

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

August 2020

TAKE TO THE SKIES

Private heli-holidays from
Geneva to Lake Como

A FOODIE'S FRANCE

Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc's
fresh new culinary look

**ALL ROADS WILL
LEAD TO ROME**

The new hotels making the
Eternal City their home

**GO TELL IT ON
THE MOUNTAIN**

Off-grid in the Himalayas



**HOT SUMMER
ESCAPES**

PLUS, THE COOLEST KIDS CLUBS AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOTELS

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ALL ROADS WILL LEAD TO ROME



ROME ALREADY BOASTS AN ENVIABLE collection of palatial palazzos, stylish sojourns and boutique boltholes, but the Eternal City is set to welcome a trio of new luxury escapes in the not too distant future.

Rome's role on the world stage as a capital of culture and couture owes much to the great jewellery houses that call it home and few are more famous than Bvlgari, which was founded here in 1884. Bvlgari Hotels & Resorts Collection is finally planting a flag in the city on the east bank of the Tiber, a short stroll from the Spanish Steps and Villa Borghese. Bvlgari's long-term hotel design partner Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel is overseeing the architectural renovation and interiors of the 1930s building on Piazza Augusto Imperatore, whose 100 rooms and suites will complement the building's earthy stone exterior, handsomely composed of ochre Travertine marble and red brick walls. Michelin-starred chef Niko Romito will oversee the menu at Il Ristorante, and the neighbouring Bvlgari Bar will offer first-class

views across this city when the hotel opens in 2022. www.bulgarihotels.com

Six Senses' Italian debut will be situated within the UNESCO-listed Palazzo Salviati Cesi Mellini, an 18th-century building imagined by architect Tomaso de Marchis for Cardinalo Mario Mellini. Six Senses Rome will feature 95 unique guestrooms, transformed into tranquil, high-ceilinged oases by designer Patricia Urquiola (Mandarin Oriental Barcelona, Il Sereno). Blocks from the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, the hotel will be home to Six Senses Spa and Roman baths, a modern Italian restaurant offering seasonal menus and a rooftop terrace with organic fruit and vegetable garden. www.sixsenses.com

Six Senses' owning company, IHG, is doubling down on the Eternal City with a second property, InterContinental Rome, situated on the affluent Via Veneto. The neo-renaissance palazzo was built in the early 1900s by architect Carlo Busiri Vici as a home from home for foreign ambassadors. Today, the prestigious

address is becoming a bolthole for discerning visitors, with 160 guestrooms and suites, a restaurant and bar, plus a spa, all of which will be lovingly renovated before its 2022 debut. www.ihg.com

Meanwhile, some of Rome's existing grand dames have taken advantage of the quiet start to the year with improvements and expansions. At Rome Cavalieri, a Waldorf Astoria Hotel, the brand-new Vista 101 pop-up rooftop bar is serving cocktails, aperitivo and light bites accompanied by fabulous views, attracting a younger crowd to this iconic address. www.romecavalieri.com, and Rocco Forte's Hotel de Russie has lovingly restored the 19th-century neo-classical garden adjoining the property, originally created by architect Giuseppe Valadier in the 1820s. Replete with terraces, grottoes, fountains and statues, the historic garden provides a dramatic backdrop for moonlit walks, evening performances and elegant meals at Le Jardin de Russie restaurant. www.roccofortehotels.com

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A HOME FROM HOME IN VIENNA

COLLECTORS OF international pieds-à-terre might want to consider Vienna for their next investment, as Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group begins work on its first Austrian venture. Situated on a peaceful street within the Austrian capital's historic centre, Mandarin Oriental, Vienna will transform the city's former law court, which meted out justice from 1912 until 2003. As well as 151 guestrooms and suites surrounding a picturesque courtyard, the heritage hotel will be home to 17 Residences at Mandarin Oriental, spread across the top two floors of the building,

when it opens in 2023. Owners of these opulent residences, which promise to be among the most exclusive in the city, will benefit from all the hotel's facilities – including spa, swimming pool and fitness centre – as well as private access to the roof, affording spectacular views across Vienna's historic rooftops. Interiors of the guestrooms, residences and other public spaces including restaurant and bar, will be imagined by London based design firm Goddard Littlefair (Gleneagles, Lansdowne Place). www.mandarinoriental.com

A PRIVATE ESCAPE IN THE TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE



SET AMID THE ROLLING COUNTRYSIDE outside Florence in a 25-acre private estate, Villa La Massa is an idyllic Tuscan retreat comprising several exclusive use villas on the banks of the River Arno. New for 2020 is Villa Hombert, an 18th-century country house that's home to three private residences, stylishly fitted out in warm earthy tones and a combination

of marble, wood and wrought iron for a rustic, elegant ambiance. For Villa Hombert's inaugural season, each of the one- or two-bedroom units, originally intended as long-stay apartments, are available for short stays, affording access to all the perks of the estate. In addition to the residences, Villa La Massa's two standalone villas – the

four-suite Casa Colonica and seven-room Villino – will be available for exclusive use bookings. The select few who secure reservations this summer will have access to a new swimming pool and L'Oliveto Bistrot, a relaxed Tuscan dining experience named after the olive groves that surround the estate. www.villalamassa.com

Debut | August

HOT HOTELS, CHIC BOUTIQUES AND EXCLUSIVE NEW RESORTS
HERE'S OUR PICK OF THE WORLD'S MOST LUXURIOUS NEW LAUNCHES



RAFFLES BALI Bali, Indonesia

Set on a hilltop overlooking the sweeping curve of Jimbaran Bay, Raffles Bali enjoys some of the best views on the island. The 32 private pool villas are all positioned to make the most of spectacular sunsets, with lush gardens and shaded daybeds for languorous lounging. Inside, rattan furniture and batik tapestries adorn the light-flooded villas, which boast hardwood floors and locally inspired furnishings, while indoor and outdoor showers, yoga mats and bespoke beach accessories encourage residents to make the most of the outdoors. Private dinners illuminated by flickering torchlight can be arranged in the Secret Cave or the Purnama Honeymoon Bale at the water's edge, while Rumari restaurant serves up Balinese cuisine at the highest point of the resort and Loloan Beach Bar and Grill specialises in delectable seafood in a picturesque beachfront setting. Raffles Wellbeing Butlers can make bookings for Raffles Spa and The Sanctuary, a remote hillside treatment suite, or arrange cultural experiences such as cooking classes and temple dance ceremonies, after which guests will no doubt wish to retreat to the Writers Bar for a Raffles Bali Sling while the sun slips down below the horizon. www.raffles.com

NOBU HOTEL WARSAW Warsaw, Poland

Warsaw is a city of contrasts, where a 13th-century Old Town stands in stark juxtaposition to the modern skyscrapers of the ever-expanding business district, and young chefs are reimagining traditional cuisine in stylish low-key bars and restaurants in rapidly gentrifying neighbourhoods. Situated in a pair of buildings – a 1920s Art Deco hotel and an ultra-modern new-build – on the city's vibrant Wilcza Street, Nobu Hotel Warsaw perfectly captures this contrast. The 117 rooms and suites are spread across the two wings, offering guests the choice between minimal, industrial design with polished concrete walls in the new wing, or a more classical feel in the original building. All are adorned with artworks from the Jankilevitch Collection, a private collection of contemporary art based in Warsaw and Geneva. Created by Warsaw-based architects Medusa Group and long-term Nobu collaborator Studio PCH, the hotel is home to Nobu Restaurant and Café, blending the world-famous flavours of chef Nobu Matsuhisa with new dishes inspired by Polish cuisine, created by executive chef Yannick Lohou, who joins the team from Nobu Hotel Barcelona. www.nobuhotels.com





THE RITZ-CARLTON, NIKKO
Nikko, Japan

Home of Japan's spectacular Kegon Falls, Nikko is an outdoor adventure and cultural playground, where Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines speckle the landscape and lakes and mountains provide a blank canvas for adventurous travellers. Inspired by this natural setting, The Ritz-Carlton, Nikko, brings the outdoors in, incorporating natural materials like wood and stone across its 94 rooms and suites, all of which feature outdoor balconies and engawa lounge areas from which to soak in the views of Lake Chuzenji and Mount Nantai. Set in the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, guests can tap into the natural surroundings with bike rides through protected wetlands or excursions to nearby temples and shrines, or more adventurous activities such as climbing a frozen waterfall in winter. Guests who prefer a slower pace might prefer to meditate under a waterfall or join in with local cultural experiences such as learning the old art of furoshiki wrapping or watching a temple fire ceremony. The elegant spa is home to indoor and outdoor hot spring baths, fed by waters from the nearby Yumoto Onsen, as well as a range of treatments inspired by the region. www.marriott.com



SUSONA BODRUM
Bodrum, Turkey

The Aegean coast is a land of myths and legends, none more alluring than that of the Susona: a mermaid who dwells beneath the turquoise waters off the coast of Turkey. This legendary creature is the namesake of Susona Bodrum, a stunning collection of 76 rooms, suites and villas fanning out from two seashell-shaped buildings on a peninsula jutting out into Torba Bay. Five jetties surrounding the peninsula are dotted with daybeds and loungers affording easy access to the crystal-clear waters. Susona Bodrum's team of hosts will advise guests on the best spot for sunshine or sunset throughout the day and help arrange trips to local artisans such as Bodrum's traditional leather sandal workshops or the carpet makers of nearby Etrim village. Two of the resort's dining venues, Frankie Beach Club and Malva Restaurant, were created by Kaya Demirel, creator of the original Frankie Istanbul, while Ezi boasts panoramic views from a prized spot next to the rooftop infinity pool. Susona is the latest addition to Hiltons' LXR Hotels & Resorts, a collection of unique luxury properties around the world. www.hilton.com



STATE OF PLAY

Explore more together this summer and plan the perfect holiday with the coolest kids clubs and best family-friendly hotels



NIYAMA, MALDIVES

Those in the know travel to Niyama specifically for its famed Explorers Kids Club and its luxury haven for little VIPs. Explorers caters to four age categories – Globetrotter (12-35 months), Adventurers (3-4 years), Voyagers (5-7 years) and Pioneers (over eights) – with huge and beautifully designed indoor and outdoor spaces, featuring a playground, trampoline, splash park, stage and Munch, a gourmet kitchen. Located in the Isle of Play on Niyama, there is oodles to do at Explorers: culinary masterclasses, scout for dolphins, mini olympics, treasure hunts, tots tennis, snorkelling safaris, simulator games, kayaking, island adventures... Really, the sky's the limit. Parents seeking a little light social distancing from their mini-mes can also take advantage of the Babysitting Club and Private Nanny Service, for some all-about-you down-time. www.niyama.com





NO ADULTS ALLOWED

Our pick of the best child-friendly things to do, try and buy this month, from underwater adventures in the Great Barrier Reef, to fairy-tale hot air balloon rides, to the best ‘kids go free’ offers out there. Summer lovin’



SUMMER DAZE À LA DIOR

Dreaming of lazy, hazy summer days spent in the park, with your kids playing Tag and making daisy chains and shapes out of clouds? Baby Dior’s S/S20 Wonderpark collection has all the ingredients for both fantasy and fun. For girls, it’s all dresses and skirts draped in organza, silk and layers of frothy lightweight materials perfect for flouncing around chasing sunbeams without a care in the world. For boys, rolled up sleeves on lightweight shirts are paired with cooler-than-cool suit trousers made casual with elasticated ankles and

topped off with a waistcoat. Just add Dior logo-embazoned hightops for the pièce de résistance. As the sun sets, beautiful day-to-night jackets in pastel hues will keep little shoulders warm for the girls, punctuating fairy dresses with a toughened up attitude. So, wherever you’re spending your summer – from the Arabian coastline to Antigua to the Côte d’Azur – let Baby Dior be your child’s fashionable travel partner so they can experience the summer in style.

www.dior.com



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Stuck for things to do with the kids that keeps them out of the searing summer heat? The Galleria Al Maryah Island has launched a new ‘Kids Eat For Free’ summer campaign, that does what it says on the tin... Your hungry mini-mes can eat for free at participating restaurants, such as Burger Fuel, Sushi Art and La Brioche, as well as The Galleria’s Dining Collection restaurants like Eat Greek and Nolu’s Downtown (left). With bellies full, there’s loads to then keep the kids entertained: VOX Cinemas, Xtreme Zone, Caboodle edutainment hub, sports park, Books Kinokuniya and loads more. www.thegalleria.ae

PHOTO: GEMMA BOOTH

SWEET DREAMS

Circu's special project for real-life princesses, entitled 'Charlotte's Little Kingdom', is the creative brainchild of Marcos Marcelino, designed to bring the bedroom to life. The masterpiece of the project is the Fantasy Air Balloon, a one-of-a-kind themed bed that invokes the romantic and whimsical ambiance of a hot air balloon ride. Looking to add to the collection, you'll also find wallpaper, Fantasy Air Shelf, Magical Mirror, Fantasy Air Bookcase, Illusion Stools and Chair, Cloud Lamps and Toy Box. In soporific hues of soft pinks with hints of gold, just imagine the dreams that will emanate from a sleep in a bed as beautiful as this...

www.circu.net



FINDING NEMO (AND FRIENDS)

Now you can visit the Great Barrier Reef at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, without the need to travel Down Under. One of the seven natural wonders of the world will be revealed through a unique multimedia *Immersion* exhibition, allowing little guests to dive below the surface and meet some iconic underwater friends.

www.musee.oceano.org



MAKING A SPLASH

An amazing summer staycation offer comes courtesy of Grand Hyatt Abu Dhabi Hotel and its 'Kids R On Us' deal that allows children under 12 to stay for free in your room. In addition, they can also eat for free, while children under the age of 16 will get a 50 per cent discount on F&B. Oh, and there's unlimited (yes, you heard that right) ice cream for kids during meals. The staycation also includes early check-in/late check-out and complimentary breakfast. See you at the pool. www.hyatt.com



GENIUS MINDS

To engage young minds, Sharjah Public Libraries has launched Storytelling sessions, focusing on different themes, such as creating a home garden. Alongside this, kids can also get creative with arts and crafts sessions and a Book Club, designed to help encourage children to read and discuss the books that they've loved the most.

www.spl.gov.ae



ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

Making sure that its little guest's needs are top priority, Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaimah has introduced a 'Kids Concierge' personalised service. Junior guests will receive a 'Kids Passport' on arrival, along with special amenities and the chance to learn, explore and discover through a customised itinerary

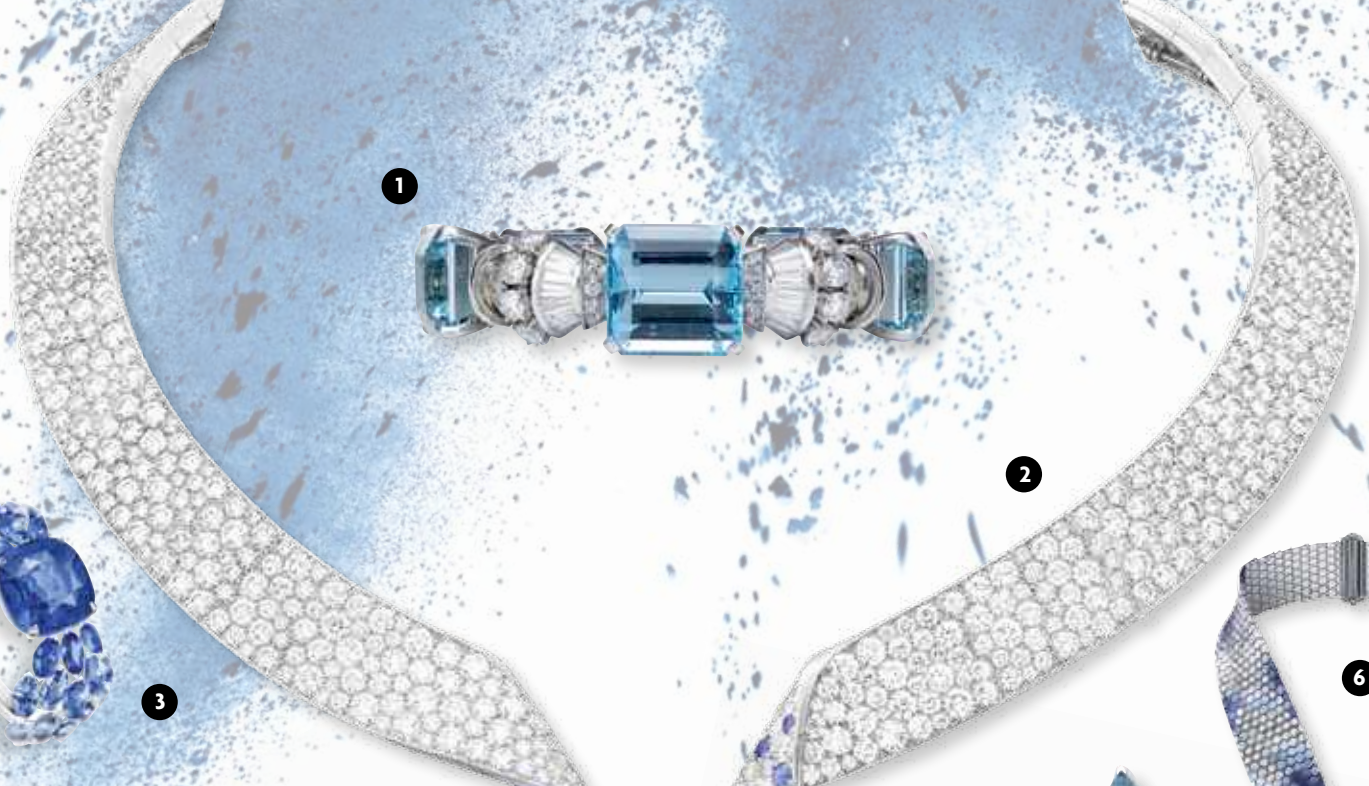
of fun-filled activities. Based on the weather, kids can enjoy energy-boosting outdoor games, such as Footgolf, football, archery and obstacle races, or stay indoors and try their hand at a Pizza Making Masterclass, join in a talent show, or get creative in colouring and crafting classes. A great initiative that puts children in the driving seat of their holiday adventures. www.waldorfastoria.com

RAIN DANCE

Delicious blue hues feature heavily in Boucheron's new Contemplation collection, such as these Bleu Infini earrings inspired by a raindrop.

Get lost in a sea of elegance,
with jewels that ripple in
hues of azure to aquamarine

INDIGO NIGHTS



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Bracelet, Tiffany & Co.

2. Rose Montague necklace, Van Cleef & Arpels

3. Golden Oasis Blue Waterfall ring, Piaget

4. Fanfare Classic sapphire ring, House of Garrard

5. Les Ciel de Chaumet 'Passages' earrings, Chaumet

6. Fenêtre sur Ciel necklace, Boucheron

7. Ring, Mahallati Jewellery

8. Gem Dior ring, Dior

9. Winston in Bloom necklace, Harry Winston

10. Peacock earrings, Dolce&Gabbana

11. Dentelle de Perles bracelet, Fabergé

12. Blue Velvet ring, Vhernier



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12



10



11

TAKE TO THE SKIES

A lake-to-lake private helicopter experience with Mandarin Oriental will take you into the clouds from Geneva to Lake Como



IF YOU'RE ANYTHING LIKE US, often there simply isn't enough time during one holiday to pack in everything you want to see or every destination you want to visit. Mandarin Oriental's new Lake-To-Lake Helicopter Experience, however, will help you combine the best of both city and serenity, with a two-fold stay at its Geneva and Lake Como properties. Start at Mandarin Oriental Geneva's peaceful retreat in the heart of the city on the banks of the River Rhône, where views over Mont-Salève will be your scenic backdrop, and the hotel's Peruvian restaurant, Yakumanka by Gaston Acurio, will send you into gastronomic overload. Then, jump aboard your helicopter

for a 75-minute flight over Lake Geneva to Mandarin Oriental's Lago di Como property. The hotel is plumped pretty between a beautiful botanical park and, of course, the main attraction, Lake Como. Drift away on the hotel's iconic floating pool on the lake or stroll through the picturesque villa gardens and its panoramic walking trails. The special package offers a one-night suite stay in each hotel (with either as your starting point), a helicopter flight, round-trip limousine transfers, a unique three-course bespoke dining experience in each hotel, as well as daily breakfast and a bottle of champagne upon check-in. Fly high. www.mandarinoriental.com



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