

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD

news

Essential travel intelligence

September 2021

BILLIONAIRE'S PLAYGROUND

Necker Island's new look
is paradise refund

DRIFT AWAY

Supersize the superyacht
with Somnio's new
floating home

ASIAN DOMINATION

How Thai-hotel
group Anantara is
taking over the world

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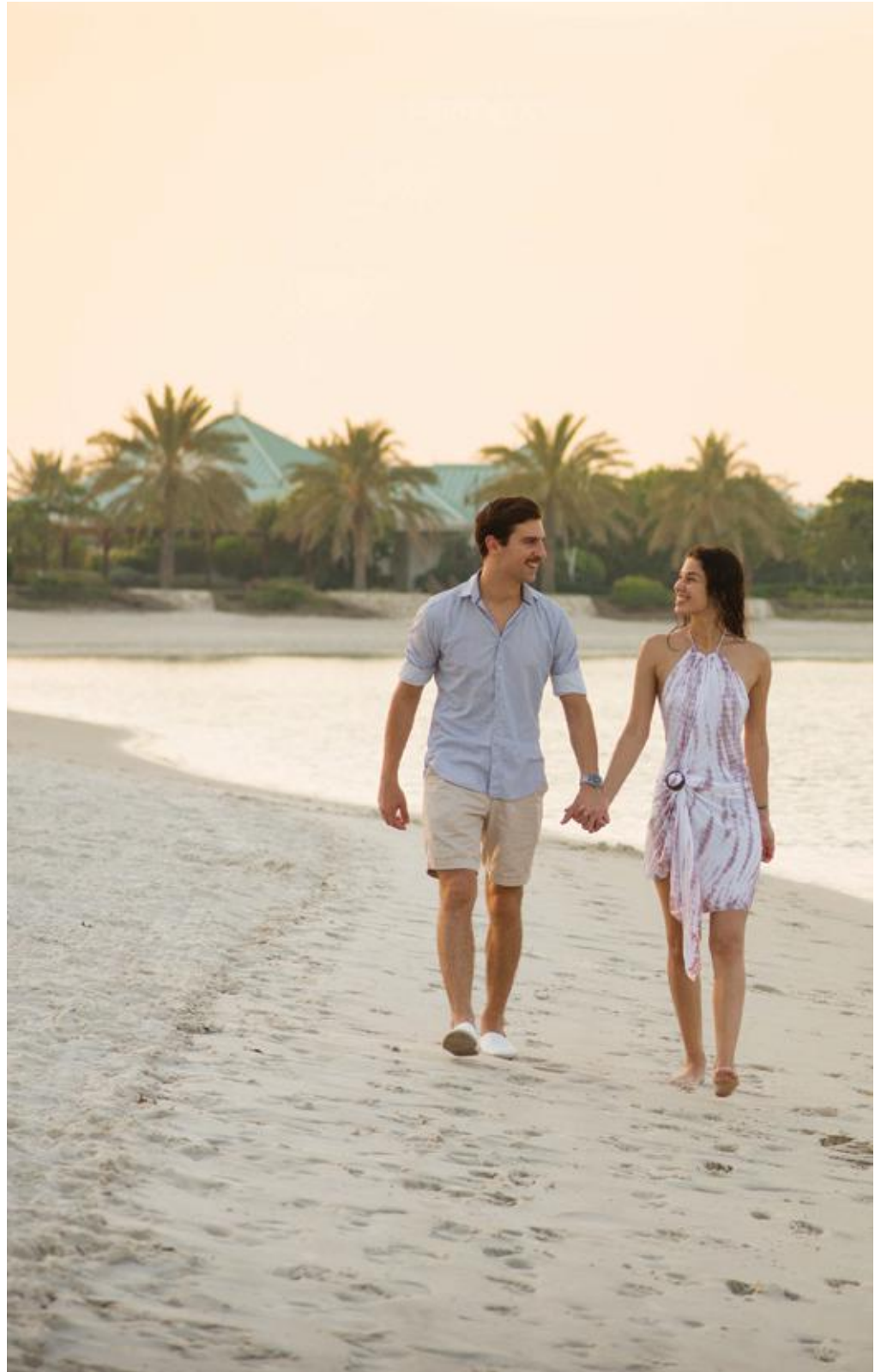
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NEWS

HOT EVENTS, NEW HOTELS AND GLOBAL JET-SETTERS



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NEW HOME SWEET HOME

There are few things we love more than discovering new hotels or revealing transformative refurbishments. One hotel worth getting excited about is Naladhu Private Island in the Maldives, following its extensive redesign at the hands of New York designer Yuji Yamazaki. Opening in November, beat the crowds and book now

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GIRAFFE MANOR LAUNCHES THE RETREAT

AS THE ONLY HOTEL IN THE WORLD WITH A HERD OF ROTHSCHILD'S GIRAFFE living in its grounds, Giraffe Manor on the outskirts of Nairobi is one of the best places in Kenya to experience an up close and personal encounter with the world's tallest mammal. An attraction in its own right, Giraffe Manor is also a gateway to its three sister properties – Sala's Camp, Sasaab and Solio Lodge – which collectively form The Safari Collection, founded by Tanya and Mikey Carr-Hartley in 2009.

Last month, the hotel unveiled The Retreat, a new edition to the 1930s estate, where guests can unwind in a rooftop bar and garden, indulge in a spa treatment or workout, check into a forest-view day room or cool off in a 21-metre swimming pool, which is crowned by brick archway leading directly into the giraffe sanctuary.

The Retreat serves a dual purpose: providing a space for hotel guests to relax at the start or end of their stay (pre-check in or post-check out), and welcoming guests stopping off en route to (or from) one of the other lodges hoping for a glimpse of the giraffe, who love nothing more than posing for photos at the end of the pool.

The spacious dayrooms, each unique and



named after the youngest giraffes in the manor, all have terraces facing the forest, comfortable living areas and cosy beds for early morning arrivals or late-night departures, as well as plenty of space to store luggage while visitors make the most of the facilities.

The Retreat is also open to hotel guests

throughout their stay and is home to farm-to-fork dining concept Daisy's Café, which serves food all day, from light bites and snacks to more hearty fare each evening. Passes for The Retreat start from US \$250 per person for daytime use, while rates for day rooms start from US \$800 per room.

www.thesafaricollection.com

FOUR SEASONS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN SHARM EL SHEIKH



A PALM-COVERED OASIS ON THE SOUTHERN TIP of the Sinai Peninsula, Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh has welcomed guests to the Egyptian holiday hotspot for the last 20 years. To mark the milestone, the Red Sea's grandest dame is set to roll out phase two in the coming months, effectively doubling the size of the existing resort.

The extra space will be home to a collection of new guestrooms that reflect the growing demand for multigenerational travel, including one- and two-bedroom pool suites, residential-style villas and chalets with self-contained facilities and a beachfront 'Palace'.

Making the most of Sharm El Sheikh's location on the edge of the Red Sea and its abundance of coral reefs, shipwrecks and dive sites, the resort will welcome a new PADI-certified dive centre offering a variety of

excursions for all skill and certification levels, as well as snorkelling tours, yacht cruises and other water-based activities. A new spa and two-storey fitness centre will also feature squash and tennis courts.

Five new food and beverage concepts will bring the total number of dining options spread across the 44-hectare resort to 12, and a brand-new kids club will offer a schedule of supervised games, cultural activities and active play, as well as a dedicated area for teens and on-demand babysitting services for when mums and dads need some quiet time.

Finally, a new state-of-the-art convention centre and dedicated open-air events spaces will make Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh a top choice for destination weddings and events, with a spectacular Royal Palm Garden that can accommodate up to 2,000 guests. www.fourseasons.com



EXPLORE THE SAUDI ARABIAN COAST WITH EMERALD CRUISES

WHEN IT LAUNCHES IN JANUARY, Emerald Azzurra will be the first custom-built ocean superyacht to join the Emerald Cruises fleet; a boutique-sized vessel destined for itineraries based around small ports inaccessible to larger vessels.

The Switzerland-based cruise line has announced two voyages for the superyacht's debut season that include Saudi Arabia for the first time: the 10-day Mysteries & Treasures of the Red Sea and Saudi

Arabia itinerary in February, and the 12-day Ancient Wonders of the Red Sea and Mythical Greece voyage in March.

The former sets sail from Limassol in Cyprus on February 14, calling at Port Said in Egypt, cruising through the Suez Canal and stopping off in Sharm El Sheikh, before docking in Aqaba, Jordan, for a guided tour of the ancient Red Rose City of Petra. During the next three days, Emerald Azzurra will cruise the

coast of Saudi Arabia, stopping off in the port city of Duba (known as "the Pearl of the Red Sea" by locals) and Al Wajh (gateway to the UNESCO-listed city of AlUla), before docking for the final time in Jeddah.

The longer itinerary recreates the same journey in reverse (minus Port Said and Limassol), but also includes stops in Cairo, Crete, Santorini and Athens, where passengers will disembark.

The 110-metre Emerald Azzurra

is home to just 50 deluxe suites and staterooms in six different categories, most with their own private balcony, promising an intimate cruise experience. Other features on board the state-of-the-art vessel include the Sky Deck, with rooftop bar and spa pool, a wellness centre with spa, gym, sauna and salon and a marina platform and garage loaded with stand-up paddle boards and snorkelling equipment, as well as the yacht's zodiac.

www.emeraldcruiises.co.uk

ANANTARA SET TO CONQUER THE WORLD

ANYONE FLYING IN OR OUT OF DUBAI over the last 10 years will have noticed the cluster of man-made islands known as The World, which bob in the Arabian Gulf just off the coast of Jumeirah. After a long wait, the archipelago's first resort is set to open its doors before the end of this year, as Anantara World Island Dubai Resort enters its final stages of development.

Situated on the South American continent of The World – which is laid out to resemble the countries and continents of planet Earth – the resort will comprise 70 suites, beach villas and pool villas scattered across a private island, a 15-minute boat ride from the jetty at sister property, Anantara The Palm Dubai Resort.

Villas will have their own private pools, outdoor dining areas and direct access to the beach and the warm waters of the Arabian Gulf. A bar lounge will afford guests spectacular views of the glittering Dubai skyline, just four kilometres away on the mainland, while an open-air Mediterranean restaurant and an Arabic-Indian speciality restaurant offering barbecues on the beach will cater to all guests' culinary needs.

When it opens later in the year, Anantara World Island Dubai Resort will be Anantara's seventh hotel in the UAE.

www.anantara.com



Debut | September

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



SIX SENSES SHAHARUT Negev Desert, Israel

The Negev desert in southern Israel is a sublime landscape sculpted by nature over millennia; a vast expanse of rocky outcrops and craggy peaks that inspires meditative thought and reflection. Six Senses Shaharut is set on a hilltop in the midst of this breath-taking wilderness, barely distinguishable from its surroundings thanks to the use of natural stone in its construction; a tribute to the structures left behind by the nomadic peoples who once roamed these deserts. Inside, the 60 suites and villas reveal pared back interiors with weathered stone walls, and a palette of neutral tones reminiscent of the desert hues, accented by copper tables and reclaimed teak doors and furniture. Guests will find a world of adventure on their doorstep, from camel treks and jeep safaris into the Negev, to mountain sports, overnight camping and visits to local communities to help out at a Kibbutz. Six Senses' signature Cinema Paradiso has been hewn into the natural contours of the terrain, and a Six Senses Spa offers a haven of desert tranquillity, with a selection of wellness programmes, an Alchemy Bar and a freshwater infinity pool overlooking the desert. At the Earth Lab, visitors can learn about the resort's sustainability initiatives and community development programmes, as well the brand's efforts to reduce consumption across its portfolio. www.sixsenses.com

THE LANGHAM, JAKARTA Jakarta, Indonesia

Having built an empire of luxury hotels in Asia, Europe and the US, The Langham Hotels & Resorts is set to open its first Southeast Asian outpost this month with The Langham, Jakarta. Fans of the brand will recognise signature touches: a branch of three Michelin-star Hong Kong restaurant T'ang Court; Traditional Chinese Medicine-inspired treatments at serene Chuan Spa, home to the highest infinity pool in the city; and a 59th-floor Langham Club lounge, where club guests will be able to check in and out, relax in the writer's corner or just enjoy the spectacular views. International collaborations abound at this beacon of luxury, set in District 8 of the Sudirman Central Business District: British chef Tom Aikens brings his culinary wizardry to Indonesia with Tom's, and The Langham London's multi-award-winning bar Artesian will open on the rooftop of the hotel, with signature cocktails served overlooking the rooftops and towers of this sprawling city. Among the 223 rooms and suites, the Presidential Suite reigns supreme, with 336-sqm of elegantly appointed space providing one of the most lavish apartments in Jakarta. www.langhamhotels.com





THE WOODWARD GENEVA Geneva, Switzerland

The Oetker Collection calls the properties within its portfolio ‘Masterpiece Hotels’ for good reason: each occupies an iconic landmark building within its location, and each go to great lengths to preserve the timeless traditions of European hospitality. The Woodward is no exception. Situated on the shores of Lake Geneva, this post-Haussmann-style hotel was originally built in 1901 by French architect François Durel, affording guests of what was then called the Hotel Bellevue’s breath-taking views of Mont Blanc. Architect Pierre-Yves Rochon led the restoration of the 120-year-old building into an all-suite grand boutique hotel – and the Oetker Collection’s 10th ‘masterpiece’ – which offers the choice of 26 exquisite suites. Two flagship restaurants – L’Atelier de Joël Robuchon and Le Jardinier, both of which hold Michelin stars in New York – will be overseen by chef Olivier Jean, and a former vault from the building’s brief stint as a bank has been transformed into a digestif and cigar lounge. The final big-name collaboration sees the hotel team up with Maison Guerlain, which manages the hotel’s Wellness Institute, part of a 1,200-sqm spa with the longest indoor swimming pool in Geneva. www.oetkercollection.com



MANDARIN ORIENTAL BOSPHORUS, ISTANBUL Istanbul, Turkey

Istanbul has provided a physical and ideological link between East and West since time immemorial, making it an ideal location for a hotel brand that’s rooted in Asia and has branches all over the world. Elegantly laid out along the banks of the Bosphorus like a modern-day sultan’s palace, Mandarin Oriental Bosphorus retains a flavour of the brand’s Asian heritage, with a hint of Ottoman influence and a decidedly modern outlook. The hotel’s 100 guestrooms and one- and two-bedroom suites look out across the mighty waterway, while the larger rooms boast private terraces affording magnificent views of the Bosphorus Bridge and the city skyline. The hotel has partnered with London-based restaurant group Novikov for its dining options, which include waterfront pan-Asian and Italian dining at Novikov Istanbul, elegant aperitivos and sundowners at Novikov Lounge and poolside refreshments at Novikov Pool Bar, as well as Turkish coffee, afternoon tea and creative cocktails on the terrace at Bosphorus Lounge. Nestled in a pine grove in the Kuruçeme district of Istanbul, the hotel also features a Mandarin Oriental Spa with Turkish hammam, indoor and outdoor pools and a collection of treatment rooms that include a VIP room with private garden, hot tub and Gharieni MLW Amphibia treatment beds. www.mandarinoriental.com

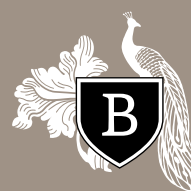


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DESTINATIONS

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE LOCATIONS



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THE LAND OF SMILES

A staggered start to re-opening its borders has allowed some of Thailand's favourite tourist spots – Phuket, Krabi and Samui – to welcome vaccinated passengers, with no quarantine required. Is it time to dip your toes in?

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- 46** 48 Hours in Casablanca: Enjoying French-inspired bakeries and soaking up Franco-Moroccan Art Deco treasures
- 54** Explore stellar escapes in the City of Light, road-trips from Munich to Vienna and five-star excuses to visit Switzerland

IN THE LAND OF LUXURY

Hidden in the hills of Phuket lies Layan Residences
– 15 residential-cum-rental villas that are the ace up
Anantara's sleeve when it comes to exclusive luxury living

WORDS: Emily Baxter-Priest







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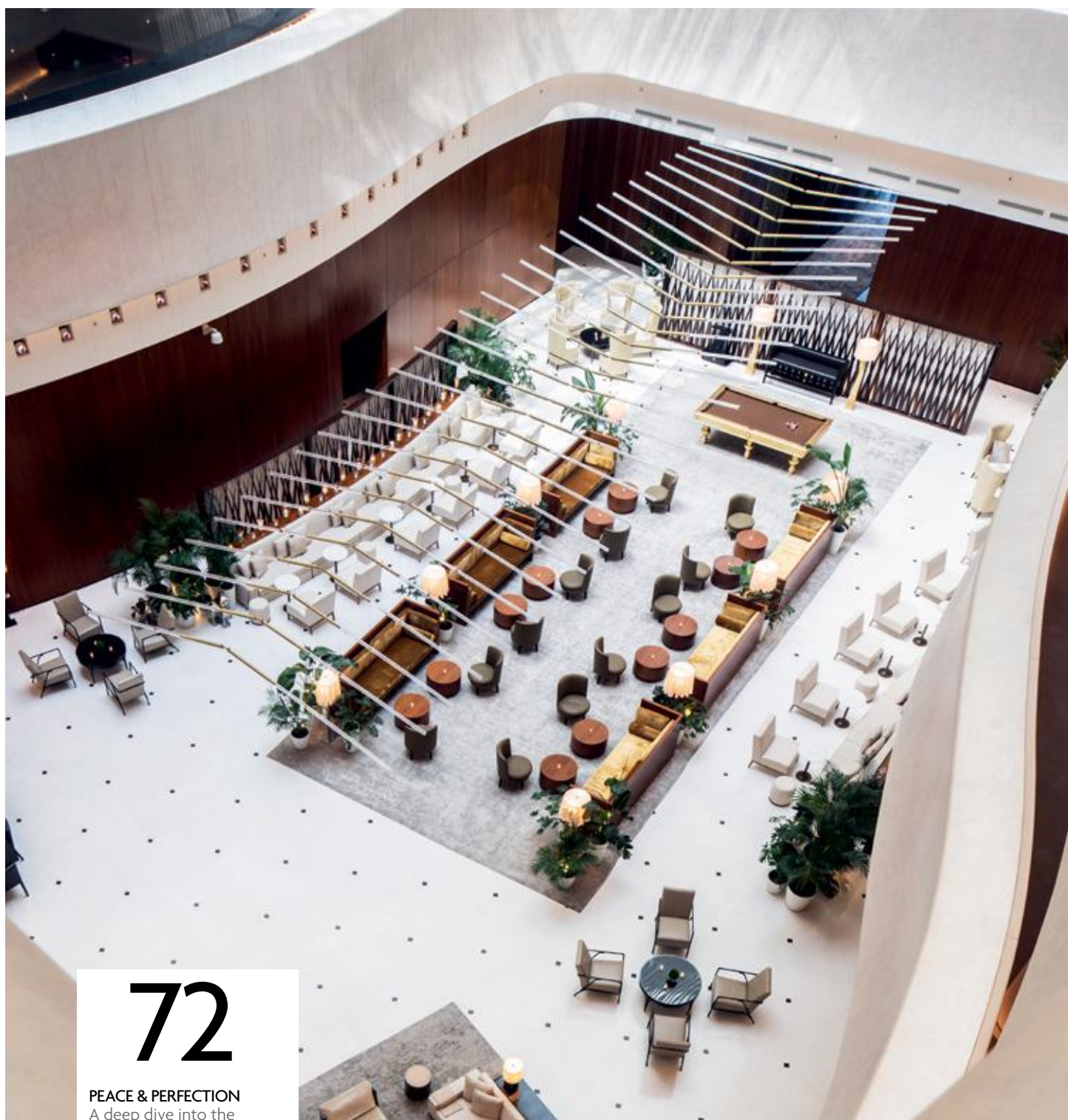
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HOTELS

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES TO STAY IN



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PEACE & PERFECTION

A deep dive into the subtlety of style and the art of relaxed refinement at The Abu Dhabi EDITION, is just one reason to stay local and wider explore the Emirates. Another is the bucolic beauty that is The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain – a true pearl in the GCC's ever-expanding crown. Local heroes save the day

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CROWNING GLORY

An ambidextrous resort that blurs the lines between the past and present,
The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain is the jewel in the kingdom's crown





Bahrain can often take a backseat to other bigger, bolder, more ostentatious Gulf countries when it comes to typical destinations on the tourist trail, but what it lacks in size and lavishness, it more than makes up for in its rich history, character and genuineness of its people; It doesn't go by the nickname 'Island of Golden Smiles' for no good reason.

Made up of almost 80 islands – both natural and man-made – the kingdom between two gentle seas' history dates back over 5,000 years, when it was a commercial trading hub. Once the storied location of the ancient Dilmun empire, it sat under various foreign rule for many years, finally declaring independence from the British in 1971. This rich history sits alongside intriguing culture and commerce, that has seen Bahrain also earn a place in the history books for its role in the Middle East's pearl trading industry.

For culture vultures, art addicts, motor-racing enthusiasts and sun-seeker purists, there's so much more to Bahrain than meets the eye. Scratch beneath the surface to reveal 15th-century forts and Formula 1 experiences, sitting pretty alongside beautiful wildlife reserves, water parks and relaxed five-star hotels.

The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain is a property that lets you experience both the city and sea from its home along the bay in Al Seef. It's a secluded slice of paradise in Manama, with relaxation sewn into the fabric of the resort – five-star luxury, with an easy sophistication that almost belies the level of personalised service on tap.

With its golden sands hugged by the Gulf of Arabia and a private lagoon, on land 20 acres of verdant landscaping roll out to create a sort of palm-fringed playground that, with the backdrop of bright blue waters, feels almost Maldives-esque. The Maldives in Manama... It has a nice ring to it.

The hotel itself is an ode to contemporary design – sleek, minimal in design but without foregoing the warmth and comfort one wants from a hotel-away-from-home. The 245 rooms are spread across the main building and throughout the bucolic grounds, starting from Deluxe Sea, City or Pool View Rooms, each with floor-to-ceiling windows to maximise the sense of place; Club Suites with a separate living room, and access to the Club Lounge; A more traditionally-designed Diplomatic Suite with living room, dining room, Majlis and Jacuzzi; all the way up to a Villa, which sprawls over 450 square metres, can be seafront if you choose, and has three bedrooms, Asprey bath products, an outdoor swimming pool, private garden, access to an exclusive-use personal beach and a 24-hour butler service.

Whilst the accommodation certainly evokes ideas of rest and relaxation, guests seeking a more immersive R'n'R experience can find it at the sea-inspired The Ritz-Carlton Spa. Soak up the wellbeing benefits on offer at this temple of tranquility, then relax by the indoor pool under the watchful gaze of a Grecian goddess. Borrowing

BOUCHERON

PARIS



SPEND IT

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES AND SOPHISTICATED ESSENTIALS



HOLOGRAPHIQUE C'EST CHIC

Building on its Carte Blanche High Jewellery collection, Holographique, Boucheron has launched a new capsule collection, with five unique creations featuring new avant-garde coating. The Quatre watch collection features a new holographic strap, while the rings are made of holographic ceramic to contrast with the classic design. Mesmerising to say the least

- 84** Dark drama ensues in jewellery boxes, as sapphires reign supreme as birthstone of the month
- 86** A watch made from metallic meteorite themes this issue
- 88** How to take the biggest bite out of the Big Apple? Take over the top floor of Baccarat Hotel New York and reserve your very own Maison Privé

TRUE BLUE

From sapphires and spinels to tanzanites and topaz, blue is the colour of the month, illustrated so perfectly by Van Cleef & Arpels' Sous les Étoiles collection



**DARK
DRAMA**

In a sea of cerulean splendour,
September's birthstone, sapphire,
shines bold and bright



1



2



3



5



4



6



7



8



- 1. Tiffany Blue Book earrings, Tiffany & Co.
- 2. Rose Montague necklace, Van Cleef & Arpels
- 3. Earrings, Fabergé
- 4. Red Carpet Paradise ring, Chopard
- 5. Cruella earrings, Akillis
- 6. Lion Secret ring, Chanel
- 7. Sunlight pendant, Piaget
- 8. Aurora Butterfly brooch, Cindy Chao
- 9. Rose Dior ring, Dior
- 10. Ring, Mahallati
- 11. Ring, Mouawad
- 12. Albermarle earrings, Garrard
- 13. Necklace, Bvlgari
- 14. Contemplation ring, Boucheron



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14



TAKE A BITE OUT OF NYC

Ultimate exclusivity awaits at Baccarat Hotel New York, with its unique 11-suite Maison Privé



TAKE THE BIGGEST BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE with arguably the most exclusive stay in the 'city that never sleeps'.

Baccarat Hotel New York allows guests to take over the whole of its top floor – 11 suites to be precise – reserving what is called Maison Privé, ensuring privacy, exclusivity and an added measure of security for you and whoever you invite into your inner circle.

Via private elevators, Maison Privé guests are transported up to the 12th floor, arriving in the lap of luxury in their very own pied-à-terre in Paris, starting from US \$50,000 a night.

From a Classic King room up to the exquisite 1,740-square-foot Baccarat Suite, each comes with floor-to-ceiling windows and custom jacquard linens courtesy of Mascioni. White marble bathrooms are hidden behind hand-painted French doors, with your stay scented by Parisian perfumer Francis Kurkdjian's amenities, and over-sized flat-screen TVs can be found behind smoked mirrors for minimal intrusion.

Little extra luxuries come with a button on the bedside telephone marked 'Champagne', so your favourite vintage can be delivered to your room, served in signature Baccarat fluted glasses, as well as access to the country's only Spa de la Mer, with its 'sunken ballroom' 55-foot swimming pool, and complimentary spa treatments.

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