

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

15
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

May 2022

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Theme park holidays
but make them luxury

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BEATEN PATH**

Discovering Japan's
Wakayama prefecture

**FLY AWAY
WITH US**

Azerbaijan
Seychelles
Bodrum

Peru

Andalusia

Switzerland

Galápagos Islands

The Peloponnese

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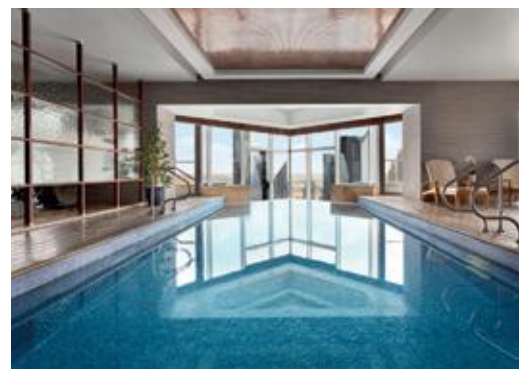


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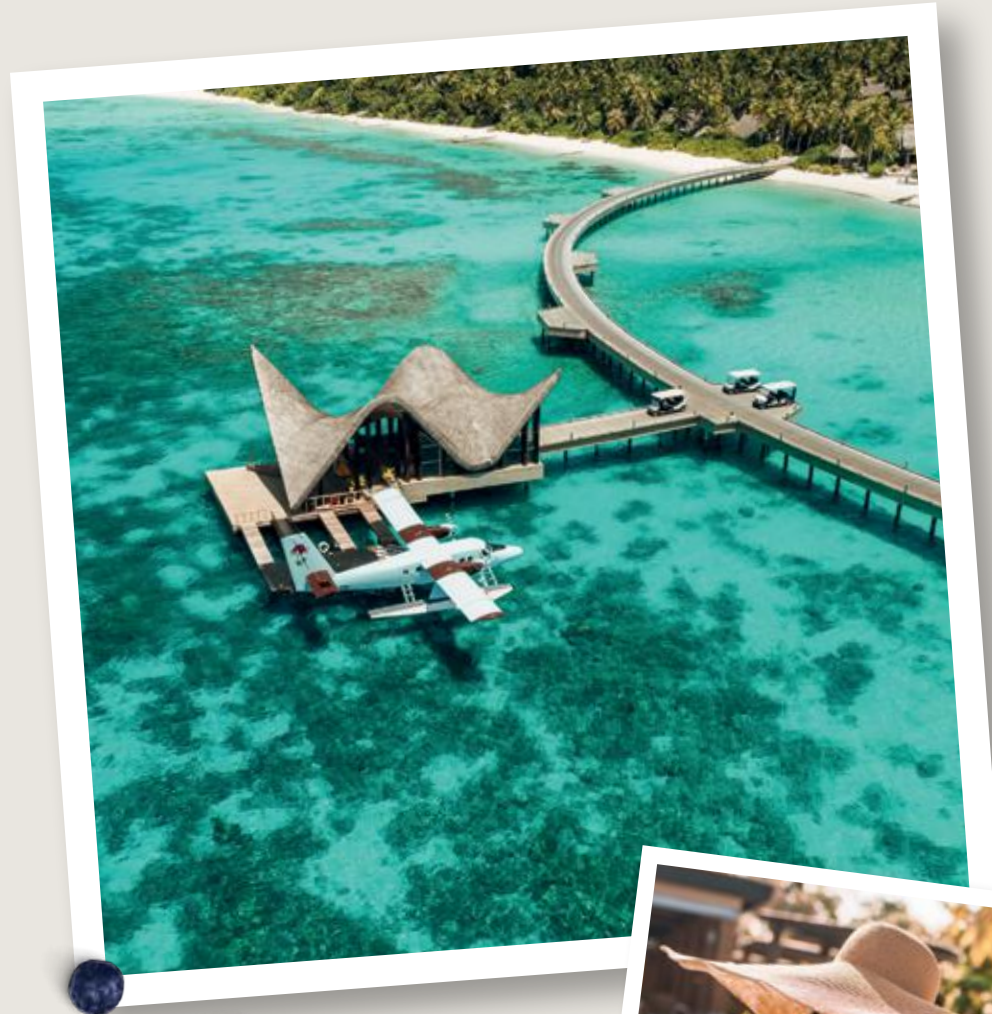


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— MALDIVES —



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JOALI BEING

— BODUFUSHI —



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Experience wanderlust, awe and wonder through the eyes of a child on this family-friendly adventure to the Galápagos Islands and Peru





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Recharge at The St. Regis Downtown Dubai with remarkable oversized rooms and suites, tranquil views and reductions on longer stays, allowing you to make the most of the best address. Enjoy up to 20% off on the Best Available Rate, when you stay for 3 nights or longer and utilize the properties 24-hour personalized butler services and many more famed St. Regis rituals. With signature restaurants such as Mediterranean Bleu Blanc and award-winning Italian Basta, nightly live entertainment and the first The St. Regis Spa in the region, there's never a dull moment when choosing a staycation at The St. Regis Downtown Dubai.

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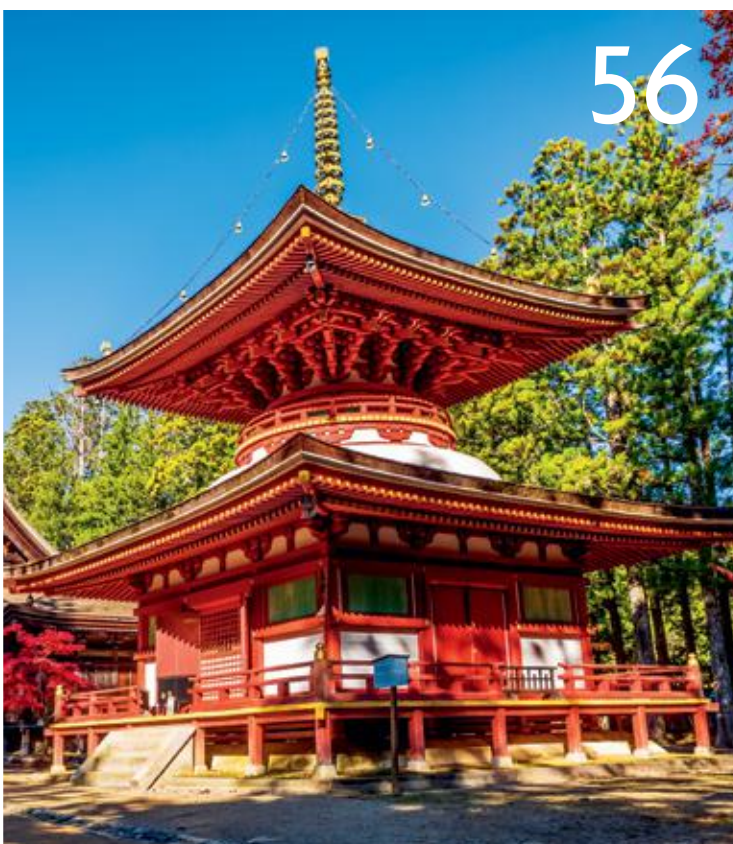
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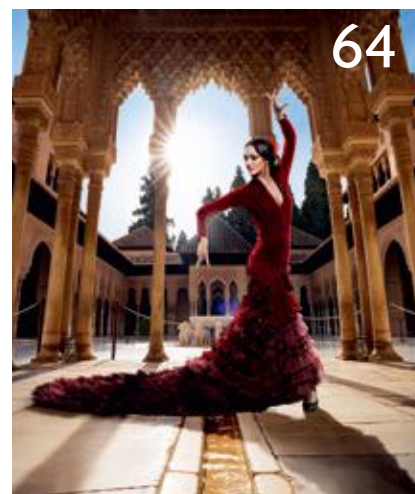
Journeys from around the world to enrich the soul



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DUBAI AL HABTOOR CITY

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GRAND PARK
— KODHIPPARU —
MALDIVES



*Explore The Magic of the Maldives
with Grand Park Kodhipparu*

Nestled in the beautiful cerulean waters of the North Male Atoll, and just a 20-minute speedboat ride from Velana International Airport, Grand Park Kodhipparu awaits. An exclusive address on a one-resort island, privacy is paramount, with peace and tranquillity set to a backdrop of pristine beaches and palm trees.

Traditional influences are paired with sophisticated interior design to create villas that are relaxed and homely, with the five-star service of your dedicated villa host to tend to your every wish and whim, whatever hour of the day.

With a collection of beach and over-water villas, you'll find accommodation perfect for you. Choose a Lagoon Water Villa with private sun terrace and hammock for direct access to the shallow waters of the lagoon; a Beach Pool Villa with a private plunge pool, garden and the beach just steps from your terrace; or the two-bedroom Grand Residence, with its glass floor, private pool and uninterrupted views of the Indian Ocean.

Soak up the sun and pass the days away marvelling at the vibrant house reef, where a whole other world can be found. Join a snorkelling trip with the resort's marine biologist to learn more about the magic found beneath the waves.

Relax into island life with the flexibility of a dine-around meal plan that lets guests go with the flow. With half-board, full-board or a more personalised plan to suit you, immerse yourself in the best cuisine from around the world. Or, create memories to last a lifetime with a 'Private Island Dining' experience tailor-made just for you, from a floating breakfast in your private pool to a sandbank dinner under the stars.

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NEWS

HOT EVENTS, NEW HOTELS AND GLOBAL JET-SETTERS



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VIEWS FOR DAYS

On a serious slice of real estate in Palermo, Rocco Forte reopens its palazzo; Mandarin Oriental claims a new home in Cairo; Waldorf Astoria announces its Australia debut with a new landmark property in Sydney; and the Arabian Travel Market 2022 swings into town... There's much going in the world of travel. Dive in to explore it all

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EMBRACE YOUR INNER CASTAWAY AT ZIGHY BAY

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN OMAN'S MUSANDAM PENINSULA, Six Senses Zighy Bay is a beachfront hideaway that blends castaway chic aesthetics with Six Senses' unique blend of sustainable luxury. Popular among travellers and staycationers alike since it opened in 2008, the resort has continued to innovate, most recently with the newly refurbished four-bedroom Private Reserve and a pair of three-bedroom Retreats at either end of Zighy Bay.

The Private Reserve comprises four standalone villas in one exclusive enclave complete with an oversized infinity pool that looks out across the

bay. Inside, the Private Reserve is decked out in furnishings sourced from South Africa, Lebanon, India and the UAE, giving a local flavour to the rustic-luxe environs, which also include a vast living and dining area and a recreation room with private cinema, staffed bar and pool table.

Situated at each end of Zighy Bay's beach, the Retreats are three-bedroom abodes in the style of traditional Omani dwellings, furnished with throws, rugs and wall furnishings made from handwoven fabrics. Indoor-outdoor living areas look out to an infinity edged pool, and there's plenty of inside space for extended

families including a lounge, dining area and private bar, as well as indoor-outdoor living areas and infinity edged pools.

Guests booking the Private Reserve or a Retreat will enjoy a collection of additional perks including a tour of the Gulf of Oman or a private sunset cruise, an in-villa BBQ, a fitness or yoga session with a private instructor and a 60-minute Six Senses Signature massage, as well as the option of paragliding down to the resort from the cliffs above before check-in: surely one of the most breath-taking resort arrival experiences in the world. www.sixsenses.com



MANDARIN ORIENTAL BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO CAIRO ICON

ORIGINALLY BUILT IN 1841, THE SHEPHERD HOTEL was once the place to be for travellers passing through Cairo: a home from home for diplomats and VIPs stationed in the city and a must-visit address for affluent visitors. After it was destroyed by fire in the 1950s, it was rebuilt on the banks of the Nile in what is now the city's diplomatic quarter, home to embassies and government offices. Following an extensive renovation, the hotel will reopen in 2024 as Mandarin Oriental Shepherd, Cairo, restoring this grand dame to her former glory.

Paris-based interior designer Sybille de Margerie has been charged with reimagining the hotel's interior spaces: preserving the building's heritage while breathing new life into the facilities and services. When complete, the property will be home to five restaurants and bars including a rooftop restaurant and an exclusive club lounge, as well as an outpost of Spa at Mandarin Oriental offering tailored experiences in eight treatment rooms. The roof will also be home to an outdoor swimming pool and rooftop function space.

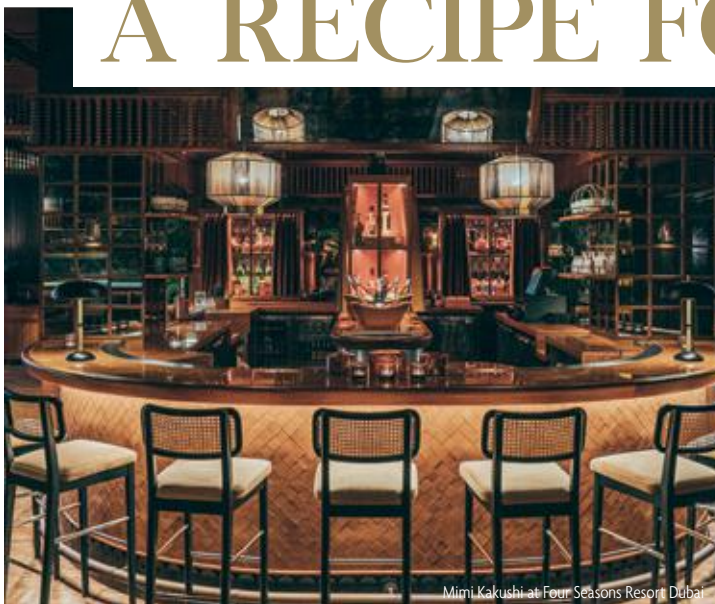
Guests staying in many of the hotel's 188 rooms and 88 suites will enjoy a privileged view over the Nile, where traditional felucca boats ply the waterway day and night, and Gezira Island, home to many of Cairo's museums and cultural attractions.

Mandarin Oriental Shepherd, Cairo, will be the group's first property in Egypt. The hotel is being developed by Al Sharif for Tourism and Hotels, a subsidiary of Saudi-based Al Sharif Group Holding.

www.mandarinoriental.com



DINING IN DUBAI: A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS



Suhaila Ghubash, Director, Events, Dubai Festival & Retail Establishment shines a light on the smorgasbord of culinary delights Dubai has to offer ahead of Dubai Food Festival, which takes place from May 2-15

What's the difference between a good meal and a great one? The difference between a good and a great meal is authenticity, excellent customer service and overall, the multisensory experience. The most memorable meals are arguably those in which the quality of the food is met by the quality of the atmosphere. Ultimately, it is about the level of thought that has gone into the menu, the restaurant design and how the staff greet you, which plays a huge impact on guests.

How is Dubai's food scene evolving? Dubai's food scene is constantly evolving. As the city grows, we continue to see established brands open outposts in Dubai, but we are also seeing a surge in original concepts and homegrown brands, as well as entrepreneurs and companies bringing back to Dubai restaurants they have enjoyed on their travels. Just as Dubai is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, this has ensured that our array of different restaurants, cafes and fine-dining concepts has evolved to meet our expanding horizons.

What are the latest dining trends in Dubai? Conscious consumerism is something we are seeing more of and we are witnessing restaurants striving to operate in an increasingly environmentally friendly, sustainable and socially

conscious way. For example, Mediterranean favourite BOCA operates using 100% sustainable energy, while The MAINE New England Brasserie Company, in collaboration with ecological specialists The Arbor School, recently launched The Dubai Oyster Project: a CSR initiative that sees discarded oyster shells used to create artificial reefs in a bid to maintain marine biodiversity.

What are some of the most luxurious dining experiences in Dubai? It's important to caveat that Dubai offers so much more than the luxurious dining experiences that it has become known for. For example, 3 Fils, which was recently voted the best restaurant in the Middle East at the Middle East & North Africa's 50 Best Restaurants, is known for its casual vibe and no reservation policy. However, for those looking for a luxurious dining experience, I would recommend Mimi Kakushi, an authentic and trending Japanese restaurant in the Four Seasons Jumeirah. Other local favourites include Ossiano Dubai, a progressive fine dining experience inspired by the ocean and seas in Atlantis, The Palm, in addition to the celebrated French restaurant LPM in DIFC.

Where can visitors tap into the flavours and heritage of Emirati cuisine? Al Fanar is an extremely popular Emirati restaurant, which boasts a number of outlets in the city, including

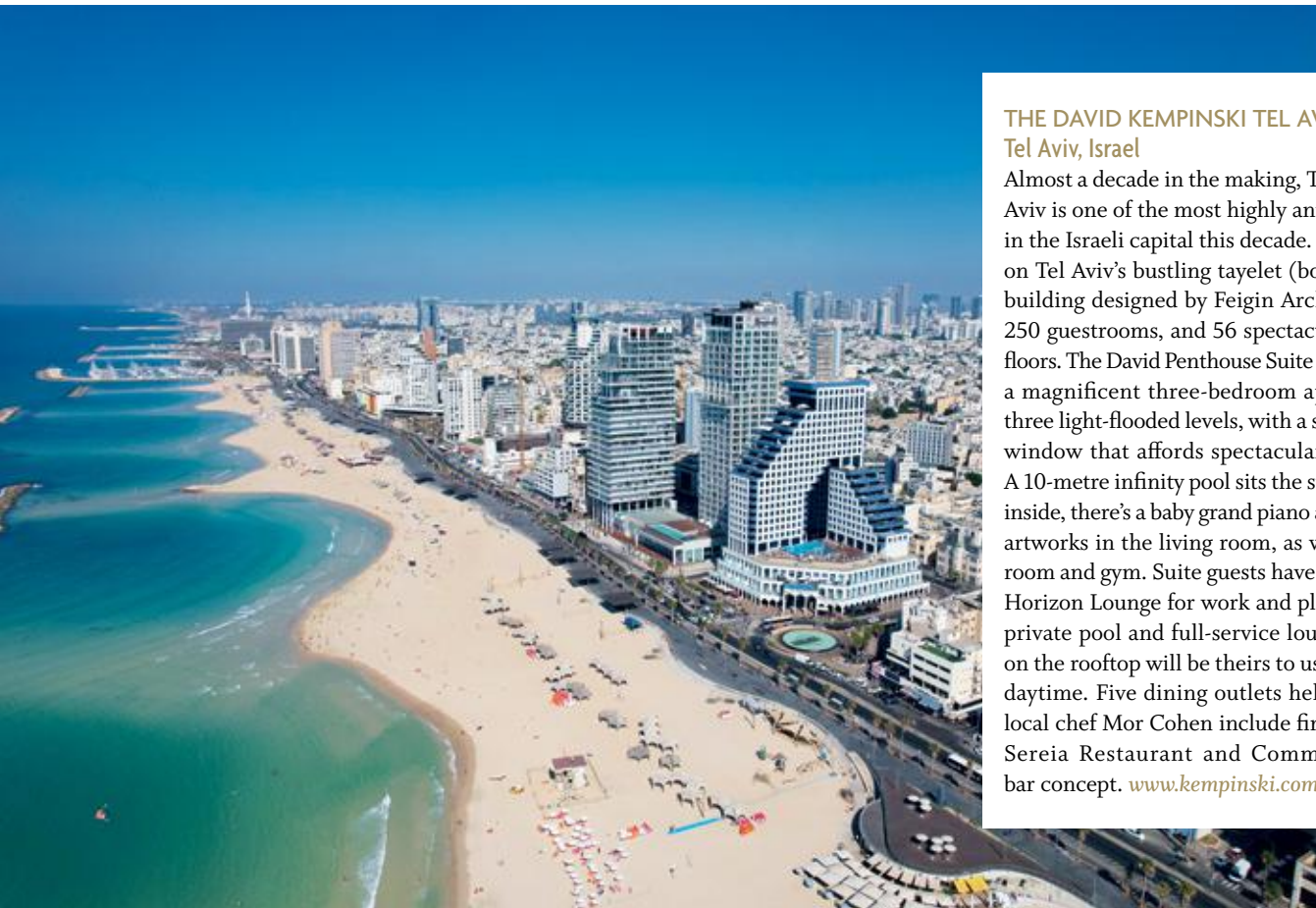
Time Out Market Dubai. The restaurant has a rustic 1960s-style ambiance where you can relish the best of traditional Emirati cuisine. It revives memories of Dubai as a small town on the shore of the Arabian Gulf. Arabian Teahouse is another restaurant that takes you on a journey into Dubai's past through the doors of a quaint tea house. You will be transported into old times while enjoying a cup of gahwa (traditional Arabic coffee).

The MICHELIN Guide Dubai launches in June. What does this mean for the city? It is a critical milestone for the destination and the talented chefs in the city. We are very proud to welcome such a prestigious guide to Dubai, as this is a clear sign of trust in the culinary scene in terms of the quality, creativity and diversity of our food offering. We are now very curious to discover the future stars, but also to discover the selection of Bib Gourmand: the 'value for money' restaurants attracting foodies amongst both visitors and residents alike.

Destinations of the World News will be hosting a seminar exploring the relationship between food and travel at Arabian Travel Market. 'Hungry for travel: why unique dining experiences are an essential tool in the travel marketing playbook', will take place at 2pm on May 11 on the Global Stage.

Debut | May

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



THE DAVID KEMPINSKI TEL AVIV Tel Aviv, Israel

Almost a decade in the making, The David Kempinski Tel Aviv is one of the most highly anticipated hotel openings in the Israeli capital this decade. Set back from the beach on Tel Aviv's bustling tayelet (boardwalk) in a 34-storey building designed by Feigin Architects, the hotel boasts 250 guestrooms, and 56 spectacular suites on the upper floors. The David Penthouse Suite is the last word in luxury: a magnificent three-bedroom apartment spread across three light-flooded levels, with a six-metre floor-to-ceiling window that affords spectacular Mediterranean views. A 10-metre infinity pool sits the suite's private terrace and inside, there's a baby grand piano and collection of original artworks in the living room, as well as a separate dining room and gym. Suite guests have access to the 22nd-floor Horizon Lounge for work and play and, from July, a new private pool and full-service lounge, restaurant and bar on the rooftop will be theirs to use exclusively during the daytime. Five dining outlets helmed by award-winning local chef Mor Cohen include fine dining fish restaurant Sereia Restaurant and Common Bar: a two-in-one bar concept. www.kempinski.com

ETÉREO, AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION Riviera Maya, Mexico

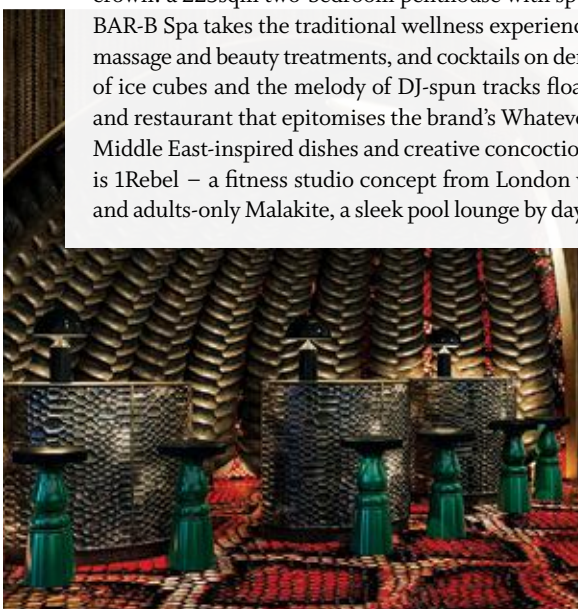
On Mexico's sun-kissed Caribbean coast, nestled in nine acres of protected mangroves, Etéreo is the latest addition to the Auberge Resorts Collection: a beautiful beachfront escape where modern luxuries meet local Mayan heritage. New York City-based design studio Meyer Davis, created the interiors of the 75 oceanfront guestrooms – ranging from studios to three-bedroom Penthouse Suites – as well as five dining experiences and SANA spa. Rooms and suites transition seamlessly from indoors to out, with private plunge pools, hot tubs and sky deck roof terraces. Etéreo, which derives from the Spanish word for 'ethereal', is inspired by nature, with lava stone, copper and tzalam wood featuring throughout, and custom-designed furniture and original artworks showcasing the talents of local craftsmen and artists. At SANA, ancient Mayan healing practices are combined with modern know-how, with detoxifying clay wraps, crystal healing and sound baths complemented by full-moon ceremonies and rituals. Etéreo's experiences also tap into Mexican culture and local traditions, with fireside blessings, local card games and handicrafts. www.aubergeresorts.com

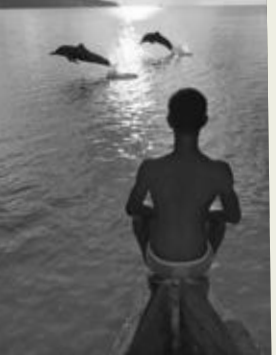
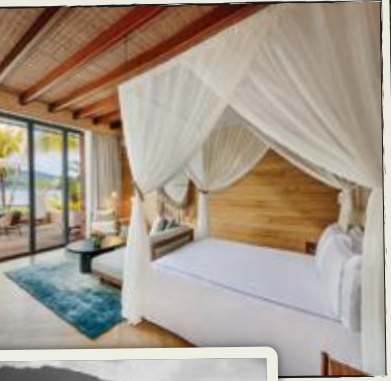




W DUBAI - MINA SEYAH
Dubai, UAE

There's a new kid on the block in Dubai Marina: W Dubai - Mina Seyahi is an adults-only playground where music, design and live entertainment are reigniting the beach resort concept for a new generation of Dubai-bound tastemakers. The hotel cuts a distinct figure on the Dubai skyline, shrouded in sleek lines and smooth curves that wrap around 318 stylish guestrooms featuring striking interiors imagined by Dubai-based design firm Stickman Tribe. Among the 26 suites, the E WOW Suite stands out as the jewel in the crown: a 225sqm two-bedroom penthouse with spectacular views of Palm Jumeirah and the Arabian Gulf from its 30th floor terrace. BAR-B Spa takes the traditional wellness experience up a notch with glam booths and hair styling services alongside traditional body massage and beauty treatments, and cocktails on demand will turn your pre-party pampering session into a social occasion. The tinkling of ice cubes and the melody of DJ-spun tracks float through the air day and night at Ginger Moon, the indoor-outdoor pool lounge and restaurant that epitomises the brand's Whatever/Whenever* concept (it's open from 9:00am until 2:00am). W Lounge serves up Middle East-inspired dishes and creative concoctions in the lobby, which forms the vibrant social heart of every W hotel. Still to come is 1Rebel – a fitness studio concept from London where seriously high-intensity workouts will keep the extra holiday kilos at bay – and adults-only Malakite, a sleek pool lounge by day and a wildly entertaining club by night. Both will open in 2023. www.marriott.com





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DESTINATIONS

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE LOCATIONS



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77

TIME FOR TEA

Sip endless cups of freshly grown Azerbaijani tea as you explore the magical and multi-cultural 'Land of Fire'. From its Great Silk Road history to its collection of 350 mud volcanoes and the modern metropolis of Baku, it's a land of many mysteries

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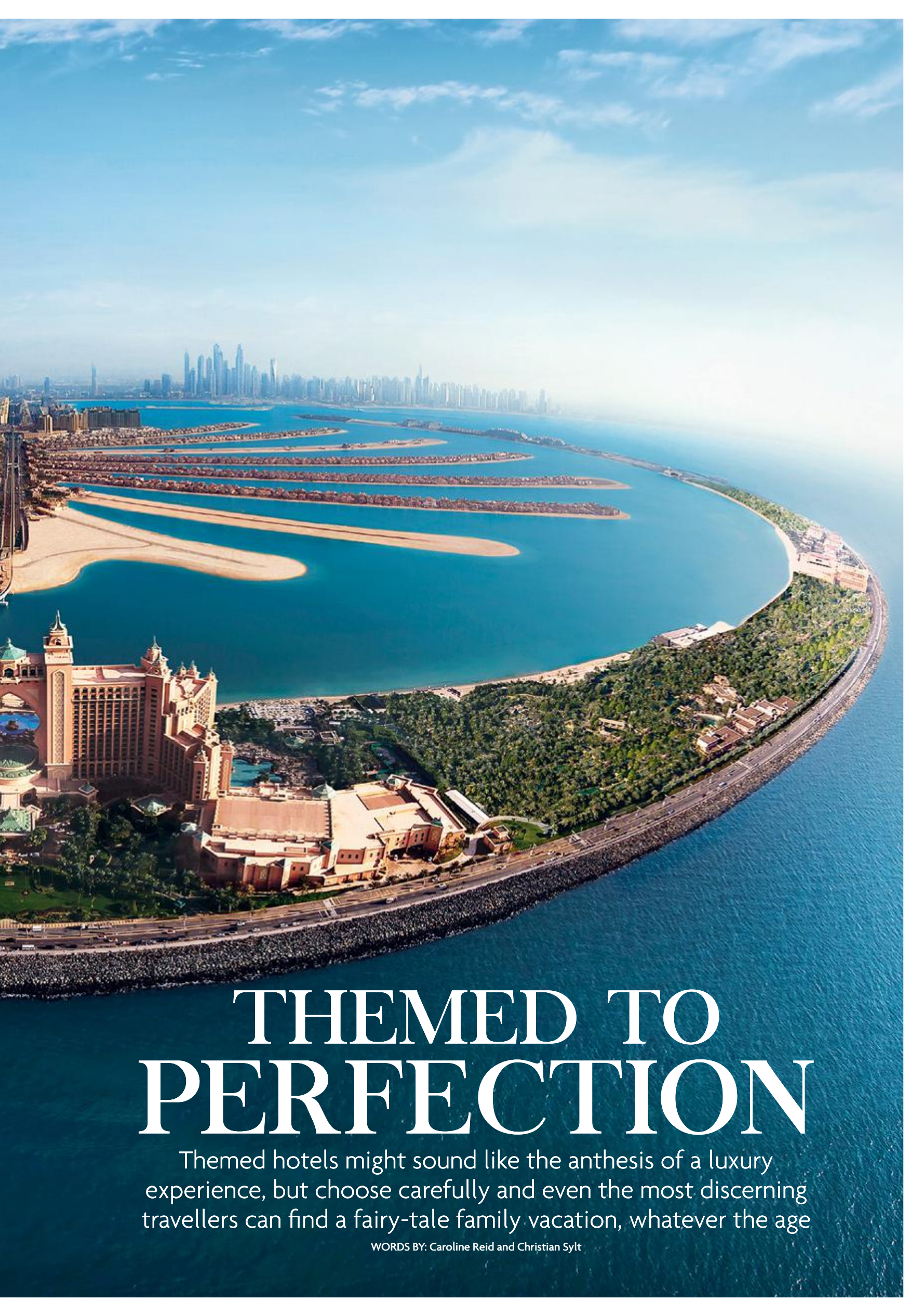
GOING SLOW IN THE SEYCHELLES

Why slowing down in the Seychelles is a fast-track way to enjoy the pleasures of island life as a family

WORDS: Chaitali Patel







THEMED TO PERFECTION

Themed hotels might sound like the anthesis of a luxury experience, but choose carefully and even the most discerning travellers can find a fairy-tale family vacation, whatever the age

WORDS BY: Caroline Reid and Christian Sylt

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HOTELS

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES TO STAY IN



124

ESCAPE NOW

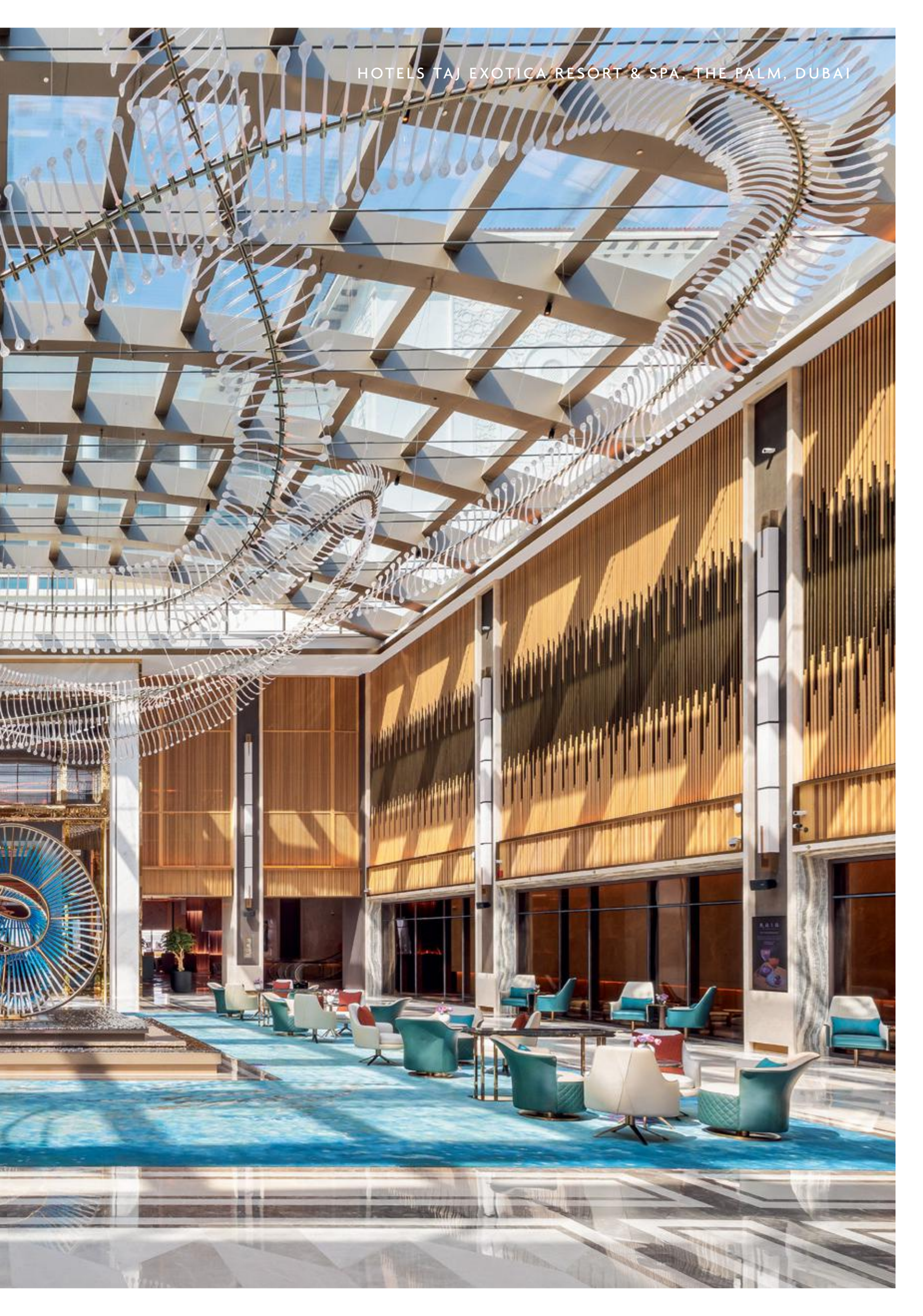
One thing Dubai does exceedingly well, is build hotels you really, *really* want to escape to. Such as the Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi (just look at that pool!), the style, form and function of W Abu Dhabi - Yas Island, and the Ritz-Carlton, Dubai International Financial Centre for a serene oasis in the epicentre of the city. Read on to find a few others...

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- 128** Suite Review: Rock on in AlUla's coolest canyon eco-hotel
- 132** Get the lowdown on this month's coolest things for kids

A photograph of a modern hotel lobby. The ceiling is a complex structure of dark metal beams and large glass panels, with a large, intricate, white, shell-like sculpture hanging from it. The walls are covered in vertical wooden slats. In the foreground, there is a swimming pool with a blue patterned rug. In the background, there is a reception desk and a large, ornate, blue and gold circular sculpture.

DUBAI'S NEW HIDEAWAY

A true oasis in the city, Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm, Dubai beckons with its refined design and an intuitive approach to the luxury hotel experience





IN THE LAND OF LEGENDS

An eco-resort weaving its way around hundreds of years of history, Habitas AlUla is a modern marvel yet traditional to core, says Emily Baxter-Priest



حكايات لم تُرو بعد LET OUR STORIES UNFOLD

إرث أبوظبي يكشف عن فصل جديد من حكايته.
Erth Abu Dhabi reveals its next chapter.



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SPEND IT

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES AND SOPHISTICATED ESSENTIALS



FLY ME TO THE MOON

Few accessories could be more fitting to mark the end of the Holy Month than Ulysses Nardin's new 'Moonstruck' Worldtimer. Housed in the geometrical case of a Blast, it offers the wearer a new celestial odyssey, with reinvented watchmaking mechanics reproducing as faithfully as possible the sun's visible trajectory and the lunar cycles. We've got stars in our eyes

- 136** Jewels: Let spring's force of nature help transition your jewellery choices through the seasons
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- 140** Out of this World: See the world through the eyes of a child, with Abercrombie & Kent's once-in-a-lifetime trip



FORCE OF NATURE

As we transition from spring to summer, let your jewellery reflect the beauty of nature in seasonal bloom

THE POWER OF FLOWERS These Tiffany & Co. Schlumberger Fleur earrings are wearable bursts of nature. Intricate in their detailing in platinum and 18k yellow gold with diamonds, they'll bring the joys of spring to any occasion

1. La Gioia earrings, Pomellato
2. La Rose Dior earrings, Dior
3. Maharajah earrings, Boucheron
4. Tiffany & Co. Blue Book necklace, Tiffany & Co.
5. Colours of Love ring, Fabergé
6. Red Carpet Collection ring, Chopard
7. Natural Wonders earrings, Mouawad
8. Possession bracelet, Piaget
9. Camelia Venitien ring, Chanel
10. Magnifica necklace, Bvlgari
11. Ring, Mahallati

1



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3



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11



A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Feed the curiosity of little explorers with a tailor-made adventure of a lifetime, and reap the reward of seeing the world from a whole new perspective

ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS OF TRAVEL is being able to see it through the eyes of children – so in awe are they of the world and so inherently curious, it makes for more authentic and enriching moments. And while travelling with little people might require a different pace, the reward is 100 per cent worth it, as you embrace their fresh perspectives and watch their hearts and minds fill with new experiences and lessons learned.

It's something travel experts Abercrombie & Kent have been perfecting for years, with their tailor-made, family-friendly itineraries, whisking kids away to far-flung corners of the world, from Kenya and Alaska to Cambodia and the Galápagos. The latter 13-day itinerary makes for an epic summer adventure, where children are put front and centre of the action.

Starting in Quito, Ecuador, you'll then fly to the Galápagos and board stylish cruiser, 'La Pinta', and spend three days exploring alongside expert naturalist guides, meeting the islands' extraordinary wildlife up close – from sea lions to giant tortoises – and learning about Charles Darwin's legacy, whose theory of evolution began with the firsthand observations he made of life in the Galápagos. There's also swimming, snorkelling,

kayaking and rides in a glass-bottom boat to keep kids occupied.

The next stop of the adventure takes you to Peru, flying into Cusco, which is located more than 11,000 feet above sea level, where you'll visit the Sacred Valley of the Incas. You'll also swing by a rescue centre to learn about its endangered animals and make friends with South American camelids. Naturally, one can't go to Peru without seeing Machu Picchu, so on Day 10, you can trek the Inca Trail to discover the magnificent ruins of 'The Lost City'.

All the hotels you'll bed down in are family-friendly too, taking all the stress out of your sojourns, with the luxurious-meets-mystical Tambo del Inca hotel in Valle Sagrado, and the old world charm-meets-contemporary indulgence of Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, in Cusco.

And to ensure there are no little fingers reaching for iPads whilst on this epic adventure of a lifetime, more boredom-busting children's activities include horse shows, mini-chef cooking classes and marshmallow toasting around a bonfire. Ready to see the world through your child's eyes?

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

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