

# DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD news

Essential travel intelligence

January 2021

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Island-hopping, culture and  
cuisine in the Caribbean

## GO BEYOND GREEN

The future of sustainable tourism

## PEAK TIME

Timeless travels with Hublot  
and The Chedi Andermatt



# MEANINGFUL TRAVEL

2021'S ROAD TO RECOVERY: SPAS, RETREATS AND RECALIBRATIONS

EXCLUSIVE TIMEPIECES



EXQUISITE JEWELS



UNIQUE ESCAPES



LUXURY CARS



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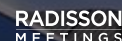
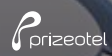




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[www.radissonhotels.com/staycationsuae](http://www.radissonhotels.com/staycationsuae)





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A luxurious one-island-one-resort destination featuring a collection of 120 idyllic beach-front pool villas, breathtaking overwater villas and spacious two-bedroom villas. Just a mere 20 minutes' speedboat ride from Velana International Airport, barefoot luxury and the stunning beauty of Maldives awaits you.



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# CONTENTS

January 2021

## IN THE NEWS

### 18 Europe

Dreaming of an Italian summer; Kempinski returns to the mountains; Princely ambitions in Western France; A quintessentially British countryside experience

### 20 Middle East & Africa

Travel with a clear conscience with Beyond Green; Get set for a journey of African wonders; Support community tourism in rural Jordan

### 22 Asia & Oceania

The Chedi returns to Thailand; Beachfront bliss in Bora Bora; Explore Ho Chi Minh like a boss; Five-star wellness in Bangkok

### 24 Americas

Rocky mountaineer journeys south in the US; Arty investments at Waldorf Astoria; Designer digs in the Turks & Caicos

### 26 Debut

Hot hotels, chic boutiques and exclusive new resorts

### 28 Gourmet News

The land of plenty in Riyadh; The race is on; The Big Apple hits Dubai; In table talks

### 29 Restaurant Review

Authentic Greek food with a side-order of plate smashing at Opa in Dubai



## DESTINATIONS

### 32 Luxury Amongst The Lapping Waves

Boating, beach holidays and basking in culture – how to island hop your way around the Caribbean

### 42 Escapes

The dreamiest hotels around the world and the best offers to tempt you there, from nature calls in Langkawi and mountain mindfulness in Gstaad, to 'working from home' in the Maldives



## HOTELS

### 48 Handle With Care

Start 2021 with the mantra 'health is wealth', then come with us on a wellbeing adventure to seven of the world's best spa retreats

### 56 Sculpting Success

Why family comes first at the designed Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers

### 60 Arabian Journeys

Short-haul itineraries for your next Arabian adventure

### 64 No Adults Allowed

The luxury travel intel all the cool kids are talking about, from what to wear, what to do, and where to go to burn off energy in the Emirates



## SPEND IT

### 68 Jewels

All things bright and beautiful... Jewellery boxes get a lavish touch with nature-filled colour injections

### 70 Watches

Pantone's 2021 colour illuminates wrists, with sun-kissed dials, yellow diamonds and slivers of silver

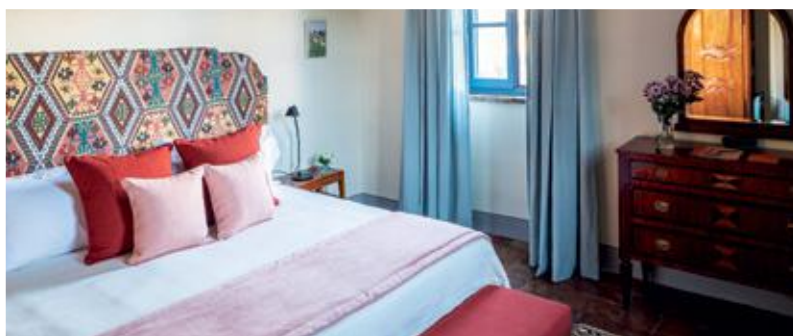
### 72 Time Is Precious

Hublot and The Chedi Andermatt keep their on the time with an incredible ski-filled collaboration





# DREAMING OF AN ITALIAN SUMMER



A SHORT DRIVE FROM THE HILLTOP TOWN OF SAN GIMIGNANO and its Medieval towers, Borgo Pignano is a 750-acre estate where time stands still in the warm haze of the Tuscan countryside. Laid out around an 18th-century villa with 14 rooms and suites, the borgo is a working estate with kitchen gardens, olive groves, vineyards and a winery; the fruits of which can be sampled at two elegant on-site restaurants. There's also a Flour Lab where fresh bread and pasta are made daily from ancient grains grown on the estate, an apiary that produces organic honey, and a herb garden stocked with fragrant and medicinal plants

used to make perfumes and scented oils used in the Pignano Wellness Centre and for guest bathroom amenities.

In addition to the accommodation in the main building, a collection of maisonettes and private villas are scattered around the grounds and their Etruscan-era hamlet, boasting views of the surrounding landscape from a privileged position 500 metres above sea level.

This year sees the return of Villa La Fonte, a sprawling farmhouse in a quiet corner of the estate surrounded by gardens and fields that has been fully refurbished to make the most of the space. Five en-suite bedrooms provide

plenty of scope for extended families or groups to travel together, with private swimming pool, fully equipped kitchen and a generous outside terrace where al fresco meals can be enjoyed while looking out across the Tuscan landscape. From US \$3,040 per night.

April will see the addition of the brand Villa La Lavandaia, a two-bedroom abode at the highest point of the borgo, with a gorgeous terrace and swimming pool that looks out across the rolling hillside and a fully-equipped kitchen in which to make the most of the region's delicious produce. From \$1,459 per night.

[www.borgopignano.com](http://www.borgopignano.com)

## KEMPINSKI RETURNS TO THE MOUNTAINS

EUROPE'S OLDEST INDEPENDENT HOTEL COMPANY is raising a new flag in the mountains of central Switzerland with the introduction Kempinski Palace Engelberg, a century-old historic hotel at the foot of Mount Titlis that will become the first five-star hotel in the region. The Art Nouveau style property will emerge as the latest addition to Kempinski's glamorous portfolio this spring, following a major transformation that will see the addition of an 880-sqm rooftop spa and infinity pool, new-look bars and restaurants and the tasteful reimagining of its 129 rooms and suites.

Formerly the Europäischer Hof Europe Hotel, the palace has served as both a hotel and hospitality school since it first opened in 1908, and today features a new wing connected to the original property by a historic Kursaal, a public events space that will host elegant weddings and events in the future. The hotel joins Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains in St. Moritz as the second luxury Kempinski hotel in Switzerland.

Kempinski is also set to take over two small hotels connected by an underground tunnel in the resort town of Melchsee-Frutt, near Lucerne, combining the two to form Frutt Mountain Resort, managed by Kempinski.

[www.kempinski.com](http://www.kempinski.com)







## A QUINTESSENTIALLY BRITISH COUNTRYSIDE EXPERIENCE

DORCHESTER COLLECTION'S RURAL RETREAT, Coworth Park, is set in 240 acres of beautiful British countryside, where meadows, polo fields and tranquil lakes are framed by mature woodland on the outskirts of Ascot. Guestrooms and suites are spread across the original 18th-century mansion house, a modernised stable block and several outbuildings scattered around the estate; and last month saw the addition of the North Lodge, an idyllic, Tudor-style gatehouse cottage on the edge of the grounds.

Furnished in a simple and elegant

country style, with materials and furnishings made by British artisans and craftsmen, the three-bedroom hideaway contains cosy nooks for fireside gatherings, snug corners for private moments and a fully fitted kitchen-dining room with plenty of space to entertain and the optional services of a dedicated chef. A private gated entrance and parking means guests will enjoy complete privacy, whether dining outside on the garden deck, an in-suite spa treatment or preparing to set off and explore the great British countryside.

[www.dorchestercollection.com](http://www.dorchestercollection.com)

DID YOU HEAR?

PARK HYATT IS POISED TO MAKE A MUCH-ANTICIPATED ENTRANCE ONTO LONDON'S LUXURY HOTEL SCENE IN 2022 WITH A GLEAMING NEW ADDRESS WITHIN THE NINE ELMS DEVELOPMENT ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE THAMES. THE 203-ROOM PARK HYATT LONDON RIVER THAMES WILL OVERLOOK WESTMINSTER AND THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE RIVER, FROM A NEW TOWER AT THE CENTRE OF THE RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT, CLOSE TO THE NEW AMERICAN EMBASSY.



## PRINCELY AMBITIONS IN WESTERN FRANCE

AMERICAN HOTELIER KEVIN WENDLE – the man behind Mexico's lauded Hotel Esencia on the Riviera Maya – has purchased the Château de Curzay in western France, an 18th-century castle that he plans to turn into a destination hotel complete with organic farm and equestrian centre. Situated halfway between the Loire Valley and Bordeaux in a quiet corner

of France surrounded by fields and forests, the French Baroque style chateau is named after the nearby town of Curzay-sur-Vonne, the latter being the name of the river that runs through the 120-hectare estate.

Over the next two years, the castle will go through a complete renovation before emerging as Hotel Esencia - Château de Curzay

in 2022. Wendle's unique style and eye for detail, evidenced at the original Esencia, which he acquired and remodelled in 2014, will see fresh new interiors inspired by the castle's history, with modern touches, international influences and plenty of local art and craftsmanship. In addition to the chateau, the sprawling grounds are home to an equestrian centre

and secret gardens, and Wendle plans to add a health and wellness centre, organic farm and a network of walking and cycling trails.

The former TV and film producer, who worked on, amongst other things, the hit series *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* in the early '90s, previously owned homes in Paris and Saint Tropez.

[www.hotelesencia.com](http://www.hotelesencia.com)



# Debut | January

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



## FOUR SEASONS HOTEL BANGKOK AT CHAO PHRAYA RIVER Bangkok, Thailand

Blurring the boundary between the urban environment and the natural world, Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok at Chao Phraya River is a tranquil hideaway set along 200 metres of landscaped riverfront. Inspired by the eternal flow of the river, legendary designer Jean-Michel Gathy has created a collection of indoor-outdoor spaces that transport guests to the Thai countryside via a series of pools and water features. A dedicated ART Space features works curated by Gathy in partnership with the Bangkok Museum of Contemporary Art, and guests can meet the artisans and craftsmen who designed and built the furniture used in the 299 guestrooms and suites during a bespoke Old Bangkok walking tour. Talks, art and local experiences celebrate the youthfulness of modern Bangkok and the vibrant Charoenkrung neighbourhood where the hotel is situated; a vibe that will be echoed in Buenos Aires-inspired BKK Social Club, where one can sup on South America and Thai-inspired cocktails. The hotel is part of the Chao Phraya Estate, a 14-acre waterfront development by Malaysia and Singapore-based architects Hamiltons International, which will also feature 366 Four Seasons Private Residences. [www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com)

## NIRJHARA Bali, Indonesia

The emerald-coloured rice paddies of southwest Bali form a patchwork of green, stitched together by life-giving rivers stretching from the volcanic interior to the Indian Ocean at its fringes. In this midst is Nirjhara, a sustainable hideaway near the beaches of Canggu and the island temple of Tanah Lot, where 25 suites and villas provide a tranquil escape. The word Nirjhara means waterfall in Sanskrit, a tribute to the rushing waters that flow past the tropical resort, pool and jungle villas made from reclaimed havea wood, traditional *sirap* roofing and natural stone, blend into the natural environment. Seven treehouse Canopy Suites each have their own rooftop lounge, with spectacular views of the surroundings, as well as furniture made using traditional weaving techniques, coconut panelling and contemporary Balinese art. Almost all ingredients used at Ambu restaurant come from local farms and suppliers, while natural products used at The Retreat spa are sourced from across Bali. Local experiences allow guests to make connections with the island and its people, from surfing lessons and horse rides on the beach, to a market tour with a local or a day of spiritual healing. [www.nirjhara.com](http://www.nirjhara.com)



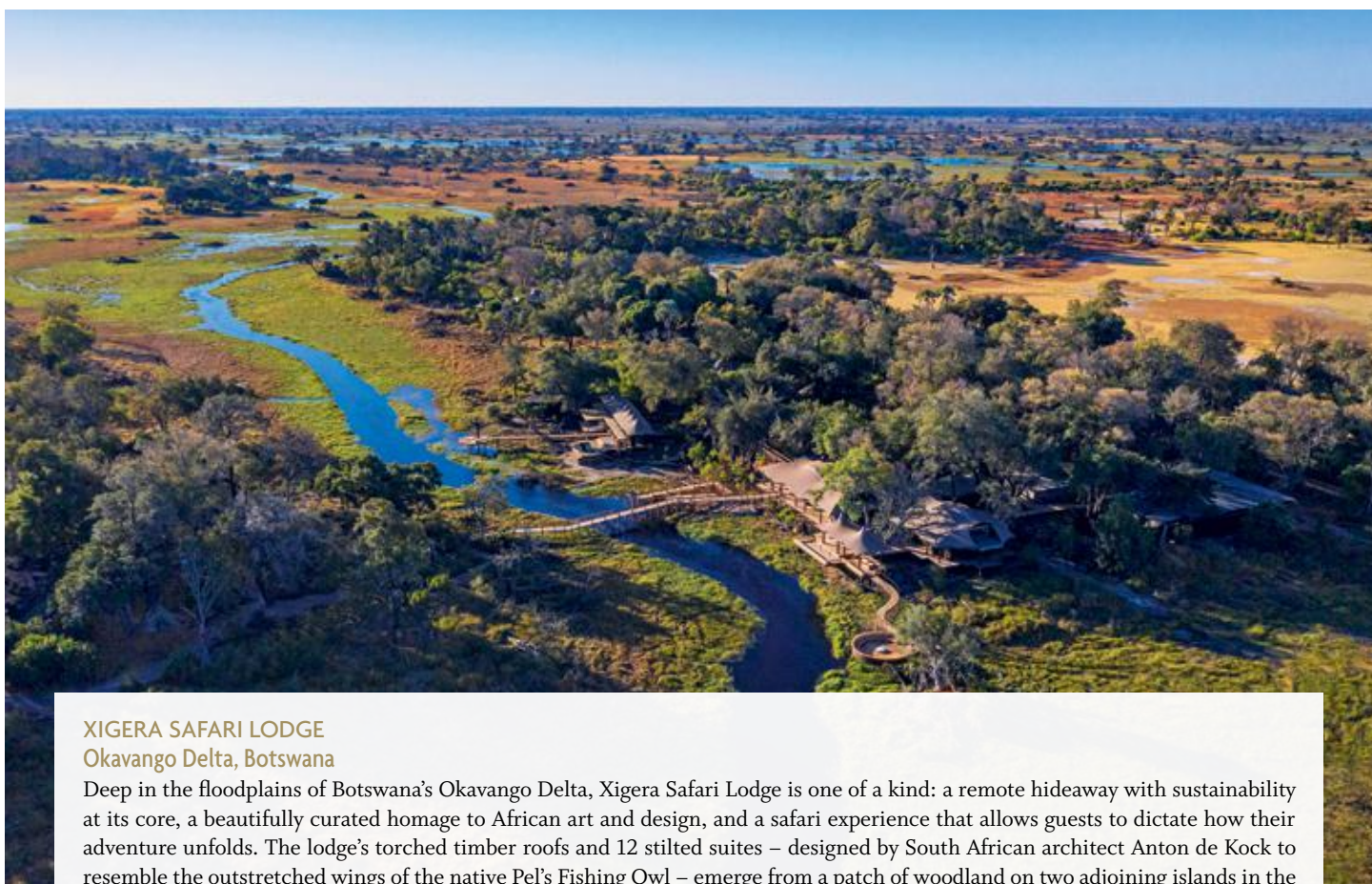




#### THE ADDRESS DUBAI BEACH RESORT Dubai, UAE

Towering high above the residential buildings of Jumeirah Beach – giants in any other setting – the zero-shaped outline of Address Beach Resort is the new focal point of this bustling corner of Dubai. A collection of 217 guestrooms and suites occupy one of the glass-fronted towers, while its twin, connected by a dizzying multi-storey sky bridge, is home to 443 fully-furnished serviced apartments and 478 unfurnished residential apartments. Guests and residents have access to a 100-metre beach, adults-only and family friendly swimming pools, and state-of-the-art fitness facilities at The Spa at Address. Crowned by a spectacular infinity pool on the 77th floor and the ZETA Seventy Seven rooftop lounge, where tantalising Asian-inspired dishes are accompanied by breath-taking views across Palm Jumeirah and Dubai Marina, the hotel is destined to become an essential spot for sundowners and glamorous afternoons by the pool. Downstairs, there's Lebanese-Brazilian fusion at Li Brasil, flame-grilled flavours at The Beach Grill and all-day dining at The Restaurant, a signature across the Address Hotels + Resorts family.

[www.addresshotels.com](http://www.addresshotels.com)



#### XIGERA SAFARI LODGE Okavango Delta, Botswana

Deep in the floodplains of Botswana's Okavango Delta, Xigera Safari Lodge is one of a kind: a remote hideaway with sustainability at its core, a beautifully curated homage to African art and design, and a safari experience that allows guests to dictate how their adventure unfolds. The lodge's torched timber roofs and 12 stilted suites – designed by South African architect Anton de Kock to resemble the outstretched wings of the native Pel's Fishing Owl – emerge from a patch of woodland on two adjoining islands in the Moremi Game Reserve. Staying here means embarking on game drives whenever the urge arises, exploring the waterways in traditional canoes or glass-bottomed boats and indulging in Tata Harper therapies in the waterfront spa, before returning to swap stories and feast around the lodge's firepit and its totemic sculpture by blacksmith Conrad Hicks. Pronounced Kee-Jera, Xigera is the passion project of Toni Tollman – daughter of Red Carnation Hotels founder Beatrice Tollman – who has worked with designer Philip Fourie and Cape Town gallery Southern Guild to fill every space with art, furnishings and décor created by artists and craftsmen from all over Africa. And the promise of sustainability is no joke: the entire lodge is powered by a 400kW Tesla solar hybrid power plant that supplies 95 per cent of its energy needs, and hot water comes from thermodynamic geysers deep below the Delta. [www.xigera.com](http://www.xigera.com)



An aerial photograph of a tropical resort. In the foreground, there's a lush green area with palm trees and a swimming pool. A sandy beach with lounge chairs and umbrellas is visible. In the background, a large, steep, forested mountain rises against a clear blue sky. The resort buildings are nestled among the trees.

# LUXURY

## AMONGST THE LAPPING WAVES

Boating, beach holidays and basking in culture –  
how to island hop your way around the Caribbean

WORDS BY Adam Jacot de Boinod







# HANDLE WITH CARE

As the saying goes, health is indeed wealth, so make 2021 the year of 'you'. Start nurturing the needs of your mind, body and soul, for restorative ROI and lasting well-being







## CHENOT ESPACE AT ONE&ONLY PORTONOVİ, MONTENEGRO

When it opens its doors in March this year, Chenot Espace at One&Only Portonovi in Montenegro, promises to become an all-encompassing wellness destination. The resort will, in fact, be the first One&Only to offer Chenot Espace, a transformative journey of detoxing and resetting the body based on the renowned Chenot Method®. Using advanced diagnostic tests, pioneered by Chenot, enables the team to identify what is ageing a guest's body and how to set new pathways to improve their performance and wellbeing.

After the initial consultation stage, each guest will receive a personalised programme involving nutritional recommendations, detox menus, fitness schedules, targeted spa treatments, stress relieving activities and more, all designed to stimulate the body to eliminate toxins, trigger repairing and regenerative actions, resulting in increased energy levels and vitality. This path to physical and mental enlightenment comes neatly wrapped up in a typical One&Only cocoon of luxury. With the resort's positioning on the Adriatic coastline, intoxicating views are a much-needed tonic, while the elegant rooms and suites give you space to breathe, making this wellness retreat very much 2021's must-try.

[www.oneandonlyresorts.com](http://www.oneandonlyresorts.com)





# NO ADULTS ALLOWED

Our pick of the best child-friendly things to do, try and buy this month, from letting off steam at Dubai's new Battle Park or splashing out at the emirate's newest family-friendly resort to falling in love with autumn fashion



## FALL IN LOVE WITH FASHION

We can all thank Bloomingdale's for keeping our kids in cool kicks this season, as the luxury department store has knocked another collection out of the park. Entitled *Embrace Together*, the store's A/W20 buy breathes warm light into the usual chill of a Middle Eastern winter, with tones inspired by the natural beauty of Mother Nature. Reflecting a mood of calm at a time when we need it the most, with a side order of stylish witticism to ensure little fashionistas find fun in fashion, the season dresses men, women and children, with brands that range from Isabel Marant and Stella McCartney to Off-White, Versace and Dolce & Gabbana. Fashion favours the bold when it comes to youngsters invested in looking and feeling good. Pretty prints from Monnalisa, MSGM, Versace and Stella McCartney shout the loudest, while Zimmermann, Mon Cheri and Junona add style and substance to occasionwear. Boys looking to stand out from the crowd can turn to Boss, while those with a rebellious streak can wear outdoor-ready, statement-making pieces from MSGM, cool and comfy camo prints and cargo prints from Moncler or go loud and proud, with über-cool logo prints from Dolce & Gabbana. If your kids are running wild, cosying up indoors, or simply like a good game of old-fashioned dress up, Bloomingdale's A/W20 collection will certainly let them dance to the easy, breezy beat of fall fashion. [www.bloomingdales.ae](http://www.bloomingdales.ae)





## GO INTO BATTLE

Let your kids blow off some steam at Town Square Dubai's awesome new Battle Park. An urban escape aimed at getting kids active and keeping them entertained, Battle Park offers Paintballing and its own IBATTLE gaming system, with advanced high-tech equipment for the ultimate life-like gaming experience. The action-packed adventure is open to kids as young as seven, and recreates adrenalin-infused battle scenarios and recreational combat experiences, to give kids a taste of teamwork, target shooting and the opportunity to disconnect from the stresses of day-to-day life. What kid doesn't want to escape into a world of adventure, huh?! [www.battlepark.ae](http://www.battlepark.ae)



## IN THE LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE

Opened for the festive season, but running until the end of January, Alice's Wonderland is a beautiful, fantastical experience that transformed Al Khawaneej Walk into a fairy-tale destination for children who love to see their favourite stories come to life. Along the walk, you'll be greeted by characters from Alice In Wonderland, including Alice, the Mad Hatter and the White Rabbit, while a Magical WonderMaze, Enchanted Garden, Wishing Lake, Mad Hatter's Tea Party, theatre and outdoor cinema will keep young imaginations excited and inspired. [www.alkhawaneejwalk.ae](http://www.alkhawaneejwalk.ae)



## ISLAND LIFE IN DUBAI

Riu Dubai, Nakheel's 800-room joint venture with Spain's RIU Hotels & Resorts, is now open on Deira Islands, meaning there's another must-visit entertainment destination to take the kids. Dubai's first all-inclusive beachfront resort has a Splash Water World park, three swimming pools, two children's pools, water

sports and a RiuLand kids club. Plus, with 800 rooms for you to choose from, a gym, a spa (with sauna and hydromassage bathtub), swim-up pool bar and 10 bars and restaurants, it means a stay here can be just as much about you as the kids. Book the two-bed Presidential Suite, with kitchenette and balcony, for the ultimate family-friendly home-away-from-home. [www.riu.com](http://www.riu.com)

## JUMPING FOR JOY

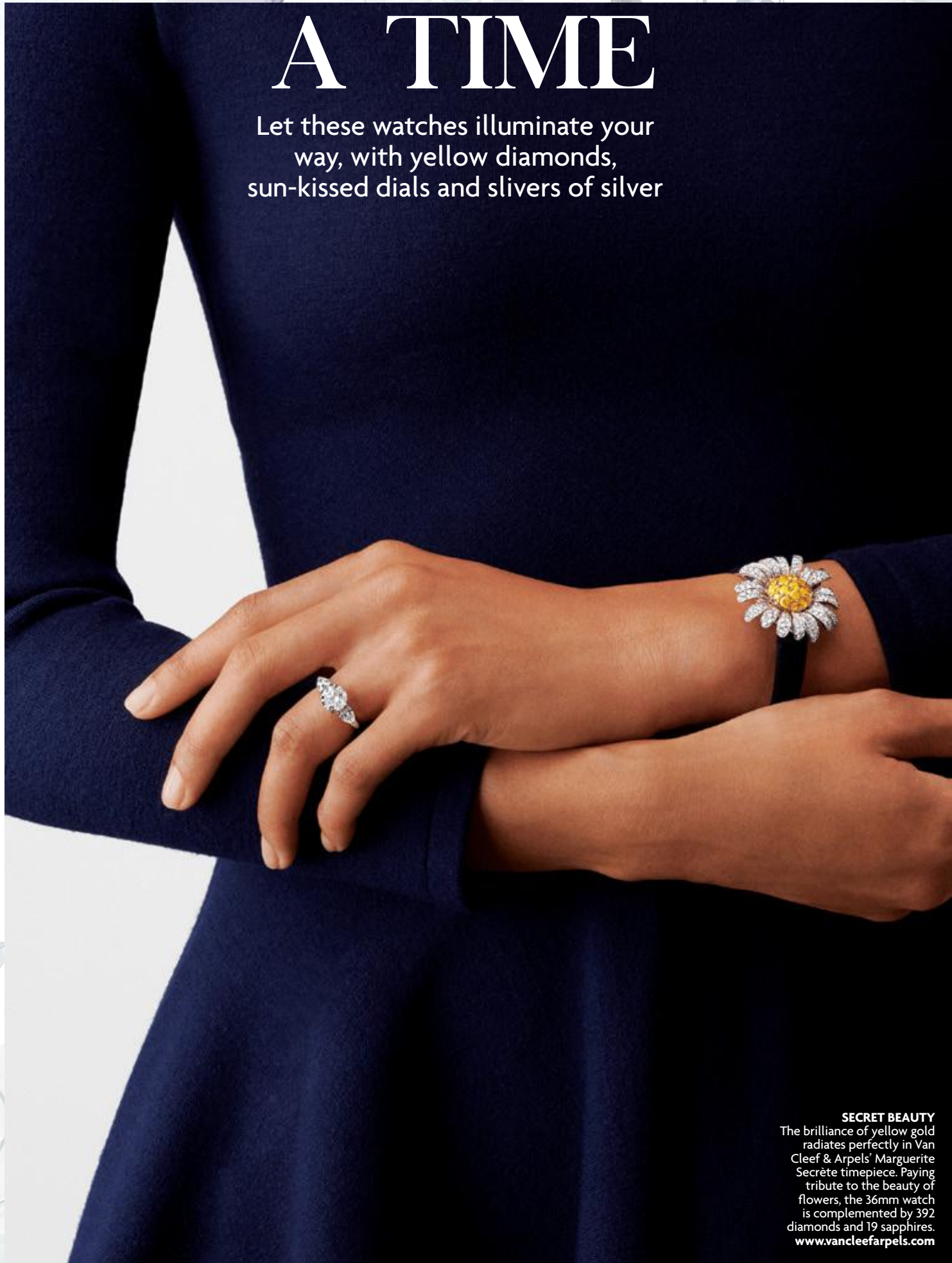
Bounce – one of the UAE's most popular entertainment destinations – has taken its freestyle jumping revolution outside, opening a new 'pop-up trailer' at Umm Al Emarat Park in Abu Dhabi. While kids benefit from the fresh air and outdoor exercise, they can also test their climbing strength on The Wall, show off their Parkour skills, shoot hoops and, obviously, practise their trampolining skills to their hearts' content. The trailer will be at Umm Al Emarat Park – the UAE capital's biggest green space – until April 2021, giving you plenty of time to take advantage of the better weather. So let your kids forget about the serious stuff and let them literally jump for joy. [www.ummalemaratpark.ae](http://www.ummalemaratpark.ae)



SPEND IT WATCHES

# ONCE UPON A TIME

Let these watches illuminate your way, with yellow diamonds, sun-kissed dials and slivers of silver



**SECRET BEAUTY**

The brilliance of yellow gold radiates perfectly in Van Cleef & Arpels' Marguerite Secrète timepiece. Paying tribute to the beauty of flowers, the 36mm watch is complemented by 392 diamonds and 19 sapphires. [www.vancleefarpels.com](http://www.vancleefarpels.com)



**SPEND IT WATCHES**



La D'Or Dior Précieuse 21mm watch, in white gold, with dial, case and bracelet set with diamonds and yellow diamonds  
www.dior.com



Superocean Automatic 46 black steel watch, 46mm diameter, with yellow dial and 25 jewels  
www.breitling.com

Écllosion de Chaumet watch, in 18ct white gold, bezel paved with 72 brilliant-cut diamonds and inlaid with yellow and rose threads  
www.chaumet.com



Royal Oak 'Jumbo' extra-thin 39mm watch, with 18ct white gold 8mm thick case and 'Petite Tapisserie' dial  
www.audemarpiguet.com



Magari Red Carpet Collection 35mm watch, in white gold with white and yellow diamonds  
www.chopard.com



Gucci Grip two-window 35mm watch, gold PVD engraved with the GG logo  
www.matchesfashion.com

Baume et Mercier Eco-friendly quartz 41mm watch, Acier PVD Noir polished steel case and slate-grey, Sun satin-finished dial  
www.mrporter.com



26mm Ocean Biretrograde Automatic watch, with mother-of-pearl dial, round brilliant diamonds and an 18ct gold case  
www.harrywinston.com

Dazzling Rendez-Vous Moon 36mm watch in rose gold, with diamonds and mother-of-pearl dial  
www.jaeger-lecoultre.com



Crystal rose watch, 34mm, with 215 micro-pavé crystals and a silver-tone sunray dial  
www.swarovski.com

Marguerite Secrète 36mm watch, with with a yellow and white gold clip with round diamonds  
www.vancliefarpels.com



Limited Edition Octo Finissimo Tourbillon Chronograph, 43mm, with ultra-thin skeleton movement and sand-blasted titanium case  
www.bulgari.com





## 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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