

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

December 2020

THE GLACIER EXPRESS

A snow-kissed train ride from
Zermatt to St. Moritz

GHOST WHISPERER

The purest expression of
Rolls-Royce yet

**POSTCARDS
FROM PARADISE**

Finding peace of mind in the
Maldives at Constance Halaveli

**CHASING THE
LIGHT**

ESCAPES, STAYCATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

EXCLUSIVE TIMEPIECES



EXQUISITE JEWELS



UNIQUE ESCAPES



LUXURY CARS

W ABU DHABI - YAS ISLAND PRESENTS

LIGHT IT UP

CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN STYLE

We've got your festive season set at W Abu Dhabi - Yas Island. From W2Go Turkey and festive brunches at Garage to upbeat tunes at WET Deck, making you sway your way into 2021. It's going to be LIT!

Glam. Shine. Sparkle.

#REVUP

Scan the code to know
What's New/Next this
festive season.



For reservations

wabudhabidining.com
02 656 0000
wabudhabi.dining@whotels.com

f @WAbuDhabi

CRUNCH & CRUMBLE

18/12/2020 – 07/01/2021

7AM – 8PM

W2GO TURKEY

18/12/2020 – 07/01/2021

B.I.G GOES FESTIVE

24/12/2020 | 6PM – 10.30PM

25/12/2020 | 1PM – 4PM

X'MAS ON ICE

24/12/2020 & 25/12/2020

2PM – 1AM

MISS-BEHAVE THIS X'MAS

24/12/ 2020 & 25/12/ 2020

5PM – 9PM

B.I.G REVUP TO 2021!

31/12/2020

7PM – MIDNIGHT

GLITZ INTO 2021!

31/12/2020 – 01/01/2021

10PM – 3AM

B.I.G KICKSTART '21

01/01/2021

1PM – 4PM



ABU DHABI

YAS ISLAND

CONRAD®

ABU DHABI
ETIHAD TOWERS

NEVER JUST CELEBRATE
CELEBRATE IN STYLE



Afternoon TEA

Lobby Lounge | 2pm - 6pm
Starting 14th of December, Daily

With its high ceiling, impressive Christmas tree and spectacular chandeliers, the Lobby Lounge offers a stunning festive ambience.

Perfect for guests to unwind with our famous Festive themed afternoon tea with hand crafted savory and sweet treats created by Executive Pastry Chef Sumeda Palihakkara.

Price
AED 220 per person

Observation Deck at 300 | 2pm - 6pm
Starting 14th of December, Monday - Saturday

Price
AED 220 per person
AED 100 surcharge per glass of bubbles

Thrilling Festive BRUNCH

Nahaam & Sole | 12:30pm - 4pm
25th of December

Enjoy a festive family brunch with live entertainment to complete the festive feel.

Enjoy live cooking stations and our festive buffet all whilst you toast with your egg nogg and mulled grape.

Santa will be there with his loudest 'ho ho ho' and there'll be plenty to keep the little ones engaged with complimentary pool access.

Price
AED 850 with bubbles
AED 680 with grape and hops
AED 550 with soft beverages

AED 200 Kids brunch with soft beverages, children from 6 - 12 years old
Under 6 years old dine with our compliments

New Year's Eve BRUNCH

Nahaam | 8pm - 11pm
31st of December

Delight in our family-friendly New Year's Eve Evening Brunch with live cooking stations and live entertainment.

Price
AED 850 with bubbles
AED 680 with grape and hops
AED 550 with soft beverages

AED 200 Kids brunch with soft beverages, children from 6 - 12 years old
Under 6 years old dine with our compliments

New Year's Day BRUNCH

Nahaam | 12:30pm - 4pm
1st of January

The first day of 2021 is all yours.
Start the New Year with a traditional New Year's Day Brunch.

With lovely ambience, casual poolside atmosphere, and beautiful and sumptuous foods, Nahaam is the perfect afternoon out to celebrate with family and friends.

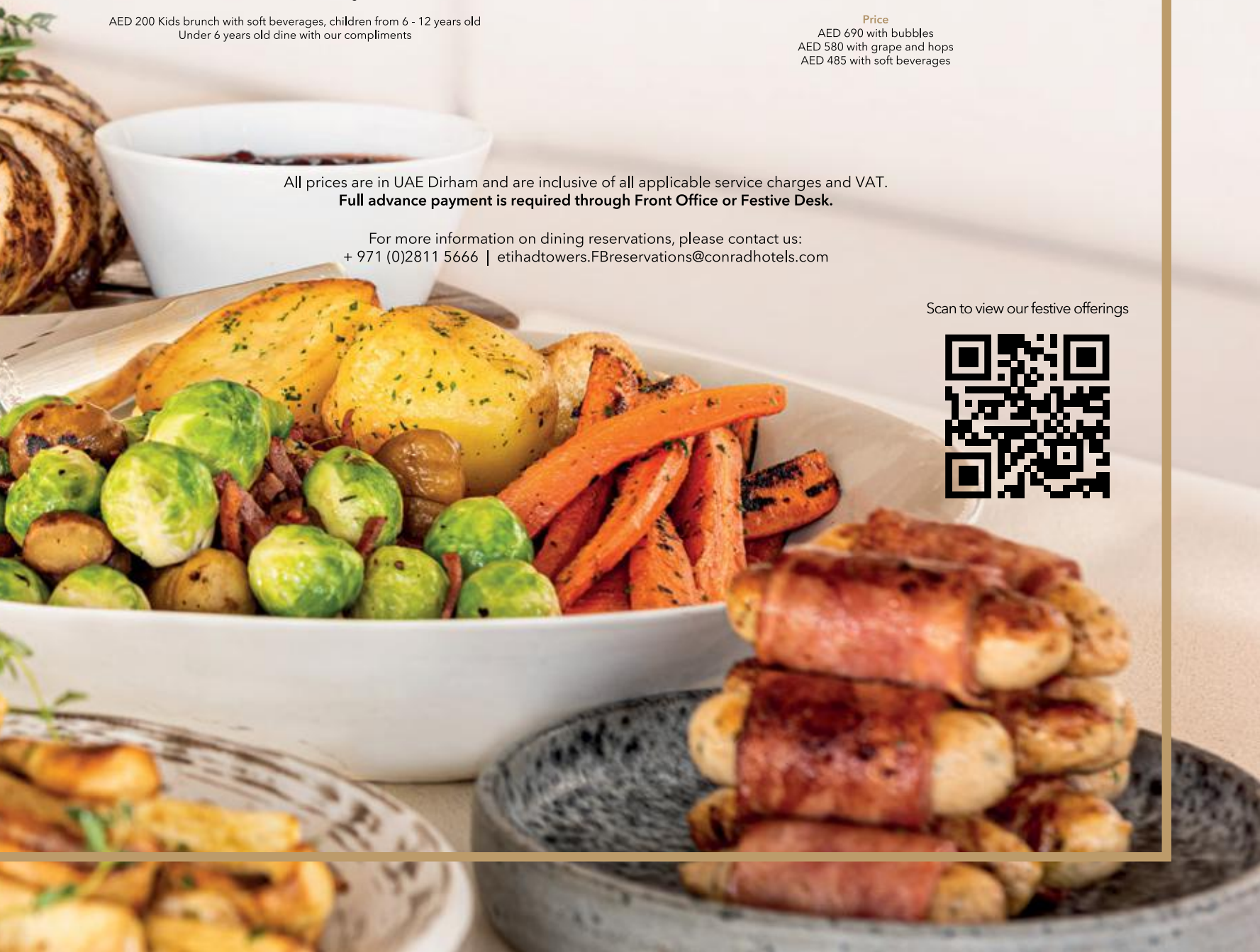
With complimentary pool access.

Price
AED 690 with bubbles
AED 580 with grape and hops
AED 485 with soft beverages

All prices are in UAE Dirham and are inclusive of all applicable service charges and VAT.
Full advance payment is required through Front Office or Festive Desk.

For more information on dining reservations, please contact us:
+ 971 (0)2811 5666 | etihadtowers.FBreservations@conradhotels.com

Scan to view our festive offerings



**MONT
BLANC** 

EXPLORER

THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR MEN



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AN ICON RETURNS IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE



THE REVOLVING DOORS OF LONDON'S beloved Carlton Tower Jumeirah will spin again this month following a major facelift courtesy of design and architecture studio 1508 London. Over the last three years, the company has completely transformed the interior architecture of the hotel to create a new modern classic, adding elegant lines and new sheen to public areas and reconfiguring the guestroom layout to create more space over fewer rooms.

The Knightsbridge address has been a magnet for well-heeled travellers since it first opened in 1961, providing a home from home on the

north side of leafy Cadogan Place. Architects made the most of this prestigious location when reimagining the 186 guestrooms, adding private balconies to signature and junior suites that afford spectacular views over the city.

On entering the hotel, visitors are greeted with the sight of a bespoke glass chandelier in the form of an abstract chrysanthemum, a tribute to nearby Cadogan Gardens; the former botanical garden turned private residents' garden square that hotel guests are able to access.

The Peak Fitness Club & Spa boasts a new Talise Spa complete with a 20-metre swimming

pool and poolside cabanas, lit by natural daylight that streams through a glass ceiling. Locals will be able to purchase memberships to the gym, which offer studio classes set to the backdrop of leafy rooftop views.

Regular visitors may lament the loss of The Rib Room, one of London's most celebrated steakhouses, but a new destination restaurant will appear in its place, with an open theatre-style kitchen and outdoor seating on Cadogan Place. The hotel's lobby lounge and bar, Chinoiserie, returns with a fresh new look and 'Cake-o-Clock' afternoon tea. www.jumeirah.com

FESTIVE FINERY WITH MAYFAIR'S LEADING FLORIST

MAKE YOUR VISIT TO LONDON A COLOURFUL one this festive season with a floral masterclass with Mayfair florist Ellie Hartley. Florist for Rocco Forte's Brown's Hotel since 2010, green-fingered Ellie will guide you through the process of creating a festive wreath from scratch using pinecones, berries, eucalyptus and velvet ribbons, set to the stylish backdrop of Brown's Roosevelt Room and accompanied by a glass of sparkling English fizz courtesy of Hampshire-based Hambledon's vineyard.

After completing the wreath, which is yours to take away, join a Hambledon's ambassador for a guided tasting session of all four of the vineyard's sparkling wines, followed by an afternoon tea created by head pastry chef Reece Collier. Following the three-hour festive masterclasses on December 6 and 12, which cost GBP £130 (US \$172) per person, Brown's will host a series of floral classes throughout 2021 to coincide with events including Mothers' Day and London's iconic Chelsea Flower Show. www.roccofortehotels.com





WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

DISCERNING JETSETTERS ARE WELL aware that there's more to winter season in Europe than skiing. From snowshoeing and ice climbing to tobogganing and more sedate wining, dining and après-ski, there's plenty to keep winter wanderers busy, especially in the Austrian resort of Lech, where one of the town's hideaways has added new treats for the 2020/21 season.

This year, Kristiania Lech has transformed from a 29-room hotel to a 15-suite private chalet, offering guests the option of booking an individual suite or the entire hotel for the ultimate private winter escape. Rooms removed from the inventory will be home to several artists in residence for the season, whose work will complement owner Gertrud Schneider's private collection of 20 contemporary paintings, sculptures, prints and tapestries that adorn the walls of the hotel.

The family-run property offers

a host of unique experiences, from a dedicated reading butler and private outdoor cinema, to a dog butler to look after man's best friend and a private dance club with its own DJ. But the icing on this cake is a new wildlife safari, which will take guests on a guided winter wonderland tour in the mountains around the hotel. A private guide will school guests on how to spot and track animal footprints in the snow – including wild ibex, chamois and the elusive snow rabbit.

After a morning exploring, guests will be treated to an open-air Champagne picnic on the side of the mountain, with views of the Vorarlberg Mountains, while snuggled up in blankets and Moroccan rugs next to a roaring fire bowl: the ultimate après for non-skiers. Rooms start from EUR 800 (US \$948 approx.) on a full board basis or book the entire chalet for EUR 17,000 (\$20,138 approx.) per night. www.kristiania.at



LET LOUIS VUITTON INSPIRE YOUR NEXT SOJOURN

PARISIAN BOUTIQUE HOTEL BRACH PARIS is hosting a Louis Vuitton pop-up bookstore showcasing the luxury brand's finest travel and art publications until mid-January. Éditions Louis Vuitton, the publishing arm of the French fashion house that started out as a travel trunk-maker in 1854, has been producing travel titles since the late 1990s, when it launched the first of its city Guides collection. Today, the collection stands at more than 30 titles, each filled with recommendations on where to shop, eat and stay for a Vuitton-clad traveller.

In the same spirit, Louis Vuitton Travel Books explore the world through the eyes of various creators – artists, illustrators, poets and writers – with sketchbooks dedicated to well-known capitals and lesser-known corners of the globe; while Louis Vuitton Fashion Eye uncovers various destinations through the eyes of a fashion photographer, combining the two leading pillars of this well-travelled brand.

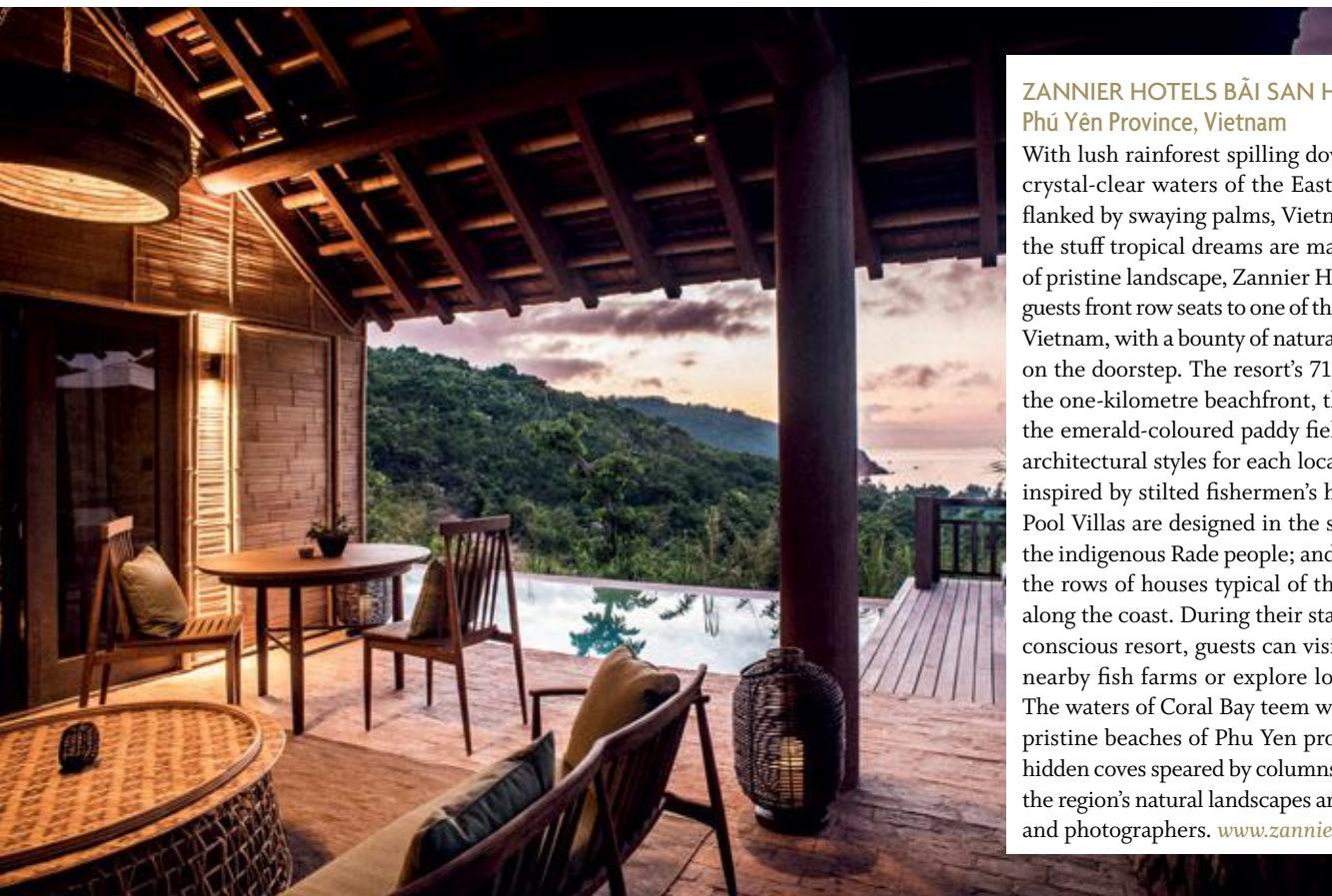
Paris-bound travellers will find them all in the pop-up store at Brach Paris, a laid-back lifestyle hotel in the 16th arrondissement with a spectacular roof-top garden overlooking the Paris skyline.

www.evokhotels.com



Debut | December

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



ZANNIER HOTELS BÃI SAN HỒ Phú Yên Province, Vietnam

With lush rainforest spilling down mountainsides to the crystal-clear waters of the East Sea and sugary beaches flanked by swaying palms, Vietnam's Phu Yen province is the stuff tropical dreams are made of. Set in 98 hectares of pristine landscape, Zannier Hotels BãI San HỒ will give guests front row seats to one of the most fascinating parts of Vietnam, with a bounty of natural and man-made wonders on the doorstep. The resort's 71 villas are nestled among the one-kilometre beachfront, the sprawling hillside and the emerald-coloured paddy fields, showcasing different architectural styles for each locale. Paddy Field Villas are inspired by stilted fishermen's houses of the region; Hill Pool Villas are designed in the style of the longhouses of the indigenous Rade people; and Beach Pool Villas mirror the rows of houses typical of the Cham people who live along the coast. During their stay at this eco and culture-conscious resort, guests can visit local communities and nearby fish farms or explore local markets with a chef. The waters of Coral Bay teem with marine life, while the pristine beaches of Phu Yen province are peppered with hidden coves speared by columns of solidified lava. Inland, the region's natural landscapes are a wonderland for hikers and photographers. www.zannier.com

ULTIMA COURCHEVEL Courchevel, France

Each winter, the slopes of Courchevel are colonised by an army of well-heeled skiers, drawn to the alpine resort by the promise of pristine slopes, world-class hospitality and perhaps the best après-ski in Les Trois Vallées. Adding a dash more glam for the 2020/21 season, Ultima Courchevel opens this month with 13 slope-side chalets overlooking the pine-covered flanks of the Dent du Villard and the Tarentaise Valley below, each offering four or five en-suite bedrooms that provide an elegant base from which to explore the wonders of the French Alps. Those staying in these exclusive pine chalets – each of which features a fully-fitted kitchen, balconies, bronze fireplace and signature artwork – can make use of the 24-hour concierge, private chef, butler and housekeeper, so they can focus on maximising their slope time. Ultima Courchevel also boasts an indoor/outdoor pool and a separate indoor pool in its wellness, beauty and fitness area, as well as a hamman and Jacuzzi for post-ski thawing. The resort's ski concierge team will organise outings to suit all, from ski lessons or an excursion to Cime Caron Glacier, to alpine discovery tours for beginners. www.ultimacourchevel.co



BANYAN TREE KRABI Krabi, Thailand

From the waters of the Andaman Sea, the jungle-covered mountains of Krabi resemble the undulating form of the Great Naga, a mythical sea serpent believed to inhabit the hinterland of Thailand's western coast. The legend lives on at Banyan Tree Krabi, where in-house design team Architrave has drawn upon the mythical beast to inform the design throughout this beachfront hideaway. A spectacular open-sided lobby created by Bangkok-based PIA Interior Company Limited looks out across turquoise waters of the Andaman and the mighty limestone karsts that stand vigil offshore, before descending via an elaborate, Naga-themed staircase through a circular pool that cascades into a cavernous grotto below. The 72 rooms and suite boast private saltwater pools and westward-facing sunset views, with bright, modern interiors inspired by the natural landscape. The crown jewel is the seven-bedroom Presidential Villa, made up of three adjoining beachfront abodes that form a princely retreat for multi-gen groups or wedding parties. True to Banyan Tree form, the resort is home to a rainforest-inspired spa offering Thai massage and treatments using local ingredients such as coconut potions and pearl powder, while the Kids' Club will entice younger visitors with its mini-waterpark and saltwater pools. At the very peak of the resort, signature restaurant Saffron promises jaw-dropping views across the ocean from dramatic bird's nest style tables, while The Naga Kitchen promises all day-dining and southern Thai flavours. www.banyantree.com



WHITE ELEPHANT PALM BEACH Florida, USA

The former Bradley Park Hotel in Palm Beach Florida has reopened as White Elephant Palm Beach, a stylish urban escape where local heritage meets contemporary culture. Following a complete interior rebuild courtesy of Boston-based Elkus Manfredi Architects, the boutique hotel boasts 13 rooms and 19 suites positioned around a U-shaped courtyard, with tropical landscaped gardens and a poolside patio and ice cream cart. Like the original White Elephant Nantucket, guests are welcomed into the hotel by a seven-foot white elephant statue by Santa-Fe artist Frederick Prescott. Neutral colours dominate, with hardwood floors and Carrara marble creating a calming natural effect throughout, but bright splashes of colour in the custom-designed furniture and upholstered headboards complement the vibrant artwork for a modern feel. Outside, the original Mediterranean-revival style façade retains its period characteristics, with black and white awnings adding a dash of contemporary style. An outpost of Lola 41, the original restaurant in Nantucket, spills out onto the poolside for seafood lunches and al fresco dinners; and for exploring further afield, guests can use complimentary Priority Bicycles or arrange a downtown drop-off in the hotel's fleet of BMWs. www.whiteelephanypalmbeach.com

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a mountain town, likely Zermatt, Switzerland, during winter. The scene is dominated by snow-covered rooftops and evergreen trees. In the center, several multi-story buildings are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. To the right, a prominent church spire is visible. The background shows steep, snow-covered mountains under a clear night sky.

ALPINE ALLURE

A whirlwind, winter wonderland train journey through Switzerland's alpine heartland, bookended by two of Europe's most celebrated ski resorts. Sarah Freeman goes off-piste to uncover the cultural and gourmet delights of Zermatt and St. Moritz



WHEN SEEING IS BELIEVING

A luxury hideaway with a magical setting in the Maldives, Emily Baxter-Priest finds out how Constance Halaveli is casting a spell over its island guests





PAST PERFECT

An urban sanctuary that pays homage to heritage, grandeur and refinement, St. Regis Abu Dhabi - Nation Towers mines the past in order to translate age-old hospitality codes into contemporary appeal for a discerning, modern guest

PHOTOGRAPHY: Mark Field





SKY LIGHT

Chopard's L'Heure Du Diamant collection reflects the glittering chandeliers of a flamboyant festive evening. The perfect holiday season adornment

FROSTED NIGHTS

Dust yourself in diamonds for a festive season set to sparkle



- 1.** Tweed brooch, Chanel
- 2.** Earrings, Dior
- 3.** Fantina earrings, Pomellato
- 4.** Ball Bypass bracelet, Tiffany & Co.
- 5.** Marcia earrings, Georg Jensen
- 6.** Perles Impéiales ring, Breguet
- 7.** Feuilles de Laurier necklace, Boucheron
- 8.** Oasis Dancing Water Ring, Piaget
- 9.** Ring, Mahallati
- 10.** Virya ring, Versace
- 11.** Necklace, Harry Winston
- 12.** Diamond Krush cuff, Messika
- 13.** Earrings, Suzanne Kalan at Net-a-Porter
- 14.** Perlée Clover ring, Van Cleef & Arpels

PURITY OF SPIRIT

Reduction, refinement and perfection in simplicity, Emily Baxter-Priest discovers why the new Ghost is Rolls-Royce's purest expression yet





3 DAYS, 19 HOURS, 14 MINUTES

That is how long it took for **Howard Hughes** to circumnavigate the world and become the fastest man in the air in 1938. He trusted his Longines astronavigation chronometer to determine the position of his airplane at night or over the ocean.



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