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news

Essential travel intelligence

15
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

January 2022

FITNESS ON THE FLY

A one-of-a-kind holistic holiday for high-fliers

MONEYBALL

New superyachts, a floating hotel and giga projects in the Gulf

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

The hotels breathing new life into old favourites

PEACE OF MIND

TRANSFORMATIVE TRAVEL & WELLNESS REDEFINED

EXCLUSIVE TIMEPIECES



EXQUISITE JEWELS



UNIQUE ESCAPES



LUXURY CARS

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DESTINATIONS

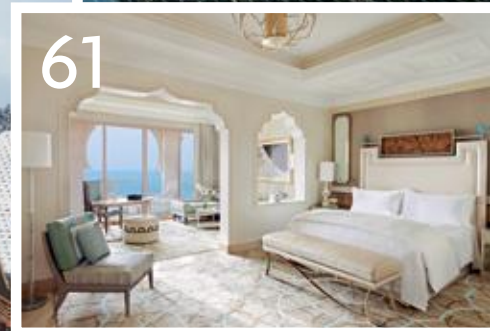
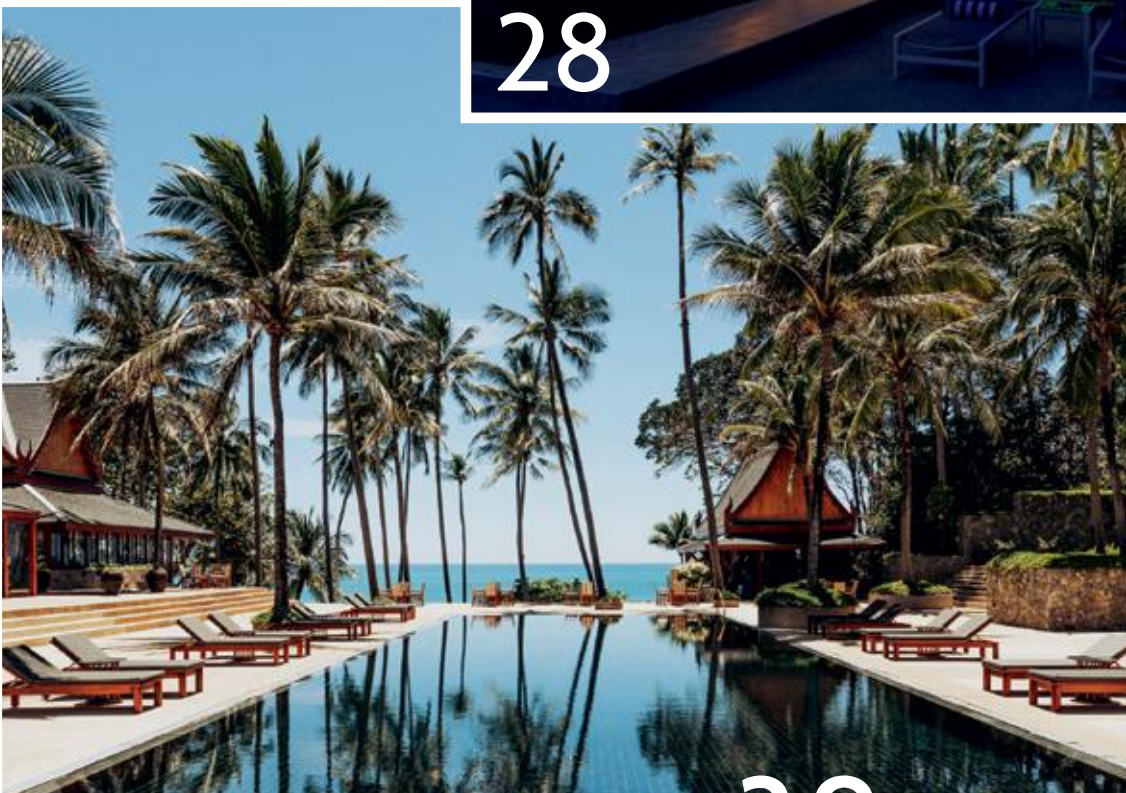
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12:01AM

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NEWS

HOT EVENTS, NEW HOTELS AND GLOBAL JET-SETTERS



20

LEGENDS REBORN

New life is being breathed into old favourites this month, with hotels revealing everything from glam-slam new looks to sparkling new suites. Hôtel Martinez in Cannes is one such case in point, having launched two new penthouse apartments dedicated to people who have played a pivotal role in French Cinema, such as the Isabelle Hupert Apartment above.

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AMAN SETS SAIL WITH PROJECT SAMA



SINCE ITS CREATION IN 1988, AMAN HAS OFFERED TRANSFORMATIVE TRAVEL experiences in an ever-growing collection of handsome resorts, building a loyal following of well-heeled travellers over the last three decades. With 32 resorts and one urban address now in operation, and eight more under construction – including the much-anticipated Aman New York, which will open in May – the company has been exploring new niche markets for the last few years, introducing Aman Residences to most new projects and a range of ready-to-wear retail items: The Essentials by Aman.

The next step is perhaps the most exciting yet for the company. Project Sama is the working title for the first Aman superyacht, a 183-metre vessel that promises exceptional travel experiences at sea. Developed via a joint venture with Cruise Saudi, the government-backed body responsible for developing Saudi Arabia's nascent cruise industry, Project Sama will be home to 50 spacious suites averaging 100 square metres, each with a private balcony, as well as an Aman Spa and Japanese garden, two helipads, a beach club and selection of dining options.

Designed by Dutch superyacht studio Sinot

Yacht Architecture & Design, which specialises in seamlessly integrating indoor and outdoor spaces, interiors will blend Aman's Eastern heritage and design philosophy with the architectural demands of a modern luxury motor yacht. Though no details about itineraries have been confirmed, Aman COO Roland Fasel said Project Sama was likely to split its time between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea when it launches in 2025. The project marks the next step in Aman's relationship with the Kingdom, where it is currently developing properties in Riyadh, AlUla and the Red Sea. www.aman.com

KEMPINSKI UNVEILS FLOATING DUBAI RESORT

THE WORD 'IMPOSSIBLE' ISN'T OFTEN USED IN DUBAI, a mindset that has led to the Emirate growing from Arabian backwater to global powerhouse and luxury travel hub in a handful of decades. Home to the tallest building in the world, the world's largest shopping mall and a series of other superlatives, Dubai is ceaseless in its ambition.

Kempinski Floating Palace Dubai is the latest visionary project to emerge from the city: a modular floating hotel anchored in the Arabian Gulf between Jumeirah Beach and The World Islands, surrounded by 12 luxury motor villas, which can be cast off and sailed away along the UAE coast.

The main hotel building will be bisected by a cavernous tunnel with moorings for up to 16 yachts, giving guests the choice of arriving via the hotel speedboat or on their own vessel. A glass pyramid will connect the two halves of the main building, which will be home to 156 rooms and suites, as well as a collection of restaurants and bars, a spa, swimming pools, boutiques and banqueting areas.

The 12 villas, which range from two to four bedrooms, will be available for private ownership and added to the hotel accommodation when not in use by owners. Each will boast two floors of living space surrounded by panoramic windows, with rooftop terraces, infinity pools and all the features of a modern smart home. There's also room for crew and staff to live aboard when sailing to another port.

The bold project was envisioned by UAE-based Seagate Shipyard, which has posted images of its conceptual 'Glass Boat Villa' – the model for the 12 floating villas – on its LinkedIn page. The modular nature of the design means the entire resort will be built onshore and shipped to its final destination when construction is complete in around 18 months, marking another milestone for Dubai and Kempinski, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. www.kempinski.com



DID YOU HEAR?

DORCHESTER COLLECTION HAS NAMED ITS LONG-AWAITED DUBAI HOTEL THE LANA, BLENDING AN ARABIC EXPRESSION MEANING “FOR US” AND A HAWAIIAN TERM MEANING “FLOATING GENTLY IN CALM WATER”. THE 225-ROOM FOSTER + PARTNERS-DESIGNED HOTEL, WHICH IS DUE TO OPEN IN THE BURJ KHALIFA DISTRICT TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR, WILL BE LED BY GENERAL MANAGER CAROLINE-JANE HOUSTON.

SAUDI'S DIRIYAH GATE NAMES 14 HOTEL PARTNERS



WHEN SAUDI ARABIA WAS ESTABLISHED, THE FOREFATHERS OF THE HOUSE OF SAUD made their home in Diriyah, 15 minutes outside modern-day Riyadh. The mudbrick houses, palaces and mighty citadel at At-Turaif began to spring up in 1766, built in the Najdi architectural style characteristic of the Arabian Peninsula at the time. Today, At-Turaif is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and forms the heart of one of the most ambitious tourism development projects in the world: Diriyah Gate.

When complete, the 11 square kilometre project will be home to a

collection of museums, residential neighbourhoods, shopping areas and more than 100 restaurants and cafes, as well as an arts district, souks and bazaars and a collection of 38 hotels and resorts. The Diriyah Gate Development Authority (DGDA), which is overseeing the project, has revealed the names of the first 14 international hotels brands selected to manage properties within the development: a star-studded line-up of big names that will bring their own unique characters to the city.

The first 12 hotels are part of the main Diriyah Gate area, which will become a heritage, tourism

and lifestyle destination on the edge of the historic city. Familiar international brands including Raffles, Park Hyatt, The Ritz-Carlton, Rosewood, Capella and The Luxury Collection will be joined by regional luxury names including Address Hotels & Resorts and Beirut-based Campbell Gray Hotels & Resorts. Smaller brands including Baccarat, LXR and the recently revitalised Orient Express will also open properties, while French haute gastronomy brand Fauchon will open its first ever hotel in the city.

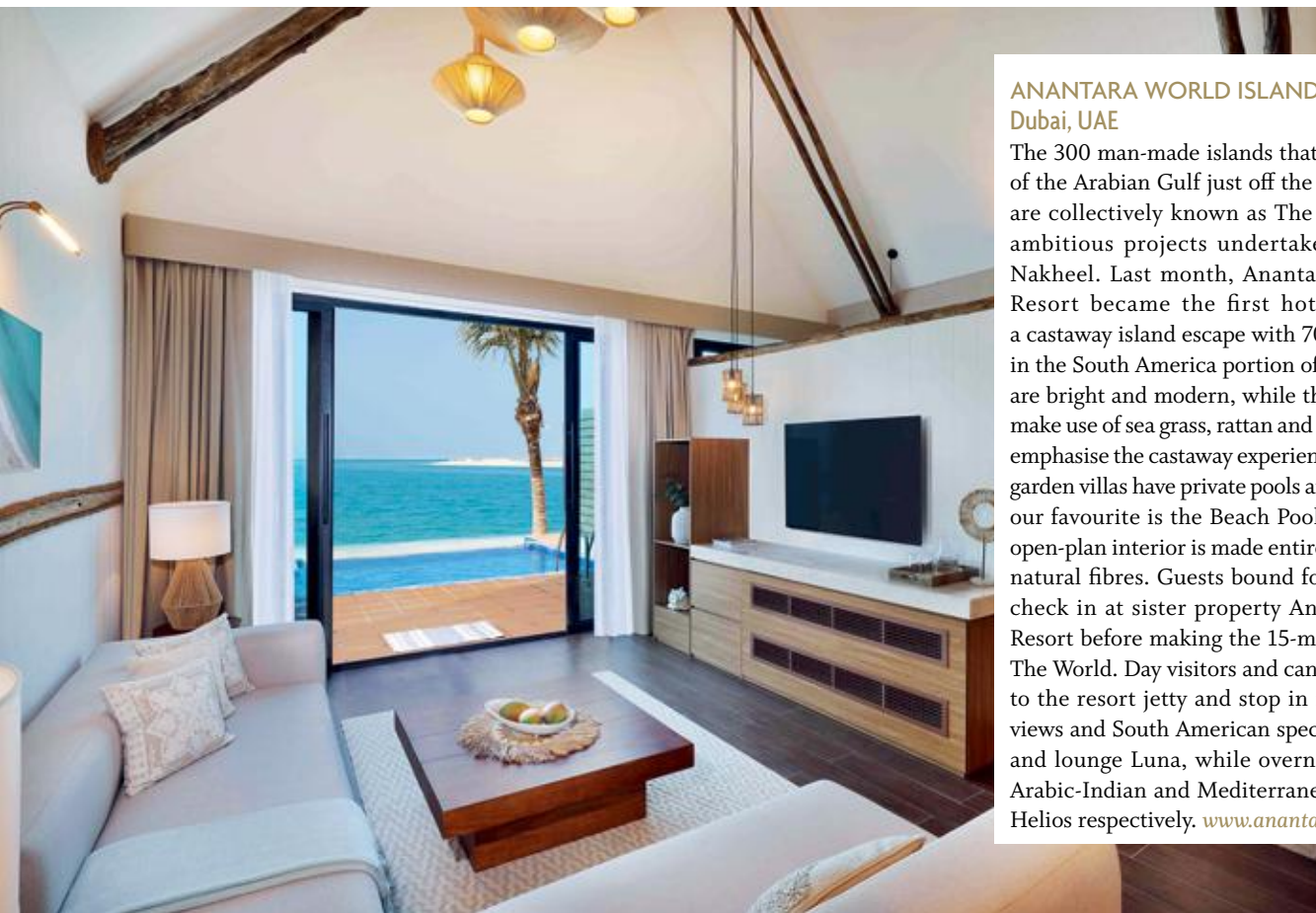
To the west of Diriyah, Wadi Safar is another master-planned part of the development set in

60 square kilometres of natural landscape that was once a gathering place for travellers from all over the world and a vital hub on the Spice Route. Here, another collection of luxury resorts will find their home, including properties from Oberoi and Six Senses.

Helmed by hospitality veteran Jerry Inzerillo, group CEO of DGDA, the US \$50 billion giga-project will welcome the first new hotels starting with The Luxury Collection later this year. Eventually, Diriyah Gate will be home to a population of 100,000 residents, breathing new life into the ancestral home of the Al Saud royal family. www.diriyah.sa

Debut | January

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



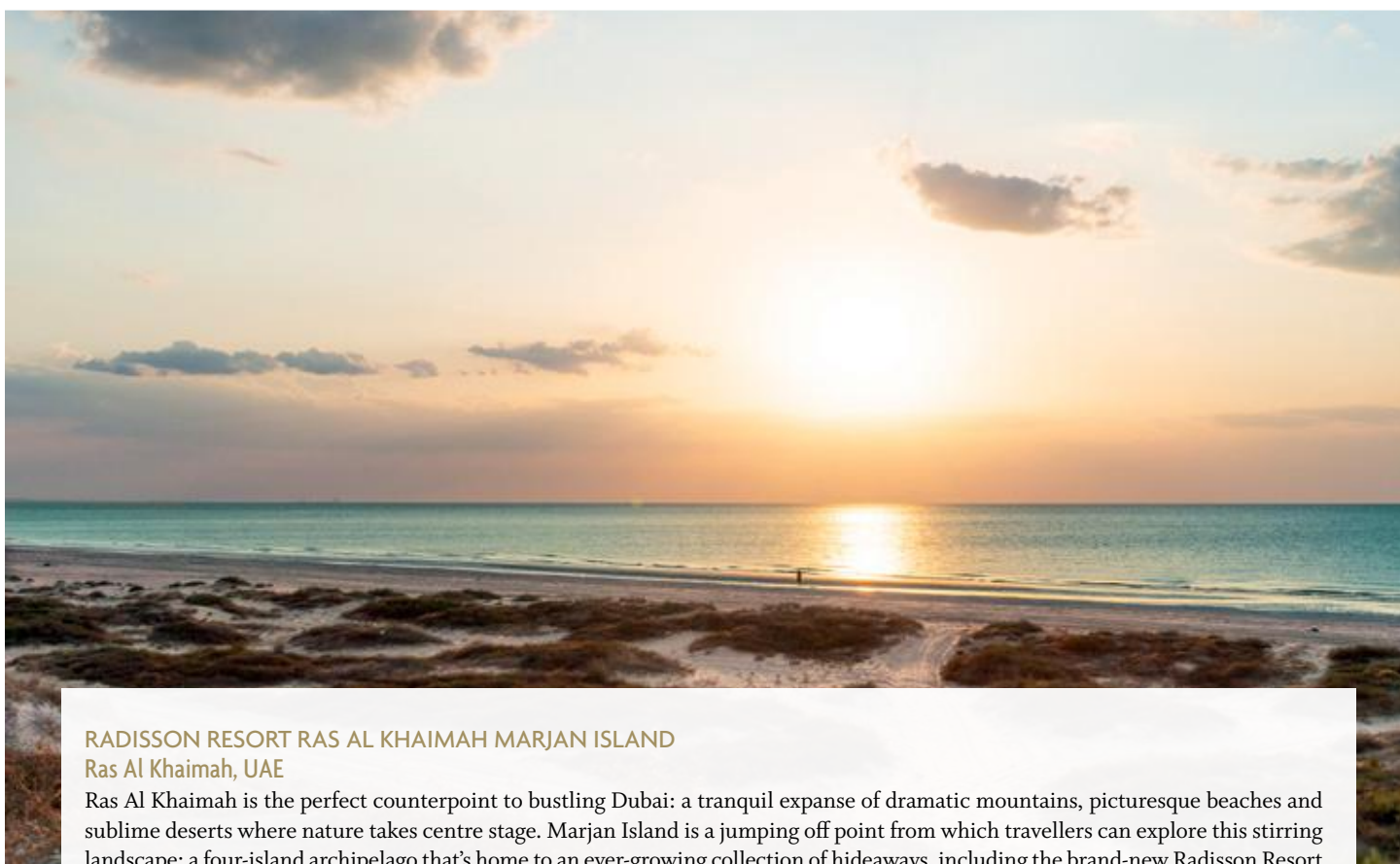
ANANTARA WORLD ISLANDS DUBAI RESORT Dubai, UAE

The 300 man-made islands that emerge from the waters of the Arabian Gulf just off the coast of Jumeirah Beach are collectively known as The World, one of the most ambitious projects undertaken by Dubai developer Nakheel. Last month, Anantara World Islands Dubai Resort became the first hotel in the archipelago: a castaway island escape with 70 rooms, suites and villas in the South America portion of The World. Guestrooms are bright and modern, while the larger suites and villas make use of sea grass, rattan and other natural materials to emphasise the castaway experience. Most of the beach and garden villas have private pools and large outdoor terraces; our favourite is the Beach Pool Villa, whose cavernous open-plan interior is made entirely of bamboo and woven natural fibres. Guests bound for the private island will check in at sister property Anantara Dubai The Palm Resort before making the 15-minute boat ride across to The World. Day visitors can moor their private boats to the resort jetty and stop in for sundowners, skyline views and South American specialities at beachfront bar and lounge Luna, while overnight guests can feast on Arabic-Indian and Mediterranean dishes at Qamar and Helios respectively. www.anantara.com

FAIRMONT WINDSOR PARK Windsor, UK

Surrounded by bucolic English countryside a stone's throw from Windsor Castle, Fairmont Windsor Park provides a rural counterpoint to the brand's legendary London address, The Savoy. With 40 acres of landscaped gardens that blend into the sprawling expanse of neighbouring Windsor Great Park, the weekend home of Queen Elizabeth II, guests will find themselves immersed in countryside pursuits from the moment they arrive. Health and wellness takes centre stage at Fairmont Spa & Wellness, home to a multi-person cryotherapy chamber, a 20-metre lap pool with floating loungers, a Japanese foot spa, a meditation and dry flotation room. Among the 200 guestrooms, the Signature Royal Suite reigns supreme, with private entrance and direct access to the ultra-discreet Salutaris Suite, a VIP area within the spa with its own private hot tub, steam room and relaxation area. Dining options include 1215 at Fairmont Windsor Park, where fresh produce from The Royal Farms is transformed by head chef Luke Fouracre into modern British dishes; European and Middle Eastern fusion at MOREISH; gin-based creations at Schrodgers' Botanicals Bar; and a tea room, café and event spaces. www.accor.com





RADISSON RESORT RAS AL KHAIMAH MARJAN ISLAND Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

Ras Al Khaimah is the perfect counterpoint to bustling Dubai: a tranquil expanse of dramatic mountains, picturesque beaches and sublime deserts where nature takes centre stage. Marjan Island is a jumping off point from which travellers can explore this stirring landscape; a four-island archipelago that's home to an ever-growing collection of hideaways, including the brand-new Radisson Resort Ras Al Khaimah Marjan Island. Facing a sheltered bay with direct access to the warm waters of the Arabian Gulf, the resort is home to 388 rooms and suites that afford panoramic views across Marjan Island and the craggy peaks of the Yanis and Jais Mountains beyond. Six restaurants and bars provide a wealth of options: there's all-day international dining at RBG Restaurant and beach-facing beverages at RBG Bar; Mediterranean fare at La Med; and light bites at The Shelf Pool Bar. Guests can find their caffeine fix in the lobby café Bake House and The Seafood Shack is home to a raw bar, live-fire barbeque and fresh seafood. In addition to the resort's own facilities, which include two swimming pools, a dedicated kids pool, and a fitness centre with a fully-equipped gym and spa, some of Ras Al Khaimah's soul-stirring attractions are on the doorstep, including the rolling dunes of the Al Wadi Nature Reserve and the spectacular Hajar Mountains, home to the UAE's highest peak and its adrenalin-pumping zipline, Jebel Jais Flight. www.radisson.com



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DESTINATIONS

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46

IN PERFECT HEALTH

From Cheval Blanc in Paris and One&Only Mandarin in Mexico to Soneva Jani in the Maldives, embark on a journey of enrichment, where health is wealth. Or unlock your full potential with a transformative stay at Switzerland's Chenot Palace Weggis (above)

- 38** Peace of Mind: Amanpuri serves up myriad integrative wellness immersions to nourish mind, body and soul
- 46** All Is Well: Transformative travel that redefines wellness around the world
- 54** From Istanbul to the Atacama Desert in Chile, these eight incredible trips have pure escapism written all over them

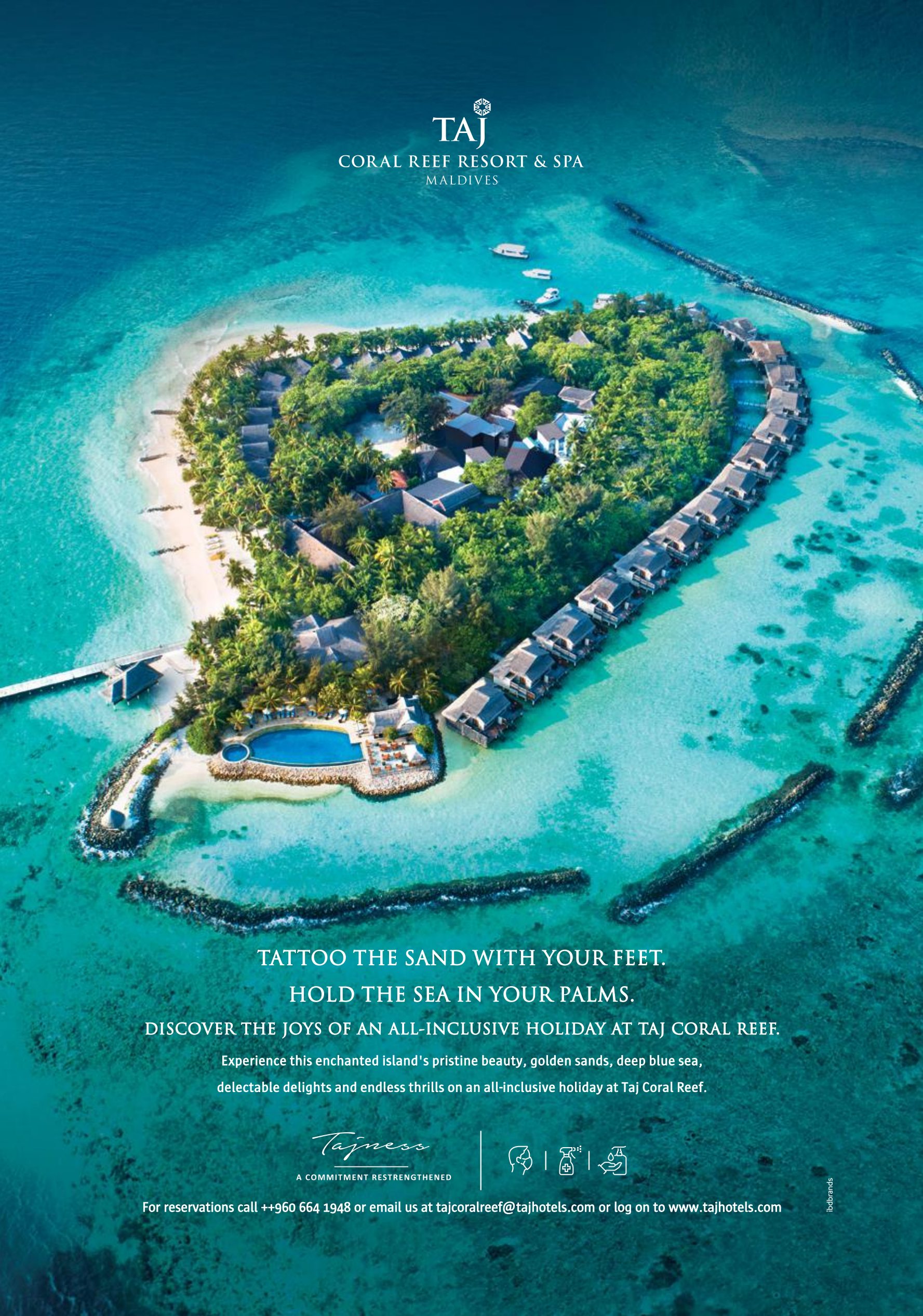
A scenic view of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, there is a resort pool with a person swimming. To the left of the pool is a patio with a round table and several chairs. The background features a blue ocean, a sandy beach, and green hills under a clear sky.

PEACE OF MIND

Phone down, out of office on and nothing but time to fill, Emily Baxter-Priest ventures to Amanpuri in Phuket for a holiday that feels more than a little good for the soul



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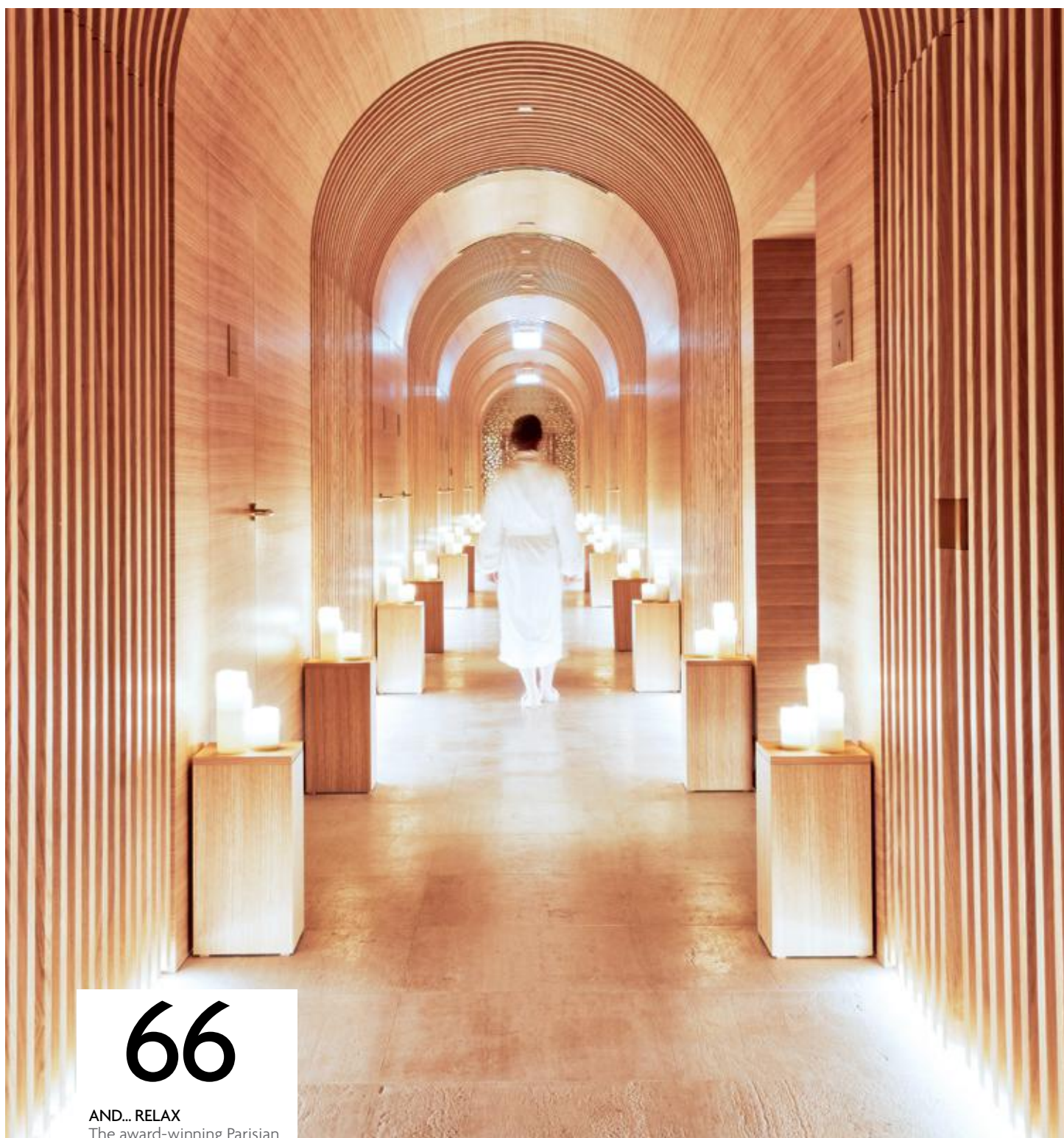
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HOTELS

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES TO STAY IN



66

AND... RELAX

The award-winning Parisian Cinq Mondes Spa at Raffles The Palm has 23 treatment rooms, two private spa suites, an indoor pool and two traditional hammams, allowing for full body regeneration in regal-yet-contemporary surrounds. Then find even more reasons to put yourself first with a slew of wellness escapes across the UAE

- 60** Staycations: No need to stray too far for a slice of top-to-toe wellness on your doorstep
- 66** Suite Dreams: A majestic new property on Palm Jumeirah blends old-world grace and glamour with a modern mindset
- 68** Get the lowdown on 2022's coolest things for kids, from entertainment to adventure to fashionable accessories



GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

If you really want to get away from it all without leaving the country, there's only thing for it... a private island escape. Head to Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island to stay at Al Sahel Villa Resort and reconnect with nature on a private 4x4 game drive through the savannah, spotting gazelle, oryx, giraffe and cheetah. Book the All-Inclusive Discovery Package to make the most of your adventure, with daily breakfast, lunch and dinner, complimentary stays for two children, and one complimentary activity each per day. www.anantara.com

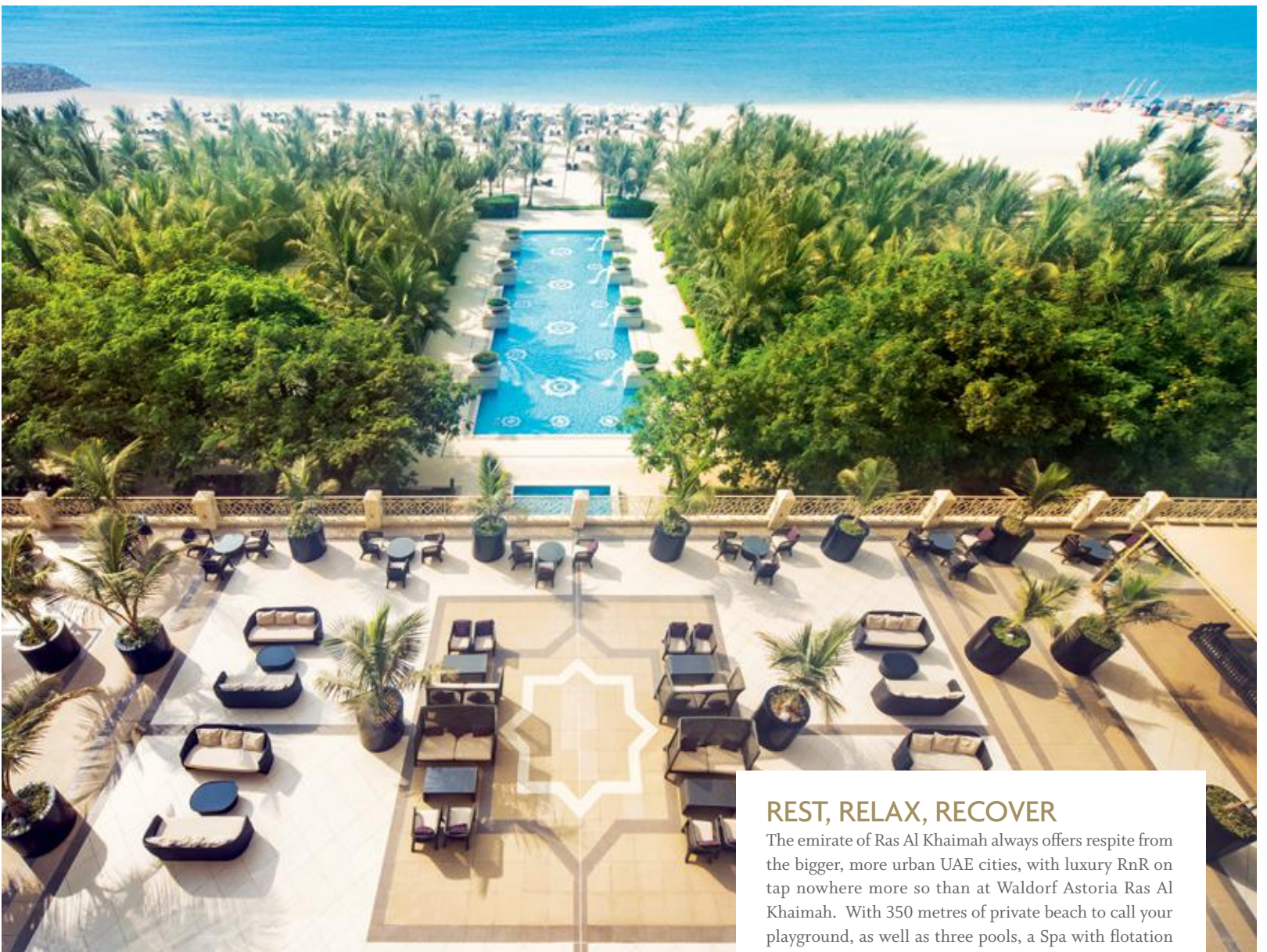
Arabian Journeys

This month's staycations around the Middle East are all about escapism for the mind, body and soul, letting you rest, relax, reconnect, rinse and repeat...



URBAN SOPHISTICATION

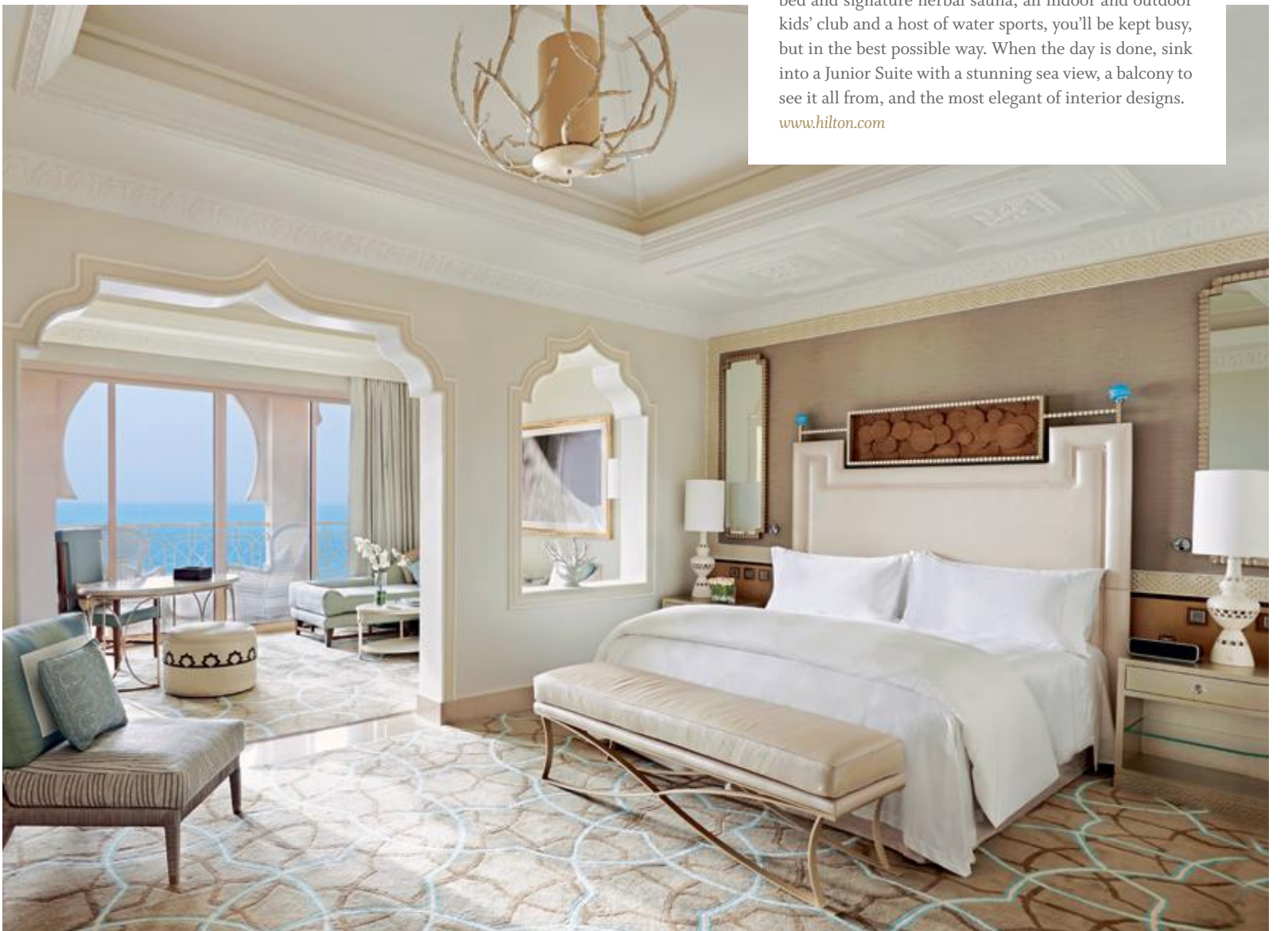
Without doubt one of the sleekest hotels in the UAE, Armani Hotel Dubai ups the ante for a stay of style and sophistication. Housed in Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, the hotel is not short of breathtaking views. It's also within walking distance to world-renowned The Dubai Mall and the Dubai Fountain. Book The Armani Signature Experience to enjoy a two-night stay, with an Italian dinner at Armani/Ristorante, and a two-for-one 60-minute spa treatment at the award-winning Armani/Spa. Book an Armani Prestige Suite with a balcony to really take advantage of your stellar location. www.armanihoteldubai.com



REST, RELAX, RECOVER

The emirate of Ras Al Khaimah always offers respite from the bigger, more urban UAE cities, with luxury RnR on tap nowhere more so than at Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaimah. With 350 metres of private beach to call your playground, as well as three pools, a Spa with flotation bed and signature herbal sauna, an indoor and outdoor kids' club and a host of water sports, you'll be kept busy, but in the best possible way. When the day is done, sink into a Junior Suite with a stunning sea view, a balcony to see it all from, and the most elegant of interior designs.

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IT'S WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Omega has launched a bigger, brighter Constellation, with the addition of a larger 36mm trio of watches to its Constellation collection. Made of stainless steel – with either burgundy PVD dial, 18k yellow gold with blue PVD dial or an 18k Sedna gold with brown PVD dial – the crowning glory is its circle of 38 dazzling diamonds around the bezel. Prepare to be star-struck.

- 72** Gilt-y Crush: Jewels that go big and go for gold
- 74** The Art of Being Happy: Colour-rich timepieces to put a smile on your face
- 76** Out of this World: Fitness on the fly with Ultima Collection and VistaJet's sky-high holistic escape

**THE MAJESTY
OF ITALY**
Rubeus Milano's
Duomo collection is
sculptured like the
geometric motifs
of the domes of
Italian cathedrals,
transforming each
statement into
a wearable piece
of art in white,
yellow and rose gold

GILT-Y CRUSH

This month, we're
going for gold, with
the most captivating
pieces interrupted by
nothing less beautiful
than spinels, rubies
and diamonds



1. Colours of Love earrings, Fabergé
2. Perlee bracelet, Van Cleef & Arpels
3. Primavera ring, Dolce & Gabbana
4. Escalade à Venise necklace, Chanel
5. Bee My Love bracelet, Chaumet
6. Ring, Mahallati
7. Blue Book 2021 necklace, Tiffany & Co.
8. Possession ring, Piaget
9. Dior Dior Dior High Jewellery bracelet, Dior
10. Happy Diamonds earrings, Chopard
11. With Love Vow ring, Harry Winston
12. Lifelong bracelet, Swarovski

SPEND IT OUT OF THIS WORLD

FITNESS ON THE FLY

With more and more people dedicating their time and money to wellbeing, Ultima Collection has launched a one-of-a-kind holistic escape perfect for high-fliers

IF YOU'RE EMERGING FROM THE FESTIVE SEASON in need of a detox, Ultima Collection's new month-long wellness retreat will boot your body back into shape with a lick of luxury thrown in, too. The Ultima Escape is a minimum 30-day holistic retreat for those wanting an extended immersion into wellbeing, in which a highly-personalised and targeted programme of treatments addresses the mind, gut, body and soul, with the one-on-one care of a nutritionist, personal trainer and massage therapist. Honing in on three main pillars – immunity protection, lifestyle and the environment, and future healing – each treatment is curated through DNA analysis and personalised recommendations and gives you the tools to make positive, long-term changes and ensures you leave feeling fulfilled and rejuvenated.

From sun to snow, whatever your pleasure, The Ultima Escape is available at all of Ultima Collection's properties across the Alps and the

Mediterranean, and is in partnership with leading aviation company, VistaJet, meaning you don't need to wait until you land to start your wellness immersion. From the moment you board, your wellbeing is in the hands of VistaJet's Cabin Hostesses, who have been meticulously trained by the British Butler Institute. With your every wish their command, there are also amenities and services on board to evoke relaxation, including mindfulness exercises and a bespoke menu from your preferred restaurant.

If you want to ramp up the luxury even further, you can add other five-star services to your retreat, such as a private driver and car, private helicopter, private jet or yacht charter.

The Ultima Escape starts at US \$277,915 at Ultima Crans-Montana for up to 10 people, with a chef. VistaJet flights are not included.

www.ultimacollection.com




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