

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

March 2021

**THERE'S SOMETHING
IN THE WATER**

Iceland's natural healing
powers

RAJA AMPAT

Could this be nature's
final frontier?

INTO THE UNKNOWN

Discovering West Africa's most
inaccessible islands

IMAGE NATION

Photography and fresh
perspectives on the UAE

**THE VIEW
FROM HERE**

EXPLORING THE EMIRATES: BEAUTIFUL HOTELS AND CHIC STAYCATIONS

EXCLUSIVE TIMEPIECES



EXQUISITE JEWELS



UNIQUE ESCAPES



LUXURY CARS

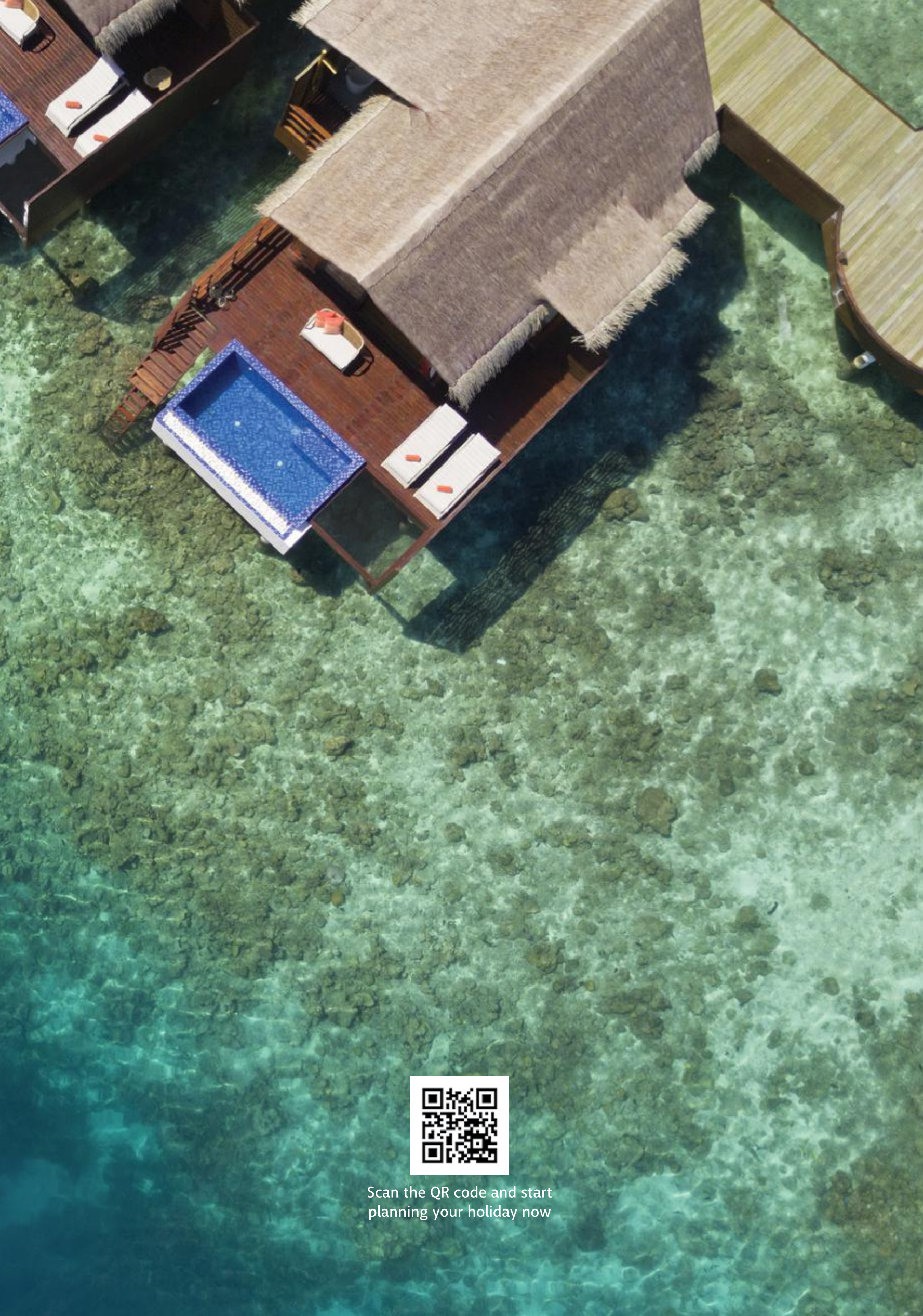
Making Moments in Time

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**MONT
BLANC**



EXPLORER

THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR MEN



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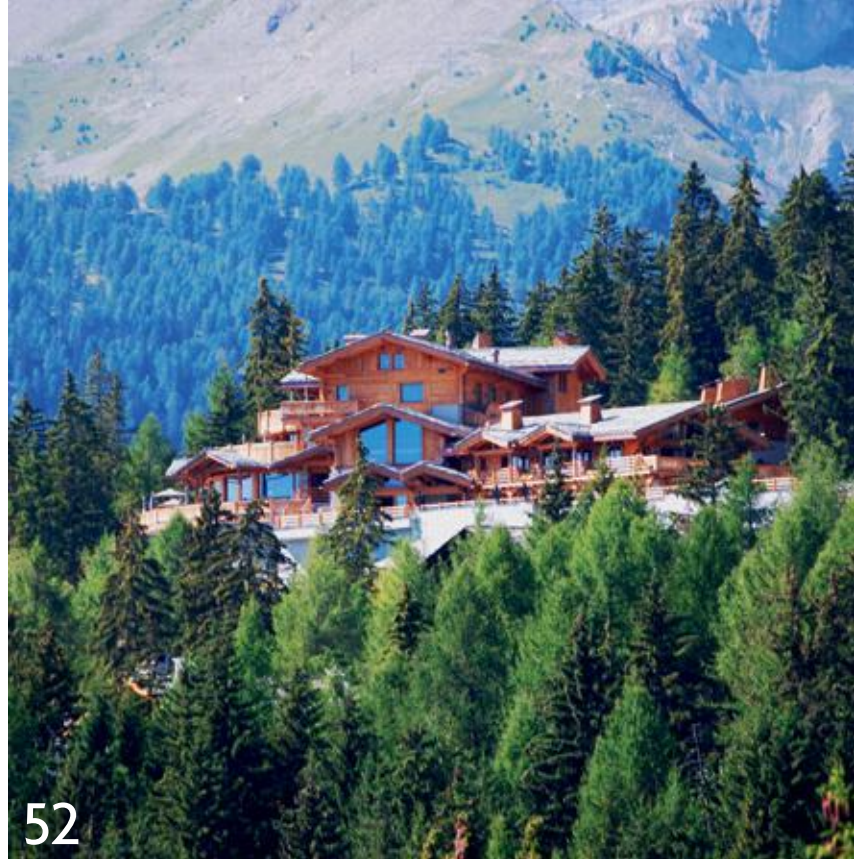
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— Constance,
stepping gently
through the Indian Ocean —

True by Nature

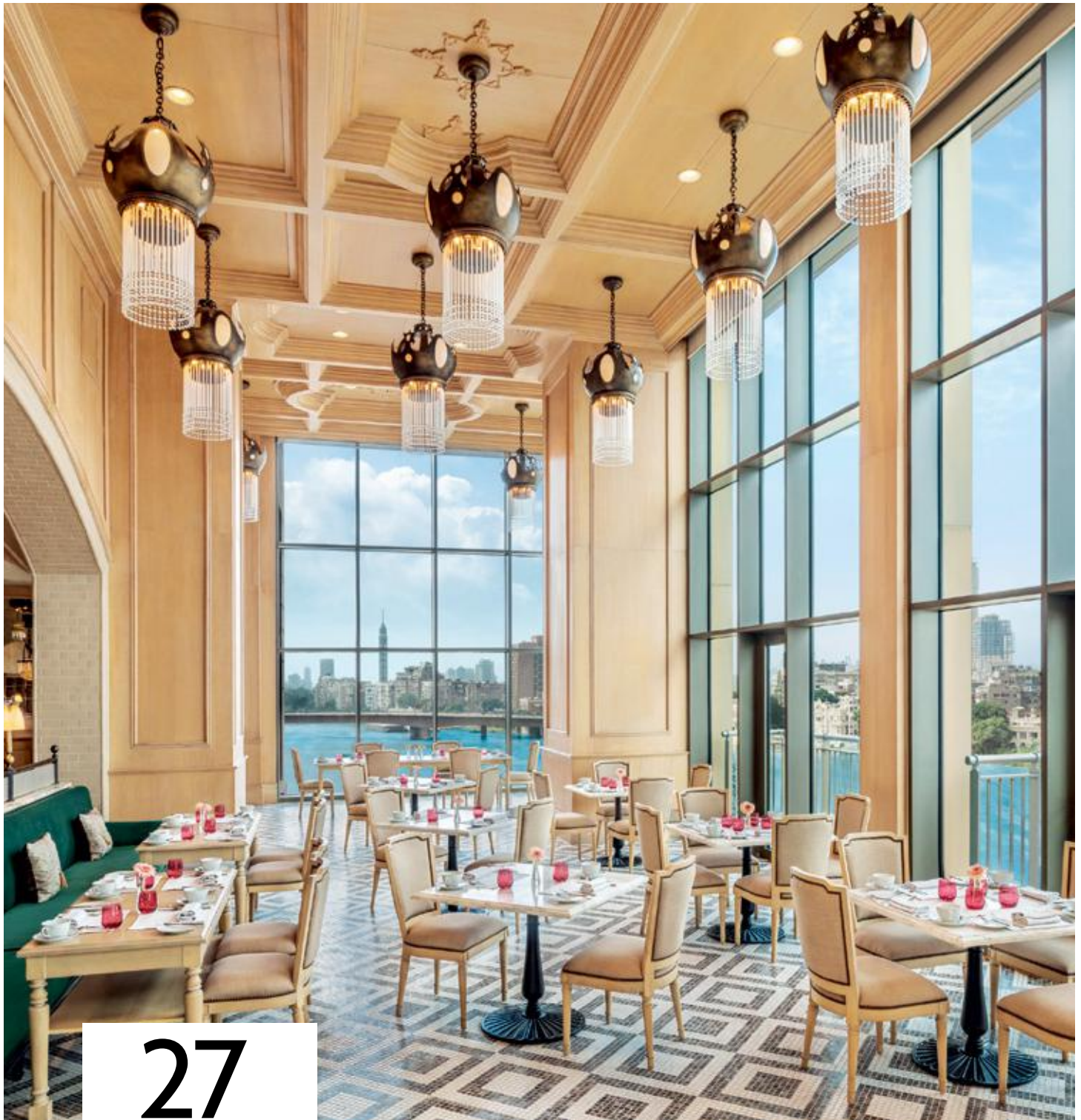


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NEWS

HOT EVENTS, NEW HOTELS AND GLOBAL JET-SETTERS

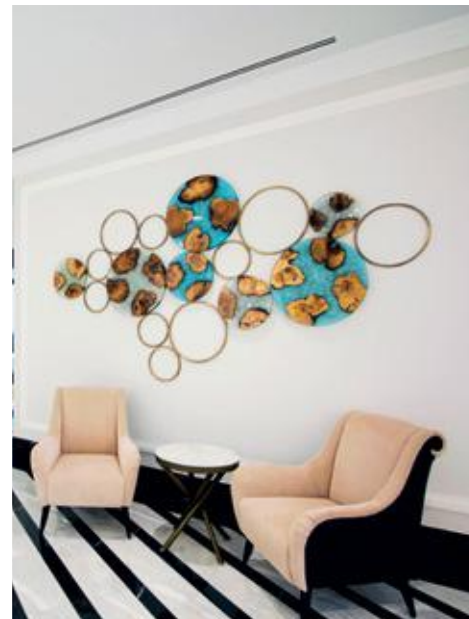
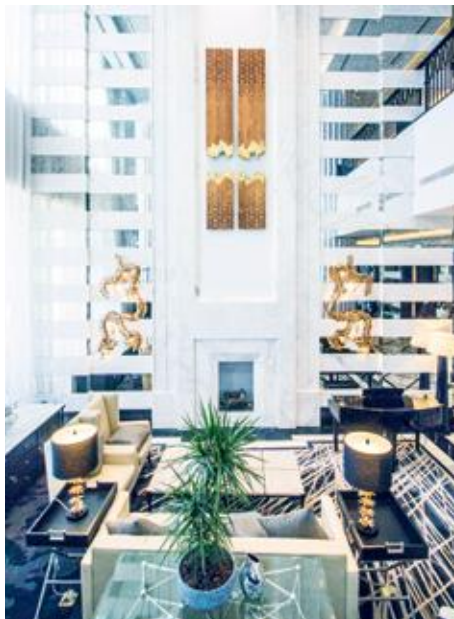


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AN ARIA IN ASIA

Always one of our favourite topics to cover each month is Debuts, bringing you the hottest new hotels openings from around the world. Capella Hanoi gives us butterflies all the way from the beauty of its iconic building to the bright bursts of colour throughout – each an ode to the operatic culture so intrinsic in Hanoi society.

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STORYTELLING AND ART AT THE ST. REGIS AMMAN

FEW ASPECTS OF A HOTEL'S INTERIOR DESIGN CREATE A SENSE of place as profoundly as its art collection; a belief shared by the team at The St. Regis Amman when they commissioned UK-based art consultancy Artlink to curate a collection of work produced entirely by Levantine artists for the hotel. The company scoured the region for emerging and established artistic talent whose work captures the sense of old-meets-new evident in St. Regis hotels around the world, which celebrate the brand's New York roots while immersing guests in the culture and heritage of each destination.

The result is a collection of 754 artworks created by 162 artists from across Jordan and the wider Levant, including sculptures,

glassworks, paintings, photographs, mosaics and embroidery, all referencing cultural ties and traditional crafts.

Taking centre stage is the large-scale mosaic mural *Drinkers of the Wind*, which hangs behind the bar. Inspired by Jordanian Princess Alia Al Hussein's book *The Story of Jordan's Arab Horses*, the piece celebrates the noble steeds that have played an important role in the lives of the Bedouin since the 18th century.

Artlink teamed up with local design studio Aperçu to create a collection of works made by fusing wood, stone and metal with more contemporary materials like resin to produce striking, artworks that are now on display in the soaring lobby and elsewhere around the ground

floor. The company also collaborated with non-profit organisation Jordan River Foundation to work with female artists in the production of a series of works depicting Jordan's national flower, the Black Iris, and artist Julia Ibbini pays tribute to Islamic architecture and symbolism in her collection of works, which combine digital patterns with traditional patterns and craftsmanship.

By working with the local community and artists to tell the story of Jordan's heritage through art and design, Artlink has infused The St. Regis Amman with a genuine sense of place that delivers a flavour of Jordanian culture from the moment guests arrive.

www.artlink.com / www.marriott.com

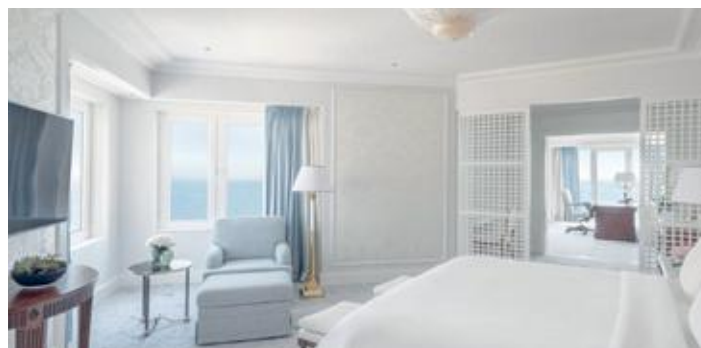
TAKING LUXURY TO NEW LEVELS IN DOHA

POISED ELEGANTLY AT THE TIP OF DOHA CORNICHE in the popular West Bay neighbourhood, Four Seasons Hotel Doha is a key address for anyone visiting the Qatari capital. Almost a year after unveiling a major renovation throughout the hotel, the final touches are now complete following the unveiling of two premium suites that raise the bar for luxury living in Doha.

Designed by award-winning interior designer Pierre-Yves Rochon, the Presidential Suite and the Royal Suite are situated in the upper floors of the hotel, affording spectacular views of the Arabian Gulf and the Doha skyline.

At 260 square metres, the Royal Suite is the largest in the hotel: a two-level penthouse that's home to two bedrooms with en suite marble bathrooms and walk-in wardrobes, and a double-height living room with soaring ceilings and breath-taking floor-to-ceiling windows. The vast living space is perfect for entertaining: as well as a fully-equipped kitchen and formal dining room with space for 14 guests, the living room features a grand piano and three wrap-around balconies affording sweeping views of the city and the Gulf beyond.

The Presidential Suite is slightly smaller but has the added benefit of a private entertainment lounge complete with comfy seating and 75-inch LED TV. Both have been beautifully dressed in soothing shades of white, blue and bronze, complementing the colours of the sky, sea and sand beyond the windows, and guests of both suites enjoy the undivided attention of a personal butler. www.fourseasons.com





KEMPINSKI'S CALL OF THE WILD WITH TANZANIAN TRIO

TANZANIA'S NORTHERN CIRCUIT is home to some of the most rewarding wildlife and outdoor adventure experiences on the planet; a vast expanse of conservation areas and natural parks speckled with lakes and mountains, where much of sub-Saharan Africa's most spectacular wildlife roam. Intrepid travellers will soon be able to experience all that this mighty destination has to offer from a trio of new luxury lodgings, as Kempinski Hotels reveals plans to open three luxurious properties by 2023.

Stretching from the Serengeti in the west to Tarangire in the east, the three lodges have been imagined by GAPP, the South African architecture and design studio that has earned a reputation for low-impact, sustainable designs thanks to its work with luxury safari outfit Singita. Each property will be unique to its wilderness locale, with an emphasis on expansive roofs that blend into

their surrounds, spacious outdoor living spaces and interiors by Cape Town-based Source IBA.

The smallest of the three, Kempinski Msasa Lodge Lake Manyara sits on a ridge above the shore of the lake, with panoramic views of the surroundings and the abundant bird and wildlife that rely on the life-giving waters. To the west, Kempinski Longosa Lodge Serengeti is set in spectacular surroundings on the edge of Serengeti National Park, with 75 rooms and suites, including a 400 sqm Presidential Villa; while Kempinski Kitbong Hill Tarangire is surrounded by baobab trees in the 2,600 square kilometre Tarangire National Park, home to some of the largest herds of elephants in Tanzania.

The lodges will allow Kempinski fans to plan a three-stop trip around the Northern Circuit, or choose their favourite spot to experience the natural wonders of northern Tanzania. www.kempinski.com

TAKE A LUCKY DIP WITH THE SAFARI COLLECTION

CURATING THE PERFECT KENYAN SAFARI HOLIDAY takes careful planning and research, but with so many luxury lodges, dreamy destinations and one-of-a-kind experiences to choose from, it's easy to get overwhelmed with the details. The Safari Collection is taking the pain out of planning the perfect safari escape with its new Lucky Dip, a seven-night mystery safari with an action-packed

itinerary that will only be revealed to guests a week before departure.

The trip will include stays in at least two of the company's four luxury hotels and lodges in Kenya, as well as unique experiences at each, including starlit dinners in the bush, sundowners with rhinos and pampering spa treatments.

The Safari Collection comprises four unique hotels, including Giraffe Manor in Nairobi, which is home to

a herd of Rothschild's giraffe who regularly make an appearance at the windows of the breakfast room, and Salas Camp, which sits at the confluence of two rivers in the southern corner of the Masai Mara, affording spectacular views of the annual wildebeest migration.

North of Nairobi, Solio Lodge is the only property within the 45,000-acre Solio Game Reserve, the most successful private rhino

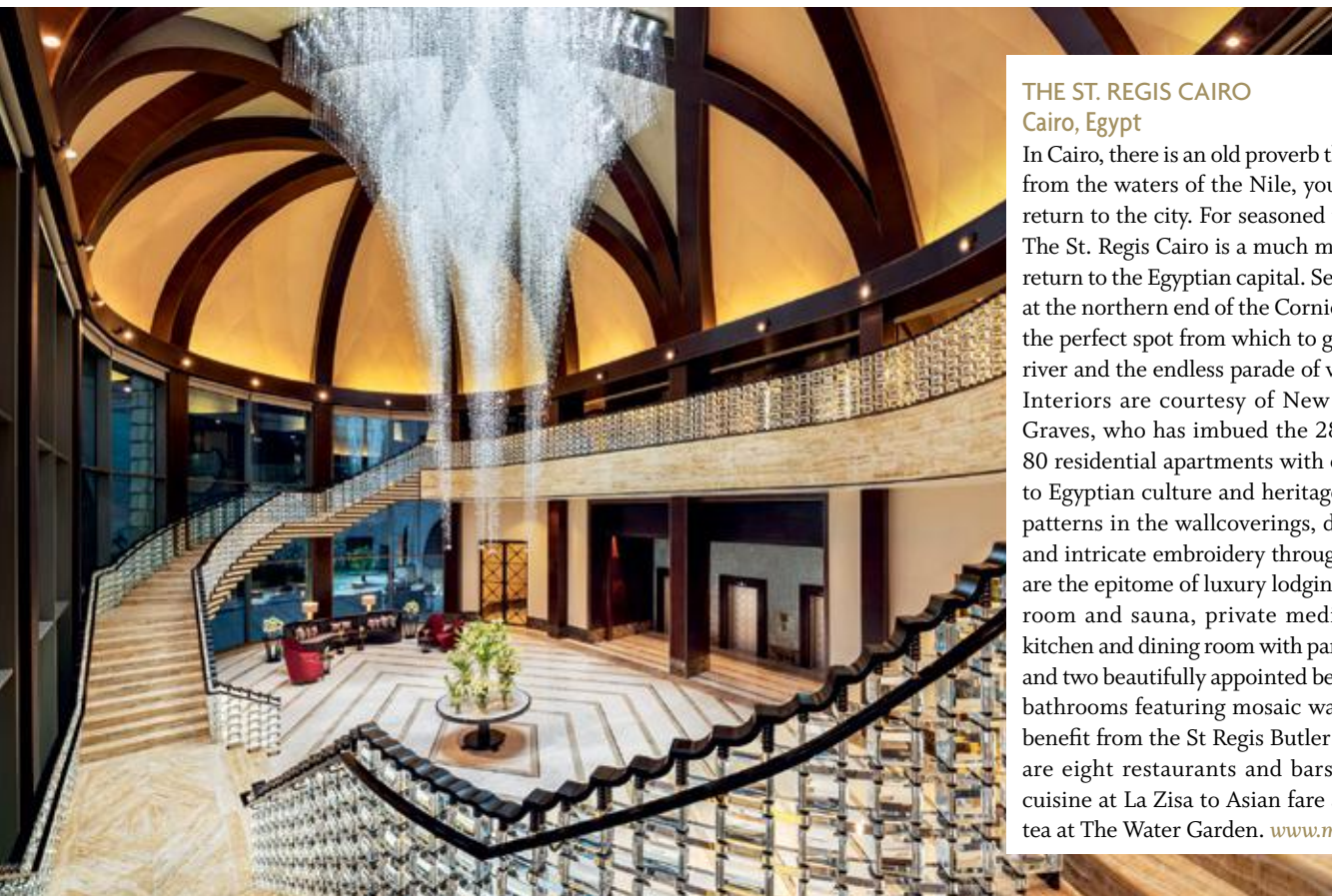
breeding reserve in Kenya; while Sasaab is situated in Kenya's northern Frontier District, near to Sambaru National Reserve, where lion, leopard and cheetah prowl the vast Laikipia Plateau.

The all-inclusive Lucky Dip trips start from £3,715 (US \$5,156) per person on a sharing basis, and are available for bookings and travel before May 31.

www.thesafaricollection.com

Debut | March

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



THE ST. REGIS CAIRO Cairo, Egypt

In Cairo, there is an old proverb that states that if you drink from the waters of the Nile, you are destined to one day return to the city. For seasoned travellers, the opening of The St. Regis Cairo is a much more compelling reason to return to the Egyptian capital. Set on the banks of the river at the northern end of the Corniche, the 39-storey hotel is the perfect spot from which to gaze at the world's longest river and the endless parade of vessels that ply its waters. Interiors are courtesy of New York architect Michael Graves, who has imbued the 286 rooms and suites and 80 residential apartments with elements that pay tribute to Egyptian culture and heritage, such as subtle papyrus patterns in the wallcoverings, dark woods, rich textures and intricate embroidery throughout. Three Royal Suites are the epitome of luxury lodgings, with dedicated fitness room and sauna, private media room, fully-equipped kitchen and dining room with panoramic views of the Nile, and two beautifully appointed bedrooms with marble-clad bathrooms featuring mosaic walls. All rooms and suites benefit from the St Regis Butler service. Food-wise, there are eight restaurants and bars, from Southern Italian cuisine at La Zisa to Asian fare at Tianma and afternoon tea at The Water Garden. www.marriott.com

SLS CANCUN Riviera Maya, Mexico

Synonymous with fun-loving luxury, the SLS brand continues its march around the world with this gleaming new hotel in Cancun, perched on the edge of the Caribbean in the ultra-luxury Novo Cancun gated community. The exclusive enclave sits on 250 metres of beachfront with its own beach club and marina, and guests have access to an 18-hole Tom Weiskopf-designed golf course, as well as a vast array of shops, restaurants and cinemas. Imagined by Milan-based architect and designer Piero Lissoni – the man behind The Middle House in Shanghai and the Conservatorium Hotel in Amsterdam, amongst others – the 45-room hotel is adorned with artworks, antiques and local craftsmanship that blend local culture with American and European sensibilities. SLS's signature Ciel Spa will offer treatments including endermologie, massages and anti-ageing facials available at indoor or outdoor treatment rooms, while Chef Jose Icardi brings his unique Argentine fusion cuisine to Leynia. Lissoni's touch will also be evident in the designer residences, which will boast spacious Caribbean-view balconies and SLS service when they open later in the year. www.sbe.com





W MELBOURNE Melbourne, Australia

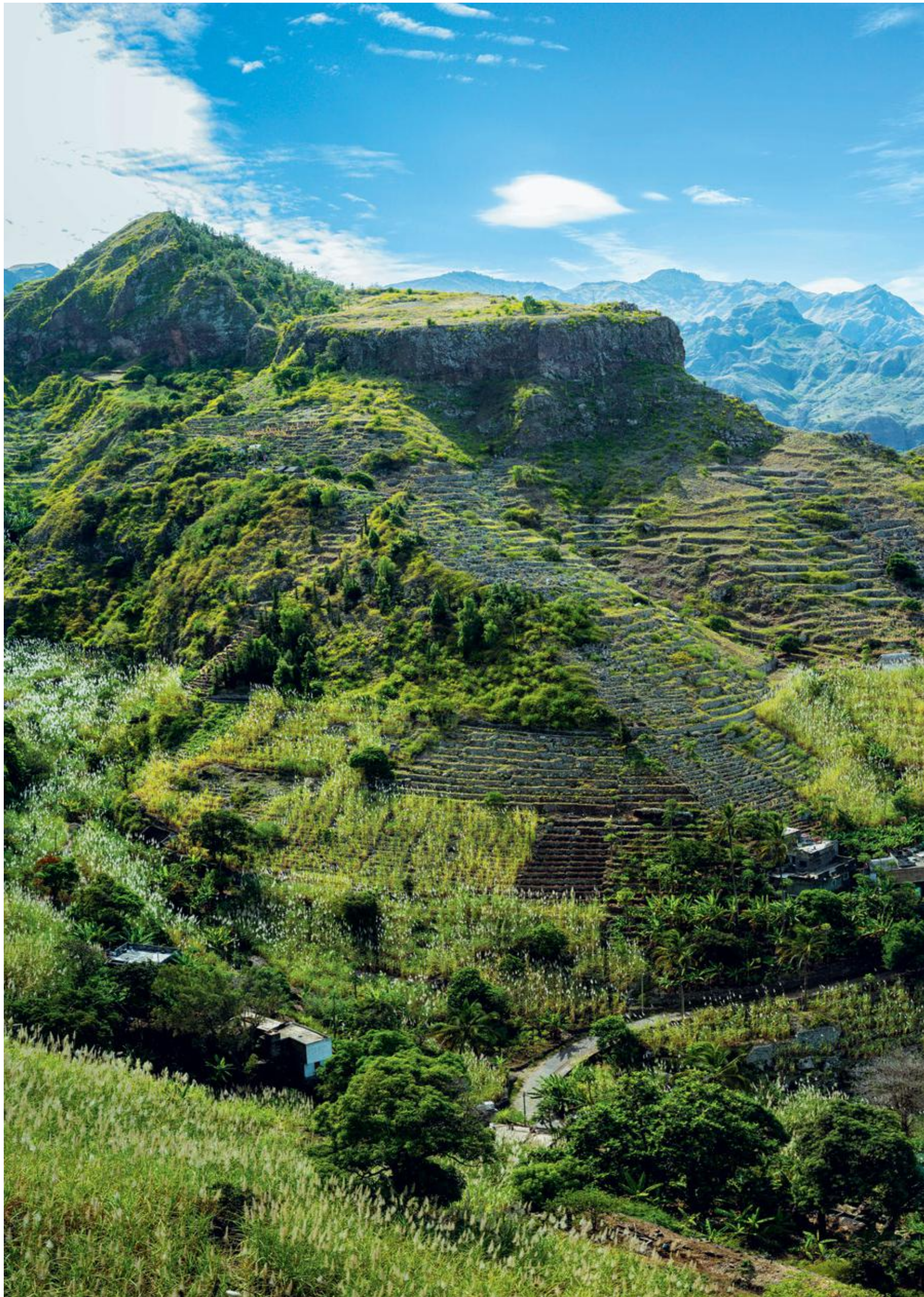
It's hard to think of a more fitting destination for a W hotel than the Australian city of Melbourne, where culinary innovation, vibrant nightlife and contemporary culture come together to form one of the most exciting cities in the world. Enter W Melbourne, an urban bolt-hole that brings 294 colourful guestrooms and 29 suites to Flinders Lane, the fashion, art and design hub at the centre of the city's iconic laneways. The hotel features interiors by Australian design studio Hachem, taking inspiration from local themes including 1960s newspaper kiosks, native Australian birds and the city's textile trading history. Wall panels peel back to reveal textured patterns and imagery beneath, and whimsical touches such as brightly-coloured, thick-woven blankets and an interactive music station inspired by an old-school jukebox (in the 15th floor Extreme Wow Suite) make the rooms playful and artistic. But the soul of this hotel lies in its wining-and-dining outlets, nowhere more so than cocktail lounge Curious. There's also fresh seasonal Japanese cuisine at Warabi and all-day dining at Lollo, and a show-stopping floor-to-ceiling charcuterie display at Culprit. www.marriott.com



CAPELLA HANOI Hanoi, Vietnam

From its art nouveau façade to the eclectic collection of antiques and paraphernalia within, Capella Hanoi pays tribute to an era when opera played a fundamental role in Hanoi society, and weekdays were spent in anticipation of the next big event at Hanoi Opera House. Just steps away from the iconic building in Hanoi's Hoàn Kiếm or Old Quarter, the hotel has been reimaged from the ground up by legendary designer Bill Bensley, whose work on Capella Ubud in Bali earned him and the group numerous awards. At Capella Hanoi, 47 fabulous rooms and suites are an homage to the world of the opera, each one boldly decorated in a base palette of blacks, whites, golds and blues, with bright bursts of colour capturing the drama of the opera and the signature colourful style of Bensley. The hotel is home to more than 1,000 pieces of operatic memorabilia and bespoke works by artist Kate Spencer, whose colourful paintings usually depict scenes from her twin homes of Sicily and the Caribbean, and public spaces – including dining venues Backstage and Diva's Lounge – are peppered with set designs, stage costumes and vintage tableware. Capella Culturists have put together a collection of unique activities including a lacquer-painting class with a local artisan and a tour of Vietnam's only gin distillery, as part of its Capella Curates programme, bringing Hanoi's colourful local culture to life for discerning visitors.

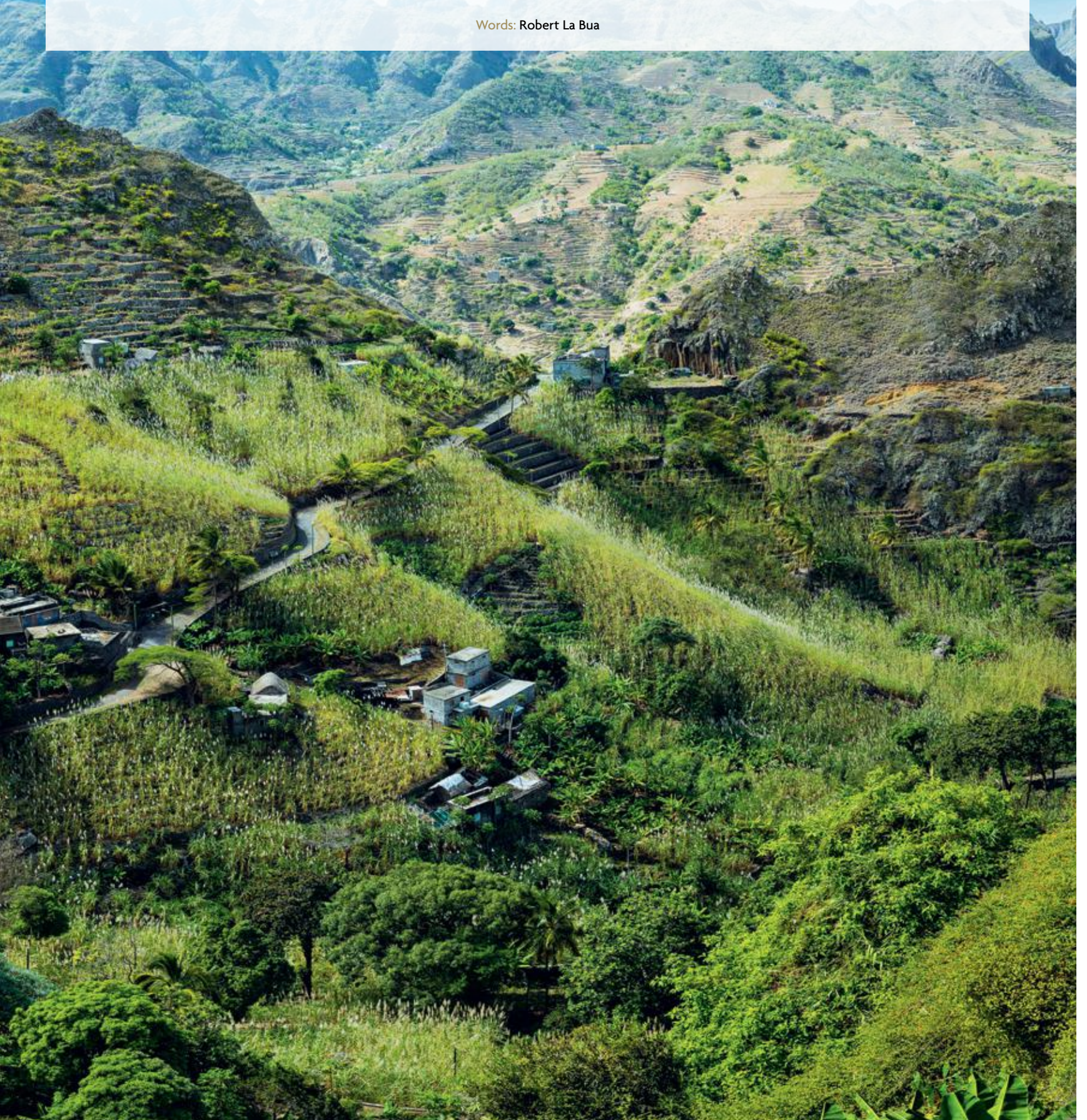
www.capellahotels.com



SUBLIME MYSTIQUE: ISLANDS OF WEST AFRICA

French luxury cruise company PONANT and National Geographic Expeditions team up to make a visit to the most inaccessible islands of West Africa a special experience for lucky passengers. Whatever you do, don't startle the hippos

Words: Robert La Bua

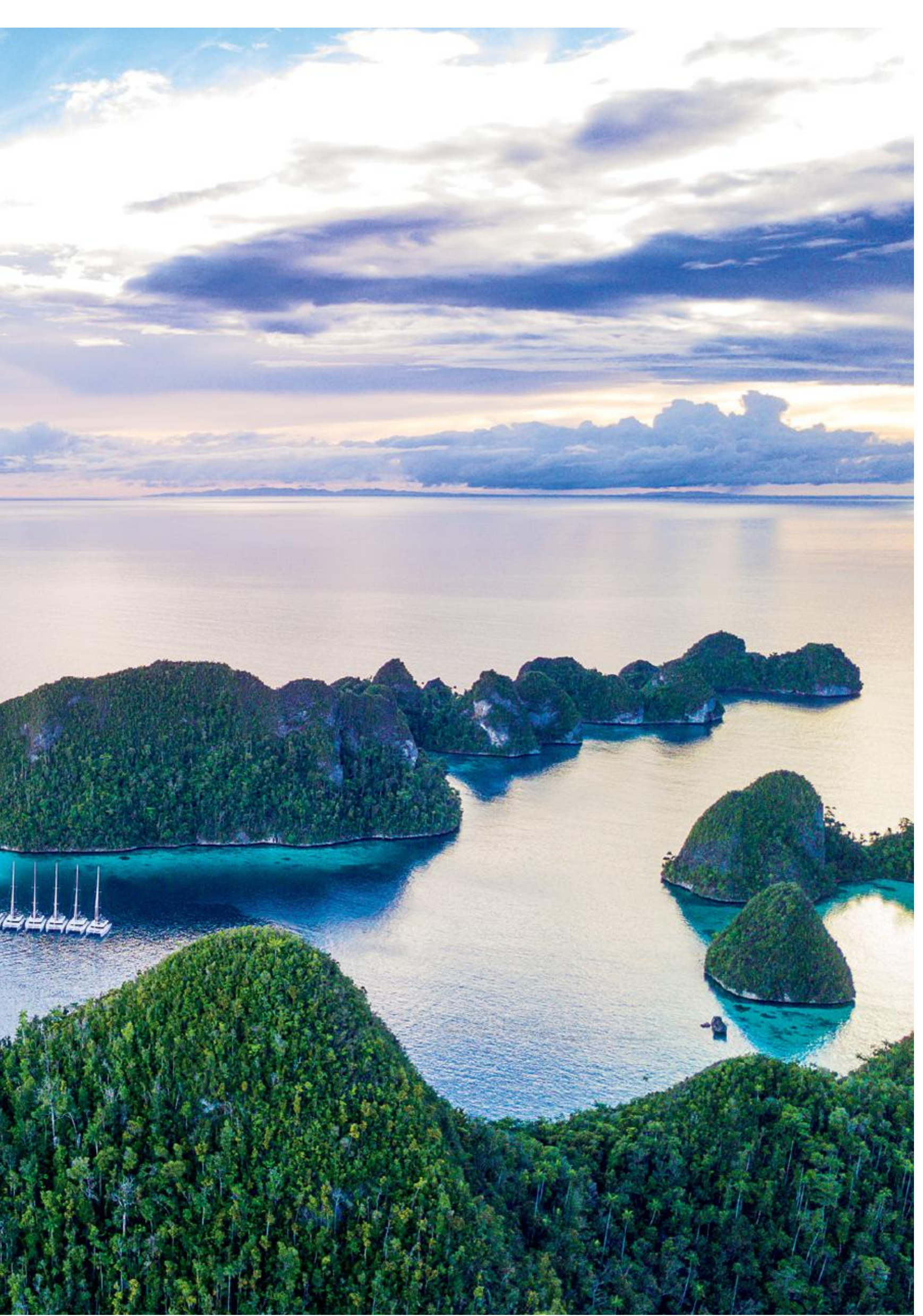


THE LAST FRONTIER

A new luxury catamaran expedition offers a chance to explore the limestone karsts, paradise islands and unspoiled underwater landscapes of Indonesia's remote wilderness of Raja Ampat

Words: Graeme Green





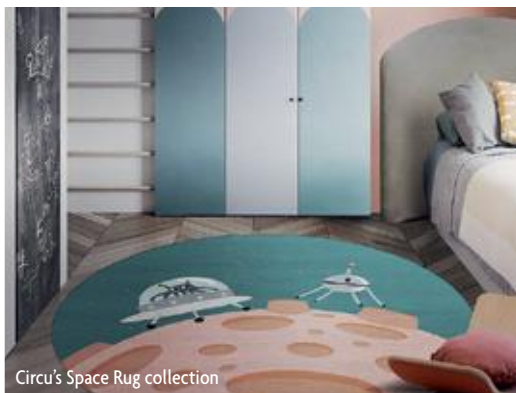


NO ADULTS ALLOWED

Our pick of the best child-friendly things to do, try and buy this month, from mermaid training in the Maldives to the UAE's newest waterpark and the coolest new kids' room interior ideas



Dream Castle at Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou



Circu's Space Rug collection



Dream Castle at Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou



Circu's Space Rug collection

OUT OF THIS WORLD REDECORATIONS

Having spent much of the past year staring at the same four walls, it's no wonder interior design is on top of people's minds! Now, that we're all allowed a little more freedom, we can turn our attention to the redecoration 'to do' list. If you're not bold enough for a complete room revamp, you'll love Circu's new Space Rugs kids collection, which injects just enough 'out of this world' inspo into a child's bedroom without the need for a full-blown make-over. The collection has eight new rugs in blues and greys, featuring the moon,

stars and space, for sweet dreams that are out of this world. If, however, you'd prefer to whisk your family off for an adventure far from home, take them to Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou, which has just launched Dream Castle – a guest room that doubles as an interactive playground in the clouds. The 60sqm room features a hot air balloon, dreamer spaceship, slippery slide, cloud-shaped sofa, airplane-designed TV unit, and themed playroom/bunkbed. Dream on... www.circu.net / www.fourseasons.com



LIVE YOUR FANTASEA

For any kid out there dreaming of becoming a mermaid, Pullman Maldives Maamutaa is about to make dreams come true. The hotel's Become A Mermaid package will teach water babies all the tricks needed to become a fully-fledged mermaid. The first lesson will teach them all the underwater essentials, such as swimming with a mono fin in the pool, followed by an hour learning the basics of free-diving. Finally, they'll be taught how to pose underwater, in true mermaid style. Each mermaid-in-training will get a makeover and their very own diploma as proof of their newly acquired magical powers, as well as a photoshoot. www.pullmanmaldivesmaamutaa.com

HEALTH AT THE HEART

With a vision to introduce the next generation to the importance of a healthy lifestyle, Zual Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som is the Middle East's first full-immersion wellness retreat for the whole family. With well-being rooted in the organic values of family life, the resort encourages guests to reconnect together across two areas: Zual Discovery and Zual Serenity. Discovery, features 120 guestrooms and suites, as well as a children's dance studio, nursery, family rooms and villas, family treatment rooms and a family wellness centre, Knooz Al Sahraa. The latter will help kids engage in a healthy lifestyle, with its foundation based in education, sports, creativity and nutrition. www.zual.com



IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

The outdoor activity on everyone's must-visit list this spring, Jungle Bay Waterpark is a waterbaby's dream. Part of the Le Meridien & The Westin Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina complex, and designed in beach chic colours of whites and blue inspired by the Cyclades, you'll find the Lighthouse mat racer ride, Whizzard and Body Slides, an Aqua Play structure, smaller kids' slides and a six-metre pneumatic wave pool. Oh, and the best bit... Poolside cabanas for parents who want to chill! www.marriott.com

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Before the weather gets too hot, send your intrepid outdoor enthusiasts to XQuarry Off-Road and Adventure Park for a day burning energy amongst the dunes. The brand-new park in Mleiha, Sharjah, is home to 20 off-road obstacles, 15km of off-road trails, hiking routes, mountain bike trails, BBQ areas, kids playground, camping and food trucks. An incredible place to let kids be kids, getting mucky, making friends and having wild adventures, XQuarry is perfect for anyone tired of the city and wanting to follow the call of the wild. Sure to be the next school holiday's biggest hit. www.xquarry.com



DRAWING SARTORIAL INSPIRATION

Few things will put more of a spring in your step than the print-infused S/S21 kids collection from Tommy Hilfiger. Brought to life by renowned contemporary illustrator, Hattie Stewart, the campaign is filled with playful doodles - flowers, animals, stars, sunshine - that compliment the energy of

the clothes. Perfect for the mini adventurers and their summertime outdoor discoveries, the collection will inspire inquisitive minds to get outside and get exploring. Hoodies range from preppy to sporty for cooler days, while skate-park style graphics can be found on T-shirts, and Miami-inspired pops of colour in lime green, bright pinks and riotous red. www.tommy.com

WHAT A FANFARE

Garrard's new Fanfare Symphony collection pays a contemporary tribute to the beautiful masquerade balls of the 1800s. Ornamental and extravagant in equal measure



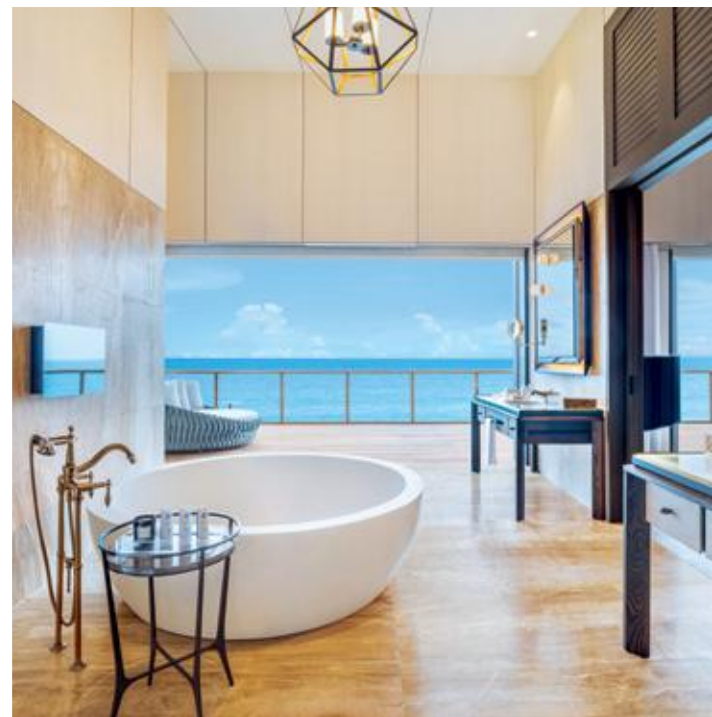
Uncover the precious art of accessorising, with the captivating elegance of these stunning pieces

HIDDEN BEAUTY



1. Wings of Light earrings, Piaget
 2. Rose des Vents ring, Dior
 3. Precious Lace earrings, Chopard
 4. Escale a Venise necklace, Chanel
 5. Frivole necklace, Van Cleef & Arpels
 6. Golden Oasis ring, Piaget
 7. Bee My Love ring, Chaumet
 8. Lucky Move Arrow earrings, Messika
 9. Earrings, Harry Winston
 10. Ring, Fabergé
 11. Capture Me bracelet, Akallis





IN A CAPTIVE ESTATE

The John Jacob Aster Estate is for those seeking luxury of the superlative kind...
An island dwelling that focuses on nothing but your privacy and pleasure

ISLAND LIVING OFTEN TEETERS BETWEEN BAREFOOT LUXURY and maxed-out five-star vibes and we're here for all it. If, however, you veer towards the more opulent Indian Ocean experience, we have something up our sleeve for you. The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort has unveiled its Ultra-Luxe package, with a stay in the famed John Jacob Aster Estate, bringing together all our favourite buzzwords: elevated privacy, opulence, seclusion, personalised service... This thoughtfully-designed offer allows guests to 'live exquisitely, safely' in a 1,532 sqm space dedicated to life's big and little luxuries. With two floors and three bedrooms, the villa is crowned – according to St. Regis – as the biggest overwater villa in the Maldives, and comes with a huge terrace, 92-metre

infinity pool, private beach, living room, fully-furnished kitchen, pantry, butler and private chef. There's also a home theatre, private spa suites, steam room, gym, yoga studio and staff quarters. Oh, and each of the guestrooms includes a private plunge pool, Jacuzzi, outdoor showers and unfettered views. Book this offer, and revel in luxury with a bottle of bubbly, a sunset caviar cruise aboard Norma – the resort's custom AzimuFlybridge 66 yacht – daily 60-minute spa treatments, access to the Blue Hole Pool – the largest hydrotherapy pool in the Maldives, bespoke dinners, including a cinematic dining experience at the Jungle Cinema, a private deep-sea fishing or dolphin cruise and unlimited babysitting, kids club and wellness programmes. Ready to dive in? www.marriott.com

Van Cleef & Arpels

HAUTE PARFUMERIE



COLLECTION EXTRAORDINAIRE

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.



THE PIONEER
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LONGINES



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