hotel, New York City

PRICE: On request

AVAILABLE: Year-round

www.tajhotels.com



SUMMER AT SHAMS

WHERE: BAB AL SHAMS, DUBAI
WHEN: DURING SUMMER

Embrace the desert, the sunshine and (most importantly) your appetite when you stay at Bab Al Shams this summer. Your memorable desert getaway now includes 50% off your food and drink bills so you can relax more – for far less. Your summer stay also include the use of the Compact TechnoGym, use of the hotel’s family pools, infinity pools and swim-up bar, and access to Aladdin’s Kids Club. You can even book now and pay later with free cancellation before 6pm on the day of arrival.
www.babalshams.com/summer

Arabian Journeys

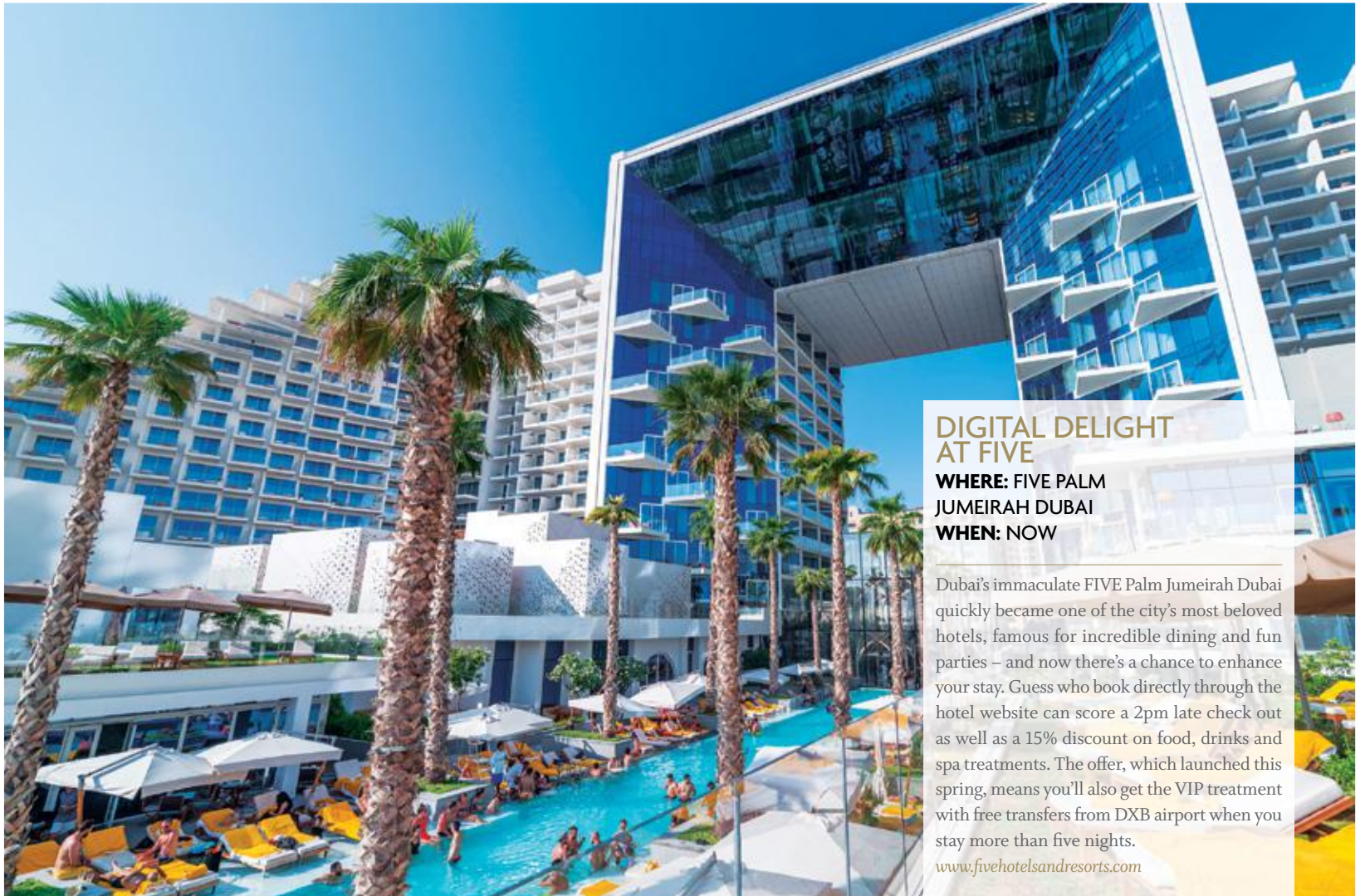
May in the Middle East brings a special season of reflection and special moments with family – so why not enjoy quality time at these local havens?



TEA AT THE TAJ

WHERE: TAJ DUBAI
WHEN: UNTIL AUGUST 31

Enjoy the best of Dubai and all it has to offer with a mini staycation at Taj Dubai, overlooking the soaring Downtown district, including the unmissable Burj Khalifa. The hotel is a five-minute stroll from the city’s dynamic heart and exclusive shopping experiences at The Dubai Mall, to where you can enjoy a complimentary shuttle service. Or perhaps simply pass by for tea? With a wide selection of teas, coffees and snacks, afternoon tea at the Byzantium Lounge is a delectable experience where you can savour an elaborate buffet spread of adored English delicacies.
www.tajhotels.com



DIGITAL DELIGHT AT FIVE

WHERE: FIVE PALM JUMEIRAH DUBAI
WHEN: NOW

Dubai's immaculate FIVE Palm Jumeirah Dubai quickly became one of the city's most beloved hotels, famous for incredible dining and fun parties – and now there's a chance to enhance your stay. Guess who book directly through the hotel website can score a 2pm late check out as well as a 15% discount on food, drinks and spa treatments. The offer, which launched this spring, means you'll also get the VIP treatment with free transfers from DXB airport when you stay more than five nights.
www.fivehotelsandresorts.com

THIRTY YEARS OF ARABIAN HOSPITALITY

WHERE: HILTON ABU DHABI
WHEN: NOW

Hiltonia Beach Club has celebrated its 30th anniversary on Abu Dhabi's Corniche – a venue where couples, families and business travellers have soaked up the sun and salt since the earliest days of the Hilton Abu Dhabi. The hotel is now offering the getaway you deserve in the form of the Leisure Escapes package, which gives guests \$50 daily credit for every night of your stay. You can use your on-property credit for dining, shopping, relaxing and more. And, if you're looking to get in shape and kick-start your healthy lifestyle, Hiltonia's Slim Down program could be the answer – with a personal induction session with one of their expert trainers, providing new recipes, workouts, weight loss tips and four high-intensity fitness classes each week.
www.hilton.com



MAY Essentials

We let our imagination soar high with a fantastical kids bed and also see green with a truly remarkable necklace and earring set – not to mention four head-turning timepieces.

These are the most coveted items available in May.

Compiled by: Anna Zhukov



A FLOATING FANTASY

Inspired by a world of adventure, Circu's Fantasy Air Balloon is the perfect place for kids to dream and find contentment. The bed can be customised for little girls or boys and, when they grow up, the bed can be transformed into a teen sofa. With large storage capacities, this amazing piece will also help parents and kids with stowing away books and toys. The base of this piece is made of the best wickerwork techniques and the handmade element brings a special touch to the piece.

www.circu.net

INSPIRATION FROM ABOVE

The dream of flight is as old as humanity itself and it became a reality in the 18th century when mankind defied gravity and began to conquer the kingdom of the skies. The Métiers d'Art Les Aérostatiers collection by Vacheron Constantin pays tribute to this formative and thrilling chapter in history. On the scale of a watch dial, the master engravers of the Maison have done something remarkable, faithfully reproducing in miniature the historical depictions of five flights undertaken in France between 1783 and 1785.

www.vacheron-constantin.com





GREEN WITH ENVY

Caroline Scheufele fell under the spell of a set of 17 'no oil' emeralds. These gifts from the earth are extremely rare, as nature rarely gives rise to so many gems in such closely matching colours. To enhance their exceptional beauty, she opted for a classic and timeless necklace characterised by elegant simplicity, featuring a precious circle of alternating emeralds and diamonds tapering into two gracefully attached magnificent D-flawless diamonds – of which the largest pear-shaped one weighs over 20 carats. This collector's piece, a testament to Chopard and its creative director's devotion to rare gemstones, called for no less than 268 hours of craftsmanship in the workshops of the Maison. Slender matching earrings add the perfect finishing touch to this adornment, worthy of the most splendid surroundings. POR.

www.chopard.com

SOMETHING NEW IN BLUE

As discussed in previous editions, BOVET has a rich history of creating masterful timepieces with blue hues. With its own Manufacture de Haute Horlogerie Artisanale and Atelier de Cadran (or dial crafting workshop) the House can work with as many shades and tones as it sees fit, which it has done for eight new editions; including the Récital 9 Miss Alexandra (left), BOVET's first timepiece graced with a feminine, oval-shaped case. The platinum Récital 20 Astérium (right) is also available in 18-karat red or white gold. POR.

www.bovet.com



CATCHING DIAMONDS

This year's Audemars Piguet collection is endlessly surprising with new vibrant ideas, precious material combinations and distinct design features. New Royal Oak is the season's statement. This dazzling ultra-thin self-winding Royal Oak in 18-carat white gold is entirely set with brilliant and baguette-cut diamonds. Extraordinary sleek, the dial of just 4.26mm is equipped with luminescent hands to provide you with the guaranteed power reserve of 60 hours, water resistant of up to 50 metres. POR.

www.audemarspiguet.com



THE SPRINGTIME SPIDER

McLaren has changed the game on more than one occasion, but along comes the all-new 570s Spider. Can it be as good as the Coupé? Kris Karacinski gets behind the wheel and spins a web around the remote back streets of Dubai

PHOTOGRAPHY: Eliot Sleep







“AS YOU SIT DOWN YOU FEEL LIKE YOU’RE IN A RACE CAR. THE PEDAL POSITION IS EVEN SUITED TO LEFT FOOT BRAKING AS YOU WOULD IN A RACE CAR.”



Having driven the McLaren 570s not too long ago, I wasn't sure if driving the 570s Spider would be an all too similar experience. It's marketed as being just like driving the Coupé version, with the added luxury of vanishing the roof with a quick flick of a button – yet I was genuinely surprised quite how different the experience was. As with the previously reviewed model, as soon as you climb inside the vehicle it feels how a sports car should. Designed for speed, it's not a luxury super car, but the McLaren racing heritage is immediately evident in its DNA. If you're not too sure about the origins of McLaren (some of my friends didn't realise they are a British car manufacturer), allow me to enlighten you. Bruce McLaren (born in Auckland, New Zealand) started his racing career as a teenager in a modified Austin Ulster that his father gave him. He went on to develop his own Formula 1 car in May 1966, before scoring his first point by placing sixth in the British Grand Prix.

The foundations of McLaren being a world beating racing team and world leading technology company were laid that day. However, Bruce tragically died while testing the McLaren M8D at Goodwood in 1970. In memory of Bruce, racing legend Denny Hulme went on to win nine out of 10 Can-Am races in the M8D in 1970. McLaren would then win the Formula 1 constructor's championships in 1974 as well as driver's titles with Emerson Fittipaldi and, even more memorably, James Hunt.

Since Ron Dennis took over in 1981 the records have tumbled thanks to motorsport greats such as: Niki Lauda, Alain Prost, Ayrton Senna, Mika Hakkinen, Kimi Raikkonen, Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button. All this racing heritage paved the way for the truly iconic McLaren F1 road car.

Decades later I'm lucky enough to be opening the truly spectacular dihedral doors and climbing into the 570s Spider. As mentioned earlier, as you sit down you feel like you're in a race car. The pedal position is even suited to left foot braking as you would in a race car. Compared to other convertibles you also have a good amount of room in what I found it to be a very functional two-seater. There's a place to store your phone, a drinks holder that easily holds a large cup in place, and thankfully a "glove box" that fits more than a pair of gloves.

This new McLaren has the standard 'frunk' storage space since the delightful 3.8-litre twin turbo V8 is located at the back. However, this little

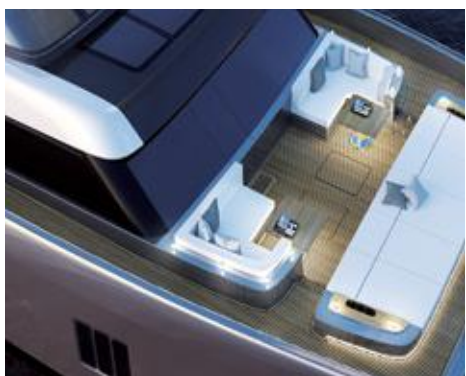
Sail away

ROSETTI SUPERYACHTS 85M SUPERYACHT

Simplicity and elegance are the leitmotifs of the exterior design, according to Tommaso Spadolini who has designed two new additions to the Rosetti Superyachts fleet. In addition to a luxurious supply vessel, this 85-metre Superyacht, yet to be monikered, boasts a technical platform and 2,700GT propulsion by none other than Rolls-Royce, with bespoke amenities and furnishings that you would expect aboard a superyacht of her size and gross tonnage.

The standout feature is the enormous beach club and wellness area, housing a gym with a panoramic glass wall overlooking the swim platform, plus massage room, sauna and hamman – and when the two side terraces are deployed the beam is extended to 19 metres. The adjacent large garage can hold two tenders and a wide array of water toys. Another highlight is the master stateroom on the upper deck forward that covers 123 sqm, excluding the His and Hers bathrooms, with independent access to a private swimming pool and the helideck.

Four guest cabins and a full-beam VIP suite are located on the main deck forward to take advantage of the large windows and abundant natural light. Besides the beach club, the lower deck is dedicated to the galley and crew area. Indeed, crew services and operational considerations are critical on such a large yacht capable of spending long periods at sea without shore support. For this reason, the yacht has a tank-top deck level with additional cold and dry stores, a workshop, laundry and linen storage room.





ON THE WATER THIS MONTH

KOREA INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

May 24-27
ARA Marina, Gimpo, South Korea
www.koreaboatshow.or.kr

SANCTUARY COVE BOAT SHOW

May 24-27
Hope Island, Australia
www.sanctuarycoveboatshow.com.au

LES VOILES D'ANTIBES

May 30-June 3
Antibes, France
www.voilesdantibes.com



GRESHAM YACHT DESIGN EXPLORIS

After working with studios such as Tony Castro and H2, Steve Gresham has gained enough insight to open his own design firm in 2013 and is now conceiving some of the most enticing yachts on the market. The 100-metre Exploris is a long way from coming to fruition but its far-from-traditional design is worth talking about. Giant in size and stature, with a beam of 18 metres, the superyacht boasts an Ice Class hull, heli-pad, heli-hanger and two custom 12.5m tenders for almost limitless exploration. Beneath the exterior, the onboard explorers are treated to a full private promenade deck with an observation saloon and extra-wide side decks, which enhances the yacht's exterior curves. Owners will also benefit from a private deck with a forward observation lounge and interiors by London-based Seymour Diamond.

www.greshamyacht.com



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at more than 4.500 locations)**