

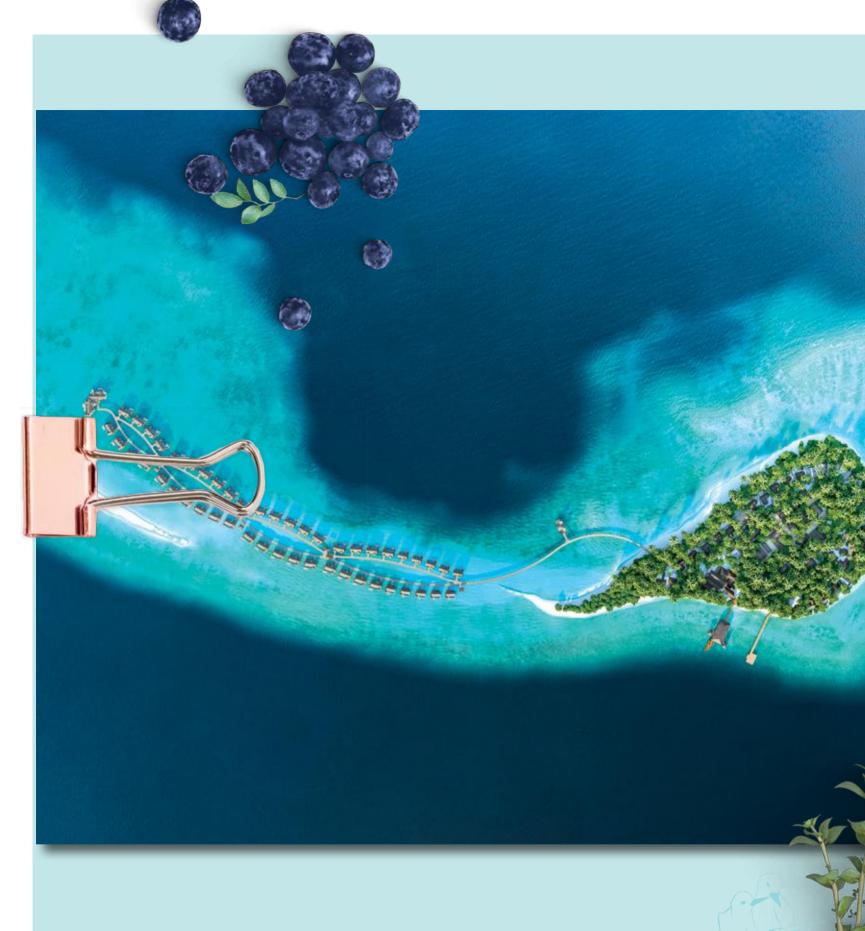


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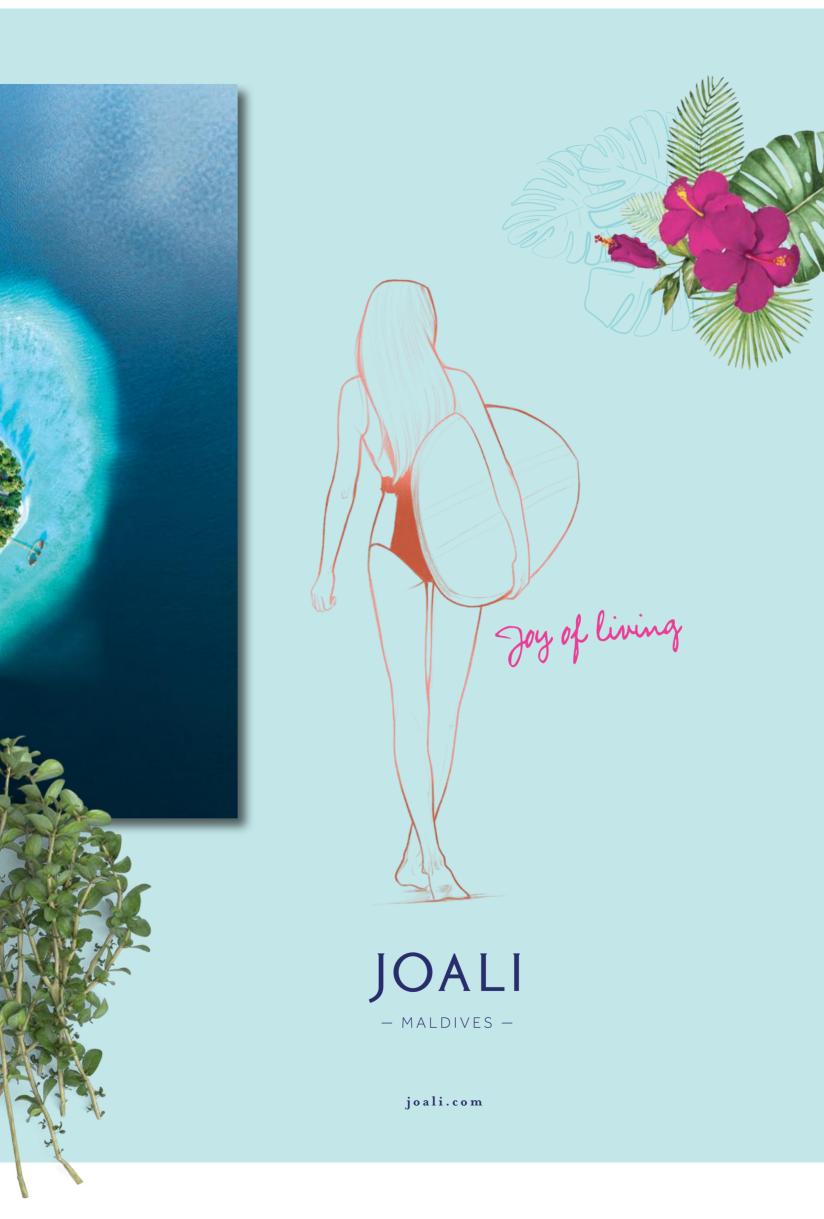






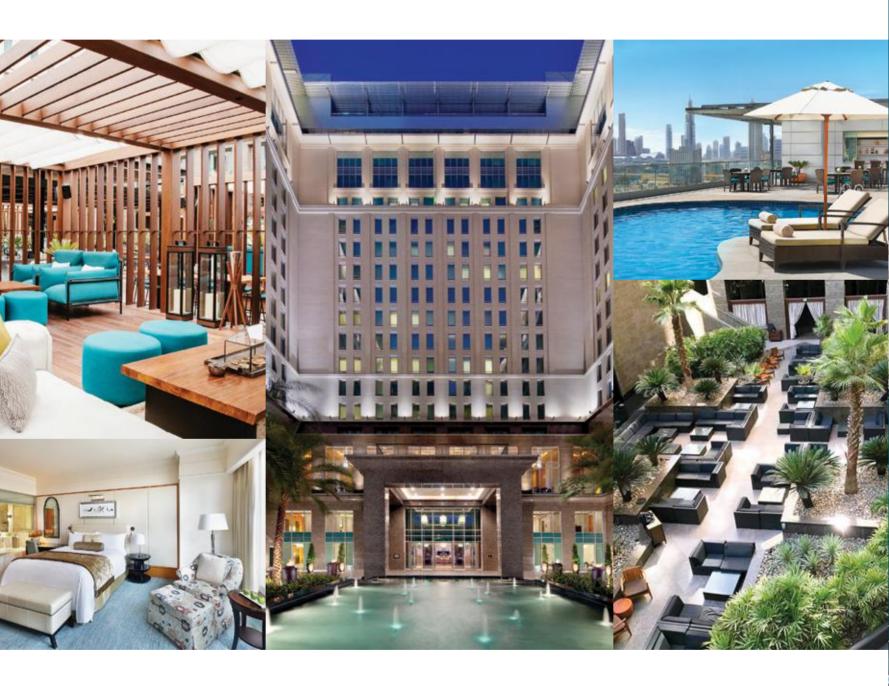
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YOUR OUT OF THE ORDINARY ISLAND HOME



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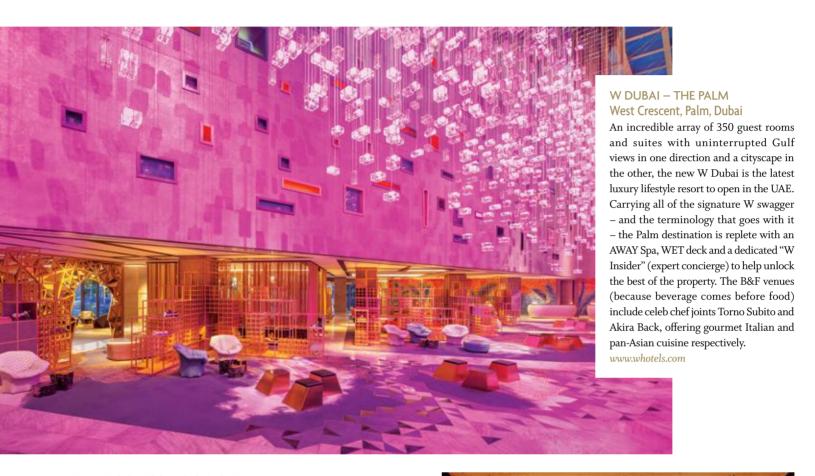
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HOT HOTELS, CHIC BOUTIQUES AND EXCLUSIVE NEW RESORTS

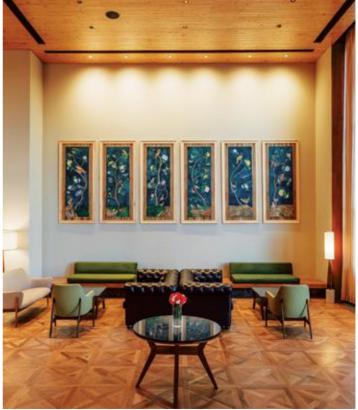
HERE'S OUR PICK OF THE WORLD'S MOST LUXURIOUS NEW LAUNCHES



TAJ THEOG RESORT & SPA, SHIMLA Himachal Pradesh, India

Nestled amidst thick cedar forests and spread over five acres, every corner of Taj Theog Resort & Spa, Shimla offers mesmerising views of the mighty Himalayas. The hotel's design and architecture echoes colonial charm reminiscent of hill station appeal. Surrounded by the Deodar forest, with pathways through apple orchards and terraced gardens, the resort is the quintessential luxurious home in the hills. Each of the 99 rooms feature warm wooden furniture, traditional rugs and tall French windows, with spacious balconies overlooking snow-tipped peaks and quaint villages. www.tajhotels.com





GRAND PLAZA MÖVENPICK MEDIA CITY Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai

At the apex of Dubai Media and Internet City, alongside the city's superhighway, Grand Plaza Mövenpick Media City is ideal for both business and leisure travellers. Inspired by its locale, the 235 spacious rooms and suites offer views of either Palm Jumeirah or Emirates Golf Club. Foodies should look out for Verve Bar & Brasserie, a chic and elegant European-influenced brasserie with varied culinary options from day to night, helmed by Dubai-based restaurateurs Nick & Scott - alumni of Claridge's under the tutelage of Gordon Ramsay.

www.movenpick.com/grand-plaza





THE MERCHANT HOUSE Manama, Bahrain

Campbell Gray Hotels has made its long-awaited debut in the Gulf with the opening of its much-anticipated boutique hotel, The Merchant House – the first boutique hotel in Bahrain to be awarded a five-star rating. On the heels of the ultra-successful Le Gray, Beirut, the 46-suite hotel is located next to the bustling Bab al-Bahrain Souk area, one of the most dynamic areas in Manama. Many striking works of art have been collected and commissioned for the hotel over the past few years, juxtaposed with a dramatic graffiti pillar and concrete columns in the lobby.

www.campbellgrayhotels.com





HYATT HOUSE JEDDAH SARI STREET Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

The Hyatt House brand has entered the Middle East market with the opening of Hyatt House Jeddah Sari Street. A brand rooted in casual and authentic hospitality, Hyatt House opens with a smartly designed, tech-savvy and contemporary environment across its 102 upscale guestrooms, studios, kitchen suites and "Gathering Rooms" - flexible meeting spaces spanning more than 50 square metres. Close to Jeddah's coast resort area, the hotel also offers comfort food at H Lounge, fresh goodies at The H Market, a 24-hour fitness centre and more.

www.hyatt.com





Dia MARCH

This month's array of diary dates range from foodie delights in Dubai to high octane thrills in Bahrain and Geneva

BASELWORLD 2019

Basel, Switzerland

The world's premiere show for watches, jewellery, gems and related industries is an "oasis for encounters" for fanatics and industry professionals and the organisers have already laid out their plans for 2020 and beyond, announcing a new concept. From 2020, the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie in Geneva (SIHH) and Baselworld in Basel, the two major events in the watch industry, will synchronise their calendars. In 2020, the SIHH will be held from 26 to 29 April in Geneva, followed immediately by Baselworld from 30 April to 5 May in Basel. The calendars have been synchronised until 2024.

www.baselworld.com

TASTE OF DUBAI

Dubai Media City, UAE

The highlight of the UAE foodie calendar, Taste of Dubai, showcases the latest, greatest and most exciting restaurants from the emirate. Festival-goers can expect to be served small plate signature dishes, while renowned chefs cook up a storm live on stage. As per previous years, there's a host of opportunities to get hands-on with interactive masterclasses and shop from an array of local and international vendors. Make sure you don't eat before you get there.

www.tasteofdubaifestival.com





2019 GENEVA MOTOR SHOW

Palexpo, Le Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland

First held in 1905, this event has hosted almost all major internal combustion-engined models in the history of the automobile. Formerly known as Salon international de l'automobile, the Geneva Motor Show is regarded as a level playing field for the world's top automakers, enhanced by the fact that Switzerland lacks an auto industry of its own. Notably, the exhibition hall will lack showings from Ford, Opel, Volvo, Land Rover and Jaguar this year, but there will still be plenty of new cars and announcements made throughout the show.

www.gims.swiss



7-17

2019 BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

Bahrain International Circuit

After the 2019 F1 season kicks off in Melbourne on March 17, the World Championship descends on the island of Bahrain for a long weekend of racing and festivities. World-renowned superstar DJ Martin Garrix is one of the major artists performing at the after-race concerts, along with fellow producer and DJ Kygo, promising thrills on and off the track. FI Experience guests can also get extended access around the course, including Pit Lane walks and truck tours. www.bahraingp.com







LE GRILL, HEADED BY EXECUTIVE CHEF OF HÔTEL DE PARIS Monte-Carlo Franck Cerutti, has been awarded its first Michelin star, just 18 months after the reopening of the restaurant. The star joins the other six Michelin stars already won by four gastronomic restaurants of Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer, including Louis XV – Alain Ducasse at Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo, Le Vistamar at Hôtel Hermitage Monte-Carlo, Elsa at Monte-Carlo Beach and Blue Bay at Monte-Carlo

Bay Hotel & Resort, making it the resort with the highest number of stars in Europe. This 7th Michelin star is the result of the hotel's 250M euro renovation which has taken place over the past four years. The metamorphosis of the legendary Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo is an integral part of this renewal, notably with the transformation of Le Grill, which reopened in May 2017.

www.montecarlosbm.com

DUBAI DINERS HAVE YET ANOTHER HOTSPOT TO TAP UP DON'T FOR FINE AND CASUAL DINING. THE POINTE HAS A RANGE OF DESTINATIONS FOR ALL PALETTES, INCLUDING ASIAN DISTRICT, SEAFOOD KITCHEN AND ENA, OFFERING AUTHENTIC **GREEK CUISINE**





SELF-INDULGENCE IN SPAIN

SPANISH CULINARY WHIZZ QUIQUE DACOSTA HAS TAKEN A TURN

on his culinary journey with Self Portraits, a new menu for 2019 at his eponymous restaurant in Dénia, Alicante. The winner of three Michelin stars at his acclaimed eateries said, "Self Portraits is a gesture, an attitude and goodbye to monotony, to the monopoly that we ourselves have created, and which needs our imagination now more than ever to keep evolving". Dacosta added: "Sometimes I hate my own creations. I always live that intimate idea of limit, and therefore I think it is time to explore other paths". Considering that his previous menu encouraged guests to eat their (very edible) napkins, diners can expect even more avant-garde surprises.

www.quiquedacosta.es





AQUAMAN: YANNICK ALLÉNO'S NEW SEAFOOD MENU

A "SYNTHESIS OF THE BEST OF THE

sea", Yannick Alléno's new menu introduces an innovative way of cooking and seasoning 101 Dining Lounge and Marina at One&Only The Palm, Dubai. The resort's culinary team worked together with the chef to create dishes that follow his philosophy of blending the finest, freshest ingredients with imagination and flair.

Fusing age-old cooking techniques such as smoking, salting, and fermentation, fresh sustainably sourced seafood is presented in an artful way. Adjacent to the resort's private marina, the overwater terrace offers panoramic views and incredible sunsets behind the city skyline. www.oneandonlyresorts.com

BELGIAN DELIGHTS IN DUBAL

CHOCOHOLICS REJOICE. BELGIAN

chocolatier Pierre Marcolini has opened his first store in the Middle East. Located on the lower ground floor of The Dubai Mall, Maison Pierre Marcolini will be the Middle East flagship, showcasing Marcolini's gourmet hand-made treats. Founding the brand in 1995, Pierre Marcolini has become one of the world's most celebrated chocolatiers, with stores in 45 stores in 12 countries including Belgium, France, the UK, Japan and China with further plans to expand across the Middle East. Thankfully there's more to Brussels than sprouts. eu.marcolini.com









MASSIMO BOTTURA DEBUTS IN DUBAI

TORNO SUBITO BY CHEF MASSIMO BOTTURa is the first outlet outside of Italy for one of the world's top chefs. The mastermind behind Osteria Francescana, 2018's winner of The World's 50 Best Restaurants, has landed at W Dubai – The Palm and is headed by chef Bernardo Paladini, who has spent seven years in Modena at Osteria Francescana and Francheschetta 58. Open for lunch and dinner, the dishes are from both northern and southern Italy and signature plates include the likes of tagliatelle al ragu, a recipe handed down from Bottura's grandmother, made with different cuts of beef, slow cooked and hand-chopped.

www.marriott.com



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50 Indian Ocean Escapes: feel the sand between your toes

Supertoys: the best add-ons and upgrades for your superyacht

Lapland: get cosy in some unusual accommodation this spring







SUPERTOYS FOR SUPERYACHTS

As superyachts become more sophisticated, so do the accessories that go with them. But along with the fun comes the realisation that the oceans are a precious commodity. Rowena Marella-Daw immerses herself in some of the trendiest 'supertoys' around





AHIC ARABIAN HOTEL INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

9-11 April 2019 AHIC VIIIage, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE #AHIC



AHIC WILL



SHOWCASE

more than 50 leading hotel brands, owners and industry partners



GATHER



FEATURE



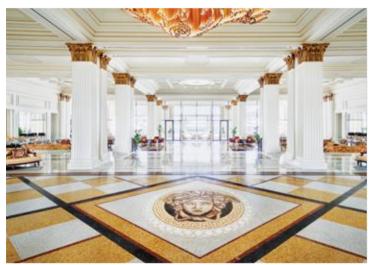


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pence

MEED









ESCAPE THE MUNDANE PALAZZO VERSACE DUBAI

Designed for guests to relax, unwind and stay sun-kissed throughout the year, Palazzo Versace Dubai's #FollowTheSun daycation deal brings back in fashion the bright Dubai sun and the temperaturecontrolled waters of three swimming pools. Escape the city to a tropical $\,$ paradise while enjoying Mediterranean-style cuisine, relax in the chic poolside cabanas and plunge into the palm tree-lined pools. How do you #FollowTheSun? Begin your experience with breakfast at the East Pool, followed by a light lunch at the Central Pool and finish it up with a sundowner session by the West pool.

www.palazzoversace.ae

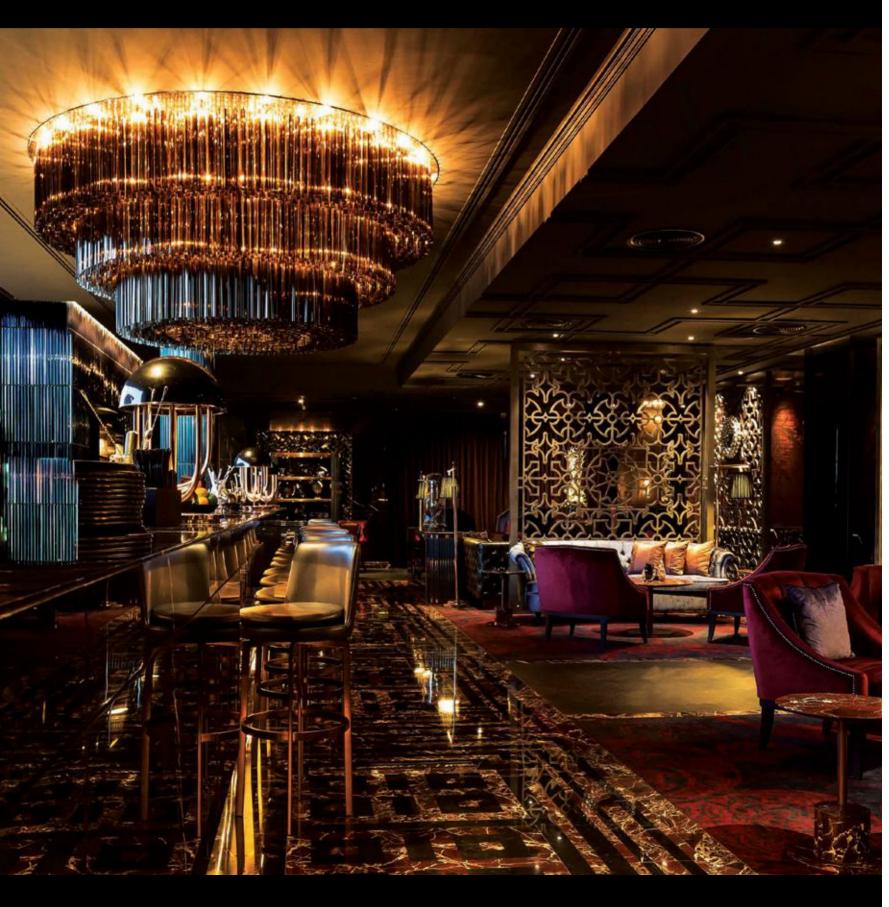




SOME LIKE IT BLACK

An evening at **NOIR** is an immersion into a decadent feast for the senses. We visited the lounge bar at Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates and discovered one of Dubai's most underrated gems

Words: Steven Bond











hen you consider the word "noir" you may conjure up iconic images of film noir in your mind's eye. That would be somewhat appropriate for Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates' classy cocktail and cigar lounge, which projects classic movies onto its outdoor terrace wall - yet there's still something ironic about the name. Dressed in dark woods, with rich, plush furnishings and moody Art Deco light fixtures, there's nothing about the venue that evokes the void of *black* that the sign on the door may suggest.

On the contrary, it's an experience that is bound to provoke each and every sense. Stepping into Noir is an immediate transition from the cool, crisp lighting of the Kempinski lobby, to the cosy and intimate surrounds of the second floor bar and lounge. Your eyes dart between each item of evocative art, from the butterflies in bell jars to the abstract portraits, and your nostrils are wafted with the fragrance of cigars and spirits.

This isn't the stale smell of indoor cigarette - a far cry from it – it's the aroma of fine cigars from Havana and the Dominican Republic, unsheathed from the amply stocked humidor at the end of the bar. With your cigar sommelier on hand, make sure to drop in on a Wednesday's "Connoisseur Knights", where aficionados and the uninitiated alike can discover pairings of incredible cigars with refined beverages. And what a beverage menu it is.

The cocktail menu at Noir is a true tome of classics, craft cocktails and the venue's own tipples with a twist. Order an old fashioned and sample the only rye whiskey available in the country, while the barman imparts his knowledge of the brand



"A WORLD-**CLASS COCKTAIL LOUNGE ALSO NEEDS WORLD-**CLASS FARE, AND **NOIR WON'T GIVE YOUR** TASTEBUDS A **REST TILL YOU** LEAVE"

and tells the story of each and every drink. And what better time to sample the goods than on a Thursday ladies night, with packages available from 8pm till midnight, or the subsequent Friday 'midnight brunch' where you can work your way through the menu over the course of four hours.

A world-class cocktail lounge also needs world-class fare, and Noir won't give your tastebuds a rest till you leave. The exquisite selection of small plates ranges from fresh ceviche and salmon poke bowls - along with other mouthwatering seafood delicacies - to classic tapas such as patatas bravas, but not as you've ever seen it before. Noir puts its own iconic twist on every dish and in this case it's a bevy of baby tomatoes in a tangy tomato sauce. Meat lovers will also wring their hands with glee at the delectable chunks of Angus beef and the flavour-filled lamb chops on the bone. You won't know whether to reach for your glass or your fork.

If you can peel yourself away from the indoor sofa seating and Art Deco surrounds, now is the perfect time to enjoy the second-floor terrace with flame fixtures and an extensive shisha menu, which isn't available inside. Taste for yourself soon, and don't be left in the dark.

The important bit

WHAT: NOIR WHERE: Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai TEL: +971 4 341-0000 www.noir-dubai.com

MARCH tials

Go a few steps further with your spring cleaning and replace a few items in your wardrobe. This crystal chandelier could also shed some light on your next purchase. Compiled by: Anna Zhukov



THE TRUMP EFFECT

A large crystal chandelier sculpted to convey the aesthetic of its lineage, it's said that a Trump Hotel was the inspiration for this elegant item. On top, connected gold-plated brass structures serve as the main base for an opulent crystal glass masterpiece placed underneath. The Trump Chandelier is available for just shy of \$20,000. www.luxxu.net

IN HER BONES

Franck Muller's Vanguard line is enriched with a new feminine skeleton interpretation with elegant characteristics throughout its refined skeleton body. The Vanguard Lady Skeleton's perfect curves are emphasised by its glamorous details and unforgettable appearance. www.franckmuller.com



HALCYON DAZE

Bold, stylised and geometric, these Sotheby's Halcyon Earrings centre a 3.53 carat Fancy Yellow and a 3.03-carat Fancy Light Yellow radiant-cut diamond in a dramatic setting of pavé-set diamonds in blackened 18k gold.

www.sothebysdiamonds.com



SERPENTI STRIKES BACK

The "Serpenti Forever" crossbody bag embraces the pop spirit of the 80s leaving a mark with its mirrored lightning bolt décor. The bag is hewn from black matte smooth calf leather and the iconic snakehead closure is in palladium-plated brass enriched with a mirrored mosaic and black onyx eyes. www.bulgari.com



PURSUING HAPPINESS

An extension of Ulysse Nardin's Marine Grand Deck Tourbillon timepiece, this new complication follows the same tradition with a passion for all things nautical. "Marine Mega Yacht" is dedicated to the owners of the prestigious vessels. The feat of haute horlogerie boasts 504 compenents and is wound by hand.

www.ulysse-nardin.com

What are you making time for this month? These five fabulous watches offer a range of styles but there's plenty they have in common – including incredible craftmanship and bags of style



LUNAR TICK-TOCK Bovet's Shooting Star tourbillon was the first timepiece in an exclusive collection dedicated to astronomy. The new Récital 26 Brainstorm Chapter One now presents a host of innovations and gives a glimpse of the scope of the unprecedented possibilities for interpreting timekeeping offered by the "writing slope" case. At 12 o'clock, nestled in the volume of the hours and minutes dial, sits a three-dimensional moon phase.

www.bovet.com

TAKE THE PLUNGE

Strong, functional, tough and with the immediately recognisable Panerai personality, this new Panerai Submersible is fitted with the OP XXXIV Manufacture calibre – an automatic movement with a power reserve of three days, which is the basic standard of the House's movements.

www.panerai.com





MOVE WITH THE TIMES

The new Conquest V.H.P. GMT Flash Setting from Longines continues to push the V.H.P. technology further, providing globetrotters with even greater comfort. It is equipped with a second time zone and a lightdriven management system, known as Flash Setting. A must for all travellers, the watch can be easily set manually using the crown, or through its innovative Flash Setting function.

www.longines.com

ICED GOLD

This Royal Oak model from Audemars Piguet has all the magic of sunlight refracted through the shimmering 18-carat Frosted Gold case and the bezel featuring 32 baguettecut "rainbow- coloured" sapphires (2.24 carats), all individually cut. The patented innovation involves a complex fabrication procedure that improves the watch's precision and stability.

www.audemarspiguet.com



LOVE YOU TO THE MOON

Blancpain has reinterpreted its Villeret Women Quantième Phases de Lune watch, creating a refined exterior for its calendar with moon phases. The brand claims it to be one of the most romantic complications gracing feminine models in its Villeret collection. The new watch was released just ahead of Valentine's Day and is limited to 99 pieces.

www.blancpain.com



BENTLEY MOTORS RECENTLY REVEALED FULL DETAILS

of the world's fastest production SUV. The Bentayga Speed features an enhanced 635 PS (626 bhp) version of the renowned 6.0-litre W12 engine that delivers a top speed of 190 mph (306 km/h) and 0-62mph (0-100 km/h) in 3.9 seconds.

Designed, engineered and handcrafted in Great Britain, the Bentayga Speed is the most powerful and performance-oriented Bentayga to date. It builds on a long tradition of Speed models that began with the Continental GT in 2007. It pushes the boundaries of Bentayga performance further since claiming the production SUV record at the gruelling Pikes Peak International Hill Climb last year.

A TRULY LUXURIOUS AND UNIQUE CABIN

Handcrafted in Crewe, England, the Bentayga's cabin is the epitome of modern British design. Bentayga Speed introduces a new colour split interior, specifically designed to highlight unique styling lines. Key to this is the use of Alcantara trim in a Bentayga for the first time. The styling lines are highlighted by elegantly crafted 'swooshes' around the door and door grab, on the edge of the seat cushions and backrest bolsters, and on the lower console. While Bentayga customers have the option of the Bentley wings embroidered at the top of the seat backrests, on the new Speed models these have been replaced with the word 'Speed', in either blind or contrast stitching. A metal Speed badge adorns the passenger side fascia, while an illuminated Speed treadplate welcomes passengers into the truly luxurious cabin.

BENTAYGA - THE ORIGINAL LUXURY SUV

Both the ability to drive anywhere and luxurious quality are the hallmarks of the Bentley Bentayga. As powerful as it is exquisite, the Bentayga is for those who demand luxury without compromise. The multi-award-winning Bentayga is the benchmark for luxury SUVs, offering customers the ultimate touring experience, unrestricted by landscape or conditions.

www.bentley.com







ASTON MARTIN

TEASES A NEW ALL TERRAIN VECHICLE

ASTON MARTIN IS POISED TO TAKE THE 89TH GENEVA

International Motor Show by storm with the global debut of the Lagonda All-Terrain Concept. The first model Lagonda will put into production, the All-Terrain Concept, bears the bold hallmarks of the Vision Concept.

Joining the Lagonda All-Terrain Concept will be examples of Aston Martin's three core series production sportscars: Vantage, DB11 AMR and DBS Superleggera.

Andy Palmer, Aston Martin Lagonda President and Group CEO, said: "The ways in which automotive brands reveal new product has changed beyond recognition in recent years, but there's still something compelling about the unique atmosphere of a great motor show. Historically Geneva has always been good for us - the buzz surrounding the stand last year when we revealed the Lagonda Vision Concept was truly remarkable – so it's fantastic to return to the scene of such great success with another world debut. The Lagonda All-Terrain Concept offers explicit clues regarding what will be the first Lagonda model to enter production, and further demonstrates how Lagonda's zero emission powertrain enables us to create spectacular cars that will radically redefine their sectors of the market. I'm expecting the Aston Martin Lagonda stand to be busier than ever, and very much look forward to seeing the crowd's reaction first-hand". The 89th Geneva Motor Show runs from 7 March to 17 March







MERCEDES CULT ROADSTER ANNOUNCES FINAL EDITION

WHEN THE SLK FIRST APPEARED AS A PRODUCTION

model in 1996, it caused a sensation and founded a new generation of roadsters. For the first time, Mercedes-Benz had produced a roadster whose fixed "vario-roof" redefined the roadster segment by combining open-air driving pleasure with total comfort in poor weather. Furthermore, the SLK started its career from launch with a yellowstone colour coat, an unusual choice for Mercedes-Benz. Nodding to that world premiere, the Final Edition of the SLC is available in an exclusive sun yellow finish. Boasting an extensive range scope of equipment and unique interior details, the special edition of the SLC is the pinnacle of the current model generation. The Final Edition can be combined with all four engine variants.

The special model is based on the AMG Line, which as standard includes AMG Styling bumpers at the front and rear, a sport suspension with 10 mm lowering (de-selectable) as well as a larger braking system with perforated brake discs and front callipers sporting the 'Mercedes-Benz' logo.

CARRERA GT "RECOMMISSIONED"

THE PORSCHE CARRERA GT IS STILL COUNTED

among the most exciting sports supercars in the world, more than 15 years after it first appeared. Now, Porsche Classic has implemented a spectacular reconstruction as part of a custom order.

A spectacular project, the collector wanted a complete, custom reconstruction of the vehicle, implemented at a manufacturing quality that can only be achieved by Porsche itself. The process involved the vehicle being entirely disassembled into individual parts, with every $\dot{}$ component extensively checked, and refurbished or replaced where necessary.

The vehicle is now ready for delivery, and at the invitation of Porsche Cars North America, Porsche Classic has presented it for the first time at the Porsche Experience Center in Atlanta, to a select group of 100 invited guests including the car's owner.



THE EVERY DAY

The Ferrari Portofino has been designed for everyday use but can a Ferrari really be a comfortable daily driver? Kris Karacinski puts it to the test



